Is the Cuzco Quechua plural

marker -*kuna* optional?

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Quechua Nouns and Number

(1) Manka-ta   ranti-rqa-ni
     Pot-ACC   buy-PST-1.S
     "I bought a pot/pots."

Faller (2007): Cuzco Quechua nouns have general number.

Quechua nouns and *-kuna*: an "optional" number suffix?

Faller (2007)
Nouns in CQ have a cumulative denotation.
The suffix *-kuna* is an optional plural that enforces a plural interpretation:

(2) Uwiha-q   qhepa-n-ta   urqo-ta   ri-spa-n, . . .
    sheep-GEN   behind-3-ACC mountain-ACC   go-NMLZ.SS-DIR
    'Walking behind the sheep (pl.) to the mountains . . .'. ('Yendo a los
    cerros tras las ovejas . . .'.)
    (Faller 2007:272 from Valderrama Fernandez & Escalante Gutierrez 1982: 26)

(3) Urqo-pi   hina uwiha-cha-kuna michi-mu-sqa-y-man
    mountain-LOC   like   sheep-DIM-PL   herd-CIS-NMLZ-1-ILLA
    hina . . .
    like
    "As I was herding the sheep in the mountains . . ."
    (Faller 2007: 272, from Valderrama Fernandez & Escalante Gutierrez 1982: 26)

The distribution of nouns with -*kuna*

We will present the distribution of nouns marked with -*kuna* to show that they may denote more than a simple plurality of referents.

Nouns marked with -*kuna* may refer to a:

❏ Group with members of different types
❏ Plurality of groups of different types
❏ Plurality of individuals

Depending on various criteria:

❏ Syntactic position

❏ Animacy
❏ Number marking on the verb
❏ Status of the noun referent (identifiable/ non-identifiable).

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Number Marking: Standard vs. Strict pluralization

(4) English:

(i) a singular form (with a null singular morpheme?) which is possibly unmarked.
$[\![N]\!]$ = a set of atoms: {a, b, c}

(ii) a marked form with a plural morpheme:
$[\![N_{PL}]\!]$ = a set of atoms and plural individuals:
{a, b, c, a+b, b+c, a+c, a+b+c}

(5) Cuzco Quechua:
[[N]] = {a, b, c, a+b, b+c, a+c, a+b+c}

Languages with strict pluralization, on the other hand, would show a basic form that ranges over a domain of atomic forms while plural forms would be the domain of strictly plural individuals, sums minus their atomic parts.

We will present the distribution of the so-called 'optional' plural form -*kuna* to determine the extent to which it can be considered a marker of strict plurality with animate and inanimate nouns in subject and object position.

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Subjects (Animates and Inanimates)

Unmarked Inanimate Subjects

(5) a. Ima-taq   urma-ya-mu-n?
    What-CONT   fall-INT-TRANSLOC-3S
    "What fell?"

    b. Manka-taq   urma-ya-mu-n (*-nku)
      Pot-CONT   fell-INT-TRANSLOC-3S (*-3.PL)
      "A pot/ a group of pots fell"
      (not a group of other things)

      (i) pot-1 *'manka'* + *singular V*
      (ii) pot-1+pot-2+pot-3 *'manka'* + *singular V*

Inanimate Subjects with *-kuna*

(6) a. Ima-taq   urma-ya-mu-n?
           Indef-CONT   fall-INT-TRANSLOC-3S
           What fell?

      b. Manka-***kuna***-taq   urma-ya-mu-n
           Pot-PL-CONT   fell- INT-TRANSLOC-3S
           "A group of pots of different types fell."

      c. Manka-***kuna***-taq   urma-ya-mu-***nku***
           Pot-PL-CONT   fell- INT-TRANSLOC-PL
           "Several groups of pots/ Some pots from different groups fell."

(i) ↑pot-T1+ pot-T2+pot-T3
'manka-kuna' + singular V

⇩ (fell)

(ii)↑(pot-1+pot-2+pot-3)-T1+↑(pot-4+pot-5+pot-6)-T2+
    ↑(pot 7+pot 8+ pot 9)-T3
      'manka-kuna' + plural V

⇩ (fell)   ⇩   ⇩

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Unmarked Animate Subjects

(7) a. Pi-taq   urma-ya-mu-n?
        Indef.ANIM-CONT   fall-INT-TRANSLOC-3.S
        "Who fell?"

    b. Yachaq-mi   urma-ya-mu-n.
        Student-FOC   fall-INT-TRANSLOC-3S
        "The student fell"
        (identifiable/presupposed?)

Note: Infelicitous if more than one fell

Animate Subjects with *-kuna*

(8) a.   Pi-taq   urma-ya-mu-n?
             Indef.ANIM-CONT   fall- INT-TRANSLOC-3S
             "Who fell?"

      b.   Yachaq-***kuna***-n   urma-ya-mu-n
             Student-PL-FOC/EVID   fall- INT-TRANSLOC-3S
             "The students fell."
             (a plurality of individuals, not identifiable)

      c.   Yachaq-***kuna***-n   urma-ya-mu-***nku***
             Student- PL-FOC/EVID   fall- INT-TRANSLOC-3PL
             "The students fell."
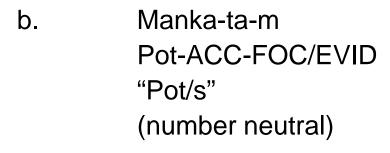   (a plurality of individuals that I can identify)

Direct Objects (Animate and Inanimate)

Unmarked Inanimate Objects

(9)   a.   Ima-ta-taq   riku-nki?
              Indef-ACC-CONT see-2.S
              "What do you see?"

       b.   Manka-ta-m
              Pot-ACC-FOC/EVID
              "Pot/s"
              (number neutral)

Inanimate Objects with -*kuna*

(10) a. Ima-ta-taq   riku-nki?

    Indef-ACC-CONT see-2.S

    "What do you see?"

 b. Manka-kuna-ta-m.
    Pot-PL-ACC
    "Different types of pots"

A) a group of pots of different types, B) a plurality of groups of pots of different types, C) a combination of A+B

A

B

C = A + B

Inanimate objects with –*kuna* (2)

(11) a.   Manka-kuna-ta waqaycha-rqa-nki-chu?
              Pots-PL-ACC   sort out-PST-2.SG-INT
              "Did you sort out the (different types of) pots?"

      b.   Arí,   waqaycha-rqa-ni-n
              Yes, sort out-PST-1.S-EVID.DIR
              "Yes, I did."

In object position:
Unmarked inanimate nouns are number neutral.
Nouns marked with -*kuna* refer to groups

Unmarked Animate Objects

(12) a. Ima-ta-taq   riku-nki?
          Indef-ACC-CONT   see-2.S
          "What do you see?"

     b. Yachaq-ta-n   riku-ni
          Student-ACC-FOC/EVID   see-1.S
          "I see a student/students"
          (non-presupposed, number neutral)

Animate objects with *-kuna*

(13) a.   Ima-ta-taq   riku-nki?
                 Indef-ACC-CONT see-2.S
                 "What do you see?"

       b.   Yachaq-kuna-ta-n   riku-ni
                 Student-PL-ACC-FOC/EVID   see-1.S
                 "I see (a group of) students"

Is -*kuna* a marker of strict plurality?

Inanimates

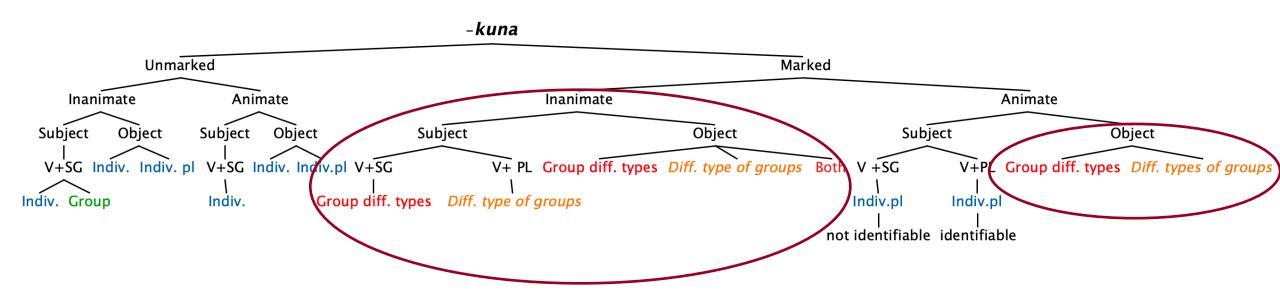| Syntactic position	Interpretation
Unmarked Subject	An individual or a group (V must be singular)
Unmarked Object	An individual or a group
Subject with -*kuna*	a) V + Singular group of different types b) V +Plural multiple groups of different types (an individual of each group)
Object with -*kuna*	a) group of different types b) multiple groups of different types, **c) a+b**

Animates

Syntactic position	Interpretation
Unmarked Animate Subject	An individual (V must be singular)
Unmarked Animate Object	An individual or several individuals

Animate Subject with *-kuna*	a) V + Singular
	     (a plurality of individuals, not identifiable)
	b) V +Plural
	     a plurality of individuals that the speaker
	     can identify

Animate Object with *-kuna*	a) group of different types b) multiple groups of different types

-kuna is a sorting mechanism, not a plural marker

- *-kuna* is not an optional marker of plurality.
- With inanimates, subjects and objects, or animate objects, *-kuna* is not needed for plurality. It introduces variety (single set with members of different types or different types of groups).
- Unmarked animate subjects are not number neutral, and they interact with *–kuna* differently.