Abstract Submitted
for the MAR06 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Chern-number spin Hamiltonians for magnetic nanoclusters by ab-initio methods TOR OLOF STRANDBERG, Kalmar/Lund University, HONGKI MIN, University of Texas, Austin, CARLO M. CANALI, Kalmar/Lund University, ALLAN H. MACDONALD, University of Texas, Austin — Combining field-theory methods and ab-initio calculations, we construct an effective Hamiltonian with a single giant-spin degree of freedom, capable of describing the low-energy spin dynamics of ferromagnetic metal nanoclusters consisting of up to a few tens of atoms. In our procedure, the magnetic moment direction of the Kohn-sham SDFT wave-function is constrained by means of a penalty functional, allowing us to explore the entire parameter space of directions, and to extract the magnetic anisotropy energy and the Berry curvature functionals. The average of the Berry curvature over all magnetization directions is a Chern number, a topological invariant that can only take on values equal to multiples of half-integers, which represents the dimension of the Hilbert space of the effective spin system. The spin Hamiltonian is obtained by quantizing the classical anisotropy-energy functional, after a change of variables which yields a constant Berry curvature. We illustrate this procedure by explicitly constructing the Hamiltonian for dimers and trimers of Co and Cr, whose spin dynamics has been recently investigated experimentally by STM methods.

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Date submitted: 29 Nov 2005 Electronic form version 1.4