

# Thermal gas-phase reaction of perfluorobuta-1,3-diene with NO<sub>2</sub>

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## Abstract

The reaction of NO<sub>2</sub> with perfluorobuta-1,3-diene, CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF=CF<sub>2</sub> (C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>6</sub>), has been studied at 312.9, 323.0, 333.4, 396.0 and 418.0 K, using a conventional static system. The products formed in the temperature range 312.9–333.4 K were CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>) (I), CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFCF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>) (II), CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F (III) and CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CF(O)F (IV) and FNO. The formation of these compounds was detected performing infrared and Raman spectra. The infrared spectrum shows a band at 1785 cm<sup>-1</sup>, characteristic to the terminal –CF=CF<sub>2</sub> group and the Raman spectrum shows a band located at 1733 cm<sup>-1</sup>, corresponding to –CF=CF– group. It indicates, that in this temperature range, NO<sub>2</sub> attacks initially only one double bond of CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF=CF<sub>2</sub>. Since the intermediate radical CF<sub>2</sub>=CFC•FCF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>) formed in this process is allylic in nature, so there is no isomerization involved in this process, but rather the allylic radical is able to add the second NO<sub>2</sub> either to CF<sub>2</sub> or CFCF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>) end, forming the corresponding products. At 396.0 and 418.0 K different products were observed: CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F (V), NO, CF<sub>3</sub>C(O)F, C(O)F<sub>2</sub> and traces of epoxide of tetrafluoroethene, showing that, at these temperatures, both double bonds are attacked by NO<sub>2</sub> and detachment of CF<sub>2</sub> group is produced. The mechanisms consistent with experimental results in the temperature range 312.9–333.4 and at 396.0 and 418 K are proposed.

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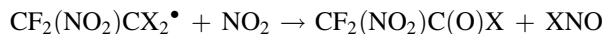
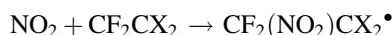
**Keywords:** Thermal gas-phase reaction; Perfluorobuta-1,3-diene; Nitrogen dioxide; 1,1,2,3,4,4-Hexafluoro-3,4-dinitrobut-1-ene; 2,3,4,4-Tetrafluoro-2-nitrobut-3-enoyl fluoride; 1,1,2,3,4,4-Hexafluoro-1,4-dinitrobut-2-ene; 2,3,4,4-Tetrafluoro-4-nitrobut-2-enoyl fluoride; 2,3,3-Trifluoro-2,3-dinitropropanoyl fluoride

## 1. Introduction

The addition reactions of NO<sub>2</sub> to halogenated olefins have been subject of several studies [1–9]. These reactions are generally employed for preparative purposes, because NO<sub>2</sub> can act either as nitrating or as oxidating agent. From a mechanistic point of view these processes are readily understood in terms of free radical reaction schemes initiated by the NO<sub>2</sub> attack on the olefinic C atom. As several reaction channels can be possible, the elucidation of the mechanism of these reactions is of interest for organic and inorganic chemistry.

Detailed mechanistic studies, kinetic parameters and product formation have been reported for several gas-phase reactions of NO<sub>2</sub> with perhalogenated ethenes CF<sub>2</sub>CX<sub>2</sub>, where X = Br, Cl or F, at temperatures ranging from about 300 to 360 K [10–12]. The major products in these systems were

vicinal dinitro compounds and nitrohaloacetyl halides and XNO, where X = Br or Cl. The following basic common reaction mechanism can be proposed:



In this mechanism and in the subsequent mechanisms of the present work M is equal to effective pressure.

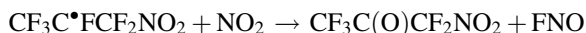
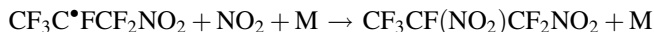
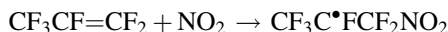
However the gas-phase reactions of NO<sub>2</sub> with perfluoropropene, C<sub>3</sub>F<sub>6</sub>, [13] and with perfluorobutene-2, C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>8</sub>-2 [14] follow a different pattern.

Perfluoropropene reacts with NO<sub>2</sub> between 413.0 and 433.0 K [13], giving equivalent quantities of perfluoropropene epoxide, PFPE, and NO as the major products and smaller amounts of CF<sub>3</sub>CF(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>), nitroperfluoroacetone and FNO. The following mechanism was postulated for this

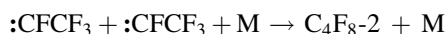
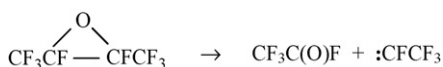
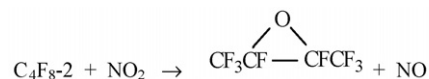
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reaction:



In the reaction of  $\text{NO}_2$  with  $\text{C}_4\text{F}_8-2$  in the temperature range 418.5–470.0 K [14], equal amounts of perfluorobutene-2 epoxide, PFBE, and NO are formed. Above 430 K PFBE decomposes generating  $\text{CF}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}$  and biradical  $:\text{CFCF}_3$ . The latter self-recombines reforming the parent  $\text{C}_4\text{F}_8-2$  molecule. The following mechanism consistent with experimental results was postulated:



Continuing our studies on nitration of perhalogenated olefins, the reaction of  $\text{NO}_2$  with perfluorobuta-1,3-diene,  $\text{C}_4\text{F}_6$ , was investigated to elucidate the nitration mechanism of molecules containing two double bonds.

## 2. Results and discussion

All experiments were carried out to the complete consumption of  $\text{NO}_2$ . Within the temperature range 312.9–333.4 K the reaction proceeded with easily measurable pressure decrease and the following products were formed:  $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFCF}(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)$  (I),  $\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}=\text{CFCF}_2(\text{NO}_2)$  (II),  $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFCF}(\text{NO}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}$  (III) and  $\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}=\text{CFC}(\text{O})\text{F}$  (IV) and FNO. The band at  $1029\text{ cm}^{-1}$

appearing in the infrared spectra, assigned to  $\text{SiF}_4$ , confirms the presence of FNO.  $\text{SiF}_4$  forms on Pyrex cell surface through the following reaction [9]:



At 396.0 and 418.0 K the  $\text{NO}_2$  was completely consumed when introducing  $\text{C}_4\text{F}_6$  to the reaction vessel as the second reactant. The observed products were  $\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}(\text{NO}_2)-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}$  (V), NO,  $\text{CF}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}_2$  and traces of epoxide of tetrafluoroethene.

$\text{CF}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}_2$ , NO, FNO,  $\text{SiF}_4$  and epoxide of tetrafluoroethene were identified by their known infrared spectra. The compounds (I), (II), (III) and (IV) have been assigned the structure consistent with their IR and Raman spectra. The infrared absorption bands for the mixture of  $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFCF}(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)$  (I) and  $\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}=\text{CFCF}_2(\text{NO}_2)$  (II) appear at 1785, 1620, 1371, 1333, 1275, 1243, 1175, 1133, 925 and  $790\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . In the infrared spectra of the mixture of  $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFCF}(\text{NO}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}$  (III) and  $\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}=\text{CFC}(\text{O})\text{F}$  (IV) the observed infrared bands were 1856, 1785, 1620, 1367, 1337, 1276, 1227, 1192, 1137, 931 and  $813\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . In the Raman spectra of the mixture of compounds (I) and (II) and that of (III) and (IV), bands located at 1780 and  $1733\text{ cm}^{-1}$  appeared. The infrared band at  $1785\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is characteristic to the  $-\text{CF}=\text{CF}_2$  group [15]. It was reported that  $1783\text{--}1785\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band in the infrared spectrum of polytetrafluoroethene is indicative of the presence of terminal olefin groups in the structure of the polymer [16].  $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFCF}=\text{CF}_2$ ,  $\text{CF}_3\text{CF}=\text{CF}_2$ ,  $\text{CClF}=\text{CF}_2$  and  $\text{CBrF}=\text{CF}_2$  show the bands corresponding to the C=C stretching vibrations at 1796, 1789, 1790 and  $1783\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. It was reported [17] that the  $-\text{CF}=\text{CF}-$  groups are not active in the infrared spectra. Indeed, the infrared spectrum of the perfluorobutene-2,  $\text{CF}_3\text{CF}=\text{CFCF}_3$  shows a weak band corresponding to  $-\text{CF}=\text{CF}-$  stretching vibration at  $1728\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . At the same time the vibrations corresponding to internal double bond are usually active in the Raman spectra of perfluoroolefins and appear in the region  $1717\text{--}1730\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The vibrations corresponding to terminal olefin groups in the Raman spectra are located between  $1775$  and  $1790\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The bands at 1620 and  $1333\text{--}1337\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are

Table 1  
The comparison of experimental infrared and Raman spectra of A =  $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFCF}(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2) + \text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}=\text{CFCF}_2(\text{NO}_2)$  and B =  $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFCF}(\text{NO}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F} + \text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}=\text{CFC}(\text{O})\text{F}$

IR A	I <sub>IR</sub>	Raman A	I <sub>R</sub>	IR B	I <sub>IR</sub>	Raman B	I <sub>R</sub>	Tentative assignment
1785	s	1780	s	1856	vs	1846	vvs	C=O
		1733	s	1785	s	1780	s	–CF=CF <sub>2</sub>
						1733	s	–CF=CF–
1620	vvs	1700	vvs	1620	vvs	1699	vvs	NO <sub>2</sub>
1371	m	1412	s	1367	m	1412	s	C–C
1333	s	1341	vs	1337	s	1341	s	NO <sub>2</sub>
1275	vs			1276	vs			CF <sub>2</sub>
1243	vs			1227	vs			C–C
1175	m			1192	m			C–F
1133	m			1137	m			C–F
925	w			931	w			C–N
790	w			813	m			NO <sub>2</sub>

I<sub>IR</sub> = intensity in the infrared spectra, I<sub>R</sub> = intensity in the Raman spectra, v = very, s = strong, m = medium and w = weak.

Table 2

Analytical data of three experiments in the temperature range 312.9–333.4 K, where P(I) = [CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>) + CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFCF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)] and P(II) = [CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F + CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFC(O)F]

Run	T (K)	Δ <i>p</i> (Torr)	NO <sub>2i</sub> (Torr)	NO <sub>2f</sub> (Torr)	C <sub>4</sub> F <sub>6i</sub> (Torr)	C <sub>4</sub> F <sub>6f</sub> (Torr)	P(I) (Torr)	P(II) (Torr)	[FNO] (Torr)
9	312.9	25.5	33.5	–	34.5	17.9	8.7	8.0	7.9
8	323.0	23.0	30.1	–	30.8	15.7	8.0	7.0	6.9
7	333.4	26.8	32.9	–	28.3	12.0	10.4	6.0	6.1

The amounts of P(I) and P(II) were calculated from the quantities of C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>6</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> consumed, that of FNO formed and Δ*p*, the final pressure decrease of the reaction.

characteristic to the NO<sub>2</sub> group [11–13,18]. The frequencies at 1367 and 1371 cm<sup>-1</sup> and those between 1276 and 930 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicate the presence of CF<sub>2</sub>, CF, C–C and C–N groups. The absorption band located at 1856 cm<sup>-1</sup> shows the presence of C(O)F group. It can be seen that the infrared and Raman spectra of the compounds (I), (II), (III) and (IV) are consistent with the structures proposed for CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>), CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFCF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>), CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F and CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFC(O)F, respectively (see Table 1). The additional support for the characterization of the above compounds was obtained from the amounts of C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>6</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> consumed and that of FNO formed and the final pressure decrease of the reaction (see Table 2).

For the compound (V) the following structure has been assigned: CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F. Its infrared bands are located at 1856, 1617, 1333, 1275, 1242, 1192, 1133, 992 and 792 cm<sup>-1</sup>. These frequencies indicate the presence of the structural groups: C(O)F, NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>2</sub>, C–F, C–C and C–N. The determination of the relative molecular mass of this compound by gas-density measurement with a calibrated Pyrex bulb, gives the value 222 ± 11. The theoretical value of CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F is 220.

In Table 1 the comparison of experimental infrared and Raman spectra of the mixtures: A = CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>) + CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFCF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>) and B = CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F + CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFC(O)F is presented.

No data for CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>), CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F, CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFC(O)F and CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F were found in the literature. The formation of CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFCF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>) in the reaction between N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>6</sub> in the autoclave and at room temperature was reported [5].

No band in the region 1500–1550 cm<sup>-1</sup> was observed, indicating that epoxide is not produced in this reaction. The fluorinated olefin epoxides generate a characteristic infrared band in this zone, not given by other fluorocarbon compounds. This band appears at 1551 cm<sup>-1</sup> for perfluoropropene epoxide [13], at 1504 cm<sup>-1</sup> for perfluorobutene-2 epoxide [14], at

1545 cm<sup>-1</sup> for chlorotrifluoroethene epoxide and at 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup> for 1,1-dichloro-2,2-difluoroethene epoxide [19].

For analyzing the reaction mixture of 8 experiments carried out to the complete consumption of NO<sub>2</sub>, the reaction vessel was rapidly cooled to liquid nitrogen temperature and the mixture separated by fractional condensation. The fraction F<sub>1</sub>, volatile at 153 K, obtained from experiments made in the temperature range 312.9–333.4 K was FNO and that from experiments performed at 396.0 and 418.0 K consisted of CF<sub>3</sub>C(O)F, C(O)F<sub>2</sub>, NO and epoxide of tetrafluoroethene. Over the whole temperature range 312.9–418.0 K studied, the fraction F<sub>2</sub>, volatile at 233.0 K, was the non-consumed reactant C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>6</sub>. The fraction F<sub>3</sub>, obtained as a residue at 233.0 K from experiments made in the temperature range 312.9–333.4 K, consisted of CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>), CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFCF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>), CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F and CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFC(O)F, and that from experiments performed at 396.0 and 418.0 K was CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F.

CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>), CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFCF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>), CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F and CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFC(O)F cannot be separated by fractional condensation, but, distilling at 253 K, it was possible to obtain two fractions, one containing CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>) + CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFCF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>) and another CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F + CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFC(O)F, with different relative amounts of these products thus allowing the assignment of the infrared frequencies corresponding to each mixture (see Table 1).

The analytical data of experiments in the temperature range 312.9–333.4 K are listed in Table 2, where indices *i* and *f* signify initial and final. The quantities of C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>6</sub> consumed and that of FNO formed were obtained by fractional condensation. The amount of [CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>) + CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFCF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)] and that of [CF<sub>2</sub>=CFCF(NO<sub>2</sub>)C(O)F + CF<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>2</sub>)CF=CFC(O)F] were calculated from the quantities of C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>6</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> consumed, that of FNO formed and Δ*p*, the final pressure decrease of the reaction.

The analytical data of experiments performed at 396.0 and 418.0 K are summarized in Table 3, where indices *i* and *f*

Table 3

Analytical data of 5 experiments at 396.0 and 418.0 K

Run	T (K)	NO <sub>2i</sub> (Torr)	NO <sub>2f</sub> (Torr)	C <sub>4</sub> F <sub>6f</sub> (Torr)	CF <sub>2</sub> (NO <sub>2</sub> )CF(NO <sub>2</sub> )C(O)F (Torr)	ΣP (Torr)
5	396.0	33.7	–	25.1	11.2	16.8
3	418.0	19.0	–	40.9	6.5	9.3
4	418.0	27.6	–	33.7	9.8	13.8
10	418.0	33.5	–	21.4	11.1	16.0
11	418.0	47.7	–	51.2	16.4	24.6

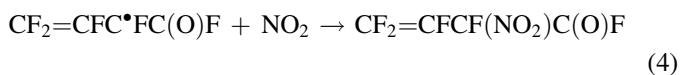
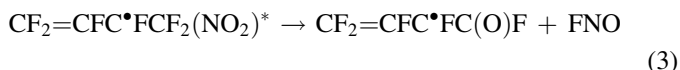
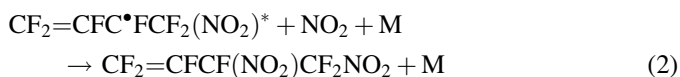
In this table C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>6f</sub> is the pressure of C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>6</sub> remaining after the total consumption of NO<sub>2</sub>. ΣP is the sum of the products [CF<sub>3</sub>C(O)F] + [COF<sub>2</sub>] + [NO] + [epoxide of CF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>].

denote initial and final. In this table  $C_4F_6^r$  is the pressure of  $C_4F_6$  remaining after the total consumption of  $NO_2$ .  $\sum P$  is the sum of products [ $CF_3C(O)F$ ] + [ $C(O)F_2$ ] + [ $NO$ ] + [epoxide of  $CF_2CF_2$ ].

In the conditions of this work, the calculations done using the equilibrium constant for  $N_2O_4 \leftrightarrow 2NO_2$  [20] indicate that  $N_2O_4$  is practically dissociated into  $NO_2$ .

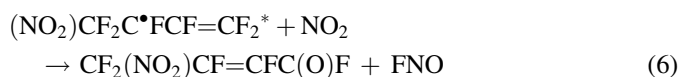
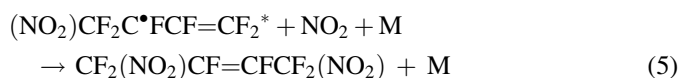
The reaction of  $C_4F_6$  with  $NO_2$  gives different products depending on the temperature region studied.

The following mechanism was postulated to explain the formation of  $CF_2=CFCF(NO_2)CF_2NO_2$  (I) and  $CF_2=CFCF(NO_2)C(O)F$  (III) in the temperature range 312.9–333.4 K:



As  $NO_2$  and  $C_4F_6$  are stable compounds, the reaction must proceed by the addition of  $NO_2$  to the double bond of the diolefin, analogously to other reactions of  $NO_2$  with alkenes and dialkenes [10–14,21–23]. It was found that the initial attack by  $NO_2$  occurs at the terminal position of the non-halogenated diolefins by C–N attachment giving  $R'CH=CH^*HCHR''(NO_2)$  radicals [21,24]. In presence of molecular oxygen peroxy radicals,  $R'CH=CHC(O_2)^*HCHR''(NO_2)$ , are formed, which combine with  $NO_2$  to yield peroxy nitrates,  $R'CH=CHC(O_2NO_2)HCHR''(NO_2)$  [21]. In the present work the generation of the radical  $CF_2=CFC^*FCF_2(NO_2)$  was postulated, which may undergo reaction with another molecule of  $NO_2$  giving  $CF_2=CFCF(NO_2)CF_2NO_2$  or can decompose leading to the formation of FNO and  $CF_2=CFC^*FC(O)F$  radical. The latter radical reacts with the second  $NO_2$  giving  $CF_2=CFCF(NO_2)C(O)F$ .

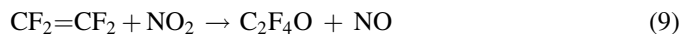
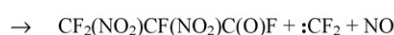
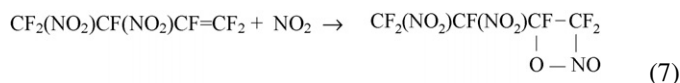
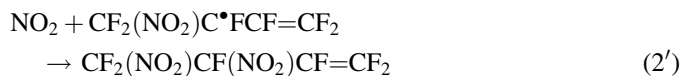
Since the intermediate radical  $(NO_2)CF_2C^*FCF=CF_2$  formed by the addition of  $NO_2$  to  $C_4F_6$  is allylic in nature and there is no isomerization involved in this process, the allylic radical is able to add  $NO_2$  either to  $(NO_2)CF_2CF$  or  $CF_2$  end. Then the formation of  $CF_2(NO_2)CF=CFCF_2(NO_2)$  (II) and  $CF_2(NO_2)CF=CFC(O)F$  (IV) can be explained by the reactions of the second  $NO_2$  with the  $CF_2$  end group:



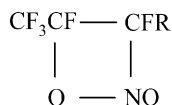
The absorption band at  $1785\text{ cm}^{-1}$  appearing in the infrared spectrum, indicative of the presence of  $-CF=CF_2$  group and the band located at  $1733\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the Raman spectrum showing the presence of  $-CF=CF-$  group, indicate that, in the temperature range 312.9–333.4 K,  $NO_2$  does not attack the second double

bond of  $C_4F_6$  and the compounds  $CF_2=CFCF(NO_2)CF_2(NO_2)$ ,  $CF_2(NO_2)CF=CFCF_2(NO_2)$ ,  $CF_2=CFCF(NO_2)C(O)F$  and  $CF_2(NO_2)CF=CFC(O)F$  are formed.

The following mechanism, where  $C_2F_4O$  is the epoxide of tetrafluoroethene, appears to be consistent with the experimental results obtained at 396.0 and 418.0 K:



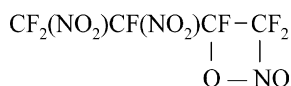
The experimental results at 396.0 and 418.0 K are rationalized taking into account the data reported for the reactions  $NO_2 + C_3F_6$  [13] and  $NO_2 + C_4F_8-2$  [14], where the predominant process was the formation of NO and the corresponding epoxides of perfluoropropene and perfluorobutene-2. The formation of these products through the following four-member ring intermediate, where  $R=F$  or  $CF_3$ , was postulated:



The perfluoropropene epoxide and perfluorobutene-2 epoxide decompose above 460 and 430 K, respectively, the first giving  $CF_3C(O)F$  and  $:CF_2$  [25] and the latter  $CF_3C(O)F$  and  $:CFCF_3$  [14].

The lack of absorption band, characteristic to fluoro epoxides in the  $1500\text{--}1550\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region of infrared spectra, shows that a stable compound containing epoxide group is not formed in this work.

Taking into account the above data, the concerted generation of  $CF_2(NO_2)CF(NO_2)C(O)F$ ,  $:CF_2$  and NO through a following four-center transition state is proposed:



It can be explained in terms of concomitant weakening and cleavage of C–C, C–N and O–NO bonds while C–O bond is forming.

The association of the two  $:CF_2$  leads to the formation of  $CF_2=CF_2$  and perfluorocyclopropane by addition of  $:CF_2$  to tetrafluoroethene [25,26]. In presence of  $NO_2$ , perfluorocyclopropane does not form, but the generation of perfluoroethene



epoxide is observed, indicating that the reaction of  $\text{NO}_2$  with  $\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2$  leading to the formation of  $\text{C}_2\text{F}_4\text{O}$ , is faster than the addition of  $:\text{CF}_2$  to the double bond. It is well known, that the perfluoroethene epoxide isomerizes to  $\text{CF}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}$  [27] and, at higher temperatures, decomposes unimolecularly to give  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}_2$  and  $:\text{CF}_2$  [28].

The nitric oxide  $\text{NO}$  did not add to the double bonds in this work. The fluoro compounds containing  $-\text{CF}_2\text{NO}$  group have a characteristic intense blue color [29], which was not observed.

The reaction of  $\text{C}_4\text{F}_6$  with  $\text{FNO}$  was discarded, because the addition of the latter compound to the double bond requires higher temperatures and pressures. No reaction between  $\text{FNO}$  and perfluorobutene-2 occurred below 473 K [30].

### 3. Conclusions

This work shows that below 335.0 K,  $\text{NO}_2$  attacks only one double bond, giving three novel compounds:  $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFCF}(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)$ ,  $\text{CF}_2=\text{CFCF}(\text{NO}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}$  and  $\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}=\text{CFC}(\text{O})\text{F}$ , and that above 390.0 K  $\text{NO}_2$  reacts with the both double bonds, leading to the formation of another not reported compound  $\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}(\text{NO}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}$ .

Density functional theory calculations to explore the reaction mechanism and characterize the molecular properties of these new molecules are underway [31].

### 4. Experimental

The experiments were performed in a conventional grease-free static system, allowing pressure measurements at constant volume and temperature. The spherical quartz bulb ( $270\text{ cm}^3$ ), connected to a sensitive quartz spiral gauge, used as a null instrument, and to a mercury manometer, was employed as a reaction vessel. The reactor was also connected to a standard vacuum line for gas handling. The temperature was maintained within  $\pm 0.5\text{ K}$  using a Lauda thermostat, filled with Dow Corning 200/300 Fluid for temperatures above 360 K and with distilled water for those below 340 K. The infrared spectra were recorded on Shimadzu IR-435 spectrometer, using 10 cm cell provided with  $\text{NaCl}$  windows and the FTIR spectra on Nexus Nicolet instrument equipped with an MCTB, using 10 cm cell provided with  $\text{Si}$  windows with resolution of  $1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and 256 scans at different pressures. A Bruker IFS166 was used to record the FT Raman (6 mm tube, room temperature, excitation line 1064) spectra with  $2\text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution and 100 scans.

All reactants were purchased commercially. Perfluorobutene-1,3-diene,  $\text{C}_4\text{F}_6$  (PCR, 97–98%) was purified by repeated low-pressure trap-to-trap distillation on vacuum line, the fraction distilling between 218 and 173 K being retained each time. Small amounts of  $\text{NO}$  present in  $\text{NO}_2$  were eliminated by a series of freeze-pump-thaw cycles in presence of  $\text{O}_2$  until the blue color due to the formation of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$  disappeared. The degassed  $\text{NO}_2$  was purified by fractional condensation using fraction that distilled between 213 and 243 K.

The experiments were performed at 312.9, 323.0, 333.4, 396.0 and 418.0 K. In the temperature range of 312.9–333.4 K the initial pressure of  $\text{NO}_2$  was varied between 30.1 and

33.5 Torr and that of  $\text{C}_4\text{F}_6$  between 28.3 and 34.5 Torr. At 396 and 418.0 K the  $\text{NO}_2$  was completely consumed when introducing  $\text{C}_4\text{F}_6$  to the reaction vessel as the second reactant. In this case the initial pressure of  $\text{NO}_2$  was varied between 19.0 and 47.7 Torr and the excess of non-consumed  $\text{C}_4\text{F}_6$  varied between 21.4 and 51.2 Torr. The analysis of reaction mixtures was made by fractional condensation at 153 and 233 K. Three additional experiments were made at 418.0 K to obtain greater amounts of the compound  $\text{CF}_2(\text{NO}_2)\text{CF}(\text{NO}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{F}$  (V) to determine its relative molecular mass. In these experiments the initial pressure of  $\text{NO}_2$  varied between 71.3 and 202.9 Torr and the excess of non-consumed  $\text{C}_4\text{F}_6$  varied between 78.5 and 234.0 Torr and only the fractional condensation at 233 K was performed.

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