

**svsolve()** — Solve  $AX=B$  for  $X$  using singular value decomposition

Description  
Diagnostics

Syntax  
Also see

Remarks and examples

Conformability

## Description

`svsolve(A, B, ...)`, uses singular value decomposition to solve  $AX = B$  and return  $X$ . When  $A$  is singular, `svsolve()` computes the minimum-norm least-squares generalized solution. When *rank* is specified, in it is placed the rank of  $A$ .

`_svsolve(A, B, ...)` does the same thing, except that it destroys the contents of  $A$  and it overwrites  $B$  with the solution. Returned is the rank of  $A$ .

In both cases, *tol* specifies the tolerance for determining whether  $A$  is of full rank. *tol* is interpreted in the standard way—as a multiplier for the default if  $tol > 0$  is specified and as an absolute quantity to use in place of the default if  $tol \leq 0$  is specified.

## Syntax

*numeric matrix*    `svsolve(A, B)`  
*numeric matrix*    `svsolve(A, B, rank)`  
*numeric matrix*    `svsolve(A, B, rank, tol)`

*real scalar*        `_svsolve(A, B)`  
*real scalar*        `_svsolve(A, B, tol)`

where

*A*:    *numeric matrix*  
*B*:    *numeric matrix*  
*rank*: irrelevant; *real scalar* returned  
*tol*:    *real scalar*

## Remarks and examples

stata.com

`svsolve(A, B, ...)` is suitable for use with square or nonsquare, full-rank or rank-deficient matrix  $A$ . When  $A$  is of full rank, `svsolve()` returns the same solution as `lusolve()` (see [M-5] [lusolve\(\)](#)), ignoring roundoff error. When  $A$  is singular, `svsolve()` returns the minimum-norm least-squares generalized solution. `qrsolve()` (see [M-5] [qrsolve\(\)](#)), an alternative, returns a generalized least-squares solution that amounts to dropping rows of  $A$ .

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

[Derivation](#)  
[Relationship to inversion](#)  
[Tolerance](#)

## Derivation

We wish to solve for  $X$

$$AX = B \tag{1}$$

Perform singular value decomposition on  $A$  so that we have  $A = USV'$ . Then (1) can be rewritten as

$$USV'X = B$$

Premultiplying by  $U'$  and remembering that  $U'U = I$ , we have

$$SV'X = U'B$$

Matrix  $S$  is diagonal and thus its inverse is easily calculated, and we have

$$V'X = S^{-1}U'B$$

When we premultiply by  $V$ , remembering that  $VV' = I$ , the solution is

$$X = VS^{-1}U'B \tag{2}$$

See [M-5] `svd()` for more information on the SVD.

## Relationship to inversion

For a general discussion, see *Relationship to inversion* in [M-5] `lusolve()`.

For an inverse based on the SVD, see [M-5] `pinv()`. `pinv(A)` amounts to `svsolve(A, I(rows(A)))`, although `pinv()` has separate code that uses less memory.

## Tolerance

In (2) above, we are required to calculate the inverse of diagonal matrix  $S$ . The generalized solution is obtained by substituting zero for the  $i$ th diagonal element of  $S^{-1}$ , where the  $i$ th diagonal element of  $S$  is less than or equal to  $eta$  in absolute value. The default value of  $eta$  is

$$eta = \text{epsilon}(1) * \text{rows}(A) * \max(S)$$

If you specify  $tol > 0$ , the value you specify is used to multiply  $eta$ . You may instead specify  $tol \leq 0$  and then the negative of the value you specify is used in place of  $eta$ ; see [M-1] **Tolerance**.

## Conformability

`svsolve(A, B, rank, tol):`

*input:*

*A:*  $m \times n$

*B:*  $m \times k$

*tol:*  $1 \times 1$  (optional)

*output:*

*rank:*  $1 \times 1$  (optional)

*result:*  $n \times k$

`_svsolve(A, B, tol):`

*input:*

*A:*  $m \times n$

*B:*  $m \times k$

*tol:*  $1 \times 1$  (optional)

*output:*

*A:*  $0 \times 0$

*B:*  $m \times k$

*result:*  $1 \times 1$

## Diagnostics

`svsolve(A, B, ...)` and `_svsolve(A, B, ...)` return missing results if  $A$  or  $B$  contain missing.

`_svsolve(A, B, ...)` aborts with error if  $A$  (but not  $B$ ) is a view.

## Also see

[M-5] [cholsolve\(\)](#) — Solve  $AX=B$  for  $X$  using Cholesky decomposition

[M-5] [lusolve\(\)](#) — Solve  $AX=B$  for  $X$  using LU decomposition

[M-5] [qrsolve\(\)](#) — Solve  $AX=B$  for  $X$  using QR decomposition

[M-5] [solvelower\(\)](#) — Solve  $AX=B$  for  $X$ ,  $A$  triangular

[M-4] [Matrix](#) — Matrix functions

[M-4] [Solvers](#) — Functions to solve  $AX=B$  and to obtain  $A$  inverse