



## 210819-1of3 | My Contribution of Fastest Computing to Mathematics | Inventing a New Computer Creates New Computer Science<sup>i</sup>

Transcript of Philip Emeagwali YouTube lecture 210819 1of3 for the video posted below.

Click below to watch Philip Emeagwali on YouTube.com



<https://youtu.be/aCbuM1t069s>

## Philip Emeagwali

*The Reader's Digest* described Philip Emeagwali as "smarter than Albert Einstein." Philip Emeagwali is often ranked as the world's greatest living genius and scientist. He is listed in the top 20 greatest minds that ever lived. That list includes Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton, William Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci, Aristotle, Pythagoras, and Confucius. Philip Emeagwali is studied in schools as a living historical figure.

In 1989, Philip Emeagwali rose to fame when he won a recognition described as the Nobel Prize of Supercomputing and made the news headlines for his invention of the first world's fastest computing across an Internet that's a global network of processors. *CNN* called him "A Father of the Internet." *House Beautiful* magazine ranked his invention among nine important everyday things taken for granted. In a White House speech of August 26, 2000,

then U.S. President Bill Clinton described Philip Emeagwali as “one of the great minds of the Information Age.”

## Harnessing the Slowest Processors to Solve the Largest Problems in Mathematics

### Contribution of Philip Emeagwali to Algebra

### Surprises from the Frontiers of Computational Linear Algebra

Thank you. I'm Philip Emeagwali

My **contribution** of the world's **fastest** computing to mathematical knowledge made it possible to invent a new computer.

And create new mathematics.

In 1989, I was in the **news**

for **discovering** how to harness  
the world's slowest processors.

And use those processors to solve  
the most difficult problems

at the crossroad

where new mathematics, new physics,  
and the world's fastest computing

**intersect.**

In algebra, the **most difficult problem**

was to **discover** how to solve

the largest system of equations

arising when executing detailed

computational fluid dynamics codes,

such as global climate modeling

or petroleum reservoir simulation.

And executing those codes across

the millions of processors

that outline and define a supercomputer.

In the 1970s and 80s,  
my mathematical quest  
was to become the **first person**  
that could solve  
such initial-boundary value problems.  
And solve them across  
the **slowest** processors in the world.

At 8:15 in the morning  
of July 4, 1989, I **discovered**  
that the world's fastest computer  
can be built with the  
world's **slowest** processors.  
And I **invented**  
the supercomputer technology  
and did so across  
the **slowest** processors in the world.  
That new supercomputer  
paved the way and became the **precursor**  
of the world's fastest computer  
that now computes  
with millions of ordinary processors.

Parallel supercomputing was my **mathematical quest** for how I can cross the new frontier of knowledge of how to solve an unsolved system of equations in algebra. My quest was to cross that frontier and conquer today's **mathematical challenges**. My quest was to solve previously **unsolved** problems and quickly compute the most **compute-intensive** problems in large-scale computational fluid dynamics, such as simulating the spread of contagious viruses inside Japan's Tokyo subway where 3.1 billion passengers a year are packed like sardines.

In 1989, it made the **news headlines** that an African supercomputer genius that worked alone in Los Alamos, New Mexico, USA, has **invented** how to solve the largest system of equations in algebra.

And **invented** how to solve those systems by parallel supercomputing them, or solving many equations at once.

And solving those equations across a new Internet that's a new global network of 65,536 coupled processors.

I visualized my computing machinery as a **small copy** of the Internet.

## Why I Was in the News in 1989

I— Philip Emeagwali—

is that African supercomputer scientist and the **computational mathematician** that was **in the news** in 1989.

I was **in the news** for **inventing**

how to solve

the largest system of equations

during the most important applications of algebra.

One such application is in computational fluid dynamics.

The poster girl of large-scale computational fluid dynamics

is the supercomputer

petroleum reservoir simulation

that must be used **to nail down**

the exact locations

of crude oil and natural gas.

Such extremely fast calculations

can only be executed across

an ensemble of

millions of processors

that occupies the space of a soccer field.



And that simulates an oil producing field that's up to **7.7 miles** (or **12.4 kilometers**) deep.

An oil field is about the size of **Abuja**, Nigeria.

The **Agbami** Oil Field of Nigeria was discovered in late 1998.

**Agbami** was Nigeria's second largest deep water oil field.

**Agbami** is second to the **Bonga** Oil Field.

**Agbami** Oil Field is located **4,900 feet** (or **1.5 kilometers**)

away from the coastal shores of central Niger Delta.

It has a peak oil production of **250,000** barrels per day.

## 2 Why is the supercomputer important to Nigeria?

One in ten supercomputers

were bought by the petroleum industry.

## The Importance of Supercomputers

The most powerful computer in the world costs the budget of a small nation. The fastest computer is the heavyweight champion in the world of petroleum technologies. The supercomputer is used to pinpoint deposits of crude oil and natural gas. Fastest computing is my **contribution** to modern algebra and to the petroleum industry.

## Inventing the Fastest Computers

I'm the subject of inventor reports because I **invented** how to execute the world's **fastest** calculations.

And perform them across  
an ensemble  
of the **slowest** processors in the world.  
And solve  
the most **compute-intensive problems**  
at the crossroad where  
new mathematics, new physics,  
and the world's fastest computing  
**intersect**.

I **invented** how to solve  
the most compute-intensive problems.  
And solve them across a new Internet  
that's a new global network  
of 65,536 coupled,  
off-the-shelf processors  
that **shared nothing**.

And that each operated  
its operating system.

By 1986, I realized that  
the most difficult problem  
in petroleum reservoir simulation, namely  
the solution of a parabolic system

of partial differential equations was at its granite physical and mathematical cores an effort to forecast the weather. But to forecast it backwards in time. This backward technique is called hindcasting. And is used to forecast, or rather to hindcast, the “weather.” And hindcast, or re-forecast, up to 7.7 miles (or 12.4 kilometers) below the surface of the Earth. And hindcast it across an oil producing field that’s up to twice the size of the state of Anambra, Nigeria. Because I was both a geologist of the late 1970s and a meteorologist of the early 1980s, I could translate that compute-intensive problem.

And translate it across physics, calculus, algebra, and computer science.

And **translate** it

from the primitive equations of meteorology

to the nine Philip **Emeagwali** equations of mathematical geophysics.

This new field of study is described as the subsurface porous media

**multiphased** fluid flow modelling

executed across millions of off-the-shelf processors

that were identical and coupled.

In 1989, I could solve

the **most difficult problem**

arising in supercomputing.

I solved it by deeply understanding and drawing on

the **mathematical metaphors**

between the extreme-scaled

computational fluid dynamics problems

in both meteorology and geology.

## Inventing the Fastest Computers for Mathematicians

My **contributions** to mathematics had their calculus and algebra **roots** on how I reformulated the hardest **problem** in subsurface geology. I reformulated that mathematical problem and did so in a meteorological context. Furthermore, I **parallel processed** that mathematical problem. And I did so across a then world-record ensemble of 65,536 processors. Not only that, I visualized those processors as outlining and defining a **small Internet**. And as tightly circumscribing a globe and encircling that globe

in the manner  
computers encircle the Earth.

### 3 Changing the Way Mathematicians Solve Compute-Intensive Problems

#### Toughest Mathematical Problems in Nigeria

My 1989 discovery **changed the way**  
mathematicians solve  
their most compute-intensive problems.  
In my **new way**, the most **difficult** problems  
in physics, mathematics,  
and computer science  
are solved across  
an ensemble of millions of processors,  
instead of within one processor  
as was done in the **old way**.

The toughest problems in mathematics are solved on supercomputers purchased for the Nigerian petroleum industry.

The **prototypical** most difficult problem in supercomputing

was to compute at the fastest speeds the **motions**

of crude oil, injected water, and natural gas

that were flowing across an oil producing field

that's up to **7.7 miles**

(or 12.4 kilometers) deep.

An oil field is about the size of my hometown of **Onitsha**, Nigeria.

The **Bonga** Oil Field is located off the Nigerian coast

and 75 miles [**or 121 kilometers**] southwest of the Niger Delta.

The **Bonga** Oil Field was underneath



an average water depth of **3,300** feet [or **one kilometer**] and covers sixty (**60**) square kilometers.

And produces both crude oil and natural gas.

The **Bonga** Oil Field began production in November **2005**. And was projected to be **abandoned** in the year **2022**.

In the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, mathematical physics textbooks classified the governing system of coupled, nonlinear, time-dependent, three-dimensional, and state-of-the-art **partial *differential* equations** as parabolic.

Often, when parabolic **partial *differential* equations** are **discretized** to yield a system of **partial *difference* equations**,

the resulting system of equations of computational linear algebra is **tridiagonal**.

Its associated tridiagonal matrix has nonzero elements on the main diagonal and on the two diagonals **below** and **above** the main diagonal.

Why My Contributions to Mathematics Was News Headlines

Why was my **contributions** to mathematics in the news in 1989?

My **contribution** to mathematics was this:

In the 1980s,  
I **changed the way we looked at**  
**the calculus and the algebra** behind  
the compute-intensive simulations  
of the **motions**

of crude oil and natural gas that were buried up to **7.7 miles** (or 12.4 kilometers) deep. And buried across an oil field that's about the size of a town.

My mathematical discovery was that the world's **fastest** computer can be built with the world's **slowest** processors. My invention was the **cover story** of top mathematics publications, including the May 1990 issue of the *SIAM News* which was the flagship publication of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

## 4 Changing the Way Mathematicians Solve Compute-Intensive Problems in Algebra

I'm the subject of school essays on famous mathematicians because I **changed the way** mathematicians solve their most compute-intensive problems in algebra.

My **contribution** to the mathematical knowledge and supercomputer technology used to nail down the exact locations of crude oil and natural gas is this:

I **paradigm shifted** from a **parabolic** system to a **hyperbolic** system of **partial differential equations** that governs that initial-boundary value problem.

And I **paradigm shifted** again  
from **tridiagonal to diagonal**  
system of equations  
of computational linear algebra  
from the parabolic  
and hyperbolic systems, respectively.  
I **invented** the system of equations  
of computational linear algebra  
that must be used to **recover**  
otherwise **unrecoverable**  
crude oil and natural gas.  
In 20<sup>th</sup> century algebra,  
such systems were most often  
tridiagonal.  
Such tridiagonal systems  
are **unsolvable** in parallel.  
Or **impossible** to solve  
by dividing each into a million,  
or even a billion,  
lesser compute-intensive problems  
that can be mapped onto  
as many processors

and then solved  
with a one-to-one correspondence.  
And solved at once, or in parallel.

Because I was computing  
and communicating across  
a global network of 65,536 processors,  
I saw computational mathematics  
differently.

Because I saw mathematics differently,  
I thought differently and invented  
differently.

Why I Invented the Nine Philip Emeagwali  
Equations

Why did I invent  
the nine Philip Emeagwali equations?

My original derivations  
of the nine Emeagwali equations  
are lengthy.

However, they're fully described in my YouTube channel, named "Emeagwali."

In essence, my point of departures from the mathematical derivations of Darcy's equations, that govern subsurface geophysical fluid dynamics, were that I accounted for both the temporal and convective inertial forces.

I've posted the mathematical details across my one thousand video clips that I've also posted on YouTube.

For clarity, I detailed my mathematical derivations in close captioned prose.

My mathematical quest was to **discover** how to solve the differential

initial-boundary value problem,  
not for how to solve  
the algebraic discrete problem  
from that  
initial-boundary value problem.  
My quest wasn't **for** how to solve  
the initial-boundary value problem  
and **solve it**  
as an applied mathematician  
who **solved it**  
on his blackboard.

That quest for an extremely fast computer  
was for how to **solve**  
**the never-before-solved**  
largest-scaled problems  
in computational linear algebra.

And **solve them**  
as a modern computational mathematician  
who is **sitting astride** his global network of  
sixty-four binary thousand motherboards.  
Each motherboard  
was a computational metaphor



for his as many, or 65,536, blackboards.

I invented a system of nine partial differential equations of calculus.

And then invented my nine partial difference algorithms, or the complete step-by-step instructions each of my 65,536 processors must execute

as the condition to solving the difficult mathematical problem.

And solving it at the world's fastest speed that made the news in 1989.

I used my new algorithms to discretize my system of

partial differential equations

which, in turn, yielded

my system of 24 million equations of computational linear algebra.

Those were the longest equations in the mathematics of 1989.

With my new algorithms,

those equations became diagonal,  
instead of tridiagonal.

It's impossible

for my new system of 24 million

**diagonal** equations

of algebra

and the old system of 24 million

**tridiagonal** equations

of algebra

to be mathematically equivalent.

## 5 My Identical Twin Problems of Algebra

I visualized my problem

as identical twin problems of algebra.

The **diagonal** and the **tridiagonal** systems

of equations

of computational linear algebra

arose from different

initial-boundary value problems

with the same boundary condition,

the same initial condition,

and the same mathematical and physical domains.

However, each initial-boundary value problem

had a different governing system of **partial differential equations** at the frontier of calculus.

The **diagonal**

and the **tridiagonal** systems

of equations of

computational linear algebra

are equivalent in their **physical essences**.

And they're equivalent

in the physical sense

that both arose from

a hyperbolic and a parabolic system

of coupled, nonlinear,

time-dependent, three-dimensional,

and state-of-the-art

**partial differential equations**, respectively.

Both systems

of **partial differential equations**

of calculus  
encoded the same set of laws  
of physics.  
My new **diagonal** and the old **tridiagonal**  
systems of equations of  
computational linear algebra  
approximated  
the same difficult mathematical problem  
of extreme-scale computational physics.  
My new **diagonal** and the old **tridiagonal**  
systems of equations  
of computational linear algebra  
are **as different** as identical twins  
from  
the same egg and sperm  
and from the same genetic materials.  
Just as **identical twins** are **clones**,  
my new **diagonal**  
and the old **tridiagonal**  
systems of equations  
of computational linear algebra  
were **clones**.

They're not algebraically **equivalent**.  
But they **arose** from the same  
difficult mathematical problem  
of extreme-scale computational physics.  
Metaphorically speaking,  
they **arose**  
from the same egg and sperm.  
Scientifically speaking,  
they **arose** from  
the same set of laws of physics.

How I Solved the Toughest Unsolved  
Mathematics Equation at the Fastest  
Computer Speed Across the Slowest  
Processors

Fastest Computing by Slowest Processing

How I Leapfrogged from Slowest to Fastest  
Computing

My **invention** of fastest computing which occurred on the Fourth of July 1989 **changed the way** mathematicians solve the most compute-intensive problems in algebra.

The **cover stories** of mathematics news journals read by leading mathematicians **celebrated** my mathematical **discovery** as a **breakthrough** that makes it possible for high-performance computational mathematicians to achieve speeds in supercomputing previously considered **impossible**.

In 1989, mathematicians celebrated my discovery of the fastest computing. And did so because it **heralded the end** of their old arithmetic paradigm of solving one compute-intensive problem at a time.

And it **marked the beginning**

of the **new paradigm**  
of concurrently solving  
millions of sets  
of compute-intensive problems.  
And solving them at once.  
On the Fourth of July 1989,  
I achieved a supercomputer breakthrough.  
I used the 65,536 **slowest processors**  
in the world  
to reduce 65,536 days, or **180 years**,  
of time-to-solution  
to merely one **day** of time-to-solution.  
Furthermore, I **discovered** that  
the most compute-intensive problems  
in the algebra  
that, in turn, arose from calculus  
could be solved across a new Internet.  
**Not only that, I invented** that new Internet  
as a new global network of  
sixty-four binary thousand processors  
that were **coupled**.  
Each processor had its dedicated **memory**

that **shared nothing**,  
**but were in dialogue with each other.**

My high-performance computing  
experiment

which I conducted across a new Internet

that's a new global network of

65,536 processors

led to my **discovery**

that **elucidated**

why the world's fastest computer

must be powered by

millions of processors.

The reason my **discovery**

of how to execute

the world's fastest computing

was in the June 20, 1990, issue

of *The Wall Street Journal*

was because it **opened the door**

to the **fastest supercomputers**

that were powered by

over ten million processors.



## 6 Oil and Gas Recovery by Fastest Computing via Slowest Processing

I **discovered** how the oil and gas industry now harnesses the fastest computing from the slowest processors.

And do so to nail down the locations of **subterranean hydrocarbons**.

My **discovery** that millions of processors can be used to solve the most compute-intensive problems is the new knowledge

used throughout the petroleum industry.

It's the most **critical technology**

now used to pinpoint deposits of crude oil and natural gas and used to recover them.

It's used from the producing oil fields of **Nigeria**

to the oil fields of **Angola**.

I used the largest system of equations

of algebra  
that defined  
the most compute-intensive problems  
in physics  
as the **backdrop**  
for my experiments across  
my ensemble of 65,536 processors.  
I used those equations  
as my supercomputer testbeds.  
In the 1970s and 80s,  
fastest computing across  
slowest processors existed  
only in the world of **science fiction**.  
My **contribution** to computer science  
was that I **challenged** the **established truth**  
and turned that **science fiction** to reality.  
That truth  
was the widely held belief that  
the **slowest processors** in the world  
cannot compute together.  
And do so to solve  
the most compute-intensive problems

in algebra  
and in extreme-scale  
computational physics.

And solve them at the fastest recorded  
supercomputer speeds.

The recognitions which I received  
from the supercomputing community,

in 1989 and **later**,

was the first time such **skepticism**  
over parallel supercomputing  
was **overcome**.

In the 1970s and 80s, twenty-five thousand  
supercomputer scientists  
tried to parallel process  
and do so across processors  
and computers.

**They gave up.**

They dismissed my attempts  
to solve

the most difficult problems

—via parallel processing—as **impossible**.

I proved them wrong.

## Breaking the “Sound Barrier” of Supercomputers

In an often-cited paper published between April 18 to 20, 1967, the IBM supercomputer designer, Gene Amdahl, formulated Amdahl's Law. Briefly, Amdahl's Law predicted that supercomputing across the **slowest** processors will forever remain an enormous **waste of everybody's time**. Seymour Cray designed seven in ten supercomputers sold in the 1970s and 80s. Seymour Cray agreed with Gene Amdahl.

Using the chicken as his metaphor

for the **slowest processor**  
and the ox  
for the fastest processor,  
Seymour Cray  
asked the supercomputing community  
his famous question:

“If you were plowing a field,  
which would you rather use?  
Two strong oxen  
or 1024 chickens?”

Regarding the **ox** versus  
a billion-chicken debate,  
I visualized the Grand Challenge Problem  
of supercomputing  
as **breakable** and **chopped up**  
into one billion less-challenging problems,  
each akin to a few weed seeds  
in a large field. My theory was that  
a billion hungry chickens  
can eat up a thousand billion weed seeds

and eat them faster than one hungry ox.

Parallel computing is a century-old theory that existed in the realm of **science fiction**.

My **contribution** to computer science made the **news** because

my **invention** of the **first** supercomputing across the world's **slowest** computers turned that **science fiction** to **reality**.

On the Fourth of July 1989, the century-old theory—of harnessing 64,000 human computers—became timeless and new again.

It was never old.

When I came of age, in the 1970s, the *Computer World* was the mouthpiece of the information technology industry.

A state-of-the-art survey published in the June 14, 1976, issue of the *Computer World*, quoted the leaders of thought in the world of supercomputers

as **unanimously** agreeing that harnessing thousands of processors will be too **quote, unquote** “**large and clumsy.**”

The title of that *Computer World* article summed up the **skepticism** towards parallel processing and my later discovery of the world's **fastest** computing across the world's **slowest** processors.

The **pessimism** was embedded into the title of that article, which was:

**[quote]**

“**Research in Parallel Processing Questioned as ‘Waste of Time.’**”

**[unquote]**

## 6 How I Broke the “Sound Barrier” of Supercomputing

## How I Changed the Way We Look at the Computer

My discovery made the news because it was computing's equivalent of breaking the sound barrier to create a sonic boom.

Before my discovery, fastest computing across slowest processors was an **intellectual barrier** that no human dared to cross.

I was in the **news** because

I was the **first person**

to cross that **intellectual barrier**.

I was the **first person**

**to** scale the **pinnacle**

known as the world's fastest computing.

On July 4, 1989, I became the **first person**

to plant his country's flag

in the then unknown territory

of the supercomputer,

**as it's known today**



and as it's expected to be known tomorrow.

I used 65,536 processors

to demonstrate

how a mammoth supercomputer

can be built from a billion processors.

I discovered how harnessing

up to a billion processors

will enable the world's fastest computer

to have the horsepower it will need

to address the grand challenges

of the scientific world.

I researched as a lone wolf because

my supercomputing milestone

was believed to be unachievable.

Parallel processing powers

every supercomputer manufactured today.

The supercomputer is to science

what the microscope is to biology.

My scientific discovery,

which occurred on July 4, 1989,

was that the world's slowest processors can be used to solve the **most compute-intensive** problems in science, engineering, and medicine.

My **discovery** of the **central essence** of the world's fastest computers made the **news headlines** because it **changed the way** we look at the modern computer.

I **discovered** how to reduce 180 years of time-to-solution of the most difficult problems in large-scale algebra and computational fluid dynamics and how to reduce that time to one day of time-to-solution.

In the 1970s and 80s,

I was **mocked** and **ridiculed** by vector supercomputer scientists and **offhandedly dismissed** because I claimed to have **discovered**

how to reduce the times-to-solution  
of the most compute-intensive problems  
—such as the high-stake  
global climate models—  
and reduce them  
by a factor of **one billion** across  
a new Internet  
that's a new global network  
of one billion processors  
that **shared nothing**.

I was **mocked** for claiming my **discovery**  
of the world's fastest computing  
and claiming it when it was considered  
**impossible**  
to reduce those times-to-solution  
and do so by a factor of **eight**.

When confronted  
with such a compute-intensive problem,  
the vector supercomputing community  
joined ranks and **tore holes**  
in my then **unsubstantiated theory**.

I theorized that the slowest processors

could be harnessed  
and used to compute faster  
than the fastest supercomputer.  
My unorthodox approach  
to solving compute-intensive problems  
is called parallel supercomputing.  
Until my experiment of July 4, 1989,  
the parallel computer  
was **not** a supercomputer.  
It was then a million times slower  
than the supercomputer. In 1989  
and in [[the University of Michigan](#)]  
Ann Arbor, Michigan,  
my character was **maligned**  
because I was conducting research  
on parallel supercomputers,  
a technology then **dismissed**  
as **pseudoscience**.  
I distributed six copies  
of my 1,057-page supercomputer report  
to scientists in [[University of Michigan](#)]  
Ann Arbor, Michigan.

All six copies were thrown into the **wastebasket**. To their surprise, a few weeks later, it made the news headlines that I had won the equivalent of the **Nobel Prize in supercomputing**. I won that prestigious prize for my supercomputer invention which I fully described in my 1,057-page research report that they **trashed** into the **wastebaskets** of [[the University of Michigan](#)] Ann Arbor, Michigan.

After I won what was referred to as the Nobel Prize of Supercomputing, in 1989, the **intellectual fireworks** exploded. I didn't kill any person. Yet, I was subjected to a Galileo trial that was computing's equivalent to the **O.J. Simpson trial**.

If they were to accept my discovery they must forget many things they've learned, such as their belief in white intellectual supremacy. I solved the most difficult problem at the crossroad where new mathematics, new physics, and the world's fastest computing **intersected**.

That accomplishment was the reason I was compared to the likes of Albert Einstein, Pythagoras, and Euclid.

In retrospect and for **racial** and intellectual reasons, I was not taken seriously as a Black mathematician who was equally at home in physics and computer science.

I was confident because, as far as I knew, I was the only person in the world

that devoted almost the entire decades of the 1970s and 80s to supercomputing across processors.

I acquired the specific sets of skills and knowledge

within mathematics, physics, and computer science that, in turn, would have enabled me to solve the most difficult problems in supercomputing.

First, I was Black and African and, therefore, grossly underrated with respect to Albert Einstein.

Second, I was a **lone** and **unsalaried** supercomputer scientist whose research was grossly undervalued by both the funding agencies and the prize committees.

They automatically **rejected** any submission

from a Black African scientist.

Third, I was **misperceived** as only a

one-dimensional mathematician  
or physicist, never as a  
three-dimensional **polymath**,  
or a **triple threat**  
that was also at home in computer science.  
Fourth, it was not widely known  
that I had been continuously  
supercomputing, since June 20, 1974,  
on one of the world's fastest computers  
that was at 1800 SW Campus Way,  
Corvallis, Oregon, USA.  
Fifth, I was also trained as an astronomer,  
meteorologist, and geologist.  
Therefore, I was **not timid** about crossing  
disciplinary boundaries  
and doing so when pursuing  
the elusive answer  
to the biggest question in supercomputing.  
That question was this:

**How do we compute fastest  
with the slowest processors?**



In supercomputing, the most compute-intensive problem must be **breakable** into a billion pieces that can be solved at once.

And solved across a billion processors that each was self-contained and **shared nothing**.

Solving the most difficult problem across the world's fastest computer is akin to putting a jigsaw-puzzle, with a billion pieces, together.

## 7 My Discovery of the World's Fastest Computing

My **invention** of how to compute in parallel —or compute many things at once— was mentioned in the June 20, 1990, issue of The *Wall Street Journal*.

It took me the prior sixteen years

to **discover**

how and why computing across  
the slowest processors  
makes the fastest computers  
fastest.

My discovery **opened the door**  
that elevated the parallel computer  
to a **new supercomputer**  
that's up to a billion-fold faster,  
and that's used to solve  
the largest system of equations  
in many fields.

Such Grand Challenge Problems  
range from computational fluid dynamics  
to computational medicine, such as  
simulating the spread of **contagious  
viruses**

across Onitsha market  
where social distancing rules  
are not enforced.

In the 1980s,  
there were twenty-five thousand [**25,000**]

computational mathematicians  
who also desired to know  
how and why a multitude of processors  
makes the slowest computers  
faster  
and makes the world's fastest computer  
fastest.

The reason those mathematicians,  
gave up on massively parallel processing  
was because their textbooks  
warned them that  
supercomputing with up to  
a billion processors  
will forever remain  
an enormous waste of everybody's time.

If any of those mathematicians  
or physicists or computer scientists  
had the knowledge that I had,  
they would have been famous  
for solving the most difficult problem  
in supercomputing that I solved in 1989

and that made the news headlines.

## My Struggles to Invent the World's Fastest Computer

Because everybody ridiculed and rejected the theory of solving many problems at once, parallel supercomputing was abandoned.

That was how I became the **lone** full-time programmer of sixteen of the most massively parallel supercomputers ever built.

Today, the most powerful supercomputer hosts up to **ten thousand programmers**.

What **differentiates** I and the other twenty-five thousand vector supercomputer programmers of the 1980s were these:

I **invented** how to harness an ensemble of 65,536 off-the-shelf processors that were **coupled** and that **shared nothing**. In 1989, it made the **news headlines** that an African supercomputer genius in the USA had **invented** how to harness 65,536 processors. And **invented** how to use them to solve the most compute-intensive problems, called Grand Challenges. Such problems arise while addressing some of the world's biggest problems, such as simulating the spread of COVID-19. My invention **opened the door** to the technique of parallel and distributed algorithms and the companion technology of the massively parallel supercomputer.

Parallel computing  
is the core knowledge  
that makes the **impossible**-to-solve  
**possible**-to-solve.

And makes it possible  
to solve up to a billion  
mathematical problems  
at once.

I— Philip Emeagwali—  
was that African supercomputer scientist  
in the news in 1989.

## Solving Compute-Intensive Problems Across the Slowest Processors

The grand challenge of computing  
was to be the **first person**  
to solve the most **difficult** problem.

And solve them  
at the world's fastest speeds.

But solve them across  
the world's slowest processors.

A reason it was called a Grand Challenge Problem was that the twenty-five thousand vector supercomputer scientists, of the 1980s and earlier, couldn't solve it.

The reason vector supercomputer scientists couldn't experimentally invent fastest computing across the **slowest** processors was that they were merely reading about how it's **impossible** to harness 65,536 processors.

In the 1980s, it was believed that it will **forever** remain **impossible** to harness millions of processors.

And use them to cooperatively solve the most compute-intensive problems at the frontiers of knowledge in science, engineering, and medicine.

Those twenty-five thousand **naysayers**

had the opportunity I had to solve the most **compute-intensive** problems which were central to supercomputing. All they needed was the brain power. Each of those twenty-five thousand vector supercomputer scientists knew that the **invention** of supercomputing across the **slowest** processors will be akin to discovering a **gold mine**. My **contribution** to the development of the supercomputer is the reason I'm the subject of school essays on **"Inventors and their Inventions."**

I'm Philip Emeagwali.

Thank you.



## Further Listening and Rankings

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contribution to computer development

what is the contribution of philip emeagwali to computer development

what is lovelace main contribution to the development of the computer

what are mauchly and eckert main contribution to the development of the computer

what is the eniac programmers main contribution to the development of the computer

inventors and its contribution to the development of computer

herman hollerith contribution to the development of computer

charles babbage and his contribution to the development of computer

abacus contribution to the development of computer

discuss the contribution of blaise pascal to the development of computer

contribution of ada lovelace to the development of computer

Google suggests the greatest computer scientists of all times. With the number one spot, Philip Emeagwali is the most suggested computer pioneer for school biography reports across the USA, Canada, UK, and Africa (December 8, 2021).



father of the internet

**philip emeagwali** father of the internet

**tim berners lee** father of the internet

**vint cerf** father of the internet

**dr philip emeagwali** father of the internet

**leonard kleinrock** father of the internet

**nigerian** father of the internet

**bob kahn** father of the internet

**npr** father of the internet

**african** father of the internet

father of the internet **al gore**

Google suggests the most noted [fathers of the Internet](#). With four out of ten searches, Philip Emeagwali is the most suggested "[father of the Internet](#)" for schools across the USA, Canada, UK, and Africa (Labor Day 2019).



**Contributions of Philip Emeagwali to  
Mathematics and Physics | I Contributed  
Fastest Computing to Mathematics and It  
Changed the Way Mathematicians Solve**

## Problems

Transcript of Philip Emeagwali YouTube lecture 210819 2of3 for the video posted below.

Click below to watch Philip Emeagwali on YouTube.com



<https://youtu.be/GcV14ZCdM5w>

## Philip Emeagwali

*The Reader's Digest* described Philip Emeagwali as “smarter than Albert Einstein.” Philip Emeagwali is often ranked as the world's greatest living genius and scientist. He is listed in the top 20 greatest minds that ever lived. That list includes Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton, William Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci, Aristotle, Pythagoras, and Confucius. Philip Emeagwali is studied in schools as a living historical figure.

In 1989, Philip Emeagwali rose to fame when he won a recognition described as the Nobel Prize of Supercomputing and made the news headlines for his invention of the first world's

fastest computing across an Internet that's a global network of processors. *CNN* called him "A Father of the Internet." *House Beautiful* magazine ranked his invention among nine important everyday things taken for granted. In a White House speech of August 26, 2000, then U.S. President Bill Clinton described Philip Emeagwali as "one of the great minds of the Information Age."

## 1 Father of the Internet

### The First Supercomputer, As It's Known Today

In 1989, I was in the news because I **contributed** the world's **fastest** computing to mathematical knowledge. That **contribution** changed the way mathematicians solve some of their most difficult problems. In their old way, the solution of the most difficult problem in computational mathematics was unsuccessfully tackled on the blackboard or one processor.

In my **new way**, such problems are solved across up to a billion processors.

**I'm Philip Emeagwali.**

On July 4, 1989, I became the **first person** to cross the boundary of human knowledge of the world's fastest computing across the world's slowest processors. Those processors encircled a hyper-globe in the sixteenth dimensional hyperspace and did so in the manner the Internet encircles planet Earth. That was how I **invented** the **first Internet** that is a global network of 65,536 processors.

**What is Philip Emeagwali known for?**

**I discovered**



how to combine computers  
into a supercomputer  
that's an Internet.

That **discovery** is like a light  
from an **ancient sky**.

**I'm the only father of the Internet  
that invented an internet.**

The supercomputer of today  
is radically different  
from those of the 1980s and earlier.  
Back then, supercomputers  
were powered by only one processor.  
Each was the size of a refrigerator.  
And it costs up to forty million dollars each.  
The world's fastest computer, of today,  
can be powered by  
up to one billion processors.  
It occupies the footprint of a football field.  
And it costs forty percent more than  
the mile-long Second Niger Bridge  
in Nigeria.

I invented the world's fastest computing, as we know it today.

In 1989, I was in the **news**

for **discovering** that

the **slowest** processors

could be used

to solve the **biggest** problems.

And find their answers at the **fastest** speeds.

**The fastest computer**

**is why you know the weather**

**before going outside.**

**Computing the Unimaginable-to-Compute**

**Reducing Errors in Algebra**

**Supercomputing How Coronavirus Disease Spreads | The Audacity of the World's Fastest Computing**

The reason I was in the news for my **contributions** to fastest computing was this:

I **discovered** that some compute-intensive problems that were impossible to solve with one processor could be solved across an ensemble of up to a billion processors. That's how the supercomputer is used to track how the coronavirus disease spreads. That was the audacity of my world's fastest computing that occurred on July 4, 1989, and that made the **news headlines**.

The inspiration that led to my **scientific discovery** of how and why using a thousand processors

makes the new supercomputer  
the fastest  
came from my **mathematical investigations**  
of the rates of error growths  
that occur while solving  
the largest systems of equations  
in algebra.  
Error growths occur  
while executing  
the most compute-intensive  
set of floating-point operations  
of **arithmetic**.  
Floating-point operations  
arose from  
finite difference equations  
of computational linear algebra.  
Finite difference approximations  
arose from  
discrete approximations  
of **partial differential equations**  
that govern  
initial-boundary value problems

arising at the frontier of calculus.

My inspiration to compute at the fastest recorded speeds arose from the need to execute the most compute-intensive mathematical **operations**.

Such operations arose from the need to solve the largest system of equations of **algebra**.

Such large-scale algebra arose from the need to discretize the **partial differential equation** at the frontier of calculus.

Such abstract calculus arose from the need to encode some laws of **physics** and chemistry that govern the twenty most difficult problems in supercomputing.

The poster child of the most difficult problems

in supercomputing is the extreme-scaled computational fluid dynamics codes that must be used to simulate the spread of a **once-in-a-century** global pandemic.

The supercomputer must be used to simulate the spread of **virus droplets** among the billions upon billions of train passengers around the world that are packed like sardines.

The fastest computer is used to simulate ways of stopping the spread of contagious viruses.

The world's fastest computer is used to solve unsolved problems that are important to society.

## 8 Convergence, Consistency, and Stability of My Algorithms

I began supercomputing on June 20, 1974, in Corvallis, Oregon, USA.

At that time, I described myself as a mathematician who is a number theorist.

My high-performance computing started as a hobby, not a serious profession.

Back in Onitsha, Nigeria, of the early 1970s, I conducted independent research on "Pythagorean triplets."

Each triplet was an integer solution of the equation

**A-squared** plus **B-squared** equals **C-squared**.

In the 1970s, I gradually shifted my research interest from number theory of pure mathematics to numerical analysis

of applied mathematics  
to large-scale  
computational fluid dynamics.  
And, finally, to massively parallel  
supercomputing  
that's executed across  
up to a billion processors.  
I visualized my 65,536 processors  
as encircling a hypersphere  
in sixteen-dimensional hyperspace.  
And encircling it in the manner  
the Internet encircles the Earth.  
The mathematical fields of  
number theory  
and numerical analysis  
are almost **diametrically opposite**.  
Number theory is **abstract**  
and is investigated on the **blackboard**.  
On the other hand,  
numerical analysis is **applied**  
and investigated on the **motherboard**.



Number theory demands precise solutions.  
And is used to invent  
**encryption algorithms.**

In contrast, numerical analysis  
accepts approximate solutions  
of **partial difference algorithms**  
arising in computational physics.

Since the **equivalence theorem**  
was discovered, in 1954,  
research computational mathematicians  
investigating the discrete solutions  
of **partial differential equations**, indirectly,  
proved **convergence.**

And did so by only proving **consistency**  
and **stability.**

By convergence, I mean that  
as my grid spacing tends to zero  
my solution of my system  
of **partial difference equations**  
converges to the exact solution  
of my system of

partial differential equations  
that I discretized.

In 1981 and a few years after,  
and in College Park, Maryland,  
I did extensive consistency  
and stability analyses.

That is, I theoretically and experimentally  
investigated

the rates of propagation  
of numerical errors that arise  
when the algebraic computations  
advance from one time step  
of finite difference approximations  
to the next time step.

I knew in advance  
that my approximations  
to the originating  
partial differential equations  
are stable, if and only if, the errors  
introduced at any time-step  
were not amplified at later time steps  
but were reduced

at subsequent time steps.  
In my stability proofs,  
I computed for the **norms** of the solution.  
The theoretical proof  
of the stability  
of finite difference approximations  
of real-world  
**partial differential equations**  
are impossible to prove.  
Instead, I proved the **stability**  
of a **quote, unquote** "close" problem.  
And then confirmed the stability  
of the complete  
**partial difference approximations.**  
And do so by coding and testing  
the numerical solutions.  
**From my linearized stability analyses,**  
**I mathematically discovered**  
that I'll do fewer computations  
if I started from first principles.  
Or start from the  
Second Law of Motion

in physics textbooks.

And do so to re-derive

the governing system of coupled,

nonlinear, time-dependent,

three-dimensional, and state-of-the-art

**partial differential equations** of calculus.

Such equations govern

the flows of crude oil,

injected water, and natural gas

that's often flowing up to **7.7 miles**

(or 12.4 kilometers) deep and across

an oil producing field

that's about the size of

Baltimore, Maryland.

I mathematically discovered that

when I include the **temporal**

and the **convective** inertial forces

then the governing

**partial differential equations**

become hyperbolic,

rather than parabolic.

**From my linearized stability analyses**

I mathematically discovered that I'll do fewer computations if the discretizations, or reduction from infinite to finite, of the governing system of partial differential equations to an approximating system of partial difference equations were explicit, rather than implicit.

## 9 Overcoming the Vexing Limits of Darcy's and Amdahl's Laws

In 1981, my big question was to figure out how to bypass the two vexing limits in physics and computer science that were known as Darcy's Law and Amdahl's Law, respectively.

From my linearized stability analyses,  
I mathematically discovered  
how to bypass the constraint  
that was imposed by Darcy's Law.  
That constraint limited  
the execution times  
of computational fluid dynamics codes  
that were governed by that Darcy's Law.  
And bypass  
the perceived Amdahl's Law limit  
of the maximum speed increase  
of a factor of eight.  
That was how I addressed  
the vexing limit of Darcy's Law  
that could make my  
world's fastest computing less efficient  
and more compute-intensive.  
That was how I addressed  
the vexing limit  
of Amdahl's Law on the speedups  
across the millions of processors  
powering the world's fastest computer.

From my linearized stability analyses,  
I learned that  
my **diagonal** system of equations  
of algebra  
arose from  
**conditionally stable**  
and explicit **finite difference algorithms**  
while my **tridiagonal**  
system of equations of algebra  
arose from  
**unconditionally stable**  
implicit **finite difference algorithms**.  
In the practical terms  
of large-scale, high-performance  
supercomputing,  
implicit methods allowed  
larger time steps  
which are more efficient.  
But implicit methods  
only allow sequential calculations  
which are slower to compute.  
I **discovered** that implicit methods

that yield a system of  
tridiagonal equations  
of algebra  
yield longer times-to-solution  
than explicit methods  
that yield a system of  
diagonal equations of algebra.  
I discovered  
that it's possible  
to solve the system of  
diagonal equations of algebra  
and solve them  
in parallel,  
or by solving them at once  
at 65,536 processors.  
Or to at once solve  
the diagonal system  
and solve them across  
my new Internet.  
I invented that new Internet  
as my new global network of  
65,536 processors



that were identical and equal distances apart. As correctly explained in textbooks on computational linear algebra, it's impossible to directly reformulate a system of tridiagonal equations and reformulate that system into an equivalent diagonal system. That was my motivation for reformulating both systems of diagonal and tridiagonal equations. And reformulating them to solve the same initial-boundary value problem, particularly those in large-scale, high-fidelity computational fluid dynamics, such as petroleum reservoir simulations.

## Philip Emeagwali Impact on Computing

### The Unimaginable-to-Compute is, Sometimes, Possible

#### Making the Unimaginable Possible

In the 1970s and 80s,  
my dream of discovering  
the world's **fastest** computing across  
the world's **slowest** processors  
was ridiculed as **wonderfully useless**.  
The reason I conducted  
my world's fastest computing  
research alone  
was because supercomputing across  
the **slowest** processors  
was **mocked** and **dismissed**  
as a **vacuous gimmick**.  
In the 1970s and 80s,  
the conventional wisdom  
in supercomputing was this:

[quote]

“Solve one problem  
at a time  
and solve that problem  
as fast as possible.”

[unquote]

In an article dated September 2, 1985,  
the president of  
Cray Research Incorporated,  
the company that then manufactured  
**seven in ten** supercomputers,  
described his company's attempt to  
harness  
64 processors as **quote, unquote:**

“**more than we bargained for.**”

My mathematical quest  
began as an abstract speculation  
of a lone mathematician,

in 1974, Corvallis, Oregon, USA.

That speculation was on the **pure logic** of differential calculus and in the compute-intensiveness of large-scale algebra.

## 10 Mapping Codes to Processors

The precondition to discovering my world's fastest computing was that I, first and foremost, also discover how to efficiently map my codes across up to one billion processors.

My quest for the world's fastest computing continued

as the **rigorous analysis** of 65,536 computer codes which were developed with my **one-code to one-processor** mapping and correspondence.

That mapping

was to the as many processors  
that outlined and defined  
my **new Internet**  
that's a new global network of  
65,536 processors.

**I invented** how to make the  
otherwise impossible-to-solve  
**possible-to-solve.**

Such mathematical problems arise  
when attempting to solve  
the largest systems of equations  
in the

computational linear algebra  
of petroleum reservoir simulation.

**I discovered** how to solve  
the most difficult problems  
arising in mathematical physics.

And solve them across  
the millions of processors  
that outlined the fastest supercomputers.

**I invented** how to solve  
the most **compute-intensive** problems

in  
computational fluid dynamics.  
And how to solve them across  
a new Internet  
that's a new global network  
of 65,536 coupled processors.

I'm the mathematician  
who **invented**  
how to do more computations.  
And do the most computations  
in one second on the supercomputer.  
And do more computations  
than what every person on planet Earth  
can compute  
during every second **of every day**  
for one year.

## Reformulating Tridiagonal to Diagonal Systems

I did the impossible by reformulating my system of equations of computational linear algebra that were **tridiagonal** that couldn't be solved in parallel, or solved across an ensemble of million processors.

And by reformulating that system from the governing

Second Law of Motion in physics textbooks and the governing **partial differential equations**, or **PDEs**, of calculus that encoded that law.

And discretizing and solving my system of **PDEs** as a system of diagonal equations of computational linear algebra that solves an equivalent problem

that could now be solved in parallel.  
I didn't reformulate  
my system of equations, directly.  
I reformulated them, indirectly.  
My systems of **diagonal**  
and **tridiagonal** equations  
each arose from the same  
detailed petroleum reservoir model.  
To recover otherwise unrecoverable  
crude oil and natural gas,  
only required that  
we use the laws of physics  
to simulate  
the petroleum reservoir.  
It didn't require that  
we solve  
a specific system of  
**tridiagonal** equations  
of algebra  
and solve it by or in itself.



## 11 Nine Philip Emeagwali Equations: How I Invented New Calculus from Old Physics

How did I **invent** nine new **partial differential equations** of calculus?

And invent them from the Second Law of Motion of physics that was discovered three centuries and three decades ago?

To make such an invention demanded that I be a polymath, not a mathematician alone.

The **polymath**—that's a **triple threat** in physics, mathematics, and computing—focuses on solving the most difficult problem in computational mathematics and solving it as a holistic whole. Often, the mathematician

is limited to only solving the algebra problem. Often, the mathematician forgets that mathematics is a tool and a means to the end, not the end itself. That algebra problem was derived from the physics problem.

I **discovered** a different path to simulating the motions of crude oil, injected water, and natural gas flowing up to **7.7 miles** (or 12.4 kilometers) deep. And across an oil producing field that's often the size of Lagos, Nigeria. I discovered how to simulate the petroleum reservoir. And do so a billion times faster and by returning to first principles,

which were the set of laws of physics and chemistry governing the motions of the crude oil, natural gas, and injected water flowing across reservoir rocks.

I began from the top and from the Second Law of Motion of physics and did so to enable me to correctly re-derive the governing system of nine coupled, nonlinear, time-dependent, three-dimensional, and three-phased **partial differential equations** of calculus.

My new governing system of **partial *differential* equations** is hyperbolic and represents a **new paradigm** in calculus.

The old governing system of **partial *differential* equations** is parabolic and represents an **old paradigm** in calculus.

My new governing system describes the three-dimensional **motions**

of crude oil, injected water, and natural gas flowing across a **highly anisotropic** and **heterogeneous** oil field.

The new system of coupled, nonlinear nine Philip Emeagwali **li** equations describes the motions of fluids through an oil producing field and along three spatial directions.

Solving the Nine Philip Emeagwali Equations | How I Discretized My Initial-

## Boundary Value Problems

By 1989, I had discretized those **partial differential equations** to yield a **new system** of 24 million diagonal equations, instead of the **old system** of 24 million tridiagonal equations. Both were the longest systems of equations ever solved in algebra. And that is one of my contributions to how to solve the largest systems of equations of computational linear algebra from petroleum reservoir simulation. And how to solve them across a new Internet that's a global network of processors that were coupled and that **shared nothing**.

## 12 How I Solved the Most Difficult Problems in Algebra

### Solving Algebra Problems Across the Slowest Processors

#### Alternating Direction Implicit Method for the Petroleum Industry

Since June 20, 1974,  
in Corvallis, Oregon, USA,  
my quest for the world's fastest computing  
was to **invent** how to solve  
the most compute-intensive problems  
in linear algebra.

I invented how to solve them  
across a new Internet.

And I **invented** that new Internet  
as a new global network of **processors**  
that were identical.

And that I visualized  
as equal distances apart.

Since the late 1940s, the method of choice among computational mathematicians that tried to solve the most difficult problems in subsurface geophysical fluid dynamics was called the **alternating direction implicit method**, or the **ADI** method. The **ADI** method was used to discretize a system of coupled, nonlinear, time-dependent, and two- or three-dimensional **partial differential equations**. Such equations were classified as **parabolic**. They governed the **subterranean** flows of crude oil, injected water, and natural gas. In the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, the **alternating direction implicit method** was widely used to formulate a set of

systems of tridiagonal equations that arise from **finite difference discretizations** of the system of **partial differential equations** that governs the subsurface motions of fluids flowing up to **7.7 miles** (or 12.4 kilometers) deep below the surface of the Earth.

## Solving Tridiagonal Equations Arising from the Modelling of Subterranean Flows

In 1981, I **discovered** that it will be **impossible** to solve, in parallel, a system of tridiagonal equations in large-scale algebra. And solve that system by dividing it into up to one billion lesser challenging problems



that, in turn, could then be solved with a **one-problem to one-processor mapping** and **correspondence**.

And solved at once and across an ensemble of up to one billion processors.

I **discovered** that it will be impossible to solve a system of tridiagonal equations and solve it by synchronously emailing **equal-sized sub-systems** of that system.

And emailing my **sub-systems** across my **1,048,576** bidirectional, regular, and short email wires.

Likewise, I visualized those email wires as being equal distances apart.

Furthermore, I visualized my email wires as **marrying** my global network of the **slowest** 65,536 processors in the world.

And doing so to emulate one seamless, coherent, and gigantic super-fast processor

that's a **virtual** supercomputer.  
As the lone programmer  
of my **virtual** supercomputer,  
I visualized those processors  
as **married together** as one coherent unit  
that's not a supercomputer, by itself,  
but that's a new Internet *de facto*.  
I **discovered** that  
it will be **impossible**  
to evenly distribute equal sub-systems  
of my system of tridiagonal equations  
and distribute those sub-systems  
across each of my  
65,536 identical  
and coupled processors.  
Each processor operated its  
operating system  
and had its dedicated **memory**.

How I Reformulated Tridiagonal to Diagonal  
System of Equations

Because it's impossible to solve a system of tridiagonal equations and solve it in parallel, I formulated an equivalent system of 24 million diagonal equations that approximated a more accurate system of nine new partial differential equations which I invented. And that solves the same petroleum reservoir problem. Or solves the same initial-boundary value problem with different governing partial differential equations that differently encoded the same laws of physics that's at the physics core of the petroleum reservoir simulator. My mathematical beginning from a system of parabolic partial differential equations

to inventing that system  
as a more accurate system  
of hyperbolic  
partial differential equations  
and my formulation  
of a system of tridiagonal equations  
that approximated my parabolic  
partial differential equations  
and my formulating of that system  
as a system of diagonal equations  
that approximated my hyperbolic  
partial differential equations  
were mathematical inventions  
in calculus.

That invention, or new mathematics,  
or my finite difference discretizations  
of the nine

Philip Emeagwali equations,  
changed the way

we understand or solve  
the most compute-intensive problems  
that arise when simulating

the flows of crude oil, injected water, and natural gas flowing across a **highly anisotropic** and **heterogeneous** producing oil field.

A typical oil field is located **6,000 feet** (or 1.83 kilometers) below the surface of the Earth. But it can be up to **7.7 miles** (or 12.4 kilometers) deep.

## 7 Philip Emeagwali Impact on Physics

My **contributions** to the physics used to **pinpoint** deposits of crude oil and natural gas were these:

I **discovered** how to harness the millions of processors that power the world's fastest computer. And how to use them as one coherent computing machinery

that emulates the world's fastest processor that's one million times faster than a single processor solving the same problem alone.

The grand challenge of petroleum reservoir simulation was to compute the flows of crude oil and natural gas flowing from a water injection well to nearby producing wells.

By making the **news headlines**, back in 1989, my **invention changed the way** we execute the mathematical calculations in extreme-scale computational physics.

It **changed how** mathematicians solve the most **compute-intensive** initial-boundary value mathematical problems,

such as those arising  
in **computational fluid dynamics**.  
It **changed how** mathematicians solve  
them,  
in parallel.

And solve them by distributing them across  
an ensemble of **processors**,  
instead of solving them in sequence.

Or solving them only within  
one **isolated processor**  
that's not a member  
of an ensemble of processors.

My **invention opened the door**  
to how to solve  
the most compute-intensive  
mathematical problems.

And solve them across  
an ensemble of millions  
of processors.

And solve them  
when the governing system of equations  
of algebra

had its nonzero entries  
only along its diagonal.

## Discarding the Old for the New Way of Solving Problems in Physics

My contributions  
to high-performance computational  
physics  
led to the discarding  
of the old way of solving  
the field's most difficult problems  
to the new way  
of solving those problems across  
an ensemble of up to one billion  
processors.

**In the traditional way,**  
physicists solved their toughest  
and their most compute-intensive  
initial-boundary value problems  
in computational physics.

And solved them in sequence.



Or solved one problem at a time.  
And solved that problem  
within one isolated processor  
that wasn't a member  
of an ensemble of processors  
that communicates and computes together.  
And do both as one seamless, coherent,  
and gigantic supercomputer.  
In my new way, mentioned  
in the June 20, 1990, issue  
of The *Wall Street Journal*  
and in cover stories  
of top mathematics news journals,  
I invented how to solve  
65,536 initial-boundary value problems  
of computational fluid dynamics, such as  
the detailed global climate modeling.  
And solved them at once.  
In 1989, I was in the news because  
I invented how to solve  
the most difficult problems  
arising in physics and mathematics.

And solve them in parallel.  
And I invented how to solve them across  
an ensemble of 65,536  
coupled processors.

My signature **contribution**  
to supercomputing is this:

I put to rest the saying that  
the world's fastest computing across  
the world's slowest processors  
is a **beautiful theory**  
that lacked experimental confirmation.

## 8 Life Lessons Learned from Supercomputing

### How to Become a "Genius"

As a research supercomputer scientist  
who came of age in the 1970s and 80s  
and in the **USA**,

the most important lesson  
that I learned  
was that you can't become  
a genius in supercomputing  
without foremost,  
applying **quote, unquote** "sitting power."  
I sat the longest  
in front of the massively parallel  
supercomputer of the 1980s  
that is, in reality,  
the supercomputer of today.  
That's the reason my lectures  
on my contributions to computing,  
mathematics, and physics  
**are by far**  
the most extensive ever posted  
on YouTube.  
The reason I could post  
my one thousand video lectures  
on YouTube  
was that I sat longer than  
any supercomputer scientist

ever sat in front of supercomputers.  
In the 1980s,  
I was the lone programmer  
of the precursor  
to the world's fastest computer.  
I applied the most “sitting power”  
upon the massively  
parallel supercomputer.  
And I applied that power  
more than any supercomputer scientist  
who ever lived.

A violinist must practice daily.  
The violinist must go beyond  
reading her music on her way  
to Carnegie Hall, New York City.  
The violinist must apply her  
“sitting power”  
to get to Carnegie Hall.  
This important lesson  
—of hard work, dedication, discipline,  
consistency, and practice—applies to

everything we do in life.

You must play or think or dream soccer  
and do so every day  
before you can become a Super Eagle  
in the next World Cup.

You must write daily  
before you can write  
your best-selling novel.

Often, the best known writers wrote  
a million unpublished words  
before they publish their first  
one thousand words.

Since June 20, 1974, in Corvallis, Oregon,  
USA, I have written a million words  
on **partial differential equations**,  
finite difference algorithms,  
message-passing codes,  
as well as lecture notes  
on my world's fastest computing  
that occurred on July 4, 1989,  
in Los Alamos, New Mexico, USA.  
In fact, the transcript

of my one thousand podcasts  
and YouTube videos  
is a million words long.  
These original podcasts and videos  
are what sets me apart  
from the likes of Albert Einstein.  
Supercomputer programmers believed  
my world's fastest computing across  
my ensemble of 65,536 processors.  
They've re-confirmed it across  
an ensemble of ten million processors.  
People believe what they hear and saw  
and understand.

## My Sixteen-Year Quest for the World's Fastest Computer

As a Black scientist  
who came of age in the 1970s,  
I was not welcomed to give public lectures,  
in places like Ann Arbor, Michigan.  
For instance, I gave a job hiring lecture

on the world's fastest computing and on about September 24, 1985, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The position was **cancelled** after the white scientific community discovered that I was black and African-born.

The lectures that I shared on YouTube originated from the research that I conducted in the 1970s and 80s.

People believe their eyes and ears. During the past five centuries, the leading figures in physics—such as Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton, and Albert Einstein—presented public lectures on their contributions to physics that made each physicist the subject of school essays. I continued that five-century old tradition

by posting one thousand podcasts and videos, each on my contributions to physics, mathematics, and computer science. For comparison, the most prominent scientists of modern times only post about ten videos on their **quote, unquote** “**original**” contributions to knowledge. This hundred-fold gap between my podcasts and videos and theirs is because my contributions is far more complicated and is normally executed by a hundred-person research team.

## **9 Fifty Years Crossing the Frontiers of Knowledge**



I have been supercomputing since Thursday, June 20, 1974.

I began by programming one of the world's fastest computers at 1800 SW Campus Way, Corvallis, Oregon, USA.

That supercomputer was rated as the **world's fastest computer** in December 1965.

That supercomputer was the **first** to be rated at one million instructions per second.

In the mid-1980s,

I was the lone programmer of the precursor to the world's fastest computer that can solve up to a billion problems at once.

I was the lone wolf at the **unexplored territory** of the world's fastest computing, where sixty-four binary thousand

off-the-shelf processors  
can solve 65,536 problems  
at once.

And do so after a one-problem  
to one-processor  
mapping and correspondence.

**Before I could** parallel program  
each of my two-raised-to-power sixteen  
identical processors

and **before I could** compose their  
email primitives

and **before I could** send my codes  
to and from

those sixty-four binary thousand  
processors

and send them **across**  
sixteen times

two-raised-to-power sixteen  
regular, short, and equidistant  
email wires,

I spent sixteen years  
honing my craft

and doing so by building up  
my parallel programming muscles.  
In the 1970s and 80s,  
I built up my intellectual muscles  
in physics, calculus, and computing.  
And built them up  
in the manner I built up  
my **physical muscles**  
and did so by playing tennis  
and lifting weights  
in the late afternoons.  
You become a runner  
by running **daily**.  
You become a writer  
by writing **daily**.  
I executed the world's fastest computing  
by supercomputing **daily**.  
I sat in front of the supercomputer  
for the sixteen years  
onward of June 20, 1974, in Corvallis,  
Oregon.  
And before *The Ann Arbor News*

of Michigan  
profiled me in an article  
that was titled “**computer wizard.**”  
That profile was dated April 26, 1990.  
So, it took me sixteen years  
to become genius.  
For that reason, nobody was able  
to devote sixteen years  
to exactly replicate my experiments  
that yielded the world's fastest computing.  
Being ranked as the greatest  
computer genius  
is like being ranked as the greatest  
soccer player.  
You also have to play soccer  
for sixteen years  
before being voted  
as the world's number one soccer player.  
Back in 1989, in Ann Arbor, Michigan,  
I was the only famous scientist.  
And the only inventor  
whose name and contributions

were discussed on the record  
by the members  
of the Michigan House of Representatives.  
To this day, I am the only inventor  
from Michigan, or rather in the world,  
that posted one thousand  
podcasts and videos  
on his contributions to physics,  
mathematics, and computing.  
My lectures are on YouTube,  
Spotify, and Google Podcasts.  
Quite often, those reviewing  
my contributions to mathematics  
cannot scribble  
the nine Philip Emeagwali equations.  
It's like someone  
who had never played a game soccer  
giving advice to the central defender  
of Nigeria's Super Eagles.  
The reason I alone could post  
a thousand YouTube videos

was that I had fifty years of supercomputing behind those videos.

Back in June 1974, in Oregon, I **dreaded** the supercomputer. But after sixteen years, I won the highest prize in supercomputing. Computer scientists refer to my award as the **Nobel Prize of Supercomputing**.

**The genius is the below average person that worked hard to become above average.**

I built up my supercomputing muscles by coding in the mornings and coding supercomputers during the sixteen years that followed June 20, 1974. Even on the days I don't have access to a supercomputer,

I developed my algorithms and code fragments and wrote them in my parallel programmer notebooks. Or, I researched **linearized stability analyses** of **finite difference approximations** of **partial differential equations**. My **stability analyses** were my, *a priori*, theoretical investigations of the exponential growth in mathematical errors as well as sensitive dependence on initial conditions for my governing system of **partial differential equations**. Those equations and their discrete approximations are akin to the ones that define the initial-boundary value problems which I solved **across**

my new global network of sixty-four binary thousand processors that defined my **new Internet**.

It was after five decades of supercomputing that I became comfortable with the title **quote, unquote** “**supercomputer scientist**.”

I'm the subject of school essays for my **contributions** to the development of the computer. My **contribution** was that I **discovered** how to execute the world's **fastest** computing.

And do so across the world's **slowest** processors.

My invention is a milestone in physics, mathematics, and computer science.

**The fastest computer in the world**



is the heavyweight champion  
of the computer world.

## 10 My Breakthrough of World's Fastest Computing

In 1989, I was in the news  
because I discovered  
why and how a million, or a billion,  
of the slowest processors  
in the world  
could be harnessed  
and used to create the fastest computer  
in the world  
that's used to solve many problems  
at once,  
instead of solving only one problem  
at a time.

The world's fastest computer  
powered by one billion processors  
is to me

what the violin is to the violinist.

I've been practicing the craft of programming supercomputers and doing so since June 20, 1974, in Corvallis, Oregon.

After half a century of supercomputing, describing Philip Emeagwali as an overnight supercomputer wizard is like describing a man born on June 20, 1974, as a young boy.

## How I Entered the History Books

A student writing an inventor biography report on my **discovery** of the fastest computing asked me:

“What course can I study to become the greatest computer genius?”

That's like asking what book to read to become the greatest violinist or the greatest airplane pilot or the greatest soccer player or the best climber of Mount Everest."

When I was coming of age, in the 1970s and 80s, the world's fastest computing across the world's slowest processors was **mocked, ridiculed, and dismissed as science fiction.**

Since June 20, 1974, my grand challenge was to turn that **fiction** to **actuality.** Back then, asking a computer scientist to utilize one billion processors and use them to solve the most compute-intensive problems —such as the most detailed global climate modeling—

was like asking a man  
who had never climbed a mountain  
to climb Mount Everest.

Once upon a time, and in New York City,  
a young violinist asked a taxi driver:

**“How do I get to Carnegie Hall?”**

The taxi driver replied:

**“Practice, practice, practice.”**

To become the greatest  
computer scientist,  
require that you make  
the greatest contribution  
to the development of the computer.  
And that greatest contribution  
is to discover  
a never-before-seen parallel  
and/or quantum computing way of

making computers faster.

And making supercomputers fastest.

And to experimentally do both by recording a never-before-seen supercomputer speed increase.

And using all that speed to solve the world's **biggest problems**.

That supercomputer speed increase must make the **news headlines**.

And must forever **change the way** we look at the world's fastest computer.

I'm Philip Emeagwali.

Thank you.

# Further Listening and Rankings

Search and listen to Philip Emeagwali in

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Q contribution tocomputer development X

- Q **what is the contribution of philip emeagwali to computer development**
- Q **what is lovelace main contribution to the development of the computer**
- Q **what are mauchly and eckert main contribution to the development of the computer**
- Q **what is the eniac programmers main contribution to the development of the computer**
- Q **inventors and its contribution to the development of computer**
- Q **herman hollerith contribution to the development of computer**
- Q **charles babbage and his contribution to the development of computer**
- Q **abacus contribution to the development of computer**
- Q **discuss the contribution of blaise pascal to the development of computer**
- Q **contribution of ada lovelace to the development of computer**

Google suggests the greatest computer scientists of all times. With the number one spot, Philip Emeagwali is the most suggested computer pioneer for school biography reports across the USA, Canada, UK, and Africa (December 8, 2021).



father of the internet

**philip emeagwali** father of the internet

**tim berners lee** father of the internet

**vint cerf** father of the internet

**dr philip emeagwali** father of the internet

**leonard kleinrock** father of the internet

**nigerian** father of the internet

**bob kahn** father of the internet

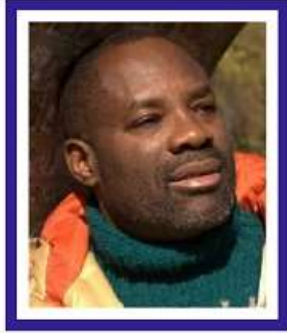
**npr** father of the internet

**african** father of the internet

father of the internet **al gore**

Google suggests the most noted [fathers of the Internet](#). With four out of ten searches, Philip Emeagwali is the most suggested "[father of the Internet](#)" for schools across the USA, Canada, UK, and Africa (Labor Day 2019).





Inventing the First Supercomputer, As It's  
Known Today | I Contributed Fastest  
Computing to Computer Science

Transcript of Philip Emeagwali YouTube  
lecture 210819 3of3 for the video posted  
below.

Click below to watch Philip Emeagwali on  
YouTube.com



<https://youtu.be/gESTCFIxQHg>

## Philip Emeagwali

*The Reader's Digest* described Philip Emeagwali as "smarter than Albert Einstein." Philip Emeagwali is often ranked as the world's greatest living genius and scientist. He is listed in

the top 20 greatest minds that ever lived. That list includes Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton, William Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci, Aristotle, Pythagoras, and Confucius. Philip Emeagwali is studied in schools as a living historical figure.

In 1989, Philip Emeagwali rose to fame when he won a recognition described as the Nobel Prize of Supercomputing and made the news headlines for his invention of the first world's fastest computing across an Internet that's a global network of processors. *CNN* called him "A Father of the Internet." *House Beautiful* magazine ranked his invention among nine important everyday things taken for granted. In a White House speech of August 26, 2000, then U.S. President Bill Clinton described Philip Emeagwali as "one of the great minds of the Information Age."

## Inventing the Fastest Computer from the Slowest Processors

Thank you.

I'm Philip Emeagwali.

My contributions to computer science were these:

I discovered

how to circumvent Amdahl's Law that was the "sound barrier" of world's fastest computers. And how to do so by dividing the most challenging problem in supercomputing that's defined around a globe and dividing it into 65,536 lesser challenging problems. And then using a new Internet that's a new global network of the 65,536 slowest processors in the world and re-configuring that Internet to be massively parallel to those 65,536 problems. My mapping also possesses a one-to-one, processor-to-problem correspondence between that new Internet and the 65,536 smaller problems.

I discovered that

the **Amdahl's Law limit** described in computer science textbooks wasn't a physical limit within my new world's **fastest** computing across the world's **slowest** processors. **Amdahl's Law** was a limit maintained by our lack of knowledge of how to make one billion processors to be parallel to one billion problems created by dividing one Grand Challenge Problem into one billion lesser challenging problems.

My signature **scientific discovery** made the **news headlines** shortly after it occurred in Los Alamos, New Mexico, USA.

My discovery occurred at 8:15 in the morning of the Fourth of July 1989.

My invention,

called the world's fastest computing, was the new knowledge that supercomputer designers must use to **push Amdahl's limit** and do so by a factor of 65,536, or as many billions.

I **discovered**

how to achieve a billion-fold increase in the speed of the world's fastest computer.

And do so across a billion processors.

Before my **discovery**

that occurred on July 4, 1989,

the designers

of the world's **fastest** computers

and the authors of computer textbooks

believed parallel supercomputing

will forever remain in the realm of

**science fiction.**

Looking farther in time,

I believe that quantum computing

could be the next **fundamental change**, although it would have limited applications.

## Solving 366 Equations Within the Slowest Processor

### Solving the Most Difficult Problems Across the Slowest Processors

I **invented** how to harness a new Internet which I visualized as a new global network of the 65,536 **slowest** processors in the world.

I **discovered** how to use each processor to solve a system of **366 equations** in large-scale algebra.

Those equations originated from my **finite difference approximations** of some initial-boundary value problems of calculus and from my computer programming

that yielded extreme-scaled computational fluid dynamics codes, such as those used to simulate production petroleum reservoirs that might be up to **7.7 miles** (or 12.4 kilometers) below the surface of the Earth and the size of Ibadan, Nigeria. The **intractable** equations that I solved, in 1989, was a **milestone** in the history of algebra. And was in the news because, in totality, it then comprised of a world-record **24 million equations** of computational linear algebra. My system of 24 million equations was unsolvable by a human computer. And can't be solved in a lifetime. And was unsolvable across all the blackboards in the world.



## The Supercomputer Breakthrough of Philip Emeagwali

One reason my **invention** made the **news headlines** was that I mathematically **discovered** the algorithm—or the set of instructions and emails—used to solve the largest system of equations that ever occurred in algebra.

I succeeded in 1989.

At that time, 25,000

the vector supercomputer scientists in the world

and their leader, Seymour Cray, had given up

on harnessing millions of processors.

And using them to execute the world's fastest computing.

And solve the most **difficult** problems arising at the **crossroad** where new mathematics, new physics,

and the world's fastest computing intersected.

In the 1980s, the fastest computing across the slowest processors existed in science fiction, not in computer science.

For that reason, parallel processing was then not the high-performance computing instrument of choice for solving

initial-boundary value problems from the fields of

extreme-scale algebra and computational physics.

In the 1980s, those 25,000 computational mathematicians ridiculed parallel supercomputing and dismissed

the then newly emerging technology as a tremendous waste of everybody's time.

I was **cover stories** of top science publications because I **discovered** how to harness the **slowest** processors in the world and use them as one seamless, coherent supercomputer that enabled me to record the **fastest** computer speeds in the world. And record them while solving the most **compute-intensive** problems in the world.

That **contribution** to the development of the computer is the subject of school essays. In the 1980s, I didn't merely solve a system of **366 equations** of computational linear algebra and solved that system within one processor.

In totality, I solved a system of **24 million** equations that was the longest in mathematics. And solved that system across a new spherical island of **65,536** processors. I programmed each processor to solve a system of **366 equations** of computational linear algebra. My processors were identical and were equal distances apart. Each algorithm I executed within each processor described my step-by-step instructions to each **processor**. I instructed each processor on how to solve my system of **366 equations** of computational linear algebra. That system arose from another system of coupled, nonlinear

partial differential equations  
of calculus,  
called the nine  
Philip Emeagwali equations.  
I emailed my system of 366 equations  
to each of my 65,536 processors.  
I discovered how to email  
my sixty-four binary thousand  
computational fluid dynamics codes.  
Each code was governed by  
a system of 366 equations  
of linear algebra  
that was at its compute-intensive kernel.

## How to Develop the World's Fastest Computer

### Visualizing the Philip Emeagwali Internet

The supercomputer must be used  
to model  
the long-lasting cultural, social,

and economic impacts  
of **global pandemics**,  
as well as simulate  
subsequent **changed realities**.

In the textbooks  
on computational fluid dynamics, **animating  
a sneeze** is nothing new.

In the 1980s, supercomputing across  
up to one billion processors  
that **shared nothing** was revolutionary.

I visualized the world's **fastest** computing  
that I **discovered** across a **new internet**  
as occurring across  
a global network of the world's  
**slowest** processors.

And as **metaphorically** occurring  
at equidistant points  
on the surface of the sphere.

I defined those points  
as where the computing vertices  
of the **tightly-inscribed** cube  
come into contact

with the **circumscribing** sphere.  
I visualized the cube and sphere  
in the fifth dimension.  
And I progressively increased  
my visualization  
to the sixth, seventh,  
and sixteenth dimensions.  
Finally, I **hypothesized** “**what ifs**”  
in the sixty-fourth (**64<sup>th</sup>**) dimension.  
I visualized the  
Philip Emeagwali Internet  
as a global network of  
two-raised-to-power five, or thirty-two,  
computers  
that outlined a hyper-globe  
in as many dimensional hyperspace.  
What made the **news** headlines  
was my world's fastest computing  
which I envisioned  
in the sixteenth-dimensional hyperspace.  
That was how my story  
that was a mere **acorn**,

back on June 20, 1974,  
and in the hands of a nineteen-year-old  
at 1800 SW Campus Way, Corvallis, Oregon,  
USA, grew to become  
a mighty oak tree.

That tree was my metaphor  
for my new Internet  
that's a new global network of  
65,536 equidistant processors.

## Emailing Algebraic Problems to Processors

I **discovered** how to email  
computational fluid dynamics codes,  
such as global climate models.

And how to email them  
to millions of processors.

In my experiment of July 4, 1989,  
I used the **slowest**  
sixty-four binary thousand,  
or two-raised-to-power sixteen,



processors in the world  
to record the **fastest** computer speeds  
in the world.

Each processor was uniquely identified  
by a sixteen-bit-long number.

That number  
was a unique string of  
sixteen zeroes and ones.

That number  
had no @ sign  
or dot com suffix.

That number  
was the email address  
of each of my two-raised-to-power sixteen  
coupled processors  
that were married together  
as one cohesive unit  
by sixteen times  
two-raised-to-power sixteen  
regular, short, and bidirectional  
email wires  
that were equal distances apart.

I invented

invisible, byte sized instructions  
for each processor.

I gave each processor  
its step-by-step instructions,  
or algorithms,  
that it used to solve  
a system of equations  
of computational linear algebra  
that I emailed to it

arising from

a system of equations of calculus

arising from

a set of laws of physics

arising from

a computational mathematician's quest  
for new calculus, new algebra,  
and new computing.

My Toughest Years in Supercomputing

My mathematical quest

for the world's fastest computing across  
the world's slowest processors,  
began on Thursday, June 20, 1974,  
in Corvallis, Oregon, USA.

And ended on Tuesday, July 4, 1989,  
in Los Alamos, New Mexico, USA.

The calculus book  
is where the mathematician  
of European ancestry  
recognizes his ancestors,  
such as Isaac Newton of England  
who lived three centuries  
and three decades ago  
and Isaac Newton's contemporary,  
Gottfried Leibniz,  
who lived in Germany.

I'm a research computational  
mathematician  
of sub-Saharan African ancestry  
who contributed  
thirty-six partial derivative terms  
to the nine Philip Emeagwali equations

of calculus.

I was in the news because

I **discovered** how to solve

initial-boundary value problems

in calculus and physics, such as

the highest-resolution

global climate modeling

that's a precondition

to **foreseeing** otherwise **unforeseeable**

long-term global warming.

## Early Years of Philip Emeagwali

I was born in the late afternoon  
of August 23, 1954,

in a small hospital in Akure

that also employed my father

as a Junior Staff Nurse.

In the 1950s, the Akure hospital

was located where the

World Health Organization

now has its office.

I first lived in the **Servant's Quarters** at **11 Eke-Emeso Street**, Akure, Western Region, Nigeria, British West Africa.

And I lived with four adults, my 19-year-old cousin Vincent Emeagwali, his older brother Charles Emeagwali, my 34-year-old aunt **Nkemdilim** Balonwu and my parents.

My father was the breadwinner in the household.

In 1954, Papa's salary of five pounds a month enabled him to pay the school fees for Vincent and Charles.

And also support his father in Onitsha.

## Early Years of Philip Emeagwali in the USA

As a Black mathematician in the **USA**, I wasn't welcomed by white mathematicians.

That's why I conducted my research alone.  
And did so as a large-scale  
computational mathematician  
who came of age in the 1970s  
in Oregon and Maryland.  
And in the 1980s  
in the District of Columbia and Wyoming.

Due to its price-tag of one billion  
two hundred and fifty million dollars,  
the world's fastest computer  
cannot be owned by just one school.  
For this reason,  
a computer science instructor  
can only use a desktop computer  
to conduct his or her  
instructions and research.  
In contrast, I used sixteen supercomputers  
during the sixteen years  
that followed June 20, 1974, in Corvallis,

Oregon, USA.

That research **culminated**  
in my **discovery**  
of the world's **fastest** computing  
which occurred across  
the world's **slowest** processors  
And it occurred  
on July 4, 1989, in Los Alamos,  
New Mexico, USA.

**Fastest Computing from Slowest  
Processing**

**Rejections of Parallel Supercomputing**

**I Discovered How Slowest Processing  
Yields the Fastest Computing**

**In the 1970s and 80s,  
supercomputer scientists**

believed that solving the most **compute-intensive** problems in science and engineering and solving them across an ensemble of millions of processors will **forever remain** within the realm of **science fiction**. In the 1970s, I visualized the world's fastest computing across a new Internet that I envisioned as a new global network of processors. In the 1980s, I **discovered** how to program a **new** global network of 65,536 off-the-shelf processors. And I **discovered** how to use them to solve the most **compute-intensive** problems in extreme-scale computational fluid dynamics. I **discovered** a speed increase



of a factor of 65,536.

I was in the **news** because

I **discovered** that speed increase  
and did so at a time

it was considered **impossible**

to achieve a speed increase

of a factor of eight and record it

across up to a billion processors

that's cooperatively solving

the most compute-intensive problems at

the crossroad

where mathematics, physics,

and computer science **intersected**.

I Was the Elephant in the Room: My Years  
in the Whitest Towns in America

I began supercomputing at age nineteen  
on June 20, 1974, in Corvallis, Oregon, USA.

Corvallis is an American city  
in the **Willamette** Valley.

Corvallis is not in the rain forest.  
But, in Corvallis, it rains almost daily  
and for five months of the year.  
Or rather it drizzles constantly  
in Corvallis.

Within the U.S., Corvallis is rated  
as a top ten **bicycle friendly** town.

In Corvallis, I rode my red  
two-speed bicycle, covering a distance  
of twenty miles each day.

In 1974, Corvallis had  
only one **Black homeowner**  
in its populace of **36,000**.

The reason was that  
it was challenging for a Black homeowner  
to buy a house  
in a white neighborhood.

**“What was it like  
to be a **Black supercomputer scientist**  
in Oregon?”**

In the 1970s,  
there were few supercomputer scientists  
in the world.

By the late 1980s, the number  
of vector supercomputer scientists  
has grown to 25,000.

In the 1980s, I was the only full-time  
massively parallel  
supercomputer scientist  
in the world.

I alone then controlled sixteen  
massively parallel supercomputers.

I used those supercomputers  
to conduct my  
parallel computing research  
on how to solve

the most **compute-intensive**  
initial-boundary value problems,  
such as those arising  
in computational fluid dynamics.

My quest was to become the **first person**

to figure out how to solve such mathematical problems and do so across an ensemble of the **slowest** processors in the world. And solve such Grand Challenge Problems at the **fastest** speeds in the world.

## I Was **Disinvited** from Giving Lectures to White Scientists

By 1989, I was supercomputing in Los Alamos, New Mexico, USA.

A dozen years earlier, I was supercomputing in Washington (District of Columbia), Baltimore (Maryland), and Laramie (Wyoming).

Yet, I could only name three Black supercomputer scientists. They were **me, myself, and I**.

In the 1980s, I was often invited to give supercomputing lectures

on my hoped-for **invention** of how a machinery that's powered by the **slowest** processors in the world could be harnessed as the **fastest** computer in the world. But I was often **disinvited** from giving those supercomputing lectures. And **disinvited** after the supercomputing seminar organizers discovered that **I was Black and sub-Saharan African**. At mathematics research seminars in College Park (Maryland) of the early 1980s, I was the **elephant in the room** who felt like an **uninvited guest**.

How Philip Emeagwali Changed the Way We Look at the Fastest Computers

For the four decades following the first programmable computer

of 1946

that was the world's fastest then,  
inventing a parallel supercomputer  
that's **just as tough under the hood**  
has **proven elusive**

to the supercomputer industry.

In the history of technological progress,  
any **paradigm shift**

that changed the way we looked at  
the computer

earned its **inventors**

both **kudos** and **daggers**.

The leaders of thought

in the world of computing who were

Gene Amdahl

of Amdahl's Law fame,

Seymour Cray

of vector supercomputing fame,

and Steve Jobs

of the world of personal computing,

were against the new paradigm

of parallel supercomputing.

Before I became famous  
for my **discovery**  
of the world's fastest computing  
across the **slowest** processors  
in the world  
or before July 4, 1989,  
no respectable supercomputer scientist  
would accept my telephone call.

After July 4, 1989,  
I was amazed at their reactions  
when I walked into a roomful of  
vector supercomputer scientists.  
Because my fastest computing  
across the slowest processors  
was a **paradigm shift**  
that will change the way  
we look at the fastest computers  
and because supercomputing across  
a billion processors  
and doing so to solve  
the most compute-intensive problems

seemed **impossible** in the 1980s,  
nobody else would touch  
parallel processing  
and do so with a ten-foot pole.  
In the 1980s,  
the fear and lack of understanding  
of parallel processing  
were the reasons **five scientific groups  
asked me to leave their research teams.**  
Before my **invention**,  
the research groups that **humiliated  
and dismissed** me  
believed a supercomputer  
could only solve one problem at a time,  
instead of solving 65,536 problems  
at once  
and across as many processors  
that each had its dedicated memory.  
I **invented** the first supercomputing  
across millions of processors.  
That new knowledge is used to solve  
the most compute-intensive problems in



computational fluid dynamics. And used to solve discretized initial-boundary value problems of calculus.

In the 1980s, I was **dismissed** from scientific research teams that believed in sequential supercomputing. Those **dismissals** became the **metaphors** for my **struggles**.

## How I Changed the Fastest Computers

### Changing the Way We Look at an Internet

Massively parallel processing is the new supercomputing engine that powered the big leap forward that enabled the supercomputer industry to **leapfrog** from traditional supercomputers powered by

one customized processor  
to the world's fastest computers  
powered by a gargantuan spherical island  
of a billion off-the-shelf processors.

I invented that global network  
of off-the-shelf processors  
as a small copy of the Internet.

On February 1, 1922,  
and sixty-seven years earlier,  
this supercomputing machinery  
was first written as the stuff of  
sci-fi fantasy.

A century ago, fastest computing  
across slowest humans  
was speculated as science fiction  
comprising of 64,000 human computers  
used to forecast the weather  
for the entire Earth.

Fast-forward sixty-seven years  
to 1989,  
I was in the news

for **experimentally discovering** how and why parallel supercomputing should become the core technology that will **change the way** we look at both the computer and the Internet. And **change the way** we use both technologies to work and play.

## **Inventing the World's Fastest Computer | The Supercomputer is the Scientist's Best Friend**

Parallel supercomputing is the **new discovery** that enables the world's fastest computer to perform computations that's up to a billion times faster than its predecessor.

Parallel supercomputing make it possible to solve the most difficult problems

that were, otherwise, **impossible** to solve.

The fastest computing  
was my personal quest  
to **be the first member  
of humanity**

**to understand** how to compute  
and do so at the **world's fastest speeds.**

I **invented** how to email  
one billion codes  
to one billion processors.

And email them with a **one-code**  
to **one-processor** mapping  
and correspondence.

My discovery that occurred  
on the Fourth of July 1989  
was the new knowledge  
that enabled the computer industry  
to **reach new heights.**

And enabled scientists  
to **discover** new and **improved** ways  
of **concurrently** solving  
the most compute-intensive problems

at the *terra incognita*  
where new mathematics, new physics,  
and new computer science **intersect**.  
This new reality, or discovery, wasn't  
reserved for mathematics and physics.  
This new fastest  
supercomputing knowledge  
made the **news headlines** because  
it enriched science, engineering,  
and medicine.  
And because it allows  
the world's fastest computers  
to do more with less money.

## Philip Emeagwali Computer

My discovery was mentioned  
in the June 20, 1990, issue  
of *The Wall Street Journal*  
simply because I was the **only person**  
that proved he understood  
the **science-fiction** supercomputer.

And did so by recording  
the world's fastest computing speed  
across an ensemble  
of the **slowest** processors in the world.

My **invention**  
made the **news headlines** because  
to **discover** that the fastest computer  
can be built with the **slowest** processors  
was a scientific discovery  
that **changed** computer science.  
My **discovery** was recognized  
as a **contribution**  
to the development of the computer.  
Parallel processing  
is the **foundational knowledge**  
of the fastest computers.  
If history repeats itself,  
parallel supercomputing  
could become the computing  
of the future  
that's defined across

the Internet of the future.  
Massively parallel processing  
could make it possible  
for an Earth-sized supercomputer  
to become a **subset** of the Internet itself.  
My **invention** of fastest computing  
is summed:

The **slowest** processors  
in the world  
can **cooperatively compute together**  
to yield  
the **fastest** computations **ever recorded**.  
And to solve  
the most **compute-intensive** problems  
in the world.

## Quantifiable Metrics of the World's Fastest Computer

It was **impossible** to **discredit**  
my scientific discovery

of parallel supercomputing largely because it was new knowledge derived from objective and **quantifiable metrics**.

That objective metric was this:

The speed increase of a factor of 65,536 that I **discovered** on July 4, 1989, and **discovered** across my as many off-the-shelf processors was higher than the maximum speed increase of a factor of eight theorized in supercomputer textbooks. My **invention** of fastest computing **opened the door** to the world's fastest computer of today that could become the laptop computer of tomorrow. And, since my discovery of July 4, 1989, the number of supercomputers



that computes in parallel  
increased in **geometrical proportion**.

My **discovery**

of the world's fastest computing  
that occurred at fifteen minutes after 8  
o'clock in the morning  
of the Fourth of July 1989  
was the **big-bang moment**  
for the world's most powerful computers.  
The supercomputer is an instrument  
of modern science.

The supercomputer  
is the scientist's best friend.

The supercomputer technology  
has a market value  
of forty-five (**45**) billion dollars a year.

Supercomputers are used  
as enabling instruments  
for physics-based modeling and  
simulation.

Supercomputers are used  
to make scientific discoveries

and achieve technical breakthroughs, such as gaining a deeper understanding of how global warming will occur across the centuries.

## How I Want to Be Remembered

Recording the world's fastest computing speed and doing so across a supercomputer that's as large as the Earth is a race to new knowledge that's more important than the race to put a human being on planet Mars.

Today, the world's fastest computer has twenty million times more punch than your smartphone.

Parallel supercomputing is not a magic cure all. However, parallel processing

is embodied in most computers  
and in all supercomputers.

Parallel processing  
—that was once a dim light  
in a sea of darkness  
is now the bedrock  
of the world's fastest computers.

Parallel processing  
—that was once the stone  
rejected as rough and unsightly—  
has become the headstone  
of the supercomputing industry.

A journalist asked me:

“How do you want to be remembered?”

I answered:

“Discoverers and inventors  
are remembered longer  
for their discoveries and inventions

than for their prizes and medals.

The scientific discovery is an eternal truth while the invention is a physical manifestation of the truth.”

I'm Philip Emeagwali.

Thank you.

## Further Listening and Rankings

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Q contribution tocomputer development X

Q **what is the contribution of philip emeagwali to computer development**

Q **what is lovelace main contribution to the development of the computer**

Q **what are mauchly and eckert main contribution to the development of the computer**

Q **what is the eniac programmers main contribution to the development of the computer**

Q **inventors and its contribution to the development of computer**

Q **herman hollerith contribution to the development of computer**

Q **charles babbage and his contribution to the development of computer**

Q **abacus contribution to the development of computer**

Q **discuss the contribution of blaise pascal to the development of computer**

Q **contribution of ada lovelace to the development of computer**

Google suggests the greatest computer scientists of all times. With the number one spot, Philip Emeagwali is the most suggested computer pioneer for school biography reports across the USA, Canada, UK, and Africa (December 8, 2021).



father of the internet

**philip emeagwali** father of the internet

**tim berners lee** father of the internet

**vint cerf** father of the internet

**dr philip emeagwali** father of the internet

**leonard kleinrock** father of the internet

**nigerian** father of the internet

**bob kahn** father of the internet

**npr** father of the internet

**african** father of the internet

father of the internet **al gore**

Google suggests the most noted [fathers of the Internet](#). With four out of ten searches, Philip Emeagwali is the most suggested "[father of the Internet](#)" for schools across the USA, Canada, UK, and Africa (Labor Day 2019).