

# Lagrangians: A Summary of Different Cases

An aid for Zwiebach (which plain eq nums reference – “K” eq num refs to Klauber, Vol. 1)  
[xx] reference page number in the text

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|   | <u>Non-Relativistic</u>   |  |   |  | <u>Relativistic</u>   |  |   |                              |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|------------------------------|
|   | Free  |  | Interacting   |  | Free  |  | Interacting   |                              |
| Particle, $L=$  | $T = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2$<br>$= \frac{p^2}{2m}$                         | (4.22) [78]<br>with $V=0$              | $T - V =$<br>$\frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 - V(x)$   | (4.22) [78]                            | $T = -mc^2 \sqrt{1 - v^2 / c^2}$ $t$ system<br>$= -mc^2$ $\tau$ system  | (5.8) [92]<br>(5.7) [92]                               | $T - V = -mc^2 + \frac{q}{c} A_\mu \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau}$                                    | (5.33) [97]<br>$\tau$ system |
| Harmonic oscill   | $\frac{1}{2n} \dot{q}_n^2 - \frac{n}{2} q_n^2$                              | (12.68) [247]                          | Not common  |  | Not common  |  | Not common  |                              |
| Field, $\mathcal{L}=$   |   |  |   |  | $t$ system below  |  | $t$ system below  |                              |
| Scalar  | $\mathcal{T} - \mathcal{U} =$<br>$\frac{1}{2} \rho \dot{x}^2 - \mathcal{U}$ | $\mathcal{U} =$ internal<br>pot energy | $\mathcal{T} - \mathcal{U} - \mathcal{V} =$<br>$\frac{1}{2} \rho \dot{x}^2 - \mathcal{U} - \mathcal{V}$ | $\mathcal{V} =$ external<br>pot energy | $\partial_\alpha \phi^\dagger \partial^\alpha \phi - \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi$   | K(3-32) [49]   | $\partial_\alpha \phi^\dagger \partial^\alpha \phi - \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi - \mathcal{V}$ |                              |
| Spinor  | Not common  |  | Not common  |  | $\bar{\psi} (i\gamma^\alpha \partial_\alpha - m) \psi$  | K(4-60) [104]  | $\bar{\psi} (i\gamma^\alpha \partial_\alpha - m) \psi + e \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi A_\mu$ | K(7-20) [186]                |
| Photon  | N/A   |  | N/A   |  | $-\frac{1}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$  | $\leftarrow A_\mu = 0 \text{ in } \rightarrow$         | $-\frac{1}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} + e \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi A_\mu$                   | K(11-7) [288]                |
| String  |   |  |   |  | $\tau, \sigma$ parameter space below  |  |   |                              |
| General   | $\frac{1}{2} \mu_0 (\dot{y})^2$<br>$-\frac{1}{2} T_0 (y')^2$                | (4.35) [81]                            | $\frac{1}{2} \mu_0 (\dot{y})^2$<br>$-\frac{1}{2} T_0 (y')^2 - \mathcal{V}$                              |  | $-\frac{T_0}{c} \sqrt{-\gamma} =$<br>$-\frac{T_0}{c} \sqrt{(\dot{X} \cdot X')^2 - (\dot{X})^2 (X')^2}$  | (6.44) & (6.46)<br>[112]<br>Min area of<br>world sheet |   |                              |
| Static gauge  | N/A   |  | N/A   |  | $-\frac{T_0}{c} \sqrt{-(\dot{X})^2 (X')^2} = -T_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \sigma}$<br>$= -T_0 \frac{ds}{d\sigma} \sqrt{1 - v_\perp^2 / c^2}$  | (6.66) [118]<br>(6.89) [123]                           |   |                              |
| $\uparrow$ & new $\sigma$<br>parametrization  | N/A   |  | N/A   |  | As above  |  |   |                              |
| $n \cdot X = \alpha' n \cdot p \tau$<br>$n \cdot \mathcal{P}^\tau = \frac{\beta}{2\pi} n \cdot p$ | N/A   |  | N/A   |  | As above  |  |   |                              |
| Light cone gauge  | N/A   |  | N/A   |  | As above  |  |   |                              |
| Simple surrogate  | N/A   |  | N/A   |  | $\frac{1}{4\pi\alpha'} (\dot{X}^I \dot{X}^I - X'^I X'^I)$   | (12.81) [248]  |   |                              |
| World sheet<br>fermions   | N/A   |  | N/A   |  | $\mathcal{L}_\psi = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left\{ \begin{aligned} &\psi_1^I (\partial_\tau + \partial_\sigma) \psi_1^I \\ &+ \psi_2^I (\partial_\tau - \partial_\sigma) \psi_2^I \end{aligned} \right\}$ | (14.10) [310]  |   |                              |