Network visualization: mapping Shakespeare’s tragedies
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Are Shakespeare’s tragedies all structured in the same way? Are the characters rather isolated, grouped, all connected? Narration, even fictional, contains a network of interacting characters. Constituting a well defined corpus, the eleven Shakespearean tragedies can easily be compared: We propose here a network visualization in which each character is represented by a node connected with the characters that appear in the same scenes. The result speaks for itself: the longest tragedy (Hamlet) is not the most structurally complex and is less dense than King Lear, Titus Andronicus or Othello. Some plays reveal clearly the groups that shape the drama: Montague and Capulets in Romeo and Juliet, Trojans and Greeks in Troilus and Cressida, the triumvirs parties and Egyptians in Antony and Cleopatra, the Volscians and the Romans in Coriolanus or the conspirators in Julius Caesar.
SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY

TITUS ANDRONICUS
Number of characters 36
50% Network density

ROMEO AND JULIET
Number of characters 41
37% Network density

JULIUS CAESAR
Number of characters 46
34% Network density

HAMLET
Number of characters 37
39% Network density

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA
Number of characters 35
40% Network density

OTHELLO
Number of characters 24
55% Network density

KING LEAR
Number of characters 33
45% Network density

MACBETH
Number of characters 46
25% Network density

TIMON OF ATHENS
Number of characters 51
25% Network density

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA
Number of characters 74
17% Network density

CORIOLANUS
Number of characters 53
21% Network density

ABOUT
Shakespeare's plays listed chronologically. Two characters are connected if they appear in the same scene. Their size and color intensity are proportional to their [weighted] degree of centrality. The 'network density' measures how close the graph is to complete. A complete graph (100%) has all possible edges between its nodes.

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