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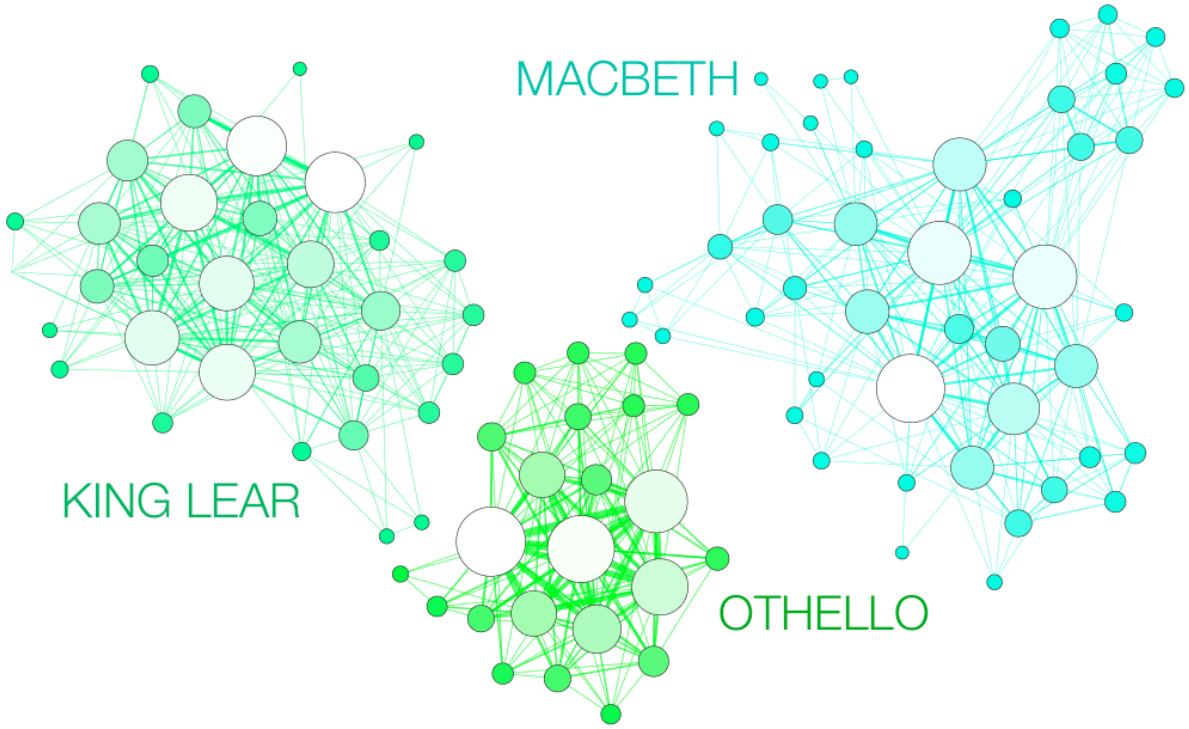

Network visualization: mapping Shakespeare's tragedies

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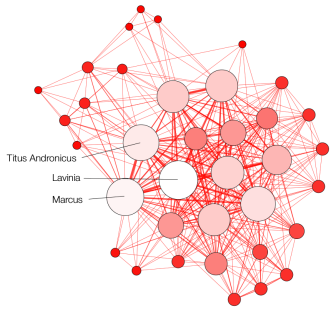
ONLINE
GRANDJEAN Martin (2015) *Network visualization : mapping Shakespeare's tragedies*,
http://www.martingrandjean.ch/network-visualization-shakespeare/

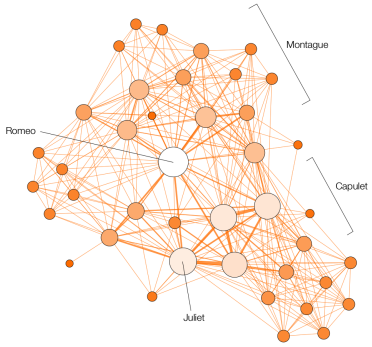
Are Shakespeare's tragedies all structured in the same way? Are the characters rather isolated, grouped, all connected?
Narration, even fictional, contains a network of interacting characters. Constituting a well defined corpus, the eleven Shakespearean tragedies can easily be compared: We propose here 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



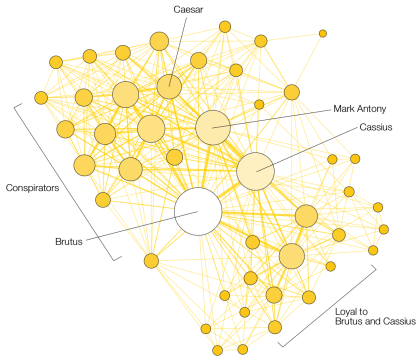
TITUS ANDRONICUS

Number of characters 36 | 50% Network density



ROMEO AND JULIET

Number of characters 41 | 37% Network density

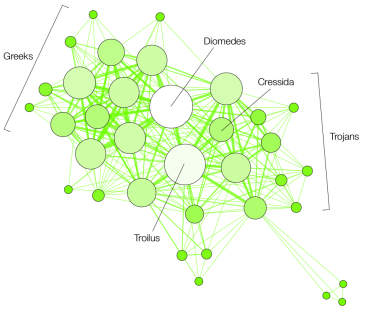


JULIUS CAESAR

Number of characters 46 | 34% Network density

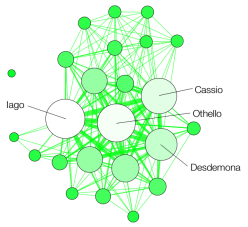
HAMLET

Number of characters 37 | 39% Network density



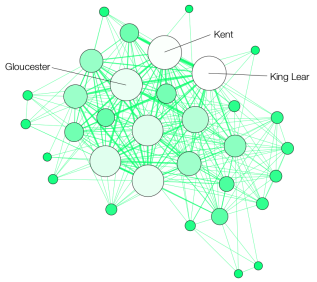
TROILUS AND CRESSIDA

Number of characters 35 | 40% Network density



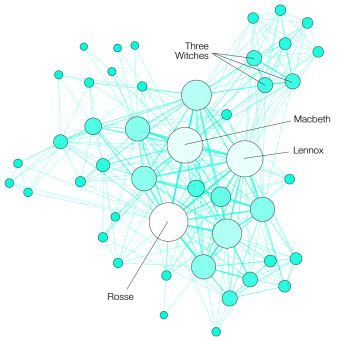
OTHELLO

Number of characters 24 | 55% Network density



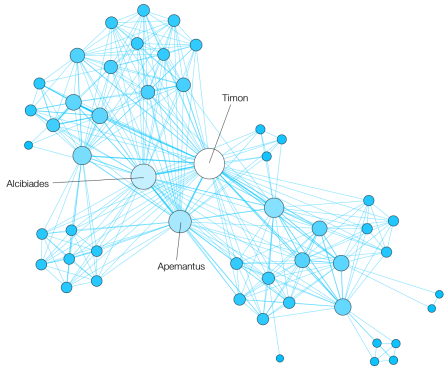
KING LEAR

Number of characters 33 | 45% Network density



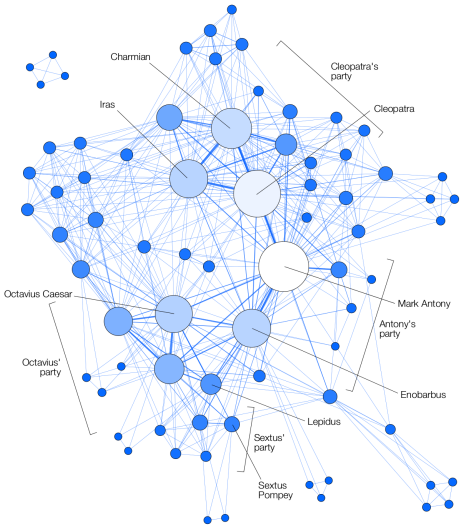
MACBETH

Number of characters 46 | 25% Network density



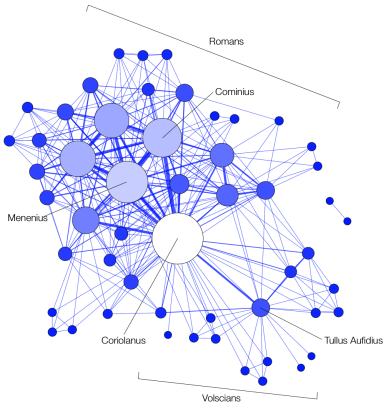
TIMON OF ATHENS

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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www.martingrandjean.ch