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# **Energy Transfer and Thermal Accommodation in Ozone Scattering** from a Perfluorinated Self-Assembled Monolayer

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Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** A modification of the energy transfer model recently proposed by two of us (ref 4) is tested in this work by  $\langle \Delta E \rangle = a_0 + a_1 \exp(-b_1/\sqrt{E_i}) + a_2 \operatorname{csch}^2\left(\frac{b_2}{\sqrt{E_i}}\right)$ an extensive comparison with the simulation results for O<sub>3</sub> scattering from a perfluorinated self-assembled monolayer (F-

$$\langle \Delta E \rangle = a_0 + a_1 \exp(-b_1/\sqrt{E_i}) + a_2 \operatorname{csch}^2\left(\frac{b_2}{\sqrt{E_i}}\right)$$

SAM) as well as with previous NO + FSAM and Ar + F-SAM scattering results. The model fits very well the trajectory data over a  $\sim 10^3$ -fold of incident energies. The percentage of energy transferred to the surface, predicted by the model at high incident energies, decreases with the number of degrees of freedom of the projectile because they compete with the surface degrees of freedom as possible destinations of the incident energy. The distributions of the scattered ozone molecules over translational and rotational states show a low-energy component characterized by a Maxwell-Boltzmann (MB) distribution at the surface temperature that survives at the highest collision energies. The dependence of the fraction of the MB component on the incident energy is an exponential decay function and the rate of decay is similar for the rotational and translational distributions. A nonnegligible number of the O<sub>3</sub> + F-SAM trajectories that penetrate the surface at high energies have very long residence times (longer than the simulation time), which enables thermal accommodation of the rotational and translational degrees of freedom. A new method to categorize the O<sub>3</sub> + F-SAM trajectories, based on the residence time, shows that, at very low incident energies (<10 kcal/mol), thermal accommodation can be achieved in a single collision event.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Over the last two decades, a number of experimental and theoretical studies have been devoted to understand the energy transfer dynamics in collisions of gas-phase species with organic surfaces. 1-47 The development of energy transfer models is of great interest and may facilitate the interpretation of experimental and simulation data. Those models should provide the amounts of energy transferred to the various degrees of freedom when a gas (or projectile) collides with a surface with incident energy  $E_i$ 

$$E_{\rm i} = \Delta E_{\rm surf} + \Delta E_{\rm int} + E_{\rm f} \tag{1}$$

where  $E_{\rm f}$  is the translational energy of the projectile after the collision,  $\Delta$  indicates an energy change during the collision,  $E_{\text{surf}}$ is the surface energy, and  $E_{\rm int}$  is the internal energy of the projectile. Previous gas-surface simulation studies show that the percentage of incident energy  $E_i$  transferred to the projectile's internal degrees of freedom  $\langle \Delta E_{\rm int} \rangle / E_{\rm i}$  does not depend much on the incident energy for high values of  $E_{\rm i}$ . A model proposed previously shows that the function  $\exp(-b/E_{\rm i})$ (where b is a parameter) fits reasonably well the average percentage of energy transfer to the surface. This model predicts that the high  $E_i$  limiting energy transfer to the surface is ~90% for two protonated peptides scattering off a perfluorinated self-assembled monolayer (F-SAM).8 The same model was employed by Morris and co-workers to obtain values for the high E<sub>i</sub> limiting energy transfer to the surface of 89–98% for Ar and CO<sub>2</sub> scattering off several SAM surfaces.<sup>35</sup>

More recently, a model based on the adiabaticity parameter<sup>50</sup> was proposed in our group to predict the dependence of each term on the right-hand side of eq 1 on E<sub>i</sub>.<sup>4</sup> This adiabatic model (AM) fits NO + F-SAM simulation results with increased accuracy compared with other models of energy transfer.<sup>4</sup> However, since the AM is only reliable in the adiabatic limit, 50 a modification is proposed in the present work to extend its applicability to high incident energies. The new model will be fit to the O<sub>3</sub> + F-SAM energy transfer results of the present work as well as to previous NO + F-SAM<sup>4</sup> and Ar + F-SAM<sup>9</sup> simulation results over a wide range of incident energies.

The amount of energy transferred to each of the degrees of freedom of eq 1 depends on the incident energy and on the collision mechanism. The trajectories are usually classified as trapping-desorption (TD) or impulsive scattering (IS), depending on the degree of thermal accommodation of the projectile. For instance a TD trajectory would lead to complete accommodation of the translational energy and the average value of  $E_{\rm f}$  would be  $2RT_{\rm S}$  with  $T_{\rm S}$  being the surface temperature. The relative fraction of TD and IS trajectories is usually determined from the distributions of the scattered molecules over their rotational P(J) and translational states  $P(E_f)$ . In previous work <sup>10,13,36,51,52</sup> one or several Maxwell— Boltzmann (MB) distributions of states were employed to fit the P(J) or  $P(E_f)$  distributions of the scattering molecules. The

October 1, 2012 Received: Revised: November 5, 2012 Published: November 8, 2012

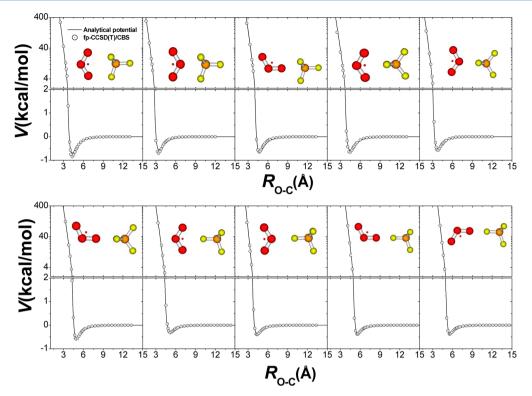


Figure 1. Analytical potential of eq 5 (solid lines) fitted to the fp-CCSD(T)/CBS ab initio calculations (circles) for different orientations of the  $O_3$  +  $CF_4$  system considered in this study to develop the  $O_3$  + F-SAM interaction potential. The small red dot in the middle of the terminal oxygen atoms represents the pseudoatom that has been considered as an additional interaction site to improve the fit (see text).

simplest interpretation of the experimental or simulation results is that the distribution of the TD trajectories resembles a MB distribution at the surface temperature  $T_S$ , whereas that of the IS trajectories corresponds to a temperature that is well above  $T_S$ . This means that, if the total P(J) or  $P(E_f)$  distribution has two components, the low-energy component would correspond to TD and the high-energy component to IS.

However, chemical dynamics simulations of gas-phase species scattering off SAMs indicate that the collision process may be considerably more complex than the above TD/IS model. For instance, it was found that direct events, without trapping on the surface, may contribute to the low-energy component of the distribution, and, on the other hand, trajectories that physisorb or penetrate inside the monolayers may contribute to the high-energy component of the distribution.  $^{6,10,18,21,53}$  In particular, recent  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  + F-SAM scattering calculations show that TD cannot be unambiguously identified with the low-energy component of the  $P(E_f)$ distribution.6 It is therefore of great interest to classify the trajectories in a way that can help interpret the rotational and translational distributions of the scattering gases. In the present article, the O<sub>3</sub> + F-SAM trajectories are sorted according to their residence time, that is those with short residence times will contribute to the high-energy portion of the distribution, whereas those with long residence times will lead to thermal accommodation and they will be part of the low-energy component.

### II. COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS

**A. Potential Energy Surface.** The potential energy function of the  $O_3$  + F-SAM system reads:

$$V = V_{\text{surf}} + V_{\text{O}_3} + V_{\text{O}_3 - \text{surf}} \tag{2}$$

The first term  $V_{\rm surf}$  describes the interactions that take place in the F-SAM surface,  $^{9,10}$   $V_{\rm O_3}$  is the ozone potential function, and  $V_{\rm O_3-surf}$  accounts for the interaction between ozone and the surface.

The F-SAM surface consists of 48 chains of  $CF_3(CF_2)_7S$  radicals adsorbed on a single layer of 225 Au atoms, which are kept fixed during the dynamics simulations; all atoms are explicitly considered in our model. A molecular dynamics simulation of the monolayer provides a 300 K structure of the surface in close agreement with experiment, that is the monolayer forms a hexagonal close-packed structure with the nearest-neighbor direction rotated  $30^\circ$  with respect to the Au{111} lattice and the backbone of the  $CF_3(CF_2)_7S$  moiety has a tilt angle with respect to the surface normal of  $\sim$ 12°.

The ozone intramolecular potential function  $V_{O_2}$  is harmonic:

$$V_{\rm O_3} = \sum_{\rm i} \frac{1}{2} k_{\rm r} (r_{\rm OO} - r_{\rm OO}^{\rm eq})^2 + \frac{1}{2} k_{\theta} (\theta - \theta^{\rm eq})^2$$
(3)

where the force constants  $k_{\rm r}$  and  $k_{\theta}$  are adjusted to fit the ab initio vibrational frequencies of ozone calculated in this work at the CCSD(T)(full)/aug-cc-pVQZ level of theory. The ab initio frequencies 728 (A<sub>1</sub>), 1174 (A<sub>1</sub>), and 1087 (B<sub>2</sub>) cm<sup>-1</sup> compare well with those predicted by eq 3: 642 (A<sub>1</sub>), 1051 (A<sub>1</sub>), and 1107 (B<sub>2</sub>). The resulting values of the force constants are:  $k_{\rm r}$  = 4.7 mdyn × Å<sup>-1</sup> and  $k_{\theta}$  = 2.3 mdyn × Å/rad<sup>2</sup>. The O–O equilibrium distance  $r_{\rm QO}^{\rm eq}$  and the equilibrium angle  $\theta^{\rm eq}$  are taken from the CCSD(T)(full)/aug-cc-pVQZ calculation and are 1.266 Å and 117.3°, respectively.

The  $O_3/F$ -SAM interaction potential  $V_{O_3-surf}$  was obtained from high-level ab initio data for the  $O_3+CF_4$  system.  $^{3,9,10,54-56}$  This means that the carbon and fluorine atoms in  $CF_4$  are considered equivalent to those in F-SAM.

Table 1. Parameters of the O<sub>3</sub>-CF<sub>4</sub> Intermolecular Analytical Potential of Eq 5<sup>a</sup>

$i-j^b$	$A_{ij}$	$B_{ij}$	$C_{ij}$	$D_{ij}$	$E_{ij}$	$F_{ij}$
$O_1$ - $C$	1494.696	2.485				
$O_2-C$	77000.000	4.491	1343.061	6.963	10.784	16.000
X-C	200000.000	4.702	-109.759	4.339	274.976	19.581
$O_1$ -F	177000.000	4.606	-376.281	6.505	24.400	20.761
$O_2$ -F	34425.742	3.837	-236.131	5.311	368.188	9.443
X-F	7.386	7.947	115.532	4.783		

<sup>&</sup>quot;Units are such that potential energy is in kcal/mol and distance is in Å.  $^bO_1$ ,  $O_2$ , and X refer to the central and terminal oxygen atoms and to the pseudo atom, respectively.

This approach provides gas-surface interaction energies that agree very well with those obtained using more realistic models for the F-SAM surface.<sup>3</sup>

MP2(FC)/aug-cc-pVXZ (X = D,T,Q) and CCSD(T)(FC)/aug-cc-pVDZ single point energies were computed for the relative orientations of  $O_3$  and  $CF_4$  shown in Figure 1. The ab initio calculations, carried out with Gaussian09, include the counterpoise correction to account for the basis set superposition error (BSSE). The MP2(FC)/aug-cc-pVXZ values were extrapolated to the complete basis set limit (CBS) using Peterson's approach:

$$E(n) = E_{\text{CBS}} + A \exp[-(n+1)] + B \exp[-(n+1)^2]$$
(4)

with n = 2, 3, 4 for X = D, T, Q respectively and E(n) being the MP2(FC)/aug-cc-pVXZ energy. To obtain more accurate energies, the focal-point approximation of Allen and coworkers<sup>60</sup> has been employed in this study. The method takes advantage of the fact that, usually, for large basis sets, the difference between the MP2 and CCSD(T) energies is independent of the basis set. In this work, CCSD(T) energies at the CBS limit (here and after fp-CCSD(T)/CBS) were computed with the focal point approach.

The analytical function employed to fit the fp-CCSD(T)/CBS interaction energies is a sum of two-body Buckingham potentials:

$$V_{O_3-\text{surf}} = \sum_{ij} A_{ij} \exp(-B_{ij}R_{ij}) + C_{ij}/R_{ij}^{D_{ij}} + E_{ij}/R_{ij}^{F_{ij}}$$
(5)

where i and j represent each of the atoms of the  $O_3$  and  $CF_4$  molecules respectively  $R_{ij}$  is the i-j interatomic distance and  $A_{ij}$ ,  $B_{ij}$ ... $F_{ij}$  are the parameters. For ozone we added a pseudoatom in the middle of the two terminal oxygen atoms to improve the fit, which was conducted using a genetic algorithm. To avoid the Buckingham catastrophe some restrictions were imposed to the parameters, namely, all  $D_{ij}$  parameters range from 4 to 7, all  $E_{ij}$  parameters are positive and all  $F_{ij}$  parameters are greater than 9.

Figure 1 shows the resulting interaction potential (solid line) and the final two-body parameters are collected in Table 1. The stratified root-mean-square error of the fit is  $5 \times 10^{-2}$  kcal/mol for energies lower than 2 kcal/mol and 6.8 kcal/mol for energies in the range 2–400 kcal/mol.

Finally, to prevent ozone from unphysical penetration through the gold slab, an O-Au potential function was added. In the absence of accurate potential functions for O interacting with gold the repulsive part of the O-C two-body potential was employed. An additional drawback of our potential function is the lack of an O-S interaction potential. However, overall, the strategy employed to construct the model potential function seems to be pretty accurate and simulation

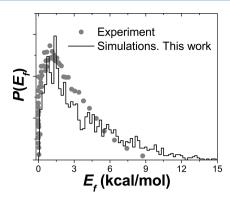
results obtained with this model agree very well with experiment (see below for  $O_3$  + F-SAM and also see refs 4,6,9,10 for other systems).

B. Chemical Dynamics Simulations. Batches of 2000 trajectories were run for the following incident energies in kcal/mol: 1, 5, 10, 16.75, 50, 100, 200, and 400. The energy of 16.75 kcal/mol corresponds to the experiment carried out by Morris and co-workers. Each vibrational mode of ozone has the zeropoint vibrational energy and the initial rotational energy about each rotational axis was  $1/2k_{\rm B}T_{\rm rot}$  with  $T_{\rm rot}=20$  K. The projectiles were collided perpendicularly ( $\theta_{\rm i}=0^{\circ}$ ) with the surface. For the incident energy of 16.75 kcal/mol, an additional batch of 10 000 trajectories was run with an incident angle of  $\theta_{\rm i}=30^{\circ}$  and  $T_{\rm rot}=298$  K, to mimic the experimental conditions of Morris and co-workers; in this case, the azimuthal angle  $\chi$ , defined as the projection of the velocity vector onto the surface plane, was randomly selected between 0 and  $2\pi$ .

All of the simulations were carried out using the VENUSOS computer program. 64,65 The trajectories were integrated with a fixed step size of 0.3 fs using the Adams-Moulton algorithm for a total integration time of 60 ps. Before the beginning of each trajectory simulation, the surface was relaxed to a thermodynamic equilibrium structure by a 2 ps molecular dynamics simulation in which the atomic velocities are scaled to obtain a surface temperature of 300 K. This structure was then used as the initial structure of a 100 fs equilibration run at the beginning of each trajectory. Periodic boundary conditions were also utilized to simulate a larger surface. After the integration of each trajectory, the surface energy and the translational and internal energies of the scattered ozone molecules were calculated from the atomic Cartesian coordinates and momenta.

# **III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

A. Reliability of the Simulation Results and Comparison with Experiment. An stringent test of the methodology employed in this work consists of comparisons of the simulation results with experiment. Morris and co-workers<sup>63</sup> carried out molecular beam experiments of ozone scattering from a perfluoro alkanethiol SAM on gold. They measured the  $P(E_f)$  distributions for an incident energy of 16.75 kcal/mol and incident angle with respect to the surface normal  $\theta_i$  of 30°. The final  $E_{\rm f}$  values were obtained for the gases that scattered specularly from the F-SAM, that is, for final scattering angles of  $30^{\circ}$ . Figure 2 compares the experimental  $P(E_f)$  distribution (solid circles) with our simulation results (histogram). The simulation  $P(E_f)$  distribution is obtained for the whole scattering flux since our results show that the distribution is unaffected, within statistical errors, by the final scattering angle. Troya et al. also found that the  $P(E_f)$  distributions obtained in



**Figure 2.**  $P(E_i)$  distribution obtained in our simulation study (histogram) compared with the experimental results (circles) at  $E_i = 16.75 \text{ kcal/mol}$  and  $\theta_i = 30^{\circ}$ .

their classical trajectory study of collisions of HCl with hydroxylated alkanethiol self-assembled monolayers are essentially independent of the recoil angle. Although the simulation  $P(E_{\rm f})$  distribution is slightly hotter than the experimental one, both peak at a value of  $E_{\rm f} \sim 1.5$  kcal/mol. Additionally, Morris and co-workers found that  $\sim 40\%$  of the  $P(E_{\rm f})$  distribution corresponds to a MB component at the surface temperature compared with the 38% obtained in this work. The comparison of our simulation results with experimental data suggests that our simulation results are reliable.

Because the simulations are carried out at very high incident energies (the highest being 400 kcal/mol), some comments about the accuracy of the ozone potential function should be added at this point. The potential energy surface of ozone presents a conical intersection (CI) connecting the ground state with the lowest excited state of the same symmetry (1A<sub>1</sub>).<sup>68</sup> The CI lies 53.6 kcal/mol above the ground state minimum and has a bond angle of 83.2°. Because the highest incident energies of our simulation study are well above 53.6 kcal/mol, it is of interest to see whether nonadiabatic effects could affect the dynamics of our system. The simulations show that, even at the highest  $E_i$  of 400 kcal/mol, the average amount of energy transferred to the ozone vibrational modes is modest and lower than 17 kcal/mol (vide infra). Moreover, the minimum bond angle of ozone attained at any point of our simulations is always greater than 85°. These findings suggest, therefore, that ozone molecules stay in their ground electronic state throughout the dynamics, even at the highest incident energies.

On the other hand, the bond dissociation energy of ozone is only ~24 kcal/mol,<sup>68</sup> which enables surface-induced dissociation (SID) of the molecule at high incident energies. However, SID and possible reactions between ozone and the F-SAM are not described by the model potential energy function employed in this study.

**B. Energy Transfer.** A model based on the adiabaticity parameter<sup>50</sup> was recently proposed by two of us to rationalize the extent of energy transfer between a diatomic molecule and an F-SAM.<sup>4</sup> Very briefly, the adiabaticity parameter is defined as<sup>50</sup>

$$\xi = \frac{a}{\nu_i t_v} \tag{6}$$

where a is the range of the intermolecular force,  $v_i$  is the relative velocity of the colliding partners (or incident velocity in our case) and  $t_v$  is the vibrational period of the diatomic molecule.

The model assumes the following functional form for the average amount of energy transfer to vibration of the projectile:<sup>4</sup>

$$\langle \Delta E^{\text{ad}} \rangle = \langle \Delta E \rangle_{\nu_i \to 0} + \langle \Delta E \rangle^{\text{sudden}} \exp \left( -\frac{a}{\nu_i t_v} \right)$$
 (7)

where the superscript ad (adiabatic) is used to emphasize that the applicability of the model limits to low incident energies. The term  $\langle \Delta E \rangle_{\nu_i \to 0}$  is included in eq 7 to account for the nonnegligible energy transfer in the  $\nu_i \to 0$  limit and  $\langle \Delta E \rangle^{\rm sudden}$  is the average energy transfer in the sudden limit ( $\xi = 0$ ). Eq 7 can be recast in the form:

$$\langle \Delta E^{\rm ad} \rangle = a_0 + a_1 \exp(-b_1/\sqrt{E_{\rm i}}) \tag{8}$$

where  $a_1$  and  $b_1$  are parameters that can be fit to simulation or experimental data,  $E_{\rm i}=1/2Mv_{\rm i}^2$ , M is the mass of the projectile, and  $a_0$  can be determined assuming complete accommodation at low incident energies, that is,  $a_0=k_{\rm B}T_{\rm S}$  for energy transfer to rotation of the diatomic molecule or  $a_0=2k_{\rm B}T_{\rm S}$  for energy transfer to translation.

Eq 8 was successfully fit to NO + F-SAM simulation results for  $E_{\rm i}$  < 40 kcal/mol,<sup>4</sup> but its applicability to higher incident energies is uncertain. For high incident energies we propose to employ an adaptation of the impulsive approximation of Mahan for energy transfer to a harmonic oscillator:<sup>69</sup>

$$\frac{\langle \Delta E^{\text{imp}} \rangle}{E_{\text{i}}} = C \left( \frac{\pi \omega a}{\nu_{\text{i}}} \right)^{2} \operatorname{csch}^{2} \left( \frac{\pi \omega a}{\nu_{\text{i}}} \right)$$
(9)

where  $\omega$  is the frequency of the harmonic oscillator and C is a constant that depends on the masses of the atoms involved in the collision. The above equation can be rewritten in the following form

$$\langle \Delta E^{\rm imp} \rangle = a_2 {\rm csch}^2 \left( \frac{b_2}{\sqrt{E_i}} \right)$$
 (10)

with  $a_2$  and  $b_2$  being two adjustable parameters. As  $E_i$  increases, eq 10 presents a linear dependence on  $E_i$  with slope  $a_2/b_2^2$ .

The phenomenological model proposed in this work is an adaptation of the above two limiting models, originally developed for atom—diatom collisions. In our model, the diatom is replaced by a projectile (of any size) and the surface plays the role of the atom. The amount of energy transfer to each of the degrees of freedom of the projectile is thus:

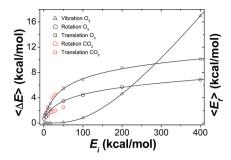
$$\langle \Delta E \rangle = \langle \Delta E^{\text{ad}} \rangle + \langle \Delta E^{\text{imp}} \rangle$$

$$= a_0 + a_1 \exp(-b_1 / \sqrt{E_i}) + a_2 \operatorname{csch}^2 \left( \frac{b_2}{\sqrt{E_i}} \right)$$
(11)

with  $a_1$ ,  $b_1$ ,  $a_2$ , and  $b_2$  being adjustable parameters.

The model shows a linear dependence of  $\langle \Delta E \rangle$  versus  $E_{\rm i}$  for high incident energies, which explains the fairly constant values of  $\langle \Delta E_{\rm int} \rangle / E_{\rm i}$  as a function of the incident energy found previously for a number of systems.  $^{8,32,48,49}$ 

Figure 3 shows the average values of energy transferred to vibration, rotation and translation of the projectile obtained in our  $O_3$  + F-SAM simulations (symbols) and the fits of eq 11 to the simulation data (solid lines). The parameters obtained in the fits are collected in Table 2. A unitless quantity of interest is the fraction of energy  $\langle \Delta E \rangle / E_i$  transferred to each of the



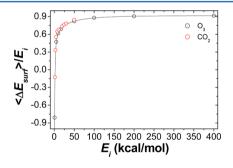
**Figure 3.** Amount of energy transferred to vibration (triangles), rotation (circles), and translation (squares) of ozone in the  $O_3$  + F-SAM collision process as a function of  $E_i$ . The fit of the energy transfer model proposed in this work to the simulation data is shown as solid lines. Our previous  $CO_2$  + F-SAM energy transfer results are also depicted for comparison.

Table 2. Parameters of the Energy Transfer Model for  $O_3$  + F-SAM

parameter <sup>a</sup>	vibration	rotation	translation
$a_1$	0.16	7.45	11.9
$a_2$	74.9	0.055	0.0059
$b_1$	12.1	7.88	7.53
$b_2$	29.8	4.75	1.75

<sup>a</sup>The units are such that  $\langle \Delta E \rangle$  is in kcal/mol. The values of  $a_0$  are 0.0, 0.9 (3/2 $k_BT_S$ ) and 1.2 (2 $k_BT_S$ ) kcal/mol for vibration, rotation, and translation, respectively.

degrees of freedom; this fraction is called here energy transfer efficiency (ETE). In the limit of infinite incident energy ETE( $\infty$ ) to the degrees of freedom of the molecule is obtained from the model parameters as  $a_2/b_2^2$  and ETE( $\infty$ ) to the surface can be obtained from energy conservation (eq 1). The values of ETE( $\infty$ ) to the vibrational, rotational and translational degrees of freedom of ozone are (in percentage) 8.4, 0.2 and 0.2, respectively. Figure 4 shows the results for ETE to the

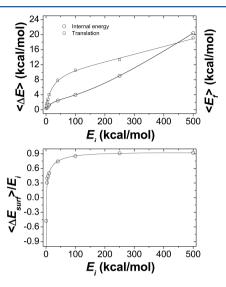


**Figure 4.** ETE to the surface  $(\langle \Delta E_{\rm surf} \rangle / E_i)$  as a function of  $E_i$  obtained in this work for  $O_3$  + F-SAM. The prediction of the energy transfer model proposed in this work is shown as a solid line. Our previous  $CO_2$  + F-SAM energy transfer results are also depicted for comparison.

surface, with the model results (solid line) being obtained from the previous fits (Table 2) and conservation of energy (eq 1). The value of ETE( $\infty$ ) to the surface obtained according to our model is 91.2%. Also shown in Figures 3 and 4 are previous  $CO_2$  + F-SAM simulation results, which closely follow the present  $O_3$  + F-SAM results.

As a further test of the model, eq 11 was fit to NO + F-SAM<sup>4</sup> and Ar + F-SAM<sup>9</sup> simulation results. For NO + F-SAM, new simulations are carried out here for  $E_i = 100, 250$ , and 500 kcal/

mol. At these high incident energies, a new potential for the interaction between NO and the surface was employed (Supporting Information). Figure 5 and Table 3 show the



**Figure 5.** Amount of energy transferred to the internal states (circles), and translation (squares) of nitric oxide in the NO + F-SAM collision process as a function of  $E_i$  (upper plot) and ETE to the surface as a function of  $E_i$  (lower plot). The fit of the energy transfer model proposed in this work to the simulation data is shown as solid lines. Some data are taken from our previous work.<sup>4</sup>.

Table 3. Parameters of the Energy Transfer Model for NO and Ar + F-SAM

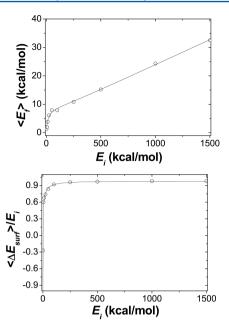
	NO +	NO + F-SAM		
parameter <sup>a</sup>	internal	translation	translation	
$a_1$	6.20	16.2	11.6	
$a_2$	47.9	30.2	17.9	
$b_1$	7.70	5.82	4.77	
$b_2$	29.8	36.0	31.8	

<sup>a</sup>The units are such that  $\langle \Delta E \rangle$  is in kcal/mol. The values of  $a_0$  are 0.9  $(k_{\rm B}T_{\rm S})$  and 1.2  $(2k_{\rm B}T_{\rm S})$  kcal/mol for the internal energy and translation, respectively.

resulting fits to the NO + F-SAM energy transfer data. The values of  $ETE(\infty)$  to the internal and translational degrees of freedom of the projectile are 5.4% and 2.3%, respectively;  $ETE(\infty)$  to the surface is 92.3%, a value slightly higher than that found for ozone.

Our previous Ar + F-SAM simulations are extended in this work to incident energies up to 1500 kcal/mol, using the original model parameters. Figure 6 and Table 3 show the fits of our model to the Ar + F-SAM results. In the limit of high incident energies, 1.8% of the incident energy goes to translation and the remaining 98.2% goes to the surface. The value of  $ETE(\infty)$  to the surface is substantially higher than that obtained for NO and  $O_3$ . Experimental studies on rare gases scattering off gold and platinum surfaces show that the values of  $ETE(\infty)$  to the surface are also very close to 100%.

Table 4 collects a summary of  $ETE(\infty)$  to the various degrees of freedom. Previous results from Hase's group for two big projectiles (Ala<sub>2</sub>-H<sup>+</sup> and Gly<sub>2</sub>-H<sup>+</sup>) colliding with the same F-SAM are included for comparison; the values of  $ETE(\infty)$  for Ala<sub>2</sub>-H<sup>+</sup> and Gly<sub>2</sub>-H<sup>+</sup> + F-SAM are obtained from the simulation results at  $E_i = 70$  eV.<sup>8</sup> As seen in the table,



**Figure 6.** Amount of energy transferred to translation (symbols) of Ar in the Ar + F-SAM collision process as a function of  $E_i$  (upper plot) and ETE to the surface as a function of  $E_i$  (lower plot). The fit of the energy transfer model proposed in this work to the simulation data is shown as solid lines. Some data are taken from our previous work.<sup>9</sup>

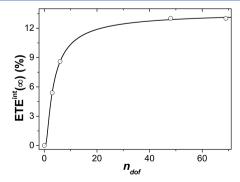
Table 4.  $ETE(\infty)$  (in %) to the Various Degrees of Freedom for Several Projectiles<sup>a</sup>

	Ar	NO	$O_3$	Gly <sub>2</sub> -H <sup>+</sup>	Ala <sub>2</sub> -H <sup>+</sup>
translation	1.8	2.3	0.2	4	4
internal	0.0	5.4	8.6	13	13
surface	98.2	92.3	91.2	83	83

"In all cases the projectiles collide with an F-SAM. The results for  $Gly_2$ -H<sup>+</sup> and  $Ala_2$ -H<sup>+</sup> are taken from ref 8 and refer to perpendicular collisions at  $E_i = 70$  eV.

 $\mathrm{ETE}(\infty)$  to the internal degrees of freedom of the projectile increases with the number of degrees of freedom  $(n_{\mathrm{dof}})$ , with a concomitant decrease of  $\mathrm{ETE}(\infty)$  to the surface. Figure 7 shows the dependence of  $\mathrm{ETE}(\infty)$  to the internal states of the molecule  $\mathrm{ETE}^{\mathrm{int}}(\infty)$  with  $n_{\mathrm{dof}}$  of each projectile. The values of  $\mathrm{ETE}^{\mathrm{int}}(\infty)$  seem to plateau for a sufficiently high value of  $n_{\mathrm{dof}}$  and the following equation was fit to the simulation results:

$$ETE^{int}(\infty) = A\exp(-B/n_{dof})$$
 (12)



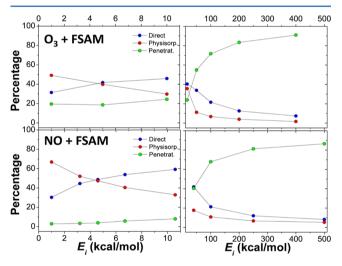
**Figure 7.** ETE to the surface (expressed as percentage) as a function of  $n_{\text{dof}}$  for several projectiles (text) colliding with the same F-SAM.

The resulting parameters are A = 13.6% and B = 2.8 degrees of freedom. Work is in progress in our group to see whether the asymptotic behavior of  $ETE^{int}(\infty)$  observed for the 5 gases of this work explains the results for other systems. Scattering calculations are currently underway for different projectiles of increasing complexity colliding with an F-SAM.

The model proposed here entails an improvement over the one proposed recently to explain the NO + F-SAM simulations.<sup>4</sup> Although it has been tested with energy transfer data for collisions of gases with organic surfaces, it should be valid also for other types of surfaces. A limitation of the model is the neglect of reactive scattering.

**C. Collision Types.** To compare the present  $O_3$  + F-SAM simulation results with previous work done in our group, the trajectories are labeled according to both the minimum height of the projectile center-of-mass above the gold surface  $h_{\min}$  and to the number of inner turning points in the direction perpendicular to the surface ITPs.<sup>4</sup> For a penetrating trajectory  $h_{\min}$  < 11.6 Å (see ref 4 for the details). The remaining collisions are either called direct, when ITPs = 1, or physisorption, if ITPs > 1.

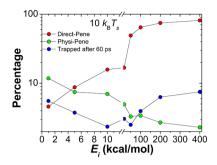
The percentages of the different trajectory types found in our  $O_3 + F$ -SAM study are plotted in Figure 8 (upper plots) as a



**Figure 8.** Percentages of the different collision events (text) as a function of the incident energy  $E_i$  obtained in our  $O_3$  + F-SAM study (upper plots). The lower plots show the corresponding percentages for the NO + F-SAM system.

function of  $E_i$ . For comparison purposes, the figure also collects the previous results for NO + F-SAM<sup>4</sup> complemented with additional calculations for high incident energies (lower plots). Quite interestingly, there seems to be two distinct behaviors as a function of the incident energy for both systems. At low incident energies ( $E_i$  < 50 kcal/mol), direct collisions increase with  $E_i$  with a concomitant decrease of physisorption; penetration remains fairly constant in this range of incident energies. Quite remarkably the crossover between the amount of direct collisions and physisorption occurs at ~5 kcal/mol for both O<sub>3</sub> and NO + F-SAM.

At high incident energies, though, direct collisions decrease with  $E_i$  at the expense of penetration. Figure 9 shows that, at the highest  $E_i$  (close to 400 kcal/mol), most of the  $O_3$  + F-SAM trajectories penetrate the monolayer directly (direct—penetration), and only 1% of the molecules interact with the terminal CF<sub>3</sub> groups before penetration, which is called here



**Figure 9.** Percentages of the different penetration mechanisms found in our  $O_3$  + F-SAM study (text) as a function of the incident energy  $E_i$ .

physisorption-penetration. Additionally, 8% of the molecules remain trapped inside the monolayer for a long time (>60 ps) at  $E_i = 400$  kcal/mol. The importance of penetration and trapping in gas/surface scattering has been highlighted in previous work. Troya and co-workers found that surface penetration is important for Ar + F-SAM when Ar collides with a small incident angle with respect to the surface normal at  $E_i$  = 6-12 eV.<sup>71</sup> Sibener and co-workers pointed out a new mechanism for the incorporation of gaseous moieties in the surface region of ice by which Xe atoms are embedded in amorphous and crystalline ice at hyperthermal incident energies. 72 Similarly, Cooks and co-workers proposed a method to prepare modified surfaces, referred to as soft-landing, where intact polyatomic ions are deposited from the gas phase into a F-SAM at  $E_i = 10$  eV.<sup>73</sup> Preliminary simulation results in our group show that indeed when SiNCS+ and (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SiNCS+ collide perpendicularly with an F-SAM at  $E_i = 10$  eV the vast majority of the trajectories ( $\sim$ 90%) remain trapped inside the monolayer for more than 60 ps.

D. Accommodation of the Rotational and Translational Degrees of Freedom of the Projectile. As indicated in the introduction, there is compelling evidence that trajectories of the same type (according to the above classification, i.e., direct, physisorption, and penetration) may lead to different degrees of thermal accommodation of the molecule's degrees of freedom. Accommodation of the degrees of freedom of the projectile at the surface can be quantified by using an accommodation coefficient. Knudsen, based on Maxwell's seminal work on collisions of gases with walls, defined the accommodation coefficient as

$$\alpha = \frac{E_{\rm i} - \langle E_{\rm f} \rangle}{E_{\rm i} - 2k_{\rm B}T_{\rm S}} \tag{13}$$

where  $\langle E_f \rangle$  is the average translational energy of the projectile following scattering at the surface. Analogously, the portion of the  $P(E_f)$  distribution at the surface temperature (the low-energy component), which will be called here  $\beta$ , is also a good metric for accommodation. As shown below,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are not necessarily equal and they provide the same value when the high-energy component of  $P(E_f)$  arises exclusively from elastic collisions, or for complete accommodation ( $\langle E_f \rangle = 2k_BT_S$  and  $\alpha = \beta = 1$ ). Assuming the  $P(E_f)$  distribution is written as a weighted sum of a MB component at  $T_s$   $P_{T_s}^{\rm MB}$  ( $E_f$ ) and a high-energy component  $P^{\rm HE}(E_f)$ 

$$P(E_{\rm f}) = \beta P_{T_{\rm S}}^{\rm MB}(E_{\rm f}) + (1 - \beta)P^{\rm HE}(E_{\rm f})$$
 (14)

then, the average value of  $E_f$  is

$$E_{\rm f} = \beta 2k_{\rm B}T_{\rm S} + (1 - \beta)\langle P^{\rm HE}\langle E_{\rm f}\rangle\rangle \tag{15}$$

which can be inserted in eq 13 to give

$$\alpha(E_{\rm i} - 2k_{\rm B}T_{\rm S}) = \beta(\langle P^{\rm HE}(E_{\rm f})\rangle - 2k_{\rm B}T_{\rm S}) + E_{\rm i}$$
$$-\langle P^{\rm HE}(E_{\rm f})\rangle \tag{16}$$

From eq 16, it is clear that if the high-energy component of  $P(E_{\rm f})$  is associated to a mechanism of elastic collisions (i.e.,  $P^{\rm HE}(E_{\rm f})=E_{\rm i}$ ), then  $\alpha=\beta$ . However, SAM surfaces absorb an important fraction of the incident energy and therefore, for these surfaces,  $\alpha$  differs from  $\beta$ . In this work, the coefficient  $\beta$  is termed accommodation coefficient and it will determined from the  $P(E_{\rm f})$  and P(J) distributions using two different methods as indicated below.

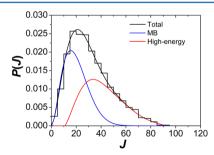
In the fitting method, a MB distribution at  $T_{\rm S}$  will be fit to a portion (the low-energy portion) of the simulation  $P(E_{\rm f})$  and P(J) curves; this portion of the distribution is  $\beta$ . This method has been employed in previous work. The corresponding MB distributions of translational and rotational states of ozone following scattering at the F-SAM are:

$$P_{T_{\rm S}}^{\rm MB}(E_{\rm f}) = (k_{\rm B}T_{\rm S})^{-2}E_{\rm f}\exp(-E_{\rm f}/k_{\rm B}T_{\rm S})$$
(17)

$$P_{T_{S}}^{MB}(J) = N(2J+1)\exp\left(-\frac{B'hcJ(J+1)}{k_{B}T_{S}}\right)$$

$$\sum_{K=-J}^{J} \exp\left(-\frac{hc(A-B')K^{2}}{k_{B}T_{S}}\right)$$
(18)

eq 18 assumes that ozone is a prolate top and the rotational constant  $B' = (BC)^{1/2}$ . This assumption is supported by the fact that the asymmetry parameter  $\kappa$  is -0.97. The rotational constants of ozone are calculated from the parameters of our potential function ( $r_{OO}^{eq}$  and  $\theta^{eq}$ ) and are: A = 3.64253 cm<sup>-1</sup>, B = 0.45120 cm<sup>-1</sup>, and C = 0.40147 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Figure 10 shows an

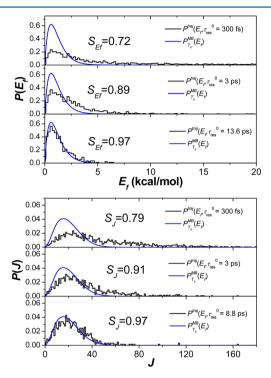


**Figure 10.** P(J) distribution obtained in our simulations (black line) for  $E_{\rm i}=16.75$  kcal/mol. The blue and red lines are the corresponding MB and high-energy distributions. The area under the MB distribution at  $T_{\rm S}$  is  $\beta$  (0.5 in this case).

example of how  $\beta$  is obtained in the fitting method for the P(J) distribution at  $E_{\rm i}$  = 16.75 kcal/mol. The blue line is the MB distribution at  $T_{\rm S}$  and the area under this curve is  $\beta$ , which in this case is 0.5.

The second method, termed here overlap method, is based on recent work done in our group on NO + F-SAM.<sup>4</sup> This previous study revealed that, rather than sorting the trajectories according to the ITPs, thermal accommodation can be more easily understood by looking at the residence time.<sup>4</sup> In the overlap method, a new classification of the trajectories, based on the residence time  $\tau_{\rm res}$  is proposed. There are two types of

trajectories: (a) those with long  $\tau_{\rm res}$  (that will reach thermal equilibrium) and (b) those with short  $\tau_{\rm res}$  (that will not achieve thermal equilibrium). In practice, several  $P(E_{\rm f})$  and P(J) curves are obtained for trajectories with values of  $\tau_{\rm res}$  greater than a given value  $\tau_{\rm res}^0$ . Figure 11 shows the trajectory distributions



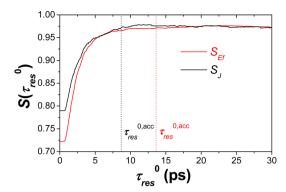
**Figure 11.**  $P(E_f)$  and P(J) distributions obtained in our simulations (histograms) obtained for different residence times (text) for  $E_i = 400$  kcal/mol, in comparison with the corresponding MB distributions at the surface temperature (solid blue lines). The values of the overlaps of both distributions are indicated in the plots.

 $(P^{\rm traj}, \, {\rm histograms})$  and the MB distribution at  $T_{\rm S}$   $(P_{\rm TS}^{\ \ MB}, \, {\rm blue} \, {\rm line})$  for the simulation at  $E_{\rm i}=400$  kcal/mol; quite clearly, as  $\tau_{\rm res}^{\ \ 0}$  increases,  $P^{\rm traj}$  approaches  $P_{\rm TS}^{\ \ MB}$ . A measure of the resemblance of the  $P^{\rm traj}$  and  $P_{\rm TS}^{\ \ MB}$  distributions is the overlap S of both. Two overlaps are calculated here  $S_{E_{\rm f}}$  and  $S_{\rm J}$ , for the translational and rotational distributions, respectively:

$$S_{E_{\rm f}}(\tau_{\rm res}^0) = \int_{\infty}^0 \left[ P^{\rm traj}(E_{\rm f}, \, \tau_{\rm res}^0) P_{T_{\rm S}}^{\rm MB}(E_{\rm f}) \right]^{1/2} dE_{\rm f} \tag{19}$$

$$S_{\rm J}(\tau_{\rm res}^0) = \sum_{\infty}^{\rm J=0} \left[ P^{\rm traj}(J, \, \tau_{\rm res}^0) P_{T_{\rm S}}^{\rm MB}(J) \right]^{1/2} \tag{20}$$

The residence time  $\tau_{\rm res}$  is defined as the time spent by the molecule at a height of 25 Å or less above the gold surface. At this height the force and torque exerted on the molecule are negligible. Figure 12 shows that both  $S_{E_{\rm f}}$  and  $S_{\rm J}$  reach a plateau close to unity for values of  $\tau_{\rm res}^{0}$  around 9–14 ps for the simulation at  $E_{\rm i}=400$  kcal/mol. This time span corresponds to the onset of accommodation, that is, this is the minimum residence time that the molecules need to come to thermal equilibrium with the surface (this residence time is called here  $\tau_{\rm res}^{0,\rm acc}$ ). The smooth leveling off of the overlap curves precludes an accurate determination of  $\tau_{\rm res}^{0,\rm acc}$ . The practical way followed here to qualitatively determine  $\tau_{\rm res}^{0,\rm acc}$  is to calculate an average value (for 5 ps) of S around its maximum, then  $\tau_{\rm res}^{0,\rm acc}$  is



**Figure 12.** Overlap of the rotational  $S_J$  (black) and translational distributions  $S_{E_i}$  (red) as a function of  $\tau_{\rm res}^{0}$  (text) for  $E_{\rm i}$  = 400 kcal/mol.

defined as the minimum value of  $au_{\rm res}^{\phantom{\rm 0}}$  for which the overlap equals its average value around the maximum.

According to the overlap method presented above, the accommodation coefficient  $\beta$  is given by the fraction of trajectories with  $\tau_{\rm res} > \tau_{\rm res}^{0,\rm acc}$ . Figure 13 shows an example of

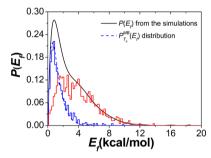


Figure 13.  $P(E_{\rm f})$  distributions obtained in our simulations for  $E_{\rm i}=16.75~{\rm kcal/mol}$  and  $\theta_{\rm i}=0^{\circ}$ . At this incident energy the value of  $\tau_{\rm res}^{0,{\rm acc}}$  is 7 ps. The results for all trajectories are shown as a black line, those trajectories with  $\tau_{\rm res} > \tau_{\rm res}^{0,{\rm acc}}$  are depicted as a blue histogram, and those trajectories with  $\tau_{\rm res} < \tau_{\rm res}^{0,{\rm acc}}$  as a red histogram; the MB distribution at  $T_{\rm S}$  is shown as a dashed blue line.

the  $P(E_{\rm f})$  distribution obtained in our simulations for  $E_{\rm i}$  = 16.75 kcal/mol. The blue histogram is the distribution obtained for those trajectories with  $\tau_{\rm res} > \tau_{\rm res}^{0,\rm acc} = 7$  ps and the MB distribution at  $T_{\rm S}$  is indicated as a dashed blue line; the red histogram is the distribution for those trajectories with  $\tau_{\rm res} < \tau_{\rm res}^{0,\rm acc} = 7$  ps.

Figure 14 shows the dependence of  $\beta$  on  $E_i$  obtained in this work with the fitting and overlap methods. The figure shows that both methods predict, at least qualitatively, similar values of  $\beta$ , that is the accommodation coefficients decrease markedly for the lowest incident energies and then, for higher incident energies, they plateau around 0.3–0.4. The dependence of  $\beta$  on  $E_i$  follows reasonably well an exponential decay

$$\beta = a + (1 - a)\exp(-bE_i) \tag{21}$$

where the parameters a and b are determined by fitting eq 21 to the average values of  $\beta$  obtained by the fitting and overlap methods (the fit is shown in Figure 14). The value of b obtained for the translational and rotational degrees of freedom is similar and around 0.10 mol/kcal, which suggests that the accommodation process is similar for both degrees of freedom. The dependence of  $\beta$  on  $E_i$  found in this work is at variance with the general assumption that this coefficient should

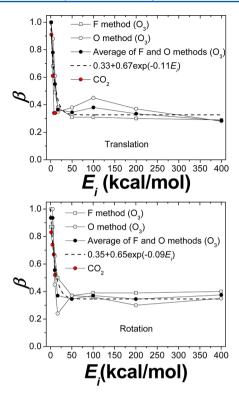


Figure 14. Accommodation coefficients β obtained by the fitting (F) and overlap (O) methods, the average of both coefficients and an exponential decay function that fits the average values. Our previous results for CO<sub>2</sub> + F-SAM are also depicted for comparison.<sup>6</sup>.

approach zero as  $E_i$  increases.<sup>77</sup> However, previous Ne + SAM simulation results by Hase and co-workers point to a similar dependence of  $\beta$  on  $E_{ij}$  although their incident energies are much smaller.<sup>17</sup> For CO<sub>2</sub> + F-SAM,<sup>6</sup> the values of  $\beta$  decrease monotonically (or almost monotonically) with  $E_i$  and this was attributed to the higher frequency of direct events as  $E_i$  increases, which are not efficient attaining thermal accommodation. For O<sub>3</sub> + F-SAM the same argument can be employed for low collision energies as direct collisions also increase their frequency as  $E_i$  increases. At high  $E_{ij}$  though, penetration is the most likely mechanism for O<sub>3</sub> + F-SAM. Of those trajectories that penetrate inside the monolayer, a fraction of 30–40% spends enough time inside so as to come to thermal equilibrium.

The advantage of the overlap method proposed in this work is that it sorts the trajectories according to whether or not they lead to thermal equilibrium of the gas with the surface. Trajectories that belong to the same collision type may or may not achieve accommodation depending on their residence times. Figure 15 shows the percentage of trajectories that perform single (1ITP) and multiple (nITP) collisions and have residence times greater than  $\tau_{\rm res}^{0,\rm acc}$ , and therefore lead to accommodation. The analysis is made for both the translational and the rotational degrees of freedom of ozone and for different incident energies. At high incident energies, only multiple collisions contribute to thermal accommodation, as expected. However, at low incident energies, a significant percentage of molecules that perform only one collision with the surface come into thermal equilibrium with the surface. For sufficiently low incident energies, the residence time is long and the molecules start to accommodate their rotational and translational degrees of freedom before the collision. It seems that

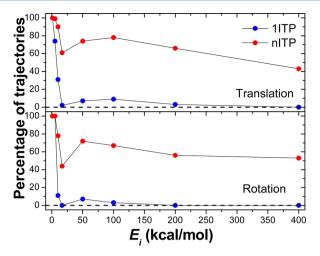


Figure 15. Percentages of trajectories that perform one (blue) or multiple (red) collisions and achieve accommodation of the translational and rotational degrees of freedom of ozone, according to the overlap method.

accommodation is a consequence of gentle changes of the rotational angular momentum or velocity of the center-of-mass of the molecule, rather than the result of a number of abrupt collisions with the surface. This result is in line with our previous NO + F-SAM study where we found, using a more rudimentary analysis, that 86% of the direct events at  $E_{\rm i}=1$  kcal/mol contribute to thermal accommodation.<sup>4</sup>

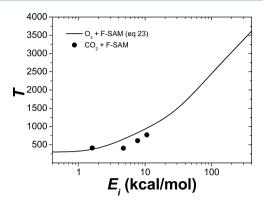
Finally, sometimes the  $P(E_{\rm f})$  and P(J) distributions can be modeled by two MB components, one at the surface temperature and the other one at a higher temperature  $T^{6,36}$ . For instance, in our recent  ${\rm CO_2}$  + F-SAM simulation study the following function

$$P(E_{\rm f}) = \beta P_{T_{\rm S}}^{\rm MB}(E_{\rm f}) + (1 - \beta) P_{\rm T}^{\rm MB}(E_{\rm f})$$
 (22)

was fit to the trajectory  $P(E_{\rm f})$  distribution, with T and  $\beta$  being the adjustable parameters. For the present  $O_3$  + F-SAM simulation study, the values of T (the temperature of the highenergy component) can be obtained analytically. In particular, inserting the above result for  $\beta$  (eq 21) into eq 22 and calculating the average of both sides of the equation, T can be expressed as:

$$T = T_{S} + \frac{a_{1} \exp\left(-\frac{b_{1}}{\sqrt{E_{i}}}\right) + a_{2} \csc h^{2}\left(\frac{b_{2}}{\sqrt{E_{i}}}\right)}{2R(1-a)\exp(-bE_{i})}$$
(23)

where  $T_{\rm S}=298$  K,  $a_1$ ,  $b_1$ ,  $a_2$ , and  $b_2$  are the parameters for energy transferred to translation of the scattering ozone (the last column of Table 2), and a and b are the values of Figure 14. Figure 16 shows the dependence of T on the incident energy predicted by eq 23 for  $O_3$  + F-SAM. The previous results for  $CO_2$  + F-SAM, obtained by fitting eq 22 to the trajectory  $P(E_i)$  distribution, are also included. Quite remarkably, eq 23 provides temperature values for  $O_3$  + F-SAM that agree reasonably well with the  $CO_2$  + F-SAM temperatures. The strength of eq 23 is that it may be employed to characterize the  $P(E_f)$  distributions at any value of  $E_i$  without the need of additional experiments or simulations.



**Figure 16.** Dependence of the temperature of the high-energy component of the  $P(E_t)$  distribution with  $E_{ij}$  obtained for  $O_3 + F$ -SAM with eq 23 (solid line) and for  $CO_2 + F$ -SAM (circles). The  $CO_2 + F$ -SAM results are an average of the temperatures obtained with the explicit-atom and the united-atom models of the F-SAM.

### IV. CONCLUSIONS

The  $\rm O_3$  + F-SAM system was studied in this work by chemical dynamics simulations using a potential energy function for the interaction between the projectile and the surface that was developed from a fit to high-level ab initio calculations. The translational distribution of the scattered ozone molecules obtained in our simulations, at an incident energy of 16.75 kcal/mol and incident angle of 30°, agrees reasonably well with the experimental distribution.

A phenomenological model of energy transfer in gas-surface collisions is proposed in this work. The model relies on old energy transfer models for atom—diatom collisions and reproduces very well simulation data over a wide collision energy range for various projectiles colliding with an F-SAM, namely, O<sub>3</sub>, NO, and Ar. It predicts energy transfer efficiencies to the surface in the high incident energy limit of close to 100% for atoms and lower for molecules, since the molecules have internal states that share the incident energy with the surface degrees of freedom.

The accommodation coefficients calculated in this work as a function of  $E_i$  follow an exponential decay function with decay rates very similar for the translational and rotational degrees of freedom. The accommodation coefficients rather than becoming vanishingly small as  $E_i$  increases, they level off around 0.3—0.4. This result indicates that even at very high incident energies, a fraction of molecules come to thermal equilibrium with the surface. A new method to calculate the accommodation coefficients is proposed in this work. The method identifies collision mechanisms with accommodation probabilities. One of the most important results from this analysis is that a significant fraction of direct collisions contribute to accommodation at very low incident energies.

### ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### **S** Supporting Information

New potential parameters for the interaction between NO and the surface employed in this work for the incident energy range 40–500 kcal/mol. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

M.M.P. acknowledges "Gobierno de Extremadura" and "Fondo Social Europeo" (Project No. IB10001), and J.J.N. acknowledges University of Santiago de Compostela for financial support through their respective PhD fellowships. The authors also thank "Centro de Supercomputación de Galicia (CESGA)" and the LUSITANIA computer at Computaex, Spain, for the use of their facilities.

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