UNDERGROUND KINGDOM

BY EDWARD PACKARD

Christoph Bode, Rainer Dietrich   (with material by Jeffrey Kranhold)
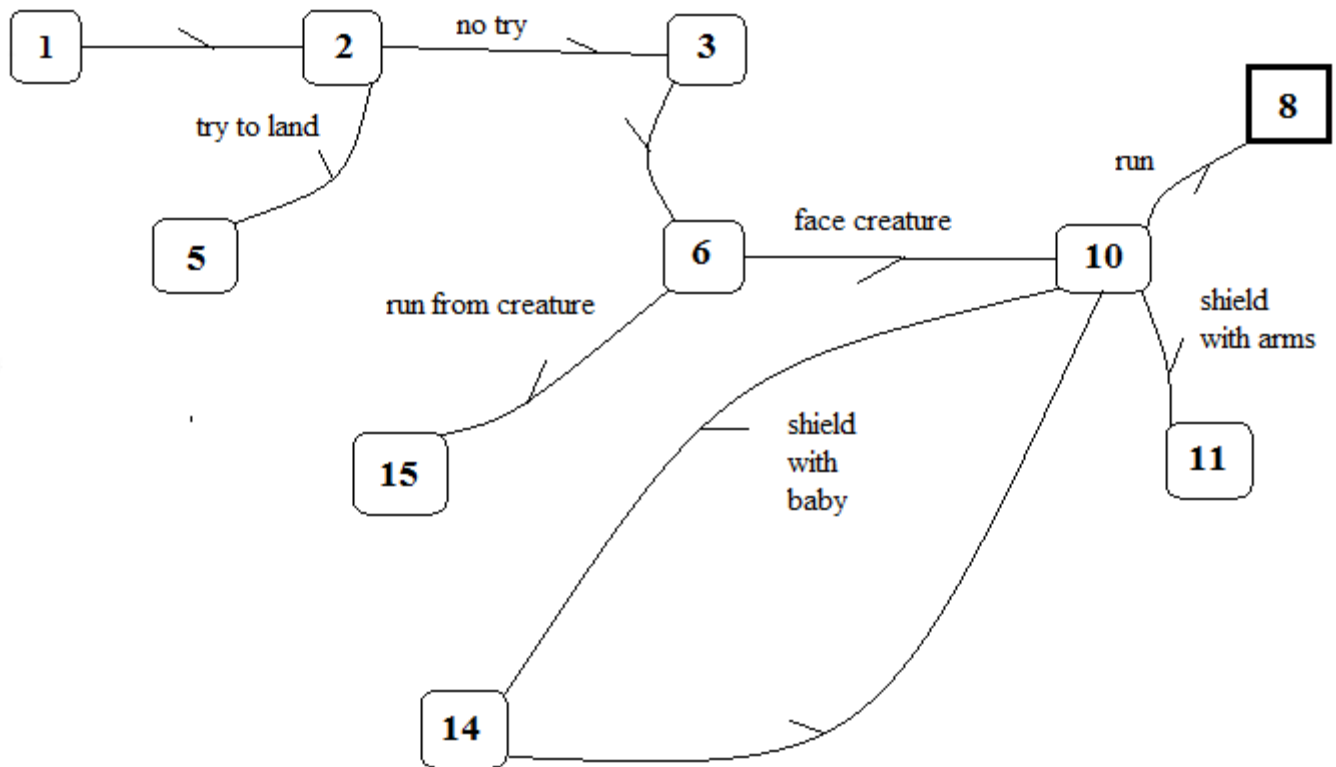
Future Narratives - Theory, Poetics, and Media-Historical Moment

2 Formal Models for Future Narratives

A nodal graph consists of *situations* (graph vertices) and *continuations* (directed edges).

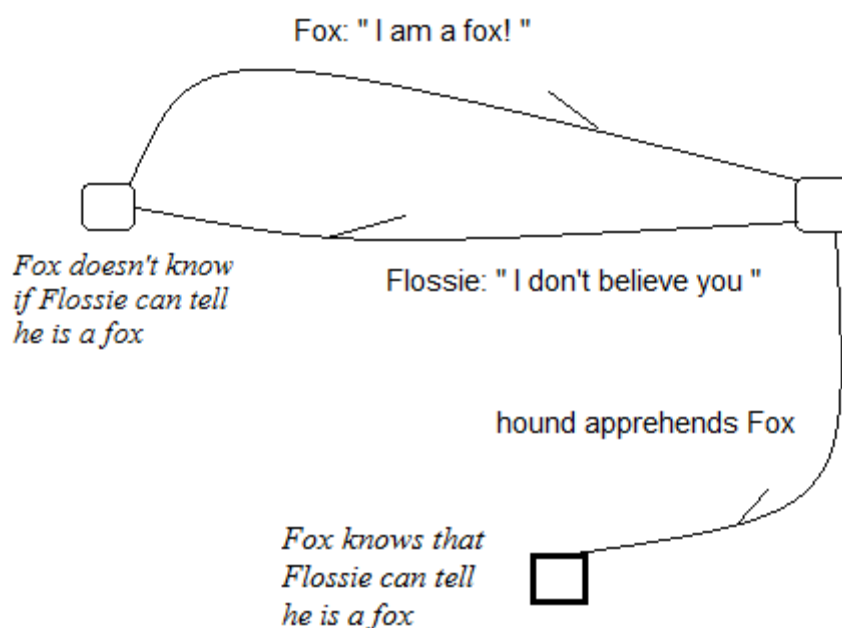Situations and continuations may be annotated by *aspects*.

Example 1   *Flossie and the Fox*

. . .   Flossie skips along and encounters a strange creature, who announces that he is a fox. Flossie looks him over carefully and says, "I just purely don't believe it . . . I don't believe you a fox." Fox says that of course he is a fox: "A littlegirl like you should be simply terrified of me. Whatever do they teach children these days?" But Flossie replies, "I aine never seen a fox before. So, why should I be scared of you and I don't even-now know you a real fox for a fact?" Flossie goes on her way.

. . .   Fox begs Flossie to believe him, but it is too late because one of Mr. McCutchin's hounds arrives to apprehend Fox. As he dashes away, Fox shouts that the hound knows who he is: "Like I told you, I am a fox!" Flossie replies, "I know," and walks unharassed to Miz Viola's.

Aspect space 1:   States of knowledge for agents

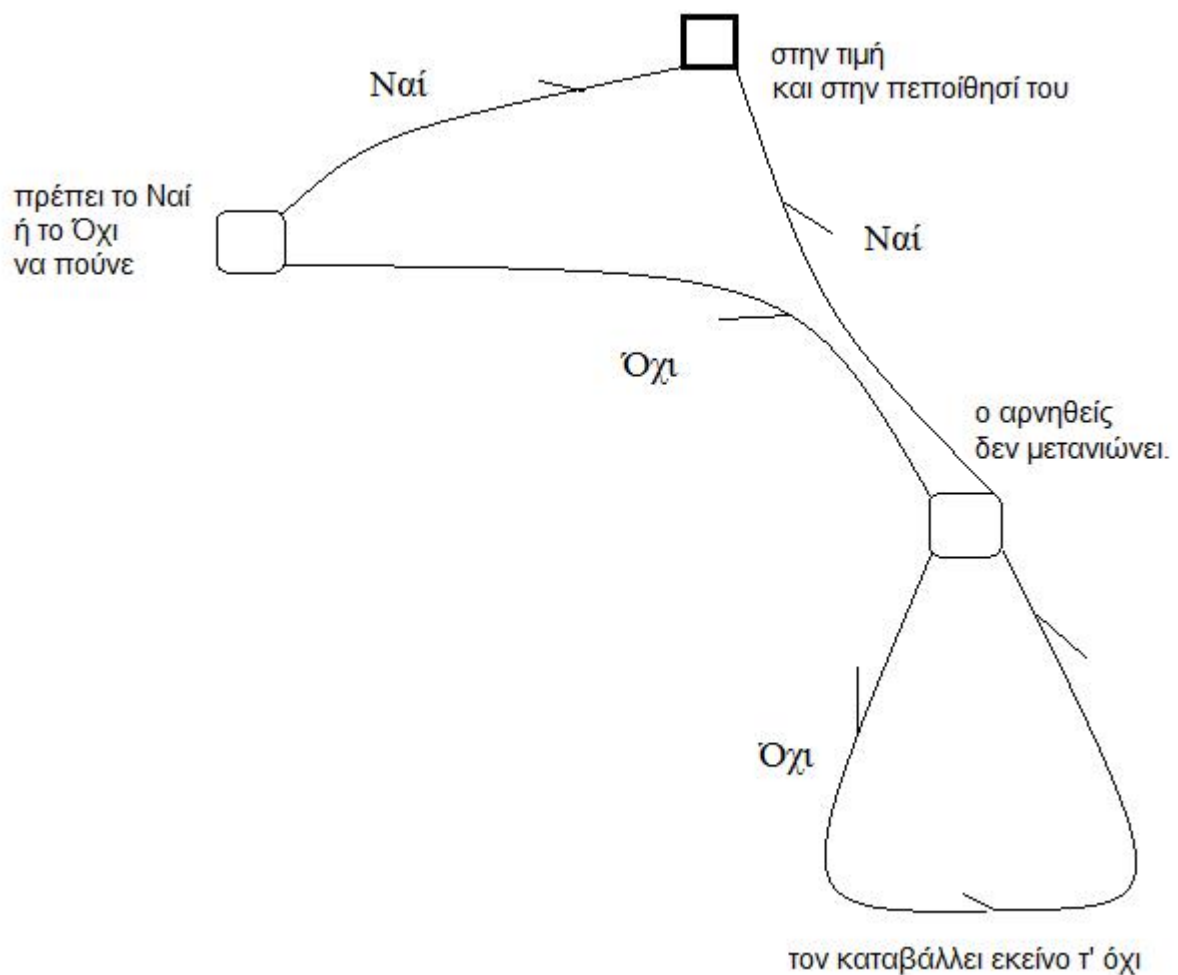*Aspect space 2*:   Assertions of agents , encounters of agents

Example 2

Che fece . . . . il gran rifiuto

Σε μερικούς ανθρώπους έρχεται μια μέρα

που πρέπει το μεγάλο Ναι ή το μεγάλο το Όχι

να πούνε. Φανερώνεται αμέσως όποιος το 'χει

έτοιμο μέσα του το Ναι, και λέγοντάς το πέρα

πηγαίνει στην τιμή και στην πεποίθησί του.

Ο αρνηθείς δεν μετανιώνει. Αν ρωτιούνταν πάλι,

όχι θα ξαναέλεγε. Κι όμως τον καταβάλλει

εκείνο τ' όχι — το σωστό — εις όλην την ζωή του.

Aspect space 1:   Υποκειμενικές ηθικές στάσεις

Aspect space 2:   Υποκειμενικές επιλογές και βιώματα

. Graph and Matrix Metrics to Analyze Ergodic Literature for Children

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Formal – structural aspects

Several questions related to the characteristics of hypertexts are expressed

in terms of *graph and matrix theory*.

Reasoning aspects

A graph based metric is used to rank storylets.

Results on some acyclic digraphs indicate that the *rankings* convey useful information

regarding *plot development*.

Semantic – analytic aspects

There is an analogy between the actions of *random surfers* on the Web

and readers of interactive fiction.