

The Network of the Top 300 Best Korean Movies in IMDB

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with

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Part 1: Brief Overview of Korean Cinematography

Introduction

K-dramas and K-pop have first developed as a domestic source of entertainment, all part of the Korean culture, skyrocketed in popularity over the past few decades. While spreading first to the neighboring countries such as Japan and China in the 1990s, this phenomena picked up the name “Hallyu” literally meaning Korean Wave.

This phenomenal and rapid growth of Korean culture includes South Korea’s music, food, drama, online games, and movies. This gave South Korea a good image and reputation all around the world. As success followed on, South Korea chose to become one of the world’s leading exporters of popular culture. The rise of internet and social media speed up the progress in South Korea being the top of culture exporters. This positively affected South Korea’s economy as it reached audiences all around the world.

Around the time of the late 1990’s, South Korea began broadcasting their own networks in China which became an immediate success. Following the success in China, one of South Korea’s entertainment companies had its K-pop band H.O.T. give a first ever live show in a foreign country. The concert was sold-out and this marked the beginning of Hallyu.

In 2000, South Korea and Japan agreed to lift a 50-year ban on exchanging their culture to one another. This significantly improved both nation’s economy as trade between these two neighboring countries became frequent. Moreover, the Korean culture began to become popular among the Japanese in such a short amount of time. After having conquered the East Asia, South Korea took an action to send their broadcast authorities to several countries as a way to promote their culture in forms of mainly films and music.

One year later, South Korea released a film named “My Sassy Girl” and was considered a major international breakthrough in South Korean films. It was a box office hit all across Asia. After the success of this film, more South Korean films began to contribute to the rapid growth of South Korean culture not only across Asia but also to countries in North America, Europe, and more.

This cultural phenomena has greatly contributed in South Korea’s GDP over the past decades. In the recent year of 2014, it has been estimated that that Hallyu has brought in \$11.6 billion to the Korean economy. In the present, this number has been reportedly increasing at a swift rate.

In the following paragraphs, I will be mentioning some of many South Korean films that made a huge impact on the popularity of South Korean culture.

Chan-wook Park's "The Handmaiden" (2016)

"The Handmaiden" [1] is a South Korean film released in the year 2016. Some describe the movie as a masterpiece due to its depth of character development between the two main actresses. Its genre is a psychological thriller and drama film. As the film is set in the Japanese occupied Korea era, the entrancing aesthetics of the movie brings the audience back in time when Korean women were treated as possessions by the Japanese colonials. The movie itself also marked an epitome in Korea cinematography as it delves into the LGBT genre, which South Koreans are very conservative about. The director who shed light on the LGBT genre in the Korean cinematography is Director Chan-wook Park. He was born on August 23, 1963 in Seoul, South Korea. He is well-known for his other famous works such as "Thirst" and "Oldboy." The main characters in this movie were played by distinguished actors such as Min-hee Kim, Tae-ri Kim, Jung-woo Ha, and Jin-woong Cho. The inspiration that the director derived from is a novel Fingersmith by a Welsh writer Sarah Waters. Due to the incredible directing, this film was nominated for the Palme d'Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival.

To give a summary of the film, the movie is set in Korea during the Japanese colonialism before World War 2. A character playing the role of a conman is introduced with a main mission to seduce a Japanese heiress named Lady Hideko and rob her inheritance. The plan involved the conman hiring somebody to work as a maid of the heiress so that the maid can easily persuade Lady Hideko to marry the conman. Eventually, the maid and Lady Hideko build this special bond in which Lady Hideko even lends her expensive dresses to the maid. As the trust between the two characters was built even further, Lady Hideko asks the maid what the married life is like. The maid then proceeds to make passionate love with Lady Hideko, telling her that this pleasure will also be brought to her by her future husband. Soon after, they get into an argument which leads to an unexpected turn of events. Hideko and a character named Fujiwara, the person whom the conman worked under, elopes and betrays the maid by making people believe that she is the heiress who should be locked up in an asylum.

The film then shows a series of flashbacks of Lady Hideko's traumatizing childhood. Hideko's uncle, Kouzuki, is portrayed as a sinister man who forces his wife and Hideko to read sadistic pornography novels in which he sold at auctions. The abuse doesn't end here as Kouzuki also abused his wife and Hideko to the point where his wife commits suicide by hanging herself. Hideko discovers the death of her aunt but does not realize that her aunt committed suicide so Kouzuki uses this information to blackmail Hideko in coming back after she escapes by lying to Hideko that he was the one responsible for her aunt's death. But going back in time a bit, when Fujiwara planned to seduce the heiress for her inheritance, Fujiwara made a deal with Hideko by proposing that he will protect Hideko if they get married. Hideko agreed on two circumstances which was Fujiwara obtaining her a poison that Hideko could swallow in cases where she gets caught by her uncle. The other circumstance was hiring a maid who would replace her in getting locked up in an asylum. Coming back to the present, Hideko finds her

herself in love with the maid. Despite knowing that the person she loves is planning to betray her and steal her inheritance, Hideko attempts to commit suicide but the maid stops her and reveals all her plans. Hideko does the same and the two reconciles, strengthening the trust between the two female leading characters. After confession to each other, they make a plan on getting revenge on both Fujiwara and Kouzuki.

Later, the maid gets locked up in the asylum until when her friend comes to rescue her by burning the asylum. While that happens, Hideko poisons her uncle and steals her money back. The two then reunite and escapes by disguising Hideko as a man to avoid eyes. However, before leaving the place, Hideko left a note for her uncle regarding Fujiwara's deception. Kouzuki then is in pursuit of Fujiwara whom he soon captures and tortures him to spit out sexual details about Hideko. To avoid further torture, Fujiwara makes up a story and soon asks Kouzuki for one of his cigarettes. Kouzuki notices something strange as the smoke from the cigarette is blue. Fujiwara speaks out saying that the cigarette was laced with mercury which shortly kills them both. The story ends with a happy erotic ending as the maid and Hideko flee to China and celebrated their freedom by making love.

Sang-ho Yeon's "Train To Busan" (2016)

"Train to Busan" [2] is a South Korean film released in the year 2016. The movie's genre is zombie apocalypse action thriller film with a class rebellion. Unlike other zombie genre films, Train to Busan's setting is mostly set in bullet trains which are used as a mode of public transportation in Korea. This is not the only reason which makes this movie unique and outstanding from other zombie genre films. When you look at most zombie genre movies, the characters in those movies usually die from foolish mistakes and this is what makes this movie different from those other horror films. In this movie, the director builds this connection with the audience and each individual character in which some of those major characters die from a reasonable motive. The director of this suspense-filled movie is Sang-ho Yeon. He was born on January 1, 1978 in Seoul, South Korea. His other popular works include the live-action film Psychokinesis and an animated film The King of Pigs. The main protagonists are played by Gong Yoo, Yu-mi Jung, and Deong-sok Ma.

The story starts off by introducing one of the main protagonists Seok-woo, a divorced fund manager. Seok-woo is portrayed as an alcoholic and a dad who is not there for his daughter Su-an. Unexpectedly, one day, Su-an asks her dad if he can bring her to see her mom since it was Su-an's birthday. Seok-woo agrees to take her to Busan, the place where Su-an's mom lives. They board a bullet train from the city to Busan, one of Korea's port cities. When they board the train, the main protagonists and the antagonists are introduced as they are in the same train heading to Busan. Right when the bullet train was about to depart, a mysterious woman making weird movements enter the train. Not long after, she then turns into a zombie and attacks the passengers on board. The virus quickly spreads among the passengers and other passengers are alarmed by the scene and flees to another car. Later, the train stops at Daejon Station. The remaining survivors get off the train before realizing that the station is filled with people infected by the virus. After realizing that the station is not a safe zone, the survivors rush back towards

another bullet train with a conductor ready to take them to Busan, where a quarantine zone was built. Due to the chaos, Seok-woo finds himself and other main characters separated from Su-an and their friends. Through an intense action scene of struggling and fighting, all the main characters reunite and fight together to arrive at a train where people are sheltered. However, the person in charge of the train shelter is the main antagonist Yon-suk. As Seok-woo and the others were trying to get on the train, Yon-suk gets in their way by not allowing them to board the train in fear of the boarding passengers being infected. In a matter of seconds, the zombies caught up to the main characters which led Yon-suk to transfer to another car with the survivors already on board. Two of the main characters along with Seok-woo is Sang-hwa, a working-class man, and his wife Yu-mi. Sang-hwa sacrifices himself to delay the rush of zombies for the others and especially his wife. As most of the cars of the train is filled with zombies, Yon-suk and the train attendant hides in a bathroom stall while Seok-woo and others hide to avoid the sight of the zombies. They soon at another station where they switch trains once more to avoid the zombies from getting them. Yon-suk survives by pushing other survivors to the zombies while he makes a getaway but this does not last for too long as he gets infected as well. While this happens, survivors that were with Seok-woo gets infected by sacrificing themselves for the others except for Seok-woo, Su-an, and Sang-hwa's wife. With the only three main characters alive, they try their best to survive by getting on board a train that was still functional. After getting on board, they meet with Yon-suk who had already turned into a zombie. To save his daughter and the wife of a stranger Seok-woo vowed to keep safe, Seok-woo attempts to push Yon-suk off the train but gets bitten in the process. Knowing that he will turn into a zombie soon, Seok-woo throws himself off the train with scene cutting to the memory of when he first held Su-an for the first time in his arms. As the train arrived in Busan, Su-an and the woman get off the train and walk through this dark tunnel in where soldiers are stationed at the other end. The movie ends with an emotional scene of Su-an crying and singing a song that she prepared for her dad at the incipient of the movie.

Joon-ho Bong's "Parasite" (2018)

The film "Parasite" [3] is a South Korea black comedy thriller film released in the year 2018. This movie is considered as one of the most successful South Korean movie of all time as it won the Palm d'Or and earned \$118 million globally. The director who made this possible is director Joon-ho Bong. He was born on September 14, 1969 in Daegu, South Korea. Aside from being a notable director for his work in Parasite, his other works include "The Host" and "Snowpiercer." This great achievement was also made possible with brilliant actors and actresses: Kang-ho Song, Sun-kyun Lee, Yeo-jeong Cho, Woo-shik Choi, and So-dam Park.

The movie starts off by introducing a poor family of four living in a semi-basement - Ki-taek (father), Chung-sook (mother), Ki-woo (son), Ki-jeong (daughter). One day, Ki-woo's friend visits Ki-woo's family and gifts them a scholar's rock which symbolizes wealth. Ki-woo's friend also suggests that Ki-woo to pretend as an English tutor for the wealthy Park family while he is gone. Ki-woo eventually gets hired by being introduced by his friend. Ki-woo's family realizes how easy and naive the Park family is so they come up with an elaborate plan to get all their

workers fired and replace the fired workers with themselves. Not long after, the poor family of four is seen working for the Park family.

After the plan has succeeded, the poor family is seen enjoying the luxuries of the Park's family while they are gone to a camping trip. In an unexpected turn of events, the maid who Chung-sook replaced comes back to the mansion with an excuse that she left something. When Chung-sook lets the maid in, the maid quickly rushed to an underground bunker. It turns out that the maid's husband has been living in that house for years to hide from loan sharks. Chung-sook then threatens the family of four that she will report them of being a scam after finding out that they are actually a family. A fight then breaks out.

In the midst of the fight, the Park family calls saying that they will be returning back to their house due to a heavy rain. The family of four quickly clean up the mess they made and lock the maid and her husband in the bunker. However, when the maid tried to escape, Chung-sook kicks the maid causing the maid a fatal head injury against a wall. After the Parks have settled in their home, Mrs. Park shares a secret to Chung-sook that her son has been traumatized after seeing a "ghost" emerge from the bunker: the maid's husband. While the other three members of the poor family are hiding, they eavesdrop to a conversation between Mr. Park and Mrs. Park talking about how smelly Ki-taek is. Fortunately, the other three members escape from the mansion and return to their semi-basement house. Due to the heavy rain, their semi-basement gets flooded so they evacuate to a nearby gym to spend the night.

The next day, the Parks throw a birthday party for their son in which the poor family of four are invited. Ki-woo visits the bunker to check on the maid and her husband but then gets attacked by the maid's husband. After knocking Ki-woo out, the maid's husband appears in the party and stabs Ki-jeong in the chest in front of everybody. While everybody is rushing out of the mansion, the son of the Parks is seen having a seizure due to the appearance of the maid's husband. While Ki-taek is helping Ki-jeong from the injury, Mr. Park constantly shouts at Ki-taek to pass him the car keys in which he does. After Chung-sook then kills the maid's husband with a meat skewer, Mr. Park quickly rushes to get the key that has fallen on the floor with a disgusted expression on his face. Out of nowhere, Ki-taek stabs Mr. Park right in the chest and flees.

After several weeks have passed, Ki-woo wakes up from a coma and is sentenced to fraud alongside with his mother. Ki-jeong has died from the chest wound and Ki-taek is nowhere to be found. After being discharged from the hospital, Ki-woo goes to take a look at the Park's mansion from a mountain with binoculars. He notices a Morse code from the flickering lights that he knows is connected to the bunker. He returns back home to encode the Morse code message and realizes that his dad is hiding in the bunker from the police. The movie ends with Ki-woo vowing to earn enough money to purchase the mansion, freeing his dad.

John H. Lee's "A Moment To Remember" (2004)

"A Moment to Remember" [4] is a South Korean film released back in 2004. The movie's genre is drama and romance and it captures a romantic yet heartbreakingly relationship of a young

couple. Inspired by a Japanese television drama, “A Moment to Remember” not only became one of the top-grossing films in South Korea but also in Japan as well, breaking box office. For this incredible movie that brought people all over the world to tears, Director John H. Lee won Best Adapted Screenplay award in 2005. Some of the actors and actresses who played a major role in the success of the film are Woo-sung Jung, Ye-jin Son, and Jong-hak Baek.

At the beginning of the film, the female protagonist Su-jin is introduced as a middle-class woman who works as a fashion designer. She is soon showed that she got rejected by the man whom she loves. As sad as anybody would be, she goes to a convenience store and accidentally bumps into an attractive guy. Having just met, they don't say anything to each other and just mind their own business.

One day, while Su-jin is working in her dad's construction firm, she meets the man from the convenience store again whom he introduced himself as Chul-soo. Despite Chul-soo being a construction worker, Su-jin did not care about the existing difference in social class between them and began having a liking for him. After multiple romantic scenes between the both of them, they eventually get married.

In the process of settling into their married lives, Chul-soo noticed something odd about Su-jin. She began forgetting memories which led to an accidental house fire caused by Su-jin forgetting to turn off the gas stove. Realizing the gravity of this problem, Chul-soo seeks medical help.

After being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Su-jin goes through a phase of denial because of her fear of not being able to remember her husband. Despite all this, the couple remains determined to stay together regardless of Su-jin's memory getting worse till the point she forgets about him. Sooner or later, Su-Jin decides to check herself into an assisted facility, leaving home.

However, Chul-soo stays by Su-jin's side even if Su-jin has already forgotten about him. To conceal his tears, he wears sunglasses whenever he comes to visit Su-jin. The movie closes with the scene in the convenience store where they first met. Chul-soo reenacts the first time he met Su-jin with all of Su-jin's friends and family watching. In the last scene, Chul-soo says “I love you” to Su-jin.

Joon-ho Bong's “Snowpiercer” (2013)

“Snowpiercer” [5] is a film based on the french novel *Le Transperceneige* directed by Joon-ho Bong released in 2013. He is considered one of the best Korean directors who won Palme d'Or for his most successful film, “Parasite” in the year 2018. The movie ,in fact, is a co-production with czech, and it is Joon-ho Bong's first english based move. 80% of the movie is filmed in English. The actors participated in the film are Chris Evans, Tilda Swinton, John Hurt, Jamie Bell, Kang-Ho Song, Go-Ah Sung.

The movie is placed inside the train which circulates forever by its special engine made by Willford to save the last remnants of humanity from the world that is covered by snow. As Willford made the engine, he is described as God who saved the humans from extinction. The train is divided by each section according to the classes. The head section for the higher classes, while the tail section for the lower classes. Curtis Everett, the main protagonist of the movie is a member of the lower classes. The lower classes have endured all of the social absurdities. They were forced to survive in the deadly condition and the only provided food was protein bar which is made from cockroach. During the movie they rebel to finish and escape from that absurdities, but every time they have failed. Curtis with his mentor Gilliam organize for another revolt. Claude from the head section came down to take two small children for the medical exam and the children's dead refuses and tries to fight back. He is neutralized by the armed guards and as a punishment his arm is amputated by putting the arm into the extreme cold outside the train. Curtis after that incident initiated their plan. He realized that the armed guards actually had no more bullets and utilized the gun to only threaten, after the prior rebellions. Curtis to finish his plan needed to Namgoong Minsoo and his daughter Yona as they can unlock the locks between the sections. They were drug addicts so Curtis offered them "Kronole" as payment. Their plan after was to take water supply section to negotiate with Willford. On the way they realize that the protein bar was made of cockroach and they were faced with a group of masked guards with weapons. Simultaneously the train passes the long tunnel and the darkness covered all over the train. The fight began. Opponents were fully equipped with night vision goggles but Curtis had a plan. They had a match and could successfully fight back and won the bloody battle. They keeps on moving forward and realize that the train has equipped perfect ecosystem to serve delicacies to the upper class passengers. The group arrives at a classroom and saw the teacher teaching the kids about Willford and the engine. After the celebration held for the train's making one full circumnavigation. The groups are distracted and the teacher started shooting at them. It causes many casualties. Finally with the only three survivors of the revolution, Curtis, Namgoong and Yona, they made it to the gate to the engine. Curtis asked Namgoong to open the gate, yet Namgoong refuses as he needs Koronole to open the door but he will use it to survive outside the train as he saw some signs of living creature outside the train. Curtis starts to persuade him but the Willford's assistant emerges from the engine and shoots Namgoong and invites Curtis inside to greet Willford. Willford confesses him that the revolution was in fact organized by himself to maintain the balance of the train's ecosystem. Willford asks Curtis to replace him, and Curtis seems to accept the request. Then Yona reveals that the small kids who were taken for the medical exam was actually utilized to operate the train. Curtis saves one of the kid sacrificing his arm, but another kid refuses to get rescued. Namgoong revives made enormous explosion to save and stop the train. As a result of the explosion, Yona and Timmy could be saved. They were the only survivors. They step outside the train, and saw a polar bear in the distance.

Kim Jee-woon's "I Saw The Devil" (2010)

"I Saw the Devil" [6] is a thriller film by Jee-Woon Kim in 2010. The movie retained its first release in 2011 Sundance Film Festival, with limited U.S theatrical release. Min-Sick Choi, Byung-Hun Lee, In-Seo Kim, San-Ha Oh, Moo-Seong Choi were the casts.

Gyung-chul Jang who is a serial killer forcefully assaults Suhyeon Kim's fiance and kills her. Suhyeon Kim identifies her fiance's brutal death and lives without any hope, but revenge. With the help of his friend who is in charge of security of the company gets a GPS device and looks for the serial killer who killed his fiance. Finally, he was able to find Gyung-chul and try his best to kill him but he could not make it. However, he leaves severe damage to Gyunchul and fed him GPS without Gyung-chul knowing and starts again tracking him. Gyungchul as if mocking Suhyeon, commits another murdering and wander around. Suhyeon could find his place at ease as Gyunchul ate GPS from before. Thus Suhyeon finds him again and cuts his Achilles tendon. Gradually getting revenged by Suhyeon. Gyungchul was going crazy as he is getting overseen by Suhyeon in every way and every time. He goes to his friend's home, to eat dinner and relax for a bit. However, Taejoo who is a friend of Gyung-chul is also a psychopathic person. Suhyeon comes again to taking gradual revenge. He comes and almost killed both of them. Gyungchul felt so suspicious and finally, he figure out that Suhyeon fed him the GPS. Therefore he removes GPS using diarrhea medicine. Gyungchul who is freed from the trajectory of Suhyeon starts to kill insanely. He first starts with killing Suhyeon's father in law and sister's in law. After that mad killing, Gyunchul decides to turn himself to the police, yet Suhyeon kidnaps him to punish Gyunchul by himself. Suhyeon tied Gyunchul to the guillotine and the trigger to the doorknob so that if anyone opens the door guillotine gets activated and chop Gyung-chul's head off. After that, Suhyeon notifies Gyungchul's father, mother, and son regarding his location. They arrive to the location and as they were worried, they opened the door forcefully. As the door opens, Gyunchul's head rolls towards the parent's feet. After finishing the revenge, Suhyeon sobs for her dead fiance.

Hong-jin Na's "The Wailing" (2016)

"The Wailing" [7] is a supernatural psychological mystery horror film in 2016 by Hong-Jin Na. This movie as it is released left sensational popularity by its unique atmosphere and solid plots. Thus succeed both commercially and critically. The main casts for the movie are Jun Kunimura, Do-Won Kwak, Woo-Hee Choi, Jung-Min Hwang, and Hwan-Hee Kim.

The movie starts with the common river view of the rural village, and a fisher putting a bait. At the dawn of a house in the village, the couple wakes up with the ringing phone, and a guy who is a police officer puts his uniform saying that the wife of Mr. Cho died to his wife. Rainy early morning, his mother in law asks him where he is going. Jongu giving the same reply and she says that the living one should take care of himself first, and then he eats early breakfast. His daughter, Hyojin, asking the same question, and Jongu tells her to eat breakfast. He was late to

the scene, where there was a dead corpse covered with hives. Heungook parks with his eye fluttered and handcuffed sitting down, slaughtered Mr. Cho's wife, and Mr. Cho inside the enveloped dead. Police offices classifying it like a love affair and started an investigation. Jongu's mate called him suddenly and bring him to the storage room where it was covered with blood, a bunch of twigs which looks bird nest, and a bizarre altar.

A man holding an elk walked down the mountainside slips and tumble. When he gets back his mental, he witnessed an old man eating a mountain animal's organ. He was scared and hide behind the rock. Suddenly the old man disappeared from his sight, and the terrified man looks around to search for him. The old man was walking toward the man.

The scene changes. Jongu and his mate Seongbok were having a conversation regarding the weird gossips about the recent cases of murder was since the Japanese guy came over to the area. The gossip was about that the guy raped a woman and she got crazy. All of the sudden thunder roars with hard rain caused a blackout. Simultaneously Jongu witnesses a naked woman and screams. He steps out with his flashlight but the woman was gone already. A day after, big fire that caused the death of every family member except a mother occurs. Jongu again arrived late to the scene tried to relax the mother but gets attacked by her as she was gone crazy. Among the spectators, he meets eyes with the Japanese man After the consecutive events, Jongu felt that things are going wrong. Then he meets Moomyeong. She says that the events are due to the Japanese and disappear. After a few days, Jongu meets a villager saying that he witnessed the bizarre scenery, and he started to search for the Japanese man's habitation. Meanwhile, Jongu's daughter Hyojin became ill without significant reason. Even the doctor in the hospital could not figure out the cause. She was acting abnormally, and during the conversation, he realizes that Hyojin met that Japanese guy. Jongu could not hold his wrath and go to the Japanese guy's habitation. He asks the guy about the reason to come to this village. He did not reply and Jongu makes a disturbance. He killed the Japanese guy's dog. A day after, the dead black goat was at the main entrance of Jongu's house. Jongu's body was not moving properly and to get the medicine he went to the oriental hospital while leaving Hyojin to a nearby grandmother. Hyojin stabs her while Jongu is outside. Hyojin's unknown illness gets worse and worse. Eventually his family requests shaman, Ilkwang, to cure her. Ilkwang says that Hyojin is possessed by evil. He was wondering around the house and saw the carcass of a crow and said that the Japanese man is not human. On that night the Japanese guy saw that disappeared Chunbae Park was found dead in the truck and started exorcism in his house. At the same time, Ilkwang starts exorcism in Jongu's house. Hyojin struggles due to the pain and the Japanese was incanting while throwing up blood. Jongu could not embrace his daughter's pain and stops the exorcism and the Japanese guy falls by intense stress and starts incanting again. After the day, Hyojin gets worse, and Jongu with his friends went to find the Japanese guy. Suddenly Chunbae who became Zombie starts attacking them. Chunbae all of a sudden dies. Jongu holds breath and saw the Japanese guy who was looking at them fighting secretly. He follows back at him but the Japanese man disappears from the cliff. Jongu's group decided to go back with massive despair. Moomyeong stands in front of the Japanese guy who was relaxing. Somebody falls to on the Jongu's group's truck. Hongu realizes that it was the Japanese guy and pushed him down the cliff. He checked whether the Japanese are dead or not. He was

totally dead. Hyojin who was hospitalized got well and returned back to home. Ilkwang going to Jongu's house to meet him instead meets Moomyeong. By her spirit, Ilkwang vomits blood and runs away. He gets his belongings and gets out of the area. However, winged insects cover his car and he steps outside to check for it. There were no winged insects on the car window and Ilkwang head back to the area again. Ilkwang calls Jongu and makes sure to not believe Moomyeong as she is a ghost. Jongu meets Moomyeong nearby his house. Moomyeong told him to believe him and to go back to his house until the cock crows for three-time. Yet Jongu saw that Moomyeong was holding Hyojin's hairpin, and goes inside the house before the cock crows three times. As he enters the snapdragon wilts and finds his family dead and spacing out Hyojin. The morning after that day, Ilkwang goes to Jongu's house and films his dead family members. On the wooden box that he drops on the way, he walks back was full of the photos that the Japanese guy took. He gathers the photo and leaves the area. Meanwhile, priest Isam Yang solely walks in the mountain to meet and check the Japanese guy. He finds the Japanese guy in the cave and asks if he is demon. And the Japanese guy turns in to demon.

Chan-wook Park's "Thirst" (2009)

"Thirst" [8] is a 2009 South Korean supernatural erotic horror film written, produced and directed by Chan-Wook Park. This film is based on french novel, *Thérèse Raquin* by Émile Zola. "The Bat" which is the direct translation of the korean title, named as "Thirst" in English due to its duplicity of expressing both blood thirst and love thirst. The film is regarded as first popular movie that displayed frontal male nude sceneThe casts are Ok-Bin Kim, Kang-Ho Song, Ha-Kyun Shin, Hae-Sook Kim, In-Hwan Park.

Sanghyeon who is a priest works in a hospital to take care of the patients who are almost dying. He was an orphan so he could understand the socially disadvantaged people's hardships. Therefore he decided to dedicate his life, sacrifice himself to help others. Then, there was an experiment regarding the new type of vaccine that can cure any type of disease, and he voluntarily participates. Eve virus that is only effective on males almost killed Sanghyeon. He almost died from that experiment, but fortunately, after transfusing blood he revives, and some groups joined to worship Sanghyeon as he literally revived from that virus. However, after the transfusion, his body turns in a strange way. Whenever he is exposed to the sunlight, he gets hives and sickens. Moreover, to sustain life, he needs to intake blood on a regular basis. Yet he actually gained more power, unless he is exposed to the sunlight. In fact, he turns out to become a vampire. He became a very famous priest and Sanghyeon's friend Kangwoo's mother asks Sanghyeon to come over for prayer. During the prayer, Kangwoo and Sanghyeon realize that they were close friends when they were young. Thanks to the invitation by Kangwoo's mother, Sanghyeon joins the group which plays mah-jong for money every Wednesday. From that group, he acquainted Kangwoo's wife, Taejoom, as the group was meeting in Kangwoo's house. Taejoo was the abandoned daughter of the family who was boarding in Kangwoo's house. She was raised as if maid, yet ended up becoming the wife. She always wishes to run away from the house, and the only way to leave the house was pretending as if she is undergoing a sleeping walk and going outside the house while sleeping barefooted.

Sanghyeon realizing that he turns out to become the vampire by chance saw Taejoo running down the street barefoot in pajama. He gave her his shoe to wear. Taejoo chases Sanghyeon who came to the group appointments, and Sanghyeon could not reject her temptation. Eventually, they sleep together, and Sanghyeon confesses that he is, in fact, the vampire. At first, Taejoo seems to be scared, but as time passes she was interested in Sanhyeon being special and his unrealistic situation. Taejoo pretend herself getting beaten up by the husband, and eluded Sanghyeon to kill Kangwoo. Finally, Sanghyeon kills Kangwoo by drowning. After the death of Kangwoo, Sanghyeon and Taejoo could not sleep well. Whether it was because of the sense of guilt or the ghost, Kangwoo kept appearing to him. Taejoo caught by the fear beg Sanghyeon to kill her. Sanghyeon killed Taejoo and by fed his own blood to turn Taejoo to become a vampire. Taejoo after becoming the vampire forgets Kangwoo at ease. However, unlike Sanghyeon she kills random people without any hesitation, and Sanghyeon could not stop her from slaughtering. After the death of Kangwoo, his mother faints and could only open her eyes. She overheard the conversation between Taejoo and Sanghyeon and figured out who killed her son. However, she could not tell anyone. After a few days, Wednesday came and the members of the group grasp the message by Kangwoo's mother that Taejoo and Sanghyeon is the one who killed Kangwoo. Taejoo slaughtered the people who were shocked. Sanghyeon persuades Taejoo that it is time to run away as Taejoo's friend Evelyn pretended as if she was dead and called the police. Sanghyeon holding Taejoo and Kangwoo's mother walked to the field where there is no shadows to hide from the sunlight. He decided to die with Taejoo in front of Kangwoo's mother. Taejoo tries her best to survive, but Sanghyeon holds her tight. Eventually, Taejoo gets rid of the shoe that Sanghyeon gave him before and greet death inside Sanghyeon's arm.

Hong-jin Na's "The Chaser" (2008)

"The Chaser" [9] is a 2008 South Korean action thriller film by Hong-jin Na. The movie is applauded by its smooth flow of the stories, even though, it was the Hong-jin Na's debut film. The casts are Yoon-Seok Kim, Jung-Woo Ha, Hyo-Joo Park, Yeong-Hee Seo, and Yu-Jeong Kim .

Joongho Eom is a corrupted detective who after resigning working as a pimp in a massage room. He is worried as the female workers who borrowed money from him keeps disappearing. As there are not enough workers to receive customers, he called Mijin who is sick because of a bad cold and forced her to come for work. After sending Migin to the workplace, he saw a familiar number which is 4885 and assures that the customer who Mijin greets is the one who sold the workers from before. However, his assumption gets wrong. 4885 was, in fact, a serial killer Yeongmin Ji and he was going to kill Mijin. As the people who know the real owner of the house comes over to the house where Yeongmin is inside, he only fainted Minji and ran away. He was living the house, but he got caught by Joongho Eom, and after the beat up Joongho sends him to the police station. Joongho claims to the policeman that Yeongmin sold his workers, yet Yeongmin said that he killed not sold in a mocking way. The police officer catches the weird atmosphere and starts to inquire Yeongmin. At that time, a guy throws rubbishes to

the Seoul mayor, and the policeman searched for proves that Yeongmin is the serial killer to cover that incident. After coming out of the police station, Joongho tries to find Minji by himself. Yeongmin told the police officer that Minji is still alive for sure, yet no one believed or cared about his assertion. While Joongho was looking for Minji, and researching about the Yeongmin's past life stories, Joongho takes Mijin's daughter, Eunji, with him. At first, Joongho did not believe that Yeongmin is the serial killer, but as he finds information about Yeongmin, he realizes that Yeongmin is actually the serial killer, and Mijin's life is in danger. Joongho goes into the police station and assaults Yeongmin to get information about Minji's location. Joongho and the police officer investigates the address where Yeongmin informed, yet that was an obvious lie and could not find any pieces of evidence. Misfortune overlaps, a public prosecutor frees Yeongmin and tells him to capture Joongho as he assaulted Yeongmin. Joongho gets arrested by the policeman but he escapes. The police officers who were in the car let Joongho escape. And after 12 hours, Yeongmin gets out of the police station as there was not enough valid reason to approve his crime. However fainted Mijin, hardly escapes and moves towards the closest supermarket. The owner of the supermarket tells Yeongmin that Minji is with her by coincidence. Yeongmin kills both the owner and Minji. Joongho realizes that Mijin is murdered by Yeongmin and keeps chasing him for revenge. He figured out the location of Yeongmin's house and they started the deadly fight to kill each other. Finally, Joongho gets a chance to kill Yeongmin. At that time, the police officer enters the house and suppresses Joongho. After the end of everything, Joongho goes to the hospital where Eunji, the daughter of Minji, is hospitalized.

Jeon-beom Lee's "The Man from Nowhere" (2010)

"The Man from Nowhere" [10] is a 2010 South Korean action thriller film by Jeon-Beom Lee. This film was the most popular movie in 2010 which had 6.2 million admissions. The casts are Bin Won, Sae-Ron Kim, Tae-Hoon Kim, Sung-Oh Kim and Hee-Won Kim. This movie is famous for being the last on screen appearance of Wonbin, although he showed his amazing acting ability.

Taesik Cha, who was an ex-special agent working for the country quite his job as the agent after losing his wife and aborted baby, and he started working in the pawnshop without any hope. In the pawnshop, he was considered as the ghost of the pawnshop as he was not doing anything except the assigned work and he was emotionless. But there was a girl called Somi who did not treat Taesik like other people. She was the only person who did not avoid approaching to him. She was such a sociable girl who keeps talking to him even though Taesik was being so harsh on him. Therefore they formed a good relationship. One day, a group of drug dealers invaded the pawnshop. They came to kidnap Somi's mother, yet they as well kidnapped Somi. Taesik gets crazy as he lost one of the only people that he opens up getting kidnapped. Somi was one of his components in Taesik's life. He tried to gather some information about him, He realizes that the gangsters who kidnapped Somi were such a bad criminal group. They kidnapped kids, use them to do panhandlers, steal money, and sold their organs. Taesik's anger gets accumulate every time he thinks of the gangsters and thus whenever he meets any members of

that group, he tortures and kills in every brutal way. Taesik was caught into bad thinking that Somi might be one of those victims who are used to do panhandlers, and their organs extracted. He finds the location of the gangster groups and fought back. At the end of the fight, one of the gangster members hands him an eye of Somi. Taesik became really mad and slaughtered every member in the room, and then he was going to commit suicide as he does not have any reason to sustain his life. But then, Somi appears in front of him. The eyeball was in fact not from Somi. Before Taesik goes into the prison, he handles a present to Somi and says sorry for ignoring. The new scene appears at the time when Taesik ignores from Somi stealing stuff before she gets kidnapped. He ignored Somi stealing things because he wanted to play a role like parents, but before that emotion, he was kind of angry about Somi's behavior such as stealing things and getting punished by others. Then the scene changes back to when he handles the present. After giving presents he hugs Somi.

Jee-won Kim's "A Tale of Two Sisters" (2003)

"A Tale of Two Sisters" [11] is a South Korean psychological horror drama film by Kim Jee-woon. The casts of the movie are Soo-Jeong Lim, Jung-Ah Eom, Kap-Soo Kim, and Geun-Young Moon. The film inspired by the old traditional fairy tale, *Janghwa Hongryeon jeon* which inspired some other films. It won Best Picture at the 2004 [Fantasporto](#) Film Festival, and it is renowned as being one of the most successful and first horror films in America as Korean movie. The movie is set in a desolated rural village. Soomi and her sister Sooyeon moved from Seoul after a long convalescence to a wooden house where his dad, Moohyeon Bae, is habituating. Stepmom, Eunju, happily greets the two stepsisters, however, the sisters seem like kind of scared and avoiding her. Since the move of the sisters, a sudden change in the atmosphere is detected by both the audience and the characters. The family members suffer from nightmares and hallucinations. Soomi who is the elder playing the role of her dead biological mother, and she taking care of both father and younger sister. As time passes, the relationship between the stepmom and two sisters get worse and Soomi confronts the stepmom to protect her younger sister Sooyeon. One day, Eunju locks up Sooyeon inside the closet. Soomi realizes the incident and relaxes her crying sister Sooyeon, and let off the streams of anger to her dad about why are you being so neglecting and indifferent even though the stepmom is being so harsh on Sooyeon. However, the father gets tempered and shouts at her that Sooyeon is in fact already dead. Soomi did not believe what her dad is saying, as Sooyeon is crying right next to her. The day after, stepmom beats Sooyeon until death. Sooyeon could not endure the beating and ends up dying. After, she tries to kill Soomi as well. At that moment, the father brings a lady to the house. Soomi could not believe what she saw. The lady that the father brought was the stepmom who just killed Sooyeon and tried to kill her as well. In fact, the wooden house located in the desolated rural village that is depicted throughout the movie was only habituated by Soomi and the father. Everything that Soomi witnessed was a deadly hallucination. Sooyeon, who is the sister of Soomi

died long time ago getting locked inside the closet on the day when their biological mother committed suicide. The stepmother knew that Sooyeon was locked up but left her so that she dies. Older sister gets crazy due to unbearable guilt. She, in fact, moved back to the house after the long convalescence. However, the symptoms worsen and she played the role of stepmom in imagination herself, and suffer from intense hallucination. Stepmom sends her to the mental hospital again. She returns back to home and hears some weird sounds coming from the room where Sooyeon died and confronts the ghost of Sooyeon who she let her die. The movie ends with stepmom getting attacked by the ghosts.

Dae-woo Kim's "Obsessed" (2014)

"Obsessed" [12], a 2014 South Korean erotic romance film by Kim Dae-woo, has renowned for its depicts on human's complex exchanges of emotions. The casts for the movie are Ji-Yeon Lim, Seung-Hyun Song, Yeo-Jeong Cho, Hye-Jin Jeon, and Joo-Wan On.

The movie is based on the end of Vietnam war 1969. Colonel Jinpyung Kim who is an education ledger attends the voluntary organization, Naitingails, because of her wife's request to make him a general. In the organization, he meets Gaheun Jong who is the wife of newly arrived subordinates captain Woojin Kyung. Woojin is described as an aspirational character who has a different outside and inside. In the hospital where he is volunteering, a wounded soldier does a hostage situation, capturing Gaheun. Jinpyung saves her, but she gets wounded. Even though Gaheun gets wounded, she worries about not the wound but the lost earring. Due to this unusual aspect of Gaheun, Jinpyung gradually falls into her. At home, his wife is so strict and she acts in a robotic way that even for the sexual behaviors, she always checks the proper date that could result in a baby. These contrasting characters might act as one of the factors to cause Jinpyung to fall into Gaheun. Jinpyung finds her lost pieces of the earring and with the flower goes to visit Gaheun to hospital. Gaheun asks him to put the earrings for her. After, they went nearby Woojin's residence area and harassed the bird inside the cage with smoke from the cigarette. Then, Gaheun tells him to stop. As soon as Gaheun tells her to stop, he stopped immediately. After that Woojin's couple and Jinpyung's couple goes to retreat together and inevitably meets in the troop's tennis tournament. As they meet often, their slight emotions of love gradually grow. At that time, in the music room, the Vietnamese war couple Mr. Lim and Mr. Cho meet and started to learn dancing. During that time, their love for each other came out. On a rainy day, Jinpyung takes Gaheun back home from the cathedral church, they were obsessed with each other without knowing who started the obsession. Jinpyung who was suffering from panic disorder and Gaheun as well could receive a bunch of love that she could not receive from Woojin. However, their love came to an end. Gaheun finally tells Jinpyung that we need to stop meeting. Jinpyung could not embrace the break up. On the night to celebrate the promotion of Jinpyung, the wife of him announces that she finally became pregnant. It was obviously a happy event, yet Jinpyung was not happy. Instead, he whispered love to Gaheun, and Gaheun tells him to let's stop. Jinpyung so shocked, said out loud whether you were playing with me or not. That time the secret turns out to everyone. Thus the whole military troops were

shocked. Jinpyung tries to commit suicide in front of Gaheun, but he fails. After he goes to Vietnam and disappears. After two years, a group of soldiers came to Gaheun to return something. The group of people was those who got helped from Jinpyung in Vietnam. They returned the photo of Gaheun and Jinpyung that Jinpyung tried to look until the very last moment he dies. The movie ends with Gaheun crying for his love.

Jee-woon Kim's "A bittersweet life" (2005)

"A bittersweet life" [13] is a movie released in 2005 by Jee-Woon Kim. This film exists in two versions: theoretical version and director's cut. They are mostly the same, but director's cut has a bit more scenes. The casts for the movie is Byung-Hun Lee, Min-A Shin, Yeong-Cheol Kim, Jung-Min Hwang.

The movie starts with boss Kang asking his most trustworthy subordinates Seonwoo to take a look at his young girlfriend Heesoo. While he was abroad, take a close look at Heesoo to check whether she gets a new boyfriend and if yes, kill both of them without noise. Seonwoo after receiving the order wandered alongside Heesoo and obeyed the order from his boss. However, while he was solving problems with rival gang he got a dispute with his colleague, Munsuck, due to his self-righteous personality. He as well got a serious fight with Daesik Baek, who was the main character who made the problem with a rival gang. Heesoo was, in fact, dating with a new boy at her age, and Seonwoo saw that scene. Immediately Seonwoo punched the guy and contacted his boss to kill Heesoo. But then he changed mind to just keep it as a secret and left the scene. Boss Kang found out and got so mad as his most trustworthy subordinate betrayed him and asked Daesik to capture Seonwoo. Musung Oh, who Daesik recruited secretly met Seonwoo to apologize as it is not a serious problem. Seonwoo refuses but finally got attacked by Musung Oh and his fellow. They tortured Seonwoo, saying that my boss and my gang will not leave you freely. However Boss was the one who told Musung to capture him. Boss Kang confronted Seonwoo and asked why did you betray. Seonwoo did not reply. As a result, he got punished: Burring while alive. Boss Kang purposely buried him in a shallow hole to give Seonwoo the last chance. Seonwoo did not tell the truth and finally, he escaped from them.

After a few days, Seonwoo with the help of his close friend, Minki contacted an arms trafficking gang and received gun and bullets from their boss Taewoong. With that gun, Seonwoo killed Daesik Baek and the Boss Kang's subordinates. He met Boss Kang in the sky lounge. They started to talk but could not find an agreement. Seonwoo killed Boss Kang. After that Daesik Baek's subordinates attacks and eventually Seonwoo wins that fight. Yet, Seonwoo was also deadly injured. Before his breath is taken, Seonwoo called Heesoo, but he was out. Then Taegoo who is the brother of Taewoong comes in and kill everyone including Seonwoo

Jee-won Kim's "The Age of Shadows" (2016)

"The Age of Shadows" [14] is a 2016 South Korean period action thriller film by Kim Jee-woon. This movie is selected in 89th Academy Awards for South Korean entry for the Best Foreign Language Film, yet they did not get nominated. However in Texas, they won Best Picture award

at 2016 Fantastic Fest. The cast for the movie is Yoo Gong, Kang-Ho Song, Ji-Min Han, Byung-Hun Lee, and Tae-Goo Uhm.

Jangok Kim and Dongseong Ju who are the member of the independence organization enters the house of Hwangsub Kim who seems a guy from reach family to raise campaign funds. However, Hwangsub Kim wastes time to elude them until the Japanese police officers come. Finally, Japanese officers come, and Jangok fights back. Yet, he could neither vanish the enemy nor escape from them. He gets caught by his former friend who turns to be a Japanese police officer, Jungchul Lee and commits suicide in front of him. Junchul arrests Dongseong, but he lets him free after slight investigations. He comes back to the organization. Many people think suspiciously towards him and almost gets shot by Hwoiryeong, but Woojin kicks him out of the group. After this event, the head of the Japanese police station department, Higash make a plan to get information about the organization: Placing Jungchul as a spy and he to meet Woojin Kim. They easily recognize each other's real identities, however, they became a very good friend. Japanese police officers start to pressuring Woojin. Meanwhile, Higash sends subordinates, Hashimoto, to Jungchul. Ostensibly, it was to help Junchul, but in fact, it was to keep on eye on him. Jungchul's subordinate garners the envelope that describes the moving plan of the members of the organization. Hashimoto receives the information and directly heads to capture them. By a second difference, Woojin Kim and Kyesoon Yeon leave to Shanghai. Hashimoto and Jungchul are put to Shanghai to capture the members. The leader of the organization, Chaesan Jun, and Woojin Kim decided to bring Jungchul to their group. They succeeded in bringing him. Chaesan shows his trust by telling Jungchul that he leaves his time upon Jungchul. Thus Jungchul helps the organization to deliver the bombs. Meanwhile, Hashimoto starts to doubt about Jungchul and operates another investigation regarding him. Jungchul gave the Japanese police station wrong information, however, Hashimoto already had the correct information from his other trustworthy spy. Jungchul meets Woojin secretly and tells him that there is a spy within the group. He builds a trap to figure out the spy. After the conversation on the train, Jungchul was heading back to another play, yet Hashimoto and his people walk in confidently as if he knows everything. Hashimoto asks Woojin for identification cards. At that moment, the fight begins. Woojin and Jungchul kill Hashimoto and his people from that place. Jungchul hands Woojin a fake ID card and escaper from the train. Woojin thanks to Jungchul succeeds in figuring out the spy. Spy was his old friend Hwoiryeong. Woojin executes him with a gun. It seems that they will arrive safely to Gyeongseong, however, the Japanese police officers know the identities of the members of the organization. In the station, they arrested some, and some tried to fight back. Most of the members of the independent organization die from that fierce battle. Woojin and some of the survivors escape, and they succeeded in bringing bombs to Gyeongseong. Jungchul who receives orders from Higash to find Woojin tortures his former fellow without his own will. Dongseong tells Jungchul that Woojin wants to get a new fake ID, but that was Dongseong's trap. The Japanese police officer surrounds the area. Woojin tries to escape but arrested. They tortured him for the pieces of information, and he bites his tongue to not give any pieces of the information. Jungchul goes to court for his doubt about his real stances. He argues with cries that he is not a friend or fellow with them and sentences for a month in jail. Imprisoned Woojin hears mourning news that Gyeson is dead. Jungchul after short time in prison saw Gyeson's corpse and cried. Jungchul

after that was just sustaining lives without any hope and reason. He hears from his subordinates that there will be a celebration that many high ranks will join, which Higash holds. He prepares the bomb. The innocence that he played in the court was the strategy of Woojin and he hands over all bombs that he has to continue the big event. Jungchul implements bomb in the celebration party and Chaesan orders to kill Dongseong. The bomb caused many casualties including Higash. Woojin in prison makes a smile of relief. Jungchul takes on revenge by killing Hwangsub who is the main reason for his friend Jangok to die. After the big event, Jungchul hands over the left bombs to Seongil who is the subordinates of Chaesan.

Chang-dong Lee's "Burning" (2018)

"Burning" [15] is a film that is released at 2018 by Chang-Dong Lee. "Burning", which is based on "Barn Burning" from *The Elephant Vanishes* by Haruki Murakami. The first release was at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival on May 16, 2018, while the release for public was after a day in korea and 5 months after for Americans. It received massive applause by its narratives and performances as it was ambiguous. Therefore the movie was selected as South Korean entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the 91st Academy Awards. The casts for this movie are Steven Yeun, Jong-Seo Jeon, Ah-In Yoo, Soo-Kyeong Kim and Seung-Ho Choi.

Jongsu a man who dreams to become an author is working as a part-time job in a market. He meets his old town friend Haemi who is narrator model. Haemi asks him to feed her cat as she is on the Africa trip. They go to the house and have sex together. Haemi seems skillful while Jongsu was awkward and immature. Jongsu goes to his hometown Paju goes all the way back to Seoul to feed Haemi's cat in her house. Haemi contacts Jonsu that she came back from the trip, and asks for the pickup. Jongsu drives his dad's truck all the way to the airport to pick up Haemi. There he meets Ben who becomes close with Haemi during the trip. Ben is from a rich family. Living in Gangnam, having Porsche, not differentiating between work and leisure, and being nice to everyone and relaxed. However, he thinks that he has different DNA than others. One day, Haemi and Ben come over to Jongsu's house smoking weed and drinking wine. They were having such a good time. Haemi gets high and dances naked. Jongsu tells Ben that he loves Haemi. Ben does not reply. When Ben and Haemi leaves, Jongsu tells Haemi that striping is for the whores. Haemi does not reply as well and they lose contacts. Once Jongsu receives a loud call that disconnected after a few moments. Jongsu searches for Haemi's tracks. Ben was the most strong suspects. Thus Jongsu was staking out in Ben's house. Meanwhile, he gets invited by Ben to come over. Before when Jongsu went to his house, there were many kinds of stuff for girls in the bathroom. Haemi's watch was there as well. And he saw that a girl like Haemi enters the house. From these evidences, he suspects that Ben killed Haemi. Ben was doing make-ups for the new girl who came over. After a few times, Jongsu calls Ben to meet together with Haemi. Ben waits for Jongsu to come to him. Jongsu comes to him and suddenly stabs Ben. Ben died. Jongsu with his clothes burns Ben in his car.

Chan-wook Park's "Oldboy" (2003)

"Oldboy" [16] is a neo-noir action thriller film released in 2003 by Chan-Wook Park. The movie is based on the Japanese comic of the same name written by Garon Tsuchiya and illustrated by Nobuaki Minegishi. Quentin Tarantino, who is one of the most famous directors that made "Django Unchained", acclaims the movie, and it won the [Grand Prix](#) at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival. The casts for the movie are Min-Sik Choi, Hye-Jung Kang, Ji-Tae Yoo, Jin-Seo Yoon, and Dal-Su Oh.

There is the main protagonist Daesoo Oh who lives with one principle: Only live today. One day, he was drunk and on the way back to his house, he got abducted by a random guy. When he opened his eye, he was locked inside the sole room. He screamed for help, but there was no reply at all, not even a single sound. There was no way to escape from the room. Inside the room, television was the one and only furniture. He tried several methods to make a way out of the room, but it failed every time. There was a guy who gave the fried dumplings on a regular basis from a narrow hole. He stayed alive in the room eating dumplings and watching television. One day on the television, the murder scene was broadcasted and the victim was Daesoo Oh's wife. On top of that, the broadcast accused Daesoo as a person who killed his wife. Daesoo thought that it was all in the plan of the man that captured him. He trained boxing for 15 years inside the room and dedicated to taking a revenge. After being locked in the room for 15 years, Daesoo tries again to escape, and someone hypnotized him, and finally, Daesoo makes a way out of the room. Daesoo who just escaped from the room enters a Japanese restaurant, and he faints there. Mido who is the kitchen porter in that restaurant finds Daesoo and brings him over her house to save him. Since that day, they became close and finally, they loved each other. Daesoo with Mido visited Chinese restaurants to search for the fried dumpling that he ate when he was in the sole room. Daesoo finds the culprit, Woojin Lee, and the linkage between him and the culprit. Woojin Lee and his sister Sooa Lee had incestuous relationships. Daesoo saw that secret and told his friends which spread fast and Sooa committed suicide due to the stress derived from the gossip. Therefore Woojin was taking revenge on Daesoo. He went to Woojin for an apology. Woojin told Daesoo one more shocking truth. Daesoo's love, Mido, was, in fact, Daesoo's daughter, and they fell in love because Woojin hypnotized both Mido and Daesoo. As the 15 years passed since Daesoo was alone inside the sole room, he could not recognize his own daughter's face and fell in love with his own daughter. Woojin after telling all the truth commits suicide by pulling the trigger to his head.

Jae-yong Kwak's "My Sassy Girl" (2001)

"My Sassy Girl" [17] is a romantic comedy film released in 2001 by Jae-Young Kwak. This movie is always considered as the best romantic comedy film, although this is the movie made 18 years earlier. This film is exported to other East Asian countries, leading the sensation of K-movie along the nearby countries. The film is remade in Japan, America. The casts for the movie are Ji-Hyun Jun, Tae-Hyun Cha, In-Mun Kim, Ok-Sook Song, and Jin-Hee Han.

The movie starts with a drunk woman vomiting in the subway. A nearby man, Gyeonwoo, helps him getting well. On the first day they meet each other, they go to a motel. Gyeonwoo stares at her and thought himself to cure her pain. He was tempered by her beauty, but he realizes that he needs to protect both him and her. After he takes a shower, yet the police officer comes inside the flat and saw him taking a shower. Since that event, they became very close.

Her personality is depicted as extremely confident about herself and cannot leave injustice. She was breathtakingly beautiful when she was not drunk. With her, Gyeonwoo did very spectacular things such as skipping classes, entering alcohol bar in high school uniform and going to an amusement park. They switched shoes. If she wants to know the depth of the river, she then pushes Gyeonwoo to the river without any hesitation, yet she dives into the river to save Gyeonwoo who is splashing. She wanted to become an author. She expresses melodramatic and action realistically throughout both in the future and in the past. Moreover, they confront deserter by coincidence. She loves to get a surprise gift, and therefore Gyeonwoo went to her lecture room and confesses with one piece of the flower. broke up due to the parent's refusal, dates again, and final farewell after burying a time capsule that they will open it later together. In fact she was attracted to Gyeonwoo because he looks like her ex-boyfriend who died. After a few years, she meets her ex-boyfriend's parents and Gyeonwoo. In fact, the parents of her ex-boyfriend were the aunt of Gyeonwoo and the aunt introduces Gyeonwoo to meet him.

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Part 2: Computational Findings

1. The Dataset of the Top Korean films after 1997

We have selected the top 302 Korean films from list “Best Korean Movies” in IMDb website (https://www.imdb.com/list/ls066904473/?sort=moviometer,asc&st_dt=&mode=detail&page=1).

For each film, we were keeping the following attributes:

- title,
- year of release,
- director(s),
- protagonist stars (typically, 3 or 4), and
- genre.

There were some directors or stars who were appearing in the above dataset as being classified to both directors and stars (e.g., Ki-duk Kim, Joon-ho Bong etc.). In order to differentiate their roles, we have added (D) (for director) and (A) (for actor) at the end of their names.

302 Korean Films Dataframe

	TITLE	YEAR	DIRECTOR	STARS	GENRE
0	The Handmaiden	2016	Chan-wook Park	Min-hee Kim, Jung-woo Ha, Jin-woong Cho, So-Ri...	Drama, Romance, Thriller
1	Snowpiercer	2013	Joon-ho Bong (D)	Chris Evans, Jamie Bell, Tilda Swinton, Ed Harris	Action, Drama, Sci-Fi
2	Oldboy	2016	Chan-wook Park	Min-sik Choi, Ji-Tae Yoo, Hye-jeong Kang, Dae-...	Action, Drama, Mystery
3	Train to Busan	2016	Sang-ho Yeon	Yoo Gong, Yu-mi Jung, Dong-seok Ma, Su-an Kim	Action, Horror, Thriller
4	Memories of Murder	2003	Joon-ho Bong (D)	Kang-ho Song, Sang-kyung Kim, Roe-ha Kim, Jae-...	Action, Crime, Drama
5	The Host	2006	Joon-ho Bong (D)	Kang-ho Song, Hee-Bong Byun, Hae-il Park, Doon...	Action, Drama, Horror
6	I Saw the Devil	2010	Jee-woon Kim	Byung-Hun Lee, Min-sik Choi, In-seo Kim, Kap-s...	Action, Crime, Horror

Subsequently, we have expanded the dataframe so that each row has one director, one actor, and one genre. The expanded dataframe consisted of 2766 rows in total. Below we are displaying 11 rows of the expanded dataframe sorted by year.

Expanded 302 Korean Films Dataframe

	YEAR	TITLE	DIRECTOR	ACTOR	GENRE
1585	1997	Green Fish	Chang-dong Lee	Jae-yeong Jeong	Drama
1584	1997	Green Fish	Chang-dong Lee	Suk-kyu Han	Drama
1582	1997	Green Fish	Chang-dong Lee	Seong-kun Mun	Drama
1583	1997	Green Fish	Chang-dong Lee	Seong-kyu Han	Drama
2227	1998	Whispering Corridors	Ki-hyeong Park	Gyu-ri Kim	Horror
922	1998	The Quiet Family	Jee-woon Kim	Min-sik Choi	Horror
921	1998	The Quiet Family	Jee-woon Kim	Min-sik Choi	Crime
914	1998	The Quiet Family	Jee-woon Kim	Moon-hee Na	Comedy
915	1998	The Quiet Family	Jee-woon Kim	Moon-hee Na	Crime
2231	1998	Whispering Corridors	Ki-hyeong Park	Min-Jung Kim	Mystery
916	1998	The Quiet Family	Jee-woon Kim	Moon-hee Na	Horror

2.

Descriptive Statistics

Thus, our (expanded) dataframe has 302 unique titles, 181 unique directors, 660 unique actors, and 19 unique genres. The top director, top actor, and top genre are Ki-duk Kim, Kang-ho Song, and Drama, respectively.

Descriptive Statistics

	YEAR	TITLE	DIRECTOR	ACTOR	GENRE
count	2766.000000	2766	2766	2766	2766
unique	Nan	302	181	660	19
top	Nan	Memento Mori	Ki-duk Kim (D)	Kang-ho Song	Drama
freq	Nan	24	106	50	799
mean	2009.503615	Nan	Nan	Nan	Nan
std	5.227672	Nan	Nan	Nan	Nan
min	1997.000000	Nan	Nan	Nan	Nan
25%	2005.000000	Nan	Nan	Nan	Nan
50%	2011.000000	Nan	Nan	Nan	Nan
75%	2014.000000	Nan	Nan	Nan	Nan
max	2019.000000	Nan	Nan	Nan	Nan

3. Classification per Year

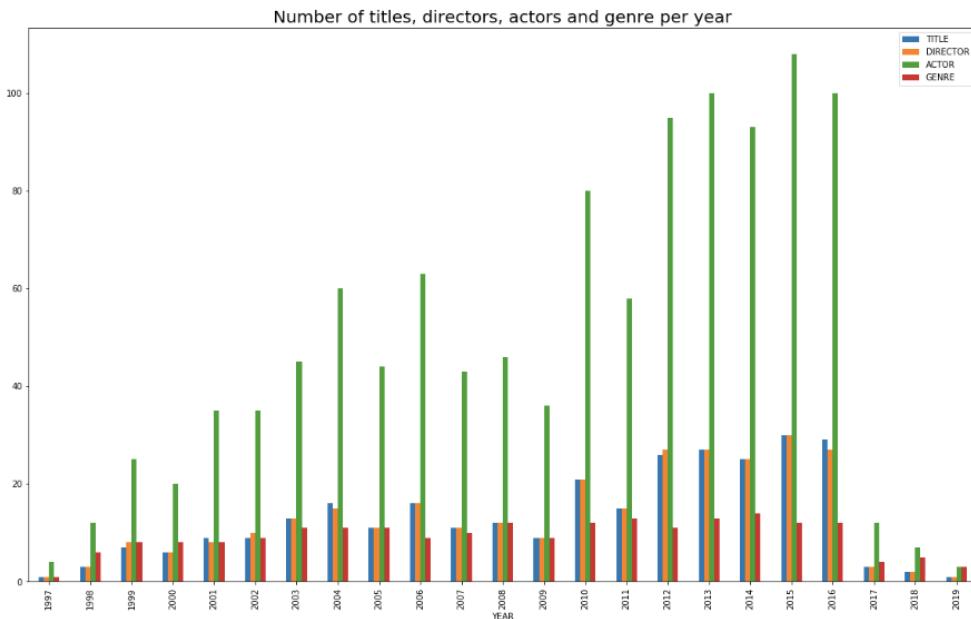
After that, we have grouped the dataframe by year in order to see how many titles, directors, actors, and genre appear per year.

Dataframe Grouped by Year

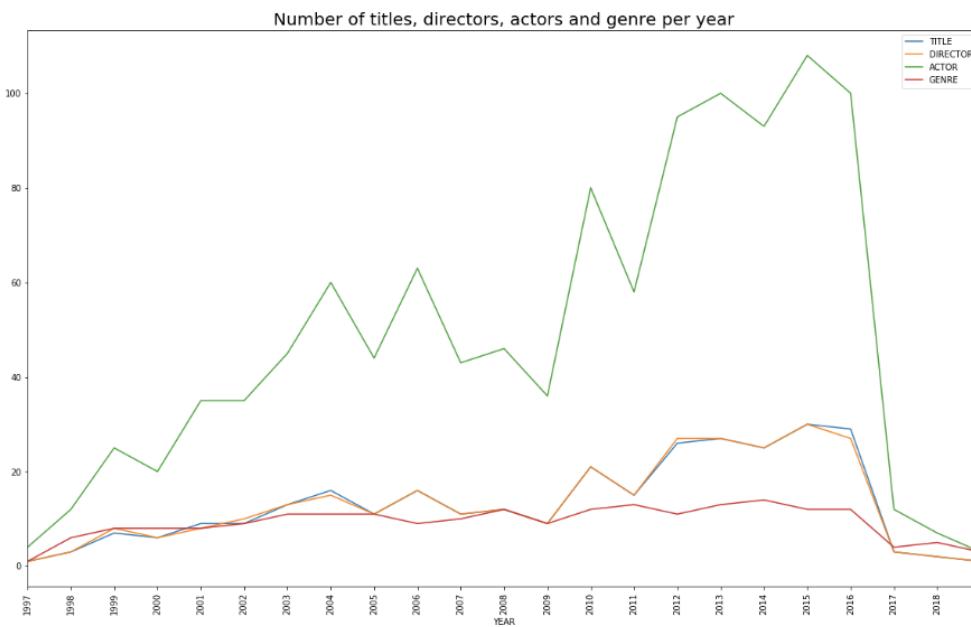
	YEAR	TITLE	DIRECTOR	ACTOR	GENRE
0	1997	1	1	4	1
1	1998	3	3	12	6
2	1999	7	8	25	8
3	2000	6	6	20	8
4	2001	9	8	35	8
5	2002	9	10	35	9
6	2003	13	13	45	11
7	2004	16	15	60	11
8	2005	11	11	44	11
9	2006	16	16	63	9
10	2007	11	11	43	10
11	2008	12	12	46	12
12	2009	9	9	36	9
13	2010	21	21	80	12
14	2011	15	15	58	13
15	2012	26	27	95	11
16	2013	27	27	100	13
17	2014	25	25	93	14
18	2015	30	30	108	12
19	2016	29	27	100	12
20	2017	3	3	12	4
21	2018	2	2	7	5
22	2019	1	1	3	3

Below, we are displaying the corresponding bar plot and line plot. 2015 is the year, during which the number of titles, directors, and actors were the greatest.

Bar plot Based on the Dataframe Grouped by Year



Line plot Based on the Dataframe Grouped by Year



4. Classification by Genre

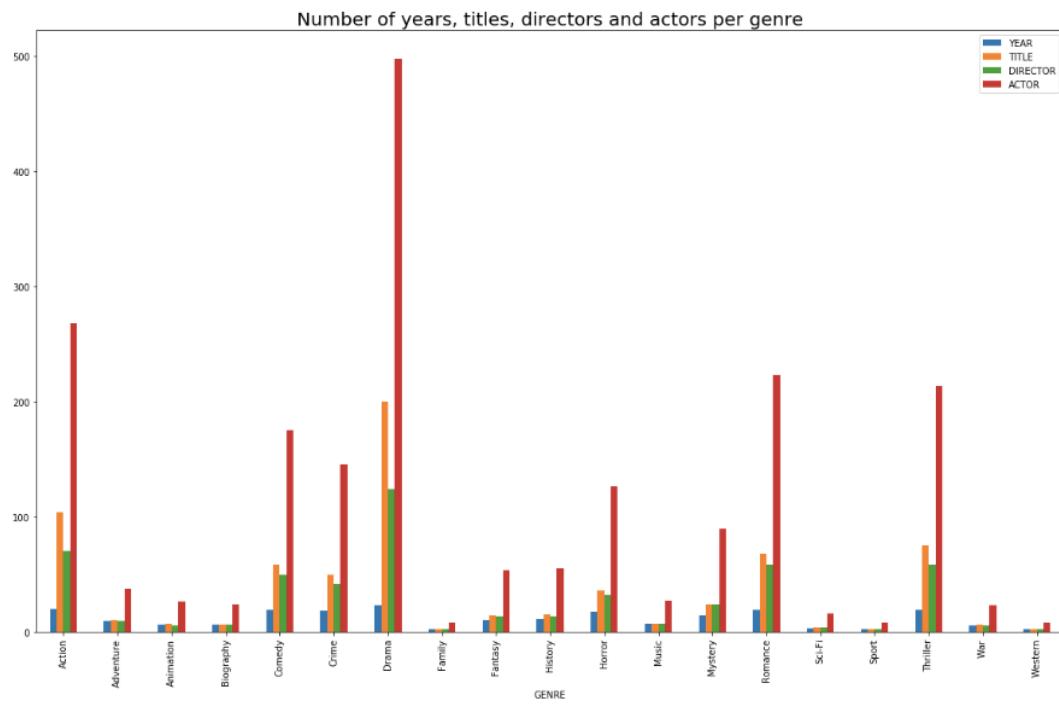
Grouping the dataframe by genre, we can see the numbers of years, titles, directors, and actors per genre:

Dataframe Grouped by Genre

	GENRE	YEAR	TITLE	DIRECTOR	ACTOR
0	Action	20	104	70	268
1	Adventure	9	10	9	37
2	Animation	6	7	5	26
3	Biography	6	6	6	24
4	Comedy	19	58	49	175
5	Crime	18	49	41	145
6	Drama	23	200	124	497
7	Family	2	2	2	8
8	Fantasy	10	14	13	53
9	History	11	15	13	55
10	Horror	17	36	32	126
11	Music	7	7	7	27
12	Mystery	14	24	24	89
13	Romance	19	68	58	223
14	Sci-Fi	3	4	4	16
15	Sport	2	2	2	8
16	Thriller	19	75	58	213
17	War	5	6	5	23
18	Western	2	2	2	8

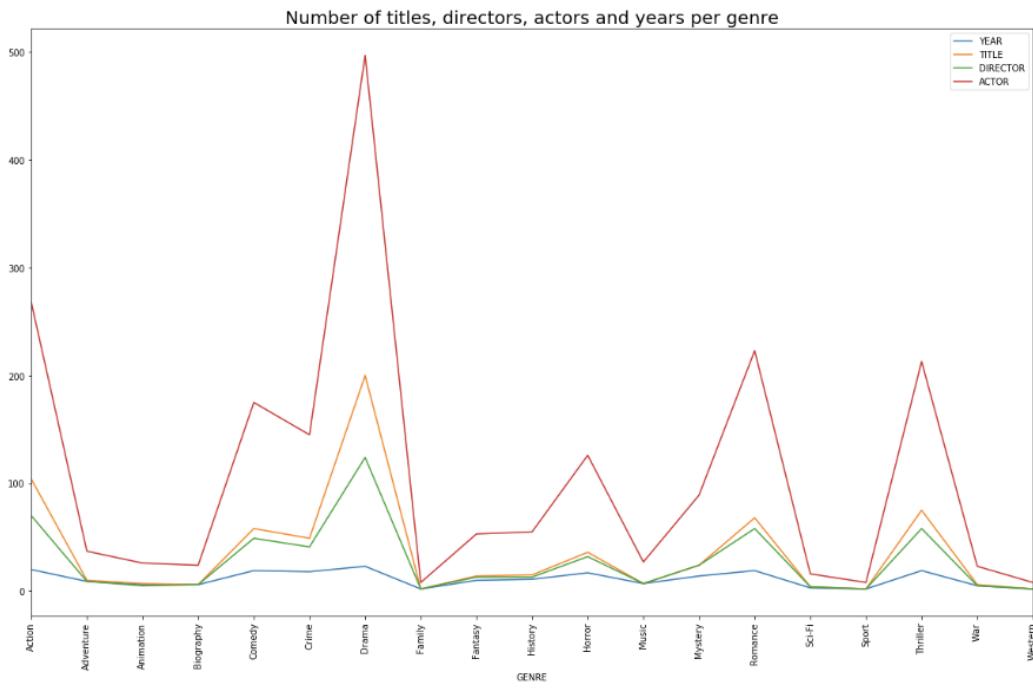
As we see, the genre "Drama" has the greatest number of titles, years, directors, and actors.

Bar plot Based on the Dataframe Grouped by Genre



Line plot Based on the Dataframe Grouped by Genre

5.



Classification by Director

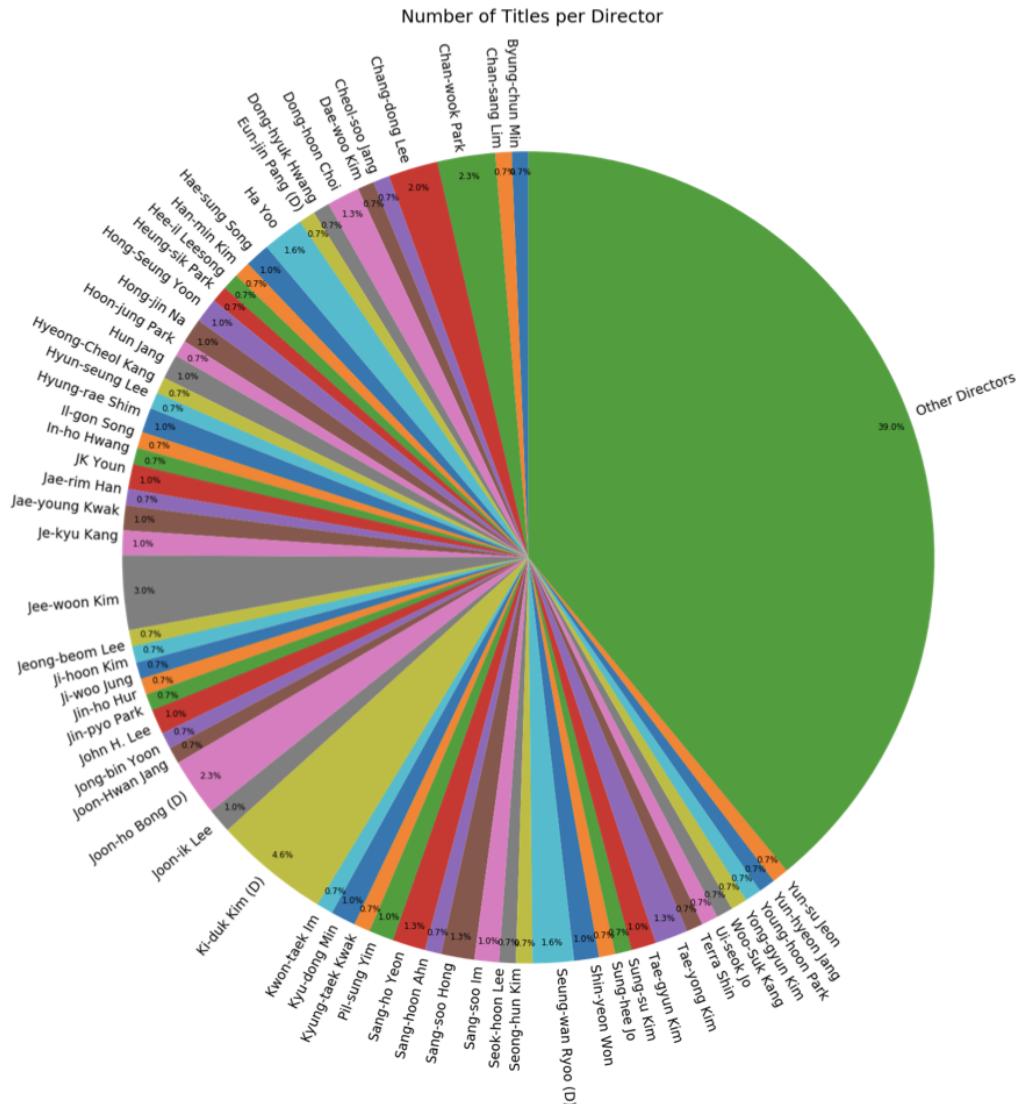
Grouping the dataframe by director, among the total number of 181 unique directors, we have combined all those directors who contributed to only one film and named the resulting row as "Other Directors."

Dataframe Grouped by Director

	DIRECTOR	YEAR	TITLE	ACTOR	GENRE
Total	Other Directors	119	119	471	254
109	Ki-duk Kim (D)	12	14	46	8
82	Jee-woon Kim	9	9	28	11
12	Chan-wook Park	6	7	23	8
103	Joon-ho Bong (D)	7	7	22	8
13	Chang-dong Lee	6	6	20	3
139	Seung-wan Ryoo (D)	5	5	16	5
36	Ha Yoo	5	5	19	6
130	Sang-soo Hong	4	4	14	1
153	Tae-yong Kim	4	4	16	4
128	Sang-ho Yeon	3	4	15	5
20	Dong-hoon Choi	4	4	11	6
96	John H. Lee	3	3	12	5
141	Shin-yeon Won	3	3	12	3
131	Sang-soo Im	3	3	10	3
126	Pil-sung Yim	3	3	11	6
81	Je-kyu Kang	3	3	11	4
79	Jae-young Kwak	3	3	10	4
104	Joon-ik Lee	3	3	11	2
73	JK Youn	3	3	11	5

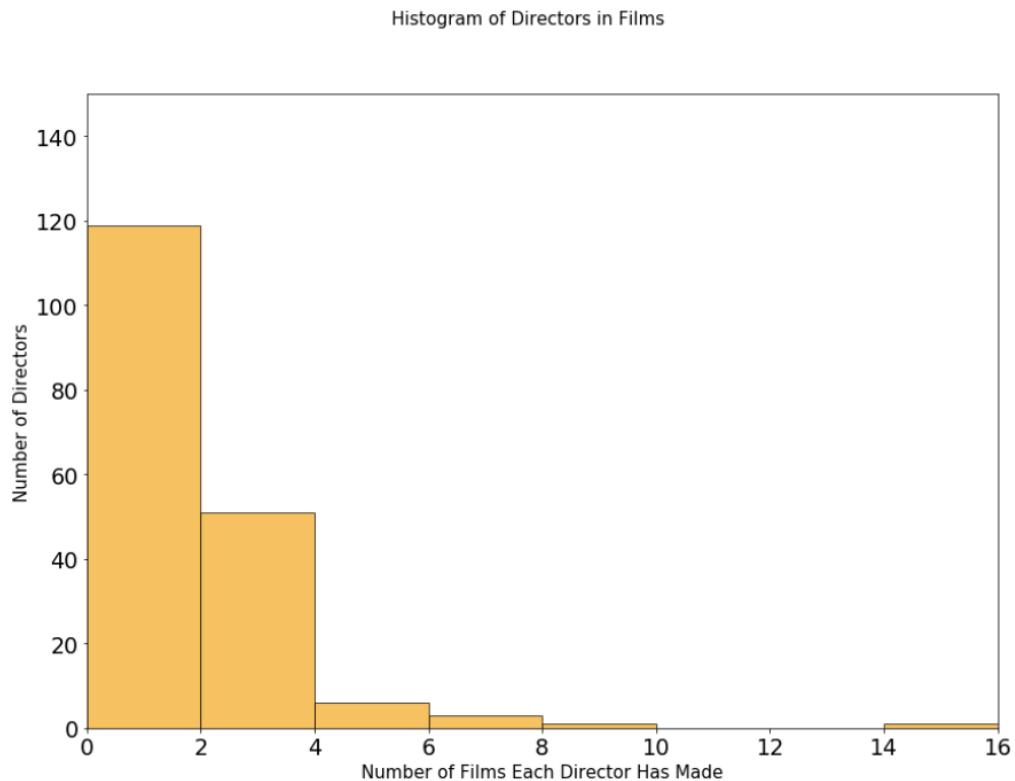
Then, we have plotted the pie chart, the histogram, and the wordcloud of directors. The top directors are Ki-duk Kim, Jee-woon Kim, and Joon-ho Bong.

Pie Chart Based on the Dataframe Grouped by Director



According to their histogram, near 120 directors contributed to only one film, and around 50 directors contributed to two or three films.

Histogram Based on the Dataframe Grouped by Director



Wordcloud Based on the Dataframe Grouped by Director

Wordcloud of Directors



6. Classification by Actor

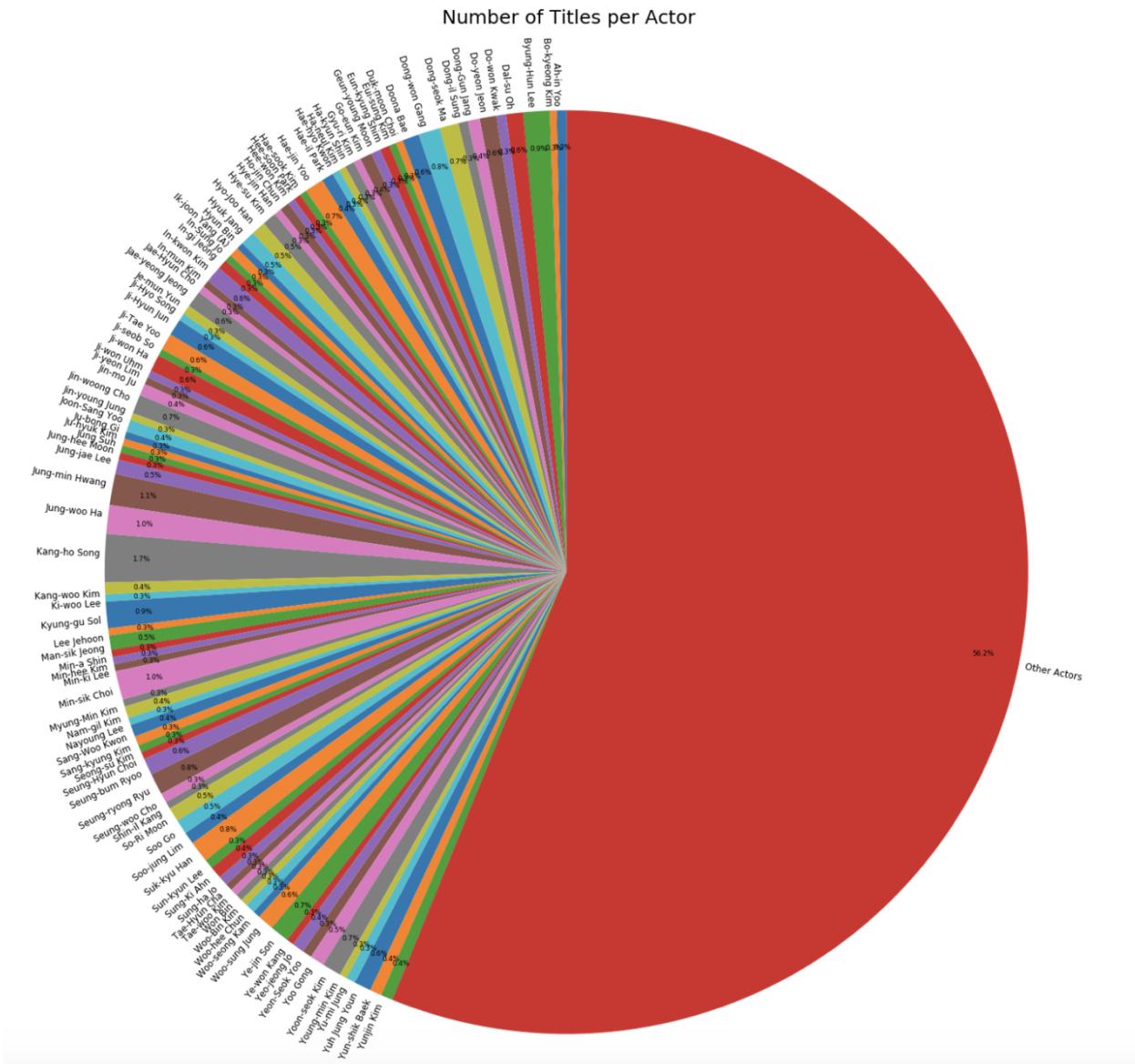
Grouping the dataframe by actor, among the 660 unique actors, we have combined those actors who contributed to less than three films into a new row, named "Other Actors."

Dataframe Grouped by Actor

	ACTOR	YEAR	DIRECTOR	TITLE	GENRE
Total	Other Actors	661	671	671	1397
344	Kang-ho Song	18	12	20	12
335	Jung-min Hwang	8	12	13	12
415	Min-sik Choi	11	9	12	11
337	Jung-woo Ha	10	9	12	6
373	Kyung-gu Sol	9	10	11	5
29	Byung-Hun Lee	9	8	11	9
84	Dong-won Gang	7	9	9	9
551	Suk-kyu Han	7	9	9	8
506	Seung-ryong Ryu	7	8	9	10
81	Dong-seok Ma	5	8	8	5
641	Yoon-seok Kim	8	6	8	8
289	Jin-woong Cho	4	7	8	8
609	Ye-jin Son	7	8	8	9
134	Hae-jin Yoo	7	6	8	5
265	Ji-Tae Yoo	5	7	7	10
212	In-kwon Kim	6	7	7	11
501	Seung-bum Ryoo	5	5	7	6
234	Jae-yeong Jeong	7	6	7	6
262	Ji-Hyun Jun	7	5	7	7

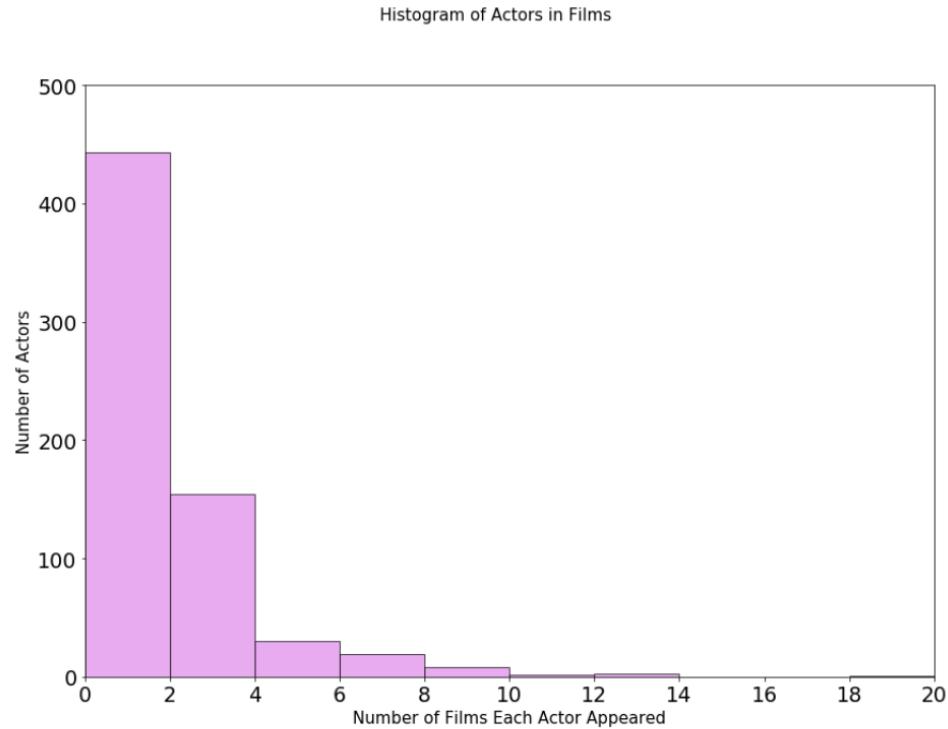
The corresponding pie chart, histogram, and wordcloud are shown below. Top actors are Kang-ho Song, Min-sik Choi, Jung-woo Ha and Jung-min Hwang.

Pie Chart Based on the Dataframe Grouped by Actor



According to the histogram, over 400 actors contributed to only one film, and over 150 actors contributed to two or three films.

Histogram Based on the Dataframe Grouped by Actor



Wordcloud Based on the Dataframe Grouped by Actor

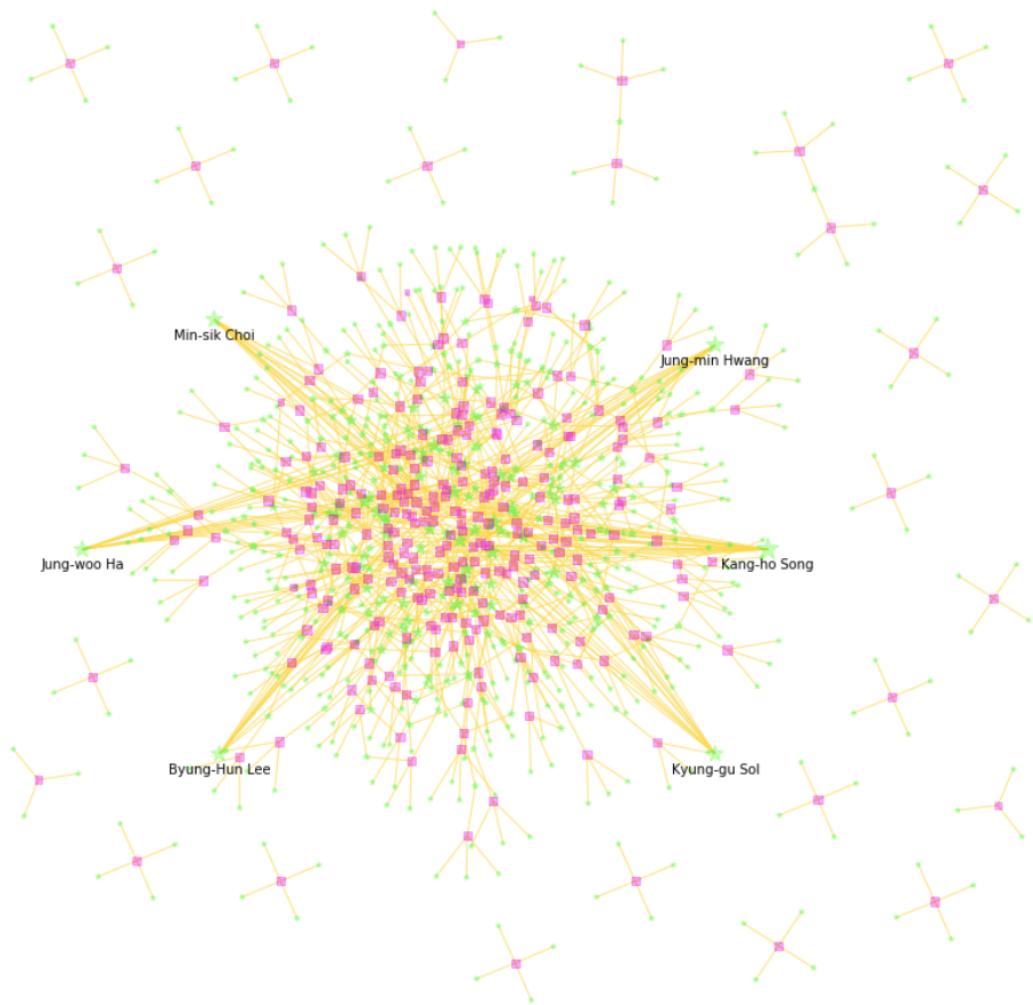
Wordcloud of Actors



7. The Bipartite Graph of Titles vs. Actors

This bipartite graph of titles vs. actors has 962 nodes, 302 titles and 660 actors, and 1195 edges (associations between titles and actors). This graph is not connected and has 25 connected components. The largest connected component has 837 nodes and 1094 edges. The 837 nodes of the largest connected component are 276 titles and 561 actors. Star-shaped nodes (lime color) are actors and square nodes (magenta color) are titles.

The Graph of Titles vs. Actors
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of actors starring in more than 10 titles are shown)



On the largest connected component of the bipartite graph of titles vs. actor, we have pruned (removed) those actors with degree 1 (i.e., being associated with a single title).

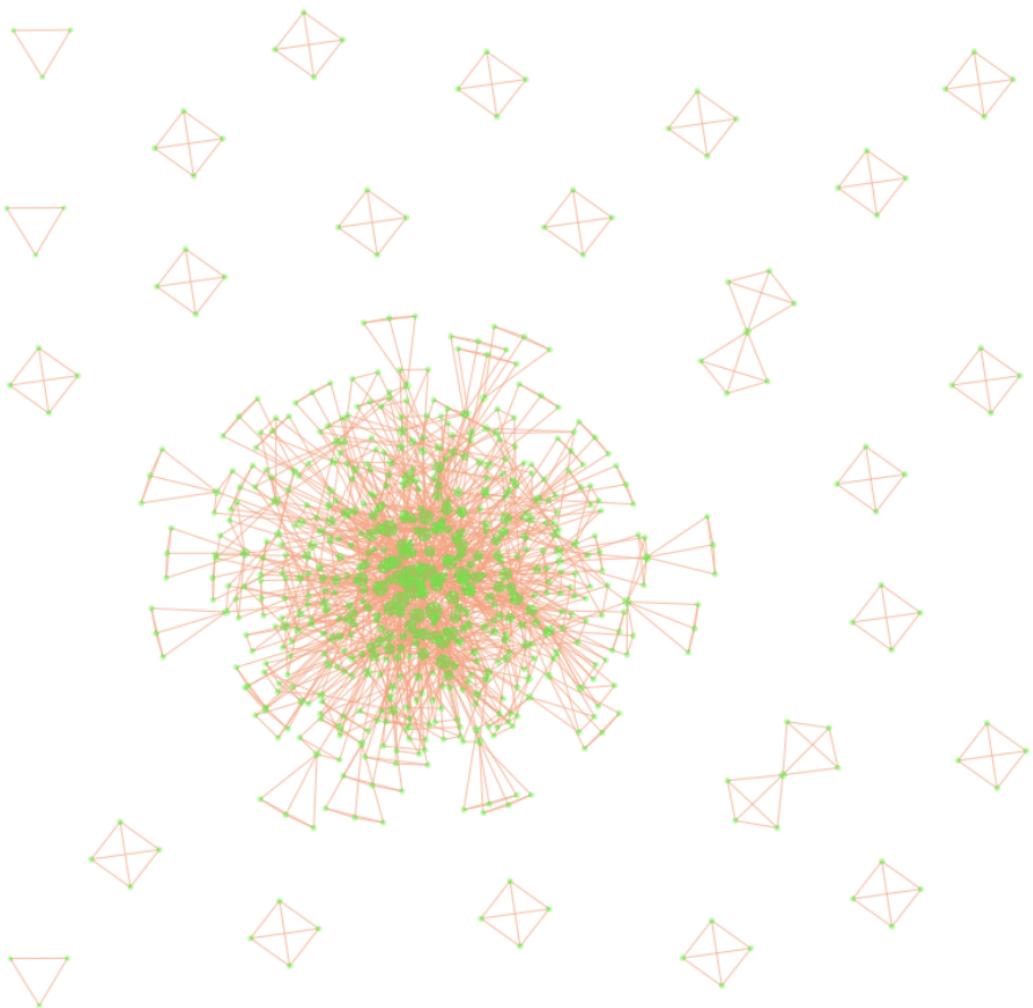
The pruned largest connected component of the
graph of Titles vs. Actors
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of titles connected to other titles by actors are shown)



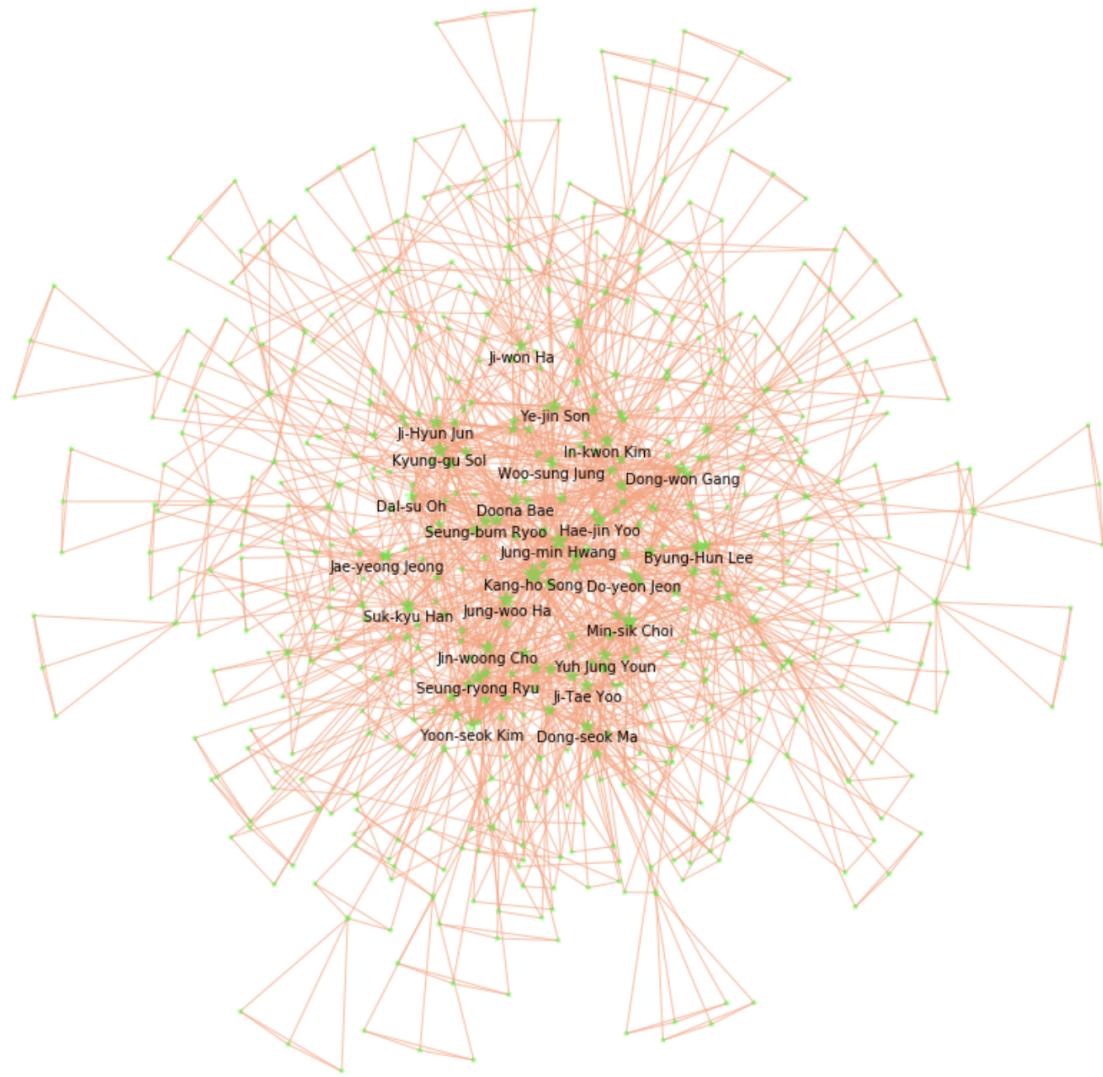
7.1. Network of Actors Starring in Common Titles (Co-Actorship by Titles Network)

Projecting the bipartite graph of titles vs. actors on actors, the projected multigraph (or weighted graph) has 660 nodes (actors) and 1779 edges (co-actorships by titles), i.e., pairs of actors starring in the same film. This graph is not connected and it has 25 connected components. The largest connected component has 561 nodes (actors) and 1632 edges (co-actorships by titles).

The Co-Actorship (by titles) Graph
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies



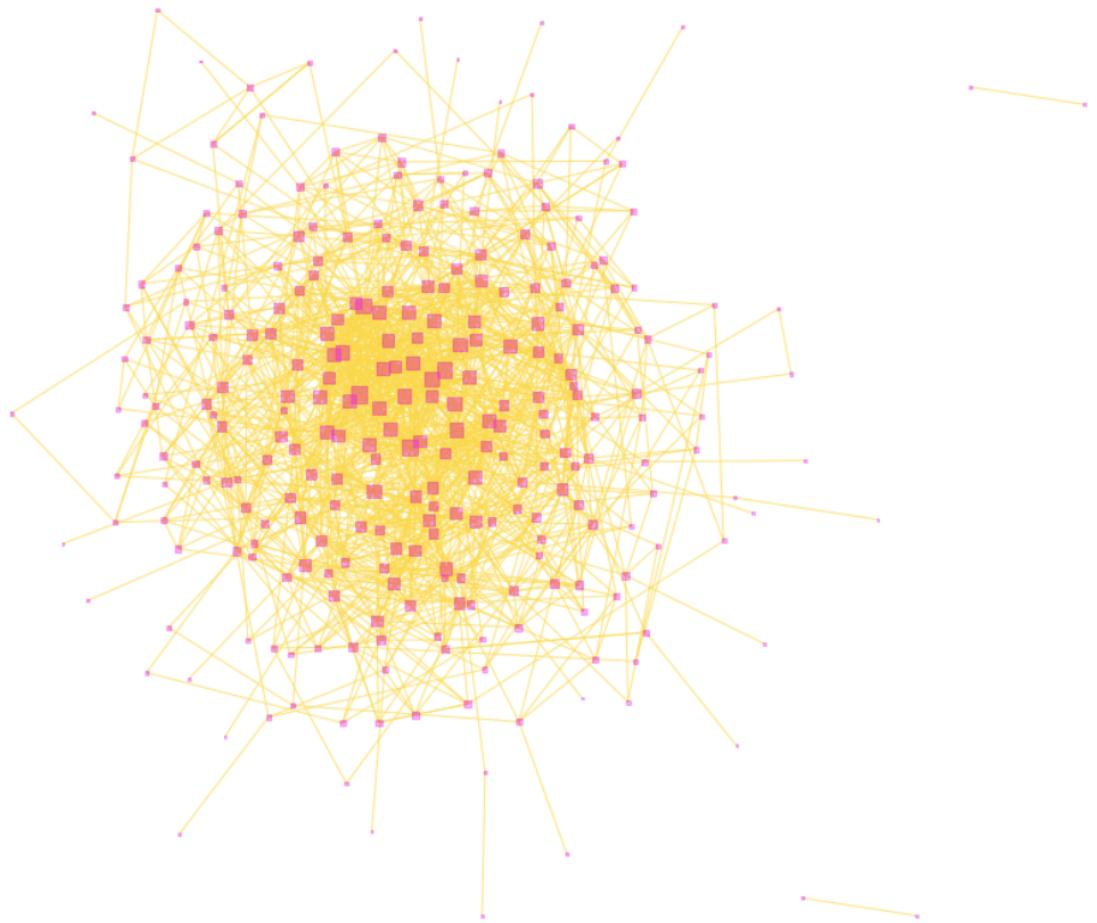
The Largest Connected Component of the Co-Actorship (by titles) Graph
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of actors in more than 20 co-actorships are shown)



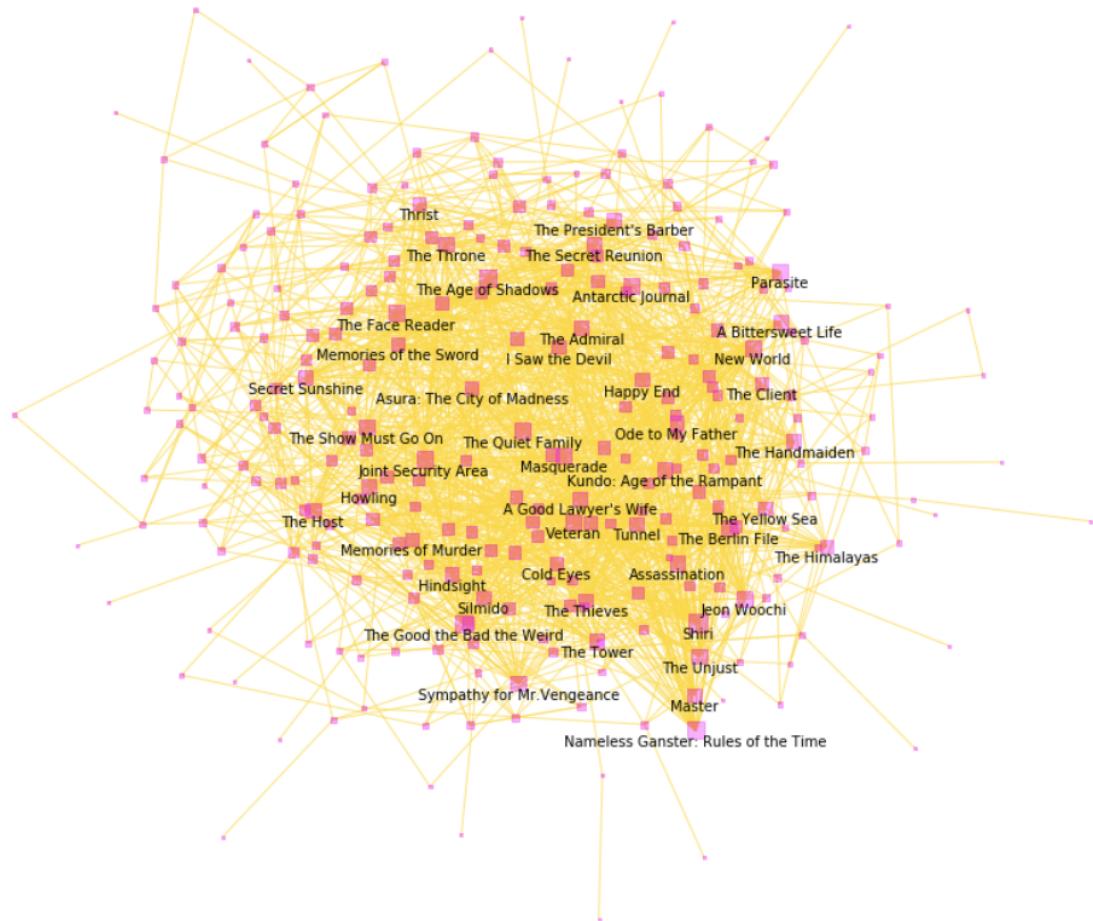
7.2. Network of Titles with Common Actors

Projecting the bipartite graph of titles vs. actors on titles, the projected multigraph (or weighted graph) of titles with common actors has 280 nodes (titles) and 1569 edges (i.e., pairs of titles with common actors). This graph is not connected and it has 3 connected components. The largest connected component has 276 nodes (titles) and 1567 edges (i.e., pairs of titles with common actors).

The Graph of Titles with Common Actors
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies



The Largest Connected Component of the Graph of Titles with Common Actors
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of titles with more than 20 common actors are shown)



8. The Bipartite Graph of Titles vs. Genres

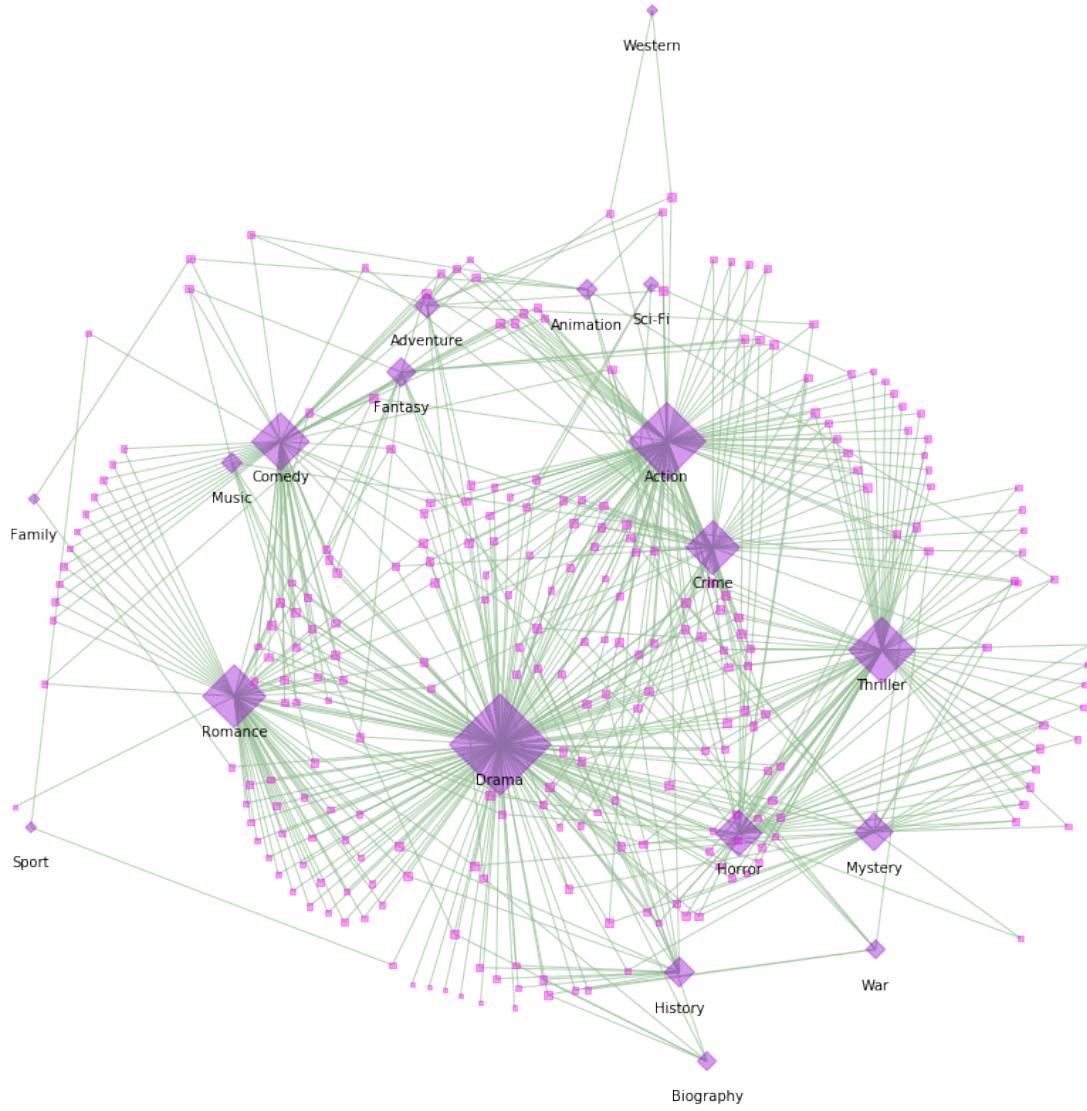
The bipartite graph of titles vs. genres has 321 nodes (302 titles and 19 genres) and 689 edges (associations between titles and genres). This graph is connected. Diamond shaped nodes (violet color) are genres and square nodes (magenta color) are titles.

The Graph of Titles vs. Genres
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of genres are shown)



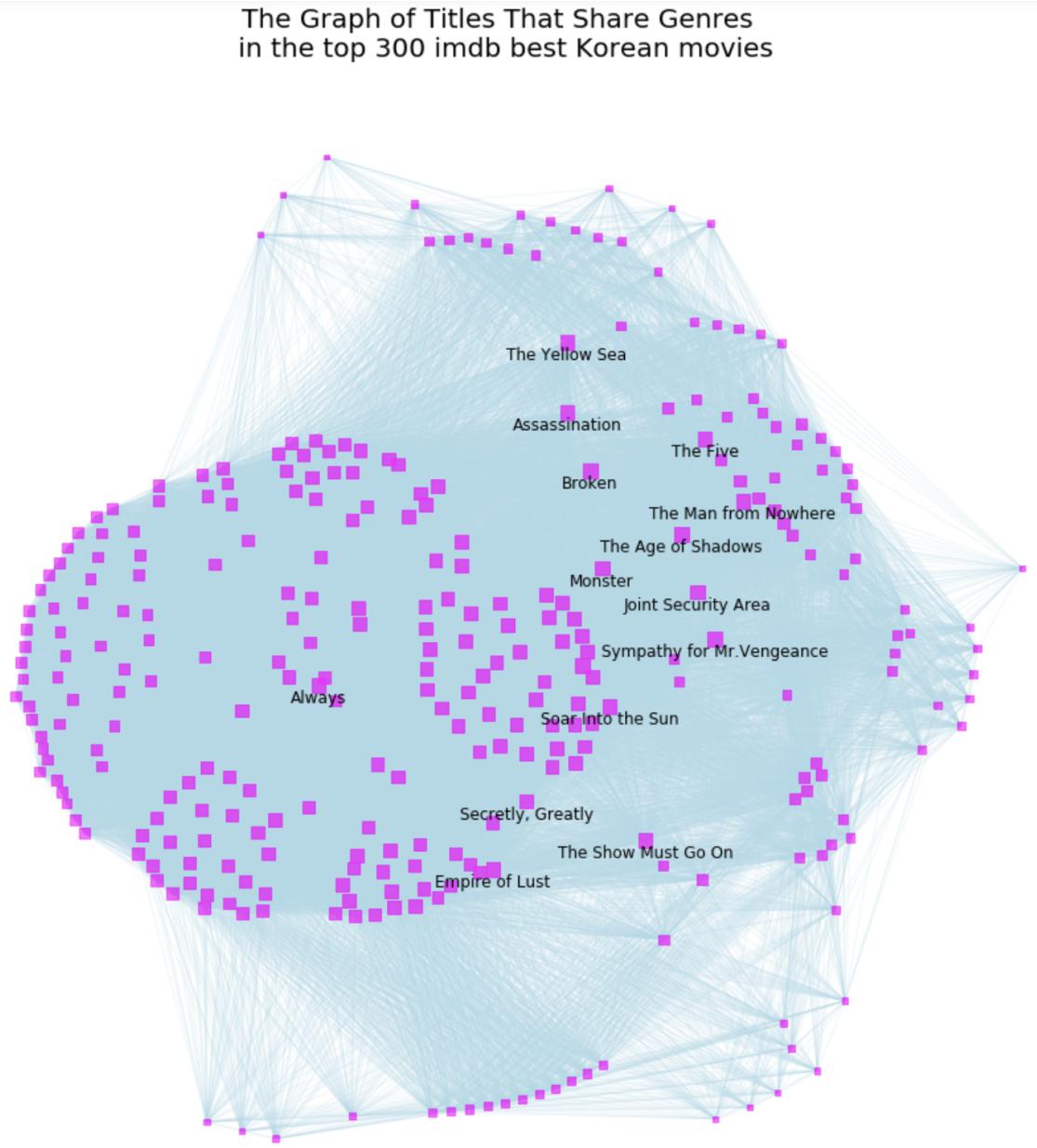
On the largest connected component of the bipartite graph of titles vs. genres, we have pruned (removed) those titles with degree 1 (i.e., being associated with a single genre).

The pruned largest connected component of the
graph of titles vs. genres
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of genres are shown)



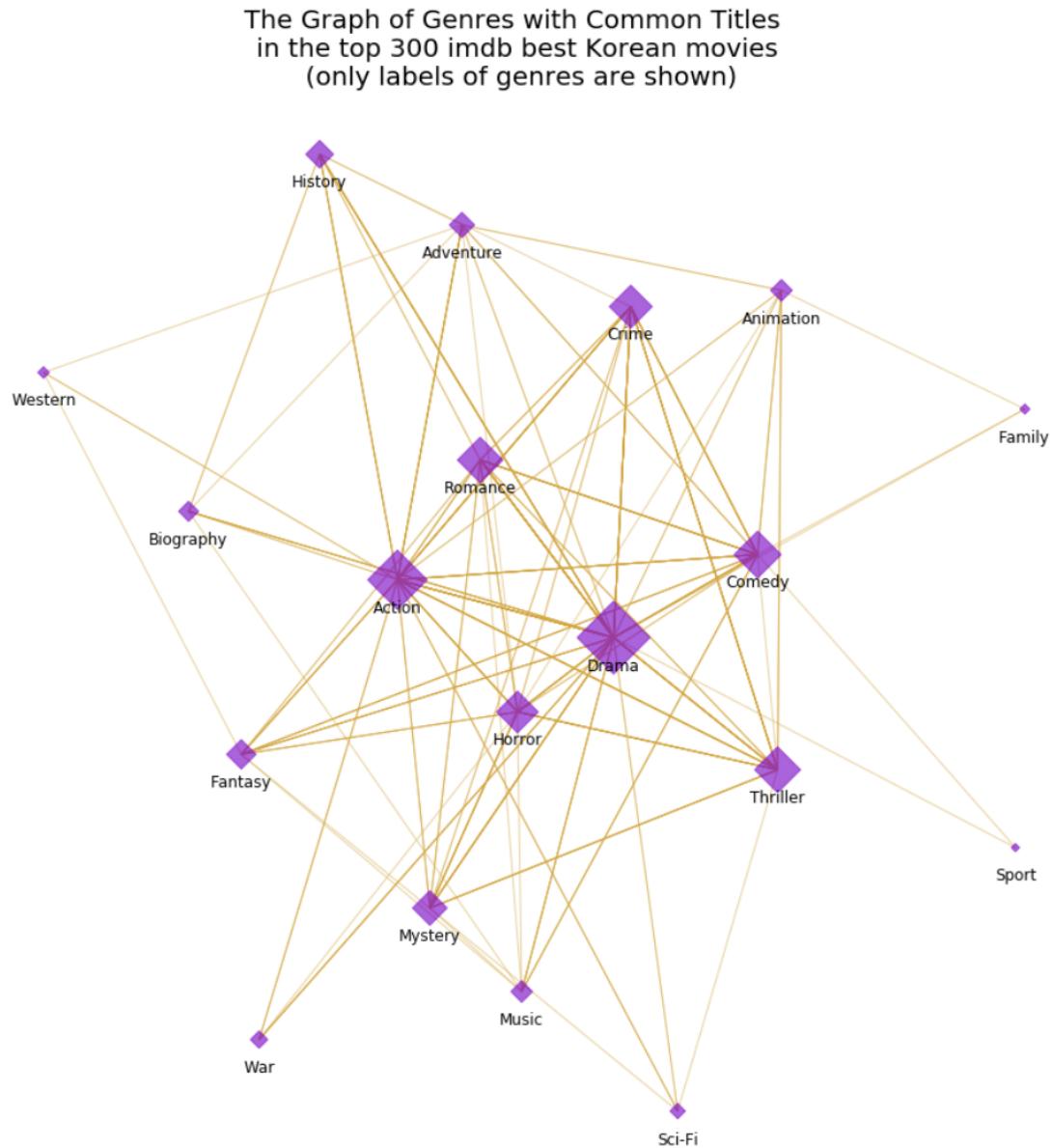
8.1. Network of Titles in Common Genres

Projecting the bipartite graph of titles vs. genres on titles, the projected multigraph (or weighted graph) of titles that share genres has 302 nodes (titles) and 34347 edges (i.e., pairs of titles with common genres). This graph is connected. Each node is connected to a large number of other nodes so that the visualization of the connection is not so clear.



8.2. Network of Genres With Common Titles

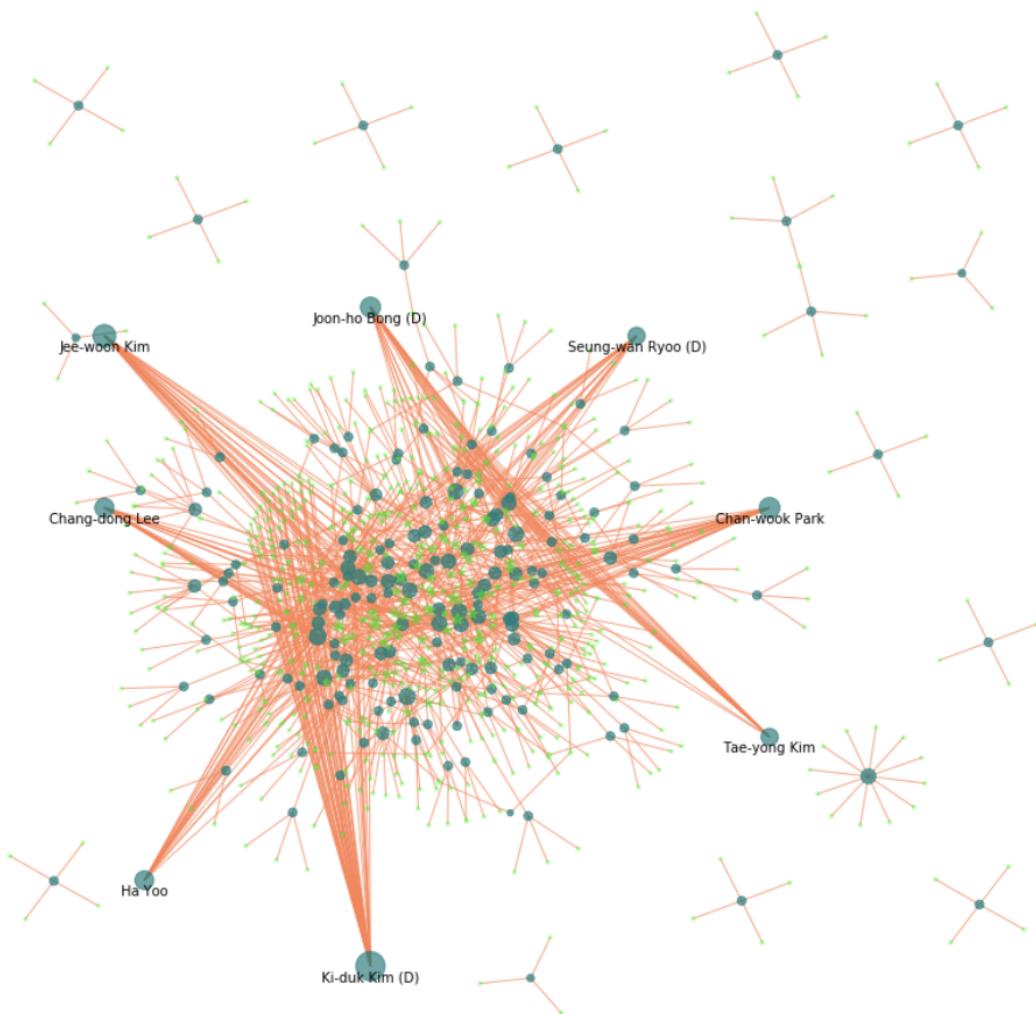
Projecting the bipartite graph of titles vs. genres on genres, the projected multigraph (or weighted graph) of genres with common titles has 302 nodes (titles) and 34347 edges (i.e., pairs of titles with common genres). This graph is connected.



9. The Bipartite Graph of Directors vs. Actors

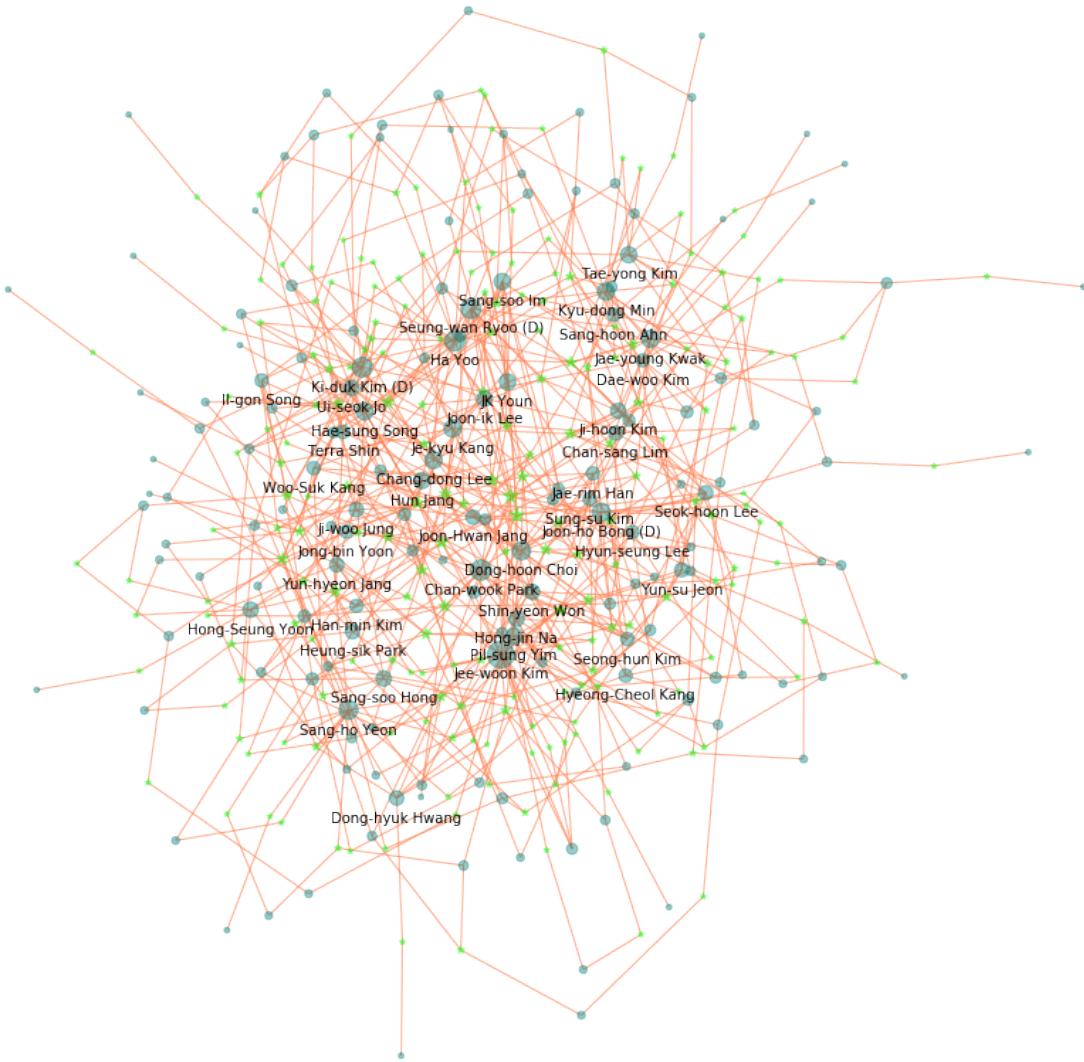
This bipartite graph of directors vs. actors has 841 nodes, 181 directors and 660 actors, and 1147 edges (associations between directors and actors). This graph is not connected and has 17 connected components. The largest connected component has 752 nodes and 1074 edges. The 752 nodes of the largest connected component are 164 directors and 588 actors. Circle nodes (teal color) are directors and star-shaped nodes (lime color) are actors.

The Graph of Directors vs. Actors
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of directors with more than 15 common actors are shown)



On the largest connected component of the bipartite graph of directors vs. actors, we have pruned (removed) those actors with degree 1 (i.e., being associated with a single director).

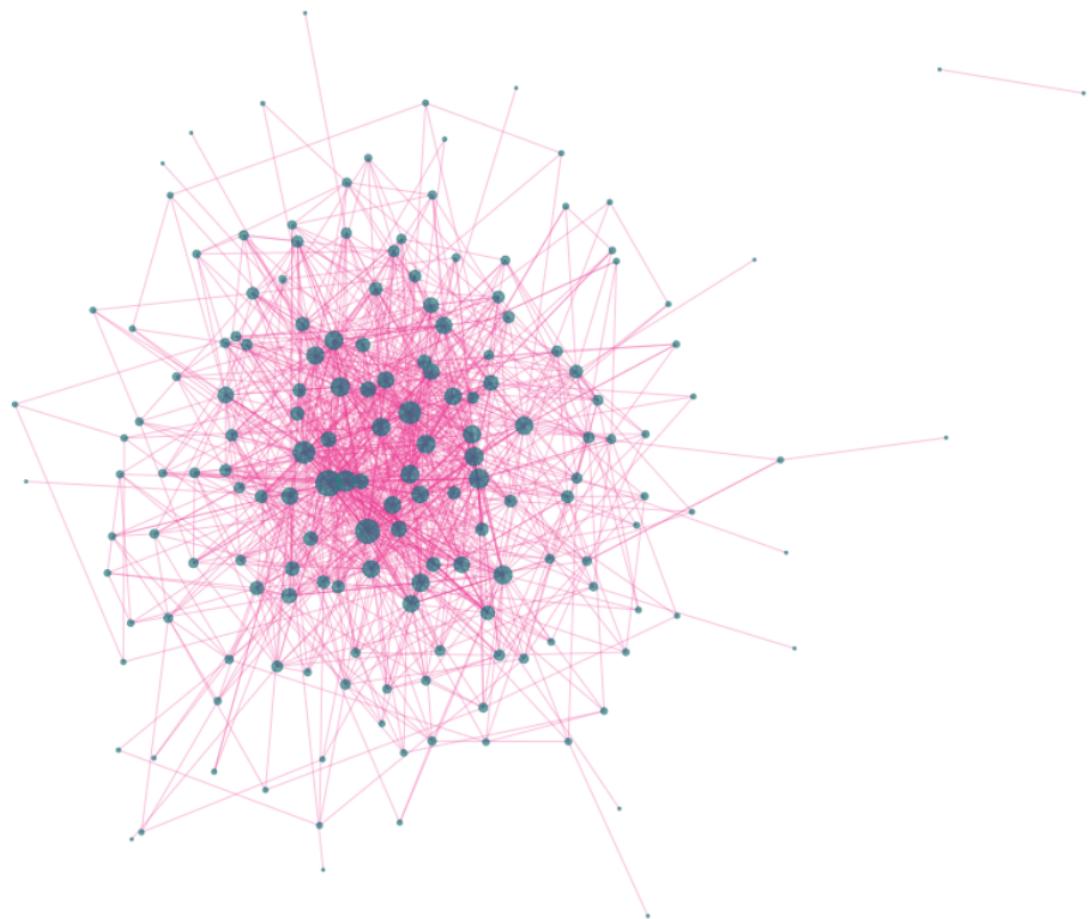
The pruned largest connected component of the
graph of Directors vs. Actors
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of directors with more than five common actors are shown)



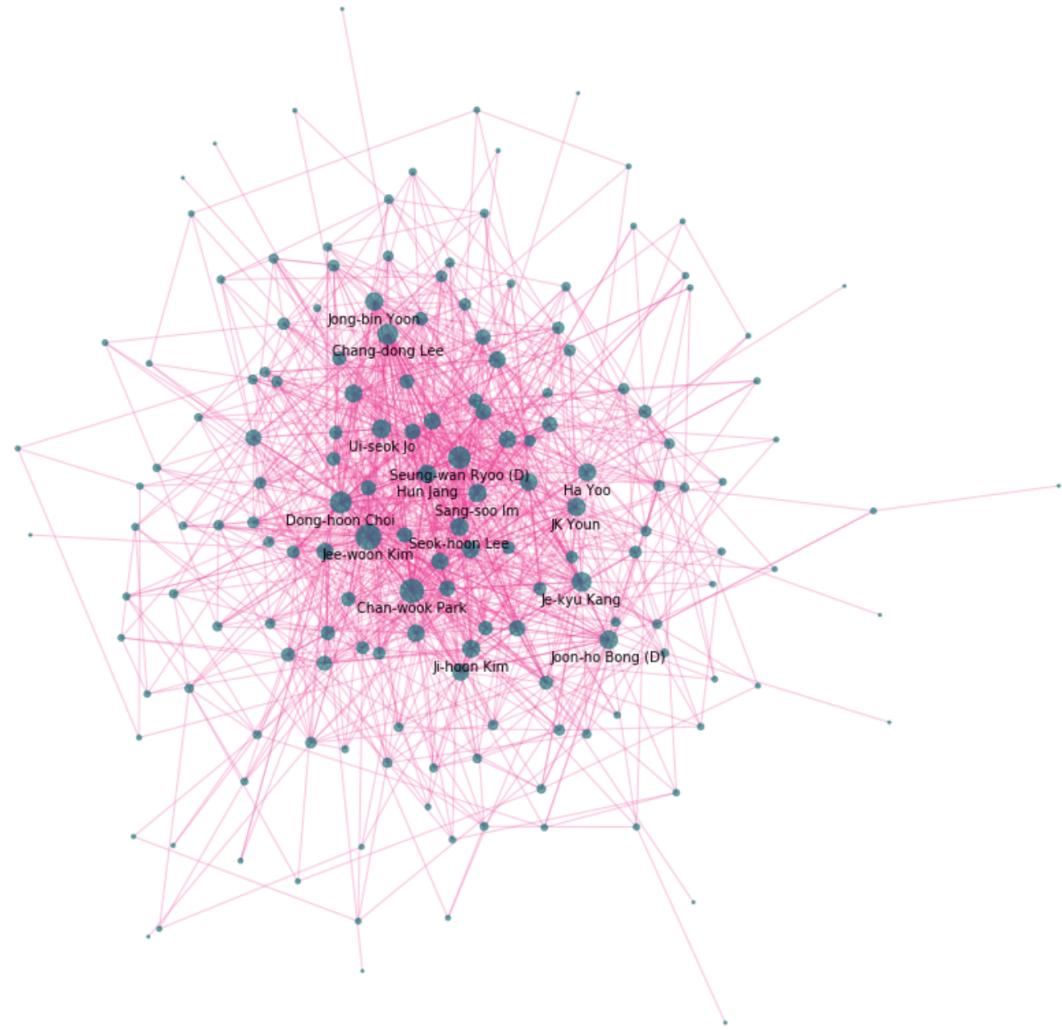
9.1. Network of Directors with Common Actors (Co-Directorship by Actors Network)

Projecting the bipartite graph of directors vs. actors on directors, the projected multigraph (or weighted graph) has 166 nodes (directors) and 1204 edges (i.e., pairs of directors with common actors, called co-directorships by actors). This graph is not connected and it has 2 connected components. The largest connected component has 164 nodes (directors) and 1203 edges (co-directorships by actors).

The Co-Directorship (by actors) Graph
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies



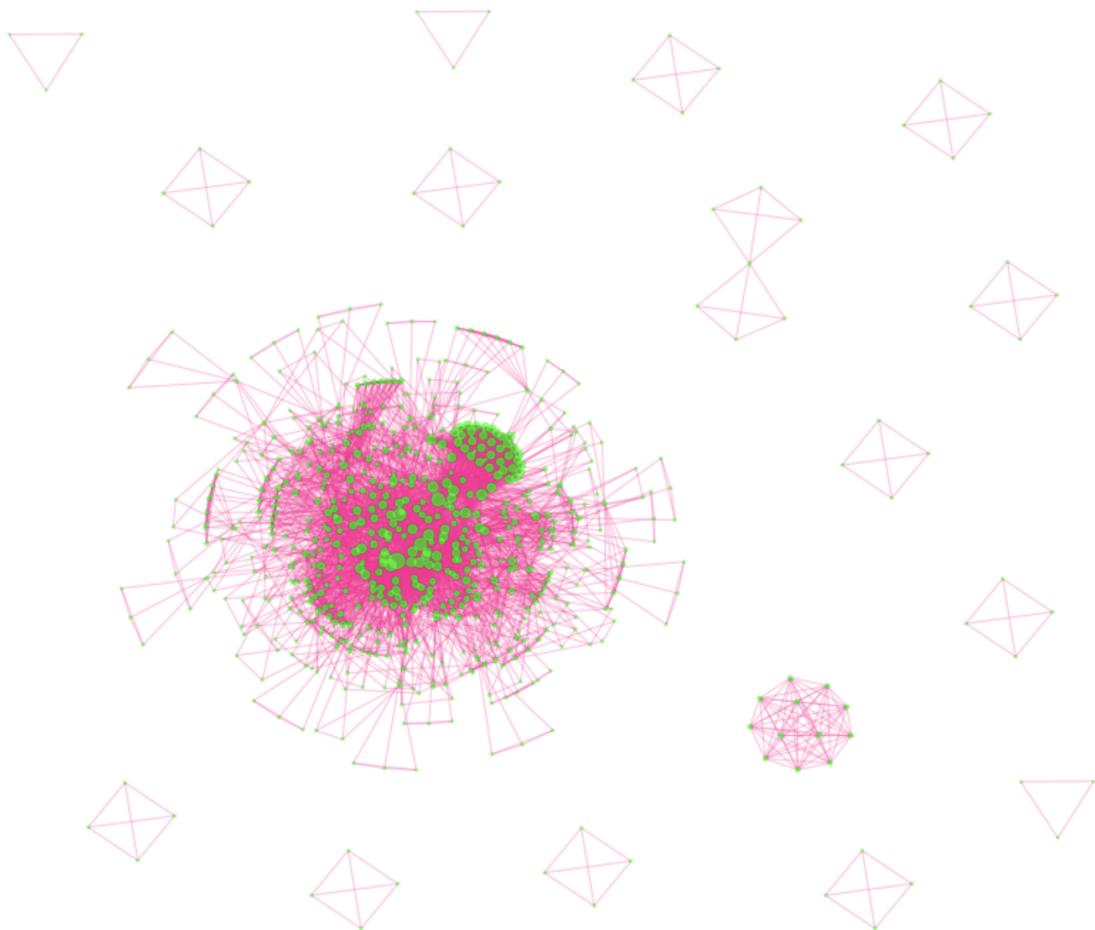
The Largest Connected Component of the Co-Directorship (by actors) Graph
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of directors that share actors with more than 35 directors are shown)



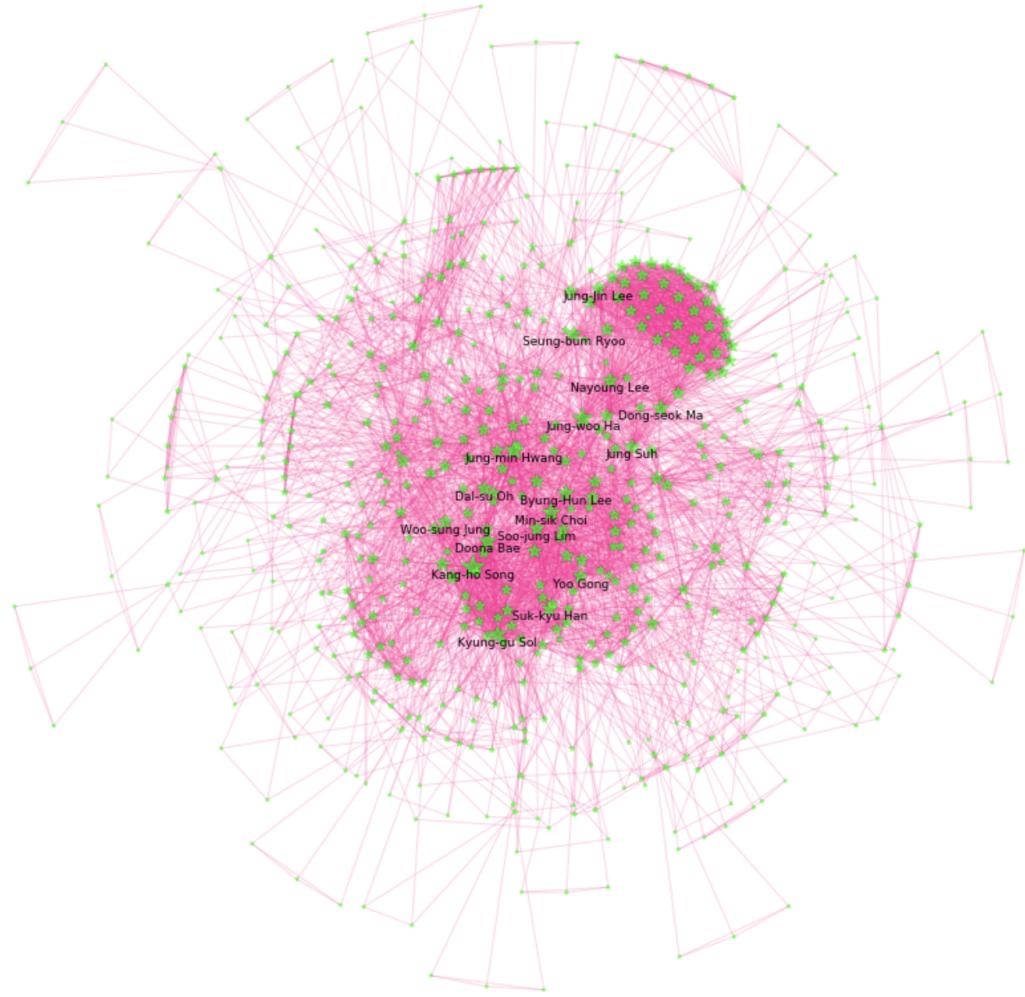
9.2. Network of Actors with Common Directors (Co-Actorship by Directors Network)

Projecting the bipartite graph of directors vs. actors on actors, the projected multigraph (or weighted graph) has 660 nodes (directors) and 5248 edges (i.e., pairs of actors with common directors, called co-actorships by directors). This graph is not connected and it has 17 connected components. The largest connected component has 588 nodes (actors) and 5095 edges (co-actorships by directors).

The Co-Actorship (by directors) Graph
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies

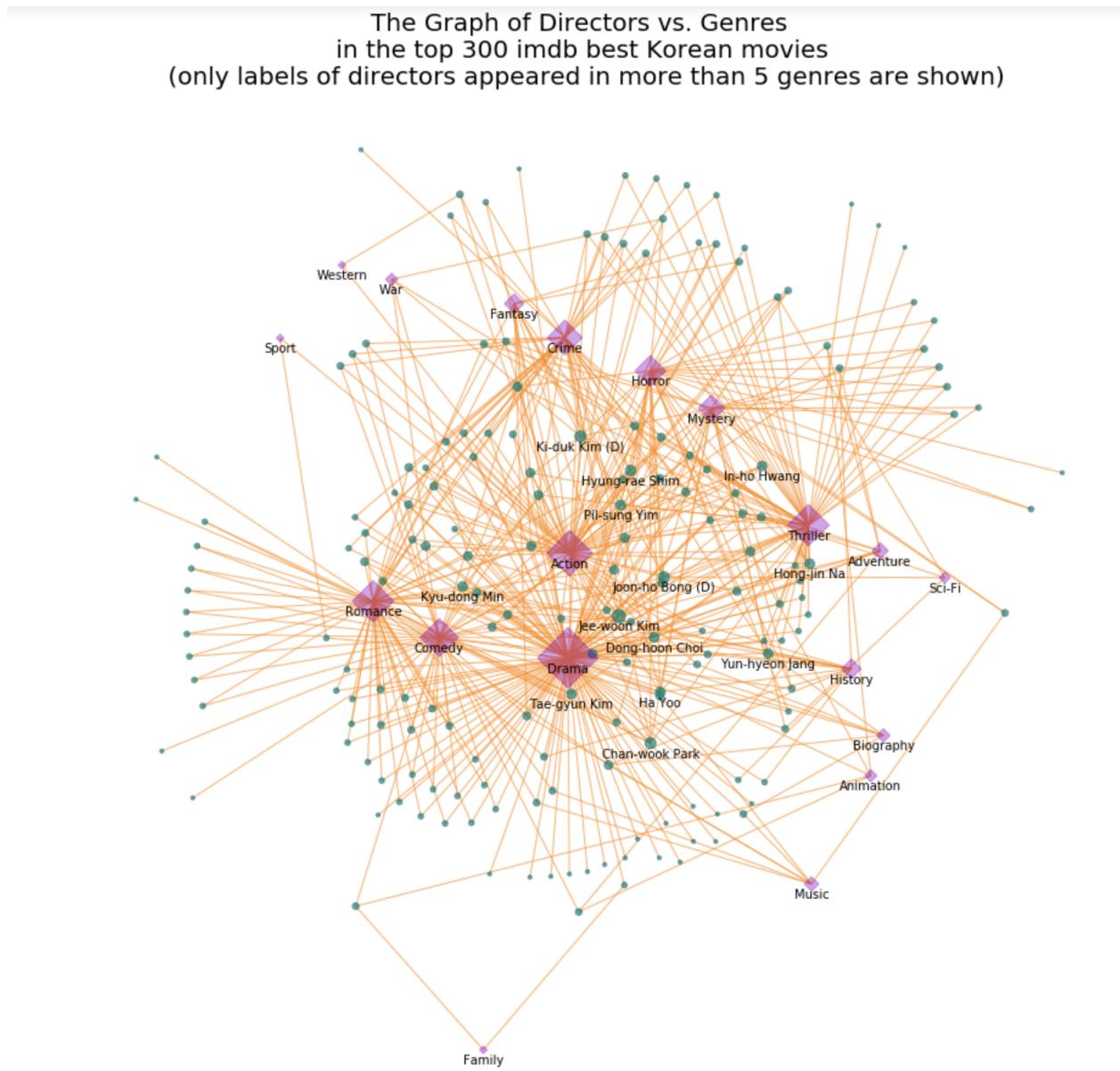


The Largest Connected Component of the Co-Actorship (by directors) Graph
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of actors that share directors with more than 60 actors are shown)



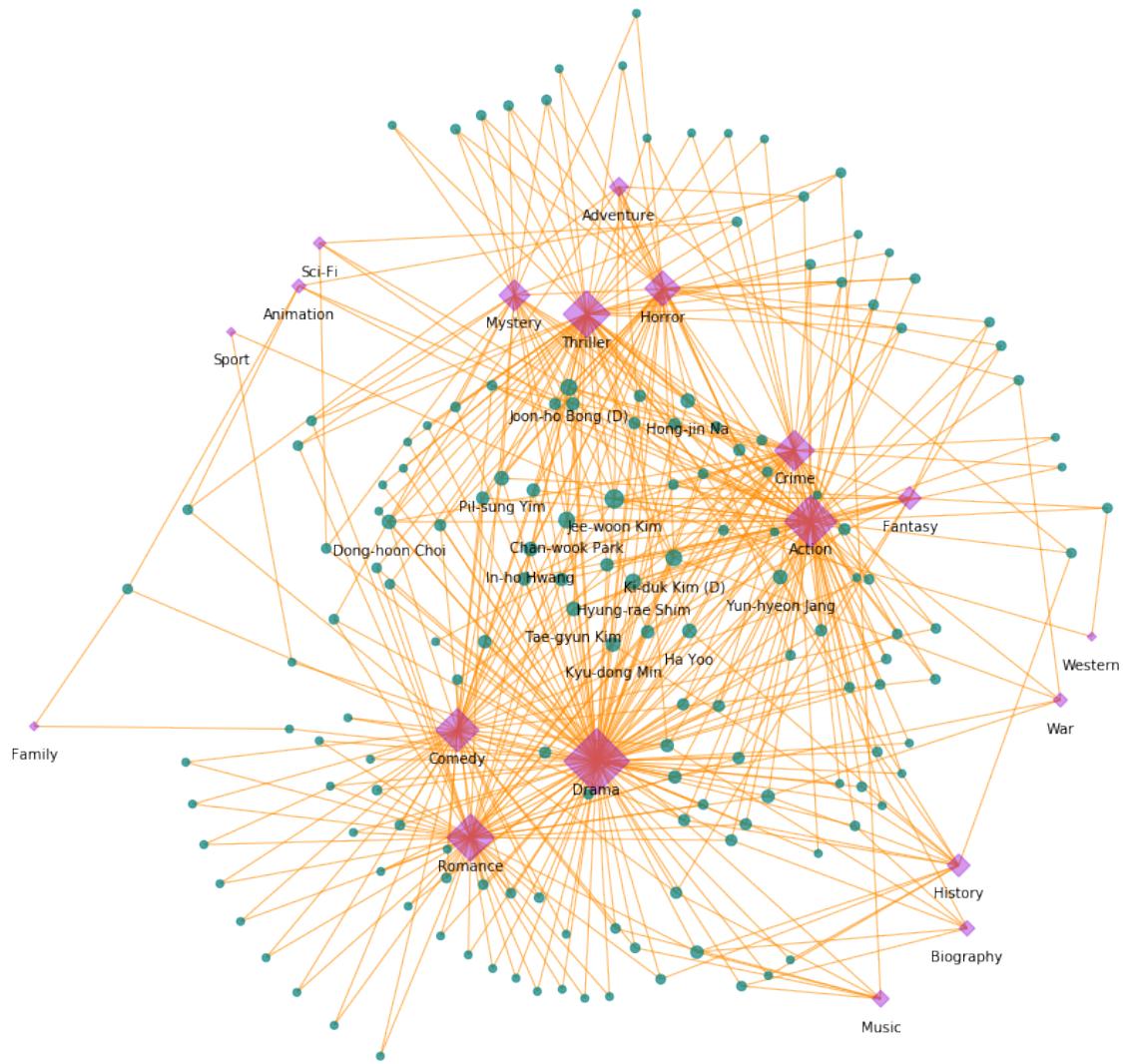
10. The Bipartite Graph of Directors vs. Genres

This bipartite graph of directors vs. genres has 200 nodes, 181 directors and 19 genres, and 524 edges (associations between directors and genres). This graph is connected. Circle nodes (teal color) are directors and diamond-shaped nodes (violet color) are genres.



On the largest connected component of the bipartite graph of directors vs. genres, we have pruned (removed) those directors with degree 1 (i.e., being associated with a single genre).

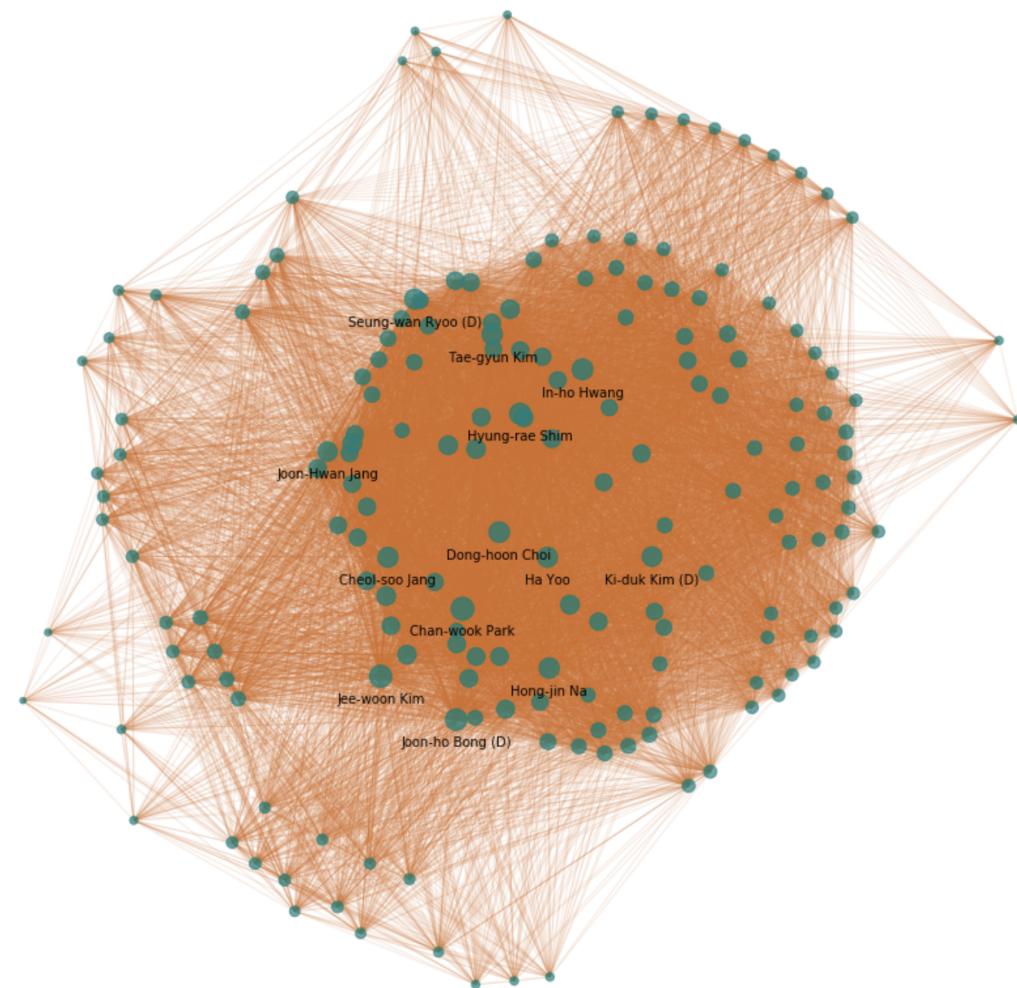
The pruned largest connected component of the
graph of Directors vs. Genres
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies



10.1. Network of Directors with Common Genres

Projecting the bipartite graph of directors vs. genres on directors, the projected multigraph (or weighted graph) has 181 nodes (directors) and 15787 edges (i.e., pairs of directors with common genres).

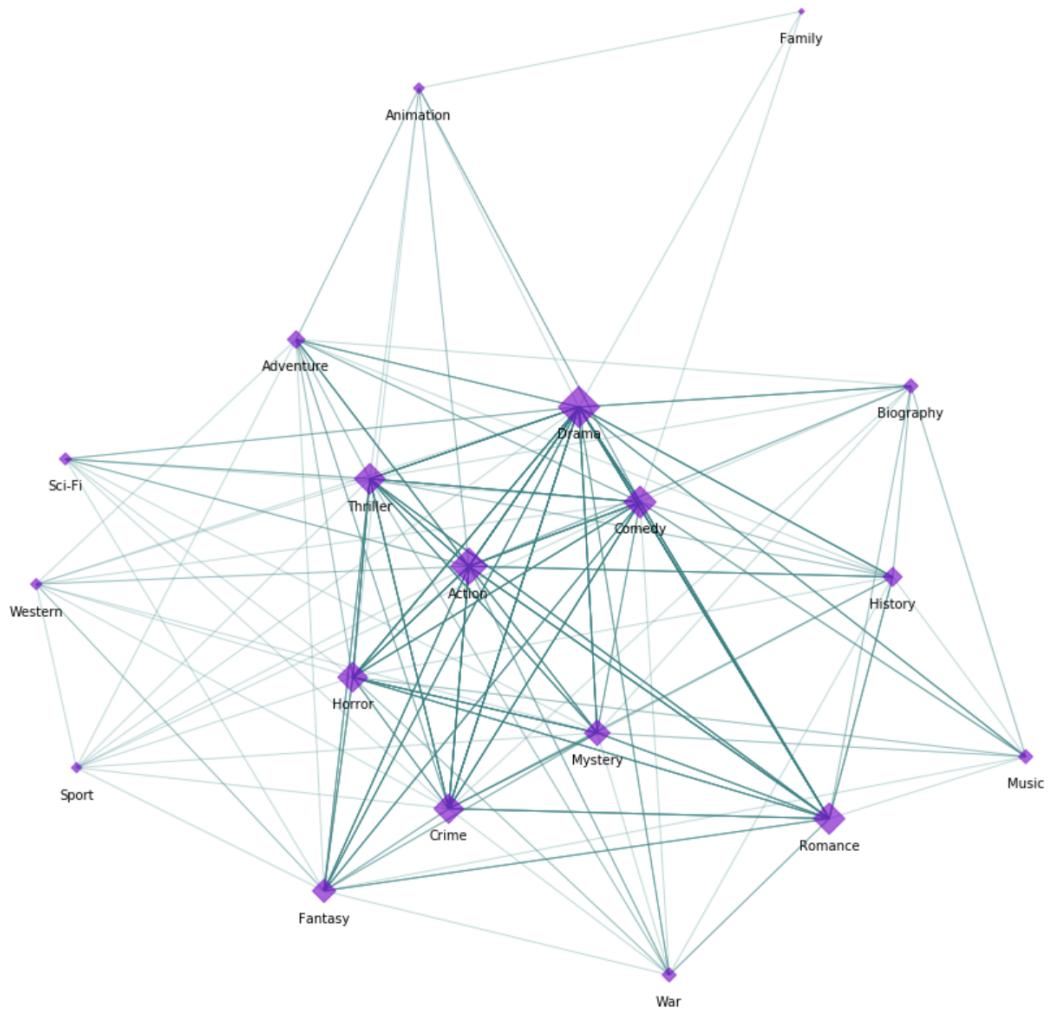
The Graph of Co-Directorship (by genres)
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of directors that share genres with more than 280 directors are shown)



10.2. Network of Genres with Common Directors

Projecting the bipartite graph of directors vs. genres on genres, the projected multigraph (or weighted graph) has 19 nodes (genres) and 523 edges (i.e., pairs of genres with common directors).

The Graph of Genres with Common Directors
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies
(only labels of genres are shown)



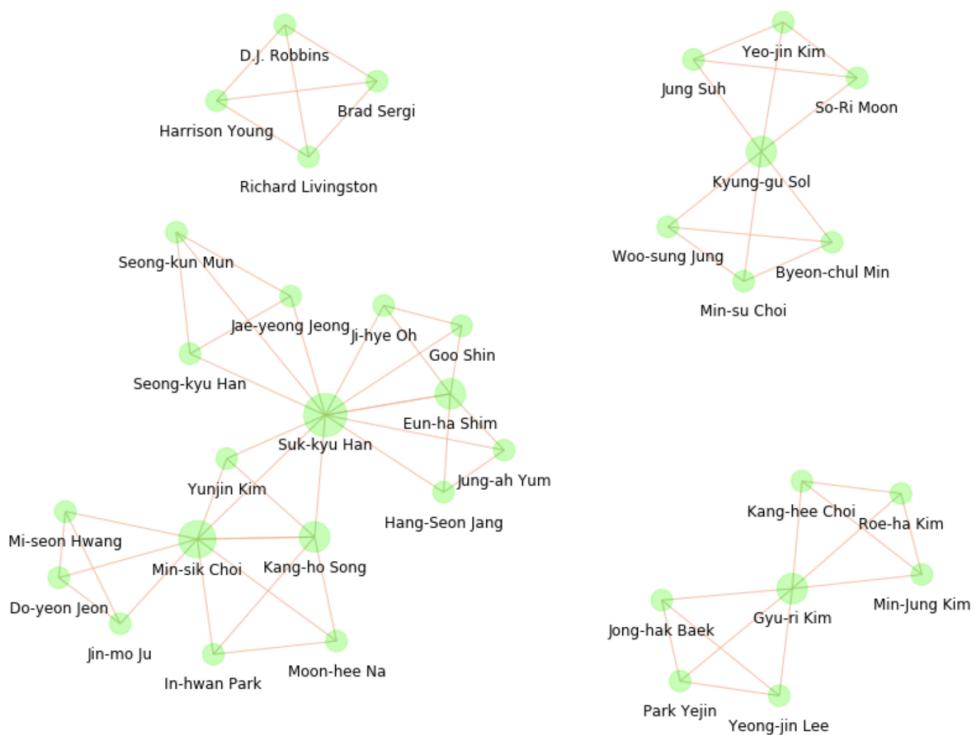
11. Longitudinal Co-Actorship (by Titles) Networks

We have divided the time period of 1997-2019 into six subperiods: 1997-1999, 2000-2003, 2004-2007, 2008-2011, 2012-2015, and 2016-2019. For each time period, we have considered the corresponding co-actorship (by titles) graph, called longitudinal co-actorship (by titles) network.

11.1. 1997-1999: Longitudinal Co-Actorship (by Titles) Network

The co-actorship (by titles) multigraph (or weighted graph) in the period 1997-99 has 35 nodes (actors) and 66 edges (co-actorships by titles, i.e., pairs of actors starring in the same film). This graph is not connected and it has 4 connected components. The largest connected component has 17 nodes (actors) and 36 edges (co-actorships by titles).

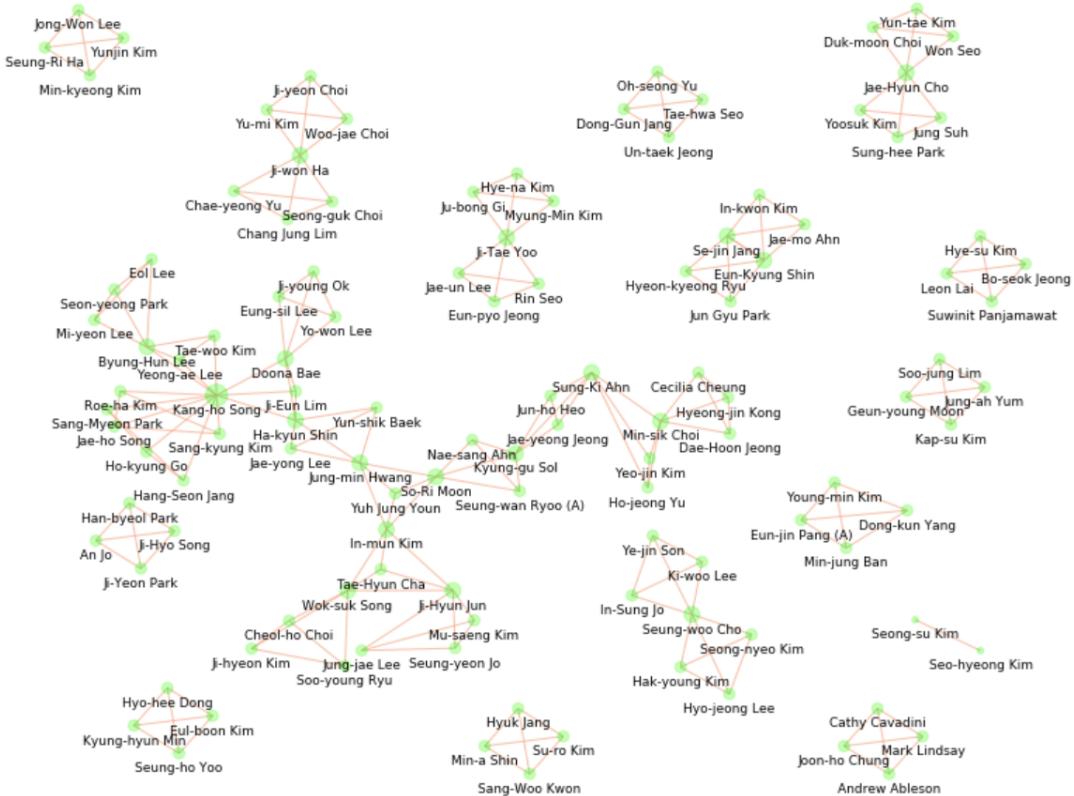
The Co-Actorship (by titles) Graph in the period 1997-99
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies



11.2. 2000-2003: Longitudinal Co-Actorship (by Titles) Network

The co-actorship (by titles) multigraph (or weighted graph) in the period 2000-03 has 118 nodes (actors) and 205 edges (co-actorships by titles, i.e., pairs of actors starring in the same film). This graph is not connected and it has 16 connected components. The largest connected component has 46 nodes (actors) and 90 edges (co-actorships by titles).

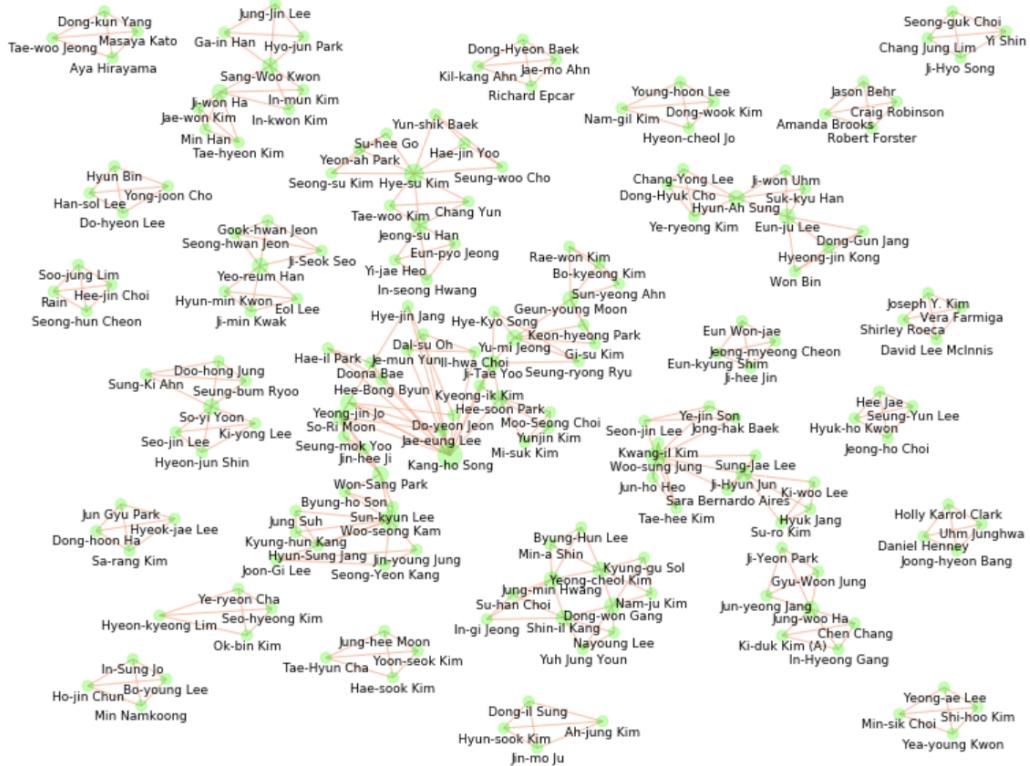
**The Co-Actorship (by titles) Graph in the period 2000-03
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies**



11.3. 2004-2007: Longitudinal Co-Actorship (by Titles) Network

The co-actorship (by titles) multigraph (or weighted graph) in the period 2004-07 has 186 nodes (actors) and 324 edges (co-actorships by titles, i.e., pairs of actors starring in the same film). This graph is not connected and it has 26 connected components. The largest connected component has 39 nodes (actors) and 78 edges (co-actorships by titles).

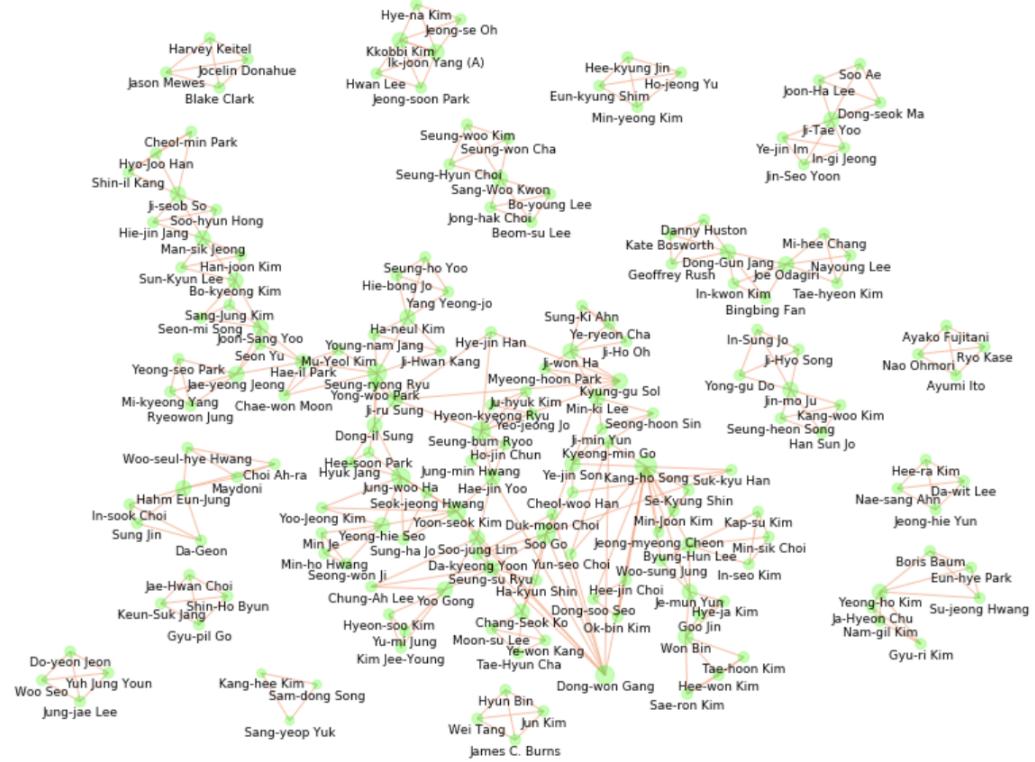
**The Co-Actorship (by titles) Graph in the period 2004-07
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies**



11.4. 2008-2011: Longitudinal Co-Actorship (by Title) Networks

The co-actorship (by titles) multigraph (or weighted graph) in the period 2008-11 has 181 nodes (actors) and 339 edges (co-actorships by titles, i.e., pairs of actors starring in the same film). This graph is not connected and it has 16 connected components. The largest connected component has 99 nodes (actors) and 204 edges (co-actorships by titles).

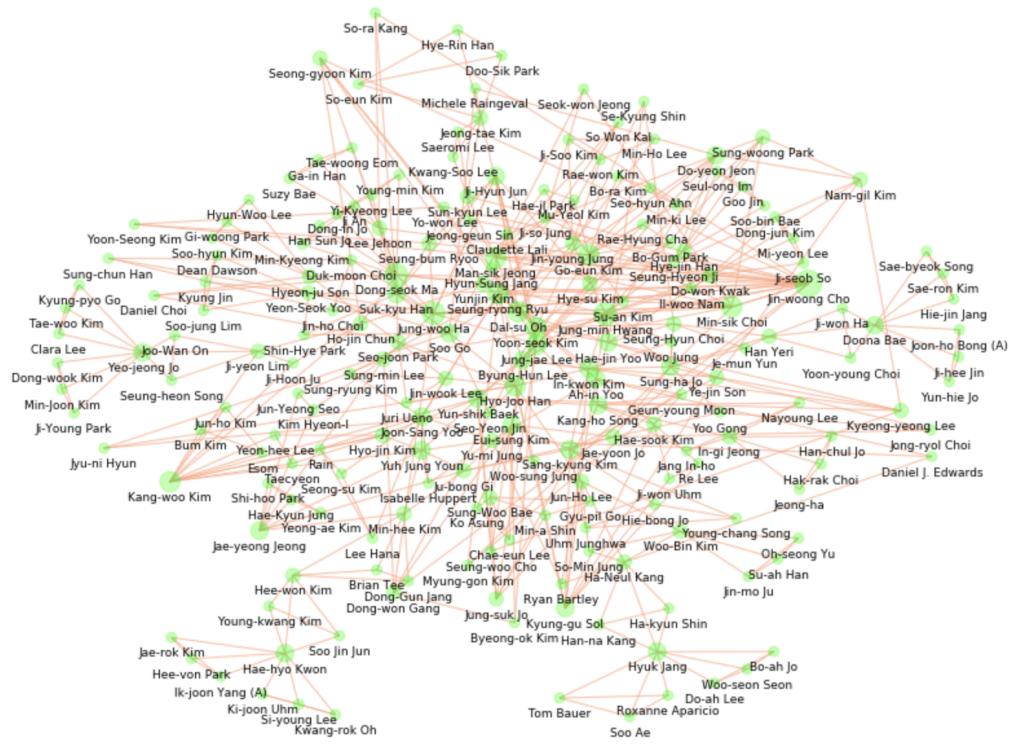
The Co-Actorship (by titles) Graph in the period 2008-11
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies



11.5. 2012-2015: Longitudinal Co-Actorship (by Titles) Network

The co-actorship (by titles) multigraph (or weighted graph) in the period 2012-15 has 303 nodes (actors) and 642 edges (co-actorships by titles, i.e., pairs of actors starring in the same film). This graph is not connected and it has 23 connected components. The largest connected component has 208 nodes (actors) and 498 edges (co-actorships by titles). Below, we are showing the largest connected component of this graph because in the full graph it would be difficult to disentangle the labels of actors.

The largest connected component of the
Co-Actorship (by titles) Graph in the period 2012-15
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies



11.6. 2016-2019: Longitudinal Co-Actorship (by Titles) Network

The co-actorship (by titles) multigraph (or weighted graph) in the period 2016-19 has 117 nodes (actors) and 203 edges (co-actorships by titles, i.e., pairs of actors starring in the same film). This graph is not connected and it has 15 connected components. The largest connected component has 38 nodes (actors) and 74 edges (co-actorships by titles).

**The Co-Actorship (by titles) Graph in the period 2016-19
in the top 300 imdb best Korean movies**

