

## Supplementary information

### The spin magnetic order of $\text{Co}_n^+$ ( $n \leq 5$ ) clusters

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#### Content

1. Comparison of geometries optimized with different functionals for  $\text{Co}_3^+$  ( $M = 7$ )
2. Comparison of measured infrared spectra of  $\text{Co}_4^+$  and  $\text{Co}_5^+$  with calculations of vibrational frequencies
3. XYZ coordinates (in units of Å)

1. Comparison of geometries optimized with different functionals for  $\text{Co}_3^+$  ( $M = 7$ )

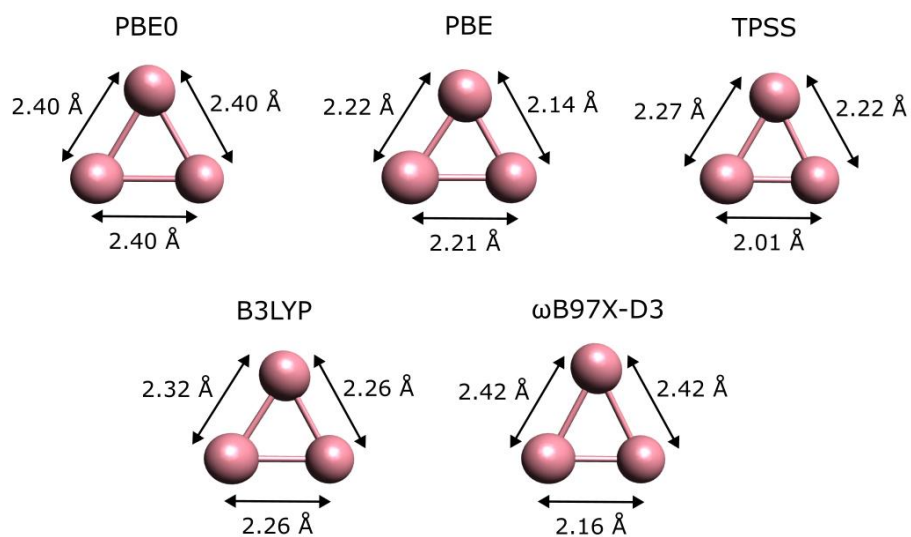


Figure S1. Comparison of the geometries of  $\text{Co}_3^+$  ( $M = 7$ ) optimized with different functionals.

2. Comparison of measured infrared spectra of  $\text{Co}_4^+$  and  $\text{Co}_5^+$  with calculations of vibrational frequencies

Table S1. Comparison of the vibrational bands measured for  $\text{Co}_4^+$  and  $\text{Co}_5^+$  (from Ref. [1]) and those calculated with DFT using the PBE0 functional (same level and for the computations presented in the main article).

Cluster	Experiment ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	DFT ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )
$\text{Co}_4^+$	$181 \pm 11$	181
	$195 \pm 8$	194
$\text{Co}_5^+$	$197 \pm 21$	204
	$220 \pm 13$	210
	$242 \pm 11$	242

[1] R. Gehrke, P. Gruene, A. Fielicke, G. Meijer and K. Reuter, J. Chem. Phys., 130, 034306, 2009.

3. XYZ coordinates (in units of Å)

All XYZ files can be downloaded from [https://webdav.data.ru.nl/hfml-felix/felix-pub-2022-ferrari-pccp\\_dsc\\_499](https://webdav.data.ru.nl/hfml-felix/felix-pub-2022-ferrari-pccp_dsc_499)