The Art of Cheating When Drawing a Graph

(Extended Abstract)

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Abstract. The prime directive of graph drawing is to depict a network faithfully and accurately. But sometimes it's better to cheat. I will discuss a series of examples - both my own work and that of others - that involve discarding information, distorting the data, encouraging visual clutter, or even adding random noise. The benefits of breaking the rules can range from the scientific to the artistic.