

Technological Regimes and Innovation: Looking for Regularities
in Dutch Manufacturing

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Abstract

This paper explores the characteristics of ‘technological regimes’ in Dutch manufacturing. Using evidence from the second Community Innovation Survey (CIS-II) a classification of technological regimes that refines Pavitt’s taxonomy is tested. Significant differences across regimes emerge with respect to a variety of dimensions: (i) the level and persistence of technological opportunity, (ii) the sources of technological opportunity inside and outside the firm – including formal collaborations – and (iii) the specific trajectories along which new opportunities for innovation are exploited. Our results confirm the usefulness of the concept of a technological regime as an analytical framework to “interrogate” large databases and to find empirical regularities relevant for the development of a (sectoral) theory of innovation.

Key Words: innovation; technological regimes; industry studies

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