UW definition of "reference truth with responsivity".

A more conventional and user-friendly definition of reference truth is

$$r_{\text{flat}} = Rr_{\text{ES}} \tag{11}$$

If we assume $R\rho\,r_{\scriptscriptstyle\rm ES}\approx\rho\,R\,r_{\scriptscriptstyle\rm ES}$ then we get "flat" reference truth. In practice we find the "ratio first" UMBC CCAST reference calibration equation has smaller residuals when compared with $r_{\rm flat}$, while the "SA $^{-1}$ first" NOAA 4 algorithm has smaller residuals with $r_{\rm resp}$. It seems to us the proper focus for calibration algorithm development should be minimizing residuals in comparison with $r_{\rm flat}$.