



With apologies to Charles Schulz.
The Z is Schulz's, the e is mine.

From Fetter 1970

The initially rather small and close-knit weather radar (later “upgraded”? to radar meteorology) community exhibited a playfulness, much of which has been recorded in the series of conference volumes. Pride of place for initiating the concept at the 4th Weather Radar Conference 60 years ago goes to Alan Bemis and Aaron Fleisher, who were able to produce results similar to ones we see in modern studies of polarimetric radar (see figure). That playfulness continued over the years as the size and scope of the conferences increased, but with the disappearance of the conference volumes in this era of electronic communication this gentle irreverence now seems sadly in danger of also disappearing.

As a service to the community, we have compiled a collection of as many of these treasures as we could locate; samples from some of the items appear below, along with a complete reference list. We also included some relevant items that were not presented at radar meteorology conferences. Copies of all will be placed on the Radar Committee website. Some things appear to have been lost, such as the complete score of the musical revue at the Sixth Conference (1957) including the tunes to “Don’t Take the Bright Band Away from Me” and “More Data, More Data (from Pole to Equator).” Perhaps awareness of this collection will stimulate recall of these and other missing elements in some of the senior members of the community. We also hope that it will provide the younger members with some appreciation of the way these bits of humor have made the conferences more memorable, and maybe even induce some of them to carry on the tradition.

Lyrics from Fleisher (1957) skit:

More data, more data,
From pole to equator
We’ll gain our salvation
Through mass mensuration.

From “In search of the lost mandolin”
(Carbone 2002):

Recall, you polarimetric geeks
out there, that rainfall
estimation often has been
declared a solved problem.

From “Ground detection radarmeteorology”
(Zawadzki et al. 1983):

It is nevertheless surprising
that the wealth of
meteorological information
contained in ground echoes
was hitherto neglected.

From “Wet and Wonderful” Collier 2007:

QPE are really the initials
of a Latin phrase “Quid pro
quo Pontifex Emeritus”.

From “Some overlooked aspects of
echo-free regions” (Rogers 1970):

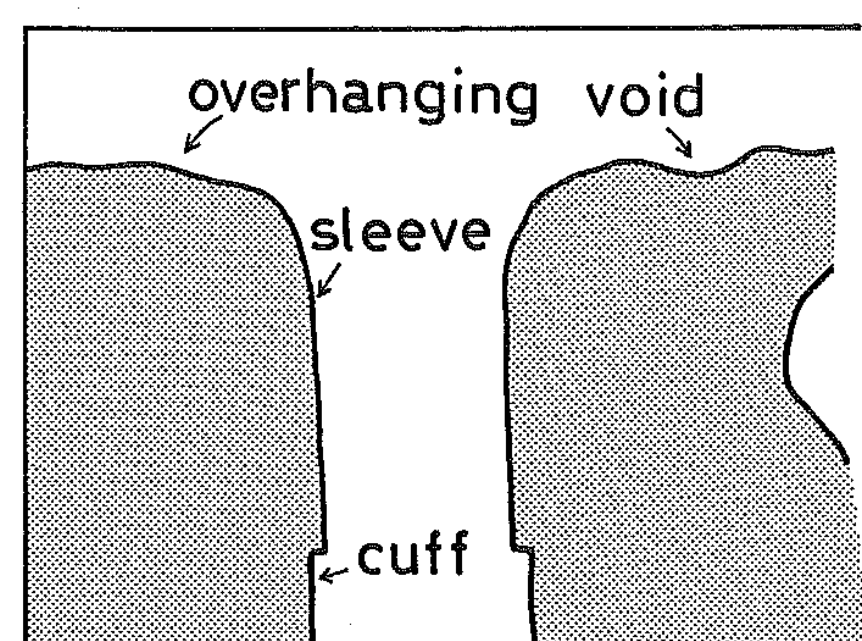


Fig. 3. Vertical cross-section of typical thunderstorm void.

From “The design of YESRAD”
(Smith & Geotis 1984):

The wavelength, as can
be determined in the
usual way, will be a few
inches. An equally
important characteristic
is wave width, which has
yet to be established.
Wave height is also of
interest for application in
coastal regions.

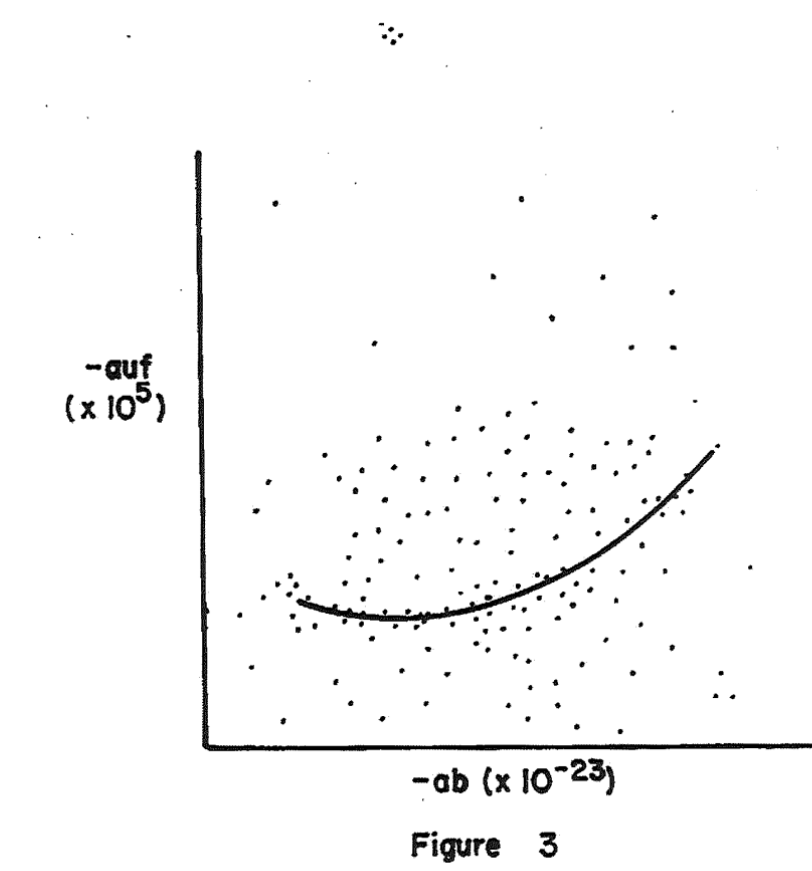
From “... studies of precipitating hydrometers”
(Ussailis & Metcalf 1986):

Of particular importance is the
acknowledgement by the Next
Generation Weather Radar
Program Office (NEXRAD, 1985)
of possible “frozen hydrometer
effects” on measurements of
precipitation by radar.

“The Project”

Paul L. Smith, Roddy R. Rogers, and James I. Metcalf

Introduction



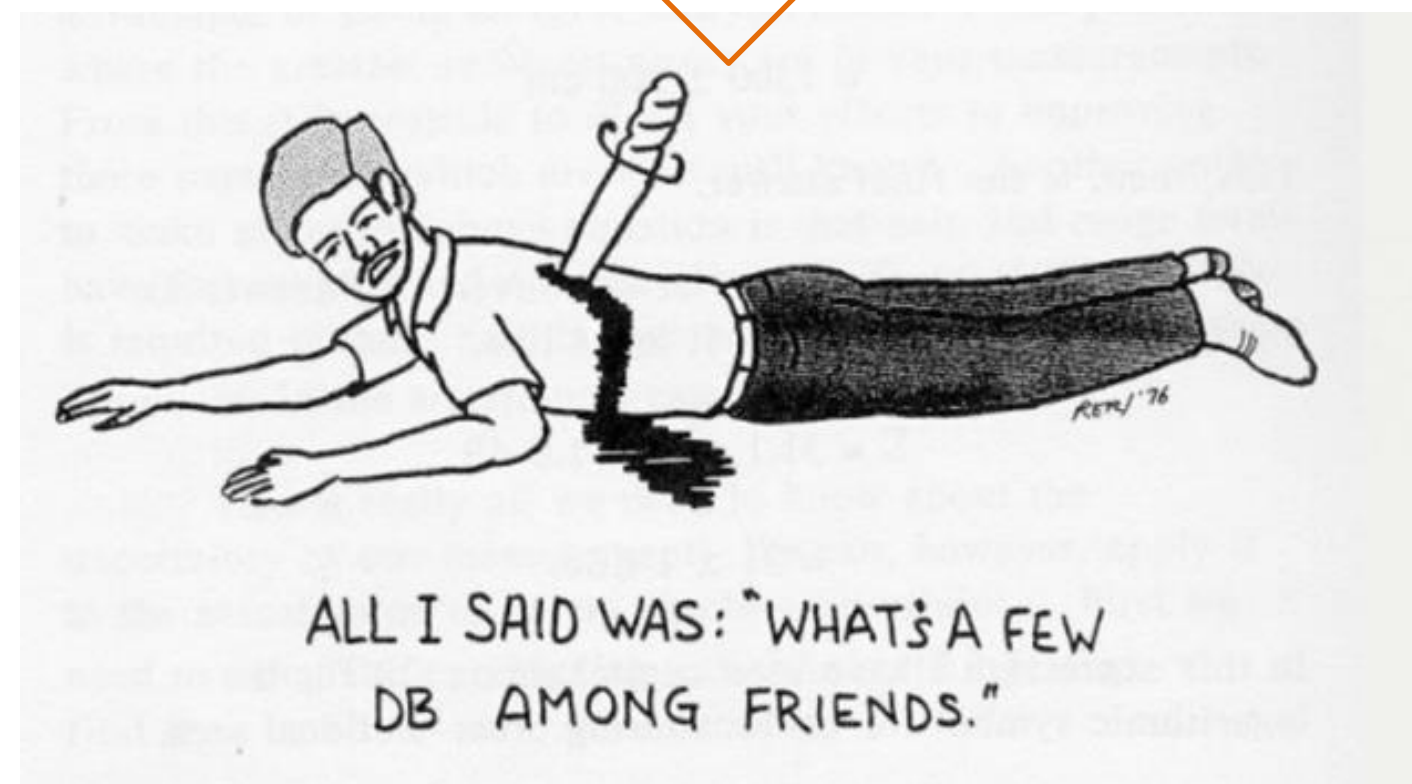
Chorus of “The Differential Reflectivity Blues”
(Smith 1984):

They call it that good ol’ ZDR;
Them that refuse it get a star.
I will hush up my mug if they’ll just
pull the plug
On that good ol’ ZDR.

From Atlas Limericks (Rogers 2002):

The expert in weather, Dave Atlas,
With new theories was always the fastest;
Though when “Angels in Focus”
Was deemed hocus pocus
He demurred – then withdrew it at last.

From Rinehart and Eccles 1976):



From The Iliad of Atlas (Anonymous 1966):

Though his salary was small, his
wallet he’d fatten
By spending his nights finding things
he could patent.

From “... enhanced subscribing”
(Smith 2003):

Two basic rules appear to be
at work:

1. Never use one subscript
when two (or presumably
even more) will do.
2. Use redundancy freely.

From Au Revoir, David? (Metcalf 1999);

Weather radar survive without Dave?
We can all look ahead and be brave!
The foundation he laid
Will not fall, will not fade!
Weather radar will always have Dave!

From “The Atlas Tree” (Geotis 1987):

I think that I shall never see
A poem ugly as this tree,

From Hitschfeld (1986), referring to Dave Atlas:

Always at the cutting edge of its
development, occasionally a
little ahead of the edge and so
liable to be hurt by it, he
remains the oldest ongoing
member of a club that was tiny
when he entered it, and that
now pervades many areas of
meteorology...

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