

Computing $\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{B}$

Let \mathbf{A} be an n by n matrix, and \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{B} be both n by m matrices. Supposed matrices \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are given, and we want to solve the linear system of equations

$$\mathbf{AX} = \mathbf{B}$$

for \mathbf{X} . In component form this equation is

$$\sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} X_{jk} = B_{ik}.$$

Therefore the problem is basically the same as the linear system

$$\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$$

where \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{b} are n -vectors, except that we now have m copies of the problem, each having the same \mathbf{A} but having vectors \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{b} taken from each of the corresponding columns of \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{B} respectively.

Therefore LU factorization using Gaussian elimination can be used efficiently to find matrix \mathbf{X} without first explicitly finding \mathbf{A}^{-1} and then multiply by \mathbf{B} (a very inefficient process). We only need to perform LU

factorization of \mathbf{A} once, then forward and backward substitution can then be done for each columns of \mathbf{B} to obtain the corresponding column of \mathbf{X} .