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The Lambda Point in a Low-g Simulator- Progress Report.
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Institute of Technology and Robert Duncan, Sandia National
Laboratory. — Recently interest has increased both experimentally
and theoretically in studying the properties of liquid helium very near
the lambda-transition in the presence of a heat current. Traditional
ground based experiments near the lambda-transition are limited by
the gravitationally induced pressure variations present in any
macroscopic helium sample. We report on the progress toward
building a new low temperature cryostat that will utilize
magnetostrictive forces to minimize the effects of gravity. This new
cryostat will allow studies of the lambda transition much closer in
reduced temperature and under a wider range of applied heat currents
than is possible using traditional ground based techniques. The
limitations of the magnetostrictive technique will be discussed.
Finally, new experiments made possible by this cryostat will be
presented.