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Title: Fractionation of sulfur isotopes during heterogeneous oxidation of SO2 on sea salt aerosol: A new

tool to investigate non-sea salt sulfate production in the marine boundary layer

Authors: Sinha, B. (/jspui/browse?type=author&value=Sinha%2C+B.)

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Abstract:

The oxidation of SO2 to sulfate on sea salt aerosols in the marine environment is highly important because of its effect on the size distribution of sulfate and the potential for new particle nucleation from H2SO4 (g). However, models of the sulfur cycle are not currently able to account for the complex relationship between particle size, alkalinity, oxidation pathway and rate - which is critical as SO2 oxidation by O3 and CI catalysis are limited by aerosol alkalinity, whereas oxidation by hypohalous acids and transition metal ions can continue at low pH once alkalinity is titrated. We have measured 34S/32S fractionation factors for SO2 oxidation in sea salt, pure water and NaOCI aerosol, as well as the pH dependency of fractionation. Oxidation of SO2 by NaOCI aerosol was extremely efficient, with a reactive uptake coefficient of ~0.5, and produced sulfate that was enriched in 32S with α OCI =0.9882 \pm 0.0036 at 19 °C. Oxidation on sea salt aerosol was much less efficient than on NaOCI aerosol, suggesting alkalinity was already exhausted on the short timescale of the experiments. Measurements at pH = 2.1 and 7.2 were used to calculate fractionation factors for each step from $SO2(g) \rightarrow multiple$ steps $\rightarrow SO2-3$. Oxidation on sea salt aerosol resulted in a lower fractionation factor than expected for oxidation of SO2-3 by O3 (αseasalt = 1.0124±0.0017 at 19 °C). Comparison of the lower fractionation during oxidation on sea salt aerosol to the fractionation factor for high pH oxidation shows HOCl contributed 29% of S(IV) oxidation on sea salt in the short experimental timescale, highlighting the potential importance of hypohalous acids in the marine environment. The sulfur isotope fractionation factors measured in this study allow differentiation between the alkalinity-limited pathways – oxidation by O3 and by CI catalysis (α 34 = 1.0163±0.0018 at 19 °C in pure water or 1.0199±0.0024 at pH = 7.2) - which favour the heavy isotope, and the alkalinity non-limited pathways - oxidation by transition metal catalysis (α 34 = 0.9905±0.0031 at 19 °C, Harris et al., 2012a) and by hypohalites (α 34 = 0.9882±0.0036 at 19 °C) - which favour the light isotope. In combination with field measurements of the oxygen and sulfur isotopic composition of SO2 and sulfate, the fractionation factors presented in this paper may be capable of constraining the relative importance of different oxidation pathways in the marine boundary layer.

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