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Network visualization: mapping Shakespeare's tragedies

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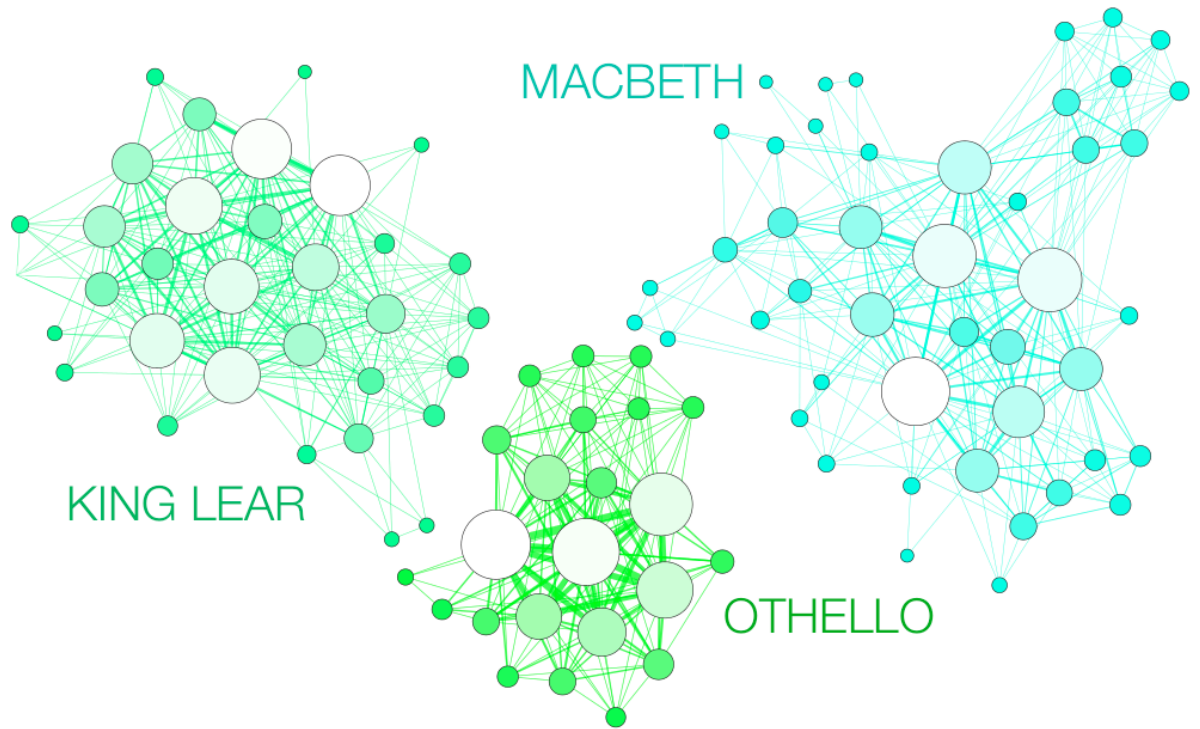
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Network visualization: mapping Shakespeare's tragedies

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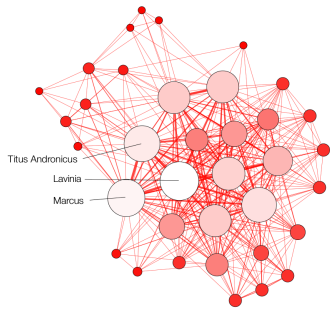
ONLINE

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

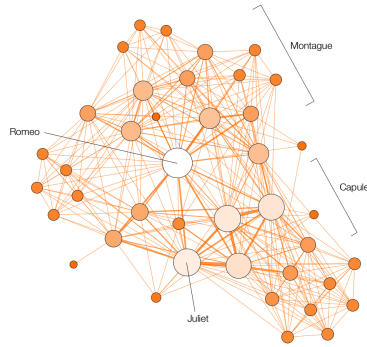
Are Shakespeare's tragedies all structured in the same way? Are the characters rather isolated, grouped, all connected?

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*.

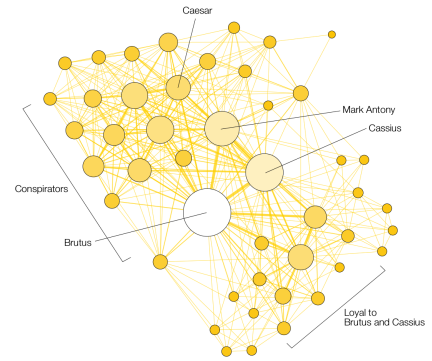
SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY



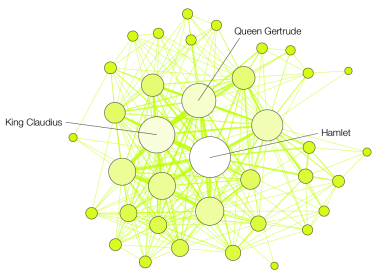
TITUS ANDRONICUS
Number of characters **36** | **50%** Network density



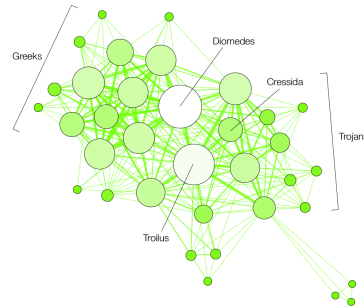
ROMEO AND JULIET
Number of characters **41** | **37%** Network density



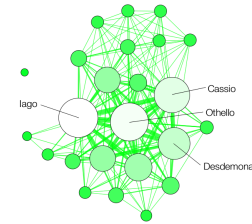
JULIUS CAESAR
Number of characters **46** | **34%** Network density



HAMLET
Number of characters **37** | **39%** Network density



TROILOUS AND CRESSIDA
Number of characters **35** | **40%** Network density



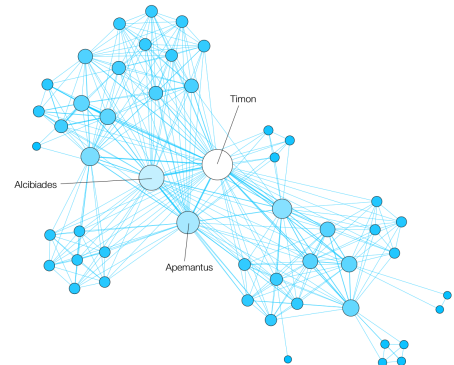
OTHELLO
Number of characters **24** | **55%** Network density



KING LEAR
Number of characters **33** | **45%** Network density



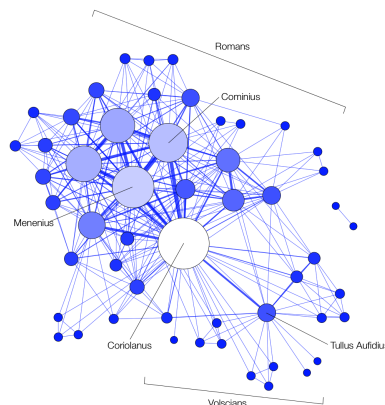
MACBETH
Number of characters **46** | **25%** Network density



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.