Research Council of Canada for support in the form of operating grants (T.C. and W.G.L.) and to the Province of Alberta for a scholarship (J.B.). Particular thanks are extended to Dr. Jan Troup, Molecular Structure Corp., Texas, for the X-ray structure determination and to Dr. T. Ziegler for helpful discussions and the use of his computer programs.

Supplementary Material Available: A listing of structure factor amplitudes and a table of intermolecular contacts up to 4 Å (5 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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# Photolytic Separation of Carbon Isotopes in Cryogenic Solutions of Carbon Disulfide

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Abstract: We report the separation of carbon isotopes by photolysis of CS2 in cryogenic solutions of nitrogen, krypton, and argon with 206-nm light from an iodine resonance lamp. The spectral distribution of the ultraviolet absorption depends on solvent. Thus, in liquid nitrogen the photolytic rate of  ${}^{13}CS_2$  is greater than that of  ${}^{12}CS_2$ , whereas in liquid krypton and liquid argon the reverse is true.

## **Introduction**

Recent success in the separation of D from H in cryogenic solutions of formaldehyde in our laboratory<sup>1</sup> has stimulated interest in extending the technique to the separation of isotopes of other light elements.<sup>2</sup> The concurrent vapor-phase isotope separation of carbon isotopes from the low-pressure photolysis of CS<sub>2</sub> with light from an ArF laser,<sup>3</sup> the existence of predissociative states which give rise to well-defined vibronic structure in the region 185-215 nm,<sup>4-8</sup> and the availability of a convenient and powerful resonance lamp photolysis source<sup>6,9</sup> suggested that  $CS_2$  might be a suitable candidate for a liquid-phase separation.

In this paper we report the photolytic separation of carbon isotopes in cryogenic solutions of CS2 in nitrogen, krypton, and argon with 206-nm light from an iodine resonance lamp.

The ultraviolet absorption spectrum of carbon disulfide is

different in different solvents, so that the photodestruction rates of  ${}^{12}CS_2$  relative to  ${}^{13}CS_2$  can easily be varied.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Experimental Section**

The apparatus used for both the spectroscopy and the photochemistry experiments have been described in detail in ref 1. Ultraviolet absorption spectra were obtained with a Cary Model 17 spectrophotometer. Photolyses were performed in copper two-way cells. Corning 7940 UV filter material (4 mm thick) was used to pass UV light, and CaF<sub>2</sub> windows allowed simultaneous monitoring of the disappearance of CS2 with a Perkin-Elmer 180 infrared spectrophotometer. No attempt was made to monitor products.

The <sup>12</sup>CS<sub>2</sub> concentration was monitored through a 2.6-cm path length at 1531.1 cm<sup>-1</sup> ( $\sigma_{ir} = 1.63 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^2$ ) and the <sup>13</sup>CS<sub>2</sub> at  $1481.0 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\sigma_{ir} = 1.31 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^2$ ). These wavenumbers correspond to the collapsed and shifted  $\nu_3$  rotation-vibration band in liquid argon (LAr) at -170 °C.<sup>11</sup> Here the  $\sigma$ 's are the measured peak ab-

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**Figure 1.** Ultraviolet spectra of  ${}^{12}CS_2$  and  ${}^{13}CS_2$  dissolved in liquid nitrogen at -165 °C. The areas of the two curves are normalized to compensate for differences in quantity of material in solution. Approximately  $5 \times 10^{15}$  molecules/cm<sup>3</sup> are present in solution.  $\sigma_{\text{peak}} \sim 2.5 \times 10^{-16}$  cm<sup>2</sup>, which is very close to our measured gas-phase value for this quantity (cf. ref 4). The optical path length is 2.6 cm, and the spectral resolution is about 3 Å. The absorbance is defined to be log ( $I_0/I$ ), where  $I_0$  and I are the incident and transmitted light intensity, respectively.



**Figure 2.** Ultraviolet spectra of  ${}^{12}CS_2$  and  ${}^{13}CS_2$  dissolved in liquid krypton at -150 °C. The areas of the two curves are normalized to compensate for differences in quantity of material in solution. Approximately  $5 \times 10^{15}$  molecules/cm<sup>3</sup> are present in solution.  $\sigma_{peak} \sim 2.5 \times 10^{-16}$  cm<sup>2</sup>, which is very close to our measured gas-phase value for this quantity (cf. ref 4). The optical path length is 2.6 cm, and the spectral resolution is about 3 Å. The absorbance is defined to be log  $(I_0/I)$  where  $I_0$  and I are the incident and transmitted light intensity, respectively.

sorption cross sections at the wavenumbers quoted. All spectra were taken with a 1.5-s time constant at a scan speed of  $0.15 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  with an instrumental resolution of  $1.0 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The full width at half-maximum absorbance of the absorption features is about  $1.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Corresponding bands were used in LKr and LN<sub>2</sub>.

The  ${}^{12}CS_2$  (Matheson Coleman and Bell) and  ${}^{13}CS_2$  (Merck Sharp and Dohme) samples were cooled to liquid nitrogen temperature, pumped on, and warmed several times for purification. Commercial, high-purity Ar, Kr, and N<sub>2</sub> were used without further purification.

Solutions were prepared by sweeping measured quantities of gaseous CS<sub>2</sub> into partially filled cells of liquefied solvent with the gaseous solvent.<sup>1.2</sup> The cell is completely filled by liquefying additional solvent gas while vigorously stirring the solution by means of a Teflon-coated magnetic stirrer. In order to have sufficient solubility of the CS<sub>2</sub> in LN<sub>2</sub>, the cell was held at a temperature of -165 °C and a pressure of >12 400 Torr.

The iodine resonance lamp was constructed from a section of 0.6 cm diameter  $\times$  0.1 cm wall quartz tubing which was evacuated and flamed with a torch to remove adsorbed gases. The tube was vented, several iodine crystals were added, the tube was reevacuated to 10<sup>-4</sup> Torr, and the  $l_2$  was distilled under vacuum several times between hot and cold sections of the tube to remove water and other impurities;



**Figure 3.** Spectroscopic contrast ratio,  $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$ , for  ${}^{12}CS_2$  and  ${}^{13}CS_2$  in liquid argon at -170 °C as a function of wavelength.



**Figure 4.** Infrared absorbance  $[\ln (I_0/I)]$  vs. time during photolysis for a mixture of  ${}^{12}CS_2$  and  ${}^{13}CS_2$  in liquid argon at -170 °C. Peak absorbances of the 1531.1- and 1481.0-cm<sup>-1</sup> bands of  ${}^{12}CS_2$  and  ${}^{13}CS_2$ , respectively, are represented by  $\bullet$  and  $\blacksquare$ . The vertical dashed lines indicate times at which light from the iodine resonance lamp was admitted or excluded from the cell. The solid curves are extrapolations of the slow decreases in CS<sub>2</sub> concentration that occur where there is no photolyzing radiation.

the tube was then sealed. A Kiva Instrument Corp. microwave generator operated at 95 W of output power was coupled to an Evenson-type cavity. The iodine resonance lamp provided approximately 30 mW of power at 206 nm. Other lines of longer wavelength were present but could not contribute to the photolysis. Therefore, the spectral output of the lamp was utilized without dispersion. The lamp ran continuously for hours with little attention, but the power output was found to vary with time. Photolyses were, therefore, performed with mixtures of  ${}^{12}CS_2$  and  ${}^{13}CS_2$  to ensure that identical light fluxes reached both types of molecules.

## **Results and Discussion**

Figures 1 and 2 show the UV absorption spectra of  ${}^{12}CS_2$ and  ${}^{13}CS_2$  in LN<sub>2</sub> and LKr at -165 and -150 °C, respectively. These spectral absorptions, which are reported to arise from the  $\overline{A}{}^{1}B_2 \leftarrow \overline{X}{}^{1}\Sigma_g^{+}$  transition,<sup>4,5</sup> appear at longer wavelengths in LKr than they do in LN<sub>2</sub>.<sup>10</sup> Smaller shifts occur as a result of temperature changes.<sup>10</sup> The isotopic shifts are apparent in both figures as well.

Figure 3 shows the spectroscopic contrast ratio  $(\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13})$ for CS<sub>2</sub> in LAr at -170 °C as a function of wavelength. Here the  $\sigma$ 's are the measured absorption cross sections. Either  ${}^{13}CS_2$  or  ${}^{12}CS_2$  may be preferentially excited by choosing the appropriate wavelength for the photolyzing radiation. The infrared absorbances of  ${}^{12}CS_2$  are proportional to their

The infrared absorbances of  ${}^{12}CS_2$  are proportional to their concentrations and are plotted as functions of time in Figure 4. As the CS<sub>2</sub> is photolyzed, the number of ultraviolet photons

Spectroscopic Contrast Ratios<sup>a</sup> at 206 nm and Observed Ratios of Rates of Photolysis Table I.

	$k_{12}/k_{13}$	$\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$	Δ, <sup>с</sup> %	% photolyzed		photolysis <sup>d</sup>
solvent <sup>b</sup> temp, °C				<sup>12</sup> CS <sub>2</sub>	<sup>13</sup> CS <sub>2</sub>	time, s
-170	1.22	1.32	8	83	77	4846
-150	1.10	1.18	7	52	49	3915
-165	0.94	0.85	10°	70	72	678
	temp, °C -170 -150 -165	temp, °C $k_{12}/k_{13}$ $-170$ $1.22$ $-150$ $1.10$ $-165$ $0.94$	temp, °C $k_{12}/k_{13}$ $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$ -1701.221.32-1501.101.18-1650.940.85	temp, °C $k_{12}/k_{13}$ $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$ $\Delta$ , ° %-1701.221.328-1501.101.187-1650.940.8510e	temp, °C $k_{12}/k_{13}$ $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$ $\Delta$ , ° % $\frac{\% \text{ phot}}{^{12}\text{CS}_2}$ -1701.221.32883-1501.101.18752-1650.940.8510e70	temp, °C $k_{12}/k_{13}$ $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$ $\Delta$ , ° % $\frac{\% \text{ photolyzed}}{^{12}\text{CS}_2}$ -1701.221.3288377-1501.101.1875249-1650.940.8510e7072

<sup>a</sup>Contrast ratio is defined as the ratio of cross sections,  $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$ , at a single wavelength. <sup>b</sup>Approximately 5 × 10<sup>16</sup> molecules/cm<sup>3</sup> of each of  ${}^{12}CS_2$  and  ${}^{13}CS_2$  were dissolved in LAr and LKr and  $1 \times 10^{16}$  molecules/cm<sup>3</sup> in LN<sub>2</sub>.  ${}^{\circ}\Delta$  is the percentage difference between  $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$  and  $k_{12}/k_{13}$ .  $\Delta = 100 (\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13} - k_{12}/k_{13})/(\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13})$ . <sup>d</sup>Photolysis times varied dramatically depending on the condition of the resonance lamp. New lamps gave short irradiation times because of increased light flux. Here  $\Delta$  is the percentage difference between  $\sigma_{13}/\sigma_{12}$  and  $k_{13}/k_{12}$ .

absorbed changes, and so the plot of absorbance vs. time in Figure 4 is curved when the lamp is on. This curvature is found to be consistent with the assumption that the photolysis can be described by

$$dn_i/dt = -k_i \phi n_i \ (i = 12, 13) \tag{1}$$

where  $n_i$  is the number density of each  $^iCS_2$  species,  $k_i$  is a constant, and  $\phi$  is the photolyzing light flux at any point in space. The distribution of  $CS_2$  should be uniform within the cell, and so, if eq 1 is integrated over the cell's volume, V, one finds  $dN_i/dt = -K_iN_i$  where  $N_i = n_iV$  and  $K_i = k_i \int \phi \, dV$ . Thus,  $dN_{12}/dN_{13} = K_{12}N_{12}/K_{13}N_{13}$ , and

$$\frac{K_{12}}{K_{13}} = \frac{\ln \left(N_{12}/N^0_{12}\right)}{\ln \left(N_{13}/N^0_{13}\right)} = \frac{\ln \left(n_{12}/n^0_{12}\right)}{\ln \left(n_{13}/n^0_{13}\right)} = \frac{k_{12}}{k_{13}}$$
(2)

If  $n_i^0$  and  $n_i$  are now taken to be the number densities of  $i CS_2$ before and after photolysis,  $k_{12}/k_{13}$  may be obtained accurately despite the curvature in the plots of  $n_i$  vs. time. If isotopic scrambling reactions are unimportant and if the decomposition is unimolecular, then  $k_i \propto \sigma_i$ , where  $\sigma_i$  is the ultraviolet absorption cross section of  $^{i}CS_{2}$ .

Table I gives the values of  $k_{12}/k_{13}$  and of  $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$  at 206 nm. The values of  $k_{12}/k_{13}$  have been approximately corrected for the background disappearance of  $CS_2$  without photolysis. The extended straight lines in Figure 4 show this background decrease for one case. The background decrease is attributed to wall effects and is different for different runs, but it is equal for the two isotopic species. The estimated maximum uncertainty in  $k_{12}/k_{13}$  is  $\pm 3\%$ , so the results in Table I clearly indicate that photolytic enrichment of isotopically labeled CS<sub>2</sub> has occurred.

In Table I,  $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$  is seen to be 7-10% different than  $k_{12}/k_{13}$ . Since we estimate that  $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$  is known within  $\pm 5\%$ , the measured values of  $k_{12}/k_{13}$  are not quite within experimental error of  $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$ . The differences could be caused by isotopic scrambling reactions, by unrecognized systematic error in  $\sigma_{12}/\sigma_{13}$ , by differences in quantum efficiency for  ${}^{13}CS_2$  and  ${}^{12}CS_2$ , or by nonselective, photolyzing continuum radiation from the iodine lamp. (If such continuum radiation had totaled >5% of the 206-nm radiation, we would have detected it, however.)

The efficiency,  $\epsilon$ , with which absorbed photons are utilized in this photolysis is roughly  $10^{-3}$ . This number is equal to the number of molecules photolyzed divided by the total number of photons incident on the cell. Since not all of the incident photons were absorbed by the  $CS_2$ , the number is somewhat lower than the true quantum efficiency of the process, but

nevertheless the quantum efficiency in these solutions is considerably lower than that found in the photolysis of  $CS_2$ vapor.3

### Conclusions

We have demonstrated that photolysis of dissolved  $CS_2$  can significantly alter carbon isotope ratios in cryogenic solutions. Of special interest is the fact that, depending upon which cryogenic solvent is used, either  ${}^{12}CS_2$  or  ${}^{13}CS_2$  can be made to photolyze more rapidly for a given wavelength of photolyzing radiation. This occurs because the UV absorption spectrum of the  $CS_2$  shifts in wavelength with solvent, thereby changing the spectroscopic contrast ratio.

The slight curvature of the logarithm of the absorbance as a function of time can be explained by the changing optical density of the solution as the photolysis proceeds. The ratios of the measured photolysis rates are reasonably similar to the spectroscopic contrast ratios.

The poor photon utilization efficiency,  $\epsilon$ , does not augur well for an economical isotope enrichment process, unless a suitable scavenger and/or solvent can be found which will significantly increase  $\epsilon$ .

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