
Contents

Contents	v
1 Introduction	1
2 Radical photochemistry in the troposphere	5
2.1 Oxidation of volatile organic compounds	5
2.2 Ozone formation	8
3 Techniques for peroxy radical measurements	11
3.1 Devices for laboratory studies	11
3.1.1 Proton Transfer Reaction Mass Spectrometry	11
3.1.2 Cavity Ringdown Spectroscopy	13
3.2 Matrix Isolation Electron Spin Resonance Spectroscopy (MIESR)	13
3.3 Chemical amplifier systems	14
3.3.1 Peroxy Radical Chemical Amplifier (PERCA)	16
3.3.2 Peroxy Radical Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometry (PerCIMS, ROxMas)	17
3.4 Laser-induced fluorescence	18
4 RO₂ measurement using LIF-technique	21
4.1 Measurement principle	21
4.2 Experimental setup	24
4.3 Determination of the OH fluorescence signal	29
4.4 Determination of the RO _x and HO _x concentrations	31
4.5 Chemical model of the radical conversion	35
4.5.1 Reaction mechanism	35
4.5.2 Analytical model	39
4.5.3 Numerical model	43
4.6 Model description of the fluorescence detection sensitivity	44
4.7 Characterization of the instrument	47
4.7.1 Reaction time	47
4.7.2 Dependence on temperature and pressure	51
4.7.3 Wall loss reactions	51
4.7.4 Dependence of the conversion efficiency on NO	53
4.7.5 Dependence of the conversion efficiency on CO	55
4.7.6 Absolute detection sensitivities for CH ₃ O ₂ and HO ₂ radicals	56

4.7.7	Sensitivity to different RO ₂ radicals	57
4.7.8	Sensitivity dependence on water vapor content	59
4.7.9	Photolytic interferences	61
4.7.10	Possible chemical interferences	62
4.8	Error discussion and detection limit	64
4.9	Comparison with other measurement systems	67
5	Calibration of the instrument	69
5.1	The radical source	69
5.2	OH-HO ₂ radical concentration ratio	74
5.3	The calibration procedure	78
6	Measurements at the simulation chamber SAPHIR	83
6.1	The atmosphere simulation chamber SAPHIR	83
6.1.1	Characteristics of the chamber	83
6.1.2	Instrumentation	85
6.2	Description of model calculations	86
6.3	Reaction of OH with methane	87
6.3.1	Description of the experiment	87
6.3.2	Model calculations	89
6.3.3	Experimental results	90
6.3.4	Comparison with model results	90
6.4	Ozonolysis of 1-butene	94
6.4.1	Description of the experiment	94
6.4.2	Model calculations	95
6.4.3	Experimental results	98
6.4.4	Comparison with model results	101
6.5	Comparison between MIESR, LIF and modeled data	104
7	Ambient Air Measurements	109
7.1	The HO _x Comp campaign	109
7.2	Measurement results	110
8	Conclusions	119
	Bibliography	123
A	The absorption spectrum of OH	135
B	List of abbreviations	137