

A Network of Thrones: Shedding Light on ‘Game of Thrones’ through Character Interaction Networks

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Abstract

Game of Thrones is a popular fantasy drama TV series created by David Benioff and D.B. Weiss for HBO, adapted from George R.R. Martin’s *A Song of Ice and Fire* novels. This project aims at analyzing the relationships between characters to find the most influential ones and understand the different political alliances, power dynamics and houses, as well as the main plot lines that shape the story. This analysis will offer insights into the complex social structure of Westeros and the strategies behind the quest for the Iron Throne.

1. Introduction

Since its very first season, Game of Thrones has gained an enormous number of fans, making it one of the top TV shows in history. Set on the fictional continents of Westeros and Essos, Game of Thrones follows several story arcs throughout the course of the show, and depicts a huge number of characters interacting with each other in intricate ways. It anchors the story in relatable human drama, enticing viewers through palpable tensions of political intrigue, family trauma, sexual deviance, grief, and so on. These themes are, after all, universal. They transcend the boundary between the fantastical and real, creating a narrative compelling to a broad audience. An interesting point is that, even though some houses can be seen as either ‘good’ or ‘evil’, only a few characters can be considered ‘good’ by conventional norms, whilst most are very complex, as most real people are, and therefore can’t be classified so easily. Thus, for the great mole of characters and the various types of relationships between them, it can be interesting to study Game of Thrones’ characters interaction network.

In more detail, the project will consider the eight seasons separately, each one as a network, with the intent of identifying communities that coherently align with the story lines[3] of the series, as well as analyzing how character interactions evolve within seasons. The eight seasons will be

finally combined into one single graph, which will give a bird’s eye view of the overall story.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Dataset

The scripts for the show are not publicly available (except for those that have been submitted for Emmy consideration). Therefore, the authors[1] of the dataset[2] processed fan-authored scripts available on [genius.com](#). These scripts start with the closed caption subtitles, and are then organized into scenes and embellished with stage directions. The dataset emphasizes dialog (verbal interaction) over stage direction (physical interaction), as the latter is not available through the captions.

Pairs of characters are connected by undirected edges weighted by the number of interactions. There are five interaction types. Character A and Character B are connected whenever:

- Character A speaks directly after Character B
- Character A speaks about Character B
- Character C speaks about Character A & Character B
- Character A & Character B are mentioned in the same stage direction
- Character A & Character B appear in a scene together

To gain a deeper understanding of character interactions in Game of Thrones, analyzing each season’s network separately is a reasonable decision. This approach is beneficial for two main reasons:

- **Resource Efficiency and Clarity:** Given the high number of characters, maintaining separate networks for each season reduces computational overhead and ensures more clarity. This method prevents the creation of a large and messy network, facilitating more efficient analysis and more accurate identification of the main plot lines.

- **Temporal Analysis:** By keeping the networks separated into eight seasons, it is possible to more effectively study the temporal evolution of both character-specific and plot-line-specific interactions.

Nevertheless, it is also valuable to merge the networks of all eight seasons to obtain a comprehensive overview of the Game of Thrones network. After analyzing individual seasons, the datasets can be merged to compare the resulting overall network with the seasonal ones. This dual approach allows for a more comprehensive understanding of Game of Thrones.

2.2. Network Properties

2.2.1 Metrics

A first analysis was performed to explore the network and gain insights. To do so, different metrics have been exploited, which are introduced below.

Density The density of a network is computed by calculating the ratio between the edges present in a graph and the maximum number of edges that the graph can contain, giving an idea of how dense a graph is in terms of edge connectivity.

Small-World Network A small-world network is a graph where, even though most of the nodes are not neighbours of one another, the majority of them can be reached from every other node with a small number of steps. In particular, in a small-world network, the distance between two random nodes grows proportionally to the logarithm of the number of nodes present in the network. In order to test if a network is of such type, we first need to generate an appropriate ensemble of null-model networks, such as Erdős–Rényi random graphs, or Maslov–Sneppen random graphs. Then, we need to compute the average of the mean shortest path length L_r , and the clustering coefficient C_r over this ensemble of null-model networks. Subsequently, we need to calculate the normalized shortest path $\lambda := L/L_r$ and $\gamma := C/C_r$, where L and C are the average of the mean shortest path length and the clustering coefficient of the original network. Finally, if λ and γ fulfill certain criteria (e.g., $\lambda \approx 1$ and $\gamma > 1$), we can conclude that the network is a small-world network.

Connected Graph A graph is said connected if, for all couples of nodes, there exists a path connecting them.

Diameter The diameter of a network is the maximum distance in the network; that is to say, it is the shortest distance between the two most distant nodes in the network, estimating how big the network is.

Shortest Paths The shortest path between any two nodes is the path with minimum length.

Average Shortest Path The average shortest path is the sum of path lengths between all pairs of nodes u and v , normalized by $n \cdot (n - 1)$, where n is the number of nodes in the network.

Degree The degree k_i of the node i in an undirected network is the number of links i has to other nodes, or the number of nodes i is linked to.

Average Degree Distribution For an undirected graph, the average degree distribution $\langle k \rangle$ is computed as follows:

$$\langle k \rangle = \sum_i \frac{k_i}{N} = \frac{2L}{N}$$

where L is the number of edges and N the number of nodes.

Bridges A bridge is a link between two connected components, whose removal would make the network disconnected.

2.3. Centrality Measures

Centrality is used to understand the influence and importance of the nodes. We consider the following ones:

Betweenness Centrality Calculates the shortest paths between all pairs of nodes in a graph. A score is assigned to each node, based on the number of shortest paths that pass through the node itself. Nodes that more frequently lie on shortest paths between other nodes have higher betweenness centrality scores [?].

Betweenness Centrality is formalized as follows:

$$g(v) = \sum_{s \neq v \neq t} \frac{\sigma_{st}(v)}{\sigma_{st}}$$

where σ_{st} is the total number of shortest paths from node s to node t and $\sigma_{st}(v)$ is the number of such paths that pass through v .

Closeness Centrality Measures its average farness (inverse distance) to all other nodes. Nodes with a high closeness centrality score have the shortest distances to all other nodes.

Closeness Centrality is formalized as follows:

$$C(x) = \frac{N - 1}{\sum_y d(y, x)}$$

Eigenvector Centrality Measures the transitive influence of nodes. Relationships originating from high-scoring nodes contribute more to the score of a node than connections from low-scoring nodes. A high eigenvector score means that a node is connected to many nodes who themselves have high scores.

Eigenvector Centrality is formalized as follows:

Let $A = (a_{i,j})$ be adjacent matrix of a graph. The Eigenvector Centrality x_i of node i is given by:

$$x_i = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_k a_{k,i} x_k$$

where the eigenvalue $\lambda \neq 0$ is a constant. In matrix form this becomes:

$$\lambda x = xA$$

Harmonic Centrality Variant of Closeness Centrality, solving the problem the other formula had when dealing with unconnected graphs.

Harmonic Centrality is formalized as follows:

$$H(v) = \sum_{u \neq v} \frac{1}{d(u,v)}$$

where $d(u,v)$ is the distance between node u and v and $1/d(u,v) = 0$ if there is no path from u to v .

Degree Centrality Measures the number of incoming or outgoing (or both) relationships from a node, depending on the orientation of a relationship projection. This graph is undirected, so there is no distinction between in-degree and out-degree.

Degree Centrality is formalized as follows:

Let $A = (a_{i,j})$ be the adjacency matrix of a undirected graph. The degree centrality x_i of node i is given by:

$$x_i = \sum_k a_{k,i}$$

or in matrix form (1 is a vector with all components equal to unity):

$$x = 1A$$

Weighted Degree Centrality Weighted degree centrality gives a sense of not just how many connections a node has, but how significant these connections are, based on their weights.

If $w(u,v)$ denotes the weight of the edge between nodes u and v , and $\deg(v)$ represents the weighted degree centrality of node v , then:

$$\deg(v) = \sum_{u \in N(v)} w(u,v)$$

where $N(v)$ is the set of neighbors of node v (i.e., all nodes connected to v).

PageRank Centrality PageRank can be summarized as follows: a node is important if it linked from other important and link parsimonious nodes or if it is highly linked.

Let $A = (a_{i,j})$ be the adjacency matrix of a directed graph. The PageRank centrality x_i of node i is given by:

$$x_i = \alpha \sum_k \frac{a_{k,i}}{d_k} x_k + \beta$$

where α and β are constants and d_k is the out-degree of node k if such degree is positive, or $d_k = 1$ if the out-degree of k is null. In matrix form we have:

$$x = \alpha x D^{-1} A + \beta$$

where β is now a vector whose elements are all equal a given positive constant and D^{-1} is a diagonal matrix with i -th diagonal element equal to $1/d_i$. Notice that, as seen for Katz centrality, PageRank is determined by an endogenous component that takes into consideration the network topology and by an exogenous component that is independent of the network structure. It follows that x can be computed as:

$$x = \beta(I - \alpha D^{-1} A)^{-1}$$

2.4. Homophily Analysis

Homophily (From Ancient Greek *homós*, 'same, common', and *philía*, 'friendship, love') is a concept in sociology describing the tendency of individuals to associate and bond with similar others. Individuals in homophilic relationships share common characteristics (beliefs, values, education, etc.) that make communication and relationship formation easier. In the graph, homophily was exploited to study the similarity between the nodes.

- **Assortativity coefficient:** assortativity in a network refers to the tendency of nodes to connect with other 'similar' nodes over 'dissimilar' nodes. Here we say that two nodes are 'similar' with respect to a property if they have the same value of that property. Properties can be any structural properties like the degree of a node to other properties like weight or capacity. An assortative network is when high degree nodes connect with each other avoiding low degree nodes. The assortativity coefficient was computed both for house and the side attributes;
- **Jaccard similarity:** this metric is a common proximity measurement used to compute the similarity between two objects. The Jaccard coefficient measures similarity between finite sample sets, and it is defined as the size of the intersection divided by the size of the union of the sample sets.

2.5. Triangles Analysis

The triangle count algorithm calculates the number of triangles for each node in the graph. A triangle is a set of three nodes where each node has a relationship to the other two. It can be used to determine the stability of a graph and it is often used as part of the computation of network indices, such as clustering coefficients or the local clustering coefficient. About the triangles analysis, the following metrics were computed:

- **Total number of triangles**
- **Frequency of the triangles** involving every character
- **Average clustering coefficient**, where the clustering coefficient of a single node is the fraction of existing triangles through that nodes, and it follows the formula:

$$C = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{v \in G} c_v$$

- **Triadic closure**, also known as global clustering coefficient: it computes the fraction of all possible triangles present in the network G . In other words, triadic closure measures the probability that the adjacent vertices of a vertex are connected, so the tendency of edges in a graph to form triangles. Possible triangles are identified by the number of “triads” (two edges with a shared vertex), according to the following formula:

$$T = 3 \frac{\# \text{ triangles}}{\# \text{ triads}}$$

More investigations about interesting triangles have been conducted, both relative to the general graph and specifically for selected characters.

2.6. Community Detection

Granovetter’s theory suggests that networks are composed of tightly connected sets of nodes (i.e. communities), loosely connected between them. Community detection techniques can autonomously find these densely connected group of nodes. In particular, the project uses the following ones:

2.6.1 Infomap

Infomap is an algorithm that is mainly composed by two distinct phases, iterated until the map equation cannot be maximized further.

First phase: Each object is considered as a separate cluster. For each object p (where $p = (1, \dots, N)$), its neighbours q (where $q = 1, \dots, N$) are evaluated to see if moving p to the cluster of q increases the map equation. If moving p results in a positive increase, p is reassigned to the cluster of q . If no positive increase is found, p remains in its current cluster. This process is repeated for all objects sequentially until no further improvement in the map equation is possible.

Second phase: The second phase involves calculating the weights for connections between clusters. The sum of the weights of connections between objects in two clusters is used to form a new network with “metaclusters”. The steps from the first phase are then applied to this new network to further optimize the map equation.

A complete run of both phases is called a pass. Such passes are iteratively carried out, until there is no more change in the cluster, and a maximum of the map equation is achieved. The map equation exploits the duality between finding cluster structures in networks and minimizing the description length of the motion of a random walk. This random walker moves randomly between objects in the network, with higher weighted connections being more likely to be used. The objective is to form clusters in which the random walker remains as long as possible.

2.6.2 Louvain

The Louvain algorithm works with the same procedure that Infomap uses, but instead of computing the map equation, it computes modularity. Modularity is a measure of the structure of networks or graphs which measures the strength of division of a network into modules (also called clusters or communities). Networks with high modularity have dense connections between the nodes within modules but sparse ones between nodes in different modules.

2.6.3 Girvan-Newman

Girvan-Newmann recalculates edge betweenness in the current graph and removes the edges with the largest edge betweenness in every iteration. It is a pretty scalable algorithm.

2.6.4 Greedy Modularity Maximization

Greedy Modularity Maximization begins with each node in its own community and repeatedly joins the pair of communities that lead to the largest modularity until no further increase in modularity is possible.

2.6.5 Spectral Clustering

Spectral clustering exploits the eigenstructure of a graph's similarity matrix to identify clusters within data. Given a graph G represented by an adjacency matrix \mathbf{A} , spectral clustering typically involves constructing the Laplacian matrix \mathbf{L} , and then solving an eigenvalue problem.

The goal is to optimize a modularity function $Q = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B} \mathbf{s}$, where $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{d}\mathbf{d}^T$ is the modularity matrix, and \mathbf{s} is a vector encoding community membership. For two communities, \mathbf{s} is defined as $\mathbf{s} = 2\mathbf{v} - 1$, where \mathbf{v} identifies community membership with entries of +1 and -1.

To simplify the NP-hard problem of directly maximizing modularity, the problem is relaxed by leveraging the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of \mathbf{B} . The key insight is to maximize Q by considering the dominant eigenvector \mathbf{b}_1 of \mathbf{B} , leading to $Q = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{b}_1^T \mathbf{s})^2 \lambda_1$, where λ_1 is the largest eigenvalue. The optimal partition is then obtained by setting $\mathbf{s} = \text{sign}(\mathbf{b}_1)$, assigning nodes to communities based on the sign of the elements in the dominant eigenvector.

The algorithm follows these steps:

1. Compute the graph Laplacian \mathbf{L} or modularity matrix \mathbf{B} .
2. Perform eigen decomposition to obtain eigenvalues and corresponding eigenvectors.
3. Use the sign of the entries in the leading eigenvector to determine community membership.
4. Continue to apply the method to detect more than two communities or refine the clustering.

2.6.6 Other Methods

HDBSCAN was also considered for the analysis. However, this algorithm inherently focuses on finding dense clusters and treats points that don't fit well into these clusters as noise. For applications like character community detection, considering characters as noise does not make sense, and the results of this approach are most likely not useful. To account for this, in our HDBSCAN analysis a further processing step was introduced to try to reassign 'noise' nodes into the most likely community. Although the use of K-NN had some good effects, the use of K-NN itself to reassign these nodes contradicts the purpose of using HDBSCAN in the first place. Modularity-wise HDBSCAN did not perform well at all, even though it is true that its focus is on density-based clustering rather than modularity maximization. Considering community detection only, even after reassignment, HDBSCAN did not perform particularly well

compared to all the other methods employed. Since it did not provide any meaningful insights to the analysis, it was decided not to use it.

2.7. Robustness

Robustness is an important aspect of network analysis. The main aim is to assess the capacity of the network to maintain functionality (or connectivity) after undergoing failures and perturbations, more specifically, after node removal. To remove nodes from the network, different strategies were experimented:

- **Random node removal:** nodes are removed randomly, to check the network's ability to survive random failures.
- **Centrality-based node removal:** nodes are removed starting from the ones with the highest betweenness centrality score.

After node removal, metrics are recomputed in order to compare them to the ones obtained with the original graph and with different number of removed nodes.

2.8. Link Prediction between Existing Nodes

Link prediction consists in inferring which new interactions among its members are likely to occur in the near future, given a snapshot of a social network, based on measures for analyzing the "proximity" of nodes in a network. To do this, Preferential Attachment will be used: it is a measure used to compute the closeness of nodes, based on their shared neighbors. Preferential attachment means that the more connected a node is, the more likely it is to receive new links. It is computed just between couples of nodes without an edge yet.

2.9. Link Prediction between Graph and New Nodes

This technique is similar to the previous one, with the only difference being that the link prediction is computed between the original graph and one or more new nodes. The algorithm used in this project is the Barabási–Albert preferential attachment one. A graph of nodes is grown by attaching new nodes each with edges that are preferentially attached to existing nodes with high degree. In the graph, the following has been added:

- One node with just one edge
- One node with ten edges
- Ten nodes with x edges, where x is the average number of the edges per node.

For every addition, the preferential attachment score of the new link was computed through the preferential attachment algorithm, between the nodes involved in the procedure.

2.10. Temporal Evolution

At the end, the graphs of the various seasons will be compared focusing on metrics of specific characters.

More specifically, in order to study the temporal evolution of the network, the seasons were used as a timestep, effectively adding a temporal dimension to the graph. For each character of interest, a signal $d_i(t)$ was computed, describing the increment in degree with respect to time, using a cumulative sum of the node degree. As explained in the results subsection, interesting insights can be inferred just by analyzing this signal.

3. Results

The Results section is divided into seasons. In order not to render the report repetitive, this section will follow this scheme.

- Season 1 is fully analyzed as per the Methods section.
- Season 2-8 are analyzed only considering the most interesting and dynamic aspects, such as communities, centralities and triangles. This means that this part of the analysis will focus mainly on plot lines and characters.
- The full Game of Thrones series is finally analyzed as a whole, single graph, focusing on the visualization of the graph and temporal evolution of character attributes, highlighting how events in the story can be inferred from them. Overall centrality measures, communities and link predictions are also analyzed to formulate overall conclusions and wrap up the analysis.

3.1. Season 1



3.1.1 General Network Properties

The first season of Game of Thrones is composed of 126 nodes and 549 edges, with a graph density of 0.697, and is a connected graph with no isolated nodes.

Small World Network: Season 1 resulted to be of the family of small world network. This is supported by values found for $\lambda = 1$ and $\gamma = 10.2$.

Diameter and Shortest Path: The diameter is 6, which is a low value, suggesting that the nodes are very connected to each other. This suggests that it is easy to create connections between characters. The path between most distant nodes involves the following characters: [*'Irogenia'*, *'Doreah'*], [*'Doreah'*, *'Daenerys'*], [*'Daenerys'*, *'Ned'*], [*'Ned'*, *'Jon'*], [*'Jon'*, *'Sam'*], [*'Sam'*, *'Melessa'*]. Irogenia is mentioned by the handmaid Doreah while talking to Daenerys Targaryen. Ned Stark is linked to Daenerys only because of a discussion he had with the king, Robert Baratheon, about the latter's choice of sending an assassin to murder her. Jon is, apparently, Ned's illegitimate son, Sam is Jon's best friend, and Melessa is Sam's mother. To justify the low diameter we find the average shortest path to be 2.64, which is fairly good result being a bit more than half of the diameter path. This confirms that the graph is well connected, even though the density is low.

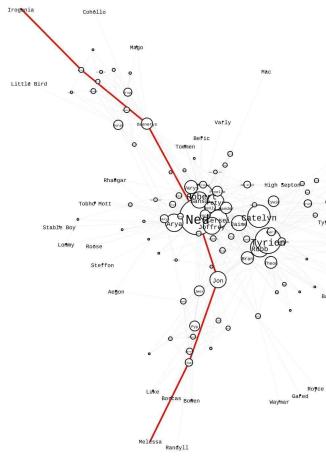


Figure 1. Diameter path of Season 1

Degree: The average degree is 8.714, while the minimum is 1, belonging to characters such as Randyll, Myrcella, Waymar and Irogenia, which are secondary characters. However, by calculating the average degree of node's neighbours, it is strikingly clear that Myrcella is part of an important family, as the value is 41. Notably, this value is much higher than any of the characters with highest degree. The highest degree is 57, belonging to Ned Stark, who has a central importance in this season, followed by Tyrion Lannister and Robert Baratheon, which are also physically close for the majority of the season, both in Winterfell and King's Landing. The mean index that there are more characters which have a low degree. Indeed, the most frequent degree is 2 with 18 nodes. The degree distribution is appreciable in the plots² below, as well as the table¹ with the 10 nodes with highest degree.

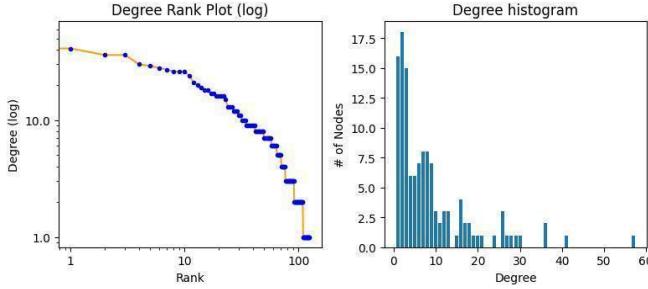
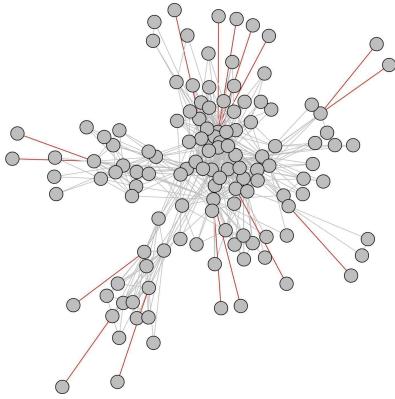


Figure 2. Degree distribution of Season 1

Node	Degree	Avg. Deg. of Neighbours
Ned	57	13.2
Tyrion	41	14.7
Robert	36	17.3
Catelyn	36	17.0
Robb	30	17.7
Cersei	29	20.1
Arya	28	18.4
Joffrey	27	20.2
Petyr	26	18.9
Jon	26	18.7

Table 1. Top 10 nodes with highest degree

Bridges: The network has 16 bridges, as it is possible to see from the visualization below:

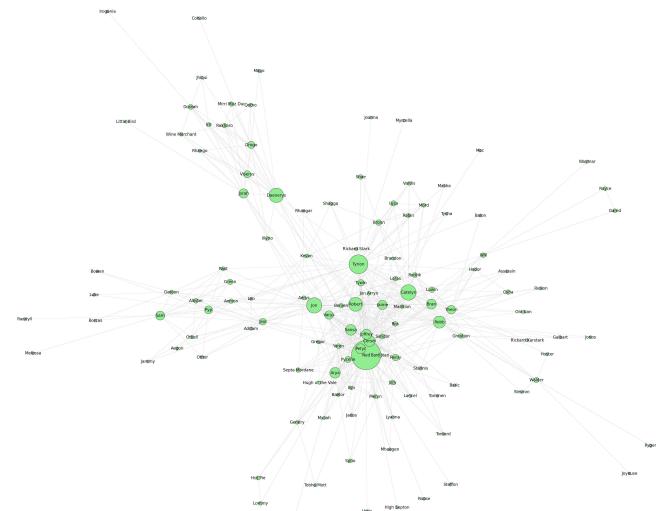


They involve ('Ned', 'High Septon'), ('Ned', 'Roose'), ('Ned', 'Steffon'), ('Ned', 'Varly'), ('Jorah', 'Little Bird'), ('Sam', 'Melessa'), ('Sam', 'Randall'), ('Drogo', 'Cohollo'), ('Arya', 'Stable Boy'), ('Tyrion', 'Myrcella'), ('Tyrion', 'Joanna'), ('Loras', 'Mac'), ('Walder', 'Ryger'), ('Walder', 'Joyeuse'), ('Doreah', 'Irogenia'), ('Will', 'Waymar').

The fact that Ned Stark and Tyrion Lannister are involved in multiple bridges suggests that they are central figures whose interactions are critical for maintaining the cohesion of the network. Interestingly, Sam's connections with Melessa and Randall (his mother and father) as bridges highlight the potential fragility of his familial ties.

3.1.2 Centrality

For a better first visualization of the network, below we plot Season 1's interaction network^{3.1.2} where the node sizes are scaled according to PageRank centrality, and the layout is computed using the Fruchterman-Reingold force-directed layout algorithm.



The following tables^{2,3} report the results obtained by the different centrality measures. In particular, the first table displays the first 5 characters of the network with the highest centrality score, for each type of centrality. As it is possible to notice, regardless of the centrality type, the first five nodes are mostly the same ones. In particular, Ned is the top character for every type of centrality, which makes sense since he is the Hand of the King, therefore a central figure connecting various characters and political factions; moreover a lot of the action of the first season revolve around the facts that lead to his execution. Similarly, Tyrion's role as a mediator and advisor places him in strategic positions where he influences many events and connects disparate groups. Robert, being the king, is obviously a central figure in various aspects, which are all captured by the different centrality measures.

Measure	Character	Highest Centrality Score
Betweenness	Ned	0.303
	Tyrion	0.163
	Catelyn	0.118
	Robert	0.110
	Daenerys	0.101
Closeness	Ned	0.628
	Robert	0.553
	Catelyn	0.551
	Tyrion	0.543
	Jon	0.519
Eigenvector	Ned	0.315
	Robert	0.248
	Catelyn	0.239
	Tyrion	0.230
	Jon	0.229
Harmonic	Ned	0.011
	Tyrion	0.013
	Robert	0.013
	Catelyn	0.013
	Robb	0.014
Degree	Ned	0.456
	Tyrion	0.328
	Robert	0.288
	Catelyn	0.288
	Robb	0.240
Weighted Degree	Ned	1.000
	Tyrion	0.550
	Catelyn	0.453
	Robert	0.436
	Daenerys	0.415
PageRank	Ned	0.047
	Tyrion	0.034
	Catelyn	0.029
	Robert	0.028
	Robb	0.024

Table 2. Top characters with highest centrality scores

Centrality Measure	Mean
Betweenness	0.013
Closeness	0.389
Eigenvector	0.059
Harmonic	0.018
Degree	0.069
Weighted Degree	0.083
PageRank	0.008

Table 3. Centrality means of Season 1

From the two tables ^{2,3}, it is possible to notice the scores about the top five characters of the betweenness, closeness, eigenvector and degree centrality are much higher than the respective means. On the contrary, the scores for the top five characters of the harmonic centrality is very near to the mean.

3.1.3 Homophily

Assortativity The degree assortativity coefficient is -0.141, which is negative, indicating that characters who have high-weighted connections (i.e. frequent interactions) tend to connect to characters with low-weighted connections, and vice versa. This makes sense since prominent characters are likely to interact with less important characters, reflecting hierarchical and political dynamics. The same is true for less prominent characters, which might work for or are affiliated with important ones, like members of the royal family.

Jaccard Similarity In the table⁴ below, the first five Jaccard similarity scores between every couple of nodes are reported:

First Node	Second Node	Jaccard Similarity Score
Lysa Arryn	Robin Arryn	0.75
Grenn	Rast	0.66
Mirri Maz Duur	Quotho	0.66
Robin Arryn	Vardis Egen	0.625
Lysa Arryn	Vardis Egen	0.625

Table 4. Top 5 characters for Jaccard Similarity Score

These findings make sense considering the family relationships and overall plot of the story. Most of the characters are part of the Arryn family or affiliated with it. Robin is Lysa's son ($weight_{r,l} = 30$), which is consistent with their highest score. Vardis Egen served Jon Arryn, Lysa's husband, as his captain of the guards and he is chosen as the champion for House Arryn by Lysa when Tyrion demands a trial by combat to demonstrate his innocence in the death of Lord Jon Arryn. However, there are exceptions: Quotho is one of Drogo's bloodriders, and objects to the Lhazareen godswife Mirri Maz Duur treating a small wound Drogo takes, calling her a witch; therefore, they are both part of the Dothraki story line. Finally, Grenn and Rast are both part of the Night's Watch.

3.1.4 Triangles

In this network, there are 1254 triangles. The ten characters with most triangles are Ned (280), Robert (185), Cersei (181), Catelyn (180), Tyrion (175), Joffrey (152), Robb (142), Littlefinger (139), Sansa (137), Arya (136). This makes sense since all of these characters are part either of the Stark's family and/or the community of King's Landing, which in this season heavily interact.

One of the most distinctive features of this network is how tightly concentrated the action is. There are strong triangles in each community³.

In the table⁵ below, selected triangles deemed to be interesting from a narrative stand-point are presented, taking into

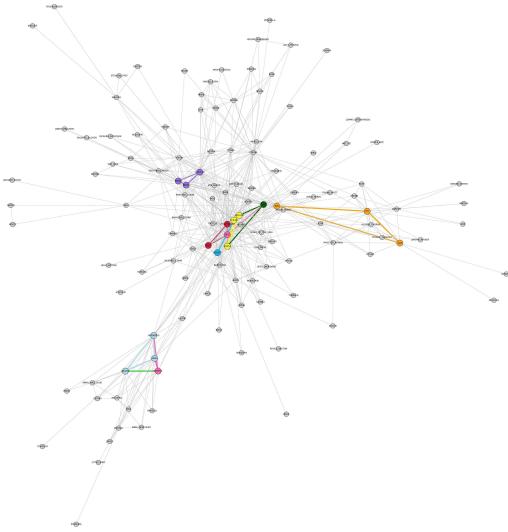


Figure 3. Noteworthy triangles in the graph

consideration the overall strength of the triangle (weights represent number of interactions) and the strongest edge in it.

Triangle	Strength	Strongest Edge
(Ned, Robert, Cersei)	358	192 (Ned, Robert)
(Ned, Littlefinger, Varys)	276	107 (Ned, Littlefinger)
(Ned, Arya, Sansa)	192	90 (Ned, Arya)
(Arya, Joffrey, Sansa)	146	69 (Joffrey, Sansa)
(Cersei, Joffrey, Sansa)	159	69 (Joffrey, Sansa)
(Catelyn, Robb, Bran)	166	90 (Catelyn, Robb)
(Jon, Sam, Pyp)	193	121 (Jon, Sam)
(Daenerys, Drogo, Viserys)	184	91 (Daenerys, Drogo)
(Daenerys, Jorah, Viserys)	263	154 (Daenerys, Jorah)
(Daenerys, Jorah, Drogo)	265	154 (Daenerys, Jorah)

Table 5. Strength of interesting triangles

Ned is part of many triangles, some completely friendly - e.g with his daughters Sansa and Arya, with whom is very close ($weight_{n,s} = 49$), ($weight_{n,a} = 90$) -, others where there is an enemy - Cersei is Robert's wife, but she is hostile to Ned ($weight_{n,c} = 86$) -, and finally one where Ned interacts with potential enemies; in fact, it will be Littlefinger to betray him ($weight_{n,l} = 107$). Sansa interacts a lot with Joffrey ($weight_{s,j} = 69$), being unfortunately promised to being his spouse, even compared to Joffrey's bond with her mother. This triangle really impacts Sansa, who realizes that, after all, being a princess to Joffrey feels more like hell rather than a fairy tale. Noteworthily, Catelyn interacts with her sons Robb and Bran: at first glance, it seems that Catelyn is closer to Robb ($weight_{c,r} = 90$) than to Bran ($weight_{c,b} = 28$). However, the Catelyn-Bran edge weight would be higher if Bran was not comatose and could talk. Actually, Catelyn spends most of the time with Bran, but

as we already said, the network prioritizes dialogues over actions. Jon, at the Wall, interacts with Sam and Pyp, and Sam is his best friend, which is supported by the strongest edge. Daenerys is obviously close to his husband Drogo ($weight_{da,dr} = 91$), but is consistently closer to his advisor Jorah ($weight_{d,j} = 154$), who is also secretly in love with her.

It is also interesting to investigate triangles of specific characters, for example Tyrion.

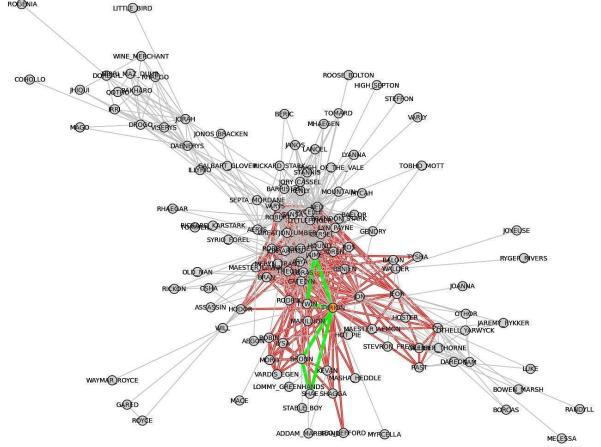


Figure 4. Triangles involving Tyrion. Triangles connecting him to House Lannister and allies are highlighted in green.

Tyrion's community is looser, already from the first season, and captures his independent spirit. Moreover, he is part of triangles with Tywin and Jamie, and with Bronn and Shae. The former triangle captures his ties to House Lannister, the seat of his power and station. The latter is the motley pair of allies that he develops during his misfortunes.

We can compare this with another character, Varys, which is a spy working for the Lannisters and Baratheons in King's Landing. From the graph below it is clear how in the first season, other than interacting with people in King's Landing, his focus is devoted to gather information about Daenerys.

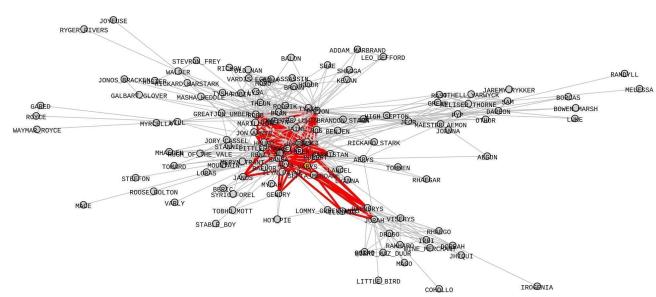


Figure 5. Triangles involving Varys.

3.1.5 Clustering Coefficients

The Global clustering coefficient for season 1 is 0.383, Average clustering coefficient is 0.629.

3.1.6 Community Detection

As mentioned before, the aim is to identify major communities of interacting characters. It is unfortunately not possible to isolate allies and enemies, as the network lacks signed edges.

Infomap The Modularity score for Infomap is 0.448. The algorithm is able to identify important communities that are consistent with the main plot lines of Game of Thrones' first season.

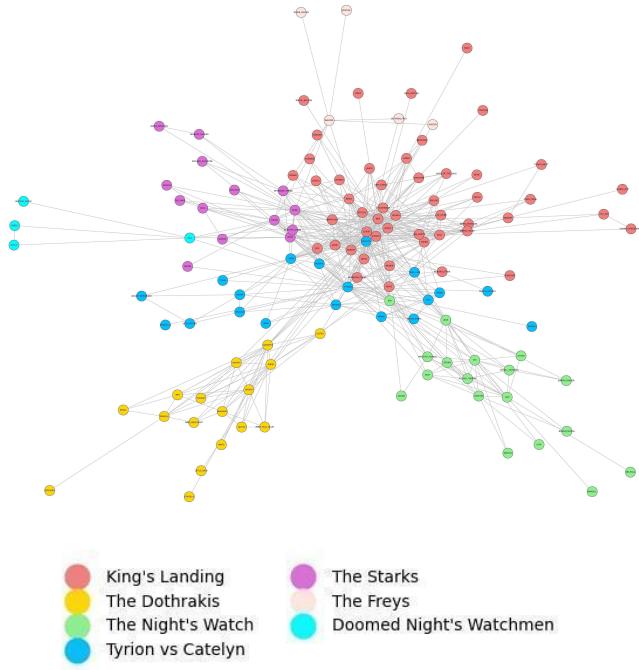


Figure 6. Community detection using Infomap

In particular, the following communities are recognizable:

- **King's Landing** (Ned, Robert, Littlefinger): we can clearly see the community mainly composed by the people in King's Landing, where major events of the first season take place. Notably, king Robert dies after suffering a hunting accident, and delegates Ned to be king until Joffrey comes to age. However, Littlefinger betrays Ned and gets him executed.

- **The Dothraki** (Daenerys, Jorah, Drogo): we can clearly see the community that forms from the wedding of Daenerys and Drogo. Daenerys is tightly linked to her brother Viserys ($weight_{d,v} = 66$), the merchant Hiliyrio, who gifts her three dragon eggs, and of course to Drogo, who in turn is more linked to people from his khalasar.

- **The Starks** (Robb, Theon, Bran): this is the community comprising the family of the Starks, as well as other characters they interact with. Notably, there is a strong bond between Bran and Maester Luwin ($weight_{b,l} = 53$), as Bran is left in a coma after a fall and Maester Luwin takes care of him. It is interesting how Infomap did not recognize Bran's mother, Catelyn, as part of the Stark's community, placing her in the community of the Lannisters, even if she spends most of the time watching over Bran, also fighting against an assassin sent to kill her son.

- **Tyrion vs Catelyn** (Tyrion, Bronn, Catelyn): they are the protagonists of the first clash of Game of Thrones. Catelyn is convinced that Tyrion is the instigator of the attempted murder of Bran. So she kidnaps Tyrion and brings him to trial ($weight_{t,c} = 41$), although Tyrion wins thanks to his squire Bronn. Catelyn's obsession for having justice is likely why Infomap chose not to include her in the cluster of the Starks.

- **The Night's Watch** (Jon, Sam, Jeor): we can see the community of the Night's Watch, where Jon is sent to spend his life. That's where he meets his best friend Sam ($weight_{j,s} = 121$) and Jeor Mormont ($weight_{j,jm} = 60$), the Lord Commander of the Night's Watch. According to legend, the Night's Watch was founded 8,000 before, in the last days of the Long Night. Its original purpose was to defend against the White Walkers, but after the demons' disappearance, the order was also tasked with keeping other dangers at bay.

- **The Freys** (Walder, Ryger, Stevron): this is a minor community. When the North rises in rebellion against the Iron Throne, Robb Stark makes a pact with the Freys for gaining their support by agreeing to marry one of Lord Walder Frey's daughters. This pact will be crucial for one of the most shocking events in later seasons.

- **Doomed Night's Watchmen** (Gared, Royce, Will): this is a minor community, only appears in the first episode. Increased wildling activity beyond the Wall leads the Watch to send out several patrols to investigate. Some do not return. A three-man scouting party consisting of Ser Waymar Royce, Gared, and Will is

sent out, but only Will returns - then frantically tries to desert the Watch by running south but was caught. He rambles that the legendary White Walkers killed his companions, but he is disbelieved as a madman and beheaded by Eddard Stark for desertion.

Girvan-Newman This method is able to detect 6 communities with a modularity score of 0.293. However, one of these communities is composed of a single node, so it should be discarded. Realistically, we can say that Girvan-Newman detects 5 communities, and any other community we try to find after that is unrelated and most likely composed only of single nodes.

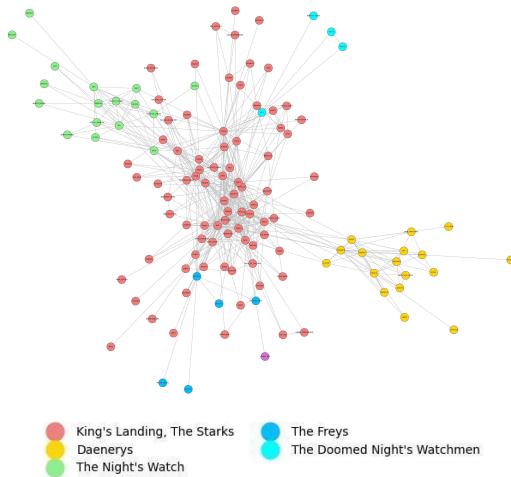


Figure 7. Community detection using Girvan-Newman

Louvain Louvain works very well in our case, reaching a 0.45 modularity score. It is able to identify 6 communities, which are essentially the same as the ones Infomap detected (King's Landing, Tyrion vs Catelyn, The Starks, The Night's Watch, The Dothraki), but with some interesting details:

- **Ancestral Figures** (Aegon, Aerys, Brandon Stark): highlighted in purple, it is particularly interesting how Louvain is able to accurately select ancestral characters, which are mentioned in completely unrelated settings by people of different communities, but all during narrations and legends.
- **Minor Characters:** compared to Infomap, Louvain does not recognize the minor communities like the Freys and The Doomed Night's Watchmen, aggregating them to other clusters.

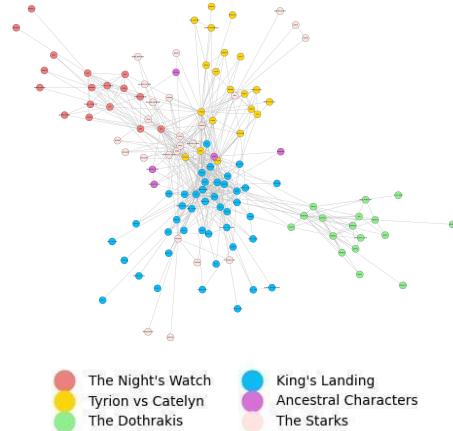


Figure 8. Community detection using Louvain

Greedy Modularity Maximization (GMM) This approach detects 5 communities with a modularity score of 0.439. The King's Landing community is fairly well detected, as well as the Starks, the Dothraki, the Night's Watch and the Doomed Night's Watchmen. Interestingly, although most of Jon's story line in this season is heavily related with the Night's Watch community, GMM puts it into the Stark's community.

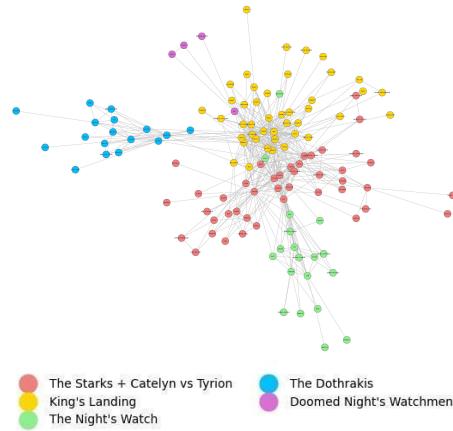


Figure 9. Community detection using GMM

Spectral Clustering detects 6 communities with a 0.39 modularity score. The communities found are the same as GMM.

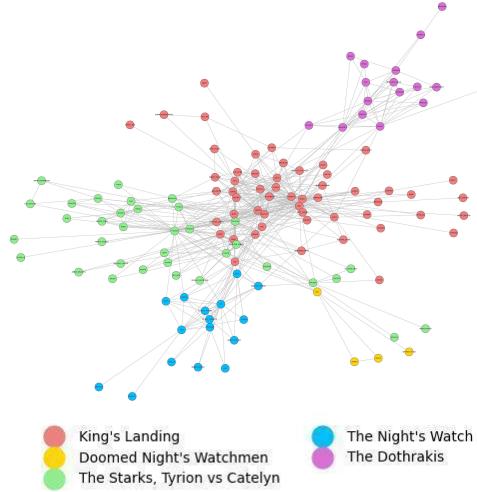


Figure 10. Community detection using Spectral Clustering

Comparison between Methods Below, the plots^{3.1.6} for number of communities per method and modularities per method are shown.

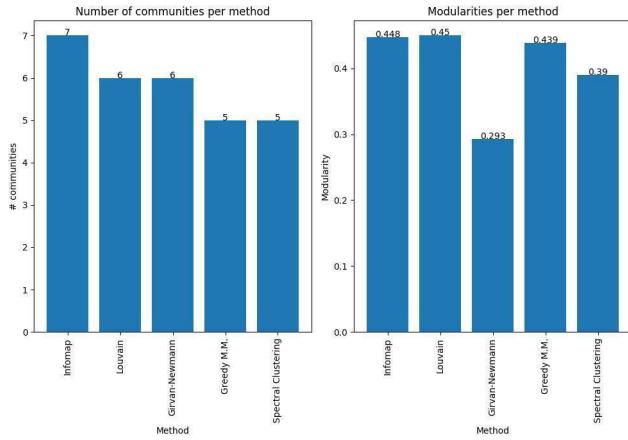


Figure 11. Comparison between community detection methods

Modularity-wise, all methods perform well, with the exception of Girvan-Newmann, whose modularity is substantially lower (0.275). Infomap, Louvain and Greedy Modularity Maximization present similar modularity, with Louvain having the highest. It is interesting to comment on the quality of the detection of the communities, especially contextualizing with information known from the actual TV series.

Infomap^{3.1.6} has detected 7 communities, which are consistent with plot lines. Among those, it detects the community of the Freys, which don't really contribute to the story much, at least right now. Louvain^{3.1.6} is able to recognize 6 communities, very similarly to Infomap, while not recognizing the minor cluster of the Doomed Night's Watchmen.

Though, Louvain is able to reliably extract a community of ancestral characters which are only spoke about in narrations. This is very surprising since there isn't any strong evidence of links between such nodes together. Greedy Modularity Maximization^{3.1.6} detects 5 communities, which are the more prominent and important ones. The same can be said for Spectral Clustering^{3.1.6}. For these reasons, the best algorithms in this context are Infomap, Louvain and, in a more simplistic way, GMM. The Grivan-Newmann^{3.1.6} algorithm detects the majority of the communities correctly; however, the Starks and King's Landing are considered as a single community, likely because of the bonds some characters have with both communities.

3.1.7 Robustness

Random Nodes Removal First of all, various numbers of nodes are removed at random, and basic metrics have been recomputed. The tables below show the results.

Nodes Removed	Avg. Shortest Path	Diam.	Compon.
0 (Original)	2.644	6	1
5	2.620	6	2
10	2.688	6	1
15	2.950	7	7
20	2.595	6	4
25	2.731	6	2
30	2.765	6	6
35	2.518	5	2

Table 6. Changes in Network Metrics after random nodes removal

Nodes Remov.	Avg. Be-tween.	Avg. Close-ness	Avg. Eigen-vector	Avg. Har-monic	Avg. Degree
0 (Orig.)	0.013	0.389	0.059	0.018	0.069
5	0.013	0.386	0.060	0.386	0.060
10	0.014	0.383	0.061	0.383	0.061
15	0.016	0.314	0.061	0.314	0.061
20	0.014	0.375	0.064	0.375	0.064
25	0.017	0.371	0.067	0.371	0.067
30	0.016	0.337	0.063	0.337	0.063
35	0.016	0.399	0.071	0.399	0.071

Table 7. Changes in network centrality after random nodes removal

From the tables^{6,7}, it is evident that metrics change. The average shortest path increases as more nodes are removed, although by not a huge margin. Still, this suggests some loss of robustness. The diameter fluctuates but stays around 6, as in the original network. The number of components drastically changes with node removal, especially in the case of the removal of 15 nodes, showing that the network is vulnerable to fragmentation.

Average betweenness centrality increases slightly after node removal, showing that nodes may become more criti-

cal in their role of connecting other nodes. Average closeness centrality decreases, which is especially visible when 15 nodes are removed. Average eigenvector centrality increase slightly. Central nodes in terms of influence become slightly more pronounced. Average harmonic centrality increases drastically from 0.018 to around 0.38. Degree centrality fluctuates, indicating that while the total number of connections decreases with node removal, remaining nodes tend to become more central.

Overall, the removal of random nodes, without having any other insight on how to attack the network, shows that the network is not highly robust, as evidenced by its growing fragmentation. Some characters also remain completely isolated, especially when 20 nodes are removed. Though, it is worth considering that we are targeting a lot of nodes, without having a relatively great impact on the network.

Centrality-based Node Removal To assess better the robustness of the network, it is possible to attack it by removing the most central nodes, according to betweenness centrality. Characters with high betweenness centrality often serve as bridges or intermediaries between different parts of the network. Removing these characters can fragment the network significantly.

Nodes Removed	Avg. Shortest Path	Diam.	Compon.
0 (Original)	2.644	6	1
1	2.772	6	5
3	2.982	6	8
5	3.156	6	9

Table 8. Changes in Network Metrics after centrality-based nodes removal

Nodes Remov.	Avg. Be-tween.	Avg. Close-ness	Avg. Eigen-vector	Avg. Har-monic	Avg. Degree
0 (Orig.)	0.013	0.389	0.059	0.018	0.069
1	0.013	0.348	0.058	0.348	0.058
3	0.014	0.307	0.055	0.307	0.055
5	0.015	0.285	0.054	0.285	0.054

Table 9. Changes in network centrality after centrality-based nodes removal

With the removal of just a few, but central, nodes, the network shows a massive fragmentation in components. The average shortest path increases, but the network diameter stays stable at 6.

Betweenness centrality increases, which is expected, as the remaining nodes take on more intermediary roles. Closeness centrality decreases, showing that the remaining nodes are on average, further from each other. Eigenvector centrality decreases, suggesting that the influence of remaining nodes is lessened. Harmonic centrality massively increases due to the removal of key nodes affecting network

distances. Degree centrality decreases, indicating that the remaining nodes are less connected.

Overall, we can see that this method is more effective at testing the robustness of the network, that in this case reveals itself to be not robust to targeted attacks of node removal. This makes sense since important characters, especially those who serve as bridges between different parts of the network, play crucial roles in maintaining network cohesion.

3.1.8 Link Prediction between Existing Nodes

Preferential Attachment In the tables below are illustrated the results given by the Preferential Attachment method. More specifically are reported the top five connections between two nodes that are the ones with the highest score.

First node	Second node	Score
Sansa	Tyrion	1066
Littlefinger	Robb	780
Ned	Drogo	741
Tyrion	Daenerys	738
Renly	Tyrion	697

Table 10. Preferential attachment: Top 5 connections with highest scores

Link predictions make sense for the most part. Sansa and Tyrion don't interact in season one, but in the following seasons, they become very close, as although they forcefully get married, they develop a strong friendship and alliance. Tyrion does not interact with Daenerys in season 1. Nonetheless, their link prediction is surprisingly strong, and indeed in the later seasons he will become Daenery's advisor and hand of the queen. Littlefinger betrayed Ned, who is Robb's father, and this led to Ned's death; Robb is filled with rage and wants to declare war, which would make him and Littlefinger interact. Ned and Drogo would have probably met if the two had not died and Viserys' plan to claim the Iron Throne through the help of the Dothraki had gone through. Instead, Renly and Tyrion follow different plot lines, although Renly is interested in claiming the Iron Throne too.

3.1.9 Link Prediction between New Nodes

Adding One Node with One Edge The Barabasi-Albert Model is exploited to add one single node with a single edge. This method connects the node to Arya Stark with a preferential attachment score of 29, which is realatively low. The prediction is realistic given Arya's adventurous and mobile nature, interacting with lots of minor characters.

Adding One Node with 10 Edges The results are displayed below.

Node	Score
Ned	580
Robert	370
Catelyn	370
Arya	290
Littlefinger	270
Varys	220
Tywin	180
Pycelle	170
Maester Luwin	110
Vardis Egen	70

Table 11. Link prediction

The results show that central characters, such as Ned, tend to link to characters with a higher connectivity, which is supported by the high scores. Arya does also interact with major characters, such as with Ned and Tywin. A similar observation can be made for Pycelle and Maester Luwin: they are not central characters, but being both maesters for the Stark's and Lannister's families, interact with characters with many edges.

Adding 10 Nodes with x Edges Ten nodes with x edges, where x is the average number of edges per node, have been added. The results are displayed in the chart below.

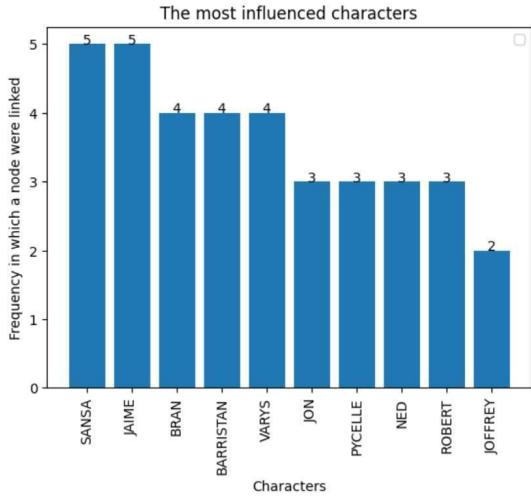


Figure 12. Top 10 most influenced characters by addition of 10 nodes.

3.2. Season 2



In order to avoid being repetitive, the analysis of the sea-

sons following the first will focus only on selected aspects of particular relevance, and will aggregate other main relevant data in a concise table.

Description	Value
Nodes	129
Edges	486
Graph Density	0.058
Connected Graph	No
Number of Components	2
Small-World Network	Yes ($\lambda = 1.08$, $\gamma = 12.84$)
Diameter	6
Avg. Shortest Path	2.84
Avg. Degree	7.53, range [1, 36]
Most Freq. Degree	1
Number of Bridges	23
Deg. Assortativity Coeff.	-0.086
Global Clustering Coeff.	0.415
Average Clustering Coeff.	0.576

Table 12. Summary table for Season 2's network

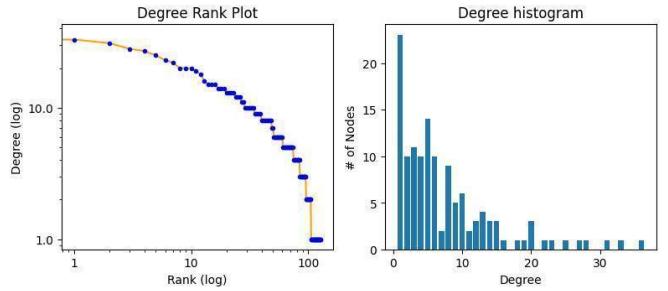


Figure 13. Degree distribution of Season 2

3.2.1 Centrality

Below we plot Season 2's interaction network where the node sizes are scaled according to PageRank centrality, and the layout is computed using the Fruchterman-Reingold force-directed layout algorithm.

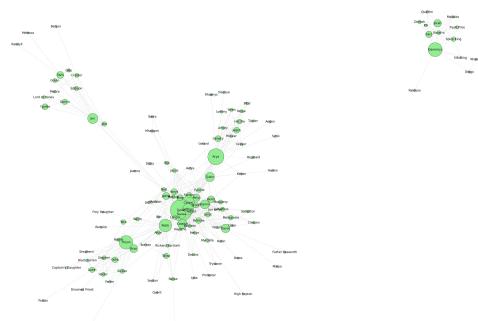


Figure 14. Game of Thrones, Season 2

Measure	Character	Highest Centrality Score
Betweenness	Arya	0.151
	Tyrion	0.141
	Robb	0.117
	Jon	0.111
	Ned	0.104
Closeness	Tyrion	0.477
	Joffrey	0.477
	Ned	0.462
	Robb	0.451
	Cersei	0.447
Eigenvector	Joffrey	0.313
	Cersei	0.283
	Tyrion	0.277
	Stannis	0.222
	Tywin	0.216
Harmonic	Joffrey	0.014
	Tyrion	0.014
	Cersei	0.015
	Robb	0.015
	Arya	0.015
Degree	Joffrey	0.281
	Tyrion	0.258
	Arya	0.211
	Robb	0.219
	Cersei	0.211
Weighted Degree	Tyrion	1.000
	Joffrey	0.572
	Arya	0.501
	Theon	0.466
	Robb	0.219
PageRank	Joffrey	0.029
	Tyrion	0.028
	Arya	0.027
	Robb	0.026
	Cersei	0.025

Table 13. Top characters with highest centrality scores

Centrality Measure	Mean
Betweenness	0.013
Closeness	0.389
Eigenvector	0.059
Harmonic	0.018
Degree	0.069
Weighted Degree	0.1
PageRank	0.008

Table 14. Centrality means

Tyrion is arguably the most central character in Season 2. As Hand of the King, he plays a crucial role in governing King's Landing, making key decisions, and interacting with a wide range of characters. offrey, as king, holds significant influence over others, which is reflected in his high Eigenvector and PageRank scores. His actions and decisions impact nearly every character in King's Landing, justifying his high Degree Centrality and Closeness Centrality.

Robb Stark's centrality reflects his role as the King in the North and his campaign against the Lannisters. Arya's high Betweenness Centrality reflects her role in connecting different storylines, especially during her journey in Harrenhal. Cersei's scores demonstrate her influence within King's Landing, especially through her manipulation and control over key characters like Joffrey. Ned's influence continues in Season 2, particularly through the Stark family's actions and the reverberations of his death.

3.2.2 Triangles

In this network, 900 triangles are present. The characters with most triangles are Joffrey (176), Cersei (151), Tyrion (141), Stannis (100), Robb (92) and Tywin (89). They all share the interest for the Iron Throne. Joffrey, Cersei, Tywin and Tyrion are of the house Lannister, whereas Stannis and Robb are not in King's Landing but very much focused on winning the Iron Throne.

Some interesting triangles have been selected and presented in the following table and graph.

Triangle	Strength	Strongest Edge
(Jon, Ygritte, Qhorin)	209	110 (Jon, Ygritte)
(Cersei, Tyrion, Joffrey)	306	177 (Cersei, Tyrion)
(Cersei, Tyrion, Varys)	291	177 (Cersei, Tyrion)
(Cersei, Joffrey, Sansa)	179	73 (Cersei, Sansa)
(Tyrion, Shae, Bronn)	184	95 (Tyrion, Shae)
(Cersei, Tyrion, Bronn)	266	177 (Cersei, Tyrion)
(Robb, Catelyn, Jamie)	82	82 (Robb, Catelyn)
(Catelyn, Brienne, Jamie)	54	54 (Catelyn, Brienne)
(Catelyn, Brienne, Renly)	115	54 (Catelyn, Brienne)
(Daenerys, Jorah, Xaro)	211	119 (Daenerys, Jorah)
(Arya, Jaqen, Gendry)	195	113 (Arya, Jaqen)

Table 15. Strength of interesting triangles

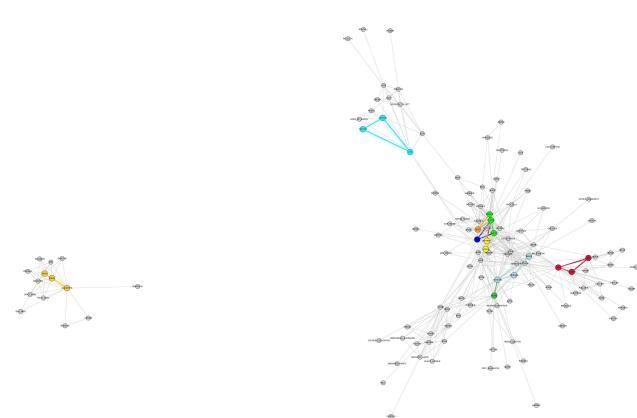


Figure 15. Interesting triangles in Season 2

In the Far North, Jon forms a strong triangle with Ygritte and Qhorin. Qhorin's party finds a group of lookouts and ambushes them. Jon hesitates in killing one, realizing the wildling, Ygritte, is a woman. Jon and Ygritte will fall in love ($weight_{j,y} = 110$). Cersei has strong bonds with his son, Joffrey, and with her brother Tyrion ($weight_{c,t} = 177$). Cersei strongly hates Tyrion, which is evident by the strongest edge being between them when a common triangle is considered.

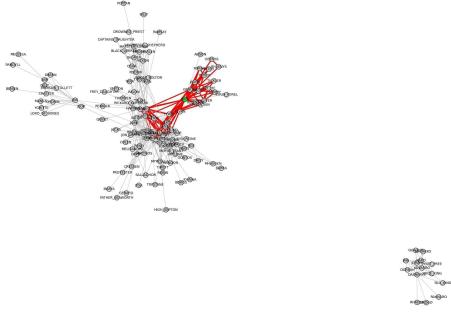


Figure 16. All triangles involving Arya Stark in Season 2

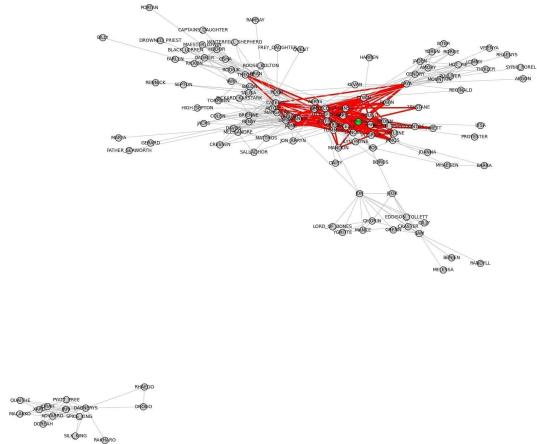


Figure 17. All triangles involving Tyrion Lannister in Season 2

Interestingly, Arya holds triangles that span the communities of Harrenhall and King's Landing. Tyrion, although in this season spends a lot of time in King's Landing, is continuing to bond and form triangles in different communities. These two characters share an adventurous and independent spirit.

3.2.3 Communities

The story lines during Season 2 revolve around 6-7 main communities:

- **King's Landing** (Tyrion, Joffrey, Cersei): Joffrey Baratheon holds the Iron Throne. Tyrion, which arrives in King's Landing to deal with a struggle with Renly Baratheon's claim, is the clear focus of this large community. His rival is his sister Cersei. The two interact more with each other ($weight_{c,t} = 177$) than either does with Joffrey ($weight_{j,c} = 50$, $weight_{j,t} = 79$), indicating where the true power of the Throne really resides.

- **Daenerys** (Daenerys, Jorah): her community is now in Essos, isolated from the rest of the characters, and is finding new allies to support her claim to the Iron Throne. The structure of this community is very simple, revolving around Daenerys.

- **Harenhall** (Arya, Tywin): Arya, who in season 1 got smuggled out of King's Landing after Ned Stark's death, is captured with other people and brought to Harrenhal. Lord Tywin Lannister returns to the castle, and immediately realizes that Arya is a girl posing as a boy. She claims that it made it safer to travel. Tywin commends her intelligence and makes her his cupbearer ($weight_{t,a} = 103$). Interestingly, Arya and Tywin are both hubs, although their roles are very different: Arya ties the community together, whereas Tywin connects the community with other communities, particularly with King's Landing.

- **Stormlands and Riverlands** (Catelyn, Robb, Stannis, Jamie): The Riverlands and Stormlands community is the most cumbersome, reflecting the uneasy coalitions and rivalries that have erupted due to the deaths of Ned and King Robert. Catelyn glues this community together, as she tries to negotiate these would-be kings behind a common cause.

- **The Far North** (Jon, Sam): In the distant north, the Night's Watch has mounted an expedition beyond the Wall, searching for missing rangers and investigating rumors of wildlings gathering in the mountains. The Far North organizes around Jon Snow, with particularly strong ties to Ygritte ($weight_{j,y} = 110$) and Qhorin ($weight_{j,q} = 71$).

- **Iron Islands and Winterfell** (Theon, Bran): Theon and his men seize the poorly defended Winterfell. He forces Bran Stark ($weight_{t,b} = 47$) to yield to him by threatening his people.

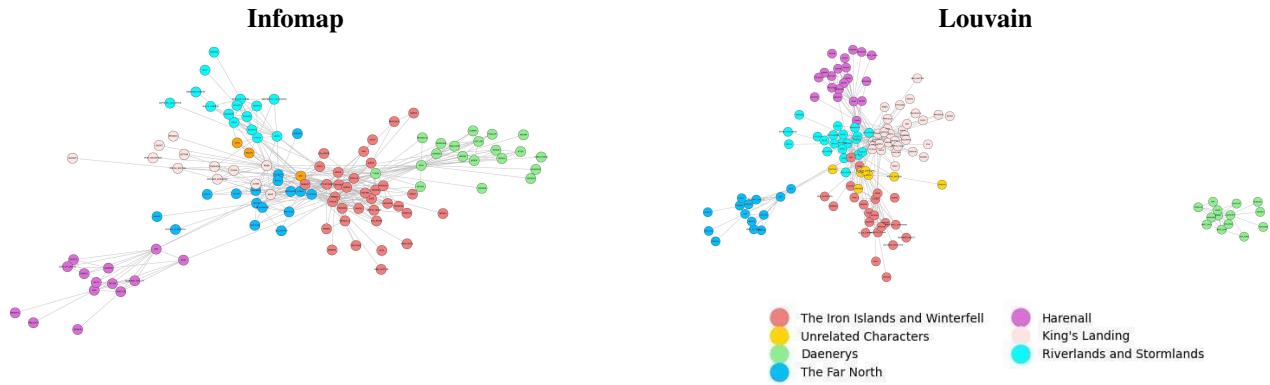


Figure 20. #communities = 7, modularity = 0.563



Figure 18. #communities = 8, modularity = 0.561

Greedy Modularity Maximization

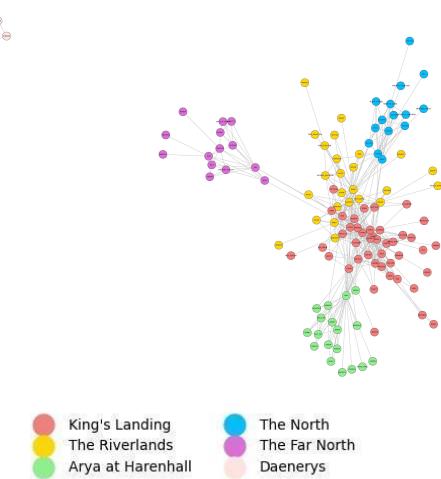


Figure 21. #communities = 6, modularity = 0.532

Girvan-Newman

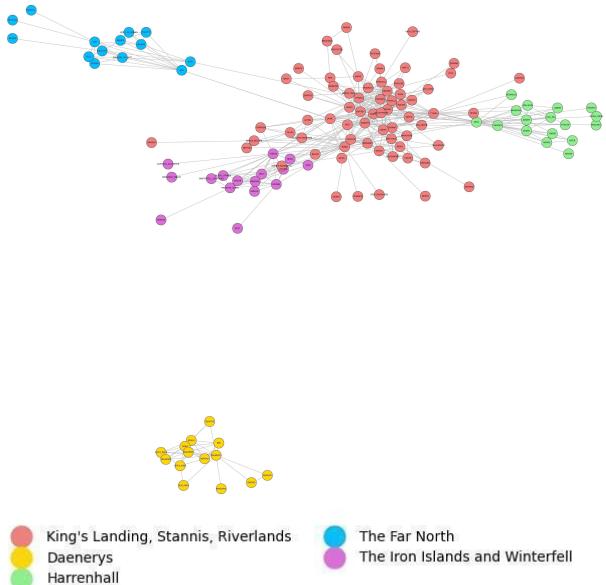


Figure 19. #communities = 5, modularity = 0.477

Spectral Clustering

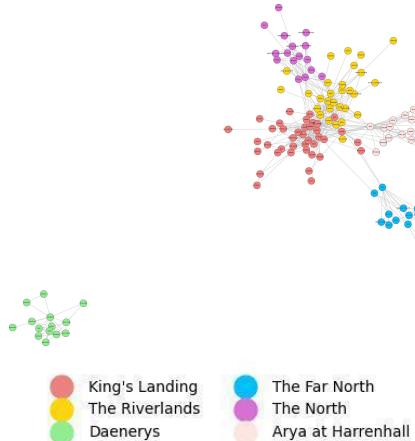
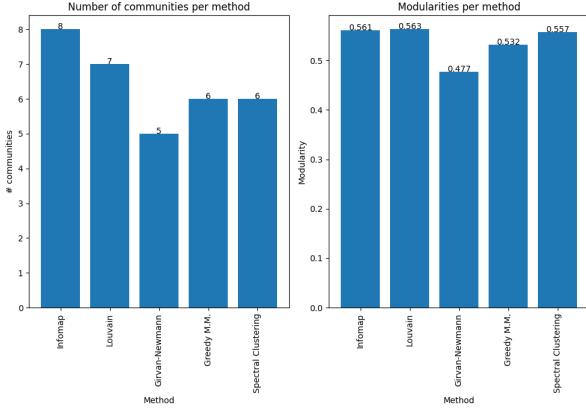


Figure 22. #communities = 6, modularity = 0.557

Comparison Between Methods Below, the various community detection methods are compared with respect to performance on Season 2’s graph.



Infomap¹⁸ detects 8 communities as with a modularity score of 0.561. One community is composed of only 3 characters, including Ned Stark, and should have been clustered in different, already existing communities.

Girvan-Newman¹⁹ struggles to find communities that are more subtle and not evident at first sight. Indeed, it is able to recognize well clustered communities such as Daenerys, Harrenhall and the Far North, but it is not capable of distinguishing more tightly aggregated ones, for example the ones intrinsically close to King’s Landing.

Louvain²⁰ is able to recognize 7 communities, which are similar to the ones Infomap detected. The modularity score is 0.563. However, while Infomap is able to distinguish the two, Louvain groups the Riverlands and the Stormlands together, which is totally plausible and arguably the right choice. This community is the most unwieldy, reflecting the uneasy coalitions and rivalries that have erupted due to the deaths of Ned and King Robert. Besides this, there is also a small community of secondary characters that is closely involved with Robb Stark, who is however not clustered in this community, and with the Boltons. It could be that, since the Boltons are currently not particularly involved with the storylines of the North or with King’s Landing, Louvain decided to generate a new cluster, though not really significant.

Greedy Modularity Maximization²¹ is able to detect 6 communities, which roughly correspond to Louvain’s findings, and reaches a modularity score of 0.532. Though, there are two considerations that are worth mentioning; as said before, Arya’s community in Harrenhall also comprised of Tywin Lannister, who was connecting Harrenhall with King’s Landing. Here instead Tywin is part of the King’s Landing community, which makes sense since he is still a major character of the Lannister family, although being physically at Harrenhall. Same goes for Jamie, who

although being very close to Robb and Catelyn, is still clustered into King’s Landing. Stannis is also in the same community, but should probably be in the Stormlands one.

Spectral Clustering²² finds the same communities as Greedy Modularity Maximization, with a slightly higher 0.557 modularity score.

Overall, Infomap and Louvain are the best performing community detection methods in this season.

3.3. Season 3



Description	Value
Nodes	124
Edges	504
Graph Density	0.066
Connected Graph	Yes
Number of Components	1
Small-World Network	Yes ($\lambda = 1.27$, $\gamma = 10.36$)
Diameter	7
Avg. Shortest Path	3.26
Avg. Degree	8.13 [1,31]
Most Freq. Degree	2
Number of Bridges	14
Deg. Assortativity Coeff.	-0.056
Global Clustering Coeff.	0.481
Average Clustering Coeff.	0.597

Table 16. Summary table for Season 3’s network

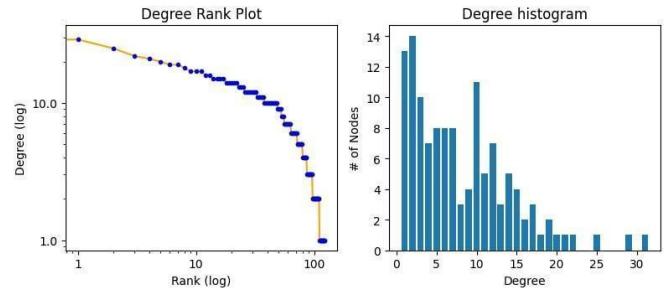
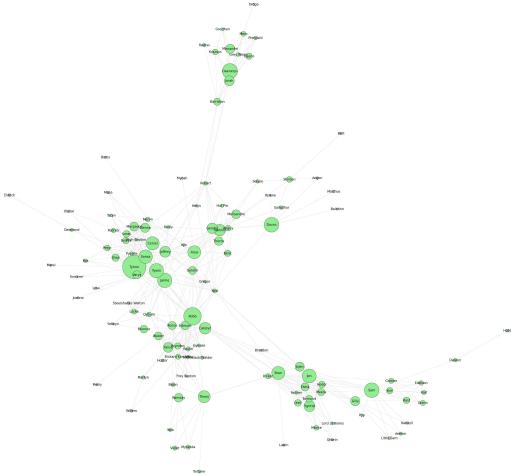


Figure 23. Degree distribution of Season 3’s network

3.3.1 Centrality

Below we plot Season 3’s interaction network where the node sizes are scaled according to PageRank centrality, and the layout is computed using the Fruchterman-Reingold force-directed layout algorithm.



In the tables^{17, 18} on the right side show the results obtained by the different centrality measures are reported.

Robb Stark's centrality metrics reflect his pivotal role in the war against the Lannisters. His high Betweenness and Closeness scores indicate his importance as a connector and influencer in the storyline. Tyrion remains a key character in Season 3, being involved in crucial events in King's Landing. Catelyn Stark's centrality scores indicate her role as a key player in Robb's camp and her influence on the plot's unfolding, especially during the Red Wedding. Tywin Lannister's centrality scores reflect his dominant role in the Lannister's power structure and his strategy to consolidate power. His high Eigenvector and Weighted Degree scores show his influence over others, while his lower Betweenness Centrality score suggests he is a somewhat isolated figure.

3.3.2 Community Detection

Season 3's network has 8 main communities we can reasonably think of. It is evident that the plotlines are continuously developing, creating more and more clusters of stories that evolve independently.

- **King's Landing:** The Tyrell family start to form bonds with the Lannisters, but Cersei feels threatened by Margaery's growing influence over Joffrey ($weight_{j,m} = 64$), following their engagement, and the people of King's Landing. Sansa is wed to Tyrion because of a political marriage that neither the two wanted, though they start forming a bond of friendship ($weight_{t,s} = 85$). Meanwhile, Lady Olenna Tyrell engages in political maneuvering behind the scenes.
- **Daenerys:** Daenerys is the hub of her Essos community, as she travels Astapor and brings the Unsullied and the Second Sons into her alliance.

Measure	Character	Highest Centrality Score
Betweenness	Robb	0.238
	Ned	0.175
	Robert	0.161
	Bran	0.148
	Jon	0.136
Closeness	Robb	0.479
	Ned	0.456
	Catelyn	0.452
	Tywin	0.449
	Joffrey	0.424
Eigenvector	Tywin	0.295
	Joffrey	0.250
	Robb	0.251
	Tyrion	0.269
	Catelyn	0.250
Harmonic	Robb	0.014
	Tywin	0.015
	Tyrion	0.016
	Catelyn	0.015
	Joffrey	0.017
Degree	Robb	0.252
	Tywin	0.236
	Tyrion	0.203
	Catelyn	0.179
	Joffrey	0.171
Weighted Degree	Tyrion	1.000
	Robb	0.574
	Tywin	0.560
	Catelyn	0.452
	Joffrey	0.281
PageRank	Robb	0.026
	Tywin	0.024
	Tyrion	0.021
	Sansa	0.019
	Catelyn	0.018

Table 17. Top characters with highest centrality scores

Centrality Measure	Mean
Betweenness	0.013
Closeness	0.389
Eigenvector	0.059
Harmonic	0.018
Degree	0.069
Weighted Degree	0.148
PageRank	0.008

Table 18. Centrality means

- **The North and Beyond the Wall:** Jon's community beyond the wall is small, and often gets clustered with the one following other characters in the North.
- **Craster's Keep:** The second northern community has Sam strongly bound to Gilly ($weight_{s,g} = 95$), as well as connecting to the Night's Watchmen at Craster's Keep. Sam also has connections to Bran's small

band, thanks to the season finale, where Sam, Bran and Jon Snow are brought together by chance.

- **The Kingslayer's Trek:** Jamie is captured by Robb's forces, held captive and then escorted to King's Landing under the guard of Brienne of Tarth, with whom develops mutual respect and understanding ($weight_{b,j} = 127$). They get captured by a man-at-arms of House Bolton, who cuts Jaime's hand and brings them to Harrenhal. They then return to King's Landing.
- **The Stark Bannermen:** The Stark's community is organized around Robb and Catelyn, forming an alliance with Edmure Tully and Bryden, developing a strategy to weaken House Lannister. Robb has also a strong bond with his new bride, Talisa ($weight_{r,t} = 89$).
- **Theon's Imprisonment:** Theon Greyjoy is captured by Ramsay Bolton, who tortures him ($weight_{t,r} = 114$).
- **The Brotherhood without Banners and Dragonstone:** Gendry, Robert Baratheon's illegitimate son, finds himself bargained from Beric Dondarion to Melisandre. Arya is captured by the Brotherhood Without Banners, while in Dragonstone there is an unstable relationship between Stannis, Melisandre, Davos and Gendry.

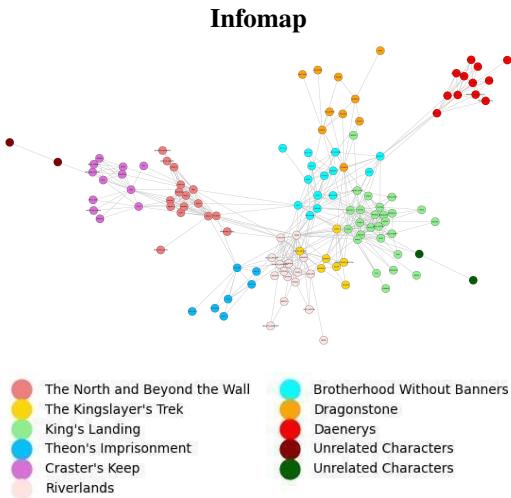


Figure 24. #communities = 11, modularity = 0.616

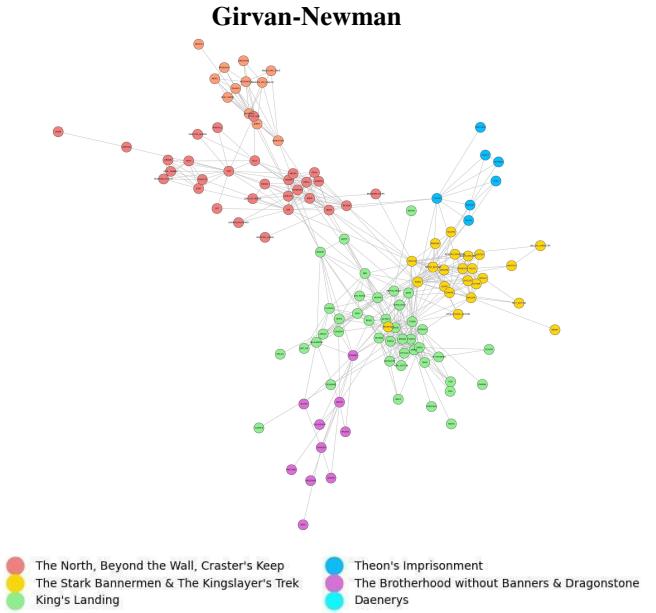


Figure 25. #communities = 6, modularity = 0.589

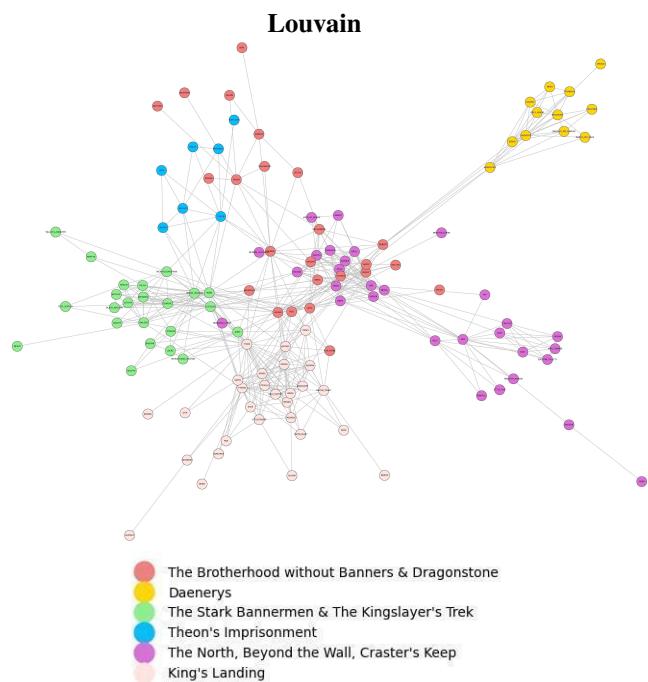


Figure 26. #communities = 6, modularity = 0.626

Greedy Modularity Maximization

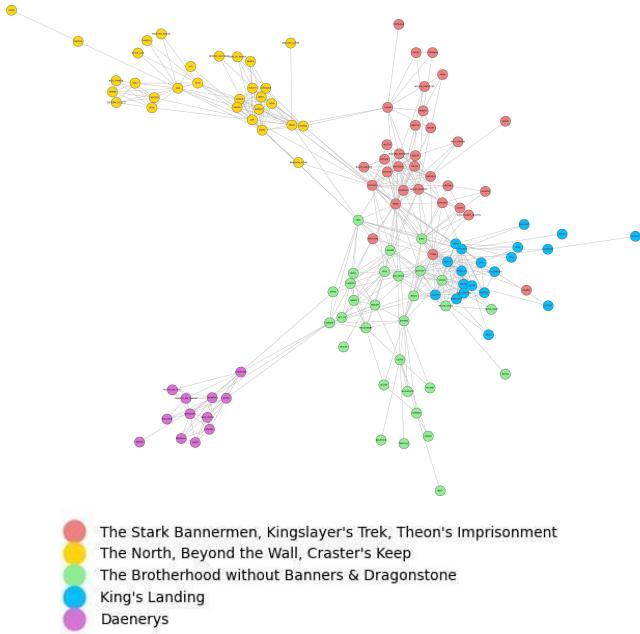


Figure 27. #communities = 5, modularity = 0.581

Spectral Clustering

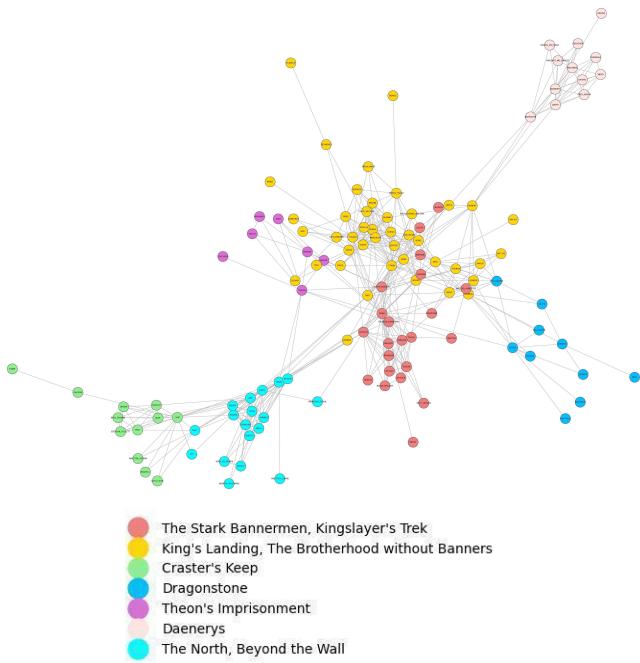
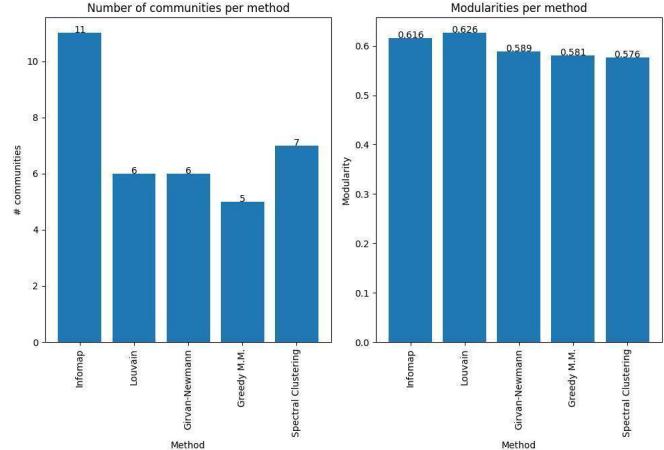


Figure 28. #communities = 7, modularity = 0.576

Comparison Between Methods Below, the various community detection methods are compared with respect to performance on Season 3's graph.



Infomap²⁴ detects 11 communities, which roughly match the expected ones. The modularity score reached is 0.616. However, there are two communities of a couple of characters each which should realistically be part of the communities they are connected to but are characters so marginal that they are put in distinct clusters. Here, the communities of the Brotherhood without Banners and Dragonstone are considered by Infomap as two different communities, even if a lot of characters do have cross-interactions. It is worth noting how Ned and Robert appear in the network. They both died in the first season, yet they continue to play prominent roles as connectors. Both Ned and Robert are on the lips of people across the network. Ned appears in the Brotherhood without Banners community due to an extended discussion of the Lord of Winterfell between Arya, Beric and Thoros, as the latter two try to earn her trust. Robert's blood is essential for Melisandre's magic, pulling it into the same community. Also, Robert almost entirely holds Daenerys' community connected to the graph, unlike in Season 2, mostly by connecting Ser Barristan Selmy, who meets Daenerys during this season.

Girvan-Newman²⁵ struggles to separate theoretical communities that are close together, but does a better job in this season. The modularity score is 0.589.

Louvain²⁶ detects 6 communities with a modularity of 0.626. The Brotherhood without Banners and Dragonstone are considered a single community, which is reasonable. Jaime and Brienne don't form the small community described above, that encompasses the return to King's Landing, rather they are all grouped together with the Stark Bannermen. Characters in the North are grouped together, so there is no distinction between the community beyond the Wall (Jon), and the one at Craster's Keep (Sam).

Greedy Modularity Maximization²⁷ method finds 5

communities, with a modularity of 0.581. The communities found are somewhat similar to the ones found by Louvain, with the exception that Theon's Imprisonment is grouped with the Stark's Bannermen. There is also an unexpected separation of Brienne and Jaime, where the latter is clustered into a community mixing King's Landing characters and ones from The Brotherhood without Banners and Dragonstone. Therefore, Greedy Modularity Maximization did not do a good job in distinguishing some communities.

Spectral Clustering²⁸ detects 7 communities with a 0.576 modularity score. The Dragonstone community is separate from the Brotherhood without Banners. The Stark Bannermen and the Kingslayer's Trek communities are clustered together, which mostly makes sense since Jaime's and Brienne journey starts from Catelyn ordering Brienne to escort Jaime back to King's Landing.

Overall, Louvain scores the best in terms of modularity, although the clustering is not perfect. Infomap detected all the theoretical communities separately, although marginal characters in Craster's Keep and King's Landing are considered separate communities.

3.3.3 Triangles

Below are listed¹⁹ and visualized²⁹ the most interesting triangles

Triangle	Strength	Strongest Edge
(Jon, Ygritte, Tormund)	222	159 (Jon, Ygritte)
(Tyrion, Tywin, Sansa)	211	115 (Tyrion, Tywin)
(Brienne, Jaime, Locke)	201	127 (Brienne, Jaime)
(Tyrion, Tywin, Sansa)	211	115 (Tyrion, Tywin)
(Tyrion, Cersei, Joffrey)	176	95 (Tyrion, Cersei)
(Robb, Talisa, Catelyn)	174	89 (Robb, Talisa)
(Brienne, Jaime, Roose Bolton)	165	127 (Brienne, Jaime)
(Daenerys, Jorah, Barristan)	163	69 (Daenerys, Jorah)
(Arya, Hound, Thoros)	159	79 (Arya, Hound)

Table 19. Strength of interesting triangles

Beyond the Wall, Jon and Ygritte fall in love ($weight_{j,y} = 159$), as it is possible to see from the triangle formed between the two and Jon's new wildling friend Tormund ($weight_{j,t} = 35$).

Even though Sansa and Tyrion get married through an unwilling political marriage ($weight_{s,t} = 85$), interactions between Tyrion and his father Tywin are constantly the strongest in triangles involving the two ($weight_{tyw,tyr} = 115$). This is backed up from the story, as Tyrion is stripped of his position as Hand of the King. His father, Tywin Lannister, takes over the role, further straining their already tense relationship. Though, the relationship between Tyrion and Cersei is still strong and tense; Cersei, in fact, interacts more with him ($weight_{c,t} = 95$) than with her own son Joffrey ($weight_{j,c} = 54$).

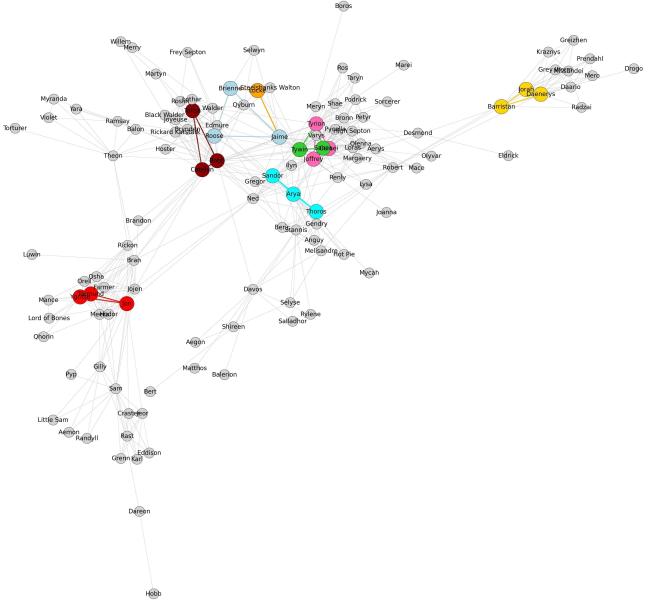


Figure 29. Interesting triangles in Season 3’s graph

Jaime, known as the Kingslayer, gets escorted by Brienne of Tarth to King's Landing, and during their journey they strongly bond ($weight_{j,b} = 127$), even when captured by Locke.

The triangle between Robb, Talisa and Catelyn shows how much Robb loves his new bride Talisa ($weight_{r,t} = 89$), even compared to the interactions he has with his mother Catelyn.

Danerys has two advisors, Jorah, and the newly arrived Barristan ($weight_{d,b} = 37$). Though, she is, as always, closer to Jorah ($weight_{d,j} = 69$).

When leaving the Brotherhood without Banners, Arya is captured by Sandor Clegane, who intends to ransom her to her family at Riverrun. Arya and the Hound share a complex relationship. Despite her initial hatred for him, Arya begins to understand the Hound's pragmatic and brutal outlook on life. Their strong interactions are filled with tension, dark humor, and mutual learning (*weights_A* = 79).

3.3.4 Link Prediction

Preferential Attachment Jamie is Cersei's twin brother and lover. The two are deeply bound to each other in a toxic and destructive love. Jamie, having been captured by Robb's forces, is clearly in the center of a possible strong triangle between Robb and Cersei. Link prediction through preferential attachment predicts Cersei and Robb to be the most likely to have a link, with a score of 620.

3.4. Season 4



Description	Value
Nodes	169
Edges	664
Graph Density	0.046
Connected Graph	Yes
Number of Components	1
Small-World Network	Yes ($\lambda = 1.29$, $\gamma = 18.03$)
Diameter	8
Avg. Shortest Path	3.47
Avg. Degree	7.86 [1,40]
Most Freq. Degree	2
Number of Bridges	15
Deg. Assortativity Coeff.	-0.082
Global Clustering Coeff.	0.435
Average Clustering Coeff.	0.667

Table 20. Summary table for Season 4's network

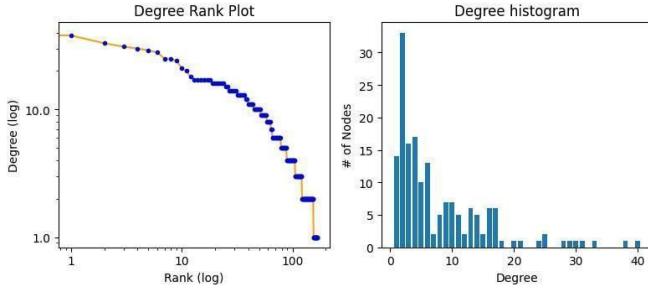
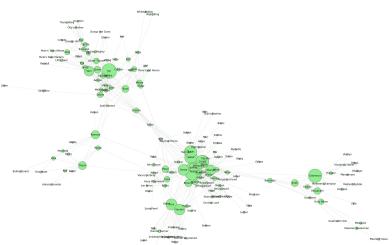


Figure 30. Degree distribution of Season 4

3.4.1 Centrality

Below, the plot of Season 4's graph is presented. Node sizes are scaled according to PageRank centrality, and the layout is computed using the Fruchterman-Reingold force-directed layout algorithm.



The following table reports the results obtained by the different centrality measure.

Measure	Character	Highest Centrality Score
Betweenness	Joffrey	0.212
	Ned	0.201
	Stannis	0.184
	Jon	0.151
	Varys	0.112
Closeness	Joffrey	0.460
	Jaime	0.435
	Ned	0.427
	Cersei	0.417
	Tyrion	0.414
Eigenvector	Joffrey	0.294
	Tyrion	0.288
	Cersei	0.270
	Jaime	0.254
	Sansa	0.259
Harmonic	Joffrey	0.011
	Tyrion	0.012
	Cersei	0.012
	Sansa	0.012
	Jon	0.012
Degree	Joffrey	0.238
	Tyrion	0.226
	Cersei	0.196
	Sansa	0.185
	Jon	0.179
Weighted Degree	Tyrion	1.000
	Joffrey	0.707
	Jaime	0.683
	Cersei	0.669
	Sansa	0.619
PageRank	Joffrey	0.025
	Tyrion	0.024
	Cersei	0.020
	Arya	0.020
	Sansa	0.019

Table 21. Top characters with highest centrality scores

Centrality Measure	Mean
Betweenness	0.013
Closeness	0.389
Eigenvector	0.059
Harmonic	0.018
Degree	0.069
Weighted Degree	0.148
PageRank	0.008

Table 22. Centrality means

Tyrion's involvement in significant events, including Joffrey's death and his own trial, keeps him at the heart of the narrative. Tyrion's prominent centrality highlights his crucial role once again, particularly in the context of his trial.

and then his escape. His high Eigenvector and Weighted Degree Centrality scores show his widespread connections and the influence he has, despite being imprisoned for much of the season. Cersei's high centrality scores reflect her manipulative role in King's Landing politics, particularly in the aftermath of Joffrey's death.

3.4.2 Communities

In season 4, it is possible to find 8 main communities:

- **The Riverlands:** Arya Stark and Sandor "The Hound" Clegane travel together across the Riverlands for much of the season ($weight_{a,s} = 162$). The Hound plans to ransom Arya to her aunt Lysa Arryn in the Vale, but their journey takes a different turn. They meet the Lannister soldiers, the Riverrun soldiers, and Brienne of Tarth. Brienne, fights against the Hound over Arya's safety ($weight_{b,h} = 22$). She defeats him, but Arya refuses to go with her and instead leaves the Hound to die, taking his money and heading towards Braavos. The events in this community significantly build up Arya's character arc.

- **King's Landing:** King Joffrey Baratheon marries Margaery Tyrell in a grand ceremony ($weight_{a,s} = 36$). During the wedding feast, Joffrey is poisoned and dies in front of the entire court. Cersei accuses Tyrion of murdering the king ($weight_{c,t} = 43$), and he is arrested and put on trial. The trial is biased against him, with several false witnesses, including Shae, Tyrion's former lover, testifying against him. Tyrion demands a trial by combat to determine his fate, but loses. Tyrion is freed from his cell by Jaime Lannister with the help of Varys. Before escaping, Tyrion seeks out his father, Tywin Lannister. Tyrion confronts Tywin about his betrayal and his treatment of him, eventually killing Tywin with a crossbow ($weight_{tyr,tyw} = 94$). He then escapes King's Landing. With Joffrey's death, the power struggle between Cersei Lannister and Margaery Tyrell intensifies. The tensions between the Lannisters, Tyrells and Martells are quite evident by the clique³¹ of 8 characters in this community, involving Tyrion, Cersei, Jaime, Tywin, Joffrey, Tommen, Margaery, Mace and Oberyn.

- **The Eyrie:** After escaping King's Landing following King Joffrey's assassination at the Purple Wedding, Sansa is taken to the Vale by Littlefinger, and under his protection they arrive at the Eyrie, where they are welcomed by Lysa Arryn, Sansa's aunt and the Lady of the Eyrie. There, Littlefinger manipulates the power dynamics and kills Lysa, effectively assuming control over the Vale. Sansa becomes more involved in Lit-

tlefinger's schemes ($weight_{s,l} = 96$), realizing that her survival depends on playing along with his plans.

- **Daenerys in Meereen:** Daenerys is carving a path through Slaver's Bay - not of conquest but of liberation. As functionally once a slave herself, Daenerys is determined to free the oppressed slaves of the region. First Astapor and then Yunkai fall before Daenerys's forces, and hundreds of thousands of freed slaves join to her banner. Yet Daenerys must now face the last and greatest of the slaver-cities, Meereen.
- **Castle Black and Mole's Town:** Jon is currently in Castle Black, and deals with situations arose by the developing friendship with Grenn and Edd ($weight_{j,g} = 52$, $weight_{j,e} = 42$), and the hathred-filled rivalry with Alliser ($weight_{j,a} = 68$) and Janos ($weight_{j,o,ja} = 39$). In the meantime, Sam and Gilly are in Mole's Town.
- **Dragonstone:** Stannis is defeated at the Battle of the Blackwater and tries to rebuild his army. Then, Stannis and his newly acquired army arrive at the Wall just in time to intervene in the conflict between the Night's Watch and the wildlings led by Mance Rayder, who is then captured by Stannis.
- **Theon's Imprisonment:** Theon, now broken and tortured by Ramsay Bolton, is kept at the Dreadfort, another Bolton stronghold. Ramsay continues to torment Theon ($weight_{t,r} = 63$), who has been psychologically and physically broken, adopting the identity of "Reek."
- **Beyond the Wall:** Bran's journey becomes mystical, as he continues to seek out the Three-Eyed Raven ($weight_{b,ter} = 9$), a mysterious and ancient figure who has been guiding him through his visions. Bran ultimately meets him when is led into the cave beneath the weirwood tree.

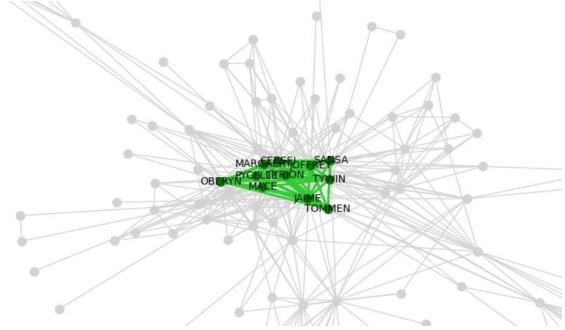


Figure 31. Tyrion, Cersei, Jaime, Tywin, Joffrey, Tommen, Margaery, Mace and Oberyn form a clique that shows the strong tensions between Lannisters, Tyrells and Martells.

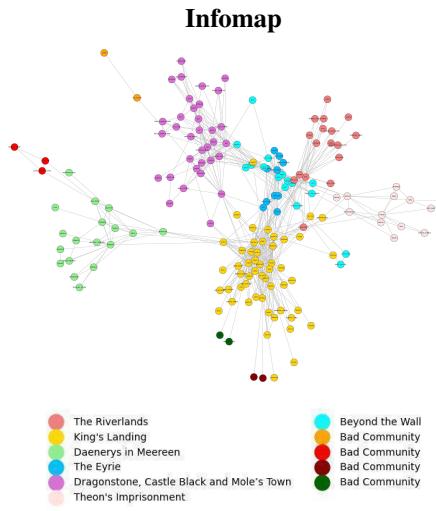


Figure 32. #communities = 11, modularity = 0.6

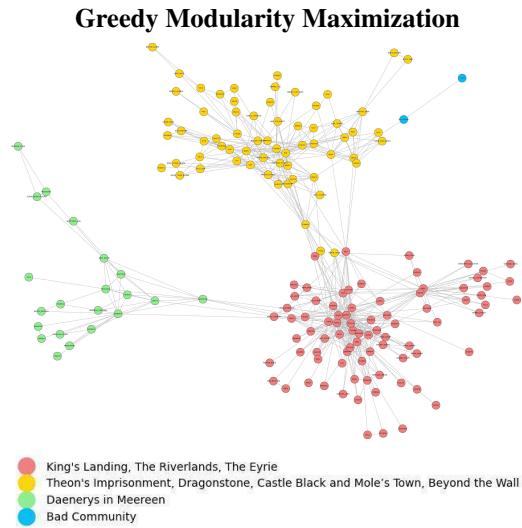


Figure 35. #communities = 4, modularity = 0.514

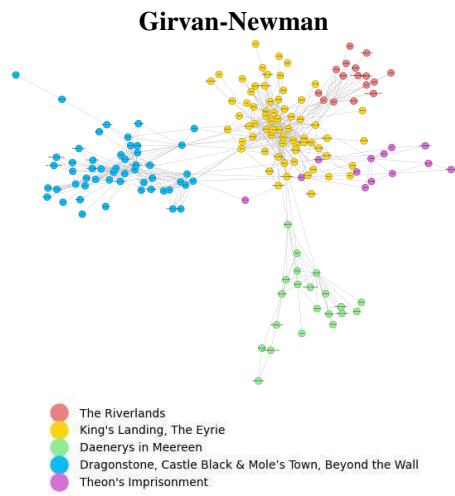


Figure 33. #communities = 5, modularity = 0.573

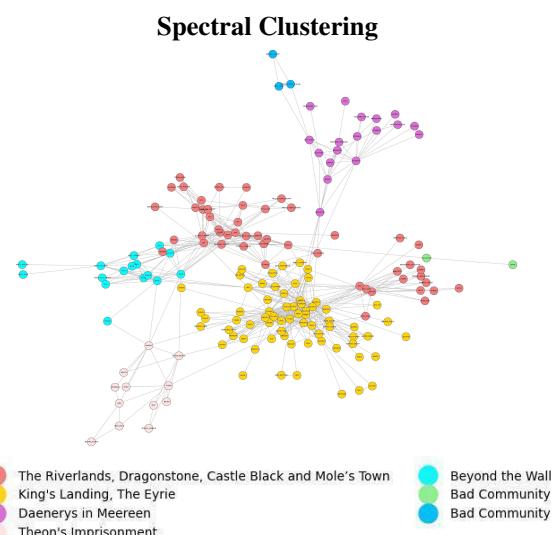


Figure 36. #communities = 8, modularity = 0.581

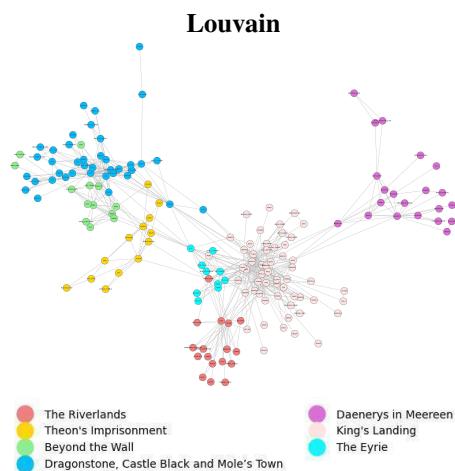
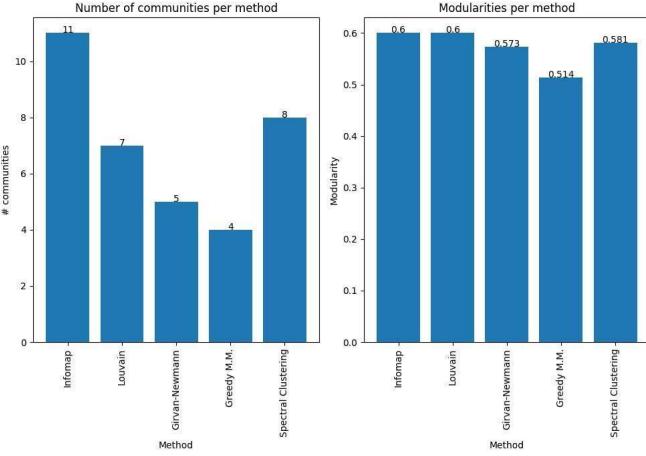


Figure 34. #communities = 7, modularity = 0.6

Comparison Between Methods Below, the various community detection methods are compared with respect to performance on Season 4’s graph.



Infomap³² detects 11 communities with a modularity of 0.6. Besides the fact that the Dragonstone community is not well detected and clustered with another one, it is clear that in this case four of the communities should be part of the main ones; indeed, Infomap fails to recognize marginal characters as part of their actual community. For example, there is no reason why the three slaves in the red community should not be in Daenerys’ community.

Girvan-Newmann³³ detects 5 communities, with a modularity of 0.573. Trying to further find other communities does not yield any better results, as those would be composed of single characters. Although there are no insignificant communities, the Eyrie community is inside the King’s Landing one, and all communities towards Dragonstone and the far north of Westeros are clustered into one.

Louvain³⁴ finds 7 communities, with a modularity of 0.6. Dragonstone is, as before, grouped with Jon’s and Sam’s community. Otherwise, the communities are correctly formed.

Greedy Modularity Maximization³⁵ does not perform well on Season 4’s graph. Indeed, it finds 4 communities, with a modularity of 0.514. Only three of these are significant, but the red and yellow communities cluster together most of the actual communities.

Spectral Clustering³⁶ detects 7 communities, though two of them are not significant and the red and yellow ones are composed of two or more real communities. The modularity score is 0.581.

Overall, Infomap and Louvain yield the highest modularity score, both 0.6. In particular, if we discard Infomap’s insignificant communities, this method performs the best. Louvain, on the other hand, is more conservative and, although it finds the correct communities, two of them are clustered together. The worst method is Greedy Modular-

ity Maximization, which fails to distinguish communities which are not very clearly separated.

3.4.3 Triangles

The following table lists the most interesting triangles, which are visualized in the graph below.

Triangle	Strength	Strongest Edge
(Arya, Hound, Brienne)	220	162 (Arya, Hound)
(Jaime, Tyrion, Tywin)	324	147 (Jaime, Tyrion)
(Jaime, Tyrion, Cersei)	321	147 (Jaime, Tyrion)
(Tyrion, Cersei, Joffrey)	150	64 (Tyrion, Joffrey)
(Cersei, Joffrey, Margaery)	117	43 (Cersei, Margaery)
(Littlefinger, Sansa, Lysa)	239	96 (Littlefinger, Sansa)
(Daenerys, Jorah, Missandei)	180	106 (Daenerys, Jorah)

Table 23. Strength of interesting triangles

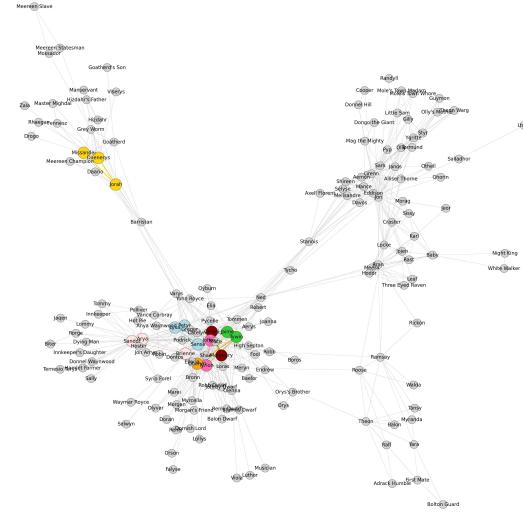


Figure 37. Interesting triangles in Season 4

As stated before, The Hound and Brienne of Tarth fight over Arya’s protection. Though, the interaction is quite brief, compared to the strong bond that Arya and The Hound share. Jamie is very close to Tyrion ($weight_{t,j} = 147$), and helps him escape King’s Landing, closer than he is with Cersei. It is interesting to note that, although Cersei is Joffrey’s mother, Tyrion has a stronger edge with him, probably due to the fact that he is accused of Joffrey’s murder. Moreover, it is noteworthy that there is a lot of tension between Cersei and Margaery. Meanwhile in the Eyrie, Littlefinger and Sansa share the strongest edge in the triangle involving him, Sansa and Lysa. The latter is deeply obsessed with Littlefinger, but in turn, he has a strong romantic interest in Sansa. Finally, Daenerys bonds with a former Meereen slave, Missandei. Daenerys’ bond with Jorah remains apparently strong, but during the season she finds out about Jorah’s previous betrayal and exiles him.

3.5. Season 5



Description	Value
Nodes	118
Edges	395
Graph Density	0.057
Connected Graph	Yes
Number of Components	1
Small-World Network	Yes ($\lambda = 1.24$, $\gamma = 9.41$)
Diameter	8
Avg. Shortest Path	3.216
Avg. Degree	6.70 [1,40]
Most Freq. Degree	2
Number of Bridges	18
Deg. Assortativity Coeff.	-0.198
Global Clustering Coeff.	0.407
Average Clustering Coeff.	0.58

Table 24. Summary table for Season 5's network

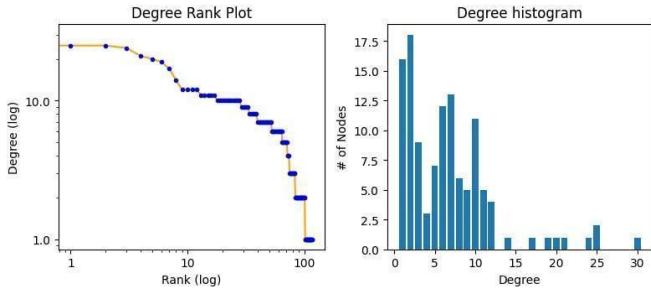
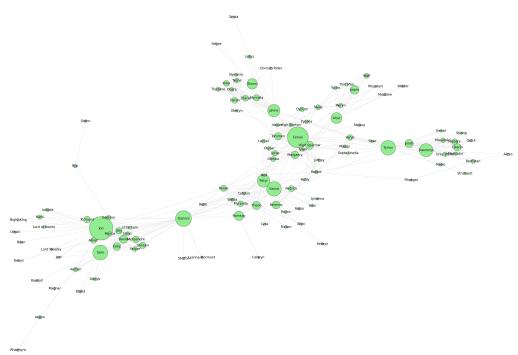


Figure 38. Degree distribution of Season 5

3.5.1 Centrality



Measure	Character	Highest Centrality Score
Betweenness	Stannis	0.327
	Cersei	0.266
	Littlefinger	0.191
	Jon	0.156
	Sansa	0.131
Closeness	Cersei	0.459
	Littlefinger	0.455
	Jon	0.270
	Sansa	0.445
	Roose Bolton	0.433
Eigenvector	Stannis	0.318
	Cersei	0.241
	Jon	0.235
	Littlefinger	0.235
	Sansa	0.234
Harmonic	Cersei	0.015
	Littlefinger	0.016
	Stannis	0.016
	Jon	0.016
	Sansa	0.017
Degree	Cersei	0.256
	Jon	0.214
	Littlefinger	0.214
	Stannis	0.205
	Sansa	0.179
Weighted Degree	Cersei	1.000
	Jon	0.936
	Littlefinger	0.814
	Stannis	0.661
	Daenerys	0.700
PageRank	Jon	0.033
	Cersei	0.032
	Littlefinger	0.029
	Stannis	0.028
	Sam	0.027

Table 25. Top characters with highest centrality scores

Centrality Measure	Mean
Betweenness	0.013
Closeness	0.389
Eigenvector	0.059
Harmonic	0.018
Degree	0.069
Weighted Degree	0.148
PageRank	0.008

Table 26. Centrality means

Stannis' role as a key player in the conflict for the Iron Throne is evident in his high Betweenness and Eigenvector Centrality scores. His strategic importance is evident, particularly as he leads his forces towards Winterfell trying to claim the North. Cersei's centrality is driven by her political maneuvering in King's Landing and her eventual downfall with the rise of the Faith Militant. Jon is now Lord Com-

mander of the Night's Watch, and his decisions regarding the wildlings, as well his opposition to the growing threat of the White Walkers place him at the center of the narrative. His high PageRank and Weighted Degree Centrality show his influence and the growing recognition as a leader, culminating, however, in his assassination at the end of the season. Littlefinger's high Closeness and Degree Centrality scores reflect his ability to influence key characters and events from behind the scenes, particularly through his manipulation of Sansa and his moves in the Vale and the North.

3.5.2 Communities

Season's 5 network has 6 main communities:

- **Night's Watch:** This is a very big community, if compared to the previous seasons. It is clear how the approaching threats beyond the Wall are starting to interest more and more characters in the network. Jon, Stannis and Sam anchor overlapping factions. Jon is now the Lord Commander of the Night's Watch, with Sam being his trusted advisor ($weight_{j,s} = 85$). Stannis is lured into believing the Red Woman ($weight_{s,rw} = 52$), insisting that he should fulfill his destiny at any cost.
- **Daenerys in Essos:** Tyrion, who escaped King's Landing, is captured by Jorah and brought to Daenerys, hoping to be forgiven by the betrayal. Effectively, Tyrion now joins Daenerys' community ($weight_{d,t} = 98$). Jorah, Daario, Missandei and Grey Worm complete this inner circle and form a near-clique.
- **King's Landing:** Cersei forms the hub of the King's Landing community. She is involved with a power struggle between the High Sparrow ($weight_{c,hs} = 96$), the Lannisters and the Tyrells, forming the densest part of the community.
- **Dorne:** Jaime connects the Dorne community back to King's Landing, as he tries to return Myrcella ($weight_{j,m} = 58$) to Cersei.
- **Braavos:** Arya is in the Braavos community as she joins the Faceless Men, in particular with Jaqen ($weight_{a,j} = 148$).
- **Winterfell:** Littlefinger and Sansa are now primary characters in this community ($weight_{s,l} = 89$). Sansa finds herself in her most dysfunctional quartet to date, with Ramsay ($weight_{s,r} = 51$), Myranda, and Theon ($weight_{s,t} = 77$).

Interestingly, the center of the network features a community-wide memorial graveyard that spans Winterfell and King's Landing. Resting there, we find Robb, Catelyn and Ned, Renly and Robert, and Joffrey, Tywin and Shae.

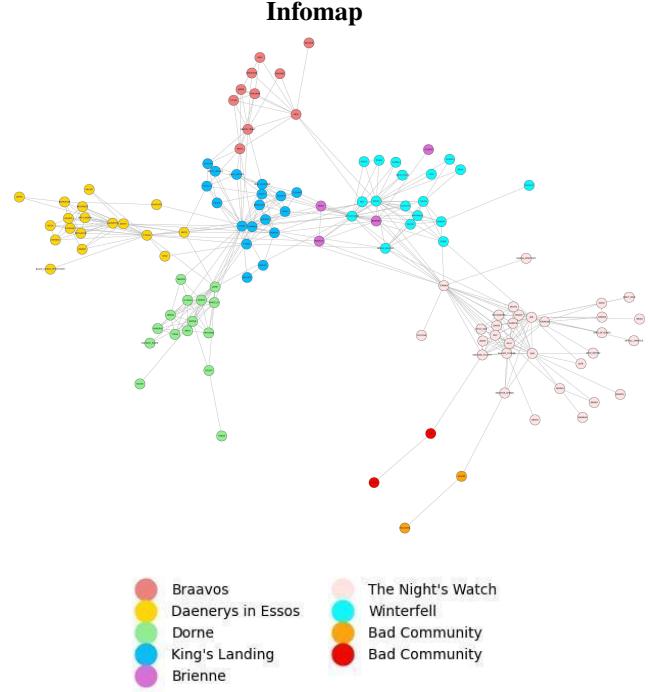


Figure 39. #communities = 9, modularity = 0.661

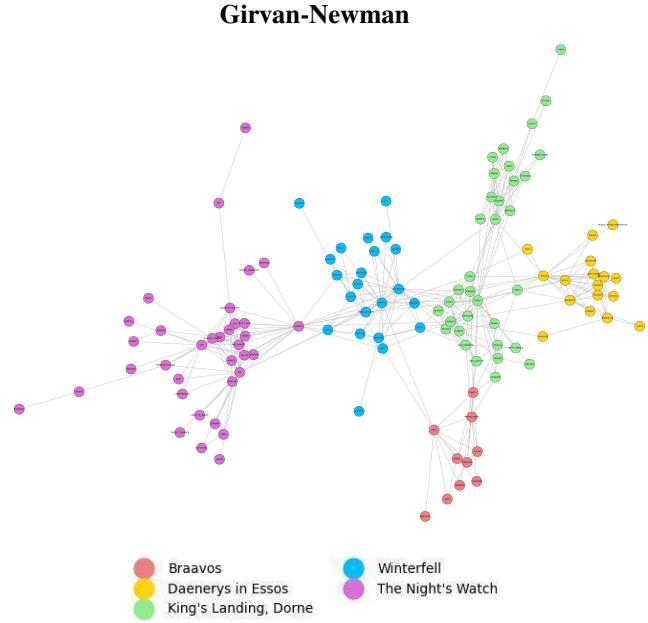


Figure 40. #communities = 5, modularity = 0.637

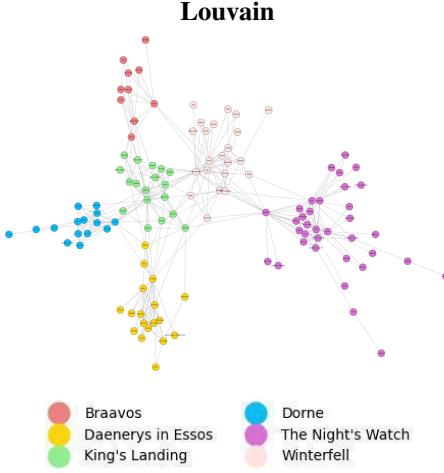


Figure 41. #communities = 6, modularity = 0.67

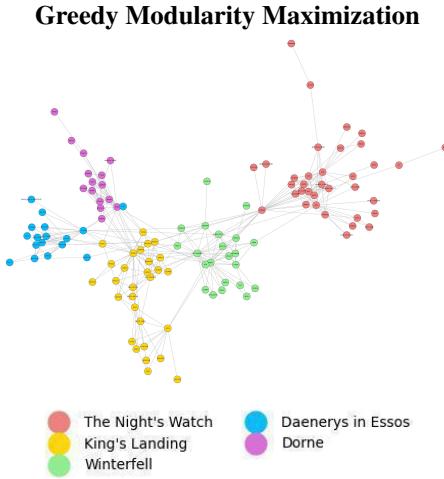


Figure 42. #communities = 5, modularity = 0.66

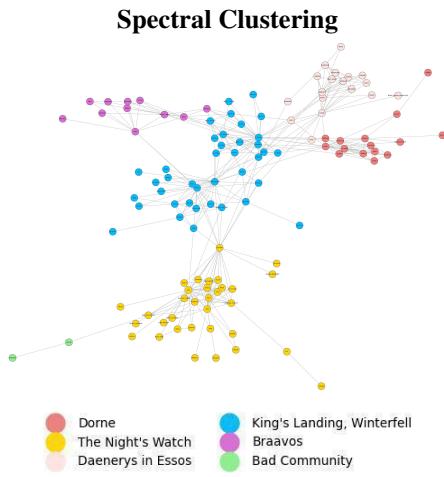
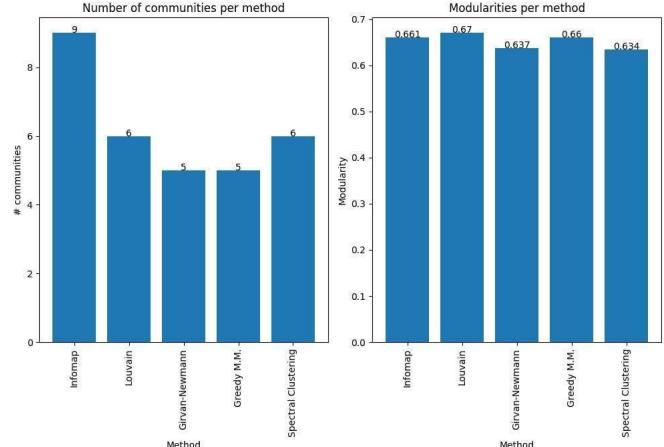


Figure 43. #communities = 6, modularity = 0.634

Comparison Between Methods Below, the various community detection methods are compared with respect to performance on Season 5’s graph.



Infomap³⁹ detects 9 communities, with a modularity score of 0.661. Two of these communities are composed of just two marginal characters each, and it is very clear that they should belong to the Night’s Watch community; this is the main problem of Infomap’s detection. Interestingly, another very small community is detected, centered around Brienne of Tarth: although it could be more properly clustered in the Winterfell community, it captures her bonds with her squire Podrick and her former protegee, Renly Baratheon, who was killed by Stannis. The latter is found by Brienne and executed for this very reason.

Girvan-Newman⁴⁰ detects 5 communities, with a modularity score of 0.637. It does a relatively good job at identifying the main communities, but fails to recognize the difference between the characters in King’s Landing and in Dorne. Any further iteration of the algorithm only yields bad communities composed of single characters.

Louvain⁴¹ perfectly detects 6 communities, with a modularity score of 0.67, which is the highest between all methods.

Greedy Modularity Maximization⁴² detects 5 communities with a modularity score of 0.66. Despite the high score, GMM erroneously clusters the Braavos community with King’s Landing, similarly to what Girvan-Newman did with Dorne.

Spectral Clustering⁴³ detects 6 communities, with a modularity score of 0.634. One of the communities is composed of two characters that should definitely be aggregated to Daenerys’ community: interestingly enough, Aegon and Rhaenys are Daenerys’ ancestors, who had a

crucial role in the civil war between the Targaryen family almost two decades before the events of Game of Thrones.

Overall, Louvain clearly did the best job at detecting the right communities, with no smudges given by erroneous under-clustering or over-clustering.

3.5.3 Triangles

The following table lists the most interesting triangles, which are visualized in the graph below.

Triangle	Strength	Strongest Edge
(Tyrion, Daenerys, Daario)	206	98 (Tyrion, Daenerys)
(Jorah, Tyrion, Daenerys)	279	141 (Jorah, Tyrion)
(Jorah, Tyrion, Varys)	257	141 (Jorah, Tyrion)
(Arya, Jaqen, Waif)	228	148 (Arya, Jaqen)
(Cersei, Margaery, Tommen)	187	79 (Margaery, Tommen)
(Jon, Sam, Olly)	156	85 (Jon, Sam)
(Jon, Stannis, Sam)	199	90 (Jon, Stannis)
(Stannis, Davos, Shireen)	150	68 (Stannis, Davos)

Table 27. Strength of interesting triangles

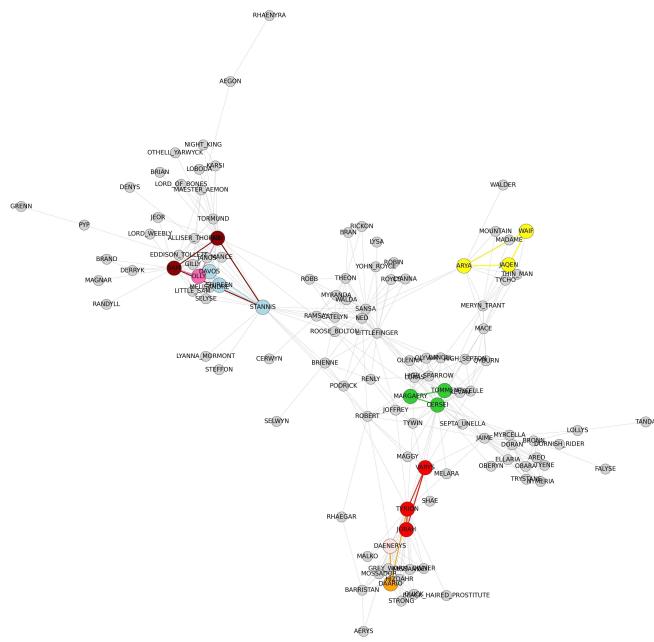


Figure 44. Interesting triangles in Season 5

Although Daario is an ally of Daenerys, and they also had a brief romantic affair, it is clear from the triangle with Tyrion that Daenerys recognizes the latter as a very important ally because of his wit and political knowledge. Meanwhile Jorah, who captured Tyrion to present him as a gift to Daenerys, remains unforgiven and is ordered to leave again. Arya strongly bonds with Jaquen at the House

of the Undying in Braavos, and she trains, or rather fights, against Waif to become a "faceless assassin".

Coming back to King's Landing, King Tommen, who has always been easily controlled by her mother Cersei, is clearly now directing his attention to Margaery, who tries to influence him with her affection.

At the Night's Watch, a lot of important triangles are formed. Stannis Baratheon, who is at the Wall seeking support for his claim to the Iron Throne, offers to legitimize Jon as Jon Stark. The interaction between the two is very strong, to the point that they have the strongest edge, even considering Jon's and Sam's friendship. The triangle between Jon, Sam and Olly has profound implications: Sam is always close and loyal to Jon, who is now Lord Commander. Olly is a child who Jon mentored, and he also seems close to him. But during the end of the season, Olly betrays Jon and takes part to his vile assassination, pronouncing the infamous phrase "For the Watch". The final triangle is a clear example of a father-mentor-daughter dynamic: Ser Davos, one of Stannis' advisors, becomes close to his young daughter, Shireen, who meets a tragic fate and leaves Davos heartbroken.

Let's now look at Tyrion's triangles, since the aftermath of the Purple Wedding is a turning point in his character story arc.

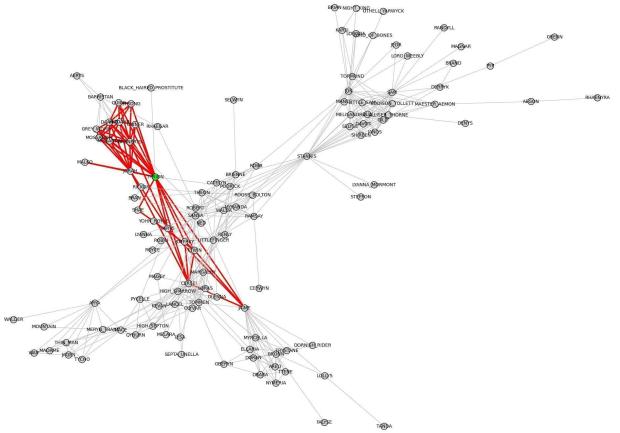


Figure 45. Triangles involving Tyrion in Season 5

If we compare this graph with the previous seasons, it is clear how Tyrion almost completely cut ties with his past life by leaving King's Landing and starting to serve Daenerys to support her claim to the Iron Throne.

3.6. Season 6



Description	Value
Nodes	142
Edges	541
Graph Density	0.054
Connected Graph	No
Number of Components	2
Small-World Network	Yes ($\lambda = 1.21$, $\gamma = 11.53$)
Diameter	7
Avg. Shortest Path	3.171
Avg. Degree	7.62 [1,40]
Most Freq. Degree	2
Number of Bridges	13
Deg. Assortativity Coeff.	-0.075
Global Clustering Coeff.	0.464
Average Clustering Coeff.	0.690

Table 28. Summary table for Season 6's network

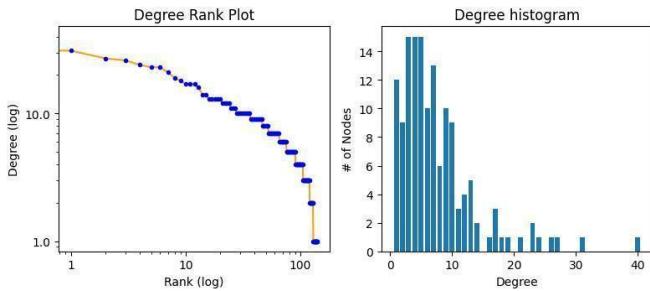
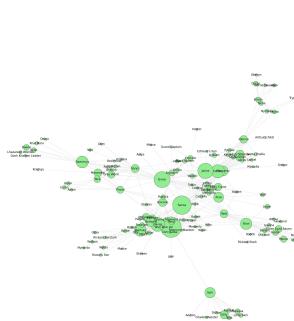


Figure 46. Degree distribution of Season 6

3.6.1 Centrality



Measure	Character	Highest Centrality Score
Betweenness	Sansa	0.263
	Jon	0.191
	Tyrion	0.149
	Jaime	0.130
	Cersei	0.117
Closeness	Sansa	0.484
	Tyrion	0.430
	Jon	0.424
	Cersei	0.418
	Jaime	0.414
Eigenvector	Sansa	0.368
	Jon	0.258
	Davos	0.212
	Tyrion	0.201
	Jaime	0.205
Harmonic	Sansa	0.012
	Jon	0.014
	Tyrion	0.014
	Cersei	0.014
	Jaime	0.014
Degree	Sansa	0.284
	Jon	0.220
	Tyrion	0.184
	Cersei	0.191
	Jaime	0.170
Weighted Degree	Jon	1.000
	Sansa	0.918
	Tyrion	0.739
	Jaime	0.681
	Davos	0.659
PageRank	Sansa	0.028
	Jon	0.023
	Cersei	0.020
	Tyrion	0.020
	Jaime	0.019

Table 29. Top characters with highest centrality scores

Centrality Measure	Mean
Betweenness	0.013
Closeness	0.389
Eigenvector	0.059
Harmonic	0.018
Degree	0.069
Weighted Degree	0.148
PageRank	0.008

Table 30. Centrality means

Sansa's rise to prominence is reflected across almost every metric, which underscore her importance, particularly during the Battle of the Bastards and her growing influence in the North. Her leadership and strategic decisions mark a significant transformation in her character from previous seasons.

Jon Snow's centrality is largely driven by his role in ral-

lying the North against the Boltons and his eventual resurrection and rise as King in the North. His highest Weighted Degree and strong Betweenness scores reflect his crucial role in connecting various characters, especially as he unites different factions in the North.

Tyrion's influence remains significant, particularly because of his role as Hand of the Queen to Daenerys Targaryen. His high centrality measures reflect his importance in shaping Daenerys' campaign and in his diplomatic efforts to unite various factions under her banner.

3.6.2 Communities

In Season 6's graph, more communities can be found, some large, others smaller and more isolate. In total, 9 communities can be identified.

- **The North** (Sansa, Jon, Davos, Ramsay): Sansa and Jon are the main characters at Castle Black, whereas Winterfell is dominated by Ramsay. Jon is resurrected, after being murdered in season 5 by his own men in the Night's Watch. Sansa, after escaping from Winterfell with Theon, is rescued by Brienne and reunites with Jon at Castle Black. Jon and his allies fight and defeat Ramsay during the "Battle of the Bastards" ($weight_{j,r} = 30$), the most significant event in the North for this season, and he is crowned as the King in the North. For the first time, the Northern community is truly complex, hosting characters from previous distinct communities into a geographically close one. It is clear how Sansa holds together the North community to others, whilst Jon's interactions are mostly inside the community.
- **Daenerys in Essos** (Daenerys, Tyrion): Daenerys, at the end of season 5, is captured by a Dothraki khalasar led by Khal Moro ($weight_{d,km} = 34$). Now, she is forced to live in Vaes Dothrak, among the widows of the dead khals. However, she refuses to submit to their authority, kills them and gains control of the entire khalasar. Daenerys returns to Meereen, where she finds the city under siege by the Masters, who are trying to retake control. Tyrion and her other advisors have struggled to maintain order in her absence. Daenerys quickly takes charge and uses her dragons to burn the Masters' fleet, forcing them to surrender. The Greyjoys (Yara and Theon) join her community after they propose an alliance ($weight_{d,y} = 18$), offering their fleet in exchange for support in reclaiming the Iron Islands. Daenerys names Tyrion as her Hand of the Queen ($weight_{d,t} = 69$), acknowledging his counsel and loyalty, and departs for Westeros. This marks the culmination of her long journey across Essos and the beginning of her bid to conquer the Seven

Kingdoms. Noteworthily, Jorah and Daario, both romantically interested in Daenerys, have quite a bit of interactions ($weight_{j,d} = 60$), which indicate their rivalry.

- **King's Landings** (Cersei, Jaime): Cersei has to deal with the Faith Militant, lead by the High Sparrow ($weight_{c,hs} = 15$), who has imprisoned Margaery ($weight_{hs,m} = 76$) and is influencing Tommen ($weight_{hs,t} = 49$). The High Sparrow arranges a trial for both Loras Tyrell and Cersei in the Great Sept of Baelor. Cersei refuses to appear at her trial. In a stunning and deadly move, she orchestrates the destruction of the Great Sept of Baelor through the use of the Wildfire, eliminating all of her enemies and marking her ruthless ascent to power. As a consequence of the death of Tommen's wife, the latter commits suicide, and the crown passes to Cersei. Jamie returns from the Riverlands, and silently contemplates the implications of Cersei's actions.
- **The Riverlands** (Jaime): Although Jamie is part of the King's Landing community, he spends a third of the season in the Riverlands, reckoning with House Tully. He arrives at Riverrun with a Lannister army to take command of the siege from the Freys. Using Edmure Tully ($weight_{j,e} = 31$) as a pawn, he makes the Blackfish men to surrender and takes Riverrun without a fight. After securing Riverrun for the Lannisters, Jaime returns to King's Landing, arriving just as Cersei takes her place on the Iron Throne.
- **The Hound in The Riverlands** (The Hound): The Hound is revealed to still be alive and we see him living a quiet, almost monastic life in the rural countryside, helping the villagers with construction and other manual labor. Later, The Hound has a conversation with Beric Dondarrion ($weight_{h,b} = 26$) and Thoros of Myr ($weight_{h,t} = 25$), the leaders of the Brotherhood Without Banners, and joins them, having found a new sense of purpose. This community is responsible of splitting Season 6's graph into two components. It is interesting to note how the detachment of this community from the others gives us a small window into the challenges faced by the simple people of Westeros while the highborn are preoccupied by their noble infighting.
- **Beyond the Wall and Winterfell** (Bran): Bran is physically isolated North of the Wall, but thanks to his flashbacks and visions, he connects to long-gone characters: under the guidance of the Three Eyed Raven ($weight_{b,ter} = 76$), he sees young Ned Stark ($weight_{b,n} = 20$), bringing the latter back into network prominence.

- **Braavos** (Arya, Lady Crane, Jaqen): Arya is still in Braavos, and is surrounded by minor characters revolving around the actress Lady Crane ($weight_{a,lc} = 64$), who comically performs in front of commoners narrating about the tragedies in the Lannister court. Jaqen and Waif are still present ($weight_{a,j} = 83$, $weight_{a,w} = 48$).
- **The Reach and Oldtown** (Sam): Sam's community spans the Reach and Oldtown, as he stops at his ancestral Tarly home before entering his apprenticeship to become a maester.
- **Dorne** (Ellaria): Ellaria Sand overthrows and kills Doran and Trystane Martell, seizing control of Dorne. She joins forces with Olenna Tyrell and Daenerys Targaryen ($weight_{e,o} = 9$) to oppose the Lannisters.

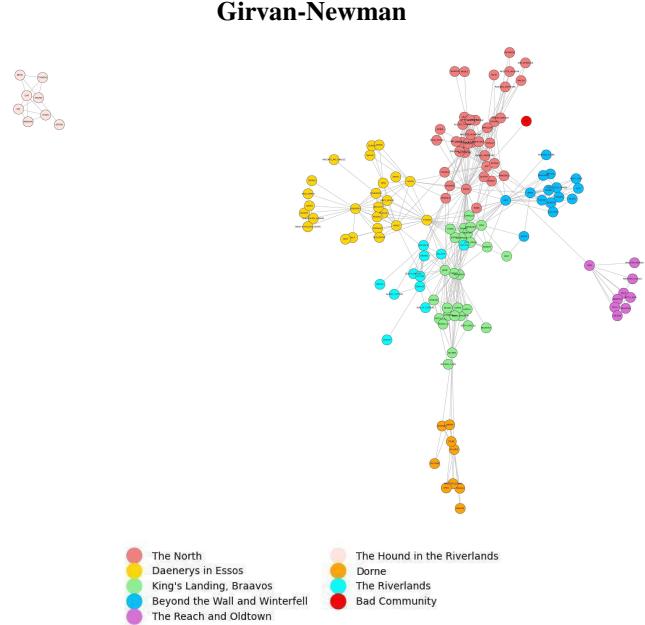


Figure 48. #communities = 9, modularity = 0.644

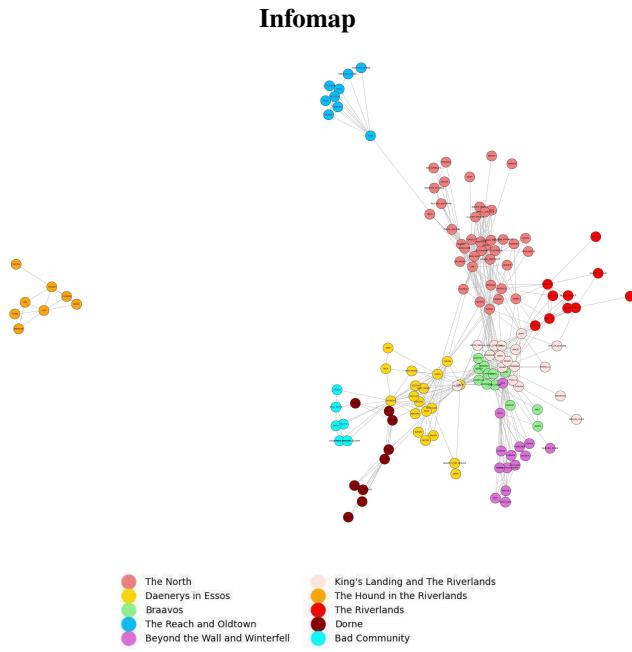


Figure 47. #communities = 10, modularity = 0.65

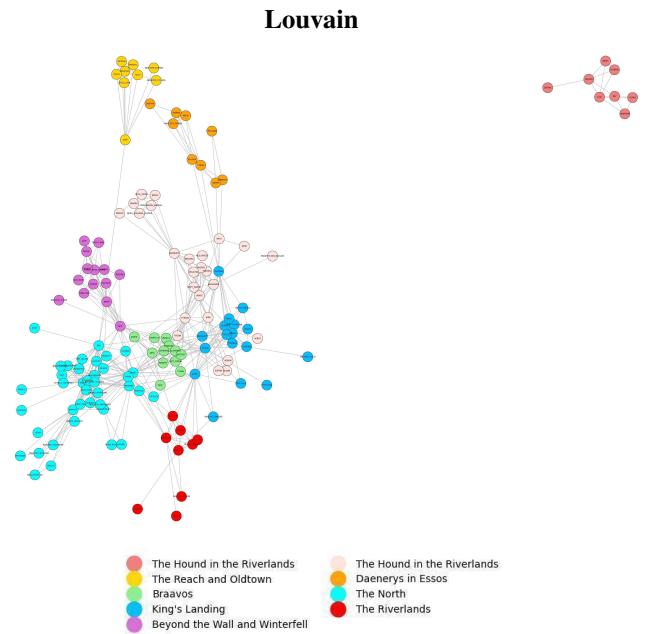


Figure 49. #communities = 9, modularity = 0.655

Greedy Modularity Maximization

A network graph where nodes are colored according to their community assignment. The communities are: The North (red), King's Landing, Braavos (yellow), Daenerys in Essos (green), Beyond the Wall and Winterfell (blue), The Riverlands (purple), The Reach and Oldtown (pink), Dorne (cyan), and The Hound in the Riverlands (orange). The graph shows several distinct clusters of nodes connected by edges.

Figure 50. #communities = 8, modularity = 0.634

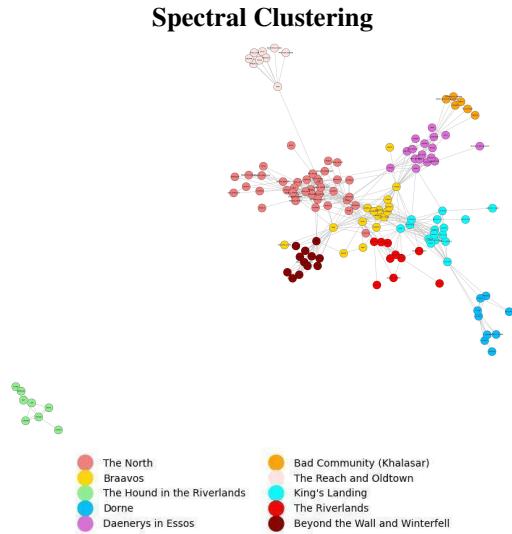
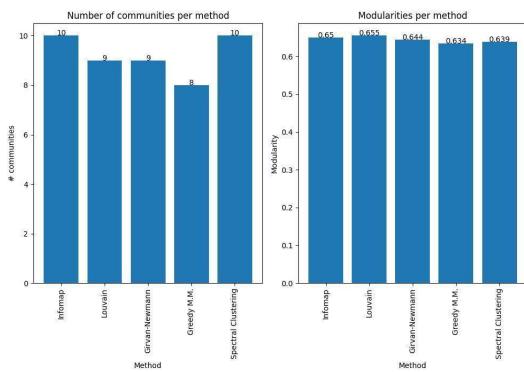


Figure 51. #communities = 10, modularity = 0.639

Comparison Between Methods Below, the various community detection methods are compared with respect to performance on Season 6’s graph.



Infomap⁴⁷ detects 9 communities with a mod-

ularity score of 0.65. There is a bad community of a single character, Jeor Mormont, who clearly should be in the North community, although only connected to it by a weak edge with Jon. During a visit to Bear Island, Jon invokes Jeor’s name as he attempts to enlist his niece, Lyanna Mormont, into joining his campaign to take back Winterfell back from Ramsay Bolton.

Girvan Newman⁴⁸ finds 9 communities with a modularity score of 0.644. Again, the same problem with Jeor Mormont is present. The main problem with this clustering is that the communities of King’s Landing and Braavos are together. This is interesting as it uncovers a hidden connection between the two communities, which can be explained by the fact that Arya, during her time with Lady Crane, watches a comedic performance narrating about the tragedies in the Lannister court. The connection is indirect by nature, but is nonetheless noteworthy. For similar reasons, Jaime, who is in the Riverlands for more than half of the season, is wrongly considered part of this community. Jeor’s bad community is still found.

Louvain⁴⁹ detects 9 communities with a modularity score of 0.655. The clustering is mostly correct.

Greedy Modularity Maximization⁵⁰ detects 8 communities with a modularity score of 0.634. Again, King’s Landing and Braavos are in the same community, as well as Ned Stark, who is in reality more connected to Bran and his community.

Spectral Clustering⁵¹ finds 10 communities with a modularity score of 0.639. There is a bad community revolving around Daenerys. It is true that Daenerys’ community has two axes, one in Meereen - mostly revolving around Tyrion and other allies - and another in Vaes Dothrak, narrating Daenerys being captured by the Dothraki, while Jorah and Daario are trying to find her. However, the latter axis of the community is considered as a new community itself, though without the main character, Daenerys.

Overall, modularity scores are all very high and similar across all methods, so no method is clearly superior with respect to modularity. Overall, Louvain is consistently able to find correct communities without overshooting or undershooting the number of the ones it finds. However, Girvan-Newman and Spectral Clustering uncovered interesting dynamics that would have been overlooked otherwise.

3.6.3 Triangles

The following table³¹ lists the most interesting triangles, which are visualized in the graph⁵² below.

Jon and Davos are close, but in the first triangle we can see that Melisandre has more interactions with Davos, likely reflecting the tension and mistrust following Shireen Baratheon’s death. Jon Snow’s resurrection and his leadership role are central themes in this group. Daario and Jorah

Triangle	Strength	Strongest Edge
(Jon, Davos, Melisandre)	216	82 (Davos, Melisandre)
(Jon, Davos, Tormund)	184	80 (Jon, Davos)
(Jon, Sansa, Ramsay)	218	151 (Jon, Sansa)
(Daenerys, Daario, Jorah)	135	60 (Daario, Jorah)
(Missandei, Tyrion, Varys)	190	88 (Missandei, Tyrion)
(Tyrion, Varys, Grey Worm)	188	86 (Tyrion, Varys)

Table 31. Strength of interesting triangles

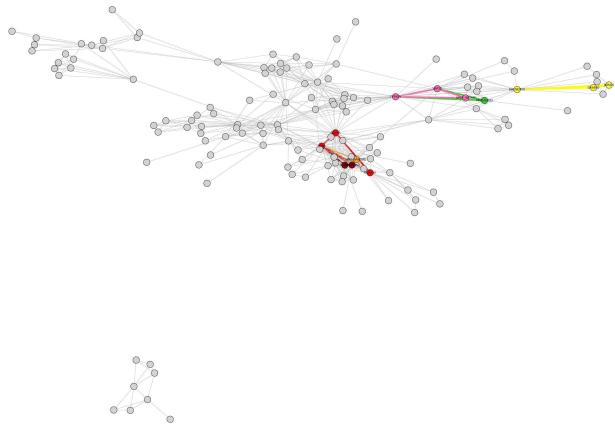


Figure 52. Interesting triangles in Season 6

share the strongest edge with respect to Daenerys, as they wander together searching for her. Missandei and Tyrion are very close trying to hold the unstable political situation in Meereen, while they wait for Daenerys to return. Though, we can see that Tyrion and Varys still hold quite a bit of interactions, as they are friends, other than just allies.

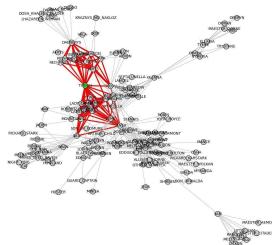


Figure 53. Triangles involving Tyrion in Season 6

From the graph⁵³ highlighting the triangles involving Tyrion we can see how he has quite a few interactions with people in King's Landing; however, these interactions are indirect, as Tyrion is no longer in King's Landing. It is likely that those edges are formed by conversation Tyrion has with other characters about people in the capital.

3.7. Season 7



Description	Value
Nodes	81
Edges	412
Graph Density	0.127
Connected Graph	Yes
Number of Components	1
Small-World Network	Yes ($\lambda = 1.1$, $\gamma = 4.41$)
Diameter	5
Avg. Shortest Path	2.37
Avg. Degree	10.17 [1,43]
Most Freq. Degree	1
Number of Bridges	11
Deg. Assortativity Coeff.	-0.144
Global Clustering Coeff.	0.467
Average Clustering Coeff.	0.596

Table 32. Summary table for Season 7's network

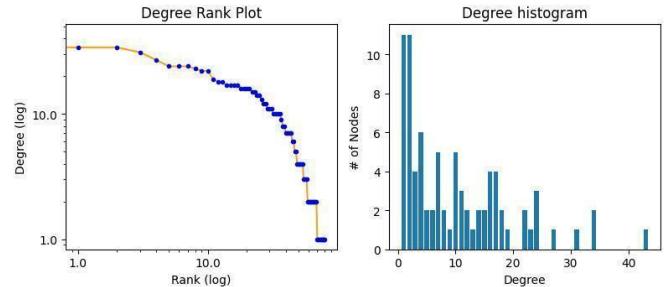
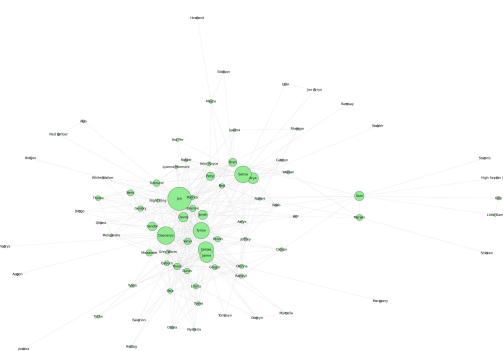


Figure 54. Degree distribution of Season 7

3.7.1 Centrality



Measure	Character	Highest Centrality Score
Betweenness	Jon	0.237
	Daenerys	0.115
	Cersei	0.112
	Sam	0.104
	Sansa	0.091
Closeness	Jon	0.661
	Tyrion	0.602
	Daenerys	0.588
	Cersei	0.576
	Davos	0.559
Eigenvector	Jon	0.286
	Tyrion	0.264
	Daenerys	0.253
	Davos	0.240
	Cersei	0.232
Harmonic	Jon	0.016
	Tyrion	0.018
	Daenerys	0.018
	Cersei	0.019
	Davos	0.019
Degree	Jon	0.538
	Daenerys	0.425
	Tyrion	0.425
	Cersei	0.388
	Davos	0.338
Weighted Degree	Jon	1.000
	Daenerys	0.757
	Tyrion	0.716
	Cersei	0.607
	Sansa	0.560
PageRank	Jon	0.049
	Daenerys	0.037
	Tyrion	0.035
	Cersei	0.034
	Sansa	0.029

Table 33. Top characters with highest centrality scores

Centrality Measure	Mean
Betweenness	0.013
Closeness	0.389
Eigenvector	0.059
Harmonic	0.018
Degree	0.069
Weighted Degree	0.148
PageRank	0.008

Table 34. Centrality means

Jon Snow emerges as the most central character in Season 7. His high centrality scores across almost all measures reflect his increasing importance and leadership role, in particular as he unites various factions to prepare for the impending White Walkers threat from the North.

Daenerys's centrality highlights her critical role in the power dynamics. Her interactions with key characters, es-

pecially Jon, show her strategic importance in both political and military alliances.

Tyrion remains a key advisor, with high centrality scores reflecting his influence in major decisions.

Despite Cersei's isolation from the Northern conflicts, her influence in the political arena remains strong, especially for Betweenness Centrality.

Ser Davos's centrality is notable, reflecting his role as an advisor and intermediary, particularly in facilitating Jon Snow's alliances.

3.7.2 Communities

Season 7's graph is smaller and only 4 strong communities can be found, as each character tends to converge towards merging storylines revolving around the impending White Walkers' march towards Westeros, as well as Daenerys' claim to the Iron Throne against Cersei.

- **The Northern Expedition** (Jon, Tormund, Jorah, Hound): Jon Snow leads a team beyond the Wall to capture a wight as proof of the White Walker threat ($weight_{j,nk} = 17$). The group, including Tormund, Jorah, and the Hound, is ambushed by the undead. Daenerys arrives with her dragons to rescue them, but the Night King kills and resurrects Viserion. Jon later bends the knee to Daenerys, solidifying their alliance against the White Walkers.

- **Dragonstone** (Daenerys, Tyrion): Daenerys takes control of Dragonstone and uses it as her strategic base of operations for her campaign to conquer Westeros. She convenes a war council with her key advisors, including Tyrion, Varys, Grey Worm, Missandei, and her new allies Olenna Tyrell, Ellaria, and Yara. They plan their approach to take the Iron Throne from Cersei Lannister. Daenerys meets Jon Snow, who arrives at Dragonstone to seek her help against the White Walkers. Their relationship evolves as they eventually agree to fight the White Walkers together. Later, Daenerys flies north with her dragons to rescue Jon and his team from the White Walkers. She then attends a summit with Cersei ($weight_{d,c} = 33$) and other key figures in King's Landing. They present evidence of the White Walker threat, leading to a temporary truce as they agree to focus on the looming war in the North. Finally, Daenerys and Jon's relationship deepens ($weight_{j,d} = 178$), culminating in a romantic union by the season's end, although they remain unaware of Jon's true parentage as a Targaryen, which complicates their alliance. The Dragonstone community is very robust, and a key triangle composed of Jon, Daenerys and Tyrion is formed. Daenerys is an internal hub of this community, having very few connections outside her advi-

sors, which shows how she depends on their wisdom ($weight_{d,t} = 179$). Jorah, once always in the same community as Daenerys, is now in the community conducting the expedition ($weight_{d,j} = 178$).

- **King's Landing** (Cersei, Euron): Cersei strengthens her power by forming an alliance with Euron Greyjoy ($weight_{d,t} = 38$), who brings her Ellaria and Tyene. In the season finale, key characters, including Jon, Daenerys, and Cersei, meet in the Dragonpit to discuss what to do about the White Walkers. Cersei agrees to send her armies north but secretly plans to betray them.
- **Winterfell** (Sansa, Arya, Littlefinger): Sansa Stark leads Winterfell, and Arya reunites with Sansa ($weight_{a,s} = 156$) and Bran ($weight_{a,b} = 21$). Tensions rise between Arya and Sansa due to Littlefinger's schemes to create mistrust between them ($weight_{s,tf} = 107$). Bran Stark, now the Three-Eyed Raven, has visions revealing Jon Snow's true parentage. Finally, Sansa and Arya turn the tables on Littlefinger, exposing his plots and executing him for his past betrayals, including the role he played in their father's death.

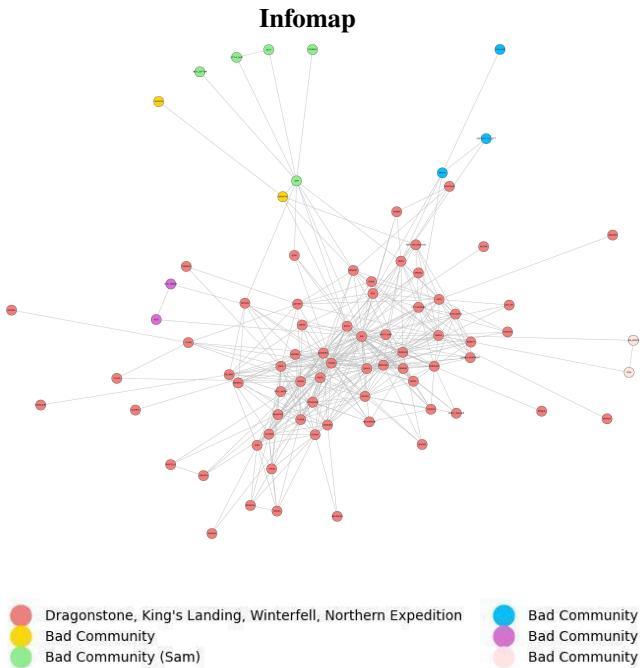


Figure 55. #communities = 6, modularity = 0.048

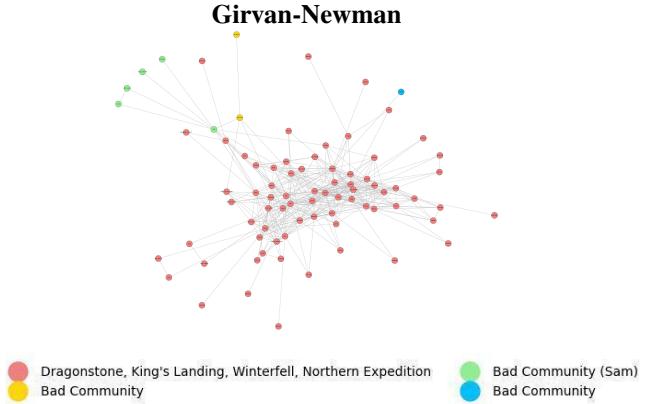


Figure 56. #communities = 4, modularity = 0.03

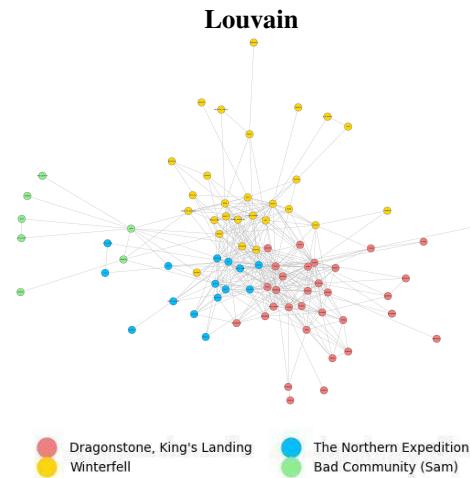


Figure 57. #communities = 4, modularity = 0.32

Greedy Modularity Maximization

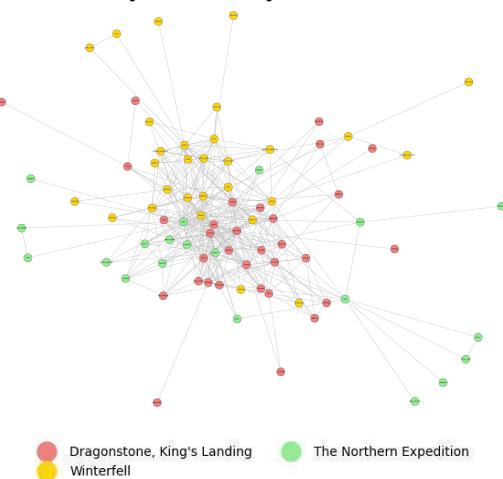


Figure 58. #communities = 3, modularity = 0.31

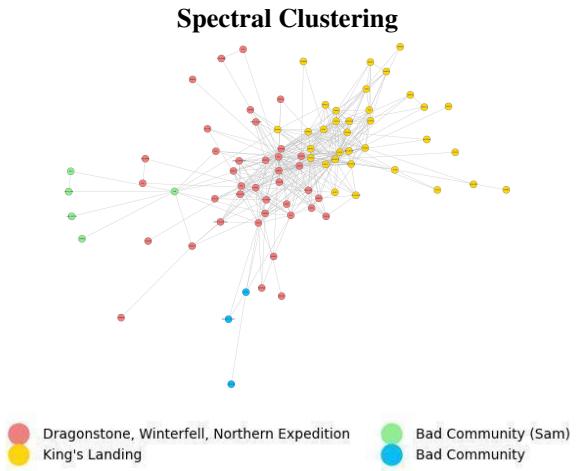
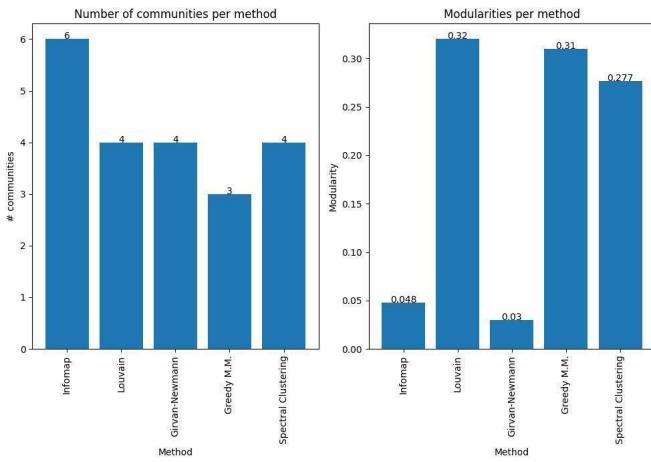


Figure 59. #communities = 4, modularity = 0.277

Comparison Between Methods Below, the various community detection methods are compared with respect to performance on Season 7's graph.



Since many storylines are now finally merging together, Season 7's graph shows significantly less tendency to form evident communities, which can be seen both by the lower modularity score across all methods and the difficulties of said methods to correctly detect communities.

Infomap⁵⁵ detected 6 communities with a modularity score of 0.048. Unfortunately, it clustered all four actual communities into one, and the other five are mostly nonsensical.

Girvan-Newman⁵⁶ detected 4 communities with a very low modularity score of 0.03. The same errors of Infomap can be also seen here.

Louvain⁵⁷ did the better job, detecting 4 communities with a modularity score of 0.32. Dragonstone's and King's Landing's communities are cluster together.

Greedy Modularity Maximization⁵⁸ detected 3 com-

munities with a modularity score of 0.31. Despite not having found bad communities, Dragonstone and King's Landing are clustered together, and lots of characters are part of the wrong community.

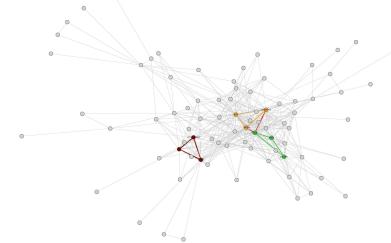
Spectral Clustering⁵⁹ detected 4 communities with a modularity score of 0.277. It was only able to distinguish the King's Landing community from the other ones.

Overall, community detection was a difficult task in this graph. This can be attributed to the fact that some communities interact a lot: Dragonstone and King's Landing being repeatedly considered one community is somewhat unsurprising and expected, since the two communities do actually meet during the Battle of the Goldroad and during the meeting in the Dragonpit. Moreover, the Dragonstone community talks a lot about Cersei and other characters in King's Landing, in preparation of the above-mentioned meeting. That being said, Louvain was able to detect better the communities. Spectral Clustering, Infomap and Girvan-Newman completely failed to produce meaningful results.

3.7.3 Triangles

Triangle	Strength	Strongest Edge
(Daenerys, Tyrion, Jon)	464	179 (Daenerys, Tyrion)
(Daenerys, Tyrion, Cersei)	286	179 (Daenerys, Tyrion)
(Arya, Sansa, Littlefinger)	287	156 (Arya, Sansa)
(Cersei, Jaime, Ellaria)	195	172 (Cersei, Jamie)

Table 35. Strength of interesting triangles



The Dragonstone community is anchored by the strong triangle of Jon, Daenerys and Tyrion. Daenerys depends on Tyrion's wit, but Jon is starting to become a powerful ally. Littlefinger's schemes and manouvers, once effective on Sansa, backfire on him when the latter reunites with her sibling Arya. There is an interesting dynamic to notice: not all triangles are made of characters who are all friends (or allies) with each others (+++). Both in the case of Cersei and Daenerys, they hold a triangle with an ally and an enemy (++-). Tyrion's triangles⁶⁰ are particularly telling.

Compared to previous seasons, Tyrion now holds triangles with a good portion of the network, regardless of the community. This goes to further show how, differently from

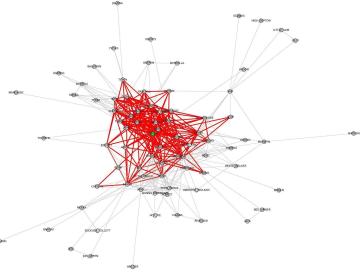


Figure 60. Triangles involving Tyrion in Season 7

other seasons, communities interact a lot more and the storylines are now converging.

3.8. Season 8



Description	Value
Nodes	74
Edges	553
Graph Density	0.205
Connected Graph	No
Number of Components	2
Small-World Network	Yes ($\lambda = 1.12$, $\gamma = 3.39$)
Diameter	6
Avg. Shortest Path	2.06
Avg. Degree	14.95 [1,42]
Most Freq. Degree	1
Number of Bridges	10
Deg. Assortativity Coeff.	-0.149
Global Clustering Coeff.	0.644
Average Clustering Coeff.	0.674

Table 36. Summary table for Season 8's network

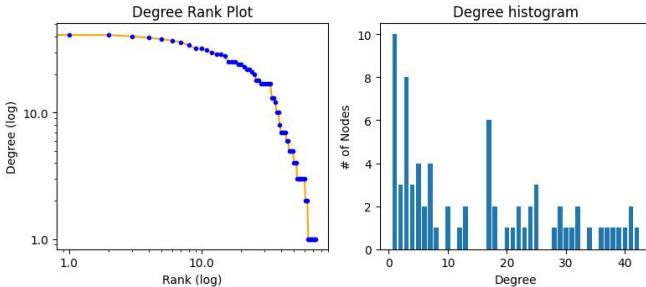
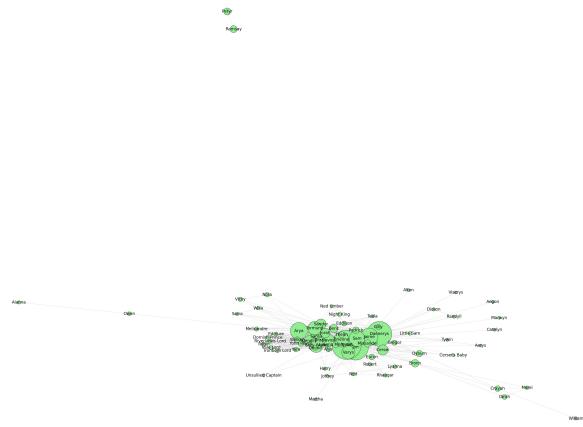


Figure 61. Degree distribution of Season 8

3.8.1 Centrality



Measure	Character	Highest Centrality Score
Betweenness	Daenerys	0.134
	Sam	0.099
	Arya	0.099
	Bronn	0.082
	Tyrion	0.063
Closeness	Sam	0.677
	Daenerys	0.670
	Tyrion	0.670
	Davos	0.645
	Sansa	0.639
Eigenvector	Tyrion	0.218
	Sam	0.217
	Sansa	0.216
	Daenerys	0.218
	Arya	0.214
Harmonic	Sam	0.018
	Tyrion	0.018
	Daenerys	0.018
	Sansa	0.018
	Arya	0.018
Degree	Sam	0.575
	Daenerys	0.562
	Tyrion	0.562
	Sansa	0.548
	Arya	0.534
Weighted Degree	Tyrion	1.000
	Daenerys	0.794
	Sam	0.793
	Arya	0.552
	Sansa	0.543
PageRank	Daenerys	0.038
	Sam	0.035
	Arya	0.032
	Tyrion	0.032
	Sansa	0.031

Table 37. Top characters with highest centrality scores

Centrality Measure	Mean
Betweenness	0.013
Closeness	0.389
Eigenvector	0.059
Harmonic	0.018
Degree	0.069
Weighted Degree	0.148
PageRank	0.008

Table 38. Centrality means

Daenerys holds a central role in Season 8, reflecting her pivotal position in the plot as she gets closer the Iron Throne.

Sam is surprisingly central, reflecting his importance in providing knowledge and supporting crucial decisions, even though he is not a fighter or directly involved in battles. His influence is evident in strategic discussions and decisions.

Arya's role is crucial, especially with her significant actions during the Battle of Winterfell, where she defeats the Night King by inflicting the fatal blow with a Valyrian steel dagger. Her moderate scores in various centrality measures show that her presence is influential but focused on specific moments rather than widespread interactions.

Tyrion remains a key player, heavily involved in major decisions and influencing outcomes, even though his betweenness centrality is relatively low, which might reflect his reduced direct control over events unfolding.

3.8.2 Communities

The graph of the final season of Game of Thrones is small and very dense, showing that storylines are wrapping up and, finally, enemy factions are clashing. Communities in Season 8 may appear strange, as they don't necessarily correspond to distinct opponents, but rather give information about which are the battles fought and who was present in them. With the exception of Cersei and Bronn, all the prominent characters are first in Winterfell for the Great War and then move to King's Landing for the Last War. Though, these two communities can also represent the main characters involved in the two battles, The Great War (against the Night King and the White Walkers), and The Last War (against Cersei). We can suppose the presence of the following two communities:

- **The Starks and Targaryens:** the Stark/Targaryen community encompasses three quarters of the network, and contains every character except Cersei and her allies.
- **King's Landing:** the remaining main characters (Cersei, Qyburn, The Mountain, Euron and Bronn) are in King's Landing, waiting for the others to attack.

Moreover, interactions between characters favour dialogues rather than actions, therefore the detection of communities is even more difficult. Theoretically, we still consider the Starks/Targaryen and King's Landing communities as separate, as Daenerys' journey to claim the Iron Throne culminates in King's Landing against her enemies.

Finally, we notice that Ramsay and Littlefinger are completely separated from the main network and disconnect it into two components; they are both dead and come up in a single conversation between Sansa and The Hound.

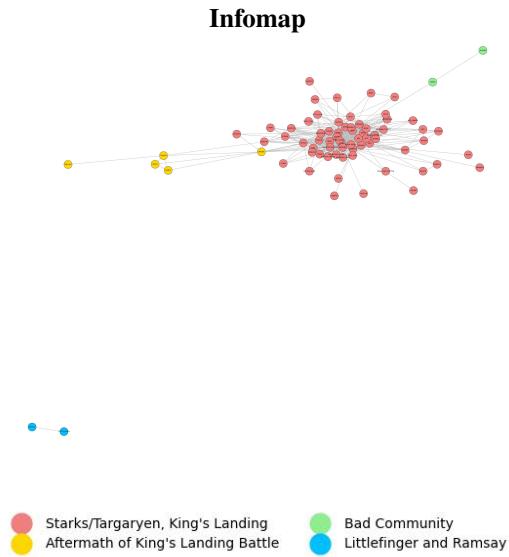


Figure 62. #communities = 9, modularity = 0.661

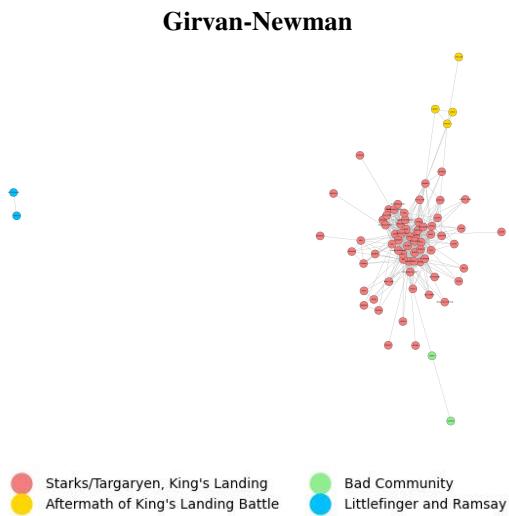


Figure 63. #communities = 5, modularity = 0.637

Louvain

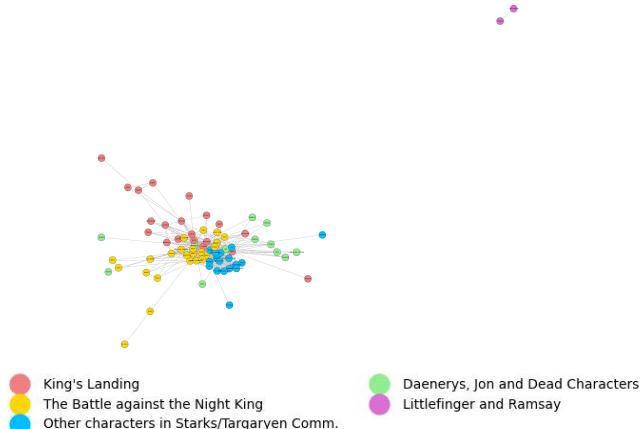


Figure 64. #communities = 6, modularity = 0.67

Greedy Modularity Maximization

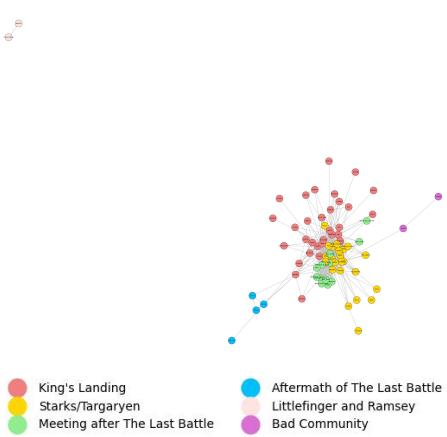


Figure 65. #communities = 5, modularity = 0.66

Spectral Clustering

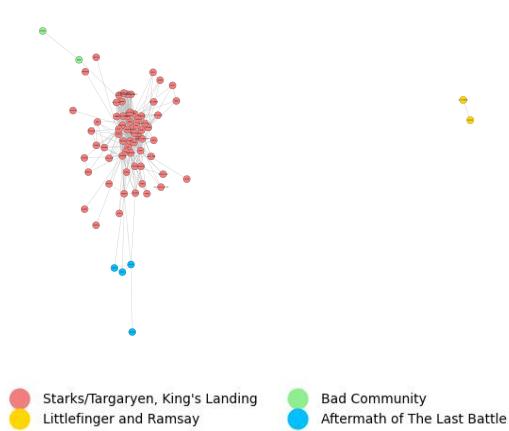
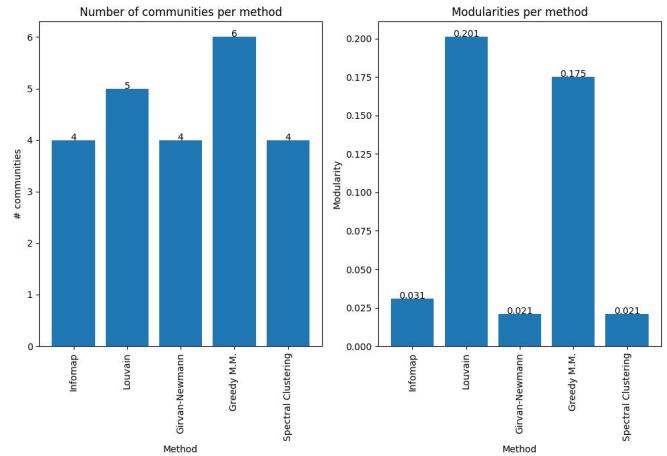


Figure 66. #communities = 6, modularity = 0.634

Comparison Between Methods Similarly to Season 7, community detection is revealed to be a challenging task, now that most of the characters are either united against the Night King or against Cersei. Said factors are to be taken into account when considering the low modularity scores and the lack of correctly clustered communities. Unsurprisingly, Littlefinger and Ramsey are always detected as a community since they are detached from the main network.



Infomap⁶² detected 4 communities with a modularity score of 0.031. The Starks/Targaryen and King's Landing communities are clustered together as most of the characters join both battles and therefore are both in Winterfell and then King's Landing. Bronn forms a separate community within King's Landing. In the story, Bronn hires Dirah, Marei and Craya. They lament that some of their favorite boys were killed by Drogon in the Battle of the Goldroad (during Season 7). Another community is detected, formed by two commoners living in King's Landing. In the midst of the Battle of King's Landing, a panicked man shouts for his wife Alanna and asks Arya if she has seen her.

Girvan-Newman⁶³ detected 4 communities with a modularity score of 0.021. It clustered together the two main communities and detected the small one of Dirah, Marei and Craya.

Louvain⁶⁴ detected 5 communities with a modularity score of 0.201. King's Landing is mostly in a community of its own, whereas the Starks/Targaryen one is split into three separate ones, formed by characters that were more prominent in one battle or the other. Interestingly, Jon is part of a cluster of characters where all of the others are dead. Daenerys is actually killed by Jon, as he recognizes she went insane and burned the entire city. The other characters are a mixture of ancestral figures in the Targaryen dynasty (e.g. Rhaegar, Lyanna, Aerys), opponents killed off by Daenerys herself (e.g. Randy and Dickon Tarly), and long-gone characters connected to Jon (e.g. Ned and Robert). Noteworthily, this community reveals the identity

of Jon's parents: they are Rhaegar and Lyanna. This fact makes Jon effectively a Targaryen and rightful heir to the Iron Throne.

Greedy Modularity Maximization⁶⁵ detected 6 communities with a modularity score of 0.175. King's Landing and Starks/Targaryen communities are separate, and other clusters are found, which correspond to tight interaction between subsets of characters during some of the main events. Indeed, it is possible to pin-point some of the characters that take part to the meeting after the Last Battle in King's Landing.

Spectral Clustering⁶⁶ detected 4 communities with a modularity score of 0.021. The Starks/Targaryen and King's Landing communities are clustered together.

3.8.3 Triangles

The clustering coefficient for this network is 0.65, which means that a remarkably high 65% of the potential triangles actually appear in the network. So edge weights (rather than existence of edges) will determine the strongest narrative ties. Of course, Daenerys, Jon and Tyrion have the strongest triangles. Otherwise, if we consider the top characters by number of triangles in which they are involved with, Tyrion comes up on top (407), followed by other characters inside the Starks/Targaryen community; Daenerys and Jon (342 and 317 respectively) are only at 9th and 10th place.

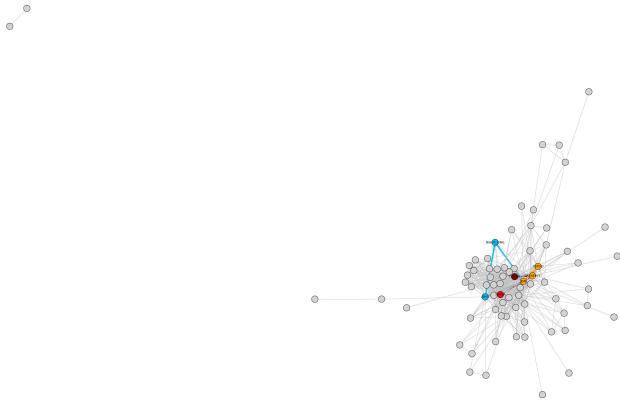
Season 8's interesting triangles are very few but still important.

Triangle	Strength	Strongest Edge
(Jon, Arya, Night King)	92	70 (Jon, Arya)
(Daenerys, Jon, Tyrion)	432	194 (Daenerys, Jon)
(Daenerys, Jon, Sansa)	335	194 (Daenerys, Jon)
(Daenerys, Jon, Cersei)	233	194 (Daenerys, Jon)

Table 39. Strength of interesting triangles

Jon and Arya are key players during Winterfell's battle against the Night King. Most of Game of Thrones fans would have bet that Jon would have been the one to kill the Night King ($weight_{j,nk} = 19$), given a lot of foreshadowings and numerous interactions during the series. Surprisingly, it was Arya to give the final blow ($weight_{a,nk} = 3$). The triangle's weight is mostly given by Jon's and Arya's interactions, because, as previously said, the network provides more information about dialogues rather than action, so without further insights about the plot, Arya's actions are not noticed.

A similar conclusion can be drawn when considering the triangle between Daenerys, Jon and their enemy Cersei. At this point, the conflict is mostly narrated through actions, and besides this, Cersei does not interact much with the two



($weight_{j,c} = 3$, $weight_{d,c} = 36$): indeed, she hides inside the castle, and most of the battle is seen through the eyes of other main characters, like Arya and Tyrion, who offer a visual insight to the viewer of how destructive dragonfire is.

We can see that the strongest triangle is held between Daenerys, Jon and Tyrion. Of course, it makes sense that Jon and Daenerys hold the strongest edge ($weight_{j,d} = 194$). This triangle is interesting: if the network was signed, it would be challenging to discern whether Daenerys retains her status of ally with Jon and Tyrion (+++), or rather becomes an enemy (++-). Indeed, during the Last Battle, when King's Landing surrenders and rings the bells, Daenerys storyline takes a dark turn, as she eventually snaps, turns mad and decides to burn down the entire city, willingly killing most of the innocent citizens of King's Landing. Jon and Tyrion are extremely shocked as they realize what Daenerys has become: a mad tyrant, exactly like her father Aerys. Finally, Jon kills Daenerys while embracing her, crying that she will always be her queen.

3.9. Bringing It All Together (S1-8 Combined)



This final section of the project aims at merging all the seasons together and looking at the big picture, both by analyzing a merged graph of all eight seasons, and by using the seasons as timesteps to add a temporal dimension to the analysis.

3.9.1 Looking at the Big Picture

Gephi was used to generate the graph visualization of the entire Game of Thrones interaction network. Community detection was also performed, and nodes were scaled according to PageRank centrality.

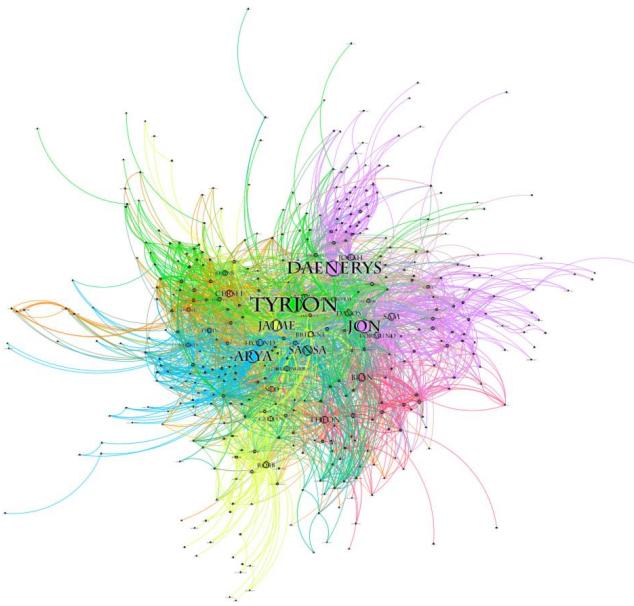


Figure 67. Game of Thrones, Seasons 1-8 Combined

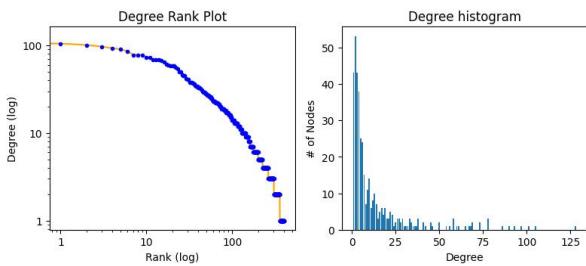


Figure 68. Degree distribution of Game of Thrones (Seasons 1-8)

Description	Value
Nodes	403
Edges	2634
Graph Density	0.03
Connected Graph	Yes
Number of Components	1
Small-World Network	Yes ($\lambda = 1.03$, $\gamma = 20.73$)
Diameter	6
Avg. Shortest Path	2.68
Avg. Degree	13.07 [1,128]
Most Freq. Degree	2
Number of Bridges	44
Deg. Assortativity Coeff.	-0.147
Global Clustering Coeff.	0.324
Average Clustering Coeff.	0.659

Table 40. Summary table for the complete GoT network

Given the values $\lambda = 1.03$, $\gamma = 20.73$, the network exhibits small-world properties, further supported by an average shortest path length of 2.68 and a diameter of 6. That is to say that, despite the vast and diverse world of Game of Thrones, characters are only a few steps away from each other in terms of interactions. This reflects the interconnectedness of the storylines across different regions and factions, where even distant or seemingly unrelated characters are often linked by a few intermediaries.

The log-log plot of the degree distribution follows a power-law, typical for scale-free networks, with fewer nodes (hubs) having very high degrees. These hubs are the major characters (such as Jon Snow, Tyrion Lannister, and Daenerys Targaryen) who interact with a wide range of other characters, driving much of the narrative.

The degree assortativity coefficient, weighted by number of interactions, is -0.147, indicating that the network is disassortative, which means that high-degree characters (key protagonists and antagonists) tend to interact with low-degree characters (minor or supporting characters). This can be interpreted in the context of Game of Thrones hierarchical and feudal society, where powerful characters often interact with a wide range of less powerful or more specialized characters.

In total, there are 44 bridges in the whole Game of Thrones network. One could assume that, in a narrative sense, these bridges might correspond to characters who serve as intermediaries between different factions or regions, whose removal or death could lead to significant shifts in the story's dynamics. However, those bridges are instead mostly composed by extremely marginal characters interacting very sporadically, or even just once, with a more prominent character, which keeps them connected to the network.

The global clustering coefficient of 0.324 and an average clustering coefficient of 0.659 indicate a significant amount

of clustering, which is typical for small-world networks. This is consistent with the factionalism in Game of Thrones, where characters often belong to distinct houses or groups. These clusters can be interpreted as the internal cohesion within these factions, where members of the same faction have frequent interactions with each other.

Finally, this is a relatively sparse network with a graph density of 0.03, meaning that only a small fraction of all possible connections between characters exist. This sparsity reflects the narrative's complexity: while there are many characters, not all of them interact directly.

Measure	Character	Highest Centrality Score
Betweenness	Tyrion	0.134
	Daenerys	0.114
	Arya	0.103
	Jon	0.097
	Theon	0.066
Closeness	Tyrion	0.579
	Jon	0.554
	Sansa	0.553
	Jaime	0.543
	Arya	0.542
Eigenvector	Tyrion	0.216
	Sansa	0.204
	Jon	0.182
	Arya	0.173
	Jaime	0.185
Harmonic	Tyrion	0.004
	Jon	0.004
	Sansa	0.004
	Arya	0.004
	Jaime	0.004
Degree	Tyrion	0.318
	Jon	0.261
	Sansa	0.251
	Arya	0.241
	Daenerys	0.231
Weighted Degree	Tyrion	1.000
	Daenerys	0.926
	Arya	0.705
	Jon	0.840
	Jaime	0.676
PageRank	Tyrion	0.022
	Daenerys	0.018
	Arya	0.018
	Jon	0.018
	Sansa	0.016

Table 41. Top characters with highest centrality scores

When considering the entire series, **Tyrion** reigns supreme, coming out on top of every centrality measure. Starting off as a witty underrated character, frequently dismissed, underestimated and mocked by those around him because of his dwarfism, he ends his arc as a more mature, burdened, morally complex character, as well as one of the

Centrality Measure	Mean
Betweenness	0.013
Closeness	0.389
Eigenvector	0.059
Harmonic	0.018
Degree	0.069
Weighted Degree	0.148
PageRank	0.008

Table 42. Centrality means

most influential figures in Westeros, responsible for major decisions that shape the realm. He is connected to important characters, knows most people, has had the most interactions and connects various parts of the network, tying the most threads together.

Jon comes second place, especially when it comes to Closeness and Degree centrality. He starts as a naive and idealistic young man seeking belonging and purpose, eager to prove himself despite his status as a Stark bastard. Over time, he becomes a hardened leader, dealing with heavy responsibilities and moral dilemmas. By the end, he is disillusioned, sacrificing his love and claim to the throne, and ultimately choosing a life of solitude beyond the Wall. He lacks in Eigenvector centrality, as for most of the seasons this measure is dominated by the Lannisters, which are the closest characters to the Iron Throne. Only in the later seasons, the seventh in particular, Jon climbs to the top of Eigenvector Centrality, likely thanks to his alliance with Daenerys.

Daenerys deserves to be put in third place, although she is not high up on some of the centrality measures. She begins as a young woman with no power, at the mercy of her brother Viserys. Over the series, she transforms into a confident, determined leader, gathering armies and dragons to pursue her vision of justice and liberation. However, by the end, her quest for power and the loss of close advisors drive her to become a tyrant. Daenerys ranks second in betweenness, meaning that she ties many threads together. She comes fifth for Degree Centrality, which means she doesn't know as many people compared to other characters, even though this measure skyrockets from season 6. However, her long exile far from Westeros drastically impacts her Eigenvector Centrality, for which she does not figure even within the top 10 characters.

Sansa and Arya are next, closely followed by Jaime. **Sansa** begins as a naive and idealistic girl, eager to become a queen but quickly disillusioned by the harsh realities of court life. Over the series, she evolves into resilient leader, surviving numerous trials and betrayals. By the end, she emerges as a capable ruler who reclaims her family's legacy, becoming the Queen in the North and securing Winterfell's independence. Compared to Cersei, with whom she spends a lot of time during the first seasons, Sansa's centrality measures follow a pattern of ascent towards her crown-

ing to Queen in the North, while Cersei's drop, following her descent into paranoid madness. This is particularly true for Degree Centrality and Eigenvector Centrality, as well as PageRank Centrality.

Arya evolves from a headstrong, rebellious girl yearning for adventure and justice into a highly skilled and ruthless assassin, still retaining her adventurous nature.

Jaime evolves from a prideful and morally ambiguous knight, initially known for his reputation as the "Kingslayer" and his arrogance, into a complex character marked by redemption. Over the series, he deals with his personal values and the consequences of his actions. Jaime wins over Arya in terms of Eigenvector Centrality and very closely in Closeness Centrality, whereas Arya is far superior for Betweenness and Degree Centrality. Jaime knows more important people whereas Arya acts as a connector between various parts of the network.

Communities Overall, the entire Game of Thrones network has 5 main communities:

- **King's Landing:** this is a very complex community, which contains every Lannister, since, even in times when the characters were not with each other, the conflict has always been internal. Tyrion, Cersei and Jaime are the main hubs, although Cersei is the one who has the least connections outside King's Landing, reflecting her progressive isolation.
- **Jon's Alliance:** it includes the Night's Watch, the Free Folk and House Baratheon, and orbits around Jon, with Davos and Sam acting as hubs at much smaller scales.
- **Essos:** Daenerys is the main hub of this community, with Jorah, Missandei and Greyworm being the close advisors revolving around her.
- **Arya's Journey:** Arya's community is composed of minor characters encountered along her journey (e.g Hound, Gendry and The Brotherhood without Banners).
- **The Starks, The Tullys and Littlefinger:** It encompasses various communities tied to Winterfell and features some key characters who have met unfortunate demises, including King Robert, Lysa Arryn and Jon Arryn. Littlefinger is central in this community because of his political games to gather power.

Various methods deal with the clustering of the graph in different ways, not always placing central characters in the correct theoretical community, as now the network is far more complex. Actually, most of the methods are able to recognize King's Landing, Essos and Jon's Alliance, but

broadly incorporate the other communities or detect partial ones. Though, the main communities are appreciable in the Gephi graph⁶⁷, where the communities - detected through Louvain - are generally visible in a more qualitative, visually-appealing way, and central characters are nicely highlighted and scaled by PageRank centrality.

Nonetheless, let's compare the various methods (excluding Girvan-Newman, which did not perform well at all):

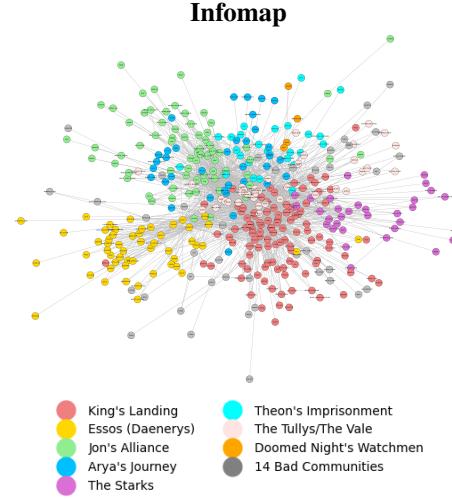


Figure 69. #communities = 23, modularity = 0.391

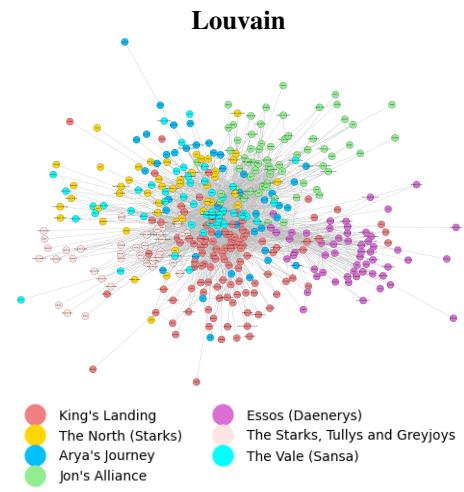


Figure 70. #communities = 7, modularity = 0.402

Greedy Modularity Maximization

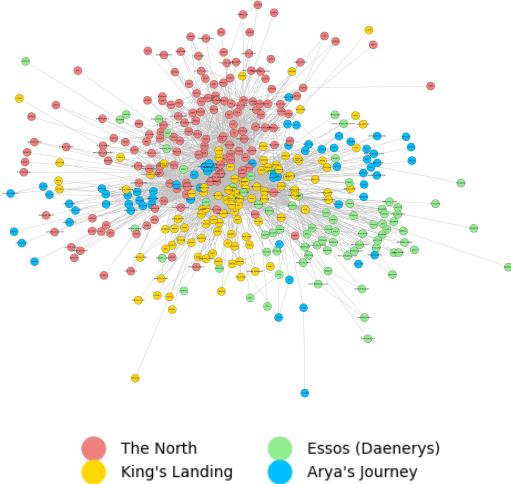


Figure 71. #communities = 4, modularity = 0.348

Spectral Clustering

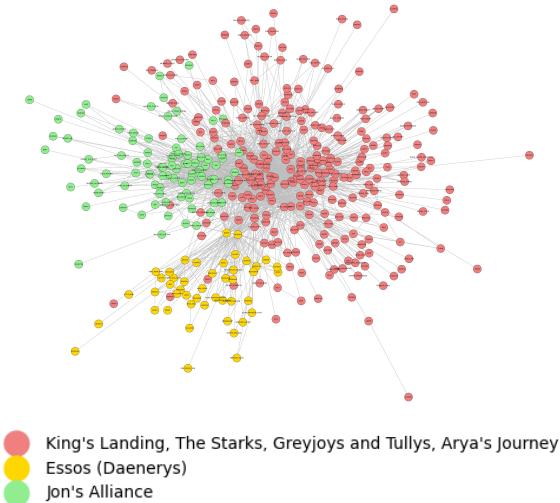


Figure 72. #communities = 3, modularity = 0.281

Infomap⁶⁹ mostly detects correct communities, and splits The Starks and The Tullys in two communities. Littlefinger is considered part of King's Landing, but it is reasonable to think him as part of the Tullys and Starks community, as, although he spends a lot of time in King's Landing, he is obsessed with Catelyn and uses Sansa to gain power. However, Infomap detects 14 other bad communities, each composed by two characters. The modularity score for this method is 0.391.

Louvain⁷⁰ detects the correct communities, although the Starks reside in two communities: one is composed by characters mainly living in the north, at Winterfell or beyond the Wall. They are more linked with Bran's story.

Other characters, more interested in Robb's claim to the Iron Throne, are part of The Starks and Tullys community. The modularity score for Louvain is 0.402, which is the highest among the considered methods.

Greedy Modularity Maximization⁶⁹ only detects four communities, with a lower modularity score of 0.348. The North community encompasses multiple subcommunities, like Jon's Alliance and The Starks, Tullys and Littlefinger communities. Littlefinger, this time around, is part of the North community, indicating his high attraction towards the Starks family.

Spectral Clustering⁷², finally, only detects three communities, scoring the lowest modularity, 0.281. Jon's Alliance and Essos are detected; though, The North community, Arya's journey and also King's Landing are considered a single community.

Overall, Louvain confirms itself as the most reliable and accurate method for Community Detection in this setup, scoring the highest modularity and detecting the most correct clustering.

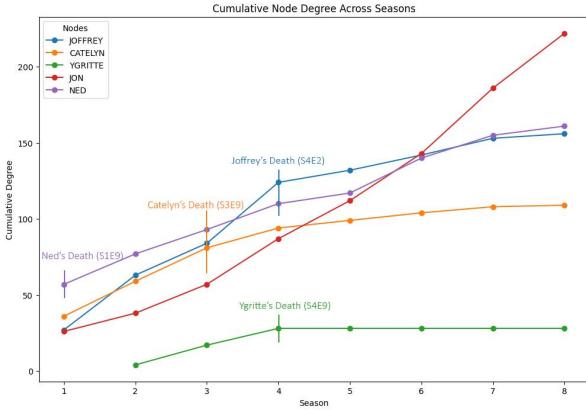
Preferential Attachment - Link Prediction When considering the complete graph, the top predictions given by Preferential Attachment show a prediction of link between characters which can be considered enemies or part of opposite factions. Sam and Cersei are in first place with a score of 6708. Joffrey and Daenerys follow, with a score of 6324. Bronn and Arya are next, with a score of 6305. Finally, we have Jon and Tywin, with a score of 6090. These predictions highlight the limitations of using degree-based models in narrative networks. While these characters are all central to the plot (hence their high degrees), the actual likelihood of them forming alliances or interactions is low due to their narrative roles.

Preferential Attachment - Adding a New Node Adding a new node to the network using the Barabási-Albert model, Sam, The Hound and Jorah are the top 3 predicted characters to form a connection with the new node, with a 790, 700 and 680 score respectively. These results underscore the principle of preferential attachment: nodes that are already well-connected are more likely to attract new connections. Indeed, the three characters all have a central role in the story and have interacted with lots of characters along their journeys.

Preferential Attachment - Adding 10 Nodes with x Edges Adding 10 nodes with x edges as in the methods section, shows Daenerys in first place for link prediction, followed by Joffrey, Tyrion and Cersei.

3.9.2 Character Development and Death

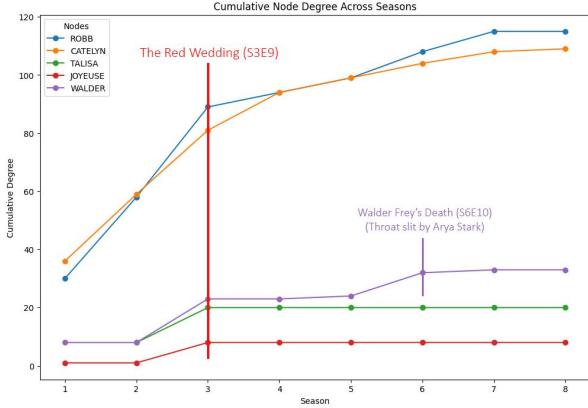
Node degrees can give information about the storyline and arc of a character, and can even indicate that in a certain moment in time, something has happened. In fact, one hand, an active character being involved in the story is expected to have a cumulative sum of node degree which grows over time. On the other hand, it makes sense that events influencing the involvement of a characters in the story have a negative effect on their cumulative node degree. This analysis, in particular, can point out with good accuracy the death of a character. Of course, if the networks were episode-wide rather than season-wide, the signal would be even more accurate, since here we don't know whether a character dies at the start of the season or towards the end. Ned Stark, for example, is executed at the very end of the first season, but his cumulative degree at the end of season 1 is graphically on the point $x = 1$ rather than $x \rightarrow 2$, which could give off the impression that the character dies at the start of the season. To avoid confusion, make sure to consider the data points as the cumulative sum of node degree at the end of the season.



From the plot above, it is clear how the death of a character stops - or at the very least tapers off - the growth of the cumulative degree. For some characters, like Ygritte and Catelyn, the effect is more noticeable. Central characters, such as Ned, tend to be impacted less: although their death prevents them from further being physically involved in the story, their name is on everyone's lips and their memory echoes throughout the network.

Moreover, if we could look at single episodes, we would see that Joffrey's cumulative degree doesn't get impacted right after his death, but rather after Tyrion's trial, where his name comes up very frequently.

Similarly, changes in the growth of the cumulative node degree across multiple characters around the same timestamp can be an indicator of a battle, a fight, or, more gruesomely, a wedding: it's the case of the infamous Red Wedding (Season 3, Episode 9), where Walder Frey tricks the



Starks into an ambush, and then murders everyone in the room. Three seasons later, during the tenth episode of season 6, Arya Stark avenges her family by slitting Walder Frey's throat.

3.10. Conclusions

This analysis shows how powerful is a network science approach applied to complex character interaction networks in TV shows or books, namely Game of Thrones. It is clear how the use of separate networks allows better understanding of underlying dynamics among characters, which would not be visible from a massive single graph. Considering the whole Game of Thrones network, we can conclude that it is a small-world network, with homophily analysis showing its disassortativity, which is coherent in a hierarchical and feudal society. Centrality measures such as Betweenness, Closeness, Eigenvector, and PageRank revealed the most pivotal characters in the series. Characters like Jon Snow, Daenerys Targaryen, Tyrion Lannister and Sansa Stark consistently scored high across multiple centrality metrics, reflecting their crucial roles in the storyline and their influence over the series' political landscape. The evolution of centrality scores across different seasons highlighted shifts in power and influence. The most similar nodes are lords of the Vale, the Riverlands and of Dorne. Regarding link prediction, the results highlighted that it is possible to add new links, both between already existent nodes or new nodes, although results also highlight the limitations of only using degree as a proxy. Triangle analysis has been shown to be a powerful tool to investigate strength of relationships of specific characters, as well as gauging breadth of interactions of characters, with particular focus to Tyrion. The network's structure illustrated the intertwined complexity of alliances and rivalries. The community detection analyses identified distinct factions within the networks, corresponding to the major houses, alliances and, more in general, coherent plotlines. Most of the communities are not static during the course of the series, and lots of characters flow from one

to another, demonstrating constant changes in political dynamics, as well as geographical movements of characters.

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