

**The IONO₂
absorption
cross-sections**

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The UV-visible absorption cross-sections of IONO₂

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Abstract

The UV-visible absorption spectrum of gaseous IONO_2 has been measured over the wavelength range 245–415 nm using the technique of laser photolysis with time-resolved UV-visible absorption spectroscopy. IONO_2 was produced in situ in the gas phase by laser flash photolysis of $\text{NO}_2/\text{CF}_3\text{I}/\text{N}_2$ mixtures. Post-flash spectra were deconvolved to remove contributions to the observed absorption from other reactant and product species. The resulting spectrum attributed to IONO_2 consists of several overlapping broad absorption bands. Assuming a quantum yield of unity for IONO_2 photolysis, model calculations show that during sunlit hours at noon, 53°N , the first order solar photolysis rate coefficient (J value) for IONO_2 is $4.6 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

1. Introduction

Iodine chemistry has been implicated in tropospheric ozone depletion since the 1980s (Chameides and Davis, 1980; Davis et al., 1996; Jenkin et al., 1985). Atmospheric iodine source gases are readily photolysed by sunlight, yielding iodine atoms. Iodine atoms react with ozone forming IO. Any subsequent reactions of IO forming an iodine atom lead to catalytic ozone loss. In competition, IO can be sequestered into reservoir species. One of the main gaseous reservoir species for iodine in the atmosphere is believed to be IONO_2 (Chameides and Davis, 1980; Davis et al., 1996; Jenkin, 1992; Jenkin et al., 1985).

IONO_2 is formed by the reaction of IO with NO_2



The rate of formation of IONO_2 in reaction (1) is well known (De More et al., 1997) but the amount of IONO_2 residing in the atmosphere and its consequent impact on the atmospheric chemistry depends on its loss processes. Gas phase IONO_2 loss processes include photolysis, thermal decomposition and heterogeneous uptake.

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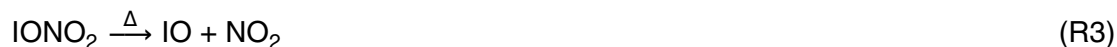
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IONO₂ can be photolysed via two possible routes:



However, no studies of the absorption cross-sections, the photolysis quantum yields or the products of IONO₂ photolysis have been reported to date.

Thermal decomposition of IONO₂ could proceed as in reaction (3).



However, recent observations imply that reaction (3) is a slow process at ambient temperature (Dillon, 2001; Plane, 2002).

A recent study has provided the first experimental evidence that IONO₂ can be lost from the gas phase *via* a heterogeneous process. In a laboratory study, Holmes et al. (2001) showed that IONO₂ is taken up efficiently by dry and frozen salt surfaces to form the di-halogens IBr and ICl, which are then released back into the gas phase.

IONO₂ has been synthesised in the laboratory in solution. However, IONO₂ was found to be unstable and the first attempts to observe its ultraviolet-visible absorption spectrum failed (Schmeisser and Braendle, 1961). The absorption cross-sections for IONO₂ in the UV-visible are essential, in order to evaluate the daytime atmospheric photolysis rate of IONO₂ and the efficiency of the tropospheric ozone loss cycle involving IONO₂.

Broske and Zabel (1998) attempted to measure the gas phase UV-visible absorption spectrum of IONO₂ by photolysis of I₂/NO₂ mixtures in a large reaction chamber equipped for in situ spectroscopy. A diode array detector was used to monitor the UV-visible absorption spectrum. However, because of the low concentrations of IONO₂ produced under their experimental conditions and the presence of strong absorbers such as INO₂, produced by the reaction of iodine atoms produced from I₂ photolysis with NO₂, they were unable to retrieve the spectrum of IONO₂. Nevertheless, the UV-visible absorption spectrum of gaseous INO₂ was reported (Atkinson et al., 2000).

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In order to avoid the effects of complicating chemistry involving iodine atoms produced in the IO source reactions, as well as the effects of secondary chemistry, a pulsed laser photolysis system and a photochemical source of IO with no initial iodine atom production (NO₂/CF₃I) was used in this study. We report here, for the first time observation of a gas phase ultraviolet-visible spectrum attributed to IONO₂. The results were used to calculate the atmospheric photolysis rates of IONO₂, and the atmospheric chemistry of IONO₂ is discussed briefly.

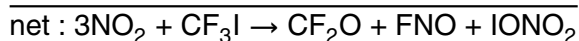
2. Experimental

The IONO₂ absorption spectrum was obtained using the technique of laser flash photolysis with UV absorption spectroscopy, utilising a CCD detection system. The apparatus has been described in detail elsewhere (Rowley et al., 1996), therefore only a brief description is given here.

During an experiment gases were flowed slowly and continuously through a 98.2 cm long cylindrical quartz cell kept at a total pressure of 760 Torr. Reactions were initiated in the cell using a pulsed excimer laser beam passed longitudinally along the cell. Concentrations of reactant and product gases in the cell were monitored using UV-vis absorption spectroscopy. The analysis light beam from a xenon arc lamp was passed through the cell, counter propagating the laser beam, and focused onto the entrance slit of a 0.25 m focal length astigmatic Czerny-Turner spectrograph fitted with three interchangeable diffraction gratings ruled at 150, 300 and 600 grooves/mm. In order to protect the spectrograph and detector from impinging reflected laser light a narrow band filter was used in the 350 nm region. Wavelength resolved analysis light from the spectrograph was then imaged across the top 30 rows of a CCD detector, to record spectra. Signal (charge) transfer then enabled recording of sequential spectra, which were acquired before, during and after photolysis.

A NO₂/CF₃I/N₂ chemical system was employed to generate IONO₂ via the following

reaction scheme:



The reaction was initiated using 351 nm XeF excimer laser photolysis of NO_2 to form $\text{O}({}^3\text{P})$ (DeMore et al., 1997). N_2 (Messer, 99.996%), 2000 ppm NO_2 in N_2 (Messer) and CF_3I (Fluorochem, 99%) were used as supplied. Gas mixtures were flowed through the reaction cell at a total pressure of 760 Torr and at 298 K via mass flow controllers or ball flow meters (for NO_2 in N_2) and their concentrations (see Table 1 for concentrations used) were calculated from known calibrated flow rates. Postflash absorbance spectra were recorded relative to preflash spectra using Beer's law ($A = \ln(I_{\text{preflash}}/I_{\text{postflash}})$). Consequently, the observed absorbances show changes in absorption brought about by the laser flash and by subsequent chemistry. The total absorption spectrum of the gas mixture was recorded using a 150 g/mm and a 300g/mm grating giving a 130 nm and a 65 nm wavelength coverage respectively. In the 245–335 nm region the 150g/mm grating was used with a 50 μm spectrograph entrance slit giving a resolution (fwhm) of 1.67 nm. In the 385–415 nm region the 300g/mm grating was used with a 10 μm entrance slit and a resolution (fwhm) of 0.55 nm. In both cases a CCD was used to record sequential spectra at a time resolution of 1 ms.

Under the conditions chosen (Table 1) numerical models show that the chemistry of IO and CF_3 dominates, as $\text{O}({}^3\text{P})$ reacts mainly (93%) with CF_3I . In addition, only small amounts of NO are expected (from NO_2 photolysis and the $\text{O}({}^3\text{P}) + \text{NO}_2$ reaction (7%))

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and I atom production from the reaction $\text{IO} + \text{NO} \rightarrow \text{I} + \text{NO}_2$ is consequently unimportant. Thus, the possible formation of INO_2 via reaction $\text{I} + \text{NO}_2 + \text{M} \rightarrow \text{INO}_2 + \text{M}$ is unlikely. IONO_2 is expected to be the only major iodine containing product formed under the experimental conditions used, as the reaction of NO_2 with IO dominates over other possible reactions with IO . Thus, the IONO_2 spectrum can in principle be obtained from the experimental spectrum, after subtraction of the absorption due to CF_2O and FNO formed via reaction (6) and addition of absorbance due to NO_2 and CF_3I consumed in reactions (4) and (5), respectively. However, it should be noted that the yield for reaction (5) is 0.85 (Gilles et al., 1996). The identity of the remaining reaction channels is unknown (Gilles et al., 1996). Other products that could be formed via reaction (5) such as IF or CF_3IO could also contribute to the overall absorption spectrum obtained. However, since their absorption cross-sections have not been reported to date it is not possible to correct for their contribution to the overall absorption. Thus an uncertainty of $\pm 15\%$ remains in the IONO_2 spectrum determined. Other secondary and side reactions that occur were taken into account by using the numerical integration package FACSIMILE (Curtis and Sweetenham, 1987) to model the post flash chemistry in order to calculate the final product distribution. Details of the chemical reaction scheme used are listed in Table 2. Spectra were not recorded below 245 nm or between 335–385 nm, due to low light levels of the analysis light beam in these regions, the latter due to the attenuation by the laser beam filter in the 350 nm region. The overall error on the IONO_2 absorption cross-sections including the uncertainty due to the unknown reaction channels mentioned above is 25%. This excludes possible systematic errors that could result from the chemical mechanism used in the FACSIMILE model.

3. Results and discussion

The absorption spectrum recorded in the short wavelength region (245–345 nm) of the spectrum (Fig. 1), i.e. the absorbance calculated relative to pre-laser intensities, represents the change in absorption due to the overall chemical reaction initiated by

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the laser flash. In the analysis it was assumed that only the 5 principal species (NO₂, CF₃I, FNO, CF₂O and IONO₂) contribute to this absorption. Thus a negative change in absorption results from NO₂ and CF₃I consumption and a positive change in absorption due to IONO₂, CF₂O and FNO production make up the observed spectrum. The post flash spectrum obtained was reproducible and remained constant over the time-scale of the spectral acquisition (the photolysed gas flowed out of the cell over a period of 10–15 s). The total absorption spectrum measured and the absorption spectrum of IONO₂ can be expressed as shown in Eq. (1) and (2), respectively.

$$A_{\text{total}} = A_{\text{IONO}_2} + A_{\text{CF}_2\text{O}} + A_{\text{FNO}} - A_{\text{NO}_2} - A_{\text{CF}_3\text{I}} \quad (1)$$

$$A_{\text{IONO}_2} = A_{\text{total}} - A_{\text{CF}_2\text{O}} - A_{\text{FNO}} + A_{\text{NO}_2} + A_{\text{CF}_3\text{I}} \quad (2)$$

Thus, IONO₂ was found by spectral deconvolution. The contribution of each absorber to the total absorption at each wavelength recorded during an experiment is given by:

$$A(\lambda) = \sigma_i(\lambda) \times l \times \Delta c_i \quad (3)$$

where $A(\lambda)$ is the absorbance of a species i at wavelength λ , l is the pathlength of the reaction cell used [cm], Δc = change in concentration of species i [molecules cm⁻³] and $\sigma_i(\lambda)$ = absorption cross-section of species i at that wavelength [molecule⁻¹ cm²].

In order to obtain the IONO₂ spectrum the amounts and the absorption cross-sections of all other chemical species involved have to be known.

The absolute cross-sections of CF₃I, FNO and CF₂O have been reported in the literature (DeMore et al., 1997) and were smoothed to the spectral resolution used for the present experiment (CF₂O only absorbs at wavelength shorter than 245 nm and its contribution to the overall absorption is thus not shown in Fig. 2). The change in concentration of each species after the laser flash is determined by the O atom concentration produced from NO₂ photolysis in the flash and the stoichiometry of subsequent chemistry. In order to determine these concentration changes a kinetic model of the reaction

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system was constructed in the numerical integration package FACSIMILE (Curtis and Sweetenham, 1987). The model incorporated simulations of photolysis, flow out and the chemical reaction scheme given in Table 2. The model provided the simulated change in concentration of each species during an experiment for all given experimental conditions with the initial post flash O atom concentration being the only variable. The initial O atom concentration was determined from the change in NO₂ concentration in any given experiment, which itself was obtained from the measured initial change in absorption of NO₂ and its cross-section. Together with the known cross-sections, the contribution of each species to the absorption spectra was then subtracted from the overall post flash spectrum recorded as shown in Fig. 2 for the 245–335 nm region of the spectrum. The absorption cross-sections of IONO₂ were then obtained assuming the remaining absorption was attributed to the simulated amount of IONO₂ generated in the reaction. The same procedure was also applied to the data obtained in the longer wavelength region (385–415 nm) as shown in Fig. 3. However, in this wavelength region only NO₂ absorbs significantly and thus the NO₂ spectrum had to be subtracted from the total absorption spectrum. The IONO₂ absorption spectrum over the entire wavelength range of 245–415 nm was obtained by fitting the observed spectrum to three Gaussian functions. This enabled interpolation of the IONO₂ absorption in spectral regions where absorbance could not be recorded. The resulting spectrum consists of a broad continuous absorption band as shown in Fig. 4. The IONO₂ cross-sections are listed in Table 3. The fact that the structural features of FNO and NO₂ do not appear to a significant extent in the final spectrum provides support for the deconvolution procedure used. The IONO₂ absorption spectrum obtained is compared in Fig. 5 to the IONO₂ spectrum (Atkinson et al., 2000). It is distinctly different, supporting the assignment to IONO₂. There is also a possibility of a contribution to the apparent IONO₂ spectrum from formation of light scattering aerosol produced in the IO radical chemistry. A maximum potential contribution to the absorption from aerosol was calculated assuming all absorption at $\lambda = 450$ nm was due to aerosol extinction and that the attenuation at lower wavelength followed a $1/\lambda^4$ functional dependence on wavelength.

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After subtraction of this component the lower curve in Fig. 5 was obtained which corresponds to minimum values for the IONO₂ cross-sections. Examination of time resolved absorption spectra also show no evidence for time delayed aerosol growth for the first two experiments performed in a clean flow tube. After rapid formation of IONO₂ the absorption remained constant over the whole time period of the experiment (500 ms). Only after multiple experiments in the flow tube did we observe a time delayed increase in overall absorption with time, possibly due to the presence of aerosols, presumably formed in heterogeneous processes initiated on the walls of the reaction cell.

Figure 6 shows a comparison of the IONO₂ absorption and the (IONO₂-aerosol) absorption with those of ClONO₂ (Burkholder et al., 1994) and BrONO₂ (Burkholder et al., 1995). All spectra show similar broad band absorption features. The absorption due to IONO₂ is red shifted and is significantly more intense at all wavelengths than the chlorine and bromine analogues.

4. Atmospheric implications

The IONO₂ absorption cross-sections recorded here were used to calculate the tropospheric solar photolysis rate of IONO₂ using a photochemical box model (McFiggans et al., 2000). We assumed a quantum yield of unity for IONO₂ photolysis throughout the absorption band. The resulting photolysis rate coefficient (J-value) for IONO₂ is shown in Fig. 7 as a function of time of day in the marine boundary layer, for July 53° N at Mace Head, Ireland, where measurements of atmospheric composition had taken place in 1997. The calculated photolytic lifetime of IONO₂ under these conditions is less than one minute. At the same location and time, the surface to volume ratio (S/V) of the fine fraction of the sea-salt aerosol present was determined to be $60 \pm 10 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$ with an effective particle radius of 250 nm (McFiggans et al., 2000). Using these values, the lifetime of IONO₂ with respect to heterogeneous uptake on sea-salt aerosols, τ_{het} [s], was calculated to be ~ 10 h using Eqs. (4) and (5) below, and assuming a reactive uptake coefficient of $\gamma = 0.01$ (Holmes et al., 2001). Equation (4) assumes spherical

geometry of the sea-salt particle. It also takes diffusion of IONO_2 to the particle surface into account (Turco et al., 1989).

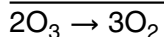
$$k_{\text{het}} = \frac{0.25 \times \gamma \times \omega \times S/V}{(1 + (3 \times \gamma \times r)/(4 \times \lambda))} \quad (4)$$

$$\tau_{\text{het}} = \frac{1}{k_{\text{het}}} \quad (5)$$

5 where ω = the average molecular speed of IONO_2 at any given temperature [cm s^{-1}], k_{het} = first order rate constant for loss of IONO_2 on the aerosol [s^{-1}], λ = mean free path of a molecule in air at any given temperature and pressure [cm].

During daytime, solar photolysis is thus expected to be the major loss process for IONO_2 and IO_x is not lost from the gas phase. However, the reaction of IONO_2 with sea-salt aerosol may become a significant loss process for IONO_2 during night time. Uptake of IONO_2 is expected to form the di-halogens ICl and IBr (Holmes et al., 2001), which are released into the gas phase during the night. At dawn, IBr and ICl are photolysed. Hence IO_x would not be lost permanently from the gas phase via this reaction as suggested previously (Chatfield and Crutzen, 1990; Davis et al., 1996; Jenkin, 1992), and the uptake of IONO_2 represents a possible route to liberation of bromide and chloride from sea-salt aerosols, as has been predicted by more recent modelling studies (McFiggans et al., 2000; Vogt et al., 1999). Thermal decomposition of IONO_2 may also contribute to the night time loss of IONO_2 . However, recent observations seem to suggest that this will be a very slow process at room temperature (Plane, 2002).
20 Depending upon the photolysis product yields, photolysis of IONO_2 could contribute directly to ozone destruction via the following reaction cycle:

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However, it is important to note, that this cycle will not operate if the products of IONO₂ photolysis are IO + NO₂. No studies of the photolysis products of IONO₂ have been reported, and such studies are essential to elucidate further the role of atmospheric IONO₂.

5. Conclusions

The UV-visible cross-sections of IONO₂ have been determined over the wavelength ranges 240–335 nm and 385–415 nm. Both data sets were used to interpolate an IONO₂ absorption spectrum over the wavelength range of 240–415 nm. The resulting spectrum consists of several overlapping broad absorption bands. Based on the IONO₂ absorption cross-section, the tropospheric solar photolysis rate coefficient of IONO₂ has been calculated. This indicates that the photochemical lifetime of atmospheric IONO₂ is less than one minute under most sunlit conditions and consequently that photolysis is the main loss process for gaseous IONO₂. Thus, IONO₂ is thus not expected to act as a stable reservoir of atmospheric iodine during daytime.

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Table 1. Concentrations used and generated during an experiment

	Before laser photolysis	After laser photolysis/ O atom reaction
N ₂ / molecules cm ⁻³	2.5 × 10 ¹⁹	2.5 × 10 ¹⁹
NO ₂ / molecules cm ⁻³	4.0 × 10 ¹⁵	3.9 × 10 ¹⁵
CF ₃ I/ molecules cm ⁻³	5.5 × 10 ¹⁶	5.5 × 10 ¹⁶
CF ₃ / molecules cm ⁻³	–	7.5 × 10 ¹³
IO/ molecules cm ⁻³	–	7.5 × 10 ¹³
NO/ molecules cm ⁻³	–	8.5 × 10 ¹³
NO ₃ / molecules cm ⁻³	–	1.0 × 10 ¹²

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Table 2. Chemical reaction scheme used in the FACSIMILE model (Curtis and Sweetenham, 1987)

Reaction	Rate coeff. 295 K/cm ⁻³ molecule ⁻¹ s ⁻¹	Reference
O(³ P) + NO ₂ → NO + O ₂	1.10 × 10 ⁻¹¹	(DeMore, et al., 1997)
O(³ P) + NO ₂ → NO ₃	4.20 × 10 ⁻¹²	(DeMore, et al., 1997)
O(³ P) + CF ₃ I → CF ₃ + IO	1.10 × 10 ⁻¹¹ (*0.85)	(Addison, et al., 1979)
NO ₂ + CF ₃ → CF ₂ O + FNO	1.53 × 10 ⁻¹¹	(Pagsberg, et al., 1998)
NO + CF ₃ → CF ₃ NO	1.89 × 10 ⁻¹¹	(Ley, et al., 1995)
CF ₃ + CF ₃ → C ₂ F ₆	8.32 × 10 ⁻¹²	(Rossi and Golden, 1979)
IO + IO → 2I + O ₂	8.60 × 10 ⁻¹¹ (*0.7)	(Bloss, et al., 2001)
IO + IO → OIO + I	8.60 × 10 ⁻¹¹ (*0.3)	(Bloss, et al., 2001)
O(³ P) + IO → O ₂ + I	1.20 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	(DeMore, et al., 1997)
IO + NO ₂ → IONO ₂	9.00 × 10 ⁻¹²	(DeMore, et al., 1997)
I + NO ₂ → INO ₂	7.50 × 10 ⁻¹²	(DeMore, et al., 1997)
I + NO → INO	4.50 × 10 ⁻¹³	(DeMore, et al., 1997)
IO + NO → I + NO ₂	2.20 × 10 ⁻¹¹	(DeMore, et al., 1997)
I + INO ₂ → I ₂ + NO ₂	8.32 × 10 ⁻¹¹	(v.d. Bergh and Troe, 1976)
I + NO ₃ → IO + NO ₂	4.50 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	(Chambers, et al., 1992)

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Table 3. The absorption cross-sections of IONO₂ at 298 K

λ/nm	$\sigma_{298}/\text{molecule cm}^{-2}$
240	1.05×10^{-17}
245	1.40×10^{-17}
250	1.35×10^{-17}
255	1.19×10^{-17}
260	1.06×10^{-17}
265	9.85×10^{-18}
270	8.83×10^{-18}
275	8.54×10^{-18}
280	8.22×10^{-18}
285	7.71×10^{-18}
290	7.07×10^{-18}
295	6.47×10^{-18}
300	5.52×10^{-18}
305	5.16×10^{-18}
310	4.93×10^{-18}
315	4.83×10^{-18}
320	4.54×10^{-18}
325	4.46×10^{-18}

Table 3. Continued...The absorption cross-sections of IONO₂ at 298 K

λ/nm	$\sigma_{298}/\text{molecule cm}^{-2}$
325	4.46×10^{-18}
330	4.29×10^{-18}
335	4.00×10^{-18}
340	3.86×10^{-18}
345	3.69×10^{-18}
350	3.52×10^{-18}
355	3.34×10^{-18}
360	3.13×10^{-18}
365	2.90×10^{-18}
370	2.64×10^{-18}
375	2.37×10^{-18}
380	2.10×10^{-18}
385	1.82×10^{-18}
390	1.58×10^{-18}
395	1.29×10^{-18}
400	1.02×10^{-18}
405	8.29×10^{-19}
410	6.95×10^{-19}
415	6.03×10^{-19}

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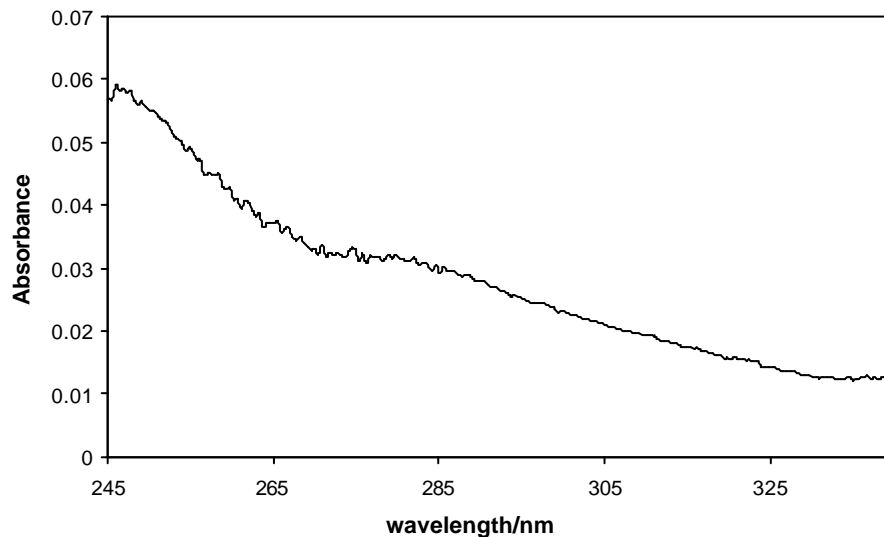


Fig. 1. Post flash absorption spectrum in the low wavelength region (245–340 nm) following flash photolysis of NO₂-CF₃I mixtures.

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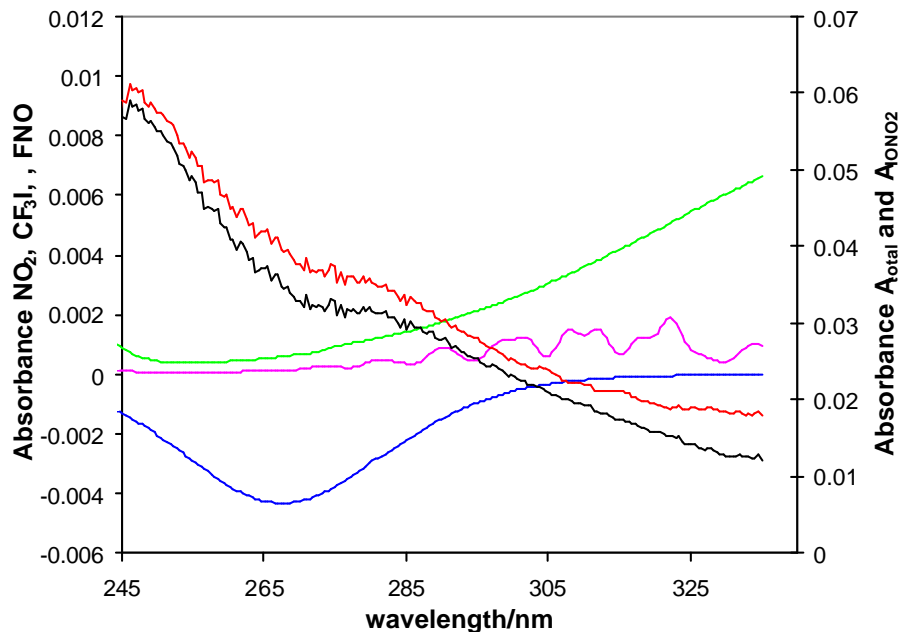


Fig. 2. Spectral stripping procedure in the low wavelength region (245–335 nm). Note changes in scale on the left and right hand axis. Black, pink, green and blue lines show the total absorption spectrum and absorption of FNO, NO₂, and CF₃I, respectively. The red spectrum is attributed to IONO₂ after the stripping procedure. The contribution of CF₂O is not shown as it only adsorbs below 245 nm.

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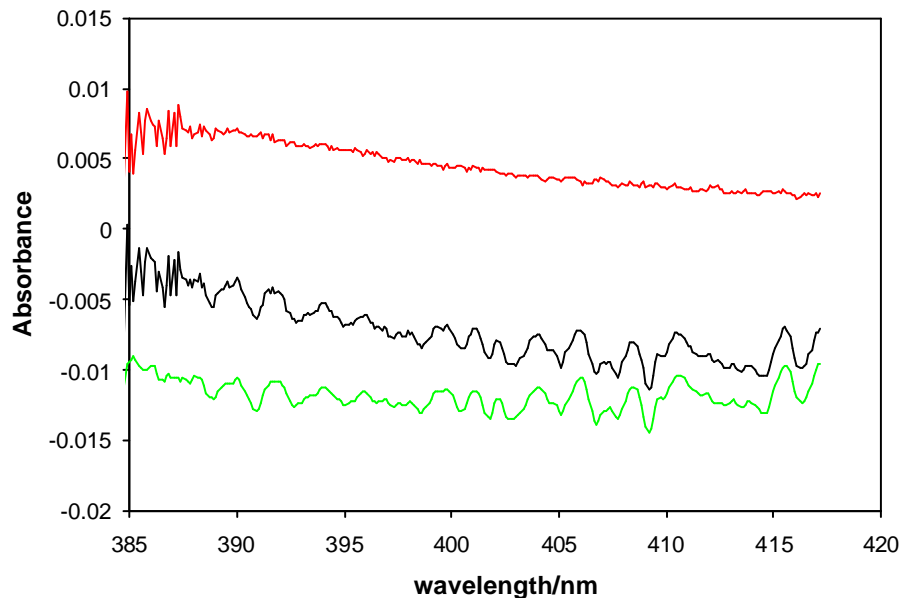


Fig. 3. Spectral stripping procedure in the high wavelength region (385–415 nm). Black, green and red lines show the total absorption spectrum, absorption of NO₂ and IONO₂ after the stripping procedure, respectively.

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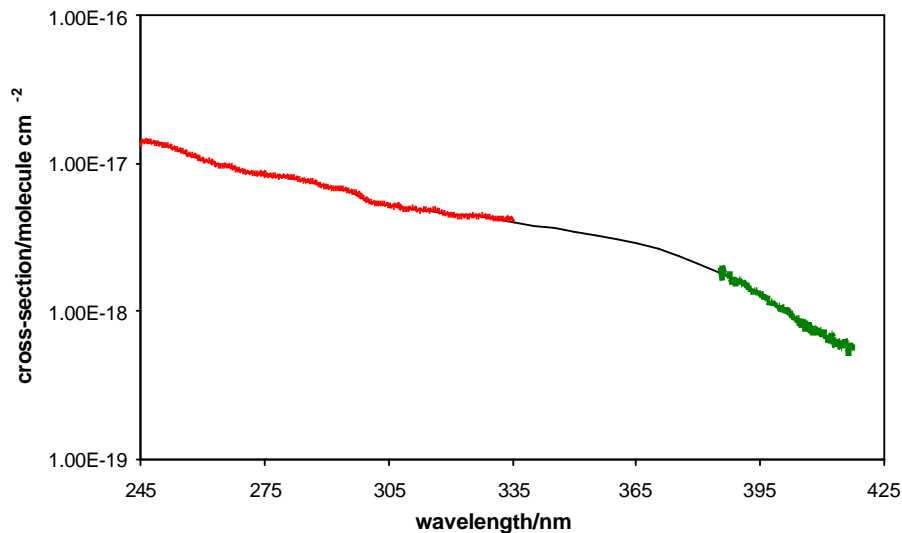


Fig. 4. Absorption spectrum of IONO₂. Red line: data recorded in the 245–335 nm region. Green line: data recorded in the 385–415 nm region. Black line: Fit to data.

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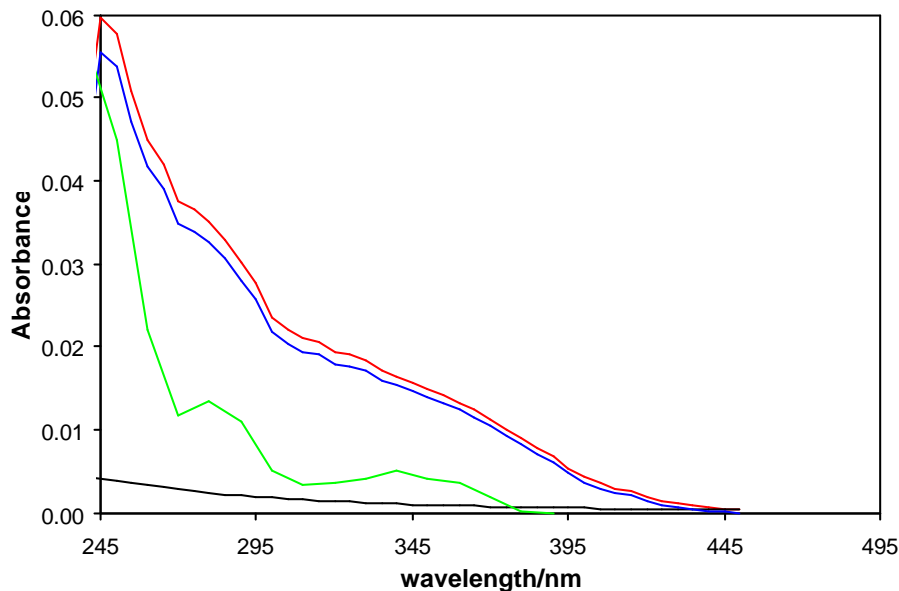


Fig. 5. Comparison of the absorption spectrum of IONO₂ (red), INO₂ (green) recorded by Broske and Zabel (1998) (scaled by using equal concentrations), the predicted absorption due to aerosol formation as a function of $1/\lambda^4$ (black) and the contribution due to aerosol absorption subtracted from the original absorption spectrum of IONO₂ (blue).

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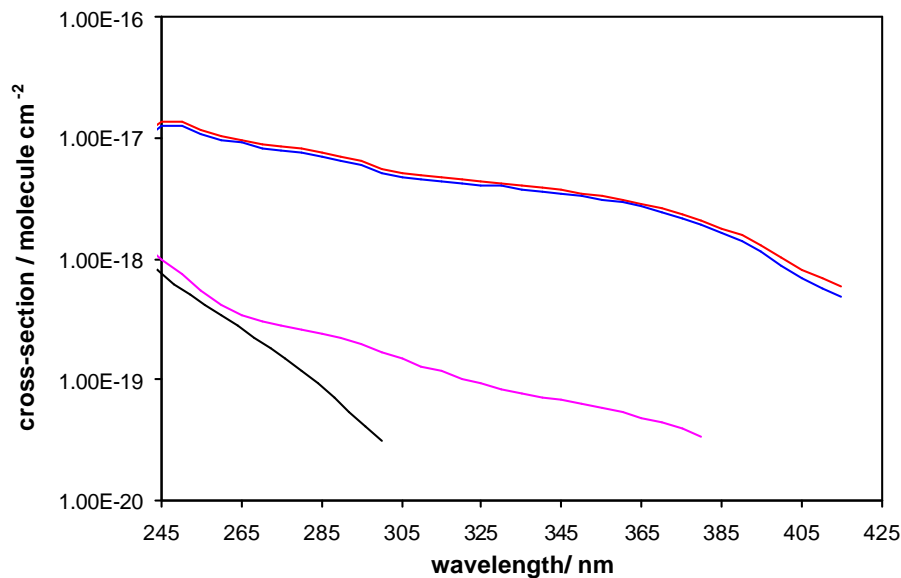


Fig. 6. Comparison of the absorption spectra of ClONO₂ (black), BrONO₂ (pink), IONO₂ (red) and (IONO₂-aerosol contribution) (blue).

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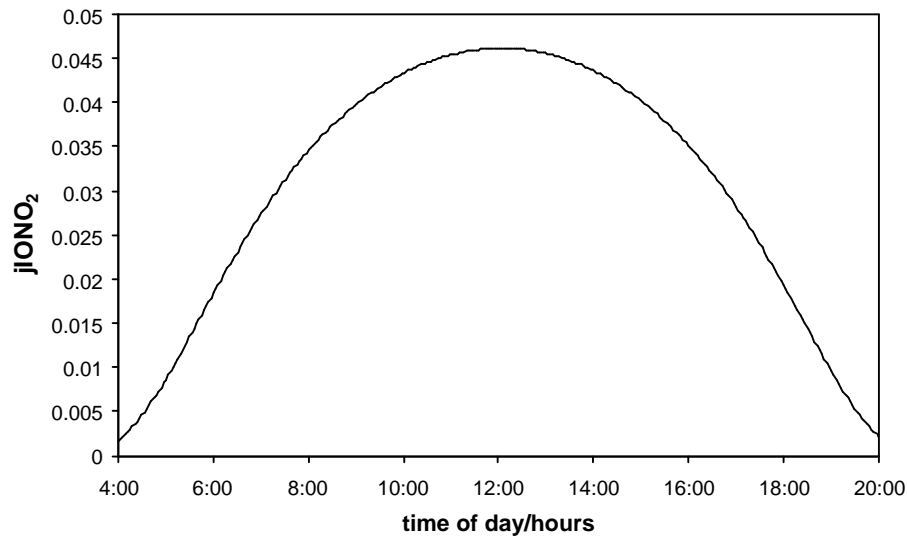


Fig. 7. J-values for IONO₂ as a function of time of day in the marine boundary layer, for midsummer 53° N (Mace Head, Ireland, July 1997).

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