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| Title: | Sulfur isotope fractionation during heterogeneous oxidation of SO ₂ by mineral dust. |
| Authors: | Sinha, B. (/jspui/browse?type=author&value=Sinha%2C+B.) |
| Keywords: | Aerosol iron solubility Saharan dust Nitric-acid |
| Issue Date: | 2012 |
| Citation: | Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 12, pp.,4867-4884. |
| Abstract: | <p>Mineral dust is a major fraction of global atmospheric aerosol, and the oxidation of SO₂ on mineral dust has implications for cloud formation, climate and the sulfur cycle. Stable sulfur isotopes can be used to understand the different oxidation processes occurring on mineral dust. This study presents measurements of the ³⁴S/³²S fractionation factor α_{34} for oxidation of SO₂ on mineral dust surfaces and in the aqueous phase in mineral dust leachate. Sahara dust, which accounts for ~60% of global dust emissions and loading, was used for the experiments. The fractionation factor for aqueous oxidation in dust leachate is $\alpha_{34} = 0.9917 \pm 0.0046$, which is in agreement with previous measurements of aqueous SO₂ oxidation by iron solutions. This fractionation factor is representative of a radical chain reaction oxidation pathway initiated by transition metal ions. Oxidation on the dust surface at subsaturated relative humidity (RH) had an overall fractionation factor of $\alpha_{34} = 1.0096 \pm 0.0036$ and was found to be almost an order of magnitude faster when the dust was simultaneously exposed to ozone, light and RH of ~40 %. However, the presence of ozone, light and humidity did not influence isotope fractionation during oxidation on dust surfaces at subsaturated relative humidity. All the investigated reactions showed mass-dependent fractionation of ³³S relative to ³⁴S. A positive matrix factorization model was used to investigate surface oxidation on the different components of dust. Ilmenite, rutile and iron oxide were found to be the most reactive components, accounting for 85% of sulfate production with a fractionation factor of $\alpha_{34} = 1.012 \pm 0.010$. This overlaps within the analytical uncertainty with the fractionation of other major atmospheric oxidation pathways such as the oxidation of SO₂ by H₂O₂ and O₃ in the aqueous phase and OH in the gas phase. Clay minerals accounted for roughly 12% of the sulfate production, and oxidation on clay minerals resulted in a very distinct fractionation factor of $\alpha_{34} = 1.085 \pm 0.013$. The fractionation factors measured in this study will be particularly useful in combination with field and modelling studies to understand the role of surface oxidation on clay minerals and aqueous oxidation by mineral dust and its leachate in global and regional sulfur cycles.</p> |
| Description: | Only IISERM authors are available in the record. |
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