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Review text:

The subject of the paper belongs to a lasting effort of finding, in the theory of difference equations, analogies with the standard Lie-algebraic symmetry approach to the nonlinear (here: ordinary) differential equations. In this sense, one needs some preliminary experience with the subject but, as a certain guide to it, the reader finds the author's advice in a frequent citation of his previous work in appropriate places. Still, there exists an alternative guide to the study of this particular text, mediated by the famous (simple though nontrivial) illustrative "inverse cubic" example introduced at the end of the introductory section. This example then illustrates the (in the given context, fundamental) concept of the so called quasi-extremality (at the end of section II) as well as the explicit application of the key theorem (well characterized by the title of the paper) at the end of section III. For completeness, section IV adds another (and very interesting) global perspective of the subject by offering, for the same particular example, a reinterpretation of its approximate invariant scheme as the exact scheme pertaining to another, just slightly modified differential equation. In addition, for anybody who starts reading papers from the end, an immediate premium comes from the last sentence hinting that more examples of the same nonlinear second-order ODE type may be found in the "Lie group classification ..." longer paper (ref. [9]) by the author, R. Kozlov and P. Winternitz.