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**Compact Differences of Composition Operators
on Bloch and Lipschitz Spaces**

CMFT 7 No.2 (2007), 325–344. [ISSN 1617-9447]

Abstract. We consider the difference $T = C_\varphi - C_\psi$ of two analytic composition operators in the unit disc. We characterize the compactness and weak compactness of T on the standard Bloch space, improving an earlier result by Hosokawa and Ohno. We also characterize the compactness and weak compactness of T on analytic Lipschitz spaces. These characterizations are derived from a general result dealing with differences of weighted composition operators on weighted Banach spaces of analytic functions. We also make complementary remarks on the compactness properties of a single composition operator on the Lipschitz spaces and answer a question of Cowen and MacCluer on the boundedness of such an operator.

Keywords. composition operator, compactness, difference, Bloch space, Lipschitz space.

2000 MSC. Primary 47B33; Secondary 30D45, 47B07.

Received. August 25, 2006.