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**Alexei Borodin\***, Department of Mathematics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125. *From random permutations to random matrices — an alternative for RSK*

The Robinson-Schensted-Knuth correspondence played a central role in evaluating the asymptotics of the longest increasing subsequence of random permutations (Baik-Deift-Johansson theorem) and in similar problems. The goal of the talk is to describe a different, somewhat simpler combinatorial procedure that relates random (generalized) permutations to random matrix like distributions. (Received September 28, 2009)