

Does TPU use an optical module



Summary of Content

Yes, Google TPUs use optical modules as part of their inter-chip communication network, specifically through optical circuit switches (OCS) for high-speed, low-latency data transfer.

Optical Modules in TPU Architecture

In TPU pods, particularly TPUv4 and later generations, optical modules are used to connect TPU chips across cubes. Each TPU chip has multiple Inter-Chip Interconnect (ICI) links forming a 3D torus topology. While internal links within a cube rely on copper and PCB backplanes, the external links on the cube surfaces use optical connections that interface with OCS units for dynamic routing and large-scale scaling .

Role of Optical Circuit Switching

The optical circuit switches (OCS) act as a dynamic patch panel, creating direct optical paths between TPU chips. This design minimizes repeated optical-electrical-optical conversions, reducing latency and signal loss. For example, in a TPUv4 Pod, each cube has 96 optical links connected to OCS, and multiple OCS units are organized to handle traffic along the X, Y, and Z axes of the 3D torus . MEMS devices in the OCS physically redirect laser beams to establish these optical circuits .

Benefits of Optical Modules

Using optical modules in TPU pods provides several advantages:

- Low-latency communication: Signals remain in the optical domain for most inter-chip transfers, keeping latency under one microsecond .

Article Content

Unveiling Google's TPU Architecture: OCS Optical Circuit Switching ...

What makes Google's TPU clusters stand out in the AI supercomputing race? How has the combination of 3D Torus

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Google TPU V4 Architecture The Google TPU v4 architecture consists of several key components that work mutually to deliver

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In response to innovations in machine learning (ML) models, production workloads changed radically and rapidly. TPU

Google's Ironwood TPU and Apollo OCS to Drive 800G Optical

Google's new Ironwood TPU utilizes a 3D Torus network and Apollo optical circuit switch, addressing AI data center

What Are TPUs? Everything You Need to Know About Google's AI

Google's TPU business is ramping up. Here's everything you need to know about Google's AI chips, and what they

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Optical circuit switches (OCSes) dynamically reconfigure its interconnect topology to improve scale, availability,

Google's TPU v7: How 1.5 & 2.6 Optical Modules per Chi | BestHub

The article explains how Google's TPU v7 supercomputer uses a simple yet powerful networking scheme—1.5 optical

Google TPU Architecture: 7 Generations Explained | Introl Blog

Blog / AI/ML Operations TPU Architecture: Complete Guide to Google's 7 Generations Google's TPU architecture

What Are TPUs? A Guide to Tensor Processing Units

A TPU – short for tensor processing unit – is a type of computing chip optimized for training and serving certain types

Resiliency at Scale: Managing Google's TPuv4 Machine ...

Optical circuit switches (OCSes) : these are used to dynamically cross-connect (xconnect) the ICI from different cubes to form the

Unveiling Google's TPU Architecture: OCS Optical Circuit Switching ...

Future Google TPU may shift to “chip-level light emission, all-optical direct”: Light engines co-packaged on TPU

An in-depth look at Google's first Tensor Processing Unit (TPU)

There's a common thread that connects Google services such as Google Search, Street View, Google Photos and

Tensor Processing Units (TPUs) | Google Cloud

Google Cloud's Tensor Processing Units (TPUs) are custom-built to help speed up machine learning workloads. Contact Google

How to Think About TPUs | How To Scale Your Model

This section is all about how TPUs work, how they're networked together to enable multi-chip training and inference, and how this

Understanding Tensor Processing Units

Therefore, in order to combat this situation, Google developed an AI accelerator integrated circuit which would be used

What is a tensor processing unit (TPU)?

Learn about a tensor processing unit (TPU) including how it works, how it compares to CPUs and GPUs and possible

Google TPU v8 Deep Dive: Precise Calculation of Optical, Copper,

This article will analyze in detail the Virgo Network architecture of TPU v8t, the Boardfly topology of TPU v8i, and the

Inside Google's TPU Pods: 9,216 AI Chips Connected

TL;DR: Google's TPU pods connect up to 9,216 custom AI chips using optical circuit switches and 3D torus topology,

Tensor Processing Unit

The Edge TPU also only supports 8-bit math, meaning that for a network to be compatible with the Edge TPU, it needs to either be

TPU architecture | Google Cloud Documentation

The TPU VM architecture lets you directly connect to the VM physically connected to the TPU device using SSH. A

TPU Deep Dive

TPU Design choice #2: Ahead of Time (AoT) Compilation + Less Reliance on Caches
This section answers how

Google's TPU supply chain overview: Uncovering the "hidden ...

This is the core component of TPU cluster interconnection, with a single cluster requiring over 100,000 1.6T optical

TPU7x (Ironwood) | Google Cloud Documentation

The Ironwood programming model lets you access two TPU chiplets instead of a single logical core (also known as

Highly Customized Optical Networking Critical for

Google's system leverages optical circuit switching (OCS) to create direct, low-latency

TPU v4: An Optically Reconfigurable Supercomputer for Machine

TPU v4 is the fifth Google domain specific architecture (DSA) and its third supercomputer for such ML models. Optical

Inside the Ironwood TPU codesigned AI stack | Google Cloud Blog

Learn about the core components of Google's AI software stack woven into the Ironwood TPU, including JAX and

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