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Abstract for an Invited Paper for the DAMOP08 Meeting of the American Physical Society

Creation of heteronuclear Feshbach molecules with $^{85}{\rm Rb}$ and $^{87}{\rm Rb}$ SCOTT PAPP, JILA and University of Colorado

We will report on the creation of ultracold heteronuclear Feshbach molecules. Heteronuclear molecules in low-lying vibrational states are particularly interesting since they are predicted to exhibit a permanent dipole moment due to the unequal distribution of electrons. Although no significant permanent dipole moment is expected to exist in a $^{85}\text{Rb} - ^{87}\text{Rb}$ molecule, our work demonstrates a first step toward the efficient production of ground-state ultracold heteronuclear molecules. Starting with a ^{87}Rb BEC and a cold thermal gas of ^{85}Rb , we utilize previously unobserved interspecies Feshbach resonances to create up to 25,000 molecules. The presence of two species with different quantum degeneracy provides a rich system for testing our understanding of the conversion efficiency from atoms to molecules. We can also create a simultaneously Bose-condensed sample of ^{85}Rb and ^{87}Rb . The effects of immiscibility in this two-component quantum fluid on the creation of heteronuclear molecules will be discussed.