

Total Collision Cross Sections for the Interaction of Molecular Beams of Cesium Chloride with Gases. Influence of the Dipole-Dipole Force upon the Scattering

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Total cross sections (Q) for the interaction of beams of CsCl with a number of molecules were measured using an apparatus of ca $4'$ angular resolution in which the temperature of the scattering gas could be varied from 200°–735°K. The temperature dependence of Q was studied for Ar, CH₄, CH₂F₂, CHF₃, CF₄, NO, H₂S, NH₃, and for *cis*- and *trans*-CHCl=CHCl. Relative values of Q at 300°K were measured for eight additional gases.

The data were correlated using the Massey-Mohr theory, assuming an intermolecular potential $V(r) = -C/r^6$, so that $Q = b(C/v_r)^{2/5}$, where v_r is the relative velocity and b a known constant; the potential constant C was estimated from formulas for the dispersion, dipole-induced dipole, and dipole-dipole forces.

For the nonpolar gases the observed small temperature dependence of Q agrees within experimental error ($\pm 3\%$) with that expected from the temperature dependence of v_r . The theoretical values of Q differ by a nearly constant factor from the experimental results; thus relative cross sections (Q^*) are predicted with fair accuracy.

For the polar gases the Q 's are large, decreasing significantly with increasing temperature. Because of the large dipole-dipole interaction, the approximate theoretical treatment (based on the limiting temperature-dependent dipole-dipole contribution to C) accounts only semiquantitatively for the observations.

INTRODUCTION

IN a previous paper¹ total collision cross sections (Q) for the interaction of atomic beams of K and Cs with a number of molecules (polar and nonpolar) were reported. The results were correlated with the Massey-Mohr theory² for an attractive intermolecular potential $V(r) = -C/r^6$.

The present paper describes experiments on the scattering of beams of the dipolar molecule CsCl. Studies with dipolar beam molecules are of interest because of the possibility of observing directly the influence of the dipole-dipole forces upon the scattering.

An approximate theoretical equation has been presented¹ for the estimation of elastic scattering cross sections for dipolar molecules. The assumptions in its development are such as to limit its applicability to cases where the interaction energy is small relative to kT , corresponding to low dipole moments and/or high temperatures. It will be seen that although the experimental results may be accounted for in a semiquantitative way by the limiting theory, considerable further theoretical development is needed before precise *a priori* calculations of cross sections can be made.

EXPERIMENTAL

The apparatus was that described by Rothe and Bernstein¹ (hereafter referred to as I) with the following modifications: The oven was supplied with additional

heaters and surrounded by a water-cooled radiation shield. The oven slit was set at 0.005 cm. The scattering chamber (SC) was constructed of copper, with a Kovar-to-Pyrex seal leading to the external gas inlet system. It was attached to a Monel heater plate containing internal heating coils. This plate was itself in contact with a copper cooling plate through which liquid nitrogen could be passed. The SC was thermally insulated from its support by means of Vycor plates and rings. Three thermocouples located in suitable wells in the SC indicated that temperature gradients were negligible. Steady temperatures ranging from -130° to 465°C could readily be obtained; however, for other reasons the low-temperature limit of the experiments was set at 200°K.

The collimating slit on the SC was set at 0.005 cm. The calculated half-width of the unscattered beam at the detector (0.0025 cm diam) was 0.015 cm. The observed value varied somewhat with the temperature of the SC, but was in the range 0.02–0.03 cm. The resolution³ of the apparatus is taken to be $4'$ of arc (compared to $2'$ with the arrangement used in I).

The Knudsen-gauge (KG) sensitivity was improved to a value of 2.0×10^{-6} mm Hg/mm scale deflection by increasing the heater temperature and the optical path. The working range of pressures in the SC was from 1×10^{-6} to 5×10^{-5} mm Hg. Since the SC was at a

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¹ E. W. Rothe and R. B. Bernstein, *J. Chem. Phys.* **31**, 1619 (1959). Errata are as follows: The exponent in Eq. (2) should read -17 . The first bracket in Eq. (e) of Appendix II is to be deleted. A more correct estimate of the angular resolution is $2'$ of arc (see footnote 3 of the present paper).

² H. S. W. Massey and C. B. O. Mohr, *Proc. Roy. Soc. (London)* **A144**, 188 (1934).

³ P. Kusch (private communication, January 18, 1960) has developed an equation for calculating the efficiency of detection of scattering in terms of apparatus parameters, e.g., beam width and detector width. He suggests a reasonable definition of resolution as the minimum scattering angle for which the efficiency of detection of scattering is 50%. This criterion has been adopted here. *Note added in proof.* Application of this analysis to the experimental arrangements of two other previous workers (footnote references 2 and 10 of I) showed their resolution (at the 50% level) to be appreciably worse than their stated "resolution."

different temperature than the KG, the pressure readings required correction for the thermal transpiration effect, $P_{SC} = P_{KG} (T_{SC}/T_{KG})^{1/2}$. The ideal square root of T factor was used in view of calculations based on Liang's⁴ empirical formula for thermal transpiration, using the present experimental parameters ($P < 5 \times 10^{-6}$ mm, tubing diam 9 mm i.d., T_{SC} 200–735°K, and $T_{KG} = 300^\circ\text{K}$). The calculated factors agreed within 1% with the ideal $T^{1/2}$ factor used.

Larger liquid-nitrogen traps made it possible to maintain pressures $< 3 \times 10^{-7}$ mm Hg in the oven chamber and $< 2 \times 10^{-7}$ mm Hg in the detector chamber with both the oven and SC at high temperatures.

The operating procedure was similar to that described in I. Before each series of experiments with a new scattering gas, however, the SC was heated and thoroughly degassed. For each individual cross-section determination the beam intensity was measured for 20 or more values of the scattering gas pressure corresponding to 0–50% attenuation of the beam. Plots of $\log(I/I_0)$ vs P_{SC} were accurately linear in this range ($I/I_0 > 0.5$).

Argon was used as a standard "reference" gas; for comparison purposes the Q for argon was determined at least once during any series of measurements with another gas. In I, *relative* cross sections were reported (using argon as the reference). In the present work, whenever the argon cross section differed significantly from the "standard" argon curve (Fig. 2) all Q 's of that series were adjusted accordingly (by amounts ranging from 0 to 14%). All data as reported are thus mutually consistent with the "standard" curve for argon.

MATERIALS

All scattering gases were purified (mostly by distillation) and were characterized before use. They are believed to contain less than 1% impurity. We used cp cesium chloride (Fairmount Chemical Company), stated to contain $< 0.5\%$ impurity (most of which is KCl), for the beam. Based on the results of Kusch⁵ it is unlikely that the abundance of dimeric or polymeric molecules in the beam is greater than 1–2%.

RESULTS

Figure 1 shows a typical plot of primary data. The calculation of the cross section from the slopes of such graphs is outlined in I.

The absolute cross sections for CsCl-argon are subject to uncertainty because of numerous sources of possible systematic errors.¹ For the earlier measurements⁶ (Set A, beam temperature 876°K) the average value of Q for argon at 300°K was 395 A^2 with a maximum value of 450 A^2 . However, for the subsequent, more

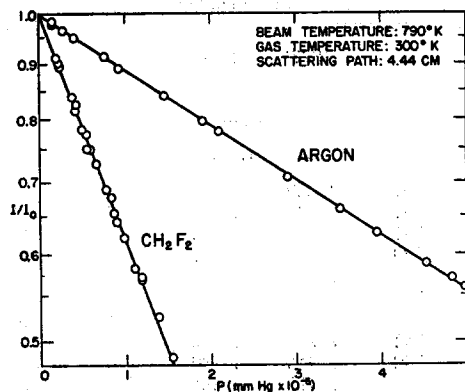


FIG. 1. Typical plot of primary data for CsCl scattering.

reliable determinations (Set B, beam temperature ca 790°K) most of the values for Q of argon at 300°K were between 540 and 560 A^2 ; all of these determinations lay within a total range of 15%. All the data on the temperature dependence of the cross section as reported are consistent with the "Set B" measurements for argon.

Table I summarizes the results of the study of the influence of temperature on the scattering of CsCl beams by various polar and nonpolar gases. Here T_1 and T_2 represent the temperatures (°K) of the scattering gas and beam, respectively; $\bar{T} = 2T_1T_2/(T_1+T_2)$, v_r (cm/sec) is the average relative velocity as defined in I, and Q (cm^2) is the cross section. The potential constant C (erg cm^6) is obtained¹ from the Massey-Mohr formula,

$$C = 6.738 \times 10^{-30} v_r Q^{5/2}. \quad (1)$$

Listed in the table are the dipole moments μ (debyes) and polarizabilities α (A^3) of the various gases [see Rothe (footnote 6) for sources of data].

Table II presents data on the relative cross sections for the scattering of CsCl beams by various nonpolar gases at 300°K. Set A summarizes the most reliable determinations from the earlier study.⁶ The data of Set B are derived from Table I. The relative cross section Q^* is defined (as in I) by the ratio

$$Q^* = Q_{12}/Q_{Ar2}, \quad (2)$$

where Q_{12} and Q_{Ar2} are the total cross sections for the beam 2 with gas 1 and argon, respectively. The calculated relative cross sections are obtained from the equations [(6) and (7) of I] for the C_{ind} and C_{disp} terms, using the dipole moment of CsCl and the listed polarizabilities of the scattering gases.

The data are presented graphically in Figs. 2–12. Where different symbols for experimental points appear, they represent different series of measurements. Dashed lines through the data are "experimental," while solid lines show either the calculated fit to the data or the theoretical lines, as indicated. The dotted

⁴ S. C. Liang, *J. Phys. Chem.* **57**, 910 (1953).

⁵ P. Kusch, *J. Chem. Phys.* **25**, 860 (1956).

⁶ E. W. Rothe, Ph.D. thesis, University of Michigan, 1959. Available from University Microfilms, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan.

TABLE I. Temperature dependence of the cross section for the scattering of CsCl beams ($\mu_2=10.42$; $\alpha_2=5.912$).

T_1	T_2	$10^3/\bar{T}$	$10^{-5}\times v_r$	$10^{16}\times Q$	$10^{20}\times C$	T_1	T_2	$10^3/\bar{T}$	$10^{-5}\times v_r$	$10^{16}\times Q$	$10^{20}\times C$
Argon						Difluoromethane (cont.)					
($\mu_1=0, \alpha_1=1.64$)						Fluoroform					
223.5	791	2.869	0.503	585	280	613	792	1.447	0.619	1818	5881
227.5	791	2.830	0.505	593	291	642	787	1.414	0.628	1818	5962
263	791	2.533	0.523	562	264	698	787	1.352	0.646	1757	5631
300	789	2.300	0.541	551	260	708	788	1.340	0.649	1903	6908
300	790	2.300	0.541	558	268	728	790	1.320	0.656	1677	5084
300	790	2.300	0.541	544	252	729.5	790	1.318	0.656	1735	5545
300	791	2.299	0.542	551	260	Fluoroform					
300	793	2.297	0.542	543	251	($\mu_1=1.64, \alpha_1=2.77$)					
381	790	1.945	0.580	525	247	201	794	3.117	0.444	2281	7431
390.5	793	1.911	0.584	505	226	221	791	2.894	0.450	2238	7180
520	787	1.597	0.639	523	269	222	794	2.882	0.451	2178	6724
531	791	1.573	0.644	500	243	246	794	2.662	0.459	1854	4574
555	791	1.533	0.654	510	258	266.5	794	2.506	0.465	1811	4376
635	784	1.425	0.685	504	263	300	794	2.296	0.476	1734	4011
699	791	1.347	0.710	498	264	300	794	2.296	0.476	1679	3703
731	782	1.323	0.721	486	252	331	794	2.140	0.485	1653	3633
259 (av)						388	794	1.918	0.503	1600	3466
Methane						501	793	1.628	0.535	1598	3680
($\mu_1=0, \alpha_1=2.56$)						619	791	1.440	0.567	1529	3493
230	788	2.808	0.661	589	375	702	790	1.345	0.588	1570	3871
300	789	2.300	0.727	560	363	730	790	1.318	0.595	1413	3010
351	792	2.056	0.773	522	325	cis-Dichloroethylene					
465	792	1.707	0.864	536	387	($\mu_1=1.89, \alpha_1=8.08$)					
574	792	1.502	0.944	496	349	273	793	2.462	0.442	2818	12560
695	792	1.351	1.025	515	415	300	793	2.297	0.449	2766	12170
723	792	1.323	1.043	467	332	335	793	2.123	0.457	2661	11250
364 (av)						390	791	1.914	0.470	2579	10690
Carbon tetrafluoride						394	791	1.901	0.470	2615	11090
($\mu_1=0, \alpha_1=2.82$)						456	794	1.726	0.485	2403	9249
214	792	2.968	0.433	786	505	524	791	1.586	0.499	2379	9289
300	792	2.298	0.456	734	448	535	794	1.564	0.502	2370	9254
406	792	1.863	0.483	686	401	571	789	1.509	0.509	2242	8162
530	792	1.575	0.512	740	513	trans-Dichloroethylene					
537	788	1.566	0.513	727	492	($\mu_1=0, \alpha_1=8.08$)					
616	792	1.443	0.532	741	536	273	795	2.460	0.443	1395	2167
667	792	1.380	0.543	663	414	300	795	2.296	0.449	1255	1689
473 (av)						331	795	2.140	0.456	1299	1871
Difluoromethane						397	795	1.888	0.472	1340	2088
($\mu_1=1.96, \alpha_1=2.69$)						474	795	1.684	0.489	1332	2133
209.5	793	3.017	0.470	2600	10910	528	794	1.577	0.501	1250	1864
218	791	2.926	0.473	2667	11710	563	793	1.519	0.508	1193	1684
218	794	2.923	0.474	2572	10710	Nitric oxide					
236	792	2.750	0.481	2669	11920	($\mu_1=0.16, \alpha_1=1.70$)					
250	794	2.630	0.487	2789	13480	213	792	2.979	0.534	750	554
269	794	2.489	0.495	2487	10290	213	792	2.979	0.534	737	531
276	794	2.441	0.498	2616	11740	262.5	792	2.536	0.565	642	398
276.5	793	2.438	0.498	2547	10980	300	792	2.298	0.588	602	352
300	791	2.299	0.507	2330	8951	300	794	2.296	0.588	608	361
300	792	2.298	0.507	2344	9083	373	792	1.972	0.630	578	341
300	794	2.296	0.507	2412	9763	427	792	1.802	0.660	573	349
326	794	2.163	0.517	2175	7696	445.5	792	1.754	0.669	545	313
332	793	2.137	0.520	2214	8071	545.5	792	1.548	0.720	540	329
347	794	2.071	0.526	2088	7053	581	792	1.492	0.737	542	340
395	791	1.898	0.543	2040	6882	637.5	791	1.416	0.764	554	371
409	794	1.852	0.549	1962	6307	689	788	1.360	0.787	538	356
467	791	1.703	0.569	1983	6717	730	790	1.318	0.805	522	337
493	793	1.645	0.579	1936	6433	735	790	1.313	0.807	482	278
582.5	791	1.490	0.609	1937	6776	1928 (av)					

TABLE 1 Continued.

T_1	T_2	$10^3/\bar{T}$	$10^{-5}\times v_r$	$10^{10}\times Q$	$10^{60}\times C$	T_1	T_2	$10^3/\bar{T}$	$10^{-5}\times v_r$	$10^{10}\times Q$	$10^{60}\times C$
Hydrogen sulfide ($\mu_1=1.02, \alpha_1=3.61$)						Ammonia ($\mu_1=1.47, \alpha_1=2.16$)					
197	794	3.168	0.508	1453	2750	204	793	3.082	0.623	1217	2168
226	794	2.842	0.525	1444	2800	226	791	2.845	0.644	1169	2029
260	794	2.553	0.544	1301	2241	259	794	2.560	0.675	1132	1960
300	794	2.296	0.567	1191	1868	300	790	2.300	0.712	1128	2049
429.5	793	1.794	0.633	1080	1635	300	790	2.300	0.712	1090	1879
549	791	1.542	0.689	993	1444	300	793	2.297	0.712	1078	1829
635	790	1.420	0.727	863	1070	376	793	1.960	0.775	1066	1936
727	788	1.322	0.765	793	913	459	794	1.719	0.839	1058	2059
						552	794	1.536	0.905	1070	2287
						705	790	1.342	1.005	946	1862
						717	792	1.329	1.012	1078	2603

TABLE II. Relative cross sections for scattering of CsCl beams by nonpolar molecules at 300°K.

Scattering gas	α_1	T_2	$10^3/\bar{T}$	$10^{-5}\times v_r$	Q_{obs}^*	Q_{calc}^*
Set A						
Ar	1.64	876	2.237	0.555	(1.000)	(1.000)
He	0.206	876	2.237	1.32	0.37	0.32
Ne	0.408	876	2.237	0.68	0.60	0.55
Kr	2.49	876	2.237	0.475	1.35	1.24
Xe	4.02	876	2.237	0.446	1.55	1.51
H ₂	0.806	876	2.237	1.816	0.52	0.46
D ₂	0.796	876	2.237	1.313	0.55	0.52
SF ₆	4.48	876	2.237	0.441	1.74	1.68
SiCl ₄	11.27	876	2.237	0.434	2.24	2.34
Set B						
Ar	1.64	790	2.300	0.541	(1.000)	(1.000)
CH ₄	2.56	789	2.300	0.727	1.01	1.04
CF ₄	2.82	792	2.298	0.456	1.33	1.37
<i>trans</i> -C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂	8.08	795	2.296	0.449	2.27	2.00

lines merely serve to connect different regions of the drawing.

DISCUSSION

A. Scattering by Nonpolar Gases

By inspection of Table I it is seen that the small observed temperature dependence of the cross section is entirely accounted for by the temperature dependence of v_r . The solid lines in Figs. 2-4 represent the calculated fit to the data (Q vs T_1) for Ar, CH₄, CF₄ and *trans*-CHCl=CHCl, based on Eq. (4) of I,

$$Q \sim (C/v_r)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (3)$$

The temperature invariance of C [calculated from Q with Eq. (1)] is illustrated in Fig. 5 for Ar, Fig. 7 for CH₄ and CF₄, and Fig. 8 for *trans*-CHCl=CHCl.

It is of interest to compare these "observed" C values with those calculated¹: $C_{calc} = C_{disp} + C_{ind}$. Table III shows this comparison; the listed values of C_{obs} are the average C values from Table I.

The results are shown graphically in Figs. 5, 7, and 8 with C_{calc} indicated by a horizontal (solid) line.

In terms of the reverse calculation (i.e., Q from C_{calc}) for the worst case, CH₄, Q_{calc} differs from Q_{obs} by some 18%. Thus the agreement is fair, but there is much room for improvement. A discussion formulating possible sources for differences is presented in I.

B. Scattering by Polar Gases

The average potential for a system of two classically rotating ideal dipoles is given by the Keesom formula⁷:

$$\langle V(r) \rangle_{Av} = -2\mu_1^2\mu_2^2/3kTr^6 \quad (4)$$

valid in the limit when

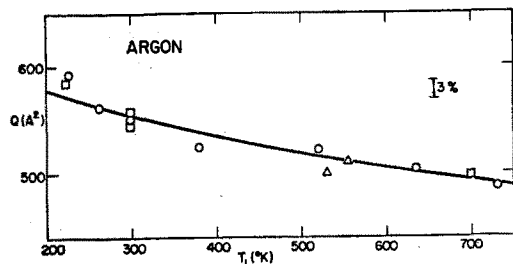
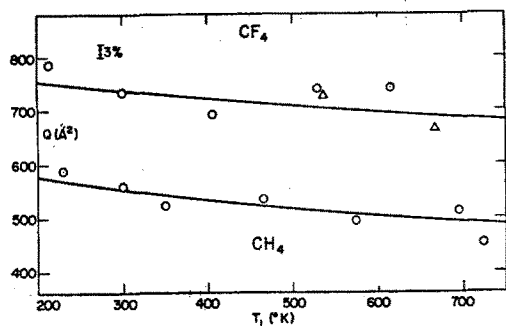
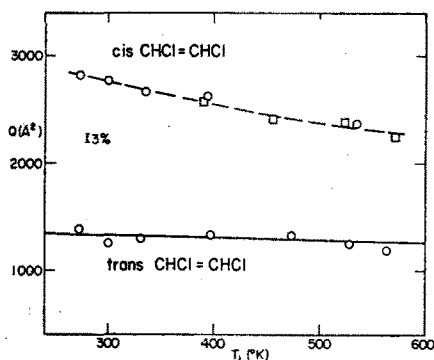
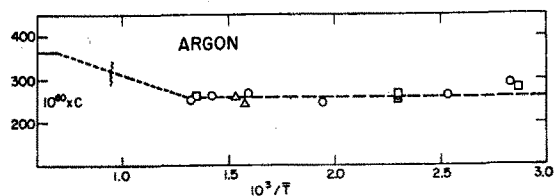
$$(\mu_1\mu_2/r^3)/kT \ll 1 \quad (5)$$

(i.e., $T \rightarrow \infty$; $\mu_1, \mu_2 \rightarrow 0$; and/or $r \rightarrow \infty$).⁸ For the molecular beam case it seems reasonable⁶ to replace T by $\bar{T} = 2T_1T_2/(T_1+T_2)$, so that

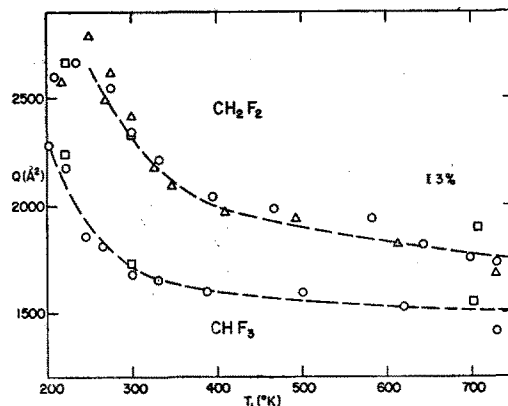
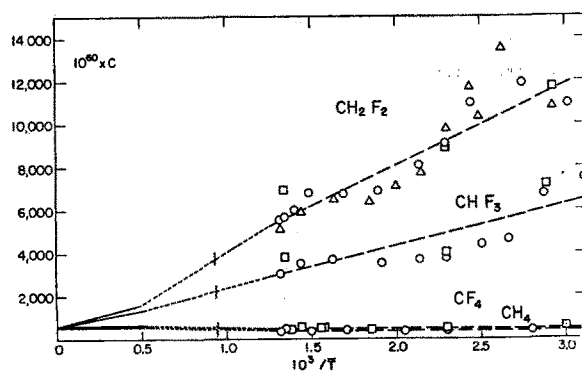
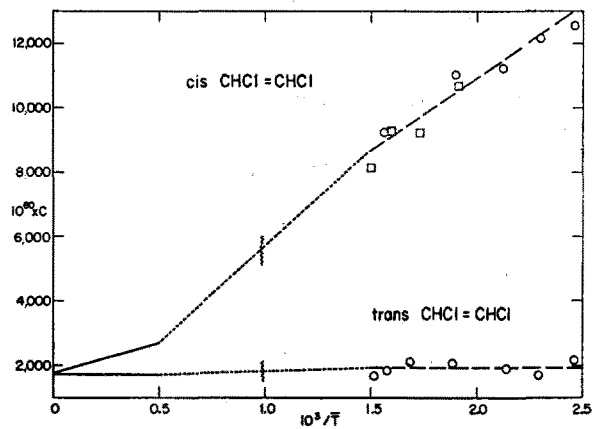
$$C_{d-d} = 2\mu_1^2\mu_2^2/3k\bar{T}. \quad (6)$$

⁷ W. Keesom, Physik. Z. 22, 129 (1921).

⁸ As noted in I, the condition for validity of Eq. (4) is equivalent to $r \gg r_{min} = (\mu_1\mu_2/kT)^{1/3}$. For $\mu_1=1$ debye, $\mu_2=10$ debyes, $T=300^\circ\text{K}$, $r_{min}=6.2$ A. Thus the conditions are hardly satisfied for the present experimental situation.

FIG. 2. Q vs temperature of scattering gas: — calc fit.FIG. 3. Q vs temperature of scattering gas: — calc fit.FIG. 4. Q vs temperature of scattering gas: — calc fit; --- exptl.FIG. 5. C vs $1/\bar{T}$: — theor; --- exptl.TABLE III. C_{calc} vs C_{obs} for scattering by nonpolar molecules.

Molecule	$10^{60} \times [C_{\text{disp}}]$	C_{ind}	C_{calc}	C_{obs}
Ar	186	178	364	259
CH ₄	267	277	544	364
CF ₄	363	306	669	473
<i>trans</i> -CHCl=CHCl	835	878	1713	1928

FIG. 6. Q vs temperature of scattering gas: --- exptl.FIG. 7. C vs $1/\bar{T}$: — theor; --- exptl.FIG. 8. C vs $1/\bar{T}$: — theor; --- exptl.

Thus one may write a "limiting" equation,

$$C = C_{\infty} + \gamma/\bar{T}, \quad (7)$$

where

$$C_{\infty} = C_{\text{disp}} + C_{\text{ind}} \text{ and } \gamma = dC/d(1/\bar{T}) = \frac{2}{3}\mu_1^2\mu_2^2/k. \quad (8)$$

For $\mu_2 = 10.42$ debyes, expressing μ_1 in debyes, \bar{T} in $^{\circ}\text{K}$, and C in $\text{erg}\cdot\text{cm}^6$, Eq. (7) becomes

$$C = C_{\infty} + 5.244 \times 10^{-55} \mu_1^2 / \bar{T}. \quad (9)$$

TABLE IV. Comparison of parameters for scattering by polar molecules.

Molecule	μ_1 (debyes)	$10^{60} \times$	$[C_{disp}$	C_{ind}	$C_{\infty}]$	$10^{65} \times$	$[\gamma_{calc}$	$\gamma_{obs}]$
NO	0.16		202	185	387		0.13	(0.4)
H ₂ S	1.02		350	398	748		5.46	8.6
CHF ₃	1.64		347	316	663		14.1	19.
CH ₂ F ₂	1.96		326	314	640		20.1	37.
<i>cis</i> -C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂	1.89		835	899	1734		18.7	45.
NH ₃	(1.47)		233	247	480		(11.3)	(0.0)

Table IV lists calculated values of C_{disp} , C_{ind} , C_{∞} , and γ . The slopes of the dashed lines drawn through the experimental points in Figs. 7, 8, 10, and 12 are listed for comparison. The solid lines near the intercepts (at $1/T=0$) are *a priori* calculated lines based on the results given in Table IV.

For the first three (low-dipole) scattering gases, the discrepancy between the observations and the calculations is only moderate. For the next two (high-dipole) molecules, the cross sections and the "observed" C values are appreciably greater than calculated. This may indicate the departure from the limiting assumptions previously discussed.

The anomalous (small) temperature dependence of the C for NH₃ may possibly be associated with the inversion tunneling. Additional cross-section measure-

ments with ND₃ and PH₃ would be desirable in order to clarify this point experimentally.

It is of interest to consider the possible origin of the difficulty with the high-dipole gases in terms of the other limiting situation (low temperature, small r) when the approaching dipoles "lock in" at close distances. Here the Keesom⁷ potential becomes

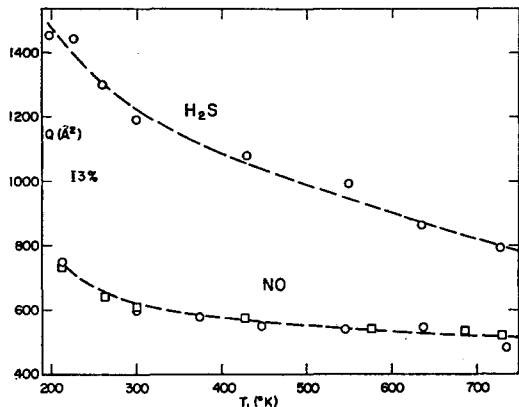
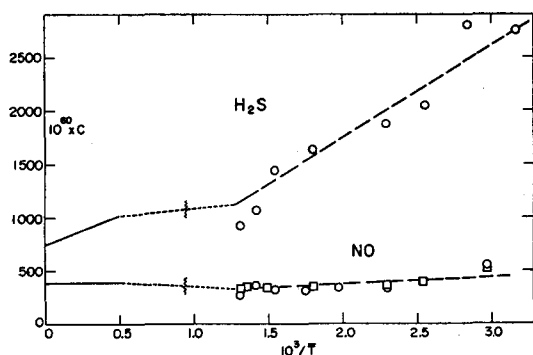
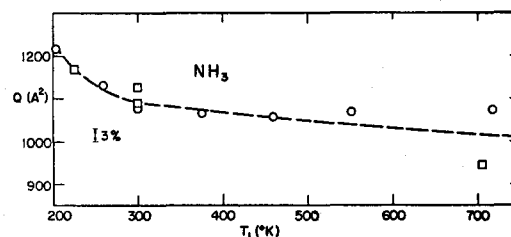
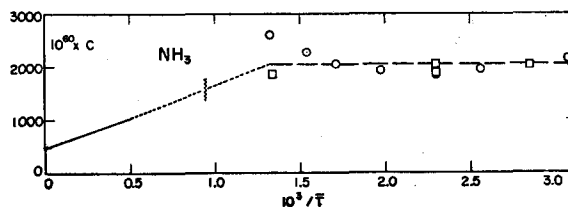
$$V(r) = -C'/r^3, \quad \text{with } C' = 2\mu_1\mu_2, \quad (10)$$

independent of the temperature. Thus at a given r the potential is more negative. In addition, for this assumed potential the relation between Q and C' is not the same as that between Q and C [Eq. (3)], but rather

$$Q = 1.788 \times 10^{28} (C'/v_r), \quad (11)$$

(upon evaluation of the Massey-Mohr equation for $s=3$) with the numerical constant consistent with the units employed here throughout. Sample calculations for typical cases show that the use of Eq. (11) yields calculated Q 's considerably larger than obtained from Eq. (3), as expected, with a quite different temperature dependence.

A more rigorous theoretical approach is thus required in order to interpret more quantitatively the dipole-dipole scattering. The quantum mechanical

FIG. 9. Q vs temperature of scattering gas: --- exptl.FIG. 10. C vs $1/\bar{T}$: — theor; --- exptl.FIG. 11. Q vs temperature of scattering gas: --- exptl.FIG. 12. C vs $1/\bar{T}$: — theor; --- exptl.

treatment of scattering by an angle-dependent potential (together with the problem of rotational energy transfer) is, however, a formidable one, beyond the scope of the present work.

CONCLUSIONS

(1) The cross sections for the elastic scattering of CsCl beams by *nonpolar* molecules may be predicted with fair accuracy from the Massey-Mohr formula, using the Slater-Kirkwood approximation for the dispersion term and the Debye equation for the induction force.

(2) The influence of the dipole-dipole force upon the scattering is appreciable and may be directly observed.

The scattering cross sections for the *dipolar* molecules are large and decrease significantly with increasing temperature.

(3) Owing to the large magnitude of the dipole-dipole interaction with the CsCl beams, the approximate theoretical treatment accounts only semiquantitatively for the experimental observations.

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Infrared Spectra of Alkyldiboranes. III. 1,2-Dimethyl- and 1,2-Diethyldiboranes

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The infrared spectra of three isotopic variants of 1,2-dimethyldiborane— $(\text{CH}_3\text{B}^{10}\text{H}_2)_2$, $(\text{CH}_3\text{BH}_2)_2$, $(\text{CH}_3\text{BD}_2)_2$ —and of five 1,2-diethyldiboranes— $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{B}^{10}\text{H}_2)_2$, $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{BH}_2)_2$, $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{BD}_2)_2$, $(\text{C}_2\text{D}_5\text{BH}_2)_2$, $(\text{C}_2\text{D}_5\text{BD}_2)_2$ —are reported and frequency assignments are made. 1,2-Dialkyldiboranes are very stable with respect to decomposition, but on prolonged standing rearrange to 1,1-dialkyldiboranes. Appearance of absorptions at ca 2100 and 1550 cm^{-1} is the first indication of the presence of 1,1-dialkyldiborane impurity. Although not conclusive, the evidence favors existence of predominantly *cis* configurations.

INTRODUCTION

IN the monoalkyldiboranes^{1,2} the vibrational character of diborane is partly preserved, in that one end of the molecule has retained both terminal hydrogens. This is not true in the 1,2-dialkyldiboranes, i.e., the sym-dialkyldiboranes, which have only a single terminal hydrogen at each end. In some respects one might expect simpler spectra for these molecules, in which both ends are alike, than for monoalkyldiboranes. However, it must be remembered that the corresponding vibrations of the two ends are not independent; they "couple," i.e., they interact with each other, producing "in-phase" and "out-of-phase" vibrations. This "splitting" may be quite considerable for some vibrations, but still, the average of the two frequencies should be relatively close to the value expected for the vibration of a single isolated unit.³ Quite often the intensity of

one member of a pair may be so weak as to escape detection or assignment as a fundamental vibration, but if we should fail to correlate properly such a split pair of frequencies, then the apparent shifts (up or down) from the single value may become quite puzzling.

The complexity of the problem is increased because the ratio of *cis* to *trans* isomers is not known in the 1,2-dialkyl compounds. Raman spectra, if available, would probably resolve the dilemma by virtue of the difference of selection rules. For *cis* compounds of this sort, e.g., *cis*-2-butene,⁴ all vibrations are Raman active and all but one species (A_2) are infrared active, yielding a large number of "coincidences." However, in *trans* compounds (which have a center of symmetry) infrared and Raman activities are mutually exclusive,³ allowing us to observe only one vibration of each pair.

EXPERIMENTAL

1,2-Dialkyldiborane can be prepared by direct interaction of trialkylborane with excess diborane, but the yield is so low that it is difficult to separate it from the much more abundant 1,1-dialkyldiborane. We found it more convenient to prepare 1,2-dialkyldiborane by the

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³ G. Herzberg, *Infrared and Raman Spectra of Polyatomic Molecules* (D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., Princeton, New Jersey, 1945).

⁴ C. M. Richards and J. R. Nielsen, *J. Opt. Soc. Am.* **40**, 442 (1950).