LOFAR self-calibration and facetselfcal





European





Roland Timmerman, Frits Sweijen, Jurjen de Jong, Christian Groeneveld, and many others





Reinout van Weeren

Leiden Observatory, Leiden University



Introduction

self-calibration

facetcalibration

Outline

THE MAIN IDEA



Facet calibration (DD) van Weeren (2016, 2021)







(self-)calibration: time

 $V_{ij}(t) = V_{ij}(t)$ = Visibility measured between antennas i and j $g_i(t) = Complex gain corrections of antenna i$ $V_{ij,true}(t) =$ True visibility (in practice we want to find that) $\varepsilon_{ij}(t) = Noise$ * = conjugation

 $V_{ij}(t) = g_i(t)g_j^*(t)V_{ij,true}(t) + \varepsilon_{ij}(t)$

(self-)calibration: time

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- Number g_i at a given time = $N_{antenna}$
- Number V_{ij} at a given time = $N(N-I)/2 = N_{baselines}$
- unknown gain corrections $g_i(t)$
- We want: $N_{\text{baselines}} >> N_{\text{antenna}}$

 $V_{ij}(t) = g_i(t)g_j^*(t)V_{ij,true}(t) + \varepsilon_{ij}(t)$

• Solving for $g_i(t)$ can be done because there are more measurements $V_{ij}(t)$ than



(self-)calibration

Cornwell & Fomalont (1989)

Each visibility has a weight Minimize sum over all baselines





(self-)calibration: time, frequency

 $V_{ij}(t) = g_i(t,\nu)g_i^*(t,\nu)V_{ij,true}(t,\nu) + \varepsilon_{ij}(t,\nu)$

 $V_{ij}(t,v) = V_{ij}(t,v) = V_{ij}(t,v)$ $g_i(t,v) = Complex gain corrections of antenna i$ $V_{ij,true}(t,v) =$ True visibility (in practice we want to find that) $\varepsilon_{ij}(t, v) = Noise$ * = conjugation

- Number g_i at a given time = $N_{antenna}$
- Number V_{ij} at a given time = $N(N-I)/2 = N_{baselines}$
- unknown gains $g_i(t,v)$
- We want: $N_{\text{baselines}} >> N_{\text{antenna}}$

• Solving for $g_i(t,v)$ can be done because there are more measurements $V_{ij}(t,v)$ than



self-calibration: iteration

$$V_{ij}(t,\nu) = g_i(t,\nu)g_j^*(t,\nu)g_$$

 $g_i(t, v) = Complex gain of antenna i$ $V_{ij,model}(t,v) = Model visibility ("close" to truth)$ $\varepsilon_{ij}(t, v) = Noise$

 $(t, v)V_{ij,model}(t, v) + \varepsilon_{ij}(t, v)$

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self-calibration: iteration

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- Make image + deconvolve image \Rightarrow produces a model ($V_{ij,model}$)
- Solve for $g_i(t, v)$
- Remake image with corrected data $g_i(t,\nu)g_j^*(t,\nu)V_{ij}$ + deconvolve
- Solve for $g_i(t, v)$
- Remake image with corrected data $g_i(t,\nu)g_j^*(t,\nu)V_{ij}$ + deconvolve
- Repeat until image does not change....

 $(t, v)V_{ij,model}(t, v) + \varepsilon_{ij}(t, v)$

- $V_{ij}(t,v) = V_{ij}(t,v) = V_{ij}(t,v)$

self-calibration: iteration



Ionosphere & station beam

Ionosphere and beam also effect polarization (Faraday Rotation):

 $g_i(t, v, direction, polarization)$

What's the problem? We have computers...?

Antenna corrections are also direction dependent:



 $g_i(t, v, direction)$



2. Number of fitting parameters can be too large for the number of measurements: Overfitting

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4. Starting models (initial guesses) are (sometimes) not good, not guaranteed calibration converges

- I. Data is noisy. Finding the gains is an optimization problem: we need enough signal/
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LOFAR: We are affected by all of these problems

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LOFAR calibration errors

- Ionospheric TEC: phase effect
- Ionospheric Faraday Rotation: phase difference between RR and LL polarizations
- Clock (±15 ns variations)
- Beam: LOFAR stations have beams that differ from our used beam model
- •At lower level all polarizations are affected: fulljones

phase error \propto TEC/ ν

phase error RR-LL \propto RM/ ν^2

phase error \propto clock x v

amplitude errors: slowly varying

small complex valued *(amplitude & phase) errors* for all four polarizations: slowly varying



LOFAR calibration errors

Ionospheric TEC: phase effect

the number of parameters we need to solve for.

•At lower level all polarizations are affected: fulljones

phase error \propto TEC/ ν

Make use of all this information to reduce

small complex valued *(amplitude & phase) errors* for all four polarizations: slowly varying



anti-symmetric

Errors in images



anti-symmetric

Errors in images





Errors in images

LOFAR DI/DD calibration & imaging

- •Two main calibration programs: DP3 & killMS (van Diepen et al. 2018; Tasse et al. 2014ab)
- •Two main imaging programs: WSClean & DDFacet (Offringa et al. 2014, 2017; Tasse et al. 2018)
- Integrated into pipelines: DDF-pipeline (Tasse et al. 2021) & Rapthor

Background

Why was facetselfcal developed?

LoTSS & LoLSS processing

- Facet layout can be non-optimal for target-of-interest given that DDE corrections work on a per-facet basis
- Target can be located in two or more overlapping pointings
- Weightings scheme and uv-cuts might not be ideal for science case
- Re-imaging is expensive (uv-tapers, weightings, different deconvolution)

DDF-pipeline (Tasse+ 2021) makes use of DDFacet and kMS for calibration and imaging (Tasse+ 2014; Smirnov+ 2015; Tasse+ 2017). LoLSS pipeline (de Gasperin+2019,2020,2021) makes use of DDFacet, WSClean (Offringa + 2014; Offringa & Smirnov 2017) and DP3 (van Diepen + 2018).





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van Weeren+ (2021)

https://github.com/rvweeren/lofar_facet_selfcal

Calibration: DP3 and (van Diepen et al. 2018)

Imaging: WSClean (Offringa et al. 2014, 2017)

+ own Python code



Reinout van Weeren (2021, A&A, 651, 115)



"Extract

van Weeren+ (2021); DDF-pipeline (Tasse+2021)

Subtract all sources, except those in the box, with their DD solutions from the visibilities using DDFacet

Requirements:

- Box not too large, avoid DDE effects across the box (≲1.0°)
- 2. Enough flux in the box for calibration
 (≥0.2 Jy source
 Dutch-HBA)







"Selfcal the facet box"

- 1. Perturbative solves with automated selfcal
- 2. Start with biggest effect first
- 3. Continue with next biggest effect
- 4. Solution interval provided by user or computed based on visibility noise and model flux
- 5. Arbitrary number of perturbative steps possible without needing to write code
- 6. Options 5 makes it a powerful tool to hunt down calibration limitations and test ideas



RA (J2000)

"Selfcal the facet box"

LoTSS DR2



van Weeren+ 2021

- tweaked calibration
- multiscale clean
- no uvmin cut

LoTSS DR2+facetselfcal





LoTSS reprocessing

DR2





DR2+facetselfcal



ILT calibration Jurjen de Jong

ILT calibration: two-step calibration approach

Interst test and test and 2. facetselfcal: dozens of facet/target calibrators (DDE ionosphere+beam)



Morabito et al. (2022) Sweijen et al. (2022)



Most commonly used solve types:

- scalarphasediff: solve for the difference between RR and LL
- scalarphase: combine the two polarizations and solve for the phases
- scalarcomplexgain: combine the two polarizations and solve for amplitude&phase
- scalaramplitude: combine the two polarizations and solve for the amplitudes
- **amplitudeonly:** solve for two polarization amplitudes
- **phaseonly**: solve for two polarization phases
- **fulljones:** solve for all four polarizations, amplitude & phase
- All of the above can handle frequency smoothness (DP3 constrains the solution to be "smooth" along the frequency axis with a user specified value)
- tec: combine the two polarizations and enforce phase $\propto v^{-1}$
- **tecandphase:** combine the two polarizations and enforce phase $\sim v^{-1}$ + const

two polarizations=XX, YY (RR,LL) four polarizations=XX,YX,YX,YY (RR,RL,LR,LL)



calibrate against external sky model (optional)

image000

calibrate against image000

image001

calibrate against image001

imageNNN

self-calibration cycles

calibrate against external sky model (optional)

image000

calibrate against image000

image001

calibrate against image001

imageNNN

self-calibration cycles

"calibratie step" can involve multiple calibrations: **perturbative** solves



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example: calibrate against image001







"calibratie step" can involve multiple calibrations: **perturbative** solves

	example: calibrate against image001	
erturbation0: calibrate phase-RR-LL differences (long time intervals)		

corrupt model with found solutions





"calibratie step" can involve multiple calibrations: **perturbative** solves

	example: calibrate against image001	
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corrupt model with found solutions		

perturbation I: calibrate phases (short time intervals)





"calibratie step" can involve multiple calibrations: **perturbative** solves

	example: calibrate against image001			
erturbation0: c	alibrate phase-RR-LL differences	(long time intervals)		
	corrupt model with found soluti	ONS		
þerturb	ation I : calibrate phases (short tir	ne intervals)		

corrupt model further with found solutions

14-500	
9	



"calibratie step" can involve multiple calibrations: **perturbative** solves

example: calibrate against image001 perturbation0: calibrate phase-RR-LL differences (long time intervals) corrupt model with found solutions perturbation 1: calibrate phases (short time intervals) corrupt model further with found solutions

perturbation 2: calibrate phases and amplitudes (long time intervals)



"calibratie step" can involve multiple calibrations: **perturbative** solves

example: calibrate against image001

perturbation0: calibrate phase-RR-LL differences (long time intervals)

corrupt model with found solutions

perturbation I: calibrate phases (short time intervals)

corrupt model further with found solutions

perturbation 2: calibrate phases and amplitudes (long time intervals)

correct visibilities for all perturbation solutions

Facetselfcal for a delay/infield calibrator

Run the script:

python facetselfcal.py --imsize=1024 -i selfcalimage_lbcs -pixelscale=0.075 --robust=-0.5 --skymodelpointsource=1 -uvmin=20000 --soltypelist="['scalarphasediff','scalarphase','scalarcomplexgain']"
--soltypecycles-list="[0,0,2]" --solintlist="['3min','32sec','40min']" --nchan-list="[1,1,1]" -smoothnessconstraint-list="[10.0,1.5,10.0]" --docircular -antennaconstraint-list="['alldutch',None,None]" -forwidefield --stop=12 --avgfreqstep=4 --avgtimestep=4 -phaseupstations='core' mydata.ms

scalarphasediff: solve for the difference between RR and LL





scalarphase: combine the two polarizations and solve for the phases as a function of time







(scalar)complexgain: slow solve for the complex gains



- Options to handle ILT data (e.g., automated starting models from VLASS, visibility stacking)
- Automated "box/phase up" selfcal, with solution interval and frequency smoothness tuning for HBA-Dutch (LoTSS) extract), LBA-Dutch (incl. decameter band), HBA-ILT-target
- DD capability with wide(r)field mode (HBA, LBA, MeerKAT)

Many tuning and advanced options



facetselfcal -h

	TION & LUFAR ODSELVATION	
ositional arguments: ms	<pre>msfile(s)</pre>	using ——uvminim. Typically values between 1.5 and 4.0 give good results. The default is None. ——wscleanskymodel WSCLEANSKYMODEL
		WSclean basename for model images (for a WSClean
ptional arguments:	show this halp massage and avit	predict). The detault is None.
imager IMAGER	Imager to use WSClean or DDFACET. The default is WSCLEAN.	Extra DP3 frequency averaging to speed up a solve. This is done before any other correction and could be
−i IMAGENAME,image	ename IMAGENAME Prefix name for image. This is by default "image".	useful for long baseline infield calibrators. Allowed are integer values or for example '195.3125kHz':
imsize IMSIZE	Image size, required if boxfile is not used. The default is None.	options for units: 'Hz', 'kHz', or 'MHz'. The default is None.
-n NITER,niter NI	TER	avgtimestep AVGTIMESTEP
	Number of iterations. This is computed automatically if None.	done before any other correction and could be useful
	Mask noise thresholds used from image 1 to 10 made by	integer values or for example '16.1s'; options for
<pre>removenegativefrom</pre>	nodel REMOVENEGATIVEFROMMODEL	msinnchan MSINNCHAN Before averaging only take this number of input
	This is by default turned off at selfcalcycle 2. See	channels. The default is None.
autoupdate-removene	egativefrommodel AUTOUPDATE_REMOVENEGATIVEFROMMODEL	DP3 msin.ntimes setting. This is mainly used for testing purposes. The default is None
	selfcalcycle 2 (for high dynamic range imaging it is	autofrequencyaverage-calspeedup
	better to keep all clean components). The default is True.	Try extra averaging during some selfcalcycles to speed up calibration.
——fitsmask FITSMASK	Fits mask for deconvolution (needs to match image	autofrequencyaverage
robust ROBUST	size). If this is not provided automasking is used. Briggs robust parameter. The default is -0.5.	Try frequency averaging if it does not result in bandwidth smearing
——multiscale—start Ml	JLTISCALE_START	phaseupstations PHASEUPSTATIONS
	Start multiscale deconvolution at this selfcal cycle. This is by default 1.	Phase up to a superstation. Possible input: 'core' or 'superterp'. The default is None.
deepmultiscale	Do extra multiscale deconvolution on the residual.	phaseshiftbox PHASESHIFTBOX
uvminim UVMINIM	Inner uv-cut for imaging in lambda. The default is 80.	DS9 region file to shift the phasecenter to. This is
	Pixels size in arcsec. Typically, 3.0 for LBA and 1.5	weightspectrum-clipvalue WEIGHTSPECTRUM CLIPVALUE
	for HBA (these are also the default values).	Extra option to clip WEIGHT_SPECTRUM values above the
channelsout CHANNEL	LSOUT	provided number. Use with care and test first manually
	Number of channels out during imaging (see WSClean documentation). This is by default 6	-u IIVMTNuvmin IIVMTN
multiscale	Use multiscale deconvolution (see WSClean	Inner uv-cut for calibration in lambda. The default is
	documentation).	80 for LBA and 350 for HBA.
<pre>multiscalescalebias</pre>	5 MULTISCALESCALEBIAS	uvminscalarphasediff UVMINSCALARPHASEDIFF
	Multiscalescale plas scale parameter for WSLlean (see	lambda. The default is equal to input foruvmin.
usewaridder USEWGRI	IDDER	update-uvmin Update uvmin automatically for the Dutch array.
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Use wgridder from WSClean, mainly useful for very	update-multiscale Switch to multiscale automatically if large islands of
narallaldacanvaluta	large images. This is by default True.	emission are present.
parattetdeconvolut	Parallel-deconvolution size for WSCLean (see WSClean	sollype-list solline_list list with solution types. Possible input:
	documentation). This is by default 0 (no parallel	<pre>'complexgain', 'scalarcomplexgain', 'scalaramplitude',</pre>
	deconvolution). Suggested value for very large images	<pre>'amplitudeonly', 'phaseonly', 'fulljones', 'rotation', 'rotation+diagonal', 'tec', 'tecandphase'.</pre>
parallelgridding PA	ARALLELGRIDDING	'scalarphase', 'scalarphasediff', 'scalarphasediffFR',
	Parallel-gridding for WSClean (see WSClean	'phaseonly_phmin', 'rotation_phmin', 'tec_phmin',
de e e e e a l'arté e e e te e e e	documentation). This is by default 1.	'tecandphase_phmin', 'scalarphase_phmin',
deconvolutionchanne	ELS DECUNVULUIIUNCHANNELS Deconvolution channels value for WSClean (see WSClean	[tecandphase_tecandphase_scalarcomplexcain].
	documentation). This is by default 0 (means	solint-list SOLINT LIST
	deconvolution-channels equals channels-out).	Solution interval corresponding to solution types (in
idg	Use the Image Domain gridder (see WSClean	same order as soltype-list input). The default is
fitepoctrolpol EIT	documentation).	nchan_list NCHAN IST
	Use fit-spectral-pol in WSClean (see WSClean	Number of channels corresponding to solution types (in
	documentation). The default is True.	same order as soltype-list input). The default is
<pre>fitspectralpolorder</pre>	r FITSPECTRALPOLORDER	[1,1,10].
	TIT-spectral-pol order for WSClean (see WSClean	smoothnessconstraint-list SMOUTHNESSCONSTRAINT_LIST
gapchanneldivision	Use the _gan_channel_division ontion in wsclean	as soltype-list input). The default is [00.5.].
Saberranne catatotoll	imaging and predicts (default is not to use it)	<pre>smoothnessreffrequency-list SMOOTHNESSREFFREQUENCY_LIST</pre>
taperinnertukey TAF	PERINNERTUKEY	List with optional reference frequencies (in MHz) for
	Value for taper-inner-tukey in WSClean (see WSClean	the smoothness constraint (in same order as soltype-
	documentation), useful to supress negative bowls when	LISE INPULY. WHEN UNEQUAL TO 0, THE SIZE OF THE Smoothing kernel will vary over frequency by a factor
		of smoothnessreffrequency*(frequency^smoothnessspectra

Self-Calibrate a facet from a LOFAR observation

lexponent). The default is [0.,0.,0.]. --smoothnessspectralexponent-list SMOOTHNESSSPECTRALEXPONENT LIST If smoothnessreffrequency is not equal to zero then this parameter determines the frequency scaling law. It is typically useful to take -2 for scalarphasediff, otherwise -1 (1/nu). The default is [-1., -1., -1.]. --smoothnessrefdistance-list SMOOTHNESSREFDISTANCE_LIST If smoothnessrefdistance is not equal to zero then this parameter determines the frequency smoothness reference distance in units of km, with the smoothness scaling with distance. See DP3 documentation. The default is [0.,0.,0.]. --antennaconstraint-list ANTENNACONSTRAINT_LIST List with constraints on the antennas used (in same order as soltype-list input). Possible input: 'superterp', 'coreandfirstremotes', 'core', 'remote', 'all', 'international', 'alldutch', 'core-remote', 'coreandallbutmostdistantremotes', 'alldutchbutnoST001'. The default is [None,None,None]. --resetsols-list RESETSOLS_LIST Values of these stations will be rest to 0.0 (phases), or 1.0 (amplitudes), default None, possible settings are the same as for antennaconstraint-list (alldutch, core, etc)). The default is [None, None, None]. --soltypecycles-list SOLTYPECYCLES LIST Selfcalcycle where step from soltype-list starts. The default is [0,999,3]. Employ BLsmooth for low S/N data. --BLsmooth --dejumpFR Dejump Faraday solutions when using scalarphasediffFR. --usemodeldataforsolints Determine solints from MODEL_DATA. --preapplyH5-list PREAPPLYH5_LIST List of H5 files to preapply (one for each MS). The default is [None]. --iontimefactor IONTIMEFACTOR BLsmooth ionfactor. The default is 0.01. Larger is more smoothing (see BLsmooth documentation). --ionfregfactor IONFREQFACTOR BLsmooth tecfactor. The default is 1.0. Larger is more smoothing (see BLsmooth documentation). --blscalefactor BLSCALEFACTOR BLsmooth blscalefactor. The default is 1.0 (see BLsmooth documentation). -b BOXFILE, --boxfile BOXFILE DS9 box file. You need to provide a boxfile to use --startfromtgss. The default is None. --skymodel SKYMODEL Skymodel for first selfcalcycle. The default is None. --skymodelsource SKYMODELSOURCE Source name in skymodel. The default is None (means the skymodel only contains one source/patch). --skymodelpointsource SKYMODELPOINTSOURCE If set, start from a point source in the phase center with the flux density given by this parameter. The default is None (means do not use this option). --predictskywithbeam Predict the skymodel with the beam array factor. --startfromtqss Start from TGSS skymodel for positions (boxfile required). Start from VLASS skymodel for ILT phase-up core data --startfromvlass (not yet implemented). --tgssfitsimage TGSSFITSIMAGE Start TGSS fits image for model (if not provided use SkyView). The default is None. --beamcor BEAMCOR Correct the visibilities for beam in the phase center, options: yes, no, auto (default is auto, auto means beam is taken out in the curent phase center, tolerance for that is 10 arcsec) --losotobeamcor-beamlib LOSOTOBEAMCOR_BEAMLIB Beam library to use when not using DP3 for the beam correction. Possible input: 'stationreponse', 'lofarbeam' (identical and deprecated). The default is 'stationresponse'. --docircular Convert linear to circular correlations. --dolinear Convert circular to linear correlations. --forwidefield Keep solutions such that they can be used for widefield imaging/screens. --doflagging DOFLAGGING Flag on complexgain solutions via rms outlier detection (True/False, default=True). The default is True (will be set to False if -- forwidefield is set).

--clipsolutions Flag amplitude solutions above --clipsolhigh and below --clipsollow (will be set to False if --forwidefield is set). --clipsolhigh CLIPSOLHIGH Flag amplitude solutions above this value, only done if ---clipsolutions is set. --clipsollow CLIPSOLLOW Flag amplitude solutions below this value, only done if -- clipsolutions is set. --dysco DYSCO Use Dysco compression. The default is True. --restoreflags Restore flagging column after each selfcal cycle, only relevant if --doflagging=True. --remove-flagged-from-startend Remove flagged time slots at the start and end of an observations. Do not use if you want to combine DD solutions later for widefield imaging. --flagslowamprms FLAGSLOWAMPRMS RMS outlier value to flag on slow amplitudes. The default is 7.0. --flagslowphaserms FLAGSLOWPHASERMS RMS outlier value to flag on slow phases. The default 7.0. --doflagslowphases DOFLAGSLOWPHASES If solution flagging is done also flag outliers phases in the slow phase solutions. The default is True. --useaoflagger Run AOflagger on input data. --useaoflaggerbeforeavg USEAOFLAGGERBEFOREAVG Flag with AOflagger before (True) or after averaging (False). The default is True. --normamps NORMAMPS Normalize global amplitudes to 1.0. The default is True (False if fulljones is used). --normampsskymodel NORMAMPSSKYMODEL Normalize global amplitudes to 1.0 when solving against an external skymodel. The default is False (turned off if fulljones is used). --resetweights If you want to ignore weight_spectrum_solve. --start START Start selfcal cycle at this iteration number. The default is 0. Stop selfcal cycle at this iteration number. The --stop STOP default is 10. --stopafterskysolve Stop calibration after solving against external skvmodel. --noarchive Do not archive the data. --skipbackup Leave the original MS intact and work and always work on a DP3 copied dataset. --helperscriptspath HELPERSCRIPTSPATH Path to file location pulled from https://github.com/rvweeren/lofar_facet_selfcal. --helperscriptspathh5merge HELPERSCRIPTSPATHH5MERGE Path to file location pulled from https://github.com/jurjen93/lofar_helpers. Trigger fully automated processing (HBA only for now). --auto --delaycal Trigger settings suitable for ILT delay calibration, HBA-ILT only - still under construction. --targetcalILT TARGETCALILT Type of automated target calibration for HBA international baseline data when --auto is used. Options are: 'tec', 'tecandphase', 'scalarphase'. The default is 'tec'. --makeimage-ILTlowres-HBA Make 1.2 arcsec tapered image as quality check of ILT 1 arcsec imaging. Under development, make Stokes IQUV version for --makeimage-fullpol quality checking. --blsmooth_chunking_size BLSMOOTH_CHUNKING_SIZE Chunking size for blsmooth. Larger values are slower but save on memory, lower values are faster. The default is 8. --tecfactorsolint TECFACTORSOLINT Experts only. --gainfactorsolint GAINFACTORSOLINT Experts only. --phasefactorsolint PHASEFACTORSOLINT Experts only.

Roland Timmerman 3C338: 120-168 MHz — 0.3" resolution

- *facetselfcal*: enables high-quality LOFAR imaging (HBA, LBA, long baselies, MeerKAT)
- facetselfcal: tackle calibration challenges and develop new ideas



facetselfcal: van Weeren+ (2021)

