

1.0 Diatonic Harmony

scale degrees and triads

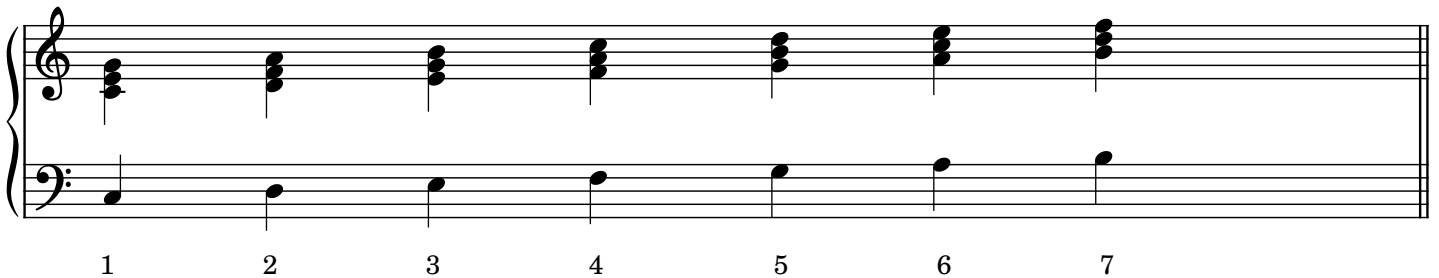
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This example shows the C Major scale in the bass clef (left hand) with the scale degrees numbered:



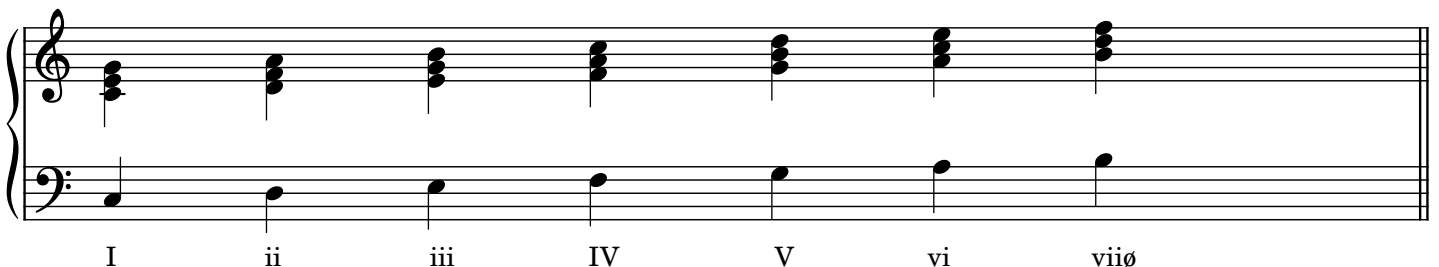
A single staff in bass clef showing the C Major scale. The notes are C, D, E, F, G, A, B, with scale degrees 1 through 7 written below each note.

Let's keep the scale in the bass clef and add triads (1-3-5) in the treble clef. These triads will keep the same key signature of our initial scale of C Major, which has no sharps or flats:



Two staves. The bottom staff is in bass clef and shows the C Major scale with scale degrees 1-7. The top staff is in treble clef and shows triads for each scale degree: C major (C-E-G), D minor (D-F-A), E minor (E-G-B), F major (F-A-C), G major (G-B-D), A minor (A-C-E), and B diminished (B-D-F).

Since each scale degree now has its triad (a triad is also called a chord), we must recognize the *quality* of each triad/chord (major, minor, etc.). Chord quality is shown with Roman numerals (upper case indicates major chords; lower case indicates minor and half-diminished chords):



Two staves. The bottom staff is in bass clef and shows the C Major scale with scale degrees 1-7. The top staff is in treble clef and shows triads for each scale degree, labeled with Roman numerals: I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, and viiø.