# Multicast Multimedia Traffic and the Design of Real-Time Protocols

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# Outline

Introduction and motivation

Environment and methodology

Measurements

Analysis and other observations

Conclusions and implications for protocol design

# Introduction

## IP Multicast

- MBONE (Multicast Backbone): Virtual network for supporting Internet-wide multicasts
- Multicast "sessions" and session directory

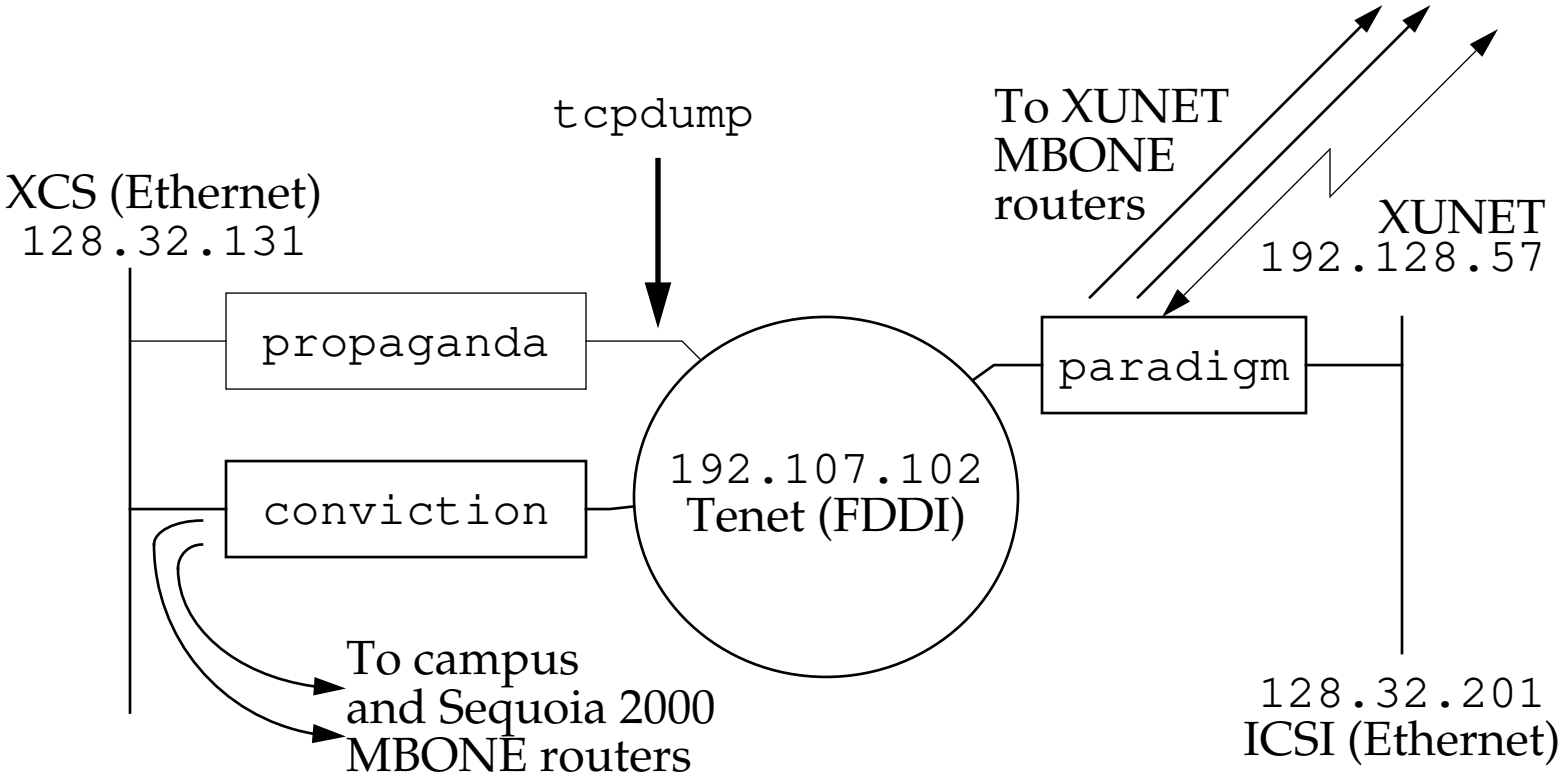
## Multimedia tools

- Video conferencing (`nv, vic, ivs`)
- Audio conferencing (`vat, nevot`)
- Shared whiteboard (`wb`)
- Still image distribution (`imm`)

## Questions

- What can we learn about network traffic generated by *production use* multimedia applications?
- How can real-time network protocols best support these applications?

# Environment and Methodology

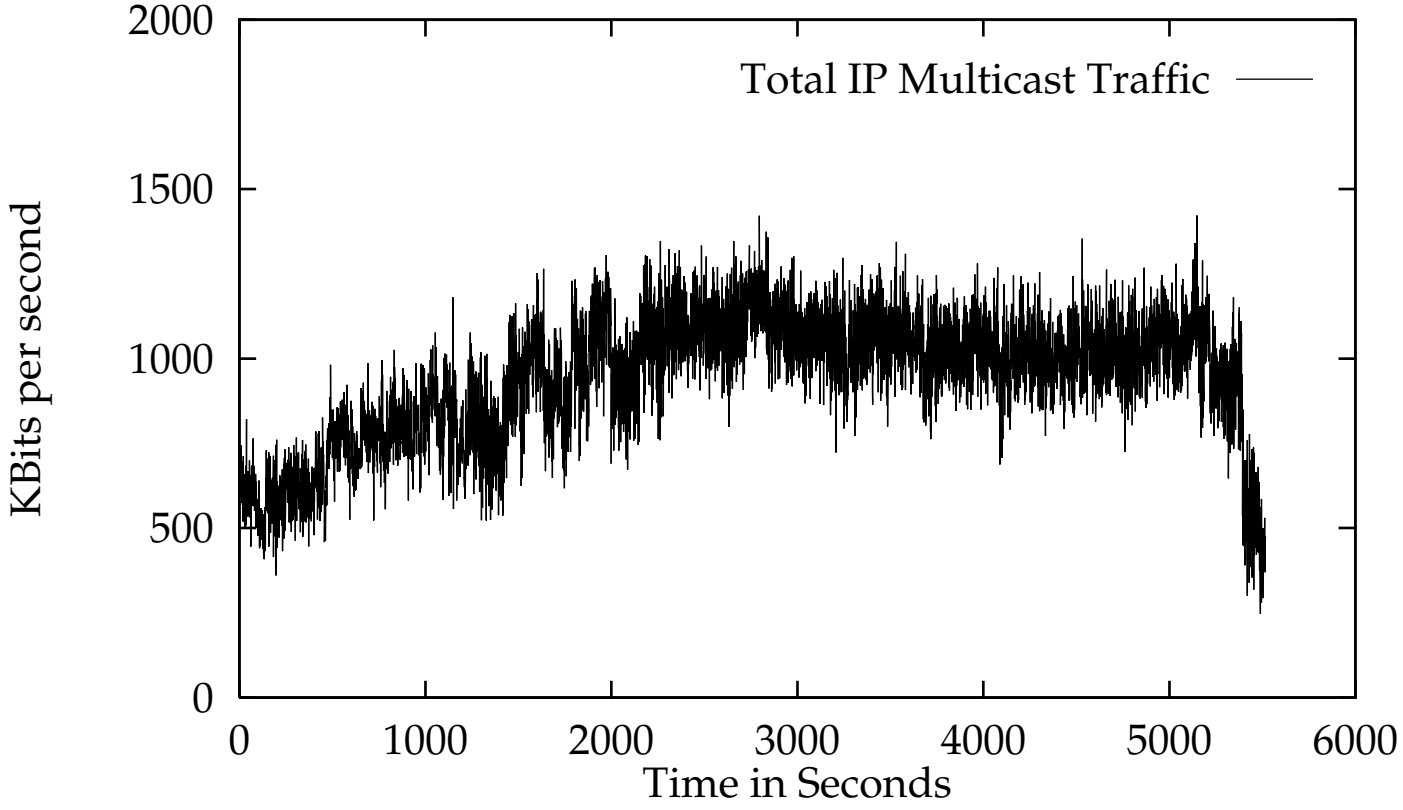



Capture packet headers for off-line processing

`sdsnoop`: Session Directory Snoop

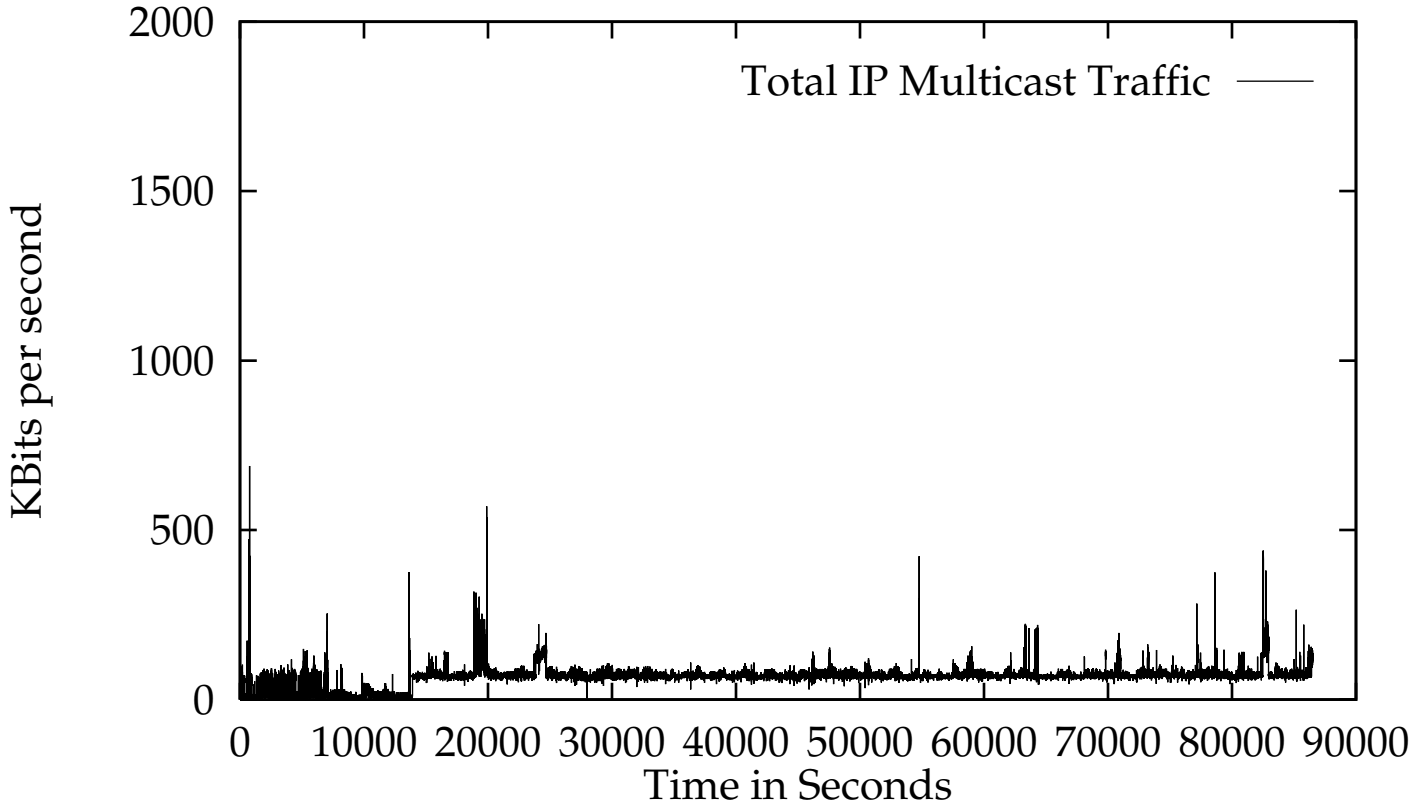
# Aggregate IP Multicast Traffic

XUNET Video Conference
22 September 1993 11:34 AM to 1:06 PM PST

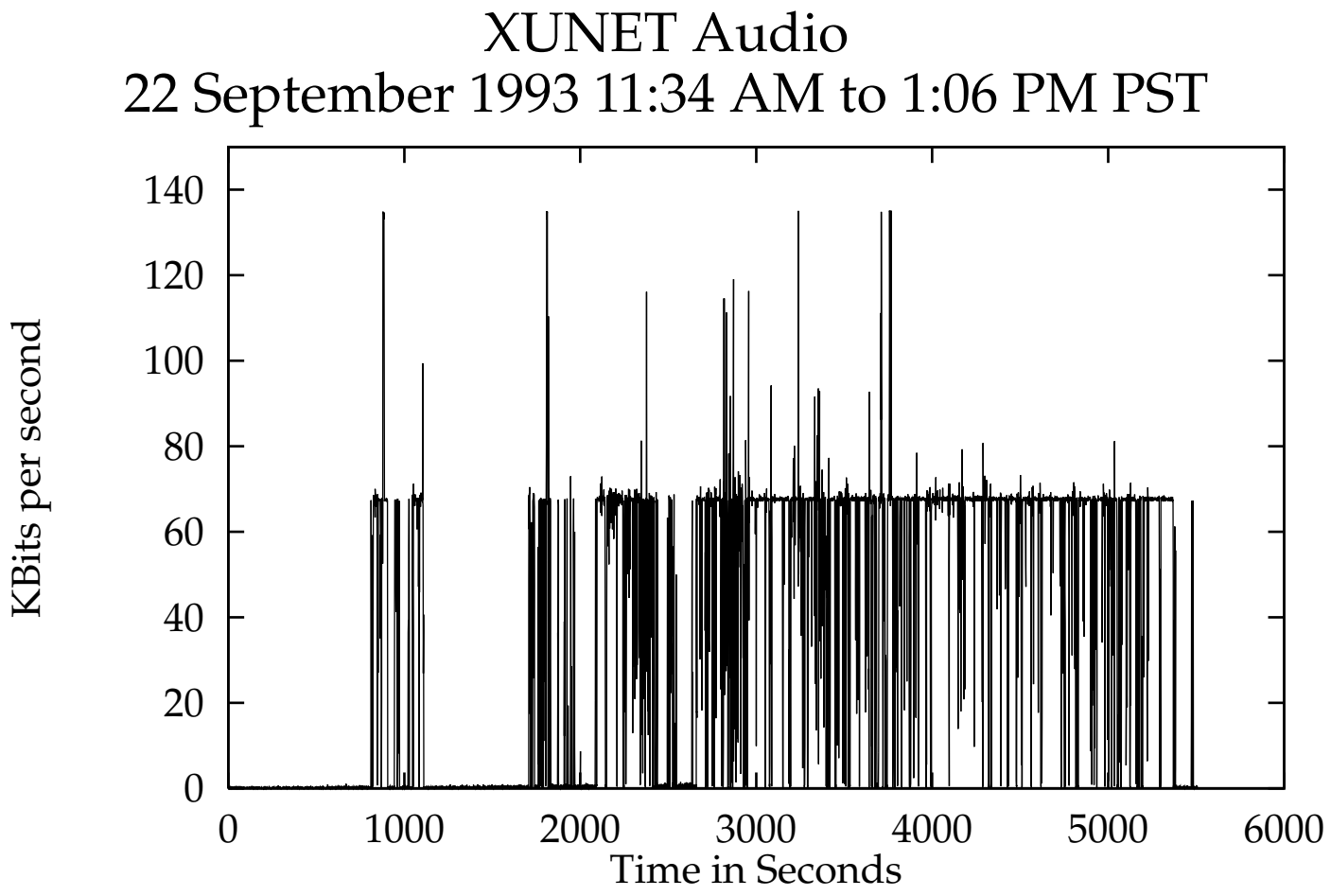


# Aggregate IP Multicast Traffic

"Just an ordinary day"
20 January 1994 09:45 AM to 21 January 1994 09:47 AM PST

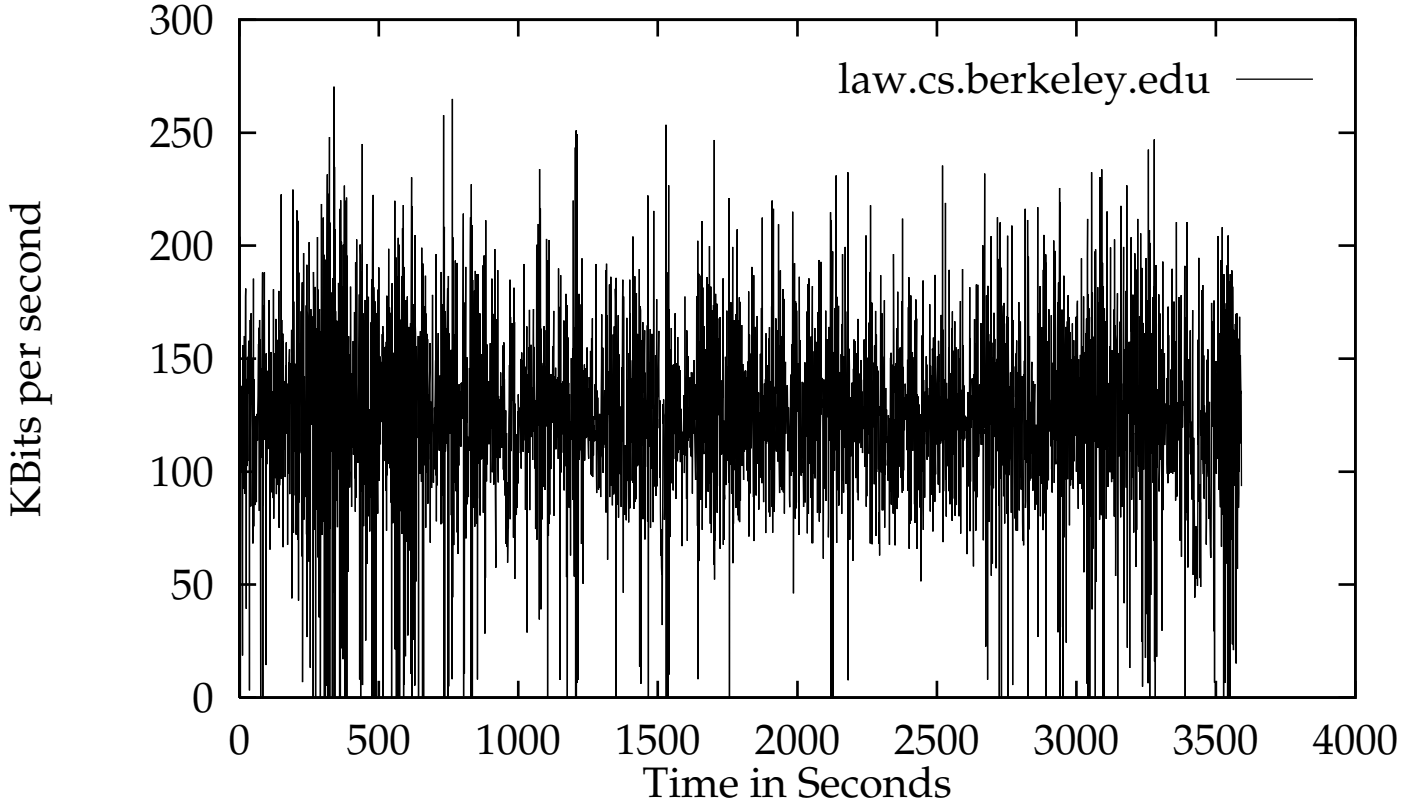


# Audio Bitrate (`vat`)



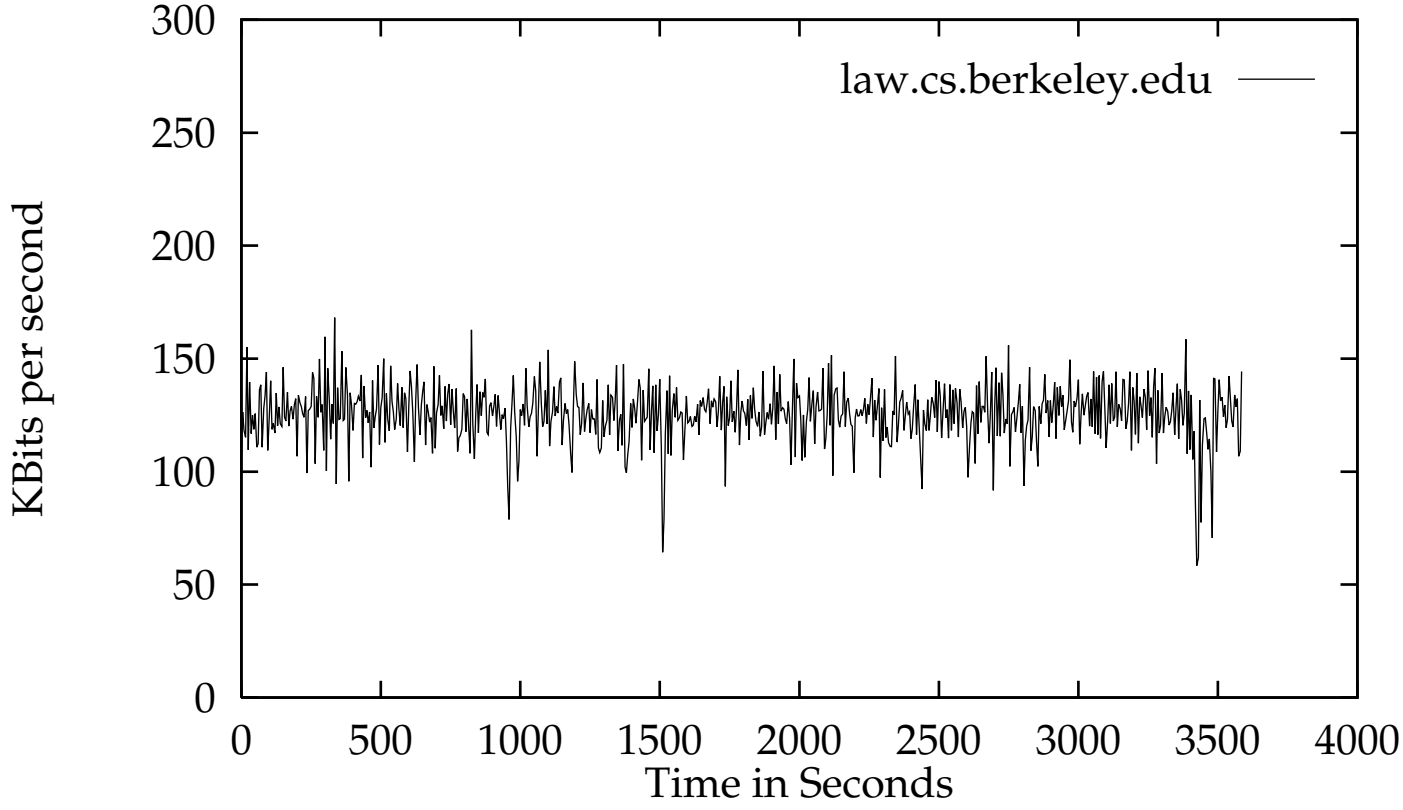
# Video Bitrate (nv 128Kbps)

law.CS.Berkeley.EDU to XUNET Video (one-second samples)
22 September 1993 11:34 AM to 1:06 PM PST

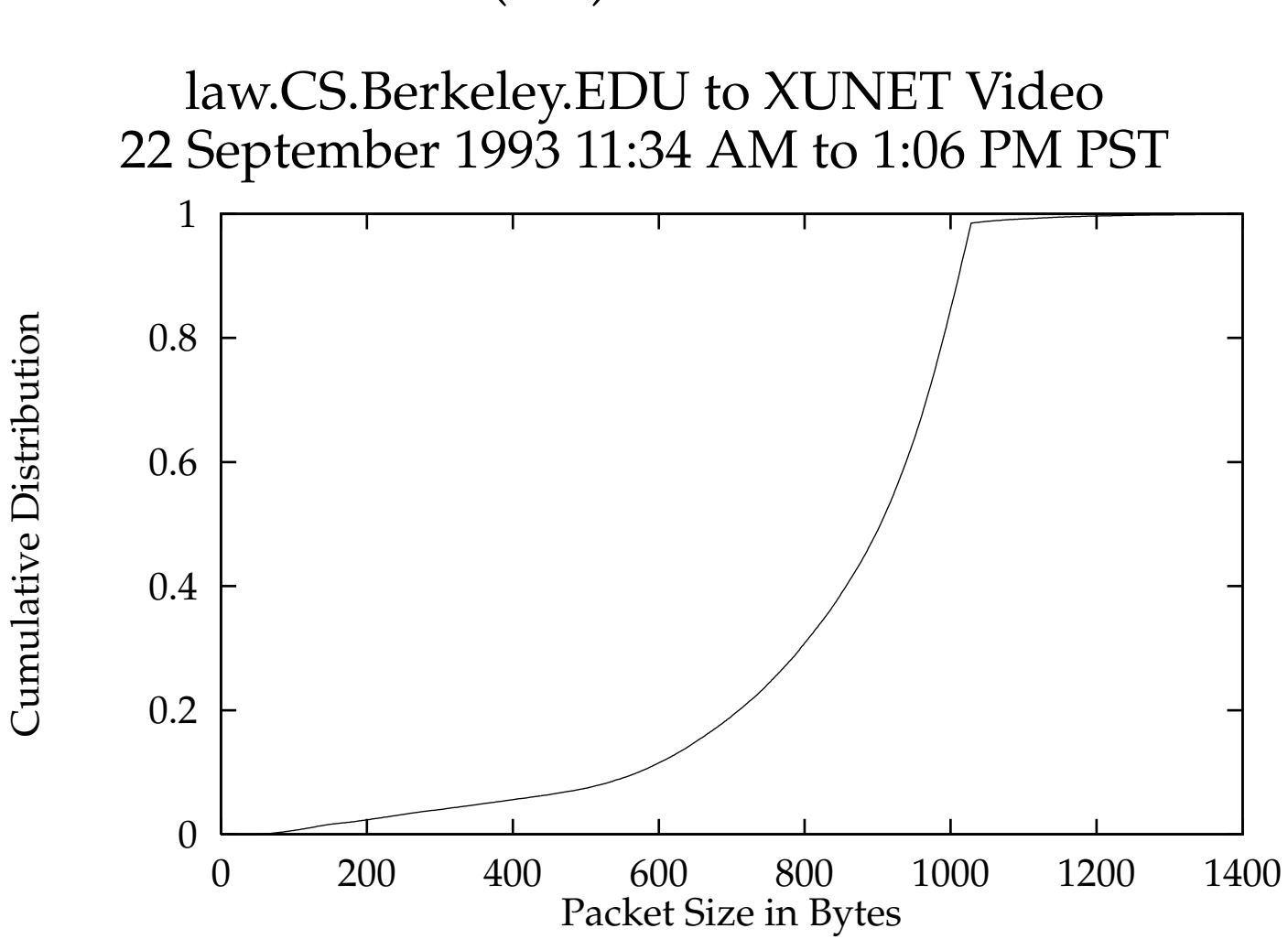


# Video (nv) Bitrate

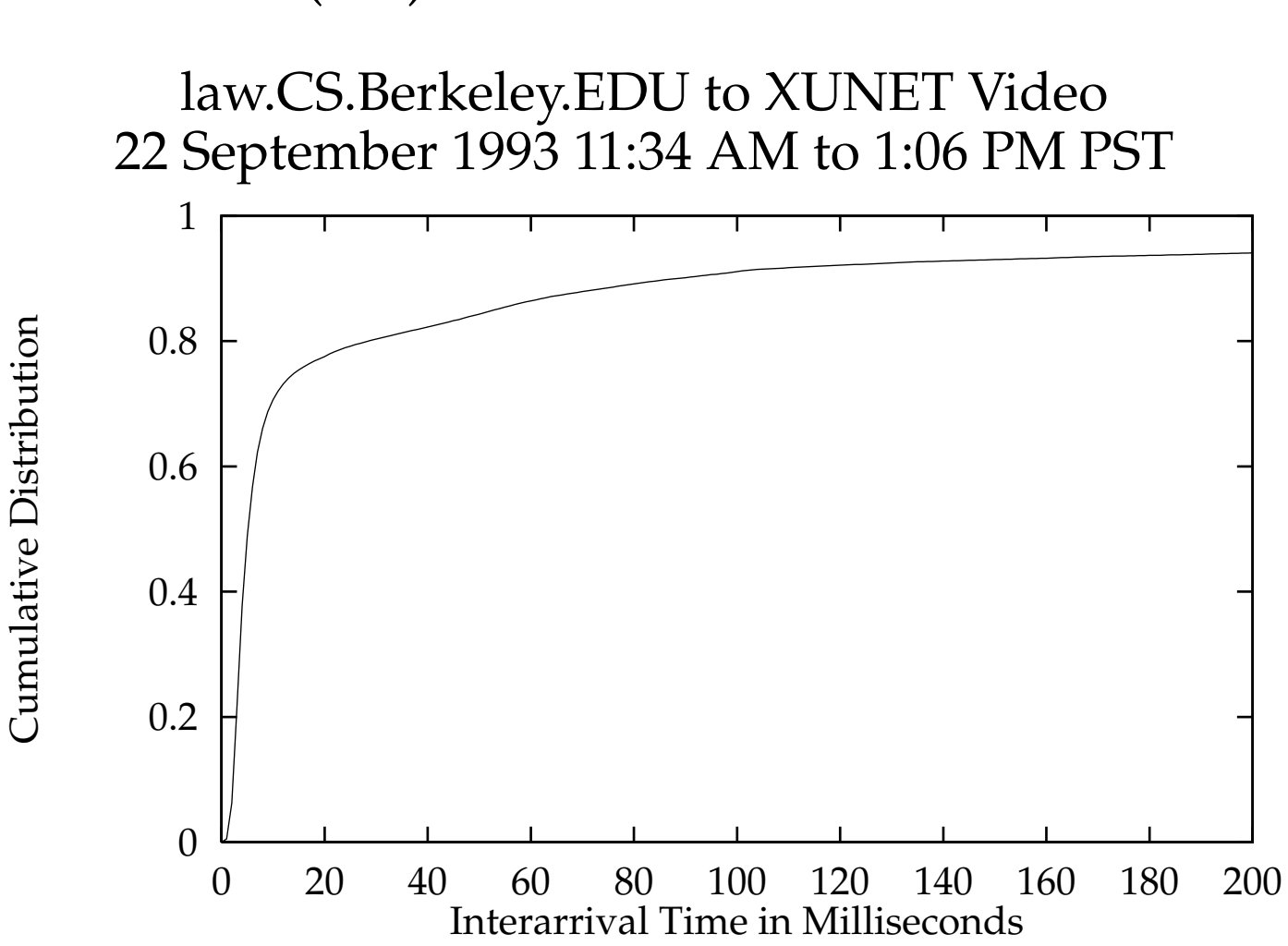
law.CS.Berkeley.EDU to XUNET Video (five second samples)
22 September 1993 11:34 AM to 1:06 PM PST



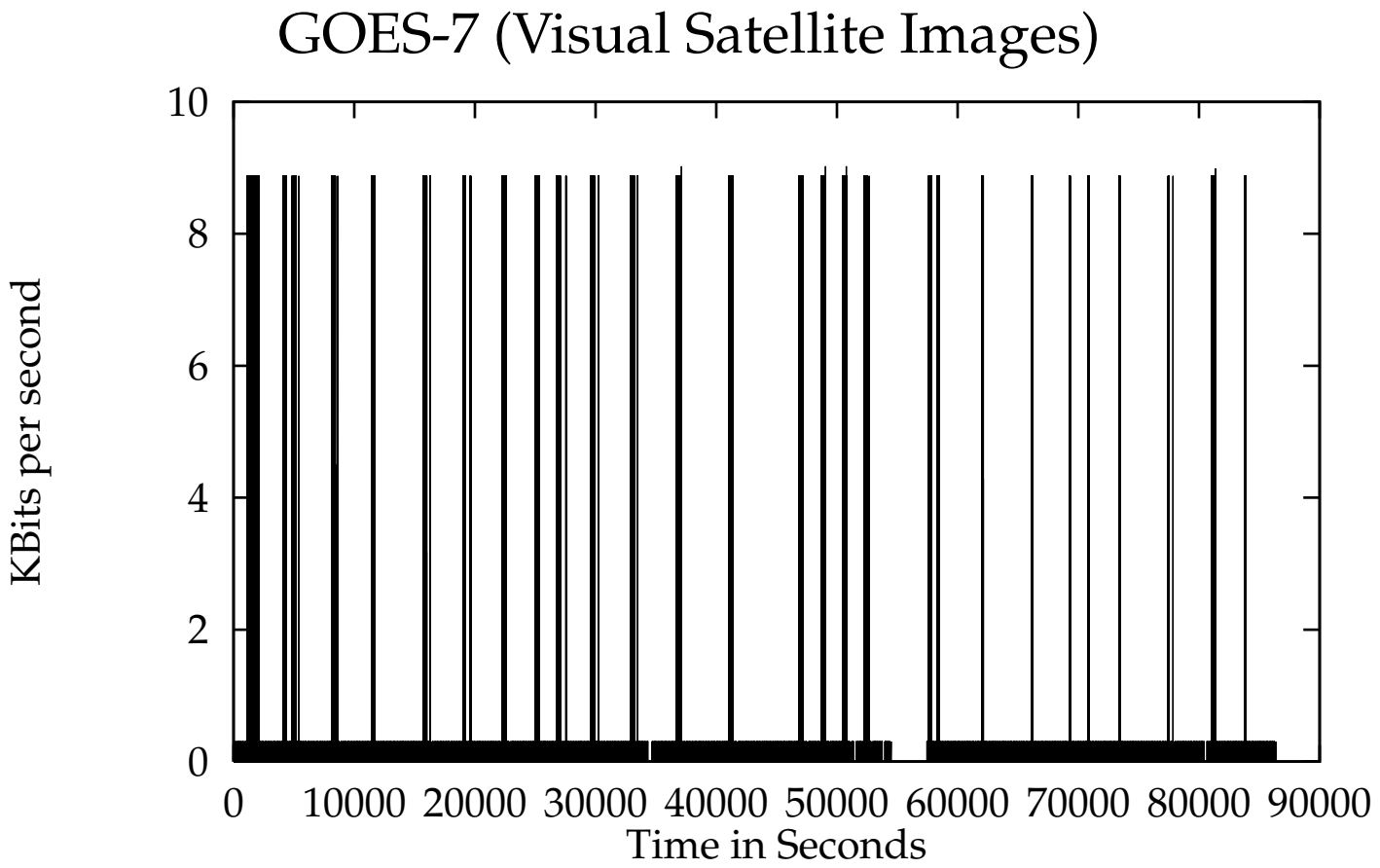
# Video (nv) Packet Sizes



# Video (nv) Packet Interarrival Time



# Still Image Distribution (`imm`)




The solution to “casual Internet usage?”

# Some Traffic Analysis

20 January 1994 Trace Gross Characteristics

- 299 traffic sources
- 65 destinations
- 1,005 conversations
- 722,901,051 total bytes
- 2,239,382 total packets

No special events this day...why so many destination addresses?

# Traffic Breakdown

723 MB total (all sessions)

585 MB (81.0% percent of total) from a locally-advertised “radio session”, adjusted totals exclude this session

24 advertised sessions

100 MB (72.6% of adjusted total)

Still Images (`imm`): 46 MB

Audio (`vat`): 42 MB

Video (`nv`): 11 MB

7 unadvertised but known sessions

8 MB (5.5% of adjusted total)

33 unknown sessions

30 MB (21.8% of adjusted total)

# Funny User Behavior

What's happening here?

- Traffic patterns suggest `vat` audio conferencing
- Lack of session directory advertisements suggests testing, experimentation
- Improper scope control (most participants in Europe, why should we see their traffic in California?)

Suggestions

- We need real multicast tree pruning!
- Users need education!

Hosts unreachable from NSFNET backbone

# Conclusions and Implications

## Aggregate traffic

- IP Multicast traffic still highly variable
- Dependent on special events and outside factors
- Difficult to construct a "typical" workload
- Flexibility is important

## Audio conferencing traffic

- "Floor control" needed

## Video conferencing traffic (`nv` coded)

- Peak-to-average ratio of about 2:1
- Large packets sent fairly frequently

## User behavior

- Better protection in network needed (true multicast tree pruning)
- User education