

## Distributive residuated lattices

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ABSTRACT. The aim of this paper is to put in evidence some sufficient conditions for the distributivity in the residuated lattices.

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### 1. Introduction

The origin of residuated lattices is in Mathematical Logic without contraction. They have been investigated by Krull ([12]), Dilworth ([5]), Ward and Dilworth ([18]), Ward ([17]), Balbes and Dwinger ([2]) and Pavelka ([14]). In [10], Idziak prove that the class of residuated lattices is equational. These lattices have been known under many names: *BCK-lattices* in [9], *full BCK-algebras* in [12], *FL<sub>ew</sub>-algebras* in [13], and *integral, residuated, commutative l-monoids* in [3].

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we recall the basic definitions and we put in evidence many rules of calculus in a residuated lattice which we need in the rest of the paper.

In Section 3 we give examples of residuated lattices which are not distributive and this is the reason why we start the study when a residuated lattice becomes distributive.

### 2. Preliminaries

**Definition 2.1.** ([16]) An algebra  $(L, \vee, \wedge, \odot, \rightarrow, 0, 1)$  of type  $(2, 2, 2, 2, 0, 0)$  will be called *residuated lattice* if

$Lr_1$  :  $(L, \vee, \wedge, 0, 1)$  is a bounded lattice;

$Lr_2$  :  $(L, \odot, 1)$  is a commutative monoid;

$Lr_3$  : For every  $x, y, z \in L$ ,  $x \leq y \rightarrow z \Leftrightarrow x \odot y \leq z$ .

For examples of residuated lattices see [11], [15]-[18].

In what follow by  $L$  we denote the univers of a residuated lattice. For  $x \in L$  and  $n \geq 1$  we define  $x^* = x \rightarrow 0$ ,  $x^{**} = (x^*)^*$ ,  $x^0 = 1$  and  $x^n = x^{n-1} \odot x$  for  $n \geq 1$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** ([15]-[18]) *Let  $L$  be a residuated lattice. Then for every  $x, y, z \in L$ , we have:*

$$1 \rightarrow x = x; \tag{1}$$

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$$x \rightarrow x = 1; \quad (2)$$

$$x \odot y \leq x, y, \text{ so } x \odot y \leq x \wedge y; \quad (3)$$

$$y \leq x \rightarrow y; \quad (4)$$

$$x \leq y \Leftrightarrow x \rightarrow y = 1; \quad (5)$$

$$x \rightarrow y = y \rightarrow x = 1 \Rightarrow x = y; \quad (6)$$

$$x \rightarrow 1 = 1; \quad (7)$$

$$0 \rightarrow x = 1; \quad (8)$$

$$x \odot (x \rightarrow y) \leq y, \text{ so } x \leq (x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y; \quad (9)$$

$$x \rightarrow y \leq (x \odot z) \rightarrow (y \odot z); \quad (10)$$

$$\text{If } x \leq y, \text{ then } x \odot z \leq y \odot z; \quad (11)$$

$$x \rightarrow y \leq (y \rightarrow z) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow z) \text{ and } x \rightarrow y \leq (z \rightarrow x) \rightarrow (z \rightarrow y); \quad (12)$$

$$x \leq y \Rightarrow z \rightarrow x \leq z \rightarrow y \text{ and } x \leq y \Rightarrow y \rightarrow z \leq x \rightarrow z; \quad (13)$$

$$x \rightarrow (y \rightarrow z) = (x \odot y) \rightarrow z, \text{ so } x \rightarrow (y \rightarrow z) = y \rightarrow (x \rightarrow z); \quad (14)$$

$$x \odot (y \vee z) = (x \odot y) \vee (x \odot z) \text{ and } x \odot (y \wedge z) \leq (x \odot y) \wedge (x \odot z); \quad (15)$$

$$x \odot x^* = 0, 1^* = 0, 0^* = 1, x \leq x^{**}; \quad (16)$$

$$x \rightarrow y \leq y^* \rightarrow x^*; \quad (17)$$

$$x^{***} = x^*. \quad (18)$$

Consider the following identities:

$$x \wedge y = x \odot (x \rightarrow y) \quad (\text{divisibility}), \quad (19)$$

$$(x \rightarrow y) \vee (y \rightarrow x) = 1 \quad (\text{pre-linearity}). \quad (20)$$

**Definition 2.2.** A residuated lattice  $L$  is called:

- (i) *Divisible* if  $L$  verify (19);
- (ii) *MTL-algebra* if  $L$  verify (20);
- (iii) *BL-algebra* if  $L$  verify (19) and (20);
- (iv) *G-algebra* if  $x^2 = x$  for every  $x \in L$ .

We denote by  $\mathcal{RL}_d$ , ( $\mathcal{MTL}$ ,  $\mathcal{BL}$ ) the classes of *divisible residuated lattices* (*MTL-algebras*, respectively *BL-algebras*).

**Proposition 2.1.** ([7]) For a residuated lattice  $L$ , the following assertions are equivalent:

- (i)  $L \in \mathcal{MTL}$ ;
- (ii)  $L$  is subdirect product of linearly ordered residuated lattices;
- (iii)  $x \rightarrow (y \vee z) = (x \rightarrow y) \vee (x \rightarrow z)$  for every  $x, y, z \in L$ ;
- (iv)  $(x \wedge y) \rightarrow z = (x \rightarrow z) \vee (y \rightarrow z)$  for every  $x, y, z \in L$ .

**Corollary 2.1.** ([7],[8]) If  $L \in \mathcal{MTL}$ , then for every  $x, y, z \in L$  we have:

- (i)  $(x \wedge y)^* = x^* \vee y^*$ ;
- (ii)  $x \odot (y \wedge z) = (x \odot y) \wedge (x \odot z)$ ;
- (iii)  $x \wedge (y \vee z) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z)$ ;
- (iv)  $x \vee y = ((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y) \wedge ((y \rightarrow x) \rightarrow x)$ .

**Proposition 2.2.** ([17],[18]) For a residuated lattice  $L$ , the following assertions are equivalent:

- (i)  $L \in \mathcal{RL}_d$ ;
- (ii) For any  $x, y \in L$  such  $x \leq y$ , there is  $z \in L$  such that  $x = y \odot z$ ;
- (iii)  $x \rightarrow (y \wedge z) = (x \rightarrow y) \odot [(x \wedge y) \rightarrow z]$  for every  $x, y, z \in L$ .

**Remark 2.1.** ([4]) In a  $G$ -algebra  $L$ ,  $x \odot y = x \wedge y$  for every  $x, y \in L$ .

**Proposition 2.3.** ([4]) In a residuated lattice  $L$  the following assertions are equivalent:

- (i)  $L$  is a  $G$ -algebra,
- (ii)  $x \odot (x \rightarrow y) = x \odot y = x \wedge y$  for any  $x, y \in L$ .

**Remark 2.2.** In [6] MTL-algebras are known under the name of *normal residuated lattices*.

**Definition 2.3.** ([4]) An algebra  $(L, \rightarrow, *, 1)$  of type  $(2, 1, 0)$  will be called *Wajsberg algebra* if for every  $x, y, z \in L$  are verified the axioms (1), (12) from the Theorem 2.1 and the axioms:

$$(x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y = (y \rightarrow x) \rightarrow x, \quad (21)$$

$$(x^* \rightarrow y^*) \rightarrow (y \rightarrow x) = 1. \quad (22)$$

**Remark 2.3.** In a residuated lattice  $L$  the axiom (22) is equivalent with  $x^{**} = x$ , for every  $x \in L$ .

*Proof.*  $x^* \rightarrow y^* = (x \rightarrow 0) \rightarrow (y \rightarrow 0) = y \rightarrow ((x \rightarrow 0) \rightarrow 0) = y \rightarrow x^{**} = y \rightarrow x$ , so  $(x^* \rightarrow y^*) \rightarrow (y \rightarrow x) = 1$ , for every  $x, y \in L$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.4.** A residuated lattice with (21) becomes a *Wajsberg algebra*.

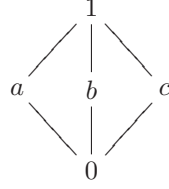
*Proof.*  $(x \rightarrow 0) \rightarrow 0 = (0 \rightarrow x) \rightarrow x$ , so  $x^{**} = 1 \rightarrow x = x$  for any  $x \in L$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.2.** ([16], Theorem 10, pag. 46) A residuated lattice  $(L, \vee, \wedge, \odot, \rightarrow, 0, 1)$  is a *Wajsberg algebra*  $(L, \rightarrow, *, 1)$  if, and only if it satisfy an additional condition

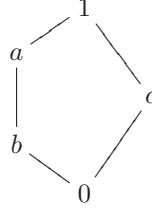
$$(x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y = (y \rightarrow x) \rightarrow x, \text{ for any } x, y \in L,$$

with an abbreviation  $x^* = x \rightarrow 0$ .

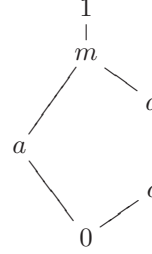
FIGURE 1.  $(M_5)$



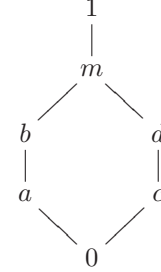
$(N_5)$



Example 2.1



Example 2.2



**Theorem 2.3.** ([1],[2]) For a lattice  $(L, \vee, \wedge)$  the following assertions are equivalent:

- (i)  $x \wedge (y \vee z) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z)$ , for all  $x, y, z \in L$ ;
- (ii)  $x \vee (y \wedge z) = (x \vee y) \wedge (x \vee z)$ , for all  $x, y, z \in L$ ;
- (iii) If  $x, y, z \in L$  and  $x \wedge z = y \wedge z$ ,  $x \vee z = y \vee z$ , then  $x = y$ ;
- (iv)  $(x \wedge y) \vee (y \wedge z) \vee (z \wedge x) = (x \vee y) \wedge (y \vee z) \wedge (z \vee x)$ , for every  $x, y, z \in L$ ;
- (v) Neither of the lattices  $(M_5)$  and  $(N_5)$  are sublattices of  $L$ ;
- (vi) For all  $a, b \in L$  with  $a \leq b$ , there exists a join-endomorphism  $f$  of  $L$  such that  $f(b) = a$  and  $f(x) \leq x$ , for all  $x \in L$ ;
- (vii) For all  $a, b \in L$  with  $a \leq b$ , there exists a meet-endomorphism  $f$  of  $L$  such that  $f(a) = b$  and  $x \leq f(x)$ , for all  $x \in L$ .

**Definition 2.4.** The lattice  $(L, \vee, \wedge)$  is called *distributive* if  $L$  verify one of the equivalent conditions (i) – (vii) from the Theorem 2.3.

For the next result see Corollary 5.13.7 from ([4]).

**Remark 2.5.** Every Wajsberg algebra is a MTL-algebra, so it is distributive.

**Remark 2.6.** There are residuated lattices which are not distributive.

For this we will offer the following two examples:

**Example 2.1.** Let  $L = \{0, a, c, d, m, 1\}$  with  $0 < a < m < 1$ ,  $0 < c < d < m < 1$ , but  $a$  incomparable with  $c$  and  $d$ . Then ([11], pag. 233)  $L$  becomes a residuated lattice relative to the following operations:

$\rightarrow$	0	a	c	d	m	1	$\odot$	0	a	c	d	m	1
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
a	d	1	d	d	1	1	a	0	a	0	0	a	a
c	a	a	1	1	1	1	c	0	0	c	c	c	c
d	a	a	m	1	1	1	d	0	0	c	c	c	d
m	0	a	d	d	1	1	m	0	a	c	c	m	m
1	0	a	c	d	m	1	1	0	a	c	d	m	1

$L$  is not distributive because  $c \vee (a \wedge d) = c \vee 0 = c$ ,  $(c \vee a) \wedge (c \vee d) = m \wedge d = d$  and  $c \neq d$ .

**Example 2.2.** Let  $L = \{0, a, b, c, d, m, 1\}$  with  $0 < a < b < m < 1$ ,  $0 < c < d < m < 1$  and elements  $\{a, c\}$  and  $\{b, d\}$  are pairwise incomparable. Then ([11], pag. 234)  $L$

becomes a residuated lattice relative to the following operations:

$\rightarrow$	0	a	b	c	d	m	1	$\odot$	0	a	b	c	d	m	1
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
a	d	1	1	d	d	1	1	a	0	a	a	0	0	a	a
b	d	m	1	d	d	1	1	b	0	a	a	0	0	a	b
c	b	b	b	1	1	1	1	c	0	0	0	c	c	c	c
d	b	b	b	m	1	1	1	d	0	0	0	c	c	c	d
m	0	b	b	d	d	1	1	m	0	a	a	c	c	m	m
1	0	a	b	c	d	m	1	1	0	a	b	c	d	m	1

$L$  is not distributive because  $c \vee a \wedge d = c \vee 0 = c$ ,  $(c \vee a) \wedge (c \vee d) = m \wedge d = d$  and  $c \neq d$ .

### 3. Sufficient conditions for distributivity

In this section we put in evidence some sufficient conditions for the distributivity of a residuated lattice.

**Theorem 3.1.** For a residuated lattice  $(L, \vee, \wedge, \odot, \rightarrow, 0, 1)$  we consider the following assertions:

- (i)  $(L, \vee, \wedge)$  is a distributive residuated lattice;
- (ii)  $x \odot y = x \wedge y$  for all  $x, y \in L$ ;
- (iii)  $L$  is divisible;
- (iv)  $L$  is a MTL-algebra;
- (v) If  $x, y, z \in L$ , such that  $z \rightarrow x = z \rightarrow y$  and  $z \geq x, y$ , then  $x = y$ ;
- (vi)  $x \vee y = (x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y$  for all  $x, y \in L$ ;
- (vii) If  $a, x, y \in L$ ,  $a^* \odot x = a^* \odot y$  and  $a \rightarrow x = a \rightarrow y$ , then  $x = y$ ;
- (viii)  $x \rightarrow (y \rightarrow z) = (x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in L$ .

Then,

- a) (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i);
- b) (i)  $\not\Rightarrow$  (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii).

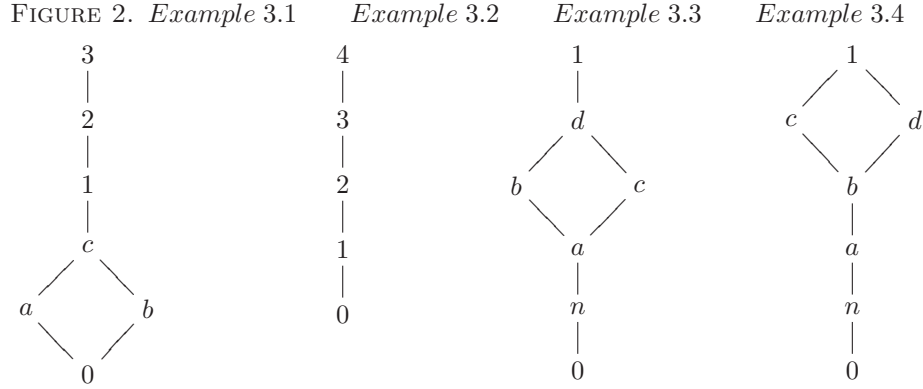
*Proof.* (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) Since for every  $x, y, z \in L$ ,  $x \odot (y \vee z) \stackrel{(15)}{=} (x \odot y) \vee (x \odot z)$ , by (ii) we deduce that  $x \wedge (y \vee z) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z)$ , that is,  $L$  is distributive.

(i)  $\not\Rightarrow$  (ii) Consider the following counterexample:

**Example 3.1.** Let  $L = \{0, a, b, c, 1, 2, 3\}$ , with  $0 < a < c < 1 < 2 < 3$ ,  $0 < b < c < 1 < 2 < 3$ , and the elements  $a, b$  are incomparable. Then ([11], pag. 232)  $L$  becomes a distributive residuated lattice relative to the operations:

$\rightarrow$	0	a	b	c	1	2	3	$\odot$	0	a	b	c	1	2	3
0	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
a	b	3	b	3	3	3	3	a	0	a	0	a	a	a	a
b	a	a	3	3	3	3	3	b	0	0	b	b	b	b	b
c	0	a	b	3	3	3	3	c	0	a	b	c	c	c	c
1	0	a	b	2	3	3	3	1	0	a	b	c	c	c	1
2	0	a	b	1	1	3	3	2	0	a	b	c	c	2	2
3	0	a	b	c	1	2	3	3	0	a	b	c	1	2	3

Since for  $1, 2 \in L$  we have  $1 \odot 2 = c$ ,  $1 \wedge 2 = 1$  and  $c \neq 1$ , then it is not a  $G$ -algebra.



(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) Let  $x, y, z \in L$ . Clearly,  $x \wedge (y \vee z) \geq (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z)$ . We have  $x \wedge (y \vee z) = (y \vee z) \odot ((y \vee z) \rightarrow x) \stackrel{(15)}{=} \{y \odot [(y \vee z) \rightarrow x]\} \vee \{z \odot [(y \vee z) \rightarrow x]\} \leq [y \odot (y \rightarrow x)] \vee [z \odot (z \rightarrow x)] \stackrel{(19)}{=} (y \wedge x) \vee (z \wedge x) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z)$ , hence  $x \wedge (y \vee z) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z)$ .

(i)  $\not\Rightarrow$  (iii) Consider the following counterexample:

**Example 3.2.** ([11], pag. 218) Consider the chain  $L_5 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , organized as a distributive residuated lattice by natural ordering, with the operations  $\rightarrow$  and  $\odot$  as in the following tables:

$\rightarrow$	0	1	2	3	4	$\odot$	0	1	2	3	4
0	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	4	4	4	4	1	0	1	1	1	1
2	0	3	4	4	4	2	0	1	1	1	2
3	0	3	3	4	4	3	0	1	1	1	3
4	0	1	2	3	4	4	0	1	2	3	4

Since for  $2, 3 \in L_5$  we have  $3 \wedge 2 = 2$ ,  $3 \odot (3 \rightarrow 2) = 1$  and  $2 \neq 1$ , then  $L_5$  is not divisible.

(iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) See Corollary 2.1, (iii).

(i)  $\not\Rightarrow$  (iv) Consider the following counterexample:

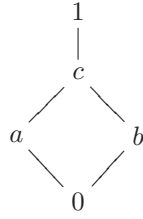
**Example 3.3.** Let  $L = \{0, n, a, b, c, d, 1\}$  with  $0 < n < a < b, c < d < 1$ , but  $b$  and  $c$  are incomparable. Then ([11], pag. 231)  $L$  becomes a distributive residuated lattice relative to the operations:

$\rightarrow$	0	n	a	b	c	d	1	$\odot$	0	n	a	b	c	d	1
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
n	c	1	1	1	1	1	1	n	0	0	0	n	0	n	n
a	n	n	1	1	1	1	1	a	0	0	a	a	a	a	a
b	0	n	c	1	c	1	1	b	0	n	a	b	a	b	b
c	n	n	b	b	1	1	1	c	0	0	a	a	c	c	c
d	0	n	a	b	c	1	1	d	0	n	a	b	c	d	d
1	0	n	a	b	c	d	1	1	0	n	a	b	c	d	1

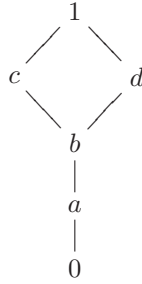
Since for  $b, c \in L$ ,  $(b \rightarrow c) \vee (c \rightarrow b) = c \vee b = d \neq 1$ , then  $L$  is not a MTL-algebra.

(v)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) Consider  $x, y \in L$ . Since  $x \odot (x \rightarrow y) \leq y \Rightarrow x \rightarrow [x \odot (x \rightarrow y)] \leq x \rightarrow y$ . Since  $x \rightarrow y \leq x \rightarrow [x \odot (x \rightarrow y)]$  we deduce that  $x \rightarrow [x \odot (x \rightarrow y)] = x \rightarrow y$ .

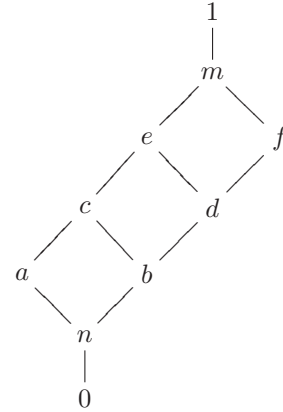
FIGURE 3. *Example 3.5*



*Example 3.6*



*Example 3.7*



From  $x \rightarrow (x \wedge y) = (x \rightarrow x) \wedge (x \rightarrow y) = x \rightarrow y$  and  $x \rightarrow [x \odot (x \rightarrow y)] = x \rightarrow y$  we deduce that

$$x \rightarrow (x \wedge y) = x \rightarrow [x \odot (x \rightarrow y)]. \tag{23}$$

But  $x \wedge y, x \odot (x \rightarrow y) \leq x$ , so  $x \wedge y = x \odot (x \rightarrow y)$ , that is,  $L$  is *divisible*, hence *distributive*.

(i)  $\not\Rightarrow$  (v) Consider the following counterexample:

**Example 3.4.** Let  $L = \{0, n, a, b, c, d, 1\}$  with  $0 < n < a < b < c, d < 1$ , but  $c$  and  $d$  are incomparable. Then ([11], pag. 229)  $L$  becomes a distributive residuated lattice relative to the following operations:

$\rightarrow$	0	n	a	b	c	d	1	$\odot$	0	n	a	b	c	d	1
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
n	d	1	1	1	1	1	1	n	0	0	0	0	n	0	n
a	n	n	1	1	1	1	1	a	0	0	a	a	a	a	a
b	n	n	a	1	1	1	1	b	0	0	a	b	b	b	b
c	0	n	a	d	1	d	1	c	0	n	a	b	c	b	c
d	n	n	a	c	c	1	1	d	0	0	a	b	b	d	d
1	0	n	a	b	c	d	1	1	0	n	a	b	c	d	1

Since for  $a, n, 0 \in L, a \rightarrow n = a \rightarrow 0 = n, a \geq n, 0$  and  $n \neq 0$ , we have that  $L$  not verify (v).

(vi)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) Since for any  $x, y \in L$ ,

$$x \vee y = (x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y = (y \rightarrow x) \rightarrow x,$$

then by Theorem 2.2,  $L$  becomes a *Wajsberg algebra*, so it is a *distributive MTL-algebra* (see [16]).

(i)  $\not\Rightarrow$  (vi) Consider the following counterexample:

**Example 3.5.** Let  $L = \{0, a, b, c, 1\}$  with  $0 < a, b < c < 1$ , but  $a$  and  $b$  are incomparable. Then ([4], pag. 239)  $L$  becomes a distributive residuated lattice relative to the following operations:

$\rightarrow$	0	a	b	c	1	$\odot$	0	a	b	c	1
0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
a	b	1	b	1	1	a	0	a	0	a	a
b	a	a	1	1	1	b	0	0	b	b	b
c	0	a	b	1	1	c	0	a	b	c	c
1	0	a	b	c	1	1	0	a	b	c	1

Since for  $a, b \in L \Rightarrow a \vee b = c$ ,  $(a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b = b \rightarrow b = 1$  and  $c \neq 1$ , then  $L$  not verify (vi).

(vii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) it can be proved the fact that (vii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii) : We have by (23),  $x \rightarrow [x \odot (x \rightarrow y)] = x \rightarrow (x \wedge y)$ . We shall prove that

$$x^* \odot (x \wedge y) = x^* \odot [x \odot (x \rightarrow y)]. \quad (24)$$

From  $x \odot (x \rightarrow y) \leq x, y \Rightarrow x \odot (x \rightarrow y) \leq x \wedge y$ , hence, by (11) and the operation  $\odot$  is commutative,

$$x^* \odot [x \odot (x \rightarrow y)] \leq x^* \odot (x \wedge y). \quad (25)$$

Conversely, by (15),  $x^* \odot (x \wedge y) \leq (x^* \odot x) \wedge (x^* \odot y) \stackrel{(16)}{=} 0 \wedge (x^* \odot y) = 0$ . Hence  $x^* \odot (x \wedge y) = 0$ . It follows,

$$x^* \odot (x \wedge y) \leq x^* \odot [x \odot (x \rightarrow y)]. \quad (26)$$

Therefore, by (25) and (26), (24) holds. It follows, by (vii), that  $x \wedge y = x \odot (x \rightarrow y)$ . That is,  $L$  is *divisible*, hence *distributive*.

(i)  $\nRightarrow$  (vii) Consider the following counterexample:

**Example 3.6.** Let  $L = \{0, a, b, c, d, 1\}$  with  $0 < a < b < c, d < 1$ , but  $c$  and  $d$  are incomparable. Then ([11], pag. 228)  $L$  becomes a distributive residuated lattice relative to the following operations:

$\rightarrow$	0	a	b	c	d	1	$\odot$	0	a	b	c	d	1
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
a	d	1	1	1	1	1	a	0	0	0	a	0	a
b	a	a	1	1	1	1	b	0	0	b	b	b	b
c	0	a	d	1	d	1	c	0	a	b	c	b	c
d	a	a	c	c	1	1	d	0	0	b	b	d	d
1	0	a	b	c	d	1	1	0	a	b	c	d	1

Since for  $a, b, c \in L$ ,  $a^* = a \rightarrow 0 = d$ ,  $a^* \odot b = d \odot b = b = d \odot c = a^* \odot c$ ,  $a \rightarrow b = 1 = a \rightarrow c$  and  $b \neq c$ .

(viii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) Since  $x \rightarrow (y \rightarrow z) = (x \odot y) \rightarrow z$  and  $x \rightarrow (y \rightarrow z) = (x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow z)$  from

$$(x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow z) = ((x \odot (x \rightarrow y)) \rightarrow z,$$

we deduce that  $x \odot y = x \odot (x \rightarrow y)$ , so  $L$  is divisible, hence distributive.

(i)  $\nRightarrow$  (viii) for this we offer the example from the proof of (i)  $\nRightarrow$  (v), because for  $x = y = n$  and  $z = 0$  we have  $n \rightarrow (n \rightarrow 0) = n \rightarrow d = 1$ ,  $(n \rightarrow n) \rightarrow (n \rightarrow 0) = 1 \rightarrow d = d$  and  $1 \neq d$ . □

**Remark 3.1.** There are distributive residuated lattices which don't verify the conditions (ii) – (viii) from the Theorem 3.1, like in the example from below.



**Example 3.7.** Let  $L = \{0, n, a, b, c, d, e, f, m, 1\}$  with  $0 < n < a < c < e < m < 1$ ,  $0 < n < b < d < f < m < 1$  and the elements  $\{a, b\}$ ,  $\{c, d\}$ ,  $\{e, f\}$  are pairwise incomparable. Then  $L$  becomes a distributive residuated lattice relative to the following operations:

$\rightarrow$	0	$n$	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$e$	$f$	$m$	1	$\odot$	0	$n$	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$e$	$f$	$m$	1	
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$n$	$m$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	$n$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$n$
$a$	$f$	$f$	1	$f$	1	$f$	1	$f$	1	1	$a$	0	0	$a$	0	$a$	0	$a$	0	$a$	0	$a$
$b$	$e$	$e$	$e$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	$b$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$b$	$b$	$b$	$b$
$c$	$d$	$d$	$e$	$f$	1	$f$	1	$f$	1	1	$c$	0	0	$a$	0	$a$	0	$a$	$b$	$c$	$c$	$c$
$d$	$c$	$c$	$c$	$e$	$e$	1	1	1	1	1	$d$	0	0	0	0	0	$b$	$b$	$d$	$d$	$d$	$d$
$e$	$b$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$e$	$f$	1	$f$	1	1	$e$	0	0	$a$	0	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$e$	$e$	$e$
$f$	$a$	$a$	$a$	$c$	$c$	$e$	$e$	1	1	1	$f$	0	0	0	$b$	$b$	$d$	$d$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$f$
$m$	$n$	$n$	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$e$	$f$	1	1	$m$	0	0	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$e$	$f$	$m$	$m$	$m$
1	0	$n$	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$e$	$f$	$m$	1	1	0	$n$	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$e$	$f$	$m$	1	1

Then

- (ii)  $n \odot n = 0 \neq n = n \wedge n$ ;
- (iii)  $a \wedge n = n \neq 0 = a \odot f = a \odot (a \rightarrow n)$ ;
- (iv)  $(b \rightarrow a) \vee (a \rightarrow b) = e \vee f = m \neq 1$ ;
- (v)  $d \geq b, c$  and  $d \rightarrow b = d \rightarrow c = e$ , but  $b \neq c$ ;
- (vi)  $m \vee d = m \neq 1 = (m \rightarrow d) \rightarrow d$ ;
- (vii)  $c^* = c \rightarrow 0 = d$  and  $d \odot m = d \odot 1 = d$ ,  $c \rightarrow m = c \rightarrow 1 = 1$ , but  $m \neq 1$ ;
- (viii)  $n \rightarrow (n \rightarrow 0) = n \rightarrow m = 1 \neq m = 1 \rightarrow m = (n \rightarrow n) \rightarrow (n \rightarrow 0)$ .

**Remark 3.2.** Unfortunately, we did not find any references in the literature to the necessary and sufficient conditions for the distributivity of the residuated lattices.

In consequence we propose the following

**Open problem** : Find necessary conditions for a residuated lattice to become distributive.

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