

WHAT IS SOOL?

"Law is the architecture of social being, sustained through recognition, obligation, and institutional repair."

SOoL treats law as a structured domain of social reality, not merely a set of rules or commands. Its entities — obligations, roles, institutions — are BFO specifically dependent continuants: they are real, persist through time, and depend on other entities for their existence.

SOoL asks: Does the legal chain close without structural self-defeat? This is distinct from asking whether the law is just (moral evaluation) or whether a rule was validly enacted (positivism).

THE MINIMUM LEGAL CHAIN (MLC)

A legal effect is valid only if each node closes in sequence.

AUTHORITY

- 1 Source of Authority
- 2 Norm
- 3 Actor in Role

EFFECT

- 4 Triggering Facts
- 5 Legal Act / Omission

RECOGNITION

- 6 Target
- 7 Legal Effect

REPAIR

- 8 Remedy

BFO Alignment: Norms, Roles, Obligations, and Legal Effects are specifically dependent continuants (BFO:0000020). Agents = material entities. Legal events = occurrents.

13-TYPE CONTRADICTION TYPOLOGY

Indexed to MLC chain links. CD = accumulated instability.

AUTHORITY CLUSTER (Nodes 1–3)

- **Conferral Failure**
1→3 Authority fails to vest actor in role
- **Authority Inflation**
1→2 Will displaces norm; personal rule
- **Role Contradiction**
N.3 Role simultaneously authorises & prohibits
- **Norm Indeterminacy**
N.2 Norm too vague for determinate closure

EFFECT CLUSTER (Nodes 4–5)

- **Procedural Contradiction**
2→5 Act cannot follow norm's own procedure
- **Temporal Contradiction**
2↔4 Norm & facts in bidirectional misalignment
- **Fact Manipulation**
N.4 Facts fabricated or suppressed

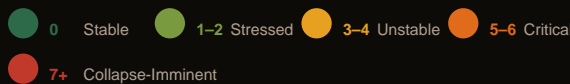
RECOGNITION CLUSTER (Nodes 6–7)

- **Jurisdictional Contradiction**
2→6 Competing regimes over same situation
- **Recognition Failure**
6/7 Target denied required recognition
- **Recognition Collapse**
6→8 Subjecthood stripped; enforcement continues
- **Correlativity Contradiction**
N.7 Rights claimed; correlative duties refused
- **Self-Undermining Effect**
N.7 Effect destabilises system's own persistence

REPAIR CLUSTER (Node 8)

- **Repair Failure**
N.8 Remedy available but blocked/inaccessible

Contradiction Debt (CD) Stability Scale



IRREVERSIBLE ACCOUNTABILITY TEST (IAT)

IAT determines whether an entity bears genuine normative agency — and thus full legal accountability. IAT(E) holds iff all five conditions are satisfied:

- 1 **Standing**
Normatively structured position in domain R within D
- 2 **Attributable Breach**
Breach in R,D directly attributable to E
- 3 **Non-Resettable Residue**
Enduring residue borne by E; cannot be reset
- 4 **Repair Capacity**
E can address residue — refusal is itself accountable
- 5 **Counterfactual Control**
E could have acted otherwise in domain D

Agency is satisfied only when IAT holds.

Denial of obligation contradicts agency.

COHERENCE VS. CONTRADICTION (KEY DISTINCTION)

COHERENT
MLC closes at all 8 nodes without structural self-defeat

CONTRADICTION
One or more CD types active; instability accumulates

MORALLY EVIL
Independent of above — SOoL does not collapse law into ethics

A coherent system may be morally monstrous (Nazi Germany, 1935).

A contradictory system may pursue just ends.

SOoL measures ontological stability, not moral worth.

SOOL VS. STANDARD JURISPRUDENCE

Natural Law

Is this just?
Moral gravity; misses structural precision

Positivism

Is the rule valid?
Identifies violations; no CD accumulation

Realism

What will courts do?
Explains enforcement gaps; no internal critique

Interpretivism

What makes law coherent?
Closest to SOoL: no formal chain test

STEP-BY-STEP: HOW TO RUN AN AUDIT

BEFORE YOU START

1 Enter Case Information

In the left panel: enter a case title, brief fact summary, and the applicable legal regime(s). This becomes the header of your report.

2 Or Load a Pre-Built Example

Click "Load Example" in the sidebar. Six cases are pre-loaded (see right). Select any to populate all 8 nodes automatically.

AT EACH NODE (1–8)

3 Read the Node Description

Each node shows what it tests (e.g., Node 1 = "Is there a valid source of authority?"). Read the prompt question before assessing.

4 Set Closure Status

Choose: CLOSES (the node is satisfied), FAILS (it is not), or CONDITIONALLY CLOSES (satisfied only if certain facts obtain). Be precise — this drives the report.

5 Identify Active Contradictions

Check any contradiction types that fire at this node. Only types relevant to the node are shown. A contradiction can fire even when the node closes (e.g., authority inflation at Node 1).

6 Write Analytical Notes

Record your reasoning in the notes field. The note will appear verbatim in the final report — write as if addressing a tribunal.

7 Advance Through the Chain

Click Next Node. The sidebar chain map updates in real time. You can click any node in the sidebar to jump back and revise.

GENERATING THE REPORT

8 Generate the Report

At Node 8, click Generate Report. The tool produces: chain table, contradiction inventory, auto-generated structural verdict, and a diagnostic summary including CD level, stability rating, and whether external repair is required.

9 Export or Revise

Click Export Report to print or save as PDF. Click Revise Audit to return to the chain and amend any node.

SOoL AS IRAC+ : THE UPGRADE PATH

IRAC

Issue → *Rule* → *Application* → *Conclusion*

Standard legal analysis

IRAC+

MLC *audit* THEN *Issue* → *Rule* → *App* → *Concl.*

READING THE AUDIT REPORT

Chain Closure Table

Lists all 8 nodes with status badges (CLOSES / FAILS / CONDITIONAL), active contradiction types, and your notes. Scan for red (FAILS) first — these are structural breaks.

Contradiction Inventory

Lists every active contradiction type with its chain link anchor and description. The count is your raw CD number. Review for correlativity contradictions at Node 7 — these are structurally irreducible.

Structural Verdict

Auto-generated prose verdict. Notes which nodes fail, which contradictions are most significant, and whether the structure is approaching ontological instability. This is not a moral judgment — it is a diagnosis.

Diagnostic Summary

Nodes closing/failing, CD count and stability level, and whether external repair is required. "External repair required" fires when fails ≥ 3 or CD ≥ 5 — the Nuremberg Tribunal threshold.

COMMON ANALYTICAL PITFALLS

- Conflating coherence with legitimacy**
 A chain that fully closes is structurally coherent — not necessarily just. Nazi Germany's racial laws closed at Nodes 1–5 before collapsing at 6–8.
- Treating FAILS and contradictions as the same**
 A node can CLOSE and still carry active contradiction types (e.g., authority inflation at Node 1). Contradictions accumulate CD even through conditional closures.
- Skipping the correlativity check**
 The most common structural error in international law: claiming rights under a regime while refusing its correlative duties. Always check Node 7 for correlativity contradiction when belligerent or sovereign rights are invoked.
- Assuming repair failure = no law**
 When Node 8 fails (remedy blocked), the legal effects at Nodes 6–7 still attach ontologically. The failure is in repair, not in the structure that generated the obligation.
- Using SOoL for moral prescription**
 SOoL is diagnostic. It can tell you the structure is collapsing; it cannot tell you what the structure should have been. Pair with normative frameworks for evaluative conclusions.

PRE-LOADED EXAMPLES — WHAT EACH DEMONSTRATES

STABLE - CD: 0

Valid Commercial Contract

The reference case for a fully-closed chain. All 8 nodes green. Use this to establish baseline — what structural coherence looks like before examining failure modes.

STRESSED - CD: 2

Unlawful Search & Seizure (4th Amendment)

Conferral failure at Node 1 (no warrant = no specific conferral). Correlativity contradiction at Node 7 (prosecution rights claimed from unlawfully-seized evidence). Self-repair via exclusionary rule demonstrates Node 8 working.

UNSTABLE - CD: 5

Naval Warfare — Rescue Refusal

The full SOoL analysis case. Jurisdictional plurality (IHL/UNCLOS/neutrality), role contradiction (the commander's role requires rescue it refuses), temporal contradiction (rescue duty attaches immediately at hors de combat), and correlativity contradiction (belligerent rights without belligerent duties).

CRITICAL - CD: 6

Soviet Show Trial (1936–38)

The fact manipulation paradigm: Node 4 fails completely (fabricated confessions). Norm indeterminacy at Node 2 ("enemy of the people"). Role instability — judges become defendants. Recognition collapse: defendants are simultaneously prosecuted and denied rights.

COLLAPSE-IMMINENT - CD: 7

Nazi Racial Laws (Nuremberg Laws, 1935)

The coherence/contradiction teaching case. Nodes 1–5 close (the MLC functions — the regime has working legal machinery). Nodes 6–8 collapse: recognition failure and recognition collapse under enforcement at Node 6 (personhood stripped, regulation continues); correlativity contradiction and self-undermining effect at Node 7; repair failure requiring external remedy (Nuremberg Tribunal).

CRITICAL - CD: 4

Autonomous AI Contract

IAT failure at Node 3: the AI cannot satisfy the Irreversible Accountability Test — it lacks normatively structured standing, cannot bear attributable breach in the relevant sense, and has no repair capacity. The role of contracting agent was never properly conferred. Demonstrates SOoL's application to computational law and AI agency questions.