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**Laura Eslava\*** ([laura.eslavafernandez@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:laura.eslavafernandez@mail.mcgill.ca)), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Burnside Hall, McGill University, Room 1005 – 805 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec H1X2B5, Canada. *Depth of high-degree vertices in Random Recursive Trees*. Preliminary report.

A random recursive tree  $T_n$  is constructed, recursively, by adding to  $T_{n-1}$  a new vertex labelled  $n$  attached to a uniformly chosen vertex in  $T_{n-1}$ ; we start with  $T_1$  being a single vertex labelled 1.

We will be concern with the degree and depth of a vertex  $i$ . Two known results for a uniformly chosen vertex in  $T_n$  is that its degree converges in distribution to a geometric r.v. with mean  $1/2$  and that its depth is normally asymptotic. On the other hand, the maximum degree  $\Delta_n$  of  $T_n$  is known to satisfy the almost sure convergence  $\Delta_n/\log n \rightarrow 1$ ; however, little was known about the properties of vertices with near-maximum degree.

In this talk we present an alternative construction of  $T_n$  which is based on Kingman's coalescent and is also related to the data structure tree known as 'Union-Find'. This gives us a new insight on both the degree and depth of its vertices.

Broadly speaking, we prove the asymptotic independent normality of the depth of vertices with near-maximum degree. More precisely, we describe the convergence (along suitable subsequences) of a marked point process where, for each vertex in  $T_n$ , we place a particle at its 'shifted-degree' and mark it with a renormalization of its depth. (Received June 16, 2016)