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John Gilbert received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Stanford in 1981. From 1981 to 1988 he was on the Computer Science faculty at Cornell. From 1988 to 2002, he was at Xerox PARC, where he led research in computational methods and in distributed sensing and control. Since 2002 he has directed the Combinatorial Scientific Computing Laboratory in the Computer Science Department and the Computational Science and Engineering program at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Prof. Gilbert's principal research contributions have been in algorithms and software for combinatorial and numerical problems. He has done fundamental work in sparse matrix techniques; he was a primary architect and developer of Matlab's sparse matrix capability and of the SuperLU solver library. Prof. Gilbert's current research applies linear algebra and sparse matrix methods to emerging discrete problems in the analysis of large graphs and networks using high-performance computation.

Prof. Gilbert is a Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. He has served on the SIAM Council and chaired the SIAM Activity Group on Supercomputing and the ACM Special Interest Group on Numerical Mathematics. He has served in a number of advisory and consulting positions for industry and for government laboratories, and on the editorial boards of several journals in computational science and applied mathematics.