

CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Statement of the Problem 1

II. MATHEMATICAL TOOLS

2. Sets 3
3. Mapping 7
4. Point Sets in the n -dimensional Vector Space R^n 9
5. Topological Mapping in Vector Spaces 16
6. Systems of Ordinary Differential Equations 18
7. The Lebesgue Measure 24
8. The Lebesgue Integral 29
9. Hilbert Spaces 38
References 45

III. THE PHASE FLOWS OF MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

10. Mechanical Systems 47
11. Phase Flow; Liouville's Theorem 52
12. Stationary Measure-conserving Phase Flow;
Poincaré's, Hopf's and Jacobi's Theorems 57
13. The Theorems of v. Neumann and Birkhoff; The
Ergodic Hypothesis 66
References 76

IV. THE INITIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROBABILITY IN THE PHASE SPACE

14. A Formal Description of the Concept of Probability 77
15. On the Application of the Concept of Probability 80
References 87

V. PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS WHICH DEPEND ON TIME

16. Mechanical Systems with General Equations of
Motion 88
17. Hamiltonian and Newtonian Systems 93
18. The Initial Value Problem 103
19. The Approach of Mechanical Systems towards
States of Statistical Equilibrium 110
References 119

VI. TIME-INDEPENDENT PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS	
20. Fluctuations in Statistical Equilibrium	121
21. Gibbs's Canonic Probability Distribution	129
References	141
VII. STATISTICAL THERMODYNAMICS	
22. The Equation of State	142
23. The Fundamental Laws of Thermodynamics	153
24. Entropy and Probability	165
References	175
INDEX	177