FIGURED BASS

1. Bass notes plus figures = numbers representing intervals above a bass note.

Notes above the bass are diatonic (belong to the key signature) unless otherwise indicated.

\[ \frac{5}{3} = \text{root position} \quad \frac{6}{3} = \text{1st inversion} \quad \frac{4}{3} = \text{2nd inversion} \]

2. The numbers don't represent a specific octave placement, voicing, spacing, or doubling; just pitch-class content.

3. Largest to smallest, top to bottom. \( \frac{6}{3} \) (not \( \frac{3}{6} \))

4. Abbreviations:

\[ \frac{5}{3} \quad \frac{6}{3} \]

5. \( \longrightarrow \) indicates motion of upper voice(s) against a stationary bass.

6. Accidentals modify intervals above the bass, (i.e., changes to what is indicated by the key signature).

An accidental by itself modifies the 3rd above the bass.
A slash (\( / \)) indicates raised by half-step.

An accidental on the bass note is not indicated in the figure.