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3.11 Harmonic Functions by Chord Quality

Chord quality indicates function. Memorize these charts.
Always start by making a "stack of thirds" out of the notes you want to analyze.

Diatonic functions:
Major triads: major keys → I / IV / V **OR** *minor keys* → III / V / VI / VII
Minor triads: major keys → ii / iii / vi **OR** *minor keys* → i / iv
Diminished triads: major keys → vii° **OR** *minor keys* → ii° / #vi°(*rare*) / vii°
Augmented triads: minor keys <u>*only*</u> → III+

1. TRIADS

Chromatic functions:
Major triads: mode mixture? secondary V? Neapolitan?
Minor triads: mode mixture? Vsub6?
Diminished triads: secondary LT? mode mixture (ii° in major)?
Augmented triads: V+ (augmented dominant)?

Diatonic functions:
Mm^7: V^7 <u>*only*</u> (Mm7="Dominant?")
Dim^7 (°^{7}): *minor keys* <u>*only*</u> → vii°^{7}
Half-dim^7 (ø^7): *major keys* → vii^{ø7} **OR** *minor keys* → ii^{ø7}/ #vi^{ø7}(*rare*)
Min^7: major keys → ii^7 / iii^7 / vi^7 **OR** *minor keys* → i^7 / iv^7
Maj^7: major keys → I^{M7} / IV^{M7} **OR** *minor keys* → III^{M7} / VI^{M7}

2. SEVENTH CHORDS

Chromatic functions:
Mm^7: secondary V^7? or enharmonic reint. as aug 6th chord?
Dim^7 (°^{7}): vii°^{7} as mode mixture? vii°^{7} as secondary LT? ct°^{7}?
Half-dim^7 (ø^7): secondary LT? mode mixture (vii^{ø7} or ii^{ø7})?
Min^7: mode mixture?
Maj^7: Almost always diatonic; try for a diatonic solution

3. OTHER SONORITIES

Augmented sixth chord? (It+6? Fr+6? Ger+6? Other +6?)
V+^{7} (augmented dominant seventh)?
Last resort analysis: Omnibus or directed linear motion