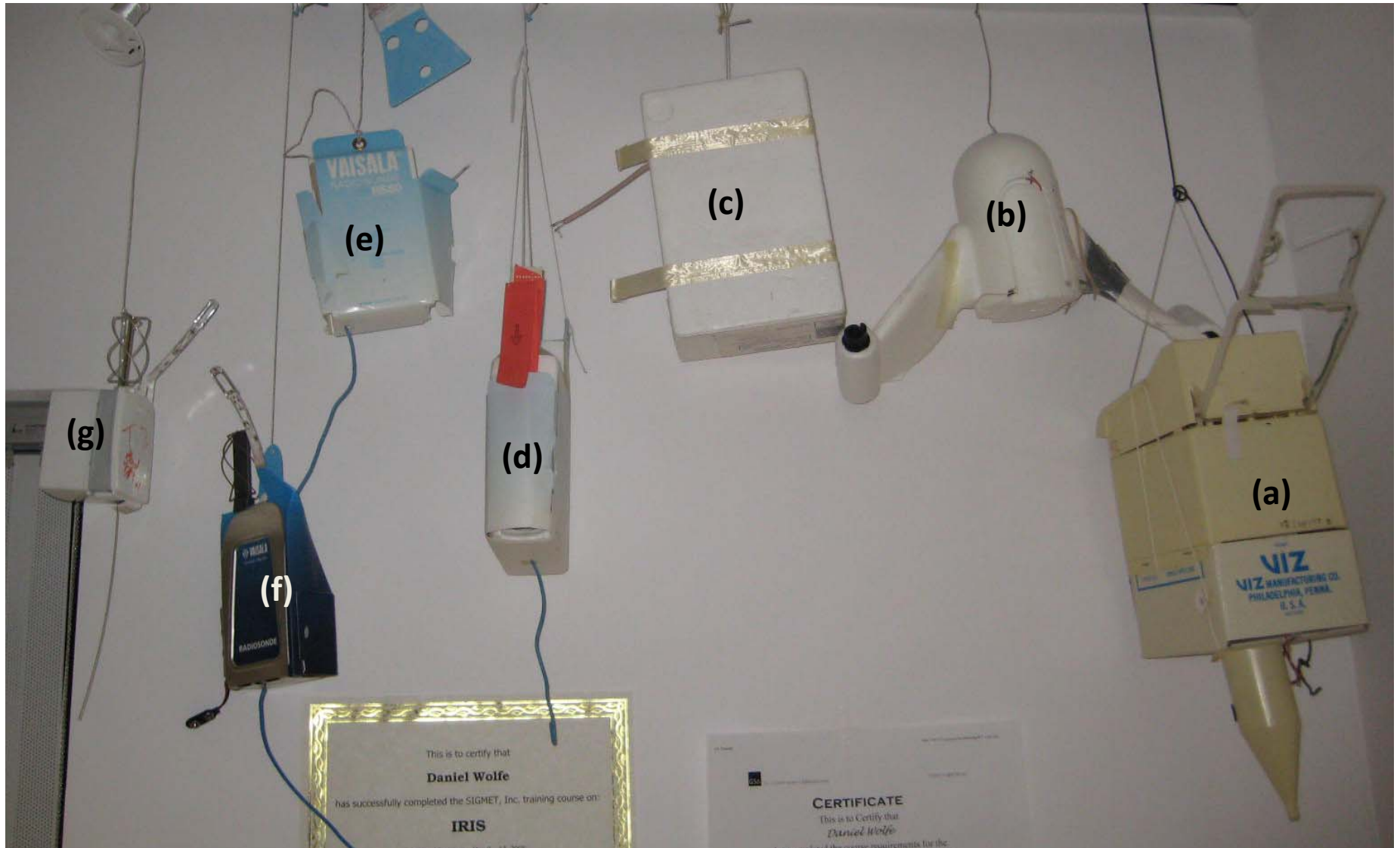


A Brief History of Radiosondes



Courtesy: Daniel Wolfe, NOAA

The following are only a few of the radiosondes used around the world.
 The NWS at one time used only one manufacturer, but now there are several different brands. Comparing radiosondes is an ongoing effort to maintain quality.

- (a) 1970s - NWS type sonde, data collected manually via strip chart, heavy, winds via radio-theodolite
- (b) 1980s - Research spinning sonde normally attached to tethered balloon, air temperature and wet bulb temperature sensors at end of wings
- (c) 1980s - Research sonde, winds only if tracked manually with theodolite
- (d) Mid 1980s - mid 1990s - NWS type sonde, paper tape calibration information, winds via Loran C
- (e) Mid 1980s - mid 1990s - NWS type sonde, paper tape calibration information, no winds
- (f) Mid 1990s - NWS type sonde, analog signal, GPS winds
- (g) Current - NWS type sonde, digital signal, GPS winds



Tethered balloon



Radio-theodolite



Theodolite

