

# Temperature evolution of structural and magnetic properties of large Ni clusters

Zacharias G. Fthenakis<sup>a,b</sup>, Antonis N. Andriotis<sup>a</sup>, Madhu Menon<sup>c,d</sup>

*<sup>a</sup>Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser,*

*P.O. Box 1527, Heraklion-Crete 71110, Greece*

*<sup>b</sup>Dept of Physics, University of Crete, Heraklion-Crete, 71110, Greece*

*<sup>c</sup>Dept of Physics and Astronomy, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY40506-0055 and*

*<sup>d</sup>Center for Computational Sciences, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY40506-0055*

Tight Binding Molecular Dynamics (TBMD) simulations and additional ones using a variety of classical potentials, incorporating the Nosé-Hoover equations, have been used for studying the temperature evolution of structural and magnetic properties of small Ni clusters and the results of this study are presented. Using these results for the small Ni clusters, we present a new method which combines the classical potentials (which reproduce the TBMD results for the small clusters), with the Tight Binding Hamiltonian and makes possible a calculation of quantum mechanical quantities, such as the temperature evolution of the magnetic moment of large clusters. This calculation is impossible with the pure TBMD due to the extremely large time needed for the calculations. Within this treatment, we present our results for the temperature evolution of the magnetic moment of large Ni clusters and some other thermodynamic quantities such as caloric curve, melting temperature, specific heat etc.