

Detection of Reactive Oxygen Species (OH, HO₂, H₂O₂) in the Vicinity of Photocatalytic Surfaces Using Laser Based Spectroscopy

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TiO₂ photocatalysis has been established as an efficient method that can generate various reactive oxygen species (ROS) under ambient condition. TiO₂ photoactivates H₂O and O₂ to generate ROS like OH, HO₂, O₂⁻, H₂O₂, and ¹O₂, all of which are successfully demonstrated to be produced. The oxidative power of the photogenerated ROS provides the basis on which TiO₂ photocatalysis can be applied to the oxidation of various contaminants present in water and air. It is believed that the ROS are formed on the surface of the catalyst, and that the photocatalytic degradation occurs when these adsorbed ROS species react with adsorbed organic compounds. However, several authors have found indirect evidence of the diffusion of ROS into the gas phase. My research group is specialized in the detection of radical species in the gas phase using spectroscopic methods with the goal of studying gas phase chemistry related to atmospheric or combustion processes. We have applied our tools to the detection of radicals in the vicinity of photocatalytic surfaces. I will present the results obtained by two different techniques:

- Laser Induces Fluorescence (LIF) for the direct detection of OH radicals and the indirect detection of H₂O₂ molecules and
- continuous wave Cavity Ring Down Spectroscopy (cw-CRDS) for the direct, absolute detection of H₂O₂ molecules and HO₂ radicals.

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