

# From Newton to Boltzmann: Hard Spheres and Short-range Potentials (Zurich Lectures in Advanced Mathematics)

Isabelle Gallagher, Laure Saint-Raymond, Benjamin Texier



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## **From Newton to Boltzmann: Hard Spheres and Short-range Potentials (Zurich Lectures in Advanced Mathematics)** Isabelle Gallagher, Laure Saint-Raymond, Benjamin Texier

The question addressed in this monograph is the relationship between the time-reversible Newton dynamics for a system of particles interacting via elastic collisions and the irreversible Boltzmann dynamics which gives a statistical description of the collision mechanism. Two types of elastic collisions are considered: hard spheres and compactly supported potentials. Following the steps suggested by Lanford in 1974, the authors describe the transition from Newton to Boltzmann by proving a rigorous convergence result in short time, as the number of particles tends to infinity and their size simultaneously goes to zero, in the Boltzmann-Grad scaling. Boltzmann's kinetic theory rests on the assumption that particle independence is propagated by the dynamics. This assumption is central to the issue of appearance of irreversibility. For finite numbers of particles, correlations are generated by collisions. The convergence proof establishes that for initially independent configurations, independence is statistically recovered in the limit. This book is intended for mathematicians working in the fields of partial differential equations and mathematical physics and is accessible to graduate students with a background in analysis. A publication of the European Mathematical Society (EMS). Distributed within the Americas by the American Mathematical Society.

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