Derived equivalences of abelian varieties. From Mukai's theorem, we know that an abelian variety X and its dual \hat{X} have isomorphic derived categories. Let's say that two abelian varieties X and Y are derived equivalent if $D^b(X) \cong D^b(Y)$. We would like to know exactly when this happens. This question was completely answered by Orlov and Polishchuk. The general idea is that $D^b(X) \cong D^b(Y)$ happens if and only if $X \times \hat{X} \cong Y \times \hat{Y}$ are isomorphic as abelian varieties (but only certain kinds of isomorphisms are allowed).

Let me first explain why the product $X \times \hat{X}$ shows up. This has to do with "automorphisms" of the derived category $D^b(X)$, or more precisely auto-equivalences. A closed point $x \in X(k)$ defines an automorphism $t_x \colon X \to X$ by translation, and pullback along this automorphism is an auto-equivalence of the derived category:

$$t_x^* \colon \mathrm{D}^b(X) \to \mathrm{D}^b(X).$$

Similarly, a closed point $\alpha \in \hat{X}(k)$ defines a line bundle $P_{\alpha} \in \text{Pic}^{0}(X)$, and tensor product by P_{α} is also an auto-equivalence:

$$P_{\alpha} \otimes -: \mathrm{D}^{b}(X) \to \mathrm{D}^{b}(X).$$

By composition, the closed points of $X \times \hat{X}$ therefore correspond to a family of auto-equivalences

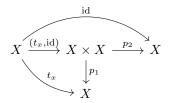
$$T_{(x,\alpha)} \colon \mathrm{D}^b(X) \to \mathrm{D}^b(X), \quad T_{(x,\alpha)}(K) = P_\alpha \otimes t_x^* K \cong t_x^* (P_\alpha \otimes K).$$

Because X and \hat{X} are varieties, this is a connected family; it contains $T_{(0,0)} = \mathrm{id}$. One can make sense of the group of auto-equivalences $\mathrm{Aut}\,\mathrm{D}^b(X)$ (using more fancy category theory); it has countably many connected components, and the neutral component (= the component containing the identity) is $X \times \hat{X}$. Now if $\mathrm{D}^b(X) \cong \mathrm{D}^b(Y)$, then the automorphism groups of the two categories should be the same, and so $X \times \hat{X}$ should be isomorphic to $Y \times \hat{Y}$.

Or lov and Polishchuk make this heuristic argument precise, without actually defining the automorphism group $\operatorname{Aut} \operatorname{D}^b(X)$. It requires a careful study of the kernels of several different integral transforms. Each $T_{(x,\alpha)}$ is of course an integral transform: the kernel is the object

$$(19.1) (t_x, id)_* P_\alpha \in D^b(X \times X),$$

where the notation is as in the following diagram:



Indeed, with this choice, we get from the projection formula that

$$\mathbf{R}(p_2)_* \Big(p_1^* K \otimes (t_x, \mathrm{id})_* P_\alpha \Big) \cong \mathbf{R}(p_2)_* (t_x, \mathrm{id})_* \big(t_x^* K \otimes P_\alpha \big) \cong t_x^* K \otimes P_\alpha.$$

Now suppose that X and Y are two abelian varieties, whose derived categories $D^b(X) \cong D^b(Y)$ are equivalent. By Orlov's theorem, the equivalence is of the form

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_E \colon \mathrm{D}^b(X) \to \mathrm{D}^b(Y)$$

for an object $E \in D^b(X \times Y)$, unique up to isomorphism. We are going to associate to E an isomorphism of abelian varieties

$$\varphi_E \colon X \times \hat{X} \to Y \times \hat{Y},$$

by the following device. For each pair of closed points $(x,\alpha) \in X(k) \times \hat{X}(k)$, consider the auto-equivalence

$$T_{(x,\alpha)} \colon \mathrm{D}^b(X) \to \mathrm{D}^b(X)$$

and its conjugate by $\mathbf{R}\Phi_E$, which is

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_E \circ T_{(x,\alpha)} \circ \mathbf{R}\Phi_E^{-1} \colon \mathrm{D}^b(Y) \to \mathrm{D}^b(Y).$$

We'll argue below that this is again of the form $T_{\varphi_E(x,\alpha)}$ for a unique closed point $\varphi_E(x,\alpha) \in Y(k) \times \hat{Y}(k)$, starting from the fact that it is true for the closed point (0,0), because $T_{(0,0)} = \mathrm{id}$.

The following lemma will be useful in describing the quasi-inverse $\mathbf{R}\Phi_E^{-1}$ as an integral transform. For a complex $E \in \mathcal{D}^b(X \times Y)$, we define

$$E^{\vee} = \mathbf{R} \mathcal{H}om_{\mathscr{O}_{X \times Y}} (E, \mathscr{O}_{X \times Y}).$$

Compare the following lemma with the formula for the inverse of the Fourier-Mukai transform.

Lemma 19.2. Let $\mathbf{R}\Phi_E \colon D^b(X) \to D^b(Y)$ be an equivalence of categories. Then the quasi-inverse is again an integral transform, with kernel

$$E^{\vee} \otimes p_2^* \omega_Y [\dim Y].$$

Proof. The point is that the quasi-inverse $\mathbf{R}\Phi_E^{-1} \colon \mathrm{D}^b(Y) \to \mathrm{D}^b(X)$ is necessarily the left-adjoint of $\mathbf{R}\Phi_E \colon \mathrm{D}^b(X) \to \mathrm{D}^b(Y)$, because

$$\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathrm{D}^b(Y)}(A, \mathbf{R}\Phi_E(B)) \cong \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathrm{D}^b(X)}(\mathbf{R}\Phi_E^{-1}(A), B).$$

We can easily derive a formula for the left-adjoint:

$$\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathrm{D}^{b}(Y)}\left(A, \mathbf{R}\Phi_{E}(B)\right) \cong \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathrm{D}^{b}(Y)}\left(A, \mathbf{R}(p_{2})_{*}(E \overset{\mathbf{L}}{\otimes} p_{1}^{*}B)\right)$$
$$\cong \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathrm{D}^{b}(X)}\left(p_{2}^{*}A, E \overset{\mathbf{L}}{\otimes} p_{1}^{*}B\right)$$
$$\cong \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathrm{D}^{b}(X)}\left(p_{2}^{*}A \overset{\mathbf{L}}{\otimes} E^{\vee}, p_{1}^{*}B\right).$$

The exceptional inverse image functor (from Grothendieck duality) is

$$p_1^! B = p_1^* B \otimes p_2^* \omega_Y [\dim Y],$$

and by using Grothendieck duality, we can continue the calculation from above:

$$\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathrm{D}^{b}(X)}\left(p_{2}^{*}A\overset{\mathbf{L}}{\otimes}E^{\vee},p_{1}^{*}B\right) \cong \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathrm{D}^{b}(X)}\left(p_{2}^{*}A\overset{\mathbf{L}}{\otimes}E^{\vee}\otimes p_{2}^{*}\omega_{Y}[Y],p_{1}^{!}B\right)$$
$$\cong \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathrm{D}^{b}(X)}\left(\mathbf{R}(p_{1})_{*}\left(p_{2}^{*}A\overset{\mathbf{L}}{\otimes}E^{\vee}\otimes p_{2}^{*}\omega_{Y}[Y]\right),B\right)$$

This proves that

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_E^{-1}(A) \cong \mathbf{R}(p_1)_* \left(p_2^* A \overset{\mathbf{L}}{\otimes} E^{\vee} \otimes p_2^* \omega_Y[Y] \right)$$

is equivalent to an integral transform.

Let's now return to our problem. Instead of trying to construct the isomorphism $\varphi_E \colon X \times \hat{X} \to Y \times \hat{Y}$ directly, we shall first define an equivalence

$$F_E : D^b(X \times \hat{X}) \to D^b(Y \times \hat{Y}),$$

and then argue that F_E actually comes from an isomorphism between $X \times \hat{X}$ and $Y \times \hat{Y}$. This equivalence fits into the following commutative diagram:

(19.3)
$$D^{b}(X \times \hat{X}) \xrightarrow{F_{E}} D^{b}(Y \times \hat{Y})$$

$$\downarrow^{\mathbf{R}\Phi_{A(X)}} \qquad \uparrow^{\mathbf{R}\Phi_{A(Y)}^{-1}}$$

$$D^{b}(X \times X) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}\Phi_{E} \times \mathbf{R}\Phi_{E}^{-1}} D^{b}(Y \times Y)$$

The vertical arrow is an equivalence

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_{A(X)} \colon \mathrm{D}^b(X \times \hat{X}) \to \mathrm{D}^b(X \times X)$$

that takes the skyscraper sheaf $k(x,\alpha)$ at a closed point $(x,\alpha) \in X(k) \times \hat{X}(\alpha)$ to the object in (19.1). Recall that this object is the kernel of the auto-equivalence $T_{(x,\alpha)} \colon \mathrm{D}^b(X) \to \mathrm{D}^b(X)$. Think of this as saying that $X \times \hat{X}$ is the parameter space for all of these auto-equivalences. The correct kernel is

$$A(X) = \mu_*(p_{32}^* P_X) \in D^b(X \times \hat{X} \times X \times X),$$

where the notation is as follows:

$$\begin{array}{c} X \times \hat{X} \times X \stackrel{\mu}{\longrightarrow} X \times \hat{X} \times X \times X \\ \downarrow^{p_{32}} \\ X \times \hat{X} \end{array}$$

The two morphisms act on closed points as

$$\mu(x,\alpha,y) = (x,\alpha,x+y,y)$$
 and $p_{32}(x,\alpha,y) = (y,\alpha)$.

With this choice, you can easily compute for yourself that

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_{A(X)}(k(x,\alpha)) \cong (t_x,\mathrm{id})_*(P_\alpha).$$

The other vertical arrow in (19.3) is the quasi-inverse to $\mathbf{R}\Phi_{A(Y)}$; one can get an explicit formula for the kernel from Lemma 19.2.

Exercise 19.1. Verify that $\mathbf{R}\Phi_{A(X)}$ is indeed an equivalence. (*Hint:* Write it as the composition of an automorphism of $X \times X$ and Mukai's Fourier transform.)

The horizontal arrow in (19.3) is conjugation by $\mathbf{R}\Phi_E$. If we set $g = \dim Y$, then the kernel for $\mathbf{R}\Phi_E^{-1}$ is $E^{\vee}[g]$, and so the kernel representing conjugation is

$$p_{13}^* E^{\vee}[g] \overset{\mathbf{L}}{\otimes} p_{24}^* E \in D^b(X \times X \times Y \times Y).$$

As the composition of three equivalences, $F_E \colon D^b(X \times \hat{X}) \to D^b(Y \times \hat{Y})$ is an equivalence. It is also an integral transform for some $\tilde{E} \in D^b(X \times \hat{X} \times Y \times \hat{Y})$. One can in principle derive a formula for the kernel \tilde{E} (using convolutions), but the actual formula doesn't matter for us. Here is Orlov's theorem.

Theorem 19.4. There is an isomorphism of abelian varieties

$$\varphi_E \colon X \times \hat{X} \to Y \times \hat{Y}$$

and a line bundle $N_E \in \text{Pic}(X \times \hat{X})$, such that

$$F_E = \mathbf{R}(\varphi_E)_* (N_E \otimes -).$$

Equivalently, the kernel representing F_E is

$$(\mathrm{id}, \varphi_E)_* N_E \in \mathrm{D}^b(X \times \hat{X} \times Y \times \hat{Y}).$$

We'll prove the theorem after looking at a few examples. A by-product of the construction is that for every pair of closed points $(x, \alpha) \in X(k) \times \hat{X}(k)$, the conjugated auto-equivalence

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_E \circ T_{(x,\alpha)} \circ \mathbf{R}\Phi_E^{-1} \cong T_{\varphi_E(x,\alpha)}$$

is again of the same form. We can rewrite this identity as

(19.5)
$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_E \circ T_{(x,\alpha)} \cong T_{\varphi_E(x,\alpha)} \circ \mathbf{R}\Phi_E.$$

As another exercise, you can compute the convolutions of the two kernels on each side. The result is that if $\varphi_E(x,\alpha) = (y,\beta)$, then one has

$$(19.6) (t_x \times \mathrm{id})_* (p_1^* P_{X,\alpha} \otimes E) \cong (\mathrm{id} \times t_y)^* E \otimes p_2^* P_{Y,\beta}$$

in $D^b(X \times Y)$. In other words, the automorphism φ_E records how the kernel E responds to translations and tensor products on both X and Y.

Example 19.7. Consider the Fourier transform $\mathbf{R}\Phi_P \colon \mathrm{D}^b(X) \to \mathrm{D}^b(\hat{X})$. Here $Y = \hat{X}$ and E = P; by symmetry, $\hat{Y} \cong X$ and $\hat{P} = \sigma^* P$. What is the isomorphism

$$\varphi_P \colon X \times \hat{X} \to \hat{X} \times X$$

in this case? We can figure out the answer with very little pain if we make use of (19.6). Suppose that $\varphi_P(x,\alpha) = (\alpha',x')$. Then

$$(t_x \times \mathrm{id})_* (p_1^* P_\alpha \otimes P) \cong (\mathrm{id} \times t_{\alpha'})^* P \otimes p_2^* \hat{P}_{x'}$$

on $X \times \hat{X}$. By the seesaw theorem,

$$(\mathrm{id} \times t_{\alpha'})^* P \cong P \otimes p_1^* P_{\alpha'}$$
 and $(t_x \times \mathrm{id})_* P \cong P \otimes p_2^* \hat{P}_{-x}$,

and so the identity from above becomes

$$p_1^* P_{\alpha} \otimes P \otimes p_2^* \hat{P}_{-x} \cong p_1^* P_{\alpha'} \otimes P \otimes p_2^* \hat{P}_{x'}.$$

Comparing the two sides, we find that $\alpha' = \alpha$ and x' = -x, and so

$$\varphi_P(x,\alpha) = (\alpha, -x).$$

This tells us how φ_P acts on closed points. Not surprisingly, one also has $N_P \cong P$ (but proving this takes a lot more work).

Here is another example where the line bundle N_E is nontrivial.

Example 19.8. Let $L \in \text{Pic}(X)$, and consider $L \otimes -: D^b(X) \to D^b(X)$. In this case, Y = X and $E = \Delta_* L$. Let's again determine

$$\varphi_E \colon X \times \hat{X} \to X \times \hat{X}$$

with the help of (19.6). Suppose that $\varphi_E(x,\alpha) = (y,\beta)$. Then

$$(t_x \times \mathrm{id})_* (p_1^* P_\alpha \otimes \Delta_* L) \cong (\mathrm{id} \times t_y)^* \Delta_* L \otimes p_2^* P_\beta$$

We can simplify the left-hand side using the diagram

$$X \xrightarrow{(t_x, \mathrm{id})} X \times X \xrightarrow{t_x \times \mathrm{id}} X \times X$$

$$\downarrow^{p_1} X$$

From the projection formula, we get

$$(t_x \times \mathrm{id})_* (p_1^* P_\alpha \otimes \Delta_* L) \cong (t_x \times \mathrm{id})_* \Delta_* (L \otimes P_\alpha) \cong (t_x, \mathrm{id})_* (L \otimes P_\alpha).$$

We can also simplify the right-hand side using the Cartesian diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \xrightarrow{(t_y, \mathrm{id})} X \times X \\ \downarrow^{t_y} & \downarrow^{\mathrm{id} \times t_y} \\ X \xrightarrow{\Delta} X \times X. \end{array}$$

Flat base change (for the automorphism id $\times t_y$ gives

$$(\mathrm{id} \times t_y)^* \Delta_* L \otimes p_2^* P_\beta \cong (t_y, \mathrm{id})_* t_y^* L \otimes p_2^* P_\beta.$$

If we compare the two sides of our original identity, we get

$$(t_x, \mathrm{id})_*(L \otimes P_\alpha) \cong (t_y, \mathrm{id})_* t_y^* L \otimes p_2^* P_\beta,$$

and therefore y = x and $L \otimes P_{\alpha} \cong t_x^* L \otimes P_{\beta}$. When we looked at line bundles on abelian varieties, we defined the homomorphism

$$\phi_L \colon X \to \hat{X}, \quad P_{\phi_L(x)} \cong t_x^* L \otimes L^{-1}.$$

Substituting this into the above formula, we get $\alpha = \beta + \phi_L(x)$, and so

$$\varphi_E \colon X \times \hat{X} \to X \times \hat{X}, \quad \varphi_E(x, \alpha) = (x, \alpha - \phi_L(x)).$$

When $L \in \text{Pic}^0(X)$ is translation invariant, φ_E is the identity; but otherwise, it isn't. One can also check that $N_E = p_1^*L$, and so the line bundle in Theorem 19.4 is nontrivial in this example.

Example 19.9. For the shift functor $[n]: D^b(X) \to D^b(X)$, we have Y = X and $E = \Delta_* \mathscr{O}_X[n]$. In this case, E^{\vee} has a shift by -n in it, and so the two cancel out; the result is that $\varphi_E = \operatorname{id}$ and $N_E = \mathscr{O}_{X \times \hat{X}}$. From the point of view of Theorem 19.4, a shift is therefore indistinguishable from the identity.

Proof of Orlov's theorem. Let's now prove Theorem 19.4. The equivalence

$$F_E : D^b(X \times \hat{X}) \to D^b(Y \times \hat{Y})$$

from (19.3) is an integral transform with a certain kernel $\tilde{E} \in D^b(X \times \hat{X} \times Y \times \hat{Y})$. It has two additional properties that we can make use of. The first is that

$$F_E(k(0,0)) \cong k(0,0).$$

Indeed, $\mathbf{R}\Phi_{A(X)}(k(0,0))$ is the kernel corresponding to $T_{(0,0)}$, which is the identity. Conjugating by $\mathbf{R}\Phi_E$ takes this to

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_E \circ T_{(0,0)} \circ \mathbf{R}\Phi_E^{-1} \cong T_{(0,0)},$$

because the identity of course commutes with $\mathbf{R}\Phi_E$. Under $\mathbf{R}\Phi_{A(Y)}^{-1}$, this goes back to the skyscraper sheaf k(0,0) at the closed point $(0,0) \in Y(k) \otimes \hat{Y}(k)$.

The second property is that F_E is something like a homomorphism. Suppose that (x_1, α_2) and (x_2, α_2) are closed points such that

$$F_E(k(x_i, \alpha_i)) \cong k(y_i, \beta_i)$$

for closed points $(y_i, \beta_i) \in Y(k) \otimes \hat{Y}(k)$. This means that

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_E \circ T_{(x_i,\alpha_i)} \circ \mathbf{R}\Phi_E^{-1} \cong T_{(y_i,\beta_i)}.$$

If we compose the two equivalences, we get

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_{E} \circ T_{(x_{1}+x_{2},\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2})} \circ \mathbf{R}\Phi_{E}^{-1} \cong \mathbf{R}\Phi_{E} \circ T_{(x_{1},\alpha_{1})} \circ T_{(x_{2},\alpha_{2})} \circ \mathbf{R}\Phi_{E}^{-1}$$

$$\cong \mathbf{R}\Phi_{E} \circ T_{(x_{1},\alpha_{1})} \circ \mathbf{R}\Phi_{E}^{-1} \circ \mathbf{R}\Phi_{E} \circ T_{(x_{2},\alpha_{2})} \circ \mathbf{R}\Phi_{E}^{-1}$$

$$\cong T_{(y_{1},\beta_{1})} \circ T_{(y_{2},\beta_{2})} \cong T_{(y_{1}+y_{2},\beta_{1}+\beta_{2})},$$

because $t_{x_1} \circ t_{x_2} = t_{x_1+x_2}$ and $P_{\alpha_1} \otimes P_{\alpha_2} \cong P_{\alpha_1+\alpha_2}$. This is saying that the set

$$\{(x,\alpha) \in X(k) \times \hat{X}(k) \mid F_E(k(x,\alpha)) \cong k(y,\beta) \text{ for some } (y,\beta) \in Y(k) \times \hat{Y}(k) \}$$

is a subgroup of $X(k) \times \hat{X}(k)$. (In fact, we have shown that it contains the zero element and is closed under addition.)

Theorem 19.4 is therefore a consequence of the following abstract result about derived equivalences between abelian varieties. (The point is that the notation becomes much simpler if we consider arbitrary abelian varieties!)

Proposition 19.10. Let X, Y be abelian varieties, and let $\mathbf{R}\Phi_E \colon D^b(X) \to D^b(Y)$ be an equivalence. If the set

$$\{x \in X(k) \mid \mathbf{R}\Phi_E(k(x)) \cong k(y) \text{ for some } y \in Y(k)\}$$

is a subgroup of X(k), then $E \cong (\operatorname{id} \times \varphi)_* N$ for an isomorphism $\varphi \colon X \to Y$ and a line bundle $N \in \operatorname{Pic}(X)$.

Proof. For each closed point $x \in X(k)$, we set $E_x = E|_{\{x\}\times Y}$, so that

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_P(k(x)) = E_x \in \mathrm{D}^b(Y).$$

As usual, we view these as a family of objects in the derived category $D^b(Y)$, parametrized by the closed points of X. They form an algebraic family because $E \in D^b(X \times Y)$ is a bounded complex of coherent sheaves on the product.

Let's first argue that E must be supported on the graph of a homomorphism $\varphi \colon X \to Y$. Let $S = \operatorname{Supp} E$ be the support of the complex E (= the union of the supports of all its cohomology sheaves). This is a closed subset of $X \times Y$. Consider the projection $p_1 \colon S \to X$. Because $E_0 \cong k(0)$, we know that $p_1^{-1}(0) = \{0\}$. By the theorem about fiber dimensions, the set of $x \in X(k)$ such that $\dim p_1^{-1}(x) = 0$ is the set of closed points of an open subscheme $U \subseteq X$; of course, $0 \in U(k)$. This means that E_x is supported on a finite set of points for $x \in U(k)$.

Because $\mathbf{R}\Phi_E$ is an equivalence, it is in particular fully faithful, and therefore

$$\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}^b(Y)}(E_x, E_x) \cong \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}^b(X)}(k(x), k(x)) \cong k.$$

If Supp E_x was two or more points, then E_x would split as a direct sum of complexes supported at each point, and then the left-hand side would have dimension ≥ 2 . Similarly, if E_x had more than one nontrivial cohomology sheaf, we could again decompose E_x and get too many endomorphisms. Since $E_0 \cong k(0)$, it follows that for $x \in U(k)$, the complex E_x is actually a sheaf supported at a single closed point in Y(k). If we denote this closed point by $\varphi(x) \in Y(k)$, then $\varphi \colon U \to Y$ is a morphism (because its graph is $S \cap U \times Y$). Now in fact

$$E_x \cong k(\varphi(x));$$

indeed, you can easily check that if M is a finitely-generated module over a local k-algebra (A, \mathfrak{m}) such that $\operatorname{Supp} M = \{\mathfrak{m}\}$ and $\operatorname{Hom}_A(M, M) \cong k$, then $M \cong k$.

This says of course that U(k) is contained in the subgroup

$$\{x \in X(k) \mid \mathbf{R}\Phi_E(k(x)) \cong k(y) \text{ for some } y \in Y(k) \}.$$

Because X is an abelian variety, any open neighborhood of 0 generates X as a group; therefore U=X, the morphism φ is defined on all of X, and $E_x\cong k\big(\varphi(x)\big)$ for every $x\in X(k)$. Since we also know that $\varphi(0)=0$, we see that $\varphi\colon X\to Y$ is a homomorphism. It then follows from Nakayama's lemma that

$$E \cong (\mathrm{id}, \varphi)_* N$$

for a line bundle $N \in \text{Pic}(X)$. It is a line bundle because its stalk at every point is a one-dimensional k-vector space. Therefore

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi_E \cong \mathbf{R}\varphi_*(N \otimes -),$$

and this can only be an equivalence if $\varphi \colon X \to Y$ is an isomorphism.