**N. Henry, J.-D. Fekete, and M. J. McGuffin. NodeTrix: a hybrid visualization of social networks. *IEEE TVCG journal (IEEE InfoVis’07 Proc.)*, 13(6):1302-1309, 2007.**

Social networks are graphs where the vertices are actors and the edges are relationships. Social networks are commonly known to be globally sparse and locally dense. Thus, a big challenge of social network visualization is to obtain a readable representation for both the overall sparse structure of a social network and its dense communities. In this paper, they proposed a novel visualization called *NodeTrix*. NodeTrix is a hybrid representation of the overall structure of the network based on the node-link diagram where communities can be represented as adjacency matrices. In other words, Intra-community relationships use the adjacency matrix representation while inter-community relationships use normal links. NodeTrix is built using the InfoVis Toolkit and uses its rendering mechanism to create the visualization. They designed a set of interaction techniques to support the manipulation of NodeTrix, and also proposed an animation for smoothly transitioning between node-link diagrams and matrices. Finally, they have illustrated the effectiveness of NodeTrix with a case study of the InfoVis publications data.

**N. Henry and J.-D. Fekete. MatLink: Enhanced matrix visualization for analyzing social networks. *Proc. of the 11th IFIP TC13 International Conference Interact’07*, LNCS 4663:288-302, 2007.**

In this paper, the authors developed MatLink, an enhanced matrix-based graph visualization. MatLink is a matrix representation with links overlaid on its borders and interactive drawing of additional links and highlighting of the cells included in a path from the cell under the mouse pointer. To compare MatLink with traditional matrix-based layout and node-link diagram, they designed a controlled experiment for those 3 visualizations of 6 social networks with 5 different tasks. Five tasks are finding commonNeighbor (an actor directly linked to both two given actors), finding shortestPath (a shortest path linking two given actors), finding mostConnected (the actors with the highest number of relations), finding articulationPoint (a cut point, i.e. an actor linking two sub-graphs), and finding largestClique (the largest set of actors who are all linked to each other). Thirty six subjects participated the experiment. They were asked to complete the tasks correctly as rapidly as possible. The results showed that MatLink significantly outperforms ordinary matrix visualizations for path-related tasks. It also performs as well or better than MAT on other analysis tasks that cannot be effectively performed on NL because of the inherent tendency of social networks to be locally dense. Therefore, MatLink is a good compromise for visualizing and analyzing social networks with a single representation.

**N. Henry, A. Bezerianos, and J.-D. Fekete. Improving the readability of clustered social networks using node duplication. *IEEE TVCG journal (IEEE InfoVis’08 Proc.)*, 14(6):1317-1324, 2008.**

When studying social network visualization, communities can be grouped visually and structurally in a clustered graph. This community representation suffers from two problems: clustering ambiguity and readability. To improve readability and solve ambiguous clustering, they proposed using actor duplications: introducing new nodes to represent aliases of actors. When designing duplication representations, three questions were considered: When to duplicate? How to duplicate? And how to visualize duplications? They investigated two types of duplication: clone and split. An experiment was performed to determine the effects of the different duplications types and designs. The experiment consisted of 6 tasks (actorEstimation, actorConnectivity, communityConnectivity, communityCentrality, articulationPoint, mostConnected), 4 visualizations (noDuplicaion, cloneNode, cloneLink, splitLink), 2 densities (sparse, dense), 2 repetotions, and 12 participants. The results were summarized as a set of design guidelines for node duplications in clustered graph representations. Actor duplication was showed to be very promising in social network analysis and visualization, especially for community centered tasks.