

Winning Space Race with Data Science

Jelger Oud 20/12/2024



Outline

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

Executive Summary

- In today's highly competitive aerospace industry:
- **SpaceX** has transformed satellite launches with its innovative approach to reusable rockets, specifically the **Falcon 9** and **Falcon Heavy**.
- **Key benefit**: This approach dramatically lowers the cost per kilogram of payload.
- Challenges: Despite its cost advantages, reliability concerns persist when compared to traditional launch systems like Soyuz and Ariane 5.
- Competitive edge: To sustain its low-cost advantage over conventional launch vehicles, the success of a Falcon 9 mission is primarily defined by the ability to recover or land the booster safely.
- Booster recovery success: Several factors influence the likelihood of successful booster recovery, including:
 - Orbital parameters
 - Payload weight
 - Booster configurations
 - Launch site locations
- Leveraging these parameters, the **supervised machine learning classification model** developed in this study achieved an **accuracy rate of nearly 94%** in predicting booster recovery outcomes.

Introduction

- Project Background and Context
- SpaceX promotes its **Falcon 9** rocket launches at a cost of **\$62 million** per launch, while competing providers charge upwards of **\$165 million**. The significant cost reduction is largely attributed to SpaceX's ability to **reuse the first-stage booster** of its rockets.
- If we can accurately **predict whether the first stage of the Falcon 9 rocket will successfully land**, we can estimate launch costs more effectively. Such insights would be valuable for **competitors** looking to **bid against SpaceX** in the commercial launch market.
- Project Objective
- In this capstone project, we aim to develop a **predictive model** using **machine learning techniques** to forecast the **successful landing of the Falcon 9 first stage** based on historical launch data provided on SpaceX's website.



Methodology

Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
 - Describe how data was collected
- Perform data wrangling
 - Describe how data was processed
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
 - How to build, tune, evaluate classification models

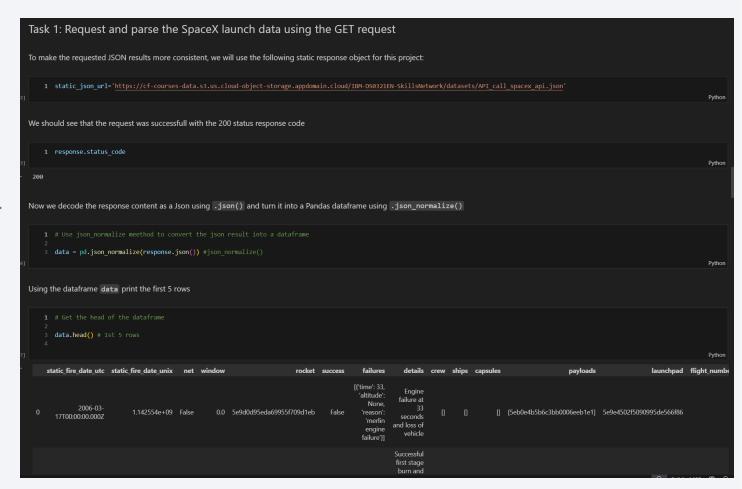
Data Collection

- Describe how data sets were collected.
- You need to present your data collection process use key phrases and flowcharts

Data Collection – SpaceX API

- Data Source
 The data used in this project was collected through the SpaceX REST API by making GET requests to retrieve historical launch records.
- Steps Taken:
- 1. A **GET request** was sent to the SpaceX API endpoint to access launch data.
- 2. The **response content** was received in **JSON format**.
- 3. The JSON data was **parsed and decoded** into a structured format.
- 4. The data was then **converted into a Pandas DataFrame** for further analysis and preprocessing.
- Code Repository
 The complete code for the SpaceX API calls notebook can be accessed on GitHub:

[https://github.com/JellaGit/C10_Git/blob/main/ju pyter-labs-spacex-data-collection-api-v2.ipynb]



Data Collection - Scraping

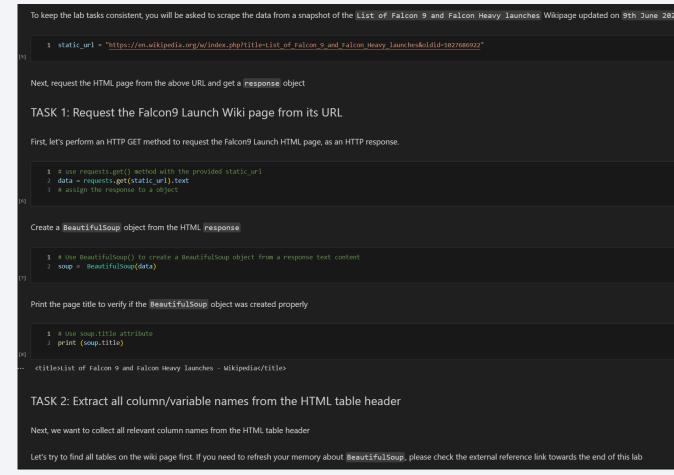
Data Source

To complement the data obtained from the SpaceX API, additional Falcon 9 historical launch records were gathered through web scraping from a Wikipedia page.

- Steps Taken:
- 1. Utilized the **Beautiful Soup** library along with the **requests** module to fetch the webpage content.
- 2. Extracted the **HTML table** containing Falcon 9 launch data.
- 3. Parsed the HTML table into a structured format.
- 4. Created a **Pandas DataFrame** to store and process the extracted data.
- Code Repository

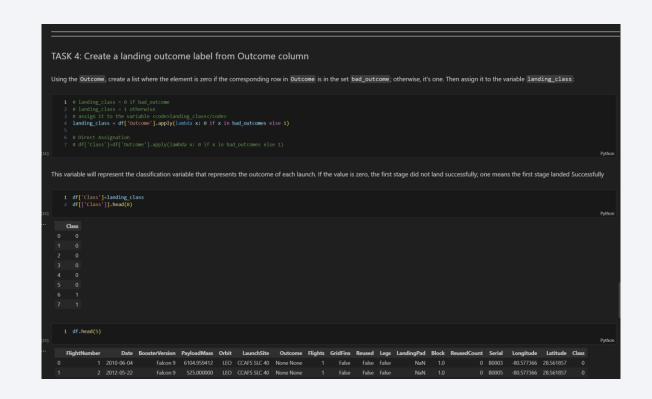
The complete code for the **web scraping notebook** is available on **GitHub**:

[https://github.com/JellaGit/C10_Git/blob/mai n/Web%20scraping%20Falcon%209%20and%20Fal con%20Heavy%20Launches%20Records.ipvnb]



Data Wrangling

- 1. Filtering Falcon 9 Launches
- The Booster Version column was used to filter the data, ensuring only Falcon 9 launches were retained in the dataset.
- This step helped remove irrelevant records and focus solely on Falcon 9 missions.
- 2. Handling Missing Values
- Payload Mass column had missing values.
- These were **replaced** by the **mean value** of the column to maintain consistency and prevent data loss.
- GitHub Repository
 The complete data wrangling notebooks can be found here:
 - [https://github.com/JellaGit/C10_Git/blob/main/labsjupyter-spacex-Data%20wrangling-v2.ipynb]



EDA with Data Visualization

1. Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

- Pandas and Matplotlib were used to explore and analyze relationships between variables.
- Statistical summaries and visual patterns were extracted to understand data distributions.

2. Feature Engineering

- Prepared and transformed data to create meaningful features for modeling.
- Enhanced dataset usability by identifying key variables influencing launch success.

3. Data Visualizations

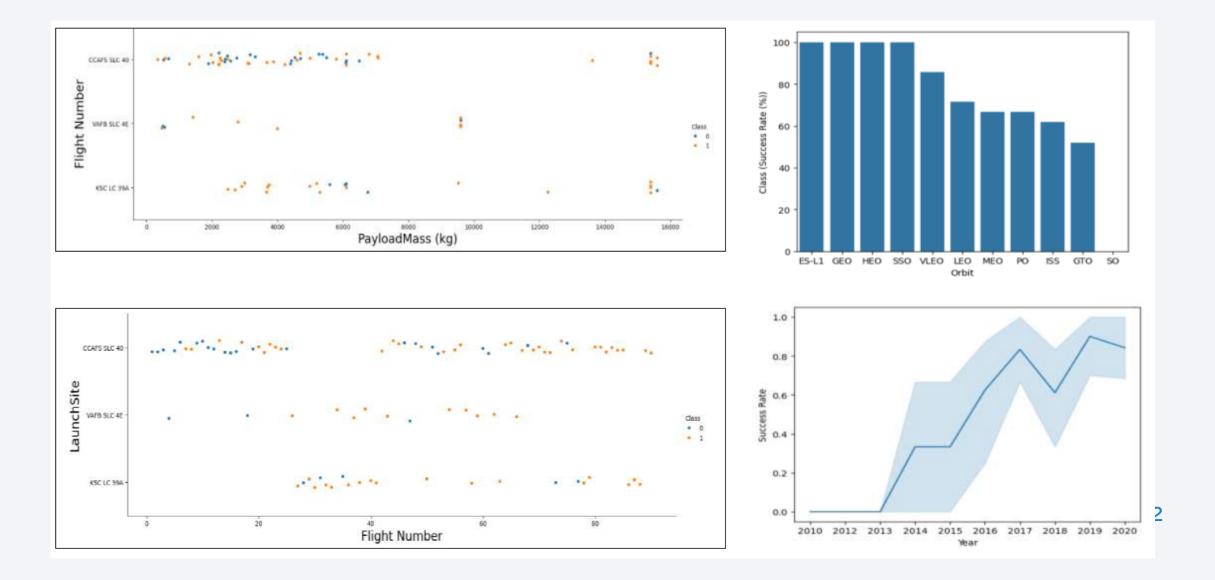
- Scatter Plots:
 - Visualized relationships between:
 - Flight Number and Launch Site
 - Payload Mass and Launch Site
 - Flight Number and Orbit Type
 - Payload Mass and Orbit Type
- Bar Charts:
 - Examined success rates across different orbit types.
- Line Plots:
 - Visualized yearly trends in launch success rates.

GitHub Repository

The completed **EDA and data visualization notebooks** can be accessed here:

f[https://github.com/JellaGit/C10_Git/blob/main/jupyter-labs-eda-sqlcoursera_sqllite.ipynb]

EDA Visualization Charts



EDA with SQL

1.Display the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission:

%%sql

SELECT DISTINCT LAUNCH SITE FROM SPACEXTBL;

2.Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA':

%%sql

SELECT LAUNCH SITE FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE LAUNCH SITE LIKE 'CCA%' LIMIT 5;

3. Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS):

%%sql

SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS Total_Payload_Mass FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE CUSTOMER = 'NASA (CRS)';

4.Display the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1:

%%sql

SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS Average_Payload_Mass FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE BOOSTER VERSION = 'F9 v1.1';

5.List the date when the first successful landing outcome in the ground pad was achieved:

%%sql

SELECT MIN(DATE) AS First_Successful_Landing FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE LANDING_OUTCOME = 'Success (ground pad)';

Notes:

•Queries extract insights into launch site details, payload mass, and landing success timelines.

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

%%sal

select BOOSTER_VERSION from SPACEXTBL where LANDING_OUTCOME='Success (drone ship)' and PAYLOAD MASS KG BETWEEN 4000 and 6000;

•List the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes

%%sql

select count(MISSION_OUTCOME) as mission outcomes from SPACEXTBL GROUP BY MISSION_OUTCOME;

•List the names of the booster versions which have carried the maximum payload mass. Use a subquery

%%sql

select BOOSTER_VERSION as booster version from SPACEXTBL where PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_=(select max(PAYLOAD MASS KG) from SPACEXTBL);

GitHub URL of Completed EDA with SQL Notebook



[https://github.com/JellaGit/C10_Git/blob/main/jupyter-labs-eda-sql-coursera_sqllite.ipynb]

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

f Interactive Map with Folium - SpaceX Launch Sites

Key Features in the Notebook

- Map Creation: Used Folium to generate an interactive map displaying launch sites.
- Markers: Placed markers to indicate launch outcomes (success = 1, failure = 0).
- Circles and Lines: Visualized distances and coverage areas around launch sites.
- **Marker Clusters:** Grouped multiple markers for **better visualization**.
- Mouse Hover and Popups: Displayed site details and launch outcomes on interaction.

Purpose:

- External reference for peer reviews and collaboration.
- Provides **reproducible steps** to create **interactive visualizations** using **Folium**.
- Helps explore launch data geographically to analyze patterns and success rates.

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Launch Site Dropdown Input Component:

- •Allows users to **select a launch site** from a dropdown menu.
- •Filters data dynamically based on the **selected site**.

Success Pie Chart (Callback Function):

- •Displays the **success rate** of launches based on the selected site.
- •Updates dynamically when the user changes the dropdown input.

Payload Range Slider:

- •Interactive **slider** to filter launches based on **payload mass**.
- •Allows for exploration of success patterns based on payload size.

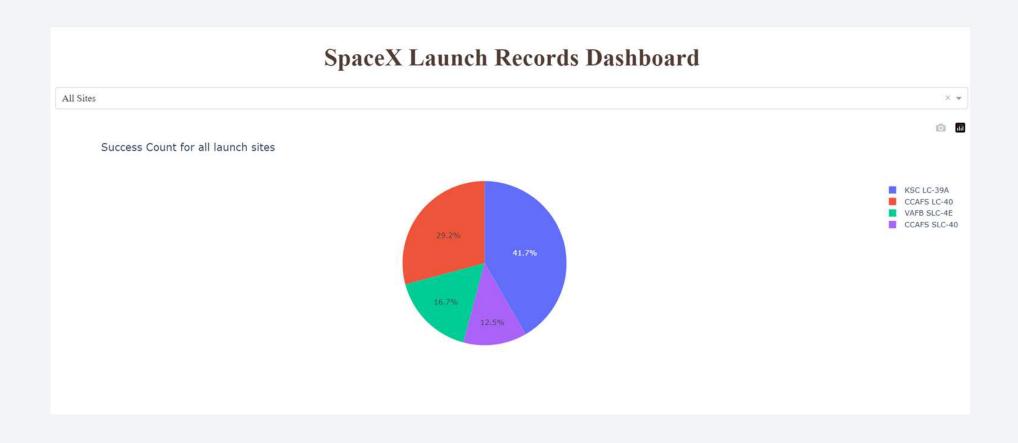
Scatter Plot for Success vs Payload:

- •Plots payload mass against launch outcomes.
- •Visualizes trends and success rates for different payload sizes.
- •Dynamically updates using callback functions based on slider values.

GitHub URL of Completed Plotly Dash Application

[https://github.com/JellaGit
/C10_Git/blob/main/Dashboar
d.ipynb]

SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard



Predictive Analysis (Classification)

Overview of Finding the Best Predictive Analysis Technique

1. Data Preparation:

- •Loaded the dataset into a Pandas DataFrame for preprocessing and analysis.
- •Performed Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) to understand data distribution and relationships.

2. Defining Labels (Outcome Variable):

- •Created a NumPy array from the Class column, representing whether the Falcon 9 booster landed successfully (1) or failed (0).
- •Converted the column into a NumPy array using: Y = data['Class'].to_numpy()

3. Feature Standardization:

•Used **StandardScaler()** from **sklearn.preprocessing** to **normalize features (X)**, ensuring all features are on the same scale, improving model performance. from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler scaler = StandardScaler() X = scaler.fit_transform(X)

4. Data Splitting for Training and Testing:

- •Split the data into training and testing sets using train_test_split() from sklearn.model_selection.
- •Allocated **80%** of the data for training and **20%** for testing, with a **random state of 2** for reproducibility. from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split X_train, X_test, Y_train, Y_test = train_test_split(X, Y, test_size=0.2, random_state=2)

5. Model Selection:

- •Evaluated different supervised machine learning models like Logistic Regression, K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), Support Vector Machines (SVM), and Decision Trees.
- •Compared models based on accuracy scores, precision, and recall to identify the best predictive model.

Outcome

- •Achieved a 94% accuracy using the best classification model based on the analysis.
- •The results demonstrate high reliability in predicting Falcon 9 booster landing success based on key features like payload mass, launch site, and orbit type. Let me know if you'd like more details about model comparisons or evaluation metrics! **

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

Finding the Best Machine Learning Model

- 1. Model Initialization and Hyperparameter Tuning:
- •Created objects for each ML algorithm (SVM, Decision Trees, K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), and Logistic Regression).
- •Used GridSearchCV to perform hyperparameter tuning by testing a range of parameter values for each model.
- •Example for **SVM**: from sklearn.svm import SVC from sklearn.model_selection import GridSearchCV svm = SVC() param_grid = {'C': [0.1, 1, 10], 'gamma': [0.01, 0.1, 1], 'kernel': ['rbf', 'linear']} grid_search = GridSearchCV(svm, param_grid, cv=10) grid_search.fit(X_train, Y_train)

2. Cross-Validation and Model Fitting:

- •Used **10-fold cross-validation** (cv=10) to split the training data into multiple subsets for validation.
- •Fit the training data into each **GridSearchCV** object to find the **best hyperparameters**.

3. Extracting Best Parameters and Validation Scores:

- •After training, retrieved the **best parameters** and **best validation accuracy** for each model: print("Best Parameters:", grid_search.best_params_) print("Best Validation Score:", grid_search.best_score_)
- •This process was repeated for all models (SVM, KNN, Decision Trees, and Logistic Regression).

4. Final Model Evaluation on Test Data:

- •Evaluated the **test accuracy** for each model using the score() method: test_accuracy = grid_search.score(X_test, Y_test) print("Test Accuracy:", test_accuracy)
- •Plotted **confusion matrices** for each model to visualize prediction performance: from sklearn.metrics import plot_confusion_matrix plot_confusion_matrix(grid_search.best_estimator_, X_test, Y_test, cmap='Blues') plt.show()

Key Results:

- •SVM achieved the **highest accuracy (94%)** with the best hyperparameters (C=1.0, gamma=0.03, kernel='sigmoid').
- •The **confusion matrices** highlighted areas where each model misclassified the data, helping to understand performance weaknesses.
- •Decision Trees and KNN showed slightly lower accuracy, making SVM the preferred model for this dataset.

Results

- The table below shows accuracy score of test data for each of the methods comparing them to show which performed best.
- Techniques include SVM, Classification Trees, K Nearest Neighbors and Logistic Regression.

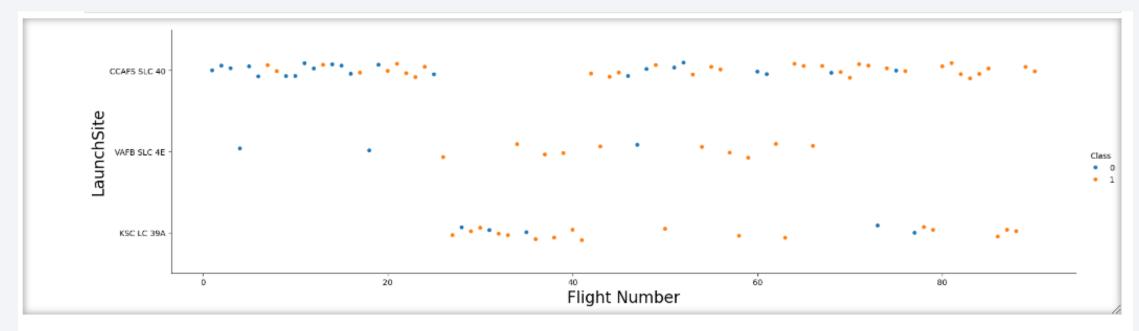
	0
Method	Test Data Accuracy
Logistic_Reg	0.833333
SVM	0.833333
Decision Tree	0.888889
KNN	0.833333

[•] GitHub Repository for Predictive Analysis Lab

https://github.com/JellaGit/C10 Git/blob/main/SpaceX-Machine-Learning-Prediction-Part-5-v1.ipynb



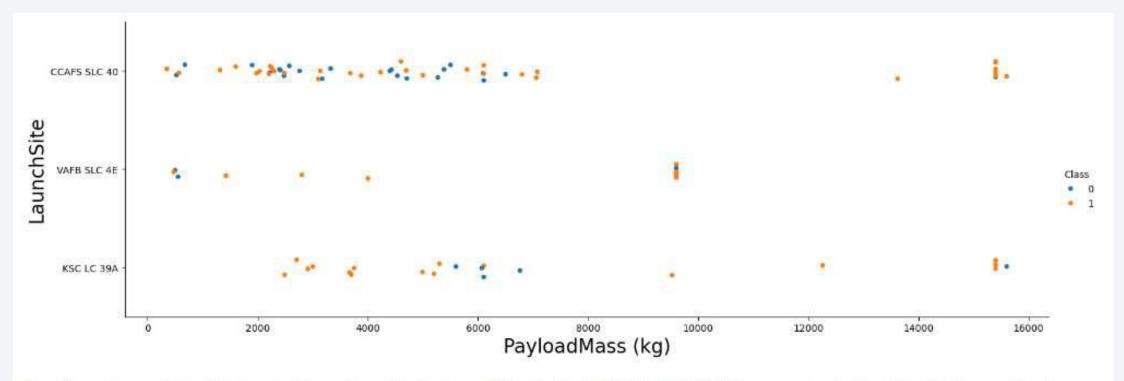
Flight Number vs. Launch Site



Now try to explain the patterns you found in Flight Number and Launch Site.

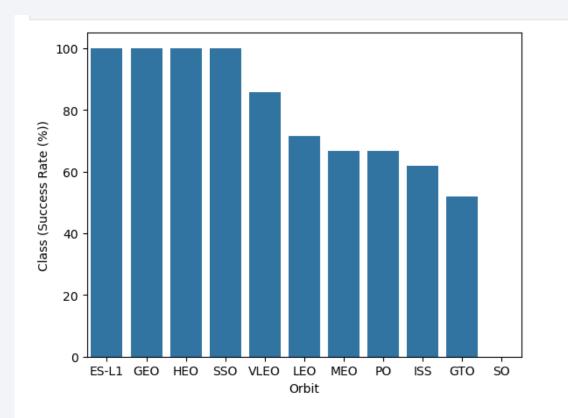
As the flight number increases it is clear to be seen that the success ration increases in all Launch sites. Focusing on VAFB SLC 4E almost all lauches after 20 Fight Number is successful except 1, while all the launches of other two are successful after 80 Flights.

Payload vs. Launch Site



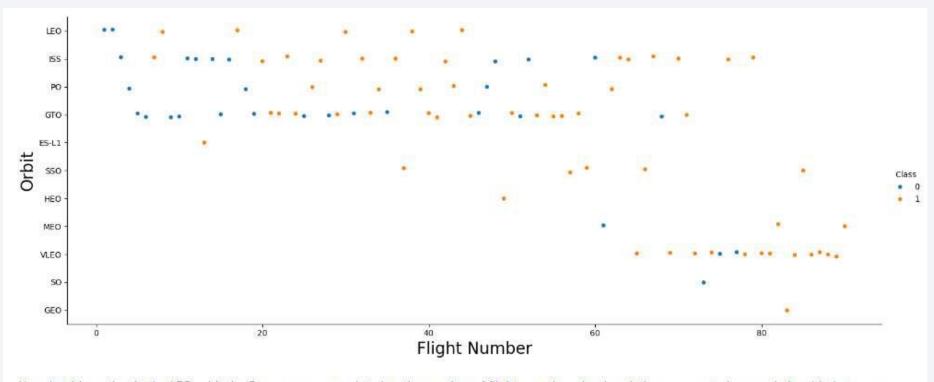
Now if you observe Payload Vs. Launch Site scatter point chart you will find for the VAFB-SLC launchsite there are no rockets launched for heavypayload mass(greater than 10000).

Success Rate vs. Orbit Type



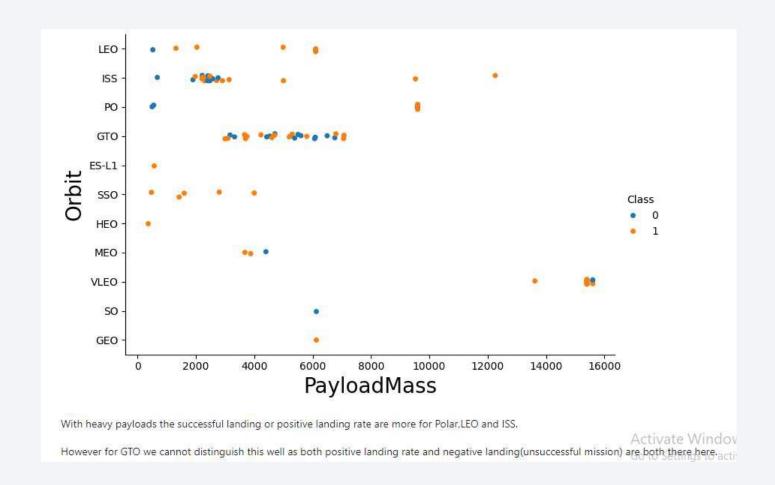
Analyze the ploted bar chart try to find which orbits have high success rate. Orbit ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO are the successful orbits having 100% success rate while orbit SO having success rate 0%. From orbits VLEO till GTO success rate is continuously decreasing and stay between 85% to 50% respectivley.

Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

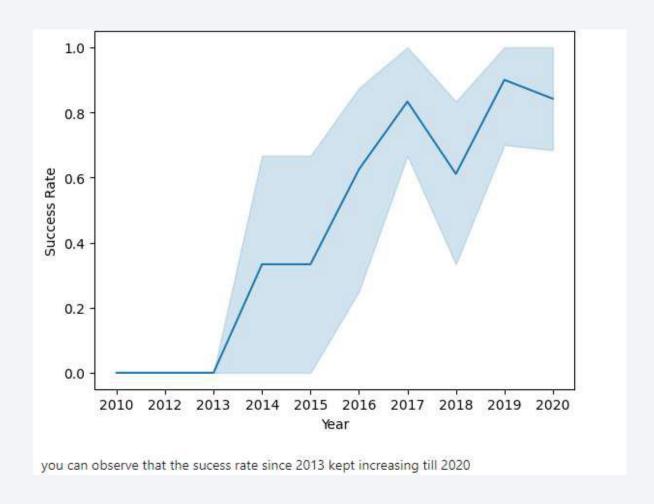


You should see that in the LEO orbit the Success appears related to the number of flights; on the other hand, there seems to be no relationship between flight number when in GTO orbit.

Payload vs. Orbit Type



Launch Success Yearly Trend



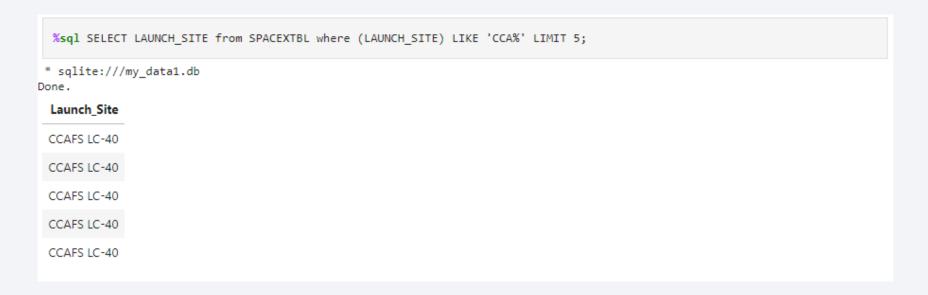
All Launch Site Names

- Find the names of the unique launch sites
- All launch sites are taking as a list called launch site. Using distinct we get all the unique different sites used in launching.



Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

• This is the list of launch site specifically starts with CCA with the of LIKE query and using LIMIT query to get only top 5 results.



Total Payload Mass

- Calculate the total payload carried by boosters from NASA
- Using SUM query can make the total of all payload mass from Payload_Mass_Kg _

```
%sql select sum(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) as payloadmass from SPACEXTBL;
  * sqlite://my_data1.db
Done.
payloadmass
619967
```

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

- Calculate the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1
- The average payloadmass can be find by using AVG on the column of payload_mass_kg

```
Display average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1

**sql select avg(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) as payloadmass from SPACEXTBL;

* sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

payloadmass

6138.287128712871
```

First Successful Ground Landing Date

- Find the dates of the first successful landing outcome on ground pad
- This is the .first date of a successful landing outcome by using MIN on the date column

```
%sql select min(DATE) from SPACEXTBL;

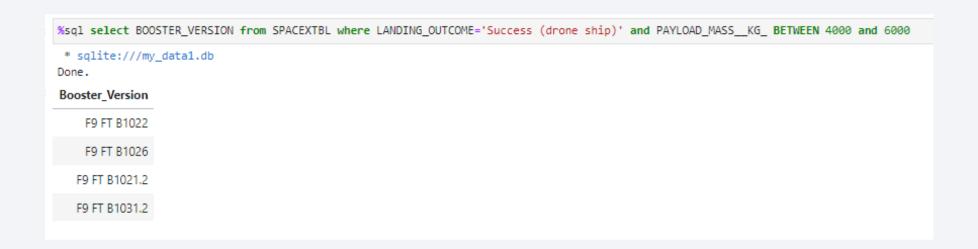
* sqlite://my_data1.db
Done.
min(DATE)

2010-06-04
```

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

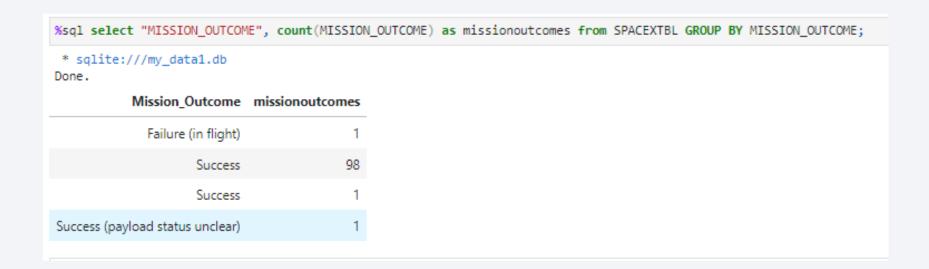
 List the names of boosters which have successfully landed on drone ship and had payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000

 This is the list from BOOSTER Version column and applying the two conditions on them:



Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

- Calculate the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes
- Used the COUNT together with the GROUP BY statement to return total number of missions outcomes.



Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

- List the names of the booster which have carried the maximum payload mass
- Using a Subquerry to return and pass the Max payload and used it list all the boosters that have carried the Max payload of 15600kgs.

%sql select BOO	OSTER_VERSION, payload as boosterversion
* sqlite:///my Done.	/_data1.db
Booster_Version	boosterversion
F9 B5 B1048.4	Starlink 1 v1.0, SpaceX CRS-19
F9 B5 B1049.4	Starlink 2 v1.0, Crew Dragon in-flight abort test
F9 B5 B1051.3	Starlink 3 v1.0, Starlink 4 v1.0
F9 B5 B1056.4	Starlink 4 v1.0, SpaceX CRS-20
F9 B5 B1048.5	Starlink 5 v1.0, Starlink 6 v1.0
F9 B5 B1051.4	Starlink 6 v1.0, Crew Dragon Demo-2
F9 B5 B1049.5	Starlink 7 v1.0, Starlink 8 v1.0
F9 B5 B1060.2	Starlink 11 v1.0, Starlink 12 v1.0
F9 B5 B1058.3	Starlink 12 v1.0, Starlink 13 v1.0
F9 B5 B1051.6	Starlink 13 v1.0, Starlink 14 v1.0
F9 B5 B1060.3	Starlink 14 v1.0, GPS III-04
F9 B5 B1049.7	Starlink 15 v1.0, SpaceX CRS-21

2015 Launch Records

 List the failed landing_outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015

• Used the subsrt in the select statement to get the month and year from the date column where substr (Date,7,4)='2015' for year and Landing_outcome was 'Failure (drone ship) and return the records nmatching the filter

* sqlite:///my_data1.db Done.								
substr(Date,7,4)	substr(Date, 4, 2)	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Payload	PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_	Mission_Outcome	Landing _Outcome	
2015	01	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC- 40	SpaceX CRS-5	2395	Success	Failure (drone ship)	
2015	04	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC- 40	SpaceX CRS-6	1898	Success	Failure (drone ship)	

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

- 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
- Using DESC statement.

* sqlite:///my_data1.db one.									
Date	Time (UTC)	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Payload	PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_	Orbit	Customer	Mission_Outcome	Landing _Outcome
19- 02- 2017	14:39:00	F9 FT B <mark>10</mark> 31.1	KSC LC-39A	SpaceX CRS-	2490	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	Success (ground pad)
18- 10- 2020	12:25:57	F9 B5 B1051.6	KSC LC-39A	Starlink 13 v1.0, Starlink 14 v1.0	15600	LEO	SpaceX	Success	Success
18- 08- 2020	14:31:00	F9 B5 B1049.6	CCAFS SLC- 40	Starlink 10 v1.0, SkySat- 19, -20, -21, SAOCOM 1B	15440	LEO	SpaceX, Planet Labs, PlanetIQ	Success	Success
18- 07- 2016	04:45:00	F9 FT B1025.1	CCAFS LC- 40	SpaceX CRS-9	2257	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	Success (ground pad)
18- 04- 2018	22:51:00	F9 B4 B <mark>1</mark> 045.1	CCAFS SLC- 40	Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)	362	HEO		tivate Windov to Setting Succession	

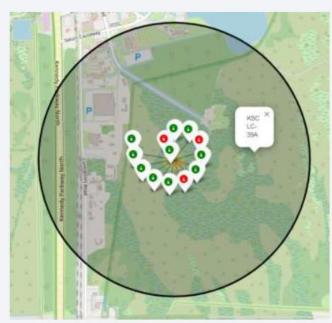


There are total 4 launch sites of SpaceX:

- VAFB SLC 4E: Vandenberg Space Launch Complex 4 (CA)
- KSC LC29A: Kennedy Space Center Merritt Island (FL)
- CCAFS LC40: Cape Canaveral Launch Complex 40 (FL)
- CCAF SLC40: Cape Canaveral Space Launch Complex 40(FL)

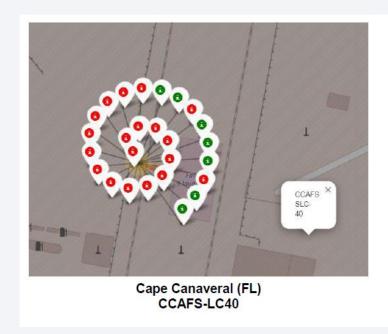


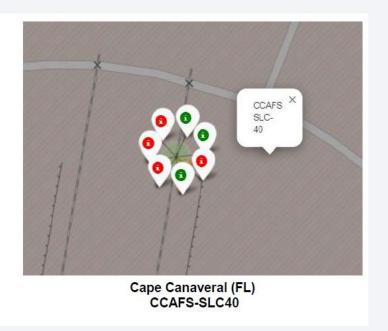
- These are the successful and unsuccessful launch sites.
 Green shows successful launch while red are unsuccessful launches.
- The KSC LC 39A have mostly successful launches which is 10 successful while 3 unsuccessful.



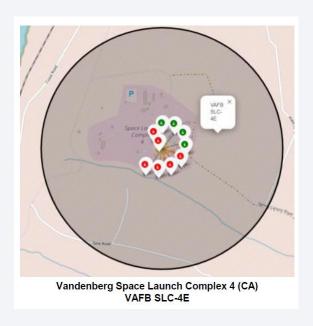
Kennedy Space Center (FL)
KSC LC 39A

- Launch site CCAFS SLC 40 have two launch site close to each other.
- The first site have 26 launches out of which only 7 were successful while the other left representation shows total 7 launches out of which only 3 were successful.
- In general it is clear that the launches from this area are mostly unsuccessful.





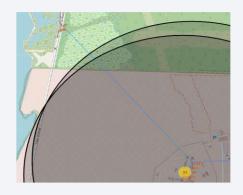
- This is the launch site close to L os Angeles which is totally opposite to other three sites.
- The ratio of successful launches was not good enough having 6 unsuccessful launches with 4 successful in total of 10 launches.



- Launch site we use to check the distance with highways, train ways and city is Cape Canaveral (FL) CCAFS SLC 40
- This map shows the line that defines the closest distance of launch site with the highway.
- Distance with the highway is 0 58 km.



• The distance with railway line is almost 3.28 km.



• Melbourne is the closest big city from the launch site which is around 51.43 km.

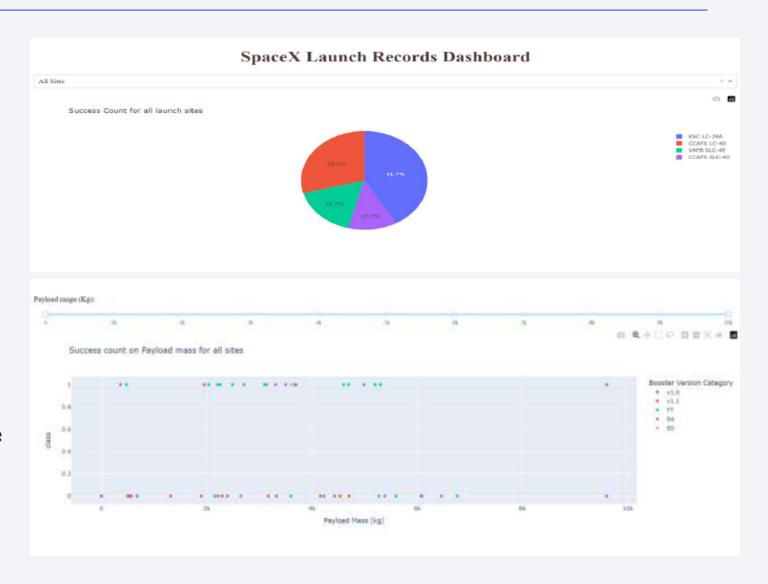




Plotly Dashboard | 1

We built an interactive dashboard with Plotly including

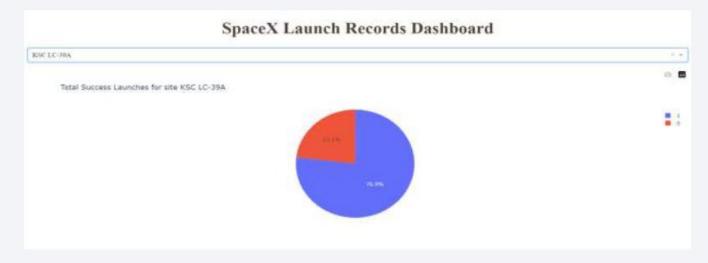
- Dropdown menu for selecting launch sites
- Pie charts displaying success rate
- Scatter chart displaying launch site, payload mass, success/failure
- Range slider for selecting range of payload mass in kg



Plotly Dashboard | 2

Getting the following information by analyzing

- Site with largest successful launches
- Site with highest launch success rate
- Payload range(s) with highest launch success rate
- Payload range(s) with lowest launch success rate
- F 9 Booster version (v 1 0 v 1 1 FT, B 4
 B 5 etc) with highest launch success rate







Classification Accuracy

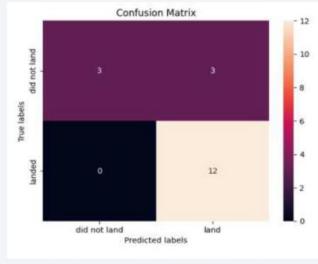
The final results shows in two column one is of predicted method column while other is Test Data Accuracy

- Total 4 predictive methods use which is Logistic Regression, SVM, Decision Tree and KNN
- Decision Tree shows more accuracy which is 0.88 as compare other three which 0.83

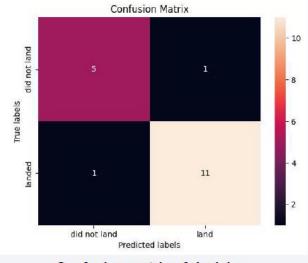
	0
Method	Test Data Accuracy
Logistic_Reg	0.833333
SVM	0.833333
Decision Tree	0.888889
KNN	0.833333

Confusion Matrix

- Decision Tree is the model predicted more accuracy than other three.
- Other predicted about unsuccessful landings were 100% correct while decision tree prediction about successful landing is more accurate than others.



Confusion matrix of KNN, Logistics Regression and SVM



Confusion matrix of decision tree

Conclusions

- Different launch sites have different success rates. CCAFS LC-40, has a success rate of 60 %, while KSC LC-39A and VAFB SLC 4E has a success rate of 77%.
- We can deduce that, as the flight number increases in each of the 3 launch sites, so does the success rate. For instance, the success rate for the VAFB SLC 4E launch site is 100% after the Flight number 50. Both KSC LC 39A and CCAFS SLC 40 have a 100% success rates after 80th flight
- If you observe Payload Vs. Launch Site scatter point chart you will find for the VAFB-SLC launch site there are no rockets launched for heavy payload mass(greater than 10000).
- Orbits ES-L1, GEO, HEO & SSO have the highest success rates at 100%, with SO orbit having the lowest success rate at ~50%. Orbit SO has 0% success rate.
- 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
- With heavy payloads the successful landing or positive landing rate are more for Polar, LEO and ISS. However, for GTO we cannot distinguish this well as both positive landing rate and negative landing(unsuccessful mission) are both there here
- A finally the success rate since 2013 kept increasing till 2020.

Appendix

• Include any relevant assets like Python code snippets, SQL queries, charts, Notebook outputs, or data sets that you may have created during this project

