Mail Visualization:

My mail visualization would focus on how much email the user sends to and receives from each specific person in their mailbox, and what the emails say about the familiarity between the user and that individual. The data is arranged as a pile graph, with the y-axis indicating the number of emails per month and the x-axis indicating time.

This is a simplified view of an inbox where the user only gets email from four different people. A real version would be more complex. At the bottom of the pile is the person with the highest average number of emails sent/received and at the top is the person with the smallest average number of emails sent/received. The areas under the lines are shaded based upon the familiarity between the user and the other person: the darker the fill, the more familiar the two people are.

Familiarity would be determined by the percentage of emails you sent that the other person replied to / the percentage of emails the other person sent that you replied to (the higher these percentages, the more familiar), how many recipients the emails were sent to (more recipients -> less familiar), and the average length of emails (shorter -> more familiar).

The entire piled graph provides a visualization of your entire email over time – what periods you get more email in, whether you get more email now than you did before, etc. This visualization doesn't give any information about the content of emails or how the emails are organized into threads. However, it provides information on overall email quantities over time, who the user most frequently emails/receives emails from, how the quantity of emails between individuals changes over time, and the familiarity of emails between individuals.