1014-46-579 **William B Johnson**, **Bernard Maurey** and **Gideon Schechtman***
(gideon@weizmann.ac.il), Department Of Mathematics, Weizmann Institute of Science, 76100 Rehovot, Israel. *The class of $\mathcal{L}_1$ spaces is closed under uniform equivalences.* Preliminary report.

We show, in particular, that a linear operator between finite dimensional normed spaces which factors through a third separable Banach space Z via Lipschitz maps factors linearly through the identity from $L_\infty(Z)$ to $L_1(Z)$ (and thus in particular through each of $L_p(Z)$) with the same factorization constant. It follows that, for each $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, the class of $\mathcal{L}_p$ spaces is closed under uniform (and even coarse) equivalences. The case $p = 1$ is new and solves a problem raised by Heinrich and Mankiewicz in 1982. (Received September 20, 2005)