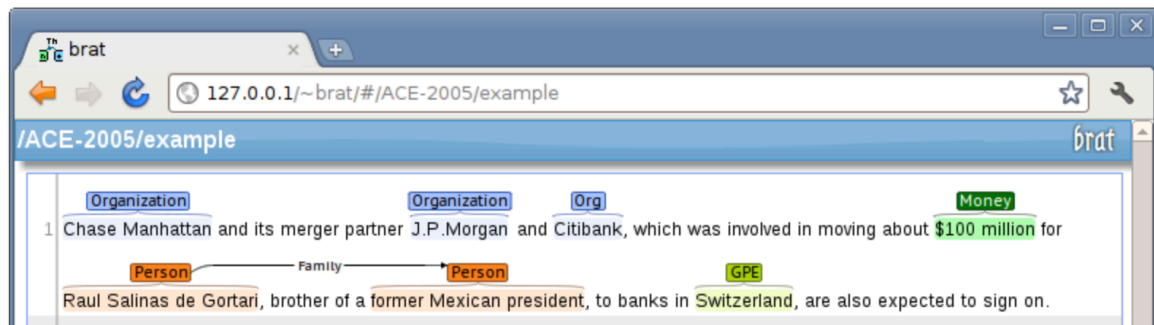# mini-introduction to brat

brat is a web-based tool for text annotation; that is, for adding notes to existing text documents.

brat is designed in particular for *structured* annotation, where the notes are not freeform text but have a fixed form that can be automatically processed and interpreted by a computer.

the following screenshot shows a simple example where a sentence has been annotated to identify mentions of some real-world entities (things) and their types, and a relation between two.

example annotations (following in part the ACE 2005 entity and relation annotation guidelines)

this example illustrates two basic categories of annotation:

- **text span** annotations, such as those marked with the `Organization` and `Person` types in the example
- **relation** annotations, such as the `Family` relation in the example

the simple typed text span category is suitable for creating annotations for named entity recognition, and binary relations for simple relational information extraction tasks, among others.

brat also supports the annotation of *n*-ary associations that can link together any number of other annotations participating in specific roles. This category of annotation can be used for example for *event annotation*, such as `TRANSFER` in the following example: