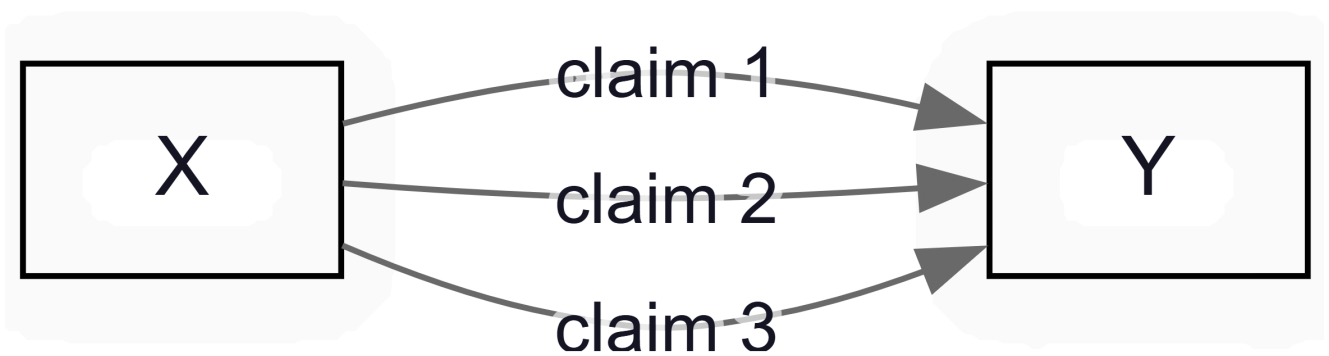




SYNTHESISING EVIDENCE FOR A CAUSAL LINK

📅 11 Dec 2025

After your initial causal mapping, you will usually end up with multiple causal claims for a given single link or path from X to Y. At Causal Map, we call the individual links just "links" and we call the collection of multiple "co-terminal" links, i.e. the set of links starting at X and finishing at Y, a "bundle of links" or a "links bundle" or just a "bundle". In the special case where there is only one link in the bundle, then the link = the bundle.



Three causal claims making up a bundle

Normally, not one of these possibly hundreds or thousands of causal claims, grouped into many bundles, is incontrovertible. Sometimes we call each of these claims "evidence" but only in a weak sense of "something we could take into consideration when weighing up the validity of the claim that X causally influenced Y". Usually they — singly or as part of bundles — have not yet passed any test at this stage or been compared to any standard.

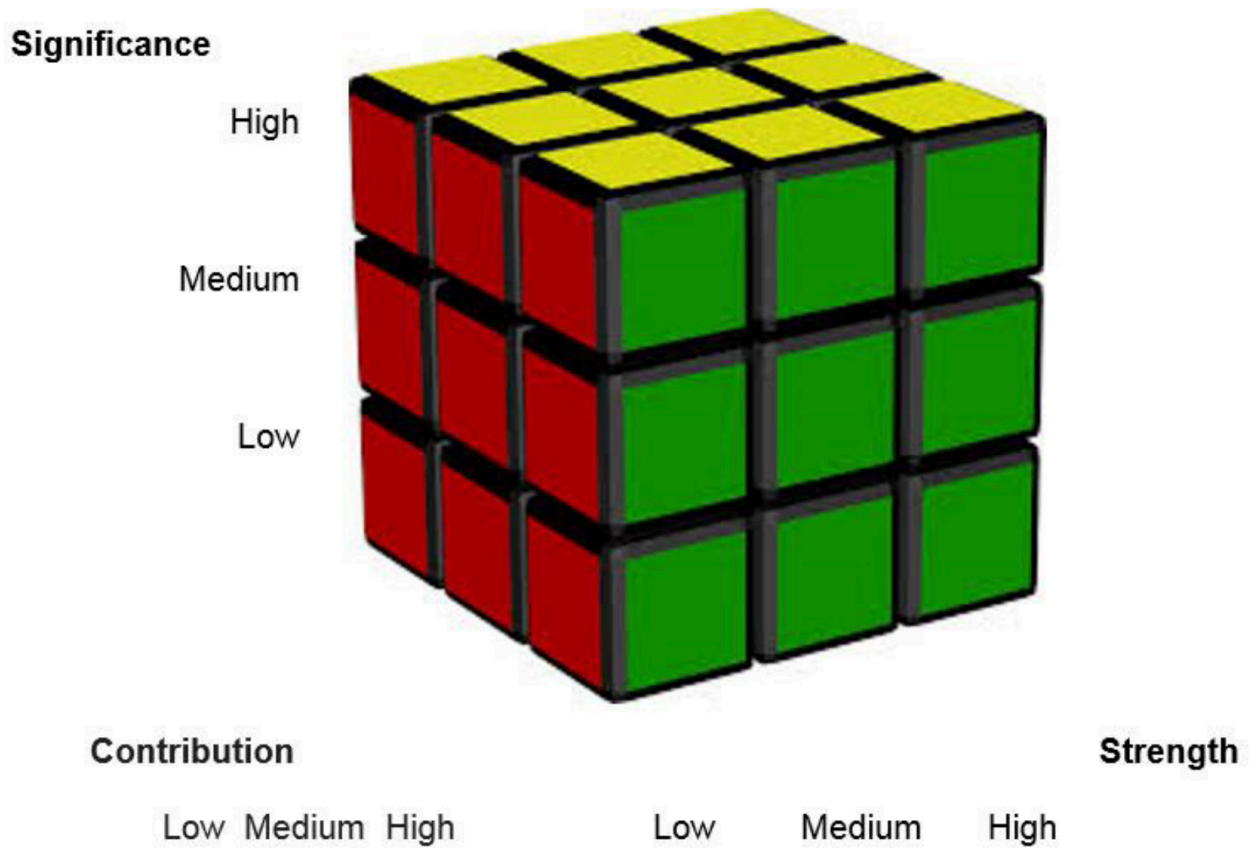
So how can we submit our links and bundles of links to this kind of assessment?

Figure C1: Strength of evidence rubric applied to determine which evidence to include

1	2	3	4	5
No evidence is available to corroborate a specific claim of a causal connection between systems dynamics, the interventions, and observed outcomes.	Evidence from a single source supports this claim	Evidence from multiple sources supports this claim (e.g., more than one document* or more than one interview). However, all sources come from similar perspectives likely to hold similar biases about how change happened. Also includes a single discussion group.	Evidence from multiple sources supports this claim. The multiple sources come from distinctly different perspectives, unlikely to hold similar biases about how change happened.	Evidence from multiple sources supports this claim, at least one of which was a discussion group. The multiple sources come from distinctly different perspectives, unlikely to hold similar biases about how change happened.
Not included	Included only as supporting evidence where aligns with other findings	Included in the analysis; if conflicting evidence was present, both claims are included.		Included and centered in the analysis; if conflicting and Level 3 or 4 evidence was present, this claim is centered.

(2026)

Figure 1: Contribution Cube



Aston (2019). Note "Strength" means "Strength of evidence".

References

(2026). *HU Seafood Retrospective*. <https://www.policysolve.com/resources/retrospective>.

Aston (2019). *Contribution Rubrics*.

https://media.licdn.com/dms/document/media/C4D1FAQE1laRiovrFrQ/feedshare-document-pdf-analyzed/o/1620553059516?e=1687996800&v=beta&t=bFr7dhpZ-slluV8ne1cERFelwINIaEzsQN8fiF_75gQ.