## Character network analysis of Émile Zola's Les Rougon-Macquart

DH 2015, Sydney Yannick Rochat, DHLAB, EPFL

## Character networks

- Nodes symbolize characters
- Edges symbolize proximity in the discourse
=> social network of characters


## Character networks

- Most novels can be turned into networks
- Different orders, different sizes
- The network rovides a signature of the novel
- Application of measures


## Character networks



Les Confessions, J.-J. Rousseau


Sagas of Icelanders

## Character networks

Erin Brockovich


Magnolia




















## Character network analysis

## Character-space <br> Character-system (Woloch, 2003)



The One vs. the Many

## Character network analysis



Plot analysis (Moretti, 2011)


## Character network analysis

## Statistical physics approach (Mac Carron \& Kenna, 2012)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Network |  | $N$ | $\langle k\rangle$ | $\ell$ | $\ell_{\text {rand }}$ | $\ell_{\max }$ | $C$ | $C_{\text {rand }}$ | $G_{c}$ | $r$ |
| Beowulf | All | 74 | 4.45 | 2.37 | 2.88 | 6 | 0.69 | 0.06 | $50(67.5 \%)$ | -0.10 |
|  | Hostile | 31 | 1.67 | 2.08 | 3.25 | 4 | 0 | 0.05 | $10(32.2 \%)$ | -0.20 |
|  | Friendly | 68 | 4.12 | 2.45 | 2.98 | 6 | 0.69 | 0.06 | $45(66.1 \%)$ | -0.03 |
| Táin | All | 404 | 6.10 | 2.76 | 3.32 | 7 | 0.82 | 0.02 | $398(98.5 \%)$ | -0.33 |
|  | Hostile | 144 | 2.33 | 2.93 | 5.88 | 7 | 0.17 | 0.02 | $131(90.9 \%)$ | -0.36 |
|  | Friendly | 385 | 5.67 | 2.84 | 3.43 | 7 | 0.84 | 0.01 | $350(90.9 \%)$ | -0.32 |
| Iliad | All | 716 | 7.40 | 3.54 | 3.28 | 11 | 0.57 | 0.01 | $707(98.7 \%)$ | -0.08 |
|  | Hostile | 321 | 2.25 | 4.10 | 7.12 | 9 | 0 | 0.01 | $288(89.4 \%)$ | -0.39 |
|  | Friendly | 664 | 6.98 | 3.83 | 3.34 | 12 | 0.62 | 0.01 | $547(82.3 \%)$ | 0.10 |
| Beowulf* $^{\text {Táin* }}$ | Friendly | 67 | 3.49 | 2.83 | 3.36 | 7 | 0.68 | 0.05 | $43(64.2 \%)$ | 0.01 |
|  | Friendly | 324 | 3.71 | 3.88 | 4.41 | 8 | 0.69 | 0.01 | $201(62.0 \%)$ | 0.04 |


|  | Social | Myth (friendly) | Fiction |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Small world | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Hierarchy | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| $p(k)$ | Power law | Power law | Exp. |
| Scale free | Yes | Yes | No |
| $G_{c}$ | $<90 \%$ | $<90 \%$ | $>90 \%$ |
| TA | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Robust |
| RA | Robust | Robust | Robust |
| Assortative | Yes | Yes | No |

## Objectives

Extract features of novels.
Classify them based on :

- co-occurrences of characters
- protagonists / minor characters


## Les Rougon-Macquart

1802
L'Assommoir, II: so9, 510,
$557,615,689$ a $694,708,756$ 557,615,
an
Bro, 779 Bjard
conde fille des Bijard.
des $L^{\prime}$ 'Assommoir, $\mathrm{II}: 557,615$
$691,692,694,708,757$ 691,
760.
$\underset{\text { Bijard (Jules). Troisième }}{\substack{\text { Bit }}}$ mair, 11 i 1 hri-L'Assom 708,757 a 760 . *Billault
Homme d'Etat frangais. Homme d'Etat français. -
Pot-Botille, $\mathrm{mI}: 374$ Bulecoe (Herminie). Protégee de Mme Correur. II: $56,198,200,228,249$ II: $56,198,200,228,249$
$252,264,270$ iे $272,307$. *BISMRCK (Otto ${ }^{2}$ de).
Homme d'Etat prusien. Homme d'Etat prussien.
Nana, II: 1147, II48 ${ }_{\text {a }}^{1152}$ $1163,1164,1178,1179,1483$. $-L^{\prime} A^{\prime} \operatorname{rggnt}, \mathrm{v}: 180,181,191$,
$254,299,295,296,331 \mathrm{I}-\mathrm{L}$ 254, 259, 295, 296, 331.- - Le
Debacle, $v: 437,438,440$, $466,586,587,601,713,725$ ${ }^{726}, 808,820,858,866$ Blacher. Député. - Son
Excellence Eugine Rougon, II
${ }^{15}$ Blarsot, Banquier a Paris Blarsor. Banquier à Paris BLériot (de). Préfet. prime l'insurrection de la ré gion de Plassans en déccmbre
18 I. $-L a$ Forture des Rougon, I: 212, 219, 291 à 293. Blevze. Cordderie à Mont ${ }_{146 \mathrm{r}}$ so.
BLoND (Maria). Actrice du theatre des Folies-Drama
 1247,1250 a
$1302,1366,1258$,
$1392,1400,1405,1451,1479$
1484. Boche. Concierge de lim-
meuble habité par les C meuble habité par les Cou-
peau, rue de la
$L^{\prime}$ Assoutte-d'O Leau' Assommooir, II: $: 387,394$, 433 a 461,492 à $496,499{ }^{2}$
 $5,559,560,566$ a 569,
599,599
603 a 607,600
$611,630,643,646,657$ 611, $630,643,646,657,66$
$662,667,670,672,674,675$
 $708,713,725,728,731,744$,
$750,751,754,756,778,784$ $750,751,754,756,778,784$
$786,789,790,794,795$. Bochi (Mme. . Epouse du
précedent. -

 $460,47,479 \mathrm{a} 48,493 \mathrm{a}$
$495,499,500,52,505,507$ $495,499,500,502,505,507$,
$10,513,520 \mathrm{a} ~$
$522,524,52$,
 571 a $595,599,601,603$,
$611,612,630,633,643,646$,
$67,662,612$ $657,662,667,674,675,678$,

$69,681,682,684,696,701$ $708,725,728,731,744,750$, | $751,778,784,789$ |
| :--- |
| $-N$ Nana, il: 1366. |


 678 à 681,711
Boc a 715,744 BocQuer (Clarisse). Mai-
tresse de Duveyricr.- Pot. rresile,
Bouile
an : $136, ~$
II a $136,150,183,192$ an 196,
199, 206, 208, 210, 262,275, 199, 206, 208, 210, 262, 275,
$297,302,304,306,307,309$ 297, $302,304,306,307,309$
à $312,343,350,351,355$,
356.
Boçuer (famille). Paren


DES PERSONNAGES


## Les Rougon-Macquart

1. $O C R$ ( 5 min )
2. Manual/regex cleaning (10-15h)
3. Importation into R/igraph
4. Remove most obvious artefacts

## First step: pages

## Enumeration of co-occurrences on couples of adjacent pages.

Same page gives 2 such co-occurrences : [ $n-1$, $n] \&[n, n+1]$.

## Second step: threshold

(\#co-occurrences $>$ threshold $T)=>$ relation.

In practice, we consider : $\mathrm{T}=3$.


## Betweenness centralization

To determine the overall centrality of a point, $\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{k}}$, we need merely to sum its partial betweenness values for all unordered pairs of points where $\mathrm{i} \neq \mathrm{j} \neq \mathrm{k}$ :

$$
\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{B}}\left(\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{k}}\right)=\underset{\mathrm{i}<\mathrm{j}}{\sum_{\mathrm{j}}} \stackrel{\mathrm{n}}{\mathrm{ij}}_{\mathrm{n}}\left(\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{k}}\right),
$$

where $\mathrm{n}=$ the number of points in the graph.

Freeman, 1977


## Betweenness centralization


$4^{0-0-0-0}-0.75 .7$



Then a natural measure of the dominance of the most central point is

$$
C_{B}^{\prime}=\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left[C_{B}\left(p_{k}^{*}\right)-C_{B}^{\prime}\left(p_{i}\right)\right]}{n-1},
$$

which is the average difference in centrality between the most central point and all others.

Freeman, 1977

Bavelas, 1950

## Betweenness centralization

| Novel | $C_{B}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| La Fortune des Rougon | 0.142 |
| La Curée | 0.105 |
| Le Ventre de Paris | 0.167 |
| La Conquête de Plassans | 0.13 |
| La Faute de l'Abbé Mouret | 0.187 |
| Son Excellence Eugène Rougon | 0.271 |
| L'Assommoir | 0.185 |
| Une Page d'Amour | 0.162 |
| Nana | 0.127 |
| Pot-Bouille | 0.126 |


| Novel | $C_{B}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Au Bonheur des Dames | 0.159 |
| La Joie de Vivre | 0.088 |
| Germinal | 0.245 |
| L'Oeuvre | 0.412 |
| La Terre | 0.097 |
| Le Rêve | 0.208 |
| La Bête Humaine | 0.141 |
| L'Argent | 0.364 |
| La Débâcle | 0.317 |
| Le Docteur Pascal | 0.283 |

## Coreness

"The $\mathbf{k}$-core of a graph is a maximal subgraph in which each vertex has at least degree $k$.
The coreness of a vertex is $k$ if it belongs to the $k$-core but not to the ( $\mathrm{k}+1$ )-core." (Csardi, 2006)


## Coreness

| Novel | Order | Coreness max | Coreness norm. |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| La Fortune des Rougon | 49 | 12 | 0.24 |
| La Curée | 49 | 18 | 0.37 |
| Le Ventre de Paris | 39 | 15 | 0.39 |
| La Conquête de Plassans | 45 | 24 | 0.53 |
| La Faute de l'Abbé Mouret | 24 | 14 | 0.58 |
| Son Excellence Eugène Rougon | 57 | 18 | 0.32 |
| L'Assommoir | 58 | 19 | 0.33 |
| Une Page d'Amour | 39 | 14 | 0.36 |
| Nana | 77 | 29 | 0.38 |
| Pot-Bouille | 78 | 31 | 0.40 |
| La | 19 | 0.23 |  |
| Au Bonheur des Dames | 82 | 17 | 0.36 |
| La Joie de Vivre | 47 | 30 | 0.38 |
| Germinal | 80 | 11 | 0.17 |
| L'Oeuvre | 64 | 26 | 0.38 |
| La Terre | 68 | 7 | 0.44 |
| Le Rêve | 16 | 12 | 0.27 |
| La Bête Humaine | 44 | 22 | 0.25 |
| L'Argent | 88 | 16 | 0.18 |
| La Débâcle | 88 | 19 | 0.26 |

## Coreness



## Conclusion

Classification through main protagonist and cores of protagonists.
On this corpus, coreness and betweenness centralisation highlight different properties.
Diversity within Zola's narration.

## Future works

Take into account weights of edges for a better accurracy of "coreness".
How do we study interlocking novels ? (Zola, Balzac, ...)
Representation and study of temporality.

## Thank you!



