Prototypes in engineering design: Definitions and strategies

By reviewing literature, we investigate types, purposes and definitions of prototypes. There is no overarching definition of a prototype, but we identify five categories of prototypes in literature. We further synthesize and reference previous work to create an overview of aspects in prototyping strategies. Due to rapid changes and progressions in the use of prototypes, we conclude that there is a need for more holistic and overview generating research about prototyping. This for product developers to properly manage, select and apply the optimal prototyping process.

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