



Supporting complex cameras

Enabling users and respecting our principles



Ricardo Ribalda



Debian Minidebconf Cambridge 2023, 26th November 2023

Standalone Cameras

Video4Linux 2



```
author Gerd Knorr <kxrael@bytesex.org> 2002-10-30 18:52:31 -0800
committer Linus Torvalds <torvalds@penguin.transmeta.com> 2002-10-30 18:52:31 -0800
commit e028b61bf88fe663638bc6c4011474c6e71bc58c (patch)
tree 903fedb536e064a826276d9223df70ef6df67c6e /include/linux/videodev2.h
parent b7649ef7898fc092e0b45f0f77f041249251a2a4 (diff)
download history-e028b61bf88fe663638bc6c4011474c6e71bc58c.tar.gz
```

[PATCH] add v4l2 api

This adds the v4l2 API to the linux kernel.

The first, original video4linux API has a number of design bugs. They are fixed in this new API revision. It already exists for quite some time. Last weeks it got a number of cleanups based on the experiences of the last years (drop stuff nobody uses, fix some inconsistencies). We consider it being in a pretty good shape now and like to see it in 2.6.

This patch is basically the header file with all the structs and ioctls in there. A small module with some helper functions for v4l2 drivers is included too. Related updates (bttv, ...) will follow as separate patches.

Diffstat (limited to "include/linux/videodev2.h")

```
-rw-r--r-- include/linux/videodev2.h 859
```

1 files changed, 859 insertions, 0 deletions

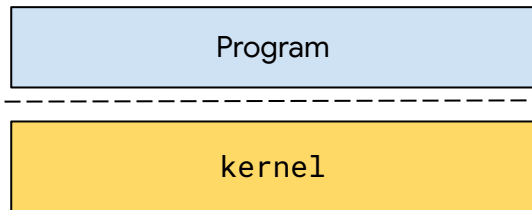
```
diff --git a/include/linux/videodev2.h b/include/linux/videodev2.h
new file mode 100644
index 000000000000..373856414e05d
```



```
cat /dev/video0 > my_holidays_in_hawaii.png
```

Video4Linux 2

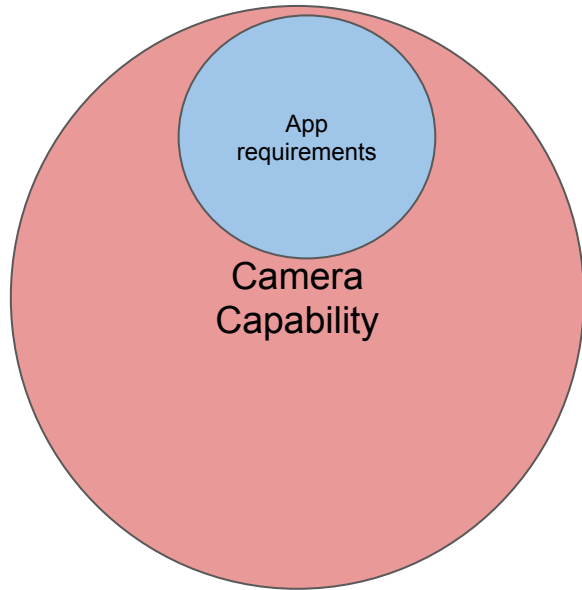
```
fd = open("/dev/video0");
ioctl(fd, VIDIOC_S_FMT, &fmt);
ioctl(fd, VIDIOC_S_PARM, &fps);
ioctl(fd, VIDIOC_S_EXT_CTRL, &exp_time);
ioctl(fd, VIDIOC_REQBUFS, &req) ;
for i in buf: ioctl(fd, VIDIOC_QUERYBUF, &buf[i]);
for i in buf: ioctl(fd, VIDIOC_QBUF, &buf[i]);
ioctl(fd, VIDIOC_STREAMON, &req) ;
while true:
    ioctl(fd, VIDIOC_DQBUF, &buf[i]);
    USE IMAGE
    ioctl(fd, VIDIOC_QBUF, &buf[i]);
```



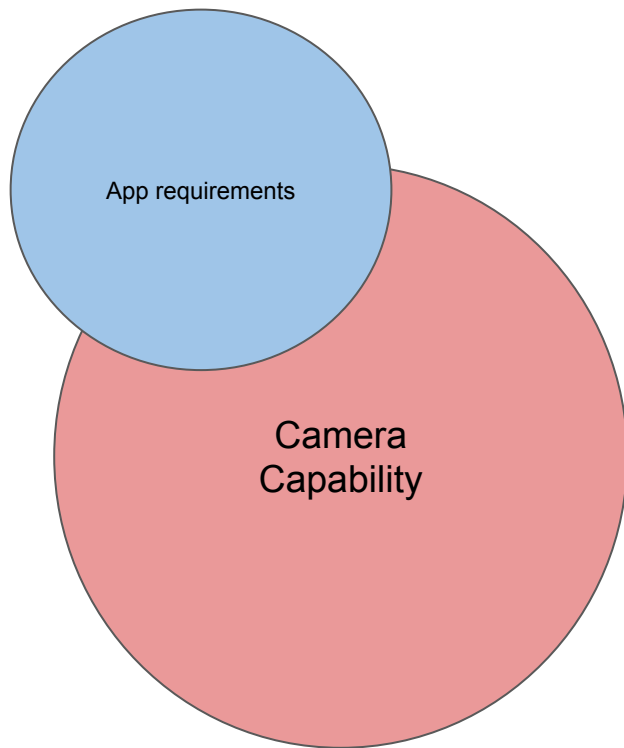
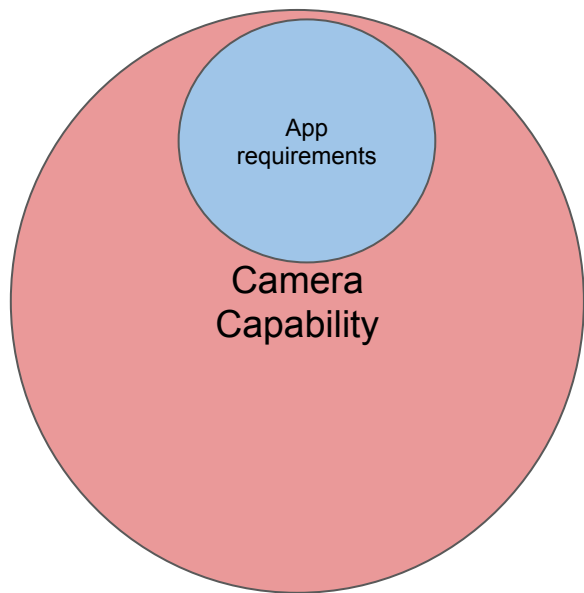
Formats

```
/*      Pixel format      FOURCC      depth      Description      */
/* RGB formats (1 or 2 bytes per pixel) */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGB332 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'G', 'B', '1') /* 8   RGB-3-3-2      */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGB444 v4l2_fourcc('R', '4', '4', '4') /* 16  xxxxxxxr ggggbbbb */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_ARGB444 v4l2_fourcc('A', 'R', '1', '2') /* 16  aaaarrrr ggggbbbb */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_XRGB444 v4l2_fourcc('X', 'R', '1', '2') /* 16  xxxrrrrr ggggbbbb */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGBA444 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'A', '1', '2') /* 16  rrrrrggg bbbbaaaa */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGBX444 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'X', '1', '2') /* 16  rrrrrggg bbbbxxxx */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_ABGR444 v4l2_fourcc('A', 'B', '1', '2') /* 16  aaaabbbb ggggrrrr */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_XBGR444 v4l2_fourcc('X', 'B', '1', '2') /* 16  xxxxbbbb ggggrrrr */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_BGRA444 v4l2_fourcc('G', 'A', '1', '2') /* 16  bbbbgggg rrrraaaa */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_BGRX444 v4l2_fourcc('B', 'X', '1', '2') /* 16  bbbbgggg rrrrxxxx */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGB555 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'G', 'B', '0') /* 16  RGB-5-5-5      */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_ARGB555 v4l2_fourcc('A', 'R', '1', '5') /* 16  ARGB-1-5-5-5   */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_XRGB555 v4l2_fourcc('X', 'R', '1', '5') /* 16  XRGB-1-5-5-5   */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGBA555 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'A', '1', '5') /* 16  RGBA-5-5-5-1  */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGBX555 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'X', '1', '5') /* 16  RGBX-5-5-5-1  */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_ABGR555 v4l2_fourcc('A', 'B', '1', '5') /* 16  ABGR-1-5-5-5   */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_XBGR555 v4l2_fourcc('X', 'B', '1', '5') /* 16  XBGR-1-5-5-5   */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_BGRA555 v4l2_fourcc('B', 'A', '1', '5') /* 16  BGRA-5-5-5-1  */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_BGRX555 v4l2_fourcc('B', 'X', '1', '5') /* 16  BGRX-5-5-5-1  */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGB565 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'G', 'B', 'P') /* 16  RGB-5-6-5      */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGB565X v4l2_fourcc('R', 'G', 'B', 'Q') /* 16  RGB-5-5-5 BE   */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_ARGB555X v4l2_fourcc_be('A', 'R', '1', '5') /* 16  ARGB-5-5-5 BE */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_XRGB555X v4l2_fourcc_be('X', 'R', '1', '5') /* 16  XRGB-5-5-5 BE */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGB565X v4l2_fourcc('R', 'G', 'B', 'R') /* 16  RGB-5-6-5 BE   */
/* RGB formats (3 or 4 bytes per pixel) */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_BGR666 v4l2_fourcc('B', 'G', 'R', 'H') /* 18  BGR-6-6-6      */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_BGR24 v4l2_fourcc('B', 'G', 'R', '3') /* 24  BGR-8-8-8      */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGB24 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'G', 'B', '3') /* 24  RGB-8-8-8      */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_BGR32 v4l2_fourcc('B', 'G', 'R', '4') /* 32  BGR-8-8-8-8   */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_ABGR32 v4l2_fourcc('A', 'R', '2', '4') /* 32  BGRA-8-8-8-8  */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_XBGR32 v4l2_fourcc('X', 'R', '2', '4') /* 32  BGRX-8-8-8-8  */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_BGRA32 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'A', '2', '4') /* 32  ABGR-8-8-8-8  */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_BGRX32 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'X', '2', '4') /* 32  XBGR-8-8-8-8  */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGB32 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'G', 'B', '4') /* 32  RGB-8-8-8-8   */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGBA32 v4l2_fourcc('A', 'B', '2', '4') /* 32  RGBA-8-8-8-8 */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGBX32 v4l2_fourcc('X', 'B', '2', '4') /* 32  RGBX-8-8-8-8  */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_ARGB32 v4l2_fourcc('B', 'A', '2', '4') /* 32  ARGB-8-8-8-8  */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_XRGB32 v4l2_fourcc('B', 'X', '2', '4') /* 32  XRGB-8-8-8-8  */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGBX1010102 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'X', '3', '0') /* 32  RGBX-10-10-10-2 */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_RGBA1010102 v4l2_fourcc('R', 'A', '3', '0') /* 32  RGBA-10-10-10-2 */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_ARGB1010102 v4l2_fourcc('A', 'R', '3', '0') /* 32  ARGB-10-10-10-2 */
#define V4L2_PIX_FMT_XRGB1010102 v4l2_fourcc('X', 'R', '3', '0') /* 32  XRGB-10-10-10-2 */
```

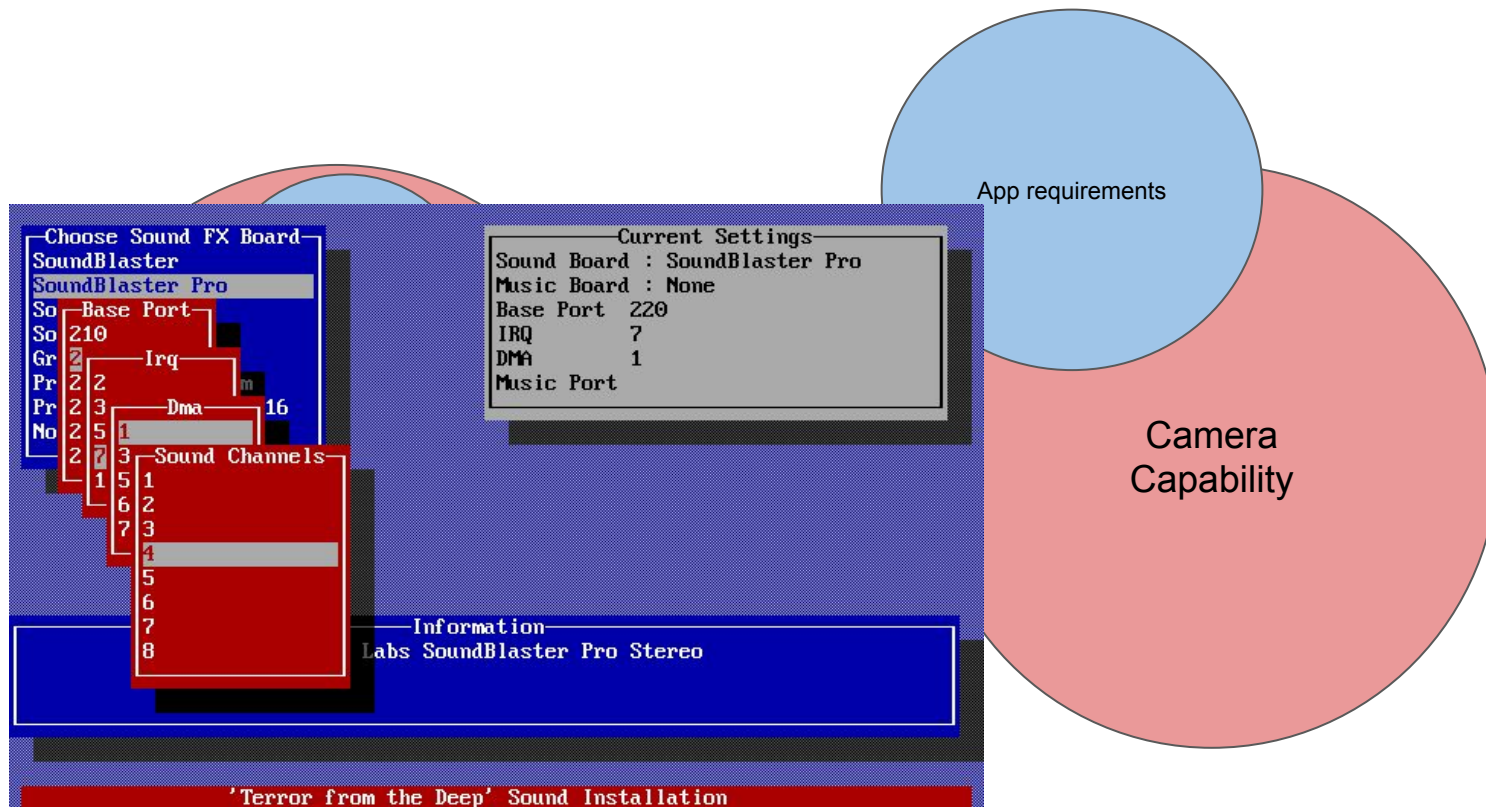

Video4Linux 2



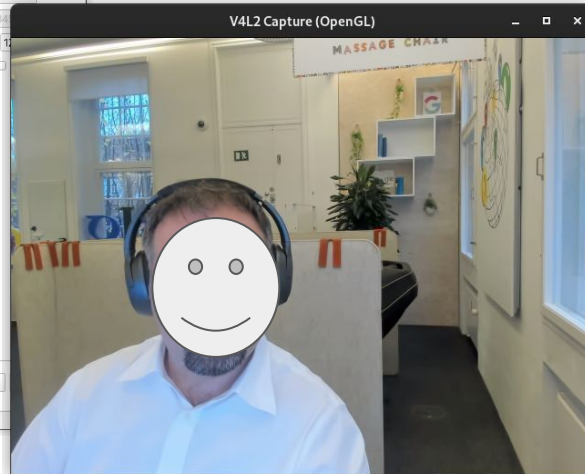
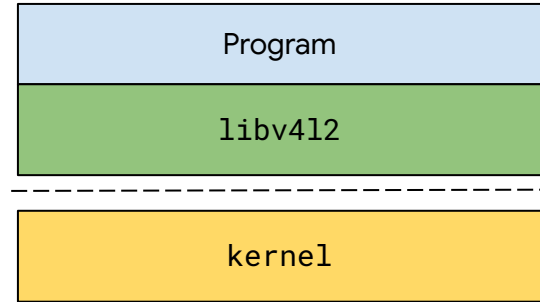
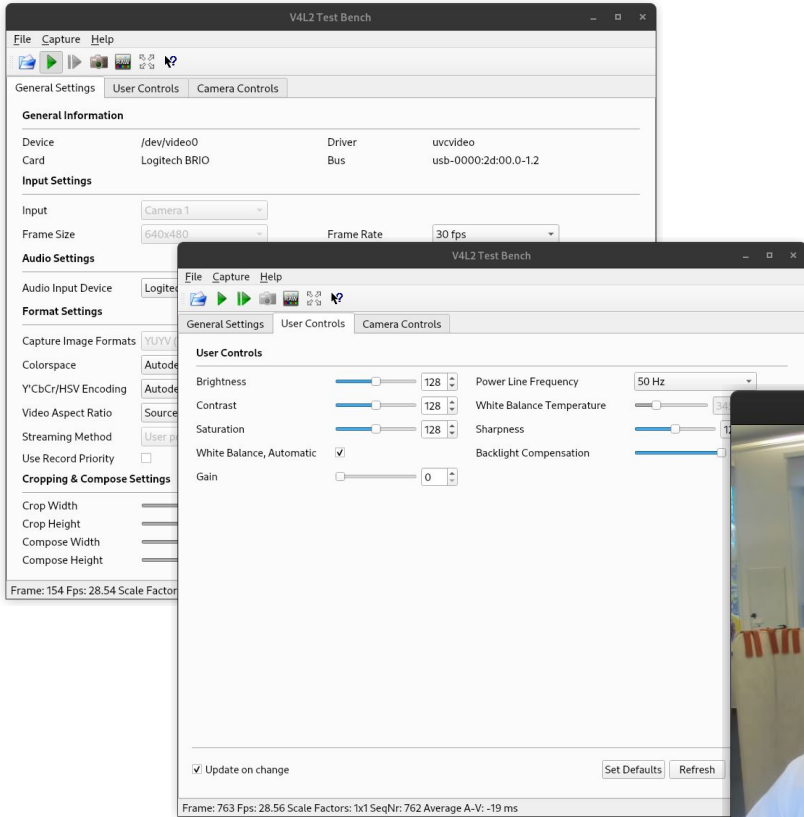
Video4Linux 2



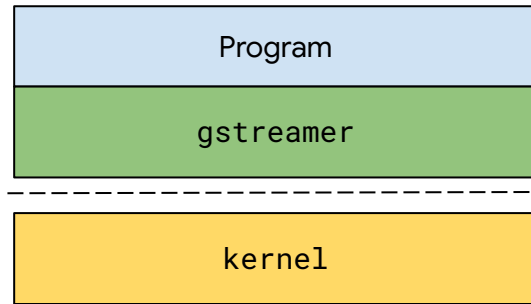
Video4Linux 2



qv4l2



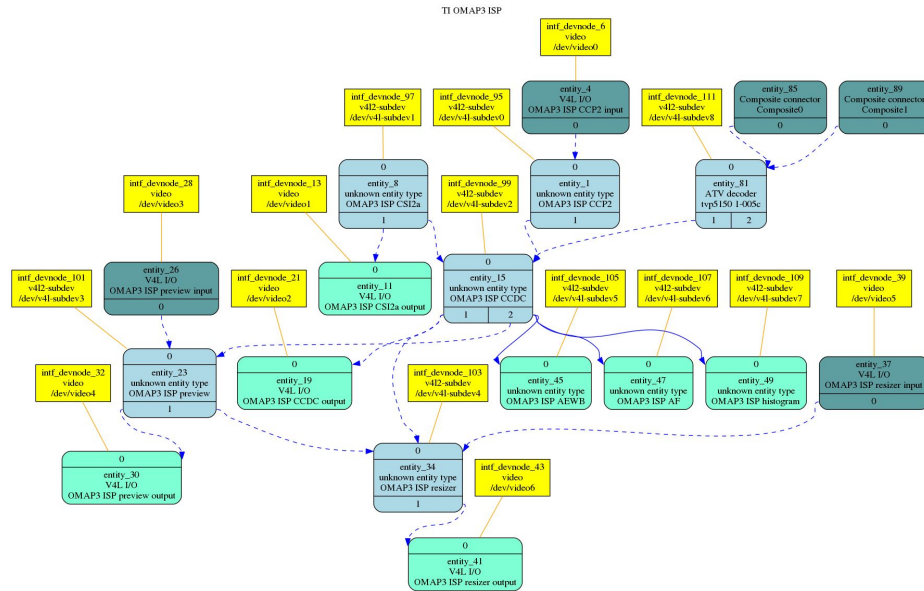
Cheese



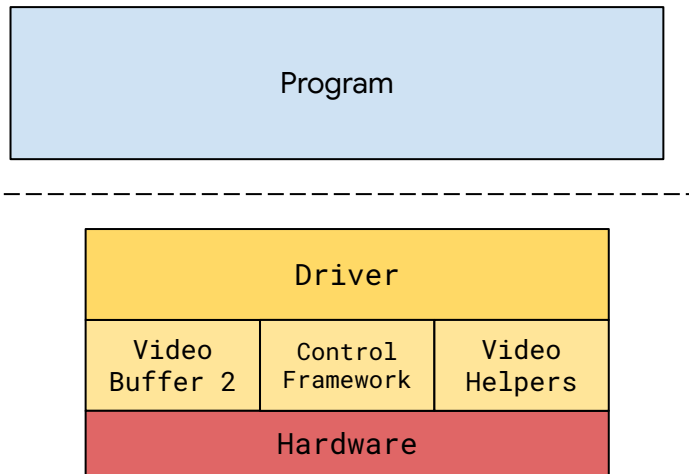
gstreamer

Modular Cameras

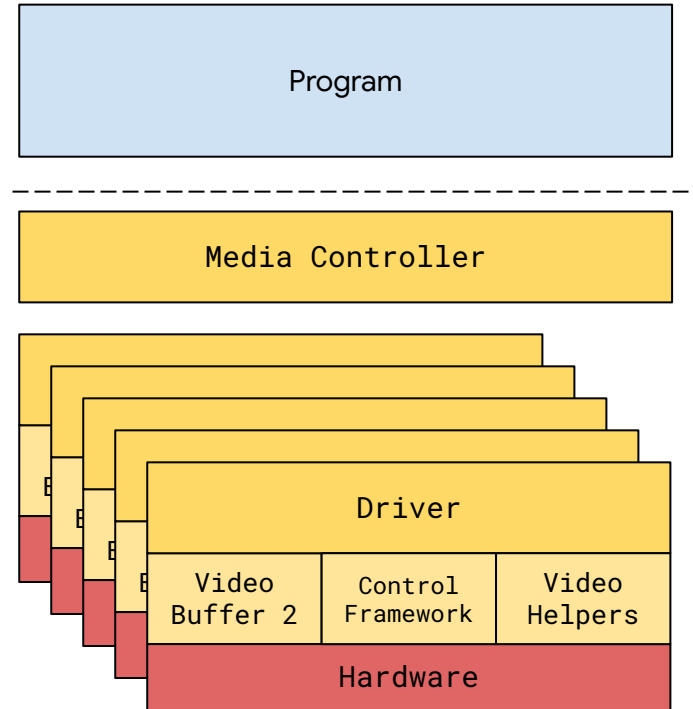
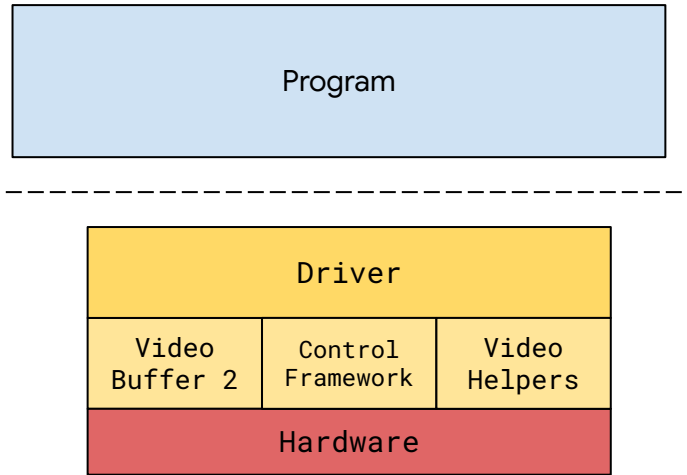
Video4Linux 2 (media controller)



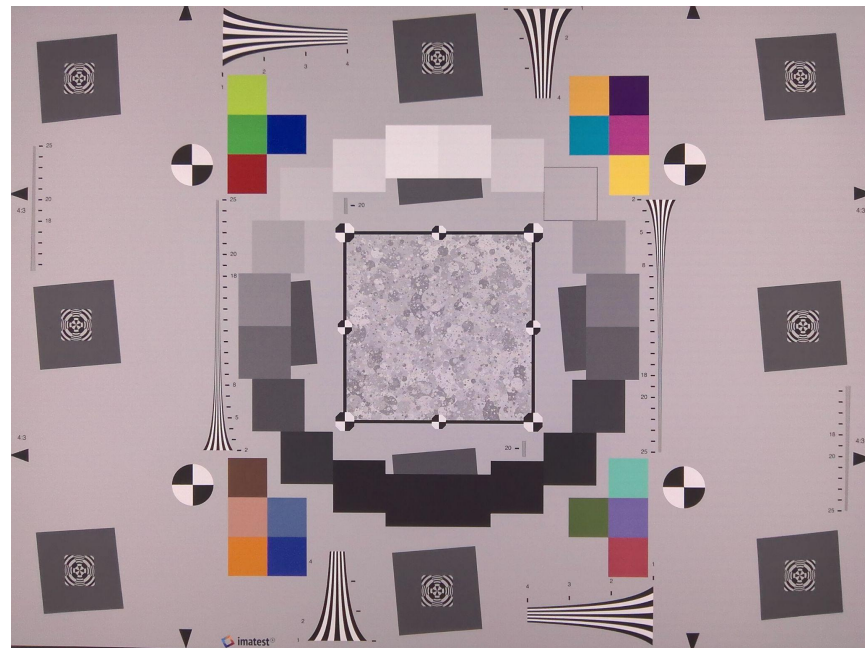
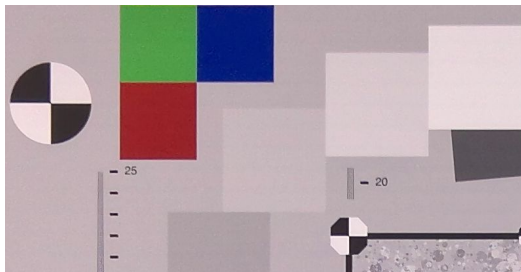
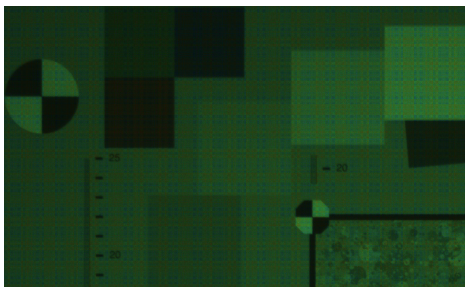
Video4Linux 2 (media controller)



Video4Linux 2 (media controller)



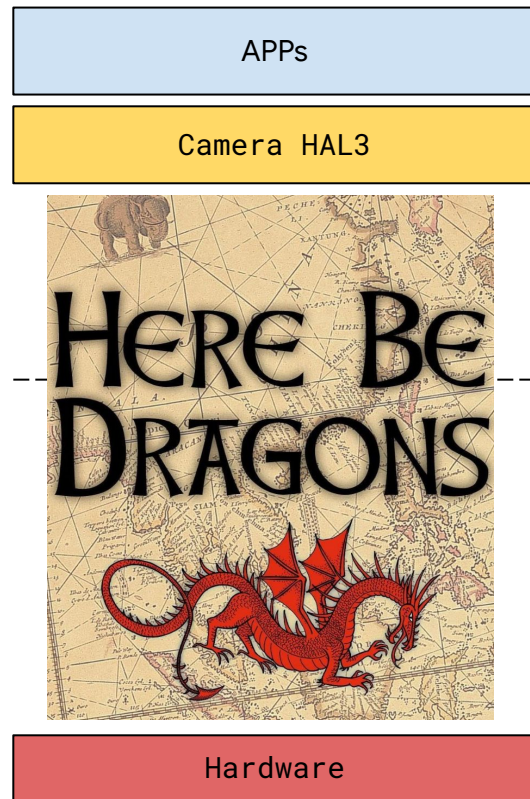
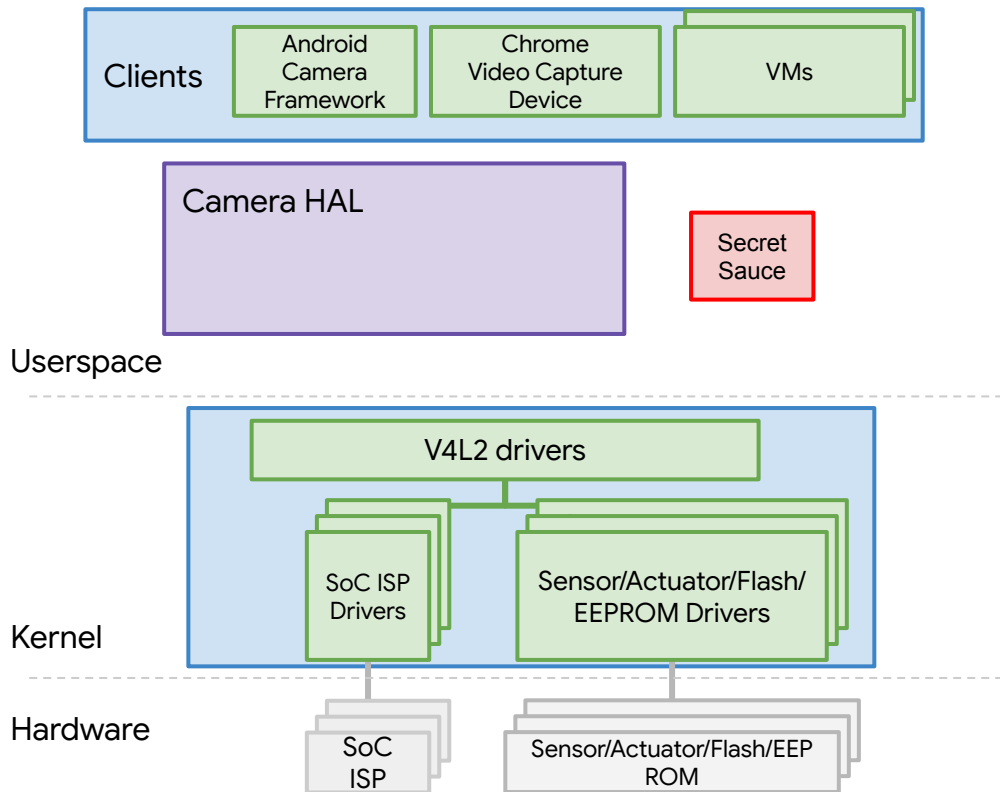
Secret Sauce



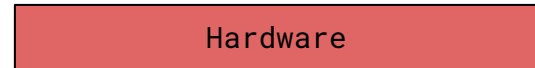
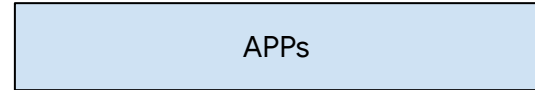
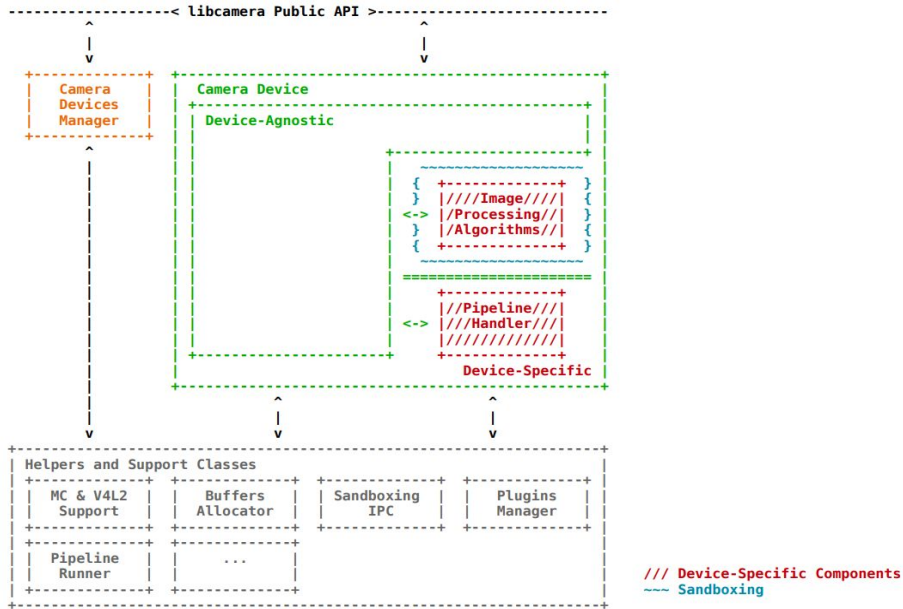
Stack



android

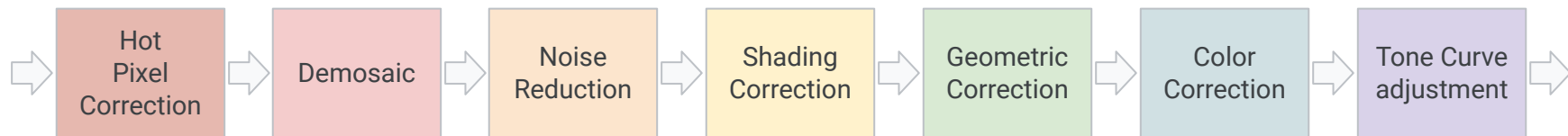


Stack

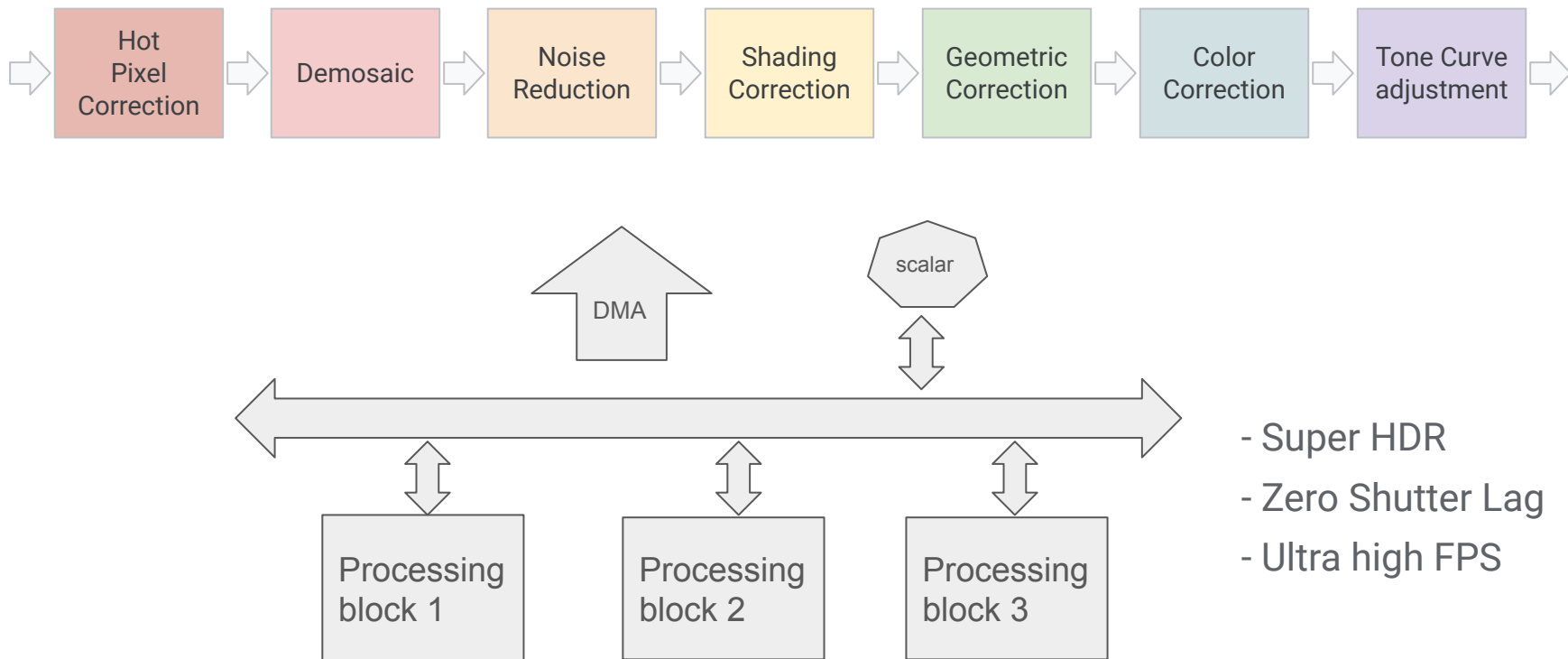


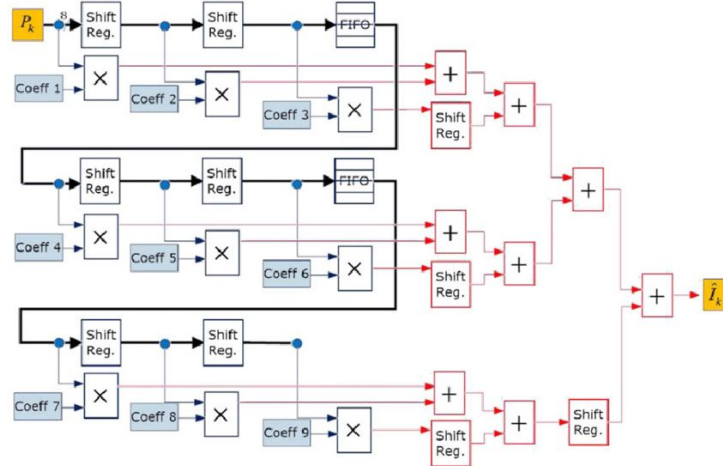
Complex Cameras

Complex cameras



Complex cameras

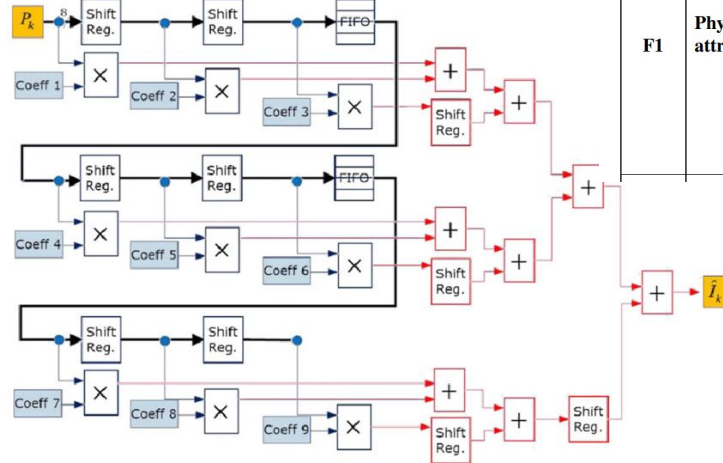




Lapray, Pierre-Jean, Luc Gendre, Alban Foulonneau, and Laurent Bigué. "An FPGA-based pipeline for micropolarizer array imaging." *International Journal of Circuit Theory and Applications* 46, no. 9 (2018): 1675-1689.

Table 5- Naming of Factors

Factor no.	Name of dimension	Item no	variables	Factor loading
F1	Physical attributes	1	Camera and video	.827
		2	Bluetooth	.802
		3	Multimedia option	.800
		4	Touch screen	.775
		5	Memory capacity	.772
		6	Color display	.763
		7	Attractive color	.753
		8	Model/style	.684
		9	New features	.684
		10	Design of the phone	.669
		11	Appearance	.608
		12	Web browser	.597
		13	Brand value/quality	.504

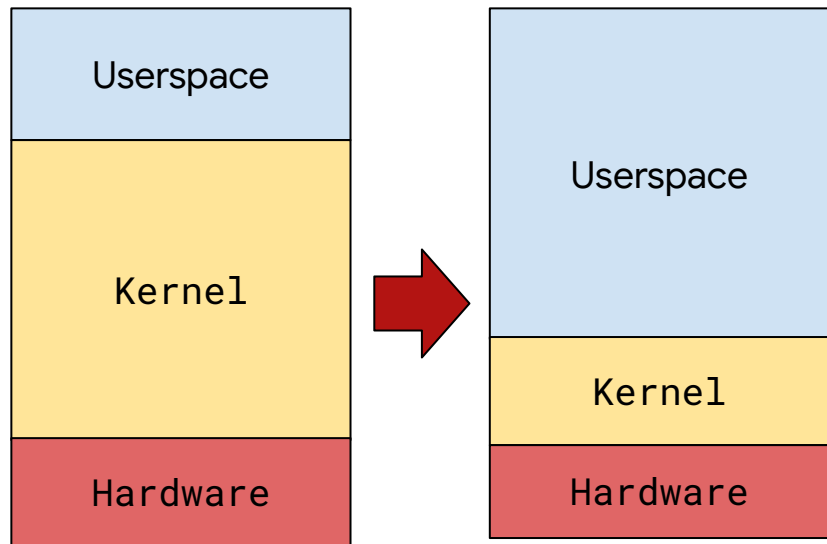


Lapray, Pierre-Jean, Luc Gendre, Alban Foulonneau, and Laurent Bigué. "An FPGA-based pipeline for micropolarizer array imaging." *International Journal of Circuit Theory and Applications* 46, no. 9 (2018): 1675-1689.

KCAM ISP

Create a new kernel subsystem designed to support specifically “complex cameras”.

It is NOT a replacement for V4L2.



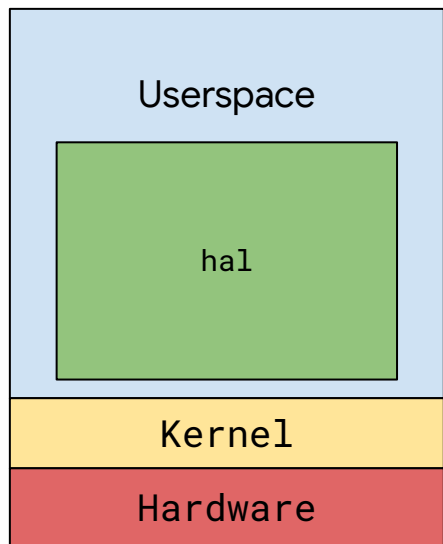
Kcam follows a DRM-like model where the kernel provides basic functionality:

- Scheduling
- Discovery

Everything else is provided by userspace

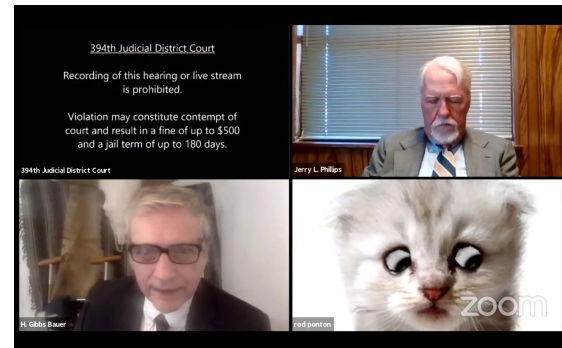
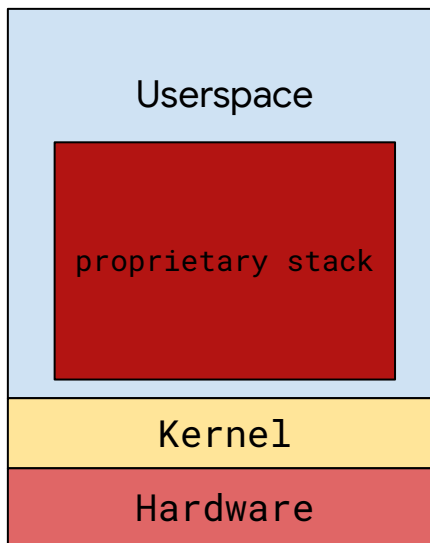
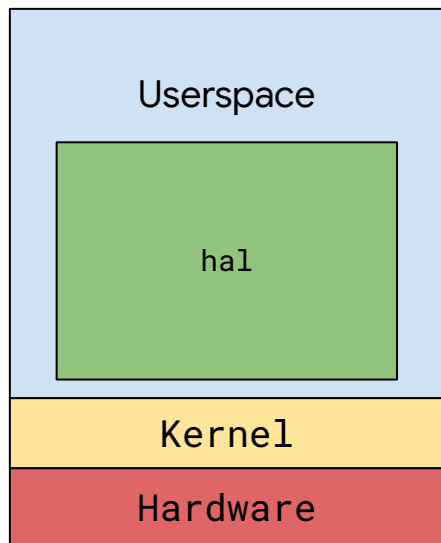
ISP openness

For a driver to be upstreamed, there must be an open source camera stack. That enables standard use of the camera: video conferencing, single-shot photo....



KCAM openness

For a driver to be upstreamed, there must be an open source camera stack. That enables standard use of the camera: video conferencing, single-shot photo....





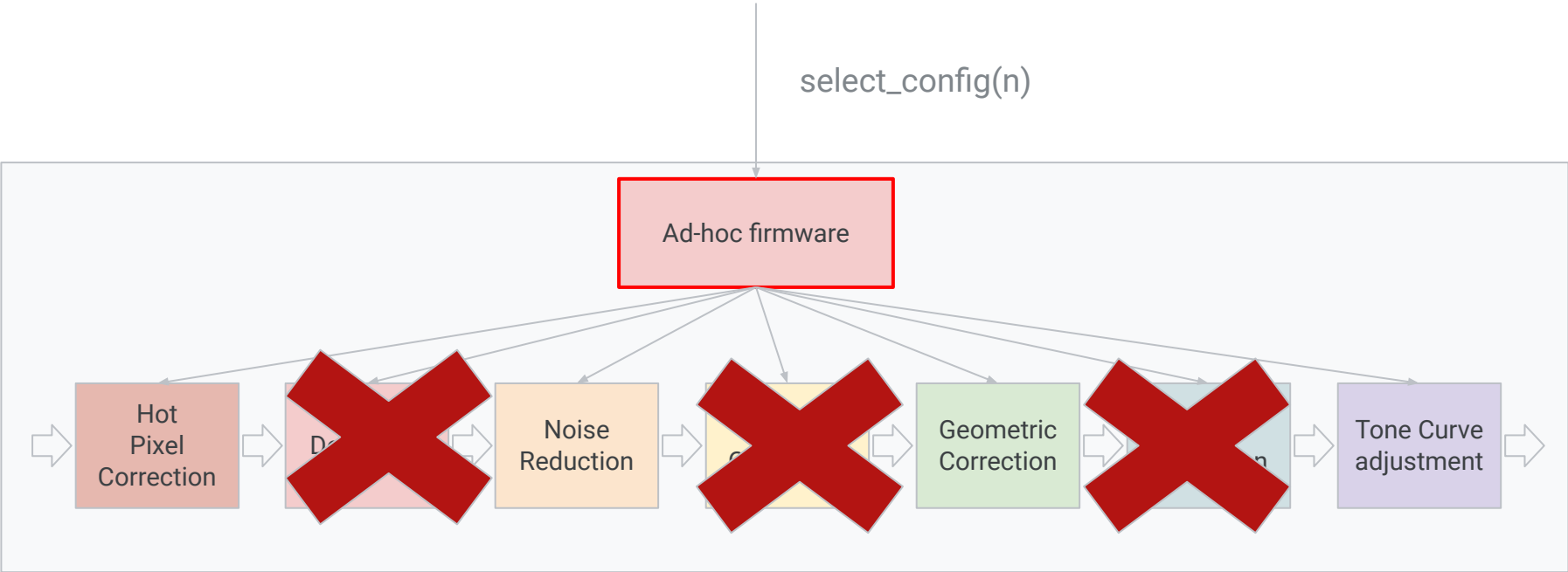
Challenges

The vendor access

- Media maintainers expect that:

A fully open source upstream driver. Does require opening up hardware access and documenting the API, but not the algorithms used to configure the HW optimally, those can remain closed. However, enough information must be available so an open source implementation can be made.

Black box hardware



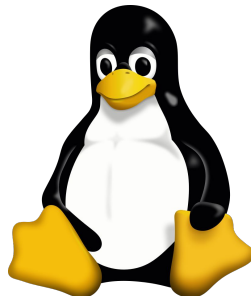
Unusable hardware





Proposal

End goal

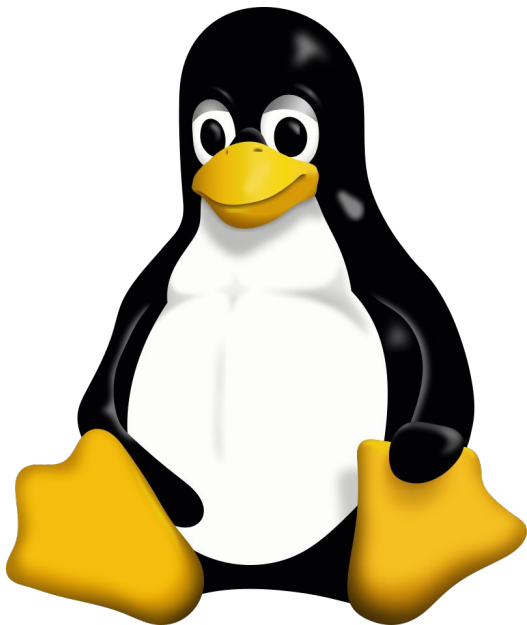


Chicken and egg problem



- Vendors do not want to invest in a new framework if it does not have a chance to succeed
- Upstream community do not trust vendors until they deliver an complete solution
- Users cannot commit to an open OS if it does not cover their use cases

Kernel component



DKMS package in main

- GPL Licence

Documentation:

https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/third_party/kernel/+refs/heads/kcam-6.1/Documentation/userspace-api/isp

https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/third_party/kernel/+refs/heads/kcam-6.1/Documentation/driver-api/isp.rst

Source code:

https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/third_party/kernel/+refs/heads/kcam-6.1/include/uapi/linux/isp.h

https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/third_party/kernel/+refs/heads/kcam-6.1/include/linux/isp/

Camera framework

Alternatives:

- Libcamera based
- Vendor code based

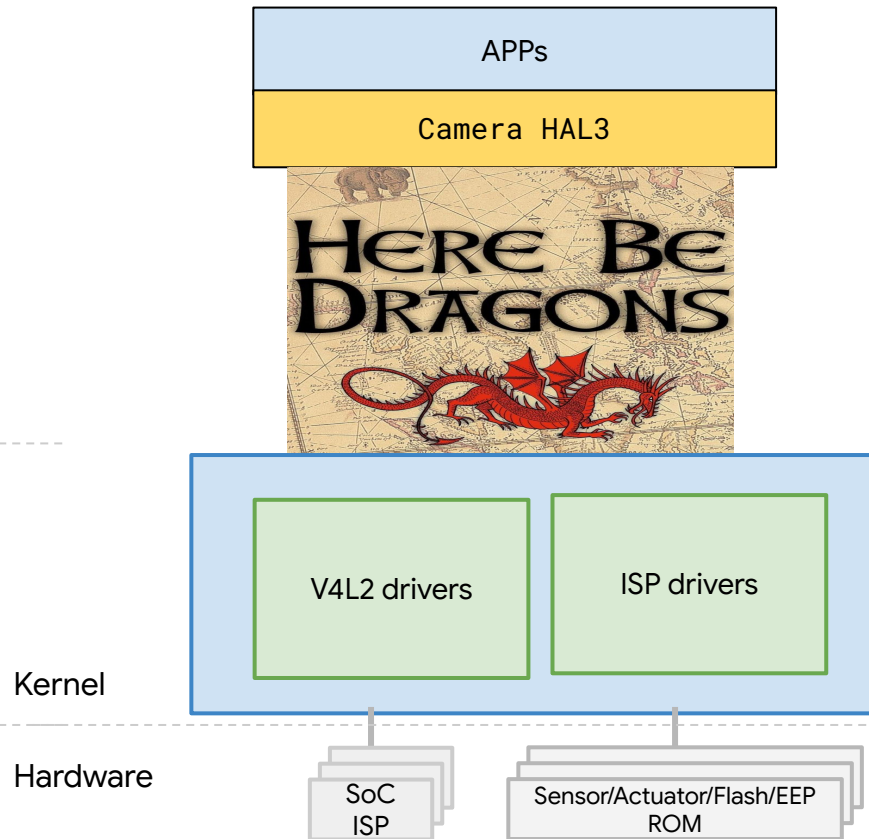
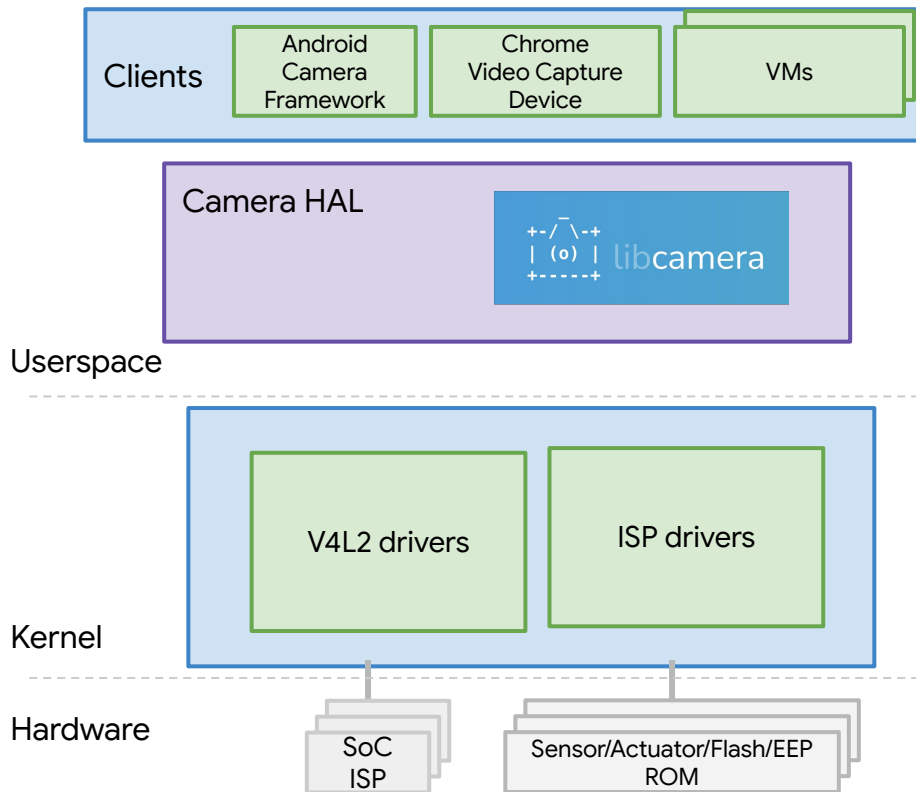
Two components:

- Open License (LGPL, MIT) for main components
- Closed license for "Secret sauce"

Stack



android



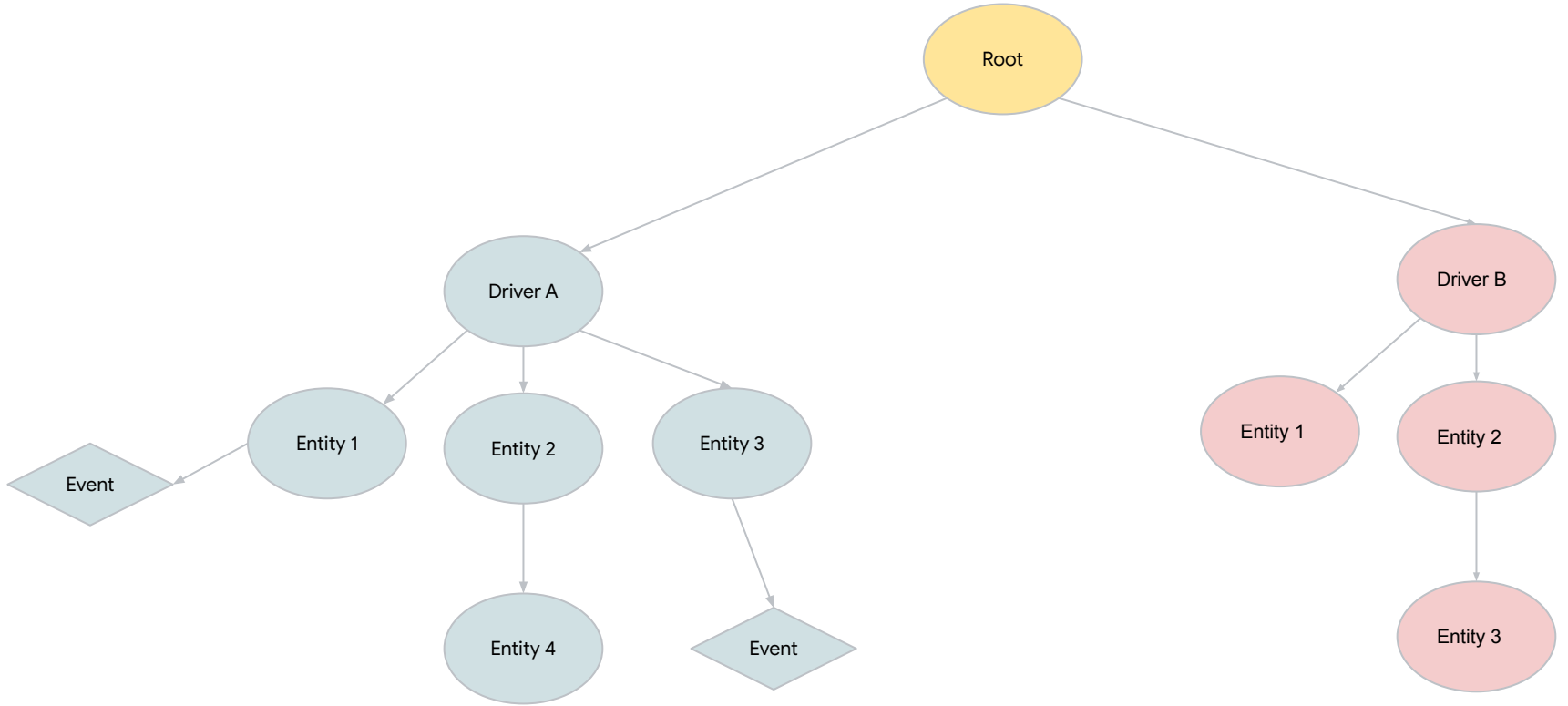
Thank you!



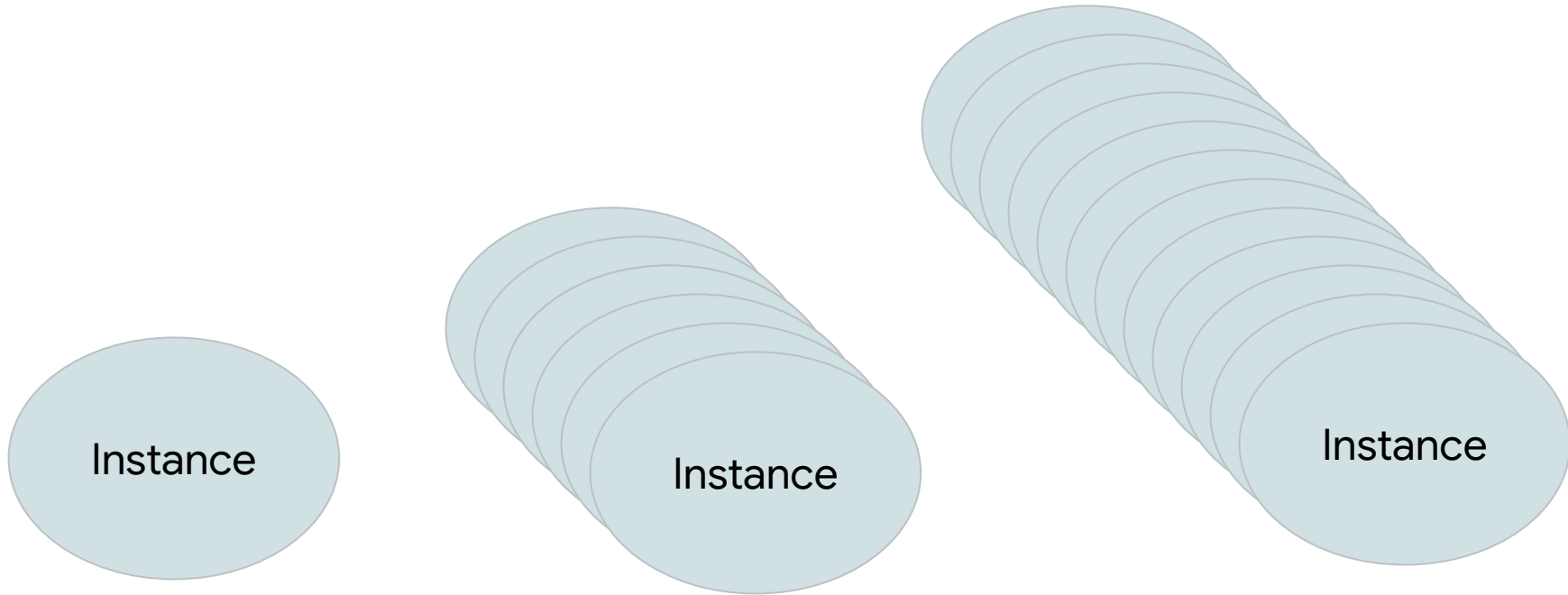
Sergey Senozhatsky, Hidenori Kobayashi, Tomasz Figa, Ricardo Ribalda

Google

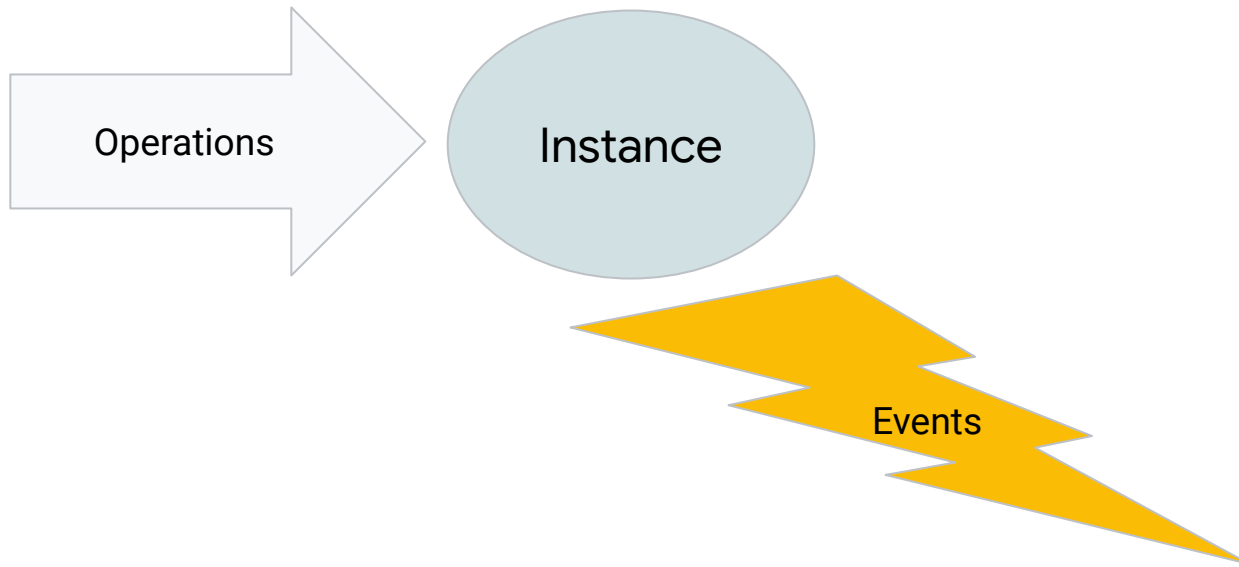
KCAM Internal - Tree



KCAM Internal - Entities



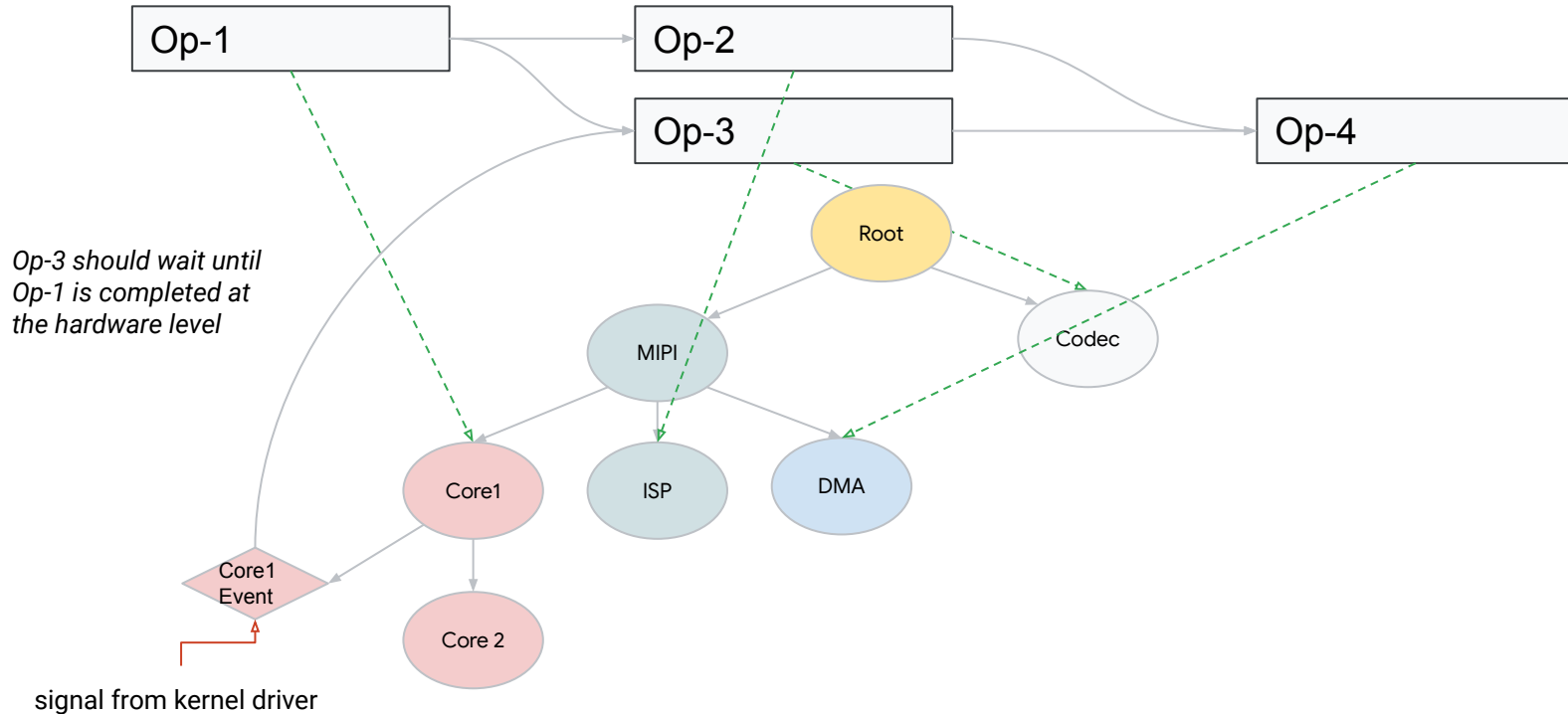
KCAM Internal - Instances



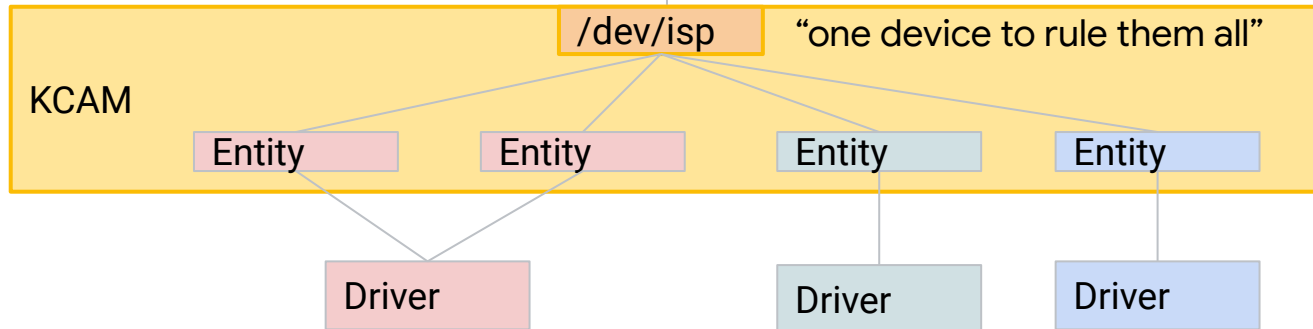
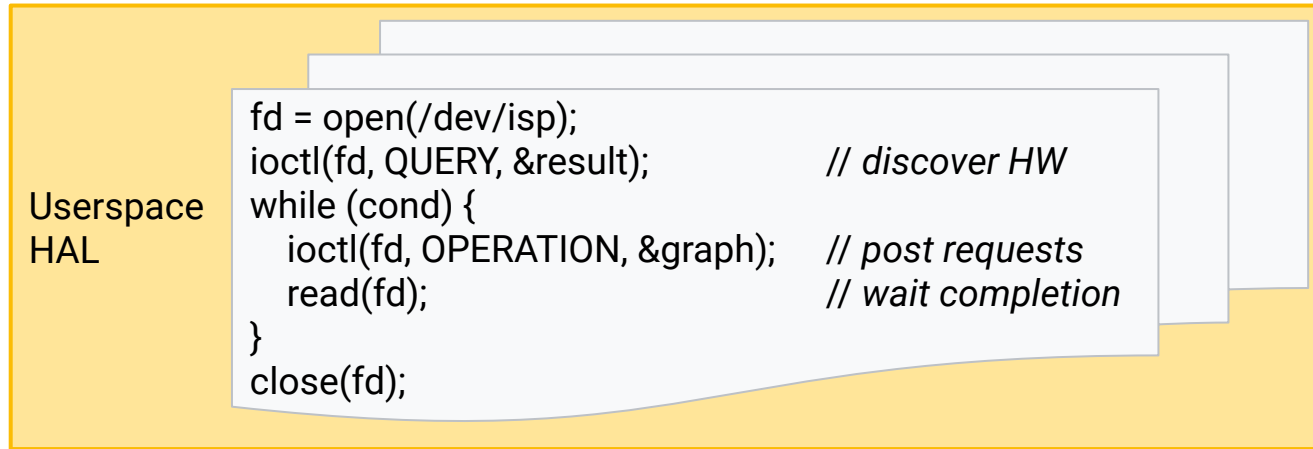
KCAM Internal - Operations

Asynchronous execution of operations

- userspace submits a graph of operations
- dependencies between operations are automatically taken care of



ISP UAPI



Entity = abstraction of hardware components driver provides

Tight collaboration between heterogeneous devices! (e.g. stereo cameras, post-processing)