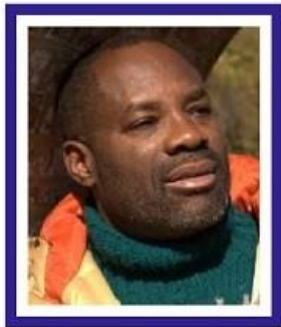


## 37 Father of the Modern Supercomputer



Philip Emeagwali Lecture 180608-1

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### 37.1 How I Turned Supercomputer Fiction to Fact

## 37.1.1 Who's Philip Emeagwali?

The modern supercomputer  
is a tool  
that enables the mind  
to go where the eyes cannot see.  
To invent  
is to turn **fiction** into **fact**.  
In 1989,  
it made the **news headlines**  
that an African supercomputer genius  
in the **United States**  
has **experimentally discovered**  
how and why parallel processing  
makes modern computers **faster**  
and makes the new supercomputer  
the **fastest**,  
namely, **the Philip Emeagwali formula**  
**that then United States President**

**Bill Clinton** described  
in his **White House** speech of  
**August 26, 2000.**

I am that African high-performance  
supercomputer scientist  
that was in the **news** in 1989.

Since my 1989 **invention**  
of the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer,

**I felt like the** ancient mariner  
who travelled around the world  
to **tell his story**  
to different people.

Trying to understand  
the modern high-performance  
supercomputer

that is a **new internet**

that I invented

and **trying to understand**

that **new supercomputer**

as the global network of

65,536  
equidistant **processors**  
that I programmed back in 1989  
and **trying to understand**  
that massively parallel processing  
supercomputer  
as a **small copy**  
of the planetary-sized internet  
and **trying to understand**  
that fastest supercomputer  
without the life story of its inventor  
**is like looking at an embroidery**  
**from the wrong side of the cloth.**

## **37.1.2 I Am Well Known But Not Know Well**

**I am well known**  
**but I am not known well.**  
**Eleven** out of ten people

did not understand how I experimentally discovered how and why parallel processing makes modern computers faster and makes the new supercomputer the fastest, namely, the Philip Emeagwali formula that then United States President Bill Clinton described in his White House speech of August 26, 2000.

My experimental discovery that the massively parallel processing supercomputer is 65,536 times faster than the computer occurred on the Fourth of July 1989 in Los Alamos, New Mexico, United States.

That experimental discovery was first reported

by The Computer Society  
of The Institute of Electrical  
and Electronics Engineers,  
called the IEEE.

My **experimental discovery**  
was first reported in 1989  
as a press release  
from the IEEE office  
in San Francisco, California.

The IEEE followed up its 1989  
press release  
with a detailed report that explained to  
the supercomputer community  
my **experimental discovery**  
of how I made  
the **impossible-to-compute**  
**possible-to-compute**.

The **IEEE** is the **acronym**  
for the Institute  
of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.  
The **IEEE**

is the world's largest technical society.  
My **mathematical inventions**  
of nine **partial differential equations**  
of modern calculus  
were first reported  
by the **SIAM**  
and first reported  
to the research mathematics community.  
The **SIAM** is the **acronym**  
for the Society  
for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.  
The **SIAM** is the world's largest  
society of mathematicians.  
My contributions to human knowledge  
that both the **IEEE** and the **SIAM**  
described in their flagship publications  
was how they understood  
**my supercomputer inventions**  
**and my mathematical discoveries.**  
The **IEEE** and the **SIAM**  
did not describe how I understood

the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer  
that I invented  
and how I understood  
the partial differential equations  
that I invented.

A discovery or an invention  
is like the moon.

It has two parts:

the **visible** part and the **hidden** part.

Back in 1989,

the news media were reporting  
the **concrete** and the **visible** parts  
of my technological inventions  
and were ignoring

the **abstract** and the **invisible** parts  
of my mathematical discoveries.

For that reason, I said that:

I am well known

but I am not known well.

I am well known



as the high-performance  
supercomputer scientist  
that **experimentally discovered**  
the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer.

I am well known  
as the internet scientist  
that invented a **new internet**  
that is a **new** global network of  
65,536 tightly-coupled processors  
**with each processor**  
**operating its own operating system**  
**and with each processor**  
**having its own dedicated memory**  
**that shared nothing with each other**  
that were already available  
in the market anyway.

But I am **not known well**  
as the extreme-scale  
computational physicist  
that **discovered** that  
the most important law in physics

is **violated**  
during its most important application  
—namely, **recovering**  
otherwise **unrecoverable** crude oil and  
natural gas  
and **recovering** them  
from abandoned oil fields,  
such as the **Oloibiri oil field**  
of Bayelsa State, Nigeria  
**that was discovered**  
**in 1958**  
**and discovered**  
**as the first oil discovery in West Africa**  
**but abandoned twenty years later**  
**in 1978.**

But I am **not known well**  
as the mathematical physicist  
that **invented**  
how to solve the **toughest problems**  
arising in extreme-scale  
computational physics.

But I am **not known well**  
as the extreme-scale  
computational mathematician  
that **discovered** critical,  
century-old errors  
in the most important equations  
in the history of mathematics.

But I am **not known well**  
for **correcting** that mathematical error  
and doing so by **inventing** a system of  
coupled, non-linear, time-dependent,  
and state-of-the-art  
**partial differential equations**  
of modern calculus.

For me—**Philip Emeagwali**—  
**inventing** the modern  
parallel processing supercomputer  
that can parallel process  
or solve a million problems (or  
processes) **at once**  
and that can solve them

at the fastest speeds  
recorded in computational mathematics  
and **inventing**  
the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer  
that can solve  
the **toughest** mathematical problems  
in computational physics  
was like a songwriter  
using his guitar  
to accompany his song and dance.  
The high-performance supercomputer  
of yesterday  
was the instrument  
for the extreme-scale  
computational physicist  
that became your instrument  
and your computer of today.

## 37.1.3 Wizardry is Making the Impossible Possible

In high-performance supercomputing,  
**wizardry**

is making the **impossible-to-compute**  
**possible-to-compute.**

The ensemble of 65,536  
processors

that were already available  
in the market

that I **experimentally discovered**  
to be a **new supercomputer**

and to be a **new internet**

and that I **figured out**

how their processors could be  
programmed

and harnessed as one seamless,  
cohesive whole supercomputer

were exclusively available to me alone.

In the 1980s, that ensemble of 65,536  
commodity processors

was available to me alone because the ensemble was **abandoned** by the community of 25,000 vector processing supercomputer scientists that were led by **Seymour Cray**. That ensemble of processors was **abandoned** because it was then considered **impossible** to harness the **potential** supercomputer power of the **slowest** 65,536 processors in the world that merely performed **47,303** calculations per second per processor. In the 1980s, it was **impossible** to harness the supercomputer potential of the **slowest processors** and to use the speed of that **new**

massively parallel processing  
supercomputer  
to solve **otherwise unsolvable**  
problems arising in mathematical  
physics.

On the Fourth of July 1989,  
I mathematically and experimentally  
**invented**

how to solve 65,536  
initial-boundary value problems  
of modern calculus  
and of the most extreme-scale  
computational physics.

It made the **news headlines**  
that I **invented**

how to solve the **toughest problems**  
arising in mathematical physics  
and how to solve them  
**at once**, or in parallel,  
and how to solve those **tough problems**  
**together**

and how to solve them  
at the then unheard of speed of  
3.1 billion calculations per second.  
That speed was the world's **fastest**  
supercomputer speed  
of the 1980s.

Before my discovery  
that occurred  
on the Fourth of July 1989,  
it was indeed **impossible**  
to **experimentally discover**  
the potential power of the  
massively parallel processing  
supercomputer.

It was then **impossible**  
to **experimentally discover**  
the **aggregate power**  
of 64 binary thousand processors.  
It was then **impossible**  
to **invent**  
how to harness



those plentiful, powerful, and inexpensive processors that were already available in the market and how to use them to solve the **toughest problems** arising in extreme-scale computational physics and mathematics. The June 14, 1976 issue of the *Computer World* magazine interviewed the supercomputer experts that were attending the 1976 **National Computer Conference** in New York City. The *Computer World* magazine asked those supercomputer experts if it will ever be **possible** to **invent** how to harness the potential of the parallel processing supercomputer and if it will ever be **possible**

to harness that supercomputer-hopeful  
and harness the technology  
to **experimentally discover**  
the fastest computations  
that could be executed **across**  
an **ensemble** of processors.

The unanimous opinion  
of those supercomputer experts  
was summed up in an article  
that was published  
in the June 14, 1976 issue  
of the *Computer World*.

That *Computer World* article  
was written by **E. Drake Lundell Jr**,  
who was the computer industry editor  
of *Computer World*.

That *Computer World* article  
was titled:

[quote]

**“Research in Parallel Processing**

Questioned as ‘**Waste of Time**’.”  
[unquote]

The reason I was **not** discouraged by that *Computer World* article was that I was only twenty-one [21] years old when it was published. Being young and foolish, I had the **time to waste** in the **impossible** pursuit of the massively parallel processing supercomputer. I spent the fourteen years, onward of 1976, conducting my research on how to parallel program a massively parallel processing supercomputer and on how to parallel program that high-performance supercomputer to **compress** 180 **computing-years**

to just one supercomputing-day.

## 37.2 How I Made the Impossible Possible

### 37.2.1 Making the Impossible Possible

To discover or invent  
is to make the **impossible** possible.

At age 19

and as a mathematician-in-training,  
I solved my equation  
to get it right.

At age 35

I grew to become a polymath  
that was trained for sixteen years  
and I solved my equation  
to **not** get it wrong.

I discovered how to solve

the toughest problem  
in calculus  
and how to solve it  
by thinking outside the box  
and thinking  
beyond the frontiers of calculus  
and thinking  
how to more accurately reformulate  
that calculus problem  
from the laws of physics  
and thinking  
how to more accurately reformulate  
that calculus problem  
to large-scale algebra  
and thinking  
how to solve that calculus problem  
not on an isolated processor  
but in parallel and across  
64 binary thousand  
processors

that were already available  
in the market anyway.

For me, **Philip Emeagwali**,  
that unconventional thinking  
was an **epiphany**  
because I **discovered**  
that **the solution to the toughest problem**  
**in calculus**  
**transcended calculus.**

I discovered that, trying to solve  
**the toughest problem in calculus**  
and trying solve  
that grand challenge problem  
within only calculus  
**is like seeking a material solution**  
**to a spiritual problem,**  
or turning to alcohol  
to mend a broken heart.

In the *terra incognita*  
of the massively parallel processing

supercomputer, only a **polymath** can make the **impossible-to-compute possible-to-compute** and do so by solving a **multi-disciplinary** grand challenge problem and **experimentally discovering how and why parallel processing makes modern computers faster and makes the new supercomputer the fastest.**

Only a **polymath** can solve that **tough problem** and solve it alone and present his **proof-of-solution** in videotaped lectures that can be watched from anyplace and anytime.

**It's impossible** for a research, high-performance

supercomputer scientist  
that is **not** a **polymath**  
that is **not** at home in physics,  
that is **not** at home in mathematics,  
and that is **not** at home in computing  
to **invent** how to solve  
the initial-boundary value problems  
that are governed  
by a system of coupled, non-linear,  
time-dependent, and state-of-the-art  
**partial differential equations**  
that is the **toughest problem**  
in calculus  
that are classified as hyperbolic.  
**It's impossible**  
to **invent**  
how to solve that extreme-scale problem  
and how to solve it **across**  
a **new internet**  
that is a **new** global network of



64 binary thousand processors  
that is a **new supercomputer**  
and a **new computer**.

**It's impossible**

to **invent** how to solve  
those 64 binary thousand  
initial-boundary value problems  
of modern calculus  
and how to solve them **across**  
a **new** global network of  
65,536 computers  
that are identical  
and that are equal distances  
**apart**.

**It's impossible** for me

—**Philip Emeagwali**—

to **experimentally discover**  
their **solutions**  
and their **times-to-solutions**  
and to discover them

without being at the frontiers  
of mathematical, scientific,  
and technological knowledge.

**It's impossible** for me  
to **invent**  
the **new supercomputer**  
and discover it **across** a **new internet**  
that's defined and outlined  
by 64 binary thousand  
tightly-coupled processors  
**that shared nothing with each other.**

**It's impossible**  
for me to **invent**  
the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer  
**without foremost**  
**mathematically understanding**  
or **experimentally discovering**  
how to solve  
the same initial-boundary value

problems  
and how to solve them  
on only one **isolated** processor  
that was not a member  
of an ensemble of processors.

My understanding of the modern, fastest,  
parallel processing supercomputer  
that computes with ten million  
six hundred and forty-nine thousand  
six hundred [10,649,600] processors  
is **deeper** and **surer**  
than it was—sixteen years earlier—when  
**I programmed** the sequential processing  
supercomputer  
that used only one processor.

**I programmed**  
sequential processing supercomputers  
on June 20, 1974  
and at age nineteen.

**I programmed** the sequential processing supercomputer that was at 1800 SW Campus Way, Corvallis, Oregon, **United States**.

In 1974, **I programmed supercomputers** that were powered by only one **isolated** processor.

That processor **was not a member of an ensemble of processors**.

Sixteen years later,

I understood high-performance supercomputers better

and, largely, because I had

**experimentally discovered**

how to massively parallel program the **slowest** 65,536 tightly-coupled processors

in the world

and how to harness those processors

to cooperatively solve  
one computation-intensive problem  
arising in physics and mathematics.  
The poster boy  
of computation-intensive problems  
is the general circulation model  
that is used to foresee  
otherwise unforeseeable  
global warming,  
or used to foresee  
parts of the Earth  
that could become  
horrifically inhospitable  
for our children's children.  
On the Fourth of July 1989  
in Los Alamos, New Mexico,  
United States  
I invented  
a new supercomputer  
and I invented

how to solve  
the most computation-intensive problem  
arising in physics and mathematics  
and I invented  
how to solve that problem  
and how to do so at the **fastest** possible  
supercomputer speeds  
ever recorded.

The June 20, 1990 issue  
of *The Wall Street Journal*  
recorded that I—**Philip Emeagwali**—  
had **invented**

how to use the **slowest**  
65,536 tightly-coupled processors  
**that shared nothing with each other**  
that were already available in the market  
and how to use those processors  
to simulate the flow of crude oil and  
natural gas  
flowing **one mile deep**

and flowing **across** an oilfield  
and how to use those processors  
to simulate the motions  
of crude oil and natural gas  
and how to do so  
to enable the petroleum geologist  
to **recover** otherwise **unrecoverable**  
crude oil and natural gas.  
That **excruciatingly-detailed**  
supercomputer simulation  
that I executed  
via massively parallel processing  
**across** a **new internet**  
and that I **invented**,  
or executed  
by processing a million things **at once**,  
is used in the **Niger Delta** Region  
of **Nigeria**  
and used to **discover** otherwise

**undiscoverable**

crude oil and natural gas.

My mathematical **contributions**  
**to the calculus**  
**used to simulate the flow of**  
**crude oil and natural gas**  
**was the cover story**  
**of the May 1990 issue**  
**of the *SIAM News*.**

The *SIAM News*

is the flagship publication of SIAM.

And SIAM

is the acronym for the Society of  
Industrial

and Applied Mathematics.

The SIAM is the number one society  
for mathematicians

and the *SIAM News*

is where a **newsworthy** contribution



to mathematics is **first** reported.

In the June 1990 issue of *SIAM News*, a research computational mathematician that thoroughly reviewed my mathematical discovery and contributions to mathematics wrote that:

[**And I quote**]

"I have checked with several reservoir engineers who feel that his calculation is of real importance and **very fast**. His explicit method not only generates lots of megaflops, but solves problems **faster** than implicit methods. **Emeagwali** is the **first** to have applied a pseudo-time approach

in reservoir modeling.”  
[end of quote]

Once upon a time,  
in the 1980s, to be exact,  
the mathematics teacher  
did not know the mathematical steps  
needed to harness the power of  
a **new internet**  
that is a new global network of  
processors.

The reason my **contribution**  
to the modern supercomputer  
—that is a **new internet**—  
was **front page news**  
in top mathematics publications,  
such as the *SIAM News*,  
was that I—**Philip Emeagwali**—  
was the **first**  
computational mathematician  
to **invent**

and write down the mathematical steps  
for how to use a **new internet**  
that is a new global network of  
64 binary thousand  
tightly-coupled processors  
**that shared nothing with each other.**

I **invented**

how to harness that **new internet**,  
*as de facto*

one cohesive, seamless,  
high-performance supercomputer  
that computes in parallel.

I **invented**

how to use that **new supercomputer**  
to **discover** otherwise elusive crude oil  
and natural gas.

Once I wrote down  
my mathematical steps,  
other computational mathematicians  
could follow the

**Philip Emeagwali's algorithm.**

Mathematicians use my algorithm  
to program **across**  
64 binary thousand, or more,  
tightly-coupled processors  
**that shared nothing with each other.**

Mathematicians use my algorithm  
to **discover** and **recover**  
otherwise elusive  
and **unrecoverable** crude oil  
and natural gas.

Modern mathematicians  
use the new knowledge  
from my massively  
parallel processed communications  
and computations  
that were synchronized  
**across** my **new** global network of  
65,536 tightly-coupled processors  
**that shared nothing with each other**  
and that were already available  
in the market anyway

and use that mathematical discovery  
to solve problems  
that are otherwise unsolvable.

My quest for the solution  
to the **toughest problem** in calculus  
did **not follow a straight line**.

I made mistakes but I was open  
to **quick course corrections**  
that took me to the unknown world  
of parallel processing **across**  
a **new internet**  
that is a **small copy**  
of the global internet  
that encircles the Earth.

My **new internet**  
is a new global network of  
64 binary thousand processors.

## 37.3 How I Opened the Door to the Supercomputer

## 37.3.1 Discovery of Philip Emeagwali Opened the Supercomputer Door

My 1989 **experimental discovery** of how and why parallel processing makes modern computers **faster** and makes the new supercomputer the **fastest** namely, **the Philip Emeagwali formula that then United States President Bill Clinton described in his White House speech of August 26, 2000**

occurred at the frontier of knowledge about the massively parallel processing supercomputer.

That **invention** of the massively parallel processing supercomputer that occurred on the Fourth of July 1989

in Los Alamos, New Mexico, United States led me to discover that inventing a new technology creates a need for a new vocabulary and a new narrative for the histories of science and technology. After my invention of the high-performance supercomputer, I became like the **ancient mariner** who travelled around the world to tell his story to different people. Since 1989, school children are asked to do a school report on the contributions of **Philip Emeagwali** to the development of the supercomputer. Back in 1989, it made the news headlines that a lone wolf African supercomputer wizard that worked alone for sixteen years **across** supercomputer laboratories in the United States

has **invented**

the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer

and has **invented**

how to parallel compute,

or solve a million problems (or processes) **at  
once,**

instead of solving only one problem  
**at a time.**

Those newspaper articles wrote that

his **invention**

of the high-performance supercomputer

will **have rich, fertile,**

**and far-reaching consequences.**

That **African supercomputer wizard**

**invented**

how to always perform the **fastest**

supercomputer calculations

and how to perform them

by solving a million problems (or processes)

**at once,**



instead of solving only **one problem at a time**.

I—**Philip Emeagwali**—

was that African supercomputer scientist that was in the **news** back in 1989.

I was in the **news**

because I **experimentally discovered** that the fastest speeds in supercomputing can always be recorded with massively parallel processing technology.

That technology enabled me to massively compute 65,536 things **at once**, or in parallel at as many processors.

My **experimental discovery** that parallel processing is the engine that drives the

computer to compute **faster**  
and drives the supercomputer  
to compute **fastest**  
made the **news headlines**  
onwards of 1989.

My **invention**  
was widely recorded,  
from supercomputer publications  
to the June 20, 1990 issue  
of the *Wall Street Journal*  
and that invention remains  
the most talked about **invention**  
in the history of computing.

My **invention**  
made the news headlines because  
I **experimentally discovered**  
the fastest computation  
and I **invented the technique**  
**across the slowest 65,536**  
**tightly-coupled processors**

that are commonly available  
in the market.

My **invention**

of the high-performance supercomputer  
made the **news** headlines because

I **invented parallel processing**

and I invented the technology

when everybody **rejected**

**parallel processing.**

I **invented** parallel processing

and I invented the technology

as a **lone wolf** supercomputer

programmer.

I **experimentally discovered**

the fastest computation

and I invented the technique

for discovering it by harnessing

the **total computing power**

of a parallel processing machine

powered by an ensemble

of the **slowest** 65,536  
tightly-coupled processors  
in the world.

I **experimentally discovered**  
the fastest computation  
that could be recorded  
with parallel processing technology.

I **experimentally discovered**  
the fastest supercomputer  
and I **invented** the technology  
when the supercomputer textbooks  
and the leaders of thought  
in supercomputing  
predicted that parallel processing  
**will not work** within  
the high-performance supercomputer.

I **invented**  
the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer  
and I invented the technology

when computational physicists warned that it will forever be **impossible** to compute many things (or process many processes) **at once**.

When I **invented** the high-performance supercomputer, the 25,000 vector processing supercomputer scientists in the world that were led by **Seymour Cray** believed that parallel processing will forever remain a **huge waste of everybody's time**.

I **invented** how to harness the high-performance supercomputer that computes with a million, or more, processors that were already available in the market and how to harness those processors

to massively parallel process  
and **how to harness the  
fastest, parallel processing  
supercomputer**

to solve the **toughest problems**  
arising in computational physics,  
such as when solving  
the initial-boundary value problems  
arising in calculus, science,  
and engineering.

**I invented**

**how to harness** parallel processing  
and **harness the technology**

to solve the most extreme-scale problems  
arising in modern algebra.

**I invented**

**how to harness** the high-performance  
supercomputer  
and harness it to solve  
the toughest problems

arising in extreme-scale computational physics.

That **invention**

was critical to solving the **most vexing** grand challenge problems arising in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

I **invented**

**how to harness** parallel processing and **harness the technology**

to solve the computation-intensive problem that is described

as petroleum reservoir simulation and that was classified

by the United States government as one of the twenty

**most vexing** grand challenges in supercomputing.

My **invention**

of how to solve a million problems

(or process a million processes) **at once** and how to compute simultaneously while solving the most computation-intensive problems arising in extreme-scale computational physics made the **news headlines** because I was an unknown black, sub-Saharan African supercomputer scientist that challenged the most well-known and well-regarded supercomputer scientists of the 1970s and '80s.

Those leading lights of computing and supercomputing—namely, the likes of **Steve Jobs**, **Seymour Cray**, and **Gene Amdahl**—warned that parallel processing will **forever remain impossible.**

I was warned that



I will never discover  
the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer.

I was warned that

I will never record the fastest speeds  
in computation  
and record those speeds **across**  
my ensemble of the **slowest** 65,536  
**tightly-coupled** processors in the world.

But on the Fourth of July 1989,  
I discovered

that the **toughest problems**  
arising in extreme-scaled  
computational physics  
that were believed to be **impossible**  
to solve

on only one processor  
are, in fact, **possible** to solve, **across**  
a massively parallel processing  
supercomputer

powered by a new global network  
of the **slowest**  
sixty-five thousand  
five hundred and thirty-six [65,536]  
identical processors  
that were already available  
in the market  
and that is a **new internet**, *de facto*.  
I **invented**  
how to solve  
the **toughest problems**  
arising in supercomputing  
and how to solve those problems  
**across**  
my new global network of processors  
that I named  
a “**primordial internet**”  
and that I **visualized**  
as a **small copy of the internet**.  
I **visualized** that **new internet**

as a **new** global network  
of 64 binary thousand processors  
that I could harness  
to both communicate **synchronously**  
and to compute **simultaneously**  
and to solve 65,536 problems  
and to solve them  
with a **one-to-one** correspondence  
between problems and processors.  
**I invented**  
how to massively parallel process  
and how to compute **across**  
my new global network of  
64 binary thousand processors  
that is a **new internet**.  
**I invented parallel processing**  
and I invented the technology  
when it was written  
in all supercomputer textbooks  
that it will forever remain **impossible**

to theoretically **invent**  
how to parallel process  
and to invent  
how to parallel compute **across**  
**eight processors.**

In the 1980s, I **theoretically**  
**and experimentally discovered**  
that my **new internet**  
is a **new supercomputer**  
and a **new computer, de facto.**

The African-American poet,  
**Mari Evans**, said:

“**Speak the truth**  
**to the people.**”

My scientific truth was **controversial**  
in the 1970s and ‘80s.

In those two decades, I was **banished**  
from the community of  
25,000 vector processing  
supercomputer scientists.

I was **forced** to parallel program  
**abandoned** massively parallel processing  
supercomputers  
as a **lone wolf**.

### 37.3.2 Opening Doors to the Modern Supercomputer

The June 14, 1976 issue  
of the *Computer World*  
—the flagship publication  
of the **computer world**—  
carried an article titled:

[**quote**]

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

[**unquote**]

My **experimental discovery** that occurred on the Fourth of July 1989 was that parallel processing **is not a huge waste of everybody's time.** The reason my **experimental discovery** of parallel processing was science cover stories in 1989 was that it **opened the door** to promising lines of research in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

My **invention** of the massively parallel processing supercomputer **opened the door** to extreme-scale computations arising in physics, mathematics, chemistry, and medicine.

My **invention**  
of how to massively parallel process  
and how to process **across**  
millions upon millions  
of already-available processors  
**opened the door** to a **new world**  
in which extreme-scale computations  
that were previously  
**impossible** to compute  
on a vector processing supercomputer  
are now **possible to compute**  
**across** a **new internet**  
that is a new global network of  
**equidistant** and **identical**  
processors  
that were already available  
in the market anyway.  
Briefly, the most  
computation-intensive problems  
arising in physics

include problems arising from using the laws of physics and encoding those laws into systems of partial differential equations of modern calculus that are then reduced to systems of equations of algebra and that are then further reduced to an equivalent set of floating-point operations of arithmetic.

### 37.3.3 Contributions of Philip Emeagwali to the Computer

I'm **Philip Emeagwali**.

I contributed



to the development of the high-performance computer and I contributed by inventing the technology of parallel processing that is embodied in most computers and embodied in all supercomputers.

**Philip Emeagwali**

is the subject of school reports because my contributions changed the way we think of the supercomputer.

In the old way and before my invention, we thought of the supercomputer as solving only one problem at a time.

In the new way and after my invention, we think of the supercomputer

as solving  
millions upon millions of problems  
**at once.**

On the Fourth of July 1989,  
I **experimentally discovered**  
that the high-performance  
supercomputer  
must be powered by  
the largest ensemble of  
processors  
that were already available  
in the market anyway.

### **37.3.4 Philip Emeagwali: Father of the Modern Supercomputer**

The new high-performance  
supercomputer

is the fastest computer that must compute with numerous processors.

The new high-performance supercomputer scientist is the extreme-scaled computational mathematical physicist that adapted to the massively parallel processing supercomputer.

The modern supercomputer scientist had to adapt to massively parallel processing or risk using only a tiny proportion of the millions of central processing units and millions of graphics processing units that powers that high-performance

supercomputer.

I predicted the speedup  
of the massively parallel processing  
supercomputer

that I **experimentally confirmed**  
and recorded

on the Fourth of July 1989.

After my **experimental discovery**  
of parallel processing  
the number of parallel processing  
supercomputers **exploded**.

Before the Fourth of July 1989,  
it was said that

parallel processing is **a beautiful theory  
that lacked experimental confirmation.**

After my **experimental discovery**  
of parallel processing,  
all high-performance supercomputers  
were parallel processing **ing across**  
thousands of central processing units

and **across** as many  
graphics processing units,  
and even **across**  
millions of processors and co-processors.  
To this day, the geometrical sketches  
of how each of my 65,536  
processors  
were connected  
to its sixteen nearest-neighboring  
processors  
and connected  
in the sixteenth dimension  
is widely reprinted in school reports  
on the contributions  
of **Philip Emeagwali**  
to the development of the computer.  
My illustrations of my theorized  
**never-before-seen new internet**  
that is a **new supercomputer**  
and a **new computer**

and that I visualized  
as a **new** global network of  
central processing units  
were hailed as **beautiful**  
and reprinted without any **attribution**  
to **Philip Emeagwali**.

Parallel processing, or doing many things  
**at once**, instead of doing only one thing  
**at a time**

was **ridiculed** by **Seymour Cray**  
who was the leader of 25,000  
vector processing supercomputer  
scientists.

**Philip Emeagwali**

began programming supercomputers  
on Thursday June 20, 1974  
in Corvallis, Oregon, **United States**.

On the Fourth of July 1989,

**Philip Emeagwali**

was the lone wolf fulltime programmer

of the most massively parallel processing supercomputer ever built.

I programmed the precursor to the modern supercomputer alone.

I programmed it alone because the community of 25,000 vector processing

supercomputer scientists of the decade of the 1980s

that were led by **Seymour Cray** scorned, ridiculed, and rejected

the parallel processing supercomputer.

Those 25,000 supercomputer scientists followed the vector processing vision

of Seymour Cray

and dismissed parallel processing

as a huge waste of everybody's time.

For the decade and half that preceded

the Fourth of July 1989,

I was **mocked**  
by the supercomputer community  
and **mocked**  
for attempting to parallel process **across**  
processors.

I was advised that I was attempting  
to process the **impossible-to-process**.  
Some research mathematicians  
asked me to comment  
on the role of beauty  
in my invention  
of my massively parallel processing  
supercomputer.

In my mathematical analysis,  
beauty comes first  
and truth comes second.

In my physical experimentation,  
it is vice-versa.

The beauty of parallel processing  
resides in the speed



of the supercomputer.

I **invented**

how to reduce 180 years

of **time-to-solution**

on one computer

to only one day

of **time-to-solution**

**across** a **new internet**

that is a **new supercomputer**

and a **never-before-seen computer**.

**Before my invention**

of the massively parallel processing

supercomputer

that occurred

on the Fourth of July 1989,

the word “supercomputer”

referred to a supercomputing machinery

that is powered by only one

central processing unit.

**After that invention,**

the word “supercomputer” referred to a supercomputing machinery that is powered by up to ten binary million central processing units.

For me—**Philip Emeagwali**—I explained my contributions to the development of the supercomputer as my **invention** of how to **integrate** millions upon millions of central processing units and how to do so to emulate one seamless, cohesive CPU.

My **virtual** CPU is faster than the fastest vector processing unit that can be manufactured.

I **invented** a machinery that is a supercomputer

in speed, or by definition,  
but yet a **new internet** *de facto*.  
I was asked to be a **prophet**  
and to **prophesize**  
**how the computer will look like**  
**in one thousand years.**

In his book titled  
“**Natural History,**”  
the Roman author **Pliny the Elder**  
explained that the breadth of Asia  
should be “**rightly calculated.**”  
Pliny’s book was written in Latin  
and was published  
between the years 77 to 79,  
or about two thousand years ago.  
The Latin translation for the phrase  
“**rightly calculated**”  
is “**sane computetur.**”  
In that sense, the word “**computer**”  
was first used **2000 years** ago.  
Each generation redefined the word

“computer.”

Our descendants definition  
of the computer  
will change to perhaps become  
**synonymous**

and correspond to our phrase  
“**planetary-sized super-brain  
that enshrouds our Earth.**”

For our post-human descendants  
of Year Million,

I foresee each person  
as a super-intelligent cyborg  
that is part human, part machine,  
and part computer  
with a great sense of humor.

I foresee their super-brain  
as enshrouding even the Solar System  
and as one super being  
that can live forever.

