

Chapter 4

Diatonic Chords in Major and Minor Keys

MUS 112

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Introduction

- We now have nine common chords that we are working with:
 - Four Triads
 - Major, Minor, Diminished, and Augmented
 - Five Seventh Chords
 - Major 7th, Minor 7th, Major-minor 7th, Half-diminished 7th, Diminished 7th
- **Diatonic Chords**
 - Chords that are composed of notes exclusively from a given key
 - We call chords that have notes outside of the key, altered or chromatic.

Diatonic Triads in Major

- We can construct a Triads on any scale degree
 - Reminder: we can only use notes in the given key
- To indicate what scale degree is the root of a chord, we use Roman Numerals
 - There are seven scale degrees, so we need the first seven roman numerals
- I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII
- The way we format the roman numeral indicates the quality of the triad

Triad type

Roman numeral

Example

Major

Uppercase

V

Minor

Lowercase

vi

Diminished

Lowercase with a ^o

vii^o

Augmented

Uppercase with a ⁺

III⁺

Scale degree
of the root

1̂

2̂

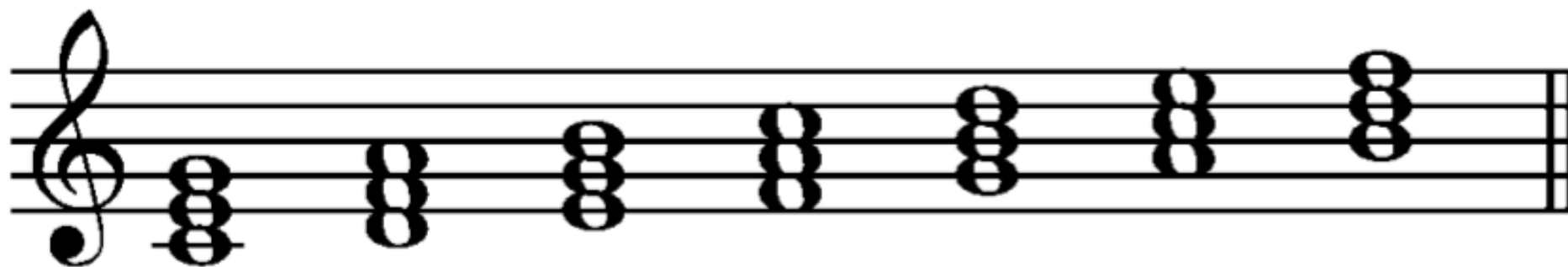
3̂

4̂

5̂

6̂

7̂



DIATONIC TRIAD TYPES IN MAJOR

Major

I, IV, and V

Minor

ii, iii, and vi

Diminished

vii^o

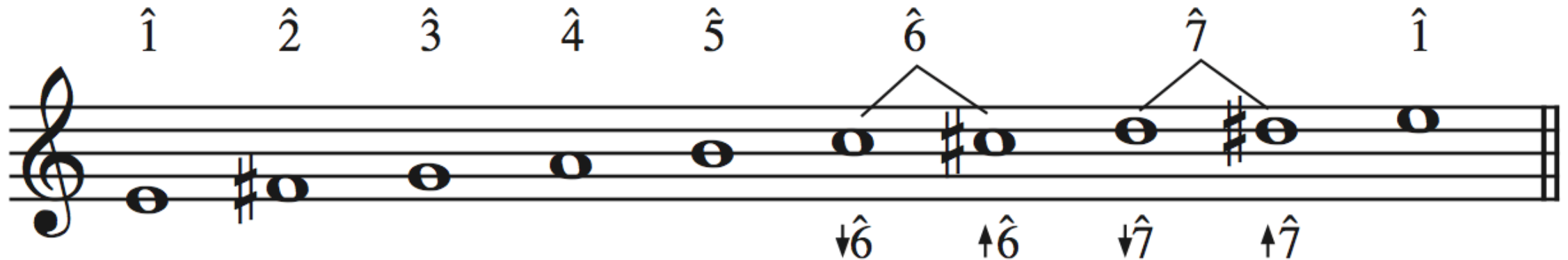
Augmented

none

The Minor Scale

- We have three minor scales to consider when looking at chords in minor keys
 - Natural
 - Harmonic
 - Melodic
- What are the scale degrees that change between each scale?

- $\hat{6}$ & $\hat{7}$



- Why?
 - Voice leading – raised $\hat{6}$ and $\hat{7}$ pull upward, and lowered $\hat{6}$ & $\hat{7}$ pull down
 - This allows a composer to create a certain direction in the musical line

Diatonic Triads in Minor

- There are more than 7 diatonic chords in minor
 - $\hat{6}$ and $\hat{7}$ are variable.
 - All triads contain $\hat{6}$ or $\hat{7}$, except for what triad?
 - i
 - Math Time! How many diatonic triads are there in minor, if chords that have $\hat{6}$ or $\hat{7}$ have two options?

Scale degree of the root

$\hat{1}$ $\hat{2}$ $\hat{2}$ $\hat{3}$ $\hat{3}$ $\hat{4}$ $\hat{4}$ $\hat{5}$ $\hat{5}$ $\downarrow\hat{6}$ $\uparrow\hat{6}$ $\downarrow\hat{7}$ $\uparrow\hat{7}$

Roman numeral

(i) (ii°) ii (III) III+ (iv) IV v (V) (VI) #vi° VII (vii°)

Qualities of Diatonic Triads in Minor



COMMON DIATONIC TRIADS IN MINOR

Major

III, V, and VI

Minor

i and iv

Diminished

ii[°] and vii[°]

Augmented

none

Brahms, Ach lieber Herre Jesu Christ

In anmutiger Bewegung

p molto dolce

Soprano



1. Ach lie - ber Her - re Je - su Christ, weil du ein Kind ge -

The Soprano part is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of half notes and quarter notes, with a final half note tied to the next measure. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Alto



1. Ach lie - ber Her - re Je - su Christ, weil du ein Kind ge -

The Alto part is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of half notes and quarter notes, with a final half note tied to the next measure. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Tenor



1. Ach lie - ber Her - re Je - su Christ, weil du ein Kind ge -

The Tenor part is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of half notes and quarter notes, with a final half note tied to the next measure. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Bass



1. Ach lie - ber Her - re Je - su Christ, weil du ein Kind ge -

The Bass part is written on a bass clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of half notes and quarter notes, with a final half note tied to the next measure. The lyrics are written below the staff.

we - sen bist, so gib auch die - sem Kin - de - lein dein Gnad und auch den

we - sen bist, so gib auch die - sem Kin - de - lein dein Gnad und auch den

8 we - sen bist, so gib auch die - sem Kin - de - lein dein Gnad und auch den

we - sen bist, so gib auch die - sem Kin - de - lein dein Gnad und auch den