

Cheat Sheet 1 – Gene Interaction (Definition & Types)

Definition

- **Gene interaction** = when two or more **non-allelic genes** influence a single trait.
 - Modifies the typical **Mendelian ratios (3:1, 9:3:3:1)** into altered ratios.
 - Explains why many traits don't follow simple Mendelian laws.
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Types of Gene Interactions

1. Complementary Genes

- Two genes together produce a new trait.
- Ratio = **9:7**.
- Example: Flower color in **sweet pea (Lathyrus odoratus)**.

2. Epistasis

- One gene masks/modifies the effect of another non-allelic gene.
- **Recessive epistasis (9:3:4)** – e.g., coat color in mice.
- **Dominant epistasis (12:3:1)** – e.g., fruit color in summer squash.

3. Duplicate Genes

- Either gene alone can produce the trait.
- Ratio = **15:1**.
- Example: Leaf shape in **shepherd's purse (Capsella bursa-pastoris)**.

4. Duplicate Genes with Cumulative Effect

- Two genes contribute additively.
- Ratio = **9:6:1**.
- Example: Grain color in wheat.

5. Polymeric Gene Interaction

- More than one gene produces a **similar phenotype** with cumulative effect.

6. Modifier & Suppressor Genes

- **Modifier genes** → alter the effect of other genes quantitatively.
 - **Suppressor genes** → inhibit expression of another gene.
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Key Ratios (Non-Mendelian)

- Complementary → **9:7**
- Recessive Epistasis → **9:3:4**

- Dominant Epistasis → **12:3:1**
 - Duplicate → **15:1**
 - Duplicate with cumulative effect → **9:6:1**
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- “**Cool Elephants Don’t Dance Properly**” 🐘
 - Complementary (9:7)
 - Epistasis (9:3:4 / 12:3:1)
 - Duplicate (15:1)
 - Duplicate cumulative (9:6:1)
 - Polymeric
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◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Gene interaction = non-allelic genes modifying a trait.
 - Produces **modified ratios** (9:7, 12:3:1, 9:3:4, 15:1, 9:6:1).
 - Includes complementary genes, epistasis, duplicate genes, polymeric effects, and modifiers.
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📄 Cheat Sheet 2 – Complementary Gene Interaction (9:7 Ratio) 🧩

◆ Definition

- **Complementary gene interaction** occurs when **two different non-allelic dominant genes** are required together to produce a particular trait.
 - If either gene is absent (homozygous recessive), the trait is not expressed.
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◆ Classic Example: Flower Color in Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*)

- Two genes: **C** and **P**.
 - **C** = provides substrate; **P** = provides enzyme to convert it into pigment.
 - Presence of both dominant alleles (**C_P_**) → purple flowers.
 - Any recessive combination (ccP_, C_pp, ccpp) → white flowers.
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◆ F₂ Cross (CcPp × CcPp)

- Gametes: CP, Cp, cP, cp.
- Resulting phenotypes:

Combination	Phenotype
C_P_ (9)	Purple flowers
ccP_, C_pp, ccpp (7)	White flowers

- **Phenotypic ratio = 9 Purple : 7 White**
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◆ Key Features

- Both genes are **essential** for trait expression.
 - Lack of one gene → metabolic block → no pigment.
 - Example of **complementary action**.
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◆ Other Examples

- **Kernel color in maize.**
 - **Fruit shape in gourds.**
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Complementary = “Both Needed”** → like pen & ink together to write.
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◆ Exam Capsule 🌀

- Complementary genes = **two dominant alleles required together** for expression.
 - Ratio = **9:7** in F₂ generation.
 - Example: Purple flower in sweet pea requires **C & P** genes.
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📄 Cheat Sheet 3 – Epistasis (Dominant & Recessive) 🤖

◆ Definition

- **Epistasis** = interaction where one gene **masks or modifies** the expression of another non-allelic gene.
 - The masking gene = **epistatic**; the gene being masked = **hypostatic**.
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◆ 1. Recessive Epistasis (9:3:4 ratio)

- Trait expression masked when one gene is **homozygous recessive**.
 - Example: **Coat color in mice**
 - Gene C = pigment production, Gene A = pigment distribution.
 - **C_A_** → **agouti**
 - **ccA_ or ccnn** → **albino (no pigment)**
 - **C_aa** → **black**
 - Ratio = **9 agouti : 3 black : 4 albino**
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◆ 2. Dominant Epistasis (12:3:1 ratio)

- A single **dominant allele** of one gene masks the expression of another.
 - Example: **Fruit color in summer squash**
 - Gene W = inhibits pigment (white color, epistatic).
 - Gene Y = yellow pigment if ww.
 - **W_** → **white**
 - **wwY_** → **yellow**
 - **wwyy** → **green**
 - Ratio = **12 white : 3 yellow : 1 green**
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◆ Key Points

- Epistasis modifies **classical Mendelian dihybrid ratio (9:3:3:1)**.
 - Types:
 - Recessive epistasis (9:3:4)
 - Dominant epistasis (12:3:1)
 - Other modified ratios also possible (13:3, 15:1 etc.).
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Recessive Epistasis** = “**4 whites**” (9:3:4).
 - **Dominant Epistasis** = “**Dozen whites**” (12:3:1).
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◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Epistasis = one gene masks another.

- Recessive epistasis → 9:3:4 (mice coat color).
- Dominant epistasis → 12:3:1 (squash fruit color).
- Shows gene interaction beyond simple dominance.

📄 Cheat Sheet 4 – Duplicate Genes with Cumulative Effect (9:6:1 Ratio) 🌾🧠

💎 Definition

- **Duplicate genes with cumulative effect** = when two non-allelic dominant genes contribute **additively** to a trait.
 - Presence of **both dominants** gives a distinct phenotype; presence of only one gives an intermediate; absence of both gives another phenotype.
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💎 Classic Example: Grain Color in Wheat 🌾

- Genes: **A** and **B**.
 - **A_B_** → **dark red** (both dominants contribute → cumulative).
 - **A_bb or aaB_** → **light red** (one dominant present).
 - **aabb** → **white** (no dominant alleles).
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💎 F₂ Cross (AaBb × AaBb)

- Phenotypes:
 - 9 A_B_ → Dark Red
 - 6 A_bb or aaB_ → Light Red
 - 1 aabb → White
 - **Phenotypic ratio = 9:6:1**
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💎 Key Features

- Both dominant genes act **independently but additively**.
 - Intermediate phenotype appears when only one dominant is present.
 - Example of **quantitative modification**.
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💎 Other Examples

- Fruit shape in gourds.

- Kernel color in maize (similar cumulative effect).
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- “**Duplicate + Together = Strong (Dark)**”
 - Both dominants → strong effect (dark red).
 - One dominant → weaker effect (light red).
 - None → no effect (white).
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◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Duplicate genes with cumulative effect = **two genes contribute additively**.
 - Ratio = **9:6:1**.
 - Example: **Wheat grain color** (dark red, light red, white).
 - Shows **quantitative gene interaction**.
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📖 Cheat Sheet 5 – Duplicate Genes without Cumulative Effect (15:1 Ratio) 🦋

◆ Definition

- **Duplicate genes without cumulative effect** = when two different non-allelic dominant genes produce the **same phenotype independently**.
 - Presence of either dominant is enough; both together do not enhance the effect.
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◆ Classic Example: Capsella (Shepherd's Purse) Seed Shape

- Genes: **A** and **B**.
 - **A_B_** → **triangular seeds**.
 - **A_bb** → **triangular seeds**.
 - **aaB_** → **triangular seeds**.
 - **aabb** → **ovoid seeds**.
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◆ F₂ Cross (AaBb × AaBb)

- Phenotypes:
 - 15 triangular (A_B_, A_bb, aaB_)
 - 1 ovoid (aabb)

- **Phenotypic ratio = 15:1**
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◆ Key Features

- Either dominant allele alone produces same trait.
 - Double dominant does not change or add to phenotype.
 - Only when **both genes recessive** → alternate phenotype appears.
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◆ Other Examples

- Fruit shape in gourds.
 - Resistance to certain plant pathogens.
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Duplicate = “One is enough”** → 15 dominants vs 1 recessive.
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◆ Exam Capsule 🎯

- Duplicate genes without cumulative effect = **dominant alleles produce same phenotype**.
 - Ratio = **15:1** in F_2 .
 - Example: **Shepherd’s purse seed shape** (triangular vs ovoid).
 - Shows **functional redundancy** in genes.
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📖 Cheat Sheet 6 – Polymeric Gene Interaction 📄

◆ Definition

- **Polymeric interaction** occurs when **two or more non-allelic dominant genes** influence the **same trait in a similar way**.
 - The combined effect of genes is **greater than their individual effects**.
 - Often contributes to **quantitative inheritance**.
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◆ Example: Fruit Shape in Cucurbits (Gourds)

- Genes: **A** and **B**.
 - **A_B_** → **disc-shaped fruit** (new phenotype due to polymeric effect).
 - **A_bb** or **aaB_** → **spherical fruit**.
 - **aabb** → **long fruit**.
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◆ F₂ Cross (AaBb × AaBb)

- Phenotypic ratio = **9 disc : 6 spherical : 1 long**
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◆ Features

- Interaction of genes gives rise to a **novel phenotype**.
 - Both genes act **synergistically** to modify expression.
 - Distinct from duplicate/cumulative because it produces a **new trait**, not just enhanced intensity.
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◆ Other Examples

- Kernel texture in maize.
 - Some cases of flower color modification.
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Polymeric = “Partners Produce a Phenotype”** → both dominants together = new trait.
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◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Polymeric interaction = genes act together to produce **new phenotype**.
- Ratio = **9:6:1** (disc, spherical, long fruits in gourds).
- Shows **synergistic gene action**.

📄 Cheat Sheet 7 – Pleiotropy (One Gene → Multiple Effects) □

◆ Definition

- **Pleiotropy** = condition where **one gene influences multiple traits**.
- Opposite of polygenic inheritance (where many genes control one trait).

◆ Key Examples

1. Sickle-Cell Anemia (Humans)

- Mutation in β -globin gene $\rightarrow$ abnormal hemoglobin (HbS).
- Multiple effects:
 - Sickled RBC shape.
 - Anemia due to hemolysis.
 - Resistance to malaria.
- Single mutation affects **blood morphology, physiology, and disease resistance**.

2. Phenylketonuria (PKU)

- Mutation in gene encoding enzyme phenylalanine hydroxylase.
- Multiple effects:
 - Accumulation of phenylalanine $\rightarrow$ mental retardation.
 - Light skin/hair (reduced melanin).
 - Neurological issues.

3. Marfan Syndrome

- Mutation in fibrillin-1 gene.
- Effects: long limbs, lens dislocation, cardiovascular abnormalities.

◆ Features

- One gene $\rightarrow$ multiple, often unrelated phenotypes.
- Seen in both **plants and animals**.
- Important in human genetic diseases.

◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Pleiotropy = "Plenty of Traits from One Gene"**.

◆ Exam Capsule 🌀

- Pleiotropy = one gene $\rightarrow$ multiple effects.
- Examples: **Sickle-cell anemia, PKU, Marfan syndrome**.
- Contrast: **Polygenic inheritance = many genes $\rightarrow$ one trait**.

Cheat Sheet 8 – Lethal Genes (2:1 Ratio)

Definition

- **Lethal genes** = genes that cause **death of the organism** when present in certain genotypes.
 - May be **dominant** or **recessive**.
 - Alter normal Mendelian ratios (e.g., 3:1 → 2:1).
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Types

1. **Recessive Lethal Genes**

- Cause death only in **homozygous recessive condition**.
- Example: **Yellow coat in mice (AY allele)**
 - Cross: $AY A \times AY A \rightarrow$
 - $AY AY$ = lethal (death).
 - $AY A$ = yellow.
 - AA = agouti.
 - Ratio: **2 yellow : 1 agouti** (not 3:1).

2. **Dominant Lethal Genes**

- Cause death even in heterozygous condition.
 - Rare, as they are usually eliminated from populations.
 - Example: **Huntington's disease in humans** (late onset → persists).
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Other Examples

- **Manx cat**: tailless condition due to lethal homozygous state.
 - **Creeper fowl**: homozygotes die; heterozygotes show short legs.
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Key Features

- Lethal genes distort expected Mendelian ratios.
 - Can be embryonic lethal → death before birth.
 - Help explain absence of certain genotypes in offspring.
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Mnemonics

- **Lethal = “Lost in Ratio”** → 3:1 changes to 2:1.
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◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Lethal genes cause organism death in specific genotypes.
- **Recessive lethal** → **2:1 ratio** (mice coat color).
- **Dominant lethal** → rare, e.g., Huntington’s disease.
- Seen in mice, cats, fowls, humans.

📖 Cheat Sheet 9 – Modifier & Suppressor Genes 📖

◆ Definition

- Genes that **modify or suppress the expression** of other genes without being allelic.
 - Important in **fine-tuning traits** and in explaining non-Mendelian inheritance.
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◆ 1. Modifier Genes

- Alter the **quantitative effect** of another gene.
 - Do not mask completely but **increase or decrease intensity** of expression.
 - Example: **Skin color in humans**
 - Multiple modifying genes influence degree of pigmentation.
 - Example: In mice, modifier genes alter coat color intensity.
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◆ 2. Suppressor Genes

- Genes that **inhibit or silence** the effect of another gene.
 - Can restore normal phenotype by suppressing a mutant gene.
 - Example: In *Drosophila*, suppressor genes can silence mutations affecting eye color.
 - Example: In humans, some suppressor genes control oncogenes → preventing cancer.
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◆ Key Features

- Both act in **gene interaction** but in different ways:
 - **Modifier** = “volume control” (adjust intensity).
 - **Suppressor** = “mute button” (turn off expression).

◆ Significance

- Explain variable expressivity of traits.
- Important in **genetic diseases, cancer biology, evolution**.
- Provide buffering against harmful mutations.

◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Modifier** = “**More or Less**”
- **Suppressor** = “**Stop Signal**”

◆ Exam Capsule 🌀

- Modifier genes → alter effect of another gene quantitatively.
- Suppressor genes → inhibit the action of another gene.
- Both explain deviations from Mendelian ratios.
- Important in **phenotypic variation & disease regulation**.

📄 Cheat Sheet 10 – Cytoplasmic Inheritance (Extranuclear / Maternal Inheritance)



◆ Definition

- **Cytoplasmic inheritance** = transmission of traits through **DNA present in organelles** (mitochondria, chloroplasts) rather than nuclear genes.
- Also called **extranuclear inheritance** or **maternal inheritance**.

◆ Key Features

- DNA found in **mitochondria & chloroplasts** (mtDNA, cpDNA).
- Inherited **maternally** in most organisms (zygote cytoplasm from egg).
- Follows **non-Mendelian ratios**.
- Mutations in these organelles can affect energy metabolism & pigmentation.

◆ Examples

1. **Leaf Variegation in *Mirabilis jalapa* (Four o'clock plant)**
 - Green leaves → normal chloroplasts.
 - White leaves → defective chloroplasts.
 - Variegated leaves → mixture.
 - Inheritance depends on cytoplasm of ovule (maternal).
2. **Male Sterility in Plants (CMS – Cytoplasmic Male Sterility)**
 - Important in hybrid seed production.
 - Controlled by mitochondrial genes.
3. **Mitochondrial Diseases in Humans**
 - Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON).
 - Kearns–Sayre syndrome.
 - All inherited maternally.

◆ Significance

- Explains inheritance patterns not fitting Mendelian laws.
- Critical in **plant breeding (hybrid production)**.
- Helps understand **human metabolic diseases**.
- Basis of mitochondrial genetics in evolution (endosymbiotic theory).

◆ Mnemonics 💡

- **Cytoplasmic inheritance = “Comes from the Mother”** 🧑

◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Traits inherited via **mitochondrial & chloroplast DNA**.
- Maternally inherited (egg cytoplasm).
- Examples: Leaf variegation in *Mirabilis*, CMS in plants, human mitochondrial diseases.
- Explains **non-Mendelian inheritance**.

Cheat Sheet 11 – Extra Non-Mendelian Ratios (Modified Mendelian Ratios)

Introduction

- In classical Mendelian genetics, dihybrid cross produces **9:3:3:1 ratio**.
 - Gene interactions modify this into **non-Mendelian ratios** like 9:7, 12:3:1, 9:3:4, 15:1, etc.
 - Some special ratios are also observed.
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Examples of Modified Ratios

1. **13:3 Ratio** – Suppressor Gene Action

- One gene suppresses the expression of another.
 - Example: **Feather color in fowl**.
 - Dominant allele at one locus suppresses pigment production.
 - Phenotypic ratio: 13 white : 3 colored.
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2. **9:6:1 Ratio** – Cumulative Effect (already discussed in wheat kernel color)

- Two genes contribute additively → intermediate phenotype appears when only one gene is active.
 - Example: **Fruit shape in gourds** → disc : spherical : long.
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3. **9:3:3:1 (Mendel's original dihybrid ratio)**

- Still observed when no gene interaction is present.
 - Serves as baseline to identify modifications.
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4. **Other Ratios**

- **9:6:1** → **cumulative interaction** (wheat color).
 - **9:3:4** → **recessive epistasis** (mice coat color).
 - **12:3:1** → **dominant epistasis** (squash color).
 - **15:1** → **duplicate genes** (shepherd's purse).
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Significance

- These ratios demonstrate **gene interactions beyond Mendelian laws**.
- Crucial in plant/animal breeding to predict unexpected outcomes.

- Show that multiple genes often work **in networks, not isolation**.
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◆ Mnemonics 💡

- “Funny Ratios Tell Genetic Stories” 🐭
 - 13:3 = Suppressor
 - 9:6:1 = Cumulative
 - 12:3:1 = Dominant Epistasis
 - 9:3:4 = Recessive Epistasis
 - 15:1 = Duplicate
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◆ Exam Capsule 🧠

- Modified ratios arise due to **gene interactions**.
- 13:3 (suppressor genes, fowl feather color).
- 9:6:1 (cumulative, gourds/wheat).
- Classical 9:3:3:1 = baseline.
- Ratios are key evidence for **non-Mendelian inheritance patterns**.