

In-situ infrared spectroscopic observations of sulfate surface

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<<In-situ infrared spectroscopic observations of sulfate surface complexation on ferrihydrite>>

Adsorption of solute to the surface of metal oxide is an important process that can control the mobility and solute concentration in natural water. Adsorption behavior of solute is related to the structure of solute on the surface (surface complex). The type of surface complex on a solute of a mineral surface depends not only on the type of minerals and solutes but also on the solution conditions such as pH, ionic strength and solute concentration. Therefore, the understanding of the adsorption behavior is necessary to understand the surface complex as a function of the mineral types and solution compositions.

Sulfate is a major anion in nature and affects the mobility of coexisting trace dissolved species on mineral surfaces. Ferrihydrite is a low-crystalline iron oxide widely distributed in nature. Because of its huge specific surface area and its positively charged behavior, it is considered as an excellent scavenger for oxyanions. Although the adsorption of sulfate on ferrihydrite must be an important process governing the mobilities of trace dissolved species, there is very limited knowledge about the adsorption behavior of sulfate on ferrihydrite including the structure of surface complex.

Attenuated total reflectance-infrared spectroscopy (ATR-IR) method enables the direct observation of surface complex structure in an aqueous system. The purpose of this experiment is to determine the structure of surface complex of sulfate on ferrihydrite from the in-situ observation by using ATR-FTIR under a wide range of environmental conditions.

Keywords: surface complexation, In-situ infrared spectroscopic observations, ferrihydrite, sulfate, Adsorption, Attenuated total reflectance-infrared spectroscopy (ATR-IR)