IBM DataScience Professional Certificate Final Capstone Project

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Outline

Executive Summary

Introduction

Methodology

Results

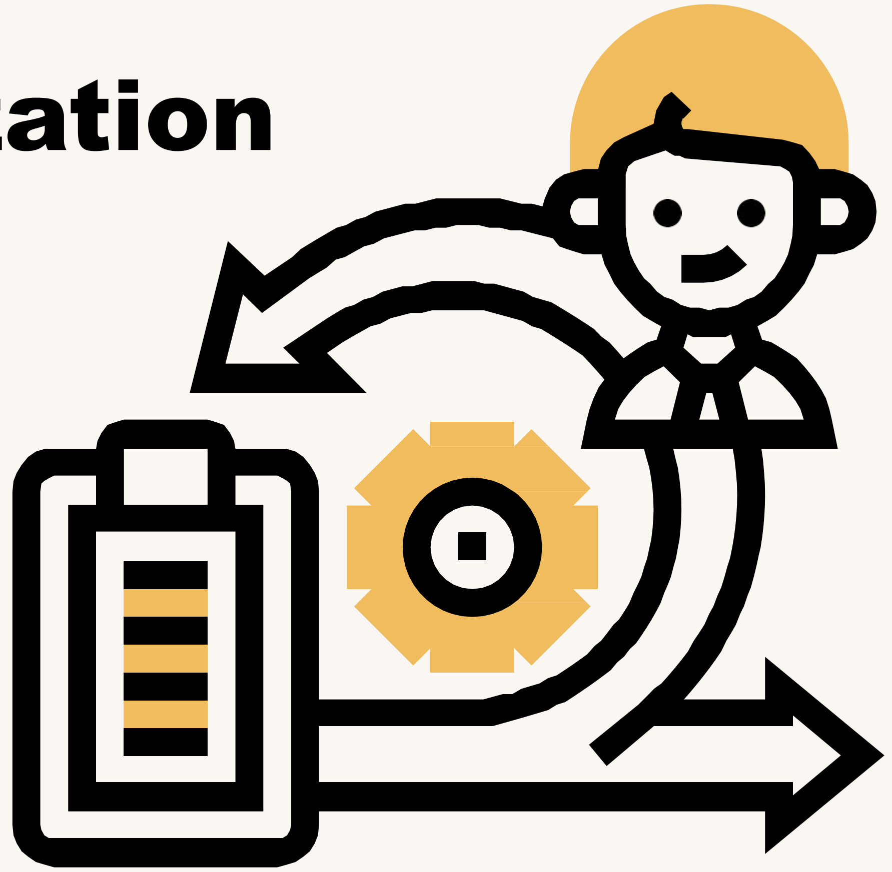
Conclusion

Appendix

Executive Summary

Summary of methodologies Data

- collection
- Data wrangling
- Exploratory Data Analysis with Data Visualization
- Exploratory Data Analysis with SQL
- Building an interactive map with Folium
- Building a Dashboard with Plotly Dash
- Predictive analysis (Classification)



Summary of all results

- Exploratory Data Analysis results Interactive
- analytics demo in screenshots Predictive
- analysis results

Introduction

The Falcon 9 rocket, developed by SpaceX, represents a major breakthrough in reusable rocket technology, significantly reducing the cost of space launches by successfully landing its first stage for refurbishment and reuse.

This project aims to analyze historical launch data to predict the success of Falcon 9 first-stage landings using machine learning techniques. By leveraging various launch parameters such as rocket version, payload mass, launch site, and landing type, the objective is to build predictive models that can assess the likelihood of a successful landing. These insights are critical for optimizing launch strategies and improving cost efficiency in the commercial spaceflight industry.

This capstone project demonstrates the practical application of data science and machine learning to solve real-world aerospace challenges.

Data Collection

Data collection process involved a combination of API requests from SpaceX REST API and Web Scraping data from a table in SpaceX's Wikipedia entry.
We had to use both of these data collection methods in order to get complete information about the launches for a more detailed analysis.

Data Columns are obtained by using SpaceX REST API: FlightNumber, Date, BoosterVersion, PayloadMass, Orbit, LaunchSite, Outcome, Flights, GridFins, Reused, Legs, LandingPad, Block, ReusedCount, Serial, Longitude, Latitude

Data Columns are obtained by using Wikipedia Web Scraping: Flight No., Launch site, Payload, PayloadMass, Orbit, Customer, Launch outcome, Version Booster, Booster landing, Date, Tim

Data Collection - SpaceX Rest API

Requesting rocket launch data from SpaceX API

Decoding the response content using .json() and turning it into a dataframe using `.json_normalize()`

Requesting needed information about the launches from SpaceX API by applying custom functions

Constructing data we have obtained into a dictionary

Creating a dataframe from the dictionary

Filtering the dataframe to only include Falcon 9 launches

Replacing missing values of Payload Mass column with calculated .mean() for this column

Exporting the data to CSV

Data Collection - Web Scraping

Requesting Falcon 9 launch data from Wikipedia

Creating a BeautifulSoup object from the HTML response

Extracting all column names from the HTML table header

Collecting the data by parsing HTML tables

Constructing data we have obtained into a dictionary

Creating a dataframe from the dictionary

Exporting the data to CSV

Data Wrangling

Identify which columns are numerical and categorical:

In [5]:
```
df.dtypes
```

Out[5]:
```
FlightNumber        int64
Date               object
BoosterVersion     object
PayloadMass       float64
Orbit              object
LaunchSite         object
Outcome            object
Flights             int64
GridFins             bool
Reused               bool
Legs                 bool
LandingPad         object
Block             float64
ReusedCount         int64
Serial             object
Longitude         float64
Latitude          float64
dtype: object
```

Use the method `.value_counts()` to determine the number and occurrence of each orbit in the column `Orbit`

```
orbit_counts = df['Orbit'].value_counts()
print(orbit_counts)
```

```
Orbit
GTO      27
ISS      21
VLEO     14
PO        9
LEO       7
SSO       5
MEO       3
HEO       1
ES-L1     1
SO        1
GEO       1
Name: count, dtype: int64
```

```
landing_outcomes = df['Outcome'].value_counts()
print(landing_outcomes)
```

```
Outcome
True ASDS      41
None None      19
True RTLS      14
False ASDS      6
True Ocean      5
False Ocean     2
None ASDS       2
False RTLS      1
Name: count, dtype: int64
```

EDA with data visualization

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the Falcon 9 launch dataset, exploratory data analysis (EDA) was performed to identify patterns, trends, and correlations among key variables.

Initial analysis focused on the distribution of landing outcomes across different rocket versions, launch sites, and payload masses. Visualizations played a critical role in this process, bar plots highlighted the frequency of successful landings per launch site, while scatter plots revealed how payload mass impacts landing success. Heatmaps were used to examine correlations between numerical features such as payload mass, orbit type, and success probability. Additionally, pie charts and histograms provided insights into categorical distributions such as launch outcomes and booster versions.

These visualizations helped uncover that certain launch sites and payload ranges had higher landing success rates, laying the groundwork for feature selection in the machine learning phase.

EDA with SQL

To gather preliminary insights from the SpaceX Falcon 9 launch dataset, structured exploratory data analysis was performed using SQL. The following key queries were executed:

1. Display the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission dataset to understand the geographical distribution of Falcon 9 launches.
2. Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string ‘CCA’, providing an initial look into launch activity at Cape Canaveral sites.
3. Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS) to evaluate the scale of NASA’s missions.
4. Display the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1, offering insight into the typical capacity handled by earlier booster variants.
5. List the date when the first successful landing outcome on a ground pad was achieved, highlighting SpaceX’s milestone in reusability.
6. List the names of the boosters which had success on a drone ship and a payload mass between 4000 and 6000 kg, identifying high-performing missions in a specific payload range.
7. List the total number of successful and failed mission outcomes, to assess overall mission reliability.
8. List the names of the booster versions which have carried the maximum payload mass, revealing the highest-capacity hardware.
9. List the failed landing outcomes on drone ships, their booster versions, and launch site names for 2015, focusing on failures during a crucial developmental phase.
10. Rank the count of landing outcomes (e.g., "Failure (drone ship)" or "Success (ground pad)") between the dates 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20, in descending order, to understand which outcomes were most frequent during that time frame.

Build an interactive map with Folium

Markers of all Launch Sites:

- Added Marker with Circle, Popup Label and Text Label of NASA Johnson Space Center using its latitude and longitude coordinates as a start location.
- Added Markers with Circle, Popup Label and Text Label of all Launch Sites using their latitude and longitude coordinates to show their geographical locations and proximity to Equator and coasts.

Coloured Markers of the launch outcomes for each Launch Site:

- Added coloured Markers of success (Green) and failed (Red) launches using Marker Cluster to identify which launch sites have relatively high success rates.

Distances between a Launch Site to its proximities:

- Added coloured Lines to show distances between the Launch Site KSC LC-39A (as an example) and its proximities like Railway, Highway, Coastline and Closest City.

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Launch Sites Dropdown List:

- Added a dropdown list to enable Launch Site selection.

Pie Chart showing Success Launches (All Sites/Certain Site):

- Added a pie chart to show the total successful launches count for all sites and the Success vs. Failed counts for the site, if a specific Launch Site was selected.

Slider of Payload Mass Range:

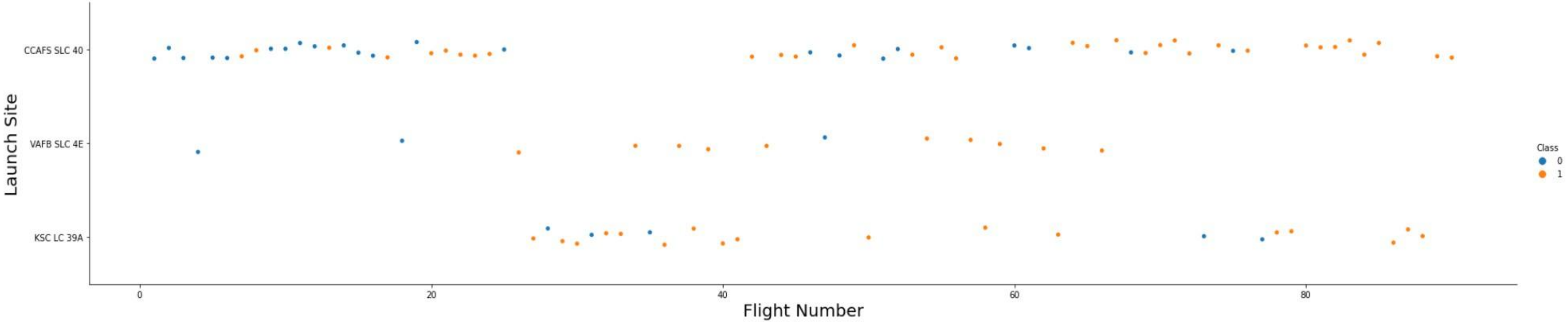
- Added a slider to select Payload range.

Scatter Chart of Payload Mass vs. Success Rate for the different Booster Versions:

- Added a scatter chart to show the correlation between Payload and Launch Success.

EDA WITH VISUALIZATION

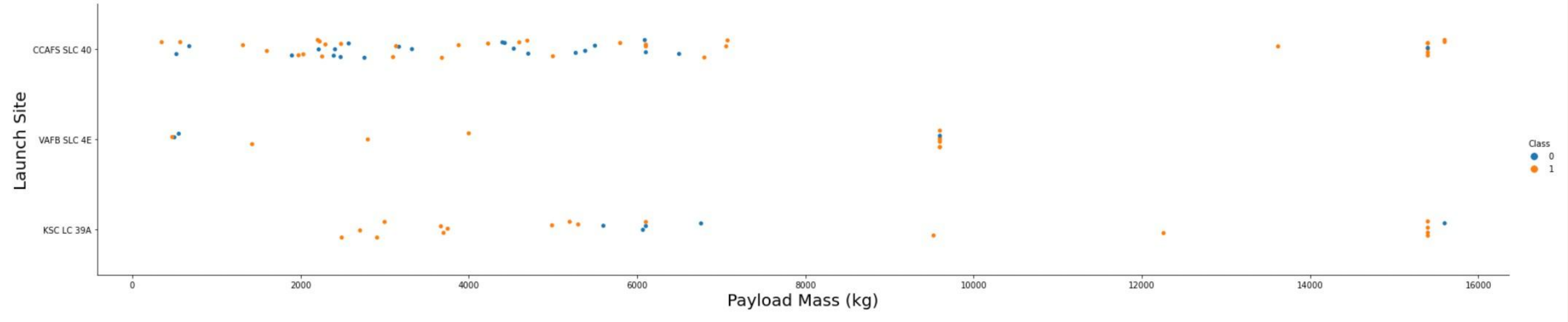
Flight Number vs. Launch Site



Explanation:

- The earliest flights all failed while the latest flights all succeeded. •The CCAFS SLC 40 launch site has about a half of all launches. •VAFB SLC 4E and KSC LC 39A have higher success rates. •It can be assumed that each new launch has a higher rate of success.

Payload vs. Launch Site



Explanation:

- For every launch site the higher the payload mass, the higher the success rate.
- Most of the launches with payload mass over 7000 kg were successful.
- KSC LC 39A has a 100% success rate for payload mass under 5500 kg too.

Success rate vs. Orbit type

Explanation:

- Orbits with 100% success rate:

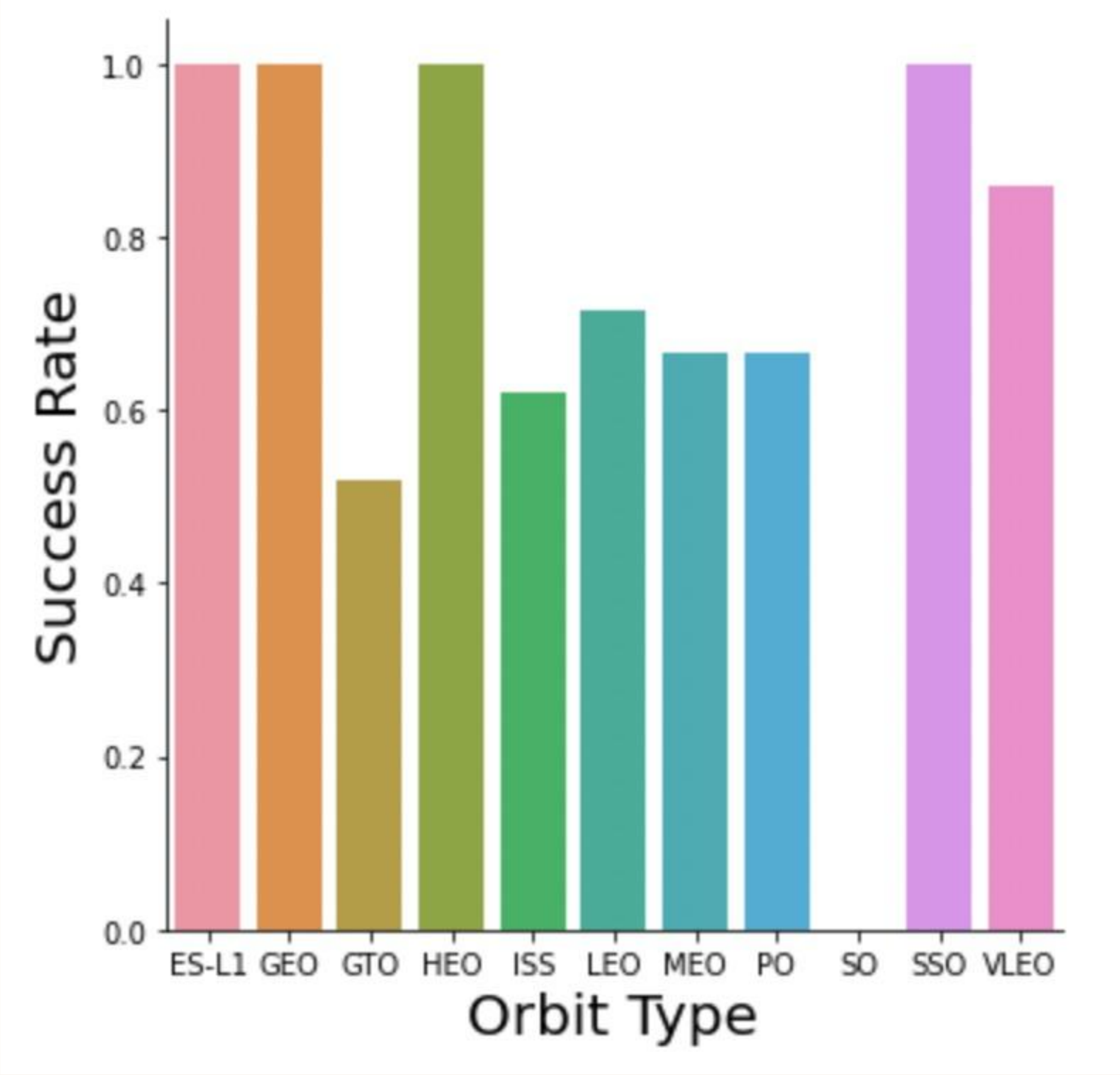
  -ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO

- Orbits with 0% success rate:

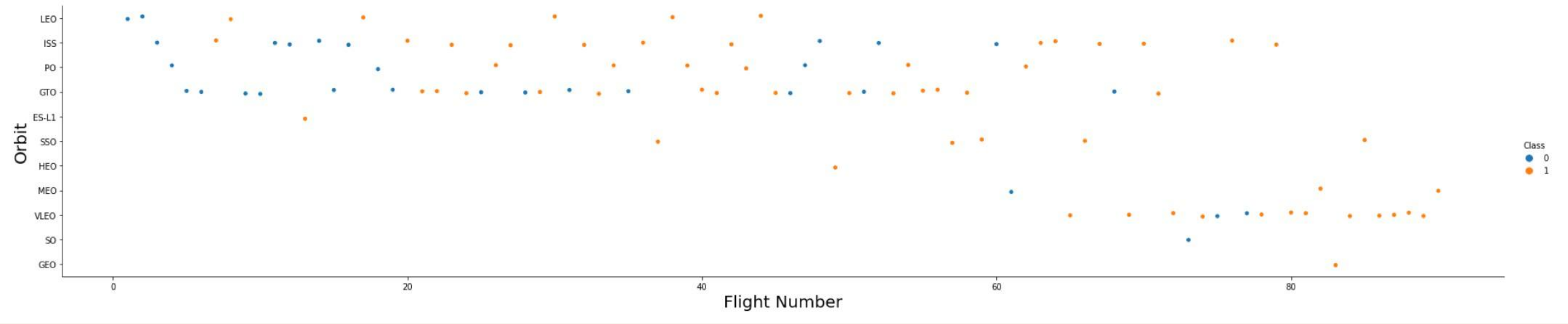
  -SO

- Orbits with success rate between 50% and 85%:

  -GTO, ISS, LEO, MEO, PO



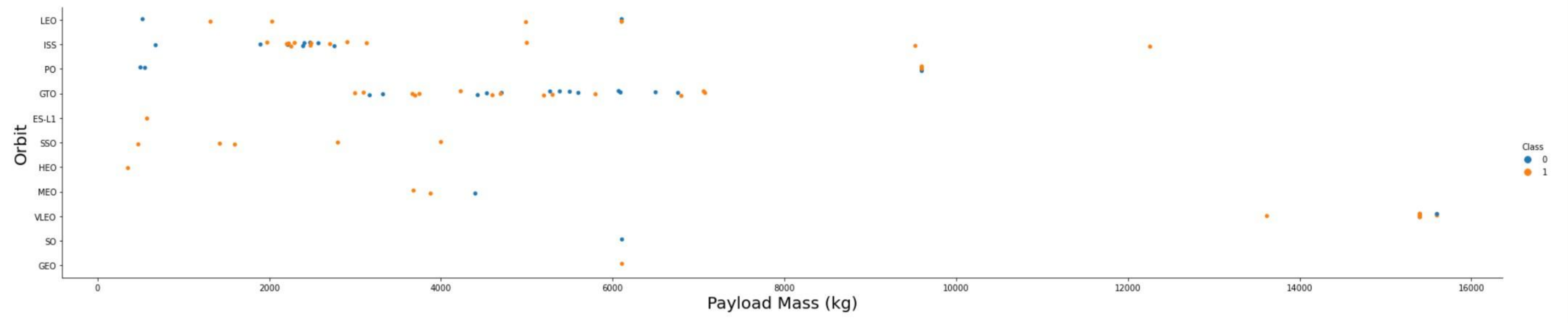
Flight Number vs. Orbit type



Explanation:

- In the LEO orbit the Success appears related to the number of flights; on the other hand, there seems to be no relationship between flight number when in GTO orbit.

Payload Mass vs. Orbit type



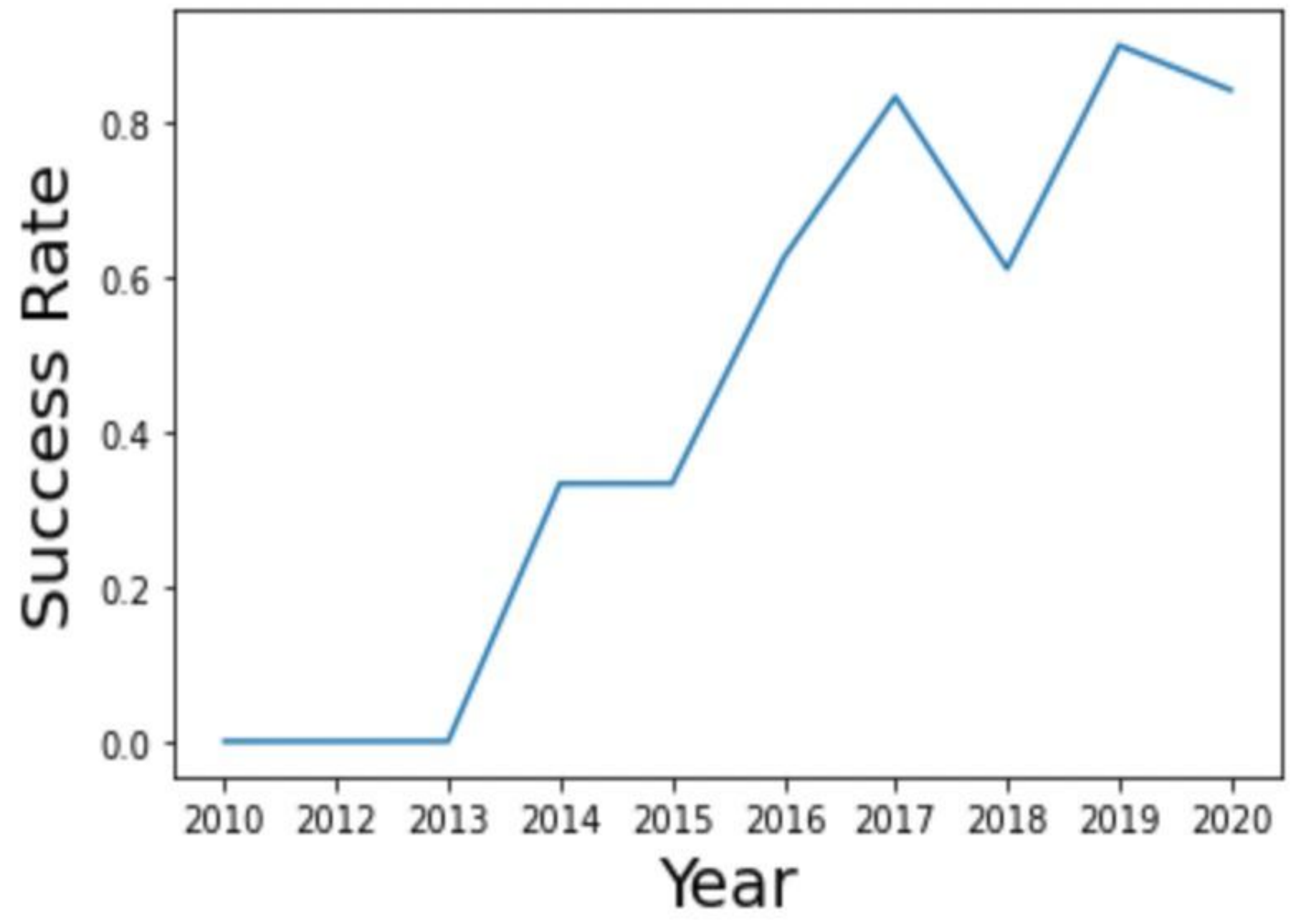
Explanation:

- Heavy payloads have a negative influence on GTO orbits and positive on GTO and Polar LEO (ISS) orbits.

Launch success yearly trend

Explanation:

- The success rate since 2013 kept increasing till 2020.



EDA with SQL

All launch site names

In [4]:
```
%sql select distinct launch_site from SPACEXDATASET;
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://wzf08322:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb
Done.
```

Out[4]:

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

Explanation:

- Displaying the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission.

Launch site names begin with `CCA`

```
In [5]: %sql select * from SPACEXDATASET where launch_site like 'CCA%' limit 5;

 * ibm_db_sa://wzf08322:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb
Done.
```

Out[5]:

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	07:44:00	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success	No attempt
2012-10-08	00:35:00	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

Explanation:

- Displaying 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'.

Total payload mass

```
In [6]: %sql select sum(payload_mass__kg_) as total_payload_mass from SPACEXDATASET where customer = 'NASA (CRS)';

 * ibm_db_sa://wzf08322:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb
Done.

Out[6]:
```

total_payload_mass
45596

Explanation:

- Displaying the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS).

Average payload mass by F9 v1.1

```
In [7]: %sql select avg(payload_mass__kg_) as average_payload_mass from SPACEXDATASET where booster_version like '%F9 v1.1%';

 * ibm_db_sa://wzf08322:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb
Done.

Out[7]:
```

average_payload_mass
2534

Explanation:

- Displaying average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1.

First successful ground landing date

```
In [8]: %sql select min(date) as first_successful_landing from SPACEXDATASET where landing__outcome = 'Success (ground pad)';

 * ibm_db_sa://wzf08322:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb
Done.
Out[8]:
```

first_successful_landing
2015-12-22

Explanation:

- Listing the date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved.

Successful drone ship landing with payloa between 4000 and 6000

```
In [9]: %sql select booster_version from SPACEXDATASET where landing__outcome = 'Success (drone ship)' and payload_mass__kg_ between 4
000 and 6000;

 * ibm_db_sa://wzf08322:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb
Done.
```

Out[9]:

booster_version
F9 FT B1022
F9 FT B1026
F9 FT B1021.2
F9 FT B1031.2

Explanation:

- Listing the names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000.

Total number of successful and failur mission outcomes

```
In [10]: %sql select mission_outcome, count(*) as total_number from SPACEXDATASET group by mission_outcome;
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://wzf08322:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb
Done.
```

Out[10]:

mission_outcome	total_number
Failure (in flight)	1
Success	99
Success (payload status unclear)	1

Explanation:

- Listing the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes.

Boosters carried maximum payload

```
In [11]: %sql select booster_version from SPACEXDATASET where payload_mass__kg_ = (select max(payload_mass__kg_) from SPACEXDATASET);
 * ibm_db_sa://wzf08322:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb
Done.
Out[11]:
```

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

Explanation:

- Listing the names of the booster versions which have carried the maximum payload mass.

2015 launch records

In [12]:
```
%%sql select monthname(date) as month, date, booster_version, launch_site, landing__outcome from SPACEXDATASET
      where landing__outcome = 'Failure (drone ship)' and year(date)=2015;
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://wzf08322:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb
Done.
```

Out[12]:

MONTH	DATE	booster_version	launch_site	landing__outcome
January	2015-01-10	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)
April	2015-04-14	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)

Explanation:

- Listing the failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions and launch site names for the months in year 2015.

Rank success count between 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-2

```
In [13]: %%sql select landing__outcome, count(*) as count_outcomes from SPACEXDATASET
                where date between '2010-06-04' and '2017-03-20'
                group by landing__outcome
                order by count_outcomes desc;

 * ibm_db_sa://wzf08322:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb
Done.
Out[13]:
```

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

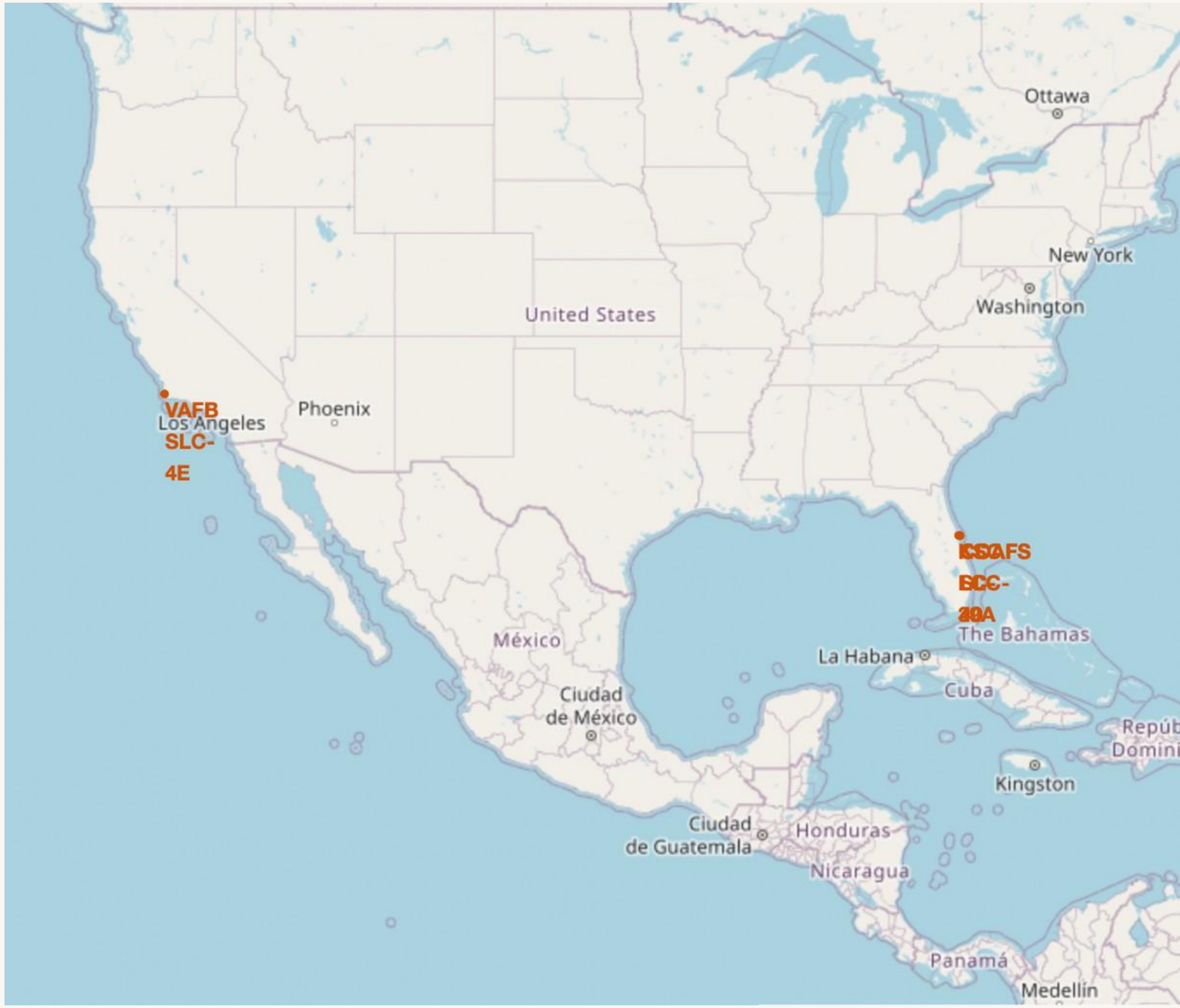
Explanation:

- Ranking the count of landing outcomes (such as Failure (drone ship) or Success (ground pad)) between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20 in descending order.

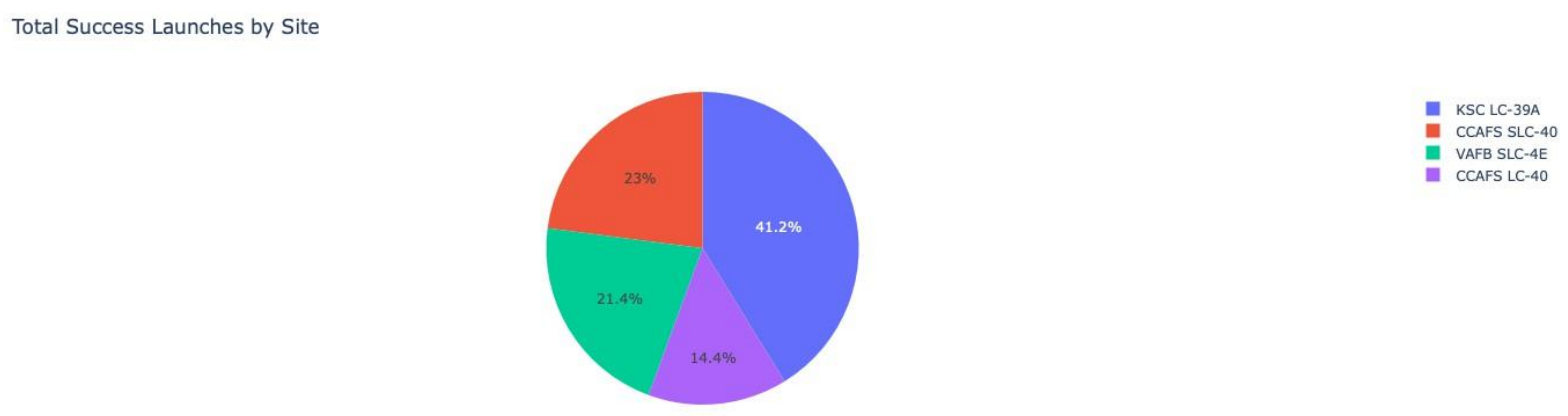
INTERACTIVE MAP USING FOLIUM

Explanation:

- Most of Launch sites are in proximity to the Equator line. The land is moving faster at the equator than any other place on the surface of the Earth. Anything on the surface of the Earth at the equator is already moving at 1670 km/hour. If a ship is launched from the equator it goes up into space, and it is also moving around the Earth at the same speed it was moving before launching. This is because of inertia. This speed will help the spacecraft keep up a good enough speed to stay in orbit.
- All launch sites are in very close proximity to the coast, while launching rockets towards the ocean it minimises the risk of having any debris dropping or exploding near people.



DASHBOARD USING PLOTLY DASH



Explanation:

- The chart clearly shows that from all the sites, KSC LC-39A has the most successful launches.

Predictive analysis (classification)

Explanation:

- Based on the scores of the Test Set, we can not confirm which method performs best.
- Same Test Set scores may be due to the small test sample size (18 samples). Therefore, we tested all methods based on the whole Dataset.
- The scores of the whole Dataset confirm that the best model is the Decision Tree Model. This model has not only higher scores, but also the highest accuracy.

Scores and Accuracy of the Test Set

	LogReg	SVM	Tree	KNN
Jaccard_Score	0.800000	0.800000	0.800000	0.800000
F1_Score	0.888889	0.888889	0.888889	0.888889
Accuracy	0.833333	0.833333	0.833333	0.833333

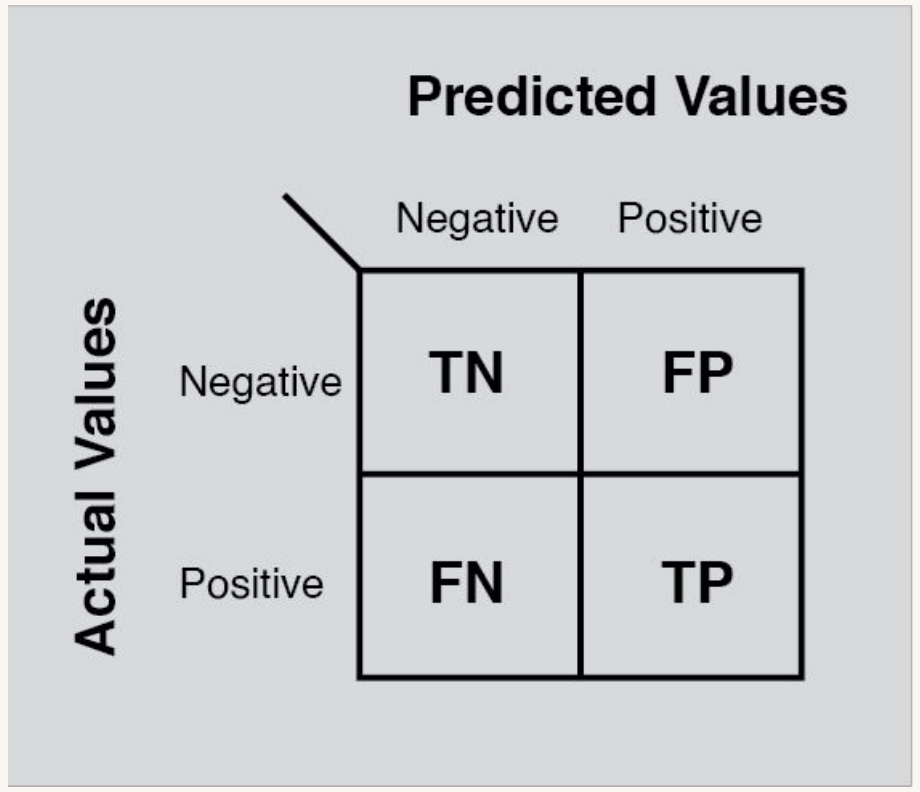
Scores and Accuracy of the Entire Data Set

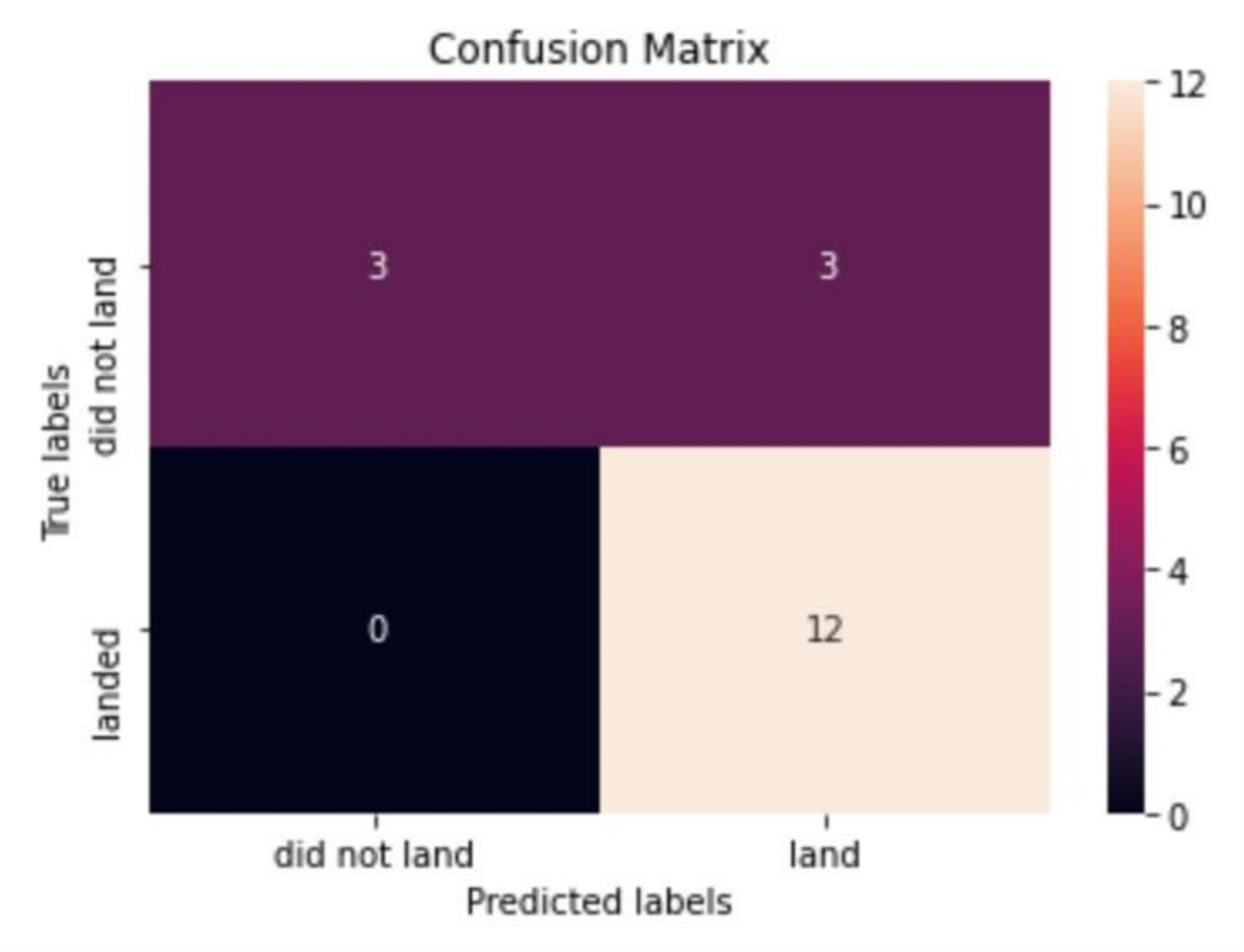
	LogReg	SVM	Tree	KNN
Jaccard_Score	0.833333	0.845070	0.882353	0.819444
F1_Score	0.909091	0.916031	0.937500	0.900763
Accuracy	0.866667	0.877778	0.911111	0.855556

Confusion Matrix

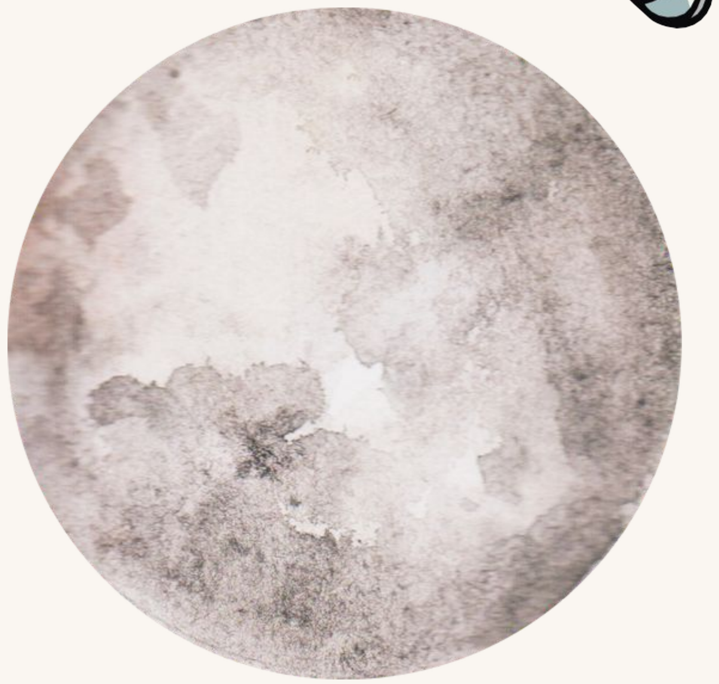
Explanation:

- Examining the confusion matrix, we see that logistic regression can distinguish between the different classes. We see that the major problem is false positives.





Conclusion



- Decision Tree Model is the best algorithm for this dataset.
- Launches with a low payload mass show better results than launches with a larger payload mass.
- Most of launch sites are in proximity to the Equator line and all the sites are in very close proximity to the coast.
- The success rate of launches increases over the years.
- KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate of the launches from all the sites.
- Orbits ES-L1, GEO, HEO and SSO have 100% success rate.