



IBM Developer
SKILLS NETWORK

Winning Space Race with Data Science

ANJU K PETER
09.06.2025



Outline

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

Executive Summary

Methodologies Used:

- Data collected through web scraping and the SpaceX API
- Conducted Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA): data wrangling, visualization, and interactive analytics
- Applied Machine Learning techniques for predictive modeling

Summary of Findings:

- Successfully gathered valuable data from public sources
- EDA highlighted key features that influence launch success
- Machine Learning helped identify the most impactful factors for predicting successful launches

Introduction

- This project aims to evaluate the **market viability of Space Y**, a new entrant seeking to compete with **SpaceX** in the commercial space industry.
- Using historical SpaceX launch data, the analysis focuses on deriving insights that can inform Space Y's strategic planning.

- **Primary Objectives:**

- Predict the **likelihood of successful first-stage landings** to estimate total launch costs accurately.
- Identify the **optimal launch sites** based on past mission success rates.
- Understand how factors like **payload mass, orbit type, and booster version** impact launch outcomes.
- Use **data-driven analysis** to support Space Y in making informed and competitive business decisions.

Section 1

Methodology

Methodology

Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
- Data from Space X was obtained from 2 sources:
- Space X API (<https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/rockets/>)
- Web Scraping
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Falcon/_9/_and_Falcon_Heavy_launches)
- Perform data wrangling
- Collected data was enriched by creating a landing outcome label based on outcome data after summarizing and analyzing features
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL

Methodology

- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
- Data that was collected until this step were normalized, divided in training and test data sets and evaluated by four different classification models, being the accuracy of each model evaluated using different combinations of parameters.

Data Collection

- Data sets were collected from Space X API (<https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/rockets/>) and from Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Falcon/_9/_and_Falcon_Heavy_launches), using web scraping techniques.

Data Collection – SpaceX API

- SpaceX offers a public API from where data can be obtained and then used;
- This API was used according to the flowchart beside and then data is persisted.



Data Collection - Scrapping

- Data from SpaceX launches can also be obtained from Wikipedia;
- Data are downloaded from Wikipedia according to the flowchart and then persisted.
- Github link:<https://github.com/Anjuk1989/APPLIED-DATASCIENCE-PROJECT/blob/master/jupyter-labs-webscraping.ipynb>

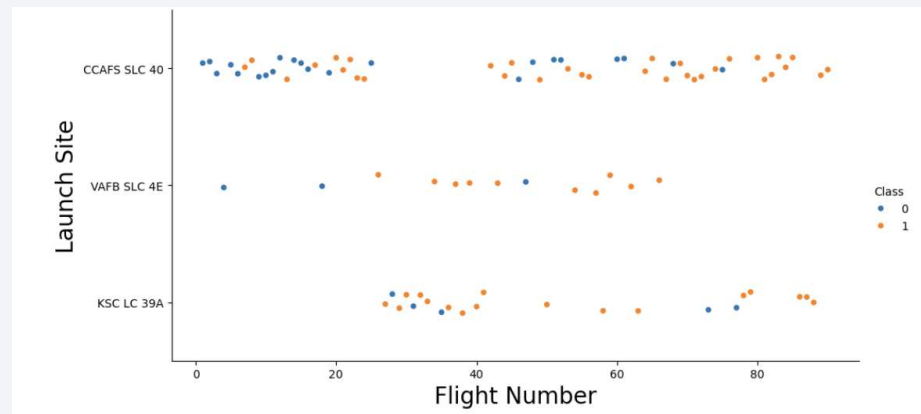


Data Wrangling

- Initially some Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) was performed on the dataset.
- Then the summaries launches per site, occurrences of each orbit and occurrences of mission outcome per orbit type were calculated.
- Finally, the landing outcome label was created from Outcome column.
- Github link: <https://github.com/Anjuk1989/APPLIED-DATASCIENCE-PROJECT/blob/master/labs-jupyter-spacex-Data%20wrangling.ipynb>

EDA with Data Visualization

- To explore data, scatterplots and barplots were used to visualize the relationship between pair of features:
- Payload Mass X Flight Number, Launch Site X Flight Number, Launch Site X Payload Mass, Orbit and Flight Number, Payload and Orbit



Github link: <https://github.com/Anjuk1989/APPLIED-DATASCIENCE-PROJECT/blob/master/edadataviz.ipynb>

EDA with SQL

- The following SQL queries were performed:
- Names of the unique launch sites in the space mission;
- Top 5 launch sites whose name begin with the string 'CCA';
- Total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS);
- Average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1;
- Date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved;
- Names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass between 4000 and 6000 kg;
- Total number of successful and failure mission outcomes;
- Names of the booster versions which have carried the maximum payload mass;
- Failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015; and
- Rank of the count of landing outcomes (such as Failure (drone ship) or Success (ground pad)) between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20.
- https://github.com/Anjuk1989/APPLIED-DATASCIENCE-PROJECT/blob/master/jupyter-labs-eda-sql-coursera_sqlite.ipynb

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

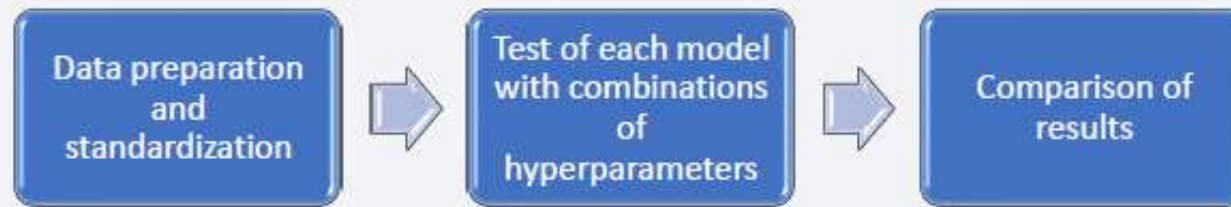
- Markers, circles, lines and marker clusters were used with Folium Maps
- Markers indicate points like launch sites;
- Circles indicate highlighted areas around specific coordinates, like NASA Johnson Space Center;
- Marker clusters indicates groups of events in each coordinate, like launches in a launch site; and
- Lines are used to indicate distances between two coordinates.
- GitHub :https://github.com/Anjuk1989/APPLIED-DATASCIENCE-PROJECT/blob/master/lab_jupyter_launch_site_location.ipynb

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- The following graphs and plots were used to visualize data
- Percentage of launches by site
- Payload range
- This combination allowed to quickly analyze the relation between payloads and launch sites, helping to identify where is best place to launch according to payloads.
- GitHub: https://github.com/Anjuk1989/APPLIED-DATASCIENCE-PROJECT/blob/master/spacex_dash_app.py

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

- Four classification models were compared: Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machine, Decision Tree and K Nearest Neighbors.



- GitHub: https://github.com/Anjuk1989/APPLIED-DATASCIENCE-PROJECT/blob/master/SpaceX_Machine%20Learning%20Prediction_Part_5.ipynb

Results

- Exploratory data analysis results:
- Space X uses 4 different launch sites;
- The first launches were done to Space X itself and NASA;
- The average payload of F9 v1.1 booster is 2,928 kg;
- The first success landing outcome happened in 2015 five year after the first launch;
- Many Falcon 9 booster versions were successful at landing in drone ships having payload above the average;
- Almost 100% of mission outcomes were successful;
- Two booster versions failed at landing in drone ships in 2015: F9 v1.1 B1012 and F9 v1.1 B1015;
- The number of landing outcomes became as better as years passed.

Results

- Using interactive analytics was possible to identify that launch sites use to be in safety places, near sea, for example and have a good logistic infrastructure around.
- Most launches happens at east cost launch sites.



Results

- Predictive Analysis showed that Logistic Regression is the best model to predict successful landings, having accuracy over 82% and accuracy for test data over 94%.

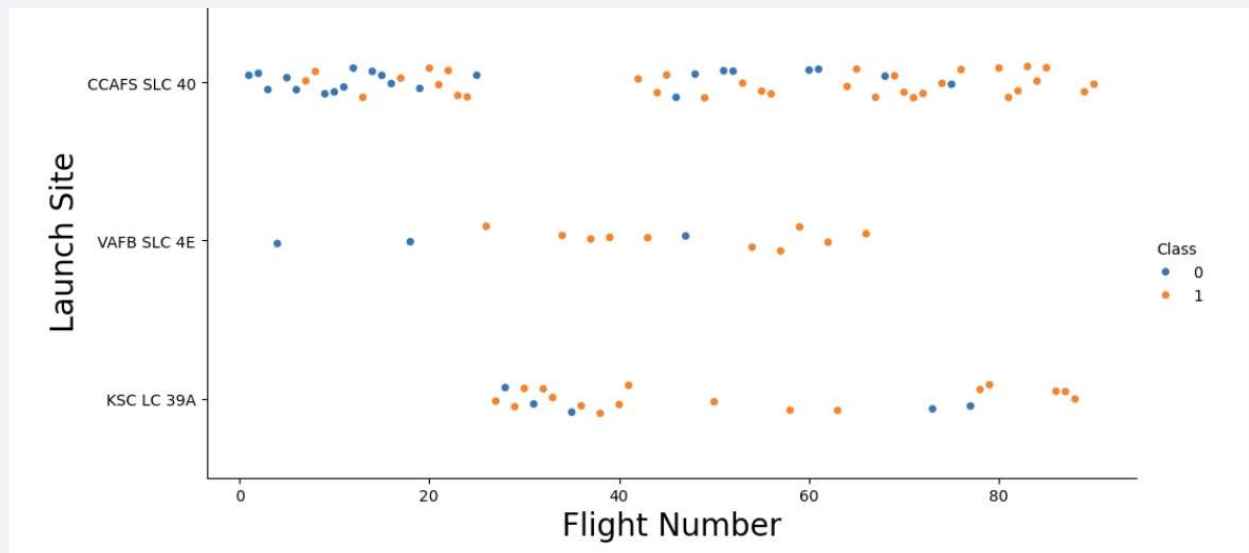
:			ML Method	Accuracy Score (%)
0			Support Vector Machine	83.333333
1			Logistic Regression	94.444444
2			K Nearest Neighbour	83.333333
3			Decision Tree	83.333333



Section 2

Insights drawn from EDA

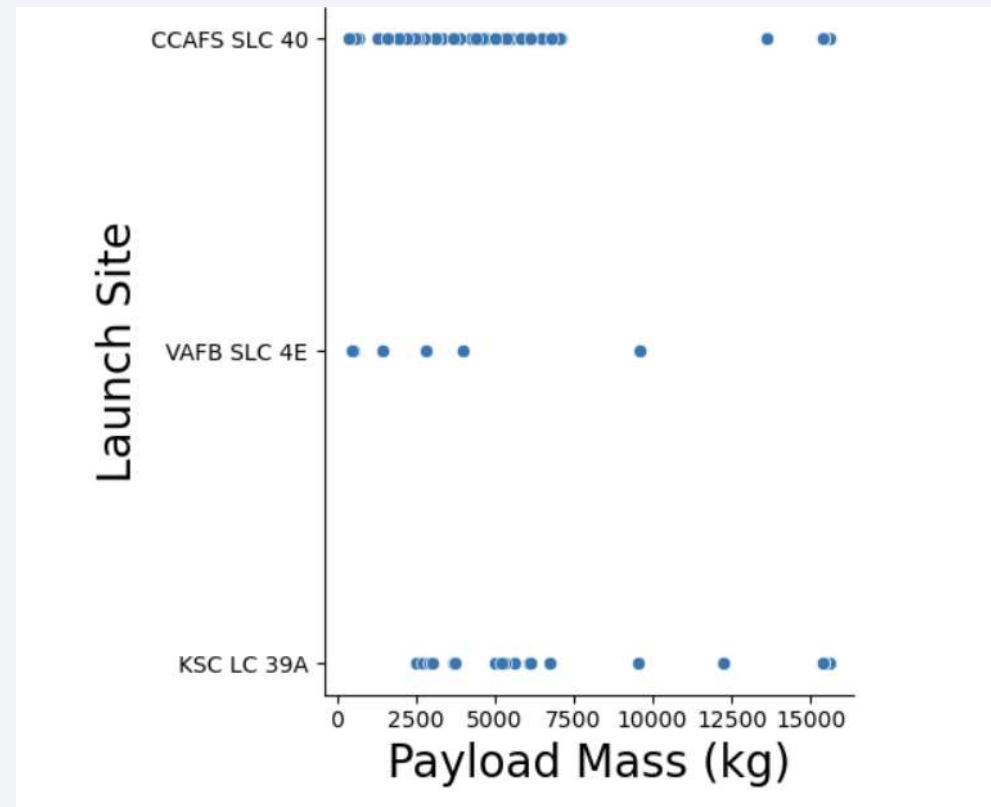
Flight Number vs. Launch Site



- According to the plot above, it's possible to verify that the best launch site nowadays is CCAFS SLC 40, where most of recent launches were successful;
- In second place VAFB SLC 4E and third place KSC LC 39A;
- It's also possible to see that the general success rate improved over time.

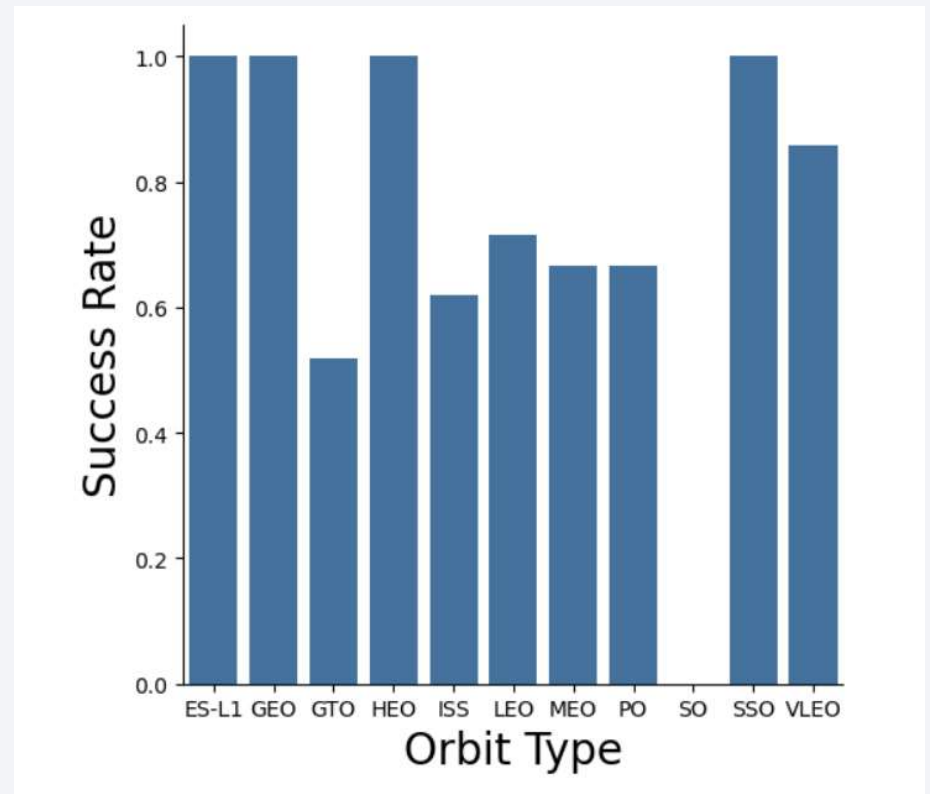
Payload vs. Launch Site

- Payloads over 9,000kg (about the weight of a school bus) have excellent success rate;
- Payloads over 12,000kg seems to be possible only on CCAFS SLC 40 and KSC LC 39A launch sites.



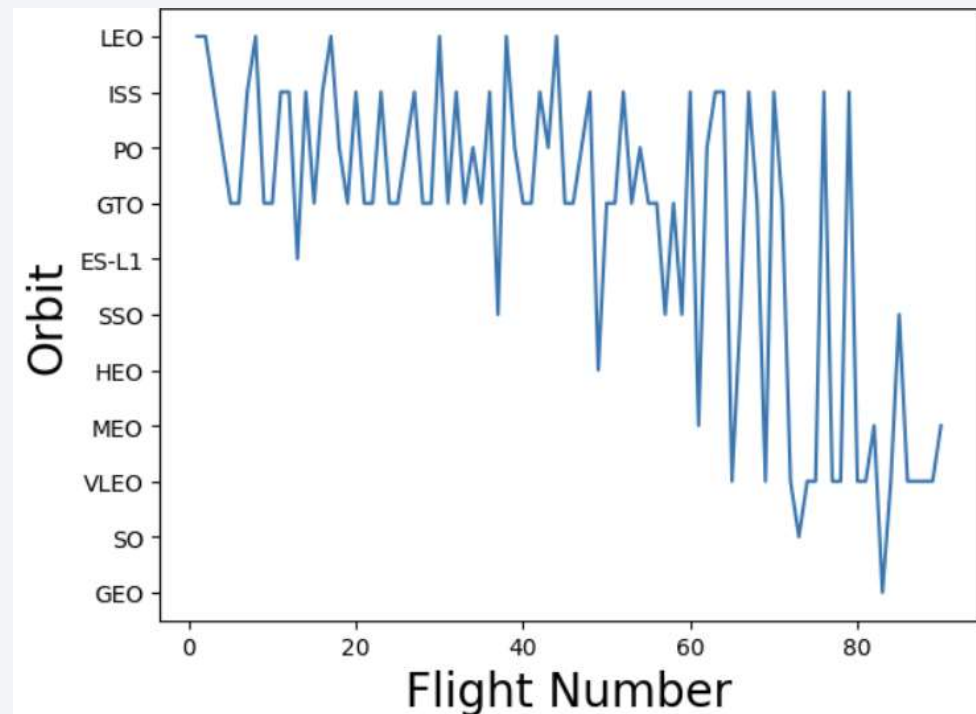
Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

- The biggest success rates happens to orbits:
 - ES-L1;
 - GEO;
 - HEO; and
 - SSO.
- Followed by:
 - VLEO (above 80%); and
 - LFO (above 70%).

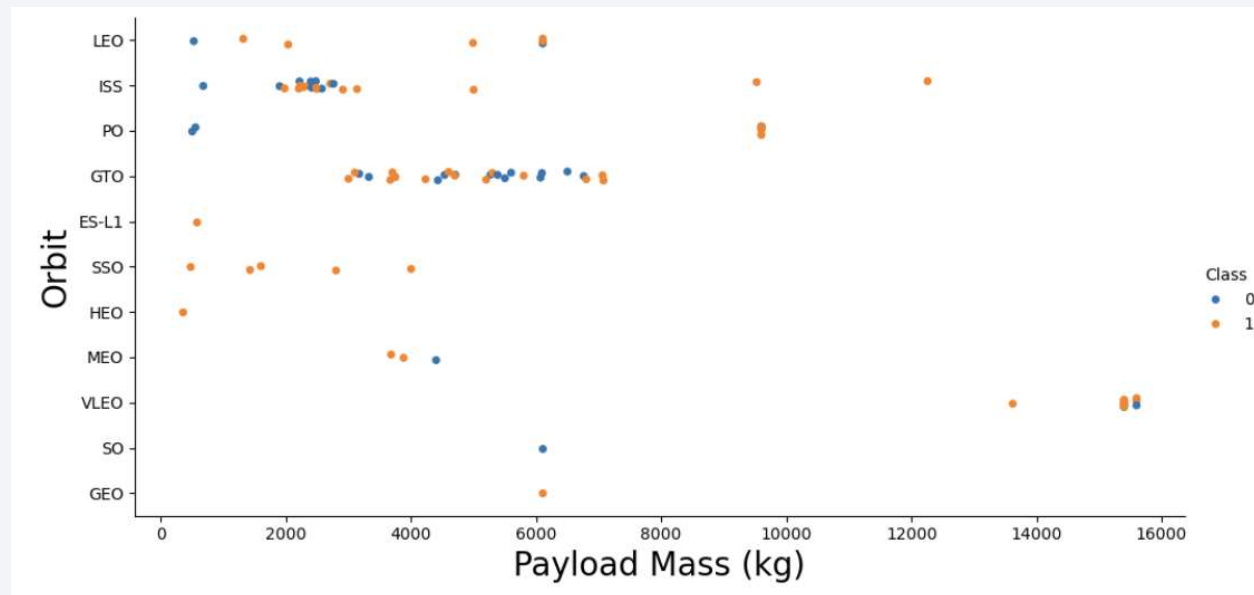


Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

- Apparently, success rate improved over time to all orbits;
- VLEO orbit seems a new business opportunity, due to recent increase of its frequency.

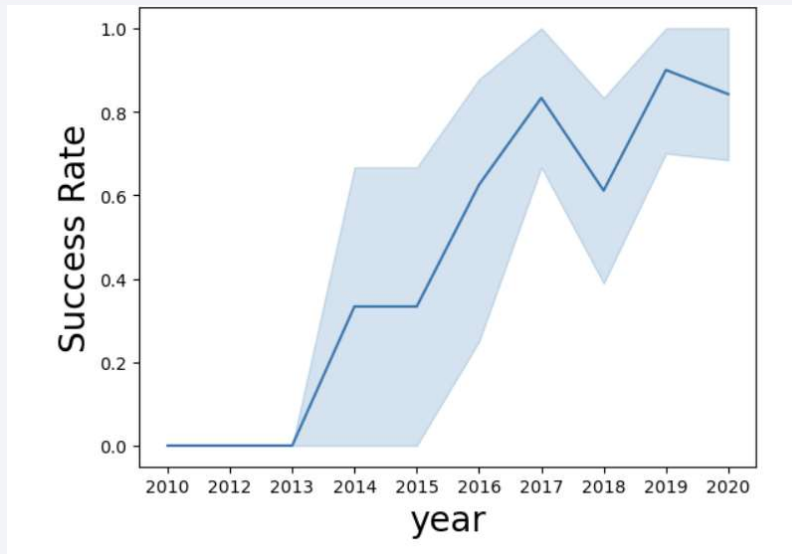


Payload vs. Orbit Type



- Apparently, there is no relation between payload and success rate to orbit GTO;
- ISS orbit has the widest range of payload and a good rate of success;
- There are few launches to the orbits SO and GEO.

Launch Success Yearly Trend



- Success rate started increasing in 2013 and kept until 2020;
- It seems that the first three years were a period of adjusts and improvement of technology.

All Launch Site Names

- According to data, there are four launch sites:

Launch_Site
CCAFS LC-40
VAFB SLC-4E
KSC LC-39A
CCAFS SLC-40

- They are obtained by selecting unique occurrences of “launch_site” values from the dataset.

Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

- 5 records where launch sites begin with `CCA`:

Date	Time (UTC)	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Payload	PAYLOAD_MASS_KG	Orbit	Customer	Mission_Outcome	Landing_Outcome
2010-06-04	18:45:00	F9 v1.0 B0003	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit	0	LEO	SpaceX	Success	Failure (parachute)
2010-12-08	15:43:00	F9 v1.0 B0004	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C1, two CubeSats, barrel of Brouere cheese	0	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS) NRO	Success	Failure (parachute)
2012-05-22	7:44:00	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success	No attempt
2012-10-08	0:35:00	F9 v1.0 B0006	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-1	500	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt
2013-03-01	15:10:00	F9 v1.0 B0007	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-2	677	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt

- Here we can see five samples of Cape Canaveral launches.

Total Payload Mass

- Total payload carried by boosters from NASA:

Total_Payload_Mass
45596

- Total payload calculated above, by summing all payloads whose codes contain 'CRS', which corresponds to NASA.

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

- Average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1:

AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_)
2928.4

Filtering data by the booster version above and calculating the average payload mass we obtained the value of 2,928 kg.

First Successful Ground Landing Date

- First successful landing outcome on ground pad:

MIN(DATE**)**

2015-12-22

- By filtering data by successful landing outcome on ground pad and getting the minimum value for date it's possible to identify the first occurrence, that happened on 12/22/2015.

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

- Boosters which have successfully landed on drone ship and had payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000

Payload
JCSAT-14
JCSAT-16
SES-10
SES-11 / EchoStar 105

- Selecting distinct booster versions according to the filters above, these 4 are the result.

Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

- Number of successful and failure mission outcomes:

Mission_Outcome	total_number
Failure (in flight)	1
Success	98
Success	1
Success (payload status unclear)	1

- Grouping mission outcomes and counting records for each group led us to the summary above.

Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

- Boosters which have carried the maximum payload mass
- These are the boosters which have carried the maximum payload mass registered in the dataset.

Booster_Version
F9 B5 B1048.4
F9 B5 B1049.4
F9 B5 B1051.3
F9 B5 B1056.4
F9 B5 B1048.5
F9 B5 B1051.4
F9 B5 B1049.5
F9 B5 B1060.2
F9 B5 B1058.3
F9 B5 B1051.6
F9 B5 B1060.3
F9 B5 B1049.7

2015 Launch Records

- Failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015

month	Date	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Landing_Outcome
01	2015-01-10	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)
04	2015-04-14	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)

- The list above has the only two occurrences.

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

- Ranking of all landing outcomes between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20:

- This view of data alerts us that “No attempt” must be taken in account.

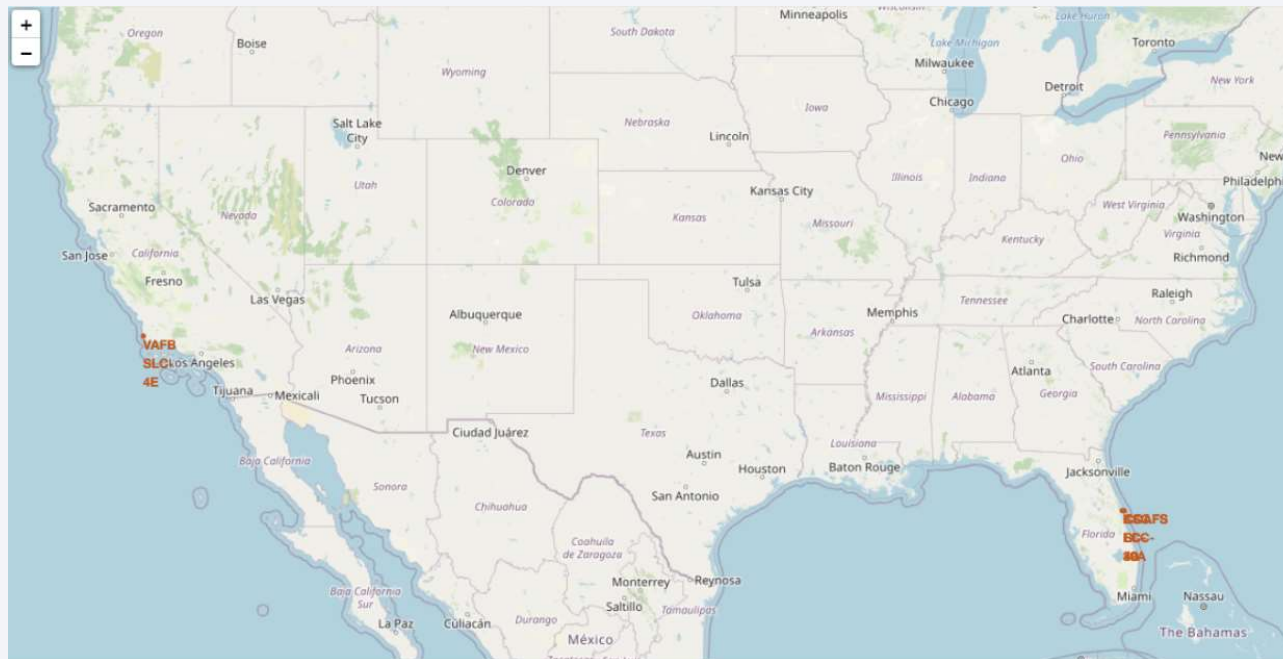
Landing_Outcome	count_outcomes
No attempt	10
Success (drone ship)	5
Failure (drone ship)	5
Success (ground pad)	3
Controlled (ocean)	3
Uncontrolled (ocean)	2
Failure (parachute)	2
Precluded (drone ship)	1

A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and city lights at night. The image is used as a background for the title slide.

Section 3

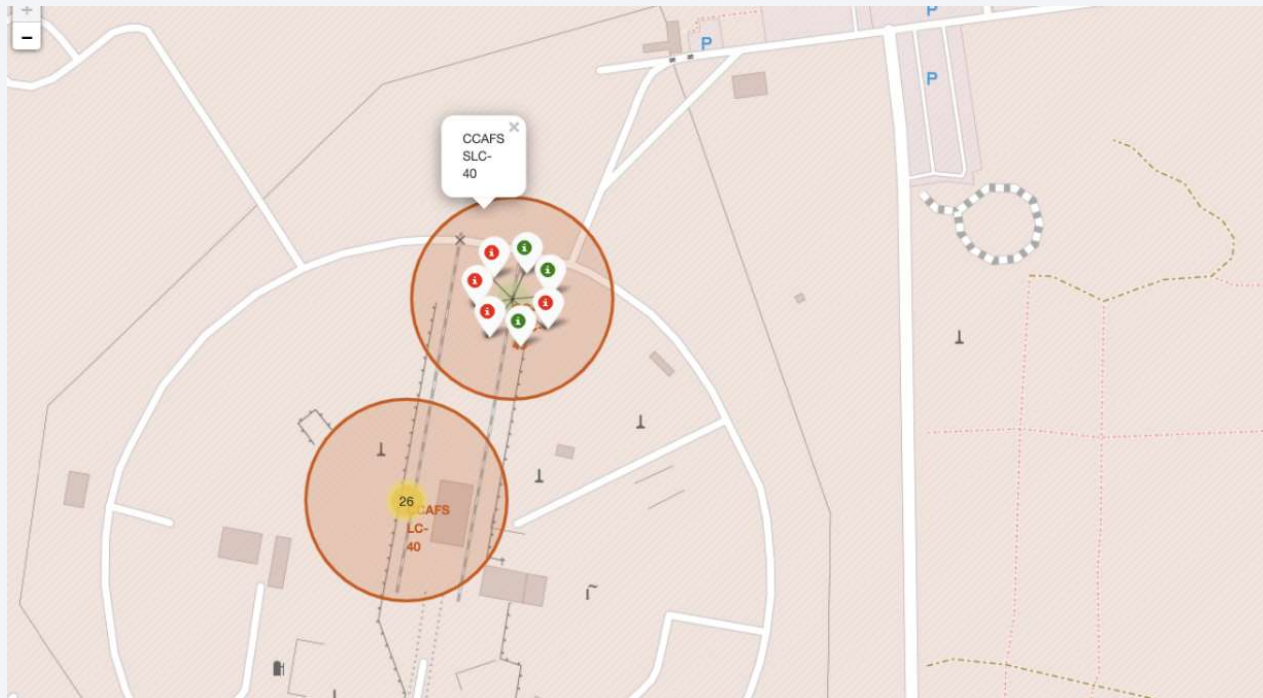
Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

ALL LAUNCH SITES



Launch sites are near sea, probably by safety, but not too far from roads and railroads.

Launch Outcomes by site



Green markers indicate successful and red ones indicate failure.

Logistics and Safety



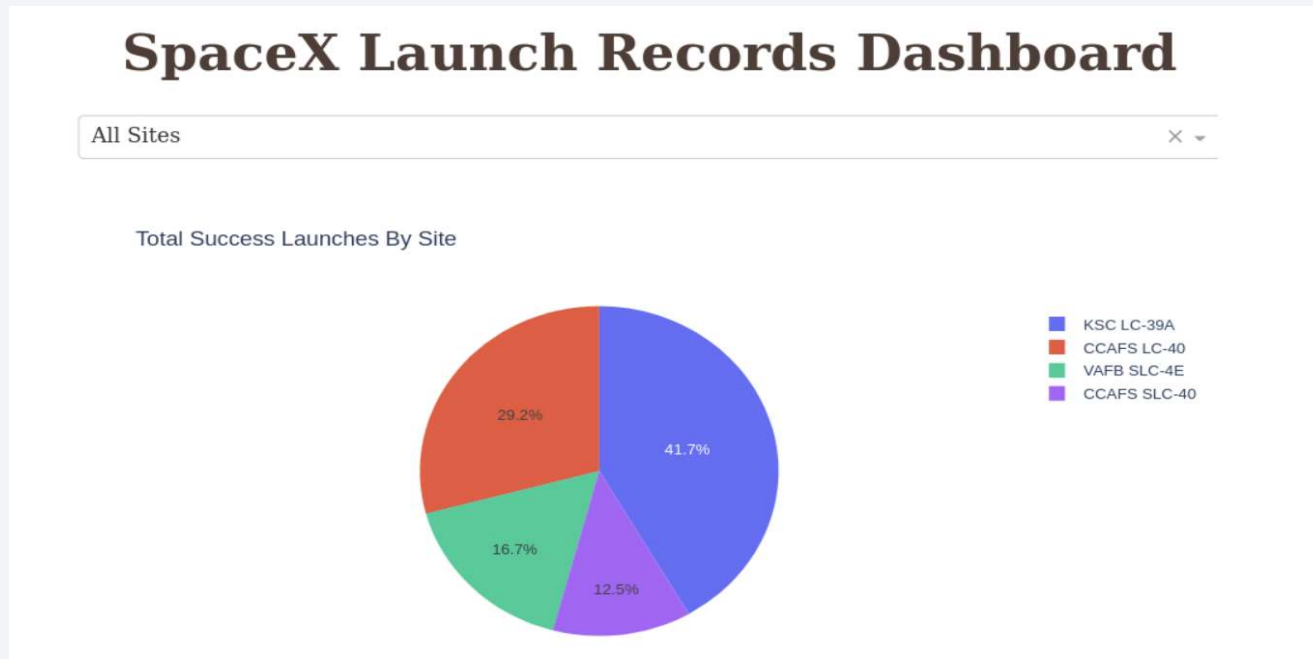
Launch sites are near sea, probably by safety, but not too far from roads and railroads.



Section 4

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Successful Launches by site



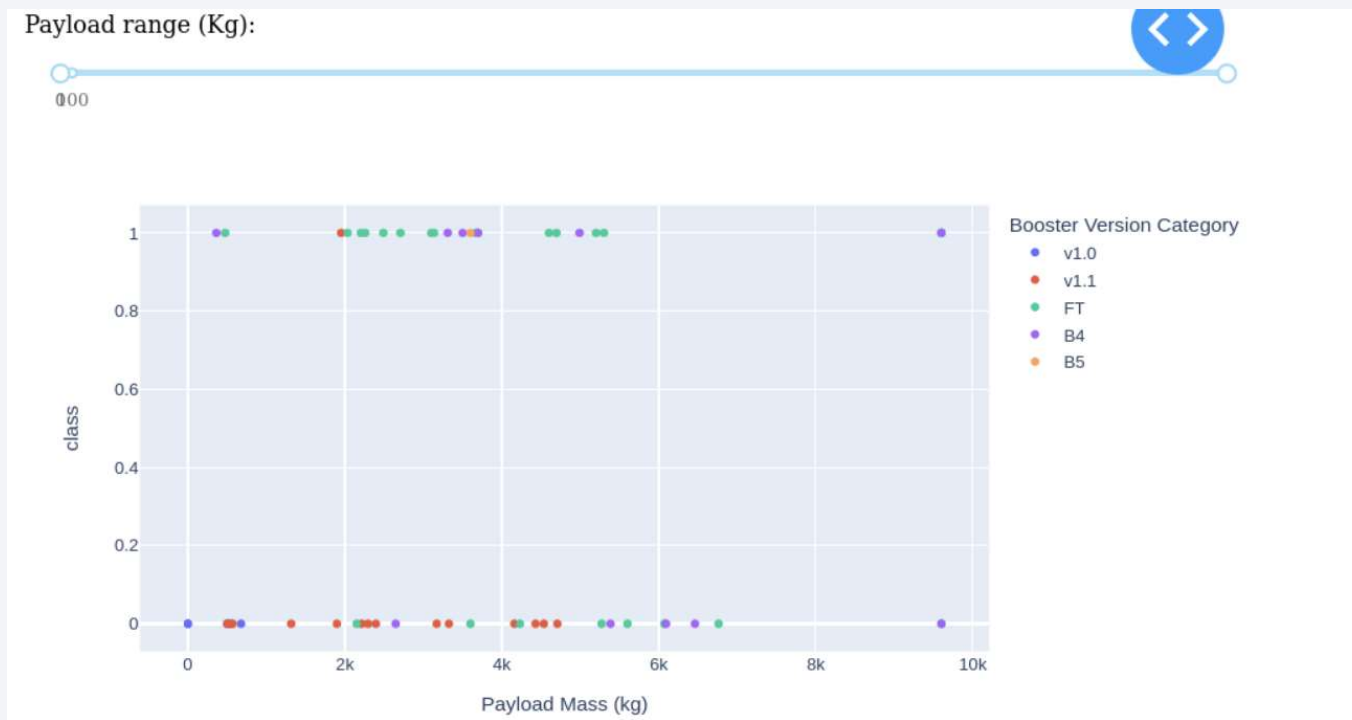
- The place from where launches are done seems to be a very important factor of success of missions.

Launch Success Ratio for CCAFS LC-40



73.1% of launches are successful in this site.

Payload vs. Launch Outcome



Payloads under 6,000kg and FT boosters are the most successful combination.

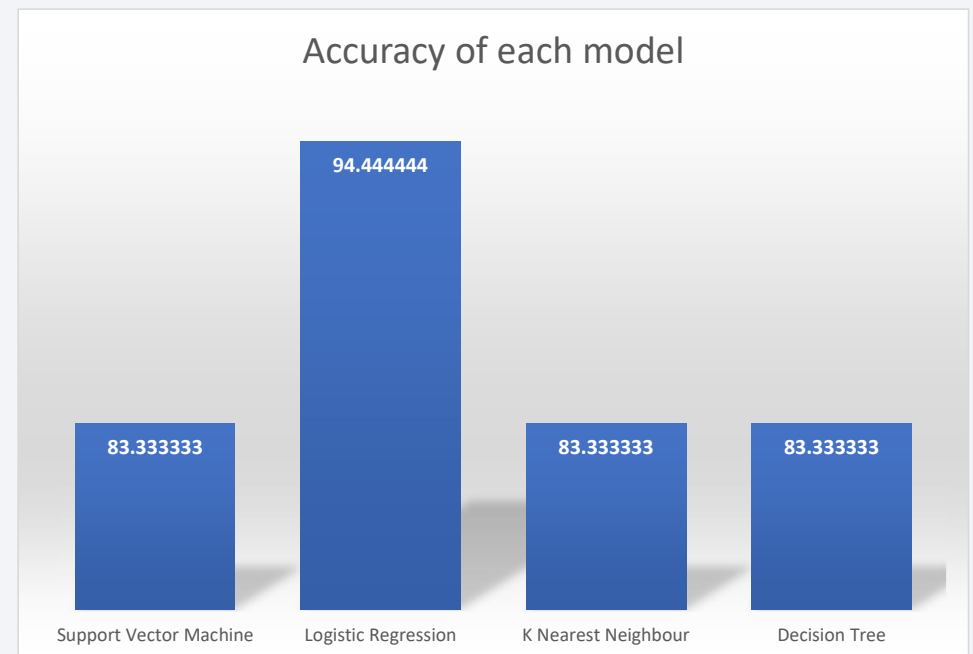


Section 5

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

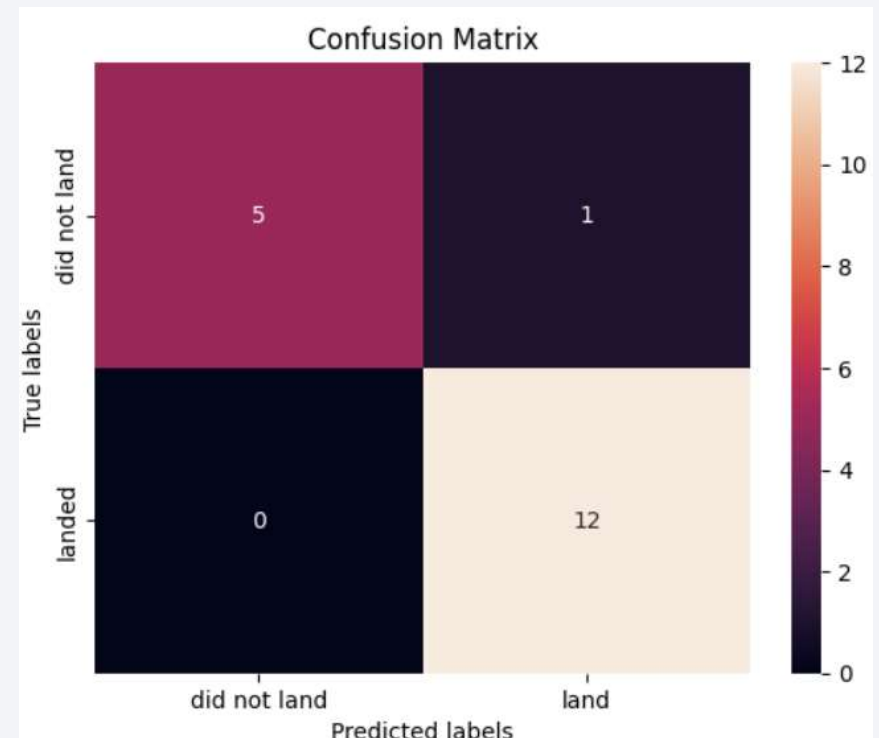
Classification Accuracy

- Four classification models were tested, and their accuracies are plotted beside;
- The model with the highest classification accuracy is Logistic Regression, which has accuracies over than 94%.



Confusion Matrix

Confusion matrix of Logistic Regression proves its accuracy by showing the big numbers of true positive and true negative compared to the false ones.



Conclusions

- Different data sources were analyzed, refining conclusions along the process;
- The best launch site is KSC LC-39A;
- Launches above 7,000kg are less risky;
- Although most of mission outcomes are successful, successful landing outcomes seem to improve over time, according the evolution of processes and rockets;
- Logistic Regression can be used to predict successful landings and increase profits.

Thank you!

