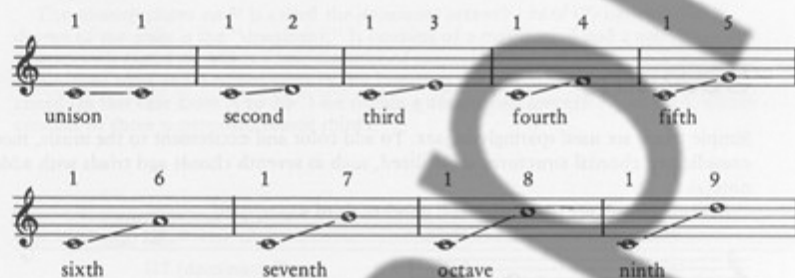


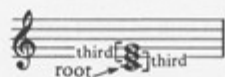
# Elements of Jazz Harmony

## Intervals and Triads

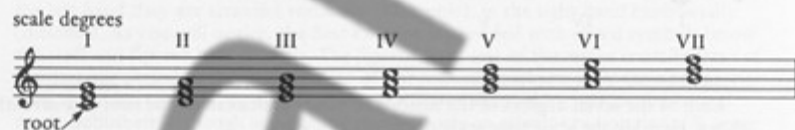
Melody and harmony are two aspects of the same building material, the *interval*. Intervals represent the distance in pitch between two tones. A melody is a horizontal succession of intervals, while harmony is a vertical superposition of intervals. The name of each interval indicates the total number of tones between the lowest note (the root) and the highest note.



The simplest chords are the triads built of two superposed thirds.



Each of the seven degrees of the major and minor scales can be the root of a triad.



The triads on the I, IV, and V degrees, the "tonal" degrees, are the most important in each scale and occur more frequently than the other four degrees (II, III, VI, VII). Any tone of any chord can be sharpened or flatted, *i.e.* it can be raised or lowered by a half step (semitone). Thus, a major triad can be transformed into a minor one by flattening the third, or vice versa. If we also flat the fifth, the minor chord becomes a diminished triad. If the fifth of a major chord is raised it becomes an augmented triad.

