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## Mass-to-count coercion in ‘granular’ nouns

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**Background:** Nouns which denote entities that come in grains, granules, flakes, display cross- and intralinguistic variation in mass/count lexicalisation patterns (count *oats*, *lentil-s* vs. mass *oatmeal*, *čočka* (‘lentil’, Czech)). ‘Granular’ Ns exhibit puzzling restrictions regarding mass-to-count coercion. E.g., *rice* can be coerced into a portion (e.g. bowls) count reading: *Even with two rices between four of us, it didn’t all get eaten...<sup>1</sup>*), but strongly resists coercion into an individual unit reading: *??Three rice(s) fell of my fork.* (Int: GRAIN(S) OF *rice*). In this paper, we will provide a formal model of such puzzling restrictions on coercion.

**Proposal:** The account is based on but adapts Sutton & Filip (2016a,b) and is partly inspired by Chierchia (2010). All predicates are interpreted at precisification contexts  $\pi_i \in \Pi$  which model extension changes in predicates across contexts of use. For example, single grains of rice count as *rice* in some contexts (e.g. food allergy), but are too little in quantity to count as *rice* in others (e.g. making dinner). All mass nouns are saturated with the null precisification context in the lexicon,  $\pi_0: P_{\pi_0} = \bigcap P_{\pi_i \in \Pi}$  (at which only Ps that are Ps at all contexts are in P at  $\pi_0$ ). Single grains can be denoted using explicit unit extracting classifiers (e.g. *grain of*). This requires shifting the precisification context to one at which single grains are accessible. Portions can be denoted using explicit container classifier expressions (e.g. *bowl of*). These classifiers do not require a context shift. Classifiers triggered by numerals modifying mass Ns cannot induce the operation of re-writing the precisification context in the lexicon, hence single grains are inaccessible via mass-to-count coercion while whole portions are not.

**References:** • Chierchia, G. (2010): Mass nouns, vagueness and semantic variation. *Synthese* 174:99–149. • Sutton, P., Filip, H., (2016a): Mass/count variation, a mereological, two-dimensional semantics. Forthcoming in: The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic and Communication. • Sutton, P., Filip, H., (2016b): Counting in context. *SALT* 26, 350–370.

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<sup>1</sup><http://durhamfoodanddrink.com/gilesgate-tandoori-durham/> (accessed 10.2016)