## Abstract Submitted for the MAR06 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Quantized Ferromagnetic Moments of Free Cobalt Clusters XI-AOSHAN XU, SHUANGYE YIN, ANTHONY LIANG, WALTER DE HEER — The magnetic moments  $\mu(N)$  of free Co\_N(20<=N<=200) clusters has been measured in a cryogenic molecular beam. Besides the ground states with  $\mu(N)/N\sim 2~\mu B$ , an electronic state has been found in all clusters studied. The magnetic moments  $\mu^*(N)/N$  of this state is approximately  $1/2~\mu(N)/N$ . Ionization potential of Co clusters at each of the two states are determined from photo-ionization efficiency measurements. The ionization potentials for the excited states are systematically lower than that for ground states by about 100meV for small clusters, and merge for larger clusters(N>100). This suggests that molecular magnetism of small clusters evolves to itinerant (band) ferromagnetism in the bulk  $(\mu(N)/N\sim1.7~\mu B)$  when the energy gap between these two states vanishes.

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