# Deuterium-Induced Primary and Secondary Isotope Effects on <sup>13</sup>C,H Coupling Constants in Halomethanes

N. D. Sergeyeva,<sup>1</sup> N. M. Sergeyev<sup>2</sup>\* and W. T. Raynes<sup>3</sup>\*

- <sup>1</sup> Department of Natural Sciences, Russian University of Peoples' Friendship, 117198, Moscow, Russia
- <sup>2</sup> Department of Chemistry, Moscow State University, 119899, Moscow, Russia
- <sup>3</sup> Department of Chemistry, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S3 7HF, UK

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ABSTRACT: Primary  ${}^{p}\Delta J({}^{13}\text{C,H})$  and secondary  ${}^{s}\Delta J({}^{13}\text{C,H})$  isotope effects on carbon–proton coupling constants were measured in studies of proton- and deuteron-coupled  ${}^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of the halomethanes  $\text{CH}_n D_m X_{4-n-m}$ , where X is Cl, Br or I. Both effects are always negative. The magnitudes of  ${}^{p}\Delta J({}^{13}\text{C,H})$  increase with the number of halogen atoms whereas those of  ${}^{s}\Delta J({}^{13}\text{C,H})$  decrease.  ${}^{p}\Delta J({}^{13}\text{C,H})$  is almost linearly dependent on the number of halogen atoms whereas for  ${}^{s}\Delta J({}^{13}\text{C,H})$  the dependence is non-linear. New results for the isotope effect on the  ${}^{13}\text{C,H}$  coupling constant in fluoroform are in accord with data for the other members of the haloform series. For CH $_{3}$ Br and CH $_{3}$ I estimates of the main features of the surfaces for the  ${}^{13}\text{C,H}$  coupling constants were made using known molecular force fields. © 1998 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

KEYWORDS: <sup>13</sup>C NMR; halomethanes; carbon-proton spin-spin coupling constants; deuterium isotope effects

## INTRODUCTION

Isotope effects on <sup>13</sup>C,H coupling constants have been the subject of many experimental and theoretical investigations. A thorough review of papers published before 1993 has already appeared.<sup>1</sup> In particular, detailed studies of the methane molecule have been performed both experimentally<sup>2</sup> and theoretically.<sup>3</sup> The most intriguing result of these methane studies is that, while the primary isotope effect on the <sup>13</sup>C,H coupling constant defined as

$${}^{p}\Delta J({}^{13}\text{C,H}) = (\gamma_{\text{H}}/\gamma_{\text{D}})J({}^{13}\text{C,D})(\text{CH}_{3}\text{D}) - J({}^{13}\text{C,H})(\text{CH}_{4})$$
(1)

is found to be very small (-0.07 Hz), the secondary isotope effect defined as

$${}^{s}\Delta J({}^{13}\text{C,H}) = J({}^{13}\text{C,H})(\text{CH}_{3}\text{D}) - J({}^{13}\text{C,H})(\text{CH}_{4})$$
 (2)

is significant and equals -0.35 Hz.

This experimental finding was supported by *ab initio* calculations<sup>3b</sup> of <sup>13</sup>C,H coupling constants in methane at the CCSDPPA level, which include electron correlation to high order. Similar experimental results were found in the case of toluene.<sup>4</sup> Many experimental data are known for compounds containing perdeutero groups,<sup>5,6</sup> but the observed isotope effects are usually combinations of primary and secondary effects. Thus a series with a varying number of deuteriums is needed. In a recent paper,<sup>7</sup> we reported our studies of the series

 ${\rm CH_2Cl_2}$ ,  ${\rm CHDCl_2}$  and  ${\rm CD_2Cl_2}$  which allowed us to determine both primary and secondary isotope effects on the  $^{13}{\rm C}$ ,H coupling constants. They are  $-0.60 \pm 0.05$  and  $-0.25 \pm 0.01$  Hz, respectively. This showed that at least primary effects are subject to some influence from the substituent.

In this paper, we present the results of a study of several halomethanes, namely  $CH_2Cl_2$ ,  $CHCl_3$ ,  $CH_3Br$ ,  $CH_2Br_2$ ,  $CHBr_3$ ,  $CH_3I$ ,  $CH_2I_2$   $CHI_3$  and  $CHF_3$ . The results of our study of the H/D-induced <sup>13</sup>C isotope shifts in these compounds have already been published.<sup>8</sup> The non-additivity of successive H/D-induced <sup>13</sup>C isotope shifts in some halomethanes<sup>9</sup> has also been discussed.

## **EXPERIMENTAL**

The samples studied are listed in the first and last columns of Table 1, which give the solvent, lock substance and isotopomeric ratios of the deuterated species labelled  $d_0$ - $d_3$ . In most cases pure liquids were used (with 5-10% of perdeuterotetramethylsilane added as the lock substance) to create the best conditions for the recording of <sup>13</sup>C,H coupled spectra and to minimize the time of experiment. In the case of CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub> we were forced to add methyl iodide owing to the low solubility of tetramethylsilane in this halomethane. Difficulties that we encountered in studying the isotope shift in iodoform<sup>8</sup> were substantially greater in studying the isotope effect on the coupling constant. We were not able to measure the <sup>13</sup>C,H and <sup>13</sup>C,D constants of this compound in acetone solution as used previously8 (maximum concentration 2 mol%) with sufficient accuracy to estimate the isotope effect. Using methyl iodide as a solvent we achieved a CHI<sub>3</sub> concentration of 10

<sup>\*</sup> Correspondence to: W. T. Raynes, Department of Chemistry, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, 53 7HF, UK or N. M. Sergeyev, Dept. of Chemistry, Moscow State University, 119899 Moscow, Russia.

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Sample	$n^{\mathrm{a}}$	J(13C,H) (Hz)	J*( <sup>13</sup> C,H) (Hz)	Sample; lock substance; isotopomeric composition <sup>b</sup>
CH <sub>3</sub> I	0	$150.984 \pm 0.004$	_	10 mol.% TMS-d <sub>12</sub> ;
3	1	$150.706 \pm 0.004$	$150.74 \pm 0.02$	$TMS-d_{12}$ ;
	2	$150.420 \pm 0.01$	$150.44 \pm 0.02$	$d_0: d_1: d_2: d_3 = 0.7:1:1.3:1.5$
	3	_	$150.13 \pm 0.01$	v 1 2 v
CH <sub>3</sub> Br	0	$151.484 \pm 0.002$	_	10 mol.% TMS-d <sub>12</sub> ;
_	1	$151.175 \pm 0.001$	$151.193 \pm 0.01$	$TMS-d_{12}$ ;
	2	$150.872 \pm 0.001$	$150.86 \pm 0.01$	$d_0: d_1: d_2: d_3 = 1:1.5:2:2$
	3	_	$150.540 \pm 0.007$	ÿ 1 <b>2</b> ÿ
$CH_2I_2$	0	$172.653 \pm 0.005$	_	25 mol.% CH <sub>3</sub> I, 5 mol.%;
2 2	1	$172.509 \pm 0.002$	$172.27 \pm 0.03$	$TMS-d_{12}$ ;
				$d_0: d_1 = 1:1$
$CH_2Br_2$	0	$178.927 \pm 0.001$	_	7 mol.% TMS- $d_{12}$ ;
2 2	1	$178.735 \pm 0.001$	$178.423 \pm 0.007$	$d_0: d_1: d_2 = 1:2:2$
	2	_	$178.23 \pm 0.03$	
CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> <sup>c</sup>	0	$177.507 \pm 0.007$	_	30 mol.% $C_6D_{12}$ ;
	1	$177.258 \pm 0.010$	$176.91 \pm 0.04$	$d_0: d_1 = 1: 2.5$
CHI <sub>3</sub>	0	$186.37 \pm 0.01$	_	10 mol.% in CH <sub>3</sub> I/CD <sub>3</sub> I;
_	1	_	$185.92 \pm 0.06$	$TMS-d_{12}$ ;
				$d_0: d_1 = 1: 2.5$
CHBr <sub>3</sub>	0	$204.85 \pm 0.005$	_	10 mol.% TMS-d <sub>12</sub> ;
· ·	1	_	$204.15 \pm 0.10$	$d_0: d_1 = 1: 2.5$
CHCl <sub>3</sub>	0	$209.10 \pm 0.01$		CDCl <sub>3</sub> ;
-				

 $208.18 \pm 0.13$ 

Table 1. Spin–spin coupling constants  $J(^{13}C,H)$  in halomethanes and the composition of the isotopomeric mixtures studied

mol%, which allowed us to record a spectrum in a reasonable time interval without strong broadening of lines due to the very high temperature coefficient of the chemical shift for this compound (of the order of 10 Hz K<sup>-1</sup> for a <sup>13</sup>C NMR resonance frequency of 100 MHz, by our estimation). It should be noted, however, that in these circumstances possible self-association could occur. To test this we carried out two runs using two concentrations, 5 and 10 mol.%, with the results being close to each other. Hence self-association can be ignored. The synthesis and preparation of the samples have been described.<sup>7-9</sup>

The proton-coupled  $^{13}$ C NMR measurements were made on the AM 250 and WH 400 Bruker spectrometers at the University of Sheffield with an instrumental resolution of about 0.1 and 0.2 Hz, respectively. In all cases the  $^{2}$ H NMR signal of tetramethylsilane- $d_{12}$  was used for locking.

Typical conditions for recording <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were as follows: sweep width 500–1000 Hz, pulse width about 40°, acquisition time about 10 s, FT size 32–64K with digital resolution of about 0.03 Hz. Good resolution is essential for measurements of isotope effects on coupling constants. That is why in some cases we had to take into account some additional broadening of the <sup>13</sup>C NMR lines. For CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and CHCl<sub>3</sub> we encountered the <sup>37</sup>Cl/<sup>35</sup>Cl-induced <sup>13</sup>C isotope shifts first observed in the spectra published in 1994<sup>7</sup> and

reported in detail later. <sup>10</sup> The <sup>13</sup>C NMR lines of chlorinated compounds are additionally broadened owing to the residual <sup>13</sup>C–<sup>35</sup>Cl(<sup>37</sup>Cl) spin–spin coupling of about 1 and 2 Hz for CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and CHCl<sub>3</sub>, respectively. Similar broadening was observed previously, <sup>5,11</sup> thus preventing accurate measurements of the isotope effects. In several cases <sup>13</sup>C,H coupling constants were measured using <sup>13</sup>C satellites in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra.

 $d_0: d_1 = 1:2.5$ 

We now consider fluoroform, which was first studied many years ago. <sup>12</sup> In that work a mixture of CHF<sub>3</sub> and CDF<sub>3</sub> was studied in solutions of tetrahydrofuran and cyclohexane by <sup>19</sup>F NMR. It was found that the <sup>19</sup>F isotope shifts due to D/H substitution were in the range 750–790 ppb, depending on the concentration and temperature of the solutions. However, in interpreting the experimental results, the authors <sup>12</sup> suggested that the isotope effect is mainly due to the shifts of the equilibrium between free fluoroform and the fluoroform—tetrahydrofuran complex and neglected the intrinsic isotope effect completely.

In a more recent study,<sup>13</sup> a mixture of liquid CDF<sub>3</sub> and liquid CHF<sub>3</sub> was prepared in a sample tube which also contained 5 vol.% Si(CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> in order to provide a <sup>2</sup>H NMR signal for the locking system. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were taken on a Bruker AC 200 spectrometer with a resonance frequency of 50.3221 MHz in both proton decoupled and coupled modes. Typical accuracies were  $\pm 0.001$  ppm for isotope shifts and  $ca. \pm 0.1$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Number of deuterium atoms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> For synthesis, sample preparation and experimental details see Refs 7-9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> From Ref. 7.

Table 2.  $^{13}$ C chemical shifts ( $\delta^{13}$ C) and  $^{13}$ C,H and  $^{13}$ C, $^{19}$ F coupling constants in fluoroform

Compound	$\delta^{13}C^{a}$ (±0.001) (ppm)	$J(^{13}\text{C,H})$ (±0.1) (Hz)	$J(^{13}C,^{19}F)$ (±0.01) (Hz)
Compound	(±0.001) (ppiii)	(±0.1) (112)	(±0.01) (112)
CHF <sub>3</sub>	119.116	239.10	-274.26
$CDF_3$	118.880	237.45 <sup>b</sup>	-272.70
Isotope	0.236	-1.65	+1.56
effect			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Relative to tetramethylsilane- $d_{12}$ .

Hz for the isotope effects on coupling constants. The final data are summarized in Table 2.

### **RESULTS**

# Isotope Effects on <sup>13</sup>C,H Coupling Constants

The  $^{13}$ C,H and  $^{13}$ C,D coupling constants measured in this work are presented in Table 1;  $^{13}$ C,D coupling constants were converted to the  $^{13}$ C,H basis in terms of  $J^*(^{13}$ C,H) =  $(\gamma_H/\gamma_D)J(^{13}$ C,D). The absolute values of the  $^{13}$ C,H coupling constants of the undeuterated compounds, of course, have been reported previously. However, they can be subject to solvent effects to an extent exceeding the possible effects of isotopic substitution. Thus only the differences between J(C,H) and  $J^*(C,H)$  values from a given mixture of isotopomers in the same solvent will be considered. For methyl derivatives,  $CH_3X$ , primary isotope effects can be measured in several ways, namely as the differences of the following coupling constants:

$${}^{p}\Delta J({}^{13}\text{C,H}) = J*({}^{13}\text{C,H})(\text{CH}_{2}\text{DX}) - J({}^{13}\text{C,H})(\text{CH}_{3}\text{X})$$
 (3a)

$${}^{p}\Delta J({}^{13}\text{C,H}) = J*({}^{13}\text{C,H})(\text{CHD}_{2}\text{X}) - J({}^{13}\text{C,H})(\text{CH}_{2}\text{DX})$$
(3b)

$${}^{\rm p}\Delta J({}^{13}{\rm C,H}) = J*({}^{13}{\rm C,H})({\rm CD_3}X) - J({}^{13}{\rm C,H})({\rm CHD_2}X) \eqno(3c)$$

Assuming the additivity of successive H/D replacements, one should obtain equal values for all three types of difference. However, we found very small but significant variations in the values of  ${}^{\rm p}\Delta J({}^{13}{\rm C},{\rm H})$  as defined in Eqns (3a)–(3c). For example, for CH<sub>3</sub>I and its isotopomers these three values are -0.244, -0.266,

 $-0.290(\pm 0.024)$  Hz, respectively; for CH<sub>3</sub>Br they are -0.291, -0.315 and  $-0.333(\pm 0.011)$  Hz, respectively. As can be seen, the differences are nearly constant and are equal to about -0.02 Hz for each successive replacement of a proton by a deuterium. Although of interest, we ignore for the moment these non-additivity effects and limit ourselves to the differences of coupling constants due the substitution of the first deuterium atom in the molecule [i.e. from Eqn (3a)].

The final data on the primary and secondary isotope effects are represented in Fig. 1 and summarized in Table 3. It can be seen that the primary effects depend almost linearly on the number of halogens. We can represent the dependence of  ${}^{p}\Delta J({}^{13}C,H)$  on the number of deuteriums n by the linear equation

$${}^{\mathbf{p}}\Delta J(^{13}\mathbf{C},\mathbf{H}) = a + bn \tag{4}$$

where the values of the a/b pairs are -0.061/-0.294, -0.075/-0.21 and -0.087/-0.142 for Cl, Br and I, respectively, with correlation coefficients not worse than 0.995, with all values in Hz. Hence the a coefficients are close to the value of the primary isotope effect (-0.07)Hz) measured for methane<sup>2</sup> whereas the b coefficients demonstrate an decreasing effect in the series Cl. Br. I. For secondary effects the dependence on the number of halogen atoms seems to be non-linear. It is interesting that the magnitudes of primary isotope effects increase with increase in the number of halogens whereas the secondary effects decrease, falling to -0.144 Hz for CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub>. The dependence of the primary isotope effect on the nature of the substituents can be followed by the series of haloforms. The magnitude of  ${}^{p}\Delta J({}^{13}C,H)$ reaches its maximum (-1.65 Hz) for fluorine and falls to -0.45 Hz for iodine. This is in good correspondence with the electronegativity of halogen atoms. For secondary effects the influence of the substituent increases in the series Cl, Br, I and seems to be controlled mostly by steric factors.

The secondary isotope effect on the <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>19</sup>F coupling constant in CHF<sub>3</sub> has been measured for the first time. It is defined as

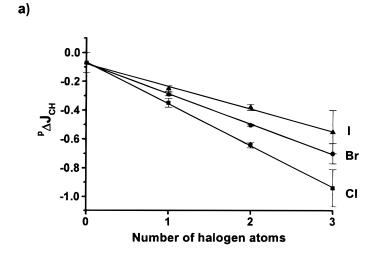
$$\Delta J = J(^{13}\text{C}, ^{19}\text{F})(\text{CDF}_3) - J(^{13}\text{C}, ^{19}\text{F})(\text{CHF}_3)$$
 (5)

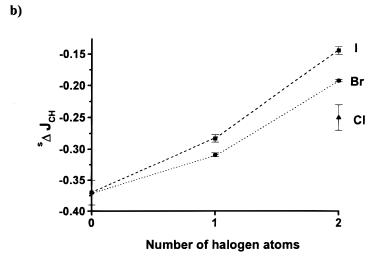
and, assuming that the direct <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>19</sup>F coupling constant is negative, it will be positive and equal to 1.56 Hz. This

Table 3. Primary and secondary isotope effects on  $^{13}$ C,H coupling constants due to the substitution by a single deuterium atom in halomethanes  $CH_{4-n}X_n$ 

No. of		<sup>p</sup> ΔJ( <sup>13</sup> C,H) (Hz)	<sup>s</sup> ΔJ( <sup>13</sup> C,H) (Hz)		
halogens (n)	1	2	3	1	2
Cl	Not measured	$-0.60 \pm 0.02$	$-0.92 \pm 0.13$	Not measured	$-0.25 \pm 0.01$
Br	$-0.29 \pm 0.01$	$-0.504 \pm 0.007$	$-0.70 \pm 0.07$	$-0.306 \pm 0.003$	$-0.192 \pm 0.002$
I	$-0.25 \pm 0.02$	$-0.38 \pm 0.02$	$-0.45 \pm 0.15$	$-0.285 \pm 0.006$	$-0.144 \pm 0.006$

 $<sup>{}^{</sup>b}J^{*}({}^{13}C,H) = (\gamma_{H}/\gamma_{D})J({}^{13}C,D).$ 





**Figure 1.** Dependences of (a) primary and (b) secondary deuterium isotope effects on J(13C,H) in the halomethanes on the number of halogen atoms. The single point on the ordinate in each case refers to methane.<sup>2</sup>

contrasts with secondary isotope effects on  $J(^{13}C,H)$ , which are usually negative.

The  $^{13}$ C (D/H) isotope shift in fluoroform is 236 ppb. This value can be compared with that for the value for methane, for which the corresponding isotope shift is 200.3 ppb.  $^{15}$  Assuming an additive influence of fluorine atoms on isotope shifts (as was suggested previously  $^{8}$ ), one can estimate the incremental parameter for one fluorine atom to be ca. -13 ppb, which is intermediate between those of the nitro group (ca. -30 ppb) and the chlorine atom (ca. 0 ppb) as substituents.

## **Calculations**

Isotope effects on coupling constants can be regarded as arising from the very slight changes in molecular geometry which occur upon isotopic substitution. To calculate these changes one requires a knowledge of the molecular force field including both harmonic and cubic anharmonic coefficients. Of the molecules listed in Table 1 it is only CH<sub>3</sub>Br and CH<sub>3</sub>I for which the required data are available, the relevant constants having been calculated *ab initio* at the SCF level by

Schneider and Thiel.<sup>17</sup> We shall use their results to deduce molecular constants for these two molecules.

For a methyl halide molecule,  $CH_3X$ , we expand the coupling constant  $J(^{13}C,H)$  as a power series in internal displacement coordinates. Thus for small displacements

$$J(^{13}\text{C,H}) = J_{e} + J_{r}r_{1} + J_{s}(r_{2} + r_{3}) + J_{R}R$$

$$+ J_{\alpha}(\alpha_{12} + \alpha_{13} + \alpha_{23})$$

$$+ J_{\beta}(\beta_{12} + \beta_{13} + \beta_{23}) + (\frac{1}{2})J_{\alpha\alpha}(\alpha_{12}^{2} + \alpha_{13}^{2} + \alpha_{14}^{2}) \quad (6)$$

where all first-order terms and only one of the second-order terms are shown and the angle terms have been simplified.  $J_{\rm e}$  is the value of  $J(^{13}{\rm C,H})$  at equilibrium geometry,  $r_1$  is the displacement from equilibrium of the C—H<sub>1</sub> bond which contains the coupled nuclei of interest,  $r_2$ ,  $r_3$  and R are the displacements of the other two C—H bonds and the C—X bond, respectively,  $\alpha_{12}$ ,  $\alpha_{13}$  and  $\alpha_{23}$  are the displacements of the H—C—H angles from equilibrium and  $\beta_{12}$ ,  $\beta_{13}$  and  $\beta_{23}$  are those of the H—C—X angles. The coefficients  $J_{\rm r}$ ,  $J_{\rm s}$ ,  $J_{\rm R}$ ,  $J_{\rm g} (=-J_{\rm a})$ ,  $J_{\rm a\alpha}$ , etc., are molecular constants which are independent of molecular geometry and isotopic substitution assuming the Born–Oppenheimer approximation, which we adopt here.

Table 4. Thermal averages at 300 K of the bond extensions in methyl bromide and methyl iodide and their deuterated isotopomers<sup>a</sup>

Isotopomer	$\langle r_{ m H}  angle$	$\langle r_{ m D} \rangle$	$\langle R \rangle$
<sup>13</sup> CH <sub>3</sub> <sup>79</sup> Br	0.019 045	_	0.009 232
$^{13}\mathrm{CH}_{2}\mathrm{D}^{79}\mathrm{Br}$	0.019 123	0.013 851	0.009 107
<sup>13</sup> CHD <sub>2</sub> <sup>79</sup> Br	0.019 181	0.013 926	0.008 921
$^{13}\text{CD}_3$ $^{79}\text{Br}$	_	0.013 982	0.008 776
$^{13}\text{CH}_{3}^{129}\text{I}$	0.018 925	_	0.009 537
$^{13}\text{CH}_{2}\text{D}^{129}\text{I}$	0.018 986	0.013 781	0.009 422
$^{13}CHD_{2}^{-129}I$	0.019 038	0.013 850	0.009 235
$^{13}\text{CD}_3$ $^{\bar{1}29}\text{I}$	_	0.013 899	0.009 099

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> All results are in Å and were calculated from the force field of Schneider and Thiel.<sup>17</sup>

A recent *ab initio* study of the methane molecule<sup>3b</sup> has shown that the dominant terms contributing to  $J(^{13}\text{C,H})$ , in addition to  $J_e$ , are those involving  $J_s(=J_R)$  and  $J_{\alpha\alpha}$ . All other terms including, surprisingly, those involving  $J_r$ , made very small contributions. For methane it was found that  $J_r = 12.84$  Hz Å<sup>-1</sup>,  $J_s$   $(=J_R) = 58.23$  Hz Å<sup>-1</sup> and  $J_{\alpha\alpha} = 46.10$  Hz, with angles in radians. We find that the present data for CH<sub>3</sub>Br and CH<sub>3</sub>I cannot be fitted to Eqn (6) if the parameters  $J_e$ ,  $J_s$ ,  $J_r$  and  $J_{\alpha\alpha}$  are used. Indeed, we cannot fit the data at all if  $J_{\alpha\alpha}$  is included. A reasonable fit, however, can be obtained using the parameters  $J_e$ ,  $J_r$  and  $J_s = J_R$ . Accordingly, we have the following three equations for  $J(^{13}\text{C,H})$ :

$$\begin{split} \mathrm{CH_{3}X:} \quad \langle J(^{13}\mathrm{C,H}) \rangle &= J_{\mathrm{e}} + J_{\mathrm{r}} \langle r_{\mathrm{H}} \rangle \\ &+ J_{\mathrm{s}} (2 \langle r_{\mathrm{H}} \rangle + \langle R \rangle) \quad (7) \\ \mathrm{CH_{2}DX:} \quad \langle J(^{13}\mathrm{C,H}) \rangle &= J_{\mathrm{e}} + J_{\mathrm{r}} \langle r_{\mathrm{H}} \rangle \\ &+ J_{\mathrm{s}} (\langle r_{\mathrm{H}} \rangle + \langle r_{\mathrm{D}} \rangle + \langle R \rangle) \quad (8) \\ \mathrm{CHD_{2}X:} \quad \langle J(^{13}\mathrm{C,H}) \rangle &= J_{\mathrm{e}} + J_{\mathrm{r}} \langle r_{\mathrm{H}} \rangle \\ &+ J_{\mathrm{s}} (\langle 2r_{\mathrm{D}} \rangle + \langle R \rangle) \quad (9) \end{split}$$

and the following three equations for  $J^*(C,H)$ :

CH<sub>2</sub>DX: 
$$\langle J^*(^{13}\text{C,H}) \rangle = J_e + J_r \langle r_D \rangle$$
  
  $+ J_s (2\langle r_H \rangle + \langle R \rangle)$  (10)  
CHD<sub>2</sub>X:  $\langle J^*(^{13}\text{C,H}) \rangle = J_e + J_r \langle r_D \rangle$   
 $+ J_s (\langle r_H \rangle + \langle r_D \rangle + \langle R \rangle)$  (11)

CD<sub>3</sub>X: 
$$\langle J^*(^{13}\text{C,H}) \rangle = J_e + J_r \langle r_D \rangle$$
  
  $+ J_s(2\langle r_D \rangle + \langle R \rangle)$  (12)

The angular brackets in Eqns (7)–(12) denote a thermal average of the appropriate quantity in the corresponding isotopomer.

Values of the required thermal averages at 300 K calculated from the force field of Schneider and Thiel<sup>17</sup> are given in Table 4. Fitting the data leads to the following results:

CH<sub>3</sub>Br: 
$$J_e = 147.56$$
 Hz,  $J_r = 64.9$  Hz Å<sup>-1</sup> and  $J_s = 56.4$  Hz Å<sup>-1</sup> CH<sub>3</sub>I:  $J_e = 147.36$  Hz,  $J_r = 56.4$  Hz Å<sup>-1</sup> and  $J_s = 53.8$  Hz Å<sup>-1</sup>

The fitting was done by calculating  $J_e$ ,  $J_r$  and  $J_s$  from the three most accurately measured coupling constants —CH<sub>2</sub>DBr, CHD<sub>2</sub>Br and CD<sub>3</sub>Br for methyl bromide and CH<sub>3</sub>I, CH<sub>2</sub>DI and CD<sub>3</sub>I for methyl iodide with one value of J(C,D) used in each case. The recalculated values of the coupling constants are compared with the original experimental values in Table 5.

The values of  $J_{\rm e}$  given above show that the effect of nuclear motion is to increase the coupling by about 3–4 Hz. The  $J_{\rm s}$  values are very similar to the values for methane, as one might expect. However, it is puzzling that  $J_{\rm r}$  appears to be important for the methyl halides but not for methane whereas the  $J_{\alpha\alpha}$  terms are important for methane but not for the methyl halides. One factor to bear in mind in the present work is that the force field was calculated at the SCF level and it is well established that electron correlation affects force constants. We also ignored solvent effects, although one expects isotope effects to be very little affected by solvents, especially for spin–spin coupling.

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Table 5. Comparison of observed and calculated values of  $J(^{13}C,H)$  and  $J*(^{13}C,H)^a$  in isotopomers of methyl bromide and methyl iodide

Isotopomer	$J_{ m obs}$ (Hz)	$J_{\mathrm{calc}}$ (Hz)	Isotopomer	$J_{ m obs}$ (Hz)	$J_{\mathrm{calc}}$ (Hz)
CH <sub>3</sub> Br	151.484	151.46	CH <sub>3</sub> I	150.984	150.97
CH <sub>2</sub> DBr	151.175	151.17	$CH_2DI$	150.706	150.70
$CHD_2Br$	150.872	150.88	$\overline{\mathrm{CHD_2}}\mathrm{I}$	150.420	150.42
CH <sub>2</sub> DBr	151.193 <sup>a</sup>	151.13	$CH_2DI$	150.74 <sup>a</sup>	150.69
$CHD_2Br$	150.86 <sup>a</sup>	150.83	$\overline{\mathrm{CHD_2I}}$	150.44 <sup>a</sup>	150.41
$CD_3Br$	150.54 <sup>a</sup>	150.54	$CD_3I$	150.13 <sup>a</sup>	150.13

 $<sup>^{</sup>a}J*(^{13}C,H) = (\gamma_{H}/\gamma_{D})J(^{13}C,D).$ 

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