

## APPLICATIONS OF FOURIER TRANSFORM IR SPECTROSCOPY TO THE DETERMINATION OF PHOTO-OXIDATION QUANTUM YIELDS FOR HALOCARBONS

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### Summary

Fourier transform IR spectroscopy has been applied to the quantitative analysis of the products from the photo-oxidation of  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$  by molecular oxygen.  $\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$  for  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{-O}_2$  mixtures was measured as  $1.08 \pm 0.08$  in good agreement with previous studies.  $\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$  for  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br-O}_2$  mixtures has been measured for the first time in this work, its value being  $1.02 \pm 0.08$ .

### 1. Introduction

Chlorofluorocarbons and bromofluorocarbons do not occur naturally; they are manufactured presently at the rate of hundreds of kilotonnes per year with the only known sinks for the fully halogenated fluorocarbons occurring at altitudes of tens of kilometres in the atmosphere [1]. Two types of loss mechanism have been postulated in the stratosphere which are as follows. Firstly, for the chloromethanes with two or more chlorine atoms such as  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , the UV cross sections are sufficiently high at 185 - 227 nm (the solar UV window) that photodissociation is the primary decomposition pathway. Secondly, for fully halogenated fluorocarbons with lower absorption cross sections such as  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$ ,  $\text{O}(^1\text{D}_2)$  atom attack is probably a significant reaction pathway in addition to photodecomposition. The subsequent fate of the released halogen atoms has been particularly well studied in the last ten years since Molina and Rowland [2] first predicted that the effect of injecting chlorofluorocarbons into the atmosphere might be to deplete the ozone layer. However, the exact mechanism by which the associated carbon-containing radical reacts in the atmosphere is poorly understood as illustrated by the following reactions. For example, the oxidation of the  $\cdot\text{CF}_3$  radical to carbonyl fluoride has been suggested [3] to occur directly

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or via an intermediate peroxy radical



There is now a considerable body of evidence to support a route involving the intermediacy of peroxy radicals in the oxidation process. For example, the formation of the  $\text{CF}_2\text{O}_2^+$  fragment has been monitored mass spectrometrically by Caralp and Lesclaux [4] in the photolysis of  $\text{CF}_3\text{I}-\text{O}_2$  mixtures and an absorption feature attributed to  $\text{CF}_3\dot{\text{O}}_2$  has been measured in the pulse radiolysis of  $\text{CF}_3\text{Cl}-\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}-\text{O}_2$  [5]. Furthermore the IR spectra of  $\text{CF}_3^{16}\dot{\text{O}}_2$  and  $\text{CF}_3^{18}\dot{\text{O}}_2$  have been recorded on photolysis of  $\text{CF}_3\text{I}$  in  $^{16}\text{O}_2$ - and  $^{18}\text{O}_2$ -doped argon matrices at 4.2 K [6].

The subsequent chemistry to produce carbonyl fluoride in laboratory studies is apparently dependent on the presence of halogen molecules. Thus the generally accepted, but endothermic [7], disproportionation reaction of the peroxy radicals



can be followed, in the presence of molecular iodine, by the following reaction [8]:



In such a system the endothermic reaction between two  $\text{CF}_3\dot{\text{O}}$  radicals to produce carbonyl fluoride



is thought to be absent. It should be pointed out that there is no spectroscopic evidence for the existence of  $\text{CF}_3\dot{\text{O}}$  under any experimental conditions although a recent calculation has predicted its expected IR spectrum [9].

For the oxidation of  $\cdot\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}$  radicals, experiments by Jayanty *et al.* [10] and Suong and Carr, Jr., [11] are consistent with the following mechanism:



The intermediacy of  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}\dot{\text{O}}\dot{\text{O}}$  and  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}\dot{\text{O}}$  was proposed by analogy with the reported oxidation mechanism of  $\cdot\text{CF}_3$  radicals but neither the peroxy nor the oxy species have been observed directly.

A recent report by Molina and Molina [12] suggests that heterogeneous reactions play an important part in the oxidation of  $\dot{\text{C}}\text{F}_2\text{Br}$  radicals formed

in the photolysis of  $\text{CF}_2\text{Br}_2\text{-O}_2$  mixtures in the 200 - 300 nm region. The exact nature of the processes involved was not speculated on but it could be shown that the measured quantum yield for carbonyl fluoride formation was unity within experimental error, which is a conclusion in some disagreement with an earlier study by Walton [13]. The results of the later publication were obtained by Fourier transform IR (FTIR) measurement of the  $\nu_2$  absorption of  $\text{COF}_2$  at  $1943\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Accurate knowledge of the quantum yield of end product formation is an essential first step in the determination of a photochemical mechanism and to complement our studies of intermediates involved in matrix-isolated halocarbon photo-oxidation reactions, a gas phase study of the measurement of  $\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$  was undertaken using FTIR spectroscopy. Two mixtures have been investigated for this report: (i)  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{-O}_2$ , which has been studied previously using gas chromatographic methods [14], and dispersion IR spectroscopy [15]; (ii)  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br-O}_2$ , which has not been reported before.

## 2. Experimental details

Three T configuration gas cells, constructed from Pyrex glass, were used in the photolysis experiments. Each was fitted with one Spectrosil B UV window of 1 mm thickness and a pair of KBr, silicon or  $\text{BaF}_2$  windows to allow products to be monitored in the IR region. The volumes of the cells were calculated using Boyle's law and found to be  $180 \pm 1\text{ cm}^3$ ,  $160 \pm 1\text{ cm}^3$  and  $142 \pm 1\text{ cm}^3$  respectively with a UV optical path length of  $50 \pm 1\text{ mm}$  in each case but differing IR path lengths ( $102 \pm 1$ ,  $110 \pm 1$  and  $100 \pm 1\text{ mm}$ ). A Phillips Spectral LL low pressure mercury arc was employed for photolysis using oxygen-free nitrogen to flush the lamp housing. The gas mixtures were prepared on a mercury-free greaseless vacuum line made of Pyrex glass using an MKS Baratron capacitance manometer (model 310) and a Wallace-Tiernan gauge (model FA141).

IR analysis was carried out on a Digilab FTS 20V FTIR spectrometer using a low spectral resolution of  $8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to determine the partial pressure of  $\text{COF}_2$  in the photolysed gas mixtures. A mercury cadmium telluride detector cooled to liquid nitrogen temperature was used and the collected interferograms were zero-filled fourfold before computation in order to improve the definition of the band outline. Each spectrum was ratioed against a stored background of the evacuated cell and plotted out in absorbance mode. The absorbance of the carbonyl band of  $\text{COF}_2$  centred at  $1943\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was measured at  $1930\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1943\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The region from  $2250$  to  $1750\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was plotted out in order to define the baseline as accurately as possible. Baselines which were sloping because of instability of the optics were corrected with specialized software available in the spectrometer minicomputer. Water vapour absorptions were minimized by evacuating the sample and main chambers of the spectrometer for a few minutes before each spectrum was collected. Overtone and combination bands of the parent halocarbon were

eliminated by subtracting out a stored absorption spectrum of pure halo-carbon.

A quadrupole mass spectrometer (VG gas analysis model SX 300) was used to assess the purity of gas samples and to determine the mercury arc incident intensity at 184.9 nm using nitrous oxide as an actinometer. In these experiments photolysis for a known interval of a cell containing nitrous oxide at 200.0 Torr and argon at 1.00 Torr (as an internal standard) was followed by measurement of the ratio of the peak intensities at  $m/e = 28$  and  $m/e = 40$ . The amounts of nitrogen formed for different photolysis times were calculated by comparison of the results with a calibration graph obtained for the relative mass spectrometric sensitivities of nitrogen and argon at known partial pressures. Atmospheric leakage was negligible over the time taken for the experiment.

Each gas except  $\text{COF}_2$  was transferred from its cylinder to a glass bulb in which it was stored and then used as required.  $\text{COF}_2$  was transferred directly from its cylinder to the photolysis cell. Carbonyl fluoride (stated purity, 98%) was manufactured by PCR Research Chemicals. The IR spectrum of a sample of  $\text{COF}_2$  at 50 Torr in a Pyrex gas cell showed the presence of  $\text{SiF}_4$  after a few hours of storage.  $\text{CO}_2$  was also observed after a total of 5 days storage. The gas was used without further purification. Bromotrifluoromethane and dichlorodifluoromethane (stated purities, better than 99.5%) were obtained from BDH and passed through a column of 1/16 in calcium aluminosilicate pellets (BDH type 5A) to eliminate traces of water vapour. Oxygen (stated purity, better than 99.998%) was manufactured by Messer Griesheim GmbH. Its mass spectrum revealed a small nitrogen impurity (less than 5%). Nitrous oxide (stated purity, 99.997%) was supplied by BDH: it was thoroughly degassed at 77 K and used without further purification. Nitrogen (stated purity, 99.998%) was supplied by Matheson. Argon (stated purity, 99.999%) was manufactured by Messer Griesheim GmbH. A xylene-based shellac (Dow Corning Ltd.) was used for affixing the optical flats to the reaction vessels.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Nitrous oxide actinometer

Nitrous oxide is one of the most commonly used actinometers in the vacuum UV region. The quantum yield  $\Phi_{\text{N}_2}^{184.9}$  of the nitrogen photoproduct at 184.9 nm is  $1.44 \pm 0.11$  [16]. In the present experiments, nitrous oxide at 200.0 Torr was used in each run since this absorbs over 99% of the incident radiation. For mass spectrometric analysis it was necessary to add argon at 1.00 Torr (0.5%) as an internal standard. Argon was chosen for two main reasons. Firstly, it does not interfere with secondary chemical reactions involving  $\text{O}(^1\text{D}_2)$  and nitrous oxide. Secondly, it does not physically deactivate  $\text{O}(^1\text{D}_2)$  to  $\text{O}(^3\text{P})$ ; this would reduce  $\Phi_{\text{N}_2}^{184.9}$  [17].

The relative mass spectrometer sensitivity of  $\text{N}_2/\text{Ar}$  was measured from calibration mixtures of nitrogen and argon. This factor was calculated to be

1.09 from least-squares analysis with a correlation coefficient of 0.999. The incident light intensity  $I_0$  was measured simultaneously with each  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$ - $\text{O}_2$  photolysis run. The ratio of the light fluxes on either side of the lamp was measured by making up a mixture of  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 50.0 Torr and oxygen at 10.00 Torr in both the KBr cell and the  $\text{BaF}_2$  cell. The rate  $d/dt[\text{COF}_2]$  of formation of  $\text{COF}_2$  was measured in both cells and the ratio of the light fluxes calculated to be unity.

### 3.2. Photoproducts of $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$ - $\text{O}_2$ mixture

The reactant gas cell contained a mixture of  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 50.0 Torr and oxygen at 10.00 Torr so that light absorption by oxygen was negligible in comparison with light absorbed by  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$  [18]. Hence the carbon-containing radicals produced in the photolysis of the parent halocarbon were scavenged by molecular oxygen.

The major IR-observable product was  $\text{COF}_2$  with new absorptions in the spectrum of the gas mixture seen at  $1943\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1249\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $774\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which correspond to the  $\nu_2$ ,  $\nu_4$  and  $\nu_6$  fundamental vibrations of carbonyl fluoride respectively [19]. In addition, an absorption corresponding to the  $\nu_1$  fundamental of  $\text{COF}_2$  was seen as a shoulder on the high frequency side of the  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$  absorption centred at  $923.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . In Fig. 1 the digitized absorbance spectrum of the gas mixture before photolysis has been

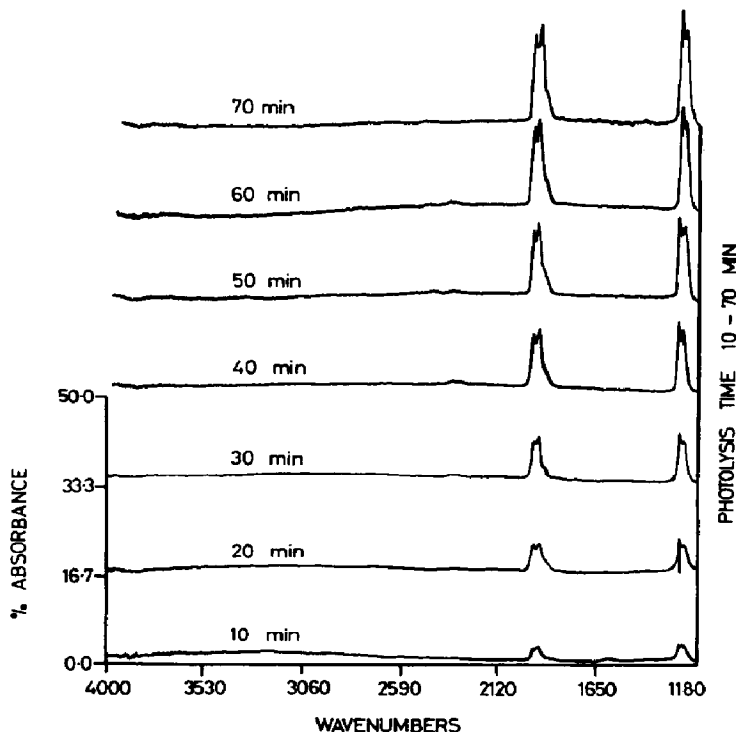


Fig. 1. Absorbance subtraction spectra (spectrum after photolysis minus spectrum before photolysis) of a gas mixture of  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 50.0 Torr and oxygen at 10.0 Torr after intervals of 10 min of photolysis. The spectral resolution is  $8\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

subtracted from each of the absorbance spectra taken after set periods of photolysis; the  $\nu_2$  and  $\nu_4$  fundamentals of  $\text{COF}_2$  are shown after every 10 min of photolysis. Very weak absorptions which were characteristic of fundamental vibration-rotation lines of CO and HCl were present in 0.2  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  resolution spectra of  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{-O}_2$  mixtures after 90 min of photolysis. The carbon monoxide was probably produced by photolysis at 184.9 nm of the  $\text{COF}_2$  photoproduct. The trace amounts of HCl formed may have resulted from chlorine atom reaction with trace amounts of water in the cell or more likely its attack on the xylene base of the shellac used to affix the optical plates of the cell. Hence molecular chlorine was undoubtedly produced in the experiments although it is not observable in the IR spectra.

Least-squares plots of  $\text{COF}_2$  absorbances at 1930  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 1943  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  against the photolysis time were related to partial pressures of  $\text{COF}_2$  by calibration mixtures made up of  $\text{COF}_2$ ,  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 50.0 Torr and oxygen at 10.0 Torr.

The quantum yield of formation of  $\text{COF}_2$  at 184.9 nm in the photo-oxidation of  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was calculated for a total of six runs and the results are presented in Table 1. The mean value of  $\Phi_{\text{N}_2}^{184.9}$  obtained in these experiments is 1.08 with random error limits of  $\pm 0.05$  to two standard deviations. However, a systematic error is also introduced by use of the actinometer value given in the literature for  $\Phi_{\text{N}_2}^{184.9}$  ( $1.44 \pm 0.11$ ). Hence after standard treatment of errors we calculate the measured value of  $\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$  in this work to be  $1.08 \pm 0.08$ .

TABLE 1

The quantum yield of formation  $\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$  of  $\text{COF}_2$  at 184.9 nm from  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{-O}_2$  mixtures

Run	$I_0 \times 10^{-15}$ (quanta $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$d/dt[\text{COF}_2] \times 100$ (absorbance units $\text{min}^{-1}$ )		$d/dt[\text{COF}_2] \times 10^{-15}$ (molecules $\text{s}^{-1}$ )		Mean	$\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$
		<i>At</i>	<i>At</i>	<i>At</i>	<i>At</i>		
		1930 $\text{cm}^{-1}$	1943 $\text{cm}^{-1}$	1930 $\text{cm}^{-1}$	1943 $\text{cm}^{-1}$		
1	1.14	0.201	0.164	1.22	1.16	1.19	1.04
2	0.995	0.182	0.150	1.10	1.06	1.08	1.09
3	1.02	0.181	0.149	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.06
4	1.02	0.189	0.156	1.15	1.10	1.13	1.11
5	0.907	0.164	0.137	0.996	0.969	0.983	1.08
6	0.829	0.151	0.125	0.915	0.882	0.889	1.07

### 3.3. Photoproducts of $\text{CF}_2\text{Br-O}_2$ mixtures

Five reaction mixtures were investigated:  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$  at 250.0 Torr with oxygen at 5.0, 10.0, 15.0, 20.0 or 25.0 Torr. In each case, light absorption by oxygen was small in comparison with light absorbed by  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$  [18].

The quantum yield of formation of  $\text{COF}_2$  at 184.9 nm in a mixture of  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 50.0 Torr and oxygen at 10.0 Torr measured in this work was used

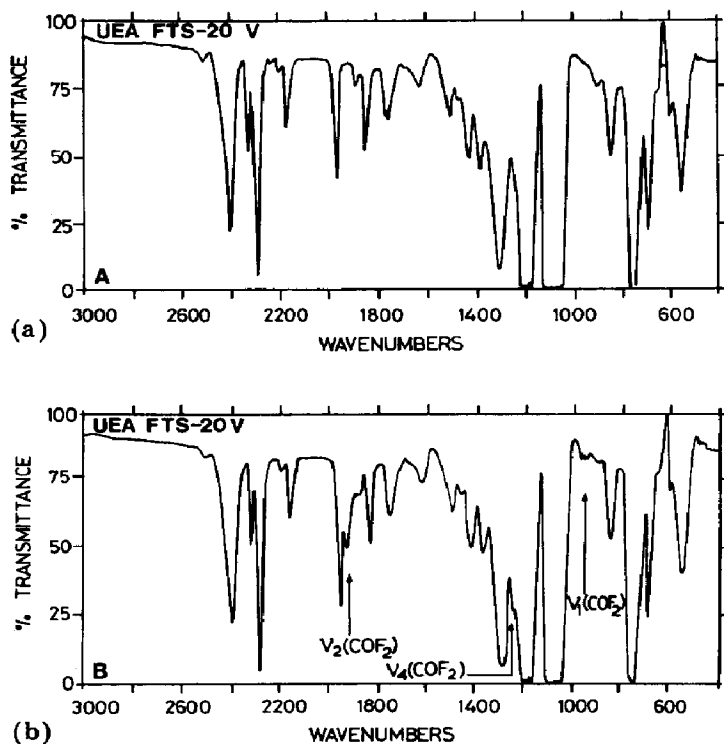


Fig. 2. IR spectra at a resolution of  $8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  of a gas mixture of  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$  at 250 Torr and oxygen at 25 Torr: (a) before photolysis; (b) after 1.50 h photolysis at 184.9 nm.

as an actinometer for  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}-\text{O}_2$  photolysis experiments. This was a matter of convenience since the same method of analysis could be used for both the sample and the actinometer cells. The  $\text{COF}_2$  produced in the actinic cell was found to be stable over the time scale of the experiment.

The only product observable in the IR spectra was  $\text{COF}_2$ . Figure 2 shows a comparison between  $8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution FTIR spectra of a mixture of  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$  at 250.0 Torr and oxygen at 25.0 Torr before and after 90 min photolysis at 184.9 nm. Least-squares plots of  $\text{COF}_2$  absorbances against photolysis time at  $1930\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1943\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were related to partial pressures of  $\text{COF}_2$  by calibration mixtures made up of  $\text{COF}_2$  and  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$  at 250.0 Torr.

The quantum yield of formation of  $\text{COF}_2$  at 184.9 nm in the photo-oxidation of  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$  was calculated for a total of five runs and the results are summarized in Table 2. The mean value of  $\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$  obtained in these experiments is  $1.02 \pm 0.08$ , where the error limits include both systematic and random errors discussed above.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1. The $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$ photo-oxidation process

The absorption cross section  $\sigma$  of  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 184.9 nm is calculated to be  $1.22 \times 10^{-18}\text{ cm}^2$  from a linear interpolation of the preferred  $\sigma$  values of

TABLE 2

The quantum yield of formation  $\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$  of  $\text{COF}_2$  at 184.9 nm from  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}-\text{O}_2$  mixtures

Run	$I_0 \times 10^{-15}$ (quanta $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$I_a \times 10^{-15}$ (quanta $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$d/dt[\text{COF}_2] \times 100$ (absorbance units $\text{min}^{-1}$ )		$d/dt[\text{COF}_2] \times 10^{-15}$ (molecules $\text{s}^{-1}$ )			$\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$
					At 1943	At 1943	Mean	
			At 1930	At 1943	$\text{cm}^{-1}$	$\text{cm}^{-1}$		
1	1.51	1.37	0.298	0.246	1.47	1.43	1.45	1.06
2	1.54	1.40	0.291	0.243	1.44	1.42	1.43	1.02
3	1.47	1.34	0.281	0.234	1.39	1.36	1.38	1.03
4	1.44	1.31	0.278	0.231	1.37	1.35	1.36	1.04
5	1.39	1.26	0.246	0.207	1.22	1.21	1.22	0.97

Baulch *et al.* [20]. The absorption is believed to involve an  $n-\sigma^*$  transition resulting in excitation to a repulsive electronic state, which immediately dissociates by breaking the C-Cl bond(s). It is energetically possible for a C-F bond to be broken at this wavelength since one photon of 184.9 nm light is equivalent to  $647.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ . However, the quantum yield of close to unity for  $\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$  obtained both in this work and in previous studies [14, 15] coupled with the fact that neither  $\text{COFCl}$  nor  $\text{COCl}_2$  was observed in the FTIR spectra are evidence that a C-F bond is not broken in the primary photolytic step.

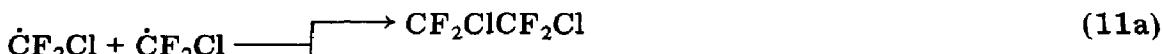
Pitts, Jr., and coworkers [15] and Milstein and Rowland [14] have previously investigated the photolysis of  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2-\text{O}_2$  mixtures at 184.9 nm and reported values for  $\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$  of  $1.15 \pm 0.15$  and  $1.11 \pm 0.05$  respectively. The latter value is the result of an indirect determination of the primary photo-product quantum yield as the  $\text{COF}_2$  was converted to  $\text{CO}_2$  on a chromatographic column before measurement. However, the results are in excellent agreement with the value obtained in this study ( $1.08 \pm 0.08$ ) using the *in situ* non-destructive FTIR technique for sampling. It is concluded that oxygen is a very efficient scavenger of  $\dot{\text{C}}\text{F}_2\text{Cl}$  radicals and that reactions such as



and



which would reduce  $\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$  from unity are absent. Combination-disproportionation reactions [21] of  $\dot{\text{C}}\text{F}_2\text{Cl}$  are probably also not important at the small concentrations of radicals present (less than  $10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ):





Several schemes have been proposed for the production in the atmosphere of  $\text{CF}_2\text{ClO}$  and  $\text{COF}_2$  from the proposed  $\text{CF}_2\text{ClOO}$  species, including reaction with  $\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{HO}_2$  radicals or  $\text{O}_3$  [22]. These are in addition to the self-reaction of two peroxy species proposed for laboratory studies (reaction (7)). No information about the stability of the oxy species is obtainable in the present static photolysis experiments but this is clearly a factor of some importance in the determination of total release rates of chlorine atoms in the atmosphere. In contrast, some dark and photochemical reactions of the  $\text{COF}_2$  end product were observable in this study. For example, the carbonyl fluoride calibration plot did not obey Beer's law unless the  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$  parent halocarbon had been dried over a molecular sieve. This was a result of the reaction



which leads to the formation of  $\text{CO}_2$  as observed in the FTIR spectrum. There was also some evidence for the photolysis of  $\text{COF}_2$  at 184.9 nm resulting in the production of  $\text{CO}$ . The absorption cross section of  $\text{COF}_2$  has been measured by Chou *et al.* [23] and presented by Baulch *et al.* [20] with a reported value of  $4.7 \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^2$  at 184.9 nm. On photolysis of  $\text{COF}_2$  at 50.0 Torr at this wavelength, a band centred at  $2143 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  with P and R branch structure was observed in the IR region and assigned to  $\text{CO}$ . This result is in agreement with the observation by Workman and Duncan [24] of the  $\text{CO } A^1\Pi \leftarrow X^1\Sigma^+$  UV absorption spectrum for vacuum UV photolysis of  $\text{COF}_2$ . Energetically possible primary photolytic steps at 184.9 nm and 298 K are



Reaction (13a) could be followed by the disproportionation of  $\text{F}\dot{\text{C}}\text{O}$  radicals to form  $\text{CO}$  via



#### 4.2. The $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$ photo-oxidation process

The absorption cross section of  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$  at 184.9 nm is calculated to be  $5.43 \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^2$  after the measurement of Fass and Willard [25]. The absorption is believed to involve an  $n-\sigma^*$  transition to a repulsive electronic state which immediately dissociates by breaking the C-Br bond. The standard enthalpy of the analogue of this process



is  $D_{298}^0(\text{Br}-\text{CF}_3)$  and its recommended value [26] is given as  $295.4 \pm 4.2 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ . Other photolytic steps to produce  $\text{BrF}$



or fluorine atoms

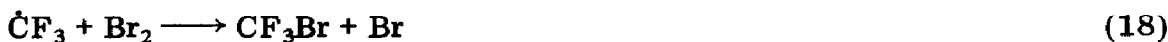


are considerably more endothermic than this value [18] but are energetically possible at 184.9 nm. Simons and Yarwood [27] reported only a faint absorption spectrum due to  $\cdot\text{CF}_2$  in the flash photolysis of  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$  at wavelengths much lower than 200 nm. Therefore it is likely that reactions (16a) and (16b) are at most minor channels at 184.9 nm.

The quantum yield of formation  $\Phi_{\text{COF}_2}^{184.9}$  of  $\text{COF}_2$  in the photo-oxidation of  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br}$  at 184.9 nm has been measured for the first time in this work and found to be  $1.02 \pm 0.08$ . Oxygen is clearly an efficient scavenger of  $\cdot\text{CF}_3$  radicals and reactions such as



and



are absent in this study. The data are consistent with the generally accepted mechanism for  $\cdot\text{CF}_3$  oxidation in laboratory studies given by Heicklen [3]:



Although reactions between  $\text{CF}_3\dot{\text{O}}$  and bromine cannot be ruled out, no IR evidence for the formation of  $\text{Br}_2\text{F}$  was obtained in this study:



## 5. Conclusion

FTIR spectroscopy has been applied to the quantitative analysis of two photochemical reactions of atmospheric interest in the gas phase. The results show that the quantum yields of  $\text{COF}_2$  production at 184.9 nm from  $\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{-O}_2$  and  $\text{CF}_3\text{Br-O}_2$  mixtures are approximately unity. An advantage of using FTIR spectroscopy for monitoring  $\text{COF}_2$  is that analysis is *in situ* and non-destructive, whereas  $\text{COF}_2$  is unstable on standard gas chromatographic columns.

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*Note added in proof.* Two reports have recently appeared regarding the existence of  $\text{CF}_3\dot{\text{O}}$ : L. Andrews, M. Hawkins and R. Withnall, *Inorg. Chem.*, **24** (1985) 4234; K. C. Clemitshaw and J. R. Sodeau, *Conf. Proc. of 5th Int. Meet. on Spectroscopy of Matrix-isolated Species, Fontevraud, 1985*.