

paring the SCF total energies obtained by using the 4-31G basis set for propane,^{1,4} propene,⁷ the *n*-propyl radical, and the hydrogen atom.⁸ In this manner, the computed energies for eq 1 and 2 are 37 and 82 kcal/mol, respectively.

In contrast to the *n*-propyl radical is the energy required for C-H bond rupture in cubane and the cubyl radical, i.e., for reactions 3 and 4. Since experimental measurements



are not available for this system, the results of the ab initio calculations in this report will be used. When one uses the total energies for cubane, cubene, and the cubyl radical, the ΔH for rupture of a C-H bond in cubane, as indicated in eq 3, is found to be 91 kcal/mol. The ΔH for the β C-H bond scission reaction in the cubyl radical, as shown in eq 4, is 106 kcal/mol. Because of the neglect of correlation energy in the SCF total energies, only two significant statements may be made about the energetics of reactions 3 and 4. The first is that the C-H bond energies in cubane and the cubyl radical are about equal. The second is that the energy required for β C-H scission is clearly much

higher than that for the other alkyl radicals discussed above.

The cubyl radical should therefore behave quite differently from alkyl radicals. Whereas a long C-H bond in a β position to the radical site is found for alkyl radicals, no such long C-H bond is found for the cubyl radical. If the long C-H bond in alkyl radicals indicates that the radical itself looks much like the transition state for the reaction toward the alkene, β C-H bond scission in the cubyl radical should not be an important thermal reaction. This view is supported by the binding energies for C-H bonds in a β position to the radical site. For the cubyl radical, it is found that the β C-H bonds remain strong, indicating that the cubyl radical should not readily form cubene by dissociating another hydrogen.

Conclusions

The only significant structural changes that occur when an open shell is formed in cubane is that the radical center has a more planar geometry with shorter α C-C bonds. Unlike the situation in other alkyl radicals, like, for example, the ethyl, *n*-propyl, and *tert*-butyl radicals, the β C-H bonds in the cubyl radical have the same length as those in cubane. Since the energy required for the β C-H bond scission is approximately that required for the dissociation of a C-H bond in cubane, then the geometry of the cubyl radical is probably not affected by the transition state for this reaction.

(7) Total energy for propene was taken from J. S. Binkley, J. A. Pople, and W. J. Hehre, *Chem. Phys. Lett.*, **36**, 1 (1975).

(8) R. Ditchfield, W. J. Hehre, and J. A. Pople, *J. Chem. Phys.*, **54**, 724 (1971).

Rate Constants, Branching Ratios, and Energy Disposal for $\text{Nf}(b,a,X)$ and $\text{HF}(v)$ Formation from the $\text{H} + \text{NF}_2$ Reaction

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The rate constant and energy disposal for the $\text{H} + \text{NF}_2$ reaction has been measured by observing infrared and visible chemiluminescence in a fast-flow, low concentration, flowing-afterglow apparatus at room temperature. The rate constant was determined by comparing the $\text{HF}(v)$ emission intensity to the $\text{HCl}(v)$ emission intensity from the $\text{H} + \text{Cl}_2$ reaction. The rate constant for formation of $\text{HF}(v \geq 1)$ is $3.8 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. Allowance for $\text{HF}(v=0)$ formation gives a total rate constant which is about a factor of 3 larger. The observed $\text{HF}(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4)$ distribution is 0.75:0.20:0.04:0.01. The $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta-X^3\Sigma^-)$ emission also was observed; the $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$ vibrational distribution is $v_0:v_1:v_2 = 0.73:0.19:0.08$. Comparison of the $\text{NF}(b^1\Sigma^+)$ and $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$ emission intensities and using the $\text{HF}(v=4)$ emission, which is energetically allowed only for formation of $\text{NF}(X^3\Sigma^-)$, gave $\text{NF}(X):\text{NF}(a):\text{NF}(b)$ branching fractions of 0.07:0.91:0.02. By comparing the $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta-X^3\Sigma^-)$ intensity from $\text{H} + \text{NF}_2$ to the $\text{HF}(3-0)$ emission intensity from the $\text{H} + \text{ClF}$ reaction and by using the known rate constant and energy disposal for $\text{H} + \text{ClF}$, the radiative lifetime of $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$ was determined to be $\sim 5.6 \text{ s}$. The 0-0, 1-1, and 2-2 band wavelengths of the $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta-X^3\Sigma^-)$ transition yielded $\omega_e' = 1184 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and $\omega_e'x_e' = 8.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

Introduction

Reactions which generate electronically excited-state products have received considerable interest recently because of their potential application as chemical pumps for lasers. For less applied reasons, such reactions are of interest because the chemiluminescence identifies the populations in the product quantum states, which serves as an excellent probe of the reactions dynamics. Few

chemical reactions give chemiluminescence that permits observation of all products; however, one example is hydrogen atoms plus NF_2 radicals which generates electronically excited NF and vibrationally excited HF products.¹⁻⁴ The internal energy of both HF and NF can be

(1) J. M. Herbelin and N. Cohen, *Chem. Phys. Lett.*, **20**, 605 (1973).

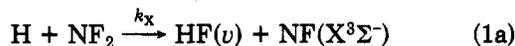
(2) J. M. Herbelin, *Chem. Phys. Lett.*, **42**, 367 (1976).

(3) M. A. Kwok and J. M. Herbelin in "Electronic Transition Lasers II", L. E. Wilson, S. N. Suchard, and J. I. Steinfeld, Ed., MIT Press, Boston, 1977.

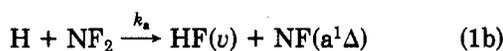
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assigned from the chemiluminescence and the translational energy obtained by subtraction from the available energy.

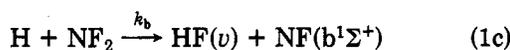
In this study we have measured the rate constant, k_{total} , for formation of HF($v \geq 1$) from the reaction of H with NF₂ by observing the HF infrared chemiluminescence and comparing this emission intensity to that from H + Cl₂.



$$\Delta H^\circ_0 = -66 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$



$$\Delta H^\circ_0 = -34 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$



$$\Delta H^\circ_0 = -13 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$

$$k_{\text{total}} = k_x + k_a + k_b$$

In addition, the ratios of the individual rate constants, k_x , k_a , and k_b , were estimated. Since reaction 1b is dominant, the observed HF(v) distribution obtained from the HF(v) infrared chemiluminescence mainly applies to this channel. Vibrational distributions for HF(v), NF($a^1\Delta$), and NF($b^1\Sigma$) were determined. This study initially was begun as part of our continuing interest in the dynamics of halogen abstraction by H atoms.⁵⁻⁷ Earlier work¹⁻³ had suggested that the reaction proceeded through an HNF₂[†] intermediate complex, and that the energy disposal should be dominated by the dynamics of the unimolecular breakdown of HNF₂[†]. Presumably the favoring of the lowest NF singlet state, rather than the lowest triplet state, is a consequence of the bound HNF₂[†] intermediate being a singlet state. The HNF₂[†] triplet surface correlating to H + NF₂ is likely to be repulsive and not of importance.

Our flowing-afterglow, arrested vibrational relaxation apparatus,⁵⁻⁷ which uses a Fourier transform spectrometer to observe the infrared emission, is well suited to studying reaction 1 because the observation time is sufficiently short to prevent vibrational and electronic relaxation of the long-lived NF(a,b) and HF(v) states. In this work a monochromator was added to observe the electronic transitions. The monochromator was placed on the opposite side of the flow reactor from the FT spectrometer. Thus, we were able to simultaneously observe the NF($a^1\Delta$ - $X^3\Sigma^-$), NF($b^1\Sigma^+$ - $X^3\Sigma^-$), and HF(v) transitions. Observation of NF($a^1\Delta$) in previous studies¹⁻³ was severely hindered by HF($\Delta v=3$) overtone emission which occurs near the NF($a^1\Delta$ - $X^3\Sigma^-$) bands. This problem was overcome by reducing the formation of HF(v) by controlling the H and NF₂ concentrations and by using a high flow velocity, which limits the secondary reactions. Observation of the NF($a^1\Delta$ - $X^3\Sigma^-$) transition permitted the kinetics of NF(a) to be studied and also resulted in the determination of some spectroscopic parameters. In addition to values for ω_e ' and $\omega_e x_e$ ', an estimate was obtained for the NF($a^1\Delta$) radiative lifetime. This was done by comparing the NF(a - X) emission intensity from a known concentration of

NF₂ to the HF($\Delta v=3$) emission intensity from H + ClF for the same H atom concentration.

Experimental Apparatus and Procedure

The experimental approach and data reduction were the same as that described in previous reports of the reactions of H atoms with X₂, XX', and RX compounds.⁵⁻⁷ The experiments were performed in a 55-mm o.d. Pyrex fast-flow reactor. Hydrogen atoms were admitted down the flow axis via a quartz tube and the NF₂, Cl₂, or ClF was admitted via a Pyrex ring concentric with the reactor axis and having holes on its inner surface. Emission was observed transverse to flow through NaCl windows; the observation area was 1 cm downstream of the reagent inlet ring. A diagram and discussion of specific details is given in ref 5. A Roots-type blower was used to maintain flow velocities of $\sim 90 \text{ m s}^{-1}$. This flow velocity corresponds to a reaction time of $\sim 0.24 \text{ ms}$ between the mixing ring and observation point. The N₂F₄, Cl₂, or ClF were premixed with Ar and stored in reservoirs. The Ar carrier gas was added to the flow reactor via the hydrogen flow train and also via an additional Pyrex ring upstream of the mixing zone. Total Ar flow was $\sim 7 \text{ mmol s}^{-1}$; the total reactor pressure was 0.7 torr. Reagent flows were in the range 0.1–5 $\mu\text{mol s}^{-1}$, which corresponds to a concentration range of 0.3×10^{12} – $15 \times 10^{12} \text{ molecules cm}^{-3}$. Hydrogen was dissociated by a microwave discharge 18 cm upstream of the mixing zone. Assuming 50% dissociation, [H] was $\sim 2 \times 10^{12} \text{ atoms cm}^{-3}$.

The NF₂ was generated by thermal dissociation of N₂F₄ in a thoroughly passivated stainless-steel gas-handling line. The N₂F₄ was obtained from AerospaceCorp. as a gift. The N₂F₄ was of 97% purity with the major impurities being N₂ and F₂. These were removed by freezing the sample at liquid N₂ temperature and pumping for several minutes. The sample was then cryogenically transferred into a stainless-steel vacuum system, with the cold trap maintained well below room temperature. After transferring to the stainless steel reservoir, the sample was again pumped while at liquid N₂ temperature. After warming to room temperature, the N₂F₄ was diluted with dry Ar. During an experiment, the entire stainless-steel vacuum system including lead lines up to and inside the flow reactor were heated to 230 °C in order to totally dissociate the N₂F₄ to NF₂. The NF₂/Ar reservoir was heated with a resistance furnace; the remainder of the stainless vacuum system was heated with commercial heating tapes and the lead lines were heated with nichrome wire. The temperature was measured on the outer wall of the stainless reservoir after 3 h heating time had been allowed for equilibration with the reservoir's contents. This arrangement was satisfactory for handling of N₂F₄/NF₂. However, even dilute samples of N₂F₄ may react explosively with hydrocarbons and care always must be exercised in handling N₂F₄.

The chlorine was obtained from Matheson and was used without purification. The ClF was taken from a tank obtained from Ozark Mahoney Co. This ClF tank was previously used for the study of metastable rare gas atom reactions with ClF. In these reactions characteristic emissions identify the presence of Cl₂. According to this test, the ClF tank had no detectable Cl₂ impurity which means that Cl₂ was below the 1% level. Any F₂ impurity would be of no consequence for the lifetime measurements because the H + F₂ rate constant is 300 times less than that of H + ClF. The argon carrier gas was purified by passage through molecular sieve traps at low pressure.

Relative rate constants for HF(v) and HCl(v) formation at 300 K were determined by monitoring the emission

(4) M. A. A. Clyne and I. F. White, *Chem. Phys. Lett.*, **6**, 465 (1970); (b) C. T. Cheah, M. A. A. Clyne, and P. D. Whitefield, *J. Chem. Soc., Faraday Trans. 2*, **76**, 711 (1980); (c) C. T. Cheah and M. A. A. Clyne, *ibid.*, in press.

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intensity as a function of reagent flow with the Digilab FTS-20 Fourier transform spectrometer under conditions of constant H atom concentration. The response of the system was calibrated with a black-body standard. Individual rotational lines were converted to vibrational populations and then to total emission intensity in the following manner. Because of the high resolution of the FTS and the Boltzmann rotational distributions, the relative vibrational populations were determined by choosing several appropriate rotational lines (appropriate in the sense that they were not obscured by CO_2 or H_2O absorption) of each ν level and measuring their heights. Dividing by the product of the Einstein coefficient⁸ for spontaneous emission, the detector response function, and the Boltzmann fraction for that J state converts the peak height to a relative population for that ν level. The rotational lines belonging to the same ν level were averaged to give a final result. The relative vibrational populations were then summed to give a total relative $\text{HX}(\nu \geq 1)$ concentration. Relative rate constants were obtained by comparing the slope from the plot of total relative HX concentration vs. RX flow for NF_2 with the slope obtained from a plot of the $\text{H} + \text{Cl}_2$ reaction under the same experimental conditions.

The visible emission was observed simultaneously with the IR emission by a 0.3-m McPherson monochromator with a grating blazed at 10 000 Å. The detector was an RCA C31034 photomultiplier tube, which has good sensitivity in the 8000–9000-Å range, operated in the photon-counting mode. The assembly of mirrors and monochromator was mounted on a wheeled table, which could be rolled from one reactor window to the next, allowing emission to be monitored as a function of distance along the tubular reactor. The monochromator was used for observing the $\text{NF}(b^1\Sigma^+)$ emission at 520–530 nm, the $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$ emission at 880–870 nm, and $\text{HF}(3-0)$ emission at 890–870 nm.

The radiative lifetime measurements consisted of comparing the $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta-X^3\Sigma^-)$ emission from $\text{H} + \text{NF}_2$ with the $\text{HF}(3-0)$ emission from the $\text{H} + \text{ClF}$ reaction under identical reaction conditions at the first window of the flow tube. While the visible emission spectra were being obtained, $\text{HF}(\Delta\nu=1)$ infrared spectra were taken simultaneously from the opposite side of the window. The simultaneous collection of the infrared and visible spectra allows the unequivocal determination of the relative population of $\text{HF}(\nu=3)$ from the ClF reaction, as well as verifying that the conditions for the $\text{H} + \text{NF}_2$ experiment were satisfactory. The method of calculating the radiative lifetime of $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$ from these spectra is discussed in the next section.

Results

Infrared Emission and Total Rate Constant. The different NF_2 mixtures were used to determine a total of four values for the room temperature rate constant for the $\text{H} + \text{NF}_2$ reaction. The four results agreed to within 10% and yielded a rate constant for $\text{HF}(\nu \geq 1)$ formation of $3.8 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (based on a rate constant of $2.06 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for $\text{H} + \text{Cl}_2$).^{8,9} Some of the data from which the rate constants were derived are presented in Figure 1; the $\text{HF}(\nu)$ and $\text{HCl}(\nu)$ concentrations are linear in NF_2 ($\text{NF}_2 = 2\text{N}_2\text{F}_4$) and Cl_2 flows, respectively. Since the $[\text{H}]$ are the same, the ratio of the slopes of these plots gives the ratio of rate constants for formation of $\text{HF}(\nu \geq 0)$

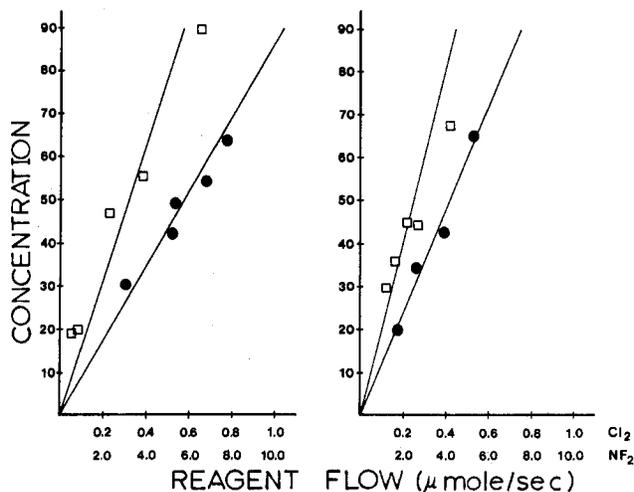


Figure 1. Comparison of HCl and HF emission intensities from the $\text{H} + \text{Cl}_2$ (●) and $\text{H} + \text{NF}_2$ (□) reactions for two experiments; a flow of $1.0 \mu\text{mol s}^{-1}$ is equivalent to a concentration of $3.2 \times 10^{12} \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$.

and $\text{HCl}(\nu \geq 0)$. There are three possible sources of error to the $\text{HF}(\nu \geq 1)$ formation rate constant: reduction of the emission spectra to relative concentrations, preparation of the N_2F_4 sample, and incomplete dissociation of N_2F_4 to NF_2 . We have employed relative HF and HCl chemiluminescence emission measurement to determine rate constants for several reactions.⁵ The HCl and HF Einstein coefficients and the data reduction procedure are reliable, as judged by comparing the relative rate constants to other measurements in the literature. Estimation of possible errors resulting from gas handling is difficult; however, since different mixtures gave the same result the techniques seem to be satisfactory. The major uncertainty probably is the assumption of 100% dissociation of N_2F_4 to NF_2 . Recent thermodynamic^{11,12} and kinetic studies¹³ have shown that, above 500 K, N_2F_4 is essentially 100% dissociated. We took every precaution to ensure dissociation by heating the entire N_2F_4 reservoir, all lead lines to the flow reactor, and the short line inside the reactor wall extending from the reactor wall to the Pyrex nozzle. Furthermore, we allowed 3–4-h warm-up periods to ensure that the entire gas sample was homogeneously heated. We estimate that there should be less than 15% uncertainty in the rate constant from incomplete dissociation. If we take account of all these possibilities, the uncertainty in the $\text{HF}(\nu \geq 1)$ formation rate constant ratio is estimated as $\pm 30\%$. The major difficulty in obtaining the total rate constant is in estimating the relative amount of $\text{HF}(\nu=0)$ that is produced by reaction 1. The $\text{HCl}(\nu=0)$ from $\text{H} + \text{Cl}_2$ is insignificant. The $\text{HF}(\nu)$ and $\text{DF}(\nu)$ distributions from H and D atoms with NF_2 are listed in Table I and plotted in Figure 2. We observed no variation of the $\text{HF}(\nu)$ distribution with $[\text{NF}_2]$, as shown in Figure 3. The constant population ratios actually extend to quite high NF_2 concentration relative to many polyatomic reagents, which frequently start to give relaxation at $\geq 5 \times 10^{12} \text{ molecules cm}^{-3}$. The $\text{HF}(\nu)$ and $\text{DF}(\nu)$ distributions vary almost exponentially with energy, and a $\log P_\nu$ vs. E_ν can

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(8) K. Tamagake and D. W. Setser, *J. Phys. Chem.*, **81**, 100 (1979).

(9) P. P. Bemand and M. A. A. Clyne, *J. Chem. Soc., Faraday Trans. 2*, **73**, 394 (1977).

TABLE I: HF and DF Vibrational Distributions

reaction	$\langle E \rangle^a$ kcal/mol	$\langle f_V \rangle$	$\langle f_R \rangle^b$	P_V				
				ν_0	ν_1	ν_2	ν_3	ν_4
H + NF ₂	36	0.12	~0.03	0.71 ^d	0.75 ^c	0.20 ^c	0.04 ^c	0.01 ^c
	36	0.14	~0.03	0.65 ^e	0.22	0.06	0.01	0.003
D + NF ₂	37	0.15	~0.03	0.56 ^d	0.58 ^c	0.27	0.13	0.02
	37	0.17	~0.03	0.51 ^e	0.25	0.12	0.06	0.01
					0.28	0.14	0.06	0.01

^a Assuming a 1 kcal mol⁻¹ activation energy and $\langle E \rangle = \Delta H_0^\circ + E_a + 5/2 RT$. ^b Calculated as upper limit assuming $J < 10$ a and that the rotational distribution is roughly symmetric and peaked at $J = 5$. ^c Observed distribution. ^d Obtained by extrapolation of graph of $\ln(P_V)$ vs. E_V , see Figure 2; $P_V = 4$ is ignored in calculating $\langle f_V \rangle$. ^e Obtained by extrapolation of surprisal plot, see Figure 2 and text. Within the experimental uncertainty, subtraction of the HF(ν) component associated with NF(X) formation has no effect on $\langle f_V \rangle$.

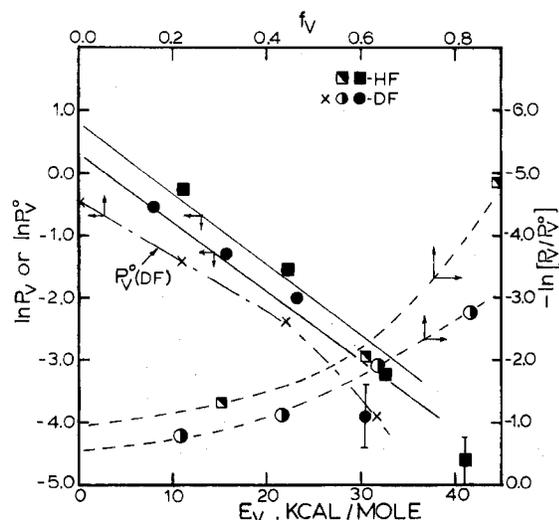


Figure 2. Plots of the experimental HF(ν) and DF(ν) populations, P_V , vs. E_V . The prior (four-body case) distribution, for DF, and surprisal plots vs. f_V also are shown. The $\nu = 0$ population is not included in the normalization of the experimental distribution, but it is included in the DF prior. The $\nu = 4$ point for the prior is off scale and not shown.

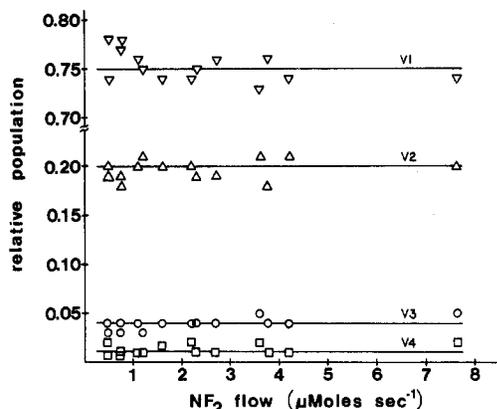


Figure 3. Variation of P_V (HF) with NF₂ flow rate (or concentration, 1 $\mu\text{mol s}^{-1}$ is equivalent to 3.2×10^{12} molecule cm^{-3}).

be used to estimate the relative $\nu = 0$ population; these give 71 and 56% for HF($\nu=0$) and DF($\nu=0$), respectively. Another common way to estimate the $\nu = 0$ contribution is to extrapolate surprisal plots. The surprisal plots (for the four-body HF + NF(a) prior) also are shown in Figure 2 for the HF and DF distributions. Although the plots are not linear, smooth extrapolations to $f_V = 0$ still can be made. For these extrapolations 65 and 52% of the HF and DF, respectively, are formed in $\nu = 0$. Thus, the observed rate constant for HF($\nu \geq 1$) formation should be increased by a factor of ~ 3 and $k_{\text{total}} = 1.3 \times 10^{-11}$ $\text{cm}^3 \text{molecule}^{-1}$

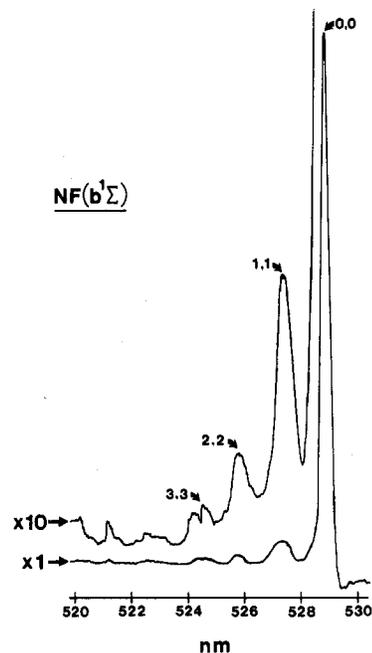


Figure 4. The NF($b^1\Sigma^+ - X^3\Sigma^-$) emission spectrum from H + NF₂ observed at first window. The flow rate for NF₂ was 1.4 $\mu\text{mol s}^{-1}$ or $[\text{NF}_2] = 4.5 \times 10^{12}$ molecules cm^{-3} .

s^{-1} with an uncertainty of $\pm 50\%$.

There was no observable emission from HF($\nu \geq 5$). For our signal-to-noise ratio and the HF($\nu=5$) radiative lifetime, an upper bound to the relative HF($\nu \geq 5$) population is 0.001. This limit is important because formation of NF($X^3\Sigma^-$) permits excitation up to HF($\nu=6$); whereas, reaction 1b gives only $\nu \leq 3$. The observation of HF($\nu=4$) is interpreted to mean that a small fraction of the reaction proceeds via reaction 1a. Emission from DF(ν) levels sufficiently high to prove NF($X^3\Sigma^-$) formation was not observed; however, only a few D + NF₂ experiments were done and this failure to see DF($\nu \geq 5$) is not viewed as a contradiction to the claim of NF($X^3\Sigma^-$) formation from the observation of HF($\nu=4$). The k_{1a}/k_{1b} ratio will be estimated in the Discussion section.

NF($a^1\Delta - X^3\Sigma^-$) and NF($b^1\Sigma^+ - X^3\Sigma^-$) Emissions. The visible emission from the H + NF₂ reaction is quite striking to the eye. Even for fast-flow conditions, the entire flow reactor from the reagent nozzle to the pump inlet appeared deep green in a darkened room. As the H atom concentration was increased from 2×10^{12} to 20×10^{12} atoms cm^{-3} , the green NF($b^1\Sigma^+ - X^3\Sigma^-$) emission was slowly replaced by a yellow glow, which arises from the N₂-(B³Π_g - A³Σ_u⁺) emission. Some typical spectra obtained at the first window for low [H] and [NF₂] are shown in Figures 4 and 5. The NF($b^1\Sigma^+ - X^3\Sigma^-$) spectrum is the same

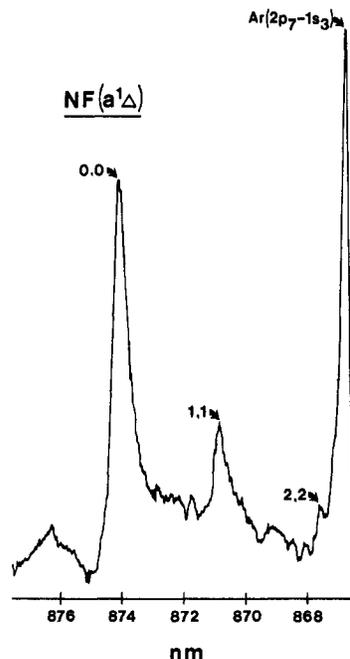


Figure 5. $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta-X^3\Sigma^-)$ emission spectrum from $\text{H} + \text{NF}_2$ observed at first window. The peak positions of the bands are 0-0 = 874.2 nm, 1-1 = 870.9 nm, and 2-2 = 867.6 nm. The wavelength scale of the monochromator was calibrated by the 0-0 band of the a-X transition and the positions of the Ar and HF($\Delta v=3$) lines. The flow rate for NF_2 was $1.4 \mu\text{mol s}^{-1}$ for a $[\text{NF}_2]$ of 4.5×10^{12} molecules cm^{-3} .

TABLE II: Vibrational Distributions^a for $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$ and $\text{NF}(b^1\Sigma^+)$

product	$\langle E \rangle$	$\langle f_V \rangle$	ν_0	ν_1	ν_2	ν_3
$\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)^b$	36		0.73	0.19	0.08	^d
$\text{NF}(b^1\Sigma^+)^c$	15		0.95	0.04	0.01	0.003

^a Since the equilibrium internuclear distance for $\text{NF}(X)$, $\text{NF}(a)$, and $\text{NF}(b)$ states are similar, the Franck-Condon factors for $\Delta v = 0$ transitions should be roughly constant. Hence the ratios of emission intensities for the different vibrational levels were equated with the relative vibrational populations. ^b Calculated from the ratios of peak areas measured with a planimeter. ^c Calculated from the ratios of peak heights. ^d Other emissions would have prevented the observation of the 3-3 band.

as previously reported;¹⁴ the 0-0 band is the strongest and is followed by exponentially declining intensities for the 1-1, 2-2, and 3-3 bands. The $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta-X^3\Sigma^-)$ spectrum has not been reported in earlier work because it was overlapped by strong HF(3-0) emission¹⁻⁴ from the $\text{F} + \text{H}_2$ reaction, which was used to generate H atoms. Only the 0-0 band has been reported in the literature; but the 0-0, 1-1, and 2-2 bands are apparent in Figure 4. From these wavelengths and the known^{15,16} spectroscopic constants of $\text{NF}(X)$, ω_e' and $\omega_e'x_e'$ for $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$ were calculated as 1184 and 8.5 cm^{-1} , respectively. The intensities of the $\text{NF}(b^1\Sigma^+)$ and $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$ bands decline exponentially. Since the potential curves of the X, a, and b states have essentially the same equilibrium bond length,¹⁴⁻¹⁷ the Franck-Condon factors for the 0-0, 1-1, and 2-2 transitions of b-X and a-X systems should be nearly equal and the ratio of the

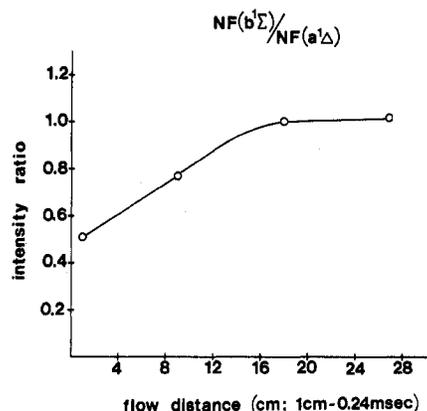


Figure 6. $\text{NF}(b^1\Sigma^+)/\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$ intensity ratio vs. distance in the flow reactor. This ratio has not been corrected for wavelength response of the detection system. The NF_2 flow was $3.2 \mu\text{mol s}^{-1}$ for $[\text{NF}_2] = 1.0 \times 10^{13}$ molecules cm^{-3} .

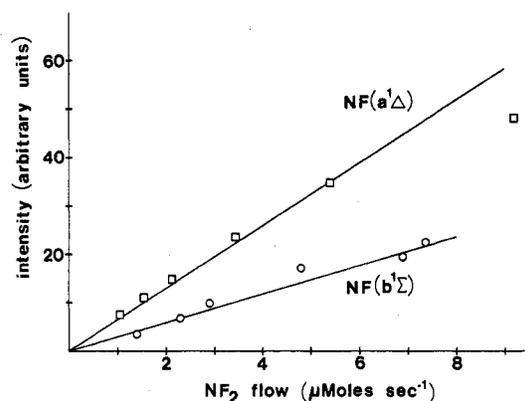


Figure 7. Variation of the $\text{NF}(b-X)$ and $\text{NF}(a-X)$ emission intensities at the first window with NF_2 concentration.

peak heights should be essentially the ratio of the vibrational populations. The peak height ratios are given in Table II as relative vibrational populations.

The 0-0 band emission intensity from both excited NF states was monitored vs. NF_2 concentration at the first window (reaction time ~ 0.2 ms) under two conditions: (1) high bulk flow velocity and moderate NF_2 flows, 1×10^{12} - 6×10^{12} molecules cm^{-3} and (2) slow bulk velocity and very low NF_2 flows. The monochromator slits were set at 80 μm to prevent interference from other bands. The former set of data is plotted in Figure 6. Under both conditions the emission intensity of $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$ and $\text{NF}(b^1\Sigma^+)$ was linear in $[\text{NF}_2]$, providing that $[\text{NF}_2]$ was $\leq 10^{13}$ molecule cm^{-3} .

The $\text{NF}(b-X)$ and $\text{NF}(a-X)$ emission intensity ratio was measured as a function of flow distance in the reactor by moving the monochromator to various windows. A representative experiment is displayed in Figure 7; the ratio has not been corrected for the variation of the detector response with wavelength. The $\text{NF}(b)/\text{NF}(a)$ ratio increases with distance. This experiment was repeated several times and a smooth increase was observed on each occasion.

Radiative Lifetime Determination of $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$. The radiative lifetime of $\text{NF}(a^1\Delta)$ was measured by comparing the $\text{NF}(a-X)$ emission intensity from a known concentration of $\text{NF}(a)$ with the $\Delta v=3$ emission intensity from a known concentration of HF($v=3$). The $\text{H} + \text{ClF}$ reaction was selected for the HF source because (i) the rate constant has been measured, (ii) the gas handling is relatively straightforward, and (iii) the branching fraction and vibrational distributions are known.^{5,18}

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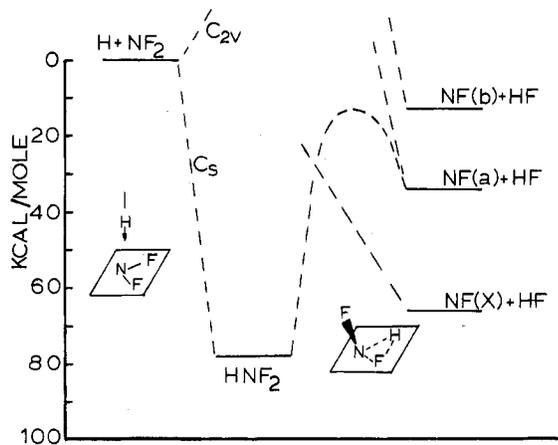


Figure 8. Reaction profile for the $H + NF_2$ reaction with emphasis on the anticipated high barrier for the reverse reaction of $NF(a^1\Delta)$ with HF.

tions²⁴ for k_{-1} were performed for a threshold energy of 55, 65, and 75 kcal mol⁻¹. The frequencies selected for HNF_2 and for the two activated complexes were based on the values give in ref 22 and 23 for NF_2 and HNF_2 , respectively, to obtain preexponential factors (partition function form at 500 K) of 2.4×10^{13} and 2.1×10^{14} s⁻¹ for elimination and redissociation, respectively. The HF elimination rate constants for an internal energy of 80 kcal mol⁻¹ are 4.7×10^{11} , 6.6×10^{10} , and 2.4×10^9 s⁻¹ for $E_0 = 55$, 65, and 75 kcal mol⁻¹, respectively. The RRKM dissociation rate constant was 2.7×10^9 s⁻¹. These rough calculations show that redissociation will not complete with elimination unless the threshold energy for HF elimination is within a few kcal mol⁻¹ of the threshold energy for redissociation. Since other three-centered elimination reactions,²⁵⁻²⁷ such as HX elimination from the halomethanes, have threshold energies only 5–10 kcal mol⁻¹ in excess of the reaction endoergicity, it is unlikely that the threshold energy for the HNF_2^+ is more than 20 kcal mol⁻¹ in excess of the endoergicity, i.e., the barrier for the addition of $NF(a^1\Delta)$ to HF is probably not larger than 20 kcal mol⁻¹. Thus, we conclude that redissociation of HNF_2^+ is not of significance. At 1 torr of Ar the collision frequency is 3×10^6 s⁻¹; so, collisional deactivation also is not competitive with HF elimination. We can thus equate our $HF(\nu \geq 0)$ formation rate constant with k_1 .

The rather small rate constant, relative to the limiting gas kinetic value, must be associated with a steric factor since the activation energy is small.^{4b} The bond angle in NF_2 is 105° but the unpaired electron still is in an orbital perpendicular to the molecular plane. The approach of H in the NF_2 molecular plane toward the lone pair orbital in C_{2v} geometry is repulsive and correlates to an HNF_2 electronically excited state.²⁵ However, approach of H perpendicularly to the NF_2 plane in C_s geometry should lead to the HNF_2 ground electronic state. Thus, the small rate constant can be associated, at least in part, with an appreciable steric factor. Some aspects of the potential profile are summarized in Figure 8.

Branching Fractions for $NF(X,a,b)$ Formation. Early studies¹⁻³ concluded that the majority of the NF product

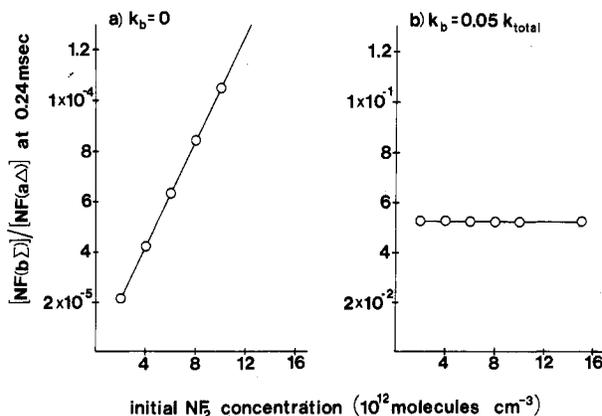
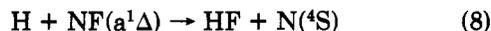
COMPUTER SIMULATION OF $H + NF_2$ 

Figure 9. Computer simulation of the $NF(b-X)/NF(a-X)$ intensity ratio for two mechanisms of $NF(b)$ formation: (a) excitation transfer from $HF(\nu)$ and (b) direct formation. For mechanism a the transfer rate constant was set at the gas kinetic value.

is formed in the $a^1\Delta$ state. Cheah and Clyne^{4c} concluded that $NF(a)$ was formed with a branching fraction > 0.9 . Our data also are consistent with this conclusion. However, small amounts of both b and X states are formed directly. The direct formation of $NF(X^3\Sigma^-)$ can be inferred from the presence of $HF(\nu=4)$ emission. The ratio of $HF(\nu=4)$ to $HF(\nu < 4)$ can be used to determine a lower limit to the $NF(X)/NF(a)$ branching ratio. In a similar fashion, the $I(NF,b-X)/I(NF,a-X)$ ratio allows the calculation of the $NF(b)/NF(a)$ branching ratio, after allowance is made for the radiative lifetimes.

The presence of $NF(b^1\Sigma^+)$ was attributed by Herbelin¹ to a near-resonant V-E transfer between $HF(\nu \geq 2)$ and $NF(a^1\Delta)$. However, direct formation of $NF(b^1\Sigma^+)$ can be inferred from our observed independence of $NF(b^1\Sigma^+)/NF(a^1\Delta)$ on $[NF_2]$. We performed a computer simulation of $NF(b)$ and $NF(a)$ formation from the $H + NF_2$ system (see Figure 9) assuming either direct formation or collisional formation. If $NF(b^1\Sigma^+)$ were formed only by collisional energy transfer, the $NF(b)/NF(a)$ ratio would show a strong dependence on $[NF_2]$. On the other hand, if $NF(b)$ is formed by direct reaction this ratio will be independent of $[NF_2]$. The latter matches our experimental results. Moreover, the calculations (Figure 9) show that even if the energy transfer rate constants are gas kinetic, the amount of $NF(b^1\Sigma^+)$ formed by V-E transfer is insignificant because the concentration of $HF(\nu \geq 2)$ is very small. Using the observed intensity ratio of 0.51, our radiative lifetime for $NF(a^1\Delta)$ and Clyne's radiative lifetime^{4a} for $NF(b^1\Sigma^+)$ of 0.2 s gives $b^1\Sigma^+:a^1\Delta = 1:32$.

The assignment of the branching ratio for $NF(X)$ is more difficult. The possible sources of $HF(\nu=4)$ is formation by reaction 1a, $HF(\nu)$ energy pooling, or secondary reactions. The concentrations of $HF(\nu)$ molecules is far too small and the reaction time far too short for energy pooling to generate $HF(\nu=4)$. We also can rule out the secondary reaction



$$\Delta H^\circ = -95 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$

because Clyne and Cheah^{4c} have shown that $N(^2D)$ with $\Delta H^\circ = -40$ kcal mol⁻¹, is the product and that the rate constant is $(2.5 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-13}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹. The rate constant for this secondary reaction would have to be $\geq 10^9$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹ for it to be the source of $HF(\nu=4)$.

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Hence, the HF($v=4$) must come from reaction 1a. The NF($X^3\Sigma^-$) is most likely formed via the same HNF₂* intermediate as the NF($a^1\Delta$) state but via a singlet-triplet surface crossing. Hence, the energy disposal to HF(v) from reaction 1a may be similar to that from reaction 1b. If one assumes that the HF(v) distribution from reaction 1a is an exponential declining function of f_v and has the same $\langle f_v \rangle$ as reaction 1b, one can calculate the HF distribution and then scale it by the relative HF($v=4$) concentration to get an overall relative contribution to HF(v) for reaction 1a. After subtracting this distribution from the observed distribution, the NF(X) to NF($a^1\Delta$) ratio is 1:12. Combining this with the $b^1\Sigma^+ : a^1\Delta$ ratio gives an estimate of the overall branching ratio of $X^3\Sigma^- : a^1\Delta : b^1\Sigma^+$ of 0.07:0.91:0.02. The estimate of NF(X) is very uncertain and may be in error by a factor of 2-3; the 0.07 value probably is an overestimate.

Energy Disposal for the HF + NF($a^1\Delta$) Channel. The vibrational energy disposal for this reaction is typical of unimolecular decomposition reactions²⁶ and is especially similar to other HX elimination reactions. Several authors have found that three- and four-centered HX eliminations release a moderate to high fraction of the available energy to translation and smaller amounts as internal excitation.²⁶⁻²⁹ The mean fraction of vibrational energy for NF and HF are $\langle f_v(\text{HF}) \rangle \approx 0.12$ and $\langle f_v(\text{NF}) \rangle \lesssim 0.05$ which are consistent with these general findings. The $\langle f_v \rangle$ value for HF strongly depends on the estimate for $v = 0$; however, both methods used in Table I gave similar results. In previous studies^{5,30} we have shown that, if HF(v) is formed in levels above $J = 10$, these high J levels can be observed in the flowing-afterglow apparatus used in this work. Since emission from high J levels could not be observed from the H + NF₂ reaction, the rotational excitation of HF(v) must be minimal. If the rotational energy imparted to HF is small, conservation of angular momentum suggests that the NF(a) also will have low rotational energy. The HF(v) surprisal for a three-body prior was strongly nonlinear and was of no aid in interpretation of the data. The surprisal using the prior based on the total degrees of freedom (of HF and NF) is still nonlinear (see Figure 2); but, a smooth extrapolation to $f_v = 0$ was possible. This extrapolation supported the HF($v=0$) population from extrapolating the $\ln P_v$ vs. E_v plot to $E_v = 0$.

Vibrational population inversions are very rarely observed for HX elimination reactions and $\langle f_v(\text{HX}) \rangle$ normally is in the range of 0.15.^{27,26} The value found here for H + NF₂ may be slightly lower than HF elimination from the halogenated methanes,²⁸ ethanes,²⁷ or HSF₅.⁸ Without reliable data for the HF($v=0$) population, further discussion about the vibrational energy disposal is speculation. However, the nonlinear surprisals in Figure 2 arise because the P_v values are too large for the higher v levels. This could be a consequence of the HF and DF formed by reaction 1a or some other experimental problem (note that these relative populations are quite low and small changes could have large effects). If the true P_v for high f_v should be lowered, the vibrational energy disposal to HF would be even smaller for the 1b channel. If the energy release were statistical, $\langle f_v(\text{HF}) \rangle$ and $\langle f_v(\text{NF}) \rangle$ would be ~ 0.09 . Although $\langle f_v(\text{HF}) \rangle$ is near the statistical value, the shape of $P_v(\text{HF})$ is not consistent with statistical partitioning and the NF product has much less than the statistical amount of energy. Since the sum of the HF and NF(a) mean

fractions of vibrational and rotational energies are ≤ 0.25 , a large fraction of the available energy must be released as translational energy. Such a specific energy release implies a high energy barrier for the reverse addition of NF($a^1\Delta$) to HF. Such a barrier is schematically shown in Figure 8.

Zamir and Levine³⁰ have provided a systematic information theoretic analysis of the HX vibrational distributions from HX elimination reactions. They find that nearly all examples could be fitted by a linear surprisal with a negative λ_v , which shows that the HX product received more than the statistical amount of energy. The analysis suggested that one constraint, on the vibrational energy released to HX, is enough to describe the energy disposal. They also introduced a sum rule to account for the partitioning of the excess energy and the potential energy, i.e., $\langle E_v \rangle = a(E - E_0) + bE_0$ where E_0 is the barrier energy for the reverse process, E is the total available energy, and a and b are constants. The H + NF₂ reaction appears to provide a counter example, because the HF(v) surprisal is not highly linear, the energy release to NF is very low and the translational energy is high. Possibly this is because E_0 is a sizeable fraction of $\langle E \rangle$ and the energy constraint in this case should be on E_T , i.e., a momentum constraint associated with repulsive release of the potential energy.

Conclusions

The chemiluminescence from the HF(v) and NF($a^1\Delta$) products from the H + NF₂ reaction have been used to study the rate constant at 300 K, the vibrational energy disposal to each product, and some spectroscopic properties (τ , ω_e , and $\omega_e x_e$) of NF($a^1\Delta$). The rate constant for H + NF₂ is only 1.3×10^{-11} cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹ and care must be exercised if this reaction is to be used as a source of NF($a^1\Delta$) for subsequent kinetic study in a flow system. The work³¹ reporting the anomalously large rate constant for excitation transfer from NF($a^1\Delta$) to Bi may have experienced some problems in this regard. The H + NF₂ reaction proceeds via an intermediate complex and the energy disposal is interpreted in terms of a unimolecular reaction. The reaction is unusual in that a electronically excited product is formed with a high branching fraction (>0.9) and because the vibrational energy in each product³² can be observed. The energy disposal is rather specific, a high fraction goes to E_T , and this elimination reaction does not fit the model advocated by Zamir and Levine³⁰ that was based upon the HX(v) distributions from HX elimination of large organic molecules. We suspect that, as greater microscopic detail for unimolecular elimination reactions becomes experimentally available, more complex exit channel coupling effects³³ will be found and more complex models will be ultimately needed to describe the dynamics.

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