

Progressive Motion: Chord motion with the root descending a fifth, descending a third, or rising a second.

Examples of Progressive Motion: note fifth scale degrees that have been omitted from some chords!

The image shows two musical staves in 4/4 time. The top staff is in A major (two sharps) and the bottom staff is in E-flat major (three flats). Both staves show a sequence of chords: I, IV, V<sup>7</sup>, I, I, IV<sup>6</sup>, V<sup>7</sup>, I. Arrows indicate the root movement between chords: descending a fifth (I to IV), descending a third (IV to V<sup>7</sup>), and rising a second (V<sup>7</sup> to I). The notation includes some omitted notes, such as the fifth scale degree in the IV and IV<sup>6</sup> chords.

A major: I IV V<sup>7</sup> I E-flat major: I IV<sup>6</sup> V<sup>7</sup> I

Regressive Motion: Chord motion that is not Progressive

Examples of Regressive Motion

The image shows two musical staves in 4/4 time. The top staff is in C-sharp minor (three sharps) and the bottom staff is in A minor (no sharps or flats). Both staves show a sequence of chords: i, VII, VI, V, i, III, v, VII. The notation includes some omitted notes, such as the fifth scale degree in the VII and v chords.

C-sharp minor: i VII VI V A minor: i III v VII