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# Computational analysis of mesoscale thermomechanical ignition behavior of impacted LLM-105 based explosives

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LLM-105 (2,6-diamino-3,5-dinitropyrazine-1-oxide) is an insensitive high explosive crystal which has performance between that of HMX and TATB. An elastoviscoplastic dislocation model is developed for LLM-105 crystal, which accounts for the dislocation evolutions at the crystal interior and crystal wall and strain-rate dependent work hardening. Three different crystal morphology (cubic, icosahedral, rodlike) of LLM-105 based explosive computational models were constructed and subjected to an impact velocity of 200 m s<sup>-1</sup> and 500 m s<sup>-1</sup>. Effects of crystal morphology and initial dislocation density on thermomechanical ignition behavior of LLM-105 based explosives were analyzed. Dislocation density of both crystal interiors and crystal walls in the rodlike LLM-105 based explosive increases slower than that in the cubic and icosahedral explosives. Both the volume averaged and localized stress and dislocation density are the lowest for the rodlike explosive. At the impact velocity of 500 m s<sup>-1</sup>, a temperature rise due to volumetric work, plasticity work and chemical reaction is sufficiently high to lead to the ignition of the cubic explosive, which shows that the rodlike explosive is the least sensitive among the three explosives. Moreover, with the increase of initial dislocation density, the corresponding volume averaged and localized stress and temperature increase as well. Results presented bridge the macroscale thermomechanical ignition response with the mesoscale deformation mechanisms, which is essential for better understanding the ignition mechanisms and guiding the design of LLM-105 based formulations.

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## 1. Introduction

LLM-105 (2,6-diamino-3,5-dinitropyrazine-1-oxide) is a high-performance Insensitive High Explosive (IHE) crystal, attractive for applications that require moderate performance and insensitivity. The calculated energy of LLM-105 crystal is about 85% that of HMX (1,3,5,7-tetranitro-1,3,5,7-tetrazocine) and 15% more than that of TATB (1,3,5-triamino-2,4,6-trinitrobenzene), and it is more stable under external stimuli such as shock, friction and sparks than most known HE.<sup>1</sup>

First reported by Pagoria in 1998,<sup>2</sup> many previous works on LLM-105 crystal and LLM-105 based explosives focus on synthetic methods to have better yield and purity,<sup>3–5</sup> theoretical or experimental work to obtain the thermomechanical properties,<sup>6–10</sup> thermal sensitivity<sup>11–13</sup> and shock sensitivity.<sup>13–15</sup> For example, isothermal equations of state of LLM-105 crystal were obtained using density functional theory (DFT) calculations<sup>6</sup> and synchrotron angle dispersive X-ray diffraction (XRD) experiments.<sup>7</sup> Weese *et al.*<sup>8</sup> used differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), thermal mechanical analysis (TMA) and a thermo-kinetics code to obtain the specific heat capacity, thermal

conductivity, coefficient of thermal expansion, and Arrhenius kinetics of LLM-105 crystal. Recently, Xu *et al.*<sup>10</sup> investigated the structural stability of LLM-105 crystal at various pressures and temperatures using the XRD, Raman, and infrared spectroscopy, and obtained parameters for the third order Birch–Murnaghan equation of state and anisotropic thermal expansion coefficients. These thermomechanical properties are essential for establishing a reactive flow model to predict the thermal or shock sensitivity of LLM-105 crystal.

Hsu *et al.*<sup>11</sup> used the One Dimensional Time to Explosion (ODTX) system to measure times to explosion, threshold temperature for thermal explosion, and determine kinetic parameters of LLM-105 crystal. Garcia *et al.*<sup>16</sup> conducted shock initiation experiments to obtain the run-distance-to-detonation and ignition and growth model parameters of LLM-105 based explosive. Vitello *et al.*<sup>17</sup> developed a chemistry based reactive flow model, which describes the copper cylinder and disc acceleration experiments very well. Tarver *et al.*<sup>13</sup> developed a four-reaction chemical decomposition model through the ODTX thermal explosion data and calibrated an ignition and growth model through shock initiation data. Due to different synthesis and manufacturing path, LLM-105 has different crystal morphologies (cubic, icosahedral, rodlike, *etc.*)<sup>2</sup> and the thermal and shock sensitivities of LLM-105 based explosives reported above are found to be insensitive to crystal

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morphologies.<sup>18</sup> However, different morphologies of LLM-105 crystals have shown different impact insensitivity values ( $\Delta H_{50}$ ) from 40 to 117 cm.<sup>18</sup> That is to say, at low strength impact loading, the distinct underlying deformation mechanisms of different morphologies of LLM-105 crystals should not be neglected, which directly determines the formation of hot spots and even ignition. However, the impact sensitivity of LLM-105 based explosives has rarely been studied so far, especially in terms of mesoscale simulations.

The LLM-105 crystal structure and physical properties are similar to the better studied explosive HMX crystal.<sup>19</sup> LLM-105 crystalizes in a monoclinic,  $P2_1/n$  space symmetry group, with four molecules per unit cell with  $a = 5.716 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 15.850 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 8.414 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 101.041^\circ$ .<sup>20</sup> Kucheyev *et al.*<sup>21</sup> performed nano-indentation tests on LLM-105 single crystal and they obtained the mechanical properties, such as hardness and elastic modulus. Also, they revealed the evidence of dislocation-based plastic deformation in unloaded scanning electron microscope (SEM) images.

In the present work, dislocation-based plasticity is assumed to be the primary deformation mechanism and a mesoscale elastoviscoplastic dislocation model is developed for LLM-105 single crystal. Computational models of three typical crystal morphologies (cubic, icosahedral, rodlike) of LLM-105 crystals based explosives are modeled. Effect of crystal morphology and initial dislocation density on the mesoscale thermomechanical ignition behavior of LLM-105 based explosive are investigated under impact loading.

## 2. Constitutive model

### 2.1 Explosive single crystal—LLM-105

A two phase structure of LLM-105 single crystal is considered, as the crystal interior and crystal wall. The separate dislocation motion at the crystal interior and crystal wall is used as the internal variables to describe the total dislocation density  $\rho_t$ ,

$$\rho_t = \varphi \rho_w + (1 - \varphi) \rho_c \quad (1)$$

where  $\rho_w$  and  $\rho_c$  are the dislocation density at crystal wall and crystal interior respectively, and the volume fraction of crystal walls  $\varphi$  was suggested as,<sup>22,23</sup>

$$\varphi = \varphi_\infty + (\varphi_0 - \varphi_\infty) e^{-\frac{\dot{\gamma}}{\bar{\gamma}}} \quad (2)$$

where  $\varphi_\infty$  and  $\varphi_0$  are saturation value at large strains and initial value respectively,  $\dot{\gamma}$  is the resolved shear strain rate, and  $\bar{\gamma}$  is the rate of variation of  $\varphi$  with resolved shear strain rate  $\dot{\gamma}$ .

In order to describe the dislocation evolution at crystal interior and crystal wall, the dislocation density rate is described as a function of nucleation, interaction and annihilation of dislocations as,<sup>22,23</sup>

$$\dot{\rho}_c = \alpha^* \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{\sqrt{\rho_w}}{b} \dot{\gamma}_w - \beta^* \frac{6\dot{\gamma}_c}{bd(1-\varphi)^{\frac{1}{3}}} - k_0 \left( \frac{\dot{\gamma}_c}{\dot{\gamma}_w} \right)^{-\frac{1}{n}} \dot{\gamma}_c \rho_c \quad (3)$$

$$\dot{\rho}_w = \frac{6\beta^*(1-\varphi)^{\frac{2}{3}} \dot{\gamma}_c}{bd\varphi} + \frac{\sqrt{3}\beta^* \dot{\gamma}_c (1-\varphi) \sqrt{\rho_w}}{b\varphi} - k_0 \left( \frac{\dot{\gamma}_w}{\dot{\gamma}_0} \right)^{-\frac{1}{n}} \dot{\gamma}_w \rho_w \quad (4)$$

where  $\beta^*$ ,  $\alpha^*$ ,  $k_0$  are constants,  $n$  is the strain rate dependent parameter,  $b$  is the magnitude of Burgers vector, and the shear strain rate  $\dot{\gamma}$  is assumed to be equal with the resolved shear strain rate at the wall  $\dot{\gamma}_w$  and interior  $\dot{\gamma}_c$ . The first term on the right-hand side of eqn (3) and (4) denotes the nucleation of the dislocation at the crystal interior and wall attributed by the Frank–Read sources. The movement of crystal interior dislocations to crystal wall and accumulation of dislocation pile ups at the wall are considered by the second term in eqn (3) and (4). The last term in each equation represents the annihilation of dislocations governed by cross-slip.

The average crystal size  $d$  is related to the total dislocation density  $\rho_t$  as

$$d = \frac{K}{\sqrt{\rho_t}} \quad (5)$$

where  $K$  is a proportionality constant.

The resolved shear stress  $\tau$  is obtained using the mixture rule,

$$\tau = \varphi \tau_w + (1 - \varphi) \tau_c \quad (6)$$

where  $\tau_w$  and  $\tau_c$  are the resolved shear stress at the crystal interior and wall and could be described as a function of dislocation density at the crystal interior and wall,

$$\tau_c = \alpha G b \sqrt{\rho_c} \left( \frac{\dot{\gamma}_c}{\dot{\gamma}_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{m}} \quad (7)$$

$$\tau_w = \alpha G b \sqrt{\rho_w} \left( \frac{\dot{\gamma}_w}{\dot{\gamma}_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{m}} \quad (8)$$

where  $\alpha$  is a constant,  $G$  is the shear modulus,  $\dot{\gamma}_0$  is a reference shear strain rate, and  $m$  is a strain rate dependent parameter.

Then the flow stress is calculated *via* the Taylor factor  $M$ ,

$$\sigma_f = M \tau \quad (9)$$

The total uniaxial strain rate can be decomposed into the elastic and the plastic part as follows,

$$\dot{\varepsilon} = \dot{\varepsilon}^e + \dot{\varepsilon}^p \quad (10)$$

From Hooke's law, the constitutive model is expressed as,

$$\dot{\sigma} = E(\dot{\varepsilon} - \dot{\varepsilon}^p) = E \left( \dot{\varepsilon} - \frac{1}{M} \dot{\gamma} \right) \quad (11)$$

where  $E$  is the Young's modulus.

Considering the pressure volume work, dislocation based plasticity work and chemical reaction are heating sources, the heating rate  $\dot{T}$  is calculated as,

$$\dot{T} = \frac{1}{\rho C_V} (k \nabla^2 T + \sigma \dot{\varepsilon} + \dot{Q}_{\text{chemical}}) \quad (12)$$



where  $C_V$  is the specific heat at constant volume,  $k$  is the thermal conductivity, and  $\dot{Q}_{\text{chemical}} = QA \exp\left(-\frac{E_a}{RT}\right)$ ,  $Q$  is the chemical energy,  $A$  and  $E_a$  are the Arrhenius frequency factor and activation energy and  $R$  is the gas constant.

As presented in Table 1, parameters  $\beta^*$ ,  $\alpha^*$ ,  $k_0$  describing the dislocation kinetics are tuned to fit the stress–strain curve of LLM-105 single crystal at a strain rate of  $10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .<sup>21</sup> From Fig. 1, the calculated stress strain curve could well reproduce the experimental results, and the mechanical response shows significant strain rate dependency.

**2.2 Polymer binder—estane.** The mechanical behavior of the polymer binder estane at moderate loading rate and room temperature is assumed to be linear viscoelastic as,

$$\sigma(t) = \int_0^t 2G(t-\tau) \frac{\partial \varepsilon_d}{\partial \tau} d\tau + I \int_0^t K(t-\tau) \frac{\partial \varepsilon_v}{\partial \tau} d\tau \quad (13)$$

where  $\sigma(t)$  is the stress,  $\varepsilon_d$  and  $\varepsilon_v$  are the deviatoric and volumetric strain, respectively, and  $G$  and  $K$  are the shear modulus and bulk modulus, which are functions of the reduced time  $\tau$  and can be defined in terms of Prony series as,

$$G(t) = G_\infty + \sum_{i=1}^{n_G} G_i \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_i^G}\right) \quad (14)$$

$$K(t) = K_\infty + \sum_{i=1}^{n_K} K_i \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_i^K}\right) \quad (15)$$

where  $G_\infty$  and  $K_\infty$  represent the long-term shear and bulk modulus, and  $\tau_i^G$  and  $\tau_i^K$  are the relaxation times. Table 2 lists the mechanical properties of estane under dynamic loading.

### 3. Numerical model

A Representative Volume Element (RVE) generation algorithm was developed to construct three typical crystal morphologies (cubic, icosahedral, rodlike) of LLM-105 based explosives as shown in Fig. 2. In the three-dimensional computational models, the volume fraction of the explosive crystals is approximately 60%.

The proposed constitutive model was implemented to the material user subroutines VUMAT in the finite element code Abaqus/Explicit. The  $0.3 \text{ mm} \times 0.3 \text{ mm} \times 0.1 \text{ mm}$  models were constructed using eight-noded linear brick elements (C3D8) and were partitioned to 126 750 elements. We investigated the time step and mesh size dependency by using the time step of  $10^{-11} \text{ s}$  and  $10^{-13} \text{ s}$  and the mesh size of  $3 \mu\text{m}$  and  $1 \mu\text{m}$ , and obtained the same results by pilot calculations. Therefore, the models were resolved with the time step of  $10^{-11} \text{ s}$  and the mesh

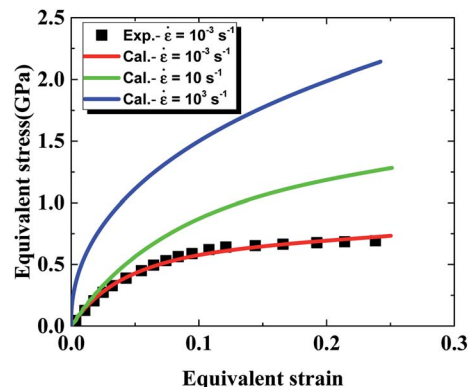


Fig. 1 Calibration of constitutive model of LLM-105.

size of  $3 \mu\text{m}$ . The top surface is imposed with a constant impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and the bottom surface is fixed. All the lateral surfaces are constrained with periodic boundary conditions. Initial temperatures are set to be  $300 \text{ K}$ .

### 4. Results and discussions

Fig. 3 compares the volume averaged stress strain curves of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike explosive samples (*i.e.* cubic, icosahedral and rodlike LLM-105 crystal based explosives) at an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . At an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (Fig. 3(a)), the strength of cubic explosive reaches as high as  $136 \text{ MPa}$ , followed by that of the icosahedral explosive at  $85 \text{ MPa}$  and the strength of rodlike explosive is the lowest at  $52 \text{ MPa}$ , which greatly lowers the risk of unexpected ignition. Moreover, the hardening modulus of rodlike explosive keeps the lowest during the impact. As the impact velocity increases, the difference of mechanical response among the three samples becomes more pronounced. When the impact velocity increases to  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (Fig. 3(b)), the stress strain curve of the rodlike sample is below that of the cubic and icosahedral samples, indicating that dislocation hardening effect of the rodlike sample is less significant. The strength of the rodlike sample is  $69 \text{ MPa}$ , lower than that of cubic sample ( $171 \text{ MPa}$ ) and icosahedral sample ( $108 \text{ MPa}$ ).

Volume averaged stress strain curves reflect the macroscale mechanical behavior under impact loading. To analyze the localized stress distribution, Fig. 4 and 5 present the Von Mises stress contours at  $t = 3 \mu\text{s}$  of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , respectively. From Fig. 4, as stress wave propagates in the samples, the explosive crystals take most of the stress, while the

Table 1 Parameters of viscoplasticity model and reaction model<sup>8</sup> for LLM-105

$E$ (GPa)	$M$	$\rho_w$ ( $\text{m}^{-2}$ )	$\rho_c$ ( $\text{m}^{-2}$ )	$f_0$	$f_\infty$	$\dot{\gamma}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$\dot{\gamma}_0$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$m$	$n$
21	3.06	$10^{10}$	$10^{11}$	0.2	0.05	$\frac{1}{3}$	$10^5$	50	10
$\alpha$	$b$ ( $\text{m}^{-1}$ )	$K$	$\alpha^*$	$\beta^*$	$\rho$ ( $\text{kg m}^{-3}$ )	$C_V$ ( $\text{J (kg K)}^{-1}$ )	$Q$ ( $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ )	$A$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$E$ ( $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ )
0.3	$10^{-9}$	10	0.02	0.02	1913	931	41.421	$2.19 \times 10^{13}$	173.5



Table 2 Parameters of viscoelasticity model<sup>24</sup> and physical properties for estane (relaxation time  $t_i = 1.5 \times 10^{7-i}$  s)

$G_1$	$G_2$	$G_3$	$G_4$	$G_5$	$G_6$	$G_7$	$G_8$	$G_9$	$G_{10}$	$G_{11}$	$G_{12}$	$G_{13}$
0.0042	0.0074	0.0158	0.038	0.0676	0.0891	0.1156	0.1422	0.1622	0.2218	0.4753	2.6181	12.883
$G_{14}$	$G_{15}$	$G_{16}$	$G_{17}$	$G_{18}$	$G_{19}$	$G_{20}$	$G_{21}$	$G_{22}$	$E$ (MPa)	$\rho$ (kg m <sup>-3</sup> )	$\nu$	
52.481	223.87	436.52	457.09	346.74	251.19	177.83	117.49	75.858	0.77	900	0.499	

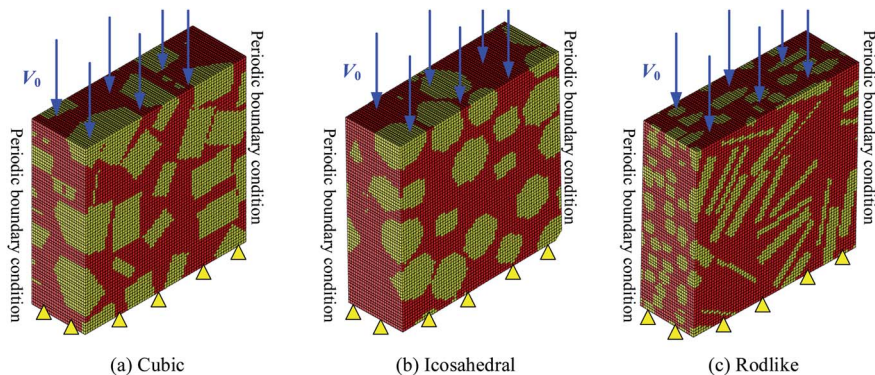
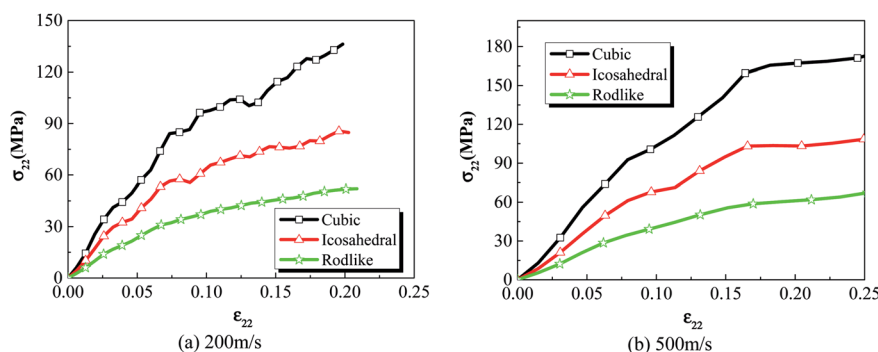
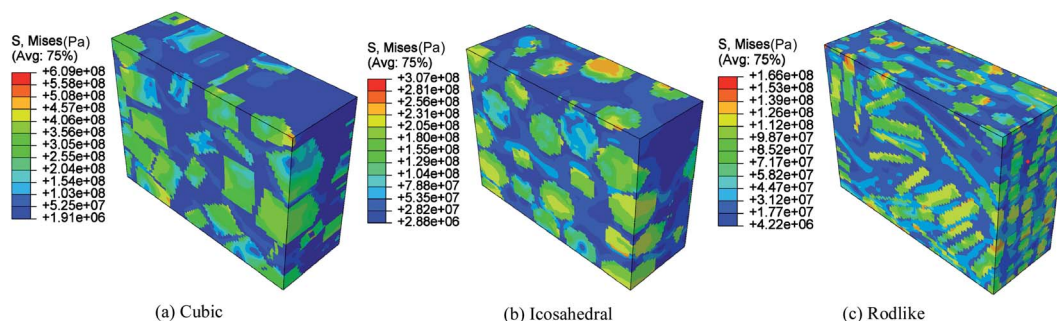


Fig. 2 Computational model of LLM-105 based explosives: (a) cubic (b) icosahedral and (c) rodlike; the top surface is imposed with a constant impact velocity, the bottom surface is fixed and all the lateral surfaces are constrained with periodic boundary conditions.

softer polymer binder accommodates more deformation. The stress distributes non-uniformly due to the heterogeneous microstructure. The cubic explosive has the maximum stress at 609 MPa which locates near the impact surface, whereas the

stress of rodlike explosive is the lowest at 166 MPa. As the impact velocity increases to 500 m s<sup>-1</sup> (Fig. 5), the sample is further compressed. The maximum Von Mises stress of the rodlike sample is 248.1 MPa, which is much lower than cubic

Fig. 3 Volume averaged stress strain curves of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of (a) 200 m s<sup>-1</sup> and (b) 500 m s<sup>-1</sup>.Fig. 4 Von Mises stress contour at  $t = 3 \mu\text{s}$  of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of 200 m s<sup>-1</sup>.

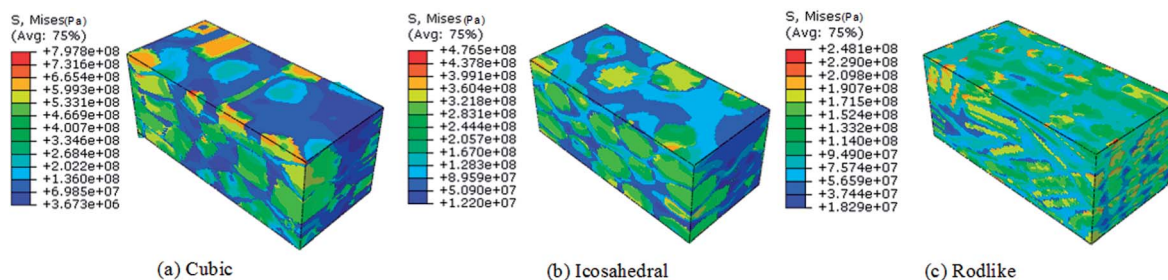


Fig. 5 Von Mises stress contour at  $t = 3 \mu\text{s}$  of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .

crystal (797.8 MPa) and icosahedral crystal (476.5 MPa). These highly stress concentrated areas are prone to the formation of “hot spots”.

The relatively low stress level and hardening modulus of rodlike explosive at different impact velocities are related to the underlying deformation process. To further explore the deformation mechanism at the mesoscale, Fig. 6 shows the volume averaged total dislocation density and cumulative plastic strain histories of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . At an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , as the wave propagates in the sample, the total dislocation density of all of the three explosives increases rapidly. The dislocation density of the cubic explosive reaches the highest at  $2.6 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , corresponding to the largest hardening modulus. The dislocation density of rodlike explosive is the lowest at  $2.2 \times 10^{14} \text{ m}^{-2}$  before the saturation state. As the dislocation at the crystal walls and interiors develops, the cumulative plastic strain on each slip system increases gradually as well. The higher dislocation density corresponds to the higher accumulated plastic strain. From the figure, the volume averaged cumulative plastic strain of the cubic explosive is the largest, which indicates more plasticity work is induced during impact. Similarly, at an impact velocity of  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , the cubic sample also corresponds to the largest dislocation density at  $4.39 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}^{-2}$  and cumulative plastic strain at 0.73, while the rodlike sample has the lowest dislocation density at  $4.4 \times 10^{14} \text{ m}^{-2}$  and cumulative plastic strain at 0.39.

Fig. 7 and 8 present the spatial distribution of total dislocation density at  $t = 3 \mu\text{s}$  of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike

samples at an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , respectively. From the figure, most of the dislocation locates near the impact surface. When the stress exceeds the dislocation initiation threshold, dislocation slip starts and expands. At an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , the maximum value of total dislocation density of cubic explosive is 20 times larger than that of rodlike explosive, which shows the dislocation-based hardening plays a more significant role in cubic explosive. As the impact velocity increases, more dislocation develops in the sample. The maximum dislocation density of the cubic sample reaches as high as  $1.437 \times 10^{16} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , while that of the rodlike sample is about  $8.908 \times 10^{14} \text{ m}^{-2}$ . During the loading process, the dislocation motion of cubic and icosahedral samples is more significant, including the generation of new dislocations and expansion of existing dislocations, while the total dislocation density of rodlike sample is much lower, which is the main reason for the smaller hardening effect and lower temperature rise.

The crystal size relates to the total dislocation density as indicated in eqn (5). As dislocation accumulates near the crystal wall, the crystal size decreases as shown in Fig. 9. The original crystal size of the explosive crystals is set to be  $35 \mu\text{m}$  according to previous measurement,<sup>25</sup> but quickly decreases to  $\sim 0.1 \mu\text{m}$  in the time period of  $0.1 \mu\text{s}$ , which indicates a “sharpening” process of the crystal walls at very large strains. The decrease of crystal size of cubic explosive is much faster than the other two explosives. The quick broken of explosive crystals enhances the possibility of formation of potential hot spots and temperature increases.

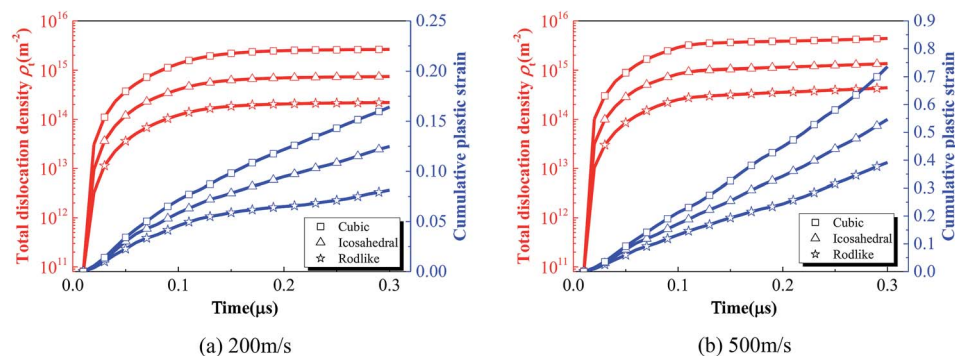


Fig. 6 Volume averaged total dislocation density (red curves) and cumulative plastic strain histories (blue curves) of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of (a)  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and (b)  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .



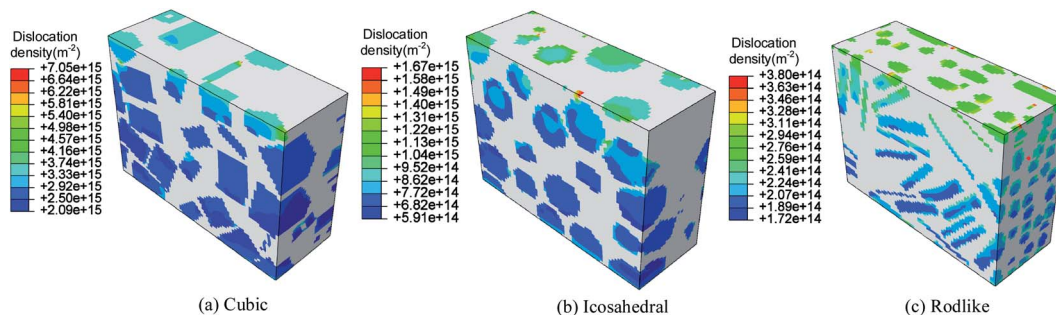


Fig. 7 Total dislocation density contour at  $t = 3 \mu\text{s}$  of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .

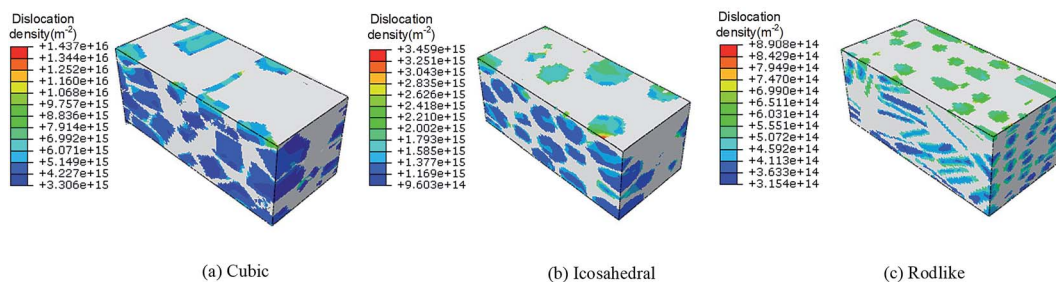


Fig. 8 Total dislocation density contours at  $t = 3 \mu\text{s}$  of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .

Fig. 10 and 11 show the temperature contours of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . It is interesting to note that the temperature rise varies significantly under the same loading condition. At an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , the maximum temperature is  $540 \text{ K}$  for the cubic sample, while for the rodlike sample, it is only  $313 \text{ K}$ . When the impact velocity increases to  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , the temperature reaches as high as  $682.8 \text{ K}$  for the cubic sample and some locations are even ignited, while for the rodlike sample, the temperature rise is only  $175.3 \text{ K}$ .

From the figures, most of the temperature rise locates near the impact face for the three samples.

We further extract the temperature history of maximum temperature rise elements from the three samples at an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and plot them in Fig. 12. At

an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , for the cubic explosive, the temperature rises gradually, followed by a quick increase due to the release of chemical reaction. The chemical reaction degree of the cubic explosive is about 0.3 while that of the other two explosives is on the order of  $10^{-5}$ . The volumetric and dislocation-based plasticity work is high enough to trigger the chemical reaction. On the contrary, the temperature rise of the rodlike explosive is the lowest, which indicates that the volumetric and plasticity work during the loading process is small. Fig. 13 presents the reaction extent at  $t = 3 \mu\text{s}$  of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . The reaction extent of the cubic explosive reaches 1.0 at  $0.15 \mu\text{s}$  and temperature rise due to volumetric work, plasticity work and chemical reaction leads to the ignition of the cubic explosive. By contrast, the temperature of rodlike explosive is the lowest. Therefore, it is further implied that the impact sensitivity of the rodlike explosive is the lowest, which is verified by drop hammer tests by Tran *et al.*<sup>18</sup> As the rodlike LLM-105 crystal is obtained by slow recrystallization from warm DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide) with hot water, the results presented above guide the design of LLM-105 single crystal applied at impact loading.

Comparatively speaking, the rodlike explosive has the largest aspect ratio and interaction area with binder among the three types explosives. Therefore, the stress concentration is much lower under impact. Moreover, as shown in Fig. 6, at the same impact velocity, the rodlike sample has the lowest total dislocation density, which indicates the plastic work hardening is the least significant. Considering the elastic modulus of the three explosives is the same, thus the lowest stress level of the rodlike sample is understandable. Also, the lowest work

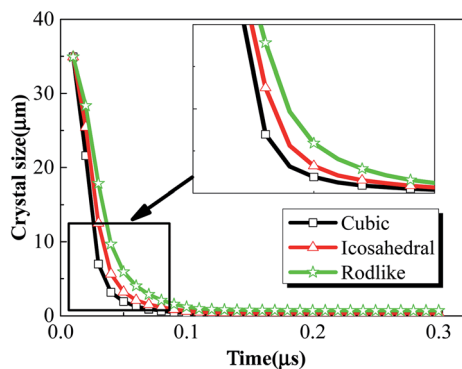


Fig. 9 Volume averaged crystal size history of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .



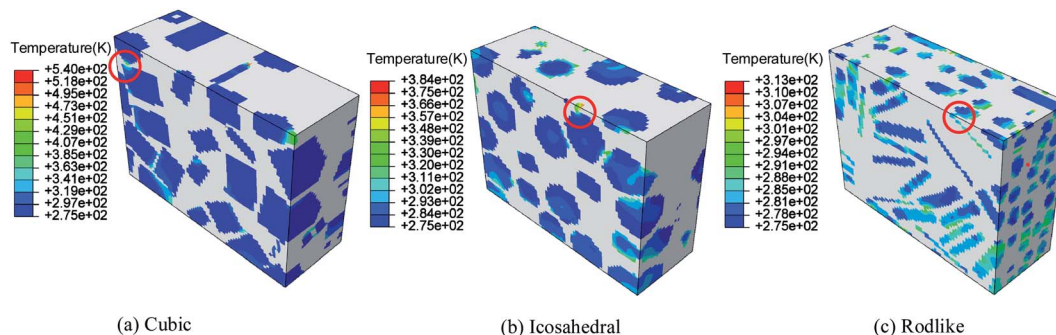


Fig. 10 Temperature contours at  $t = 3 \mu\text{s}$  of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .

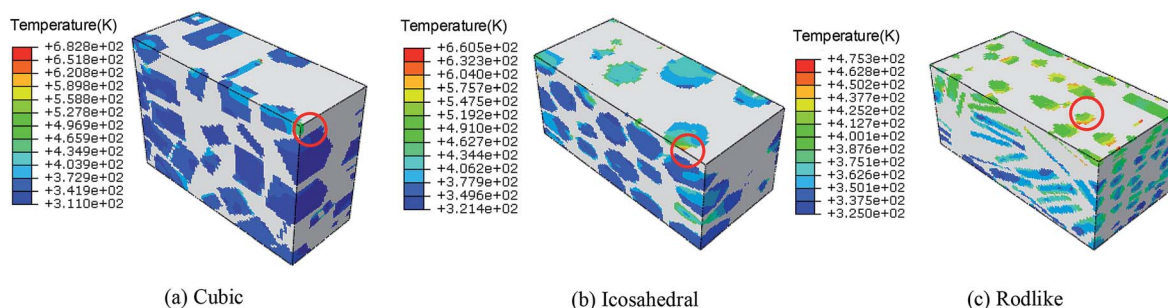


Fig. 11 Temperature contours at  $t = 3 \mu\text{s}$  of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .

hardening effect induces lowest plasticity work. As the temperature increase is contributed by volumetric and plasticity work, the temperature rise of the rodlike sample remains the lowest. The calculated results help to understand the impact sensitivity difference of the three samples.

To investigate the effect of initial dislocation density, different initial dislocation densities ( $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ) were selected to analyze the thermo-mechanical ignition response of rodlike samples at an impact velocity at  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . Fig. 14 and 15 display the volume averaged stress strain curves and Von Mises stress contours for rodlike samples with different initial dislocation densities, respectively. It can be seen from the figure that the samples with higher

initial dislocation density correspond to higher volume average stress and localized stress than samples with lower initial dislocation density, which is also due to the dislocation hardening effect described above. The strength of the sample with the dislocation density of  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$  is 94 MPa, while for the sample with the dislocation density of  $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , the strength is only 44 MPa. Moreover, for the sample with the dislocation density of  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , the localized Mises stress is much higher than the other samples.

Different initial dislocation densities correspond to different initial particle sizes, and the larger the initial dislocation density, the smaller the initial crystal size. Fig. 16 presents the crystal size history of rodlike samples with initial dislocation

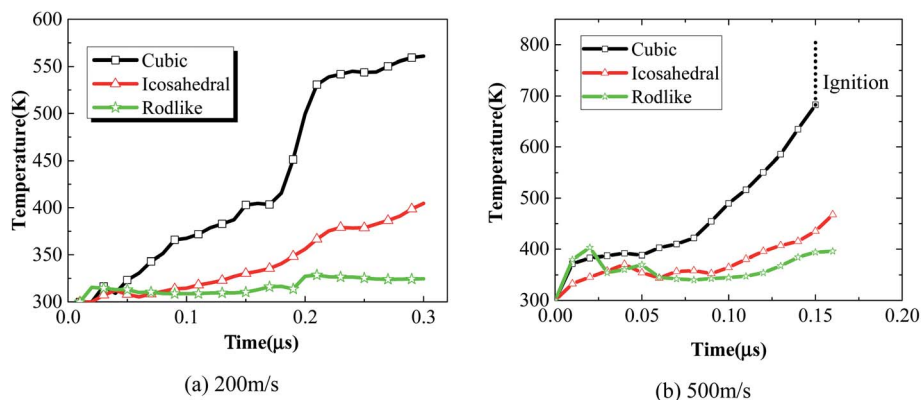


Fig. 12 Maximum temperature histories of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of (a)  $200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and (b)  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .



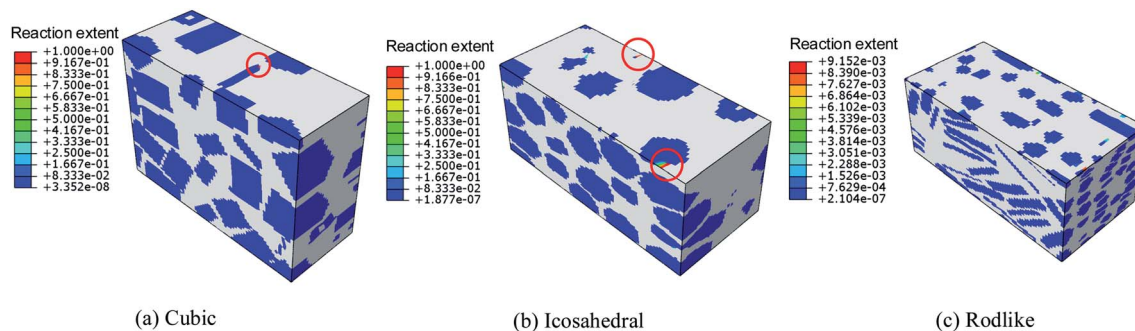


Fig. 13 Reaction extent at  $t = 3 \mu\text{s}$  of cubic, icosahedral and rodlike samples at an impact velocity of  $500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .

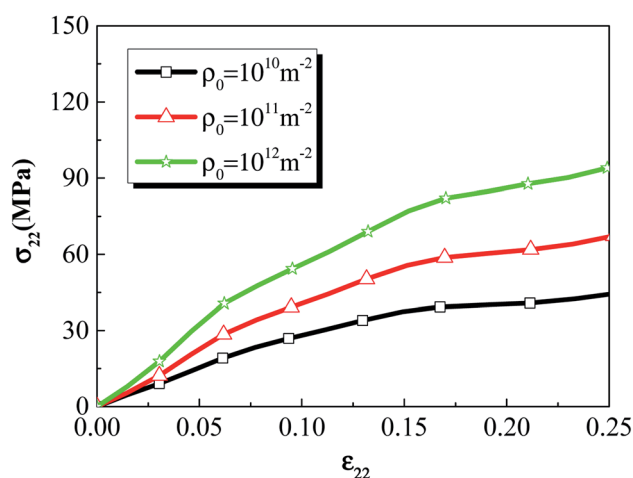


Fig. 14 Volume averaged stress strain curves of rodlike samples with initial dislocation density of  $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , and  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ .

density of  $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-2}$  and  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ . From the figure, the crystal size of all three samples decreases rapidly to about  $0.1 \mu\text{m}$  in the time of  $\sim 0.1 \mu\text{s}$ , indicating that under the large deformation, the sharpening effect occurs due to the accumulation of dislocations at the crystal wall, which in turn causes rapid refinement of the explosive crystals. The rapid breakage of the explosive crystals forms cracks, which will lead to the formation of potential hot spots and even ignition. As the

initial dislocation density increases (initial crystal size decreases), the corresponding crystal size decreases at a lower rate.

Fig. 17 shows total dislocation density  $\rho_t$ , dislocation density at crystal wall  $\rho_w$  and dislocation density at crystal interior  $\rho_c$  histories of rodlike samples with initial dislocation density of  $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , and  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ . For all the samples, the ratio between the dislocation densities of crystal walls and interiors increases with time and approaches about 10 at  $0.2 \mu\text{s}$ . The total dislocation density, dislocation density at the crystal interior and wall increase relatively slowly at initial dislocation density of  $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-2}$ . However, when the initial dislocation density increases to  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , the dislocation density (green dotted curve) at the crystal wall increases sharply, causing the total dislocation density under this initial condition to be much higher than the above two cases, which can explain the more pronounced hardening effect.

Fig. 18 and 19 shows the temperature contours and volume averaged temperature histories of rodlike samples with initial dislocation density of  $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , and  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ . From the figures, the sample with a larger initial dislocation density corresponds to a higher volume averaged and localized temperature rise. Considering the chemical reaction is not triggered for all cases, the higher dislocation based plasticity work from the sample with a larger initial dislocation contributes to the higher temperature rise. From Fig. 18, some reverberations are shown in the temperature histories, which is due to the propagation and reflections of elastic waves.

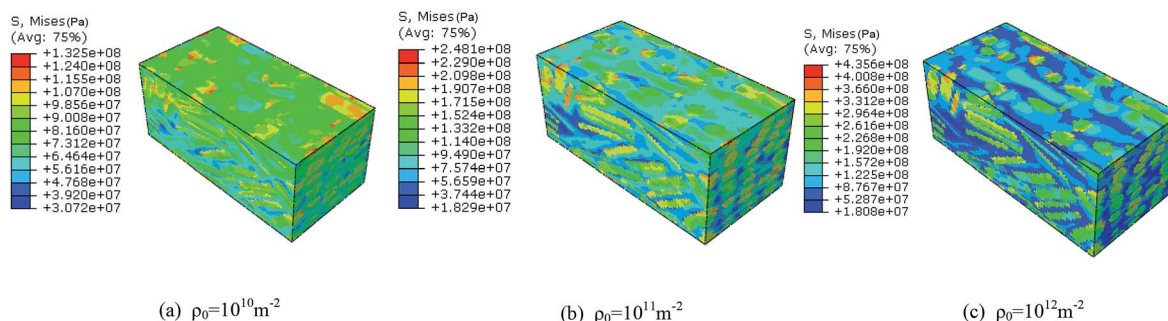


Fig. 15 Von Mises stress contours of rodlike samples with initial dislocation density of: (a)  $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , (b)  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , and (c)  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ .





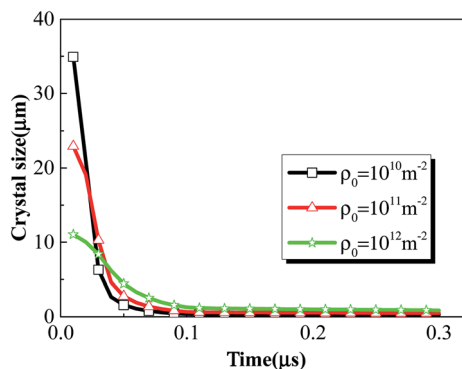


Fig. 16 Crystal size history of rodlike samples with initial dislocation density of  $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , and  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ .

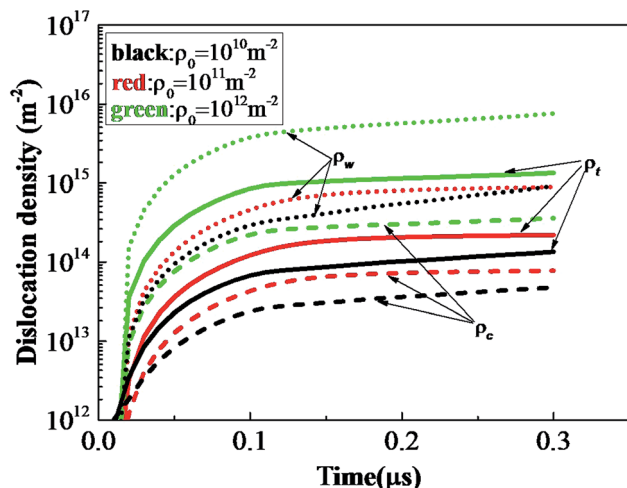


Fig. 17 Total dislocation density  $\rho_t$  (solid curves), dislocation density at crystal wall  $\rho_w$  (dotted curves) and dislocation density at crystal interior  $\rho_c$  (dashed curves) histories of rodlike samples with initial dislocation density of  $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , and  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ .

Therefore, samples with more initial defects (*i.e.* dislocation) undergo more plastic deformation and the plasticity work will further contribute to the temperature rise, which lead to a higher impact sensitivity.

Actually, dislocation based model has been widely developed and used to quantify the thermomechanical ignition response

of typical high explosive crystal – HMX and RDX single crystal.<sup>26–28</sup> In their model, dislocation based plasticity is assumed to be the primary plastic deformation mechanism. Previous works from Armstrong<sup>19</sup> proposed a dislocation based cleavage model for explosive crystal that dislocations accumulate near the obstacles such as crystal wall, and when the resolved shear stress reaches a critical value, dislocation pile-ups break through the obstacles, and large crystal breaks into smaller pieces. Similarly, we used the dislocation based model for LLM-105 single crystal in this work. The assumption of dislocation based deformation mechanism is supported by the evidence of plastic deformation and cleavage cracks of the residual impressions for nanoindentation tests on LLM-105 single crystal.<sup>21</sup> Therefore, the including of physical process from dislocation-based plasticity to “dislocation avalanche” induced cleavage fracture for LLM-105 single crystal is reasonable.

Also, the decrease of crystal size in Fig. 9 and 16 is actually that the LLM-105 single crystal fractures into a large number of smaller crystals, which is an implication based on the constitutive properties of the material. A dislocation Mean Free Path (MFP) was applied to represent the distance travelled for a dislocation segment before it is stopped by an obstacle such as crystal wall.<sup>29,30</sup> In the present work the dislocation MFP is assumed to be the crystal size, which is related to the total dislocation density. Although the model parameters were calibrated through stress–strain curve and the calculated results

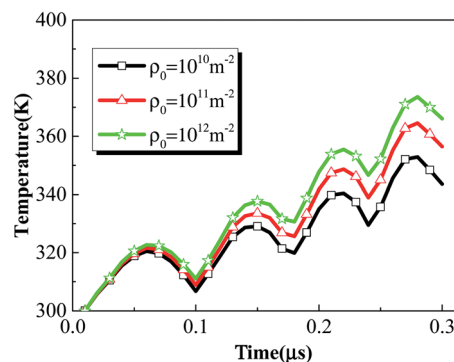


Fig. 19 Volume averaged temperature histories of rodlike samples with initial dislocation density of  $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , and  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ .

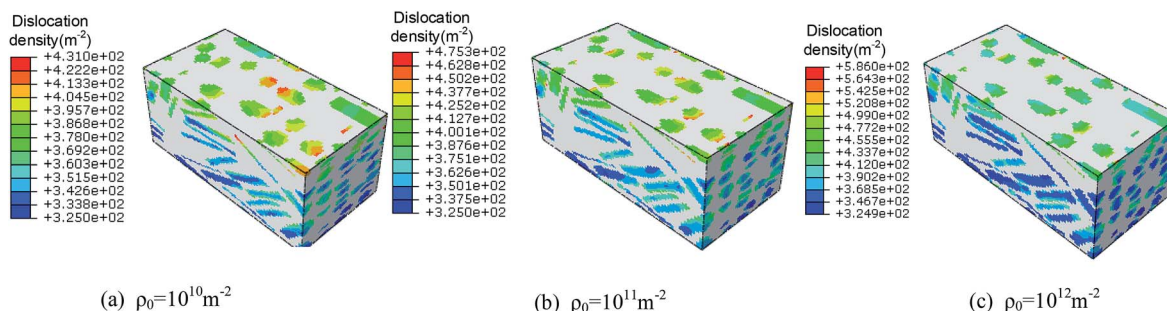


Fig. 18 Temperature contours of rodlike samples with initial dislocation density of: (a)  $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , (b)  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-2}$ , and (c)  $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$ .



were in qualitative agreement with the drop hammer tests,<sup>18</sup> a more accurate set of dislocation related parameters determined by experiments or molecular dynamics simulations are needed.

## 5. Conclusion

A elastoviscoplastic dislocation model is developed for LLM-105 crystal, which accounts for the dislocation evolutions at crystal interiors and crystal walls, and strain-rate dependent work hardening. Three typical crystal morphologies (cubic, icosahedral, rodlike) of LLM-105 based explosives computational models were constructed and subjected to an impact velocity of 200 m s<sup>-1</sup> and 500 m s<sup>-1</sup>. Effect of crystal morphology and initial dislocation density on the mesoscale thermomechanical ignition behavior of LLM-105 based explosives have been investigated.

Mises stress, dislocation density as well as temperature distribute non-uniformly due to the heterogeneous microstructure. Both the volume averaged stress level and dislocation density are the lowest for the rodlike explosive. Therefore, the volume averaged temperature contributed from volumetric and plasticity work is the lowest. The differences in dislocation densities between the walls and crystal interiors increase with time, which indicates higher possibility of larger crystals breaking into smaller crystals, until reaching the ultrafine crystal size. At the mesoscale, the maximum stress, dislocation and temperature locate near the impact surface for all three types of explosives. For the cubic explosive, chemical reaction is triggered, which leads to a significant increase in the temperature profile. At the impact velocity of 500 m s<sup>-1</sup>, temperature rise due to volumetric work, plasticity work and chemical reaction is sufficiently high to lead to the ignition of the cubic explosive. On the contrary, the temperature of the rodlike and icosahedral explosive rises moderately. Thus, the simulation results show that the rodlike explosive is the least sensitive among the three explosives, which is in qualitative agreement with the drop hammer tests. Moreover, with the increase of initial dislocation density, the corresponding volume averaged and localized stress and temperature increase as well.

Results presented above bridge the macroscale thermomechanical ignition response with the mesoscale deformation mechanisms, which could be directly compared with experimental results as well as reveal the related underlying deformation mechanisms. More realistic formulations models (higher LLM-105 contents) should be constructed to analyze and compare the thermomechanical ignition response with real explosive to better understand the ignition mechanisms and guide the design of LLM-105 based formulations. In the future, more mesoscale thermomechanical parameters from experiments or molecular dynamic simulations of LLM-105 single crystal are needed to determine the related parameters more accurately. Also, other inelastic deformation mechanisms such as twinning and phase transition should be incorporated in the present model.

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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