Augmented Chords



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Augmented chords are stretched, or augmented from major chords. They consist of intervals of Major 3rds (4 half-steps) between all the notes in the chord. From the 1st to the 3rd is a Major 3 as is the interval from the 3rd to the 5th. We use either the '+' symbol or the abbreviation 'aug' to identify augmented chords. (It is also possible to see the chord spelled as C(#5) but this is unusual).

We use double sharps (the x above) to keep the spelling of the chords consistent. Because this is teritary harmony (chords based on intervals of thirds), all the intervals present in the chords must be intervals of thirds. This is accomplished by using every other letter name. So, for a $G\sharp$ aug, we need to use every other letter name, G, B & D. $G\sharp$ is the root, up 4 half steps from that is C, which is also B#, up 4 half steps from C (B#) is E-flat, which is the same as D-sharp. Thus, we have $G\sharp$, B#,D# in order to have every other letter name.