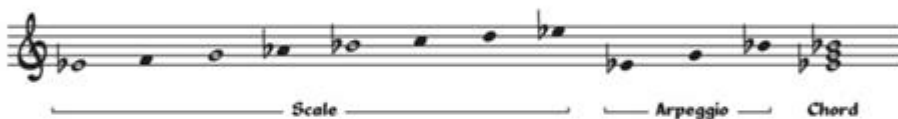


Lesson 37. Major Triads



A **chord** is a set of three or more notes sounded simultaneously. If the notes are played one after the other, it is called an **arpeggio**.

Triads are three-note chords. They are built upwards in thirds from a fundamental note called a **root**. The major triad includes the tonic (root), third, and fifth notes of the major scale built on the triad's root.



Each of these notes is described by a number corresponding to the scale degree above the root. These numbers are “functions,” as in, “E functions as the third of a C major triad.”



Another way to think of triads is in terms of intervals. From the root, the major triad has a major third and a perfect fifth. It can also be seen as a major third (C to E) below a minor third (E to G).

