An Adventurous E-Reader for Non-Linear E-Books

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Abstract:
Non-linear books are published in print format as sequential text or digitally as collections of documents linked together via hyperlinks. These publication methods are problematic for readers and authors alike. Readers are often presented with unintuitive interfaces that do not indicate critical contextual information; authors struggle to order non-linear content into linear formats or to create and distribute their work in resource intensive digital mediums. While standard e-books might be a convenient format for non-linear books, current e-readers used to view them are severely limited; they mimic the format of physical books, fail to solve problems inherent in displaying non-linear content in a sequential order, and render e-books in an inflexible format. This paper presents a novel e-reader prototype, called Adventurous Reader, that solves many of the problems authors and readers currently experience in the creation, distribution, and consumption of non-linear texts.