

Heterogeneous oxidation of carbonyl sulfide on mineral oxides

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Heterogeneous oxidation of carbonyl sulfide (OCS) on mineral oxides including SiO₂, Fe₂O₃, CaO, MgO, ZnO and TiO₂, which are the main components of atmospheric particles, were investigated using *in situ* diffuse reflectance infrared Fourier transform spectroscopy (*in situ* DRIFTS), ion chromatography (IC), temperature-programmed desorption (TPD), X-ray diffraction (XRD) and Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) methods. The main products and intermediates of the heterogeneous oxidation of OCS on these oxides were identified with *in situ* DRIFTS and IC. The reaction mechanism and kinetics were also discussed. It is found that the reaction mechanism on these mineral oxides is the same as that on Al₂O₃ for the same final products and the intermediates at room temperature. Namely, OCS can be catalytically oxidized to produce surface SO₄²⁻ species and gaseous CO₂ through the surface hydrogen thiocarbonate (HSCO₂⁻) and HSO₃⁻ species. The activity series for heterogeneous oxidation of OCS follows: Al₂O₃ ≈ CaO > MgO > TiO₂ ≈ ZnO > Fe₂O₃ > SiO₂. The specific area, basic hydroxyl and surface basicity of these oxides have effect on the reactivity. This study suggests that heterogeneous reactions of OCS on mineral dust may be an unneglectable sink of OCS.

carbonyl sulfide, mineral oxides, sulfate, heterogeneous reaction, *in situ* DRIFTS

Carbonyl sulfide (OCS) is one of the most abundant sulfur containing species in the atmosphere. It is relatively inert in the troposphere^[1,2] and can be transported into stratosphere, where its photolysis is the important source of stratospheric sulfate aerosol^[1-4]. It has been deduced by Crutzen^[3] that OCS contributes to the stratospheric sulfate aerosol during volcanically quiescent periods. Sulfate aerosol has an important influence on the visibility in the low troposphere, the Earth's radiation balance and global climate as well as stratospheric ozone chemistry^[1-3,5,6]. Therefore, much attention has been given to the sources and sinks of OCS.

According to the estimation of Watts in 2000, there exists a large discrepancy between the known sources and sinks of OCS^[4]. This suggests there may be an uncertainty for sources or sinks of OCS. In recent years, the heterogeneous reaction on atmospheric particles in troposphere has attracted much interest due to its significant effect on the formation of ozone hole and the

cycles of nitrogen and sulfur in the atmosphere^[7]. On the other hand, the ubiquitous atmospheric particles have a large specific surface area. It is not only the support for pollutants in the course of transportation but also the supplier of reactive surface for atmospheric chemistry^[8]. The arid and semi-arid areas of China are important source areas of mineral oxides in the world^[9]. Atmospheric particles originating from soil dust, road dust, sea salts, etc. consist of oxides of silicon, aluminum and calcium, etc.^[10,11]. The surface hydroxyl^[12] or active oxygen species formed by adsorption of gaseous water or oxygen on the mineral oxides may be taken as the reactive sites for heterogeneous reactions of OCS to affect its sinks. On the other hand, it is helpful to under-

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standing the transformation and the fate of trace gases to investigate the heterogeneous reaction on particles^[13].

Unfortunately, little is known about the heterogeneous reactions of OCS on mineral oxides and authentic atmospheric particles. Wu et al.^[14] have reported the reaction mechanism of OCS on typical components of atmospheric aerosols with Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and X-ray photoelectron spectrograph (XPS). CO₂ (g), S (s) and SO₄²⁻ (s) were identified as gaseous and surface products, respectively. In our previous work, the reaction mechanism of OCS on Al₂O₃ was investigated in detail^[15]. At ambient temperature, hydrogen thiocarbonate (HSCO₂⁻) was found to be a key intermediate formed by the reaction of OCS with surface hydroxyl. HSO₃⁻ (s), SO₄²⁻ (s) and CO₂ (g) were also identified with *in situ* diffuse reflectance infrared Fourier transform spectroscopy (*in situ* DRIFTS). In this study, SiO₂, Fe₂O₃, CaO, MgO, ZnO, TiO₂, α-Al₂O₃ and γ-Al₂O₃ were chosen as the model oxides for authentic atmospheric particles to further investigate the heterogeneous reaction of OCS in atmosphere. The reaction mechanism, final products and kinetics were studied with DRIFTS and ion chromatograph (IC). It should be helpful to further understanding the chemical cycles of OCS in the atmosphere.

1 Experiment

1.1 Materials

Carbonyl sulfide (OCS, 2%, OCS/N₂) was supplied by Scott Specialty Gases Inc. and the content of H₂S and SO₂ is lower than the detection limit of GC and MS. CO₂ (99.995%) was supplied by Haipu Gases Inc. in Beijing. N₂ and O₂ (99.999%) were from Beijing AP BEIFEN Gases Inc.

SiO₂, Al₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, CaO, MgO, ZnO, and TiO₂ were chosen as model oxides for atmospheric particles in Beijing according to the X-ray fluorescent photometer (XRF) analysis results^[15]. In order to obtain high signal to noise ratio (S/N) to better understand the reaction mechanism, the reaction of OCS on γ-Al₂O₃ with high specific surface area was investigated, while the surface area of other samples is close to that of authentic atmospheric particles. γ-Al₂O₃ and α-Al₂O₃ were prepared through calcining AlOOH (Shandong Alumina Corporation) at 873 and 1473 K for 3 h, respectively. All

of the other oxides are of analytic purity grade, such as SiO₂ and TiO₂ (Beijing Yili Fine Chemicals Co. Ltd), Fe₂O₃ (Beijing Nanshang Chemicals Factory), CaO and ZnO (Shantou Nongxi Chemicals Factory Guangdong), and MgO (Tianjin Hangu Haizhong Chemicals Factory).

1.2 *In situ* DRIFTS experiment

In situ DRIFTS spectra under reaction condition were recorded on a NEXUS 670 (Thermo Nicolet Instrument Corporation) FT-IR, equipped with an *in situ* diffuse reflection chamber and a high sensitivity mercury cadmium telluride (MCT) detector cooled by liquid N₂. The temperature, pressure and concentration of reactant in reactor chamber can be controlled precisely by mass flow, temperature and vacuum controller system, respectively.

The concentration of OCS in simulated air (79% N₂ and 21% O₂) was 500 ppm and the total flow rate of feed gases was 100 mL·min⁻¹ for all of the flow reaction systems. The temperature was kept at 298 K. The sample (> 200 meshes) was pretreated in pure O₂ at 573 K for 3 h to remove the surface organics, and then was exposed to simulated air at 298 K until a steady state was established for reference spectrum collection. The absorbance bands of gaseous water were also subtracted in reference spectrum. The infrared spectra for surface species were collected and analyzed by a computer with OMNIC 6.0 software in the range of 650–4000 cm⁻¹. All the spectra reported here were recorded at a resolution of 4 cm⁻¹ for 100 scans.

The kinetic study was performed in a closed system with *in situ* DRIFTS. The volume of reactor chamber is approximately 30 cm³. The reactant gas was introduced into reactor chamber for 5 min with the flow rate of 100 mL·min⁻¹, and then the inlet and outlet were closed promptly. In order to investigate the surface species and final products, the experiments in flow system were performed to obtain high signal to noise ratio.

1.3 Calibration curve of the gaseous OCS concentration

A series of *in situ* DRIFTS spectra at a steady state were recorded at 298 K in flow system with various concentrations of OCS (0–3000 ppm). The integrated areas of the absorption peak of gaseous OCS at 2071 and 2052 cm⁻¹ have a linear correlation with the concentration of OCS gas (*R* is 0.9999). The concentration of gaseous

OCS was determined by measuring the *in situ* DRIFTS spectra peak areas of gaseous OCS.

1.4 Determining sulfate with ion chromatograph

The yield of sulfate was determined using an ion chromatograph consisting of a pretreatment column (IonPac AG14A-SC, 4 mm, Dionex, CA), a separator (AS14A-SC, 4 mm, Dionex, CA), a suppressor (ASRS-ULTRA, 4 mm Dionex, CA) and a pulse electronic chemical detector (Dionex, CA). The analytic procedure was described as follows: $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3/\text{NaHCO}_3$ ($3.5 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}/1 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) was used as eluting solution. The flow rate of eluting solution was $1.2 \text{ mL} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ and the injection volume was $25 \mu\text{L}$. The concentration of sulfate has a linear correlation with integrated area of IC peak in the range of $1\text{--}40 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ (R is 0.9997). 1.0 g SiO_2 sample pretreated at 573 K was exposed to 500 ppm OCS in simulated air with a flow rate of $100 \text{ mL} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ ($W/F = 0.18 \text{ g} \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3}$, $GHSV = 5000 \text{ h}^{-1}$) at 298 K for 3 h . And then, the sulfate formed by heterogeneous reactions was supersonically extracted with 100.00 mL deionized water for 30 min . The concentration of sulfate in filtrate with a $0.45\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ filter was analyzed with ion chromatograph.

1.5 Techniques of characterization

Specific surface area was measured with a Micromeritics ASAP 2000 automatic equipment.

The X-ray powder diffraction pattern was collected from 10° to 90° 2θ on a D/max-RB automatic powder X-ray diffractometer using $\text{Cu K}\alpha$ irradiation.

The total basicity of oxides was determined with CO_2 -temperature-programmed desorption (CO_2 -TPD). The TPD equipment consists of a temperature-programmed tube oven and a quadrupole mass spectrometer (QMS, Hiden HPRO 210). $0.1000\text{--}0.5000 \text{ g}$ oxide samples were pretreated in O_2 at 573 K for 3 h , and then exposed to 99.995% CO_2 at 303 K for saturation (about 1 h). Subsequently, the sample was purged with high purity He at 303 K to remove the physically adsorbed CO_2 until the steady state was established for MS signal (about 1.5 h). Temperature-programmed desorption was performed in a He gas flow of $30 \text{ mL} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ from 303 to 1123 K at $20 \text{ K} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$. The total base content of the oxides was denoted with integrated area of QMS signal for desorbed CO_2 .

2 Results and discussion

2.1 Characterization for samples

The BET and XRD results are shown in Table 1. Except for $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$, the specific surface area of all the other oxides is close to that of authentic atmospheric particles. As can be seen in Figure 1, all of these oxides show a good crystallinity. CaO sample contains a small amount of $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$, which means it has a strong hygroscopicity. The crystal structure, components and the three main peaks are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Specific surface area and components of mineral oxides

| Sample | S_{BET} ($\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$) | Component | 2θ |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| SiO_2 | 4.80 | Quartz | 26.5, 20.8, 50.0 |
| Fe_2O_3 | 2.74 | hematite | 33.2, 35.7, 54.1 |
| CaO | 6.08 | Lime ($\text{CaO} + \text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$) | 37.3, 53.8, 32.2 34.1, 18.0, 50.9 |
| MgO | 14.59 | periclase | 42.9, 62.3, 78.6 |
| ZnO | 2.75 | spartalite | 36.2, 31.7, 34.3 |
| TiO_2 | 12.74 | anatase | 25.3, 48.0, 37.7 |
| $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ | 12 | corundum | 35.0, 43.0, 57.0 |
| $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ | 277 | $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ | 13.8, 28.2, 38.6 |

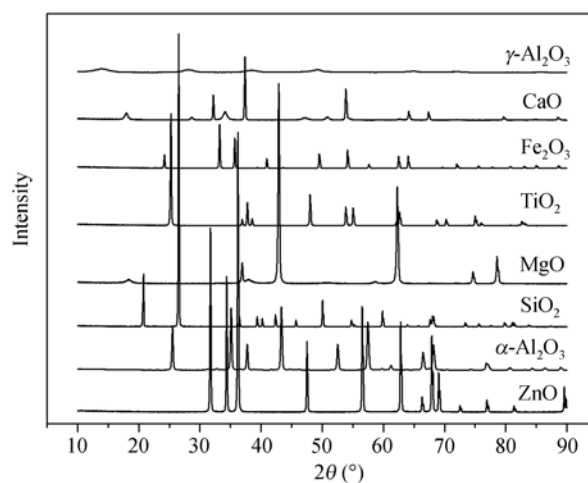


Figure 1 XRD patterns of the mineral oxides.

2.2 Heterogeneous reactions of OCS on the oxides in flow system

2.2.1 Heterogeneous reaction of OCS on SiO_2 . The *in situ* DRIFTS spectra for SiO_2 at 298 K are shown in Figure 2 when exposed to 500 ppm OCS in air with $100 \text{ mL} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$. The consumption of surface hydroxyl at 3709 cm^{-1} ^[16,17] was observed within 3 h , accompanying with an increase of the intensity of hydrogen thiocarbonate (HSCO_2^- , the key intermediate) at 1574 cm^{-1} ^[18,19]. However, it is incredible for surface sulfate

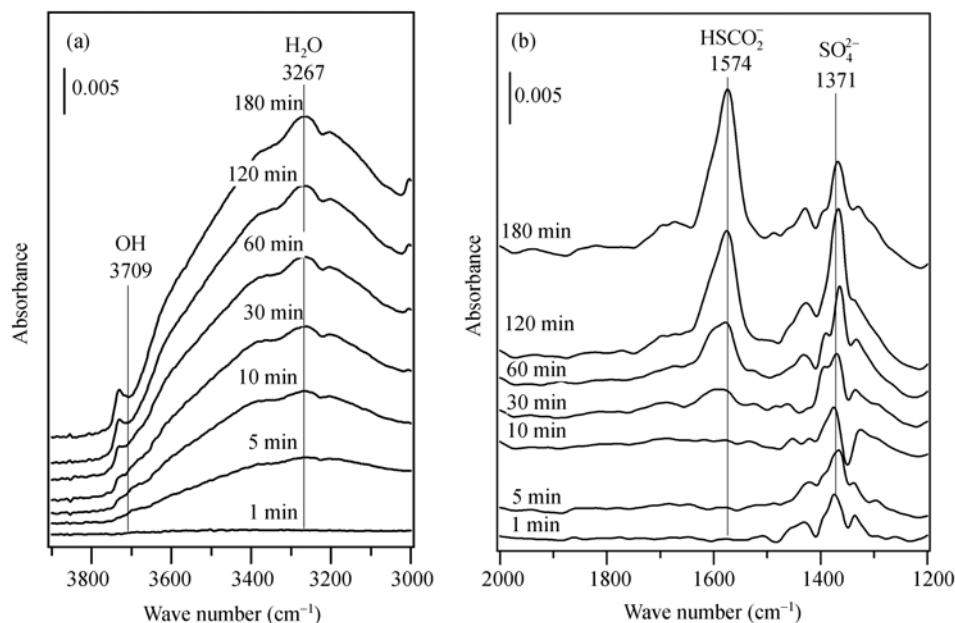


Figure 2 *In situ* DRIFTS spectra of 500 ppm OCS in air on SiO₂ at 298 K. (a) In the range of 3000–3900 cm⁻¹; (b) in the range of 1200–2000 cm⁻¹.

species at 1371 cm⁻¹ [20–22] because of the low signal to noise ratio due to the strong absorbance of SiO₂ itself in the range of 1300–1400 cm⁻¹. Therefore, ion chromatograph was used to affirm whether SO₄²⁻ was formed on SiO₂. After 1.0 g SiO₂ was exposed to 500 ppm OCS in air at 100 mL·min⁻¹ for 3 h, the surface sulfate increased by 0.093 mg·g⁻¹ when blank value was subtracted. It suggests that heterogeneous reaction takes place on SiO₂ and sulfate is one of the final products.

2.2.2 Heterogeneous reaction of OCS on CaO. As shown in Figure 3, the dominant surface species include bicarbonate (HCO₃⁻, 1670 and 1637 cm⁻¹) and sulfate (SO₄²⁻, 1348 cm⁻¹) for heterogeneous reaction of OCS on CaO. Carbonate (1529 and 850 cm⁻¹) [23,24] and sulfite (1085 and 945 cm⁻¹) [22,25] were also observed. The intensity of these products increases with increasing exposure time. The weak bands at 1902 and 1882 cm⁻¹ were assigned to physically adsorbed OCS [18,19]. It should be noted that the decrease of surface hydroxyl was not clear (shown in Figure 3(a)), while the increase of surface products is very obvious. This contradiction can be ascribed to the adsorption of water to compensate the consumed hydroxyl, which was confirmed by the increase of bands at 3427 and 3143 cm⁻¹ of water in intensity. Furthermore, the strong hygroscopic ability for CaO was also approved by the presence of small amount of Ca(OH)₂ identified by XRD.

The heterogeneous reactions of OCS on MgO and ZnO resemble that on CaO. Surface species including HSCO₂⁻, HCO₃⁻, CO₃²⁻, HSO₃⁻, SO₃²⁻ and SO₄²⁻ were observed. The strong hygroscopic ability of ZnO also leads to little consumption of surface hydroxyl species as shown Figure 3.

2.2.3 Heterogeneous reaction of OCS on TiO₂. Figure 4 shows the *in situ* DRIFTS spectra of heterogeneous reaction of OCS on TiO₂. The distinct decrease of surface hydroxyl (3736 and 3670 cm⁻¹) and the increase of the key intermediate, HSCO₂⁻ (1540 cm⁻¹), were observed, whereas the intensity of surface HCO₃⁻ (1466 cm⁻¹) and SO₄²⁻ (1389 and 1146 cm⁻¹) did not increase obviously. The formation of HSCO₂⁻ accompanying with consumption of surface hydroxyl suggests that the heterogeneous reaction on TiO₂ occurred, while the further oxidation of HSCO₂⁻ to form HCO₃⁻ and SO₄²⁻ was very slow.

2.2.4 Heterogeneous reaction of OCS on Fe₂O₃. The heterogeneous reactivity of OCS on Fe₂O₃ is very weak as shown in Figure 5. However, the decrease of surface hydroxyl at 3712 and 3658 cm⁻¹ and the increase of hydrogen thiocarbonate at 1541 cm⁻¹ demonstrate that the reaction occurred. The peaks of HCO₃⁻ (1649 and 1396 cm⁻¹), SO₄²⁻ (1367 and 1128 cm⁻¹), HSO₃⁻ (1246

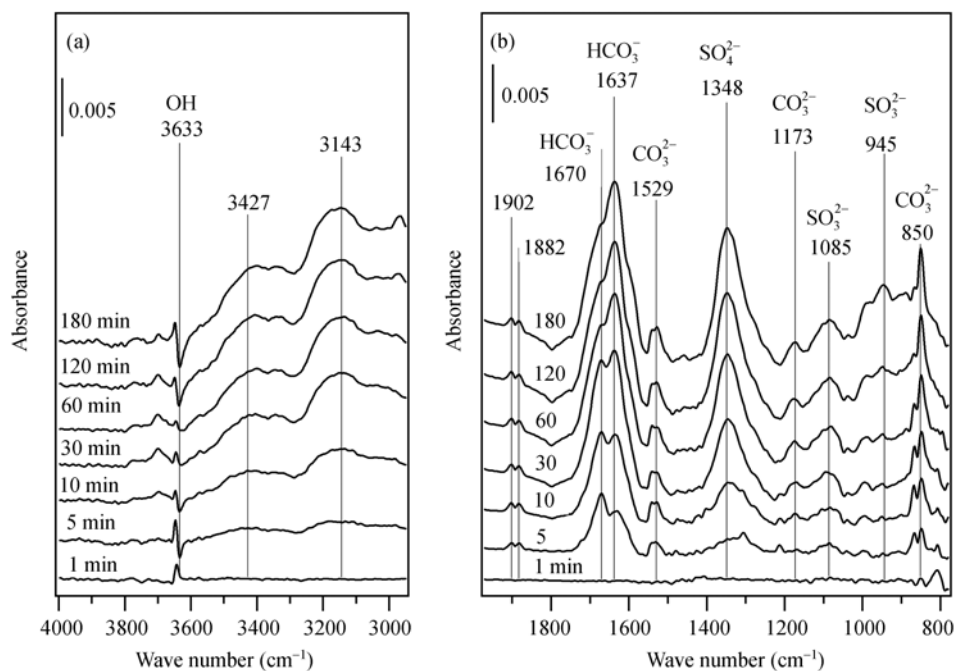


Figure 3 *In situ* DRIFTS spectra of 500 ppm OCS in air on CaO at 298 K. (a) In the range of 2950–4000 cm^{-1} ; (b) in the range of 800–1950 cm^{-1} .

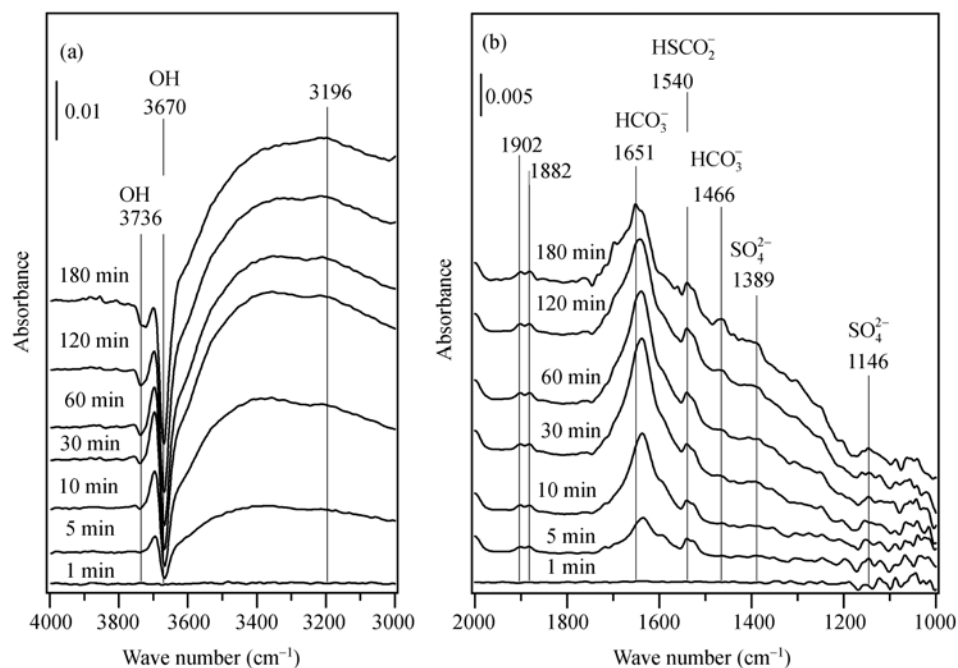


Figure 4 *In situ* DRIFTS spectra of 500 ppm OCS in air on TiO_2 at 298 K. (a) In the range of 3000–4000 cm^{-1} ; (b) in the range of 1000–2000 cm^{-1} .

cm^{-1}) and SO_3^{2-} (1038 cm^{-1}) also increased slowly with increasing exposure time.

2.2.5 Comparison of heterogeneous reactions for OCS on different oxides. The products for heterogeneous reactions of OCS on the above oxides are enumerated in Table 2. Obviously, the heterogeneous reactions could take place on all of these oxides at ambient temperature.

The consumption of surface hydroxyl and the formation of sulfate were observed. It should be noted that the frequency for consumed hydroxyl on these oxides is nearby 3700 cm^{-1} , which belongs to basic hydroxyl^[26]. The key intermediate, surface HSCO_2^- , was observed on TiO_2 , Fe_2O_3 and SiO_2 due to the weak reactivity. Sulfites (HSO_3^- and SO_3^{2-}) were also observed on MgO

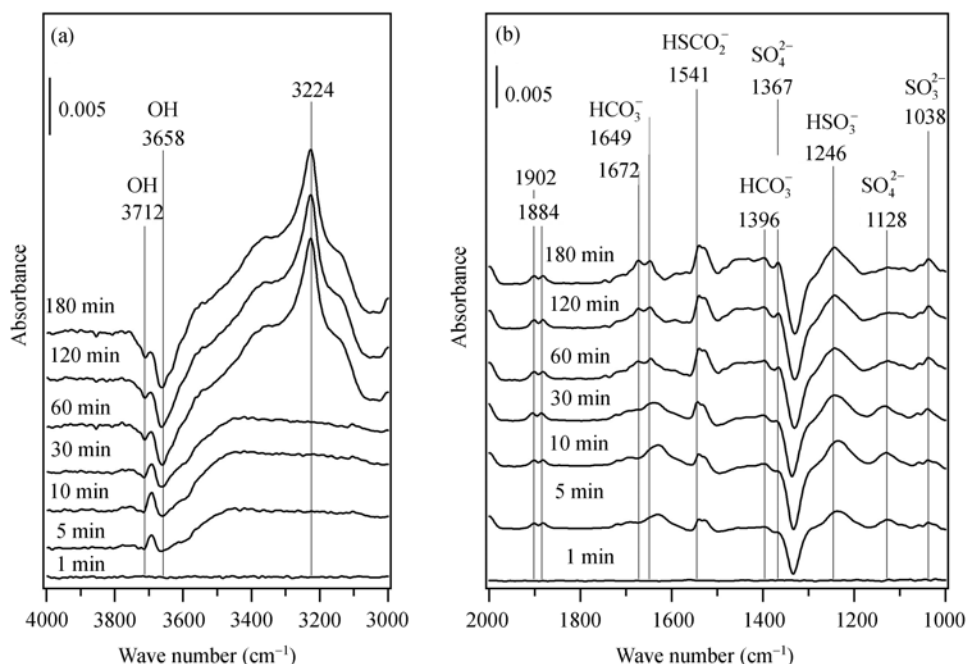


Figure 5 *In situ* DRIFTS spectra of 500 ppm OCS in air on Fe_2O_3 at 298 K. (a) In the range of $3000\text{--}4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$; (b) in the range of $1000\text{--}2000\text{ cm}^{-1}$.

Table 2 Products for heterogeneous reactions of OCS on model oxides

| Oxide | Physical adsorbed OCS | HS^- | HSCO_2^- | HSO_3^- | SO_3^{2-} | SO_4^{2-} | HCO_3^- | CO_3^{2-} |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| SiO_2 | × | × | √ | × | × | √ | × | × |
| MgO | × | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| CaO | √ | × | × | × | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| ZnO | √ | × | × | × | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| TiO_2 | √ | × | √ | × | × | √ | √ | × |
| Fe_2O_3 | √ | × | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | × |
| Al_2O_3 | × | × | √ | √ | × | √ | √ | × |

√: Observed; ×: not observed.

and Fe_2O_3 . Therefore, it can be deduced that the reaction mechanism of OCS on these oxides should be the same as that on Al_2O_3 because there are the same intermediate and final products. Additionally, the reactivity for OCS on these oxides is in the sequence as follows: CaO , MgO > ZnO , TiO_2 > Fe_2O_3 > SiO_2 , which is consistent with the basicity of oxides. The reaction of OCS on CaO is very fast, while little surface hydroxyl has been consumed. It can be ascribed to the strong hygroscopic ability of CaO and the strong basicity.

2.3 Kinetics of heterogeneous reactions for OCS on model oxides

As discussed in the above section, there is a distinct discrepancy for heterogeneous reactivity of OCS on these oxides. Therefore, the kinetics of heterogeneous reactions of OCS on different oxides in close system was studied in particular. Figure 6 shows the change of con-

centration of gaseous OCS with time over different oxides. After the preoxidized oxide samples were exposed to 500 ppm of OCS in air at $100\text{ mL}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ for 5 min, the inlet and outlet of the reactor chamber were closed at the same time, and then the gaseous concentration of OCS was measured with *in situ* DRIFTS online.

Strictly speaking, heterogeneous uptake including adsorption and heterogeneous reaction leads to the loss of gaseous OCS. However, it is simply described as heterogeneous reaction in the following section. Figure 6 shows that the concentration of gaseous OCS in reactor chamber decreased quickly with time over CaO , $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ and MgO in a closed system. The conversion of OCS is greater than 90% within 1 h for these three oxides. The reaction rate of OCS on TiO_2 , ZnO and Fe_2O_3 is much slower than that on the former three oxides, while the consumption of OCS is still perceptible. However, the

conversion of OCS on SiO₂ and α -Al₂O₃ is almost the same as that on background (gold mirror) which means the weak reactivity.

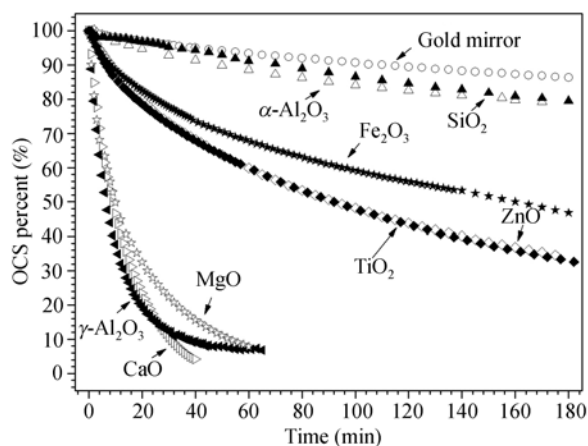


Figure 6 Changes of OCS concentration with time in a closed system at 298 K.

The changes of OCS on these oxide accord with quasi-first order reaction within 1 h. The kinetic parameters are shown in Table 3. The observed reaction rate follows: γ -Al₂O₃ \approx CaO > MgO > TiO₂ \approx ZnO > Fe₂O₃ > α -Al₂O₃ \approx SiO₂. It should be noted that there exists large gapes between specific surface areas of different oxide samples, which may greatly affect the heterogeneous reaction. For example, it is 277 m²·g⁻¹ for γ -Al₂O₃ while it is only 2.75 m²·g⁻¹ for ZnO and Fe₂O₃. And the observed reaction rate of OCS on γ -Al₂O₃ is about 10 times that on ZnO and Fe₂O₃. However, the specific surface area of γ -Al₂O₃ is 50 times that of CaO, while the observed reaction rate on them is almost equivalent. This means some other factors, such as content of surface hydroxyl and surface basicity of oxides, etc. should also be taken into account. In Table 3, it is observed that the stronger the basicity of oxides, the larger

the observed reaction rate. For example, the specific surface area of MgO is the same as that of TiO₂, so do for ZnO and Fe₂O₃, whereas the reaction rate of OCS on MgO and ZnO is greater than that on TiO₂ and Fe₂O₃, respectively.

He et al. [27] have reported that the first step for heterogeneous reaction of OCS on Al₂O₃ is the attack of carbon atom with positive charge ($\delta^+ = 0.11$) [21] by surface hydroxyl. Therefore, the reaction rates should be affected by the basicity or nucleophilicity of surface hydroxyl on oxides. The basicity and total base content were measured by CO₂-TPD to understand the relationship between the reactivities of OCS on oxides and the basicities of oxides. As shown in Figure 7, the desorption temperature of CO₂ for different oxides follows the order of CaO > MgO > γ -Al₂O₃ > ZnO, TiO₂, Fe₂O₃, SiO₂, which is in accordance with the basicity and reaction activity approximately. It suggests that the heterogeneous reactions of OCS on these oxides belong to base-catalyzed reaction and can be explained by Brønsted rule [28]. Figure 8 shows the total base content of per gram oxide sample representing the number of base site on oxide surface. The order of base site number on these oxides is: CaO > MgO > γ -Al₂O₃ > ZnO > TiO₂ > Fe₂O₃

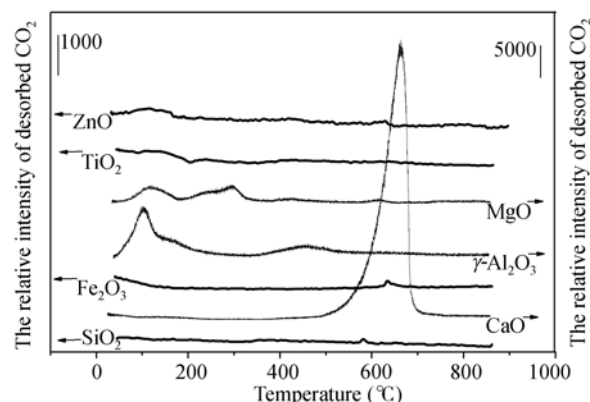


Figure 7 CO₂-TPD spectra for oxides after saturated CO₂ adsorption.

Table 3 Reaction rates for OCS on different oxides

| Oxide | Specific area (m ² ·g ⁻¹) | Observed reaction rate (s ⁻¹) | Half time (min) | Correlation coefficient | Conversion % (30 min) | Conversion % (3 h) | Specific reaction rate (g·s ⁻¹ ·m ⁻²) |
|--|--|---|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Gold mirror | — | 2.0×10 ⁻⁵ | — | — | 3.6 | 13.7 | — |
| CaO | 6.10 | 1.2×10 ⁻³ | 9.6 | 0.9994 | 89.4 | — | 2.0×10 ⁻⁴ |
| MgO | 14.59 | 8.0×10 ⁻⁴ | 14.4 | 0.9969 | 77.6 | — | 5.5×10 ⁻⁵ |
| SiO ₂ | 4.80 | 4.0×10 ⁻⁵ | 289 | 0.9968 | 4.7 | 21.6 | 8.3×10 ⁻⁵ |
| ZnO | 2.75 | 2.0×10 ⁻⁴ | 57.8 | 0.9936 | 27.8 | 67.4 | 3.3×10 ⁻⁶ |
| Fe ₂ O ₃ | 2.74 | 1.0×10 ⁻⁴ | 116 | 0.9475 | 22.2 | 53.2 | 3.7×10 ⁻⁵ |
| TiO ₂ | 12.74 | 2.0×10 ⁻⁴ | 57.8 | 0.9907 | 26.8 | 65.4 | 1.6×10 ⁻⁵ |
| α -Al ₂ O ₃ | 12.0 | 5.0×10 ⁻⁵ | 231 | 0.9892 | 7.2 | 22.0 | 4.2×10 ⁻⁶ |
| γ -Al ₂ O ₃ | 277 | 1.3×10 ⁻³ | 8.9 | 0.9991 | 87.7 | — | 4.7×10 ⁻⁶ |

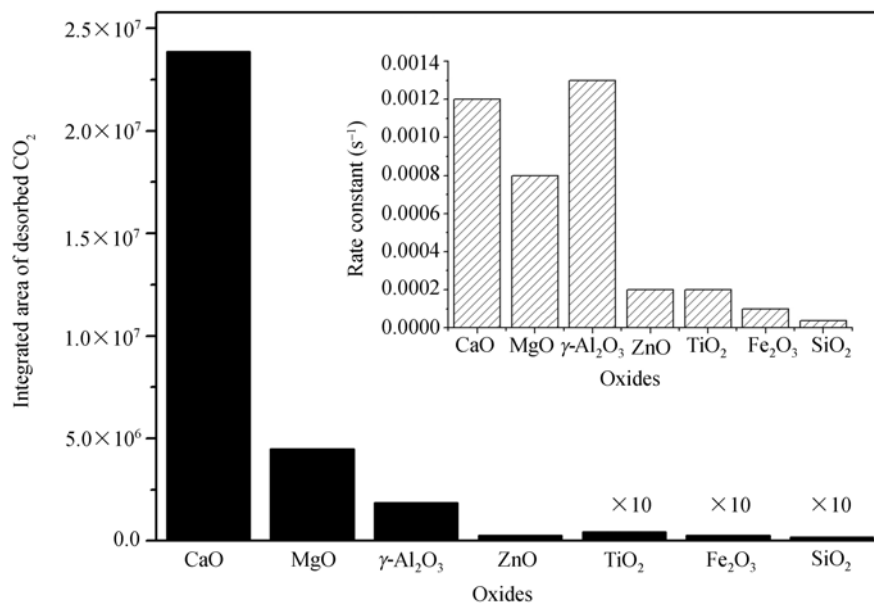


Figure 8 Content of surface basicity of oxides. Insert graph indicates the reaction rate constants of OCS on corresponding oxides.

> SiO₂. And that of CaO is much greater than the other oxides. Therefore, the high reactivity of OCS on CaO can be ascribed to its high base content although a little surface hydroxyl is consumed in reaction (Figure 3(a)). The insert graph in Figure 8 also shows the observed rate constants of OCS on different oxides. Obviously, besides γ-Al₂O₃, the reaction activity sequence resembles the base content of oxides. When treated with Brönsted rule, the logarithm of the catalysis factor, $\log k_b$ ($k_b = k/B$, the ratio of observed rate constant and total base content per gram oxide), is linearly correlated to pK_b of oxides for CaO, MgO and γ-Al₂O₃^[21] (the pK_b value for other oxides cannot be obtained). The fitting result is shown in Figure 9 and the linearly dependent coefficient is 0.9947. This means the reaction rate of OCS on oxides is determined by the basicity of oxides and the reaction mechanism on these oxides should be similar to that on Al₂O₃.

It should be noted that the catalysis or absorption of OCS by interior surface of reactor chamber cannot be avoided in our experiment. On the other hand, it is difficult to obtain the initial reaction rate because the oxide samples must be exposed to reactant gas in flow system for about 5 min to reach a certain concentration. Therefore, it is necessary to improve experimental method to decrease system error and properly choose oxide samples with similar specific surface area to better understand the reaction activity of OCS on mineral oxides.

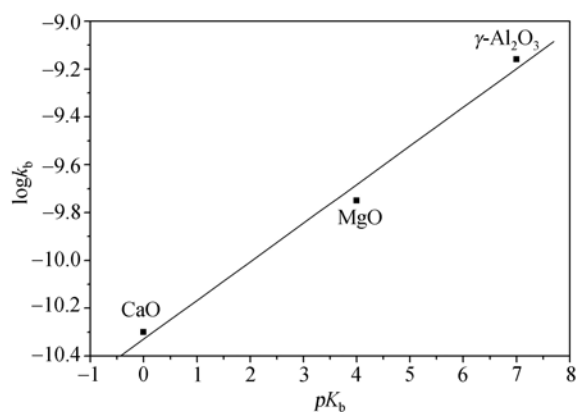


Figure 9 Correlation between catalysis coefficient and basicity of oxides.

3 Conclusion

This study reveals that OCS can be oxidized on mineral oxides in air to produce surface SO_4^{2-} and gaseous CO₂ at ambient temperature. The surface $HSCO_2^-$ was identified to be a key intermediate on TiO₂, Fe₂O₃ and SiO₂. The intermediate product, surface HSO_3^- , was also observed on MgO and Fe₂O₃. The reaction mechanism of OCS on these mineral oxides is the same as that on Al₂O₃ and authentic atmospheric particles reported in our previous work. The reaction activity of OCS on these oxides is in the sequence of γ-Al₂O₃ ≈ CaO > MgO > TiO₂ ≈ ZnO > Fe₂O₃ > α-Al₂O₃ > SiO₂. It is found that the reactivity was affected by the surface area and surface basicity of oxides. As for the oxides with equivalent

surface area, the reaction activity is determined by basicity. Therefore, the basic components of authentic atmospheric particles may contribute to the heterogeneous oxidation of OCS in the atmosphere. The heterogeneous reactions of OCS on mineral oxides should be considered in model study. Of course, in order to obtain high signal to noise ratio, 500 ppm of OCS was used in ex-

periment that is much higher than that in the real atmosphere. However, the reaction mechanism under experimental condition is still reasonable and credible. Although the kinetic parameters cannot be used in model study directly, the general law for reaction rate and basicity is helpful to better understanding the heterogeneous reactions of OCS on atmospheric particles.

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