Motivation

Attempt to find a simple and intuitive way to both analyze word usage and visualize people and their relationship to you in an address book.

Description

When thinking about email, there were a few things that came to mind that I thought would be interesting to visualize. One of those was the number of words used. I thought it would be really interesting to see the total word usage of all my emails, or how it has changed over time. Secondly, finding some way to visualize how reciprocal your relationship with the person is would be really cool. From there, I didn’t think that it would be too difficult to display time elapsed since the last contact.

Design

For this visualization, I likened the idea of one’s email network to that of a solar system. The user would exist as the star at the center of the solar system, with each contact as a planet around it. Since I am interested in the number of words being used, the size of a contacts planet would be proportional to the number of words they use. Along those lines, mousing over yourself, or a contact’s planet, would bring up more information about the number of words used, words per day/week, and most used words. The color of the planets signifies the overall time since the last message was sent/received from that person, with bright colors being more recent. Lastly, the distance of a contacts planet from your sun represents the closeness of your relationship. This will be calculated by something along the lines of $|\text{messages\_sent\_to} - \text{messages\_recieved\_from}|$