1. The Requirements Specification

Specification • (n) A detailed and exact statement of particulars, a statement fully describing something to be built.—American Heritage Dictionary

The Requirements Specification identifies those requirements that the design must satisfy in order for it to be successful. It is in effect the mission statement that drives all subsequent stages of development, and when completed should be a detailed and complete vision of the design goals. An effective Requirements Specification should identify all important requirements, yet provide enough flexibility for the design team to develop innovative solutions. It also serves as a communication tool for everyone involved in the design, such as engineering, marketing, and the client. All parties should agree to the requirements before further development proceeds. In some cases, the Requirements Specification serves as a legally binding agreement between the developers and the client.

A major challenge in developing the requirements is in many ways analogous to the proverbial “*What came first, the chicken or the egg?*” question. The final solution is analogous to the chicken and the requirements are analogous to the egg. In the beginning, the chicken is hidden inside the egg, yet the egg must be capable of describing what the chicken will become. The difficulty is that it is hard to develop the *what* for the requirement without already having solved the problem or created the chicken.

This chapter guides the reader through the process of developing a Requirements Specification and is organized as follows. First, the properties of an engineering requirement are defined and numerous examples for computer and electrical systems are provided. Then, the properties of the complete Requirements Specification (the collection of marketing and engineering requirements) are considered followed by a number of case study examples. The chapter concludes with advanced methods of analyzing and refining requirements, utilizing tools such as the House of Quality.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this chapter, the reader should:

* Understand the properties of an engineering requirement and know how to develop well-formed requirements that meet the properties.
* Be familiar with engineering requirements that are commonly specified in electrical and computer systems.
* Understand the properties of the complete Requirements Specification, as well as know the steps to developing one.
* Be able to conduct advanced requirements analysis to identify design tradeoffs.
  1. Overview of the Requirements Setting Process

The ***Requirements Specification***, which is the focus of this chapter, is a collection of engineering and marketing requirements that a system must satisfy in order for it to meet the needs of the customer or end-user. Figure 3.1 illustrates a process for developing a Requirements Specification that is from the IEEE Guide for Developing System Requirements Specifications [IEEE Std. 1233-1998]. This process is the focus of this chapter and there are three stakeholder groups in it – the customer, the environment, and the technical community. The input from the customer includes the marketing (raw) requirements that were addressed in Chapter 2. The environment introduces requirements in the form of constraints and standards that impact or limit the design. The input from the technical community is based upon the knowledge of engineers who are primarily responsible for design, implementation, testing, manufacturing, and maintenance of the system.



**Figure 3.1** Requirements Specification development processes from IEEE Std. 1233-1998. The three input sources to the process are the customer, environment, and technical community.

* 1. Engineering Requirements

Before developing the complete Requirements Specification, designers need to first determine individual engineering requirements. ***Engineering requirements*** are short statements that address a technical need of the design. A simple example is “*The system should be able to supply 50 watts of power.*” This section identifies the desirable properties of engineering requirements, methods of identifying requirements, and provides numerous examples.

### Properties of an Engineering Requirement

Each engineering requirement should meet the four properties below [IEEE Std. 1233-1998]:

1. *Abstract.* This means that a given requirement should specify *what* the system will do, not *how* it will be implemented. This is the chicken and egg problem described earlier. It is frequently the most difficult property to satisfy since designers often have a preconceived concept for the solution. Unless absolutely necessary, the requirements should say nothing about the implementation. For example, a requirement stating that a certain microcontroller (i.e., technology) will be used should be avoided. Admittedly, this is not always possible due to customer constraints or in cases where a system is being built upon pre-existing technology. A common analogy used for the “*what versus how*” problem is that of designing a bridge. The requirement is to transport people from one side to other, without specifically stating the solution is a bridge, because another solution, like a ferry, may be a much more effective solution.
2. *Verifiable.* Verifiability means that there should be a way to measure or demonstrate that the requirement is met in the final system realization. Doing so allows the system to be tested or verified against the requirements. The idea is that if there is no way to verify that the requirement is met, then it should not be a requirement. Verifiability is used to answer the question of “*Are we building the system correctly?*”
3. *Unambiguous.* Each requirement should have a single unambiguous meaning and be stated with short complete sentences.
4. *Traceable.* Requirements should be traceable marketing requirements. If the design doesn’t satisfy the customer’s needs, it won’t be successful.

Let’s examine an example requirement for a robot whose objective is to navigate autonomously within a specified environment. Consider the following requirement

The robot must have an average forward speed of 0.5 feet/sec, a top speed of at least one foot/sec, and the ability to accelerate from standstill to the average speed in under one second.

Are the four properties for an engineering requirement met? In terms of the abstractness property, the answer is yes; it states what the system must do, not how it will be implemented. In terms of the second property, can the requirement be verified? Speed and acceleration are directly testable in the final realization, and thus it is verifiable. Is it unambiguous? It gives clear bounds for speed and acceleration. Finally, traceability can’t be shown without the marketing requirements and is addressed later.

Now we analyze a second example requirement for the robot to see if it meets the properties

The robot must employ IR sensors to sense its external environment and navigate autonomously with a battery life of one hour.

This requirement is not abstract since it identifies part of the solution in terms of the sensor type and the fact that batteries must be used. It is somewhat ambiguous in that it should specify what is meant in terms of autonomous and the operating period. In terms of operating period, should it work for exactly one hour and stop, or is greater than an hour acceptable? Again, traceability can’t be demonstrated without the marketing requirements. This requirement would be hard to verify without a good definition of what autonomous navigation in this context means. A better requirement would be

The robot must navigate autonomously, with the aid of only landmarks in the specified environment, for a period of least one hour.

Realize that good requirements typically have two key elements in the statement – a description capability and condition. Capability describes what the system must do and in the above requirement, that capability is autonomous navigation. Conditions are measurable or testable attributes of the capability and are critical for verification.

### A Fifth Property – Realism

In addition to meeting the four properties, requirements should berealistic or justified. This is not defined in the IEEE standard as a property, but it is an important aspect that is often overlooked. To be realistic, there should be a way of demonstrating that the target is technically feasible. For example, a requirement could indicate that a robot to should travel at a speed of 1,000,000 miles per hour, which could be verifiable, unambiguous, and abstract – yet, completely unachievable. Realistic targets can be determined with a little research, engineering know-how, creativity, or system modeling. One way to do this is to assume a solution for the final system – violating the abstractness property. For example, consider the design of a robot where some basic assumptions are made on the weight of the robot, the motors used, the wheel size, and the battery selected. An engineering model based upon these characteristics could be developed to predict performance and estimate realistic requirements. Alternatively, target requirements can be based upon an actual prototype, where a model or experimental system is developed to show that a particular requirement is feasible. This is how the technical community in Figure 3.1 feeds into the requirements process.

The use of benchmarking to identify similar systems and their performance provides a reference for realistic targets. It is generally hard to surpass the performance of well-developed products and systems on a first-generation design. An exception is with new and innovative approaches that allow you to surpass the competition. Competitive benchmarks may also be obtained from similar, but not necessarily identical, products. Experience working with a particular technology or previous generations of a system also provides guidance in selecting realistic targets. That being said, organizations wishing to gain or maintain a market edge often press the development team to achieve performance on new generations that were once believed to be unrealistic. Sometimes it just may not be feasible to determine the technical feasibility of requirements. In such cases, the requirements should have a certain amount of tolerance built into them and be updated as development proceeds.

### Constraints

One of the inputs to the requirements process in Figure 3.1 is the environment, serving as the source of both constraints and standards. In reality, all engineering requirements impose some sort of constraint on a design, but in design a constraint is a special type of requirement. A ***constraint*** is a design decision imposed by the environment or a stakeholder that impacts or limits the design. Constraint requirements often violate the abstractness property. For example, a constraint requirement is

*The system must use a PIC18F52 microcontroller to implement processing functions.*

This constraint requirement specifies how the system will be implemented. This could be because the project sponsor has developed a great deal of expertise using this particular microcontroller and does not want to spend the development time learning a new platform. Note that a number of other references define constraints to be synonymous with non-functional requirements (usually indicated as items that are not specifically functions). However, that terminology is avoided here since it is not well defined nor universally accepted.

### Standards

***Standards*** are exactly what the name implies, a standard or established way of doing things that ensure interoperability. Without standards, the use of technology would be severely limited, if not downright impossible. Standards ensure that products work together, from home plumbing fixtures to the modules in a modern computer. Imagine if every computer manufacturer had their own communication standard, instead of following established protocols such as RS-232, TCP/IP, and USB—computers would have a hard time printing, sending email, instant messaging, or surfing the Internet! Furthermore, standards ensure the health and safety of products that people use every day. Identifying and following standards is an expected part of good engineering practice.

The focus in this chapter is on identifying standards that impact the requirements and ultimately the design. The question becomes, what standards are relevant to your project and how do you use them? There are different levels of interaction with standards that we denote as: user, implementation, and development levels. At the *user level*, the standards are simply employed in the design, and detailed technical knowledge of the standard is typically not necessary. For example, when using a component that communicates to other devices, it is likely that a standard communication protocol is used. Other than having to configure software or hardware to communicate with the standard, detailed knowledge of the standard isn’t required. Another example would be in developing software to display digital images in a standardized format such as JPEG-2000 (Joint Photo Experts Group), in which case it is likely that existing software components would be used to read and display data in this format.

At the *implementation level* details of the standard need to be understood. Standards at the implementation level are most likely to impact the design and the requirements. For example, when developing low-level drivers for computer peripherals, you need to become an expert on the underlying standard. Another example is reliability, where the requirement may be that “*the system will have a reliability of 95% in 10 years.*” In this case a reliability standard, such as Military Handbook for Reliability Prediction of Equipment [MIL-HDBK 217F] may be employed, and its usage requires an understanding of both the reliability theory and the standard itself.

New standards are constantly being developed and existing ones modified, leading to the final level of interaction at the *development level*. Depending upon the standard, engineers from different organizations, professional societies, and corporations take part in the standards setting process. Many participants in this process are trying to gain a competitive advantage for their products and services.

It can be difficult to navigate the world of standards; they tend to be highly detailed and limited parts of a standard may apply to a project. In addition, many standards are costly to obtain, while some are freely distributed. The following is advice for identifying and employing standards. First, conduct research on applicable standards. Virtually all standards organizations maintain websites that provide basic information on their particular standards. The IEEE Xplore database is a good place to start since it has a wide variety of standards and provides free searchable abstracts. Many companies and universities have subscriptions databases of complete standards. Second, determine the expected level of interaction. Based upon your analysis of the problem, do you foresee applying standards? Or will you need to develop an in-depth knowledge at the implementation level? In the latter case, you need to obtain detailed information on the applicable standards. Finally, you should consider asking your client. They may have their own internal standards and procedures to follow, and they may have experts on the applicable standards.

The list below identifies some of the types of standards that may be employed in a project and included in the requirements.

* *Safety*. Safety standards address how to design for safety and how to test products to ensure that they are safe.
* *Testing*. Testing standards are often related to safety, but are broader in scope. For example, standardized benchmark tests are used for comparing computational performance, one well-known standard being the SPEC (Standard Performance Evaluation Corporation) benchmarks.
* *Reliability*. Reliability standards address general reliability principles and design methods for different classes of systems. Another practical aspect is in the estimation of reliability of electronic systems, such as the IEEE and military reliability standards.
* *Communications.* They address how electronic systems communicate and transfer information, such as in computing, telephony, and satellite communications.
* *Data Formats*. Standard data formats ensure that systems and software can properly share information. Examples include image, video, and database standards.
* *Documentation*. There are standards for technical report documentation. In addition, there are standards for documenting processes and business practices, a well-known case being the ISO (International Standards Organization) 9000 and subsequent standards.
* *Design Methods.* Certain design techniques are standardized as well. Examples include software design methodologies, and the use of design languages such as the Hardware Description Language (HDL) and the Unified Modeling Language (UML).
* *Programming Languages.* Programming language syntax is standardized so that software maintains a level of portability between systems and compilers.
* *Connector Standards.* Standards for cable connections are common and should be followed to ensure that systems are easily interfaced and manufactured.
* *Meta-Standards.* Some standards are a combination of multiple standards known as meta-standards. For example, the RS-232 standard is really a combination of a mechanical standard describing the connector physical dimensions connector, an electrical standard describing the voltages, a functional standard describing the pins and their function, and a procedural standard describing how entities communicate.

### Identifying Engineering Requirements

There are many techniques for identifying requirements listed below [IEEE Std. 1233-1998]:

* Structured workshops and brainstorming sessions.
* Interviews, surveys, and questionnaires.
* Observation of processes or devices in use.
* Competitive benchmarking and market analysis.
* Prototyping and simulations.
* Research and technical documentation review.

Many requirements may be specified for a design, but knowing which to include is the challenge. The remainder of this section is a guide to describe the types of engineering requirements that may be specified for electrical and computer systems. Requirements in categories of performance and functionality are presented first as they are often critical, followed by an alphabetical grouping of a potpourri of other types requirements. **This taxonomy of requirements is by no means definitive or inclusive of all possibilities, and the design team needs to carefully determine those that are applicable to the particular situation. Careful attention must be given to the verifiability of requirements for the particular application.**

### Performance

These requirements reflect a critical aspect of the performance of the system or device. They often are characterized by time, accuracy, throughput, or percentage error. The following is an example requirement that might be used in a security application with camera surveillance.

*The system should detect 90% of all human faces in an image.*

In order to verify this, a test might be constructed where the system is presented with a large database of face images that the system was not developed or trained with. The number of faces correctly detected would then be determined. Here is another example performance requirement for a system that measure part location

The system should be able to measure part location to within ± 1mm.

One way to verify this would be to take independent measurements of the system’s ability to measure part location and compare them to the result of the system. The following is an example that could apply to software response time.

The system should retrieve the user data no less than three seconds for 90% of requests and in a maximum of six seconds for all requests.

This could be verified by constructing a test where a large number of queries for user data are presented to the software under a variety of operating conditions and the response time measured. Yet another example is

The system should be able to process video data at a rate of 30 frames per second.

This could be verified by providing an input video stream at the frame rate and testing to ensure that proper processing occurs. The test procedure would need to specify length and number of videos to test, issues that are addressed in Chapter 7. A final example of performance is one that could apply to electrical audio amplification

The amplifier will have total harmonic distortion of less than 1%.

Total harmonic distortion is a measure that quantifies how closely an amplifier is able to replicate the original signal. This would likely be verified using laboratory instrumentation to measure the harmonic distortion in the output signal.

### Functionality

These requirements describe the type of functions that a system should perform. Often, they provide inputs, outputs, and the transformation that the system will perform on the inputs. This is examined further in Chapter 5, which presents functional design techniques. The following is an example, where the input is ambient air temperature is converted to a digital readout. It also has a performance aspect in that the accuracy is specified.

The system will convert ambient temperature to a digital readout of temperature with an accuracy of 1% over the measurement range.

The following is an example from a real capstone project to develop a wireless mouse that is worn by the user and integrated into a glove.

The system will implement the left and right button functions of a standard mouse.

The following are several functional examples for software systems.

The user shall be able to search all five company internal databases.

The system will protect the user’s identity with 128-bit encryption.

Note that in these last two cases, verification would be by inspection.

### Economic

Economic requirements include the costs associated with the development (design, production, maintenance) and sale of a system. They may also include the economic impact of the final system, such as how it will to contribute to profits or save the user money. Two example economic requirements are below.

The costs for developing the system (labor and parts) should not exceed $50,000.

The total parts and manufacturing costs cannot exceed $500 per unit.

### Energy

Virtually all systems consume and/or produce energy and thus have energy requirements. Energy consumption is the amount of power that a system consumes, and may be specified in terms of maximum, minimum, or average values. Example requirements are

The system will have an average power consumption of 500mW.

The system will have a peak current draw of 1A.

These requirements could be verified by measuring current and voltage draws under the different operating conditions, or by estimating the power drawn by all components in the system.

Operating lifetime addresses how long the system will operate from a given power source. For battery-powered devices, operating time is critical, and the lifetime for a given source may be an important requirement. An example of such a requirement is

The system will operate for a minimum of three hours without needing to be recharged.

Source characteristics refer to the characteristics of the input and/or output sources, such as voltage, current, impedance, frequency, number of phases, and power requirements. An example requirement is

The system will operate from a 12V source that supplies a maximum current of 300mA.

### Environmental

These requirements address the impact of the design on the external environment and usage of the earth’s resources. For example, energy usage is an important factor and example requirement is as follows

The system will use 20% less energy than the industry average for similar products and qualify for US Energy Star certification.

Recyclability is the ability to dismantle a product into its constituent materials for reuse in other products. European countries have regulations on the recyclability of consumer products. In many cases, the producer of a product is responsible for its safe disposal once its service life is over. An example requirement is as follows

50% of the modular components will be able to be repaired and re-used in similar products.

### Health and Safety

The health and safety of anyone affected by the final product is an especially important consideration. For example, IEEE and ANSI standards provide guidance on safe levels for exposure to radio frequency electric fields.

*The system will not expose humans to unhealthy levels of electromagnetic radiation and will meet conditions for safe operation identified in ANSI Std. C95.1.*

There is a tendency to think that physical harm is not an issue in electrical and computer systems, but many electronic systems control mechanically moving parts. Consider the design of an automatic garage door system. An example constraint could be that

The door should stop moving if a person or object is detected in the door path.

This could also translate into further engineering requirements on the amount of force on the door required to trigger it to stop. There are many safety standards, and two that are widely applied for consumer products are the UL (Underwriters Laboratory) and CE (Common European) standards. Examples are

The system will use only UL approved components.

The final system will be meet UL and CE standards and be tested at an independent laboratory for approval.

### Legal

Designs should not infringe upon existing patents, copyrights, and trademarks, particularly if the intention is to sell the product. Patent searches should be conducted, and search capabilities are available at the United States Patent Office website ([www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)). An example is

An intellectual property search will be conducted to ensure that there is no infringement on prior patents.

This could be verified by having an external firm will conduct the patent search and evaluate the design against existing intellectual property.

Security and privacy constraints apply to systems that handle sensitive data or personal communications. The ability of computing systems to withstand malicious attacks by hackers is another consideration, and the use of firewalls or other protective measures may be warranted. Examples are

The system will protect the user’s identity with 128-bit encryption as required by law.

### Maintainability

The maintenance of the system being developed and compatibility with other systems are often considerations. Will the system be designed so that it can be reused in future applications? This is common in software development where the objective is to design modules that are reliable and flexible enough to be used in other applications. It is also a consideration in terms of the reusability of electronic or digital components in future system upgrades. An example reuse constraint is

The software should maintain downward capability and be able to use version 2 object libraries.

After a product goes into service, it enters the maintenance phase, where it is maintained and upgraded. In software designs this is an important consideration, as software is regularly upgraded and maintained. On the hardware side, maintenance can be facilitated by the use of plug-in modules that are easily removed and replaced. Examples are

The system will initially be available to 100 users at five field locations, and within one year must be expanded to address usage by 5,000 users company-wide.

The system should have a modular design such that failed components can be replaced by a technician in under 15 minutes.

There may be internal restrictions on system development imposed by the company based on their internal expertise and ability to maintain the system, such as the following constraint requirement.

The system will use only PIC microcontrollers.

### Manufacturability

A prevalent product development paradigm that used to be employed in many engineering organizations was to “*throw the design over the wall*.” What this meant is that the design and development team would create a new product and hand it off to the manufacturing team to produce (throw it over the wall and run), often without having considered the manufacturability of the product. The manufacturing team would then address how to produce the design, and in many cases could not do so without major redesign. Fortunately, this has given way to much better concurrent engineering practices where all aspects of product development are considered throughout the process. All of the examples presented here are constraints, in that that they are external decisions that limit the design.

Size is a consideration in terms of the amount of space the final design will occupy, particularly if it has to be physically integrated with other components. An example constraint requirement is

The system must be manufactured on a circuit board with dimensions of no greater than 1”x2”.

The realization and portability of the system is a consideration. For example, with electronics, will it be built on a printed circuit board? Following design rules and file format guidelines is important for manufacturing printed circuit boards and integrated circuits. A chip foundry may require that integrated circuit layouts utilize certain file formats.Examples are below, which again are clear constraints on the design.

The system will be manufactured using three layer printed circuit board technology.

The product should be run on the Linux operating system.

The use of readily available parts, instead of low volume or hard to find components, improves manufacturability, and an example is

The design shall only incorporate components that can be purchased through two of our main suppliers.

### Operational

Operational requirements address the physical environment in which the system will operate. Characteristics could be temperature, humidity, electromagnetic radiation, shock, and vibration. Note, that these can often be quite difficult to verify and may require specialized equipment to do so. An example temperature operational requirement is

The system should be able to operate in the temperature range of 0°C to 75°C.

This could be tested via test in an environmental chamber which the operation of the system is tested over the complete temperature range. Alternatively, indirect verification is a possibility. For example, in the design, only components that are known to meet this operational requirement, as specified in their product datasheet, could be used.

Depending upon the customer needs, the system may be tested in an environmental chamber to verify that the requirement is met. Humidity is similar in concept to the temperature requirement, addressing the required ambient humidity range. A system may also need to be water-resistant (withstand rain and snow) or waterproof (be submersible in water). An example requirement is

The system must be waterproof and operate while submersed in water.

Be careful with the differences between waterproof (submersible in water) and water-resistant, which indicates the ability to withstand outdoor elements such as rain and snow. For example, outdoor decorative lights are water-resistant, but not waterproof.

Depending upon the environment, the system may need to withstand vibrations. Bounds are typically specified in terms of frequency, magnitude, and duration of the vibration. An example requirement is

The system must be able to withstand vibrations of up to 60Hz with a peak magnitude of 1mm for a period of 1 minute.

Electromagnetic Interference *(EMI)* results from any electromagnetic energy that interferes or disturbs the operation of an electronic system. Electronic systems may produce electromagnetic radiation and limits may need to be placed upon the amount of radiation emitted. EMI is typically measured with specialized testing apparatus. Conversely, a system may need to be able to operate properly given a certain level of EMI.

The system may need to withstand a specified amount ofshock and still operate. This may be measured in G-force or via heuristics. An example requirement is

The system should withstand a drop from a height of six feet and still operate.

### Political

Political constraints address relationships to political, governmental, or union organizations. Examples include obtaining governmental approvals, resolving trade barriers, and determining the acceptance of systems for use in unionized environments. Examples are below.

The system will need to obtain FDA approval before it can be sold to medical users.

The software will comply with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

### Reliability and Availability

This refers to the expected period of time that a system will operate properly. Measures of r*eliability* include failure rates and mean time to failure. Estimation of system reliability is given detailed coverage in Chapter 8. The following is an example of a reliability requirement.

The system will have a reliability of 95% in five years.

This requirement means that 95% of the systems should be properly operating (have not failed) in five years. Direct measurement of reliability would not be possible, unless you are willing to wait five years to see how many systems fail, thus the use of estimation. This would require indirect verification using mathematical techniques to estimate the system reliability.

*Availability* is related to reliability, but addresses the amount of time that a system is available for operation. Example availability requirements are

The system will be operational 99% of the time.

The system will be operational from 4AM to 10PM, 365 days a year.

These might be hard to verify this since it is only determined for sure once the system is deployed. Verification would have to address under which conditions the system would be tested to ensure this occurs.

### Social and Cultural

This addresses aspects such as benefits, risks, and acceptance of products by the intended user or by society at large. For example, robots have tremendous benefits for improving product quality, while freeing people from dangerous and repetitive tasks. Yet when used in automation, they present the risk of displacing workers and causing job losses.

Many great products have fallen by the wayside because users were unwilling to accept it. An example is the early Apple Newton Personal Digital Assistant, the first product of its kind. The fatal flaw was handwriting recognition that required a training process for accurate recognition. This was not accepted by consumers and Palm® Computing solved the problem by employing a simplified alphabet known as Graffiti. Graffiti was also seen as risky when it was being developed, but due to its simplicity it was accepted by consumers and the product became a huge success. In the mid 1980s, Phillips electronics released the Laser Disk player, which failed magnificently, but was far superior to VHS technology. Their failure was attributed to the cost of the players and disks when compared to VHS. Fifteen years later DVDs, with the help of computers, reached a price point which now makes them preferable to VHS.

Will the system be used by engineers, technicians, laborers, doctors, lawyers, or the general public? Each group has its own culture, educational background, and willingness to accept innovations. Example requirements are

The product shall provide help menus to the user in either English or Spanish.

The software will be designed to easily be used by operators on the manufacturing floor. The software will be tested by a group of 25 operators and the average time to learn the basic functionality of the software will not exceed 8 hours.

### Usability

*Usability requirements* address the ease of use of a system. Although they are quite common, they are often difficult to verify. Usability can address how long it takes to learn the product and satisfaction by the end-user or a group of users. To aid in verification conditions can be placed on the number of menus in the system, an estimated learning time, and number and types of errors the user is allowed to make. An example requirement is that

Users of the system should be able to learn 80% of its functionality within two hours.

The method of verification would need to be clearly specified, such as, a group of 25 test users who have never used the product will be provided two hours to learn the product. Another example of a usability requirement is

The system will have a maximum of 20 functions and a maximum of two menus of depth.

* 1. Developing the Requirements Specification

The Requirements Specification is the complete set of all system requirements. The steps in developing the Requirements Specification are to:

* Identify requirements from the customer, environment, and the technical community (focus of the previous section).
* Ensure the engineering requirements are well-formed (meet the properties).
* Organize the requirements. Similar requirements should be presented together and relationships between engineering and marketing requirements identified. The collection of requirements should meet the properties identified in this section.
* Validate the Requirements Specification – which means all requirements are examined to ensure they meet the needs of the stakeholders.

### Properties of the Requirements Specification

The desirable properties of the Requirements Specification are as follows [IEEE Std.1233-1998]:

1. *Normalized (orthogonal) set*. There should be no overlap or redundancy between engineering requirements. A mathematical analogy is that of orthogonal vectors. For example, the x and y axes of the two-dimensional Cartesian space are orthogonal vectors, meaning that the projection (dot product) of one vector onto the other is zero. Ideally, all requirements should be orthogonal with no redundancy.
2. *Complete set.* A complete Requirements Specification addresses all of the needs of the end-user and also those needs required for system implementation. Failure to define a complete set results in ***under-specificity*** where not all needs are met.
3. *Consistent*. The engineering requirements should not be self-contradictory.
4. *Bounded.* The scope of the Requirements Specification should be identified. Determine the minimum acceptable bound for target values; going beyond what is necessary limits the design space of potential solutions. Applying unnecessary bounds results in ***over-specificity***.
5. *Modifiable.* Requirements are typically considered to be evolutionary. This is because there are many unknowns at the start of a project, hence estimates for the requirements are made. The original requirements are known as ***baseline requirements***. The estimates can change as development proceeds, as long as the changes are communicated to and agreed upon by all affected parties. Versions of the requirements should be tracked and identified as modifications take place.

### Requirements Validation

An important property of an engineering requirement that we saw earlier was verifiability. Verifiability seeks to answer the question of whether or not the system is being developed correctly, or *“Are we building the product correctly?”* A related concept is that of validation, which seeks to answer the question “*Are we building the correct product?*” More formally, ***validation*** is the process of determining whether the system meets the needs of the user—is it valid? This is more general in scope than verification and more difficult to show. Requirements validation is usually carried out by reviews of the requirements by a team of people. Validation is demonstrated by being able to answer the following questions in the affirmative [Som01]:

* For each individual engineering requirement, are the traceability and verifiability properties met? Is each requirement realistic and technically feasible?
* For the Requirements Specification, are the properties of orthogonality, completeness, and consistency met?

A complete Requirements Specification includes all the requirements, both marketing and engineering, along with the relationships between them. The relationships between the engineering and marketing requirements need to be described to ensure that all the marketing requirements are being addressed by design. The relationship between the marketing and engineering requirements is called a mapping because, like a mathematical mapping, it defines which elements of the domain (marketing requirements) are associated with which elements of the range (engineering requirements).

* 1. Requirements Case Studies

This section presents case study examples of Requirements Specification, most of which are from real capstone design projects. They are presented in a table format that presents each engineering requirement, the mapped marketing requirements (supporting the traceability property), and the justification for each requirement. The marketing requirements are summarized at the end of the table.

### Case Study: Car Audio Amplifier

Table 3.1 presents the Requirements Specification for a car audio amplifier. This simple example was selected because of the relative ease of understanding, broad familiarity with this type of device, and it will be expanded upon later.

**Table 3.1** Requirements Specification for an audio amplifier for use in an automobile.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Marketing Requirements** | **Engineering Requirements** | **Justification** |
| 1, 2, 4 | 1. The *total harmonic distortion* should be <0.1%. | Based upon competitive benchmarking and existing amplifier technology. Class A, B, and AB amplifiers are able to obtain this level of THD. |
| 1–4 | 1. Should be able to sustain an *output power* that averages ≥ 35 watts with a peak value of ≥ 70 watts. | This power range provides more than adequate sound throughout the automobile compartment. It is a sustainable output power for projected amplifier complexity. |
| 2, 4 | 1. Should have an *efficiency (η)* >40 %. | Achievable with several different classes of power amplifiers. |
| 3 | 1. *Average installation time* for the power and audio connections should not exceed 5 minutes. | Past trials using standard audio and power jacks demonstrate that this is a reasonable installation time. |
| 1–4 | 1. The *dimensions* should not exceed 6” x 8”x 3”. | Fits under a typical car seat. Prior models and estimates show that all components should fit within this package size. |
| 1–4 | 1. *Production cost* should not exceed $100. | This is based upon competitive market analysis and previous system designs. |
| **Marketing Requirements**   1. The system should have excellent sound quality. 2. The system should have high output power. 3. The system should be easy to install. 4. The system should have low cost. | | |

Audio power amplifiers are widely available devices, so the requirements were determined through competitive benchmarks and knowledge of amplifier circuit designs. The first engineering requirement directly impacts sound quality and is known as total harmonic distortion (THD). THD measures how closely the amplifier output signal follows the input signal. It is desirable for an amplifier to have a linear relation between input and output, where the output signal is identical to the input signal, except for an amplification factor. In reality, all amplifiers have some degree of nonlinearity or distortion. It is measured by applying a pure sinusoid as the input to the amplifier, which in the case of a perfectly linear amplifier produces a pure output sinusoid of the same frequency. Any nonlinearity introduces unwanted harmonic frequencies. THD represents the power of unwanted harmonics relative to the power of the fundamental sinusoid. THD is typically less than 1% for a good amplifier.

The second requirement, output power, is quantified in terms of both average and maximum values to minimize ambiguity. The third engineering requirement addresses the efficiency of the power transfer, or how much of the power consumed by the device is actually converted to audio power. The fourth engineering requirement, ease of installation, is perhaps easy to understand intuitively, and the expected installation time provides the condition for verification. The fifth requirement addresses the physical size of the device, and is important as it will need to be installed somewhere in the vehicle.

### Case Study: iPodTM Hands-Free Device

Table 3.2 presents the Requirements Specification for a hands-free device whose intent is to allow a driver to communicate with an iPodTM audio player while driving. The Problem Statement was presented in Chapter 2 (Section 2.6).

**Table 3.2** Requirements Specification for the iPodTM Hands-Free Device.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Marketing Requirements** | **Engineering Requirements** | **Justification** |
| 4, 6 | 1. System will i*mplement nine voice command* functions ( menu, play/pause, previous, next, up, down, left, right and select) and respond appropriately according to each command. | These are the basic nine commands that are used to control an iPod and will provide all functionality needed. |
| 1, 3, 4, 7 | 1. The *time to respond* to voice commands and provide audio feedback should not exceed 3 seconds. | The system needs to provide convenient use by responding to the user inputs within a short time period. Based on research it was determined that the response time for the iPod is less than 1 second and an average voice recognition system requires 2 seconds to recognize commands. |
| 4, 6 | 1. The *accuracy* of the system in accepting voice commands will be between 95% and 98%. | Research demonstrates that this is a typical accuracy of voice recognition chips. Speaker independent systems can achieve 95% and speaker-dependent up to 98%. |
| 5, 6 | 1. The system should be able to *operate* from a 12 V source and will draw a maximum of 150 mA. | The automobile provides 12V DC. A current draw budget estimate was developed with potential components and 150mA was an upper limit of current estimated. |
| 5, 6, 7 | 1. The *dimensions* of the prototype should not exceed 6” x 4” x 1.5”. | This system must be able to fit in a car compartment, somewhere between the seats. Estimate is based upon a size budget calculation using typical parts. |
| **Marketing Requirements**   1. Should not minimize or slow down the functional quality of the iPod. 2. User should be able to search for songs and artists and receive feedback on selection. 3. System should provide clear understandable speech. 4. System should be able to understand voice commands from user. 5. Should be able to fit and operate in an automobile. 6. Should be easy to use. 7. Should be portable. | | |

To develop the marketing requirements, this team conducted an informal survey of students on campus, asking the target group what their desires for such a system would be. The first three engineering requirements are related to the important issues of the system functionality and performance. In order to develop justifications for some of the requirements a prototype solution had to considered, although the solution has not been formally posed. For example, in order to estimate a time for responding to a user’s command, some assumptions were made on the types of components that might be used in the design. The last two requirements are operational requirements, ensuring that the device will work in its intended environment.

### Case Study: Gigabit Ethernet Card Testing

Table 3.3 presents an example Requirements Specification developed for the design of an experimental test setup [Ese03]. The Problem Statement for this example was presented in Chapter 2, where the objective was to design a system to test a gigabit Ethernet card for use in a harsh operating environment. In particular, the effects of temperature and vibration variations on the optical power margin, both of which impact the bit-error rate and the system performance, were determined.

**Table 3.3** System Requirements for a Gigabit Ethernet card testing project.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Marketing Requirements** | **Engineering Requirements** | **Justification** |
| 1 | Must be able to measure the *optical power output* with an *accuracy* of ± 0.5dB. | This is based upon commercially available optical power measurement instruments. |
| 2 | Must be able to measure the *optical power output* from 10°C to 55°C. | This range simulates the operating environment, and 55°C is the maximum operating temperature of the card. |
| 2 | The system must maintain *temperature accuracy* to within ± 1°C during all tests. | Based upon accuracy of commercially available test chambers. |
| 3 | Must be able to measure optical power over a *frequency range* from 4Hz to 33Hz in increments of 1Hz. | The frequencies encountered in actual operation will not exceed this range. |
| 3 | The *peak vibration amplitude* should be 0.01 inches. | The amplitude in the operating environment will not exceed this value. |
| 3 | The card should be tested at a given frequency for a *duration* of 1 minute. | This exceeds the expected duration of vibration at given frequency that the system will encounter. |
| 3 | The vibration effects should be tested in x, y, and z *directions*. | The system will encounter vibrations in multiple directions. This will provide data on differences in directional variation due to vibration. |
| 3 | The experiment should determine *resonant frequency* to an accuracy of ± 0.5Hz. | This will provide data on worst case vibration at the resonant frequency. |
| **Marketing Requirements**   1. The measurement of the optical power should be accurate. 2. It should measure the effects of temperature variations on optical power. 3. It should measure effects of vibration on the fiber optic connector and optical power output. | | |

The marketing requirements were quite brief and direct, and not surprising due to the fact the customer in this case was group of engineers who had a good idea of what they wanted. The engineering requirements were selected based upon characteristics of the operating environment, through discussion with the engineers, and via some educated guesswork. Let’s consider some of the requirements, starting with the effects of temperature variation on the optical power output. The testing requirement on the temperature range was selected based on the operating environment, while the accuracy is driven by the test equipment. The requirements also address the vibration testing requirements, including the vibration frequency range, amplitude, and resonant frequency.

### Case Study: Portable Aerial Surveillance System

The Requirements Specification for the Portable Aerial Surveillance System (Problem Statement presented in Chapter 2) is shown in Table 3.4. This system is intended to provide police and emergency responders with a low-cost easy to deploy aerial surveillance system.

**Table 3.4** System Requirements for the Portable Aerial Surveillance System.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Marketing Requirements** | **Engineering Requirements** | **Justification** |
| 6 | 1. System will provide visual recognition of license plate text from a minimum distance of 150 feet during daytime and nighttime use. | Recorded images and video will be used as trial evidence. The device's maximum height is 150 feet, so the device should allow text recognition at an absolute minimum of that distance. The device must be also usable during nighttime. |
| 4, 9 | 1. The device must be operable by a single person. | A police officer dispatched alone in his or her cruiser should be able to launch and operate the device with no assistance. |
| 2 | 1. This device must remain airborne for a minimum of two hours. | Based upon interviews with law enforcement users. This is a time period that covers most emergency situations. |
| 7, 8 | 1. The device will be able to be used in at least 14 mph winds. | Device will be used outdoors and in non-ideal conditions in Erie, PA, where there is a 95% chance that winds will be at or below 14 mph. |
| 7 | 1. The device must not exceed a height of 150 feet above ground level when in use. | This device must comply with FAA regulation 101.15 |
| 3 | 1. Must fit into the trunk of a police cruiser. The Chevrolet Impala has a trunk measuring 54 inches wide by 38 inches deep by 16 inches high. | Will be transported in a police cruiser and must fit into the trunk of the vehicle. |
| 1 | 1. The device will cost less than $3000 per year to operate. | The budget allotted to Erie county police departments was $16.7 million. 0.85% of Erie's annual budget would allow for $140,280 to be used for a helicopter. A device having less than 2% of the annual operating costs of a helicopter, and having many of the same surveillance capabilities would be considered a reasonable expense. |
| **Marketing Requirements**   1. The device should be able to be held stationary in the air, meaning providing enough stability to provide functionality. 2. Should be capable of being deployed for a long period of time. 3. Should be able to be deployed by one person in 3-5 minutes. 4. Should record video with enough quality to be used as evidence. 5. Should be useful at night. 6. Should fit in the trunk of a car and withstand the stresses of transportation. 7. Should be repairable and reusable. 8. Should require minimal training to be operated by one person. 9. Should be relatively inexpensive compared to that of a helicopter. 10. Should be able to operate at an altitude above most buildings. 11. Should meet any applicable governmental regulations (such as FAA). 12. Should be able to operate in typical winter conditions. | | |

This project was developed in conjunction with Penn State Behrend and the Mercyhurst College’s Institute for Intelligence Studies to meet a need that the institute identified. The student team met with a number of law enforcement officials to determine the needs. The first engineering requirement addresses the critical functionality that the system is to provide, while engineering requirements 2–5 address the performance and ability to work in the outdoor environment. Note the inclusion of a federal standard that drives the requirement on the maximum deployment height of the device. Requirement 7 addresses the cost, which can often be difficult to justify in student projects, but in this case the team has developed a clear justification.

* 1. Advanced Requirements Analysis

This section examines more advanced methods that are used to analyze and refine requirements. There are tradeoffs between the different requirements and understanding them is valuable for refining the requirements themselves and developing solution concepts. This section addresses tradeoffs between engineering and marketing requirements, tradeoffs between engineering requirements themselves, and benchmarking. At the conclusion, all of this is integrated in to the well-known House of Quality.

### The Engineering-Marketing Tradeoff Matrix

This matrix identifies how engineering and marketing requirements impact each other. To demonstrate its construction, we continue to examine the automobile audio amplifier example from Table 3.1. The tradeoff matrix is shown in Table 3.5, where the marketing requirements constitute the row headings and the engineering requirements the column headings.

**Table 3.5** Engineering-marketing tradeoff matrix for the audio amplifier. ↑=positive correlation, ↑↑=strong positive correlation, ↓=negative correlation, ↓↓=strong negative correlation.

Engineering

Requirements

Correlations between

Requirements

Marketing

Requirements

Polarity

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | THD | Output Power | η, Efficiency | Install Time | Dimensions | Cost |
| - | + | + | - | - | - |
| 1) Sound Quality | + | ↑↑ | ↓ |  |  | ↓↓ | ↓↓ |
| 2) High Power | + | ↓ | ↑↑ | ↑ |  | ↓↓ | ↓ |
| 3) Install Ease | + |  | ↓ |  | ↑↑ | ↑ | ↓ |
| 4) Cost | - | ↓↓ | ↓ | ↓ |  | ↓ | ↑↑ |

One of the first things to note is that each requirement has an associated polarity. A requirement with a positive/negative polarity, denoted with a +/- symbol, means that increasing/decreasing that requirement increases the desirability of the product, respectively. A goal is considered a requirement with its polarity. For example, cost almost universally has a negative polarity because decreasing cost almost always makes a product more desirable.

The entries in the body of the matrix can be thought of as a correlation that measures the ability to achieve the marketing and engineering goals simultaneously. A positive correlation (↑) means that both goals can be simultaneously improved, while a negative correlation (↓) means that improving one will compromise the other. Not all correlations are of equal importance, the strength of the correlation being denoted by the number of arrows. Blanks entries in the matrix mean that there is no correlation between the requirements.

To better understand the matrix, consider the entries in the top row associated with sound quality. The relationship between THD and sound quality is denoted by the double positive arrow. This relationship is interpreted as

The goal is to increase sound quality and decrease THD. There is a strong positive correlation between them since decreasing THD increases sound quality.

What wasn’t so clear in the 1-to-1 mapping is that there is a link between the goal of maximizing output power and the goal of maximizing sound quality (second entry in the top row). This entry is interpreted as

The goal is to increase sound quality, to increase output power, and there is negative correlation between them since increasing output power will decrease sound quality.

That is because electronics can be designed to achieve larger output power at the expense of sound quality. However, it gets a little more complicated, since output power can be increased without loss in sound quality, if more amplifier stages are employed. That increases the dimensions and cost, thus the relationships between sound quality, cost, and dimensions are identified in the first row. When creating the entries in the matrix, it should be assumed that only the associated requirements can vary and that all others are held constant. When finished, the matrix allows a quick and easy reading of the tradeoffs between engineering and marketing requirements. This example demonstrates the complex nature of a seemingly simple device, and provides a much clearer picture of the design tradeoffs involved.

### The Engineering Tradeoff Matrix

The example of output power in the previous section illustrates the need to examine the tradeoffs between the engineering requirements, which are shown in Table 3.6. In this table the engineering requirements constitute the headings for both the row and column entries. Only the entries above the upper diagonal elements are filled in due to the redundancy of the lower diagonal elements. Again, positive and negative correlations are indicated along with the strength of correlation.

Let’s examine the tradeoffs involved with output power. High output power can be achieved at the expense of THD as shown in the first row of the table. The second row indicates that there is a positive correlation between efficiency and output power, since the more efficient an amplifier is, the more power it can deliver. There is a negative correlation between the dimensions and power, since larger parts and greater surface area aid in dissipating more power. Finally, there is a negative correlation between the output power and cost because of the greater size and number of parts needed to achieve higher power.

**Table 3.6** The engineering tradeoff matrix for the audio amplifier. ↑=positive correlation, ↓=negative correlation.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | THD | Output Power | η, Efficiency | Install Time | Dimensions | Cost |
| - | + | + | - | - | - |
| THD | - |  | ↓ |  |  | ↓ | ↓ |
| Output Power | + |  |  | ↑ |  | ↓ | ↓ |
| η, Efficiency | + |  |  |  |  | ↑ | ↓ |
| Install Time | - |  |  |  |  | ↓ |  |
| Dimensions | - |  |  |  |  |  | ↓ |
| Cost | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Competitive Benchmarks

Competitive benchmarking helps to select targets for the engineering requirements. By analyzing competing systems, a better understanding is gained of what is realistic and where the design may potentially outperform the competition. The benchmark table lists the requirements in the row headings and the competitors in the column headings as shown in Table 3.7.

**Table 3.7** Competitive benchmarks for the audio amplifier.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Apex Audio** | **Monster Amps** | **Our Design** |
| **THD** | 0.05% | 0.15% | 0.1% |
| **Power** | 30W | 50W | 35W |
| **Efficiency** | 70% | 30% | 40% |
| **Cost** | $250 | $120 | $100 |

### The House of Quality

A well-known tool for developing requirements is the House of Quality (HOQ). The HOQ is part of a product development process known as Quality Functional Deployment (QFD) that is widely used in industry. QFD is a series of processes for product development that incorporate the needs of the customer throughout the system lifecycle. It encompasses design, manufacturing, sales, and marketing. QFD is characterized by a series of matrices that have a visual appearance similar to that of a house. The matrices relate different aspects of the development process and are effective for communicating between different units in an organization. There are houses for different phases of product development, but here the focus is on using the HOQ for the Requirements Specification. A HOQ for the audio amplifier example is shown in Figure 3.2. It contains all of the elements that we have addressed so far—marketing requirements, engineering requirements, engineering-marketing tradeoffs, engineering tradeoffs, and the target values for the engineering requirements. The HOQ is presented for completeness, but is redundant since it contains all of the information already presented in Tables 3.5–3.7. The HOQ also becomes visually overwhelming and hard to read as problem complexity grows.

↓

↓

↓

↓

↓

↑

↑

↓

↓

↓

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | THD | Output Power | η, Efficiency | Install Time | Dimensions | Cost |
| - | + | + | - | - | - |
| 1) Sound Quality | + | ↑↑ | ↓ |  |  | ↓↓ | ↓↓ |
| 2) High Power | + | ↓ | ↑ | ↑↑ |  | ↓↓ | ↓ |
| 3) Install Ease | + |  | ↓ |  | ↑↑ | ↑ | ↓ |
| 4) Cost | - | ↓↓ | ↓ | ↓ |  | ↓ | ↑↑ |
| **Targets for Engineering Requirements** | | <0.1% | 35 Watts | > 40% | ≤ 5 minutes | 6 x 8 x 3 inches | ≤ $100 |

**Figure 3.2** The complete House of Quality for the audio amplifier example. This integrates the information in Tables 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7.

* 1. Project Application: The Requirements Specification

The following is a recommended format for a Requirements document that integrates the Problem Statement from Chapter 2.

* *Needs, Objectives, and Background.* Include the elements from the Problem Statement in Chapter 2.
* *Requirements*. Identify the marketing requirements, engineering requirements, and justification in a table format (see Tables 3.1 – 3.4). Supplement this with tradeoff matrices and competitive benchmarks as necessary.

Table 3.8 presents a self-assessment checklist for the Requirements Specification.

**Table 3.8** Self-assessment checklist for the Requirements Specification. 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Engineering Requirements** | **Score** |
| Each engineering requirement is abstract. |  |
| Each engineering requirement is verifiable. |  |
| Each engineering requirement is unambiguous and written as a concise statement. |  |
| Each engineering requirement can be traced to a user need. |  |
| Each engineering requirement is realistic and has a justification provided. |  |
| Standards and constraints applicable to the project have been identified and included. |  |
| **The Requirements Specification** |  |
| The requirements are normalized, with minimal redundancy and overlap. |  |
| The engineering requirements are organized by similarity. |  |
| The requirements are complete, addressing all needs. |  |
| The requirements are bounded (not over-specified). |  |
| The requirements have been validated and agreed upon by all stakeholders. |  |

* 1. Summary and Further Reading

This chapter presented a process for developing the Requirements Specification, which consists of identifying the requirements from the user, environment, and input of the technical community. The desirable properties of engineering requirements and the complete Requirements Specification were presented. The verification of a requirement is particularly important, as it seeks to help in answering if the system is being built correctly. Requirements validation addresses whether the requirements meet the needs of the user, or if the correct product is being designed. Tools for benchmarking and analyzing the tradeoffs between requirements were given. Proper determination of the requirements significantly influences all subsequent phases of the design, thus the final requirements document should be agreed upon by all stakeholders.

The processes presented here were developed from research in the field and the authors’ teaching experiences. Pugh [Pug90] presents a good perspective on identifying requirements and constraints, although with more emphasis on mechanical systems. The article by Robert Abler [Abl91] is a short primer that provides good advice on how to develop specifications that overlaps with the properties presented in the IEEE Standard 1233 [IEEE Std. 1233-1998].

The HOQ technique was originally developed by Hauser and Clausing [Hau88] and has gained wide acceptance. Their original article provides a case study of the technique applied to the design of automobile door seals as implemented by Toyota Motor Corporation. Ullrich and Eppinger [Ull03] present a good perspective on developing specifications employing the QFD techniques and the HOQ with an emphasis on the voice of the customer.

* 1. Problems
  2. Briefly describe the four properties of an engineering requirement.
  3. Identify the three levels of standards usage and what is meant by each one.
  4. For each of the engineering requirements below, determine if it meets the properties of abstractness, unambiguous, verifiable, and realistic. If a requirement does not satisfy the properties, restate it so that it does:

1. The TV remote control will be easy to use.
2. The robot will identify objects in its path using ultrasonic sensors.
3. The car audio amplifier will be encased in aluminum and will operate in the automobile environment.
4. The audio amplifier will have a total harmonic distortion that is less than 2%.
5. The robot will be able to move at speed of 1 foot/sec in any direction.
6. The system will employ smart power monitoring technology to achieve ultra-low power consumption.
7. The system shall be easy to use by a 12 year old.
8. The robot must remain operational for 50 years.
   1. Provide three example engineering requirements that are technically verifiable, but not realistic.
   2. Describe the difference between *verification* and *validation*.
   3. Explain how *validation* is performed for a Requirements Specification.
   4. Provide an example of a project (real or fictitious) where verification is successful, but validation is unsuccessful.
   5. Consider the design of a common device such as an audio CD player, an electric toothbrush, or a laptop computer (or another device that you select). Identify potential marketing and engineering requirements. Consider those categories presented in Section 3.2, as well as any others that are applicable to the problem. You do not need to select the target values, but should identify the measures and units. Present the requirements in a table format as in Table 3.1.
   6. Develop a marketing-engineering tradeoff matrix for the device selected in Problem 3.8.
   7. Develop an engineering tradeoff matrix for the device selected in Problem 3.8.
   8. Develop a list of potential standards that would apply to one of the devices proposed in Problem 3.8, and for each indicate how it would apply to the design.
   9. **Project Application.** Develop a complete requirements document for your project as outlined in Section 3.6. Make sure that the engineering requirements meet the five properties identified in the chapter. The team should complete the self-assessment checklist in Table 3.8.

**Concept Generation**