

## Research Article

# Approximate Hamiltonian Symmetry Groups and Recursion Operators for Perturbed Evolution Equations

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The method of approximate transformation groups, which was proposed by Baikov et al. (1988 and 1996), is extended on Hamiltonian and bi-Hamiltonian systems of evolution equations. Indeed, as a main consequence, this extended procedure is applied in order to compute the approximate conservation laws and approximate recursion operators corresponding to these types of equations. In particular, as an application, a comprehensive analysis of the problem of approximate conservation laws and approximate recursion operators associated to the Gardner equation with the small parameters is presented.

## 1. Introduction

The investigation of the exact solutions of nonlinear evolution equations has a fundamental role in the nonlinear physical phenomena. One of the significant and systematic methods for obtaining special solutions of systems of nonlinear differential equations is the classical symmetries method, also called Lie group analysis. This well-known approach originated at the end of nineteenth century from the pioneering work of Lie [1]. The fact that symmetry reductions for many PDEs cannot be determined, via the classical symmetry method, motivated the creation of several generalizations of the classical Lie group approach for symmetry reductions. Consequently, several alternative reduction methods have been proposed, going beyond Lie's classical procedure and providing further solutions. One of these techniques which is extremely applied particularly for nonlinear problems is perturbation analysis. It is worth mentioning that sometimes differential equations which appear in mathematical modelings are presented with terms involving a parameter called the perturbed term. Because of the instability of the Lie point symmetries with respect to perturbation of coefficients of differential equations, a new class of symmetries has been created for such equations, which are known as approximate

(perturbed) symmetries. In the last century, in order to have the utmost result from the methods, combination of Lie symmetry method and perturbations are investigated and two different so-called *approximate symmetry methods* (ASMs) have been developed. The first method is due to Baikov et al. [2, 3]. The second procedure was proposed by Fushchich and Shtelen [4] and later was followed by Euler et al. [5, 6]. This method is generally based on the perturbation of dependent variables. In [7, 8], a comprehensive comparison of these two methods is presented.

As it is well known, Hamiltonian systems of differential equations are one of the famous and significant concepts in physics. These important systems appear in the various fields of physics such as motion of rigid bodies, celestial mechanics, quantization theory, fluid mechanics, plasma physics, and so forth. Due to the significance of Hamiltonian structures, in this paper, by applying the linear behavior of the Euler operator, characteristics, prolongation, and Fréchet derivative of vector fields, we have extended ASM on the Hamiltonian and bi-Hamiltonian systems of evolution equations, in order to investigate the interplay between approximate symmetry groups, approximate conservation laws, and approximate recursion operators.

The structure of the present paper is as follows. In Section 2, some necessary preliminaries regarding to the Hamiltonian structures are presented. In Section 3, a comprehensive investigation of the approximate Hamiltonian symmetries and approximate conservation laws associated to the perturbed evolution equations is proposed. Also, as an application of this procedure, approximate Hamiltonian symmetry groups, approximate bi-Hamiltonian structures, and approximate conservation laws of the Gardner equation are computed. In Section 4, the approximate recursion operators are studied and the proposed technique is implemented for the Gardner equation as an application. Finally, some concluding remarks are mentioned at the end of the paper.

## 2. Preliminaries

In this section, we will mention some necessary preliminaries regarding Hamiltonian structures. In order to be familiar with the general concepts of the ASM, refer to [9]. It is also worth mentioning that most of this paper's definitions, theorems and techniques regarding Hamiltonian and bi-Hamiltonian structures are inspired from [10].

Let  $M \subset X \times U$  denote a fixed connected open subset of the space of independent and dependent variables  $x = (x^1, \dots, x^p)$  and  $u = (u^1, \dots, u^q)$ . The algebra of differential functions  $P(x, u^{(n)}) = p[u]$  over  $M$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{A}$ . We further define  $\mathcal{A}^l$  to be the vector space of  $l$ -tuples of differential functions,  $P[u] = (P_1[u], \dots, P_l[u])$ , where each  $P_j \in \mathcal{A}$ .

A *generalized vector field* will be a (formal) expression of the form

$$\mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^p \xi^i [u] \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} + \sum_{\alpha=1}^q \phi_\alpha [u] \frac{\partial}{\partial u^\alpha} \quad (1)$$

in which  $\xi^i$  and  $\phi_\alpha$  are smooth differential functions. The *Prolonged* generalized vector field can be defined as follows:

$$\mathbf{pr}^{(n)} \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \sum_{\alpha=1}^q \sum_{\#J \leq n} \phi_\alpha^J [u] \frac{\partial}{\partial u_J^\alpha}, \quad (2)$$

whose coefficients are determined by the formula

$$\phi_\alpha^J = D_J \left( \phi_\alpha - \sum_{i=1}^p \xi^i u_i^\alpha \right) + \sum_{i=1}^p \xi^i u_{J,i}^\alpha, \quad (3)$$

with the same notation as before. Given a generalized vector field  $\mathbf{v}$ , its *infinite prolongation* (or briefly *prolongation*) is the formally infinite sum as follows:

$$\mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^p \xi^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} + \sum_{\alpha=1}^q \sum_J \phi_\alpha^J \frac{\partial}{\partial u_J^\alpha}, \quad (4)$$

where each  $\phi_\alpha^J$  is given by (3), and the sum in (4) now extends over all multi-indices  $J = (j_1, \dots, j_k)$  for  $k \geq 0, 1 \leq j_k \leq p$ .

A generalized vector field  $\mathbf{v}$  is a *generalized infinitesimal symmetry* of a system of differential equations as follows:

$$\Delta_\nu [u] = \Delta_\nu (x, u^{(n)}) = 0, \quad \nu = 1, \dots, l, \quad (5)$$

if and only if

$$\mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v} [\Delta_\nu] = 0, \quad \nu = 1, \dots, l, \quad (6)$$

for every smooth solution  $u = f(x)$ .

Among all the generalized vector fields, those in which the coefficients  $\xi^i [u]$  of the  $\partial/\partial x^i$  are zero play a distinguished role. Let  $Q[u] = (Q_1[u], \dots, Q_q[u]) \in \mathcal{A}^q$  be a  $q$ -tuple of differential functions. The generalized vector field

$$\mathbf{v}_Q = \sum_{\alpha=1}^q Q_\alpha [u] \frac{\partial}{\partial u^\alpha} \quad (7)$$

is called an *evolutionary vector field*, and  $Q$  is called its *characteristic*.

A manifold  $M$  with a Poisson bracket is called a *Poisson manifold*, the bracket defining a *Poisson structure* on  $M$ . Let  $M$  be a Poisson manifold and  $H : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a smooth function. The *Hamiltonian vector field* associated with  $H$  is the unique smooth vector field  $\widehat{\mathbf{v}}_H$  on  $M$  satisfying the following identity:

$$\widehat{\mathbf{v}}_H = \{F, H\} = -\{H, F\} \quad (8)$$

for every smooth function  $F : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . The equations governing the flow of  $\widehat{\mathbf{v}}_H$  are referred to as *Hamilton's equations* for the "Hamiltonian" function  $H$ .

Let  $x = (x^1, \dots, x^m)$  be local coordinates on  $M$  and  $H(x)$  be a real-valued function. The following basic formula can be obtained for the Poisson bracket:

$$\{F, H\} = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^m \{x^i, x^j\} \frac{\partial F}{\partial x^i} \frac{\partial H}{\partial x^j}. \quad (9)$$

In other words, in order to compute the Poisson bracket of any pair of functions in some given set of local coordinates, it suffices to know the Poisson brackets between the coordinate functions themselves. These basic brackets,

$$J^{ij}(x) = \{x^i, x^j\}, \quad i, j = 1, \dots, m, \quad (10)$$

are called the *structure functions* of the Poisson manifold  $M$  relative to the given local coordinates and serve to uniquely determine the Poisson structure itself. For convenience, we assemble the structure functions into a skew-symmetric  $m \times m$  matrix  $J(x)$ , called the *structure matrix* of  $M$ . Using  $\nabla H$  to denote the (column) gradient vector for  $H$ , the local coordinate form (9) for the Poisson bracket can be written as

$$\{F, H\} = \nabla F \cdot J \nabla H. \quad (11)$$

Therefore, in the given coordinate chart, Hamilton's equations take the form of

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = J(x) \nabla H(x). \quad (12)$$

Alternatively, using (9), we could write this in the "bracket form" as follows:

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \{x, H\}, \quad (13)$$

the  $i$ th component of the right-hand side being  $\{x^i, H\}$ . A system of first-order ordinary differential equations is said to be a *Hamiltonian system* if there is a Hamiltonian function  $H(x)$  and a matrix of functions  $J(x)$  determining a Poisson bracket (11) whereby the system takes the form (12).

If

$$\mathcal{D} = \sum_J P_J [u] D_J, \quad P_J \in \mathcal{A} \quad (14)$$

is a differential operator, its (formal) *adjoint* is the differential operator  $\mathcal{D}^*$  which satisfies

$$\int_{\Omega} P \cdot \mathcal{D}Q \, dx = \int_{\Omega} Q \cdot \mathcal{D}^*P \, dx \quad (15)$$

for every pair of differential functions  $P, Q \in \mathcal{A}$  which vanish when  $u \equiv 0$ . Also, for every domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^p$  and every function  $u = f(x)$  of compact support in  $\Omega$ . An operator  $\mathcal{D}$  is *self-adjoint* if  $\mathcal{D}^* = \mathcal{D}$ ; it is *skew-adjoint* if  $\mathcal{D}^* = -\mathcal{D}$ .

The principal innovations needed to convert a Hamiltonian system of ordinary differential equations (12) to a Hamiltonian system of evolution equations are as follows (refer to [10] for more details):

- (i) replacing the Hamiltonian function  $H(x)$  by a Hamiltonian functional  $\mathcal{H}[u]$ ,
- (ii) replacing the vector gradient operation  $\nabla H$  by the variational derivative  $\delta\mathcal{H}$  of the Hamiltonian functional, and
- (iii) replacing the skew-symmetric matrix  $J(x)$  by a skew-adjoint differential operator  $\mathcal{D}$  which may depend on  $u$ .

The resulting Hamiltonian system will take the form of

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \mathcal{D} \cdot \delta\mathcal{H}[u]. \quad (16)$$

Clearly, for a candidate Hamiltonian operator  $\mathcal{D}$  the correct expression for the corresponding Poisson bracket has the form of

$$\{\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}\} = \int \delta\mathcal{P} \cdot \mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{L} \, dx, \quad (17)$$

whenever  $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L} \in \mathcal{F}$  are functionals. Off course, the Hamiltonian operator  $\mathcal{D}$  must satisfy certain further restrictions in order that (17) be a true Poisson bracket. A linear operator  $\mathcal{D} : \mathcal{A}^q \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^q$  is called *Hamiltonian* if its Poisson bracket (17) satisfies the conditions of *skew-symmetry* and the *Jacobi identity*.

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a Hamiltonian operator with Poisson bracket (17). To each functional  $\mathcal{H} = \int H \, dx \in \mathcal{F}$ , there is an evolutionary vector field  $\mathbf{pr} \hat{\mathbf{v}}_{\mathcal{H}}$ , called the Hamiltonian vector field associated with  $\mathcal{H}$ , which for all functionals  $\mathcal{P} \in \mathcal{F}$  satisfies the following identity:*

$$\mathbf{pr} \hat{\mathbf{v}}_{\mathcal{H}}(\mathcal{P}) = \{\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{H}\}. \quad (18)$$

Indeed,  $\hat{\mathbf{v}}_{\mathcal{H}}$  has characteristic  $\mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{D}\mathbf{E}(H)$ , in which  $\mathbf{E}$  is Euler operator (Proposition 7.2 of [10]).

### 3. Approximate Hamiltonian Symmetries and Approximate Conservation Laws

Consider a system of perturbed evolution equations:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = P[u, \varepsilon] \quad (19)$$

in which  $P[u, \varepsilon] = P(x, u^{(n)}, \varepsilon) \in \mathcal{A}^q$ ,  $x \in \mathbf{R}^p$ ,  $u \in \mathbf{R}^q$  and  $\varepsilon$  is a parameter.

Substituting according to (19) and its derivatives, we see that any evolutionary symmetry must be equivalent to one whose characteristic  $Q[u, \varepsilon] = Q(x, t, u^{(m)}, \varepsilon)$  depends only on  $x, t, u, \varepsilon$  and the  $x$ -derivatives of  $u$ . On the other hand, (19) itself can be considered as the equations corresponding to the flow  $\exp(t\mathbf{v}_P)$  of the evolutionary vector field with characteristic  $P$ . The symmetry criterion (6), which in this case is

$$D_t Q_\nu = \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_Q(P_\nu) + o(\varepsilon^p), \quad \nu = 1, \dots, q, \quad (20)$$

can be readily seen to be equivalent to the following Lie bracket condition on the two approximate generalized vector fields. Indeed, this point generalizes the correspondence between symmetries of systems of first-order perturbed ordinary differential equations and the Lie bracket of the corresponding vector fields.

Considering the above assumptions, some useful relevant theorems and definitions could be rewritten as follows.

**Proposition 2.** *An approximate evolutionary vector field  $\mathbf{v}_Q$  is a symmetry of the system of perturbed evolution equations  $u_t = P[u, \varepsilon]$  if and only if*

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}_Q}{\partial t} + [\mathbf{v}_P, \mathbf{v}_Q] = o(\varepsilon^p) \quad (21)$$

holds identically in  $(x, t, u^{(m)}, \varepsilon)$ . (Here  $\partial \mathbf{v}_Q / \partial t$  denotes the evolutionary vector field with characteristic  $\partial Q / \partial t$ .)

Any approximate conservation law of a system of perturbed evolution equations takes the form of

$$D_t T + \mathbf{Div} X = o(\varepsilon^p), \quad (22)$$

in which  $\mathbf{Div}$  denotes spatial divergence. Without loss of generality, the conserved density  $T(x, t, u^{(n)}, \varepsilon)$  can be assumed to depend only on  $x$ -derivatives of  $u$ . Equivalently, for  $\Omega \subset X$ , the functional

$$\mathcal{F}[t; u, \varepsilon] = \int_{\Omega} T(x, t, u^{(n)}, \varepsilon) \, dx \quad (23)$$

is a constant, independent of  $t$ , for all solutions  $u$  such that  $T(x, t, u^{(n)}, \varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$  as  $x \rightarrow \partial\Omega$ . Note that if  $T(x, t, u^{(n)}, \varepsilon)$  is any such differential function, and  $u$  is a solution of the perturbed evolutionary system  $u_t = P[u, \varepsilon]$ , then

$$D_t T \approx \partial_t T + \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_P(T), \quad (24)$$

where  $\partial_t = \partial/\partial t$  denotes the partial  $t$ -derivative. Thus  $T$  is the density for a conservation law of the system if and only if its associated functional  $\mathcal{F}$  satisfies the following identity:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_p(\mathcal{F}) = o(\varepsilon^p). \quad (25)$$

In the case that our system is of Hamiltonian form, the bracket relation (18) immediately leads to the Noether relation between approximate Hamiltonian symmetries and approximate conservation laws.

*Definition 3.* Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a  $q \times q$  approximate Hamiltonian differential operator. An *approximate distinguished functional* for  $\mathcal{D}$  is a functional  $\mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{F}$  satisfying  $\mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{G} = o(\varepsilon^p)$  for all  $x, u$ .

In other words, the Hamiltonian system corresponding to a distinguished functional is completely trivial:  $u_t = 0$ .

Now, according to [10], the perturbed Hamiltonian version of Noether's theorem can be presented as follows.

**Theorem 4.** Let  $u_t = \mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{H}$  be a Hamiltonian system of perturbed evolution equations. An approximate Hamiltonian vector field  $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{\mathcal{P}}$  with characteristic  $\mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{P}$ ,  $\mathcal{P} \in \mathcal{F}$  determines an approximate generalized symmetry group of the system if and only if there is an equivalent functional  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}} \approx \mathcal{P} - \mathcal{G}$  differing only from  $\mathcal{P}$  by a time-dependent approximate distinguished functional  $\mathcal{G}[t; u, \varepsilon]$ , such that  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}$  determines an approximate conservation law.

*Example 5.* The Gardner equation

$$u_t = 6(u + \varepsilon u^2)u_x - u_{xxx}, \quad (26)$$

can in fact be written in Hamiltonian form in two distinct ways. Firstly, we see

$$u_t = D_x(3u^2 + 2\varepsilon u^3 - u_{xx}) = \mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{H}_1, \quad (27)$$

where  $\mathcal{D} = D_x$  and

$$\mathcal{H}_1[u, \varepsilon] = \int \left( u^3 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2}u^4 + \frac{u_x^2}{2} \right) dx \quad (28)$$

is an approximate conservation law. Note that  $\mathcal{D}$  is certainly skew-adjoint and Hamiltonian. The Poisson bracket is

$$\{\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}\} = \int \delta\mathcal{P} \cdot D_x(\delta\mathcal{L}) dx. \quad (29)$$

The second Hamiltonian form is

$$u_t = (4uD_x + 2u_x + 3\varepsilon(uu_x + u^2D_x) - D_x^3)u = \mathcal{E}\delta\mathcal{H}_0, \quad (30)$$

in which

$$\mathcal{H}_0[u, \varepsilon] = \int \frac{1}{2}u^2 dx \quad (31)$$

$\mathcal{E}$  is skew-adjoint and satisfies the Jacobi identity. Therefore it is Hamiltonian.

In [11], we have comprehensively analyzed the problem of approximate symmetries for the Gardner equation. We have shown that the approximate symmetries of the Gardner equation are given by the following generators:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}_1 &= \partial_x, \\ \mathbf{v}_2 &= \partial_t, \\ \mathbf{v}_3 &= 6t\partial_x + (2\varepsilon u - 1)\partial_u, \\ \mathbf{v}_4 &= \varepsilon\mathbf{v}_1, \\ \mathbf{v}_5 &= \varepsilon\mathbf{v}_2, \\ \mathbf{v}_6 &= \varepsilon(6t\partial_x - \partial_u) = \varepsilon\mathbf{v}_3, \\ \mathbf{v}_7 &= \varepsilon(x\partial_x + 3t\partial_t - 2u\partial_u), \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

with corresponding characteristics

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1 &= u_x, \\ Q_2 &= 6(u + \varepsilon u^2)u_x - u_{xxx}, \\ Q_3 &= 6tu_x + 1 - 2\varepsilon u, \\ Q_4 &= \varepsilon Q_1 = \varepsilon u_x, \\ Q_5 &= \varepsilon Q_2 = \varepsilon(6uu_x - u_{xxx}), \\ Q_6 &= \varepsilon Q_3 = \varepsilon(6tu_x + 1), \\ Q_7 &= \varepsilon(2u + xu_x + 3t(6uu_x - u_{xxx})), \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

(up to sign).

For the first Hamiltonian operator  $\mathcal{D} = D_x$ , there is one independent nontrivial approximate distinguished functional, the mass  $\mathcal{P}_0 = \mathcal{M} = \int u dx$  which is consequently approximately conserved.

For the above seven characteristics, we have

$$Q_i \approx D_x \delta\mathcal{P}_i, \quad i = 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, \quad (34)$$

with the following approximately conserved functionals:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_1 &= \mathcal{H}_0[u, \varepsilon] = \int \frac{1}{2}u^2 dx, \\ \mathcal{P}_2 &= \mathcal{H}_1[u, \varepsilon] = \int \left( u^3 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2}u^4 + \frac{1}{2}u_x^2 \right) dx, \\ \mathcal{P}_4 &= \varepsilon\mathcal{P}_1 = \int \frac{\varepsilon}{2}u^2 dx, \\ \mathcal{P}_5 &= \varepsilon\mathcal{P}_2 = \varepsilon \int \left( u^3 + \frac{1}{2}u_x^2 \right) dx, \\ \mathcal{P}_6 &= \varepsilon \int (3tu^2 + xu) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

For the second Hamiltonian operator  $\mathcal{E} = 4uD_x + 2u_x + 3\epsilon(uu_x + u^2D_x) - D_x^3$ ,

$$Q_i \approx \mathcal{E}\delta\bar{\mathcal{P}}_i, \quad i = 2, 4, 5, 7, \quad (36)$$

the following approximately conserved functionals are the corresponding approximate conservation laws:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathcal{P}}_2 &= \mathcal{P}_1 = \int \frac{1}{2}u^2 dx, \\ \bar{\mathcal{P}}_4 &= \frac{\epsilon}{2}\mathcal{P}_0 = \frac{\epsilon}{2} \int u dx, \\ \bar{\mathcal{P}}_5 &= \epsilon\bar{\mathcal{P}}_2 = \epsilon \int \frac{1}{2}u^2 dx, \\ \bar{\mathcal{P}}_7 &= \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{P}_6 = \frac{\epsilon}{2} \int (3tu^2 + xu) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

In this case, nothing new is obtained. Note that the other approximate conservation law  $\mathcal{P}_5$  did not arise from one of the geometrical symmetries. According to Theorem 4, however, there is an approximate Hamiltonian symmetry which gives rises to it, namely  $\hat{\mathbf{v}}_{\mathcal{P}_5}$ . The characteristic of this approximate generalized symmetry is

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{Q}_5 &\approx \mathcal{E}\delta\mathcal{P}_5 = \mathcal{E}\epsilon(3u^2 - u_{xx}) \\ &\approx \epsilon(u_{xxxxx} - 10uu_{xxx} - 20u_xu_{xx} + 30u^2u_x). \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

Note that  $\bar{Q}_5$  happens to satisfy the Hamiltonian condition (34) for  $\mathcal{D}$  with the following functional:

$$\bar{\mathcal{P}}_5 = \frac{\epsilon}{2} \int (u_{xx}^2 - 5u^2u_{xx} + 5u^4) dx. \quad (39)$$

Consequently, another approximate conservation law is provided for the Gardner equation.

Keeping on this procedure recursively, further approximate conservation laws could be generated. But, this procedure will be done in the next section by applying approximate recursion operators.

#### 4. Approximate Recursion Operators

*Definition 6.* Let  $\Delta$  be a system of perturbed differential equations. An *approximate recursion operator* for  $\Delta$  is a linear operator  $\mathcal{R} : \mathcal{A}^q \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^q$  in the space of  $q$ -tuples of differential functions with the property that whenever  $\mathbf{v}_Q$  is an approximate evolutionary symmetry of  $\Delta$ , so  $\mathbf{v}_{\bar{Q}}$  is with  $\bar{Q} \approx \mathcal{R}Q$ .

For nonlinear perturbed systems, there is an analogous criterion for a differential operator to be an approximate recursion operator, but to state it we need to introduce the notion of the (formal) Fréchet derivative of a differential function.

*Definition 7.* Let  $P[u, \epsilon] = P(x, u^{(n)}, \epsilon) \in \mathcal{A}^r$  be an  $r$ -tuple of differential functions. The *Fréchet derivative* of  $P$  is the

perturbed differential operator  $\mathbf{D}_P : \mathcal{A}^q \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^r$  defined so that

$$\mathbf{D}_P(Q) = \left. \frac{d}{d\epsilon} \right|_{\epsilon=0} P[u + \epsilon Q[u, \epsilon]] \quad (40)$$

for any  $Q \in \mathcal{A}^q$ .

**Proposition 8.** If  $P \in \mathcal{A}^r$  and  $Q \in \mathcal{A}^q$  then

$$\mathbf{D}_P(Q) \approx \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_Q(P). \quad (41)$$

**Theorem 9.** Suppose that  $\Delta[u, \epsilon] = 0$  be a system of perturbed differential equations. If  $\mathcal{R} : \mathcal{A}^q \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^q$  is a linear operator such that for all solutions  $u$  of  $\Delta$ ,

$$\mathbf{D}_\Delta \cdot \mathcal{R} \approx \bar{\mathcal{R}} \cdot \mathbf{D}_\Delta, \quad (42)$$

where  $\mathcal{R} : \mathcal{A}^q \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^q$  is a linear differential operator, then  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}$  is an approximate recursion operator for the system.

Suppose that  $\Delta[u, \epsilon] = u_t - K[u, \epsilon]$  is a perturbed evolution equation. Then  $\mathbf{D}_\Delta = D_t - \mathbf{D}_K$ . If  $\mathcal{R}$  is an approximate recursion operator, then it is not hard to observe that the operator  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}$  in (42) must be the same as  $\mathcal{R}$ . Therefore, the condition (42) in this case reduces to the commutator condition

$$\mathcal{R}_t \approx [\mathbf{D}_K, \mathcal{R}]$$

for an approximate recursion operator of a perturbed evolution equation.

From (4), we can conclude that if  $\mathcal{R}$  is an approximate recursion operator, then for all  $l \geq 1$  in which  $\epsilon^l \mathcal{R} \neq 0$ ,  $\epsilon^l \mathcal{R}$  is an approximate recursion operator as follows:

$$(\epsilon^l \mathcal{R})_t = \epsilon^l \mathcal{R}_t \approx \epsilon^l [\mathbf{D}_K, \mathcal{R}] \approx [\mathbf{D}_K, \epsilon^l \mathcal{R}].$$

In order to illustrate the significance of the above theorem, we discuss a couple of examples, including the potential Burgers' equation and the Gardner equation. In the first example, we apply some technical methods, used in Examples 5.8 and 5.30 of [10].

*Example 10.* Consider the potential Burgers' equation

$$u_t = u_{xx} + \epsilon u_x^2. \quad (43)$$

As mentioned in [7], approximate symmetries of the potential Burgers' equation are given by the following twelve vector fields

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{v}_1 &= \partial_x, \\
\mathbf{v}_2 &= \partial_t, \\
\mathbf{v}_3 &= x\partial_x + 2t\partial_t, \\
\mathbf{v}_4 &= 2t\partial_x - \left(xu - \varepsilon t \frac{u^2}{2}\right)\partial_u, \\
\mathbf{v}_5 &= \left(u - \varepsilon t \frac{u^2}{2}\right)\partial_u, \\
\mathbf{v}_6 &= 4xt\partial_x + 4t^2\partial_t - \left(x^2 + 2t\right)\left(u - \varepsilon t \frac{u^2}{2}\right)\partial_u, \\
\mathbf{v}_7 &= \varepsilon\mathbf{v}_1, \\
\mathbf{v}_8 &= \varepsilon\mathbf{v}_2, \\
\mathbf{v}_9 &= \varepsilon(x\partial_x + 2t\partial_t) = \varepsilon\mathbf{v}_3, \\
\mathbf{v}_{10} &= \varepsilon(2t\partial_x - xu\partial_u) = \varepsilon\mathbf{v}_4, \\
\mathbf{v}_{11} &= \varepsilon u\partial_u = \varepsilon\mathbf{v}_5, \\
\mathbf{v}_{12} &= \varepsilon(4xt\partial_x + 4t^2\partial_t - (x^2 + 2t)u\partial_u) = \varepsilon\mathbf{v}_6,
\end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

plus the infinite family of vector fields

$$\mathbf{v}_{f,g} = (f(x,t)(1 - \varepsilon u) + \varepsilon g(x,t))\partial_u, \tag{45}$$

where  $f, g$  are arbitrary solutions of the heat equation  $u_t = u_{xx}$ .

The corresponding characteristics of the first twelve approximate symmetries are

$$\begin{aligned}
Q_1 &= u_x, \\
Q_2 &= u_{xx} + \varepsilon u_x^2, \\
Q_3 &= xu_x + 2t(u_{xx} + \varepsilon u_x^2), \\
Q_4 &= xu + 2tu_x - \varepsilon t \frac{u^2}{2}, \\
Q_5 &= u - \varepsilon t \frac{u^2}{2}, \\
Q_6 &= (x^2 + 2t)\left(u - \varepsilon t \frac{u^2}{2}\right) + 4xtu_x + 4t^2(u_{xx} + \varepsilon u_x^2), \\
Q_7 &= \varepsilon Q_1 = \varepsilon u_x, \\
Q_8 &= \varepsilon Q_2 = \varepsilon u_{xx}, \\
Q_9 &= \varepsilon Q_3 = \varepsilon(xu_x + 2tu_{xx}), \\
Q_{10} &= \varepsilon Q_4 = \varepsilon(xu + 2tu_x), \\
Q_{11} &= \varepsilon Q_5 = \varepsilon u, \\
Q_{12} &= \varepsilon Q_6 = \varepsilon\left((x^2 + 2t)u + 4xtu_x + 4t^2u_{xx}\right),
\end{aligned} \tag{47}$$

(up to sign).

Inspection of  $Q_1, Q_2, Q_7, Q_8$  leads us to the conjecture that  $\mathcal{R}_1 = D_x + \varepsilon u_x$  is an approximate recursion operator, since  $Q_3 = \mathcal{R}_1 Q_1, Q_8 = \mathcal{R}_1 Q_7$ , and so forth. To prove this, we note that the Fréchet derivative for the right-hand side of potential Burgers' equation is

$$D_K = D_x^2 + 2\varepsilon u_x D_x. \tag{48}$$

We must verify (4). The time derivative of the first approximate recursion operator  $\mathcal{R}_1$  on the solutions of the potential Burgers' equation is the multiplication operator as follows:

$$(\mathcal{R}_1)_t = (D_x + \varepsilon u_x)_t = \varepsilon u_{xt} = \varepsilon(u_{xxx} + 2\varepsilon u_x u_{xx}) = \varepsilon u_{xxx}. \tag{49}$$

On the other hand, the commutator is computed using Leibniz' rule for differential operators:

$$[D_K, \mathcal{R}_1] = \varepsilon u_{xxx}. \tag{50}$$

Comparing these two verifies (4) and proves that  $\mathcal{R}_1$  is an approximate recursion operator for the potential Burgers' equation.

There is thus an infinite hierarchy of approximate symmetries, with characteristics  $\mathcal{R}_1^k Q_1, k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . For example, the next characteristic after  $Q_{12}$  in the sequence is

$$\mathcal{R}_1 Q_{12} = \varepsilon\left((x^2 + 6t)u_x + 2x(u + 2tu_{xx}) + 4t^2u_{xxx}\right). \tag{51}$$

To obtain the characteristics depending on  $x$  and  $t$ , we require a second approximate recursion operator, which by inspection, we guess to be

$$\mathcal{R}_2 = t\mathcal{R}_1 + \frac{x}{2}. \tag{52}$$

Using the fact that  $\mathcal{R}_1$  satisfies (4), we readily find

$$(\mathcal{R}_2)_t = t(\mathcal{R}_1)_t + \mathcal{R}_1 = t[D_K, \mathcal{R}_1] + \mathcal{R}_1, \tag{53}$$

whereas

$$\begin{aligned}
[D_K, \mathcal{R}_2] &= t[D_K, \mathcal{R}_1] + \left[D_x^2 + 2\varepsilon u_x D_x, \frac{1}{2}x\right] \\
&= t[D_K, \mathcal{R}_1] + (D_x + \varepsilon u_x) = t[D_K, \mathcal{R}_1] + \mathcal{R}_1,
\end{aligned} \tag{54}$$

proving that  $\mathcal{R}_2$  is also an approximate recursion operator. There is thus a doubly infinite hierarchy of approximate generalized symmetries of potential Burgers' equation, with characteristics  $\mathcal{R}_2^l \mathcal{R}_1^k Q_1, k, l \geq 0$ . For instance,  $Q_2 = \mathcal{R}_1 Q_1, Q_3 = 2\mathcal{R}_2 \mathcal{R}_1 Q_1$  and so on.

*Example II.* Consider the Gardner equation, which was shown to have two Hamiltonian structures with

$$\mathcal{D} = D_x, \quad \mathcal{E} = 4uD_x + 2u_x + 3\varepsilon(uu_x + u^2 D_x) - D_x^3. \tag{55}$$

Hence, the operator connecting our hierarchy of approximate Hamiltonian symmetries is

$$\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{D}^{-1} = 4u + 3\varepsilon u^2 + (2 + 3\varepsilon u)u_x D_x^{-1} - D_x^2. \tag{56}$$

Therefore, our results on approximate bi-Hamiltonian systems will provide ready-made proofs of the existence of infinitely many approximate conservation laws and approximate symmetries for the Gardner equation.

Note that the Fréchet derivative for the right-hand side of Gardner's equation is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{D}_K &= 6(1 + 2\epsilon u)u_x + 6(u + \epsilon u^2)D_x - D_x^3, \\ \mathcal{R}_t &= (4 + 6\epsilon u)u_t + (2u_{xt} + 3\epsilon u_t u_x + 3\epsilon u u_{xt})D_x^{-1} \\ &= 12uu_x(2 + 5\epsilon u) - (4 + 6\epsilon u)u_{xxx} \\ &\quad + (6uu_{xx}(2 + 5\epsilon u) + 12u_x^2(1 + 5\epsilon u) \\ &\quad - u_{xxxx}(2 + 3\epsilon u) - 3\epsilon u_x u_{xxx})D_x^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

**Theorem 12.** Let  $\bar{Q}_0 = \epsilon u_x$ . For each  $k \geq 0$ , the differential polynomial  $\bar{Q}_k = \mathcal{R}^k \bar{Q}_0$  is a total  $x$ -derivative,  $\bar{Q}_k = D_x R_k$ , and hence we can recursively define  $\bar{Q}_{k+1} = \mathcal{R} \bar{Q}_k$ . Each  $\bar{Q}_k$  is the characteristic of an approximate symmetry of the Gardner equation.

*Proof.* To prove this theorem, we apply the similar method applied in Theorem 5.31 of [10].

We proceed by induction on  $k$ , so suppose that  $\bar{Q}_k = \mathcal{R}^k \bar{Q}_0$  for some  $R_k \in \mathcal{A}$ . From the form of the approximate recursion operator,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{Q}_{k+1} &= \epsilon(4u\bar{Q}_k + 2u_x D_x^{-1} \bar{Q}_k - D_x^2 \bar{Q}_k) \\ &= \epsilon D_x(2u D_x^{-1} \bar{Q}_k + 2D_x^{-1}(u\bar{Q}_k) - D_x \bar{Q}_k). \end{aligned} \quad (58)$$

If we can prove that for some differential polynomial  $S_k \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $u\bar{Q}_k = D_x S_k$ , we will indeed have proved that  $\bar{Q}_{k+1} = D_x R_{k+1}$ , where  $R_{k+1}$  is the above expression in brackets. Consequently, the induction step will be completed.

To prove this fact, note that the formal adjoint of the approximate recursion operator  $\epsilon \mathcal{R}$  is

$$\epsilon \mathcal{R}^* = \epsilon(4u - 2D_x^{-1} \cdot u_x - D_x^2) = D_x^{-1} \epsilon \mathcal{R} D_x. \quad (59)$$

We apply this in order to integrate the expression  $u\bar{Q}_k$ , by parts, so

$$\bar{Q}_k = u \mathcal{R}^k [\epsilon u_x] = u_x \cdot (\epsilon \mathcal{R}^*)^k [u] + D_x A_k \quad (60)$$

for some differential function  $A_k \in \mathcal{A}$ . On the other hand, using a further integration by parts, for some  $B_k \in \mathcal{A}$  the following identity holds:

$$\begin{aligned} u_x \cdot (\epsilon \mathcal{R}^*)^k [u] &= u_x \cdot D_x^{-1} \epsilon \mathcal{R} [u_x] \\ &= u_x \cdot D_x^{-1} \bar{Q}_k \\ &= -u \bar{Q}_k + D_x B_k. \end{aligned} \quad (61)$$

Substituting into the previous identity, we conclude

$$u \bar{Q}_k = D_x S_k, \quad \text{where } S_k = \frac{1}{2}(A_k + B_k), \quad (62)$$

which proves our claim.  $\square$

*Definition 13.* A pair of skew-adjoint  $q \times q$  matrix of differential operators  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  is said to form an *approximately Hamiltonian pair* if every linear combination  $a\mathcal{D} + b\mathcal{E}$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , is an approximate Hamiltonian operator. A system of perturbed evolution equations is an *approximate bi-Hamiltonian system* if it can be written in the form of

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = K_1[u, \epsilon] \approx \mathcal{D} \delta \mathcal{H}_1 \approx \mathcal{E} \delta \mathcal{H}_0, \quad (63)$$

where  $\mathcal{D}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}$  form an approximately Hamiltonian pair, and  $\mathcal{H}_0$  and  $\mathcal{H}_1$  are appropriate Hamiltonian functionals.

**Lemma 14.** If  $\mathcal{D}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}$  are skew-adjoint operators, then they form an approximately Hamiltonian pair if and only if  $\mathcal{D}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{D} + \mathcal{E}$  are all approximate Hamiltonian operators.

**Corollary 15.** Let  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  be Hamiltonian differential operators. Then  $\mathcal{D}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}$  form an approximately Hamiltonian pair if and only if

$$\mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{D}\theta}(\Theta_{\mathcal{E}}) + \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{E}\theta}(\Theta_{\mathcal{D}}) = o(\epsilon^p), \quad (64)$$

where

$$\Theta_{\mathcal{D}} = \frac{1}{2} \int \{\theta \wedge \mathcal{D}\theta\} dx, \quad \Theta_{\mathcal{E}} = \frac{1}{2} \int \{\theta \wedge \mathcal{E}\theta\} dx \quad (65)$$

are the functional bi-vectors representing the respective Poisson brackets.

*Example 16.* Consider the approximate Hamiltonian operators  $\mathcal{D}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}$  associated with the Gardner equation. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{D}\theta} &= \sum_{\alpha, J} D_J (\mathcal{D}\theta)_{\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_J^{\alpha}} \\ &= \sum_{\alpha, J} D_J \left( \sum_{\beta=1}^q \mathcal{D}_{\alpha\beta} \theta^{\beta} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial u_J^{\alpha}} \end{aligned} \quad (66)$$

in the case of the second approximate Hamiltonian operator for the Gardner equation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{E}\theta}(u) &= \mathcal{E}\theta, \quad \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{E}\theta}(u^2) = 2u\mathcal{E}\theta, \\ \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{E}\theta}(\Theta_{\mathcal{D}}) &= \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{E}\theta} \int \frac{1}{2} \{\theta \wedge \theta_x\} dx = o(\epsilon^p) \end{aligned} \quad (67)$$

trivially, by the properties of the wedge product, it is deduced that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{D}\theta}(\Theta_{\mathcal{E}}) &= \mathbf{pr} \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{D}\theta} \int \left\{ \left( 2u + \frac{3\epsilon}{2} u^2 \right) \theta \wedge \theta_x + \frac{1}{2} \theta_x \wedge \theta \right\} dx \\ &\approx \int \{ (2 + 3\epsilon u) \theta_x \wedge \theta \wedge \theta_x \} = o(\epsilon^p). \end{aligned} \quad (68)$$

Thus  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  form an approximately Hamiltonian pair.

*Definition 17.* A differential operator  $\mathcal{D} : \mathcal{A}^r \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^s$  is *approximately degenerate* if there is a nonzero differential operator  $\tilde{\mathcal{D}} : \mathcal{A}^s \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\tilde{\mathcal{D}} \cdot \mathcal{D} \equiv o(\epsilon^p)$ .

Now, according to [10], we are in a situation to state the main theorem on approximate bi-Hamiltonian systems.

**Theorem 18.** *Let*

$$u_t = K_1 [u, \varepsilon] \approx \mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{H}_1 \approx \mathcal{E}\delta\mathcal{H}_0 \quad (69)$$

be an approximate bi-Hamiltonian system of perturbed evolution equations. Assume that the operator  $\mathcal{D}$  of the approximately Hamiltonian pair is approximate nondegenerate. Let  $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{D}^{-1}$  be the corresponding approximate recursion operator, and let  $K_0 \approx \mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{H}_0$ . Assume that for each  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  one can recursively define

$$K_n \approx \mathcal{R}K_{n-1}, \quad n \geq 1, \quad (70)$$

meaning that for each  $n$ ,  $K_{n-1}$  lies in the image of  $\mathcal{D}$ . Then there exists a sequence of functionals  $\mathcal{H}_0, \mathcal{H}_1, \mathcal{H}_2, \dots$  such that

(i) for each  $n \geq 1$  the perturbed evolution equation

$$u_t = K_n [u, \varepsilon] \approx \mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{H}_n \approx \mathcal{E}\delta\mathcal{H}_{n-1} \quad (71)$$

is an approximate bi-Hamiltonian system;

(ii) the corresponding approximate evolutionary vector fields  $\mathbf{v}_n = \mathbf{v}_{K_n}$  all mutually commute

$$[\mathbf{v}_n, \mathbf{v}_m] = o(\varepsilon^p), \quad n, m \geq 0; \quad (72)$$

(iii) the approximate Hamiltonian functionals  $\mathcal{H}_n$  are all in involution with respect to either Poisson bracket:

$$\{\mathcal{H}_n, \mathcal{H}_m\}_{\mathcal{D}} = o(\varepsilon^p) = \{\mathcal{H}_n, \mathcal{H}_m\}_{\mathcal{E}}, \quad n, m \geq 0, \quad (73)$$

and hence provide an infinite collection of approximate conservation laws for each of the approximate bi-Hamiltonian systems (63).

We have seen that given an approximate bi-Hamiltonian system, the operator  $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{D}^{-1}$ , when applied successively to the initial equation  $K_0 = \mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{H}_0$ , produces an infinite sequence of approximate generalized symmetries of the original system (subject to the technical assumptions contained in Theorem 18). It is still not clear that  $\mathcal{R}$  is a true approximate recursion operator for the system, in the sense that whenever  $\mathbf{v}_Q$  is an approximate generalized symmetry, so is  $\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{R}Q}$ . So far, we only know it for approximate symmetries with  $Q = K_n$  for some  $n$ . In order to establish this more general result, we need a formula for the infinitesimal change of the approximate Hamiltonian operator itself under a Hamiltonian flow.

**Lemma 19.** *Let  $u_t = K \approx \mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{H}$  be an approximate Hamiltonian system of perturbed evolution equations with corresponding vector field  $\mathbf{v}_K = \widehat{\mathbf{v}}_{\mathcal{H}}$ . Then*

$$\text{pr } \widehat{\mathbf{v}}_{\mathcal{H}}(\mathcal{D}) \approx \mathbf{D}_K \cdot \mathcal{D} + \mathcal{D} \cdot \mathbf{D}_K^*. \quad (74)$$

**Theorem 20.** *Let  $u_t = K \approx \mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{H}_1 \approx \mathcal{E}\delta\mathcal{H}_0$  be an approximate bi-Hamiltonian system of perturbed evolution equations. Then the operators  $\mathcal{R}_l = \varepsilon^l \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{D}^{-1}$ ,  $0 \leq l \leq p$ , are approximate recursion operators for the system.*

Judging from  $\mathcal{R}_l^p = o(\varepsilon^p)$ , when  $l \neq 0$ , this type of approximate recursion operators have less significance than  $\mathcal{R}_0$ .

*Example 21.* The approximate recursion operators of the Gardner equation are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_0 &= \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{D}^{-1} = 4u + 2u_x D_x^{-1} + 3\varepsilon(uu_x D_x^{-1} + u^2) - D_x^2, \\ \mathcal{R}_1 &= \varepsilon(4u + 2u_x D_x^{-1} - D_x^2) \end{aligned} \quad (75)$$

and we can apply  $\mathcal{R}_0$  to the right-hand side of the Gardner equation to obtain the approximate symmetries. The first step in this recursion is the flow

$$\begin{aligned} u_t &\approx \mathcal{E}\delta\mathcal{H}_1 \approx \mathcal{D}\delta\mathcal{H}_2 \\ &\approx u_{xxxxx} - 10uu_{xxx} - 20u_x u_{xx} + 30u^2 u_x \\ &\quad + \varepsilon(55u^3 u_x - 39uu_x u_{xx} - 9u^2 u_{xxx} - 12u_x^3), \end{aligned} \quad (76)$$

which is not approximately total derivative, so we cannot reapply the approximate recursion operator to get a meaningful approximate generalized symmetry.

But if we set

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{K}_1 [u, \varepsilon] &= Q_5 = \varepsilon K_1 [u, \varepsilon] = \varepsilon(6uu_x - u_{xxx}), \\ \bar{\mathcal{H}}_0 &= \bar{\mathcal{P}}_5 = \varepsilon \mathcal{H}_0, \quad \bar{\mathcal{H}}_1 = \bar{\mathcal{P}}_5 = \varepsilon \mathcal{H}_1, \end{aligned} \quad (77)$$

then we can apply  $\mathcal{R}_0$  successively to  $\bar{K}_1$  in order to obtain the approximate symmetries. The first phase become

$$\begin{aligned} u_t &\approx \mathcal{E}\delta\bar{\mathcal{H}}_1 \approx \mathcal{D}\delta\bar{\mathcal{H}}_2 \approx \mathcal{R}_0 \bar{K}_1 \\ &\approx \varepsilon(u_{xxxxx} - 10uu_{xxx} - 20u_x u_{xx} + 30u^2 u_x) \end{aligned} \quad (78)$$

in which

$$\bar{\mathcal{H}}_2 = \bar{\mathcal{P}}_5 = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \int (u_{xx}^2 - 5u^2 u_{xx} + 5u^4) dx \quad (79)$$

is another approximate conservation law.

Now, for  $\bar{K}_2 = \mathcal{R}_0 \bar{K}_1$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} u_t &\approx \mathcal{E}\delta\bar{\mathcal{H}}_2 \approx \mathcal{D}\delta\bar{\mathcal{H}}_3 \approx \mathcal{R}_0 \bar{K}_2 \\ &\approx \varepsilon(-u_{xxxxxx} + 14uu_{xxxxx} + 42u_x u_{xxxx}) \\ &\quad + 70\varepsilon(u_{xx} u_{xxx} - u^2 u_{xxx} + 2u^3 u_x - 4uu_x u_{xx} - u_x^3), \end{aligned} \quad (80)$$

where

$$\bar{\mathcal{H}}_3 = 7\varepsilon \int \left( \frac{u_{xxx}^2}{14} + uu_{xx}^2 + 5u^2 u_x^2 + u^5 \right) dx \quad (81)$$

is a further approximate conservation law.



## 5. Concluding Remarks

Sometimes, differential equations appearing in mathematical modelings are written with terms involving a small parameter which is known as the perturbed term. Taking into account the instability of the Lie point symmetries with respect to perturbation of coefficients of differential equations, the approximate (perturbed) symmetries for such equations are obtained. Different methods for computing the approximate symmetries of a system of differential equations are available in the literature [2–4].

The approximate symmetry method proposed by Fushchich and Shtelen [4] is based on a perturbation of dependent variables. This method has so many advantages such as producing more approximate group-invariant solutions, consistence with the perturbation theory, solving singular perturbation problems [7, 8], and close relationship with approximate homotopy symmetry method [12]. But despite the above-mentioned benefits, this procedure converts a perturbed evolution equation to an equivalent perturbed evolutionary system. In his case, obtaining the corresponding Hamiltonian formulation will be hard. Due to the increase of the dimensions of Hamiltonian operators  $\mathcal{D}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}$ , computation of the approximate recursion operator  $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{E} \cdot \mathcal{D}^{-1}$  is difficult.

Since prolongation and Fréchet derivative of vector fields are linear, both of the approximate symmetry methods can be extended on the Hamiltonian structures. But due to the significance of vector fields in Hamiltonian and bi-Hamiltonian systems, the approximate symmetry method proposed by Baikov et al. [2, 3] seems to be more consistent.

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