



IBM Developer
SKILLS NETWORK

Winning Space Race with Data Science

Amelia Sweet
4/10/2025



Outline

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion
- Appendix

Executive Summary

- Summary of methodologies
 - Data Collection through API
 - Data Collection with Web Scraping
 - Data Wrangling
 - Exploratory Data Analysis with SQL
 - Exploratory Data Analysis with Data Visualization
 - Interactive Visual Analytics with Folium
 - Machine Learning Prediction
- Summary of all results
 - Exploratory Data Analysis result
 - Interactive analytics in screenshots
 - Predictive Analytics result

Introduction

- Project background and context

Space X advertises Falcon 9 rocket launches on its website with a cost of 62 million dollars; other providers cost upward of 165 million dollars each. Much of the savings is because Space X can reuse the first stage. Therefore, if we can determine if the first stage will land, we can determine the cost of a launch. This information can be used if an alternate company wants to bid against space X for a rocket launch. This goal of the project is to create a machine learning pipeline to predict if the first stage will land successfully.

- Problems you want to find answers

- What factors determine if the rocket will land successfully?
- The interaction between features relevant to the probability of a successful landing
- Which conditions are most likely to result in a successful landing?

Section 1

Methodology

Methodology

Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
 - Data was collected using SpaceX API and web scraping from Wikipedia.
- Perform data wrangling
 - One-hot encoding was applied to categorical features
 - Unnecessary columns were dropped
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
 - How to build, tune, evaluate classification models

Data Collection



Data Collection – SpaceX API

- Collected data from the SpaceX API
- Converted json to dataframe
- Cleaned data
- Notebook link: [Notebook](#)

1. Get request for rocket launch data using API

```
In [6]: spacex_url="https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launches/past"
```

```
In [7]: response = requests.get(spacex_url)
```

2. Use json_normalize method to convert json result to dataframe

```
In [12]: # Use json_normalize method to convert the json result into a dataframe  
# decode response content as json  
static_json_df = res.json()
```

```
In [13]: # apply json_normalize  
data = pd.json_normalize(static_json_df)
```

3. We then performed data cleaning and filling in the missing values

```
In [30]: rows = data_falcon9['PayloadMass'].values.tolist()[0]  
  
df_rows = pd.DataFrame(rows)  
df_rows = df_rows.replace(np.nan, PayloadMass)  
  
data_falcon9['PayloadMass'][0] = df_rows.values  
data_falcon9
```


Data Collection - Scraping

- Applied web scraping to Falcon 9 launch records with BeautifulSoup
- Parsed the table and converted it into a pandas dataframe.
- Notebook link: [Notebook](#)

```
1. Apply HTTP Get method to request the Falcon 9 rocket launch page

In [4]: static_url = "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_Falcon_9_and_Falcon_Heavy_launches&oldid=1027686922"

In [5]: # use requests.get() method with the provided static_url
        # assign the response to a object
        html_data = requests.get(static_url)
        html_data.status_code

Out[5]: 200

2. Create a BeautifulSoup object from the HTML response

In [6]: # Use BeautifulSoup() to create a BeautifulSoup object from a response text content
        soup = BeautifulSoup(html_data.text, 'html.parser')

Print the page title to verify if the BeautifulSoup object was created properly

In [7]: # Use soup.title attribute
        soup.title

Out[7]: <title>List of Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launches - Wikipedia</title>

3. Extract all column names from the HTML table header

In [10]: column_names = []

        # Apply find_all() function with 'th' element on first_launch_table
        # Iterate each th element and apply the provided extract_column_from_header() to get a column name
        # Append the Non-empty column name ('if name is not None and len(name) > 0') into a list called column_names

        element = soup.find_all('th')
        for row in range(len(element)):
            try:
                name = extract_column_from_header(element[row])
                if (name is not None and len(name) > 0):
                    column_names.append(name)
            except:
                pass

4. Create a dataframe by parsing the launch HTML tables
5. Export data to csv
```

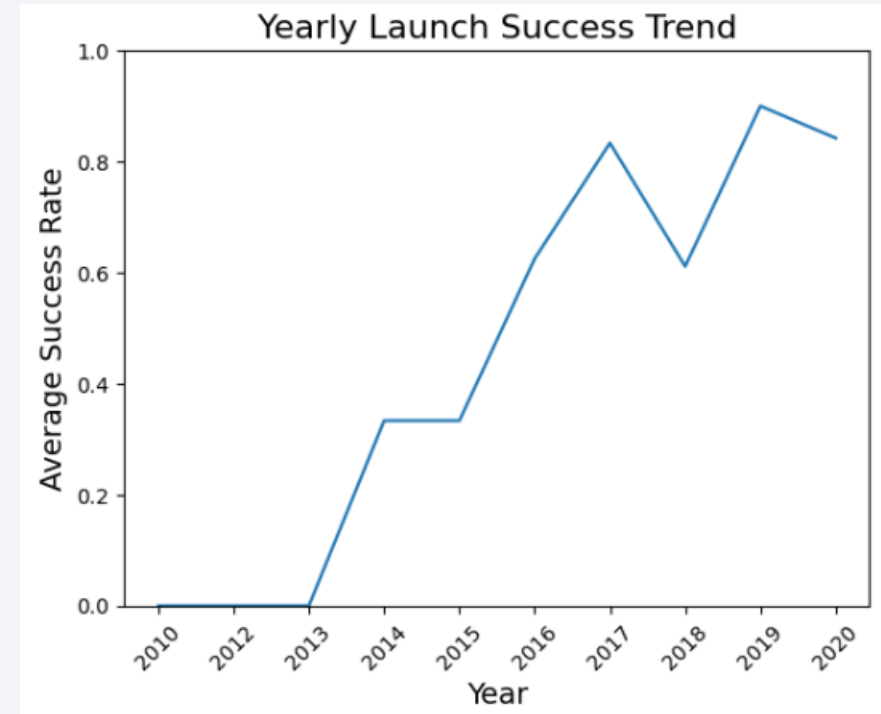
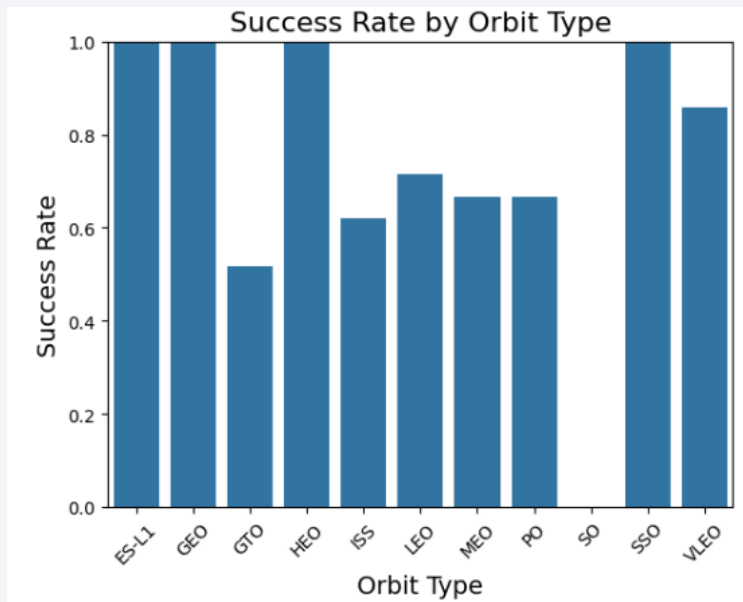
Data Wrangling



- Performed exploratory data analysis and determined the training labels.
- Calculated the number of launches at each site, and the number and occurrence of each orbit
- Created landing outcome labels from outcome column and exported the results to csv.
- Notebook link: [Notebook](#)

EDA with Data Visualization

- We explored the data by visualizing the relationship between flight number and launch Site, payload and launch site, success rate of each orbit type, flight number and orbit type, the launch success yearly trend.



- Notebook link: [Notebook](#)

EDA with SQL

- We loaded the SpaceX dataset into a Db2 database
- We used EDA with SQL to gain insight from the data. We wrote queries to find out:
 - The names of unique launch sites in the space mission.
 - The total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)
 - The average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1
 - The total number of successful and failure mission outcomes
 - The failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster version and launch site names.
- Notebook link: [Notebook](#)

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- We marked all launch sites and added map objects such as markers, circles, and lines to mark the success or failure of launches for each site on the folium map.
- We assigned the feature launch outcomes (failure or success) to class 0 and 1.
- Using color-labeled marker clusters, we identified which launch sites have a high success rate.
- Notebook link: [Notebook](#)

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- We built an interactive dashboard with Plotly dash
- We plotted pie charts showing the total launches by a certain sites
- We made scatter plots showing the relationship between outcome and payload mass for the different booster versions.
- Notebook Link: [Notebook](#)

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

- We loaded the data using numpy and pandas, transformed the data, and split our data into a train and test set.
- We built machine learning models and tuned hyperparameters using GridSearchCV.
- We evaluated and improved the accuracy of the model using feature engineering and algorithm tuning.
- We found the best performing classification model.
- Notebook link: [Notebook](#)

Results

- Exploratory data analysis results
- Interactive analytics demo in screenshots
- Predictive analysis results

The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a solid blue area on the left side, which transitions into a dynamic pattern of diagonal streaks in shades of blue and red on the right. These streaks are layered over a fine, light-colored grid, creating a sense of depth and movement, reminiscent of a digital or data visualization theme.

Section 2

Insights drawn from EDA

Flight Number vs. Launch Site

- From the plot, we found that the larger the flight amount at a launch site, the greater the success rate at a launch site.

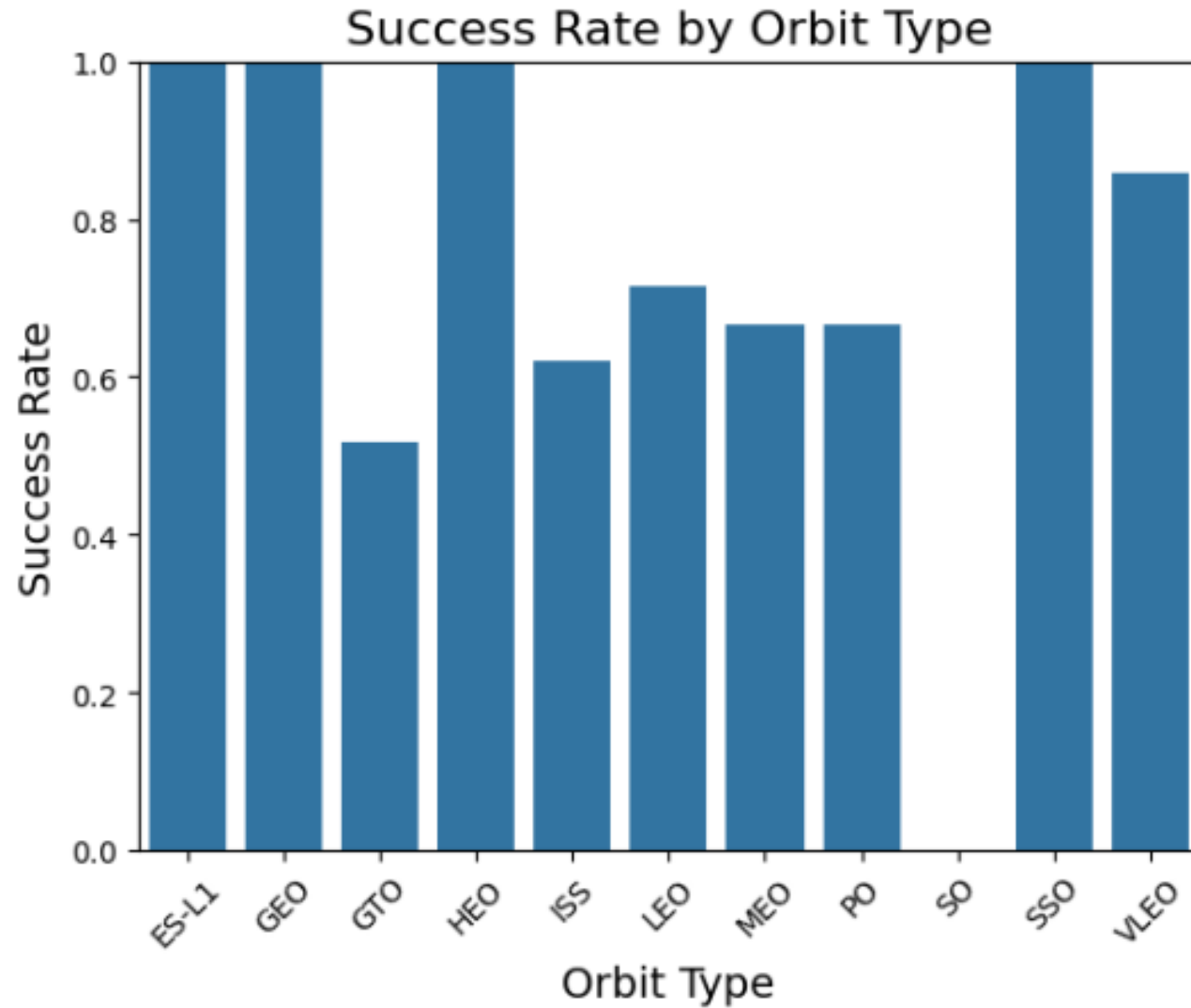


Payload vs. Launch Site



The greater the payload mass for launch site CCAFS SLC 40 the higher the success rate for the rocket.



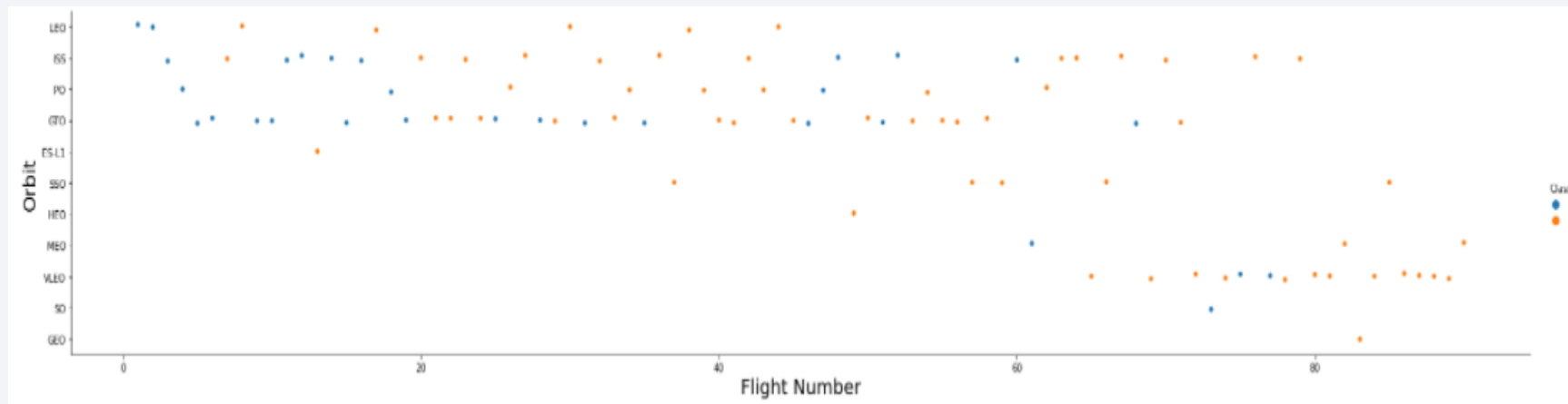


Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

- ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO, VLEO had the highest success rate
- SO has the lowest success rate

Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

- The plot below shows the Flight Number vs. Orbit type.
- We observe that in the LEO orbit, success is related to the number of flights whereas in the GTO orbit, there is no relationship between flight number and the orbit.



Payload vs. Orbit Type

- We observe that with heavy payloads, the successful landing are higher for PO, LEO and ISS orbits.



Launch Success Yearly Trend

- The success rate increased from 2013 to 2017
- The success rate is variable from 2017 to 2021



All Launch Site Names

- We used the key word **DISTINCT** to show only unique launch sites from the SpaceX data.

Display the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission

```
In [10]: task_1 = '''  
          SELECT DISTINCT LaunchSite  
          FROM SpaceX  
          ...  
          create_pandas_df(task_1, database=conn)
```

```
Out[10]:
```

| | launchsite |
|---|--------------|
| 0 | KSC LC-39A |
| 1 | CCAFS LC-40 |
| 2 | CCAFS SLC-40 |
| 3 | VAFB SLC-4E |

Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'

In [11]:

```
task_2 = '''
SELECT *
FROM SpaceX
WHERE LaunchSite LIKE 'CCA%'
LIMIT 5
'''
create_pandas_df(task_2, database=conn)
```

Out[11]:

| | date | time | boosterversion | launchsite | payload | payloadmasskg | orbit | customer | missionoutcome | landingoutcome |
|---|------------|----------|----------------|-------------|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 0 | 2010-04-06 | 18:45:00 | F9 v1.0 B0003 | CCAFS LC-40 | Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit | 0 | LEO | SpaceX | Success | Failure (parachute) |
| 1 | 2010-08-12 | 15:43:00 | F9 v1.0 B0004 | CCAFS LC-40 | Dragon demo flight C1, two CubeSats, barrel of... | 0 | LEO (ISS) | NASA (COTS) NRO | Success | Failure (parachute) |
| 2 | 2012-05-22 | 07:44:00 | F9 v1.0 B0005 | CCAFS LC-40 | Dragon demo flight C2 | 525 | LEO (ISS) | NASA (COTS) | Success | No attempt |
| 3 | 2012-08-10 | 00:35:00 | F9 v1.0 B0006 | CCAFS LC-40 | SpaceX CRS-1 | 500 | LEO (ISS) | NASA (CRS) | Success | No attempt |
| 4 | 2013-01-03 | 15:10:00 | F9 v1.0 B0007 | CCAFS LC-40 | SpaceX CRS-2 | 677 | LEO (ISS) | NASA (CRS) | Success | No attempt |

- We used the query above to display 5 records where launch sites begin with 'CCA'

Total Payload Mass

- We calculated the total payload carried by boosters from NASA as 45596 using the query below

```
Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)

In [12]: task_3 = '''
          SELECT SUM(PayloadMassKG) AS Total_PayloadMass
          FROM SpaceX
          WHERE Customer LIKE 'NASA (CRS)'
          '''
          create_pandas_df(task_3, database=conn)

Out[12]:
```

| | total_payloadmass |
|---|-------------------|
| 0 | 45596 |

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

- We calculated the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1 as 2928.4

Display average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1

```
In [13]: task_4 = '''
          SELECT AVG(PayloadMassKG) AS Avg_PayloadMass
          FROM SpaceX
          WHERE BoosterVersion = 'F9 v1.1'
          '''
          create_pandas_df(task_4, database=conn)
```

```
Out[13]:
```

| | avg_payloadmass |
|---|-----------------|
| 0 | 2928.4 |

First Successful Ground Landing Date

- We observed that the dates of the first successful landing outcome on ground pad was 22nd December 2015

```
In [14]: task_5 = '''
          SELECT MIN(Date) AS FirstSuccessfull_landing_date
          FROM SpaceX
          WHERE LandingOutcome LIKE 'Success (ground pad)'
          '''

          create_pandas_df(task_5, database=conn)
```

```
Out[14]:
```

| | firstsuccessfull_landing_date |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 0 | 2015-12-22 |

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

```
In [15]: task_6 = '''
          SELECT BoosterVersion
          FROM SpaceX
          WHERE LandingOutcome = 'Success (drone ship)'
             AND PayloadMassKG > 4000
             AND PayloadMassKG < 6000
          ...
          create_pandas_df(task_6, database=conn)
```

```
Out[15]:
```

| | boosterversion |
|---|----------------|
| 0 | F9 FT B1022 |
| 1 | F9 FT B1026 |
| 2 | F9 FT B1021.2 |
| 3 | F9 FT B1031.2 |

- We used the **WHERE** clause to filter for boosters which have successfully landed on drone ship and applied the **AND** condition to determine successful landing with payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000

Total Number of Successful and Failed Missions

List the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes

```
In [16]: task_7a = '''
          SELECT COUNT(MissionOutcome) AS SuccessOutcome
          FROM SpaceX
          WHERE MissionOutcome LIKE 'Success%'
          '''

          task_7b = '''
          SELECT COUNT(MissionOutcome) AS FailureOutcome
          FROM SpaceX
          WHERE MissionOutcome LIKE 'Failure%'
          '''

          print('The total number of successful mission outcome is:')
          display(create_pandas_df(task_7a, database=conn))
          print()
          print('The total number of failed mission outcome is:')
          create_pandas_df(task_7b, database=conn)
```

The total number of successful mission outcome is:

| | successoutcome |
|---|----------------|
| 0 | 100 |

The total number of failed mission outcome is:

```
Out[16]: failureoutcome
0         1
```

- We used wildcard like '%' to filter for **WHERE** MissionOutcome was a success or a failure.

Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

- We determined the booster that have carried the maximum payload using a subquery in the **WHERE** clause and the **MAX()** function.

List the names of the booster_versions which have carried the maximum payload mass. Use a subquery

In [17]:

```
task_8 = '''
SELECT BoosterVersion, PayloadMassKG
FROM SpaceX
WHERE PayloadMassKG = (
    SELECT MAX(PayloadMassKG)
    FROM SpaceX
)
ORDER BY BoosterVersion
'''
create_pandas_df(task_8, database=conn)
```

Out[17]:

| | boosterversion | payloadmasskg |
|----|----------------|---------------|
| 0 | F9 B5 B1048.4 | 15600 |
| 1 | F9 B5 B1048.5 | 15600 |
| 2 | F9 B5 B1049.4 | 15600 |
| 3 | F9 B5 B1049.5 | 15600 |
| 4 | F9 B5 B1049.7 | 15600 |
| 5 | F9 B5 B1051.3 | 15600 |
| 6 | F9 B5 B1051.4 | 15600 |
| 7 | F9 B5 B1051.6 | 15600 |
| 8 | F9 B5 B1056.4 | 15600 |
| 9 | F9 B5 B1058.3 | 15600 |
| 10 | F9 B5 B1060.2 | 15600 |
| 11 | F9 B5 B1060.3 | 15600 |

2015 Launch Records

- We used a combinations of the **WHERE** clause, **LIKE**, **AND**, and **BETWEEN** conditions to filter for failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for year 2015

```
List the failed landing_outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015

In [18]: task_9 = '''
          SELECT BoosterVersion, LaunchSite, LandingOutcome
          FROM SpaceX
          WHERE LandingOutcome LIKE 'Failure (drone ship)'
             AND Date BETWEEN '2015-01-01' AND '2015-12-31'
          ...
          create_pandas_df(task_9, database=conn)

Out[18]:
```

| | boosterversion | launchsite | landingoutcome |
|---|----------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 0 | F9 v1.1 B1012 | CCAFS LC-40 | Failure (drone ship) |
| 1 | F9 v1.1 B1015 | CCAFS LC-40 | Failure (drone ship) |

Rank Landing Outcomes Between 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20

Rank the count of landing outcomes (such as Failure (drone ship) or Success (ground pad))

```
In [19]: task_10 = '''
        SELECT LandingOutcome, COUNT(LandingOutcome)
        FROM SpaceX
        WHERE DATE BETWEEN '2010-06-04' AND '2017-03-20'
        GROUP BY LandingOutcome
        ORDER BY COUNT(LandingOutcome) DESC
        '''

        create_pandas_df(task_10, database=conn)
```

```
Out[19]:
```

| | landingoutcome | count |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| 0 | No attempt | 10 |
| 1 | Success (drone ship) | 6 |
| 2 | Failure (drone ship) | 5 |
| 3 | Success (ground pad) | 5 |
| 4 | Controlled (ocean) | 3 |
| 5 | Uncontrolled (ocean) | 2 |
| 6 | Precluded (drone ship) | 1 |
| 7 | Failure (parachute) | 1 |

- We selected Landing outcomes and the **COUNT** of landing outcomes from the data and used the **WHERE** clause to filter for landing outcomes **BETWEEN** 2010-06-04 to 2010-03-20.
- We applied the **GROUP BY** clause to group the landing outcomes and the **ORDER BY** clause to order the grouped landing outcome in descending order.

Section 4

Launch Sites Proximities Analysis



All launch sites global map markers



Markers showing launch sites with color labels



Launch Site distance to landmarks



- Are launch sites in close proximity to railways? No
- Are launch sites in close proximity to highways? No
- Are launch sites in close proximity to coastline? Yes
- Do launch sites keep certain distance away from cities? Yes



Section 5

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Pie chart showing the success percentage achieved by each launch site

Total Success Launches By all sites



We can see that KSC LC-39A had the most successful launches from all the sites

Pie chart showing the Launch site with the highest launch success ratio



KSC LC-39A achieved a 76.9% success rate while getting a 23.1% failure rate

Scatter plot of Payload vs Launch Outcome for all sites, with different payload selected in the range slider



We can see the success rates for low weighted payloads is higher than the heavy weighted payloads



Section 6

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

Classification Accuracy

- The decision tree classifier is the model with the highest classification accuracy

```
models = {'KNeighbors': knn_cv.best_score_,
          'DecisionTree': tree_cv.best_score_,
          'LogisticRegression': logreg_cv.best_score_,
          'SupportVector': svm_cv.best_score_}

bestalgorithm = max(models, key=models.get)
print('Best model is', bestalgorithm, 'with a score of', models[bestalgorithm])
if bestalgorithm == 'DecisionTree':
    print('Best params is :', tree_cv.best_params_)
if bestalgorithm == 'KNeighbors':
    print('Best params is :', knn_cv.best_params_)
if bestalgorithm == 'LogisticRegression':
    print('Best params is :', logreg_cv.best_params_)
if bestalgorithm == 'SupportVector':
    print('Best params is :', svm_cv.best_params_)
```

Best model is DecisionTree with a score of 0.8732142857142856

Best params is : {'criterion': 'gini', 'max_depth': 6, 'max_features': 'auto', 'min_samples_leaf': 2, 'min_samples_split': 5, 'splitter': 'random'}

Confusion Matrix

- The confusion matrix for the decision tree classifier shows that the classifier can distinguish between the different classes. The major problem is the false positives .i.e., unsuccessful landing marked as successful landing by the classifier.



Conclusions

We can conclude that:

- The more flights at a launch site, the greater the success rate at a launch site.
- Launch success rate increased from 2013-2017.
- Orbits ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO, VLEO had the highest success rate.
- KSC LC-39A had the most successful launches of any sites.
- The decision tree classifier is the best machine learning algorithm for this task.

Thank you!

