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Daniel Drimbe, Daniel J. Hoff* (hoff@math.ucla.edu) and **Adrian Ioana**. *Between Popa's Intertwining and Measure Equivalence.*

A result of Furman says that two countable groups are measure equivalent if and only if they admit stably orbit equivalent free ergodic probability measure preserving actions. As this in turn can be characterized in terms of the associated group measure space von Neumann algebras, the framework of Sorin Popa's deformation/rigidity theory becomes available. This talk will focus on the implications of Popa's intertwining in this setting. In particular, we will give an operator algebraic tool for determining when measure equivalence between $\Gamma_1 \times \Gamma_2$ and $\Lambda_1 \times \Lambda_2$ can be upgraded to measure equivalence between the factors, as is the case in a well known result of Monod and Shalom. This talk is on joint work with Daniel Drimbe and Adrian Ioana. (Received September 11, 2017)