

Photons, Radicals, Bubbles and Beer: Using Photochemistry and Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Spectroscopy to Understand the Universe

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Date: Tuesday, May 22nd, 2018

Time: 16:00–17:30

Venue: B301 room, School of Science



Our laboratory has a long-standing interest in the structure, reactivity, and dynamics of free radicals in both homogeneous and heterogeneous media. In this lecture, the basic tenets of steady-state and time-resolved (CW) electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy (SSEPR and TREPR) are explained, and their use in understanding the physical and chemical behavior of free radicals is outlined. Examples to be presented include the use of stable nitroxide spin probes to investigate the drying and curing of architectural coatings, and to probe the physical properties of structured (non-Newtonian) fluids at the molecular level. Chemical reactivity involving free radicals can be studied directly using TREPR, for example in the study of the mechanism for the light-struck flavor (so-called "skunking") of beer. Reactivity can also be investigated using spin trapping techniques. Two different trapping methods will be presented: nitrones can be used to confirm the mechanism of action of biocompatible polymer initiators, and the reaction of hindered amines with singlet oxygen can be used to quantify the kinetics and topology of such reactions.

Speaker: