

Pitfalls

Attaching meaning to structures that are the result of bundling

The bundling can give rise to interesting motifs that are easy to misinterpret.



In densely connected graphs you sometimes see triangle-like structures.

It simply means that two connected nodes share one or more neighbours.

It results from how the algorithms breaks down nodes into groups based on shared neighbours.

Fractals

Sometimes structures look fractal, meaning that they look the same at all scales as you zoom in or out.

This happens when cliques are bundled and have sub-bundles in them and is actually indicative of a tree motif.



Sometimes a curve twists dramatically.

This happens when two dense network parts are too sparse to be connected to a single bundle and is a by product of how the algorithm works.

Thinking that sparsity in confluent drawing means sparsity in network

when highly dense components are bundled, the result looks much less dense. This makes clusters hard to spot in confluent drawings.



Mistaking bundles for hyper-graphs

A hyper-graph is a network where edges can join any number of nodes. Confluent drawings can look similar, but strictly depict regular networks.

