

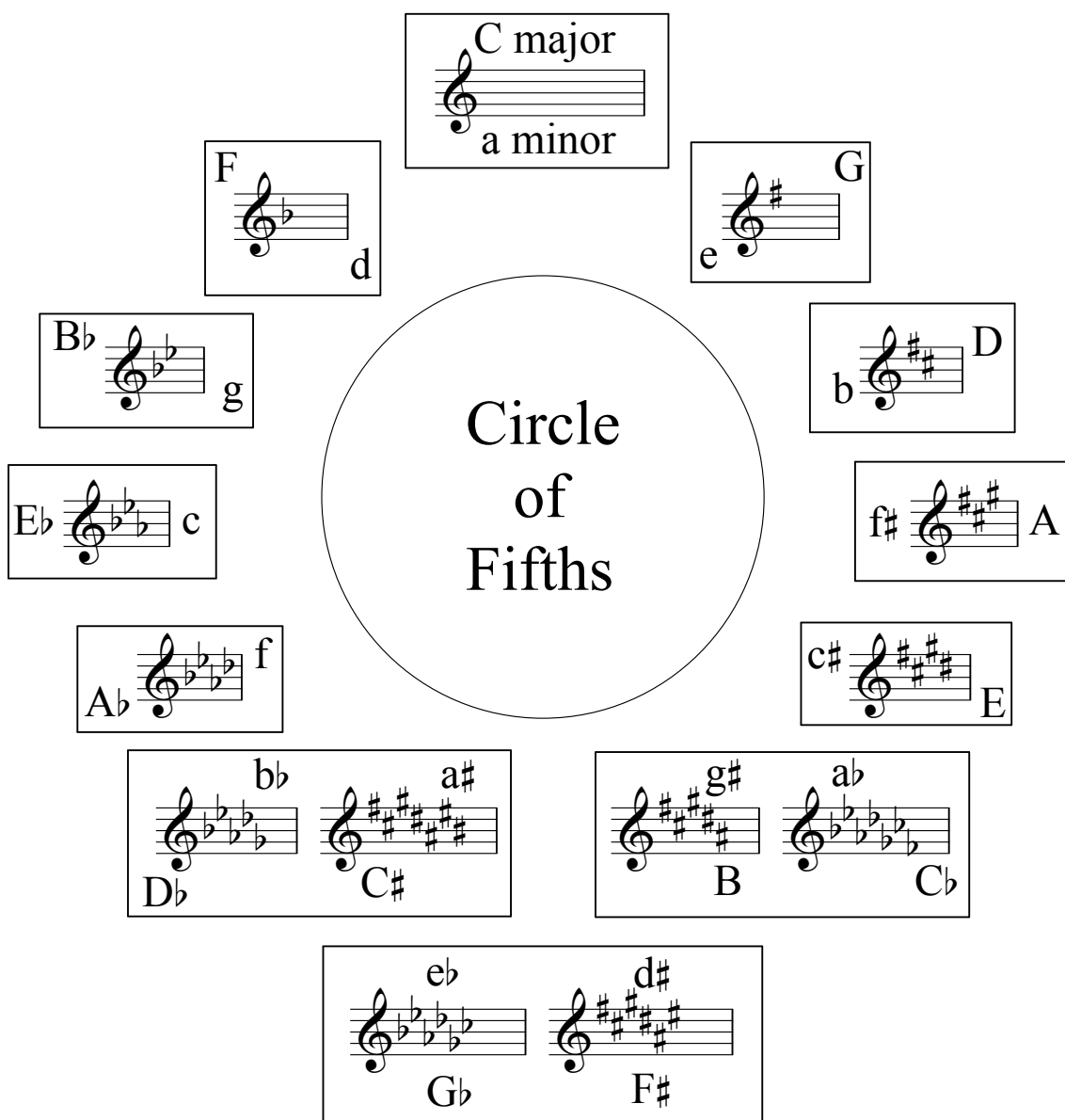
1.5 The Circle of Fifths

The **circle of fifths** is a common way to arrange the keys such that each key moving clockwise starts on the fifth note of the preceding key.

Notice:

1. Moving clockwise adds a sharp (or takes away a flat).
2. Moving counter-clockwise adds a flat (or takes away a sharp).
3. There are three pairs of **enharmonic keys** at the bottom of the chart (D \flat =C \sharp , G \flat =F \sharp , B=C \flat).
Enharmonic = played the same on the piano keyboard, but written differently.
4. Major keys are listed **outside** the circle, with minor keys **inside**. Minor scales are discussed on the "Minor Scales" page.

Although the circle of fifths is an interesting way to visualize key relationships, there is a shortcut that is much faster for memorizing them. See the "Learning Major Key Signatures" page.



(Enharmonic keys shown in one box.)