

Note added in proof.

The history of the Bianchi identities was clarified by Karin Reich in her book on the development of tensor calculus [1]. As explained by Gregorio Ricci-Curbastro in a footnote to a paper in 1924 [2], the differential Riemann identities derived explicitly by Bianchi in 1901 and published the following year had already been noted without proof in 1889 by Ernesto Padova [3] in a footnote referring to a 1888 paper by Ricci [4] which itself contains a footnote referring back to the Padova paper.

References

- [1] Karin Reich, *Die Entwicklung des Tensorkalküls. Vom absoluten Differentialkalkül zur Relativitätstheorie* (Birkhäuser Verlag, Berlin, 1994).
- [2] G. Ricci-Curbastro, *Rend. Acc. Lincei* (5) **33**, 3–4 (1924).
- [3] E. Padova, *Rend. Acc. Lincei* (4) **5**, 174–178 (1889).
- [4] G. Ricci-Curbastro, *Studi editi della Università di Padova a commemorare l'ottavo centenario della origina della Università di Bologna*, Vol. III (Tipografia del Seminario, Padova, 1888), 3–23.