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Karel Casteels* (casteels@math.ucsb.edu), Dept. of Mathematics, UC, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106. *Quantum Matrices by Paths*. Preliminary report.

We show how the canonical generators of the algebra of $m \times n$ quantum matrices may be interpreted as a weighted sum of paths in a certain directed graph (weighted by elements of the $m \times n$ quantum torus). We'll show how this viewpoint allows for simplified/new/intuitive proofs of known results concerning the prime spectrum of the algebra. (Received August 30, 2011)