

### 3.4 Modulation

**Modulation** = changing to a new tonal center (a new *tonic*) for more than a few chords, often with a cadence.

Most modulations are to closely-related keys (see 3.3 *Types of Key Relationships*).

There are the three very common types of modulations and some less common types.

#### 1. Common Chord (or Pivot Chord) Modulation

- The most basic modulation uses a chord shared by two keys as a "pivot" to the second key.
- The pivot chord will function in **both** the old key and the new key simultaneously.
- The roman numeral analysis indicates this by using **2 roman numerals** for the pivot chord (see below).

*pivot*

g: V i VI iv i VI ii cad<sup>6</sup> V<sup>7</sup> I  
 Bb: IV (analysis continues in Bb)

#### 2. Altered Chord as Common Chord Modulation

Sometimes the only chord in common is a **chromatically-altered chord** such as a secondary dominant.

In the example below, d minor in m. 3 cannot be the common chord because it isn't part of G major.

The pivot chord is really the D7 chord on beat 2 of m. 3, as shown in the analysis.

*pivot*

C: I ii V I ii<sup>6</sup> V<sup>6</sup>/V<sup>7</sup> I vi ii<sup>6</sup> V<sup>7</sup> I  
 G: V<sup>6</sup> (analysis continues in G)

#### 3. Common Tone Modulation

- In a common tone modulation, **one tone is common** to both keys.
- Often the common tone is repeated by itself before the key change.
- Because chromatic mediant share a single tone, it is common to use them for common-tone modulations (see 3.12 *Mediant Relationships*).

G major... → ...common tone stated alone... → Bb major...

#### Less Common Modulation Types

4. **Sequential modulation**, in which a phrase is repeated in a different key, often up a step.
5. **Direct modulation / phrase modulation**, in which the key changes abruptly after a cadence w/ no common chord.
6. **Monophonic modulation**, in which the key changes by introducing accidentals to an unaccompanied melody.
7. **Enharmonic modulation**, a rare type described on 3.9 *Enharmonic Reinterpretation*.

#### Analyzing Modulations

1. Find the first chord that doesn't work in the old key.
2. Back up one chord.
3. See whether that final chord before the new key works as a common chord.