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On distribution of surface extrema in several one- and  
two-dimensional random landscapes and statistics of permutations

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We consider the problems which can be analyzed using the image of a sequential ballistic deposition in a finite box. We analyze the structure of enveloping surface in  $1 + 1$  and in  $2 + 1$  dimensions and calculate the distribution function of number of local “peaks” of such a surface. Our computation uses two facts : (a) the uniform one-dimensional ballistic growth process in the steady state can be formulated in terms of “rise-and-descent” patterns in the ensemble of random permutation matrices, and (b) the statistics of “rises” and “descents” in random permutations can be described in terms of a certain continuous-space Hammersley-type process. Some application to growth of objects with braid-like topology in  $1+1$ - and in  $2+1$  dimensions are also described.