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Yarragadee SLR station (MOBLAS-5) scheduling and optimal tracking strategies

Presentation of the current tracking schedule at the Yarragadee Australia SLR station and discussion of possible alternatives and improvements. With the recent increase in the number of GNSS satellites on the ILRS tracking roster a more sophisticated strategy may improve the value of the tracking results for all science customers without a change in station resources. Current motivation for observers and stations is number of NPs and passes with little regard for which satellite. Those motivations have, in the past, nearly always produced the “best” results but it is not now necessarily so. At Yarragadee we more and more use the 3x3x3 NP minimum rule as the scheduling guide. What are the best strategies and metrics to motivate and recognize tracking that yields that are most needed by the science customers. It may not be raw NP and pass numbers. Could ILRS strategies vary based on station capabilities or perhaps station location; using one strategy for stations/situations with little or no overlap with others and using another strategy for stations/situations with much sky coverage overlap (Europe for example).