Section 1.4

RHYTHMIC VALUES

Duration

Duration is how long a note lasts. A rhythmic value is a symbol indicating relative duration (see table below). A rhythm is a series of rhythmic values.

Rhythmic values

Rhythmic values indicate relative duration, not absolute duration. Each rhythmic value is half the duration of the next longer value. Shorter note values (64th notes, etc.) are also possible.

Notehead

The oval part of the note is called the notehead. Notes shorter than whole notes have a stem attached to the notehead. Notes shorter than quarters have flags or beams, depending on the rhythmic context (see 1.10 Summary of Notation Guidelines). Eighth notes have one flag (or beam), sixteenth notes have two flags (or two beams), and so on. The position of the notehead on the staff indicates the pitch of the note.
Rests  
Rests are similar to notes, but indicate lengths of silences. A breve rest is twice as long as a whole rest, a whole rest is twice as long as a half rest, and so on. Remember that a whole note looks like a “hole” in the ground.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>breve</th>
<th>whole</th>
<th>half</th>
<th>quarter</th>
<th>eighth</th>
<th>sixteenth</th>
<th>thirty-second</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Ties  
A tie combines rhythmic values together. For example, two eighth notes tied together make a rhythmic value equal to one quarter note. Ties connect notes of the same pitch. Ties never connect rests.

\[
\text{\textbf{Tie}}
\]

Augmentation dots (dotted rhythmic values)  
An augmentation dot on any note or rest adds half the duration. The rhythmic value is said to be “dotted.” For example, a dotted half note equals a half note plus a quarter note, since a quarter note is half of a half note. Similarly, a dotted quarter note equals a quarter note plus an eighth note, since an eighth note is half of a quarter note.

\[
\downarrow \text{ (dotted half note)} = \downarrow + \uparrow = \downarrow + \uparrow + \uparrow \\
\downarrow \downarrow \text{ (dotted quarter note)} = \downarrow \downarrow + \uparrow = \downarrow \downarrow + \uparrow + \uparrow \\
\]

Double-dotted notes  
A second augmentation dot (if present), adds half the first dot’s value. Rhythmic values with two dots are “double-dotted.” For example, a double-dotted half note equals a half note plus a quarter note (for the first dot) plus an eighth note (half of a quarter note, for the second dot). Double-dotted notes are 1.75 times as long (1+0.5+0.25) as the undotted value.

\[
\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \text{ (double-dotted half note)} = \downarrow + \downarrow + \downarrow \\
\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \text{ (double-dotted quarter note)} = \downarrow \downarrow + \downarrow + \downarrow \\
\]