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Ionut Chifan and **Sayan Das*** (sayan-das@uiowa.edu), 14 Maclean Hall, Department of Mathematics, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52246. *On a Question of D. Shlyakhtenko*. Preliminary report.

Two groups Γ and Λ are said to be W^* -equivalent if their group von Neumann algebras $L(\Gamma)$ and $L(\Lambda)$ are isomorphic. The groups Γ and Λ are said to be measure equivalent (M.E.) if they admit (stably) orbit equivalent free p.m.p. actions. D. Shlyakhtenko proposed the question whether measure equivalence implies W^* equivalence.

In this talk, I shall give a large class of examples of icc groups Γ and Λ , which are measure equivalent, but not W^* equivalent. This talk is based on a joint work with Prof. Ionut Chifan. (Received September 03, 2019)