



IBM Developer  
SKILLS NETWORK

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

M<sup>a</sup> Kira Jaén Fernández  
August 2022



# Outline

---

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

# Executive Summary

---

- Summary of methodologies
  - Data collection using **SpaceX API** and web scraping with **Beautiful Soup**
  - Exploratory Data Analysis (**EDA**) in **Python**, including **data visualization**
  - EDA with **SQL**
  - **Interactive maps** with Folium
  - **Interactive dashboard** with Plotly Dash
  - Prediction using **Machine Learning models**
- Summary of all results
  - EDA has allowed to find out which variables are more likely to influence a positive outcome of each launch
  - ML models predict a successful recovery of the booster of **83.3%** of attempts

# Introduction

---

- Project background and context
  - Company SpaceY wants to compete with SpaceX, so a prediction of the best launch characteristics is needed in order to save costs by recovering the launch booster.
- Problems you want to find answers
  - What parameters allow for a successful launch and recovery of the booster?



Section 1

# Methodology

# Methodology

---

## Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
  - SpaceX [API](#)
  - Web scraping with BeautifulSoup of the data in [this Wikipedia page](#)
- Perform data wrangling
  - SpaceX [API](#)
  - Web scraping with BeautifulSoup of the data in [this Wikipedia page](#)

- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
  - Four different models were evaluated to check which one showed a better accuracy.

# Data Collection – SpaceX API

By using SpaceX API we have been able to obtain data regarding launches, booster and payload.

Getting response from API

Converting response to JSON

Converting dictionary to dataframe

Creating dictionary from JSON data

Select only data related to Falcon 9 launches

Export dataframe to CSV



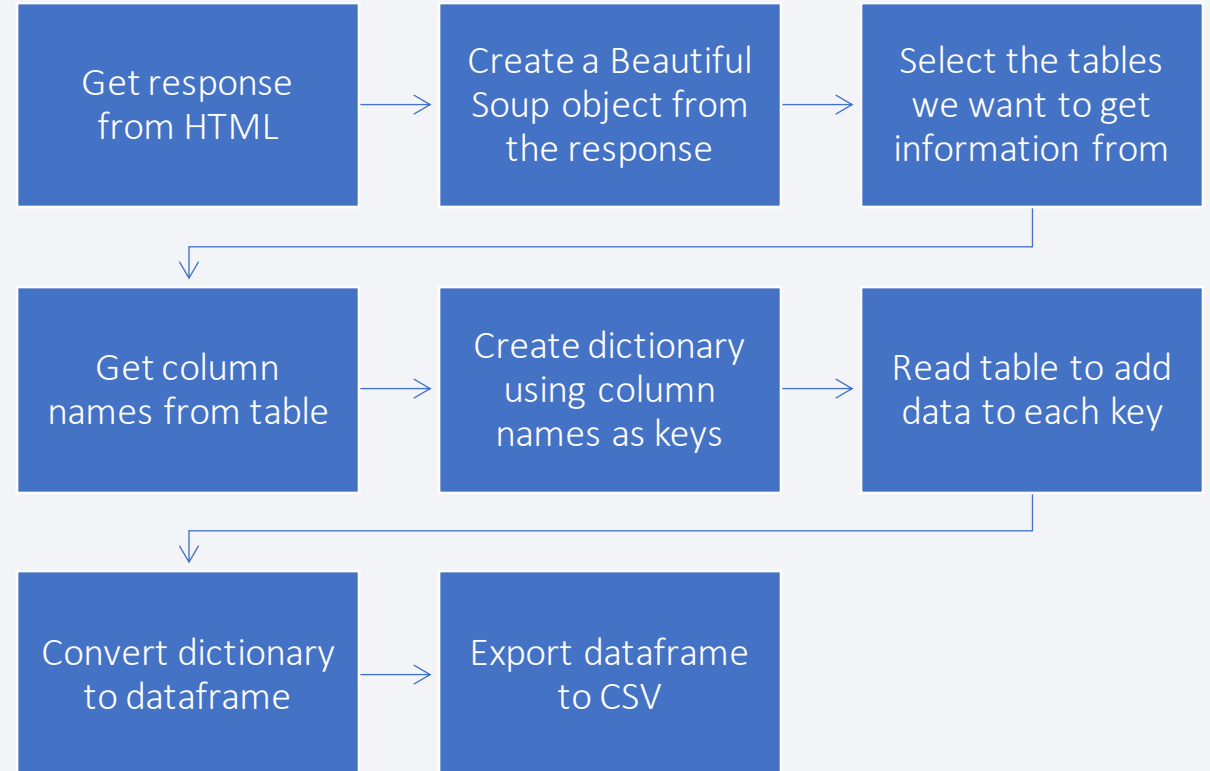
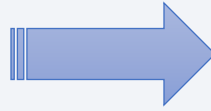
***Link to code:***

<https://github.com/Fdez99/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/master/Data%20Collection%20API.ipynb>



# Data Collection - Scraping

Web scraping has allowed us to add more data to our collection



***Link to code:***

<https://github.com/Fdez99/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/master/Data%20Collection%20with%20Web%20Scraping.ipynb>

# Data Wrangling

---

In order to determine which launches have been successful (i.e. booster was recovered) or not, we need to find out the outcome of each launch for each place and orbit.



***Link to code:***

[https://github.com/Fdez99/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/master/Data\\_Wrangling.ipynb](https://github.com/Fdez99/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/master/Data_Wrangling.ipynb)

# EDA with Data Visualization

## Scatter Graphs

*Scatter plots show the correlation between numeric variables.*

- Flight Number x Payload Mass
- Flight Number x Launch Site
- Payload x Launch Site
- Orbit x Flight Number
- Payload x Orbit Type
- Orbit x Payload Mass

## Bar Graphs

*Bar graphs show the relationship between numeric and categorical variables.*

- Success Rate x Orbit

## Line Graphs

*Line graphs show the trend for numerical variables.*

- Success Rate x Launch Year



***Link to code:***

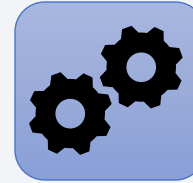
[https://github.com/Fdez99/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/master/EDA\\_with\\_Data\\_Visualization.ipynb](https://github.com/Fdez99/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/master/EDA_with_Data_Visualization.ipynb)

# EDA with SQL

---

## SQL Queries performed:

- Names of unique launch sites
- Five records where the launch site begin with "CCA"
- Total payload mass launched by NASA (CRS)
- Average payload mass carried by booster Falcon 9 v1.1
- Date of first successful landing in ground pad
- Boosters successfully landed on drone ship whose payload mass is between 4000 and 6000 kgs
- Total number of successful and failed missions
- Booster versions which have carried the maximum payload mass
- Failed missions landing in drone ship, booster versions and launch sites in 2015
- Ranking the count of successful landing\_outcomes between the dates 04-06-2010 and 20-03-2017 in descending order



*Link to code:*

<https://github.com/Fdez99/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/master/EDA%20with%20SQL.ipynb>

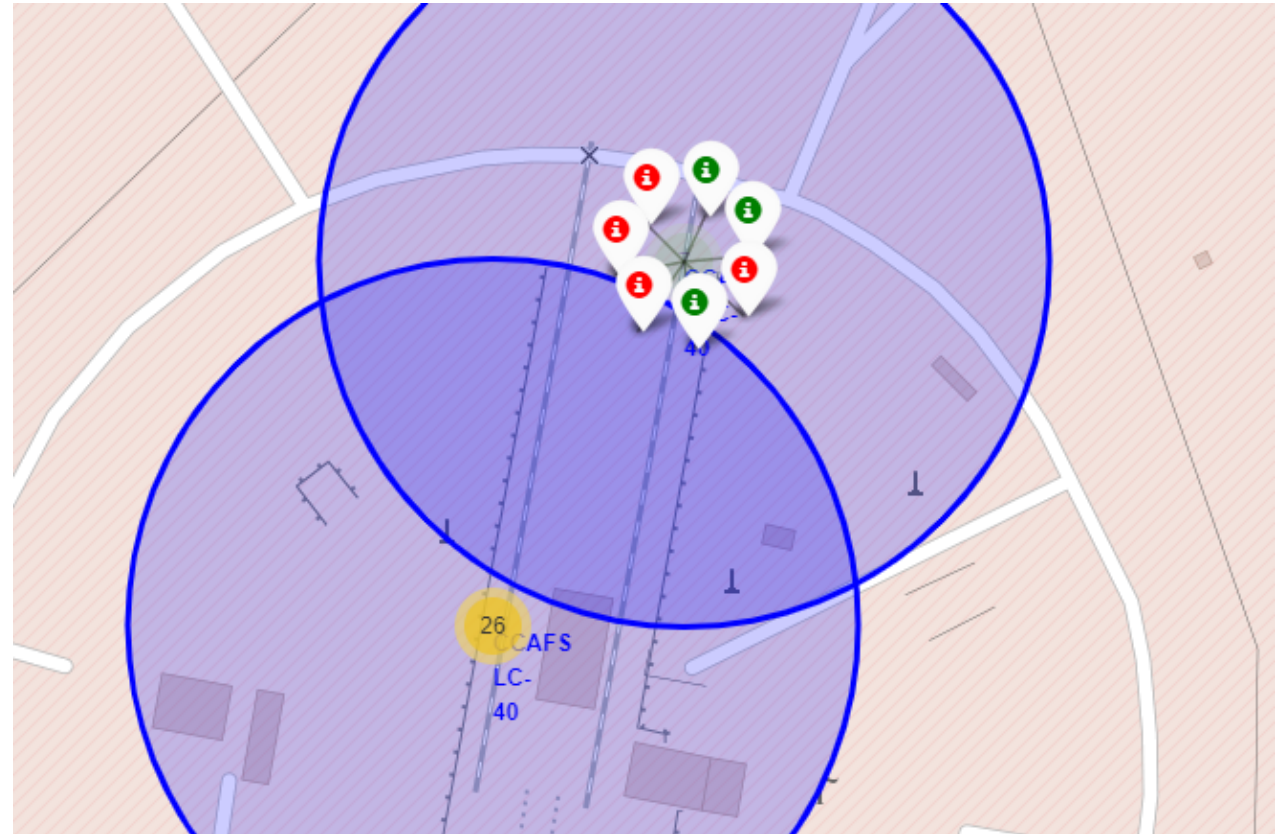
# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- Mark all launch sites on a map
- Mark the success/failed launches for each site on the map
- Calculate the distances between a launch site to its proximities



*Link to code:*

[https://github.com/Fdez99/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/master/Launch\\_site\\_location.ipynb](https://github.com/Fdez99/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/master/Launch_site_location.ipynb)





# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

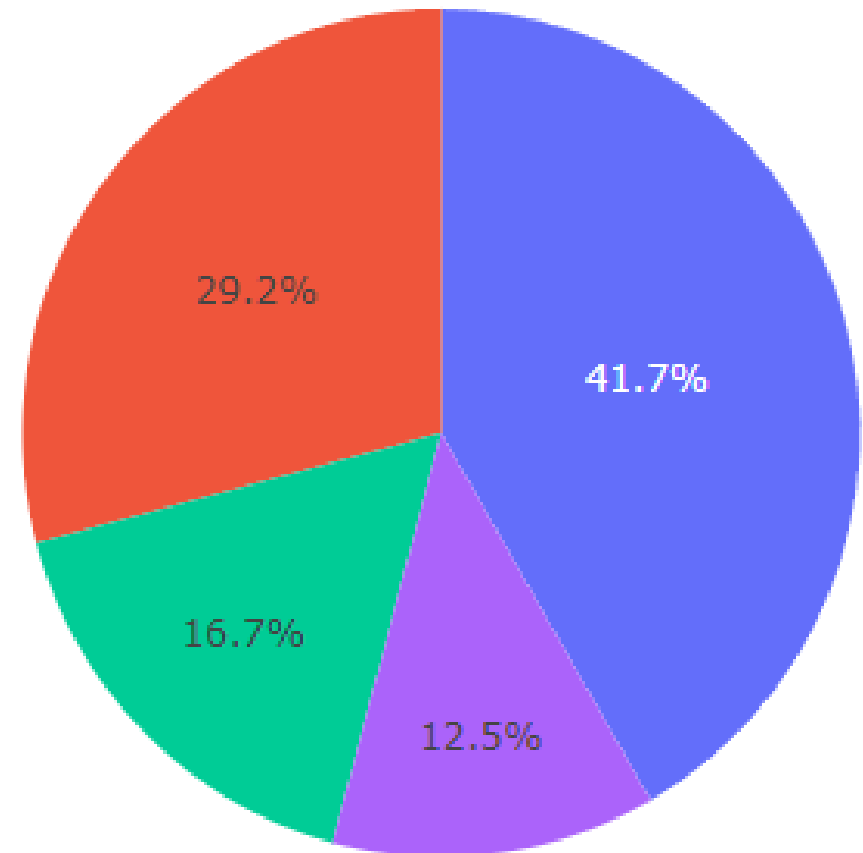
Dashboard includes

- Dropdown to choose between the different launch sites (of all of them)
- Pie chart showing the success/failure rates for each site, or percentage of success for all of the launch sites
- Rangeslider to select a payload mass
- Scatter chart showing relationship between Successful Launch and Payload Mass



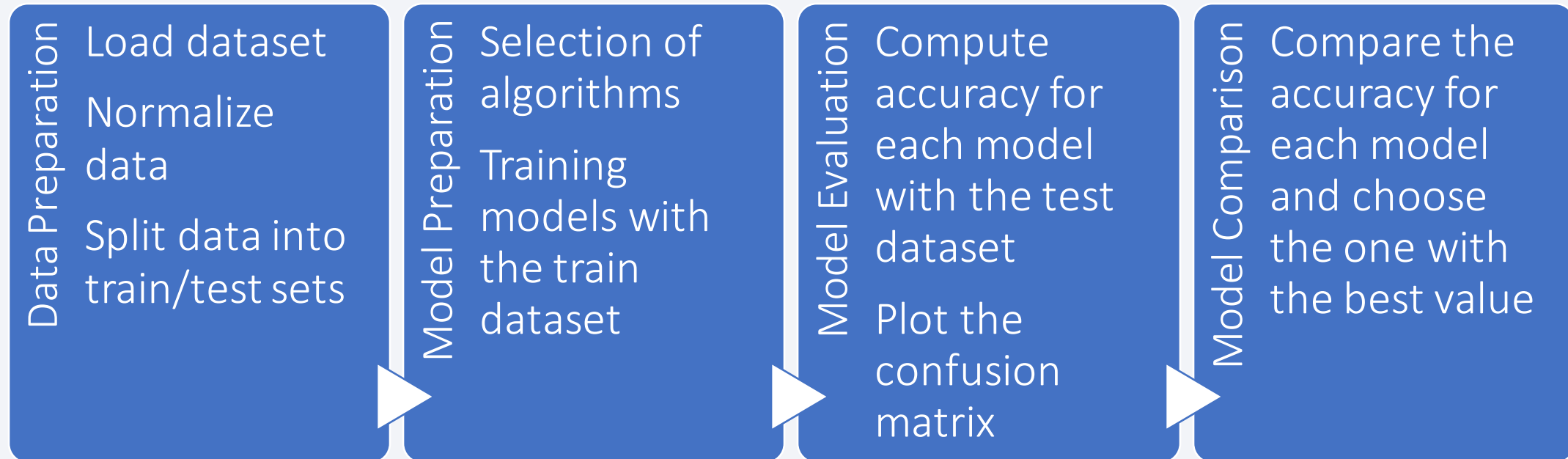
*Link to code:*

<https://github.com/Fdez99/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/master/SpaceX%20Dash%20App.ipynb>



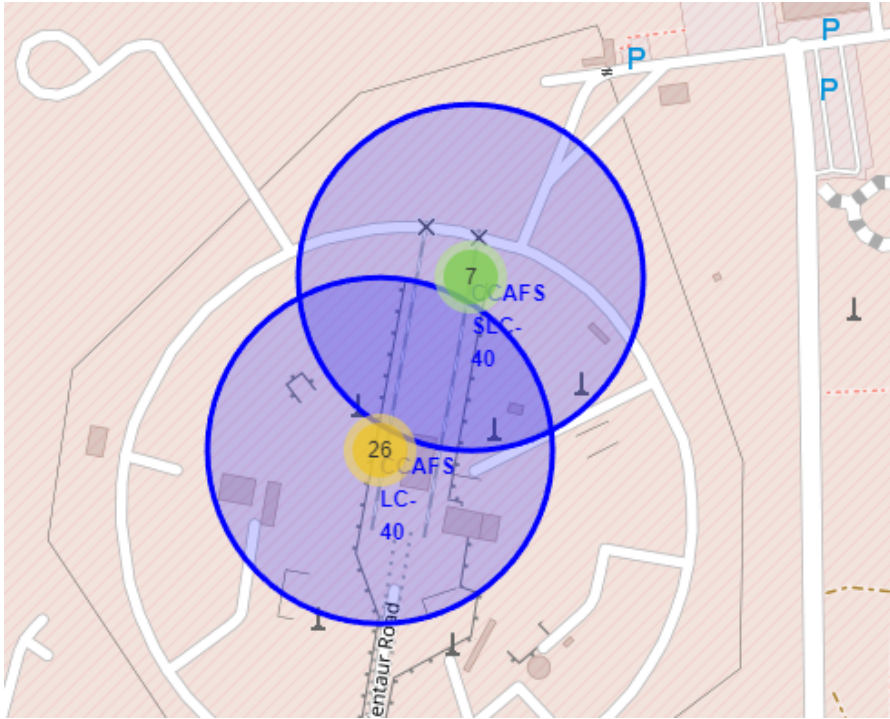
# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

---



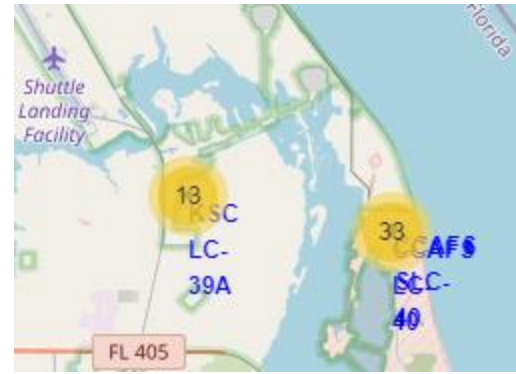
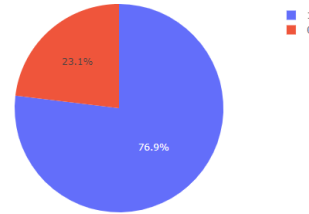
***Link to code:***

<https://github.com/Fdez99/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/master/ML%20Prediction%20lab.ipynb>



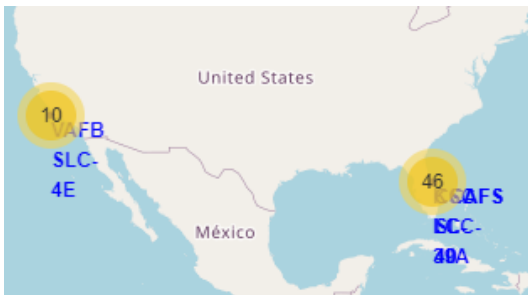
KSC LC-39A

Total Success Launches for Site KSC LC-39A



## Results

- SpaceX uses 4 different launch sites: CCAFS LC-40 VAFB SLC-4E KSC LC-39A CCAFS SLC-40
- Several orbits, the 3 most common GTO (geosynchronous orbit), ISS (International Space Station in low Earth orbit) and LEO (Low Earth Orbit)
- Average payload 2928.4 kgs
- First time a landing success was achieved: 01/05/2017
- 66.67% of success recovering the booster
- Most launch sites are near the sea and not far from railways and highways
- 12 different Falcon 9 booster versions
- Decision Tree is the best predictive model



LogReg: 0.8333333333333334

SVM: 0.8333333333333334

Decission Tree: 0.9444444444444444

KNN: 0.8333333333333334



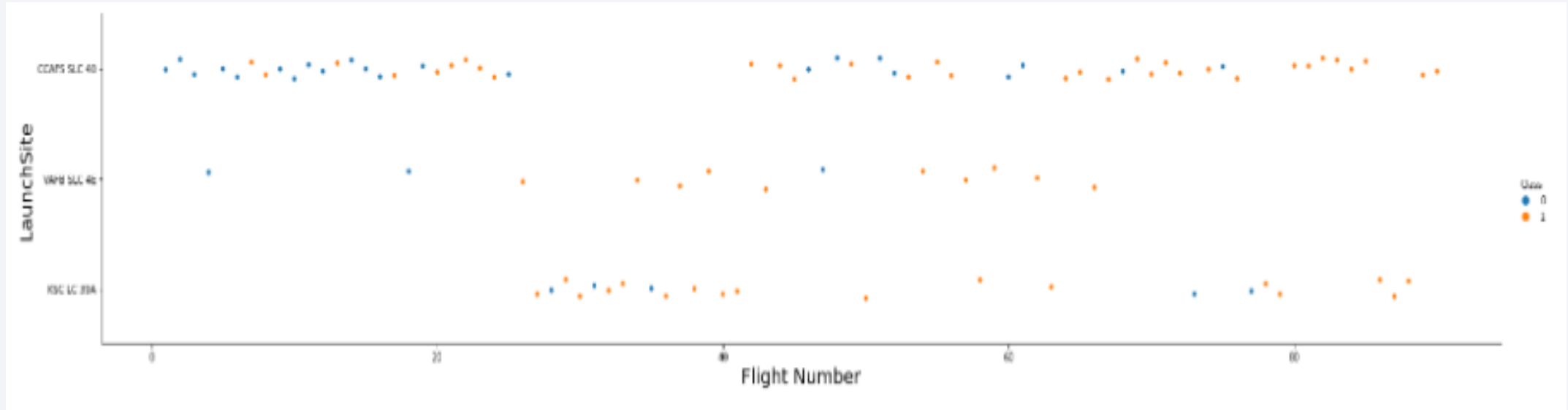
The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a dark blue field on the left side, which transitions into a complex pattern of diagonal streaks in shades of blue, red, and teal on the right. These streaks have a textured, almost woven appearance. Overlaid on this pattern is a faint, light blue grid that recedes into the distance, creating a sense of depth and perspective.

Section 2

# Insights drawn from EDA



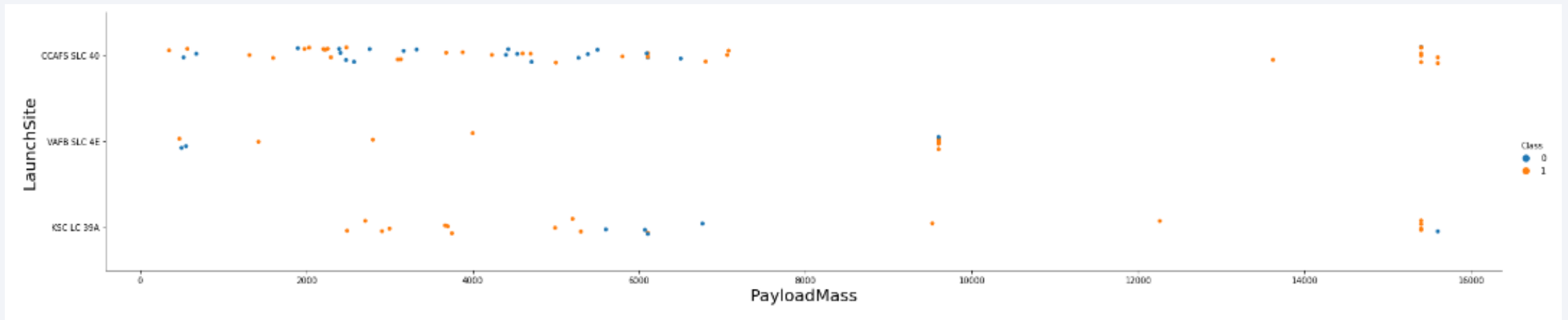
# Flight Number vs. Launch Site



- Best launch site seems to be CCAF5, followed by VAFB SLC 4E and KSC LC 39A.
- Success rate improves over time



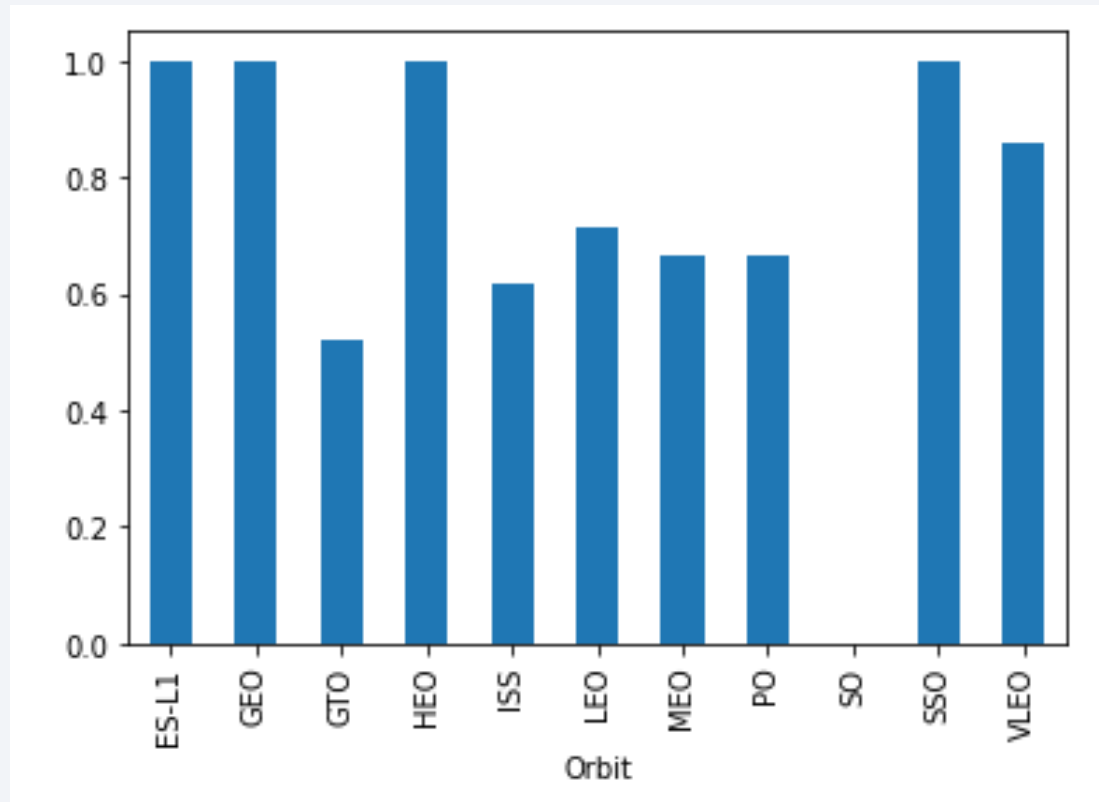
# Payload vs. Launch Site



- Payloads above 8000 kgs have a much higher success rate
- Heavier payloads (> 12000 kgs) can be only launched on CCAFS SLC 40 and KSC LC 39A

# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

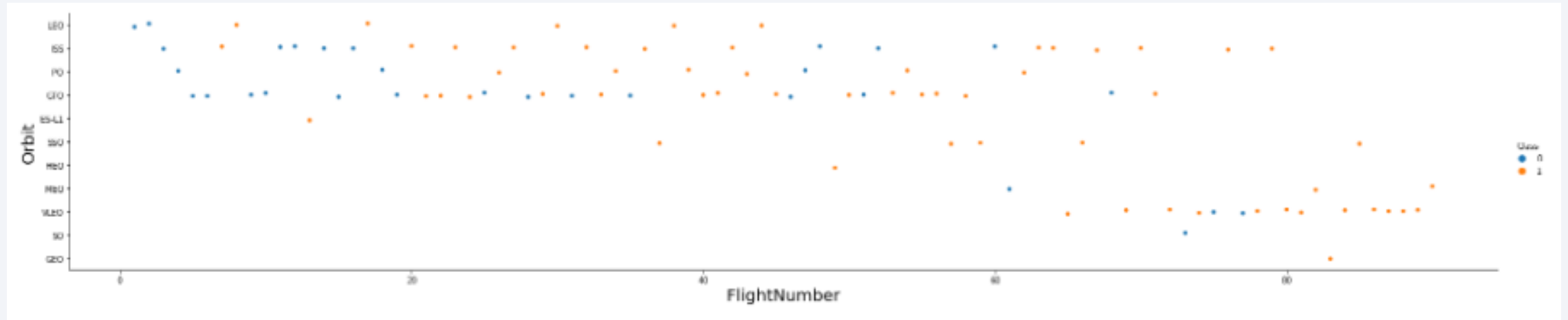
---



Four most successful rates for orbits

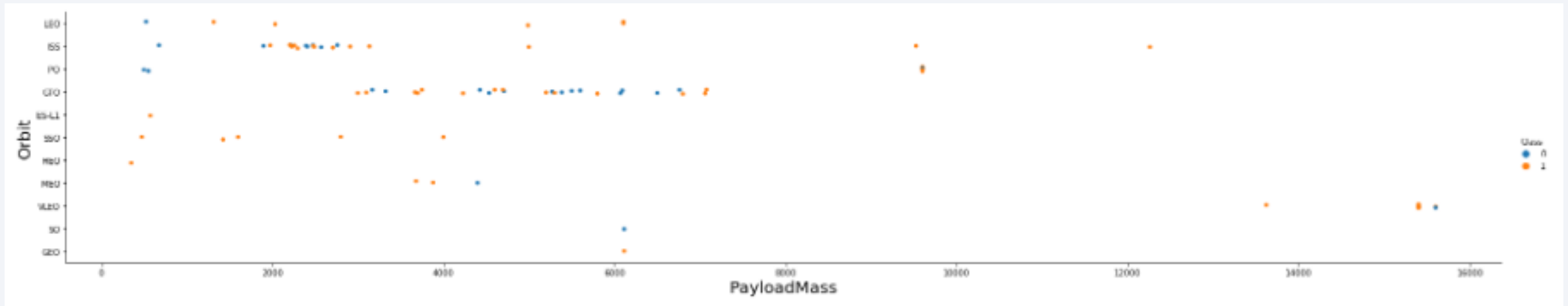
- ES-L1
- GEO
- HEO
- SSO

# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type



- Improvement over time seems common for all orbits
- More frequent orbits in later successful launches are ISS and VLEO

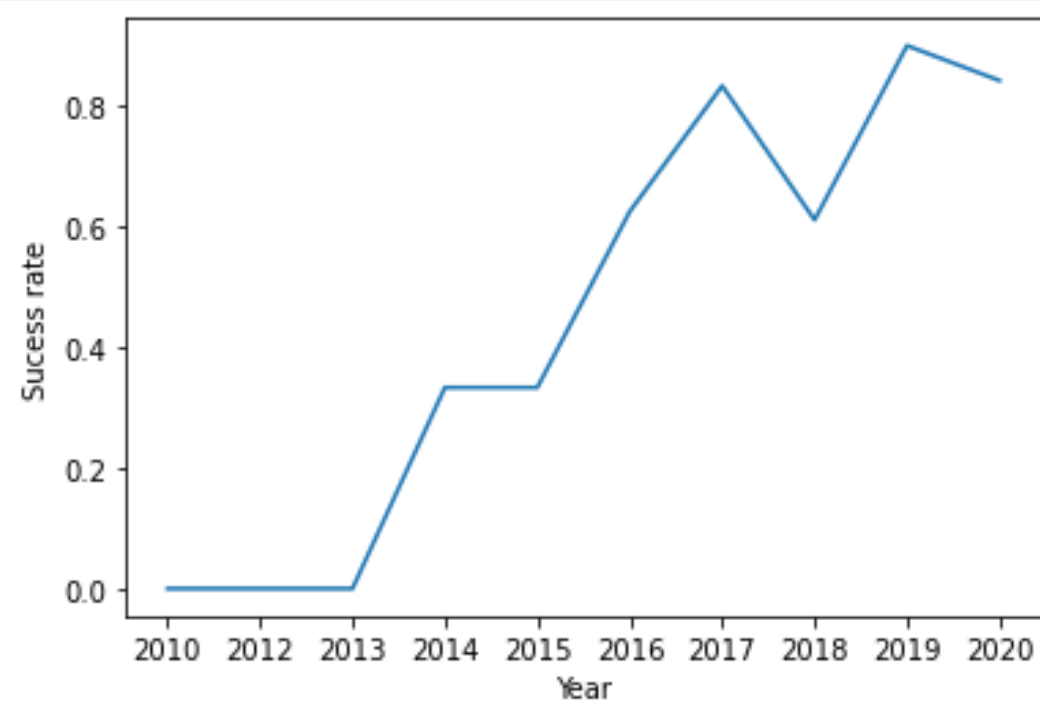
# Payload vs. Orbit Type



- Most successful orbits for heavier payloads are Polar, LEO and ISS
- Lighter payloads are most successful in ES-L1, SSO and MEO orbits

# Launch Success Yearly Trend

---



- Years from 2010 to 2013 were mostly unsuccessful
- Rate of success increases from 2013 onwards, with a decline in 2018



# All Launch Site Names

---

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

- There are four launch sites, shown on the table on the left
- Obtained by a SQL query, selecting only unique Launch Site values from the launch table

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

Date	Time (UTC)	Booster_Versio n	Launch_Site	Payload	PAYLOAD _MASS_ KG_	Orbit	Customer	Mission_Outcome	Landing _Outcome
04-06-2010	18:45:00	F9 v1.0 B0003	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit	0	LEO	SpaceX	Success	Failure (parachute)
08-12-2010	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)
22-05-2012	07:44:00	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success	No attempt
08-10-2012	00:35:00	F9 v1.0 B0006	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-1	500	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt
01-03-2013	15:10:00	F9 v1.0 B0007	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-2	677	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt

The five Cape Canaveral launching sites

# Total Payload Mass

---

- Total payload carried by NASA boosters

<code>SUM("PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_")</code>
45596

- Obtained by adding up all payloads from the same client (NASA)

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

---

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

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

2928.4

- After filtering the data to match only with version 1.1 of Falcon 9, the average payload mass obtained is the one shown above.

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

---

`min("DATE")`

01-05-2017

- Filtering the results for landing place (Ground Pad) and querying for the smallest value for Date, we obtained this value.



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

---

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

- Filtering data so that successful landing on drone ships that carried a payload between 4000 and 6000 kgs, the booster version obtained are those on the left.

# Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

---

- Filtering by mission outcome and counting the results for each, we obtained the following:

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

# 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

- Names of the booster which have carried the maximum payload mass

# 2015 Launch Records

---

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

Month	Booster_Version	Launch_Site
01	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40
04	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40

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

---

Landing_Outcome	COUNT("LANDING_OUTCOME")
Success	20
Success (drone ship)	8
Success (ground pad)	6

A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and city lights at night. The image is a composite of a solid blue background on the left and a satellite photograph of Earth on the right. The Earth's surface is dark blue, with numerous bright yellow and orange lights representing cities and urban areas. The horizon line of the Earth is visible, separating the dark surface from the blackness of space.

Section 3

# Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

# All the launch sites

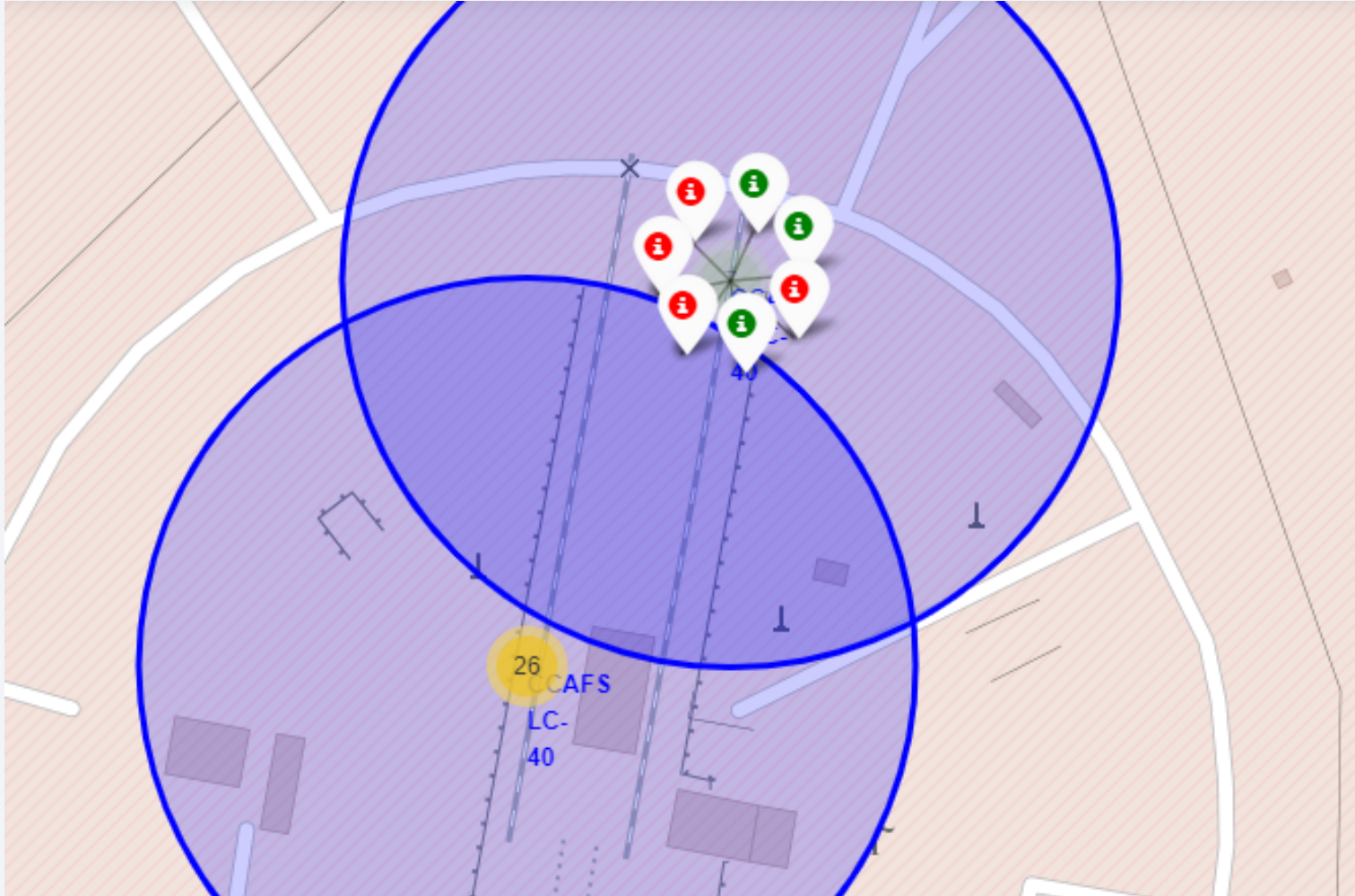
---



- All launch sites are near the sea.

# Launch site outcomes

---

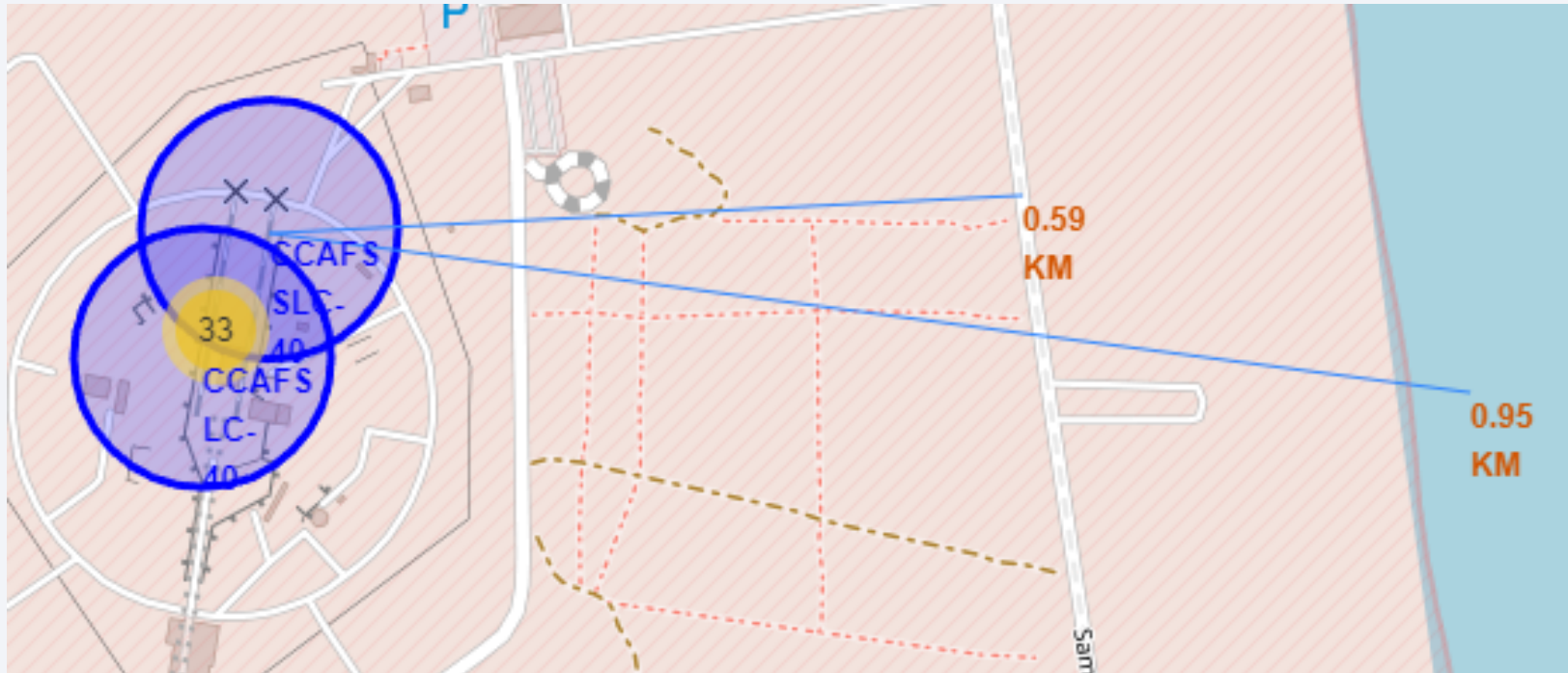


- Numbers indicate how many launches have been made on each site.
- Green markers mean the launch was successful; red, failed.



# Placement

---



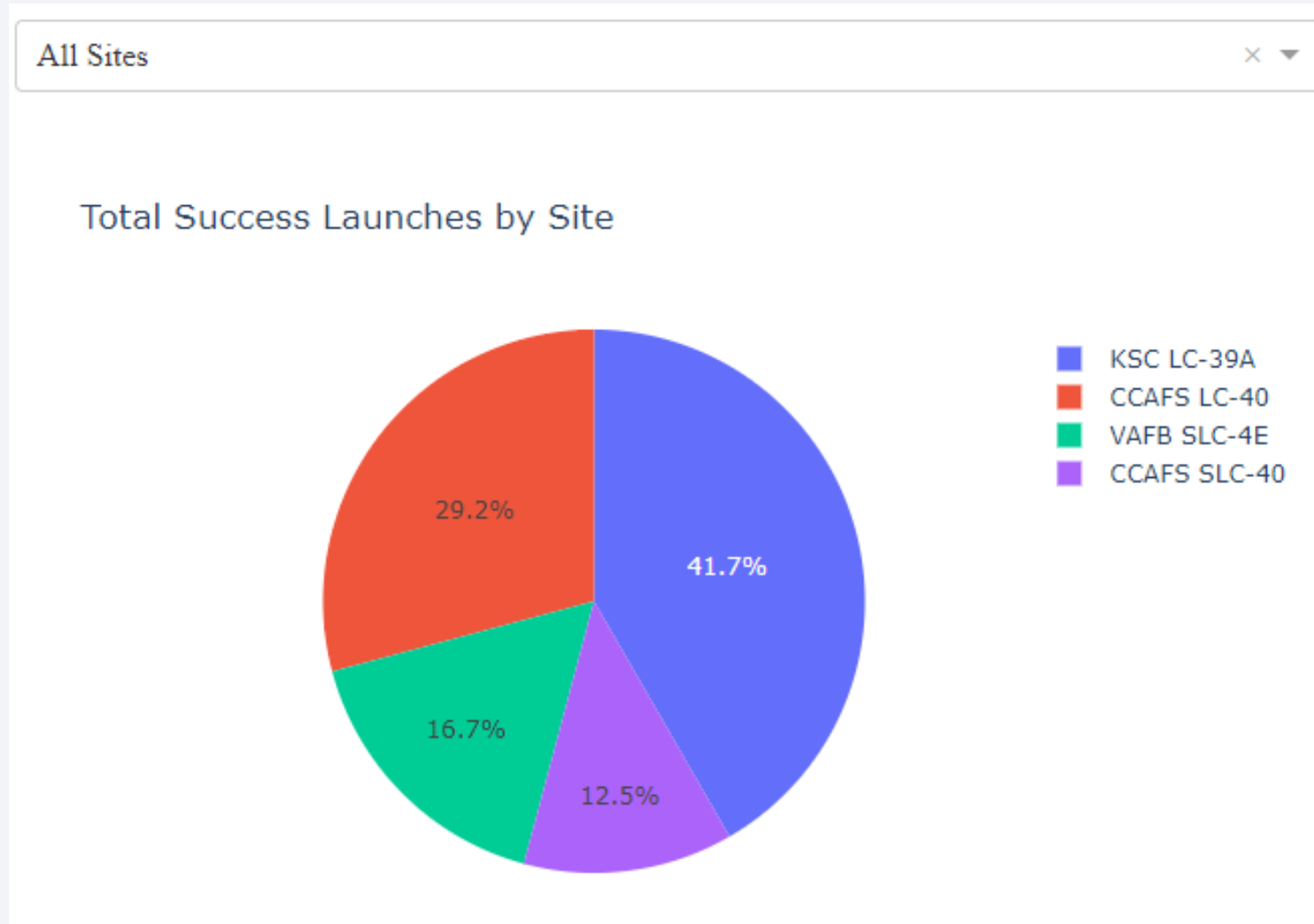
Site KSC LC-39A close to the sea and a road, and at the same time far from cities.



Section 4

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

# Successful launches by site

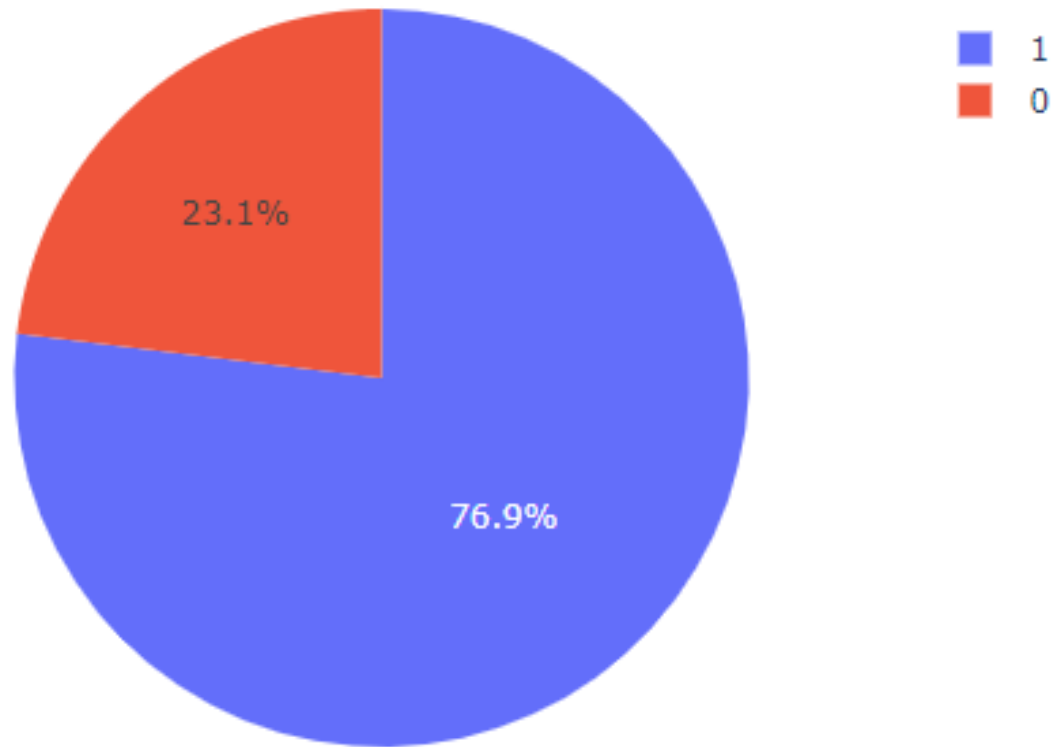


**KSC LC-39A** seems to be the launch site with the highest success rate.

# Success rate for KSC LC-39A

---

Total Success Launches for Site KSC LC-39A



KSC LC-39A has a 76.9% of successful launches.

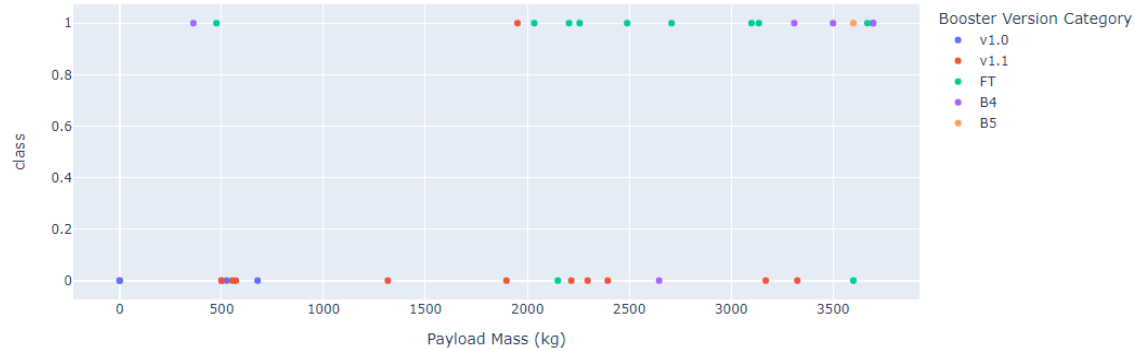
# Payload x Launch outcomes

FT boosters are most successful for payloads under 4000 kgs.

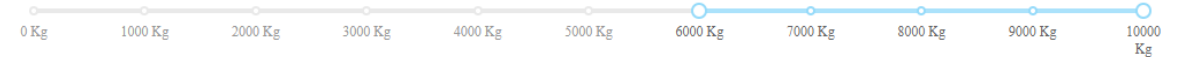
Payload range (Kg):



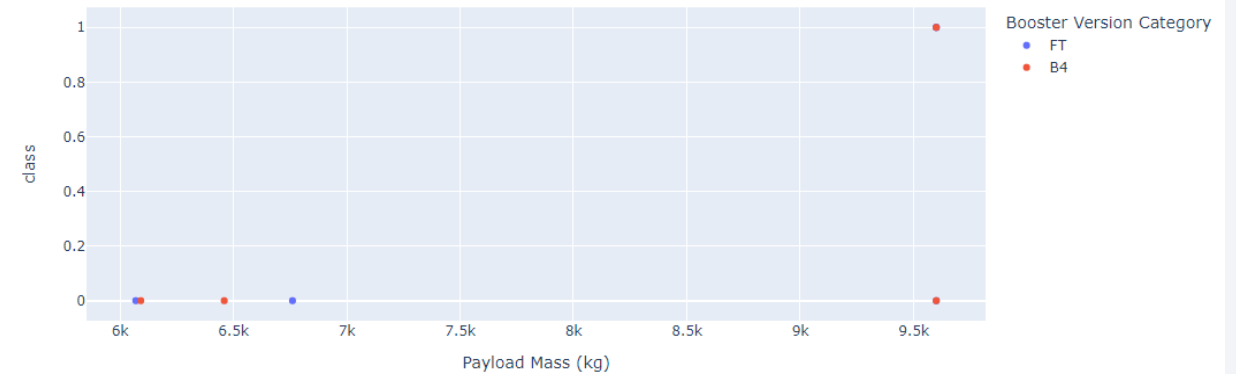
Correlation between Payload and Success for all Sites



Payload range (Kg):



Correlation between Payload and Success for all Sites



B4 boosters are most successful with heavier payloads (although data seem to be insufficient).

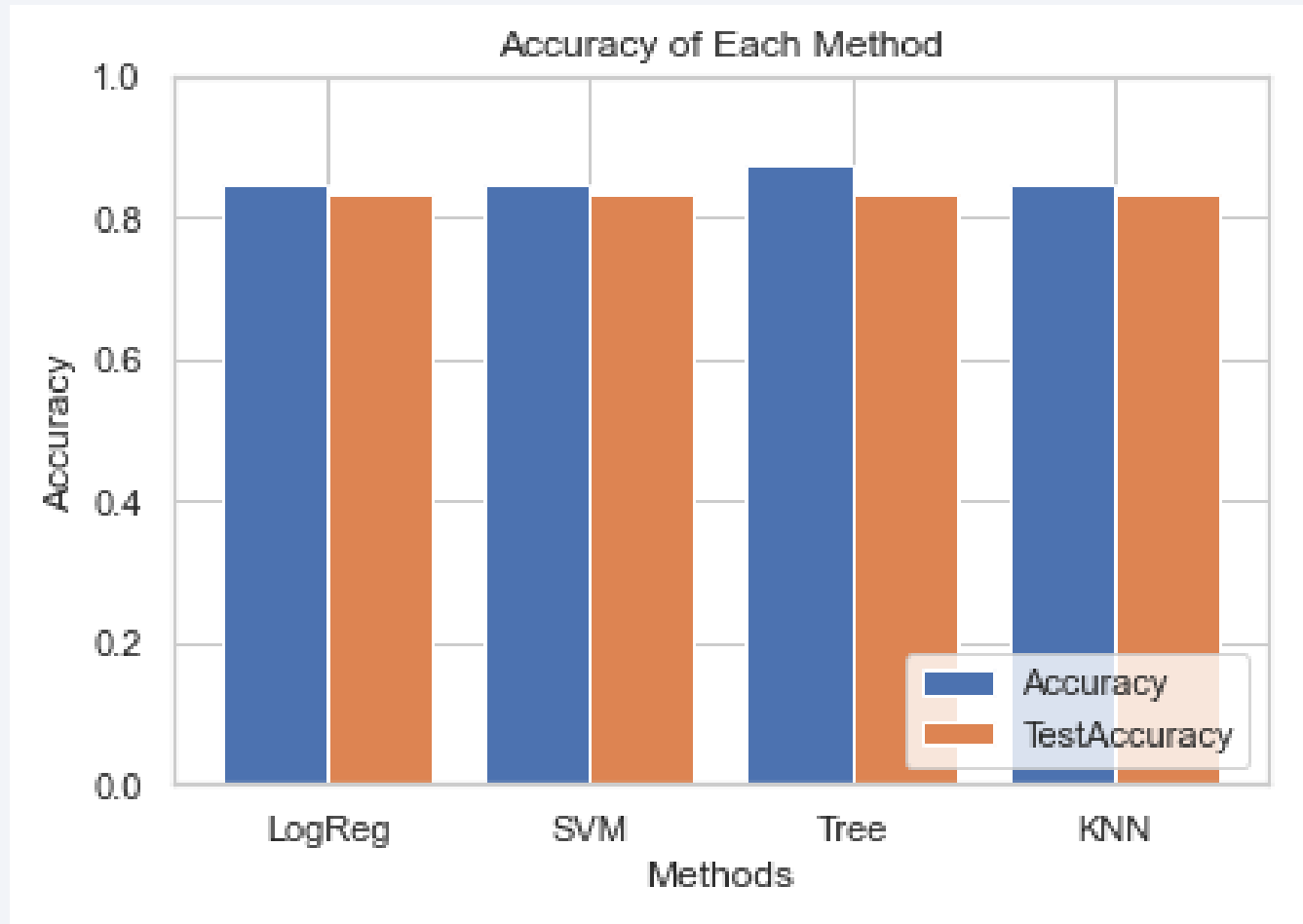




Section 5

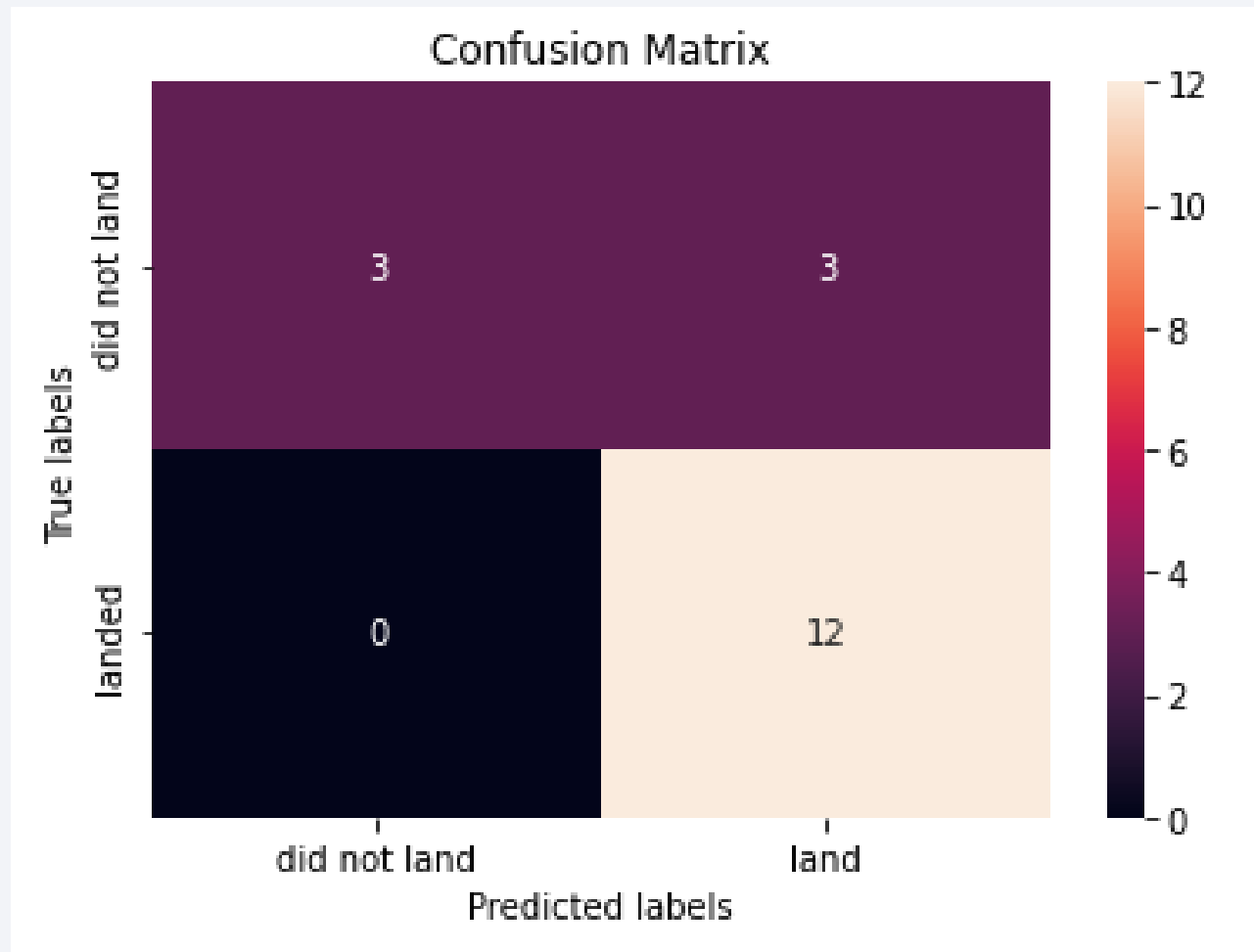
# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

# Classification Accuracy



Of the four models considered, the Decision Tree is the model which showed a higher accuracy.

# Confusion Matrix



In this model, we can see there are no false negatives (predicting that the booster would not land, but it landed), and that it correctly predicted the landing of most successful missions.



# Conclusions

---

- The success of a launch seems to depend on the launch site, the orbit and the payload mass.
- Launch site with most success rate is KSC LC-39A.
- Orbits with most successful launches are GEO, HEO, SSO and ES-L1.
- Lower payloads lead to a greater success rate of missions.
- The best algorithm to predict outcomes for this dataset seems to be the Decision Tree model.

# Appendix

---

- GitHub doesn't show the maps, so screenshots from the actual notebook were taken.

Thank you!

