

Contents

Foreword	<i>page</i> xiii
Preface	xv
Acknowledgements	xix
Part I Basics	1
1 A brief introduction	3
1.1 The road to unification	3
1.2 String theory as a unified theory of physics	6
1.3 String theory and its verification	8
2 Special relativity and extra dimensions	12
2.1 Units and parameters	12
2.2 Intervals and Lorentz transformations	14
2.3 Light-cone coordinates	20
2.4 Relativistic energy and momentum	24
2.5 Light-cone energy and momentum	26
2.6 Lorentz invariance with extra dimensions	28
2.7 Compact extra dimensions	28
2.8 Quantum mechanics and the square well	32
2.9 Square well with an extra dimension	34
Problems	36
3 Electromagnetism and gravitation in various dimensions	40
3.1 Classical electrodynamics	40
3.2 Electromagnetism in three dimensions	41
3.3 Manifestly relativistic electrodynamics	42
3.4 An aside on spheres in higher dimensions	46
3.5 Electric fields in higher dimensions	49
3.6 Gravitation and Planck's length	52
3.7 Gravitational potentials	55
3.8 The Planck length in various dimensions	57
3.9 Gravitational constants and compactification	57
3.10 Large extra dimensions	60
Problems	62

4 Nonrelativistic strings	65
4.1 Equations of motion for transverse oscillations	65
4.2 Boundary conditions and initial conditions	67
4.3 Frequencies of transverse oscillation	68
4.4 More general oscillating strings	69
4.5 A brief review of Lagrangian mechanics	70
4.6 The nonrelativistic string Lagrangian	72
Problems	76
5 The relativistic point particle	78
5.1 Action for a relativistic point particle	78
5.2 Reparameterization invariance	82
5.3 Equations of motion	83
5.4 Relativistic particle with electric charge	86
Problems	87
6 Relativistic strings	90
6.1 Area functional for spatial surfaces	90
6.2 Reparameterization invariance of the area	93
6.3 Area functional for spacetime surfaces	96
6.4 The Nambu–Goto string action	100
6.5 Equations of motion, boundary conditions, and D-branes	101
6.6 The static gauge	104
6.7 Tension and energy of a stretched string	106
6.8 Action in terms of transverse velocity	108
6.9 Motion of open string endpoints	111
Problems	113
7 String parameterization and classical motion	116
7.1 Choosing a σ parameterization	116
7.2 Physical interpretation of the string equation of motion	118
7.3 Wave equation and constraints	120
7.4 General motion of an open string	122
Problems	127
8 World-sheet currents	132
8.1 Electric charge conservation	132
8.2 Conserved charges from Lagrangian symmetries	133
8.3 Conserved currents on the world-sheet	137
8.4 The complete momentum current	139
8.5 Lorentz symmetry and associated currents	142
8.6 The slope parameter α'	144
Problems	146
9 Light-cone relativistic strings	149
9.1 A class of choices for τ	149
9.2 The associated σ parameterization	152

9.3 Constraints and wave equations	156
9.4 Wave equation and mode expansions	157
9.5 Light-cone solution of equations of motion	160
Problems	164
10 Light-cone fields and particles	166
10.1 Introduction	166
10.2 An action for scalar fields	167
10.3 Classical plane-wave solutions	169
10.4 Quantum scalar fields and particle states	172
10.5 Maxwell fields and photon states	177
10.6 Gravitational fields and graviton states	180
Problems	183
11 The relativistic quantum point particle	187
11.1 Light-cone point particle	187
11.2 Heisenberg and Schrödinger pictures	189
11.3 Quantization of the point particle	191
11.4 Quantum particle and scalar particles	195
11.5 Light-cone momentum generators	197
11.6 Light-cone Lorentz generators	200
Problems	203
12 Relativistic quantum open strings	206
12.1 Light-cone Hamiltonian and commutators	206
12.2 Commutation relations for oscillators	209
12.3 Strings as harmonic oscillators	215
12.4 Transverse Virasoro operators	219
12.5 Lorentz generators	229
12.6 Constructing the state space	231
12.7 Equations of motion	236
12.8 Tachyons and D-brane decay*	238
Problems	242
13 Relativistic quantum closed strings	247
13.1 Mode expansions and commutation relations	247
13.2 Closed string Virasoro operators	253
13.3 Closed string state space	256
13.4 String coupling and the dilaton	260
13.5 A brief look at superstring theories*	262
Problems	268
Part II Developments	273
14 D-branes and gauge fields	275
14.1 Dp -branes and boundary conditions	275
14.2 Quantizing open strings on Dp -branes	277

14.3	Open strings between parallel Dp -branes	282
14.4	Strings between parallel Dp - and Dq -branes	289
14.5	Intersecting $D6$ -branes	295
	Problems	301
15	String charge, electric charge, and particle physics	307
15.1	Fundamental string charge	307
15.2	Visualizing string charge	313
15.3	Strings ending on D -branes	315
15.4	D -brane charges	321
15.5	D -branes and the Standard Model gauge group	323
15.6	Open strings and the Standard Model fermions*	328
15.7	The Standard Model on intersecting $D6$ -branes*	337
15.8	String theory and particle physics*	344
	Problems	346
16	String thermodynamics and black holes	352
16.1	A review of statistical mechanics	352
16.2	Partitions and the quantum violin string	354
16.3	Hagedorn temperature	361
16.4	Relativistic particle partition function	363
16.5	Single string partition function	365
16.6	Black holes and entropy	368
16.7	Counting states of a black hole*	373
16.8	A string theory/gauge theory correspondence*	377
	Problems	382
17	T-duality of closed strings	386
17.1	Duality symmetries and Hamiltonians	386
17.2	Winding closed strings	388
17.3	Left movers and right movers	391
17.4	Quantization and the double strike	393
17.5	Constraint and mass formula	395
17.6	State space of compactified closed strings	397
17.7	A striking spectrum coincidence	401
17.8	Duality as a full quantum symmetry	403
	Problems	406
18	T-duality of open strings	410
18.1	T-duality and D -branes	410
18.2	$U(1)$ gauge transformations	414
18.3	Wilson lines on circles	416
18.4	Open strings and Wilson lines	420
	Problems	423

19 Electromagnetic fields on D-branes	425
19.1 Maxwell fields coupling to open strings	425
19.2 D-branes with electric fields	428
19.3 D-branes with magnetic fields	432
Problems	439
20 Nonlinear and Born–Infeld electrodynamics	442
20.1 The framework of nonlinear electrodynamics	442
20.2 Born–Infeld electrodynamics	446
20.3 Born–Infeld theory and T-duality	451
Problems	454
21 Covariant string quantization	459
21.1 Introduction	459
21.2 Open string Virasoro operators	461
21.3 Selecting the quantum constraints	463
21.4 Lorentz covariant state space	468
21.5 Closed string Virasoro operators	471
21.6 The Polyakov string action	472
Problems	477
22 String interactions and Riemann surfaces	481
22.1 Introduction	481
22.2 Interactions and observables	482
22.3 String interactions and global world-sheets	485
22.4 World-sheets as Riemann surfaces	488
22.5 Schwarz–Christoffel map and three-string interaction	492
22.6 Moduli spaces of Riemann surfaces	498
22.7 Four open string interaction	506
22.8 Veneziano amplitude	510
Problems	515
23 Loop amplitudes in string theory	518
23.1 Loop diagrams and ultraviolet divergences	518
23.2 Annuli and one-loop open strings	519
23.3 Annuli and electrostatic capacitance	523
23.4 Nonplanar open string diagrams	529
23.5 Four closed string interactions	531
23.6 The moduli space of tori	534
Problems	543
References	547
Index	552