

EXPERIMENTS AND MODELING OF BALLISTIC PENETRATION USING AN ENERGY FAILURE CRITERION

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ABSTRACT

One of the most intricate problems in terminal ballistics is the physics underlying penetration and perforation. Several penetration modes are well identified, such as petalling, plugging, spall failure and fragmentation (Sedgwick, 1968). In most cases, the final target failure will combine those modes. Some of the failure modes can be due to brittle material behavior, but penetration of ductile targets by blunt projectiles, involving plugging in particular, is caused by excessive localized plasticity, with emphasis on adiabatic shear banding (ASB).

Among the theories regarding the onset of ASB, new evidence was recently brought by Rittel et al. (2006), according to whom shear bands initiate as a result of dynamic recrystallization (DRX), a local softening mechanism driven by the stored energy of cold work. As such, ASB formation results from microstructural transformations, rather than from thermal softening. In our previous work (Dolinski et al., 2010), a failure criterion based on plastic strain energy density was presented and applied to model four different classical examples of dynamic failure involving ASB formation. According

