

Cheat Sheet 1 – Introduction to Genetics & Mendelian Principles

Genetics Definition

- Genetics = science of **heredity and variation**.
 - **Heredity** = transmission of traits from parents to offspring.
 - **Variation** = differences among individuals of the same species.
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Father of Genetics

- **Gregor Johann Mendel (1822–1884)**.
 - Conducted experiments on **garden pea (*Pisum sativum*)** between 1856–1863.
 - Published in 1866 → work ignored until rediscovery (1900) by Hugo de Vries, Correns & Tschermak.
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Importance of Mendel's Work

- Used **quantitative approach** with statistical analysis.
 - Selected pea plant → easily available, short life cycle, distinct contrasting traits, self- and cross-pollination possible.
 - Established **laws of inheritance** still valid today.
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Mendelian Principles

1. **Unit factors (genes)** control characters.
 2. Genes occur in pairs (alleles).
 3. During gamete formation, alleles **segregate** so each gamete receives only one.
 4. Genes for different traits **assort independently**.
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Key Terms

- **Gene**: hereditary unit controlling a character.
- **Allele**: alternative forms of a gene.
- **Locus**: specific location of a gene on chromosome.
- **Homozygous**: both alleles identical (AA, aa).
- **Heterozygous**: alleles different (Aa).
- **Genotype**: genetic constitution (e.g., Aa).
- **Phenotype**: observable trait (e.g., tall, dwarf).

◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Mendel's Principles** → “USA”
 - Unit factors (genes)
 - Segregation
 - Assortment (independent)

◆ Exam Capsule 📌

- Genetics = heredity + variation.
- Mendel = Father of Genetics, pea plant experiments (1856–63).
- Rediscovery in 1900 by **Correns, de Vries, Tschermak**.
- Principles: unit factors, segregation, independent assortment.

📄 Cheat Sheet 2 – Basic Genetic Terminology 📄

◆ Gene

- A **hereditary unit** located on chromosome.
- Codes for a specific trait or protein.

◆ Allele

- Alternative forms of a gene at the same locus.
- Example: **T** (tall) vs **t** (dwarf).

◆ Homozygous vs Heterozygous

- **Homozygous** → both alleles same (TT, tt).
- **Heterozygous** → alleles different (Tt).

◆ Genotype vs Phenotype

- **Genotype** = genetic makeup (e.g., Tt).
- **Phenotype** = physical expression (e.g., Tall).
- Genotype + Environment = Phenotype.

◆ Wild type vs Mutant

- **Wild type allele** → normal/common in population.
- **Mutant allele** → altered form due to mutation (often rare).

◆ Dominant vs Recessive

- **Dominant** allele → expresses trait even in heterozygous condition (T).
- **Recessive** allele → expressed only in homozygous condition (tt).

◆ Locus

- Fixed position of a gene on a chromosome.

◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Genotype = Gene type | Phenotype = Physical type.**
- **Allele = “Alternative version of a gene”.**

◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Gene = hereditary unit; Allele = alternate gene form.
- Homozygous (TT/tt), Heterozygous (Tt).
- Genotype = genetic constitution; Phenotype = visible trait.
- Wild type = normal allele; Mutant = altered allele.

📄 Cheat Sheet 3 – Mendel’s Experiments & Methodology 🧪📊

◆ Choice of Experimental Plant: *Pisum sativum* (Garden Pea)

- Short life cycle, easy to cultivate.
- Naturally **self-pollinating** but can be cross-pollinated manually.
- Produced large number of seeds.
- Had **7 pairs of contrasting traits** (e.g., tall vs dwarf, round vs wrinkled).

◆ Mendel’s Experimental Method

1. **Selection of true-breeding parents** (homozygous).
2. **Cross-pollination** to produce hybrids.
3. Careful **recording of data** for multiple generations (P, F₁, F₂).
4. Use of **large sample size** for statistical accuracy.
5. Application of **mathematical ratios** (3:1, 9:3:3:1).

◆ Traits Studied by Mendel (7 Pairs)

1. Stem height: Tall vs Dwarf.

2. Flower color: Violet vs White.
 3. Flower position: Axial vs Terminal.
 4. Pod color: Green vs Yellow.
 5. Pod shape: Inflated vs Constricted.
 6. Seed shape: Round vs Wrinkled.
 7. Seed color: Yellow vs Green.
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◆ Rediscovery of Mendel's Work

- Published in **1866** (ignored for ~34 years).
 - Rediscovered in **1900** independently by **Hugo de Vries, Carl Correns, Erich von Tschermak**.
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◆ Significance

- Introduced concept of **factors (genes)**.
 - First to use **statistical analysis** in biology.
 - Foundation of modern genetics.
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **7 Traits** → “**Some Flowers Produce Pretty Seeds**”
 - **S**tem height
 - **F**lower color/position
 - **P**od color/shape
 - **S**eed color/shape
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◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Mendel chose pea plant (*Pisum sativum*) for 7 contrasting traits.
- Used large data, true-breeding lines, statistical ratios.
- Published in 1866, rediscovered in 1900 by **de Vries, Correns, Tschermak**.
- Laid foundation of **laws of inheritance**.

📄 Cheat Sheet 4 – Mendel's Laws of Inheritance 📖 🧠

◆ 1. Law of Dominance

- When two different alleles are present, **one dominates** (expressed), the other is recessive (masked).
 - Example: In monohybrid cross of tall (TT) × dwarf (tt):
 - F_1 = all Tall (Tt).
 - Ratio: **3:1** (phenotype) in F_2 .
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◆ 2. Law of Segregation (Purity of Gametes)

- Allele pairs separate (segregate) during gamete formation.
 - Each gamete carries **only one allele** for each trait.
 - Example: Monohybrid cross ($Tt \times Tt$) → $F_2 = 1 TT : 2 Tt : 1 tt$.
 - Genotypic ratio = **1:2:1**.
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◆ 3. Law of Independent Assortment

- Genes for different traits assort **independently** during gamete formation.
 - Example: Dihybrid cross ($RrYy \times RrYy$):
 - Phenotypic ratio in $F_2 = 9:3:3:1$ (round yellow : round green : wrinkled yellow : wrinkled green).
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◆ Experimental Basis

- Mendel deduced laws by analyzing **large populations** of pea hybrids.
 - Used **Punnett square logic** (though not formalized until later).
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Laws = “DSA”**
 - **D**ominance
 - **S**egregation
 - **A**ssortment (independent)
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◆ Exam Capsule 🌀

- **Dominance** → one allele masks another (3:1).
- **Segregation** → alleles separate during gamete formation (1:2:1).
- **Independent Assortment** → different traits assort independently (9:3:3:1).

- Basis of **classical Mendelian genetics**.

Cheat Sheet 5 – Monohybrid Cross (Law of Segregation)

Definition

- A genetic cross involving a **single pair of contrasting traits**.
- Demonstrates **Law of Segregation (Purity of Gametes)**.

Example: Stem Height in Pea

- **Parent (P):** Tall (TT) × Dwarf (tt).
- **F₁ Generation:** All Tall (Tt) → dominance shown.
- **F₂ Generation (Tt × Tt):**

Gametes T t

T TT Tt

t Tt tt

- Genotypes: **1 TT : 2 Tt : 1 tt**
- Phenotypes: **3 Tall : 1 Dwarf**

Ratios

- **Phenotypic ratio:** 3 : 1
- **Genotypic ratio:** 1 : 2 : 1

Law of Segregation (Purity of Gametes)

- Two alleles of a gene segregate during gamete formation.
- Each gamete carries **only one allele**.
- Fusion during fertilization restores the diploid condition.

Significance

- Explains dominance & recessiveness.
- Demonstrates predictable ratios in inheritance.
- Basis for genetic probability (Punnett square).

◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Monohybrid** = “**Mono Trait, Mendel’s 3:1**”

◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Monohybrid cross = one trait studied.
- F_1 = uniform (all heterozygous, dominant phenotype).
- F_2 = **3:1 phenotypic, 1:2:1 genotypic** ratio.
- Validates **Law of Segregation**.

📄 Cheat Sheet 6 – Dihybrid Cross (Law of Independent Assortment) 🧬 ÷

◆ Definition

- A genetic cross involving **two pairs of contrasting traits**.
- Demonstrates **Law of Independent Assortment**.

◆ Example: Seed Shape & Color in Pea

- **Parent (P):** Round Yellow (RRYY) × Wrinkled Green (rryy).
- **F_1 Generation:** All Round Yellow (RrYy).
- **F_2 Generation (RrYy × RrYy):**

Gametes: RY, Ry, rY, ry.

Punnett Square → produces 16 combinations.

◆ F_2 Results (Phenotypic Ratio)

- **9 Round Yellow**
- **3 Round Green**
- **3 Wrinkled Yellow**
- **1 Wrinkled Green**

Ratio = **9 : 3 : 3 : 1**

◆ Explanation of Law

- Alleles of different traits **segregate independently** during gamete formation.
 - Thus, inheritance of one trait (seed shape) does not affect another (seed color).
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◆ Significance

- Explains **recombination & variation**.
 - Basis of modern **independent assortment** concept.
 - Genetic linkage = exception (genes on same chromosome).
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Dihybrid Ratio** → “**9 + 3 + 3 + 1 = Sweet Sixteen**” (16 combinations in Punnett square).
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◆ Exam Capsule 📌

- Dihybrid cross = two traits studied simultaneously.
- F_2 ratio = **9:3:3:1**.
- Demonstrates **independent assortment** of alleles.
- Explains recombination & genetic diversity.

📖 Cheat Sheet 7 – Incomplete Dominance 🧠🔗

◆ Definition

- **Incomplete dominance** = a condition where **neither allele is completely dominant**, and the heterozygote shows an **intermediate phenotype**.
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◆ Key Example: Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*) / Mirabilis jalapa (Four O' Clock Plant)

- **Parent (P):** Red (RR) × White (rr).
 - **F_1 Generation:** All Pink (Rr) → intermediate trait.
 - **F_2 Generation (Rr × Rr):**
 - 1 Red (RR) : 2 Pink (Rr) : 1 White (rr).
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◆ Ratios

- **Phenotypic ratio:** 1 : 2 : 1
- **Genotypic ratio:** 1 : 2 : 1

- Here, phenotype and genotype ratios are the same (unlike Mendel's 3:1).
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◆ Other Examples

- Andalusian fowl → blue feather color (intermediate of black × white).
 - Humans → wavy hair (intermediate of curly × straight).
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◆ Significance

- Shows **blending of traits** in heterozygotes.
 - Demonstrates that dominance is **not universal**.
 - Important in plant/animal breeding for new phenotypes.
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Incomplete dominance = “Pink Rule”** 🌸 (red + white → pink).
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◆ Exam Capsule 🌀

- Incomplete dominance = heterozygote shows **intermediate phenotype**.
 - Example: Red × White Snapdragon → Pink F_1 .
 - F_2 ratio = **1:2:1** (both phenotype & genotype).
 - Significance → introduces variation, breaks strict dominance.
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📖 Cheat Sheet 8 – Codominance 🦋

◆ Definition

- **Codominance** = both alleles in a heterozygote are **fully expressed**, and the phenotype shows **both traits simultaneously** (not blended).
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◆ Key Example: Human ABO Blood Group

- Gene I has three alleles: I^A , I^B , i .
- **I^A and I^B are codominant**; both are expressed in heterozygous $I^A I^B$.
- Phenotype → **AB blood group** (both A & B antigens on RBC surface).
- Genotypes:
 - $I^A I^A$ / $I^A i$ → Blood group A
 - $I^B I^B$ / $I^B i$ → Blood group B

- IAIB → Blood group AB (codominant expression)
- ii → Blood group O

◆ Other Examples

- **Erminette fowl** → black (BB) × white (WW) → BW (checkered/erminette feathers, both black & white visible).
- **Roan cattle** → red × white coat → roan (both red & white hairs present).

◆ Differences: Incomplete Dominance vs Codominance

Feature	Incomplete Dominance	Codominance
Expression	Blended, intermediate	Both traits expressed equally
Example	Snapdragon (red × white → pink)	ABO blood group, roan cattle
Ratio (F ₂)	1:2:1 (same geno/phenotype)	1:2:1 (but phenotype shows both traits, not blended)

◆ Significance

- Demonstrates that dominance is **not always absolute**.
- Expands understanding of inheritance beyond Mendelian laws.

◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Codominance = “Co-Exist”** → both alleles visible together.

◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Codominance = both alleles expressed in heterozygotes.
- Classic example: **AB blood group (IAIB)**.
- Also seen in **roan cattle, erminette fowl**.
- Different from incomplete dominance (which shows blending).

📖 Cheat Sheet 9 – Multiple Alleles 🧐

◆ Definition

- When a gene has **more than two allelic forms** in a population.

- A single individual still carries only **two alleles** (diploid), but species collectively has **many options**.
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◆ Classic Example: ABO Blood Group in Humans

- Controlled by **I gene** with **three alleles**: I^A , I^B , i .
 - $I^A \rightarrow$ A antigen, $I^B \rightarrow$ B antigen, $i \rightarrow$ no antigen.
 - I^A and I^B are codominant; i is recessive.
 - Genotypes & Phenotypes:
 - $I^A I^A$ / $I^A i \rightarrow$ Group A
 - $I^B I^B$ / $I^B i \rightarrow$ Group B
 - $I^A I^B \rightarrow$ Group AB (codominance)
 - $ii \rightarrow$ Group O
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◆ Example 2: Coat Color in Rabbits

- Controlled by a gene with **four alleles**: $C > cch > ch > c$.
 - C = full color.
 - cch = chinchilla.
 - ch = Himalayan.
 - c = albino.
 - Shows **hierarchy of dominance** ($C > cch > ch > c$).
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◆ Example 3: Eye Color in Drosophila

- Multiple alleles produce variations beyond red & white (e.g., eosin, apricot, etc.).
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◆ Significance

- Explains wide variation in traits within populations.
 - Important in **blood transfusion, animal breeding, evolution**.
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Multiple Alleles = “More than Mendel’s Two”**.
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◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Multiple alleles = more than two forms of a gene in population.
- Individual carries **only two** at a time.
- Examples: ABO blood group (IA, IB, i), rabbit coat color (C, cch, ch, c), Drosophila eye color.

Cheat Sheet 10 – Polygenic Inheritance

Definition

- A trait controlled by **two or more genes (polygenes)**, each contributing **additively** to the phenotype.
 - Produces **continuous variation** (spectrum, not discrete categories).
 - Unlike Mendelian traits (tall/dwarf), polygenic traits show gradations.
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Examples

1. Human Skin Color

- Controlled by at least **3 gene pairs**.
- Each dominant allele contributes pigment → more dominants = darker skin.
- Phenotypes form a gradient from very light → very dark.

2. Human Height

- Controlled by many genes.
- Population shows a **bell-shaped distribution**.

3. Eye Color in Humans

- Controlled by multiple loci.
- Produces a range (blue, green, hazel, brown, black).

4. Kernel Color in Wheat

- Red × White → intermediate shades depending on number of dominant alleles.
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Features

- **Additive effect** of alleles.
- **No dominance/recessive** (each allele contributes partially).
- **Continuous variation** (quantitative traits).
- Environmental factors often influence phenotype.

◆ Difference: Monogenic vs Polygenic

Feature	Monogenic	Polygenic
Genes	One	Multiple
Variation	Discontinuous (e.g., tall/dwarf)	Continuous (e.g., height)
Ratios	Simple Mendelian (3:1, 9:3:3:1)	Quantitative distribution
Example	Pea seed shape	Human height

◆ Mnemonics 💡

- Polygenic = “**Many Genes, Many Shades**”.
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◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Polygenic inheritance = traits controlled by **multiple genes** with **additive effects**.
- Results in **continuous variation** (skin color, height, eye color).
- Different from Mendelian (monogenic) traits which show discrete classes.

📄 Cheat Sheet 11 – Significance of Non-Mendelian Inheritance 🦋📄

◆ Definition

- **Non-Mendelian inheritance** = patterns of inheritance that do not follow Mendel's simple dominant–recessive ratios.
 - Includes: incomplete dominance, codominance, multiple alleles, polygenic traits, cytoplasmic inheritance, epistasis, pleiotropy.
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◆ Types & Importance

1. Incomplete Dominance

- Produces intermediate phenotypes (e.g., pink flowers in *Mirabilis*).
- Significance → new variations beyond Mendel's strict ratios.

2. Codominance

- Both alleles expressed equally (e.g., AB blood group).

- Important in **medicine** (blood transfusions).
3. **Multiple Alleles**
 - Expands diversity (e.g., rabbit coat color, ABO system).
 - Key in **genetic counseling & transfusion biology**.
 4. **Polygenic Inheritance**
 - Explains continuous variation (skin color, height).
 - Useful in **plant/animal breeding, evolution studies**.
 5. **Cytoplasmic (Extranuclear) Inheritance**
 - Traits inherited via **mitochondria/chloroplasts** (e.g., variegated leaves, maternal inheritance).
 - Significant in **cytoplasmic male sterility (CMS)** used in hybrid crops.
 6. **Pleiotropy & Epistasis**
 - One gene → multiple traits (pleiotropy, e.g., sickle cell).
 - One gene masks another (epistasis, e.g., coat color in mice).
 - Important in **disease genetics & biotechnology**.
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◆ Evolutionary & Applied Significance

- Increases **genetic variation** → raw material for natural selection.
 - Explains complex human traits & diseases (diabetes, hypertension).
 - Basis of **quantitative genetics** → agriculture, breeding programs.
 - Medical genetics → understanding inheritance of multifactorial disorders.
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Non-Mendelian = “I Can Make People Curious”**
 - Incomplete dominance
 - Codominance
 - Multiple alleles
 - Polygenic traits
 - Cytoplasmic inheritance
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◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Non-Mendelian inheritance = patterns beyond Mendel's laws.

- Includes incomplete dominance, codominance, multiple alleles, polygenes, extranuclear inheritance.
- Explains **continuous variation, complex traits & diseases**.
- Crucial in **medicine, agriculture, evolution & biotechnology**.