



## Why

Let  $(A \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times m}, b \in \mathbf{R}^m)$  be an ordinarily reducible linear system with ordinary reducer sequence  $(L_1, \dots, L_{m-1})$ . If  $U = L_{m-1} \cdots L_2 L_1 A$ , then

$$A = (L_{m-1} \cdots L_2 L_1)^{-1} U$$

is a factorization of  $U$ .

## Inverting $L_{m-1} \cdots L_2 L_1$

Of course, assuming invertibility of the  $L_i$ ,

$$(L_{m-1} \cdots L_2 L_1)^{-1} = L_1^{-1} L_2^{-1} \cdots L_{m-1}^{-1}.$$

So we are interested in the inverse of  $L_i$  for  $i \leq m-1$ .

**Proposition 1.**  $L_i^{-1}$  is  $L_i$  with the subdiagonal entries negated.

**Proposition 2.**  $L_k^{-1} L_{k+1}^{-1}$  is the unit lower-triangular matrix with the entries of both  $L_k^{-1}$  and  $L_{k+1}^{-1}$  in their usual places.

## Factorization perspective

Since the matrix  $L_k$  has the form

$$L_k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & \\ & & -\ell_{k+1,k} & 1 & & \\ & & \vdots & & \ddots & \\ & & -\ell_{mk} & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\ell_{ij}$  are the row multipliers (see **Ordinary Reducer Sequence**), and immediate consequence Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 is that

$$L = L_1^{-1} L_2^{-1} \cdots L_{m-1}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ \ell_{21} & 1 & & & \\ \ell_{31} & \ell_{32} & 1 & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ \ell_{m1} & \ell_{m2} & \cdots & \ell_{m,m-1} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

In other words, we have  $A = LU$  where  $L$  is unit lower triangular and  $U$  is upper triangular. So we have factorized  $A$  in terms of a lower and upper triangular matrix.

