

RIM1230 Class Notes, Day 6
R. Adams

Defining the Interval of a Perfect 5th (P5)

A perfect 5th is the interval that exists between scale degree 1 and 5 in the major scale. It help us hear the sense of “tonality” (the key we are in. Other than the octave, it is the most stable interval in the tonal music system.

The intervals of a 5th, 4th and octave all use the “**Perfect**” designation instead of major

Key of C: C to G is a P5

Key of F: F to C is a P5

Key of G: G to D is a P5

Key of B: B to F# is a P5 (7 half steps between 1 and 5)

Key of Bb: Bb to F is a P5

All other P5 have notes whose accidentals match (natural to natural, or flat to flat)

D - A
E - B
F - C
G - D
A - E

Db - Ab
Eb - Bb
Gb - Db
Ab - Eb
Cb Gb

This make it easy to find P5 interval. Simply count up a 5th

CDEFG

1 2 3 4 5 and make sure the accidentals match C to G

Ab (ABCDE) Eb

Cb (CDEFG) Gb

There are two exceptions, both starting on a B — **B to F# and Bb to F**

It works the same starting on sharps: (sharp is used for both notes)

C# - G#

D# - A#

E# - B#

F# - C#
G# - D#
A# - E#

Identifying P5ths is important to finding your way around keys and scales

Memorizing 5th up and down helps you understand the circle of 5th:
Keys to the right of the circle: (C)G D A E B F# C#
Keys to the left of the circle: C F BbEbAbDbGbCb

Order of sharps for key signatures is also in P5: F#C#G#D#A#E#B#
Order of flats for key signatures is also in P5: BbEbAbDbGbCbFb

Refer to circle of 5th chart

Singing P5 from any given note will help develop your ear and sense of tonality
Try playing a pitch as tonic on the keyboard, then play and sing a P5 above it
Try this on a variety of pitches

What is a diminished 5th? (d5)

An interval of a 5th that is 1/2 step lower than a P5, but still a 5th in distance
Example: C Gb the letters C to G tells us it's a 5th. The Gb tells us it's a d5
C F# is NOT a d5, because the letters C to F tells us it's some kind of 4th

Remember with identifying intervals, there are two factors:

1. The distance
2. The quality

Keep the intervals "true" by always identifying the distance first and then altering the quality. A 5th is always a 5th! C G, C Gb, Cb Gb Cb G these are all 5ths.

C G P5
C Gb d5
Cb Gb P5
Cb G Augmented 5th

A diminished 5th is much more dissonant sounding than a P5. In fact it's probably on the opposite end of the sonic spectrum of consonance to dissonance

Homework: Proficiency 1 due tonight by midnight (let me know if your struggling)
On-Line Practice 3 due Wednesday, September 8