

Causal Loop Diagrams (CLDs)

Also known as influence diagrams. What phenomena interact to lead to the emergent behaviour of the system?

The elements of CLDs are nouns describing the phenomena of the system. Relationships between the phenomena are depicted by arrows and can indicate either an increasing (+) or decreasing (-) effect from one element to the next.

CLDs illustrate the dynamic and non-linear structure of systems. **Loops** of phenomena show reinforcing or balancing cycles: combinations of phenomena that escalate or limit the behaviour of the system.

