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Nanocarbons formed under extreme conditions: The role of atmosphere during detonation of Composition B





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High explosive (HE) detonations produce various carbon allotropes due to temperatures, pressures and environmental conditions



- Detonation produces a dense fluid of molecular gases and solid carbon
- Pressure (*P*) and temperature (*T*) and environmental conditions dictate chemical transformations
- Specifically studying unaltered post detonation soot



Solid Carbon Products (Nanodiamonds/Graphite/Amorphous Carbon) Gases



(K)

Core-shell structures observed from detonation of Comp B, suggests an additional synthesis route for carbon allotropes during detonation

Small angle X-ray scattering (SAXS): determine morphology and size of the system

Form factor fit: analytical equation that is dependent upon geometry and scattering length density of the system



Why this is important to detonation sciences:

- Main component of soot previously reported as nanodiamonds and onionlike carbons (after harsh acid treatments)
- Theoretical models are based on coalescence of carbon into diamond (sp³) then further oxidation of the system results in lower forms of carbon (sp² and sp), not possible synthesis for hollow structures
- Provides an new pathway for carbon allotrope formation in detonations *Next step*:
- Analyze TR-SAXS data to learn more about synthesis pathway
- Analyze unaltered post detonation soot from other detonation materials

