

Compactness of a difference of composition operators on Dirichlet space

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The talk is based on the joint work with Andrzej M. Michalski

Session: 33. Spaces of analytic functions

Let φ be a self-map of the unit disk and let C_φ denote the composition operator with symbol φ . We study compactness of the difference $C_\varphi - C_\psi$ of two composition operators acting on the standard Dirichlet space \mathcal{D} and give a necessary condition in the case when φ and ψ are finitely valent. We also consider the special case when φ and ψ are linear-fractional self-maps.