

CONTENTS

Conventions and Notations

xxiii

PART A PRELIMINARIES

1 Life and Works: A Sketch	3
1.1 The commencement (1844–1869)	3
1.2 Wonder years at Graz (1869–1873)	5
1.3 The Viennese interlude (1873–1876)	12
1.4 Ten more happy years in Graz (1876–1885)	13
1.5 The doomed five last years in Graz (1885–1890)	21
1.6 The Munich professor (1890–1894)	22
1.7 British friends and German foes (1894–1896)	23
1.8 The <i>Lectures on gas theory</i> (1896–1898)	26
1.9 From physics to philosophy (1898–1906)	27
2 Theories of Heat: Some Background	31
2.1 Live force and work	32
2.2 The motive power of heat	34
2.3 The energy principle	38
2.4 Thermodynamics	42
2.5 Extensions	50
2.6 Atoms and molecules	55
2.7 The kinetic concept of heat	57
2.8 Maxwell's statistical physics	60
2.9 The rise of kinetic-molecular inquiries	64

PART B EXEGESIS

3 Constructing Thermal Equilibrium (1866–1871)	69
3.1 «On the mechanical meaning of the second principle of the theory of heat» (1866)	69
3.2 «On the number of atoms in the molecules of gases and the internal work in gases» (1867)	80

3.3	Maxwell's distribution of velocities	81
3.4	«Studies on the equilibrium of live force between moving material points» (1868a)	88
3.5	«Solution of a mechanical problem» (1868b)	105
3.6	«On my priority in finding the relation between the second law of the mechanical theory of heat and the principle of least action» (1871a)	107
3.7	«On the thermal equilibrium between polyatomic gas molecules» (1871b)	110
3.8	«A few general theorems about thermal equilibrium» (1871c)	116
3.9	«Analytical proof of the second principle of the mechanical theory of heat on the basis of the theorems regarding the equilibrium of live force» (1871d)	128
4	The Boltzmann Equation and the H Theorem (1872–1875)	134
4.1	«On the molecular force law» (1872a)	134
4.2	«Further studies on the equilibrium of heat among the molecules of a gas» (1872b)	136
4.3	«On the thermal equilibrium of gases on which external forces act» (1875a)	172
4.4	«Remarks on heat conduction in gases» (1875b)	179
5	The Probabilistic Turn (1876–1884)	181
5.1	Loschmidt on thermal equilibrium in a gravity field	181
5.2	«On the setting up and the integration of the equations that determine the motion of molecules in gases» (1876a)	188
5.3	«On the nature of gas molecules» (1876b)	192
5.4	«Remarks on a few problems of the mechanical theory of heat» (1877a)	195
5.5	«On a new determination of a quantity bearing on the measure of molecules based on the theory of capillarity» (1877b)	203
5.6	«On the relation between the second law of the mechanical theory of heat and probability calculus with regard to the laws of thermal equilibrium» (1877c)	205
5.7	«Further remarks on a few problems of the mechanical theory of heat» (1878a)	220
5.8	«On the relation between diffusion phenomena and the second principle of the mechanical theory of heat» (1878b)	233

5.9	«Reply to the remark by Mr. Oskar Emil Meyer» (1879) «Reply to the note by Mr. Oskar Emil Meyer: “On a modified form” etc.» (1880a)	236
5.10	«On the theory of gas friction» (1880b, 1881a, 1881b)	238
5.11	«On the theory of gas diffusion» (1882a, 1882b)	244
5.12	«On a few theorems regarding thermal equilibrium» (1881c)	245
5.13	«Review of Maxwell’s memoir “On Boltzmann’s theorem on the average distribution of the kinetic energy in a system of material points”» (1881d)	249
5.14	«On K. Strecker’s memoir “On the specific heat of chlorine” etc.» (1881e) «On K. Strecker’s memoirs “On the specific heat of gaseous diatomic combinations of chlorine, bromine, iodine” etc.» (1883b)	257
5.15	«On the amount of work that can be won by chemical combination» (1883a)	258
5.16	«On the possibility of founding the kinetic theory of gases on attractive forces» (1884a)	268
6	The Analogical Turn (1884–1887)	271
6.1	«On the properties of monocyclic systems and related systems» (1884b, 1885a)	271
6.2	«On a few cases in which the live force is not an integrating divisor of the differential form for the added energy» (1885b)	290
6.3	«New proof of a theorem by Helmholtz regarding the properties of a monocyclic system» (1886a)	296
6.4	«On the assumptions needed for the theoretical proof of Avogadro’s law» (1886b, 1887a)	300
6.5	«The second law of thermodynamics» (1886c)	310
6.6	«On the mechanical analogies to the second law of thermodynamics» (1887b)	315
7	Consolidation (1887–1895)	319
7.1	«New proof of two theorems on the thermal equilibrium among gas molecules» (1887c)	319
7.2	«On a few questions of the kinetic theory of gases» (1887d)	327
7.3	«On the equilibrium of live force between progressive and rotational motion in gas molecules» (1888)	329
7.4	«Van ’t Hoff’s hypothesis on the osmotic pressure from the point of view of the kinetic theory of gases» (1890)	

«Postscript to the consideration of van 't Hoff's hypothesis from the point of view of the kinetic theory of gases» (1891)	334
7.5 «Studies on the equilibrium of live force. Part III» (1892a, 1893a)	338
7.6 «On a note by Mr. Hans Cornelius regarding the ratio of the energies of translational and internal motion of gas molecules» (1893c)	348
7.7 «On Maxwell's method of deriving the equations of hydrodynamics from the kinetic theory of gases» (1894c)	348
7.8 «On the application of the determinantal relation to the kinetic theory of polyatomic gases» (1894b)	349
7.9 «On the mechanical analogue of thermal equilibrium between bodies in contact» (with George Bryan, 1895a)	355
7.10 «On the proof of Maxwell's distribution of velocities among molecules» (1894d) «More on Maxwell's velocity distribution» (1895a, 1895b)	358
8 The Critical Turn (1895–1899)	366
8.1 «On certain questions of the theory of gases» (1895c) «Reply to Culverwell» (1895d) «On the minimum theorem in the theory of gases» (1895e)	366
8.2 «On the calculation of the departure of gases from the Boyle–Charles law and on their dissociation» (1896a)	382
8.3 «On the theory of gases. Letter of Mr. Boltzmann to Mr. Bertrand» (1896b) «On the theory of gases. Letter of Mr. Boltzmann to Mr. Bertrand» (1896c)	386
8.4 «A reply to the heat-theoretical considerations of Mr. E. Zermelo» (1896d)	388
8.5 «On a communication by Mr. Zermelo entitled “On the mechanical explanation of irreversible processes”» (1897a)	397
8.6 «On a mechanical theorem by Poincaré» (1897b)	403
8.7 «On a few of my less known writings on gas theory and on their relation to this theory» (1897c)	403
8.8 «On irreversible radiation processes» (1897d) «On irreversible radiation processes» (1897e) «On allegedly irreversible radiation processes» (1898a)	406
8.9 «On the so-called H-curve» (1898b)	411
8.10 «On the kinetic derivation of the formulas for the pressure of a saturated vapor, for the dissociation degree of gases, and for the entropy of a gas following van der Waals's law» (1898c)	414

8.11	«On the ratio between the two specific heats of gases» (1898d)	416
8.12	«On a modification of van der Waals's equation of states» (1899a)	418
8.13	«On the meaning of the b constant of van der Waals's law» (with Heinrich Mache, 1899b)	418
8.14	«On van der Waals's equation of states» (1899c) «Note on the formula for the pressure of gases» (1900)	418
9	Lectures on Gas Theory (1896, 1898)	420
	«First volume: Theory of perfect monatomic gases» (1896e)	
9.1	«Introduction»	421
9.2	«First section: The molecules are elastic balls. External forces and visible mass motion are excluded»	423
9.3	«Second section: The molecules are centers of force. External forces and visible motions are taken into account»	430
9.4	«Third section: The molecules collide with a force inversely proportional to the fifth power of the distance»	434
	«Second volume: Van der Waals' theory, polyatomic gases, gas dissociation, and concluding remarks » (1898e)	
9.5	«First section: The basic features of van der Waals's theory»	439
9.6	«Second section: Physical discussion of van der Waals's theory»	440
9.7	«Third section: Theorems of general mechanics needed for the theory of gases»	440
9.8	«Fourth section: Gases with compound molecules»	442
9.9	«Fifth section: Derivation of van der Waals's equation by means of the virial concept»	445
9.10	«Sixth section: Theory of dissociation»	448
9.11	«Seventh section: Complements to the theorems regarding the thermal equilibrium of gases of compound molecules»	452
9.12	Addendum: Boltzmann and Nabl's «Kinetic theory of matter» (1907)	461

PART C SYNTHETIC REFLECTIONS

10	Boltzmann's Theory	465
10.1	Sources	465
10.2	Tools	467
10.3	Constructions	479
10.4	Crucial predictions	511

10.5 Basic concepts	526
10.6 Bridges	564
10.7 Reception	568
<i>Abbreviations</i>	579
<i>Bibliography</i>	581
<i>Index</i>	607