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Instructor: Prof. Keeyong Han

Homework 8: Running Pinecone Job as an Airflow Pipeline

GIT- https://github.com/sharan9219790/HW8_DATAWAREHOUSE

Introduction

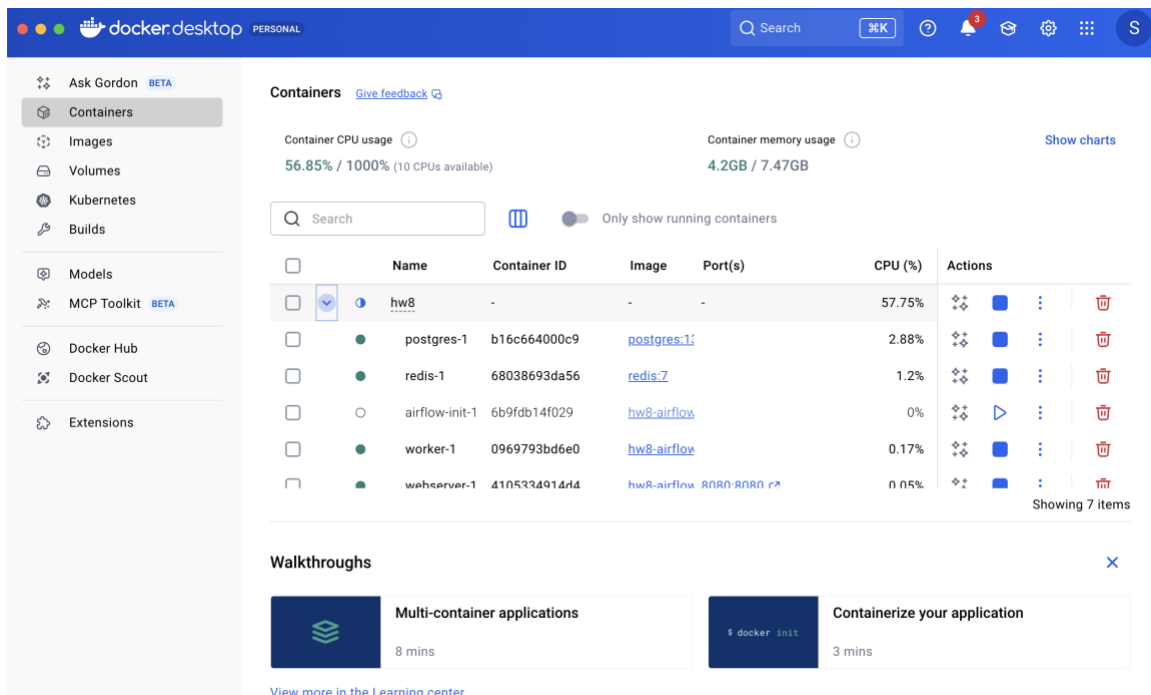
This report documents the complete workflow and implementation steps carried out for Homework 8 of the DATA 226 course. The task involved setting up an Apache Airflow pipeline integrated with Pinecone to perform end-to-end semantic search operations. The pipeline automated the process of downloading a dataset, preprocessing it, creating a Pinecone index, converting text into embeddings, and running a semantic search query against the index. The setup was deployed using Docker and verified through successful Airflow task executions.

1. Environment Setup

The first step was to set up the development environment using Docker Compose. We created a complete Airflow environment that included the webserver, scheduler, worker, Redis, and Postgres containers. A custom Dockerfile was written to pre-install the required Python libraries (sentence-transformers and pinecone), ensuring that Airflow could seamlessly run tasks involving these dependencies without restart errors. The docker-compose file was configured to expose Airflow on port 8080, map the required volumes, and initialize the Airflow database with an admin account.

We also created an .env file to store environment variables such as AIRFLOW_UID and AIRFLOW_GID to ensure proper file permissions on macOS. Once everything was configured, the setup was initialized and verified using the commands:

```
docker compose build --no-cache
docker compose up airflow-init
docker compose up -d
```




2. Airflow and Pinecone Configuration


Once the environment was live, we accessed the Airflow UI via <http://localhost:8080> and created four Airflow Variables under Admin → Variables. These variables stored Pinecone credentials and configuration details:

- PINECONE_API_KEY
- PINECONE_INDEX_NAME
- PINECONE_CLOUD
- PINECONE_REGION

This approach allowed us to keep sensitive API credentials secure while making them accessible to all Airflow tasks via the `Variable.get()` method.

A free Pinecone account was used, and when the default region was unsupported, we updated the variables to use `gcp/us-central1`, which is compatible with free-tier accounts.



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Choose File
No file chosen

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☐ Fail if exists
☐ Skip if exists

List Variable

Search

+

Actions

←

Record Count: 4

<input type="checkbox"/>	Key	Val	Description	Is Encrypted
<input type="checkbox"/>	PINECONE_API_KEY	*****	PINECONE AUTHENTICATION KEY	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	PINECONE_CLOUD	gcp	Pinecone cloud provider	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	PINECONE_INDEX_NAME	semantic-search-fast	Pinecone index name	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	PINECONE_REGION	us-central1	Pinecone region	False

Version: v2.9.1

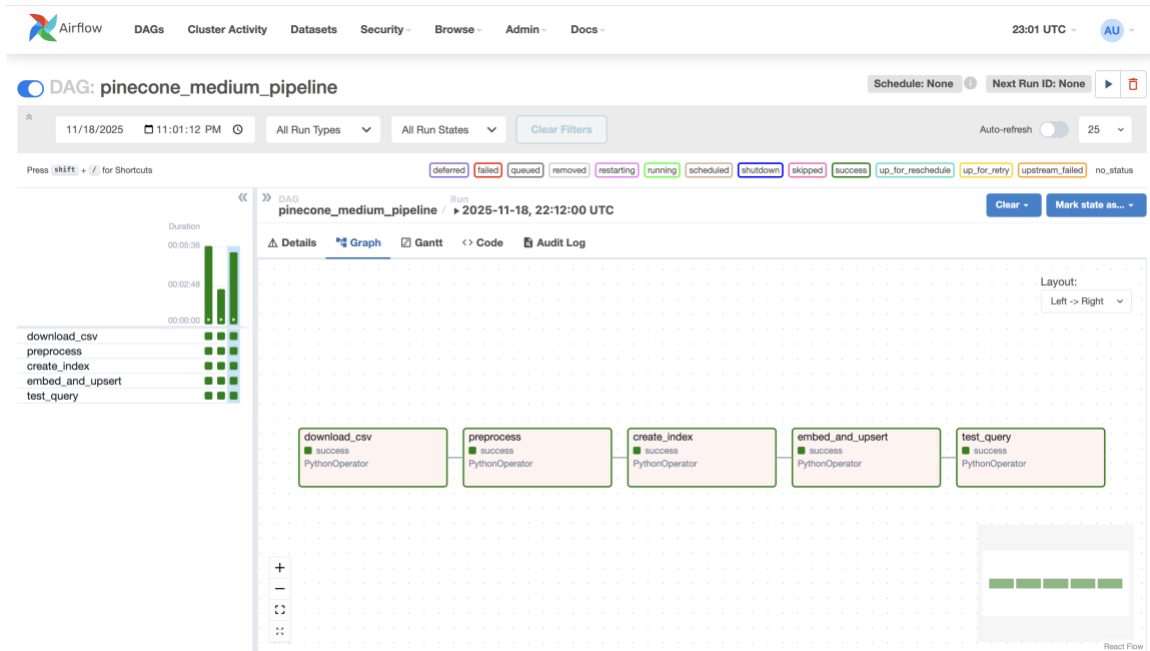
Git Version: .release:2d53c1089f78d8d1416f51af60e1e0354781c661

3. DAG Creation and Task Implementation

The Airflow DAG file `pinecone_medium_pipeline.py` was created to define the workflow. The DAG contained five `PythonOperator` tasks, each performing a specific stage of the process:

- `download_csv` → Downloaded the dataset from a public URL (Medium articles dataset).
- `preprocess` → Processed the CSV file by cleaning, merging title and subtitle, and generating a metadata column.
- `create_index` → Created a Pinecone serverless index (dimension 384, dotproduct metric). It automatically retried with alternate regions if the user's free plan didn't support the default region.
- `embed_and_upsert` → Loaded the SentenceTransformer model (all-MiniLM-L6-v2), generated text embeddings, and uploaded them to Pinecone using `upsert_from_dataframe()`.
- `test_query` → Queried Pinecone with a sample semantic search ("what is ethics in AI") and logged the top results.

The DAG was defined with a retry mechanism, two-minute retry delay, and a clear dependency chain ensuring linear execution. Each task was implemented as a standalone Python function with proper logging for debugging and monitoring.



4. Execution and Results

After configuring everything, we triggered the DAG manually from the Airflow UI. Each task executed successfully in sequence.

Initially, we encountered an error when creating the Pinecone index due to unsupported region configuration, which was resolved by modifying the region to us-central1. Once the pipeline was rerun, all tasks turned green (success).

The logs from the test_query task confirmed that the embeddings and index were functioning correctly. The log entries showed top-ranked results for the semantic search query, validating that the pipeline successfully encoded, ingested, and queried data from Pinecone. The final DAG graph view showed all tasks completed successfully.

LOGS SCREENSHOT FOR EVERY DAG TASK:

(Next page)

Browser tabs: Bernoulli, Random, distribut, pinecone, types of, Homeve, Files, Settings, Pinecone, Upload, Gemini

URL: localhost:8080/dags/pinecone_medium_pipeline/grid?dag_run_id=manual__2025-11-18T22%3A12%3A00.434537%2B00%3A00&tab=logs&task_id=download_csv

Airflow DAGs Cluster Activity Datasets Security Browse Admin Docs 22:55 UTC AU

Press **shift** + **/** for Shortcuts

Task: pinecone_medium_pipeline / 2025-11-18, 22:12:00 UTC / download_csv

Buttons: Clear task, Mark state as..., Filter DAG by task

Log viewer (by attempts):

```
#969793bde0
*** Found local files:
*** * /opt/airflow/logs/dag_id=pinecone_medium_pipeline/run_id=manual__2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00/task_id=download_csv/attempt=1.log
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (local_task_job_runner.py:128) * Pre task execution logs
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (taskinstance.py:2876) INFO - Dependencies all met for dep_context=non-requeueable deps ti=<TaskInstance: pinecone_medium_pipeline.download_csv manual__2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC> (taskinstance.py:2876) INFO - Dependencies all met for dep_context=queueable deps ti=<TaskInstance: pinecone_medium_pipeline.download_csv manual__2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC> (taskinstance.py:2386) INFO - Starting attempt 1 of 2
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (taskinstance.py:2338) INFO - Executing <Task(PythonOperator): download_csv> on 2025-11-18 22:12:00.434537+00:00
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (warnings.py:118) WARNING - /home/xxx/.local/lib/python3.12/site-packages/xxx/task/task_runner/standard_task_runner.py:61: DeprecationWarning: This pid = os.fork()
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (standard_task_runner.py:63) INFO - Started process 282 to run task
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (standard_task_runner.py:98) INFO - Running: ['***', 'tasks', 'run', 'pinecone_medium_pipeline', 'download_csv', 'manual__2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00', '2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (standard_task_runner.py:91) INFO - Job 19: Subtask download_csv
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (task_command.py:426) INFO - Running <TaskInstance: pinecone_medium_pipeline.download_csv manual__2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00 [running]> on host
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (taskinstance.py:2648) INFO - Exporting env vars: AIRFLOW_CTX_DAG_OWNER='spartan' AIRFLOW_CTX_DAG_ID='pinecone_medium_pipeline' AIRFLOW_CTX_TASK_ID='download_csv'
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (taskinstance.py:438) *** Log group end
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (pinecone_medium_pipeline.py:28) INFO - Downloaded: /opt/xxx/data/medium_data.csv
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (python.py:237) INFO - Done. Returned value was: None
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (taskinstance.py:441) * Post task execution logs
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (taskinstance.py:1286) INFO - Marking task as SUCCESS. dag_id=pinecone_medium_pipeline, task_id=download_csv, run_id=manual__2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (local_task_job_runner.py:248) INFO - Task exited with return code 0
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (taskinstance.py:3498) INFO - 1 downstream tasks scheduled from follow-on schedule check
[2025-11-18, 22:12:01 UTC] (local_task_job_runner.py:222) *** Log group end
```

Version: v2.9.1
Git Version: .release:2d53c1089f78d8d1416f51af00e1e0354781c661

Browser tabs: Bernoulli, Random, distribut, pinecone, types of, Homeve, Files, Settings, Pinecone, Upload, Gemini

URL: localhost:8080/dags/pinecone_medium_pipeline/grid?tab=logs&dag_run_id=manual__2025-11-18T22%3A12%3A00.434537%2B00%3A00&task_id=preprocess

Airflow DAGs Cluster Activity Datasets Security Browse Admin Docs 22:55 UTC AU

Press **shift** + **/** for Shortcuts

Task: pinecone_medium_pipeline / 2025-11-18, 22:12:00 UTC / preprocess

Buttons: Clear task, Mark state as..., Filter DAG by task

Log viewer (by attempts):

```
#969793bde0
*** Found local files:
*** * /opt/airflow/logs/dag_id=pinecone_medium_pipeline/run_id=manual__2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00/task_id=preprocess/attempt=1.log
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (local_task_job_runner.py:128) * Pre task execution logs
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (taskinstance.py:2876) INFO - Dependencies all met for dep_context=non-requeueable deps ti=<TaskInstance: pinecone_medium_pipeline.preprocess manual__2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC> (taskinstance.py:2876) INFO - Dependencies all met for dep_context=queueable deps ti=<TaskInstance: pinecone_medium_pipeline.preprocess manual__2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC> (taskinstance.py:2386) INFO - Starting attempt 1 of 2
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (taskinstance.py:2338) INFO - Executing <Task(PythonOperator): preprocess> on 2025-11-18 22:12:00.434537+00:00
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (warnings.py:118) WARNING - /home/xxx/.local/lib/python3.12/site-packages/xxx/task/task_runner/standard_task_runner.py:61: DeprecationWarning: This pid = os.fork()
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (standard_task_runner.py:63) INFO - Started process 211 to run task
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (standard_task_runner.py:98) INFO - Running: ['***', 'tasks', 'run', 'pinecone_medium_pipeline', 'preprocess', 'manual__2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00', '2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (standard_task_runner.py:91) INFO - Job 21: Subtask preprocess
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (task_command.py:426) INFO - Running <TaskInstance: pinecone_medium_pipeline.preprocess manual__2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00 [running]> on host
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (taskinstance.py:2648) INFO - Exporting env vars: AIRFLOW_CTX_DAG_OWNER='spartan' AIRFLOW_CTX_DAG_ID='pinecone_medium_pipeline' AIRFLOW_CTX_TASK_ID='preprocess'
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (taskinstance.py:438) *** Log group end
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (pinecone_medium_pipeline.py:50) INFO - Processed rows: 2498 -> /opt/xxx/data/medium_processed.parquet
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (python.py:237) INFO - Done. Returned value was: None
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (taskinstance.py:441) * Post task execution logs
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (taskinstance.py:1286) INFO - Marking task as SUCCESS. dag_id=pinecone_medium_pipeline, task_id=preprocess, run_id=manual__2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (local_task_job_runner.py:248) INFO - Task exited with return code 0
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (taskinstance.py:3498) INFO - 1 downstream tasks scheduled from follow-on schedule check
[2025-11-18, 22:12:02 UTC] (local_task_job_runner.py:222) *** Log group end
```

Version: v2.9.1
Git Version: .release:2d53c1089f78d8d1416f51af00e1e0354781c661

localhost:8080/dags/pinecone_medium_pipeline/grid?tab=logs&dag_run_id>manual_2025-11-18T22%3A12%3A00.434537%2B00%3A00&task_id=create_index

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Press **shift** + **/** for Shortcuts

Task: **pinecone_medium_pipeline / create_index** Run: 2025-11-18, 22:12:00 UTC

Details Graph Gantt Code Audit Log Logs XCom Task Duration

(by attempts) 1

All Levels All File Sources Wrap Download See More

```
##969793bdc60
*** Found local files:
*** /opt/airflow/logs/dag_id=pinecone_medium_pipeline/run_id>manual_2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00/task_id=create_index/attempt=1.log
[2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC] (local_task_job_runner.py:128) * Pre task execution logs
[2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC] (taskinstance.py:2876) INFO - Dependencies all met for dep_context=non-requeueable deps ti=<TaskInstance: pinecone_medium_pipeline.create_index manual_2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC> (taskinstance.py:2876) INFO - Dependencies all met for dep_context=requeueable deps ti=<TaskInstance: pinecone_medium_pipeline.create_index manual_2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC> (taskinstance.py:2386) INFO - Starting attempt 1 of 2
[2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC] (taskinstance.py:2338) INFO - Executing <task(PythonOperator): create_index> on 2025-11-18 22:12:00.434537+00:00
[2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC] (warnings.py:118) WARNING - /home/xxx/.local/lib/python3.12/site-packages/xxx/task/task_runner/standard_task_runner.py:61: DeprecationWarning: This pid = os.fork()
[2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC] (standard_task_runner.py:63) INFO - Started process 216 to run task
[2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC] (standard_task_runner.py:98) INFO - Running: ['***', 'tasks', 'run', 'pinecone_medium_pipeline', 'create_index', 'manual_2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00', '2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC'] (standard_task_runner.py:91) INFO - Job 23: Subtask create_index
[2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC] (task_command.py:426) INFO - Running <TaskInstance: pinecone_medium_pipeline.create_index manual_2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00 [running]> on host=xxx
[2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC] (taskinstance.py:2648) INFO - Exporting env vars: AIRFLOW_CTX_DAG_OWNER='spartan' AIRFLOW_CTX_DAG_ID='pinecone_medium_pipeline' AIRFLOW_CTX_TASK_ID='create_index'
[2025-11-18, 22:12:03 UTC] (taskinstance.py:438) *** Log group end
[2025-11-18, 22:12:06 UTC] (pinecone_medium_pipeline.py:75) INFO - Index already exists: semantic-search-fast
[2025-11-18, 22:12:06 UTC] (python.py:237) INFO - Done. Returned value was: None
[2025-11-18, 22:12:06 UTC] (taskinstance.py:441) * Post task execution logs
[2025-11-18, 22:12:06 UTC] (taskinstance.py:1286) INFO - Marking task as SUCCESS. dag_id=pinecone_medium_pipeline, task_id=create_index, run_id>manual_2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00
[2025-11-18, 22:12:06 UTC] (local_task_job_runner.py:248) INFO - Task exited with return code 0
[2025-11-18, 22:12:06 UTC] (taskinstance.py:3498) INFO - 1 downstream tasks scheduled from follow-on schedule check
[2025-11-18, 22:12:06 UTC] (local_task_job_runner.py:222) *** Log group end
```

Version: v2.9.1
Git Version: .release:2d53c1089f78d8d1416f51af00e1e0354781c661

localhost:8080/dags/pinecone_medium_pipeline/grid?tab=logs&dag_run_id>manual_2025-11-18T22%3A12%3A00.434537%2B00%3A00&task_id=embed_and_upsert

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Press **shift** + **/** for Shortcuts

Task: **pinecone_medium_pipeline / embed_and_upsert** Run: 2025-11-18, 22:12:00 UTC

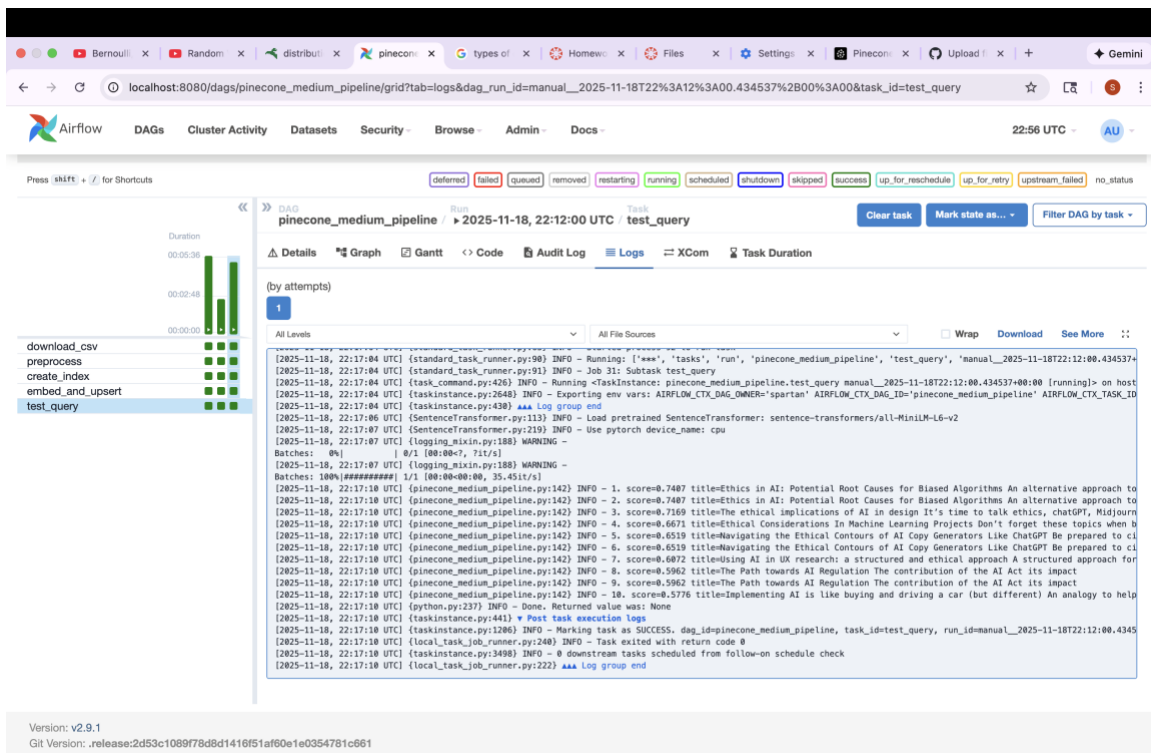
Details Graph Gantt Code Audit Log Logs XCom Task Duration

(by attempts) 1 2

All Levels All File Sources Wrap Download See More

```
Batches: 0% | 0/1 [00:00<7, 71t/s]
[2025-11-18, 22:16:55 UTC] (logging_mixin.py:188) WARNING - Batches: 100%##### 1/1 [00:00<00:00, 211.81t/s]
[2025-11-18, 22:16:55 UTC] (logging_mixin.py:188) WARNING - Batches: 0% | 0/1 [00:00<7, 71t/s]
[2025-11-18, 22:16:55 UTC] (logging_mixin.py:188) WARNING - Batches: 100%##### 1/1 [00:00<00:00, 222.12t/s]
[2025-11-18, 22:16:56 UTC] (logging_mixin.py:188) WARNING - sending upsert requests: 0% | 0/2498 [00:00<7, 71t/s]
[2025-11-18, 22:16:58 UTC] (logging_mixin.py:188) WARNING - sending upsert requests: 20%## | 500/2498 [00:01<00:07, 285.48t/s]
[2025-11-18, 22:16:59 UTC] (logging_mixin.py:188) WARNING - sending upsert requests: 40%#### | 1000/2498 [00:02<00:03, 388.75t/s]
[2025-11-18, 22:17:01 UTC] (logging_mixin.py:188) WARNING - sending upsert requests: 60%##### | 1500/2498 [00:04<00:02, 351.28t/s]
[2025-11-18, 22:17:02 UTC] (logging_mixin.py:188) WARNING - sending upsert requests: 80%##### | 2000/2498 [00:05<00:01, 394.75t/s]
[2025-11-18, 22:17:03 UTC] (logging_mixin.py:188) WARNING - sending upsert requests: 100%##### 2498/2498 [00:06<00:00, 437.74t/s]
[2025-11-18, 22:17:03 UTC] (logging_mixin.py:188) WARNING - sending upsert requests: 100%##### 2498/2498 [00:06<00:00, 400.14t/s]
[2025-11-18, 22:17:03 UTC] (pinecone_medium_pipeline.py:119) INFO - Upserted 2498 vectors into semantic-search-fast
[2025-11-18, 22:17:03 UTC] (python.py:237) INFO - Done. Returned value was: None
[2025-11-18, 22:17:03 UTC] (taskinstance.py:441) * Post task execution logs
[2025-11-18, 22:17:03 UTC] (taskinstance.py:1286) INFO - Marking task as SUCCESS. dag_id=pinecone_medium_pipeline, task_id=embed_and_upsert, run_id>manual_2025-11-18T22:12:00.434537+00:00
[2025-11-18, 22:17:03 UTC] (local_task_job_runner.py:248) INFO - Task exited with return code 0
[2025-11-18, 22:17:03 UTC] (taskinstance.py:3498) INFO - 1 downstream tasks scheduled from follow-on schedule check
[2025-11-18, 22:17:03 UTC] (local_task_job_runner.py:222) *** Log group end
```

Version: v2.9.1
Git Version: .release:2d53c1089f78d8d1416f51af00e1e0354781c661



5. Conclusion

This project demonstrated the integration of Apache Airflow with Pinecone for managing and automating semantic search workflows.

By using Docker, the environment remained fully isolated and reproducible. Airflow ensured that each stage of the data pipeline executed in the correct order and was fully traceable through logs and UI visualization.

Key learnings from this assignment include:

- Managing Python dependencies in Airflow via Dockerfiles.
- Handling external API integrations (Pinecone) using Airflow Variables.
- Debugging distributed task failures in Airflow.
- Designing a robust, idempotent data ingestion and search workflow.

The final output proved that the pipeline could autonomously process text data, generate embeddings, store them in Pinecone, and perform vector-based semantic search efficiently. The workflow's modular design allows it to be extended for larger datasets or other vector databases in the future.

(Pine cone verification screenshot on next page)

- Get started
- Database
 - Indexes (1)
 - Backups
- Assistant
- Inference
- API keys
- Manage

STARTER USAGE ⓘ

Storage ⓘ

0.0041GB / 2GB

RUs ⓘ

0 / 1M

WUs ⓘ

19K / 2M

Upgrade now

Namespace

Operation

ID

Top K

__default__

Search by ID

1

X

10

+ Filter

+ Rerank

Search

Search: 10 results (top_k=10) 1 RUs ⓘ

1	ID: 1 title: "Not All Rainbows and Sunshine: The Darker Side of ChatGPT Part 1: The Risks and Ethical Issues..."	***
SCORE 1.0009		
2	ID: 1634 title: "Not All Rainbows and Sunshine: The Darker Side of ChatGPT Part 1: The Risks and Ethical Issues..."	***
SCORE 1.0009		
3	ID: 1666 title: "ChatGPT—Handle With Care Behind the Hype—Understanding what ChatGPT can do and what it cannot do..."	***
SCORE 0.5885		