

## BLOCH-TYPE SPACES ON THE UPPER HALF-PLANE

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ABSTRACT. We define Bloch-type spaces of  $\mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{H})$  on the upper half plane  $\mathbb{H}$  and characterize them in terms of weighted Lipschitz functions. We also discuss the boundedness of a composition operator  $C_\phi$  acting between two Bloch spaces. These obtained results generalize the corresponding known ones to the setting of upper half plane.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{H} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \text{Im}z > 0\}$  be the upper half-plane, and  $\mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{H})$  be the set of all complex-valued functions having continuous partial derivatives on  $\mathbb{H}$ . For  $\alpha > 0$ , the  $\alpha$ -Bloch space on  $\mathbb{H}$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{B}^\alpha$ , is defined to be the space of all functions  $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{H})$  such that

$$\|f\|_\alpha = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{H}} (\text{Im}z)^\alpha (|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|) < \infty.$$

It is easy to check that the space  $\mathcal{B}^\alpha$  is a Banach space with the norm

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{B}^\alpha} = |f(i)| + \|f\|_\alpha.$$

Let  $\omega : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  be an increasing function with  $\omega(0) = 0$ , we say that  $\omega$  is a *majorant* if  $\omega(t)/t$  is non-increasing for  $t > 0$  (cf. [6]). Following [2], given a majorant  $\omega$  and  $\alpha > 0$ , the  $\omega$ - $\alpha$ -Bloch space  $\mathcal{B}_\omega^\alpha$  consists of all functions  $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{H})$  such that

$$(1) \quad \|f\|_{\omega, \alpha} = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{H}} \omega((\text{Im}z)^\alpha) (|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|) < \infty,$$

and the *little  $\omega$ - $\alpha$ -Bloch space*  $\mathcal{B}_{\omega, 0}^\alpha$  consists of the functions  $f \in \mathcal{B}_\omega^\alpha$  such that

$$(2) \quad \lim_{z \rightarrow \partial^\infty \mathbb{H}} \omega((\text{Im}z)^\alpha) (|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|) = 0,$$

where  $\partial^\infty \mathbb{H}$  denotes the union of  $\partial \mathbb{H}$  and  $\{\infty\}$ .

If we denote by  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\omega^\alpha$  the set of all functions  $f \in \mathcal{B}_\omega^\alpha$  such that  $\omega((\text{Im}z)^\alpha) (|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|)$  vanishing at  $\infty$ , then the condition (2) is equivalent to the condition

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that the function  $f \in \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\omega^\alpha$  satisfies

$$(3) \quad \lim_{\text{Im}z \rightarrow 0} \omega((\text{Im}z)^\alpha)(|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|) = 0.$$

In particular, when  $\omega(t) = t$ , we remark that the space  $\mathcal{B}_\omega^\alpha$  is the  $\alpha$ -Bloch space  $\mathcal{B}^\alpha$ .

For  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ , the weighted Poincaré metric  $ds_\alpha$  of  $\mathbb{H}$ , introduced in [1] is defined as

$$ds_\alpha^2 = \frac{|dz|^2}{(\text{Im}z)^{2\alpha}}.$$

Suppose that  $\gamma(t)(0 \leq t \leq 1)$  is a continuous and piecewise smooth curve in  $\mathbb{H}$ . Then the length of  $\gamma(t)$  with respect to the weighted Poincaré metric  $ds_\alpha$  is equal to

$$L_{p_\alpha}(\gamma) = \int_\gamma ds_\alpha = \int_0^1 \frac{|\gamma'(t)|}{[\text{Im}\gamma(t)]^\alpha} dt.$$

Consequently, the associated distance between  $z$  and  $w$  in  $\mathbb{H}$  is

$$p_\alpha(z, w) = \inf\{L_{p_\alpha}(\gamma) : \gamma(0) = z, \gamma(1) = w\},$$

where  $\gamma$  is a continuous and piecewise smooth curve in  $\mathbb{H}$ . Note that  $p_1$  ( $\alpha = 1$ ) is the classical Poincaré distance in  $\mathbb{H}$ .

Let  $\mu, \nu \geq 0$  and  $f$  be a continuous function in  $\mathbb{H}$ . If there exists a constant  $C$  such that

$$(\text{Im}z)^\mu (\text{Im}w)^\nu |f(z) - f(w)| \leq C|z - w| \quad (\text{resp. } \leq Cp_\alpha(z, w))$$

for any  $z, w \in \mathbb{H}$ , then we say that  $f$  is a *weighted Euclidian (resp. hyperbolic) Lipschitz function* of indices  $(\mu, \nu)$ . In particular, when  $\mu = \nu = 0$ , we say that  $f$  is a *Euclidian (resp. hyperbolic) Lipschitz function* (cf. [14]).

In the theory of function spaces, the relationship between Bloch spaces and (weighted) Lipschitz functions has attracted much attention. In 1986, Holland and Walsh ([8]) established a classical criterion for analytic Bloch space in the unit disc  $\mathbb{D}$  in terms of weighted Euclidian Lipschitz functions of indices  $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ . Since then, a series of work has been carried out to characterize Bloch,  $\alpha$ -Bloch, little  $\alpha$ -Bloch and Besov spaces of holomorphic and harmonic functions along this line. For instance, Ren and Tu [15] extended Holland and Walsh's criterion to the Bloch space in the unit ball of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , Li and Wulan [9], Zhao [18] characterized holomorphic  $\alpha$ -Bloch space in terms of  $(1 - |z|^2)^\beta (1 - |w|^2)^{\alpha-\beta} |f(z) - f(w)|/|z - w|$ . In [19, 20], Zhu investigated the relationship between Bloch spaces and hyperbolic Lipschitz functions and proved that a holomorphic function belongs to Bloch space if and only if it is hyperbolic Lipschitz. For the related results of harmonic functions, we refer to [2, 3, 4, 7, 14] and the references therein.

Motivated by the known results mentioned above, we consider the corresponding problems in the setting of  $\mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{H})$  in this paper. In Section 2, we collect some known results that will be needed in the sequel. The main results and their proofs are presented in Sections 3 and 4.

Throughout this paper, constants are denoted by  $C$ , they are positive and may differ from one occurrence to the other. The notation  $A \asymp B$  means that there is a positive constant  $C$  such that  $B/C \leq A \leq CB$ .

**2. Several lemmas**

In this section, we introduce some notations and collect some preliminary results that we need later.

Let  $z, w \in \mathbb{H}$ , the *pseudo-hyperbolic distance*  $\rho$  is defined as

$$\rho(z, w) = \left| \frac{z - w}{z - \bar{w}} \right|.$$

It is easy to see that  $\rho$  on  $\mathbb{H}$  is a distance function and horizontal translation and dilatation invariant (cf. [11]). For  $z \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $r \in (0, 1)$ , the *pseudo-hyperbolic ball* with center  $z$  and radius  $r$  is denoted by

$$E(z, r) = \{w \in \mathbb{H} : \rho(z, w) < r\}.$$

A straightforward calculation shows that  $E(z, r)$  is a Euclidean ball  $\mathbb{B}(x^*, r_0)$  where

$$x^* = \left(x, \frac{1 + r^2}{1 - r^2}y\right), \quad r_0 = \frac{2ry}{1 - r^2}, \quad \text{and } z = x + yi.$$

The following lemma is proved in [11, Lemma 2.1].

**Lemma 2.1.** *The inequality*

$$\frac{1 - \rho(z, w)}{1 + \rho(z, w)} \leq \left| \frac{z - \bar{u}}{w - \bar{u}} \right| \leq \frac{1 + \rho(z, w)}{1 - \rho(z, w)}$$

holds for all  $z, w, u \in \mathbb{H}$ .

As an application of Lemma 2.1, we easily get the following (see [4]).

**Corollary 2.1.** *Let  $r \in (0, 1)$ ,  $u, v \in E(z, r)$ . Then we have*

$$\text{Im } u \asymp \text{Im } v \asymp |z - \bar{u}| \asymp |E(z, r)|^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

where  $|E(z, r)|$  denotes the area of  $E(z, r)$ .

We end this section with two inequalities which will be used in the sequel.

**Lemma 2.2** ([2, Lemma 6]). *Let  $\omega(t)$  be a majorant and  $u \in (0, 1]$ ,  $v \in (1, \infty)$ . Then for  $t \in (0, \infty)$ ,*

$$\omega(ut) \geq u\omega(t), \quad \omega(vt) \leq v\omega(t).$$

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $a, b > 0$ ,  $0 < s < 1$ . Then  $sa + (1 - s)b \geq a^s b^{1-s}$ .*

### 3. Bloch spaces

Let  $f$  be a harmonic Bloch mapping in the unit disc  $\mathbb{D}$ . In [5], Colonna proved that the Bloch constant  $B_f$  of  $f$  is equals to its Bloch semi-norm, i.e.,

$$B_f = \sup_{z,w \in \mathbb{D}, z \neq w} \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{h(z,w)} = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)(|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|),$$

where  $h$  is the hyperbolic distance in  $\mathbb{D}$ .

Firstly, we characterize the space  $\mathcal{B}^\alpha$  in terms of hyperbolic Lipschitz functions and generalize Colonna’s result to the setting of  $\mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{H})$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{H})$  and  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ . Then  $f \in \mathcal{B}^\alpha$  if and only if there is a constant  $C > 0$  such that*

$$|f(z) - f(w)| \leq Cp_\alpha(z,w), \quad z, w \in \mathbb{H}.$$

Moreover, we have

$$\|f\|_\alpha = \sup_{z,w \in \mathbb{H}, z \neq w} \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{p_\alpha(z,w)}$$

for all  $f \in \mathcal{B}^\alpha$ .

*Proof.* We first prove the sufficiency. For any  $z, w \in \mathbb{H}$ , by the definition of  $p_\alpha(z,w)$ , we assume that  $\gamma(s)$  is the geodesic between  $z$  and  $w$  (parametrized by arc-length) with respect to  $p_\alpha$ . Since  $p_\alpha(\gamma(0), \gamma(s)) = s$ , we have

$$|f(z) - f(w)| \leq Cs.$$

Dividing both sides by  $s$  and then letting  $s \rightarrow 0$  in the above inequality gives

$$(|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|)|\gamma'(0)| \leq C.$$

From the minimal length property of geodesics,

$$p_\alpha(\gamma(0), \gamma(s)) = \int_0^s \frac{|\gamma'(t)|}{[\text{Im}\gamma(t)]^\alpha} dt = s, \quad 0 < s < \epsilon,$$

we obtain that

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{s} \int_0^s \frac{|\gamma'(t)|}{[\text{Im}\gamma(t)]^\alpha} dt = \frac{|\gamma'(0)|}{(\text{Im}z)^\alpha} = 1.$$

It follows that  $(\text{Im}z)^\alpha(|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|) \leq C$  and hence  $f \in \mathcal{B}^\alpha$  with

$$(\text{Im}z)^\alpha(|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|) : z \in \mathbb{H} \leq \sup \left\{ \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{p_\alpha(z,w)} : z \neq w \right\}.$$

Conversely, we assume that  $f \in \mathcal{B}^\alpha$ . Let  $z, w \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $\gamma(t)(0 \leq t \leq 1)$  be a smooth curve from  $z$  to  $w$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} |f(z) - f(w)| &= \left| \int_0^1 \frac{df}{dt}(\gamma(t)) dt \right| \\ &\leq \int_0^1 (|f_z(\gamma(t))| + |f_{\bar{z}}(\gamma(t))|)|\gamma'(t)| dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \|f\|_\alpha \int_0^1 \frac{|\gamma'(t)|}{[\operatorname{Im}\gamma(t)]^\alpha} dt \\ &\leq \|f\|_\alpha p_\alpha(\gamma(t)). \end{aligned}$$

Taking the infimum over all piecewise continuous curves connecting  $z$  and  $w$ , we conclude that

$$|f(z) - f(w)| \leq \|f\|_\alpha p_\alpha(z, w)$$

for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{H}$ . This completes the proof. □

In the following, we characterize the spaces  $\mathcal{B}_\omega^\alpha$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_{\omega,0}^\alpha$  in terms of Euclidean weighted Lipschitz functions.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $r \in (0, 1)$ ,  $f \in C^1(\mathbb{H})$ ,  $0 < \beta \leq \alpha$ . Then  $f \in \mathcal{B}_\omega^\alpha$  if and only if*

$$K = \sup_{w \in E(z,r), z \neq w} \omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta}) \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{|z - w|} < \infty.$$

*Proof.* We first prove the sufficiency. Let  $f \in C^1(\mathbb{H})$ . For each  $z \in \mathbb{H}$ , we have

$$\sup_{w \in E(z,r), z \neq w} \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{|z - w|} \leq \frac{K}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta})}.$$

By letting  $w \rightarrow z$ , we obtain that

$$|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)| \leq \frac{K}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\alpha)},$$

from which we conclude that  $f \in \mathcal{B}_\omega^\alpha$ .

Conversely, let  $f \in \mathcal{B}_\omega^\alpha$  and for any  $w \in E(z, r)$ ,  $z \neq w$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |f(z) - f(w)| &= \left| \int_0^1 \frac{df}{ds}(sz + (1-s)w) ds \right| \\ &\leq |z - w| \int_0^1 \left( \left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial \zeta}(sz + (1-s)w) \right| + \left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{\zeta}}(sz + (1-s)w) \right| \right) ds \\ &\leq C|z - w| \|f\|_{\omega, \alpha} \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}(sz + (1-s)w))^\alpha)} \\ &\leq C|z - w| \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^{\alpha s} (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\alpha s})}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from Lemma 2.3.

Since for each  $w \in E(z, r)$ ,  $z \neq w$ ,  $\operatorname{Im}z \asymp \operatorname{Im}w$ , we can find a  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$  such that  $\operatorname{Im}z \geq \lambda(\operatorname{Im}w)$  and  $\operatorname{Im}w \geq \lambda(\operatorname{Im}z)$ . Then we infer that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{|z - w|} &\leq C \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^{\alpha s} (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\alpha s})} \\ &\leq C \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\alpha \lambda^{\alpha-\alpha s})} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \frac{C}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\alpha)} \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{\lambda^{\alpha-\alpha s}} \\ &\leq \frac{C}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\alpha)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\sup_{w \in E(z,r), z \neq w} \omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\alpha) \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{|z - w|} < \infty.$$

By Lemma 2.2 again, we deduce that

$$\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\alpha) \geq \lambda^{\alpha-\beta} \omega(\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta},$$

from which we see that  $K < \infty$ . The proof of Theorem 3.2 is completed.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $r \in (0, 1)$ ,  $f \in \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\omega^\alpha$ ,  $0 < \beta \leq \alpha$ . Then  $f \in \mathcal{B}_{\omega,0}^\alpha$  if and only if*

$$(4) \quad \lim_{\operatorname{Im}z \rightarrow 0} \sup_{w \in E(z,r), z \neq w} \omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta}) \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{|z - w|} = 0.$$

*Proof.* Sufficiency. Assume that (4) holds. Then for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\sup_{w \in E(z,r), z \neq w} \omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta}) \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{|z - w|} < \epsilon$$

whenever  $0 < \operatorname{Im}z < \delta$ . It follows by an argument similar to that in the proof of Theorem 3.2, we have

$$\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\alpha) (|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|) < C \omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta}) \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{|z - w|} < C\epsilon,$$

whenever  $0 < \operatorname{Im}z < \delta$ ,  $w \in E(z, r)$ . Hence

$$\lim_{\operatorname{Im}z \rightarrow 0} \omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\alpha) (|f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|) = 0.$$

Necessity. Now we assume that  $f \in \mathcal{B}_{\omega,0}^\alpha$ . For  $t \in (0, +\infty)$ , let  $f_t(z) = f(z + ti)$ . By the proof of Theorem 3.2, for  $w \in E(z, r)$ , we have

$$\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta}) \frac{|(f - f_t)(z) - (f - f_t)(w)|}{|z - w|} \leq C \|f - f_t\|_{\omega,\alpha}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta}) \frac{|f_t(z) - f_t(w)|}{|z - w|} \\ &= \frac{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta})}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z + t)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w + t)^{\alpha-\beta})} \frac{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z + t)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w + t)^{\alpha-\beta}) |f(z + ti) - f(w + ti)|}{|z - w|} \\ &\leq \frac{C \omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta})}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z + t)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w + t)^{\alpha-\beta})} \|f\|_{\omega,\alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

By the triangle inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{w \in E(z,r), z \neq w} \omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta}) \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{|z - w|} \\ & \leq C \|f - f_t\|_{\omega, \alpha} + \frac{C \omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta})}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z + t)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w + t)^{\alpha-\beta})} \|f\|_{\omega, \alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

In the above inequality, first by letting  $\operatorname{Im}z \rightarrow 0$  and then letting  $t \rightarrow 0$ , we obtain the desired result.  $\square$

*Remark 3.1.* When  $\omega(t) = t$ , Li and Wulan [9] obtained the analogues of Theorems 3.2 and 3.3 for holomorphic Bloch space on the unit ball of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

In the following, we remove the restriction  $w \in E(z, r)$  in Theorems 3.2 and 3.3 and obtain the following results which can be viewed as generalizations of [2, Theorems 3, 5] to the case of  $\mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{H})$ .

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{H})$ ,  $0 < \beta < 1, \beta \leq \alpha < 1 + \beta$ . Then  $f \in \mathcal{B}_\omega^\alpha$  if and only if*

$$(5) \quad \sup_{z, w \in \mathbb{H}, z \neq w} \omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta}) \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{|z - w|} < \infty.$$

*Proof.* Assume that (5) holds. Fix  $r \in (0, 1)$  and  $x \in \mathbb{H}$ , it follows from the proof of Theorem 3.2, we can easily prove that  $f \in \mathcal{B}_\omega^\alpha$ . For the converse, we assume that  $f \in \mathcal{B}_\omega^\alpha$ . Then for  $z, w \in \mathbb{H}$ ,

$$|f(z) - f(w)| \leq C |z - w| \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}(sz + (1-s)w))^\alpha)}.$$

Since for  $z, w \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $s \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$(s\operatorname{Im}z + (1-s)\operatorname{Im}w)^\alpha \geq (s\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta ((1-s)\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta},$$

we get that

$$\begin{aligned} |f(z) - f(w)| & \leq C |z - w| \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{\omega((s\operatorname{Im}z + (1-s)\operatorname{Im}w)^\alpha)} \\ & \leq C |z - w| \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{\omega(s^\beta (1-s)^{\alpha-\beta} (\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta})} \\ & \leq \frac{C |z - w|}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta})} \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{s^\beta (1-s)^{\alpha-\beta}} \\ & \leq \frac{C |z - w|}{\omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta})}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last integral converges since  $\alpha < 1 + \beta$ . Thus

$$\sup_{z, w \in \mathbb{H}, z \neq w} \omega((\operatorname{Im}z)^\beta (\operatorname{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta}) \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{|z - w|} < \infty.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 3.4.  $\square$

Similarly, we can prove the following.

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $f \in \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\omega^\alpha$ ,  $0 < \beta < 1$ ,  $\beta \leq \alpha < 1 + \beta$ . Then  $f \in \mathcal{B}_{\omega,0}^\alpha$  if and only if*

$$\lim_{\text{Im}z \rightarrow 0} \sup_{z,w \in \mathbb{H}, z \neq w} \omega((\text{Im}z)^\beta (\text{Im}w)^{\alpha-\beta}) \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{|z - w|} = 0.$$

#### 4. Composition operators

Let  $\phi$  be a holomorphic self-mapping of  $\mathbb{H}$ . The composition operator  $C_\phi$ , induced by  $\phi$  is defined by  $C_\phi(f) = f \circ \phi$  for  $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{H})$ . During the past few years, composition operators have been studied extensively on spaces of holomorphic functions on various domains in  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , see e.g., [13, 10, 16, 21]. In this section, we discuss the boundedness of composition operators between Bloch spaces on the upper half plane  $\mathbb{H}$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  and  $\phi$  be a holomorphic self-mapping of  $\mathbb{H}$ . Then  $C_\phi : \mathcal{B}^\alpha \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^\beta$  is bounded if and only if*

$$(6) \quad \sup_{z \in \mathbb{H}} \frac{(\text{Im}z)^\beta |\phi'(z)|}{(\text{Im}\phi(z))^\alpha} < \infty.$$

*Proof.* First suppose that

$$M = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{H}} \frac{(\text{Im}z)^\beta |\phi'(z)|}{(\text{Im}\phi(z))^\alpha} < \infty.$$

For  $f \in \mathcal{B}^\alpha$  and  $z \in \mathbb{H}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{Im}z)^\beta (|C_\phi(f)_z| + |C_\phi(f)_{\bar{z}}|) &= (\text{Im}z)^\beta (|(f \circ \phi)_z(z)| + |(f \circ \phi)_{\bar{z}}(z)|) \\ &= (\text{Im}z)^\beta |\phi'(z)| (|f_z(\phi(z))| + |f_{\bar{z}}(\phi(z))|) \\ &\leq M (\text{Im}\phi(z))^\alpha (|f_z(\phi(z))| + |f_{\bar{z}}(\phi(z))|) \\ &\leq C \|f\|_\alpha \end{aligned}$$

and

$$|f(\phi(i))| \leq C \|f\|_\alpha.$$

Hence  $C_\phi : \mathcal{B}^\alpha \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^\beta$  is bounded.

For the converse, assume that  $C_\phi : \mathcal{B}^\alpha \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^\beta$  is a bounded operator with

$$\|C_\phi(f)\|_\beta \leq C \|f\|_\alpha$$

for all  $f \in \mathcal{B}^\alpha$ . Fix a point  $z_0 \in \mathbb{H}$  and let  $w = \phi(z_0)$ . If  $\alpha \neq 1$ , consider the function  $f_w(z) = (z - \bar{w})^{1-\alpha}$ . Then it is easy to check that  $f_w \in \mathcal{B}^\alpha$ . The boundedness of  $C_\phi$  implies that

$$\frac{(\text{Im}z)^\beta |\phi'(z)|}{|\phi(z) - \bar{w}|^\alpha} \leq C.$$



In particular, take  $z = z_0$ , we get

$$\frac{(\operatorname{Im} z_0)^\beta |\phi'(z_0)|}{(\operatorname{Im} \phi(z_0))^\alpha} \leq C.$$

Since  $z_0$  is arbitrary, the result follows.

If  $\alpha = 1$ , we only need to consider the function  $f_w(z) = \ln(z - \bar{w})$ . Following a discussion similar to the above, it can be proved that (6) holds. The proof of Theorem 4.1 is completed.  $\square$

Recall that the classical Schwarz-Pick Lemma in the upper half-plane gives that for a holomorphic self-mapping  $\phi$  of  $\mathbb{H}$ ,  $(\operatorname{Im} z)|\phi'(z)| \leq \operatorname{Im} \phi(z)$  holds for all  $z \in \mathbb{H}$ . As an application of this result, it is easy to derive the following corollary.

**Corollary 4.1.** *Let  $\phi$  be a holomorphic self-mapping of  $\mathbb{H}$ . Then  $C_\phi : \mathcal{B}^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^1$  is bounded.*

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