

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

Robert Polony 11.11.2024



### Outline

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

# **Executive Summary**

### Summary of methodologies

Various techniques have been used to analyze SpaceX data, such as downloading data from the SpaceX API, web scraping, data processing and cleaning (data wrangling), exploratory data analysis (EDA) using SQL and visualization using Matplotlib, Seaborn and Folium, and predictive analysis using Machine Learning classification models.

### Summary of all results

Launch success rate increased since 2013 till 2020. The launch site KSC LC-39A achieved the largest number of successful launches. Orbits: ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO has the 100% success rates. All Machine Learning models performed similarly, but the Decision Tree model achieved the highest accuracy (~0.87).

### Introduction

#### Project background and context

SpaceX is a leader in the space industry, known for groundbreaking achievements such as the first successful recovery of a rocket from low Earth orbit by a private company in December 2010. One of the key elements of SpaceX's strategy is to reuse rockets through safe first stage landings, significantly reducing launch costs.

The standard launch cost of a Falcon 9 rocket is \$62 million, which is significantly cheaper compared to offerings from other companies (whose costs can exceed \$165 million). The big savings come from rocket reusability, but this depends on the success of the first stage landing.

Therefore, the goal of the project is to analyze the factors affecting landing success and develop predictive models. Successful prediction of landing results can be valuable both to SpaceX and to competing companies considering entering the space market. The analysis includes aspects such as payload mass, launch site location, orbit type and the use of advanced analytical methods such as classification models.

### Introduction

- Problems you want to find answers
- What factors affect the success rate of SpaceX launches?

We want to study which variables, such as payload mass, orbit type or launch site location, have a significant impact on mission outcome. Understanding these relationships will help identify the optimal conditions for successful missions.

- How does launch site location affect mission success?

We analyze whether and how differences in launch site locations and their proximity to specific infrastructure elements (e.g., coastline, highways, railroads) can affect success rates.

- Which classification models best predict mission outcome?

The goal is to develop predictive models that can effectively predict whether the first stage of a rocket will land successfully. Highly accurate predictions are crucial for assessing mission risk and reducing operational costs.

### Introduction

- Problems you want to find answers
- Does payload mass affect mission outcome?

By examining the relationship between payload mass and success rate, we can determine how the load on the rocket affects the chances of a successful landing.

- How can SpaceX optimize launch site selection for future missions?

Analysis will identify optimal locations and conditions that can increase the probability of mission success.



# Methodology

### **Executive Summary**

- Data collection methodology:
  - Data was collected by using request to the SpaceX API and by using web scraping from Wikipedia
- Perform data wrangling
  - Data was filtered to only include Falcon 9 launches. Missing values was replaced by mean. One-hot encoding was used for categorical data.
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL

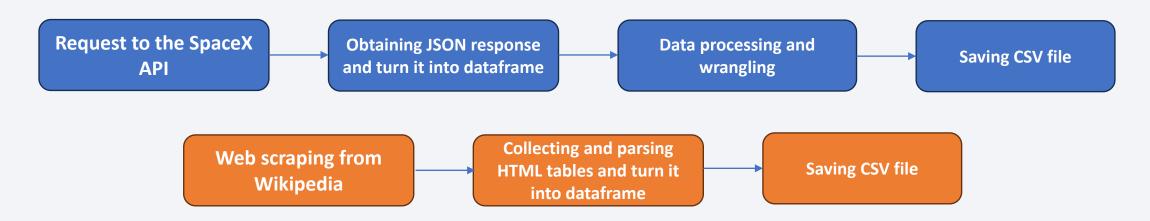
# Methodology

### **Executive Summary**

- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
  - Developed classification models, performed hyperparameter tuning using Grid Search, and evaluated their performance using metrics such as accuracy.

### **Data Collection**

• The data was collected using the SpaceX API and web scraping. The process involved obtaining a JSON response from the API, processing the data, and saving it to a CSV file for further analysis. Additional information about historical launch records was then gathered using web scraping form Wikipedia website.



# Data Collection – SpaceX API

Defined a series of functions that helped to use the API to extract information using IDs in the launch data

Requested rocket launch data from SpaceX API

**Obtained response object** 

Decoded the response content as a Json using .json() and turn it into a Pandas dataframe using .json\_normalize()

Used API again to get information about the launches by using created functions and the IDs given for each launch

Constructed dataset by using obtained data and combined it into a dictionary

Created dataframe from the dictionary

Filtered the dataframe to only include Falcon 9 launches and replacing missing values with its mean value

Saved CSV file: dataset\_part\_1.csv

• The link for SpaceX API calls notebook:

# **Data Collection - Scraping**

Created a series of functions to process web scraped HTML table

Requested Falcon 9 launch data from Wikipedia

**Created BeautifulSoup object from the HTML response** 

Extracted all column/variable names from the HTML table header

**Collected data by parsing the launch HTML tables** 

Constructed dataset by using obtained data and combined it into a dictionary

Created dataframe from the dictionary

Saved CSV file: spacex\_web\_scraped.csv

• The link for web scraping notebook:

# **Data Wrangling**

Loaded data from CSV file: dataset\_part\_1.csv

**Performed Exploratory Data Analysis** 

Calculated the number of launches on each site

Calculated the number and occurrence of each orbit

Calculated the number and occurrence of mission outcome of the orbits

Created a landing outcome label from Outcome column (0- unsuccessful, 1 – successful)

Saved CSV file: dataset\_part\_2.csv

The link for data wrangling notebook:

### **EDA** with Data Visualization

#### Charts:

#### Flight Number vs Payload Mass

The chart analyzes how consecutive launch attempts (FlightNumber) and payload mass (PayloadMass) affect the mission outcome. The goal is to examine whether SpaceX's increasing experience and heavier payloads improve the likelihood of a successful first-stage landing.

#### Flight Number vs Launch Site

The chart analyzes how SpaceX's experience (Flight Number) impacts launch outcomes at different launch sites. The goal is to identify which locations are the most reliable and contribute to mission success.

#### Payload Mass vs Launch Site

The chart analyzes how payload mass was distributed across different launch sites. The goal is to identify which locations handle heavier or lighter payloads and how it affects mission success.

• The link for EDA with data visualization notebook: https://github.com/Robson2k7/IBM-SpaceX-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/5-jupyter-labs-spacex-eda-data-vizualization.ipynb

### **EDA** with Data Visualization

#### Charts:

#### Success Rate (Mean of Class) vs Orbit Type

The bar chart analyzes which orbits have the highest success rates.

#### Flight Number vs Orbit Type

The chart analyzes the relationship between flight number and the type of orbit to which payloads were launched. The goal is to examine whether mission success is influenced by SpaceX's experience across different orbits.

#### Payload Mass vs Orbit Type

The chart analyzes how payload mass impacts landing outcomes across different orbits. The goal is to examine which orbits favor successful landings based on weight of the payloads.

#### The Launch Success Yearly Trend

The chart analyzes the yearly trend of SpaceX's launch success. The goal is to examine how the success rate has changed over time and whether SpaceX has achieved greater reliability in recent years.

• The link for EDA with data visualization notebook: https://github.com/Robson2k7/IBM-SpaceX-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/5-jupyter-labs-spacex-eda-data-vizualization.ipynb

### **EDA** with SQL

#### SQL queries for:

The names of the unique launch sites in the space mission

5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'

Total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)

Average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1

The date when the first succesful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved

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

Total number of successful and failure mission outcomes

The names of the booster\_versions which have carried the maximum payload mass

The list of failure landing outcomes on drone ship, their booster version and launch site for the months in 2015

The count of landing outcomes (such as Failure (drone ship) or Success (ground pad)) between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20

• The link for EDA with SQL notebook: https://github.com/Robson2k7/IBM-SpaceX-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/4-jupyter-labs-spacex-eda-sql-coursera\_sqllite.ipynb

# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

#### Marked all launch sites on a map

- Added orange circle at NASA Johnson Space Center's coordinate with a popup label showing its name
- Added red circles at all launch sites coordinates with a popup labels showing ist names

#### Marked the success/failed launches for each site on the map

Added markers: green, for successful launches, and red for unsuccessful launches to all launch sites coordinates

#### Calculated the distances between a launch site to its proximities

Added blue lines to show distance between launch site CCAFS SLC-40 and the nearest coastline and railway

• The link for notebook with interactive map build with Folium: https://github.com/Robson2k7/IBM-SpaceX-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/6-jupyter-lab-spacex-launch-site-location-updated.ipynb

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Created Dropdown List with launch sites allowing to select all of them or a certain launch site

Created Pie Chart showing successful and unsuccesfull launches as a percent of the total

Created Slider of Payload Mass Range

Created Scatter Chart showing the correlation between Payload Mass and Launch Success basing on Booster Version

• The link for Plotly Dash lab:

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

Created a NumPy array from the column Class in data

Standardized the data in X then reassigned it to the variable X using the StandardScaler

Splited the data by using train\_test\_split function

Created a GridSearchCV object with cv=10 for parameter optimalization

Applied GridSearchCV on: Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machine, Decision Tree, K-Nearest Neighbor algorithms

Calculated accuracy on the test data for all models

Created the confusion matrix for all models

• The link for Predictive Analysis lab:

### Results

Exploratory data analysis results

Launch success rate increased since 2013 till 2020. The launch site KSC LC-39A achieved the largest number of successful launches. Orbits: ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO has the 100% success rates.

Predictive analysis results

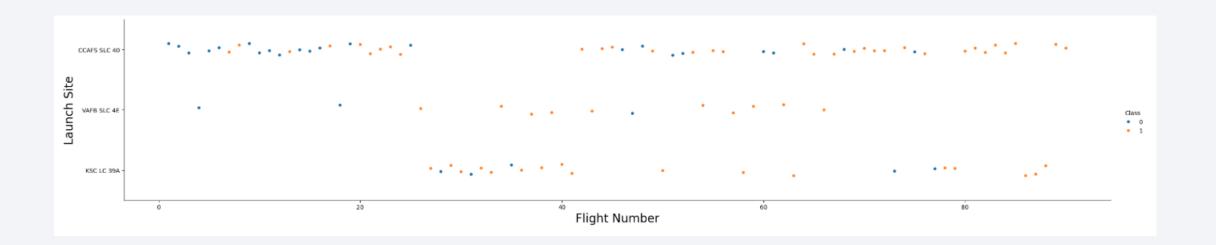
All Machine Learning models performed similarly, but the Decision Tree model achieved the highest accuracy (~0.87).

• Interactive analytics demo in screenshots



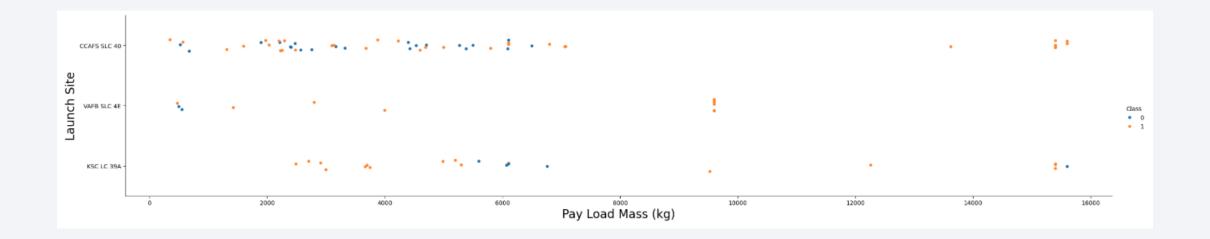
# Flight Number vs. Launch Site

In summary, the chart suggests that with experience, SpaceX is achieving increasingly better results in its launches, especially at the launch sites KSC LC 39A and CCAFS SLC 40.

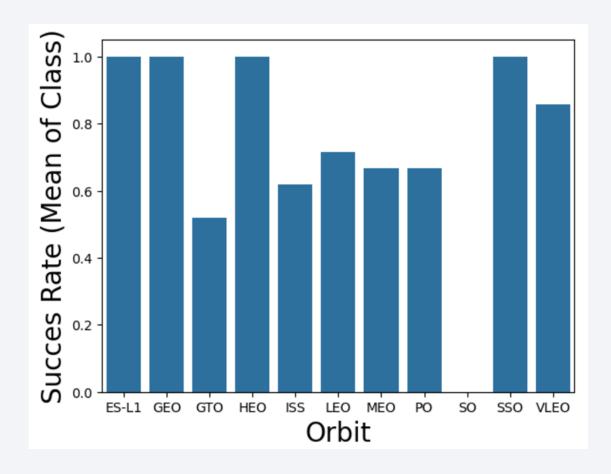


# Payload vs. Launch Site

The chart shows that the higher payload mass, the higher the success rate. Also VAFB SKC 4E has not launched anything greater than 10000 kg.



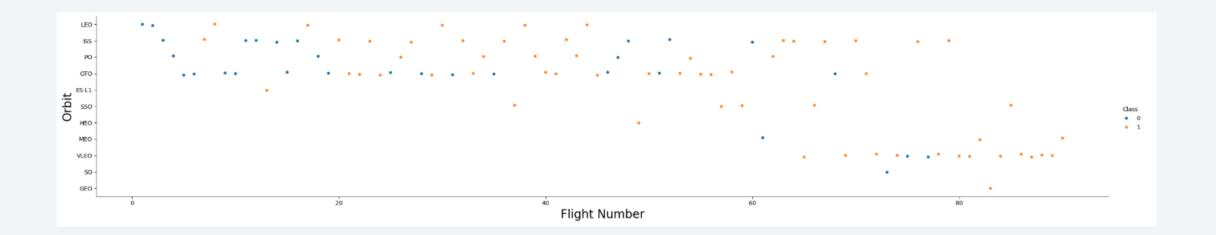
# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type



The bar chart shows that orbits ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO have the highest (100%) success rates.

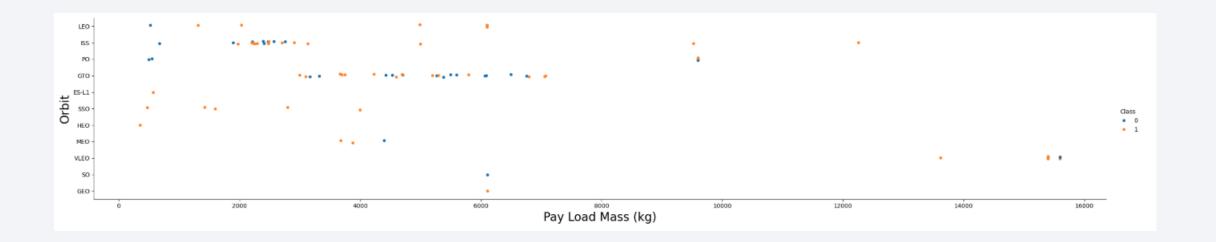
# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

The LEO orbit, success seems to be related to the number of flights. Conversely, in the GTO orbit, there appears to be no relationship between flight number and success.

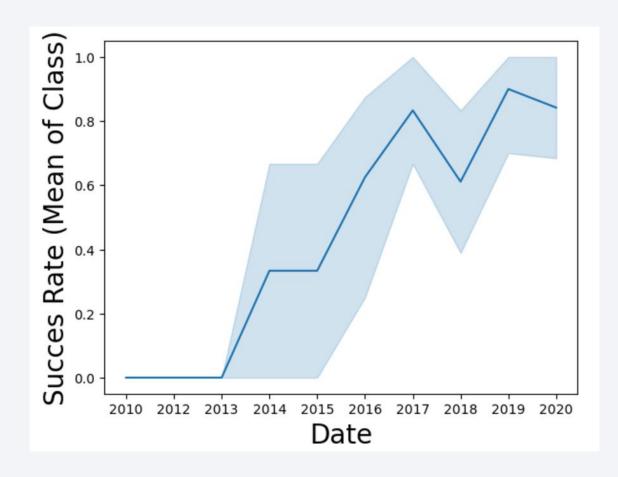


# Payload vs. Orbit Type

With heavy payloads the successful landing or positive landing rate are more for Polar, LEO and ISS. However, for GTO, it's difficult to distinguish between successful and unsuccessful landings as both outcomes are present.



# Launch Success Yearly Trend



Launch success rate increased since 2013 till 2020.

### All Launch Site Names

```
Display the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission
In [13]:
          %sql SELECT DISTINCT "Launch_Site" from SPACEXTABLE;
          * sqlite:///my_data1.db
        Done.
Out[13]:
           Launch_Site
                                              Used DISTINCT to show unique launch sites from
           CCAFS LC-40
                                              the data.
           VAFB SLC-4E
            KSC LC-39A
          CCAFS SLC-40
```

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

	Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'									
In [15]:	%sql SELECT * FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE "Launch_Site" LIKE '%CCA%' LIMIT 5;									
[	* sqli Done.	te:///my_	_data1.db							
Out[15]:	Date	Time (UTC)	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Payload	PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_	Orbit	Customer	Mission_Outcome	Landing_Outcome
	2010- 06-04	18:45:00	F9 v1.0 B0003	CCAFS LC- 40	Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit	0	LEO	SpaceX	Success	Failure (parachute)
	2010- 12-08	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- 05-22	7:44:00	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC- 40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success	No attempt
	2012- 10-08	0:35:00	F9 v1.0 B0006	CCAFS LC- 40	SpaceX CRS-1	500	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt
	2013- 03-01	15:10:00	F9 v1.0 B0007	CCAFS LC- 40	SpaceX CRS-2	677	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt

Used LIKE to display records where launch sites name Begin with "CCA".

LIMIT to show only 5 rows.

# **Total Payload Mass**

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

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

In [20]:  %sql SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) AS Average_Payload_Mass FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Booster_Version = "F9 v1.1";

* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.

Out[20]:  Average_Payload_Mass

2928.4

Calculated the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1 with AVG.

The Average Payload Mass is 2928,4 kg.
```

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

```
List the date when the first succesful landing outcome in ground pad was acheived.
         Hint:Use min function
In [22]:
          %sql SELECT MIN(Date) AS First_Successful_Landing FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Landing_Outcome = "Success (ground pad)";
         * sqlite:///my_data1.db
        Done.
                                                                         Used MIN for Date column and WHERE on
Out[22]: First_Succesful_Landing
                     2015-12-22
```

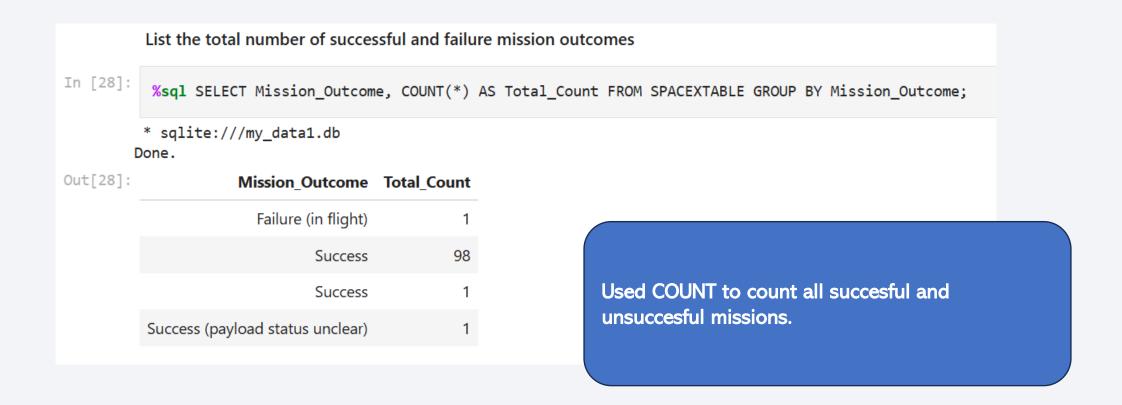
Landing\_Outcome to show when was the first succesful landing in ground pad.

It is 2015-12-22.

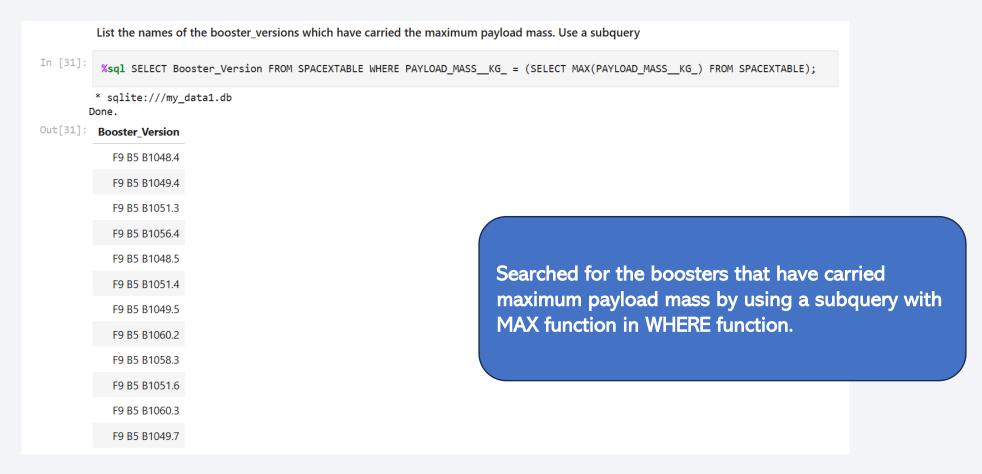
### Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

FULL CODE: %sql SELECT Booster\_Version FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Landing\_Outcome = "Success (drone ship)" AND PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_ > 4000 AND PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_ < 6000

### Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes



# **Boosters Carried Maximum Payload**



### 2015 Launch Records

List the records which will display the month names, failure landing\_outcomes in drone ship ,booster versions, launch\_site for the months in year 2015.

Note: SQLLite does not support monthnames. So you need to use substr(Date, 6,2) as month to get the months and substr(Date, 0,5)='2015' for year.

Done.
Out[37]: Month Booster Version Launch Site Landing Outcome

April

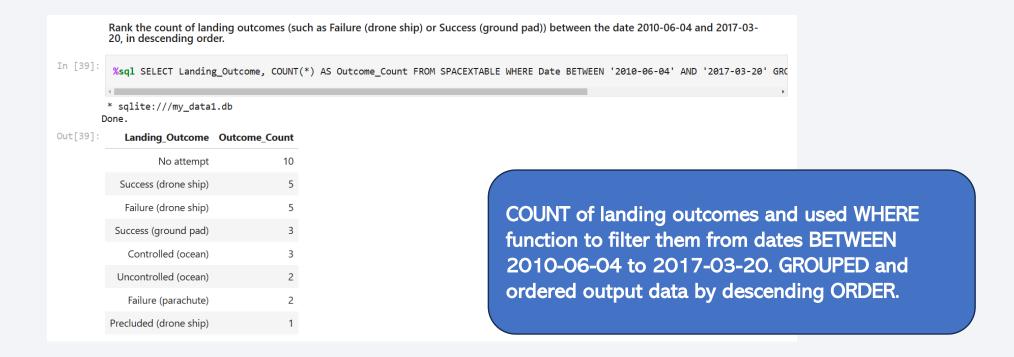
January F9 v1.1 B1012 CCAFS LC-40 Failure (drone ship)

F9 v1.1 B1015 CCAFS LC-40 Failure (drone ship)

Replaced months numbers for its names. Example: 01 to January, etc.

FULL CODE: %sql SELECT CASE WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '01' THEN 'January' WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '02' THEN 'February' WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '03' THEN 'March' WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '04' THEN 'April' WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '05' THEN 'May' WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '06' THEN 'June' WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '07' THEN 'July' WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '08' THEN 'August' WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '09' THEN 'September' WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '10' THEN 'October' WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '11' THEN 'November' WHEN SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2) = '12' THEN 'December' END AS Month, Booster\_Version, Launch\_Site, Landing\_Outcome FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Landing\_Outcome = 'Failure (drone ship)' AND SUBSTR(Date, 0, 5) = '2015';

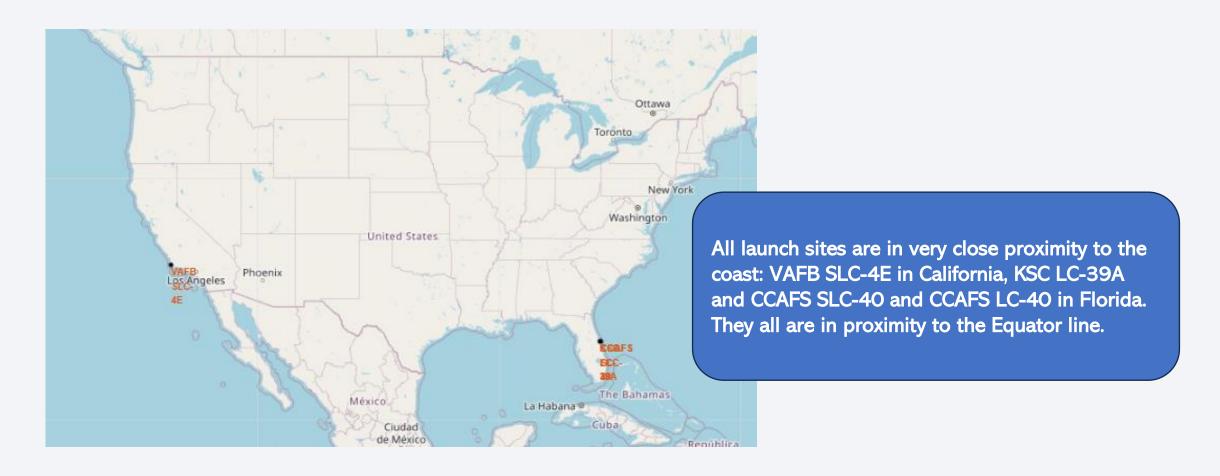
#### Rank Landing Outcomes Between 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20



FULL CODE: %sql SELECT Landing\_Outcome, COUNT(\*) AS Outcome\_Count FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Date BETWEEN '2010-06-04' AND '2017-03-20' GROUP BY Landing\_Outcome ORDER BY Outcome\_Count DESC;

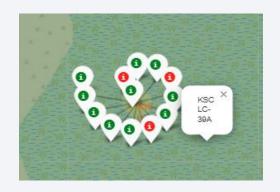


## All Launch Sites



## Launch Outcomes at each Launch Site







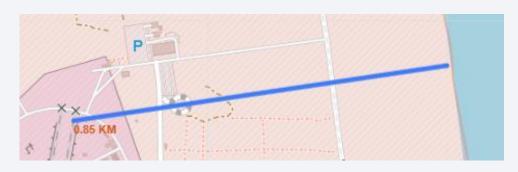


Green markers for succesful launches

Red markers for unsuccesful launches

The launch site KSC LC-39A achieved the largest number of successful launches.

## Distance to Proximities









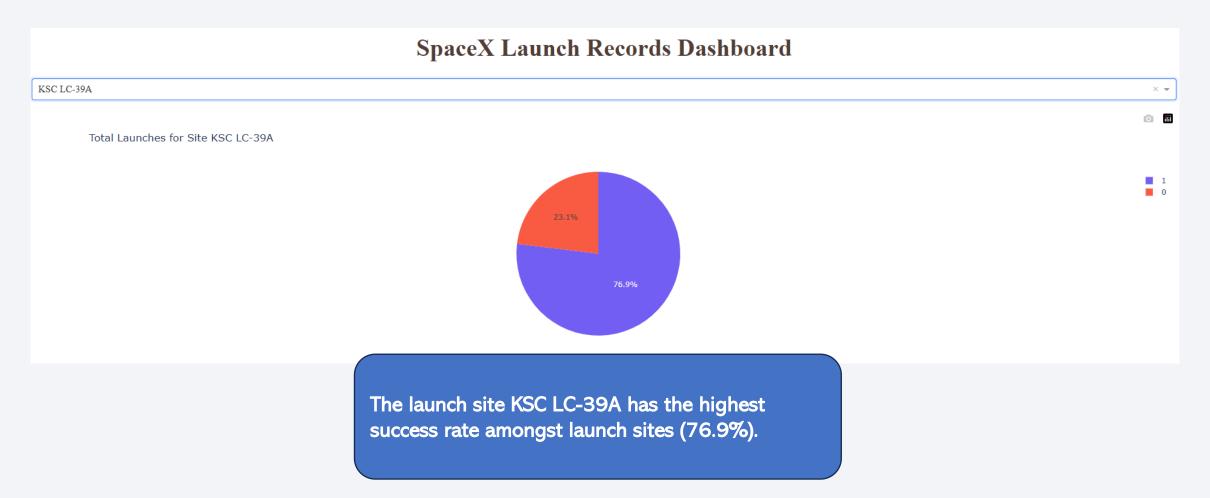
Example: CCAFS SLC-40 keeps certain distance away from cities, railways and highways. But, as said before, its in close proximity to coastline.



# Launch Success by site



## Launch Site with highest success rate



## Payload Mass and Success



Payloads between circa 2000kg and 5000kg has the highest success rate.



## **Classification Accuracy**

**Logistic Regression** 

**Support Vector Machine** 

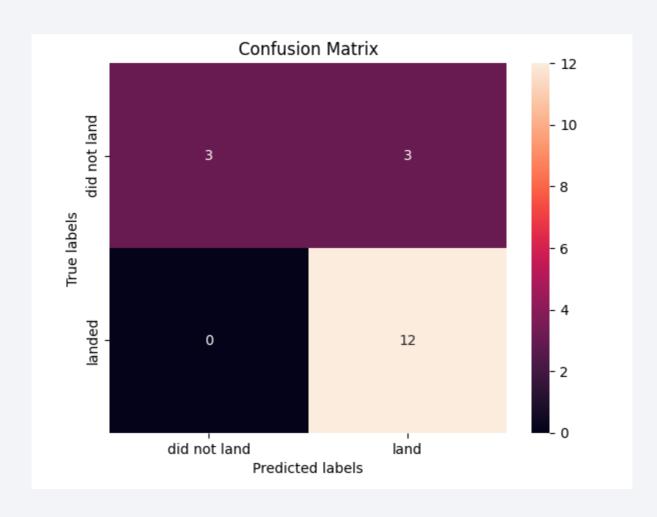
**Decision Tree** 

K-Nearest Neighbor

```
print("tuned hpyerparameters :(best parameters) ",logreg cv.best params )
   print("accuracy :",logreg cv.best score )
 tuned hpyerparameters :(best parameters) {'C': 0.01, 'penalty': '12', 'solver': 'lbfgs'}
 accuracy : 0.8464285714285713
   print("tuned hpyerparameters :(best parameters) ",svm_cv.best_params_)
   print("accuracy :",svm cv.best score )
 tuned hpyerparameters :(best parameters) {'C': 1.0, 'gamma': 0.03162277660168379, 'kernel': 'sigmoid'}
 accuracy : 0.8482142857142856
  print("tuned hpyerparameters :(best parameters) ",tree cv.best params )
  print("accuracy :",tree cv.best score )
tuned hpyerparameters : (best parameters) {'criterion': 'gini', 'max_depth': 14, 'max_features': 'sqrt', 'min_samples_leaf':
4, 'min samples split': 10, 'splitter': 'best'}
 accuracy: 0.8714285714285713
 print("tuned hpyerparameters :(best parameters) ",knn_cv.best_params_)
 print("accuracy :",knn_cv.best_score_)
tuned hpyerparameters :(best parameters) {'algorithm': 'auto', 'n_neighbors': 10, 'p': 1}
accuracy: 0.8482142857142858
```

Decision Tree is the model with highest clasification accuracy.

#### **Confusion Matrix**



#### Overview:

True Postive - 12 (True label is landed, Predicted label is also landed)

False Postive - 3 (True label is not landed, Predicted label is landed)

Confusin Matrix for all models were practically the same. The situation that there are 3 false postitives suggest that it is not good. Because they are marked by the model as successful landings.

#### **Conclusions**

- With experience, SpaceX is achieving increasingly better results in its launches.
- Launch success rate increased since 2013 till 2020.
- The launch site KSC LC-39A achieved the largest number of successful launches.
- Orbits: ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO has the 100% success rates.
- The higher payload mass, the higher the success rate.
- All launch sites keeps certain distance away from cities, railways and highways. But they are in close proximity to coastline and also to the Equator line.
- All Machine Learning models performed similarly, but the Decision Tree model achieved the highest accuracy (~0.87).

