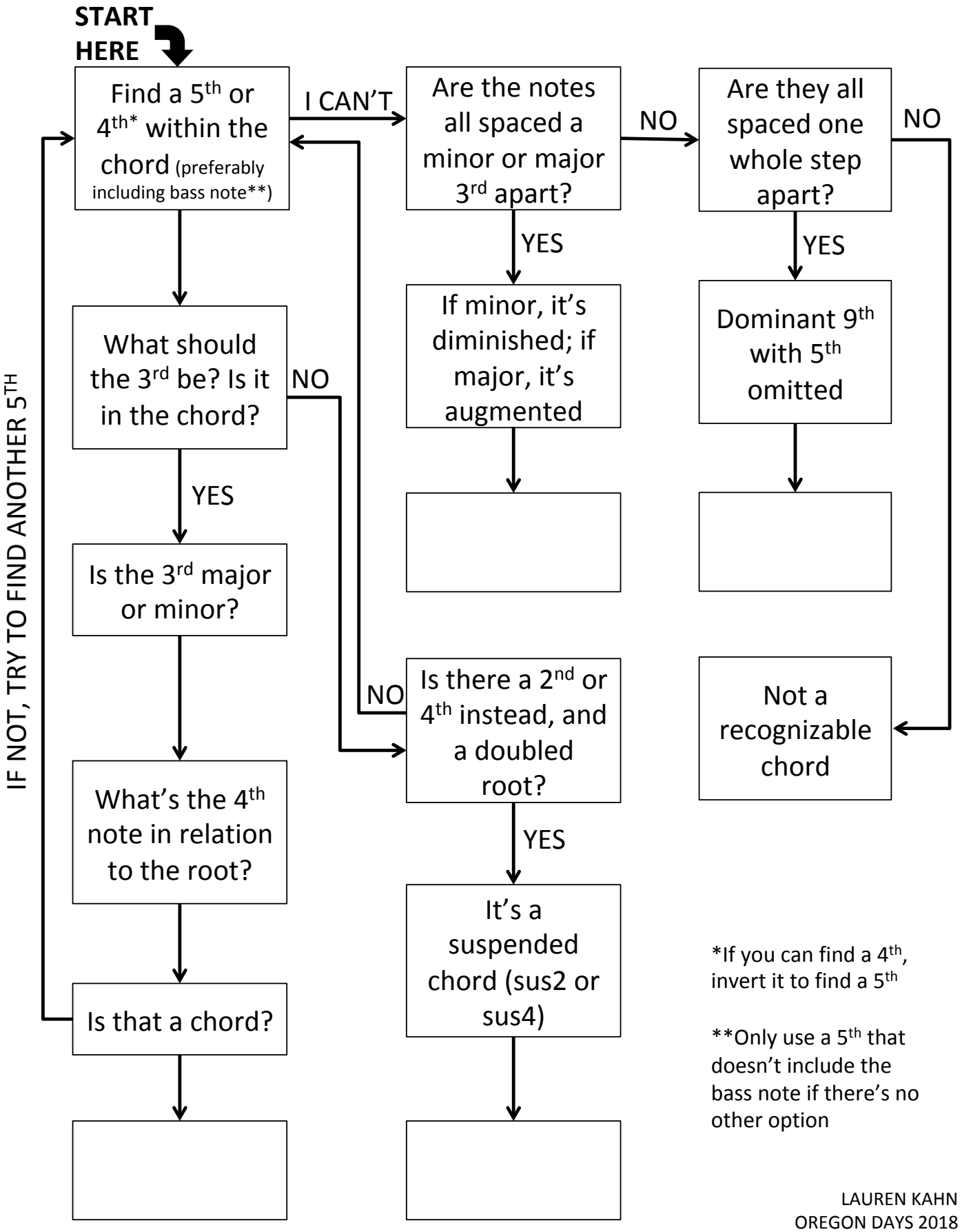
IDENTIFYING BARBERSHOP CHORDS



*If you can find a 4th, invert it to find a 5th

**Only use a 5th that doesn't include the bass note if there's no other option

LAUREN KAHN
OREGON DAYS 2018

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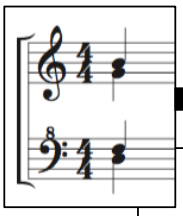

Find a 5th or 4th* within the chord (preferably including bass note**)

D&G: some kind of G chord?

What should the 3rd be? Is it in the chord?

B or Bb should be the 3rd; B is in the chord

Is the 3rd major or minor?

B is a major 3rd above the proposed root, G

What's the 4th note in relation to the root?

F is a minor 7th above G

Is that a chord?

Major triad + minor 7th = G7

IF NOT, TRY TO FIND ANOTHER 5TH

I CAN'T

Are the notes all spaced a minor or major 3rd apart?

YES

If minor, it's diminished; if major, it's augmented

NO

Are they all spaced one whole step apart?

YES

Dominant 9th with 5th omitted

NO

Not a recognizable chord

NO

Is there a 2nd or 4th instead, and a doubled root?

YES

It's a suspended chord (sus2 or sus4)

*If you can find a 4th, invert it to find a 5th

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