

Preface

In the winter 1999-2000 the second author held a series of lectures on linear connections and gauge transformations. Notes of these lectures taken by G. Manno, F. Pugliese, L. Vitagliano and the first author constituted that raw material on the basis of which he wrote the first version of this text. This version was then substantially revised and new material added. Various parts of these notes were circulated among ‘diffiety people’ while we were working on them, and the feed back contributed to the final version. Luca Vitagliano and our friend and colleague G. Rotondaro, who tragically left us in October 2004, should be especially mentioned in this connection.

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