

# Contents

<i>Foreword</i>		xiii
<i>Preface</i>		xv
<i>Notation</i>		xviii
<b>1 A first look at strings</b>		1
1.1 Why strings?		1
1.2 Action principles		9
1.3 The open string spectrum		16
1.4 Closed and unoriented strings		25
Exercises		30
<b>2 Conformal field theory</b>		32
2.1 Massless scalars in two dimensions		32
2.2 The operator product expansion		36
2.3 Ward identities and Noether's theorem		41
2.4 Conformal invariance		43
2.5 Free CFTs		49
2.6 The Virasoro algebra		52
2.7 Mode expansions		58
2.8 Vertex operators		63
2.9 More on states and operators		68
Exercises		74
<b>3 The Polyakov path integral</b>		77
3.1 Sums over world-sheets		77
3.2 The Polyakov path integral		82
3.3 Gauge fixing		84
3.4 The Weyl anomaly		90
3.5 Scattering amplitudes		97
3.6 Vertex operators		101

3.7	Strings in curved spacetime	108
	Exercises	118
<b>4</b>	<b>The string spectrum</b>	121
4.1	Old covariant quantization	121
4.2	BRST quantization	126
4.3	BRST quantization of the string	131
4.4	The no-ghost theorem	137
	Exercises	143
<b>5</b>	<b>The string S-matrix</b>	145
5.1	The circle and the torus	145
5.2	Moduli and Riemann surfaces	150
5.3	The measure for moduli	154
5.4	More about the measure	159
	Exercises	164
<b>6</b>	<b>Tree-level amplitudes</b>	166
6.1	Riemann surfaces	166
6.2	Scalar expectation values	169
6.3	The $bc$ CFT	176
6.4	The Veneziano amplitude	178
6.5	Chan–Paton factors and gauge interactions	184
6.6	Closed string tree amplitudes	192
6.7	General results	198
	Exercises	204
<b>7</b>	<b>One-loop amplitudes</b>	206
7.1	Riemann surfaces	206
7.2	CFT on the torus	208
7.3	The torus amplitude	216
7.4	Open and unoriented one-loop graphs	222
	Exercises	229
<b>8</b>	<b>Toroidal compactification and <math>T</math>-duality</b>	231
8.1	Toroidal compactification in field theory	231
8.2	Toroidal compactification in CFT	235
8.3	Closed strings and $T$ -duality	241
8.4	Compactification of several dimensions	249
8.5	Orbifolds	256
8.6	Open strings	263
8.7	D-branes	268
8.8	$T$ -duality of unoriented theories	277
	Exercises	280

<b>9</b>	<b>Higher order amplitudes</b>	283
9.1	General tree-level amplitudes	283
9.2	Higher genus Riemann surfaces	290
9.3	Sewing and cutting world-sheets	294
9.4	Sewing and cutting CFTs	300
9.5	General amplitudes	305
9.6	String field theory	310
9.7	Large order behavior	315
9.8	High energy and high temperature	317
9.9	Low dimensions and noncritical strings	322
	Exercises	327
	<b>Appendix A: A short course on path integrals</b>	329
A.1	Bosonic fields	329
A.2	Fermionic fields	341
	Exercises	345
	<i>References</i>	347
	<i>Glossary</i>	359
	<i>Index</i>	389