

石膏与水溶液中硫酸根之间的氧及硫同位素分馏

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Some non labile oxyanions, such as sulfate (SO_4^{2-}) or nitrate (NO_3^-), do not exchange O atoms readily with O in water at ambient temperatures. They often behave like a single atom during mineral precipitation, dissolution, adsorption, and even microbial transport. Considering the many different isotopologues these oxyanions usually possess, for example SO_4^{2-} has 32-16-16-16-16 34-16-16-16-16 32-18-16-16-16 34-18-16-16-16 etc., the behaviour of isotope fractionation for different elements in the oxyanions (e.g., O and S) may lead to certain degrees of coupling during different physical, chemical and biological processes. Here we use an aqueous sulfate-solid gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) system to illustrate a first principle approach to calculating the isotope fractionation factors and their coupling for O and S in sulfate during gypsum precipitation.

Using Urey model or Biegelisen-Mayer equation in combination with quantum chemistry calculations

(at B3LYP/6-311+G(2df P) level), we have calculated equilibrium isotope fractionation factors α^{18} and α^{34} for tens of isotopologues of SO_4^{2-} . We use a time consuming yet explicit solvent model (i.e. "water droplet") to precisely evaluate solvation effects for aqueous sulfate species. A large and partially fixed cluster model is used for simulating gypsum mineral surface. Our results show that the equilibrium fractionations at 25 °C between solid gypsum and aqueous sulfate are ~ 2.5 and 1.6 permil for the $\Delta \delta^8\text{O}$ and $\Delta \delta^{34}\text{S}$ respectively. Without considering ion pair effect on sulfate anion in solution, however, the corresponding $\Delta \delta^8\text{O}$ and $\Delta \delta^{34}\text{S}$ become ~ 4.4 and 2.8 permil respectively. Our work presents a new approach to predicting isotope fractionation behaviour for non-labile species at equilibrium and lays the ground for evaluating kinetic effects. The results also shed lights on the mechanism and model for gypsum crystal growth at molecular level.