

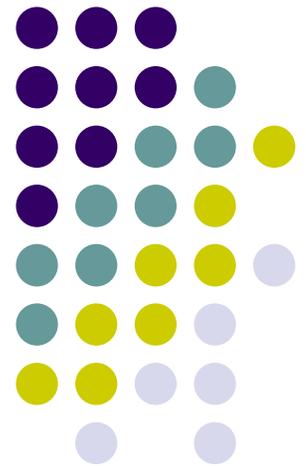
MENGAPA MENGEMBANGKAN ILMU

Oleh:

Hendra Gunawan

KK Analisis & Geometri

FMIPA ITB





Referensi

- Plato, “*Symposium*”, ~450 SM
[“Plato: Symposium and The Death of Socrates”,
Wordsworth Classics of World Literature, ed. Tom
Griffith]

Introduction: Plato's Immortality



Philosophy is a series of footnotes to Plato. [Whitehead]

All philosophic truth is Plato rightly divined; all philosophic error is Plato misunderstood. [Ferrier]



Plato's Theory of 'Forms'

- .. Each of the changing, multiple objects or qualities in the perceptible world only is what it imperfectly is because of its resemblance to an archetypal essence or Form, which is its underlying reality. It is the Forms alone that truly exist beyond our world of becoming.
- .. To acquire knowledge or virtue, we must discover them through their reflections here; or rather rediscover them, since we already knew them before being born. "Learning is recollection."

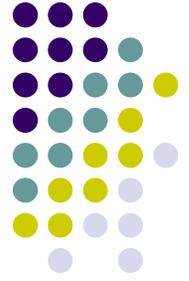
Knowledge & Opinion



We need knowledge (of particular things) by means of the senses.

We need opinion to trigger our recollection (and restoration) of true knowledge – knowledge of the Forms by means of reason or the soul.

Symposium (on the idea of love)



- Agathon – a writer of tragedies
- Socrates – a truth-loving eccentric
- Phaedrus – an idealist
- Pausanias – a realist, Agathon’s lover
- Aristopanes – a writer of comedies
- Eryximachus – a doctor
- Alcibiades – a politician and playboy

Each of them speaks in the praise of Eros.



The Speeches (1)

- Phaedrus: Eros is a great god, a marvel to men and gods alike.
- Pausanias: There are two Eros, Heavenly Eros and Common Eros. Some sorts of love come from heavenly goddess, some others derive from common goddess.
- Eryximachus: Eros is aroused by many other things as well, he is also found in nature – in the physical life of animals, in plants, and in virtually all living organisms.



The Speeches (2)

- Aristophanes: Eros is the most friendly towards men. Originally there were three sexes, each cut into two halves, etc.
- Agathon: Eros is the most beautiful and the best.



Socrates' Speech (1)

- A man who desires something desires what is not available to him.
- Eros has love of beauty.
- So, Eros must lack beauty.
- What is good is also beautiful.
- So, Eros would lack what is good also.



Socrates' Speech (2)

- In reproduction, there is the divine element, this germ of immortality, in mortal creatures – i.e. conception and begetting.
- Begetting is, by human standards, something eternal and undying.
- So, if we were right in describing live as the desire always to possess the good, then the inevitable conclusion is that we desire immortality as well as goodness.



Socrates' Speech (3)

- Love must be desire for immortality as much as for beauty.
- What is mortal tries, to the best of its ability, is to be everlasting and immortal, by always leaving a successor to replace what decays.
- And when we come to knowledge, the situation is even odder. What we call studying presupposes that knowledge is transient. Forgetting is loss of knowledge, and studying preserves knowledge by creating memory afresh in us, to replace what is loss. Hence we have the illusion of continuing knowledge.



Socrates' Speech (4)

- It's not surprising that everything naturally values its own offspring. They all feel this concern, and this love, because of their desire for immortality.
- The desire for undying nobility, and the good reputation which goes with it, is a universal human motive. The nobler people are, the more strongly they feel it. They desire immortality.



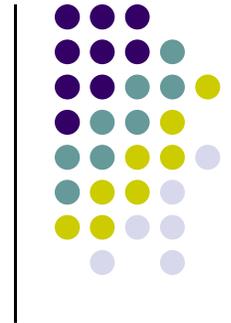
Socrates' Speech (5)

- Those whose creative urge is physical tend to turn to women and pursue Eros by this route. The production of children gains them, as they imagine, immortality and a name and happiness for themselves, for all time.
- In other impulse is mental or spiritual – people who are creative mentally, much more than physically. They produce what you would expect the mind to conceive and produce. And what is that? Thought, and all other human excellence.

Three Routes to Immortality



- Physical → Offspring
- Mental → Knowledge
- Spiritual → Beliefs, Religions, the Concept of Heaven, the urge to do good deeds



Discussion & Reflection