

## Chord Types

### TRIADS

The four tonal *triad types* are:<sup>1 2</sup>

	Chord type	Quality symbol <sup>3</sup>	Lead-sheet symbol <sup>†</sup>	Chord Spelling <sup>‡</sup>
1.	Major	M	C	C, E, G
2.	Minor	m	Cm or C–	C, E $\flat$ , G
3.	Augmented	A	C+ or C <sup>aug</sup>	C, E, G $\sharp$
4.	Diminished	d	C <sup>o</sup> or Cdim	C, E $\flat$ , G $\flat$

### SEVENTH CHORDS

The five common *seventh chord types* are:<sup>4</sup>

	Chord type	Quality symbol <sup>5</sup>	Lead-sheet symbol <sup>†</sup>	Chord spelling <sup>‡</sup>
1.	Major-minor seventh <sup>6</sup>	Mm	C <sup>7</sup>	C, E, G, B $\flat$
2.	Major seventh	MM	C <sup>maj7</sup>	C, E, G, B
3.	Minor seventh	mm	C <sup>m7</sup> or C <sup>–7</sup>	C, E $\flat$ , G, B $\flat$
4.	Half-diminished seventh	dm	C <sup>ø7</sup> or C <sup>m7(b5)</sup>	C, E $\flat$ , G $\flat$ , B $\flat$
5.	Diminished seventh <sup>7</sup>	dd	C <sup>o7</sup> or C <sup>dim7</sup>	C, E $\flat$ , G $\flat$ , B $\flat\flat$

† - Lead-sheet symbol for the chord type built on root C.

‡ - List notation for the chord type build on root C.

### List Notation

We define *list notation* to be a listing of notes in bottom-to-top root position order. As shown above, chord members are separated by a comma “,” and single space. We will use list notation when we notate chords in Blackboard. For more information about lead-sheet symbols, see the MUSC 115 handout *Lead-Sheet Symbols*.

<sup>1</sup> The terms *chord type* and *chord quality* are often used interchangeably.

<sup>2</sup> The four triad types (M, m, A & d) are derived from *every-other-note combinations* of the major and minor scales.

<sup>3</sup> ‘M’ stands for *major*; ‘m’ stands for *minor*; ‘A’ stands for *augmented*; and ‘d’ stands for *diminished*. M & m triads are traditionally classified as *consonant*, whereas A & d triads are classified as *dissonant*.

<sup>4</sup> Other seventh chord types are possible including: mM, AM, Am, etc.

<sup>5</sup> The first symbol represents the *triad type*. The second symbol represents the *seventh type*. For example, symbol ‘Mm’ represents a major triad with a minor seventh.

<sup>6</sup> The terms *major-minor seventh* and *dominant seventh* chord are often used interchangeably.

<sup>7</sup> The terms *diminished seventh* and *fully-diminished seventh* chord are often used interchangeably.