



# NVIDIA Jetson AGX Orin

A Giant Leap Forward for Robotics and Edge AI Applications

## Technical Brief

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# Introduction

Today's Autonomous Machines and Edge Computing systems are defined by the growing needs of AI software. Fixed function devices running simple convolutional neural networks for inferencing tasks like object detection and classification are not able to keep up with new networks that appear every day: transformers are important for natural language processing for service robots; reinforcement learning is needed for manufacturing robots that might need to operate alongside humans; and autoencoders, long short-term memory (LSTM), and generative adversarial networks (GAN) are needed for various applications.

The NVIDIA® Jetson™ platform is the ideal solution to solve the needs of these complex AI systems at the edge. The platform includes Jetson modules, which are small form-factor, high-performance computers, the JetPack SDK for end-to-end AI pipeline acceleration, and an ecosystem with sensors, SDKs, services, and products to speed up development. Jetson is powered by the same AI software and cloud-native workflows used across other NVIDIA platforms and delivers the performance and power-efficiency customers need to build software-defined intelligent machines at the edge. For advanced robotics and other autonomous machines in the fields of manufacturing, logistics, retail, service, agriculture, smart city, and healthcare the Jetson platform is the ideal solution.

The newest member of Jetson Family, Jetson AGX Orin, provides a giant leap forward for Robotics and Edge AI. With Jetson AGX Orin, customers can now deploy large and complex models to solve problems such as natural language understanding, 3D perception and multi-sensor fusion. In this technical brief we identify details on the new architecture of the Jetson AGX Orin and steps customers can take to leverage the full capabilities of the Jetson platform.

# Jetson AGX Orin Hardware Architecture

NVIDIA® Jetson AGX Orin™ is the most powerful AI edge computer, delivering up to 200 TOPS of AI performance for powering autonomous systems. This power-efficient system-on-module is form-factor and pin-compatible with Jetson AGX Xavier™ and offers up to 6x AI performance. This system-on-module (SOM) features the NVIDIA Orin SoC with a NVIDIA Ampere architecture GPU, Arm® Cortex®-A78AE CPU, next-generation deep learning and vision accelerators, and a video encoder and a video decoder. High speed IO, 204 GB/s of memory bandwidth, and 32 GB of DRAM enable the module to feed multiple concurrent AI application pipelines. With the SOM design, NVIDIA has done the heavy lifting of designing around the chip and providing not only the compute and I/O but also the power and memory design. For more details, reference our [Jetson AGX Orin Data Sheet](#).<sup>1</sup>

Figure: 1 Jetson AGX Orin delivers 6x the AI performance of Jetson AGX Xavier

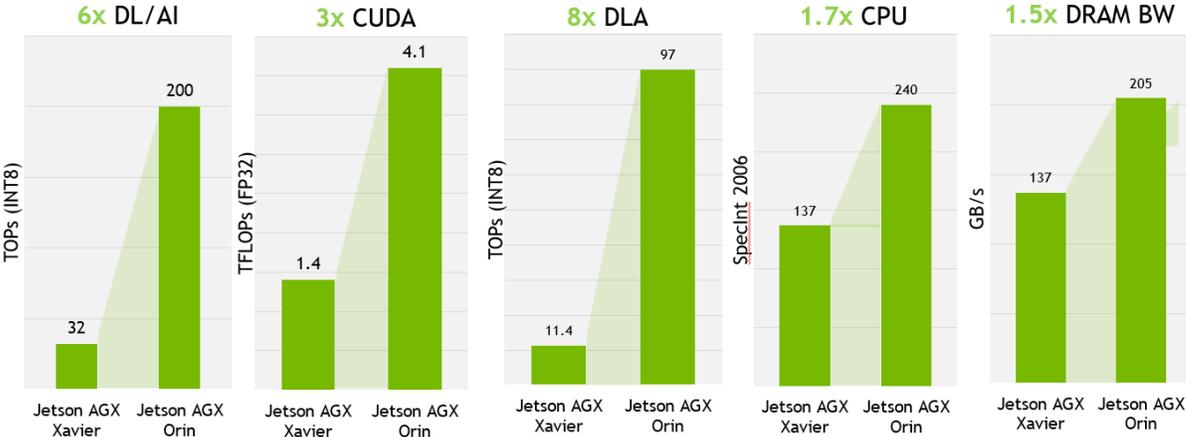


Figure 2: Orin System-on-Chip (SoC) Block Diagram

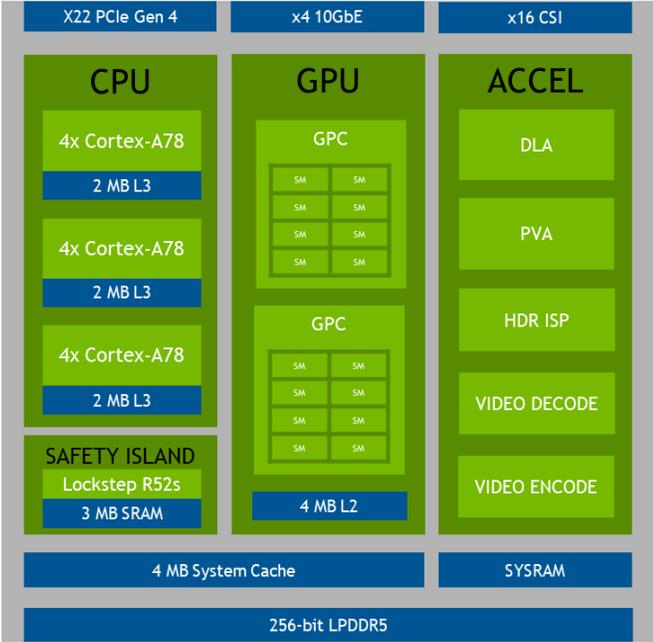
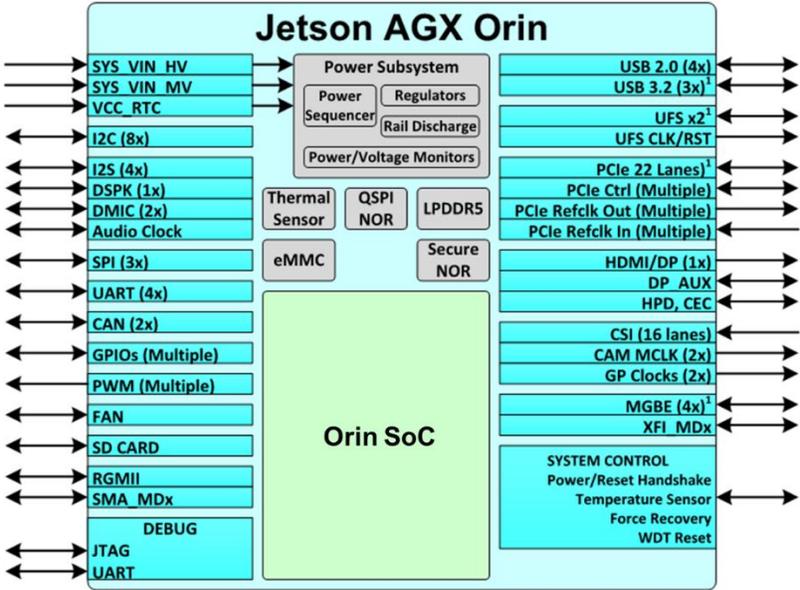


Figure 3: Jetson AGX Orin System-On-Module



\*1: One USB 3.2 port, UFS, and MGBE shares UPHY lanes with PCIe

**Table 1: Jetson AGX Orin Technical Specifications**

<b>AI Performance</b>	200 TOPS (INT8)
<b>GPU</b>	NVIDIA Ampere architecture with 2048 NVIDIA CUDA® cores and 64 Tensor Cores
<b>Max GPU Freq</b>	1 GHz
<b>CPU</b>	12-core Arm® Cortex®-A78AE v8.2 64-bit CPU 3MB L2 + 6MB L3
<b>CPU Max Freq</b>	2 GHz
<b>DL Accelerator</b>	2x NVDLA v2.0
<b>Vision Accelerator</b>	PVA v2.0
<b>Memory</b>	32GB 256-bit LPDDR5 204.8 GB/s
<b>Storage</b>	64GB eMMC 5.1
<b>CSI Camera</b>	Up to 6 cameras (16 via virtual channels*) 16 lanes MIPI CSI-2 D-PHY 1.2 (up to 40Gbps)   C-PHY 1.1 (up to 164Gbps)
<b>Video Encode</b>	2x 4K60   4x 4K30   8x 1080p60   16x 1080p30 (H.265)
<b>Video Decode</b>	1x 8K30   3x 4K60   6x 4K30   12x 1080p60   24x 1080p30 (H.265)
<b>UPHY</b>	2 x8 (or 1x8 + 2x4), 1 x4, 2 x1 (PCIe Gen4, Root Port & Endpoint) 3x USB 3.2 Single-lane UFS
<b>Networking</b>	1x GbE 4x 10GbE
<b>Display</b>	1x 8K60 multi-mode DP 1.4a (+MST)/eDP 1.4a/HDMI 2.1
<b>Other I/O</b>	4x USB 2.0 4x UART, 3x SPI, 4x I2S, 8x I2C, 2x CAN, DMIC & DSPK, GPIOs
<b>Power</b>	15W   30W   50W
<b>Mechanical</b>	100mm x 87mm 699-pin Molex Mirror Mezz Connector Integrated Thermal Transfer Plate

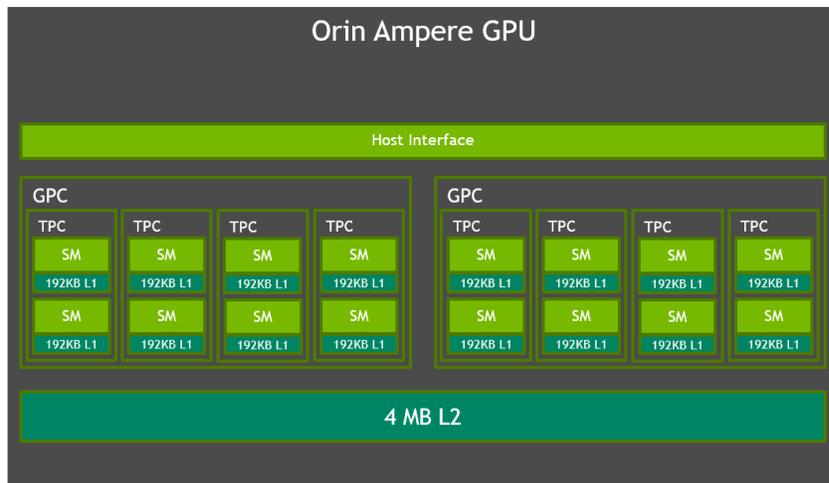
\*Virtual Channel related camera information for Jetson AGX Orin is not final and subject to change.

\*\* Refer to the Software Features section of the latest NVIDIA Jetson Linux Developer Guide for a list of supported features

# GPU

Jetson AGX Orin contains an integrated Ampere GPU composed of 2 Graphic Processing Clusters (GPCs), 8 Texture Processing Clusters (TPCs), 16 Streaming Multiprocessors (SM's), 192 KB of L1-cache per SM, and 4 MB of L2 Cache. There are 128 CUDA cores per SM for Ampere compared to the 64 CUDA cores for Volta, and four 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Tensor Cores per SM. The Orin Ampere GPU provides a total of 2048 CUDA cores and 64 Tensor cores with up to 131 Sparse TOPs of INT8 Tensor compute, and up to 4.096 FP32 TFLOPs of CUDA compute. We have enhanced the tensor cores with a big leap in performance compared to the previous generation. With the Ampere GPU, we bring support for sparsity. Sparsity is a fine-grained compute structure that doubles throughput and reduces memory usage.

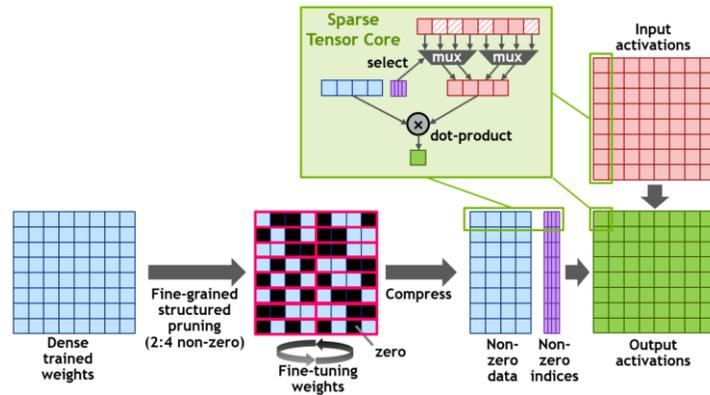
Figure 4: Orin Ampere GPU Block Diagram



## 3rd Generation Tensor Cores and Sparsity

NVIDIA Tensor Cores provide the performance necessary to accelerate next generation AI applications. Tensor Cores are programmable fused matrix-multiply-and-accumulate units that execute concurrently alongside the CUDA cores. Tensor Cores implement floating point HMMA (Half-Precision Matrix Multiply and Accumulate) and IMMA (Integer Matrix Multiple and Accumulate) instructions for accelerating dense linear algebra computations, signal processing, and deep learning inference.<sup>2</sup> With Ampere, we bring support for the third-generation Tensor Cores, which enable support for 16x HMMA, 32x IMMA, and a new sparsity feature.<sup>3</sup> With the sparsity feature customers can take advantage of the fine-grained structured sparsity in deep learning networks to double the throughput of the Tensor Core operations. Sparsity is constrained to 2 out of every 4 weights being nonzero. It enables the tensor core to skip zero values, doubles the throughput, and reduces the memory storage significantly. Networks can be trained first on dense weights, and then pruned, and later fine-tuned on sparse weights.

Figure 5: Ampere GPU 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Tensor Core Sparsity



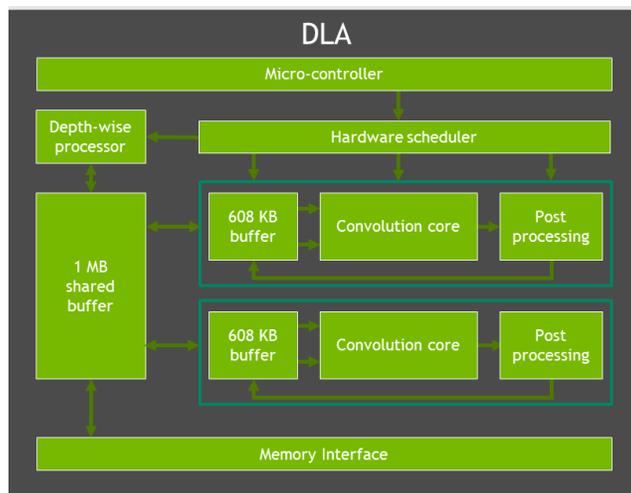
## Get the most out of the Ampere GPU using NVIDIA’s Software Libraries

Customers can accelerate their inferencing on the GPU using NVIDIA TensorRT and cuDNN. NVIDIA TensorRT is a runtime library and optimizer for deep learning inference that delivers lower latency and higher throughput across NVIDIA GPU products. TensorRT enables customers to parse a trained model and maximize the throughput by quantizing models to INT8, optimizing use of the GPU memory and bandwidth by fusing nodes in a kernel, and selecting the best data layers and algorithms based on the target GPU. cuDNN (CUDA Deep Neural Network Library) is a GPU-accelerated library of primitives for deep neural networks. It provides the highly tuned implementations of routines commonly found in DNN applications like convolution forward and backward, cross-correlation, pooling forward and backward, softmax forward and backward, tensor transformation functions, and more. With the Ampere GPU and NVIDIA software stack, customers able to handle new, complex neural networks that are being invented every day.

## DLA

The deep learning accelerator, or DLA, is a fixed-function accelerator optimized for deep learning operations. It is designed to do full hardware acceleration of convolutional neural network inferencing. The Orin SoC brings support for the next generation DLA, NVDLA 2.0. This provides 8x the performance of NVDLA 1.0. NVDLA 1.0 enables up to 11.4 INT8 Dense TOPS on Jetson AGX Xavier, while NVDLA 2.0 enables up to 97 INT8 Sparse TOPS on Jetson AGX Orin. The new architecture provides a highly energy efficient design. With the new architecture, NVIDIA increased local buffering to increase efficiency even more and reduce the DRAM bandwidth. NVDLA 2.0 brings a set of new features to optimize designs including structured sparsity, depth wise convolution, and a hardware scheduler.

Figure 6: Orin Deep Learning Accelerator (DLA) Block Diagram

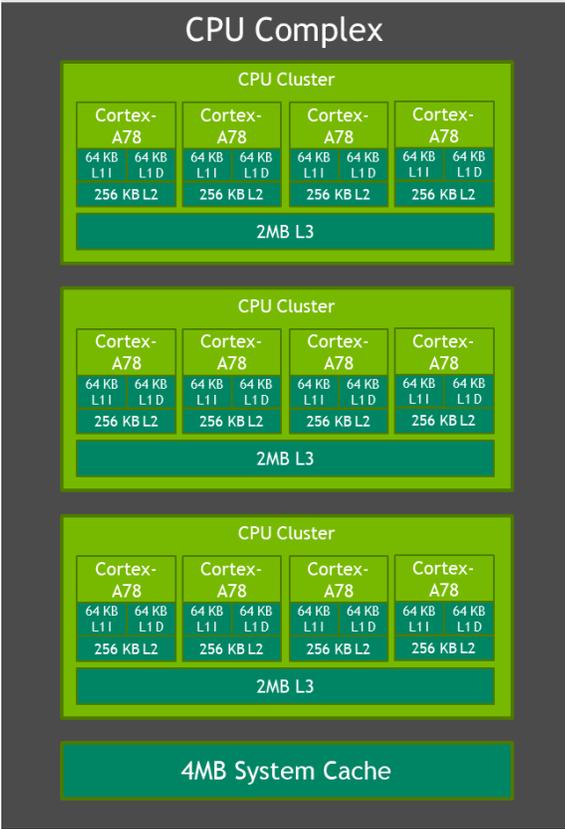


Customers can use TensorRT to accelerate their models on the DLAs just as they do on the GPU. NVDLA is designed for deep learning use cases to offload inferencing from the GPU. These engines free up the GPU to run more complex networks and dynamic tasks. DLA supports various layers such as convolution, deconvolution, fully connected, activation, pooling, batch normalization, and more. More information on the DLA support in TensorRT can be found here: [Working With DLA<sup>4</sup>](#). DLA currently supports networks running in either INT8 or FP16. The DLA enables support for a diversity of models and algorithms to achieve 3D construction, path planning, and semantic understanding. Depending on what type of compute is needed, both the DLA and the GPU can be used to do full application acceleration.

# CPU

The biggest change in the CPU in Jetson AGX Orin is we moved from the NVIDIA Carmel CPU clusters to the Arm Cortex-A78AE. The Orin CPU complex is made up of 12 CPU Cores. Each core consists of 64KB Instruction L1 Cache and 64KB Data Cache, and 256 KB of L2 Cache. Like Jetson AGX Xavier, each cluster consists of 2MB L3 Cache. The max frequency supported on the CPU is 2 GHz.

Figure 7: Orin CPU Block Diagram

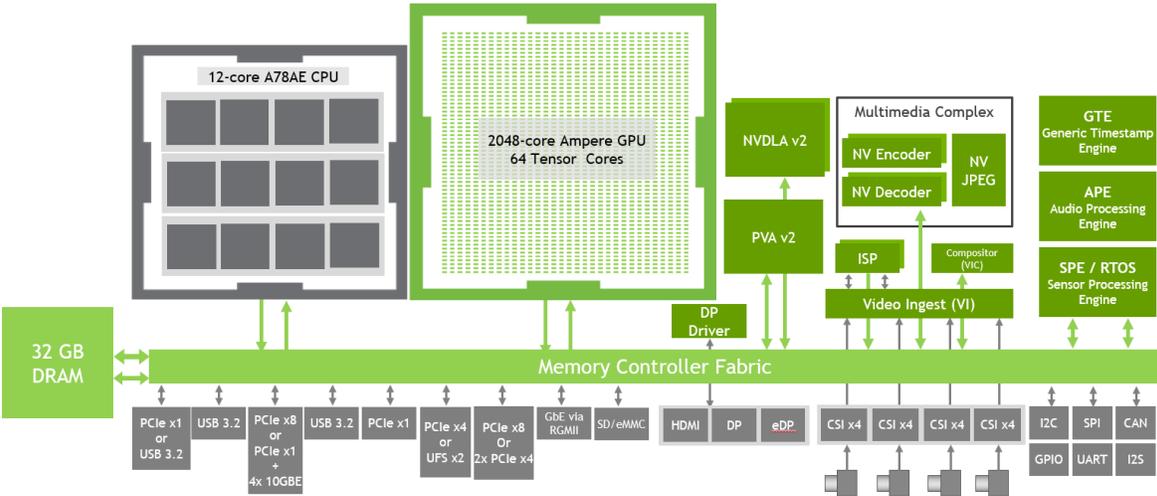


The 12-core CPU on Jetson AGX Orin enables 1.7x the performance compared to the 8-core NVIDIA Carmel CPU on Jetson AGX Xavier. Customers can use the enhanced capabilities of the Cortex-A78AE including the higher performance and enhanced cache to optimize their CPU implementations.

# Memory & Storage

Jetson AGX Orin brings support for 1.4x the memory bandwidth and 2x the storage of the Jetson AGX Xavier, enabling 32 GB of 256-bit LPDDR5 and 64 GB of eMMC. The DRAM supports a max clock speed of 3200 MHz, with 6400 Gbps per pin, enabling 204.8 GB/s of memory bandwidth. Figure 8 highlights how each of the various components interact with the Memory Controller Fabric and the DRAM.

Figure 8: Jetson AGX Orin Functional Block Diagram



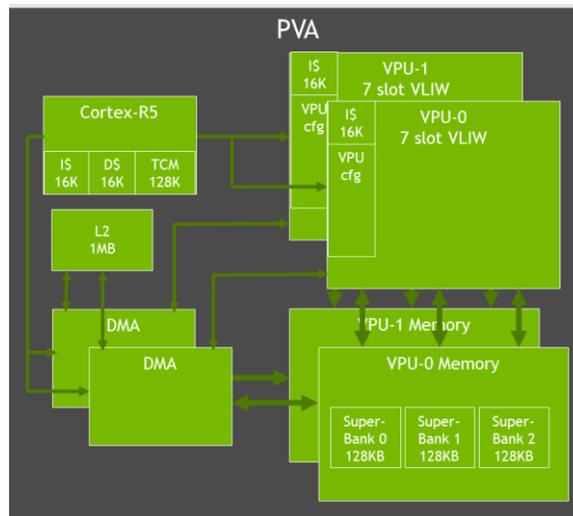
## Video Codecs

Jetson AGX Orin contains a Multi-Standard Video Encoder (NVENC), a Multi-Standard Video Decoder (NVDEC), and a JPEG processing block (NVJPEG). NVENC enables full hardware acceleration for various encoding standards including H.265, H.264, and AV1. NVDEC enables full hardware acceleration for various decoding standards including H.265, H.264, AV1, VP9. NVJPEG is responsible for JPEG (de)compression calculations (based on the JPEG still image standard), image scaling, decoding (YUV420, YUV422H/V, YUV444, YUV400) and color space conversion (RGB to YUV). Please reference the [Jetson AGX Orin Data Sheet](#)<sup>5</sup> for a full list of standards. Customers can leverage NVIDIA Jetson's Multimedia API to power these engines. The [Multimedia API](#)<sup>6</sup> is a collection of low-level APIs that supports flexible application development across these engines.

## PVA & VIC

Jetson AGX Orin brings support for our next generation Vision Accelerator Engine, PVA v2. The PVA engine includes dual 7-way VLIW (Very Long Instruction Word) vector processing units, dual DMA engines, and a Cortex-R5 subsystem. The PVA enables support for various computer vision kernels such as filtering, warping, image pyramid, feature detection, and FFT. Some common computer vision applications using the PVA include feature detector, feature tracker, object tracker, stereo disparity, and visual perception.

Figure 9: Orin PVA Block Diagram

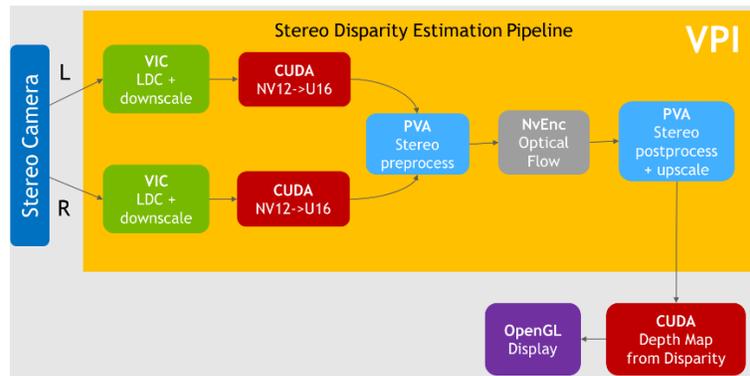


The Orin SoC also contains a Gen 4.2 Video Imaging Compositor (VIC) 2D Engine. The VIC enables support for various image processing features like lens distortion correction and enhanced temporal noise reductions, video features like sharpness enhancement, and general pixel processing features like color space conversion, scaling, blend, and composition.

Vision Programming Interface (VPI) is a software library, which implements computer vision and image processing algorithms on several computing hardware platforms available in NVIDIA Jetson including PVA, VIC, CPU, and GPU. Because of VPI algorithm support on the PVA and the VIC, one can offload computer vision and image processing tasks to them and use the CPU and the GPU for other tasks.

As an example, a complete Stereo Disparity Estimation pipeline using VPI can efficiently use several backends including the VIC, PVA, and NVENC. The pipeline receives the input from a stereo camera, which are left and right images of a stereo pair. The VIC works on this input to correct lens distortion and scale the image down, resulting in a rectified stereo pair. Then images get converted from color to grayscale using the GPU, with the results fed into a sequence of operations using PVA and NVENC as backends. The output is an estimate of the disparity between the input images, which is related to the scene depth.

Figure 10: Stereo Disparity Estimation Pipeline



VPI comes with several algorithms ranging from image processing building blocks like box Filtering, Convolution, Image Rescaling and Remap, to more complex computer vision algorithms like Harris Corners Detection, KLT Feature Tracker, Optical Flow, Background Subtraction, and more. Please check out the VPI Webinars [here](#)<sup>7</sup> to learn more about using VPI to accelerate computer vision applications.

# I/O

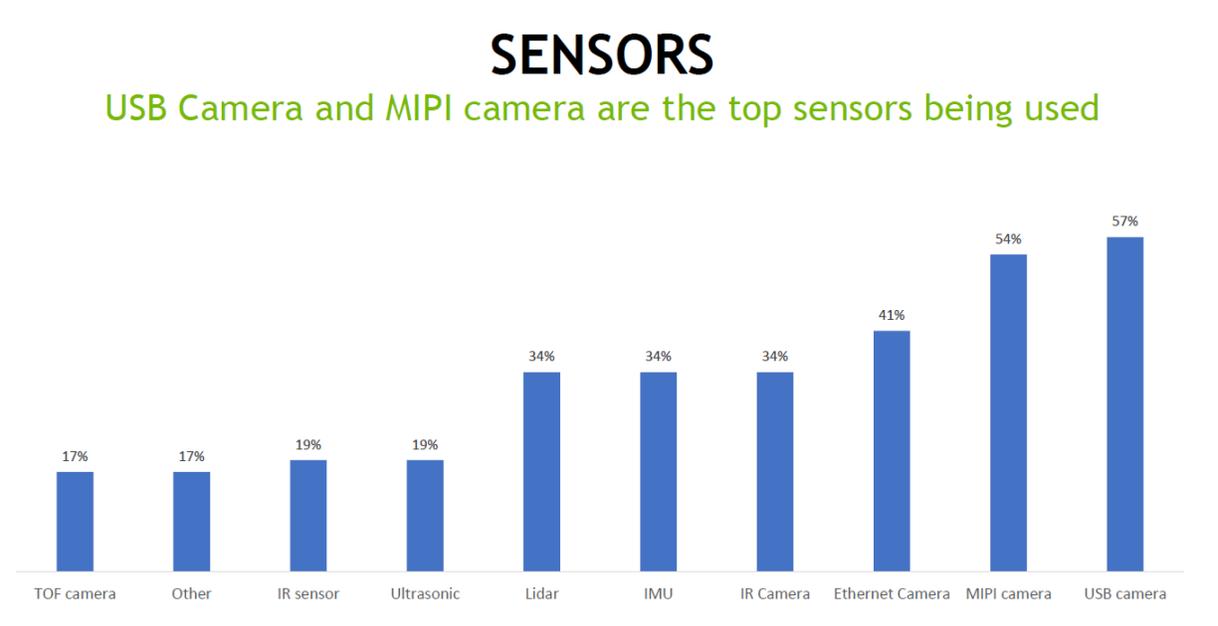
Jetson AGX Orin contains plenty of high speed I/O including 22 lanes of PCIe Gen4, Gigabit Ethernet, 4 XFI interfaces for 10 Gigabit Ethernet, a Display Port, 16 lanes of MIPI CSI-2, USB3.2 interfaces as well as various other I/O like I<sup>2</sup>C, I<sup>2</sup>S, SPI, CAN, GPIO, USB 2.0, DMIC and DSPK. Customers can leverage the UPHY lanes for USB 3.2, UFS, PCIe, and MGBE, and some of the UPHY lanes are shared between these interfaces. All 22 lanes of PCIe support root port mode, and some support endpoint mode as well. Jetson is used across a variety of applications with various I/O requirements. For example, Autonomous Ground Vehicles could leverage the CSI cameras for a surround view around the robot, I2S for voice commands, HDMI for display, PCIe for Wifi, GPIO & I<sup>2</sup>C and more. A video analytics application like traffic management at an intersection might require many GigE Cameras and Ethernet for networking purposes. As autonomous machines continue to perform more advanced tasks, more I/O is needed to interface more sensors.

**Table 2: Jetson AGX Orin I/O**

<b>CSI Camera</b>	Up to 6 cameras (16 via virtual channels*) 16 lanes MIPI CSI-2 D-PHY 1.2 (up to 40Gbps)   C-PHY 1.1 (up to 164Gbps)
<b>Video Encode</b>	2x 4K60   4x 4K30   8x 1080p60   16x 1080p30 (H.265)
<b>Video Decode</b>	1x 8K30   3x 4K60   6x 4K30   12x 1080p60   24x 1080p30 (H.265)
<b>UPHY</b>	2 x8 (or 1x8 + 2x4), 1 x4, 2 x1 (PCIe Gen4, Root Port & Endpoint) 3x USB 3.2 Single-lane UFS
<b>Networking</b>	1x GbE 4x 10GbE
<b>Display</b>	1x 8K60 multi-mode DP 1.4a (+MST)/eDP 1.4a/HDMI 2.1
<b>Other I/O</b>	4x USB 2.0 4x UART, 3x SPI, 4x I2S, 8x I2C, 2x CAN, DMIC & DSPK, GPIOs

In a survey NVIDIA conducted in March of 2021, when asked what sensors and sensor interfaces are being used in your projects, most customers responded that they used cameras via USB, MIPI, and Ethernet. Jetson AGX Orin not only enables all these interfaces, but also supports all the other sensors listed in the survey.

Figure 11: Jetson Customer and Developer Survey—Sensor Usage



## Power Profiles

Like other Jetson Modules, Jetson AGX Orin is designed with a high efficiency Power Management Integrated Circuit (PMIC), voltage regulators, and power tree to optimize power efficiency. Jetson AGX Orin supports three optimized power budgets: 15W, 30W, and 50W. Each power mode caps various component frequencies, and the number of online CPU, GPU TPC, DLA, and PVA cores. Customers can leverage the `nvpmodel` in Jetson Linux to use one of these pre-optimized power modes or to customize their own power mode within the design constraints provided in our documentation.

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# Jetson Software

The Jetson Platform includes all the necessary software to accelerate your development and get your product quickly to market. At the base of the software stack is the JetPack SDK. It includes the Board Support Package (BSP), with boot loader, Linux kernel, drivers, tool chains and a reference file system based on Ubuntu. The BSP also enables various security features such as secureboot, trusted execution environment, disk and memory encryption and so on. Over the BSP we have several user level libraries for accelerating various parts of your application. These include libraries for accelerating deep learning like CUDA, CuDNN, and Tensor RT; accelerated computing libraries like cuBLAS and cuFFT; accelerated computer vision and image processing libraries like VPI; and multimedia and camera libraries like libArgus and v4l2.

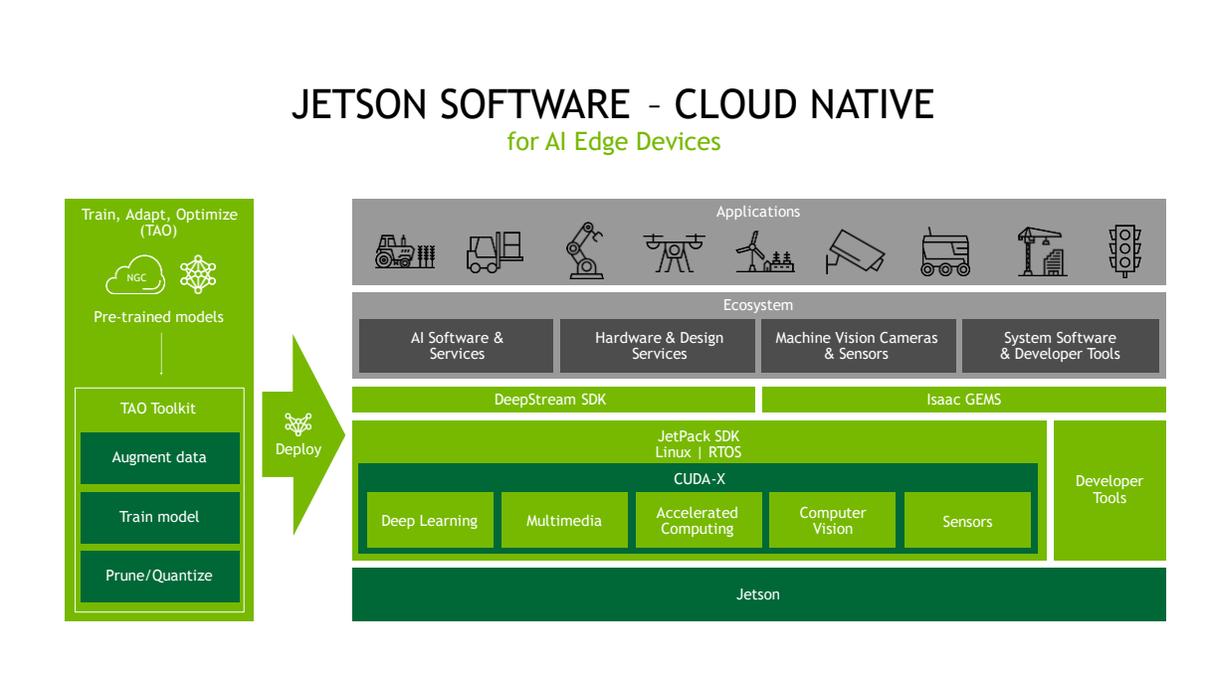
On top of JetPack there are higher level, use case specific SDKs including DeepStream for Intelligent Video Analytics applications, Isaac for Robotics applications, and Riva for Natural Language Processing applications. Surrounding this NVIDIA has a growing partner ecosystem that can provide customers with specialty products and services to accelerate development.

AI at the edge is growing, and the complexity of edge deployment is growing. We see various challenges arising from creating AI products. You need lots of data to train accurately, and you need your models to be optimized for inference. High Performance models from open-source options do not provide desirable results nor are optimized for highest inference throughput. There is also a need to support various frameworks, and a deep understanding of Deep Learning and Data Science. NVIDIA's TAO Toolkit and Pre-Trained Models (PTM) can help solve this challenge. NVIDIA pre-trained models provide customers with accurate models that have been pre-trained with millions of images to achieve state of the art accuracy out of the box. The pre-trained model library can be found [here](#)<sup>8</sup>, and includes various PTMs like people detection, vehicle detection, natural language processing, pose estimation, license plate detection, and face detection. TAO toolkit enables customers with the ability to easily train, fine-tune, and optimize these pretrained models with their own data set. Customers can then easily deploy these models in production using our various inference SDKs.

Edge computing has historically been characterized by systems that rarely get software updates. With new cloud technologies, you need to be able to periodically update the software on your deployed products, and have the flexibility to adopt, and easily scale and deploy across various environments. Jetson brings Cloud-Native to the edge and enables technologies like containers and container orchestration. NVIDIA JetPack includes NVIDIA Container Runtime with Docker integration, enabling GPU accelerated containerized applications on Jetson platform. Jetpack also brings support for NVIDIA Triton™ Inference Server to simplify the deployment of AI models at scale. Triton Inference Server is open source and provides a single standardized inference platform that can support multi framework model inferencing in different deployments such as datacenter, cloud and embedded devices. It supports different types of inference queries through advanced batching and scheduling

algorithms to maximize performance of your AI application and supports live model updates with zero inferring downtime.

Figure 12: Jetson Cloud Native Software Stack



Jetpack 5.0 provides the software to power the Jetson AGX Orin and future Jetson modules, as well as existing Jetson modules based on the NVIDIA Xavier SoC. Jetpack 5.0 includes L4T with Linux kernel 5.10 and a reference file system based on Ubuntu 20.04. Jetpack 5.0 enables a full compute stack update with CUDA 11.x and new versions of cuDNN and Tensor RT. It will include UEFI as a CPU bootloader and will also bring support for OP-TEE as a trusted execution environment. Finally, there will be an update to DLA support for NVDLA 2.0, as well as a VPI update to support the next generation PVA v2.

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# Jetson AGX Orin Developer Kit

The Jetson AGX Orin Developer Kit will contain everything needed for developers to get up and running quickly. The Jetson AGX Orin Developer Kit includes a Jetson AGX Orin module, a carrier board, a power supply, and Jetpack SDK. With up to 200 TOPS of AI performance and power configurable between 15 and 50 W, customers now have more than 6X the performance of Jetson AGX Xavier in the same compact form-factor for developing advanced robots and other autonomous machine products.

The Jetson AGX Orin module and developer kit are coming in Q1 2022. Table 3 highlights the Jetson AGX Orin Developer Kit key features.

Figure 13: Jetson AGX Orin Developer Kit



**Table 3: Jetson AGX Orin Developer Kit Technical Specifications**

<b>GPU</b>	<b>NVIDIA Ampere architecture with 2048 NVIDIA® CUDA® cores and 64 Tensor Cores</b>
<b>CPU</b>	<b>12-core Arm® Cortex®-A78AE v8.2 64-bit CPU 3MB L2 + 6MB L3</b>
<b>DL Accelerator</b>	<b>2x NVDLA v2.0</b>
<b>Vision Accelerator</b>	<b>PVA v2.0</b>
<b>Memory</b>	<b>32GB 256-bit LPDDR5 204.8 GB/s</b>
<b>Storage</b>	<b>64GB eMMC 5.1 microSD card slot M.2 Key M connector (for NVMe)</b>
<b>Video Encode</b>	<b>2x 4K60   4x 4K30   8x 1080p60   16x 1080p30 (H.265)</b>
<b>Video Decode</b>	<b>1x 8K30   2x 4K60   6x 4K30   12x 1080p60   24x 1080p30 (H.265)</b>
<b>Camera</b>	<b>MIPI CSI-2 camera connector</b>
<b>PCIe</b>	<b>Standard PCIe x16 connector with x8 PCIe Gen4</b>
<b>Networking</b>	<b>RJ45 connector (up to 10 GbE) Upper x8 of PCIe connector supports 3x 10 GbE M.2 Key E connector (WiFi/BT, PCIe x1, USB 2.0, UART, I2S &amp; I2C) M.2 WiFi/BT module included</b>
<b>Display</b>	<b>DisplayPort connector (DP++)</b>
<b>USB</b>	<b>2x USB Type C 2x USB 3.2 Type-A USB 2.0 Micro-B</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>40-pin header (I2S, SPI, UART, I2S, CAN, DMIC) 10-pin Audio Panel Header 10-pin JTAG Header 4-pin Fan Header</b>
<b>Power</b>	<b>DC power jack (for included power supply)</b>
<b>Mechanical</b>	<b>110mm x 110mm x 71.65mm</b>

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# Additional Reading

- 1) [Jetson AGX Orin Data Sheet](#)
- 2) [NVIDIA Jetson AGX Xavier Developer Blog](#)
- 3) [NVIDIA-ampere-GA102-GPU-Architecture-Whitepaper-V1.pdf](#)
- 4) [Working With DLA](#)
- 5) [Jetson AGX Orin Data Sheet](#)
- 6) [Jetson Linux Multimedia Linux API](#)
- 7) [VPI Webinar](#)
- 8) [TAO Toolkit | NVIDIA Developer](#)

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