EFFECTS OF IMPACT VELOCITY AND STRESS CONCENTRATORS IN TITANIUM ON FAILURE BY ADIABATIC SHEARING

Final Technical Report
(July 17/2000 – Sept. 17/2001)

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UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPEAN RESEARCH OFFICE
LONDON, UK

CONTRACT N°: N68171-00-M-5984

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Approved for public release
Distribution unlimited
**REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE**

| Form Approved  
| OMB No 0704-0188 |

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)  
2. REPORT DATE  
September 18/2001  
3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED  
Final, July 18/2001 – September 17/2001

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE  
EFFECTS OF IMPACT VELOCITY AND STRESS CONCENTRATORS IN TITANIUM ALLOYS ON FAILURE BY ADIABATIC SHEARING

5. FUNDING NUMBERS  
N68171-00-M-5984

6. AUTHOR(S)  
J.R. KLEPACZKO

7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)  
METZ UNIVERSITY – ISGMP  
LABORATORY OF PHYSICS AND MECHANICS OF MATERIALS  
METZ UNIVERSITY  
ISGMP-LPMM  
ILE DU SAULCY  
F-57045 METZ Cedex, FRANCE

8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER  
N/A

9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)  
USA RD5G-UK, AERONAUTICS AND MECHANICS BRANCH  
225 OLD MARYLEBONE RD.  
LONDON NW1-5BD, UK

10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT  
DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED  
12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE

13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 Words)  
This Final Technical Report covers the contract period from July 18/2000 to September 12/2000. During this period of the Contract all tasks defined by the Statement of Work have been accomplished. Precision machining of the three series of Modified Double Shear (MDS) specimens (the U,V and the sharp notch geometry), total of 62 specimen, has been done in the Laboratory of Physics and Mechanics of Materials (LPMM). Machining and heat treatment of the strikers and the support rings have also been done in LPMM. Since titanium alloys are very sensitive to the onset of the adiabatic shear banding (ASB) it is of great practical interest to study, via experiment and numerical modeling, the effect of stress concentrators on the triggering mechanism of ASB’s. The main parameter is the impact velocity or the nominal strain rate in shear. The first series of shear tests was performed on the fast, hydraulic machine. Precise determination of shear characteristics, including failure stress, was performed at the range of the nominal strain rate from \(10^6\) - 3 1/3 to \(5 \times 10^6\) 2 1/3. The second series of experiments was performed with direct impact loading on MDS specimens of the same geometry, using the air gun, series of strikers and the Hopkinson tube. Range of strain rates from \(10^3\) 1/s to \(4 \times 10^3\) 4 1/s has been covered. Digital records of all tests have been analyzed and the rate spectra of the failure stress have been determined. It appears that response of the Ti-6Al-4V alloy is very non-linear as a function of strain rate for all geometry tested. At high strain rates a high rate sensitivity is found, but at very high strain rates (above \(10^4\) 1/s) a substantial drop of the failure shear stress is observed. Further studies of that effect are needed.

14. SUBJECT TERMS  
ADIABATIC SHEAR BANDS, TITANIUM ALLOY Ti-6Al-4V, STRESS CONCENTRATORS IN IMPACT, DYNAMIC SHEAR FAILURE

15. NUMBER OF PAGES  
03

16. PRICE CODE

17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT  
UNCLASSIFIED

18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE  
UNCLASSIFIED

19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT  
UNCLASSIFIED

20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89)  
Prescribed by ANSI Std.Z39-18-92  

NSN 7540-01-280
EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Since titanium alloys are very sensitive to the onset of the adiabatic shear banding (ASB) it is of great practical interest to study, via experiment and numerical modeling, the effect of stress concentrators on the triggering mechanism of ASB's. The main parameter in this study is the impact velocity or the nominal strain rate in shear combined with different stress concentrators.

This Final Technical Report covers the contract period from July 18/2000 to September 17/2001. Within the framework of this contract the experimental program was continued on the basis of the previous one. In the previous contract, with the same title as this one, the series of the MDS (Modified Double Shear) specimens of Ti-6Al-4V alloy of standard geometry have been tested. The material (Ti-6Al-4V) was delivered by the ARL-Aberdeen, MD and the specimens were machined in the Laboratory of Physics and Mechanics of Materials (LPMM) in Metz. As a result of tests on standard specimen geometry all material constants in a precise constitutive relation have been identified, [1,2,4]. Results obtained with standard MDS specimens served as a basis for further numerical calculations of Adiabatic Shear Bands (ASB). Improved constitutive relations had been used in those calculations, and one paper has been submitted in Jan./2001 to International Journal of Impact Engineering. [4].

Within the framework of this contract the ARL-Aberdeen supplied again the Ti-6Al-4V and three different specimen geometries were machined in LPMM-Metz. Those geometries have different stress concentrators, type “U”, “V” and “I” (sharp notch). For every specimen geometry over 20 specimens were made. The most difficult was production of the “I” notch. An electro-erosion technique was used to cut such notch.

At the first stage of the Project the experiments performed for all three geometries were limited to tests with relatively low strain rates in shear, from $10^{-3}$ 1/s to $10^{3}$ 1/s A fast, hydraulic universal testing machine, together with a special device to fix and load specimens were used. The device has its own gage system to measure the axial force and displacement precisely as a function of time, [3]. It was found that the failure stress of this titanium alloy is not so sensitive in this range of strain rates to stress concentrators.

The LPMM-Metz has developed under previous contracts, partially granted by the European Research Office of the US Army, a unique experimental technique which enables impact shear testing of materials within a wide range of strain rates, the impact range covers strain rates from $10^{3}$ 1/s to $10^{5}$ 1/s, [3]. This technique has been applied to perform experiments with three geometries of specimen, that is “U”, “V” and “I”, with different stress concentrators. The main task was to find the role of stress concentrators in Ti-6Al-4V in triggering ASB. Impact velocities were varied within the following limits: 10 m/s < V < 90 m/s (nominal strain rates: $5*10^{3}$ 1/s < $\Gamma$ < $4.5*10^{4}$ 1/s. The tests performed on U, V and I geometry has served as a basis for further analyses to identify failure criteria based on the concept of effective strain or on concept of the strain energy density. Digital records of all tests have been analyzed and the rate spectra of the failure stress have been determined. It appears that response of the Ti-6Al-4V alloy is very non-linear as a function of strain rate for all geometries tested. At high strain rates a high rate sensitivity is found, but at very high strain rates (above $10^{4}$ 1/s) a substantial drop of the failure shear stress is observed. Further studies of that effect are needed.
References


Research reported in this document has been made possible through the support and sponsorship of the US Government through its European Research Office of the US Army. This Interim Report is intended only for the internal management use of the Contractor and the US Government.
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14. Figures 1 - 42
1. Introduction and Objectives

In this research program experimental and numerical studies on the effects of different impact velocities (nominal strain rates), involving the shear mode of deformation, and stress concentrators in titanium alloy Ti-6Al-4V were carried out. Since titanium is highly rate-sensitive and it exhibits relatively low rate of strain hardening, its behavior under impact loading leads to an almost instantaneous formation of Adiabatic Shear Bands (ASB). It is of interest to study the substantial differences which occur in formation and localization of the ASB's in metals, including titanium alloys, when the initial conditions, like the local stress concentrators and the local rate of shearing are extremely different.

The main purpose of this study which is the second part of the research program on titanium alloy Ti-6Al-4V carried out by LPMM-Metz, was to clarify, using experiments and numerical methods, the role of short-time local plastic fields with thermal coupling and the local high strain rates in development of impact failure in shear. Some time ago a new failure criterion based on the strain energy density has been included in FE numerical code. It has been shown in the first part of this research program [1] that the local failure criterion based on the maximum localization strain (effective strain in 3D problems) assures relatively good predictions of fracturing by FE codes in shear mode of deformation. Finally, within the framework of the previous contract [1], the Modified Double Shear (MDS) experimental technique with the standard specimen geometry, [2,3,4], was used to determine shear stress vs. shear strain characteristics of titanium alloy Ti-6Al-4V for a wide range of strain rates. A fast hydraulic machine, and the direct impact technique with impact velocities from 1 m/s to 100 m/s were applied in the previous test program (strain rate range from $10^3$ to $5\times10^4$ 1/s with the standard MDS specimen geometry). The Critical Impact Velocity in shear was also analyzed by analytic and numerical methods. [5,6,7,8].

Mechanical tests at high strain rates as well as ballistic tests performed on pure titanium and titanium alloys, show its extreme sensitivity to formation of the ASB's, [9,10]. Consequently, studies of ASB's in titanium alloys are the most important part of the research for improvement of titanium performance against impact.

The adiabatic shear banding in metals have already been studied for some time, including experiment, analytic solutions and numerical calculations. Although some
data are available as to specific extreme conditions when and where the ASB's are formed, no systematic study exists in the open literature on the effect of the nominal velocities of shearing, or impact velocities, on the critical conditions for the onset and evolution of catastrophic thermoplastic shear. It appears in addition that stress concentrators in shear very easily trigger ASBs. It may be mentioned that ASB's, with or without phase transformation, often act as the sites of fracture initiation in Mode II, [11,12,13].

Fast plastic shearing can be studied by using experimental techniques like the Split Hopkinson Torsion Bar (SHTB or Kolsky torsion apparatus). Because the mass velocity in propagation of elastic torsion waves in bars or tubes is limited, the range of the nominal strain rates in SHTB is limited to strain rates in shear from $\sim 5 \times 10^5$ to $\sim 2 \times 10^2$ 1/s. ASBs can also be studied, as a hybrid approach, by numerical methods, including the finite differences [14,15] or finite elements methods [6,7,8].

Because of natural limits imposed on SHTB scheme, a few years ago an original experimental technique for fast shearing has been developed in Laboratory of Physics and Mechanics of Materials (LPMM) in Metz, [2,16]. This experimental technique is based on the double shear principle. The technique combines several positive features not available with other setups. The scheme of the double shear technique is shown in Fig.1. Because the theory and details of this experimental technique is given elsewhere [2], here only a brief description is offered. Fig. 1 shows the principles.

The direct impact of a projectile is applied to deform plastically up to failure the MDS specimen, for example of standard geometry, as it is shown in Fig.2. In this way the rise-time during the specimen loading has been substantially reduced (%2 $\mu$s). For example in comparison to the Split Hopkinson Pressure Bar (SHPB) technique the typical rise time is $\approx 20 \mu$s, and for SHTB the typical rise time is $\approx 50 \mu$s. Flat-ended strikers of different length made of maraging steel and of diameter $D_p = 10.0$ mm are launched from an air gun with predetermined velocities $V_o$, 1.0 m/s $\leq V_o < 200$ m/s. The impact velocity is measured by the setup with three sources of light $L$, fiber optic leads 1,2,3 and three independent photodiodes $F$ which activate two time counters $TC_1$ and $TC_2$. The time intervals of dark signals from the photodiodes generated during the passage of a projectile are transmitted to
the start/stop gates of the time counters. The impact velocity can be precisely measured.

Axial displacement \( U_x(t) \) of the central part of the DS specimen is measured as a function of time by an two channel optical gauge \( E \), acting as a non-contact displacement gage. The optical gage reacts to the axial movements of a small black and white target cemented to the middle part of the MDS specimen. The second channel can measure displacement of the interface striker/specimen, so the coefficient of restitution can be independently determined.

Axial force which is transmitted by the specimen symmetric supports which are attached to a long Hopkinson tube can be determined as a function of time from the transmitted longitudinal wave \( \varepsilon_X(t) \) measured by SR gages \( T_1 \) cemented on the Hopkinson tube, DC supply unit \( A_2 \) and wide band amplifier \( A_1 \). All electric signals (from the optical extensometer and SR amplifier) are recorded by digital oscilloscope DO and next stored in a PC hard disk for further analyses.

The direct impact configuration of experimental setup permits for a wide variation of the nominal strain rate in shear, typically from \( 10^3 \) 1/s to \( 10^5 \) 1/s. The direct determination of the axial displacement permits also for a more exact evaluation of the deformation history, a very important piece of information in development of ASB's. So far more than a thousand tests have been performed with this technique, including variety of armor steels, VAR 4340 steel 50-52 HRC, aluminum alloys and shock-resistant polymers.

In conclusion, the direct impact technique available in LPMM-Metz constitutes a reliable test method to study the impact shear in the wide range of velocities.

The numerical methods, like the finite differences and the finite elements are advanced enough and they are very useful in studies of the ASB's. In addition to the finite difference method applied in LPMM-Metz to study the steady-state formation of the ASB's in 1018 steel, [14], recently, the FE code (ABACUS implicit and explicit schemes) has been applied to study the Critical Impact Velocity (CIV) in shear, [6,7,8]. In this research program a complete dynamic approach with the elastic-plastic wave propagation and a new constitutive relations, including thermal coupling, has been applied to study CIV in shear for Ti-6Al-4V alloy. The CIV in shear can be used as a new material constant, [4,5,6,8], similar to Kárman's Critical Impact Velocity in tension [17,18]. The existence of the CIV in shear has far
reaching consequences in fragmentation, [19,20]. Recent numerical studies have confirmed experimental observations as to existence of the CIV in shear for 1018 steel, VAR 4340 steel 52 HRC and Ti-6Al4V [7,8]. The CIV in shear triggered by plastic wave trapping, [21], causes that the energy needed to trigger an ASB is much lower when the local shearing velocity exceeds the CIV. This is a new important fact to be studied for different materials including titanium alloys. The physics of this phenomenon is now understood much better.

2. Technical Objectives

Since titanium and titanium alloys are even more sensitive to the onset of the ASB's in comparison to steels, it is of great practical interest to study, via experiment and numerical methods, the effect of stress concentrators on the triggering mechanisms of ASB's in those metallic materials. Such study could advance the state of the art in this area. A relation must be sought between titanium properties, imposed conditions in the form of different loading rates (impact velocities), stress concentrators and development of the ASB's. Also the CIV should be studied in titanium, including experiment and numerical approach. A correlation should be sought between susceptibility to catastrophic thermoplastic shear and material properties, including CIV, including defects that initiate the localization.

The unique aspect of this research lies in application of an original and unique experimental technique developed in LPMM-Metz from one side, and an experience already gained in complete numerical analyses of the ASB's by the FE method. It is hoped that this research will have a practical significance in application to more precise design of structures against direct impact and perforation.

The main purpose of this research program was to gain more information on the role of stress concentrators and rate effects in triggering of adiabatic shear bands (ASB) and failure. In pursuit of these goals, experimental studies on the effect of stress concentrators and impact velocities have been undertaken. The materials tested was Ti-6Al-4V. On the other hand, numerical calculations with more realistic boundary conditions have been performed.

In order to clarify the problems mentioned above the first step was clarify the effect stress concentrators in the standard MDS geometry [1,22,23]. The Finite Elements (FE) calculations for the MDS specimen reported in [2,3] have shown
existence of the stress concentrators around the corners present in the standard geometry.

To study further the effect of stress concentrators at different loading rates on formation of the ASB's four different specimen geometry with increasing stress gradients were tested.

The second specific objective involving a more realistic initial conditions imposed during experiments on the MDS specimen, was to clarify the effects of plastic waves, more specifically existence of the Critical Impact Velocity (CIV) in shear [4,5,6, 7,8]. The FE technique has been applied for this purpose [7,8].

The research program included the following scopes:

(1) Precision machining of the three series of Double Shear (DS) specimens with three stress concentrators, "U" - geometry, "V" - geometry and "I" - geometry (sharp notch) of Ti-6Al-4V. The machining was done in LPMM-Metz. Three specimen geometries are shown in Fig.3. The ligament as well as the thickness were the same for all geometries. The width of the fine notch was 0.5 mm, that is "I" geometry, and the notch was cut by the electro-erosion technique;

(2) Three series of DS specimens, each of 20 specimens, were made;

(3) A series of Marval 18 (maraging steel) strikers were machined and heat treated;

(4) The first series of experiments was performed with three specimen geometry on the fast, hydraulic universal testing machine. Precise measurements of shear characteristics were done for each test. The range of strain rates was given above.

(5) The second series of experiments was performed with the same specimen geometry with the direct impact experimental technique. The range of strain rates was given in the previous part of this Report;

(6) Digital records (oscillograms) from all tests have been analyzed and the force vs. displacement data have been obtained. Such experimental results have served as a source for further analyses discussed in the following parts of this Report;
(7) The Ti-6Al-4V plate, in order to produce specimens, has been delivered by ARL-AMSRL-WM-TA, [24].
Those task have been completed as the scope of the Statement of the Work in the Contract N68171-00-M-5984 (Reference Number: R&D 9014-AN07).

3. General Information on Ti-6Al-4V

Titanium and its alloys have proven to be technically superior and cost-effective materials for a wide variety of applications like aerospace, marine and armament. Titanium and its alloys are immune to corrosive attack. The key to its cost-effective use is to utilize its unique mechanical properties.

One of the most utilized titanium alloys is Ti-6Al-4V, Grade 5 alloy. This α-β alloy is the workhorse alloy of the titanium industry. The alloy is fully heat-treatable in section sizes up to ~25 mm, and can be used up to about the absolute temperature 673 K (400°C) with a small reduction of the mechanical characteristics. This alloy has specifications: DIN 3.7165 and the USA MIL-T-9047 and MIL-T-9046 AB1/2.

The mean physical data are:

1. Specific Gravity 4.43 g/cm³
2. Melting Range 1922 +/- 15 K (1649 +/- 15°C )
3. Specific Heat 0.56 J/g K
4. Thermal Conductivity 7.20 W/m K
5. Beta Transus 1272 +/- 15 K (999 +/- 15°C)

The mean mechanical characteristics at room temperature are:

1. 0.2% Proof Stress Min. 828 MPa ; Max. 910 MPa
2. Tensile Strength Min. 897 MPa ; Max. 1000 MPa
3. Elongation over 50 mm 0.10
4. Reduction in Area 0.20
5. Young's Modulus 114 GPa
6. Hardness Rockwell C 36
7. Charpy Impact Energy (V-notch) 24 J
Variation of the 0.2% Proof Stress and Tensile Strength as a function of the absolute temperature, at strain rate $\sim 10^6$-3, are shown in Fig 4. The temperature variation of the Elongation over 20 mm gage length is shown in Fig.5. It is clear that at temperatures higher than about 700 K the thermal softening is intensified. This information is important because the core temperature in an ASB may exceed substantially this level.

4. Experiments with Different Stress Concentrators

The experimental technique shown in Fig.1 is now a daily practice. The DS specimen with its new standard geometry shown in Fig.2, which prevents plastic deformation and rotation of the supports, has been discussed in [3]. The deformed layer of the standard MDS specimen has 2 mm and it initially assures the uniform deformation over the gage length at low nominal strain rates. The MDS specimens are loaded by direct impact using a bar striker, as it is shown in Fig. 1. Typical records of such tests for standard geometry are shown in Fig. 6 and Fig.7. The MDS specimens made of Ti-6Al-4V were loaded respectively by the striker at impact velocity $V = 19$ m/s (Fig.6) and $V = 24.5$ m/s (Fig.7). The two channel digital oscilloscope with the sampling rate 1 GHz was triggered by the signal from the optical transducer, channel 1. It is visible that the velocity of the central part of the MDS specimen is almost constant, no vibrations are present.

The transmitted wave is recorded in channel 2. The delay to propagate the elastic longitudinal wave in the Hopkinson tube, from specimen to the strain gage is $\sim 36$ $\mu$s. A special computer program has been developed to analyze the digital records and to determine force versus displacement data.

Three series of tests (hydraulic machine and direct impact) for different notch geometry have been performed at room temperature on titanium alloy Ti-6Al-4V within a wide range of nominal strain rates in shear, approximately from $10^{-3}$ 1/s to $\sim 10^5$ 1/s (that is eight decimal orders). The specimen dimensions are shown in Fig.3. The specimens were machined by LPMM-Metz out of an electron beam single melt plate of thickness 25 mm. The plate designated as AR7006 was made with a special processing [15]. The chemical composition of the initial EB ingot was as follows, Wt.% (average values):
Al: 6.28; V: 4.16; O: 0.76 and other elements: Sn: 0.017-0.019; Zr: 0.022-0.024; Ni: 0.032-0.035; Mn: 0.0; Si: 0.0; Cr: 0.024-0.036; Cu: 0.001-0.004; H: 0.007-0.010; C: 0.024-0.026.

Mechanical properties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yield Strength</td>
<td>874 MPa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tensile Strength</td>
<td>909 MPa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The material (titanium alloy) was delivered by ARL-WM-MC. The total number of specimens machined was 60 (20 for each geometry). The specimens were cut in such a way as to assure the shear direction perpendicular to the rolling direction.

Since there is an interest in studying not only the range of high strain rates but the whole strain rate spectrum including lower strain rates, a special device was used to load DS specimens with a complete measurements of force and displacement, [2]. The scheme of this device is shown in Fig.8. The device is equipped with its own measuring system. The axial force F(t) is measured by the load cell 6 with SR-gages and signal conditioner. The net specimen displacements δ₁(t) and δ₂(t) are measured by two LVDT-s and two amplifiers. The DS specimen 3 clamped to the support 2 which is loaded by the punch 4. The main support 1 with the device can be fixed to any testing machine, in this case a fast hydraulic machine was used to deform specimens from $10^5$-3 1/s to $2*10^5$ 1/s. The three signals from the device (force plus two displacement signals) and two electric signals from the machine can be stored in the digital form using digital oscilloscopes. The signals F(t), that is the force, and LVDT displacements are next stored in a PC hard disk for further analyses. An example of such record is given in Fig.9. From such test the axial force and the mean axial displacement can be obtained as a function of time. After elimination of time the force versus the mean displacement can be determined, [2,3]. With this device and the hydraulic machine three series of "quasi-static" tests were performed for each specimen geometry. The listing of "quasi static" tests is given in Table 1. The range of the nominal shear strain rate covered is from $10^5$-3 1/s to 100 1/s. At every strain rate at least two good tests were performed. The final results for "U", "V" and "I" geometry are shown in Fig.10 in the form of the mean shear stress vs. logarithm of shear strain rate. At higher strain rates the effect of a heat generated during plastic deformation causing thermal softening is noticeable, the point of
maximum nominal stress is stabilized at the level ~550 MPa. It may be noticed that the lowest cross section for all three specimen geometries is approximately the same, so the nominal stress shown in Fig.10 is referred to this cross section.

Second series of experiments was performed for the same three geometries with the direct impact on the Double Shear (DS) specimens, Fig.3, similar as for 4340 VAR steel, [1,22,23], at impact velocities 15 m/s < V < 90 m/s (nominal strain rates: 7.5*10^3 < $\gamma$ < 4.5*10^4 1/s). The complete theory of direct impact test on MDS specimen has been published elsewhere, [2]. Some digital records from those experiments are reproduced in figures: Fig.11 to Fig.16. Similarly as in the case of standard geometry the displacement signal starts earlier (movement of the black and white target on the specimen shown in Fig.1) than the signal of the transmitted wave in the Hopkinson tube. The listing of the direct impact tests is given in Table 2. After analyses of records, and elimination of time, the transmitted axial force vs. axial displacement can be determined for a particular impact velocity. The results in the form of maximum nominal shear stress versus impact velocity are shown in figures: Fig.17 to Fig.19. Because the specimens were machined "as received" (no heat treatment after milling), the scatter is quite large. The order of the scatter is similar as for the standard geometry [1] However, the main trends in the specimen behavior can be analyzed. Above impact velocity ~20 m/s (nominal shear strain rate 10^4 1/s) the nominal shear stress slightly increases for the "U" geometry and the plateau is reached at the level ~1500 MPa. On the contrary, the nominal stress for the "V" geometry shows maximum at ~25 m/s (nominal strain rate 1.25*10^4 1/s) and next a systematic decrease up to the level ~1000 MPa at impact velocity 80 m/s. Behavior of "I" geometry is "in between", the plateau is reached at ~20 m/s which rests constant at the level ~1350 MPa up to ~90 m/s (4.5*10^4 1/s). Lack of data for impact velocities higher than 90 m/s does not permit to verify a drop of the nominal shear stress at higher impact velocities. All three trends shown in Figs 18 to 20 should be verified by FE code with a failure criterion.

In order to analyze the rate effect the nominal maximum shear stress determined for "U", "V" and "I" geometry is plotted as a function of the logarithm of strain rate respectively in Fig.20, Fig.21 and Fig.22. As expected, at lower nominal strain rates the maximum shear stress for all geometries is proportional to the logarithm of strain rate. At strain rate range from 5*10^3 1/s to about 10^4 1/s the measured
stress increases substantially and at higher strain rates it stabilizes as it is discussed above. Finally, the whole rate spectrum for all three geometries is shown in Fig.23. At this scale the general trend is obvious, the maximum shear stress substantially increases up to a plateau, and at high nominal strain rates a substantial decrease is found. Such behavior is similar as reported in [35]. Further studies of such behavior would be important.

5. Determination of the Failure Energy

In case of fast shearig metals and alloys behave as it is shown in Fig.24. The nominal shear stress increases linearly as a function of the nominal shear strain in the elastic range, plasticity is triggered at the yield point $\tau_y$ and next a strain hardening appears. Since large part of the plastic work is converted into heat the material softens and the instability point occurs at the maximum stress. This is the end of stage 1. During stage 2 strain localization occurs in the form of ASB and in stage 3 the localization process is accelerated into the final failure indicated by the black point. Since the process of localization is plotted as a function of the nominal shear strain the local strain at the failure point can be many times higher. When the nominal shear strain rate is increased, or impact velocity increases, the instability point in the adiabatic conditions occurs at smaller strains as it is shown in Fig.25.

Specimen response shown in Fig.24 and fig.25 can be transformed into energy analysis. That is the energy expanded during stages 1, 2 and 3, and the total energy to failure, can be found by integration. It may be seen from Fig.25 that the total energy to failure may not change much because failure may occur at smaller and smaller nominal strains when strain rate is increased.

The energy analysis has been performed for all tests with three geometries "U", "V" and "I". The results are shown in Fig.26 and Fig.27 in the form of the energy up to the maximum force as a function of the logarithm of nominal strain rate for lower strain rate spectrum, and as a function of impact velocity after DS tests. An interesting picture emerges. Since deformed plastically volumes differ for each specimen geometry the energy to failure diminishes in the order of "U", "I" and "V". The notch acuity in the case of "V" geometry was higher than in "I" geometry and the energy up to instability point is lower for "V" than for "I". The effect of adiabatic heating is the most intense for the "U" geometry. In the case of "V" and "I" the
thermal softening is compensated by a very high local strain rate at the tip of stress concentrators by a very high rate sensitivity.

At high nominal strain rates, Fig.27, the rate sensitivity, and perhaps to some extend inertia (wave propagation) seem to be dominating. The energy at the maximum nominal shear stress increases for all three geometries. Comparison of Fig.26 and Fig.27 indicates a minimum of energy for all stress concentrators around nominal strain rate \(10^3\) 1/s. The highest increase of energy, around two to six times at the nominal strain rate \(4\times10^4\) 1/s, is observed for the "U" notch (impact velocity \(\sim 80\) m/s).

Similar results have been obtained for the total energy to failure. The experimental points are shown in Fig.28 and fig.29, respectively for the lower and the higher rate spectra. In Fig.29 the energies are only slightly higher, indicating that the localization is very fast. However, at high nominal strain rates (DS tests) an increase of the total energy is substantial. For example, the "U" geometry shows about twofold energy increase around maximum which occurs at \(50\) to \(70\) m/s (nominal strain rate \(2.5\times10^4\) 1/s to \(3.5\times10^4\) 1/s). On the other hand the weak maxima of energy can be noticed for all three geometries. The whole rate spectra for both energies are shown in Fig.30 (energy up to maximum stress) and in Fig.31 (the total energy). As it is discussed above a substantial increase of both energies are found within the range of the nominal strain rates \(10^4\) 1/s \(\leq \dot{\epsilon} \leq 4.5\times10^4\) 1/s. At "quasi-static" strain rates of the order \(10^2\) 1/s the energy for the "U" profile is about \(10\) J and for the "V" stress concentrator decreases to \(5\) J.

The failure energy dissipated during plastic deformation for the same specimen geometry has also been analyzed for VAR 4340 steel (52 HRC), [23]. Those results are reproduced in Fig.32 and fig.33. In Fig.32 the whole spectrum of strain rates is shown. The spectrum was obtained via DS experiment. In Fig.33 the numerical results are reproduced which were obtained by FE analysis with the failure criterion based on the effective plastic strain. Comparison of experimental results obtained for VAR 4340 steel and Ti-6Al-4V alloy indicate a substantial differences in behavior of those two materials. When the nominal strain rate, or impact velocity, is increased the energy to break the VAR 4340 steel substantially diminishes for all geometry tested, whereas for Ti-6Al-4V the energy for both cases, that is at maximum force and at failure, diminishes initially up to the nominal strain rate \(\sim 10^3\) 1/s and next increases up to relatively high values. For example, at the
nominal strain rate $\sim 3.2 \times 10^5$ rad/s the energies to failure for VAR 4340 steel vary from $\sim 1.5$ J to $\sim 3.5$ J depending on the stress concentrator, whereas the range of energies to failure for Ti-6Al-4V at the same strain rate vary from $\sim 28.0$ J to $\sim 80.0$ J. Those large differences are fundamental and should be clarified in the future. They indicate on totally different physical processes of adiabatic failure in steels and titanium alloys.

The energy analysis provides a very important information for evaluation of the local failure criteria by different stress concentrators. Some local criteria are discussed in the following part of the Report.

6. Constitutive Relations for Ti-6Al-4V

After careful analyses of experimental data available in the open literature for Ti-6Al-4V alloy and the results obtained with the MDS technique (standard specimen), the following explicit form of the constitutive relation has been developed for application in numerical codes

$$\tau = \frac{\mu(T)}{\mu_0} \left[ B \left( \frac{T}{T_0} \right)^{-\nu} \left( \Gamma_0 + \Gamma_p \right)^n \left( 1 - \frac{T}{D} \log \frac{\Gamma_0}{\Gamma} \right)^m \right]$$

where $B$, $\mu_0$, $\nu$, $n$, $m$ are respectively, the modulus of plasticity, the shear modulus at $T = 300$ K, the temperature index, the strain hardening exponent and the logarithmic rate sensitivity, $T_0, \Gamma_0, \Gamma_p$ and $D$ are normalization constants. This constitutive relation was used earlier to study ASB's by the FE code ABAQUS, [25], for 4340 steel [1,6,7,24].

The temperature change of the shear modulus in Eq.(1) is given by

$$\mu(T) = \mu_0 \left( 1 - AT^* - CT^*^2 \right); \quad T^* = T - 300 \quad T > 300 \text{ K}$$

where $A$ and $B$ are constants, and $T^* = T - 300$ K is the modified temperature. In principle, this version of constitutive equations can be applied at RT and temperatures above 300 K.
Since it is known that the rate of strain hardening in metals and alloys is temperature dependent and it diminishes with an increase of temperature [26]. The strain hardening exponent \( n \) was assumed as a linearly decreasing function of the homologous temperature, [26]

\[
n(T) = n_0 \left( 1 - \frac{T}{T_m} \right) 
\]

(3)

where \( n_0 \) is the strain hardening exponent at \( T = 300 \) K, and \( T_m \) is the melting point. This modification was found essential for very high strain rates.

The structure of the constitutive relation, Eq.(1), has some elements based on the materials science approach. First of all the level of stress is normalized by \( \mu(T) / \mu_0 \) which takes into account the thermal softening of the crystalline lattice. The first expression in Eq.(1) in the brackets is simply the internal stress and the second one is the rate and temperature-dependent effective stress, for example [27,28].

The procedure of how the constitutive relations have been developed is not discussed here, [1]. Total number of constants in Eqs (1), (2) and (3) is 12 and they are given in Table 3. Recently, the constitutive relations have been optimized for Ti-6Al-4V, [29]. Table 3 contains the optimized constants.

Since a large part of the plastic work is converted into heat the temperature of a material increases when plastic deformation advances. The balance of energy with the heat conduction leads to the following relation

\[
\beta e \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \rho C_v \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \lambda \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} 
\]

(4)

where \( \gamma \) is the axis of the heat conduction, \( \beta \) is the coefficient of energy conversion, for example [15,30], \( \rho \), \( C_v \), and \( \lambda \) are respectively the mass density, the specific heat and the heat conductivity (Fourier constant). It has been recently found for Ti-6Al-4V, [30], that the coefficient of stored energy \( \beta \) depends on strain rate. The relation of how \( \beta \) changes as a function of strain rate is given below

\[
\beta = \beta_0 - \alpha \log \left( \frac{T_0}{T} \right) \quad \beta > 0
\]

(5)
When the process is entirely adiabatic, \( \lambda = 0 \), (no heat conduction) the heating is uniform in an elementary volume. All material constants for the thermal coupling analyses, the total is 5, are given in Table 4 of this Report. If the heat conduction is negligible an increase of temperature in the adiabatic process of plastic deformation can be calculated after integration of Eq.(4), and if the temperature sensitivity of the flow stress \( \nu \) is already known the thermal softening of the flow stress can be finally calculated [1].

Thermal characteristics which are discussed above permit for numerical simulations of all temperature-coupled problems as purely adiabatic as well as with the heat conduction. The code ABAQUS includes those thermal-coupling problems in FE procedures.

7. Failure Criteria for Shear and Spalling

7.1 Failure Criteria for Adiabatic Shear

The main purpose of studying failure and fracture processes at high loading rates is to clarify, using experiments and numerical methods, the role of short-time local plastic fields with thermal coupling, and the local high strain rates, in development of impact failure. A new failure criteria based on the strain energy density or effective plastic strain have to be included in FE numerical codes.

The instability strain can be determined in many ways. The first possibility is to use the condition of maximum force in shear, that is \( \partial \tau / \partial \Gamma = 0 \). This condition can be applied to experimental \( \tau (\Gamma) \) curves as well as to theoretically determined adiabatic \( \tau (\Gamma)_A \) curves at different strain rates.

Another possibility is to measure the slopes of specimen contours on the shear sides. Deformed MDS specimen (standard geometry) of Ti-6Al-4V is shown in Fig.34, [29]. The slopes that are measured with a microscope are indicated by broken lines. Such determination of the instability strain has been applied to all standard specimens tested at high strain rates, the result is shown in Fig.35. As expected, the mean values (black points) show that the instability strain diminishes as a function of strain rate up to strain rate \( \sim 10^4 \) 1/s and next increases. The minimum instability strain estimated by this method is \( \sim 0.045 \).
The instability strain has also been estimated numerically by application of the maximum shear stress condition. The result is shown in Fig.36 in the form of the solid line superimposed on the experimental data from Fig.35. A shallow minimum is also found with the correct level of the minimum localization strain, ~0.04.

Experimentally determined, via oscillograms, the instability and failure strains for the whole range of strain rates are shown for VAR 4340 steel in Fig.37 and Fig.38 as a function of the logarithm of strain rate. It is clear that for VAR 4340 an increase of strain rate accelerates instability and failure strain. This trend is continued up to strain rate ~10^5.4 1/s, as it is shown in Fig.37 for the higher range of strain rates, and next the instability strain shows a light tendency to increase. The decrease of the instability strain is due to adiabatic heating, it is also leading to an early strain localization and failure by ASB's. A more general discussion of such behavior can be found in the literature, for example [4,31]. The prediction of the instability strain based on the constitutive relation developed for VAR 4340 is discussed in another Report for the US Army, [23].

Comparison of the minimums of the instability strains for VAR 4340 steel (Fig.37 and Fig.38) and Ti-6Al-4V alloy (Fig.35) indicates for four times larger instability strain in the case of Ti alloy (~0.045) than in the case of steel (~0.01).

At high nominal strain rates, as it is mentioned above, the plasticity in the shear zone is substantially reduced. It is presumed that for VAR 4340 steel a quasi-brittle behavior dominates (Fig.37). Of course, this is caused by adiabatic coupling and stress concentrators which generate locally a very high strain rate, [1]. The behavior reported in Fig.35 indicates that the specimens of the Ti-6Al-4V tested at very high nominal strain rates, higher than 10^5.4 1/s, are overall "less brittle" in comparison to the tests performed at lower nominal strain rates ~10^5.4 1/s. In order to calculate numerically by FE an evolution of the plastic zones and failure, it is necessary to introduce a local failure criterion. A local criterion can be used with or without fracture mechanics principles (stress intensity factor or J-integral). In the present study a more simple approach was adopted, that is a specific value of the failure shear strain. This value can be determined as proportional to the instability strain defined by \((\varepsilon_0\varepsilon) = 0\) in the adiabatic conditions of deformation with the proportionality coefficient \(a\). Thus the local failure criterion adapted in this study can be written as follows
\( \Gamma_i = \alpha \Gamma_i \)  

with \( \alpha >> 1.0 \). Values of coefficient \( \alpha \) were estimated by an inverse technique using FE code for both VAR 4340 steel, [23], and for Ti-6Al-4V alloy, [1,8]. The result of estimation is shown in Fig.39 for VAR 4340 steel. The value of \( \alpha \) can be estimated as \( \sim 12 \), since the instability strain at the minimum is \( \sim 0.01 \) and the failure strain found by FE technique is \( \sim 0.12 \). The result of similar estimation for Ti-6Al-4V is shown in Fig.40. This early estimation with the first version of the material constants predicts the minimum of the instability strain as \( \sim 0.024 \), almost twice lower than resent numbers. However, the estimation of the minimum of the failure strain yields correct value of the failure shear strain \( \sim 1.23 \), Fig.40. So the improved value of \( \alpha \) is \( \sim 29.3 \). In the previous version \( \alpha \approx 50 \), [8]. In conclusion, the absolute value of the failure shear strain \( (\Gamma_c \approx 1.23) \) for Ti-6Al-4V is more than ten times larger than for VAR 4340 steel \( (\Gamma_c \approx 0.12) \). The numbers given above explain to some extent fundamental differences between those two materials.

Some specimens broken in extreme conditions, that is those loaded at very high strain rate, were examined with the Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), [1]. When the loading rate is high, for example impact velocity \( \sim 40 \text{ m/s} \) (nominal strain rate \( 2 \times 10^5 \text{ 1/s} \)), many shear dimples are visible, together with some patches of a smeared metal where the temperature is probably a large fraction of the melting point. At the impact velocities 98 m/s and 107 m/s, (nominal strain rates \( 4.9 \times 10^5 \text{ 1/s} \) and \( 5.37 \times 10^5 \text{ 1/s} \)) the smear patches are much larger, and mixed with micro-dimples, indicating for a substantial increase of the local temperature, probably close to the melting point. The size of dimples is from 1 to 10 micrometers. It is difficult to state whether the broken ASB's are transformed or not since the perpendicular observation was not performed. As a whole the micro-mechanism of impact shearing in Ti-6Al-4V does not differ much from those observed in other industrial alloys, for example 4340 VAR steel [23].

7.2 Failure Criteria for Spalling

During penetration of KE projectiles against metallic targets, mostly plates, the a shock wave propagates through the thickness and later is reflected as a tensile wave. Superposition of the incident shock wave (compression) and the reflected one...
(tension) develops a high tensile stress inside the target plate. This tensile wave is so high that causes tensile failure called spalling. During recent decades a substantial progress has been made in understanding fracture mechanisms under very short loading times. All studies show that nucleation, growth and coalescence of micro-voids and micro-cracks play the most important role in ductile and quasi-brittle spall failure. In general, majority of spall criteria are based on an critical stress. However, among many propositions the criteria which are based on cumulative approach are commonly accepted.

One of the experimental configurations used to study spalling involves impacting a flyer plate against a flat target specimen of the same or different material. The superposition of two waves in the target plate, incident and reflected, sets material in tension and causes local internal damage leading to spalling. A special gas launcher, entirely automated and controlled by computer software, has been developed some years ago in the Laboratory of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids (LPMM). In typical experiment different loading intervals are applied at the same stress level (constant impact velocity) to obtain the incipient spall stress vs. loading time. The results obtained for an armor steel can be presented in the form of spall stress versus loading time, such data are shown in Fig. 41, [32]. It is observed in this figure that the spall stress increases when the loading time decreases, which can be interpreted as an evidence of a cumulative process of spall fracturing and rate sensitivity.

Some time ago a new local and cumulative failure criterion, applicable to the tensile mode of loading, has been proposed, [11]. The Boltzmann statistics has been applied for short and very short loading times or relatively low temperatures. The critical time to fracture with the threshold stress $\sigma_F$ is given by the relation

$$t_c = t_{c0} \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G(\sigma_F)}{kT}\right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

where $\Delta G(\sigma_F)$ is the stress-dependent free energy of activation taken in the form after Yokobori, [33]

$$\Delta G(\sigma_F) = G_0 \ln\left(\frac{\sigma_F}{\sigma_{F0}}\right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (8)
where $t_{C_0}$ and $\sigma_{F_0}$ define the characteristic point for the longest critical time, $\sigma_F$ is the threshold stress for spalling. Thus, the following cumulative fracture criterion in the form of the following integral has been derived

$$t_{C_0} = \int_0^t \left( \frac{\sigma_F(t)}{\sigma_{F_0}} \right)^{\alpha(T)} \mathrm{d}t$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

with $\alpha(T) = \Delta G_0 / kT$. Finally, $\sigma_{F_0}$, $t_{C_0}$ and $\alpha(T)$ are three material constants at constant temperature. When the process is non-isothermal, as it happens locally in the case of spalling, the exponent $\alpha(T)$ is time-dependent via changes of temperature during loading or unloading, then $\alpha(T,t)$. In special cases of square pulse, corresponding to experiments with impact plates, the criterion can be integrated and the adequate relation takes the form

$$\sigma_F = \sigma_{F_0} \left( \frac{t_{C_0}}{t_C} \right)^{1/\alpha(T)}$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

As an illustration the criterion constants have been identified for two materials and the result is compared with experimental data in Fig.42. For the first material, which is an aluminum alloy, $\sigma_{F_0} = 1.068$ GPa, $\alpha = 1.360$ and $t_{C_0} = 2.0$ $\mu$s; for an armor steel, $\sigma_{F_0} = 4.9$ GPa, $\alpha = 2.369$ and $t_{C_0} = 2.0$ $\mu$s.

Unfortunately, there is no data to identify all material constants for Ti-6Al-4V. Such a research program could be envisaged in the future.

In order to calculate numerically penetration or perforation processes during impact by FE codes those TWO criteria must be introduced simultaneously. Some results of numerical calculations with the failure criteria in shear have been reported in [1,7,8,23]. They predict correctly the failure processes at different impact velocities.

8. Discussion

The most important factor in the numerical analyses of all problems in impact mechanics are constitutive relations. Many has been proposed so far, however, at
strain rates higher than \(-10^{5.3}\) 1/s a specific behavior emerges, a very high rate sensitivity is combined with adiabatic heating and very low of strain hardening. All those features are taken into consideration in constitutive relations developed in LPMM-Metz; Eqs (1), (2) and (3). Those constitutive relations are sufficiently simple and flexible to be applied in numerical codes. Identification of constants can be optimized by a special procedure.

In the previous Report some numerical simulations of the standard MDS specimen were presented for Ti-6Al-4V, [1]. The study of the existing stress concentrators, and theirs role as a trigger of adiabatic failure was one of the objectives of those numerical analyses. The final results obtained with the ABAQUS explicit FE code, [7,8,22,23], confirm existence of the Critical Impact Velocity (CIV) in shear. The estimated value of CIV from FE calculations was \(V_C = 132\) m/s and the theoretical analysis, [4,5,8], yielded close value of \(V_C = 121\) m/s.

The CIV in shear is a new material constant which can characterize materials in respect to fragmentation and perforation. Thus, the CIV in shear has a far reaching consequences in fragmentation and perforation. Experiments performed with MDS specimens (standard geometry) made of Ti-6Al-4V alloy clearly indicate on a decrease of the fracturing energy when the impact velocity exceeded \(-100\) m/s. The estimation of energy to failure by the FE method as a function of the impact velocity leads to the conclusion that above CIV a considerable decrease of failure energy occurs, that is for the impact velocity \(V_i = 100\) m/s and higher [1,8].

It has been found that the local failure criterion based on adiabatic process of plastic deformation is rate-dependent, Fig.39 and Fig.40. Application of such criterion in FE code ABAQUS yields good results as compared to experimental data. It has been confirmed previously that the local failure criterion based on the strain energy density, comparison given in Fig.39, is similar to the failure strain criterion.

Experimental failure shear stress is almost the same for all three stress concentrators, "U", "V" and "I", at different nominal strain rates, Fig. 23 for example. The energy analysis, Fig.28 to Fig.33, clearly confirms superiority of the local failure criteria based on the effective strain in 3D cases or on the strain energy density. The local failure criteria should be also verified numerically for three different specimen geometries applied in experiments, but such a program exceeds the tasks of this research.
In a complete FE applications a failure criterion for spalling must be also applied at the same time. The criterion for spalling discussed in the previous part of this Report is a cumulative one and it has been applied so far in numerical codes for practical problems, [34, GIAT-private communication].

Comparison of the critical shear strains to failure for VAR 4340 steel and Ti-6Al-4V indicates that at high local shear strain rates the steel behaves in a much "brittle" manner than the titanium alloy. Simply, concerning ASB the carrying capacity of the titanium alloy is locally much higher than VAR 4340 steel ~52 HRC, [36,37]. Of course, behavior of steels depends on the level of hardness [36].

Experimental Technique based on DS concept assures a reliable tool to test materials in shear within a very wide range of strain rates. Application of specimens with different stress concentrators can be very helpful in numerical studies of local failure criteria in adiabatic conditions of deformation. In general, a hybrid method (experiment plus FE verification) or inverse techniques are extremely useful in development of local failure criteria in shear and in tension.

9. Final Conclusions

The main conclusions after the research program reported above can be drawn.
1) Experimental techniques of Double Shear (DS) has been perfected, it has been applied to perform a series of tests at different impact velocity with three stress concentrators: "U", "V" and "I".
2) All digital records were analyzed to obtain nominal shear stress vs. nominal shear strain characteristics at different nominal strain rates (impact velocities). In total more than 60 tests have been performed.
3) The tests at high nominal strain rates have shown a very high rate sensitivity of Ti-6Al-4V alloy. But at the nominal strain rates higher than 2x10^4 1/s the stress concentrators begin to dominate.
4) Experimental data obtained for the standard specimen geometry were used to identify all material constants in an unique constitutive relations applicable to FE codes
5) Two failure criteria have been discussed, that is for adiabatic shear and spalling. The criterion based on the failure strain has been completely identified. The spall criterion lacks of constant identification. New
experiments with the plate-plate technique should be performed for Ti-6Al-4V.

6) The critical impact velocity (CIV) in shear has been analyzed for Ti-6Al-4V.

The study was focussed on finding the resistance of Ti-6Al-4V alloy to formation of Adiabatic Shear Bands (ASB) and failure at different impact velocities including the range of velocities up to 100 m/s (nominal shear strain rate $5 \times 10^5$).

A clear picture emerges from the scenarios given above. All effects under discussion, that is the ability to strain hardening, rate- and temperature sensitivities, adiabatic increase of temperature, stress concentrators and the CIV in shear, play an important role in resistance to impact loading and fragmentation. The thermal treatment and the final microstructure are the key factors in the optimization process. Further studies should be focussed on hybrid techniques (experiment and FE codes) with a complete identification of failure criteria.

Acknowledgements

The research reported herein was sponsored in part by the US Army through its European Research Office, Contract No: N68171-98-M-5829, and in part by CNRS-France. Acknowledgement are also due to Dr. W.A.Gooch of ARO - USA for fruitful discussions.
References


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Fig. 27 Energy at maximum stress, "U", "V" and "I" profiles, vs. logarithm of strain rate, direct impact tests.

Fig. 28 Energy at failure (total energy), "U", "V" and "I" profiles, vs. logarithm of strain rate, quasi-static range of strain rates.

Fig. 29 Energy at failure (total energy), "U", "V" and "I" profiles, vs. impact velocity, direct impact tests.

Fig. 30 Energy at maximum stress, "U", "V" and "I" profiles, vs. logarithm of strain rate, entire rate spectrum.

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Fig. 41 Incipient spall stress vs. loading time for an armor steel, [32].

Fig. 42 Comparison of the incipient stress for spalling for two materials: armor steel and aluminum alloy, experimental points compared with spall criterion --solid lines, Eq.(9).
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**Table 1**
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Table 5

\[
\beta = \beta_0 - a \log \left( \frac{\Gamma}{\tau} \right)
\]

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Table 6
1 LIGHT SOURCE
2 PHOTODIODES (3)
3 FIBER OPTIC LEADS (6)
4 TIME COUNTERS (2)
5 TEFLO RED RINGS (2)
6 SPECIMEN TARGET
7 STRAIN GAGE (2)
8 2-CHAN. TRANSDUCER
9 TRANSFORM AMPLIFIER
10 SR AMPLIFIER (2)
11 SR SUPPLY UNIT (2)
12 DIGITAL OSC.
13 PC - 486
14 INTERFACE IEEE-488
15 PRINTER OR PLOTTER

Fig. 1
Fig. 2

Éprouvettes de double cisaillement type 1
Fig. 4

Fig. 5
Fig. 6

Fig. 7
Fig. 9
Fig. 11

Fig. 12

Vmarker2 3.12188mV  stop marker: 22.0000us
Vmarker1 -533.841mV  start marker: -7.40000us
delta V 536.963mV  delta t: 29.4000us
1/delta t 34.0136kHz
Fig. 13

Fig. 14
Fig. 15

Fig. 16
MAXIMUM SHEAR STRESS

Fig. 17
MAXIMUM SHEAR STRESS

Max shear (MPa) vs Impact velocity (m/s)

Fig. 18
MAXIMUM SHEAR STRESS

Fig. 19
MAXIMUM SHEAR STRESS

Fig. 20
MAXIMUM SHEAR STRESS

- ○ profile U
- × profile V
- △ profile I

Maximum stress (MPa)

Logarithm of strain rate (s⁻¹)

Fig. 23
ENERGY AT MAXIMUM STRESS

Fig. 27
ENERGY AT MAXIMUM STRESS

- $\bigcirc$ profile U
- $\times$ profile V
- $\triangle$ profile I

Logarithm of strain rate (s$^{-1}$)

Energy (J)

Fig. 30
Fig. 32

Fig. 33
INSTABILITY STRAIN

- ○ upper face
- × lower face
- ● mean values
- ■ theory

Logarithm of strain rate (s⁻¹)

face avant

Fig. 36
**Fig. 39**

**Ti-6Al-4V ALLOY**

**Fig. 40**
Fig. 41

Fig. 42