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GALFACTS - dealing with large data volumes

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The Galactic ALFA Continuum Survey (GALFACTS) is a large-area spectro-polarimetric survey on the Arecibo Radio telescope.
It uses the seven-beam focal plane feed array receiver system (ALFA) to carry out an imaging survey project of the 12,700 square degrees of sky visible from Arecibo centred at 1.4 GHz.
The raw data produced by the spectrometer creates 56 digital data streams (seven beams, four polarization states and two frequency bands) each with 4096 spectral channels sampled at 1 millisecond.
This produced terabyte sized data sets, the data processing pipeline raises considerable challenges.
Here we discuss some of the aspects of the computation and calibration of such a dataset.

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