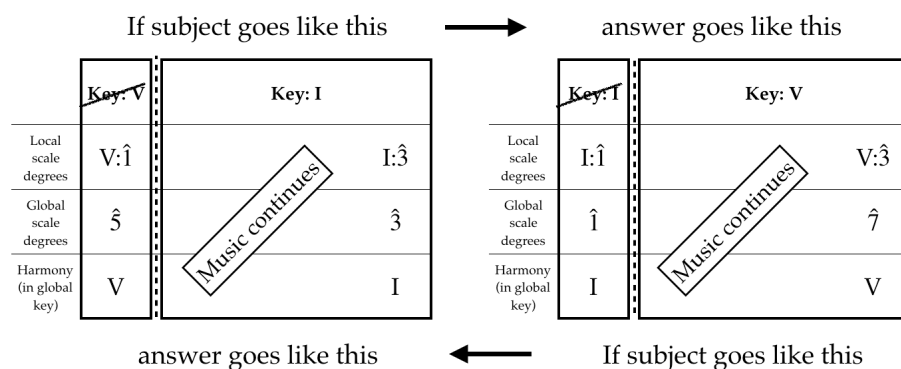


## Tonal answer—a correction

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This handout corrects an error in the previous handout about eliding tonal answer.

Previously, I provided the figure below (except that here I have crossed out the mistaken part):



This figure describes the segment of the subject before the splice as “in the key of V” (and the corresponding segment of the answer as “in the key of I”). The reason I thought this was helpful because if we reckon local scale degrees according to these tonics, they will be the same in both the subject and answer (e.g., V:  $\hat{1}$  will be answered by I:  $\hat{1}$ ).

However, it isn’t usually correct to say that the music is “in” these keys at these moments. More typically, and especially following a retransition, the subject will begin with V in the tonic key (i.e., “V of I”), not I in the dominant key (i.e., “I of V”). (Previously I was able to get away with fudging the difference between these two harmonies because, in major keys, they contain the same notes, although the scales within which they are embedded are different. Now that we are discussing retransitions, it is more important to distinguish the two cases.)

What I should have said is that **reckoning the scale degrees before the splice as if they were in the indicated keys** can help us better understand tonal answers.

To this end, we can introduce the notion of “**reference scales**.” Using the “tonic reference scale” means reckoning all scale degrees as though the tonic were  $\hat{1}$

(as we ordinarily do); using the “dominant reference scale” means reckoning all scale degrees as though the *dominant* were  $\hat{1}$ .

Here, then, is **an updated version of the figure**:

