

Winning Space Race with Data Science

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Outline

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion

Executive Summary

Summary of Methodologies

- This Machine Learning project aims to understand the main features behind SpaceX's successful launches.
- Followed methodology in order to achieve higher success rate in the initial design phase:
 - Data collection from calls to SpaceX's API, as well as web scrapping from Wikipedia.
 - Data wrangling into a desirable format and uploaded to database
 - Exploratory data analysis has allowed to understand the behavior of main features
 - Interactive graphs and maps helped gaining better insights
 - Feature engineering & LM models were used to predict launch success

Summary of Results

- Future rockets will be designed for optimum payload range (2.000 Kg – 6.000 Kg), to achieve maximum launch success probability.
- Selected launch site is KSC LC-39A, where maximum launch success has been achieved
- Early missions won't carry useful payload to avoid incurring into penalties with clients in case of unsuccessful launches.
- Rocket will be designed for optimal success, for which the following will be considered:
 - Booster design will resemble the latest versions examined (FT, B4, B5), which provide higher success.
 - Mission requirements will be planned to satisfy orbits with perfect success rate: ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO

Introduction

Project Background and Context:

- We aim to predict the successful landing of the Falcon 9 first stage. SpaceX advertises rocket launches at a significantly lower cost compared to other providers, largely due to their ability to reuse the first stage of the rocket.
- By accurately predicting landing success, we can estimate launch costs and provide valuable insights to study the viability of a new player in the market: SpaceY.

Main problems analyzed:

- What factors influence the successful landing of the Falcon 9 first stage?
- How can we accurately predict the landing outcome using machine learning models?
- Which machine learning model performs best in predicting the landing success?



Methodology 1/2

Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
 - Data was collected from SpaceX's API, as well as web scrapping the launches from Wikipedia
- Perform data wrangling
 - Data was processed in order to filter by Falcon 9 launches and include mean PayloadMass values in missing registers
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
 - Visualized launch success rates, payloads, and launch sites using Matplotlib and Seaborn.
 - Executed SQL queries to derive insights and answer specific questions regarding the dataset.

Methodology 2/2

- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
 - Used Folium to create interactive maps displaying launch sites and outcomes.
 - Developed a Plotly Dash application with interactive components like dropdowns and sliders to analyze launch success rates and payload ranges.
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
 - Built and evaluated various classification models including Logistic Regression, SVM, KNN, and Decision Trees.
 - Employed GridSearchCV for hyperparameter tuning.
 - Evaluated models based on accuracy, and identified the best performing model for predicting landing success.

Data Collection

1. SpaceX API request

Initiate API request Fetch Launch Data Store Data Locally

2. Web Scrapping Wikipedia

Extract HTML Parse with Convert it to BeautifulSoup DataFrame

3. Data Integration

SpaceX API Data & Merge Datasets Final Integrated Data

Data Collection - SpaceX API

Initiate API request:

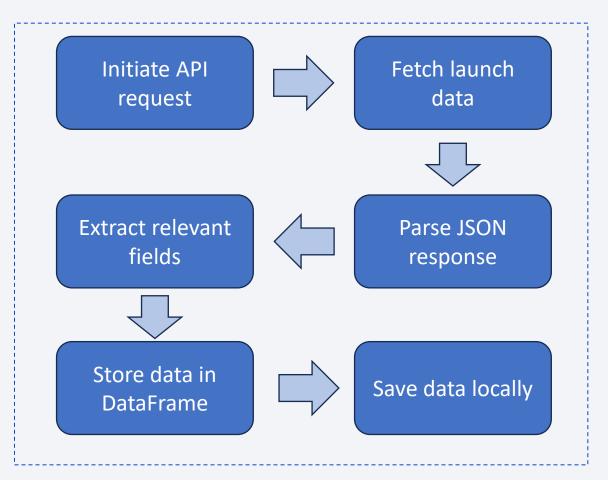
- Use Python's `requests` library to connect to the SpaceX API.
- Endpoint: https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launches

Parse API Response

- Convert API response from JSON to a Pandas' dataframe.
- Extract relevant fields: launch date, launch site, payload mass, rocket type, outcome.

Store Data Locally

• Store the DataFrame locally in a .csv for further processing.



Data Collection - Scraping

Initiate Web Scraping

- Use Python's `requests` library to fetch the HTML content of the Wikipedia page.
- Target

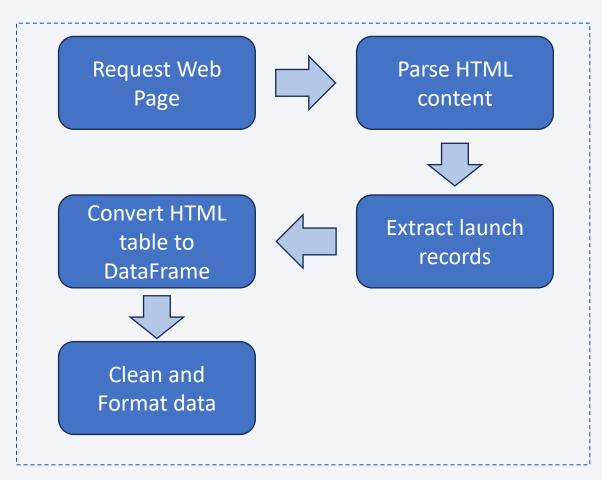
 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Falcon_9_and_
 Falcon_Heavy_launches`

Parse HTML Content

- Use `BeautifulSoup` to parse the HTML content.
- Extract the HTML table containing Falcon 9 launch records.

Convert to DataFrame

- Convert the extracted HTML table into a pandas DataFrame.
- Clean and format the DataFrame, ensuring data consistency.



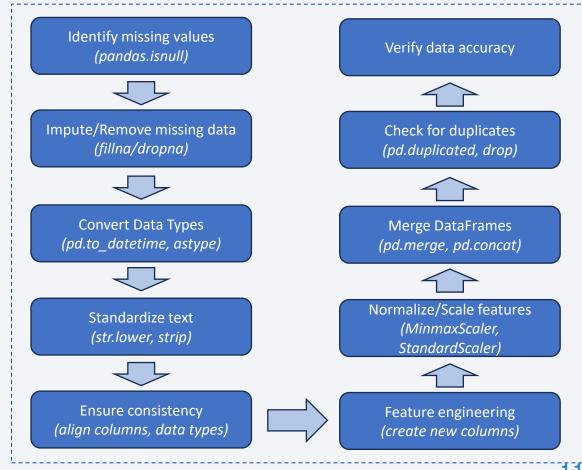
Data Wrangling

Data integration

- Merge datasets collected from different sources (API, web scraping) into a single cohesive dataset.
- Ensure consistent column names and data formats across datasets.

Data validation

- · Check for duplicate records and remove them.
- · Verify the accuracy and consistency of data entries.



EDA with Data Visualization

Overview

Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) involves visually exploring and summarizing the main characteristics of a dataset. The goal is to understand the data's distribution, identify patterns, and uncover relationships between variables.

Charts

1. Histograms

 Used to visualize the distribution of numerical variables like payload mass. Helps understanding the spread and central tendency of the data, identifying outliers, and assessing data skewness.

Bar charts

 Used to compare categorical variables like rocket types, to provide a clear comparison of frequencies or proportions within categorical data, highlighting patterns or trends.

3. Line charts

Used to track trends over time. Like the success rate along time.

4. Scatter plots

 Used to explore relationships between two numerical variables, as it helps identifying correlations or dependencies.

5. Heatmaps

• Used to visualize correlation matrices between numerical variables to identify correlations.

6. Box plots

 Used to display distribution of numerical data through quartiles, helping viasualize the spread or skewness, outliers and distributions.

EDA with SQL

Aggregate queries

- Calculated total number of launches.
- Counted successful and failed launches.
- Calculated success rates by launch site and rocket type.

Join queries

- Joined tables to link launch records with additional data (e.g., rocket details).
- Combined datasets for comprehensive analysis.

• Filtering queries

- Filtered data to focus on specific launch outcomes (success/failure).
- Applied conditions to extract launches based on criteria like launch date or rocket configuration.

Sorting queries

- · Sorted data to identify trends or outliers.
- Ordered launches by date or success rate for analysis.

Subqueries

- Nested queries to calculate derived metrics (e.g., average payload mass per launch site).
- Subqueries used to perform detailed analysis within larger datasets.

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

Map Objects

Markers

- Placed markers to indicate launch sites on the map.
- Each marker represents a specific geographical location where SpaceX launches have occurred.

Circles

- Added circles around launch sites to visually represent proximity zones.
- Circles help visualize the areas around launch sites that might influence operational decisions.

Lines

- Drew lines to connect launch sites with their proximities or other relevant locations.
- Lines provide spatial context and connections between different points of interest related to launches.

Reasons for adding Objects

Markers

- To pinpoint exact launch locations for spatial reference.
- Helps users identify where SpaceX has conducted launches geographically.
 - Created and added a folium. Circle and folium. Marker for each launch site
 - For each launch result in spacex_df data frame, added a folium.Marker to marker_cluster

• Circles

- Illustrates the potential impact zones around launch sites.
- Provides a visual representation of safety perimeters or operational boundaries.

Lines

- Shows connections or relationships between launch sites and relevant features.
- Enhances understanding of spatial relationships and dependencies.
 - Created a line with distance to a closest city to VA
 - Created a line with distance to a closest highway to VA

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Plots/Graphs

Success Pie Chart:

- Displays the distribution of successful and failed launches.
- Helps visualize the overall success rate and performance trends.
 - Provides metrics at a glance for stakeholders

Success-Payload Scatter Plot:

- Shows the relationship between payload mass and launch success.
- Allows users to explore how payload
 - Helps identify correlations between payload characteristics and launch outcomes.

Interactions

Launch Site Dropdown:

- Enables users to select specific launch sites for analysis.
- Facilitates filtering and focused exploration based on geographical locations.

Range Slider for Payload:

- Allows users to adjust payload mass ranges dynamically.
- Offers flexibility in examining launch success concerning payload mass variations.
 - Offers interactive exploration of how payload mass affects mission success.
 - Enables detailed analysis and insights into payload-related performance factors.

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

1. Data preprocessing:

- Standardized features to ensure all variables contribute equally.
- Split data into training and test sets for model validation.

2. Model selection:

- Explored multiple classification algorithms: SVM, Decision Trees, and K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN).
- Chose algorithms suitable for binary classification tasks based on project requirements.

3. Hyperparameter tunning:

- Used *GridSearchCV* to systematically search for optimal hyperparameters.
- Tuned parameters such as C (SVM), max_depth (Decision Trees), and n_neighbors (KNN).

4. Model evaluation:

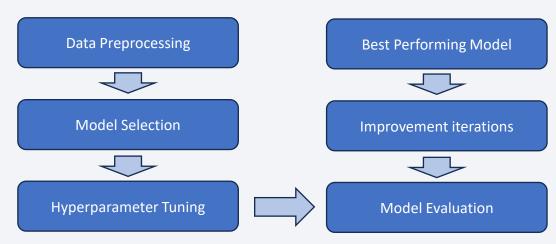
- Evaluated models using cross-validation techniques to ensure robustness and generalizability.
- Utilized metrics like accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score to assess model performance.

5. Improvement iterations:

- Iteratively adjusted models based on insights from validation results.
- Fine-tuned hyperparameters to maximize predictive accuracy and reliability.

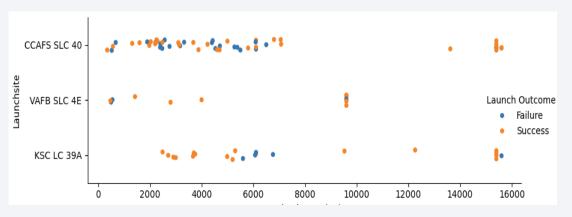
6. Selection of Best Performing Model:

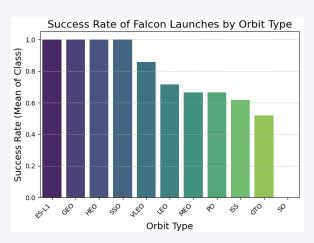
- Identified the model with the highest accuracy on the test set as the best performer.
- Considered both training and test set performance to avoid overfitting and ensure real-world applicability.

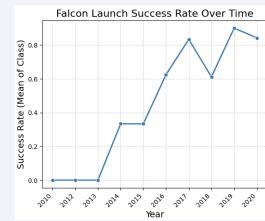


Results

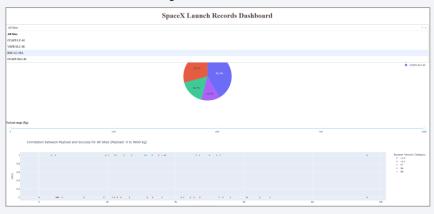
• Exploratory data analysis results



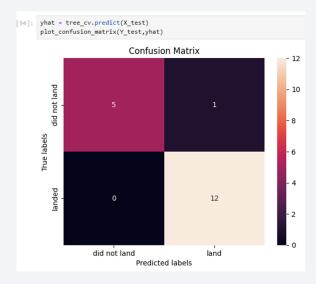




• Interactive analytics demo in screenshots



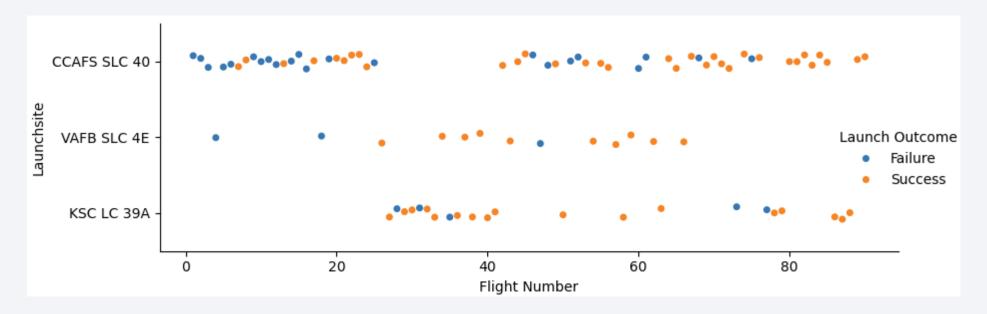
Predictive analysis results





Flight Number vs. Launch Site

- Variable activity across launch sites:
 - Initial activity was mostly carried at CCAFS SLC-40, except for 2 failed launches at VAFB.
 - For flights ~25-45 activity was primarily held at KSC, and for flights ~45 onwards activity was mostly held at all sites.
 - Activity in VAFB ceased from flight ~68.
- Increased success along flight numbers, as more experience was gained in time.



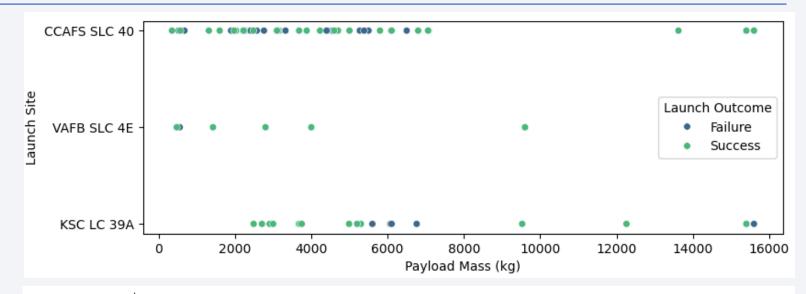
Payload vs. Launch Site

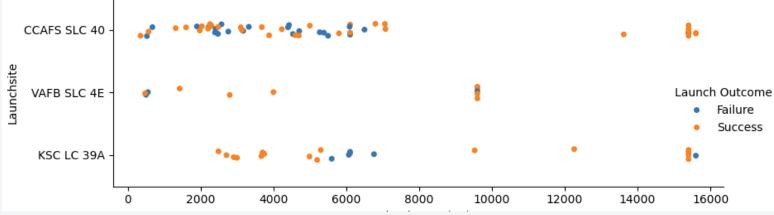
Payload distribution:

- Most launches have payloads in between the following two ranges: $\sim 500\text{-}7.500 \mathrm{Kg}$ and $\sim 15.000\text{-}16.000 \mathrm{Kg}$
- VAFB SLC 4E site only held launches which payload doesn't exceed 10.000Kg.

Success distribution:

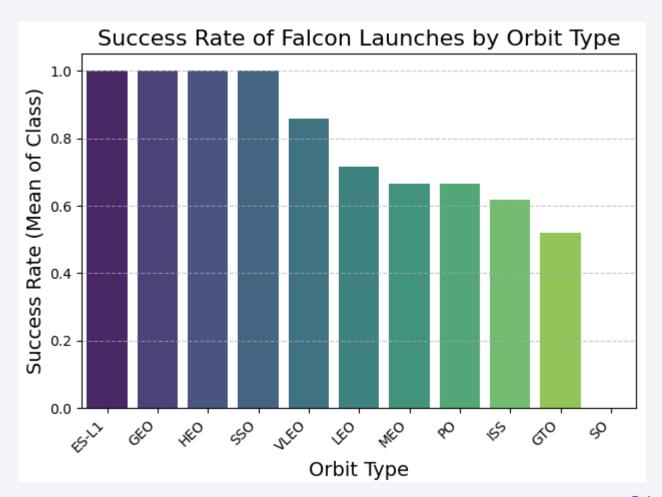
 Launch success is uniformly distributed along payloads, except for the heaviest segment, suggesting they were launched further in time after greater experience was gained.





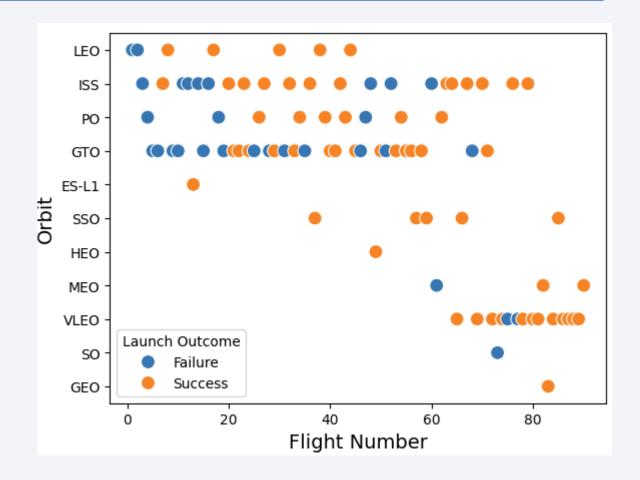
Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

- Success distribution over Orbit:
 - VLEO, ES-L1, GEO, HEO, and SSO orbits show 100% success rate
 - The rest of the orbits show a success rate between $\sim 50\%$ 85%
 - SO orbit stands for it 0% success rate, although only 1 mission was launched.



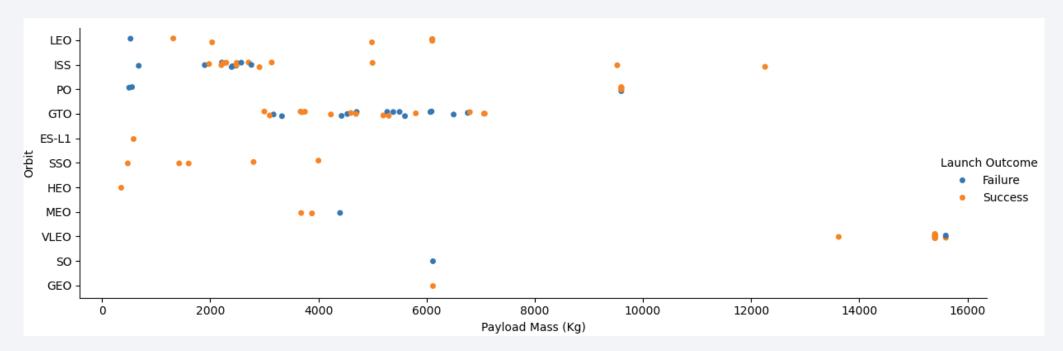
Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

- Increased success rate over time:
 - As seen in previous graphs, an increased experience is translated in better success rates.
- Orbit-specific performance:
 - Launch success of LEO, ISS, GTO show high number of failures initially and an improved performance over time.
 - Most orbits with 100% launch success started their activity after flight ~40 (except for ES-L1), favoured by a higher experience.



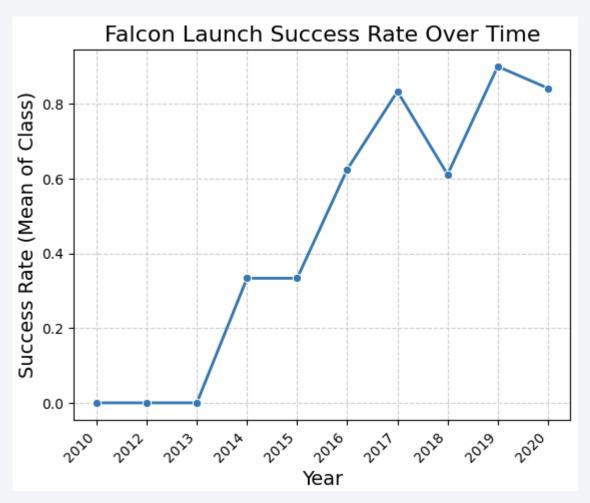
Payload vs. Orbit Type

- Mixed success rate for payloads <10.000Kg:
 - Mixed success launches are seen along this payload span.
- Higher success rate for payloads >10.000Kg:
 - It's worth noting that heavier payloads seem to experience higher success



Launch Success Yearly Trend

- Increased success rate over time:
 - Success rate has increased from 0% in early years to over 80% in the last few years.



All Launch Site Names

Task 1 Display the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission [13]: %sql SELECT Launch_Site FROM SPACEXTABLE GROUP BY Launch_Site * sqlite://my_datal.db Done. [13]: Launch_Site CCAFS LC-40 CCAFS SLC-40 KSC LC-39A VAFB SLC-4E

Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

Total Payload Mass

```
Task 3
Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)

[19]: %sql SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) from SPACEXTABLE WHERE CUSTOMER = 'NASA (CRS)'

* sqlite:///my_datal.db
Done.

[19]: SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_)

45596
```

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

```
Task 4

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

[21]: %sql SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) from SPACEXTABLE WHERE Booster_Version = 'F9 v1.1'

* sqlite://my_data1.db
Done.

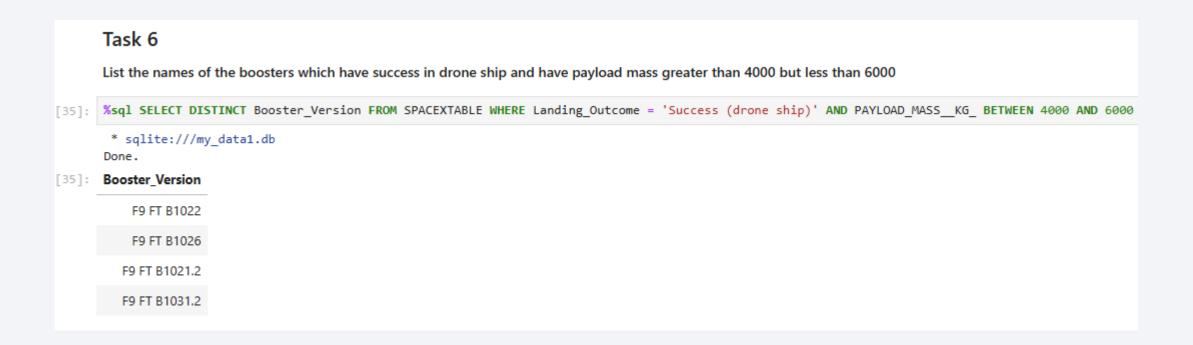
[21]: AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_)

2928.4
```

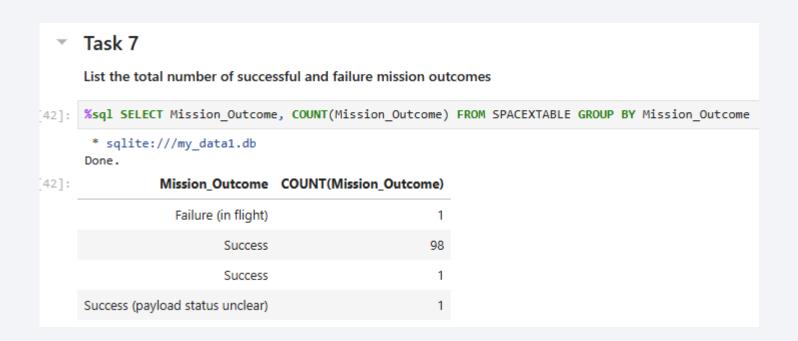
First Successful Ground Landing Date

Task 5 List the date when the first succesful landing outcome in ground pad was acheived. Hint:Use min function [26]: %sql SELECT DATE FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Mission_Outcome = 'Success' ORDER BY DATE ASC LIMIT 1 * sqlite://my_data1.db Done. [26]: Date 2010-06-04

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000



Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

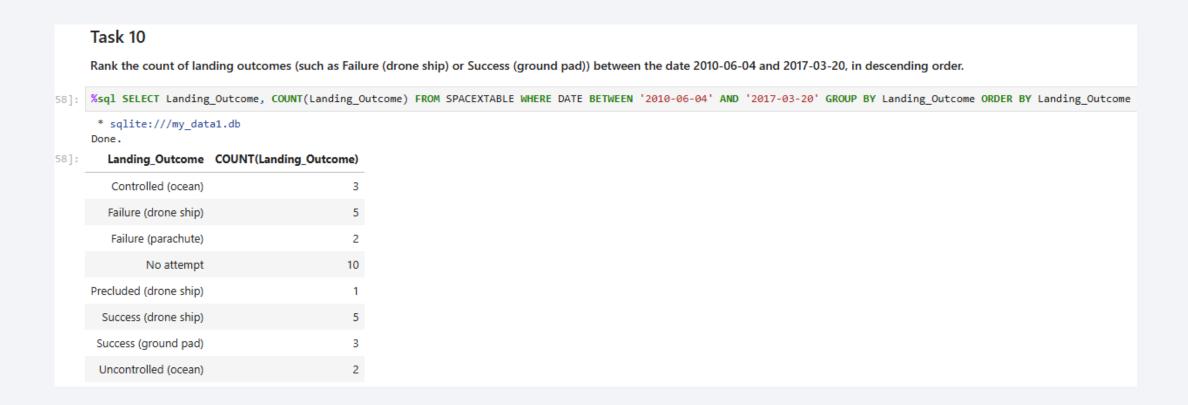


Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

Task 8 List all the booster_versions that have carried the maximum payload mass, using a subquery with a suitable aggregate function. [44]: %sql SELECT DISTINCT Booster Version, PAYLOAD MASS KG FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE PAYLOAD MASS KG = (SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD MASS KG) FROM SPACEXTABLE) * sqlite:///my_data1.db Done. Booster Version PAYLOAD MASS KG 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

2015 Launch Records

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

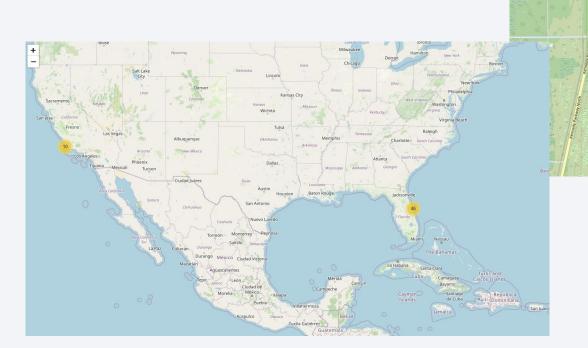




SpaceX's launch sites

Are all launch sites in proximity to the Equator line?

 Not all launch sites are close to the Equator. The launch site at Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB SLC-4E) is located at a latitude of 34.63, which is further from the Equator compared to the other sites in Florida.



- Are all launch sites in very close proximity to the coast?
 - All launch sites are in close proximity to the coast. Cape Canaveral sites (CCAFS LC-40 and CCAFS SLC-40) and Kennedy Space Center (KSC LC-39A) are near the coast in Florida. Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB SLC-4E) is also near the coast in California.

Success/failed launches for each site

- Enhanced visualization with clustered markers allows for better exploration in the map.
- This color-coding helps to quickly identify the success rate and other categorical distinctions of the launches from this specific site. The red markers might represent unsuccessful launches, while the green markers indicate successful ones, providing immediate visual feedback on the performance of launches at each site.





Distances between a launch site to its proximities

 Considering VAFB launch site, the map shows the distance to Highway 101 and to the closest town (Lompoc). 37.84 km and 11.76 km respectively

site map

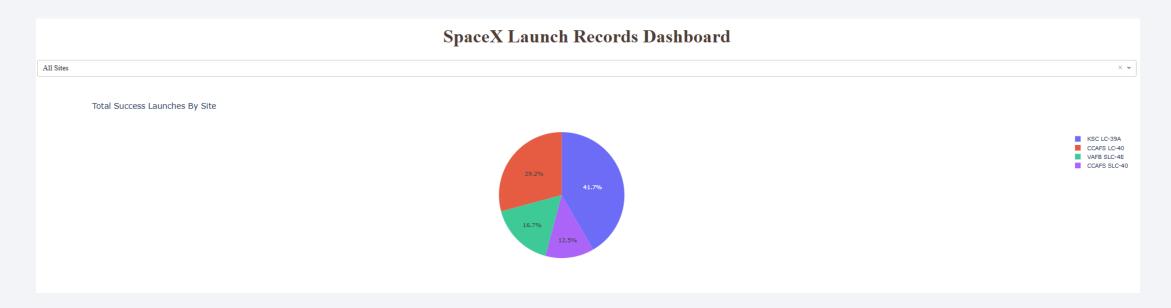
```
Vondenberg
Space Force
Bisse
Vising
Space Force
Bisse
Vising
State Marine
Reserve
Rese
```

```
[22]: # Create a marker with distance to a closest city, railway, highway, etc.
      # Draw a line between the marker to the launch site
      #Closes city to VA
      city lat = 34.6323
      city_lon = -120.4822
      coord_city = [city_lat, city_lon]
      distance_marker1 = folium.Marker(
         location=[coord_city[0], coord_city[1]],
         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(calculate_distance(VA_launch_site_lat, VA_launch_site_lon, coord_city[0]), coord_city[1])),
      site map.add child(distance marker1)
      lines1=folium.PolyLine(locations=[[coord city[0], coord city[1]], [VA launch site lat, VA launch site lon]], weight=1)
      site_map.add_child(lines1)
      #Closest highway to VA
      hw_lat = 34.7202
      hw lon = -120.2110
      coord_hw = [hw_lat, hw_lon]
      distance_marker2 = folium.Marker(
         location=[coord_hw[0], coord_hw[1]],
         icon=DivIcon(
            icon size=(20,20),
             html='<div style="font-size: 12; color:#d35400;"><b>%s</b></div>' % "{:10.2f} KM".format(calculate_distance(VA_launch_site_lat, VA_launch_site_lon, coord_hw[0], coord_hw[1])),
      site_map.add_child(distance_marker2)
      lines2=folium.PolyLine(locations=[[coord_hw[0], coord_hw[1]], [VA_launch_site_lat, VA_launch_site_lon]], weight=1)
      site_map.add_child(lines2)
```



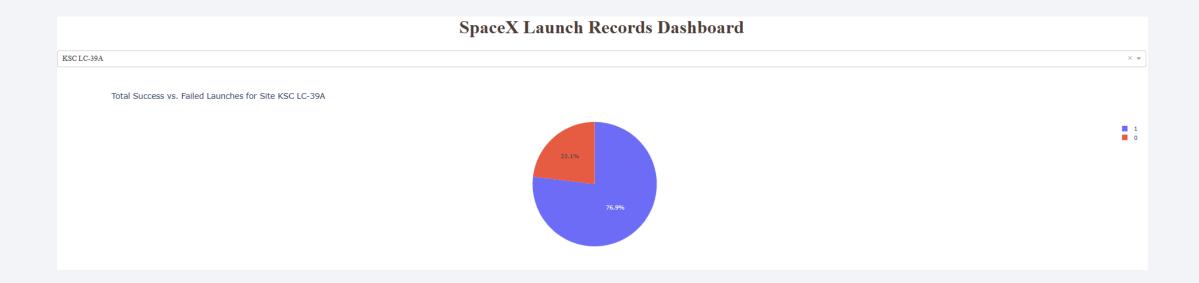
Launch success count for all sites, in a piechart

• KSC LC-39A is a highly reliable site, as it has the highest number of successful launches, making up 41.7% of all successful launches.



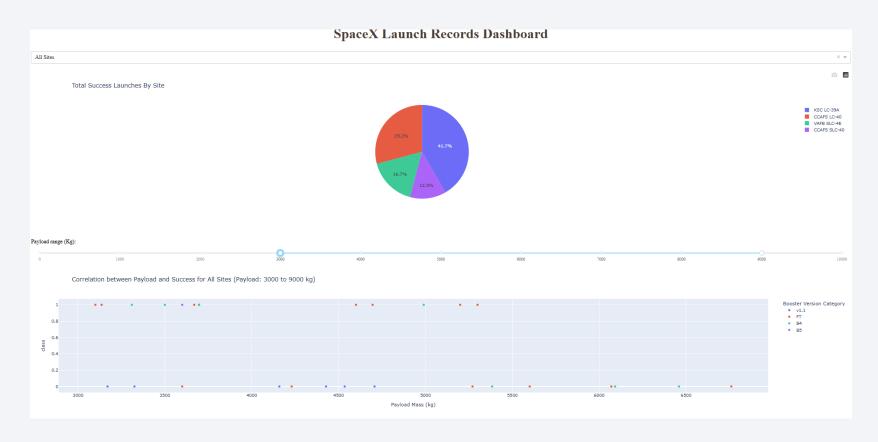
Launch site with highest success ratio

• The high success rate (76.9%) for Class 1 launches underscores the effectiveness and reliability of the KSC LC-39A site.



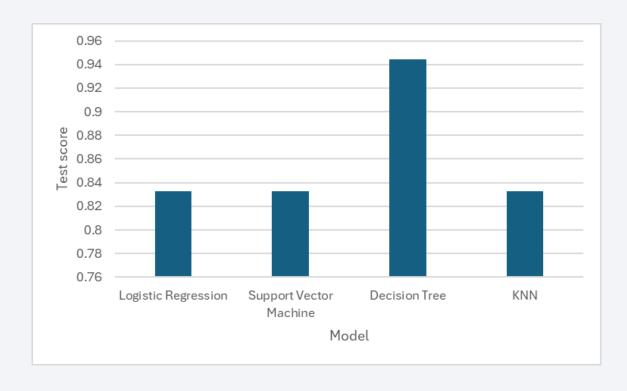
Correlation bw. payload and success for a range of payloads

- For the selected payload range (3.000Kg-9.000Kg):
 - For payloads
 >5.000Kg, only FT
 and B4 boosters are used.
 - Booster B5 has been used only once, suggesting recent design.
 - All boosters experience mixed successful rates, except for boosters v1.1 which show null successful rate.





Classification Accuracy

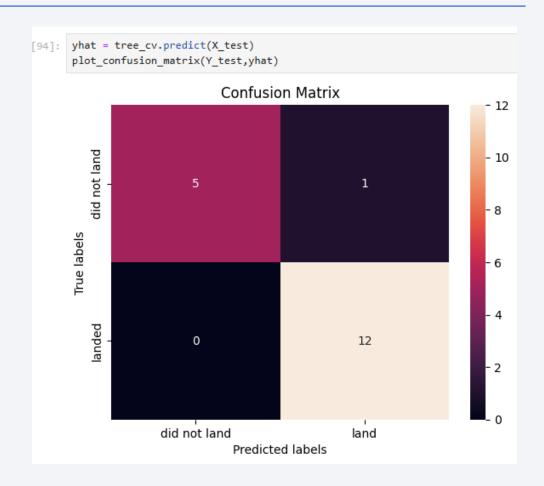


- Highest accuracy of 0.94 is achieved with a Decision Tree Classifier
- Models tested:
 - Logistic Regression
 - Support Vector Machine
 - Decision Tree Classifier
 - KNN

Confusion Matrix

Explanation and insights

- **Highest Accuracy** achieved, with a score of 94.4%
- No false negatives, suggesting the model reliably predicts successful landings
- Limited false positives, suggesting also an interesting reliability detecting failed launches.
- Balanced performance overall. Even the model is slightly biased towards successful landing, overall performance is better than the rest of models, with a high accuracy. This allows good estimates of the company's future planning.



Conclusions

- Launch site KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate among all sites, accounting for 41.7% of successful launches. This indicates that this site might have optimal conditions or processes that contribute to a higher success rate.
- Booster v1.1 has the lowest success rate across various payload masses, showing its limited reliability and robustness compared to other booster versions. This suggests that future missions will avoid using v1.1 booster version to avoid reliability issues.
- No clear pattern was observed linking higher payload masses to lower success rates, indicating that factors other than payload mass, such as launch site conditions and booster versions, play a more significant role in determining the outcome of a launch.
- Interactive data visualizations using Folium provide valuable insights in a map. It allowed understand that launch sites are all located by the sea, separated from public infrastructure.
- Tree Decision Classifier is the selected ML model to reliably predict the outcome of future launches and provide proper planning.
- The insights gathered can help improve launch strategies and contribute to the ongoing success of reusable rocket technology to be designed for SpaceY.

