Best Tool Paper Award
Handed out at ETAPS 2024

Formalizing Date Arithmetic and
Statically Detecting Ambiguities for the Law

Raphaël Monat, Aymeric Fromherz, and Denis Merigoux

This outstanding ESOP’24 paper describes the
development of a novel tool, i.e., the domain-
specific language Catala and its application to
French law. It is a fantastic example of the
application of techniques from programming
languages to solve a real-world problem, and is
about formalizing computation with date information
in legal contexts, such as applying for social benefits
or whether an application has been filed on time.

The novelty of the problem was particularly
appreciated. This paper is a very nicely executed
analysis of the problem, well illustrated with many
examples. There is a clear non-trivial theory and an
effective implementation that found issues and
showed counterexamples.

The ETAPS 2024 Best Tool Paper Award Committee

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