

# PRNC105

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Radiolysis of Gaseous

Hydrogen Halides

Rupert A. Lee

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. RADIOLYSIS OF Gaszous

HYDROGEN HALIDES

dy

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Puerto Rico Nuclear Center,

Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

June, 1967,

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ABSTRACT

Ton pair yields of 4.1 and 4.7 have been measured

for the radiolysis of pure  $\phi$

gaseous hydrogen chloride and

hydrogen bromide respectively, using Co<sup>60</sup>  $\gamma$ : These

yields, together with the W values for HCl (24,8 eV) and  
HBr (24,0 eV) obtained, lead to calculated G-values of

8,3 and 9,6 respectively, for the two  $\gamma$

The effect of the scavengers bromine and sulphur

hexafluoride on the radiolysis of the two gases revealed

that there are at least two hydrogen forming species  
present, One of these is a 'thermal' hydrogen atom which  
may not have the electron as its precursor, the

other is a 'hot' hydrogen atom which cannot be scavenged.

The results with chlorine are

scavenger on the HCL

radiolysis brought out the importance of back reactions

taking place as the concentration of chlorine builds up

during the irradiation of pure ga

jous hydrogen chloride.

A etudy of the effect of an applied electric field

showed that

during the radiolysis of the two ga

reactions involving the recombination of ions were un-

important as a means of producing hydrogen.

---Page Break---

This study has shown that a4:

jectative exeitational

proc

sare as important as fonzation processes in

the decomposition of these two hydrogen halides, The

Br molecur:

appear to undergo dissociative exeitational

S more readily than the He) molecu

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2s

cents

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as scavenger

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sa

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82

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2a. GENERAL

Tt will be worthwhile to review briefly the

historical development of radiation chenistry

it

reflects both the shifting interest and interpretations

which have marked the steady growth of this subject,

With the discovery of X-rays and radioactivity towards

the end of the 19th century, chenists became avare of

the chemical changes brought about by various types of

Fagiations, At the turn of the century Sir Willfan

Ramsey 2)

a working in this field on the decomposition

of simple gases in the presence of radon, wrote that,

mwhenever radiun

mation produces chemical action,  
then, other conditions being unaltered, each particle  
of emanation as it disintegrates produces the same amount  
of change." This statement made radiation chemists  
realize that there was some quantitative relation between  
energy absorption and chemical change.

At first most of the research in the field of  
radiation chemistry was carried out on gases as evidenced  
by the pioneer work of Tindall and Curie, their study

of gaseous reactions involved the use of radon (i.e. a-

---Page Break---

-2-

particles) and it was therefore natural for them to relate  
the observed chemical changes to the amount of ionization

produced in the system

Thus the term ion pair yield



(CUM, i.e., the number of molecules destroyed or formed per ion pair produced) developed to illustrate the connection between the physical and the chemical actions

of radiation. Since this ratio was only measurable in

the case of gases, the term G-value, defined as the

number of molecules

changed per 100 electron volts of

energy absorbed by the system, was introduced so that

workers in the condensed phases could have a means of

comparing yields. The G-value and ion pair yields are

related by the equation

$e^- \times 100 \cdot Y$

$Y$

where  $W$  is the mean energy required to form an ion pair

in the irradiated gas, Values of  $W$  for gas

found to be approximately twice their ionization potential.

This led

to point out that part of the chemical action of high energy radiation may be due not only to ions but also to the reactions of electronically excited species,

The classic paper of Fyring, Hirschfelder and

(5)

taylor(S), in which they discussed ortho-para hydrogen

---Page Break---

conversion and hydrogen-bromine combination, demonstrated

Firstly, the importance of molecular ions having the

valency properties of free radicals and secondly, the importance of neutral free radicals and atoms as chain carriers. It further stated that it was unnecessary to put forward the existence of ion-molecule clusters to explain large ion pair yields. This led to the almost complete rejection of ion processes in radiation chemistry until the recently proven occurrence of ion molecule reactions in the mass spectrometer<sup>®</sup>),

Within the last two deca

due to the develop-

ment of the nuclear reactor and various machines for producing

high energy radiations, research in this field increased

tremendously and has been centered mainly on aqueous

solutions (thanks to Fricke for laying its foundation)

and organic compounds. 7)

At present, studies in this field are carried

out both for their intrinsic interest and their possible

industrial use

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## 1.2. INTERACTION OF IONIZING RADIATION WITH MATTER

The chemical effects produced by high energy radiations in an attenuating medium result from the inter-

actions of fast charged particles. The

particles may

constitute the incident radiation such as  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  rays, or be produced by the primary interaction of unchanged species such as  $\gamma$  rays, X-rays or neutrons. It is imperative that the radiation chemist should have some knowledge of the physical processes involved in the above interactions. Only a brief description of the primary energy loss processes of electromagnetic radiation, and electrons will be considered.

### 1.2.2 Electromagnetic radiations

The effect of an absorbing medium on a beam

of electromagnetic radiation is to reduce the number of

photons passing through. This reduction in beam intensity

(-dt) is given by the relationship

rate of change

where  $I_0$  is the intensity of the incident radiation,  $dx$

is the reduction in intensity of the beam after passing

through a distance  $dx$  of the medium and  $\mu$  is called the

total linear absorption coefficient. This coefficient is

the sum of a number of partial coefficients

representing

---Page Break---

where

various processes of absorption. These processes are

the photoelectric effect, Compton effect, pair production,

coherent scattering and photonuclear reactions, Coherent

scattering only occurs at low photon energies ( $< 0.1$  MeV)

and in high atomic number (Z) materials and even so is negligible in comparison with the photoelectric effect

at these low energies. Photonuclear

$\gamma$  reactions take place

with photon energies above 10 MeV and therefore will be of no consequence in this study.

(a) Photoelectric effect

This type of interaction, which occurs

mainly with low energy photons, the entire energy of the

photon is transferred to a single atomic electron.

This electron is ejected from the atom with an energy (K.E.) equal to the difference between the photon energy and the

binding energy ( $E_b$ ) of the electron in the atom.

At low photon energies, the electrons are ejected mainly at right angles to the direction of the incoming photon,

but as the energy of the photon increases the distribution

shifts increasingly toward the forward direction

to conserve energy and momentum, the remainder of the atom

is recoiled. This means that photoelectric interaction

---Page Break---

is not possible with free electrons. At sufficiently high

energies, X-shell interactions account for 80% of these

events, the rest being L-shell interactions. The

vacancy created in the K-shell, or L-shell, is filled by

an electron from an outer shell with the emission of

characteristic X-radiation or Auger electrons. For low

ZB materials the binding energy of the inner electron shells is relatively small and therefore the secondary X-rays and Auger electrons will have low energies and will be

absorbed in the immediate vicinity of the original inter-

action, The atomic absorption for this effect, varies

approximately as  $Z^{-4}$  and is therefore important only at

low photon energies

and materials with high  $Z$ .

(>) Compton effect

If the X- or  $\gamma$ -ray energy is sufficiently large,

rather than interacting with the atom as a whole, the  $x =$



or  $\gamma$ -ray may interact with any of the orbital electrons as though they were essentially free electrons, only a fraction of the photon energy will be transferred to the electron and a modified photon of longer wave length emerges from the collision in a direction differing by an

angle  $\theta$  from the original photon. These Compton electrons

Produced from a radiation of given quantum energy, have

---Page Break---

-7-

a very broad spectrum of energies which can be calculated from the Klein and Nishina formula, This spectrum is

a continuous one, extending over a range given by

a

$c = \frac{h\nu}{m_0c^2} (1 - \cos\theta)$

$+e$

where  $h\nu$  and  $1$  refer to the incident photon and  $h\nu'$  is

the change in wave length after collision. on applying the law of conservation of energy and momentum, it can be shown that

where  $h$  and  $m$  have their usual significance, For a medium containing exclusively light elements, Compton

absorption predomina

for photon energies between 0.2 and 2 MeV and the total energy absorbed per gram of the medium is nearly proportional to its electron density.

(©) Pair production

For electromagnetic radiations of energies greater than  $2m_0c^2$  (1.02 MeV), a fraction of the energy is absorbed in the production of an electron-positron pair.

The available kinetic energy ( $h\nu - 2m_0c^2$ ) is shared unequally by the two particles formed, Both of these particles are slowed down by interactions with the medium.

Eventually the positron and an electron will combine

---Page Break---

annihilating themselves, and producing two photons of 0.51 MeV energy each, in opposite directions, The atomic

absorption coefficient for this process is approximately

2

proportional to  $Z^2$  and increases with increasing photon

energy.

The relative importance of these three processes

As shown in fig. 1 for the media water, aluminum and

low)

As shown in fig. 1, it can be seen that for  $^{60}\text{Co}$  gamma rays of

energy 1.25 MeV, Compton scattering is the predominant

process.

### 1.2.2 Fast electrons

In the three proce:

described above, it is

seen that electromagnetic radiation on interaction with

matter produces high energy electrons, These fast electrons

au

Apate their energy by the following proce:

emission of radiation (Brensstrahlung), inelastic and

eu (20),

tic scattering, and polarization| The relative

importance of th

prec! @epends on the electron

energy and to a lesser extent on the composition of the

pediu

The rate at which electrons lose energy in a

Particular medium is referred to as the stopping power

ae

or Linear energy transfer (LET) and  $\{8$  denoted by  $- Z_e$ .

For non-relativistic velocities the simple equation

---Page Break---

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Fre. 2

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%

%

corriciant

a

on

«we

MEReY (nev)

MASS ABSORPTION COEFFICIENTS FOR (a) WATER

(8) ALUMINUM (6) LEAD AS FUNCTIONS OF THE QUANTUM  
ENERGY OF THE INCIDENT RADIATION

FIG. 1

---Page Break---

-10-

2

ae, 2ve'N 2 an MoV

a a a

can be developed where  $\phi$ ,  $m$ , and  $Z$  have their usual

significance, is the number of atom:

per cubic centimetre,

$V$  is the electron velocity and  $I$  the mean excitation

potential of the medium. Bethe(10) has modified the above

equation for the case of electrons at relativistic

velocities to the following

Bethe [ ]

$-\frac{1}{2} + 2[\ln -2 \ln]$

$\times R_e$

where  $\ln$  is a complex function of  $\beta(\gamma/e)$  and the

electron energy.

According to Bragg's law of additivity of stopping

powers,(11) the stopping power of an element is independent

of its state of chemical combination, Thus the stopping

Power of a hydrogen halide is equivalent to the sum of the

Stopping power of an equimolar mixture of hydrogen and

halogen,

The Bethe equation above does not take into



account contributions to LET from the emission of

strahlung or polarization effect:

For an electron of energy  $E$  MeV, the ratio of

the energy loss by radiation to the loss by collision is

---Page Break---

$\frac{dE}{dx}$

given by

$\frac{dE}{dx} = \frac{dE}{dx} + \frac{dE}{dx}$

rad  $\frac{dE}{dx}$ ,

where,  $\frac{dE}{dx}$

col .

Therefore, for electron energies below 1 MeV and low

atomic number materials ( $Z < 16$ ), the contribution of

Bremsstrahlung is less than 28,

1.2.3 Secondary electrons

charged particles, on travelling through a medium, leave ions and excited molecules along their tracks. Many of the electrons ejected by the incident fast particle will possess

enough energy to cause

additional ionizations and excitations. Since these

electrons (referred to as secondary electrons) will

have relatively low velocities, their rate of energy loss will be extremely high. For secondary electrons of energies less than 100 eV, the formation of a few ion pairs will be sufficient to reduce the electron to

Sub-excitation energies (5 eV). The mean energy involved

in the formation of an ion pair is about  $30 + 10$ . This

means that a secondary electron of 100 eV energy on being moderated will produce clusters of about 3 to 4 ion pairs along with several excited molecules. For low LET primary particles,

---Page Break---

-a2-

the clusters will appear as widely separated beads

along the particle track, whereas for densely ionizing

radiation (e.g.  $\alpha$ -particle), the

few clusters will be

produced so close together that they will form a columnar envelope of ion-pairs.

When the kinetic energy of the secondary electrons

is in excess of 100 eV, they can produce their own tracks which diverge from the direction of the primary track. These secondary electrons are referred to as

delta-rays,

---Page Break---

-ue

### 1.3 FUNDAMENTAL PROCESSES IN RADIATION CHEMISTRY

Ionizing radiation, on passing through

matter, transfers its energy to the molecules of the absorbing medium by the various physical mechanisms described briefly in section 1.2. The chemical aspects of the various processes immediately following the primary radiation act (i.e. dissipation of energy) must now be considered. This stage, often referred to as the physico-chemical stage, can be classified into

(1) primary process:

and (2) secondary processes

## 1.9.2 Primary processes

### (a) Ionization

When a fast electron or any charged particle

P

comes close to a molecule of the absorbing medium, a  
Coulombic field is set up. This field will strongly  
polarize the molecular electrons in their orbitals. If  
the energy released in this interaction is larger than  
the binding energy of an electron in its parent molecule,

then the electron can be expelled leaving a positive ion;

$XY + e^- \rightarrow X^+ + Y^- + e^-$

ine

ignates a primary radiation

chemical process), The observed induced conductivity

---Page Break---

oe

of gases provided:

evidence for the presence of such

ionizations,

The positive ion  $X^+$  produced above may or

may not carry an excess of energy; moreover if XY is «

large polyatomic molecule, then the  $X^+$  would be unstable

and dissociates

xt ext ny @

This type of fragmentation process has been observed in

the mass spectrometer !), re occurs with a high

probability e.g. the hexane ion dissociates (below)

$C_6H_{14}^+ \rightarrow C_2H_5^+ + C_4H_9^+$

on So oatlg? + Cag

to give smaller ions and radicals, or even radical ions and neutral molecules. Alternatively, the interaction of a fast electron with a molecule may lead to a dissociative ionization process in which reactions (1) and (2) occur simultaneously

KY 3x Fv se + nney @

The minimum amount of energy for process (1) is known as the ionization potential of the molecule and

thi

can be accurately measured by electron impact

---Page Break---

-as-

an,

methods Since the energy required to form an ion

pair is usually about twice the ionization potential(?5),

this excess energy may be used up in forming excited

specie:

(>) Excitation

If the energy transferred to @ molecular  
electron is less than the fonization potential, it may  
still be large enough to displace the electron from its  
ground state to an "excited state."

[r

?The excited etate here is sinilar to that produced by the

ap ?» as® os)



eaten excited species]

absorption of a quantum of Light

AB + hν → A + B

and therefore much information on the behaviour of ABY

can be obtained from photochemical studi

### 1.3.2 Secondary processes

#### (a) Reactions of ions

Positive so

and their daughter ions are

continuously produced in a system under irradiation,

Along with these, there is an equivalent number of

---Page Break---

- 1s

negative charges (i.e., free electrons or negative ions)  
and therefore two possible neutralization processes  
must be considered

(G) ion-electron recombination and

(UL) positive ion-negative ion recombination,

Besides these, the ions may interact chemically with

neutral molecules or else undergo charge transfer with  
impurities.

(2) Positive ion-electron recombination

If an electron, ejected from « primary  
ionization, becomes "thermalized" in the vicinity of a  
positive ion, recombination occurs owing to the strong

Coulombic interaction and an excited molecule is produced;

$XY + e \rightarrow X^+ + Y^-$

The excited molecule here has gained energy equal to  
the ionization potential of the molecule XY (10 to 15 eV).

Consequently the molecule will undergo dissociation and will

lead to a per

calculated that an electron of kinetic energy below

10 eV causes a permanent change. Samuel and Nagee (2002) have

found that a 5 eV electron becomes thermalized and recombines with its parent

ion in less than  $10^{-10}$  sec, in the case of water

(adsorbing medium), Conflicting with the above view is

---Page Break---

-ar-

the Lea (1977), Cray (1980) and Rietzmann (1980)

theory which says

that the electron will escape from the coulombic field

and will attach itself to 2 neutral water molecule be-

coming an aquated electron. In the case of gases, either an

ion or electron may become separated and react individu-

ally with the neutral molecule XY.

(id) Positive ion-negative ion recombination

If Ions of opposite charge are to recombine,

their total internal energy must decrease

as a result

of the reaction. The energy released

fe may be achieved

through an increas

in the kinetic energy of the neutra

lized particles by transfer of energy to a third body,

by emission of electromagnetic radiation, or by electronic  
excitation of the neutralized species. Hence recombination

may proceed by any one of the following mechanisms (20)

whereas these are

the recombination

of the recombination

The three body recombination (1) is the most important  
mechanism at pressures greater than a few mm. Hg.

Radiative recombination (2) and mutual neutralization

---Page Break---

- ae.

through charge exchange (3) will predominate at very low

pressures(72), since only two bodies are involved,

If one of both of the ions are molecular, then

there is the possibility of dissociative mutual neutrali-

zation thus

xy + x<sup>+</sup> + y<sup>-</sup> → x + y

(4st) Ion-molecule reactions

Mass spectroscopic studies have provided

evidence beyond doubt for the occurrence of ion-molecule

reaction:

The theory of this type of reaction has been

Well developed by Schissier and Stevenson(?) so much so that for the  $(D)^* + D_p$  reaction,  $k_p$  is  $8.7 \times 10^{12}$  per mole per sec. compared with  $k_t$  ( $3.6 \times 10^{11}$ , per mole per sec.). There is also excellent agreement for the  $(ar + H)$  reaction, the theory further predicts that Rates of 11 Son-molecule reactions are so large that there is a high probability of reaction upon every encounter, These reactions are temperature independent and are mostly exothermic.

Non-molecule reactions are of two kinds

(A) hydrogen transfer reactions

$R + M \rightarrow R + M$

---Page Break---

-a9-

where R is a free radical and M a stable molecule and

(i) Condensation reactions

$AC + D \rightarrow AC + D$

where AC is a condensation product and D a stable

molecule

These reactions are becoming more and more

important in the interpretation of many radiation  
chemical processes.

(iv) charge transfer proce

If an impurity or a substance in very small  
amount is present during the irradiation then the  
following process may occur

Map ?eaten

where A is the main component of the mixture. For this

reaction to occur at ordinary temperatures the lowest  
ionization potential of A must be higher than that of B

This type of reaction was invoked to explain the

increase:



ed ionic yield when acetylene was irradiated in the presence of Argon.

Ae? (1515.7 eV)  $\phi$   $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$   $\rightarrow$   $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2^+$  (811.9 eV)

(b) Electron capture by neutral species

ML the electrons ejected in the primary ion-

---Page Break---

- 20 -

ization of a molecule of the absorbing medium lose their kinetic energy either by further ionizing or by exciting other molecules. These electrons then lose their freedom by two processes (1) combination with a positive ion (already discussed) and (2) electron capture by a neutral species.

There are at least five mechanisms by which electrons may react

(2) Radiative capture by a neutral atom

eth rey

(44) capture by an atom with a third body taking up the  
excess energy

eth eB e eaeE,

(444) Capture by @ molecule with the vibrational  
excitation of the molecule ion, and its subsequent

stabilization in a collision with another molecule.

ey xr )\*

os et en rr

(Civ) Dissociative attachment

etre ory eee

(¥) Ion pair production: the non captive dissociation

---Page Break---

sae

of a molecule into positive and negative ions by electron impact

eres er eye

A simple calculation can show that mechanism

(4) cannot compete with (41), (411) and (iv) at ordinary

peratures and pressures, For electrons of energies

above 20 eV, mechanism (v) will become important and at

low pressures (i) and (ii) become unimportant compared

with (iv), A more complete discussion of th

(2a)

proce!

is given by Massey

Figs. (2) and (3) taken from the work of Frost

and wepewel'?) afsplay the possibility of dissociative

attachment occurring with chlorine and bromine, The main difference in the two halogens is that the threshold

energy for electron capture by chlorine is about 1.6 eV

whereas bromine has a zero energy threshold. This means that bromine will be a much more efficient scavenger for thermal electrons than chlorine.

(©) Reactions of excited species

Excited species formed by the primary radiation

process may undergo the following reactions,

---Page Break---

Energy

POTENTIAL

# NUCLEAR SEPARATION

FIG. 2

---Page Break---

ENERGY

POTENTIAL,

23

---Page Break---

=e

(2) dissociation into free radical

wr ee

The fr

radicals X and Y formed from the dissociation

of highly excited molecules may carry an excess of

Kinetic energy and are referred to as "hot" radicals.

Th

radicals are highly reactive,

(44) Dissociation into "molecular products

$xy^* \rightarrow eae$

where A and B are saturated or unsaturated molecules.

This is possible for excited states formed from positive  
for electron recombination.

(444) Reaction with other molecule

$xy^* + co \rightarrow products$

Little is known about this type of reaction except for

@ suggestion by Burton et al???

to explain condensation

reactions involving hydrocarbons.

(2v) transfer of excitation

The reaction may be written

x sy mere

Here molecule Y must possess at least one excited state

---Page Break---

= 25

below the energy level of x", In certain gas phase

radfolyse where the increased ionic yield could not be

explained by @ charge transfer process, excitation

transfer has been suggested. Surton(?6)

pointed out

that if the electron is attracted back to its parent ion

in less than  $10^{-12}$  sec., then primary ions will have an

extremely short lifetime and hence the observed energy

transfer process should be mainly due to transfer of

excitation rather than charge.

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## 2.4 posrmerey

The radiation chemist requires to know the effectiveness of a particular chemical action of

fonizing radiation, This is usually m

ured by (a)

the fon pair yield ( $W/N$ ) in the case of gases and (b) the 100 eV yield ( $G$ ) for condensed phases. Both of these

terms have air

ay Deen defined, where it was pointed

out that they are related by the equation



It is not very difficult to obtain ion pair yields in gaseous systems; however for a determination of  $G$ , an accurate value for  $\bar{y}$  is required.

By an application of the Bragg-Gray cavity

ionization chamber theory(?) the quan:

ty of ionization

observed in a small cavity can be related to the energy absorbed by the cavity walls during exposure to ionizing

radiation. It is expressed simply by the equation

$$G = \frac{N}{m} \frac{W}{E_{\text{eff}}}$$

where  $N$  is the number of ions produced,  $m$  is the mass of the cavity,  $W$  is the energy absorbed by the cavity walls, and  $E_{\text{eff}}$  is the effective energy of the radiation.

where  $F_E$  and  $E_{\text{eff}}$  are energies absorbed per unit mass in the gas and in the cavity walls, respectively, and  $E_{\text{pr}}$  is the energy of the primary ionizing radiation.

the wall and gas respectively,  $S''$  is the ratio of the

mass stopping powers of the wall to that of the gas and

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$J$ , 48 the number of ions produced per unit mass of gas

in the cavity,

Since the energy absorbed by the wall is ind

pendent of the characteristics of the gas, then by

Filling the chamber with various ga

successively, the

equation

172 Sat He ey

can be obtained, where the subscripts (1) and (2) apply

to two different gases.

It follows that

,

tees)

for an unknown can be calculated from measurements of the

saturation ion currents and the stopping power ratio

( $s_3$ ), calculated from the Bethe equation(20),

The Bragg-Gray theory of cavity ionization is depicted in fig. 4 (a) where it can be seen that the radiation chemical reaction is carried out only by electrons emanating from the walls due to Compton interaction of the  $\gamma$ -rays. A more general picture appears

in fig. 4 (b), Spencer and Attix were able to modify

---Page Break---

~ 28

7 RAY GAS FILLED cavity

(2)

SOLID MEDIUM

a

bes

BRAGG-GRAY THEORY OF CAVITY IONIZATION

RAY

## SOLID MEDIUM

### GENERAL CASE OF CAVITY = IONIZATION PROBLEM

FIG. 4

---Page Break---

-29-

the Bragg-Gray picture to take into account the processes (8) and (c), In their calculation "Fast" secondaries of the type (B) are added to the primary electron spectrum and their effect subtracted from the stopping power of the medium, whereas the "fast" secondaries of the type (?) are not added to the electron spectrum but their effect is subtracted from the stopping power of the gas. The ratio of the energy dissipated per unit mass in a small gas filled cavity to that in the surrounding wall (due to Spencer end Attin modifications)

is given by the equation???)

CaP), x

f, 1a) 2 [the ad an eg OTD

° GM, . w/e

Re

subscripts and g refer to wall and gas respectively,  
Z and A to atomic numbers and weights, and I to the mean  
excitation potential, The term  $\phi_p$  is a polarization

correction to energy  $\epsilon_0$

$\epsilon_0$  is in the wall and depends only  
on wall material and the initial electron energy  $T_0$ .  
 $C_p(T, \epsilon_0)$  is a function of the average wall separation and  
the pressure of the cavity gas. The pressure dependence  
results from its dependence on  $\epsilon_0$ , which is the energy of  
an electron of range in the cavity gas equal to the

average wall separation. This expr

sion predicts

---Page Break---

= 30

departure from the constancy of the ratio of saturation  
ionization currents to pressure at low pressures, and for  
materials with  $z$ ,

@iffering from 2, For 2,

wait <

$2 > 2$  eae Ht

wal gas?

gas the departure decreases and for  $Z$ ,

wal

increai

---Page Break---

sae

# 245A SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE RADIOLYSIS OF HYDROGEN HALIDES

The three hydrogen halides

hydrogen chloride,

hydrogen bromide and hydrogen iodide have all been

irradiated in the gas phase by various workers, The ionic

yields obtained increase in order of increasing

atomic

number of the halogen ( $\propto Z$ )



135 Mupe/

wMyy/N= 6). Hydrogen iodide has been irradiated both with  $\alpha$ -particles and with X-rays independently by

different workers (2°)

and in each case the ion pair yield was approximately 6 within experimental error.

Following is the proposed mechanism

Hr ??-utee @

e+ kr ener @

wr 4 ener @

Beer ened om

rerew? ene ro)

?This mechanion gives an ion pair yield of 4,

However, if ine?

4 of reaction (3) the fen molecule

reaction

---Page Break---

-32-

ars att grt er 6)

is chosen, followed by

ur?  $\phi$  Te ons or om

an ion pair yield of 6 is obtained.

In the X-radiolysis of gaseous hydrogen bromide,

ion pair yields varying from 4.6 to 5.221) vere

obtained, Hamiz1

put forward a sinilar

chanien

to re

jections (1) to (5) above and suggested that the yield above 4 may be due to contributions from the

excitational proc:

jes which may be depicted as follows

MBy > yar\* @

ce # wEr\*??> par? «)

Worn + Br ao)

The only work published on gaseous hydrogen chloride before this investigation was undertaken, is that

of Vandamme(?),

An ion pair yield of about 3.3 was

obtained for  $\alpha$ -radiolysis. No attempt was made in this

Paper to put forward a mechanism.

In the oi

' $\phi$  of radiolysis of hydrogen halides in

---Page Break---

-93-

the condensed phases, Arastrong and his group?) have

studied the effects of scavengers on product yields. they

have prope

4 the following possibilities in accordance

with the Samuel-Magee mode1(16)

@ Hel was Hert +e

Heat + @ ?eHca\* ?~ anor) + en

()) Hen Ae eat be

Hea + Her? ??+ ker? + ca

Hcl? + © ???w(not) + Her

??~ Winot) ee cr

Both of these mechanisms are likely to produce Mhot?

hydrogen atone.

The effects of the scavenging of chlorine and  
bromine on both hydrogen chloride and hydrogen bromide

Suggest the following electron capture process

CF HK ete Se ne eH

along with

Hak? + xen x7 + ax

These papers show cl

rly the presence of tuo

hydrogen forming species, Table I summarizes the

kinetics of the radiolysis of hydrogen chloride in the

Presence of chlorine and bromine on the assumption that

---Page Break---

= one

the following competitions occur

$H_{hot} + e_n$

$H_{hot} + e_n$

$H_{hot} + X_{en}, + e_n$

$H_{hot} + X_{en}, + e_n$

The  $C$  values for liquid hydrogen chloride and hydrogen bromide were found to be 6.5 and 12.4,

respectively.

: rasLe

Results (Ref. 93) of liquid phase radiolysis of

hydrogen chloride

chlorine Bromine

o \*nea!! vn,

nea/Fen, ce \*nea/\*se,

Piret species 2,3  $1.7 \times 10^7$  24

Second species  $4.2 \times 10^{-10}$  wea -

---Page Break---

-as-

266° ATM AND SCOPE OF THE PRESENT INVESTIGATION

In the previous section it can be

yn that the

Mechanism for the radical decomposition of hydrogen

halides in the condensed phase differs considerably

from that proposed for the gas phase

radiolysis.

From his study, Armstrong has obtained evidence

for the presence of two hydrogen forming species. In the

condensed phase radiolysis he has placed emphasis on the

occurrence of excited species:

@ precursor to "hot"

hydrogen atoms,

In view of the above differences it was considered

desirable to reinvestigate the gas phase radiolysis.

Also the irradiations in the previous gas phase studies had

been carried out to high percentages of decomposition

where the accumulated products would interfere with the



initial yields and hence G values quoted in previous publications may have been too low.

Since the appearance of the first communication

for this investigation (1964), it has been

pointed out by

Dr. Henry J. Gomberg, Director of the Puerto Rico Nuclear Center, that due to the high G values obtained with hydrogen halides, these gases would be ideal for use in

a regenerative type fuel cell. The hydrogen halide would

---Page Break---

- 36

be decomposed by ionizing radiation and the products

hydrogen and halogen recombined in a closed

a system type

fuel cell, The efficiency of the fuel cell could be over 90(95), the theoretical E.M.P. produced with a hydrogen-chlorine type fuel cell is 1.36 volts.

a

Using a  $G(H_2)$  value for hydrogen chloride to be 8.3, an energy conversion of 11.3% is obtained, This appears more attractive than the present SWAP system. These systems for Nuclear Auxiliary Power are of two types reactor systems and radioisotope systems. In the radioisotope systems energy conversion:

is carried out mainly by a thermoelectric process. The overall FTG (radioisotope thermoelectric generator) efficiency is only about 5%.

(38)

A thorough investigation of the mechanism of the decomposition of these hydrogen halides would prove to be

of immense value towards the adoption of this idea,

---Page Break---

-3-

## SECTION 11

### EXPERIMENTAL

#### 2.2, APPARATUS

The main pieces of equipment used in this

investigation consisted of two high vacuum systems, a

variety of irradiation cells, several radiation source

adi

phragm gauge, and in

trunente both for applying an electrical potential and for measuring very small electrical currents, The following is a description of these and other relevant pieces of apparatus.

2sled Vacuun syaten for purification of sample

A mercury-free vacuun line (figs. 566) was

constructed for purifying and storing gaseous samples.

A high vacuun of about  $10^{-7}$  San.tz. was maintained by a nue-

Seal forepump and a water-cooled ofl diffusion pump. The

low pressures were monitored by an ionization gauge. The

ofl diffusion pump was arranged in such a way that hydrogen

from the irradiated samples could be transferred from thie

vacuum syaten to a conventional hydrogen analysie line.

In thie way irradiated eanples could be re-irradiated

without coming into contact with mercury vapour from the analysis line, This was to prevent hydrogen halides or

scavengers from forming undesirable products by reacting

---Page Break---

Fic. 5

---Page Break---

s ?914

NOLWOISId «=3ldNVS «40s = NIT WNNOWA

---Page Break---

= 398 =

Fis. 6

---Page Break---

9 91

W31SAS

a

ONINNSVIW

---Page Break---

- 40

with mercury,

The hydrogen halides were introduced into the

Line directly from Matheson tanks via stopcock 0 (fig. 5)

and conde:

4 after purification (to be described Later)

in the sample storage F, The bulbs B and  $\phi$  (fig. 6)

were calibrated and used for measuring out quantities

of scavengers, The pressures of the hydrogen halides and

Scavengers were measured using # metal diaphragm gauge

E (#fig. 6) connected to a mercury manometer. The diaphragm

Separated the measured  $\phi$

jes from coming into contact

with mercury vapour.

### 2.2.2 Analysis Line

The analysis line is shown in fig. 7, re

consists of a calibrated Meteod gauge, a Toepler pump,

and a palladium thimble which could be heated, The

ivradiated sample was put either into the mercury free

Line and the hydrogen to be analyzed pumped via the

Line, or else w

@diffusion pump into the analysis: just

Placed at the sample inlet V and the hydrogen transferred into the McLeod gauge while Liquid nitrogen was placed around the U trap K to condense any mercury vapour. The volume of the McLeod gauge and associated dead space

were measured accurately. Fr:

ures of hydrogen as low

---Page Break---

saa =

Fre. 7



---Page Break---

sae

£ old

W32LSAS SISAIVNY N3ASONGAH

---Page Break---

oe

as  $2 \times 10^8$  nm, lig. could be measured.

2.1.9 Metal diaphragm gauge

This gauge (fig. 8) had a diaphragm made from

steel of 0,002"

a 6" circular piece of 316 stainl

thickne:

The diaphragm was held between teflon and

stainless et:

2 (926) annulars alternately ae shown in

the figure. To each of the outside steel plates were

soldered Kovar glances:

1s. Inside one of these Kovar

1s was a screw with a minute hole through the center.

This screw could be adjusted to increase the sensitivity

of the gauge. The whole system wi

held together by

eax

ply spaced bolts (not shown in the diagram). The

Afaphrage A and the screw were connected to a miiiiii

eter

and a 6 volt dry cell, By means of equilibrating the

pressure on both sides of the aiaphragn with the aid of the

millimeter, pressures could be measured to an accuracy  
of 0.05 mmHg.

<sup>226</sup>Ra Radiation sources

(a) 4 Ci <sup>226</sup>Ra source

This source was contained in a lead castle

mounted into the side of a concrete cave, The 1

cave door was fixed on a movable trolley which could

slide in such a way as to position samples on the trolley

---Page Break---

Fls.

---Page Break---

RY ay

SSSSSS

METAL DIAPHRAGM GAUGE

FIG. 8

---Page Break---

re

opposite the source when the source was out of its lead

castle, The source could be acti

ted by lowering the

isotope, Safety precautions were such that the door

could neither be opened if the source had been lowered

nor could the source be lowered if the door was open.

Samples to be irradiated had to be placed in special

containers and bolted on to the trolley. This was done

to ensure reproducibility of dose rat;

(>) Gamma-ce2

Samples were prepared and

sent to Atomic Energy

of Canada Limited, Chalk River, to be irradiated at high

using their 12,000 curie  $^{60}\text{Co}$  gamma coll.

dose rate

(e) X-ray machine

Sample:

were subjected to 87kV X-rays supplied

by a conventional therapeutic machine at the Holy Cross

Hospital, Calgary.

(a) 4 1200 curie  $^{60}\text{Co}$  gamma source

?This was the source used at the Puerto Rico

Nuclear Center, The co®? w:

contained in twelve pencil.

type capsule, each containing approximately 100 curies.

the

capsules were inserted into twelve hollow aluminum cylinders, The cylinders were positioned to form a

Hollow cylinder Variable Geometry Irradiator. The

---Page Break---

= use

irradiator was remotely controlled and could be adjusted

to form a hollow cylinder from 8 to 19 1/2 inch

in

diameter, The shielding was provided by water in the form of a pool 9' x 14' and 14 1/2" deep, The capsules were about 10' under water, Samples to be irradiated were placed in special containers and lowered into the pool.

#### 2.1.5 Electronic equipment

Tonization currents were measured with a Keithley 410 C micro-microammeter which covered current ranges from 10 to  $10^{-9}$  amp, The applied potential was supplied by a Hamner 113 high voltage supply capable of producing

5000 volts. Both of these instruments were:

connected to

the irradiation cell via coaxial cables

#### 2.1.6 Ionization chambers and irradiation cells

Two types of ionization chambers were used

(a) concentric cylindrical chamber



(®) a parallel plate chamber

(2) The concentric cylindrical ionization chamber (similar

in design to pack's(37)), used for ne.

uring ionization

currents, is shown in fig. 9, The 2.5 mm thick cylindrical

wall was coated internally with colloidal graphite to

Form the collecting electrode. The central high voltage

electrode A, which consisted of 9.7 mm outer diameter

---Page Break---

FIG. 9

---Page Break---

= 46

CYLINDRICAL IONIZATION CHAMBER

FIG. 9

---Page Break---

<4

pyrex tube, and a guard ring 8, were coated in a sintler manner. After the coatings had been applied through the tube D, this end was sealed to form a thinble trap for condensing the hydrogen halide using a liquid nitrogen bath, Tungsten wires passing through the glass walle

provided contact betw

yn the graphite coatings and

shielded electrical leads A", BY, and c'. Ga

admitted to the irradiation cell via a stopcock attached to a 30 on extension of tube E, This stopcock was

shielded during irradiations.

(>) The parallel plate cell shown in fig. 10 was made by flattening the ends of a cylindrical tube. The distance between plates varied from 2 to 3 cm from cell to cell.

These flat faces

were coated with colloidal graphite through the end I which served the same purpose as the end D in the previous description. Platinum leads were soldered to tungsten, and the joint encased in glass for the metal glass seals. Within the cell a platinum rod

came into contact with the graphite face. On the outside

the tungsten leads were connected via coaxial cables to the electronic equipment.

The four radiation cells not used for the measure-

ment of ion current are shown in fig. 11, These were

---Page Break---

- Mea -

FIG. 10

---Page Break---

YAGNVHD NONVWZINO! 31V1d T3ATIVEVd

or ?Ola

---Page Break---

CELL

IRRADIATION

---Page Break---

- 50 -

jade from pyrex round bottom flaske and had a aide arm

with a stopcock and a thimble for admitting gases and

freezing hydrogen halides respectively. The cell volume

varied

around 230 cc and one large cell had a volume of

9690 cc, This type of cell was used both with the 200

curie  $^{60}\text{Co}$  gamma source and the X-ray machine.

For the Chalk River irradiations at high dose rates the cells were similar in shape to the cylindrical ionization chamber. They were uncoated and carried no electrode attachments, In these the stopcocks were re-

placed by break seals,

## 2.2. MATERIALS AND PURITY

### 2.2.1 Hydrogen chloride

Hydrogen chloride gas of 99.08 minimum purity

obtained from Math

son & Coy was deg:

ed several times

after being introduced into the vacuum line through stopcock

© (#ig. 5) directly from the Matheson gas cylinder:

qe

was then purified from hydrogen bromide by pre-irradiation

in the solid phase for « day in the pri

nce of about 1%

chlori:

This procedure oxidized the hydrogen bromide

to bromine which, together with excess chlorine,

removed by trap to trap distillation through copper =

he

The hydrogen chloride was finally distilled from an alcohol/

Liquid nitrogen bath to a liquid nitrogen bath, retaining

---Page Break---

only the middle fraction. It was then stored in the  
solid state whenever possible, Silicone grease was used  
in all stopcocks which were to be in contact with the  
hydrogen halides for long periods.

### 2.2.2 Hydrogen bromide

hydrogen bromide gas of 99.88 minimum purity,

also obtained from Mathi

son and Co. was pre-irradiated



overnight and thereafter treated in exactly the

manner as hydrogen chloride.

### 2.2.3 Chlorine

chlorine (99.58 minimum purity) obtained from

2 several times. It

the lecture bottle was desiccated:

was then purified further by bulb to bulb distillations

from a trap at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  to a liquid nitrogen trap, After

each distillation the non-condensable gases were pumped

away from the nitrogen cooled solid, The chlorine was

then stored as a solid at liquid nitrogen temperature

in storage A (fig. 6)»

### 2.2.8 Bromine

bromine (reagent grade) was obtained from the

Matheson and Adamson Co. It was further purified by distilling

through phosphorus pentoxide and collected at dry ice

ing several times it was stored

---Page Break---

- 32 -

in a storage trap similar to trap A (fig. 6) and cooled by a  
dry ice/alcohol mixture.

#### 2.2.5 Sulphur hexafluoride

Sulphur hexafluoride obtained as a compressed

gas from Matheson and Co, was subjected to several bulb  
to bulb distillations from  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  to liquid nitrogen

?

perature, The sample was degassed after each distillation

and finally stored in a one litre flask R (fig. 5) as a gas.

#### 2.2.6 Ethylene

Research grade ethylene (Phillips Petroleum Co.)

further purified by distilling over phosphorus pentoxide and by bulb to bulb distillation. It was then

stored as a gas in a large 4 litre £1.

ks (fig. 5).

#### 2.2.7. Argon

Re

veh grade argon (obtained from Katheson and Co.) was used without further purification.

## 2.3, IRRADIATION TECHNIQUES

### 2.3.1 Cell treatment and sample preparation

The pyrex irradiation cells were left overnight in a glass blower's oven at 600°C before use. The cells were then attached to the mercury free vacuum line and evacuated for over an hour to a pressure of about 10<sup>-6</sup> mm.tig. During the evacuation the cells were flamed to

---Page Break---

= 53 -

release any moisture that may have been absorbed by the glass.

The appropriate hydrogen halide was distilled from the copper mesh storage reservoir into a tube

adjacent to the cell, It was then allowed to vaporize

slowly, filling the cell and dead space. The pressures

were monitored by the diaphragm gauge, When the desired

pressure had been reached the cell and dead space were

isolated from the rest

of the system

The differential

pressure across:

the diaphragm gauge was now reduced to

zero and the pressure read from the mercury manometer.

When a scavenger had to be introduced, it was

measured in a snail calibrated bulb at the pressure

calculated to give the mole percent required, The scavenger was then condensed into the irradiation cell.

The procedure for filling an ionization chamber was similar to the above, In this case the chamber was heated overnight in an oven at 110°C instead of at 500°C.

#### 2.9.2 Irradiation procedure

After the cells were filled, they were removed from the vacuum line and allowed to come to equilibrium

at room temperature (23-29°C), They were then placed in

---Page Break---

- sue

cell holders and carefully positioned on the trolley of the concrete cave or attached to the X-ray machine.

When using the gamma pool source, the parallel plate type ionization chamber was always employed. This was placed in a stainless steel cylindrical can 5 inches

in diameter, A rubber gasket was clamped on to the can  
by the cover with 6 evenly spaced bolts, The cover had  
a concentric hole through which pa

ed the coaxial cables

for electrical m

surements. Th

cabu

were enclosed

in a 1" internal diameter tygon tubing 15\* long. This

tubing wai

in turn clamped on to a tube in the cover of  
the steel can, The whole can was lowered into the pool  
rods and these were innediately

adjusted to grasp the steel can tightly. The open end  
of the tygon tubing was always kept out of the pool,  
enabling the aysten to be water tight.

#### 2.4 MEASUREMENTS OF TONTZATION CURRENTS

The Hamner high voltage power supply and the  
Kedehiey micro-nicroanneter were connected to the ceil  
before irradiation. As soon as the steel can was in  
position the voltage was applied and ionization currents

4. In the

where a clear saturation curve wai



not obtained the saturation ionization currents were

---Page Break---

= 55

calculated from a plot of  $1/i$  versus  $i/y$  in accordance

with Greening and Scott (\*®),

## 2.5 MEASUREMENT OF HYDROGEN YIELDS

After the sample had been irradiated, it was

attached to the mercury free line via a 10/30 joint, or

lead glass blown on in the  $\phi$

of the 3690 ce cell and

those that were irradiated at Chalk River. The whole

the hydrogen analysis line,

pumped

ure of 10-Sam.Hg. When this pressure had

been maintained for ome time, the thimble of the cell

frozen with liquid nitrogen. With the eysten isolated

im such a vay that any gas from the cell would go directly

to the diffusion pump, the stopcock to the cell was

opened (or the break seal broken for the Chalk River

experiments by means of a steel bar and magnet).

After pumping for about 3 minutes, all the non-

condensable gas (mainly hydrogen) would have been trans

ferred from the cell to the analysis line, The gas was

then tripled a few times into the McLeod gauge, By

opening tap B (fig. 7) to the atmosphere, the mercury was

forced into the capillary section of the McLeod, The

differences in the heights of the mercury columns in the

are measured with a cathetometer and the pressure

---Page Break---

calculated. The gas was now allowed to expand by pulling the mercury down in the gauge and the palladium thimble

heated for a few minutes

by means of nichrome wire or

an infrared lamp, The 08

asuring process was repeated:

until there was no further decrease

in pressure, This

decrease

was due to the loss of hydrogen through the

heated palladium thimb. i of

?The number of molecu

sured pressure

hydrogen was then calculated from the mi

and temperature of the gas and the volume of the McLeod

Assuming {deal behaviour for the gas.

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wore

## SECTION 117

### RESULTS

The principal method of studying the radiation

induced reactions has

been by a determination of hydrogen

yields as described earlier. All the results presented

in this

section are due solely to the interaction of

radiation with the specified systems. Irradiation of

an evacuated sample cell with amiwwithout a silicone greased

stopcock did not produce any detectable hydrogen. Also,  
no hydrogen could be detected in unirradiated cells which

had stood for

eral hours at room temperature.

## 2.2 DosIMETRY

Tt has alr

ay be

pointed out that the

simplest and moat direct method of dosimetry for gaseous

syste:

is by the measur:

nt of saturation fenization

currents, The: then be con

ted to absorbed energy

Provided the value of  $W$ , the energy required to form an  
fon pair in the gas, is known.  $\infty$  values for hydrogen  
halides are unavailable; however there are reliable

Measurements of  $W$  for the inert ga

.

won (4),

It follows from the



equation

---Page Break---

= see

a

(5), = ratio of stepping power:

$J_p/J$ , = ratio of saturation

ionization currents) developed in section 1.4, that by

comparing @ hydrogen halide gas with the inert  $\phi_1$

adjacent to the particular halogen in the periodic table,

the  $W$  values for the hydrogen halides can be determined.

A definite advantage of choosing the inert

ases for comparison lies in the fact that they would be

iseelectronic with the corresponding hydrogen halidi

This woud m

n that their electron stopping power will  
not differ appreciably and their Conpton scattering  
cross-section will be the sane.

The ratio of stopping powers for hydrogen  
chloride to argon, and hydrogen bromide to krypton have  
deen calculated using the Bethe equation and the Brage's

law of additivity, Table 2 shows these ratios as a

function of electron energy.

Tonization current measurenents were made with

both the parallel plate and the concentric plate chamber:

Tables 2 and § display typical measurements of ionization currents with applied electrical field at various pressures, Table 4 is depicted graphically in fig. 12.

In the cases where saturation has not been reached, &

Greening type plot of  $1/i$  against  $i/v$  has been

de and

---Page Break---

-50-

TABLE 2

Calculated stopping power ratios from the Bethe equation????

: 2 Fea, HBP

E(Mev) ° 5 s

Ar ke

0,02 0.0739 29.64 1.033 1.021,

0.05 0.1708 22.83 1,028 2.027

0,20 0.3008 23.15 1,023, 2.015

0.20 0.48936 24.48 3,022 2.018

0.30 0.6032 25.20 2.022 1.022

. 0.40 0.6854 25.90 a.019 1.022

. 0.50 0.7446: 26.42 1.019 aon

0.60 0.7805 26.83 1.018 2eon2

. 0.70 o.e29 27.20 2.018 201

0.00 o.e4er 27.53 2.016 1.010

0.90 0.8688 27.83 2.018 1.010

1.00 0.9887 28.09 1.018 1.008

2.20 o.e995 28.38 1.027 a.o1e

1.20 0.9109 28.58 1.028 1.010

excitation potential used

Bpp = 274 av¥0 eye 269 ev(\*)

Tain #05 ev") 1, dm wx = 27,9 ev)

oy cua)

$$I_{pp} = 959 \text{ ev} = 960 \text{ ev?}$$

---Page Break---

$$= 60$$

### TABLE 3

?Typical ionization current measurements for hydrogen

chloride ( $\rho=26.8 \text{ em Hg}$ ) in parallel plate chamber

v (volts) | Anps x 10<sup>0</sup> Polarity Reversed

Start tnd

300 o.a - -

500 0.58 0.87 0.58

800 0.75 - -

: 1000 0.80 0.79 0.78

1300 - =

1500 0.06 0.85

. 1800 - -

2000 0.08 0.88

2300 0.90 - -

2500 0.90 0.88

3000 0.90 o.a9

3800 o.92 0.90 0.90

4000 o.92 0.90 0.90

4500 0.92 0.90 0.90

5000 0.92 oon o.s2

---Page Break---

=0 -

#### TABLE 4

5 Typical current-voltage measurements

Applied Voltage Current (Amps x 10<sup>0</sup>)

(cLleivits) qryen ORM

os 0.70 0.68

1.0 aeas 0.97

as aes 1.08

2.0 1.55 Loe

. 25 1.65 1.20

2.0 1.70 aan

3.2 4.72 ane

. 3.8 1.74 aa2

2.8 1.78 -

4.0 Lr ans

42 178 -

4s 1.79 as

4s 279 -

---Page Break---

a Old

S1Old FOVIOA- LNBYND IWIdAL

(S210A011M)-39Y110A aaitday

s ? © z ?

So

OH up c-gz © TOHy

oF

o8

ANauunD

(4004 sanv)

---Page Break---

= 63

the saturation ionization current obtained by extrapolation to  $i/v = 0$ , This type of analysis is only reliable for current measurements that are in excess of



0.7 of the true saturation current.

Table § displays typical results used in a Greening type plot. A plot of the current versus voltage for this table is shown in Fig. 13, Fig. 14 is a typical Greening plot.

The results for Figs. 15 and 16 were obtained using the concentric plate chamber. It should be noted that here the dose rate is much lower than the previous set of results obtained with the parallel plate chamber.

As a test to the equation

8 be) %

the W values for air (33.7 eV) and argon (26.2 eV)

were inserted along with a calculated value of 1.19 for

ae

Shir

energy of 0.15 MeV

+ This value corresponded to a weighted mean electron

43) a

+  $J/3$ , was calculated to be 1.46,

in excellent agreement with the experimental value of

Lue (fig. 26).

carrying out the J measurements for hydrogen

chloride, argon, hydrogen bromide and krypton ( $ip, \#25.0$ )<sup>o"2</sup>),

---Page Break---

- ou

TABLE §

: Typical ionization current measurements for hydrogen

chloride ( $p273.0$  em He) in parallel plate chamber

Camps) 2

v (veits) ? 2/4 (Amp sv? Camp:

x 10) x 10 x 10

500 0.58 - -

1000 - -

1500 - -

2000 - -

2500 2.08 - -

3000 2.28 0.438 2.53

. 3200 2.38 425 2.29

3500 2.42 ous 1.98

3800 2.49 0.40 1.72

4000 2.53 0.395 ase

4200 2.56 0.390 aus

4500 2.60 0.388 1.28

4800 2.64 0.378 Las

5000 2.66 0.278 2.07

---Page Break---

?b 91d (811000114) ?-BOVLIOA ?-O3ITdd¥

s ? ? z ?

- 65:

oo

0Z

Awauuno

(08 « sanv)

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= 66

1078 ontnaa?

Gs110n-sanvy gees

s

Ivolwas v

3

5

3

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st Old

{s110A011m)-BOVLTOA GalTda

os oo oF so

{8H = ?02) NOOMY +

(SH wo 6°6e) vIV

(SH w> o'¥9) 19H

AWaWuND ?-NOLLVZINOT

(08 « san)

---Page Break---

oe

Ob

(8H 9)

ov

13

wv (6)

Noeuy (2)

yoH UH)

Awawund ? NOLLVENAYS

(obx sanv)

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- 69

ev and

G values can now be computed from the ion pair

ylelde, These are given in table 6 for hydrogen chloride

and hydrogen bromide.

### 3.2. RADIOLYSES OF PURE HYDROGEN CHLORIDE AND HYDROGEN BROMIDE.

The radiolysis of each of the gases, hydrogen

chloride and hydrogen bromide was out in a cell

of volume 228

ce (fig. 11), These were all performed  
in exactly the same position on the trolley to ensure

the #1

dose rates, Various pressures and doses were used, The formation of hydrogen from the two gases is shown

in tables 7 and 6 to de Lin

oe on pre:

and do:

?These results are also illustrated in fig

and 18, The hydrogen yields are expressed in moles of

hydrogen formed per cm.Hg. pressure of gas used, per minute.



### 3.3 THE EFFECT OF CHLORINE ON THE RADIOLYSIS OF HYDROGEN

chloride.

Hydrogen chloride was next irradiated with

various concentrations of chlorine pre

sent, in cells of

volume 228.8 cc and 3690 cc respectively, using Co<sup>60</sup> γ

---Page Break---

= 70 -

TABLE 6

. i)

ax. for pairs H<sub>2</sub> molecules © (M/N)??GC,

. (cm Hg) G=37) corhy oH ®

(2) Hea results

26.80 3.42 ras we a

owns 3.25 6.50 4.0882

17.20 2.67 sar sao as

mean 8.12 + 0.1 8,3 + 0.2

(21) HBP results

22.25 1.98 asa 46s 5

22.25 1.86 4.29 8.62

. 22.28 2427 5.40 4.80

28.50 2.26 5.38 we 7

40.60 2.7% 3.58 4.767

mean 4471 40,2 9.6 4 0.2

---Page Break---

-n-

TABLE 7

Hydrogen formation from  $\gamma$ -radiolysis of pure hydrogen

chloride and hydrogen bromide gases (228.8 ce cell)

HX Pressure Irradiation time R(rate of Hy formation)

(en Hg) (mins) x10<sup>12</sup>(moies /entig/min)

Hy@rogen chloride

46.05 995 2.78

50.90 9a8 2497

sine 668 2.93

59.95 1072 2.66

95.90 1038 2.62

218.90 450 2.79

120.20 480 2.79

mean 2.79 \$ 0,13

Hydrogen bromide

18.70 asaa 7.86

18.70 izes 7078

36.00 seo 739

38,00 731

60.30 2095

60.30 ean

60.30 437 7.69

60.30 869 7.80

sean 7.59 4 0,18

---Page Break---

Tapur 8

Hydrogen formation from  $\gamma$ -radiolysis of pure gaseous

hydrogen chloride and hydrogen bromide (2690 ce cei1)

HX pressure Irradiation time Rx 102?

Com Hg) (nine) (motes /entig/min)

Hydrogen chloride

91,30 auto 23.85

91,30 an26 2eane

91,30 368 28.98

49,95 2160 23.80

19.90 16s 23.45

19.90 ass 23,80

mean 24.1 4 0.5

Hydrogen bromide

1.65 ne 66.59

53.15 439 67.76

50.55 ase 66.79

sous 978 66.12

4o.4s 1020 67.05

mean 66.0 3 0.5

---Page Break---

ao

(OH FO) XH 40 SUnSSIMd

---Page Break---

me

Ohx XH dO Junssaud SH wo uae

NIN dda GaKUos 7H 40 S310n 40 waGHON

1000 1200 1400

## IRRADIATION

?800

600

(ans)

or

TIME

18

FIG

---Page Break---

rays.

Chlorine has the effect of lowering the yield of

hydrogen and this sc

encing effect may be attributed to

competition between the two following reactions,

i

Weer, 2 ewer oe

A kinetic treatement of the above would produce the

relationship (see appendix 1)

:

where  $AG(H_2) = G(iy)_{nax} = SUQ)e$

oy fs the yielé of Hs CUID),,, and C(Hig)e are the yields  
of hydrogen in the absence and presence of the scavener

respectively. and Pa, are the partial pressures

Puea 12

of hydrogen chloride and chlorine.

Table 9 gives the reulte of the scavenging

effect of chlorine on hydrogen chloride using two cells of different sizes. Fig 19 is drawn from the results in table 9, The results obtained with the Large cell have been normalized to those of the small cell, and a plot of the above equation is shown in fig, 20, From the

---Page Break---

-76-

## TABLE 9

Radioanalysis of gaseous hydrogen chloride with

wote Rx 108?

Cl, (motes/entig/ain)

226.8 ce cell 3690 ec call

0,00 2.79 23.80

0.102 2.27 19.38



0,18 2s -

0.306 37% -

0.327 172 14.78

04550 aes -

0.700 2.25. 10.68

0.986 2.09 -

1.97 0.9se -

2.50 0.735 5.75

was 0.708 -

980

662

327

306

162

awa

102

sa

40

22

chlorine

0.980

0.938

0.735

0.649

0.588

0.517

0.898

0.429

---Page Break---

61 ?Old

UBONTAVS 1NBDU3d ZION

?7

y1a9 99

1199 99 oss

199 99 eat

amimous

amos

nO} x 19H 40 3unssaud SH we Yad

NIN 83d O3HYO4 7H 40 S3T0W 40 RENAN

---Page Break---

oz ?914 (v3]/ ow)

cos | 00SEC

= 78 -

ost

---Page Break---

-19e

slope of the line in fin, 20, a value of  $(3.80 + 0.15) x$

207? can be calculated for k,/k, and a value of 6.75 for

4,

ys The value for  $k_1/k_2$ , is not in agreement with 1.07

$\times 10^7$ ? calculated from the equation

$k_1/k_2 = (0,187 + 0,033) \exp-(1540/RT)$  at 29°C put

forward by Klein and Wolfeberg 4)

for competition

Reactions of hydrogen chloride and chlorine for thermal  
hydrogen atoms.

It can be concluded that the # represented

above is not a thermal hydrogen atom, but some other species

which will be referred to

¥

### 3.4 RADIOLYSIS OF HYDROGEN CHLORIDE WITH BROMINE AS SCAVENGER

The radiolysis of hydrogen chloride in the presence of bromine was carried out in cells of different sizes at different pressures, These results are given in tables 10,11 and 12. The results of table 10 are plotted in fig, 19 to show the comparative effect of bromine and chlorine as scavengers. It is clear from this figure that bromine is @ much more efficient scavenger at low mole percentage concentrations; however, at high concentrations it does not reduce the hydrogen yield as

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~ 80 -

#### TABLE 10

γ-Radiolysis of gaseous hydrogen chloride with bromine

8 scavenger in 228.8 cc cell

FOL pressure Irradiation time Mole # Fx 1027

(om He) (nine) Br

219.90 450 - 2.79

219,90 938 0.10 2.32

229.90 aoa 0.20 aa

119.90 1500 0,30 1.05

119.90 1190 0.50 0.98

119.90 1067 0.70 0.95

aanss ais 0.05 1.54

21s iias 0.05 Lee

3nn.ss 1060 Lo 0.92

ana.ss 980 2.0 0.90

aan.ss aa72 5.0 0.08

---Page Break---

-a-

TABLE 12

yoRadfolysis of g1

ous hydrogen chloride with bronine

as scavenger in 3690 cc cell

HOL prescure Irradiation time Mole § Fx 1022

(en He) (ins) Bry (meles/emig/min)

92.30 an26 - 2H.46

91.30 366 - 26,90

91.30 1208 0.05 33,05

92.30 1228 0.05 32.77

92.30 1080 0.20 32.00

92.30 2126 0.20 10,88

91.30 1090 0.20 2.68

92.30 1ce7 0.80 9.28

91.30 2205 0.60 8.79

91.30 1170 ao 8.38

91.20 ais 2.0 8.07

91.30 at0a 0 7.86

92.30 ae 6.0 119

---Page Break---

-82-

TABLE 12

yeRadiolysis of g

ous hydrogen chloride with bromine

scavenger in 3690 ce ceil

HCL pressure Irradiation time Mole \$ Rx 102?

(on Bg) (mins) Bra (mole/enlig/nin)

19.90 1.65 - 23.45

19,90 ass - 23.90

29,90 1000 0.05 12,02

. 219.90 1045, 0.05 12.12

19.90 98s. 0.20 20.35

19.90 1096 o.as 9.56

. 29,90 1286 0.20 9.10

39,90 1213 0.40 8.50

19.90 aaau 0.60 7.98

29.90 1205 0.60 8.08

20.10 aaa? Leo 7.00

' 20.10 1020 2.0 742

20-10 2293 4.0 6.97

20.10 977 4.0 7.28

---Page Break---



much as chlorine.

Fig. 21 is a similar plot to fig. 20 using the results of tables 10 and 11 normalizing the pure hydrogen chloride yield to unity. Values of  $1.96 \times 10^7\%$  and 5.65 are obtained for (" + HeI) and Gye respectively, Keg Bee) assuming a competition for  $H^*$  by hydrogen chloride and

dromin

?The comparison of these results with those of

art cs)

trong and Runferar(\*®), prowiai

further evidence

for the aseunption that  $H^*$  is not « thermal hydrogen

atom. An immediate possibility appears to be that the scavengers may be scavenging electrons which could be the precursor for H atoms.

### 3.5 RADIOLYSIS OF HYDROGEN CHLORIDE WITH SULPHUR HEXAFLUORIDE AS SCAVENGER.

The foregoing results have indicated that the species  $H^*$  was not a thermal hydrogen atom, but could be a mixture of thermal hydrogen atoms and thermalized electrons, in which case the rate constant ratios obtained would be complex rate constant ratios. Sulphur hexafluoride)

2 good electron scavenger (S<sub>6</sub>F<sub>12</sub>), was therefore chosen.

The activation energies for the two competing reactions

(a)  $H + S_6F_{12} \rightarrow H_2 + S_6F_{11}$

and (b)  $H + S_6F_{12} \rightarrow H_2 + S_6F_{11}$

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are about 10K cal/mole(?) and 3 K cal/mole(\*®)

respectively, Sulphur hexafluoride would therefore be

unable to compete with hydrogen chloride for thermal

hydrogen at

at room temperature and at the sulphur

hexafluoride concentrations used.

The same technique was used as in the cases

of chlorine and bromine. The results are presented in

table 19 and plotted in fig. 22, On comparing fig:

19 and 22 it can be seen:

that the sulphur hexafluoride

has reduced the hydrogen yield more rapidly than either

bromine or chlorine at low concentrations; however, the

plateau obtained with sulphur hexafluoride is somewhat

higher than with either chlorine or bromine. Both bromine

and sulphur hexafluoride at low concentrations must be

scavenging mainly electrons, since they both have a maximum

electron capture cross section for electrons at zero

energy, If it is now assumed that the sulphur hexafluoride will only scavenge electrons, then from fig. 22 about 46% of the total hydrogen formed will have thermalized electrons as its precursor.

## 9.6 RADIOLYSIS OF HYDROGEN CHLORIDE WITH ETHYLENE

Ethylene is known to react with thermal H atom:

?to form an ethyl radical, It was therefore thought

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~ 86

Tabur 13

$\gamma$ -Radiolysis of ga:

ous hydrogen chloride with sulphur

hexafluoride as scavenger in 3690 cc cell

Hel pressure Irradiation time Mole § Rx 101?

(om He) (eins) SPz (molee/emig/min)

39,05 aan. - 22.62

39.75 aes - 22.69

39.75 1098 0.03" 12.96

39,75 1160 0.069 12.68

39.75 1072 0.102 12,60

39.75 1022 0.305 32.29

. 39,05 aa72 o.weo 32.83

39.05 1080 1.28 11.86

39,05 aio 2.56 aaa2

39.05 1068 3.10 20.88

39,05 1200 5.01 20.63

39.05 ais? 6.86 10.65

---Page Break---

-87-

sunfOoe no

?armH 2

x7y gO NOLLYMWOs sO JLVY

bY

FIG. 22

---Page Break---

Necessary to see what scavenging effect this gas would have on the radiolysis of hydrogen chloride, Little was done on this reaction and before it could be discussed

a more systematic and thorough investigation would have to

be carried out. The r

ults obtained are given in table 14,

from which it can be seen that the higher the mole per cent ethylene used the lower the hydrogen yield, and also that this yield increases with time of irradiation since the concentration of ethylene would have decreased with

time. The:

preliminary experiments indicated (a) a  
Scavenging effect of ethylene on the hydrogen yield and (b)  
consumption of the ethylene in a chain reaction (i.e.

Stoichiometry of the order of several thousand), This suggested

that the mechanism was quite complex and would need a detailed

study, Before this study could be pursued further a public

contribution appeared\*\*) on this reaction putting forward a

### 3.7. VOLTAGE RATE EFFECT

Three similar cells (fig. 9) without electrical  
connections, 11 containing break off seals, were sent to

Chalk River



T (ALE.Csis) to be irradiated with a Gann,

cell, These cells were filled with pure hydrogen chloride

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-e9-

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oar us we see ouras

ost zn a6 oan ontan

ere ere ts 096 sarns

tere ore orn eee serns

zert ere ers ore oeres

sure - - 566 seron

(a7e/Shu2/seTew) | dn pasn aye (sary) (3H us)

oT Xa "NED y eTon 4 erou TeF3ruz our2 woFseFpeaar ounssosd q3H

a

UF sosusawos Se ousT Ay29 YazH epraoTy> ussospAy enossey 50 syshtorped.

at guava

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= 90 -

at first and then various mole percentages of bromine were introduced, The reduced hydrogen yields are shown in table 15 together with a comparison of the results obtained with a 200 Curie Co<sup>60</sup> source.

the nature of the experiment made it difficult

to carry out too many runs, ?The samples had to be carefully packed and shipped each time for their journey to and from Chalk River, The few runs, however, indicate that there was very little difference in the scavenging

at the higher dose rate.

### 3.8 EFFECT OF COATING THE CELL

The cell used here was coated with colloidal carbon in a manner similar to that described by Pack et.

(37) | these results compared with those from uncoated

cells are given in table 16. It was found that the coating had a tendency to absorb bromine and therefore the cells had to be baked out under vacuum to remove absorbed bromine if a second series of runs were to be carried out.

These results denote:

that coating had little or no effect (within experimental error) on the relative reduced hydrogen yields.

### 3.9 RADIOLYSIS OF A MIXTURE OF HYDROGEN CHLORIDE AND HYDROGEN BROMIDE CONTAINING BROMINE AS A SCAVENGER.

\*

sured amounts of a mixture of hydrogen chloride

---Page Break---

uss stssLevot

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s FD 00z Treo-4

? - tata

- eeree

- zeree

peonpgs ? (uyu/\$yu>/setou)

PTORs Hg, wotee 8

19

Ts'o

were

aa

oTeK

ours,

o9'68

us'66

er8e

aay

Soros

sztos

scen

Soros

oes

Suton

(3x 82)

eanssead ToH

qr

Pa

tte9

treo

qte9

t199

treo

trea

para esop yary Aton a8 ouruoug yarn apruoty> ussoaphy 50 esehtorpEN

st sya,

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crag eto vere on ertt sets

erus8ta9 ante set sut snrts

org oore ort euot sete

peseooun poseoo

- wwe - o00t snrts

- aste - c66 sats

paongos(wpe/Suue/seton) Tag (eaye) Gn =)

proré bay pov ea § ston sua voraerreses sunetesd TOM

dupseos TT29 50 390550

ot suave

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- 93

and hydrogen bromide were first irradiated in @ manner

similar to those already described. 5

11 amounts of

bromine were then added to observe its effect on the

above mixture.

on the assumption of the following competing

reactions

we neath, +e

We wer toe HI, + Br

Wg ey Ae mae + oe

@ similar calculation to that given in appendix T can be

carried out and the following equation obtained,

«(ery kine)

a. ae +o

Su Ry Grp \*) Gr)

The results are presented in table 17. rij

depicts the scavenging effect and fig. 24 is the  
reciprocal plot of fig. 23, The rate of production of

hydrogen in the absence of bromine was normalized te 100,



From fig. 24,  $k_x/k_y$  can be evaluated using the previously obtained value for  $k_{xy}/k_{yy}$  to be  $1.96 \pm 0.15 \times 10^7$ , the calculation gives the value  $k_x/k_y = 6.1 \pm 0.3 \times 10^7\%$

which is net in age

ent with the ratio 0.12 for

thermal H atoms obtained by conventional gas kinetic

technique

(50), This provides further evidence for

---Page Break---

~ oye

TABLE 17

.  $\gamma$ -Radiolysis of a mixture of hydrogen chloride and

hydrogen bromide containing bromine in 3690 cc cell

Heh pressure Mole % Irrad, time ole & R x 10<sup>1</sup>?

(eB He) HBr (mins) Bry (motes/entig/nin)

16.80 5.32 1187 - 27,12

16.40 san 2066 0.050 19.50

16.40 5.32 ane2 0.099 16.97

. 16.40 5.31 126 0,198 16.98

16.40 5.31 asa 0.207 ae.us

. 39.95 5.33 1082 - 26.88

: 39,95 5.33 3209 0.53 13.58

39,95 5.33 aise 1.02 11.96

39.95 5.33 1206 1.86 11.28

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RESENT

s

.

3

3

x

3

nObt 10K 40 aunSSlud 8H Wo aE

NIN Wad anos \*H 40 S3I0N 40 WANN

FIG. 23

---Page Break---

0003 008s 0008 00s

369 - 49H iNa0uae 370H

---Page Break---

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referring to the species II above as H

### 3.10 HYDROGEN BROMIDE IRRADIATED WITH X-RAYS IN THE PRESENCE OF BROMINE

Three simflar cells A,B and  $\phi$  (fig. 11) were

used. Th

cells were each filled with hydrogen bromide  
and irradiated with X-rays from a standard X-ray therapeutic machine using 87kv. These irradiations were all

carried out at the Holy Cro}

Hospital, Calgary. The

voluses of the cells were all about 230 cc differing  
by only about 3 cc, Next, small amounts of bromine were  
added and the cells re-irradiated.

A treatment of the results (table 18) similar

to those of hydrogen chloride with bromine gives the

equation

Kk, (Br)

2 eo far 2

Fa By Ror

Figs. 25 and 26 show the scavenging effect and the reciprocal plot.

From the reciprocal plot a value of  $(5.9 +$

keue

$0.9) \times 10^7$  for  $(H + HBF)$  is obtained, This provides

?

$Gr + Bry)$

further justification for referring to the scavenged species

as  $H?$  rather than  $H_y$

---Page Break---

- oe

TABLE 18

a radiolysis of hydrogen bromide containing bromine using

X-rays in cell of approximately 290 cc

hop pressure Irrad, tine Hole § Cell Rx Lol?

(em He) (eins) Bra (moles /entig/min)

ss. as - 8 2.97

55.08 as - B 2.97

55.68 10 - , 2.98

55.68 5 : s 2.95

: 56.26 as - e 3.01

. 56.28 as 0.20 4 2.77

. 55.88 as 0.508 2.60

. 55.88 as eo. 2.47

seu as 2.028 2.47

56.26 3s orc 2652

55.50 as 2.03 2.39

55.50 as 2.03  $\phi$  2.3L

55.50 as wor oc 2.20

55.42 as 6.038 2.84

55.4 as 6.038 1.87

---Page Break---

ys aH 40 BUNSSBud 8H HO ad NI

wad camuod "H 40 \$370M 40 wBENNN

FIG. 25

MOLE % SCAVENGER

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= lou =

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- 101 =

3.21 RADIOLYSIS OF HYDROGEN BROMIDE WITH SULPHUR

HEXAFLUORIDE USING X-RAYS.

This was carried out in exactly the same manner as the previous irradiations using sulphur hexafluoride instead of bromine.

If the following competitions are assumed

$e + \text{HBr} \rightarrow \text{e}^- + \text{H} + \text{Br}^\cdot$

$e + \text{Srg} \rightarrow \text{e}^- + \text{Srg}^\cdot$

then by treating the results similarly to the previous section a value for

$K(e + \text{HBr})$  can be calculated.

$K(e + \text{ste})$

The results are given in table 19 and plots are shown in figs. 25 and 27.

From fig. 27 the value of the above ratio is

$(6.4 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-7}$ , this is within experimental error

of the value for and therefore it is not

$K(e + \text{uBe})$



ee

(ie + Bry)

unreasonable to conclude that the  $i^?$  represented above is

not a thermal H atom but may be the thermalized electron.

The scavengers have a lesser effect in reducing

---Page Break---

= 02 =

?TABLE 18

Radiolysis of hydrogen bromide containing sulphur

hexafluoride using X-rays in cell of approximately 230 cm

Her pressure Irrad. time Mole % Cell ? Rx 1027

(om Ea) (mins) SF, (moles /eng/ain)

\$5.77 20 - ? 2.97

55.77 as 027k 2.70

55.77 as 0.27 A 2.74

55.83 as 0.58 oc 2.59

55.83 as lose 2.87

55.83 as ssc 2.37

55.72 as 3.088 2s

55.72 as 7.038 1.98

55.72 7 7.038 1.97

---Page Break---

?2 la [fas] an]

= 103 -

"ss 49H

?sav =x

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= Lon

the hydrogen yield in the case of hydrogen bromide than

in hydrogen chloride.

9412. THE EFFECT OF AN APPLIED ELECTRICAL FIELD ON THE

RADIOLYSIS OF HYDROGEN CHLORIDE AND HYDRO

BROMIDE.

The cells used in this investigation are

shown in fig. 10. They were filled with the desired

amount of hydrogen chloride or hydrogen bromide sep:

ately, and

soon as they were placed in the irradiator,

the saturation ionization currents were obtained, This

achieved by measuring ionization current with applied

voltages in intervals of 500 volts at first and smaller

intervals after 3000 volts. This took about 2 minutes.

The applied voltage required was then set and the

radiolysis carried out for up to 8 hours. At the end the

ionization currents against voltage were rechecked.

After this the cells were analyzed for hydrogen to obtain ion-pair yields.

The results are shown in tables 20 and 21. Plots of (a) ion pair yield of hydrogen against applied

voltage:

and (b) ionization currents against applied voltages are demonstrated for hydrogen chloride and

hydrogen bromide in figs. 28 and 29 respectively.

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oz save

+ sot

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ro

roy

hare

ostz

atte,

ote

et

eur

cert

1Br0

3303/09/4

preys pertddy

ostez

osrae

oprsh

osrsz

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section 1v



## DISCUSSION OF THE HYDROGEN CHLORIDE RESULTS

### N<sup>21</sup> RADIOLYSIS OF PURE HYDROGEN CHLORIDE GAS

In the introductory section the similarity of mass spectrometric studies to radiation chemistry was pointed out. Therefore, in considering the possible ionic reactions which are likely to occur in irradiated

hydrogen chloride, it would be worthwhile to review

briefly the mass spectral data on hydrogen chloride.

When hydrogen chloride is subjected to

electrons of 150 eV impact energy the principal ions

observed are HCl<sup>+</sup>, H<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> and H<sup>+</sup> (52), the

approximate

relative abundance of the first four ions are

estimated to be 100:11:10:3. The parent ion (HCl<sup>+</sup>)

is predominant in the mass spectrum and should also be

the predominant primary ionic species formed in the

radiolysis of gaseous hydrogen chloride:

When we heat +e @

Since the ionization potentials of Cl and  
(12.96 and 19.60 eV respectively)(52) are slightly higher  
than that of the HCl molecule (22.74 eV), the ions

$\text{Cl}^+$  and  $\text{H}^+$  should rapidly undergo the following charge

---Page Break---

= 110 -

transfer processes at high hydrogen chloride pressure

$\text{Cl}^+ + \text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{HCl}^+ + \text{H} + 0.22 \text{ eV}$  @

$\text{H}^+ + \text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}_2^+ + 0.86 \text{ eV}$  a

The doubly charged  $\text{HCl}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cl}^{2+}$  ions,

Because of the such larger values of second ionization  
potentials (e.g. second I.P. of Cl 223.8 eV(52)), would

be capable of fer more highly exothernic charge transfer processes with hydrogen chloride molecules. These processes (given below) may lead to excitation and dissociation of the product fon(S#),

catt + uem?ecat + cit tt aw -s.7 ev (uD

crt? s ncr?ecit cree ans 8.9 ev (5)

neat? + Hea?eE\* + ca + Heat «e)

These reactions would obviously be Followed by reactions (2) and (3), The overall stoichionetry for the primary Jonization processes can therefore be represented as follows

(CL + x)Hea ?\* Heat + e+ x + xen m

?The value of x would obviously depend on the fon distribution in the radiolysis and on the fraction of energetic charge transfers leading to dissociation. If it is assumed that every charge transfer of He1\*\* and cat? leads to dissociation, a value for x (0.26) can be

---Page Break---

<a

estimated using the ion distribution obtained in the mass spectral data,

Before con.

Considering the possible reactions

which the species  $\text{HCl}^\bullet$ ,  $e^-$ ,  $\#$  and  $\text{Cl}$  can undergo, the results of the experiments with scavengers will be

discuss:

#### 4.2\_ THE SCAVENGING EFFECTS OF CHLORINE, BROMINE AND SULPHUR HEXAFLUORIDE ON THE RADIOLYSIS OF GASEOUS HYDROGEN

at 100 torr:

It is quite clear from the results, that the three scavengers used, decrease appreciably the hydrogen yield in the radiolysis of gaseous hydrogen chloride. However, it is obvious (from the plateaux in figs. 19

and 22) that not all the hydrogen yield is being scavenged.

This means that the scavengers must be competing with the hydrogen chloride for some species  $H^*$  which can eventually lead to hydrogen formation. There must also be another species  $H^*$  which accounts for the unscavengeable yield,

and for which the scavengers cannot compete. On this basis

the following competitions can be envisaged

$H_0 + H_{el} \rightarrow H_2 + Cr$

$H + S \rightarrow \text{products other than } H_2$

$W + S \rightarrow H_2 + Cr$

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- 12 =

$uM + S \rightarrow \text{products other than } H_2$

(S denotes scavenger)

Now if the species  $H^*$  is a hot! hydrogen atom reaction

(a2) will be unable to compete with reaction (20) at the

scavenger concentrations used in these experiment.

Reaction (9) must then be responsible for the reduction of hydrogen yields.

A summary of the results is shown in table

22 assuming the competitions depicted above, It can be

seen that both kg/kg and Gy- vary from one scavenger to

the next.

. Table 22

Scavenger Gy Gy kg/kg

Radiolysis Heaton

-3(55

cig 0:75 188880 a0? 10,7 20

Br, S68 2465 1,96 x20 6.5 x 2079058)

srg 9:80 4.50 <2 x 30 >t

The last two columnne in table 22 permit a

comparison 6f the values of kg/kg obtained from radiolysis

and from conventional studies in which  $\gamma^*$  is a thermal

---Page Break---

- ua

hydrogen atom. The disagreement in the two sets of

ratios indica!

that the species  $H^*$  is not a thermal

hydrogen atom.

Since it is known that sulphur hexafluoride

is an extremely good scavenger for thermal electrons (57)

and that  $St$  will not react with thermal  $H$  atoms at the

sulphur hexafluoride concentrations used ( $S^{\circ}$ ), it can be

concluded that the  $G_y$  value obtained with sulphur

hexafluoride should be identified with  $G_{\cdot}$ . A value of

3.8 (estimated from the plateau in fig. 22) is in good

agreement with 4.0 calculated from the  $W$  value for

hydrogen chloride (24.8 eV).

Bromine reacts rapidly with thermal electrons

as well as thermal hydrogen atoms and therefore the  $G_{\cdot}$

(2,65) value obtained with bromine can be considered as

being due entirely to processes not involving either

thermal electrons or thermal hydrogen atoms as precursors.

The difference between  $G_{\text{Br}}$  for bromine and  $G_{\text{in}}$  implies

that there is a source of thermal hydrogen atoms whose

precursor

is not the electron. A yield  $G_{\text{H}}$  of 1.85 thermal

hydrogen atoms per 100 eV can be calculated from the

difference in the  $G_{\text{Br}}$  value obtained in the bromine and

sulphur hexafluoride results. The  $k_e/k_g$  ratios obtained

---Page Break---

=a

with chlorine and bromine as scavengers are really

Functions of  $k_e/k_g$  (cues) 84  $\frac{k_e}{k_g}$  cecry/ cecsy? aRé ae

best treated as "complex" rate ratios.



It has been suggested (12) that at high dos:

and high chlorine concentrations, the back reaction

$\text{H}_2 + \text{Cl} \rightarrow \text{HCl} + \text{H}$

with an activation energy of 5.48 kcal/mole (13), may cause a slight reduction in the observed hydrogen yield.

With bromine, the analogous reaction

$\text{H}_2 + \text{Br} \rightarrow \text{HBr} + \text{H}$

is less likely to occur since its activation energy is

19.7 kcal/mole (14),

Consequently, the differences in  $G(\text{H}_2)$

for these two scavengers may be ascribed to the effects of reaction (12).

The scavengers chlorine, bromine and sulphur

hexafluoride, and the hydrogen chloride molecules can

all react with electrons thus

e+ Heron + cr? (asad

e+ cl; eer + cam as)

e+ Bry ?eBe + Br as)

e+ srg esr.? an

The energy thresholds for the above electron capture

reactions are 0,65, 1.60, 0,00 and 0.00 eV<sup>2</sup>) respectively.

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- US -

Since the electrons would be expected to thermalize quite rapidly, reaction (15) could hardly compete effectively

with reactions (15a) unless chlorine molecules were present in very high concentrations, The chlorine must therefore

be competing with the H<sub>2</sub> molecules for hydrogen atoms which are formed in reactions (14a) or (4B).

? + 2iic1 ?» electron-uc1 complex

HF cay csp)

A study of the effect of chlorine on the radiolysis of a mixture of HeI and SF<sub>6</sub> (7) has shown that chlorine reacts with the electron-HCl complex and with thermal hydrogen atoms, but not with thermal electrons. The other two scavengers bromine and sulphur hexafluoride would undoubtedly react with all the thermalized electrons.

It is obvious from the curve in fig. 19 that the accumulation of chlorine during the radiolysis of pure hydrogen chloride would cause a depletion in the radiolytic yield. The results obtained here can therefore be used in an empirical manner to correct those of Vandanne (8), whose radiolyses were all carried out to a high percentage decomposition (>0,3%) relative to this work (0.008). If

R is the dose rate in eV per unit volume

per unit time,

then the equation for the rate of formation of hydrogen:

---Page Break---

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eto 7 we eto F Thm sentra ueow

ere ere we osto oruee areot ?oreok aston

ste we ste tst0 oveat Test orsse os ton

en ve geo over eine ovnTe ose

on ze anro sree Tan ortet.gatze

ue etn ere orto ores erte | cree ate

(ze) 508 eaep s,ouuepuen

tro Fete tio F Thm sentes ueee

ete ooTtn 600° ons uote ozree

cre ote zoro ont ort soteg

ze gotm zoro zert get sorne

cre gotm zt0°0 este sere shton

we atth seoro ste ene oaraz

Apngs sty3 go eaeg

dq Pe39eaa09 aueueddy Gr-0t) Gqs0T) (gq-08) ¢

OM . 4 tox \_soffdotou safbd vor Sho

BH Cayay press 279 30 2H esog

ee steve

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= 116 =

at any time  $t$ , and any given chlorine concentration, is

a0) sca,

a tty faxfay ecw

© He + Hel

where  $G(H_2)$  is the true initial total hydrogen yield

and  $A$  the proportion of hydrogen formed by  $H^*$  (6.75/8.3

50.815). Assuming that the valu:

oF Kenes nery/Kenre 29)

( $2.8 \times 10^{-7}$ ) ane of  $A$  for the  $\alpha$ -particie radiolysis

and radiolysis are the same,

the above equation can be

integrated (appendix IT) to give the relationship

$2 \text{ fer.} (ea)$

$CH.) = \sim \sim 0,208 (wer) \text{ rogyy } \} \text{ aeue.7 } 2$

$p | d.165 \text{ Head}$

where D is the do:

Vandamme's results were corrected

using the above equation. Table 23 shows these

corrections and displays the close agreement in hydrogen

yields between the  $\alpha$ -particle and  $\gamma$ -radiolysis of pure

hydrogen chloride.

The re:

ults with Br, and Sf, reveal that

56g + Gy + Gye

8.3 3.8 1.85 2.65,

and therefore the mechanism for the radiolytic decomposition of hydrogen chloride must include reactions which provide

that (1) about 464 of the total yield of hydrogen molecules

---Page Break---

- ars

have thermal electrons as their precursors (2) about 22.3% are formed from "thermal" hydrogen atoms (not originating from electrons) and (3) the remaining 31.78 originate from that! hydrogen atoms.

#### 4.9 THE EFFECT OF BROMINE ON A MIXTURE OF HYDROGEN CHLORIDE AND HYDROGEN BROMIDE,

with the value of 8 x 10<sup>7</sup>% obtained in the liquid phase

(8 keais/moie(®?)) is greater than F,

cea)

(0.9 Keates

BeBe

mole! the gas phase ratio would be expected to be larger if the sane species were involved. It is therefore apparent that the bromine is not scavenging the sane species in the Liquid and gas phase radiolysis. the

rate constant ratio for k, at 25°C is known

Heian! \*HeBr,

264),

from conventional studies to be 0.12 + 0.0: thie value has been made use of, by comparing it with that

obtained in the radiolysis of a mixture of hydrogen

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- ale =

chloride and hydrogen bromide containing varying



percentages of bromine. A value of  $6.1 \times 10^7$  has been

obtained for the use of the method outlined in section 3.9. This adds to the evidence already accumulated in establishing that the species  $H^*$  is not a thermal hydrogen atom.

#### 4. THE EFFECT OF OTHER PARAMETERS

The effect of scavengers on the radiolysis of hydrogen chloride has been studied under a variety of different conditions. The "plateau yield" obtained with over one percent of added bromine was independent of hydrogen chloride pressure, radiation cell volume, dose and dose rate. It was also unaffected by coating the irradiation cells with colloidal graphite. These studies were useful in establishing that the plateau was not due to contributions from heterogeneous processes. The rate

at which reactive intermediates diffuse to the walls

should be inversely proportional to the pressure of

hydrogen chloride (P) and the square of the radius of

the irradiation cell (r<sup>2</sup>)

if however the rate of homogeneous

combination of the same species should be proportional

to the dose rate (D), The value of IPr<sup>2</sup> (which should be

a measure of the heterogeneous process) varied in these

---Page Break---

- a9 -

75 01.7 x 10<sup>27</sup> guring which

experiments from 1.3 x 10<sup>-3</sup>

the plateau remained the same within experimental error.

The hydrogen produced in the bromine concentration range

corresponding to the plateau may therefore be attributed

to a homogeneous process involving the species  $R^*$  for which the bromine does not compete effectively.

#### 4.9. APPLIED ELECTRIC FIELD RESULTS

This study was carried out in the hope of obtaining information on the fate of the ions produced during radiolysis. Since ions would be collected on application of an applied electric field, the use of this technique should interfere with the ion-recombination reactions.

In the absence of an electric field it would be expected that the  $HC1^*$  ion would either undergo ion recombination with the electron or with other negative ion

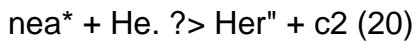
thus

$HC1^* + e \rightarrow H + Cl^-$  (fast)

$HC1^* + Cl^- \rightarrow HCl + Cl^-$  (fast)

or else react with the neutral hydrogen chloride molecule

as follows



Assuming an ion recombination coefficient of  $10^7 \text{ cc/ion}$

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$= 120 =$

$\text{sec}^{-1}$  and the rate of ion formation to be  $10^{22} \text{ ions/cc}$

In these experiments, the steady state approximation

@

would give a concentration of  $10^6 \text{ ions/cc}$  and hence the

+ 3

calculated lifetime of the HCl ion would be about 10

sec. For the ion molecule reaction (20) Schissler and

(65)

Stevenson<sup>1951</sup>) have found the specific rate constant to

be  $4 \times 10^7 \text{ cc/molecule sec}$ . At a hydrogen chloride

concentration of about  $10^{10}$  molecules:

Jee (in this study)

the lifetime of the  $HCl^+$  ion is about  $10^{-12}$  sec. Hence the ion molecule reaction will undoubtedly be responsible for the removal of  $HCl^+$  ions, The  $H_2C^+$  ion would be the principal positive ion collected at the cathode on application of an electric field.

The scavenger studies have demonstrated the importance of electrons as a precursor to hydrogen formation in the radiolysis of hydrogen chloride. These electrons produced from the initial ionization process (2) should rapidly become thermalized and eventually

appear by any of the three following processes:

ambipolar diffusion to the walls of the vessel, ion-electron recombination ( $H_2C^+ + e$ ) and attachment to a neutral hydrogen chloride molecule to form a negative ion.

The first order decay constant for electron-

---Page Break---

- aa

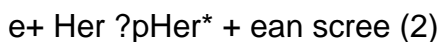
Loss by ambipolar diffusion is given by  $D/A^2$  where  $D$  is the ambipolar diffusion coefficient and  $A$  is a length characteristic of the vessel geometry. A typical value of  $D$  ( $0.09 \text{ cm}^2/\text{sec}$  at 1 atm.) and  $A$  (10 cm) for the

system used, lead to  $D/A^2 = 70/P$  mm per sec. This gives

@ diffusional loss time of at least 1 sec in this study.

The ion-electron recombination has already been discussed where the estimated lifetime of the electron for this process is about  $10^{-7}$  sec,

The electrons will lose their energy initially in reactions (21) and (22) viz:



and finally to rotational and vibrational excitation of

$\text{H}_2$  molecules. They may also be captured in one of the

following processes:

$e^+ + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{Cl}^- + e^-$  (a)

$e^+ + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{He}^+ + \text{e}^-$  serectron-ier complex

cease ayy

(Hen)

Both reactions (21) and (23) have been observed in the 10W pressure mass spectrum of hydrogen chloride. The energy thresholds for the dissociative capture process

(23) and the ion pair formation reaction (21) are 0.6

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= 122 -

(67), the ionization current of

and 14,5 eV respectively

CL? coming from the low energy resonance capture process

at its peak was at 1

t one order of magnitude greater

than that for the ion pair formation reaction. The

collection efficiencies for the C1? Jon coming from the

two reactions (21) and (23) should be the same, and

therefore the cross

section for the reaction (28) should

be much greater than that for reaction (21).

Now the absolute cross section for reaction

(23) has been measured by Buchner and Nikova (1967) to be

$3.9 \times 10^{-28}$  cm<sup>2</sup> at the

minimum. Use

combine this and the data

for energy loss per collision with hydrogen chloride a:



summarized by Healey and Read(®®), it can be shown by the method of Magee and Burton(®®), that only a small fraction (58) of the subexcitation electrons which have energies in excess of 1.5 eV will be captured prior to thermalization.

The excitation process (22) should occur at an energy of at least 4.5 eV, There is no information on the efficiency of this type of process.

Davidow(70) has obtained evidence that the

electrons disappear:

1 in a termolecular reaction represented above as reaction (24). Ke estimates that the rate

32

constant of this reaction is approximately  $2.1 \times 10^7$

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cn®/molecule?sec, from which a mean lifetime for the

electron would be of the order of  $10^{18}$  sec, a

concentration of hydrogen chloride molecules of about  $10^{20}$

molecules/cm<sup>3</sup>.

From the foregoing it can be concluded that the ions H<sub>2</sub>C<sup>+</sup> and C<sup>+</sup>, and maybe electrons would be collected at the electrodes on application of an electric field.

At a field strength of 10 V/cm-torr, the

effective electron energy in HCL

is

estimated at 0.14 eV

?This energy is much lo

than the threshold energy  
of reaction (22).

eter ?encl\* +e oi scise (2s)

which requires an energy of at least 4.5 eV. This means  
that a reduction of hydrogen yield caused by neutralization

of ions at the electrode

should not be compensated for by  
?the above process.

The recent work of Kebarie??®?

on ammonia and water

in the gas phase near atmospheric pressure has shown that

both the  $\text{MH}_2^+$  and  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  ions are heavily clustered, In view

of this, it would be expected that the H, C1° and C1? fone  
would also be heavily clustered. Consequently, in the  
absence of an electrical field, the occurrence of a non-

Aissociative combination, viz:

---Page Break---

1H

at +o,

"2h Caneay \* S cmneay

is not unreasonable. This proposed reaction, whereby no

> (nome) (26)

hydrogen is formed, is in agreement with previous evidence

obtained from a study of the scavenging effect of chlorine

on a nixture of hydrogen chloride and sulphur hexafluoride. 99)

The application of an electrical field curing

the radiolysis shows no effect on the hydrogen yield in the

fon-recombination region. one explanation is that the ions

do not react to produce hydrogen, thus justifying the

Proposed reaction (26). The other explanation is that the

clustered  $H_2C_1^+$  ion on being neutralized at the cathode forms

hydrogen, Very little is known about reactions taking

place at electrodes in

aqueous systems and until more is

known, the first explanation appears quite reasonable and

is in agreement with the experimental result

## 4.6 FREE RADICAL REACTIONS

reactions

The free radicals produced in the ionic re

and in the excitation process are mainly the H and CL

Radicals, These radicals would be expected to react as

follows

$H + H_2 \rightarrow H_2 + H$

$H + Cl_2 \rightarrow 2HCl$  (2a)

$H + O_2 \rightarrow H_2O_2$  (2s)

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$H + Cl + S \rightarrow H_2S + Cl$  (30)

Reaction (27) has an activation energy of about 3 kcal/mole whereas the others (28), (25) and (30) would be expected to have zero activation energy; however, since the radicals  $H$  and  $Cl$  would be present in very low concentrations the reactions (28) and (29) would be unable to compete with reaction (27). As the products hydrogen and chlorine build up during the radiolysis (e.g. at high doses) the back reactions

$H + H_2 \rightarrow H_2 + H$

$H + Cl \rightarrow HCl$  (2)

can be expected to interfere with the hydrogen yield,

Their activation energies are 3,0 keals/nole and 5.48 keals/nole, respectively.

In the stoichiometric equation

Ce Her > neat +e at + xen ?

an estimated maximum value of x was 0.26. Since W for hydrogen chloride is 24.8 eV, a contribution of up to 21,04 G units of H and C1 atoms can be expected from the

ionization processes. The yields of H and i? from

reaction (7) may vary between 0 and 1.04, depending on the value of x.

With respect to the unscavengeable hydrogen

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yield, this must be coming from processes such as

ee ncr?> ne + est scree (ss)

ws norms, + ca oy)

It can be postulated that some of the hot hydrogen atoms

may be thermalizing before reaction, Very little is

known about this type of phenomenon.

#### 4.7 PROPOSED MECHANISM FOR THE RADIOLYTIC DECOMPOSITION

#### OF HYDROGEN CHLORIDE.

##### Ionization

$\text{Xe} + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{HCl} + \text{e}^- + \text{Xe}^+ + \text{Xe}^{\text{ion}}$

$\text{H} + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{H}_2 + \text{Cl}^* + \text{H}^+$

$\text{H} + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{H}_2 + \text{Cl}^* + \text{H}^+$

$\text{Cl} + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{Cl}_2 + \text{H}^+$

Be careful

- . (Her)

$\text{G} + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{G} + \text{HCl} + \text{H}^+$

$\text{N}_2 + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{N}_2 + \text{HCl} + \text{H}^+$

##### Excitation

$\text{e}^- + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{HCl}^* + \text{e}^-$

\* collisional



Geactivation (7a)

Radical

H+ Her 5H, + cr «@

\*

w+ Heron, +o (ea)

---Page Break---

-a27

cls creme ee o

6

$G, = 100/24.8 = 4.0$  is in

Seer? \* Sijea\*

fair agreement with 3.8 obtained from the scavenger

studies. Assuming an x value of 0.26, reactions (1)

and (4) can account for up to a  $G, = 4.0 + 1.00$  5.0K,

the remainder to make  $G,$  (5.65) may be coming from reaction

(7a). The scavengers must be competing with reactions

(4) and (8), At high doses the back reactions (10) and

(21) become important

Heel, > Hers cr ae)

Weel + Here ay

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SECTION v

DISCUSSION OF HYDROGEN BROMIDE RESULTS

5.1 RADIOLYSIS OF PURE GASEOUS HYDROGEN BROMIDE

When pure gaseous hydrogen bromide is irradiated

with  $10^{20}$  g,

S, an ion pair yield of  $4.7 \pm 0.1$  (Table

©) for the decomposition is obtained, this is in very

good agreement with the work of Hamill et al. (S28) on the

radiolysis of this gas using X-rays. It appears from the

above result that X- and  $\gamma$ -rays produce the same effect

on HBr gas, This is to be expected since both of these

rays are penetrating electromagnetic radiation only  
differing in their energies.

Before a mechanism for the decomposition of the  
gas is attempted, all the pertinent data will be reviewed.

The mass spectral data on HBr using electrons of 150 eV  
impact energy show the occurrence of the ions HBr<sup>+</sup>, uBr<sup>+</sup>,  
Br<sup>+</sup>, and Br<sup>+</sup> in the relative abundances of 100:7:46:10

S

(91) charge transfer proc

es (shown below) similar

to those postulated for HCl would be expected

Br<sup>+</sup> + HBr<sup>+</sup> + HBr<sup>+</sup> + HBr<sup>+</sup> + Br<sup>+</sup> ions - 0.11 eV @

(E.R. of Br<sup>+</sup> is 5 eV) and 1.6 eV of HBr<sup>+</sup> is 6.9 eV)

Yes up to 5 eV + 6.9 eV (2)

HBr<sup>+</sup> 4 eV + HBr<sup>+</sup> Be (3)

---Page Break---

= 120 -

art? 4 npr par? ses Br anesteev (uy

(2nd T.P, of Bre19.2 ev'52))

These equations would lead to an overall stoichiometric equation

(en) HBr nbet 6 ee nt exer os)

where x can be calculated from the distribution of ions given above to be 0.0

## 5.2 THE SCAVENGING EFFECT OF BROMINE AND SULPHUR WEXATLUORIDE ON THE RADIOLYSTS OF GASEOUS HYDROGEN BROMIDE

In the radiolysis of gaseous hydrogen bromide, the scavengers bromine and sulphur hexafluoride reduce the hydrogen yield to about the same extent (Fig. 25) and also at low scavenger concentrations their effects are almost identical. On comparing the effects of the Scavengers on the HBr radiolysis with that on the Hic

radiolysis (Tables 22 and 24), it can be seen that the Scavengers are much less effective in the case of HBr than in HCL, in both reducing the hydrogen yield and in competing for the reactive species  $H_i$

A kinetic analysis similar to that used for the HCL scavenging results, assuming that the

scavenger and HPr compete for the reactive species  $i$ ,

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gives the results shown in Table 24, From the last two columns of this table it can be observed that the rate

constant ratios  $k_{sc}/k_{20}$  are observed, aE

are in agreement with the ratios obtained from conventional

Haar,

Studies with thermal hydrogen atoms. The scavengers must therefore be scavenging electrons since both bromine and sulphur hexafluoride are good electron scavengers

having maximum capture cross sections at zero energy.

Table 24

Scavenger out Kuen! Ks

radiolysis # atom

Bromine 2.6 7.0 5.9x10<sup>7</sup> 0.12

Sulphur e

Hexafluoride 2,7 6.9 6x10<sup>20</sup> pa

and  $t^*$  represent the scavengeable and unscavengeable species, respectively,

The scavenging results give a  $G_y$  value of

2.7 which should be equal to  $G_y$ . However, from the  $W$

value for Br a  $G_y \cdot G_y = 4.1$  should have been obtained.

This means that not all of the electrons are being scavenged

as in the cage of He.

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- as -

During thermalization the electrons may

interact with the HBr molecule as follows

$e + \text{HBr} \rightarrow \text{H} + \text{Br}^-$  (6)

$e + \text{HBr} \rightarrow \text{H} + \text{Br} + e$  (7)

$e + \text{HBr} \rightarrow \text{H} + \text{Br} + e$  (8)

Finally, as in HCl, the three body process

$e + 2\text{HBr} \rightarrow \text{H} + \text{HBr} + \text{HBr}^-$  (9)

is also possible.

They occur. The energies required for reactions (6) and (7) are 19.8 eV and at least 3.75 eV, respectively.

Reaction (6) has a threshold energy of 0.1 eV with a

maximum capture cross section occurring at 0.21 eV, and

Reaction (9) should take place with thermalized electrons.

The cross section for electron capture by an HBr molecule

in reaction (8) is 15 times larger than that for the

corresponding reaction with HCl and also, capture occurs

at a much lower energy.

rey. It must therefore play a much greater part in the HBr radiolysis than in the HeL radiolysis, Reaction (6) gives fone which would be measured in the ¥ value, but not be scavengeable by sf.. ence it nay contribute to the difference between 6, from the scavenger date and Gionseation (alculated from W value for HBr).

---Page Break---

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The rate constant ratio Kysupe/Fyeae, #8

2068)

and therefore at 6 mole & bromine concentration only one third of all the thersal hydrogen atoms formed in the system would be scavenged by bronine, in addition to the competition for electrons, therefore, depending fon the yield of thermal # atoms, a difference would be expected in the scavenging effects of the two scavengers.

Clearly, from an inspection of fig. 25, this is not the



case. Hence the "thermal" hydrogen atom yield cannot be large and most of the hot hydrogen atoms must be reacting before becoming thermalized.

The H atoms resulting from the stoichiometric equation (7) of the previous section can contribute up to 1.66 units to the Gy yield.

## 5.9 APPLIED ELECTRICAL FIELD EFFECT

The effect of an applied electric field on the radiolysis of gaseous hydrogen bromide is illustrated in fig. 29. Here it can be seen that there is no change

in the ion pair yield in the ion recombination region:

however, as the field strength increases and before

secondary ionization sets in, the ion pair yield increases

It has already been pointed out that the electrons on slowing down can undergo the following

reactions.

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e+ Her on + are «sy

The stoichiometry of reaction (#) is the same as reaction

(9), fe, one 11, molecule per electron. Reaction (7) can  
the observed effect since a constant applied electric  
Field would be expected to increase the average energy of  
the electrons in the gas. A fraction of them may attain  
the threshold energy of reaction (7).

#### 5.4 PROPOSED MECHANISM

The following mechanism has been put forward

by Hamill et al. for the radiolytic decomposition of HBr

using X-rays.

HBr  $\rightarrow$   $\text{h}\nu$   $\text{Br}^* + e^-$  (Q)

of Br on 6 p.e. (a)

wart + be? en + opr an

out ea, + Be a2)

Bret +H oar, +m as)

This scheme gives an ion pair yield of 4.0. These authors have attributed the yield in excess of 4.0 to a  
au

productive excitational process which may be depicted as  
 $e^- + \text{Wor Sense?} \rightarrow e^- + \text{ent sore as}$ )

Since their investigation the rate constant for the fon

molecule reaction

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~ isn

MBr + HBr? ??& fi,Br? + oe as)

has been measured by Schissler and Stevenson?<sup>5</sup>) to be

4.7 10<sup>7</sup>?

ce/nolecute sec. On carrying out similar calculations to those for the HCl case, it is seen that reaction (15) is a preferred reaction to reaction (11). Since the applied electric Field results show that there is no change in the ion pair yield for either the production of hydrogen or the destruction of HBr molecules in the Son recombination region, reaction (16) below must be proposed as the ion recombination reaction.

nybe? + Bre Hor ae

For similar reasons to the HCl case, instead of reaction (16), reaction (27) would be expected.

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With the above modifications to Ham{il's mechanism, the proposed mechanism for the radiolytic decomposition of

gaseous hydrogen bromide should then be as follows.

Tonic reactions

HBr sur? +e ()

© + 2UBr?+ electron-iBr complex

Ky 8 @

CBr)

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e+ HBr eH + Bet fe)

Wer + nae? oe nytet + ar «a

Hyer? 4 okie ?= RP" Cyan (ed

. Br? + alr era w

HABE Cana) TPP Gmuagy > (mene HEE (®)

Exeitation

e+ br our +e ete ree OH)

Radical reactions

Moe HBr My tee wo

H's war en, + ar a

Bre ares ear en 00

The scavengers would be competing with reactions (b) and (c) for electrons, Reaction (h) followed by (j) is responsible for the unscavenged hydrogen yield, The energy to form an ion pair in HBr is 24.4 eV. The T.P. of WBr is only 11.67 eV and therefore 12.7 eV is available for excitation, hence there is no reason why the ratio of excitational processes to ionization processes cannot be 3:2, thus accounting for the high unscavengable yield of hydrogen.

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## APPENDIX T

: Consider the two competitions below

x

Wener ?Ls ys er

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Let Gy. be the yield of He

then in the presence of the scavenger C1,

$C_g = (\text{aeons})$  ;

a),

¥, Haein, ely)

+ The reduction in Gy, represented as A6cy,)

is given by

( kG GD )

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? ae)

iWin er, (er)

. (: « Kyrea V

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: actH,) =

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## APPENDIX IT

At any given chlorine concentration the rate of

hydrogen formation will be given by the equation

a

$G(H_2) = k_1 C_{Cl_2}^2$

at  $k_1 = 1.5 \times 10^{-12}$  s<sup>-1</sup>

Wee Hen

where  $G(H_2)$  is the "true" initial total hydrogen yield,

A represents the proportion of hydrogen formed by the

scavenged species "(A = 0.015; B= 1-a) and

R is the dose rate in eV per unit volume per unit time



x

Ws on,

Putting ne 2000

x 7H 3.8 (Her

wee wea POD rea)

(1g) + (Hig) = x ang assuming that (HC1) is constant,

the equation becom

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Bexeuy f sare va}

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of piste BUH) e

often [ee 5

7 4 + Bex) + R- n(l + Bex)| #1! Ho) t

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ecm) = 2 | ip) \_ 0,208 cer) 2084 {1 + 48.7 (ery

o-b08 ey.

where D Ss dose,

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