



# EXTENSION - CO-TERMINAL LINK BUNDLES

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In most projects, the data contains many **co-terminal links**: multiple coded claims with the **same cause and the same effect**. We call these **bundles of links**.

This extension is best thought of as two pieces:

1. **A filter (data transformation)**
2. **An interpretation rule (how to read a “link” on a map)**

## 1) The filter: bundle the links table

The filter operates on the current **links table** (one row per coded claim / citation) and produces a **derived table** with fewer rows by **grouping** on the (current, possibly transformed) factor labels:

- Bundle key: (cause label, effect label)
- One output row = one **bundle** (one unique cause→effect pair)

The bundled output adds aggregate columns such as:

- **bundle**: a readable key like **cause >> effect**
- **citation\_count**: number of underlying link rows in the bundle (how many claims / coded citations)
- **source\_count**: number of distinct sources contributing at least one link to the bundle (how many sources said it)

Optionally, further bundle-level summaries can be computed from the underlying rows, for example:

- **mean\_sentiment**: mean effect sentiment across the bundle (if sentiment is present)
- per-tag or per-group counts (e.g. “how many links in this bundle have tag X?”), when you want enriched breakdowns

**Important:** bundling uses the **current filtered labels**, i.e. after any upstream label transforms (collapse, zoom hierarchies, bracket removal, soft recode, combine opposites, etc.). So the bundle

definition reflects the *conceptual normalisations* you have chosen.

Most causal mapping approaches which have recorded data from more than one source or context has done this.

## 2) The interpretation rule: what “a link” means on a map

Strictly, maps show **bundles**, not individual citations. But in practice we often still say “link” to mean:

the **bundle** representing “many similar claims that  $x$  influences  $y$ ”.

So a map statement like:

“ $n$  sources claimed that  $x$  influences  $y$  (in  $m$  citations)”

is shorthand for: there are  $m$  underlying coded link rows whose (possibly transformed) labels share the same cause and effect, contributed by  $n$  unique sources.

## Showing bundle statistics on maps

Bundling also supports a family of conventions for displaying **bundle-level statistics** visually, for example:

- edge width proportional to **citation\_count**
- link label showing **source\_count** or **citation\_count**
- link label showing bundle summaries like mean sentiment (where available)

These are display choices layered on top of the same underlying bundle definition.