

Navigating the Evolution of High-Speed Networks

Aditi Parvati¹, Prajwal Angadi², Shreya E³, Shreejith Kinnal⁴, Satwika S⁵

Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering, Karnataka, India

Abstract – High-speed networks have evolved into a vital component of our linked society in an era driven by data-driven innovation. High-speed networks are cutting-edge communication systems created to speed up data transfer and enable effective connectivity. This overview piece sets out on an intriguing journey across the always-changing high-speed network landscape, charting the development from wireless networks, Ethernet networks, and fiber optic networks to our current level of connectedness. Here we explore the most recent developments, applications, and comparative studies in various fields, from the lightning-fast worlds of 5G networks and 10 Gigabit Ethernet (10GbE) to the enlightening potential of Li-Fi and Quantum Networks. The survey report decides by highlighting future guidance's and challenges engaged of speedy networks. It also discusses issues relating to the link between mathematical separation, range allocation, safety, and interoperability.

Key Words: Ethernet Networks, wireless networks, fiber optic network, network scalability, network performance, network security, SDN, Gigabit Ethernet

1. INTRODUCTION

High-speed networks are communication systems that facilitate high-speed data transfer. To attain high bandwidth capacity, minimal latency, and quick data transfer rates, these networks use modern technologies and protocols. In many fields, including telecommunications, internet connection, cloud computing, and new technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence, high-speed networks are essential. High-speed networks make it possible for people, companies, and organizations to access and share information, collaborate in real time, and take advantage of data-intensive applications by allowing quick and dependable data transfer. These networks, which enable us to move around the digital environment with unmatched speed and efficiency, are the foundation of our linked world, whether through wired connections like fiber optics or wireless technologies like 5G

High-speed networks have completely changed how people interact with one another, work together, and access information. Traditional networks were unable to handle the growing data demands of modern applications because of their constrained bandwidth and slower transmission speeds. By utilizing cutting-edge technology

and protocols to enable noticeably quicker data transmission rates, high-speed networks overcome this restriction.

There are various types of high-speed networks, each with its own unique characteristics and applications. Some prominent examples include wireless networks, fiber optic networks, and Ethernet networks.

2. CURRENT GENERATION HIGH-SPEED NETWORK

Networks have become an integral part of our modern digital ecosystem, enabling seamless communication and connectivity without the need for physical wires or cables. Wireless networks are simply systems that use various wireless technologies to transmit data and information over the air. The way we engage with technology, communicate, and work has been revolutionized by these networks [6].

Today's wireless networks can be seen in many different forms. Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) networks are widely used in homes, workplaces, cafés, and public places and offer a variety of devices wireless internet access. Bluetooth technology enables wireless short-range communications between gadgets like speakers, headphones, and smartphones. Mobile communication and data transfer are made possible by cellular networks like 3G, 4G, and 5G across vast region [5].

The simplicity and portability of wireless networks is one of its main benefits. Users may browse the internet and chat with others from anywhere they have wireless connectivity.

3. KEY MILESTONES AND ADVANCEMENTS IN NETWORKS TECHNOLOGIES

3.1 1969: ARPANET:

In 1969, the ARPANET algorithm was created. It could be summed up like this: Each packet is sent along a path with an anticipated total transit time to its destination is the smallest. This course is not predetermined. Instead, while sending a packet to a different destination, each Interface Message Processor (IMP) chooses on their own which line to utilize [1]. This choice is made via a straightforward

table lookup process. An item in the routing directory at each IMP specifies the proper next line in the route for each potential destination. The creation of ARPANET, the first packet-switched network, laid the foundation for today's internet.

3.2 1973: Ethernet Networks:

Ethernet was developed by Bob Metcalfe at Xerox PARC, facilitating communication between computers. Ethernet networks are a widely used type of computer network that provides a standard method for connecting devices and transmitting data over a local area network (LAN) [4]. Scientists and experts in a variety of sectors have favored Ethernet. Ethernet is used extensively in several industries, including automobile communications, aviation, and others. This is owing to the demands of the new automotive features, such as improved driver assistance systems and parking aids [2].

3.3 1983: TCP/IP

Email, the World Wide Web, FTP, and other Internet applications employ Transmission Control Protocol. The Department of Defense (DoD) created TCP/IP to link numerous devices to an Internet-based network [3]. The protocol was created primarily to create a reliable and automatically recovering phone line failure while in the field of war. On the other side, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) created Open Systems Interconnection. The Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) became the standard protocol suite for networking, enabling the interconnection of networks and the birth of the modern Internet [3].

3.4 Late 1990s: Wireless Networks:

The introduction of wireless technologies, such as Wi-Fi (802.11 standards), allowed for wireless connectivity within local networks. First, radiotelegraphy, which used EM waves to transmit Morse code, was used to develop wireless communication in 1895[5]. Wi-Fi technology enables wireless connectivity within a limited range, typically within homes, offices, or public spaces [5].

These milestones and advancements have shaped the modern network landscape, facilitating global connectivity, transforming communication, and driving technological innovation in various sectors

4. CELLULAR NETWORKS

Networks that allow devices to communicate and exchange data without the use of physical cables or wired connections are referred to as wireless networks. C-RAN,

short for Cloud-RAN or Centralized-RAN, is an architectural framework designed for cellular networks. The way we interact and communicate in both personal and professional contexts has been revolutionized by the proliferation of wireless networks.

Here is a summary of the major wireless standards that have developed throughout time:

4.1 2G (Second Generation):

When 2G cellular technology was introduced in the 1990s and was based on digital system technology, it marked a significant advancement in wireless cellular technology [6]. A few modest data services were launched commercially in the early days of 2G. The first 2G network to offer phone and data services simultaneously was GSM. GPRS, often known as 2.5G, is a development in GSM technology that increased data speeds to 150 Kbps. After 2.5G, EDGE (Enhanced Data rate for GSM Evolution), a technology within the 2G umbrella, was released. It often has 2.75G, an upgrade to GPRS that provides a maximum data throughput of 384 Kbps [5].

4.2 3G (Third Generation)

The development of 3G was characterized by its focus on enhancing voice services, data speed, high QoS (Quality of Service), and data security [6]. IMT-2000, or third-generation (3G) cellular technology, was unveiled by the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) in 2000. In 3G, successful data rates of 144 Kbps for mobile users, 384 Kbps for pedestrian users, and 2 Mbps for interior users were attained [5].

Except for the air interface, 3G uses packet switching for voice and data transfer. Digital broadband, high-speed internet, and high QoS for enhanced speech quality over the air interface are some of the key features of 3G [5].

4.3 4G (Fourth Generation)

The term "4G," which stands for "fourth generation," refers to the next major advancement in wireless network technology. With higher data rates, more capacity, and greater performance for mobile communications, it represents a substantial improvement over its forerunners. The two most significant improvements in 4G over its predecessors are its switching type and core network, which is the internet (3G utilised packet networks, 2G used PSTN). High-speed and real-time data streaming capabilities take 4G's defiance to a new level [5].

Data speeds for the ultra-broadband internet service range from 100 Mbps to 1.0Gbps. The main improvements of 4G over its previous generation are high-speed handoff, MIMO technology, and global mobility [5].

4.4 5G (Fifth Generation)

5G is the latest wireless standard that started rolling out in the 2010s, with ongoing global deployments. It offers transformative capabilities, including ultra-fast data speeds, ultra-low latency, massive device connectivity, and network slicing for customized services. 5G networks utilize advanced technologies like millimeter waves, small cells, massive MIMO, and network virtualization. 5G aims to enable advanced applications such as autonomous vehicles, remote healthcare, smart cities, and the Internet of Things (IoT).

The evolution of wireless standards has been driven by the need for faster, more reliable, and versatile wireless communication.

5. INTRODUCTION TO ETHERNET

Ethernet networks are a widely used type of computer network that provides a standard method for connecting devices and transmitting data over a local area network (LAN). Ethernet technology is based on a set of standards defined by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and has evolved over the years to support higher speeds and improved performance.

Key features and components of Ethernet networks include:

- i. **Ethernet Cable:** Ethernet networks use various types of cables to transmit data between devices. The most common type is twisted-pair copper cable, which consists of pairs of insulated wires twisted together. Different categories of Ethernet cables, such as Cat5e, Cat6, and Cat6a, offer different levels of performance and support different data rates [9].
- ii. **Ethernet Frames:** Ethernet data is transmitted in the form of frames, which are structured units of data that contain the source and destination addresses, control information, and the actual data payload. Ethernet frames have a maximum size defined by the Ethernet standard, such as 1500 bytes for standard Ethernet frames or up to 9000 bytes for jumbo frames [8].
- iii. **MAC Addresses:** An Ethernet network assigns a different Media Access Control (MAC) address to each device connected to it. MAC addresses are used to identify devices on a network and are normally issued by the device manufacturer.
- iv. **Network Topologies:** Ethernet networks may be set up in a number of topologies, including bus, star, and ring. Devices are linked to a common communication media in a bus architecture.

Devices are linked to a central switch or hub in a star topology. A closed loop is created when devices are linked in a circular pattern or ring topology. Each architecture has benefits and is appropriate for various network applications.

- v. **Ethernet Standards:** The definitions and protocols that describe how Ethernet networks function and interact are referred to as Ethernet standards [7]. These specifications, often known as IEEE 802.3 standards, are created and updated by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). **Wi-Fi (IEEE 802.11):** The first Ethernet standard, IEEE 802.3, was introduced in the early 1980s. **Fast Ethernet (IEEE 802.3u),** which offered higher data transmission rates of 100 Mbps, followed in the early 1990s. Finally, **Gigabit Ethernet (IEEE 802.3ab)** [8], which offered data transmission rates of 1 Gbps (gigabit per second), was introduced in the late 1990s. The communication network is still expanding. Therefore, Ethernet upgrades in the future will always be a work in progress with a range of changes to be the solution to all issues.

5.1 Relevance of Ethernet in Modern-Day Life:

The relevance of Ethernet in modern communication applications, particularly in the automotive industry. The low power consumption, lightweight, low wire count, and low deployment costs of Ethernet make it suitable for new automotive features such as advanced driver assistance systems, parking aids, lane departure systems, infotainment systems, and blind-spot detection systems [7].

Ethernet networks are commonly used in various environments to facilitate local communication and enable devices to share resources and access network services [9].

6. FIBER OPTIC NETWORKS

Fiber optic networks are cutting-edge telecommunications systems that send data, phone, and video information across great distances using optical fiber. Compared to conventional copper-based networks, these networks provide a number of benefits, including faster data transfer rates, more bandwidth, longer transmission distances, and more dependability. The following are crucial elements of fiber optic networks:

1. Optical Fiber:

Optical fibers are thin strands of glass or plastic that are designed to transmit light signals over long distances. Each fiber consists of a core, which carries

the light signal, and a cladding layer that reflects the light back into the core, ensuring minimal signal loss.

2. Data Transmission:

Fiber optic networks use light signals to transmit data. These signals can be modulated to carry different types of information.

6.1 Types of Fiber Optics

- i. Single-mode fiber: It is used for long-distance communication and has a core diameter of only 8 to 10 microns. It can transfer data over greater distances with less signal loss and has a larger bandwidth [10].
- ii. Multi-mode fiber is used for short-distance communication and has a core diameter that is bigger, ranging from 50 to 100 microns [10]. Data may be sent over shorter distances with more signal loss and lesser capacity including digital data, analog signals, voice calls, and video streams.

6.2 Advantages of Fiber Optic Networks:

Compared to other modes of communication, fiber optic transmission provides a number of benefits including:

- i. Wide bandwidth: Fiber optic cables can transfer more data over longer distances because they have a significantly larger bandwidth than copper connections [10].
- ii. Smaller diameter: Fiber optic cables may be packed together to produce a communication channel with a larger capacity since they have a considerably smaller diameter than copper wires.
- iii. Compact size: Compared to copper cables, fiber optic cables are substantially lighter and smaller, which makes installation and maintenance easier.
- iv. Long-distance signal transmission: fiber optic cables have an advantage over copper cables in that they can transfer signals over considerably greater distances without the use of signal boosters or repeaters [10].
- v. Low attenuation: Fiber optic connections lose signals at a rate that is far lower than that of copper cables, allowing them to transmit [10].

7. COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WIRELESS, ETHERNET AND FIBER OPTIC NETWORKS

Wireless, Ethernet, and fiber optic networks are three widely used types of networks, each with its own advantages and limitations. Here's a comparative study of these networks based on various factors:

1. Speed and Bandwidth:

Fiber Optic: Fiber optic networks provide the highest speeds and bandwidth capabilities. They can support data rates in the range of terabits per second and offer virtually unlimited bandwidth. **Ethernet:** Ethernet networks have evolved over time to offer increasing speeds, with the most common variants being Fast Ethernet (100 Mbps), Gigabit Ethernet (1 Gbps), and 10 Gigabit Ethernet (10 Gbps). Higher-speed variants, such as 40 Gigabit Ethernet and 100 Gigabit Ethernet, are also available.

2. Transmission Distance:

Fiber Optic: Fiber optic networks can transmit data over long distances without significant signal degradation. Single-mode fiber can achieve transmission distances of tens or even hundreds of kilometers. **Ethernet:** Ethernet networks are generally limited to shorter distances, with copper-based Ethernet (e.g., Cat6) having distance limitations of up to 100 meters. Fiber optic Ethernet allows for longer distances, depending on the type of fiber and network equipment used.

3. Reliability and Interference:

Fiber Optic: Fiber optic networks are highly reliable and immune to electromagnetic interference, making them suitable for critical applications. They are not affected by environmental factors such as radio frequency interference or electrical noise.

4. Security:

Fiber Optic: Fiber optic networks offer a high level of security because the transmitted light signals are difficult to intercept or tap without physically tampering with the fiber.

5. Cost:

Fiber Optic: Fiber optic networks generally have higher initial installation costs compared to Ethernet or wireless networks. However, the costs have been decreasing over time due to advancements in fiber optic technology and increased availability of fiber optic components. **Ethernet:** Ethernet networks, especially over copper cables, are generally more cost-effective compared to fiber optic networks. The cost can increase for higher-speed Ethernet or when deploying over longer distances using fiber optic cables.

In summary, fiber optic networks offer the highest speeds, longest transmission distances, and highest security, but they require specialized infrastructure and have higher installation costs. Ethernet networks provide reliable and cost-effective solutions for local and wide area networks. Wireless networks offer flexibility and mobility

but have limitations in speed, distance, and susceptibility to interference.

8. EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

8.1 Li-Fi

This which stands for "Light Fidelity," is a wireless communication technology that uses light to transmit data. LiFi term was first introduced by professor Harald Haas at the TED Global Talk 2011 "Downside of Radio waves as compared to Visual Light" that was pointed out by Prof. Haas at the Global [11].

8.1.1 Principles of Li-Fi:

LiFi uses the visible light spectrum for wireless communication. The range of the visual spectrum used in LiFi varies from 300 GHz to 700 GHz [12]. This range is the same as that of the electromagnetic waves that are visible to the human eye. LiFi creates a binary system by using light-emitting diodes (LEDs), in which the LED is turned on to represent '1' and turned off to represent '0' [11]. Surprisingly, the pace at which LEDs may flicker on and off is undetectable to the human eye, ensuring that the LED's essential operation remains unchanged [11].

8.1.2 Advantages of Li-Fi

1. High Speed: LiFi networks achieve high-speed Data transfers much higher than that of WiFi networks. White LEDs with a single layer of phosphor have been claimed to provide data speeds of 1 Gbps [12]. LiFi speeds up uploads, downloads, and any other data-intensive processes [11].

2. Security: LiFi optical signals cannot penetrate through walls which is advantageous in terms of security concerns [11]. Radio waves are less safe than visual lights because radio waves may pass through walls, making them significantly less secure [12].

3. Low energy Consumption: Given that interior lighting is often on for most of the time, the piggybacking of data on illumination would essentially result in zero energy use for communication [12].

8.2 Quantum networks

Quantum networks are an emerging field of research that leverages principles from quantum physics to enable secure and high-performance communication. These networks aim to utilize the unique properties of quantum mechanics, such as superposition and entanglement, to transmit and process information in fundamentally different ways compared to classical networks.

8.2.1 Principle of Quantum Networks

Superposition: Quantum networks utilize the principle of superposition, which allows quantum systems to exist in multiple states simultaneously. In the context of quantum communication, this means that quantum bits or qubits can represent a combination of 0 and 1 at the same time, enabling parallel processing and increased computational power. Quantum networks also employ QKD protocols to establish secure cryptographic keys between two parties. Quantum teleportation allows the transfer of quantum states from one qubit to another without physically moving the qubit itself.

It's important to note that quantum networks are still in the early stages of development, and many challenges need to be overcome before widespread practical implementations can be realized. Nonetheless, the potential implications of quantum networks hold promise for transforming various fields of science, technology, and communication in the future.

8.3 SDN

SDN is a ground-breaking form of network design that differentiates the control plane from the data plane and offers centralized control and programmability of network infrastructure [13]. The control plane in SDN is separated from the physical switches and routers that make up the data plane and is in charge of making choices regarding network traffic and routing. A software layer known as the SDN controller, which controls and directs the flow of network traffic, is used to perform this decoupling [14].

8.3.1 Principles of SDN

There are 2 basic principles for Software Defined Networking:

1. It separates the control plane from the data plane (the control plane contains the intelligence and control logic while the data plane contains the physical infrastructure or low-level network components used for packet switching and forwarding) [14]. This is one of the two key fundamental principles of software-defined networking (SDN).

2. The Control plane serves as the network's brain and has direct control over the Data plane. All of the Data plane's components may be adjusted to meet specific requirements without the need to setup each component separately [14]. Although they are independent of one another, Network Function Virtualization (NFV) and Software Defined Networking (SDN) complement one another [13].

8.3.2 Advantages of SDN:

SDN (Software-Defined Networking) has several benefits, including centralized control, programmability, giving network administration chores a single point of control, and enabling dynamic configuration [13]. By enabling fast response to changing requirements and traffic patterns, SDN also improves agility and scalability. Through centralized analytics, SDN also enhances network visibility and monitoring while providing information on traffic patterns, application performance, and security risks. Simplified network administration, effective resource management, enhanced network security, and support for network virtualization and automation are other advantages [6]. By offering an adaptable and scalable solution for contemporary network settings, SDN has the potential to revolutionize network architecture and administration [14].

8.4 Gigabit Ethernet

Gigabit Ethernet is a network technology that provides data transfer rates of 1 gigabit per second (Gbps), which is ten times faster than Fast Ethernet (100 Mbps). It is a widely adopted standard for local area networks (LANs) and has become the foundation for high-speed network connectivity in both residential and commercial environments. Gigabit Ethernet offers a data transfer rate of 1 Gbps, allowing for fast and efficient transmission of large amounts of data. This increased speed enables quicker file transfers, smoother multimedia streaming, and faster access to network resources. It also offers a supports full-duplex communication, meaning data can be transmitted and received simultaneously. This improves network efficiency by eliminating collisions and optimizing bandwidth utilization.

9. APPLICATIONS OF HIGH-SPEED NETWORKS

High-speed networks play a significant role in driving the adoption and advancement of emerging technologies. Here's a look at the impact of high-speed networks on key emerging technologies:

1. Distance Learning

The ability to access remote multimedia databases and interactive instructions based on audio, image, and video media requires a network infrastructure capable of transmitting large amounts of data quickly and efficiently [15]. High-speed networks would facilitate the seamless and real-time transfer of multimedia content, ensuring that medical students can access and interact with the resources without experiencing significant delays or disruptions.

2. Cloud Computing:

Data Transfer: High-speed networks enable fast and reliable transfer of data between users and cloud computing platforms. This is crucial for efficient migration of data to and from the cloud, as well as for accessing cloud-based applications and services. **Collaboration and Remote Access:** High-speed networks support real-time collaboration and remote access to cloud-based resources, allowing users to work seamlessly across different locations and access cloud-hosted applications and data [16].

3. Artificial Intelligence (AI):

With high-speed connections, AI researchers and developers can efficiently access and process large volumes of data, accelerating model training and development. Artificial intelligence (AI) has been used as a new paradigm for the intelligent design and optimisation of 6G networks. In order to achieve knowledge discovery, smart resource management, automatic network adjustment, and intelligent service provisioning, this article suggests an AI-enabled intelligent architecture for 6G networks [17]. The architecture is divided into four layers: intelligent sensing layer, data mining and analytics layer, intelligent control layer, and smart application layer [16].

10. FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND CHALLENGES

The future of high-speed networks holds immense potential for further advancements. One major aspect is the pursuit of increased speed and capacity, aiming to cater to the escalating data demands driven by emerging technologies. Advancements in fiber optics, wireless technologies, and network protocols will enable networks to achieve multi-gigabit and terabit speeds, facilitating seamless transmission of high-resolution content, virtual reality experiences, and real-time communication. The expansion of 5G networks will also continue, bringing faster speeds, lower latency, and enhanced network capabilities, while technologies like network slicing, edge computing, and massive MIMO will enable new services and applications.

Although high-speed networks have a bright future, a number of issues still need to be resolved. Broadband restrictions, signal deterioration over long distances, and incompatibilities between various network elements and protocols continue to be major obstacles. Additional challenges include the expense and infrastructure needs for network improvements, as well as security issues and the demand for effective data protection procedures. In addition, maintaining a good standard of service, growing high-speed networks, and dealing with the complexity of network administration are constant difficulties.

11. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our survey report on high-speed networks provides a comprehensive analysis of the current state, trends, technologies, and applications in the field of high-speed networking. We have explored the historical evolution of network technologies, ranging from early wired networks to the emergence of wireless and fiber optic networks. We have highlighted the key milestones and advancements in wireless standards. Additionally, we have examined the principles of fiber optic communication and the evolution of fiber optic technologies and standards. Our survey has shed light on the comparative analysis of high-speed networks, including wireless, Ethernet, and fiber optic networks, showcasing their capabilities, performance, and suitability for various scenarios.

Looking ahead, the future of high-speed networks holds promising opportunities and challenges. We have discussed the potential advancements in network speeds, enhanced connectivity, low latency, network slicing, and energy efficiency. Addressing these challenges will be crucial in realizing the full potential of high-speed networks.

12. QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY

Quantum cryptography distinguishes itself from other cryptographic schemes by its exclusive reliance on the principles of quantum physics. Unlike classical cryptography, which relies on mathematical techniques to protect encrypted messages from unauthorized access, quantum cryptography operates at the forefront of cryptographic advancements. Its foundation lies deeply in the phenomena of "photon polarization."

As the latest and most advanced branch of cryptography, quantum cryptography leverages the unique properties of quantum particles, such as superposition and entanglement, to achieve secure communication. By utilizing these quantum phenomena, it offers unparalleled levels of security, rendering it virtually impervious to attacks by malicious eavesdroppers.

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