

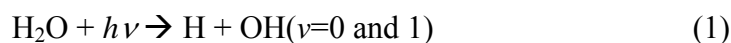
Formation of oxygen molecules following vacuum ultraviolet photodissociation of amorphous solid water

T. Hama,¹ M. Yokoyama,² A. Yabushita,² and M. Kawasaki,²

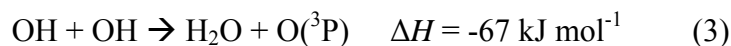
¹*Institute of Low Temperature Science, Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060-0819, Japan.*

²*Department of Molecular Engineering, Kyoto University, Kyoto 615-8510, Japan*

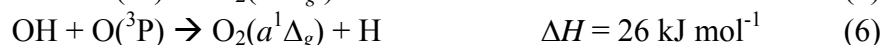
The effect of radiation on water ice has intrigued many scientists in the fields of interstellar chemistry and planetary ice science as well as reaction dynamics, since water is the predominant component of interstellar icy grain mantles in dense molecular clouds and small solar system bodies such as comets. Oxygen molecule is known to be a product when water ice is irradiated with photons, electrons, or with energetic ions. These experimental studies indicate that VUV photodissociation of amorphous solid water (ASW) leads to secondary reactions that result in molecular oxygen formation on or in ASW. Photodissociation of H₂O in the first absorption band of water ice (130–165 nm) involves mainly two primary processes.



For the electronically ground O(³P) production, two different formation mechanisms were proposed: the exothermic recombination reaction of OH, and the photodissociation of OH on the ASW surface.[1]



From the fact that OH($\nu=0$ and 1) and O(³P) are formed with large excess energy via reactions (1), (3) and (4), O₂(X³Σ_g⁻) and O₂(a¹Δ_g) can be produced via subsequent reactions (5) and (6) in the 157 nm photolysis of ASW.[2]



Measurements of the translational and internal energy distributions of the photoproducts generated from photodissociation of ASW allow assessment of possible secondary reactions on/in ASW from reaction dynamics point of view. In the present work, we have investigated the kinetic and internal energy distributions of O₂(X³Σ_g⁻, $\nu=0$) and O₂(a¹Δ_g, $\nu=0$) following 157 nm photodissociation of ASW at 90 K using the resonance-enhanced multiphoton-ionization (REMPI) method.[3]

References

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- [3] T. Hama, M. Yokoyama, A. Yabushita, and M. Kawasaki, *J. Chem. Phys.* (2010) in press.