

Winning Space Race with Data Science

Aijaz Danish Azeem 13th April 2025



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

Project background and context

• SpaceX is the most successful company of the commercial space age, making space travel affordable. The company 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 SpaceX can reuse the first stage. Therefore, if we can determine if the first stage will land, we can determine the cost of a launch. Based on public information and machine learning models, we are going to predict if SpaceX will reuse the first stage

Problems you want to find answers

- How do variables such as payload mass, launch site, number of flights, and orbits affect
the success of the first stage landing? - Does the rate of successful landings increase over
the years? - What is the best algorithm that can be used for binary classification in this
case?



Methodology

Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
 - Using SpaceX Rest API
 - Using SpaceX Rest API Using Web Scrapping from Wikipedia
- Perform data wrangling
 - Filtering the data
 - Dealing with missing values
 - Using One Hot Encoding to prepare the data to a binary classification
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
 - Building, tuning and evaluation of classification models to ensure the best results

Data Collection

Data collection process involved a combination of API requests from Space X public API and web scraping data from a table in Space X's Wikipedia entry.

The next slide will show the flowchart of data collection from API and the one after will show the flowchart of data collection from webscraping.

Space X API Data Columns:

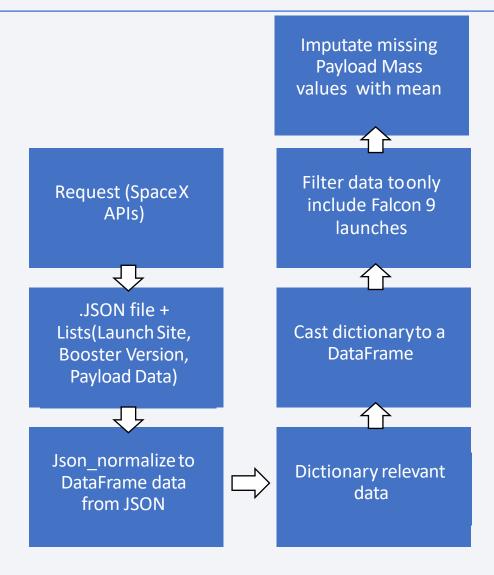
- FlightNumber, Date, BoosterVersion, PayloadMass, Orbit, LaunchSite, Outcome, Flights, GridFins,
- Reused, Legs, LandingPad, Block, ReusedCount, Serial, Longitude, Latitude

Wikipedia Webscrape Data Columns:

• Flight No., Launch site, Payload, PayloadMass, Orbit, Customer, Launch outcome, Version Booster, Booster landing, Date, Time

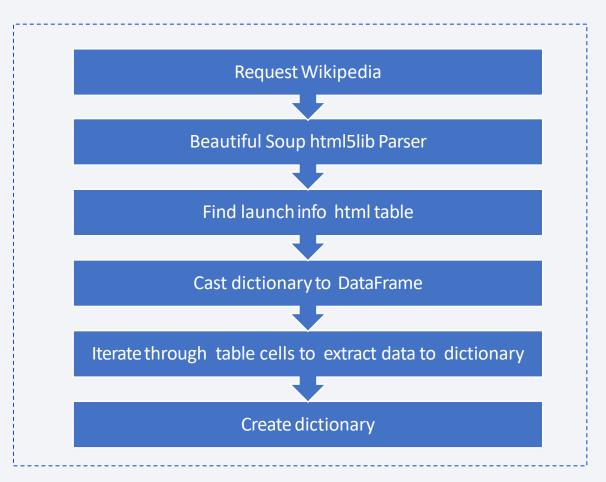
Data Collection – SpaceX API

- GitHub url:
- IBM Datascience Capstone/jupyter-labsspacex-data-collection-api.ipynb at main • EjazDan/IBM Datascience Capstone



Data Collection - Scraping

- GitHub url:
- IBM Datascience Capstone/jupyter-labswebscraping.ipynb at main ·
 EjazDan/IBM Datascience Capstone



Data Wrangling

- Create a training label with landing outcomes where successful = 1 & failure = 0.
- Outcome column has two components: 'Mission Outcome' 'Landing Location'
- New training label column 'class' with a value of 1 if 'Mission Outcome' is True and 0 otherwise.

<u>Value</u>

Mapping:

- True ASDS, True RTLS, & True Ocean set to -> 1
- None None, False ASDS, None ASDS, False Ocean, False RTLS set to -> 0
- GitHub url:
- https://github.com/EjazDan/IBM_Datascience_Capstone/blob/main/labs-

jupyter-spacex-Data%20wrangling.ipynb

EDA with Data Visualization

- Exploratory Data Analysis performed on variables Flight Number, Payload Mass, Launch Site, Orbit, Class and Year.
- Plots Used:
- Flight Number vs. Payload Mass, Flight Number vs. Launch Site, Payload Mass vs. Launch Site, Orbit vs. Success Rate, Flight Number vs. Orbit, Payload vs Orbit, and Success Yearly Trend
- Scatter plots, line charts, and bar plots were used to compare relationships between variables to
- decide if a relationship exists so that they could be used in training the machine learning model
- GitHub url:
- IBM Datascience Capstone/edadataviz.ipynb at main · EjazDan/IBM Datascience Capstone

EDA with SQL

- Loaded data set into IBM DB2 Database.
- Queried using SQL Python integration.
- Queries were made to get a better understanding of the dataset.
- Queried information about launch site names, mission outcomes, various pay load sizes of customers and booster versions, and landing outcomes

- GitHub url:
- IBM Datascience Capstone/jupyter-labs-eda-sql-coursera sqllite.ipynb at main · EjazDan/IBM Datascience Capstone

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- Folium maps mark Launch Sites, successful and unsuccessful landings, and a proximity example to key locations: Railway, Highway, Coast, and City.
- This allows us to understand why launch sites may be located where they are. Also visualizes successful landings relative to location.

- GitHub url:
- <u>IBM Datascience Capstone/lab jupyter launch site location.ipynb at main</u>
 EjazDan/IBM Datascience Capstone

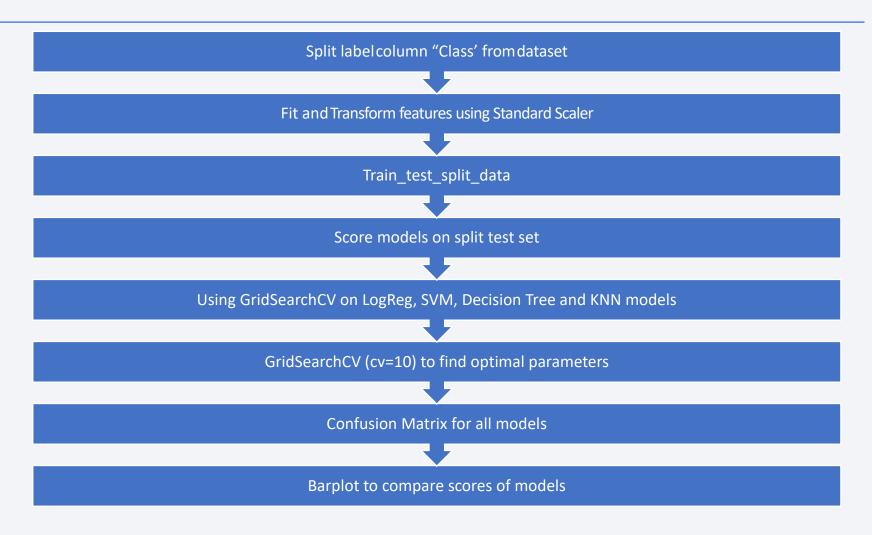
Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- Dashboard includes a pie chart and a scatter plot.
- Pie chart can be selected to show distribution of successful landings across all launch sites and can be selected to show individual launch site success rates.
- Scatter plot takes two inputs: All sites or individual site and payload mass on a slider between 0 and 10000 kg.
- The pie chart is used to visualize launch site success rate.
- The scatter plot can help us see how success varies across launch sites, payload mass, and booster version category.

• GitHub url:

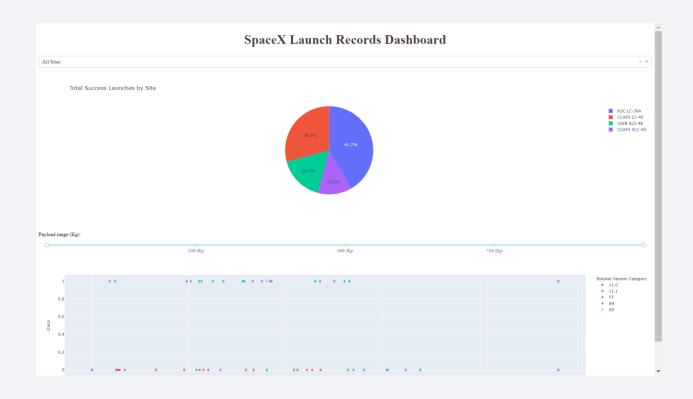
• IBM Datascience Capstone/SpeaceX Dash App at main · EjazDan/IBM Datascience Capstone

Predictive Analysis (Classification)



- Github url:
- IBM Datascience Capstone/SpeaceX Dash App at main · EjazDan/IBM Datascience Capstone

Results



This is a preview of the Plotly dashboard. The following sides will show the results of EDA with visualization, EDA with SQL, Interactive Map with Folium, and finally the results of our model with about 83% accuracy.



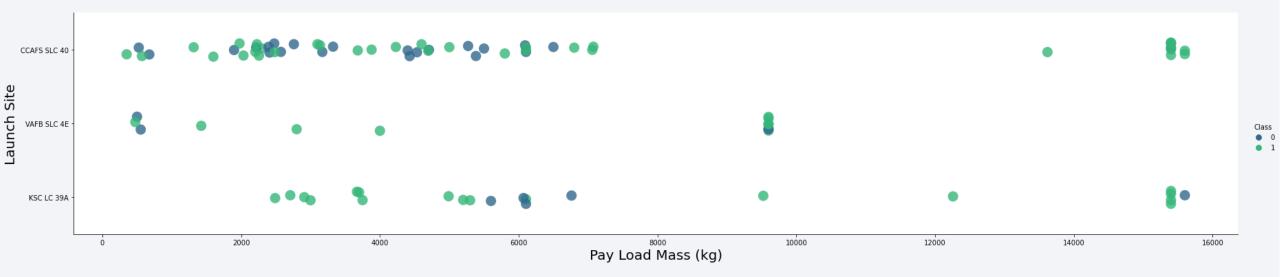
Flight Number vs. Launch Site



Green indicates successful launch; Purple indicates unsuccessful launch.

Graphic suggests an increase in success rate over time (indicated in Flight Number). Likely a big breakthrough around flight 20 which significantly increased success rate. CCAFS appears to be the main launch site as it has the most volume.

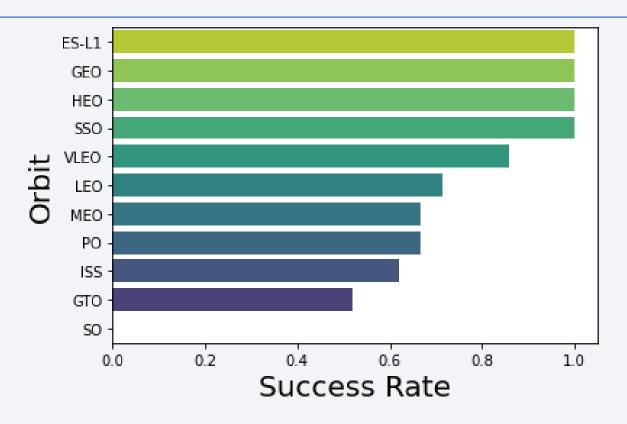
Payload vs. Launch Site



Green indicates successful launch; Purple indicates unsuccessful launch.

Payload mass appears to fall mostly between 0-6000 kg. Different launch sites also seem to use different payload mass.

Success Rate vs. Orbit Type



Success Rate Scale with

0 as 0%

0.6 as 60%

1 as 100%

ES-L1 (1), GEO (1), HEO (1) have 100% success rate (sample sizes in parenthesis)

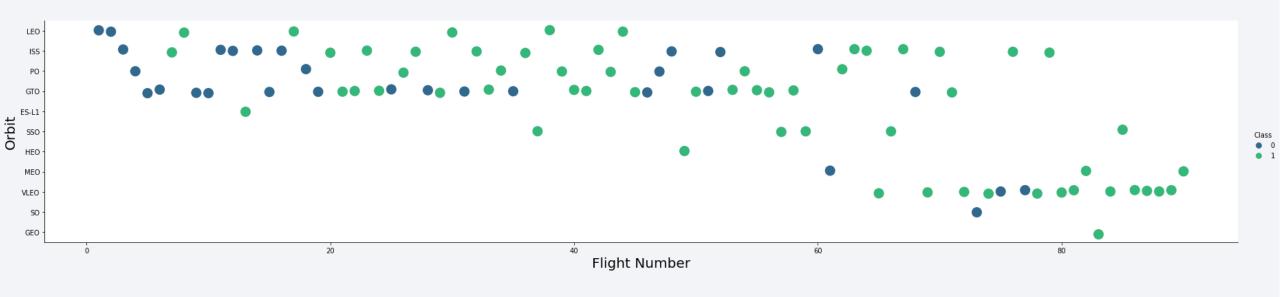
SSO (5) has 100% success rate

VLEO (14) has decent success rate and attempts

SO (1) has 0% success rate

GTO (27) has the around 50% success rate but largest sample

Flight Number vs. Orbit Type



Green indicates successful launch; Purple indicates unsuccessful launch.

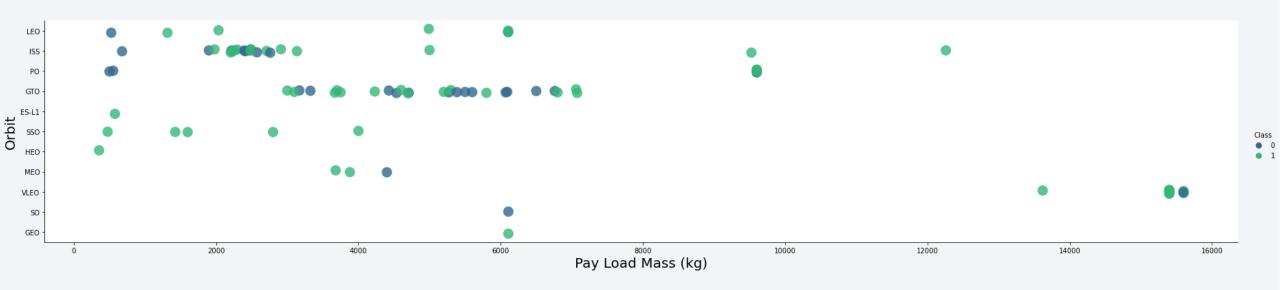
Launch Orbit preferences changed over Flight

Number. Launch Outcome seems to correlate with

this preference.

SpaceX started with LEO orbits which saw moderate success LEO and returned to VLEO in recent launches SpaceX appears to perform better in lower orbits or Sun-synchronous orbits

Payload vs. Orbit Type



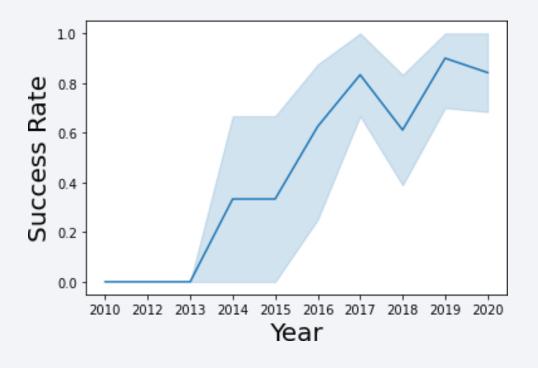
Green indicates successful launch; Purple indicates unsuccessful launch.

Payload mass seems to correlate with orbit

LEO and SSO seem to have relatively low payload mass

The other most successful orbit VLEO only has payload mass values in the higher end of the range

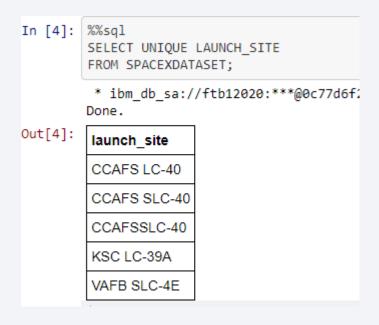
Launch Success Yearly Trend



95% confidence interval (light blue shading)

Success generally increases over time since 2013 with a slight dip in 2018 Success in recent years at around 80%

All Launch Site Names



Query unique launch site names from database.

CCAFS SLC-40 and CCAFSSLC-40 likely all represent the same launch site with data entry errors.

CCAFS LC-40 was the previous name.

Likely only 3 unique launch_site values:

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

Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

* ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb

Out[5]:

•	DATE	timeutc_	booster_version	launch_site	payload	payload_masskg_	orbit	customer	mission_outcome	landing_outcome
- 1	2010- 06-04	18:45:00	F9 v1.0 B0003	CCAFS LC- 40	Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit	0	LEO	SpaceX	Success	Failure (parachute)
- 1	2010- 12-08	15:43:00	F9 v1.0 B0004	40	Dragon demo flight C1, two CubeSats, barrel of Brouere cheese	0	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS) NRO	Success	Failure (parachute)
- 1	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
- 1	2012- 10-08	00:35:00	F9 v1.0 B0006	CCAFS LC- 40	SpaceX CRS-1	500	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt
- 1	2013- 03-01	15:10:00	F9 v1.0 B0007	CCAFS LC- 40	SpaceX CRS-2	677	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt

First five entries in database with Launch Site name beginning with CCA.

Total Payload Mass

```
%%sql
SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS SUM_PAYLOAD_MASS_KG
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE CUSTOMER = 'NASA (CRS)';

* ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86
Done.

sum_payload_mass_kg
45596
```

This query sums the total payload mass in kg where NASA was the customer.

CRS stands for Commercial Resupply Services which indicates that these payloads were sent to the International Space Station (ISS).

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

```
%%sql
SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS AVG_PAYLOAD_MASS_KG
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE booster_version = 'F9 v1.1'
```

* ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-80c77d6f2-5da9-80c77d6

```
avg_payload_mass_kg
```

2928

This query calculates the average payload mass or launches which used booster version F9 v1.1

Average payload mass of F9 1.1 is on the low end of our payload mass range

First Successful Ground Landing Date

```
%%sql
SELECT MIN(DATE) AS FIRST_SUCCESS
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE landing__outcome = 'Success (ground pad)';

* ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81
Done.

first_success
2015-12-22
```

This query returns the first successful ground pad landing date.

First ground pad landing wasn't until the end of 2015.

Successful landings in general appear starting 2014.

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

```
%%sql
SELECT booster_version
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE landing_outcome = 'Success (drone ship)' AND payload_mass_kg_ BETWEEN 4001 AND 5999;

* ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databaseDone.

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

This query returns the four booster versions that had successful drone ship landings and a payload mass between 4000 and 6000 noninclusively.

Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

```
%%sql
SELECT mission_outcome, COUNT(*) AS no_outcome
FROM SPACEXDATASET
GROUP BY mission_outcome;
```

* ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-2 Done.

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

This query returns a count of each mission outcome.

SpaceX appears to achieve its mission outcome nearly 99% of the time.

This means that most of the landing failures are intended.

Interestingly, one launch has an unclear payload status and unfortunately one failed in flight.

Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

```
%%sql
SELECT booster_version, PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ = (SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM SPACEXDATASET);
```

* ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1 Done.

booster_version	payload_masskg_
F9 B5 B1048.4	15600
F9 B5 B1049.4	15600
F9 B5 B1051.3	15600
F9 B5 B1056.4	15600
F9 B5 B1048.5	15600
F9 B5 B1051.4	15600
F9 B5 B1049.5	15600
F9 B5 B1060.2	15600
F9 B5 B1058.3	15600
F9 B5 B1051.6	15600
F9 B5 B1060.3	15600
F9 B5 B1049.7	15600

This query returns the booster versions that carried the highest payload mass of 15600 kg.

These booster versions are very similar, and all are of the F9 B5 B10xx.x variety.

This likely indicates payload mass correlates with the booster version that is used.

2015 Launch Records

```
%%sql
SELECT MONTHNAME(DATE) AS MONTH, landing_outcome, booster_version, PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_, launch_site
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE landing_outcome = 'Failure (drone ship)' AND YEAR(DATE) = 2015;
```

^{*} ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.app Done.

монтн	landing_outcome	booster_version	payload_masskg_	launch_site
January	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1012	2395	CCAFS LC-40
April	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1015	1898	CCAFS LC-40

This query returns the Month, Landing Outcome, Booster Version, Payload Mass (kg), and Launch site of 2015 launches where stage 1 failed to land on a drone ship.

There were two such occurrences.

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

```
%%sql
SELECT landing__outcome, COUNT(*) AS no_outcome
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE landing__outcome LIKE 'Succes%' AND DATE BETWEEN '2010-06-04' AND '2017-03-20'
GROUP BY landing__outcome
ORDER BY no_outcome DESC;
```

* ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg Done.

landing_outcome	no_outcome
Success (drone ship)	5
Success (ground pad)	3

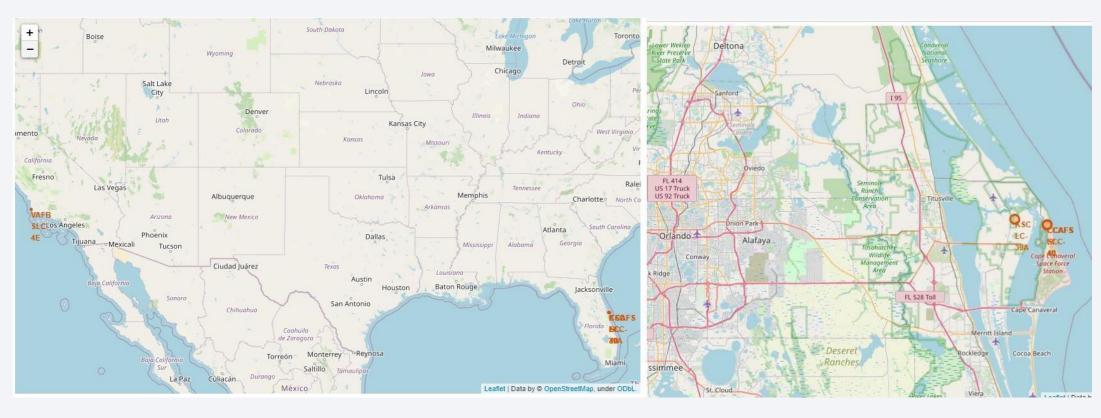
This query returns a list of successful landings and between 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20 inclusively.

There are two types of successful landing outcomes: drone ship and ground pad landings.

There were 8 successful landings in total during this time period

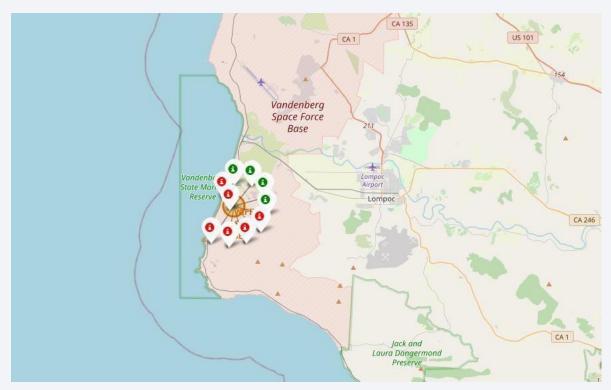


Launch Site Locations



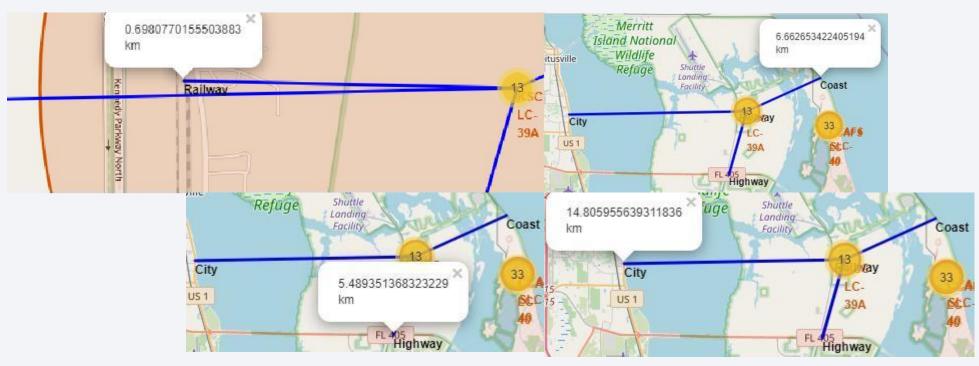
The left map shows all launch sites relative US map. The right map shows the two Florida launch sites since they are very close to each other. All launch sites are near the ocean.

Color-Coded Launch Markers



Clusters on Folium map can be clicked on to display each successful landing (green icon) and failed landing (red icon). In this example VAFB SLC-4E shows 4 successful landings and 6 failed landings.

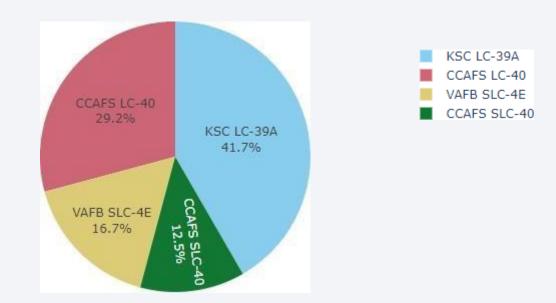
Key Location Proximities



Using KSC LC-39A as an example, launch sites are very close to railways for large part and supply transportation. Launch sites are close to highways for human and supply transport. Launch sites are also close to coasts and relatively far from cities so that launch failures can land in the sea to avoid rockets falling on densely populated areas.

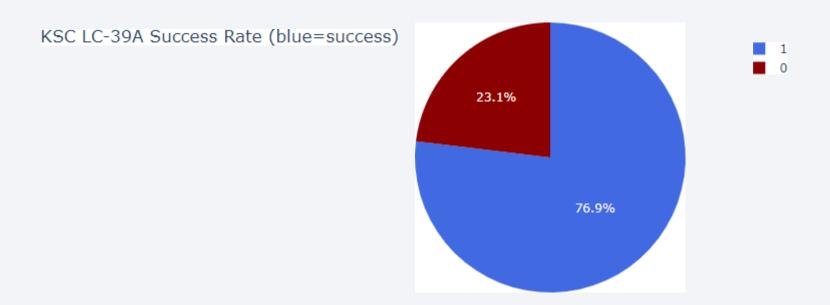


Successful Launches Across Launch Sites



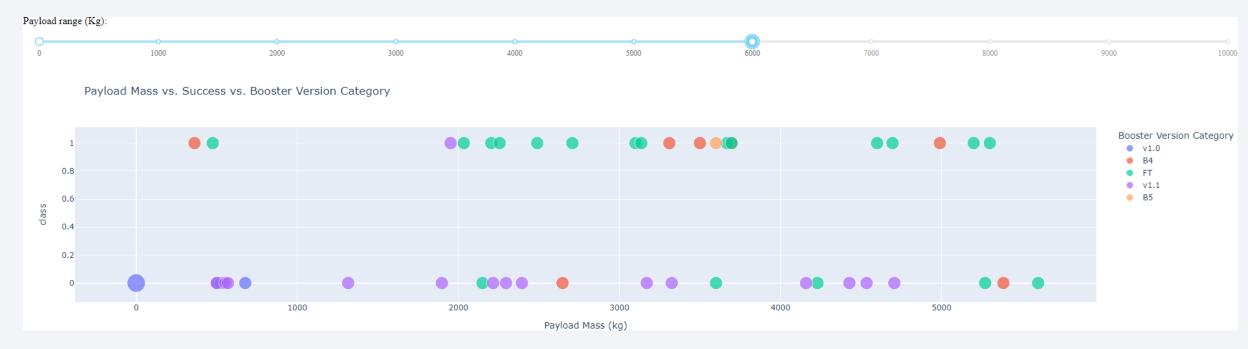
This is the distribution of successful landings across all launch sites. CCAFS LC-40 is the old name of CCAFS SLC-40 so CCAFS and KSC have the same amount of successful landings, but a majority of the successful landings where performed before the name change. VAFB has the smallest share of successful landings. This may be due to smaller sample and increase in difficulty of launching in the west coast.

Highest Success Rate Launch Site



KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate with 10 successful landings and 3 failed landings.

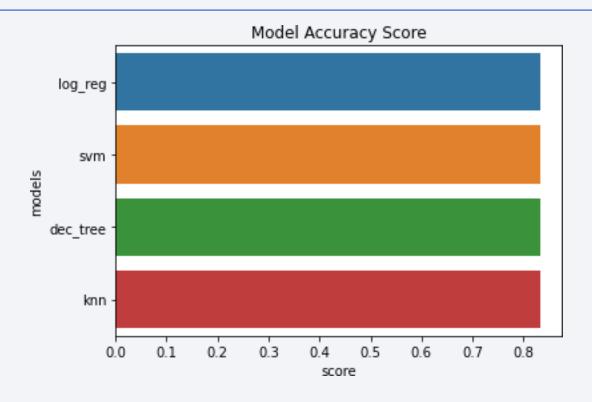
Payload Mass vs. Success vs. Booster Version Category



Plotly dashboard has a Payload range selector. However, this is set from 0-10000 instead of the max Payload of 15600. Class indicates 1 for successful landing and 0 for failure. Scatter plot also accounts for booster version category in color and number of launches in point size. In this particular range of 0-6000, interestingly there are two failed landings with payloads of zero kg.



Classification Accuracy

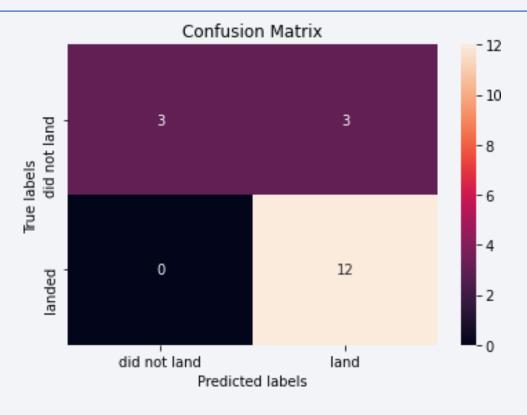


All models had virtually the same accuracy on the test set at 83.33% accuracy.

It should be noted that test size is small at only sample size of 18.

This can cause large variance in accuracy results, such as those in Decision Tree Classifier model in repeated runs. We likely need more data to determine the best model.

Confusion Matrix



Correct predictions are on a diagonal from top left to bottom right.

Since all models performed the same for the test set, the confusion matrix is the same across all models.

The models predicted 12 successful landings when the true label was successful landing.

The models predicted 3 unsuccessful landings when the true label was unsuccessful landing.

The models predicted 3 successful landings when the true label was unsuccessful landings (false positives). Our models over predict successful landings.

Conclusions

- Our task: to develop a machine learning model for Space Y who wants to bid against SpaceX
- The goal of model is to predict when Stage 1 will successfully land to save ~\$100 million USD
- Used data from a public SpaceX API and web scraping SpaceX Wikipedia page
- Created data labels and stored data into a DB2 SQL database
- Created a dashboard for visualization
- We created a machine learning model with an accuracy of 83%
- Allon Mask of SpaceY can use this model to predict with relatively high accuracy whether a launch will have a successful Stage 1 landing before launch to determine whether the launch should be made or not
- If possible more data should be collected to better determine the best machine learning model and improve accuracy

Appendix

- GitHub repository url:
- EjazDan/IBM Datascience Capstone
- Instructors:
- Instructors: Rav Ahuja, Alex Aklson, Aije Egwaikhide, Svetlana Levitan, Romeo Kienzler, Polong Lin, Joseph Santarcangelo, Azim Hirjani, Hima Vasudevan, Saishruthi Swaminathan, Saeed Aghabozorgi, Yan Luo

- Special Thanks to All Instructors:
- https://www.coursera.org/professional-certificates/ibm-data-science?#instructors

