






# LINKS PANEL

Ideas Garden: [Links Panel](#)

 **What you can do here:** View and manage all your causal links in a spreadsheet-like table. You can sort, filter, and edit individual links, view the quotes like a printed page, or export your data to Excel. Each row shows one causal relationship with its source quote and any additional details you've added. Great for detailed review and bulk editing of your causal map data.

## Links Table

### Links Table Features:

- Standard column filters, sorting , and pagination
- Sentiment column with numeric values (-1 to 1) and blue/white/red conditional formatting (blue = higher, red = lower, white = mid-range relative to the current view)
- **Citation Count** – total number of links in each bundle (cause >> effect pair), with muted green → white conditional formatting (darker green = more links in that bundle relative to the current view)
- **Source Count** – number of different sources contributing links to each bundle, with the same muted green → white conditional formatting
- **AI run** – short id of the `ai_runs` row for links created by **AI coding** (hover for full UUID); empty for manual links or older imports
- Checkbox selection for bulk operations
- Edit functionality opens causal overlay for link modification
- Action button to open coding in the Sources pane and scroll to the corresponding highlight
- **×** Clear Table Filters option
-  **Tip:** For label changes, prefer **Factors Search/replace** when working on labels across bundles.

### Link Editing:

- Single link click opens editor popup
- Multiple link selection opens chooser interface
- Consistent with coding panel behavior
- **AI run id after manual save:** the link editor uses a split update path:

- **1 cause × 1 effect:** updates that existing row in place (keeps row id; `ai_run_id` remains unless changed elsewhere).
- **multi cause/effect (cross-product):** deletes the original row and inserts new rows; those new rows do not carry the original `ai_run_id`. The original AI call is still traceable in **Responses**.

## Link Custom Columns

Alongside **tags** and **sentiment**, each link can now carry its own named custom fields. Use these when you want more structured information on each causal claim, for example `confidence`, `policy_area`, `mechanism`, `evidence_strength`, `time_horizon`, or a numeric score.

This is also the main place to add QDA-style memos while you code. Create one or more memo columns, for example `link_memo`, `evidence_note`, `interpretive_note`, or `coder_reflection`, and use them to record why you coded a link in a particular way, doubts about the evidence, or analytic notes you want to revisit later.

- Create/remove column names in **Manage Link Table Columns**.
- Show/hide Links table columns in the same modal (checkbox list), or from the header `:` menu.
- Create new fields directly from the **Link Editor** custom-fields picker.
- Edit values in the **Link Editor** or directly in the **Links Table**; this works the same way as editing `source custom columns`, but on link rows instead of source rows.
- Use them elsewhere in the app, for example in the **Everything filter**, links-table grouping/breakdowns, the **Link Editor screen**, and map display via the **Map Custom Columns filter**.

## Links Utilities

- Download as Excel
- Take a screenshot and copy it to clipboard
- Clear any filters at the top of the table columns
- Bulk delete any selected rows in the table

## Row Grouping and Print View

- **Group by selector** - Choose one or more columns to group rows by values. This applies both the the links table and Print View.

## Useful Columns:

- **Bundle** - Shows "cause >> effect" pairs

- **Original Bundle** - If you have used filters which transform the links, like Zoom or Soft Recode, use this to also view the original causes and effects

## Bulk Tags editor

Toggle **Bulk Tags** to switch the Links table into a line-by-line editor for **unique link tags** (one tag per line), sorted alphabetically.

- The list contains **all tags** found in the **current filtered links** (the pipeline output: current Project + Sources selection + Analysis Filters). It does **not** use Links table header filters or pagination.
- While Bulk Tags is on, the Links table (including header filters and pagination controls) is hidden.
- You **cannot** add/remove/reorder lines.
- Edit a line to **rename** that tag; make a line **blank** to **remove** that tag.
- Clicking **Save Changes** applies the rename/remove across **all currently filtered links**.
- Tag matching is **case-insensitive exact match** (after trimming).

## Print View

The purpose Print View is to make it easy to explore and read actual quotes from the currently filtered links. What it does is show, instead of the contents of the Tabulator table, a printed version of the same information, leaving the table headers and filters in place. The toggle switches between table contents view and print view.

This view prints out the quotes from each row in the table, grouped by the Group By columns formatted as nested headings, and we suppress repeated headings until they change.

We also reveal two more toggles:

- **Show Details**: Print the values of all the extra columns such as tags and any **Custom Columns**
- **Context**: for each quote we add an additional three sentences at each side, highlighting the actual quotes.
- **PDF**: prints the **full** list (not just the current on-screen page) in a new tab. Use **Print** → **Save as PDF**. The export uses slightly **smaller** body type. Each **group** from **Group by** is a separate table so the **group title repeats at the top of each printed sheet** when one group spans many pages. The new tab's **title** (and the usual default **Save as PDF** name in **Chrome / Edge**) is **CausalMap-Links-<project>-<YYYY-MM-DD-HHmm>**. In **Chrome 131+** and current **Edge**, the **bottom page margin** lists the **current project name, date/time, Causal Map | causalmap.app**, and **page i / n**. If the system print dialog also adds its own header/footer, turn that off there to avoid duplicates.

You can manually sort the texts using to the sorting widgets in the tabulator headers, as far as allowed by the nested headers.

## Search/replace

This works exactly the same as [search/replace in the factors table](#), except that it works on the Cause label and/or the Effect label.

Near the top is a row containing a search box. If you type something into it,

- a replace box and a Replace button also appear.
- the table is filtered to show only matching rows.

The search is **case sensitive**.

You can then alter what you see in the Replace box:

- in the label columns in the table, you see a preview of what the affected rows text so the would look like;
- if you delete all the replace text so it is empty, the preview shows the effect of deleting the search text from each label.

Then when you are satisfied, check all the checkboxes where you want to update the labels as shown. If you want, select all rows using the checkbox at the top of the column. Note, if there are more hits than fit on this page of your table, you'll want to either treat each page separately or increase the page size with the Page Size selector.

Finally, hit the Replace button to actually update the labels as shown in the rows you selected. As you'd expect, this search/replace only affects the factors for the currently selected links: for example if you have only selected the first three sources, this update will not affect the links in the other sources.

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## Assessing link evidence quality

Use this when you want one assessed summary row per causal bundle (**cause** >> **effect**) while keeping all original unassessed citation rows unchanged.

The **Assessment** control sits **below the Project bar**, to the **right** of the Label Set widget. The button label is just **Assessed** or **Unassessed**. Click it to toggle modes; its tooltip explains the two modes. **Assessed** is only available once the project has at least one assessed row.

**Bundle assessment UI** lives on the Links pane, sub-tab **Assess links** (next to Create links / Filter links). Open that sub-tab to edit bundle-level assessed rows when the global mode is **Unassessed**; in **Assessed** mode the editor is read-only and the app switches you away from **Assess links** if needed.

Because assessed rows can use link custom fields, you can add a narrative judgement field as well as, or instead of, a simple score. For example: *Solid evidence overall, but more sketchy testimony from younger respondents.*

The card's header **×** sets **Unassessed**, switches to the **Filter links** sub-tab, and briefly highlights the Assessment control.

Ideas Garden: [Assessing quality or robustness of evidence for a causal link](#)

## Main controls

1. **👉 (Assessed / Unassessed)** (below Project bar): click to toggle between assessed and unassessed links.
2. **👉 (Assess links)** (Links sub-tab): opens the bundle assessment card (when the global mode allows editing).
3. **👉 (×)** (Card header): switches to **Unassessed**, opens **Filter links**, and briefly highlights the Assessment control.
4. **👉 (Bundle selector)** (Dropdown): chooses which bundle to edit.
5. **👉 (◀ / ▶)** (Buttons): move to previous/next bundle.
6. **👉 (Help)** (Button): opens this section in the help drawer.
7. **👉 (Tags)** (Input): sets bundle-level assessed tags.
8. **👉 (Sentiment)** (Buttons + number input): sets assessed sentiment (-1, 0, 1, or custom numeric value).
9. **👉 (Favorites)** (Buttons): toggles heart / exclamation / star on the assessed row.
10. **👉 (Add)** (Button): adds a visible custom field to the assessed-row editor.
11. **👉 (× on custom field row)** (Button): hides that field from the editor (does not delete saved values).

## AI-assisted bundle assessment

1. **👉 (Run scope)** (Dropdown): run on *Current bundle* or *All filtered bundles*.
2. **👉 (Evidence fields)** (Dropdown): use *All row fields* or a selected subset.
3. **👉 (Evidence fields list)** (Multi-select): picks fields passed to AI when using selected mode.
4. **👉 (Prompt history controls)** (Buttons + dropdown): reuse previous prompts.
5. **👉 (Save assessed link)** (Button): runs AI and writes results to the bundle's assessed row.

6. 👉 (**Status text**): shows progress and completion counts (saved / skipped / failed).

When you save an assessed link, CausalMap stores the prompt text used for that assessment on the assessed row so you can see what instruction produced it.