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Report:

Oxidation catalyzed by non-heme iron complexes is one of the most promising approaches to achieve selective non-activated C-H bond hydroxylation. In this framework the main goal of our project was to investigate the time evolution of two reactions between $[Fe^{II}(TPA)(CH_3CN)_2]^{2+}$ and the two oxidants H_2O_2 and CH_3COO_2H .

We modified the stopped flow cell available at the ID24 beam line and we mounted a glass capillary to have the correct thickness of the sample holder to collect transmission spectra at the Fe K-edge. Moreover, we collected UV spectra at the same time to better characterize the intermediate species.

In the former reaction the transformation of a Fe^{II} species into two subsequent Fe^{III} species was monitored, while in the latter a more complex Fe^{II}-Fe^{III}-Fe^{III}-Fe^{III} sequence was demonstrated to occur in accordance with indirect observations previously reported. The observed structural modifications occurring around the iron center were correlated with the reaction mechanisms (see Figures 1 and 2). This experiment demonstrates that bimolecular reactions in solution occurring in the ms time scale can be profitably followed using a combined EDXAS-UV/Vis spectroscopic analysis. It is possible to directly monitor the oxidation state evolution of an absorbing metal that is oxidized/reduced during the reaction. At the same time the simultaneous collection of the XANES and UV/Vis spectra allows one to follow the structural modification occurring in the reaction time-course with a ms time resolution.



Figure 1 | Following the reaction between $[Fe^{II}(TPA)(CH_3CN)_2]^{2+}$ and H_2O_2 by simultaneous time resolved EDXAS and UV/Vis spectroscopies with a time resolution of 40 ms. a) Time evolution of the Fe K-edge EDXAS spectra of $[Fe^{II}(TPA)(CH_3CN)_2]^{2+}$ (35 mM) after addition of H_2O_2 (70 mM) in CH₃CN/H₂O 99.8:0.2 (v/v) at 25 °C. b) Time evolution of the absorbance at λ 524 nm of the same reaction mixture of Fig. 1a. EDXAS and UV/Vis spectra have been recorded simultaneously in the stopped-flow cell. c) Selected EDXAS spectra of Fig. 1a recorded at 0 ms (blue), 104 ms (black) and 1984 ms (green). A magnification of Fe K-edge region is shown in the inset.



Figure 2 | Following the reaction between $[Fe^{II}(TPA)(CH_3CN)_2]^{2+}$ and CH_3COO_2H by simultaneous time resolved EDXAS and UV/Vis spectroscopies with a time resolution of 40 ms. a) Time evolution of the Fe K-edge EDXAS spectra of $[Fe^{II}(TPA)(CH_3CN)_2]^{2+}$ (35 mM) after addition of CH₃COO₂H (35 mM) in CH₃CN/CH₃COOH 99.6:0.4 (v/v) at 25 °C. b) Time evolution of the absorbance at λ 722 nm of the same reaction mixture of Fig. 2a. EDXAS and UV/Vis spectra have been recorded simultaneously in the stopped-flow cell. c, Selected EDXAS spectra of Fig. 2a recorded at 0 ms (blue), 24 ms (black), 264 ms (red) and 1964 ms (green). A magnification of Fe K-edge region is shown in the inset.