## Abstract Submitted for the MAR08 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Hydrogen clusters that remained fluid KIRILL KUYANOV-PROZUMENT, ANDREY VILESOV — Para-H<sub>2</sub> may constitute the only other superfluid besides helium. The superfluid transition temperature is predicted to be around 2 K, well below freezing of  $H_2$  at 13.8 K. Numerous attempts to supercool macroscopic H<sub>2</sub> samples proved to be unsuccessful. Our approach includes formation of H<sub>2</sub> clusters in a pulsed cryogenic nozzle beam expansion of a neat  $pH_2$  gas as well as X% of  $pH_2$  diluted in He and interrogation via Coherent Anti-Stokes Raman Scattering. At X = 2 - 100 % the frequency of the vibrational  $Q_1(0)$  line in clusters remains constant at about  $\nu = 4149.7 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  very similar to 4149.6 cm<sup>-1</sup> as in solid  $pH_2$  and lower than in liquid  $pH_2$  at 18 K (4151.9 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The rotational  $S_0(0)$  transition show some characteristic crystal field splitting having magnitude of about 6 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The splitting pattern is different from that in the *hcp* solid, suggesting different structure in solid  $pH_2$  clusters. At  $X \leq 2$  %, the frequency of the  $Q_1(0)$  line increases to about 4150.5 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which is consistent with that expected in the supercooled liquid. The  $S_0(0)$  transition in these clusters, consisting of about 5 x 10<sup>4</sup> molecules, appears as a single line at the same frequency as in liquid  $pH_2$ . The temperature of these supercooled clusters is estimated to be less than about 1 K. Possible superfluidity of the clusters is discussed.

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