

- (1) Find the point on  $x^2 - z^2 = 1$  closest to the origin.
- (2) Prove that the arithmetic mean is always greater than or equal to the geometric mean:

$$(x_1 x_2 \cdots x_n)^{1/n} \leq \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n}{n}$$

where  $x_i \geq 0$ . *Hint: Maximize  $f(y_1, \dots, y_n) = y_1 \cdots y_n$  subject to  $g(y_1, \dots, y_n) = y_1 + \cdots + y_n = 1$  where  $y_i \geq 0$ .*

- (3) A light ray travels from point A to point B crossing a boundary between two media (say the interface is along  $\{y = 0\}$ ). In the first medium its speed is  $v_1$ , and in the second it is  $v_2$ . Show that the trip is made in minimum time when Snell's law holds:

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{v_1} = \frac{\sin \theta_2}{v_2}$$

where  $\theta_1$  is the angle between the ray of light in the first medium with the normal to the interface (the vector  $e_2 = (0, 1)$ ) and  $\theta_2$  be the angle in the second medium.

- (4) Find the shortest distances between the points of the line  $x + y = 8$  and the ellipse  $x^2 + 2y^2 = 6$ . *Hint: Pick a point  $(u, v)$  on the line and a point  $(x, y)$  on the ellipse, and minimize the distance between the two points.*

- (5) <sup>1</sup> A die shows  $k$  with probability  $p_k$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 6$ . Consider the vector  $\vec{p} = (p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5, p_6)$ , where  $\sum_{i=1}^6 p_i = 1$ . This vector is called the probability distribution of the die. The **entropy** of the die is defined as

$$f(\vec{p}) = - \sum_{i=1}^6 p_i \log p_i.$$

Find the distributions  $\vec{p}$  that minimizes and maximizes the entropy.

**(Extra)** <sup>1</sup> *Marsden & Tromba: §3.2 #6, 9; §3.3 #12, 23, 29, 42; §3.4 #4, 12, 30.*

<sup>1</sup>Not to appear on quiz.