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*Extrema of branching random walks and log-correlated fields*

In this talk, I will discuss in an introductory manner the study of extrema of branching random walks and its application to the wider class of log-correlated fields, which includes the logarithm of the Riemann zeta function on short intervals of the critical line and the logarithm of the characteristic polynomial of random matrices. Moreover, I will present some recent results that fit into this general picture.