

# Narratology for Interactive Storytelling: A Critical Introduction

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# What is Narratology?

- Structure and Function of stories
- Figuring out what parts of the story are important
- Which types imbed the most formalism for AI/ML?

# Types of Narratology

- Drama Theory
- Formalism
- Linguistic
- Interpretative Codes
- Characters

# Aristotle and the Foundations of Drama Theory

- Plot based: introduction, rising action, climax, resolution
- Proairesis = deliberate choice
- Theoretical framework vs. formal definition

# Propp and Formalism

- Functions from Russian fairytales
  - Deception, Weddings, Struggle
- Limited number of functions
- Always occur in the same order
- No space for branching paths, psychological interpretation

# Linguistic

- Role based understanding
  - Protagonist, antagonist, helper
- Formulas depending on roles involved
  - If protagonist and antagonist, then fight
  - If protagonist and love interest, then date
- Analysis of story vs creation

# Interpretative Codes

- Actions and consequences
- Create a tree of branching paths
- Each action has multiple parts
  - MURDER has warning, reasoning, methods, etc.
- Action, Symbolic, Reference, Semantic, Hermeneutic

# Reintroduction of Characters

- Agents and Patients
- Physical and Emotional changes
- Intentional vs unintentional
- Leads to motivation trees



# Conclusions

- Many different types of narratology
- Pros and cons of each
- No set standard formalization of stories

Questions?

