Zoo-352 Principles of genetics
Lecture 8

Testing the Law of Segregation

The law of Mendel in genetics

- In Mendel experiments on pea plant, the F2 generation would have a phenotypic ratio of 3:1, a standard Mendelian ratio for a monohybrid cross.
- We would also expect a genotypic ratio of 1:2:1 in the F2 generation and twice are heterozygotes.
- The challenge is to demonstrate that this genotypic ratio exists in the F2 offspring, when we can only observe phenotypes.

How could Mendel determine the F2 genotype as either homozygous dominant or heterozygous?

- The simplest way to test the hypothesis is to: 1) self-fertilize the F2 individuals to produce an F3 generation (Figure 1).
- Another way to test the segregation law is to use a 2) testcross, which crosses any organism with a recessive homozygote.
- Another type of cross is a 3) backcross, which crosses offspring with a parent or an individual with the parental phenotype.
- When the parent has the homozygous recessive phenotype, a backcross is also a testcross.
- The testcross can be used to distinguish the genotype of a phenotypically dominant individual (Figure 2).

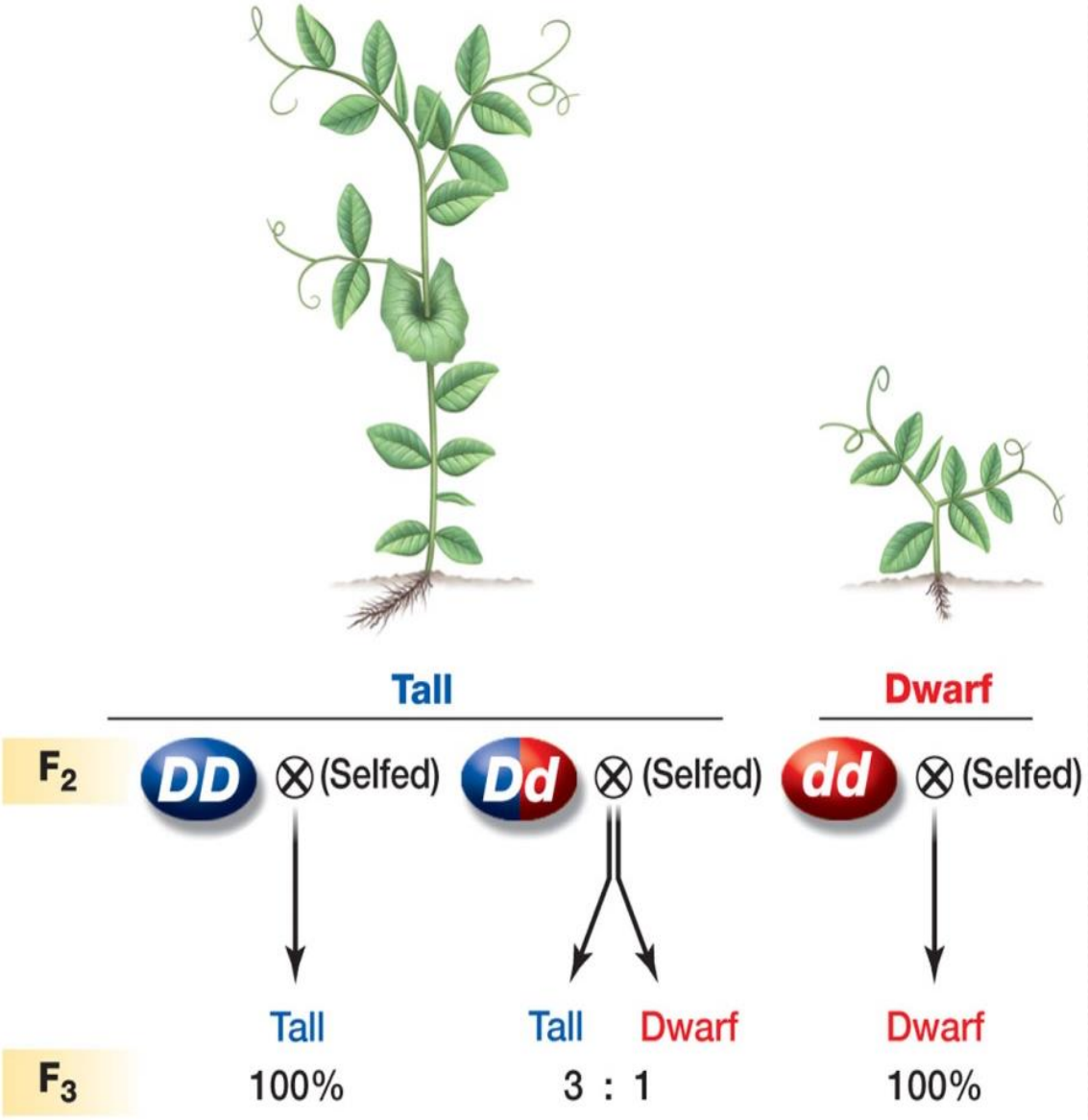


Figure 1: Mendel self-fertilized F2 tall and dwarf plants

Two ways was used to test the segregation law

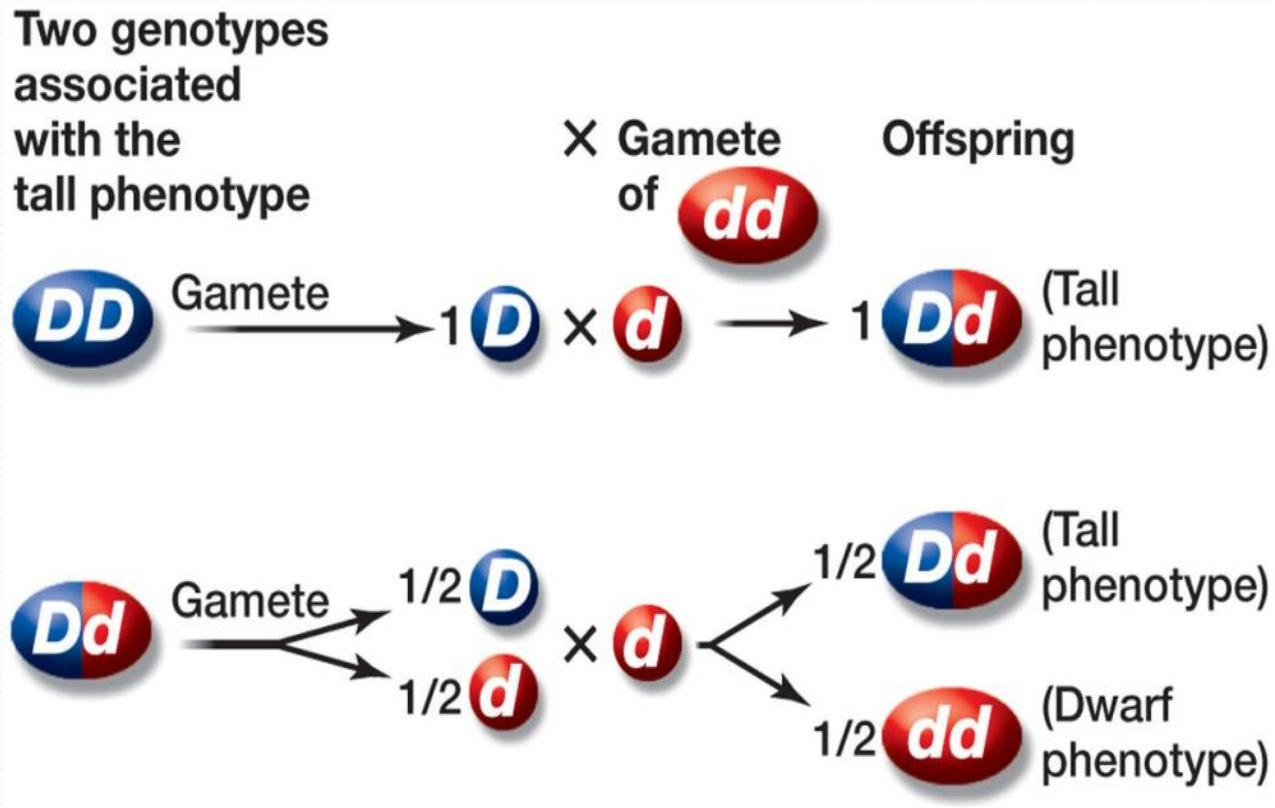
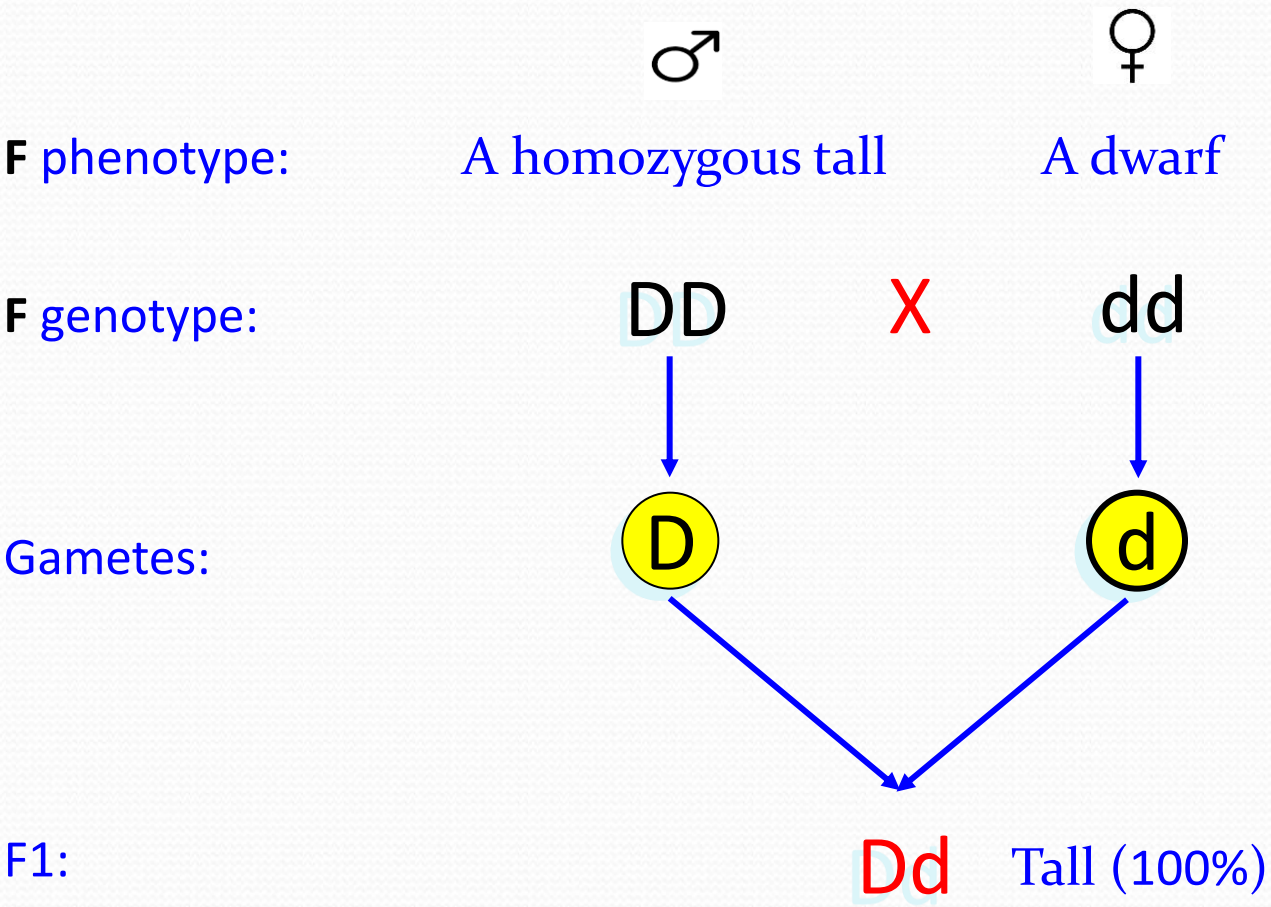
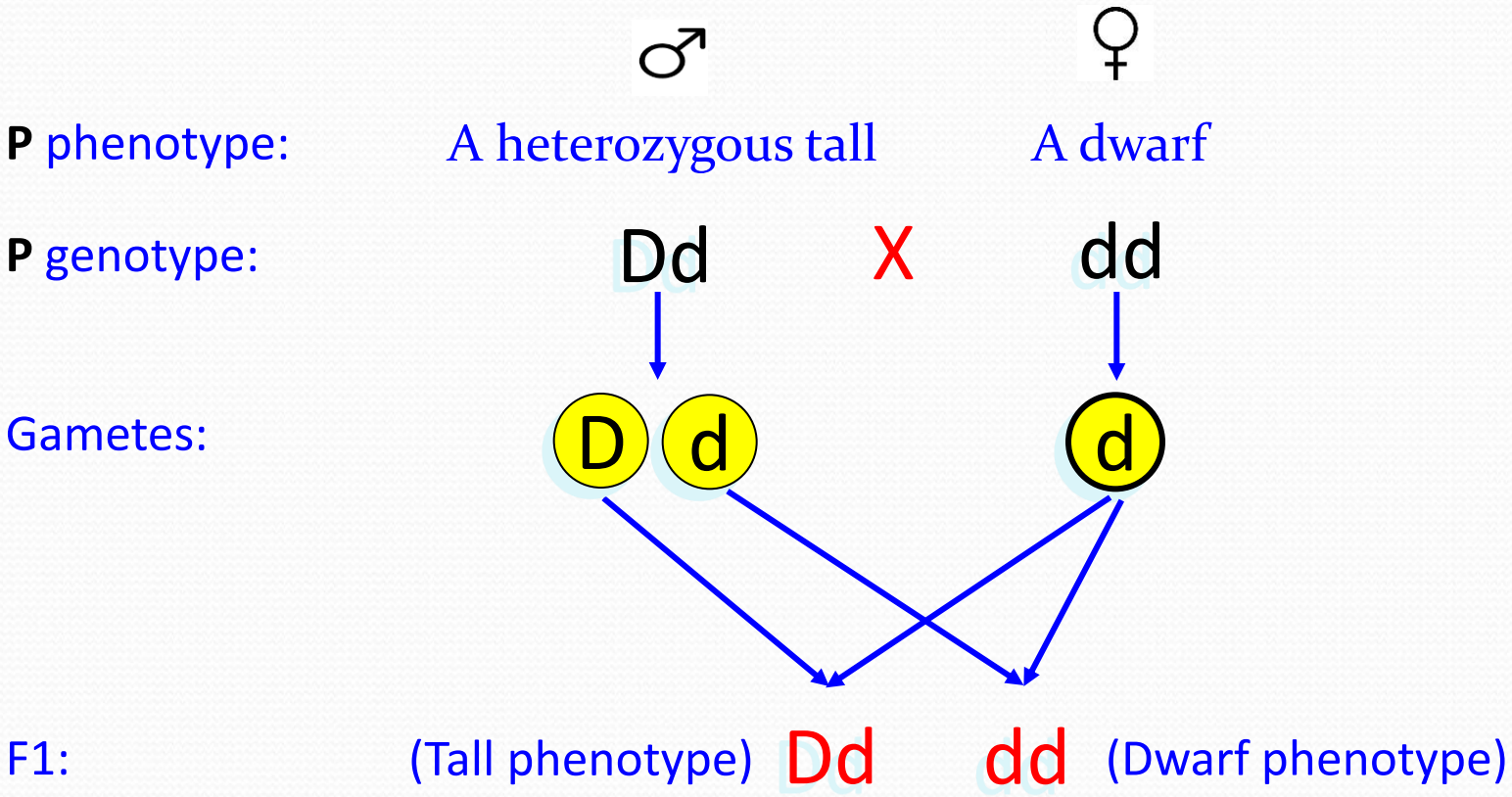


Figure 2: Testcrossing the phenotypically dominant F2 individuals

Testcross 1:

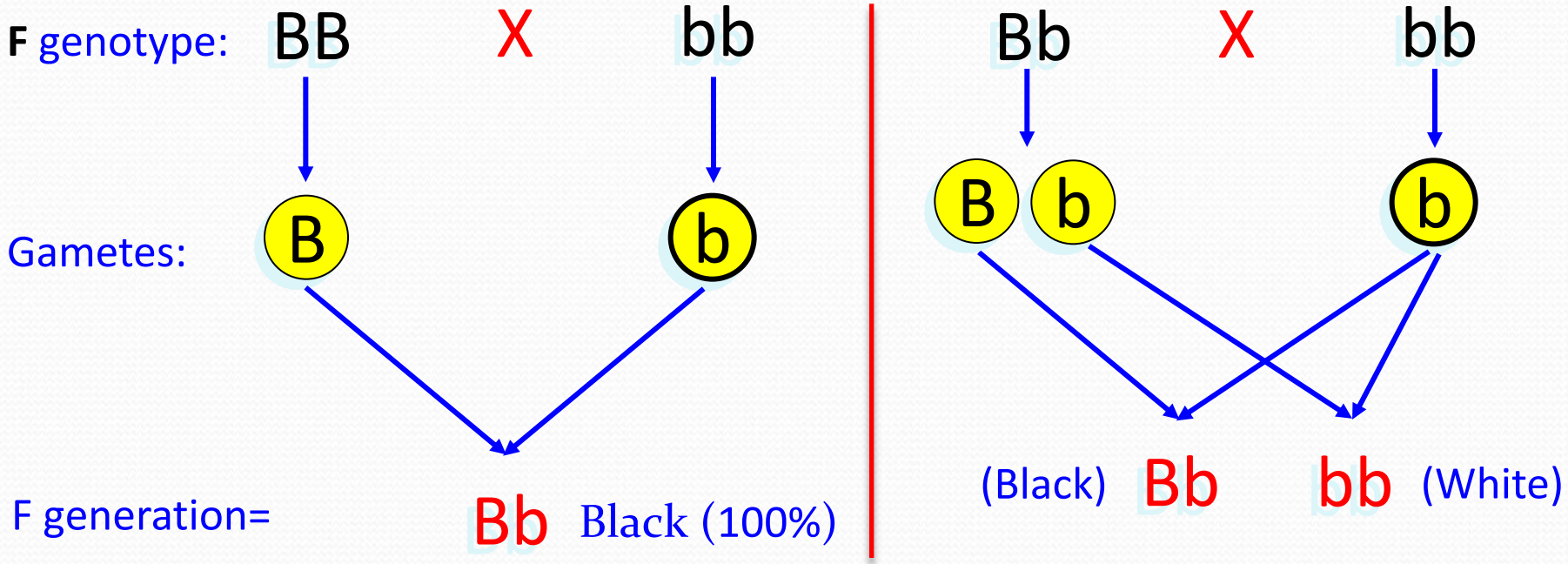

♂
♀
F phenotype:
A homozygous tall
A dwarf
F genotype:
DD
X
dd
Gametes:
D
d
F1:
Dd
Tall (100%)

Testcross 2:


♂
♀
P phenotype:
A heterozygous tall
A dwarf
P genotype:
Dd
X
dd
Gametes:
D
d
d
F1:
(Tall phenotype)
Dd
dd
(Dwarf phenotype)

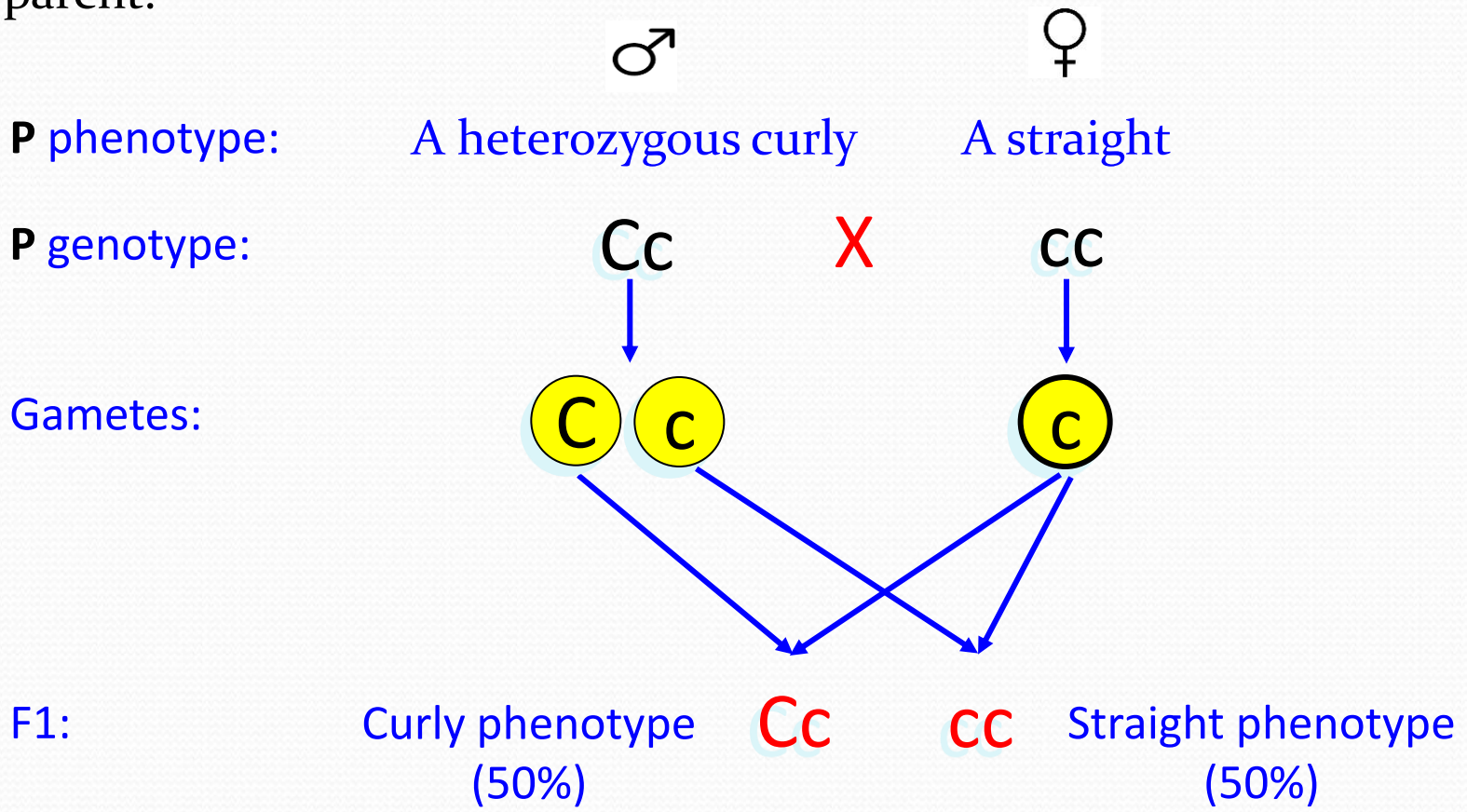
Example: In Guinea pigs, black color is dominant over white. How would you find out whether a black is homozygous (BB) or heterozygous (Bb)?

By Testcross: BB × bb and Bb × bb



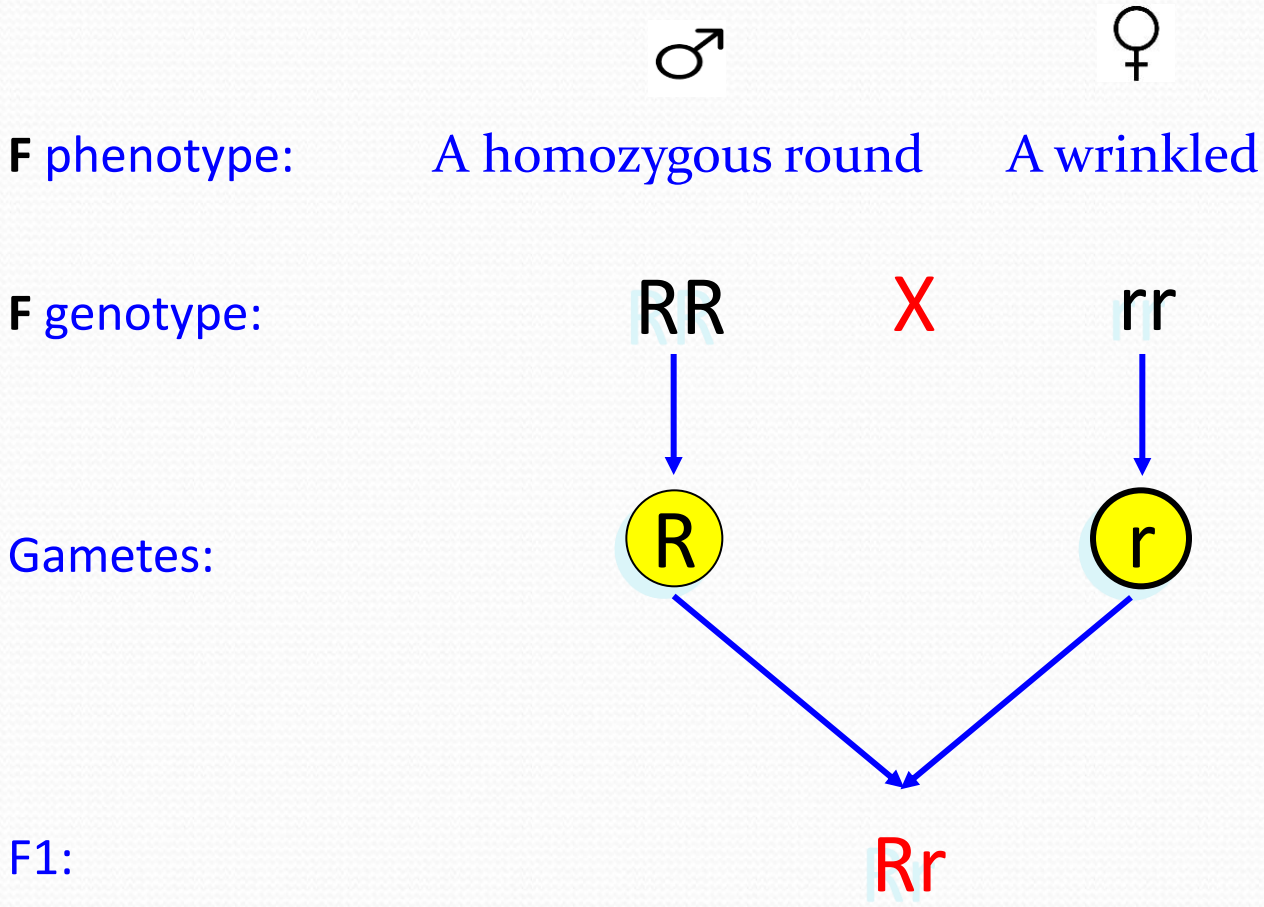
Monohybrid Crosses Practice Exercises

Question 1: Curly hair is dominant to straight hair in humans. Show a cross between a heterozygous curly haired parent with a pure homozygous straight haired parent.



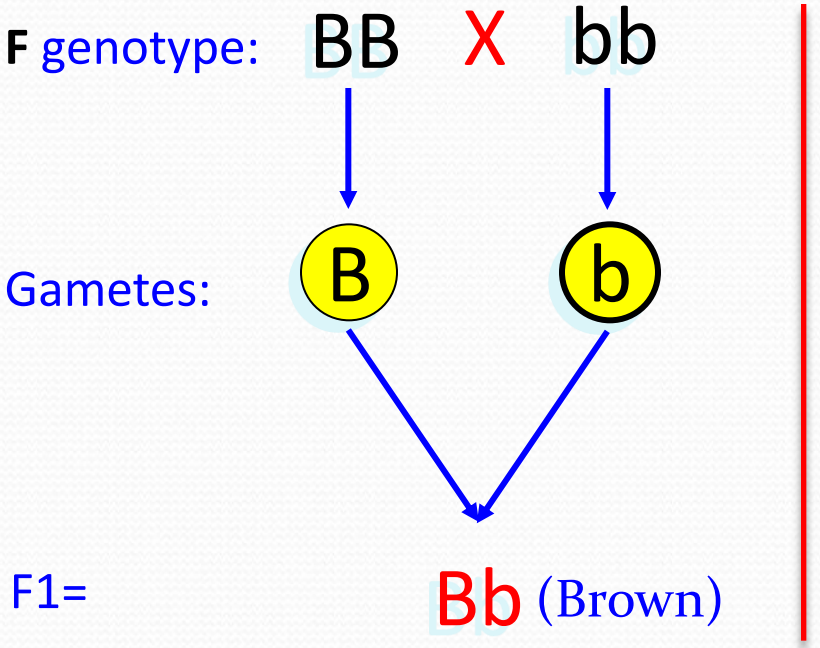
Question 2: A homozygous round seeded plant is crossed with a homozygous wrinkled seeded plant.

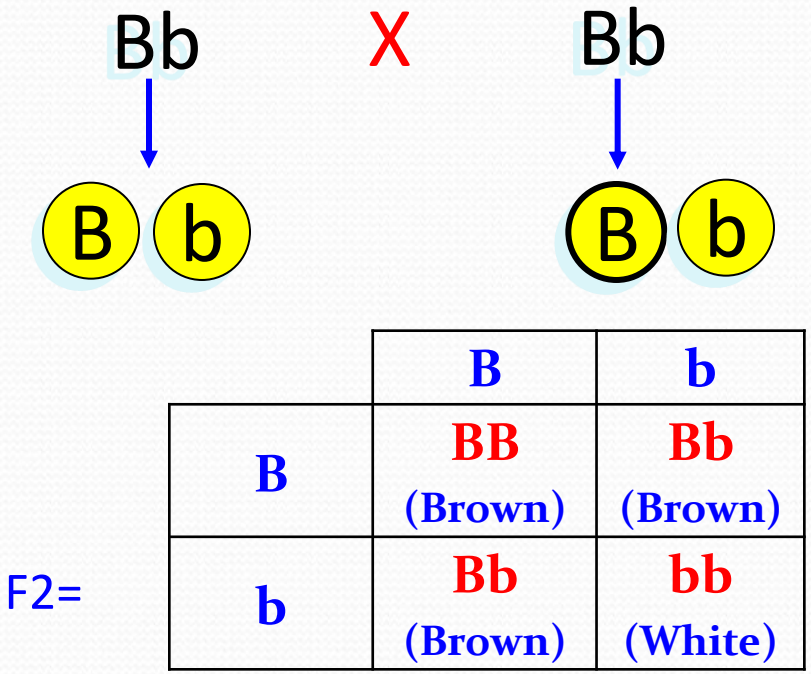
- What are the genotypes of the parents? RR, rr
- What percentage of the offspring will also be homozygous? 0 %



Question 3: A brown mouse is mated to a white mouse and all of their offspring are brown.

- Which allele is dominant? Brown
- What are the genotypes of the mice that were crossed? BB, bb
- If two of the F1 brown offspring were mated together, what percentage of the F2 mice would be brown? 75%





	B	b
B	BB (Brown)	Bb (Brown)
b	Bb (Brown)	bb (White)