

**Exploring the atmospheric chemistry of  $O_2SO_3^-$  and assessing the maximum turnover number of ion catalysed  $H_2SO_4$  formation**

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**Supplementary information:**

Table SI-1: Entropies and Gibbs free energies of all species. Transition states energies are given in Table SI-2.

Species	$\Delta S$ (cal mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta G_{298.15\ K}$ (Hartree)
SO <sub>3</sub>	64.911	-623.867143
SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	66.639	-623.962534
SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (H <sub>2</sub> O)	83.571	-700.403577
O <sub>3</sub>	56.738	-225.447418
O <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	58.879	-225.549824
O <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (H <sub>2</sub> O)	78.503	-301.998782
O <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	78.261	-774.337657
O <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (H <sub>2</sub> O)	95.869	-850.775256
O <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> O <sub>3</sub>	114.465	-999.780495
O <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (H <sub>2</sub> O)(O <sub>3</sub> )	132.813	-1076.217975
O <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	87.203	-849.495301
O <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (H <sub>2</sub> O)	108.671	-925.933002
O <sub>2</sub>	48.948	-150.355933
H <sub>2</sub> O	46.449	-76.434954 height

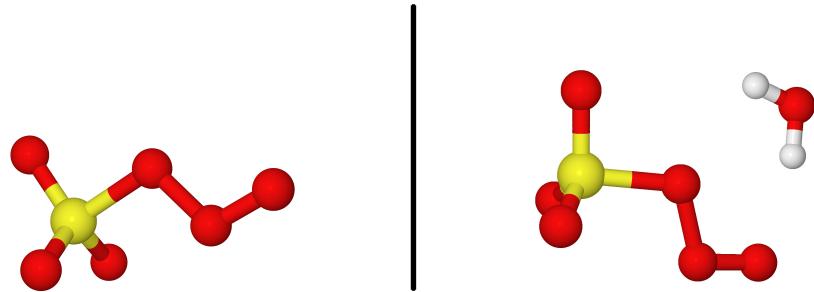


Figure SI-1: Structure of the most stable  $\text{O}_3\text{SO}_3^-$  and  $\text{O}_3\text{SO}_3^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})$  clusters. Sulfur (yellow), oxygen (red), hydrogen (white).

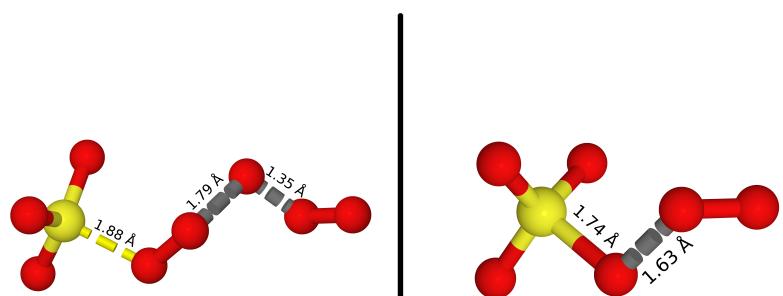


Figure SI-2: Structures of the dehydrated transition states of reaction (R12) and (R13) in the main article. Sulfur (yellow), oxygen (red).

## Determining the inherent limitations of ion catalysed SO<sub>2</sub> oxidation.

We here determine the overall probability of reaction (R3a) vs. (R3b). The rates of these reactions are given as

$$r_{3a\ dehyd} = k_{3a\ dehyd} * [O_3][O_2SO_3^-] \quad (1)$$

$$r_{3a\ monohyd} = k_{3a\ monohyd} * [O_3][O_2SO_3^-(H_2O)] \quad (2)$$

$$r_{3b\ dehyd} = k_{3b\ dehyd} * [O_3][O_2SO_3^-] \quad (3)$$

$$r_{3b\ monohyd} = k_{3b\ monohyd} * [O_3][O_2SO_3^-(H_2O)] \quad (4)$$

The rate constants, k, are determined via transition state theory,

$$k(T) = A \times \exp\left(\frac{-E_A}{RT}\right). \quad (5)$$

The barrier heights, E<sub>A</sub>, and prefactors, A, are given in Table SI-2.

The fraction of hydrated clusters is given by the law of mass action i.e.

$$\frac{[O_2SO_3^-(H_2O)]}{[O_2SO_3^-]} = [H_2O] \times \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta G}{RT}\right) \quad (6)$$

where  $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$ ,  $\Delta H = -12.3\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , and  $\Delta S = -82.8\text{ J mol}^{-1}\text{ K}^{-1}$ .

The total rate of reaction (R3a) vs. (R3b) is hereby readily obtained as

$$F = \frac{r_{3a\ dehyd} + r_{3a\ monohyd}}{r_{3b\ dehyd} + r_{3b\ monohyd}} \quad (7)$$

Table SI-2: Enthalpy and entropy changes of the de- and monohydrated reactions (R3a) and (R3b).

Parameter	Reaction	
E <sub>a</sub>	(R3a) dehyd.	$\Delta G = 27.1\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}, \Delta S = -57.0\text{ J mol}^{-1}\text{ K}^{-1}$
A	(R3a) dehyd.	$3.12 \times 10^{10}\text{ s}^{-1}$
E <sub>a</sub>	(R3a) monohyd.	$\Delta G = 39.6\text{ mol}^{-1}, \Delta S = -158.5\text{ J mol}^{-1}\text{ K}^{-1}$
A	(R3a) monohyd.	$1.90 \times 10^9\text{ s}^{-1}$
E <sub>a</sub>	(R3b) dehyd.	$\Delta G = 31.9\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}, \Delta S = 157.9\text{ J mol}^{-1}\text{ K}^{-1}$
A	(R3b) dehyd.	$540\text{ cm}^{-1} = 1.62 \times 10^{13}\text{ s}^{-1}$
E <sub>a</sub>	(R3b) monohyd.	$\Delta G = 12.3\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}, \Delta S = -82.8\text{ J mol}^{-1}\text{ K}^{-1}$
A	(R3b) monohyd.	$540\text{ cm}^{-1} = 1.62 \times 10^{13}\text{ s}^{-1}$