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“Star coverage”, a simple tool to schedule an observation when FOV rotation matters

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Executive Summary

In this contribution, we present a simple software tool for simulating the effect of the field-of-view rotation, which affects every telescope with an alt-azimuth mounting. This effect is due to the change of the parallactic angle with time, and it can be exploited for several purposes with great benefits, especially in the context of Cherenkov astronomy, as discussed in the contribution. The software is open source and can be applied to any telescope, given the position of the instrument, the celestial coordinates of the pointing and the time of the observation. Optionally, if the limiting magnitude, the frequency range and the geometry of the camera are provided, the software will also output a graphical representation of the results.