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Joshua Cooper* (cooper@math.sc.edu), 1523 Greene St, Columbia, SC 29208, and **Hays Whitlatch** and **Peter Gartland**. *Minimum Bottleneck Weight of Random Pressing Sequences and Related Processes*. Preliminary report.

The “Pressing Game Conjecture” of Bixby, Flint, and Miklós asks whether a certain kind of Markov Chain mixes; if so, it can be used to sample from evolutionary histories connecting two organisms’ genomes. We show that this is really a question about the minimum bottleneck weight of a certain metric space (permutations equipped with edit distance), and argue that a random instance is likely to provide a counterexample. This involves analyzing the geometry of a few random processes of increasing similarity to the pressing sequences of a random (simple pseudo-)graph. (Received January 28, 2019)