ISOMETRIES ON $L_{p,1}$

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Abstract. The extreme points of the sphere of the Lorentz function space $L_{p,1}[0,1]$ are computed. As an application, the linear isometries from $L_{p,1}$ into itself are completely described.

1. Introduction. Since its introduction in 1950 by G. G. Lorentz, the Lorentz function space $L_{p,1} = L_{p,1}[0,1]$ has found frequent application to problems in interpolation theory and weighted-norm inequalities. In recent years the isomorphic structure of $L_{p,1}$ (as a Banach space) has received increasing attention and is now reasonably well understood while very little has been written on the isometric structure of $L_{p,1}$. In §2, we develop several interesting isometric tools; in particular, we compute the extreme points of the closed unit ball of $L_{p,1}$ (Theorem 1). As an application of these results, we give, in §3, a complete description of the linear isometries from $L_{p,1}$ into itself (Theorem 2).

Recall that Lamperti’s proof of Banach’s classical theorem on the linear isometries $T: L_p \to L_p$ [18, p. 333] proceeds in two major steps. In the first it is shown that $T$ must preserve disjointness (this via an observation concerning the $L_p$-norm). The second step is quite general: $T$ now induces a homomorphism of the measure algebra, and this homomorphism is necessarily induced by an automorphism, $\tau$, of the underlying measure space. It now follows easily that $T$ may be written: $Tf = h \cdot (f \circ \tau)$, where $h = T1$. Moreover, the converse is also true; that is, if $h$ is norm-one in $L_p$ and $\tau$ is an automorphism of $[0,1]$ with $\tau^{-1}[0,1] = \text{support of } h$, then $Tf = h \cdot (f \circ \tau)$ defines an isometry on $L_p$.

By modifying the first step of this argument, Bru and Heinich [2] are able to show that the positive (onto) isometries on a large class of Banach lattices (which includes $L_{p,1}$) are likewise induced by automorphisms of the underlying measure space and so may also be written: $Tf = h \cdot (f \circ \tau)$, where $h = T1$. However, even in the case of $L_{p,1}$, it is not clear whether the converse holds. Rather than deduce information for $L_{p,1}$ from this lattice result, we opt for a somewhat more analytic approach to the question. We treat the isometries on $L_{p,1}$ as an application of specific geometric and “distributional” tools intrinsic to $L_{p,1}$. In particular, by using a stronger version of

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the first step outlined above (see Lemma 5, below), we shall see that there are actually fewer isometries on $L_{p,1}$ than might be anticipated from the results in [2]. Specifically, not every norm-one $h$ in $L_{p,1}$ can be written as $Tf$ for some isometry $T$.

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Our notation is, for the most part, standard and follows that of Lindenstrauss and Tzafriri [15]. We write $\mu(A)$ for the Lebesgue measure of subset of $A$ of $\mathbb{R}$ and, given a measurable function $f: [0,1] \to \mathbb{R}$, we define
\[
\text{dist}(f; t) = d_f(t) = \mu\left(\{s: |f(s)| > t\}\right), \quad f^*(t) = \inf\{s: d_f(s) \leq t\},
\]
\[
F(t) = \int_0^t f^*(s) \, ds, \quad \text{and} \quad \text{supp} f = \{s: f(s) \neq 0\}.
\]

Notice that $d_f$ is actually the (probability) distribution of $|f|$. Also we apologize in advance for all the usual abuses (and omissions) of the phrase “almost everywhere.” For example, we shall sometimes write $f \geq 0$ when we mean $f \geq 0$ a.e., and $A \subset B$ instead of $\mu(B \setminus A) = 0$, etc.

Now, for $1 < p < \infty$, the Lorentz function space $L_{p,1} = L_{p,1}[0,1]$ is defined to be the collection of all (equivalence classes of) measurable functions $f: [0,1] \to \mathbb{R}$ for which $\|f\|_{p,1} < \infty$ where
\[
\|f\|_{p,1} = \int_0^1 f^*(t) \, d(t^{1/p}).
\]

Simple change-of-variable and integration-by-parts arguments show that (1) can be written in a variety of guises:
\[
\|f\|_{p,1} = \int_0^\infty d_f(t)^{1/p} \, dt = \int_0^1 \left(\frac{1}{p}\right)t^{1/p-1} dF(t)
\]
\[
= \int_0^1 F(t) \, d\left(\left(\frac{-1}{p}\right)t^{1/p-1}\right) + \|f\|_1.
\]
(Notice that if $f \in L_{p,1}$, then $t^{1/p-1}F(t) \to 0$ as $t \to 0^+$. ) We shall also use the usual $L_p$-spaces with norm
\[
\|f\|_p = \left(\int_0^1 |f(t)|^p \, dt\right)^{1/p},
\]
and also the well-known duality: $(L_{p,1})^* = L_{p',\infty}$, $1/p + 1/p' = 1$, where
\[
\|f\|_{p',\infty} = \sup_{0 < t < 1} t^{-1/p} \int_0^t f^*(s) \, ds.
\]
(See [16 or 13].)

It is also well known that $L_{p,1}$ is a separable dual space [10] with an unconditional basis [15, p. 156]. Moreover, $L_{p,1}$ is known to satisfy a lower $p$-estimate for disjoint elements [7, 1]; that is, if $f_1, \ldots, f_n \in L_{p,1}$ are disjointly supported, then
\[
\left(\sum_{i=1}^n f_i\right)^p \geq \sum_{i=1}^n \|f_i\|_{p,1}^p.
\]
In particular, (4) implies that $\|f\|_p \leq \|f\|_{p,1}$. (Also see [13 or 15, Proposition 2.6.9].)
2. Extreme points. Our first two lemmas (which are essentially known) examine the triangle inequality in $L_{p,1}$.

**Lemma 1.** If $f, g \in L_{p,1}$ with $\|f + g\|_{p,1} = \|f\|_{p,1} + \|g\|_{p,1}$, then $(f + g)^* = f^* + g^*$.

**Proof.** First notice that since

$$\|f\|_{p,1} + \|g\|_{p,1} = \|f + g\|_{p,1} \leq \|f\|_{p,1} + \|g\|_{p,1},$$

we must have $|f + g| = |f| + |g|$ a.e. Thus $f \cdot g \geq 0$ a.e. and $\|f + g\|_{1} = \|f\|_{1} + \|g\|_{1}$. Now set

$$F_1(x) = \int_0^x (f + g)^*(t) \, dt \quad \text{and} \quad F_2(x) = \int_0^x [f^*(t) + g^*(t)] \, dt$$

for $0 \leq x \leq 1$. Then $F_1 \leq F_2$ and we need to show that $F_1 = F_2$. (See [15, p. 125].) But

$$0 = \|f\|_{p,1} + \|g\|_{p,1} - \|f + g\|_{p,1} = \int_0^1 [F_2(t) - F_1(t)] \, d\left(-\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)^{1/p-1}\right),$$

and $-(1/p)t^{1/p-1}$ is increasing; thus $F_2 - F_1 = 0$. Consequently, $(f + g)^* = f^* + g^*$.

**Remark.** Note that $(f + g)^* = f^* + g^*$ implies that $f \cdot g \geq 0$ and that

$$\text{supp}(f + g)^* = \text{supp}f^* \cup \text{supp}g^*.$$

Thus

$$\mu(\text{supp}f \cup \text{supp}g) = \max\{\mu(\text{supp}f), \mu(\text{supp}g)\};$$

that is, we either have supp$f \subset$ supp$g$ or else supp$g \subset$ supp$f$.

**Lemma 2.** For $f \in L_{p,1}$ and $a > 0$, let $f^a = |f| \lor a - a$ and $f_a = |f| \land a$. Then $\|f\|_{p,1} = \|f^a\|_{p,1} + \|f_a\|_{p,1}$. In particular, if $\|f\|_{p,1} = 1$ and $0 < a < 1$, then $\|f^a\|_{p,1} > 0$ and $\|f_a\|_{p,1} > 0$, and hence $\|f\|$ is a convex combination of $f^a/\|f^a\|_{p,1}$ and $f_a/\|f_a\|_{p,1}$.

**Proof.** A straightforward computation shows that $f^* = (f^*)^a + (f^*)_a = (f^a)^* + (f_a)^*$ and so $\|f\|_{p,1} = \|f^a\|_{p,1} + \|f_a\|_{p,1}$. Now, for $0 < a < 1$, it is easy to see that

$$0 < a \cdot [d_A(a)]^{1/p} \leq \|f_a\|_{p,1} \leq a < 1,$$

and hence also $\|f^a\|_{p,1} \geq 1 - a > 0$.

We are now in a position to give a simple description of the extreme points of the closed unit ball of $L_{p,1}$.

**Theorem 1.** Let $1 < p < \infty$ and let $f \in L_{p,1}$ with $\|f\|_{p,1} = 1$. Then the following are equivalent:

(i) $\|f\|_{p} = 1$.

(ii) $f$ is an extreme point of the closed unit ball of $L_{p,1}$.

(iii) $|f| = \mu(E)^{-1/f}1_E$ for some $E \subset [0,1]$.

(iv) $\|f^{p-1}\|_{p,\infty} = 1$, where $1/p + 1/p' = 1$.

**Proof.** Suppose (i) holds. If $f = (g + h)/2$ with $\|g\|_{p,1} = \|h\|_{p,1} = 1$, then $\|g\|_{p} = \|h\|_{p} = 1$. The strict convexity of $L_{p}$ then implies $f = g = h$. License or copyright restrictions may apply to redistribution; see https://www.ams.org/journal-terms-of-use
Now suppose (ii) holds. Then, for any \(0 < a < 1\), Lemma 2 implies that \(f_a = \lambda|f|\) and \(f^a = (1 - \lambda)|f|\) where \(\lambda = \|f_a\|_{p,1}\). But this easily implies that \(|f| = \mu(E)^{-1/p}X_E\) for some \(E \subset [0,1]\).

That (iii) implies (iv) is obvious; so finally suppose (iv) holds. Then \(\|f\|_{p}^{p-1} = \|f|_p^{p-1}\|_{p'} \geq \|f|^{p-1}\|_{p',\infty} = 1\) and so \(\|f\|_p = 1\). □

**Remark.** The analogue of Theorem 1 for the Lorentz sequence space \(l_{p,1}\) is well-known and is due to W. J. Davis (cf. e.g. [3]).

Since \(L_{p,1}\) is a separable dual space, its closed unit ball should have a wealth of strongly exposed points. (See [8 or 9].) As it happens, each extreme point of the closed unit ball of \(L_{p,1}\) is also strongly exposed. To see this, suppose \(f \in L_{p,1}\) is an extreme point of the closed unit ball and let \(g = (\text{sgn} f) \cdot |f|^{p-1}\). Then \(\|f\|_p = \|g\|_{p'} = 1 = \langle f, g \rangle\) and \(f\) (considered as an element of \(L_p\)) is strongly exposed by \(g\) (considered as an element of \(L_{p'}\)). Thus, if \(\|f\|_{p,1} \leq 1\) and \(\langle f, g \rangle \to \langle f, g \rangle\), then \(f_n \to f\) in \(L_p\) and hence \(\|f_n\|_p \to \|f\|_p = 1\). But this implies that \(\|f_n\|_{p,1} \to \|f\|_{p,1} = 1\). That these conditions are sufficient to imply the convergence of the sequence \((f_n)\) to \(f\) in \(L_{p,1}\) is given as

**Lemma 3.** Let \((f_n)\) be a sequence in \(L_{p,1}\) such that \((f_n)\) converges to \(f\) in \(L_p\) and \((\|f_n\|_{p,1})\) converges to \(\|f\|_{p,1}\). Then \((f_n)\) converges to \(f\) in \(L_{p,1}\).

**Proof.** First notice that it is enough to show that every subsequence of \((f_n)\) has a further subsequence converging to \(f\) in \(L_{p,1}\). Consequently, we may assume that \((f_n)\) converges to \(f\) a.e. Also, for convenience, we shall take \(\|f\|_{p,1} = 1\). Now let \(\varepsilon > 0\) and choose \(\delta > 0\) so that \(\|fX_A^c\|_{p,1} < \varepsilon\) whenever \(\mu(A) < \delta\). Next, use Egorov's theorem to choose \(A\) so that \(\mu(A) < \delta\) and so that \(f_n\) converges uniformly to \(f\) on \(A^c\). Finally, choose \(n\) sufficiently large so that the following hold:

(i) \(\|(f - f_n)X_A^c\|_{p,1} < \varepsilon\),
(ii) \(\|f_n\|_{p,1} < 1 + \varepsilon\), and
(iii) \(\|f_n\|_{p,1} - \|f_nX_A^c\|_{p,1} < \varepsilon\).

Then

\[
\|f - f_n\|_{p,1} \leq \|fX_A\|_{p,1} + \|f_nX_A\|_{p,1} + \|(f - f_n)X_A^c\|_{p,1} \\
\leq 2\varepsilon + \left(\|f_n\|_{p,1} - \|f_nX_A^c\|_{p,1}\right)^{1/p} \leq 2\varepsilon + \left(p(1 + \varepsilon)^{p-1}\varepsilon\right)^{1/p} < 2p\varepsilon^{1/p}.
\]

Thus \((f_n)\) converges to \(f\) in \(L_{p,1}\). □

Before we can entertain any discussion of isometries on \(L_{p,1}\), we shall need some condition stated in terms of the norm in \(L_{p,1}\) which will guarantee that two functions are disjointly supported. The next two lemmas provide such conditions; the first is quite general (and really just a minor variation of Lemma 7.2 in [14]), while the second examines the case of equality in (4).

**Lemma 4.** Given \(f, g \in L_{p,1}\), let \(f \oplus g\) denote the sum of disjoint copies of \(f\) and \(g\); that is, \(d_{f \oplus g} = d_f + d_g\). (Of course, we may need to take \(f \oplus g \in L_{p,1}[0,2]\).) If \(f \cdot g \geq 0\), then \(\|f + g\|_{p,1} \geq \|f \oplus g\|_{p,1}\) and equality occurs only when \(f \cdot g = 0\).
Proof. The first conclusion is a general fact in any rearrangement invariant space. Indeed, just as in the proof of Lemma 1, we need only to observe that if

\[ H_1(x) = \int_0^x (f \oplus g)^*(t) \, dt \quad \text{and} \quad H_2(x) = \int_0^x (f + g)^*(t) \, dt, \]

then \( H_1 \leq H_2 \). But, since \( f \cdot g \geq 0 \),

\[ H_1(x) = \sup_{u \in X} \int_E |f \oplus g|(s) \, ds \leq \sup_{u \in X} \left\{ \int_E |f(s)| \, ds + \int_E |g(s)| \, ds \right\} \]

\[ = \sup_{u \in X} \int_E |f + g|(s) \, ds = H_2(x). \]

Again, as in Lemma 1, the case \( ||f + g||_{1,p} = ||f \oplus g||_{1,p} \) would imply that \( H_1 = H_2 \); that is, \( d_{f+g} = d_f \oplus g = d_f + d_g \). Then \( f \cdot g \geq 0 \) implies

\[ \mu(\text{supp} \, f \cup \text{supp} \, g) = d_{f+g}(0) = d_f(0) + d_g(0) = \mu(\text{supp} \, f) + \mu(\text{supp} \, g). \]

Thus \( f \cdot g = 0 \). \( \Box \)

Lemma 5. Let \( f, g \in L_{p,1} \) with \( f \cdot g \geq 0 \). If \( ||f + g||_{p,1} = ||f \oplus g||_{p,1} \), then \( f \cdot g = 0 \) and, moreover, \( d_f \) and \( d_g \) are proportional.

Proof. The first conclusion is immediate from (4) and Lemma 4. Indeed,

\[ ||f||_{p,1} + ||g||_{p,1} = ||f + g||_{p,1} \geq ||f \oplus g||_{p,1} \geq ||f||_{p,1} + ||g||_{p,1} \]

and thus \( f \cdot g = 0 \). But now

\[ \left\{ \int_0^\infty \left( d_f(t) + d_g(t) \right)^{1/p} \, dt \right\}^p = ||f + g||_{p,1}^p = ||f||_{p,1}^p + ||g||_{p,1}^p \]

\[ = \left\{ \int_0^\infty d_f(t)^{1/p} \, dt \right\}^p + \left\{ \int_0^\infty d_g(t)^{1/p} \, dt \right\}^p. \]

That is, we have equality in the triangle inequality in \( L_{1/p}[0, \infty) \). Hence \( d_f \) and \( d_g \) are proportional. (In particular, \( ||f||_{p,1} = ||g||_{p,1} \) would imply that \( d_f = d_g \).) \( \Box \)

Remark. The observation made in [2] is that \( L_{p,1} \) is “order convex”; that is, if \( f \cdot g \geq 0 \) and if \( ||f - g||_{p,1} \leq ||f + g||_{p,1} \), then \( f \cdot g = 0 \). Notice that \( f \cdot g \geq 0 \) and \( ||f + g||_{p,1} = ||f||_{p,1} + ||g||_{p,1} \) imply that \( ||f + g||_{p,1} = ||f - g||_{p,1} \).

3. Isometries. Finally we are ready to describe the linear isometries from \( L_{p,1} \) into itself. What might not be expected here is that the only linear isometries are the obvious ones: changes of sign, rearrangements, and dilations. That is, if \( T: L_{p,1} \to L_{p,1} \) is an isometry and \( \lambda = \mu(\text{supp} \, T1) \), then

\[ (Tf)^*(t) = \lambda^{-1/p} f^*(t/\lambda) \]

for every \( f \in L_{p,1} \) and \( 0 \leq t \leq 1 \). (We take \( f^*(s) = 0 \) for \( s > 1 \).)

Before we set a plan of attack for proving (5), let us first reduce to the case of positive isometries. In what follows, \( T: L_{p,1} \to L_{p,1} \) is any linear isometry (not necessarily onto or positive) and, for each \( n = 1, 2, \ldots \) and \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \), \( z_{n,i} \) will denote the characteristic function of the interval \([i-1]/n, i/n\).
Lemma 6. Let \( T: \ell_{p,1} \to \ell_{p,1} \) be a linear isometry. For every \( f \in \ell_{p,1} \),
\[
\text{supp} \, T f \subseteq \text{supp} \, T 1 .
\]

Proof. It suffices to show that (6) holds in the case \( f = z_{n,i} \) for any \( n > 2^{p-1} \) and \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \). To do this, it suffices to show that \( T z_{n,i} \) and \( T(1 - z_{n,i}) \) are disjointly supported for all \( n > 2^{p-1} \) and all \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \). Fix \( n > 2^{p-1} \) and \( 1 \leq i \leq n \), and set \( f = T z_{n,i} \), \( g = T(1 - z_{n,i}) \), \( h = f + g = T 1 \), \( k = f - g = T(2z_{n,i} - 1) \). Then, since \( T \) is an isometry, it is easy to see that
\[
\text{(7)} \quad \| f \|_{p,1} = n^{-1/p}, \quad \| g \|_{p,1} = (1 - n^{-1})^{1/p}, \quad \| h \|_{p,1} = \| k \|_{p,1} = 1 .
\]
and
\[
\text{(8)} \quad \| f + h \|_{p,1} = \| f \|_{p,1} + \| h \|_{p,1}, \quad \| f + k \|_{p,1} = \| f \|_{p,1} + \| k \|_{p,1},
\]
\[
\| g + h \|_{p,1} = \| g \|_{p,1} + \| h \|_{p,1}, \quad \| g - k \|_{p,1} = \| g \|_{p,1} + \| k \|_{p,1}.
\]
The equations in (8) follow from the fact that \( \|1 + x\|_{p,1} = 1 + \|x\|_{p,1} \) for any \( x \in \ell_{p,1} \), \( x > 0 \).

The equations in (8) combine with the remark following Lemma 1 to yield several consequences:
\[
\text{(9)} \quad f \cdot h \geq 0, \quad f \cdot k \geq 0, \quad g \cdot h \geq 0, \quad (-g) \cdot k \geq 0
\]
and
\[
\text{(10)} \quad \text{supp} \, f \subseteq \text{supp} \, h \quad \text{or} \quad \text{supp} \, h \subseteq \text{supp} \, f,
\]
\[
\text{supp} \, f \subseteq \text{supp} \, k \quad \text{or} \quad \text{supp} \, k \subseteq \text{supp} \, f,
\]
\[
\text{supp} \, g \subseteq \text{supp} \, h \quad \text{or} \quad \text{supp} \, h \subseteq \text{supp} \, g,
\]
\[
\text{supp} \, g \subseteq \text{supp} \, k \quad \text{or} \quad \text{supp} \, k \subseteq \text{supp} \, g.
\]
The inequalities in (9) imply that at any point for which \( f \cdot g \neq 0 \) we have \( h \cdot k = 0 \) and, moreover, that \( f \cdot g \geq 0 \) on \( \text{supp} \, h \) and \( f \cdot g \leq 0 \) on \( \text{supp} \, k \). Consequently, if we set:
\[
A = \text{supp} \, f \setminus \text{supp} \, g,
\]
\[
B = \text{supp} \, g \setminus \text{supp} \, f,
\]
\[
C = \text{supp} \, h \setminus (A \cup B) = \{ \text{sgn} \, f = \text{sgn} \, g \},
\]
\[
D = \text{supp} \, k \setminus (A \cup B) = \{ \text{sgn} \, f = -\text{sgn} \, g \},
\]
then \( A, B, C, D \) are pairwise disjoint and
\[
\text{(11)} \quad f = f \chi_A + \frac{1}{2} h \chi_C + \frac{1}{2} k \chi_D,
\]
\[
g = g \chi_B + \frac{1}{2} h \chi_C - \frac{1}{2} k \chi_D.
\]

But now (10) implies several conditions on \( A, B, C, \) and \( D \). In fact, it is not hard to see that either \( A = B = \emptyset \) or else \( C = D = \emptyset \) (that is, either \( h \cdot k = 0 \) or \( f \cdot g = 0 \)). Indeed, suppose for instance that \( A \neq \emptyset \) and \( C \neq \emptyset \). Then \( \text{supp} \, g = B \cup C \cup D \) and \( \text{supp} \, k = A \cup B \cup D \) cannot satisfy either of the containments \( \text{supp} \, g \subseteq \text{supp} \, k \) or \( \text{supp} \, k \subseteq \text{supp} \, g \). Thus we need only point out that \( A = B = \emptyset \) (i.e., \( h \cdot k = 0 \)) is impossible. But \( \| h + k \|_{p,1} = 2 \| f \|_{p,1} = 2n^{-1/p} \) while from (4), \( h \cdot k = 0 \) would imply \( \| h + k \|_{p,1} \geq 2^{1/p} \); our choice of \( n > 2^{p-1} \) makes this impossible. Thus \( f \cdot g = 0 \) as desired. \( \Box \)
Lemma 7. Let \( T: L_{p,1} \to L_{p,1} \) be a linear isometry. The map \( S: L_{p,1} \to L_{p,1} \) defined by \( Sf = (\text{sgn }T1) \cdot Tf \) is a positive isometry. In particular, if \( f \cdot g \geq 0 \), then \( Tf \cdot Tg \geq 0 \).

Proof. As mentioned above, for any \( f \geq 0 \), we have \( \|T1 + Tf\|_{p,1} = \|T1\|_{p,1} + \|Tf\|_{p,1} \) and so, from Lemma 1, \( T1 \cdot Tf \geq 0 \). Since Lemma 6 states that \( \text{supp } Tf \subseteq \text{supp } T1 \), we can conclude that \( (\text{sgn }T1) \cdot Tf = \|Tf\| \). □

Our next goal will be to provide a more tractable (i.e., linear) replacement for (5). To this end, it may be helpful to think of \( T \) as an isometry from \( L_{p,1} \) into \( L_{p,1}([0,1]^2) \). The reasons for this are essentially cosmetic: if we define \( f \otimes g \) by \( (f \otimes g)(s,t) = f(s)g(t) \), then it is easy to see that the map \( f \to f \otimes g \) defines an isometry satisfying (5) whenever \( |g| = p(E)^{-1/p} \). Indeed, the distribution of \( f \otimes \chi_E \) is \( \mu(E) \cdot d_f \) and so, in this case,

\[
(f \otimes g)^*(t) = \mu(E)^{-1/p} f^*(t/\mu(E)).
\]

Now it is also known that

\[
\|f\|_{p,1} \cdot \|g\|_{p,1} \leq \|f \otimes g\|_{p,1} \leq \|f\|_{p,1} \cdot \|g\|_{p,1}
\]

for any \( f, g \in L_{p,1} \) [4, 5 and 17, Theorem 7.4] and so our program is easy to outline. We shall first show that \( Tf \) must have same distribution as \( f \otimes g \) where \( g = T1 \). We shall then show that \( g = T1 \) forces equality in (14). This implies that \( \|g\|_{p,1} = \|g\|_{p,1} = 1 \) or equivalently, by Theorem 1, that \( g = \mu(E)^{-1/p} \chi_E \) for some measurable set \( E \).

Lemma 8. Let \( T: L_{p,1} \to L_{p,1} \) be a linear isometry and let \( g = T1 \). Then \( Tf \) has the same distribution as \( f \otimes g \) for every \( f \in L_{p,1} \).

Proof. Since \( T \) is linear and continuous and since step functions of the form \( \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i z_{n,i} \) are dense in \( L_{p,1} \), it is enough to show that, for each \( n \), the functions \( Tz_{n,i} \) are disjointly supported and have the same distribution. Fix \( n \) and \( 1 \leq i \neq j \leq n \). Since \( T \) is a linear isometry, we have \( \|Tz_{n,i}\|_{p,1} = \|Tz_{n,j}\|_{p,1} \) and \( \|Tz_{n,i} + Tz_{n,j}\|_{p,1} = \|Tz_{n,i}\|_{p,1} + \|Tz_{n,j}\|_{p,1} \). But now Lemma 5 and Lemma 7 give us that \( Tz_{n,i} \) and \( Tz_{n,j} \) are disjointly supported and have the same distribution. Necessarily \( Tz_{n,i} \) has the same distribution as \( z_{n,i} \otimes g \) and linearity implies that \( T(\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i z_{n,i}) \) has the same distribution as \( (\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i z_{n,i}) \otimes g \). □

Next we consider the case of (near) equality on the left-hand side of inequality (14). The following lemma is suggested by the proof of Lemma 8.8 of [14]. (Also see [15, Theorem 7.2.7 and 6].)

Lemma 9. Given a positive integer \( k \) and \( \alpha > 1 \), define \( f_{k,a} \in L_{p,1} \) by \( f_{k,a}(t) = k^{\alpha/p} \cdot t^{-1/p} \). Then, for any \( h = \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i z_{k,i} \),

\[
\|f_{k,a} \otimes h\|_{p,1} \leq (1 + \alpha^{-1}) \cdot \|h\|_{p} \cdot \|f_{k,a}\|_{p,1}.
\]

Proof. We shall show that if \( \|h\|_{p} \leq 1 \), then \( (f_{k,a} \otimes h)^* \leq f_{k,a+1} \); (15) then follows from a simple calculation:

\[
\|f_{k,a+1}\|_{p,1} = 1 + \alpha \cdot \frac{1}{p} \cdot \log k \leq (1 + \alpha^{-1}) \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{\alpha}{p} \log k \right)
\]

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Assume that $h = \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i z_{k,i}$ satisfies $h \geq 0$ and $\|h\|_p^p = k^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i^p \leq 1$; we wish to estimate $(f_{k_a} \otimes h)^*$. But $f_{k_a} \otimes h = \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i (f_{k,a} \otimes z_{k,i})$ and the functions $f_{k,a} \otimes z_{k,i}$ are disjointly supported and have distribution $k^{-1} \text{dist}(f_{k,a}; t)$. Thus
\[
\text{dist}(f_{k,a} \otimes h; t) = k^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{k} \text{dist} \left( f_{k,a}; \frac{t}{a_i} \right).
\]
Now $\text{dist}(f_{k,a}; t) = t^{-p} \land \chi_{[0, k^{a/p}]}(t)$, and it is easy to check that, for $0 < a \leq k^{1/p}$, we have
\[
\text{dist}(f_{k,a}; t/a) = a^p t^{-p} \land \chi_{[0, k^{a/p}]}(t/a) \leq \chi_{[0,1]}(t) + a^p t^{-p} \chi_{[1, k^{(a+1)/p}]}(t).
\]
Consequently,
\[
\text{dist}(f_{k,a} \otimes h; t) = k^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{k} \text{dist} \left( f_{k,a}; \frac{t}{a_i} \right) \leq \chi_{[0,1]}(t) \cdot \left( k^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i^p \right) \cdot t^{-p} \cdot \chi_{[1, k^{(a+1)/p}]}(t) \leq t^{-p} \land \chi_{[0, k^{(a+1)/p}]}(t) = \text{dist}(f_{k,a+1}; t).
\]
Thus, $(f_{k,a} \otimes h)^* \leq f_{k,a+1}$. \qed

We are finally ready to combine all of the preceding observations to give a simple proof of our main result.

**Theorem 2.** Let $T: L_{p,1} \to L_{p,1}$ be a linear isometry and let $\lambda = \mu(\text{supp } T)$. Then $T$ satisfies
\[
(5) \quad (Tf)^*(t) = \lambda^{-1/p} f^*(t/\lambda)
\]
for every $f$ in $L_{p,1}$ and $0 \leq t \leq 1$.

**Proof.** Let $g = T1$. Lemma 8 shows that $(Tf)^* = (f \otimes g)^*$ for every $f \in L_{p,1}$. Thus, by (13) and Theorem 1, we need only show that $\|g\|_p = \lambda$.

Let $0 < \epsilon < 1$ and let $h = \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i z_{k,i}$ be a step function such that $\|g - h\|_{p,1} \leq \epsilon \|g\|_{p,1}$. Next let $f = f_{k,1/\epsilon}$ be the function given in Lemma 9 (for $\alpha = 1/\epsilon$). Then
\[
\|f\|_{p,1} = \|Tf\|_{p,1} = \|f \otimes g\|_{p,1} \leq \|f \otimes h\|_{p,1} + \|f \otimes (g - h)\|_{p,1} \leq (1 + \epsilon) \|h\|_p \cdot \|f\|_{p,1} + \|(g - h)\|_{p,1} \cdot \|f\|_{p,1} \leq [(1 + \epsilon)^2 + \epsilon] \cdot \|g\|_p \cdot \|f\|_{p,1}
\]
(\text{where the second inequality follows from (14) and (15)). Letting } \epsilon \text{ tend to } 0 \text{ yields } \|g\|_p = 1 \text{ as promised. } \quad \Box

**Remark.** Notice that every linear isometry on $L_{p,1}$ turns out to be an isometry on $L_p$ and, in fact, a multiple of an isometry on every $L_r$. Thus a linear isometry $T$ on $L_{p,1}$ maps extreme points to extreme points and is onto exactly when $|T1| = 1$.  

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