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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 ~ 17 GPa at about $5x10^4$ /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 ~ 3.2 GPa with propagation distance. There was no apparent effect of sample purity on precursor amplitude to within experimental uncertainty, although coldworking resulted in loss of the elastic peak and a reduced IEL of ~ 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.

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