

Categorizing Technical Change in a System: Resolving Some of the Shortcomings in Henderson & Clarck's (1990) Framework

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Abstract Henderson and Clarck (1990) have introduced the sole framework which classifies technical change in a system using two measures: degree of changes in components and intensity of changes in the linkage between components. Although this two dimensional framework is useful for understanding the congruence between different kinds of technical change, their consequences for the system's performance and their required capabilities, it ignores the vastness and relative importance of changes. To cope with this challenge, we propose adding a third dimension entitled "Change Magnitude" to their framework which contains a spectrum from changes in just one peripheral component or linkage to changes in all peripheral as well as core components and linkages. The resolved framework, presents an octal categorization of technical change in systems which provides a better basis for classification.

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