

Guide to Genealogical Queries – Acts (Phase 4)

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Notice: We wanted the new interface to be online at the time of publication of the printed ECM Acts volumes. We have not, however, managed to execute the final data check in time. The present figures (5 August 2017) are subject to corrections in detail.

“Genealogical Queries – Acts (Phase 4)” provides a new interface, but the underlying methodology of the [Coherence-Based Genealogical Method \(CBGM\)](#) remains the same.

The links on the start page take the user to contents related to “Coherence and Textual Flow” and “Comparison of Witnesses”.

1. Coherence and Textual Flow

Navigation Bar

Enter the numerical address of a variation unit, e.g. 15:25/10, to populate the sections below. Click the appropriate arrow to go to the previous or next variation unit.

Apparatus

The apparatus shows the Greek manuscript witnesses for each of the variants of the selected passage. Deficiencies are listed under “zz Lac” or, if the evidence is ambiguous, “zz ... Dub”.

“Splits” will split the display of witnesses if their genealogy points to diverse ancestry within the range of **Connectivity 5**.

Example: At 15:25/10 “Splits” will distinguish *a1* from *a2*. The two witnesses displayed under *a2*, 2147 and 2718, have no potential ancestors in the *a* attestation within a connectivity range of 5.

Click on the variant text to see the respective Textual Flow Diagram under “Coherence in Attestations” below.

Click on the number of a witness to see a list of its relatives, e.g. 01. (This feature is also available for witness numbers in the sections below.)

Relatives

The witnesses displayed in the apparatus or one of the textual flow diagrams are each linked to a list of their closest relatives. For an example, click on 01, a witness of variant *b*, at 15:25/10.

The user may choose between several display options from the bar above the list.

Rel (default) – Show all relatives
Anc – Show potential ancestors only
Des – Show potential descendants only

10 (default)/20/All – Show up to 10/20/All witnesses of the selected category

Variant: All+Lac (default) – Show all witnesses of the selected category regardless of whether they support a variant or are deficient at the given passage

Variant: All – Output restricted to witnesses extant at the given passage
Variant: a ... – Output restricted to witnesses supporting the selected variant

Chapter: All (default) – Show relatives on the basis of evidence from all chapters of Acts or select a specific chapter from the bar menu

A/MT – Click to exclude (default) or include the reconstructed initial text *A* and/or the majority text *MT*. Note that *MT* is cited as deficient (i.e. labeled *zz*, as in 15:25/10) if *Byz* is not defined in the ECM Acts apparatus.

Frag – Click to exclude (default) or include minor fragments.

A minor fragment is defined by the number of passages where it shares text with the witness in question. If the number is lower than a half of the passages where the witness in question is extant, then the compared witness is considered a minor fragment. Minor fragments can be displayed and get the mark ">", but they are not included in the ranking of potential ancestors.

Rec/Sim – Recursive/Simple (default) relationships between variants in the local stemmata. If "Sim" is selected, then indirect relationships between variants (e.g. between *a* and *c* in a chain $a < b < c$) are counted as "no relation". If "Rec" is selected, then such a relation is included like a direct one.

MT • MT/P • AA • MA

The header below the bar of options displays four percentages, referring to the witness in question, which help to put the agreement values in the table below into perspective: the share of variants pertaining to the majority text (**MT** and **MT/P**)¹, the percentage of the average agreement (**AA**) and the median agreement (**MA**) with all witnesses included.

MT indicates the percentage of majority readings at passages where the respective manuscript is extant *and* **MT** is defined. **MT/P** indicates the percentage of majority readings on the basis of all variant passages where the respective manuscript is extant.²

The list produced with default parameters will show 03 as the closest relative of 01. The ranking number in the first column, together with ">" in the second, marks it as the first potential ancestor. The fourth column shows the percentage of agreement, and the fifth column shows the ratio of agreements to the total of shared passages. The sixth column shows four numbers separated by colons. For 01 as compared to 02, these are 311:267:61:22. The first refers to the number of priority variants in the compared witness, i.e. 02, the second to the respective number in the witness in question, i.e. 01. The third number refers to unclear cases. The fourth number refers to passages with no direct relationship between the variants of the witness in question and the compared witness. These categories and figures are the same as in "Comparison of Witnesses".

The last column shows the variant supported by the compared witnesses at a given passage. If "Variant: All+Lac" has been selected, deficiencies are also displayed in this column.

¹ The variants of the majority text were determined by a selection of nearly pure representatives of the Byzantine text (cf. ECM III.2 Supplementary Material, 2.2 Codices Byzantini). Where these representatives point to a split Byzantine attestation, it is not possible to determine the majority reading with certainty. Such passages were not included for determining the MT value in the "Potential Ancestors and Descendants" module.

² If *x* is the number of passages where the manuscript is extant, *y* the number of passages where the majority text is defined, *z* the number of passages where the manuscript agrees with the majority text, then **MT** = z/y and **MT/P** = z/x .

Local Stemma

A local stemma display provides a graph of the relationship between the variants of a passage. If the source of a variant is unclear this is expressed by a question mark. Note that this can also refer to a variant in specific witnesses, as indicated by the split $a1/a2$ at 15:25/10. In the local stemma $a2$ designates variant a in two witnesses, 2147 and 2718, because their genealogy does not agree with the rest of the a attestation.

Coherence at Variant Passages (GraphViz)

This module shows relationships between pairs of witnesses at a given passage, if one of them is a potential ancestor that, within a set range of connectivity, supports another variant. "GraphViz" is the software used for the graph.

At 15:25/10, for example, there are eight witnesses supporting b whose first or second potential ancestor have variant a . This is expressed by the direction of the arrows to which the appropriate number is attached, if the arrow does not come from the first potential ancestor. In two cases the relationship is converse: 2718 and 2147 are witnesses of a , but their third or second potential ancestor (1735 for 2718 and 383 for 2147) support b .

Options

Splits, if applicable, shows to which split of an attestation the displayed witnesses belong.

Conn – Connectivity is the estimated capacity of a variant to connect ancestors and descendants genealogically. It is set to five by default, which is a relatively low value. Move the slider in either direction and observe the effect on the display of relationships. The higher the connectivity, the fewer interrelations are shown. The reason is that the application retrieves potential ancestors within the same attestation as long as the respective ranking number does not exceed the set connectivity value. If connectivity is set to ten, Coherence at Variant Passages will only show pairs, if no potential ancestor with a ranking number up to 10 is found within the same attestation.

Chapter: All – see above

A/MT – see above

Rec/Sim – see above

A=A – If the initial text A has been included by clicking on A in the fourth unit of the options bar, this dropdown menu allows to assign each of the readings of a passage to the initial text.

Coherence at Variant Passages (Chord)

The "Chord" software produces a different view of the same relationships.

Coherence in Attestations

Variant – Select a variant from this menu or click on it in the apparatus module to see the respective textual flow diagram.

The other options have been explained above. The user can explore how they affect the graph.

The graph shows the genealogical relationships within the same attestation according to a set connectivity. If no potential ancestor is found within the same attestation for this connectivity, potential ancestors supporting other variants are taken into account. For 15:25/10a, we see such relationships for 2147 and 2718 again. The displayed relationship is a "first order relationship" unless a number is attached to the connecting line.

General Textual Flow

This module maps the attestations at a given passage onto a graph in which each witness is connected to its first potential ancestor. The attestations are color-coded. In addition, the witnesses at the top of a genealogical cluster are assigned the variant label. Lacunose witnesses (assigned to zz) are included by default if they establish a relationship to a descendant. If lacunose witnesses constitute terminal nodes, they are included only if the Z option is selected from the second unit in the options bar. Again, the user may include or exclude the reconstructed entities A and/or MT.

Chapter: All – see above.

Rec/Sim – see above.

2. Comparison of Witnesses

Enter two witness numbers, e.g. 01 and 02. The resulting list shows a summarization of results in the first line and the results for each individual chapter in the subsequent lines. The figures in the first line are in accordance with those in the lists of relatives of the compared witnesses.

Dir – Direction of the textual flow

Rank – Ranking number in the list of potential ancestors including A. 02 is the fourth potential ancestor of 01.

Perc – Percentage of agreement

Eq – Number of agreements

Pass – Total of shared passages

W1<W2 – Number of priority variants in Witness 2

W1>W2 – Number of priority variants in Witness 1

Uncl – Unclear cases, number of passages where the variant in one or both compared witnesses has not been determined (“?” in the local stemma)

Norel – No direct relationship between the variants of the witnesses in question.

Click “+” in the first column of the list to see a list of passages with differences between the compared witnesses for the respective chapter.