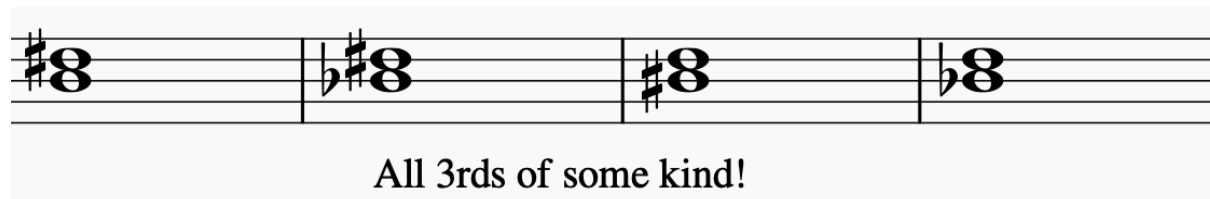


Interval Number

The number of an interval is based on the notes' locations on the staff.



So, even without a clef, these two notes would always be some type of 3rd, even with or without sharps/flats:



All 3rds of some kind!

Interval Quality

Quality is where the exact distance and particular sound of an interval come in.

We group intervals into two quality types: Perfect, and Major/minor.

4ths, 5ths, and 8ths are of the Perfect quality type. (As well as 1sts, also called unisons!)

Perfect intervals are strong, stable, and neutral sounding.

1 4 5 8	Perfect	
2 3 6 7	minor (smaller)	Major (larger)

2nds, 3rds, 6ths, and 7ths, are of the Major/minor quality type.

Major/minor intervals are more flavorful. Whether one of these intervals is major or minor depends on the exact distance from note to note in half steps. Minor intervals are always 1 half step smaller than their Major counterparts.

C to D is 2 half steps - a Major 2nd	C to D \flat is 1 half step - a minor 2nd	E to G \sharp is 4 half steps - a Major 3rd	E to G is 3 half steps - a minor 3rd
---	--	--	---

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing four intervals. The first interval is a Major 2nd (C4 to D4), the second is a minor 2nd (C4 to D \flat 4), the third is a Major 3rd (E4 to G \sharp 4), and the fourth is a minor 3rd (E4 to G4). Each interval is represented by two notes on the staff.

Perfect 5th - 7

minor 6th - 8

Major 6th - 9

minor 7th - 10

Major 7th - 11

A musical staff in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains a single C2 note (two ledger lines below the staff). The second measure contains a D2 note (one ledger line below the staff), labeled "Major 2nd" below the staff. The third measure contains an E2 note (first line below the staff), labeled "Major 3rd" below the staff. The fourth measure contains an F2 note (first space below the staff), labeled "Major 6th" below the staff. The fifth measure contains a G2 note (first line below the staff), labeled "Major 7th" below the staff. The sixth measure contains an A2 note (first space below the staff), labeled "Perfect 8th" below the staff. The seventh measure contains a B2 note (first line below the staff), labeled "Perfect 4th" above the staff. The eighth measure contains a C3 note (first line below the staff), labeled "Perfect 5th" above the staff. The ninth measure contains a D3 note (first line below the staff), labeled "Perfect 8th" above the staff. The tenth measure contains an E3 note (first line below the staff), labeled "Perfect 4th" above the staff. The eleventh measure contains an F3 note (first space below the staff), labeled "Perfect 5th" above the staff. The twelfth measure contains a G3 note (first space below the staff), labeled "Perfect 8th" above the staff. The thirteenth measure contains an A3 note (first space below the staff), labeled "Perfect 4th" above the staff. The fourteenth measure contains a B3 note (first space below the staff), labeled "Perfect 5th" above the staff. The fifteenth measure contains a C4 note (first line below the staff), labeled "Perfect 8th" above the staff.

Major 6th minor 6th


Major 7th minor 7th

Major 6th minor 6th

Major 7th minor 7th

Intervals, most of the time, exist in the forms we've outlined above. However, remember that they're first and foremost determined by location on the staff.

Perfect 4th ??? 4th



The image shows two musical staves. The first staff is in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. It contains two whole notes: one on the second line (F) and one on the fifth line (C), representing a perfect fourth. The second staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains two whole notes: one on the second line (F#) and one on the fourth line (C), representing an augmented fourth.

Any interval can be made even bigger (augmented) or made even smaller (diminished) than their usual Perfect or Major/minor boundaries.

1	<div>diminished</div> <div>(smallest)</div>	Perfect		<div>Augmented</div> <div>(largest)</div>
4		<div>minor</div> <div>(smaller)</div>	<div>Major</div> <div>(larger)</div>	
5				
8				
2				
3				
6				
7				

Various examples:

Perfect 4th

Augmented 4th



Perfect 5th

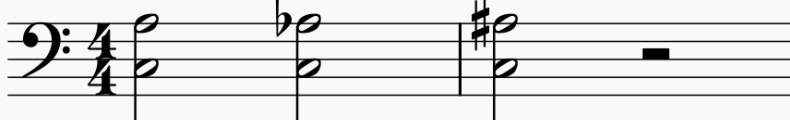
diminished 5th



Major 6th

minor 6th

Augmented 6th



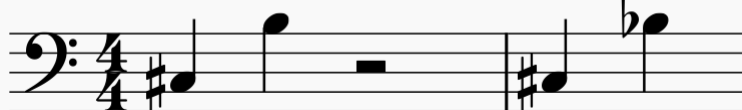
Major 2nd

Augmented 2nd



minor 7th

diminished 7th



Perfect 4th

diminished 4th

