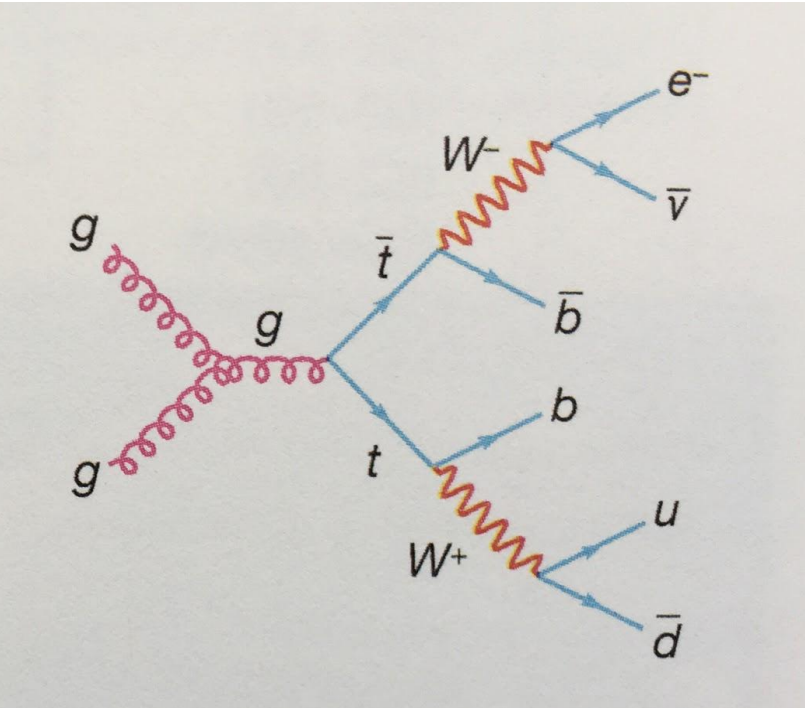


Differentiated lines



Supply lines under Potsdamer Platz (1924) by Artur Furst. Beautiful, precise differentiation of overlapping lines using color, texture, and size. Designed to model Berlin’s underground city infrastructure.



Feynman diagrams re-imagined (2006) by Edward Tufte. Shows how directional connections (blue) can be mixed with non-directional connections (pink and red). Also note how the shape of the lines help to immediately see the structure of the diagram.

Routes along a spatial grid



Illustrated map of Kyoto Japan (date and author unknown). Shows how easy it is to follow routes along a grid. While it doesn’t show multiple lines or routes along the same street, applying a grid like this to a network diagram (nodes are like buildings in the map) could help the reader to follow connections and notice similarities in paths.

Small multiples (“vignettes”) around a large map or image



Saint Kirill of Belozersk with scenes from his life (early 16th century). Shows 19 scenes (miniature stories) in the margin of this beautiful silk cloth. The scenes could be close-ups of sections of the large middle image. Or they could be different views of the same information, to highlight detail and show more context.

As a design, it’s a great way to show something large like the Battle in the Mind Fields diagram, with smaller diagrams around the margins to highlight and explain sub-narratives.