

# 135803 Gene Interactions

**Digenic Interaction:**

$$\epsilon_{ij} = f_{ij} - f_i f_j, \quad \text{where } f_i \text{ is fitness,}$$

$$\epsilon_{ij} = \mathcal{F}(f_i, f_j, f_{ij}).$$

**Trigenic Interaction:**

$$\tau_{ijk} = f_{ijk} - f_i f_j f_k - \epsilon_{ij} f_k - \epsilon_{ik} f_j - \epsilon_{jk} f_i.$$

**Full Recursive Definition** (subtracting out effects of digenic interactions):

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{ijk} &= f_{ijk} - f_i f_j f_k \\ &\quad - (f_{ij} - f_i f_j) f_k \\ &\quad - (f_{ik} - f_i f_k) f_j \\ &\quad - (f_{jk} - f_j f_k) f_i, \\ \tau_{ijk} &= \mathcal{F}(f_i, f_j, f_k, f_{ij}, f_{ik}, f_{jk}, f_{ijk}). \end{aligned}$$

**Simplified**

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{ijk} &= f_{ijk} - f_i f_j f_k - (f_{ij} - f_i f_j) f_k - (f_{ik} - f_i f_k) f_j - (f_{jk} - f_j f_k) f_i \\ &= f_{ijk} - f_i f_j f_k - f_{ij} f_k + f_i f_j f_k - f_{ik} f_j + f_i f_k f_j - f_{jk} f_i + f_j f_k f_i \end{aligned}$$

Notice that  $f_i f_j f_k$  appears once with negative sign, and then three more times with positive signs. Also,  $f_j f_k f_i = f_i f_j f_k$ . Simplifying:

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{ijk} &= f_{ijk} - f_i f_j f_k - f_{ij} f_k + f_i f_j f_k - f_{ik} f_j + f_i f_j f_k - f_{jk} f_i + f_i f_j f_k \\ &= f_{ijk} - f_{ij} f_k - f_{ik} f_j - f_{jk} f_i + 3f_i f_j f_k - f_i f_j f_k \\ &= f_{ijk} - f_{ij} f_k - f_{ik} f_j - f_{jk} f_i + 2f_i f_j f_k \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the simplified trigenic interaction equation is:

$$\tau_{ijk} = f_{ijk} - f_{ij} f_k - f_{ik} f_j - f_{jk} f_i + 2f_i f_j f_k$$

To generalize the interaction equations to higher-order interactions (4-way, 5-way, etc.), I'll develop a recursive formula using set notation.

Let  $S$  be a set of elements (genes in this context), and for any subset  $T \subseteq S$ , let  $f_T$  represent the fitness of that subset.

For any set  $S$ , the interaction term  $\eta_S$  can be defined recursively as:

$$\eta_S = f_S - \sum_{T \subset S, T \neq \emptyset} \eta_T \prod_{i \in S \setminus T} f_i$$

Where: -  $\eta_{\{i\}} = f_i$  for singleton sets (single genes) -  $S \setminus T$  represents the set difference (elements in  $S$  but not in  $T$ )

This recursive definition gives us:

For digenic (2-way):  $\eta_{\{i,j\}} = f_{ij} - f_i f_j$  (which is your  $\epsilon_{ij}$ )

For trigenic (3-way):  $\eta_{\{i,j,k\}} = f_{ijk} - f_{ij}f_k - f_{ik}f_j - f_{jk}f_i + 2f_i f_j f_k$  (which is your  $\tau_{ijk}$ )

For 4-way interactions, the formula would expand to:

$$\eta_{\{i,j,k,l\}} = f_{ijkl} - \sum_{|T|=3} \eta_T f_{S \setminus T} - \sum_{|T|=2} \eta_T \prod_{m \in S \setminus T} f_m - \sum_{|T|=1} \eta_T \prod_{m \in S \setminus T} f_m$$

This pattern continues for higher-order interactions, with the inclusion-exclusion principle determining the signs of the terms.