MATH 211: 9-18 WORKSHEET

- (1) The density of a length of wire is given by the function $\rho(x) = 2 + e^{-x}$, where $0 \le x \le 3$ and $\rho(x)$ is measured in grams per centimeter. Determine the mass of the wire, its moment, and its center of mass.
- (2) You are out mushroom hunting on the Simon's Rock campus. Your field guide tells you that the diameters for the caps of a certain species of mushrooms are described by the probability distribution function

$$\rho(x) = -\frac{x^2}{72} + \frac{x}{6} - \frac{5}{18}, \qquad 4 \le x \le 10,$$

where $\rho(x)$ is measured in centimeters. Check that $\rho(x)$ is indeed a probability distribution function (i.e. that its total integral = 1). What is the mean diameter of a randomly collected mushroom? What is the probability that a randomly collected mushroom has a diameter larger than the mean?