

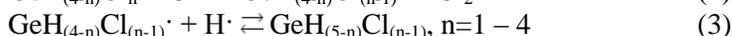
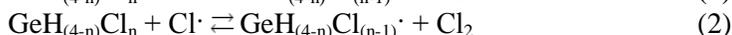
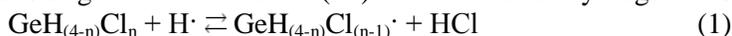
The Reactions of Tetrachloride Germanium with Atomic Hydrogen and Chlorine

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The main sources of high-purity germanium in micro- and optoelectronics are GeH_4 and its derivatives, $\text{GeH}_{(4-n)}\text{Cl}_n$ ($n = 0-4$). Existing methods for the chemical synthesis of these substances lead to contamination of the final product by impurities which are difficult to remove. Therefore, it is very important to develop new methods for obtaining these compounds. One of such methods is radical reactions of germanium chloride (IV) with the atomic hydrogen and/or chlorine.



Reaction mechanism of GeCl_4 with H and Cl has been studied using modern quantum chemical methods UQCISD (FC)/6-311+G(3df,2pd), UMP2 (FC)/6-311+G(d,p) and UB3LYP/6-311+G(d,p). For every step of these reactions there have been calculated potential barriers ($\Delta E_{\text{forward}}$ and $\Delta E_{\text{backward}}$), the enthalpies of reactions ($\Delta_r H^0$, $p = 0.1013$ MPa, $T = 298$ K, the gas phase) and bond dissociation energies (E_b (Ge-Cl)) (Tables 1,2).

Table 1

Reaction	$\Delta_r H^0, [1]$ kcal·mol ⁻¹	$\Delta E, \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$		$E_b,$ kcal·mol ⁻¹
		Forward	Backward	
$\text{GeCl}_4 + \text{H}\cdot$	-9.8	12.05	23.55	92.12
$\text{GeCl}_3\text{H} + \text{H}\cdot$	-7.2	13.30	21.00	93.56
$\text{GeCl}_2\text{H}_2 + \text{H}\cdot$	-5.6	14.37	20.93	95.16
$\text{GeClH}_3 + \text{H}\cdot$	-2.4	14.10	21.42	95.01

Table 2

Reaction	$\Delta_r H^0, [1]$ kcal·mol ⁻¹	$\Delta E, \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	
		Forward	Backward
$\text{GeCl}_4 + \text{Cl}\cdot$	35.4	63.84	30.85
$\text{GeCl}_3\text{H} + \text{Cl}\cdot$	38.0	68.34	29.10
$\text{GeCl}_2\text{H}_2 + \text{Cl}\cdot$	39.6	70.20	25.89
$\text{GeClH}_3 + \text{Cl}\cdot$	42.8	72.52	27.95

$\Delta E_{\text{forward}}$ of the reactions of $\text{GeH}_{(4-n)}\text{Cl}_n$ ($n = 1 - 4$) with Cl are very high therefore it is unlikely that Cl can take part in the destruction of bond Ge-Cl. Comparatively low stability of GeCl_2H_2 , GeClH_3 , and small $\Delta E_{\text{forward}}$ to break bond Ge - H under the action of hydrogen (about 3.16 kcal·mol⁻¹ [2]) or chlorine (less than 0.5 kcal·mol⁻¹) we may conclude that the practical interest for chemical manufacture is only the reaction $\text{GeCl}_4 + \text{H}\cdot \rightleftharpoons \text{GeCl}_3\cdot + \text{HCl}$. Hence, the main product of the GeCl_4 reaction with hydrogen, excluding the influence of the solid surface at a relatively low temperature is GeHCl_3 . These conclusions are in agreement with the results of the experiments [3,4].

References

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