

Analysis & Synthesis of Narrative

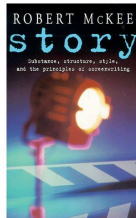
Two applications

- Casablanca movie - middle scene 43. Mapping and tracking emotion.
- Short look at: stochastic analyses of structure and style.
- Supporting collective, collaborative narrative construction: book writing.

Movie
Casablanca
shot by Warner
Brothers
between May and
August 1942



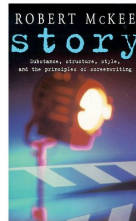
For McKee,
composition of
Casablanca is
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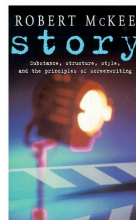


- Scene 43 in Casablanca (out of 77 scenes).
- Crucial mid-point scene. Following McKee, I will analyze 11 subscenes ("beats").
- Right, first three subscenes (in blue, brown, red).

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EXT. BLACK MARKET - DAY

At the linen stall, Ilsa examines a tablecloth which an Arab vendor is endeavoring to sell. He holds a sign which reads "700 francs."

ARAB
You will not find a treasure like this in all Morocco, Mademoiselle.
Only seven hundred francs.

Rick walks up behind Ilsa.

RICK
You're being cheated.

She looks briefly at Rick, then turns away. Her manner is politely formal.

ILSA
It doesn't matter, thank you.

ARAB
Ah, the lady is a friend of Rick's? For friends of Rick we have a small discount. Did I say seven hundred francs? You can have it for two hundred.

Reaching under the counter, he takes out a sign reading "200 francs", and replaces the other sign with it.

RICK
I'm sorry I was in no condition to receive you when you called on me last night.

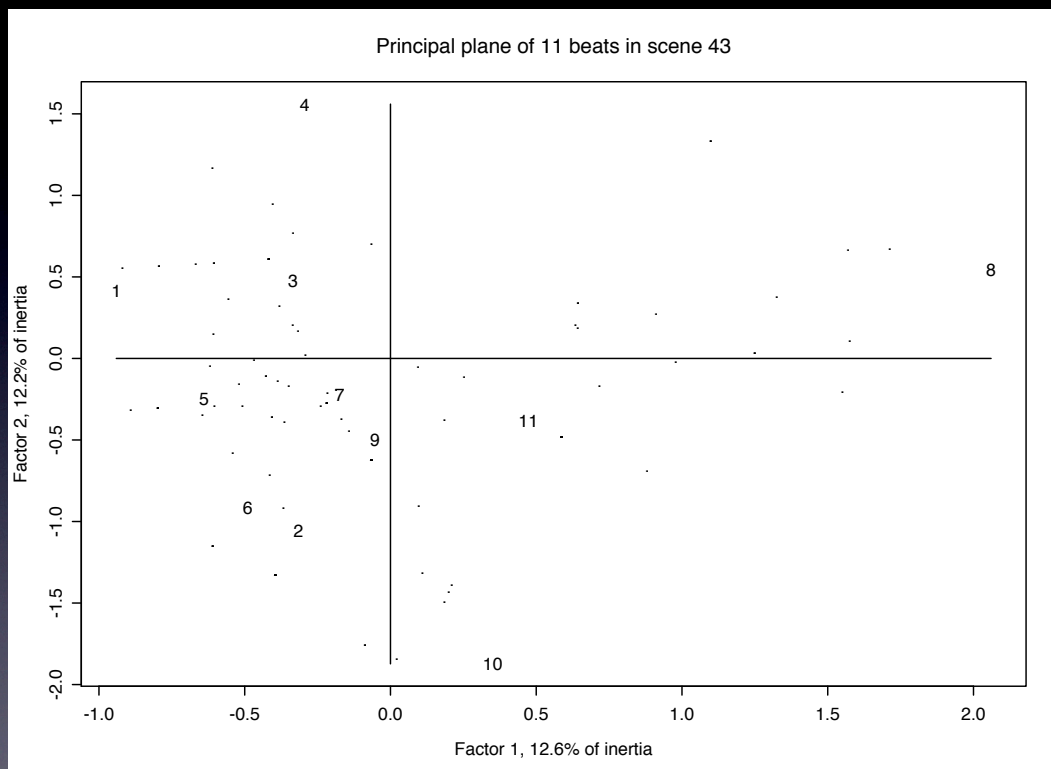
ILSA
It doesn't matter.

ARAB
Ah, for special friends of Rick's we have a special discount. One hundred francs.

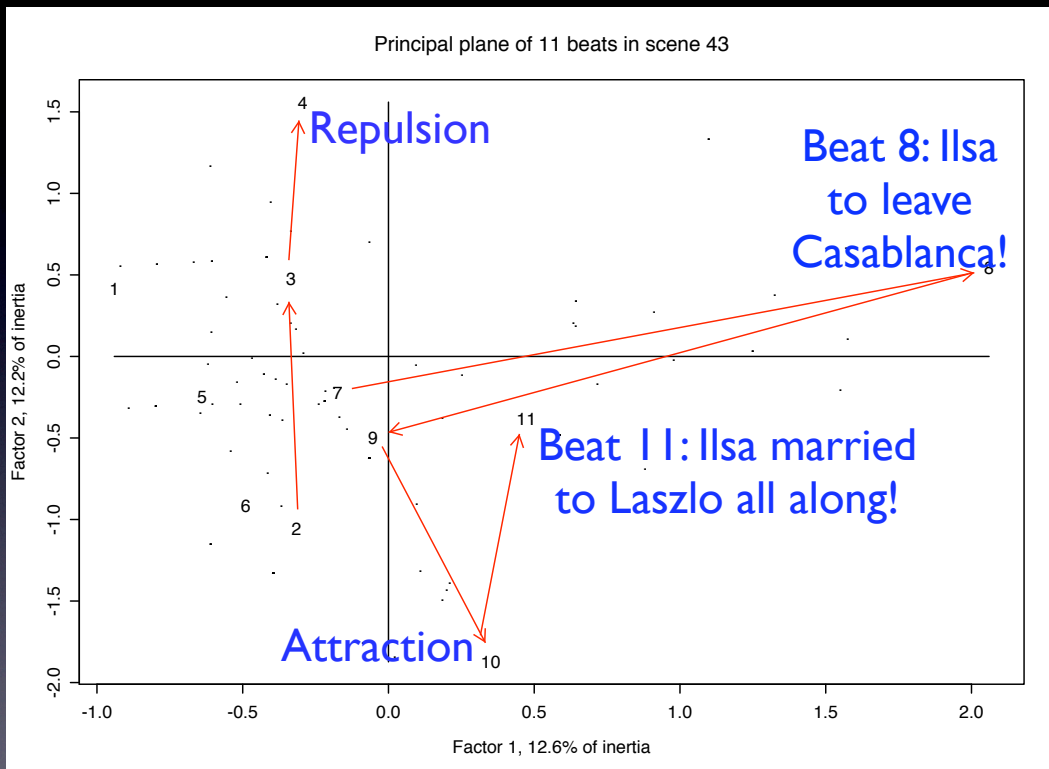
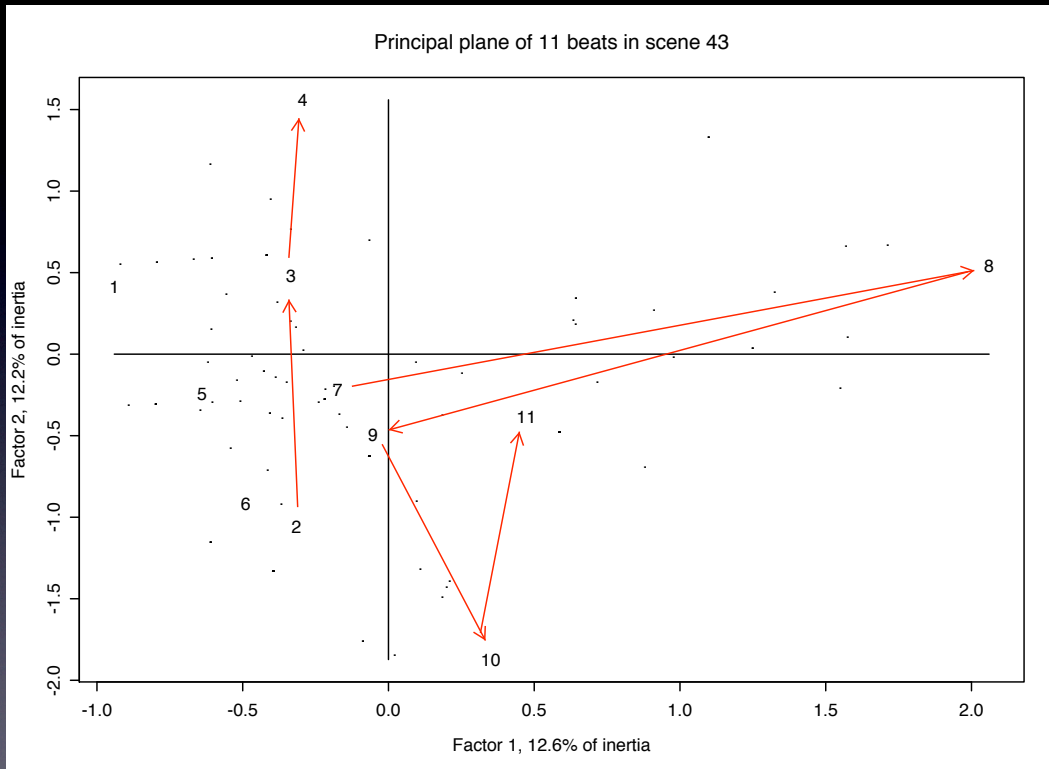
He replaces the second sign with a third which reads "100 francs."

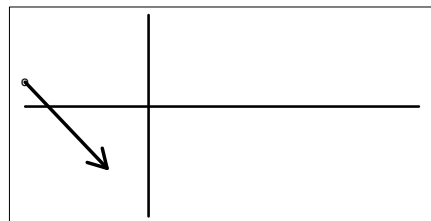
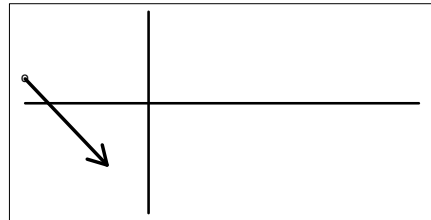
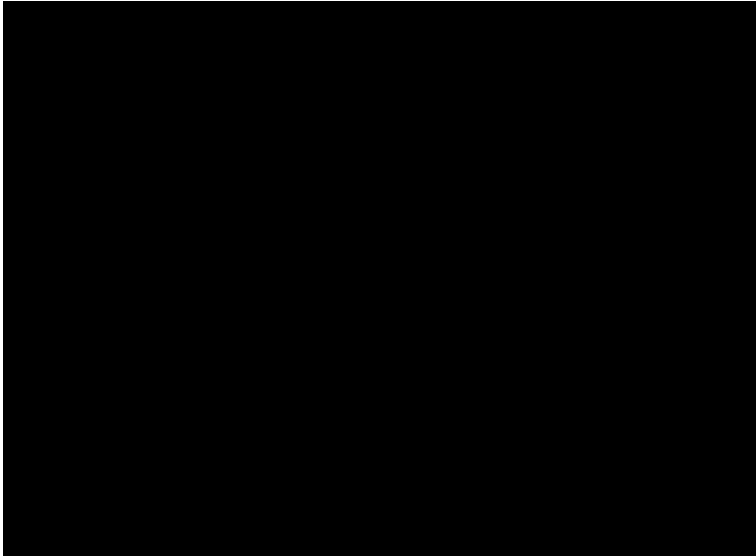
Analysis of Casablanca's "Mid-Act Climax", Scene 43 subdivided into 11 "beats" (subscenes)

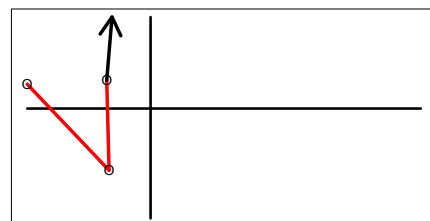
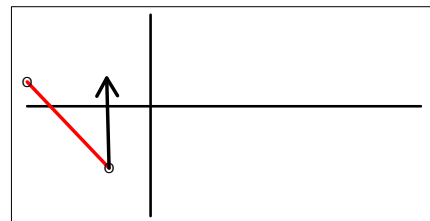
- McKee divides this scene, relating to Ilsa and Rick seeking black market exit visas, into 11 "beats"
- Beat 1 is Rick finding Ilsa in the market
- Beats 2, 3, 4 are rejections of him by Ilsa
- Beats 5, 6 express rapprochement by both
- Beat 7 is guilt-tripping by each in turn
- Beat 8 is a jump in content: Ilsa says she will leave Casablanca soon
- In beat 9, Rick calls her a coward, and Ilsa calls him a fool
- In beat 10, Rick propositions her
- In beat 11, the climax, all goes to rack and ruin: Ilsa says she was married to Laszlo all along. Rick is stunned

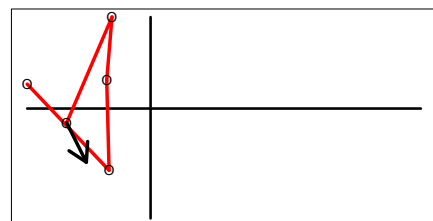
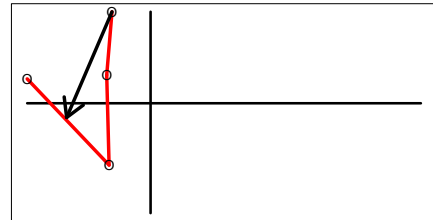


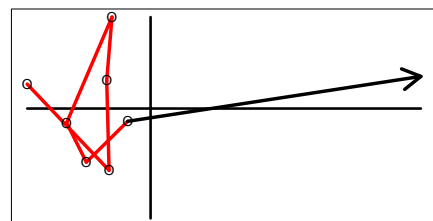
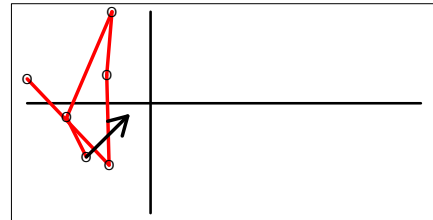
210 words used in these 11 "beats" or subscenes

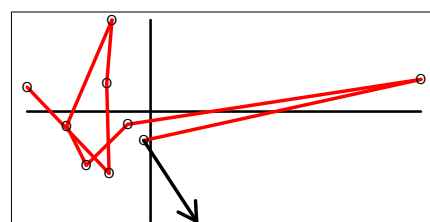
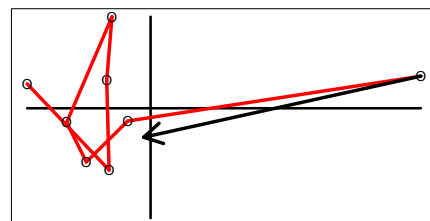


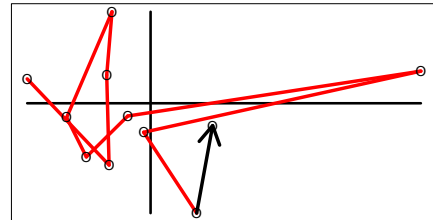






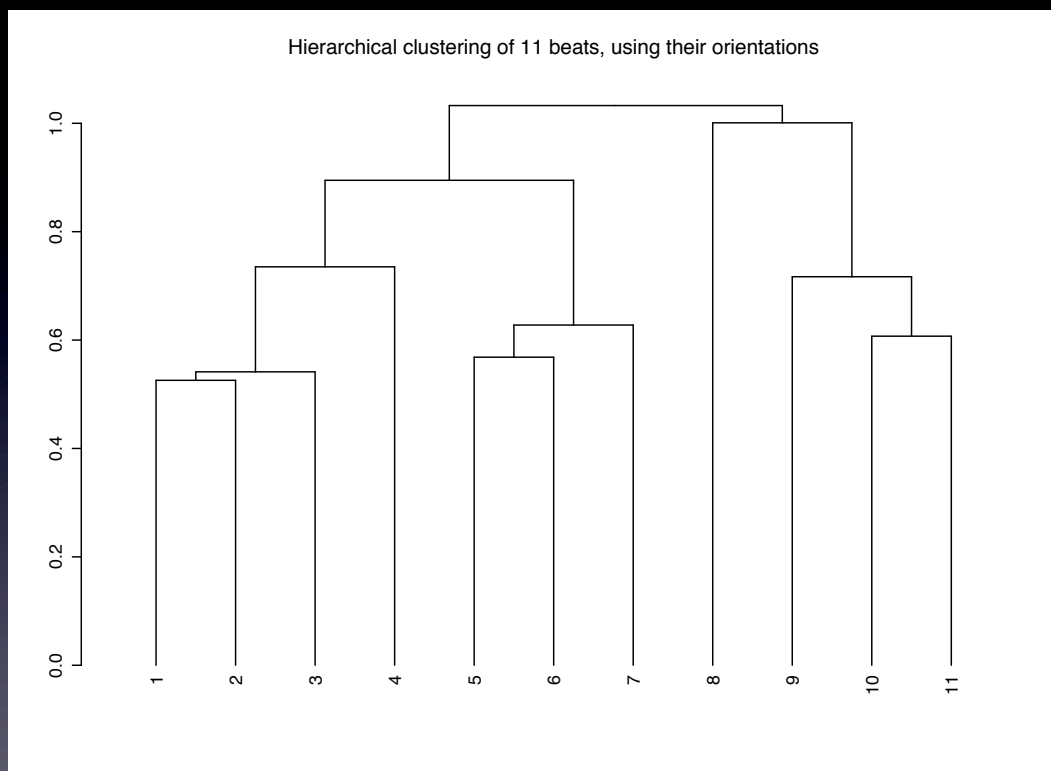






McKee's guidelines applied to Scene 43

- Lengths of beat get shorter leading up to climax: word counts of final five beats in scene 43 are: 50 - 44 - 38 - 30 --- 46
- The planar representation seen accounts for approx. $12.6 + 12.2 = 24.8\%$ of the inertia, and hence the information
- We will look at the evolution of this scene using hierarchical clustering - but based on the **relative orientations**, or correlations with factors

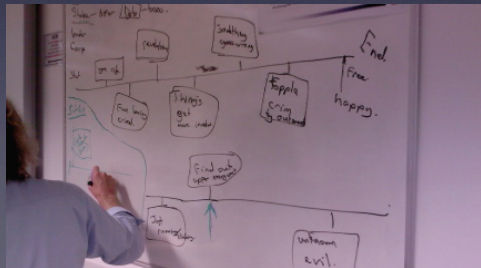


Full dimensionality analysis. Note caesura in moving from beat 7 to 8, and back to 9. Less so in moving from 4 to 5 but still quite pronounced.

Style analysis of scene 43 based on McKee Monte Carlo tested against 999 uniformly randomized sets of the beats

- In the great majority of cases (against 83% and more of the randomized alternatives) we find the style in scene 43 to be characterized by:
- small variability of movement from one beat to the next
- greater tempo of beats
- high mean rhythm

“Project TooManyCooks: Applying Software Design Principles to Fiction Writing”
Joe Reddington (Comp. Sci.),
Doug Cowie (English) and myself



Support environment for collaborative, distributed creating of narrative

- Pinpointing anomalous sections
- Assessing homogeneity of style over successive iterations of the work
- Scenario experimentation and planning
- This includes condensing parts, or elaborating
- Similarity of structure relative to best practice in chosen genre

Collectively written in 4.5 days by a group of 10 children,
of average age 12, in a school near London.

The screenshot shows the Amazon.co.uk website interface. At the top, the Amazon logo is followed by the text "Hello Prof. F. Murtagh. We have recommendations for you. (Not F.?)". Below this are navigation links for "F.'s Amazon.co.uk", "Today's Deals", "Gift Cards", and "Gifts & Wish Lists". A search bar contains the text "Kindle Store". Below the search bar are navigation tabs for "Kindle Store", "Buy A Kindle", "Kindle Books", "Newspapers", "Blogs", and "Magazines". The main content area features a book cover for "Deception of Success" by Tim Cooks. The cover is black with a white silhouette of a person walking on a winding path. Above the cover is a "Click to LOOK INSIDE!" button. To the right of the cover, the book title "Deception of Success [Kindle Edition]" is displayed, followed by the author's name "Tim Cooks (Author)". Below the author's name are links for "Be the first to review this item" and a "Like" button with a count of "(0)". The price information is shown as "Digital List Price: £1.94 What's this?" and "Kindle Price: £1.94 includes VAT* & free wireless de". A note states "Unlike print books, digital books are subject to VAT." At the bottom, there is a bullet point: "• Don't have a Kindle? [Get your Kindle here.](#)"

