



1                   **Statistical Analysis on the Estimations of Solid**  
2                   **Hydrometeors Growth Zones and Their Weather**  
3                   **Conditions Using Radar Spectrum Width**

4

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18 Growth Zone (DGZ), Needle Growth Zone (NGZ), Growth Zone Determination Algorithm (GZDA).



19 **Abstract**

20 This study analyzes the correlation between hydrometeor type and radar spectrum width ( $\sigma_v$ )  
21 according to wind speed that can occur the atmospheric disturbances such as turbulence and wind shear.  
22 The  $\sigma_v$  zones shown as peak values were identified only in stratiform precipitation and they are highly  
23 related to the hydrometeor growth zones. Statistical analysis was performed for eight precipitation  
24 cases under various conditions (precipitation type, season), focusing on the Dendrite Growth Zone  
25 (DGZ) and the Needle Growth Zone (NGZ), where Dendrite (DN) and Needle (NE) type snowflakes  
26 are dominant, respectively. They were determined by the Growth Zone Determination Algorithm  
27 (GZDA) that was proposed in this study.

28 The intensity of the  $\sigma_v$  depends on atmospheric conditions (i.e., wind speed) and season (i.e.,  
29 temperature). The high  $\sigma_v$  and negative relationship with the differential radar reflectivity ( $Z_{DR}$ ) in the  
30 DGZ for all cases is consistent with the aerodynamic properties of DN. As the range of  $\sigma_v$  was larger  
31 than that of  $Z_{DR}$ , it was confirmed that the dependence of  $\sigma_v$  according to atmospheric conditions is  
32 significant. Contrastingly, the NGZ had a low  $\sigma_v$  and weak  $\sigma_v$ - $Z_{DR}$  negative relationship with a narrow  
33 range of  $\sigma_v$ , which is consistent with the aerodynamic properties of NE. The lower cross-correlation  
34 coefficient ( $\rho_{hv}$ ) in the DGZ than that in the NGZ implies that the irregularities (particle shape and  
35 aerodynamics features) of DN were more pronounced than those of NE.

36 Finally, as the altitudes of two growth zones were determined by temperature, the possibility of  
37 estimating sub-zero temperature by GZDA was confirmed.



38 **1. Introduction**

39 Naturally formed ice crystal has various shapes. The International Commission on Snow and Ice  
40 describes seven ice crystal types: needles, columns, capped columns, plates, stellar crystals, spatial  
41 dendrites, and irregular forms (Mason, 1971). Libbrecht (2006) mentioned the field guide to the 35  
42 type of snowflakes by 35 type with irregular snowflake. Hydrometeor identification helps in various  
43 fields such as I) remote sensing, in terms of quantitative precipitation estimation (e.g., Giangrande and  
44 Ryzhkov, 2008; Kennedy and Rutledge, 2011; Bechini et al., 2013), II) understanding the mechanisms  
45 of lightning formation (e.g., Ribaud et al., 2016), and III) aviation safety (e.g., Williams et al., 2011;  
46 2013).

47 The solid hydrometeor formations that develop are determined by the water vapor pressure and  
48 atmospheric temperature (T). Ice crystals can develop with fine dust particles at  $T > -40$  °C. The  
49 dendrites growth zone (DGZ) can be found at an altitude (H) where T range between  $-20$  °C  $< T < -$   
50  $10$ °C, while the needles growth zone (NGZ) can be found at H where between  $-5$  °C  $< T < 0$  °C  
51 (Nakaya and Terada, 1935). Aircraft icing, which causes severe aviation problems, generally occurs at  
52 the altitude at which supercooled water droplets are present, corresponding to the range of  $-20$  °C  $< T$   
53  $< 0$  °C (Gent et al., 2000; Politovich et al., 2003). This indicates that the icing phenomenon may occur  
54 between two growth zones (GZs); thus, identifying GZs during flight is crucial for aviation safety.

55 The physical condition of the particle (i.e., size, shape, and density), as well as atmospheric condition  
56 (i.e., dynamic viscosity, atmospheric density), influences particle movements (i.e., vibration,  
57 orientation, and tumbling). Previous studies (e.g., Nakaya and Terada, 1935; Willmarth et al., 1964;  
58 List and Schemenauer, 1971; Ji and Wang, 1991; Wang and Ji, 1997; 2000; Wang, 2002; Hashino et  
59 al., 2014; 2016) have explained that particle behavior depends on shape, implying that a particle can  
60 exhibit various motions even under the same atmospheric condition. This further implies that radar  
61 velocity spectrum width ( $\sigma_v$ ) may also depend on the shape and this assumption can be resolved if high



62 spatiotemporal measurements exist in a zone where each hydrometeor is homogenized (i.e., GZs).

63 Dual-polarization (dual-pol) weather radar supports high spatiotemporal measurements for analyzing  
64 information on the sizes, shapes, and movements of various hydrometeors. Weather radar has an  
65 excellent performance detecting and analyzing solid hydrometeors (e.g., Vivekanandan et al., 1994;  
66 Ryzhkov et al., 1998; Wolde and Vali, 2001; Williams et al., 2011; 2013). Therefore, the compositions  
67 in the DGZ (Kennedy and Rutledge, 2011; Andrić et al., 2013; Bechini et al., 2013; Suh et al., 2023)  
68 can be explained by these radar products. Suh et al. (2023) demonstrated that the major radar products  
69 with which to analyze GZs include their differential radar reflectivity ( $Z_{DR}$  in dB), cross-correlation  
70 coefficient ( $\rho_{hv}$ ), and velocity spectral width ( $\sigma_v$  in  $m\ s^{-1}$ ). The differential radar reflectivity explains  
71 the particle's oblateness (e.g., oblate, prolate). In contrast, the composition of hydrometeor types and  
72 orientation of particles within the radar observation bin can be described by  $\rho_{hv}$ . The radar velocity  
73 spectrum width, one of the major products obtained by Doppler weather radar, represents the deviation  
74 in target movement within the observed resolution volume (Brewster and Zrnić, 1986; Doviak, 2006;  
75 Zhang et al., 2009).

76 Researchers have attempted to find the relationship between turbulent motion and  $\sigma_v$  (Labitt et al.,  
77 1981; Knupp and Cotton, 1982; Hocking, 1985; Istok and Doviak, 1986; Jacoby-Koaly et al., 2002;  
78 Melnikov and Doviak, 2009). Zhang et al. (2009) described the eddy dissipation rate (EDR) derived  
79 by  $\sigma_v$  from 14 cases with different weather conditions observed in the Hong Kong airport and evaluated  
80 by aircraft measurements. Recently, Kim et al. (2021) suggested a new technique to estimate the  $\sigma_v$ -  
81 based EDR using a lognormal mapping algorithm. The estimates show a high correlation with the  
82 quick access recode data supported by the commercial aircraft and the EDR calculated by numerical  
83 weather prediction. Suh et al. (2023) suggested that  $\sigma_v$  can depend on the hydrometeor type based on  
84 the features of radar products for GZs, which has been affirmed through simulations for dendrite (DN)  
85 and needle (NE) types of snowflakes. However, they explained the need for further analysis as their



86 study I) considered only two winter precipitation cases and II) their GZs were extracted qualitatively.

87 As a follow-up to the study of Suh et al. (2023), this study suggests that representative features of  $\sigma_v$   
88 and dual-pol radar variables according to the atmospheric conditions [i.e., T, wind speed ( $v$  in  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )]  
89 in GZs improve the practicality of the present results based on statistical analysis using eight  
90 precipitation cases with various conditions (i.e., season, precipitation type), and a quantitative  
91 approach through a Growth Zone Determination Algorithm (GZDA). In addition, the possibility of  
92 estimating T above freezing levels with weather radar was examined by the GZDA. The remainder of  
93 this paper is presented as follows: Section 2 provides details on the data and instruments, including the  
94 structure of the GZDA. The results of the radar products extracted by the GZDA and their performance  
95 are investigated in Section 3, with a discussion of said results found in Section 4, while the conclusions  
96 of this study are presented in Section 5.

97



98 **2. Data and Methods**

99 **2.1. Analysis instrument and data**

100 The Yongin Testbed dual-pol weather radar (YIT) was used to analyze the features of GZs (Fig. 1). It  
101 has been operated by the Weather Radar Center, under the Korean Meteorological Administration  
102 (KMA), from July 2014 until the present. The Enterprise Electronics Corporation manufactured the  
103 YIT with coverage of up to 240 km and an S-band (2.88 GHz) transmission frequency. Specifications  
104 regarding the YIT are presented in Table 1.

105 The cases analyzed in Suh et al. (2023) were limited to winter stratiform precipitation, while the scope  
106 of the present study was expanded to examine the radar products in GZs for eight precipitation cases  
107 which can be divided into I) winter stratiform precipitation, and II) non-winter precipitation. Non-  
108 winter precipitation cases were subdivided into stratiform and convective types (Table 2). They are  
109 expressed as abbreviations to describe the characteristics of cases with various conditions intuitively.  
110 The first letter of the abbreviation means the precipitation type [Stratiform (S) and Convective (C)],  
111 and the second letter means the season [Spring (P), Summer (S), and Winter (W)]. The last digit is the  
112 number indicating the case. From the PPI for the lowest elevation angle ( $\theta$ ), if there is a significant cell  
113 that satisfies the radar reflectivity ( $Z_H$ )  $>$  40 dBZ within 1km of vertical altitude from the ground or  
114 that satisfies  $Z_H >$  45 dBZ within 250 km radar slant range, it was considered as convective  
115 precipitation. The research cases selected satisfied the following conditions: I) the precipitation  
116 occurred for at minimum over three hours at the YIT site, and II) the vertical depth of  $Z_H$  in a  
117 precipitation system higher than 5 dBZ exceeded 2 km (Fig. 2).

118 Meteorological information was obtained from the mesoscale model (MSM) reanalysis data to  
119 analyze the radar products according to atmospheric conditions in GZs. The MSM provided by the  
120 Japanese Meteorological Agency supports meteorological parameters for sixteen pressure altitudes. As



121 this reanalysis data has a better spatial resolution of pressure altitudes increases as it is closer to the  
122 ground, it is useful to interpret the atmospheric information for altitudes below the middle level (500  
123 hPa).

124

## 125 **2.2. Analysis strategies**

### 126 **2.2.1. QVP**

127 The quasi-vertical profile (QVP) technique proposed by Ryzhkov et al. (2016) was applied to define  
128 and analyze the GZs. The QVP is a computationally efficient scheme because it can be calculated with  
129 only one sweep. Radar products in QVP are obtained by azimuth averaging and are expressed in a  
130 time-height format. Moreover, this technique helps analyze the features of hydrometeors (Ryzhkov et  
131 al., 2016). The slant ranges at the three target elevation angles ( $19^\circ$ ,  $17.3^\circ$ , and  $16.4^\circ$ ) for the altitude  
132 of 12 km without consideration of the curvature of the earth are 36.85 km, 40.12 km, and 42.50 km,  
133 respectively. A slant range of approximately 2.5 km from YIT is considered a dead zone, corresponding  
134 to H of approximately 0.8 km at  $\theta = 19^\circ$ , the highest elevation level in the selected cases.

135

### 136 **2.2.2. GZ Determination Algorithm (GZDA)**

137 This study determined the GZ for several precipitation cases, including various seasons, through  
138 quantitative criteria in a deductive approach to analyze the statistical characteristics of the GZs. A total  
139 of 5 stages were conceived in the GZ Determination Algorithm (GZDA) to identify GZs for all  
140 precipitation cases (Fig 3).

141 **STAGE 1 (Pre-processing):** Firstly, the QVP was created and then the median value of  $\sigma_v$  ( $\sigma$ ) and its  
142 variation ( $d\sigma$ ) for each vertical window channel in the whole analysis periods were calculated. After



143 that  $\sigma$  and  $d\sigma$  are smoothed for  $\pm 1$  vertical window channel to define the peak of  $d\sigma$  ( $\kappa$ ) and its altitude  
144 ( $H_\kappa$ ).

145 STAGE 2 ( $\kappa$  and  $H_\kappa$  determination): To remove the noise in  $\kappa$ s, only one  $\kappa$  which corresponds to the  
146 extreme value in  $\pm 2$  vertical window channel was selected.

147 STAGE 3 (Freezing level considerations): The region of interest in this study was an altitude at  
148 which the temperature is below freezing.  $\kappa$  can be found not only on the freezing layer but also on the  
149 melting layer (ML), negatively affecting the correct determination of  $\sigma$  and  $d\sigma$ . Thus,  $\kappa$  was identified  
150 and removed from the bottom of the ML to the ground before procedures were implemented on the  
151 freezing level, which was the target of analysis. This procedure for the unfreezing level should be  
152 prioritized since a minimum  $\kappa$  may be found at the bottom of the ML rather than near the bottom of  
153 the NGZ.

154 STAGE 4 (GZ determination):  $\kappa$  that satisfied the characteristics of interest shown in GZs were  
155 selected and defined as their boundary. To accomplish this, extreme values of  $\sigma$  that can be considered  
156 as the core of each GZ within the freezing level were chosen. Then, the altitudes where the minimum  
157 and maximum values of  $\sigma$  ( $H_{\sigma 1}$  and  $H_{\sigma 2}$ , where  $H_{\sigma 1} < H_{\sigma 2}$ ) exist, representing the cores of the NGZ and  
158 the DGZ, respectively, were found. This means that the peak values of  $\kappa$  are matched to the boundary  
159 altitudes of GZs. The altitudes at the bottom and top of the DGZ (the NGZ) have the local maxima  
160 (minima) and the local minima (maxima) of  $\kappa$ , respectively. After the two procedures described above  
161 were complete, the four nearest  $H_{\kappa S}$  ( $H_{N1}$ ,  $H_{N2}$ ,  $H_{D1}$ , and  $H_{D2}$ ) from the peak value of  $\sigma$  could be  
162 designated as the boundary list. These four points have to be satisfied the following conditions: I)  $H_{N1}$   
163  $\leq H_{\sigma 1} \leq H_{N2}$ , and II)  $H_{D1} \leq H_{\sigma 2} \leq H_{D2}$ .

164 STAGE 5 (Post-process): The final step was to determine whether the selected GZs met realistic  
165 conditions and to supplement the results that were not resolved in Stage 4. When only the bottom of





166 the DGZ ( $H_{D1}$ ) was chosen as the boundary list for DGZ due to the limitations of the radar observation  
167 strategy, the echo top height ( $H_T$ ) was chosen as the top of the DGZ ( $H_{D2}$ ). In addition, since it is rare  
168 for the thickness of GZ to exceed 1.5 km in natural conditions, the GZs that satisfies this condition  
169 may unreliable, so it was excluded. A detailed description of the algorithm with the overall procedure  
170 was summarized in Figure 5.

171

### 172 **2.3. Data quality control**

173 Initially, a fuzzy logic algorithm was applied (Gourley et al., 2007) to radar products to remove non-  
174 meteorological targets. The  $\sigma_v$  was removed when it satisfied a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) condition  
175 where  $SNR < 20$  dB because  $\sigma_v$  shows a large variance for lower SNRs (Zhang et al., 2009). The  
176 following three additional QC procedures for QVP data were performed after the aforementioned QC  
177 procedures: I) the radar product in PPI was removed if the number of data points where  $Z_H > 5$  dBZ  
178 was less than 20 % of the total number of azimuths at the  $i^{th}$  radar bin, and II) the QVP for  $Z_H \leq 5$  dBZ  
179 was selected, III) the calibrated  $Z_{DR}$  was applied because the projected area of the target depends on  
180 the line of sight. The  $Z_{DR}$  calibration suggested by Ryzhkov et al. (2005) was introduced as follows,

181

$$182 \quad Z_{DR}(\theta) = \frac{Z_{DR}(0)}{[Z_{DR}(0)^{1/2} \sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta]^2}$$

183

184 The radar elevation angles for QVP considered in this study are  $\theta = 16.4^\circ$ ,  $17.3^\circ$ , and  $19.0^\circ$ , and the  
185 calibrated  $Z_{DR}$  for these  $\theta$  are  $0.916Z_{DR}$ ,  $0.906Z_{DR}$ , and  $0.887Z_{DR}$  for  $\theta=0^\circ$ , respectively.

186



187 **3. Results**

188 **3.1. Analysis of QVPs**

189 **3.1.1 QVP for various conditions of precipitation cases**

190 The features of QVP-based dual-pol radar variables are classified into the type of precipitation  
191 (stratiform and convective precipitation). Seasonal factors can also subdivide the profile pattern for  
192 stratiform precipitation. Figure 4 presents a representative case to explain the common feature of dual-  
193 pol radar products for the non-winter stratiform precipitation case selected in this study. The following  
194 common features can be identified from the QVP for the non-winter stratiform precipitation.

195 First, the altitude of melting layer can be confirmed at  $H > 1$  km where the weather radar can clearly  
196 detect height. High  $Z_H$ ,  $Z_{DR}$ , and low  $\rho_{hv}$  can be found in the ML due to the melting of solid  
197 hydrometeors (Trömel et al., 2017). In addition, weak  $Z_H$  and  $\rho_{hv}$  appear in the upper layer of the ML,  
198 while high  $Z_H$  and  $\rho_{hv}$  appear in the lower layer of the ML due to the increase in the dielectric constant  
199 and the uniformity of particle shape. A low  $Z_{DR}$  appears near the top of the ML and increases with  $H$ .  
200 Further, in the layer of a degree above zero, a higher  $Z_{DR}$  than near the top of the ML can be found,  
201 which corresponds to a negative relationship between  $Z_H$ - $Z_{DR}$  (i.e., solid hydrometeor), indicating a  
202 spherical hydrometeor (i.e., raindrop) with high  $Z_H$  (i.e., high dielectric constant). There are no  
203 remarkable features in  $\sigma_v$  except for a weak increase in the ML.

204 By contrast, stratiform precipitation in winter can have only solid hydrometeors in the whole system  
205 since strong vertical convection, which can transport supercooled water droplets to the upper layers,  
206 have not developed (Fig. 5). Stratiform precipitation in winter has comparable characteristics to those  
207 of the non-winter season. Firstly, there are no ML; thus, the entire precipitation system matches the  
208 features in the upper layer of ML. Secondly, two  $\sigma_v$  zones in the freezing level can be found, which are  
209 distinctly developed on  $H$  where temperatures are  $-5$  °C and  $-15$  °C, respectively.



210

### 211 **3.1.2 GZ determination in QVP**

212 The vertical profiles of  $\sigma_v$  to which GZDA was applied for various precipitation cases are shown in  
213 Figure 6. All GZs were determined correctly for the stratiform precipitation group, and there were no  
214 GZs determined by GZDA for precipitation cases classified as a convective type.

215 In the vertical profile of  $\sigma_v$  for stratiform precipitation in winter, extreme values of  $\sigma$  can be  
216 confirmed, which were statistically significant for cases of SW3 and SW4. Minimum and maximum  
217 values of  $\sigma$  are observed for NGZ and DGZ, respectively, in all precipitation cases presented from  
218 GZDA. In the case of SW1-4, it was found that the top of the DGZ, which was not identified due to  
219 the characteristics of the case formed at a low altitude, clearly appeared in SP7. Through this, it can be  
220 confirmed in the case of SP7 that the  $\sigma_v$  in the freezing level is not proportional to the altitude. The  
221 maxima of  $\sigma$  is found around  $3 < H \text{ (km)} < 4$  and  $H = 4.5 \text{ km}$  for cases in the spring and summer  
222 seasons, respectively, but it matches the altitude of the ML. Moreover, the vertical profiles of  $\sigma_v$  in  
223 these cases had a vertically symmetrical pattern centered on the ML. In addition, there were  $\kappa$  in  
224 convective precipitation cases determined by GZDA, but GZs are not presented since the  $\kappa$  did not  
225 satisfy the conditions of the algorithm. There are minima of  $d\sigma_v$  in the GZ transition region for  
226 stratiform precipitation cases but it not shown in figure since it is removed by the algorithm (Fig. 7).  
227 Still, no minima of  $d\sigma_v$  was observed in the region between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of the boundary list that can be  
228 expected as a transition region of GZ for convective precipitation cases (CP6 and CS8) even though  
229 they have four  $\kappa$ s.

230

### 231 **3.2. Features of dual-pol variables in GZs**



### 232 **3.2.1 Dominant features in GZs**

233 The characteristics of the dual-pol weather radar variables in the  $\sigma_v$  zones defined from the GZDA  
234 were different from those obtained in the altitudes where  $T = -15\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  and  $-5\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , which corresponds to  
235 the potential area of DGZ and NGZ for the stratiform precipitation case. The weather information  
236 provided from the MSM reanalysis data was used. To select the possible area of GZs for convective  
237 precipitation cases that were not defined by the GZDA, ranges of  $\pm 0.3\text{ km}$  (DGZ) and  $\pm 0.1\text{ km}$  (NGZ)  
238 from the H where  $T = -5\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  and  $-15\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  were considered. The potential range of the GZs were defined  
239 by the average range of the GZs identified in this study, but that of the NGZ were strictly defined  
240 relatively narrow in order not to include the ML.

241 For the DGZ,  $Z_{DR}$  for stratiform precipitation in winter was widely distributed around the positive  
242 values (Fig. 8). Contrastingly, stratiform precipitation in the spring, and especially convective  
243 precipitation, had a concentrated distribution with a narrow modal range of  $0.4 < Z_{DR}\text{ (dB)} < 0.7$ . The  
244 cases of SW1 and SW2 showed a high  $Z_{DR}$ , with a modal  $Z_{DR}$  of 1 dB due to a strong  $Z_{DR}$  column. By  
245 contrast, the cases of SW3 and SW4 had the lowest  $Z_{DR}$  distribution among all cases, with modal  
246 values ranging from  $0.2 < Z_{DR}\text{ (dB)} < 0.3$ . In terms of  $\rho_{hv}$ , stratiform precipitation in winter for cases  
247 other than SW2 showed a wide and gentle distribution with a mode of  $0.976 < \rho_{hv} < 0.986$ . Contrarily,  
248 those in non-winter precipitation had a relatively high mode ( $0.983 < \rho_{hv} < 0.990$ ) with a concentrated  
249 distribution. The distribution of  $\sigma_v$  had a negative relationship with that of  $Z_{DR}$ , which is consistent  
250 with Suh et al. (2023). SW3 and SW4, which had a lower  $Z_{DR}$ , had the highest modal value, at about  
251  $\sigma_v = 1.2\text{ m s}^{-1}$ , while SW1 and SW2, which had a higher  $Z_{DR}$ , showed relatively low modes at about  
252  $0.5 < \sigma_v\text{ (m s}^{-1}\text{)} < 0.8$ . The distribution of  $\sigma_v$  for non-winter precipitation cases also showed a negative  
253 relationship with  $Z_{DR}$ , similar to the winter cases.

254 The  $Z_{DR}$  in the NGZ showed a similar pattern to that of the DGZ (Fig. 9). The mode of  $Z_{DR}$  in SW3



255 and SW4 was negative, while all other cases had positive values. In contrast,  $\rho_{hv}$  and  $\sigma_v$  in the NGZ  
256 showed noticeably different distributions from those in the DGZ. First, the distribution of  $\rho_{hv}$  was  
257 concentrated with a mode of  $0.930 < \rho_{hv} < 0.996$  for all cases except for SW3 and SW4, which showed  
258 gentle distributions centered on  $\rho_{hv} = 0.985$ . In addition, it is characterized by having the highest  $\rho_{hv}$   
259 among all cases centered on  $\rho_{hv} = 0.995$  in non-winter precipitation. These tendencies are also  
260 confirmed in  $\sigma_v$ . The case of SW3 and SW4 had gentle distributions of  $\sigma_v$ , with a mode of  $0.70 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ,  
261 while all other cases showed a concentrated distribution with various modes ranging from  $\sigma_v = 0.4 \text{ m}$   
262  $\text{s}^{-1}$  to  $0.64 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .

263

### 264 **3.2.2 Relationships of dual-pol variables**

265 Correlation analysis was performed to interpret the relationship between the dual-pol radar variables  
266 and  $\sigma_v$  which showed a dependence on precipitation type for each case in GZs (Fig. 10).  $Z_{DR}-\sigma_v$  in the  
267 DGZ showed a negative relationship for all cases (Fig. 10a). A high  $\sigma_v$ s of  $1.2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  in SW3 and SW4  
268 were found, where  $\sigma_v$  gradually decreased as  $Z_{DR}$  increased in other cases.  $Z_{DR}-\sigma_v$  had various  
269 relationships for each case, but generally, their distribution did not correlate. SW2 and SW3 had a  
270 positive correlation for  $Z_{DR}-\sigma_v$ , but in the case of SW2, correct linear regression was not performed  
271 since most of the data points were concentrated in  $Z_{DR} \sim 1 \text{ dB}$ . In the case of SW3, the distribution of  
272  $Z_{DR}-\sigma_v$  did not correlate.  $\rho_{hv}$  did not show a significant correlation with  $\sigma_v$ , but  $Z_{DR}$  showed a common  
273 trend of inverse proportion to  $\rho_{hv}$  in all cases.

274 The averaged  $Z_{DR}-\sigma_v$  of each case have a negative relationship, and the variation range of  $\sigma_v$  is  
275 higher than that of  $Z_{DR}$  (Fig. 10b). Additionally,  $\rho_{hv}$  showed a negative relationship with  $\sigma_v$ .  
276 Remarkably, the cases SW3 and SW4 displayed the lowest  $\rho_{hv}$  and the highest  $\sigma_v$ .  $Z_{DR}-\sigma_v$  had a linear  
277 distribution and showed a remarkable correlation, with a root mean square error (RMSE) =  $0.05 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .



278 <sup>1</sup>, in stratiform precipitation in winter. On the other hand, in all stratiform precipitation cases,  $Z_{DR-\sigma_v}$   
279 had a relatively low correlation of  $RMSE = 0.11 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . They had a significantly different distribution  
280 in convective precipitation from stratiform precipitation in winter. Average  $Z_{DR-\sigma_v}$  values for SP7 were  
281 located in between stratiform precipitation in winter and convective precipitation.

282 In the case of the NGZ,  $Z_{DR-\sigma_v}$  had a relatively weak negative correlation for all cases (Fig. 10c).  
283 The variation range in  $Z_{DR}$  was broader than that observed in the DGZ, ranging from  $-0.5 \text{ dB} - 3 \text{ dB}$ .  
284 Also,  $\rho_{hv}$  showed a negative correlation with both  $Z_{DR}$  and  $\sigma_v$ . There was a negative  $Z_{DR}$ , while  $\rho_{hv}$   
285 increased overall ( $\rho_{hv} > 0.98$ ) in the NDZ, compared to the DGZ. In contrast,  $Z_{DR-\sigma_v}$  for each case had  
286 a positive relationship except for convective precipitation, and their slope tended to depend on the  $Z_{DR}$   
287 for each case. The positive correlation between  $Z_{DR}$  and  $\sigma_v$  tended to increase as the  $Z_{DR}$  for each case  
288 decreased.

289 The averaged  $Z_{DR-\sigma_v}$  of each case, for all cases in the NGZ had a relatively weaker negative  
290 relationship than that in the DGZ (Fig. 10d). There was a remarkable variance in  $Z_{DR}$  compared to that  
291 of  $\sigma_v$ , differing from what is observed in the DGZ. The high  $\sigma_v$  found in SW3 and SW4 also displayed  
292 a considerable variation in  $\sigma_v$ , while SW1 and SW2 had a low  $\sigma_v$  and a large variation in  $Z_{DR}$ . The  
293 pattern in  $\rho_{hv}$  and  $\sigma_v$  corresponded to that of the DGZ, while the overall averaged  $\rho_{hv}$  was higher than  
294 that of the DGZ. A linear distribution with a striking correlation of  $RMSE = 0.03 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  was shown for  
295 both stratiform precipitation in winter and total stratiform precipitation cases. In addition, a significant  
296 difference from the DGZ is that the averaged  $\sigma_v-Z_{DR}$  for convective precipitation is also located quite  
297 close to the regression lines for those of stratiform precipitation.

298 The maturity of GZs is related to the ratio of dominant solid hydrometeor within each GZ. It appears  
299 to have an inverse relationship with  $\rho_{hv}$ , and the lower  $\rho_{hv}$  in the DGZ compared to NGZ was found  
300 (Suh et al., 2023). The maturity of GZs can be indirectly explained by the difference in aerodynamic



301 characteristics (i.e.,  $\sigma_v$ ) between the core of GZ and that of boundaries ( $d\sigma_{MAX}$ ). Overall,  $d\sigma_{MAX}$  showed  
302 a pattern inversely proportional to  $\rho_{hv}$  (Fig. 11). There is a negative correlation between  $d\sigma_{MAX}$  and  $\sigma_v$ .  
303 For the range of  $\sigma_v > 0.7 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , only stratiform precipitation is confirmed, and conversely, for the range  
304 of  $\sigma_v < 0.7 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  where convective precipitation dominates, the condition of  $d\sigma_{MAX} < 0.03$  was  
305 confirmed. The negative relationship between  $d\sigma_{MAX}$  and  $\rho_{hv}$  was more apparent in the NGZ. The NE  
306 had the highest  $d\sigma_{MAX}$  (0.13 and 0.21) among all cases in SW3 and SW4, where the averaged  $Z_{DR}$  was  
307 negative value.  $d\sigma_{MAX}$ s for stratiform precipitation in all cases except for SW3 and SW4 was found to  
308 be between 0.08 and 0.11, while convective precipitation had a low  $d\sigma_{MAX}$  of less than 0.04.

309

310

### 311 **3.3. Characteristics of dual-pol radar variables in GZs with atmospheric condition**

312 The dual-pol radar variables are determined by the maturity of GZs. In addition, atmospheric  
313 disturbance affects the orientation of the hydrometeor, which increases  $\sigma_v$  and decreases  $\rho_{hv}$ , thus  
314 influencing  $Z_{DR}$ . Consequently,  $d\sigma_{MAX}$  can depend on aerodynamic conditions. It was confirmed by  
315 the relationship between  $v$  and  $\sigma_v$  in GZs.

316 The  $\sigma_v$  has a positive relationship with  $v$  for all cases in the DGZ (Fig. 12). In particular, it displays  
317 a marked correlation with an RMSE = 0.14  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  for only stratiform precipitation in winter. SP7 showed  
318 a relatively weak  $\sigma_v$  of 0.76  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  despite having a condition of strong  $v$  of about 26  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ . Accordingly,  
319 the linear regression for all stratiform precipitation cases was less correlated (RMSE = 0.25  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) than  
320 for stratiform precipitation in winter (RMSE = 0.14  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ). In addition, convective precipitation showed  
321 a relatively weak  $\sigma_v$  of  $0.48 < \sigma_v (\text{m s}^{-1}) < 0.66$  despite a relatively strong  $v$  of more than 17  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ . SP7  
322 was not included in the  $\sigma_v$ - $v$  relationship for stratiform precipitations because of the lower  $\sigma_v$  even  
323 though the strongest  $v$  (26  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) among the whole case. This supports the explanation that seasonal  
324 conditions influence the developmental characteristics of GZs. In addition, CS8 showed the lowest



325 correlation as it showed the lowest  $\sigma_v$  ( $0.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) within the same  $v$  range. NGZ was confirmed to be  
326 uncorrelated to  $\sigma_{v-v}$ , as suggested by Suh et al. (2023). Interpretable correlations were not identified  
327 for stratiform and convective precipitation since averaged  $\sigma_{v,s}$  for all cases except for SW3, and SW4  
328 can be found in  $0.43 < \sigma_v \text{ (m s}^{-1}\text{)} < 0.67$  regardless of  $v$ .

329

#### 330 4. Discussion

331 The growth rate of each hydrometeor type depends on the condition of T and Water vapor pressure  
332 (Nakaya and Terada, 1935). Water vapor pressure depends on atmospheric pressure, meaning that the  
333 development of GZs can be determined by altitude. That's why the intensity of  $\sigma_v$  zone shown in the  
334 present study appear to be inverse proportional to the altitude of GZ. The intensity of the  $\sigma_v$  zone in  
335 seasonal stratiform precipitation clearly verified this. Although there was more substantial average  $v$   
336 ( $26 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) compared to higher that of winter stratiform precipitation, SP7 showed relatively low  $\sigma_v$   
337 ( $\sim 0.76 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) because the DGZ for the stratiform precipitation in spring had a higher altitude ( $5.4 < H$   
338  $(\text{km}) < 5.9$ ) than that of the winter season ( $2.6 < H \text{ (km)} < 4.1$ ). Nevertheless, the atmospheric  
339 temperature where each GZ was found remains consistent regardless of the intensity of  $\sigma_v$  and its  
340 altitude. It implies that as GZ altitude depends on atmospheric temperature, it suggests that radar-based  
341 sub-zero T estimation from GZDA might be possible. The GZDA-based statistical analysis presented  
342 here confirmed that stratiform precipitations in winter satisfied the temperature conditions, with  $-10 <$   
343  $T \text{ (}^\circ\text{C)} < -16$  and  $0 < T \text{ (}^\circ\text{C)} < -5$  in both the DGZ and the NGZ, respectively (Fig. 13). Once GZs have  
344 been determined, a transition area between the GZs can be identified. This implies that the real-time  
345 estimation of T for every  $5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  class interval from  $0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  to  $-15 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  by the weather radar will be possible.  
346 It is expected that GZDA can be used for the purpose of flight safety since the layer where GZ can  
347 develop is matched with the layer at which aircraft icing can occur.





348 As explained in the introduction section, EDR can be estimated from  $\sigma_v$ , representing the variation  
349 of particle motion within the observation volume (e.g., Zhang et al., 2009; Kim et al., 2021). Suh et al.  
350 (2023) suggested the possibility that  $\sigma_v$  depended on hydrometeor types, which was confirmed in this  
351 study. This means that  $\sigma_v$  (EDR) can be varied by the hydrometeor types under the same atmospheric  
352 conditions. As a result, the following two improvements are suggested, I) EDR correction: First, the  
353 correction of  $\sigma_v$ -based EDR would be required if it is assumed that the motion of the hydrometeor  
354 cannot represent atmospheric disturbance. That is, when estimating  $\sigma_v$ -based EDR, the process of  
355 applying the EDR correction for each hydrometeor type has to be considered. II) EDR prediction: If it  
356 is assumed that hydrometeor motion can represent atmospheric disturbance regardless of hydrometeor  
357 type, then this implies that a prediction for radar-based EDR by  $\sigma_v$  and hydrometeor classification  
358 algorithm would be possible. Based on the strong correlation between the dendrite type and  $\sigma_v$   
359 identified in this study, it is expected that the area where strong atmospheric turbulence will occur can  
360 be predicted. This will be especially helpful to improve flight safety as the potential area of high EDR  
361 can be predicted.

362

## 363 **5. Summary and Conclusion**

364 This study was conducted to reduce the adverse effects that can be caused by meteorological  
365 phenomena caused by disturbances such as shear/turbulence/icing in aircraft operations. Accordingly,  
366 it is intended to help provide real-time weather information for safe navigation by utilizing weather  
367 radar products. This has been verified from eight precipitation cases with different conditions  
368 (precipitation type and season), using the dominant atmospheric characteristics of each hydrometeor  
369 type that can be estimated from  $\sigma_v$  to suggest the possibility of the GZ determination. The results from  
370 a previous study on this topic (Suh et al., 2023) were verified in this study, and the key results of each



371 GZ with radar dual-pol variables in stratiform precipitation are as follows (Fig. 14).

372 Firstly, the variation range of  $Z_{DR}$  in the DGZ was narrower than that of  $\sigma_v$ . This suggests that  
373 although there are significant variations in  $Z_{DR}$  due to particle orientation caused by an atmospheric  
374 disturbance, the variation of  $\sigma_v$  is more significant. A strong negative relationship between  $\sigma_v$ - $Z_{DR}$  in  
375 all DGZ instances allows us to confirm the features in DN where both  $Z_{DR}$  and  $\sigma_v$  are strongly  
376 influenced. Therefore,  $\sigma_v$  increases as the turbulence becomes stronger (as  $Z_{DR}$  decreases) for oblate  
377 particles, but the dependence of  $\sigma_v$  according to atmospheric conditions is more prominent than that of  
378  $Z_{DR}$ . The irregular particle shape such as DN can explain the negative relationship of  $Z_{DR}$ - $\rho_{hv}$ .  
379 Moreover, the DGZ has lower  $\rho_{hv}$  compared to the NGZ. This indicates that the DN has unstable  
380 movement due to aerodynamic features rather than NE due to an irregular shape.

381 A weak negative relationship of  $\sigma_v$ - $Z_{DR}$  in the NGZ for the all case can be inferred that this is due to  
382 the combination of hydrometeors with NE as the major, which negligible influences on  $\sigma_v$ .  
383 Theoretically, the variation of  $\sigma_v$  in NE is negligible regardless of  $v$  (e.g., Suh et al., 2023). Therefore,  
384 the similarity of particle shape ( $\rho_{hv}$ ) is higher in NGZ and means that aerodynamic properties in NE  
385 are relatively more coherent. In cases of negative  $Z_{DR}$  where NE might be sufficiently grown, the  
386 inverse relationship of  $\sigma_v$ - $\rho_{hv}$  is enhanced. However, the  $Z_{DR}$  for each observation case has a positive  
387 relationship with  $\sigma_v$  and a negative relationship with that of  $\rho_{hv}$  in the NGZ. This implies that the NGZ  
388 could have various hydrometeors that came from the upper layer, and these hydrometeors can be  
389 formed by their interactions, secondary ice production, (e.g., Field et al., 2017).

390

### 391 **Author contributions**

392 Dr. Sung-Ho Suh designed the study. Dr. Sung-Ho Suh and Dr. Woonseon Jung collected the  
393 samples and performed the study. Dr. Sung-Ho Suh, Dr. Hong-Il Kim, and Eun-Ho Choi obtained the



394 results and prepared the manuscript with contributions from all the coauthors. Dr. Jung-Hoon Kim  
395 examined the results and checked the manuscript. All authors have read and agreed to the published  
396 version of the manuscript.

397

### 398 **Competing interest**

399 None.

400

### 401 **Code/Data availability**

402 The data obtained by YIT in this study are available on request from Korea Meteorological  
403 Administration (KMA) and the codes are available on request from Dr. Sung-Ho Suh.

404

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408

409



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518

519



520 **Tables**

521 **Table 1.** Specifications of Yongin Testbed (YIT).

Specifications	Details
Model	DWSR-8501 S/K-SDP
Manufacturer	EEC (US)
Transmitting tube	Klystron
Antenna diameter	8.5 m
Transmission frequency	2.88 GHz
Peak power	850 KW
Effective observation range	240 km
Beam / Pulse width	0.94° / 2 $\mu$ s
Wavelength	10.41 cm
Range gate size	250 m
Elev. height	473 m
Long. / Lat.	127.2852 °E / 37.2063 °N
Obs. interval	10 min

522



523 **Table 2.** Information of precipitation cases selected in this study.

No	Case	Date	Time (LST)	$\theta$ for QVP	Type	Season
1	SW1	16. Feb. 2015	0000-0600	16.4	Stratiform	Winter
2	SW2	21. Feb. 2015	1000-1700	16.4	Stratiform	Winter
3	SW3	27. Feb. 2016	0000-0600	19.0	Stratiform	Winter
4	SW4	28. Feb. 2016	1200-1900	19.0	Stratiform	Winter
5	CP5	02. May. 2016	1800-2400	17.3	Convective	Spring
6	CP6	10. May. 2016	0600-1500	17.3	Convective	Spring
7	SP7	24. May. 2016	0330-1100	17.3	Stratiform	Spring
8	CS8	01. Jul. 2016	1330-1630	17.3	Convective	Summer

524

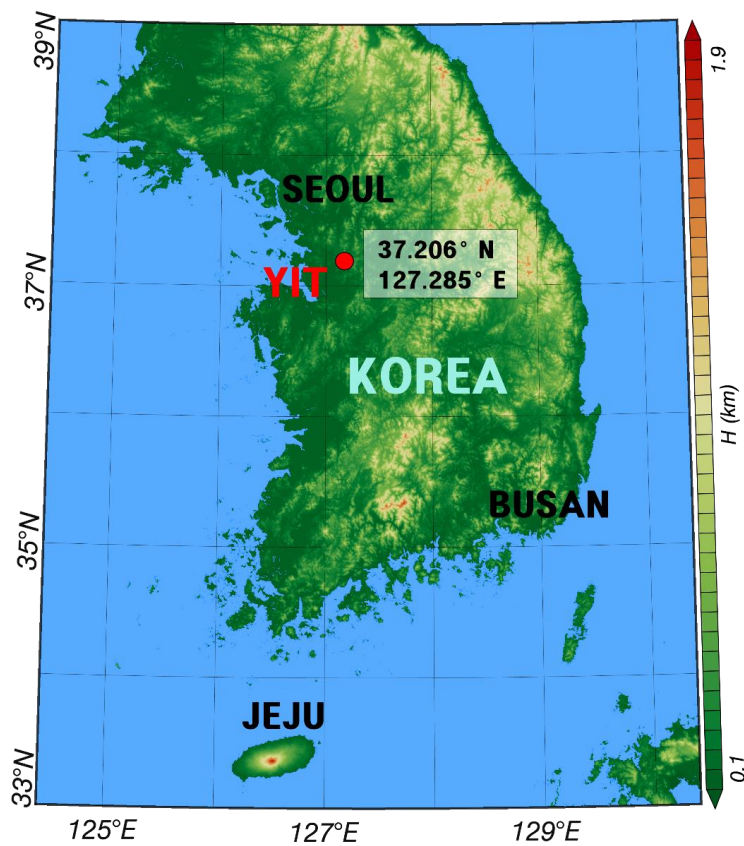
525

526



527 **Figures**

528



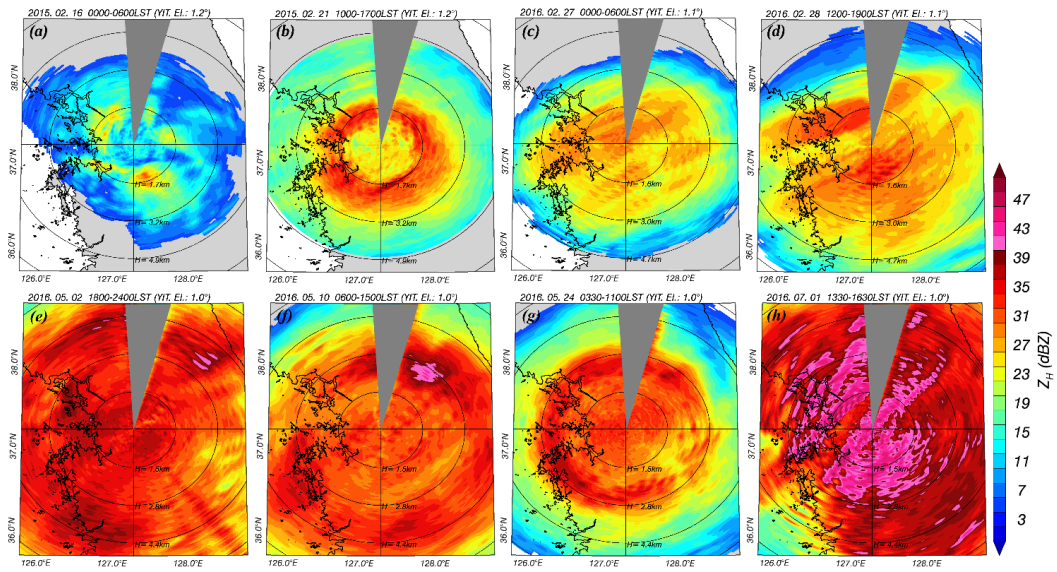
529

530 Figure 1. Origin of Yongin Testbed (YIT) dual-pol weather radar data (red bullet) in South Korea.

531



532

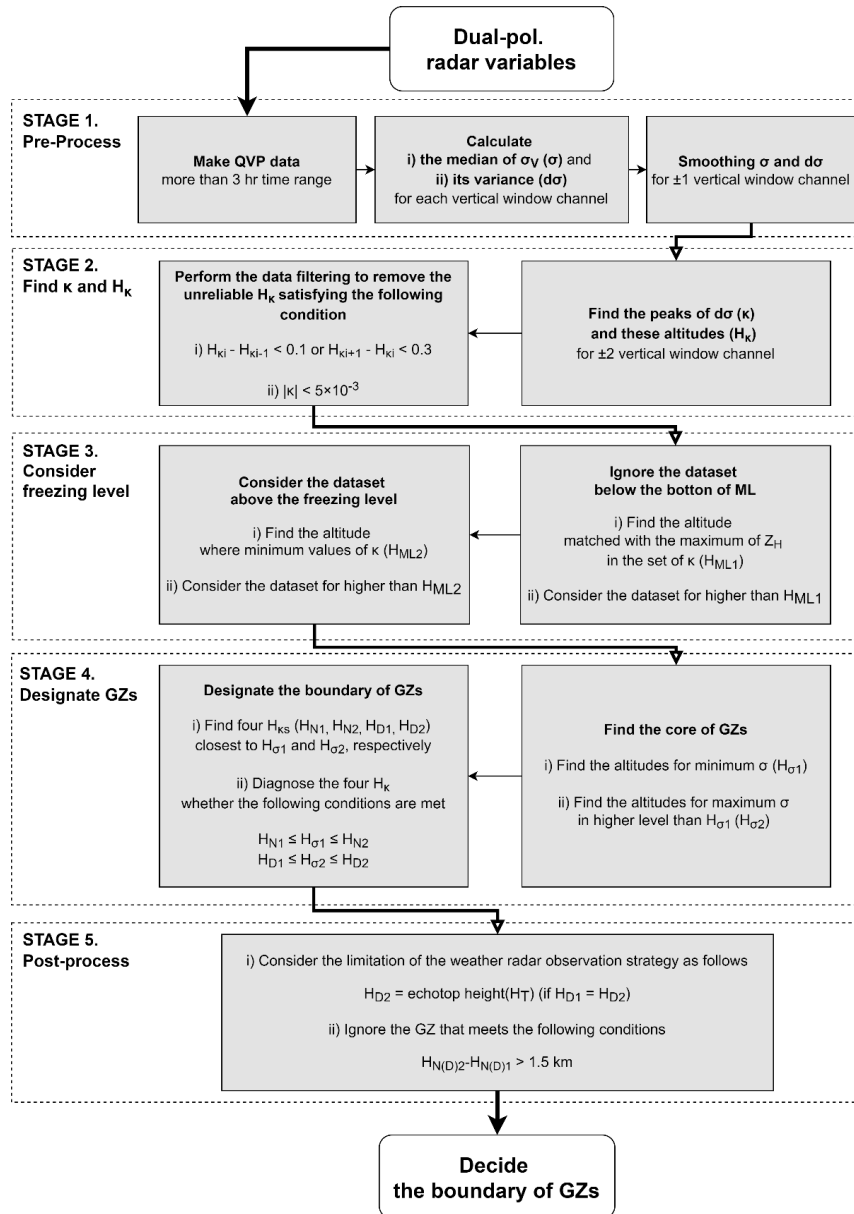


533

534 Figure 2. Cumulate maximum  $Z_H$  in PPI at the lowest elevation angle for analysis cases. The grey

535 blank indicates a beam blockage area. The range rings are centered on the YIT radar at 50 km.

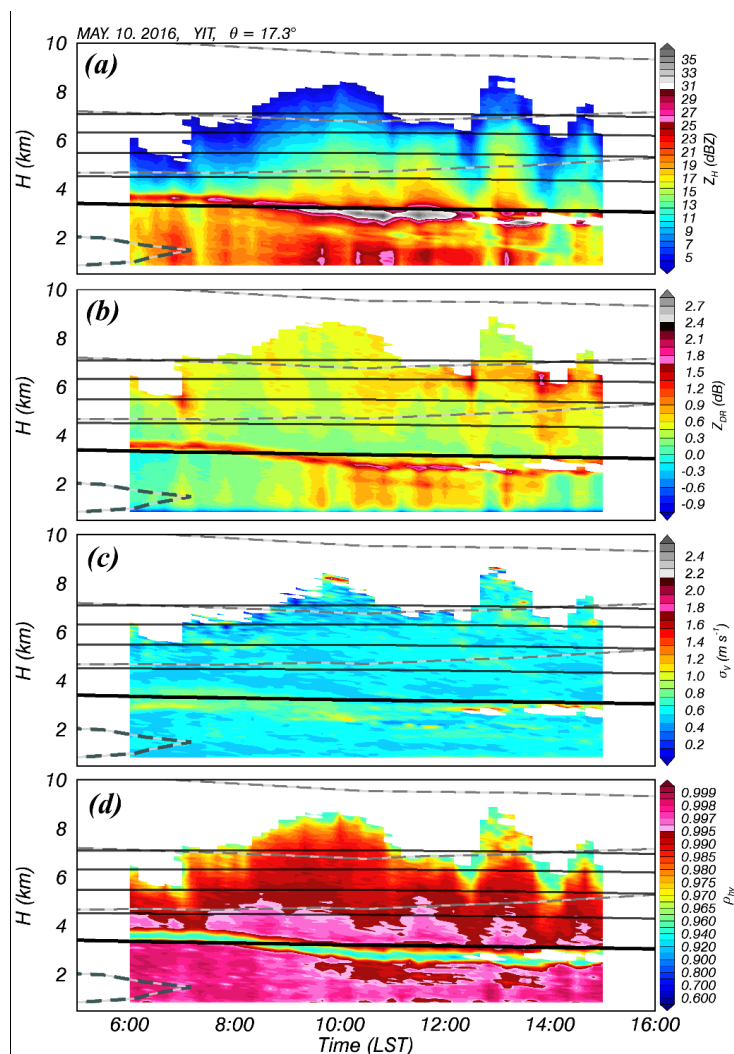
536



537

538 Figure 3. The algorithm of GZDA.

539

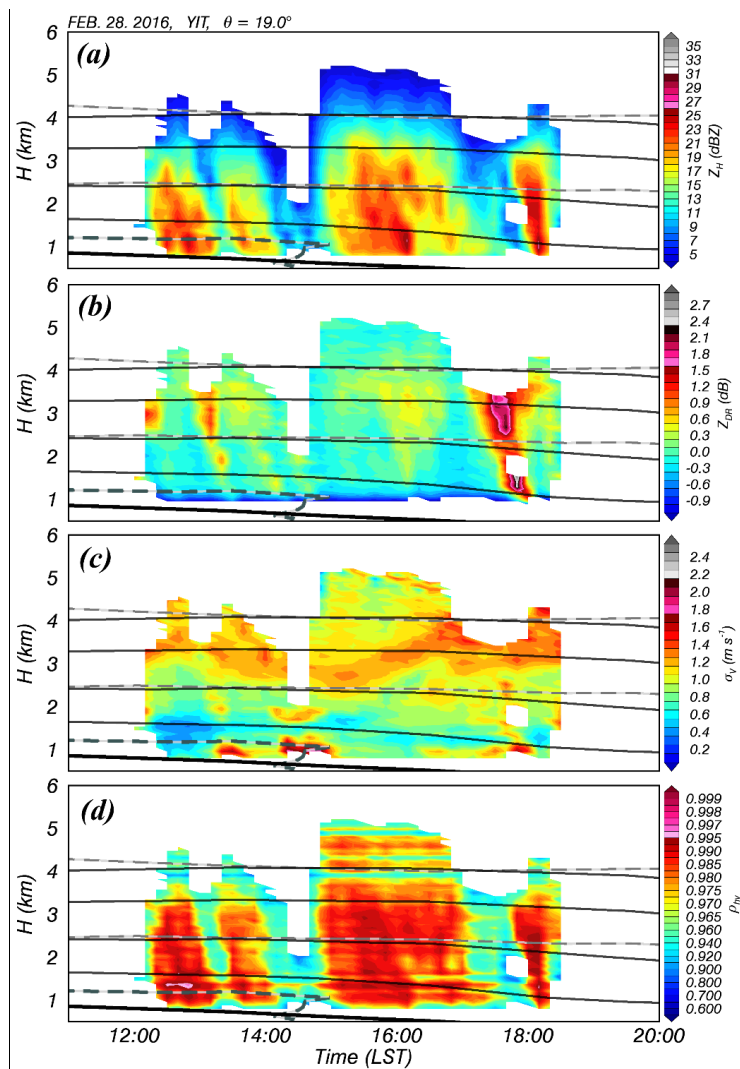


540

541 Figure 4. QVP of (a)  $Z_H$ , (b)  $Z_{DR}$ , (c)  $\sigma_v$ , and (d)  $\rho_{hv}$  in the representative non-winter precipitation

542 (10<sup>th</sup> May 2016). Solid black and dashed blue curves in the background represent  $T$  and  $v$ , respectively,

543 obtained from the MSM reanalysis data. The temperature profile is expressed down to  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ .



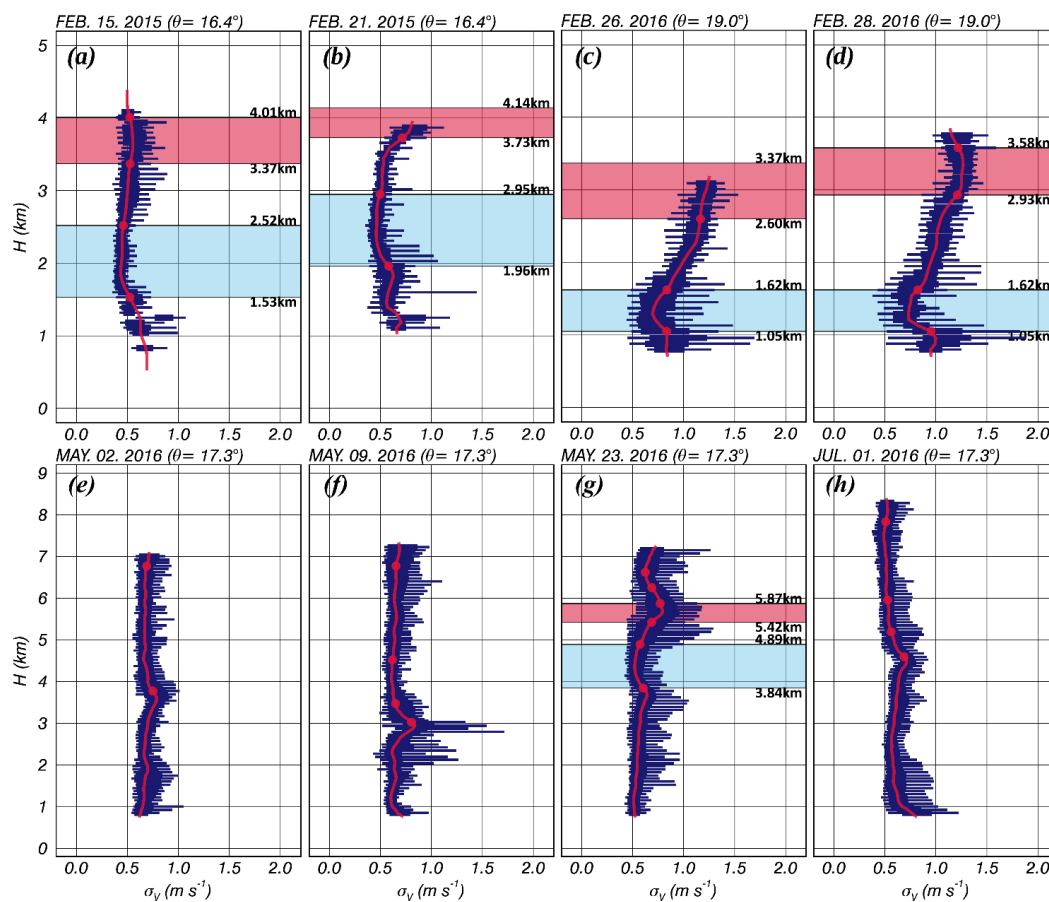
544

545 Figure 5. Symbols and colors are the same as in Figure 4 but for the representative winter

546 precipitation (28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016).

547





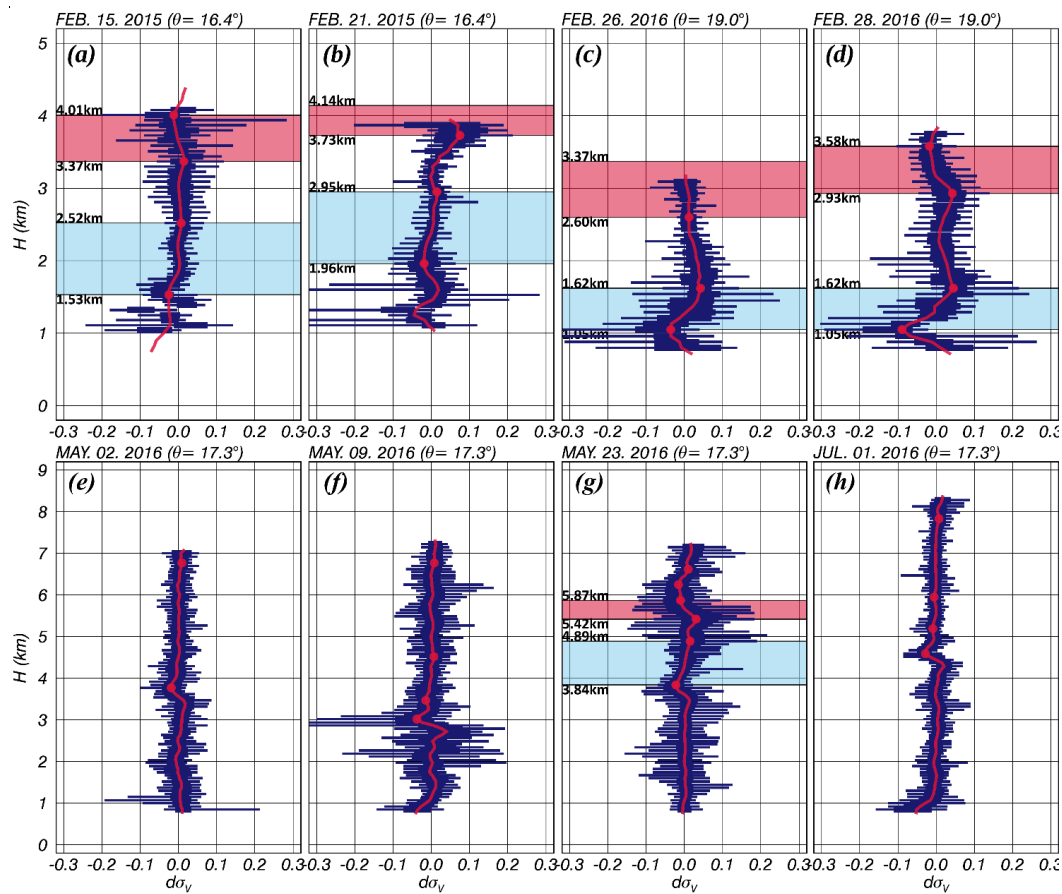
548

549 Figure 6. Vertical profiles of  $\sigma_v$  quartiles for each height resolution level. The solid red lines  
 550 indicate averaged  $\sigma_v$  values, while red circles represent the peak point of  $d\sigma_v$ . Red and blue shaded  
 551 areas are the areas of the DGZ and the NGZ, respectively, as determined by GZDA.

552



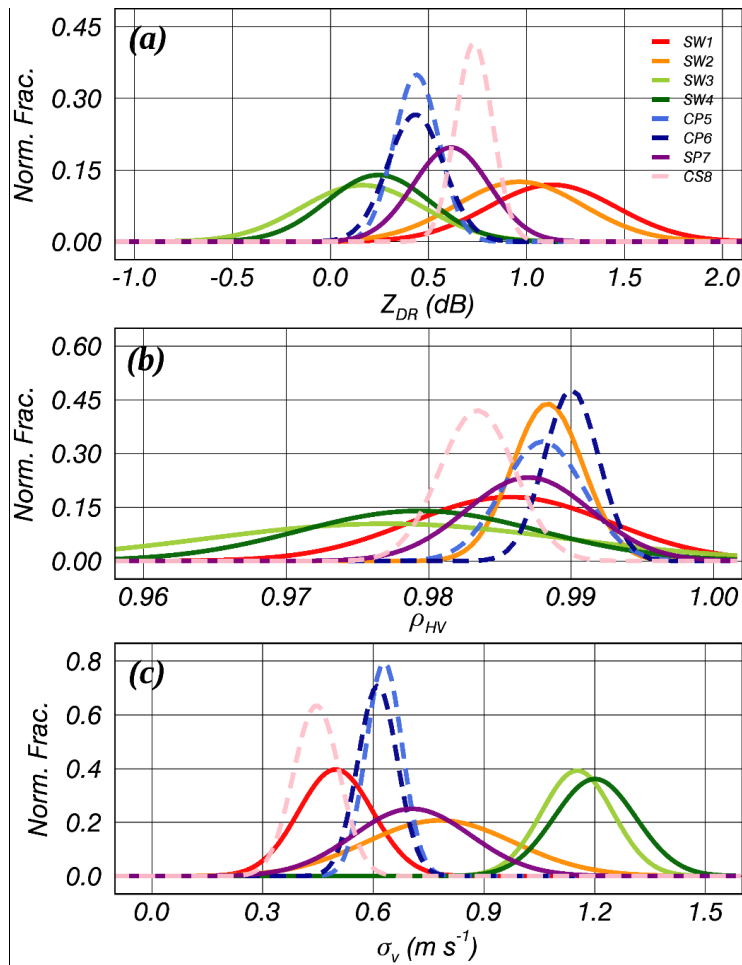
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554

555 Figure 7. Symbols and colors are the same as in Figure 6 but for the  $d\sigma_v$ .

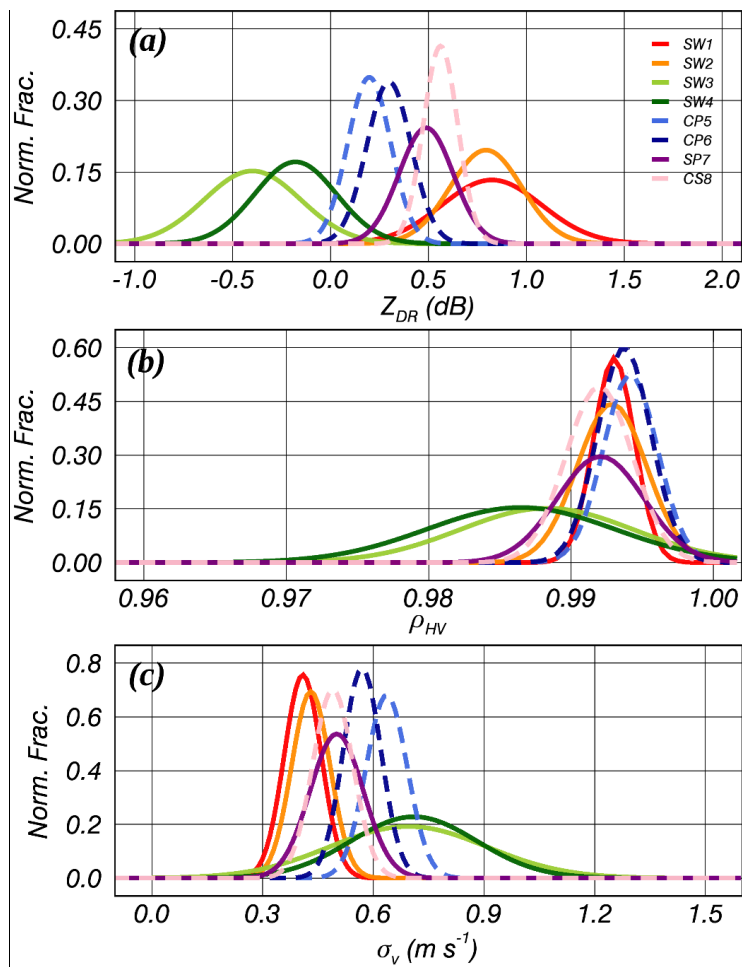
556



557

558 Figure 8. Normalized Gaussian distribution of (a)  $Z_{DR}$ , (b)  $\rho_{HV}$ , and (c)  $\sigma_v$  in the DGZ for analyzed  
559 cases. The solid and broken line represents stratiform and convective types, respectively.

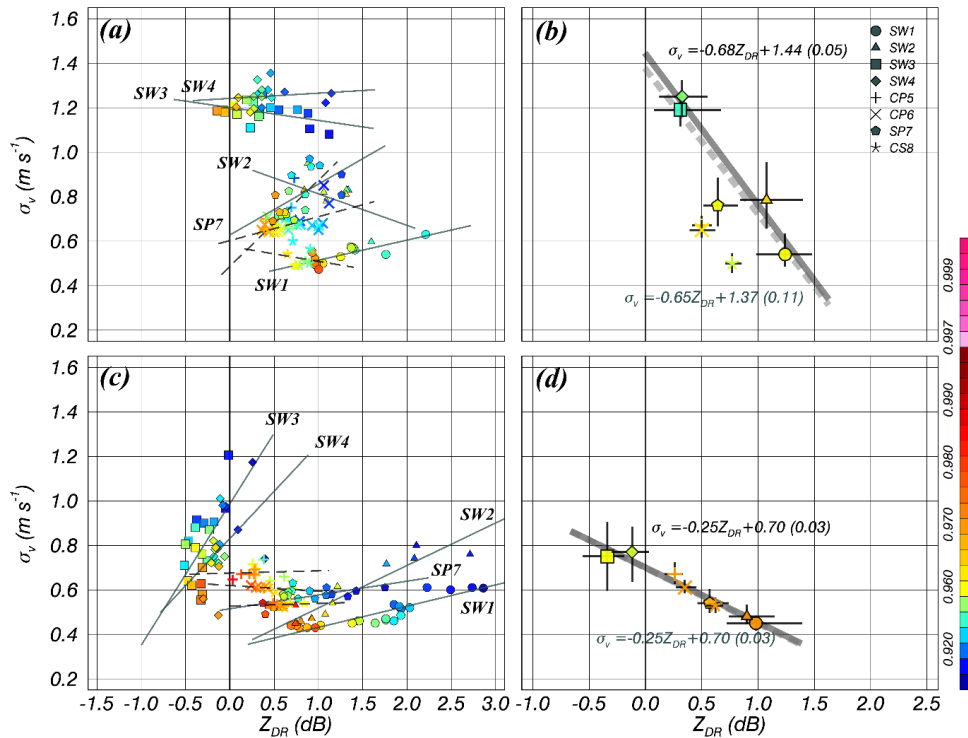
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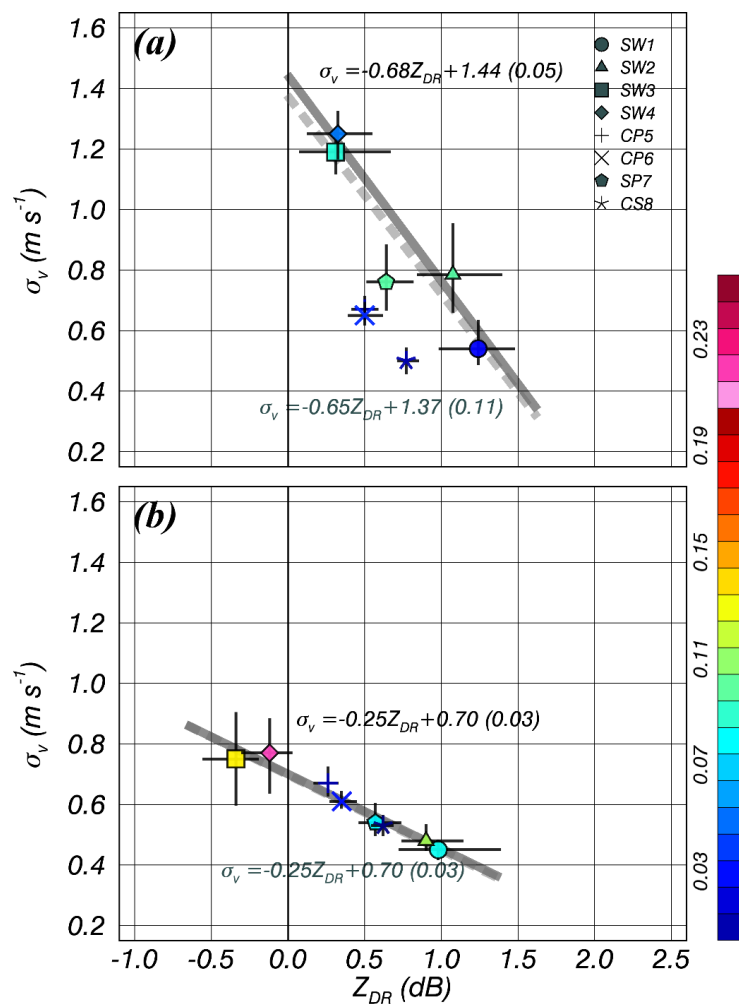
562 Figure 9. Legend is the same as in Figure 8 but for the NGZ.

563



564

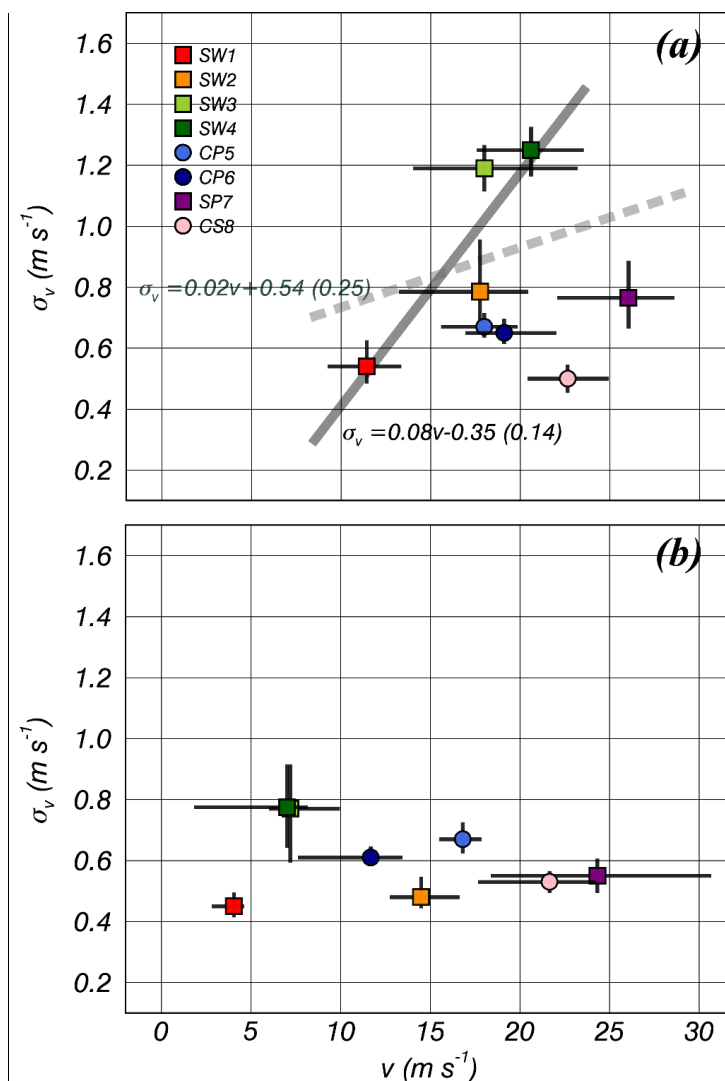
565 Figure 10. Scatter plot of the averaged  $\sigma_v - Z_{DR}$  by rank of  $\rho_{hv}$  for the DGZ (a & b) and the NGZ (c  
 566 & d). The  $\sigma_v - Z_{DR}$  were averaged (a & c) within each case and for each case (b & d), respectively.  
 567 Solid lines represent a regression line, and the shape of crosses overlapped with each symbol in (b &  
 568 d) indicate the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> quartiles for variables on each axis. Thick solid and broken lines represent a  
 569 regression line for the winter and whole stratiform cases, respectively. The parentheses in relationships  
 570 are the RMSE.



571

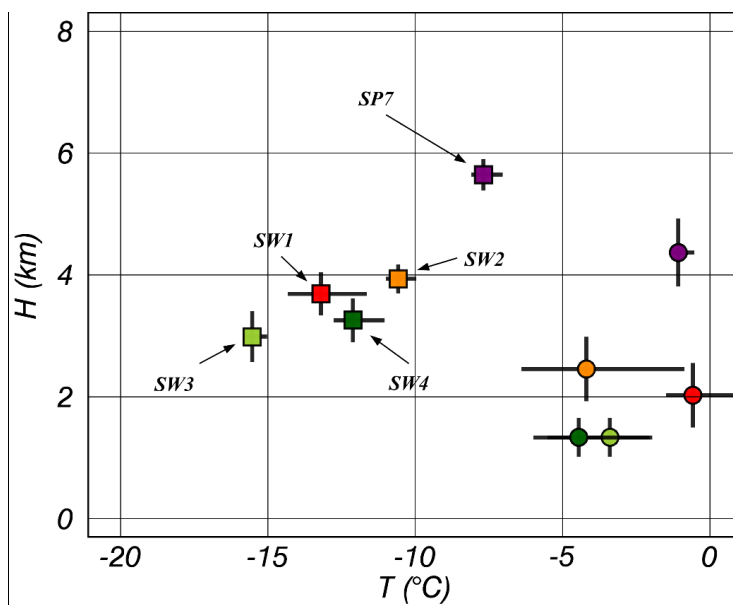
572 Figure 11. Scatter plot of the averaged  $\sigma_v - Z_{DR}$  for the case in (a) the DGZ and (b) the NGZ. The  
 573 colors on the symbols represent the  $d\sigma_{MAX}$ . Thick solid and broken lines represent a regression line for  
 574 the winter and whole stratiform cases, respectively. The shape of crosses overlapped with each symbol  
 575 indicates the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> quartiles for variables on each axis. The parentheses in relationships are the  
 576 RMSE.

577



578

579 Figure 12. Scatter plot of the averaged  $\sigma_v - v$  for the case in (a) the DGZ and (b) the NGZ. The  
 580 colors of the symbol represent the case. Thick solid and broken lines represent a regression line for the  
 581 winter and whole stratiform cases, respectively. The shape of crosses overlapped with each symbol  
 582 indicates the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> quartiles for variables on each axis. The parentheses in relationships are the  
 583 RMSE.

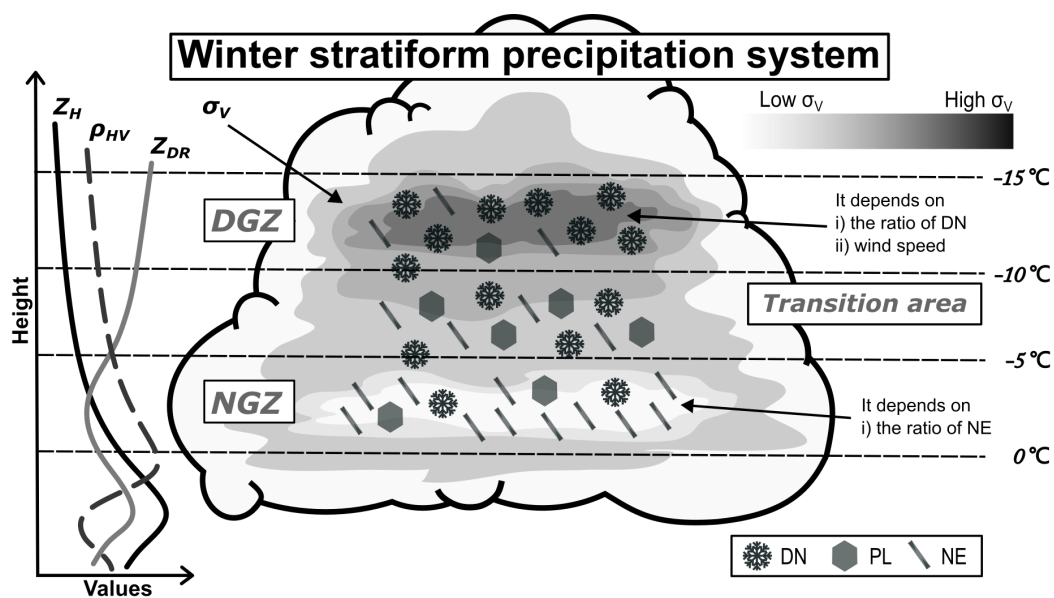


584

585 Figure 13. Scatter plot of the averaged H–T for the stratiform case in the DGZ (square symbols)  
586 and the NGZ (circle symbols). The colors on the symbol represent the case. The shape of crosses  
587 overlapped with each symbol indicates the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> quartiles for variables on each axis.

588





589

590 Figure 14. Schematic representation of the vertical structure of radar variables and the expected

591 distribution of solid hydrometeors in a stratiform precipitation system above the melting layer.

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