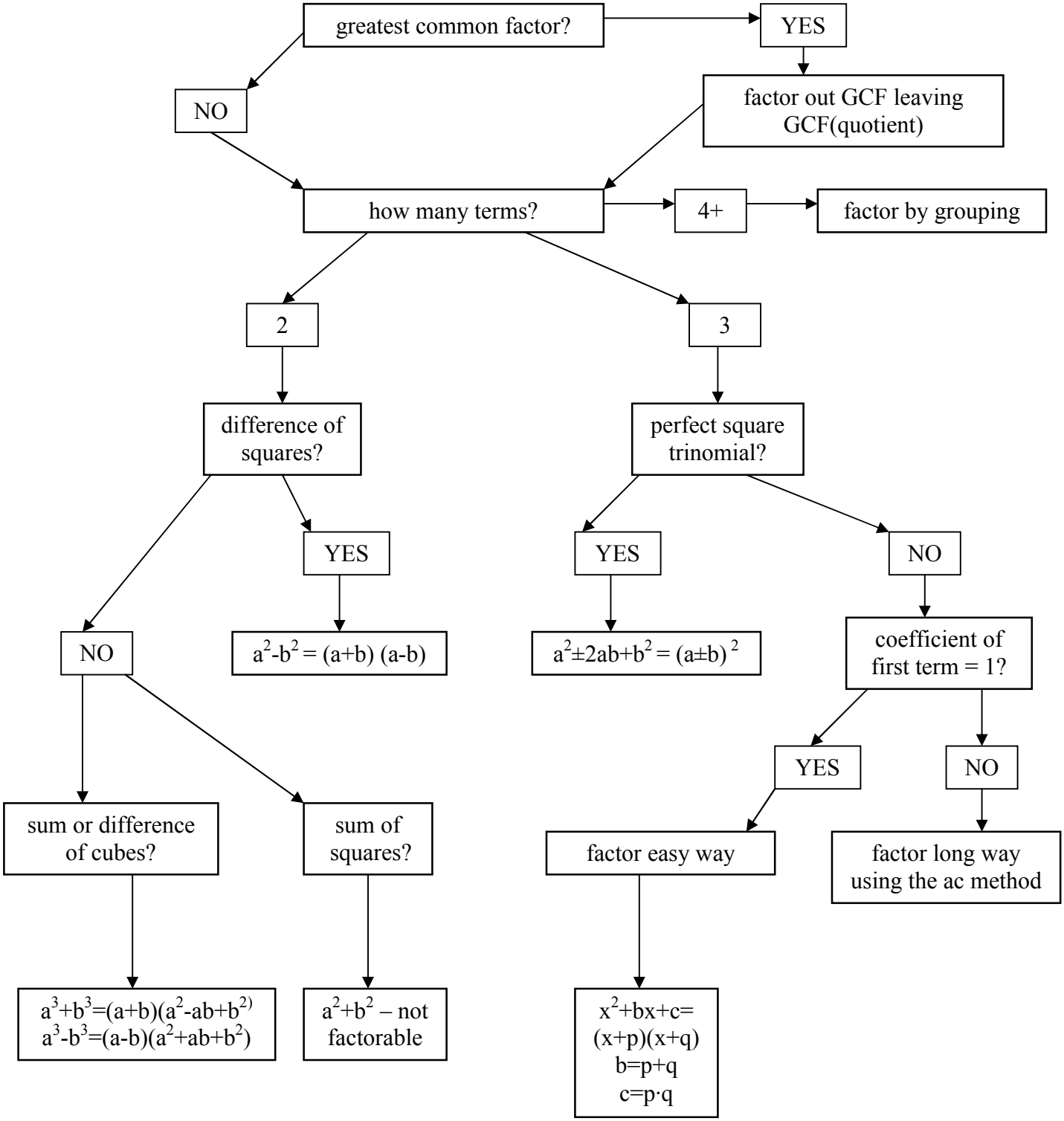
greatest common factor?
YES
NO
factor out GCF leaving GCF(quotient)
how many terms?
4+
factor by grouping
2
3
difference of squares?
perfect square trinomial?
YES
NO
YES
NO
$a^2-b^2 = (a+b)(a-b)$
$a^2 \pm 2ab+b^2 = (a \pm b)^2$
coefficient of first term = 1?
YES
NO
sum or difference of cubes?
sum of squares?
factor easy way
factor long way using the ac method
$a^3+b^3=(a+b)(a^2-ab+b^2)$
$a^3-b^3=(a-b)(a^2+ab+b^2)$
a^2+b^2 – not factorable
$x^2+bx+c=(x+p)(x+q)$
$b=p+q$
$c=p \cdot q$