

Liverpool Lectures on String Theory
Guide to the Literature
Thomas Mohaupt
Semester 1, 2008/2009

1 Literature

- Katrin Becker, Melanie Becker and John H. Schwarz, String Theory and M Theory, A modern introduction (2007).
The most recent textbook, attempts to give an introduction from a contemporary perspective and to treat virtually all recent developments. More advanced than Zwiebach, but according to many colleagues very accessible and not too technical. If you want to have just one book which 'covers it all', this is currently the best choice.
- Barton Zwiebach, A First Course in String Theory (2004).
The most accessible textbook. Does not cover advanced or technical aspects, but includes recent developments such as brane world model building and black hole entropy.
- Joseph Polchinski, String Theory (2 Volumes, 1998).
For many the standard textbook. Includes developments of the mid-nineties, such as D-branes. Covers many technical aspects, but is (by opinion of many readers) not detailed enough to learn 'how it's done' without accompanying lectures or further literature.
- Michael B. Green, John H. Schwarz and Edward Witten, Superstring Theory (2 volumes, 1987).
The classical textbook. Though it does not cover the 'modern stuff', it is a good reference if you need to know the details of the 'old stuff'.
- Dieter Lüst and Stefan Theisen, Lectures on String Theory (1989).
Concise, technical exposition of the 'old stuff'. Covers material that is not in Green, Schwarz, Witten. Out of print (I have a copy), and no easy/first read.
- Thomas Mohaupt, Introduction to String Theory (hep-th/0207249).
My humble attempt to summarize some relevant parts of string theory. Reasonably up to date, I hope.