

5. (a) Denoting the travel time and distance from San Antonio to Houston as T and D , respectively, the average speed is

$$s_{\text{avg } 1} = \frac{D}{T} = \frac{(55 \text{ km/h})\frac{T}{2} + (90 \text{ km/h})\frac{T}{2}}{T} = 72.5 \text{ km/h}$$

which should be rounded to 73 km/h.

- (b) Using the fact that time = distance/speed while the speed is constant, we find

$$s_{\text{avg } 2} = \frac{D}{T} = \frac{D}{\frac{D/2}{55 \text{ km/h}} + \frac{D/2}{90 \text{ km/h}}} = 68.3 \text{ km/h}$$

which should be rounded to 68 km/h.

- (c) The total distance traveled ($2D$) must not be confused with the net displacement (zero). We obtain for the two-way trip

$$s_{\text{avg}} = \frac{2D}{\frac{D}{72.5 \text{ km/h}} + \frac{D}{68.3 \text{ km/h}}} = 70 \text{ km/h} .$$

- (d) Since the net displacement vanishes, the average velocity for the trip in its entirety is zero.
- (e) In asking for a *sketch*, the problem is allowing the student to arbitrarily set the distance D (the intent is *not* to make the student go to an Atlas to look it up); the student can just as easily arbitrarily set T instead of D , as will be clear in the following discussion. In the interest of saving space, we briefly describe the graph (with kilometers-per-hour understood for the slopes): two contiguous line segments, the first having a slope of 55 and connecting the origin to $(t_1, x_1) = (T/2, 55T/2)$ and the second having a slope of 90 and connecting (t_1, x_1) to (T, D) where $D = (55 + 90)T/2$. The average velocity, from the graphical point of view, is the slope of a line drawn from the origin to (T, D) .