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Title	The nature of engineering change during the design of modern products
Abstract	Change is an inevitable part of an engineering project, playing an important role during the design of modern products. The design of modern products is becoming increasingly complicated through the integration of multiple disciplines and artefacts within a single architecture. Whilst engineering changes are usually undertaken to improve a design they can trigger widespread disruption due to propagation through the various relationships that exist between the components, sub-systems and systems. Furthermore, engineering change can impact upon design artefact knowledge effecting the function, behaviour and structure of artefacts within a design space. Engineering changes in such an environment need to be effectively communicated between the various stakeholders to ensure the efficiency of the product design process. Through the adoption of a post-positivist philosophy this research looks to investigate the nature of engineering change during the design of modern products. The focus of this research is not based upon observations of physical changes but how these changes are interpreted, mentally constructed and communicated. Through an analysis of descriptive design artefact knowledge and relationships, this study aims to establish what influences these knowledge types have on the efficiency of this process.