Graph and Network Visualization

CS 4460 – Intro. to Information Visualization October 21, 2014 John Stasko

Connections

- Connections throughout our lives and the world
 - Circle of friends
 - Delta's flight plans
 - ...
- Model connected set as a *Graph*

What is a Graph?

- Vertices (nodes) connected by
- Edges (links)



Graph Terminology

- Graphs can have cycles
- Graph edges can be *directed* or undirected
- The *degree* of a vertex is the number of edges connected to it
 - In-degree and out-degree for directed graphs
- Graph edges can have values (*weights*) on them (nominal, ordinal or quantitative)

Trees are Different

- Subcase of general graph
- No cycles
- Typically directed edges
- Special designated root vertex



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Graph Uses

- In information visualization, any number of data sets can be modeled as a graph
 - US telephone system
 - World Wide Web
 - Distribution network for on-line retailer
 - Call graph of a large software system
 - Semantic map in an AI algorithm
 - Set of connected friends
- Graph/network visualization is one of the oldest and most studied areas of InfoVis

Graph Visualization Challenges

- Graph layout and positioning
 - Make a concrete rendering of abstract graph
- Navigation/Interaction
 - How to support user changing focus and moving around the graph
- Scale
 - Above two issues not too bad for small graphs, but large ones are much tougher

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Layout Examples

- Homework assignment
- Let's judge!

Results

What led to particular layouts being liked more?

Discuss

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Layout Algorithms

Entire research community's focus



Vertex Issues

- Shape
- Color
- Size
- Location
- Label



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Aesthetic Considerations

- Crossings -- minimize towards planar
- Total Edge Length -- minimize towards proper scale
- Area -- minimize towards efficiency
- Maximum Edge Length -- minimize longest edge
- Uniform Edge Lengths -- minimize variances
- Total Bends -- minimize orthogonal towards straight-line

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Which Matters?

 Various studies examined which of the aesthetic factors matter most and/or what kinds of layout/vis techniques look best

- Purchase, Graph Drawing '97
- Ware et al, *Info Vis* 1(2)
- Ghoniem et al, *Info Vis* 4(2)
- van Ham & Rogowitz, TVCG '08
- ...
- Results mixed: Edge crossings do seem important

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Shneiderman's NetViz Nirvana

- 1) Every node is visible
- 2) For every node you can count its degree
- 3) For every link you can follow it from source to destination
- 4) Clusters and outliers are identifiable

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But What about User Tasks?

- So what do people want to do with or learn from network visualizations?
 - Recurring theme of this class: Too often this is neglected

Graph Vis Task Taxonomy

- Start with Amar et al '05 low-level tasks
- Then add four types of other tasks (next pages)

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Graph Vis Task Taxonomy

- 1. Topology-based tasks
 - Adjacency

Find the set of nodes adjacent to a node

Accessibility

Find the set of nodes accessible to a node

- Common connection
 Given nodes, find the set of nodes connected to all
- Connectivity
 Find shortest path
 Identify clusters
 Identify connected components

Graph Vis Task Taxonomy

- 2. Attribute-based tasks
 - On the nodes

Find the nodes having a specific attribute value

- On the edges

Given a node, find the nodes connected only by certain kinds of edges

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Graph Vis Task Taxonomy

- 3. Browsing tasks
 - Follow path

Follow a given path

– Revisit

Return to a previously visited node

- 4. Overview task
 - Compound exploratory task
 Estimate size of a network
 Find patterns

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Layout Heuristics

- Layout algorithms can be
 - polyline edges
 - planar
 - No edge crossings
 - orthogonal horizontal and vertical lines/polylines
 - grid-based vertices, crossings, edge bends have integer coords
 - curved lines
 - hierarchies
 - circular

- ...

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Types of Layout Algorithms



Common Layout Techniques

- Hierarchical
- Force-directed
- Circular
- Geographic-based
- Clustered
- Attribute-based
- Matrix

We will discuss many of these further in the slides to come

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Scale Challenge

 May run out of space for vertices and edges (turns into "ball of string")

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- Can really slow down algorithm
- Sometimes use *clustering* to help
 - Extract highly connected sets of vertices
 - Collapse some vertices together

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Navigation/Interaction Challenge

- How do we allow a user to query, visit, or move around a graph?
- Changing focus may entail a different rendering

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Graph Drawing Uses

- Many domains and data sets can benefit significantly from nice graph drawings
- Let's look at some examples...



Music Artists



http://www.liveplasma.com/

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http://mibi.deviantart.com/art/Death-and-Taxes-2007-39894058



Social Analysis

 Facilitate understanding of complex socioeconomic patterns

 Social Science visualization gallery (Lothar Krempel):

– http://www.mpi-fg-koeln.mpg.de/~lk/netvis.html

 Next slides: Krempel & Plumper's study of World Trade between OECD countries, 1981 and 1992





(c) Lother Krempd, Max Planck Institut I Goodle diefforechung. Oologie







Steroids in MLB



Geo Applications

 Many problems and data sets have some geographic correspondence



Follow the Money



http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/scivis/follow_money.jsp

Where does a dollar bill go?

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3 Subway Diagrams

- Geographic landmarks largely suppressed on maps, except water (rivers in London & Paris) and asphalt (highways in Atlanta)
 – Rather fitting, no?
- These are more *graphs* than maps!

But Is It InfoVis?

- I generally don't consider a pure graph layout (drawing) algorithm to be InfoVis
 - Nothing wrong with that, just an issue of focus
- For InfoVis, I like to see some kind of interaction or a system or an application...
 - Still, understanding the layout algorithms is very important for infovis

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- Let's look at a few...

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Tree Layout

- Run a breadth-first search from a vertex – This imposes a spanning tree on the graph
- Draw the spanning tree
- Simple and fast, but obviously doesn't represent the whole graph

Hierarchical Layout

Often called Sugiyama layout





Force-directed Layout

- Spring model (common)
 - Edges Springs (gravity attraction)
 - Vertices Charged particles (repulsion)
- Equations for forces
- Iteratively recalculate to update positions of vertices

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- Seeking local minimum of energy
 - Sum of forces on each node is zero

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Force-directed Example



Figure 2: A graph drawing through a number of iterations of a force directed algorithm.

http://www.cs.usyd.edu.au/~aquigley/3dfade/

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http://vis.stanford.edu/protovis/ex/force.html

In Action Protovi ICAL TOOLKIT FOR VISUALIZATIO ation Download Exa mples Doc Index « Previous / Next » Force-Directed Layouts

View full scr

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Images from JUNG

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Spring layout

Variant

- Simple force-directed spring embedder



Variant



- Fruchterman-Reingold Algorithm
 - Add global temperature
 - If hot, nodes move farther each step
 - If cool, smaller movements
 - Generally cools over time



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Other Applications

- Email
- How would you visualize all email traffic in CoC between pairs of people?
- Solutions???

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Possible Solutions

- Put everyone on circle, lines between
 Color or thicken line to indicate magnitude
- Use spring/tension model
 - People who send a lot to each other are drawn close together
 - Shows clusters of communications

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http://www.visualcomplexity.com



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Interaction

 One of the key ways we move beyond graph layout to graph visualization (InfoVis) is interaction with the graph

Focus of Graph

- Particular node may be focus, often placed in center for circular layout
- How does one build an interactive system that allows changes in focus?
 - Use animation
 - But intuition about changes not always right

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Focus Change Animation

Straight linear interpolation of focus changes not as appealing as changes along polar coordinates





Video



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TreePlus

- Don't draw entire graph
- Have a focus vertex, then incrementally expand and show connections (min span tree) from there
- Interaction:
 - Single-click: show connections via highlight
 - Double-click: new focus vertex
 - Smooth animated change in focus
- "Plant a seed and watch it grow" Lee et al 7VCG '06 Fall 2014 CS 4460 61





Recent Trends in GraphViz

- Attributes of nodes influence geometric positioning
 - Not just some arbitrary layout
- Utilize graph statistical analysis too
- Largely driven by interest in social network analysis

PivotGraph

- Cluster on common node attributes
 Put all A's together, all B's together, ...
- "Roll up" nodes
 - Draw edge from A to B depending on how many edges from some A to some B
- Position nodes into a grid based on attributes











Figure 10. Communication network of people in a large company. X-axis is division, y-axis is office geography. The division in the leftmost column has far more cross-location communication than the others.

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http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/nvss/

Semantic Substrates

- Group nodes into regions
 According to an attribute
 Categorical, ordinal, or binned numerical
- In each region: Position nodes according to some other attribute(s)
- Give users control of link visibility

Shneiderman & Aris *TVCG* (InfoVis) '06





CiteVis

- Showing InfoVis Conference paper citation patterns
 - Papers are graph vertices
 - A cites B is graph edge
- Attribute-based layout
 - Year x Number of citations
- Uses color & interaction to show citations rather than drawn links

	Stasko, Choo, Han,	Hu, Pileggi, Sadana & Stolper InfoVis poster `13
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🛃 Info	/is Citations			
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	Hierarchical Edge Bundles: Visualization of Adjacency Relations in F	Hierarchical Data		
	Holten, D.			

http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/ii/citevis

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Vizster

- Visualize social networking sites like friendster, myspace, facebook
- Implementation
 - Crawled 1.5 million members (Winter 2003)
 - Written in Java using the *prefuse* tookit (<u>http://prefuse.sourceforge.net</u>)
- Oppose Shneiderman's mantra. Instead: "Start with what you know, then grow."

		Heer & boyd InfoVis `05	
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Visualization





http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/socialaction/

SocialAction

- Combines graph structural analysis (ranking) with interactive visual exploration
- Multiple coordinated views
 - Lists by ranking for analysis data
 - Basic force-directed layout for graph vis

Perer & Shneiderman *TVCG* (InfoVis) '06



Social Network Attributes

- Bary center total shortest path of a node to all other nodes
- Betweenness centrality how often a node appears on the shortest path between all other nodes
- Closeness centrality how close a node is compared to all other nodes
- Cut-points the subgraph becomes disconnected if the node is removed
- **Degree** number of connections for node
- **HITs** "hubs and authorities" measure
- Power centrality how linked a node is to rest of network

Attribute Ranking

- Run these measures on all nodes and rank them
- Sort the rankings and show in lists and scatterplots
- Allow user to filter based on rankings
- Can aggregate rankings for cohesive subgroups of nodes

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Graph Visualization

- Standard node-link
- Node positions remain constant across different metric views to promote comprehension
- Links can have types
- Coherent subgroups can be aggregated (like in Vizster)
 - Uses Newman's community identification algo

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Users begin with an overview of the entire social network. On the left side, overview statistics that describe the overall structure are presented. On the right, the network is visualized using a force directed algorithm

The gatekeepers are found using a statistical algorithm. Users filter out the unimportant nodes using a dynamic slider which simplifies the visualization while maintaining the node positions and structure of the network.

000 es Cind C es 🕀 Edge Types - - - - - font Size: -O Label Size: \varTheta 205 240 203 277 225 239 256 26 222 283 157 157 327 522 128 108 132 28 26 105 120 147 138

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Labels are always given priority so users can understand what the data represents. When user selects a node, neighbors are highlighted and details appear on the left. In order to protect sensitive information, node labels have been anonymized except for those individuals publicly identified in the Zacarias Moussaoui trial.



http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/socialaction/

Senate Voting Patterns



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Implementation

- Jung
 - Network data structures and algorithms
- Prefuse
 - Graph drawing
- Piccolo
 - Scatterplot and Matrix views

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Comments

- One of my favorite recent InfoVis papers
- Not too innovative on the vis technique side, but wonderful application and synthesis of useful capabilities
- Actually, a very nice *visual analytics* example
- Good subsequent paper on case studies evaluation of it (on our later Eval day)

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Really Big Graphs

- May be difficult to keep all in memory
- Often visualized as "hairballs"
- Smart visualizations do structural clustering, so you see a high-level overview of topology



Alternate Big Graph Approach

- Show some of the details, rather than high level structure
- Allow users to focus on particular nodes
- Adapt DOI algorithm from trees to graphs

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- Rely heavily on interaction
- Different paradigm: "Search, show context, expand on demand"

van Ha	am & Perer
TVCG	(InfoVis) '09

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Graphs as Maps

- Represent a large graph as a map
- Maintain inherent structure and relationships between nodes
- Follow standard cartographic representations

		Gansner, Hu & Kobourov IEEE CG&A (PacificVis) '10
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http://www2.research.att.com/~yifanhu/MAPS/imap.html



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TV Shows



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College Basketball	60 Minutes	Chan	nel 2 Action News	Mexico	Gol Premium	Inside the
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	The Tonight Show with	Pre-Game Show	NBC	Nightly	NFL Football	Callers Com
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Drawing Graphs Better

• Can we do clever "tricks" to make dense graphs more readable?

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Hierarchical Edge Bundles

- Bundle edges that go from/to similar nodes together
 - Like wires in a house
- Uses B-spline curves for edges
- Reduces the clutter from many edges

		Holten <i>TVCG</i> (InfoVis) '06
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Example







Fig. 12. Radial layout construction. (a) A radial tree layout is used for the inner circle and subsequently mirrored to the outside; (b) the inner layout is hidden and its structure is used to guide the adjacency edges. An icicle plot based on the mirrored layout is used to show the hierarchy.

Example



Fig. 13. A software system and its associated call graph (caller = green, callee = red). (a) and (b) show the system with bundling strength $\beta = 0.85$ using a balloon layout (node labels disabled) and a radial layout, respectively. Bundling reduces visual clutter, making it easier to perceive the actual connections than when compared to the non-bundled versions (figures 2a and 11a). Bundled visualizitons also show relations between sparsely connected systems more clearly (encircled regions); these are almost completely obscured in the non-bundled versions. The encircled regions highlight identical parts of the system for (a), (b), and figure 15.

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Matrix Representations

- There has been renewed interest in matrix representations of graphs recently
- I think the regularity, symmetry, and structure of a matrix are a win – people understand them well, but they don't

scale up really well



MatrixExplorer

 Provides matrix view in combination with node-link and various operations for gaining different perspectives



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Node Reordering

Extremely important operation with matrix representations



Fig. 6. Initial order (left) and TSP order (right). Colors represent clusters found by the user. Clusters are different in the two representations. Users found more clusters with TSP order. Headers red indicators (right) represents the distance between adjacent rows/columns.

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TVCG (InfoVis) '06



Simplifying Input

 Make it easier to input graphs and then explore them

http://nodexl.codeplex.com/

NodeXL



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Characteristics

- Plug-in for MS Excel
- Includes many network layout and network analysis metrics
- Data import:
 - List out vertices and edges in Excel columns
 - Native importers for email, Twitter, YouTube, etc.

Smith et al C&T `09

Non-Network Data?

- But what if you don't have vertex-edge data to begin?
 - May just have tabular data from spreadsheet or database
- Still may want to explore data modeled as a graph
 - Consider DB of NSF grants (PIs, institution, PM, amount, ...)
 - Look for clusters, patterns, connections, ...

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Ploceus

Liu, Navathe, Stasko VAST '11, Information Visualization `14

- Framework and system for modeling and visualizing tabular data as network
- Allow user to model data as graph interactively through direct manipulation
 - What are vertices, edges, edge weights, ...
- Visualizes graph on-the-fly (different layouts and network metrics)
- Advanced ops (project, aggregate, slice-ndice) can be specified interactively too

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Ploceus



Graph Drawing Support

- Libraries
 - JUNG (Java Universal Network/Graph Framework)
 - Graphviz (formerly dot?)
- Systems
 - Gephi
 - TouchGraph

http://jung.sourceforge.net/

JUNG



http://www.graphviz.org

Graphviz



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http://gephi.org

Gephi



TouchGraph



http://www.touchgraph.com/navigator

Graph Visualization Resource

- Very nice overview & survey
 - Herman et al, IEEE TVCG '00
 - but a little dated now

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Graph Drawing Resources

Book

 diBattista, Eades, Tamassia, and Tollis, Graph Drawing: Algorithms for the Visualization of Graphs, Prentice Hall, 1999



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- Tutorial (talk slides)
 - http://www.cs.brown.edu/people/rt/papers/gd-tutorial/gd-constraints.pdf
- Web links
 - http://graphdrawing.org

Upcoming

- Hierarchies and Trees
 - Reading
 Munzner chapter 9
- Text and Documents 1 – Reading

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Additional Material

MoireGraph

- Uses radial layout not terribly unlike hyperbolic tree, but no hyperbolic geometry
- Impose levels on graph by doing min span tree from some node
- Put root at center, nodes at subsequent levels further out radially, with descreasing space for each

• Interaction is key	Jankun-Kelly & I InfoVis '03		1a
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Figure 5: Animated Navigation. Selecting a node in a MoireGraph changes the focus. The angular coordinates of a node and the node's size are interpolated during the animation.



Case Study

- NicheWorks
 - Interactive Visualization of Very Large Graphs Graham Wills Lucent (at that time)

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TopoLayout

- Topological features are detected recursively inside a graph
- Their subgraphs are collapsed into single nodes, forming a hierarchy
- Each feature drawn with an algorithm tuned for its topology



Big Graphs

- 20,000 1,000,000 Nodes
- Works well with 50,000
- Projects
 - Software Engineering
 - Web site analysis
 - Large database correlation
 - Telephone fraud detection

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Features

- Typical interactive operations
- Sophisticated graph layout algorithm
 - 3 Layouts
 Circular
 Hexagonal
 Tree
 - 3 Incremental Algorithms Steepest Descent Swapping Repelling

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Web Site Example



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Fraud Example



Zooming in, we notice they have similar calling patterns and numbers (likely part of same operation)

Illegal to call between Israel and Jordan at the time, so fraudsters set up rented apts in US and charge Israeli and Jordanian business people for 3rd party calling

When bills came to US, they would ignore and move on

More Neat Stuff

- http://willsfamily.org/gwills/
- Lots of interesting application areas
- More details on NicheWorks

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PNNL's Graph Vis Work

- Graph Signatures
- Goal is to characterize the different styles of nodes in graph based on their local connectivity patterns

Wong et al *TVCG* `06



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Example 2





Figure 6: A force-directed layout of GD96B.

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Example 2 50 40 30 20 10 0 1 2 3



Figure 8. Nodes that share the same color belong to the same cluster identified in Figure 7. Eight signatures (represented as bar graphs) are selected to highlight the general topology of the seven clusters. Notice the previously missing organizer (node 9 in red) hidden among as ea of followers in Figure 6.