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Anne Schilling* (anne@math.ucdavis.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616-8633. *Virtual crystal structure on rigged configurations*. Preliminary report.

Rigged configurations are combinatorial objects originating from the Bethe Ansatz, that label highest weight crystal elements. Here the new set of unrestricted rigged configurations is introduced by constructing a crystal structure on the set of rigged configurations. For simply-laced types this is done via a local characterization of crystals as given by Stembridge. For nonsimply-laced types the method of virtual crystals is used. If time permits we will also present some recent conjectures on the crystal structure of ribbon rigged configurations. (Received March 06, 2006)