# Intelligent Software Engineering

### Requirements Engineering

#### Zhilei Ren



Dalian University of Technology

September 29, 2025





### **Outline**

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Assisting Requirements Engineering with LLM
- Bridging RE and Prompt Engineering
- 4 Use Case Example with PlantUML
- 6 Requirements Specification
- Best Practices and Methodology
- Conclusion and Future Directions





## Definition of Requirements Engineering

Requirements engineering is an interdisciplinary function that mediates between the domains of the acquirer and supplier or developer to establish and maintain the requirements to be met by the system, software or service of interest. Requirements engineering is concerned with discovering, eliciting, developing, analyzing, verifying (including verification methods and strategy), validating, communicating, documenting and managing requirements<sup>1</sup>.



## As Proposed by the Project Sponsor





## As Specified in the Project Request





## As Designed by the Senior Systems Analyst



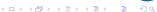




## As Produced by the Programmers







### As Installed at the User's Site







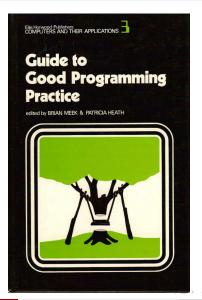
### What The User Wanted







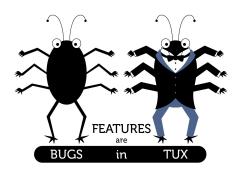
### Guide to Good Programming Practice, 1979







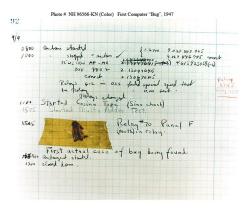
## bug or feature?







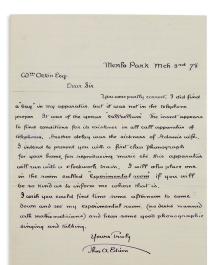
## The First Computer Bug







### The First Computer Bug







## Combo in Fighting Games was originally a Bug

Combos were a design accident; lead producer Noritaka Funamizu noticed that extra strikes were possible during a bug check on the carsmashing bonus stage. He thought that the timing required was too difficult to make it a useful game feature, but left it in as a hidden one<sup>2</sup>.



Figure 1: Street Fighter 2



### Hidden Features aka Easter Egg



Figure 2: The Konami Code

Finding the game too difficult to play through during testing, he (Konami developer) created the cheat code, which gives the player a full set of power-ups... The code was meant to be removed prior to publishing, but this was overlooked and only discovered as the game was being prepared for mass production. The developers decided to leave it there, as removing it could result in new bugs and glitches<sup>3</sup>.





## Hidden Features aka Easter Egg





Figure 2: The Konami Code

Finding the game too difficult to play through during testing, he (Konami developer) created the cheat code, which gives the player a full set of power-ups... The code was meant to be removed prior to publishing, but this was overlooked and only discovered as the game was being prepared for mass production. The developers decided to leave it there, as removing it could result in new bugs and glitches<sup>3</sup>.





### Be Careful with Putting Easter Egg in Software



Figure 3: Bug Caused by an Easter Egg





### **Outline**

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Assisting Requirements Engineering with LLM
- Bridging RE and Prompt Engineering
- 4 Use Case Example with PlantUML
- 6 Requirements Specification
- Best Practices and Methodology
- Conclusion and Future Directions





## What is Requirements Engineering?

#### Definition

Requirements Engineering (RE) is the process of defining, documenting, and maintaining requirements in the engineering design process.

- Elicitation: Discovering requirements from stakeholders
- Analysis: Refining and modeling requirements
- Specification: Documenting requirements unambiguously
- Validation: Ensuring requirements meet stakeholder needs
- Management: Managing requirements changes throughout project lifecycle



### Traditional RE Challenges

#### **Common Issues:**

- Incomplete requirements
- Changing requirements
- Communication gaps
- Ambiguous specifications
- Stakeholder conflicts

#### USER STORY







### What is PlantUML?

- Core Idea: Uses simple, human-readable Domain Specific Language (DSL)
- Foundation: Java-based tool for layout
- Philosophy: Focus on content rather than manual layout
   "PlantUML is a versatile component for quickly and directly creating diagrams."





## Key Advantages

Advantage	Description
Version Control Friendly	Text files work with Git - enables change history, diffing, collaboration
Efficiency & Speed	Faster than manual graphical editing, especially for complex diagrams
Maintainability & Consistency	Easy updates and consistent styling with themes
Automation & Integration	Integrates with documentation pipelines, build systems, CI/CD



### **UML Diagrams Supported**

- Sequence Diagram
- Use Case Diagram
- Class Diagram
- Activity Diagram
- Component Diagram
- Deployment Diagram
- State Diagram
- Object Diagram

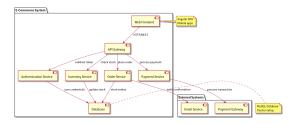


Figure 4: Component Diagram Example





### Beyond UML Diagrams

- Architectural Diagrams (C4 model)
- Entity Relationship Diagrams (ERD)
- Wireframes / UI Mockups (salt library)
- Gantt charts for project management
- Mind Maps for brainstorming
- JSON/YAML visualization
- Network diagrams



### How PlantUML Works

- **1 Write:** Create text file (.puml) with PlantUML syntax
- Process: Java processor parses text
- Render: Layout engine generates final image
- Output: Get image in desired format (PNG, SVG, etc.)

 $\textbf{Text} \rightarrow \textbf{PlantUML} \rightarrow \textbf{Diagram}$ 





### Syntax Example: Sequence Diagram

```
1 @startuml
2 actor User
3 participant "Web Browser" as Browser
4 participant Server
5 autonumber
6 autonumber
7 User -> Browser: Enter URL
8 Browser -> Server: HTTP Request
9 Server -> Server: Process Request
10 Server --> Browser: Return HTML
11 Browser --> User: Display Page
12 @enduml
```

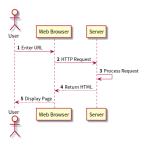
- @startuml/@enduml: Diagram boundaries
- actor, participant: Element declarations
- ->, -->: Solid/dashed arrows
- autonumber: Automatic message numbering





### Syntax Example: Sequence Diagram

```
1 @startuml
2 actor User
3 participant "Web Browser" as Browser
4 participant Server
5 autonumber
6 autonumber
7 User -> Browser: Enter URL
8 Browser -> Server: HTTP Request
9 Server -> Server: Process Request
10 Server --> Browser: Return HTML
11 Browser --> User: Display Page
12 @enduml
```





### Syntax Example: Use Case Diagram

- left to right direction: Layout control
- actor, usecase: Actor and use case definitions
- ->: Connection arrows



### Syntax Example: Use Case Diagram





## Getting Started with PlantUML

#### Online Servers (Quick Start):

- Official server: plantuml.com
- Community site: planttext.com
- No installation required

#### Local Installation (Recommended):

- Prerequisites: Java JRE + Graphviz
- IDE Plugins: VSCode, IntelliJ, Eclipse
- Command Line: Use plantuml.jar



### Summary & Key Takeaways

- Why PlantUML? Version control, automation, efficiency
- **Text-Based:** Simple, readable language for diagrams
- Wide Support: Comprehensive UML + additional diagram types
- Easy Integration: Fits modern development workflows
- Quick Start: Online editors local integration

### Embrace efficient diagram creation and maintenance!





### What is Prompt Engineering?

#### Definition

Prompt Engineering is the practice of designing and optimizing inputs (prompts) to effectively communicate with AI models to generate desired outputs.

- Precision: Crafting clear, specific instructions
- Context: Providing relevant background information
- Structure: Organizing information logically
- Iteration: Refining based on model responses
- Validation: Ensuring output meets requirements

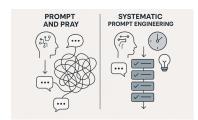




### **Prompt Engineering Techniques**

### **Key Techniques:**

- Zero-shot vs. Few-shot prompting
- Chain-of-Thought reasoning
- Role-playing scenarios
- Template-based prompts
- Iterative refinement







### Zero-shot vs. Few-shot Prompting

### Zero-shot Prompting

Providing no examples - the model must understand and respond based solely on the instruction

#### RE Example - Zero-shot

"Generate functional requirements for a user login system"



### Zero-shot vs. Few-shot Prompting

### Few-shot Prompting

Providing several examples to demonstrate the desired pattern or format

#### RE Example - Few-shot

"Here are examples of good requirements:

- 1. The system shall validate user credentials
- 2. The system shall encrypt passwords

Now generate requirements for user registration"





### Zero-shot vs. Few-shot: Practical Examples

#### Zero-shot Example:

```
Create a use case for
"password reset" functionality
```

#### Few-shot Example:

```
Example 1: Use case for login
- Actor: User
- Precondition: Valid account
- Steps: Enter credentials...

Example 2: Use case for logout
- Actor: User
- Precondition: Logged in
- Steps: Click logout...
```

#### Pros:

- Quick and simple
- Good for straightforward tasks
- Less context needed

#### Pros:

- Better quality output
- Consistent formatting
- Handles complex patterns



Now create for "password reset"

# Chain-of-Thought Reasoning

### Definition

Breaking down complex problems into intermediate reasoning steps, mimicking human problem-solving

### **RE Application**

Instead of asking for complete requirements, guide the AI through logical steps:

- Identify stakeholders
- 2 Define high-level goals
- 3 Break down into features
- Specify detailed requirements
- 5 Validate completeness



## Chain-of-Thought: Requirements Example

### **Benefits for Requirements Engineering:**

- Reduces ambiguity in complex domains
- Ensures logical consistency
- Helps identify missing requirements
- Improves traceability

```
Let's design requirements for an online payment system:

Step 1: Identify main stakeholders

- Customers, merchants, payment processors, banks

Step 2: Define core functionality needed

- Payment processing, security, fraud detection

Step 3: For payment processing, consider:

- Payment methods (credit card, digital wallets)

- Transaction flow (initiation, validation, completion)

- Error handling (declined payments, timeouts)

Step 4: Security requirements:

- Data encryption, PCI compliance, authentication

Step 5: Now generate detailed functional requirements for the payment processing component...
```

Listing 1: Chain-of-Thought for Payment System

# Role-playing Scenarios

## Concept

Asking the AI to adopt a specific persona or role to generate more context-appropriate responses

### **RE Roles Examples**

- Product Owner: "Act as a product owner for an e-commerce platform..."
- System Architect: "You are a system architect designing a microservices architecture..."
- Quality Assurance Engineer: "As a QA engineer, create test scenarios for..."
- **End User**: "From the perspective of a novice user, what features would you need..."

### Advantages:



## Role-playing in Requirements Elicitation

#### Without Role-playing: With Role-playing:

management tool	Act as a project manager with 10 years experience in agile environments. What requirements would you
	prioritize for a project management tool?

### Specific Role Examples:

```
Role: Security Auditor
```

"Identify security requirements for a healthcare app handling patient data, considering HIPAA compliance"

Role: Accessibility Specialist

"Generate accessibility requirements for a banking application to ensure WCAG 2.1 AA compliance





# Template-based Prompts

#### Definition

Using structured templates to ensure consistent, comprehensive outputs across different requirements

### Common RE Templates:

- Use Case Template
- User Story Template
- Functional Requirement Template
- Non-functional Requirement Template
- Acceptance Criteria Template

### Benefits

- Standardized format across the project
- Easier validation and review
- Better integration with RE tools
- Consistent quality of generated content

# Template Examples for Requirements Engineering

```
USE CASE TEMPLATE:
[System Name] - [Use Case Name]
ID: [Unique Identifier]
Primary Actor: [Role]
Secondary Actors: [Optional Roles]
Preconditions:
- [Condition 1]
- [Condition 2]
Main Success Scenario:
1. [Step 1]
2. [Step 2]
3. [Step 3]
Alternative Flows:
- [A1]: [Description]
- [A2]: [Description]
Postconditions:
- [State 1]
- [State 2]
Exceptions:
- [E1]: [Error condition]
```

Listing 2: Use Case Template



# Functional Requirements Template

```
REQUIREMENT TEMPLATE:
Requirement ID: [FR-001]
Type: [Functional/Non-functional]
Priority: [High/Medium/Low]
Description:
[Clear, unambiguous description of what the system shall do]
Source.
[Stakeholder/Business Need/Regulation]
Rationale.
[Why this requirement is needed]
Acceptance Criteria:
1. [Criterion 1 - testable condition]
2. [Criterion 2 - testable condition]

    [Criterion 3 - testable condition]

Dependencies:
- [Related requirement IDs]
Constraints:
- [Technical/business constraints]
Status: [Proposed/Approved/Implemented]
```

### Listing 3: Structured Requirements Template

## Iterative Refinement

## Concept

Starting with broad requirements and progressively refining them through multiple iterations of feedback and clarification

### **Iterative Process:**

- 1 First Pass: High-level requirements and scope
- Second Pass: Detailed functional requirements
- 3 Third Pass: Non-functional requirements and constraints
- 4 Final Pass: Validation and acceptance criteria

### RE Application

- Start with epic-level user stories
- Break down into features
- Refine into detailed user stories
- Add technical specifications

# Iterative Refinement Example

### Iteration 1: High-level

## Iteration 2: More specific

Create requirements for user authentication system	Add multi-factor authentication support
--	---

#### Iteration 3: Detailed

### Iteration 4: Validation

	Add error handling for failed authentication attempts
--	---

## **Benefits of Iterative Approach:**

- Catches ambiguities early
- Allows for stakeholder feedback at each stage
- Reduces rework
- Builds comprehensive requirement sets



## Complete Iterative Refinement Workflow

```
// Stage 1: Scope Definition
"Define the high-level scope for a customer relationship management system"

// Stage 2: Feature Identification
"Based on the scope, identify key features needed for lead management"

// Stage 3: Detailed Requirements
"For the lead management feature, specify functional requirements including lead capture, assignment, and tracking"

// Stage 4: Validation Criteria
"Add acceptance criteria and test scenarios for lead assignment functionality"

// Stage 5: Edge Cases
"Identify and specify requirements for edge cases like duplicate lead detection and lead expiration"
```

Listing 4: Multi-stage Refinement Process



# Technique Selection Guide

Technique	Best For	RE Phase
Zero-shot	Simple, well-understood requirements	Initial scoping
Few-shot	Consistent formatting, complex patterns	Detailed specification
Chain-of-Thought	Complex domains, logical decomposition	Analysis and modeling
Role-playing	Stakeholder perspective, conflict resolution	Elicitation and validation
Template-based	Standardization, tool integration	Specification and documentation
Iterative refinement	Complex systems, evolving requirements	All phases, especially management

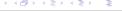
Table 1: Selecting the Right Prompt Engineering Technique

### **Combination Approach:**

- Start with role-playing for stakeholder perspective
- Use chain-of-thought for complex analysis
- · Apply templates for consistent documentation
- Iterate based on feedback









# Case Study: Applying Multiple Techniques

### Scenario: Healthcare Patient Portal

Developing requirements for a secure patient portal with medical records access

## **Applied Techniques:**

- Role-playing: "Act as a healthcare compliance officer concerned with HIPAA"
- Chain-of-Thought: Break down security requirements step by step
- Template-based: Use standardized requirement templates
- 4 Few-shot: Provide examples of good medical software requirements
- 5 Iterative refinement: Multiple rounds of stakeholder review



# Summary: Prompt Engineering for RE

### **Key Takeaways:**

- Different techniques serve different RE needs
- Techniques can and should be combined
- Start simple, add complexity as needed
- Always validate Al-generated requirements
- Document your prompt strategies for reproducibility

### **Next Steps:**

- Practice each technique with sample RE scenarios
- Develop organizational prompt templates
- Establish validation processes for Al-generated content
- Integrate with existing RE workflows





## **Outline**

- Introduction
- 2 Assisting Requirements Engineering with LLM
- 3 Bridging RE and Prompt Engineering
- 4 Use Case Example with PlantUML
- 6 Requirements Specification
- Best Practices and Methodology
- Conclusion and Future Directions





# Parallels Between RE and Prompt Engineering

Requirements Engineering	Prompt Engineering
Stakeholder needs analysis	Understanding user intent
Requirements elicitation	Prompt design and formulation
Use case modeling	Scenario specification
Requirements specification	Clear instruction crafting
Validation and verification	Output evaluation and refine-
	ment
Change management	Prompt iteration

Table 2: Comparative Analysis



## Al-Assisted Requirements Engineering

## The New Paradigm

Using prompt engineering techniques to enhance traditional requirements engineering processes

- Automated Requirements Generation: Al can help draft initial requirements
- Requirements Analysis: Al can identify inconsistencies and gaps
- Use Case Development: Al can generate and refine use cases
- Specification Writing: All can help create clear, unambiguous specifications
- Validation Support: All can simulate scenarios and identify edge cases

## **Outline**

- 1 Introduction
- Assisting Requirements Engineering with LLM
- 3 Bridging RE and Prompt Engineering
- 4 Use Case Example with PlantUML
- 6 Requirements Specification
- Best Practices and Methodology
- Conclusion and Future Directions





## Sample Prompt for Use Case Generation

### Effective Prompt Structure

```
Act as a requirements engineer. Generate a use case diagram for an online banking system including: authentication, balance check, funds transfer, and transaction history. Use PlantUML syntax.
```

- Role specification: "Act as a requirements engineer"
- Context: "online banking system"
- Specific requirements: listed functionalities
- Format specification: "Use PlantUML syntax"



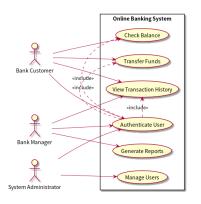


# Generated Use Case Diagram (PlantUML Code)

```
@startuml
  left to right direction
  actor "Bank Customer" as Customer
  actor "Bank Manager" as Manager
  actor "System Administrator" as Admin
6
7
  rectangle "Online Banking System" {
8
      usecase "Authenticate User" as UC1
9
      usecase "Check Balance" as UC2
      usecase "Transfer Funds" as UC3
      usecase "View Transaction History" as UC4
      usecase "Generate Reports" as UC5
      usecase "Manage Users" as UC6
14
  Customer --> UC1
  Customer --> UC2
  Customer --> UC3
18 Customer --> UC4
19 Manager --> UC1
20 Manager --> UC4
 Manager --> UC5
 Admin --> UC1
 Admin --> UC6
  UC1 .> UC2 : <<include>>
  UC1 .> UC3 : <<include>>
  UC1 .> UC4 : <<include>>
  @endum1
```

Listing 5: Online Banking System Use Case Diagram

# **Expected Use Case Diagram Output**



### **Key Components:**

- Actors: Customer, Manager, Administrator
- Use Cases: Authentication, Balance Check, Funds Transfer, et
- Relationships: Associations and «include» dependencies

# **Use Case Specification Prompt**

### **Detailed Use Case Prompt**

```
Expand the 'Transfer Funds' use case with:
primary actor, preconditions, main success scenario,
alternative flows, and postconditions. Format as a
structured use case specification.
```

### **Expected Output Structure:**

- Use Case Name and ID
- Primary Actor
- Preconditions
- Main Success Scenario (steps)
- Alternative Flows
- Postconditions

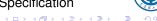




# Generated Use Case Specification

```
Use Case: Transfer Funds
TD: UC-003
Primary Actor: Bank Customer
Preconditions:
1. User is authenticated
2. User has at least one active account
3. Sufficient funds available for transfer
Main Success Scenario.
1. User selects "Transfer Funds" option
2. System displays transfer form
3. User enters recipient details and amount
4. System validates transfer details
5. System processes transfer
6. System displays confirmation
7. System updates transaction history
Alternative Flows:
Al: Insufficient funds - System shows error
A2: Invalid recipient - System validates and rejects
Post conditions.
1. Funds deducted from source account
2. Funds credited to recipient account
3. Transaction recorded in history
```

### Listing 6: Transfer Funds Use Case Specification



## **Outline**

- Introduction
- 2 Assisting Requirements Engineering with LLM
- Bridging RE and Prompt Engineering
- 4 Use Case Example with PlantUML
- 6 Requirements Specification
- Best Practices and Methodology
- Conclusion and Future Directions





# From Use Cases to Formal Specifications

### Specification Generation Prompt

```
Convert the 'Transfer Funds' use case into functional requirements specifications. Include: unique ID, description, priority, acceptance criteria, and dependencies.
```

### **Specification Components:**

- Requirement ID (e.g., FR-001)
- Description (clear, unambiguous)
- Priority (High/Medium/Low)
- Acceptance Criteria (testable conditions)
- Dependencies (related requirements)





# Sample Requirements Specification Output

```
Requirement ID: FR-001
Description: The system shall allow authenticated
users to transfer funds between their own accounts
or to other registered users.
Priority: High
Acceptance Criteria:
1. User must be successfully authenticated
2 Source account must have sufficient funds
3. Transfer amount must be positive numerical value
4. Recipient account must be valid and active
5. System must display transfer confirmation
6. Transaction must be recorded in audit log
7. Both accounts must reflect updated balances
Dependencies:
- FR-010: User Authentication
- FR-011: Account Balance Check
- FR-012. Account Validation
Status: Approved
Version: 1 0
```

### Listing 7: Functional Requirements Specification





# Non-Functional Requirements Example

```
Requirement ID: NFR-005
Description: The funds transfer functionality
shall meet specific performance and security standards.
Category: Performance & Security
Performance Requirements:
- Response time for transfer processing: < 2 seconds
- System availability: 99.9% uptime
- Maximum concurrent users: 10,000
Security Requirements:
- All transfers must be encrypted (TLS 1.2+)
- Two-factor authentication for transfers > $1,000
- Audit trail maintained for 7 years
- Fraud detection mechanisms in place
Compliance: PCI DSS, GDPR, SOX
Testing: Load testing, security penetration testing
```

Listing 8: Non-Functional Requirements



### Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Assisting Requirements Engineering with LLM
- Bridging RE and Prompt Engineering
- 4 Use Case Example with PlantUML
- 6 Requirements Specification
- 6 Best Practices and Methodology
- 7 Conclusion and Future Directions





# Prompt Engineering Patterns for RE

#### **Effective Patterns:**

- Template-based: Use structured templates
- Iterative refinement: Build complexity gradually
- Context provision: Include domain knowledge
- Example-driven: Provide similar examples
- Validation requests: Ask for verification

### **Antipatterns:**

- · Vague or ambiguous terms
- Overly complex single prompts
- Assumed domain knowledge
- Open-ended without constraints
- Inconsistent terminology





# **Effective Prompt Template**

```
[ROLE] Act as a [specific role, e.g., senior requirements engineer]

[CONTEXT] For a [domain/system type, e.g., healthcare management system]

[TASK] Generate [specific artifact, e.g., use case diagram]

[REQUIREMENTS] That includes:

- [Feature 1, e.g., patient registration]
- [Feature 2, e.g., appointment scheduling]
- [Feature 3, e.g., medical records access]

[CONSTRAINTS] With the following constraints:

- [Constraint 1, e.g., HIPAA compliance]
- [Constraint 2, e.g., mobile-first design]

[FORMAT] Present the output in [format, e.g., PlantUML syntax]

[VALIDATION] Also include [validation request, e.g., acceptance criteria]
```

Listing 9: Structured Prompt Template for RE



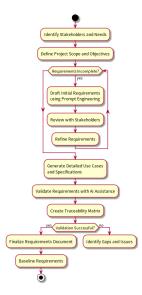
# **RE-PE Integration Workflow**

```
@startuml
  start
  :Identify Stakeholders and Needs:
4
  :Define Project Scope and Objectives;
5
6
  while (Requirements Incomplete?) is (ves)
     :Draft Initial Requirements\nusing Prompt Engineering;
    :Review with Stakeholders:
     :Refine Requirements:
  endwhile
12
  :Generate Detailed Use Cases\nand Specifications:
  : Validate Requirements with AI Assistance;
14
  :Create Traceability Matrix;
16 if (Validation Successful?) then (yes)
17
    :Finalize Requirements Document;
    :Baseline Requirements;
    stop
  else (no)
    :Identify Gaps and Issues;
    detach
  endif
  @endum1
```

### Listing 10: Requirements Engineering Workflow



# **RE-PE Integration Workflow**







## **Outline**

- Introduction
- 2 Assisting Requirements Engineering with LLM
- Bridging RE and Prompt Engineering
- 4 Use Case Example with PlantUML
- 5 Requirements Specification
- Best Practices and Methodology
- Conclusion and Future Directions





# **Key Takeaways**

- Synergy: Prompt Engineering enhances traditional Requirements Engineering
- Efficiency: Al can accelerate requirements development and validation
- Quality: Structured prompts lead to better requirements specifications
- Accessibility: Visual models (like PlantUML) improve stakeholder understanding
- Iterative Nature: Both RE and PE benefit from continuous refinement

### The Future

Al will become an integral partner in requirements engineering, with prompt engineering as the essential interface between human intent and machine capability.

# References and Further Reading

- [1] Sommerville, I. (2011) Software Engineering
- [2] Wiegers, K. & Beatty, J. (2013) Software Requirements
- [3] White, J. et al. (2023) A Prompt Pattern Catalog to Enhance Prompt Engineering with ChatGPT
- [4] PlantUML Documentation (2024) Use Case Diagram Guide
- [5] Nuseibeh, B. & Easterbrook, S. (2000) Requirements Engineering: A Roadmap

### Thank You! Questions?



