

Contents

1. Molecular electronics and spintronics: an introduction	1
1.1. Molecular electronics	2
1.2. Physisorption and chemisorption	5
1.3. Molecular spintronics	7
1.4. Magnetic exchange and anisotropy	9
2. Density functional theory	13
2.1. Basics of DFT	15
2.2. Extension to the spin-polarized case	18
2.3. Spin-Orbit-Coupling	20
2.4. Exchange and correlation functionals	20
2.5. DFT in practice	24
3. Van der Waals interactions	27
3.1. London dispersion	28
3.2. Van der Waals interactions in DFT	31
3.3. vdW-DF in JuNoLo	39
4. Semi-empirical dispersion versus <i>ab initio</i> correlation effects	41
4.1. Thiophene on Cu(111)	41
4.2. From weak to strong coupling - COT on Au(111), Au(100), Ag(100) and Cu(100)	60
5. Molecular spintronics	79
5.1. Cyclooctatetraene on magnetic and nonmagnetic adatoms on Au(111) . .	80
5.2. Paracyclophane on Fe/W(110)	87

5.3. Paracyclophane on Fe/W(100)	99
6. Summary	105
A. Ansatz for a spin dependent version of vdW-DF	107
A.1. XC-Functional from the ACFD-theorem	107
A.2. The response function $\chi_{\lambda}^{\sigma\sigma'}$ and the Full-Potential-Approximation	109
A.3. The mostly local part of E_{xc}	114
A.4. Derivation of vdW-DF continued	115
A.5. A model for $S(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}', \omega)$	119
A.6. The kernel function ϕ	120
A.7. The VV10 kernel	121
A.8. Additional thoughts based on modern theory of polarization	123
B. An efficient implementation of vdW-DF: The Soler scheme	125
B.1. Decomposition of the kernel	125
B.2. Adjustments of the VV10 functional	127
B.3. The potential v_c^{nl}	128
B.4. Test calculations	129
Bibliography	131
Publications	155