Lecture 22

Physics 404

We discussed some of the properties of liquid ⁴He, including the superfluid state. Helium-4 is a liquid at low temperatures and pressures below about 60 atmospheres. Below 2.2 K it goes into a superfluid state brought on by a Bose-Einstein-like condensation crisis. The two-fluid model treats the He atoms in the ground state as a superfluid, while the atoms in excited states are part of the normal fluid. Many of the remarkable properties of superfluid ⁴He can be explained by the two-fluid model.