Is LU Decomposition better than Gaussian Elimination?

Solve $[A][X] = [B]$

T = clock cycle time and nxn = size of the matrix

Forward Elimination

$$CT|_{FE} = T\left(\frac{8n^3}{3} + 8n^2 - \frac{32n}{3}\right)$$

Back Substitution

$$CT|_{BS} = T\left(4n^2 + 12n\right)$$

Decomposition to LU

$$CT|_{DE} = T\left(\frac{8n^3}{3} + 4n^2 - \frac{20n}{3}\right)$$

Forward Substitution

$$CT|_{FS} = T\left(4n^2 - 4n\right)$$

Back Substitution

$$CT|_{BS} = T\left(4n^2 + 12n\right)$$

Is LU Decomposition better than Gaussian Elimination?

To solve $[A][X] = [B]$

Time taken by methods

Gaussian Elimination	LU Decomposition
$T\left(\frac{8n^3}{3}+12n^2+\frac{4n}{3}\right)$	$T\left(\frac{8n^3}{3}+12n^2+\frac{4n}{3}\right)$

T = clock cycle time and nxn = size of the matrix

So both methods are equally efficient.

To find inverse of [A]

Time taken by Gaussian Elimination

$$= n\left(CT\,|_{FE} + CT\,|_{BS}\right)$$

$$= T\left(\frac{8n^4}{3} + 12n^3 + \frac{4n^2}{3}\right)$$

Time taken by LU Decomposition

$$= CT\,|_{DE} + n \times CT\,|_{FS} + n \times CT\,|_{BS}$$

$$= T\left(\frac{32n^3}{3} + 12n^2 - \frac{20n}{3}\right)$$

To find inverse of [A]

Time taken by Gaussian Elimination

$$T\left(\frac{8n^4}{3}+12n^3+\frac{4n^2}{3}\right)$$

Time taken by LU Decomposition

$$T\left(\frac{32n^3}{3}+12n^2-\frac{20n}{3}\right)$$

Table 1 Comparing computational times of finding inverse of a matrix using LU decomposition and Gaussian elimination.

n	10	100	1000	10000
$CT\|_{\text{inverse GE}} / CT\|_{\text{inverse LU}}$	3.288	25.84	250.8	2501

For large n, $CT|_{\text{inverse GE}} / CT|_{\text{inverse LU}} \approx n/4$