On asymptotics of exchangeable coalescents with multiple collisions

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Abstract

Analytic techniques (singularity analysis) and probabilistic methods (coupling) are used to derive the asymptotics of the number of collisions, X_n , of an exchangeable coalescent with multiple collisions (Λ -coalescent) which starts with n particles.

The possible limiting laws of X_n include normal, stable with index $1 \le \alpha < 2$, Mittag-Leffler, and distributions of exponential integrals of subordinators. The results are in particular applied to beta-coalescents. The type of the limiting law of X_n depends on the finiteness or infiniteness of the measures $x^{-1}\Lambda(dx)$ and $x^{-2}\Lambda(dx)$.

The approaches allow to derive the asymptotics of other functionals of the coalescent, the absorption time, the length of an external branch chosen at random from the n external branches, and the number of collision events that occur before the randomly selected external branch coalesces with one of its neighbours.

Extensions to coalescents with simultaneous multiple collisions (Ξ -coalescents) are discussed.