

# Azimuth error as a function of the sun's elevation

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Let  $\theta$  be the sun's elevation angle,  $R$  some arbitrary distance from the beetle to the sun, and  $\epsilon$  the intrinsic angular error of the beetle when it estimates the azimuth of the sun.

$$\begin{aligned}
 r &= \frac{ab}{\sqrt{(b \cos \gamma)^2 + (a \sin \gamma)^2}} \\
 a &= R \cos \theta \\
 b &= R \\
 h &= R \sin \frac{\epsilon}{2} \\
 \sin \gamma &= \frac{h}{r}
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

We can drive (2) from (1) and calculate the actual angular error of the beetle as a function of the sun's elevation.

$$\gamma = \arctan \frac{\tan \frac{\epsilon}{2}}{\cos \theta} \tag{2}$$

The following shows how these quantities relate to each other.

