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# RMCP: Enhancing LLM-based Translation via Prompting with Retrieved Monolingual Corpora

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## Abstract

Previous work has proved that incorporating external linguistic resources into translation models can effectively improve their adaptability to diverse translation scenarios. However, most existing studies rely on limited bilingual translation memories and require additional model training, significantly restricting their application. This study attempts to address these issues simultaneously with the Retrieved Monolingual Corpora Prompting (RMCP) framework. This framework leverages a pre-trained multilingual sentence embedding model to retrieve the top- $k$  semantically similar sentences of the source text from a monolingual corpus and incorporates them into the prompt of large language models (LLMs) as in-context examples. Experiments demonstrate that applying the framework to various LLMs significantly improves their translation performance across different language pairs, including those involving low-resource languages. It even outperforms the powerful commercial machine translation system Google Translate. Notably, the inference model shows great potential in utilizing monolingual examples. Qualitative analysis reveals that RMCP improves the quality of LLMs' translations by providing lexical, syntactic, pragmatic, and formatting guidelines.

## 1 Introduction

Translation Memory (TM) is a computer-based tool that enables translators to consult a database of previous translations, retrieving similar sentence pairs to guide and assist in translating new content (Somers, 2003). The integration of TM into machine translation (MT) systems has long been pursued as a way to combine the accuracy of human-translated segments with the scalability provided by automated models (Bouthors et al., 2024; Hao et al., 2023; Zhang et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2014). These efforts have resulted in significant improvements in translation quality, consistency, and efficiency in MT applications.

However, previous TM-augmented translation approaches rely heavily on bilingual parallel data, which are often limited in both coverage and scale in practical scenarios (Wolk and Marasek, 2015). This reliance on bilingual resources significantly impedes advancements in MT for many low-resourced languages and specialized domains. Although there have been attempts to incorporate monolingual corpora into translation systems, most existing methods depend on either back-translation pipelines (Sennrich et al., 2016) or architectural adaptations (Cai et al., 2021). These methods often result in the loss of translation expertise, higher computational expenses, and difficulties in achieving real-time updates.

The rise of LLMs presents a promising solution to these challenges. A key advantage of LLM-based translation over statistical machine translation (SMT) and neural machine translation (NMT) is their prompt-based interface, which offers extended context length and flexible formatting (Khair and Sawalha, 2025). This architecture minimizes text fragmentation from chunking, thereby enhancing information continuity across longer contexts. Additionally, the simple prompt-based customization enables users to readily define the role of monolingual corpora in the translation task. These intrinsic features create numerous possibilities for incorporating monolingual corpora into the translation process.

To this end, we propose RMCP, a plug-and-play framework that enhances translation quality through the direct utilization of monolingual corpora. Specifically, our framework uses Language-Agnostic BERT Sentence Embedding (LaBSE) to retrieve the top- $k$  sentences from an external monolingual corpus. These sentences are then seamlessly integrated into the prompt to steer the LLM's translation via in-context learning (ICL). This entire process eliminates the need for parallel data and model retraining, offering a lightweight yet

powerful solution for translation augmentation.

Our main contributions can be summarized as follows:

- To the best of our knowledge, we are the first to systematically demonstrate that monolingual corpora can be directly harnessed as a source of translation knowledge through a straightforward prompting approach. This finding paves new pathways for low-resource language translation.
- We propose a practical framework that seamlessly integrates pre-trained sentence retrievers with readily available LLMs, thereby significantly reducing the barriers to adoption.
- We perform extensive empirical evaluations across a variety of language pairs, LLM architectures, and experimental settings. The results not only demonstrate the superiority of our method compared to vanilla LLM translation and Google Translate baselines, but also unveil critical insights, including the great potential of inference models to utilize retrieved monolingual examples for translation.

## 2 Related Work

Extensive research has highlighted the importance of high-quality retrieved sentence pairs, commonly referred to as "fuzzy matches" or "translation memories," in enhancing machine translation performance.

Related research showed remarkable diversity and innovation within the SMT paradigm. [Koehn and Senellart \(2010\)](#) employed XML markup to enable SMT systems to concentrate on non-matching segments, effectively merging the precise matches offered by TM with the generalization capabilities of SMT. [Ma et al. \(2011\)](#) implemented discriminative learning techniques to promote translation consistency, resulting in notable improvements in BLEU scores for English-Chinese technical documents. Additionally, [Wang et al. \(2014\)](#) introduced dynamic merging of TM phrase pairs and an enhanced integration model, addressing the discrepancies between TM databases and SMT training datasets. These groundbreaking studies have revealed the untapped potential of external linguistic resources in MT systems.

Subsequent studies have also made significant strides in integrating translation memory into traditional encoder-decoder NMT models. A range

of lightweight methods ([Zhao et al., 2018](#); [Zhang et al., 2018](#); [Bulte and Tezcan, 2019](#); [Xu et al., 2020](#); [Reheman et al., 2023](#)) have been proposed successfully. Meanwhile, some researchers have broadened the resource pool from bilingual translation memories to include monolingual corpora ([Reheman et al., 2024](#)). However, the lack of pre-defined roles for monolingual data in the input framework of traditional NMT often requires careful design for effective incorporation. One common strategy is back-translation ([Sennrich et al., 2016](#); [Fadaee et al., 2017](#); [Edunov et al., 2018](#)), where monolingual target-language sentences are translated to the source language to create synthetic parallel data. Alternatively, performance improvements can also be achieved through model adaptation approaches, such as architectural modifications ([Cai et al., 2021](#)) or additional training ([Cai et al., 2021](#); [Tamura et al., 2023](#)).

In recent years, the emergence of LLMs has significantly transformed the landscape of machine translation. Researchers have begun to explore the integration of retrieved translation segments with LLMs, a methodology referred to as the Retrieval-Augmented Translation (RAT) paradigm ([Hoang et al., 2022](#)). Some existing works have struck a balance between efficiency and quality through innovative designs ([Shi et al., 2022](#); [Mu et al., 2023](#); [Wang et al., 2024](#); [Zhu et al., 2024](#)). However, despite these notable advancements, the availability of bilingual corpora necessary for these studies is still considerably more limited compared to the abundance of monolingual data ([Sennrich et al., 2016](#)). Therefore, this paper explores a more accessible approach: directly utilizing monolingual corpora through prompting to enhance LLM-based translation.

## 3 The RMCP pipeline

Inspired by the In-Context Retrieval-Augmented Language Models (RALM) proposed by [Ram et al. \(2023\)](#), this study employs a black-box RAT pipeline that requires no fine-tuning. The core feature of this pipeline is the direct integration of a pre-trained sentence retriever with an off-the-shelf LLM serving as the translation engine. The entire process consists of three main stages: Sentence Retrieval, Prompt Construction, and Translation Generation. Figure 1 presents an example to illustrate the workflow.

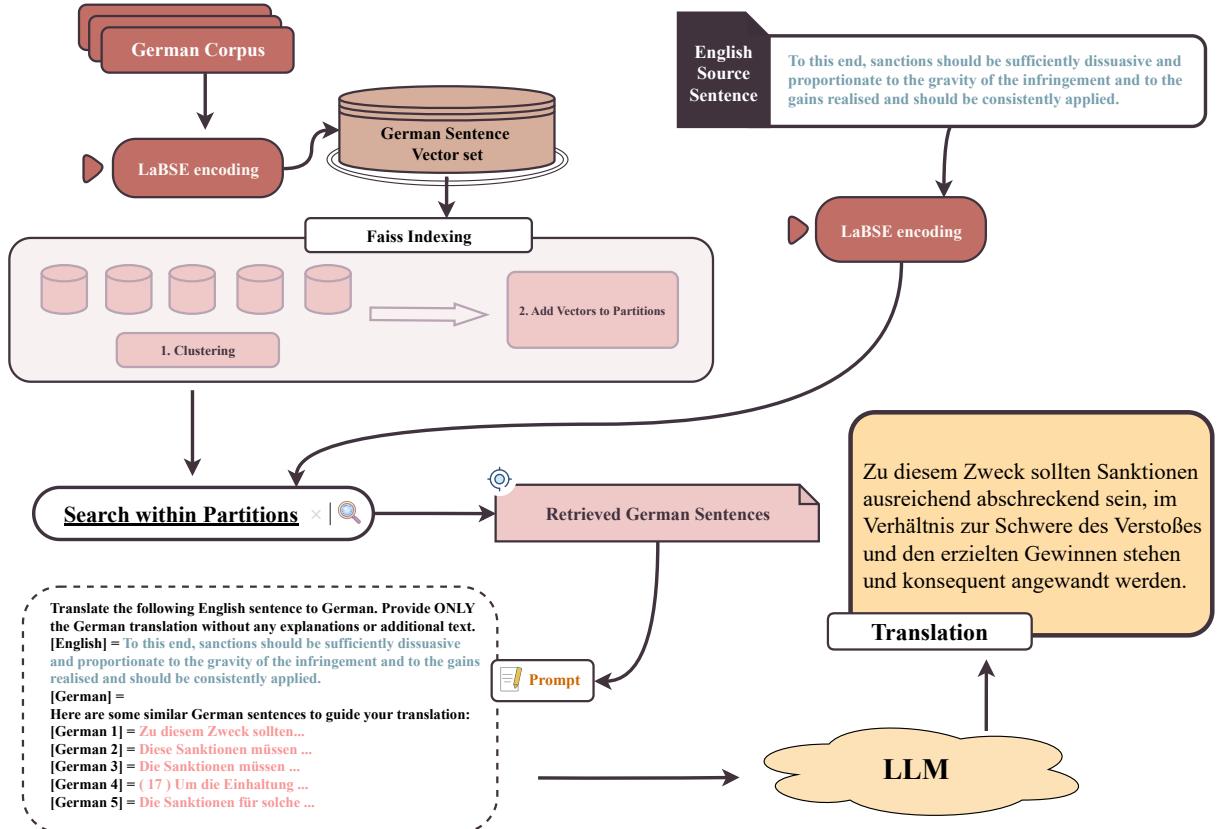


Figure 1: An example of RCMP. Note that the clustering and partitioning steps are specific to the IndexIVFFlat index.

### 3.1 Sentence Retrieval

In the retrieval stage, we encode both the input source sentences and retrievable monolingual corpora into a shared semantic space using LaBSE (Feng et al., 2022), which is renowned for its strong performance on cross-lingual similarity tasks. Subsequently, we leverage Faiss (Douze et al., 2024)<sup>1</sup> to manage and query these embeddings efficiently. To enable fast retrieval of the top- $k$  most semantically similar sentences, we construct an appropriate search index from the sentence embeddings based on the corpus size. Similarity is measured by the maximum inner product search (MIPS) within Faiss.

### 3.2 Prompt Construction

Once the top- $k$  sentences are retrieved, they are formatted as in-context examples and integrated into a prompt for the LLM. As shown in the example in Figure 1, a typical prompt includes a clear task instruction, the retrieved sentences presented as guiding examples, and the source sentence to be translated. This structure leverages the ICL ca-

pabilities of LLMs, providing them with powerful contextual cues to enhance translation quality.

### 3.3 Translation Generation

In the final stage, the constructed prompt is fed to a large language model. The model processes the full context and generates the final translation for the source sentence.

## 4 Experimental Setup

### 4.1 Datasets and Preprocessing

We tested our method on two datasets: 1) the JRC-Acquis (JRC-A) dataset (Steinberger et al., 2006), which constitutes a multilingual parallel corpus covering 24 European languages with aligned documents in legal and administrative domains<sup>2</sup> and 2) Bible Jv↔Id (Cahyawijaya et al., 2021), a Bible corpus for Javanese-Indonesian (Jv↔Id) translation.<sup>3</sup> For the JRC-A dataset, we focused on four language pairs, conducting experiments in both translation directions: German↔English (de↔en),

<sup>2</sup><https://wt-public.emm4u.eu/Acquis/JRC-Acquis.3.0/corpus/>

<sup>3</sup><https://github.com/IndoNLP/indonlg>

<sup>1</sup><https://github.com/facebookresearch/faiss>

English↔Spanish (en↔es), English↔French (en↔fr), and German↔French (de↔fr). We adopted a data splitting strategy consistent with Reheman et al. (2023). Specifically, for each language pair, we randomly selected 3,000 sentence pairs to constitute the test set, while the remaining sentences were used as the retrievable corpus for translation augmentation.

For the Bible Jv↔Id corpus, we used the provided test set for evaluation, while the combined training and validation sets served as the retrievable corpus.

It is important to note that the retrievable corpora from both datasets initially consisted of bilingual sentence pairs. Since our study focuses on the utility of monolingual corpora, we disaggregated these bilingual pairs into source-side and target-side monolingual corpora, which were then used independently for retrieval in our experiments.

Detailed statistics for these two datasets are presented in Table 1.

Dataset	Lang.	Testset	Mono. Corpora
JRC-A	De↔En	3,000	423,315
	En↔Es	3,000	432,858
	En↔Fr	3,000	424,300
	De↔Fr	3,000	846,502
Bible Jv↔Id	Jv↔Id	1,193	6,765

Table 1: Statistics of the JRC-A and Bible Jv↔Id datasets.

## 4.2 Models and Baselines

We experiment with three leading LLMs: two generative models, DeepSeek-V3 and GPT-4.1, and one reasoning model, DeepSeek-R1. These models can represent the current performance frontier in their respective model categories. Their performance under our RCMP framework is compared against the zero-shot setting to quantify the improvements.

Furthermore, we benchmark our results against Google Translate<sup>4</sup>. As a user-friendly and powerful commercial system, it serves as an ideal baseline to demonstrate the practical viability and competitiveness of our approach.

<sup>4</sup><https://translate.google.com/>

## 4.3 Evaluation Metrics

We evaluate translation quality using established automatic metrics.

Our primary metrics are BLEU (Papineni et al., 2002) and chrF++ (Popović, 2017), both of which measure n-gram overlap with reference translations and are implemented via sacreBLEU (Post, 2018)<sup>5</sup> to ensure reproducibility. Specifically, for the JRC-A dataset, we report BLEU scores, employing the default "13a" tokenizer. For the Bible JvId dataset, chrF++ is used instead of BLEU due to the morphological richness of Javanese and Indonesian.

We also report COMET<sup>6</sup> scores (wmt22-COMET-da) (Rei et al., 2022) as a complementary metric providing deeper semantic insights.

## 5 Results

### 5.1 The Effectiveness of RMCP

To comprehensively evaluate the effectiveness of our proposed method, we compared the translation performance of LLMs with and without RMCP augmentation across eight translation directions. In this experiment, we utilized the P2.D prompt template (see Appendix A for details) and set the number of retrieved examples to 5.

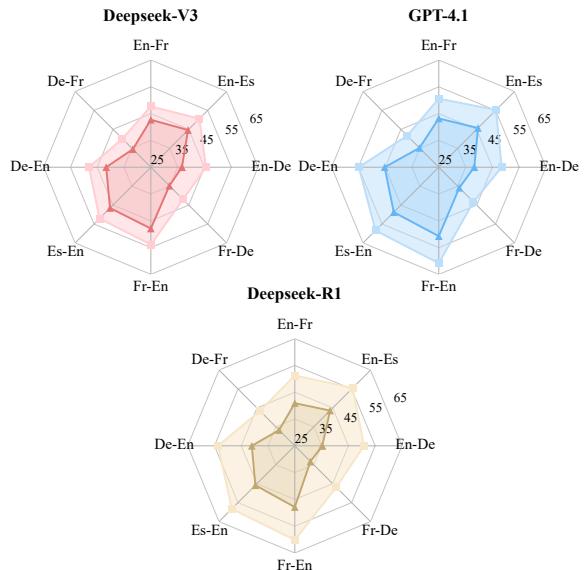


Figure 2: BLEU scores for different LLMs w/ and w/o RMCP augmentation on the JRC-A dataset.

Table 2 presents the detailed BLEU and COMET scores for all configurations. All reported improvements of our method over the zero-shot setting

<sup>5</sup><https://github.com/mjpost/sacrebleu>

<sup>6</sup><https://github.com/Unbabel/COMET>

BLEU									
Model	Setting	En-De	De-En	En-Es	Es-En	En-Fr	Fr-En	De-Fr	Fr-De
DeepSeek-V3	Zero-shot	36.61	41.68	44.62	46.55	42.71	47.89	34.51	34.79
	Few-shot (RMCP)	45.58***	48.08***	50.61***	52.09***	47.71***	53.88***	40.04***	42.00***
GPT-4.1	Zero-shot	38.26	45.20	45.70	48.76	43.20	50.74	35.18	35.85
	Few-shot (RMCP)	48.50***	<b>54.85***</b>	55.21***	<b>58.40***</b>	50.60***	<b>60.85***</b>	41.67***	43.31***
DeepSeek-R1	Zero-shot	35.25	41.06	43.62	45.82	40.91	47.88	33.30	33.26
	Few-shot (RMCP)	<b>50.82***</b>	53.64***	<b>55.57***</b>	58.29***	<b>51.24***</b>	60.15***	<b>43.43***</b>	<b>46.89***</b>
Google Translate	–	45.40	53.28	51.81	53.73	47.71	56.67	37.96	40.13
COMET									
Model	Setting	En-De	De-En	En-Es	Es-En	En-Fr	Fr-En	De-Fr	Fr-De
DeepSeek-V3	Zero-shot	83.49	82.77	85.46	84.31	86.00	84.87	82.78	82.62
	Few-shot (RMCP)	84.79***	83.74***	86.32***	85.09***	86.59***	85.50***	83.80***	83.60***
GPT-4.1	Zero-shot	84.04	83.12	85.73	84.55	86.16	85.15	83.02	82.81
	Few-shot (RMCP)	<b>85.61***</b>	84.90***	<b>87.22***</b>	<b>86.10***</b>	<b>87.32***</b>	<b>86.58***</b>	<b>84.52***</b>	<b>84.20***</b>
DeepSeek-R1	Zero-shot	83.23	82.41	85.16	84.09	85.61	84.64	82.48	82.30
	Few-shot (RMCP)	85.25***	84.41***	86.89***	85.67***	87.07***	86.21***	84.45***	84.15***
Google Translate	–	85.39	<b>85.21</b>	86.56	85.25	86.89	85.65	83.57	83.54

Table 2: BLEU and COMET scores for different LLMs w/ and w/o RMCP augmentation on the JRC-A dataset. Bold text denotes the highest score in each translation direction. Statistically significant improvements of Few-shot (RMCP) over its corresponding Zero-shot baseline are marked as follows: \*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$ .

have been tested for statistical significance using bootstrap resampling with 1000 iterations. The results clearly demonstrate that RMCP consistently and substantially enhances the translation quality across all tested LLMs and language pairs. For instance, when augmented with retrieved monolingual examples, DeepSeek-V3’s BLEU score for En-De translation improves from 36.61 to 45.58, and GPT-4.1’s score for Fr-En translation increases from 50.74 to 60.85. This consistent positive impact of incorporating monolingual translation memories, which can also be intuitively observed from Figure 2, underscores the general applicability and efficacy of our approach. Crucially, this enhancement allows LLMs, particularly the advanced GPT-4.1, to achieve translation quality that is not only competitive with but often surpasses the Google Translate baseline.

A particularly insightful comparison arises when examining DeepSeek-R1 and DeepSeek-V3, which possess a similar parameter count. In the zero-shot setting, their translation performance is largely comparable. However, upon the application of RMCP, DeepSeek-R1 exhibits a markedly more substantial improvement in performance compared to DeepSeek-V3. In En-De translation, DeepSeek-R1’s BLEU score increases by +15.57 points (from 35.25 to 50.82), whereas DeepSeek-V3’s score improves by a smaller margin of +8.97 points (from 36.61 to 45.58). This pattern is consistent across other language pairs, showcasing the great potential of reasoning models like DeepSeek-R1 in lever-

aging monolingual examples for translation tasks. Nevertheless, the observation that DeepSeek-R1 did not consistently surpass the performance of the generative model GPT-4.1, coupled with its high computational costs, suggests that its practical utility warrants further evaluation.

To further validate the effectiveness of our method in low-resource scenarios, we conducted experiments on the Bible Jv↔Id dataset, with ChrF++ and COMET scores presented in Table 3. The results indicate that the retrieval and utilization of monolingual corpora remain effective for this morphologically richer low-resource language pair. However, the improvements brought by monolingual corpora in the Id-Jv direction were relatively limited. This suggests that while RMCP can enhance LLM translation quality, its effectiveness might still be constrained by the LLM’s foundational capabilities in that specific direction.

## 5.2 Impact of the Language of the Monolingual Corpora

In this section, we compare the performance of GPT-4.1 when retrieving from target-side monolingual data against retrieving from source-side monolingual data. The results are detailed in Table 4.

The findings indicate that while utilizing source-side monolingual data occasionally provides marginal, sometimes statistically significant, gains over the zero-shot baseline, its impact is inconsistent and significantly less pronounced than that observed with target-side monolingual data. Mono-

Model	Setting	Id-Jv		Jv-Id	
		ChrF++	COMET	ChrF++	COMET
DeepSeek-V3	Zero-shot	35.29	85.27	58.26	87.30
	Few-shot (RMCP)	35.51*	85.07	60.83***	87.88***
GPT-4.1	Zero-shot	37.30	86.32	61.95	88.83
	Few-shot (RMCP)	38.66***	<b>86.62*</b>	<b>67.26***</b>	<b>89.98***</b>
DeepSeek-R1	Zero-shot	35.07	85.48	56.96	86.79
	Few-shot (RMCP)	35.56*	85.65	58.83***	87.26***
Google Translate	–	<b>39.30</b>	84.29	65.89	88.36

Table 3: ChrF++ and COMET scores for different LLMs w/ and w/o RMCP augmentation on the Bible Jv↔Id dataset. Bold text denotes the highest score in each translation direction. Statistically significant improvements of Few-shot (RMCP) over its corresponding Zero-shot baseline are marked as follows: \*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$ .

lingual data from the target language is a far more effective resource for retrieval-augmented translation within our prompting framework.

### 5.3 Impact of $k$

To determine the optimal number of retrieved in-context examples ( $k$ ), we analyzed translation performance on the En-De direction by varying  $k$  from 0 to 10. Referring to Figure 3, it can be observed that the reasoning model DeepSeek-R1 demonstrates a remarkable ability to leverage a small number of examples. It reaches a decent BLEU score with only  $k=1$  and approaches its peak performance rapidly with  $k=3$  to  $k=5$  examples. In contrast, while the generative models, DeepSeek-V3 and GPT-4.1, also benefit from increased  $k$ , their performance curve shows a more gradual ascent, typically requiring more examples to reach their respective optimal scores. This suggests that reasoning models such as DeepSeek-R1 could be particularly efficient in extracting and using information from limited in-context examples.

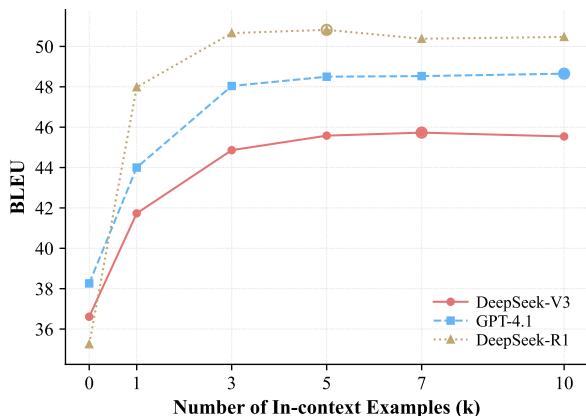


Figure 3: BLEU scores for different models with varying values of  $k$ .

### 5.4 Impact of Prompt Design

We evaluated two categories of prompt templates for GPT-4.1: Explicit Guidance (P1 series), which clearly defines the role of the monolingual examples, and Implicit Guidance (P2 series), which presents the examples with minimal instruction, relying on the LLM’s in-context learning capabilities to infer their utility.

Results (Tables 5 and 6 in Appendix A) indicate that prompt structure indeed matters. While specific implicit prompts can achieve strong results in some cases, the Explicit Guidance prompts generally demonstrate more stable and consistently high performance.

### 5.5 Impact of the Size of the Monolingual Corpora

We investigated the effect of the retrievable monolingual corpus size on translation performance using GPT-4.1 for En-De translation. The size of the target-side monolingual data was varied from 0% to 100% of the available data, in 20% increments.

As shown in Figure 4, there is a clear positive correlation between the size of the monolingual corpus and translation quality. Both BLEU and COMET scores consistently improve as more monolingual data is made available for retrieval. This suggests that a larger monolingual corpus provides a richer source of information for the model, leading to better translation performance.

## 6 Analysis

To offer a more in-depth understanding of RMCP’s effectiveness, this section delves into specific improvements across various linguistic and stylistic dimensions by analyzing translations generated

BLEU								
Setting	En-De	De-En	En-Es	Es-En	En-Fr	Fr-En	De-Fr	Fr-De
Zero-shot	38.26	45.20	45.70	48.76	43.20	50.74	35.18	35.85
RMCP.src	38.03	45.14	46.04*	49.20**	43.00	51.27***	35.05	35.92
RMCP.tgt	<b>48.50***</b>	<b>54.85***</b>	<b>55.21***</b>	<b>58.40***</b>	<b>50.60***</b>	<b>60.85***</b>	<b>41.67***</b>	<b>43.31***</b>
COMET								
Setting	En-De	De-En	En-Es	Es-En	En-Fr	Fr-En	De-Fr	Fr-De
Zero-shot	84.04	83.12	85.73	84.55	86.16	85.15	83.02	82.81
RMCP.src	84.13**	83.20*	85.86***	84.59	86.20	85.19	83.06	82.83
RMCP.tgt	<b>85.61***</b>	<b>84.90***</b>	<b>87.22***</b>	<b>86.10***</b>	<b>87.32***</b>	<b>86.58***</b>	<b>84.52***</b>	<b>84.20***</b>

Table 4: BLEU and COMET scores for GPT-4.1 on the JRC-A dataset under three settings: Zero-shot, RMCP.src (w/ source-side monolingual corpora), and RMCP.tgt (w/ target-side monolingual corpora). Bold text denotes the highest score in each translation direction. Statistically significant improvements of Few-shot (RMCP) over its corresponding Zero-shot baseline are marked as follows: \*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$ .

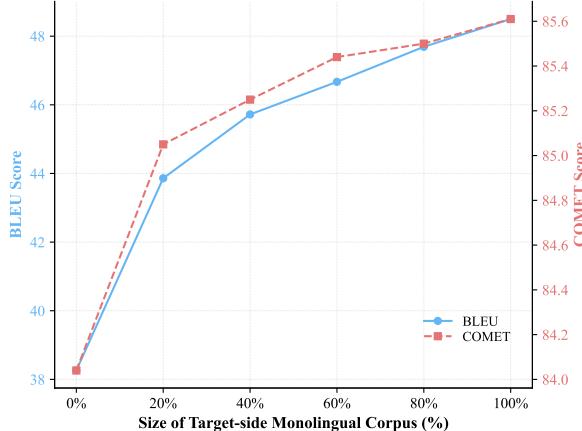


Figure 4: Translation Performance of GPT-4.1 across different monolingual corpus sizes

with and without monolingual examples. All illustrative cases, detailed in Appendix B, are from the Fr-En translation direction of the JRC-A dataset, with GPT-4.1 as the translation model.

## 6.1 Precise Lexical Choice and Terminology Application

Compared to the zero-shot approach, RMCP demonstrably enhances the LLM’s ability to select more precise vocabulary and terminology appropriate for specific contexts, especially within legal and official texts, by leveraging retrieved examples from target-side monolingual corpora.

In Case 1, the phrase "instruments de défense commerciale" is rendered as the abbreviation "TDI" in the reference translation. The zero-shot method produces the full term "trade defense instruments." In contrast, RMCP, guided by retrieved Example 1, generates a translation that includes both the full term and its abbreviation, more closely align-

ing with the reference. Beyond identifying abbreviations, RMCP also aids in translating domain-specific terminology. In Case 2, RMCP successfully identifies the name of a regulation, employing the capitalized and pluralized term "Agreed Minutes" and the capitalized "Government." This is a significant improvement over the zero-shot output, which deviates from conventions.

## 6.2 Optimized Syntactic Structures and Expressive Fluency

By referencing monolingual examples from the target language, RMCP guides the model in generating translations with natural syntactic structures and smooth logical connections. This effect is particularly pronounced when translating sentences with specific stylistic features, such as the lengthy clauses and fixed phrasings common in legal texts.

In Case 3, the zero-shot translation appears redundant and awkward due to its repeated use of "of + gerund" structures. The RMCP translation, however, adopts the more conventional "Whereas" opening and features a more concise and fluent parallel structure. This improvement is attributable to retrieved examples demonstrating how to organize and connect multiple parallel actions in the target language. Furthermore, Case 4 illustrates that RMCP successfully learns and incorporates key legal phrasal fragments from retrieved examples, such as "shall check that ... are complied with." This indicates that the formality of LLM translations can be enhanced by leveraging examples that feature recurrent and domain-specific syntactic structures and connectives.

### 6.3 Appropriate Pragmatic Functioning

In certain situations, RCMP enables the LLM to adjust the translation's tone based on retrieved examples, producing outputs that better align with the requirements of specific text types.

For instance, in Case 4, the LLM successfully acquires and employs the modal verb "shall" based on the retrieved examples. In legal discourse, "shall" commonly indicates a binding obligation (Garner, 2014), thereby making the RCMP translation more formal and semantically precise than the zero-shot version's use of the simple present "consider." This choice also enhances consistency with the reference translation. Additionally, in Case 5, although the retrieved examples do not directly provide the opening "A procedure should be established," they contain multiple instances of suggestive expressions with "should be." Consequently, the LLM employs the modal verb "should," accurately conveying the implicit recommendation or obligation in the source sentence.

### 6.4 Strict Adherence to Textual Formatting and Typographical Norms

In addition to improvements in lexical, syntactic, and pragmatic aspects, RCMP-generated translations also demonstrate a greater adherence to standard formatting and typographical conventions, such as list numbering, capitalization of proper nouns, and the appropriate use of special symbols. This is mainly attributable to the high quality and well-formatted nature of the retrieved examples.

For instance, in Case 6, the LLM learns to capitalize "Regulation" and adopts the British spelling "authorised" based on the retrieved texts. Similarly, Case 2 highlights RCMP's effectiveness in conforming to these conventions.

In summary, the retrieved monolingual examples function as strong contextual cues that guide the LLM not only in producing more accurate and fluent translations but also in adhering to formatting and typographical norms, ultimately enhancing the overall presentation and professionalism of the output.

## 7 Conclusion

This paper introduced a highly practical approach that enhances LLM-based machine translation by prompting with retrieved monolingual corpora. Our findings indicate that external monolingual corpus resources can improve the translation per-

formance of various LLMs across different language pairs, surpassing the robust and user-friendly commercial baseline Google Translate. The proposed method establishes a lightweight framework for translation improvement that requires neither parallel data nor model retraining, providing flexible solutions to meet diverse real-world translation needs.

## Limitations

This study is not without its limitations. First, the lack of similarity-aware filtering mechanisms raises concerns about the potential introduction of noise from low-similarity monolingual examples. Second, the increased inference latency and computational costs stemming from retrieval and longer prompts were not evaluated in this work. Finally, while our findings emphasize the great potential of reasoning models (e.g., DeepSeek-R1) in utilizing monolingual examples, a comprehensive and multidimensional comparative analysis against generative models has yet to be conducted.

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## A Prompt Templates and Evaluation Results

In order to explore the impact of prompt design on the performance of GPT-4.1, we use 8 prompt templates in the De→En direction of the JRC-A dataset for experiments. The results are shown in Table 5. and Table 6.

## B Qualitative Analysis Examples

This appendix provides detailed examples supporting the qualitative analysis presented in Section 6. For each case, we present the source sentence (French), the human reference translation (English), the output from the Zero-shot LLM, the output from our RMCP method, and the top 5 retrieved English monolingual sentences that guided the RMCP translation.

### Case 1

**Source (fr):** ( 441 ) Ces actions sont des exemples de mesures faisant appel aux instruments de défense commerciale , imposées par les États-Unis sur les importations du produit concerné , et viennent s’ ajouter aux mesures de sauvegarde mentionnées ci-dessus.

**Reference (en):** ( 441 ) These measures are examples of the TDI measures imposed by the US on imports of the product concerned and are in addition to the safeguard measures mentioned above.

No.	Prompt Template	BLEU	COMET
	Translate the following English text to German. Provide ONLY the German translation without any explanations or additional text. Please use the style, phrasing, and fluency demonstrated in the German examples below as a reference. Example 1: <a href="#">Zu diesem Zweck sollten die Maßnahmen ...</a> Example 2: <a href="#">Diese Sanktionen müssen wirksam , verhältnismäßig ...</a> Example 3: <a href="#">Die Sanktionen müssen in angemessenem Verhältnis ...</a> Example 4: <a href="#">( 17 ) Um die Einhaltung dieser ...</a> Example 5: <a href="#">Die Sanktionen für solche Zu widerhandlungen ...</a> Text to Translate: <b>To this end , sanctions should be sufficiently...</b> German Translation:	51.26	<b>85.89</b>
P1.A	Translate the following English text to German. Provide ONLY the German translation without any explanations or additional text. The following are German sentences from the same domain. Pay attention to the domain-specific terminology and common phrasings when generating your translation. Example 1: <a href="#">Zu diesem Zweck sollten die Maßnahmen ...</a> Example 2: <a href="#">Diese Sanktionen müssen wirksam , verhältnismäßig ...</a> Example 3: <a href="#">Die Sanktionen müssen in angemessenem Verhältnis ...</a> Example 4: <a href="#">( 17 ) Um die Einhaltung dieser ...</a> Example 5: <a href="#">Die Sanktionen für solche Zu widerhandlungen ...</a> Text to Translate: <b>To this end , sanctions should be sufficiently...</b> German Translation:	50.35	85.79
P1.B	Translate the following English text to German. Provide ONLY the German translation without any explanations or additional text. Consider the following German statements as relevant background information: <a href="#">Zu diesem Zweck sollten die Maßnahmen ...</a> <a href="#">Diese Sanktionen müssen wirksam , verhältnismäßig ...</a> <a href="#">Die Sanktionen müssen in angemessenem Verhältnis ...</a> <a href="#">( 17 ) Um die Einhaltung dieser ...</a> <a href="#">Die Sanktionen für solche Zu widerhandlungen ...</a> Text to Translate: <b>To this end , sanctions should be sufficiently...</b> German Translation:	50.93	85.61
P1.C	Translate the following English text to German. Provide ONLY the German translation without any explanations or additional text. To help you, here are some high-quality sentences in German that reflect the desired output quality and style. Example 1: <a href="#">Zu diesem Zweck sollten die Maßnahmen ...</a> Example 2: <a href="#">Diese Sanktionen müssen wirksam , verhältnismäßig ...</a> Example 3: <a href="#">Die Sanktionen müssen in angemessenem Verhältnis ...</a> Example 4: <a href="#">( 17 ) Um die Einhaltung dieser ...</a> Example 5: <a href="#">Die Sanktionen für solche Zu widerhandlungen ...</a> Text to Translate: <b>To this end , sanctions should be sufficiently...</b> German Translation:	50.32	85.82
P1.D	Translate the following English text to German. Provide ONLY the German translation without any explanations or additional text. Example 1: <a href="#">Zu diesem Zweck sollten die Maßnahmen ...</a> Example 2: <a href="#">Diese Sanktionen müssen wirksam , verhältnismäßig ...</a> Example 3: <a href="#">Die Sanktionen müssen in angemessenem Verhältnis ...</a> Example 4: <a href="#">( 17 ) Um die Einhaltung dieser ...</a> Example 5: <a href="#">Die Sanktionen für solche Zu widerhandlungen ...</a> Text to Translate: <b>To this end , sanctions should be sufficiently...</b> German Translation:		

Table 5: Translation Performance of GPT-4.1 using Explicit Guidance prompts (P1 series)

No.	Prompt Template	BLEU	COMET
	<p><a href="#">Zu diesem Zweck sollten die Maßnahmen ...</a></p> <p><a href="#">Diese Sanktionen müssen wirksam , verhältnismäßig ...</a></p> <p><a href="#">Die Sanktionen müssen in angemessenem Verhältnis ...</a></p> <p><a href="#">( 17 ) Um die Einhaltung dieser ...</a></p> <p><a href="#">Die Sanktionen für solche Zu widerhandlungen ...</a></p>	49.00	85.57
P2.A	<p>Translate the following English text to German. Provide ONLY the German translation without any explanations or additional text.</p> <p>Text to Translate: <a href="#">To this end , sanctions should be sufficiently...</a></p> <p>German Translation:</p> <p>Translate from English to German. Provide ONLY the German translation without any explanations or additional text.</p> <p>German Examples:</p> <p><a href="#">Zu diesem Zweck sollten die Maßnahmen ...</a></p> <p><a href="#">Diese Sanktionen müssen wirksam , verhältnismäßig ...</a></p>	<b>51.74</b>	85.87
P2.B	<p><a href="#">Die Sanktionen müssen in angemessenem Verhältnis ...</a></p> <p><a href="#">( 17 ) Um die Einhaltung dieser ...</a></p> <p><a href="#">Die Sanktionen für solche Zu widerhandlungen ...</a></p> <p>Source (English): <a href="#">To this end , sanctions should be sufficiently...</a></p> <p>Target (German):</p> <p>German: <a href="#">Zu diesem Zweck sollten die Maßnahmen ...</a></p> <p>German: <a href="#">Diese Sanktionen müssen wirksam , verhältnismäßig ...</a></p> <p>German: <a href="#">Die Sanktionen müssen in angemessenem Verhältnis ...</a></p> <p>German: <a href="#">( 17 ) Um die Einhaltung dieser ...</a></p> <p>German: <a href="#">Die Sanktionen für solche Zu widerhandlungen ...</a></p>	50.91	85.62
P2.C	<p>Provide ONLY the German translation of the following English text.</p> <p><a href="#">To this end , sanctions should be sufficiently...</a></p> <p>Translate the following English sentence to German. Provide ONLY the German translation without any explanations or additional text.</p> <p>[English] = <a href="#">To this end , sanctions should be sufficiently...</a></p> <p>[German] =</p> <p>Here are some similar German sentences to guide your translation:</p> <p>[German 1] = <a href="#">Zu diesem Zweck sollten die Maßnahmen ...</a></p> <p>[German 2] = <a href="#">Diese Sanktionen müssen wirksam , verhältnismäßig ...</a></p> <p>[German 3] = <a href="#">Die Sanktionen müssen in angemessenem Verhältnis ...</a></p> <p>[German 4] = <a href="#">( 17 ) Um die Einhaltung dieser ...</a></p> <p>[German 5] = <a href="#">Die Sanktionen für solche Zu widerhandlungen ...</a></p>	48.50	85.61

Table 6: Translation Performance of GPT-4.1 using Implicit Guidance Prompts (P2 Series).

**Zero-shot (en):** These actions are examples of measures involving trade defense instruments, imposed by the United States on imports of the product concerned, and are in addition to the safeguard measures mentioned above.

**RMCP (en):** ( 441 ) These actions are examples of measures involving trade defence instruments ( TDIs ), imposed by the United States on imports of the product concerned, and are in addition to the safeguard measures mentioned above.

#### **Retrieved Monolingual Examples:**

- Example 1: ( 445 ) The decrease in the level of imports of the above products to the US can be explained , primarily , by reference to the direct effect of the measures referred to above on exporters whose goods became subject to duties as part of trade defence instruments ( TDIs ) ; but also by the indirect dissuasive effect of those measures and the investigations on all exporters of the product concerned to the US.
- Example 2: Imports into the Community of the products listed in the Annex and originating in the United States of America are hereby made subject to retrospective Community surveillance based on import declarations or any other equivalent import document required before the entry into force of this Regulation.
- Example 3: A 14 % ad valorem duty additional to the customs duty applicable under Regulation ( EEC ) No 2913 / 92 shall be imposed on the products originating in the United States of America listed in the Annex to this Regulation .. "
- Example 4: The protective measures shall be applied in compliance with any obligations arising under international agreements binding on the Community.
- Example 5: This may be particularly true to a degree for those countries which have taken protective measures to counteract the US safeguard action.

#### **Case 2**

**Source (fr):** relative à la signature et à la conclusion d' un procès-verbal agréé entre la Communauté européenne et le gouvernement de la

République de Corée sur le marché mondial de la construction navale

**Reference (en):** on the signing and conclusion of Agreed Minutes between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of Korea relating to the world shipbuilding market

**Zero-shot (en):** concerning the signing and conclusion of an agreed minutes between the European Community and the government of the Republic of Korea on the world shipbuilding market

**RMCP (en):** on the signing and conclusion of Agreed Minutes between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of Korea concerning the world shipbuilding market

#### **Retrieved Monolingual Examples:**

- Example 1: The Agreed Minutes between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of Korea relating to the world shipbuilding market are hereby approved.
- Example 2: concerning the conclusion of the framework Agreement for Trade and Cooperation between the European Community and its Member States , on the one hand , and the Republic of Korea , on the other hand
- Example 3: on the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Community and the Government of the People 's Republic of China on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters
- Example 4: on the signing , on behalf of the Community , of the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Denmark on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters
- Example 5: on the signing , on behalf of the Community , of the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Denmark on the service of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters

#### **Case 3**

**Source (fr):** considérant que l' application de ces normes doit avoir pour effet d' éliminer du marché les produits de qualité non satisfaisante , d' orienter la production de façon à satisfaire aux exigences des consommateurs et de faciliter les relations commerciales sur la base d' une concurrence loyale ,

en contribuant ainsi à améliorer la rentabilité de la production;

**Reference (en):** Whereas the application of the standards should eliminate poor quality products from the market , direct production to meet consumer requirements and facilitate trade on the basis of fair competition , so helping to improve profitability;

**Zero-shot (en):** considering that the application of these standards should have the effect of eliminating from the market products of unsatisfactory quality, of directing production so as to meet consumer requirements and of facilitating trade relations on the basis of fair competition, thus helping to improve the profitability of production;

**RMCP (en):** Whereas the application of these standards should have the effect of removing products of unsatisfactory quality from the market, directing production to meet consumer requirements, and facilitating trade relations on the basis of fair competition, thereby helping to improve the profitability of production;

#### **Retrieved Monolingual Examples:**

- Example 1: Whereas the effect of these standards must be to remove products of unsatisfactory quality from the market , gear production to satisfying consumer requirements and facilitate trade relations on the basis of fair competition , thereby helping to make production more profitable;
- Example 2: Whereas application of those standards should have the effect of keeping products of unsatisfactory quality off the market , directing production to meet consumers ' requirements and facilitating trade under fair competitive conditions , thereby helping to improve the profitability of production;
- Example 3: Whereas application of these standards should have the effect of keeping products of unsatisfactory quality off the market , guiding production to meet consumers ' requirements and facilitating trade under fair competitive conditions , so helping to improve the profitability of production;
- Example 4: ( 3 ) Whereas the result of applying these standards should be to remove products of unsatisfactory quality from the market , to bring production into line with consumer requirements , to facilitate trade relationships based on fair competition , and thereby to help

make production more profitable;

- Example 5: ( 3 ) Whereas the effect of these standards must be to remove products of unsatisfactory quality from the market , gear production to satisfying consumer requirements and facilitate trade relations on the basis of fair competition , thereby helping to make production more profitable;

#### **Case 4**

**Source (fr):** La Commission s' assure du respect de l' article 11 et du paragraphe 1 point b ) du présent article par des contrôles à effectuer conformément au titre VI et , à la suite de ces derniers , demande , le cas échéant , aux États membres de retirer les reconnaissances accordées.

**Reference (en):** The Commission shall check that Articles 11 and paragraph ( 1 ) ( b ) of this Article are complied with by carrying out checks in accordance with Title VI and in the light of such checks shall , where appropriate , call on Member States to withdraw recognition.

**Zero-shot (en):** The Commission ensures compliance with Article 11 and paragraph 1 point (b) of this Article by carrying out checks in accordance with Title VI and, following these checks, requires, where appropriate, the Member States to withdraw the recognitions granted.

**RMCP (en):** The Commission shall check that Article 11 and paragraph 1(b) of this Article are complied with by carrying out checks in accordance with Title VI and, as a result of those checks, shall, where appropriate, request Member States to withdraw the recognition granted.

#### **Retrieved Monolingual Examples:**

- Example 1: In order to ensure that Article 5 and paragraph ( 1 ) ( b ) of this Article are complied with , the Commission shall carry out checks and in the light of such checks may , where appropriate , request that Member States withdraw recognition.
- Example 2: The Commission shall check that paragraphs 2 and 4 ( b ) are complied with by carrying out checks in accordance with Title VI and may , as a result of these checks , ask a Member State to withdraw recognition.
- Example 3: The Commission shall check that paragraph 1 and 3 ( b ) are complied with by carrying out checks and may , as a result

of those checks , request a Member State to withdraw recognition.

- Example 4: The Commission shall check that Article 39 and paragraph 1 ( b ) of this Article are complied with by carrying out checks and in the light of such checks shall , where appropriate , call on Member States to withdraw recognition.
- Example 5: Member States shall report to the Commission on the derogation concerning paragraphs ( a ) and ( b ) in accordance with Article 11.

### Case 5

**Source (fr):** ( 7 ) Il y a lieu d' établir une procédure de détermination du statut épidémiologique par rapport à l' ESB d' un État membre , d' un pays tiers et d' une de leurs régions ( ci-après dénommés " pays ou régions " ) sur la base du risque d' introduction initiale ( en anglais " incident risk " ) , de propagation et d' exposition humaine en utilisant les informations disponibles.

**Reference (en):** ( 7 ) A procedure should be established for the determination of the epidemiological status of a Member State , a third country and of one of their regions , hereinafter referred to as " countries or regions " with respect to BSE , on the basis of the incident propagation and human exposure risk , using information available.

**Zero-shot (en):** It is necessary to establish a procedure for determining the epidemiological status with regard to BSE of a Member State, a third country, or one of their regions (hereinafter referred to as "countries or regions") on the basis of the risk of initial introduction ("incident risk"), spread, and human exposure, using the available information.

**RMCP (en):** (7) A procedure should be established for determining the epidemiological status with regard to BSE of a Member State, a third country and any of their regions (hereinafter referred to as "countries or regions") on the basis of the risk of initial introduction ("incident risk"), spread, and human exposure, using the available information.

#### Retrieved Monolingual Examples:

- Example 1: ( 7 ) On the basis of the draft list drawn up by the Commission in agreement with each of the Member States concerned , which also identifies sites hosting priority natural habitat types or priority species , a

list of sites selected as sites of Community importance should be adopted.

- Example 2: ( 6 ) Based on a common integrated risk analysis model , the Agency should carry out risk analyses in order to provide the Community and the Member States with adequate information to allow for appropriate measures to be taken or to tackle identified threats and risks with a view to improving the integrated management of external borders.
- Example 3: ( 10 ) Certain ruminant tissues should be designated as specified risk material on the basis of the pathogenesis of TSEs and the epidemiological status of the country or region of origin or residence of the animal concerned.
- Example 4: ( 7 ) Preparatory measures need to be taken at Member State and Community level to enable assistance intervention teams in emergencies to be mobilised rapidly and coordinated with the requisite flexibility and to ensure , through a training programme , the effective response capability and complementarity of assessment and / or coordination teams , intervention teams and other resources , as appropriate.
- Example 5: ( 5 ) On the basis of the draft list drawn up by the Commission in agreement with each of the Member States concerned , which also identifies sites hosting priority natural habitat types or priority species , a list of sites selected as sites of Community importance should be adopted.

### Case 6

**Source (fr):** considérant dès lors qu' il doit être possible à l' agence européenne pour l' évaluation des médicaments de procéder à l' évaluation , sur demande d' une firme , de tout médicament vétérinaire contenant une nouvelle substance active qui , à la date d' entrée en vigueur du présent règlement , n' a pas encore été autorisée par un État membre pour l' usage chez les animaux;

**Reference (en):** Whereas therefore it must be possible for the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products to carry out an evaluation , at the request of a company , of any veterinary medicinal product containing a new active substance which , on the date of entry into force of this

Regulation , was not authorised by any Member State for use in animals;

**Zero-shot (en):** whereas it must therefore be possible for the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products to carry out the evaluation, at the request of a company, of any veterinary medicinal product containing a new active substance which, on the date of entry into force of this regulation, has not yet been authorized by a Member State for use in animals;

**RMCP (en):** Whereas it should therefore be possible for the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products to carry out, at the request of a company, the evaluation of any veterinary medicinal product containing a new active substance which, on the date of entry into force of this Regulation, has not yet been authorised by a Member State for use in animals;

**Retrieved Monolingual Examples:**

- Example 1: 'Veterinary medicinal products containing a new active substance which , on the date of entry into force of this Regulation , was not authorised by any Member State for use in animals'.
- Example 2: Furthermore , a Member State should be able to suspend the examination of an application for authorization to place a veterinary medicinal product on the market which is currently under active consideration in another Member State with a view to recognizing the decision reached by the latter Member State.
- Example 3: Whereas , pending the adoption by the Commission of the animal health certification for importation of fresh poultrymeat from the countries specified in this list , Member States may continue to apply , on importation , their animal health requirements in force on 1 January 1994;
- Example 4: Furthermore, a Member State should be able to suspend the examination of an application for authorization to place a medicinal product on the market which is currently under active consideration in another Member State with a view to recognizing the decision reached by the latter Member State.
- Example 5: Whereas a period of 60 days should be allowed before the entry into force of this Regulation in order to allow Member States to make any adjustment which may be

necessary to the authorizations to place the veterinary medicinal products concerned on the market which have been granted in accordance with Council Directive 81 / 851 / EEC ( 4 ) , as last amended by Directive 93 / 40 / EEC ( 5 ) , to take account of the provisions of this Regulation ; ex II.