

## TRIADS

Identifying triads is simple to do. There are four types of triads that you will need to identify in this class:

### MAJOR, minor, AUGMENTED, diminished

Triads are made up of the first, third and fifth note of every scale. The relationship between the fifth and third will determine what type of triad it will be.

- The bottom note is the “root” or “tonic” of the scale. For example, the bottom note is “C”. You will be identifying a “C” type of triad.
- Next step is to identify what type of fifth it is from the bottom note to the top note. (Perfect, Augmented or Diminished)

Major triad:	P1	M3	P5
Minor triad:	P1	m3	P5
Augmented triad:	P1	M3	A5
Diminished triad:	P1	m3	d5

By identifying the 5<sup>th</sup> relationship first it will rule out your possible answers. The only time that you need to look at the 3<sup>rd</sup> (middle note) is if the 5<sup>th</sup> is Perfect.

The figure illustrates the interval relationships for four types of triads. Each triad is shown in a treble clef with its constituent notes, followed by a diagram showing the intervals between the root note, the third, and the fifth.

- Major triad:** Root note, Major third, Fifth.
- Minor triad:** Root note, Minor third, Fifth.
- Diminished triad:** Root note, Minor third, Diminished fifth.
- Augmented triad:** Root note, Major third, Augmented fifth.

Figure 5.5 from [Müller, FMP, Springer 2015]