Rule Summary

Voice Leading Rules
- No leaps greater than an octave.
- Usable Intervals (between adjacent notes): M/m 2
  nd, 3
  rd, 6
  th, P4, P5, Octave.
- Total range throughout the voice should not exceed a 10
  th.
- (g) One Climax note. Climaxes should not be repeated. No climax on leading tone.
- Predominantly stepwise motion.
- 2-4 leaps total in the voice.
- No more than 2 leaps greater than a 4
  th.
- Change direction after leaping (mandatory only after an interval > a 3
  rd.)
- Two leaps are sometimes acceptable in sequence if they are in opposite directions.
- No more than 5 tones moving in the same directions.
- (g) No Sequences (no recurring interval patterns)
- Start and End on Tonic
- Approach last note by stepwise motion.
- Final note will be either the 2
  nd or 7
  th degree of the scale (whichever the cantus firmus is not).
- Next to last note should be approached by a 3
  rd or less.
  (g) Signifies a “global” rule. Effectively, it means that these rules must be checked after generating a piece. There is no way to assess their validity without knowing an entire piece.

1
  st Species Harmony Rules
- Only consonant intervals: M/m3rd, M/m6th, P5, Unison, Octave
- Motion – defined in vague terms. Similar motion, parallel motion, contrary motion, oblique motion. Contrary increases “motion” best followed by oblique motion, then similar motion, then parallel motion.
- Independence – motion as defined above can alter this. Contrary produces the most “independence” in a voice
- No Parallel 5ths, parallel octaves.
- No 5ths by similar motion.
- No hidden fifths.
- No more than 3 parallel 3rds, 6ths, or 10ths in sequence.

2
  nd Species Harmony Rules
- Use Dissonant passing tone to connect two notes by solely stepwise motion.
- Consonant passing tone good after or before a leap – before or after a leap, must use a consonant tone on second “weak” beat.
- Skipped Passing tone – allows skipping the passing tone in favor of a leap.
- Interval subdivision – used to break up a large skip into two smaller units.
- Leaps after a 4
  th leap can be troublesome. Can continue with stepwise motion only if the direction is part of an existing line. Otherwise, change directions.
- Avoid “accented fifths”/ “beaten fifths”