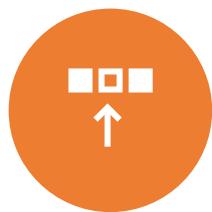


# Winning Space Race with Data Science

Blu LeBlanc  
11/26/25



# Outline



EXECUTIVE  
SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION



METHODOLOGY



RESULTS

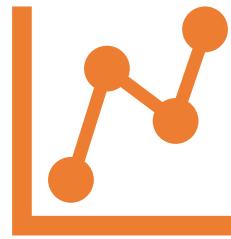


CONCLUSION



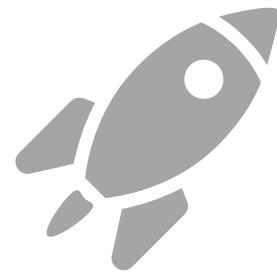
APPENDIX

# Executive Summary



## Methodologies:

Data Collection -> web scraping SpaceX API  
Exploratory Data Analysis -> data wrangling, data manipulation, data visualization  
Machine Learning Classification Prediction Models



## Summary of all results:

Collected data on SpaceX rocket launches  
EDA utilized to identify valuable features to predict outcome of launch  
ML models yielded best model to predict success or failure of SpaceX launch, given features of the launch

# Introduction

SpaceX claims much lower cost (62 million) for Falcon 9 launches because they can reuse the first stage. By determining if a first stage will land successfully, we can predict the cost of a SpaceX launch

**Project Goal:** Predict if Falcon 9 first stage will land successfully using features from SpaceX launch data

Section 1

# Methodology

# Methodology



## Executive Summary



## Data collection methodology:

Scraped SpaceX API for launch data



## Perform data wrangling

Utilized Pandas to track landing outcomes and perform mean imputation



## Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL



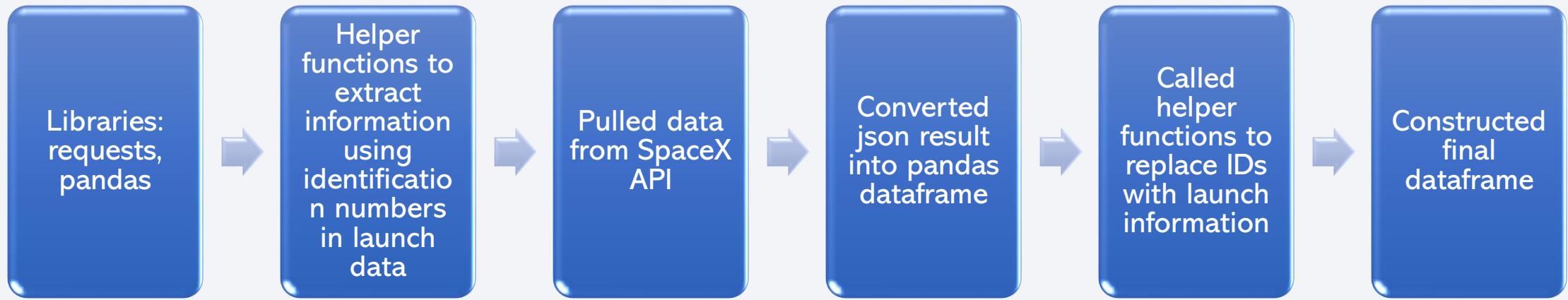
## Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash



## Perform predictive analysis using classification models

Compared various classification models from sci-kit learn with GridSearchCV optimization

# Data Collection



|   | FlightNumber | Date       | BoosterVersion | PayloadMass | Orbit | LaunchSite      | Outcome   | Flights | GridFins | Reused | Legs  | LandingPad | Block |
|---|--------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------|-----------------|-----------|---------|----------|--------|-------|------------|-------|
| 0 | 1            | 2006-03-24 | Falcon 1       | 20.0        | LEO   | Kwajalein Atoll | None None | 1       | False    | False  | False | None       | NaN   |
| 1 | 2            | 2007-03-21 | Falcon 1       | NaN         | LEO   | Kwajalein Atoll | None None | 1       | False    | False  | False | None       | NaN   |
| 2 | 4            | 2008-09-28 | Falcon 1       | 165.0       | LEO   | Kwajalein Atoll | None None | 1       | False    | False  | False | None       | NaN   |
| 3 | 5            | 2009-07-13 | Falcon 1       | 200.0       | LEO   | Kwajalein Atoll | None None | 1       | False    | False  | False | None       | NaN   |
| 4 | 6            | 2010-06-04 | Falcon 9       | NaN         | LEO   | CCSFS SLC 40    | None None | 1       | False    | False  | False | None       | 1.0   |

# Data Collection – SpaceX API

## Data Collection helper functions

Notebook: [https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX\\_Data%20Collection%20API.ipynb](https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX_Data%20Collection%20API.ipynb)

```
# Takes the dataset and uses the rocket column to call the API and append the data to the list
def getBoosterVersion(data):
    for x in data['rocket']:
        if x:
            response = requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/rockets/"+str(x)+".json()")
            BoosterVersion.append(response['name'])
```

From the `launchpad` we would like to know the name of the launch site being used, the logitude, and the latitude.

```
# Takes the dataset and uses the launchpad column to call the API and append the data to the list
def getLaunchSite(data):
    for x in data['launchpad']:
        if x:
            response = requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launchpads/"+str(x)+".json()")
            Longitude.append(response['longitude'])
            Latitude.append(response['latitude'])
            LaunchSite.append(response['name'])
```

From the `payload` we would like to learn the mass of the payload and the orbit that it is going to.

```
# Takes the dataset and uses the payloads column to call the API and append the data to the lists
def getPayloadData(data):
    for load in data['payloads']:
        if load:
            response = requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/payloads/"+load+".json()")
            PayloadMass.append(response['mass_kg'])
            Orbit.append(response['orbit'])
```

From `cores` we would like to learn the outcome of the landing, the type of the landing, number of flights with that core, whether gridfins were used, wheter the core is reused, wheter legs were used, the landing pad used, the block of the core which is a number used to separate version of cores, the number of times this specific core has been reused, and the serial of the core.

```
# Takes the dataset and uses the cores column to call the API and append the data to the lists
def getCoreData(data):
    for core in data['cores']:
        if core['core'] != None:
            response = requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/cores/"+core['core']+".json()")
            Block.append(response['block'])
            ReusedCount.append(response['reuse_count'])
            Serial.append(response['serial'])
        else:
            Block.append(None)
            ReusedCount.append(None)
            Serial.append(None)
            Outcome.append(str(core['landing_success'])+' '+str(core['landing_type']))
            Flights.append(core['flight'])
            GridFins.append(core['gridfins'])
            Reused.append(core['reused'])
            Legs.append(core['legs'])
            LandingPad.append(core['landpad'])
```

Now let's start requesting rocket launch data from SpaceX API with the following URL:

```
spacex_url="https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launches/past"
```

```
response = requests.get(spacex_url)
```

# Data Wrangling

Libraries: Pandas, Numpy

Mean imputation on PayloadMass column

Filtered for Falcon 9

Created count of landing outcomes

Created Landing Class label column

# Data Wrangling – Landing Outcomes

## Data Wrangling samples

Notebook: [https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX\\_Data%20Wrangling.ipynb](https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX_Data%20Wrangling.ipynb)

```
In [12]: df['Class']=landing_class
df[['Class']].head(8)
```

|   | Class |
|---|-------|
| 0 | 0     |
| 1 | 0     |
| 2 | 0     |
| 3 | 0     |
| 4 | 0     |
| 5 | 0     |
| 6 | 1     |
| 7 | 1     |

```
In [13]: df.head(5)
```

| s | Orbit | LaunchSite   | Outcome     | Flights | GridFins | Reused | Legs  | LandingPad | Block | ReusedCount | Serial | Longitude   | Latitude  | Class |
|---|-------|--------------|-------------|---------|----------|--------|-------|------------|-------|-------------|--------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| 2 | LEO   | CCAFS SLC 40 | None None   | 1       | False    | False  | False | NaN        | 1.0   | 0           | B0003  | -80.577366  | 28.561857 | 0     |
| 0 | LEO   | CCAFS SLC 40 | None None   | 1       | False    | False  | False | NaN        | 1.0   | 0           | B0005  | -80.577366  | 28.561857 | 0     |
| 0 | ISS   | CCAFS SLC 40 | None None   | 1       | False    | False  | False | NaN        | 1.0   | 0           | B0007  | -80.577366  | 28.561857 | 0     |
| 0 | PO    | VAFB SLC 4E  | False Ocean | 1       | False    | False  | False | NaN        | 1.0   | 0           | B1003  | -120.610829 | 34.632093 | 0     |
| 0 | GTO   | CCAFS SLC 40 | None None   | 1       | False    | False  | False | NaN        | 1.0   | 0           | B1004  | -80.577366  | 28.561857 | 0     |

We can use the following line of code to determine the success rate:

```
In [14]: df["Class"].mean()
```

```
Out[14]: np.float64(0.6666666666666666)
```

# EDA with Data Visualization



Libraries: pyplot, seaborn, pandas



Charts:

Scatter: FlightNumber vs PayloadMass,  
FlightNumber vs LaunchSite,  
PayloadMass vs LaunchSite,  
FlightNumber vs Orbit, PayloadMass vs Orbit  
Bar: Success Rate of Orbit Type  
Line: Launch Success Yearly Trend



Data visualizations used to determine which variables affect success rate. Performed feature selection and encoding



Notebook:  
[https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX\\_EDA%20Data%20Viz.ipynb](https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX_EDA%20Data%20Viz.ipynb)

# EDA with SQL

- Libraries: sqlite3
- EDA Queries:
  - Display the name of the unique launch sites in the space mission
  - Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'
  - Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)
  - Display average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1
  - List the date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved.
  - List the names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000
  - List the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes
  - List all the booster\_versions that have carried the maximum payload mass, using a subquery with a suitable aggregate function.
  - List the records which will display the month names, failure landing\_outcomes in drone ship ,booster versions, launch\_site for the months in year 2015.
  - Rank 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.
- Notebook: [https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX\\_EDA%20SQL.ipynb](https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX_EDA%20SQL.ipynb)

# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- Interactive Map tasks:
  - Marked all launch sites on map using circles and coordinates
  - Created green and red markers to denote success/failed launches for each site on the map
  - Created distance markers to calculate the distance between launch sites and objects
- Summarize what map objects such as markers, circles, lines, etc. you created and added to a folium map
- Interactive map can be used to view launch site locations, launch sites with highest success rates, distance between proximities and launch sites
- Notebook: [https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX\\_Interactive\\_Visual\\_Analytics\\_with\\_Folium\\_lab.ipynb](https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX_Interactive_Visual_Analytics_with_Folium_lab.ipynb)

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- Dashboard tasks:
  - Add Launch Site drop-down selector
  - Add callback function to render success pie chart for launch site
  - Add range slider for choosing Payload
  - Add callback function to render success scatter plot for payload
- Dashboard can answer questions about comparing success rate of launch sites, comparing success rates of payload ranges, comparing success rate of F9 Booster versions
- Notebook: [https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/spacex\\_dash\\_app.py](https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/spacex_dash_app.py)

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

---

- Found best hyperparameters for SVM, Classification Trees, and Logistic Regression using GridSearchCV and Sci-kit Learn functions

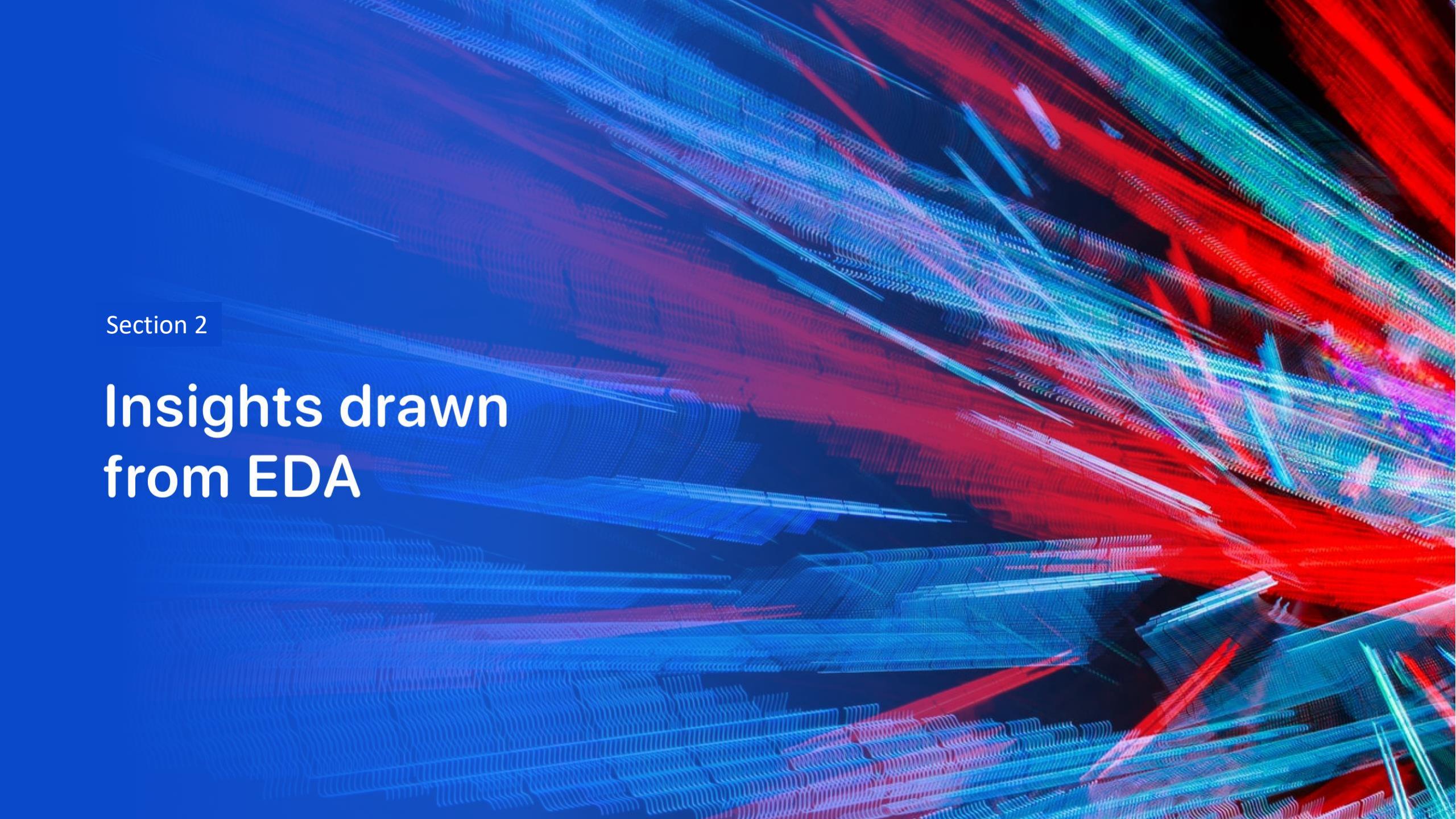


- Notebook: [https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX\\_Machine%20Learning%20Prediction.ipynb](https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/blob/main/SpaceX_Machine%20Learning%20Prediction.ipynb)

# Results

- Exploratory Data Analysis ->
  - Created SpaceX launch dataframe to predict outcome of rocket launch
  - Determined best features for analysis
- Interactive analytics demo in screenshots ->
  - Created interactive Folium maps to view rocket launch sites and successes
  - Created Dashboard to view statistics on launch sites
- Predictive analysis results ->
  - Compared multiple binary classification models
  - Optimized models with GridSearchCV
  - Found best model: Decision Tree Classifier



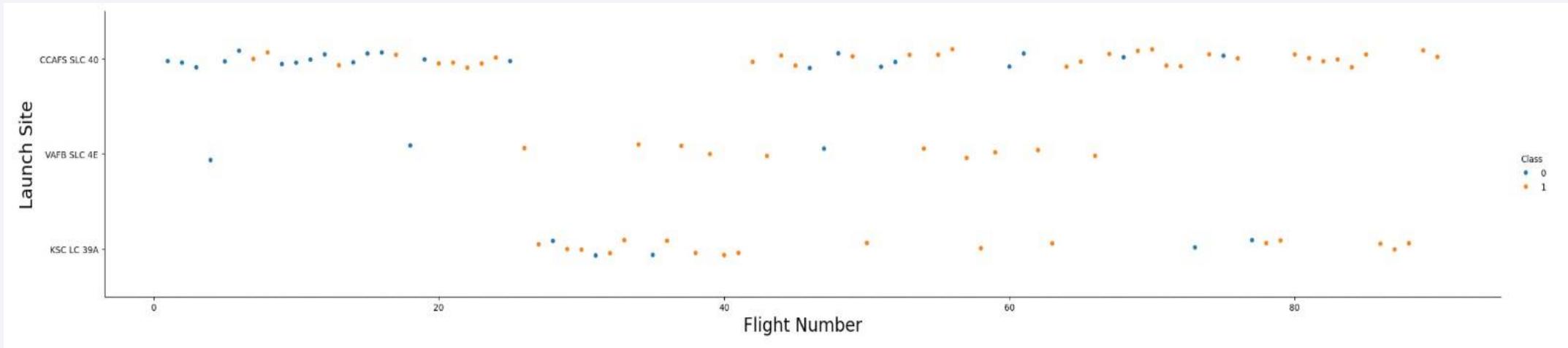
The background of the slide features a complex, abstract digital visualization. It consists of numerous thin, glowing lines that create a sense of depth and motion. The lines are primarily blue and red, with some green and purple highlights. They form a grid-like structure that curves and twists across the frame, resembling a three-dimensional space or a network of data points. The overall effect is futuristic and dynamic.

Section 2

## Insights drawn from EDA

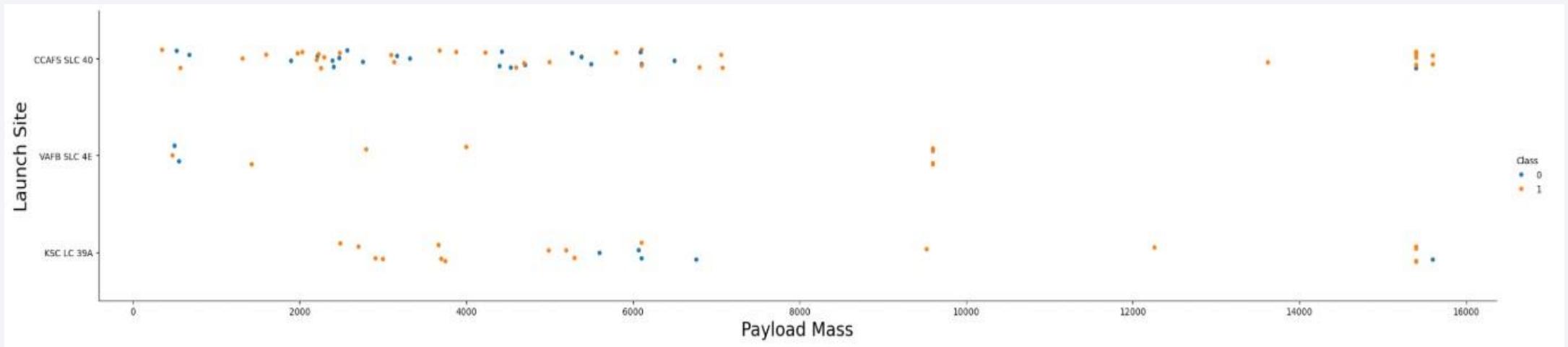
# Flight Number vs. Launch Site

- Certain launch sites were out-of-use/not used for flights. ;
- CCAFS SLC 40 has the highest usage and more successful flights more recently
- General success rate improved over flight numbers



# Payload vs. Launch Site

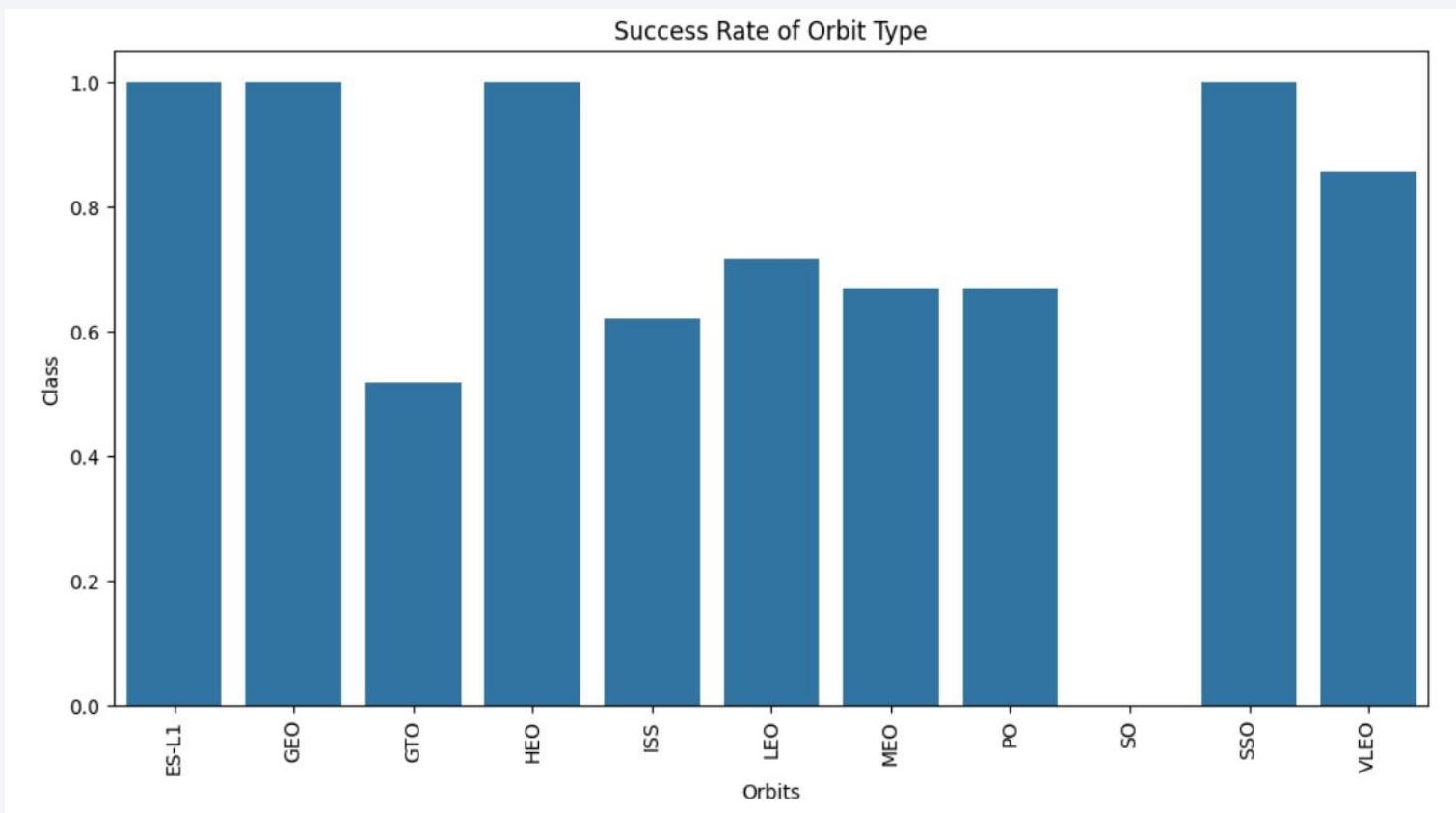
- For VAFB-SLC launchsite, there are no rockets launched for heavy payload mass (greater than 10000)
- Overall, very few rockets launched with heavy payload mass



# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

---

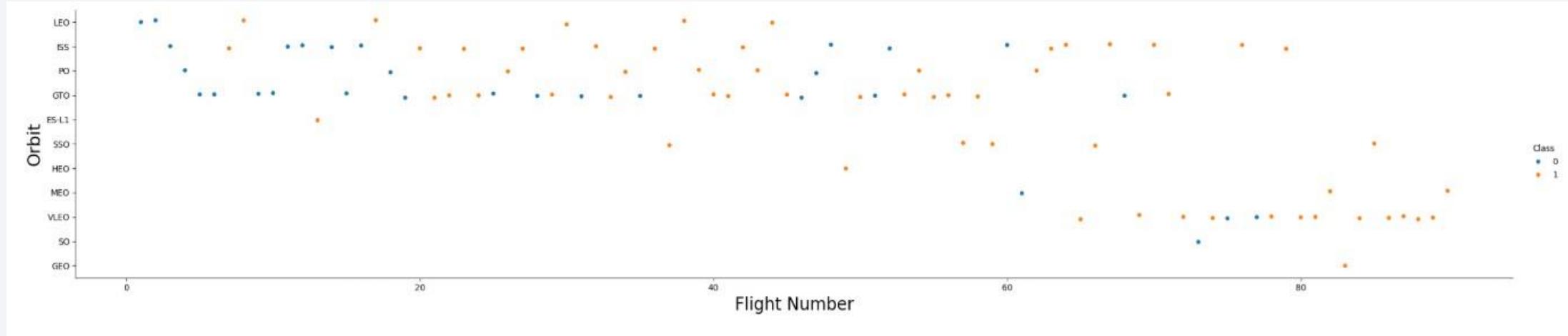
- Orbit types with highest success rate: ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO



# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

---

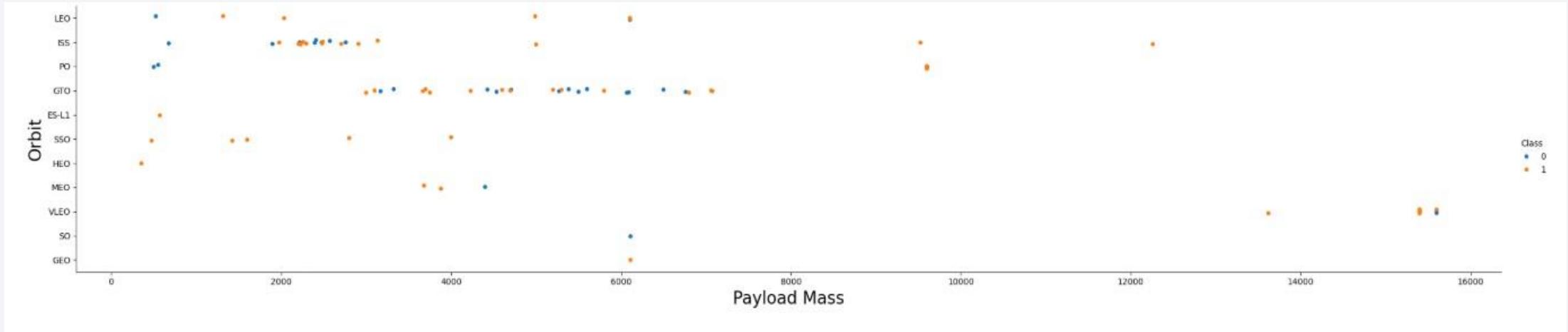
- LEO orbit has a positive relation between success and number of flights
- GTO orbit has no relation between flight number and success
- Certain orbits, like GEO, were not used until recently



# Payload vs. Orbit Type

---

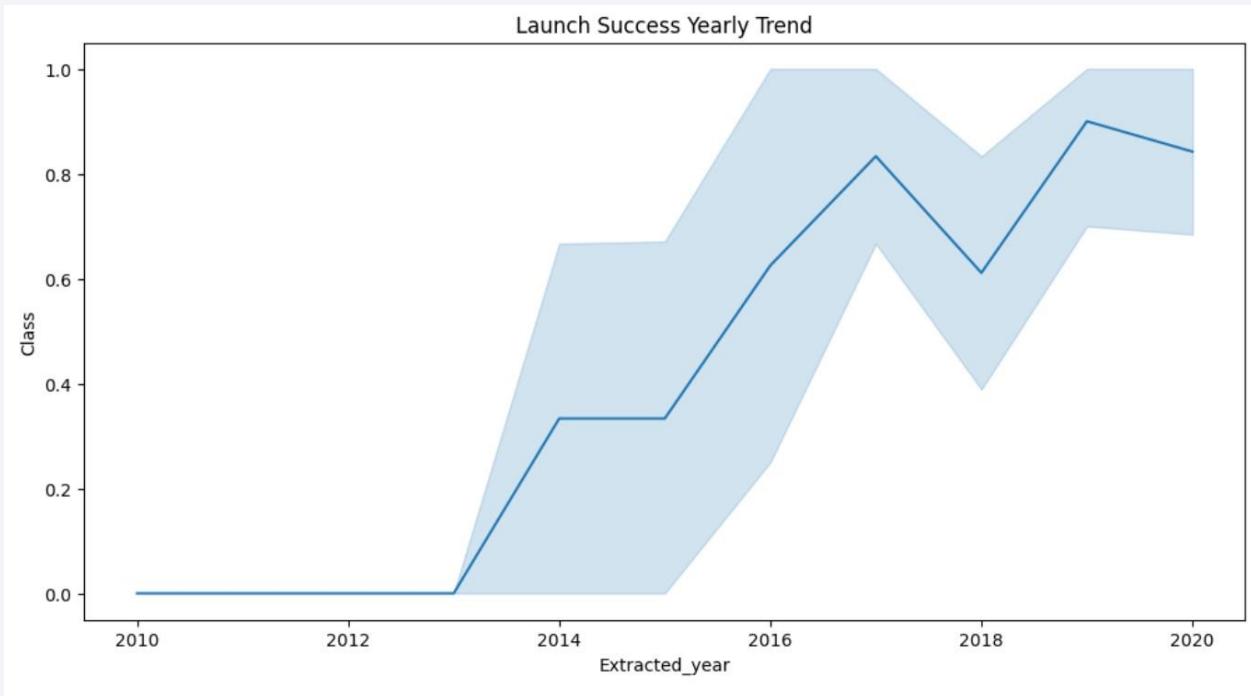
- With heavy payloads, the successful landing or positive landing rate are more for Polar, LEO, ISS
- For GTO, it is difficult to distinguish between successful and unsuccessful landings as both outcomes are present



# Launch Success Yearly Trend

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- Success rate kept increasing until a slight dip from 2017 to 2018
- Success rate dropped again from 2019 to 2020, less steep decline this time



# All Launch Site Names

---

| <b>Launch_Site</b> |
|--------------------|
| CCAFS LC-40        |
| VAFB SLC-4E        |
| KSC LC-39A         |
| CCAFS SLC-40       |

# Launch Site Names 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<br>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<br>C1, two CubeSats, barrel of Brouere cheese | 0                | LEO (ISS) | NASA (COTS)<br>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          |

## Total Payload Mass

---

**SUM(PAYLOAD\_MASS\_KG\_)**

45596

## Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

---

**AVG(PAYLOAD\_MASS\_KG\_)**

2928.4

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

---

**MIN(DATE)**

---

2015-12-22

## Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

---

| <b>Booster_Version</b> |
|------------------------|
| F9 FT B1022            |
| <b>F9 FT B1026</b>     |
| F9 FT B1021.2          |
| F9 FT B1031.2          |

## Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

---

**COUNT("Mission\_Outcome")**

101

# Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

---

| 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

---

| <b>Month</b> | <b>Year</b> | <b>"Landing_Outcomes"</b> | <b>Booster_Version</b> | <b>Launch_Site</b> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 01           | 2015        | Landing_Outcomes          | F9 v1.1 B1012          | CCAFS LC-40        |
| 04           | 2015        | Landing_Outcomes          | F9 v1.1 B1015          | CCAFS LC-40        |

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

---

| Landing_Outcome        | Landing_Counts |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 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              |

The background of the slide is a photograph taken from space at night. It shows the curvature of the Earth's horizon against a dark blue sky. Numerous glowing yellow and white points represent city lights, concentrated in coastal and urban areas. In the upper right quadrant, there are bright green and yellow bands of light, likely the Aurora Borealis or Australis. The overall atmosphere is dark and mysterious.

Section 3

# Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

# Folium Launch Site Locations

---

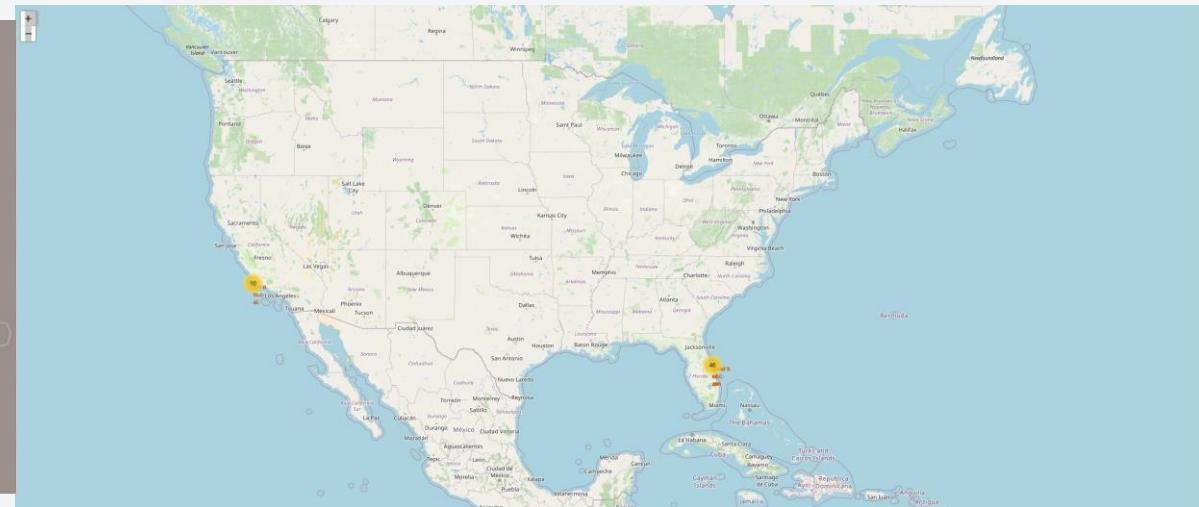
- Launch Sites located on West Coast (California) and East Coast (Florida)



# Folium Launch Outcomes

---

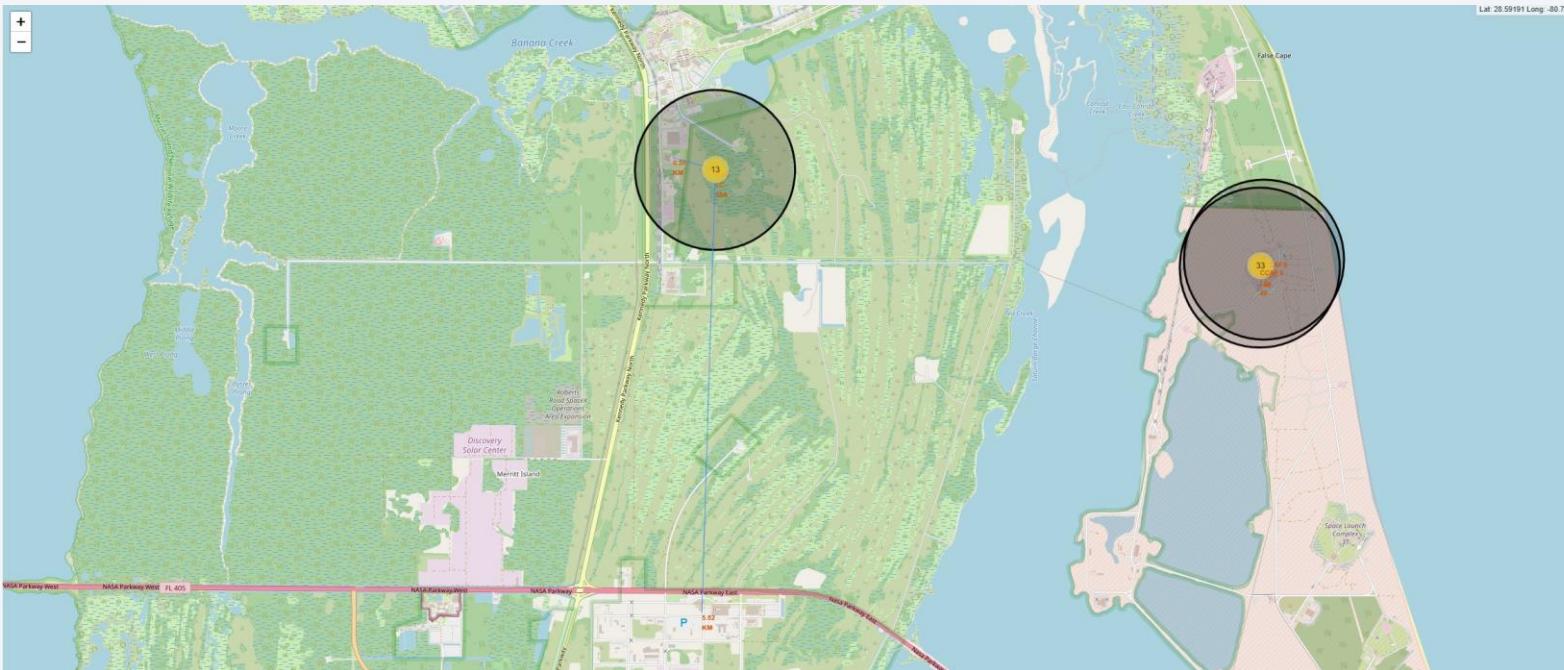
- Showcases successful launches (green) and failed launches (red) for each launch site location

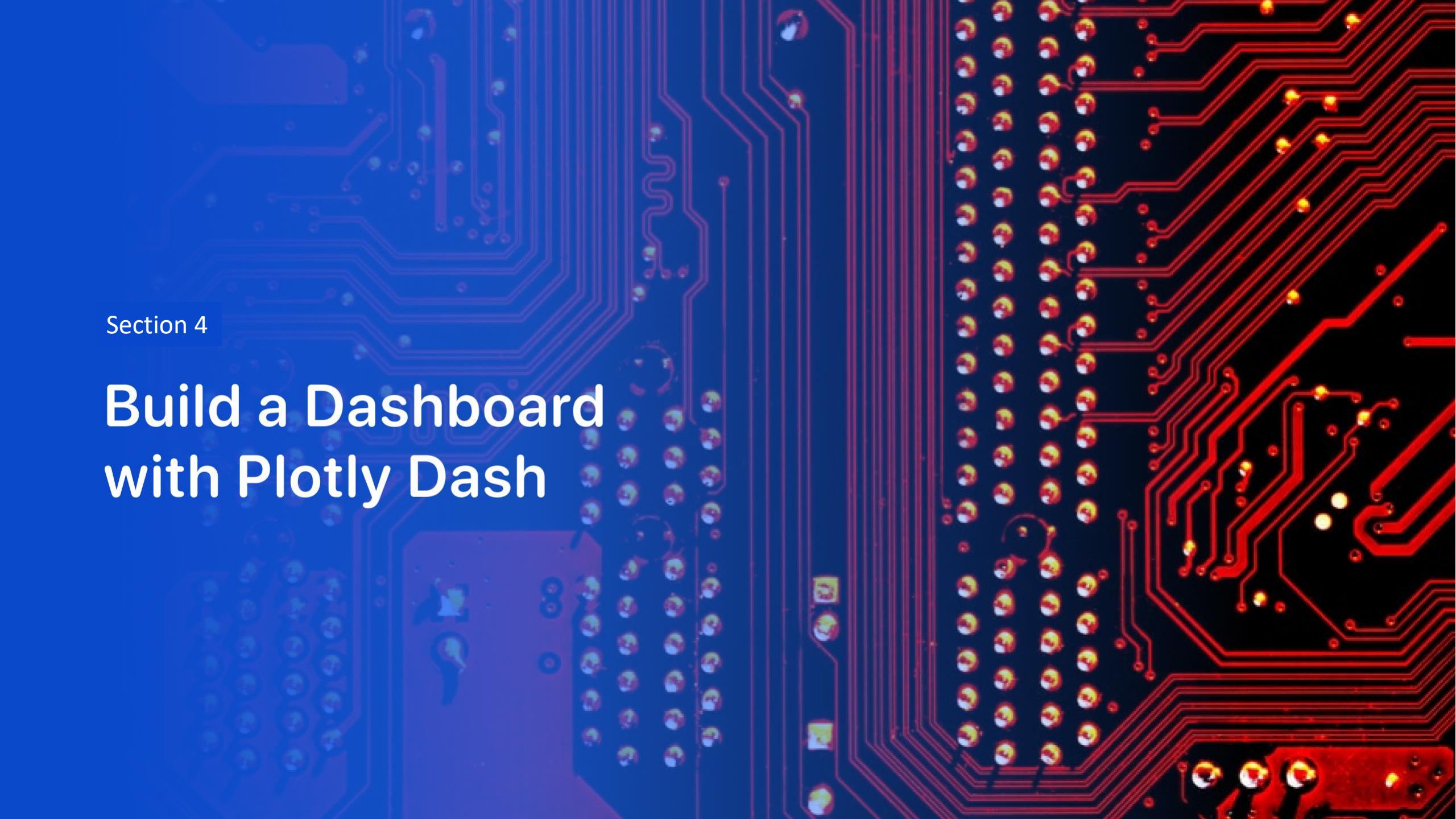


# Folium Proximity Map

---

- Utilized Distance calculations on interactive map for the user to determine the distance between a launch site and various proximities
- Proximities include body of water, major road, building, etc...





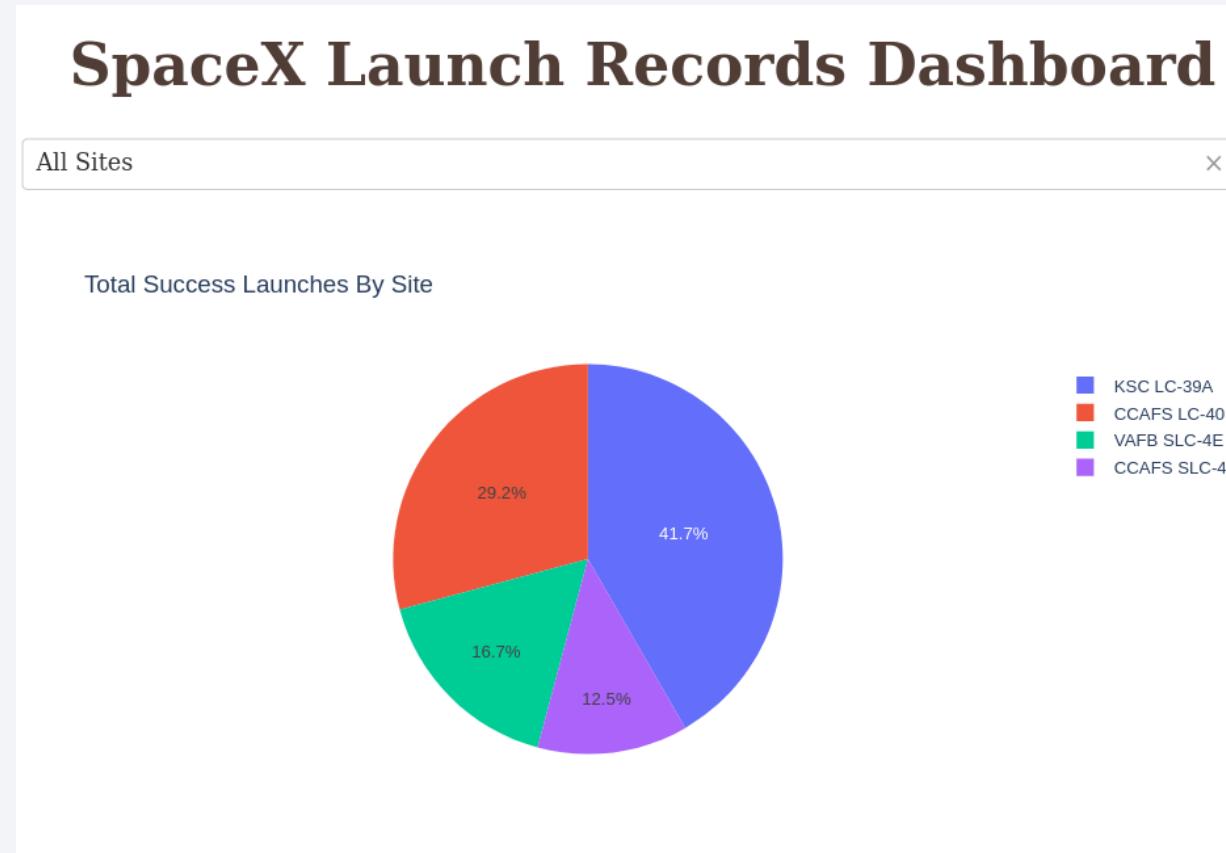
Section 4

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

# Total Success Launches by Site

---

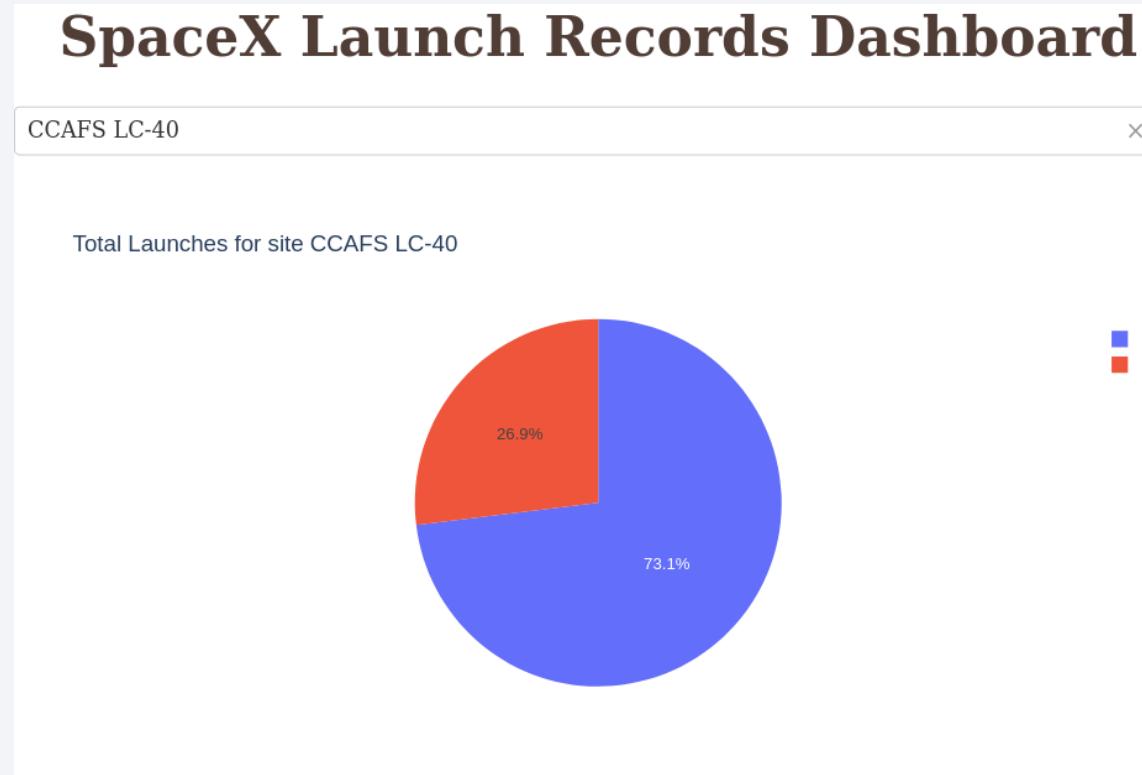
- Visualizes the success likelihood of launch sites to determine the “best” launch site



# Total Launches for Site CCAFS LC-40

---

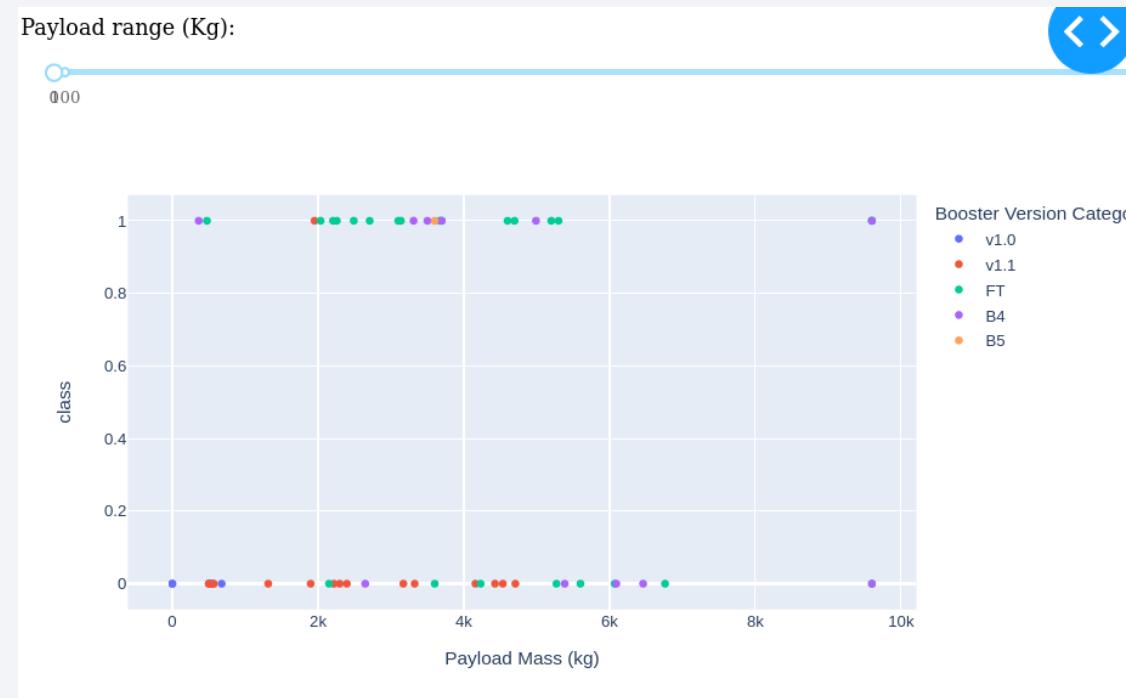
- Visualizes successful launch ratio for the launch site with the best success rate
- 0 -> success
- 1 -> fail



# Payload vs Launch Outcome

---

- Most successful Booster Version: FT
- Most successful Payload Mass: over 7000 kg



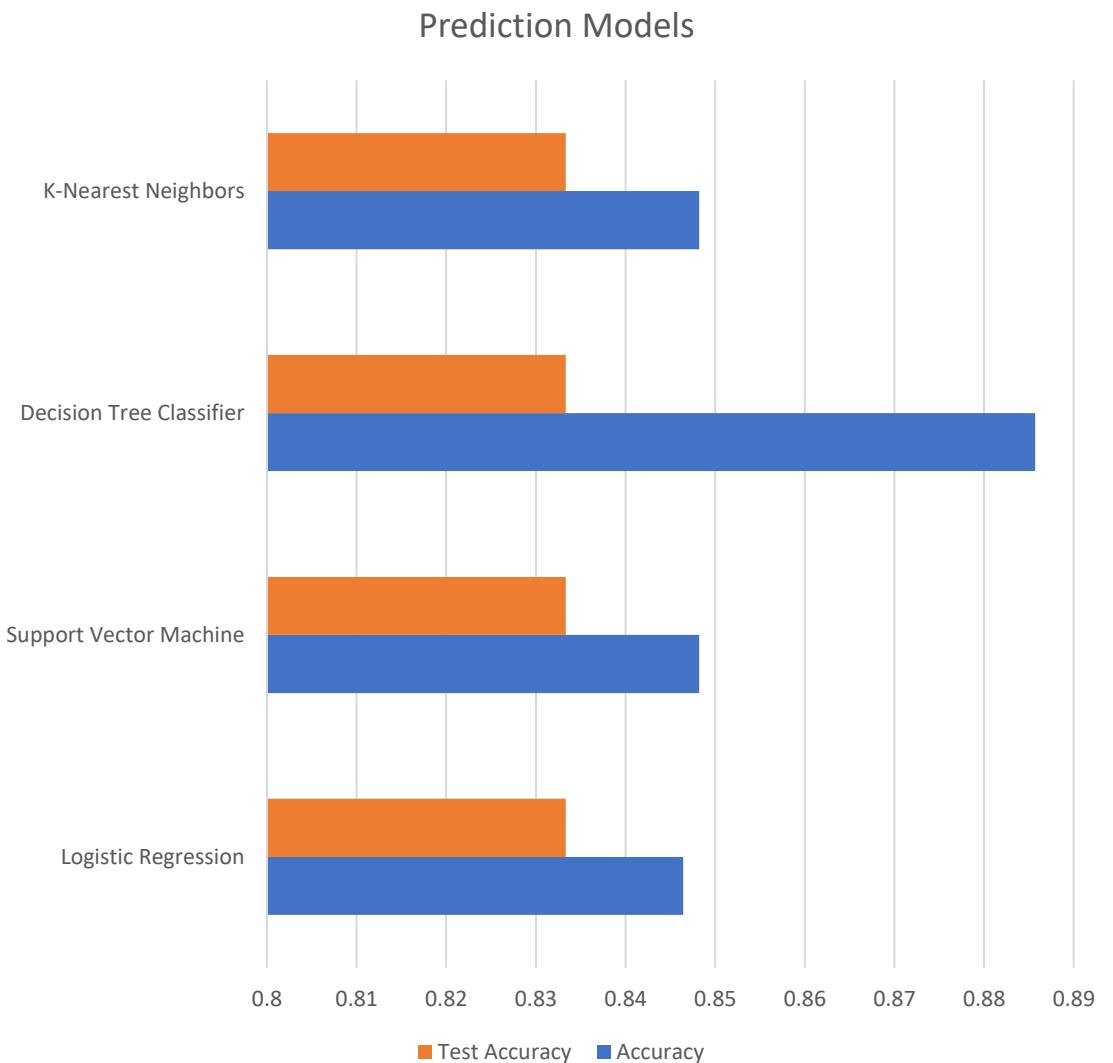
The background of the slide features a dynamic, abstract design. It consists of several thick, curved lines that transition from a bright yellow at the top right to a deep blue at the bottom left. These lines create a sense of motion and depth, resembling a tunnel or a stylized landscape. The overall effect is modern and professional.

Section 5

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

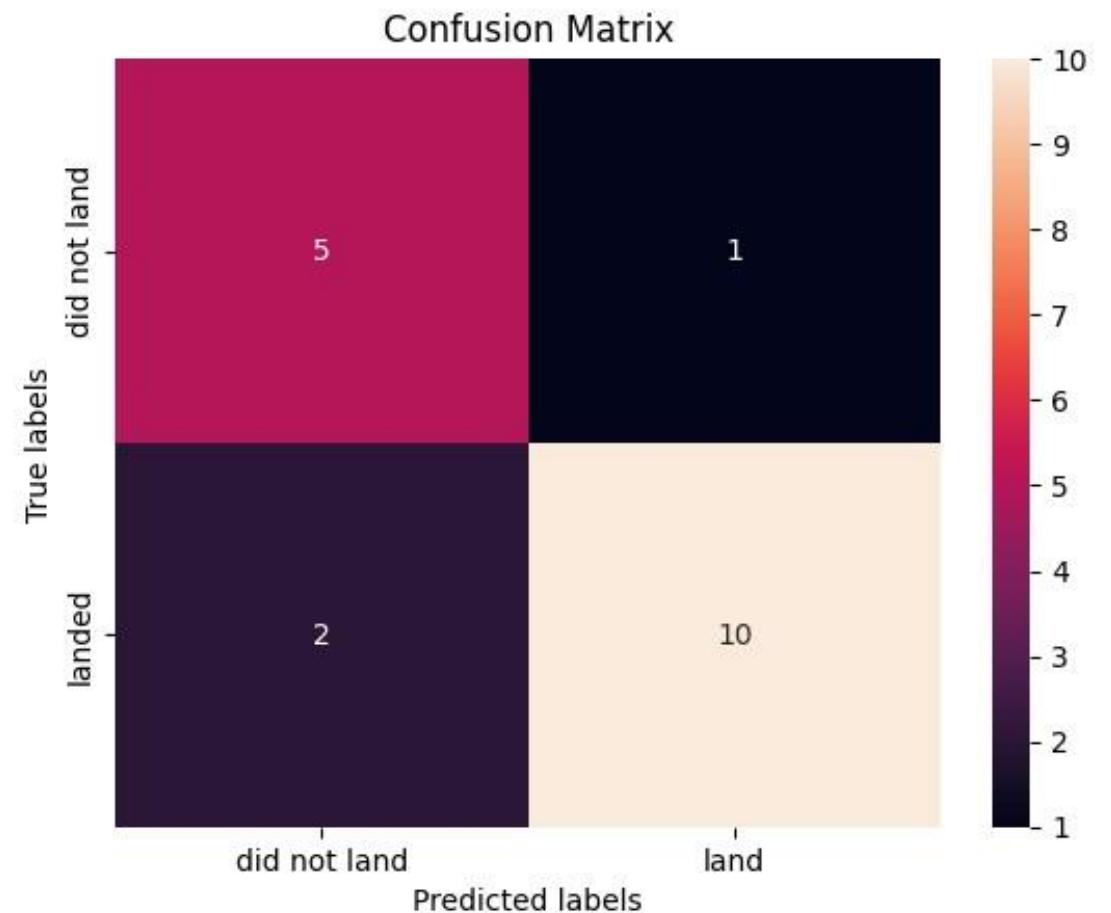
# Classification Accuracy

- Decision Tree Classifier had the best model accuracy on the train data
- Test accuracy remained the same across all models
- Issue with amount of data



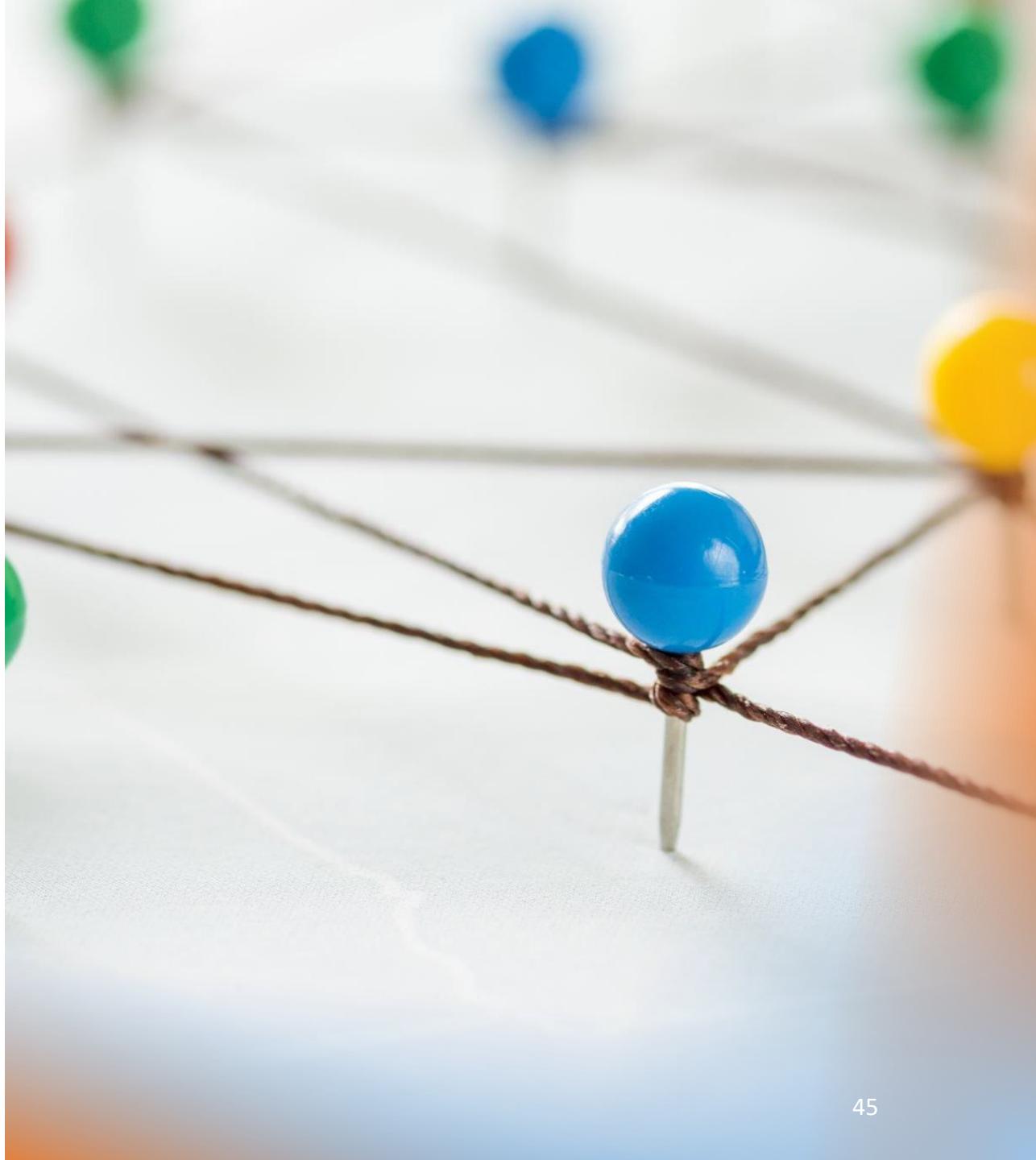
## Confusion Matrix

- Decision Tree Classifier Confusion Matrix
- 3 incorrectly labeled launches
- 15 correctly labeled launches



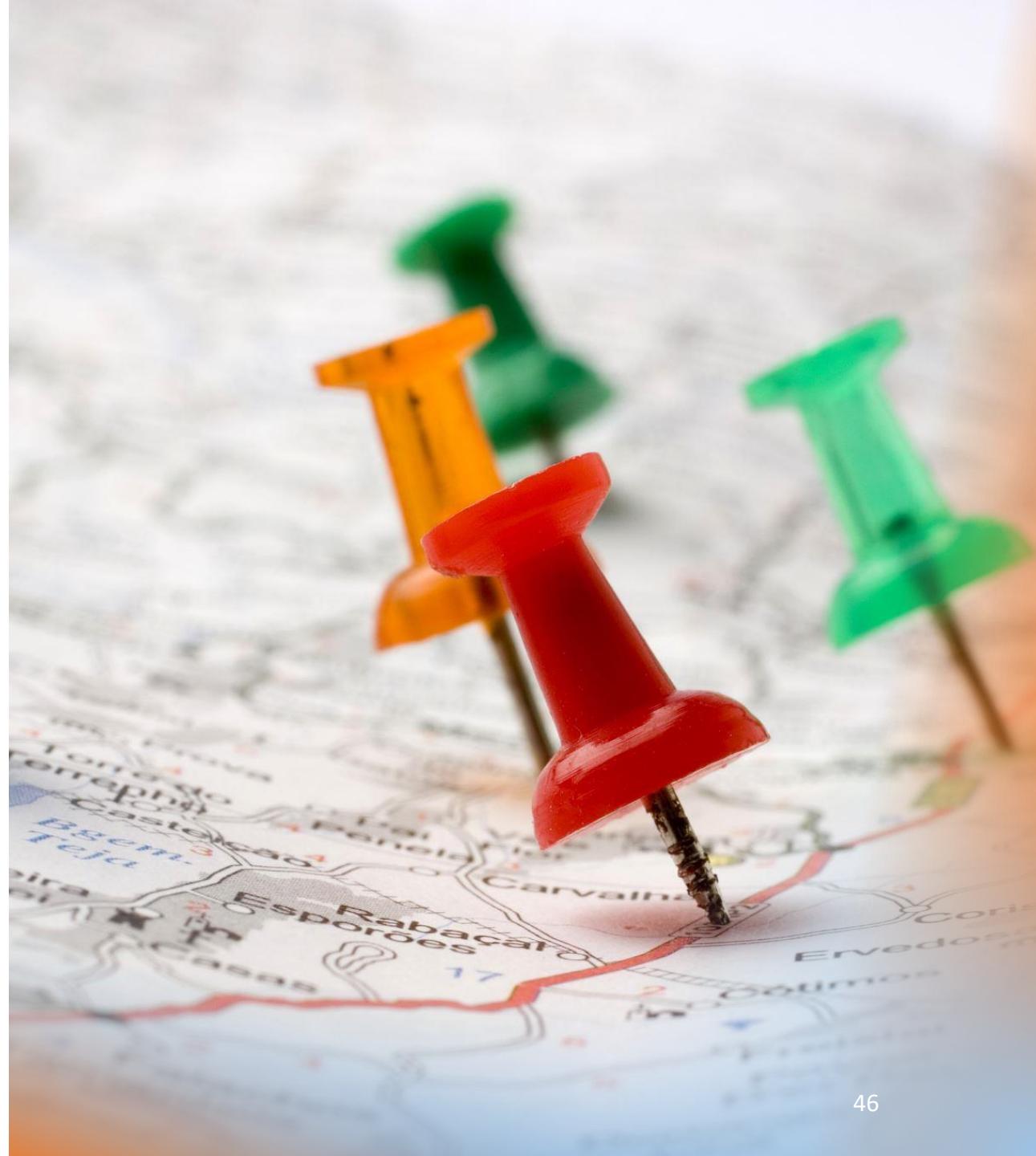
# Conclusions

- Decision Tree Classifier is our best prediction model
  - Refining model necessary to predict successful launches and increase profits
- Launch Site with most success: KSC LC-39A
- Successful landing outcomes increased over time, showcasing improvements of rocket technology and techniques
- Launch Site location details provided with Folium maps



# Appendix

- Repository: <https://github.com/Blu-LeBlanc/IBM-Data-Science-Labs/tree/main>
- \*Note: Folium Maps do not render on github



Thank you!

