



# An Active Router Architecture for Multicast Video Distribution

---

Ralph Keller, Marcel Dasen, George  
Fankhauser, Bernhard Plattner @ ETHZ

Sumi Choi, Dan Decasper @ WUSTL

(Presented by: Hemant Kumar)



# Video vs Data

---

- Timely delivery is critical
- Not all bits are created equal



# Problem

---

- Network doesn't care (content blind)
- All packets get same treatment
- Problem for many apps : voice, video, music...real time content



# How it (doesn't) work right now

- Buffering at receiver to counter jitter and packet loss

*Doesn't work with interactive media*

- Sender adapts rate according to receiver's feedback

*Not suited for point to multipoint*

*Feedback is slow, network conditions change fast*

- Resource reservation

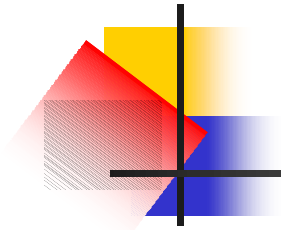
*Not widely available*



# Requirements

---

- Smart Router
- Codec with fine grained scaling
- Efficient scaling algorithm

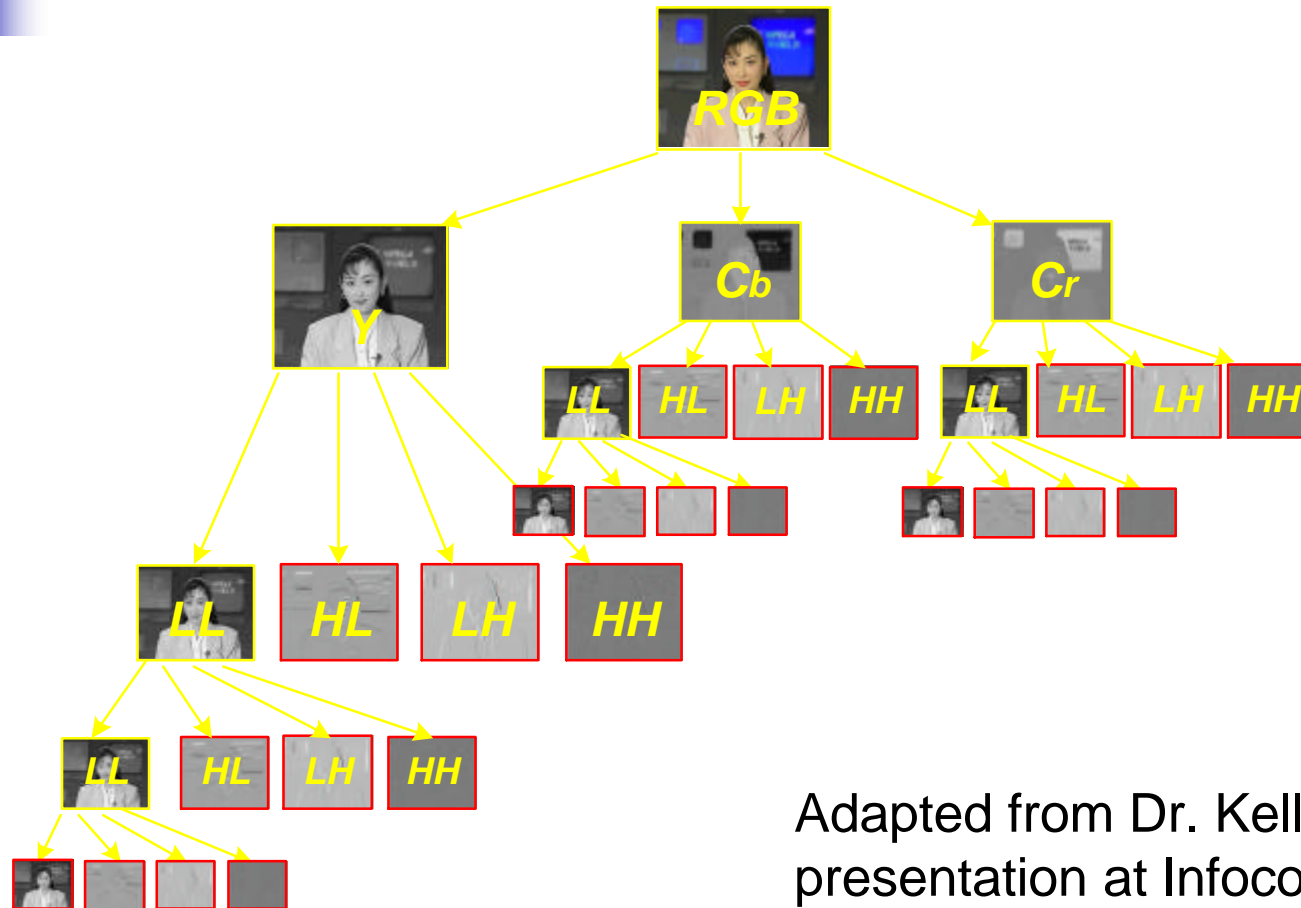


# Approach

---

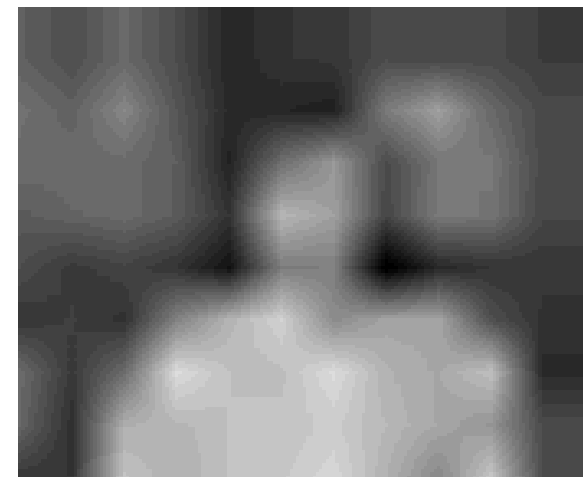
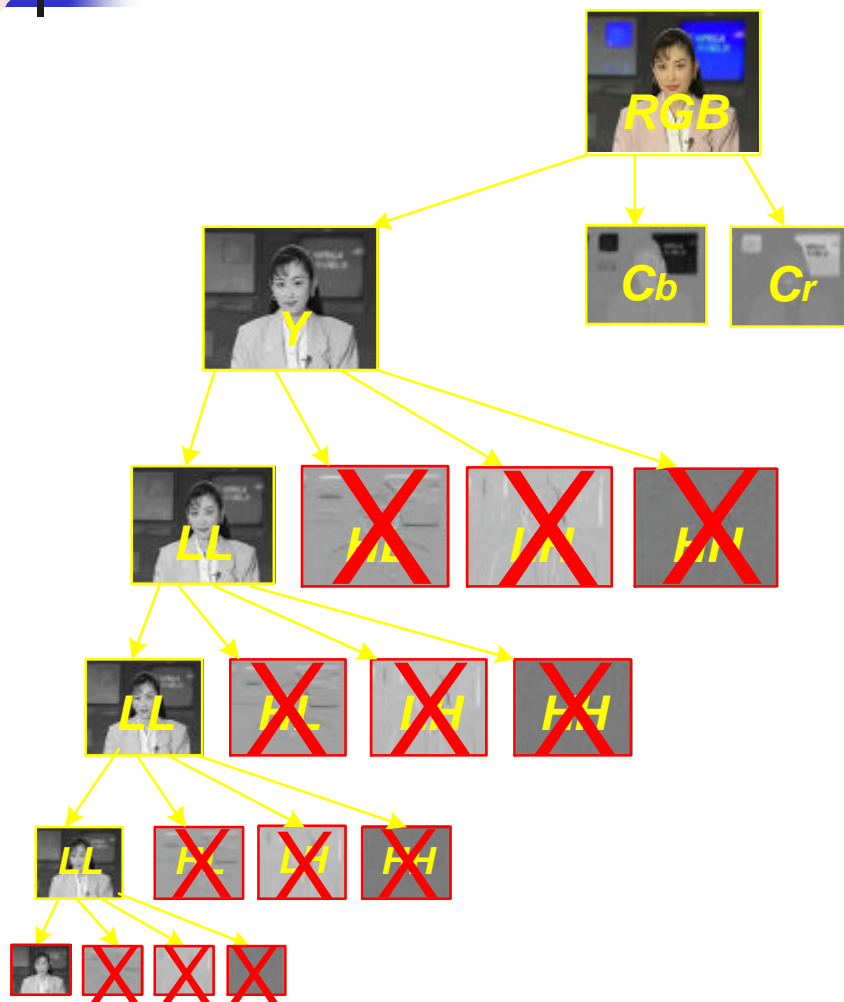
- Use scalable wavelet based codec
  - ✓ *provides fine grained scalability*
  - ✓ *enables a simple algorithm to make decisions about the packet*
- Plugin at router tells it how to deal with video packets
  - ✓ *different video formats can have different plugins*

# Wavevideo Encoding



Adapted from Dr. Keller's presentation at Infocom 2000

# Scaling with sub bands



*Decoded Image*

Adapted from Dr. Keller's presentation at Infocom 2000



Adapted from Dr. Keller's  
presentation at Infocom  
2000

# Scaling with sub bands



33011 bytes (33)



25239 bytes (30)



17179 bytes (27)



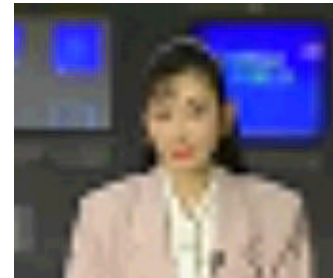
9265 bytes (24)



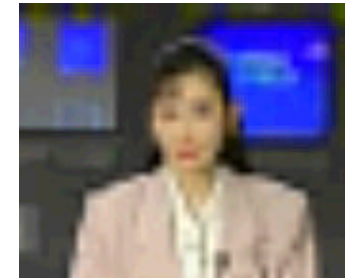
7042 bytes (21)



4819 bytes (18)



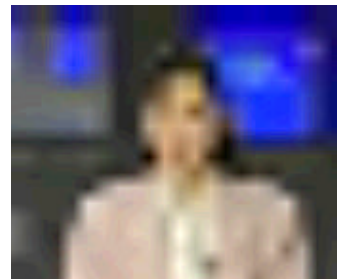
2617 bytes (15)



2006 bytes (12)



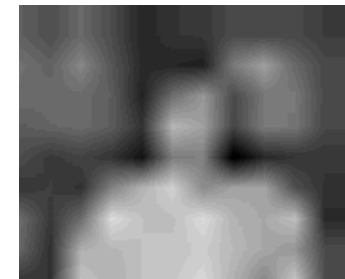
1393 bytes (9)



793 bytes (6)

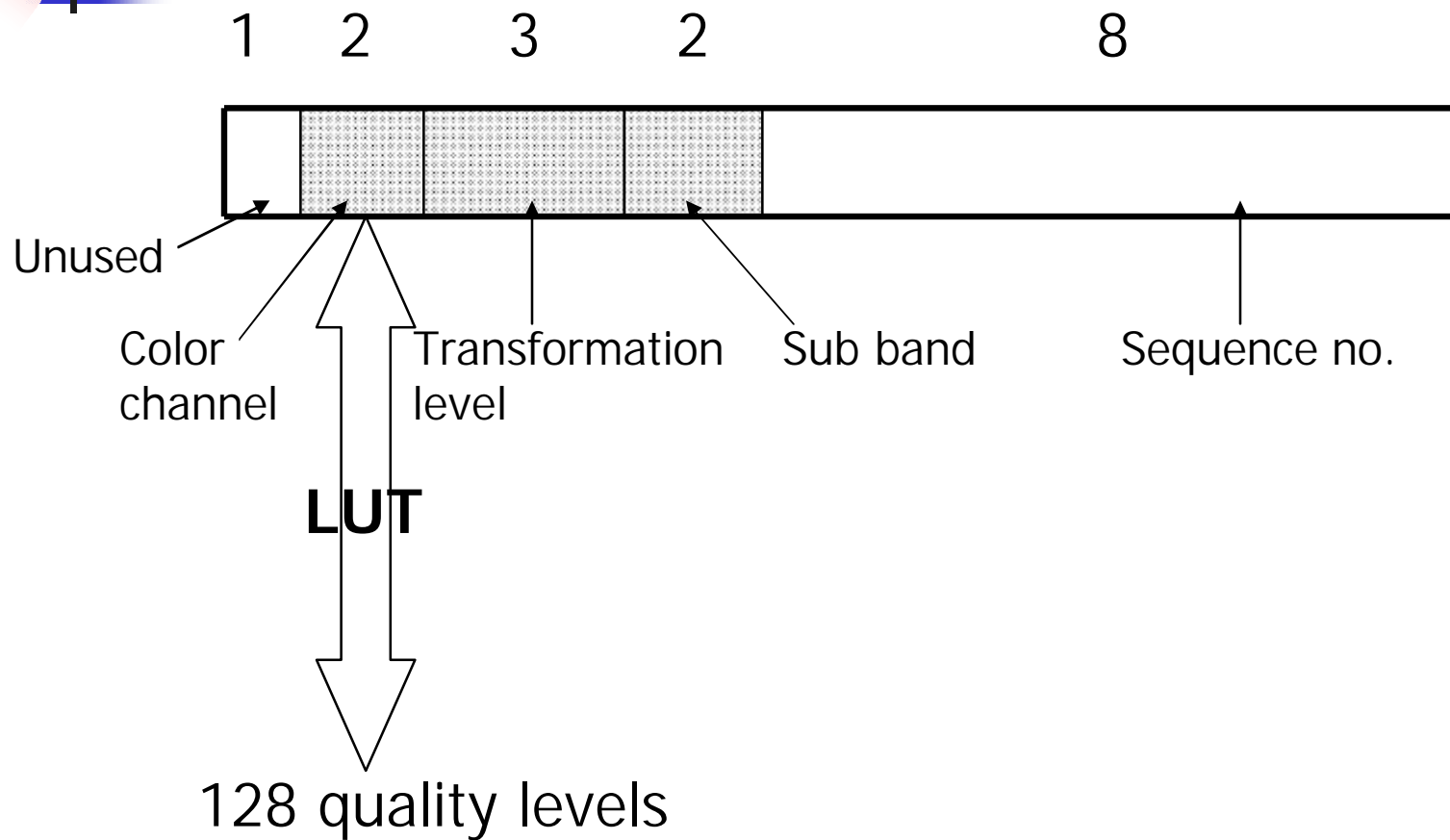


447 bytes (3)

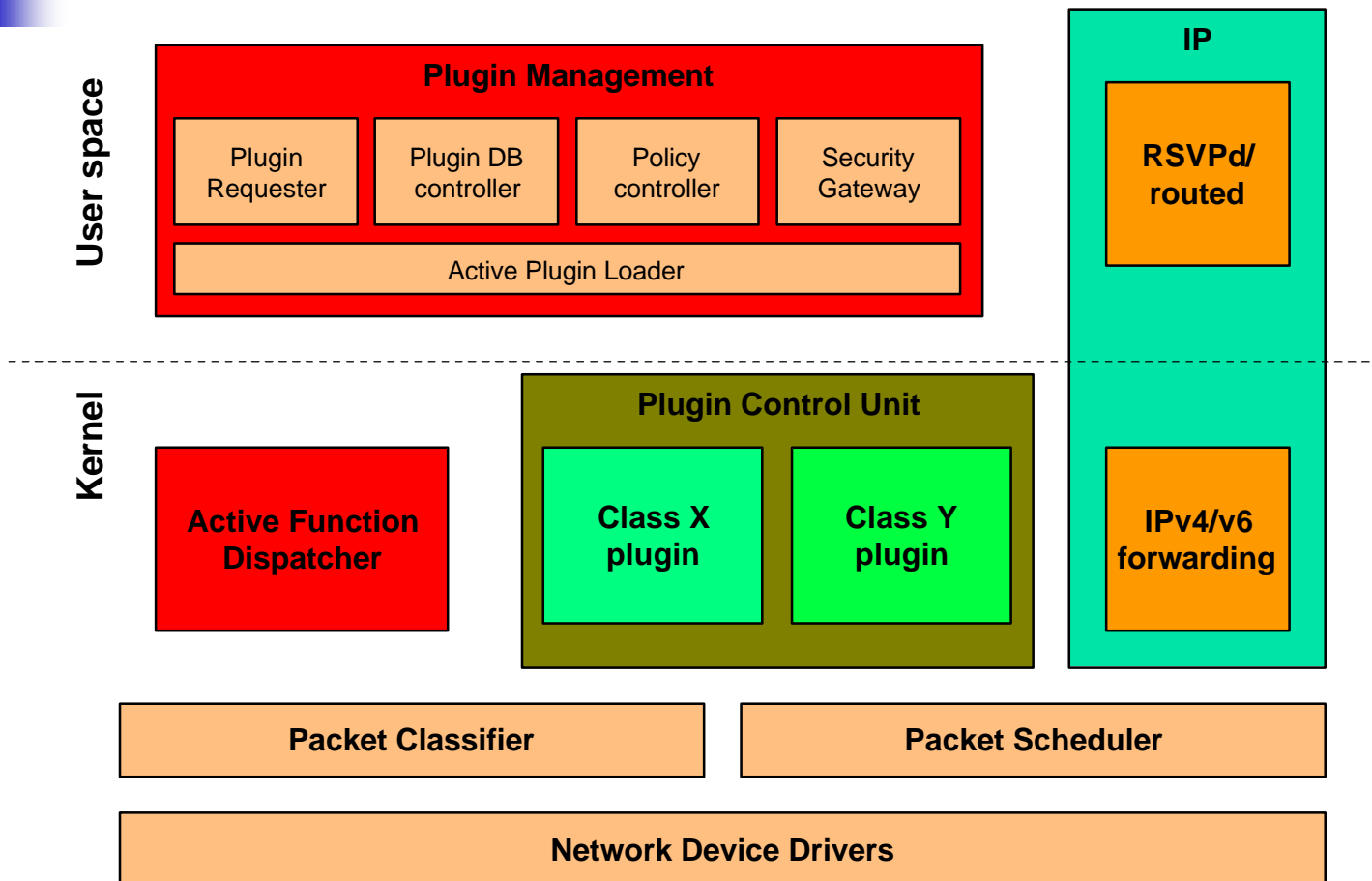


227 bytes (1)

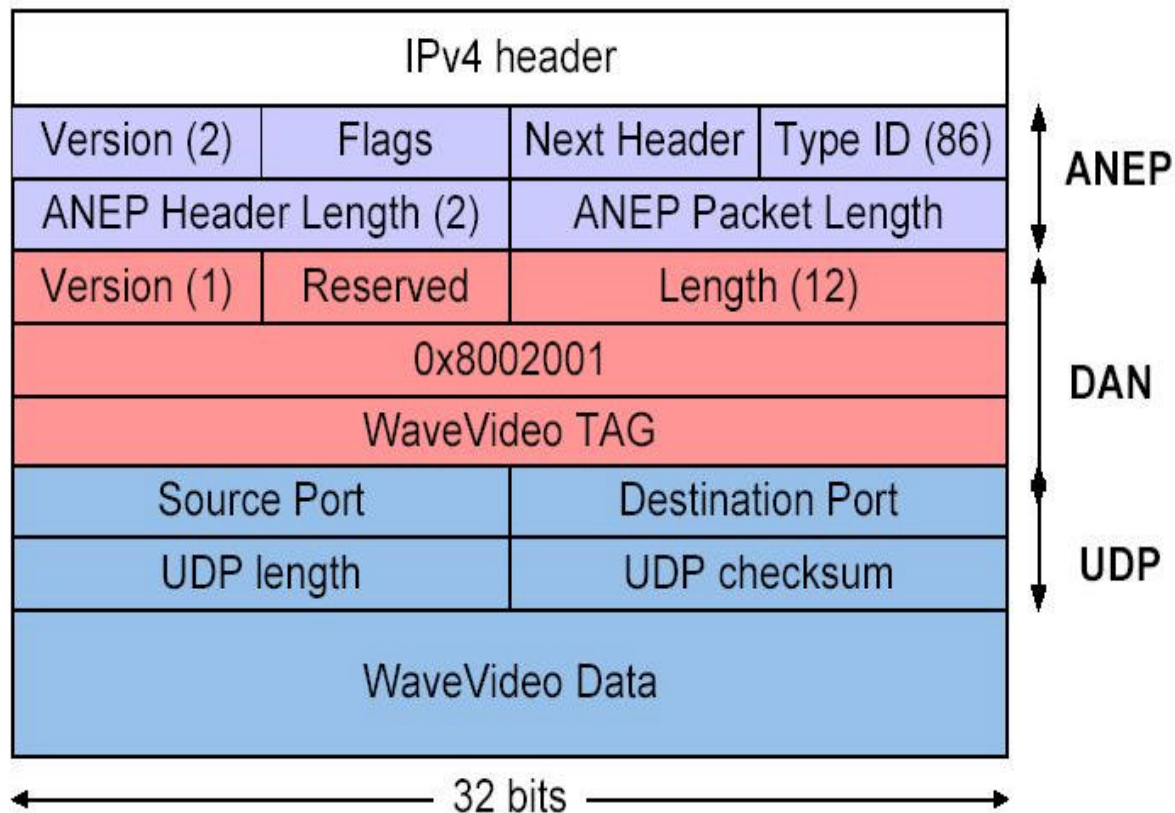
# Classification of packets



# Active network node

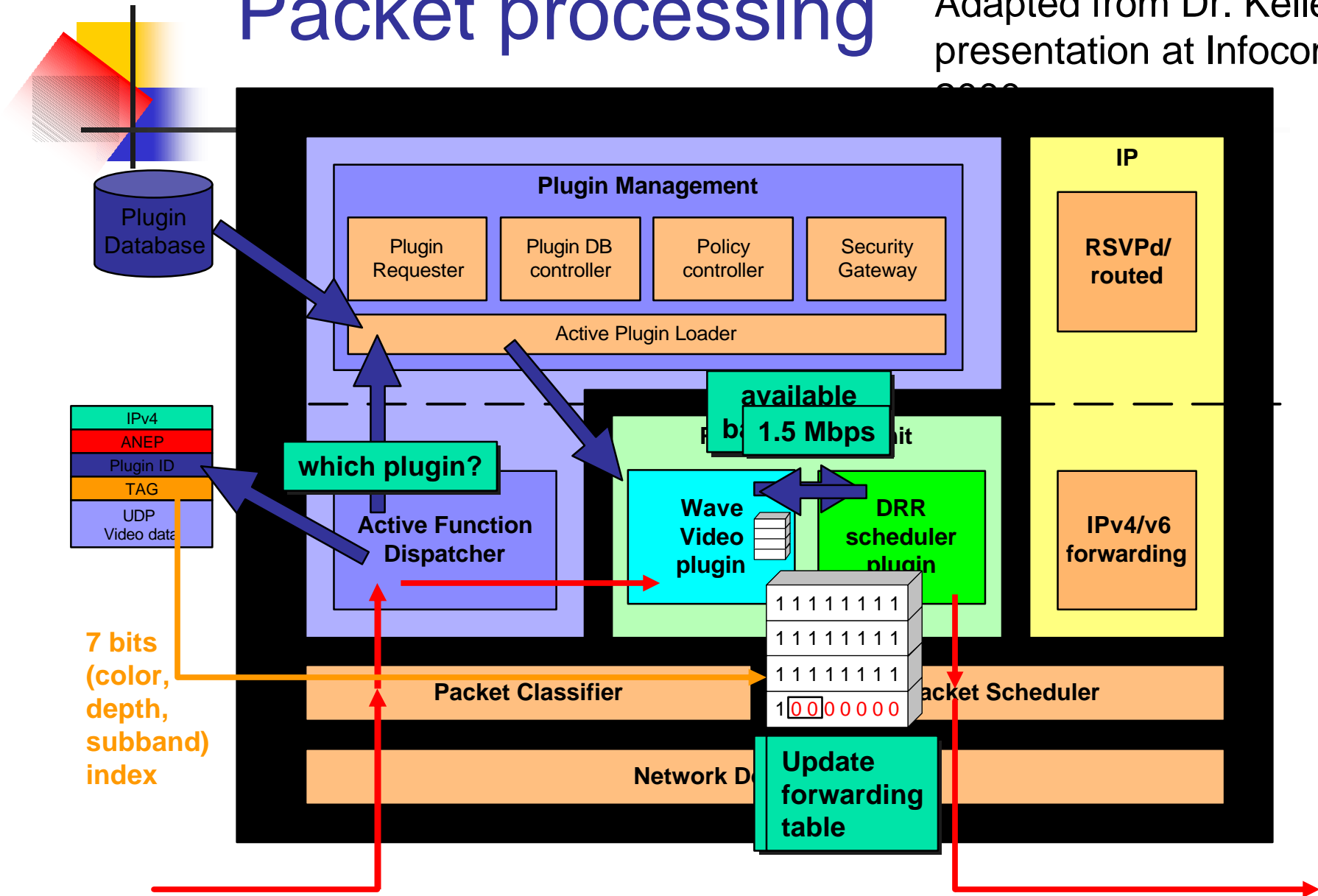


# WaveVideo datagram

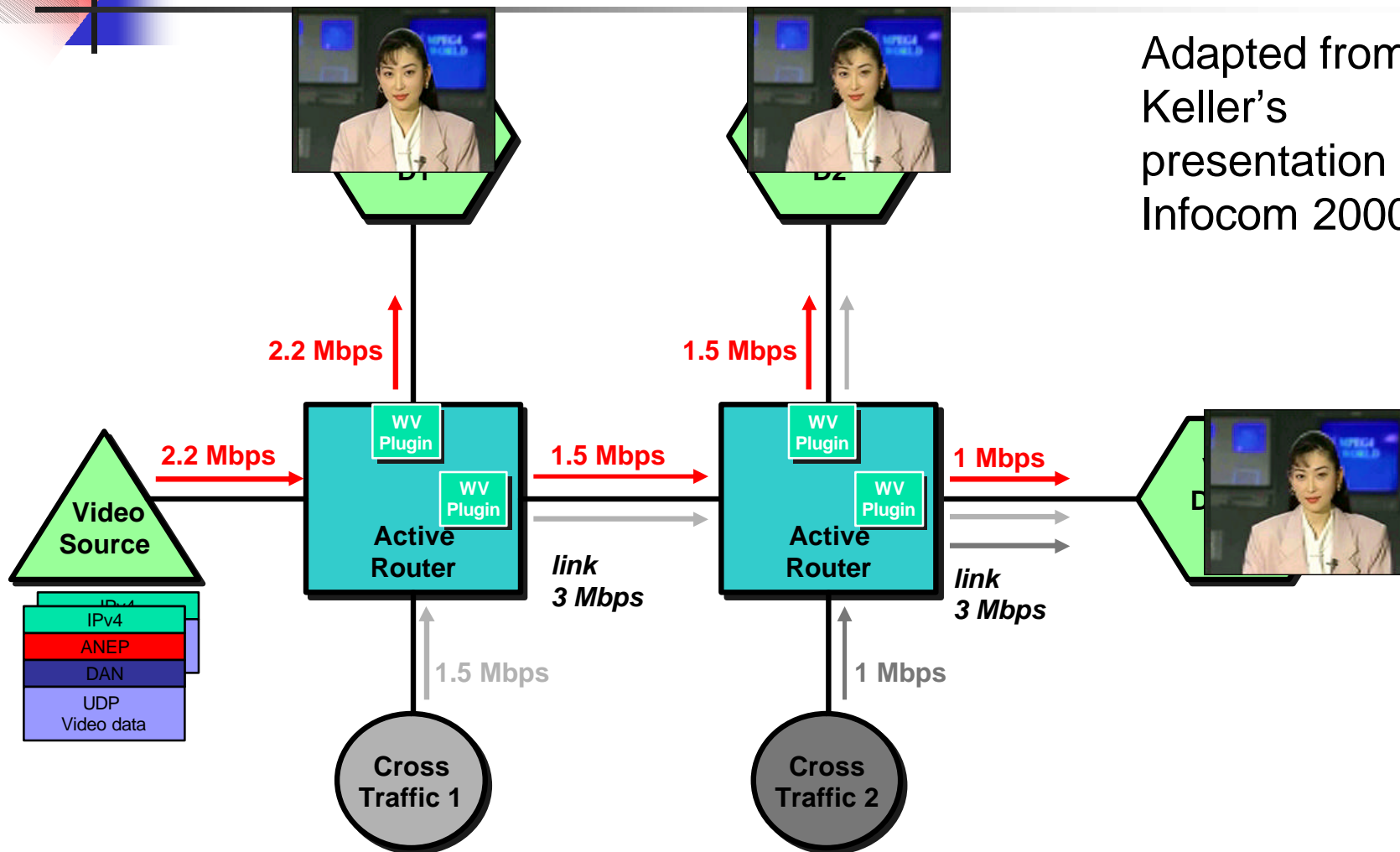


# Packet processing

Adapted from Dr. Keller's presentation at Infocom 2000

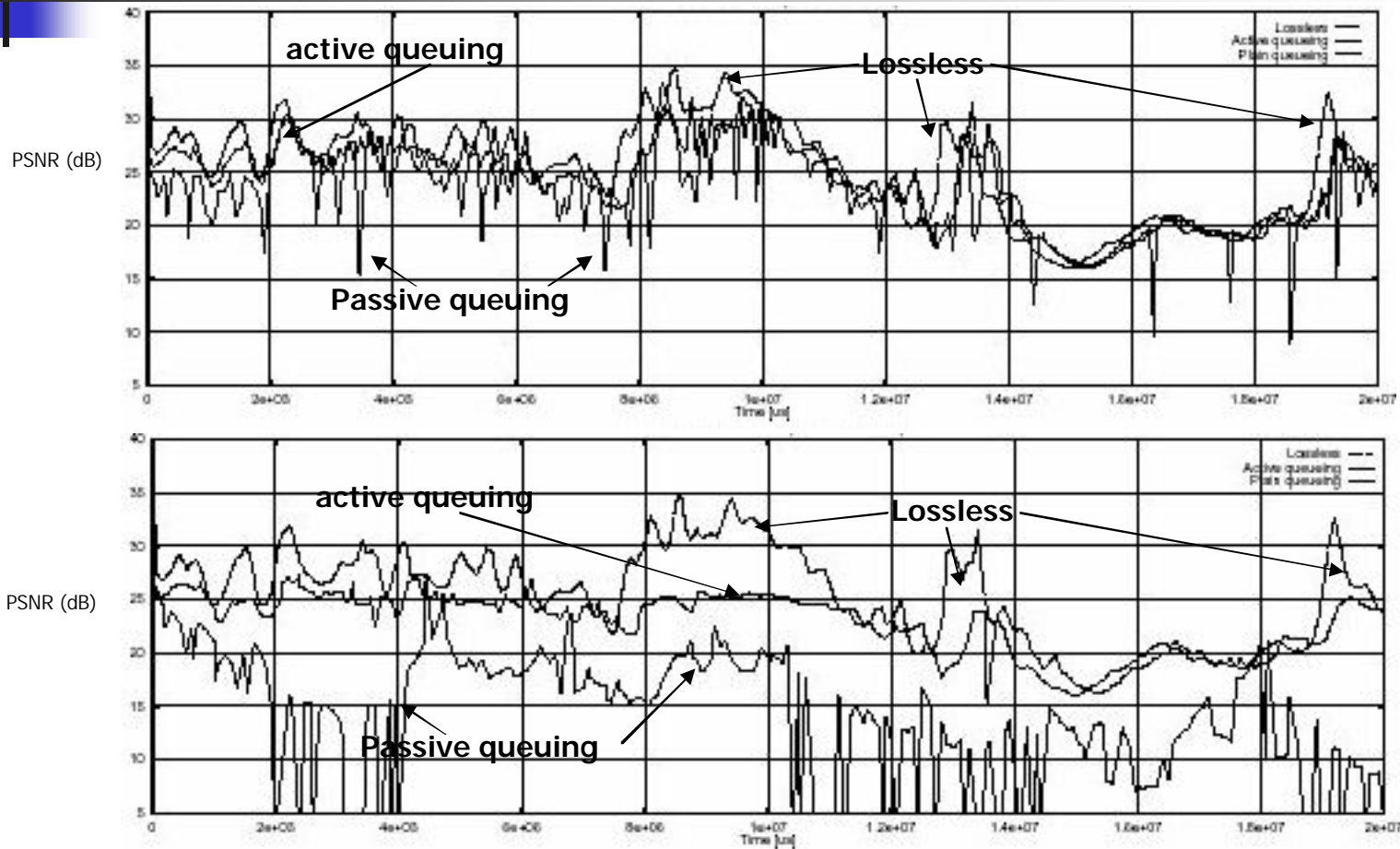


# How it works



Adapted from Dr. Keller's presentation at Infocom 2000

# Quality Measurements



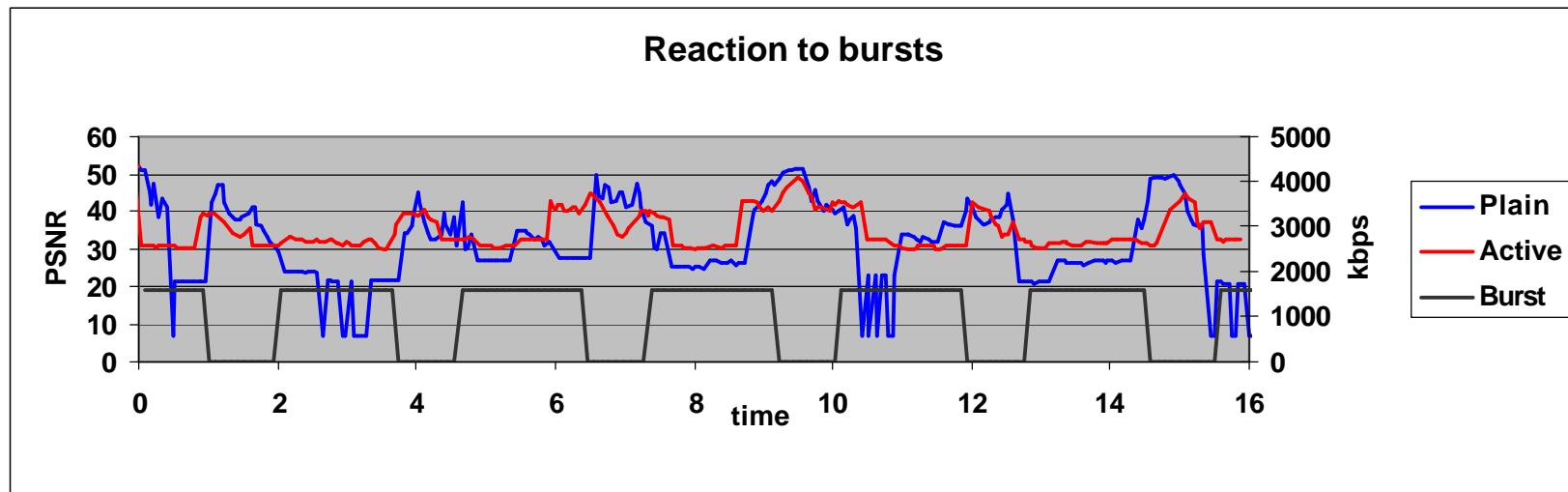
Adapted from Dr.  
Keller's  
presentation at  
Infocom 2000

# With bursty traffic

plain  
queueing



active  
dropping



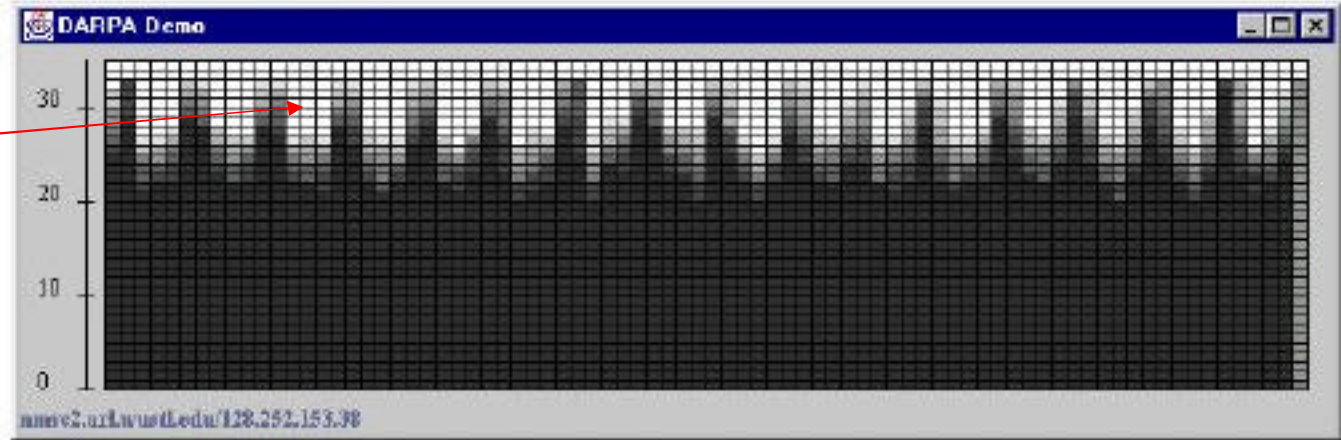


# Distribution of received sub bands

Drop across all sub bands



Drop occurs in high frequency sub bands





# Conclusions

---

- Good Scalability (with a general purpose CPU, time taken is 22  $\mu$ s)
- Quick Response to congestion (at most 50 ms)
- Can be implemented on any active networks environment.



## Notes (- / +)

---

- Would be more convincing if applied to commercially available wavelet based codecs (VDONet etc.)
- Doesn't show how effective this approach is when intermediate routers are passive
- WaveVideo will not be able to achieve compression of MPEG (because MPEG eliminates temporal redundancy also) – this is where we pay the price !
- Easily deployable solution.
- Shows efficacy of active networks approach. Even small amount of processing capability can deliver solid gains.