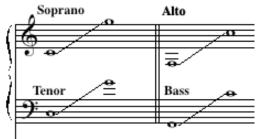
GUIDELINES FOR 4-PART VOCAL WRITING

<u>VOICING</u>

• Stay within vocal ranges:



- AVOID gap (more than an octave between S-A or A-T)
- Doubling (dbl) on primary triads (root position or 6/3 position): Try for (in this order):
 - Root
 - Fifth
 - Third
- **NEVER** double leading tone (l.t.)
- **NEVER omit the third** of a triad
- Occasionally the fifth is omitted from a *root-position* triad (leaving the root tripled). Example:

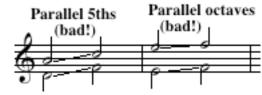


(*inc* means *incomplete*)

VOICE LEADING

In ALL VOICES:

- Voices move as **smoothly** as possible (lots of common tones and steps, fewer leaps)
- AVOID parallel 5ths, octaves, and unisons.



- Leading tone resolves to tonic. (This is *always* true in outer voices, and *often* true in inner voices.)
- Aim for **smooth melodic motion** in each voice:
 - Emphasize steps; use leaps sparingly and carefully
 - Do not move by a diminished or augmented interval
 - Avoid leaps greater than a fifth
 - Outer voices may occasionally leap by a sixth or octave (but not on the AP Exam)
- **AVOID overlap** (when one voice crosses over another voice's pitch to land its next note):



HARMONIC PROGRESSION

- AVOID root-position V to rootposition IV (iv)
- Acceptable cadence types: <u>Authentic</u>: V to I (i)
 - 1. Perfect Authentic (PAC):
 - Both chords rootposition, and
 - S has tonic note
 - 2. Imperfect Authentic (IAC):
 - all others
 <u>Plagal</u> (PC): IV to I (iv to i)
 <u>Half</u> (HC): ends on V
 Deceptive (DC): V to vi (V to VI)

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GUIDELINES FOR 4-PART VOCAL WRITING

<u>VOICING</u>

• **Doubling on 6/4 chords**: ALWAYS double the *bass* (5th of the chord)

Doubling on secondary triads:

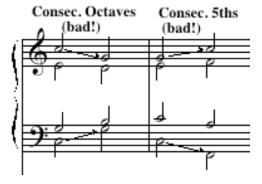
- If the triad is major or minor, follow the usual rules for doubling
- If the triad is diminished or augmented, it will only appear in 6/3 position and you must double the *bass* (3rd of the chord)
- **Never double a chordal 7th** (the 7th of a 7th chord).
- Occasionally the fifth is omitted from a *root-position* V7 chord (leaving the root doubled). This is called an *incomplete* V7 chord. (Note: Any 7th chord in inversion must be complete.)

VOICE LEADING

- Voice leading on 6/4 chords:
 - On *cadential* 6/4:two voices resolve down by step
 - On all other 6/4 types: approach and leave the chord super-smoothly (no more than steps)

In OUTER VOICES (S and B):

- Aim for **contrary motion**
- AVOID consecutive 5ths and octaves (by contrary motion):



• AVOID hidden 5ths and octaves (H5, H8): when S and B move in *similar* motion to a P5 or P8. OK only if S moves by step.



In ALL VOICES:

- AVOID unequal 5ths: a rising d5 to P5
- AVOID chordal 7th approached by a descending leap.
- Chordal 7th must resolve down by step (or remain on a common tone).

PITFALLS

- On IV-V, V-VI: watch for //5/8s! Solution: contrary motion against Bass
- In minor keys, scale degree 6 to raised 7 = Aug. 2nd (avoid it!)

LIFELINES

• Inc chord