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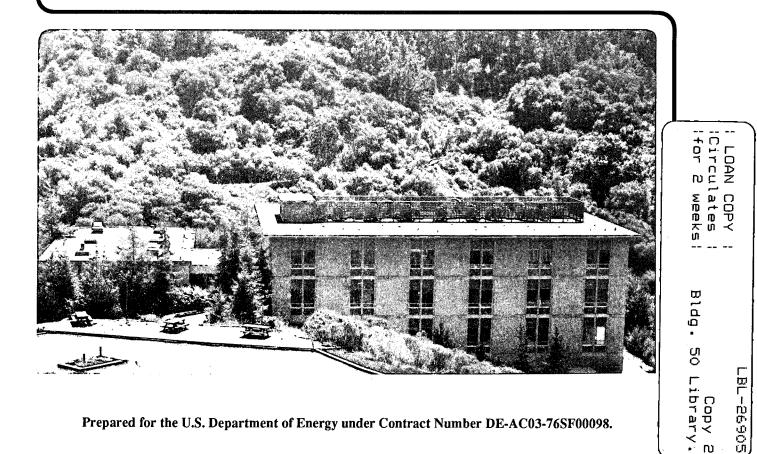
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Molecular Beam Studies of Reaction Dynamics

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Molecular Beam Studies of Reaction Dynamics

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Scope of Project

The major thrust of our project is to elucidate the detailed dynamics of simple elementary chemical reactions and primary photochemical processes which are theoretically important and to unravel mechanisms of complex chemical reactions which play important roles in many macroscopic processes. Various advanced molecular beam and laser techniques are used for this research. A new spectroscopic method was also developed recently for obtaining IR absorption spectra of important carbonium ions and various solvated ions.

Current Research and Recent Results

A) Reaction Dynamics

A preliminary study of the D + 1) <u>Reaction of D Atoms with Acetylene</u>. $C_0H_0 \rightarrow C_0HD + H$ reaction, which is interesting because of its role in combustion chemistry and possible theoretical applications, is being carried out. The dynamics of this system are being investigated by measuring the time-of-flight of the C_HD product at various laboratory angles, giving an idea of both the product energy and angular distribution at a given collision energy. The experiment probes the $D + C_2H_2$ reaction at various collision energies to determine the effect of reagent translational energy. A photodissociation source is used to produce D atoms thus allowing the D atom velocity and thus the reaction collision energy to be controlled by changing the D atom precursor (using DI or DBr) and/or by changing the laser frequency and polarization. Work has been done at 21, 40, and 55 kcal/mol, but other energies are possible. Some variation in the angular distribution of the C_HD product with collision energy has been observed, but more work will be required to confirm these initial observations and determine what changes in reaction mechanism account for the experimental results. It would also be interesting to see what happens to the abstraction channel (D + $C_2H_2 \rightarrow HD + C_2H$). Finally, with a few modifications of the experimental apparatus, it will be possible to use the photodissociation of CH₃I as a source of CH₃ radicals. This will allow the investigation of CH₃ reaction systems such as $CH_3^2 + C_2H_2$ and $CH_3 + C_2H_4$.

2) <u>Reaction Dynamics of Ground State Barium Atoms With 0_3 and $N0_2$. The reactions of barium with 0_3 and $N0_2$ were studied at several collision energies in the range from 9.1 to 57. kcal/mol. In both cases, two reaction channels were observed:</u>

$$Ba + 0_3 --> Ba0 + 0_2$$

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$$Ba + 0_{3} - -> Ba0_{3} + 0$$

and

 $Ba + NO_2 --> BaO + NO$ $Ba + NO_2 --> BaNO + O$.

Neither BaO, nor BaNO has previously been observed in the gas phase. From the translationál energy distributions of the products we calculate lower bounds for the Ba--O, and Ba--NO bond dissociation energies of 144 and 67 kcal/mol, respectively. The depth of the Ba--O potential well explains the dynamics of the Ba + O_2 reaction, which is thought to occur through the formation of a long-lived collision complex. The center of mass angular distributions for the first three reactions (above) peaked along the relative velocity vector and showed significant contributions in the backward hemisphere relative to the barium beam. Since the formation of ground state products is highly exothermic in these reactions (3-5 eV), it is unlikely that the observed distribution is due to a longlived collision complex. Alternatively, the distribution may result from an insertion mechanism wherein the divalent barium atom inserts into the 0--0 or N--O bond, and the symmetry of the reaction configuration is responsible for the observed distributions. The BaNO channel showed an angular distribution entirely forward scattered relative to the barium beam, which peaked well away from the relative velocity vector, suggesting a direct reaction mechanism resulting from collisions with a narrow range of impact parameters.

3) Dynamics of D + H₂ -> DH + H Reactions. In the last year complete differential cross sections have been measured for the reaction D + H₂ -> DH + H at two collision energies: 0.51 and 0.98 eV. The 0.98 eV data yield vibrational state resolved product angular distributions, with a peak product recoil angle of 130° in the center of mass frame. At 0.51 eV collision energy the DH product is strongly backscattered (c.m. angle - 180°). These results provide the highest resolution, most complete data available on this fundamental chemical reaction. A full analysis of the data is currently underway to provide an important test of the recent fully converged 3-dimensional quantum mechanical dynamics calculations of Zhang and Miller.

B) Photochemical and Unimolecular Processes

1) Production and Photodissociation of CCl₃ Radicals. Although a systematic and predictive understanding of the primary chemistry and translational energy release of unimolecular reactions of stable molecules is starting to develop, little is known about such processes in radicals. For the purpose of exploring their reaction dynamics, a pulsed molecular beam source of radicals with sufficient number density for use in photodissociation experiments has been built. A teflon nozzle with a transverse slot cut through it is attached to the end of a pulsed valve. A laser beam passes through the slot and intersects the gas pulse, producing radicals by photolysis of a suitable precursor molecule. The radicals are thermalyzed in the high pressure region of the nozzle, then cooled in the supersonic expansion out the end of the nozzle. CCl₃ radicals were produced by photolysis of CCl₄ at 193 nm in the source. After passing through a collimating skimmer, cold CCl₃ is photodissociated at 308 nm to give Cl and CCl₂,

some of which undergoes secondary photodissociation producing Cl + CCl. There is no evidence for the reaction producing Cl_{2} and CCl from CCl_{3} . From the time-offlight spectra of the fragments, detected with a rotatable mass spectrometer, the product translational energy distributions for each reaction channel can be obtained. The primary reaction, producing Cl and CCl_{2} , releases an average of 12-13 kcal/mol into translation, or about a third of the available energy. Analysis of the data to extract the translational energy release from secondary photodissociation is now underway. It is expected that this source will be useful in further studies of polyatomic radicals.

2) <u>Molecular Beam Studies of the Photodissociation of Benzene at 193 and</u> <u>248 nm</u>. The photodissociation processes of benzene following excitation at 193 and 248 nm have been studied by molecular beam photofragmentation translational spectroscopy. When benzene was excited to the B_{1u} state by absorption at 193 nm, dissociation occurred through three primary channels, $C_{H_5} + H$, $C_{H_4} + H_2$, and $C_{5H_3} + CH_3$, following internal conversion to the vibrationally excited ground state. When benzene was excited to the B_{2u} state at 248 nm, two primary dissociation channels, $C_{6H_4} + H_2$, and $C_{5H_3} + CH_3$, were observed. Photodissociation to produce two C_{3H_3} was induced by two-photon absorption of benzene at both 193 and 248 nm. Numerous secondary photodissociation processes of the primary photoproducts were also observed at both 193 and 248 nm.

3) Time and State Resolved H, Elimination from 1.3 and 1.4-Cyclohexadiene. In the photolysis of 1,4-cyclohexadine (CHDN) at 193nm, it has been shown that the concerted H, elimination and C-H bond rupture are two primary reaction channels following internal conversion. 1,3-CHDN, on the other hand, isomerizes to 1,4-CHDN before H, elimination occurs. Preliminary studies have been carried out on the photodissociation dynamics of both 1,4-CHDN and 1,3-CHDN at 212nm by probing the vibrational, rotational as well as translational energy distributions in the H₂ product through a VUV-UV two photon REMPI process. The population of H₂ in each rovibrational state was determined by measuring the transition intensities of the Lyman and Werner bands using a recently developed transformlimited VUV-XUV laser system. Since the transitions to the B Σ or C II states are direct absorption processes, the state population of H₂ can⁵be calibrated rather accurately based on the theoretical oscillator strengths and known experimental parameters.

Some of the H₂ formed in this reaction is found to be highly vibrationally excited with products up to the v"-6 observed. On the contrary, the rotation is somewhat less excited with J = 2 or 3 for most of the vibrational states. The H₂ product state distributions are virtually the same for 1,4-CHDN and 1,3-CHDN within the experimental uncertainty. However, the time evolution of the H₂ product is significantly different for the two isomers which indicates that 1,3-CHDN undergoes an isomerization to 1,4-CHDN before ejecting H₂.

C) Infrared Spectroscopy of Ionic Clusters

Infrared spectra of the hydrated hydronium, ammoniated ammonium and water substituted (hydrated) ammoniated ammonium ions were obtained between 2600 and 4000 cm⁻¹ at 0.7 cm⁻¹ resolution for a wide range of mass-selected cluster sizes. Spectra were generated by trapping the mass selected parent ions in a radio frequency ion trap, for a variable delay while the ions interacted with a

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tunable, pulsed infrared laser beam. If the cluster ions absorb sufficient energy from the laser, vibrational predissociation can take place, resulting in the loss of one or more solvent molecules. Spectra are obtained by using a second mass analyzer to monitor the number of daughter ions produced as a function of laser wavelength.

1) Infrared Spectroscopy of the Hydrated Hydronium Cluster Ions. $H_3 O_{+}^{+}(H_2 O)$ In an extension of previous work, spectra have been obtained for the $H_3 O_{+}(H_2 O)^m$ ions for m-3 to 8. These spectra show features assignable to motions involving the $H_3 O_{-}^{+}$ core and $H_2 O$ solvent molecules. Preliminary analysis suggests that the first shell (I) is indeed completed by three $H_2 O$ subunits and that the favored geometry while the second shell (II) is being filled involves each II $H_2 O$ hydrogen bonded to a I $H_2 O$. One important issue which we hope to resolve is whether the spectra indicate the presence of geometric isomers. Absorptions due to second shell subunits are observed.

2) Infrared Spectroscopy of the Ammoniated Ammonium Cluster Ions. $\underline{NH}_{4}(\underline{NH}_{3})_{n}$. Spectra have also been obtained for the NH₄(NH₃)_n cluster ion series for n-1 to 10. Features have been observed that have been assigned to both NH₄ and NH₃ type vibrational motions. Of the latter, vibrations of species in both the primary and secondary solvation shells have been distinguished in the larger clusters. Spectral data support the generally accepted notion that there are 4 ammonias in the first solvation shell of the cluster. The data also suggest in conflict with <u>ab initio</u> predictions, that the structure of the dimer NH₄NH₃ is symmetric, or nearly so. Spectral features broaden and their frequencies converge with large n to values similar to those observed in concentrated solutions of ammonium salts in liquid ammonia, suggesting a liquid-like environment around the ammonium ion core.

A significant discovery is the observation of rotational structure imposed on the ν_3' band of the solvent ammonia molecules for n=2 to 7. The wide spacing of these features (-12.6cm⁻¹, precludes assigning them to a rotation of the cluster as a whole. Rather, they have been assigned to the internal rotation of the solvent ammonias in the first solvation shell about their C₃ axes with the nitrogens pointing towards the hydrogens of the ammonium ion. Fitting these data with a theoretical model for internal rotation gives a low (<10 kcal/mole) barrier to internal rotation and essentially no vibrational coupling with other ammonias.

3) Infrared Spectroscopy of Hydrated Ammoniated Ammonium Ions. $\underline{NH}_{4}(\underline{NH}_{3})(\underline{H}_{2}0)$. A large quantity of spectral data have been obtained from the clusters $\underline{NH}_{4}(\underline{NH}_{3})(\underline{H}_{2}0)(\underline{H}_{2}0)(\underline{m}+\underline{n}-3)$ to 5). The analysis of these data is in progress and already reveals the same nearly free internal rotation of \underline{NH}_{3} subunits as in the $\underline{NH}_{4}(\underline{NH}_{3})$ case. The presence of $\underline{H}_{2}0$ in these complexes, however, can produce an inequivalence of otherwise identical \underline{NH}_{3} subunits which results in a lifting of degeneracy and more complex spectra. The internal rotation of $\underline{H}_{2}0$ subunits is also evident in many of these complexes. This is particularly interesting in view of the fact that the spectra of $\underline{H}_{3}0(\underline{H}_{2}0)$ complexes have no comparable structure obviously attributable to internal rotation. The preliminary analysis also strongly suggests that more than one geometric isomer is frequently observed. This is not unexpected if the isomers differ in energy by only 1 or 2 kcal/mole.

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Future Plans

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A. Reaction Dynamics

1) <u>Reaction of Sodium Dimer With O_2 </u>. The reaction of ground state sodium atoms with oxygen to form NaO and O atom² is not possible due to its endothermicity. The reaction is energetically possible for sodium excited to the 4D or 5S electronic states, yet reaction is only seen in the case of Na(4D). However, two reaction channels are thermodynamically possible for the dimer:

> $Na_2 + O_2 --> 2 NaO$ $\Delta H = -3 kcal/mol$ $Na_2 + O_2 --> NaO_2 + Na$ $\Delta H = -18 kcal/mol$.

These two channels are likely to result from very different mechanisms. The center-of-mass angular distributions and translational energy distributions should provide insight into these reactions, and into the monomer reaction as well.

2) <u>Reactions of Electronically Excited Barium Atoms</u>. A broad understanding of the reactions of ground state barium with a variety of small molecules provides the foundation for an examination of the consequences of exciting one of the two barium valence electrons to a higher electronic state. The dependence of chemical reactivity on barium electronic state and on the alignment of the excited state orbitals relative to the reactants' relative velocity vector will provide a detailed understanding of the nature of the initial bond formation process.

3) <u>Crossed Beam Chemistry of Transition Metals</u>. The recent development of an apparatus capable of generating seeded supersonic beams of transition metals will open the door to the study of a broad spectrum of reactions of importance in combustion, catalysis, and corrosion. An exciting prospect, for example, is the reaction of transition metals with hydrocarbons. Owing to the involvement of dorbitals in bond formation, insertion of the metal atom into the carbon-carbon bond is likely to occur, with subsequent H₂ elimination. By studying the actual molecular events under precisely defined conditions, a microscopic understanding of these important catalytic reactions may be obtained.

B. Photochemical and Unimolecular Processes

1) <u>Secondary Dissociation of Phenoxy Radicals from the Primary Photo-</u> <u>dissociation of Anisole and Phenol</u>. Phenoxy radical is one of the most important intermediates in the combustion of benzene. The decomposition of phenoxy through formation of carbon monoxide and cyclopentadienyl radical is the major route of destruction of the six-membered ring system. In order to study the dynamics of formation and unimolecular decomposition of phenoxy radical, the infrared multiphoton dissociation of phenol and anisole were studied in a molecular beam experiment. The lowest energy dissociation pathway for both molecules leads to formation of phenoxy radical which was detected mass spectrometrically. In the case of anisole, there is evidence for secondary dissociation of the phenoxy radical to carbon monoxide and cyclopentadienyl radical. Ultraviolet excitation at 193 and 248 nm was also used to study the photodissociation of anisole. In contrast to the infrared multiphoton dissociation experiment, several reaction channels were observed. The primary dissociation routes tentatively identified for the case of excitation at 193 nm are the formation of phenoxy radical and methyl radical accompanied by a the release of large amounts of translational energy, the elimination of methanol forming benzyne, and the formation of toluene and O(D). Secondary decomposition of the phenoxy radical forming cyclopentadienyl radical and possibly the absorption of a second photon by toluene and subsequent decomposition to phenyl and methyl radicals were also observed. Analysis of the results at 248 nm is in progress.

In the future, this work will be extended to study the ultraviolet photodissociation of phenol in order to improve the understanding of the dynamics of reactions involving molecules and radical species of major importance in combustion systems, as well as to extend our knowledge of aromatic photochemistry.

2) <u>Mode Specific Decomposition of $NH_4^+(H_2O)(NH_3)_2$ </u>. The IR absorption spectrum of $NH_4^-(H_2O)(NH_3)_2$ obtained in our laboratory clearly indicates that H_2O and two NH_3 molecules are hydrogen bonded to three of the four H atoms in NH_4^+ , leaving one free N-H bond unoccupied. The vibrational frequencies of stretching modes of H_2O , NH_3 and N-H in NH_4^+ are well separated and they all lie in the range between 3200 cm⁻¹ and 3800 cm⁻¹⁴.

When the vibrational degrees of freedom of this molecules are excited beyond 30 kcal/mol, the elimination of either H_2O or NH_3 will become energetically possible. An interesting investigation can be carried out by using a pulsed tunable IR laser to excite various stretching frequencies in these solvated ions to study how the competition between H_2O elimination and the NH_3 elimination depends on the mode through which IR photons are deposited.

For many stable molecules, intramolecular energy transfers are shown to be faster than the unimolecular dissociation processes, but for weakly bound van der Waals molecules, the bond rupture often occurs before the vibrational energy is completely randomized. The solvated ions represent an intermediate case and should provide very interesting information on the mode specific dissociation processes. If the intramolecular energy transfer is again shown to be faster than the dissociation processes, no matter whether one excites N-H in NH₄, or stretching frequencies of H₂O or NH₄, the slightly weaker binding H₂O will be preferentially eliminated.

C) Dynamic Spectroscopy

IR absorption, overtone excitation of polyatomic radicals, vibrational spectroscopy of carbonium ions and solvated ions, and the high resolution photoionization spectroscopy of polyatomic radicals are some of our future projects.

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