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1000-32-93Emil J. Straube* (straube@math.tamu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Texas A&M
University, College Station, TX 77843. A new compactness property in the theory of the
 $\overline{\partial}$ -Neumann problem. Preliminary report.

We present a unified theory of global regularity in the $\overline{\partial}$ -Neumann problem that covers both the approach via compactness of the $\overline{\partial}$ -Neumann operator N due to Kohn-Nirenberg and Catlin and the approach via vector fields which commute approximately with $\overline{\partial}$ due to Boas and the author. As a special case, an interesting new compactness property much weaker than compactness of N emerges, which is still sufficient to give global regularity. (Received August 18, 2004)