



Launch Sites Locations Analysis with Folium

Estimated time needed: **40** minutes

The launch success rate may depend on many factors such as payload mass, orbit type, and so on. It may also depend on the location and proximities of a launch site, i.e., the initial position of rocket trajectories. Finding an optimal location for building a launch site certainly involves many factors and hopefully we could discover some of the factors by analyzing the existing launch site locations.

In the previous exploratory data analysis labs, you have visualized the SpaceX launch dataset using matplotlib and seaborn and discovered some preliminary correlations between the launch site and success rates. In this lab, you will be performing more interactive visual analytics using Folium.

Objectives

This lab contains the following tasks:

- **TASK 1:** Mark all launch sites on a map
- **TASK 2:** Mark the success/failed launches for each site on the map
- **TASK 3:** Calculate the distances between a launch site to its proximities

After completed the above tasks, you should be able to find some geographical patterns about launch sites.

Let's first import required Python packages for this lab:

```
!pip3 install folium
!pip3 install wget
```

```
import folium
import wget
import pandas as pd
!pip install folium==0.8.3
```

```
# Import folium MarkerCluster plugin
from folium.plugins import MarkerCluster
# Import folium MousePosition plugin
from folium.plugins import MousePosition
# Import folium DivIcon plugin
from folium.features import DivIcon
```

If you need to refresh your memory about folium, you may download and refer to this previous folium lab:

[Generating Maps with Python](#)

Task 1: Mark all launch sites on a map

First, let's try to add each site's location on a map using site's latitude and longitude coordinates

The following dataset with the name `spacex_launch_geo.csv` is an augmented dataset with latitude and longitude added for each site.

In [4]:

```
# Download and read the `spacex_launch_geo.csv`
spacex_csv_file = wget.download('https://cf-courses-data.s3.us.cloud-object-
storage.appdomain.cloud/IBM-DS0321EN-SkillsNetwork/datasets/spacex_launch_geo.csv')
spacex_df=pd.read_csv(spacex_csv_file)
```

Now, you can take a look at what are the coordinates for each site.

```
# Select relevant sub-columns: `Launch Site`, `Lat(Latitude)`, `Long(Longitude)`,
`class`
spacex_df = spacex_df[['Launch Site', 'Lat', 'Long', 'class']]
launch_sites_df = spacex_df.groupby(['Launch Site'], as_index=False).first()
launch_sites_df = launch_sites_df[['Launch Site', 'Lat', 'Long']]
launch_sites_df
```

	Launch Site	Lat	Long
0	CCAFS LC-40	28.562302	-80.577356
1	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820
2	KSC LC-39A	28.573255	-80.646895
3	VAFB SLC-4E	34.632834	-120.610746

Above coordinates are just plain numbers that can not give you any intuitive insights about where are those launch sites. If you are very good at geography, you can interpret those numbers directly in your mind. If not, that's fine too. Let's visualize those locations by pinning them on a map.

We first need to create a folium Map object, with an initial center location to be NASA Johnson Space Center at Houston, Texas.

```
# Start location is NASA Johnson Space Center
nasa_coordinate = [29.559684888503615, -95.0830971930759]
site_map = folium.Map(location=nasa_coordinate, zoom_start=10)
```

We could use `folium.Circle` to add a highlighted circle area with a text label on a specific coordinate. For example,

In [7]:

```
# Create a blue circle at NASA Johnson Space Center's coordinate with a popup label
showing its name
circle = folium.Circle(nasa_coordinate, radius=1000, color='#d35400',
fill=True).add_child(folium.Popup('NASA Johnson Space Center'))
# Create a blue circle at NASA Johnson Space Center's coordinate with a icon showing
its name
marker = folium.map.Marker(
    nasa_coordinate,
    # Create an icon as a text label
    icon=DivIcon(
        icon_size=(20,20),
        icon_anchor=(0,0),
        html='<div style="font-size: 12; color:#d35400;"><b>%s</b></div>' % 'NASA JSC',
    )
)
site_map.add_child(circle)
site_map.add_child(marker)
```

Make this Notebook Trusted to load map: File -> Trust Notebook

and you should find a small yellow circle near the city of Houston and you can zoom-in to see a larger circle.

Now, let's add a circle for each launch site in data frame `launch_sites`

TODO: Create and add folium.Circle and folium.Marker for each launch site on the site map

An example of folium.Circle:

```
folium.Circle(coordinate, radius=1000, color='#000000', fill=True).add_child(folium.Popup(...))
```

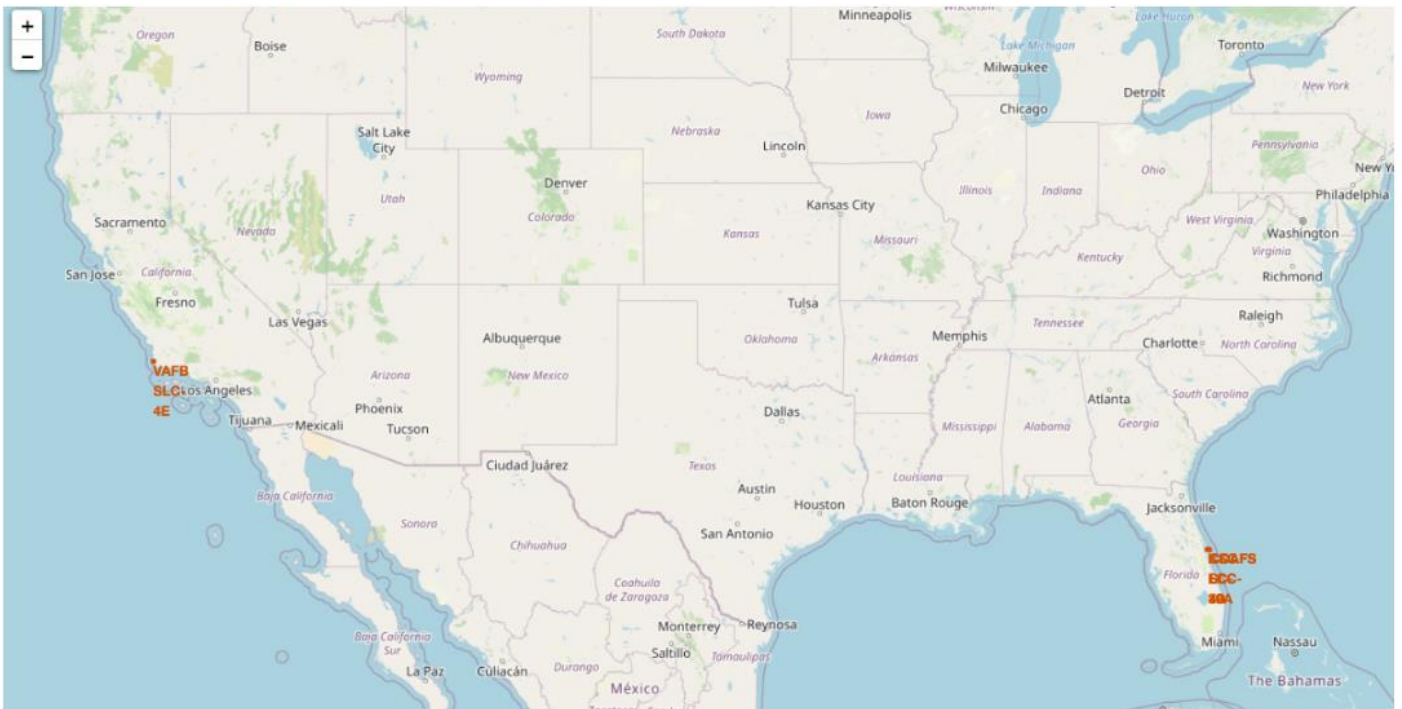
An example of folium.Marker:

```
folium.map.Marker(coordinate, icon=DivIcon(icon_size=(20,20),icon_anchor=(0,0), html='<div style="font-size: 12; color:#d35400;"><b>%s</b></div>' % 'label', ))
```

```
# Initialize the map
site_map = folium.Map(location=nasa_coordinate, zoom_start=4)
# For each launch site, add a Circle object based on its coordinate (Lat, Long) values.
In addition, add Launch site name as a popup label
for index, row in launch_sites_df.iterrows():
    coordinate = [row['Lat'], row['Long']]
    folium.Circle(coordinate, radius=1000, color='#000000',
fill=True).add_child(folium.Popup(row['Launch Site'])).add_to(site_map)
    folium.map.Marker(coordinate, icon=DivIcon(icon_size=(20,20),icon_anchor=(0,0),
html='<div style="font-size: 12; color:#d35400;"><b>%s</b></div>' % row['Launch Site'],
)).add_to(site_map)
site_map
```

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The generated map with marked launch sites should look similar to the following:



Now, you can explore the map by zoom-in/out the marked areas , and try to answer the following questions:

- Are all launch sites in proximity to the Equator line?
- Are all launch sites in very close proximity to the coast?

Also please try to explain your findings.

Explanation about the findings

Points observed: (i) launch sites are near the equator to use a possible effect from Earth rotation, (ii) and in the proximity from the sea, for safety and transport reasons.

Task 2: Mark the success/failed launches for each site on the map

Next, let's try to enhance the map by adding the launch outcomes for each site, and see which sites have high success rates. Recall that data frame `spacex_df` has detailed launch records, and the `class` column indicates if this launch was successful or not

```
spacex_df.tail(10)
```

	Launch Site	Lat	Long	class
46	KSC LC-39A	28.573255	-80.646895	1
47	KSC LC-39A	28.573255	-80.646895	1
48	KSC LC-39A	28.573255	-80.646895	1
49	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	1
50	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	1
51	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	0
52	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	0
53	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	0
54	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	1
55	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	0

Next, let's create markers for all launch records. If a launch was successful (`class=1`), then we use a green marker and if a launch was failed, we use a red marker (`class=0`)

Note that a launch only happens in one of the four launch sites, which means many launch records will have the exact same coordinate. Marker clusters can be a good way to simplify a map containing many markers having the same coordinate.

Let's first create a `MarkerCluster` object

```
marker_cluster = MarkerCluster()
```

TODO: Create a new column in `launch_sites` dataframe called `marker_color` to store the marker colors based on the `class` value

```
# Function to assign color to launch outcome
def assign_marker_color(launch_outcome):
    if launch_outcome == 1:
        return 'green'
    else:
        return 'red'
```

```
spacex_df['marker_color'] = spacex_df['class'].apply(assign_marker_color)
spacex_df.tail(10)
```

	Launch Site	Lat	Long	class	marker_color
46	KSC LC-39A	28.573255	-80.646895	1	green
47	KSC LC-39A	28.573255	-80.646895	1	green
48	KSC LC-39A	28.573255	-80.646895	1	green
49	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	1	green
50	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	1	green
51	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	0	red
52	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	0	red
53	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	0	red
54	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	1	green
55	CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820	0	red

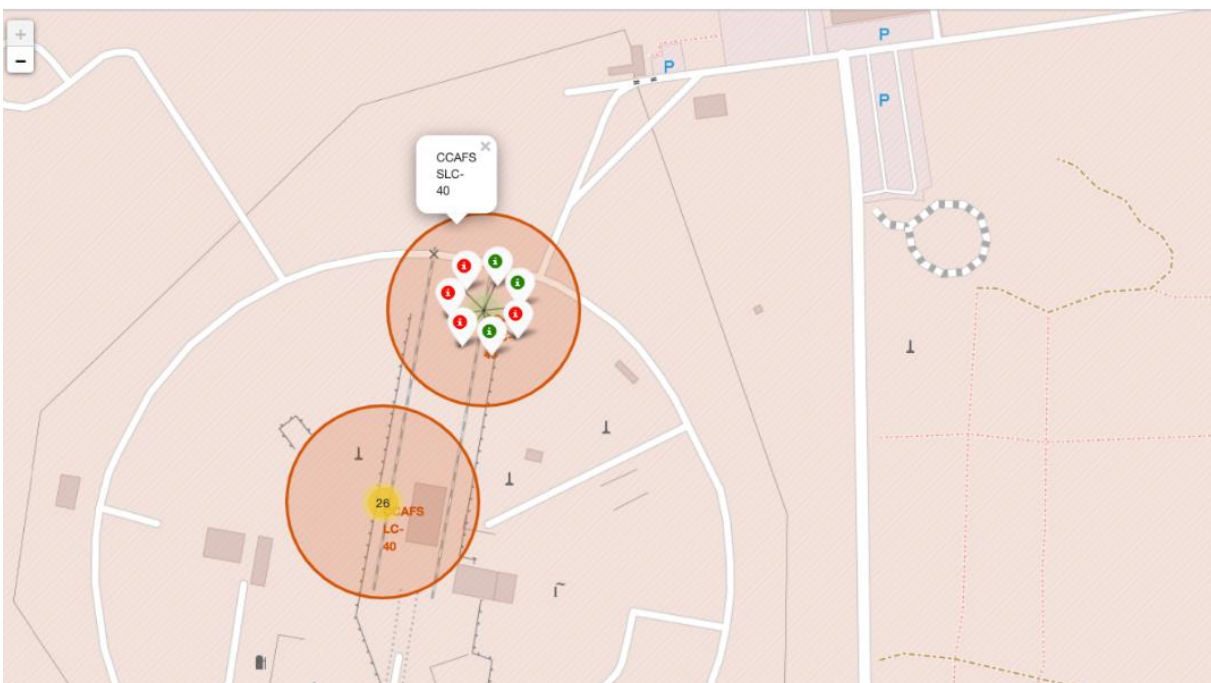
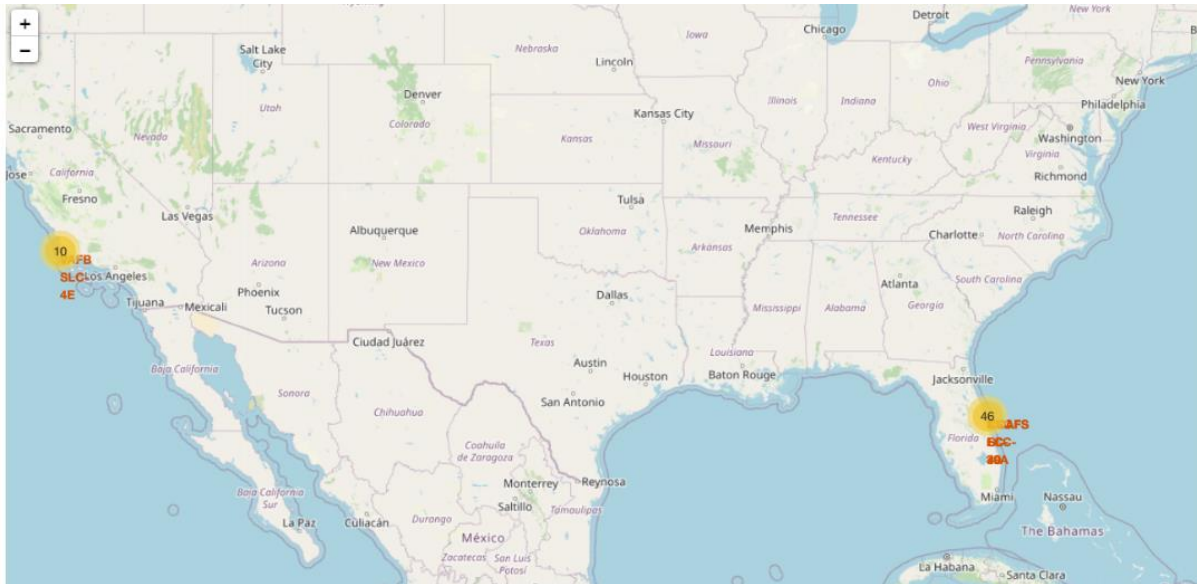
TODO: For each launch result in `spacex_df` data frame, add a `folium.Marker` to `marker_cluster`

```
# Add marker_cluster to current site_map
site_map.add_child(marker_cluster)
```

```
# for each row in spacex_df data frame
# create a Marker object with its coordinate
# and customize the Marker's icon property to indicate if this launch was succeeded or
# failed,
# e.g., icon=folium.Icon(color='white', icon_color=row['marker_color'])
for index, row in spacex_df.iterrows():
    # create and add a Marker cluster to the site map
    coordinate = [row['Lat'], row['Long']]
    folium.map.Marker(coordinate,
icon=folium.Icon(color='white', icon_color=row['marker_color'])).add_to(marker_cluster)
site_map
```

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Your updated map may look like the following screenshots:



From the color-labeled markers in marker clusters, you should be able to easily identify which launch sites have relatively high success rates.

TASK 3: Calculate the distances between a launch site to its proximities

Next, we need to explore and analyze the proximities of launch sites.

Let's first add a `MousePosition` on the map to get coordinate for a mouse over a point on the map. As such, while you are exploring the map, you can easily find the coordinates of any points of interests (such as railway)

```
# Add Mouse Position to get the coordinate (Lat, Long) for a mouse over on the map
formatter = "function(num) {return L.Util.formatNum(num, 5);}"
mouse_position = MousePosition(
    position='topright',
    separator=' Long: ',
    empty_string='NaN',
    lng_first=False,
    num_digits=20,
    prefix='Lat:',
    lat_formatter=formatter,
    lng_formatter=formatter,
)

site_map.add_child(mouse_position)
site_map
```

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Now zoom in to a launch site and explore its proximity to see if you can easily find any railway, highway, coastline, etc. Move your mouse to these points and mark down their coordinates (shown on the top-left) in order to the distance to the launch site.

You can calculate the distance between two points on the map based on their Lat and Long values using the following method:

```
from math import sin, cos, sqrt, atan2, radians

def calculate_distance(lat1, lon1, lat2, lon2):
    # approximate radius of earth in km
    R = 6373.0

    lat1 = radians(lat1)
    lon1 = radians(lon1)
    lat2 = radians(lat2)
    lon2 = radians(lon2)

    dlon = lon2 - lon1
    dlat = lat2 - lat1

    a = sin(dlat / 2)**2 + cos(lat1) * cos(lat2) * sin(dlon / 2)**2
    c = 2 * atan2(sqrt(a), sqrt(1 - a))

    distance = R * c
    return distance
```

TODO: Mark down a point on the closest coastline using `MousePosition` and calculate the distance between the coastline point and the launch site.

```
# find coordinate of the closet coastline
# e.g.,: Lat: 28.56367 Lon: -80.57163
# distance_coastline = calculate_distance(launch_site_lat, launch_site_lon,
coastline_lat, coastline_lon)
launch_site_lat = 28.563197
launch_site_lon = -80.576820
coastline_lat = 28.56334
coastline_lon = -80.56799
distance_coastline = calculate_distance(launch_site_lat, launch_site_lon,
coastline_lat, coastline_lon)
print(distance_coastline, ' km')

0.8627671182499878 km
```

TODO: After obtained its coordinate, create a `folium.Marker` to show the distance

```
# Create and add a folium.Marker on your selected closest coastline point on the map
# Display the distance between coastline point and launch site using the icon property
# for example
# distance_marker = folium.Marker(
#     coordinate,
#     icon=DivIcon(
#         icon_size=(20,20),
#         icon_anchor=(0,0),
#         html='<div style="font-size: 12; color:#d35400;"><b>%s</b></div>' % "{:10.2f}
KM".format(distance),
#     )
# )
distance_marker = folium.Marker(
    [coastline_lat, coastline_lon],
    icon=DivIcon(
        icon_size=(20,20),
        icon_anchor=(0,0),
        html='<div style="font-size: 12; color:#d35400;"><b>%s</b></div>' % "{:10.2f}
KM".format(distance_coastline),
    )
)
site_map.add_child(distance_marker)
```

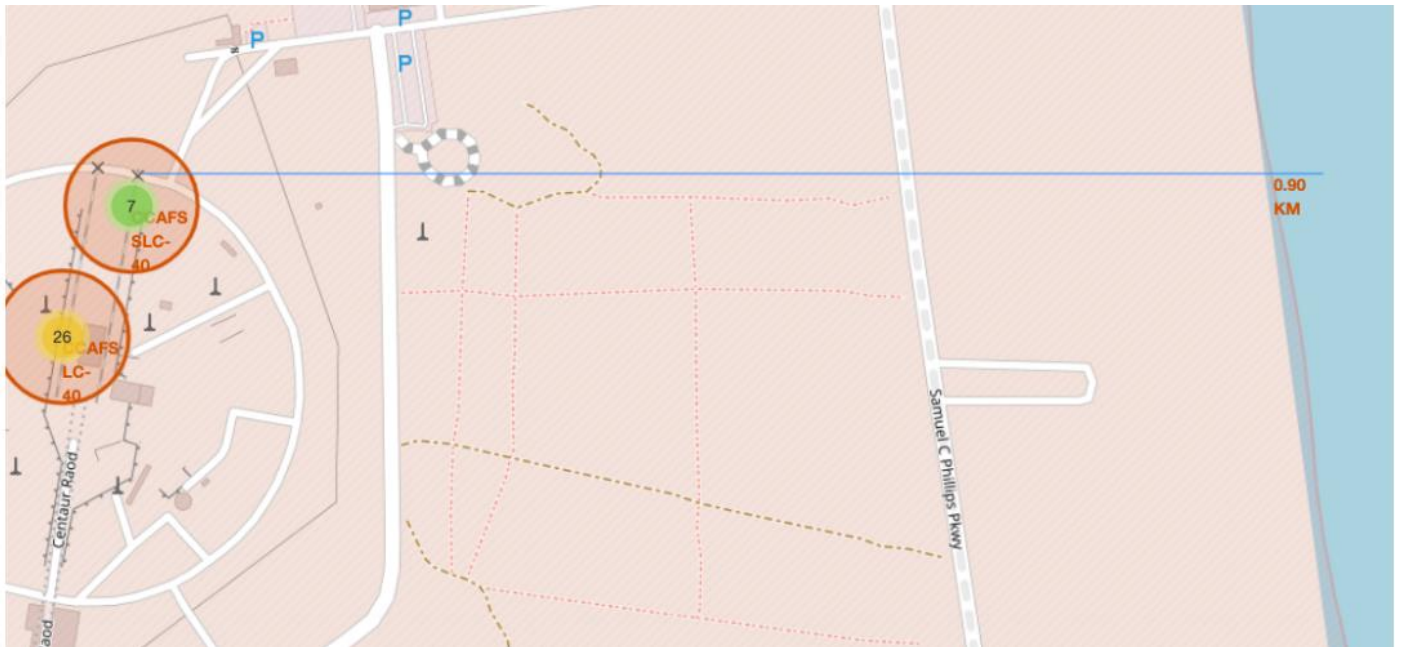
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TODO: Draw a `PolyLine` between a launch site to the selected coastline point

```
# Create a `folium.PolyLine` object using the coastline coordinates and launch site
coordinate
# lines=folium.PolyLine(locations=coordinates, weight=1)
coordinates = [[launch_site_lat, launch_site_lon], [coastline_lat, coastline_lon]]
lines=folium.PolyLine(locations=coordinates, weight=1)
site_map.add_child(lines)
```

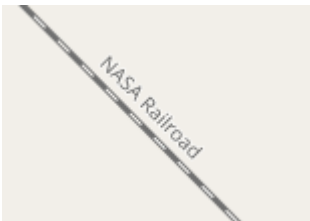
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Your updated map with distance line should look like the following screenshot:

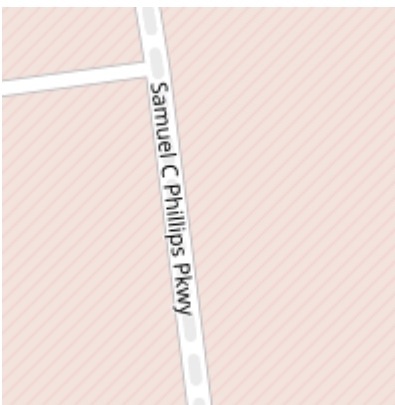


TODO: Similarly, you can draw a line between a launch site to its closest city, railway, highway, etc. You need to use `MousePosition` to find the their coordinates on the map first

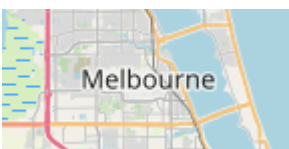
A railway map symbol may look like this:



A highway map symbol may look like this:



A city map symbol may look like this:



```
# Create a marker with distance to a closest city, railway, highway relative to CCAFS
SLC-40
# Draw a line between the marker to the launch site
closest_highway = 28.56335, -80.57085
closest_railroad = 28.57206, -80.58525
closest_city = 28.10473, -80.64531
```



```

distance_highway = calculate_distance(launch_site_lat, launch_site_lon,
closest_highway[0], closest_highway[1])
print('distance_highway =',distance_highway, ' km')
distance_railroad = calculate_distance(launch_site_lat, launch_site_lon,
closest_railroad[0], closest_railroad[1])
print('distance_railroad =',distance_railroad, ' km')
distance_city = calculate_distance(launch_site_lat, launch_site_lon, closest_city[0],
closest_city[1])
print('distance_city =',distance_city, ' km')

distance_highway = 0.5834695366934144 km
distance_railroad = 1.2845344718142522 km
distance_city = 51.43416999517233 km

# closest highway marker
distance_marker = folium.Marker(
    closest_highway,
    icon=DivIcon(
        icon_size=(20,20),
        icon_anchor=(0,0),
        html='<div style="font-size: 12; color:#d35400;"><b>%s</b></div>' % "{:10.2f}
KM".format(distance_highway),
    )
)
site_map.add_child(distance_marker)
# closest highway line
coordinates = [[launch_site_lat,launch_site_lon],closest_highway]
lines=folium.PolyLine(locations=coordinates, weight=1)
site_map.add_child(lines)

# closest railroad marker
distance_marker = folium.Marker(
    closest_railroad,
    icon=DivIcon(
        icon_size=(20,20),
        icon_anchor=(0,0),
        html='<div style="font-size: 12; color:#d35400;"><b>%s</b></div>' % "{:10.2f}
KM".format(distance_railroad),
    )
)
site_map.add_child(distance_marker)
# closest railroad line
coordinates = [[launch_site_lat,launch_site_lon],closest_railroad]
lines=folium.PolyLine(locations=coordinates, weight=1)
site_map.add_child(lines)

# closest city marker
distance_marker = folium.Marker(
    closest_city,
    icon=DivIcon(
        icon_size=(20,20),
        icon_anchor=(0,0),
        html='<div style="font-size: 12; color:#d35400;"><b>%s</b></div>' % "{:10.2f}
KM".format(distance_city),
    )
)
site_map.add_child(distance_marker)
# closest city line
coordinates = [[launch_site_lat,launch_site_lon],closest_city]
lines=folium.PolyLine(locations=coordinates, weight=1)
site_map.add_child(lines)

```

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After you plot distance lines to the proximities, you can answer the following questions easily:

- Are launch sites in close proximity to railways?
- Are launch sites in close proximity to highways?
- Are launch sites in close proximity to coastline?
- Do launch sites keep certain distance away from cities?

Also please try to explain your findings.

Explanation about the findings

- Launch sites are close to the equator to use Earth rotation and reduce fuel consumption.
- Launch sites are near to coastline for safety reasons avoiding crowded zones, like big cities
- Launch sites are near to highways and railways, for transport reasons.

Next Steps:

Now you have discovered many interesting insights related to the launch sites' location using folium, in a very interactive way. Next, you will need to build a dashboard using Plotly Dash on detailed launch records.

Authors

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