

Experimental Determination of the Global Warming Potential of Carbonyl Fluoride (COF₂)

Dongkyum Kim¹, hyunki Park², Jeongsoon Lee^{1,3}

¹Semiconductor and Display Metrology Group, Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS), 267 Gajeong-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon 34113, Republic of Korea

²SOLE MATERIALS, 62, Hugi-gil, Ochang-eup, Cheongwon-gu, Cheongju-si, 28105, Korea,

³Science of Measurement, University of Science and Technology (UST), 217 Gajeong-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon 34113, Republic of Korea

Correspondence to: Jeongsoon Lee (leejs@kriss.re.kr)

Abstract.

Carbonyl fluoride (COF₂) has gained interest as a low-GWP replacement candidate for the high-GWP fluorinated gases employed in semiconductor and display manufacturing. In this study, the infrared absorption cross-section of COF₂ was experimentally measured using FTIR spectroscopy, and its radiative efficiency was determined to be 0.119 W m⁻² ppb⁻¹ using the stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve. Atmospheric e-folding lifetimes derived from exponential decay measurements were 7.56 hours in dry O₂ and 54.86 and 36.67 minutes under low- and high-humidity ambient air, respectively. Incorporation of these lifetimes into the absolute GWP framework yielded GWP₁₀₀ values of 4.05 × 10⁻⁴ (dry air), 6.82 × 10⁻⁶ (low humidity), and 3.16 × 10⁻⁶ (high humidity), demonstrating that rapid hydrolysis in the presence of water vapor suppresses the climate impact of COF₂ to effectively zero under typical tropospheric conditions. Because CO₂ is the terminal atmospheric degradation product, the long-term climate impact of COF₂ emissions is equivalent to releasing only the stoichiometrically corresponding amount of CO₂. These findings provide a fully experimental basis for determining the GWP₁₀₀ of COF₂ under atmospherically relevant conditions and demonstrate that its GWP₁₀₀ is effectively near zero. This experimentally validated assessment confirms that COF₂ is a viable low-GWP replacement gas for chamber-cleaning applications in semiconductor and display manufacturing.

1. Introduction

The growing climate crisis has intensified global attention on greenhouse gases (GHGs), which warm the Earth by absorbing and re-emitting infrared radiation from the surface and atmosphere (IPCC, 2023). The principal GHGs in Earth's atmosphere are water vapour (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and ozone (O₃). In addition to these dominant natural gases, a class of industrially synthesized fluorinated gases (F-gases), including hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃), also plays an increasingly important role in global climate forcing, despite being emitted in far smaller quantities.

To provide policy makers with a unified basis for comparing the climate impacts of different GHGs, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) introduced the Global Warming Potential (GWP) metric in its First Assessment Report (Houghton et al., 1990). GWP is defined as the time-integrated radiative forcing resulting from a pulse emission of a unit mass of a gas relative to that from an equivalent mass of CO₂ over a specified time horizon. The most commonly used metric, GWP₁₀₀, uses a 100-year time horizon and thus quantifies the cumulative warming influence of the pulse over a century, with CO₂ assigned a reference value of 1. This metric was later adopted in the Kyoto Protocol as the standard basis

40 for comparing emissions of different GHGs, and under the Paris Agreement Parties continue to report national inventories using GWP₁₀₀ (Hodnebrog et al., 2020).

F-gases exhibit exceptionally high radiative efficiency values and often possess atmospheric lifetimes ranging from decades to millennia, resulting in GWP values that are thousands to tens of thousands of times higher than that of CO₂. For example, NF₃ and SF₆ have GWP values of 17,400 and 24,300, respectively (Smith et al., 2021). Because of these extremely high
45 GWP₁₀₀ values, HFCs, PFCs, SF₆, and NF₃ are regulated under major international climate agreements, including the Kyoto Protocol and its Doha Amendment, as well as the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 1997, 2012, 2015).

Because plasma etching and chamber-cleaning operations rely heavily on F-gases, the semiconductor and display industries have become significant contributors to atmospheric F-gas emissions (Song et al., 2022; An and Hong, 2023; Jung et al., 2024; Kai et al., 2024; Kim et al., 2024). The large-scale fabrication of integrated circuits and flat-panel displays involves
50 repeated chamber conditioning and removal of deposition by-products, leading to substantial consumption of F-gases. A portion of these gases remains unreacted during processing and is released through exhaust systems, making the sector a non-negligible contributor to global F-gas emissions. In response to increasingly stringent international climate regulations and to sustain reliable high-throughput manufacturing operations, the industry is actively seeking low-GWP alternatives to the high-GWP F-gases currently used in chamber-cleaning processes.

55 To mitigate the environmental footprint of semiconductor and display manufacturing, carbonyl fluoride (COF₂) has recently gained attention as a promising candidate to replace high-GWP cleaning gases, particularly NF₃, in plasma-based chamber-cleaning processes (Mitsui et al., 2004; Lugani et al., 2024; Jo et al., 2025; Park et al., 2025a; Park et al., 2025b). According to Mitsui et al. (2004), COF₂ is formed as a byproduct during plasma cleaning with C₂F₆/O₂ mixtures and has been experimentally shown to deliver cleaning performance comparable to that of C₂F₆ while reducing global warming
60 emissions by more than 95%. Its molecular structure contains fewer fluorine atoms, and its rapid hydrolysis in the presence of moisture suggests a shorter atmospheric lifetime and thus a lower GWP. COF₂ is also non-flammable and non-explosive, making it suitable for industrial use under existing safety protocols.

The hydrolysis of COF₂ has been investigated in several theoretical studies (Francisco, 1993; Zachariah et al., 1995; Uchimaru et al., 2004). Francisco (1993) and Zachariah et al. (1995) demonstrated that COF₂ reacts with H₂O to form HF and CO₂ via transient intermediates, while Uchimaru et al. (2004) showed that the involvement of multiple water molecules
65 facilitates a proton-relay mechanism that further accelerates hydrolysis by lowering the activation barrier. Together, these findings indicate that COF₂ is likely to undergo rapid degradation under humid atmospheric conditions.

COF₂ is also known to occur in the atmosphere as a secondary degradation product of halocarbons such as CFC-12, HCFC-22, and CFC-113 and acts as a major fluorine reservoir species in the stratosphere, second only to HF (Harrison, 2020; Harrison et al., 2014). Thornhill et al. (2024) further demonstrated that stratospheric COF₂ contributes to radiative forcing and modestly enhances the GWP₁₀₀ of its precursor halocarbons (Thornhill et al., 2024). Here, we focus specifically on
70 COF₂ that may be directly emitted from semiconductor and display manufacturing, rather than that produced in the stratosphere. Accordingly, this study evaluates the intrinsic radiative efficiency and atmospheric lifetime of COF₂ under controlled near-surface laboratory conditions to derive its GWP₁₀₀.

75 Recent studies have also characterized the infrared absorption and radiative impact of COF₂ using existing spectroscopic datasets (Hodnebrog et al., 2020; Thornhill et al., 2024). Hodnebrog et al. (2020) and Thornhill et al. (2024) used the COF₂ absorption cross-section (ACS) spectrum available in the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) database, both reporting an integrated ACS of 1.55×10^{-16} cm molecule⁻¹ over the 0–3000 cm⁻¹ range. The integrated ACS represents the total infrared absorption strength of a molecule across the spectrum. The radiative efficiency (RE) values of COF₂ derived

80 from these datasets were estimated as $0.123 \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$ (Hodnebrog et al., 2020) and $0.126 \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$ (Thornhill et al., 2024). RE is defined as the radiative forcing resulting from a unit increase in the atmospheric mixing ratio of a halocarbon, quantifying the additional infrared energy retained per ppb increase of the gas. This quantity serves as a fundamental input to the calculation of GWP_{100} . Additionally, line-by-line spectroscopic parameters for the major COF_2 absorption bands are available in the HITRAN database (Gordon et al., 2026).

85 Although spectroscopic data for COF_2 exist in databases such as HITRAN and the PNNL spectral library, our goal was not to replace or revise these datasets. Rather, by comparing our measurements with previously reported values, we sought to independently verify their reproducibility and assess the robustness of existing spectroscopic parameters. Furthermore, because a consistent and self-contained set of parameters is required for a complete GWP_{100} evaluation, we experimentally re-determined the ACS and RE of COF_2 to ensure internal consistency throughout the entire GWP_{100} assessment process.

90 Therefore, the objective of this study is to experimentally determine the GWP_{100} of COF_2 by measuring its infrared absorption characteristics using laboratory-based FTIR spectroscopy and by estimating its atmospheric lifetime through controlled decay experiments conducted under well-defined O_2 - and H_2O -containing gas environments with continuous time-resolved FTIR measurements. Importantly, the experimental decay method employed here captures the dominant atmospheric loss processes of COF_2 , enabling a realistic assessment of its near-surface lifetime. By integrating the

95 experimentally derived RE and atmospheric lifetime, this work provides the first quantitative experimental determination of the GWP_{100} of COF_2 . The results offer fundamental scientific evidence supporting the suitability of COF_2 as a low-GWP alternative to high-GWP F-gases used in semiconductor and display manufacturing, particularly as a replacement candidate for NF_3 in plasma-based chamber cleaning.

100 2. Methodology

2.1. FTIR Systems for Absorption Cross-Section and Atmospheric Lifetime Measurements

The infrared transmittance spectrum required for ACS calculations was measured using a Nicolet iS50 FTIR spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) equipped with a 2.4 m multipass gas cell (Pike Technologies, $2.4 \pm 0.0065 \text{ m}$) and a DTGS detector (spectral range: $4000\text{--}650 \text{ cm}^{-1}$). The COF_2 transmittance spectrum was acquired at $40.244 \pm 0.002 \text{ Torr}$ and $296.77 \pm 0.01 \text{ K}$ under well-controlled laboratory conditions, with a spectral resolution of 0.5 cm^{-1} and Boxcar apodization, and signal averaging over 128 scans. The FTIR instrument records transmittance as the primary observable, and ACS values were subsequently derived from the measured transmittance using the Beer–Lambert law combined with the ideal gas law, incorporating the recorded pressure, temperature, and optical path length. Temperature and pressure inside the gas cell were recorded simultaneously during each spectral acquisition.

105 For determining the atmospheric e-folding lifetime of COF_2 , an Arcoptix GASEX OEM FTIR spectrometer (Arcoptix S.A., Switzerland) was employed together with a $5.0 \pm 0.01 \text{ m}$ gas cell and a 4-TEC MCT detector (spectral range: $5000\text{--}830 \text{ cm}^{-1}$). Time-resolved spectra were collected at one-minute intervals following the introduction of reactive gases, with a spectral resolution of 0.5 cm^{-1} , and all measurements were performed within the linear response range of the FTIR system (Fig. S1 in the Supporting Information, hereafter SI). An in-house LabVIEW-based control system synchronously recorded

115 temperature and pressure during each spectral acquisition to minimize operational uncertainty. The overall experimental configuration and measurement sequence are shown in Fig. 1. In this setup (Fig. 1a), the FTIR spectrometer, MKS 626D Baratron capacitance manometer, PT100 RTD temperature sensor, and Fluke 1586A Super-DAQ temperature scanner were

integrated into a single synchronized system. Each measurement cycle consisted of 2.7 seconds of simultaneous pressure and temperature logging, 10.3 seconds of FTIR spectral acquisition averaged over 16 scans, and a 47-second idle period, producing synchronized pressure, temperature, and spectral datasets at one-minute intervals (**Fig. 1b**).

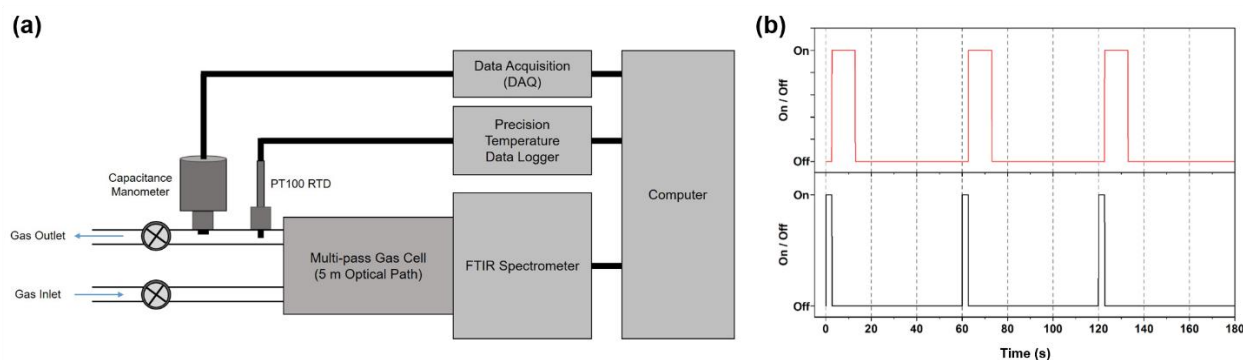


Figure 1. Schematic representation of the experimental system and its measurement sequence. **(a)** Experimental setup consisting of an FTIR spectrometer, a capacitance manometer with data acquisition (DAQ), and a PT100 RTD sensor with temperature logging, all integrated and controlled via LabVIEW for synchronized measurement control. **(b)** Time sequence of the measurement cycle: each cycle begins with simultaneous pressure and temperature acquisition for 2.7 seconds (black solid line), followed by FTIR spectral acquisition for 10.3 seconds (red solid line, 16 scans averaged). The sequence then includes a 47-second idle period before the next cycle begins, resulting in one complete measurement cycle per minute. This protocol yields synchronized pressure, temperature, and infrared absorption spectra at 1-minute intervals.

2.2. Gas Mixtures and Preparation Methods

Three certified gas mixtures, along with humid ambient air used to simulate realistic atmospheric conditions, are summarized in **Table 1**. Three certified gas mixtures, each contained in high-pressure cylinders, were used for the experiments. Humid ambient air drawn from outside the laboratory was introduced when required to simulate realistic atmospheric conditions. The first cylinder contained COF₂ diluted in nitrogen (COF₂/N₂, $3.360 \times 10^3 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$; Sole Materials Co., Ltd., Republic of Korea), which served as the primary sample for infrared measurements and enabled kinetic monitoring of COF₂ decay for atmospheric lifetime determination. The COF₂ mixture ($3360 \pm 67 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$, $k = 2$) was prepared by diluting pure COF₂ with high-purity N₂, and its concentration was verified using the stoichiometric conversion reaction $\text{COF}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{CO}_2$, calibrated against a certified CO₂ reference gas (expanded uncertainty 2 %, $k = 2$). The second cylinder held an NF₃/N₂ mixture ($299.8 \pm 6.0 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$, $k = 2$), which was gravimetrically prepared and certified by the Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS). Since NF₃ is chemically stable under the experimental conditions, any observed changes in its spectral signature indicated physical leakage rather than chemical reaction. The third cylinder supplied rigorously dehydrated synthetic air ($20.9 \pm 1.05 \%$ O₂ in N₂, $k = 2$; Air Liquide Korea Co., Ltd., Republic of Korea), which provided a moisture-free oxidizing matrix for isolating the O₂-initiated degradation pathway of COF₂. Humid ambient air was introduced at atmospheric pressure through a carbon-fiber inlet line fitted with a 2 μm mesh filter, providing a realistic atmospheric matrix containing both O₂ and variable water vapor (approximately 41–45 % relative humidity (RH) at 25 °C). This carefully controlled gas environment enabled clear identification of the primary COF₂ degradation pathways, driven by reactions with oxygen and water vapor, and provided a basis for estimating its atmospheric lifetime under conditions representative of the real atmosphere.

For the dry synthetic air experiment, the reaction cell was initially evacuated to the 10^{-1} Torr range and then filled with 8.18 Torr of COF₂/N₂ at 23.6 °C. Subsequently, 746.44 Torr of dehydrated synthetic air (N₂: 79.1 %, O₂: 20.9 %, H₂O < 2 ppm) was introduced to bring the system to atmospheric pressure. Under these anhydrous conditions, any observed decay

of COF₂ was attributed solely to oxygen-initiated reactions. Pressure and temperature remained stable within ±0.1 % over a six-hour period, confirming the integrity of the sealed system.

145 For the humid air experiment, ambient outdoor air, routed through a carbon-fiber inlet line fitted with a 2 µm mesh filter, was mixed with the COF₂ and NF₃/N₂ gas mixture. Two separate experimental fills were conducted to assess the influence of daily variations in atmospheric conditions. In the first run (10:30), 15.55 Torr of COF₂ and 40.12 Torr of NF₃/N₂ were combined with 754.19 Torr of ambient air at 25.7 °C and 44.3 % RH. In the second run (20:00), 15.17 Torr of COF₂ and 40.23 Torr of NF₃/N₂ were combined with 753.18 Torr of ambient air at 24.9 °C and 41.8 % RH. The stability of the NF₃ absorption signal confirmed that changes in COF₂ concentration originated from chemical degradation rather than system leakage. Ambient outdoor conditions were measured and recorded using a LUTRON MHB-382SD humidity, temperature, and barometric pressure meter.

Table 1. Composition and intended purpose of gas samples. Concentration values are reported with expanded uncertainties (coverage factor $k = 2$, corresponding to approximately 95 % confidence).

Sample	Nominal concentration (µmol mol ⁻¹)	Oxidants / Matrix	H ₂ O present	Primary use	Supplier
COF ₂ / N ₂	3360 ± 67	N ₂	No	RE, Lifetime	Sole Materials Co., Ltd.
NF ₃ / N ₂	299.8 ± 6.0	N ₂	No	Leak check	KRISS [†]
Synthetic air	209,000 ± 10,500 [‡]	O ₂ / N ₂	No	O ₂ -only kinetics	Air Liquide Korea
Ambient air		O ₂ / N ₂	Yes	Real-air kinetics	Collected outdoors

[†] Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science.

155 [‡] Uncertainty estimated from supplier specifications; oxygen content of synthetic air: 20.9 ± 1.05 % ($k = 2$).

2.3. GWP Framework: Radiative Efficiency and Atmospheric Lifetime

In this study, the GWP₁₀₀ of COF₂ was evaluated using the absolute GWP (AGWP) formulation adopted in recent climate assessments (Hodnebrog et al., 2013; Myhre et al., 2013; Hodnebrog et al., 2020). GWP is defined as the ratio of the time-integrated radiative forcing from a 1 kg pulse emission of gas i at time $t = 0$ to that from an equivalent 1 kg emission of CO₂ over a chosen time horizon H :

$$GWP_i(H) = \frac{AGWP_i(H)}{AGWP_{CO_2}(H)} = \frac{\int_0^H RF_i(t) dt}{AGWP_{CO_2}(H)} \quad (\text{Equation 1})$$

For a non-CO₂ gas with a single dominant atmospheric sink, the radiative forcing following a pulse emission is well described by an exponential decay, and the AGWP _{i} is expressed as:

$$AGWP_i(H) = \int_0^H RE_i(t) \cdot e^{-t/\tau_i} dt \quad (\text{Equation 2})$$

where RE _{i} (W m⁻² kg⁻¹) denotes the radiative efficiency of gas i per unit mass emission, τ_i (years) is its atmospheric lifetime, and $H = 100$ years is the time horizon used in this work. The reference AGWP_{CO₂}(100) for CO₂ used in this study is 8.95 × 10⁻¹⁴ W m⁻² yr kg⁻¹ (Smith et al., 2021), which serves as the denominator in Eq. (1). GWP₁₀₀ is obtained by calculating AGWP _{i} (100) from the RE _{i} and the τ_i using Eq. (2) and normalizing the result by the reference AGWP_{CO₂}(100) via Eq. (1).

To calculate RE, the absorption cross-section (ACS) spectrum is first obtained from either experimental measurements or theoretical calculations. The ACS describes how strongly a molecule absorbs infrared radiation at each wavenumber and is therefore the fundamental quantity from which RE is derived. To obtain the ACS from FTIR measurements, the recorded transmittance spectra are converted into molecular absorption cross sections using a formulation based on the Beer–Lambert law combined with the ideal gas law (Harrison, 2015, 2020). The ACS at a given wavenumber $\tilde{\nu}$, denoted as $\sigma(\tilde{\nu})$, is calculated as:

$$\sigma(\tilde{\nu}) = \frac{10^4 \cdot T \cdot k_B \cdot \ln(1/T_r(\tilde{\nu}))}{P_{Total} \cdot x_i \cdot L} \quad (\text{Equation 3})$$

where T is the absolute temperature (K), k_B is the Boltzmann constant ($1.381 \times 10^{-23} \text{ Pa} \cdot \text{m}^3 \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$), $T_r(\tilde{\nu})$ is the measured spectral transmittance, P_{Total} is the total pressure (Pa), and L is the optical path length (cm). The term x_i denotes the mole fraction of COF_2 in the gas mixture, so that $x_i \cdot P_{Total}$ corresponds to the partial pressure of gas i appearing explicitly in the denominator of **Eq. (3)**. The factor 10^4 accounts for the unit conversion and ensures that $\sigma(\tilde{\nu})$ is expressed in $\text{cm}^2 \text{ molecule}^{-1}$. This formulation enables direct determination of ACS spectra from experimental transmittance data by linking macroscopic observables to molecular-scale absorption.

RE was obtained by multiplying the ACS and the Pinnock-curve value at each wavenumber grid point and summing the products over the infrared domain (Pinnock et al., 1995; Elrod, 1999; Hodnebrog et al., 2013, 2020; Shine and Myhre, 2020). The present work employs the stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve developed by Shine and Myhre (2020). Using a uniform 10 cm^{-1} wavenumber grid, RE is calculated as:

$$\text{RE} = \sum_i \sigma_i F_i \Delta \tilde{\nu} \quad (\text{Equation 4})$$

where σ_i is the absorption cross section at grid point i ($\text{cm}^2 \text{ molecule}^{-1}$), F_i is the value of the stratospheric adjusted Pinnock curve at wavenumber i ($\text{W m}^{-2} \text{ cm}$), and $\Delta \tilde{\nu} = 10 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ is the constant wavenumber spacing. The summation is performed over the spectral range $0\text{--}3000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

The atmospheric lifetime τ_i is defined as the e-folding time over which the atmospheric burden of species i decreases after emission, following an exponential decay of the form e^{-t/τ_i} . Lifetimes are controlled by a combination of chemical and physical loss processes, including stratospheric photolysis, reaction with tropospheric hydroxyl radicals ($\bullet\text{OH}$), hydrolysis in the presence of water vapor, dry and wet deposition. Because the RE calculation implicitly assumes that the gas is uniformly mixed in the atmosphere, species with short lifetimes or strong spatial gradients require a lifetime dependent correction to account for their limited vertical and horizontal distribution. Practical parameterizations for applying such corrections have been developed, including separate formulations for compounds removed predominantly by stratospheric photolysis and those removed primarily through reaction with tropospheric $\bullet\text{OH}$ (Hodnebrog et al., 2013, 2020).

COF_2 is expected to have a very short atmospheric lifetime ($\tau \ll 1 \text{ year}$), as its removal is governed primarily by rapid hydrolysis in the presence of water vapor rather than by stratospheric photolysis or reaction with $\bullet\text{OH}$. Because such rapid and surface-confined removal prevents COF_2 from attaining a well-mixed atmospheric distribution, a lifetime-dependent correction to the RE must be applied to ensure consistency with established GWP metric formulations. Accordingly, a fractional correction factor $f(\tau)$ was used in this study to adjust the RE prior to computing GWP_{100} , employing the $\bullet\text{OH}$ -type parameterisation (Hodnebrog et al., 2013, 2020):

$$f(\tau) = \frac{a\tau^b}{1 + c\tau^d}; \text{ with } a = 2.962, b = 0.9312, c = 2.994, d = 0.9302 \quad (\text{Equation 5})$$

which is recommended for compounds degraded mainly by tropospheric $\bullet\text{OH}$ and is valid for $10^{-4} < \tau < 10^4$ years. Although COF_2 is removed predominantly through hydrolysis under humid conditions rather than by $\bullet\text{OH}$ oxidation, this parameterisation represents the closest internally consistent approach currently available for treating short-lived fluorinated species within the GWP framework. Because neglecting the lifetime correction would otherwise lead to an overestimate of the RE and thus the GWP, applying this correction provides a more appropriate representation of the limited atmospheric influence of COF_2 . It should be noted, however, that lifetime corrections for very short-lived compounds involve elevated uncertainty, as the effective atmospheric removal of such species is governed strongly by local humidity, boundary-layer dynamics, and emission location rather than by global-scale mixing.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Absorption Cross-Section (ACS)

The ACS spectrum of COF_2 was derived from the measured FTIR transmittance spectrum using the Beer–Lambert law combined with the ideal gas law, incorporating pressure (40.244 Torr) and temperature (296.77 K) values recorded synchronously during each acquisition (Fig. 2a-lower frame). For RE calculations, the ACS data were averaged onto a 10 cm^{-1} grid so that the wavenumber spacing matches that of the stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve used in the RE integration. Because the FTIR detector responds over $650\text{--}4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ and the stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve is defined up to 3000 cm^{-1} , the RE-relevant ACS spectrum spans $650\text{--}3000\text{ cm}^{-1}$. The processed ACS spectrum exhibits smooth, physically consistent line shapes across all vibrational bands, indicating the absence of detector saturation or nonlinear optical artifacts. Four dominant infrared absorption features are identified, consisting of a strong band near 1935 cm^{-1} , intense bands at 1245 and 965 cm^{-1} , and a well-defined feature at 775 cm^{-1} .

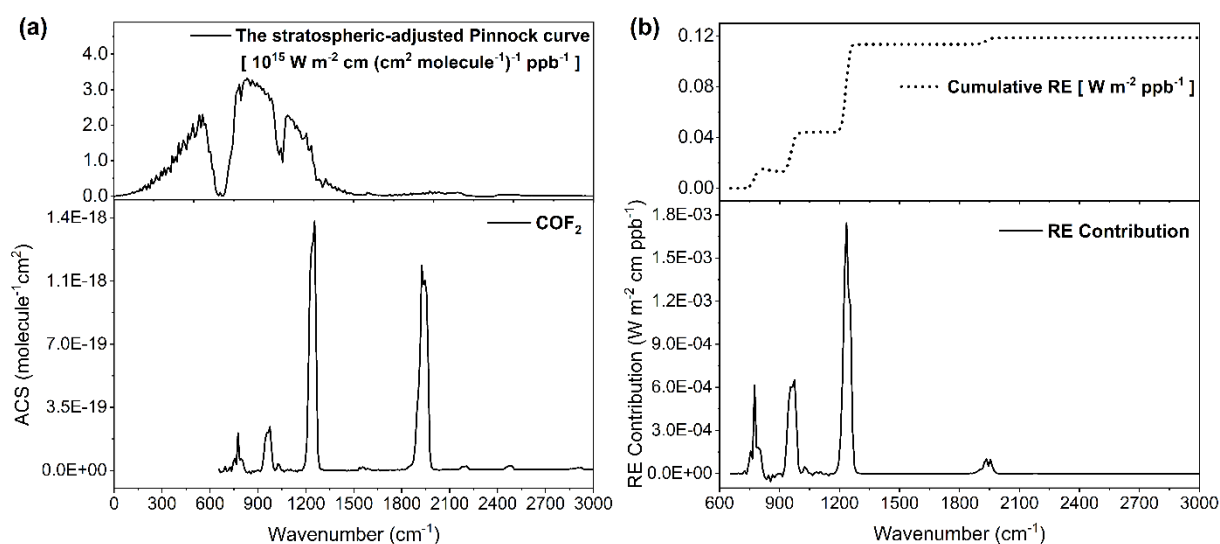


Figure 2. Framework for calculating the radiative efficiency (RE) of carbonyl fluoride (COF_2) from its infrared absorption characteristics and the stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve. **(a)** The down-frame shows the infrared absorption cross-section (ACS) spectrum of COF_2 , while the up-frame presents the stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve (Shine & Myhre, 2020). **The ACS spectrum was obtained under a single laboratory condition of 296.77 K and 40.244 Torr.** **(b)** The down-frame displays the RE contribution spectrum, computed as the pointwise product of the COF_2 ACS and the stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve according to Eq. (4). The up-frame shows the cumulative RE obtained by integrating the RE contribution across the wavenumber domain, yielding a final RE value of $0.119\text{ W m}^{-2}\text{ ppb}^{-1}$.

Integrated over the 0–3000 cm⁻¹ interval (with the effective measurement domain being 650–3000 cm⁻¹), the ACS spectrum yields an integrated value of 1.58×10^{-16} cm molecule⁻¹ (**Table 2**). This value shows close agreement with the integrated ACS of 1.55×10^{-16} cm molecule⁻¹ reported by Hodnebrog et al. (2020) and Thornhill et al. (2024), who used the PNNL experimental spectrum, differing by only about 2%. The small positive bias in the present result is attributable to a slightly elevated spectral baseline in regions where discrete absorption lines are absent, an effect inherent to FTIR measurements.

In contrast, integration of the ACS derived from the line-by-line parameters for COF₂, identified as Gas ID 29 in the HITRAN database (Gordon et al., 2026), yields a substantially lower value of 1.23×10^{-16} cm molecule⁻¹, reflecting differences between the HITRAN-based result and the experimentally derived spectra.

To investigate the origin of the discrepancy between the experimentally derived integrated absorption cross-sections and those obtained from the HITRAN line-by-line parameters, the COF₂ spectrum was decomposed into four infrared bands represented in the HITRAN database: 695–865, 925–995, 1175–1305, and 1845–2005 cm⁻¹ (**Fig. S2** and **Table S1** in SI). A band-resolved comparison with the PNNL experimental spectrum and the present FTIR measurements shows good agreement across datasets for Band 1 (695–865 cm⁻¹), with negligible differences between HITRAN and the experimental results. Band 2 (925–995 cm⁻¹) shows a moderate difference, while Band 4 (1845–2005 cm⁻¹) contributes secondarily to the overall discrepancy.

In contrast, Band 3 (1175–1305 cm⁻¹) exhibits the most pronounced difference, with the HITRAN-based integrated absorption being approximately 18–19% lower than both the PNNL spectrum and the present measurements. Together with Band 4, which shows a comparable relative difference of approximately 17–18%, the underestimation in these higher-intensity bands dominates the overall discrepancy in the integrated absorption cross-section. These results indicate that the discrepancy is band-specific for COF₂, arising primarily from differences observed in the representation of the 1175–1305 cm⁻¹ and 1845–2005 cm⁻¹ bands between the experimentally derived spectra and the HITRAN line-by-line data, rather than reflecting a general limitation of line-by-line methodologies.

Table 2. The integrated absorption cross-section of COF₂ in the 0–3000 cm⁻¹ spectral interval and its radiative efficiency.

Gas	Integrated absorption cross-section (10 ⁻¹⁶ cm molecule ⁻¹)	Radiative efficiency (W m ⁻² ppb ⁻¹)
COF ₂	1.58	0.119

3.2. Radiative Efficiency (RE)

The RE of COF₂ was evaluated by multiplying the ACS with the stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve at each 10 cm⁻¹ wavenumber grid point and summing the products over the infrared spectral domain (**Eq. 4**). The stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve provides a physically consistent weighting function, representing the radiative forcing response of a weak, uniformly distributed absorber while incorporating the effects of stratospheric temperature adjustment (**Fig. 2a**, upper frame). **Figure 2a** also presents the measured ACS spectrum of COF₂ (lower frame) and the stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve (upper frame). The spectral overlap between the COF₂ absorption features and the Pinnock curve highlights the wavenumber regions that contribute most effectively to radiative forcing. To quantify this relationship, the pointwise product of the ACS and the Pinnock-curve value was calculated, yielding the spectral RE-contribution distribution shown in **Fig. 2b** (lower frame).

The RE-contribution spectrum reveals that the dominant contributions arise within the 700–1300 cm⁻¹ interval (**Fig. 2b**, lower frame), where several strong COF₂ absorption bands coincide with effective Pinnock-curve weighting. Within this region, three distinct absorption bands produce a stepwise increase in the cumulative RE, with each band contributing incrementally to the total radiative forcing. This behavior is reflected in the cumulative RE curve shown in **Fig. 2b** (upper frame), which increases sharply through three successive steps across this interval and then levels off above approximately 1300 cm⁻¹, indicating that most of the radiative forcing impact of COF₂ is captured within this spectral range. An additional increase in the cumulative RE is observed near 1935 cm⁻¹. However, despite the high absorption intensity of this band in the ACS spectrum, its contribution to the total RE remains modest because the Pinnock-curve weighting is substantially lower at higher wavenumbers.

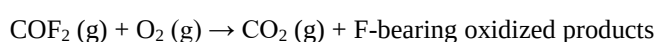
Integration of the weighted ACS over the 0–3000 cm⁻¹ interval yields a total RE of 0.119 W m⁻² ppb⁻¹ (**Table 2**). This value is 3.3 % lower than the value of 0.123 W m⁻² ppb⁻¹ reported by Hodnebrog et al. (2020) and 5.6 % lower than the value of 0.126 W m⁻² ppb⁻¹ reported by Thornhill et al. (2024), both derived from the PNNL experimental spectrum. The difference primarily reflects the narrower valid spectral range of the present FTIR measurements (650–3000 cm⁻¹), which excludes the 550–650 cm⁻¹ region where minor absorption features contribute to radiative forcing. When the literature RE values are recalculated over the same restricted spectral domain, the discrepancy decreases to approximately 1 %, demonstrating close consistency between the datasets.

3.3. Atmospheric Lifetime

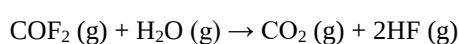
Understanding the atmospheric removal mechanisms of COF₂ is essential for accurately estimating its atmospheric lifetime and GWP. In the troposphere, COF₂ can be removed via oxidation by molecular oxygen (O₂) and hydrolysis by water vapor (H₂O), with the latter generally expected to dominate under humid conditions. To distinguish between two pathways, experiments were conducted under two contrasting atmospheric conditions: (i) a dried synthetic air mixture containing O₂ with H₂O below 2 ppm and (ii) ambient outdoor air containing O₂ along with typical atmospheric water vapor concentrations. The dried synthetic air experiments provided a reference kinetic profile for O₂-only oxidation, whereas the humid air experiments quantified the enhancement in COF₂ loss attributable to hydrolysis. **Scheme 1** summarizes the atmospheric removal pathways of COF₂ considered in this study. Gas-phase hydrolysis with water vapor, yielding CO₂ and HF, has been investigated mainly through theoretical studies, which indicate that COF₂ is likely to undergo rapid hydrolysis under humid conditions (Francisco, 1993; Uchimaru et al., 2004; Zachariah et al., 1995). In addition, oxidative loss involving O₂ is chemically plausible and may contribute to COF₂ removal under dry or near-anhydrous conditions. This pathway is therefore included as a comparative reference, enabling quantitative assessment of the contribution of moisture-driven hydrolysis to COF₂ removal and its resulting atmospheric lifetime.

Scheme 1. Atmospheric removal pathways of COF₂ considered in this study.

(a) Oxidative loss under dry or near-anhydrous conditions (reference pathway):



(b) Hydrolysis in the presence of water vapor:



The primary objective of the COF₂ + O₂ experiments in dried synthetic air was to establish a baseline reaction profile under controlled, water-free conditions. This approach isolates the oxidative pathway involving O₂, enabling direct comparison with real atmospheric mixtures containing multiple reactive species. The time-resolved FTIR spectra (**Fig. 3a**) showed the progressive decay of COF₂ absorption bands alongside the concurrent growth of CO₂ features during oxidation. Integrated absorbance profiles for the COF₂ bands (Band 1: 931–998 cm⁻¹; Band 2: 1167–1311 cm⁻¹; Band 3: 1854–2004 cm⁻¹) followed exponential decay trends (**Fig. 3b**), while the CO₂ band (Band 4: 2284–2391 cm⁻¹) exhibited exponential growth (**Fig. 3c**). The fitted time constants (τ), summarized in **Table 3**, yielded average values of 453.66 min for COF₂ decay and 590.79 min for CO₂ production, indicating a direct kinetic linkage between the two processes. These results correspond to an atmospheric lifetime of 7.56 hours for COF₂ under dry synthetic air conditions, where the dominant oxidative pathway is reaction with O₂ and the principal product is CO₂. The slight difference between the decay rate of COF₂ and the growth rate of CO₂ suggests the formation of intermediate species during the COF₂–O₂ reaction. However, the quantity of such intermediates is likely below the detection limit of the FTIR spectrometer used, reflecting both their low abundance and inherent instability. These O₂-only kinetics provide a baseline reference for assessing the role of water vapor in subsequent experiments. The small water-related absorption features observed near 1400–1900 cm⁻¹ in **Fig. 3a** are most likely attributable to trace water vapor. Although the dehydrated synthetic air contained less than 2 ppm of H₂O, the reaction cell was filled to near atmospheric pressure, meaning that the absolute number of water molecules present was still sufficient to produce weak but detectable absorption bands in the FTIR spectrum.

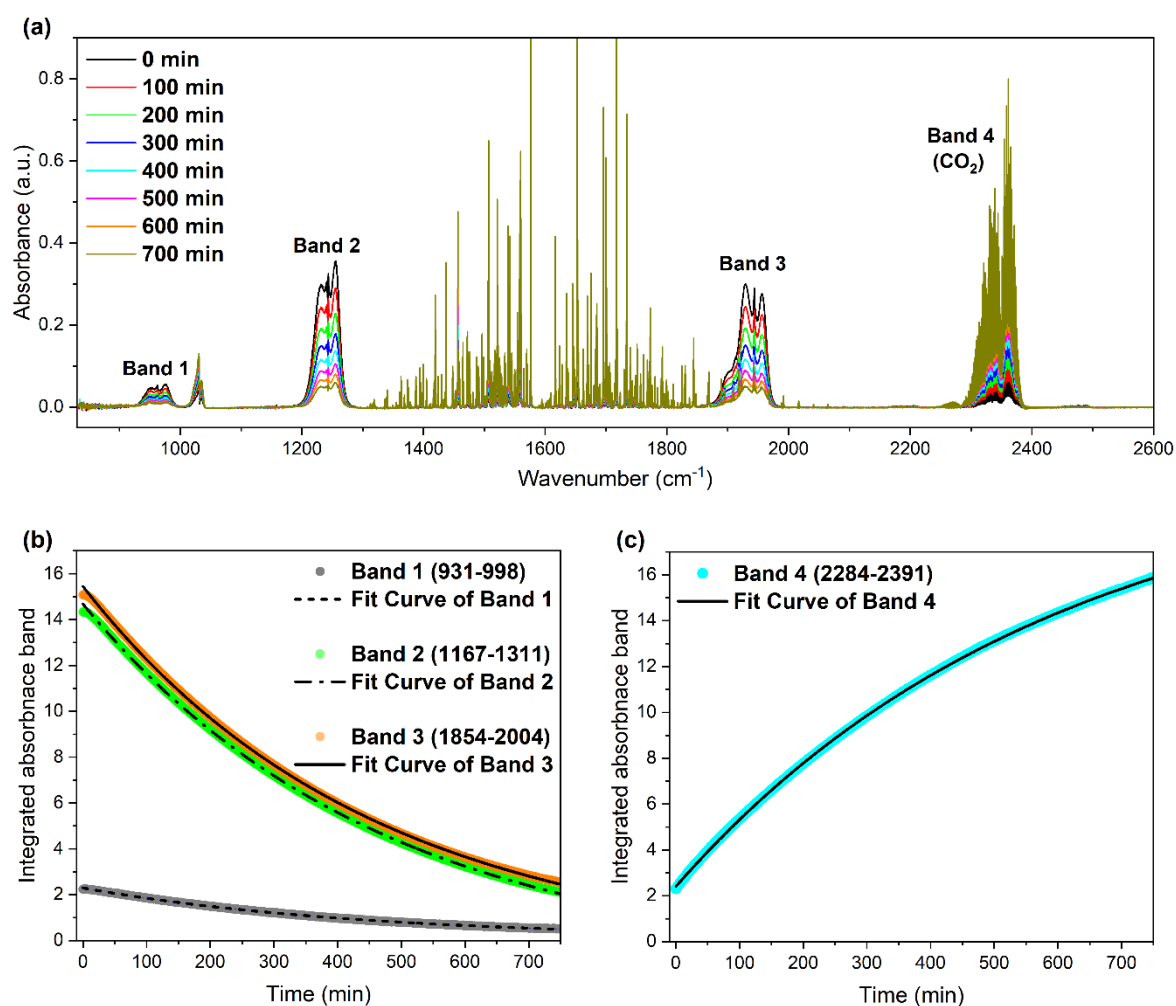


Figure 3. Infrared spectroscopic analysis of the reaction between carbonyl fluoride (COF₂) and molecular oxygen (O₂), showing both the depletion of COF₂ and the formation of CO₂ over time. **(a)** Time-resolved infrared absorbance spectra of COF₂ during its reaction with O₂, showing the gradual decay of COF₂ and concurrent increase in CO₂ absorption features. Spectra were recorded at 100-minute intervals up to 700 minutes. **(b)** Integrated absorbance of COF₂ bands (Band 1: 931–998 cm⁻¹, Band 2: 1167–1311 cm⁻¹, Band 3: 1854–2004 cm⁻¹) as a function of time, illustrating the exponential decay of COF₂. **(c)** Integrated absorbance of the CO₂ band (Band 4: 2284–2391 cm⁻¹), indicating the formation and accumulation of CO₂ over time.

Table 3. Exponential fitting parameters for the decay of COF₂ or increase of CO₂ under various atmospheric conditions. Each entry corresponds to a specific vibrational band, with parameters obtained from fitting the time-resolved data to the function $y = Ae^{-x/\tau} + C$. COF₂-Ambient Air (Morning)” and “COF₂-Ambient Air (Afternoon)” indicate experiments conducted during different times of the day to reflect ambient variation. The time constant (τ) represents the characteristic time of the exponential process, and the average τ was calculated across all bands within each sample type.

Sample Type	Kinetic Process / Spectral Band	Amplitude (A)	Time Constant (τ , min)	Offset (C)	Average τ (min)
COF ₂ + O ₂	COF ₂ Decay: Band 1	2.206	442.442	0.088	453.662
	COF ₂ Decay: Band 2	15.832	467.844	-1.149	
	COF ₂ Decay: Band 3	16.024	450.699	-0.577	
	CO ₂ Rise: Band 4	-18.715	-590.787	21.122	590.787
COF ₂ + Ambient Air (High-Humidity Air)	COF ₂ Decay: Band 1	3.065	34.817	-0.333	36.674
	COF ₂ Decay: Band 2	23.065	37.850	-0.181	
	COF ₂ Decay: Band 3	25.003	37.355	6.202	
COF ₂ + Ambient Air (Low-Humidity Air)	COF ₂ Decay: Band 1	3.209	52.272	-0.490	54.862
	COF ₂ Decay: Band 2	23.462	56.744	-0.463	
	COF ₂ Decay: Band 3	25.425	55.570	5.390	

The ambient air experiments were designed to evaluate COF₂ removal under realistic atmospheric conditions and quantify the relative contribution of hydrolysis. Ambient air contains, in addition to oxygen and nitrogen, water vapor, argon, and other trace-level gases. The sampling location did not have any unusual atmospheric characteristics; therefore, the air composition is considered representative of typical outdoor conditions. Two time-separated fills were performed to assess the effect of daily variations in atmospheric parameters. Morning (10:30) and evening (20:00) trials on the same day leveraged differences in relative humidity to probe the sensitivity of COF₂ degradation to the water vapor content. Comparative results (**Fig. 4**) showed that COF₂ decays significantly faster under higher humidity in the morning (**Fig. 4a,b**) than under the lower humidity in the evening (**Fig. 4c,d**). As summarized in **Table 3**, the average τ in the morning (36.67 min) was markedly shorter than that in the evening (54.86 min). This accelerated removal in humid air was consistent with the hydrolysis pathway, in which H₂O reacted with COF₂ more rapidly and dominantly than O₂. NF₃ was introduced into the reaction cell as an inert indicator gas to verify system airtightness. No change was observed in the NF₃ absorption bands during the experiments (**Fig. 4a,c**), confirming that the reaction cell remained sealed with no exchange of gases with the external environment.

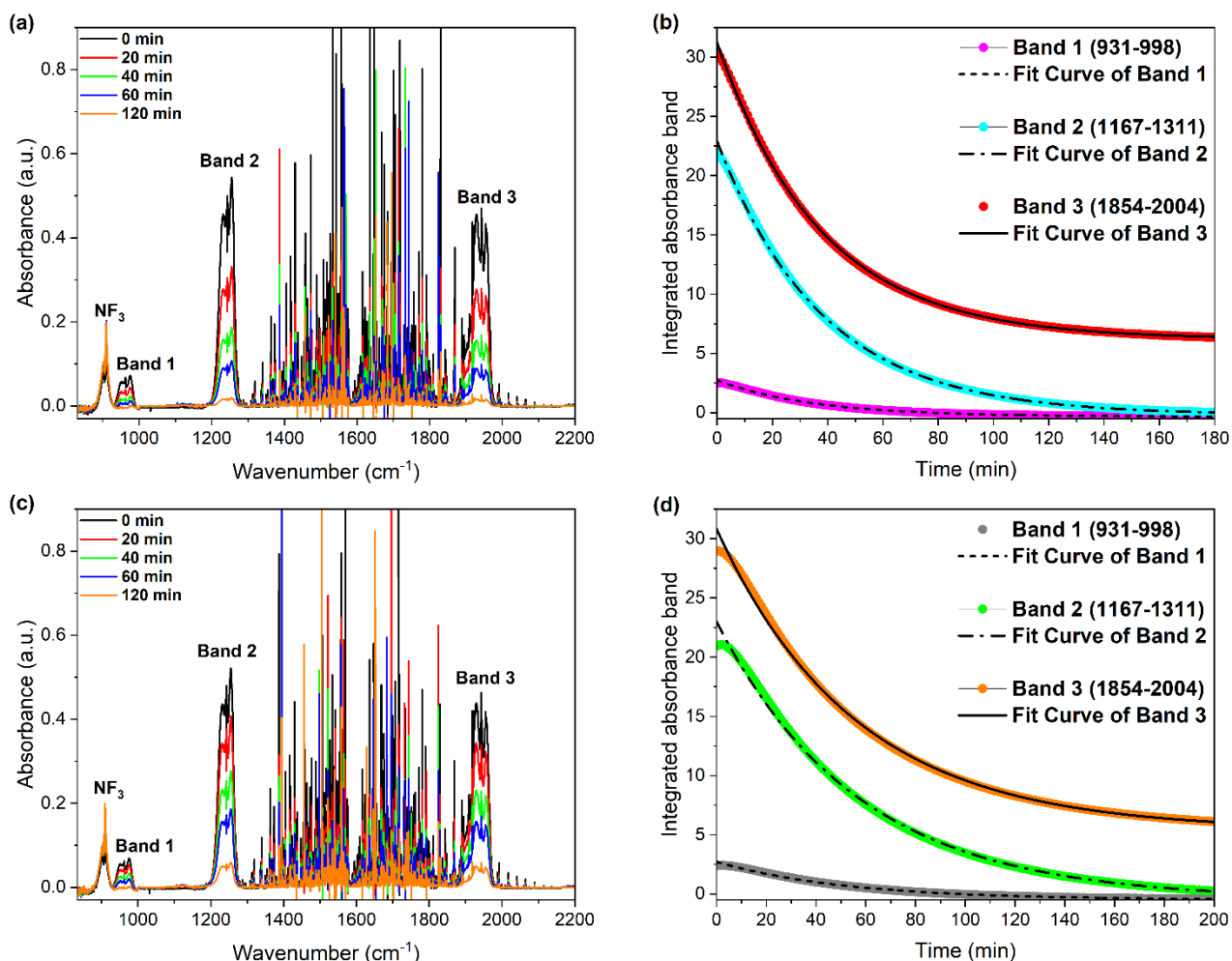


Figure 4. Atmospheric degradation behavior of COF_2 under ambient air conditions, illustrating the influence of atmospheric moisture on the reaction kinetics. **(a, b)** Spectral and kinetic analysis of COF_2 decay measured in the morning, when the relative humidity was higher. **(a)** Time-resolved FTIR absorbance spectra showing the decay of COF_2 features. **(b)** Integrated absorbance of three representative COF_2 bands (Band 1: 931–998 cm^{-1} , Band 2: 1167–1311 cm^{-1} , Band 3: 1854–2004 cm^{-1}) and corresponding exponential decay fits. **(c, d)** Measurements taken in the afternoon under relatively lower humidity conditions. **(c)** Time-resolved spectra showing slower spectral decay. **(d)** Kinetic profiles of the same COF_2 bands as in **(b)** but highlighting the slower decay under drier atmospheric conditions. These results confirm that the presence of higher ambient moisture accelerates the degradation of COF_2 in air. **(a, c)** Water-vapor–corrected FTIR spectra were obtained by subtracting a background recorded under **(a)** higher-humidity morning conditions and **(c)** lower-humidity afternoon conditions; see SI for acquisition and subtraction details (**Fig. S3–S4 in SI**).

340 Direct comparisons between the O_2 -only and ambient air experiments confirmed the experimental objective of separating and quantifying the roles of major atmospheric oxidants in COF_2 degradation. The results clearly indicate that hydrolysis with H_2O proceeded faster and was more dominant than oxidation by O_2 . In the actual atmosphere, $\bullet\text{OH}$ —another potential oxidant—were present at concentrations of $\sim 10^6$ molecules cm^{-3} during daylight hours, although these levels were still several orders of magnitude lower than those of water vapor or oxygen (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006). Furthermore, the reactivity of COF_2 toward H_2O and O_2 , combined with their much higher atmospheric abundances, rendered the $\bullet\text{OH}$ pathway negligible in comparison. Therefore, hydrolysis overwhelmingly governed the atmospheric removal rate of COF_2 , with O_2 oxidation playing a secondary role.

3.4. Uncertainties

The uncertainties in the ACS were evaluated by propagating the uncertainties of all input quantities appearing in **Eq. (3)**, including total pressure, temperature, optical path length, the COF₂ mole fraction, and FTIR transmittance. The experimental precision of pressure, temperature, optical path length, and mole fraction was determined from repeated measurements, yielding relative uncertainties of 0.0047 %, 0.059 %, 0.27 %, and 1.0 %, respectively. The relative uncertainty in transmittance, 0.63 %, was instead estimated from the baseline noise of the FTIR spectra, which reflects random instrumental fluctuations and therefore provides a representative measure of spectral measurement precision. The combined standard uncertainty of the ACS was obtained by analytical uncertainty propagation, resulting in a combined relative standard uncertainty of approximately 2.1 %, which corresponds to an expanded relative standard uncertainty of 4.2 % with a coverage factor of $k = 2$ (**Table S2 in SI**). Overall, the uncertainty budget is dominated by contributions from the COF₂ mole fraction and FTIR spectral noise, while all other sources play a minor role. This level of uncertainty is consistent with the approximately 5 % ACS uncertainty reported by Hodnebrog et al. (2020), confirming that the present ACS dataset provides a robust basis for subsequent integrated ACS and RE calculations. Because both the integrated ACS and the RE are obtained as linear spectral integrals of the measured ACS, the relative standard uncertainty derived at the ACS level applies directly to both the IACS and the RE.

3.5. GWP₁₀₀

RE, atmospheric lifetime, and the resulting AGWP₁₀₀ and GWP₁₀₀ values under different reaction environments are summarized in **Table 4**. The RE of COF₂ was evaluated as 0.119 W m⁻² ppb⁻¹ by spectrally weighting the experimentally measured ACS spectrum with the stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve and integrating over wavenumber. Because RE is conventionally reported per unit mixing ratio (W m⁻² ppb⁻¹), whereas AGWP and GWP calculations require mass-based units (W m⁻² kg⁻¹), a conversion factor of the form $(M_A/M_x)(10^9/T_M)$ was applied, where M_A is the mean molecular weight of air (28.97 kg kmol⁻¹), M_x is the molecular weight of COF₂ (66.01 g mol⁻¹), and T_M is the total atmospheric mass (5.14×10^{18} kg). Applying this conversion yields a mass-based RE of 1.01×10^{-11} W m⁻² kg⁻¹ (Myhre et al., 2013).

Under dry O₂ conditions (RH < 0.007 %), the measured atmospheric lifetime of 8.64×10^{-4} years (7.56 h) resulted in a lifetime correction factor of 0.00414. Multiplication of this factor by the mass-based RE reduced the effective RE to 4.20×10^{-14} W m⁻² kg⁻¹, leading to an AGWP₁₀₀ of 3.63×10^{-17} W m⁻² yr kg⁻¹ and a corresponding GWP₁₀₀ of 4.05×10^{-4} . These results reflect the fact that, in the near-anhydrous O₂ environment, hydrolysis is effectively absent and COF₂ removal proceeds almost exclusively through the oxygen-driven pathway. Even under these dry conditions, the resulting GWP₁₀₀ remains far below unity, indicating a negligible contribution to long-term climate forcing.

When COF₂ was exposed to humid ambient air, its atmospheric lifetime decreased markedly relative to the dry O₂ condition, in which removal occurred solely via the oxygen-driven pathway. Even modest levels of water vapor substantially accelerated COF₂ loss through hydrolysis. Under the low-humidity condition (41.8 % RH), the lifetime shortened to 1.04×10^{-4} years (54.86 min), reducing the correction factor to 0.00058 and yielding a corrected RE of 5.87×10^{-15} W m⁻² kg⁻¹. In the high-humidity condition (44.3 % RH), the lifetime decreased further to 6.98×10^{-5} years (36.67 min), corresponding to a correction factor of 0.00040 and a corrected RE of 4.05×10^{-15} W m⁻² kg⁻¹. As a result, the AGWP₁₀₀ decreases to 6.10×10^{-19} W m⁻² yr kg⁻¹ under low-humidity conditions and further to 2.83×10^{-19} W m⁻² yr kg⁻¹ under high-humidity conditions, yielding extremely small GWP₁₀₀ values of 6.82×10^{-6} (low humidity) and 3.16×10^{-6} (high humidity).

Once hydrolysis becomes operative, COF₂ is removed so rapidly that its radiative contribution is effectively suppressed to near zero. The low- and high-humidity experiments further demonstrate that even small increases in atmospheric moisture, on the order of only a few percentage points in relative humidity, are sufficient to significantly accelerate COF₂ hydrolysis. Collectively, these results indicate that COF₂, when released under typical near-surface atmospheric humidity, exerts minimal climate forcing, underscoring its suitability as a very low-GWP alternative to high-GWP F-gases currently used in semiconductor chamber-cleaning processes. It should be noted that the lifetimes and corresponding GWP values reported here are representative of the near-surface humidity conditions under which the measurements were conducted; in drier environments, at higher altitudes, or in high-latitude regions, reduced hydrolysis rates may lead to longer effective lifetimes and, consequently, higher GWP values than those reported in this study.

Table 4. Radiative efficiency (RE), lifetime-corrected RE, experimentally determined atmospheric lifetimes, AGWP (100), and resulting GWP₁₀₀ values for COF₂ under different reaction conditions. The lifetime correction factor $f(\tau)$ was applied to RE following Hodnebrog et al. (2013, 2020) (Eq. 5). Corrected RE values were integrated over a 100-year horizon to obtain AGWP(100), which was then normalized by the reference AGWP(100) for CO₂ ($8.064 \times 10^{-14} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ yr kg}^{-1}$) to compute GWP₁₀₀ (Eq. 1). COF₂ decay was examined under three atmospheric conditions: a dry O₂ environment (Relative Humidity (RH) < 0.007 %, 23.9 °C), and two ambient-air conditions representing high humidity (44.3 % RH, 10.6 g m⁻³, 25.7 °C) and low humidity (41.8 % RH, 9.6 g m⁻³, 24.9 °C). These controlled humidity levels enabled assessment of moisture-driven COF₂ removal.

Sample Types	RE (W m ⁻² kg ⁻¹)	$f(\tau)$	Lifetime-corrected RE (W m ⁻² kg ⁻¹)	Lifetime (years)	AGWP (100) (W m ⁻² yr kg ⁻¹)	GWP ₁₀₀
COF ₂ + O ₂	1.01×10^{-11}	0.00414	4.20×10^{-14}	8.64×10^{-4}	3.63×10^{-17}	4.05×10^{-4}
COF ₂ + Ambient Air (Low-Humidity)	1.01×10^{-11}	0.00058	5.87×10^{-15}	1.04×10^{-4}	6.10×10^{-19}	6.82×10^{-6}
COF ₂ + Ambient Air (High-Humidity)	1.01×10^{-11}	0.00040	4.05×10^{-14}	6.98×10^{-5}	2.83×10^{-19}	3.16×10^{-6}

4. Conclusion

This study presents an integrated experimental evaluation of the infrared absorption properties, atmospheric reactivity, and climate impact of COF₂. FTIR measurements provided a well-resolved ACS spectrum, from which the corresponding RE of $0.119 \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$ was determined using the stratospheric-adjusted Pinnock curve. This value quantifies the radiative forcing exerted by COF₂ per unit increase in atmospheric mixing ratio.

Kinetic experiments conducted under controlled dry synthetic air (O₂-only) conditions and under realistic humid ambient air environments were designed to determine the e-folding lifetime of COF₂ from exponential decay behavior. The results show that hydrolysis driven by atmospheric water vapor overwhelmingly governs the decay, whereas removal via O₂-driven oxidation plays a secondary role. The measured atmospheric lifetime under dry conditions was 7.56 h, while lifetimes under low- and high-humidity ambient air conditions decreased to 54.86 min and 36.67 min, respectively. These pronounced differences in atmospheric lifetime translate directly into order-of-magnitude differences in the calculated GWP₁₀₀, with a value of 4.05×10^{-4} under dry conditions, compared with 6.82×10^{-6} and 3.16×10^{-6} under low- and high-humidity conditions, respectively. Consequently, under tropospheric conditions where water vapor is present, the resulting GWP₁₀₀ values remain well below unity and are therefore climatically insignificant.

Even when considering only reactions with O₂ and H₂O, the GWP₁₀₀ of COF₂ remains markedly lower than that of most fluorinated compounds classified as greenhouse gases. Furthermore, because CO₂ is the confirmed terminal atmospheric

degradation product, the ultimate climate impact of COF₂ emissions is effectively equivalent to that of releasing an equal molar quantity of CO₂.

Overall, this study provides the first experimentally based determination of the GWP₁₀₀ of COF₂. While its radiative efficiency was derived directly from high-quality ACS measurements, its atmospheric lifetime had not previously been quantified in a systematic experimental manner. Although the kinetic experiments were performed under controlled laboratory conditions, they clearly demonstrate that COF₂ released near the surface is removed rapidly through reactions with water vapor and oxygen, resulting in atmospheric lifetimes on the order of minutes under humid conditions. By combining experimentally determined RE and lifetime, this work shows that the resulting GWP₁₀₀ of COF₂ is negligible under typical atmospheric humidity. These findings indicate that COF₂ has minimal climate impact and is a strong candidate for use as a low-GWP alternative to high-GWP fluorinated gases in semiconductor and display chamber-cleaning processes.

Data availability

Data are available at Zenodo at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18015708>.

Author contributions

DK conceived and led the topic; designed the experimental strategy; developed the FTIR instrumentation and a measurement workflow tailored to GWP determination; performed measurements and formal analysis; and wrote the original draft. JL, as a project leader, co-conceived the project and experimental design; supervised the research as principal investigator; contributed to data interpretation; and reviewed and edited the manuscript. Both authors discussed the results and approved the final manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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