

## Uniform Dimensionality across the board: *many* oranges & morpho-syntactic opacity.

**1.Introduction.** *much* and *many* are Q(uality)-morphemes that introduce a measure function  $\mu$ . According to **Uniform Dimensionality (UD)** (Hackl 2000; Solt 2009, 2015; Wellwood 2018), *much* is underspecified for the dimension of measurement while *many* can only denote CARD(inality): *much coffee* = [VOL(ume)], *much furniture* = [CARD] vs. *many coffees* = [CARD, \*VOL]. However, Snyder (2021) has recently challenged **UD** arguing, based on data like (1), that *many* like *much* can associate with different dimensions of measurement. We call this alternative **Multiform Dimensionality (MD)**. Snyder does not report any variation, but we have found based on data from 12 speakers of American English that not everyone accepts the VOL interpretation; hence the %.

- (1) [Making punch. Mary squeezes 5 normal sized oranges pouring the pulp into her punch. John does the same with 10 small oranges, exactly half the size of Mary's.]

Mary put as many oranges in the punch as John [ #CARD., %VOL.]

In addition to reviewing the English data, we present data from Italian & Spanish, and **argue that we must not abandon UD. In fact, *many* cross-linguistically measures cardinalities, and when it seems like it does not, this is due to morpho-syntactic opacity:** whether plural has the expected semantic effect depends on whether it is in the scope of MUCH.

**2.Many = VOL.** Snyder claims that, like container nouns (e.g. *glass*), plural count nouns like *oranges* are ambiguous between an individuating (CARD) and a measuring (VOL) interpretation, and reports that when combined with *many*, the ambiguity still holds. Snyder takes equatives (1) and answers to *how many* questions (2) as evidence for **MD**. However, *that many* in (3) cannot anaphorically reference VOL, only CARD. Although Snyder (2021, 541) claims (3) is not a problem if we “abandon the assumption that measure contexts always induce measure interpretations”, such a move undermines the proposal, given that the main motivation is this alleged ambiguity.

- (2) [John knows that Mary needs 5lbs of orange pulp, but she is unsure if John has purchased enough oranges.] Mary: How many oranges did you buy? John: {5 oranges/ %5lbs.}

- (3) [John and Mary both begin with 5 oranges, though her oranges are exactly half the size of his. They pulverize their oranges, pouring the resulting orange pulp into their punches.]

John: I put 5 oranges in my punch. Mary: I put that many oranges too. [CARD., \*VOL]

**3.Spanish & Italian.** The Q-morpheme *tant-* “much” agrees in  $\phi$  with the NP. The *much-many* distinction is marked by plural agreement (cp. suppletion in English). For the VOL interpretation, *tant-* must be univocally singular; if plural, it is only CARD: (4) and (5). Neither equatives (6) nor anaphoric *that many* (7) can denote VOL. In fact, *tant-PL* is equivalent to *that number*, but not to *that amount*. Only a *how many* question in a context like (2) can be answered in terms of VOL (8).

- (4) tant-a naranja (SP) (5) tant-as naranja-s (SP)  
 tant-a arancia (IT) tant-e arance (IT)  
 much-F orange.F much-F.PL orange.F.PL  
 ‘(as) much orange [\*CARD., VOL] ‘(as) much orange [CARD., \*VOL]
- (6) a. María ha puesto tant-as naranjas como Juan (SP)  
 Maria has put much-F.PL orange.F.PL as John  
 b. Maria ha messo tant-e arance quante Gianni (IT)  
 Maria has put much-F.PL orange.F.PL how.much John  
 ‘María has put as many oranges as Juan has [CARD., \*VOL]’
- (7) [María (a Juan)]: he puesto { tant-as/ ese número/ \*esa cantidad}. (SP)  
 [Maria (a Gianni)]: Ho messo { tant-e/ quel numero/ \*quella quantità} (IT)  
 Maria to John have.I put much-F.PL that number that amount =(3)

- (8) Maria: cuánt-as            naranjas    has   comprado?   Juan: { 5 naranjas/    5lb}    (SP)  
       Maria: quant-e            arance        hai    comprato    Gianni: { 5 arance/    5lb}    (IT)  
       Maria how.much-F.PL orange.F.PL have bought?    John    5 orange.F.PL 5lb    =(2)

**4.MD does not hold.** None of Snyder’s (2021) crucial diagnostics pass in Spanish & Italian, which indicates that **MD** does not hold cross-linguistically. As to questions – the only test that passes in all three languages –, VOL can be due to independent issues of the semantics-pragmatics of questions (Groenendijk and Stokhof 1984; Simons 2000; Abrusán 2011): questions need not require a direct answer. An answer to (2) & (8) is felicitous only if John’s buying a particular volume of oranges contextually entails him buying a particular number of oranges. As a result, we take the Romance and (inconclusive) English data as evidence for debunking **MD**.

**5.many = much+PL.** We propose that MUCH (9) can be merged in two different syntactic positions in the nominal domain: Spec,NP (10), and Spec,NumP (11). The underspecified  $\mu$  is resolved by the syntactic context: if MUCH scopes over “portions of stuff”, then we get a dense measure function, e.g. VOL (10). But, if MUCH scopes over pluralities, then we get CARD (11).

- (9)  $\llbracket \text{MUCH/TANT-} \rrbracket = \lambda d. \lambda \alpha. \mu(\alpha) \geq d$   
 (10)  $\llbracket \text{NumP Num}_{[\mu\text{Num:PL}]} [\text{PL} [\text{IND} [\text{NP} [\text{DegP MUCH}] [\text{N'} orange_{[i\text{Num:PL}]}]]]] \rrbracket$  (*Low DegP*: VOL)  
 (11)  $\llbracket \text{NumP} [\text{DegP MUCH}] [\text{Num'} Num}_{[\mu\text{Num:PL}]} [\text{PL} [\text{IND} [\text{NP} orange_{[i\text{Num:PL}]}]]]] \rrbracket$  (*High DegP*: CARD)  
 Following Sauerland (2003), Scontras (2013), and Alexiadou (2019) a.o., we divorce morpho-syntactic number ( $\text{Num}_{[\mu\text{Num:PL}]}$ ) from semantic number (PL): the former is in charge of *Agree*(Num, NP) and is semantically uninterpretable; the latter applies to a set of atoms and returns those atoms and their sums (cf. Link 1983). The NP  $\llbracket orange \rrbracket$  is a property of portions of orange-stuff. IND maps  $\llbracket orange \rrbracket$  to a property of atomic entities (12) (Wellwood 2018, 2019), which [PL] then maps to a property of pluralities: (13), where  $xx$  is a plural variable and  $xx(x)$  means that  $x$  is an atom of  $xx$ .  
 (12)  $\llbracket \text{IND} \rrbracket = \lambda P_{\langle et \rangle} : \text{Anti} - at(P). \lambda y : \text{Atom}(y) \exists x (P(x) \wedge y \triangleright x)$   
 (13)  $\llbracket \text{PL} \rrbracket = \lambda P_{\langle et \rangle} : \text{Atomic}(P) \lambda xx. \forall x (xx(x) \rightarrow P(x))$

The denotation of the low  $\llbracket \text{DegP NP} \rrbracket$  before number semantics enters the derivation is in (14). On the contrary, when DegP is in Spec,NumP (15) obtains.

- (14)  $\llbracket \text{MUCH } orange \rrbracket = \lambda x. \mu_{\text{VOL}}(x) \geq d \wedge orange(x)$   
 (15)  $\llbracket \text{MUCH PL IND } orange \rrbracket = \lambda xx. \mu_{\text{CARD}}(xx) \geq d \wedge \forall y : \text{Atom}(y) [xx(y) \rightarrow \exists x [orange(x) \wedge y \triangleright x]]$

At PF, we need two different Vocabulary Insertion rules: (16). English examples like (17) in which the Vocabulary Insertion rule in (16a) has not applied support the low merger of MUCH in (10).

- (16) a.  $\text{MUCH} \rightarrow \text{many} / \_ \_ \text{NP}_{[i\text{Num:PL}]}$  (*Low DegP* = VOL)  
       b.  $\text{MUCH} \rightarrow \text{many} / \_ \_ \text{NumP}_{[\mu\text{Num:PL}]}$  (*High DegP* = CARD)  
 (17) %If you come by the farm, you can pick up as much oranges as you want. [\*CARD, VOL]

In Spanish and Italian, given that *tant*-PL only denotes CARD, and sentences like (17) are ungrammatical, only the high merger site of the DegP is compatible with plural NPs.

**6.Outlook.** The proposal predicts that there can be languages that make a morpho-syntactic distinction in the degree morpheme introducing  $\mu$  depending on what is being quantified over. This is borne out in the Norwegian comparative morpheme (Bhatt and Homer 2019): *mer(e)* is used to compare mass NPs, whereas *flere* is only compatible with plural count NPs.

**7.Conclusion.** We have shown that *many* cross-linguistically measures cardinalities, and when it does not, this is due to morpho-syntactic opacity: MUCH measures anti-atomic entities before number semantics and number morphology enter the derivation. This proposal ultimately allows for Snyder’s type grammars, while maintainig **UD** as a robust universal.