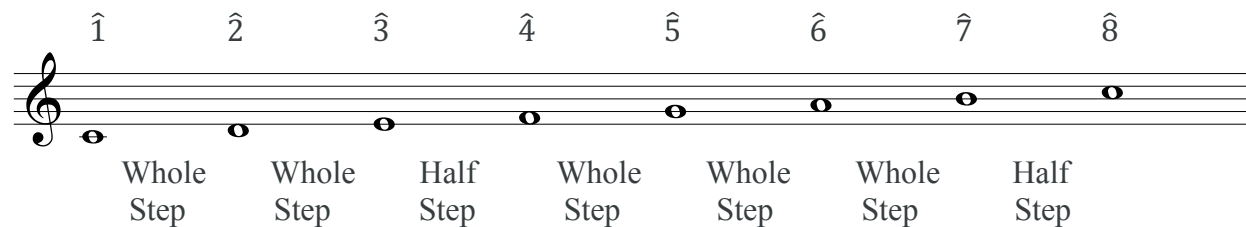


## 1.4 Major Scales and Scale Degrees

The Major scale consists of seven different pitches and uses a specific pattern of whole steps and half steps. In a Major scale, the pattern is whole-whole-half-whole-whole-whole-half (half steps occur between scale degrees  $\hat{3}$  and  $\hat{4}$  and between  $\hat{7}$  and  $\hat{8}$ ). The image below shows a C Major scale. Half steps occur between E and F, scale degrees  $\hat{3}$  and  $\hat{4}$ , and between B and C, scale degrees  $\hat{7}$  and  $\hat{8}$ .

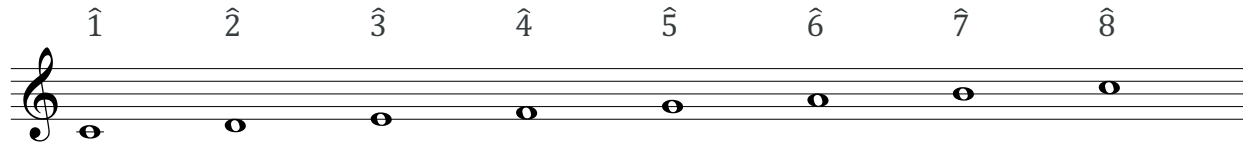


### Scale Degrees

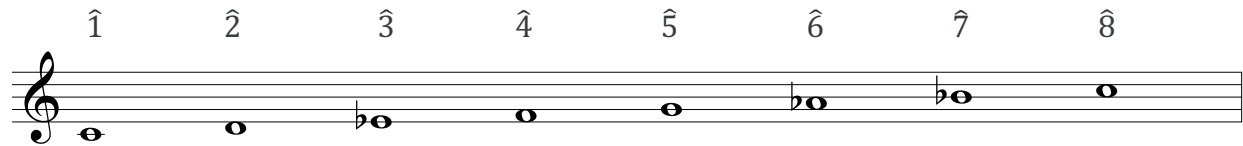
Each note of the scale has a scale degree indication and scale degree name. The following chart identifies both scale degree and name.

Scale Degree	Name
1 <sup>st</sup>	Tonic
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Supertonic
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mediant
4 <sup>th</sup>	Subdominant
5 <sup>th</sup>	Dominant
6 <sup>th</sup>	Submediant
7 <sup>th</sup>	Leading Tone – Major, harmonic minor, and ascending melodic minor
7 <sup>th</sup>	Subtonic – natural minor and descending melodic minor

Notice there are two names for the 7<sup>th</sup> scale degree – leading tone and subtonic. The leading tone is a half step below the tonic and appears in Major, harmonic minor, and ascending melodic minor scales. The subtonic is a whole step below the tonic and appears in natural minor and descending melodic minor scales.



CM: Tonic      Supertonic      Mediant      Subdominant      Dominant      Submediant      Leading Tone  
(half step below tonic)      Tonic



cm: Tonic      Supertonic      Mediant      Subdominant      Dominant      Submediant      Subtonic  
(whole step below tonic)      Tonic