



World's Fastest Computing Creates New
Computer Sciences****

Transcript of Philip Emeagwali lecture
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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 Philip Emeagwali Computer [Part 3 of 3]

How the Fastest Computer Was Invented?

My Quest for the Fastest Computer in the World

Thank you.

On June 20, 1974, in Corvallis, Oregon, USA, I began my search for the new knowledge of how off-the-shelf processors could be harnessed and used, in tandem, to create the world's fastest computer. I **discovered** that such a supercomputer

will not be a computer, in and of itself.
It will be a **new Internet**, in reality.

I imagined that **new Internet**
as my new global network of processors
that were identical
and uniformly distributed across
the surface of a globe.
But distributed just as
computers are distributed
around the Earth.
My search
for the fastest supercomputer
demanded that I begin
from the beginning, which is
the laws of physics that existed
since the **Big Bang** explosion,
or the **small singularity**,
that **inflated**
over the past **13.8** billion years.
And inflated to become the present
cosmos.

In my two-decade long quest, I **scourged** the history of physics, then of calculus and algebra and mastered the frontiers of knowledge of those three important subjects. That mastery enabled me to harness the total and maximum supercomputing power of my coupled ensemble of the two-raised-to-power sixteen **slowest** processors in the world. Those off-the-shelf processors were designed for a mainstream market, rather than for supercomputing. And they were manufactured in large numbers and for a lower price.

My most significant contribution to computer science is this:

I discovered that a million processors can power supercomputers

In an email, a twelve-year-old writing the biographies of great inventors and their inventions asked me:

“What is Philip Emeagwali known for?”

I'm known for discovering that up to a billion off-the-shelf processors can power the world's fastest computers.

In the 1980s,
I was **ridiculed** for pursuing the then **useless** technology of the **first** world's fastest computing across the **slowest** processors in the world. But by 1989, I was in the news for discovering fastest computing with slowest processing. After my **discovery**,

vector supercomputer scientists
who had ignored me
wanted to become my new best friends.

That **invention** of computing with
millions of processors
put a Black African face
in science classrooms.
And alongside the faces of Galileo,
Isaac Newton, and Albert Einstein.

The Debate on Race and Intelligence

My **contribution** to computer science
was how I chipped away
at one of the **fundamental assumptions**
of the myth of
white intellectual superiority.
Such myths were **sincere fictions**
of the white self.

Fictions that only white males, the likes of Albert Einstein, were endowed with the **intellect** that was needed to make substantial **contributions** to human knowledge. And to solve the **most challenging problems** at the frontiers of knowledge of the fields of mathematics, physics, and computer science. Those **sincere fictions legitimized IQ science** and white power. Furthermore, those **sincere fictions legitimized** white privileges, including favoring the immigration and hiring of Western and Northern European scientists over Black sub-Saharan African scientists. Not only that, those **sincere fictions legitimized**

attacking **affirmative action** policies that would have produced more African-American supercomputer scientists who could have **contributed** to making parallel and quantum supercomputers faster.

Over the decades, those **sincere fictions** became the *status quo*.

I **discovered**

the world's fastest computing across the slowest processors in the world and did so on the Fourth of July 1989.

Before my **discovery**, it was assumed that Albert Einstein is **more intelligent** and more knowledgeable than Philip Emeagwali.

The reverse now holds across genius rankings posted on the Internet.

Historically, the **Black invention**

rarely was understood
in the **racial context** it was made.
Looking back to June 20, 1974,
the day I began programming
one of the world's fastest computers
that was at 1800 SW Campus Way,
Corvallis, Oregon, USA,
the **toughest part**
about being a **marginalized**
Black computer scientist
was that I was expected
to **repress** my **oppressed identity**.
As a mathematical physicist,
I always knew that
the laws of logic and physics
are experienced the same way
by Black and white persons.

2 Why is Philip Emeagwali Famous for the World's Fastest Computing?

How I Solved an Open Mathematical Question

In 1974, I conceived the first world's fastest computing across a new ensemble of sixty-four thousand processors. I visualized my new technology as encircling a globe. And doing so just as what we later called the Internet now encircles the Earth. In May 1981, in College Park, Maryland, I embarked on my mathematical quest for how to solve the most **compute-intensive problems** that needed to be solved on the world's fastest computers. In 1981,

the open mathematical question was this:

“Can mathematicians solve an initial-boundary value problem, such as simulating the flows of crude oil, injected water, and natural gas that are buried up to 7.7 miles. (or 12.4 kilometers) deep And within an oil producing field that is almost twice the size of the state of Anambra, Nigeria? And can we hindcast, or re-forecast, those fluid flows across a new Internet that's a new spherical island of up to a billion off-the-shelf processors? Each processor had its dedicated memory.”

That difficult problem was at the crossroad where new physics, new mathematics,

and new computer science **intersect**.
In the 1980s, the **U.S. government**
classified that problem
as one of the twenty Grand Challenges
in supercomputing.

How to Solve Compute-Intensive Problems

Solving the most **intractable** problems
that arise simultaneously
in mathematics or physics
or computer science
demands a higher mental power
than writing a **poem** or a **play** or a **novel**.
That demand is akin to the belief that lifting
a car demands physical strength.
The research computational mathematician
who can solve or parallel process
the toughest problems that arise

in extreme-scale computational physics is believed to have a stronger brain muscle, or a higher mental power or a higher IQ, than those who cannot.

Solving the most difficult problems in mathematics and physics are the reasons Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein are in the **perennial** list of the smartest people that ever lived.

World's Fastest Computing Solves Compute-Intensive Problems

For me, the early 1980s was my period of a **quote, unquote** “**hand proofs**” that **delineated** my paths from the blackboard to the motherboard.

And across my **new Internet** that I visualized as a new global network of sixty-four binary thousand processors. That was when and why I coded the processor-to-processor email algorithms which I **invented** for solving the resulting huge system of equations of computational linear algebra. That was how I constructed my message-passed 65,536 processor codes. I invented those processor codes for solving the most difficult problems at the frontiers of knowledge of mathematics, physics, and computer science. What made the **news headlines, in 1989**, was that

I executed those 65,536 codes **at once**.
And across
a global network of 65,536 processors
that I visualized as a **new Internet**.

How I Used Slowest Processing to Invent Fastest Computing

In the 1980s, I experimented across
an ensemble
of the slowest processors in the world
and across an Internet
that's a global network of those
processors.

Those processors were identical
and were equal distances apart.

Each processor
had its dedicated **memory**
that **shared nothing**.

I executed my experiments
that yielded the **first**
world's fastest computing across

the **slowest** processors in the world and did so by using the initial-boundary value problems in weather forecasting and in petroleum reservoir modelling and using both difficult mathematical problems as my computational **test beds**. My new speed from my world's slowest processor experiments was the **world's fastest** computation. I recorded that speed at **8:15** in the morning of the Fourth of July 1989, in Los Alamos, New Mexico, **USA**.

I Changed the Way Computer Scientists Think

My supercomputing discovery led to a **new understanding** of how millions of processors

could be harnessed and used
to make the **fastest computer**.

And make the supercomputer practical
in addressing

some of the world's most important
and complex challenges.

Such difficult mathematical problems
include, more accurate weather forecasts,
powering the world with green energy,
manufacturing efficient and safer
automobiles, and personalized medicine
that extends life spans.

That **new understanding**

led to the world's fastest computer
that's not supercomputing
with one processor.

We now **understand**

the world's fastest computer
as supercomputing across
millions of processors.

My major **contribution** to computer science

is this:

I was the first person
to record
the fastest computer speed
and do so alone.

On the Fourth of July 1989,
I was confident that I've **discovered**
the **first** world's **fastest** computing across
the slowest processors in the world.
And that I've solved
the one of the most compute-intensive
problems
in computer science.
In the 1980s, the **first** world's fastest
computing across the **slowest** processors
in the world
was an unknown field of computer science.
I was the only known expert
that could solve
the most compute-intensive problems

in mathematics and physics.
I **discovered** how to solve
the most difficult problems across
up to a billion coupled processors.
That was the reason,
I became the **first person**
to record the fastest computer speeds.
And do so across my ensemble of
65,536 coupled processors.
At first, my discovery
of the fastest computing across
the slowest processors
was **ridiculed** and **rejected**.
Not only that, I was **dismissed** because
non-experts were asked to review
the **fastest computer speed**
which I recorded
across my ensemble of
65,536 coupled processors.
I was the only person
that understood my discovery.
Furthermore, I described that **discovery**

in my 1,057-page research report that only I understood. That should not come as a surprise because I was the **first** and **sole** full-time programmer of the biggest supercomputer ever built. Such supercomputers now occupy the footprint of a football field. And it costs forty percent more than the mile-long Second Niger Bridge in Nigeria. The billion-dollar price tag ensures that supercomputing will never become a child's play.

3 Explanation of the Philip Emeagwali Contributions to Science

Inventing the World's Fastest Computer

Reformulating Philip Emeagwali Equations from Calculus to Algebra

Three often asked questions are:

What is the Philip Emeagwali Computer?

How did Philip Emeagwali invent the world's fastest computing?

How were the Philip Emeagwali equations reformulated from calculus to algebra?

The **nine Philip Emeagwali** equations that I **invented** were abstract and **differential**. And they were the most advanced expressions in calculus and were difficult to understand. I discretized those **partial differential equations** by using **partial difference schemes**

that I invented.

That was how I reduced them from a system of equations of calculus to a **seemingly infinite** system of equations of computational linear algebra which I solved across my ensemble of the **slowest** 65,536 processors in the world.

In the 1970s and 80s, I knew that the world's fastest computer speed was a technological achievement that could be measured in the manner the speed of a marathoner is measured with **tapes** and **watches**.

But in calculus, the **watches are soft** and **genius is subjective**.

How Philip Emeagwali Won the Nobel Prize of Supercomputing

On the Fourth of July 1989,
I was challenged
to submit my discovery
of the world's fastest computing
across the slowest processors in the world
and allow my new knowledge
to be **retested**
by the foremost experts in
supercomputing.
I accepted that challenge
and took my discovery
to a fifteen-day supercomputer workshop
that took place between
September 1 and 15 of 1989
and in the outskirts of Chicago, Illinois.
At that supercomputer workshop,
my discovery was discussed
by programmers who had programmed

vector supercomputers and hoping to program parallel supercomputers. After that fifteen-day supercomputer workshop, a **sense of anticipation** arose from my discovery that the world's fastest computing can be extracted from the slowest processors in the world. By the end of that supercomputer conference, the consensus was that my discovery deserved to be recognized by the highest award in supercomputing for the year 1989. But a few **naysayers** openly challenged me to **re-submit** my discovery to the committee of judges who awarded the most prestigious prize in supercomputing. That award committee was appointed by the two top computer societies

in the world,
The Computer Society
of the IEEE (or the Institute
of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)
and the Association
for Computing Machinery.
In December 1989, I submitted
my scientific **discovery**
of the world's fastest computing
to The Computer Society of the IEEE,
in San Francisco, California.
I won that prize in supercomputing
that computer scientists rank as
the **Nobel Prize of Supercomputing**.
The discovery and the **prize**
generated the *news headlines*:

**“African Supercomputer Genius
Wins Top U.S. Prize.”**

The Significance of Winning the Nobel Prize of Supercomputing

Winning that top supercomputing prize gave me **credibility** and a **handle**.

That most prestigious prize separated me from the other 25,000 vector supercomputer scientists.

A coveted prize was the **quote, unquote** “**scientific evidence**”

that my supercomputer discovery of how to execute

the world's fastest calculations and do so across up to a billion coupled processors.

And solve

the most **compute-intensive problems** in mathematics and science.

It was an undeniable proof

that I made an **original contribution** to the development

of the world's fastest supercomputer that now computes faster with millions of processors. That top supercomputing prize made me stand out in the community of prominent mathematicians and top physicists.

How I Won the Top Supercomputing Prize Alone

My discovery of the first world's fastest computing across the **slowest** processors in the world **changed the way** mathematicians and physicists use the supercomputers to solve compute-intensive **problems** in their fields.

My **discovery** of supercomputing across the slowest processors was new knowledge that inspired vector supercomputer scientists to **change the way** they look at the fastest computers.

The chances of a supercomputer scientist winning the highest award in supercomputing, and winning that prize alone, was only one in 25,000.

With the exception of myself, that most prestigious award, or diploma, in supercomputing was shared by up to fifty supercomputer scientists.

Fifty names were inscribed on their award diploma.

It was like fifty persons sharing one diploma.

Being “First” is Better Than “Best”

In the 1980s,
I was the only full-time programmer
of the most massively parallel
supercomputer **ever constructed**.
That supercomputer is the **precursor**
of the world's fastest computer of today.

Being the “**first**” person
to discover something
is better than being the “**best**” person
in doing that thing.

On July 4, 1989, I became the **first** person to
discover that parallel computing
is faster than sequential computing.
It's faster when both technologies are used
to solve the world's

most compute-intensive problems, such as modeling climate change.

That breakthrough opened the gate to the widespread use of millions of processors to power the world's most powerful supercomputers.

In 1989, I stood out because I was the **first person** to win the highest award in supercomputing.

And win it alone.

I was the **first person** to win that prize for solving the most **compute-intensive problem** in supercomputing.

This year, the highest award in supercomputing was shared by twenty-eight (**28**) co-winners.

That prize enabled me to **stake** massively parallel computing

as **Philip Emeagwali Territory**,
and as the place
where the fastest computers exist.
My scientific discovery
of world's fastest computing
was **validated and replicated** across
the ensemble of millions
of processors that define and outline
state-of-the-art supercomputers.
The forty-five billion dollars a year
market value
of the world's fastest computers
affirms the importance
of using up to a billion processors
to power every supercomputer.

It should be noted that the

world's fastest computing
is the supreme validation
of a new supercomputer

A scientific discovery is a personal property that becomes public property, **if and only if**, it's disclosed to the public. I transferred the ownership of my discovery of the world's fastest computing across the slowest processors in the world and signed it over on three disclosure occasions: July 4, September 15, and December 25 of 1989. The scientific community responded to those disclosures of my discovery and did so by awarding me the highest award in supercomputing. That **supreme validation** was **time stamped** for the year 1989.

4 How I Invented the Philip Emeagwali Internet

Fastest Computing Across an Internet

Emeagwali YouTube Channel

I've shared a thousand videos on YouTube.

My videotaped lectures are my **compression** of five decades of scientific research into a series of one-hour remarks. It's akin to **compressing** my life story into a **parable**.

I couldn't describe everything that I know within one thousand hours. I only presented the **crux** of my **contribution** to my **new Internet** that's a new **supercomputer**, intrinsically. It costs more than a **billion dollars**

to create the **world's fastest computer**.
But it costs **nothing** to listen to my lecture
on how I **discovered**
how to execute
the fastest computer speed.
And how to do so across
up to a billion processors
which outline and define
the world's fastest computer.

I Invented a Small Copy of the Internet

For me, June 20, 1974, in Corvallis, Oregon,
USA, was the beginning of my long train of
thoughts and **experiments** across
a new spherical island of
65,536 off-the-shelf processors
and standard parts.
Those processors were identical.
I visualized those processors

as **uniformly distributed** across a globe.

I defined my ensemble

of **coupled processors**

as a never-before-visualized Internet

that **encircles a globe.**

And that's a small copy of the Internet

that encircles the Earth.

In 1989, I was in the news

because I **discovered**

how to harness my **new Internet.**

And use the new technology

as one seamless, coherent,

and gigantic machinery

that's the world's fastest computer,

in reality, but not a computer,

in and of itself.

I didn't invent

my **new Internet** in one day,

back on June 20, 1974.

How I Discovered that Parallel Processing Enables Computers to be Fastest

Nor was I **instantaneously** struck with the **nine Philip Emeagwali equations**. I solved my system of **partial differential equations** beyond the frontier of calculus. And I solved them via their companion **partial difference equations** of large-scale computational linear algebra. I solved them in my **thoughts**. And solved them during the **experiments** that I executed across my ensemble of 65,536 processors. Those processors were identical and surrounded a globe as a new Internet. The **inklings** of parallel computing

I had in 1974
grew from a **mere acorn**
to a **mighty oak tree**
that was the fastest computation across
a new Internet.

The new Internet is a new global network
of **coupled processors**
sharing nothing
and **uniformly distributed** around a globe.

It made the **news**
because I discovered
how to harness those slow processors
as a supercomputer.

On the Fourth of July 1989,
I discovered how to use
up to a billion processors
to solve the most
compute-intensive problems
in mathematics and physics,
such as global climate modeling.
In the 1970s and 80s,
harnessing one million processors

and using them to solve the **most compute-intensive** mathematical problems was supercomputing's equivalence of being the **first person** to **summit Mount Everest**.

As an aside, the first climbers who made it to the top of **Mount Everest** did so in 1953.

Since then, only **five thousand** climbers climbed to the summit of **Mount Everest**.

By comparison, **only one person** **single-handedly** recorded the world's fastest computer speed across the slowest processors in the world.

Philip Emeagwali Milestone in
Computer History

In high-performance supercomputing, recording the world's fastest speed is the most coveted **milestone**.

In the 1980s, the fastest speed in computing recorded across the slowest processors was a **milestone** that 25,000 supercomputer scientists dreamt to achieve.

That fastest parallel supercomputer was a **milestone** in the history of mathematics and computer science.

I was the **first** and **only person** that **benchmarked** that milestone, **successfully**.

I benchmarked it on the Fourth of July 1989.

Fastest Computing Across an Internet

It made the **news headlines** that a Nigerian supercomputer genius in the USA had recorded the **fastest** speed in the history of computing. I recorded that speed across the **slowest** processors in the world. And I recorded that speed while solving the most **compute-intensive** problems in the world.

To put my supercomputer invention from a literal perspective, writing a novel or a book takes a couple of years. And up to one million new books are published each year in the USA alone. And **reading** and **critiquing** my supercomputer invention—of how

the **fastest** supercomputer can be built with the **slowest** processors— is as easy as spending time on **Facebook** or **WhatsApp**.

The **grand challenge** in deeply understanding my **contribution** to the highest-performance supercomputing

was to spend

a billion dollars to reconstruct

the massively parallel supercomputer

that will be needed to **re-create**

my world's fastest computation.

And, most importantly,

test that world's fastest computation

on production

petroleum reservoir simulations

that are executed across millions

of off-the-shelf processors.

And, finally, **re-create** that fastest speed

as **mandated** by the **scientific method**

that characterized natural science since the 17th century.

Why We Changed the Way We Look at the Computer

My **scientific discovery** of the fastest computing across the **slowest** processors **changed the way** mathematicians solve the twenty **most difficult mathematical problems** in science, engineering, and medicine.

And changed it from solving one problem at a time to solving up to a billion problems at once. Changing the way **we count** is a **fundamental change**

of tectonic proportions.

And a shift that has occurred only once in the two hundred thousand years of the existence of humanity.

5 How Are Supercomputers Used?

I Invented Fastest Computing from Slowest Processing

In the 1980s,

I used more supercomputers

than any person ever did.

I alone

was the only full-time programmer

of sixteen

massively parallel supercomputers

that were each powered by

up to the 65,536 slowest processors

in the world.

The massively parallel supercomputers

of the 1980s
were **abandoned** because
they were then **mocked, ridiculed,**
and **dismissed**
as a tremendous waste **of everybody's**
time.

Back then, the supercomputer textbooks
wrote that it would **forever**
remain impossible to solve
the most compute-intensive problems.

And solve them
at the **fastest** speeds.

And solve them across
an ensemble of the **slowest** processors
in the world.

In 1989, I was in the news because

I proved everybody wrong
and did so by solving

the most **compute-intensive** problems.

And solving them

with the **slowest** processors

and solving them at the fastest possible

speeds.

That was how the fastest computing across the slowest processors became my **signature discovery**.

And became one reason

I'm the subject of biographical essays on famous inventors and their inventions.

Contributions of Philip Emeagwali to Computer Technology

My **contributions** to developing the **world's fastest computers** were these:

I **discovered** that a binary billion processors that were locked together can be programmed to emulate one seamless, coherent machinery that's a supercomputer, in reality.

A **binary billion**

is two-raised-to-power-32,

or **4,294,967,296**.

I **discovered** that

the number of processors needed

is proportional

to the compute-intensiveness

of the mathematical problem.

More often than not,

the most compute-intensive problems

arise as **variations in physics calculations**,

particularly in **geo**physical

and **astro**physical fluid dynamics.

The physics roots

as well as the mathematical

and computational structures

of the global climate model

differs slightly from that of the

petroleum reservoir simulation.

I presented reservoir simulation

in my 1989 discovery

for which I won
the highest award in supercomputing.
Climate and reservoir modeling
are the **prototypical** problems
of large-scale **geophysical**
and **astrophysical** fluid dynamics.

The New World's Fastest Computing Changed Supercomputing

The supercomputer enables
medical and scientific discoveries
to occur at the fastest pace.
It's used to pull the future closer.
The world's fastest computers
were used to discover
how COVID-19 spreads.
My **discovery**
of the world's fastest computing
across

the slowest processors in the world made the news headlines in 1989. And made it impractical to continue selling outmoded supercomputers that were powered by only one processor. Within five years after my discovery, the manufacturers of vector supercomputers couldn't sell that technology. For those reasons, they ran out of funds, laid off their employees, and filed for bankruptcy protection from creditors and filed it under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Federal Bankruptcy Code.

What is the New World's Fastest Computer?

The world's fastest computer

is not a child's play.
It occupies the footprint of a football field.
It costs forty percent
more than the mile-long
Second Niger Bridge in Nigeria.
It's the world's most complex invention.
The world's fastest computer
is powered by up to
one billion processors.
Each processor had its operating system.
Each processor shared nothing
with its nearest-neighboring processors.
That **first supercomputer**
that's used to solve the toughest
mathematical problems
and solve them fastest across
the slowest processors
is described
as the most complex creation
of the human mind.

The Nigerian Oil Fields

Nigeria has **159** oil **fields**.

And **1,481** oil **wells**.

The first oil field in West Africa was discovered in 1956 in **Oloibiri** (Nigeria).

The oldest oil well in Nigeria was sunk in 1958.

Oloibiri was a fishing and farming community, that is a distance of 45 miles (**or 72.4 kilometers**) east of Port Harcourt.

The Oloibiri oil field covered an area of 5.31 square miles. Only half of the crude oil discovered in **Oloibiri** was recovered, or rather was **recoverable**.

Twenty years after that first oil well in **Oloibiri** was sunk,

that first oil field in Nigeria was abandoned.

The warning from Oloibiri is that the 159 producing oil fields of Nigeria will dry out in twenty or thirty or forty years.

In fifty years, Nigeria will not be an oil-producing country. And Nigeria will be dismissed from OPEC, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

6 Philip Emeagwali Computer Described

Why is Philip Emeagwali Known for Fastest Computers?

The Influence of Calculus on the Fastest Computer

I'm often asked:

What is the Philip Emeagwali computer?

Why is Philip Emeagwali known for fastest computers?

What is the influence of calculus on the development of the computer?

In June 1970,
I **claimed**, or rather **reclaimed**,
my mathematical language.
And I did so when I bought

the 568-page blue hardbound book that was titled:

“An Introduction to the Infinitesimal Calculus.”

That calculus book was written by G.W. [George William] Caunt. And published by Oxford University Press.

In developing the world's fastest computer, calculus was the pink elephant in the room that nobody wanted to talk about.

The secret to my 1989 world's fastest computing was that I discovered how to **divide-and-solve** the most compute-intensive problems in calculus.

I divided it into an equivalent set of less compute-intensive problems

that I solved across my ensemble of 65,536 processors. My processors computed in tandem and were in dialogue with each other. At first and in the 1970s, I was confused because I did not know where each processor was located at. The one vertex of a sixteen-dimensional cube to one-processor correspondence gave me an intuitive understanding of where each processor was located. That new knowledge enabled me to record the fastest speed in computer history.

In the history of the computer, we expect the next generation of computers to be ten times faster. I discovered a billion-fold increase in the speed of the world's fastest computer

that's powered by a billion processors.
To invent a supercomputer
is to take a big risk
and leapfrog into the future.

Contributions of Philip Emeagwali to Mathematics

An often-asked question was this:

“What is Philip Emeagwali known for?”

I'm known as the **first person**
that **figured out** how to solve
the most **compute-intensive** problems
that are important to society.
Such **intractable** problems
are governed by a system of coupled,
nonlinear, time-dependent,
and three-dimensional
partial differential equations
that are beyond the frontier of calculus.

Such **partial differential equations** must be **discretized**, or reduced, to an almost equivalent system of equations that's the largest in computational linear algebra. I was in the **news** because I was the **first person** that parallel processed across an ensemble of sixty-four binary thousand off-the-shelf processors that were **identical** and **coupled** to each other.

Why I Created New Mathematics

In the 1970s and 80s, I thought of myself as a research computational mathematician searching for the world's most powerful supercomputer.

In those two decades,
my goal was to execute
the fastest floating-point
arithmetic operations
that must be used to solve
the world's most compute-intensive
problems
in science, engineering,
and medicine.

That was how and why
I searched for and discovered
the fastest arithmetical computations.
And searched for and discovered
new algebraic knowledge.
And searched for and discovered
new partial differential equations
of calculus.

I'm Philip Emeagwali.

I create new equations
the way Bob Marley writes new songs.

I sing in the **mathematical dialect**
of the universe.

How I Solved Compute-Intensive Problems

My quest for new mathematical knowledge
was a personal search
for the lost language of God.

In my quest for the **never-before-seen**
supercomputer

that's the fastest ever,

I encoded the Second Law of Motion
of physics

into the **partial differential equations**
of calculus.

I then discretized those

partial *differential* equations

into corresponding and approximating

partial *difference* equations

of large-scale algebra.
Finally, I developed
my 65,536 computer codes
which I used in a **one-code to one-problem**
corresponding manner.
And used to solve
each of my 65,536 subsets
of those systems of equations
of large-scale algebra.
I translated the world's biggest
mathematical problems.
And did so from prose
to the supercomputer cycles
which I executed to solve
those **compute-intensive** equations
that would otherwise be **impossible**
to solve.

How I Visualized the World's
Fastest Computer

In 1989, I was in the news because I was the **first person** to **figure out** how to compute across two-raised-to-power sixteen, or sixty-four binary thousand, **quote, unquote** "little computers," called processors, that surrounded a globe. I visualized my globe as embedded within the 16th dimensional **hyperspace**. My ensemble of processors **encircled that sixteen-dimensional globe and did so in the way the Internet encircles the Earth**. My supreme quest for **ultrafast** computations from the world's fastest computer was like launching 65,536, or two-raised-to-power sixteen, digital arrows into the unknown sixteen-dimensional **hyperspace**.

Each arrow carried an email message to a sixteen-bit-long address and across sixteen times two-raised-to-power sixteen pathways that had a **one-to-one** correspondence with as many bidirectional edges of the cube in the 16th dimensional **hyperspace**.

Philip Emeagwali and the World's Fastest Computer

Visualizing the world's fastest computer that I **discovered** in the 1980s and imagining the technology as a new Internet within the 16th dimension was published as **science fiction**, back on February 1, 1922. But on the Fourth of July 1989, I **figured out** how to turn that **fiction**

to **nonfiction**. Fastest computing across slowest processors is my **contribution** to the supercomputer that occupies the space of a soccer field. And it costs more than the mile-long Second Niger Bridge in Nigeria.

In my supercomputing, I computed in parallel, rather than in sequence, or solved up to a billion problems **at once**, rather than solve one problem **at a time**.

How I Want to Be Remembered

I was asked:

“How do you want to be remembered?”

The contribution of Philip Emeagwali to the development of extremely fast computers

is this:

I was in the news, in 1989,
for discovering that
the world's fastest computers
must be powered by
up to one billion processors.
Prior to my discovery
that occurred on the Fourth of July 1989,
the fastest computing across
the slowest processors,
existed only in **science fiction**.

I want to be remembered
for the **first** world's fastest computer
that was powered by
the slowest processors in the world.
I'm studied in schools because
I'm the **first person**
to know **some things** in mathematics,

physics, and computer science
that were not known to anybody before me.
My quest
for the world's fastest computer
was like **flirting** with the **infinite**.

First Witness of a New Supercomputer

Looking back, my failures
were the price that I paid
for my successes.

Short-term failures are necessary,
but not sufficient conditions,
for long-term successes.

My **contribution** to computer science
is this:

I was the **first witness**

to the **fundamental shift**
that yielded our new understanding
of the world's fastest computer.

The new supercomputer is an ensemble
of up to a billion processors
that each operated its operating system.

I recorded the world's fastest
computer speed.

More importantly, I did so
while solving the most important
and most compute-intensive problems
known to humanity.

And solving them **across**
a new Internet.

My Internet was a new global network
of the **slowest** processors
in the world.

I visualized my supercomputer as **outlined** and **defined** by two-raised-to-power sixteen off-the-shelf processors that each had its dedicated **memory**. Furthermore, I visualized those processors as equal distances **apart**. Likewise, I visualized those processors as **etched** onto the hypersurface of a globe. I visualized that globe as embedded within a sixteen-dimensional hyperspace. That global network of processors is called the Philip **Emeagwali** **Internet**.

Not only that, I fulfilled my part of the **tacit** requirement that every scientist—from Einstein to Emeagwali—who contributed to science must share his or her **new knowledge**

on YouTube.

How I Want to Be Remembered

In an email, a fourteen-year-old writing an essay on famous scientists and their discoveries asked me to describe [how I want to be remembered](#).

As an aside, ninety-five percent of my supercomputer research notebooks that began on June 20, 1974, in Corvallis, Oregon, USA, are [unpublished](#).

But they should be published and remembered.

I want my [unpublished](#) writings, handwritten notes, unpublished lectures, and conversations to be digitized, duplicated, and archived

in the USA.

They should be made public in Nigeria
on my 200th anniversary,
or on August 23, of the year
twenty-one fifty-four [2154].

I want to be remembered
for discovering how to map
the complex problems of physics across
the millions of processors
that power the world's most powerful
computers.

I want to be remembered for discovering
how to solve mathematical problems
that will be otherwise unsolvable,
both on the Earth and in the heavens.

Thank you.

I'm Philip Emeagwali.

Further Listening and Rankings

Search and listen to Philip Emeagwali in

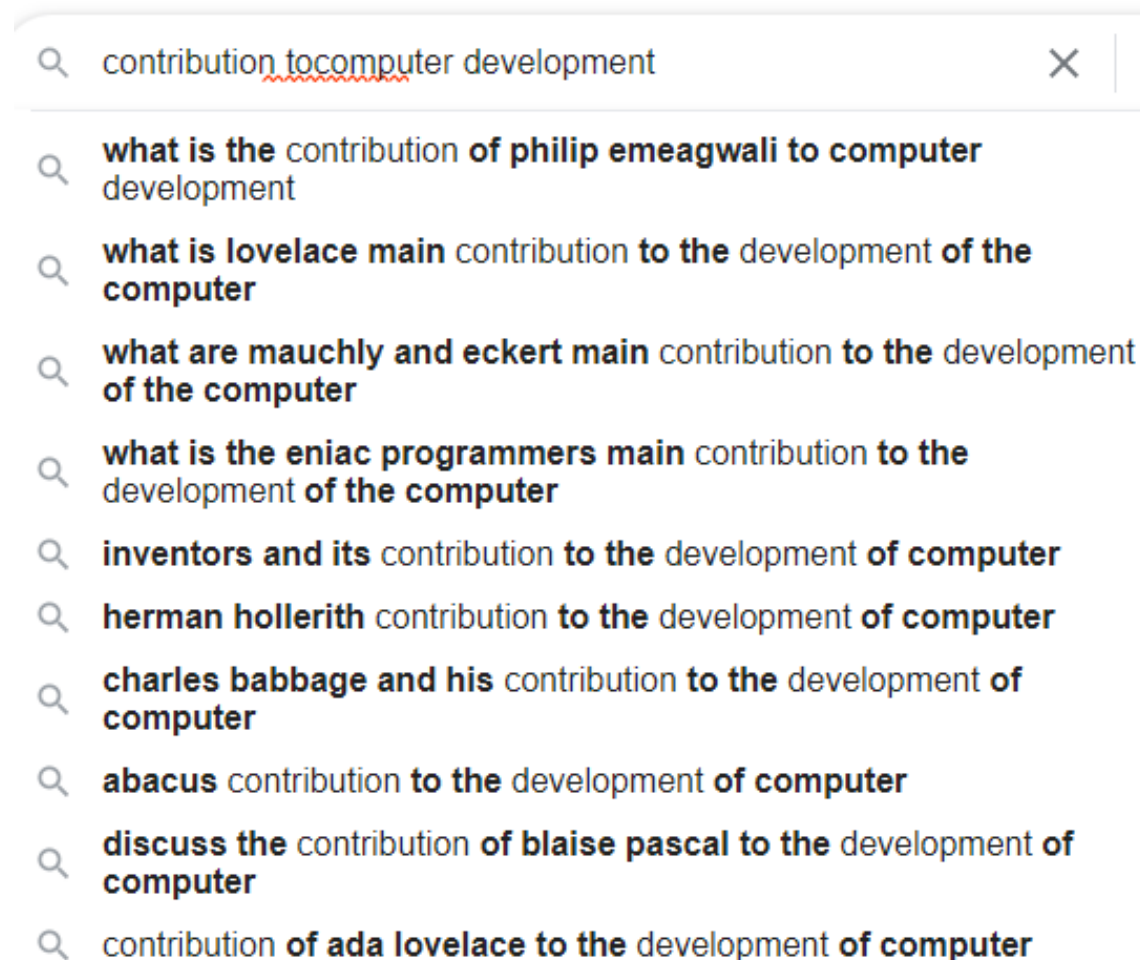
[Apple Podcasts](#)

[Google Podcasts](#)

[Spotify](#)

[Audible](#)

[YouTube](#)



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).



My Account of the Bloodiest Battle Scenes in African Warfare



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."

Watch the video at:

<https://youtu.be/8uLUKL7Ph8M>

Transcript of Philip Emeagwali lecture
210928-2of4

Thank you.

I'm Philip Emeagwali

▪ Why I Left Nigeria for the USA

My Untold Story of Why I Left Nigeria

I'm often asked to explain why I left the southeastern region of Nigeria for Oregon in the Pacific northwest region of the **United States**.

I decided to leave Nigeria six months after its 30-month long war was over. I left before significant petrodollars flowed into Nigeria.

I was a Biafran refugee who dropped out of school from ages twelve to fifteen. And dropped out of school again from ages seventeen to nineteen.

I dropped out to live in **refugee camps** of **Biafra** of the Nigerian Civil War. **One in fifteen** Biafrans **died** during that 30-month-long war. More Igbos died in Biafra than during the era of slave trade. In the list of the **worst genocidal crimes** of the 20th century that was **committed against humanity**, the death of **one in fifteen** Biafrans was **ranked fifth**.

I left Nigeria for the USA because I wanted to stay afar from Biafra.

Back in June 1970 and at age fifteen, in Onitsha, East Central State, Nigeria, I was confident that my school grades and scores in the American

Scholastic Aptitude Tests, called SAT, will guarantee me a scholarship to the **USA**.

The scholarship letter that brought me to Oregon, **USA**, was dated September 10, 1973.

So, I had even wanted to leave Onitsha for Oregon earlier, in May 1973.

I missed the September deadline and postponed my travel to mid-December 1973.

Yet, I didn't have a travel passport until December 28, 1973.

For those reasons, I changed the date of my visa interview to March 1974.

The U.S. consulate in Victoria Island, Lagos, issued me a visa on March 21, 1974, which I picked up the following afternoon.

Twenty-four hours later,
at three o'clock in the afternoon
of Saturday March 23, 1974,
I was pacing inside
the Ikeja Airport of Lagos, Nigeria.
In 1976, that airport was renamed
the **Murtala Muhammed**
International Airport.
Two hours later, I had taken a seat
in a **Pan Am** aircraft
for my first airplane flight.

That flight to the **USA**
was an **overwhelming** experience.
Forty-eight hours
after I left our compound
that was adjacent to
Uzoigwe Primary School, Asaba, Nigeria,
I was in 36 Butler Hall, Monmouth, Oregon.
My flight to Portland, Oregon,

included a brief stopover
at the John F. Kennedy airport.

One Day We Had to Run from Africa's Bloodiest Battlefield!

Prior to my first airplane flight,
of March 23, 1974,
from the Ikeja Airport of Nigeria,
the closest I came to an aircraft
was to the Russian-made
MiG-17 jet fighters that **strafed** Onitsha,
Biafra, with its machine gun fire.
Those Russian military aircrafts
were purchased by the Nigerian Air Force
and flown by foreign mercenary pilots.
The war policy of the Nigerian Air Force
was to bomb first
and ask questions later.

In Biafra, we used bombed out buildings that were surrounded by rubbles as our playgrounds.

In the last thirty months of the 1960s, the Russian-made **Ilyushin IL-28** jet bombers dropped bombs on hospitals, markets, and refugee camps in Biafra.

The Russian jet fighters and bombers flew to Onitsha from the airports in Benin City and Port Harcourt.

In early 1968, the **MiG-17** jet fighters and the **Ilyushin IL-28** jet bombers frequently raided our refugee camps in the *Énú Onicha* neighborhood of Onitsha, Biafra.

In February 1968 and at 14 Mba Road, Onitsha, I was almost killed

from a hail of machine gun fire
from a **MiG-17** jet fighter
that took off from Benin City.

The following month, we fled from Onitsha.
And the house at 14 Mba Road, Onitsha,
that we fled from
was bombed to rubbles.

From the eight-day non-stop
artillery bombardments
of downtown Onitsha,
that began on October 4, 1967,
to the capture of Onitsha
that occurred on March 20, 1968,
half of the residents of **Énú Onicha**
quarters
of Onitsha
were refugees from the **Fegge**
and **Odoakpu** quarters
of Onitsha.

During the eight-day, non-stop
artillery bombardments
of Fegge and Odoakpu,
my family of nine fled from our house
at 4B Egbuna-Adazie Street, Odoakpu.
We sought refuge in the house
of my maternal grandfather,
Chieka Balonwu,
at 6C Wilkinson Road, *Énú Onicha*.
On the eighth day, fifteen thousand
heavily-armed Nigerian soldiers
crossed the River Niger to land in Onitsha.
The Nigerian Army captured
downtown Onitsha.
At five o'clock in the morning,
I witnessed Nigerian soldiers
engaging Biafran soldiers
in fierce gun battles
at Metropolitan College.
And fighting to capture

the Obi Okosi Primary School
that was converted
as the Onitsha headquarters
of the Biafran Army,
which was right next to our residence.

Woken up by non-stop,
all-night gun firings, I stepped outside
at four o'clock that morning
of October 12, 1967.

I saw two Biafran soldiers
huddling in my maternal grandmother's
cocoyam yam, behind 6C Wilkinson Road.
My grandmother passed away
nine months earlier
and her farm was untended.
I saw both soldiers removing
their Biafran Army uniform.
And changing into civilian uniform.
Thirty minutes later,

I saw those two Biafran soldiers,
fleeing with refugees along Awka Road.
And towards
Saint Charles **Borromeo** Hospital
and towards Nkpor.
In mid-October 1967
and in downtown Onitsha,
fifteen thousand soldiers died
within a few days of **close combat fighting**.
That was the reason,
a thousand Biafran soldiers
changed into civilian clothes
and fled with refugees.
My mother was then twenty-eight years
old. She fled with her seven children
to seek refuge in the house
her mother, *Obam Okudo*, was born.
The Okudo family house
was seven-mile-walk
and at **Nkwelle Ogidi**.

As we were fleeing from Onitsha and in the early morning of the 12th of October 1967, I witnessed a **house-to-house gun battle**.

I saw a Biafran soldier **crouched** in a brush that was a stroll away and at the intersection of Wilkinson Road and Metropolitan College. That Biafran soldier was firing his automatic **Setima** rifle at presumably Nigerian soldiers who were trying to capture the Biafran military headquarters. Four months earlier and like all schools in Biafra, Obi Okosi Primary School and the nearby Metropolitan College

were closed.

Schools were converted into Biafran military barracks and refugee camps.

Unknown to us, Biafran refugees, fifteen thousand Nigerian soldiers, that took no prisoners at nearby Asaba, were everywhere in Onitsha.

- [Asaba Dance of Death | Nigeria Biafra Civil War](#)

Five days earlier in Asaba, on October 7, 1967, seven hundred [700] unarmed male civilians were gunned down and buried in mass graves. Unarmed civilians were gunned down

at **Ogbe-Eke** Market Square, Asaba,
at **Ogbe-Osowa**, Asaba,
at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, Asaba,
at Saint Patrick's College, Asaba,
and at Cable Point, Asaba.

Colonel Murtala Mohammed,
the future President of Nigeria,
was the commanding officer
of the Nigerian soldiers
that gunned down those seven hundred
unarmed civilian men.

After the **Dance of Death** killing spree,
Asaba was described as a ghost town.
And as a town with women
and no men.

Please allow me to quote

the “*London Observer*”
issue of January 21, 1968.

“The greatest single massacre
occurred in the Ibo town of Asaba,
where 700 Ibo males
were lined up and shot.”

That was the reason we fled from
the advancing Nigerian soldiers
during the “**First Battle of Onitsha.**”
On the early morning of October 12, 1967,
and after eight-days of non-stop
artillery bombardments
that originated from the west bank
of the River Niger at Asaba,
fifteen thousand Nigerian soldiers
made a surprise landing.
And for a few days
captured the east bank of the River Niger
at Onitsha.

Throughout the 30-month-war, the advancing Nigerian Army **outgunned** and **outmanned** the retreating Biafran Army by four to one.

Each Nigerian soldier in that bloody Onitsha battle, that costs the life of fifteen thousand soldiers, was heavily armed to the teeth.

In the ensuing gun fighting and **pandemonium**, of the early morning of October 12, 1967, we the *Ndi Onicha* refugees of **Umuasele** Village, fled in the opposite direction and away from downtown Onitsha. My family began our flight along Wilkinson Road. Thirty seconds along Wilkinson Road,

a spent rifle bullet shell
fell a few inches in front of my feet,
proving that Nigerian soldiers
were in our backyards.

We rested for a few days
in Nkwelle Ogidi, before fleeing deeper to
Awka, Biafra,
and in November 1967.

On the 19th of January 1968,
Awka was captured by Nigerian soldiers.
We barely escaped.
My family fled from Awka
and sought refuge
in my paternal uncle's house
at 14 Mba Road, *Énú Ọnịcha*.

Back in October 1967, in Onitsha, Biafra,
we were fleeing from
the heavy **artillery bombardments**

that were originating from the West Bank of the River Niger at Asaba.

Those **artillery bombardments**

drove the refugees

as well as some soldiers

out of downtown Onitsha.

The Nigerian **artillery bombardments**

quote, unquote “softened” Onitsha

for their follow-up man-to-man

military offensive that began on

October 12, 1967.

On the latter date, **dare-devil**

Colonel Murtala Muhammed

led a **terrifying amphibious assault**

of a Nigerian ten-boat armada

that ferried fifteen thousand

well-armed soldiers

across the River Niger,

and from Asaba to Onitsha.

After eight days of non-stop

artillery shelling,
those fifteen thousand Nigerian soldiers
fiercely engaged poorly-armed
and fewer Biafran soldiers.

The fighting was house-to-house
and lasted from October 4th through 12th,
1967.

Those **artillery bombardments**
of Onitsha

were executed under the guidance
of the future president of Nigeria,
Colonel Murtala Muhammed.

The portrait of Murtala Muhammed
is on the Nigerian twenty naira currency.
He's the namesake of Nigeria's
Murtala Muhammed International Airport.

The aircraft bombing raids of Onitsha
were at their peak
in the few days before March 20, 1968,

the day the city was captured.

Egyptian pilots flew the **Ilyushin IL-28** jet bombers.

And pilots of European ancestry flew the MiG-17F jet fighters.

The **MiG-17F** was flown by sixteen foreign mercenaries, such as the former UK's Royal Air Force pilot John Palliser

and South African RAF trained pilot **Ares Klootwyk** and Briton Paul Martin.

As a British mercenary pilot, Mike **Thompsett**, was extravagantly paid one thousand British pounds per month.

That was almost one thousand times the salary of a Nigerian soldier.

In February 1968, the 36-foot-long **MiG-17** jet fighter

was routinely flown past our temporary residence

at 14 Mba Road, Onitsha, Biafra.

The **MiG-17** was flown by the mercenary pilot Mike **Thompsett**.

MiG-17 was a high-subsonic aircraft that was first flown in 1950.

Throughout that 30-month-long war which ended on January 15, 1970,

the Biafra Army

did not possess anti-aircraft missiles or Air Defense Systems.

But children hear better than adults.

And warned us when the **MiG-17** was three miles away.

Children not dogs,

heard the jet engine whines of the **MiG-17**.

Children alerted the adults

whenever the Nigerian jet fighter or bomber

that departs from Benin City

is flying from downtown Onitsha to uptown Onitsha.

Those alarms from children gave us time to scramble into our underground bunkers.

And do so before the **MiG-17F** jet fighter arrived in our neighborhood.

We sought refuge inside an **underground bunker**

that was besides the house of Uncle John Emeagwali at 14 Mba Road, Onitsha.

That house was destroyed during the Nigerian **artillery bombardments**

that were aimed to drive the Biafran soldiers away.

Those **artillery bombardments** made it easier for the Nigerian Army to capture Onitsha

and overran the commercial city by the early morning of March 21, 1968. About four hours earlier, that house—at 14 Mba Road—was **razed** to the ground by the Nigerian **artillery bombardments** that were fired from Abagana to Onitsha. My family of nine **narrowly escaped** death. We escaped to Oba (Biafra) and from a **soon-to-be-bombed** house. And did so in the late evening of March 20, 1968. That night, we were among the ten thousand Onitsha refugees that slept at the Merchants of Light School, Oba, Biafra. At about four o'clock in the morning, there was a huge influx of refugees who alerted us of the heavy fighting in Onitsha.

Fearing for their lives, all the refugees that camped outdoors overnight at the Merchants of Light School, took flight to Nnewi, Nnobi, and Awka-Etiti.

So we fled from 14 Mba Road, Onitsha, and did so only four hours before the Nigerian soldiers began to heavily bombard and enter into the city of Onitsha.

- [Surviving a MiG-17F Jet Fighter That Shot At Me](#)

The [MiG-17F jet fighters](#) that bombed Onitsha were marked Nigerian Air Force [NAF 623](#) or 625. That jet fighter had a top speed of

711 miles per hour
and a range of **510** miles.

The **NAF 625** takes off from Benin City.
After Port Harcourt was captured,
it took off from that city.

One of the bloodiest fighting
of the Nigerian Civil War
lasted two months, two weeks,
and two days.

That heavy casualty fighting
was from March 8, 1968
through May 24, 1968.

The Nigerian Army was victorious,
and finally, captured the important city
of Port Harcourt.

My ancestral hometown of Onitsha, Biafra,
was captured two months earlier
and on March 20, 1968.

On July 19, 1969,
and after an extended air raid within Biafra,
that **MiG-17F** that shot at me
and did so while I was tending
my small garden at 14 Mba Road, Onitsha,
ran out of fuel
and **crashed** 200 yards short
of its runway in Port Harcourt.
The only casualty was its only occupant,
the British mercenary RAF pilot,
named Mike **Thompsett**, who shot at me,
sixteen months earlier
at 14 Mba Road, Onitsha.

As a souvenir, I kept the hot **23 x 115** mm
shell casing
from the **NR-23** cannon
that the **MiG-17F** jet fighter
fired at me.
That big jet fighter shell casing

landed one foot beside my feet.
That shell casing was very hot
when I first picked it up.

Recollections from Fred Merryfield, a Captured World War One Pilot

Fast forward seven years from 1968
and from Onitsha, Biafra,
to Corvallis, Oregon, USA,
I was living with a former pilot
named Fred Merryfield.
Fred co-founded
the engineering firm CH2M, back in 1946.
Nearly six decades before
I met Fred Merryfield,
he was also a Royal Air Force pilot
who was shot down
in the first World War.

Merryfield suffered severe injuries that made it **impossible** for him to father children.

His company, CH2M, now employs 20,000 persons and has a revenue of five billion dollars a year. So, Fred Merryfield was a **man of means** and wisdom.

I lived with the British-born Fred Merryfield and his also British-born wife, Anne, from late 1975 to early 1976.

They had no children.

Anne was thirty-one years younger than Fred Merryfield.

Three of us lived in their beautiful mansion at **2540 SW Whiteside Drive,**

Corvallis, Oregon.

4 Early Life of Philip Emeagwali

Travel Books that Influenced Philip Emeagwali

I was asked what books inspired me to travel to the USA.

At age nine, I read what my father read.

My father subscribed to two Nigerian newspapers, the *West African Pilot* and the *Daily Times*.

He also subscribed to two American magazines, the *Reader's Digest* and the *Rosicrucian Digest*.

As an aside, the *Rosicrucian Digest* describes

Sir Isaac Newton as a mystic

and an alchemist,
just as I've been labelled
a member of the *Illuminati*,
a secret society of celebrities
that use their fame, wealth, and power
to control the world.

In mid-1964 and at age nine
in Agbor, Midwest Region, Nigeria,
my father bought for me the novel
“*Gulliver's Travels*.”

It was subtitled:
“Travels into Several Remote Nations
of the World.”

“*Gulliver's Travels*”
was written by Jonathan Swift.

In late 1964, I read a second novel
“*The Pilgrim's Progress*.”

It was subtitled:
“From This World,
to That Which Is to Come.”

“*The Pilgrim's Progress*”
was published in the year 1678.
And was written by John Bunyan.
At one time,
“*The Pilgrim's Progress*”
was second only to the Bible
in popularity.
“*The Pilgrim's Progress*”
was the first novel to be written
in the English language.

In early 1966
and in Saint George's Grammar School,
Obinomba,
Midwest Region, Nigeria,
I read the novel called “*Treasure Island*”
that was written by

Robert Louis Stevenson.

Looking back to my formative years,
my literary and scientific role models
were from far away **England**,
not from **Nigeria**
that was my country of birth.

Saint John's Primary School, Agbor

My interest in fast calculations
began at age nine
in January 1964, in **Agbor**, Nigeria.
The fastest calculations that I did
was solving
one hundred arithmetic problems
in an hour.

I practiced fast calculations
every weekday evening
and in the living room of our house

that was along Gbenoba Road, Agbor.
In 1964, I was in Class Five
of Saint John's Primary School, Agbor.
As a ten-year-old, my goal
was to score the highest
in the mid-1965 Nigerian
common entrance examination.
And, hopefully, enroll
in [King's College](#), Lagos.
Or in Saint Gregory's College, Lagos.

That entrance exam
was the Nigerian equivalent,
for ten-year-olds,
of the American Scholastic Aptitude Test,
called SAT.

In December 1965, I earned my
Standard Six Certificate,
called the [First School Leaving Certificate](#),
from Saint John's Primary School,

in Boji-Boji, Agbor.

Saint George's College, Obinomba

My entrance examinations of mid-1965 Nigeria were for the January 1966 entries into King's College, Lagos; Christ the King College, Onitsha; and Saint Patrick's College, Asaba. Nigeria followed the British naming system which used the word "college" to describe what Americans call middle and high schools, or 7th through 12th grades.

To my father's surprise, I was not admitted into King's College, in faraway Lagos.

Or into any academically rigorous college that he ranked as top five in Nigeria.

Towards late 1965, I was hurriedly admitted into [Saint George's College, Obinomba](#).

The school was an hour's drive away from Agbor.

I enrolled in Saint George's in late January 1966

and a few days after the military coup in Nigeria.

Fifteen months later, the counter coup and civil uprisings forced me to withdraw from Saint George's College.

The school was a new Catholic boarding school that was competently managed by an Irish priest named [Thomas Brendan Kennedy](#) who was born in Cork, Ireland.

Saint George was the 3rd century patron saint of England.

And a Roman soldier and warrior-saint who was **decapitated**.

▪ School Named After Famous Scientists

Post-colonial African schools are named after African-born heroes, such as **Cheikh Anta Diop** and **Obafemi Awolowo** universities.

Africans are learning from the French people who wear their history of science on their sleeves.

Dozens of streets in **Paris**, France, are named after French scientists who contributed to science.

Boulevard Louis Pasteur was named after the 19th century biologist

who discovered **pasteurization**,
microbial fermentation,
and the principles of vaccination.

On September 30, 2010,
I had a day-long urban hike
through the streets of **Paris**, France.
I learned that nearly one hundred **Parisian**
streets, boulevards,
and squares
were named after French mathematicians.
I'm a 21st century mathematician
who is the subject of biography reports
that are titled "**famous mathematicians
and their contributions.**"
I'm studied alongside mathematicians
like **Pythagoras**, Blaise Pascal,
Isaac Newton, and Albert Einstein.
For me, it was a **surreal experience**
to stroll across streets named after
French mathematicians.
And realize that in a thousand years

a mathematician will be driving across
“**Philip Emeagwali Road**”
in Nigeria or USA.

Catholic Influences on Philip Emeagwali

At ages eleven and twelve,
I was an altar boy who helped the priest
during a Catholic service.
I was trained as an altar boy
by a Catholic priest,
named **Thomas Brendan Kennedy**.
On Sunday mornings,
I travelled with Reverend Kennedy.
We travelled from **Saint George's College**,
Obinomba,
to small Nigerian villages, such as
Obiaruku, **Umutu**, Abavo, and **Abraka**.

From late January 1966

through late April 1967,
I sang in the Catholic church choir
of the small villages named
Obinomba and **Obiaruku**.

We sang **Gregorian Chants**,
the traditional Catholic music
in Latin texts.

My favorite was
Dies Irae, Dies Illa.

As an eleven-year-old altar-boy
in the Catholic church,
Thomas Kennedy was my role model
and I considered becoming a priest.

▪ One Day We Had to Run!

At age twelve and in late April 1967,
my mother suddenly showed
up in Saint George's College, Obinomba.
I knew she came to take me away because
the Igbos living outside Igbo land

were fleeing back to Igbo land.
Talks of a **bloody civil war** were in the air.
I fled, with my mother,
from Obinomba to our residence
at the Nurses' Quarters, General Hospital,
Agbor.

The following day, my family fled to
4B Egbuna-Adazie Street,
Odoakpu Quarters, **Onitsha**.

On October 4, 1967, the Nigerian Army
at the west bank of the River Niger
began eight days of continuous shelling
of the Fegge and Odoakpu Quarters
of Onitsha.

That shelling caused all the residents
of downtown Onitsha to flee.

Over the next twenty-seven months,
my family fled through eight refugee camps
in **Ogidi**, **Awka**, **Énú Onicha**, Oba, **Nnewi**,
Awka-Etiti, Ndoni, and **Fegge (Onitsha)**.

After the War Was Over

In April 1970 and three months after the Nigerian Civil War was over, I found it **awkward** and **demoralizing** to return to **Saint George's College**, Obinomba.

And re-enroll in Class Two and be three years behind my former classmates who were then in Class Five.

The Nigerian Civil War forced me to repeat Class Two for the four years that were inclusive of January 1967 through December 1970.

I did not return because it was **humiliating** to be three years behind my former classmates

at [Saint George's College, Obinomba](#).

Fast forward nineteen years,
I was in the [news headlines](#),
for my 1989 supercomputer discovery.
The [Old Boys](#), or alumni society,
of [Saint George's College, Obinomba](#),
sent their congratulations.
Because I didn't return to Obinomba,
after the war was over
they presumed
that I was [one of the one](#) million Biafrans
who were [starved to death](#)
in refugee camps
or who were killed
in my ancestral hometown of Onitsha
that became the [bloodiest battlefield](#)
in the history of African wars.
When the Nigerian Civil War ended,
on January 15, 1970,
and after thirty months of fighting,

one in fifteen Biafrans had died!

Christ the King College, Onitsha

I decided not to be **humiliated** by spending four years at the eighth grade of Saint George's College, Obinomba. Instead, I enrolled in mid-1970 as a new student in **Christ the King College, Onitsha**, called **CKC**. However, I didn't finish at **CKC**. In March 1972, I left **Christ the King College** and after a year and a half, or after completing the American equivalent of the ninth grade.

- ## How I Won a Scholarship to America

One and a half years after I left [Christ the King College](#), I won a scholarship to the [United States](#). My scholarship letter was dated September 10, 1973.

[That scholarship changed my direction, from Nigeria to USA.](#)

[About ten days later, I was in Lagos for the first time.](#)

To put my sense of accomplishment in perspective, after the brutal 30-month-long war was over and in the early 1970s, I could not name an eighteen-year-old in Igbo land that won an academic-based scholarship

to the USA. I qualified myself to win a scholarship to the USA. I was an independent scholar who returned from Ibuzor, Midwest State, to challenge the General Certificate of Education examinations of the University of London. It was an entrance examination to the University of London that, in reality, became my high school diploma. I never earned the standard secondary school diploma, called the West African School Certificate. The reason was that only those registered in a secondary school can register for the West African School Certificate examinations.

My Struggles as a Drop-Out Student

I left **Christ the King College**, Onitsha, in March 1972, to study alone in **Ibuzor**, Nigeria, and do so until late October 1972. Ironically, I earned the Advanced Level General Certificate of Education diploma that was dated November 1972 and earned it from the West African Examination Council. I earned it in both mathematics and physics. Furthermore, I earned the Advanced Level diploma before I earned the Ordinary Level diploma that was dated January 1973 and issued by the University of London. The Advanced Level diploma was two years of study

ahead of the Ordinary Level diploma.
So, I was two years ahead
of my former classmates,
in the extremely competitive
Christ the King College, Onitsha.

University of London in 1973

In early 1973, I was determined
to leave Nigeria.

But I didn't have a Nigerian mentor
or a contact in the **USA**.

My calling cards to American schools
were my test scores
from the **University of London's**
entrance examination.

And from the American TOEFL
(or Test of English as a Foreign Language),
American SAT (or Scholastic Aptitude Test)
and Achievement tests.

My strengths were in mathematics

and physics.

I had only one shilling which I spent to buy postage to only one American school, in Monmouth, Oregon.

Yet, I expected to overcome the one in a million odds and win a scholarship to Oregon, **USA**.

My scholarship letter that was dated September 10, 1973, was sent from Monmouth, Oregon, **USA**, to my address in Asaba, Nigeria.

In 1973, I was living at 6C Wilkinson Road, Onitsha.

But it wasn't a reliable postal address for receiving a scholarship letter from the **USA**.

For those reasons, I received my letters from the **USA** in care of James Emeagwali, my father, then working as a nursing superintendent

at the General Hospital, Asaba.
So my letters from the **USA**
were sent to me at
the General Hospital, Asaba, even though
I was never **hospitalized** in Nigeria.

Getting a Student Visa to USA

For the six months
following September 21, 1973,
I made several trips
from near the General Hospital, Asaba,
to the post office in Onitsha.
I came to Onitsha
to mail important letters,
such as my scholarship acceptance letter,
to the **USA**.

I made that four-hour trek because
I didn't have faith
in the post office in Asaba.
Furthermore, I made trips
to the Student Advisory Committee

of the East Central State
Ministry of Education, Enugu.
I journeyed to Enugu
to get a clearance letter
that asserted that
my proposed field of study
was not available in Nigeria.
That clearance letter was my pretext
to study in the **USA**, instead of in Nigeria.
After receiving my clearance letter,
I travelled to
the Nigerian passport office
at 27 Kakawa Street, Lagos.
The Chief Passport Officer in Lagos
had a reputation
as the most corrupt man in Nigeria.
I had my **F-1** visa interview
on March 20, 1974.
I was interviewed by **Mr. Glasl**,
the Consular Officer
at the U.S. Embassy, Lagos.

After a six-month delay
in getting my Nigerian passport
and my American F-1 “student” visa,
I left my hometowns
of Asaba and Onitsha [Nigeria]
for my new residence
at 36 Butler Hall, Monmouth, Oregon.

My Last Day in Nigeria

On the early morning of Saturday,
March 23, 1974, when I left Onitsha
via the Midwest Line Bus,
Abuja, the future capital of Nigeria
wasn't in my vocabulary.
In 1974, Abuja wasn't on the map of Nigeria.
Half a century later,
I have yet to visit Abuja.
I have never visited Northern Nigeria.

Thank you. I'm Philip Emeagwali

Further Listening and Rankings

Search and listen to Philip Emeagwali in

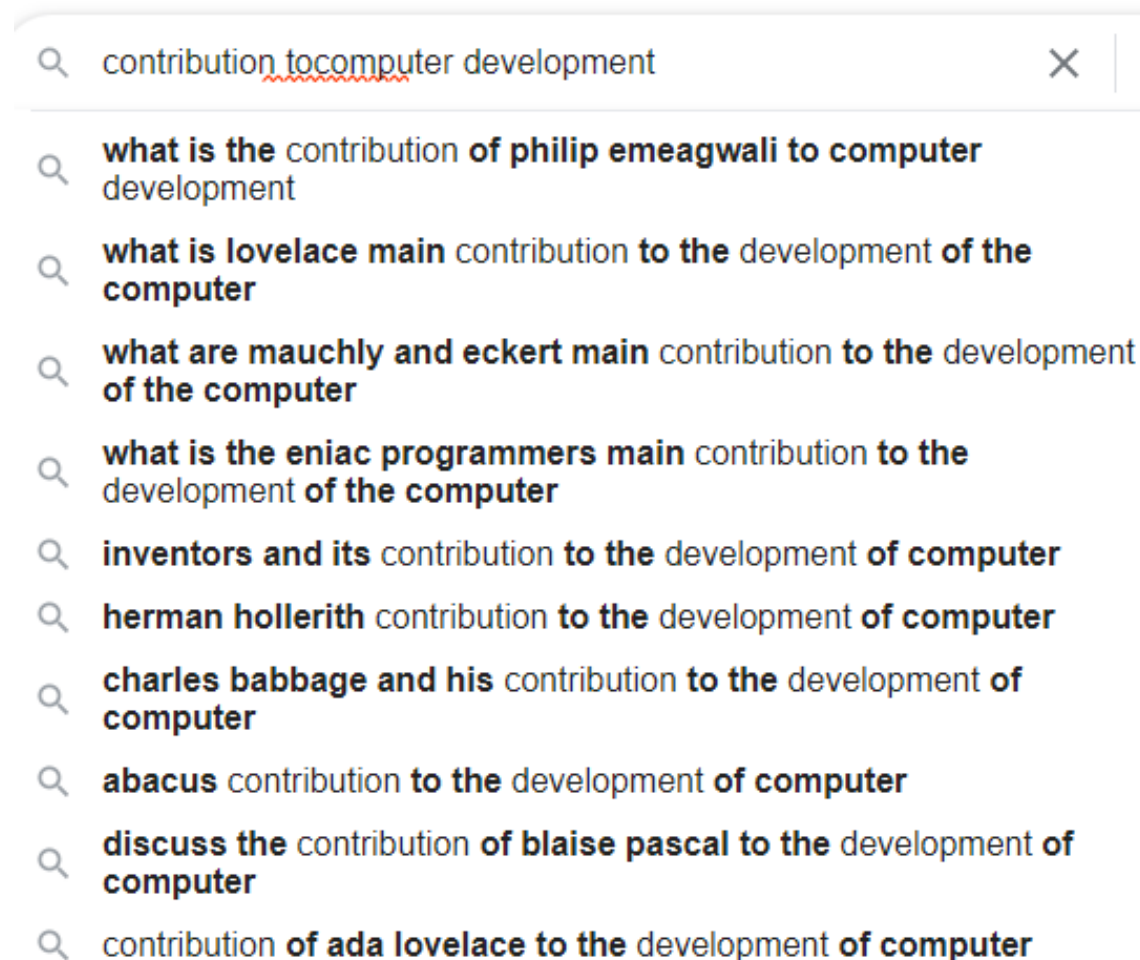
[Apple Podcasts](#)

[Google Podcasts](#)

[Spotify](#)

[Audible](#)

[YouTube](#)



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).



8 Why I Left Nigeria for the USA



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.”

Watch the video at:

https://youtu.be/r8M_5By8QfQ

Transcript of Philip Emeagwali lecture
210928-3of4

Thank you.

I'm Philip Emeagwali

▪ How I Came to the USA in March 1974

My First Airplane Flight

My Last Night as a Nigerian

“Who is Philip Emeagwali?

And why is he in the USA?”

Thursday, March 21, 1974, was an important date in my life. The previous night, I slept on a thin mat on the bare concrete floor of a tiny room in the backyard of 49 Okesuna Street, Lagos. I came to the U.S. Embassy in Victoria Island, Lagos, to pick up my travel passport that was stamped with an

F-1 “student” visa
that was approved
twenty-four hours earlier.

After picking up my F-1 “student” visa,
I took a taxi that was a five-passenger
Peugeot 404 Sedan
and travelled from
Lagos Motor Park
to Asaba main market.

From three o'clock in the morning,
I made the perilous, lengthy trek
to my parent's house
that was along Nnebisi Road.

Their compound, in Asaba,
was next to that of a Catholic priest
named Patrick Ugboko.

Their rental two-bedroom apartment
was a short stroll past

[Asaba Girls Grammar School](#)
(called AGGS)

and adjacent to [Uzoigwe](#) Primary School
that was near Saint Patrick's College

and General Hospital, Asaba.
That night, I slept for only two hours.
Then I spent the next twelve hours
dashing around to get a traveler's check
of **134** dollars
from the Barclay's Bank
that was near Bright Street, Onitsha.
Then, I returned library books
to Onitsha Public Library.
Finally, I hugged my friends and relatives
at 6 Wilkinson Road, Onitsha.
That evening I returned to Asaba
to spend my last night
with my parents and siblings.
After late-night conversations
with my parents
and a two-hour sleep,
I woke up at five o'clock in the morning
of Saturday, March 23, 1974.
My flight to Portland, Oregon, USA,
required that I arrive at
the Ikeja Airport of Lagos.

And be there in ten hours,
after I woke up.

I was then nineteen years old
and had never seen an airplane
that was parked on the ground.

From Biafra to USA

My first thought of studying in the USA
began four years earlier,
in mid-1970 at age fifteen
when I was living along Venn Road,
Onitsha, Nigeria.

After the Nigerian Civil War ended
on January 15, 1970,
the economy of Onitsha
was in total shambles.

And coming to the USA
in the early 1970s
was a far-fetched dream

that evoked laughter
whenever I mentioned it.
Their laughter stopped
after I received
a scholarship from Monmouth, Oregon.
That scholarship took effect
from September 10, 1973.

Around seven-thirty [7:30]
in the morning
of March 23, 1974, I said good-bye
to my parents and to the five
of my seven siblings
that were still at home.
I also said good-byes
to tenants in our compound.
At about five o'clock that evening,
I boarded a Pan American aircraft
for my 36-hour flight
from the Ikeja Airport of Nigeria
to the airport in Portland, Oregon.
My Lagos-Portland flight was 36-hours

long because it included four stopovers in Monrovia (Liberia), **Dakar** (Senegal), and New York City, and Chicago.

In early 1974, only a few Africans travelled to the USA.

For that reason, my Pan Am flight originated from **Addis Ababa**, Ethiopia.

To fill up the airline seats, it picked up passengers

from one or two stopovers, in perhaps Kinshasa, Congo.

And then pick up about a dozen passengers in Lagos, Nigeria.

As an aside, Pan Am built many of the original airports in West Africa.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, **Pan Am** and **BOAC**, the acronym for the British Overseas Airways Corporation—were the two major airlines that served Africa.

How I Came to the Oregon, USA

Preparing for the USA

The idea of coming to the USA came into my mind in mid-1970 at age 15.

One late school day afternoon, I saw my classmate at Christ the King College, Onitsha, Chris Chiedu Okwudili.

Chiedu held a tiny pamphlet that piqued my interest.

It was a slim college brochure from MIT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.

That MIT brochure was where I got the idea of coming to the USA.

But it seemed far-fetched

at the time and place,
which was about six months
after the Biafran War ended
and the Onitsha economy
was **completely ruined**.

I expected to come to the USA because
I was considered a top student, and,
therefore, assumed that
I will be offered a scholarship to MIT
or Harvard.

Fast forward to September 10, 1973,
I got a scholarship to Oregon, USA,
and, for that reason,
I never applied to MIT or Harvard.

In late May 1973,
and three months before
I got a scholarship to the USA,
we had an extended family meeting
at 6 Wilkinson Road, Onitsha.
That was the compound
of my maternal grandfather,

Chieka Balonwu.

That meeting was chaired by my maternal uncle (Orofo Balonwu) and maternal aunt (Nkemdilim Azuokwu).

The purpose of that meeting was to persuade me to give up my unrealistic ambition to study in the USA.

In May 1973, I was eighteen years old and unemployed.

If I was gainfully employed in 1973, my lifetime salary couldn't even pay for my first year of study in the USA.

So to my uncle and aunt and everyone else, traveling from Onitsha (Nigeria) to the USA

and raising the travel, tuition, and boarding funds to live and study in America

for four years
and doing them in May 1973
seemed as **far-fetched**
as Nigeria aiming to send
a Nigerian astronaut to the Moon.
For those reasons,
my uncle and aunt cautioned me
to be realistic in my ambitions
and to, instead, lower my expectations.
And continue my studies
in Nigerian universities
then only admitting
about a thousand students a year
into campuses in the six cities of Lagos,
Ibadan, Ife, **Zaria**, Benin City,
and **Nsukka**. In contrast,
the **USA** has five thousand universities.

My USA Visa Requirements

By mid-September 1973,
I was jobless, restless,
and killing time at 6 Wilkinson Road,
Onitsha, that was located a short stroll
from the Metropolitan College.
If I am not in Onitsha, I might hang around
the neighbourhood
of Saint Patrick's College (Asaba).
Or be at 41 Bishop Anyogu Road, Enugu.
On my nineteenth birthday,
it seemed my chances of coming
to the **USA** had all but **vanished**.
My **biggest obstacle**
to coming to the **USA** was this:

I had to receive an **F-1** "student" visa
from the **Consulate General of the USA**
in Lagos (Nigeria).

A student visa to the **USA**
was extremely difficult to get.
Legend has it that

only one **F-1** “student” visa was issued in a day, in 1973, and at the **USA** Embassy in Lagos (Nigeria).

The minor requirements for an **F-1** “student” visa to the **USA** included the Nigerian passport that was then very difficult and very expensive to obtain.

I paid the equivalent of two years’ salary to the Nigerian Chief Passport Officer at 27 Kakawa Street, Lagos.

Officially, my payment was a refundable “**repatriation fee.**”

But my repatriation fee went into the personal bank account of the Nigerian Chief Passport Officer. Other minor student visa requirements were passport-sized photos, immunization records, and medical reports.

Until late September 1973,

I couldn't even pay for the passport-sized photos that were required by the U.S. **Consulate General**.

In the 1973

post-Nigerian Civil War economy, it seemed **unrealistic**

that I could pay in advance the required one year's

tuition and **board**

and then provide

my personal bank accounts with enough money

to pay **for four** years' **tuition** and **board** in the **USA**.

And do them before age nineteen and at a time

I couldn't afford the bus fare

to travel to the Nigerian passport office that was at 27 **Kakawa Street**,

Off Broad Street,

behind Bookshop House,

Lagos Island, Lagos.

- **Why I Came to Oregon, USA**

My First Job as a High School Teacher in Nigeria

By late May **1973**, I was relenting on my ambition to study in the **USA**.

I was unemployed.

In May 1973, three teachers at Asaba Girls Grammar School told me that I was qualified to teach mathematics and physics in their school.

In my search for a job, I traveled seventy miles away from Onitsha to the Ministry of Education in Enugu, East Central State, Nigeria.

University of London

To apply for a job in the Nigeria of 1973, a formal resume, completed job application form, letters of reference, and background investigations weren't required.

In June 1973 and at age eighteen, I was offered a job to teach mathematics and physics in an all-girls secondary school in *Umudioka*, East Central State, Nigeria. I got the teaching position by merely presenting my diplomas, both the General Certificate of Education at the Ordinary and Advanced Levels. I received the first diploma

from the [University of London](#)

in January 1973

and after five external examinations

in as many subjects

that I took in Onitsha.

I received the second diploma

called the General Certificate of Education

at the Advanced Level.

I received that Advanced Level diploma

from the [West African](#)

[Examination Council](#) in November 1972

and by external examinations

that I took in Onitsha. Ironically,

I was awarded

the Advanced Level diploma

before the Ordinary Level diploma.

That was as unusual as earning

a master's degree

before the bachelor's degree.

Why I Was a Self-Taught High School Teacher

In March 1972,
I was an independent student
living **behind** and **between**
the General Hospital
and the Catholic church
at Ibuzor, Midwest State, Nigeria.
I studied alone and hard.
I was confident.
Not only that, I also took my examinations
in reverse order.

Fast-forward a year to May 1973,
I was **unemployed** and **socializing**
with three secondary school teachers
that were living in our compound
in **Asaba**, Nigeria.
Asaba is the sister city to Onitsha.
Asaba was on the **western edge**

of the River Niger.

The three secondary school teachers that I was socializing with told me I was qualified to teach mathematics and physics in their school.

In fact, I was surprised to learn that, even though I was only eighteen years old, that I was just as qualified as they were.

With that information, I saw myself in a new and positive light. And encouraged by their recommendations, I traveled to the Ministry of Education, in Enugu, **East Central State**.

To teach in Asaba, I had to apply in person in the Ministry of Education, in Benin City, the capital

of **Midwest state**.

East Central State was my first choice because I had made several trips to Enugu.

And I was always welcomed to stay with my mother's cousin, Mrs. Eunice Ndulue, who lived upstairs at 41 Bishop Anyogu Street, Enugu.

In late May 1973,

I applied to teach mathematics and physics in any secondary school in East Central State, Nigeria.

A week after I applied, the Ministry of Education in Enugu posted me to teach mathematics and physics

at an all-girl's secondary school in Umudioka, East Central State.

That girl's school

was nine miles outside Onitsha

and seems to have been renamed,
to perhaps,
Saint Kizito Girls Secondary School.

I was eighteen years old
when I presented myself
to the principal and vice-principal
of the girl's secondary school
in Umudioka. I introduced myself
as the school's newest teacher
for mathematics and physics.
The girls were pleased to see me.
But the principal wasn't pleased that
an 18-year-old boy
was sent to teach 18-year-old girls.
I sensed the female teachers
giving me the **cold shoulder**.
That was the reason I abandoned
the science teaching position
at the girl's secondary school
in Umudioka.

How I Won a Scholarship to the USA

My **rejection** as a teacher in **Umudioka** left me **jobless**.

But it gave me the free time to **daydream** about coming to the USA.

I traveled to Enugu to read and research

in the one-room British Council Library and in the much larger **East Central State** Library.

I was one of the few dozen patrons that were given borrowing privileges at the Onitsha Public Library and at the British Council Library in Enugu.

In late May 1973,

I made a significant discovery

inside the reading room
of Saint Patrick's College, Asaba, Nigeria.

That reading room
had only one hefty book and one desk.

The book was called
“[The College Blue Book.](#)”

That 1970 edition
of [The College Blue Book](#)
was a comprehensive listing
of all the two thousand universities
in the USA.

Fifty years later, [The College Blue Book](#)
expanded to become
a comprehensive guide
to 12,000 institutions.

[The College Blue Book](#)
featured extensive information
on admission requirements, tuition fees,
scholarships for U.S. citizens,
student life, and essential information
that a prospective student

should know.

In late May 1973, I was **unemployed** and, therefore, I had the time to write letters of inquiry to American schools.

In early 1973, the first person I knew by name who was living on the continent of North America was a pen-friend, a teenager named **Audrey Freake** who was living in St. John's, a city on **Newfoundland** island off Canada's Atlantic coast.

I lost touch with **Audrey Freake** but four and a half decades later, when I tried to once again re-establish contact with her, I learned that a teenager named **Audrey (Marie) Freake** born in 1956

in St. John's, **Newfoundland**, Canada,
died on July 21, 1974,
in St. John's, **Newfoundland**,
and died four months after I arrived
in the **USA**.

In 1973, I preferred to study
in the **USA**, not in England
or West Germany or Canada.

- **A Black in an All-White Town**

**How It Feels to be Black in White
Spaces**

First Impressions of the USA

My problem was that, in 1973,
I had no contacts in the **USA**.
Nor did I know any person
who traveled to the **USA**.

I couldn't name five Americans of African descent.

In January 1974, I saw a Black American, for the first time.

He was a young marine, guarding the gate of the U.S. Embassy in Lagos.

In February 1974, I was briefly staying at 49 Okesuna Street, Lagos.

I came to Lagos, from Onitsha, to seek an **F-1** "student" visa.

I had won a scholarship to study in Oregon, USA.

As a diversion, my former classmate in Christ the King College (Onitsha, East Central State),

named Chude Ukpabi,

and I, went to see the new movie "*Shaft*."

That movie was an eye-opener.

It was the first time I watched the USA and Black America on a giant screen.

To say that “*Shaft*” impressed me will be an understatement.

My First Contact in the USA

As a prospective student to the **USA**, **The College Blue Book** that I discovered in Saint Patrick's College, Asaba, provided me the vital information that I badly needed.

In late May 1973, I had only one shilling, or twelve pence, in savings.

The postage cost to the **USA** was nine pence.

So I had only one shot at one of the two thousand institutions in the **USA**.

Using my intuition on which school

is most likely to award me a scholarship, I wrote to [Stan Kenyon](#), a university registrar, in Monmouth, Oregon, USA. I had obtained [Stan Kenyon's](#) contact from [The College Blue Book](#) that was the only book in the only reading room in Asaba of May 1973. Because I was unemployed, I didn't have another nine pence to write a second letter to the [USA](#) which will double my chances of coming to America. For that financial reasons, I gave up on applying for university admission to the two thousand schools in the [USA](#).

Living in One of the Whitest States in the USA

As a Black African-born supercomputer scientist in the U.S. who conducted his research alone, my **wilderness years** were from June 20, 1974, in Corvallis, Oregon, through July 4, **1989**, in Los Alamos, New Mexico. During my decade and a half as a supercomputer scientist, I felt like the **rebel** scientist **punished** and **exiled** to the **inhabitable** region and the **frigid winters** of the **Russian Siberia**.

Programming the World's Fastest Computer

On the Christmas Day of 1989,
the year I won the highest award
in supercomputing,
I was alone and I programmed
the 65,536,
or the two-raised-to-power sixteen,
slowest processors in the world
and across an Internet
that's a global network of those
processors.

I programmed my sixty-four (64)
binary thousand processors
to solve as many
initial-boundary value problems
in mathematical physics.
I discretized and reduced
each of my problem
to a system of equations

of computational linear algebra.
That was my
mathematical representation
of a physical problem—such as
the problem of **foreseeing**
the climate change
that can occur within a region
of the atmosphere of the Earth
or the problem of **predicting**
the sea level rise within a region
of the oceans of the Earth.

Why I Ended My Exile in Supercomputing

On Christmas Day of 1989,
I programmed for sixteen hours.
And I ate only peanut butter sandwiches
and apples for my lunch and dinner.
It was on the thirty-first (**31st**)
of December 1989

that I ended my **exile**
to the unknown field of knowledge
that was then in the realm of **science**
fiction.

And now known as
the world's fastest computing.
I ended that **exile** in 1989
because I won the highest award
in supercomputing
that computer scientists refer to
as the Nobel Prize of Supercomputing.
That was the highest acknowledgement
of a person's contribution
to supercomputing.

For those reasons, I received my first
significant media attention.

I also received the attention of scientists
who **rejected** my contributions
to the world's fastest computer.

For years, most computer scientists
mocked the technology
of using the world's slowest processors

to attempt the world's fastest computing and dismissed it as a tremendous waste of everybody's time.

Today, the world's fastest computer is powered by millions of off-the-shelf processors, instead of one custom-manufactured processor.

That paradigm shift, or change in the way we look at the supercomputer, is my contribution to computer science. And computer science textbooks have been revised to account for the new definition of the world's fastest computer.

- A Black Supercomputer Geek in an All-White Town
 - A Retrospective Look at the World's Fastest Computer

During the 1970s and 80s,
my **contribution**
to parallel supercomputing
—the key technology that powers
the **world's fastest computers**
—was **rejected** a dozen times.
If **rejection** was an Olympic game
I would have won its gold medal.
I began programming
the world's fastest computers
on June 20, 1974.
And began by programming
a scalar supercomputer
that was at 1800 SW Campus Way,
Corvallis, Oregon, USA.
Seven years earlier, that supercomputer

was rated as
the **world's fastest computer**.

In Corvallis, Oregon, I stood out because,
the Pacific northwest region
was one of the **whitest regions**
in the U.S.

Hence, **Oregonians** that never met me
presumed that I was White.

I Did Things Backwards, Sometimes

Often, I did things backwards.
Just like I earned
the General Certificate of Education
at the Advanced Level
before earning that certificate
at the Ordinary Level,
I won a scholarship
to a university in Oregon
and did so six months before

I was admitted into that university.
I applied for admission
when I received a scholarship
from the **USA** that was
dated September 10, 1973.
**That scholarship letter
was my turning point.**
After I arrived in the **USA**,
on March 24, 1974,
I discovered that Stan Kenyon
worked behind the scenes
to get me that scholarship.

A Black in a Nearly All-White Town

In late March 1974,
I was one of only three Nigerians
that were living in the small town
of Monmouth, Oregon.
In 1974, Monmouth

was a **strikingly** old-fashioned, tight-knit community of six thousand persons that had no resident Black family. Monmouth had no public transportation, including a bus service. Monmouth is within the **Willamette Valley**, an area that has lots of bike trails **winding** through **covered bridges** and **scenic back country** roads. In 1974, it was against the law to sell alcohol in Monmouth, Oregon.

In Oregon, a question that I was often asked was this:

“Where are you from?”

“Nigeria, Africa,” I answer.

“Why did you choose Monmouth,
instead of New York?”

I learned about Monmouth
in May 1973
and from [The College Blue Book](#).
It was the only book
in the reading room
of Saint Patrick's College, Asaba, Nigeria,
a secondary school that was a short walk
from my residence.
I picked Monmouth, Oregon,
because my [intuition](#) told me to start
from a very small town.

A World Without the Fastest Computers

When I began supercomputing,
back on June 20, 1974,
in Corvallis, Oregon, [USA](#),

I did not know anybody that was interested in physically executing the fastest computing in the world. And doing so across the slowest processors in the world and across an Internet that's a global network of those processors. But if they existed elsewhere, I could count them on the fingers of one hand. In 1974, the term "supercomputer scientist" was not in any computer science textbook. There were no journal articles on a world's fastest computer that's powered by a million processors. No textbooks. No courses. No research grants. No conferences.

A radical change on how we look at the supercomputer occurred on July 4, 1989. It occurred because my 65,536 **slowest** processors in the world **defeated** the fastest computer in the world. And defeated it by an **overwhelming margin**. And defeated it by solving the most compute-intensive problems at the crossroad where the frontiers of mathematics, physics, and computing intersect. Inventing the world's fastest computer demanded a deep knowledge of the most complicated mathematics. That was the precondition to harnessing millions of processors at once

and to solving
the most compute-intensive
mathematical physics problems.

I'm the subject of school essays because
I conclusively provided the **quote, unquote**
"final proof"

that harnessing up to a billion processors
that outline a supercomputer

is a **viable path** to finding the answers
to some of the **biggest questions**

at the frontiers of

21st century science and medicine,

such as

deeply understanding how COVID-19

spreads across Nigerian buses

that pack passengers like sardines.

I **discovered** that

the **first** supercomputing across

the world's slowest computers

is not **science fiction**.

My **discovery** made the **news** because

I was the **first person**

to answer the **most difficult mathematical question**

arising at the intersection of physics and computer science.

If just one processor **stumbled**

all one billion processors would fall at once.

The world's fastest computation

that I executed on July 4, 1989,

and across the world's slowest processors was the **final proof**

that supercomputers should be powered by up to one billion processors.

I'm Philip Emeagwali.

Thank you.

Further Listening and Rankings

Search and listen to Philip Emeagwali in

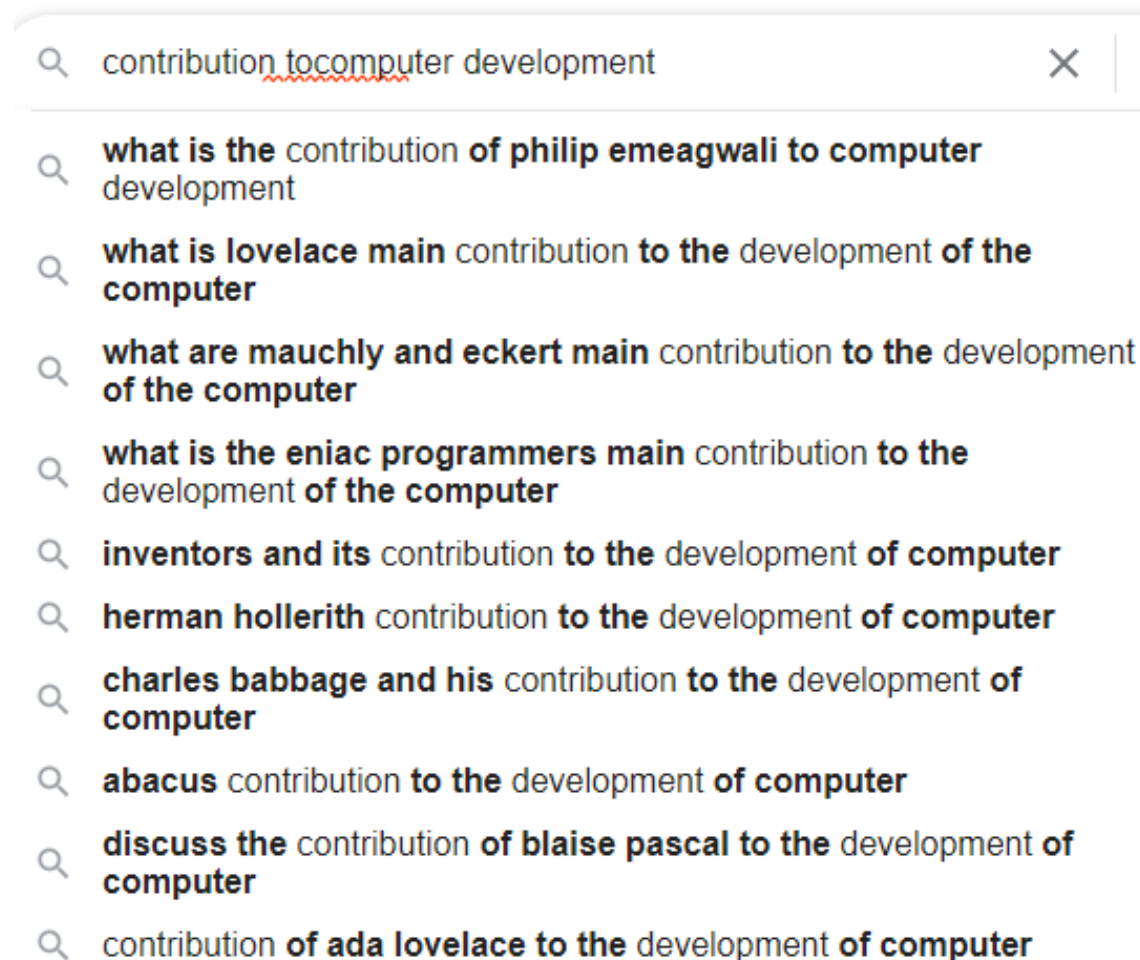
[Apple Podcasts](#)

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[Spotify](#)

[Audible](#)

[YouTube](#)



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).



9 How I Began Supercomputing in 1974



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.”

Watch the video at:

<https://youtu.be/ARhYcCoM3pg>

Transcript of Philip Emeagwali lecture 210928-4of4-

- 1 Being Black in the White World of Science

It's Not So Black and White: Overcoming Racial Stereotypes

My Leapfrog from Slowest Processing to Fastest Computing

Thank you.

I'm Philip Emeagwali

My quest for the world's fastest computer began on June 20, 1974, in Corvallis, Oregon, USA.

Fifteen years later, I was able to solve the most compute-intensive problem arising in computational mathematics and physics.

In 1989, I was in the news for becoming the **first person**

to discover how to harness the world's **slowest** processors.

And use them to solve the most compute-intensive problems in the world.

And solve them

at the world's **fastest** computer speed ever recorded.

My paramount quest was to **discover** the **hoped-for** practical **how-to** knowledge that could be used to design the world's **fastest computers**.

My new knowledge powers the world's fastest computers and took them to record-breaking speeds. And did so with millions of processors that each had its dedicated memory but were in constant dialogue with each other.

Such state-of-the-art supercomputers are now used to run the highest resolution global climate models.

Supercomputers are used to gain a deeper understanding of **existential crises**,

such as how **ocean waves** and **pathways** contribute to the Earth's transport

of **pollutants, nutrients, and heat.**

White Supremacist Groups Discredit Any Black Genius

As a Black inventor,
a few white supremacists
wrongly credited my invention
to some white inventors.

The proof is that those **imposters**
could not stand before an audience
and deliver an **impromptu**,
original lecture
explaining how they discovered
the world's fastest computing.
And then post that lecture as a podcast
and YouTube video.

On the other hand, this **imposter syndrome**
affected some Black attendees

of my scientific lectures.

They had **inferiority complex**.

And feared that

I wouldn't live up to expectations
as a genius.

My answer is for them to compare

my one thousand podcasts

and YouTube lectures

in mathematics, physics,

and computer science

to those of the likes of Albert Einstein

who are still living.

As a supercomputer scientist

who came of age in the 1970s and 80s,

my biggest obstacle

was to overcome racism, not to solve

the most compute-intensive

mathematical physics problems.

Historically, white supremacists work hard

to discredit and diminish the contributions

of any black genius

that's described as having a higher IQ than Albert Einstein.

I worked alone because I wasn't taken **seriously**, in the 1970s and 80s, the decades I made my breakthrough discovery.

They was an **unspoken assumption** among white supremacists that a Black sub-Saharan African, lacked the **intellect** needed to solve the **most intractable problems** in the fields of mathematics, physics, or computer science.

Today, in their online fora, White supremacists argue that sub-Saharan Africa has not produced a mathematical genius who possessed the intellect of Isaac Newton or Albert Einstein. Their claim of intellectual superiority

was and it remains
the fundamental argument
still used by
online white hate groups.
And used to rationalize
white supremacy and propagate
their myth of **Black racial inferiority**.

White Supremacists Made Me Famous

Ironically, white supremacists
unintentionally made me famous.
In 1989, I made the **news headlines**
as a **quote, unquote** “**Black genius**”
born in sub-Saharan Africa.
I drew the attention of white supremacists
because I provided an image
of a Black genius that was ranked
alongside
Albert Einstein.

The racial stereotype was that a black person can only become famous, as a boxer like Muhammad Ali or a singer like Michael Jackson. In 1975 and in Oregon, I had early white mentors and role models, such as the British-born Fred Merryfield, then 75-years old and a retired engineering professor. Fred Merryfield was a co-founder of CH2M, an engineering firm that worked on the 15.5-mile-long tunnel of London's sewage system. And worked on the Panama Canal extension. CH2M now employs 20,000 persons and has a revenue of five billion dollars a year. So, Fred Merryfield

was a **man of means**
and wisdom.

I lived with Fred Merryfield
and his British-born wife, Anne,
in 1975 and 1976.

They had no children.

Anne was thirty-one years younger
than Fred Merryfield.

Three of us lived in their beautiful mansion
at **2540 SW Whiteside Drive**,
Corvallis, Oregon.

The dinner guests at The Merryfield's
included the co-inventor
of the transistor,
the British-born **William Shockley**,
who was controversial
and was **ostracized**
for promoting **high-IQ sperm banks**.

Geniuses Own their Inventions

In one thousand YouTube videos,
I lectured only in prose.

That's because I have been supercomputing
for half a century.

Other scientists must lecture
with the aid of PowerPoints.

I lectured on how to solve
the most **compute-intensive problems**,
such as constructing a high-resolution,
centuries-long climate model,
and solve them across
millions of processors.

I worked alone to solve this problem
because it was **unfamiliar territory**.

The solutions that I discovered
were not in any computer science textbook.

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

I was the **only person**
that could solve

the most compute-intensive problems.

I solved

such mathematical physics problems

across an ensemble of

65,536 processors.

The academic computer scientist

must always copy

the governing system of coupled

partial differential equations

of meteorology.

And must transfer those

abstract and unfamiliar equations

from his textbook

to his PowerPoint slides.

For me, Philip Emeagwali,

I was the triple threat

who was a research mathematician

of the late 1970s

who became a research physicist

of the early 1980s

who became a research

supercomputer scientist

of the mid-1980s
who entered the **news headlines**,
in 1989,
and became known
for his scientific **discovery**
that parallel processing
enables computers to be faster
and enables the supercomputer
to be super.
The **partial differential equation**
and parallel supercomputing
were as much my **natural dialects**
the way the Igbo language
is my **ancestral tongue**.
For those reasons,
it should not come as a surprise
when I invented
the nine Emeagwali**li** equations.
Because I **invented** those equations
I could deliver
my lectures on my **contributions**
to mathematics, physics,

and computer science and post them across one thousand podcasts and YouTube videos.

After fifty years of supercomputing, I delivered each lecture, posted on YouTube, and did so without using a single PowerPoint slide as my crutch.

- **How to Identify a Genius**

Solving the most **compute-intensive mathematical physics problem** via the fastest computing across the slowest processors is a century-long quest that began in 1922, as human computing executed by 64,000 persons. In 1989 and 1990, I was in local newspapers both for reaching the finals

of a **citywide tennis** tournaments and for winning the highest award in supercomputing.

The world's fastest computing is as competitive as playing a tennis match against Serena Williams.

As a tennis player, I exploited my opponent's weaknesses but respected their strengths.

Tennis taught me many things, including how to fight

and be mentally and physically stronger.

However, solving

the **once-in-a-century** problem

arising at the crossroad of mathematics, physics, and computer science

is rarer and more difficult

than winning the votes as the all-time greatest tennis player.

Being the **first person to discover**

how to solve

the most compute-intensive

mathematical physics problems
and solve them across a million
processors
demanded a polymath
who was a **triple threat**
at the frontiers of knowledge
in mathematics, physics,
and computer science.

The genius makes the **typical exceptional**.
The genius possesses
the ability to look at an ensemble
of the **slowest** processors in the world
and deeply understand it
as beyond a new supercomputer
and as a new Internet, in reality.

Genius is the ability
to see what others saw to be a rock
and see it to be a diamond.

Finding the Deepest Oil and Gas in the Bowels of the Slowest Processors

My quest of the 1970s and 80s, was for the world's **fastest** computer that solves the most compute-intensive problems in the world and solves them with the world's **slowest** processors. My new knowledge is used to find the deepest crude oil and natural gas that were buried up to 7.7 miles below the surface of the Earth. And to simulate their motions across one of the 159 producing oil fields in Nigeria.

And across one of the 65,000 oil fields around the world, that include the supergiant oil fields in Abu Dhabi, Brazil, and Mexico. I was the **first person** to understand how to solve the most compute-intensive mathematical physics problems. And solve them across millions of processors. In brief, that problem is the system of nine **partial differential equations** which governs the initial-boundary value problem that mathematically defines the motions of the crude oil, injected water, and natural gas that were flowing across a **highly anisotropic** and **heterogeneous** producing oil field.

An oil field, such as the **Sakhalin Shelf** in Russia's Far East, is up to **7.7 miles** (or 12.4 kilometers) deep. And an oil field is often the size of a town. The genius deeply understands how and where to add **36 new partial derivative** terms that mathematically encoded the temporal and convective inertial forces. And to add those new terms to the forty-five existing **partial derivative** terms that mathematically encoded the pressure, viscous, and gravitational forces. And do so to make that system of nine **partial differential equations** a more accurate representation

of the producing oil field it governs.

The genius can deeply understand how to harness the **slowest** processors in the world and use them to solve the **most challenging** problems in the world.

The genius can solve the world's **most compute-intensive problems**.

And solve them at the **world's fastest** recorded speeds.

And do so when it was **considered impossible** to solve them.

The genius is the ordinary person that found the extraordinary in the ordinary.

Am I a “Black Genius”?

I'm studied in schools
for my contributions to
computer science.

Just as Albert Einstein is studied
for his contributions to physics.
For that reason, I'm often asked:

“Should Albert Einstein,
be the role model
for Black students?”

To the extent Philip Emeagwali
is accepted as a role model
for white students,
Black students should reciprocate
with Albert Einstein.
Otherwise, my answer is “no.”

Albert Einstein can't be the most inspiring role model for the Black science student in the USA or the Caribbean or Africa. For the same reason, Albert Einstein can't be the most inspiring role model for the physics student in China. Presumably, he or she must have read the **racially derogatory remarks** that Albert Einstein wrote in his travel diaries during his 1920s lecture tours through the Far East and Middle East.

During Albert Einstein's five-and-a-half-month voyage and lecture tours through **Singapore**, Hong Kong, **China**, Japan, and **Palestine**,

Einstein wrote in his diary that **Chinese** are inferior to **Europeans**.

For his **xenophobic** and **racist commentaries**, Albert Einstein can't be the most inspiring role model for all physics students, especially for students who read his **posthumously** published book titled:

“The Travel Diaries of Albert Einstein.”

In an email, an African-American student wrote that he received a **C-grade** on his essay that was titled:

“Albert Einstein and the Special Relativity.”

The following semester,

the same student received
an **A-grade**
on his essay that was titled:

**“Philip Emeagwali
and the Supercomputer.”**

The reason for this **disparity**
is that young African-Americans
are inspired
when they see themselves
in my world's fastest computing.

- **Where Did We Get the Idea That Only
a White Person Can Be a Genius?**

**How America Perfected the 'Art of
Destroying Black Geniuses'**

I've often wondered aloud:

Where did we get the idea
that only a white person
can be a genius?

And how did America
perfect the art
of destroying Black geniuses?

My quest for the fastest computer
began in the 1980s.

I applied ten times to program
a supercomputer.

And I was **rejected** those ten times.

In 1987, I was approved to program
a supercomputer

that was at

the San Diego Supercomputer Center,
in San Diego, California.

That supercomputer account
was **revoked**

when the administrator discovered I was Black and African. As far as I know, I was the only supercomputer programmer in the USA that was **dismissed and banned** from programming supercomputers that were owned and operated for and by the U.S. government. Looking back retrospectively, the famous African-American botanist, George Washington Carver, was born a slave, but yet he was admitted into an all-white university. A century later and in 1987, I experienced more **insidious racism** than George Washington Carver did.

The Power of an Illusion: Overcoming Institutional Racism

In American science, the **racism** is deeply institutionalized.

Several prominent white American scientists—including **William Shockley** and **James Watson**—argued that people of African descent are less intelligent than those of European descent. **William Shockley** advocated that Black women should be **discouraged** from having children.

As a Black and African mathematician who **invented** the nine Philip Emeagwali equations and who came of age in the 1970s and 80s, I **struggled** to get white mathematicians, physicists, and computer scientists

to acknowledge my **contributions** of the fastest computing across the slowest processors.

And to human knowledge.

In 1989, I was given credit, mainly because, I submitted my invention **anonymously** to win the highest award in supercomputing.

That prize made the **news headlines**.

In retrospect, it was easier for George Washington Carver, who was born a slave and achieved prominence as a botanist, to attend a white university and do so ninety years earlier than for me to program a supercomputer in that same white university.

In 1987 and after it was discovered that I'm Black and African, my access to vector supercomputers were **revoked**.

In 1987, I filed a **formal complaint** that I wasn't **allowed** to program the vector supercomputer that was inside the **San Diego Supercomputer Center**. That center was operated by the University of California, San Diego, California. That supercomputer was bought for public use and paid for by the U.S. National Science Foundation.

Facing Racism and Ourselves

In scientific research, to discover is to see something that was previously unseen. But **paradoxically**, the scientific reviewing process ensures that the reviewer remains **forever unseen**.

Modern science is not **race neutral**.
As a Black mathematician
who came of age in the 1980s,
a white supercomputer scientist
that was tasked to review
my **contributions** to computer science
will notice my race
more than my **discovery**
of the world's fastest computing.
Race was the reason my discovery
was **rejected**
a dozen times in a dozen years
and **rejected**
by a dozen white reviewers.
My **discovery**
of the world's fastest computing
across the **slowest** processors
in the world
was accepted in 1989 because
I concealed that I was Black
and African-born.

The earlier reviewers were **anonymous** but knew that I was Black and African. It seemed like the reviewers were **ashamed** to sign their names, or even to publish their reviews. Their reviews were like writing a letter to the opinion page of a newspaper and then insisting that the letter be published **anonymously**. But only my words were reviewed, not my new and abstract equations and complex codes that were over the heads of the reviewers.

Who has the financial resources needed to replicate and re-confirm the world's fastest computer that costs the budget of a small nation?

Or that might cost the one billion two hundred and fifty million dollars

that is the price-tag
of this year's fastest computer?

The world's fastest computer of today
costs more than the
mile-long Second Niger Bridge
in Nigeria.

For that reason,
the world's fastest computer
cannot exist within the campus
of the University of Nigeria,
or of any university in the world.

- [Why Are Famous Scientists Hated?](#)

Reasons I Was Attacked: Reflections on
Being Black in a Majority-White Field

In 1989, I won what was referred to as the Nobel Prize of Supercomputing. Not only that, I was the only person to win the award alone. I was in the news and it created a **cognitive dissonance** in the minds of white supremacists. Because I was a Black African in a majority-white field, I was attacked by those who could not scribble the Philip Emeagwali equations, as defined in my one thousand podcasts and YouTube videos.

My **discovery** of the world's fastest speed in computing **changed the way** we look at the supercomputer of today. That fastest speed was a **quantifiable metric** and an **indisputable fact**. That contribution made me the subject of school essays on inventors

and their inventions, particularly for schools in the USA, Canada, and Europe.

On the down side, once I became famous and became the most visible supercomputer scientist,

I drew **well-orchestrated** attacks.

Professional jealousies

fuelled those **vitriolic** attacks.

Those attacks were **anonymously**

sponsored by scientists who perceived

my **contributions** to science

as a **zero-sum game**

that will affect their rankings **negatively**.

In a viral poll, Philip Emeagwali was on par with **Albert Einstein**, Pythagoras, and **Euclid**.

It's a centuries old tradition to attack the greatest scientists as frauds.

It's science's version of calling the President of the United States and the Pope the anti-Christ. Hitler and Napoleon were called the anti-Christ. [William Shakespeare](#), Isaac Newton, and [Albert Einstein](#) were called frauds. I'm now cross-listed with Albert Einstein in genius lists. As my reputation grows, I became the new anti-Christ from the scientific world.

Each generation recreates its [Witches of Salem](#) trial of colonial Massachusetts where more than two hundred [quote, unquote](#) "witches" were outed. And some witches were executed by hanging.

The modern recreations of the **Witches of Salem** trial include the **Holocaust**. And the two atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. It includes the **McCarthyism's** guilt by suspicion of being a communist. As well as the **Wounded Knee Massacre** in which U.S. soldiers murdered nearly three hundred Lakota people. And the September 11 attacks.

Every celebrity is **hated** by about one percent of her followers. The reason is that some people are **jealous** or **threatened** by other's success. The new Pope is always criticized as the new **anti-Christ**. William Shakespeare, is always criticized as a **plagiarist**. The most famous theoretical physicist,

Albert Einstein, is criticized as a **fraud**.

Many people still think the moon landings were faked.

After my discovery of 1989, I became the most famous computational physicist and mathematician.

As expected, the same template used to attack Albert Einstein was used to attack Philip Emeagwali.

Those attacks were

backhanded compliments

only given to famous mathematicians who were admitted into the genius club.

It's **impossible** to fake my way from the world's **slowest** processors to the world's fastest computer.

My **discovery**

of the world's fastest computing is the foundational knowledge of the forty-five billion dollars a year

supercomputer industry.

The computer and its inventors are **not fake**.

In 1989, I won the **highest** award in supercomputing.

I was the **only person** to ever win that award **alone**.

That award is shared by up to fifty research mathematicians, physicists, and computer scientists that are supported by a thousand employee research and development laboratory.

The condition for receiving any of the highest prizes in science is that the recipient must deliver a lecture and do so before an audience of up to a thousand scientists.

Since 1989, I've gone beyond that 60-minute lecture requirement. I've posted one thousand podcasts and YouTube videos, each on my contributions to science.

Aside from winning the **Nobel Prize of Supercomputing**, I used podcasts and YouTube videos to establish my **credibility** and **reputation** among college-educated listeners who are interested in learning about new sciences.

Thanks to the Internet, the twelve-year-old writing an essay on computer pioneers who contributed to the development of the computer get to hear directly from Philip Emeagwali.

My **contributions** to science were these:

I **discovered** how to visualize global warming and climate modelling not merely as one

incredibly compute-intensive problem but as 65,536 equal-sized mathematical physics problems that are defined across the entire 62-mile-deep **concentric sphere** that represents the atmosphere that enshrouds the Earth.

Between the Internet and the Earth, I was the elephant in the room.

Newspapers profiled Philip Emeagwali for **discovering**

the world's fastest computation across a new Internet

that's a new global network of sixty-four binary thousand processors.

But nobody wanted to talk about how I **discovered**

the fastest computing

across a new global network of the slowest processors.

And invented the technology across that new Internet.

Why Are Famous Scientists Hated?

A famous scientist is always **envied** and subjected to **criticisms**.

Before my discovery of the fastest computing across the slowest processors, which occurred on the Fourth of July 1989, no scientist said a **nasty word** about Philip Emeagwali, and vice versa.

However, some **nasty words** began to spread after I became famous.

Those **nasty words** were spread because I **denied unqualified** scientists, then in Ann Arbor (Michigan), the opportunity to become my co-inventor

and become a famous inventor.

In 1981, I invited those research scientists to collaborate in my supercomputer research. Those white supremacists **declined** to work with me because I was Black and African. And because they believed that fastest computing across slowest processors will forever remain in the realm of **science fiction**.

Why the Fastest Computer is a State Secret

The fastest computers are **quote, unquote** **“state secrets.”**

They're used for **top-secret** simulations of nuclear explosions.

For security reasons, I was **banned** from supercomputing within U.S. nuclear labs.

I was **denied** entry inside nuclear labs because I was a Black African and was **perceived** as a greater **security threat** than a white European.

Those bans on my having access to the **world's most powerful supercomputers**

occurred in the early 1980s.

Looking back **retrospectively**, each **rejection** that I encountered, in my quest for the fastest computations, moved me closer to my discovery of the fastest computing across the slowest processors.

My discovery occurred

on the Fourth of July 1989,
in Los Alamos, New Mexico, USA.

5 Why I Began Supercomputing in 1974

Why My Discovery Was in the News

I have been supercomputing
since June 20, 1974, in Corvallis, Oregon,
USA.

It took me **half a century**
to gain the scientific knowledge
and contribute the new technology
which I presented
across my one thousand closed-captioned
videos
that are posted in YouTube.
Hence, it will also take you **five decades**
to fully understand my contribution

to the computer and the Internet. The U.S. government classified it as a Grand Challenge Problem because it's **incredibly difficult** to understand and solve. To this day, no other mathematician has stepped forward to claim he understands how to parallel process the initial-boundary value problem that was governed by my new **partial differential equations**. And then solve them across an ensemble of ten million processors. And along the way, reproduce my world's fastest computation, as mentioned in the June 20, 1990, issue of *The Wall Street Journal*.

My Earliest Newspaper Mentions

My name “Philip Emeagwali” was in the science column of a **mid-1972** issue of the *Daily Times* that was the national newspaper of Nigeria.

My name and photo were on the cover of a weekly newspaper that circulated in the cities of Monmouth and Independence, Oregon.

That newspaper featured me in an interview

that it published during the week of August 12, **1974** in the Polk County of Oregon.

I conducted my supercomputing alone.

And I did so for all the years that followed 1974.

And by **1989**, I was the foremost, or rather the only, person

that could harness millions of processors
under-the-hood
of the world's fastest computer.
And use them to solve
some of the **most significant problems**
at the frontiers of mathematics and
science.

Early Years in the USA | Where I Began Supercomputing

On the morning of Thursday,
June 20, 1974,
I woke up in my new studio apartment
that was one of the four rooms
that was upstairs of an old white house
at **195A South Knox Street, Monmouth,
Oregon, USA.**

I was living alone at age nineteen
and on an F-1 student visa.

My rent was thirty-six dollars a month. And my salary was one dollar and sixty-five cents an hour which was the minimum wage.

After taxes and expenses, my take-home pay was only one dollar an hour.

As international students, we could only work up to sixteen hours a week.

And only work within our school campuses. My landlady was an elderly white woman who lived downstairs.

After living at 36 Butler Hall for ten weeks,

[195-A South Knox Street](#)

became my second address in the [USA](#).

At 195-A, we had a community kitchen which I shared with three tenants:

a 24-year-old

Ethiopian student in his third year

in the U.S.,
a 25-year-old American
graduate student who looked like
the actor Tom Selleck,
and a 20-year-old American student,
Fritz Foulke, and his future wife, **Barbara**.
Amos, a Yoruba (**Nigerian**) graduate
student in his thirties lived downstairs.

Hypothetical Supercomputing from Colonial Africa

The teletypewriter laboratory
from which I logged into
the supercomputer
was a short stroll away.
That computer lab was at
345 Monmouth Avenue North,
Monmouth, Oregon.
The supercomputer

that I programmed and used to solve a system of equations of algebra was at 1800 SW Campus Way, Corvallis, Oregon. I remotely logged into that supercomputer by telephone. On June 20, 1974, it was an **epiphany** to presume that I could have spent the previous ten years programming a supercomputer that was in Corvallis, Oregon, USA. But programming that supercomputer from my father's houses that were along Gbenoba Road, Agbor, Nigeria, and at 4B Egbuna-Adazie Street, Onitsha, Nigeria, which was a distance of 12,500 kilometers, or nearly 8,000 miles. All that I needed to program a supercomputer

in the post-colonial Nigeria of 1964
was only a hundred dollar teletypewriter
and a telephone line.
I could program that supercomputer
from anywhere in sub-Saharan Africa.
And program it in a decade
there was no computer
in sub-Saharan Africa.

The World's Fastest Computers

As a supercomputer scientist
who came of age in the 1970s and 80s,
my focus was on pushing
the boundaries of knowledge
of the world's fastest computers.
I pushed the frontiers
of mathematics and physics
when I made the news headlines
for inventing how to solve

the world's most compute-intensive problems in science, engineering, and medicine.

To **invent**, is to create something from nothing, or make the **fictional factual**.

In the 1970s and 80s and as a young Black African-born person supercomputing in the **USA**, I experienced lots of racial **obstacles** that almost **wore me down**.

By the late 1980s, I grew significantly and developed a reputation for giving public lectures in which I exhibited a command of mathematical and scientific materials. That should be expected after my decade and half of deep introspection.

After fifteen years of supercomputing following June 20, 1974, I developed greater clarity. I focused on the world's fastest computers. Because of my greater mathematical maturity, some computational physicists within my inner circle knew that I was heading towards the **world's fastest computer**. I **discovered** the world's fastest computing on July 4, 1989 in Los Alamos, New Mexico, USA. My discovery made the **news** around the world and it remains the subject of school essays.

- **How I Invented the World's Fastest Computer**

Ideas that Influenced Philip Emeagwali

Old Ideas That Influenced Philip Emeagwali

In June 1974 and in Oregon, my scientific influences were **science-fiction** stories, including the one about sixty-four thousand human computers working together to forecast the weather around the world.

That **science-fiction story** was published on February 1, 1922, or 52 years earlier.

My second influence was an article in the January 11, 1946, issue of The *New York Times*.

That article was on how
100 computers could be programmed
to work together to forecast the weather
in the USA
and forecast it more accurately.
That 1922 supercomputing story
was **fictional**,
but I **reimagined** it as **factual**.
That 1922 story was about
sixty-four thousand human computers
used to
[quote]
“**race the weather for the whole globe.**”
[unquote]

New Ideas That Influenced Philip
Emeagwali

In the 1980s, I **reimagined**
and **concretized** that science-fiction story.

And I did so with sixty-four binary thousand processors.

I programmed each processor to solve the weather forecasting compute-intensive problem.

At its mathematical core, that problem was to solve a system of coupled, nonlinear, three-dimensional, and time-dependent **partial differential equations** that governed and defined an initial-boundary value problem beyond the frontier of calculus.

The science-fiction story that was in the January 11, 1946, issue of the *The New York Times* was about one hundred **all-vacuum** tube supercomputers around the **U.S.**

What I parallel processed with was a new Internet that was a new global network

of sixty-four binary thousand processors.
My internet was defined
by an **email address space**
that's a unique arrangement
of one binary million zeroes and ones.
I built around the 1922 and 1946 stories
that were vague **science-fiction** theories.
At its mathematical physics core,
those grand challenge problems
were about large-scale, high-resolution
computational fluid dynamics.
The poster child
of fluid dynamics simulations
is forecasting the weather,
or computing the motions of fluids,
across the Earth's atmosphere
and up to 7.7 miles (or 12.4 kilometers)
below the surface of the Earth.
The 1922 story was **fictional**
while the 1946 story was **theorized**.
I built around both stories to conceive
my ensemble of

sixty-four binary thousand processors
which replaced
the equivalent of one hundred computers
of 1946.

And replaced the sixty-four thousand
human computers of 1922.

My Invention of the Fastest Computer

I did a back-of-the-envelope calculation
that showed me that
if those sixty-four thousand computers
were evenly distributed
within the Earth's stratosphere
they would be three thousand square miles
afar and apart
from their nearest-neighbors.
I conceived fastest computing across
slowest processors
and across an Internet

that's a global network of those processors and did so shortly after June 20, 1974.

I conceived supercomputing across a HyperBall global network of sixty-four thousand computers around a globe.

However, my scientific discovery that was mentioned—sixteen years later—in the June 20, 1990, issue of *The Wall Street Journal*

was executed across a spherical island of sixty-four binary thousand processors.

I visualized those processors as equal distances afar and apart and on the surface of a globe that I imagined as embedded inside a sixteen-dimensional hyperspace.

In an email, a twelve-year-old asked:

“Why is Philip Emeagwali

called the **father of the Internet?**"

I **discovered** that
the world's fastest computer
that's defined across a globe
is a close **cousin**
to the Internet
that's also defined across a globe.

The supercomputer and Internet
that I invented
are like identical twins.
And like two sides of the same coin
that are **different** but **complimentary**.

Philip Emeagwali Internet
is a New Supercomputer

The play: **"The Tragedy of Hamlet,
Prince of Denmark,"**

should not be performed
the way **William Shakespeare**
originally envisioned and directed it.

William Shakespeare wrote for
his sixteenth-century audiences,
or half a millennium ago.

Hamlet should be **reinterpreted anew**
and made **relevant**

for twenty-first century audiences.

William Shakespeare was a product
of his times who, if given the opportunity,
to **rewrite** Hamlet for the 21st century,
would replace the kings and queens
that lived five hundred years ago
with the **worst dictators** of modern times,
such as **Donald Trump**, **Idi Amin**,
and **Adolph Hitler**.

The twenty-first century Hamlet
should have heroes like
Nelson Mandela using a cell phone
and the Internet.

Like William Shakespeare will do,
if he is still living,
I updated my description and definition
of the world's fastest computer,
from the one-processor supercomputer
of the 20th century
to the billion-processor supercomputer
of the 21st century.
My **new supercomputer** became
a new Internet
that's a new global network of processors
for solving the most compute-intensive
problems.

How I Grew as a Supercomputer Scientist

Just as you must understand soccer
and have the physical fitness and maturity
that's needed to play
in the World Cup Games,

you must also be
at the frontiers of knowledge
of physics and computer science.
And have the mathematical maturity
that will be needed to solve
the most compute-intensive problems
arising at the frontiers of knowledge
of both computational physics
and abstract mathematics.
In the 1980s, I controlled and programmed
the **yet-to-be understood ensemble**
of the world's **slowest** processors
that I later used to power
my world's **fastest** computer speed
that made the **news headlines**.

Philip Emeagwali Internet

During the sixteen years
that followed June 20, 1974,
I added new layers of

supercomputing knowledge.

I did so by solving

initial-boundary value problems

at the frontiers of calculus

and extreme-scale

computational fluid dynamics.

And solving them via automated

communication.

I visualized my **new Internet**

as a **new** global network

of 65,536 processors

that were identical

and that **shared nothing**

and that were equal distances apart.

I hypothesized those processors

to be on the surface of a globe,

called a hypersphere,

in a sixteen-dimensional hyperspace.

How I Invented the Fastest Computer from the Slowest Processors

I **invented** how to solve the most **compute-intensive** mathematical physics problems called extreme-scale computational fluid dynamics. And solve them across a new Internet that's a new global network of up to one billion self-contained processors which were **identical** and **coupled**. Each processor operated its operating system. Each processor had its dedicated memory **that shared nothing**.

The Supercomputer Showed How to Slow the Spread of COVID-19

Extremely fast computers are used to make the coronavirus disease visible as well as identify how tiny droplets move and spread in different circumstances, including real-world simulations of social distancing rules.

In 1989, I was in the news because I discovered the world's fastest computing. And did so across an ensemble of processors that, today, has the combined power of twenty million smartphones.

Supercomputers are used

to make discoveries at the fastest pace.
And used to pull the future closer.

I'm Philip Emeagwali.

Thank you.

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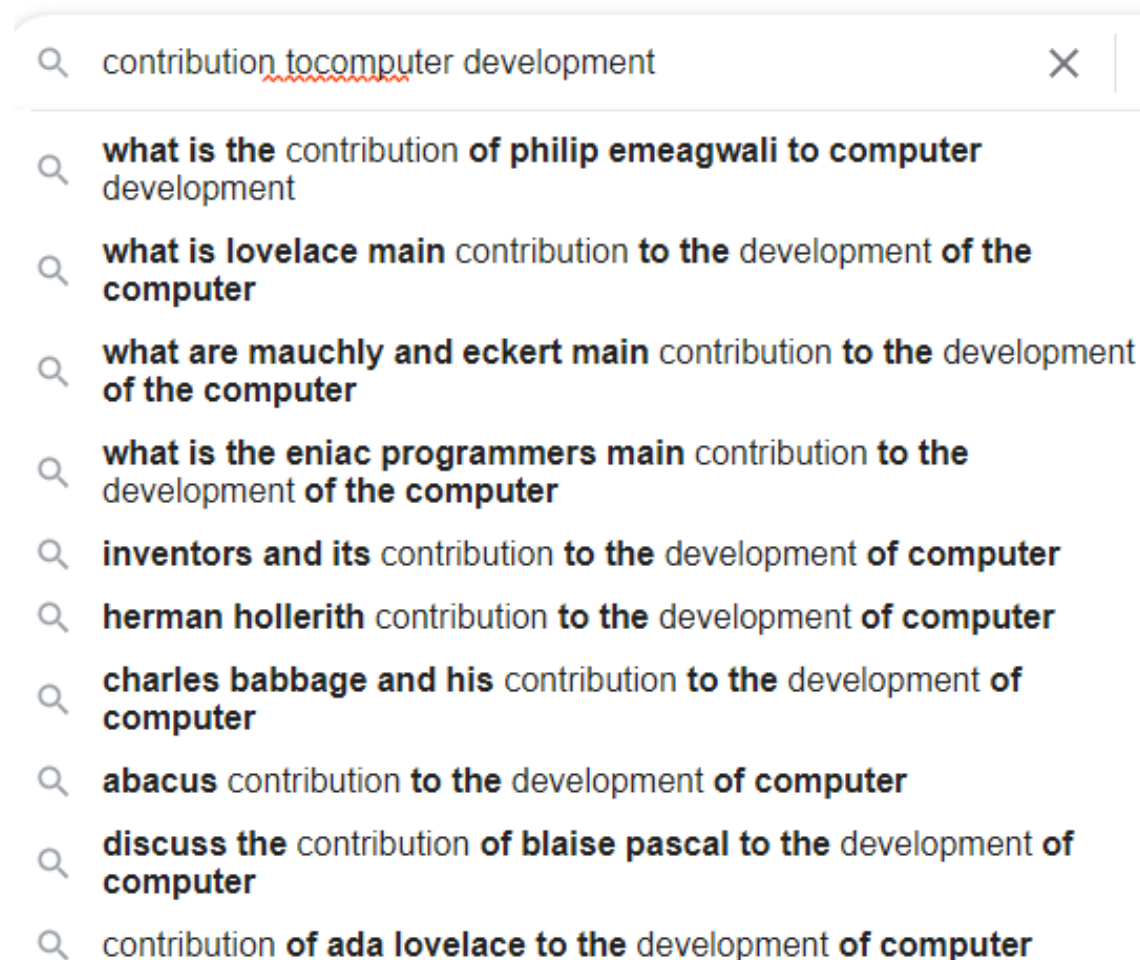
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Google suggests the greatest computer scientists of all times. With the number one spot, Philip Emeagwali is the most suggested computer pioneer for school biography reports across the USA, Canada, UK, and Africa (December 8, 2021).



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