Contents

Foreword by David Gross *page* xiii
From the Preface to the First Edition xv
Preface to the Second Edition 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 9
1.4 Developments and outlook 11

2 Special relativity and extra dimensions 13
2.1 Units and parameters 13
2.2 Intervals and Lorentz transformations 15
2.3 Light-cone coordinates 22
2.4 Relativistic energy and momentum 26
2.5 Light-cone energy and momentum 28
2.6 Lorentz invariance with extra dimensions 30
2.7 Compact extra dimensions 31
2.8 Orbifolds 35
2.9 Quantum mechanics and the square well 36
2.10 Square well with an extra dimension 38

3 Electromagnetism and gravitation in various dimensions 45
3.1 Classical electrodynamics 45
3.2 Electromagnetism in three dimensions 47
3.3 Manifestly relativistic electrodynamics 48
3.4 An aside on spheres in higher dimensions 52
3.5 Electric fields in higher dimensions 55
3.6 Gravitation and Planck's length 58
3.7 Gravitational potentials 62
3.8 The Planck length in various dimensions 63
3.9 Gravitational constants and compactification 64
3.10 Large extra dimensions 67

4	**Nonrelativistic strings**		73
	4.1	Equations of motion for transverse oscillations	73
	4.2	Boundary conditions and initial conditions	75
	4.3	Frequencies of transverse oscillation	76
	4.4	More general oscillating strings	77
	4.5	A brief review of Lagrangian mechanics	78
	4.6	The nonrelativistic string Lagrangian	81
5	**The relativistic point particle**		89
	5.1	Action for a relativistic point particle	89
	5.2	Reparameterization invariance	93
	5.3	Equations of motion	94
	5.4	Relativistic particle with electric charge	97
6	**Relativistic strings**		100
	6.1	Area functional for spatial surfaces	100
	6.2	Reparameterization invariance of the area	103
	6.3	Area functional for spacetime surfaces	106
	6.4	The Nambu-Goto string action	111
	6.5	Equations of motion, boundary conditions, and D-branes	112
	6.6	The static gauge	116
	6.7	Tension and energy of a stretched string	118
	6.8	Action in terms of transverse velocity	120
	6.9	Motion of open string endpoints	124
7	**String parameterization and classical motion**		130
	7.1	Choosing a σ parameterization	130
	7.2	Physical interpretation of the string equation of motion	132
	7.3	Wave equation and constraints	134
	7.4	General motion of an open string	136
	7.5	Motion of closed strings and cusps	142
	7.6	Cosmic strings	145
8	**World-sheet currents**		154
	8.1	Electric charge conservation	154
	8.2	Conserved charges from Lagrangian symmetries	155
	8.3	Conserved currents on the world-sheet	159
	8.4	The complete momentum current	161
	8.5	Lorentz symmetry and associated currents	165
	8.6	The slope parameter α'	168
9	**Light-cone relativistic strings**		175
	9.1	A class of choices for τ	175
	9.2	The associated σ parameterization	178

9.3 Constraints and wave equations 182
9.4 Wave equation and mode expansions 183
9.5 Light-cone solution of equations of motion 186

10 Light-cone fields and particles 194
10.1 Introduction 194
10.2 An action for scalar fields 195
10.3 Classical plane-wave solutions 197
10.4 Quantum scalar fields and particle states 200
10.5 Maxwell fields and photon states 206
10.6 Gravitational fields and graviton states 209

11 The relativistic quantum point particle 216
11.1 Light-cone point particle 216
11.2 Heisenberg and Schrödinger pictures 218
11.3 Quantization of the point particle 220
11.4 Quantum particle and scalar particles 225
11.5 Light-cone momentum operators 226
11.6 Light-cone Lorentz generators 229

12 Relativistic quantum open strings 236
12.1 Light-cone Hamiltonian and commutators 236
12.2 Commutation relations for oscillators 241
12.3 Strings as harmonic oscillators 246
12.4 Transverse Virasoro operators 250
12.5 Lorentz generators 259
12.6 Constructing the state space 262
12.7 Equations of motion 268
12.8 Tachyons and D-brane decay 270

13 Relativistic quantum closed strings 280
13.1 Mode expansions and commutation relations 280
13.2 Closed string Virasoro operators 286
13.3 Closed string state space 290
13.4 String coupling and the dilaton 294
13.5 Closed strings on the $\mathbb{R}^1/\mathbb{Z}_2$ orbifold 296
13.6 The twisted sector of the orbifold 298

14 A look at relativistic superstrings 307
14.1 Introduction 307
14.2 Anticommuting variables and operators 308
14.3 World-sheet fermions 309
14.4 Neveu–Schwarz sector 312
14.5 Ramond sector 315

14.6 Counting states 317
14.7 Open superstrings 320
14.8 Closed string theories 322

Part II Developments 329

15 D-branes and gauge fields 331
15.1 Dp-branes and boundary conditions 331
15.2 Quantizing open strings on Dp-branes 333
15.3 Open strings between parallel Dp-branes 338
15.4 Strings between parallel Dp- and Dq-branes 345

16 String charge and electric charge 356
16.1 Fundamental string charge 356
16.2 Visualizing string charge 362
16.3 Strings ending on D-branes 365
16.4 D-brane charges 370

17 T-duality of closed strings 376
17.1 Duality symmetries and Hamiltonians 376
17.2 Winding closed strings 378
17.3 Left movers and right movers 381
17.4 Quantization and commutation relations 383
17.5 Constraint and mass formula 386
17.6 State space of compactified closed strings 388
17.7 A striking spectrum coincidence 392
17.8 Duality as a full quantum symmetry 394

18 T-duality of open strings 400
18.1 T-duality and D-branes 400
18.2 $U(1)$ gauge transformations 404
18.3 Wilson lines on circles 406
18.4 Open strings and Wilson lines 410

19 Electromagnetic fields on D-branes 415
19.1 Maxwell fields coupling to open strings 415
19.2 D-branes with electric fields 418
19.3 D-branes with magnetic fields 423

20 Nonlinear and Born–Infeld electrodynamics 433
20.1 The framework of nonlinear electrodynamics 433
20.2 Born–Infeld electrodynamics 438
20.3 Born–Infeld theory and T-duality 443

21 String theory and particle physics 451
21.1 Intersecting D6-branes 451
21.2 D-branes and the Standard Model gauge group 457
21.3 Open strings and the Standard Model fermions 463
21.4 The Standard Model on intersecting D6-branes 472
21.5 String theory models of particle physics 479
21.6 Moduli stabilization and the landscape 481

22 String thermodynamics and black holes 495
22.1 A review of statistical mechanics 495
22.2 Partitions and the quantum violin string 498
22.3 Hagedorn temperature 505
22.4 Relativistic particle partition function 507
22.5 Single string partition function 509
22.6 Black holes and entropy 513
22.7 Counting states of a black hole 517

23 Strong interactions and AdS/CFT 525
23.1 Introduction 525
23.2 Mesons and quantum rotating strings 526
23.3 The energy of a stretched effective string 531
23.4 A large-N limit of a gauge theory 533
23.5 Gravitational effects of massive sources 535
23.6 Motivating the AdS/CFT correspondence 537
23.7 Parameters in the AdS/CFT correspondence 541
23.8 Hyperbolic spaces and conformal boundary 543
23.9 Geometry of AdS and holography 549
23.10 AdS/CFT at finite temperature 554
23.11 The quark–gluon plasma 559

24 Covariant string quantization 568
24.1 Introduction 568
24.2 Open string Virasoro operators 570
24.3 Selecting the quantum constraints 572
24.4 Lorentz covariant state space 577
24.5 Closed string Virasoro operators 580
24.6 The Polyakov string action 582

25 String interactions and Riemann surfaces 591
25.1 Introduction 591
25.2 Interactions and observables 592
25.3 String interactions and global world-sheets 595
25.4 World-sheets as Riemann surfaces 598
25.5 Schwarz–Christoffel map and three-string interaction 602

25.6 Moduli spaces of Riemann surfaces 608
25.7 Four open string interaction 617
25.8 Veneziano amplitude 622

26 Loop amplitudes in string theory 630
26.1 Loop diagrams and ultraviolet divergences 630
26.2 Annuli and one-loop open strings 631
26.3 Annuli and electrostatic capacitance 636
26.4 Non-planar open string diagrams 642
26.5 Four closed string interactions 643
26.6 The moduli space of tori 646

References 659
Index 667