Hypervalent Iodine for \(\alpha,\alpha\)-Dihalogenation

**Significance:** Functionalization at the \(\alpha\)-position of carbonyls represents one of the most versatile and useful types of transformations in organic chemistry. In this paper, the authors describe the use of a hypervalent iodine species to doubly halogenate the \(\alpha\)-position of esters with either chlorine or fluorine.

**Comment:** While the chlorination procedure was shown to be broadly functional group tolerant, the need for \(\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{OEt}_2\) in the case of fluorination limits the possible functionality in the starting material. The authors report that substrates with labile moieties such as OMe or NHAc decompose upon heating with \(\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{OEt}_2\).