Unconventional Channel of Atmospheric Reaction $\text{NO} + \text{O}_3 \rightarrow \text{NO}_2 + \text{O}_2$: a Mechanistic Study Using Born-Oppenheimer Molecular Dynamics

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Introduction

Given the importance of the ozone in the stratosphere against harmful radiation, the understanding of the ozone depletion process become mandatory\cite{1,2,3}.

There are several compounds involved in the degradation of ozone and specifically in the stratosphere exist a significant amount of NOx compounds\cite{4}. Knowledge of these mechanisms has been responsible by a relative abundance of experimental and theoretical work\cite{4-8}. However, the mechanism involving the NO compound still remains unclear since the experiments observe two different mechanisms (abstracts an end-O- atom and a central-O-atom) by nitric oxide\cite{7} and just the first possibility has been elucidated theoretically.

In this paper, inspired by cross section experimental data, we reported the nonconventional mechanism for the abstraction of central-O-atom using Born-Oppenheimer Molecular Dynamics.

Methods

The structures of all reactive components have been built in the GaussView\cite{5} program and all theoretical calculations were carried out using the G09\cite{9} program suite. The proposed reaction pathway has been guided by a centralized attack the N atom to ozone to produce effective collisions reagents for the formation of the desired product. We used the Bohr-Oppenheimer Molecular Dynamics (BOMD)\cite{10} approach to simulate the mechanism. A specified temperature of 0.65eV was adopted. The electronic structure was treated with B3LYP/3-21G. The lower level of these calculations is admittedly, but it is compromise, initially, with the description of the process. The system was built with one NO molecule and one O$_3$ molecule in the vacuum. A reaction coordinate ($\Delta r$) was defined as the difference between lengths of the bond that is progressively broken, $r_2$ and of one which is concertedly formed, $r_1$ (see, Figure 1). At $\Delta \gamma < 0$, the condition given by the reagents, such that it, $\Delta \gamma > 0$, it evidences the formation of the product.
Results and Discussion

During the numerous simulations, there were certain discrepancies with the abstraction of the central oxygen ozone carried by nitric oxide. Working with STQN method (Synchronous Transit-Guided Quasi-Newton)\textsuperscript{11}, in an attempt of found a stationay transition state involved in the process, this procedure has been ineffective.

The BOMD procedure showed trajectories able to describe the interest mechanism. It was observed a binding between the molecule of NO and O\textsubscript{3}. In the Figure 2, it is showed specifics configuration of the trajectories, point out reactants (A panel), transition state (B panel) and products (C and D panels) with temporal scale of the event.

A potential energy profile of the reaction is presented in the Figure 3. The stationary points in the potential curve satisfactorily characterized (A – D configurations. Transition state is well characterized in the B point, however, there is a unconvention profile in the potential curve: flat region. The shape can explain the inefficiency of the STQN method, a gradient method that demands well defined stationary point.

As discussed, the flat region represented by B indicates the noticeable maximum value, which, this point corresponds to the transition state, with 5 kcal. mol\textsuperscript{-1} barrier height, approximately. The minimum stationary point (A and D) in the potential curve defined the reactants and products, respectively.

Conclusion

In summary, the BOMD procedure was able to describe the unconventional mechanism for the NO + O\textsubscript{3} reaction. The main stationay points were observed in the calculated trajectory. The transition state is localized in the flat region on the potential curve, this result explain the inefficacy of the STQN method. The understanding of this mechanism can be guide the comprehension of the dynamics and kinetics parameters involved in the depletion of the ozone in the stratosphere. In addition,
othres trajectories are being calculated with high level ab initio methods.

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References