Triads:Part 2
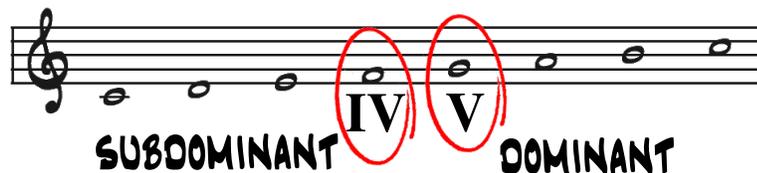
A tonic major triad is a triad that is build off the
first degree of the major and minor scale

We will now build triads off the fourth and fifth degree of these scales
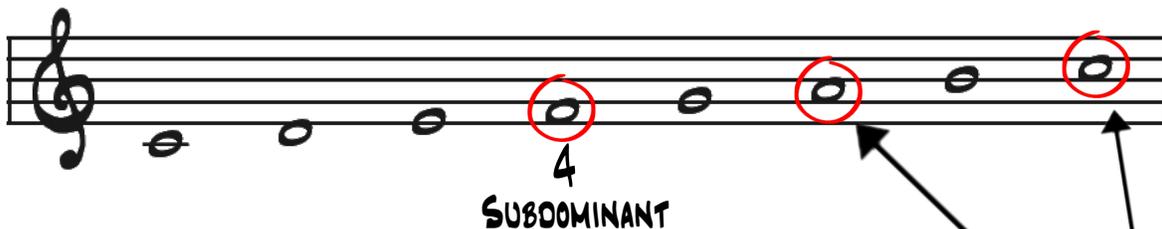

SUBDOMINANT   IV   V   DOMINANT

The fourth degree is called the subdominant and
the fifth degree is called the dominant

Major subdominants will be represented with the
Roman numeral IV for major and lowercase iv for minor

Dominants will be represented with the Roman numeral V for major

Major Key Subdominants

The fourth degree of a major scale is called the subdominant
We are in the key of C so F is our subdominant

4
Subdominant

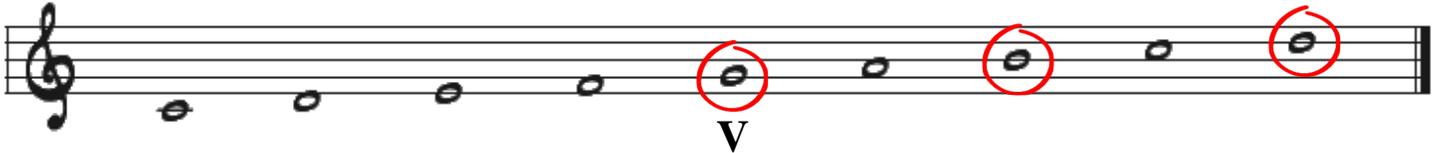We then build a triad starting on F which would be A and C

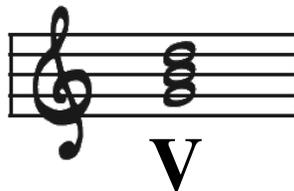The F Major Triad is the subdominant triad in the key of C

Major Key Dominants

The dominant triad is build from the 5th degree of the major scale

We'll make a C major scale that will continue to D
The 5th degree is G

V

If G is the new root, the B is the 3rd and D is the 5th

V

This is a G major dominant triad
The key signature is C so it doesn't have any sharps or flats
The Dominant Triad is always Major
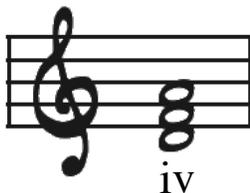
Minor Key Subdominants

Let's move to C's relative minor which is A minor
A minor has no sharps or flats and we called this the natural minor

We will NOT use the natural minor and change our
scale to the harmonic minor scale

we raise the 7th from the natural minor which in this case is a G#

The subdominant chord in minor is minor so
this is a D minor subdominant triad

iv

Minor Key Dominants

We'll use A minor again
We'll start with the A harmonic minor scale

We then build a triad from the 5th degree of A minor
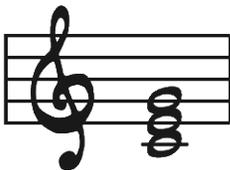That note is E

From E we build our triad of E is our root, G# is our 3rd and B is our 5th
This triad is major and is called E dominant major

V E dominant major

Major Tonic, Subdominant and Dominant Chords in C Major
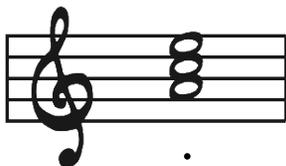
I
Major Tonic

IV
Major Subdominant

V
Major Dominant

Minor Tonic, Subdominant and Dominant Chords in A Minor

i
Minor Tonic

iv
Minor Subdominant

V
Major Dominant

1 A Minor — Write the scale from tonic to the 2nd degree. Use accidentals — Subdominant — Dominant

iv — V

2 E Minor — Subdominant — Dominant

3 C Minor — Subdominant — Dominant

4 F♯ Minor — Subdominant — Dominant

5 G Minor — Subdominant — Dominant

6 C♯ Minor — Subdominant — Dominant

7 D Minor — Subdominant — Dominant

8 F♯ Minor — Subdominant — Dominant

9 F Minor — Subdominant — Dominant

10 Add accidentals to make Tonic Major Triads

F Major   A Major   Eb Major   G Major   Ab Major   E Major   Bb Major   D Major

11 Write Tonic Minor Triads for each of the following key signatures

12 Add accidentals to make Tonic Minor Triads

G minor   E minor   D minor   F# minor   C minor   B minor   F minor   C# minor

13 Name the Minor/Major keys for these Dominant Triads

14 Write the Dominant Triad for these minor key signatures

15 Write the Subdominant Triad, using a key signature, for each of the following keys

C# minor   G minor   E minor   F minor   F# minor   D minor   B minor   C minor