

MUSC 3A/3B

Things to remember during harmonic analysis –

Chord quality

Chord inversion

Correct Roman numerals for the above

LABEL your non-chord tones, don't just circle them!

PT – passing tone

NT – neighboring tone

CT – changing tones (cambiata; rare)

SUS – suspension

ANT – anticipation

RET – retardation

ET – escape tone

APP – appoggiatura

PED – pedal tone

LABEL your cadences, don't just bracket them!

PAC – perfect authentic cadence

IAC – imperfect authentic cadence

PC – plagal cadence

HC – half cadence

DC – deceptive cadence

Remember what is possible, and what is not.

Modulations need a cadence in the new key.

Cadences only occur at the ends of phrases.

When deciding when to pivot, look for chords / cadences that are not possible.

Our definition of “possible” will expand throughout the semester. Stick to what we know today.

Most importantly, think about the bigger picture. Avoid diving right into chord analysis. The cliché “you can't see the forest for the trees” really applies here – if you focus too far down you will miss some obvious clue. Step back, listen, play it on the piano, and think about what you know. Identify where each phrase begins and ends first, then decide what keys are being used and what cadences. Then you can go about analyzing the specific harmonies.