Social Translucence

What I liked about this article, was the introduction of the Babble System for enhancing semi-private online conversation amongst the members of groups. I liked the idea of actually providing an online conversation area for multiple of people. By trying to give the presence of actually being at the scene, I think the “Timeline,” provides a good feedback of when they were present in the online conversation area also the blip when they speak resembles some kind of notice to the other users within the area. By providing such a system to actually give a perception of the scene within the Internet, this system would further enhance people to actually feel the presence within the cyberspace.

Also visualizing the lecture by providing lecture proxy helped to understand the scene within the lecture and as the author stated in the paper, it gives more sense of placement and positions and how each dot represents in the lecture proxy. To further extend this idea, it would be interesting to see 2D information of the lecture room from different view angles and positions of the students and the professor. By that, the viewer can not only see the dots that represent human figures in the lecture room but also the visual information of how the students behave whether that they are boring or listening to the lecture.

Another thing that I liked about this paper was the auction proxy. It definitely gave me the sense of how the auction is being held and what is going on in the auction. However, it still lacked the sense of feeling of how bidders are behaving in the auction and didn’t provide the feeling of the actual auction that we could see. But having the larger circle that represents the time and unique color that represents each bidder definitely provide enough information of how the auction is going.

Overall, I think providing the information so the users can actually perceive by looking at the scene is very hard and somewhat would take more time. I think the authors did very interesting work to achieve this. However, I think more information or visualization should be provided in order to improve the work. Like the “lecture proxy” and the “auction proxy” it definitely gives the sense of how lecture or the auction is being held. However, it would be interesting to see the actual participants face and how they feel about the lecture to feel more about the environment.