

# 17 Father of Large-Scale Algebra



Philip Emeagwali Lecture 180605

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## 17.1 Father of Large-Scale Algebra

Please allow me to introduce myself.

I'm **Philip Emeagwali**.

## 17.1.1 The Grand Challenge Problem

I **invented** how to solve the **Grand Challenge Problem** of mathematics.

That **Grand Challenge Problem** **does not lend itself** to an **analytical** solution that can be proved to be correct.

In principle, the **Grand Challenge Problem** of mathematics could crudely be solved on only one computer that is powered by only one processor.

Back in 1989, I made headlines in major U.S. newspapers because I had **invented something new**—namely, the **Philip Emeagwali** formula for solving the **Grand Challenge Problem** and for solving it accurately

and for solving it **across**  
a **new** global network  
of tightly-coupled processors.  
That global network  
that I **invented**  
is a **new internet**  
that is a **new supercomputer**  
and that is a **new computer**.  
Yet, I cannot completely define  
in one hour  
the **Grand Challenge Problem**  
that the massively  
parallel processing supercomputer solves.

## 17.1.2 Why Solve the Grand Challenge Problem

What I will say is that  
the parallel processing  
supercomputer technology  
that I **invented**  
on the Fourth of July of 1989  
**changed the way**  
we look at the modern computer.

Parallel processing  
is a computer invention  
that has rich and fertile consequences.  
The parallel processing computer  
is an invention  
that makes the world  
a more knowledgeable place  
and a better place  
for human beings  
and for all beings.

### 17.1.3 Who is Philip Emeagwali?

I was a research supercomputer scientist  
of the nineteen seventies and eighties  
[1970s and '80s].

In those two decades, I conducted  
undisturbed, unprecedented,  
and bleeding-edge  
supercomputer research  
and speed measurements  
and I conducted both  
at the farthest frontiers

of the fastest computations **ever recorded**.

I conducted experiments

on how and why

the speed of the modern supercomputer

increases

when supercomputing **across**

a **new internet**.

I visualized and **invented**

that **new internet**

as a **new** ensemble,

or as a **new** global network

of 65,536 tightly-coupled

commodity-off-the-shelf processors

that were **married together**

by 1,048,576

email wires.

I invented that **new internet**

as a **new supercomputer**

and as a **new computer**.

That **new supercomputer**

is best used to solve

the **toughest problems**

arising in **extreme-scale**

algebraic computations  
that, in turn, arose from  
the **partial differential equations**  
of calculus.

Those **partial differential equations**, in turn,  
arose from the laws of physics,  
such as the laws of  
conservation of mass,  
conservation of momentum,  
and conservation of energy.

In supercomputing,  
the light at the end of the tunnel  
becomes brighter  
with each supercomputer speed increase  
that is **experimentally confirmed**.

The reason a mathematician  
from my country of birth, Nigeria,  
developed cold feet  
over parallel processing  
the most **extreme-scaled problems**  
**arising in algebra**  
is that mathematician's  
lack of the understanding

of how and why  
the most **extreme-scale problems**  
**in algebra**

arises from the **partial differential equation**  
of modern calculus.

The reason Nigeria  
did not fund my research  
in the parallel processing supercomputer  
and the reason the research  
computational mathematician  
in Nigeria

—of the 1970s and ‘80s—  
shied away from physics-based simulations  
that were extremely computation-intensive  
modern calculus

and why that **algebraic** knowledge  
must be used to **discover** and **recover**  
otherwise the **elusive**

crude oil and natural gas  
that is buried one mile deep  
inside the oilfields  
of the Niger Delta region  
of southeastern Nigeria.

I was asked to explain how my **contribution to algebra** can be studied in your high school algebra class. In high school algebra, you learned how to use pencil and paper to exactly solve for three unknowns from a coupled system of three simultaneous equations. Your high school algebra textbook did not attempt to teach you how to exactly solve for four unknowns from a coupled system of four, or more, simultaneous equations. The reason your high school algebra teacher did not cover a system of four simultaneous equations was that the arithmetical operations count that must be executed to know the four unknowns was more than you can handle. For that reason, extreme-scale problems in algebra—such as,



solving for a million billion trillion unknowns  
and solving for them  
from a coupled system  
of a million billion trillion simultaneous equations—must be solved  
not on your computer  
but solved **across** a new internet  
that is a new supercomputer  
and a new computer.  
On the Fourth of July 1989,  
I mathematically and experimentally  
invented  
how to **exactly solve** for  
24 million unknowns  
and solve them from a coupled system  
of 24 million simultaneous equations  
the was the largest algebraic problems  
arising from any physics-based simulations  
within a multi-disciplinary environment  
of the decade of the 1980s.  
My world record solution  
of the toughest problem

arising in algebra  
was the **cover story** of the top mathematics  
publication, namely, the May 1990 issue  
of the *SIAM News*.

I was the **cover story**  
of top mathematics publications  
not because I was **good looking**.

I was the **cover story**  
because my **mathematical invention**  
was a **giant leap forward**  
in the development of the modern algebra.

I **invented**  
how to **discover** and **recover**  
otherwise **elusive** crude oil and natural gas.

Back in 1989,  
the 24 million equations of algebra  
that I **invented** how to solve  
and **invented** how to solve them

**simultaneously**

and **across**

a **new** global network  
of 65,536 tightly-coupled,  
commodity-off-the-shelf processors

that shared nothing with each other—  
that is a new internet  
by definition—was unsolveable  
on the most powerful  
vector processing supercomputer.  
A 12-year-old writing a school report titled:  
“Famous Mathematicians  
and their Contributions to Mathematics”  
asked me:  
“What is the contribution  
of Philip Emeagwali to algebra?”  
I answered that  
my contribution to algebra  
is this:  
I mathematically and experimentally  
invented  
how to parallel process **across**  
a new internet  
that is outlined and defined  
by 65,536 identical processors  
that uniformly encircled a globe.  
On the Fourth of July 1989,  
I invented

how to parallel process  
and how to push  
the **frontier** of knowledge  
of modern algebra  
and how to push that **frontier**  
by a **breath taking** factor of  
65,536.

Shortly after my **invention**  
that occurred on the Fourth of July 1989,  
it made the **news headlines**  
that I—**Philip Emeagwali**—had **invented**  
how to communicate and compute  
and how to execute both **collectively**  
and **across**  
a **new internet**  
that I **defined**  
as a **new** global network of  
65,536 processors  
and that I **invented**  
how to solve the **toughest problems**  
in extreme-scale algebra  
and I **invented**  
how to solve those problems

65,536 times faster than one processor solving the same problem alone. That 65,536-fold increase in supercomputer speed increases the user's **productivity** while reducing the user's **time-to-market**. In the **old way** of solving the most computation-intensive problems in large-scale algebra and before my **invention**, the most extreme-scaled algebraic computations were solved **across** a customized and expensive vector processor that processed only one thing, or string of numbers called vectors, at a time. That vector processing supercomputer was the fastest supercomputer in the decades of the 1970s and '80s. But in my **new way**, that is, the **new**

parallel processing supercomputer,  
that I **mathematically** and **experimentally**  
**invented**  
on the Fourth of July 1989  
in **Los Alamos**, New Mexico, **United States**,  
I **figured out**  
how to solve, in parallel,  
the most extreme-scale problem  
in algebra  
and I **invented**  
that supercomputer technology  
by massively parallel processing  
that algebraic problem **across**  
65,536 commodity-off-the-shelf processors  
that I visualized  
as a **new internet**  
that is a new global network of  
two-raised-to-power sixteen  
processors  
that were identical  
and that were equal distances  
**apart.**

It was for a good reason that massively parallel processing the Grand Challenge Problem of mathematics and supercomputing **across** millions upon millions of processors was **rejected** as **impossible** and described as a grand challenge. As a lone wolf massively parallel processing supercomputer scientist of the 1970s and '80s, that was not a member of a 400-person supercomputing team, there were times I felt like I was like a **solo air traffic controller** on planet Earth that was **tasked** to direct 65 thousand identical planes in the air and **tasked** to simultaneously, safely, and properly land those 65 thousand identical planes

and land them on  
65,000 identical runways  
that were equal distances  
**apart**  
and on the surface of a globe  
the size of the Earth.  
That was the reason  
the June 14, 1976 issue  
of the *Computer World* magazine  
**scorned** parallel processing  
and **mocked** the then unproven technology  
as a **huge waste of everybody's time**.  
The **toughest problems**  
in computational physics  
are linked by a **common thread**, namely,  
extreme-scale algebra  
that, in turn,  
must be massively parallel processed **across**  
millions upon millions  
of commodity-off-the-shelf processors.  
**In the old paradigm**  
of **algebraic computation**,  
the most computation-intensive problems



in algebra  
were sequentially solved  
by executing **only one**  
floating-point arithmetical computations  
**at a time.**

## 17.1.4 Diary of an Extreme-Scale Algebraist

In the old paradigm  
of algebraic computation,  
it was **mathematically impossible**  
to email subsets  
of the tri-diagonal system of equations  
of algebra  
and email them **across**  
my ensemble of 65,536  
commodity-off-the-shelf processors.

In my new paradigm  
of explicit finite difference  
algebraic approximations,  
I made the **impossible**  
possible

and I did so  
by **re-imagining** the **toughest problem**  
arising in calculus, namely,  
the **excruciatingly-detailed** simulations  
within a multi-disciplinary environment  
of three-dimensional, three-phase flows  
of crude oil, injected water, and natural gas  
that were flowing **across**  
a production petroleum reservoir  
and **re-envisioning**  
my governing **partial differential equations**  
as **hyperbolic**  
and doing so  
when the calculus textbooks  
described those equations as **parabolic**.  
My **inventions**  
of those coupled system of  
nine **partial differential** equations,  
called Philip **Emeagwali's Equations**,  
of **a new calculus**  
and my **inventions**  
of their companion and approximating  
nine **partial difference** equations

of a new algebra  
is my contributions  
to mathematical knowledge.  
My contributions to mathematics  
made the news headlines  
**across** major U.S. newspapers  
and they were the cover stories  
of the top mathematics publications,  
such as the May 1990 issue  
of the *SIAM News*.

The *SIAM News* was published by  
the Society for Industrial  
and Applied Mathematics.

It was not my looks, wealth,  
or family connections  
that put me on the cover  
of top publications  
in the field of mathematics.

It was the nine Philip Emeagwali's equations  
of modern calculus  
that I invented  
that put me on the cover  
of the *SIAM News*

and on two postage stamps.

My contributions

to computational mathematics

changed how the petroleum industry

uses the modern supercomputer

to discover and recover

otherwise elusive

crude oil and natural gas.

Before my invention,

or before the Fourth of July 1989,

petroleum reservoir simulations

were executed on only one processor

that was not a member

of an ensemble of processors.

After the Fourth of July 1989

and today, all extreme-scale

petroleum reservoir simulations

and computational physics codes

are executed **across**

an ensemble of up to

ten million

six hundred and forty-nine thousand

six hundred [10,649,600]

commodity-off-the-shelf processors.  
The first oilfield in West Africa  
was discovered in 1956  
and at **Oloibiri**  
in the southeastern region  
of colonial Nigeria.  
Because the oil discovered in 1956  
at **Oloibiri** Oil Field of Nigeria  
was buried **one mile deep**,  
we cannot see its **one-mile deep** movements  
towards the crude oil and natural gas  
production wells  
that were also **one-mile deep**.  
We cannot see the **one-mile deep**  
**subterranean** motions  
of crude oil and natural gas  
with our **biological eyes**.  
However, we can use our **mathematical eyes**  
to **abstract**  
the three-dimensional,  
three-phased **subterranean** motions  
of crude oil, injected water, and natural gas  
and to **hindcast**

how the most crude oil and natural gas will flow towards production wells. Because the crude oil and natural gas discovered **offshore** of the southeastern Nigerian coastal waters and deep under the ocean floor or discovered **onshore** in Oloibiri (Nigeria) was **one mile deep**, we cannot see how that crude oil and natural gas flows from water injection wells to crude oil and natural gas production wells. We cannot directly see the flowing oil and natural gas and see the oil and natural gas directly as we directly see water flowing **across** the River Niger of West Africa. But our geological data from the Niger-Delta region of southeastern Nigeria that includes the initial and boundary conditions

of the governing  
initial-boundary value problem  
and its associated system of  
**partial differential equations**,  
and our knowledge of the laws of physics  
and my **invention**  
of the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer  
that occurred  
on the Fourth of July 1989,  
enables us to see **across**  
my **new internet**  
that I **invented**  
as a **new** global network of  
65,536 tightly-coupled processors  
that were common available  
in the market  
and that were equal distances  
**apart.**

That is, the massively parallel processing  
computational physicist  
can intellectually see  
within a massively parallel processing

supercomputer  
and see crude oil and natural gas  
that the vector processing  
computational physicist  
cannot intellectually see  
and that the ordinary person  
cannot even see  
with his biological eyes.  
The massively **parallel processing**  
**computational physicist**  
that mathematically sees  
deep inside the Niger-Delta oilfields  
of southeastern Nigeria  
enables us to **discover** and **recover**  
otherwise **elusive**  
crude oil and natural gas.  
In 1989, it made the **news headlines**  
that I **invented**  
how we can use our parallel processing  
**supercomputer eyes,**  
or use a **new internet**  
that is a **new** global network of  
tightly-coupled, commodity processors,



as our instrument of large-scale physics  
as well as use the supercomputer technology  
as our tool for crude oil and natural gas  
exploration.

Conversely, if the petroleum industry  
**didn't** accept my invention  
and **didn't** harness  
my ensemble of 65,536, or more,  
commodity-off-the-shelf processors  
and **didn't** use them  
in their petroleum reservoir simulations,  
then less crude oil and natural gas  
will be **discovered** and **recovered**.

My **invention**  
of the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer  
**changed the way**  
the petroleum industry **discover**  
and **recover**  
otherwise **elusive**  
crude oil and natural gas.

My **discovery**  
of how and why parallel processing

makes  
the modern supercomputer **fastest**  
**changed the way**  
we think about how to build  
the **fastest** computer.  
It made the **news headlines**,  
in 1989,  
when I **discovered**  
that we could execute  
extreme-scale computational physics codes  
and execute them **across**  
an ensemble of 65,536  
tightly-coupled commodity-off-the-shelf  
processors  
**that shared nothing with each other**  
that were **identical**  
and that were equal distances  
**apart**  
and that I visualized  
as a **new internet**  
that encircled a globe, or a hypersphere,  
in sixteen-dimensional hyperspace.  
My **contributions**

to extreme-scale computational mathematics  
are **mathematical inventions**  
in both algebra and calculus  
that are mathematically speaking,  
both **abstract** and **obscure**.

However, you benefit from  
the **new algebra** and the **new calculus**  
that I contributed  
to mathematical knowledge.

The petroleum industry  
use my contributions to extreme-scale  
mathematical computations  
and use the **new mathematical knowledge**  
within the supercomputers  
it uses to **discover** and **recover**  
otherwise **elusive**  
crude oil and natural gas.

My **invention** is the reason  
**one in ten supercomputers**  
are purchased by the petroleum industry.

My **contributions**  
to computational mathematics  
was the reason

I was **invited** to deliver a lecture to research mathematicians attending the International Congress of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, called ICIAM '91 in Washington, DC. That congress was the largest gathering of mathematicians, ever. To quote myself from that ICIAM '91 lecture that I gave on the morning of July 8, 1991 to the International Congress of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, I said:

[**quote**]

“In extreme-scale petroleum reservoir simulations, the governing system of partial differential equations of the modern calculus are often **anisotropic**, or have coefficients

with **strong directional dependencies**.  
That is, my **differential operators**  
are **position dependent, non-axis aligned,**  
and have **privileged spatial directions**.  
I **invented**  
**new partial difference equations**  
that I defined **across**  
two and three-dimensional grids.  
I used my **new finite difference algorithms**  
to discretize  
my **new** system of nine  
coupled, non-linear, time-dependent,  
and state-of-the-art  
**partial differential equations**  
of the modern calculus  
that I also **invented**  
in the early 1980s.”  
[unquote]

I continued my abstract lecture  
of July 8, 1991

at the International Congress  
of Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
in Washington, DC:

[quote]

“The first tri-diagonal algorithm  
that I investigated on a sequential processing  
supercomputer

back in 1974 in Corvallis, Oregon,  
that was the first supercomputer  
to be rated at

one million instructions per second  
was a three-step adaptation of  
Gaussian Elimination.

That algorithm converged to my solution  
when my tri-diagonal system  
is diagonally dominant.

That is, the norm of the diagonal entries  
must be greater than  
the sum of the norms  
of the sub-diagonal  
and super-diagonal entries.

[unquote]

## 17.1.5 Diary of an Extreme-Scale Arithmetician

I continued my abstract lecture  
of July 8, 1991  
at the International Congress  
of Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
in Washington, DC:

[quote]

“In the first step  
for solving my tri-diagonal system  
of equations of algebra,  
I factorized the coefficient matrix  
into lower and upper triangular matrices,  
that were each bi-diagonal.  
If the size of my linear system of equations  
of algebra  
was  $N$  by  $N$ ,  
or a million billion trillion  
by a million billion trillion,  
I performed, *a priori*, 2 times

a million billion trillion multiplications  
plus a million billion trillion additions.

In the second step  
for solving my tri-diagonal system  
of equations of algebra,  
I performed a forward substitution  
on the lower triangular  
bi-diagonal matrix.

My *a priori* computational workload  
for this second step  
was a million billion trillion multiplications  
plus a million billion trillion additions.

In the third and final step  
for solving my tri-diagonal system  
of equations of algebra,  
I performed a backward substitution  
on the upper triangular, bi-diagonal matrix.

My *a priori* computational workload  
was 2 times a million billion trillion  
multiplications  
plus N additions.

And my total *a priori*  
computational workload



—in floating-point  
arithmetical operation counts—  
for all three steps  
was **five** times **a million billion trillion**  
multiplications  
plus **three** times **a million billion trillion**  
additions.”  
[unquote]

I **mathematically discovered** that  
it's both logically and physically **impossible**  
to massively parallel process  
the solution of a **tri-diagonal** system  
of equations of algebra  
but it is **possible** to parallel process  
the solution of a **diagonal** system  
of algebra.

As an extreme-scale  
computational mathematician  
that was supercomputing  
petroleum reservoir simulation codes  
and supercomputing them **across**  
my ensemble of tightly-coupled

commodity processors,  
my end was not to merely solve  
a **tri-diagonal** system of equations  
of algebra.

We solve systems of equations of algebra  
to **discover** and **recover**  
otherwise **elusive**  
crude oil and natural gas  
that are buried one mile deep  
inside oilfields,  
such as the Niger Delta oilfields  
of southeastern Nigeria.

In the 1970s and '80s,  
I stepped backward  
to the first principles, or the laws of physics.  
I stepped backwards  
to enable me to reformulate  
nine **partial differential equations**  
of modern calculus.

I discretized those  
**partial differential equations**  
to obtain an extremely-large  
system of equations

of algebra  
that's **diagonal**.

At the International Congress of Industrial  
and Applied Mathematics,  
and as a research computational  
mathematician in quest for  
**never-before-seen** mathematical equations,  
I explained that I **invented** nine  
**never-before-seen**  
partial differential equations  
of modern calculus.

That is, I invented  
partial differential equations  
that fit the **second law of motion**  
of physics,  
rather than invent  
a law of motion of physics  
that fit the **partial differential equations**  
on the mathematician's blackboard  
and in the calculus textbook.

Back on June 20, 1974,  
at the Computer Center,  
in Corvallis, Oregon,

this **Gaussian Elimination** algorithm for solving a system of tri-diagonal equations of algebra

was efficient

when the supercomputer scientist must do only one thing at a time.

The **tri-diagonal** algorithm is efficient for sequential processing supercomputers because, in part, I did not have to store the **off-diagonal zeroes**.

The **tri-diagonal** algorithm

was the **workhorse**

of algebraic computations

on a sequential processing supercomputer, and remains so.

Due to its success,

computational mathematicians **misconstrued** the **tri-diagonal** algorithm

as the end,

**instead of as one of the means to the end.**

The end for an extreme-scale computational physicist

that is parallel processing **across** millions upon millions of tightly-coupled commodity processors is to attain a **surer** and **deeper** understanding of how the universe works.

The end is to harness that **new knowledge** of the **partial differential equations** of planet Earth to make planet Earth a **better place for human beings and for all beings.**

The end for an extreme-scale **computational geophysicist** is to use her petroleum reservoir simulator as a digital divining rod for **discovering** and **recovering** otherwise **elusive** crude oil and natural gas, such as recovering some of the 70 percent of the crude oil and natural gas discovered in **Oloibiri Oilfield** in **Bayelsa State**, of southeastern Nigeria,

that began production in 1958  
but was abandoned twenty years later  
in 1978.

Back in the supercomputers of 1974  
with very limited storage,  
I stored the non-zero entries  
of my **tri-diagonal** systems  
as three vectors.

The **tri-diagonal** algorithm  
is **inherently sequential**  
and for that reason is a **curse**  
to the programmer  
of the modern supercomputer.

The **tri-diagonal** algorithm  
is a **curse** because  
the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer scientist  
wants to massively parallel process **across**  
sixty-five thousand  
five hundred and thirty-six [**65,536**]  
tightly-coupled processors  
that were identical  
and **that shared nothing with each other,**

or to massively parallel process **across** as many computers, or to solve sixty-five thousand five hundred and thirty-six [65,536] algebraic problems **at once**. The **tri-diagonal** algorithm of the 1950s sequential processing supercomputers that was widely hailed as a blessing for **alternating direction implicit** methods used to **discover** and **recover** otherwise **elusive** crude oil and natural gas became a **curse** in the early 1980s when I tried to parallelize the mathematically **impossible** to parallelize, namely, to massively parallel process an **inherently sequential algorithm** by solving many algebraic problems **at once**, or in parallel.

## 17.1.6 From Mathematics to Magic

Abstract mathematics  
is an **art** on the blackboard  
and an **experimental science**  
on the motherboard.  
I am an **experimental mathematician**  
of the 1970s and '80s  
who used his system of  
coupled, non-linear, time-dependent,  
and state-of-the-art  
**partial differential equations**  
of modern calculus,  
called Philip **Emeagwali's equations**.  
I used that system of equations  
of calculus and algebra  
to **invent**  
the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer.  
Extreme-scale computational mathematics  
becomes **magic**  
when it is executed **across**  
two-raised-to-power sixteen tightly-coupled



commodity-off-the-shelf processors  
that shared nothing with each other  
that are identical  
and that are equal distances  
apart.

I invented

how to solve the toughest problems  
arising in modern algebra

and how to solve those problems across

my ensemble of 65,536 processors

and how to solve them

when my ensemble emulates

one seamless, cohesive

massively parallel processing supercomputer

that was the precursor

to the modern supercomputer.

That new supercomputer

is not a computer *per se*.

That new supercomputer

is a new internet *de facto*.

I experimentally discovered

the precursor to the modern supercomputer

and I discovered it

at 8:15 on the morning  
at Los Alamos  
(New Mexico, United States) time  
of Tuesday the Fourth of July 1989.  
That discovery  
put me in the news headlines  
of major U.S. newspapers  
as the African supercomputer wizard  
that won top US prize  
and won it for his contributions  
to the development  
of the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer.  
Behind each of those 65,536  
tightly-coupled processors  
that outlined a new internet  
was a lone wolf research  
supercomputer scientist  
that was not a member  
of a 400-person research team  
that coded and verified  
each line of his massively parallel processing  
instructions and invented

each **partial difference** equation  
of his extreme-scale algebra.  
That Grand Challenge Problem  
of mathematics and supercomputing  
had to be solved **across**  
my ensemble of 65,536 processors.  
Each processor within my ensemble  
operated its own operating system.  
Each processor  
has its own dedicated memory  
that shares nothing with each other.

I am the research supercomputer scientist  
that **invented**  
each of those **partial differential** equation  
of modern calculus  
from which those  
**partial difference** equations  
of algebra **arose**.

I—**Philip Emeagwali**—was that research  
massively parallel processing  
supercomputer scientist  
that ensured that  
his two-raised-to-power sixteen,

or 65,536, message-passed supercomputer codes were one-to-one mapped to 65,536 sixteen-bit-identified processors and ensured that the codes and processors came together as the fastest and never-before-seen supercomputer that made the news headlines across major U.S. newspapers and that was reported in the June 20, 1990 issue of the *Wall Street Journal*.

## 17.2 Contributions of Philip Emeagwali to Computational Mathematics

### 17.2.1 On Large-Scale Algebra

I am the research computational mathematician

that **invented**  
how to harness  
the potential **aggregate**  
supercomputing power  
of an ensemble of  
64 binary thousand processors.

I **invented**  
how to use that ensemble—that is a  
**new supercomputer**—to solve  
the **toughest problems** in linear algebra  
that arose from  
**partial difference approximations**  
of initial-boundary value problems  
of modern calculus.

I **invented**  
how to solve extreme-scaled  
systems of equations  
of linear algebra  
that arises when simulating  
the **subterranean** motions  
of crude oil, injected water, and natural gas  
that flow a mile-deep  
inside a petroleum reservoir,

such as inside the Niger-Delta oilfields of the southeastern region of Nigeria. Research computational mathematicians of the early 1950s, responded to the invention of the sequential processing supercomputer of 1946 and they did so by inventing algebraic algorithms that were efficient when they were sequentially processed within only one electronic brain of their supercomputer. Research computational algebraist of the early 1950s responded to the grand challenge of simulating petroleum reservoirs and they did so by inventing a system of equations of linear algebra that were **tridiagonal**. They were called **tridiagonal** because the associated matrix

of the **tridiagonal** system is banded near the main diagonal and only has nonzero elements on the main diagonal and nonzero elements on the first diagonal that was below the main diagonal and nonzero elements on the first diagonal that was above the main diagonal. In reality, the system of equations of linear algebra that originated from a system of **partial differential equations** of modern calculus could be formulated to be fourth order accurate. Such fourth order accurate schemes arises from **five-stenciled** finite difference discretization schemes that yield a system of equations of linear algebra that are **pentadiagonal**,

namely, have five nonzero bands around and along the main diagonal. Such five-point finite difference schemes are rarely used because they are more complex and demands greater floating-point arithmetical operations. For these reasons, computational mathematicians prefer the second order of accuracy that arises from **three-stenciled** finite difference approximations. The numerical solutions of extreme-scaled problems in linear algebra is the recurring decimal in all supercomputers, past and present. The **August 25, 1947** issue of *The New York Times* carried an article that was titled: **“New Giant ‘Brain’ Does Wizard Work.”** That *New York Times* article explained that:



[quote]

“...the machines under construction will have a ‘built-in intelligence’ which will enable them to handle the most complicated differential equations of physics and engineering, performing hundreds of separate mathematical operations without the intervention of a human operator...”

[unquote]

My invention that occurred on the Fourth of July 1989 was an invention of a new supercomputer with ‘built-in intelligence,’ namely, sending and receiving email messages and doing so **across** my ensemble of 65,536 processors. That new supercomputer enables the computational mathematician

to solve the **toughest problems** arising in modern calculus, such as solving the system of coupled, non-linear, time-dependent, and state-of-the-art **partial differential equations** that arises in extreme-scale computational fluid dynamics, such as the general circulation models that has rigorous **reproducibility** requirements that are used to **foresee** otherwise **unforeseeable** climate changes and such as the petroleum reservoir simulators that must be used to **discover** and **recover** otherwise **elusive** crude oil and natural gas, including those from the Niger-Delta oilfields of southeastern region of my country of birth, Nigeria. **The one mile deep Niger-Delta oilfield doesn't fit into a laboratory,**

or into one computer.

For that reason, I invented

how to fit

the Niger-Delta oilfield

into a new supercomputer

that is not a computer *per se*

but that is a new internet *de facto*.

My new internet

is powered by my ensemble of

65,536 commonly-available processors.

Each processor within my ensemble

operated its own operating system.

Each processor

had its own dedicated memory

that shared nothing with each other.

My invention

of the massively parallel processing

supercomputer

that occurred

on the Fourth of July 1989

was reported in the June 20, 1990 issue

of *The Wall Street Journal*.

Eleven years later,

that invention  
of a new supercomputer  
was reconfirmed  
by then President Bill Clinton  
and reconfirmed  
in his presidential lecture  
of August 26, 2000  
that was delivered  
to the Nigerian parliament  
in Abuja, Nigeria.

## 17.2.2 Mathematics is Living Knowledge

The petroleum industry mathematician  
marched forward  
with her sequential algorithms.  
Her sequential algorithms  
accurately solved  
the **tri-diagonal** system of equations  
that approximated  
the system of governing  
partial differential equations

that, in turn, did not accurately represent the **actual initial-boundary value problem** that was at the mathematical core of the **petroleum reservoir simulator** that was used to **discover** and **recover** otherwise **elusive**

crude oil and natural gas.  
That is, accurately solving a tri-diagonal system of equations that **erroneously approximated** a production crude oil and natural gas field in the Niger Delta region of Bayelsa State of the southeastern region of Nigeria amounts to metaphorically asking each member of my ensemble of 65,536 processors the **wrong questions** and expecting the **right answers** from each processor that was asked the **wrong questions**.  
For that reason,

I began developing  
my computational physics codes  
from first principles, namely,  
the Second Law of Motion  
of physics  
and I correctly re-derived  
the system of **partial differential equations**  
that governs  
any production crude oil  
and natural gas field.  
I did not want to mathematically  
march forward  
and do so with the classic, much beloved  
but **erroneous**  
**alternating direction implicit methods**  
that were invented  
by research mathematicians  
of the early 1950s.  
In my **mathematical nightmares**,  
I envisioned extreme-scale  
**numerical algebraists**  
mathematically marching forward  
and doing so along my one million

forty-eight thousand  
five hundred and seventy-six [1,048,576]  
bi-directional email wires  
and mathematically marching  
to my sixty-five thousand  
five hundred and thirty-six [65,536]  
commodity-off-the-shelf processors  
that defined my new internet  
and redefined it  
as a new supercomputer.

The reason I rejected  
the much beloved tri-diagonal system  
of equations of modern algebra  
was that it was an algebraic by-product  
of the *de facto* erroneously reiterated  
formula,

**Force is not [is not, is not]**  
equal to **Mass times Acceleration.**

Put differently,  
the alternating direction implicit method  
was a succession of leaps (or steps)  
that succeeded from  
one error in the x-direction

to a similar error in the y-direction  
and to a similar error in the z-direction.  
The alternating direction implicit method  
of extreme-scale algebra  
and petroleum reservoir simulation  
spewed erroneous computational results  
and did so along sixteen directions  
and spewed those errors  
into my two-raised-to-power sixteen,  
or 65,536, tightly-coupled processors  
that shared nothing with each other.  
In 1981, I was the research  
massively parallel processing mathematician  
in College Park, Maryland, United States,  
that mathematically discovered  
that for the three decades  
onward of the early 1950s  
that research mathematicians  
developed abstract  
partial differential equations  
and developed them  
for the crude oil and natural gas industry  
and the mathematician's abstract equations



became deeper abstraction  
for the sake of abstraction.

I mathematically discovered  
that the research mathematician's fancy  
system of partial differential equations  
of modern calculus  
encoded only three forces,  
instead of encoding the actual four forces  
that drives crude oil and natural gas  
towards the production crude oil  
and natural gas wells.

I mathematically discovered  
that none of those **abstract**  
partial differential equations  
of modern calculus and petroleum physics  
**equated**  
with the subterranean motions  
of the crude oil and natural gas  
that were flowing a mile-deep  
inside the production oilfields  
they were supposed to model.  
I was outraged that for  
nearly a century and half,

onwards of the discovery of **Darcy's formula** in 1856, that research mathematicians who developed what should be the most important equation in modern mathematics and computational physics were *de facto* **contemplating their navels** and **forgetting that** mathematical physics should be **a living body of knowledge** that ensures that the mathematician and the physicist **should be congruent to each other,** or be **like twins of the opposite sex.** **Mathematical abstraction** does not equate to **functionality** and **accuracy.** In 1981 and while in College Park, Maryland, **United States,** I was the research massively parallel processing

computational mathematician  
that demanded that the forces  
encoded into the abstract  
partial differential equations  
of the petroleum industry  
should be congruent  
with the inertial, pressure, viscous,  
and gravitational forces  
that drove the crude oil, injected water,  
and natural gas  
and drove those fluids  
from the water pumping well  
to the crude oil  
and natural gas production well.  
Metaphorically speaking,  
the partial differential equations  
of textbooks on petroleum physics  
were built on sand,  
not built on oil sand.  
And equations built on sand  
produces verbiage  
and are used to compute cycles of errors.  
Across my ensemble of 64 binary thousand

tightly-coupled processors

it can be said that

**Garbage In, Garbage Out.**

The alternating direction implicit method became **useless**

because it **propagates critical errors**

which, in turn, reduces the amount of otherwise **elusive**

crude oil and natural gas

that could be **discoverable** and **recoverable**.

### **17.2.3 Algebra Across Philip Emeagwali Internet**

The core essences

of my computational experiments

were to email questions and answers

that pertained to those equations

and algorithms,

that pertained to those

**partial differential** equations

of modern calculus

and computational physics

and **partial difference** equations

of modern algebra  
and that were generated  
within each of my 65,536 tightly-coupled  
commodity-off-the-shelf processors  
that had sixteen orthogonal pathways  
and that were identical  
and that were equal distances **apart**  
and to email each processor  
via email wires  
that metaphorically  
had a **one-to-one** correspondence  
to the 1,048,576  
bi-directional edges of the cube  
in a sixteen-dimensional universe  
that I visualized as **etched**  
onto the surface of a sphere  
in a sixteen dimensional universe  
and that I visualized  
as a **new** global network processors  
and email wires  
that had **no center, no edge**.  
Those emails delivered my  
65,536 computational physics codes

and delivered them  
to 65,536 tightly-coupled processors  
that shared nothing with each other  
that had a **one-to-one** correspondence  
to the two-raised-to-power sixteen,  
or sixty-four binary thousand,  
or 65,536, vertices  
of the same hypercube in hyperspace.  
To me, **Philip Emeagwali**,  
my theory of parallel processing  
was a metaphor  
for the lyrics or screen play,  
while my experiments  
**across** 65,536 processors  
represented the song or play.  
I am the mathematical physicist  
that **experimentally discovered**  
on the Fourth of July 1989  
how to harness  
sixty-four binary thousand processors  
and **invented**  
how to use those processors  
to process codes

arising in extreme-scale  
computational physics  
and **invented**  
how to communicate  
those physics codes  
and **invented**  
how to do so at email speeds  
that were previously unrecorded.  
As that research  
computational mathematician  
that was in major U.S. newspapers  
onward of 1989,  
**I had the visceral feeling**  
that I wrote the lyrics of the song  
for each of the sixty-four binary thousand  
processors  
that outlined and defined  
the **Philip Emeagwali** internet  
that is a **new supercomputer de facto**.  
I wrote the lyrics  
and then I sang it  
on the Fourth of July 1989  
that was the U.S. Independence Day.

I had the visceral feeling  
that I wrote the screen play  
of a computational physics movie  
with sixty-four binary thousand physicists,  
each a **metaphorical dancer**,  
that **metaphorically danced across**  
one binary million pathways.

I had the visceral feeling  
that I was the **dance choreographer**  
that acted in his production,  
which in my reality  
was a movie  
that is a **petroleum reservoir simulation**  
of computational physics.

I visualized my 65,536  
computational physics codes  
as metaphors for as many screen plays.

If printed on paper,  
my screen play would weigh  
**eighty million pages**  
of arithmetical data!

That was the amount of information  
that the equations and algorithms



that I invented  
generated from each supercomputing cycle  
of computations  
at sixty-four binary thousand processors.  
That was the amount of information  
that I communicated  
along email wires  
that had a **one-to-one** correspondence  
to the one binary million  
bi-directional edges of the hypercube  
in the sixteenth-dimensional hyperspace.  
For my **discovery**  
of the Fourth of July 1989  
that was recorded by the news media  
and recorded in the June 20, 1990 issue  
of the *Wall Street Journal*,  
each supercomputing cycle lasted  
one seventh of a second.  
I **invented**  
how to send emails—and how to send them  
**across**  
that **new internet**  
that **Philip Emeagwali** internet

and how to send them with  
five-subject lines.

I **invented**

how to send an email  
that will be received  
at a unique sixteen-bit address  
that had no @ sign  
or dot com suffix.

I **invented**

how to swap and distribute  
my questions and answers  
into and from two-to-power sixteen  
commodity-off-the-shelf processors.

I **invented**

how to send them along  
two-to-power twenty  
email wires.

It's not enough that I know the  
**Philip Emeagwali** internet.

That **new internet**

must know **Philip Emeagwali**  
as its sole programmer.

To squeeze the maximum

computational speed  
out of my ensemble of  
65,536 processors  
demanded that I understand my ensemble  
as a **new** global network of processors  
that is a **new internet**  
that is the **Philip Emeagwali** internet.

## 17.2.4 Quest for Crude oil and natural gas

In **Oloibiri oil field**  
of Bayelsa State  
of the southeastern region of Nigeria,  
the crude oil that was discovered  
back in **1956**  
was trapped one mile  
underneath the surface of the Earth.  
Crude oil is a fossil fuel  
that formed from the remains of  
**algae** and **zooplankton**  
and from tiny prehistoric plants and animals  
that died hundreds of millions of years ago  
and that were buried

at the bottom of the sea.

The **Oloibiri oil field**

that became operational in 1958  
was formed hundreds of millions  
of years ago.

The **Oloibiri oil field**

was **abandoned** in 1978  
and **abandoned** twenty years  
after it became operational.

Only about **twenty percent**  
of the crude oil discovered in **Oloibiri**  
was recovered.

One in ten

parallel processing supercomputers  
were purchased by the petroleum industry  
and were used to solve

extreme-scale problems  
arising in **algebra**

that must be solved as a pre-condition  
to discovering and recovering otherwise  
**elusive**

crude oil and natural gas.

Accurately predicting the performance of

crude oil and natural gas reservoirs in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria translates to more drilling decisions. With today's parallel processing supercomputer technology, more crude oil and natural gas would have been **recovered** from **Oloibiri oil field**, **if and only if** we had solved the system of trillions upon trillions of equations of algebra **that would have arisen** if the parallel processing supercomputer of today was available back in **1958** and was used to predict the **subterranean** motions of crude oil, injected water, and natural gas that flowed a **mile deep** inside the production oilfields of the Niger Delta region of the southeastern region of Nigeria. We cannot see, hear, or feel

the **subterranean** motions of the crude oil  
and natural gas  
that are flowing **one mile deep**  
underneath our feet.

The supercomputer simulation  
of the **subterranean** motions  
of the crude oil and natural gas  
that are flowing **one mile deep**  
enables the petroleum geologist  
to see—with his digital eyes—  
the flow patterns  
of the crude oil and natural gas  
that are **invisible** to our naked eyes.

The massively parallel processing  
supercomputer  
that solves the trillions upon trillions  
of equations of **algebra**

**that arises**

from the **extreme-scale**  
petroleum reservoir simulator  
**is the new age divining rod**  
**that must be used**  
**to discover and recover**

otherwise **elusive**  
crude oil and natural gas.

### 17.2.5 **Discovering the Elusive**

Back in 1989,  
it made the **news headlines**  
that an **African Supercomputer Wizard**  
**had won the US top prize**  
for **inventing**  
the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer  
and for inventing  
how to breakup **extreme-scale**  
problems arising in algebra  
and for inventing  
how to break up their computation-intensive  
floating-point arithmetical problems  
into 65,536  
less computation-intensive  
arithmetical problems.  
I—**Philip Emeagwali**—is that African  
massively parallel processing

supercomputer scientist  
who **invented**  
how to solve those smaller problems  
and **invented**  
how to solve those problems in parallel  
and **invented**  
how to solve those problems **across**  
a **new internet**  
that I visualized  
as a **new** global network of  
65,536 tightly-coupled  
commodity processors  
**that shared nothing with each other.**  
My **invention**  
of how to parallel process  
and how to do so **across** a **new internet**  
is used to accelerate scientific discovery  
in the fields of  
computational fluid dynamics,  
such as executing  
**excruciatingly-detailed**  
petroleum reservoir simulation  
and executing them



to **discover** and **recover** otherwise **elusive** crude oil and natural gas and such as executing **excruciatingly-detailed** general circulation models and executing them to **foresee** otherwise **unforeseeable** climate changes.

The **necessity** to execute these extreme-scaled problems arising in computational physics is one of the technological grand challenges that **stimulated** the development of the parallel processing supercomputer.

## 17.2.6 Changing the Way We Look at the Computer

The **experimental discovery** of parallel processing **changed the way** we look at the computer, **changed the way** we look

at the supercomputer,  
and **changed the way** we solve  
the **toughest problems arising** in  
extreme-scale algebraic computations.  
Parallel processing  
is the **paradigm shift** of **tectonic proportions**  
in the history of computing  
that **changed the way**  
crude oil and natural gas  
are **discovered** and **recovered**.  
Parallel processing  
**changed the way**  
high-resolution, long-running  
general circulation models  
for otherwise **unforeseeable**  
global warming are foreseen.  
Parallel processing  
**changed the way**  
computational physics is done.  
The **toughest problems**  
in extreme-scale computational physics  
are **linked** by a **common thread**, namely,  
the modern supercomputer

that parallel processes  
their extremely computation-intensive  
floating-point arithmetical computations  
and execute them **across**  
an ensemble of up to ten million  
commodity-off-the-shelf processors.  
As a research supercomputer scientist  
of the 1970s and '80s,  
my quest was to **invent**  
how to harness  
my ensemble of 65,536  
commodity-off-the-shelf processors  
and to also **invent**  
how to use those processors  
to bring the **toughest problems**  
in extreme-scale algebra  
to their **knees**  
and to **invent**  
how to enable the petroleum industry  
to use the massively  
parallel processing supercomputer  
to **chase** otherwise **unrecoverable**  
crude oil and natural gas.

My **discovery** of massively parallel processing that occurred at 10:15 on the morning Eastern Standard Time Tuesday the Fourth of July 1989 that was the U.S. Independence Day made the **news headlines** in 1989, and thereafter, and emboldened the call to action for computational geophysicists to embrace the technology of the massively parallel processing supercomputer.

My **discovery** represents a **new way** of looking at the computer.

For my country of birth, Nigeria,

**the fastest supercomputer is a poverty alleviation technology.**

Crude oil and natural gas are recovered after using the massively parallel processing supercomputer technology to **simulate countless crude oil**

and natural gas  
recovery scenarios.

In 1989,

I was in the news

for **experimentally discovering**

how to harness

the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer

and for **discovering**

how to use the new technology

to reduce the **time-to-solution**

for solving

extreme-scaled system of equations

of **algebra**

and how to reduce that **time-to-solution**

from 180 years, or 65,536 days,

to only one day of **time-to-solution**.

I was in the news because

reducing that **time-to-solution**

increases the odds of

**discovering** and recovering

otherwise **elusive**

crude oil and natural gas.

That **discovery**  
of the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer  
that occurred  
on the Fourth of July 1989  
was praised as a **giant leap forward**  
in the development of the modern algebra.  
That **discovery**  
of parallel processing  
is my **contribution** to algebra.