

University Master's Degree in Machine Learning

Assignment: Continuous Delivery using GitHub Actions

The main objective of this assignment is to develop a **Continuous Integration Continuous Delivery (CICD) pipeline using GitHub actions**. To do it, you must create a new repository for this lab named **MLOps-Lab2**. In this second part of the series (Lab1-Lab2-La3) you must create all the functionalities devoted to deploying the “random model” into production. Specifically, you will have to create a

- **Dockerfile** to containerize the project so that it can be replicated into the production environment.
- **GUI** for the random prediction of the class of the images using *Gradio*. The *GUI* will be hosted **on HuggingFace spaces**. It is very simple as it only has an input image, and the output is as simple as a text box where you must display the class label predicted for the image.
 - This part of the project is developed in a separated branch named **hf-space** (using the repository associated with the **HuggingFace** spaces as a remote repository).
- **CICD** pipeline with **GitHub Actions**. You will have to create **two new jobs** for the deployment of the image as well as that of the *GUI* application in *HuggingFace* spaces.
 - Remember to **include the status badge in the README.md file**.

To **help in the development of this lab**, as in the previous lab, we created a demo repository to develop a calculator application devoted to performing some basic arithmetical operations including these new functionalities. The public *GitHub* repository is <https://github.com/JoseanSanz/MLOps-Lab2-demo>. The scaffold of this calculator application project is illustrated in the following figure.

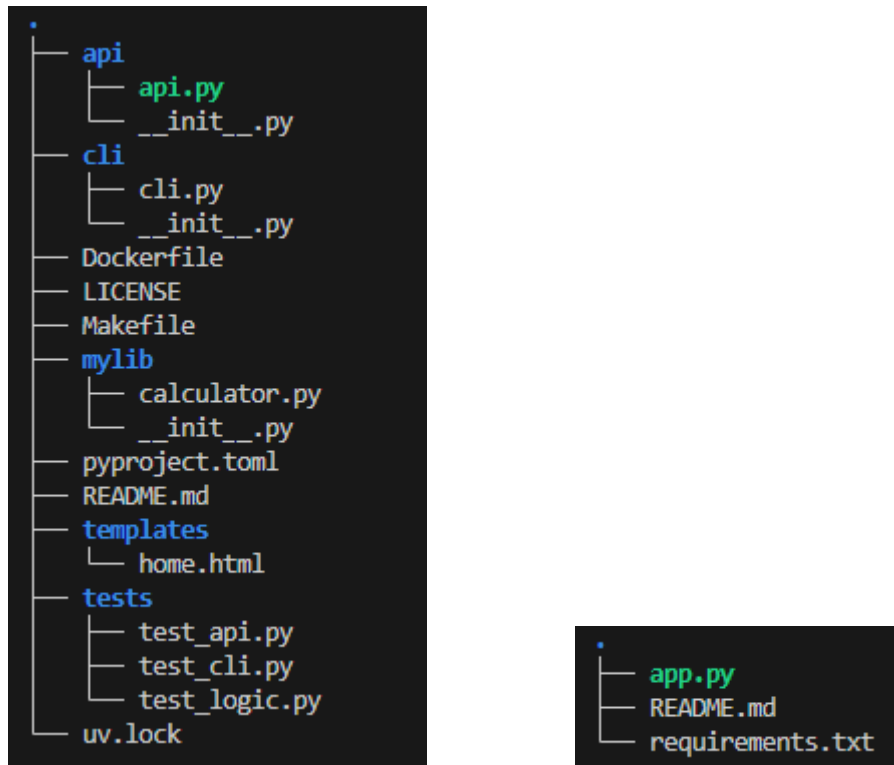


Figure 1. Scaffold of the calculator application. Main branch (left) and hf-space branch (right).

As you can see, there are a few changes with respect to the project developed in Lab1. Specifically, the *Dockerfile* devoted to the containerization of the project, the branch devoted to building the *GUI* that will use the *API* created with *FastAPI* and the new jobs added to the *GitHub Actions* pipeline.

Now, the **steps** performed to produce these new functionalities are explained.

1. Containerization of the project

In first place you must **install Docker** (if you do not have it installed yet).

```
sudo apt install docker.io
```

Then, you must grant permanent permission to use Docker.

```
sudo groupadd docker    # it creates the group (it it does no exist)
sudo usermod -aG docker $USER
newgrp docker
```

Next, you must **create an account in Docker Hub** (if you do not have one).

Once you have made these two steps and you have **programmed the *Dockerfile*** you can **manually register the image in Docker Hub** (we will automate this process later using the *CICD* pipeline). To do it you have to

- Build locally the container image from the *Dockerfile*
`docker build -t <image-name> .`
- Tag the local image so that it can be pushed to the remote registry (*Docker Hub* is used as default)

```
docker tag <image-name> <dockerhub-username>/<image-name>:latest
```

- Push the image to *Docker Hub*

```
docker push <dockerhub-username>/<image-name>:latest
```

Then, you can **check if the image is uploaded to Docker Hub** in the repositories option of My Hub.

To **automate** the image registry through **GitHub Actions**. First you must **create a personal access token**, named `DOCKERHUB_TOKEN`, in **Docker hub**. You must select "Read, Write, Delete" and you can select the expiration date. Then, **copy the generated token**.

Then in **GitHub** you must **add the secrets for the GitHub Actions**. You must go to the settings of the repository, then in "Secrets and variables" you must select the actions option and **create two secrets**

- `DOCKERHUB_USERNAME` and write your username of Docker Hub
- `DOCKERHUB_TOKEN` and paste the token you generated in the previous stage

2. Generation of a web service to host the API (backend)

The next step is to **create a web service to host the backend** (API created with FastAPI) we have containerized using Docker. To do it, we **will use Render** as it provides a free solution for hosting APIs. The drawback of Render is that it only uses CPUs and this may imply that our final application, when it uses a deep learning method, can be slow.

The first thing to do is to **create an account on Render** (if you do not have one). Then, in the [dashboard](#) you have to **create a new web service** and, in the *Existing Image* option, you have to associate it with the docker image registered in Docker Hub: `docker.io/<dockerhub-username>/<image-name>:latest`. Then press connect and then you will have to deploy the web service (select for **hobby projects options so that it is free**).

Next, we can also **automate the process of deploying again the web service when a new image is automatically registered in Docker Hub in GitHub Actions**. To do it, in Render, you must **create a secret and add it to GitHub actions secrets**. To do it, you must go to the settings of your created web service and scroll down until you see the **Deploy Hook**, which is an *URL*. **The secret is the key of the URL**. That is, you must copy just the part of the *URL* after the = symbol. Then, you must create a **GitHub Actions secret** named `RENDER_DEPLOY_HOOK_KEY` and you paste the previous secret. **The remainder part of the URL is used in the CI/CD pipeline** (in the step devoted to deploying again the web service in Render), you only have to copy-paste it.

3. Generation of the HuggingFace space that uses the API

The last step is to upload the *Gradio* application to [HuggingFace spaces](#). To do it, you first must **create an account on HuggingFace** (if you do not have one). Then, you must **create a space** (name, description, Gradio as the SDK, CPU Basic, Public). To automate the process, as in Docker Hub and Render, you must **create new Access Token** with

write permissions, named `HF_TOKEN`, **copy the generated token and save it** (it will be used when pulling the files of the space to the repository of the project). You also must **add this token GitHub Actions secrets** as before. You also must **create a secret to determine the username of HuggingFace** (name it `HF_USERNAME` and write your username).

Finally, you must **include the files associated with this GUI** (*HuggingFace* space) in your project (as a branch named `hf-space`). To do it, in the terminal of your project (VS Code), you must

- Add the *HuggingFace* repository associated with the space you created as a remote repository

```
git remote add huggingface https://huggingface.co/spaces/<huggingface-username>/<hf-space-name>.git
```

- Create a new branch in the GitHub repository

```
git checkout --orphan hf-space
```

- Pull the files from the *HuggingFace* repository

```
git pull huggingface main
```

- It asks for the username and access token (you must paste the token) ??

At this point, you can program the *Gradio* application for the project and add the libraries you need in the `requirements.txt` file (if necessary). **This application uses the API hosted in Render** so that it can use the exposed *endpoint* for the random prediction of the class label. To do it, you **must include the public URL of the API** hosted in Render (you can find it inside the web service created in the second step). Finally, **you can manually push these changes back** both to the *HuggingFace* repository and to the main branch (to make them visible from the main branch and ensure the *CICD* pipeline will work properly). **These steps will be automated in the *CICD* pipeline.**

- Commit the changes

```
git add app.py requirements.txt README.md
git commit -m "commit comment"
```

- Push it to the HuggingFace repository. **This step is not needed in the automated workflow**, since it will be automatically uploaded from the main branch

```
git push huggingface hf-space:main
```

- It asks again for the username and access token

- Push these changes also into the main branch

```
git push origin hf-space
```

Finally, the **details of the two new files you have to create/update** are as follows

- The **Dockerfile** is composed of **three stages**
 - **Base stage** (*base*): to provide a small Python 3.13 runtime image, set useful Python environment variables and establish the working directory inside the container.
 - **Builder stage** (*builder*): to install the *uv* tool and use it to install all Python dependencies declared in *pyproject.toml* (locked via *uv.lock*) into the system's Python folder (*/usr/local*).
 - This stage is where dependency resolution and package compilation happens. Keeping it separate avoids shipping build-time artifacts in the final image.
 - **Runtime stage** (*runtime*): to start from a clean base image, copy the pre-installed site-packages from the builder (*/usr/local*) and the application source code (*api*, *mylib* and *templates* folders). This way, the final image is smaller (not all the files in the project are included) and contains only what is necessary to run the app. The container starts with *uvicorn* serving the FastAPI API on port 8000.
- **CICD pipeline**, it includes **two new jobs** to
 - **Deploying the API**
 - It checks the repository and sets the *buildx* for both QEMU and Docker
 - It logs to Docker Hub (using the secrets of GitHub Actions)
 - It builds, tags and pushes the image to Docker Hub
 - It triggers the deployment of the web service (in Render) associated with the image created in the previous step
 - **Deploying the *HuggingFace* application**
 - It checks the repository
 - It switches to the *hf-space* branch
 - It adds the *HuggingFace* repository as a remote repository using the secrets of GitHub Actions
 - It pushes the *Gradio* app to the main branch