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Sex is good

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If synergistic epistasis occurs, each mutation added to a genome has a greater deleterious effect than preceding mutations. Without this effect it is difficult to explain how small populations can survive in the face of [genetic drift](#), or how larger populations can survive a high mutation rate. In the 27 July [Nature](#) Peck and Waxman use a mathematical model to deduce that competition in small groups does, indeed, lead to synergistic epistasis (*Nature* 2000, **406**:399-404). This competition also produces a large advantage for sexual populations, allowing them to resist invasion by asexual lineages.

References

1. Imperfect genes, Fisherian mutation and the evolution of sex.
2. Nature magazine, [<http://www.nature.com/nature/>]