For this Dear Data, I want to tell a story about this data.

I teach at a tribal college. For the last 4 months, my students (age range 18-61) have been building a rocket. This rocket is 55 inches long, 4 inches in diameter, weighs 12 pounds, and was loaded with a motor that would accelerate it (according to our simulations) up to a maximum velocity of 500 ft/sec.

Launch day was very windy and the launch was almost scrubbed. But it wasn’t. My students launched the rocket. It flew to 2751 feet. We know this because, we slogged through half a mile of boggy swamp to find the rocket, download its data, and build this visualization.

We have software to parse the data for us, but for this Dear Data, I wanted to build a custom parser to give it a little character. So, this was built with Python and matplotlib

I think it’s beautiful.

Fun facts:

* Rocket name: Bad Larry
* Max Axial Acceleration: 19.98 Gs
* Total flight time: 65 seconds
* Time to apogee: 13.73 seconds
* Altitude at apogee: 2751 feet above ground level
* Max velocity: 438 ft/sec (299 mph)