1120-46-39 **Ionut Chifan*** (ionut-chifan@uiowa.edu), 14 MacLean Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242, **Rolando de Santiago** (rolando-desantiago@uiowa.edu), 14 Maclean Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242, and **Thomas Sinclair** (tsincla@purdue.edu), 150 North Unvesity Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

Product rigidity for von Neumann algebras arising from hyperbolic groups.

Two groups Γ and Λ are called W^*-equivalent if they give rise to isomorphic von Neumann algebras. I will show that whenever $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, ..., \Gamma_n$ are icc hyperbolic groups and Λ is an arbitrary group such that $\Gamma_1 \times \Gamma_2 \times \cdots \times \Gamma_n$ is W^*-equivalent to Λ it follows that $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \times \Lambda_2 \times \cdots \times \Lambda_n$ and, up to amplifications, Γ_i is W^*-equivalent to Λ_i, for all i. This strengthens some results of N. Ozawa and S. Popa from 2003. The talk based on a joint work with Rolando de Santiago and Thomas Sinclair. (Received January 29, 2016)