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Sommario/riassunto	The purpose of this monograph is two-fold: it introduces a conceptual language for the geometrical objects underlying Painlevé equations, and it offers new results on a particular Painlevé III equation of type PIII (D6), called PIII (0, 0, 4, 4), describing its relation to isomonodromic families of vector bundles on P^1 with meromorphic connections. This equation is equivalent to the radial sine (or sinh) Gordon equation and, as such, it appears widely in geometry and physics. It is used here as a very concrete and classical illustration of the modern theory of vector bundles with meromorphic connections. Complex multi-valued solutions on C^* are the natural context for most of the monograph, but in the last four chapters real solutions on $R>0$

(with or without singularities) are addressed. These provide examples of variations of TERP structures, which are related to tt geometry and harmonic bundles. As an application, a new global picture of \mathcal{O} is given
