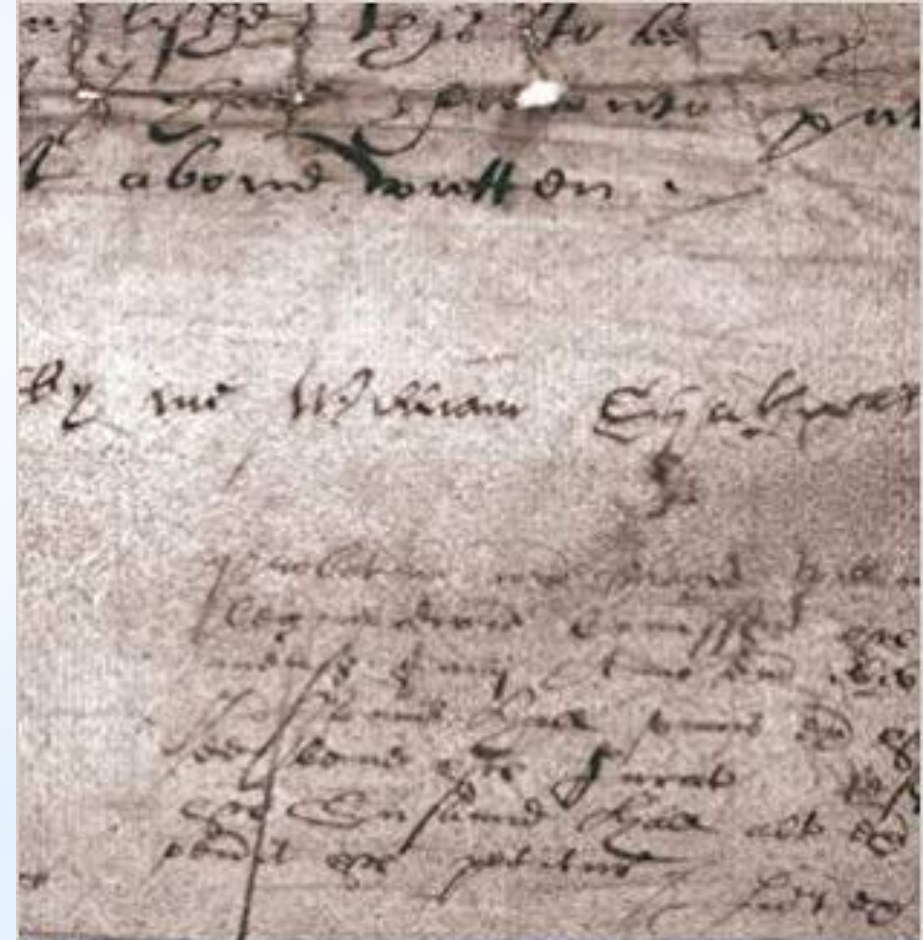


THE «ZETA» METHOD



Shakespeare, Computers, and the Mystery of Authorship

EDITED BY
Hugh Craig and Arthur F. Kinney

CAMBRIDGE

WHAT MAKES THESE THREE SENTENCES «SHAKESPEAREAN»?

I meant indeed to pay you with this, which if like an ill venture it come unluckily home, I break, and you, my gentle creditors, lose. Here I promised you I would be, and here I commit my body to your mercies. Bate me some, and I will pay you some, and (as most debtors do) promise you infinitely.

2 Henry IV

But since you have made the days and nights as one,
To wear your gentle limbs in my affairs,
Be bold you do so grow in my requital
As nothing can unroot you.

All's Well that Ends Well

This is a sleepy tune. O murd'rous slumber!
Layest thou thy leaden mace upon my boy,
That plays thee music? Gentle knave, good night;
I will not do thee so much wrong to wake thee.

Julius Caesar

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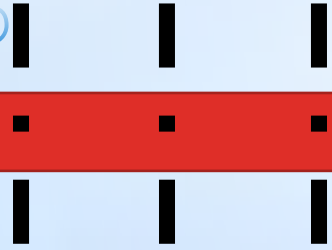
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STYLOMETRY AND SHAKESPEARE



Shakespeare's works (as a single string of text)

3,000 words

3,000 words

3,000 words

etc.

How many of the slices contain
the word «Gentle»?

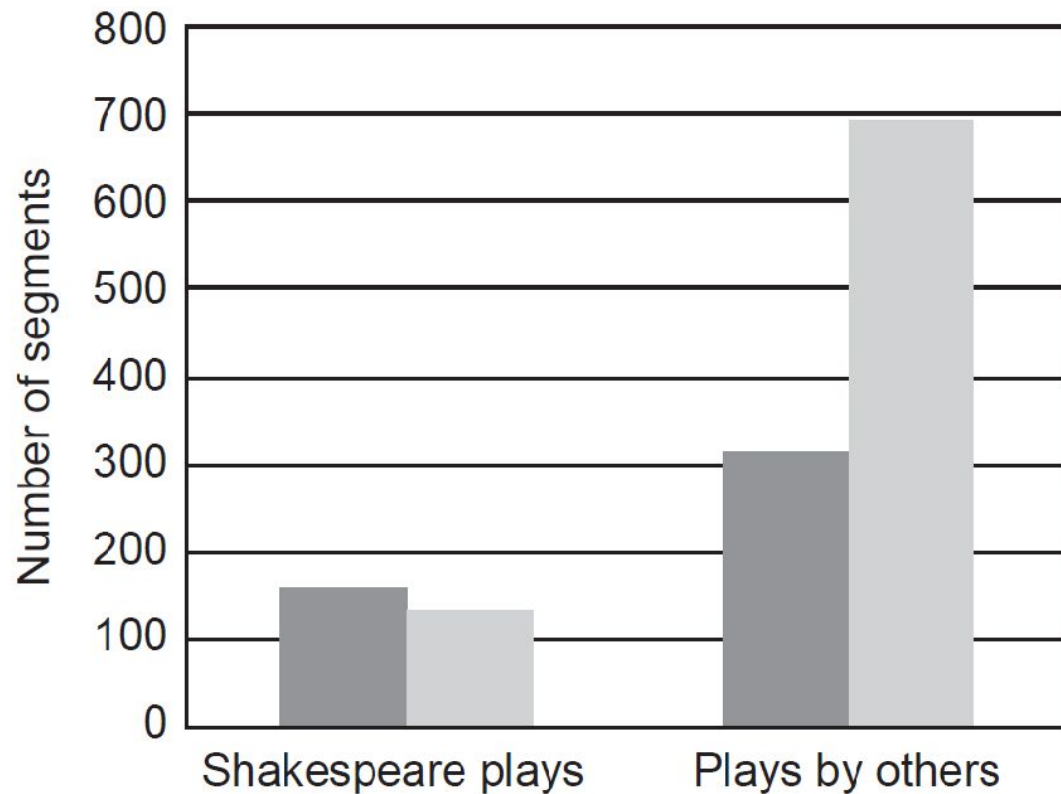


**Shakespeare,
Computers, and the
Mystery of Authorship**

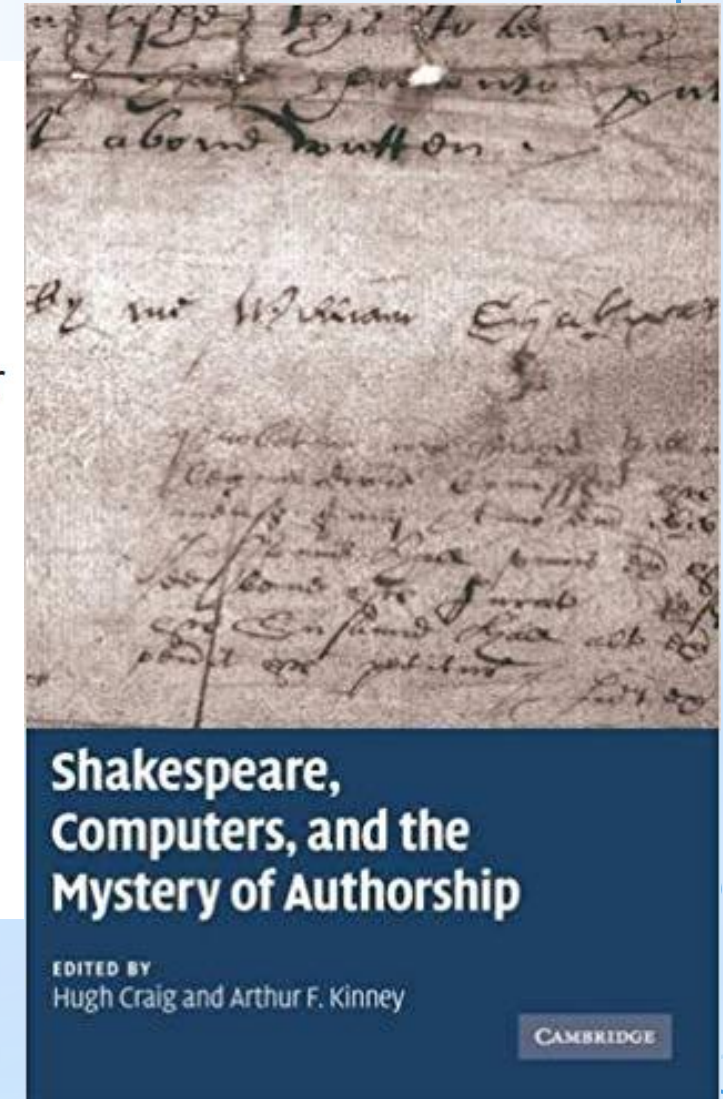
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STYLOMETRY AND SHAKESPEARE

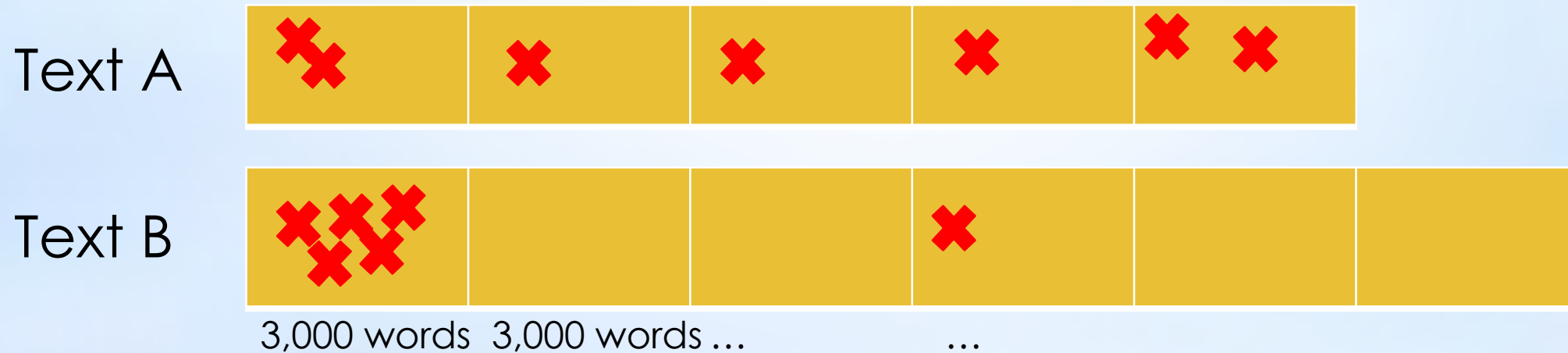


- Segments in which 'gentle' appears
- Segments in which 'gentle' does not appear



THE “ZETA” METHOD

Pick up a word:
«gentle» (for example)



- **Count** in how many slices of the text the word «gentle» appears
- **Calculate** the proportion
Text A: 1 (100%); text B: 0.33 (33%)
- **Subtract** the two values
(so the word «gentle» has Zeta = 0.66 for Text A)
- **Repeat** the operation for all the words in the two texts

Score

-1.0

-0.5

0.0

0.5

1.0

0

10

20

e
fate
only
hopes
than
amongst
perhaps
court
enjoy
reward
yes
h
lets
sure
its
because
country
expect
wealth
somewhat
above
lose
fit
joys
wait

gentle
ore
bid
st
morrow
beseech
ouer
lord
yea
pluck
note
duke
between
toward
hoa
therefore
bloody
spoke
heavy
borne
bear
wherefore
answer
mark
comes

Shakes