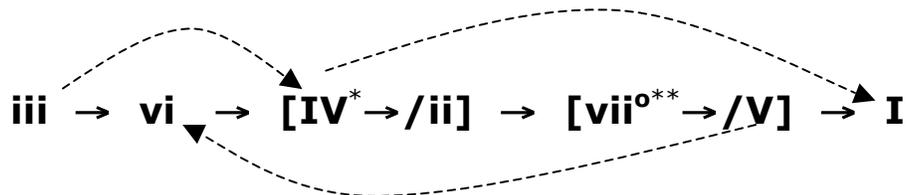


HARMONIC PROGRESSIONS In major keys

A chord progression is a series of chords that seem to move with a sense of progress, towards a goal. When chords change from one to the next, they “progress” in particular ways, with the ultimate goal being the tonic (I) chord. Certain chords tend to progress to certain other chords. When these tendencies are followed, the chord combinations sound like common practice era music.

CHORD	GOES TO	LESS OFTEN
I	Anywhere (it’s a neutral chord)	
ii	V	vii°
iii	vi	IV
IV	V	I (called a “Plagal” progression) ii vii°
V	I	vi (called a “Deceptive” progression)
vi	ii or IV	V
vii°	I	V

The above is an elaboration on the more-patterned circle of fifths progression, where chord root movement is in descending 5ths (or ascending 4ths). The model for this root movement is how effectively V (the dominant) progresses to I (the tonic).



*IV can substitute for (and go to) ii
**vii° can substitute for (and go to) V