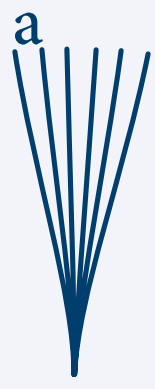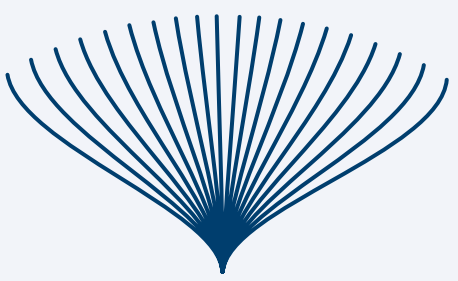# Trees *of* Translation

Visualization Baltazar Pérez
Translation Simón López
Magnolia by Victoria Ramírez
Design Ilana Levin
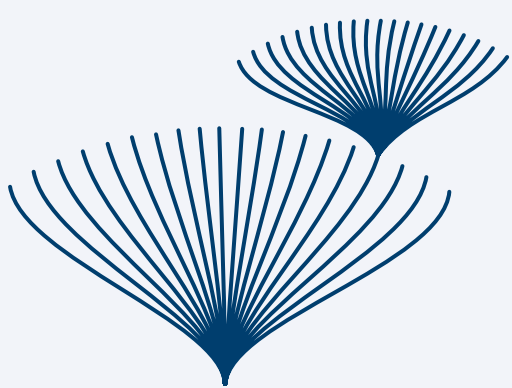
Characters

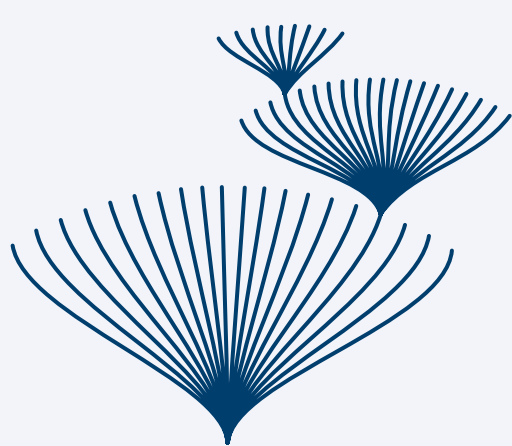Each character is represented by the space between two edges

Insertion

First node inserted

Second node, inserted at the end of parent node

Third node, inserted at the beginning of parent node

Deletion

■ Visible text

■ Erased text

Time

The color of nodes is redshifted according to their insertion order

About the visualization

Text, when written digitally, is but a series of insertions and deletions at different points in document and time. These operations can be structured and visualized in the form of a tree, which grows organically as the writer types in characters and makes editions in the text processor.

For this experiment, we asked several professional writers to translate poems of Emily Dickinson, the founder of poetic modernism in English literature, and Victoria Ramírez, a promising novel Chilean poet, into each other's language. The visualization picks up the arboreal metaphors with which the poems are concerned in its own way while allowing, for the first time in such detail level, to look behind the written page and see the trace of the writer's process.

Magnolia, Victoria Ramírez

Translated by Rodrigo Olavarría

First I read the poem five or six times carefully figuring out the rhythm of each verse. Then I started reading it aloud in Spanish, replacing words as I went along. I did that a couple of times and then I just transcribed each verse, as in a trance.
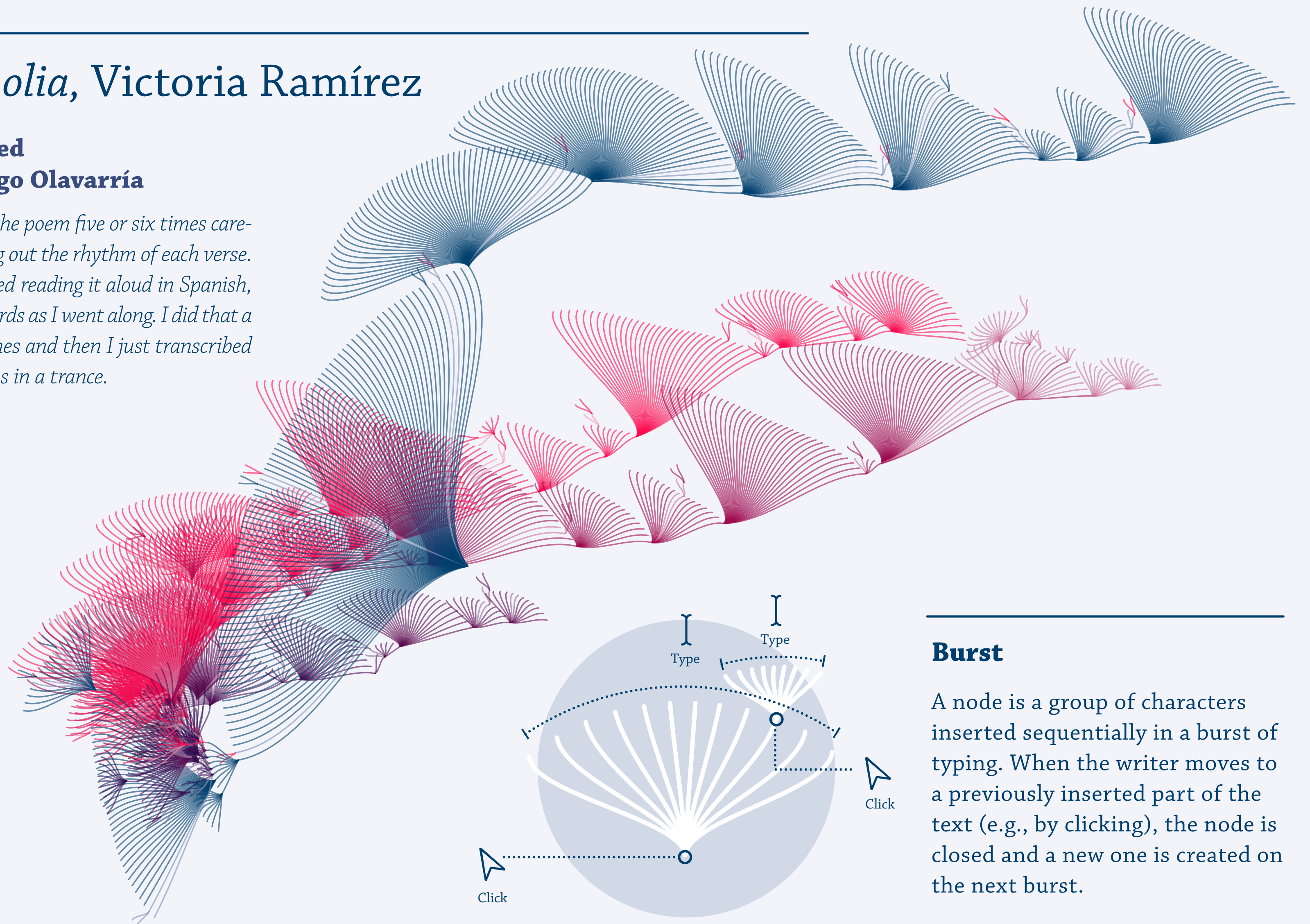
Burst

A node is a group of characters inserted sequentially in a burst of typing. When the writer moves to a previously inserted part of the text (e.g., by clicking), the node is closed and a new one is created on the next burst.

### *Poem 41,* Emily Dickinson
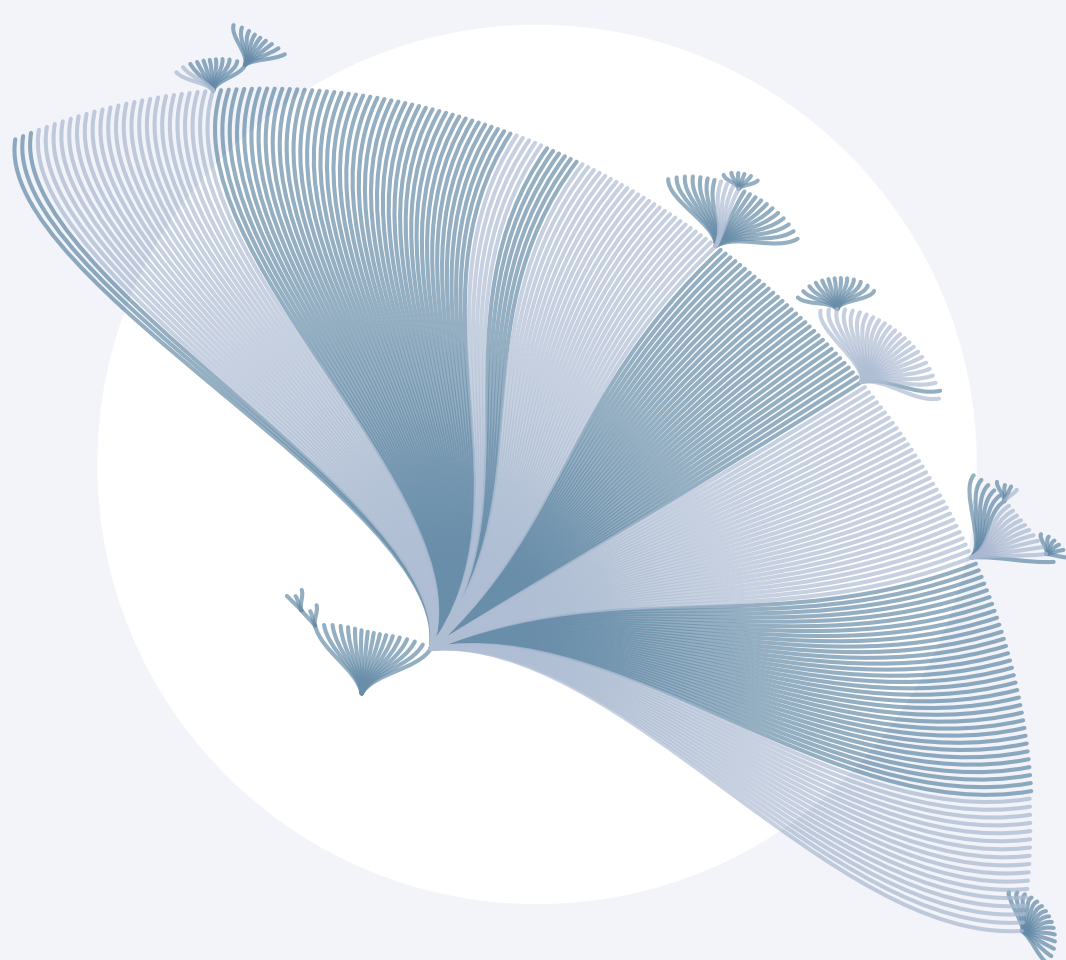
Translated by Francisco Cardemil

First, I attentively read the original poem and wrote a first draft to grasp its global sense. Then I made sure every image contained at least some of the original intent in the new version. Finally, I adjusted the rhythm and the base rhyme to resemble the original. The process took a couple of days, working brief periods of time every now and then.

Translated by Simón López Trujillo

I read the poem carefully, several times, then translated it entirely in my head and bam! I wrote it down in one go. It took me about twenty minutes.
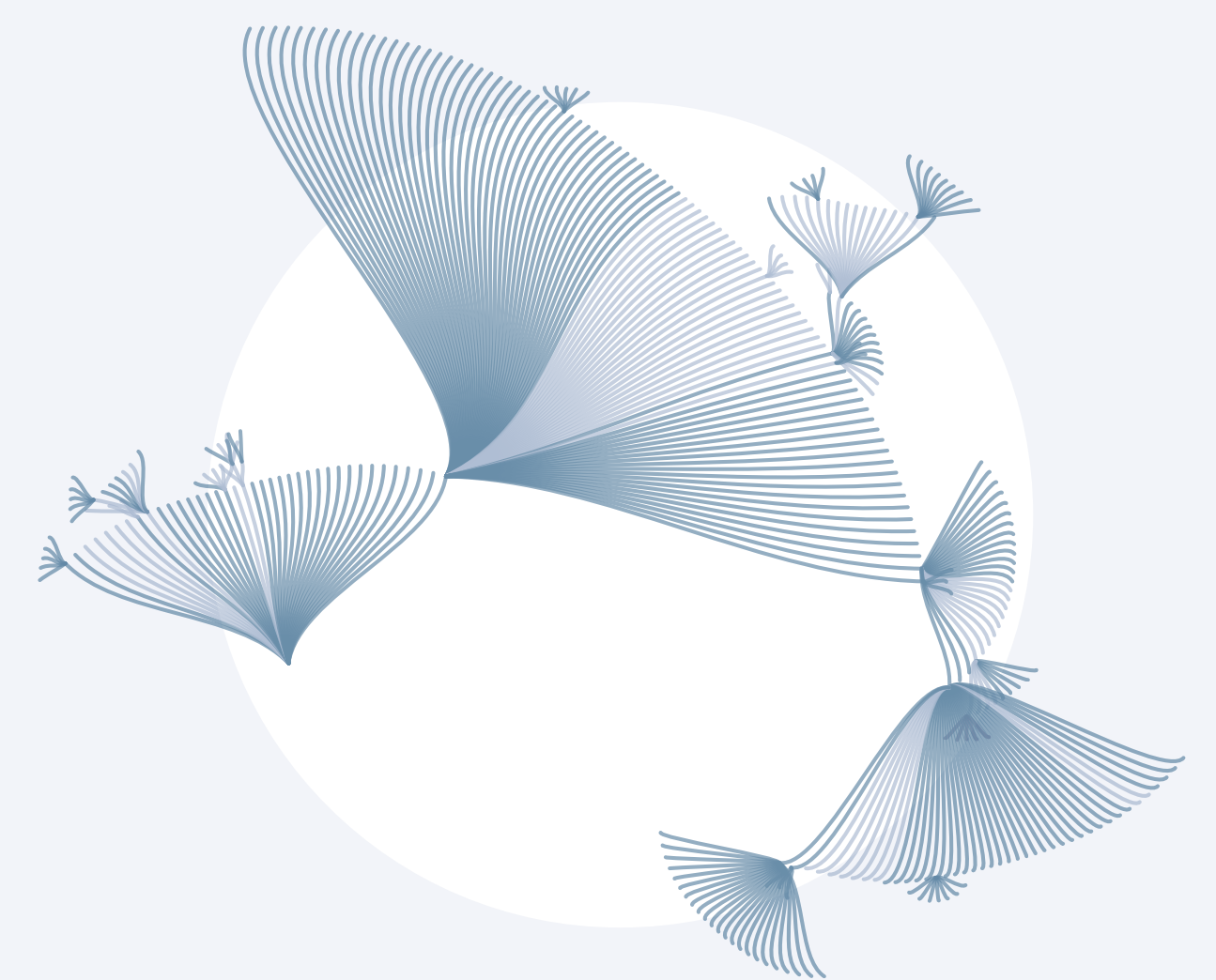
Translated by Rodrigo Olavarría

I read the poem a couple times, until I felt like I had it. Then I translated it line by line, slowly. Finally, I edited some things from the first and final lines of the poem. The translation took me nearly twenty minutes.