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1 Experimental and Theoretical Studies on Aqueous-Phase Reactivity of Hydroxyl Radicals with  
2 Multiple Carboxylated and Hydroxylated Benzene Compounds

3

4 Prepared for Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics (PCCP)

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## 19 Abstract

20 In this study, we shed light on the initial addition of hydroxyl radicals (HO•) to multiple carboxylated and  
21 hydroxylated benzene compounds in aqueous-phase advanced oxidation processes (AOPs). We analyze  
22 the experimentally measured transient spectra near neutral pH using quantum mechanical-based time-  
23 dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT). The *ab initio* DFT method was first used to find and  
24 optimize aqueous-phase transition state structures, then the TD-DFT was used to analyze molecular  
25 orbitals (MOs) of the optimized transition state structures to reveal the functional groups that are  
26 responsible for the individual absorption peaks. The initial addition of HO• to the benzene ring produced  
27 hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals. Then, HO-adducts are generated from dimerization or  
28 disproportionation of hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals and represent their transient spectral peaks at  
29 approximately 350 nm and 250 nm. As reaction proceeds, the HO-adducts are decreased depending on  
30 the subsequent reactions. These investigations into the experimental transient spectra coupled with the  
31 theoretical analysis using the TD-DFT enable us to visualize an initial transformation of organic  
32 compounds induced by the aqueous phase HO• oxidation. Moreover, the experimental reaction rate  
33 constants and the theoretically calculated aqueous phase free energies of activation provide quantitative  
34 insights into the addition of HO• to multiple carboxylated and hydroxylated benzene compounds.

## 35 Introduction

36 Hydroxyl radicals (HO•) are electrophilic in nature and react with electron-rich sites of organic  
37 compounds by complex reaction mechanisms involving free radicals. In the aqueous-phase, advanced  
38 oxidation processes (AOPs) generate HO• at ambient temperature and atmospheric pressure,<sup>1,2</sup> and in  
39 many cases HO• can transform parent organic compounds into low molecular weight biodegradable  
40 carboxylic compounds.<sup>3</sup> AOPs are used in drinking water treatment,<sup>4,5</sup> water reclamation,<sup>6</sup> and industrial  
41 wastewater treatment processes.<sup>7,8</sup> In natural aquatic environments, the photolysis of natural organic  
42 matter (NOM)<sup>9,10</sup> and effluent organic matter (EfOM) from wastewater discharge<sup>11</sup> at the surface of the  
43 water indirectly generates HO•, which again contributes to the fate and transformation of contaminant  
44 chemical compounds.<sup>12</sup> In a water droplet in the atmosphere HO• are generated via nitrite and nitric  
45 acid,<sup>13</sup> and are involved in the atmospheric aqueous-phase chemical oxidation of anthropogenic carbon  
46 and nitrogen, and in aerosol formation.<sup>14</sup> Under physiological conditions, HO• are important  
47 intermediates for the reactive oxygen species that cause cell damage.<sup>15, 16</sup>

48 A number of previous studies have revealed the major reaction mechanisms of HO• in the  
49 aqueous phase.<sup>13, 17</sup> These mechanisms include: 1) H-atom abstraction from C-H bonds in aliphatic  
50 compounds; 2) HO• addition to unsaturated carbons of alkenes and aromatic compounds, and 3) HO•  
51 interactions with S-, N-, or P-containing compounds.<sup>17</sup> Minakata *et al.* developed a comprehensive group  
52 contribution method (GCM) that was able to predict the reaction rate constants of more than 500 reactions  
53 of HO• with organic compounds using parameters determined from experimental values that represent the  
54 chemical reactivity and contributions of functional groups.<sup>18</sup> The GCM predicts the aqueous-phase HO•  
55 rate constants within a factor of 2.

56 Among the vast number of organic compounds, benzene compounds are an important group of  
57 compounds for reactions with HO• in water. Benzoic acid, its dissociated form benzoate, and benzene  
58 rings with multiple hydroxyl and carboxylate functional groups appear in NOM,<sup>19, 20</sup> pharmaceutical and  
59 personal care products,<sup>21</sup> and engineered nanomaterials.<sup>22</sup> The hydroxyl group donates electron density to

60 the active sites (i.e., C-H and C=C bonds) of organic compounds, and hence, enhances the reactivity of  
61 HO•. The carboxylic or carboxylate functional groups are hydrophilic, producing hydrogen bonds with  
62 water molecules. Because of their strong electron-withdrawing effect, these functional groups decrease  
63 the overall reactivity of HO• with organic compounds. The calculated functional group contribution  
64 factors for carboxylic and carboxylate functional groups in the GCM are 0.043 and 0.184, respectively,  
65 for H-atom abstraction from the C-H bond, and 0.234 for HO• addition to a benzene ring with a  
66 carboxylic functional group. These values represent a strong electron withdrawing effect (note that the  
67 smaller group contribution factors indicate stronger electron withdrawing effects) relative to other groups  
68 (e.g., 0.200 for Cl, 0.119 for F, 0.154 for CO) for H-atom abstraction and are consistent with the Taft  
69 constants for aliphatic compounds and the Hammett constants for aromatic compounds.<sup>18</sup> **Error! Bookmark**  
70 **not defined.**

71 Although the second-order reaction rate constants describe the general reactivity of HO•,  
72 examining how functional groups affect the reactivity of HO• in different organic compounds is  
73 challenging. In experiments, we measure a reaction rate constant that combines the reaction rates of all of  
74 the elementary reactions in which HO• participates. In addition to absolute kinetics, transient spectra that  
75 represent the ultraviolet-visible (UV-VIS) absorbance for these short-lived radicals/products generated by  
76 the reactions with HO• also can be readily determined. Although these transient spectra contain  
77 information critical to the observed chemical reactivity, transformation, and stability, this information has  
78 been under-utilized to investigate aqueous-phase chemical reactions in depth. When numerous active  
79 sites/functional groups are present in the molecule, the transient spectrum represents synergic effects.  
80 Therefore, experimental investigations only generate, but do not typically attempt to analyze, these  
81 spectra.

82 Computational chemistry can be used to probe chemical reactivity and to analyze the changes in  
83 the electronic properties of the reactants, transition states, and products as a reaction proceeds. The  
84 dramatic improvement in computational power, and the development of sophisticated computational

85 chemistry suites with robust implicit solvation models, makes it now possible to analyze aqueous-phase  
86 chemical reactions. Minakata and Crittenden<sup>23</sup> developed linear free energy relationships (LFERs) that  
87 relate experimentally observed rate constants with the aqueous-phase free energies of activation for H-  
88 atom abstraction from the C-H bonds and HO• addition to an unsaturated alkene carbon atoms in  
89 molecules. This approach was further developed for haloacetates to investigate their changes in the  
90 electrostatic potential and charges throughout the reaction process<sup>24</sup>, and then extended to the subsequent  
91 radical reactions (i.e., molecular oxygen addition to carbon-centered radicals, uni-molecular and  
92 disproportionation of peroxy radicals) after the reactions of HO•.<sup>25</sup> Nevertheless, there are few  
93 applications of computational chemistry to aqueous phase chemical reactions involving HO•.<sup>26</sup>

94 Time-dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT)<sup>27</sup> is robust computational technique that  
95 enables us to investigate into the TD excited state electronic structures of various chemical compounds  
96 under different physical chemical processes (e.g., ultraviolet-visible spectroscopy, nonlinear optics, and  
97 photochemistry). Successful application of the TD-DFT includes: 1) photovoltaic performance<sup>28</sup>; 2) dye  
98 chemistry<sup>29</sup>; 3) electron transfer chemical reactions<sup>30</sup>, and 4) spectroscopic investigations on transition  
99 metal complexes<sup>31</sup>. TD-DFT makes it possible to examine the TD molecular orbitals (MOs) and  
100 associated structural changes in chemical reactions.

101 Here we investigated aqueous-phase HO• reaction with multiple carboxylated and hydroxylated  
102 benzene compounds. The coupling of experimental measurements and theoretical investigations reveals  
103 how the carboxylate and/or hydroxyl functional groups affects the aqueous-phase chemical reactivity of  
104 HO• by determining the kinetic rate constants, thermochemical properties, and transient spectra.

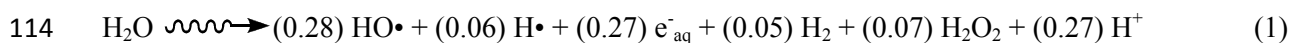
## 105 **Materials and Methods**

### 106 *Pulse radiolysis experiments*

107 Electron pulse radiolysis experiments were conducted at the Notre Dame Radiation Laboratory  
108 using their 8-MeV Titan Beta model TBS-8/16-1S linear accelerator.<sup>32</sup> This pulse radiation and transient  
109 absorption detection system have been previously described in detail.<sup>33</sup> Dosimetry was performed with

110 N<sub>2</sub>O-saturated solutions of  $1.00 \times 10^{-2}$  M KSCN solutions at  $\lambda = 472$  nm, ( $G\epsilon = 5.2 \times 10^{-4}$  mol J<sup>-1</sup>) with  
111 average doses of 3-5 Gy per 2-4 ns pulse. All experimental data were determined by averaging 12 to 15  
112 replicate pulses in continuous flow mode.

113 The radiolysis of water is described in equation 1:<sup>17</sup>



115 where the numbers in parentheses are the G-values (yields) in units of  $\mu\text{mol J}^{-1}$ . To study only the  
116 reactions of the HO• with multiple carboxylated and hydroxylated compounds, the solutions were pre-  
117 saturated with nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), which quantitatively converts the hydrated electrons and hydrogen  
118 atoms to HO• via the reactions<sup>17</sup>:



121 All multiple carboxylated and hydroxylated benzene compound solutions were prepared in solution in the  
122 range of 0.5 to 1.0 mM. The solutions were adjusted to pH 6.9 to 7.1 using both 5.0 mM phosphate  
123 buffer and perchloric acid or sodium hydroxide. The reaction of HO• with phosphate has a negligible  
124 contribution to the rate constant being approximately five orders of magnitude lower than those for the  
125 benzene compounds.

### 126 *Quantum mechanics-based ab initio theoretical calculations*

127 All *ab initio* quantum mechanical calculations were performed with Gaussian 09 revision D.02<sup>34</sup>  
128 using the Michigan Tech high performance cluster “Superior” unless otherwise specified. The electronic  
129 structures of the molecules and radicals in the ground and transition states were optimized using density  
130 functional theory (DFT) at the level of M06-2X/Aug-cc-pVDZ<sup>35</sup> with the implicit SMD solvation  
131 model.<sup>36</sup> This approach was successfully applied to examining the HO• reactions with the single-  
132 functional benzene compounds in the aqueous-phase.<sup>25</sup> The transition state was verified by an imaginary  
133 frequency factor. Once the electronic structures were optimized, the frequencies determined from the  
134 optimization were used to calculate the aqueous-phase free energy of activation,  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$ , and the

135 volume of molecules or radicals using the same DFT method and level of basis set. Theoretically  
136 calculated absorption spectra in the UV-VIS wavelength range were obtained from a TD-DFT analysis<sup>37</sup>  
137 of the optimized aqueous phase transition state structure at the level of M06-2X/cc-pVQZ and  
138 wB97XD/cc-pVQZ with the SMD solvation model. The TD-DFT contained 20 singlet and 20 triplet-  
139 excitation states. To investigate the contributions from MOs to the peak of the UV-VIS spectra, MOs  
140 were determined using a natural population analysis (NPA) at the level of M06-2X/cc-pVQZ with the  
141 SMD solvation model based on the optimized structure obtained at the level of M06-2X/Aug-cc-pVDZ  
142 with the SMD solvation model.

## 143 **Results and Discussions**

### 144 *Overall results for HO• addition to various multiple carboxylated benzene* 145 *compounds*

146 Table 1 shows the overall results for the addition of HO• to carboxylated and hydroxylated  
147 benzene compounds and includes the experimental HO• reaction rate constants and the theoretically  
148 calculated  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$ , in kcal/mol. When the  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  values are negative, increasing the temperature  
149 causes a decrease in the reaction rate constant, which have seen in various nonintuitive phenomena (e.g.,  
150 protein folding kinetics<sup>38</sup>). In these circumstances, the forward reaction is energetically favored by  
151 overcoming the transition state but the entropy of the reaction is not favored with respect to the reactants.  
152 We have observed negative  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  values for the aqueous phase HO• addition to aromatic compounds  
153 with various single-functional groups and successfully developed the LFER for this class of compounds  
154 as:

$$155 \ln k_{\text{chem}} = -0.14 \Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}} + 20.30 \quad (n = 15) \quad (4)$$

156 where  $k_{\text{chem}}$  = chemical reaction rate constant that is determined, from the overall experimental rate  
157 constant.<sup>25</sup> The experimental overall reaction rate constant,  $k$ , can be expressed as in eq 5:<sup>39</sup>



$$k = \frac{k_D k_{\text{chem}}}{k_D + k_{\text{chem}}} \quad (5)$$

$k_D$  is the diffusion-limited rate constant. This  $k_D$  value was calculated using Smoluchowski's equation<sup>40</sup> in eq 6:

$$k_D = 4\pi D_l r N_0 / 1000 \quad (6)$$

where  $D_l$  is the aqueous-phase diffusion coefficient for the solute and radical (i.e., reactants),  $\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$ ,  $r$  is the sum of radius for reactants,  $\text{\AA}$ , and  $N_0$  is Avogadro's number. The diffusion coefficient of small molecules and radicals in the aqueous-phase can be calculated using the Hayduk-Laudie correlation<sup>41</sup> as shown in eq 7:

$$D_l = \frac{13.26 \times 10^{-5}}{(\mu_w)^{1.14} (V_b)^{0.589}} \quad (7)$$

where  $\mu_w$  is the viscosity of water, cP, ( $1 \text{ kg/m}\cdot\text{s} = 1000 \text{ cP}$ ), and  $V_b$  is the molar volume of the solute at the temperature at which a liquid boils at 1 atm of pressure,  $\text{cm}^3/\text{mol}$ .

The LFER determined for only HO• reaction with multiple carboxylated and hydroxylated benzene compounds in this study is:

$$\ln k_{\text{chem}} = -0.19 \Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}} + 21.09 \quad (n = 14) \quad (8)$$

as shown in Figure 1 with the individual parameters for the kinetics and diffusion coefficients summarized in Table 1. There was difficulty in convergence for the transition state structure optimization and we were not able to find the optimized transition state structures for pyromellitic acid and 1,2,3,4,5-pentacarboxylic acid. There is little difference observed between these two LFER expressions in eqs 4 and 8; however, the LFER established for the multiple carboxylated and hydroxylated benzene compounds has a slightly larger slope. When there were several positions available for the addition of HO• to the benzene ring, the overall  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  was calculated using the Benson's thermochemical

additivity principle<sup>42</sup> (i.e.,  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}} = \sum_i \Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}(i)}$ , where  $i$  = the position where HO• was added). The

180 summation might have caused the slight differences in the slope. Nevertheless, the observed linear  
181 correlation may be used to predict the rate constants given that there are limitations of calculating the  
182 aqueous-phase second order reaction rate constants (accuracies of  $\pm 0.5$  kcal/mol of the  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  values are  
183 required to calculate the rate constant within the difference of factor of 2 according to the transition state  
184 theory<sup>43</sup>) directly. Detailed discussions of each reaction mechanism will be given in the following  
185 sections.

186 **(Table 1 goes here)**

187 Overall experimental and calculated results for the addition of HO• to the hydroxylated and carboxylated  
188 benzene compounds including the literature reported values such as Ashton et al. (1995)<sup>44</sup> and Wander et  
189 al. (1968)<sup>45</sup> for benzoic acid, Kwon et al. (2009)<sup>46</sup> for benzoate and Charbouillot et al. (2011)<sup>47</sup> for  
190 terephthalic acid.

191 **(Figure 1 goes here)**

192 Linear Free Energy Relationships between experimental rate constants for the chemical reactions,  $k_{\text{chem}}$ ,  
193 and theoretically calculated  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$ . The error bar indicates the range of the literature reported values.

194

### 195 *Hydroxyl radical with benzoate and benzoic acid*

196 Measured transient absorption spectra provide mechanistic insights into the TD structural changes  
197 from the reactants to the molecular transition state. For example, Figure 2 indicates the time-dependent  
198 transient spectra for the reaction of HO• with benzoate in the aqueous-phase. Experimental transient  
199 spectra were obtained at reaction times of 1, 5, 50, and 100  $\mu\text{sec}$ , at pH of 6.9. The transient spectra  
200 indicate that the absorbance has a peak at approximately 330 nm and is seen to decrease as the reaction  
201 proceeds. This significant decrease of the transient spectra after 100  $\mu\text{sec}$  of reaction at both around 320  
202 nm and 340 nm indicates that the hydroxycyclohexadienyl radical that is generated by the HO• reaction  
203 with benzoate is being transformed into another product of radicals. This product in the N<sub>2</sub>O-saturated  
204 solution of this experiment is expected to be a higher molecular weight species resulting from the

205 dimerization or disproportionation of hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals as was postulated by the product  
206 study for benzene compound.<sup>48</sup> Simic et al. (1973)<sup>49</sup> investigated the reaction of HO• with benzoate at pH  
207 of 9.2 and obtained a peak maximum at 330 nm with a corresponding molar absorptivity of 3,800 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>  
208 <sup>1</sup>, consistent with our experimental findings.

209 **(Figure 2 goes here)**

210 Experimental transient absorption spectra for the reaction of HO• with benzoate

211  
212 The theoretical calculations found and optimized the transition state structures for ortho, meta,  
213 and para addition of HO• to benzoate, respectively. The TD-DFT analysis at the level of M06-2X/cc-  
214 pVQZ revealed that the addition of HO• at the ortho and para positions of benzoate were associated with  
215 the peaks at wavelengths,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ , of 322 nm and 324 nm, respectively, close to the peak of the measured  
216 transient spectra at 330 nm. In contrast, the addition of HO• at the meta position showed two peaks at  
217 wavelength,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  of 326 nm and 246 nm. To determine what MOs contribute to the different excited  
218 states of the transition state radicals, we first calculated the energies for the lowest unoccupied molecular  
219 orbital (LUMO)+1, LUMO, singly occupied molecular orbital (SOMO), and SOMO-1 orbitals. For  
220 calculating these energies of MOs, we applied the TD-DFT at the levels of wB97XD/cc-pVQZ and M06-  
221 2X/cc-pVQZ with the SMD solvation model. The wB97XD functional is known to contain empirical  
222 dispersion functions<sup>50</sup> and Wielopolski et al. (2014) successfully evaluated the lowest excited energy for  
223 various dye molecules using this functional.<sup>28</sup> We found the consistencies of energies calculated between  
224 these two methods. Table 2 summarizes the SOMO-LUMO gap, energies at the lowest excited state, and  
225 the oscillator strength (i.e., contribution of each MO to the excitation). The specific energies for  
226 LUMO+1, LUMO, SOMO, and SOMO-1, and energies at the  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  are summarized in Table S1 of  
227 supporting information. For the HO• addition at the benzoate ortho-position, the energy at the lowest  
228 excited state was calculated as 2.7 eV at the level of M06-2X/cc-pVQZ, which is close to the energy  
229 difference (i.e., 2.4 eV) between SOMO-1 and SOMO for the alpha-spin. In comparison, the energy gap  
230 between SOMO and LUMO was 6.9 eV. Accordingly, the excitation from SOMO-1 to SOMO is a major

231 driving factor for the excitation at the lowest state. The same contribution is also observed for the meta-  
232 and para-position additions. Then, we investigate the contributions from MOs to the peak of the UV-VIS  
233 spectra (Figure 3). The SOMO and SOMO-1 for the additions at both ortho and para positions indicate  
234 that these orbitals are localized on the carboxylate functional group, whereas the LUMO shows the  
235 localization on the hydroxyl group of hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals that were generated by the  
236 addition of HO•. The electron withdrawing effect of the carboxylate functional group promotes a spatial  
237 localization of LUMO on the hydroxyl group and a decoupling from the SOMO. This decoupling  
238 decreases of the transient spectra at around 340 ~ 350 nm of wavelength. The LUMO+1 for both ortho  
239 and para positions show the localization of these orbitals on the hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals. In  
240 contrast, the delocalized SOMO-1, SOMO, LUMO, and LUMO+1 throughout the entire structure for the  
241 addition at the meta-position contribute more significantly to the decrease of the transient spectra at  
242 around 320 nm.

243 **(Table 2 goes here)**

244 The SOMO-LUMO energy gap calculated at the level of wB97XD/cc-pVQZ and M06-2X/cc-pVQZ.  
245 Values in () are by M06-2X/cc-pVQZ. The lowest excited state with the MO contributions calculated at  
246 the level of M06-2X/cc-pVQZ for the aqueous-phase reaction of HO• with benzoate

247  
248 **(Figure 3 goes here)**

249 Molecular orbitals of SOMO-1, SOMO, LUMO, and LUMO+1 for the aqueous-phase reaction of HO•  
250 with benzoate

### 251 252 253 *Hydroxyl radical addition to multiple carboxylated benzene compounds*

254 We extended both the experimental and theoretical investigations to multiple carboxylated  
255 benzene compounds such as phthalic acid (1,2-dicarboxylic acid), terephthalic acid (1,4-dicarboxylic

256 acid), trimesic acid (1,3,5-tricarboxylic acid), pyromellitic acid (1,2,4,5-tetracarboxylic acid), and  
257 1,2,3,4,5-pentacarboxylic acid. As shown in Table 1, the overall experimental reaction rate constants  
258 decreased as the number of carboxylate functional groups increased. The theoretically calculated  
259  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  values indicated that the position and number of carboxylate functional groups on the benzene  
260 ring significantly affect the reactivity of HO•. For example, the addition of HO• to phthalic acid at the 3  
261 position corresponds to a  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  of -4.85 kcal/mol, whereas a  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  of -3.00 kcal/mol was required  
262 for addition at the 4 position. This difference indicates that the steric effects from the carboxylate  
263 functional group are less significant than the resonance effect for the addition of HO• to phthalic acid.  
264 For terephthalic acid, the required  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  for the addition of HO• at any position was -7.61 kcal/mol,  
265 which is much smaller than the values for phthalic acid. When three carboxylate functional groups are on  
266 the benzene ring at the 1, 3, and 5 positions, the  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  was -6.12 kcal/mol for the addition of HO• at  
267 the 2, 4, or 6 position. Only one reaction rate constant of HO• with terephthalic acid,  $(4.0 \pm 0.1) \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1}$   
268  $\text{s}^{-1}$ , has been reported in the literature<sup>47</sup>, consistent with our experimental value of  $(4.95 \pm 0.28) \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1}$   
269  $\text{s}^{-1}$ .

270 Coupling the measured transient spectra for the addition of HO• to multiple carboxylated  
271 benzene compounds (Figure 4) with the theoretically calculated MOs (Figure 5) and associated energies  
272 (Table 3) show how the positions and number of carboxylate functional groups affect the addition of HO•.  
273 The measured transient spectra (Figure 4) for phthalic acid, terephthalic acid, trimesic acid, pyromellitic  
274 acid, and 1,2,3,4,5-pentacarboxylic acid in neutral pH solution showed two major peaks at approximately  
275 350 nm and 250 nm. More carboxylate functional groups blue-shifted the  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  toward 400 nm. Analysis  
276 of the MO contribution (Figure 5) indicates the localization of the molecular orbitals on one of  
277 carboxylate functional groups at both levels of SOMO and SOMO-1 for all the multiple carboxylated  
278 benzene compounds, as observed for the benzoate. The LUMO and LUMO+1 orbitals are localized on  
279 either the hydroxyl group of the hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals. The analysis of the MO also revealed

280 that the excited state is LUMO at around 350 nm, whereas the combinations of various SOMO and  
281 LUMO contribute to the peak at around 250 nm. This different orbital contributions are supported by the  
282 fact that the transient spectral peaks at around 260 nm for terephthalic acid, pyromellitic acid and  
283 1,2,3,4,5-pentacarboxylic acid are fewer in number than those for phthalic acid and trimesic acid. The  
284 terephthalic acid, pyromellitic acid, and 1,2,3,4,5-pentacarboxylic acid produce symmetric  
285 hydroxycyclohexadienyl radical structures regardless of the position of HO• addition. In contrast, the  
286 asymmetric structures of hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals are generated from phthalic acid and trimesic  
287 acid (e.g., 3-hydroxy and 4-hydroxy cyclohexadienyl radicals for phthalic acid). We did not observe a  
288 significant decrease in the transient spectra in reaction times between 1  $\mu$ sec to 100  $\mu$ sec for the reaction  
289 of HO• with the multiple carboxylated benzene compounds. This result most likely occurred because  
290 more stable transients of HO-adducts were generated from the slower reaction of HO• with the multiple  
291 carboxylated benzene compounds than with benzoate or benzoic acid.

292 The theoretically calculated energies of various excited states indicate that the energy gaps  
293 between SOMO and LUMO for the multiple carboxylated benzene compounds (i.e., 5.5~6.8 eV) are  
294 smaller than those for the singly carboxylated compounds (i.e., 6.2~7.1 eV), which indicate the slower  
295 kinetics due to synergic effect of electron-withdrawing ability of multiple-carboxylate functional groups.  
296 The analysis on wavelength, energy, and the fraction at the lowest excited state for the multiple  
297 carboxylated benzene compounds vary by the compounds and the position of HO• addition.

298 **(Table 3 goes here)**

299 The SOMO-LUMO energy gap calculated at the level of wB97XD/cc-pVQZ and M06-2X/cc-pVQZ.  
300 Values in () are by M06-2X/cc-pVQZ. The lowest excited state with the MO contributions calculated at  
301 the level of M06-2X/cc-pVQZ for the addition of HO• to multiple carboxylated benzene compounds.

302

303 **(Figure 4 goes here)**

304 Experimental transient spectra for the addition of HO• to multiple carboxylated benzene compounds

305

306

**(Figure 5 goes here)**

307 Theoretically calculated MOs for the addition of HO• to multiple carboxylated benzene compounds

308

309 ***Hydroxyl radical addition to multiple hydroxylated benzene compounds.***

310 To investigate the effect of hydroxyl functional groups in benzoate compounds, we investigated  
311 the HO• addition to: 1) mono-hydroxylated benzoic acid such as salicylic acid (2-hydroxybenzoic acid),  
312 3-hydroxybenzoic acid, and 4-hydroxybenzoic acid; 2) di-hydroxybenzoic acids (2,3-, 2,4-, 2,5-, and 2,6-  
313 dihydroxybenzoic acids), and 3) tri-hydroxybenzoic acids (2,3,4- and 3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoic acids) near  
314 neutral pH. Figure 6 shows the TD transient spectra, Figure S1 of supporting information shows the MOs  
315 for the excited states, and Table 4 shows the associated excited-state energies for the reactions of HO•  
316 addition to multiple hydroxylated benzoic acids at various positions.

317

**(Tables 4 goes here)**

318 The SOMO-LUMO energy gap calculated at the level of wB97XD/cc-pVQZ and M06-2X/cc-pVQZ.

319 Values in () are by M06-2X/cc-pVQZ. The lowest excited state with the MO contributions calculated at

320 the level of M06-2X/cc-pVQZ for the reactions of HO• addition to multiple hydroxylated benzoic acids

321 (a) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to salicylic acid at 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6-positions

322 (b) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to 3-hydroxybenzoic acid at 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6-  
323 positions324 (c) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to 4-hydroxybenzoic acid at 2- and 3-positions  
325 and to 2,3-dihydroxybenzoic acid at 4-, 5-, and 6-positions326 (d) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to 2,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid at 3-, 5-, and 6-  
327 positions and to 2,6-dihydroxybenzoic acid at 4- and 5-positions328 (e) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid at 3-, 4-, and 6-  
329 positions and to 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid at 2- and 5-positions

330 (f) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to 2,3,4-trihydroxybenzoic acid at 5- and 6-  
331 position, and to 3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoic acid at 2- or 6-position

332

333 **(Figure 6 goes here)**

334 Time-dependent transient spectra for the reaction of HO• with multiple hydroxylated benzoic acids

335

336 As shown in Table 1, the overall experimental reaction rate constants for all the hydroxylated  
337 benzoic acids are larger than those for the multiple carboxylated benzene compounds examined above.  
338 Electron-donating hydroxyl functional group(s) significantly enhance the overall reactivity of HO•. It is  
339 noted that we did not consider a hydroxyl proton assisted electron transfer from the hydroxyl functional  
340 groups to HO• in the  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  calculations. This is because the hydroxyl functional group forms a  
341 hydrogen bond with surrounding water molecule(s) and the past experimental observations on the  
342 reactions between aliphatic alcohol compounds and HO• indicated that this electron transfer was  
343 negligible in the aqueous phase.<sup>51</sup> The experimental rate constants for the di-hydroxybenzoic acids are  
344 larger than those for the tri-hydroxybenzoic acids. This is attributed to the entropy term being more  
345 dominant in the  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  for the tri-hydroxybenzoic acids than for the di-hydroxybenzoic acids, and  
346 therefore, less negative  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  values were obtained. The  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$  values for all the hydroxybenzoic  
347 acids fell in the close range from -13.0 kcal/mol to -18.0 kcal/mol except for salicylic acid (-23.4  
348 kcal/mol). To investigate the differences in the chemical reactivity with HO•, we analyzed the  
349 experimental transient spectra and calculated the MOs that contribute to the associated transient peak. An  
350 introduction of hydroxyl functional group(s) on the benzoic acids indicates additional transient peaks that  
351 have not been observed for the multiple carboxylated benzene compounds. For example, the transient  
352 spectra for salicylic acid shows a broad peak at around 380 nm in addition to the two transient peaks that  
353 were observed for carboxylic and 1,2-dicarboxylic benzoic acids at around 260 nm and 340 nm,  
354 respectively. The analysis of MO using the TD-DFT revealed that the transient peak around 380 nm is



355 associated with the LUMO of the 4-hydroxy-cyclohexadienyl radical generated from the HO• addition to  
356 the salicylate at the 4-position (Figure 7). The other two peaks were found to be correlated with the MO  
357 from the hydroxyl functional group of the hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals. We also found the additional  
358 transient peak at around 300 nm for the HO• addition to the 4 hydroxybenzoic acid. Similarly, we found  
359 additional transient peak that associates with the LUMO and LUMO+1 for the other hydroxylated  
360 benzene compounds. In these circumstances, the excited MOs are mainly localized on the hydroxyl  
361 functional group of hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals. The wavelength that is responsible for the  
362 additional transient peak varies by the compounds and the structure of the associated  
363 hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals.

364 **(Figure 7 goes here)**

365 Theoretically calculated MO for the addition of HO• to the salicylic acid

366  
367 One distinctive difference in the observed reactivity for HO• addition to the multiple  
368 hydroxylated benzene compounds is the stability of the HO-adduct generated from the  
369 hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals. As compared to the TD decrease in the transient spectra for the HO•  
370 addition to the multiple carboxylated benzene compounds, the HO-adduct showed a significant decrease  
371 of the TD transient spectra at specific wavelength. These differences are consistent with faster decay  
372 kinetics for the hydroxylated benzene compounds, the larger observed rate constants, the smaller  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$   
373 values, and the larger energy gap between SOMO and LUMO observed in Tables 4.

## 374 **Conclusions**

375 In this study, we investigated into the initial addition of HO• to multiple carboxylated and  
376 hydroxylated benzene compounds by the pulse radiolysis technique and the TD-DFT based theoretical  
377 calculations. The M06-2X/Aug-cc-pVDZ with the implicit SMD solvation model was successfully  
378 applied to find and optimize the transition state structures for the addition of HO• on the benzene rings  
379 and calculate the aqueous-phase free energies of activation. The LFER that relate the experimentally

380 determined HO• chemical reaction rate constants and the aqueous phase free energies of activation was  
381 developed as:  $\ln k_{\text{chem}} = -0.19 \Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}} + 21.09$  ( $n = 14$ ). The experimental transient spectra and the TD-  
382 DFT analysis on the UV-VIS spectra and the MOs enabled us to visualize an initial transformation of  
383 hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals induced by the aqueous phase HO• and stability of the HO-adduct  
384 generated from the hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals. It was found that the excited state of hydroxyl  
385 group of cyclohexadienyl radicals contributed to the transient spectral peak at around 350 nm. The  
386 analysis of the MO revealed that the excited state is LUMO at around 350 nm, whereas the combinations  
387 of various SOMO and LUMO contribute to the peak at around 250 nm. The MOs analysis also indicated  
388 the localization of the MOs on one of carboxylate functional groups at both levels of SOMO and SOMO-  
389 1, and the LUMO and LUMO+1 orbitals are localized on either the hydroxyl group of the  
390 hydroxycyclohexadienyl radicals.

## 391 Acknowledgement

392 DM appreciates support from the Michigan Tech HPC cluster “Superior”. The authors appreciate the use  
393 of the accelerator facilities at the University of Notre Dame Radiation Laboratory, which is supported by  
394 Department of Energy. WJC and WS appreciate support from NSF CBET-1034555.

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1 Experimental and Theoretical Studies on Aqueous-Phase Reactivity of Hydroxyl Radicals with  
2 Multiple Carboxylated and Hydroxylated Benzene Compounds

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4 Prepared for Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics (PCCP)

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7 Tables 1-4 and Figures 1-7

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24 **Table 1**

25 Overall experimental and calculated results for the addition of HO• to the hydroxylated and carboxylated  
 26 benzene compounds including the literature reported values such as Ashton et al. (1995)<sup>44</sup> and Wander et  
 27 al. (1968)<sup>45</sup> for benzoic acid, Kwon et al. (2009)<sup>46</sup> for benzoate and Charbouillot et al. (2011)<sup>47</sup> for  
 28 terephthalic acid.

	$k_{\text{HO}^\bullet, \text{exp.}}$ $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda_{\text{max, exp}}$ nm	pH	Reference	$\Delta G_{\text{aq, calc.}}^{\text{act}}$ kcal/mol	$V_{\text{calc}}$ $\text{cm}^3/\text{molecule}$	$k_{\text{D}}$ $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	$k_{\text{chem}}$ $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
Benzoic acid	$1.80 \times 10^9$ $(4.30 \sim 6.0) \times 10^9$			Ashton et al., 1995 Wander et al., 1968	1.43	87.10	$1.13 \times 10^{10}$	$1.80 \times 10^9$
Benzoate	$(5.86 \pm 0.54) \times 10^9$ $2.50 \times 10^9$	330 nm	6.9	This study Kwon et al., 2009	-10.30	87.00	$1.13 \times 10^{10}$	$5.86 \times 10^9$
Phthalic acid (1,2-Di)	$(4.98 \pm 0.16) \times 10^9$	330 nm	6.9	This study	-7.85	122.21	$1.15 \times 10^{10}$	$4.98 \times 10^9$
Terephthalic acid (1,4-Di)	$(4.95 \pm 0.28) \times 10^9$ $(4.0 \pm 0.1) \times 10^9$	360 nm	6.9	This study Charbouillot et al., 2011	-7.61	126.81	$1.16 \times 10^{10}$	$4.95 \times 10^9$
Trimesic acid (1,3,5-Tri)	$(3.53 \pm 0.35) \times 10^9$	350 nm	6.9	This study	-6.12	132.70	$1.16 \times 10^{10}$	$3.53 \times 10^9$
Pyromellitic acid (1,2,4,5-Tetra)	$(1.27 \pm 0.03) \times 10^9$	370 nm	6.9	This study				
(1,2,3,4,5-Penta)	$(7.55 \pm 0.17) \times 10^8$	370 nm	6.9	This study				
Salicylic acid	$(1.07 \pm 0.07) \times 10^{10}$	320 nm	7.0	This study	-23.4	101.823	$1.14 \times 10^{10}$	$1.78 \times 10^{11}$
3-hydroxybenzoic acid	$(7.27 \pm 0.23) \times 10^9$	360 nm	7.0	This study	-16.07	113.572	$1.15 \times 10^{10}$	$1.99 \times 10^{10}$
4-hydroxybenzoic acid	$(8.16 \pm 0.50) \times 10^9$	370 nm	7.0	This study	-17.74	101.769	$1.14 \times 10^{10}$	$2.88 \times 10^{10}$
2,3-dihydroxybenzoic acid	$(9.90 \pm 0.40) \times 10^9$	330 nm	7.0	This study	-15.08	105.298	$1.14 \times 10^{10}$	$7.49 \times 10^{10}$
2,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid	$(8.43 \pm 0.75) \times 10^9$	330 nm	7.0	This study	-15.71	115.519	$1.15 \times 10^{10}$	$3.17 \times 10^{10}$
2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid	$(5.51 \pm 0.50) \times 10^9$	300 nm	7.0	This study	-13.34	109.959	$1.14 \times 10^{10}$	$1.06 \times 10^{10}$
2,6-dihydroxybenzoic acid	$(8.87 \pm 0.70) \times 10^9$	350 nm	7.0	This study	-14.26	109.234	$1.14 \times 10^{10}$	$3.95 \times 10^{10}$
2,3,4-trihydroxybenzoic acid	$(7.87 \pm 0.28) \times 10^9$	380 nm	7.0	This study	-12.94	92.366	$1.13 \times 10^{10}$	$2.58 \times 10^{10}$
3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoic acid	$(6.33 \pm 0.16) \times 10^9$	410 nm	7.0	This study	-16.81	120.569	$1.15 \times 10^{10}$	$1.41 \times 10^{10}$

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32 **Table 2**

33 The SOMO-LUMO energy gap calculated at the level of wB97XD/cc-pVQZ and M06-2X/cc-pVQZ.

34 Values in () are by M06-2X/cc-pVQZ. The lowest excited state with the MO contributions calculated at

35 the level of M06-2X/cc-pVQZ for the aqueous-phase reaction of HO• with benzoate.

Compounds		Ortho		Benzoate Meta		Para	
Position of HO attack		Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	8.65 (6.92)	7.97 (6.42)	8.85 (7.07)	7.7 (6.2)	8.5 (6.77)	8.37 (6.72)
	$\lambda_{exc}$ , nm	460		472		440	
Lowest excited state	Energy, eV	2.7		2.63		2.82	
	$f$	0.0057		0.0051		0.0004	
		SOMO → LUMO (-0.486)	SOMO-3 → LUMO (0.215) SOMO → LUMO (0.832)	SOMO → LUMO (-0.404)	SOMO-3 → LUMO (0.233) SOMO-2 → LUMO (-0.101) SOMO → LUMO (0.866)	SOMO → LUMO (-0.578)	SOMO → LUMO (0.794)

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41 **Table 3**

42 The SOMO-LUMO energy gap calculated at the level of wB97XD/cc-pVQZ and M06-2X/cc-pVQZ.

43 Values in () are by M06-2X/cc-pVQZ. The lowest excited state with the MO contributions calculated at

44 the level of M06-2X/cc-pVQZ for the addition of HO• to multiple carboxylated benzene compounds.

Compounds		Phthalic acid (1,2-Di)				Terephthalic acid (1,4-Di)	
Position of HO attack		3 position		4 position		2 or 3 position	
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
	$\lambda$ , nm	490.73		1230		474.24	
Lowest excited state	Energy, eV	2.5265		1.0079		2.61	
	$f$	0.0035		0.0008		0.0006	
		SOMO → LUMO (0.483)	SOMO-6 → LUMO (0.111)	SOMO → LUMO (0.945)		SOMO → LUMO (0.611)	SOMO-6 → LUMO (-0.192)
			SOMO-5 → LUMO (-0.204)	SOMO → LUMO+2 (-0.159)			SOMO → LUMO (0.739)
			SOMO → LUMO (0.824)	SOMO → LUMO+3 (0.148)			
Compounds		Trimesic acid (1,3,5-Tri)		1,2,3,4,5-Penta		Pyromellitic acid (1,2,4,5-Tetra)	
Position of HO attack		2 or 4 position					
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
	$\lambda$ , nm	504.73		521		502.91	
Lowest excited state	Energy, eV	2.4564		2.38		2.4653	
	$f$	0.01696		0.211		0.0003	
		SOMO → LUMO (0.351)	SOMO → LUMO (-0.202)	SOMO → LUMO (0.287)	SOMO-15 → LUMO (0.207)	SOMO → LUMO (-0.577)	SOMO → LUMO (-0.201)
			SOMO → LUMO (0.890)		SOMO → LUMO (0.917)		SOMO-12 → LUMO (0.771)

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49 **Tables 4**

50 The SOMO-LUMO energy gap calculated at the level of wB97XD/cc-pVQZ and M06-2X/cc-pVQZ.

51 Values in () are by M06-2X/cc-pVQZ. The lowest excited state with the MO contributions calculated at

52 the level of M06-2X/cc-pVQZ for the reactions of HO• addition to multiple hydroxylated benzoic acids

53 (a) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to salicylic acid at 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6-positions

Compounds		Salicylic acid (2hydroxybenzoic acid)							
Position of HO attack		3 position		4 position		5 position		6 position	
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
	$\lambda_{\text{max}}$	8.58 (6.85)	477.94	8.83 (7.09)	470.83	8.27 (6.52)	439 (449.88)	8.45 (6.59)	479.21
	Energy		2.594		2.6333		2.8237 (2.7559)		2.59
Lowest excited state	f	SOMO → LUMO (0.431)	0.0096	SOMO → LUMO (0.361)	0.0084	SOMO → LUMO (-0.639)	0.0001 (0.0003)	SOMO → LUMO (-0.460)	0.0077
			SOMO-3 → LUMO (-0.160)		SOMO → LUMO (0.915)		SOMO-3 → LUMO (-0.224)		SOMO → LUMO (0.868)
			SOMO → LUMO (0.875)				SOMO → LUMO (0.708)		

54

55 (b) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to 3-hydroxybenzoic acid at 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6-

56 positions

Compounds		3-hydroxybenzoic acid							
Position of HO attack		2 position		4 position		5 position		6 position	
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
	$\lambda_{\text{max}}$	8.17 (6.42)	474.39	8.84 (7.10)	452.89 (468.17)	9.22 (7.44)	544.07 (548.24)	7.66 (5.94)	457.6 (468.13)
	Energy		2.6135		2.7376 (2.6483)		2.2788 (2.2615)		2.709 (2.6485)
Lowest excited state	f	SOMO → LUMO (-0.583)	0.0013	SOMO → LUMO (-0.369)	0.009 (0.0096)	SOMO → LUMO (0.245)	0.0154 (0.0147)	SOMO → LUMO (0.953)	0.0249 (0.0283)
			SOMO → LUMO (0.793)		SOMO-2 → LUMO (0.122)		SOMO → LUMO (0.776)		SOMO → LUMO (-0.454)
					SOMO → LUMO (0.906)				

57

58 (c) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to 4-hydroxybenzoic acid at 2- and 3-positions

59 and to 2,3-dihydroxybenzoic acid at 4-, 5-, and 6-positions

Compounds		4-hydroxybenzoic acid					
Position of HO attack		2 position		3 position			
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
	$\lambda_{\text{max}}$	8.64 (6.88)	551.1 (561.14)	7.22 (5.61)	464.21 (479.39)	8.05 (6.38)	
	Energy		2.2498 (2.2095)		2.67 (2.5863)		
Lowest excited state	f	SOMO → LUMO (-0.261)	0.0201 (0.0183)	SOMO → LUMO (0.948)	0.0002 (0.0001)	SOMO → LUMO (0.776)	
			SOMO → LUMO (0.929)		SOMO → LUMO (0.596)		

Compounds		2,3-dihydroxybenzoic acid					
Position of HO attack		4 position		5 position		6 position	
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
	$\lambda_{\text{max}}$	8.84 (7.11)	530.68 (544.71)	8.49 (6.75)	483.81 (484.91)	8.02 (6.31)	460.66 (459.41)
	Energy		2.3363 (2.2761)		2.5627 (2.5568)		2.6915 (2.6988)
Lowest excited state	f	SOMO → LUMO (-0.191)	0.0269 (0.0279)	SOMO → LUMO (-0.387)	0.0089 (0.0066)	SOMO → LUMO (0.612)	0.0075 (0.0048)
			SOMO → LUMO (0.959)		SOMO → LUMO (0.896)		SOMO-4 → LUMO (0.113)
							SOMO → LUMO (0.755)

60

61 (d) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to 2,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid at 3-, 5-, and 6-

62 positions and to 2,6-dihydroxybenzoic acid at 4- and 5-positions

Compounds		2,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid					
Position of HO attack		3 position		5 position		6 position	
		Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	7.99 (6.33)	7.83 (6.18)	7.98 (6.28)	8.09 (6.52)	8.66 (6.89)	7.29 (5.67)
Lowest excited state	$\lambda_{\max}$ Energy f	344.47 (491.16) 3.5992 (2.5243) 0.1098 (0.0025)		450.25 (461.35) 2.7537 (2.6874) 0.0017 (0.0011)		533.66 (540.13) 2.3233 (2.2955) 0.0231 (0.0208)	
		SOMO → LUMO (0.819)	SOMO → LUMO (0.537)	SOMO → LUMO (0.689)	SOMO-2 → LUMO (0.112) SOMO → LUMO (0.685)	SOMO → LUMO (0.275)	SOMO → LUMO (0.945)

Compounds		2,6-dihydroxybenzoic acid			
Position of HO attack		4 position		5 position	
		Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	9.28 (7.53)	3.04 (5.36)	8.08 (6.39)	8.06 (6.54)
Lowest excited state	$\lambda_{\max}$ Energy f	595.43 (601.53) 2.0823 (2.0611) 0.0233 (0.0229)		442.98 (448.87) 2.7988 (2.7621) 0.0033 (0.0034)	
		SOMO → LUMO (0.171)	SOMO → LUMO (0.970)	SOMO → LUMO (0.712)	SOMO-2 → LUMO (0.135) SOMO → LUMO (0.656)

- 63
- 64 (e) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid at 3-, 4-, and 6-
- 65 positions and to 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid at 2- and 5-positions

Compounds		2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid					
Position of HO attack		3 position		4 position		6 position	
		Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	9 (7.28)	7.32 (5.72)	9.04 (7.30)	7.37 (5.76)	8.64 (6.90)	7.38 (5.79)
Lowest excited state	$\lambda_{\max}$ Energy f	528.18 (529.77) 2.3474 (2.3404) 0.019 (0.0181)		522.92 (523.92) 2.371 (2.3665) 0.0143 (0.0133)		518.23 (519.41) 2.3924 (2.487) 0.024 (0.0196)	
		SOMO → LUMO (-0.251)	SOMO → LUMO (0.952)	SOMO → LUMO (0.234)	SOMO → LUMO (0.953)	SOMO → LUMO (-0.302)	SOMO → LUMO (0.934)

Compounds		3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid					
Position of HO attack		2 position		5 position		6 position	
		Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	8.57 (6.82)	7.21 (5.59)	8.28 (6.56)	7.45 (5.81)	7.69 (5.98)	8.35 (6.75)
Lowest excited state	$\lambda_{\max}$ Energy f	552.15 (568.52) 2.2455 (2.1808) 0.025 (0.0236)		525.74 (543.49) 2.3583 (2.2813) 0.0142 (0.0137)		457.47 (469.36) 2.7102 (2.6415) 0.0216 (0.0257)	
		SOMO → LUMO (0.265)	SOMO → LUMO (0.949)	SOMO → LUMO (0.316)	SOMO → LUMO (0.930)	SOMO → LUMO (0.867)	SOMO → LUMO (0.458)

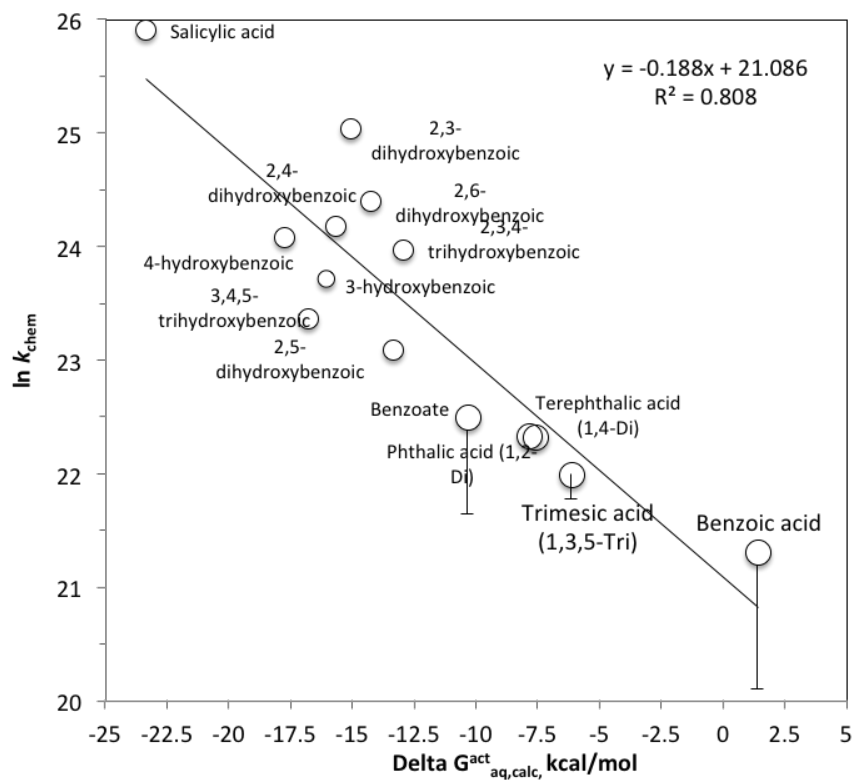
- 66
- 67 (f) Excited state energies for the reactions of HO• addition to 2,3,4-trihydroxybenzoic acid at 5- and 6-
- 68 position, and to 3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoic acid at 2- or 6-position

Compounds		2,3,4-trihydroxybenzoic acid				3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoic acid	
Position of HO attack		5 position		6 position		2 or 6 position	
		Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin	Alpha-spin	Beta-spin
energy, eV	SOMO-LUMO gap	8.38 (6.68)	7.72 (6.14)	8.39 (6.69)	7.51 (5.60)	7.74 (6.09)	7.93 (6.32)
Lowest excited state	$\lambda_{\max}$ Energy f	457.78 (469.08) 2.6505 (2.6432) 0.0033 (0.0037)		494.38 (480.47) 2.5079 (2.5805) 0.0091 (0.0059)		462.79 (469.71) 2.6791 (2.6396) 0.0044 (0.0049)	
		SOMO → LUMO (0.427) SOMO → LUMO+1 (0.143)	SOMO → LUMO (0.871)	SOMO → LUMO (0.353)	SOMO → LUMO (0.916)	SOMO → LUMO (0.705)	SOMO → LUMO (-0.679)

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76 **Figure 1**

77 Linear Free Energy Relationships between experimental rate constants for the chemical reactions,  $k_{\text{chem}}$ ,  
 78 and theoretically calculated  $\Delta G_{\text{aq,calc}}^{\text{act}}$ . The error bar indicates the range of the literature reported values.

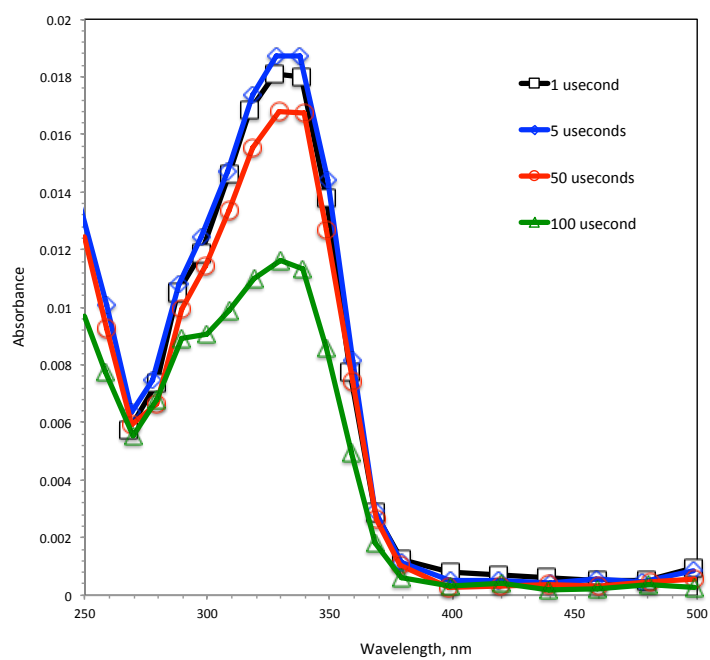


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81 **Figure 2**

82 Experimental transient absorption spectra for the reaction of HO• with benzoate



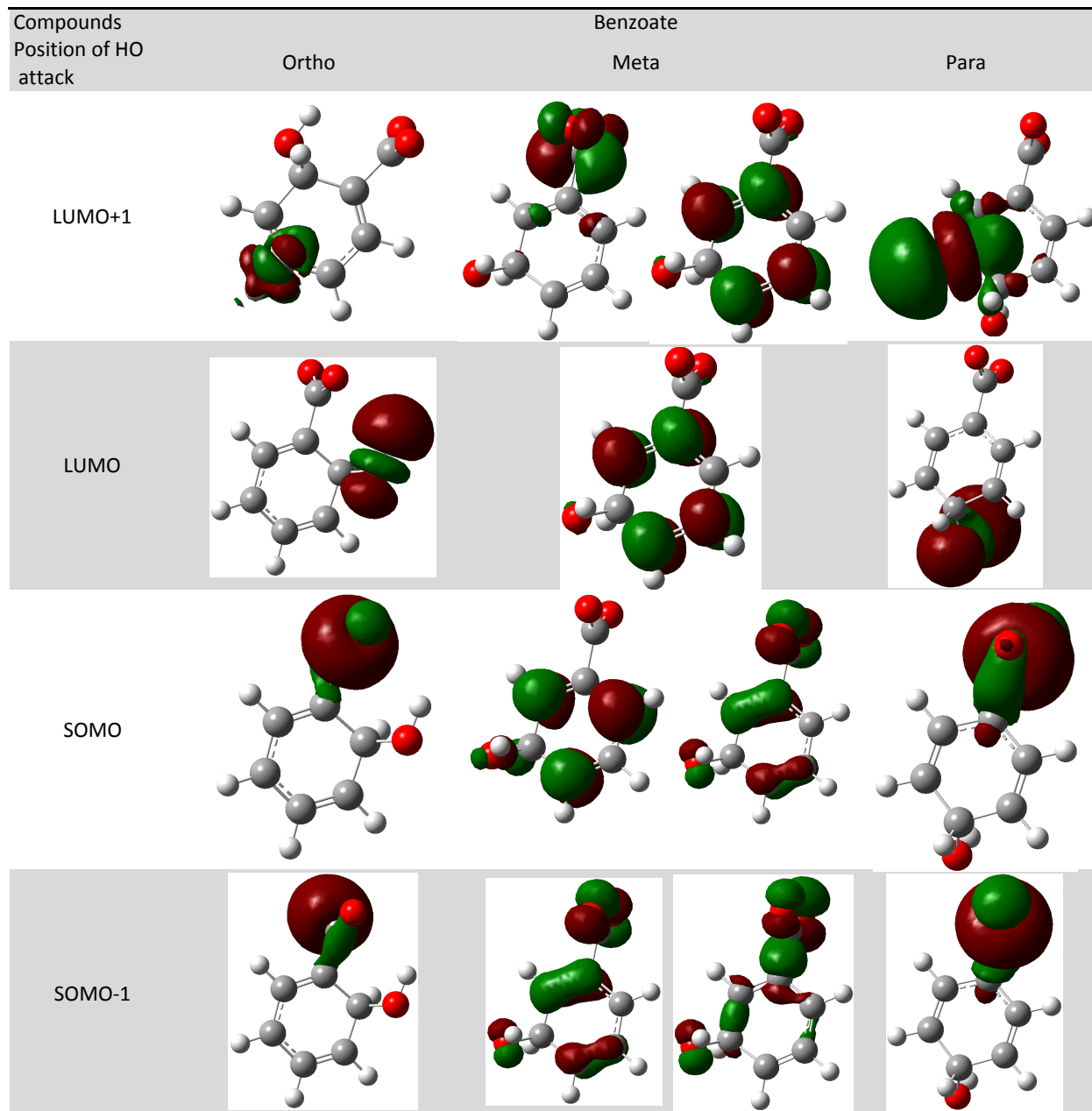
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85 **Figure 3**

86 Molecular orbitals of SOMO-1, SOMO, LUMO, and LUMO+1 for the aqueous-phase reaction of HO•

87 with benzoate



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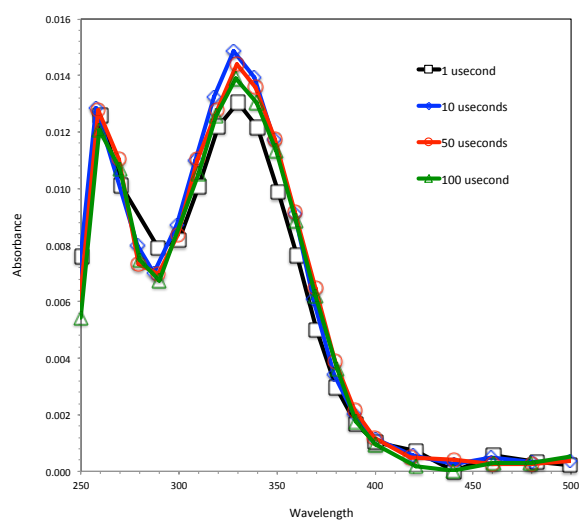
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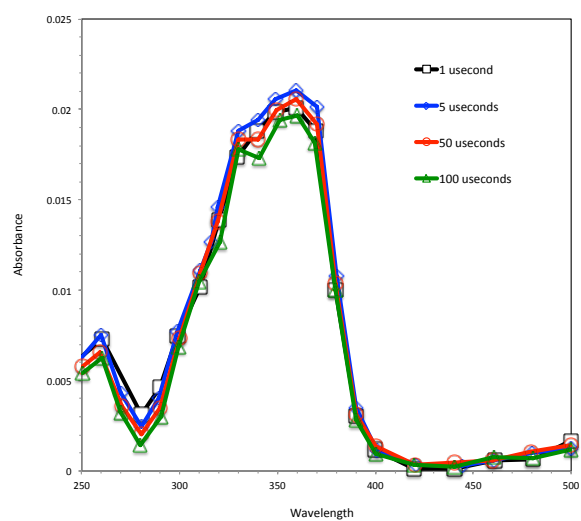
92 **Figure 4**

93 Experimental transient spectra for the addition of HO• to multiple carboxylated benzene compounds



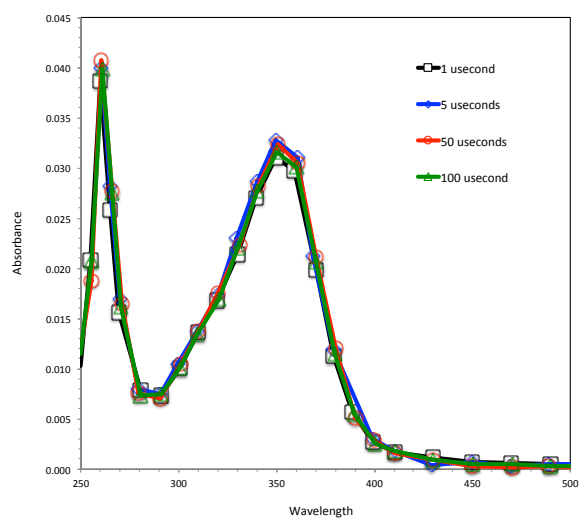
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95 (a) Phthalic acid



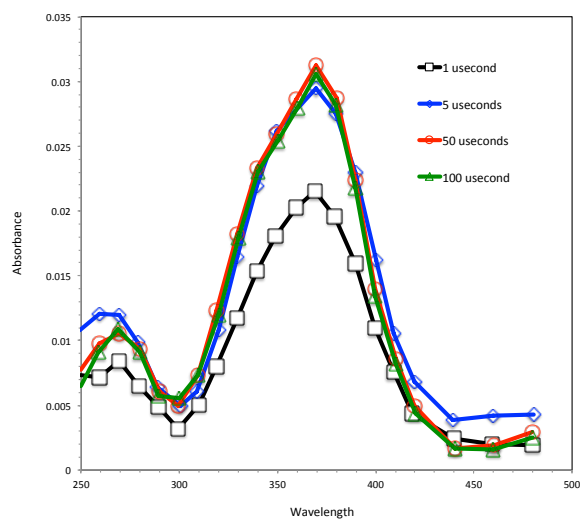
(b) Terephthalic acid

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98 (c) Trimesic acid



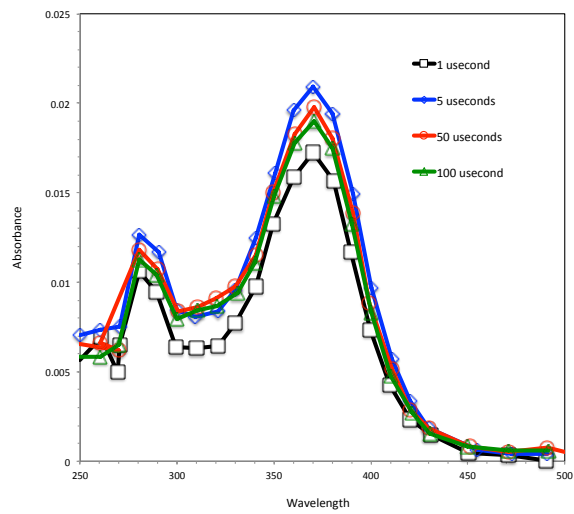
(d) Pyromellitic acid

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104 (e) 1,2,3,4,5-Pentacarboxylic acid

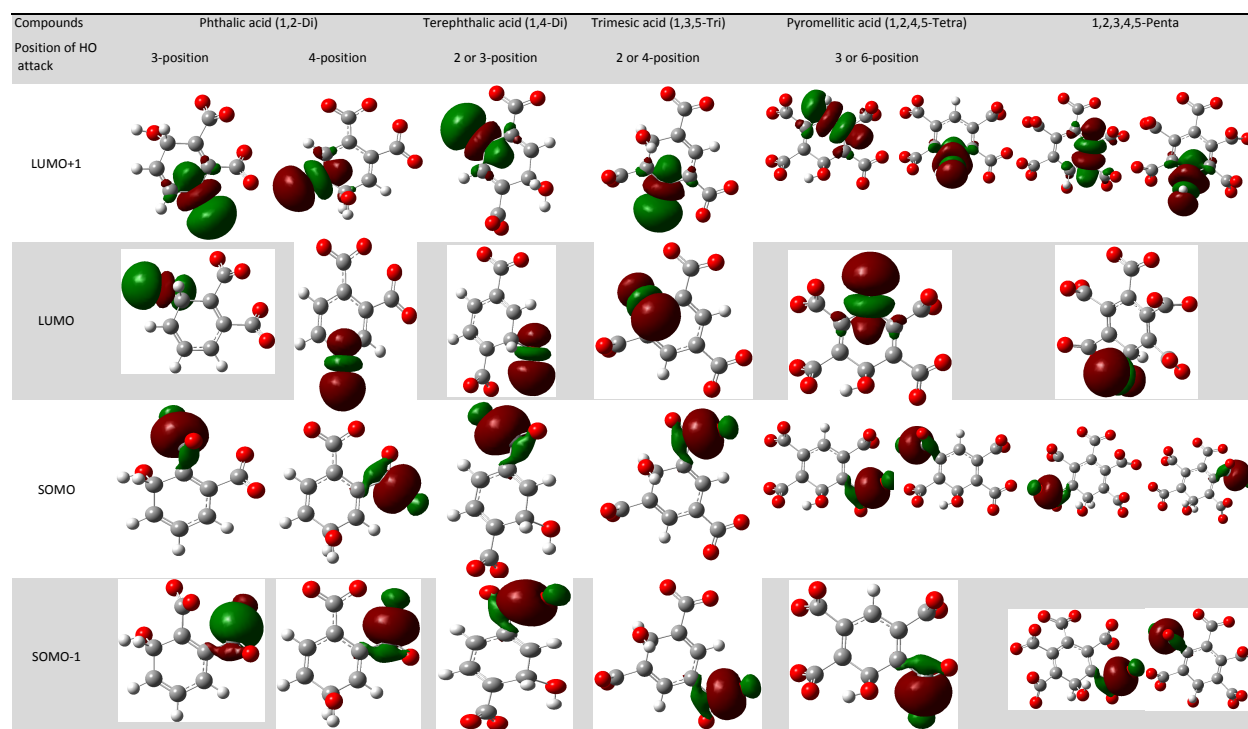
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107 **Figure 5**

108 Theoretically calculated MOs for the addition of HO• to multiple carboxylated benzene compounds



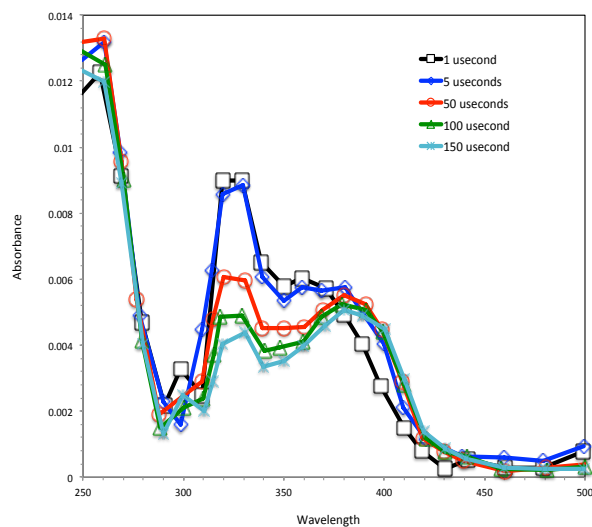
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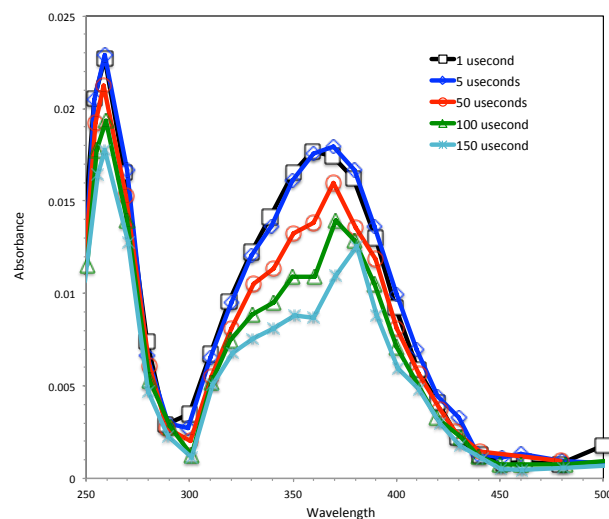
112 **Figure 6**

113 Time-dependent transient spectra for the reaction of HO• with multiple hydroxylated benzoic acids

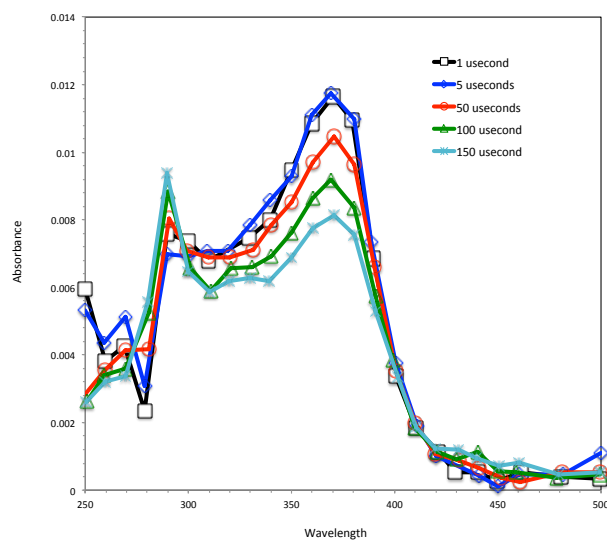


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115 (a) Salicylic acid

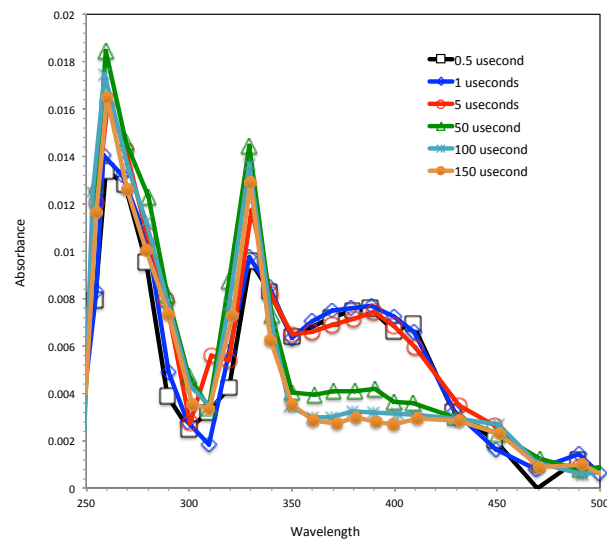


(b) 3-hydroxybenzoic acid

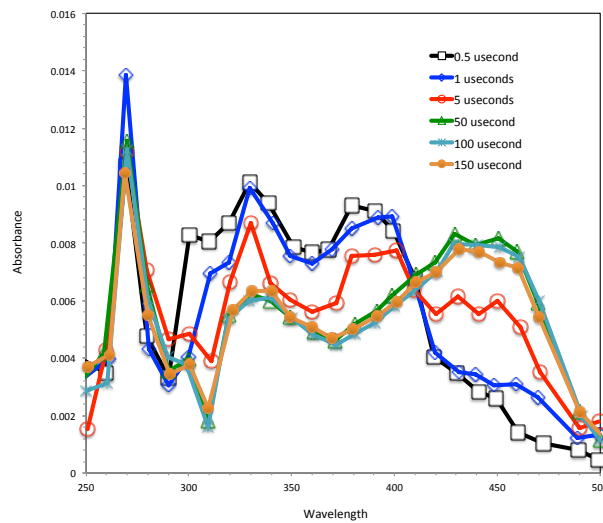


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117 (c) 4-hydroxybenzoic acid



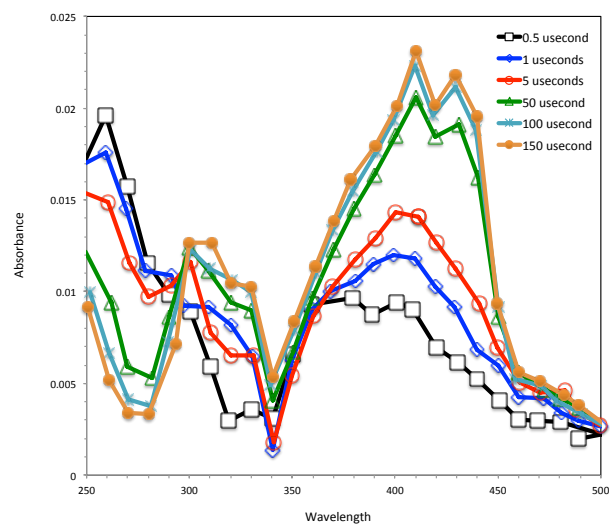
(d) 2,3-dihydrobenzoic acid



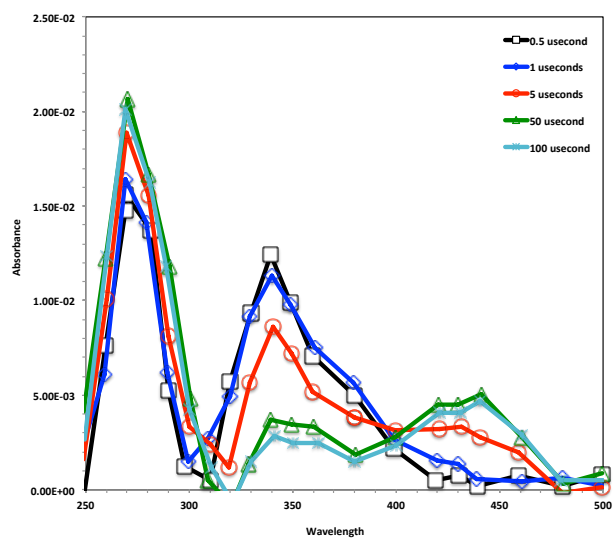
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(e) 2,4-dihydrobenzoic acid



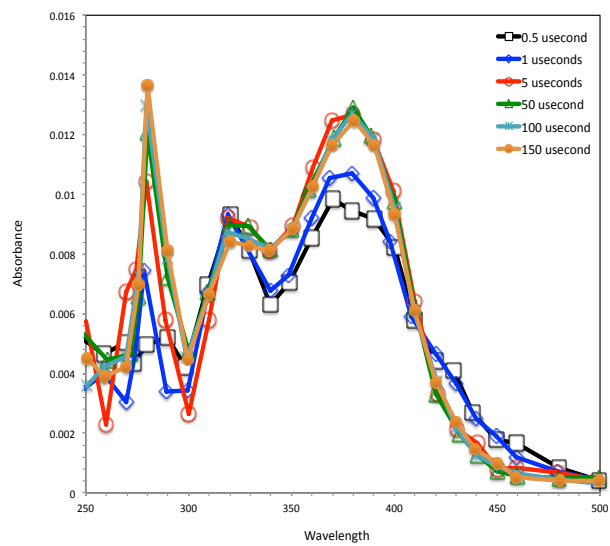
(f) 2,5-dihydrobenzoic acid



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(g) 2,6-dihydrobenzoic acid

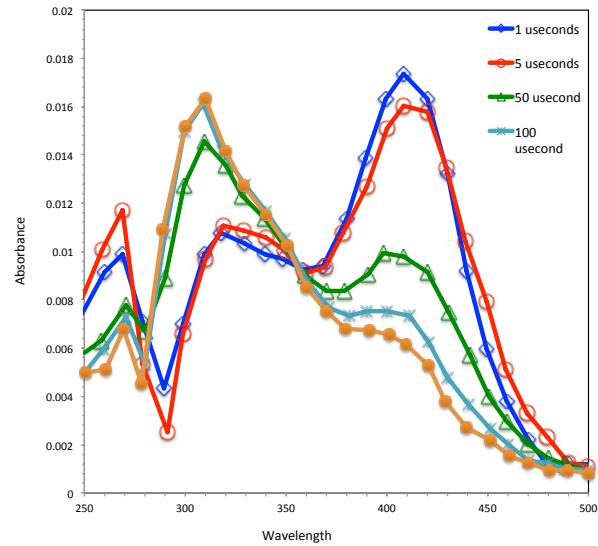


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123 (h) 2,3,4-trihydrobenzoic acid

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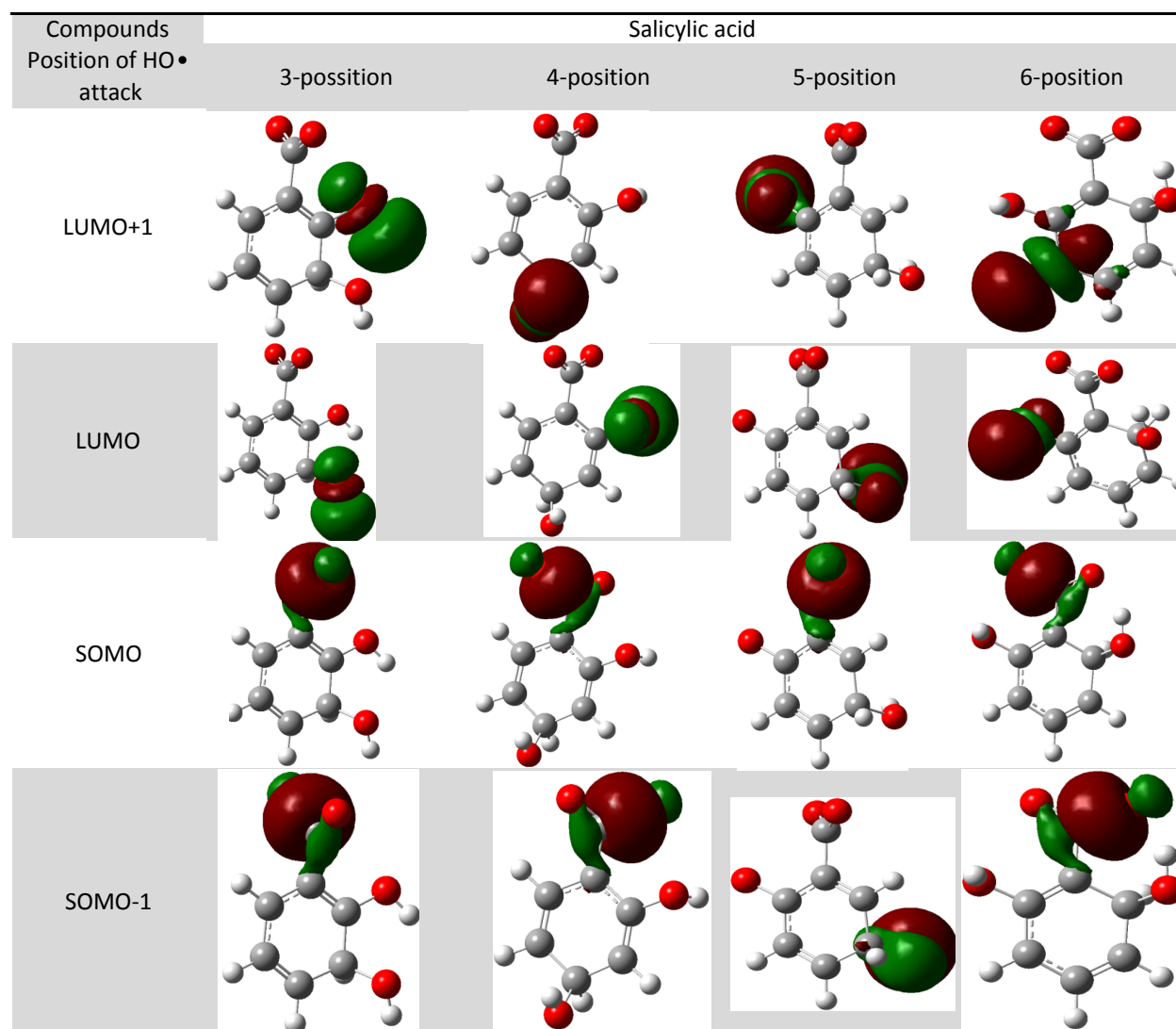
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126 (i) 3,4,5-trihydrobenzoic acid

126 **Figure 7**

127 Theoretically calculated MO for the addition of HO• to the salicylic acid



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