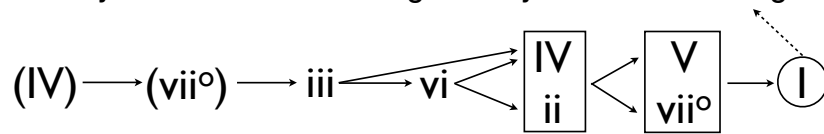


## 4 Part Voice Leading Summary -- after Week 1

### Harmonic Motion:

Harmony of the Classical Era generally moves according to this chart:



### Spacing:

- Avoid having space of more than an octave between any two adjacent voices above the bass (e.g., Soprano, Alto, Tenor)
- Avoid having a space of more than a 10th, 12th at most, between Bass and Tenor.

### Limit Voice Leaps:

- In general, stick to common tone voice leading
- Move other voices by step, or if not possible, by *smallest interval* possible
- When writing non-common-tone voice leading, the top three voices (SAT) go in contrary motion to the Bass.

### Rules:

- No parallel 5ths and parallel octaves
- Leading Tone *must* resolve to Tonic (in V to I, or vii to I) if it is in an outer voice (Soprano or Bass)
- 7th of a V7 chord *must* resolve down

### Other Guidelines:

- Find opportunities for contrary motion
- If you're in closed position, tend to stick to closed position; likewise, if you're in open position, tend to stick to open position part writing.
- If you *must* drop a note of a chord, drop the 5th of the chord, not the root, 3rd, nor 7th.
- If the harmony stays the same, but the melody changes, you can try doing the 2nd chord in a different voicing -- e.g., do a Non-Common Tone voice leading.

### Week One Rules:

- The bass line is always the root of the chord.
- The root of the chord is always doubled.
- Always use all 3 notes of a chord unless you are forced to drop the 5th in a V7 -> I cadence.

### Week One Assignment Strategy:

- The melody is given
- The harmonies are given with roman numerals
- Write in the bass line first (always the root of the chord)
- Go one chord at a time, treating this like a puzzle not unlike SODUKO -- you try different solutions until you find something that works.

### **What Do You Try?**

- Generally, try the common tone voice leading technique first, keeping voices moving small distances only, and being aware of the “Other Guidelines.”
- Can’t get Common Tone voice leading to work? Then try a non-Common-Tone voice leading technique
- When you are trying different solutions, you can fiddle with these things before completely rewriting a chord:
  - A moving voice - can it move in the opposite direction to a nearby chord tone?
  - The bass - can it move to a different octave?
- If you can find no solution for this chord, then erase it, go back a chord, change THAT chord, and then retry doing this chord.

### **What do you Check for each chord?**

- CHECK THE HARD & FAST RULES:
  - Bass is the root of the chord
  - The root is doubled
  - Check that all 3 notes of a chord are in what you write, or if you are doing a V7 to I, no more than the 5th is dropped
  - Check for parallel 5ths & 8ves
  - Check that Leading Tones and 7ths resolve properly
- Check that it passes the listening test:
  - Listen to what you’ve done, and use your ears to help you find mistakes you may have made (e.g., put in a wrong note)