

Recombination versus Disproportionation Reactions of Hydrogen Atoms with ClCF₂CHF, ClC₂F₄, BrC₂H₄, BrC₂F₄, and BrCF₂CFBr Radicals and Unimolecular Reactions of the Haloethane Molecules from Recombination

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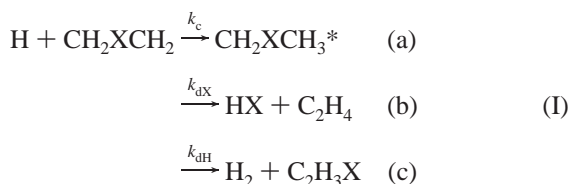
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The reactions of hydrogen atoms with the ClCF₂CHF, ClC₂F₄, BrC₂H₄, BrC₂F₄, and BrCF₂CFBr radicals have been studied at room temperature and 1 Torr pressure of Ar by an infrared chemiluminescence technique in a flow reactor. The H + CF₃CH₂ recombination reaction was also examined to provide a reference point to earlier experiments from this laboratory. The recombination step generates vibrationally excited molecules that undergo HX(X = Br, Cl, F) elimination at 1 Torr of pressure. The characteristic low vibrational excitation, $\langle f_v(\text{HX}) \rangle \approx 0.15$, with a monotonically declining distribution from unimolecular 1,2-HX elimination reactions versus $\langle f_v(\text{HX}) \rangle \approx 0.35$ with an inverted distribution from disproportionation, or direct halogen atom abstraction, reactions is used as a diagnostic test for recombination versus disproportionation mechanisms. Upon the basis of the observed HBr vibrational distributions, the H + BrC₂F₄ reaction has a small Br atom abstraction component that is superimposed upon the HBr vibrational distribution from unimolecular HBr elimination. The other reactions proceed only by a recombination–elimination mechanism. The multiple reaction channels, including C–Br rupture and 1,1-HX elimination as well as 1,2-HX elimination, of the haloethanes are discussed. The 1,1-HX elimination channel is important for the CF₂XCF₂H and CF₂XCFXH molecules. The H + PBr₃ reaction is discussed in an appendix.

Introduction

Recombination and disproportionation are well-established reaction channels for hydrocarbon radicals.^{1,2} The disproportionation-to-combination ratios, k_d/k_c , which have been measured for many radicals,^{1–7} are on the order of 0.1 to 0.3 for C₂–C₄ radicals and independent of temperature. The k_d/k_c values do depend on the nature of the radicals, as illustrated by the change in k_d/k_c from 0.14 to 0.30 for self-reactions of ethyl² and vinyl radicals.⁴ The k_d/k_c ratios also have been measured for many pairs of different radicals.¹ The disproportionation reactions of CF₂H radicals are interesting cases because the stability of the CF₂ product aids the transfer of H atoms.⁵ For cross-disproportionation reactions of CF₃⁶ or CH₃⁷ radicals with hydrocarbon radicals, the disproportionation channel can be viewed as the abstraction of hydrogen from a weak C–H bond of the hydrocarbon radical. Our main interest in this report is the reactions of hydrogen atoms with various halogenated ethyl radicals; the disproportionation channel includes halogen atom (X) abstraction as well as hydrogen atom abstraction.



The $D(\text{C–H})$ and $D(\text{C–X})$ bond energies for C₂H₄F (and C₂H₄Cl) are 45 (43) and 44 (20) kcal mol⁻¹, respectively. For most reactions involving hydrogen atoms with radicals, the recom-

bination step is the dominant reaction, and we have utilized these recombination reactions to prepare chemically activated CH₂XCH₃^{*} molecules in a flow reactor.^{8–10} The subsequent unimolecular HX elimination reactions were then studied by infrared chemiluminescence of the HX product.



Although the chemical products from direct halogen atom abstraction (Ib) and unimolecular elimination (II) are the same, the HX(ν) vibrational distributions are quite different *vide infra*, and these distributions can be used as a diagnostic test. The k_d/k_c values quoted in the early studies of H atoms with halocarbon radicals must be examined carefully because the HX product assigned to disproportionation¹¹ actually may have been produced by reaction II. As judged from the vibrational distributions, the recombination and halogen abstraction reactions by H atoms with NFCl¹² and CH₂CH₂Cl⁹ are competitive, and disproportionation channels are not always negligible. Although the k_d/k_c ratios for ethyl and *n*-propyl radicals with hydrogen atoms are very small (~ 0.05), other radicals have larger values. In fact, the H + *sec*-C₄H₉ reaction¹³ has a k_d/k_c ratio of 0.66 ± 0.08 , which is similar to that for *iso*-C₃H₇, and the k_d/k_c ratio for *tert*-C₄H₉ is reported¹ to be 3.7. The reactions of H atoms with CH₃O and CH₂OH seem to favor disproportionation.¹⁴ In the present work, we wish to report an investigation of the reactions of H atoms with five additional haloethyl radicals (CF₂ClCHF, CF₂ClCF₂, CH₂BrCH₂, CF₂BrCF₂, and CF₂BrCFBr). The C₂F₄Cl radical was chosen for comparison to C₂H₄Cl, and the C₂H₄Br and C₂F₄Br radicals were selected to complete the series of F-, Cl-, and Br-containing ethyl radicals.^{8,9} Reactions (Ia) release ~ 100 kcal mol⁻¹ of vibrational energy to the haloethane molecules, and they will undergo unimolecular decomposition at 1 Torr of pressure. In addition

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to 1,2-HBr, 1,2-HCl, and 1,2-HF elimination, the 1,1-HF elimination process can occur in some cases, and C–Br rupture also must be considered. The recently discovered 1,2-Cl–F exchange reactions^{15,16} of vibrationally excited chlorofluoroalkanes may be a complicating factor for the CF₂CICHF₂ and CF₂CICH₂F molecules, and this possibility is considered in the Discussion section. The experiments consist of the observation of the infrared chemiluminescence of the HX molecules to distinguish between reactions Ia and Ib. We collected no information about reaction Ic. The H + CF₃CH₂ reaction also was studied to provide a reference point to earlier work.^{8,9}

The recombination reactions of H atoms and OH radicals with small radicals have been utilized in our laboratory to generate several chemically activated molecules. The H atom systems usually employed secondary reactions from iodine-containing molecules (e.g., CH₂ClCH₂I and CH₂FCH₂I to generate C₂H₅Cl and C₂H₅F). For some cases, the hydrogen abstraction reactions of OH radicals were used as the source of the radicals. As judged from the product vibrational distributions, the recombination–elimination reactions were dominant for H atoms with CCl₃,⁹ CF₃,⁸ CF₂Cl,^{8,9} CH₂CH₂F,⁸ CH₂CF₃,⁸ C₂F₅,⁸ CH₂C(O)Cl,¹⁰ CH₂CH₂OH,¹⁷ CH₂C(O)OH,¹⁸ HCO,¹⁹ and CF₃O²⁰ and for OH radicals with CH₃CO and HCO.¹⁹ Recombination is favored in the reaction of OH with NH₂,²¹ but the reactions of O atoms with ethyl, *n*-propyl, and *i*-propyl radicals mainly proceed by direct abstraction, as judged by the OH vibrational distribution.²² Although the available data are neither extensive nor systematically acquired to answer this question, F and Cl atoms seem mainly to react with hydrocarbon radicals by recombination.^{1,23–26} Because recombination and disproportionation channels both have zero, or nearly zero, activation energy, the variation in k_d/k_c values apparently reflects subtle changes in potential energy surfaces that, when treated by transition-state theory,^{7c} can lead to different preexponential factors. These disproportionation reactions have similarities to hydrogen atom abstraction reactions that have small, or even negative, activation energies.^{27–29}

For reactions of haloethyl radicals, an additional complication is the nature of the CH₂XCH₂ radical as X changes from F to Cl to Br. In particular, the question of the “bridged” structure^{30–32} versus the classical radical structure may be important. The role of the bridged structure, which seems to become more important as X becomes heavier, also varies with the substitution of H by F atoms, and electronic structure considerations of the haloethyl radicals may provide some explanation for the disproportionation reactions of these radicals with H atoms or other radicals.

Experimental Methods

These experiments were conducted in the same linear, 40-cm-i.d. flow reactor that previously was employed to study unimolecular reactions of molecules activated by the recombination of radicals with H atoms.^{8–10,17–20} The haloethyl radicals were generated by adding the iodine-containing precursor molecule to a flow of H atoms in Ar carrier gas at room temperature. The H atoms were generated by a microwave (2450 MHz, 60 W) discharge in a 1% H₂ in Ar flow through a quartz tube. Several previous measurements have shown that the dissociation of H₂ is ~50% in this apparatus. The precursor reagent, also diluted in Ar, was added to the reactor via a four-arm showerhead assembly that was placed ~40 cm downstream from the entrance of the H/H₂ flow into the reactor. The infrared emission from the reactor was viewed through a 3-cm-diameter NaCl window by a Fourier transform spectrometer equipped with a liquid-N₂-cooled InSb detector. The spectrometer was

flushed continually with CO₂-free dry air. The center of the observation window was 2.5 cm downstream from the reagent inlet jets, which corresponds to a reaction time of ~0.2 ms before observation for the maximum flow velocity (120 m/s) of the Ar carrier gas. The reaction time could be lengthened by reducing the flow velocity with a throttling valve placed at the end of the linear flow reactor. The [H] is fully mixed with the Ar carrier during the transient time from the H₂ discharge to the reaction zone. However, the precursor reagent concentration is not fully homogeneous, even though the showerhead assembly was designed to enhance the mixing of the reagent with the Ar carrier gas.

The resolved vibrational–rotational emission spectra from HF, HCl, or HBr, which were acquired at 1–2-cm⁻¹ resolution, were subsequently corrected for the wavelength response of the detection system and converted to relative vibrational populations. A representative spectrum from the H + CF₂BrCF₂I reaction is shown in Figure 1; the vibrational–rotational lines are identified by the levels in the upper states. The heights of several P- and R-branch lines of a given vibrational band were divided by the Einstein coefficients of each rotational line to obtain relative vibrational–rotational populations. Because the rotational distributions in 0.5–1.0 Torr of Ar are 298 K Boltzmann, the population in a given rotational level can be scaled to the overall relative vibrational population. For the lowest possible Ar pressure and the shortest reaction time, weak emission from high rotational levels ($J \geq 10$) of HF can be observed from some reactions.^{8,20} In the experiments to be reported here, the HF channel was not of particular interest, and no attempt was made to search for a high rotational level component remaining from the nascent rotational distribution. Because we wish to compare relative concentrations of HF to HBr and HF to HCl, it is important to have reliable Einstein coefficients. The rotationless Einstein coefficients for the $\Delta v = -1$ transition of $v = 1-4$ are 194, 334, 423, and 458 s⁻¹ for HF,³⁶ 40.2, 70.0, 89.7, and 99.7 s⁻¹ for HCl,³⁶ and 7.2, 12.8, 16.6, and 18.9 s⁻¹ for HBr.³⁷ The Einstein coefficients for HF and HCl are based on computations using the best available experimental dipole functions, and these Einstein coefficients are very reliable for a wide range of v and J .³⁶ The Einstein coefficients for HBr were calculated in the same way, but the dipole function³⁸ is less well defined and these coefficients have greater uncertainty especially for $v = 3$ and 4. Because of the smaller Einstein coefficients, the emission from HBr is weaker than from HCl or HF; however, the detector is more sensitive at smaller wavenumbers, which provides some compensation for the smaller Einstein coefficients. Because HBr elimination is the main pathway for C₂H₅Br, CHF₂CF₂Br, and CHFBrCF₂-Br decomposition, the spectra (Figure 1) were adequate for analysis.

The ICF₂CF₂Br, ICFBrCF₂Br, ICF₂CF₂Cl, ICHFCF₂Cl, and ICH₂CF₃ reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers. We synthesized ICH₂CH₂Br by the Simpson procedure³⁹ in our laboratory. All samples were degassed and transferred to storage vessels on the vacuum line. Except for ICH₂CH₂Br and CF₂-BrCFBrI, the reagents were metered from 10-L storage vessels to the flow reactor as a dilute (10%) gas mixture in Ar. The melting point of CH₂BrCH₂I is 32 °C, and the Ar flow was passed over the liquid sample maintained at a constant temperature of ~50 °C. CF₂BrCFBrI also was added to the reactor by passing Ar over the heated liquid sample. The flow rates of CH₂BrCH₂I and CF₂BrCF₂I were determined by the loss in weight of the liquid samples for a fixed time. The concentrations of H₂, gaseous reagents, and Ar were determined from their

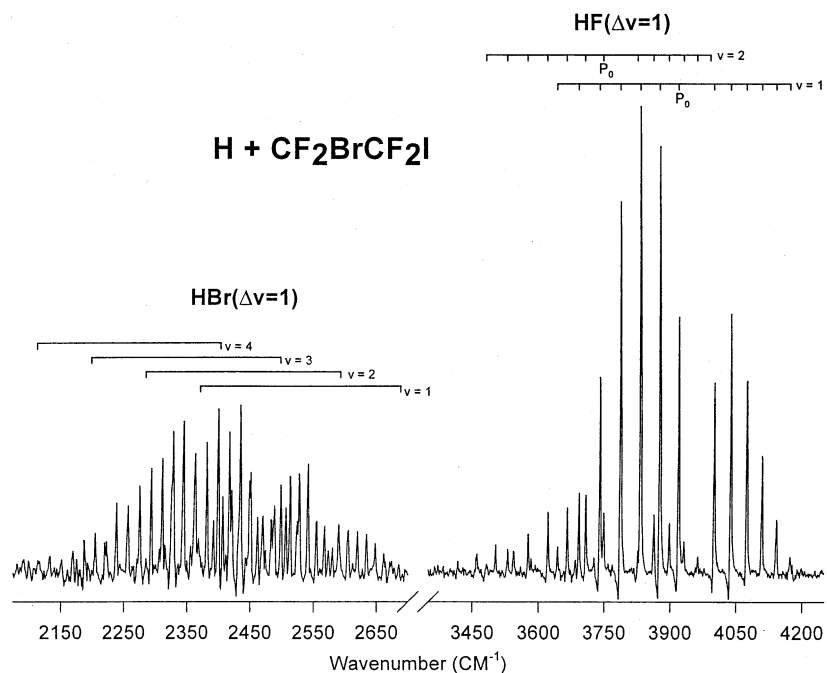


Figure 1. Representative emission spectrum from the $\text{H} + \text{CF}_2\text{BrCF}_2\text{I}$ reaction. The HF and HBr spectra have not been adjusted for the response of the detector, which increases in sensitivity by a factor of 2.2 from the 1–0 band of HF to the 1–0 band of HBr. The rotational lines are labeled by the rotational levels of the upper state.

TABLE 1: Thermochemistry^a

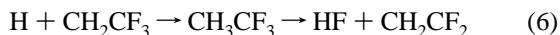
reaction	$\langle E \rangle^c$	unimolecular channel	E_0^b	ΔH_0°	$\langle E_{\text{av}} \rangle^b$
(1) $\text{H} + \text{CHF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}$	104 ^d	$\text{HCl} + \text{CHF}_2\text{CF}_2$	60 ^h	30	74
		$\text{HF} + \text{CHF}_2\text{CFCl}$	69 ^h	24	80
(2) $\text{H} + \text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}$	105 ^d	$\text{HCl} + \text{C}_2\text{F}_4$	60 ^h	36	69
		$\text{HF} + \text{CF}_2\text{CFCl}$	69 ^h	30	75
		$\text{HF} + \text{CFCF}_2\text{Cl}$	~65	~60	~45
(3) $\text{H} + \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Br}$	104 ^e	$\text{HBr} + \text{C}_2\text{H}_4$	52 ⁱ	17	87
		$\text{Br} + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$	69 ^g	69	35
(4) $\text{H} + \text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Br}$	103 ^f	$\text{HBr} + \text{C}_2\text{F}_4$	54 ⁱ	34	69
		$\text{HF} + \text{CFCF}_2\text{Br}$	~62	~57	~45
		$\text{HF} + \text{CF}_2\text{CFBr}$	66–68 ^h	26	77
		$\text{Br} + \text{C}_2\text{F}_4\text{H}$	68 ^g	68	35
(5) $\text{H} + \text{CFBrCF}_2\text{Br}$	103 ^f	$\text{HBr} + \text{CF}_2\text{CFBr}$	54 ⁱ	~25	~78
		$\text{HBr} + \text{CFBrCF}_2\text{Br}$	58–60	~53	~50
		$\text{HF} + \text{CFBrCFBr}$	66–68 ^h		
		$\text{HF} + \text{CBrCF}_2\text{Br}$?		
		$\text{Br} + \text{CHF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Br}$ (or CHFBrCF_2)	~66 ^g	~66	~37

^a All entries are in units of kcal mol^{-1} . ^b E_0 , ΔH_0° and $\langle E_{\text{av}} \rangle$ are the threshold energies, the enthalpies of reaction, and the available energy for each unimolecular channel, respectively. ^c $\langle E \rangle = D_0^\circ(\text{C-H}) + E_a + \langle E_{\text{thermal}} \rangle \approx D_0^\circ(\text{C-H}) + \frac{3}{2}RT + \langle E_{\text{vib}}(R) \rangle$ because $E_a \approx 0 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$. $\langle E_{\text{vib}} \rangle$ was taken to be 3.0 kcal mol^{-1} . These values have a ± 2 –3 kcal mol^{-1} uncertainty. ^d Taken from ref 41. ^e Assumed to be equal to $D(\text{H-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl})$; ref 44. ^f Assumed to be equal to $D(\text{H-CHF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cl})$; ref 41. ^g References 42 and 43; $D(\text{Br-CHF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Br})$ seems lower than $D(\text{Br-C}_2\text{H}_5)$; see ref 46. ^h Assigned by analogy to thermal activation studies of $\text{C}_2\text{F}_5\text{H}$ and $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ and chemical activation studies of $\text{CH}_3\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}$ and CH_3CFCl_2 ; see the text and refs 47–52. ⁱ See text. ^j References 53 and 54 and the text.

flow rates and the total pressure in the reactors. Flow rates were measured by calibrated flow meters.

Results

A. Thermochemistry. Before presenting the experimental results, a summary of the thermochemistry of reactions 1–5 is presented in Table 1. The thermochemistry of reaction 6



can be taken from ref 8, which gives the total vibrational energy, $\langle E \rangle$, as 109 kcal mol^{-1} , the unimolecular threshold energy, E_0 , as 68 kcal mol^{-1} , and the total available energy for the products, $\langle E_{\text{av}} \rangle = \langle E \rangle - \Delta H_0^\circ$, as 79 kcal mol^{-1} . The CH_3CF_3 unimolecular reaction has been treated by ab initio electronic structural calculations,⁴⁰ which provide insight into the transition-state model for 1,2-HF elimination.

The $D(\text{H-CF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cl})$ and $D(\text{H-CFHC}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cl})$ values were taken from ab initio calculations.⁴¹ These values are 2–3 kcal mol^{-1} lower than the $D(\text{H-CF}_2\text{CF}_3)$ and $D(\text{H-CHF}_2\text{CF}_3)$ values.^{42,43} $\langle E(\text{CHF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Br}) \rangle$ and $\langle E(\text{CHFBrCF}_2\text{Br}) \rangle$ were both assigned as 103 kcal mol^{-1} by analogy to reactions 1 and 2. The $D(\text{C-H})$ value for $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Br}$ was taken to be the same as the recently reported⁴⁴ value for $D(\text{H-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}) = 100 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$. The $D(\text{Br-C})$ values are equivalent to the threshold energies for the bromine atom dissociation reactions; the $D(\text{Br-C}_2\text{H}_5)$ ⁴³ and $D(\text{Br-CF}_2\text{CHF}_2)$ ⁴⁵ values are 68–69 kcal mol^{-1} . The C–Br dissociation energy for $\text{CHFBrCF}_2\text{Br}$ seems to be lower, and we selected 66 kcal mol^{-1} from an ab initio calculation.⁴⁶

The activation energies for HF elimination for all fluoroethanes have been measured⁴⁷ in shock-tube experiments, and the E_0 values for CF_3CHF_2 and $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ are in the range of 70–72 kcal mol^{-1} . The replacement of one F atom in the CF_3 group by a Cl atom may lower the HF-elimination threshold energy,^{48,49} and we have selected 69 kcal mol^{-1} for 1,2-HF elimination in reactions 1 and 2.

The threshold energies for HF and HCl elimination were assigned as 68 ± 2 and $55 \pm 2 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ by Holmes and co-workers^{48,49} from chemical activation studies of CH_3CFCl_2 and CH_3CClF_2 . Upon the basis of this analogy, the difference in threshold energies for HF and HCl elimination for reactions 1 and 2 should be $\geq 10 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$, and HCl elimination should be the dominant unimolecular pathway. However, halogen substitution on the CH_3 group tends to raise threshold energies,^{47,50} and E_0 for HCl elimination for reactions 1 and 2 may be higher than 55 kcal mol^{-1} . In anticipation of the experimental ratios of HF/HCl from reactions 1 and 2, we have increased

the E_0 for HCl elimination to 60 kcal mol⁻¹. The 1,1-HF elimination channel becomes important when two F atoms are on the carbon atom containing the H atom.^{51,52} This is a consequence of the stability of the singlet CF₃CF carbene, which lowers the enthalpy (and $E_0(1,1\text{-HX})$) of the reaction. For CHF₂CH₃ and CHCl₂CH₃, the threshold energies for the 1,1-HX channels were ~2 kcal mol⁻¹ higher than for the 1,2-HX elimination channels.^{51,52} However, for CF₃CF₂H and CF₂CICF₂H, the threshold energy for 1,1-HF elimination may be similar to or even lower than that for 1,2-HF elimination because the replacement of H atoms by F atoms in the CH₃ group raises the threshold energy for 1,2-HX elimination and lowers the threshold energy for 1,1-HF elimination. In anticipation of the experimental results, we selected $E_0(1,1\text{-HF})$ for CF₂CICF₂H to be 5 kcal mol⁻¹ higher than $E_0(1,2\text{-HCl})$ but lower than $E_0(1,2\text{-HF})$.

The threshold energy for HBr elimination^{53,54} from C₂H₅Br seems to be reliably established as 52 kcal mol⁻¹. The competing Br + C₂H₅ dissociation channel has a 17 kcal mol⁻¹ higher threshold energy. Chemical activation studies⁵⁴ show that HBr elimination is the main reaction pathway for C₂H₅Br molecules with an excitation energy of ~100 kcal mol⁻¹.

Fluorine substitution generally raises the $E_0(\text{HF})$ values for fluoroethanes.⁴⁷ The results are not quantitative, but $E_0(\text{HCl})$ for CH₂FCH₂Cl is higher than for CH₃CH₂Cl.⁵⁰ However, the effect of fluorine substitution on $E_0(\text{HCl})$ was much smaller for CH₃CF₂Cl and CH₃CFCl₂. It seems that $E_0(1,2\text{-HBr})$ for CF₂BrCHF₂ and CF₂BrCHFBr should be higher than for CH₃CH₂Br, and we have estimated 54 kcal mol⁻¹ in Table 1. The $E_0(1,1\text{-HBr})$ for reaction 5 is expected to be 4–6 kcal mol⁻¹ higher than $E_0(1,2\text{-HBr})$ elimination. The $E_0(1,2\text{-HF})$ values from CF₂BrCHF₂ and CF₂BrCHFBr were assumed to be slightly lower than for CF₂CICHF₂ and CF₂CICHF. Upon the basis of these estimates, the C–Br rupture channel should become competitive with 1,2-HF elimination for CF₂BrCF₂H and CF₂BrCFBrH because the threshold energies appear to be similar and the transition state for HF elimination has the smaller entropy of activation. The CO₂-laser excitation experiments with bromofluoroethanes^{46,55} certainly show evidence for the importance of C–Br rupture, although the level of vibrational excitation in the laser-pumping experiments generally cannot be specified.

The available energy, $\langle E_{\text{av}} \rangle$, released to the products can be calculated, $\langle E \rangle - \Delta H^\circ_{\text{r}}$, if the enthalpy of the reaction⁴³ is known. The available energy for C₂H₅Br is only about 5 kcal mol⁻¹ less than for C₂H₅Cl or C₂H₅F formed by H + CH₂CH₂X. The reactions giving C₂F₄ or C₂F₃X release ~20–15 kcal mol⁻¹ less energy than those reactions giving C₂H₄. The enthalpies of formation for CF₂CICFH₂ (–169.0 kcal mol⁻¹) and CF₂CICF₂H (–215.5 kcal mol⁻¹) from ab initio studies^{42b} were used to calculate $\Delta H^\circ_{\text{r}}$ for reactions 1 and 2. The enthalpy of formation of CF₂HCF₂Br (–200 kcal mol⁻¹) was obtained from $\Delta H^\circ_{\text{f}}(\text{CF}_2\text{HCF}_2)$ ⁴² and the (Br–CF₂CF₂H) bond dissociation energy.^{45a} The enthalpy of formation for CF₂BrCFBrH (~–142 kcal mol⁻¹) was estimated from $\Delta H^\circ_{\text{f}}(\text{CF}_2\text{BrCF}_2\text{H})$ using $D(\text{F}–\text{CFHCF}_2\text{Br}) = 115$ and $D(\text{Br}–\text{CFHCF}_2\text{Br}) = 66$ kcal mol⁻¹.

The enthalpies of reaction for the 1,1-HX elimination reactions are difficult to estimate because the enthalpies of formation of the CF₂XCF carbenes are not established. The estimates given for $\langle E_{\text{av}} \rangle$ in Table 1 were obtained from the E_0 values of 1,1-HF elimination by assuming that the threshold energy for the reverse reactions was 5 kcal mol⁻¹, which was the estimate for CF₃CH + HCl.⁵⁶ The $\langle E_{\text{av}} \rangle$ values for 1,1-HX

elimination are much smaller than for the 1,2-HF elimination reactions. The carbenes are unstable to F or X migration, and additional internal energy is released if the carbene rearranges to the olefin. The estimates for $\langle E_{\text{av}} \rangle$ in Table 1 can be compared with those for the C₂F₃H reaction using information from ab initio calculations for $\Delta H^\circ_{\text{f}}(\text{CF}_3\text{CF})$. The singlet state of CF₃CF is the ground state,⁵⁷ and the same trend is expected for CF₂CICF and CF₂BrCF. Ab initio calculations^{58,59} suggest that the $\Delta H^\circ_{\text{f}}(\text{CF}_3\text{CF})$ is ~–120 kcal mol⁻¹. With this value, the enthalpy of reaction for CF₃CF₂H is 78 kcal mol⁻¹, which is higher than the reported⁴⁷ activation energy of 71.6 kcal mol⁻¹. Nevertheless, the trend is in the right direction to support our claim of the importance of 1,1-HF elimination reactions of CF₂XCF₂H giving HF + CF₂XCF in competition with 1,2-HF elimination reactions.

B. HX Vibrational Distributions. B.1. CF₃CH₃(CF₃CH₂I). The H + CF₃CH₂I reaction was investigated to ensure that the new experiments were consistent with the earlier study of CF₃CH₃.⁸ CF₃CH₂I was added to the H/H₂ flow as a 10% mixture in Ar; the HF emission was strong for a reaction time of 0.3 ms, and the analysis of the spectra was straightforward. Data were collected for H₂ concentrations of (1–5) × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³ and for CF₃CH₂I concentrations of (0.3–12) × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³. The HF(ν) distributions were independent of the reagent concentrations in these ranges. The average distribution was P₁–P₄ = 49:33:15:5 for HF(ν) molecules with a 298 K Boltzmann rotational distribution ($J \leq 6$). This distribution can be compared to the earlier results⁸ of P₁–P₄ = 53:32:12:3. The lower P₁ component for the current data is a consequence of the neglect of the small contribution from high rotational levels, $J \geq 8$, to the $\nu = 1$ population in the present analysis. We conclude that the data from the two studies are in satisfactory agreement, and we can proceed to reactions 1–5 with confidence.

The HF($\nu = 0$) component of the distribution for the CF₃CH₃ reaction has been established by laser-gain measurements, and the experimental P₀ agrees with the value obtained by extrapolation from a linear surprisal analysis.⁸ The HF(ν) distribution from CF₃CH₃ together with the distribution from the CH₃CH₂F reaction (Table 4) provides a reference for HF vibrational distributions for 1,2-HF elimination. On the basis of these two examples and our confidence in the P₀ values,⁸ $\langle f_{\nu}(\text{HF}) \rangle = 0.14 \pm 0.02$ can be assigned for 1,2-HF elimination.

B.2. CF₂CICH₂F (CF₂CICHF₂). CF₂CICHF₂ was added to the reactor as a 10% mixture in Ar for a reaction time of 0.3 ms. Emission spectra were acquired for H₂ concentrations of (0.9–3.2) × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³ and CF₂CICHF₂ concentrations of (0.8–1.8) × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³. The HCl and HF emission spectra were both observed, and the analysis was straightforward since the rotational distributions were 298 K Boltzmann. The average distributions from 13 spectra are P₁–P₅ = 36:29:20:11:4 for HCl and P₁–P₄ = 50:31:14:5 for HF. Each vibrational component is based on the peak heights of four to five individual P- and R-branch rotational lines, except for the HCl($\nu = 5$) population for which only the 5P(0), 5P(1), and 5P(2) lines were observed. The uncertainties in the individual components of the HCl(ν) distribution from different spectra are illustrated by the results from experiments shown in Table 2, which have average uncertainties of about ±6%. These results and those to be shown in graphical form for reaction 2 are consistent with previous studies,^{8,9,20} which established that HCl(ν) relaxation was negligible for [H] ≤ (2.5–3.0) × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³. The HCl(ν) and HF(ν) relative populations were independent of the reagent concentra-

TABLE 2: Vibrational Distributions of HCl from Reaction 1

concentration of [H] ^a	HCl vibrational distribution				
	P ₁	P ₂	P ₃	P ₄	P ₅
1.9 × 10 ¹³	36.5	27.7	20.2	10.9	4.7
2.0 × 10 ¹³	33.4	29.6	20.6	12.4	4.0
2.4 × 10 ¹³	35.7	31.5	18.7	9.9	4.3
2.8 × 10 ¹³	35.1	30.4	20.2	9.8	4.4
2.9 × 10 ¹³	37.3	26.1	19.8	12.5	4.3
2.9 × 10 ¹³	35.2	28.4	20.2	12.1	4.1
3.3 × 10 ¹³	37.2	29.8	19.2	9.0	4.8
3.8 × 10 ¹³	33.2	29.9	21.7	10.3	4.9

^a In units of molecule cm⁻³; the CF₂CIClHF concentration was between 1.0 × 10¹³ and 1.89 × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³. ^b The HCl(*v* = 5) component is based on just three vibrational-rotational lines: 5P(0), 5P(1), and 5P(2).

TABLE 3: HX(*v*) Vibrational Distributions^a

molecule	HX	P ₀	P ₁	P ₂	P ₃	P ₄	P ₅	⟨ <i>f_v</i> (HX)⟩
(1) CF ₂ CIClFH ₂	HCl	36	29	20	11 ^b	4		
	HF	34	24	19	13	7	3	0.16
(2) CF ₂ CIClF ₂ H	HCl	41	29	19	8	2		0.14
	HF	43	30	17	7	3		0.12
(3) C ₂ H ₅ Br	HBr	62	31	5	2	trace		0.071 ^b
	HF	85	12	3	trace			
(4) CF ₂ BrCF ₂ H	HBr	39	28	22	8	3		0.089
	HF	33	38	22	7	trace		
(5) CF ₂ BrCHFBr ^c	HBr	25	25	29	16	5		0.18
	HF	62	31	5	2	trace		0.068 ^b
(5) CF ₂ BrCHFBr ^c	HBr	41	30	17	9	3		0.095
	HF	62	31	5	2	trace		0.068 ^b

^a The second line shows the renormalized distributions with P₀ assigned a value of 1.4 P₁ for the 1,2-elimination reactions and 2.0 P₁ for the 1,1-elimination reactions. The P₀(HBr) value for reaction 4 was assigned as P₀(HBr) = P₁(HBr); see the text. ^b The ⟨*f_v*(HX)⟩ values are based on the total available energy given in Table 1 for 1,2-HX elimination. Because 1,1-HF elimination, rather than 1,2-HF elimination, is dominant for CF₂CIClF₂H and CF₂BrCF₂H, the true ⟨*f_v*(HF)⟩ could be higher than listed. ^c The HF product was negligible; see the text.

tions, and the average distributions from these experiments are listed in Table 3 as nascent distributions. Very weak emission from HF(*v* = 5) could be observed in spectra with a high signal-to-noise ratio, but the *v* = 5 population is too low to assign. A comparison of the relative HF and HCl emission intensities shows that the HCl channel is dominant and that the ratio is HCl(*v* = 1–5)/HF(*v* = 1–4) = 3.4 ± 0.3.

The HF(*v* = 1–4) and HCl(*v* = 1–5) distributions from reaction 1 appear to be characteristic of 1,2-HX elimination from haloethanes, as judged by comparison to distributions from CH₃-CH₂F, CH₃CF₃, CH₃C(O)Cl, and CH₃CH₂Cl, in Table 4. Thus, we can conclude that the degree of direct Cl atom abstraction from the CF₂CIClHF radical must be minor relative to the recombination-elimination pathway.

B.3. CF₂CIClF₂H (CF₂CIClF₂I). A 10% mixture of CF₂CIClF₂I in Ar was added to the flow reactor for a reaction time of 0.3 ms. The CF₂CIClF₂I concentration was varied from 0.2 × 10¹³ to 2.5 × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³, and the H₂ concentration was varied from 0.5 × 10¹³ to 2.7 × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³. Emission was observed from both HCl(*v* = 1–4) and HF(*v* = 1–4). Emission probably exists from HCl(*v* = 5), but it was too weak to be included in the analysis. Some typical distributions are plotted versus [CF₂CIClF₂I] and [H] in Figure 2. The HCl(*v*) distributions in Figure 2 show no dependence on CF₂CIClF₂I concentration. The HCl(*v*) distributions for the [H] = 2.7 ×

TABLE 4: Characteristic HF and HCl Vibrational Distributions from Elimination Reactions

molecule	⟨ <i>E_{av}</i> ⟩ ^a	P ₀	P ₁	P ₂	P ₃	P ₄	P ₅	P ₆	⟨ <i>f_v</i> (HX)⟩ ^a
CH ₃ CH ₂ F ^b	91	37.2	25.6	19.4	11.8	4.3	1.7		0.15
CF ₃ CH ₃ ^b	79	43.0	30.2	18.2	6.8	1.7			0.13
CH ₃ CH ₂ Cl ^{b,d}	88	28.8	24.2	18.6	13.0	8.3	4.7	2.4	0.16
CH ₃ CH ₂ Cl ^c	64	29.9	27.3	20.3	15.4	7.1			0.18
CH ₃ C(O)Cl ^b	85	36.4	24.9	20.3	12.4	6.0			0.12
CF ₃ OH	116	32.0	33.0	21.0	13.0	7.0	4.0	trace	0.14
CF ₃ CF ₂ H ^{b,e}	67 ^e	68.0	26.6	4.5	0.8	0.1			0.064 ^e

^a In kcal mol⁻¹ units for 1,2-HX elimination. The distributions were taken from refs 8–10 and 20. ^b Molecule activated by the recombination of haloethyl radicals with H atoms. ^c Molecule activated by the recombination of Cl atoms with ethyl radicals. ^d This distribution for HCl elimination was estimated by the deconvolution of the Cl atom abstraction component from the experimental distribution of the H + CH₃CIClH₂ reaction. ^e The unimolecular reaction probably is 1,1-HF elimination, for which the energy available to the HF + CF₃CF product is ~45 kcal mol⁻¹. ⟨*f_v*(HF)⟩ would increase to ~0.10 for the thermochemistry of 1,1-HF elimination.

10¹³ experiments show a slight loss of population from *v* ≥ 2. Based upon analysis of 8 spectra with [H] ≤ 1.7 × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³, the average distributions (with the statistical uncertainties) are P₁–P₄ = 52 ± 2.0:30 ± 1.3:13 ± 0.6:5 ± 0.2 for HCl and P₁–P₃ = 85 ± 2:12 ± 1:3 ± 0.5 for HF. The relative HCl and HF emission intensities gave an average HCl(*v* = 1–4)/HF(*v* = 1–3) ratio of 1.3 ± 0.2 from CF₂CIClF₂H.

The HCl(*v*) distribution from CF₂CIClF₂H, P₁–P₅ = 52:30:13:5:trace, is consistent with that expected for 1,2-HCl elimination. This HCl(*v*) distribution provides no support for direct Cl atom abstraction from CF₂CIClF₂. The HF(*v*) distribution, P₁–P₃ = 85:12:3, is more heavily weighted toward HF(*v* = 1) than a typical 1,2-HF elimination reaction and, it closely resembles the HF(*v*) distribution from C₂F₅H shown in Table 4. In both cases, the HF(*v*) distribution could be the sum from both 1,1-HF and 1,2-HF elimination. The reduced HCl/HF ratio, relative to CF₂CIClFH₂, suggests that the *E₀* for 1,1-HF elimination is significantly lower than for 1,2-HF elimination from CF₂-CIClFH₂. The greater importance of 1,1-HF elimination could arise from a higher *E₀* for 1,2-HF elimination for CF₂CIClF₂H than for CF₂CIClFH₂, as well as a reduced *E₀* for 1,1-HF elimination from CF₂CIClF₂H. A lower *E₀* for 1,1-HF elimination is consistent with the expected thermochemistry for the singlet states of CF₃CF vs CF₃CH.^{57–59}

B-4. C₂H₅Br (CH₂BrCH₂I). Because reactions giving HBr have not been studied in this particular reactor, 30 spectra were acquired and analyzed for different operating conditions and two different preparations of CH₂BrCH₂I. The CH₂BrCH₂I was metered to the reactor by flowing Ar over the liquid sample heated to 50 °C. Experiments were done for [H₂] = 0.3–4.5 × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³ and [CH₂BrCH₂I] ≈ 6 ± 2 × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³ with an Ar pressure of 1 Torr and a reaction time of 0.3–0.4 ms. The [CH₂BrCH₂I] are only estimates, because they were measured from weight loss of the sample after several spectra were collected. Because the sensitivity of the detector increases in the HBr emission range, 2700–2250 cm⁻¹, relative to the response for the HCl and HF spectra, the HBr emission was moderately strong. However, several of the emission lines are overlapped and only selected P- and R-branch lines from each *v* level could be used to obtain the vibrational distribution. The *v* = 4 component is based on only 3–4 P-branch lines and the P₄ component has considerable uncertainty.

The HBr spectra are somewhat surprising in that the *v* = 1 and 2 bands are much stronger than the *v* = 3 and 4 bands,

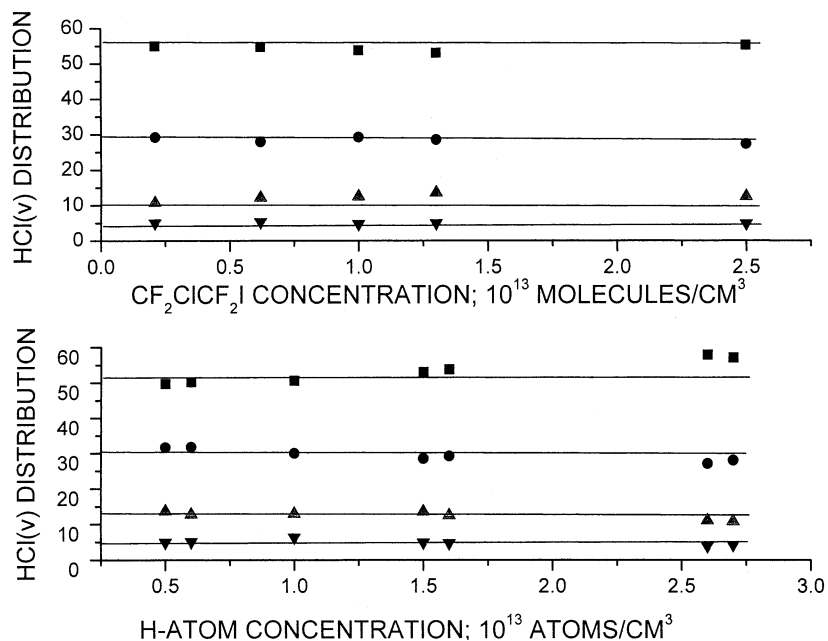


Figure 2. Plot of $\text{HCl}(v)$ distributions (\blacksquare , $v = 1$; \bullet , $v = 2$; \blacktriangle , $v = 3$; \blacktriangledown , $v = 4$) from various experiments with the $\text{H} + \text{CF}_2\text{ClCF}_2\text{I}$ reaction vs the $\text{CF}_2\text{ClCF}_2\text{I}$ and H atom concentrations. For the $\text{CF}_2\text{ClCF}_2\text{I}$ plot, $[\text{H}]$ was 1.6×10^{13} atoms cm^{-3} . For the H atom plot, $[\text{CF}_2\text{ClCF}_2\text{I}]$ was $(1.0 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{13}$ molecules cm^{-3} .

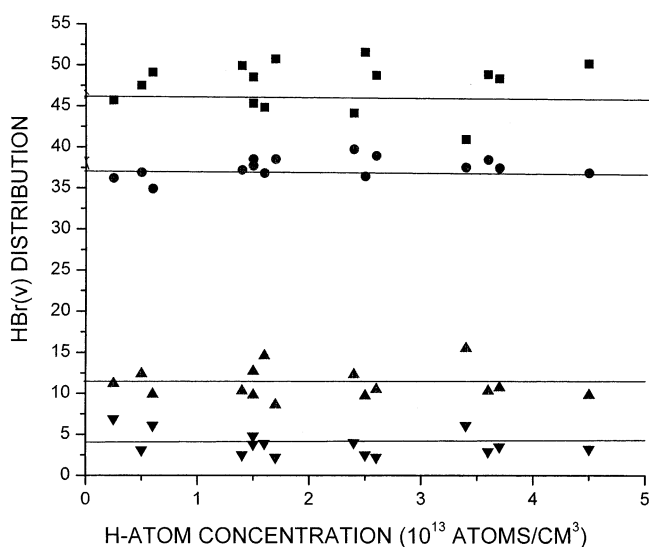


Figure 3. Plot of the $\text{HBr}(v)$ distributions vs H atom concentrations for the $\text{H} + \text{CH}_2\text{BrCH}_2\text{I}$ reaction (\blacksquare , $v = 1$; \bullet , $v = 2$; \blacktriangle , $v = 3$; \blacktriangledown , $v = 4$). The $\text{CH}_2\text{Br}-\text{CH}_2\text{I}$ concentration was approximately constant for the experiments. The lines represent the choice for the best overall distribution.

even though the sensitivity of the detector increases by a factor of 2 from the R-branch of $v = 1$ to the P-branch of $v = 4$. However, this trend was true for all spectra and no evidence was found for fast relaxation of $v = 3$. Based upon results from our much earlier study³⁷ of the $\text{H} + \text{Br}_2$ reaction, the most important cause of vibrational relaxation of $\text{HBr}(v)$ is the $[\text{H}]$. Several of the $\text{HBr}(v)$ distributions are plotted vs $[\text{H}]$ in Figure 3. There is no systematic evidence for significant vibrational relaxation for experiments with $[\text{H}]$ below 3×10^{13} molecules cm^{-3} , although the ratio of P_1/P_2 has more scatter, without a systematic dependence on $[\text{H}]$, than would be expected from the quality of the spectra. The best overall $\text{HBr}(v)$ distribution selected from the data of Figure 3 is $P_1-P_4 = 46:37:13:4$. Contrary to expectations based on the $\text{H} + \text{CH}_2\text{ClCH}_2$ or CH_2-

FCH_2 reactions, the HBr distribution does not extend to levels beyond $v = 4$, even though $\text{HBr}(v = 4)$ corresponds only to $f_V = 0.33$. The decline in the $\text{HBr}(v = 3)$ population, relative to $\text{HBr}(v = 2)$, somewhat resembles the trend in the $\text{HF}(v)$ distribution from CF_3CH_3 ; see Table 4.

As an additional check on vibrational relaxation of the $\text{HBr}(v)$ distribution in this reactor, experiments were done with $\text{H} + \text{PBr}_3$ reaction; see the appendix. Because the emission is from a primary reaction and since PBr_3 is commercially available, experiments at low $[\text{H}]$ were more convenient. Those results are consistent with little or no relaxation for $[\text{H}] \leq 2 \times 10^{13}$ molecules cm^{-3} .

In principle, the primary reaction with $\text{CH}_2\text{BrCH}_2\text{I}$ could include Br atom abstraction as well as I atom abstraction. The thermochemical limit would be $\text{HBr}(v = 2)$ for Br abstraction. In previous studies⁹ with CCl_3Br , CF_2ClBr and $\text{CH}_2\text{ClCH}_2\text{Br}$ only $\text{HBr}(v = 1)$ could be observed from direct Br atom abstraction by the primary reaction. If Br abstraction from $\text{CH}_2\text{-BrCH}_2\text{I}$ was important, the $\text{HBr}(v)$ distribution should change with $[\text{H}]$, since the component from the $\text{H} + \text{CH}_2\text{BrCH}_2$ reaction would be second-order in $[\text{H}]$, and the primary abstraction would be first-order. The I atom abstraction rate constant⁶⁰ for $\text{CH}_3\text{-CH}_2\text{I}$ at 298 K is 1.0×10^{-11} cm^3 molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹, and the Br atom abstraction rate constant is ≈ 20 times smaller.⁶¹ Thus, the observed HBr emission seems to be associated only with reaction 3. The only caveat for the experiments is the higher than desirable concentration of $\text{CH}_2\text{BrCH}_2\text{I}$. Although it should not be extensive, some relaxation of $v = 3$ and 4 may have occurred. However, this degree of relaxation cannot alter the conclusion that the $\text{H} + \text{CH}_2\text{BrCH}_2$ reaction mainly proceeds by an addition-elimination mechanism.

B-5. $\text{CF}_2\text{BrCF}_2\text{H}$ ($\text{CF}_2\text{BrCF}_2\text{I}$). A gaseous mixture of 10% $\text{CF}_2\text{BrCF}_2\text{I}$ was added to the flow reactor. The total pressure was 1 Torr, the reaction time was 0.3–0.4 ms, the $[\text{H}]$ was varied from 0.5 to 4.5×10^{13} molecules cm^{-3} and the $[\text{CF}_2\text{-BrCF}_2\text{I}]$ range was $0.5\text{--}3.0 \times 10^{13}$ molecules cm^{-3} . Emission spectra were recorded from both HF and HBr for 20 experiments. The HBr spectra are very different in appearance from

the spectra of reaction 3 with emission from $v = 3$ being strong and that from $v = 1$ being relatively weak, as illustrated in Figure 1.

The HF spectra were easy to analyze because most of the emission was from $v = 1$. The average HF(v) distribution was $P_{1-4} = 85:12:3:\text{trace}$; this distribution is very similar to those from $\text{CF}_2\text{ClCF}_2\text{H}$ and $\text{CF}_3\text{CF}_2\text{H}$. The implication is that 1,1-HF elimination is responsible for the HF(v) distribution in all three cases.

The HBr emission was strong except for the experiments with $[\text{H}] = 0.5 \times 10^{13}$ molecules cm^{-3} . Relative populations were assigned for $v = 1-4$ and weak emission was also observed from $v = 5$. The HBr(v) distribution showed no dependence on $[\text{CF}_2\text{BrCF}_2\text{I}]$ concentration; however, the relative populations in $v = 1$ and $v = 2$ may have a very weak dependence on $[\text{H}]$. The average HBr(v) distribution from 13 experiments with $[\text{H}] \leq 2.5 \times 10^{13}$ cm^{-3} was $P_{1-4} = 33 \pm 2:38 \pm 2:22 \pm 1:7 \pm 1$ with a trace from $v = 5$. If the $[\text{H}] = 0.5 \times 10^{13}$ molecules cm^{-3} results (4 experiments) are considered alone, the distribution is $P_{1-4} = 32:38:23:9$ with $\pm 10\%$ uncertainty in each component. The $\text{H} + \text{C}_2\text{F}_4\text{Br}$ reaction does seem to give a HBr(v) distribution that has a slight inversion for $v = 2$.

The average ratio of HBr ($v = 1-4$)/HF($v = 1-4$) was 5.3 ± 1.0 from spectra obtained for $[\text{H}] = 1.5-3.5 \times 10^{13}$ molecule cm^{-3} . Some of the HF spectra had poor line shapes and this may contribute to the uncertainty of the ratio. The $[\text{H}] = 0.5 \times 10^{13}$ molecules cm^{-3} data were not included in the calculation of this ratio because of the noise in the HBr spectra.

B-6. $\text{CF}_2\text{BrCFBrH}$ ($\text{CF}_2\text{BrCFBrI}$). Because of the limited sample, only three experiments were done with $\text{CF}_2\text{BrCFBrI}$. The vapor pressure is low and Ar was passed over the liquid sample to obtain a concentration of 1.6×10^{13} molecules cm^{-3} for $[\text{H}] = (2-4) \times 10^{13}$ molecule cm^{-3} and a reaction time of 0.3 ms. The HBr emission was strong and the HBr distribution was $P_{1-4} = 51:29:16:4$. For these conditions, the HF emission was essentially absent. If the time and concentrations were doubled, very weak HF emission from $v = 1$ could be observed, but the HBr emission was still more than 100 times more intense than the HF emission. The virtual absence of HF elimination is consistent with 1,2-HBr elimination and perhaps a small 1,1-HBr elimination component being the important unimolecular reactions, because these E_0 values are lower than those for HF elimination from the $\text{CF}_2\text{BrCFBrH}$ molecule.

A new observation for an experiment with 1.7 ms reaction time was emission from $\text{Br}(^2P_{1/2}-^2P_{3/2})$ at 3685 cm^{-1} . The excited Br atom probably is formed by vibrational-to-electronic excitation with $\text{HBr}(v = 2)$.³⁷ The increase in reaction time and the HBr(v) concentration enables the Br^* to be observed. The observation suggests that dissociation of $\text{CF}_2\text{BrCFBrH}$ to Br and CF_2CFBrH or CF_2BrCFH may be competitive with HBr elimination. The increase in reaction time and the HBr(v) concentration enables Br^* to be observed.

Discussion

A. Disproportionation vs Recombination for Reactions 1-5. The principal objective of this work was to search for other examples besides the $\text{H} + \text{CH}_2\text{ClCH}_2$ reaction that had a disproportionation (or halogen atom abstraction) component. Our criterion was the HX vibrational distributions, which are sharply inverted with $\langle f_v(\text{HX}) \rangle \approx 0.35$ for direct, bimolecular, halogen atom abstraction reactions and monotonically declining with $\langle f_v(\text{HX}) \rangle \approx 0.15$ for 1,2-HX unimolecular elimination reactions. A recent combined ab initio electronic-structure plus quasi-classical trajectory treatment⁶² for the unimolecular $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$

reaction confirms the dynamical model previously proposed^{8,17,20} to explain the energy disposal pattern of 1,2-HX elimination reactions. This calculation⁶² provides support for the claim of a rather generic HX(v) distribution from unimolecular 1,2-HX elimination reactions. Based upon the less extended HF(v) distributions from $\text{CF}_3\text{CF}_2\text{H}$ and the two molecules investigated here, $\text{CF}_2\text{ClCF}_2\text{H}$ and $\text{CF}_2\text{BrCF}_2\text{H}$, which correspond to a 2-fold lower $\langle f_v(\text{XH}) \rangle$ relative to 1,2-HF elimination, as well as the thermochemical arguments regarding CF_3CF , we suggest that 1,1-HF elimination is the dominant process for these reactions. Of course, if the $\langle E_{\text{av}} \rangle$ for 1,1-HF elimination is used, then the $\langle f_v(\text{HF}) \rangle$ values would increase.

To calculate the average vibrational energy released to HX, $\langle f_v(\text{HX}) \rangle$, the P_0 components of the distribution must be assigned. We have used the trends of the more completely studied reactions in Table 4, which suggest $P_0 = 1.4 P_1$ for 1,2-HX elimination processes and $P_0 = 2.0 P_1$ for 1,1-HF elimination reactions. Estimating the P_0 for HBr(v) from $\text{H} + \text{CF}_2\text{BrCF}_2$ is more difficult because both abstraction and addition-elimination probably occur. In this case we assumed $P_0 = P_1$. The $\langle f_v(\text{HX}) \rangle$ values are given in the last column of Table 4 for the $\langle E_{\text{av}} \rangle$ corresponding to 1,2-HX elimination. The $\langle f_v(\text{HX}) \rangle$ values are more sensitive to the estimate made for $P_0(\text{HX})$ and to the uncertainty in $\langle E_{\text{av}} \rangle$ than to the uncertainties in the measured distributions. The $\langle f_v(\text{HF}) \rangle$ values for reactions 2 and 4 listed in Table 3 would increase by approximately a factor of 3 if the $\langle E_{\text{av}} \rangle$ for 1,1-HF elimination were used.

Of the 5 reactions studied, only the HBr(v) distribution from $\text{H} + \text{CF}_2\text{BrCF}_2$ suggests the existence of a measurable ($\geq 15\%$) component for abstraction. Without more reliable examples of the distributions from HBr elimination and Br abstraction reactions, we will not attempt to estimate a branching fraction for abstraction. The $\text{H} + \text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Cl}$ and $\text{H} + \text{C}_2\text{F}_4\text{Br}$ systems have, at least, one property in common which may explain their propensity to abstraction; the $D(\text{Br}-\text{C}_2\text{F}_4)$ ³⁵ and $D(\text{Cl}-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)$ ^{33,34} are both approximately 20 kcal mol^{-1} . Both radicals have classical nonbridged structures, although the Cl atom can shuttle between the two carbon centers of $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Cl}$ at room temperature.^{32,34}

Based upon the small $D(\text{Br}-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)$ value,³² $\approx 8.4 \pm 2.2$ kcal mol^{-1} , we had anticipated that the $\text{H} + \text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Br}$ reaction would have an abstraction component. However, the HBr(v) distribution from reaction 3 suggest that this is not the case. A possible explanation for the lack of abstraction is the nonclassical, symmetrically bridged structure of the $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Br}$ radical, which results in a delocalization of the unpaired electron³² that could aid the recombination step. The low bond-dissociation energy implies that $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Br}$ is not thermally stable at 300 K. Although an energy barrier to dissociation could exist, this seems unlikely.^{33,34} The reason that we can observe the recombination reaction between H atoms and $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Br}$ at 300 K is the low pressure of Ar and the short reaction time in the reactor. The rate of the unimolecular dissociation of $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Br}$ will be limited by collisional activation, i.e., the unimolecular dissociation reaction is far into the falloff regime.

The $\text{H} + \text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Cl}$ reaction mainly proceeds by recombination, even though $D(\text{Cl}-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2)$ ¹⁰ is very similar to $D(\text{Cl}-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)$. This difference could be related to the delocalization of the unpaired electron over the $\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Cl}$ structure and, thus, BrC_2H_4 and $\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Cl}$ reactions may have something in common. Comparison of the half-filled molecular orbitals of CH_3ClCH_2 and $\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Cl}$ shows that the electron density on Cl is much higher for CH_2ClCH_2 than for $\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Cl}$.^{10b} Reports of disproportionation reactions of CH_2ClCH_2 with itself

and other radicals are somewhat inconclusive, but both H and Cl transfer does occur.¹

The C_2F_4Cl and CF_2ClCHF radicals have higher C–Cl bond-dissociation energies (≈ 30 kcal mol⁻¹) than C_2H_4Cl . The calculation³⁵ for C_2F_4Cl did not find a minimum energy corresponding a stable bridged structure, and these radicals have classical structures. Abstraction of Cl atoms was not found and, in retrospect, would not be expected.

Considering the limited number of experiments, conclusions about the H + $CF_2BrCFBr$ reaction are tentative. Nevertheless, the $HBr(\nu)$ distribution resembles the one from H + C_2H_4Br rather than the one from H + C_2F_4Br , and recombination followed by HBr elimination seems dominant. The thermochemical estimates given in Table 1 suggest that $D(Br-C_2F_3-Br) \approx 10$ kcal mol⁻¹. Additional information about the structure of the $CF_2BrCFBr$ radical, including the possibility of isomerization, would be useful.

B. Competitive Unimolecular Reactions. The recombination step of reactions 1–5 generate vibrationally excited molecules with more than one unimolecular decomposition pathway, and the infrared emission data provide some information about the importance of different channels. The infrared emission from CF_2ClCH_2F is definitive for the importance of 1,2-HF and 1,2-HCl elimination pathways. The ratio of $HCl(\nu \geq 0)/HF(\nu \geq 0)$ is 3.0 ± 0.3 after adjustment of the measured ratio for the $\nu = 0$ components. Because the reaction-path degeneracy is 2-fold larger for HF formation, the branching ratio per Cl or F atom is 6. Inspection of RRKM calculations with variable threshold energies for HX elimination reactions of several haloethane molecules^{40,48,49,51,64} suggests that the threshold energy for HF elimination must be 6–8 kcal mol⁻¹ higher than for HCl elimination to achieve this branching ratio. This difference is approximately 1/2 the difference in $E_0(HF) - E_0(HCl)$ reported by Holmes and co-workers for CF_2ClCH_3 and $CFCl_2CH_3$.^{48,49} This analysis must be expanded to include the possibility of Cl–F exchange, which would give the CF_3CH_2Cl molecule.^{17,64} The isomerization is 10 kcal mol⁻¹ exoergic; however, the only important decomposition pathway for CF_3CH_2Cl is 1,2-HF elimination. Thus, even if ClF exchange competes with 1,2-HCl elimination from CF_2Cl-CH_2F , interpretation of the infrared chemiluminescence data would be basically unchanged.

Interpretation of the results for CF_2ClCF_2H is less straightforward. Adjustment of the $HCl(\nu \geq 1)/HF(\nu > 1) = 1.3$ ratio for the $\nu = 0$ components gives a total HCl/HF ratio of ≈ 0.8 , and the reaction probabilities must be approximately equal for the two channels. We already have argued that the $HF(\nu)$ distribution from reaction 2 is consistent with 1,1-HF elimination, which would have a 2-fold higher reaction path degeneracy than the 1,2-HCl elimination channel. Thus, the branching ratio per Cl and F atom would be ≈ 1.6 in favor of HCl elimination. This ratio implies that $E_0(1,1-HF)$ is 3–4 kcal mol⁻¹ higher than $E_0(1,2-HCl)$ with recognition that the entropy of the transition state for 1,1-HX elimination is larger than for 1,2-HX elimination. A corollary to this conclusion is that $E_0(1,2-HF)$ must be 8–10 kcal mol⁻¹ higher than $E_0(1,2-HCl)$, since 1,2-HF elimination is minor. Thus, the substitution of F for H in CF_2ClCFH_2 seems to increase the $E_0(1,2-HF)$. The Cl–F exchange for reaction CF_2ClCHF_2 , which has not been studied, would generate CF_3CHFCl . The major unimolecular pathway for CF_3CHFCl is expected⁶⁴ to be 1,1-HCl elimination. Indeed, the measured HCl distribution from the CF_2ClCF_2H system may favor $P_1(HCl)$ relative to reaction 1, and a small 1,1-HCl component may exist for reaction 2. The HF distribution does not support 1,2-HF elimination from either CF_3CHClF or from

$CF_2Cl-CHF_2$. In conclusion, the major reactions for the CF_2ClCFH_2 system seem to be 1,2-HCl elimination and 1,1-HF elimination from CF_2ClCFH_2 .

The competition for the unimolecular decomposition of C_2H_5Br is between HBr elimination and Br atom dissociation. As already mentioned, HBr elimination^{53,54} with $E_0 = 52$ kcal mol⁻¹ is dominant for a vibrational energy of 100 kcal mol⁻¹.

The competitive channels for CF_2BrCF_2H include 1,2-HBr, 1,1-HF and 1,2-HF elimination plus Br atom dissociation. The infrared emission data identify 1,2-HBr and 1,1-HF elimination as the major channels. If we ignore the contribution to HBr formation from Br abstraction from C_2F_4Br , then $HBr(\nu \geq 1)/HF(\nu \geq 1) = 5.3 \pm 1.0$ becomes ~ 2.7 after adjustment for the $\nu = 0$ components. Because two fluorine atoms can participate, the HBr/HF ratio is ~ 5.4 per Br and F atom. $E_0(1,1-HF)$ must be 6–8 kcal mol⁻¹ larger than $E_0(1,2-HBr)$, with $E_0(1,2-HF)$ being more than 10 kcal mol⁻¹ higher than $E_0(1,2-HBr)$. If $E_0(1,2-HBr)$ is substantially larger than 54 kcal mol⁻¹, then Br atom rupture could be a competitive pathway.

The $HBr(\nu)$ distribution implies that 1,2-HBr elimination is dominant for reaction 5. However, a small contribution from 1,1-HBr elimination cannot be excluded. The actual $E_0(1,2-HBr)$ value is not known for either reaction 4 or 5. The 1,1-HF elimination process is not competitive because the CF_2BrCBr singlet carbene + HF channel has a larger positive enthalpy of reaction than does the $CFBr_2CF + HBr$ channel. The Br^* emission does identify Br atoms in the H + $CF_2BrCFBr$ system. If $E_0(1,2-HBr)$ is higher than 54 kcal mol⁻¹, then the Br atom rupture process from $CF_2BrCFBrH$ may be important, although the presence of Br atoms in the reactor from the dissociation of $Br-CF_2CFBr$ cannot be excluded.

Conclusions

Reactions of five haloethyl radicals with H atoms have been studied by the infrared chemiluminescence method in a flow reactor at 298 K. Upon the basis of the HBr vibrational distribution, the H + C_2F_4Br reaction seems to have a disproportionation (direct Br atom abstraction) component in addition to the recombination component. In this sense, the C_2F_4Br reaction resembles the H + C_2H_4Cl reaction. Both reactions have similar C–X bond dissociation energies. To our surprise, the H + C_2H_4Br reaction seems not to have a disproportionation component, even though $D(Br-CH_2CH_2)$ is less than $D(Cl-CH_2CH_2)$. One possible explanation is the difference in structure of C_2H_4Br and C_2H_4Cl . The latter has a classical radical structure, whereas C_2H_4Br has a bridged structure. The other three radicals— CF_2ClCF_2 , CF_2ClCFH , and $CF_2BrCFBr$ —seem to react only by recombination with H atoms.

The recombination step gives haloethane molecules with ~ 104 kcal mol⁻¹ of vibrational energy. The unimolecular reactions of CF_2ClCFH_2 seem to be the normal 1,2-HF and 1,2-HCl elimination processes. Upon the basis of thermochemical arguments and upon the similar $HF(\nu)$ distributions from CF_3-CF_2H , CF_2ClCF_2H , and CF_2BrCF_2H , which are less extended than for 1,2-HF elimination reactions, 1,1-HF elimination seems to be important for CF_2ClCF_2H and CF_2BrCF_2H in competition with 1,2-HCl and 1,2-HBr elimination, respectively. This claim suggests that $\Delta H^\circ_f(CF_3CF)$ is lower than current estimates in the literature from ab initio calculations. The CH_3CH_2Br and $CF_2BrCFBrH$ molecules mainly decomposes by 1,2-HBr elimination, although some C–Br rupture also may occur. The recently recognized ClF exchange reaction of vibrationally excited chlorofluoroalkane molecules is included in the discussion.

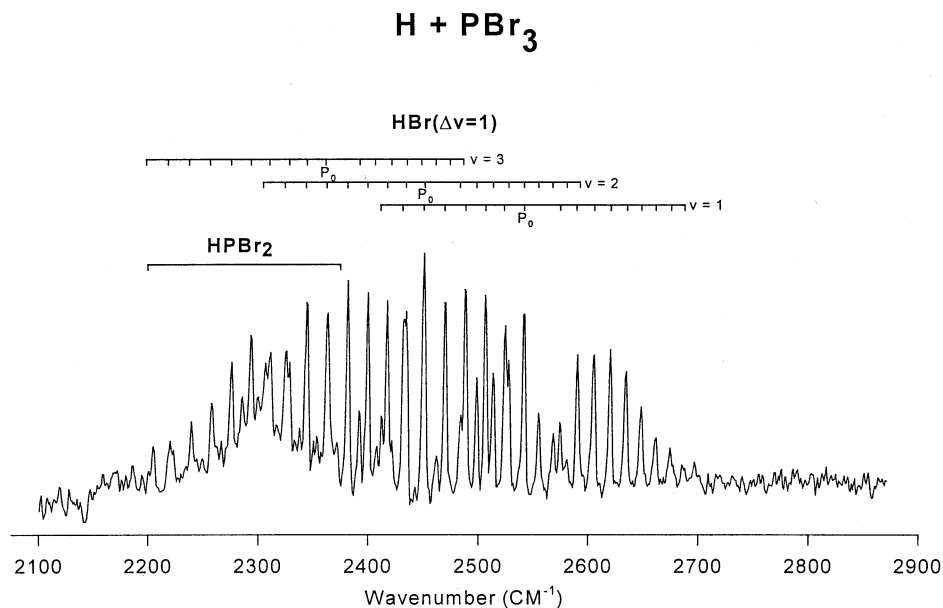


Figure 4. Emission spectrum from the H + PBr₃ reaction. Note the broad emission band at ~2300 cm⁻¹ under the HBr emission spectrum.

The reaction of H + PBr₃, which is described in the Appendix, appears to have an addition–elimination and an addition–displacement mechanism. A broad-band emission at ~2300 cm⁻¹ may be the P–H stretching emission from HPBr₂.

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Appendix: H + PBr₃ Reaction

As part of a program to characterize the chemistry of the PF radical, we investigated the H + PF₂Cl and PF₂Br reaction systems in the infrared chemiluminescence flow reactor. The objective was to employ the H + PF₂ secondary reaction as a chemical source of the PF(a¹Δ) radical. The primary reactions with PF₂Br and PF₂Cl proved to be difficult to study by the infrared emission technique in a flow reactor. The synthesis and gas handling for the required amounts of PF₂Br and PF₂Cl were tedious. Furthermore, the reaction rates giving HBr and HCl seemed to be rather slow; the emissions, which were from *v* = 1 and 2, were weak and not very reproducible from one experiment to another. In an effort to understand the PF₂Cl and PF₂Br systems better, experiments were done with PBr₃. In an earlier investigation,³⁷ the rate constant for HBr(*v* ≥ 1) formation had been reported to be (1.0 ± 0.1) × 10⁻¹¹ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹ for an observed HBr(*v*) distribution of P₁–P₃ = 63:24:13 using the infrared chemiluminescence method but with a different and less sensitive apparatus.

The Ar carrier gas flow was passed over the liquid PBr₃ sample, and the flow rate of PBr₃ was deduced from the loss in mass of the liquid sample as ~0.9 × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³. The emission intensity was strong for a reaction time of 0.25 ms, and a typical spectrum is shown in Figure 4. The H atom concentration was systematically varied from (0.4 to 1.8) × 10¹³ atoms cm⁻³. The HBr(*v*) distributions from several experiments

TABLE 5: HBr(*v*) Distributions from H + PBr₃^a

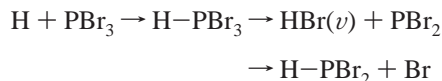
[H] 10 ¹³ atoms/cm ³	P ₁	P ₂	P ₃	P ₄
0.33	53	34	12	2
0.34	53	31	14	2
0.45	46	38	13	3
0.51	48	34	15	3
0.54	49	34	14	3
0.70	53	32	12	3
0.79	57	31	10	2
0.93	57	31	10	2
1.1	54	32	11	3

^a The concentration of PBr₃ was ~0.9 × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³.

for [H] ≤ 1.1 × 10¹³ atoms cm⁻³ are shown in Table 5. Within the uncertainty of the data, a dependence of the HBr(*v*) distribution on [H] for a concentration of less than 1 × 10¹³ atoms cm⁻³ is not apparent. The average HBr(*v*) distribution based on experiments with [H] ≤ 1 × 10¹³ molecules cm⁻³ is P₁–P₄ = 52:33:12:3. In the limited study³⁷ reported in 1980, the observed HBr(*v*) distribution was P₁–P₃ = 63:24:13. To observe a satisfactory spectrum at that time, relatively high reagent concentrations and long reaction times were required. Because some HBr(*v*) relaxation was suspected, comparison was made to the H + Br₂ reaction, which gives an inverted nascent HBr(*v*) distribution. The corrections for the assumed relaxation of the HBr(*v*) distribution from H + PBr₃ were too large, and the observed steady-state distribution, which resembles the results of Table 5, actually was the better approximation to the nascent distribution.

In addition to the HBr emission, a broad emission band in the 2100–2425-cm⁻¹ region with a maximum at 2300 cm⁻¹ is evident in Figure 4. Experiments were done in which the spectrometer was flushed with dry N₂ to ensure that the broad-band emission was not related to residual CO₂ in the CO₂-free dry air that normally was used for flushing. This broad-band emission existed in all of the spectra, and the ratio of the integrated HBr and the broad-band intensities was 1.6 ± 0.3. The P–H stretching modes^{66,67} in PH₂F and PH₂Cl are near 2300 cm⁻¹, and those for PHF⁶⁸ and PHCl^{69,70} are around 2260 cm⁻¹. The 2300-cm⁻¹ band in Figure 4 is tentatively assigned as the P–H stretching mode emission of HPBr₂.

The observation of the H–PBr₂ emission and the monotonically declining HBr(*v*) distribution is suggestive of a reaction mechanism involving H atom addition to the phosphorus atom followed by a competition between Br atom displacement and HBr elimination.



The available energy for the HBr pathway is ~ 33 kcal mol⁻¹ based³⁷ on $D(\text{Br-PBr}_2) = 63 \pm 2$ kcal mol⁻¹. The displacement reaction is exothermic by ~ 17 kcal mol⁻¹ based upon a generic $D(\text{P-H})$ value of ~ 80 kcal mol⁻¹.

The results from the H + PBr₃ reaction suggest that the H + PF₂Cl and PF₂Br reactions also may proceed by an addition mechanism, which could yield three sets of products, for example, HF + PFBr, HBr + PF₂, or HPF₂ + Br (although the 2300-cm⁻¹ emission was never observed). The emission of HF from the H + PF₃ reaction could not be observed in our reactor at room temperature even for long reaction times and high reagent concentrations, and direct abstraction of an F atom from PF₂Cl or PF₂Br is not expected. However, if the reaction proceeds by addition to a phosphorus atom of PF₂Br or PF₂Cl, then subsequent HF formation could occur. Thus, the observation of HF emission from the H + PF₂Br and PF₂Cl systems does not necessarily imply that the H + PF₂ secondary reaction was observed. However, in separate experiments both PF(X³Σ⁻) and PF(a¹Δ) in approximately equal proportions were observed for long (1-ms) reaction periods from H + PF₂Cl using laser-induced fluorescence to monitor PF(X) and PF(a). Further work is required to understand both the kinetics and thermochemistry of the H + PF₂Br and PF₂Cl reaction as well as the H + PCl₃ system.^{70,71} In closing, we note that oxygen atoms also react with PH₃ by an addition mechanism.⁷²

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