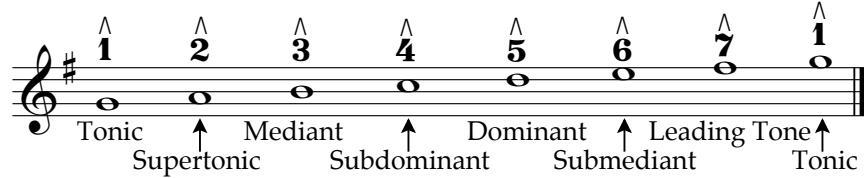


*Section 2.6*

**SCALE DEGREE NAMES**

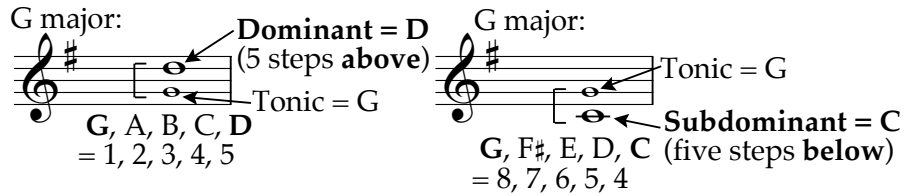
**Scale degrees**  
**Caret**

The different notes of a scale are called **scale degrees** or **scale steps**. Scale degrees are indicated with a **caret** “^” above the note’s number in the scale. Each scale degree has a name, shown here in G major:



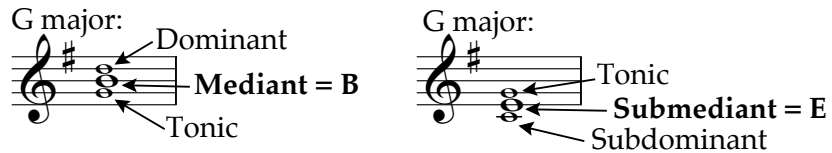
**Tonic**  
**Dominant**  
**Subdominant**

The **tonic** is the first note of the scale. It is the “key note.” **Dominant** is five scale steps **above** tonic, counting the tonic as one. **Subdominant** is five scale steps **below** tonic, counting the tonic as one.



**Mediant**  
**Submediant**

**Mediant** is “midway” between tonic and dominant. **Submediant** is “midway” between tonic and subdominant.



**Supertonic**  
**Leading tone**  
**Subtonic**

**Supertonic** is a **whole step above** tonic. **Subtonic** is a **whole step below** tonic. Subtonic is only possible in minor keys! The **leading tone** is always a **half step below** tonic (in major and minor keys).

