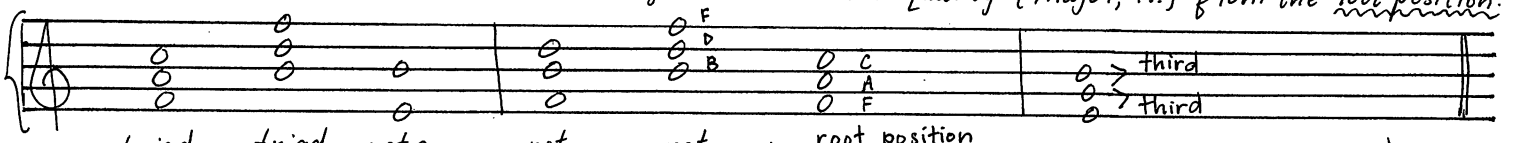
types

Major (M3 + m3)
minor (m3 + M3)
diminished (m3 + m3)
Augmented (M3 + M3)

concept explainer

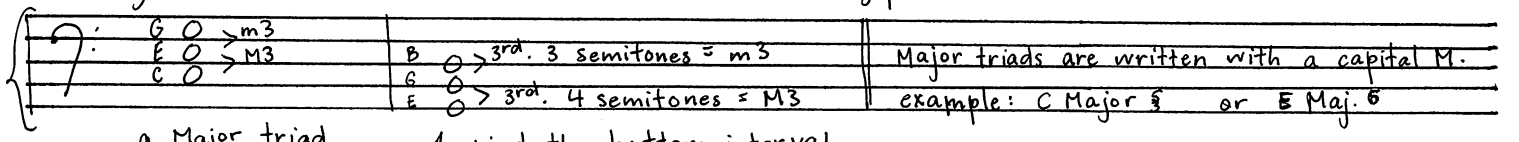
triads

1. triads have three notes, and we always describe their quality (Major, ...) from the root position.



triad ✓ | triad ✓ | not a triad ✗ | not root position ✗ | root position ✓ | root position looks like a snowman - all lines or all spaces, no gaps | triads are composed of two thirds (intervals) stacked on top of each other.

2. Major triads

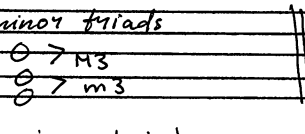


Major triads are written with a capital M.
example: C Major 5 or E Maj. 6

a Major triad is a minor 3rd on top of a Major 3rd

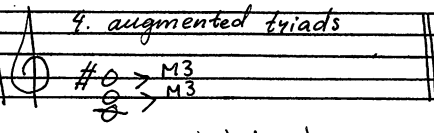
1. find the bottom interval
2. find the top interval

3. minor triads



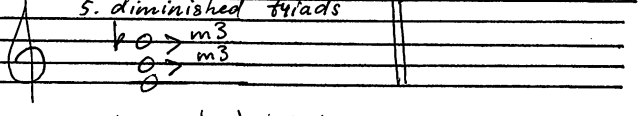
a minor triad is a M3 on top of a m3.

4. augmented triads



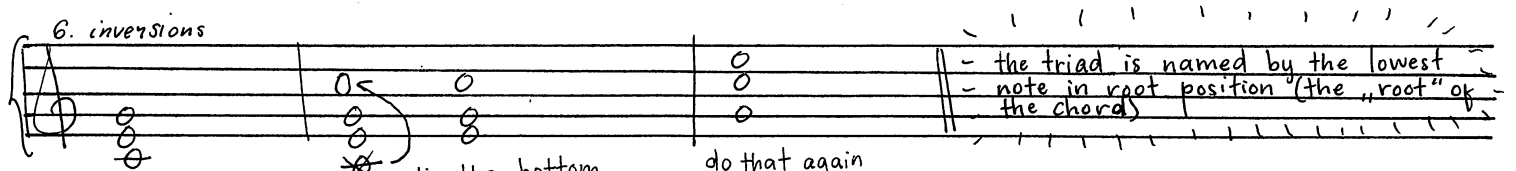
an Augmented triad is a M3 on top of a M3.

5. diminished triads



a diminished triad is a m3 over a m3.

6. inversions



root position = 5/3

flip the bottom note up an octave

first inversion = 6/3 or 6

do that again

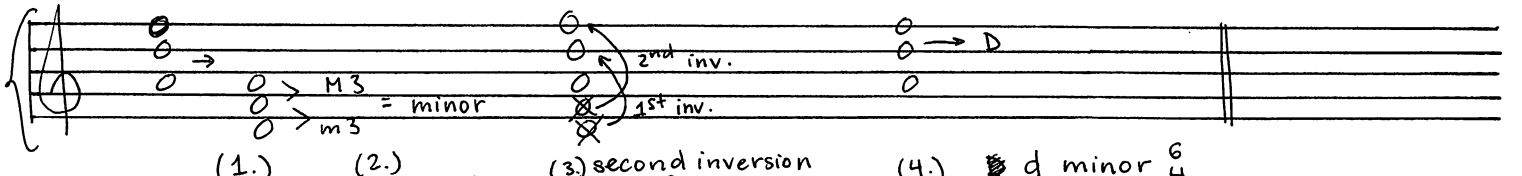
second inversion = 6/4 → these numbers are called „figured bass"

- the triad is named by the lowest note in root position (the „root" of the chord)

7. recognising a triad

step 1. bring it to root position
2. identify the intervals to classify the triad's quality
3. find the inversion.
4. name the triad:

root | quality | inversion



(1.) (2.) (3.) second inversion or 6/4 (4.) d minor 6/4