



Beta ensembles, stochastic Airy spectrum, and a diffusion

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Joint work with B. Rider and B. Virag. We prove that the largest eigenvalues of the general beta ensembles of Random Matrix Theory, properly centered and scaled, converge in distribution to the law of the low lying eigenvalues of a random operator of Schrödinger type. Based on this convergence, we provide a new characterization of the Tracy-Widom type laws in terms of the explosion/non-explosion a one-dimensional diffusion. The proofs rely on the associated tri-diagonal matrix models, and thus on earlier work of A. Edelman, I. Dumitriu, and B. Sutton.