Seven deadly sins of specification

1. *Noise*: Presence in the text of an element that does not carry information relevant to any feature of the problem; Also known as: *redundancy, remorse*.

2. *Silence*: The existence of a feature of the problem that is not covered by any element of the text.

3. *Overspecification*: The presence in the text of an element that corresponds not to a feature of the problem, but to features of a possible solution.

4. *Contradiction*: The presence in the text of two or more elements that define a feature of the system in an incompatible way.

5. *Ambiguity*: The presence in the text of an element that makes it possible to interpret a feature of the problem in at least two different ways.

6. *Forward reference*: The presence in the text of an element that uses features of the problem not defined until later in the text.

7. *Wishful thinking*: The presence in the text of an element that defines a feature of the problem in such a way that a candidate solution cannot realistically be validated with respect to this feature.