

Preface

This book is based upon lectures held from 29 June to 3 July 2009 at the INFN-Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati School on Attractor Mechanism, directed by Stefano Bellucci, with the participation of prestigious lecturers, including M. Cvetič, G. Dall'Agata, S. Ferrara, J.F. Morales, G. Moore, A. Sen, J. Simon, and M. Trigiante, as well as invited scientists of the caliber of M. Bianchi, C. Nappi, A. Sagnotti, and E. Witten. All lectures were given at a pedagogical, introductory level, a feature which reflects itself in the specific “flavor” of this volume, which also benefited much from extensive discussions and related reworking of the various contributions.

This is the fifth volume in a series of books on the general topics of supersymmetry, supergravity, black holes, and the attractor mechanism. Indeed, based on previous meetings, four volumes were already published:

Bellucci S. (2006). *Supersymmetric Mechanics – Vol. 1: Supersymmetry, Non-commutativity and Matrix Models.* (vol. 698, pp. 1–229). ISBN: 3-540-33313-4. (Springer, Berlin Heidelberg) *Lecture Notes in Physics* Vol. 698.

Bellucci S., S. Ferrara, A. Marrani. (2006). *Supersymmetric Mechanics – Vol. 2: The Attractor Mechanism and Space Time Singularities.* (vol. 701, pp. 1–242). ISBN: 978-3-540-34156-7. (Springer, Berlin Heidelberg) *Lecture Notes in Physics* Vol. 701.

Bellucci S. (2008). *Supersymmetric Mechanics – Vol. 3: Attractors and Black Holes in Supersymmetric Gravity.* (vol. 755, pp. 1–373). ISBN: 978-3-540-79522-3. (Springer, Berlin Heidelberg) *Lecture Notes in Physics* Vol. 755.

Bellucci S. (2010). *The Attractor Mechanism.* Proceedings of the INFN-Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati School 2007. ISSN 0930-8989, ISBN 978-3-642-10735-1, e-ISBN 978-3-642-10736-8. DOI 10.1007/978-3-642-10736-8. (Springer Heidelberg Dordrecht London New York) *Proceedings in Physics* Vol. 134.

I wish to thank all lecturers, invited scientists, and participants at the School for contributing to the success of the School, which prompted the realization of this volume. I wish to thank especially Mario Calvetti for giving vital support to the School and for personal trust and enduring encouragement. Lastly, but most importantly, my gratitude goes to my wife Gloria and our beloved daughters Costanza, Eleonora, Annalisa, Erica, and Maristella for love and inspiration, in want of which I would have never had the strength to complete this book.

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