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**Invariance principle for local times in regenerative settings**

Consider a stochastic process $X$, regenerative at a state $x$ which is regular. Let $L$ be a regenerative local time for $X$ at $x$. Suppose that $X$ can be approximated by regenerative processes $X^n$ for which $x$ is accessible. In this talk we describe conditions under which a naturally defined local time at $x$ of $X^n$ converges weakly to $L$. This invariance principle generalises previous invariance principles that have appeared in the literature. Some new applications will also be presented. This is joint work with Geronimo Uribe Bravo.