

Peter van Emde Boas is Emeritus Professor at the Institute for Logic, Languages and Computation, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. Peter was born and raised in Amsterdam. He studied mathematics at the University of Amsterdam.

He is known for fundamental contributions to theoretical computer science, especially in the design of efficient data structures. His fundamental contribution, the “vEB tree”, allows extremely fast searching in large sets of numbers. These ideas later found application in areas such as large-scale data processing and genome sequencing. Together with his co-authors, he explored the structure of Sun Tzu, “The Art of War”, using a mind-map-based method.

Ghica van Emde Boas (married to Peter) is a retired Software Architect. Ghica was also born and raised in Amsterdam. She went to the same elementary and high school as Peter and she studied mathematics at the University of Amsterdam as well.

She worked for IBM during many years. She received an outstanding contribution award from IBM for improving software testing methods. Ghica is the one who initially developed the mind-map method for understanding the Sun Tzu text and she wrote the software needed to support it.

Together they supervised several students during their internship at IBM. One of those students became the first one to receive an MSc in Computer Science at the university of Amsterdam.