

COALESCENTS AND BRANCHING PROCESSES : HOW FAST DO THEY COME DOWN FROM INFINITY ?

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ABSTRACT. The main focus of this talk will be on the way coalescents come down from infinity, and in particular on the asymptotic behavior of the number of blocks in small time. Recent results of Berestycki et al. and Bertoin and Le Gall give this behavior in special cases. By exploiting a connection that we obtain between the small-time behavior of Lambda-coalescents on the one hand, and branching processes and continuous random trees on the other hand, we derive a general formula. This point of view connects in a unified way several recent results of Bertoin and Le Gall, Birkner et al., and Berestycki et al.

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