

2001c

“In Quest of Better Attitudes” (Dirk Brouwer Lecture), M. D. Shuster, Paper AAS 01-250, *11th AAS/AIAA Space Flight Mechanics Meeting*, Santa Barbara, California, February 11–14, 2001; Proceedings: *Advances in the Astronautical Sciences*, Vol. 108, 2001, pp. 2089–2117.

This was a plenary talk given three months after I received the American Astronautical Society Dirk Brouwer Award for 2000. This was, possibly, my best presentation ever. The paper was revised immediately after the talk to better reflect the actual oral presentation. Because of increasing health problems, this was the last professional meeting I attended until June 2005.

The topic of the talk was the story of the development of the QUEST algorithm, the work for which I am best known. The story I told is rather myopic and somewhat self-serving.

Because of my increasing health problems and my increasing difficulty getting around at conferences, I was uncertain as to how much longer I could go on. For this reason the report has a somewhat epitaphic character. Certainly, this affected my presentation as well, which was somewhat emotional. The lecture went 20 minutes past the scheduled end, but only one out of over 150 listeners left early, and then only at the very end, probably because of a meeting, because she hung in the doorway as long as she could. Obviously, I have survived that lecture by six-and-a-half years, so I am more resilient than I thought. I am, however, slowing down.

This lecture became the model for future “Dirk Brouwer lectures” by succeeding recipients of the AAS Dirk Brouwer Award.

Superseded by 2006f, a slightly abbreviated but updated version of this talk.