

Global Challenges

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Supporting Information

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**Atmospheric Water Harvesting: Role of Surface Wettability
and Edge Effect**

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S1 AFM images of PDMS, ODTS and hydrophilic surfaces.

AFM images were taken to show surface roughness of the three kinds of surfaces. The root mean squared roughness (R_q) for PDMS, ODTS and hydrophilic surfaces are 0.85, 0.88 and 0.73 nm, respectively. The roughness parameters verified the flatness of the as-prepared surfaces.

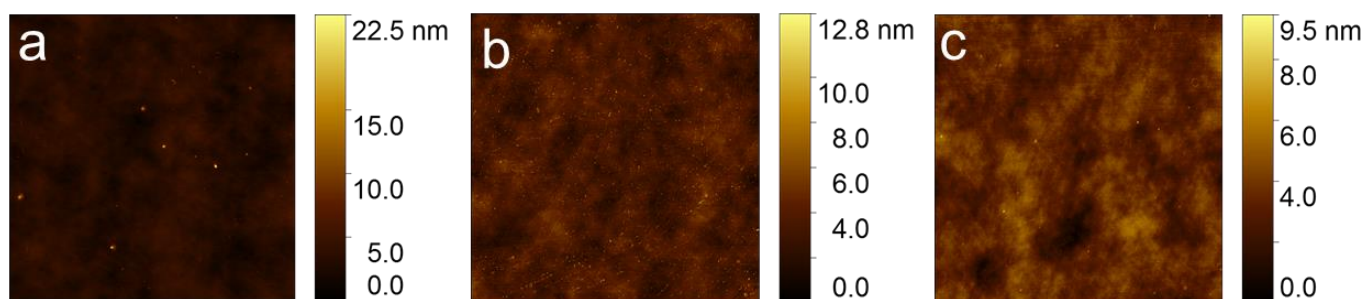


Figure S1. AFM images of (a) PDMS, (b) ODTS and (c) hydrophilic surfaces. The dimension of images is $10\mu\text{m}\times 10\mu\text{m}$.

S2 Schematic showing the design of upper side cross section of silicon wafer.

The upper side cross section of the silicon wafer was intentionally cut so that water droplets condensed on the cross section would fall off toward the back side. This design ensures that water collection on the front side would not be affected by the upper side cross section.

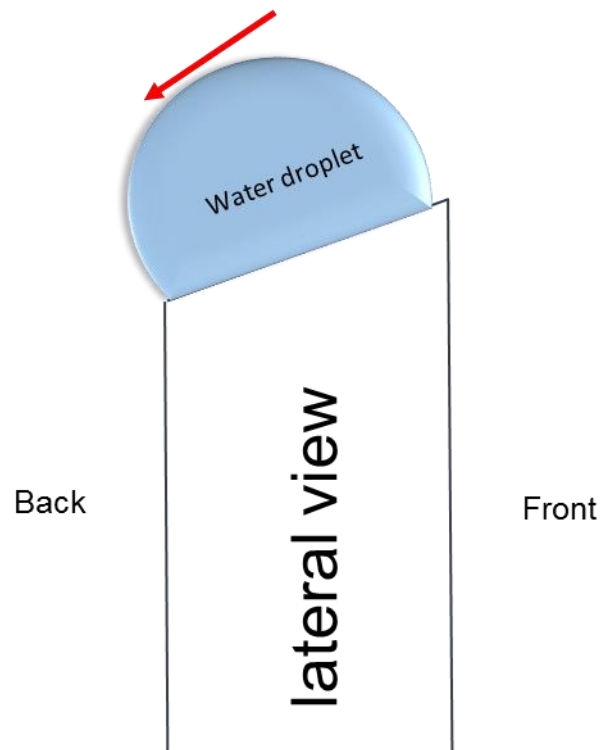


Figure S2. Schematic showing the design of upper side cross section of silicon wafer.

S3 Experimental setup and position of substrate on the cooling stage.

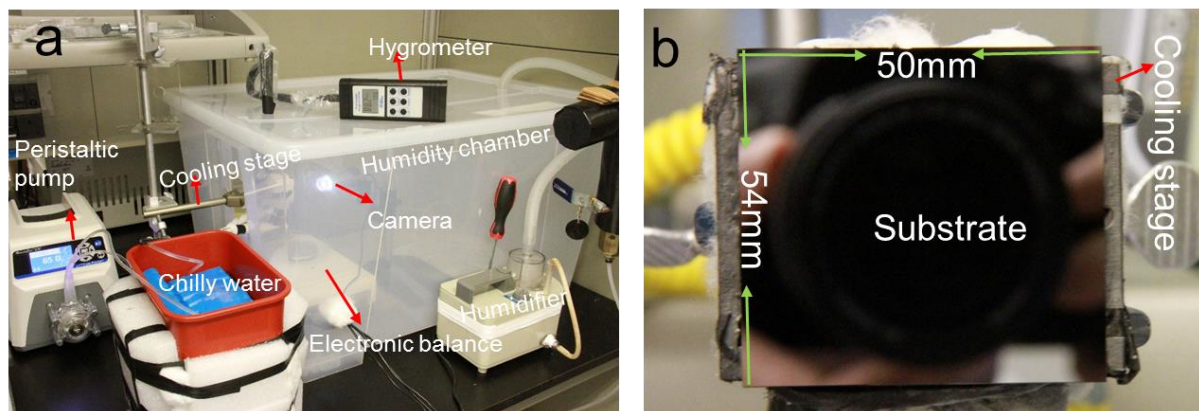


Figure S3. (a) Images of condensation experimental setup; (b) Images of substrate attached to the cooling stage.

S4 Calculation of volume of single water droplet and volume of total condensed water on a substrate surface

The volume of a single water droplet can be calculated as:

$$V_{single} = \pi h^2 \times \left(R - \frac{h}{3} \right)$$

$$h = R (1 - \cos \theta_A)$$

For hydrophobic

$$V_{hydrophobic} = \frac{\pi R_o^3 (1 - \cos \theta_A)^2 \times (2 + \cos \theta_A)}{3}$$

For hydrophilic

$$V_{hydrophilic} = \frac{\pi R_o^3 \times (1 - \cos \theta_A)^2 \times (2 + \cos \theta_A)}{3 \sin \theta_A^3}$$

Droplet density can be calculated as:

$$N = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{\pi \times R_o^2}$$

Total volume of condensed water per unit area can be calculated as:

$$\bar{V} = V_{single} \times N = \frac{R_o \times \varepsilon^2 \times (1 - \cos \theta_A)^2 \times (2 + \cos \theta_A)}{3}$$

$$\text{or} = \frac{R_o \times \varepsilon^2 \times (1 - \cos \theta_A)^2 \times (2 + \cos \theta_A)}{3 \sin \theta_A^3}$$

When surface coverage is stable,

$$\frac{d\bar{V}}{dt} = Constant \times \frac{dR_o}{dt},$$

where $constant = \varepsilon^2 \times (1 - \cos \theta_A)^2 \times (2 + \cos \theta_A) / 3$ for hydrophobic surface

or $constant = \frac{\varepsilon^2 \times (1 - \cos \theta_A)^2 \times (2 + \cos \theta_A)}{3 \sin \theta_A^3}$ for hydrophilic surface.

If we apply the measured parameters including S, θ_A , and growth rate in the non-edge areas, we can have:

$$\frac{d\bar{V}_{PDMS}}{dt} = 0.14$$

$$\frac{d\bar{V}_{ODTS}}{dt} = 0.14$$

$$\frac{d\bar{V}_{Hydrophilic}}{dt} = 0.15.$$

The growth rate of droplets on the edges of PDMS, ODTS and Hydrophilic was around 2.7, 2.7 and 2.5 times of those on the non-edge area.

Summary of volume growth rate on edge and non-edge

| $\frac{d\bar{V}}{dt}$ | Edge | Non-edge |
|-----------------------|------|----------|
| PDMS | 0.38 | 0.14 |
| ODTS | 0.38 | 0.14 |
| Hydrophilic | 0.38 | 0.15 |