

Abstract Submitted
for the MAR07 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

The adsorption of water molecules on the Si(001)-2×1 surface
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Standards and Science — The water molecules exist even in the ultrahigh vacuum.
On the one hand, they contaminate the surface of Si(001) wafer and deteriorate the
films grown on the surface. On the other hand, they can be used to grow good oxides
on the Si(001) surface at high temperature. We investigated the adsorption of water
molecules on the Si(001)-2×1 surface by scanning tunneling microscopy. We could
find two types of adsorption configuration. In one configuration the water molecule
sits on top of one Si dimer, in another configuration the water molecule adsorbs on
two Si atoms of neighboring Si dimers in the same dimer row. The ratio between
the two features at high temperatures show interesting properties.

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Date submitted: 20 Nov 2006

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