OBJECTS, PROPERTIES, AND STRUCTURES

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In philosophy of mathematics we talk about objects, properties, and structures, but it is not clear what distinctions we want to make and how to justify those we make. Numbers are objects, sets are objects, but functions are not objects. Nevertheless a function can be a set, and a number can be a property. Moreover, we can have a theory where our "objects" (individuals) are properties. The structure of the natural numbers can be characterized through the successor function, but this only characterizes an ω structure and there is no saying which ω structure is the natural numbers. In my talk I explore these questions in some detail and conclude that our usual way of talking about mathematical (and other) entities is both confusing and inadequate.