

Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein (BWV 641)

Analysis from Gene Biringer's Schenker Text, Ex. 5-27

J.S. Bach

The image displays a musical score for the chorale 'Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein' by J.S. Bach, BWV 641. The score is presented in two staves: the upper staff in treble clef and the lower staff in bass clef, both with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is analyzed using Schenkerian techniques, featuring several structural elements:

- Structural Lines:** Thick black lines indicate the primary melodic contours. In the treble staff, a line descends from the first measure to the second, and another descends from the second to the third. In the bass staff, a line ascends from the second to the third measure, and another descends from the third to the fourth.
- Phrasing:** Solid magenta arcs group notes into phrases. Dashed magenta arcs indicate larger-scale phrasing or continuation across measures.
- Labels:** Blue letters 'P' (Prädominanz) and 'N' (Nebenmelodie) are placed above or below notes to identify their structural function.
- Formal Structure:** Red symbols $\overset{\wedge}{3}$, $\overset{\wedge}{2}$, and $\overset{\wedge}{1}$ are positioned above the treble staff, indicating the hierarchical level of the structure. Green letters 'I', 'V', and 'I' are placed below the bass staff, marking the beginning, middle, and end of the piece.