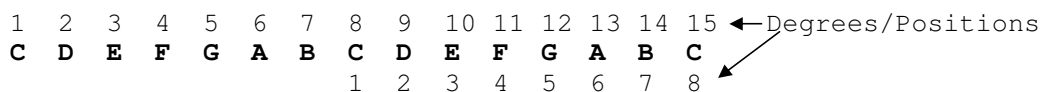
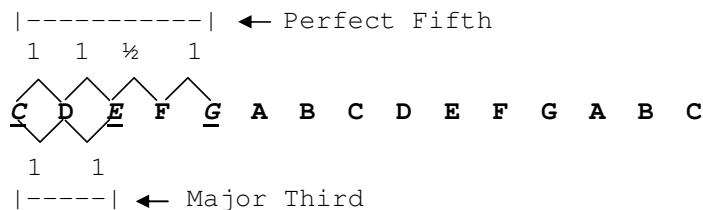


### Lesson 3 Chord Theory

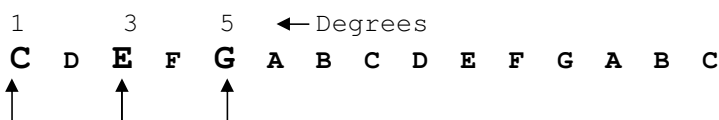
- **Degrees(positions)** in a scale are numbers assigned to notes that denote the order in which the notes fall within the scale.



- An **Interval** the musical distance between two notes, measured by the number of whole and half steps between the two notes.
  - A **Major Third** is an interval made up of two whole steps. For example, the distance between C and E is a major third.
  - A **Perfect Fifth** is an interval made up of three whole steps and one half step. For example, the distance between C and G is a perfect fifth.



- A **Chord** is a group of 3 or more notes played together. These notes are based from a scale.
- A **Triad** is a chord that consists of 3 notes
- A **Root** is the note on which the chord is based
- The **Tonic** is the note on which the major scale is based. It's also the 1st degree of the major scale. The word Root and Tonic are interchangeable.
- A **Major Triad** is chord consisting of a the root, major third and a perfect fifth. It can also be thought of the 1st,3rd,5th degrees put together. For example, a C major chord contains C, E, and G.



C Major Triad = (C ,E ,G)

- The **Base Note** is the lowest note played in a chord, shown either by the chord name. In the example above C is the base note of the C Major Chord. **\*\*\* THE BASE NOTE DOES NOT ALWAYS REFER TO THE NAME OF THE CHORD. \*\*\***
- **\*\*\* THE ROOT IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE PLAYED AS THE BASE NOTE CHORD. \*\*\***

-- Remember, the Root is the note on which the chord is based, not the Base note. In the example above, C is the lowest note, E is the middle note, and G is the highest note. The C Major Chord can be played with E as the lowest note or G as the lowest note. So (E, G,C) is NOT an E major chord and (G,C,E) is NOT a G major chord but both are C Major Chords. Here is why...

Figure 1

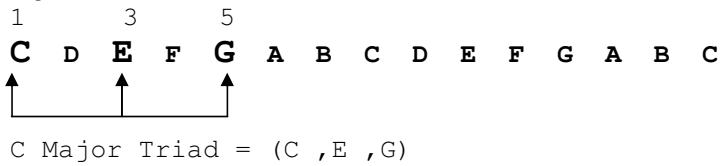


Figure 2

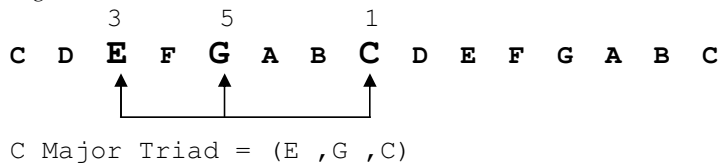
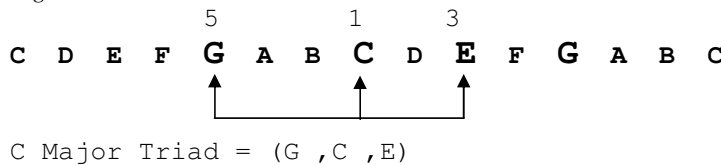


Figure 3



- As one can see, changing the order of the notes in a Major Triad does not change the name of the chord(although different types of chords and chords with more than 3 notes can have dual names). Changing the order of the notes of a chord such that the root is not the base note is called an **Inversion**. The number of inversions in a chord is determined by the number of notes in a chord. A triad has only three inversions because it has only three notes.
- Each inversion has a name.
  - The inversion in figure 1 is called **Root Position**. It's called this because the base note of the chord happens to be the root.
  - The inversion in figure 2 is called **1<sup>st</sup> Inversion**
  - The inversion in figure 3 is called **2<sup>nd</sup> Inversion**

ASSIGNMENT: Learn the Major Triads for all white keys and their inversions.