

Abstract Submitted
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Shock Pulse Effects in PTFE Shocked Through the Crystalline Phase II–III Transition ERIC N. BROWN, Los Alamos National Laboratory, ADWP, GEORGE T. GRAY III, PHILIP J. RAE, Los Alamos National Laboratory, MST-8, NEIL K. BOURNE, AWE, UK — We present an experimental study of crystalline structure evolution of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) due to pressure-induced phase transitions in a semi-crystalline polymer using soft-recovery, shock-loading techniques coupled with mechanical and chemical post-shock analysis. Gas-launched, plate impact experiments have been performed on pedigree PTFE 7C, mounted in momentum-trapped, shock assemblies, with impact pressures above and below the phase II to phase III crystalline transition. Below the phase transition only subtle changes were observed in the crystallinity, microstructure, and mechanical response of PTFE. Shock loading of PTFE 7C above the phase II–III transition was seen to cause both an increase in crystallinity from 38% to ~53% (by Differential Scanning Calorimetry, DSC) and a finer crystalline microstructure, and changed the yield and flow stress behavior. We particularly focus on the effect of pulse duration on the microstructure evolution.

Eric Brown
Los Alamos National Laboratory

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