

LD := left divisible  $\forall a, b \in G : \exists x : a \cdot x = b$

RD := right divisible  $\forall a, b \in G : \exists x : x \cdot a = b$

LC := left cancellative

RC := right cancellative

**Proposition:** A semigroup  $G$  is a group iff it has a unit and is LC and LD. In this case LD could be replaced with RD, as we will see in the proof.

**Proof:**

$\Rightarrow (G \text{ is a group} \rightarrow G \text{ has a unit and is LC and LD}):$

Since  $G$  is a group, then it is also divisible and cancellative, hence is LC and LD. In this direction we only need to prove the existence of a unit.

$$\begin{aligned} \forall g, h \in G : \exists l_g, r_g, l_h, r_h : l_g \cdot g &= g \cdot r_g, l_h \cdot g = g \cdot r_h \text{ (RD, LD)} \\ (g \cdot r_g) \cdot h &= g \cdot h = g \cdot (l_h \cdot h) = (g \cdot l_h) \cdot h \text{ (associativity)} \\ (g \cdot r_g) \cdot h &= (g \cdot l_h) \cdot h \Rightarrow g \cdot r_g = g \cdot l_h \text{ (RC)} \\ g \cdot r_g &= g \cdot l_h \Rightarrow r_g = l_h \text{ (LC)} \\ \text{for } g = h \text{ we denote } l_g &= r_g = u_g \\ \text{but since } \forall g, h \in G : u_g \cdot g &= g = g \cdot u_g, u_h \cdot g = g = g \cdot u_h \text{ and } u_g = u_h \\ \text{then } u_g &= u_h = u \text{ is a unit of } G \end{aligned}$$

$\Leftarrow (S \text{ is a semigroup with a unit and is LC and LD} \rightarrow \text{it is a group}):$

We only need to prove  $S$  is RD and RC for it to be a group.

RD:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall x \in S \exists x_r \in S : x \cdot x_r &= u \text{ (unit of } G, \text{ LD)} \\ \text{let } q &= x \cdot x_r \\ q \cdot q &= (x_r \cdot x) \cdot (x_r \cdot x) = x_r \cdot (x \cdot x_r) \cdot x = x_r \cdot (u \cdot x) = x_r \cdot x = q \text{ (associativity)} \\ \text{similarly for } q : \exists q_r \in S : q \cdot q_r &= u \text{ (LD)} \\ x_r \cdot x = q &= q \cdot u = q \cdot (q \cdot q_r) = (q \cdot q) \cdot q_r = q \cdot q_r = u \end{aligned}$$

We've shown, that  $\forall x \in S \exists x' : x' \cdot x = x \cdot x' = u$ . This means, we've found the inverse. We can multiply the resulting equation from left by  $y$  and get the final form for RD.  $\forall y, x \in S \exists x' : (y \cdot x') \cdot x = y \cdot u = y$ , thus  $\forall y, x \in S \exists t : t \cdot x = y$ .

**Note:** If we started from RD, we could prove LD, since we used only the one sided divisibility and the existence of a unit. This means, that for each semigroup with a unit, LD is equivalent to RD. Proof follows easily from the previous one.

RC:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall g, a, b \in S, \text{ for which } a \cdot g &= b \cdot g : \\ \exists g' : g \cdot g' &= u \text{ (LD)} \\ (a \cdot g) \cdot g' &= (b \cdot g) \cdot g' \\ a \cdot (g \cdot g') &= b \cdot (g \cdot g') \text{ (associativity)} \\ a \cdot u &= b \cdot u \\ a &= b \end{aligned}$$

This showed, that  $\forall g, a, b \in S : (a \cdot g = b \cdot g) \Rightarrow a = b$ , which is the definition of RC. Since  $S$  is also LD and RC, we can conclude, that it is a group.  $\square$