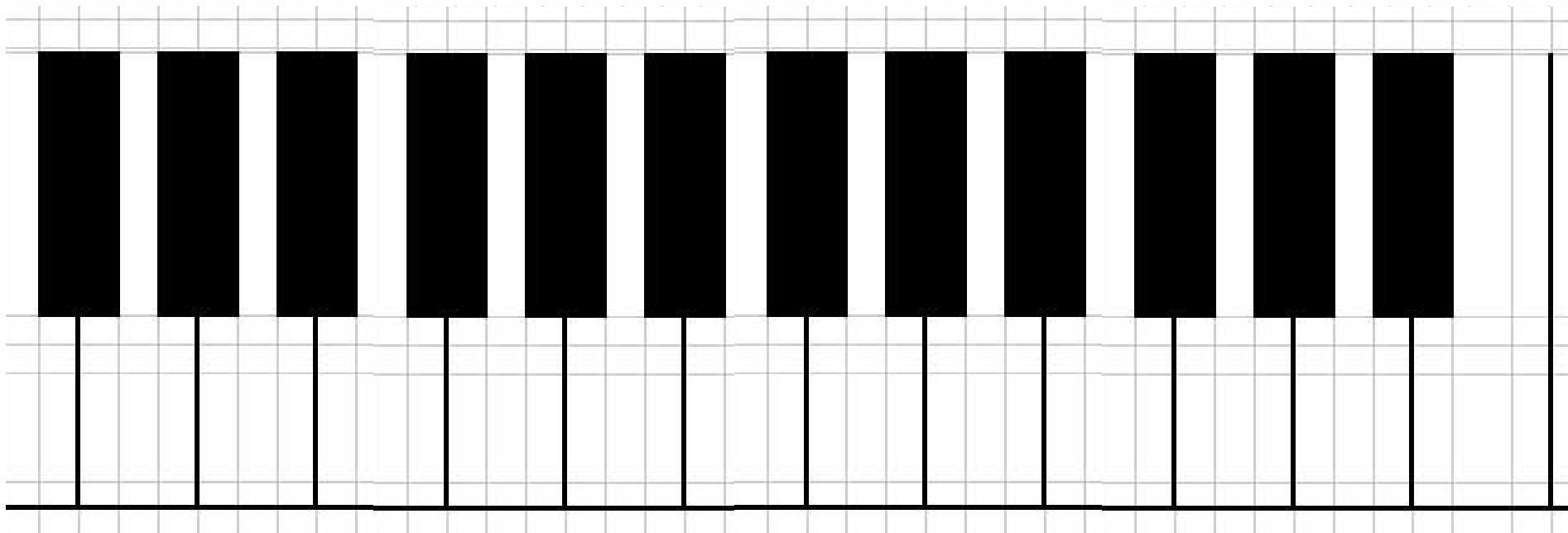


# Musical Scales



**WHY NOT?**

## Just scale constructed from major triads:

4 -> 5 -> 6

divide by 4:

1            5/4            3/2

to get Hz, you could multiply by any number you like,  
e.g. multiply by 50:    200Hz -> 250Hz -> 300Hz

**tune the white keys of the piano:**

**C D E F G A B C D**

**to three triads:**

**C-E-G:** C D E F G A B C D

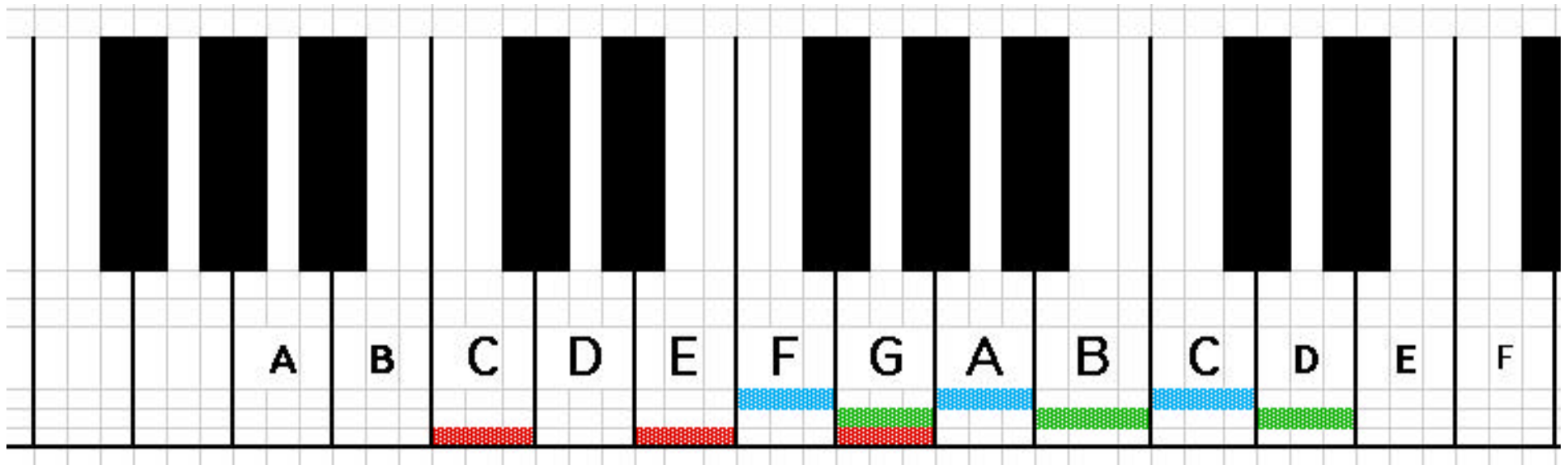
**G-B-D:** C D E F G A B C D

**F-A-C:** C D E F G A B C D

**What are the required frequencies?**

# Just Scale:

white keys of the piano



C-E-G triad

1

$5/4$

$3/2$

2

G-B-D triad

$9/8$

$3/2$

$15/8$

$9/4$

F-A-C triad

$4/3$

$5/3$

2

if we call the first frequency (C) = 1  
 the frequencies become:

	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
	1	$\frac{9}{8}$	$\frac{5}{4}$	$\frac{4}{3}$	$\frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{5}{3}$	$\frac{15}{8}$	2
interval:		$\frac{9}{8}$	$\frac{10}{9}$	$\frac{16}{15}$	$\frac{9}{8}$	$\frac{10}{9}$	$\frac{9}{8}$	$\frac{16}{15}$
incr:		12.5%	11.1%	6.7%	12.5%	11.1%	12.5%	6.7%

STEP: 1 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  1 1 1  $\frac{1}{2}$

the "major just diatonic scale"

**black keys where there is a whole-tone step!**

## Names of intervals:

examples on blackboard:

how count?

how find number of semitones?

minor third vs. major third

when are intervals called "just"?

How would we tune a keyboard?

example: if  $A_4 = 440$  Hz, what freq is  $F_4$ ?  $G_5$ ?

How calculate frequency ratios?

example: find ratio between  $F_4$  and  $B_4$   
in just tuning

# The Natural Scale

natural scale: sequence of harmonics (bugle)

frequencies relative to fundamental:

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10    .....

**example:**

**if fundamental is  $F_4$  what tone is the fifth mode?**