

Roman Numerals

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Triads in a major key

- We can build triads on any scale degree in a major scale—the resulting chord types are the same for all major keys
- We use *roman numerals* to represent these chords



C: I ii iii IV V vi vii°

- I, IV, and V = major triads
- ii, iii, and vi = minor triads
- vii° = diminished triad

Triads in a major key

- What *roman numerals* would we use to represent these chords?



D: I ii iii IV V vi vii°



G: I ii iii IV V vi vii°

- In sum, these roman numerals are the same for ALL major keys (but be sure to label the key)

Triads in a minor key (natural)

- We can similarly build triads on any scale degree in a minor scale—the resulting chord types are the same for all minor keys (but different from major)



c: i ii° III iv v VI VII

- i, iv and v = minor triads
- III, VI, and VII = major triads
- ii° = diminished triad

Triads in a minor key (more common)

- Remember that scale degree 7 is variable in minor
- For some of the chords in minor, it is customary to raise scale degree 7 (the leading tone)



c: i ii° III iv **V** VI **vii°**

- The minor v chord (rare) becomes major **V** (common)
- The VII chord (rare) becomes **vii°** (common)
- We don't raise the leading tone in the III chord, however (which would make it augmented!)

Triads in major and minor

- Now compare the triads in major and minor:

MAJOR KEYS



C: I ii iii IV V vi vii°

MINOR KEYS



c: i ii° III iv **V** VI **vii°**

QUIZ on Monday

