MESOSCOPIC MODELING OF IMPACT COMPACTION OF PRIMITIVE SOLAR SYSTEM SOLIDS

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ABSTRACT

We have developed a method for simulating the mesoscale compaction of early solar system solids in low-velocity impact events using the iSALE shock physics code. Chondrules are represented by non-porous disks, placed within a porous matrix. By simulating impacts into bimodal mixtures over a wide range of parameter space (including the chondrule-to-matrix ratio, the matrix porosity and composition, and the impact velocity), we have shown how each of these parameters influences the shock processing of heterogeneous materials. The temperature after shock processing shows a strong dichotomy: matrix temperatures are elevated much higher than the chondrules, which remain largely cold. Chondrules can protect some matrix from shock compaction, with shadow regions in the lee side of chondrules exhibiting higher porosity that elsewhere in the matrix. Using the results from this mesoscale modeling, we show how the ε − α porous-compaction model parameters depend on initial bulk porosity. We also show that the timescale for the temperature dichotomy to equilibrate is highly dependent on the porosity of the matrix after the shock, and will be on the order of seconds for matrix porosities of less than 0.1, and on the order of tens to hundreds of seconds for matrix porosities of ~0.3–0.5. Finally, we have shown that the composition of the post-shock material is able to match the bulk porosity and chondrule-to-matrix ratios of meteorite groups such as carbonaceous chondrites and unequilibrated ordinary chondrites.

Key words: meteorites, meteors, meteoroids – methods: numerical – minor planets, asteroids: general – planets and satellites: formation – protoplanetary disks – shock waves

1. INTRODUCTION

Primitive solar system solids are expected to have accumulated as bimodal mixtures of millimeter-scale zero-porosity inclusions (chondrules) surrounded by highly porous, sub-μm dust particles (matrix). Previous numerical simulations of the impact processing (e.g., compaction and heating) of such materials have treated the mixture as homogeneous and estimated impact-generated bulk shock pressures and temperatures over large (i.e., planetesimal) scales (e.g., Keil et al. 1997; Davison et al. 2010). Modeling the bimodal mixtures explicitly and resolving the shock response on the scale of individual chondrules requires a different numerical approach known as mesoscale modeling (e.g., Nesterenko 2001). By adopting this approach, Bland et al. (2014) provided a new insight into the heterogeneous response of chondritic precursor material to impact-induced compaction.

Williamson & Berry (1986, pp. 341–346) first introduced “microlevel numerical modeling” and showed how a shock wave affects a small unit cell of closest packed cylinders of stainless steel with void or air in the interstitial spaces; that work confirmed the experimental result that there is a concentration of heating at the particle boundaries due to the localization of plastic deformation. Williamson et al. (1989) extended this model to include a second material. However, this work still only simulated a small cell, which could not provide any information about the material on a larger scale. To extend this type of modeling to investigate the bulk effects of shock waves on heterogeneous materials, Eulerian finite element simulations of impacts into randomly packed particles were developed (Benson 1993; Benson et al. 1997) and were found to reproduce averaged values of pressure, density, and porosity in close agreement with stationary shock experiments in granular materials. This approach has been widely adopted for characterizing the shock response of granular materials (e.g., Borg & Vogler 2008, 2012), including for constructing bulk-material Hugoniot relationships and equations of state (EoS).

Mesoscale modeling has also been used for planetary impact applications. Simulations of impact crater growth on asteroids have investigated the effects of target grain size and heterogeneous materials (Barnouin-Jha et al. 2002; Crawford & Barnouin-Jha 2003). The consequences of the presence of water ice on Mars have been investigated by modeling rock/ice mixtures using a range of geometries, including modeling ice inclusions within a rock matrix (Ivanov 2005; Ivanov & Pierazzo 2011). More recently, Güldemeister et al. (2013) simulated the mesoscale response of porous and water-saturated materials and found good agreement with both macroscale models (where the porosity was parameterized and the water-saturated material was described by a mixed-material equation of state) and Hugoniot data from shock experiments, for both regularly and randomly distributed pores. Finally, Bland et al. (2014) applied mesoscale modeling techniques to the scenario of the shock processing of primitive materials by explicitly modeling shock wave propagation through a mixture of non-porous chondrules distributed within a porous matrix. That work showed that the heterogeneous nature of primitive meteoritic material leads to strong dichotomies in the temperatures experienced by the two different components: the porous matrix was heated to >1000 K by impact velocities of ~1.5 km s⁻¹, while the non-porous chondrules were only heated by tens of Kelvin. Here, we describe the modeling techniques used by Bland et al. (2014) in more detail, including a sensitivity analysis, and expand the parameter space of the simulations presented in that work.
Using the results of this mesoscale modeling, we then determine the following: (1) how the parameters of the \( \varepsilon - \alpha \) porous-compaction model (Wünneemann et al. 2006; Collins et al. 2011) depend on the initial bulk porosity for different chondrule–matrix mixtures; (2) the timescale for equilibration of the temperature between the matrix and the chondrules; and (3) that the porosities and chondrule abundances of the post-shock material are able to match those of chondritic meteorite groups.

2. METHODS

2.1. The iSALE Shock Physics Code

To quantify the compaction of porous meteoritic material in an impact, we used the iSALE shock physics code (Collins et al. 2004; Wünneemann et al. 2006), a multi-material, multi-rheology extension of the SALE hydrocode (Amsden et al. 1980). iSALE incorporates several additions to the original SALE code, including an elasto-plastic constitutive model, fragmentation models, various EoS, and multiple materials (Melosh et al. 1992; Ivanov et al. 1997). Recent additions include a modified strength model (Collins et al. 2004) and a porosity compaction model (Wünneemann et al. 2006; Collins et al. 2011). iSALE has been benchmarked against other hydrocodes (Pierazzo et al. 2008) and validated against laboratory impact experiments (e.g., Pierazzo et al. 2008; Davison et al. 2011) for crater formation applications. In Bland et al. (2014), we performed a suite of two-dimensional (2D) plane-strain, mesoscale simulations of shock wave propagation through a bimodal mixture of non-porous chondrules (represented as 2D disks) surrounded by a highly porous continuous matrix. Here, we describe and justify the methodology used in that work and supplement those results with several additional simulation suites to expand the physical parameter space of our results and to demonstrate the sensitivity of our results to model choices.

Chondritic meteorites contain (nominally) non-porous spherical chondrules (~0.1–1 mm in diameter) surrounded by a highly porous matrix composed of sub- \( \mu \)m particles. Because the length scales of these two components are so different (by approximately three orders of magnitude), we chose to simulate the bimodal mixture by explicitly resolving the chondrules as non-porous (2D) disks and modeling the porous matrix as a continuum. The compaction of the matrix porosity was computed using the \( \varepsilon - \alpha \) porous-compaction model (Wünneemann et al. 2006; Collins et al. 2011) because the lengthscale of the porosity implied that it was too small to be resolved in the simulation. ANEOS-derived tabular EoS were used to describe the chondrules and the matrix. In all of the cases, the ANEOS table for dunite/forsterite (Benz et al. 1989) was used for the chondrules. The solid component of the matrix was described by either the dunite/forsterite ANEOS table, or by an ANEOS table for serpentine, created using the parameters listed in Brookshaw (1998). The response of the chondrules and matrix to changes in deviatoric stress was calculated using a geologic strength model (Collins et al. 2004). Chondrules were assigned a high cohesive strength of 1 GPa, while the matrix was assumed to be very weak (cohesive strength of 0.1 MPa; see Table 1 for all of the iSALE material input parameters used in this work).

### Table 1

| Parameter | Chondrules | Matrix |
|-----------|------------|--------|
| Initial porosity | 0 | 0.7 |
| Compaction rate | N/A | 0.08 |
| Vol. strain at onset of plastic compaction | N/A | \( -10^{-5} \) |
| Poisson ratio (solid component) | 0.23 | 0.23 |
| Intact cohesion (MPa) | 1000 | 0.1 |
| Intact friction coefficient | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Intact strength limit (GPa) | 3.5 | 0.035 |
| Damaged cohesion (MPa) | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Damaged friction coefficient | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Damaged strength limit (GPa) | 3.5 | 0.035 |
| Melt temperature (zero pressure) (K) | 1373 | 1373 |

**Notes.**

- \(^{a}\) Wünneemann et al. (2006).
- \(^{b}\) Collins et al. (2004).
- \(^{c}\) Keil et al. (1997).
- \(^{d}\) Katz et al. (2003).
- \(^{e}\) Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (2001).
- \(^{f}\) Till et al. (2011).
- \(^{g}\) Wünneemann et al. (2008).

2.2. Simulation Design

The bimodal mixture of chondrules and matrix was generated by randomly placing circular disks of the chondrule material throughout the computational mesh. The diameters of the disks were randomly distributed in the size range 0.3–1 mm based on typical chondrule sizes (Scott & Krot 2003, pp. 143–200). Chondrules were added in this way until the desired chondrule-to-matrix volume ratio was reached, and the interstitial space was filled with matrix material. The chondrule-to-matrix fraction was quantified by the matrix abundance, \( A_{\text{mi}} \), that is, the initial matrix volume as a percentage of the total volume; \( A_{\text{mi}} \) varied between 30% and 70%, which was found a posteriori to account for the observed range in the current matrix abundance observed in chondritic meteorites (Scott & Krot 2003, pp. 143–200). The initial matrix porosity was typically 0.7, although some simulations examined the effect of changing this to 0.6 or 0.8. The initial temperature was 300 K in all of the simulations presented here; some test simulations were run with different starting temperatures (down to 170 K), but as these simulations resulted in the same increase in temperature as those reported here, for brevity, only the 300 K simulations are discussed below and only absolute temperatures are reported.

To generate a shock or impact-induced compaction wave in the simulated chondritic precursor material, numerical planar impact experiments were performed in which a flyer plate impacted a target, comprising a sample sandwiched between a cover plate above and a buffer plate below. The flyer, cover, sample, and buffer plates were all composed of the same bimodal mixture of non-porous chondrule disks, surrounded by a high-porosity matrix, to eliminate any unwanted wave reflections. The presence of a cover plate allowed the planar shock wave to achieve a steady form before passing through the sample and then the adjacent buffer plate.
in peak and post-shock temperature experienced by both the chondrules and the matrix were recorded for subsequent analysis, as was the reduction in porosity in the matrix. See the text for details.

Figure 1. Time sequence (from left to right) of the reference mesoscale simulation of a nominally planar shock wave propagating through a bimodal mixture of explicitly resolved non-porous chondrules surrounded by a high-porosity matrix \((A_{\text{mu}} = 70\%, \phi_{\text{mu}} = 0.7, v = 2 \text{ km s}^{-1})\). The far left-hand panel shows the initial distribution of chondrules (light gray) and matrix (dark gray). The color-scale for the right panels of each of the remaining images denotes the instantaneous stress; the color-scale for the left panels denotes the temperature. Upon impact, shock waves are generated at the flyer-sample interface and propagate both down into the sample and up into the flyer plate, compacting the matrix. In this example, after approximately 14.8 \(\mu s\), the shock wave in the sample has reached the sample/buffer plate interface; by this time the shock in the matrix mixture. Such violent oscillations that result in the heterogeneous heating of components in the system (Zhuang et al. 2003), which is very large for the chondrule—matrix system studied here. It is these violent oscillations that result in the heterogeneous heating of the matrix within the sample (Bland et al. 2014).

The dimensions of the flyer plate were designed such that the release wave generated when the shock wave reflected off the rear end of the flyer plate did not reach the sample plate
material until the shock front had already propagated through the entire sample region \((t = 14.8 \, \mu s)\) in Figure 1). The simulation time extended until the sample was released from high pressure by a release wave from the rear of the flyer plate \((t = 32 \, \mu s)\) in Figure 1).

2.3. Diagnosis of Bulk and Component Response

In all simulations, Lagrangian tracer particles monitored the response to the shock wave passage of computational-cell-sized parcels of material. This complete record of material history allowed us to construct the response to the shock of the individual components (chondrule and matrix) and the bulk material, as well as to document spatial variations in response within the chondrules and intersttial matrix. The tracer particles were placed throughout the computational mesh (one tracer per cell) at the beginning of the simulation. These particles then tracked the movement of that volume of material throughout the simulation. The advantage of using Lagrangian tracers here, rather than the Eulerian cell-based quantities, is that they can record the pressure, temperature, and porosity at each timestep, and the peak temperature and pressure that each tracer experienced during the entire simulation. Using the cell-based quantities alone would not allow us to track the material’s history, and thus the peak quantities.

In post-processing, each bulk property (final and peak temperature; final and peak pressure; porosity) in the sample was calculated as the volume-weighted average of that variable for all of the tracers in the sample plate behind the shock wave (using the tracer volume at the final time). We used a tracer’s location to diagnose whether it had been shocked or not: once the tracer started moving (i.e., its displacement was greater than a threshold value), it was determined to be behind the shock wave.

The tracer records also allowed the properties of the individual components (matrix and chondrules) to be calculated, as each tracer represented only one of the two components (see Tables 2 and 3). Values of post-shock temperature and porosity were recorded just after the release wave had passed through the sample mixture (e.g., \(\sim 32 \, \mu s\) in Figure 1). Hence, these temperatures represent the temperature of the material immediately after the passage of the shock and release waves, but prior to the (likely rapid) equilibration of heat between the matrix and chondrules, which is not accounted for in our models and is discussed later (Section 4.2).

A consequence of the heterogeneity of the sample is that the shock wave is also heterogenous, and thus the peak-shock pressure recorded by any tracer throughout the duration of the shock wave passage can be substantially higher than the instantaneous bulk shock pressure at any time. For example, in the simulation shown in Figure 1, the average bulk shock pressure in the shock wave was approximately 3.0 GPa and yet the mean peak-shock pressure experienced by chondrule and matrix material in the sample was 6.5 GPa and 8.4 GPa, respectively. This can be seen in Figure 3, which shows the variation in pressure within the shock wave at three different timesteps. The line graphs show the average pressure along each row of computational cells, with the 1σ variation in pressure denoted by the blue shaded region. Within the shock wave, these average pressures can vary by as much as 2 GPa within a space of 5 mm. This behavior has been observed previously in models of the compaction of porous sandstone, where a peak pressure was recorded of up to 4 times greater than the bulk pressure (Gündemeister et al. 2013).

2.3.1. Lagrangian Tracer Motion

Due to the large number of mixed-material computational cells in these simulations, with many small particles supported in a continuous matrix, it is important to make sure that the Lagrangian tracers used to track the material history stay with their respective materials. The standard approach in iSALE is to move tracers through the computational mesh using velocities interpolated from the surrounding nodal velocities. However, it was found that in mixed cells, some tracers “drifted” into neighboring materials (e.g., chondrule tracers ended up in a cell full of matrix, etc.). To address this problem, a new method of calculating tracer velocities was devised using material volume fluxes. This is documented fully in the Appendix.

Figure 4 shows a comparison of a simulation run using the old (velocity) method and the new (material) method. Note that in areas where chondrules (black tracers) have collided, in the velocity method, some matrix tracers have drifted into the chondrules, whereas in the material method, all tracers respect the material boundaries. The new material method is used throughout the work presented here.

2.4. Resolution

Simulations were run at various resolutions, ranging from a mean value of 40 cells per particle radius (cppr) to 2.5 cppr (cell sizes of 12.5–200 \(\mu m\)), with an identical particle distribution and number of tracer particles in each simulation (Figure 5). The mean pressure converges at around 10 cppr (Figure 6), but differences in the shock speed and structure within the shock are still discernible between 10 and 20 cppr (Figures 5(d) and (e)). The mean porosity converges at around 20 cppr.

The error bars on Figure 6 show the standard deviation in pressure in that simulation (they are not a measure of model error). For simulations with a resolution of at least 5 cppr, the mean pressures all fell within the 1σ variation in pressure for all other resolutions; the same is true for porosity for simulations with 10 cppr or above (a similar trend is seen for temperature). As a compromise between computational expense and time, a mean particle radius of 20 cppr was used for the remainder of this study.

2.5. Shock Duration

The duration of the shock pulse in the simulations presented below (Section 3 and Tables 2 and 3; i.e., the time from shock to release) ranges from 30 to 80 \(\mu s\) (90% of the simulations presented here have a shock duration of at least 40 \(\mu s\)). It should be noted that this shock duration is significantly lower than the duration expected on a meteorite parent body during an impact event, but longer than the shock durations that are possible in typical gas-gun experiments. To investigate the shock duration required in order to reach a steady state (and thus to allow any simulation results to be applied to the larger planetesimal scale), a simulation was run of two colliding 120 mm-long impactors, with a similar composition to that shown in Figure 1 and a mutual impact velocity of 1 km s\(^{-1}\). For all tracers, the time of the shock wave arrival and the time of
release were recorded; from these measurements, the shock duration experienced by each tracer was calculated. The mean and standard deviation of the peak pressure, final porosity, and final temperature among those tracers in the shock were recorded as a function of shock duration. Figure 7 shows that for shock durations of 20–30 μs or longer, the porosity, pressure, and temperature measured in the simulation have reached a steady state. This suggests that the results presented here should apply to impacts over a large range of scales (with longer shock durations), including planetesimal-scale collisions.

### 3. RESULTS

The response of the bimodal mixture of chondrules and matrix to a shock wave was simulated using the techniques described in Section 2. In Section 3.1, the model shown in Figure 1 is documented in detail. In the subsequent Sections (3.2–3.5), a wide parameter space is explored (impact velocity, matrix fraction, matrix porosity, and matrix material) and results are compared to those of this reference model (see also Tables 2 and 3).

The range of impact velocities we consider here is 0.75–3 km s⁻¹. While the average collision velocity in the
main asteroid belt today is ~5 km s⁻¹, dynamical models of terrestrial planet formation and planetesimal collisional histories (O’Brien et al. 2006, 2007; Davison et al. 2013) show that in the first million years of solar system evolution the mean collision velocity of planetesimals was likely <3 km s⁻¹. The velocity range simulated here was also chosen to provide post-compaction matrix abundances and porosities consistent with carbonaceous and ordinary chondrites (see Section 4.3).

3.1. Mesoscale Response to Shock of Binodal Mixtures

Figure 1 depicts the evolution of a simulation we use as a reference in discussing our results. In that simulation, the impact velocity \( v_i = 2 \text{ km s}^{-1} \), the matrix fraction \( A_{mi} = 70\% \), and the initial matrix porosity \( \phi_{mi} = 0.7 \). The left-hand panel depicts the initial model setup. A flyer plate impacts a cover plate at \( v_r \), sending a shock wave into both the cover plate and the flyer (3 \( \mu s \)). At 7 \( \mu s \), the shock wave enters the sample plate (the region over which the statistical analysis will be performed). At 14.8 \( \mu s \), the shock wave reaches the back edge of the sample, and enters a buffer plate (the purpose of which is to prevent the generation of a release wave at this location). Also at this time, a release wave is formed at the top edge of the flyer, which starts to move though the flyer toward the cover and sample. By 32 \( \mu s \), the entire sample has been released from high pressure.

![Table 3](image_url)

**Table 3** Matrix and Chondrule Properties

| Matrix and Chondrule Properties | Material | \( V_i \) (km s⁻¹) | \( A_{mi} \) (%) | \( \phi_{mi} \) (%) | \( P_{mp} \) (GPa) | \( T_{mf} \) (K) | \( T_{mp} \) (K) | \( P_{cp} \) (GPa) | \( T_{cf} \) (K) | \( T_{cp} \) (K) |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Serpentine                      | 1        | 0.6                | 1.45 ± 0.43     | 496 ± 40.3      | 505 ± 43.6      | 1.26 ± 0.47    | 305 ± 9.90     | 314 ± 24.3      |                 |                 |
|                                 | 2        | 0.6                | 8.81 ± 1.71     | 814 ± 92.2      | 904 ± 162       | 7.49 ± 1.51    | 396 ± 46.8     | 431 ± 73.6      |                 |                 |
|                                 | 3        | 0.6                | 17.0 ± 3.01     | 1240 ± 153      | 1500 ± 342      | 14.7 ± 2.98    | 558 ± 83.4     | 628 ± 116       |                 |                 |
|                                 | 7        | 0.7                | 1.01 ± 0.22     | 527 ± 50.2      | 534 ± 53.8      | 0.92 ± 0.33    | 302 ± 3.99     | 308 ± 11.2      |                 |                 |
|                                 | 7        | 0.7                | 7.68 ± 1.96     | 941 ± 99.9      | 1020 ± 168      | 6.14 ± 1.63    | 379 ± 47.1     | 410 ± 60.9      |                 |                 |
|                                 | 7        | 0.7                | 15.4 ± 3.01     | 1440 ± 165      | 1690 ± 358      | 13.2 ± 2.72    | 590 ± 111      | 649 ± 153       |                 |                 |

Notes.

a Initial matrix abundance.

b Initial matrix porosity.

c Peak-shock pressure in the matrix (with 1σ variations).

d Final matrix temperature (with 1σ variations).

e Peak matrix temperature (with 1σ variations).

f Peak-shock pressure in the chondrule (with 1σ variations).

g Final chondrule temperature (with 1σ variations).

h Peak chondrule temperature (with 1σ variations).
In Figure 8, the differences between the chondrules and matrix are highlighted for the reference simulation. The peak pressures in the chondrules range from \( \sim 4 \) to 11 GPa, with a mean of 6.5 GPa, and in the matrix from 4 to 16 GPa, with a mean of 8.4 GPa. The pressure is higher in the matrix than in the chondrules due to the large strength difference between the two components (the longitudinal stress, however, is the same in both components). Both the peak-shock and post-shock temperatures in the chondrules are low (between 300 and 500 K) compared to temperatures in the matrix (900 to \( >1500 \) K). The chondrules begin with no porosity, which does not change in the shock event; the matrix begins with a porosity of 0.7 and is reduced to a range of 0–0.2 porosity in the shock event, with a mean of 0.07. The bulk porosity, \( \phi_{bf} \), is compacted from 0.5 before the impact to 0.03 after the impact, and the abundance of the matrix decreases from 70% to 45% as a result of that compaction. The location of the residual porosity is shown in the top row of Figure 9 and appears as shadow regions on the lee side of the chondrules (the shock direction was down the page) where material is somewhat protected from the shock and compaction is incomplete.

### 3.2. Effect of Impact Velocity, \( v_i \)

Figure 9 shows the effect of changing the velocity from the model shown in Section 3.1: the top row shows an impact at 1 km s\(^{-1}\), the middle row shows an impact at 1.5 km s\(^{-1}\), and the bottom row shows the model shown previously (\( v_i = 2 \) km s\(^{-1}\)). Increasing the velocity increases the peak...
pressures throughout both the matrix and the chondrules. The peak temperatures are significantly higher in the matrix with increasing velocity, while the increase in chondrule temperatures is more modest. As shown in Tables 2 and 3, these trends persist for other combinations of initial matrix fraction, porosity, and material. The incomplete compaction seen in the reference simulation (top row of Figure 9) is also seen at lower velocities; in these cases, even less pore space is compacted and the shadow regions are larger.

Also evident is an increase in chondrule deformation with impact speed (Figure 9). At 1 km s\(^{-1}\) the chondrules retain their circular shapes, while at 2 km s\(^{-1}\) many chondrules are shortened in the direction of the shock or inter-chondrule collision.

Figure 10 shows how the bulk material and the individual components respond to the shock for a range of velocities from 0.75 to 3 km s\(^{-1}\), including the simulations described in this section and Figure 9 (\(A_{mi} = 70\%\), \(\phi_{mi} = 0.7\)). The bulk response of the mixture (solid symbols), calculated as the volume-weighted mean of peak pressure, peak temperature, and porosity over all of the sample tracers, is in good agreement with an estimate of the Hugoniot curve for the bulk material calculated using the equation of state and the \(\varepsilon - \alpha\) porous-compaction model (for details of this calculation, see Davison et al. 2010). However, the peak pressures and temperatures experienced by the individual components are very different from the bulk response, particularly at high impact speeds. For \(v_i \geq 2\) km s\(^{-1}\), both the chondrules and the matrix see shock pressures 2–4 times higher than those recorded for the bulk material: this is due to a difference in the way the peak and bulk values are calculated. Bulk values are calculated by finding a weighted average across the entire region at a given time. However, peak quantities are recorded as the maximum value that each tracer experienced at any time throughout the calculation; thus, resonant oscillations of the shock wave about the steady state may result in peak values that exceed the bulk value. This is in good agreement with behavior observed in previous mesoscale impact simulations (Güldemeister et al. 2013).

3.3. Effect of Initial Matrix Fraction, \(A_{mi}\)

Simulations were run with initial matrix fractions ranging from \(A_{mi} = 30\%\) to \(A_{mi} = 80\%\). A higher matrix fraction reduces the bulk density and increases the bulk porosity of the impactor and sample material. As shown in Figure 11, this implies that a decrease in the initial matrix fraction leads to an increase in peak pressures, at fixed impact speed, and consequently higher peak and final temperatures in both the matrix and chondrules. However, the bulk temperature decreases slightly by \(\sim 20\) K over this range in \(A_{mi}\) for \(v_i = 2\) km s\(^{-1}\) because the increased volume fraction of cold chondrules reduces the average temperature.

Final matrix porosity appears to be influenced by two competing processes that depend on matrix abundance and impact speed. At low speeds, as matrix abundance decreases, shock pressures are higher, and thus more compaction occurs, leading to lower porosity. However, at velocities high enough for chondrules to come into contact with each other, the porous...
matrix can be shielded from the shock effects by stress bridges between chondrules, and is compacted less. Chondrule contact becomes more prevalent and occurs at lower impact speeds when the matrix abundance is low. For example, at 1 km s\(^{-1}\) impact speed, the final matrix porosity decreases with decreasing matrix abundance (compaction dominated), owing to the higher shock pressures that the matrix experiences. At 2 km s\(^{-1}\), the final matrix porosity increases as the initial matrix abundance decreases (i.e., there is less compaction when there are more chondrules; stress-bridging dominated), due to the matrix being sheltered in the interstitial spaces between chondrules (bottom left frame of Figure 11). At an intermediate velocity, both of these competing processes (compaction and stress-bridging) can be seen: at 1.5 km s\(^{-1}\), the porosity first decreases with decreasing matrix abundance, and then increases (see Table 2).

3.4. Effect of Initial Matrix Porosity, \(\phi_{\text{mi}}\)

Figure 12 shows the effect of the initial matrix porosity on the peak pressure, peak temperature, and final porosity for impacts at 2 km s\(^{-1}\) and a matrix abundance of \(A_{\text{mi}} = 70\%\). As we would expect, as the initial porosity increases, the peak pressures in both the chondrules and the matrix decrease due to the reduction in bulk density. The lower pressures in the non-porous chondrules lead to lower temperatures. However, as the matrix has experienced enhanced compaction (and thus there is additional waste heat in the matrix), the resulting matrix temperatures are higher. In the cases shown in Figure 12, this leads to an increase in the bulk temperature. With a lower initial matrix abundance, a lower bulk temperature could be the result. The trends in pressure and temperature are the same for the lower velocity simulations at 1 km s\(^{-1}\) shown in Tables 2 and 3.

3.5. Effect of Matrix Composition

Simulations were also run to test the influence of the choice of material for the matrix. In one set of simulations, the matrix was changed from porous dunite to porous serpentine (using the ANEOS parameters from Brookshaw 1998). As the density of serpentine is lower than dunite (2500 kg m\(^{-3}\) compared to 3314 kg m\(^{-3}\)), a second set of serpentine matrix calculations were run, with a matrix porosity of 0.6 (instead of 0.7), to match the bulk density of the matrix in the dunite simulations. Simulations were run at 1–3 km s\(^{-1}\) (Tables 2 and 3).

At 1 km s\(^{-1}\), the pressures and temperatures across all three simulations are similar (although the higher-porosity serpentine simulation has slightly higher pressure and temperature than the lower-porosity run, as expected from Section 3.4). The serpentine simulations show more matrix compaction than observed in the dunite simulation. At 2 km s\(^{-1}\), the pressure in the matrix is around 0.5 GPa higher in the \(\phi_{\text{mi}} = 0.6\) serpentine model than in the dunite model, and around 0.7 GPa lower in the \(\phi_{\text{mi}} = 0.7\) porosity serpentine model than in the dunite model. However, in both cases, the temperatures in the matrix are significantly lower than in the dunite simulation (814 and 941 K in the 60\% and 70\% serpentine, compared to 1110 K in the dunite; Figure 13). The same observation can be made for the 3 km s\(^{-1}\) simulations. The low serpentine matrix temperature is a consequence of the phase change of the water content buffering the temperature increase.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Determination of \(\varepsilon - \alpha\) Model Parameters For Use in Macroscale Simulations

The \(\varepsilon - \alpha\) porous-compaction model (Wünnemann et al. 2006; Collins et al. 2011) is used to parameterize the bulk response of porous materials to shock compaction in impact simulations. The input parameters for this model are typically constrained by experimental data; however, they can also be determined using the results of mesoscale compaction simulations. The \(\varepsilon - \alpha\) model was developed as an alternative to the conventional \(P - \alpha\) model (Herrmann 1969) because it...
Figure 9. Effect of impact velocity \( (v_i) \) on the peak pressure, final temperature, and porosity within the sample zone. Note also the increase in chondrule deformation with impact speed. In these three simulations, the matrix abundance \( (A_{\text{mi}} = 70\%) \), matrix porosity \( (\phi_{\text{mi}} = 0.7) \), and matrix material (dunite) were all kept constant.

has the efficiency advantage of computing the distension \( (\alpha) \) directly from the volume strain \( (\varepsilon) \). As volume strain is usually computed before the pressure in shock physics models such as iSALE, this avoids the need for an iteration to find pressure and distension simultaneously. There are four regimes in the \( \varepsilon - \alpha \) model to describe the compaction and compression of a porous material: elastic compaction, exponential compaction, power-law compaction, and compression. Permanent compaction of pore space occurs in the exponential and power-law compaction regimes, which are defined, respectively, as

\[
\alpha = \alpha_0 e^{\varepsilon - \varepsilon_x},
\]

\[
\alpha = 1 + (\alpha_x - 1) \left( \frac{\varepsilon_x - \varepsilon}{\varepsilon_x - \varepsilon_x} \right)^2,
\]

where \( \alpha_0 \) is the initial distension, \( \alpha_x \) is the distension at the transition from the exponential regime to the power-law regime, and \( \kappa \) is the compaction rate parameter. There are three volume strains defined in Equations (1) and (2) which correspond to the transitions between the four regimes listed above: \( \varepsilon_x \) is the volume strain at the transition from the elastic (reversible) to exponential (irreversible) compaction regimes. For high-porosity materials, \( \varepsilon_x \) is small and has a very minor effect on the compaction curve; hence, in this work, \( \varepsilon_x \) was set to a constant of \(-10^{-5}\) for all of the porous mixtures. \( \varepsilon_c \) corresponds to the transition from the exponential to the power-law compaction regime, and is derived by setting \( \alpha = \alpha_x \) in Equation (1). \( \varepsilon_c \) is the volume strain at which all pore space is crushed out (at the transition from power-law compaction to pure compression). It is derived by differentiating Equation (2), and setting \( d\alpha/d\varepsilon = 0 \) to ensure a smooth termination of compaction. Thus, the bulk permanent compaction of our mesoscale mixtures can be characterized by two material specific parameters (\( \alpha_x \) and \( \kappa \)). Here, we derive estimates for the values of those two parameters by fitting Hugoniot curves calculated using the \( \varepsilon - \alpha \) model to the mesoscale simulation results for a given initial matrix fraction and matrix porosity over a range of impact velocities.
For the three mixtures that have simulations with five or more impact velocities ($A_{mi} = 32\%$, 70\% and 81\%), we find that $\alpha_x = 1.06$ fits all three well; however, the value of $\kappa$ is dependent on the bulk porosity. For $A_{mi} = 70\%$ and 80\% (i.e., bulk porosities of 0.49 and 0.57, respectively), $\kappa = 0.98$ fits the simulated data well (this agrees well with previous simulations of $\sim 50\%$ porous material; for example, Wünemann et al. 2008; Davison et al. 2010). This is shown in Figure 14. For $A_{mi} = 32\%$ ($\phi_{bi} = 0.23$), $\kappa = 0.925$, a value somewhat lower than was used before.

Using $A_{mi} = 32\%$ and $A_{mi} = 70\%$ as endpoints, the values of $\kappa$ for $A_{mi} = 41\%$, 50\%, and 62\% were estimated using a linear interpolation ($\kappa = 0.939$, 0.953, and 0.966, respectively), and was found to fit the iSALE data well (Figure 14). Thus, for future macroscale simulations of planetesimal collisions, the $\varepsilon - \alpha$ model parameter $\kappa$ can be determined using the following relationship:

$$\kappa = 0.0014 A_{mi} + 0.88.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

For the given matrix porosity used here ($\phi_{mi} = 0.7$), that corresponds to the following relationship:

$$\kappa = 0.21 \phi_{bi} + 0.88.$$

4.2. Equilibration Timescale

The temperature dichotomy between the matrix and chondrules observed in all mesoscale simulations will be short lived, as the cold chondrules act as heat sinks inside the heated matrix. To determine the approximate timescale of this equilibration, a one-dimensional (1D) finite difference calculation was performed to solve the heat conduction equation:

$$C_p \rho \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( K \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right),$$

where $C_p$ is specific heat capacity, $\rho$ is density, $K$ is conductivity, $T$ is temperature, $t$ is time, and $x$ is distance.  

4.2.1. Simulation Design and Initial Conditions

$C_p$ was set to a constant value of 800 J kg$^{-1}$ K$^{-1}$ (e.g., Davison et al. 2012, who found that to be a good match to solar system materials), $\rho$ was the density of the two components ($\rho_o = 3314$ kg m$^{-3}$ for the non-porous chondrules), and modified for the matrix using $\rho = \rho_o (1 - \phi_{mat})$. $K$ was also assigned with a dependence on porosity; values of diffusivity ($\kappa$) have been reported for meteoritic materials previously, where diffusivity $\kappa = K/C_p\rho$, ranging from $1 \times 10^{-7}$ m$^2$ s$^{-1}$ (Ghosh & McSween 1999; Ghosh et al. 2003) to $7 \times 10^{-7}$ m$^2$ s$^{-1}$ (Opeil et al. 2010). This gives two end-member conductivity values for the non-porous material of $K_0 = 0.27$ and 1.86 W m$^{-1}$ K$^{-1}$, respectively. The conductivity is then modified for the porous matrix using the scaling relationship from Warren (2011):

$$K = K_0 e^{-1.246\phi}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

In order to turn the information from the 2D iSALE simulations into a 1D problem here, the calculations were initialized as follows: the mesh was divided into two parts—chondrule and matrix. The location of the boundary was determined by the final matrix-to-chondrule volume ratio ($A_{mf}$); for example, if $A_{mf} = 40\%$, then the mesh would be composed of 60\% chondrule and 40\% matrix. The temperature of each component was set to the mean post-shock temperature for that component from the iSALE simulation ($T_{mf}$ and $T_{mi}$; Table 3), and the porosity of the matrix was assigned the mean post-shock matrix porosity ($\phi_{mat}$; Table 2). The calculation was allowed to continue until the standard deviation of the temperature field had decreased below a threshold value, here taken to be 1\% of the bulk temperature.

4.2.2. Results

This calculation was performed for the six simulations listed in Tables 2 and 3 with $A_{mi} = 70\%$ and $\phi_{bi} = 0.7$ (with velocities ranging from 0.75 to 3 km s$^{-1}$). The time taken for these simulations to equilibrate to the bulk temperature are presented in Table 4. As shown in Figure 15, the equilibration time is strongly dependent on the choice of $\kappa_0$. As we would expect, the time taken when $\kappa_0 = 7 \times 10^{-7}$ m$^2$ s$^{-1}$ is a factor of 7 shorter than the time taken when $\kappa_0 = 1 \times 10^{-7}$ m$^2$ s$^{-1}$. As the diffusivity in the matrix is also controlled by the porosity, there is a clear dependence of equilibration time on...
matrix porosity. For cases where the matrix porosity is 0.1 or less, the equilibration time is on the order of a less than a second to a few seconds. For higher porosity ($f_{mi} = 0.3 – 0.5$), the equilibration time takes tens to hundreds of seconds.

An estimate for the length of time a material will remain under high pressure during a shock event is given by $L/U_p = 2L/v_i$ (where $L$ is the impactor diameter, $U_p$ is the particle velocity, and $v_i$ is the impact velocity; Melosh 1989). For the timescales presented in Table 4 and Figure 15, this would mean that for impactor diameters of $>10$ km, it is possible that the equilibration timescale would be shorter than the shock duration (and thus suggests equilibration may be complete before the arrival of the release wave). Since most impacts on meteorite parent bodies come from impactors smaller than 10 km (Davison et al. 2013), this should not be an important effect for most impacts. Further modeling to understand the effects of equilibration before release is required, but is beyond the scope of this article.

4.3. Meteorite Groups

Different meteorite groups have different ranges of bulk porosities and matrix fractions. For example, carbonaceous chondrites have a range of porosities of $\sim 0.04–0.28$ (Macke et al. 2011) and matrix abundances of 30%–70% (Scott & Krot 2003, pp. 143–200), while ordinary chondrites have porosities in the range $\sim 0.06–0.16$ (Consolmagno et al. 1998) and matrix abundances in the range 10%–15% (Scott & Krot 2003, pp. 143–200). By choosing simulations with different starting conditions and impact velocities, final compositions can be produced which are similar to those

![Figure 11. Effect of initial matrix abundance ($A_{mi}$) on the peak pressure, final temperature, and porosity. In these three simulations, the impact velocity ($v_i = 2$ km s$^{-1}$), matrix porosity ($\phi_{mi} = 0.7$), and matrix material (dunite) were kept constant.](image)
observed in the different meteorite groups. Figure 16 shows the final bulk porosities and matrix fractions for a range of simulations with different velocities for two different starting conditions. The similarity between simulations that started with $A_{mi} = 70\%$ and carbonaceous chondrites, and between simulations with $A_{mi} = 30\%$ and unequilibrated ordinary chondrites shows that the compaction processes presented in this work are able to reproduce final properties consistent with real meteorite observations (Figure 16(b)).

4.4. Model Limitations

The simulations described above are a significant first step in quantifying the heterogeneous response of primordial solar system solids to shock compaction. However, there are several limitations of this approach which should be addressed in future.

One key limitation is the use of 2D plane-strain geometry, rather than a more realistic three-dimensional (3D) geometry. This assumption was necessary for this large-parameter-space study to limit computational cost (both in terms of time and memory). In a simulation with 3D geometry, out of plane contacts between chondrules would likely stiffen the bulk response of the mixture (compared to the plane-strain geometry), particularly in scenarios where the initial chondrule volume fraction is high. However, based on similar numerical mesoscale studies of pore-space compaction (Güldemeister et al. 2013) in which 2D and 3D geometries were simulated, we expect qualitatively similar behavior in both geometries: the magnitude and lengthscale of the pressure–temperature heterogeneity and the trends in the heterogeneity with impact velocity, initial chondrule volume fraction, matrix porosity, and matrix material should all be qualitatively similar.

The $\varepsilon - \alpha$ porous-compaction model and the equation of state tables used to describe both the chondrules and solid component of the porous matrix (dunite/forsterite and serpentine) are also over-simplified. First, the compaction model assumes that all of the $PdV$ work deposited by the shock in the porous matrix will lead to a temperature increase. In reality, dissipative processes during compaction, such as...
grain deformation and fracturing, will lead to an increase in entropy as well as temperature. Neglecting the entropy increase during crushing will result in an overestimate of shock heating, but this is difficult to quantify without experimental measurements of shock heating. Second, the version of ANEOS that we used to derive the forsterite and serpentine tables does not permit both solid–solid and solid–liquid phase transitions to be included at the same time (e.g., Melosh 2007). As in previous work (e.g., Davison et al. 2010), we regarded the effect of the solid–liquid phase transition as less important than that of the solid–solid phase transition. Neglecting the latent heat of melting implies that temperatures in the table that exceed the solidus are overestimated.

At higher shock pressures, recent shock compression experiments of quartz (Hicks et al. 2006) suggest that ANEOS overestimates the temperature increase and underestimates the entropy increase during shock compression because it assumes a heat capacity in the fluid region that is too low (Kraus et al. 2012). If this limitation of ANEOS is also important for other silicate rocks, then it implies that the shock pressure required to vaporize the matrix is overestimated by ANEOS and that peak and post-shock temperatures above the liquidus are also overestimated. The primary focus of the simulations in this work was relatively low-velocity collisions, which in general produced matrix heating below and up to the solidus; thus, this limitation of ANEOS is of minor significance to our conclusions. Future simulations in which higher-velocity collisions are considered will need to address this limitation. Work is underway to produce ANEOS tables that include two phase transitions (e.g., solid–solid and solid–liquid; Collins & Melosh 2014), which will be important in those cases.

For the reasons described above, the temperatures (both peak and post-shock) quoted in Tables 2 and 3, and particularly those above the solidus, should be considered as upper limits for each given impact scenario. However, since the peak and post-shock temperatures are strongly dependent on the initial matrix porosity and initial temperature, using less conservative initial conditions (e.g., higher initial porosity or starting temperature) in our models could easily compensate for any overestimate in temperature due to inadequacies of the material.

Figure 13. Effect of matrix composition (dunite or serpentine) on the peak pressure, final temperature, and porosity. In these three simulations, the impact velocity (\(v_i = 2 \text{ km s}^{-1}\)) and matrix abundance (\(A_{\text{mi}} = 70\%\)) were kept constant.
Thus, while the exact temperatures in a given simulation may change with initial conditions or model assumptions, the relative trends of increasing temperature with impact velocity, matrix porosity, and chondrule volume fraction are robust.

5. CONCLUSIONS

In this work, we adapted a mesoscale modeling technique and applied it to meteoritic material. We investigated the effects of impact velocity, composition, matrix porosity, and abundance on the shock processing of meteoritic material during an impact. Our results show that low-speed impact compaction of chondrule–matrix mixtures can reproduce observed properties of meteoritic samples. One key observation from our simulations is a strong temperature dichotomy between the chondrules (cold) and the matrix (hot) after an impact, even at relatively low speeds. This temperature dichotomy will be short lived (seconds to minutes), and the timescale of equilibration is dependant on the post-shock porosity of the matrix—since the thermal diffusivity decreases with increasing porosity, more porous materials will stay hot for longer. In addition to the strong dichotomy in the temperature between the matrix and the chondrules, we have observed heterogeneous heating and compaction within the matrix itself; for example, on the lee side of chondrules, the matrix may be protected from the shock, and thus experience less compaction than the surrounding matrix.
compaction than that observed in higher matrix abundance materials. At low impact velocities (<2 km s⁻¹), chondrules typically remain circular. However, at velocities of 2 km s⁻¹ and above, many chondrules are deformed; they become shortened in either the direction of the shock or due to inter-chondrule collisions.

Using the mesoscale simulation results, we have constrained ε - α porosity-compaction model parameters as a function of matrix abundance or bulk porosity, which are appropriate for describing the bulk-material response in macroscale simulations of planetesimal collisions.

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APPENDIX
A NEW METHOD FOR MOVING LAGRANGIAN TRACER PARTICLES

The techniques presented in this work for simulating the mesoscale effects of shock waves on meteoritic material require the use of Lagrangian tracer particles, which allow the history of a particular parcel of material to be tracked as it moves through the fixed (Eulerian) mesh in iSALE. Here, we describe a new method implemented in iSALE for moving tracer particles.

The original method for displacing a tracer in iSALE is a simple forward Euler projection of the tracer position using the interpolated velocity vector at the tracer location multiplied by the current timestep duration. Velocity interpolation is bilinear in the x and y directions, using the velocity stored at the four nodes of the cell within which the tracer is located at the start of the timestep.

If ξₓⁿ and ξᵧⁿ are the fractional distances across the cell of the tracer from the four cell nodes (n = 1–4, counter-clockwise from the bottom left), and vₓⁿ and vᵧⁿ are the horizontal and vertical components of the velocity at the node of the cell, then the horizontal and vertical components of the tracer’s velocity are calculated as such:

\[
(v_x, v_y) = \sum_{n=1}^{4} (1 - \xi_x^n)(1 - \xi_y^n)(v_x^n, v_y^n). \tag{7}
\]

This method works well in simulations with few material boundaries, and thus few cells containing multiple materials (typical iSALE simulations involve an impactor into a target with up to three layers, and thus fewer mixed cells than the simulations presented in this work). However, as this approach does not respect material boundaries it often results in tracers drifting away from the material they were intended to track through the simulation (see the top panel of Figure 4). This problem is more severe in simulations with many material interfaces and a high proportion of mixed cells. To overcome this issue, a new method was developed for this work, in which tracers are moved according to material fluxes into and out of each face of the cell in which they are positioned. This information is already calculated during the advection step of the iSALE cycle and so does not entail a significant computational overhead.

In materials with a low matrix abundance (i.e., more chondrules), as more chondrules come into contact with each other (at velocities of >2 km s⁻¹), the matrix can be protected by the chondrules forming stress bridges, resulting in less
Using the fractional distances from the bottom left of the cell (i.e., $\xi_i$ and $\eta_j$), the horizontal and vertical velocity components, $v_x$ and $v_y$, can be calculated as

$$v_x = \left(1 - \frac{\xi_i}{\alpha_L}\right) F_L - \frac{\xi_i}{\alpha_R} F_R \frac{x_{i+1} - x_i}{V_{ij}} dt$$

(8)

and

$$v_y = \left(1 - \frac{\eta_j}{\alpha_B}\right) F_B - \frac{\eta_j}{\alpha_T} F_T \frac{y_{j+1} - y_j}{V_{ij}} dt$$

(9)

where $F$ is the net volume of the tracer’s material fluxing into the cell through each face (subscripts $L$, $R$, $B$, and $T$ denote the left, right, bottom, and top faces, respectively), $\alpha$ is the volume fraction of the tracer’s material fluxing through the face compared to the total volume of material (i.e., $F_{fr}/F_{tot}$), $V_{ij}$ is the volume of the cell $i, j$, and $dt$ is the length of the current timestep.

To ensure numerical stability, in cases where the volume fraction of the tracer’s material is 0 on one face of the cell, the tracer is assumed to be on the opposite face and the term for that face in Equation (8) or (9) is ignored; this avoids a divide-by-zero error. For example, if $\alpha_L = 0$, then $\xi_i$ is assumed to be 1, and the term $(1 - \xi_i)F_L/\alpha_L$ is set to 0.

Finally, some checks must be made to ensure that the volume fraction calculated here is not going to (a) move the tracer into a cell that does not contain any of the tracer’s material, or (b) leave the tracer in a cell that will become empty of the tracer’s material during the timestep. These two cases are countered by finding the tracer’s distance from the cell face and then moving the tracer along its current trajectory (determined by the velocity components in Equations (8) and (9)) far enough to just cross the cell face. For case (a) above, this will return the tracer to its original cell, and for case (b) it will move the tracer into the cell where the material is also moving.

As shown in Figure 4, this means that tracers remain with their material, and do not become isolated from their material as was possible in the prior cell-node velocity method. Note that in Figure 4, where some tracers appear to have crossed the material boundary in the material method, they are in mixed-material cells (i.e., a cell with a material boundary in it), and thus are still attached to their respective material—this is just a result of how the material boundary contours were drawn while constructing the figure.

We note that the problem of tracer drift that we ameliorate with the above algorithm is a consequence of material being advected through the mesh at a different speed to the bulk flow. This, in turn, is a consequence of the multi-material advection and interface construction algorithms in iSALE, which modify material fluxes between cells to preserve sharp interfaces between materials. In other words, tracer drift is not necessarily a limitation of iSALE’s original method for moving tracers and the optimum tracer movement algorithm for a given problem will depend on whether it is more important to track material history or kinematics. The new method presented here is preferable when a faithful record of material state through the simulation is a priority.