Structure Abstraction

Ever since Dedekind, defenders of non-eliminative mathematical structuralism have often regarded pure mathematical structures or patterns as obtainable by some sort of abstraction from particular systems that instantiate the structure in question. In earlier work, I have investigated the prospects for a broadly Fregean approach to this sort of abstraction and concluded that the pure positions that occur in pure structures pose a serious obstacle. In this talk, I revisit the approach, paying special attention to the characterization of structural properties and the question of whether a more holistic approach to pure positions might fare better than the approach explored in earlier work.