



NVIDIA DATA LOADING LIBRARY (DALI)

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Release Notes



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Chapter 1.

DALI OVERVIEW

NVIDIA® Data Loading Library™ (DALI) is a data loading library that accelerates the preprocessing of input data for deep learning applications. By offloading augmentations onto GPUs, DALI addresses performance bottlenecks in today's computer vision deep learning applications that include complex, multi-stage data augmentation steps. With DALI 0.1 beta release, deep learning researchers can scale training performance on image classification models such as ResNet-50 with MXNet, TensorFlow, and PyTorch across Amazon Web Services P3 8 GPU instances or DGX-1 systems with Volta architecture. Framework developers will have less duplication due to better code reuse and maintainability.

DALI offers both performance and flexibility of accelerating different data pipelines (graphs that can have multiple outputs and inputs), as a single library, that can be easily integrated into different deep learning training and inference applications.

Chapter 2.

DALI RELEASE 0.1.2 BETA

This DALI 0.1.2 release is a beta release.

Key Features and Enhancements

This DALI release includes the following key features and enhancements.

- ▶ Fixed compatibility with TensorFlow 1.9.
- ▶ Updated to nvJPEG v0.1.2 to fix batched decoding when a batch contains both grayscale and color images.
- ▶ Added Tensorflow 1.7 support.
- ▶ Improved overlap support when using DALI with multi-GPU in MXNet and PyTorch.

Using DALI 0.1.2 Beta

Refer to the [DALI Quick Start Guide](#) and the [DALI Developer Guide](#) for usage details.

The 18.07 NGC optimized container for MXNet, PyTorch, and TensorFlow, includes DALI 0.1.1 beta. To upgrade to DALI 0.1.2 beta, follow the installation instructions in the [DALI Quick Start Guide](#).

Known Issues

- ▶ This is a beta release, therefore, not all functionality is fully supported and working. This beta release is meant for testing and research.

Chapter 3.

DALI RELEASE 0.1.1 BETA

This is the first release of DALI. This DALI 0.1.1 release is a beta release.

Key Features and Enhancements

This DALI release includes the following key features and enhancements.

Performance

On dense GPU systems, deep learning applications can be significantly bottlenecked on the CPU, limiting the overall performance and scalability of training and inference tasks. DALI enables offloading key deep learning augmentation steps on to GPUs, alleviating CPU bottleneck on the deep learning preprocessing pipelines. This results in out-of-box performance of overall training workflow and efficient utilization of multi-GPU resources on the system.

Drop-in Integration

DALI comes with built-in plugins for key frameworks such as MXNet, TensorFlow, and PyTorch. This enables automatic integration with frameworks so that researchers and developers can get up and running with DALI easily and quickly.

Flexibility

DALI supports multiple input data formats that are commonly used in computer vision deep learning applications, for example, JPEG images, raw formats, Lightning Memory-Mapped Database (LMDB), RecordIO and TFRecord. The flexibility of input data formats allows portability of training workflows across different frameworks and models, and helps to avoid intermediate data conversion steps. DALI enables better code reuse and maintainability with optimized building blocks and support for different data formats.

Using DALI 0.1.1 Beta

Ensure you are familiar with the following notes when using this release.

- ▶ To install DALI, see the [DALI Quick Start Guide](#).



If you are using the 18.07 NGC optimized container for MXNet, PyTorch, or TensorFlow, you do not need to reinstall DALI. DALI now comes included in the container. Instead, start with the [Getting Started Tutorial](#).

- ▶ To interact with the code via GitHub, see the [Getting Started Tutorial](#).
- ▶ To learn how to define, build, and run a DALI pipeline, see the [DALI Developer Guide](#).

Known Issues

- ▶ This is a beta release, therefore, not all functionality is fully supported and working. This beta release is meant for testing and research.

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