

Final response in the interactive discussion

Dear Referees, dear Editor,

thank you for your critical and constructive comments and suggestions for the improvement to our manuscript "Using ground radar overlaps to verify the retrieval of calibration bias estimates from spaceborne platforms". We would like to use the occasion in order to apologize for the delayed response which was due to personal issues subject to Mrs Crisologo moving from Europe to the US, and to a new job.

In this document, we would like to provide our responses to the comments of each of the three referees in one single document. The referee comments turned out to be very helpful. Based on these comments, we suggest several changes to the manuscript which we will outline in detail on the following pages.

For that purpose, we will show the referee comments in **black** font, and our responses in **blue**. For the sake of clarity, we have deleted some parts of the referee reports which do not contain specific criticism or suggestions. These parts which were not reproduced are marked as [...].

We hope that the suggested changes sufficiently address the referees' concerns, so that we can, given the approval of the editor, finalize the revision of our manuscript.

Sincerely,
Irene Crisologo
and Maik Heistermann

Reviewer 1

[...] the study seems to have overlooked the fact that SR measurements are not perfect either and one could argue also require a similar quality weighting. Yes, the SR reflectivity measurements used in this paper have been corrected for attenuation and this correction is only an estimate. The 2A25 and 2ADPR algorithms rely on the surface-reference technique (Meneghini et al. 2000) and Hitschfeld and Borden method (Hitschfeld and Borden 1954) to correct the SR measured reflectivity. These techniques can fail or provide poor estimates when multiple scattering and/or non-uniform beam filling may be present, which typically occurs within deep convective precipitation, even at Ku-band (Munchak 2018). As a result, the GR calibration offsets determined by this study may be in error, at least during intense convection. Therefore the authors must address this concern about the quality of the SR measurements, primarily when intense precipitation is included within the matched sample volumes.

We thank the referee for this comment. Obviously, he is right. In Crisologo et al. (2018), we have discussed this issue on page 5233, and also suggested to extend the quality weighting framework to SR reflectivity measurements, particularly with regard to *“the level of path-integrated attenuation (as e.g. indicated by the GPM2AKu variables pathAtten and the associated reliability flag(reliabFlag)) or the prominence of non-uniform beam filling (which could e.g. be estimated based on the variability of GR reflectivity within the SR footprint; see e.g. Han et al., 2018).”* We have not achieved the extension of the framework to the SR measurements, yet. And while we are hesitant to just reproduce the above statement in the present manuscript, we agree that the issue is too important to just implicitly mention it, as we did on p. 20, l. 20, of the original manuscript (*“[...] we need to continue disentangling different sources of uncertainty for both SR and GR observations [...]”*). Thus, we extended the final paragraph of the manuscript as follows:

“[...] Yet, we need to continue disentangling different sources of uncertainty for both SR and GR observations in order to distinguish actual variations in instrument calibration and stability from measurement errors that accumulate along the propagation path, and to better understand the requirements to robustly estimating these properties from limited samples. That also includes to extend the quality-weighting framework to the quality of SR reflectivity measurements, as already outlined in Crisologo et al. (2018), in particular with regard to the combined effects of attenuation at Ku band and nonuniform beam filling which several authors found to cause systematic errors of SR reflectivity measurements in convective situations (see e.g. Munchak 2018, Deo et al. 2018 and Park et al. 2015 for an in-depth discussion) [...]”

Munchak, S. J., 2018: Remote Sensing of Precipitation from Airborne and Spaceborne Radar, In: Islam, T., Y. Hu, A. Kokhannobsky, J. Wang (Eds.): Remote Sensing of Aerosols, Clouds, and Precipitation, p. 267-299, Elsevier, DOI: 10.1016/B978-0-12-810437-8.00013-X.

Deo, A., S.J. Munchak, K.J.E. Walsh, 2018: Cross Validation of Rainfall Characteristics Estimated from the TRMM PR, a Combined PR-TMI Algorithm, and a C-POL Ground Radar during the Passage of Tropical Cyclone and Nontropical Cyclone Events over Darwin, Australia, *J. Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology*, 35(12), 2339-2358, DOI: 10.1175/JTECH-D-18-0065.1

Park, S., S.H. Jung, G. Lee, 2015: Cross Validation of TRMM PR Reflectivity Profiles Using 3D Reflectivity Composite from the Ground-Based Radar Network over the Korean Peninsula, *J. Hydromet.*, 16(2), 668-687, DOI: 10.1175/JHM-D-14-0092.1

Furthermore, we would like to refer to our response to comment #4 of referee #2 who wondered whether the success of the bias estimation and also its interpolation over time might be related to the occurrence of convective precipitation (we did not detect a clear relationship in our data).

Another thing that could use additional explanation is the results presented in Table 3. The GR becomes less biased with time, and the relative improvement amongst the three interpolation techniques decreases with time. It even seems that some optimal calibration is attained by 2016. The authors should expand on this and suggest plausible causes for these trends.

We agree that this merits an explicit discussion. Yet, we need to be careful with the terminology: Table 3 (Table 4 in revised manuscript) does not represent the level of miscalibration, but only the inconsistency/mismatch between the two ground radars (in terms of their mean absolute reflectivity difference). While we would expect that a better calibration of each of the two ground radars would result in a better consistency even before any bias correction, the mismatch might also be affected by other factors (such as sample size). In fact, with the revised analysis procedure (conversion between Ku- and C-band, exclusion of samples within and above the bright band, see comment #2 of referee #3), the best agreement between SUB and TAG *before* any bias correction is achieved in 2014 (not in 2016). At the same time, looking at Fig. 5 (both original and revised manuscript), we see that the optimal level of calibration for *both* radars is rather obtained in 2016 (as SUB still appears to have a pronounced positive bias in 2014). That observation has already been emphasized in the original manuscript, p. 12, II. 29 ff.: “[...] both SUB and TAG are dramatically underestimating at the beginning of operation in 2012, where the underestimation of the TAG radar is even more pronounced. From 2014, the calibration improves for both radars.”, and is in line with the referee comment. Unfortunately, we can only speculate that such an improvement has been caused by specific changes in maintenance standards and/or hardware. The lack of maintenance protocols that could corroborate such speculation has briefly been addressed in the conclusions, p. 20, II. 12 ff., of the original manuscript: “[...] maintenance protocols of the affected ground radars would be very helpful in interpreting and interpolating time series of calibration bias estimates. Such records were unavailable for the present study, which made it hard to understand the observed variability of calibration bias estimates.”

So, coming back to Table 3 (Table 4 in revised manuscript): it needs to be interpreted with care. Our main conclusion from it is that, on average, the use of interpolated bias estimates is preferable over using uncorrected reflectivities; and that, on average, the moving window approach appears to be a good compromise between linear interpolation and a seasonal average. In order to clarify that, and also to consider the numerical changes in the results after our revised analysis procedure, we rewrote the corresponding paragraph in section 4.4 (p. 17 of the original manuscript) as follows:

"Table 4 provides an annual summary of the mean absolute differences in reflectivity between the two ground radars, without bias correction and with correction of bias obtained from different interpolation techniques. Most importantly, the mean absolute difference between the radars is always lower after correction, irrespective of the year or the interpolation method. Hence, it appears generally preferable to use interpolated calibration bias estimates to correct GR reflectivities, instead of not correcting for bias - even for those periods in which no valid SR overpasses are available. In total, the 30-day moving average slightly outperforms the other two interpolation methods; only in 2016, the seasonal average performs best. The performance of the moving average suggests that it is possible for the calibration of radars to drift slowly in time, with variability stemming from sources which are yet difficult to disentangle. It is also worth mentioning that, for 2016, the mismatch between SUB and TAG before bias correction is quite high (4.3 dB). That is not expected since the calibration of both radars appears to have improved over time (see section 4.2 and Fig. 5). So while the bias correction clearly improves the GR consistency in 2016 (e.g. to a value of 1.6 dB when using a seasonal average for interpolation), we have to suspect that other sources of uncertainty, together with the effect of limited samples sizes, affect the comparison of the two ground radars: e.g. uncertainties in beam propagation, or residual errors in the quantification of path-integrated attenuation and beam blockage."

[...]

Minor Comments:

- 1) Table 1...indicated whether the transmit type of each radar (e.g., SHV or alternating H/V)
The type (simultaneous) has been added to Table 1.
- 2) Section 2.3: NASA, 2017 reference is missing from bibliography
NASA, 2017 reference has been added to the bibliography.
- 3) Section 2.3: Suggest expanding upon the parameters used from TRMM/GPM instead of simply referring to Table 3 of Warren et al. (2018)
Table 2 has been added reflecting the parameters used for analysis has been added in Section 2.3.
- 4) Figure 3...clarify the vertical reference of the scans (e.g., what elevation angle or constant altitude)

The elevation angle is mentioned in the caption to be 0.5 degrees. We made it more explicit by stating “elevation angle” instead of just “elevation”.

5) Section 3.6...7 th paragraph...subscript Qmatch?

The subscript has been applied accordingly.

6) Figure 4d...define the dashed line above the histograms.

Thank you for noticing this oversight. The definition is added as:

“The dashed lines represent the distribution of reflectivity differences of all points, when no filter is applied.”

7) Figure 7...”samples with significant number of matches”...how many is significant?

Thank for pointing out this ambiguity. The figure was made based on GR-GR pairs that had more than 100 matches. This detail has been added to the text.

The figure caption now says:

The differences between the inter-radar consistency before and after correcting for the ground radar calibration biases following a rolling window averaging for GR-GR pairs with more than 100 matches. The hollow (filled) circles represent the daily mean before (after) correction. The line color represents an improvement (green) or a decline (pink) in the consistency between the two ground radars.

[...]

Reviewer 2

[...]

The following major point needs to be addressed by the authors:

1. The line numbers are preferred to be continuous and clear in the entire manuscript otherwise referencing becomes difficult (see for example page 1, 2 and 3).

Thank you for the comment, we didn't realize the numbering was out of order. The document was created from a template given by the journal. We will bring this issue up to them.

2. Figure 2 quality seems to be compromised which could be improved

We replaced the figure by a version with higher resolution.

3. In Section 4.3, line 5 “..the value of mean difference amounts to -4.6 dB” and the authors suggest this deviation possibly due to “..systematic sources..” (line 10). I was wondering if the inherent behaviour of analysing a subset of data from the wider data has been examined here. The overlap data is a subset of the wider SUB/TAG radar data and the bias estimates are obtained from the wider GR-SR data (and not just the overlap data). Maybe highlighting the overlap region data in the SUB-TRMM and TAG-TRMM before and after correction in Figure 6 could help in understanding this deviation, which means adding two more panels similar to (a) and (b) but for GR-SR bias corrected (highlighting the overlap region data). This would show the relative position of the overlap data about the 1:1 line after the bias correction. While this would be an eyeball analysis, a better approach would be to do some statistical analysis for the overlap data after correction. The authors should check this for all the other cases.

We appreciate the referee comment very much. As we understand it, the referee basically wonders whether any bias estimate from the entire ground radar domain can be assumed to be representative for the region of GR overlap - and vice versa. He thus suggests to analyze whether the region of overlap "sticks out" in any kind when we compare GR against SR reflectivity. Yet, we are hesitant to do so. Why? Because it adds another layer of complexity to the analysis, while the expected insight remains, in our opinion, unclear. This is because such an analysis would not allow us to better understand the remaining "systematic sources of error".

The fundamental assumption of this study is that any instrument bias will uniformly affect GR reflectivity across the entire GR domain. Let's picture an ideal case with the absence of any other sources of error except a GR instrument bias. If we now use our bias estimate from the SR-GR comparison to correct both ground radars, the matched GR reflectivities in the region of overlap should perfectly line up along the 1:1 line. Thus, any systematic deviation from the 1:1

line must be due to a systematic source of error which is not uniform across space. Yet highlighting the region of overlap by e.g. an additional figure panel will not help us to pinpoint that source of the error, particularly since the rainfall events are highly heterogeneous in space: if, between all the admittedly terrible scatter, the region of overlap will in fact somehow stick out from the rest of the radar domain, we will still not know whether the unknown source of error is inside or outside that region. Our fundamental motivation (as reflected by the title of our paper) of analysing matched GR reflectivities in the region of overlap is the verification of our quality-weighted matching framework. Obviously and not too surprisingly, it is not perfect yet; and the only way to better understand the systematic errors that are not yet captured, is to experiment with additional quality variables in our quality-weighting framework (potentially expanding to SR quality as well), or to improve the representation of the existing quality variables, in order to see whether we can improve the consistency of SR-GR and GR-GR matches. Hence, we would like to leave Fig. 6 as it is, if the referee agreed.

4. The authors could also examine the nature of the precipitation types studied here (fraction of convective or stratiform) as this could significantly affect the bias correction estimates (underestimation or overestimation: for more detail see studies such as Park et al 2015 and Deo et al 2018). This could help particularly to explain lines 13 -15 (sec. 4.4) “.....17 out of 121 days, an increase of more than 1dB in the absolute mean differences” (as given in Figure 7 also).

We appreciate the suggestion. It is also related to a comment of referee #1 who pointed out that SR reflectivity measurements are subject to larger and possibly systematic errors in convective situations, potentially as a result of attenuation correction and non-uniform beam filling. In order to address the suggestion, we investigated the influence of the precipitation type on the performance of bias interpolation over time: for that purpose, we interpolated the percentage of convective matched samples from both SUB and TAG SR overpasses, in the same way we interpolated the bias estimates. That way, we were able to quantify the potential influence of convective samples on the interpolated bias used to correct GR reflectivity. However, as shown in Fig. A of this response letter, we did not find any clear relationship between the occurrence of convection and the consistency of the two ground radars in the region of overlap after bias correction. That does not mean that the presence of convection does not affect the bias estimate from SR overpasses (as found by Deo et al. 2018 and Park et al. 2015). It just means that it does not become apparent in the present verification scheme. Still, a thorough inclusion of SR product data and metadata with regard to SR attenuation still appears to be a promising future extension of the quality-weighting framework. For the present manuscript, however, we decided to not explicitly include this aspect in the analysis, but to highlight the perspective in the final paragraph of the manuscript (as a response to a similar comment of referee #1). In that context, we also refer to the studies of Deo et al. 2018 and Park et al. 2015, as suggested by referee #2.

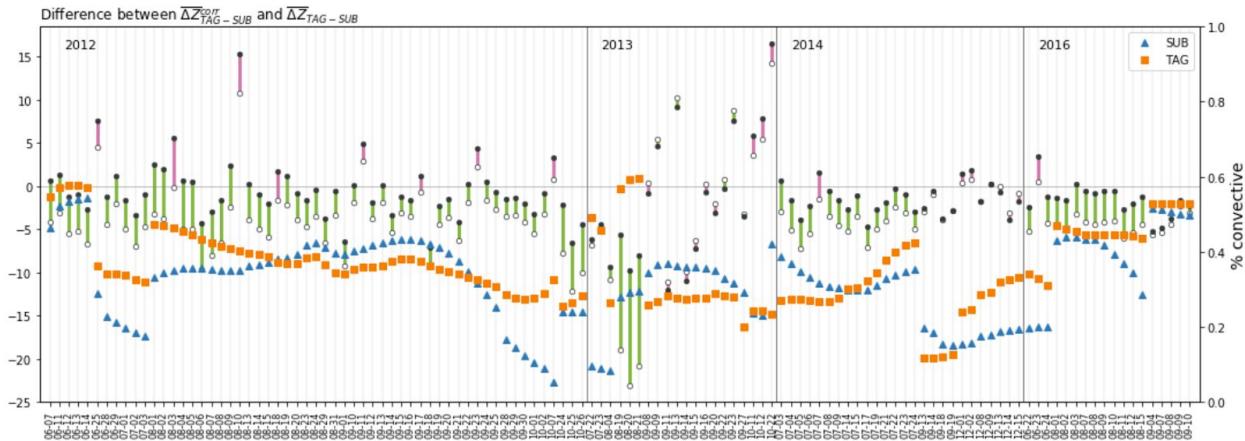


Fig. A: Like Fig. 7 in the manuscript, this figure shows the differences between the inter-radar consistency before and after correcting for the ground radar calibration biases following a rolling window averaging for samples with significant number of matches. In addition, we show the interpolated fraction of convective samples for SR overpass events with SUB and TAG. The idea behind this approach is to show the influence of bias estimates from SR overpass events with regard to the presence of convection. In other words: if the bias estimation from an SR overpass was degraded by convection, any interpolation of such bias estimate should also degrade inter-radar consistency. However, the figure does not reveal any relationship between the occurrence of pink lines (which indicate that using the interpolated bias degrades inter-radar consistency) and the occurrence of convection.

5. Use of abbreviations such as SUB, TAG, GR, SR, PIA and etc. needs to addressed- use it consistently throughout the manuscript otherwise it distracts a reader: As an example, in lines 13 – 18 (sec. 3.6) there is a combination of SUB, TAG, Subic, Tagaytay in just one paragraph.

Thank you for pointing out these inconsistencies in the manuscript. The abbreviations have been defined at the first instances and replaced accordingly throughout the manuscript.

A list of minor comments/suggestions is as follows:

1. Change “spaceborne” to “space-borne” throughout the manuscript

“Spaceborne” has been replaced with “space-borne” throughout the manuscript

Section 1

2. Line 1 “...observations are the key...” remove “the”. Same line add article “a” before “large” and “high”.

The suggested correction has been applied.

3. Line 3, change “errors” to “error” in “The estimation errors..”

The suggested correction has been applied.

4. Two lines before line 5: change “..- let it be..” to “..be it..”

The corrected has been applied as suggested.

5. Line 5, introduce PIA abbreviation here and “On top...” is confusing, please rephrase.

The PIA abbreviation is defined. “On top” has been replaced with “In addition” to remove confusion.

6. Line 10, remove “...maybe surprising to some...”

The line has been removed as suggested.

7. Line 32, change “finally” to “recently” in “...and finally by Warren...”

Change has been made as suggested.

8. Page 3, line 16, change “latter” to “last” in “The latter item...”

Change has been made as suggested.

9. Rephrase line 24-27 (Page 3). Remove “ : ” add a “and” before “section 3” in “...data sets: section 3....”. Line 26, add full stop after “... “bias estimation” and then “Section 4 will present...results followed by the conclusion in section 5”.

The paragraph has been rephrased as suggested.

Section 2

10. Line 29 (page 3), Rephrase to “The Philippine weather agency, known as Atmospheric....(PAGASA), maintains...”

The sentences has been rephrased to “The Philippines’ weather agency, known as the Philippine Atmospheric... (PAGASA), maintains...”

11. Line 32-33 (page 3-4), replace “at” with “with” and “inhabitants” with “population” in “...area at approximately 13 Million inhabitants.”

The sentence has been edited to say “with a population of approximately 13 Million.”

12. Figure 1: Make the x and y label fonts consistent.

We patterned the coordinate labeling to the USGS style, we think this is a good way to make the x and y coordinate labels less cluttered with trailing zeros but still readable.

13. Page 4 line 5, define “a.s.l” or use long format “above sea level” in “...532 m a.s.l”

The definition for “a.s.l.” has been added at the first instance.

14. Page 4, line 8, change “available” to “given”.

Change made as suggested.

15. Page 4, line 11, “Band” should be lower case in “..C-Band...”

Change made as suggested.

16. Page 4, line 12, change to “...sits on”

Change made as suggested.

17. For sec. 2.1. and 2.2, see comment 5 in “Major comments”

After defining the SUB and TAG radar names for Subic and Tagaytay, respectively, the abbreviations have been made consistent throughout the manuscript.

18. Page 5, line 11, rephrase “...collected...”

“collected” is changed to “obtained”

19. Page 5, line 12, remove “The” from “The data...”

Change made as suggested.

20. Page 5, line 12, “..same as specified...” should be “...same as those specified..”

Change made as suggested.

Section 3

21. Page 5, Line 3, “(see 2)” should be “(see section 2)”

Change made as suggested.

22. Page 5, Line 7, remove bold emphasis of words or sentences which also applies to other sections.

Bold emphasis of phrases have been removed.

23. Page 6, lines 22-23, check the usage of brackets.

The extra brackets have been removed.

24. Line 23, remove italicised emphasis of words or sentences which also applies to other sections. Could place them in quotation marks if explicitly required.

The italicization of “imperative” has been removed.

25. Section 3.4, page 7, line 7, “dual-pol”?

“dual-pol” has been explicitly stated as “dual-polarization”

26. Page 8, line 13, delete repeated “copolar cross-correlation”

Change made as suggested.

27. Page 8, line 14, delete “and” in “...and differential propagation phase ...”

Change made as suggested.

28. Page 8, line 18, define KDP.

DEM has been defined.

29. Page 8, line 30, define DEM.

DEM has been defined.

30. Page 8, last sentence, add “a” before “total” in “... corresponds to total..” and also before “complete” at the end of the sentence

Change made as suggested.

31. Figure 3, I believe “...corresponding elevation angle.” should have been “...corresponding sweep angle.)

The term “elevation angle” refers to the sweep angle. For consistency, as we have been using “elevation angle” throughout the manuscript, we opt to keep “elevation angle” in this caption.

32. Page 9, line 17, add “a” before “...very high beam..”.

Change made as suggested.

33. Page 9, line 17, state which “...higher elevations..” Is it > 0.5 or 1.5 ?

Sorry for the confusion. In this part, we refer to higher elevations as those > 0.5 degrees. This has been clarified in the manuscript:

“higher elevation angles ($>0.5^\circ$)”

34. Page 10, Equation 5, define $K_{r,s}$

Thank you for pointing out this oversight. The term “ $K_{r,s}$ ” is ambiguous and has been replaced instead with A_i , which refers to a one-way path-integrated attenuation at the i th radar bin. Correspondingly, K_{\max} and K_{\min} have been replaced with A_{\max} and A_{\min} to signify the minimum and maximum attenuation thresholds.

Section 4 and 5

35. Page 11, line 28, define how much is sufficient in “...sufficient radar bins”.

The sentence has been updated to “where there are more than 900 radar bins with precipitation in the region of overlap”.

36. Page 11, line 28, is the time LT or UTC?

Thank you for pointing out this ambiguity. The times are in local times, we clarified this in the text.

“The scan times are 06:55:14 and 06:57:58 (local times) for the SUB and TAG radars, respectively.”

37. Page 12, line 9, rephrase to “...underestimation by the TAG...”

Change made as suggested

38. Page 12, line 15. Rephrase “Remembering item (2)...” to “ Considering component (2)...”

Change made as suggested

39. Page 12, Line 19, remove brackets in “... (SR-GR or GR-GR)...

Change made as suggested

40. Page 12, line 27, delete “is” from “The first panel is corresponds...”

Change made as suggested.

41. Page 12, line 28, “Section 3.2” instead of “Section III.2”

Change made as suggested.

42. Page 12, line 33, change “drastic” to “severe”

Change made as suggested.

43. Figure 4, panel d, what do the dashed lines represent? Also add article “a” before “low” and “high”

Thank you for noticing this oversight. The definition is added as:

“The dashed lines represent the distribution of reflectivity differences of all points, when no filter is applied.”

44. Page 14, line 6 define “sufficient number”. Also add “In” before “That” in “That way, we...”

The “sufficient number” has been explicitly defined as “as at least 30 matched GR samples”.

The succeeding sentence has also been updated to “In that way,[...]"

45. Page 14, line 8, change “item (2)” to “component (2)”. Also replace “...in which...” with “where”.

Changes made as suggested.

46. Page 14, line 10, replace “...took place right...” with “occurred”

Change made as suggested.

47. Page 14, line 11, rephrase “according to Figure 6” to “see Figure 6” and put in brackets.

Also add “during” before “...the so called Habagat...” .

Changes made as suggested.

48. Table 2, define Npts.

Npts have been spelled out as “number of points”.

49. Page 15, line 7, replace “massive” with large. This also applies to other sections.
“Massive” has been replaced with “Large”.

50. Page 15, line 20, rephrase to “The question now is...”
Change made as suggested.

51. Page 15, line 25, add “a” before “...few examples”.
Change made as suggested.

52. Figure 6, is time LT or UTC? Also include a colour bar to show the scale density and add “respectively for” after “consistencies” in (c) and (d)

The time in Figure 6 is local time, we have now indicated this in the manuscript. The color scale for these images are based on the kernel density divided by the maximum number for each scatter plot, such that the darkest colored point for each subplot corresponds to a value of 1. This eliminates the need to add a color bar.

53. Page 18, lines 11-12, rephrase.
The sentences have been rephrased to read:

“The length of the bar shows the magnitude of the change, while the color of the bar signifies improvement or degradation of consistency between the ground radars. A green bar denotes that the absolute value of the mean difference after correction has decreased, i.e. the mean difference after correction (filled circles) is closer to zero than before correction (unfilled circles). A pink bar denotes an increase in the absolute value of mean difference between the two radars after correction.”

54. Page 18, line 16, I believe you meant “unacceptable” rather than “acceptable”.
We did mean acceptable. The sentence has been rephrased to make this clearer:
“However, we are also able to identify several days for which the bias correction did decrease the absolute mean differences, yet still not to a level that could be considered as acceptable for quantitative precipitation estimation.”

55. Page 15, line 19, check referencing format i.e. for Schwaller and Morris.
The referencing has been updated.

56. Page 19, line 31, could use “...main finding” instead of “...main lesson”
Change made as suggested.

57. Page 19, line 35, use full form in “single-pol”
Change made as suggested.

58. Page 19, line 36, may be use numerals (i,ii and iii) to list the approaches
Change made as suggested.

59. Page 19, last line, replace “any” with “all” in “On average, any..”

Change made as suggested.

60. Page 20, line 8, delete one of the “also”.

The first “also” has been deleted.

61. Page 20, line 10, replace “Altogether” with “Hence”.

Change made as suggested.

62. Page 20, line 13, replace “hard” with “difficult”

Change made as suggested.

63. Page 20, lines 16-17 please rephrase the sentence after the website link as it is confusing.

Thank you for the suggestion, we have edited the sentence as follows:

“With the software code and sample data of our study being openly available (<https://github.com/IreneCrisologo/inter-radar>), such institutions are now enabled to carry out the analysis presented in this study by themselves, while being able to benefit from cross-referencing the results with internal maintenance protocols. “

64. Page 20, line 18, “..in periods” should be (“...during periods...”

Change made as suggested.

65. Page 20, line 22, replace “...estimating...” with “estimate”

Change made as suggested.

Reviewer 3

[...]

Specific comments

1) In section 2, descriptions of used data are overall lacked. How to originally calibrate the ground radars? Don't some references and/or descriptions of the ground radars exist? How to treat/correct the precipitation attenuation for ground/spaceborne radars? Does the current study compare what parameters of radar reflectivity with or without the attenuation? This study mentions Crisologo et al. (2018) and Warren et al. (2018), but it makes readers to feel unkindly. Especially, data of the C-band ground radar because this study newly utilizes the data. Please

describe appropriately. I suggest some references of attenuation-correction methods for spaceborne radar data as follows: Iguchi et al. (2009) and Seto and Iguchi (2015).

We regret that some of the information required by the referee appears to be lacking in the manuscript. Yet, we would prefer not to reproduce the description of the S-band radar data provided in Crisologo et al. (2018) and of the SR (TRMM/GPM) radar data as provided in Warren et al. (2018). While we understand that it is more convenient for the reader, such a repetition would not be in line with the required conciseness and brevity, as we see it. As this appears to be a matter of style, we would be willing to add corresponding changes if the editor insisted. With regard to the Tagaytay C-band radar, we describe the data in section 2.2 at a level we consider sufficient. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide details on how the radar were originally calibrated by the operator, as is pointed out in the conclusions section of the manuscript. There exists no official document that elaborates on the ground radar network, just a personal communication with PAGASA personnel who stated that receiver calibration is carried out using an internal test signal.

However, we revised section 2.3 of the manuscript by including the references on attenuation correction for the space-borne radars, as suggested by the referee. It now reads as follows:

“Spaceborne radar data were collected from TRMM 2A23 and 2A25 version 7 (NASA, 2017) for overpass events in 2012-2014, and GPM 2AKu version 5A products (Iguchi et al., 2010) from 2014-2016, during the rainy season of June to December. The products include, among others, an attenuation correction of observed reflectivity (see e.g. Iguchi et al., 2009, for the TRMM precipitation radar, and Seto et al., 2015, for GPM) [...]”

Iguchi, T., T. Kozu, J. Kwiatkowski, R. Meneghini, J. Awaka, and K. Okamoto, 2009: Uncertainties in the Rain Profiling Algorithm for the TRMM Precipitation Radar. J. Meteor. Soc. Japan, 87A, 1– 30, doi:10.2151/jmsj.87A.1.

Seto, S. and T. Iguchi, 2015: Intercomparison of Attenuation Correction Methods for the GPM Dual-Frequency Precipitation Radar. J. Atmos. Oceanic Technol., 32, 915–926, <https://doi.org/10.1175/JTECH-D-14-00065.1> 5)

If we understood the referee correctly, he also inquired whether the C-band radar reflectivity was corrected attenuation (for the intercomparison). Here, we would like to refer to p. 3, II. 6 ff., of the original manuscript: “[...] Instead of attempting to correct GR reflectivities for PIA, we explicitly acknowledge the uncertainty of any PIA estimate by assigning a low weight to any GR bins that are substantially affected by PIA [...]”. In order to emphasize the fact that we did not correct for attenuation, but rather filtered measurements affected by attenuation, we modified the second paragraph of section 3.4 as follows:

“[...] In this study, we did not correct the ground radar reflectivity for attenuation. Instead, we require PIA estimates as a quality variable to assign different weights of GR reflectivity samples when computing quality-weighted averages of reflectivity (see section 3.6) [...]”

2) This study uses the two ground radars at frequencies of S- and C-bands and the spaceborne radars at a frequency of Ku-band. How to consider the difference in a frequency? From Crisologo et al. (2018), a conversion due to the Mie-scattering effect from Ku-band to S-band is empirically considered in this study. However, the conversion among S-, C-, and Ku-bands is not described anything. Is the residual difference of the two ground radars mixed with the frequency difference? Please describe explicitly.

We apologize for not having addressed the issue of different radar frequencies in the manuscript. In fact, we had used, in our original analysis, the same conversion function for Ku-band to C-band reflectivity as for the S-band radar. We thus thank the referee for pointing out that neglect, and revised our analysis accordingly: Before estimating the GR bias (Tagaytay radar) from SR overpasses, we convert the SR reflectivity from Ku- to C-band using an empirical function used by Louf et al. (2019), Eq. 5, which is based on T-matrix scattering simulations. Since Louf et al. state that the function was only valid for liquid precipitation, we excluded all matching samples from within and above the bright band (using the bright band detection from the SR data). For the sake of consistency, we followed the same approach (i.e. discarding samples from within and above the bright band) for the S-band radar (Subic). Apart from recomputing the results with these changes, we modified the corresponding paragraph in section 3.2 (SR-GR matching) of the revised manuscript in order to clarify the procedure:

In section 3.2: “[...] In this study, we extend it to the TAG radar. Since the two radars are operating under the same scanning strategy and spatial resolution, the thresholds applied in filtering the data are kept the same as in the SR-SUB comparison described in Section 3.2, Table 2, of Crisologo et al. (2018), except that we considered samples only from below the bright band (as specified by the bright band detection in the SR product). That methodological adjustment was necessary due to the conversion between Ku and C-band reflectivity, which accounts for the systematic effect of different measurement frequencies: For that conversion, we used an empirical function published by Louf et al. (2019), Eq. 5, which was derived from T-matrix scattering simulations. According to the authors, that function is only valid for liquid rain; hence we excluded samples from within and above the bright band. The same was done for the S-band radar, in order to keep the matching procedure consistent between SUB and TAG. The conversion from Ku- to S-band reflectivity was implemented using the functions published by Cao et al. (2013). Further details of the SR data specifications and the matching procedure can be found in Crisologo et al. (2018).”

We furthermore revised all the text and figures in the manuscript in order to account for the new results (although the overall conclusions are not affected by these changes).

Please note, however, that we decided not to convert between S- and C-band frequencies for the GR-GR matching procedure. We modified section 3.3 in order to explain the reasons behind that decision:

In section 3.3: “We compare the reflectivities of both ground radars in the overlapping region to quantify the mean and the standard deviation of their differences, and thus the effectiveness of the quality-weighting and the relative calibration procedure. Please note that we do not explicitly account for differences in the reflectivity factor between S-band and C-band due to resonance effects, although Baldini et al. (2012) found that for very high reflectivities and very high median volume diameters of the drop size distribution, the deviation between the reflectivity factors of S-band and C-band can reach up to a maximum of 3 dB. Yet, we assume that, in such a scenario, the uncertainty introduced by path-integrated attenuation and its correction for C-band is more important, and at the same time implicitly addressed by the quality-weighting framework. In order to compare reflectivities from different radars [...]”

Baldini, L., V. Chandrasekar, and D. Moisseev, 2012: Microwave radar signatures of precipitation from S band to Ka band: application to GPM mission, *European Journal of Remote Sensing*, 45(1), 75-88, DOI: 10.5721/EuJRS20124508.

3) This study tries a temporal adjustment of calibration changes for ground radars from only infrequent matchups with spaceborne radars. The relative calibration adjustment with ground clutter (e.g., Silberstein et al. 2008, Louf et al. 2019) is one of typical methods. Each of the relative calibration methods with the ground clutter and the matchup with spaceborne radar has its merits and demerits. Please discuss in the manuscript.

We appreciate that comment very much because relative calibration methods that rely on ground clutter as a reference could very well complement the calibration approach using space-borne radars: first, they could help to verify the temporal variability of bias estimates obtained from SR overpasses; second, they could support the interpolation of bias estimates in time, e.g. as a covariate. Yet, as the referee is most likely well aware, Louf et al. (2019) did exactly this, and we thank the referee for this reference which we had not been aware of, yet. But instead of going into depth discussing pros and cons of both approaches, we'd like to just briefly add this as a perspective enhancement to the conclusions section, p. 20 (as follows), including the reference to Louf et al.:

“[...] Altogether, it still appears difficult to interpolate such a volatile behaviour, even if we considered the actual calibration bias estimates from the SR overpasses as quite reliable. A way to further investigate that behaviour would be to complement the analysis by relative calibration techniques that use ground clutter returns as a reference (e.g. Silberstein et al. 2008). Although such techniques only allows to detect changes in calibration relative to a baseline, they can be applied to each volume cycle and thus inform us about dynamics at a high temporal resolution and coverage. That way, we could support the interpolation of bias estimates obtained from SR overpasses, or scrutinize the temporal variability of such estimates.

An application and in-depth discussion of this concept has just recently been provided by Louf et al. (2019) with the example of the C-band weather radar in Darwin, Australia."

Louf, V., A. Protat, R.A. Warren, S. M. Collis, D.B. Wolff, S. Rauniar, C. Jakob, W.A. Petersen, 2019: An Integrated Approach to Weather Radar Calibration and Monitoring Using Ground Clutter and Satellite Comparisons, *J. Ocean. Atm. Techn.*, DOI: 0.1175/JTECH-D-18-0007.1

Silberstein, David S., David B. Wolff, David A. Marks, David Atlas, and Jason L. Pippitt. "Ground Clutter as a Monitor of Radar Stability at Kwajalein, RMI." *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology* 25, no. 11 (November 1, 2008): 2037–45.

<https://doi.org/10.1175/2008JTECHA1063.1>.

Technical corrections

1) Page 2 line 23: The sentence in a parenthesis after "estimation errors(in...)" is too long, so I might be better to replace it. For examples: "The estimation errors are defined as retrieval errors of the precipitation rate... the radar reflectivity factor Z; then the errors are caused by...".

We changed the original sentence (on p. 1, ll. 23 ff.) as follows:

"We define estimation errors as errors that occur in the retrieval of the precipitation rate R from the radar's prime observational target variable, the radar reflectivity factor Z. These errors are caused mainly by the unknown microphysical properties of the target - be it meteorological or non-meteorological."

2) Page 2 line 4: I do not understand "let it be ...". What does it mean?

Please see our changes to the same sentence as a response to the previous comment (1)

3) Please specifically indicate the frequency or wavelength of the radars in Sections 2.1 and 2.2.

4) "Bandwidth" in Table 1 is wrong. I think "Frequency" is appropriate.

"Bandwidth" has been replaced with "Frequency"

5) Page 7 line 27 and Page 15 first paragraph in Section 4.4: SR has been already defined at Page 2. Why did you redefine SR? In Section 5 (summary), I understood the redefinition as a refresh.

Thank you for pointing that out. The redefinitions of SR in Page 7 and Page 15 have been removed.

The corresponding sentences now reads:

[...] calibration approach by using the space-borne-radar (SR) as a reference.

The ~~space-born radar~~ SR platform rarely overpasses both GR radar domains [...]

6) Page 7 line 33: I can not find Table 3 in Crisologo et al. (2018). Is it Table 2 in Crisolog et al. (2018)? Please indicate the correct number.

Apologies for this oversight, the table number has been corrected to Table 2.

7) Table 2: -5 and -7 is should be -5.0 and -7.0 if the significant digit of those values is correct in this study.

The numbers have been changed to -5.0 and -7.0.

8) Some references lack information such as URL (e.g. Iguchi et al. 2010, Jone et al. 2014).

Please check

https://www.atmospheric-measurementtechniques.net/for_authors/manuscript_preparation.html.

Incidentally, Iguchi et al. (2010) is too old for a reference. Please update appropriately as follows:

<https://pmm.nasa.gov/resources/documents/gpmdpr-level-2-algorithm-theoretical-basisdocument-atbd>.

The GPM reference has been updated to Iguchi et al. 2018. The SciPy reference has been updated from Jones et al. (2014) to Virtanen et al. (2019).

Iguchi, Toshio, Shinta Seto, Robert Meneghini, Naofumi Yoshida, Jun Awaka, Minda Le, V Chandrasekar, Stacy Brodzik, and Takuji Kubota. "GPM/DPR Level-2 Algorithm Theoretical Basis Document," 2018.

<https://pmm.nasa.gov/resources/documents/gpmdpr-level-2-algorithm-theoretical-basis-document-atbd>.

Virtanen, Pauli, Ralf Gommers, Travis E. Oliphant, Matt Haberland, Tyler Reddy, David Cournapeau, Evgeni Burovski, et al. "SciPy 1.0-Fundamental Algorithms for Scientific Computing in Python." CoRR abs/1907.10121 (2019). <http://arxiv.org/abs/1907.10121>.

Using ground radar overlaps to verify the retrieval of calibration bias estimates from ~~spaceborne~~ space-borne platforms

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Abstract. Many institutions struggle to tap the potential of their large archives of radar reflectivity: these data are often affected by miscalibration, yet the bias is typically unknown and temporally volatile. Still, relative calibration techniques can be used to correct the measurements *a posteriori*. For that purpose, the usage of ~~spaceborne~~ space-borne reflectivity observations from the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) and Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) platforms has become increasingly popular: the calibration bias of a ground radar is estimated from its average reflectivity difference to the ~~spaceborne~~ space-borne radar (SR). Recently, Crisologo et al. (2018) introduced a formal procedure to enhance the reliability of such estimates: each match between SR and GR observations is assigned a quality index, and the calibration bias is inferred as a quality-weighted average of the differences between SR and GR. The relevance of quality was exemplified for the Subic S-band radar in the Philippines which is much affected by partial beam blockage.

The present study extends the concept of quality-weighted averaging by accounting for path-integrated attenuation (PIA), in addition to beam blockage. This extension becomes vital for radars that operate at C- or X-band. Correspondingly, the study setup includes a C-band radar which substantially overlaps with the S-band radar. Based on the extended quality-weighting approach, we retrieve, for each of the two ground radars, a time series of calibration bias estimates from suitable SR overpasses. As a result of applying these estimates to correct the ground radar observations, the consistency between the ground radars in the region of overlap increased substantially. Furthermore, we investigated if the bias estimates can be interpolated in time, so that ground radar observations can be corrected even in the absence of prompt SR overpasses. We found that a moving average approach was most suitable for that purpose, although limited by the absence of explicit records of radar maintenance operations.

Copyright statement.

20 1 Introduction

Weather radar observations are ~~the~~ key to quantitative precipitation estimation (QPE) with a large spatial coverage and ~~at~~ a high resolution in space and time (in the order of $10^2 - 10^3$ meters, and $10^0 - 10^1$ minutes). Yet, the indirect nature of the precipitation retrieval paves the way for a multitude of systematic estimation and measurement errors. ~~The~~ We define

estimation errors (as errors that occur in the retrieval of the precipitation rate R from the radar's prime observational target variable, the radar reflectivity factor Z) are caused mainly by the unknown microphysical properties of the target meteorological or non-meteorological. Before that, *measurement errors* affect the observation of Z through a multitude of mechanisms that can accumulate as the beam propagates through the atmosphere (such as beam blockage, or path-integrated attenuation). On top(PIA)). In addition, the prominence of these measurement errors heavily depends on scenario-specific interaction of factors such as radar bandwidth, beam width, obstacles in the direct and wider vicinity, topography in the radar coverage, atmospheric refractivity, or the microphysical properties of precipitation along the beam's propagation path. Much has been written about these sources of uncertainty, and much has been done to address them adequately (see Villarini and Krajewski (2010) for an extensive review).

10 Yet, the single-most contribution of uncertainty to radar-based QPE often comes , maybe surprising to some, from the (mis)calibration or (in)stability of the radar instrument itself (?) (Houze et al., 2004) which can also vary in time (Wang and Wolff, 2009). Apart from the simple fact that miscalibration can easily deteriorate the accuracy of precipitation estimates by an order of magnitude, calibration issues become particularly annoying if weather radars are operated in a network where the consistency of calibration between radars is a prerequisite for high-quality radar mosaics (see e.g. Seo et al. (2014)).

15 There are various options to carry out and monitor the calibration of a radar instrument in an operational context through absolute calibration techniques (based on a well-defined reference noise source, see Doviak and Zrnić (2006) for an overview). Yet, to the reflectivity that is already measured and recorded, any changes to the instrument's calibration are irrelevant. In such a case, relative calibration techniques can be used to correct the measurements a posteriori. Many institutions have archived massive large radar reflectivity records over the years, but they struggle to tap the potential of these data due to unknown and 20 temporally volatile calibration biases. And while radar polarimetry offers new opportunities to address calibration issues, many archived data still originate from single-polarization radars.

As to relative calibration, the usage of rain gauge observations is typically not recommended, not only due to issues of representativeness in space and time, but also due to the fact that a comparison between R , as observed by rain gauges, and R , as retrieved from radar reflectivities, lumps over measurement *and* estimation uncertainties. As an alternative, the 25 usage of spaceborne reflectivity observations from the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) and Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) platforms has become increasingly popular over the recent years. Measurement accuracies of both TRMM and GPM are reported to have excellent calibration (within < 1dB) (Kawanishi et al., 2000; Hou et al., 2013), and thus can be used as a reference to calibrate reflectivity. Moreover, a major benefit of relative calibration is that it allows for a posteriori correction of historical data.

30 In a recent study for an S-band radar in the Philippines, Crisologo et al. (2018) adopted a technique to match ground radar (GR) and spaceborne radar (SR) observations. That technique was originally suggested by Bolen and Chandrasekar (2003), then further developed by ?, and finally Schwaller and Morris (2011), and recently by Warren et al. (2018). The underlying idea of that technique is to match observations based on the geometric intersection of SR and GR beams. That way, the algorithm confines the comparison to locations where both instruments have valid observations, and avoids artefacts 35 from interpolation or extrapolation. In that context, Crisologo et al. (2018) demonstrated that explicitly taking into account the

quality of the GR observations is vital to enhance the consistency between SR and GR reflectivity measurements, and thus to estimate the calibration bias more reliably. The relevance of quality was exemplified by considering partial beam blockage: for each GR bin, a quality index between 0 and 1 was inferred from the beam blockage fraction. These quality indices were then used to compute a quality-weighted average of volume matched GR reflectivities.

5 The present study aims to extend the approach of Crisologo et al. (2018) in several respects:

1. We extend the framework to account for the quality of GR observations by introducing path integrated attenuation (PIA) as a quality variable, in addition to partial beam blockage. Instead of attempting to correct GR reflectivities for PIA, we explicitly acknowledge the uncertainty of any PIA estimate by assigning a low weight to any GR bins that are substantially affected by PIA. In order to investigate the role of PIA, we include a C-band weather radar in the present 10 study, in addition to the S-band radar included by Crisologo et al. (2018).
2. We verify the ability to estimate the GR calibration bias from SR overpass data by evaluating the consistency of GR reflectivity measurements in a region of overlap, before and after bias correction.
3. We investigate whether estimates of GR calibration bias, as obtained from SR overpass data, can be interpolated in time in order to correct GR reflectivity observations for miscalibration, even for those times in which no suitable SR 15 overpasses were available.

The ~~latter~~ last item—the interpolation of bias estimates in time—would be a key requirement towards actually tapping the potential of the fundamental concept in research and applications: if we aim to use SR overpass data for monitoring GR calibration bias, and for a homogeneous correction of archived GR reflectivities, we have to assume that those bias estimates are, to some extent, representative in time. Crisologo et al. (2018) found that the bias estimates for the ~~Subic~~ SUB S-band radar 20 exhibited a substantial short-term temporal variability, and stated that they “*would not expect changes in calibration bias to occur at the observed frequency, amplitude, and apparent randomness.*” By investigating whether such bias estimates can be interpolated in time, the present paper will investigate whether the apparently “volatile” behaviour of calibration bias is not a mere artefact of the estimation procedure, but a real property of the investigated radar systems.

Section 2 of the present paper will describe the study area and the underlying radar data sets ~~;~~ and section 3 will outline the 25 methodologies of matching GR and SR as well as GR and GR observations, the quantification of beam blockage and PIA, and the quality-based framework for bias estimation; ~~in section~~ Section 4, we will show and discuss the various inter-comparison results ~~;~~ and section 5 will conclude followed by the conclusion in Section 5.

2 Data and Study Area

The ~~Philippines' weather agency, known as the~~ Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), ~~the country's weather agency,~~ maintains a network of 10 ground radars all over the country, of which 8 are 30 single-polarization S-Band radars and 2 are dual-polarization C-Band radars. Two of the longest running radars are Subic ~~and~~

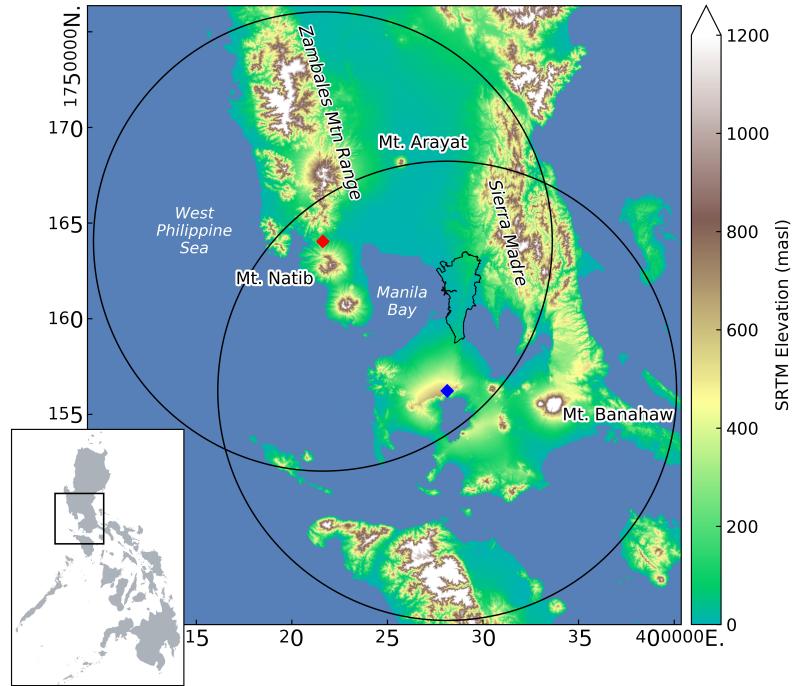


Figure 1. Locations of the [Subic SUB](#) (red diamond) and [Tagaytay TAG](#) (blue diamond) radars showing the 120 km range with the region of overlap. Metropolitan Manila is outlined in black beside Manila Bay. The relative location of the study area with respect to the Philippines is shown in the inset.

[Tagaytay \(SUB\)](#) and [Tagaytay \(TAG\)](#). Between the two radars lies Manila Bay, bordered on the east by Metro Manila, the country's most densely populated area ~~at with a population of~~ approximately 13 Million inhabitants. This region of overlap regularly experiences torrential rains from monsoon and typhoons extending for several days (Heistermann et al., 2013a; Lagmay et al., 2015).

5 2.1 Subic radar (SUB)

The [Subic SUB](#) radar is a single-polarization S-band radar situated on top of a hill at 532 m [above sea level \(a.s.l.\)](#) in the municipality of Bataan (location: 14.82°N, 120.36°E) (see Figure 1). To its north lies the Zambales Mountains (highest peak: 2037 m a.s.l.) and to its south stands Mt. Natib (1253 m a.s.l.). The Sierra Madre Mountains run along the eastern part of the Luzon Island, at the far-east end of the radar coverage. Technical specifications are [available given](#) in Table 1. Please note that [Subic SUB](#) sweeps at 1.5 and 2.4 degree elevation were excluded for the years 2013 and 2014, due to apparently erratic and inconsistent behaviour.

Table 1. Technical specifications of [Subie SUB](#) and [Tagaytay TAG](#) Radar.

	SUB Radar	TAG Radar
Bandwidth	S-Band	C-Band
Polarization	Single-pol	Dual-pol
Position (lat/lon)	14.822°N 120.363°E	14.123°N 120.974°E
Altitude	532 m a.s.l.	752 m a.s.l.
Maximum Range		120 km
Azimuth Resolution		1 °
Gate length		500 m
Number of elevation angles		14
Elevation angles	0.5°, 1.5°, 2.4°, 3.4°, 4.3°, 5.3°, 6.2°, 7.5°, 8.7°, 10°, 12°, 14°, 16.7°, 19.5°	
Volume cycle interval	8 minutes	15 minutes
Transmit type		Simultaneous
Start of operation	2012	2012

2.2 Tagaytay radar (TAG)

Located about 100 km across the Manila Bay from the [Subie SUB](#) radar is the [Tagaytay TAG](#) radar, a dual-polarized [C-Band](#)

5 [C-band](#) radar. It sits [along on](#) the Taal Volcano caldera ridge at 752 m a.s.l. in the municipality of Batangas. The radar coverage also includes the southern part of the Sierra Madre Mountains. Technical specifications are available in Table 1.

Data during the rainy seasons of 2012-2014 and 2016 are used in this study. The scanning setup for [Tagaytay TAG](#) was experimentally changed during 2015 and reverted back in 2016. In order to ensure homogeneity in the GR intercomparison, we excluded the year 2015 from the analysis.

10 2.3 [Spaceborne](#) [Space-borne](#) precipitation radar

[Spaceborne](#)

[Space-borne](#) radar data were collected from TRMM 2A23 and 2A25 version 7 ([NASA, 2017](#)) ([NASA, 2017](#)) for overpass events in 2012-2014, and GPM 2AKu version 5A products ([Iguchi et al., 2010](#)) ([Iguchi et al., 2018](#)) from 2014-2016, during the rainy season of June to December. The [data products include, among others, an attenuation correction of observed](#)

15 [reflectivity \(see e.g. Iguchi et al. \(2009\) for the TRMM precipitation radar; and Seto and Iguchi \(2015\) for GPM\). Data](#) were downloaded from NASA's Precipitation Processing System (PPS) through the STORM web interface (<https://storm.pps.eosdis.nasa.gov/storm>). The parameters of TRMM/GPM extracted for the analysis ([Table 2](#)) are the same as [those](#) specified in Table 3 of [Warren et al. \(2018\)](#). [Warren et al. \(2018\)](#).

Table 2. TRMM and GPM parameters used for analysis, based on Table 3 of Warren et al. (2018)

Satellite	Product	Parameter	Description
TRMM	2A23	dataQuality	Quality index for scan data
		rainFlag	Flag indicating likelihood of surface precipitation in ray
		rainType	Classification of precipitation in ray
		HBB	Height of bright band (if present) in ray
		BBwidth	Width of bright band (if present) in ray
	2A25	status	Quality index for 2A23 products
		scLocalZenith	Zenith angle of ray at earth ellipsoid
		correctZFactor	Attenuation-corrected reflectivity
		dataQuality	Quality index for scan data
		localZenithAngle	Zenith angle of ray at earth ellipsoid
GPM	2AKu	flagPrecip	Flag indicating presence of precipitation in ray
		heightBB	Height of bright band (if present) in ray
		widthBB	Width of bright band (if present) in ray
		qualityBB	Quality index for brightband identification
		typePrecip	Classification of precipitation in ray
		qualityTypePrecip	Quality index for precipitation type classification
		zFactorCorrected	Attenuation-corrected reflectivity

3 Methods

5 3.1 Overview

We facilitate the comparison of effectively three instruments: the two ground radars and the ~~spaceborne~~-space-borne radar (see [Section 2](#)). While throughout the study period, the available ~~spaceborne~~-space-borne radar platform changed from TRMM (2012-2014) to GPM (2014-2016), the consistency between the two for the year 2014 for the study area (Crisologo et al., 2018) allows us to consider the two rather as a single reference instrument. The comparison of the three platforms has two

10 main components:

1. The SR-GR comparison is motivated by the ~~estimation of the GR calibration bias~~[estimation of the GR calibration bias](#). We define that bias as the mean difference ($\overline{\Delta Z}_{SR-SUB}$ or $\overline{\Delta Z}_{SR-TAG}$, in dBZ) between SR and GR, assuming SR to be a well-calibrated reference. As shown by Crisologo et al. (2018), we can improve the bias estimation if we give a lower weight to those matched samples which we assume to be affected by a systematic GR measurement error. Please note that we use the term ~~calibration calibration bias~~ throughout the paper, as it is more commonly used. Strictly

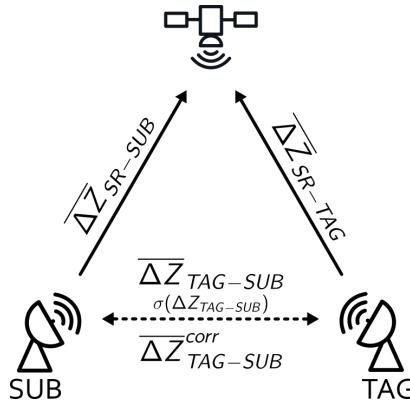


Figure 2. Schematic diagram of the SR-GR calibration bias estimation and GR-GR inter-comparison. The SUB and TAG calibration biases ($\overline{\Delta Z}_{SR-SUB}$ and $\overline{\Delta Z}_{SR-TAG}$, respectively) are calculated with respect to SR, and used to correct the ground radar reflectivities. The mean difference between SUB and TAG radars are calculated before ($\overline{\Delta Z}_{TAG-SUB}$) and after bias correction ($\overline{\Delta Z}_{TAG-SUB}^{corr}$)

speaking, though, it is rather an “*instrument bias*” that lumps over any systematic effects of calibration and instrument stability along the radar receiver chain.

5 2. The GR-GR comparison is motivated by the evaluation of the ~~consistency between the two ground radars~~^{consistency between the two ground radars}. For that purpose, we can consider the mean difference ($\overline{\Delta Z}_{TAG-SUB}$) between the two ground radars (in dBZ) and the standard deviation of the differences ($\sigma(\Delta Z_{TAG-SUB})$, in dBZ). The differences in the region of overlap of two error-free ground radars would have a mean and a standard deviation of zero. Different levels of miscalibration of the two ground radars would increase the absolute value of the mean difference (which, in turn, implies that the mean difference would be zero if both GR were affected by the same level of miscalibration). But what about systematic measurement errors that are spatially heterogeneous in the region of overlap (such as beam blockage or PIA)? Although they could also affect the mean difference, we expect them to particularly increase the standard deviation of the differences. Hence, a removal of spatially heterogeneous measurements errors from both GR would reduce $\sigma(\Delta Z_{TAG-SUB})$, while a correction of calibration bias of both GR would reduce the absolute value of ($\overline{\Delta Z}_{TAG-SUB}$).
10 And while we admit that neither ($\overline{\Delta Z}_{TAG-SUB}$) nor $\sigma(\Delta Z_{TAG-SUB})$ could be considered ~~imperative~~^{imperative} measures of reliability of any of the two ground radars, we still assume that any decrease in their absolute values would raise our confidence in any of the two radars’ reflectivity observations.

15

3.2 SR-GR matching

To determine the calibration bias of each radar, we employ the relative calibration approach by using the ~~spaceborne-radar (SR)~~^{space-borne-radar} as a reference. In order to avoid introducing errors by interpolation, we use a volume-matching procedure.
20 The 3D geometric matching method proposed by Schwaller and Morris (2011), further developed by Warren et al. (2018), was

used to match SR bins to GR bins. This method has been implemented with the ~~Subie~~~~SUB~~ radar for the same time period by Crisologo et al. (2018). In this study, we extend it to the TAG radar. Since the two radars are operating under the same scanning strategy and spatial resolution, the thresholds applied in filtering the data are kept the same as in the SR-SUB comparison described in Section 3.2 ~~Table 3 of Crisologo et al. (2018). Details of the~~ ~~Table 2~~, of Crisologo et al. (2018), except that we considered samples only from below the bright band (as specified by the bright band detection in the SR product, see Table 2). That methodological adjustment was necessary due to the conversion between Ku and C-band reflectivity, which accounts for the systematic effect of different measurement frequencies: For that conversion, we used an empirical function published by Louf et al. (2019), Eq. 5, which was derived from T-matrix scattering simulations. According to the authors, that function is only valid for liquid rain; hence we excluded samples from within and above the bright band. The same was done for the S-band radar, in order to keep the matching procedure consistent between SUB and TAG. The conversion from Ku- to S-band reflectivity was implemented using the functions published by Cao et al. (2013). Further details of the SR data specifications and the matching procedure can be found in Crisologo et al. (2018).

3.3 GR-GR matching

We compare the reflectivities of both ground radars in the overlapping region to quantify the mean and the standard deviation of their differences, and thus the effectiveness of the quality-weighting and the relative calibration procedure. ~~Please note that we do not explicitly account for differences in the reflectivity factor between S-band and C-band due to resonance effects, although Baldini et al. (2012) found that for very high reflectivities and very high median volume diameters of the drop size distribution, the deviation between the reflectivity factors of S-band and C-band can reach up to a maximum of 3 dB. Yet, we assume that, in such a scenario, the uncertainty introduced by path-integrated attenuation and its correction for C-band is more important, and at the same time implicitly addressed by the quality-weighting framework.~~ In order to compare reflectivities from different radars, the different viewing geometries must be carefully considered. The polar coordinates of each radar are transformed into azimuthal equidistant projection coordinates, centered on each radar. Each radar cartesian coordinate is then transformed into the other radar's spherical coordinate system, such that each of the radar bins of the TAG radar have coordinates with respect to the SUB radar, and vice versa. For this purpose, we use the georeferencing module of the wradlib library (<https://wradlib.org>) which allows for transforming between any spherical and Cartesian reference systems. Bins of the TAG radar that are less than 120 km away from the SUB radar are chosen. The same is done for bins of the SUB radar. In order to match only bins of similar volume, Seo et al. (2014) suggested a matching zone of 3 km within the equidistant line between the two radars. We decided to make this requirement less strict in order to include more matches, and thus extended this range to 10 km. From the selected bins, each SUB bin is matched with the closest TAG bin, not exceeding 250 m in distance. The matching SUB and TAG bins are exemplarily shown in black in Figure 3 for the 0.5 degree elevation angle, such that each black bin in the SUB row corresponds with a black bin in the TAG row.

3.4 Estimation of path-integrated attenuation

Atmospheric attenuation depends on the radar's operating frequency (Holleman et al., 2006). For radar signals with wavelengths below 10 cm (such as C- and X-band radars), significant attenuation due to precipitation can occur (Vulpiani et al., 2006), depending on precipitation intensity (Holleman et al., 2006). In tropical areas such as the Philippines, where torrential rains and typhoons abound, C-band radars suffer from substantial PIA.

5 In this study, we did not correct the ground radar reflectivity for attenuation. Instead, we require PIA estimates as a quality variable to assign different weights of GR reflectivity samples when computing quality-weighted averages of reflectivity (see section 3.6). For that purpose, PIA is estimated by using dual-pol dual-polarization moments observed by the TAG radar. The corresponding procedure includes the removal of non-meteorological echoes based on a fuzzy echo classification, and the reconstruction of the differential propagation phase from which PIA is finally estimated. The method is based on Vulpiani et al.
10 (2012), and was comprehensively documented and verified for the TAG radar by Crisologo et al. (2014) which is why we only briefly outline it in the following.

The fuzzy classification of meteorological vs. non-meteorological echoes was based on the following decision variables: the Doppler velocity, the copolar cross-correlation, the textures (Gourley et al., 2007) of differential reflectivity, ~~eopolar cross-correlation, and~~ differential propagation phase (Φ_{DP}), and a static clutter map. The parameters of the trapezoidal membership functions as well as the weights of the decision variables are specified in Table 2 of Crisologo et al. (2014). Bins classified as non-meteorological were removed from the beam profile and then filled in the subsequent processing step. In that step, a clean Φ_{DP} profile is reconstructed by removing the effects of wrapping, system offset and residual artifacts. The reconstruction consists of an iterative procedure in which specific differential phase (K_{DP}) is repeatedly estimated from Φ_{DP} using a convolutional filter, and Φ_{DP} again retrieved from K_{DP} via integration, after filtering spurious and physically implausible
20 K_{DP} values.

According to Bringi et al. (1990), specific attenuation, α_{hh} (dB km⁻¹), is linearly related to K_{DP} by a coefficient γ_{hh} (dB deg⁻¹) which we assume to be constant in time and space with a value of $\gamma_{hh} = 0.08$ (Carey et al., 2000). Hence, the two-way path-integrated attenuation, A_{hh} (dB), can then be obtained from the integral of the specific attenuation along each beam - which is equivalent to our reconstructed Φ_{DP} from which the system offset ($\Phi_{DP}(r_0)$) was removed in the previous step.

$$25 \quad A_{hh}(s) = 2 \int_{r_0}^r \alpha_{hh}(s) ds \quad (1)$$

$$= 2\gamma_{hh} \int_{r_0}^r K_{DP}(s) ds \quad (2)$$

$$= \gamma_{hh} (\Phi_{DP}(r) - \Phi_{DP}(r_0)) \quad (3)$$

3.5 Beam Blockage

In regions of complex topography, the ground radar beam can be totally or partially blocked by topographic obstacles, resulting in weakening or loss of the signal. To simulate the extent of beam blockage for each ground radar, as introduced by topography, we used the algorithm proposed by Bech et al. (2003), together with the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) **DEM** **Digital Elevation Model (DEM)** with a 1 arc-second (approximately 30 m) resolution. The procedure has been documented in

5 Crisologo et al. (2018) in more detail. In summary, the values of the DEM are resampled to the radar bin centroid coordinates to match the polar resolution of the radar data. Then, the algorithm computes the beam blockage fraction for each radar bin by comparing the elevation of the radar beam in that bin with the terrain elevation. Finally, the cumulative beam blockage fraction (BBF) is calculated for all the bins along each ray, where a value of 1.0 corresponds to **a** total occlusion and a value of 0.0 to complete visibility.

10 3.6 Quality index and quality-weighted averaging

The quality index is a quantity used to describe data quality, represented by numbers ranging from 0 (poor quality) to 1 (excellent quality), with the objective of characterizing data quality independent of the source, hardware, and signal processing (Einfalt et al., 2010).

To calculate a quality index for the beam blockage fraction, the transformation function suggested by Zhang et al. (2011) is used:

$$Q_{BBF} = \begin{cases} 1 & BBF \leq 0.1 \\ 1 - \frac{BBF - 0.1}{0.4} & 0.1 < BBF \leq 0.5 \\ 0 & BBF > 0.5 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

5 Figure 3 shows the beam blockage quality index (Q_{BBF}) maps of SUB and TAG for the lowest elevation angle. **Subie** **SUB** is substantially affected by beam blockage in the northern and southern sector, due to the radar sitting between two mountains along a mountain range. The southern beam blockage sector of the **Subie** **SUB** radar clearly affects the region of overlap with the **Tagaytay** **TAG** radar. Meanwhile, TAG has a clearer view towards the north, with only a narrow sector to the east and partially in the south being affected by **a** very high beam blockage. It is not shown in the figure, but the higher elevation angles
10 ($> 0.5^\circ$) of the TAG radar are not affected by any beam blockage.

For path-integrated attenuation, the values are transformed into a quality index as

$$Q_{PIA} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } A_i < A_{min} \\ 0 & \text{for } A_i > A_{max} \\ \frac{A_{max} - A_i}{A_{max} - A_{min}} & \text{else,} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

following the function proposed by Friedrich et al. (2006), where **K_{min} and K_{max}** **A_{min} and A_{max}** are the lower and upper attenuation thresholds. The values for **K_{min} and K_{max}** **A_{min} and A_{max}** are chosen to be 1 dB and 10 dB.

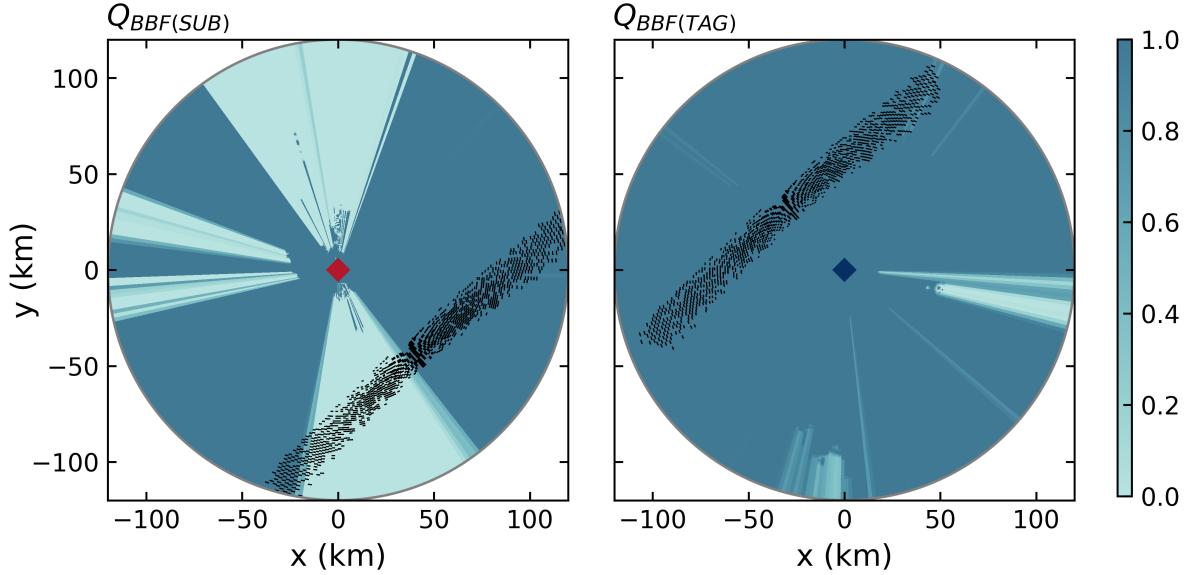


Figure 3. The beam blockage quality index (Q_{BBF}) for the two radars is shown in the background for each corresponding 0.5° elevation angle. Black points show the locations of matched bins between SUB and TAG for each radar coverage, exemplarily for an elevation angle of 0.5° .

15 Multiple quality indices from different quality variables can be combined in order to obtain a single index of total quality. Different combination approaches have been suggested, e.g. by addition or multiplication (Norman et al., 2010), or by weighted averaging (Michelson et al., 2005). We chose to combine Q_{BBF} and Q_{PIA} multiplicatively, in order to make sure that a low value of either of the two propagates to the total quality index ($Q_{GR} = Q_{GR,BBF} * Q_{GR,PIA}$).

20 It should be noted that $Q_{SUB,PIA}$ is always considered to have a value of 1, as we consider attenuation negligible for S-band radars, so that effectively $Q_{SUB} = Q_{SUB,BBF}$.

25 Based on this quality index Q_{GR} , we follow the quality-weighting approach as outlined in Crisologo et al. (2018). For each match between SR and GR bins, the quality Q_{match} is obtained from the minimum Q_{GR} value of the GR bins in that match. We then compute the average and the standard deviation of the reflectivity differences between SR and GR by using the Q_{match} values as linear weights (see Crisologo et al. (2018) for details). We basically follow the same approach when we compute the quality-weighted average and standard deviation of the differences between the two ground radars, SUB and TAG, in the region of overlap. Here, the quality Q_{match} of each match is computed as the product $Q_{SUB} * Q_{TAG}$ of the two matched GR bins.

It should be emphasized at this point that, in the region of overlap, the TAG radar is not affected by beam blockage. So while the computation of calibration bias for the TAG radar, based on SR overpasses, is affected by $Q_{TAG,BBF}$ (as it uses the full TAG domain), the comparison of SUB and TAG reflectivities is, in fact, only governed by $Q_{SUB,BBF}$ and $Q_{TAG,PIA}$.

3.7 Computational details

5 Following the guidelines for transparency and reproducibility in weather and climate sciences as suggested by Irving (2016), we have made the entire processing workflow and sample data available online at (<https://github.com/IreneCrisologo/inter-radar>). The main components of that workflow are based on the open source software library for processing weather radar data called wradlib (Heistermann et al., 2013b), version 1.2 (released on 31.10.2018) based on Python 3.6. The main dependencies of wradlib include Numerical Python (NumPy; Oliphant (2015), Matplotlib (Hunter, 2007), Scientific Python (SciPy; 10 [Jones et al. \(2014\)](#)[Virtanen et al. \(2019\)](#)), h5py (Collette, 2013), netCDF4 (Rew et al., 1989), gdal (GDAL Development Team, 2017), and pandas (McKinney, 2010).

4 Results and Discussion

The presentation and discussion of results falls into four parts.

1. In section 4.1, we demonstrate the effect of extending the framework of quality-weighting by path-integrated attenuation. 15 This is done by analysing the mean and the standard deviation of differences between the two ground radars, SUB and TAG, in different scenarios of quality filtering for a case in December 2014.
2. In section 4.2, we construct a time series of calibration bias estimates for the TAG C-band radar by using the extended quality-averaging framework together with ~~spaceborne~~[space-borne](#) reflectivity observations from TRMM and GPM overpass events. This time series complements the calibration bias estimates we had already gathered for the SUB S-20 band radar in Crisologo et al. (2018).
3. In section 4.3, we use the calibration bias estimates for SUB and TAG in order to correct the GR reflectivity measurements, and investigate whether that correction is in fact able to reduce the absolute value of the mean difference $\Delta\bar{Z}_{TAG-SUB}$ between the two radars. This analysis is done for events in which we have both valid SR overpasses for both radars and a sufficient number of samples between the two ground radars in the region of overlap.
- 25 4. In section 4.4, finally, we evaluate different techniques to interpolate the sparse calibration bias estimates in time, attempting to correct ground radar reflectivity observations also for times in which no overpass data is available. The effect of different interpolation techniques is again quantified by the mean difference $\Delta\bar{Z}_{TAG-SUB}$ between the two ground radars.

4.1 The effect of extended quality filtering: the case of December 9, 2014

30 In this section, we demonstrate the effect of extending the quality framework by path-integrated attenuation. In Figure 3, we have already seen that the SUB radar is strongly affected by beam blockage in the region of overlap. Yet, as an S-band radar, it is not significantly affected by attenuation. For the TAG radar, it is vice versa: not much affected by beam blockage, yet it will be affected by atmospheric attenuation during intense rainfall. That setting provides an ideal environment to experiment

with different scenarios of quality filtering. For such an experiment, we chose a heavy rainfall event on December 9, 2014, where there are ~~sufficient~~ more than 900 radar bins with precipitation in the region of overlap. The scan times are 06:55:14 and 06:57:58 (local times) for the SUB and TAG radars, respectively.

Figure 4 shows scatter plots of matched reflectivities in the region of overlap, combining matched GR bins from all elevation angles. Note that in this region of overlap, Q_{SUB} is equivalent to Q_{BBF} , and Q_{TAG} is dominated by Q_{PIA} . To illustrate the individual effects of the quality indices in the comparison, we simply refer to the dominating quality index instead of the associated radar (i.e. Q_{BBF} for SUB and Q_{PIA} for TAG). The points in the scatter plot are colored depending on the quality index of the corresponding matched sample: in Figure 4a, we can see that matches with a very low Q_{BBF} value (i.e. high beam blockage) are concentrated above the 1:1 line, since beam blockage causes the ~~Subic~~ SUB radar to underestimate in comparison to the ~~Tagaytay~~ TAG radar. If we consider each matched sample irrespective of data quality, the mean difference between the two radars is 1.7 dB, with a standard deviation of 8.1 dB. Taking Q_{BBF} into account changes the mean difference to -1.9 dB—which is higher in absolute terms—and decreases the standard deviation to 5.5 dB. Figure 4b demonstrates the effect of using only PIA for quality filtering: Points with low Q_{PIA} (i.e. high PIA) are concentrated below the 1:1 line, corresponding to an underestimation ~~of~~ by the TAG radar as compared to the SUB radar. Considering only Q_{PIA} for quality-weighting increases the mean difference between TAG and SUB to a value of 3.5 dB, and decreases the standard deviation just slightly to a value of 7.5 dB. By combining the two quality factors, we can reduce the absolute value of $\Delta Z_{TAG-SUB}$ from 1.7 dBZ to -0.7 dB, and, more notably, the standard deviation from 8.1 dBZ to 4.6 dBZ (Figure 4c). That effect also becomes apparent in Figure 4d in which we show how the multiplicative combination of quality factors not only pushes the mean of the differences towards zero, but also narrows down the distribution of differences dramatically.

Remembering item Considering component (2) from section 3.1, it is the reduction of standard deviation that we are most interested in at this point: it demonstrates that the two GR become more consistent if we filter systematic errors that are spatially heterogeneous in the region of overlap. The low absolute value of the mean difference is, for this case study, not a result of correcting for calibration bias—which is addressed in the following sections.

On the basis of these results, we will, in the following sections, only refer to values of mean and standard deviation of (SR-GR or GR-GR) differences that are computed by means of quality-weighting, with the quality of a matched sample quantified as Q_{match} .

4.2 Estimating the GR calibration bias from SR overpass events

In Figure 8a of Crisologo et al. (2018), we had already shown the time series of quality-averaged differences between the SUB ground radar and the SR platforms TRMM and GPM, using beam blockage as a quality variable. For this study, we recomputed these values after excluding samples from above the bright band (please see section 3.2 for further explanation). Extending the framework for quality-weighted averaging by PIA, we have now computed the corresponding time series of quality-weighted mean differences for the TAG radar. Figure 5 shows the time series of calibration biases, as estimated from quality-weighted mean differences, for both SUB and TAG radars for years 2012-2014 and 2016. The first panel ~~is~~ corresponds to Figure 8a of Crisologo et al. (2018). For SUB, there is a total of ~~96~~ 95 SR overpass events that fit the filtering criteria referred to in Section

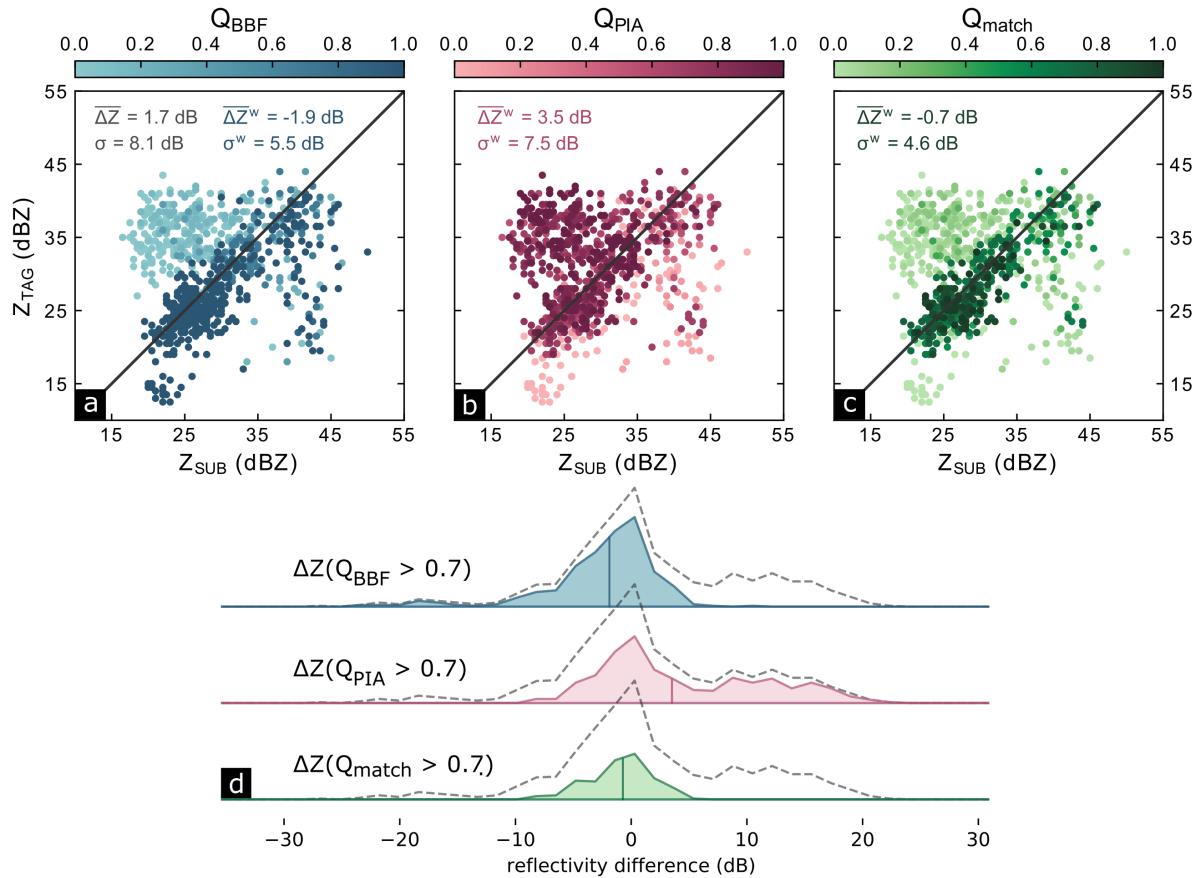


Figure 4. Scatter plot of reflectivity matches between Tagaytay-TAG and Subic-SUB radars. The marker color scale represents the data quality based on (a) beam blockage fraction (Q_{BBF}), (b) path-integrated attenuation (Q_{PIA}), and (c) the multiplicative combination of the two (Q_{match}), where the darker colors denote high data quality and lighter colors signify low data quality. The ridgeline plots (d) show the distribution of the reflectivity differences of the remaining points if we choose points only with high quality index-indices (in this case, we select an arbitrary cutoff value of $Q_{\text{match}} = 0.7$). The mean is marked with the corresponding vertical line. The dashed lines represent the distribution of reflectivity differences of all points, when no filter is applied.

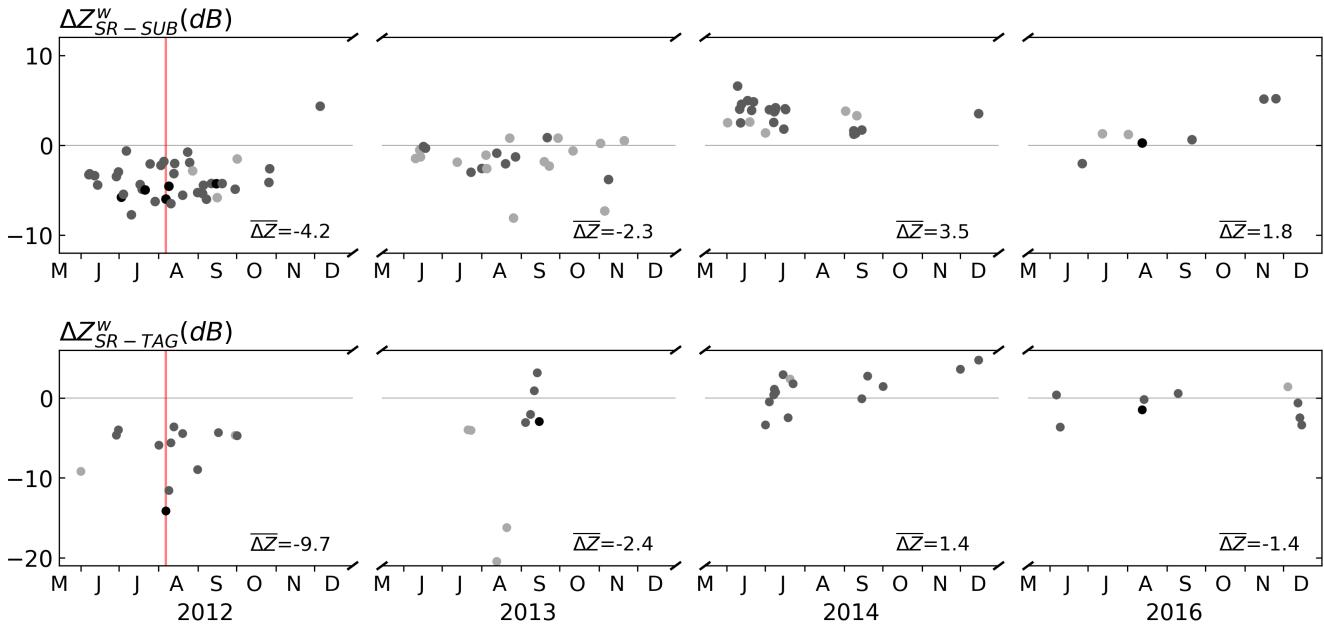


Figure 5. Calibration biases derived from comparison of GR with SR for SUB (a) and TAG (b) for the wet seasons (June to December) of the entire dataset. Symbols are coloured according to the number of matched samples: light grey: 10–99, medium grey: 100–999, and black: 1000+. The red line marks 06 August 2012 for the case study presented in Figure 6.

III.23.2, while for TAG, we only found 45 matches. Compared to the spaceborne space-borne radars, both SUB and TAG are dramatically underestimating at the beginning of operation in 2012, where the underestimation of the TAG radar is even more pronounced. From In 2014, the calibration improves for both radars ~~significantly, and reaches an optimum (with regard to both radars) in 2016.~~

As pointed out in Crisologo et al. (2018), there is a strong variability of the estimated calibration biases between overpasses for SUB. This behaviour can be confirmed for the TAG radar, with particularly ~~drastic~~ ~~severe~~ cases in 2013. Potential causes for this short-term variability have been discussed in Crisologo et al. (2018), and could include, e.g., residual errors in the volume sample intersections, short-term hardware instability, rapid changes in precipitation during the time interval between GR sweep and SR overpass, and uncertainties in the estimation of PIA, to name a few.

4.3 The effect of bias correction on the GR consistency: case studies

In this and the following section, we evaluate the effect of using the calibration bias estimates obtained from SR overpasses to actually correct the GR reflectivity measurements. We start, in this section, by analysing events in which we have both: valid SR overpass events for SUB and TAG, as well as ~~a sufficient number of at least 30~~ matched GR samples in the region of overlap. ~~That~~ ~~In that~~ way, we can directly evaluate how an “instantaneous” estimate of the GR calibration bias estimates affects the GR consistency, as explained in ~~item~~ ~~component~~ (2) of section 3.1. In contrast to section 4.1, ~~in which~~ ~~where~~ we focused on

Table 3. Calibration biases and inter-radar consistencies for different bias calculation scenarios

Npts number of points	$\overline{\Delta Z}_{SR-SUB}^w$	$\overline{\Delta Z}_{SR-TAG}^w$	$\overline{\Delta Z}_{TAG-SUB}^{nocorr}$	$\overline{\Delta Z}_{TAG-SUB}^{w,corr}$	
11-06-2012-2012-06-11 21:37:41	528	-3.4-3.0	-6.3	-3.5	-0.2-0.1
06-28-2012-2012-06-28 22:14:46	48	-3.5-3.3	-5.1-4.7	-1.3	-0.2-0.4
02-07-2012-2012-07-02 20:09:47	1248	-5-5.9	-11.4-11.5	-7-7.0	-2.1-3.0
06-08-2012-2012-08-06 17:17:23	1121	-5.6-5.1	-13.5-14.1	-12.3-12.2	-4.6-3.4
08-31-2012-2012-08-31 13:44:31	34	-5.1-5.3	-9.3-9.0	-1.9	1.1-0.7
12-08-2016-2016-08-12 11:40:28-27	1277	-0.3-1.0	-2.3-1.5	-5.7	-4.3-3.8

the standard deviation of differences between the two ground radars, we now focus on the mean differences in order to capture the effect of bias correction.

The first case is a particularly illustrative example: an extreme precipitation event that ~~took place right occurred~~ in the region of overlap at a time in which both radars, SUB and TAG, apparently were affected by ~~massive miscalibration, according to~~ 5 ~~Figure 6~~ large miscalibration (see Figure 6) during the so-called *Habagat* of 2012, an enhanced monsoon event that happened in August 2012 (Heistermann et al., 2013a).

Figure 6a and b illustrate the estimation of the calibration bias for the SUB and TAG radars from TRMM overpass data. The calibration bias estimates of ~~-5.6-5.1~~ dB (for SUB) and ~~-13.5-14.1~~ dB (for TAG) obtained from those scatter plots correspond to the dots intersecting the red line in the time series shown in Figure 5. Figure 6c shows the matching reflectivity samples 10 of the two ground radars, SUB and TAG, in the region of overlap which have *not yet* been corrected for calibration bias. The quality-weighted mean difference of reflectivities amounts to -12.2 dB. Accordingly, Figure 6d shows the matches in the region of overlap, with both SUB and TAG reflectivities corrected for calibration bias, based on the values obtained from Figure 6a and b, respectively. The corresponding value of the mean difference amounts to ~~-4.6-3.4~~ dB. These effects are further illustrated by Figure 6e which shows the distributions of SR-GR and GR-GR differences before and after bias correction.

15 The case clearly demonstrates how ~~massive~~ ~~large~~ levels of miscalibration (~~-5.6 and -13.5-5.1 and -14.1~~ dB) can be reduced if an adequate SR overpass is available. That is proved by the ~~massive~~ ~~large~~ reduction of the absolute value of mean difference between the two ground radars, or, inversely, the ~~massive~~ ~~large~~ gain in GR consistency. Yet, the bias could not be entirely eliminated, which suggests that other systematic sources of error have not been successfully addressed for this case.

Table 3 summarizes our analysis of five additional events in which valid SR overpasses for both SUB and TAG coincided 20 with a significant rainfall in the region of overlap between the two ground radars, most of which took place in 2012 (and one in 2016). Columns $\overline{\Delta Z}_{SR-SUB}^w$ and $\overline{\Delta Z}_{SR-TAG}^w$ show varying levels of calibration bias for SUB and TAG, quantified by the quality-weighted mean difference to the SR observations, together with varying levels of mismatch between the two ground radars, as shown by column $\overline{\Delta Z}_{TAG-SUB}^{nocorr}$. Using the calibration bias estimates for correcting the GR observations, we consistently reduce the quality-weighted mean difference between both ground radars, as expressed by column $\overline{\Delta Z}_{TAG-SUB}^{w,corr}$.

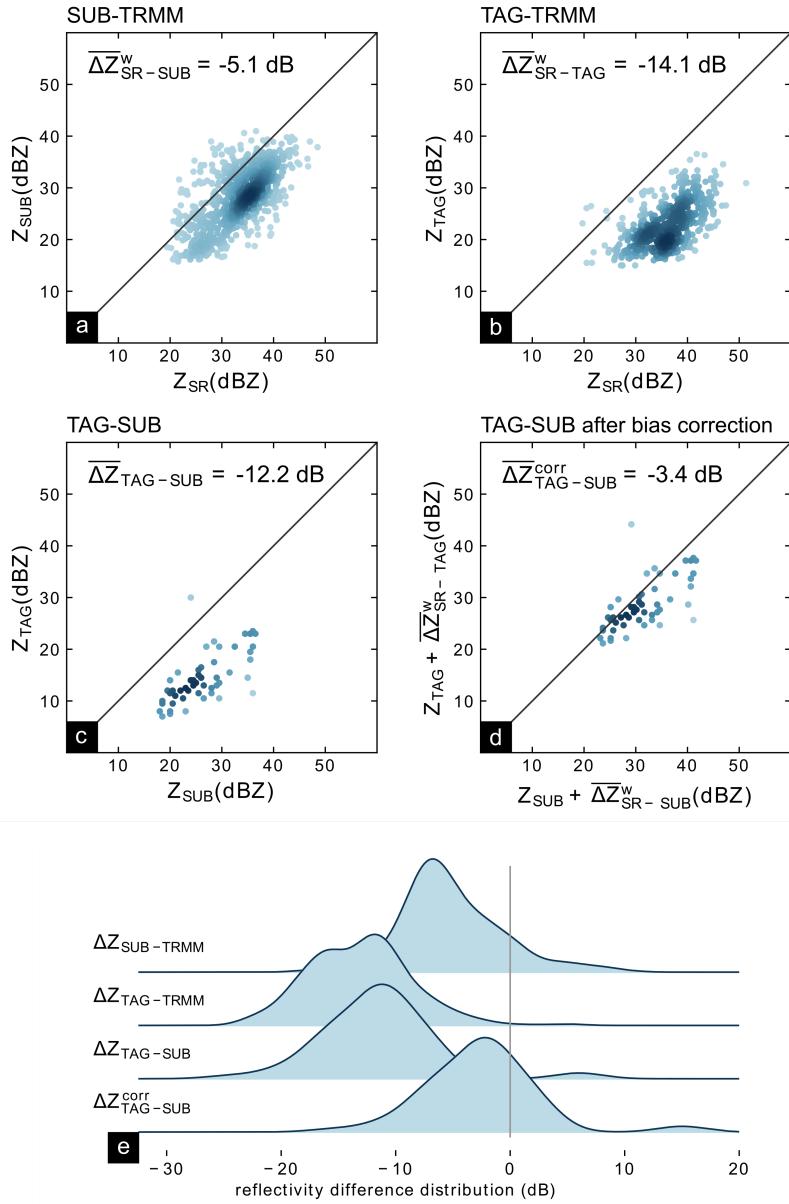


Figure 6. 3-way case study for 2012-08-06 17:15:47 local time. (a) and (b): Scatter plots of SR-GR comparisons between TRMM and SUB and TAG radars for points where $Q_{\text{match}} > 0.7$, where the darkness of the color represents the point density. The corresponding weighted biases are calculated for each radar. (c) and (d): GR-GR inter-radar consistencies before and after bias correction. (e) Distribution of the differences of the reflectivity pairs for each comparison scenario.

Altogether, the correction of GR ~~reflectivities~~ with calibration bias estimates of SR overpasses ~~dramatically~~ improves the consistency between the two ground radars which have shown largely incoherent observations *before* the correction. In all cases (including the *Habagat of 2012*), we were able to reduce the mean difference between the ground radars.

The question ~~is now~~ is: Can we use these sparse calibration bias estimates also for points in time in which no adequate SR overpass data are available? Or, in other words, can we interpolate calibration bias estimates in time?

4.4 Can we interpolate calibration bias estimates in time?

The ~~space-born radar platform (SR)~~ rarely overpasses both GR radar domains in a way that significant rainfall sufficiently extends over both GR domains including the GR region of overlap. Hence, our previous demonstration of the effective correction of GR calibration bias yielded only ~~a~~ few examples. From a more practical point of view, however, we are more interested in how we can use SR overpass data for those situations in which adequate SR coverage is ~~unavailable—~~ which ~~unavailable—~~ is, obviously, rather the rule than the exception. An intuitive approach is to interpolate the calibration bias estimates from valid SR overpasses in time, and use the interpolated values to correct GR observations for any point in time. We can do such an interpolation independently for each ground radar, based on the set of valid SR overpasses available for each. In order to examine the effectiveness of such an interpolation, we again use the absolute value of the mean difference between the two ground radars as a measure of their (in-)consistency. Based on the reduction of that absolute value, as compared to uncorrected GR reflectivities, we benchmark the performance of three interpolation approaches:

1. *Linear interpolation* in time;
2. *Moving average*: we compute the calibration bias at any point in time based on calibration bias estimates in a 30-day window around that point, together with a triangular weighting function;
- 20 3. *Seasonal average*: For any point in time in the analyzed wet season of a year, we compute the calibration bias as the average of all calibration bias estimates available in that year.

This benchmark analysis is not considered to be comprehensive, but rather exemplary in terms of examined interpolation techniques. The three techniques illustrate different assumptions on the temporal representativeness of calibration bias estimates, as obtained from SR overpasses: a *seasonal average* reflects a rather low level of confidence in the temporal representativeness. The underlying assumption would be that we consider any short-term variability as “noise” which should be averaged out. The linear interpolation puts more confidence into each individual bias estimate, and assumes that we can actually interpolate between any two points in time. Obviously, a 30-day moving average is somewhere in between the two.

5 Table 4 provides an annual summary of the ~~absolute mean mean absolute~~ differences in reflectivity between the two ground radars, without bias correction and with correction of bias obtained from different interpolation techniques. ~~Firstly~~ ~~Most importantly~~, the mean absolute difference between the radars is always lower *after* correction, irrespective of the year or the interpolation method. Hence, it ~~is generally better to use~~ ~~appears generally preferable to use~~ ~~interpolated~~ calibration bias estimates to correct GR reflectivities ~~even for those times~~, instead of not correcting for bias—~~even for those periods~~ in which no

Table 4. Mean absolute $\Delta Z_{TAG-SUB}$ for different correction scenarios and years

Mean absolute $\Delta Z_{TAG-SUB}$ (dB)				
	No correction	Seasonal mean	Linear interpolation	Moving average
All years	4.9 4.7	4.0 3.0	2.7 2.6	2.4
2012	4.4 4.7	3.4 2.6	2.3 2.4	2.1
2013	8.6 7.9	7.1 7.7	4.5 5.0	4.1 4.9
2014	4.4 2.9	3.8 2.1	3.2 1.8	2.9 1.7
2016	4.8 4.3	4.8 1.6	4.7 2.1	4.7 2.0

10 valid SR overpasses are available. The In total, the 30-day moving average appears to outperform slightly outperforms the other two interpolation methods—on average, and for each year from 2012 to 2014. In methods; only in 2016, neither interpolation method substantially reduces the mean absolute difference obtained for the uncorrected GR data.

15 the seasonal average performs best. The performance of the moving average suggests that it is possible for the calibration of radars to drift slowly in time, with variability stemming from sources which are yet difficult to disentangle. However, for periods of time when the radar is relatively well-calibrated and stable, It is also worth mentioning that, for 2016, the mismatch between SUB and TAG before bias correction is quite high (4.3 dB). That is not expected since the calibration of both radars appears to have improved over time (see section 4.2 and Figure 5). So while the bias correction only offers a slight, if any, improvement in the consistency between two radars, clearly improves the GR consistency in 2016 (e.g. to a value of 1.6 dB when using a seasonal average for interpolation), we have to suspect that other sources of uncertainty, together with the effect of limited samples sizes, affect the comparison of the two ground radars: e.g. uncertainties in beam propagation, or residual errors in the quantification of path-integrated attenuation and beam blockage.

5 In order to better understand the variability “behind” the annual averages in Table 4, Figure 7 shows the effects of bias correction on a daily basis, exemplified for the moving average interpolation. The hollow circles represent the daily mean differences between the two ground radars before ($\Delta Z_{TAG-SUB}$) correction, while the filled circles show the daily mean differences after ($\Delta Z_{TAG-SUB}^{w,corr}$) correction. The length of the bar shows the magnitude of the change, while the color of the bar signifies a reduction of the improvement or degradation of consistency between the ground radars. A green bar denotes that the absolute value of the mean difference (green, for improvement) or after correction has decreased, i.e. the mean difference 10 after correction (filled circles) is closer to zero than before correction (unfilled circles). A pink bar denotes an increase in in the absolute value (pink, for a degradation of consistency of mean difference between the two ground radars). In 83 radars after correction. In 82 out of 121 days, bias correction improves the consistency between the two ground radars by more than 1 dB. Inversely, though, this implies that in 17 18 out of 121 days, the use of interpolated bias estimates causes a degradation of consistency between the ground radars, expressed as an increase of more than 1 dB in the absolute mean differences. 15 Furthermore, we can However, we are also able to identify several days for which the bias correction decreases decreased

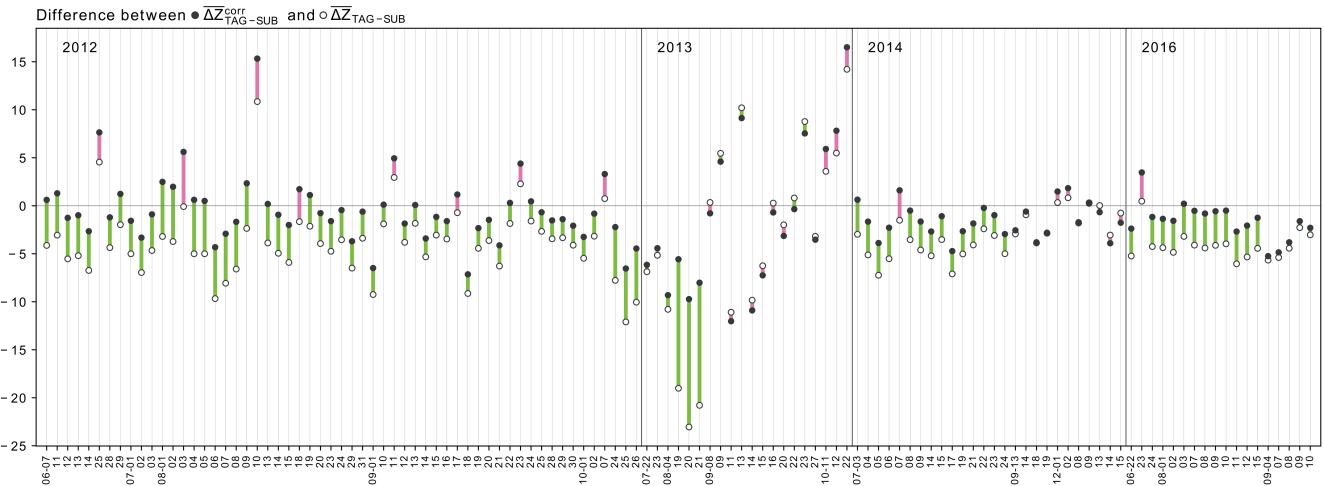


Figure 7. The differences between the inter-radar consistency before and after correcting for the ground radar calibration biases following a rolling window averaging for [samples](#) [GR-GR pairs](#) with [significant number of](#) [more than 100](#) matches. The hollow (filled) circles represent the daily mean before (after) correction. The line color represents an improvement (green) or a decline (pink) in the consistency between the two ground radars.

the absolute mean differences, [but yet still](#) not to a level that could be considered as acceptable for quantitative precipitation estimation.

5 Conclusions

[In 2011, Schwaller and Morris](#)

[20 Schwaller and Morris \(2011\)](#) had presented a technique to match reflectivity observations from [spaceborne](#) [space-borne](#) radars (SR) and ground radars (GR). Crisologo et al. (2018) extended that technique by introducing the concept of quality-weighted averaging of reflectivity in order to retrieve the GR calibration bias from matching SR overpass data. They exemplified the concept of quality weighting by using beam blockage as a quality variable, and demonstrated the effectiveness of the approach for the Subic ([SUB](#)) S-band radar in the Philippines.

[25](#) The present study has extended the concept of quality-weighted averaging by accounting for path-integrated attenuation (PIA) as a quality variable, in addition to beam blockage. Accounting for PIA becomes vital for ground radars that operate at C- or X-band. In addition to the [Subic](#) [SUB](#) S-band radar, this study has included the [Tagaytay](#) [TAG](#) C-band radar which substantially overlaps with the [Subic](#) [SUB](#) radar.

[30](#) In the first part of this study, we have demonstrated that only accounting for both, beam blockage and path-integrated attenuation, allows for a consistent comparison of observations from the two ground radars, [Subic and Tagaytay](#) [SUB and TAG](#): after transforming the quality variables “beam blockage fraction” and “path-integrated attenuation” into quality indices Q_{BBF}

and Q_{PIA} , with values between zero and one, we computed the quality-weighted standard deviation of matching reflectivities in the region of overlap between the two ground radars for an event on December 9, 2014. Using a quality index based on the multiplicative combination of Q_{BBF} and Q_{PIA} , we were able to dramatically reduce the quality-weighted standard deviation from 8.1 dBZ to 4.6 dBZ, while using Q_{BBF} and Q_{PIA} alone would have only reduced the standard deviation to 5.5 or 7.5 dBZ, respectively. Based on that result, we have used, with confidence, the combined quality index throughout the rest of the study.

5 The next step involved the retrieval of the GR calibration bias from SR overpass data for the ~~Tagaytay~~TAG C-band radar (for the ~~Subie~~SUB S-band radar, that had already been done by Crisologo et al. (2018)). For each matched volume in the SR-GR intersection, the combined quality index was computed for the ~~Tagaytay~~TAG radar, and used as weights in calculating the calibration bias as a quality-weighted average of the differences between SR and GR reflectivities. We applied this approach throughout a 4-year period to come up with a time series of the historical calibration bias estimates of the TAG radar, and
10 found the calibration of the TAG radar to be exceptionally poor and volatile in the years 2012 and 2013, with substantial improvements in 2014 and 2016.

In order to demonstrate the effectiveness of estimating and applying the GR calibration bias obtained from SR overpass data, we have compared, in the region of overlap, the corrected and uncorrected reflectivities of the ~~Subie and Tagaytay~~SUB and TAG radars, for six significant rainfall events in which all three instruments—TAG, SUB and the SR—had recorded a
15 sufficient number of observations. We have shown that the independent bias correction is able to ~~massively~~largely increase the consistency of the two ground radar observations, as expressed by a reduction of the absolute mean difference between the GR observations in the region of overlap, for each of the six events—in one case even by almost ~~7.7~~8.9 dB. The main
20 ~~lesson finding~~ from these cases is, that we can legitimately interpret the quality-weighted mean difference between SR and GR reflectivities as the instantaneous GR calibration bias, even if the magnitude of that bias varies substantially within short periods of time.

Yet, the question remains how to correct for calibration bias in the absence of useful SR overpasses. That question is particularly relevant for the reanalysis of archived measurements from ~~single-pol~~single-polarization weather radars. In this study, we have evaluated three different approaches to interpolate calibration bias estimates from SR overpass data in time: *i*) linear interpolation, *ii*) a 30-day moving average, and *iii*) a seasonal average. Each of these approaches illustrates different assumptions on the temporal representativeness of the calibration bias estimates. On average, ~~any~~all of these approaches produced calibration bias estimates that were able to reduce the mean absolute difference between the GR observations, which increases our confidence in the corrected GR observations. Of all interpolation approaches, the moving 30-day window outperformed the other two approaches. However, we ~~also~~ found that behind the average improvement of GR-GR consistency, there were also a number of cases in which the consistency between the ground radars was degraded, or in which high inconsistencies could
25 not be significantly improved. Altogether, it still appears difficult to interpolate such a volatile behaviour, even if we ~~consider~~considered the actual calibration bias estimates from the SR overpasses as quite reliable. A way to further investigate that behaviour would be to complement the analysis by relative calibration techniques that use ground clutter returns as a reference (e.g. Silberstein et al. (2008)). Although such techniques only allows to detect changes in calibration relative to a baseline, they

can be applied to each volume cycle and thus inform us about dynamics at a high temporal resolution and coverage. That way, 35 we could support the interpolation of bias estimates obtained from SR overpasses, or scrutinize the temporal variability of such estimates. An application and in-depth discussion of this concept has just recently been provided by Louf et al. (2019) with the example of the C-band weather radar in Darwin, Australia.

In that context, maintenance protocols of the affected ground radars would be very helpful in interpreting and interpolating time series of calibration bias estimates. Such records were unavailable for the present study, which made it ~~hard~~difficult to 5 understand the observed variability of calibration bias estimates. Yet, this information will mostly be internally available at those institutions operating the weather radars. With the software code and sample data of our study being openly available (<https://github.com/IreneCrisologo/inter-radar>), such institutions are now enabled to carry out ~~analyses as the present study~~ the analysis presented in this study by themselves, while being able to benefit from cross-referencing the results with internal maintenance protocols.

10 The correction of GR calibration appeared particularly effective ~~in periods with massive during periods with large~~ levels of miscalibration. For such cases, interpolated bias estimates allowed for an effective improvement of raw GR reflectivities. Yet, we need to continue disentangling different sources of uncertainty for both SR and GR observations in order to ~~separate~~distinguish actual variations in instrument calibration and stability from measurement errors that accumulate along the propagation path, and to better understand the requirements to robustly estimating these properties from limited samples. ~~That also includes to extend the quality-weighting framework to the quality of SR reflectivity measurements, as already outlined~~ 5 ~~in Crisologo et al. (2018), in particular with regard to the combined effects of attenuation at Ku band and nonuniform beam filling which several authors found to cause systematic errors of SR reflectivity measurements in convective situations (see e.g. Munchak (2018); Deo et al. (2018) and Park et al. (2015) for an in-depth discussion)~~. Progress on these ends should also improve the potential for interpolating calibration bias estimates in time, in order to tap the potential of historical radar archives for radar climatology, and to increase the homogeneity of composite products from heterogeneous weather radar networks.

10 *Code and data availability.* Code and sample data can be accessed at <https://github.com/IreneCrisologo/inter-radar>

Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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