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   Sommario/riassunto Existence and nonexistence of roots of functions involving one or more
                      parameters has been the subject of numerous investigations. For a
                      wide class of functions called quasi-polynomials, the above problems
                      can be transformed into the existence and nonexistence of tangents of
                      the envelope curves associated with the functions under investigation.
                      In this book, we present a formal theory of the Cheng-Lin envelope
                      method, which is completely new, yet simple and precise. This method
                      is both simple - since only basic Calculus concepts are needed for
                      understanding - and precise, since necessary and s