Human and Digital Media Pattern Imitation

As *the Garden of the Forking Path* addresses, the only prohibited word in a riddle would be the answer itself. The answer, or rather inspiration, of *the Garden of the Forking Path* itself would be the pattern of a human mind. The labyrinth presented in the book could only become a labyrinth in the first place because of the way a person thinks, making assumption that there must be a logical explanation in a narrative regarding to its timeline. Human thinks this way, linking from one timeframe to another and forever failing to see parallel time existence, thus making *the Garden of the Forking Path* a true riddle. However, admitting the difficulty of the labyrinth shows us the pattern of the mind: logical events are linked in the thread of thinking.

*As We May Think* was evolutional and advanced regarding to its time. So many concepts mentioned in this essay, such as hypertext, computer, internet, and world wide web were later invented and became fundamental infrastructures of modern human lives. The connection between the two although seemingly unrelated essay is hypertext. Hypertext is a text with references to other text that the readers can immediately access, which is also one of the key underlying concept of digital media. The key point of hypertext is that it imitates human thought process by grouping related information together by the form of hyperlink. *The Garden of the Forking Path* also address the same point, although in a very different way, showing that center of human’s mind pattern is progression and linkage. *The Garden* was written 4 years before *As We May Think* was published so I think Bush must have drawn some inspiration from the essay to come up with the idea of hypertext.

Digital media, as we have discussed in class, is one form of medium: digital. It is built around the technology of hypertext, where the readers can have instant access to all information related to the topic they are reading. It is also an imitation of the logical human mind progress in which readers want ample logical linkages to the medium content instead of consuming the raw. In this way, digital media can also be seen as a form representation of the human mind.