



# TASK 2 – INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER CONTENTS.

---

📅 9 Oct 2025

Standing on the shoulders of giants

In this chapter we present some of key general principles about how to do causal mapping which we at Causal Map Ltd (and, most of the time, at BathSDR) have adopted.

This is a very restricted yet powerful **minimalist** approach which we have also called "barefoot" or "naïve" coding.

In the next chapter [Tasks 2 & 3 – Extensions – Introduction](#) we look at specific conventions to make causal coding simple and powerful.

PAGES IN THIS CHAPTER

📄 **Our approach is minimalist – we code only bare causation**

---

📄 **Our approach clearly distinguishes evidence from facts and does not automatically warrant causal inferences**

---

📄 **Our approach is minimalist – factors are not variables**

---

📄 **A minimalist approach to coding helps capture what people actually say**

---

📄 **A minimalist approach to coding makes aggregation easier**

---

 **A minimalist approach to coding does not code absences**

---

 **Our approach is minimalist – we do not code the strength of a link**

---

 **In a causal mapping dataset there is no need for a special table of factors**

---

 **Factor labels – a creative challenge**

---

 **Factor label tags – coding factor metadata within its label**

---

 **Factor labels – semi-quantitative formulations can help**

---

 **Causal mapping looks for linearity first**

---

 **Factor labels – do not over-generalise**


---

 **Coding with and using link metadata**


---

 **Link metadata – Sentiment**

---

 **Link metadata – Time reference**

---

 **Link metadata – quality of evidence**

---

 **Research on the ability of LLMs to detect causal claims**

---