Yield Response of Tantalum for Quasi-Isentropic Loading and Unloading

JAMES R. ASAY, TOMMY AO, TRACY J. VOGLER, Sandia National Laboratories, GEORGE T. GRAY, III, Los Alamos National Laboratory — Magnetic loading was used to study initial yield strength of pure annealed and cold-worked polycrystalline and single crystal Ta samples for ramp loading at strain rates of $\sim 10^6$/s and the flow strength after peak compression to $\sim 17$ GPa at about $5 \times 10^4$/s. For sample thicknesses of 0.5–6 mm, it was found that for annealed pure polycrystalline Ta, the quasi-isentrope elastic limit (IEL) was essentially constant at $\sim 3.2$ GPa with propagation distance. There was no apparent effect of sample purity on precursor amplitude to within experimental uncertainty, although cold-working resulted in loss of the elastic peak and a reduced IEL of $\sim 1.7$ GPa. The flow strength at peak loading stress was estimated from the quasi-elastic unloading and found to increase with peak stress. These results will be discussed in terms of constitutive models for Ta. Sandia is a multi-program laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a Lockheed Martin Company, for the United States Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration under Contract No. DE-AC04-94AL85000.