





# Automated detection and resolution of legal cross references

Approach and a study of Luxembourg's legislation

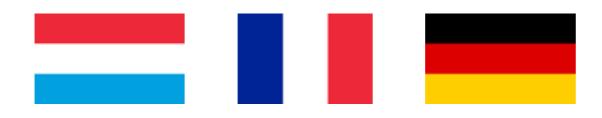
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### Luxembourg

- Population of 530,000
- The only Grand Duchy in existence!
- Three official languages





Language of administration and law is French

### How did this work come about?

 Collaboration with Government of Luxembourg



- CTIE: Government's IT Centre
- ACD: Tax Administration Department
- New tax system under development
- System needs to be compliant with the law

# Relating system requirements to legal texts

Art. 2 Individuals are considered resident taxpayers if they have either their fiscal or habitual residence in the Grand Duchy. Individuals are considered non-resident taxpayers if they neither have their fiscal nor their habitual residence in the Grand Duchy, but have a local income within the meaning of Art. 156.

Resident taxpayers are subject to income tax over both local and foreign income.

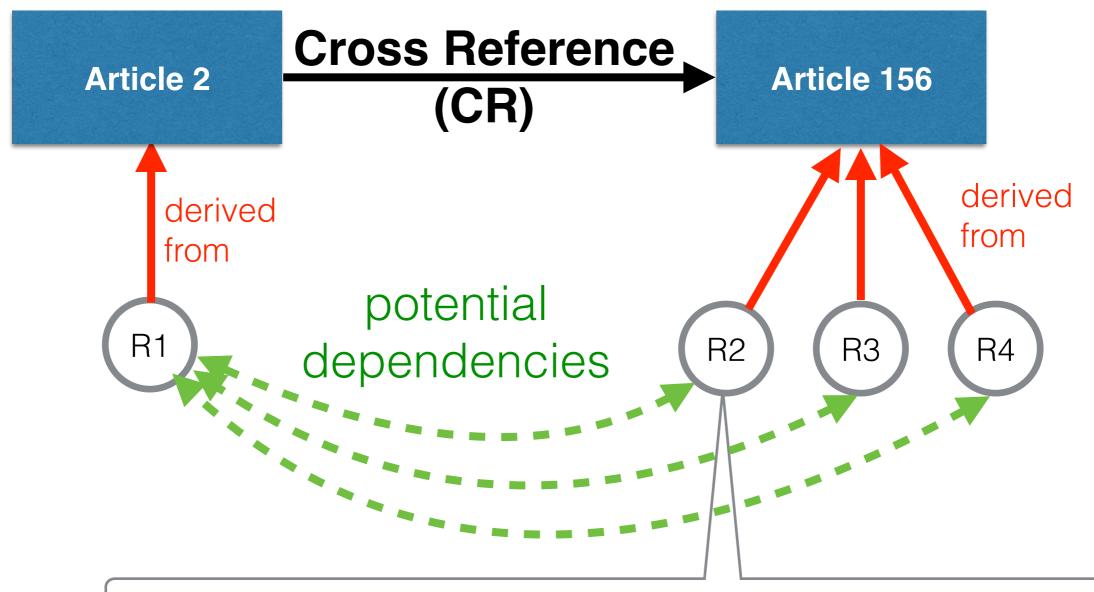
Non-resident taxpayers are subject to income tax only over their local income within the meaning of Art.156.

# derived from

**R1:** The system shall levy taxes on non-residents' local income as per the annual tax scale.

Cross Reference to another article

### Requirement dependencies



**R2:** For non-residents, rental and lease income earned in the Grand Duchy shall be considered as local income.

## Why should RE care about CRs?

CRs important for requirements change analysis
 [Ghanavati et al., 2014]

 CRs entail (among other things) exceptions, constraints, and priorities [Maxwell et al., 2012]

 Ignoring or misunderstanding CRs leads to noncompliance in software [Maxwell et al., 2013]

### CR detection and resolution

Automatically identify and link CRs to targets

#### Article 126 Art. 8. Article 127 Article 127bis Article 127ter du seul fait qu'il y pos 1 Lorsqu'un contribuable a son domicile fiscal au Gran Article 127 quater Alinea 1 é forfaitairement à une une ou plusieurs habitations secondaires, son revenu Article 128 Article 128bis ou la valeur locative somme égale au minimum à cinq et au maximum à dix de la ou des habitations secondaires, à moins que le c emande à être impos Article 129a raison de son revenu au sens de l'article 7. Article 129b Article 129c nites de <u>alinéa qui précède</u> 2 Le ministre des finances arrêtera un multiplique Article 130 Article 131 eu égard à la relation normalement exist me entre le r et le loyer brut a riabitation Article 132 Article 133 3 Lorsque le revenu forfaitaire sé à l'alinéa 1er est re enu imposable, les Article 134 dispositions des articles 126 à 134ter ne sont pas appl Article 134bis

Article 134ter

### Related work

- CR detection and resolution: a well-trodden path
  - Dutch legislation
     [de Maat et al., 2006]
  - HIPAA Privacy Rule
     [Kiyavitskaya et al., 2008]



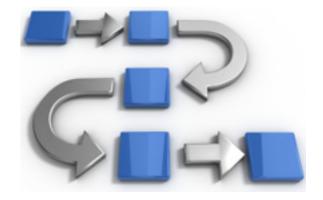
US regulations[Breaux, 2009]

### What's new?

More thorough treatment of CR patterns



Systematic resolution process



Improved automation



## CR patterns

- Grounded Theory study of Luxembourg's Income Tax Law
  - first drafted in 1967;
     189 pages; 236 articles;
     767 paragraphs
- All 1223 CRs analysed

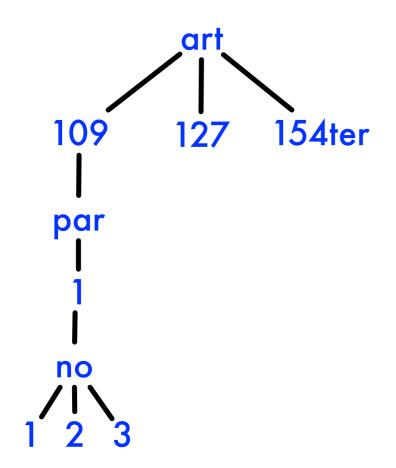


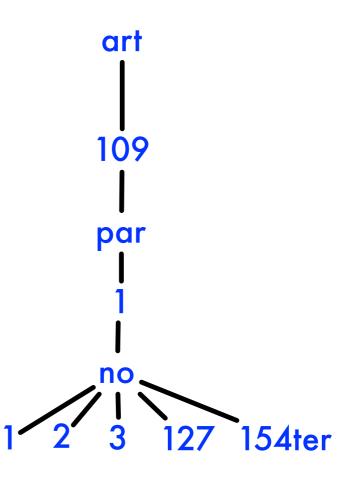
### What did we learn?

- CR patterns carry over across languages
  - thus, opportunities for reuse
- All previously-known patterns were observed
- New patterns were identified
- ... among which some are ambiguous

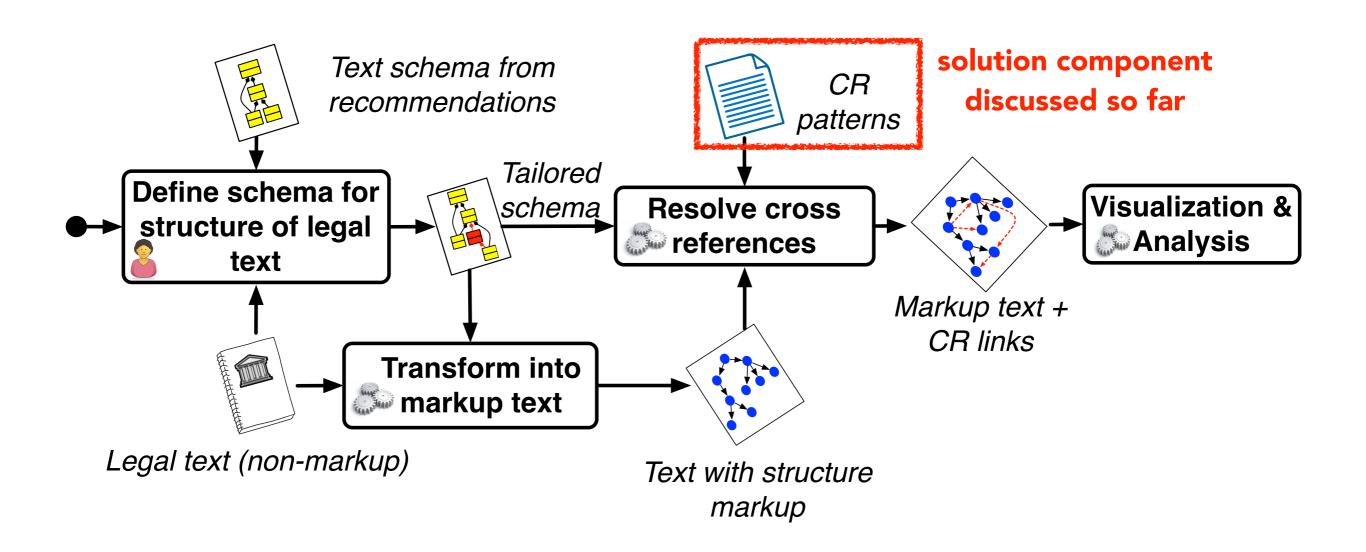
# Example of ambiguity

articles 109, 1st paragraph, numbers 1 to 3, 127 and 154ter

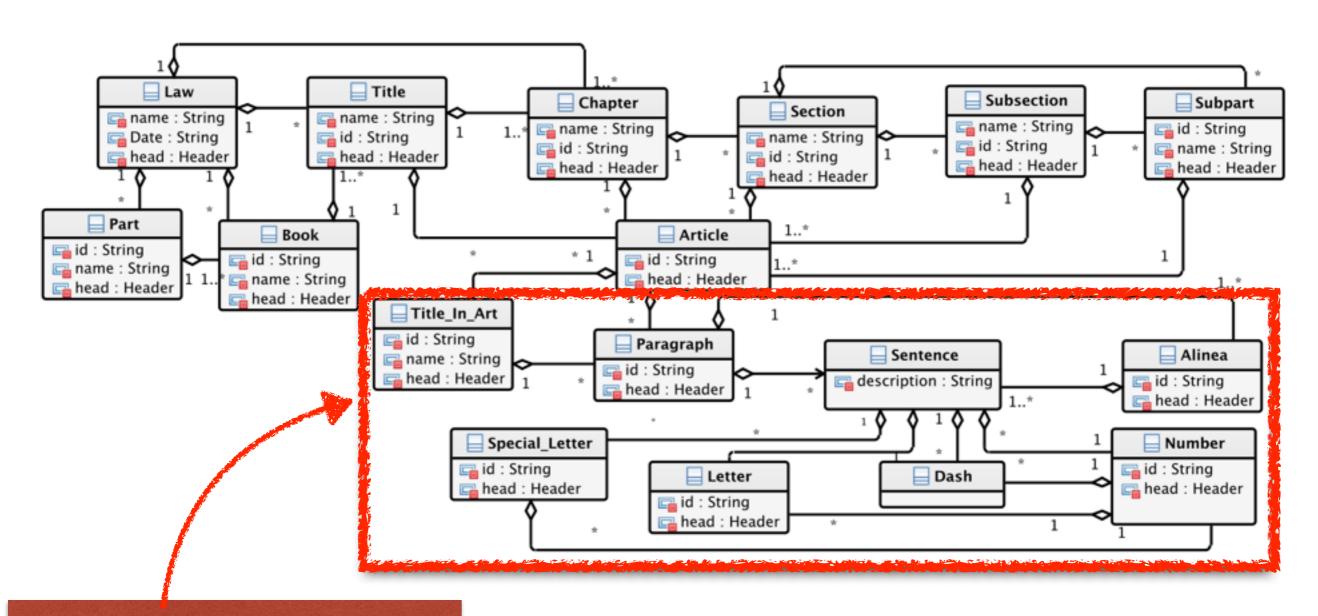




## Approach



### Text schema for the tax law



New or deviating from guidelines

# Markup scripts derived from the text schema

#### Rule: MarkArticleSegment

Whatever is above or unrelated to Articles

```
(({ArticleHead}):start
({LawHead} | {PartHead} | {BookHead} | {TitleHead} |
{ChapterHead} | {SectionHead} | {SubsectionHead} |
{SubpartHead} | {ArticleHead} | {EOD}):end)
:ref -->:ref:AnticleSegment= {}
```

#### Rule: MarkArticleHead

```
(({Split})+ ({Token.string=="Art"} | {Token.string=="Article"})
({Token.string=="."})? {Token.kind=="alphanum"}
{Token.string=="."})
:ref -->:ref.ArticleHead= {}
```

## Example markup

#### **Article head**

Art. 8. (1) Les propositions élaborées par le centre concernant la solution intégrée des problèmes d'informatique communs à l'ensemble ou à certaines administrations pourront, après consultation obligatoire du comité visé à l'article 7, être déclarées par le Gouvernement en conseil d'application obligatoire pour tous les services intéressés.

(2) Les contestations pouvant s'élever en matière informatique entre deux ou plusieurs administrations de l'Etat ou entre une administration et le centre sont tranchées par le Gouvernement en conseil sur avis préalable du comité visé à l'article 7.

Article segment

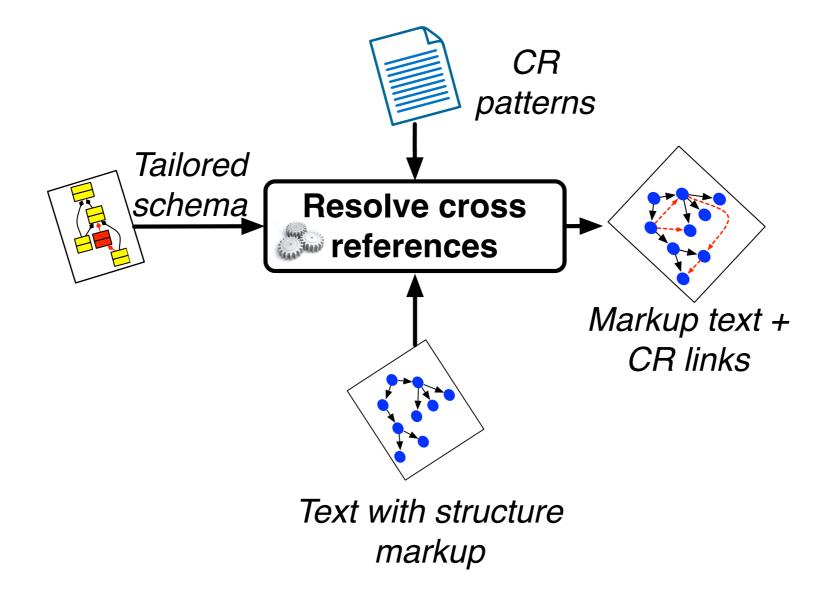
Markup generated all the way down to sentences

#### 'Paragraphs•

Art. 8 (1) Les propositions élaborées par le centre concernant la solution intégrée des problèmes d'informatique communs à l'ensemble ou à certaines administrations pourront, après consultation obligatoire du comité visé à l'article 7, être déclarées par le Gouvernement en conseil d'application obligatoire pour tous les services intéressés.

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### **CR** Resolution



Resolution algorithm discussed in the paper

# CR visualization and analysis

Legal text navigation

Article 126 Art. 8. Article 127 1 Lorsqu'un contribuable a son domicile fiscal au Gran du seul fait qu'il y possède une ou plusieurs habitations secondaires, son revenu Article 128 é forfaitairement à une Article 128bis ou la valeur locative brute somme égale au minimum à cinq et au maximum à dix de la ou des habitations secondaires, à moins que le d emande à être imposé à raison de son revenu au sens de l'article 7. 2 Le ministre des finances arrêtera un multiplie Article 130 nites de l' <u>alinéa qui précède</u>, Article 131 eu égard à la relation normalement existence entre le et le loyer brut d'habitation. Article 132 Article 133 3 Lorsque le revenu forfaitaire les à l'alinéa 1er est re enu imposable, les Article 134 dispositions des articles 126 à 134ter ne sont pas appl Article 134bis Article 134ter

Trace detection

Title I::Chapter IV::Section I::Article 8

• Title I::Chapter III::Article 3bis::Paragraph 2

• Title I::Chapter IV::Section I::Article 8::Paragraph 2

• Title I::Chapter IV::Section I::Article 8::Paragraph 3

• Title I::Chapter VIII::Section II::Article 141::Paragraph 1

Circularity analysis

## Completeness of CR patterns

- Studied 164 randomly-selected pages from a corpus of 13 legal texts (1640 pages)
  - Oldest text drafted in 1808; newest in 2011
- 1852 CRs in the selected pages
  - Correctly identified 1813 CRs
  - Detected 38 CRs only partially
  - Missed 1 CR completely
  - 5 false positives

Detection accuracy

Precision: 99.7%

**Recall:** 97.9%

### Accuracy of resolution

- Resolution attempted for tax law's 928 internal CRs
- 45 CRs (5%) marked for manual resolution
- 874 CRs (94%) automatically resolved (1736 links)
- 9 failure-to-resolve warnings
  - 8 due to anomalies in the text
  - 1 false positive due to limitations of the approach

Resolution accuracy over CR links

Precision: 99.9%

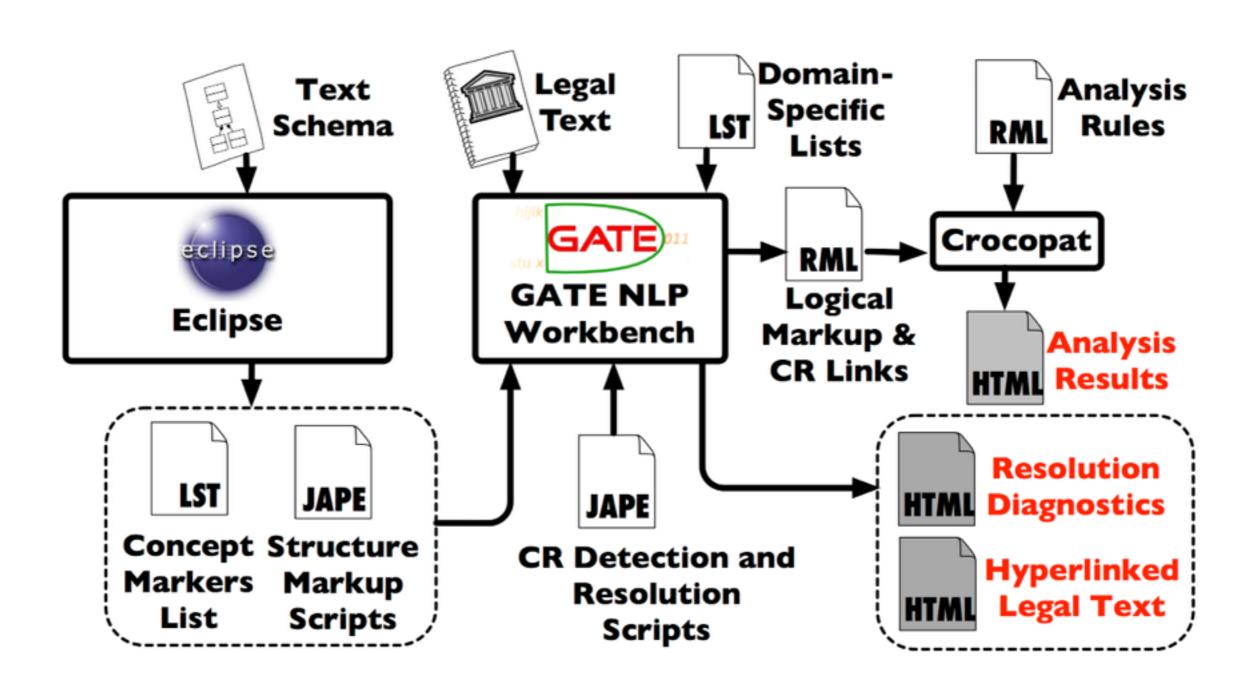
**Recall:** 97.5%

# Scalability

• Results for the income tax law (189 pages):

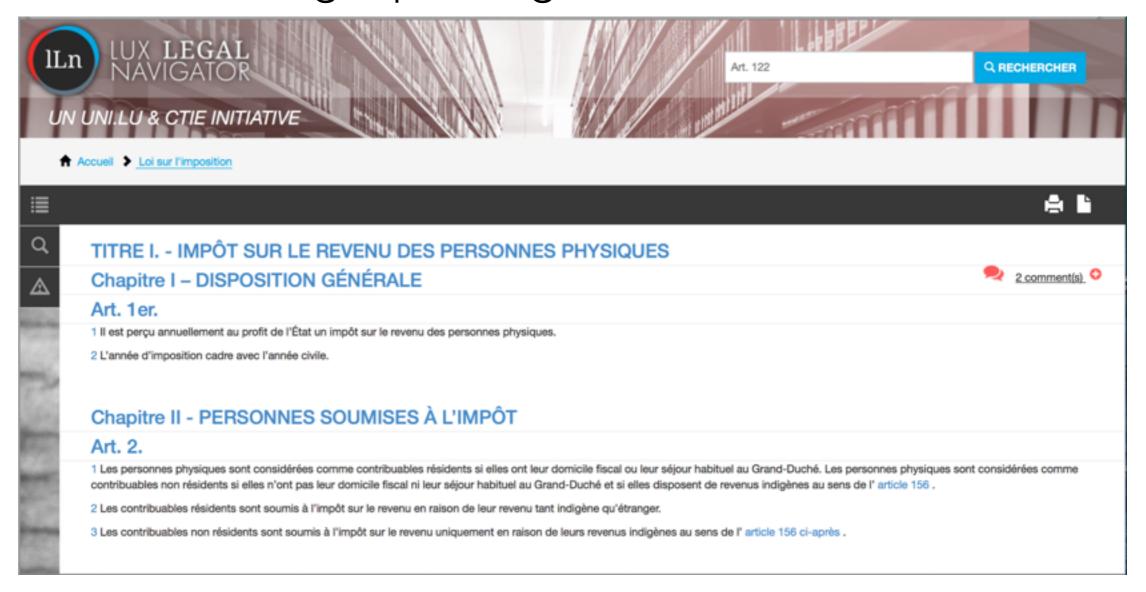
Structural markup generation + CR identification	34 sec
Resolution, generation of hyperlinked legal text, traceability matrix and diagnostics	290 sec
Total	Approx. 5 minutes

# Tool Support



# A beneficial byproduct

Automated legal portal generation



### Limitations

- All CR types detected but only internal ones are currently resolved
- Limited to legislative documents
  - Regulations, circular letters, directives, and parliamentary proceedings not covered

### What's next?

- Generation of semantic annotations for CRs
- Change impact analysis for legal requirements

## Take away

 Example of a transition from research to a palatable solution to the industry

Lesson learned from the transition:

There is many a slip between the

cup and the lip!

# Acknowledgements

- CTIE: Ludwig Balmer, Marc Blau, Yves Boland, Michaël Masseroni, Gautier Barrère
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