Surface S_N2 reaction mechanisms of H_2O on the Chlorinated Si(100) surface

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The surface adsorption of H₂O on the chlorinated Si(100) surface has been studied with MP2 as well as multi-reference MP2 theories. Two kinetically highly accessible reaction pathways have been found. They are composed of five fundamental processes as shown below: (1) the chlorine adsorption on both ends of Si dimer with large exothermicity, (2) S_N2 reaction of H₂O on the chlorinated Si surface, (3) the *intra*-dimer condensation reaction, (4) the *secondary* S_N2 reaction of H₂O, (5) the over-saturated S_N2 reaction of H₂O. It is shown that the overall surface adsorption of H₂O on the chlorinated Si surface has a relatively small reaction barrier of 23.9 kcal/mol, in accord with experiment, while the *intra*-dimer condensation reaction has a large reaction barrier of 53.2 kcal/mol. S_N2 transition state structures commonly has 4-membered ring, in which the O-H and the Si-Cl bond activations occur simultaneously, which would not usually happen in solution chemistry. During the reaction processes, many weak hydrogen bonding species were identified. The reaction pathways based on these mechanisms illustrate that the surface adsorptions are mainly determined by the nucleophilicity of incoming oxygen atom.