

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 RD.

**Proof:**

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

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

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

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

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

LD:

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

We've shown, that for  $x \in S$  if we start from the left inverse ( $x_l \cdot x = u$ ), then it is also the right inverse ( $x \cdot x_l = u$ ).  $\forall x, b \in S \exists c : x \cdot c = b$ , let  $b = x_l \cdot b$ , then  $x \cdot (x_l \cdot b) = u \cdot b = b$ . This means, that  $S$  is DL.

RC:

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

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.  $\square$

**Note:**

The first implication would hold true even if we replaced RD with LD, but this wouldn't be true for the second one. We show this with a counterexample:

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \{0, 1, 2\} \\ \forall a, b \in S \setminus \{0\} : a \times b &= b, 0 \times a = a \times 0 = a \\ \text{for } a, b \in \{1, 2\} : a \times (b \times c) &= a \times c = c = b \times c = (a \times b) \times c \\ \text{for } a, b, \text{ or } c &= 0 \text{ associativity also holds (intuitively or by an exhaustive proof)} \\ 0 &\text{ is obviously the unit by definition} \\ \forall a, b \in S : \exists x \in S : a \times x &= b \text{ for } x = b \text{ (LD holds)} \\ \forall x, a, b \in S : x \times a &= x \times b \Rightarrow a = b \text{ because } x \times a = a \text{ and } x \times b = b \text{ (LC holds)} \\ x \times 1 &= 2, \text{ has no solutions, because } x \times 1 = 1 \text{ (is not RD)} \end{aligned}$$

We constructed a semigroup with a unit and which is LD and LC, but which is not RD.  $\square$