



IBM Developer  
SKILLS NETWORK

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

Andrea Neveling  
May 2022



# Outline

---

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

# Executive Summary

---

- Summary of methodologies
  - Data was collected by webscraping and using the SpaceX API
  - Data wrangling and Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) with Jupyter Notebooks
  - Machine Learning prediction of Falcon 9 first stage landings
  - Visualizations with Folium and Plotly Dash
- Summary of all results
  - Data collection, wrangling and exploration was successful
  - EDA and visualizations display certain correlations
  - Models achieved up to 83,33% accuracy

# Introduction

---

- Project background
  - The new player SpaceY wants to compete with SpaceX
  - SpaceX advertises Falcon 9 rocket launches with a cost of 62 million dollars
  - Other providers cost upward of 165 million dollars each
  - SpaceX is cheaper because they can reuse the first stage
- Problems you want to find answers
  - SpaceY wants to bid against SpaceX for a rocket launch
  - Therefor they have to determine the cost of a launch
  - To be able to do this, we have to determine if the first stage will successfully land



Section 1

# Methodology

# Methodology

---

## Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
  - The data used was gathered from the SpaceX REST API and web scraped from related Wiki pages with the Python module BeautifulSoup
- Perform data wrangling
  - Statistical calculations
  - Five NULL values in the PayloadMass column have been replaced with the mean
  - Additional columns have been added to facilitate the research
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models

# Data Collection

---

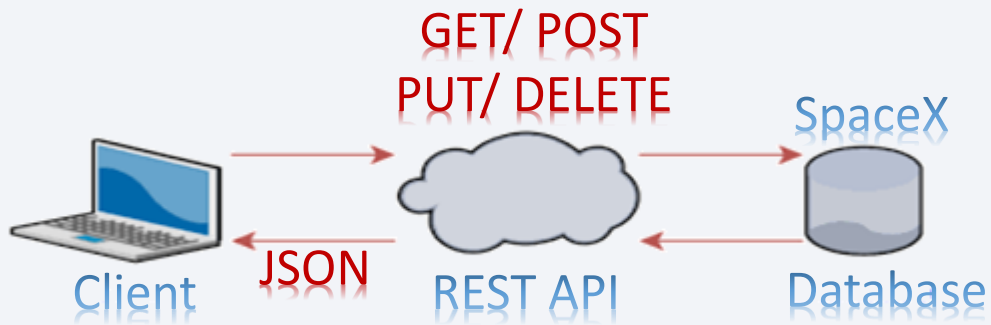


- The data used was gathered from the SpaceX REST API and webscraped from related Wiki pages with the Python module BeautifulSoup
- The gathered data contains information about launches: The rockets used, payload delivered, launch specifications, landing specifications, and landing outcome.
- Data was filtered to Falcon9 launches

# Data Collection – SpaceX API

[Link: Jupyter Notebook on GitHub](#)

- SpaceX offers a public API:  
`spacex_url=https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launches/past`
- The API was used with a GET-request according to the chart below...



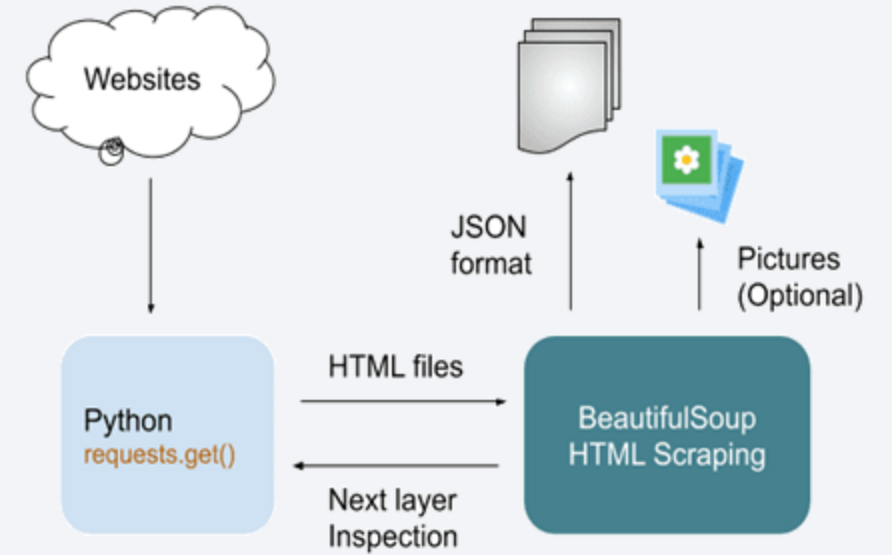
- ...then the result was normalized and loaded into a Pandas dataframe:  
`data = pd.json_normalize(response.json())`



# Data Collection - Scraping

[Link: Jupyter Notebook on GitHub](#)

- HTML data was downloaded from Wikipedia:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List\\_of\\_Falcon\\_9\\_and\\_Falcon\\_Heavy\\_launches&oldid=1027686922](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_Falcon_9_and_Falcon_Heavy_launches&oldid=1027686922)
- HTML Tables on SpaceX launches were processed through the Python module BeautifulSoup
- Processed data was loaded into a Pandas dataframe



# Data Wrangling

---

[Link: Jupyter Notebook on GitHub](#)

- Identification of data types, missing values etc.
- Calculations of launches per site, mission outcomes etc.
- New column inserted into data frame for labeling different outcomes as landing success (0/ 1)



# EDA with Data Visualization

---

[Link: Jupyter Notebook on GitHub](#)

- Python modules Matplotlib and Seaborn were used for visualization
- Scatter plots, bar plots and linear plots were built to find relations of features and mission outcomes:
  - Relationship between Flight Number and Launch Site
  - Relationship between Payload and Launch Site
  - Relationship between success rate of each orbit type
  - Relationship between FlightNumber and Orbit type
  - Relationship between Payload and Orbit type
  - Launch success yearly trend

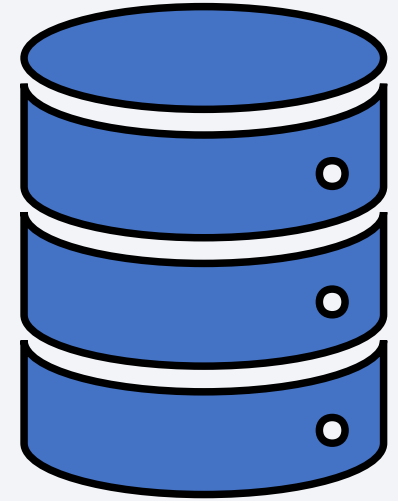


# EDA with SQL

---

[Link: Jupyter Notebook on GitHub](#)

- SQL queries performed
  - Names of the unique launch sites in the space mission
  - Total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)
  - Average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1
  - Date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved
  - Boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000
  - Total numbers of successful and failure mission outcomes
  - Booster Versions which have carried the maximum payload mass
  - Failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names (in year 2015)
  - Ranking of the count of landing outcomes



# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

---

[Link: Jupyter Notebook on GitHub](#)



- Finding an optimal location for building a launch site involves many factors
- We built maps with markers to discover some of those factors by analyzing the existing launch site locations (e.g. depending on the outcome)
- We also calculate the distances between a launch site to its proximities



# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

---

[Link: Jupyter Notebook on GitHub](#)

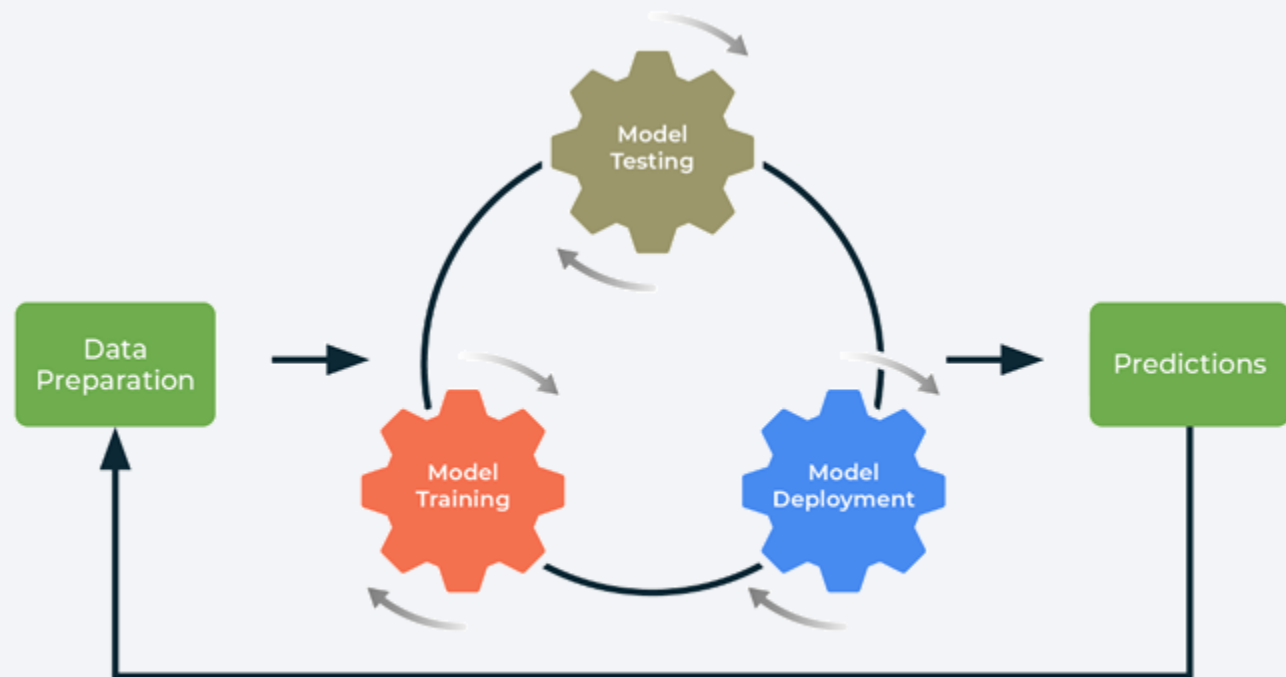
- This interactive dashboard allows the user to choose a site and/ or the payload as filters
- The following plots were used to visualize data
  - Percentage of launches by site
  - Payload range
- A pie chart visualizes the success rate of sites
- A scatter plot visualizes the relationship between payload and outcome

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

[Link: Jupyter Notebook on GitHub](#)

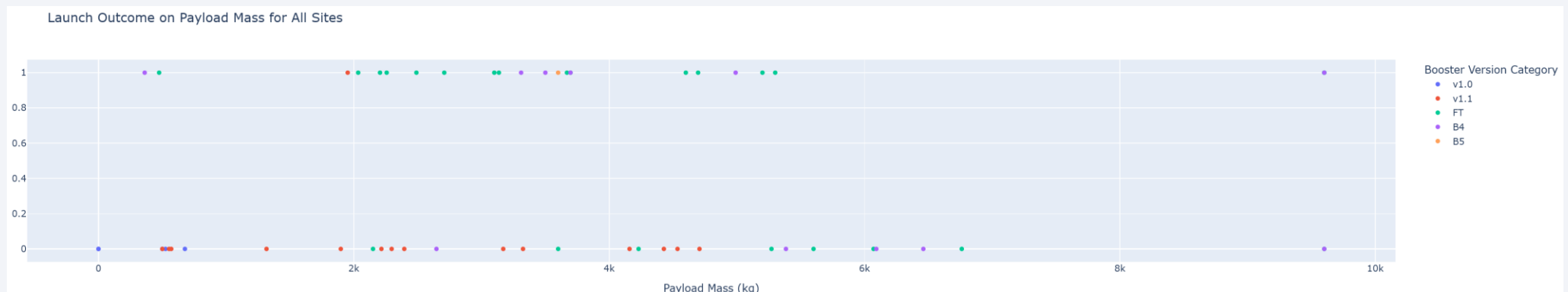
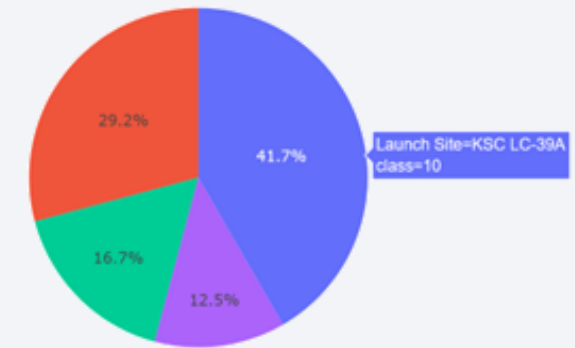
- Comparison of the performance of 4 classification algorithms:

- Logistic Regression
- Support Vector Machine
- Decision Tree
- K Nearest Neighbors



# Results

- Space X uses four different launch sites
- Launch site, orbit, payload and flight numbers correlate with the outcome
- Launch site KSC LC-39A had the most successful launches and with 76,9% also the highest launch success rate
- Many Falcon 9 booster versions successfully landed with a payload above the average
- Booster version 1.1 has been only successful below 2000kg payload mass
- The number of successful landing outcomes increases over the years
- The predictive models achieved up to 83,33% accuracy.





The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a dark blue base color. Overlaid on this are numerous diagonal streaks in shades of red and cyan. A faint, light blue grid pattern is also visible, particularly in the lower half of the image. The overall effect is dynamic and technological.

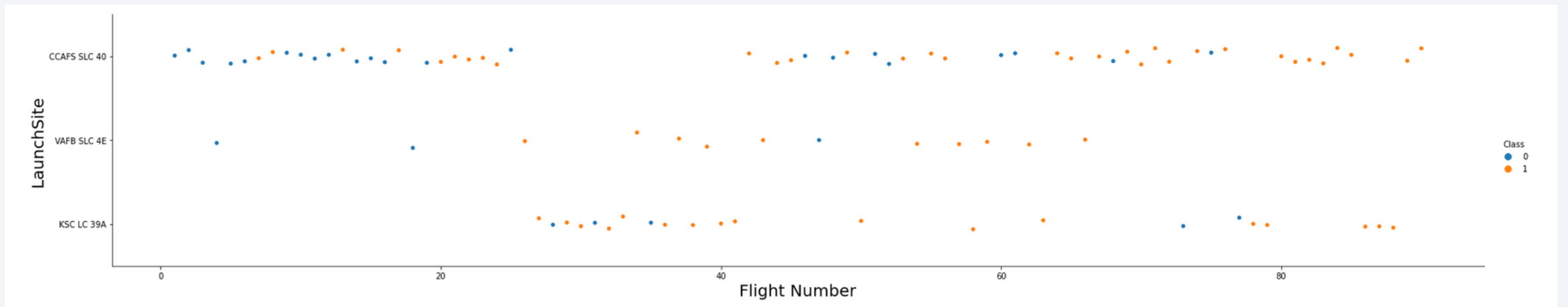
Section 2

# Insights drawn from EDA



# Flight Number vs. Launch Site

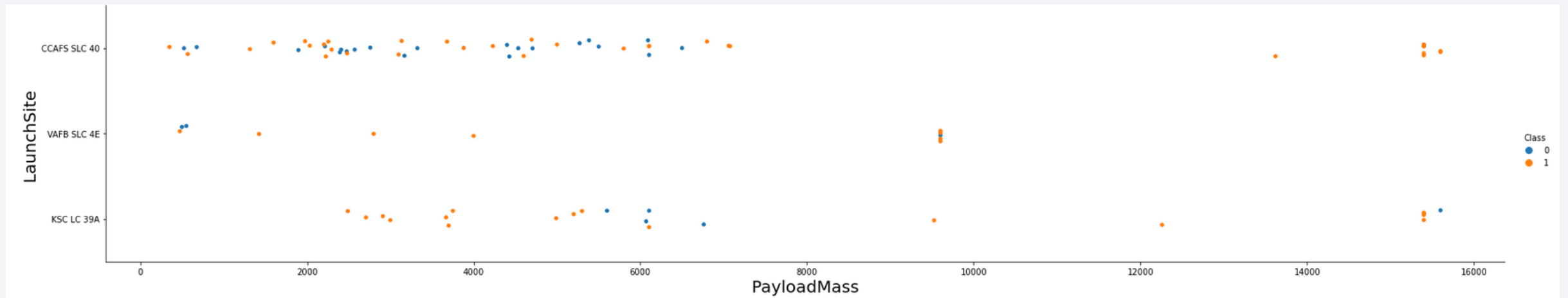
---





# Payload vs. Launch Site

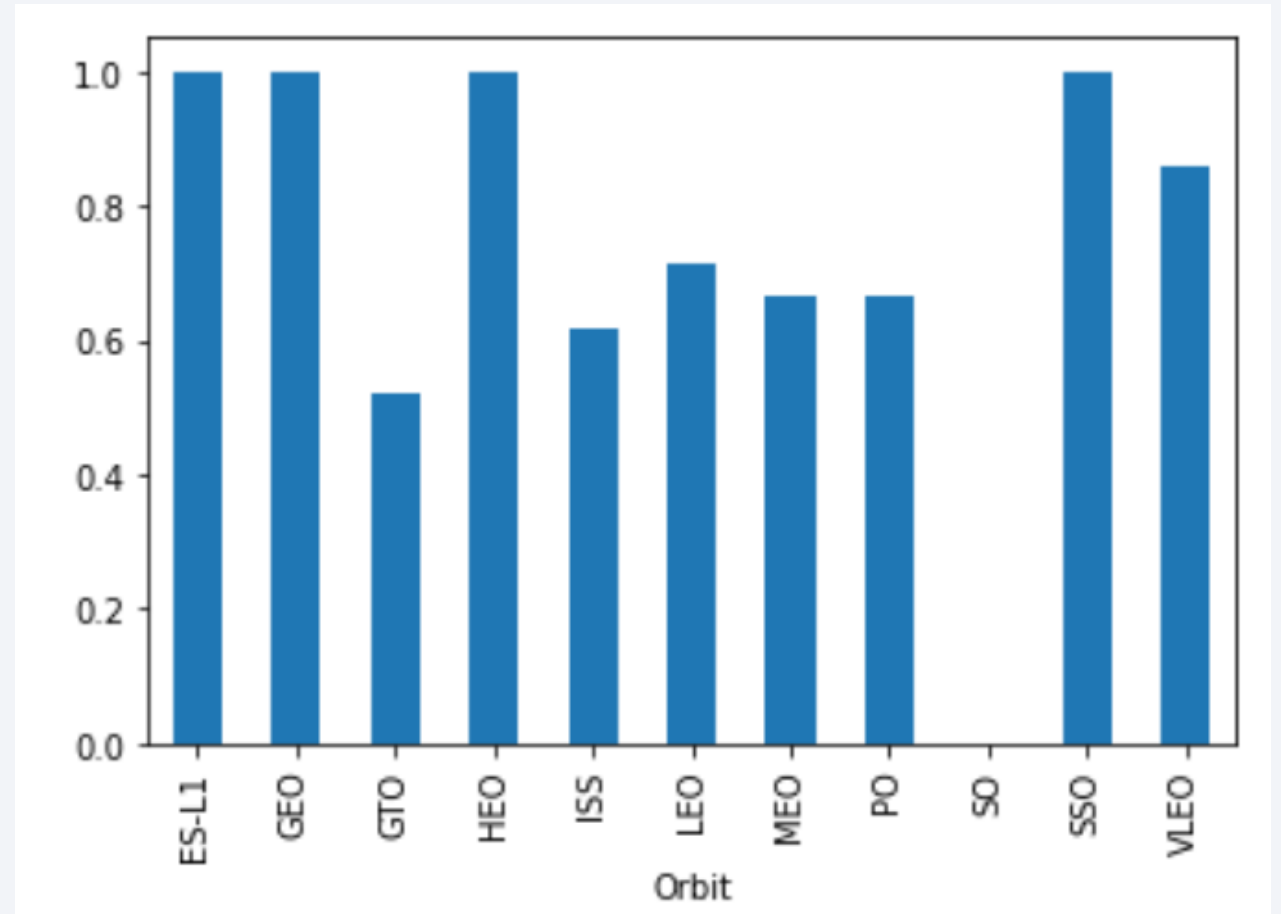
---



# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

---

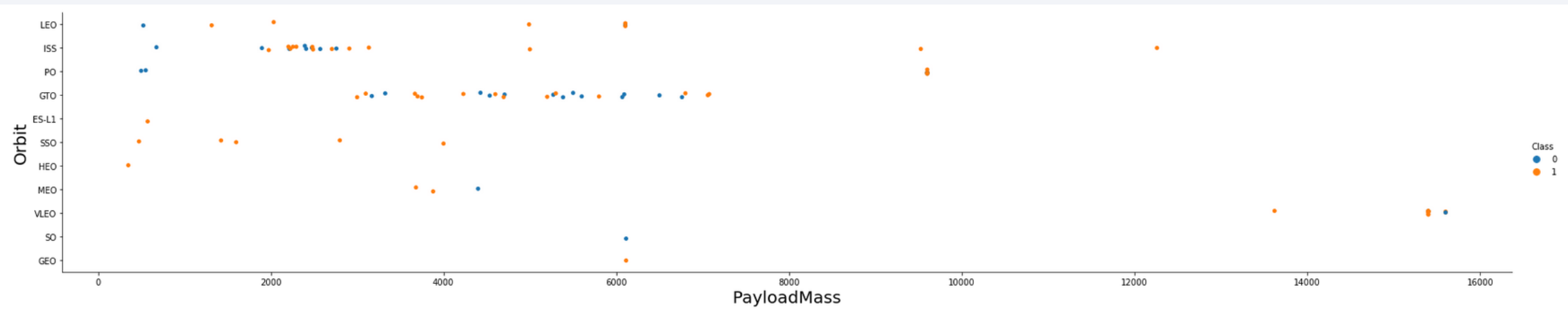
- Show a bar chart for the success rate of each orbit type
- Show the screenshot of the scatter plot with explanations





# Payload vs. Orbit Type

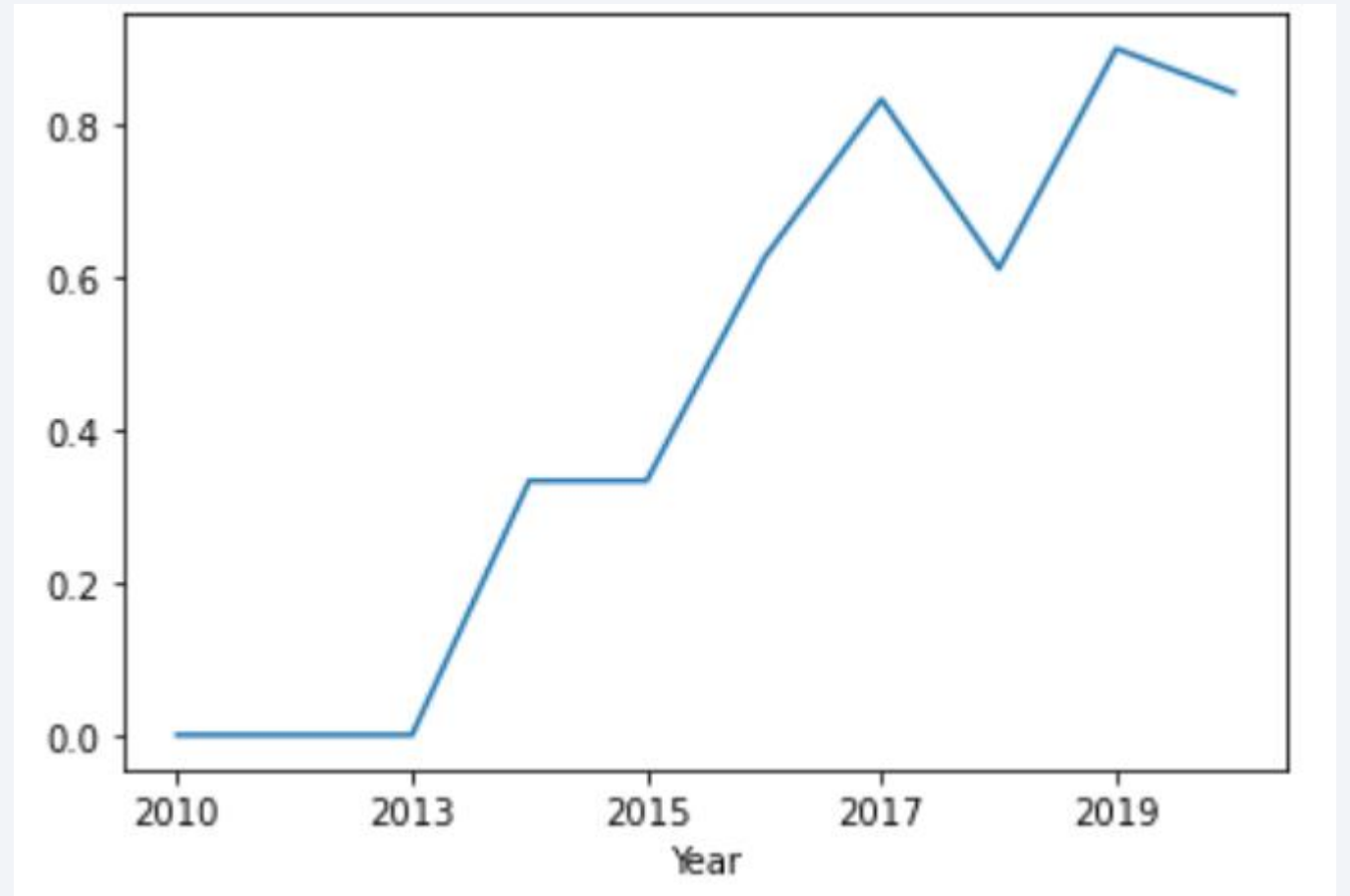
---



# Launch Success Yearly Trend

---

- Successful outcomes increase with the years
- This might relate to technological and analytical progress





# All Launch Site Names

---

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

```
%sql SELECT DISTINCT LAUNCH_SITE FROM SPACEXTBL ORDER BY 1
```

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

```
%sql SELECT * FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE LAUNCH_SITE LIKE 'CCA%' LIMIT 5
```

```
* ibm_db_sa://zct66184:***@125f9f61-9715-46f9-9399-c8177b21803b.clogj3sd0tgtu0lqde00.databases.appdomain.cloud:30426/bludb
Done.
```

DATE	time__utc_	booster_version	launch_site	payload	payload_mass__kg_	orbit	customer	mission_outcome	landing__outcome
2010-04-06	18:45:00	F9 v1.0 B0003	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit	0	LEO	SpaceX	Success	Failure (parachute)
2010-08-12	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)
2012-08-10	00:35:00	F9 v1.0 B0006	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-1	500	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt
2013-01-03	15:10:00	F9 v1.0 B0007	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-2	677	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt
2013-03-12	22:41:00	F9 v1.1	CCAFS LC-40	SES-8	3170	GTO	SES	Success	No attempt

# Total Payload Mass

---

The total payload carried by boosters from NASA is 56479 kg

```
%sql SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS TOTAL_PAYLOAD FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE PAYLOAD LIKE '%CRS%'
```

```
* ibm_db_sa://zct66184:***@125f9f61-9715-46f9-9399-c8177b21803b.c1ogj3sd0tgtu0lqde00.databases.appdomain.cloud:30426/bludb  
Done.
```

total_payload
---------------

56479
-------

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

---

The average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1 is 3676 kg

```
%sql SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS AVG_PAYLOAD FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE BOOSTER_VERSION = 'F9 v1.1'
```

```
* ibm_db_sa://zct66184:***@125f9f61-9715-46f9-9399-c8177b21803b.c1ogj3sd0tgtu0lqde00.databases.appdomain.cloud:30426/bludb  
Done.
```

avg_payload
-------------

3676
------

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

---

```
%sql SELECT MIN(DATE) AS FIRST_SUCCESS_GP FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE LANDING__OUTCOME = 'Success (ground pad)'
```

```
* ibm_db_sa://zct66184:***@125f9f61-9715-46f9-9399-c8177b21803b.c1ogj3sd0tgtu0lqde00.databases.appdomain.cloud:30426/bludb  
Done.
```

first_success_gp
------------------

2017-01-05
------------



# Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

---

```
%sql SELECT DISTINCT BOOSTER_VERSION FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ BETWEEN 4000 AND 6000 AND LANDING__OUTCOME = 'Success (drone ship)'
```

```
* ibm_db_sa://zct66184:***@125f9f61-9715-46f9-9399-c8177b21803b.c1ogj3sd0tgtu0lqde00.databases.appdomain.cloud:30426/bludb  
Done.
```

booster_version
-----------------

F9 FT B1031.2
---------------

F9 FT B1022
-------------

# Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

---

```
%sql SELECT MISSION_OUTCOME, COUNT(*) AS QTY FROM SPACEXTBL GROUP BY MISSION_OUTCOME ORDER BY MISSION_OUTCOME
```

```
* ibm_db_sa://zct66184:***@125f9f61-9715-46f9-9399-c8177b21803b.c1ogj3sd0tgtu0lqde00.databases.appdomain.cloud:30426/bludb  
Done.
```

mission_outcome	qty
Success	44
Success (payload status unclear)	1

# Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

---

List of boosters which have carried the maximum payload mass:

- F9 B5 B1048.4
- F9 B5 B1049.4
- F9 B5 B1049.5
- F9 B5 B1058.3
- F9 B5 B1060.2

```
%sql SELECT DISTINCT BOOSTER_VERSION FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_ = (SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) FROM SPACEXTBL) ORDER BY BOOSTER_VERSION
```

```
* ibm_db_sa://zct66184:***@125f9f61-9715-46f9-9399-c8177b21803b.c1ogj3sd0tgtu0lqde00.databases.appdomain.cloud:30426/bludb  
Done.
```

booster_version
-----------------

F9 B5 B1048.4
---------------

F9 B5 B1049.4
---------------

F9 B5 B1049.5
---------------

F9 B5 B1058.3
---------------

F9 B5 B1060.2
---------------

# 2015 Launch Records

---

```
%sql SELECT BOOSTER_VERSION, LAUNCH_SITE FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE LANDING__OUTCOME = 'Failure (drone ship)' AND DATE_PART('YEAR', DATE) = 2015
```

```
* ibm_db_sa://zct66184:***@125f9f61-9715-46f9-9399-c8177b21803b.c1ogj3sd0tgtu0lqde00.databases.appdomain.cloud:30426/blddb
Done.
```

booster_version	launch_site
F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40

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

---

- No attempt: 7
- Failure (drone ship): 2
- Success (drone ship): 2
- Success (ground pad): 2
- Controlled (ocean): 1
- Failure (parachute): 1

```
%sql SELECT LANDING__OUTCOME, COUNT(*) AS QTY FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE DATE BETWEEN '2010-06-04' AND '2017-03-20' GROUP BY LANDING__OUTCOME ORDER BY QTY DESC
```

```
* ibm_db_sa://zct66184:***@125f9f61-9715-46f9-9399-c8177b21803b.c1ogj3sd0tgtu0lqde00.databases.appdomain.cloud:30426/bludb  
Done.
```

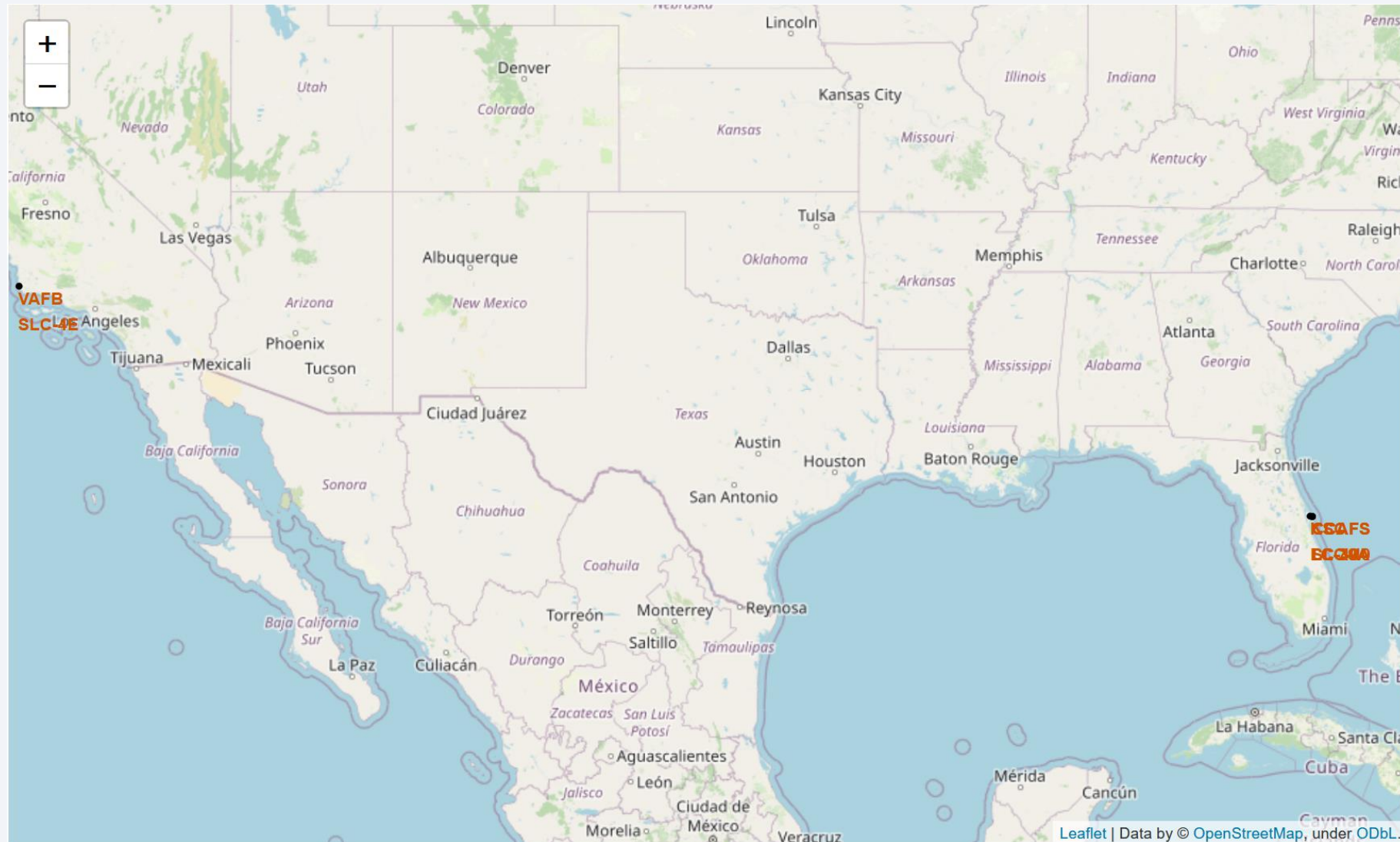
landing__outcome	qty
No attempt	7
Failure (drone ship)	2
Success (drone ship)	2
Success (ground pad)	2
Controlled (ocean)	1
Failure (parachute)	1

A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and the glowing city lights of the Eastern United States and parts of Canada at night. The background is a deep blue gradient.

Section 3

# Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

# <Folium Map Screenshot 1>

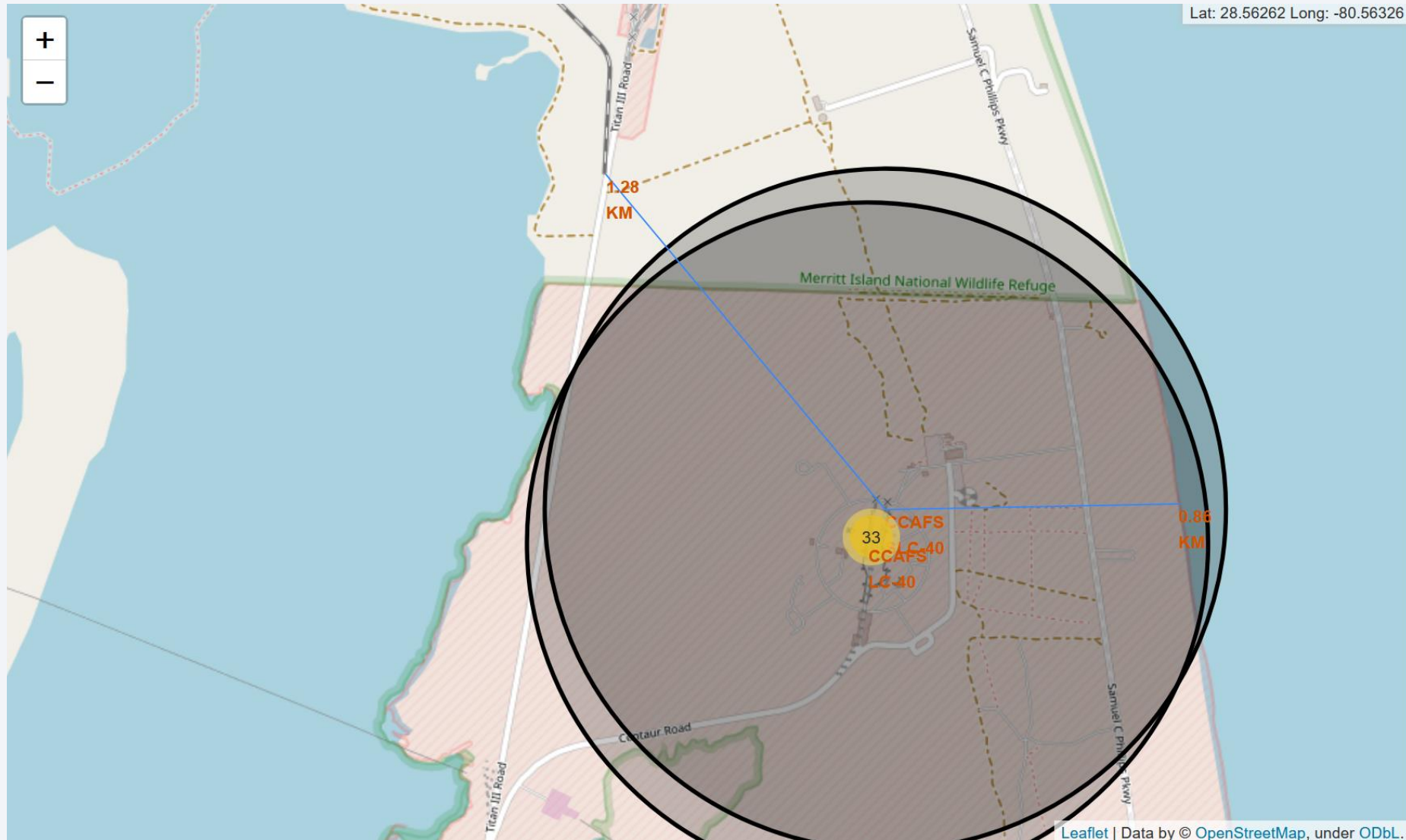








# <Folium Map Screenshot 3>

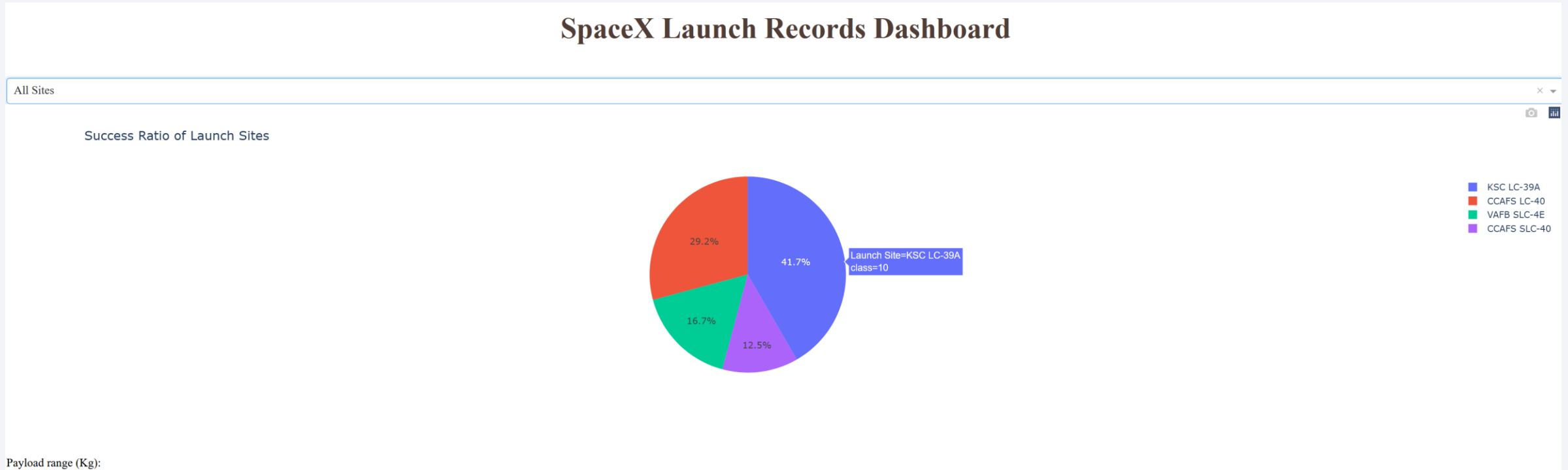




Section 4

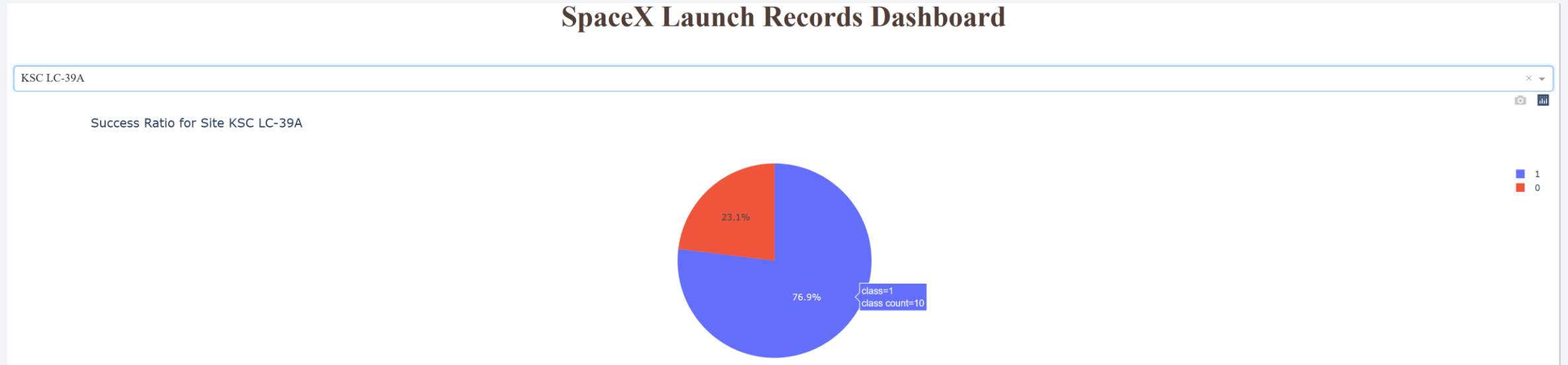
# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

# <Dashboard Screenshot 1>



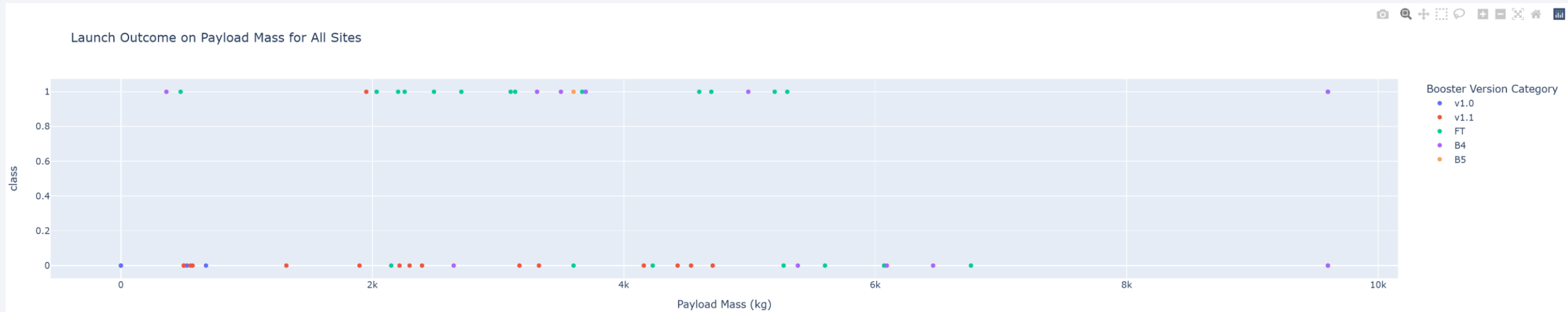
- With 41,7% KSC LC-39A is the launch site with the most successful landing outcomes

# <Dashboard Screenshot 2>



- The launch site KSC LC-39A had 10 successful landing outcomes

# <Dashboard Screenshot 3>



- FT booster version has the highest success rate
- V1.1 booster version has the lowest success rate
- Payload above 6000kg strongly diminishes the success rate

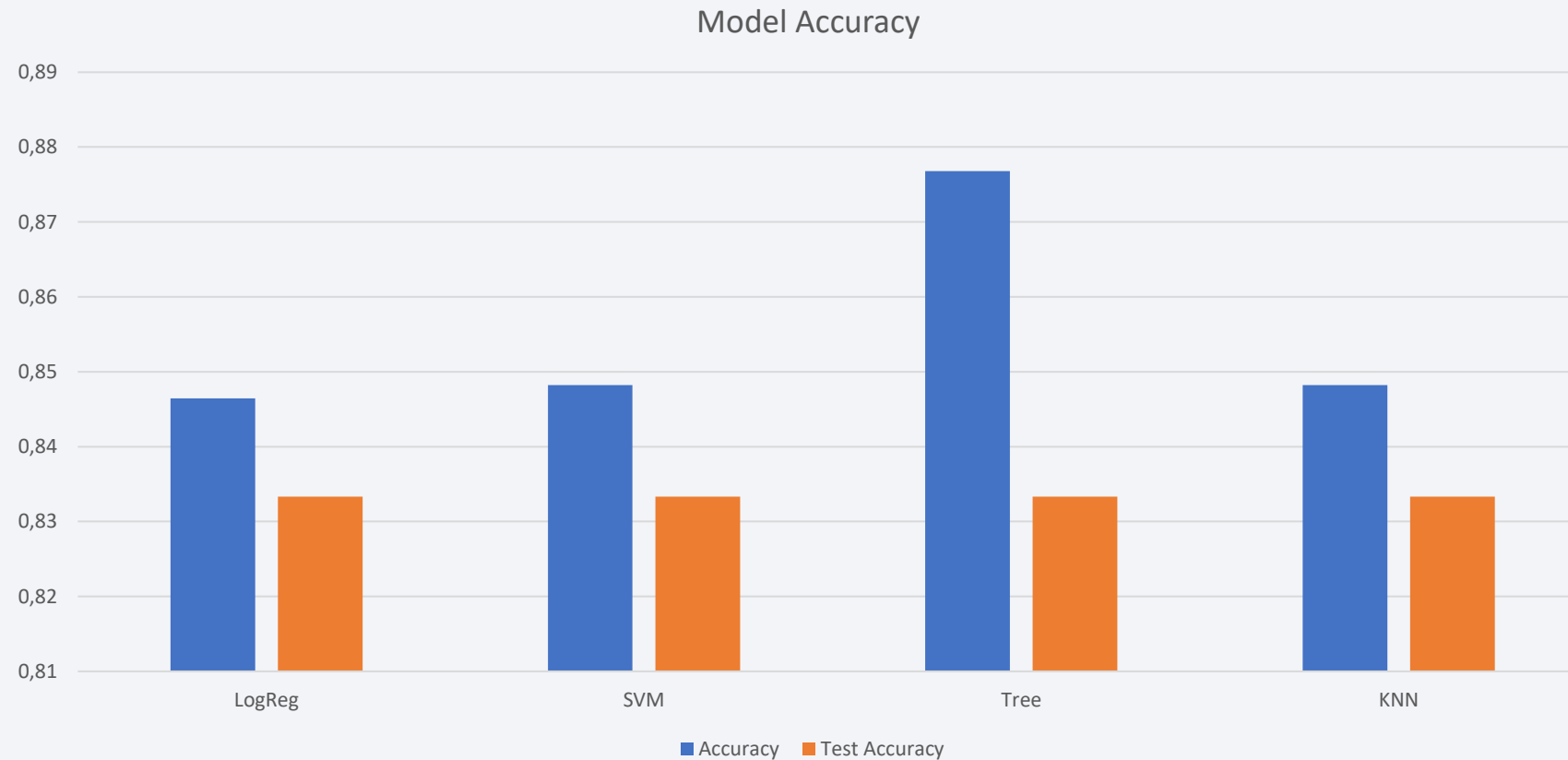


Section 5

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

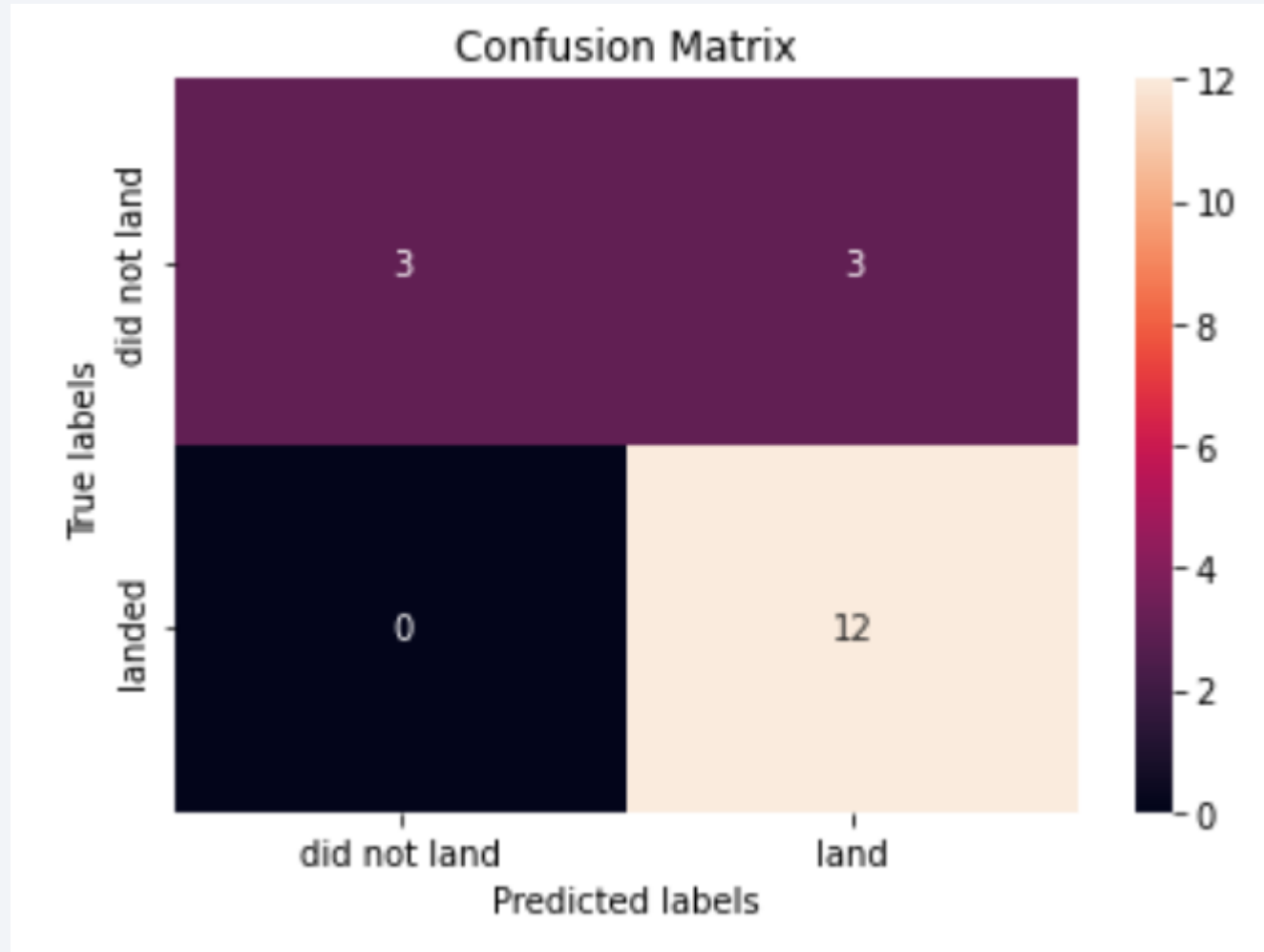
# Classification Accuracy

---



# Confusion Matrix

---





# Conclusions

---

- The analysis of the data shows the relationships between the mission outcome and features such as payload mass, booster version, launch site
- The most promising launch site is KSC LC 39A
- The number of successful landing outcomes increases over the years, probably to technological and analytical progress
- With the built classification models it is possible to predict the launch outcome with an estimated accuracy of 83,33%.

Thank you!

