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Utilitarianism Chapters 3-4

At the beginning of chapter 4 Mill’s says that the principle of utilitarian proof falls into the same paradox as all reasoned truth, which is the proof is a way of thinking and not a physical result. I can prove a calculus derivative using an epsilon delta proof and show you why my answer is correct, but I can’t show you all the situations you would encounter and need to apply utilitarianism. Thoughts and logic don’t fall into a traditional five senses group for us to make normal measurements and fall into the conceptually real paradox.

He says that utilitarianism doesn’t provide a desirable object, but it is something people will desire to do. You can argue all day long about whether happiness is an attainable status or not, but its hard to argue that people don’t want happiness. The want and benefits of people’s happiness is apparently good to anyone who shares the human experience, or at the very least we can agree that the absence of pain is a worthy goal. Which ever way you want to slice this argument it comes back to the aggregate good or pain free life for all people is a good thing.

Outside of mental incapacity it is very hard to reason why all people shouldn’t act in such a way that would promote that the good over all. If I had to offer some sort of a proof to show why this utility could achieve the best over all good I would show Dr. John Nash’s creation of the Nash Equilibrium. The equilibrium shows that if each person does the best for themselves while considering what’s best for others then everyone will receive an optimal result.