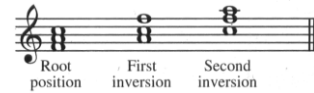


Inversions

Triad inversions

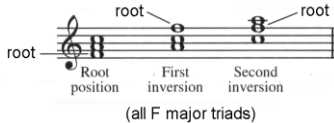
- Up to now, we have been writing triads with the root as the lowest note—this is called *root position*
- Triads can also be written with the third or the fifth as the lowest note—these are called *inversions*



- First inversion = third in the bass
- Second inversion = fifth in the bass

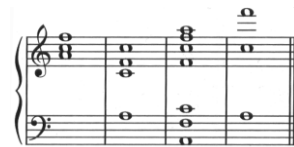
Triad inversions

- No matter how many times we invert a chord, we will not change the name of its root
- An inverted chord still has the same root and quality as a root position chord



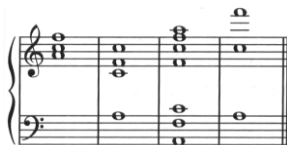
Chord spacing

- All of the triads we have looked at so far have been closely spaced
- The notes of the triad can also be written with wider spacings (using the same three note names in different octave positions)
- To figure out the inversion, always look at the *lowest note*



Chord doublings

- In the second and third chords below, some of the notes of the triad are doubled—any member of the chord can be doubled



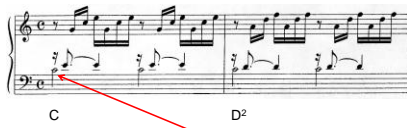
- Different spacings and doublings may change the *sound*, but do not change the underlying chord

Labeling chords

- One of the simplest ways of labeling chords is to call it by the name of its root
 - Use a capital letter for major chords G = G major
 - Use lowercase for minor chords g = g minor
 - Add a + for augmented chords G+ = G aug.
 - Add a ° for diminished chords g° = g dim.
- To indicate inversions, use the following symbols (which will be explained later):
 - Add a 6 for first inversion G⁶ = G major 1st inv.
 - Add a ♯ for second inversion g[♯] = g minor 2nd inv.

Arpeggiated textures

- Sometimes the notes in a chord are arpeggiated (not all played at the same time)



The image shows a musical score with two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is common time (C). The music consists of two measures. The first measure is labeled 'C' and shows an arpeggiated C major chord (C4, E4, G4) in the bass clef. The second measure is labeled 'D2' and shows an arpeggiated D minor chord (D4, F4, Ab4) in the bass clef. A red arrow points from the text 'In such cases, choose the stablest, lowest sounding note as the bass note' to the first note of the second measure (D4).

- In such cases, choose the stablest, lowest sounding note as the bass note
- Do not label a new chord until the harmony *changes*