

## How to disclaim precision about numbers

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1. **(NUM) APPROX** means ‘not much/many more than nor much less/many fewer than the quantity denoted by the numeral (with the speaker not vouching for any particular precise number of those within the relevant range)’
2. **Numerals** are lexical items (free or perhaps also bound), which (i) denote numbers, exclusively, primarily, or perhaps also secondarily (with primary denotations being, e.g., hands, feet, or other body parts); which (ii) can be used for counting (used on their own) and for quantifying (in construction with (numeral classifiers plus) items denoting whatever permits of quantification); and which (iii) form a word-class (fully or partly) grammatically distinct from other word-classes (determiner, quantifier, adjective, adverb, noun, verb), or perhaps also a distinct subclass of a more comprehensive word-class.
3. **Neither lexical nor grammatical means for NUM APPROX**
4. **Special approximate amount expressions other than numerals and without accompanying numeral:** PAUCAL, MULTAL  
English        MULT    *many/much, lots of, tons of, heaps of, a load of, countless, ...*  
                  PAUC    *(a) few/little, some, several, a couple-of, a handful, ...*
5. **Precise numerals culturally designated as also having approximate meaning;**  
prime candidates:
  - (i) “round” numbers, especially higher ones  
      (“round” numbers are “complete” numbers, ones where a counting cycle has come full circle, e.g. a round dozen, within a duodecimal frame-of-reference, otherwise tens and hundreds and thousands);
  - (ii) any arbitrary (?) numbers (for whatever reasons) attributed a symbolic value.
6. **Special approximate numerals**
  - (i) they are derived from parts of existing precise (high, round) numerals,

- (ii) represent mathematical formalism, or
- (iii) are borrowed (being precise numerals in the donor language, though designated for approximate meaning).

English	<p><i>ump-teen</i> (<i>ump</i> &lt; ?; OEtD, <i>umpty</i> = signaller's slang for 'dash' used in reading morse code messages; by association with numerals in <i>-ty</i> used for an indefinite fairly large number; whence <i>umpteen</i> after numerals in <i>-teen</i>)</p> <p><i>myriad</i> (&lt; Greek 10,000, via Latin)</p>
German	<p><i>zig</i> (regular suffix of complex numerals for tens),</p> <p><i>x</i> [iks] (i.e., the third last letter of the alphabet)</p> <p><i>zig</i> NOUN, <i>zigmäl</i>, <i>zigfach</i>, <i>zigtausend</i>, <i>zum zigsten Mal</i></p> <p>— i.e. a numeral of exactly the same kind as numerals for tens in <i>-zig</i>, non-inflecting, thus differing from low numerals</p> <p><i>Myriade(n)</i></p> <p><i>Schock</i> '60', but also 'Menge, Haufen', MHG <i>schoc</i> 'Haufen'</p>
Hungarian	<p><i>kis-millió</i></p> <p>small-million</p> <p>'too many' (derogative)</p>
Tagalog	<p>indefinite numerals, consisting of a repeated utterance of certain of the elements used in the formation of complex cardinal numbers;</p> <p>can be used interchangeably to indicate a large number</p> <p><i>daan-daan</i> 'hundreds' (<i>daan</i> = times one hundred)</p> <p><i>libu-libo</i> 'thousands' (<i>libo</i> = times one thousand)</p> <p><i>angaw-angaw</i> 'millions' (<i>angaw</i> = times one million!)</p> <p><i>milyon-milyon</i> 'millions' (less common)</p> <p>(Schachter &amp; Otnes 1972: 214)</p>
Udihe	<p><i>tume</i> 'ten hundred, thousand, very many',</p> <p>borrowed from Turkic <i>tuman</i></p>

## 7. Grammatical forms and constructions dedicated to just numerical approximation

### 7.1. dedicated approximative words

German	<i>circa</i> NUM: borrowed unchanged from Latin ( <i>circā</i> ‘around’, also used for approximation in the donor language, < local neighbourhood, an adnumeral derived from a prep) <i>plus minus</i> NUM: technical terms for mathematical operations of addition and subtraction, formally a compound
Dutch	<i>drie à vier; circa</i>
Italian	<i>all’incirca</i>
Qiang	NUM-CLASS-(H)a:n ‘about, approximately, more or less NUM’ the “modifier/quantifier”(H)a:n is apparently dedicated;

### 7.2. dedicated approximative inflection

Georgian	<i>svid+i-ode gogo-s</i> seven+NOM-APPROX girl-DAT <i>as-i-ode</i> 100-NOM-up.to (bound as seen in <i>as-i-ode-m</i> 100-i-up.to-ERG)
Udihe	<i>za:-mba ’ana</i> ten-APPROX boats
Meithei	<i>mENa-rom</i> five-APPROX

#### 7.2.1. bound to words in construction with numeral

Bavarian	(a) <i>Stuck-ar(a) fünf(e)</i> < <i>ein Stück einer fünf</i> ? ‘a piece a five’ <i>um-ara fünf</i> < <i>um einer fünf</i> ‘at a (=APPROX) 5 [o’clock]’ cf. reciprocal adverbs: <i>um-anand</i> , <i>um-ara-nand</i> (generally: disorder, perhaps indefiniteness; thus, not dedicated)
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### 7.3. dedicated approximative constructions (with no specially APPROX overt markers)

#### 7.3.1. syndetic disjunction of two (or perhaps more) neighbouring (round) numerals

looks like ordinary disjunctive coordination, but is subject to special constraints, as opposed to ordinary disjunction, presumably universal:

- (a) lower before higher numeral, irreversible order

*three or four, \*four or three*

(b) if more than two numerals: disjunctive connective not omissible

*two or three or four, \*two, three, or four*

### 7.3.2. postposed disjunct numeral

English        *a book or two*

cf. *one or two books, two or three books, twenty or thirty books*

*\*one book or two, \*two books or three, \*twenty books or thirty*

cf. for precise readings of numerals:

*Have you read one book or two? \*Have you read a book or two?*

without an overt first numeral:

*within the next hour or two, the last night or two, the patient or two*

Italian        *tre polli o quattro*

7.3.3. **asyndetic juxtaposition of two neighbouring numerals** (=syntactic combination),  
with combination perhaps so tight as to be a case of compounding (even lexicalisation);

rationale: not really giving alternatives (as if a disjunctive connective ‘or’ were omitted, being non-omissible in other constructions), but an (abbreviated) enumeration of those numbers falling within the admissible numerical range

German        *drei vier*

*fünf ZEHN* ‘something between 5 and 10’

(cf. *FÜNFzehn* ‘fifteen’, compound stress rule)

Dutch        *drie vier*

English        *\*three four*

but historically possible, continuing in dialects and in Scottish and  
American English

Dhivehi        *de-tin* ‘two-three’

Sinhala        *de-tun* ‘two-three’

Hungarian     *három vagy négy*

three or four

*három-négy*

three-four, a compound?

Turkish        *bir iki* ‘one two’, ‘a few’

	<i>iki üç ev</i> ‘two three house’	
	<i>beş altı tane</i> ‘five six piece’	
	<i>üç beş kuruş</i> ‘three five penny’, meaning ‘three or four’ ( <i>dört</i> ‘4’)	
	[esp. with money]	
	<i>beş on</i> ‘five ten’	
Georgian	<i>daaxloeb-it sam-i an otx-i çiçila çaikca</i>	
	approximation-with three-NOM or four-NOM chicken escaped	
	<i>daaxloeb-it sam-i-otx-i çiçila çaikca</i>	
	approximation-with three-NOM-four-NOM chicken escaped	
	a compound, with NOM <i>-i</i> a connecting vowel, as seen when the whole	
	is in a different case:	
	<i>sam-i-otx-ma biç-ma</i>	
	three- <i>i</i> -four-ERG boy-ERG	
	with higher round numerals this <i>-i</i> seems omissible	
Vietnamese	<i>mot hai</i>	
	one two, ten fifteen	
Motlav	François pc	
Hoava	<i>karu(a)kahike</i> ‘two or three’	
	<i>ka-rua</i> 2, <i>hike</i> 3; <i>k(a)-</i> is a numeral prefix, lexical with 1 and 2, and	
	added to the other numerals when used in NPs;	
Supyire	people two three, five six	
Basque?	<i>bizpahiru</i> ‘APPROX two or three’ ( <i>bi</i> 2, <i>hiru(r)</i> 3)	
	<i>hiruzpalau</i> ‘APPROX three or four’ ( <i>hiru(r)</i> 3, <i>lau</i> 4)	
	(“collocations” also possible for other numerals; <i>-zpa-</i> is not a conjunctive or	
	disjunctive connector; but what else? <i>-z</i> instrumental case, indefinite?)	
Korean	native numerals, not possible with Sino-Korean numerals	
	<i>handul</i> ‘one or two’	<i>hana + twul</i>
	<i>tuset (tue)</i> ‘two or three’	<i>twul + sěys</i>
	<i>senet (sene)</i> ‘three or four’	<i>sěys + něys</i>
	<i>tat</i> ‘four or five’	<i>něys + tases</i>
	<i>netetat</i> ‘four, five or six’	<i>tases + ?</i>
	<i>yenilkop</i> ‘six or seven’	<i>yeses + ilkop</i>
	<i>iryetel</i> ‘seven or eight’	<i>ilkop + yetel(p)</i>

<i>yetahop</i>	‘eight or nine’	<i>yetel(p) + ahop</i>
<i>yenamen, yeramen</i>	‘nine or ten’, ‘about ten’,	<i>yel</i> ‘ten’
	‘ten or a little more’	
	(cf. <i>amu, amo</i> ‘someone, something’)	

#### 7.3.4. reduplication/repetition of a numeral

is probably common to produce APPROX forms of certain high round numerals; formally similar to simple juxtaposition of different numerals, but would rarely seem to be dedicated to expressing numerical approximation

Fongbe	<i>ðégbà</i> ‘four thousand’
	<i>ðégbàðégbà</i> ‘thousands’
	<i>àfàt001</i> ‘one thousand’ (from 200 - 3800 built on 200-base)

#### 7.3.5. reordering of numeral relative to head noun

Russian and other East Slavonic

NUM N (=precise)	N NUM (=APPROX)
<i>pjat’ knig</i>	<i>knig pjat’</i>
five books	books five
	‘some five books’
<i>za pjat’ knig</i>	<i>za knig pjat’</i>
	knig za pjat’
for five books	

Bavarian	<i>a Stuck-a(-ra) fümfi Kinda</i>
	[a piece-PL(-APPROX) five] children
	<i>fümfi Kinda</i>
	(precisely) five children

### 8. (at least incipiently) grammatical forms which are multi/macro-functional, one function being numerical approximation

#### 8.1. general purpose approximation, regardless of historical source of expression

English	<i>approximately X</i>	derived adverb; basic term an adjective, or also a verb (but no grammaticalizing/lexicalizing changes)
German	<i>etwa X</i>	a complex local <u>indefinite-interrogative</u> pronoun,

forming part of a whole paradigm, has been rendered opaque and isolated (*etwa* < MHG *ēte-wār* ‘wherever’, with its second part distinct from *wo* ‘where’; compare *ēte-wēr* ‘whoever’, *ēte-wan* ‘whenever’, *ēte-was* ‘whatever’, with only the latter surviving) not dedicated: *etwa in der Mitte* ‘about in the middle’, *etwa in Leipzig* ‘perhaps in Leipzig’

*ungefähr X* a prepositional phrase disclaiming ill will and dishonesty, should a number prove not entirely accurate (< epistemic), underwent univerbation as an adverb, with its original component parts no longer transparent  
 < MHG *āne gevær(d)e* ‘without ill will’  
 not dedicated: *Er sagte ungefähr folgendes; ungefähr dort*  
 ‘he said APPROX the following; APPROX there’

Hungarian *nagyjából* ‘by and large’

Georgian ‘with nearness’

## 8.2. approximation in space: local neighbourhood

English *in the region of, close to NUM*

Hungarian *körül-belül* ‘around-within’

Italian *circa, all’incirca* — but formally in fact dedicated to approximation (also ‘concerning’), no longer literal meaning ‘around’

### 8.2.1. adnumerals (ex-local adpositions or adverbs)

morphosyntax: a specifically ad-numeral kind of modifier, grammaticalized from adpositions/adverbs in construction with entire noun phrase (Plank 2004)

semantics: local or also temporal neighbourhood, ‘in the region of’;  
 two (or three?) variations on this theme of “region”:  
 (a) around a centre, with boundaries unspecified;  
 (b) in a space (interval) with (perhaps somewhat indeterminate) boundaries around (or at beginning/bottom and/or at end top, when traversed);  
 (c) region identified through a landmark (not necessarily in the centre).

English (a) *about, around*

(b) *between LOWER NUM and/to HIGHER NUM*

German	<i>bis (zu), nahezu, beinahe, an die, unter, gegen, um die, über, ab</i>
Dutch	<i>om en bij de honderd kippen</i> 'around and close to 100 N'
Latvian	<i>lihds NUM</i> 'at most NUM', <i>lihds</i> a preposition, 'mit, zugleich, bis'
French	<i>environ</i> <i>près de dix hommes vinedront</i> 'close to 10 people will come' <i>autour de trois</i>
Chinese	Hagège 1982: 36-37, 44
Bantu	Hagège 1982: 36-37, 44
Georgian	'until', especially higher round numerals, 'until 100'
Hungarian	<i>száz körül</i> 100 around; can only be used with round numbers

#### 8.2.2. movement: coming from or going to

Chinese	<i>wu<sup>ˇ</sup> shí lái suì</i> 50 ? come years 'about 50 years old'
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#### 8.2.3. movement: vertical, up/down

Turkish	<i>üç aşağı beş yukarı</i> 3 down 5 up 'a little more or less' is an adverbial; this only works for 3 and 5
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#### 8.2.4. local/directional case marking

Dhivehi	dative case of the nominal form of the ordinal numeral, up to 60: <i>ha-ekk-as</i> six-NMN-DAT 'up to a six' (= APPROX six)
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#### 8.3. temporal neighbourhood, simultaneity, future

Nama	'be' + FUTURE five full-ten FUT COP person-3PL.MASC PAST 'there were approximately 5000 men'
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#### 8.4. thematic aboutness (approximation to a topic/subject matter)

English        *about*

#### 8.5. approximation and notions other than (based on) spatial

##### 8.5.1. speaker disclaiming knowledge and/or responsibility

##### 8.5.1.1. epistemic adjective or adverb: certainty (lower limit), uncertainty

German        *bestimmt/sicher/wohl/vielleicht NUM*

Dutch         *drie of misschien vier kippen*

Rhaeto-Romance often based on Latin *vere* ‘truly’

Italian        how many have escaped? -- *forse tre* ‘possibly three’ (\**circa tre*)

Hungarian    a what should I say fifty

##### 8.5.1.2. tendency for using **non-affirmative, non-realis mood, future tense**

Italian        *La mamma avrà più o meno sessanta*

German        *Mutter wird (so) (an die) sechzig sein*

Georgian     see below

##### 8.5.1.3. interrogative pronoun (how many?):

Motlav        three chickens or how many?

##### 8.5.1.4. “restricted randomness” (Bultinck)

Dutch        *pakweg honderd kippen ontsnappen*

take.away 100 chickens escaped

‘take your choice: 100 N’

general      let us say 100 chickens escaped

##### 8.5.1.5. concessive, conditional

general      lower NUM if not next higher NUM

three if not four

three chickens escaped, if it was not more/four

Hungarian    *száz-valahány*

hundred-however.many

### 8.5.2. disjunction

#### 8.5.2.1. non-exclusive disjunctive co-ordination of two or more neighbouring numerals

English        *two or three*

*fifty or sixty*

(vs. exclusive disjunction: Is 17 minus 14 two or three?)

#### 8.5.2.2. non-exclusive disjunctive co-ordination (or other syntactic or morphological combination) of a numeral and a deictic degree/amount word, or an interrogative expression

English        *five or so*

Hungarian     *harminc vagy hány tere*

thirty or how.many its.square

#### 8.5.3. indefiniteness: indefinite article or pronoun, free choice indefinite

rationale: Non-unique identifiability of a precise numerical value would thus be metaphorically derived from non-unique identifiability of a referent.

Bavarian        *(a) zwoar-a drei*

*(a) siam-a acht Bia*    < ein sieben ein acht Bier

only when there are two numerals in a row;

in earlier German *ein* accompanying a single numeral too

Dutch            *een tachtig à negentig kippen*

only round numerals?, only when two numerals are combined by *à*?

*zo'n honderd kippen* (only with 100, where 1 is there anyhow?)

Italian           *un dieci, un cinque*

with single (round) numerals

English          *NUM (or) whatever* (free choice indefinite: *whatever books*)

*a hundred* (vs. *(one) hundred*)?

*He read a hundred books* vs. *(one) hundred books*

Latvian          *lihds kahds NUM* 'at most some NUM'

*kahds* indef pro, 'irgendwelcher', interrog pro 'was für ein, welcher Art?'

Hungarian       *egy ötven ember*

INDEF.ART fifty people

usually only used with round numbers

Basque	<i>bat</i> numeral ‘one’, indef. article; <i>batzak</i> plural of <i>bat</i> , quantifier ‘some’ <i>etxe bat</i> ‘one house; a house’ <i>ume-ren bat</i> child-GEN one/a ‘some child or other’ <i>liburu bat-en bat</i> book indef-GEN indef ‘some book or other’ same construction with numerals (though genitive may be dropped): <i>hoge(-ren) bat</i> twenty(-GEN) indef ‘APPROX 20’
Cl. Tibetan	<i>dge.slong lnga. brgya. zhig.</i> monk five hundred INDEF ‘about 500 monks’ <i>zhig</i> an indefinite particle (‘one’), meaning APPROX after a numeral or a plural
Georgian	<i>erti orasi çiçila mainc çaiḱca</i> one two-hundred chicken at.least escaped ‘at least some two hundred chickens escaped’ <i>erti</i> cardinal numeral ‘one’, also ‘(ein)mal’ as in ‘komm mal her’, as APPROX apparently limited to combinations with <i>mainc</i> ‘at least’, or postposition ‘until/up to’

see further Heine & Kuteva (2002) on ‘ONE (NUMERAL) > (8) SOME’,  
mentioning Basque, Lezgian (clock times), Tamil, Yagaria, ||Ani, Seychelles Creole French;  
also alluding to the possibility of an opposite shift ‘some (more)’ + ‘plain, unmarked’ >  
numeral ‘one’.

#### 8.5.4. interrogative pronoun (how many?): ignorative, like indefinite

#### 8.5.5. definiteness: definite article

rationale: inclusiveness or totality of reference as model for the entire relevant region  
is to be taken into consideration as a possible amount

German	<i>an <u>die</u>, um <u>die</u></i>
Cl. Greek	
Dutch	<i>tussen de tachtig en de negentig kippen</i> (‘either precisely 80 or precisely 90’???, cf. <i>een tachtig à negentig kippen</i> , with indef article/‘one’, which could be true if, say, 78 chickens were involved) <i>om en bij de honderd/driëndertig N</i>

#### 8.5.6. **possessive** (related to definite?)

German *er trinkt jeden Tag (so) seine fünf Bier*

Italian *Il costo della macchina è sui 40 milioni*

#### 8.5.7. **showing (approximately) rather than specifying: (situation-)deictic degree or amount word, or also manner**

German *so (seine) NUM*  
(extended from adjectives of quality and quantity to numerals)

Dutch *zowat tachtig (tot negentig) kippen*  
*zowat drieëndertig kippen*  
*zo ongeveer honderd N*  
*zo'n honderd kippen* (only with 100, where 1 is there anyhow?)

Georgian *ase 'so'*  
*çaikca ase as-i çičila*  
escaped so hundred-NOM chicken

Hungarian *úgy 'in that way': úgy száz ember*  
so 100 persons  
*olyan 'of that kind': egy olyan száz méterre*  
a such 100 meters

#### 8.5.8. **limiting rather than specifying**

##### 8.5.8.1. **(positive) evaluative adjective or adverb**

German *gut (und gern) NUM*

English *a good three kilometers*

Rhaeto-Romance often based on Latin *bene* 'well'

Hungarian *jó száz méterre*  
good 100 metres

Italian *una diecina buona / una buona diecina di chilometri*  
*Lo stadio dista tre chilometri buoni / \*?tre buoni chilometri*

##### 8.5.8.2. **comparison** (a quantificational strategy, see below)

##### 8.5.8.2.1. **quantitative comparison of inequality: MORE (disjunctive connector) LESS**

Italian *più o meno NUM* 'more or less'

Polish *mniej więcej trzy kurczaki*

more less three chickens  
 Tagalog *h(um)igit-kumulang na/-ng NUM*  
 exceed-fall.short LINKER NUM  
 ‘more or less NUM’  
 equivalent to plural word *mga*, which does not take the linker, though

#### 8.5.8.2.2. **quantitative comparison of equality**

Italian *Maria ha quasi dieci anni*  
 Lele (Chadic) *gìna wèlè sùbù máàní*  
 like day three ANAPH  
 ‘about three days’  
*gìna* preposition ‘as, like’  
*máàní* propositional anaphor  
 anaphor to a previous proposition  
 reference to events: *kàyà máàní*  
 thing so/thus  
*tù gìna dùbàngú máàní*  
 goat like sheep ANAPH  
 ‘a goat is like a sheep’ (cf. deictic degree/amount word)

#### 8.5.8.3. **limitors** (see above, Comparison): not more than, not less than

English *at least, at most*  
 German *mindestens; fast*  
 Georgian *at least*

#### 8.5.8.4. **negator (upper limit)**

German *keine NUM*

#### 8.5.9. **grading: attenuation, diminution**

##### 8.5.9.1. **marking of numeral itself**

English *six-ish* (like *green-ish*)  
 Italian for decades: *-ina*  
*una trent-ina di polli* ‘about 30 chickens’  
*una dec-ina* ‘approx 10’ (base: *dieci*)

verb agreement in number either semantic (plural) or syntactic (singular)  
 cf. *grand-ino* ‘somewhat large, kind of big’  
 but synchronically perhaps a case of homonymy,  
 also *coqu-ina* ‘kitchen, place for cooking’

French *une cent-aine, trent-aine???*

#### 8.5.9.2. diminutive of noun in construction with numeral

Italian *un’ oretta* ‘about an hour’

German *drei Stündchen?*

#### 8.5.10. general adjectivalizing affix on numeral

Finnish *kolme* ‘3’

*kolm-isen vuotta* ‘about three years’

*viit-isen-sataa kanaa* ‘about 500 hens’

five-APPROX-hundred hens

*-ise, -isen, -inen* ‘made of, like, -ish, -ly, belonging to, of the nature of’

#### 8.5.11. exploiting quantificational resources: lexical and morphological

##### 8.5.11.1. generic designation of odd (as opposed to even) numbers

English *fifty-odd books*

= somewhat more than 50, but closer to 50 than to 60,

could well be an even number, e.g. 52 or 54

grammaticalized? a suffix? compare with *fifty odd books* NUM ADJ N

Qiang *hod<sub>u</sub>-ma-Xtʃe*

ten-NEG-stop

‘ten-odd’, ‘APPROX ten’ (apparently limited to ‘10’) (spatial: movement?)

##### 8.5.11.2. the noun ‘number’ (collective?, see below)

Swedish *ett tio-tal/hundra-tal arbetare*

a ten-/hundred-number workers

‘about 10/100 workers’

Dutch *een honderd-tal kippen*

##### 8.5.11.4. repetition (aktionsart quantificational (pluractionality))

German        *Aber-tausend(e), aber-hundert(e)*  
                  cf. (*aber und*) *aber-mals* ‘wieder und wieder’

#### 8.5.11.5. **collective**

##### 8.5.11.5.1. **a noun for collectives**

Finnish        *kunta* ‘community, parish’ > NUM-*kunta*

##### 8.5.11.5.2. **derivational collective, special collective numerals**

German        *eine Hundert-schaft*,  
                  is a noun, though, not a numeral, meaning ‘a group of (precisely) hundred’

Italian        *cento* 100, *cent-inaio* ‘hundred’,  
                  *un centinaio/migliaia di N* ‘approx hundred/thousand N’  
                  verbal number agreement either plural or singular  
                  *le centinaia* ‘the 100’ (plural is old neuter)  
                  *due centinaia, tre migliaia* ‘approx two hundred/three thousand’  
                  *a centinaia* ‘zu hunderten’  
                  (-*aio* agentive nouns, also locative-collective)

Lithuanian    NUM-*etas* N-GEN.PL

Dhivehi        for higher degree of uncertainty, limited to numbers 2-10, indefinite  
                  collective numerals in dative form (collective numerals formed by  
                  adding ‘thing’ or ‘people’ after numeral stem) (Aḍḍū dialect)

Finnish        *kymmene-* ‘10’        *kymmen-kunta* ‘approx 10’  
                  *sata* ‘100’            *sata-kunta*  
                  *tuhat* ‘1000’        *tahat-kunta*  
                  complex words behave like numerals,  
                  cf. *kunta* ‘community, parish’

Georgian        *as-ob-it*  
                  hundred-COLL-INS  
                  ‘by the hundreds’  
                  *at-as-ob-it*  
                  ten-hundred-COLL-INS  
                  cf. *misxl-ob-ita* ‘by the ounce, ouncewise’  
                  *urm-ob-ita* ‘by the cart, cartwise’

#### 8.5.11.6. **multiplicative numerals**

English        *a tenfold*

#### 8.5.11.7. **mid-range quantifier**

English        *some NUM*

German        *einige NUM*

*Er ist höchstens einige 30 Jahre alt*

= 30 years and some more?

#### 8.5.11.8. **plural word**

Tagalog        proclitic *mga* as a marker of plural with unmarked nouns, deictic pronouns, personal nouns, adjectives, nominalized verbal and adjectival phrases, as a marker of approximation with cardinal numerals and time expressions:

*mga sampu* ‘about ten’

*nang mga ala una* ‘at about one o’clock’

*sa mga buwan ng Enero* ‘around the month of January’

*mga kamakalawa* ‘about the day before yesterday’

#### 8.5.11.9. **plural inflection of round numerals**

very common when higher numerals are nouny

English        *tens, dozens, hundreds of*

Lithuanian    Ambrazas 1997: 587

Hungarian    not with 10

Oriya        hundred-REDUPL years ‘hundreds of years’

8.5.11.10. **paucal marking on noun** (without accompanying numeral or also in construction with numeral)



## 9. Specialization of approximators for numerals in context of

### 9.1. clock time

German	<i>gegen NUM</i>
Bavarian	<i>um-ara NUM</i>
English	<i>six-ish</i> ‘around six o’clock’
Dutch	<i>rond drie uur</i> (= <i>ongeveer om drie uur</i> )
French	<i>vers trois heur, vers midi</i>
Italian	<i>verso le tre, verso mezzogiorno</i> ( <i>verso</i> ‘nach, gegen, gegenüber’) <i>alle tre circa, circa alle tre</i> ( <i>circa</i> also postposed: <i>circa cinque polli/*cinque polli circa</i> )
Hungarian	<i>körülbelül három órakor</i> APPROX three o’clock <i>három-felé</i> three-towards (shortly before the time mentioned) can only be used with full hours, quarter, half, and three-quarter hours, not with minutes (*towards five ten) <i>felé</i> ‘towards’ temporal and local (e.g. towards north)

### 9.2. age?

Italian	<i>La mamma è sulla sessantina</i>
German	<i>Mutter ist in den sechzigern</i>

### 9.3. money

Georgian	the postposition/suffix <i>-mde</i> ‘up.to’ is not joined with the numeral, as elsewhere, but with the following noun for ‘meter’ or ‘dollar’ five dollar-/meter- <i>mde</i> , rather than five- <i>mde</i> NOUN
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### 9.4. measures

Georgian	mood difference for APPROX (conditional) ‘the wish weighed six pounds’ vs. ‘the fish would weigh six pounds’, ‘so [2nd person deictic], six pounds it would come out’ (cf. German <i>Er wird dir so seine sechs Pfund wiegen, Sie wird dir so ihre 60 sein</i> )
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