

# Abstracts

## Transmission Technologies in Global Communications

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Today's communication systems utilize three basic transmission technologies: copper, radio and fiber. The newest of these, fiber, can transport huge bandwidths ( $> 10$  Gb/s) across global distances, and promises still greater performance in the future. But raw bandwidth is not the only figure of merit for a transmission medium - each approach has its strengths, and, as the current explosion of wireless activity has taught us, new applications can rejuvenate even the most mature technologies. This talk presents an overview of the fundamental principles and limitations of signal transmission media, and offers some speculations about their roles in tomorrow's communications systems.

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