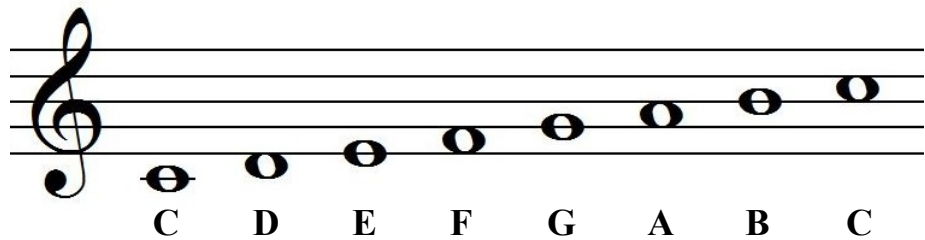


# Major Scales

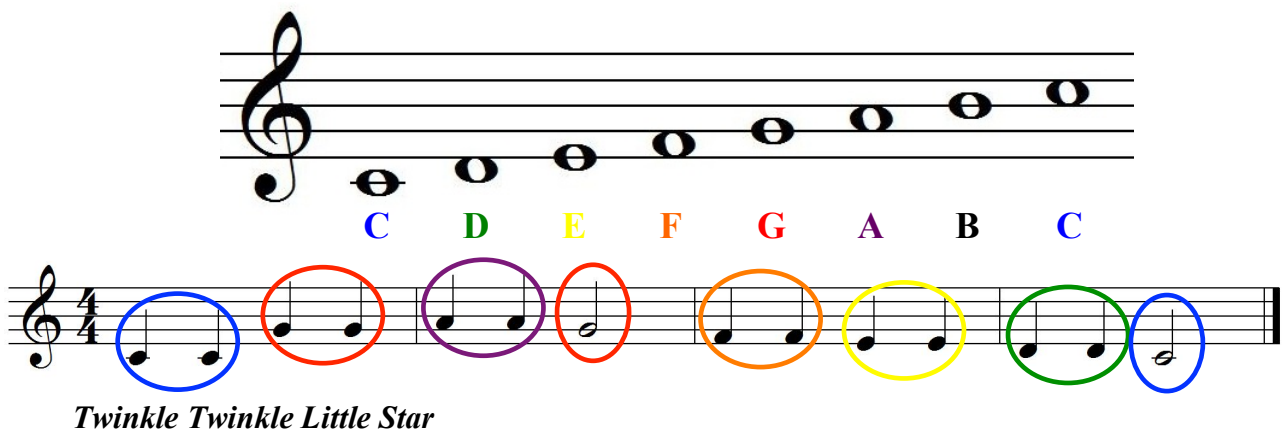
## Scales

- A **scale** is a succession of notes lying within the range of an octave (8 notes). The notes are arranged in **order of pitch**, moving upwards (ascending) or downwards (descending).

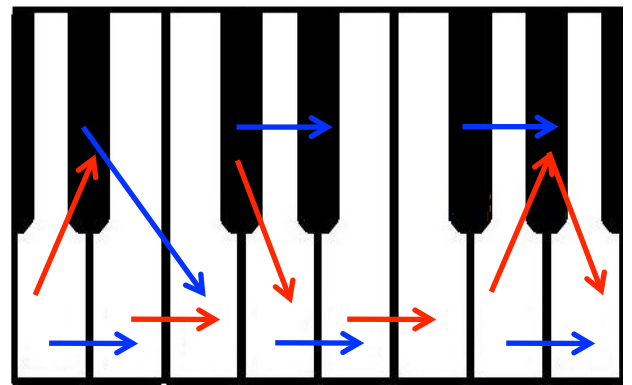
Scale of C Major  
ascending:  
begins and ends  
on C



- Scales are the basis for composing music: all melodies and harmonies in western music are created by notes that belong to scales. When a piece of music uses notes from a particular scale it is said to be in a particular **key** (see Lesson 7 for keys). For example, the children's song *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* is in the key of C major because it uses many notes from the C major scale:



- A scale is created by measuring the distances between each of the 8 notes that make up the scale. These distances are a series of **semitones** (ST) or **tones** (T).
- A **semitone** is the smallest distance between two notes. On the piano it's the distance between any note and its nearest neighbour:
- A **tone** is a distance of two semitones:

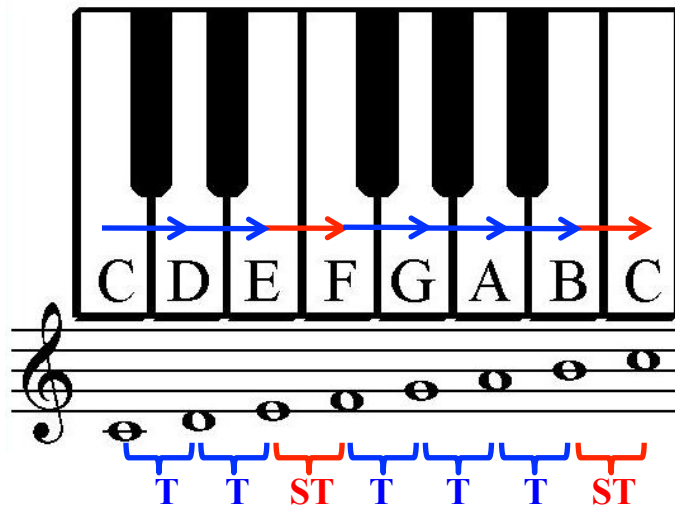


## The Major Scale

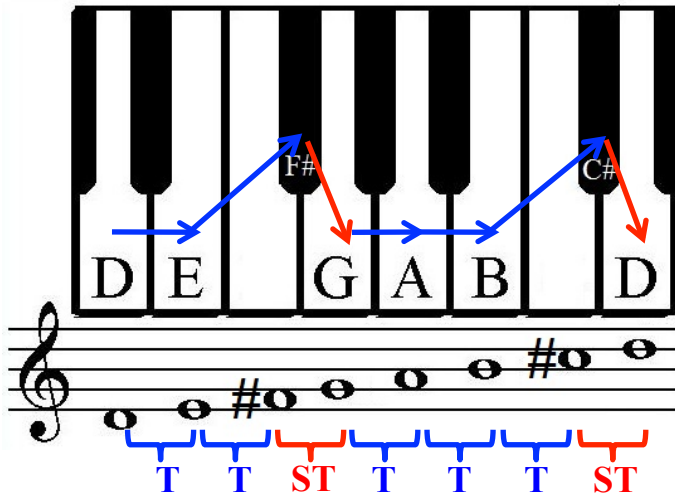
- Ascending major scales **MUST ALWAYS** follow this pattern of tones and semitones

T - T - ST - T - T - T - ST

- The Scale of C major (ascending): C - D - E - F - G - A - B - C

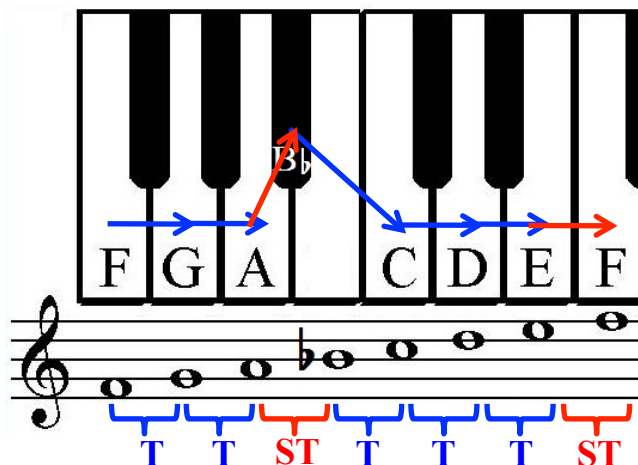


- The Scale of D major (ascending): D - E - F# - G - A - B - C# - D



Notice that there is F# and C# not Gb and Db because every letter in the scale must be given something

- The Scale of F major (ascending): F - G - A - Bb - C - D - E - F



Notice that there is a Bb and not an A# because every letter in the scale must be given something