Aristotle (2021)*.* Loving

[Aristotle -- Virtue Ethics - Friendship: PHIL-2050-001-047-Spring 2021-XLIST | Bohannon](https://uvu.instructure.com/courses/519617/pages/aristotle-virtue-ethics-friendship?module_item_id=8147503)

The Limit of Love

Aristotle claims that only good and virtuous people are able to have true friends, and that those friends have to be good and alike in virtue. This argument states that evil, wicked, unvirtuous people can not have friends. Not only that but your friend is a friend for any reason beyond simply wanting to wish him goodwill then it is a faulty friendship that is bound to fail when the reason fades away. But the goodwill that you have built up with the other person will not fade away. To be specific Aristotle is referring to three types of friendships he calls utility, pleasure, and goodness. He believes that goodness is the only true type of friendship and the other two are bound to fail. Now through using the principles of calculus I am going to explain how Aristotle is wrong in his belief and how pleasure and utility can lead to true friendships.

In calculus there is a term called a “limit” what this is referring to is, the value that a function approaches as the input approaches some value. This is usually shown on a graph with the “function” being Y and the input being X. An example of this would be “the limit when X = 6 and Y = X is 6. This is because when X = 6, Y is approaching the number 6, and in this case it actually reaches the number 6, that means this function is continuous. But let’s say that the line on the graph had a gap in it, this time when X = 6 Y does not equal 6 instead Y = 8. This creates what we call a “discontinuity” the function is no longer continuous because the line breaks at X = 6 before continuing at xX= 7. There is just a small gap in the function, and this is where our limit comes in. While X = 6, Y=8 however if we say the limit of X=6 then Y=6. This is because as X approaches the number 6 Y approaches the number 6. X never quote equals 6 it only equals 5.9999999999 so therefore Y=5.9999999999 and we can round that up to 6. So while X = 6 Y may equal but as X gets infinitely closer to 6 without ever reaching it then Y becomes infinitely closer to 5.999999999.

Now you may be wondering what this has to do with Aristotle’s friendships, and how I can apply calculus to prove his philosophy wrong? Well let’s take our previous example and replace some of the numbers and letters with somethings that we have learned from Aristotle. Let’s take our calculus graph and change it into a love graph. Change X into TF( True Friendship) and let’s change Y into PP(Passion Points) so instead of Y=X we have PP=TF this means that we have a continuous line that states when our true friendship increases so does our passion and so long as our passion doesn’t overcome our friendship the friendship will stay true. Now let add the last piece of the function. Instead of X=6, Y=8 let’s change it to TF=6, PP=8. This is when we run into the problem, at this exact point our passion overcomes the friendship, and this is where the love fails let’s call this point FF(Failed Friendship). This FF is the gap in the line that we must pass in order to be able to keep our friendship that was built on passion and to do that we bring out limits. We need to find the Limit of TF=FF, in other words we need to find the point on the love graph as our true friendship is approaching the point that our passion will overcome our friendship and lead to a failed friendship. Let’s call this point of true friendship as it approaches failed friendship, HM(Higher Moral). This means that as our passion increases to the point where it would lead to a failed friendship, we use the limit or we use higher morals. This higher morals pushes us past the point of failed friendship so we can continue along the love graph without fear of our passion overcoming our true friendship.