3.12 Types of Mediant Relationships

Mediant relationship = chords or keys that are a major or minor third apart

1. Diatonic Mediant
   This is the relationship between chords whose roots are a third apart within a given key.
   1. Roots a M3 or m3 apart
   2. Contrasting chord qualities (always one is major and the other is minor or vice-versa)
   3. Two common tones

   \[ \text{Eb}: \text{I} \quad \text{Eb}: \text{iii} \]
   ...and other possibilities

2. Chromatic Mediant
   1. Roots a M3 or m3 apart
   2. Matching triad qualities (always BOTH major or BOTH minor).
   3. One common tone

   \[ \text{D major} \quad \text{F major} \]
   ...and other possibilities

   Because chromatic mediants share a single tone, it is common to use them for common tone modulations:

   \[ \text{D major...} \quad \text{...common tone stated alone...} \quad \text{F major} \]

3. Double Chromatic Mediant
   The double chromatic mediant (or doubly-chromatic mediant) is the most distant mediant relationship.
   Tonal motions involving the double chromatic mediant are rare before the 19th-century.
   1. Roots a M3 or m3 apart
   2. Contrasting triad qualities (always one is major and the other is minor or vice-versa)
   3. NO common tones

   REMEMBER: Double chromatic mediant involves two chord types (major and minor) and no common tones.

   \[ \text{Bb major} \quad \text{Db minor} \]
   ...and other possibilities