

Topological Characterization of HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br, I) Isomerization

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The isomerization reactions of HOOX → HOXO → HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br, I) have been studied by using the density functional theory. The breakage and formation of the chemical bonds of the titled reactions have been discussed by the topological analysis method of electronic density. The calculated results show that there is a transitional structure of a three-membered ring on each of the isomerization reaction paths. The “energy transition state (ETS)” and the “structure transition state (STS)” in all of the studied reactions have been found. In all these reactions, the position of the structure transition state and the scope of the structure transition region correlate well with the reaction energy. The STS appears after the ETS in the exothermic reaction but it appears before the ETS in the endothermic reaction. The less reaction energy there is, the wider scope of the structure transition region.

1. Introduction

Stratospheric ozone abundance is largely determined by the rate of the catalytic chain processes which destroy ozone and by the concentration of the chain carriers and their precursors. Among various species, the radical carriers of HO_x (x = 1, 2), ClO_x (x = 0, 1), BrO_x (x = 0, 1), and IO_x (x = 0, 1) families have been identified as the major species in determining the ozone concentration in the Earth's atmosphere.^{1–6} The reactions between XO (X = Cl, Br, I) and OH are crucial as their interaction could lead to either another chain carrier (chain transfer) or a reservoir molecule. There have been some ab initio and DFT studies performed on the isomers of HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br) which suggest that HOOX (X = Cl, Br) is the lowest energy structure of all the HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br) isomers.^{7–10}

To our knowledge, the topological structures of these reactions have not yet been included in any of these studies. Obtaining an understanding of HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br, I) isomers and their topological properties is very desirable; however, as we know, judging the breaking or formation of a bond is almost impossible with experimental methods and the traditional population analysis. According to the theory of “atoms in molecules (AIM)”^{11–15} topological studies on reaction paths of some typical reactions have been carried out by some authors in recent years,^{11–17} but much more is still to be known about the relationship between topological characteristics of density distribution and the energy variation along the reaction path.

In this paper, we carried out studies on the reactions of HOOX → HOXO → HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br, I), trying to give a clear picture for topological characteristics of these reactions. The breakage and formation of the bonds in the isomerization reaction paths have been discussed; the structure transition state and the structure transition region of the titled reaction are found. It is

noted that the goal of this work is not to discuss the isomerization mechanism. Instead, we are pursuing the systematic relationship between topological characteristic of density distribution and the energy variations along the reaction paths. This paper is an extension and an additional example of the established ideas and concepts of AIM.^{11–15}

2. Computational Methods

The geometries of reactants, transition states, and products on the potential energy surface were located by B3LYP calculations. The 6-311++G(d, p) basis set was used for H, O, Cl, and Br, and the basis sets used for element I was taken from ref 18. The *d* polar functions were split into $\alpha_1(d_{\text{polar}}) = 0.604$ and $\alpha_2(d_{\text{polar}}) = 0.151$ by us. The reaction paths have been traced out by Intrinsic Reaction Coordinate (IRC)¹⁹ in mass-weighted internal coordinates going in forward and reverse directions from the transition state with the step size equal to 0.01 (amu)^{1/2}·b. The energies of these compound were corrected at MP2(Full)/6-311++G(d, p) and CCSD/6-311++G(2d, 2p) level. The calculations were made using the Gaussian 98 program.²⁰ Topological analyses were carried out with program AIM 2000.²¹ Maps of the gradient vector field of electron density of HOOX → HOXO → HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br, and I, Figures 3–5), which are based on B3LYP/6-311++G(2d, 2p) calculations, were plotted by program AIM 2000.²¹

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Potential Energy Curves on IRC Paths. Computations on the isomeric forms, HOOX, HOXO, and HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br), were previously performed by some groups using different methods.^{7–10} We have re-examined these geometries using B3LYP/6-311++G(d, p). Our calculated structure of HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br) isomers agree very well with those reported.^{7–10} This suggests that the results obtained from the B3LYP/6-311++G(d, p) is quite reasonable. The calculated geometries of HIO₂ isomers are similar to those of HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br) isomers.

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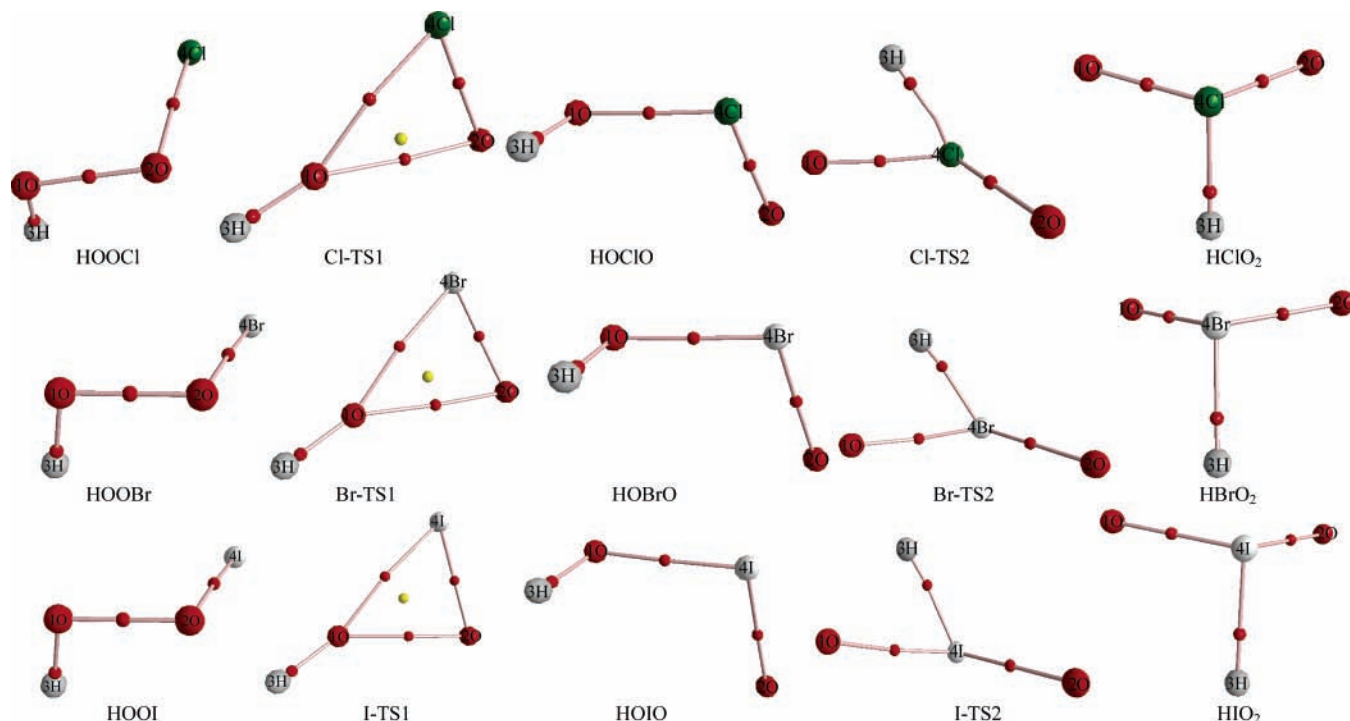


Figure 1. Molecular graph of reactants, transition states, and products.

The geometry parameters of the reactants, transition states, intermediates, and products on the potential energy surfaces have been optimized and shown in Figure 1s of the Supporting Information. The 3D molecular graphs of these compounds are plotted in Figure 1. The vibrating frequencies were computed for the stationary point characterization and zero-point energy (ZPE) corrections were included. IRC calculations were carried out to validate the connection of the reactant, transition states, and products. The potential energy curves of the titled reactions are shown in Figure 2. The absolute energies, ZPE values, relative energies, thermal enthalpies, and Gibbs free energies are listed in Table 1s of the Supporting Information. CCSD(T)/6-311++G(2d, 2p) energies are to be used in the following discussion.

As shown in Figure 2 and Table 1s, in HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br) isomers, the energy of HOOX (X = Cl, Br) is the lowest and the next is HOXO; the energy of HXO₂ is the highest and it is thus the least stable. The relative energies of HOCIO to HOOC1 and HOBrO to HOOBr are 14.8 and 9.4 kcal/mol, respectively. The energies of HClO₂ and HBrO₂ are 67.7 and 66.0 kcal/mol higher than that of HOOC1 and HOOBr. For the HOOX (X = Cl, Br) → HOXO (X = Cl, Br) reaction, the energy barriers are 43.6 and 42.2 kcal/mol. For the HOXO (X = Cl, Br) → HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br) process, the energy barriers were found to be 89.8 and 88.5 kcal/mol. The energy barrier is too high to allow the interconversion of HOXO (X = Cl, Br) → HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br). In HIO₂ isomers, the relative stability of the three isomers is of the order HOIO < HOOI < HIO₂. HOIO is 18.2 and 31.7 kcal/mol lower in energy than HOOI and HIO₂. The barrier height of HOOI → HOIO and HOIO → HXO₂ is 28.6 and 47.4 kcal/mol, respectively. So HOOI and HOIO could convert to each other and HOIO could transform to HIO₂.

3.2. Topological Analyses of Electronic Density on IRC Paths. For each reaction, the topological analysis was carried out on the electronic density of some points along the reaction path. Topological properties of HOOX → HOXO → HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br and I) are listed in Tables 1–3, respectively. Gradient

vector field of the electronic density are plotted for some points along the reaction path and displayed in Figures 3–5 for HOOX → HOXO → HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br, I), respectively.

3.2.1. Changes in Structure Determined by the Topology of the Electron Density. According to the topological analysis of electronic density in the theory of AIM,^{22,23} electron density $\rho(r_c)$ is used to describe the strength of a bond and Laplacian of the electron density ($\nabla^2\rho(r_c)$) describes the characteristics of the bond. The Laplacian $\nabla^2\rho(r_c)$ is the sum of λ_1 , λ_2 and λ_3 , λ_i is one of the eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix of electronic density. If a critical point has two negative and one positive eigenvalue, it is called (3, -1) saddle point or the Bond Critical Point (BCP). If a critical point has two positive and one negative eigenvalues, it is called (3, +1) critical point or the Ring Critical Point (RCP); the (3, +1) critical point is characteristic of a ring structural region. We assign S1a, S2a, S3a, S1b, S2b, and S3b as reaction coordinates for processes of HOOX → HOXO (X = Cl, Br, I) and HOXO → HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br, I), respectively.

In the HOOX → HOXO (X = Cl, Br, I) process, the electronic density $\rho(r_c)$ at the BCP of the O–O bond becomes smaller and smaller, which indicates that the O–O bond becomes weaker and weaker, and at last is broken. As the reactions proceed, the $\rho(r_c)$ at the BCP of X–O1 (X = Cl, Br, I) bond become larger and larger, which indicates that the X–O1 (X = Cl, Br, I) bonds become stronger and stronger, and then HOXO (X = Cl, Br, I) comes into being. As the reaction proceeds, the $\rho(r_c)$ of the BCP of the X–O2 (X = Cl, Br, I) bond becomes somewhat larger, which indicates that the X–O2 (X = Cl, Br, I) bond becomes somewhat stronger.

In the HOXO → HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br, and I) process, the electronic density $\rho(r_c)$ at the bond of H–O1 becomes smaller and smaller, which indicates that the H–O1 bond becomes weaker and weaker, and at last is broken. As the reactions proceed, the H–X (X = Cl, Br, I) bonds become larger and larger, which indicates that the H–X (X = Cl, Br, I) bonds become stronger and stronger, and then HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br, I) forms.

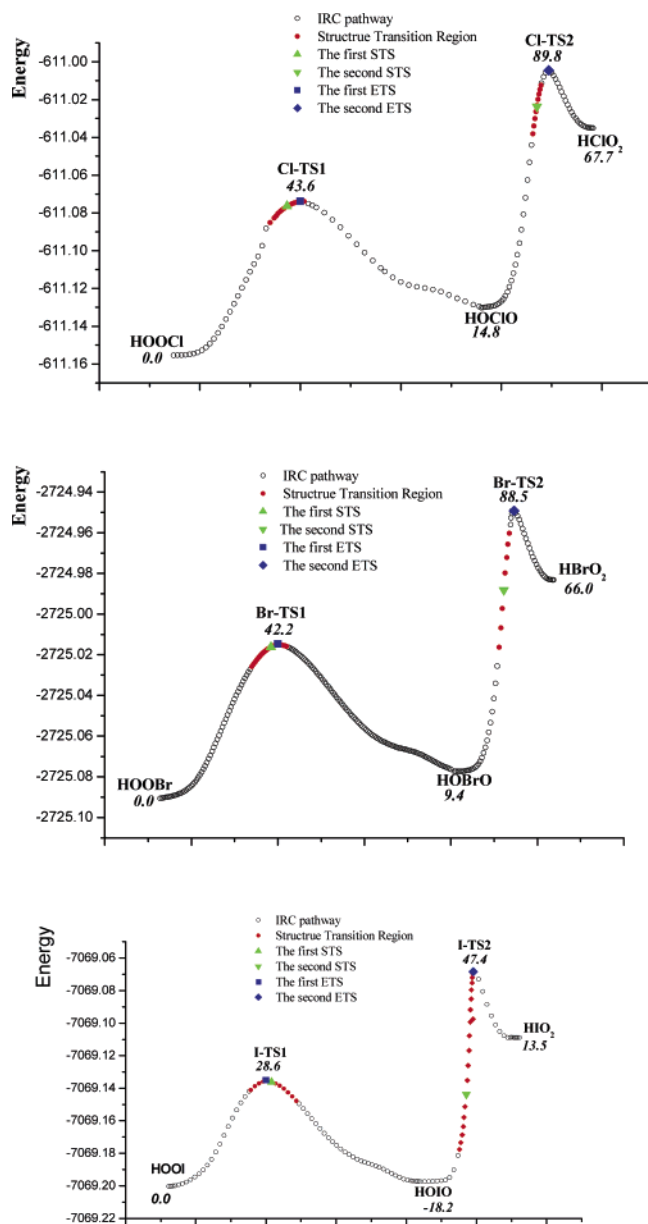


Figure 2. Potential energy curves of reaction $\text{HOOX} \rightarrow \text{HOXO}$ ($X = \text{Cl, Br, I}$). (The italic numbers are relative energy (kcal/mol) at CCSD/6-311++G(2d, 2p) level.)

For the reaction of $\text{HOOCl} \rightarrow \text{HOClO}$, from the reactant HOOCl to $S1a = -1.33$, the $\text{O}-\text{O}$ bond becomes weaker and weaker and the bond path becomes more and more bent. At $S1a = -1.32$, Cl is bonded to atom O1, a new bond $\text{Cl}-\text{O1}$ has been formed, but the $\text{Cl}-\text{O2}$ bond still exists at this time. Therefore, Cl, O1, and O2 form a ring structure; a RCP appears. As the RCP just appears, it is very close to the BCP of $\text{Cl}-\text{O1}$. As the process proceeds, RCP moves to the center of the ring. The λ_2 of the Hessian matrix at RCP increases and reaches the maximum at $S1a = -0.65$. After this point the λ_2 decreases gradually. The point of $S1a = +0.65$ is the so-called STS in the reaction. At the point $S1a = +0.03$, the $\text{Cl}-\text{O2}$ bond has been broken and the RCP disappeared. And then the $\text{Cl}-\text{O1}$ bond becomes stronger and stronger, and the product HOClO forms. For the reaction of $\text{HOClO} \rightarrow \text{HClO}_2$, at $S1b = -0.83$, H is bonded to atom O1, a new bond $\text{H}-\text{O1}$ has been formed, and the $\text{Cl}-\text{H}$ bond still exists at this time. Therefore, O1, H, and Cl form a ring structure, a RCP appears, and it exits in the

TABLE 1: Topological Properties at BCP and RCP of the Ring Structure Transition Region the Given Reaction

		eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix						
		$S/(\text{amu})^{1/2} \cdot b$	ρ	λ_1	λ_2	λ_3	$\nabla^2 \rho$	
HOOCI \rightarrow HOClO								
RCP	$S1a = -1.32$	0.0434	-0.0450	0.0068	0.2835	0.2453		
	$S1a = -0.66$	0.0433	-0.0466	0.0329	0.2714	0.2577		
	$S1a = -0.65$ (STS)	0.0433	-0.0473	0.0330	0.2852	0.2709		
	$S1a = -0.64$	0.0432	-0.0465	0.0329	0.2715	0.2579		
	ETS	0.0409	-0.0450	0.0082	0.2900	0.2532		
	$S1a = +0.02$	0.0407	-0.0452	0.0022	0.2965	0.2535		
Cl-O ₁	$S1a = -1.32$	0.0434	-0.0447	-0.0065	0.2903	0.2391		
	$S1a = -0.65$	0.0464	-0.0487	-0.0328	0.3208	0.2393		
	ETS ($S1a = 0.0$)	0.0526	-0.0567	-0.0508	0.3240	0.2165		
	$S1a = +0.02$	0.0528	-0.0570	-0.0513	0.3246	0.2163		
HOClO								
O-O								
HOOCI	$S1a = -1.32$	0.3161	-0.7400	-0.7315	1.5704	0.0989		
	$S1a = -1.32$	0.0578	-0.0749	-0.0688	0.3916	0.2479		
	$S1a = -0.65$	0.0510	-0.0624	-0.0499	0.3333	0.2210		
	ETS ($S1a = 0.0$)	0.0409	-0.0458	-0.0081	0.3006	0.2467		
	$S1a = +0.02$	0.0407	-0.0452	-0.0022	0.2965	0.2491		
	Cl-O₂							
HOOCI	$S1a = -1.32$	0.1584	-0.2456	-0.2257	0.5715	0.1002		
	$S1a = -1.32$	0.2580	-0.4222	-0.4195	0.6117	-0.2300		
	$S1a = -0.65$	0.2650	-0.4376	-0.4331	0.6200	-0.2507		
	ETS ($S1a = 0.0$)	0.2706	-0.4498	-0.4443	0.6318	-0.2623		
	$S1a = +0.02$	0.2708	-0.4502	-0.4447	0.6322	-0.2627		
	HOClO							
HOCIO \rightarrow HClO₂								
RCP	$S1b = -0.83$	0.1386	-0.2754	0.0357	0.3952	0.1555		
	$S1b = -0.63$	0.1374	-0.2490	0.2236	0.2785	0.2531		
	$S1b = -0.62$ (STS)	0.1373	-0.2485	0.2259	0.2774	0.2548		
	$S1b = -0.61$	0.1371	-0.2480	0.2255	0.2779	0.2554		
	$S1b = -0.43$	0.1285	-0.2622	0.0065	0.4560	0.2003		
	H-O							
HOClO	$S1b = -0.83$	0.3684	-1.8286	-1.7789	0.9168	-2.6907		
	$S1b = -0.83$	0.1865	-0.5414	-0.4675	0.7121	-0.2968		
	$S1b = -0.62$	0.1523	-0.3696	-0.2556	0.5678	-0.0574		
	$S1b = -0.43$	0.1865	-0.2622	-0.0067	0.4558	0.1869		
	Cl-O							
	HOClO	$S1b = -0.83$	0.1698	-0.2687	-0.2543	0.6449	0.1219	
$S1b = -0.83$		0.2031	-0.3495	-0.3101	0.7106	0.0510		
$S1b = -0.62$		0.2034	-0.3225	-0.3048	0.7111	0.0838		
$S1b = -0.43$		0.2066	-0.3531	-0.3341	0.7270	0.0398		
ETS ($S1b = 0.0$)		0.2099	-0.3342	-0.3218	0.7410	0.0850		
HClO₂								
H-OI								
HOClO	$S1b = -0.83$	0.1386	-0.2818	-0.0351	0.4154	0.0985		
	$S1b = -0.62$	0.1494	-0.3280	-0.2159	0.4446	-0.0993		
	$S1b = -0.43$	0.1685	-0.4101	-0.3447	0.4815	-0.2733		
	ETS ($S1b = 0.0$)	0.2018	-0.5161	-0.4787	0.5010	-0.4938		
	HClO₂							
			0.2180	-0.5354	-0.5223	0.5319	-0.5258	

region of $S1b = -0.83$ to $S1b = -0.43$. $S1b = -0.62$ is the STS of the reaction as is shown in Table 1.

The $\text{HOOBr} \rightarrow \text{HOBrO} \rightarrow \text{HBrO}_2$ and $\text{HOI} \rightarrow \text{HOIO} \rightarrow \text{HIO}_2$ processes are similar to the $\text{HOOCl} \rightarrow \text{HOClO} \rightarrow \text{HClO}_2$ process: There is a bifurcation-type $\text{X}-\text{O1}-\text{O2}$ ($X = \text{Br, I}$) and $\text{H}-\text{O1}-\text{X}$ ($X = \text{Br, I}$) ring structure that appears in the $\text{HOOX} \rightarrow \text{HOXO}$ ($X = \text{Br, I}$) and $\text{HOXO} \rightarrow \text{HXO}_2$ ($X = \text{Br, I}$) processes, respectively. (As shown in Tables 2 and 3, the RCP exists in $\text{Br}-\text{O1}-\text{O2}$, $S2a = -1.25 \rightarrow S2a = +0.60$; $\text{H}-\text{O1}-\text{Br}$, $S2b = -0.85 \rightarrow S2b = -0.33$; $\text{I}-\text{O1}-\text{O2}$, $S3a = -1.11 \rightarrow S3a = +1.85$; $\text{H}-\text{O1}-\text{I}$: $S3b = -0.88 \rightarrow S2b = -0.12$).

3.2.2. Structure Transition State and Structure Transition Region. When an old bond broke and a new bond formed, the “structure transition state (STS)” and “structure transition region” appeared.^{22,23} There are two kinds of STSs: one of them is ring structure transition. As the RCP just appears, RCP is very close to the BCP of a newly formed bond. As the process

TABLE 2: Topological Properties at BCP and RCP of the Ring Structure Transition Region for the Given Reaction

	S/(amu) ^{1/2} ·b	ρ	eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix ∇ ² ρ			∇ ² ρ
			λ ₁	λ ₂	λ ₃	
HOBr → HOBrO						
RCP	S2a = -1.25	0.0421	-0.0397	0.0027	0.2572	0.2202
	S2a = -0.28	0.0419	-0.0417	0.0377	0.2402	0.2362
	S2a = -0.27 (STS)	0.0418	-0.0417	0.0378	0.2404	0.2365
	S2a = -0.26	0.0418	-0.0416	0.0378	0.2404	0.2366
	ETS (S2a = -0.00)	0.0412	-0.0413	0.0361	0.2431	0.2379
	S2a = 0.60	0.0384	-0.0393	0.0063	0.2671	0.2341
Br-O ₁	S2a = -1.25	0.0421	-0.0396	-0.0026	0.2597	0.2175
	S2a = -0.27	0.0468	-0.0447	-0.0358	0.2754	0.1949
	ETS (S2a = 0.0)	0.0485	-0.0469	-0.0405	0.2778	0.1904
	S2a = 0.60	0.0542	-0.0539	-0.0528	0.2889	0.1822
	HOBrO	0.1433	-0.2043	-0.1925	0.5287	0.1319
O-O	HOBr	0.3088	-0.7155	-0.7073	1.5314	0.1086
	S2a = -1.25	0.0644	-0.0850	-0.0844	0.4265	0.2571
	S2a = -0.27	0.0487	-0.0574	-0.0477	0.3470	0.2419
	ETS (S2a = 0.0)	0.0454	-0.0518	-0.0039	0.3290	0.2733
	S2a = 0.60	0.0384	-0.0400	-0.0062	0.2776	0.2314
Br-O ₂	HOBr	0.1303	-0.1808	-0.1670	0.4640	0.1162
	S2a = -1.25	0.2033	-0.3011	-0.3003	0.6749	0.0735
	S2a = -0.27	0.2105	-0.3129	-0.3125	0.6802	0.0548
	ETS (S2a = 0.0)	0.2118	-0.3151	-0.3146	0.6798	0.0501
	S2a = 0.60	0.2154	-0.3210	-0.3203	0.6808	0.0395
	HOBrO	0.2217	-0.3268	-0.3242	0.6770	0.0260
HOBrO → HBrO ₂						
RCP	S2b = -0.85	0.1168	-0.1935	0.0325	0.3238	0.1628
	S2b = -0.62	0.1163	-0.1855	0.1915	0.2424	0.2484
	S2b = -0.61 (STS)	0.1161	-0.1852	0.1922	0.2418	0.2488
	S2b = -0.60	0.1208	-0.2042	0.1612	0.1898	0.1468
	S2b = -0.33	0.1052	-0.1762	0.0145	0.3702	0.2085
H-O	HOBrO	0.3663	-1.7986	-1.7549	0.9029	-2.6506
	S2b = -0.85	0.1733	-0.4646	-0.4210	0.6166	-0.2690
	S2b = -0.61	0.1354	-0.3013	-0.2316	0.5018	-0.0311
	S2b = -0.33	0.1052	-0.1802	-0.0144	0.3843	0.1897
Br-O	HOBrO	0.1433	-0.2043	-0.1925	0.5287	0.1319
	S2b = -0.85	0.1666	-0.2382	-0.2173	0.5794	0.1239
	S2b = -0.61	0.1677	-0.2381	-0.2238	0.5731	0.1112
	S2b = -0.33	0.1692	-0.2391	-0.2317	0.5685	0.0977
	ETS (S2b = 0.00)	0.1717	-0.2442	-0.2359	0.5682	0.0881
	HBrO ₂	0.2071	-0.3061	-0.3581	0.7234	0.0592
H-Br	S2b = -0.85	0.1168	-0.1992	-0.0312	0.3351	0.1047
	S2b = -0.61	0.1298	-0.2449	-0.1738	0.3351	-0.0836
	S2b = -0.33	0.1475	-0.2949	-0.2537	0.3366	-0.2120
	ETS (S2b = 0.00)	0.1664	-0.3436	-0.3181	0.3438	-0.3179
	HBrO ₂	0.1760	-0.3504	-0.3419	0.3592	-0.3331

proceeds, RCP moves to the center of the ring. When the RCP goes to the BCP of another bond, this bond is broken and the ring disappears. From the ring's appearance to its disappearance called "structure transition regions", the λ₂ eigenvalue of the Hessian matrix of the RCP (the positive curvature lying in the plane) has the trend of zero → maximum → zero. We call the maximum Hessian matrix λ₂ of the RCP as STS and the traditional transition state that is the maximum on the energy surface as "energy transition state (ETS)".

In the isomerization reactions of HOOX → HOXO → HXO₂ (X = Cl, Br, I), the ring structure transition region appears. The regions of S1a = -1.32 → S1a = +0.02 for the HOCl → HOClO process, S1b = -0.83 → S1b = -0.43 for the HOClO → HClO₂ process, S2a = -1.25 → S2a = +0.60 for the HOBr → HOBrO process, S2b = -0.85 → S2b = -0.33 for the HOBrO → HBrO₂ process, S3a = -1.11 → S3a = +1.85 for the HOOI → HOIO process, and S3b = -0.88 → S2b = -0.12 for the HOIO → HIO₂ process, respectively. The three-membered ring STSs of the structure transition regions

TABLE 3: Topological Properties at BCP and RCP of the Ring Structure Transition Region for the Given Reaction

	S/(amu) ^{1/2} ·b	ρ	eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix			∇ ² ρ
			λ ₁	λ ₂	λ ₃	
HOOI → HOIO						
RCP	S3a = -1.11	0.0423	-0.0388	0.0045	0.2348	0.2005
	ETS (S3a = 0.0)	0.0429	-0.0417	0.0426	0.2153	0.2162
	S3a = +0.35	0.0425	-0.0415	0.0443	0.2167	0.2195
	S3a = +0.36 (STS)	0.0425	-0.0415	0.0443	0.2166	0.2194
	S3a = +0.37	0.0424	-0.0415	0.0443	0.2169	0.2197
	S3a = +1.85	0.0378	-0.0373	0.0057	0.2509	0.2193
I-O ₁	S3a = -1.11	0.0423	-0.0384	-0.0043	0.2399	0.1972
	ETS (S3a = 0.0)	0.0476	-0.0441	-0.0356	0.2606	0.1809
	S3a = +0.36	0.0494	-0.0462	-0.0405	0.2640	0.1773
	S3a = +1.85	0.0610	-0.0649	-0.0618	0.2920	0.1653
	HOIO	0.1191	-0.1602	-0.1525	0.5736	0.2609
O-O	HOOI	0.2920	-0.6693	-0.6490	1.4382	0.1199
	S3a = -1.11	0.0750	-0.1022	-0.1005	0.4902	0.2875
	ETS (S3a = 0.0)	0.0550	-0.0664	-0.0616	0.3910	0.263
	S3a = 0.36	0.0521	-0.0598	-0.0533	0.3693	0.2562
	S3a = 1.85	0.0378	-0.0376	-0.0055	0.2606	0.2175
I-O ₂	HOOI	0.1115	-0.1473	-0.1391	0.5074	0.221
	S3a = -1.11	0.01558	-0.2226	-0.2203	0.8403	0.3974
	ETS (S3a = 0.0)	0.1622	-0.2326	-0.2299	0.8447	0.3822
	S3a = 0.36	0.1630	-0.2336	-0.2307	0.8368	0.3725
	S3a = 1.85	0.1677	-0.2400	-0.2362	0.8165	0.3403
	HOIO	0.1728	-0.2418	-0.2406	0.7861	0.3037
HOIO → HIO ₂						
RCP	S3b = -0.88	0.1050	-0.1504	0.0258	0.2882	0.1636
	S3b = -0.53	0.1047	-0.1460	0.1457	0.2385	0.2382
	S3b = -0.52 (STS)	0.1046	-0.1458	0.1457	0.2383	0.2382
	S3b = -0.51	0.1044	-0.1456	0.1456	0.2383	0.2383
	S3b = -0.12	0.0923	-0.1345	0.0237	0.3273	0.2165
H-O	HOIO	0.3677	-1.8104	-1.7724	0.9136	-2.6692
	S3b = -0.88	0.1893	-0.5098	-0.4792	0.6492	-0.3398
	S3b = -0.52	0.1306	-0.2644	-0.2127	0.4751	-0.0020
	S3b = -0.12	0.0923	-0.1405	-0.0236	0.3563	0.1922
I-O	HOIO	0.1191	-0.1602	-0.1525	0.5736	0.2609
	S3b = -0.88	0.1323	-0.1799	-0.1483	0.6253	0.2971
	S3b = -0.52	0.1333	-0.1800	-0.1579	0.5979	0.2600
	S3b = -0.12	0.1354	-0.1812	-0.1724	0.5688	0.2152
	ETS (S = 0.0)	0.1362	-0.1818	-0.1763	0.5623	0.2042
	S3b = -0.51	0.1044	-0.1456	0.1456	0.2383	0.2383
	S3b = -0.12	0.0923	-0.1345	0.0237	0.3273	0.2165
H-O	HOIO	0.3677	-1.8104	-1.7724	0.9136	-2.6692
	S3b = -0.88	0.1893	-0.5098	-0.4792	0.6492	-0.3398
	S3b = -0.52	0.1306	-0.2644	-0.2127	0.4751	-0.0020
	S3b = -0.12	0.0923	-0.1405	-0.0236	0.3563	0.1922
I-O	HOIO	0.1191	-0.1602	-0.1525	0.5736	0.2609
	S3b = -0.88	0.1323	-0.1799	-0.1483	0.6253	0.2971
	S3b = -0.52	0.1333	-0.1800	-0.1579	0.5979	0.2600
	S3b = -0.12	0.1354	-0.1812	-0.1724	0.5688	0.2152
	ETS (S = 0.0)	0.1362	-0.1818	-0.1763	0.5623	0.2042
	HIO ₂	0.1822	-0.2611	-0.2568	0.8449	0.3270
H-I	S3b = -0.88	0.1051	-0.1536	-0.0252	0.2872	0.1084
	S3b = -0.51	0.1236	-0.1969	-0.1554	0.2646	-0.0877
	S3b = -0.12	0.1443	-0.2372	-0.2170	0.2757	-0.1785
	HIO ₂	0.1600	-0.2614	-0.2536	0.3861	-0.1289

are S1a = -0.65, S1b = -0.62, S2a = -0.27, S2b = -0.61, S3a = +0.36, and S3b = -0.52.

Figure 2 also gives the position of the STS, ETS, and transition state region along the reaction pathways. The position of STS is not the position of ETS. In endothermic reactions (HOCl → HOClO → HClO₂, HOBr → HOBrO → HBrO₂, HOIO → HIO₂), the STS appears before the ETS. It appears earlier and earlier, in relation to the ETS, according to the reaction energy. But in the exothermic reaction (HOOI → HOIO), the STS appears after the ETS. Furthermore, the more the reaction energy absorbs, the earlier the STS appears.

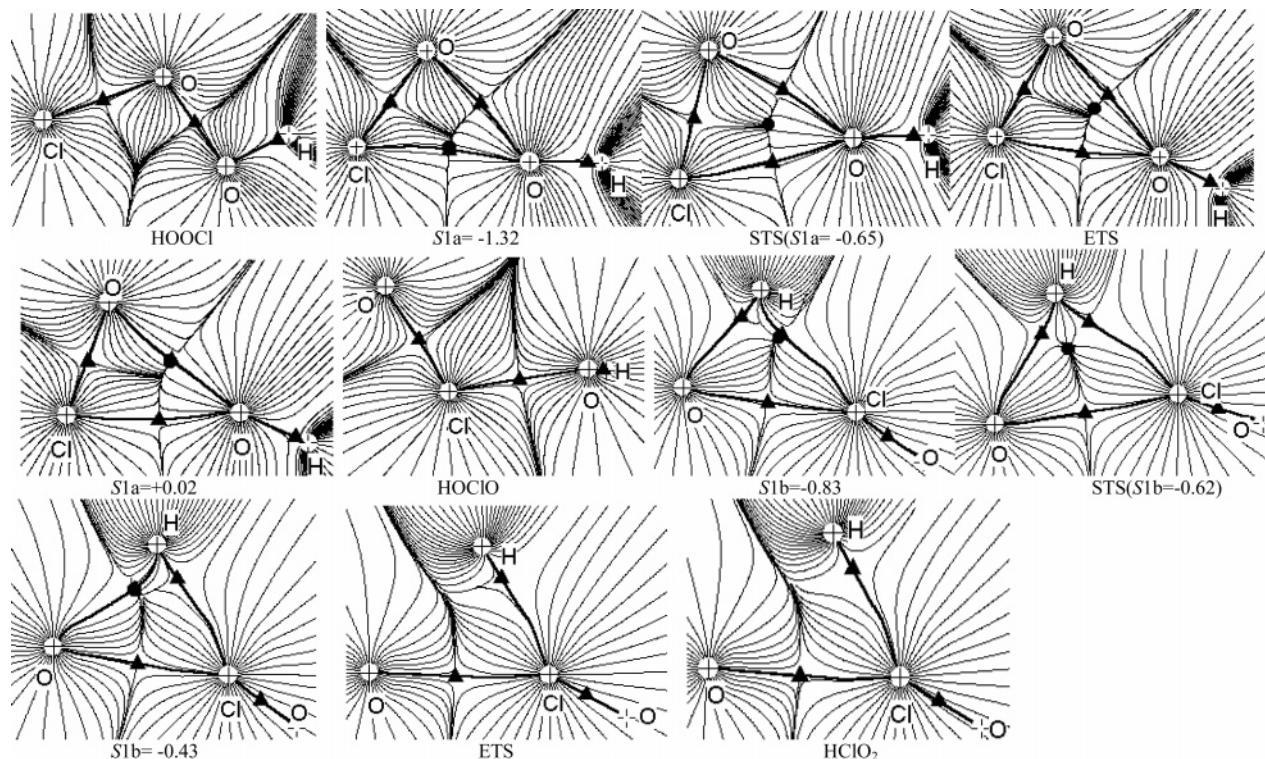


Figure 3. Maps of gradient vector field of electron density of isomerization reaction of HClO_2 (+ represents nuclear of atomic; \blacktriangle represents bond critical point; \bullet represents ring critical point).

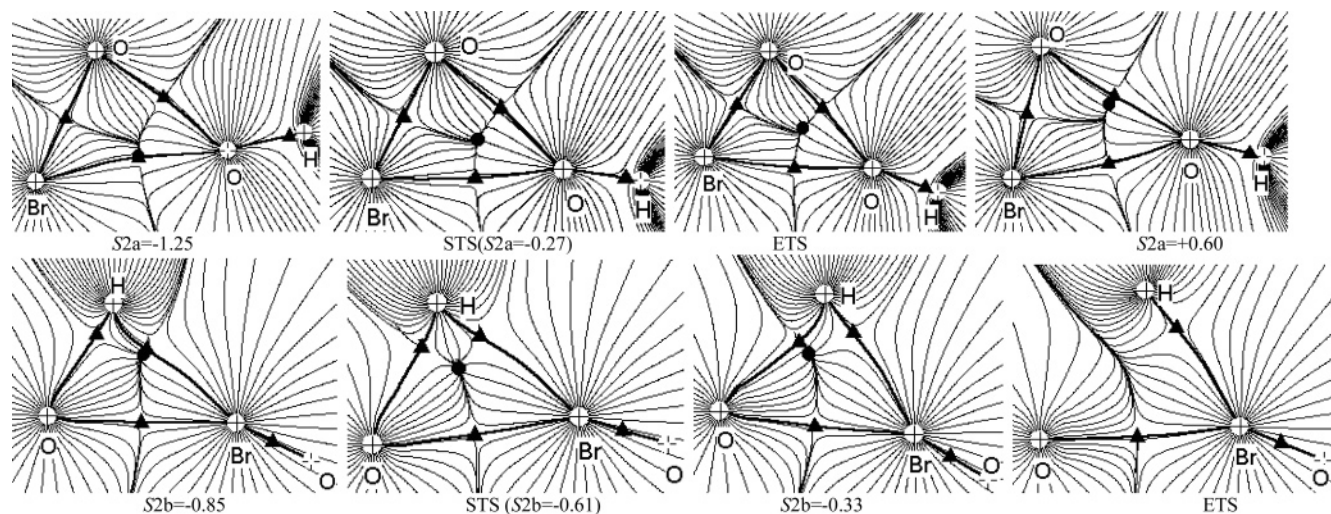


Figure 4. Maps of gradient vector field of electron density of isomerization reaction of HBrO_2 (+ represents nuclear of atomic; \blacktriangle represents bond critical point; \bullet represents ring critical point).

TABLE 4. Reaction Energy and Scope of Structure Transition Region of the Isomerization Reaction of $\text{HOOX} \rightarrow \text{HOXO} \rightarrow \text{HXO}_2$ ($X = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$)

	energy (kcal/mol)	scope of structure transition region		energy (kcal/mol)	scope of structure transition region
$\text{HOOCI} \rightarrow \text{HOCIO}$	14.8	1.34 ($S = -1.32 \rightarrow +0.02$)	$\text{HOCIO} \rightarrow \text{HClO}_2$	52.9	0.40 ($S = -0.83 \rightarrow -0.43$)
$\text{HOObR} \rightarrow \text{HOBrO}$	9.4	1.85 ($S = -1.25 \rightarrow +0.60$)	$\text{HOBrO} \rightarrow \text{HBrO}_2$	56.6	0.52 ($S = -0.85 \rightarrow -0.33$)
$\text{HOOI} \rightarrow \text{HOIO}$	18.2	2.96 ($S = -1.11 \rightarrow +1.85$)	$\text{HOIO} \rightarrow \text{HIO}_2$	31.7	0.76 ($S = -0.88 \rightarrow -0.12$)

Furthermore, as shown in Figures 2–5, the structure transition region becomes wider and wider in the sequence of Cl, Br, and I. From Figure 2 and Tables 1–3, Table 4 is concluded. For the $\text{HOOCI} \rightarrow \text{HOCIO}$ process, the reaction energy is 14.8 kcal/mol, and the scope of the structure transition region of the

process is $S1a = -1.32 \rightarrow +0.02$. The reaction energy of the $\text{HOCIO} \rightarrow \text{HClO}_2$ process is 52.9 kcal/mol and the scope of the structure transition region of the process is $S1b = -0.83 \rightarrow -0.43$. The reaction energy of $\text{HOOCI} \rightarrow \text{HOCIO}$ is lower than that of the $\text{HOCIO} \rightarrow \text{HClO}_2$ process; the scope of the structure

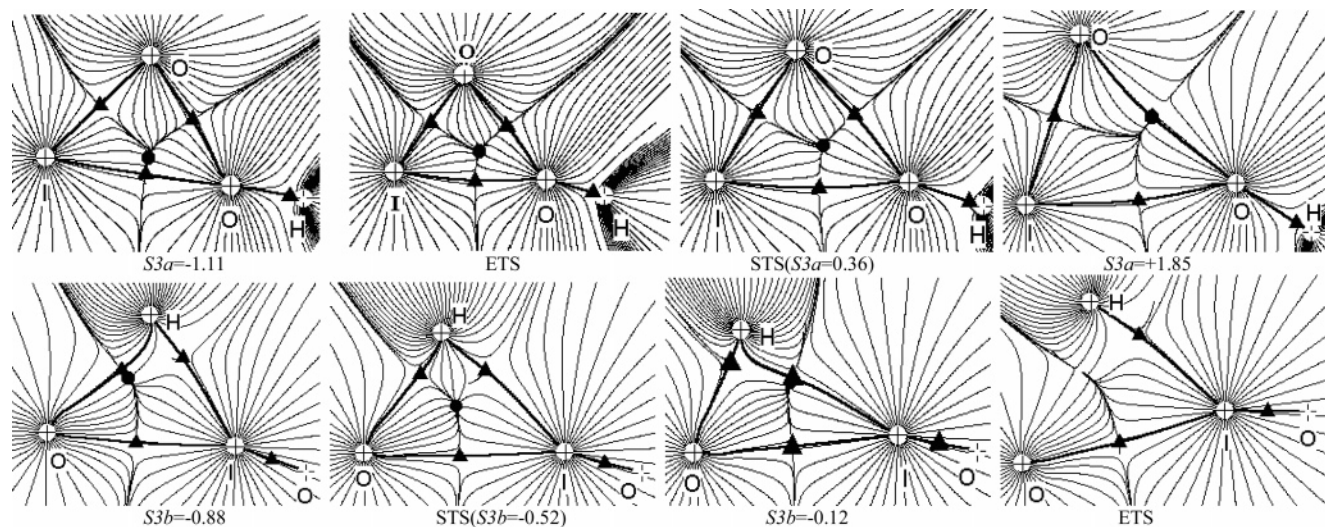


Figure 5. Maps of gradient vector field of electron density of isomerization reaction of HIO₂ (+ represents nuclear of atomic; ▲ represents bond critical point; ● represents ring critical point).

transition region of HOOC1–HOC1O is wider than that of the HOC1O–HClO₂ process. This trend can be applied to HOOX–HOXO and HOXO–HXO₂ (X = Br, I) processes. Therefore, the less the reaction energy, the wider the scope of the structure transition region.

The scope of the structure transition region of HOOC1–HOC1O, HOObR–HOBRo, and HOOI–HOIO are S1a = –1.32 → +0.02, S1b = –1.25 → +0.60, and S1c = –1.11 → +1.85, respectively. The scope of the structure transition region of HOC1O–HClO₂, HOBRo–HBRo₂, and HOIO–HIO₂ are S2a = –0.83 → –0.43, S2b = –0.85 → –0.33, and S2c = –0.88 → –0.12, respectively. The structure transition region becomes wider and wider in the sequence of Cl, Br, and I. The increased van der Waals and covalent radii of Cl, Br, and I can explain the sequence of the width of the ring structure transition regions.

4. Conclusions

(1) The breakage and formation of the chemical bonds in the reactions have been discussed by the topological analysis method of electronic density.

(2) There is a transitional structure of three-membered ring on the isomerization reaction paths.

(3) In all these reactions, the position of the structure transition state and the scope of the structure transition region correlate well with the reaction energy. The STS appears after the ETS in exothermic reaction but it appears before the ETS in endothermic reaction. The less the reaction energy, the wider the scope of the structure transition region.

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Supporting Information Available: Energies (E), Enthalpies (H), and Gibbs Free Energy (G) for the various compounds at MP2/6-311++G(d, p) and CCSD/6-311++G(2d,2p) levels are tabulated in Table 1S. Geometries of reactants, transition states, and products are shown in Figure 1S. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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