Day71 MLflow Model Versioning

August 25, 2025

1 MLflow Model Versioning

In this notebook, we explore how to **version machine learning models** using **MLflow**. Model versioning is important because it allows us to keep track of different model iterations, compare them, and safely deploy the right version.

We will cover two approaches:

1. Manual Versioning (UI based):

- Log the model during a run.
- Use the MLflow UI to manually register and promote models.

2. Automatic Versioning (Code based):

- Use registered_model_name parameter while logging.
- MLflow automatically creates new versions for each run.
- (Optional) Promote versions to Staging/Production either via UI or programmatically.

Note: If you start MLflow with mlflow ui, promotion to stages (Staging/Production) must be done manually in the UI.

For **programmatic stage promotion**, you need to run mlflow server with a backend store (e.g., SQLite or MySQL).

2 MLOps: Model Versioning (Manual)

Why model versioning?

- Reproducibility & lineage (know which run made which model)
- Safe rollbacks if a new version fails
- Approvals: move models through None \rightarrow Staging \rightarrow Production
- Central catalog for collaboration
- Prepares you for CI/CD automation

2.1 Install dependencies

[]: %pip install -q mlflow scikit-learn numpy pandas

2.2 Start MLflow Tracking UI in a terminal

Open Anaconda Prompt / Command Prompt, go to your project folder, and run:

mlflow ui

By default, this will start the tracking server at:

http://127.0.0.1:5000

Keep this terminal open and running while you use MLflow in Jupyter.

2.3 Configure MLflow tracking & experiment

```
[1]: import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')
import mlflow, mlflow.sklearn

# Point this to your MLflow Tracking Server
mlflow.set_tracking_uri("http://127.0.0.1:5000")
mlflow.set_experiment("Versioning")

print("Tracking URI:", mlflow.get_tracking_uri())
```

Tracking URI: http://127.0.0.1:5000

2.4 Prepare dataset

```
[2]: from sklearn.datasets import make_classification
    from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
    from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
    from sklearn.metrics import classification_report
    import pandas as pd

# Synthetic dataset

X, y = make_classification(
        n_samples=1000, n_features=10,
        n_informative=2, n_redundant=8,
        weights=[0.9, 0.1], random_state=42
)

X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(
        X, y, test_size=0.3, stratify=y, random_state=42
)

X_train_df = pd.DataFrame(X_train)
    print("Train shape:", X_train_df.shape)
```

Train shape: (700, 10)

2.5 Train & log a model

```
[3]: from mlflow.models import infer_signature
     params = {"solver": "lbfgs", "max iter": 1000, "random state": 42}
     with mlflow.start_run() as run:
         model = LogisticRegression(**params)
         model.fit(X_train, y_train)
         y_pred = model.predict(X_test)
         report = classification_report(y_test, y_pred, output_dict=True)
         # Log params & metrics
         mlflow.log_params(params)
         mlflow.log metrics({
             "accuracy": report["accuracy"],
             "f1_macro": report["macro avg"]["f1-score"],
             "recall_1": report["1"]["recall"]
         })
         # Log model with signature
         signature = infer_signature(X_train_df, model.predict(X_train))
         mlflow.sklearn.log_model(
             model,
             artifact_path="model",
             signature=signature,
             input_example=X_train_df.iloc[:5]
         )
         print("Run ID:", run.info.run_id)
         print(" Now open MLflow UI: http://127.0.0.1:5000")
    2025/08/25 10:48:25 WARNING mlflow.models.model: `artifact_path` is deprecated.
    Please use `name` instead.
                                           | 0/7 [00:00<?, ?it/s]
    Downloading artifacts:
                             0%|
    Run ID: 31464588298341f1adc8d0b3b13fdc94
     Now open MLflow UI: http://127.0.0.1:5000
     View run upbeat-ox-946 at: http://127.0.0.1:5000/#/experiments/465653057739855
    358/runs/31464588298341f1adc8d0b3b13fdc94
     View experiment at: http://127.0.0.1:5000/#/experiments/465653057739855358
```

2.6 Register manually (UI steps)

- Run in terminal: mlflow ui
- Open: http://127.0.0.1:5000
- Go to: Experiments \rightarrow Versioning \rightarrow your run
- Click Artifacts \rightarrow model \rightarrow Register model

- Create new model (e.g., "MyRegisteredModel") \rightarrow becomes Version 1
- Train again, register again \rightarrow becomes Version 2

3 MLOps: Model Versioning (Automatic)

3.1 Install dependencies

```
[]: %pip install -q mlflow scikit-learn numpy pandas
```

3.2 Configure MLflow tracking

```
[4]: import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')
import mlflow, mlflow.sklearn

mlflow.set_tracking_uri("http://127.0.0.1:5000")
mlflow.set_experiment("Automatic_Versioning")

print("Tracking URI:", mlflow.get_tracking_uri())
```

Tracking URI: http://127.0.0.1:5000

3.3 Prepare dataset

```
[5]: from sklearn.datasets import make_classification
    from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
    from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
    from sklearn.metrics import classification_report
    import pandas as pd

X, y = make_classification(
        n_samples=1000, n_features=10,
        n_informative=2, n_redundant=8,
        weights=[0.9, 0.1], random_state=42
)

X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(
        X, y, test_size=0.3, stratify=y, random_state=42
)

X_train_df = pd.DataFrame(X_train)
    print("Train shape:", X_train_df.shape)
```

Train shape: (700, 10)

3.4 Train, log & auto-register

[6]: from mlflow.models import infer_signature

```
REGISTERED_NAME = "MyAutoRegisteredModel" # change name if you want
params = {"solver": "lbfgs", "max iter": 1000, "random state": 42}
with mlflow.start_run() as run:
    model = LogisticRegression(**params)
    model.fit(X_train, y_train)
    y_pred = model.predict(X_test)
    report = classification_report(y_test, y_pred, output_dict=True)
    mlflow.log_params(params)
    mlflow.log_metrics({
        "accuracy": report["accuracy"],
        "f1_macro": report["macro avg"]["f1-score"],
        "recall_1": report["1"]["recall"]
    })
    # Auto-register model
    signature = infer_signature(X_train_df, model.predict(X_train))
    mlflow.sklearn.log_model(
        model,
        artifact path="model",
        signature=signature,
        input_example=X_train_df.iloc[:5],
        registered_model_name=REGISTERED_NAME
    )
    print("Run ID:", run.info.run_id)
    print(" Auto-registered under:", REGISTERED_NAME)
2025/08/25 10:49:04 WARNING mlflow.models.model: `artifact_path` is deprecated.
Please use `name` instead.
                         0%|
                                     | 0/7 [00:00<?, ?it/s]
Downloading artifacts:
Registered model 'MyAutoRegisteredModel' already exists. Creating a new version
of this model...
2025/08/25 10:49:20 INFO mlflow.store.model_registry.abstract_store: Waiting up
to 300 seconds for model version to finish creation. Model name:
MyAutoRegisteredModel, version 4
Created version '4' of model 'MyAutoRegisteredModel'.
Run ID: a616d95e48c449c196098398870950a9
Auto-registered under: MyAutoRegisteredModel
 View run likeable-robin-144 at: http://127.0.0.1:5000/#/experiments/6361712600
90459286/runs/a616d95e48c449c196098398870950a9
```

3.5 Check & promote programmatically

```
[]: from mlflow.tracking import MlflowClient
     client = MlflowClient()
     versions = client.search_model_versions(f"name='{REGISTERED_NAME}'")
     for mv in versions:
         print("Name:", mv.name, "| Version:", mv.version, "| Stage:", mv.
      ⇔current stage)
     # Promote latest version to Staging
     if versions:
         latest_version = max(int(mv.version) for mv in versions)
         client.transition_model_version_stage(
             name=REGISTERED_NAME,
             version=str(latest_version),
             stage="Staging",
             archive_existing_versions=True
         )
         print(" Promoted version", latest_version, "to Staging")
```

```
Name: MyAutoRegisteredModel | Version: 5 | Stage: None
Name: MyAutoRegisteredModel | Version: 4 | Stage: None
Name: MyAutoRegisteredModel | Version: 2 | Stage: Archived
Name: MyAutoRegisteredModel | Version: 3 | Stage: None
Name: MyAutoRegisteredModel | Version: 1 | Stage: None
```

- First run \rightarrow Version 1
- Second run (this code) \rightarrow Version 2
- MLflow UI \rightarrow check Models \rightarrow MyAutoRegisteredModel
- You'll see two versions listed

3.6 Code to Train Again (Version 2)

```
model = LogisticRegression(**params)
model.fit(X_train, y_train)
y_pred = model.predict(X_test)
report = classification_report(y_test, y_pred, output_dict=True)
# Log params & metrics
mlflow.log_params(params)
mlflow.log_metrics({
    "accuracy": report["accuracy"],
    "f1_macro": report["macro avg"]["f1-score"],
    "recall_1": report["1"]["recall"]
})
# Auto-register as new version
signature = infer_signature(X_train_df, model.predict(X_train))
mlflow.sklearn.log_model(
    model,
    name="model",
                    # new MLflow syntax
    signature=signature,
    input_example=X_train_df.iloc[:5],
    registered_model_name=REGISTERED_NAME
)
print("Run ID:", run.info.run id)
print(" Auto-registered new version under:", REGISTERED_NAME)
```

Downloading artifacts: 0% | 0/7 [00:00<?, ?it/s]

Registered model 'MyAutoRegisteredModel' already exists. Creating a new version of this model...

2025/08/25 10:50:14 INFO mlflow.store.model_registry.abstract_store: Waiting up to 300 seconds for model version to finish creation. Model name:

MyAutoRegisteredModel, version 5

Created version '5' of model 'MyAutoRegisteredModel'.

Run ID: 618ebc42c4e9433fbb1ebb54ad3b2f79

Auto-registered new version under: MyAutoRegisteredModel

View run bemused-gull-614 at: http://127.0.0.1:5000/#/experiments/636171260090 459286/runs/618ebc42c4e9433fbb1ebb54ad3b2f79

View experiment at: http://127.0.0.1:5000/#/experiments/636171260090459286

3.7 Check Versions & Promote

```
[]: from mlflow.tracking import MlflowClient

client = MlflowClient()
  versions = client.search_model_versions(f"name='{REGISTERED_NAME}'")

for mv in versions:
```

```
print("Name:", mv.name, "| Version:", mv.version, "| Stage:", mv.
current_stage)

# Promote latest version to Staging
if versions:
    latest_version = max(int(mv.version) for mv in versions)
    client.transition_model_version_stage(
        name=REGISTERED_NAME,
        version=str(latest_version),
        stage="Staging",
        archive_existing_versions=True
    )
    print(" Promoted version", latest_version, "to Staging")
```

4 MLflow Model Versioning

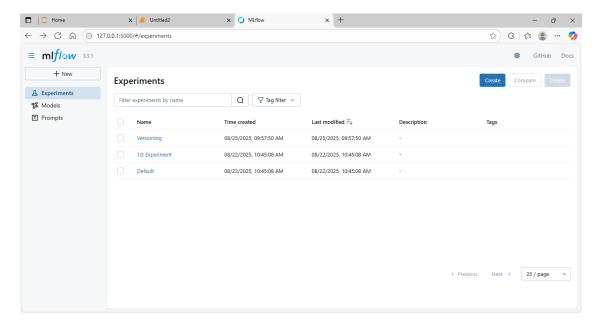
In MLflow, we can version models in two ways:

- 1. Manual Versioning (UI based)
- 2. Automatic Versioning (Code based with registered_model_name)

4.1 Manual Model Versioning

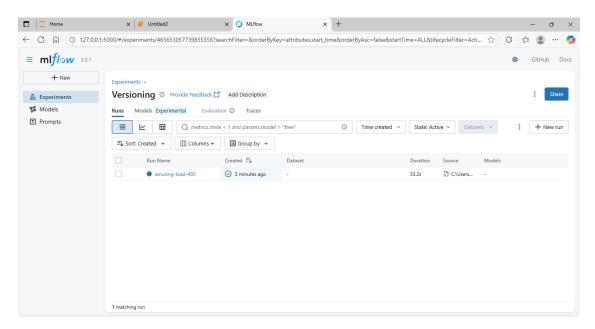
In manual versioning, we first log a model inside an experiment run, and then **manually register** it as a version in the UI.

Step 1: Experiments Page (o1)



Here we can see all experiments created. In this case, the experiment Versioning was used for manual registration.

Step 2: Run Details \rightarrow Register Model (o2)



Inside the Versioning experiment, a run was executed. From the run details, under **Artifacts** \rightarrow **model**, we click **Register Model**.

- If the model is new \rightarrow create a new model name (MyRegisteredModel).
- If the model already exists \rightarrow it will create **Version 2, 3, ...** under that model.

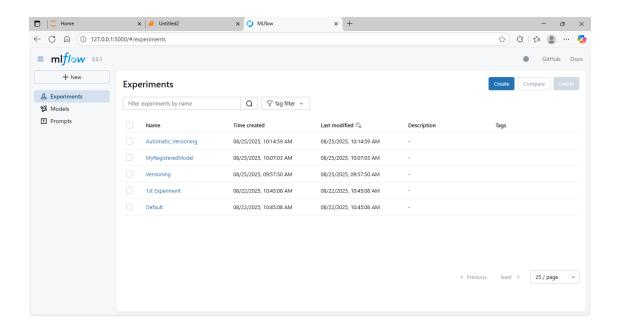
This way we manually control model versions from the UI.

4.2 2. Automatic Model Versioning

Automatic versioning happens directly from code when we pass registered_model_name while logging the model.

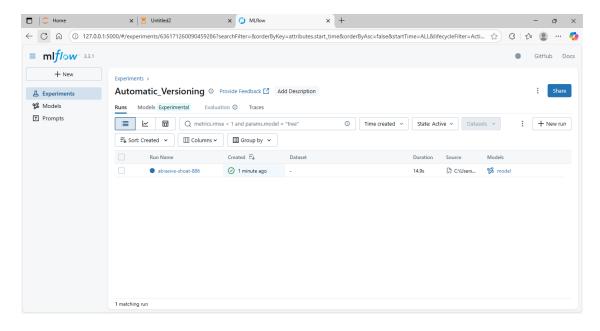
Every run automatically creates the next version.

Step 1: Experiments Page with Auto-Versioning (o3)



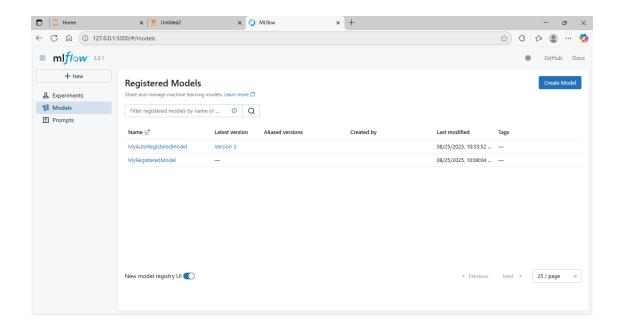
Here a new experiment Automatic_Versioning was created when running code with registered_model_name="MyAutoRegisteredModel".

Step 2: Run Logs a Model (o4)



In the run details, you can see the **Models column** already has the model logged. This is because the model was auto-registered in the registry without manual UI clicks.

Step 3: Model Registry with Multiple Versions (o5)



The **Model Registry** shows the registered model MyAutoRegisteredModel. Each time we re-run the code, a new version is created automatically (Version 1, 2, 3, ...).

From here we can also promote versions to **Staging** or **Production**.

Summary

- Manual Versioning: Log the model \rightarrow go to UI \rightarrow register model manually \rightarrow creates Version 1, 2, ...
- Automatic Versioning: Use registered_model_name in code → each run automatically creates the next version in the registry.

5 Conclusion

In this notebook, we explored **MLflow Model Versioning** using two approaches:

- 1. Manual Versioning (UI-based) registering models directly from the MLflow UI.
- 2. Automatic Versioning (Code-based) registering models automatically using registered_model_name in the code.

We also learned how to track experiments, register models, and manage different versions (v1, v2, ...) in the Model Registry.

Finally, we saw how models can be promoted to stages like **Staging** or **Production**, which is an essential part of the **MLOps lifecycle**.

This sets the foundation for more advanced MLOps tasks like CI/CD pipelines, deployment, and monitoring.