Group Text Conversation Visualization

Previous social visualizations have focused on the text itself, making possible interesting observations in the changes in length, mood, and activity over time. However, what is not written often can speak volumes more. Although we can’t visualize text that is not existent, we can try to get close by visualizing the next best thing: the delay before a response.

The delay is an interesting component to online communication. People can now leave conversations physically, go do other things, and come back to continue the conversation. Also, feelings of boredom and uncertainty can also be portrayed through delay.

Basically, we try to capture delay and see if it tells an interesting story from the conversation flow that may be missed in a traditional, all text-based interface.

VERY Basic Idea:

Horizontal direction represents time beginning from left to right
Each bar represents a posted text
Each color represents a different person
The width of each bar represents the delay with respect to the previous person

There are other ideas to incorporate as well
- delay since a user last posted (potentially on the vertical axis?)
- length of text: is there a relationship with delay?
- representation of time more uniformly? Do we need a scale?