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Chapter 1. OVERVIEW

Deep learning applications require complex, multi-stage pre-processing data pipelines. Such data pipelines involve compute-intensive operations that are carried out on the CPU. For example, tasks such as: load data from disk, decode, crop, random resize, color and spatial augmentations and format conversions, are mainly carried out on the CPUs, limiting the performance and scalability of training and inference.

In addition, the deep learning frameworks have multiple data pre-processing implementations, resulting in challenges such as portability of training and inference workflows, and code maintainability.

NVIDIA Data Loading Library (DALI) is a collection of highly optimized building blocks, and an execution engine, to accelerate the pre-processing of the input data for deep learning applications. DALI provides both the performance and the flexibility of accelerating different data pipelines as a single library. This single library can then be easily integrated into different deep learning training and inference applications.

Highlights of DALI are:

- ► Full data pipeline—accelerated from reading disk to getting ready for training/inference.
- Flexibility through configurable graphs and custom operators.
- Support for image classification and segmentation workloads.
- Ease of integration through direct framework plugins and open source bindings.
- ▶ Portable training workflows with multiple input formats JPEG, PNG (fallback to CPU), TIFF (fallback to CPU), BMP (fallback to CPU), raw formats, LMDB, RecordIO, TFRecord.
- Extensible for user specific needs through open source license.

Chapter 2. DALI AND NGC

DALI is pre-installed in the NVIDIA GPU Cloud TensorFlow, PyTorch, and MXNet containers in version 18.07 and later.

Chapter 3. INSTALLING DALI

DALI can be installed either directly using a pre-built binary or by compiling the sources from GitHub.

3.1. Installing Prebuilt DALI Packages

3.1.1. Prerequisites

Ensure you meet the following minimum requirements:

- Linux x64
- ▶ NVIDIA Driver (384.xx or later driver releases) supporting CUDA 9.0 or later
- One or more of the following deep learning frameworks:
 - MXNet 1.3 or later
 - ▶ Version 1.3 from the Python package with the following command:

```
pip install mxnet-cu90==1.3.0
```

- ► PyTorch 0.4
- ► TensorFlow 1.7 or later.

3.1.2. Binary Installation

► To install the CUDA 9.0-based DALI build using pip, execute:

```
$ pip install --extra-index-url https://developer.download.nvidia.com/
compute/redist/cuda/9.0 nvidia-dali
```

To install the CUDA 10-based DALI build using pip, execute:

```
$ pip install --extra-index-url https://developer.download.nvidia.com/
compute/redist/cuda/10.0 nvidia-dali
```



The nvidia-dali package contains prebuilt versions of the DALI TensorFlow plugin for several versions of TensorFlow. Starting DALI 0.6.1 you can also install DALI

TensorFlow plugin for the currently installed version of TensorFlow, thus allowing forward compatibility.

► To install the DALI TensorFlow plugin for the CUDA 9.0-based DALI build, execute:

pip install --extra-index-url https://developer.download.nvidia.com/compute/ redist/cuda/9.0 nvidia-dali-tf-plugin

▶ To install the DALI TensorFlow plugin for the CUDA 10-based DALI build, execute:

pip install --extra-index-url https://developer.download.nvidia.com/compute/ redist/cuda/10.0 nvidia-dali-tf-plugin



Installing the nvidia-dali-tf-plugin package will install nvidia-dali and its dependencies if these dependencies are not already installed.



The package tensorflow-gpu must be installed before attempting to install nvidia-dali-tf-plugin.



The package nvidia-dali-tf-plugin strictly requires that nvidia-dali be of the exact corresponding version. Thus, installing the latest version of nvidia-dali-tf-plugin will replace any older nvidia-dali versions that are already installed, with the latest version of nvidia-dali. To work with older versions of DALI, provide the version explicitly to the pip install command, as below:

OLDER_VERSION=0.6.1 pip install --extra-index-url https://developer.download.nvidia.com/compute/redist nvidia-dali-tf-plugin==\$OLDER_VERSION

3.2. Compiling DALI From Source (Bare metal)

3.2.1. Prerequisites

Ensure that you meet the below minimum requirements:

- Linux x64.
- ► GCC 4.9.2 or later.
- NVIDIA CUDA 9.0 (CUDA 8.0 compatibility is provided $unofficially^1$).
- ▶ nvJPEG library (This can be *unofficially* disabled 1).
- ▶ protobuf version 2 or later (version 3 or later is required for TensorFlow TFRecord file format support).
- CMake 3.5 or later.
- ► <u>FFmpeg 3.4.2</u> recommend using version 3.4.2 compiled with the instructions provided in this document.
- ▶ libjpeg-turbo 1.5.x or later (This can be *unofficially* disabled¹).

¹ Items marked *unofficial* are community contributions that are believed to work but not officially tested or maintained by NVIDIA.

- ► OpenCV 3 or later (OpenCV 2.x compatibility is provided *unofficially*¹).
- ▶ liblmdb 0.9.x or later.
- One or more of the following deep learning frameworks:
 - MXNet 1.3 or later
 - Version 1.3 from the Python package with the following command:

```
pip install mxnet-cu90==1.3.0
```

- ▶ PyTorch 0.4
- TensorFlow 1.7 or later.

3.2.2. GitHub Installation

1. Download the DALI source package from GitHub.

```
git clone --recursive https://github.com/NVIDIA/dali
cd dali
```

2. Create the build directory.

```
mkdir build cd build
```

- **3.** Compile DALI.
 - a) To build DALI without LMDB support, issue the following command:

```
cmake ..
make -j"$(nproc)"
```

b) To build DALI with LMDB support, issue the following command:

```
cmake -DBUILD_LMDB=ON ..
make -j"$(nproc)"
```

c) To build DALI using Clang, issue the following command:



Caution This build is experimental, meaning it is not maintained and tested like the default configuration, therefore, it's not guaranteed to work. We recommend using GCC for production builds.

```
cmake -DCMAKE_CXX_COMPILER=clang++ -DCMAKE_C_COMPILER=clang ..
make -j"$(nproc)"
```

3.2.2.1. CMake Build Parameters

You can use the following optional CMake build parameters when configuring DALI: **BUILD PYTHON**

Use this parameter to build Python bindings. The default is **on**.

BUILD TEST

Use this parameter to include building the test suite. The default is **on**.

BUILD BENCHMARK

Use this parameter to include building benchmarks. The default is **on**.

BUILD LMDB

Use this parameter to build with support for LMDB. The default is **OFF**.

BUILD NVTX

Use this parameter to build with NVTX profiling enabled. The default is **OFF**.

BUILD TENSORFLOW

Use this parameter to build the TensorFlow plugin. The default is **OFF**.

WERROR

Treats all build warnings as errors. The default is **OFF**.

BUILD JPEG TURBO(unofficial)

Use this parameter to build with libjpeg-turbo. The default is **on**.²

BUILD NVJPEG (unofficial)

Use this parameter to build with nvJPEG. The default is **on**.³

3.2.3. Installing Python Bindings

Issue the pip install dali/python command to install Python bindings.

3.3. Compiling DALI from Source (Docker)

- 1. Ensure you installed the below prerequisites:
 - ▶ Linux x64
 - ▶ Docker. Follow the Docker installation guide here.
- 2. Building Docker Image.

Change directory (cd) into Docker directory and run ./build.sh. If needed, set the following environment variables:

- PYVER Python version. Default is 2.7.
- ► CUDA_VERSION CUDA toolkit version. Default is **10**.
- ▶ NVIDIA_BUILD_ID Custom ID of the build. Default is **1234**.
- CREATE_RUNNER Create Docker image with cuDNN, CUDA and DALI installed inside. It will create the Docker_run_cuda image, which needs to be run using nvidia-docker and DALI wheel in the wheelhouse directory under DALI/`. Default is NO.
- ► CREATE_WHL Create a wheel also. Default is **YES**.

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² Items marked *unofficial* are community contributions that are believed to work but not officially tested or maintained by NIVIDIA

³ Items marked *unofficial* are community contributions that are believed to work but not officially tested or maintained by NVIDIA.

Chapter 4. EXECUTING RESNET-50 INPUT PIPELINE

After you've installed DALI, you can run a pre-configured, ResNet-50 model accelerated by DALI, on MXNet, PyTorch, and TensorFlow frameworks for image classification training. Each of the following samples offload image loading and augmentation operations onto GPUs.

You can use Python toolchain from the command shell or Jupyter notebook to start the ResNet-50 training session.

The DALI integrated ResNet-50 Python samples are located:

- MXNet
- PyTorch
- ▶ TensorFlow

Chapter 5. FFMPEG

This software uses code of FFmpeg licensed under the LGPLv2.1 and its source can be downloaded here.

FFmpeg was compiled using the following command line:

```
./configure \
   --prefix=/usr/local \
   --disable-static \
   --disable-all \
   --disable-iconv \
   --enable-shared \
   --enable-avformat \
   --enable-avcodec \
   --enable-avfilter \
   --enable-protocol=file \
   --enable-demuxer=mov, matroska \
   --enable-bsf=h264_mp4toannexb, hevc_mp4toannexb
./make
```

Chapter 6. UNINSTALLING DALI

Uninstall DALI.

pip uninstall -y nvidia-dali

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