

Concretes may be distinguished as being of three types: (1) **events**; (2) **individuals** (including **existents**); and (3) **aggregates**.

Events and individuals are, each in its way, singulars, in contrast to aggregates, which are plurals—groups or collections of singulars, whether events or individuals. An aggregate may be distinguished from the singulars comprising it if, as a group or collection of individuals or events, it has relatively less unity than any of these individuals or events as such. Put differently, the unity of an aggregate, such as it may be, is neither that distinctive of an event nor that distinctive of an individual.

The distinctive unity of an event is constituted by its *strict* identity as an event. Its identity is strict because it has, or is essentially qualified by, *all* of its properties

The distinctive unity of an individual, on the other hand, is constituted by its *genetic* identity as an individual. Its identity is genetic because it has, or is essentially qualified by, *only some* of its properties, while it has or is qualified by other of its properties only accidentally. Thus, even if it had many different properties from those it in fact has, it would still be the same individual.

An aggregate is distinguished from a singular, whether event or individual, because it has relatively less unity as an aggregate than any of the singulars comprised within it. It has relatively less unity than any of the singulars comprising it because such unity as it has is neither the strict identity of an event nor the genetic identity of an individual.

Therefore, although all types of concretes are both one and many, each type of concrete is both one and many in its own distinctive way. An event is one and many in the distinctive way constituted by its strict identity as an event; that is to say, it so has, or is so essentially qualified by, all of the many other events and properties to which it is internally related that if even a single element in this many were otherwise, it would have different properties and would therefore be

a different event. An individual, by contrast, is one and many in the distinctive way constituted by its genetic identity as an individual; that is to say, it so has, or is so essentially qualified by, only some of the many other events and properties to which it is internally related that it would still be the same individual even if other of these events and properties were different and it therefore had many different properties from those it in fact has. Finally, an aggregate is one and many in the distinctive way constituted by its having neither the strict identity of an event nor the genetic identity of an individual.

11 October 1991; rev. 31 July 2002