

Whatever Chord Database

Data description of the original data format

The data is stored in rows, each row is one song. The first column contains the artist name, the second the title, and the third the main structure of the song, with V = Verse and C = Chorus. "B" indicates a blues song with a standard 12-bar schema, for which chords are not notated. "O" and "Om" are one-chord songs in either major or minor, for which also no chord is notated (assume 1 or 1m).

The next columns contain the actual chords symbols, where the first columns are reserved for the verse and the next 40 columns contain the chorus chords, if present (files WCD_songs_with_chorus.*). Each cell represented one bar.

Chords are encoded with a key-independent numeral code indicating the diatonic major steps, possibly with a preceding flat sign, indicating a lowering of the step by a semitone.

Code	Roman Numeral Notation	Enharmonic Step in C major
1	I	C
b2	bII	C#/Db
2	II	D
b3	bIII	D#/Eb
3	III	E
4	IV	F
b5	bV	F#/Gb
5	V	G
b6	bVI	G#/Ab
6	VI	A
b7	bVII	A#/Bb
7	VII	B

Note: Minor tonics are notated as 6m.

Chord types are notated with a optional succeeding letter:

Letter	Chord type
(None)	Major
m	Minor
d	Diminished
a	Augmented

For example, 4 = IV, 4m = iv, 4d = diminished IV^o (with b5), 4a = IV⁺ (with #5).

More than one chords in a bar are notated in the same cell without separator between them, e.g.,

1m5 = i and V

1mb7b65 = i, bVII, bVI and V

Slight variations during repeats are separated by the small letter "o", e.g.,

501 = first time V, first repeat I

401 | 15055 | 105 | 105 = first time: 4 | 15 | 1 | 1 |, first repeat: 1 | 55 | 5 | 5 |

Note: Sevenths or further extensions are not notated.