Transport properties of $Y_{1-x}Nd_xCo_2$ compounds

K. Uchima^a, M. Takeda^b, C. Zukeran^b, A. Nakamura^b, N. Arakaki^b, S. Komesu^b, Y. Takaesu^a, M. Hedo^b, T. Nakama^b, K. Yagasaki^b, Y. Uwatoko^c, and A.T. Burkov^d

^aGeneral Education, Okinawa Christian Junior College, Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0207, Japan

^bFaculty of Science, University of the Ryukyus, Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0213, Japan

^cInstitute for Solid State Physics, University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Chiba 277-8581, Japan

^dA. F. Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Sankt-Petersburg 194021, Russia

The electrical resistivity ρ and thermopower S of the light rare-earth pseudo-binary $Y_{1-x}Nd_xCo_2$ compounds have been measured at temperatures from 2 K to 300 K under pressures up to 3 GPa. For the compounds of x > 0.3, the anomalies in $\rho(T)$ and S(T) curves, correspond to the magnetic phase transition at T_C , have been observed. The Curie temperature T_C , determined as the temperature where the temperature derivative of ρ has a maximum, decreases with decreasing Nd concentration x and apparently vanishes around $x_c=0.3$. The residual resistivity ρ_0 increases rapidly with decreasing x, having a maximum at $x = x_c$, and decreases with decreasing x. On the other hand, the temperature coefficient of thermopower S/T at low temperature limit shows a complex x dependence: S/T changes its sign from negative to plus at $x \approx 0.2$, having a maximum at $x = x_c$, and shows an almost constant value at x > 0.5. The pressure dependences of T_C and ρ_0 of $Y_{0.6}Nd_{0.4}Co_2$ show almost the same behavior as that of the $Y_{1-x}R_xCo_2$ (R=heavy rare-earthes) system, which imply that the magnetic state of the Co-3d electron subsystem is responsible for the transport properties at low temperatures in the $Y_{1-x}Nd_xCo_2$ system.