

## CONCLUSION

Like several other incompressible elements, the ultrasonic equation of state for tantalum differs substantially from the previous compression results, and differs in the same systematic sense. This discrepancy is interpreted as arising from an error in the absolute compression equation of state of the iron reference material used in compression experiments. This result for highly incompressible tantalum provides additional evidence for the adoption of the ultrasonic  $a_v$  and  $b_v$  for iron.