• A triad is a three-note chord in which all the notes are a third apart.

• In a triad, the bottom note is called the root, the middle note is the third, and the top note is the fifth.

• There are four kinds (or qualities) of triads: major, minor, augmented, and diminished

• To form a major triad, use the first, third, and fifth steps of the major scale or add a major third and then a minor third above the root.

  Example:

![major triad example]

• To form a minor triad, use the first, third, and fifth, steps of the minor scale or add a minor third and then a major third above the root.

  Example:

![minor triad example]

• To form an augmented triad, simply raise the fifth of the major triad by a half step or add a major third and then another major third above the root.

  Example:

![augmented triad example]

• To form a diminished triad, simply lower the fifth of the minor triad by a half step or add a minor third and then another minor third above the root.

  Example:

![diminished triad example]

• There are abbreviations for the different types of triads:

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<th>QUALITY</th>
<th>ABBREVIATIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>B♭ B♭M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>min m</td>
<td>B♭min B♭m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augmented</td>
<td>aug ‡</td>
<td>B♭aug B♭‡</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diminished</td>
<td>dim °</td>
<td>B♭dim B♭°</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

• Each note in a scale is given a number in order from lowest to highest. These numbers are called scale degrees and are written using Roman numerals:

![scale degrees diagram]
Here is a recap of the triads that are built on the steps of the major and natural minor scales:

```
I  ii  iii  IV  V  vi  vii°  I
     i  i°  III  iv  v  VI  VII  i
```

Remember, upper case (for major and augmented) and lower case (for minor and diminished) as well as the ° and ° symbols are used to indicate the quality of the chord.

Each scale degree has a name. The triads built on these scale degrees use many of the same names:

```
I  ii  iii  IV  V  vi  vii°  I
  Tonic  Supertonic  Mediant  Subdominant  Dominant  Submediant  Leading Tone  Tonic
```