

Chapter 4, Problem 3: COUNT and NUM

Examples (i) and (ii) suggest that both *rice* and *oats* are mass nouns, since they can take *much*, but not *many*, as a determiner. Examples (iii)–(vi) show that *rice* is singular, while *oats* is plural. Since there are both singular and plural count nouns, as well, (e.g. *dog* and *dogs*), all four possible combinations of count vs. mass and singular vs. plural nouns occur. This is what one would expect with two independent binary features, COUNT and NUM. A single three-valued feature would be inadequate (though a single four-valued feature could describe the situation).