



IBM Developer  
SKILLS NETWORK

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

Kelley Kent  
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# Outline

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- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion

# Executive Summary

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- Summary of methodologies
  - Data collection w/ REST API
  - Data wrangling w/ transformations
  - Exploratory data analysis (visualization)
  - Exploratory data analysis (SQL)
  - Interactive map w/ Folium
  - Predictive analytics w/ Classification
- Summary of all results
  - Exploratory data analysis
  - Predictive analytics

# Introduction

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- Project background and context
  - SpaceX is one of many companies competing for the commercial space travel market
  - Using Falcon 9 rockets, SpaceX has kept the cost of its launches significantly smaller than its competitors (\$62 million vs \$165 million)
  - One key factor to SpaceX's lower costs is their ability to reuse the first stage of any Falcon 9 launch
  - When a new launch successfully lands, then the first stage can be reused
  - The better SpaceX is at predicting and completing successful landings, the more money they will save thereby increasing their competitive edge of their competitors
- Problems you want to find answers
  1. What datapoints influence the success of a first stage landing?
  2. What is the optimal predictive model for the given datapoints of first stage landings?



Section 1

# Methodology

# Methodology (1 of 2)

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## Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
  - Rest API from SpaceX website (all launches)
  - Webscrape the Wikipedia SpaceX page (Falcon 9 only)
- Perform data wrangling
  - Only include launch data from Falcon 9 rockets
  - Transform categorical variables into factors
  - Replaced missing numerical data with sample mean

# Methodology (2 of 2)

## Executive Summary (cont.)

- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
  - Found best model parameters using cross validation
  - Tuned multiple models for predicting successful landing
  - Best model chosen based on highest prediction accuracy of both train/test datasets

# Data Collection

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- Data on all SpaceX launches obtained @ <https://api.spacexdata.com/v4>
  - REST API used for data collection
  - Datapoints used: *FlightNumber, Date, BoosterVersion, PayloadMass, Orbit, LaunchSite, Outcome, Flights, GridFins, Reused, Legs, LandingPad, Block, ReusedCount, Serial, Longitude, Latitude*
- Data on Falcon 9 Space X launches obtained @ [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)
  - Webscraping (Beautiful Soup) used for data collection
  - Datapoints used: *Flight No., Launch site, Payload, PayloadMass, Orbit, Customer, Launch outcome, Version Booster, Booster landing, Date, Time*



# Data Collection – SpaceX API

Github URL:

[https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM\\_datascience\\_capstone/blob/main/Data%20Collection%20API.ipynb](https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM_datascience_capstone/blob/main/Data%20Collection%20API.ipynb)

## 1. get all JSON data from SpaceX API

```
static_json_url='https://cf-courses-data.s3.us.cloud-object-storage.appdomain.cloud/IBM-DS0321EN-SkillsNetwork/datasets/API_call_spacex_api.json'  
data = pd.json_normalize(response.json())
```

## 2. Extract specific datapoints from API data

- a) Rockets `response = requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/rockets/"+str(x)).json()`
- b) Launch Site `response = requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launchpads/"+str(x)).json()`
- c) Payload `response = requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/payloads/"+load).json()`
- d) Core `response = requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/cores/"+core['core']).json()`

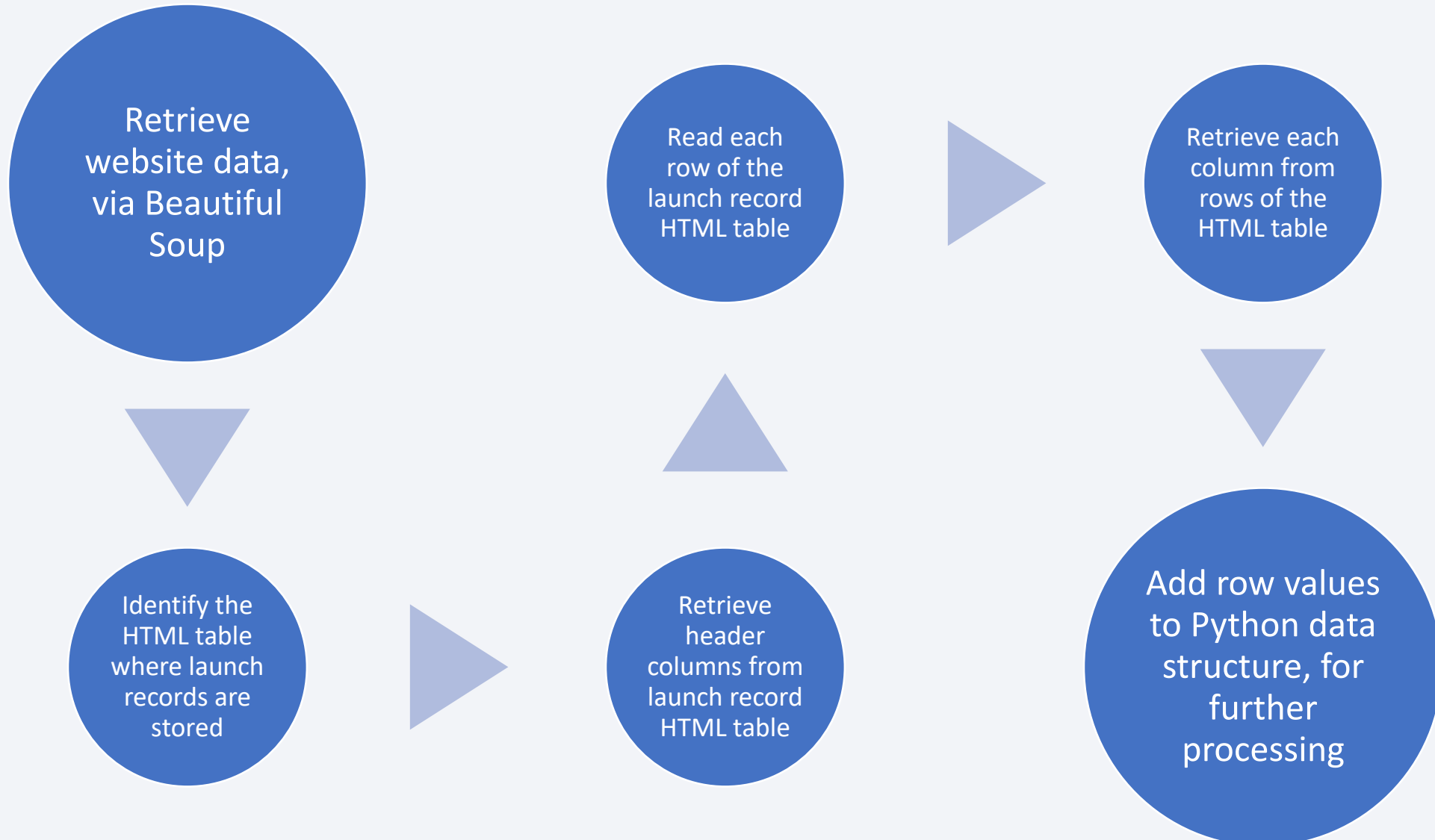
## 3. Data transformation / normalization

- a) Remove launches that occurred after November 13, 2020
- b) Remove all non-Falcon V9 data rows
- c) Remove launches with multiple payloads
- d) Replace missing Payload Mass values with column mean

# Data Collection - Scraping

Github URL:

[https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM\\_datascience\\_capstone/blob/main/jupyter-labs-webscraping\(1\).ipynb](https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM_datascience_capstone/blob/main/jupyter-labs-webscraping(1).ipynb)



# Data Wrangling

Github URL:

[https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM\\_datascience\\_capstone/blob/main/Data%20wrangling.ipynb](https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM_datascience_capstone/blob/main/Data%20wrangling.ipynb)

Objective 1: Determine the mission outcome values that indicate successful

- Find the unique labels in the Outcome column
- Enumerate each unique label
- Create a variable that holds all Outcome enumerations for bad outcomes

```
landing_outcomes = df['Outcome'].value_counts()
for i,outcome in enumerate(landing_outcomes.keys()):
    print(i,outcome)

0 True ASDS
1 None None
2 True RTLS
3 False ASDS
4 True Ocean
5 False Ocean
6 None ASDS
7 False RTLS

bad_outcomes=set(landing_outcomes.keys()[[1,3,5,6,7]])
```

Objective 2: create a landing outcome column label from Outcome column

- Assign 0 where original Outcome value is indicative of a bad / failed landing; assign 1 otherwise

```
# Landing_class = 0 if bad_outcome
# Landing_class = 1 otherwise
landing_class = []
for key, value in df['Outcome'].items():
    if value in bad_outcomes:
        landing_class.append(0)
    else:
        landing_class.append(1)
df['Class']=landing_class
```

# Data Wrangling (cont.)

Github URL:

[https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM\\_datascience\\_capstone/blob/main/Data%20wrangling.ipynb](https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM_datascience_capstone/blob/main/Data%20wrangling.ipynb)

Objective 3: Calculate the number of launches at each site

```
df['LaunchSite'].value_counts()
```

```
CCAFS SLC 40    55
KSC LC 39A     22
VAFB SLC 4E     13
Name: LaunchSite, dtype: int64
```

Objective 4: calculate the number and occurrence of each orbit

```
df['Orbit'].value_counts()
```

```
GTO      27
ISS      21
VLEO     14
PO        9
LEO       7
SSO       5
MEO       3
ES-L1     1
HEO       1
SO        1
GEO       1
Name: Orbit, dtype: int64
```

# EDA with Data Visualization

Github URL:

[https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM\\_datascience\\_capstone/blob/main/EDA%20with%20Data%20Visualization.ipynb](https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM_datascience_capstone/blob/main/EDA%20with%20Data%20Visualization.ipynb)

- Visualize orbits of rockets
  - Larger orbits require more fuel which may impact launch landing success
- Bar Chart to show comparison of orbit launch successes
  - Helps to show a relationship between orbit radius and landing success
- Scatter Plots to show the relationships between two variables (see below)

If a relationship exists, then that datapoints could be useful in machine learning modeling

  - 1) Flight Number vs. Payload Mass
  - 2) Flight Number vs. Launch Site
  - 3) Payload Mass vs Launch Site
  - 4) Orbit vs Flight Number
  - 5) Payload Mass vs. Orbit
- Line Graph to show trend of landing success over the years



# EDA with SQL

Github URL:

[https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM\\_datascience\\_capstone/blob/main/EDA%20with%20SQL.ipynb](https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM_datascience_capstone/blob/main/EDA%20with%20SQL.ipynb)

- 
- Find unique launch site names
  - Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'
  - Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)
  - Display average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1
  - List the date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved
  - List the names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000
  - List the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes
  - List the names of the booster versions which have carried the maximum payload mass
  - List the failed landing\_outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015
  - Rank the count of landing outcomes (such as Failure (drone ship) or Success (ground pad)) between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20, in descending order

# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

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- Visualized location of launch sites w/ circle markers and display labels
- At each launch site locations, indicated the number of successful outcomes (green markers) and failed outcomes (red markers)
- Lines and distances are shown between each launch site and nearest city, highway, coastline and railway

Github URL:

[https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM\\_datascience\\_capstone/blob/main/Interactive%20Visual%20Analytics%20with%20Folium%20lab.ipynb](https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM_datascience_capstone/blob/main/Interactive%20Visual%20Analytics%20with%20Folium%20lab.ipynb)

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

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Github URL:

[https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM\\_datascience\\_capstone/blob/main/spacex\\_dash\\_app.py](https://github.com/StickyKiwiIBM/IBM_datascience_capstone/blob/main/spacex_dash_app.py)

- Interactions

- Drop down list added for selection of launch site
- Slider to select Payload range

- Visualizations

- Pie chart added showing breakdown of launch outcome (success, failure)
- Scatter chart to show correlation between Payload and Launch Success

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

## Building

- Transform data via column scaling
- Split data into test and train sets
- Use grid search to identify best parameters
- Run 4 models: LogReg, SVM, Decision Tree and KNN

## Evaluation

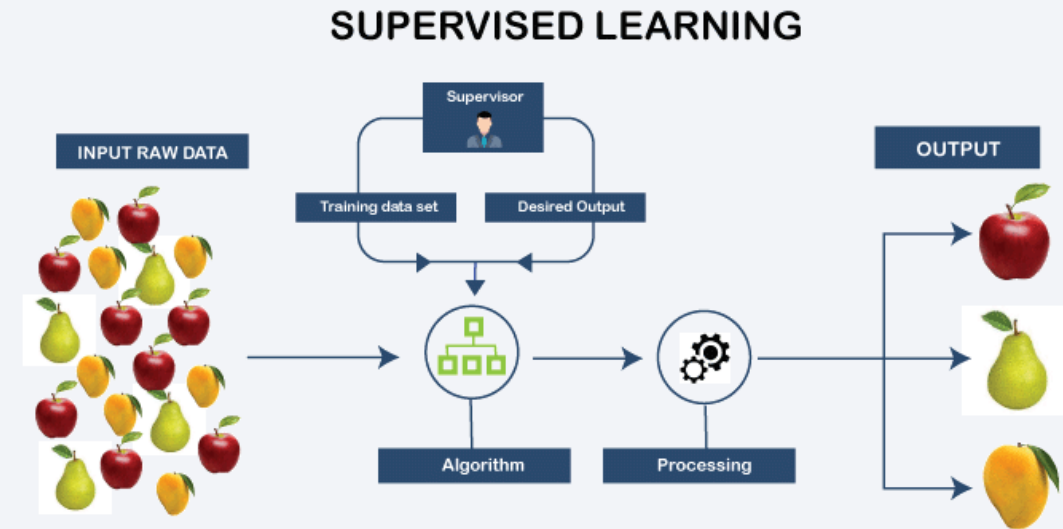
- Calculate the accuracy of all 4 models
- Plot the confusion matrix for all 4 models

## Tuning

- Features engineering

## Selection

- Pick model with best accuracy scores



# Results

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- Exploratory data analysis results
- Interactive analytics demo in screenshots
- Predictive analysis results



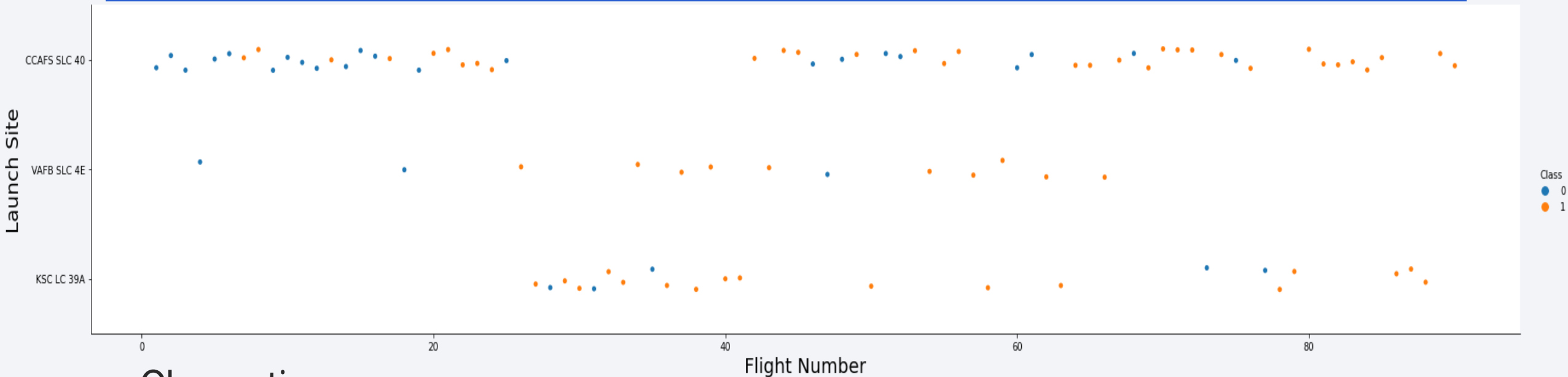
The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a dark blue base color. Overlaid on this are numerous diagonal streaks in shades of red and cyan. A faint, light blue grid pattern is also visible, particularly in the lower half of the image. The overall effect is dynamic and technological.

Section 2

# Insights drawn from EDA



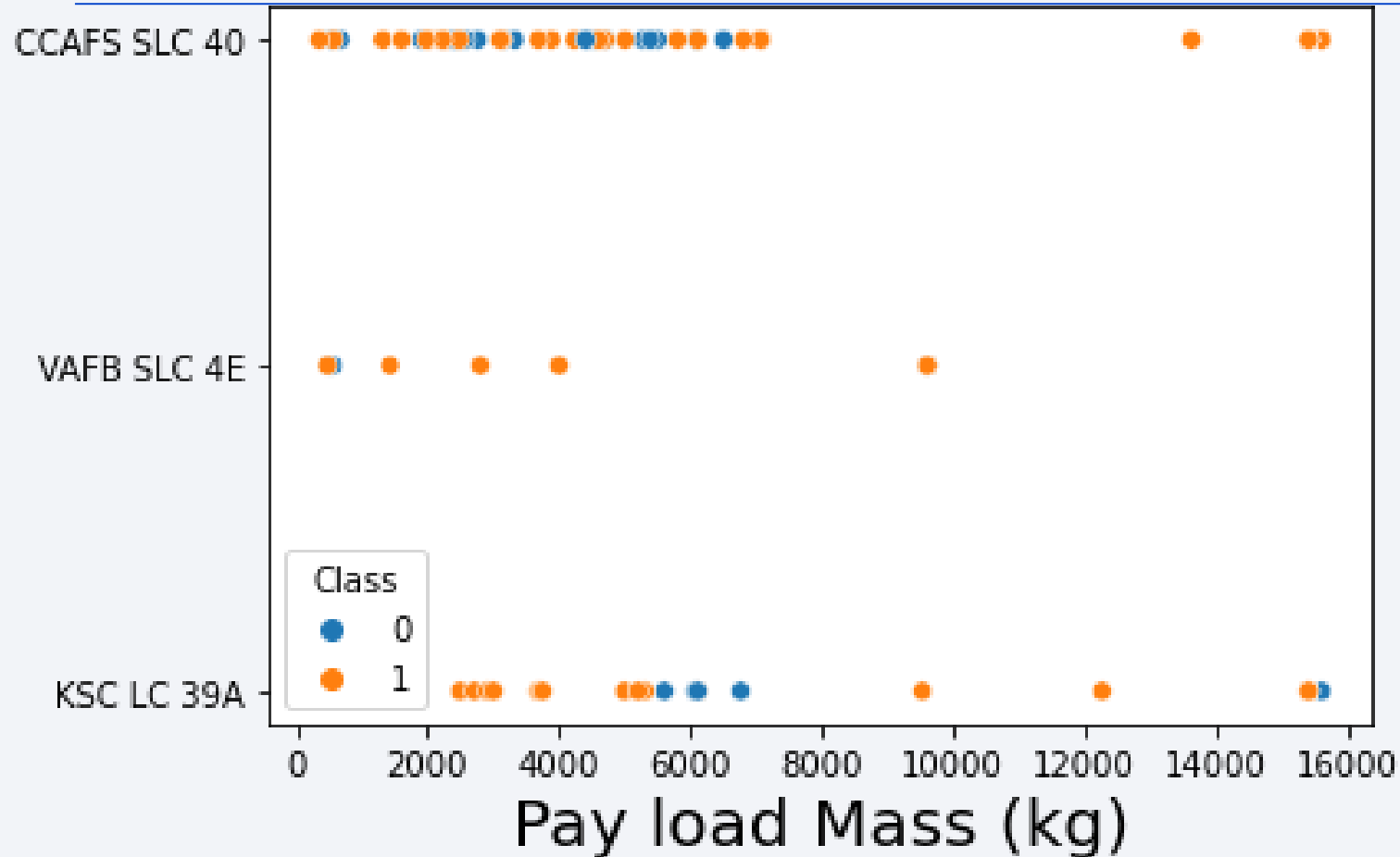
# Flight Number vs. Launch Site



- Observations:
  - The CCAFS SLC 40 launch site has the most flights of all site locations
  - All of the most recent launches (roughly beginning with flight number 78) have been successful
  - Within each launch site, the most recent 5 launches have all been successful
  - The majority of failures occurred before flight #40

# Payload vs. Launch Site

Launch Site

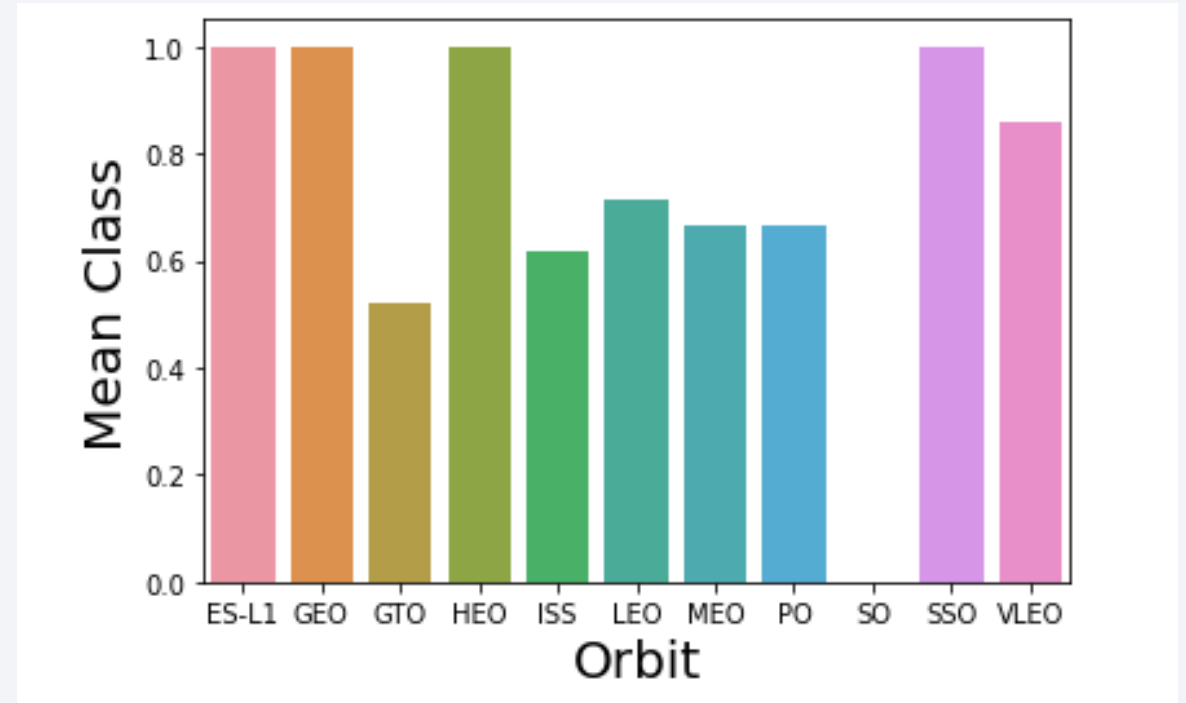


- Observations:

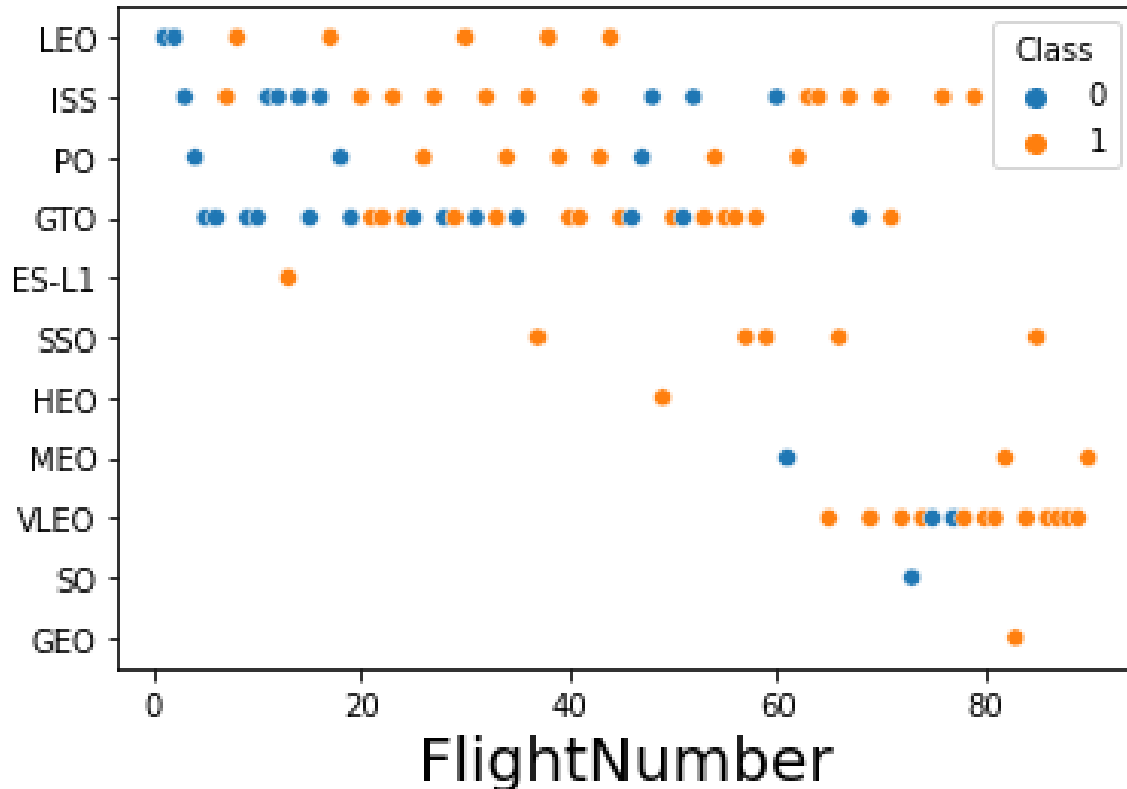
- The higher the payload mass, the higher the success rate across all sites
- Nearly all launches with payload greater than 8000kg were successful
- The VAFB SLC 4E site did not have any launch data with payload greater than 9000kg

# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

- Observations:
  - 4 orbit types have 100% success rate: ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO
  - The VLEO orbit has 85% success rate
  - The SO orbit has a 0% success rate
  - All other orbit types have between 50% - 70% success
  - Focus should be on ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO and VLEO orbits



## Orbit



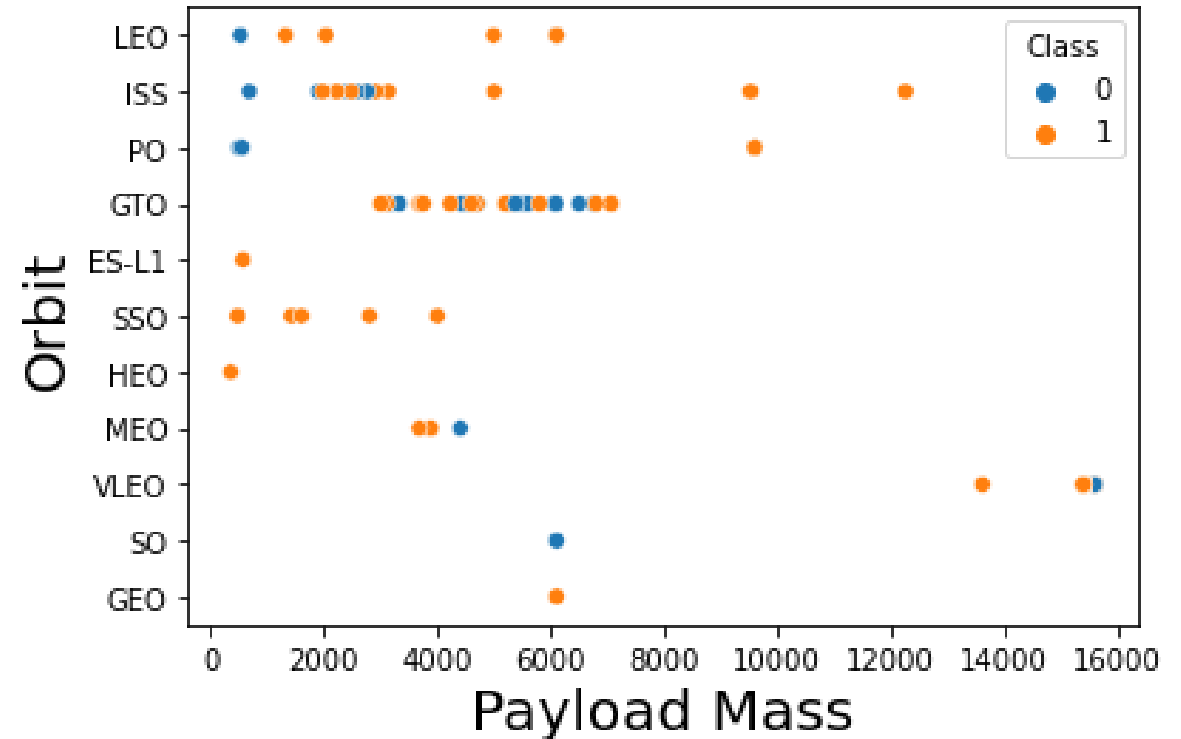
- Observations

- Only LEO and VLEO appear to show a strong correlation between the number of flights and success
- ISS, GTO and PO orbits show inconclusive correlations
- All other orbit types do not have enough data to draw references

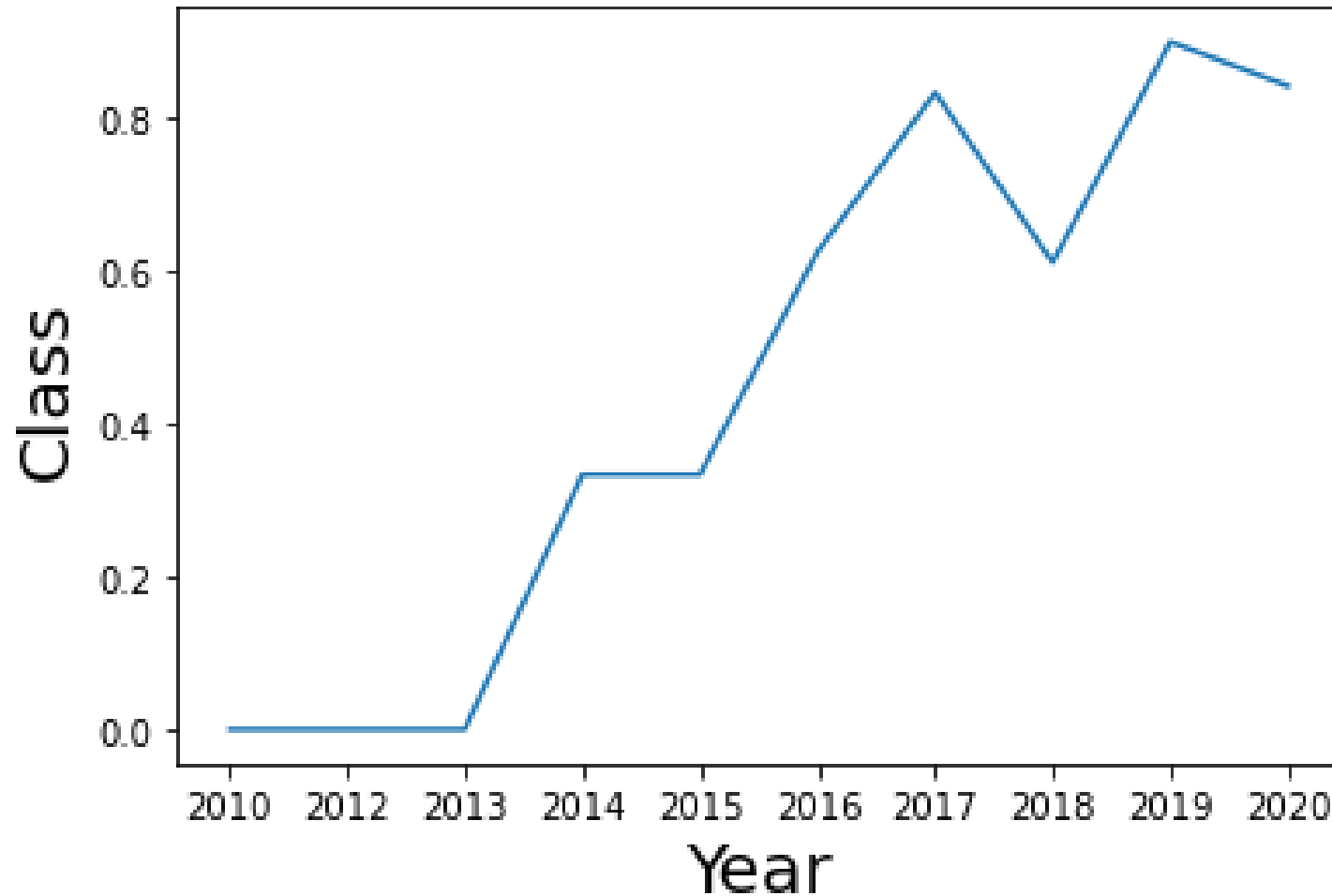


# Payload vs. Orbit Type

- Observations
  - Heavier loads appear to have a negative impact on GTO orbits
  - Heavier loads appear to have a positive impact on PO, LEO and ISS orbits
  - All other orbit types do not have enough data to draw references



# Launch Success Yearly Trend



- Observations

- All launches prior to 2013 were failures
- The trend between 2014 and 2020 is that the rate of successes increased
- 2018 is an anomaly in that the rate decreased; further investigation is required to provide context

# All Launch Site Names

---

```
: %sql select distinct LAUNCH_SITE from SPACEXTBL
```

**launch\_site**

CCAFS LC-40

CCAFS SLC-40

KSC LC-39A

VAFB SLC-4E

- There are 4 launch sites in total

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

```
%sql select unique LAUNCH_SITE from SPACEXTBL where LAUNCH_SITE like 'CCA%' order by 1
```

launch\_site

CCAFS LC-40

CCAFS SLC-40

- There are 2 sites that begin with 'CCA'
- A sample of 5 data rows for any launch site beginning with 'CCA' is shown below

```
%sql select * from SPACEXTBL where LAUNCH_SITE like 'CCA%' limit 5|
```

DATE	time_utc	booster_version	launch_site	payload	payload_mass	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	07:44:00	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success	No attempt
2012-10-08	00:35:00	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

# Total Payload Mass

---

```
%sql select sum(PAYLOAD_MASS) as total_payload_mass from SPACEXTBL where CUSTOMER = 'NASA (CRS)'
```

total_payload_mass
--------------------

45596
-------

- Using the customer column, we can see that the total sum of all payloads for NASA was 45,596



# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

---

```
%sql select avg(PAYLOAD_MASS) as avg_payload_mass from SPACEXTBL where BOOSTER_VERSION = 'F9 v1.1'
```

avg_payload_mass
------------------

2928
------

- Using the booster version column, we can see that the average payload for the F9 rockets is 2,928

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

---

```
%sql select min(DATE) date_of_1st_gpad from SPACEXTBL where LANDING_OUTCOME = 'Success (ground pad)'
```

date_of_1st_gpad
------------------

2015-12-22
------------

- Using the landing outcome column, we can see that that earliest landing date was December 22, 2015

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

---

```
%sql select unique BOOSTER_VERSION from SPACEXTBL where LANDING_OUTCOME = 'Success (drone ship)' and PAYLOAD_MASS between 4001 and 5999
```

booster\_version

F9 FT B1021.2

F9 FT B1031.2

F9 FT B1022

F9 FT B1026

- Using the columns landing outcome and payload mass, we can see that there are 4 booster versions that had successful landings with payload between 4000 and 6000

# Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

---

```
%%sql
select count(*) as total, 'success' as category from SPACEXTBL where MISSION_OUTCOME like 'Success%'
union all
select count(*), 'failure' from SPACEXTBL where MISSION_OUTCOME like 'Failure%'
order by 1 desc
```

total	category
100	success
1	failure

- Using the column mission outcome, we can see that there have 100 successful landings and only 1 failure

# Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

```
%sql select BOOSTER_VERSION from SPACEXTBL where PAYLOAD_MASS = (select max(PAYLOAD_MASS) from SPACEXTBL)
```

**booster\_version**

F9 B5 B1048.4

F9 B5 B1049.4

F9 B5 B1051.3

F9 B5 B1056.4

F9 B5 B1048.5

F9 B5 B1051.4

F9 B5 B1049.5

F9 B5 B1060.2

F9 B5 B1058.3

F9 B5 B1051.6

F9 B5 B1060.3

F9 B5 B1049.7

- Using the column payload mass, we can see that there are 12 booster versions that have launched with the maximum payload

# 2015 Launch Records

---


```
%sql select DATE, BOOSTER_VERSION, LAUNCH_SITE, LANDING_OUTCOME from SPACEXTBL where LANDING_OUTCOME = 'Failure (drone ship)' and year(DATE) = 2015
```

DATE	booster_version	launch_site	landing_outcome
2015-01-10	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)
2015-04-14	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)

- Using the columns data and landing outcome, we can see that there were 2 failed landings in 2015

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

```
%%sql select LANDING_OUTCOME, count(*) total
from SPACEXTBL
where DATE between to_date('2010-06-04','YYYY-MM-DD') and to_date('2017-03-20','YYYY-MM-DD')
group by LANDING_OUTCOME
order by 2 desc
```



landing_outcome	total
No attempt	10
Failure (drone ship)	5
Success (drone ship)	5
Controlled (ocean)	3
Success (ground pad)	3
Failure (parachute)	2
Uncontrolled (ocean)	2
Precluded (drone ship)	1

- Using the date column, we can see that there were 8 distinct landing outcomes between June 4, 2010 and March 20, 2017 as well as how many landings occurred for each outcome
- The most frequent landing outcome during this time period was “no attempt”

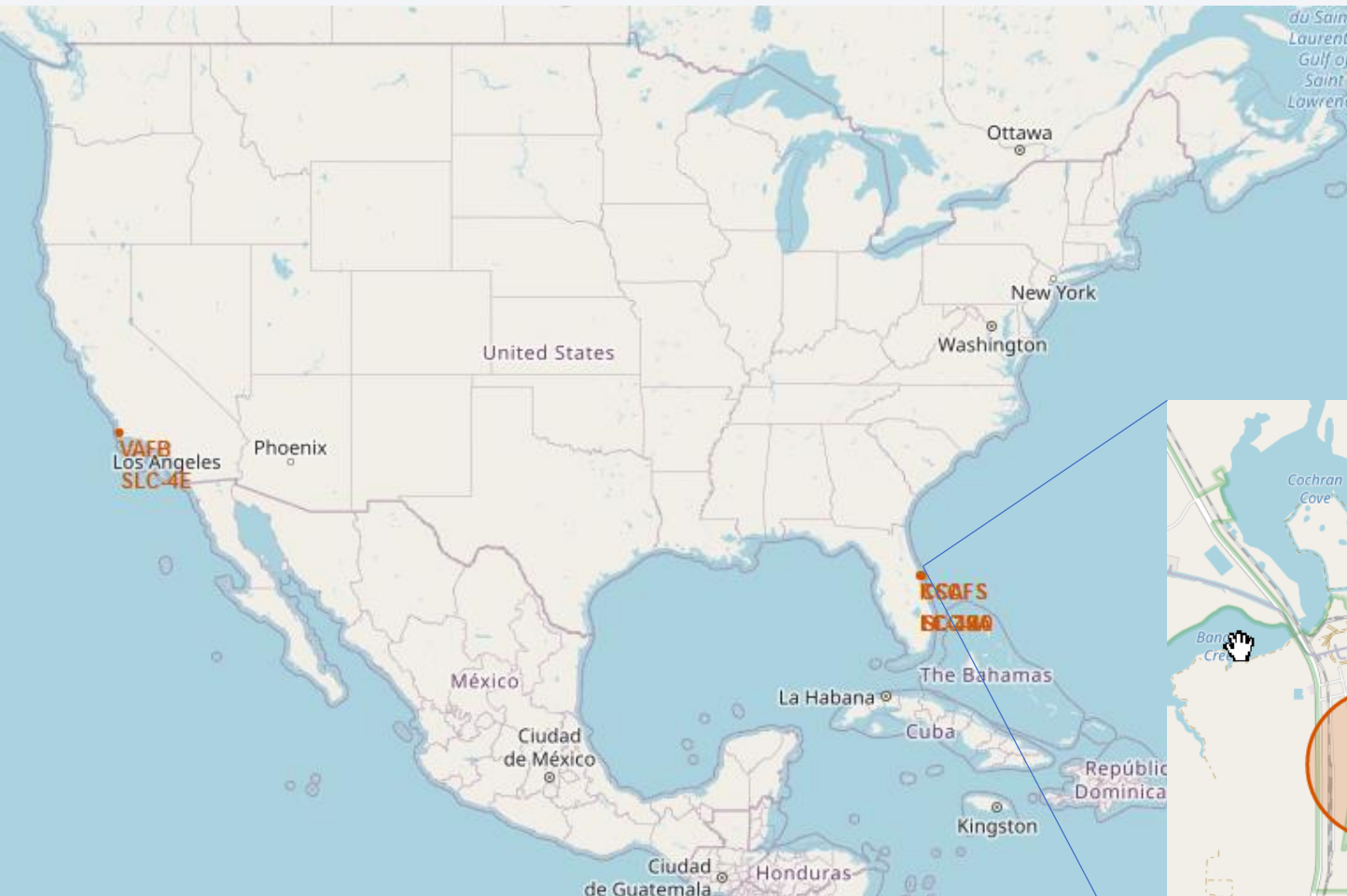
A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and city lights at night. The background is a deep blue gradient.

Section 3

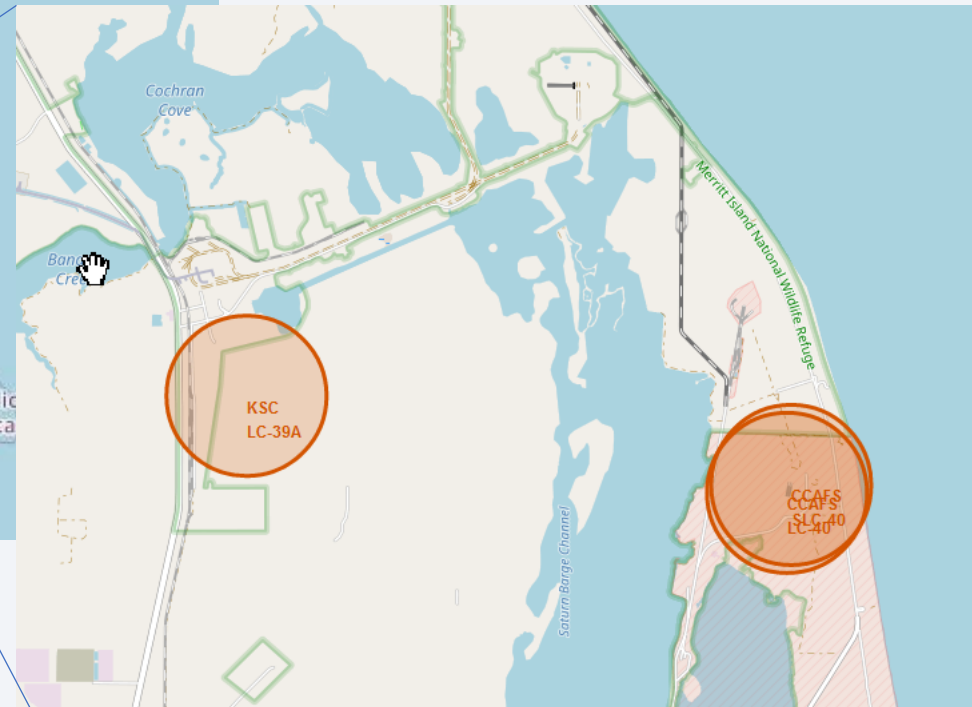
# Launch Sites Proximities Analysis



# US Map of SpaceX Launch Sites



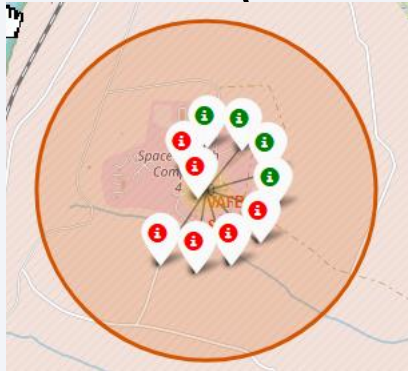
- 4 launch site locations
  - VAFB SLC-4E (California)
  - CCAFS LC-40 (Florida)
  - KSC LC-39A (Florida)
  - CCAFS SLC-40 (Florida)



# Launch Site landing outcomes

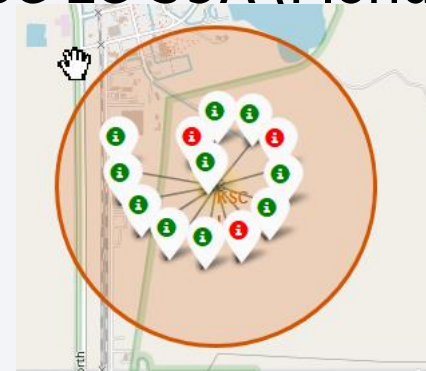
- For each site, **green** markers were added for each successful landing; **red** markers for failed landings

VAFB SLC-4E (California)



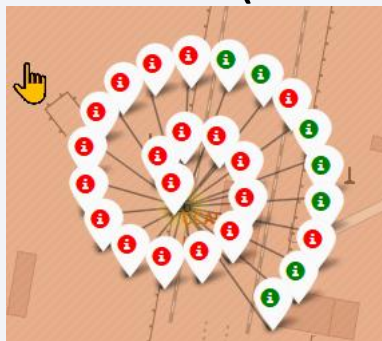
**4** and **6**

KSC LC-39A (Florida)



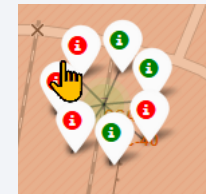
**10** and **3**

CCAFS LC-40 (Florida)



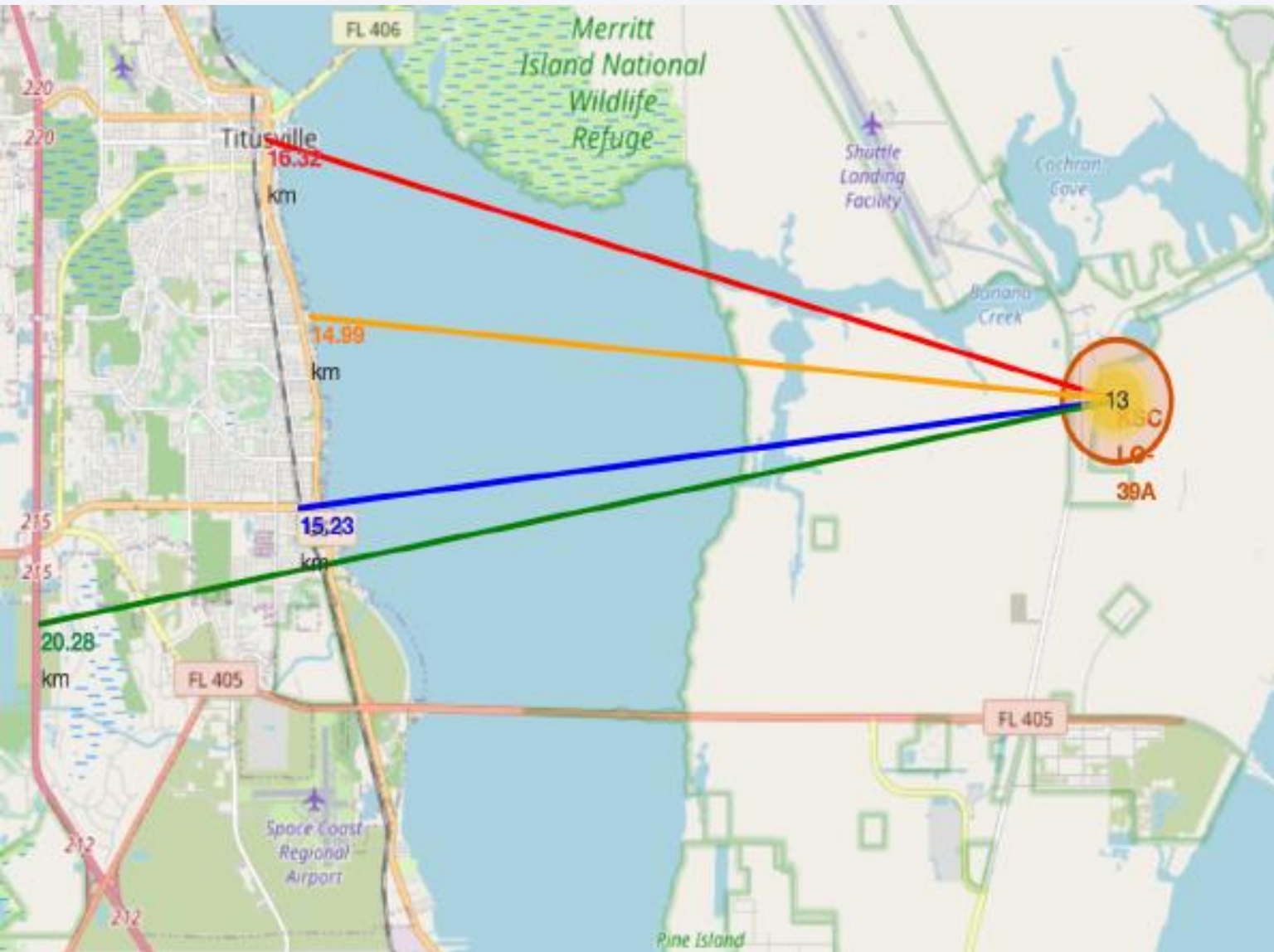
**7** and **19**

CCAFS SLC-40 (Florida)



**3** and **4**

# Site KSC LC-39A (Florida) proximities



- For site KSC LC-39A:
  - Closest railway = 15.23km
  - Closest highway = 20.28km
  - Closest coastline = 14.99km
  - Closest city = 16.32km (Titusville)



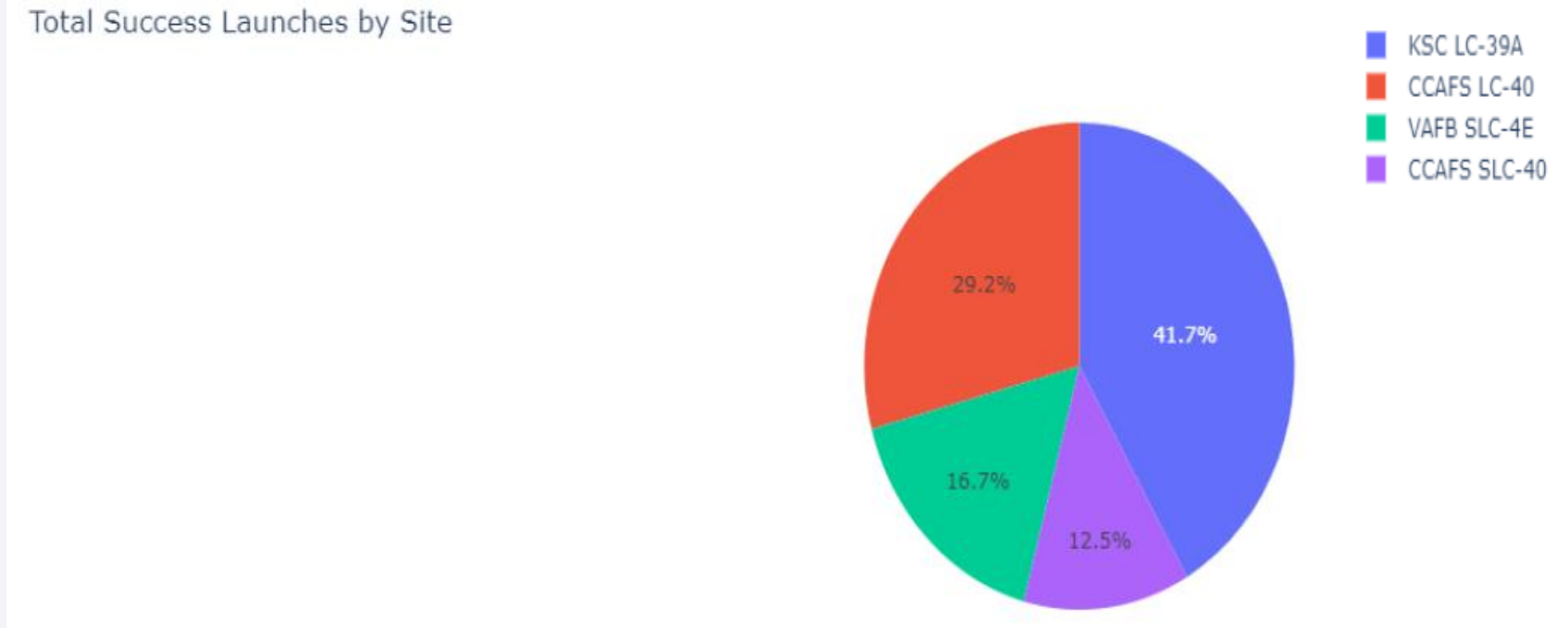


Section 4

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

# Successful launches by site

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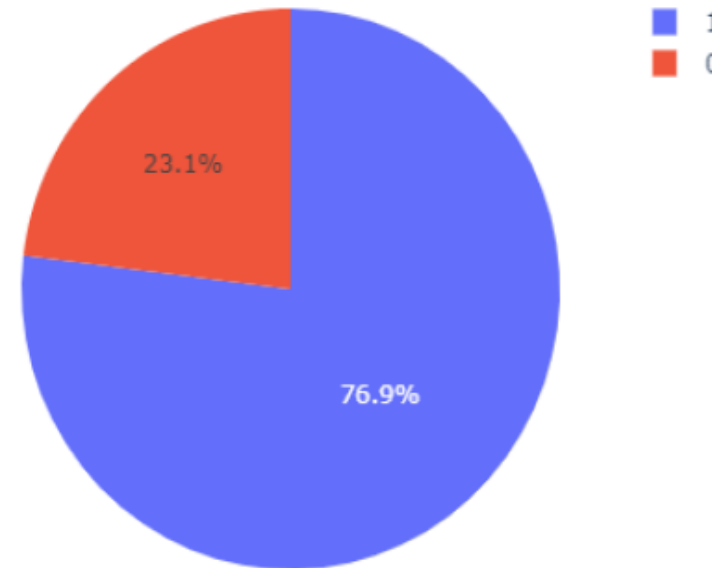


- Site KSC LC-39A (Florida) accounts for the most of all successful launches at 41.7%

# Site KSC LC-39A (Florida) probability of success

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Total Success Launches for Site KSC LC-39A



- 76.9% of all launches at site KSC LC-39A land successfully

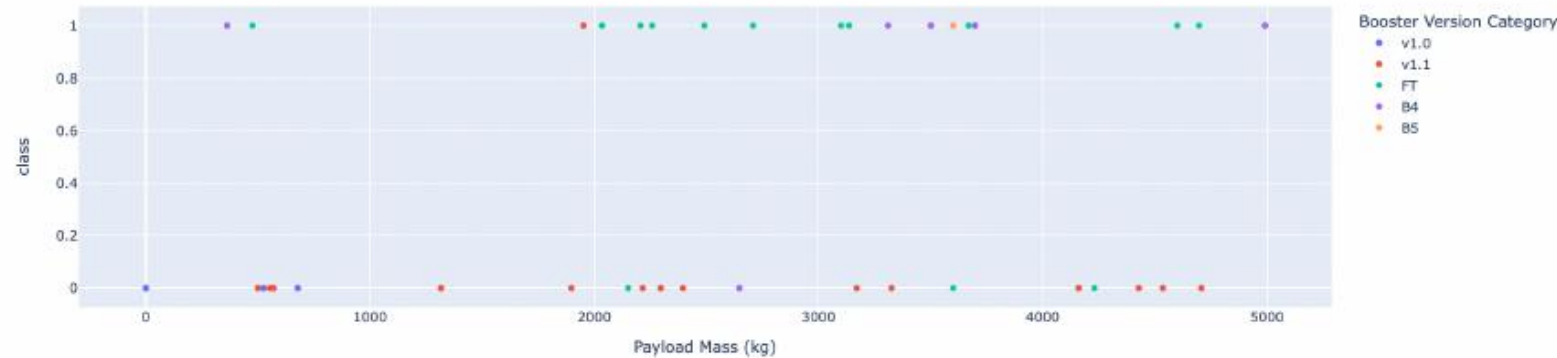


# Launch Outcome vs Payload Mass for all sites

Payload range (Kg):



Correlation Between Payload and Success for All Sites

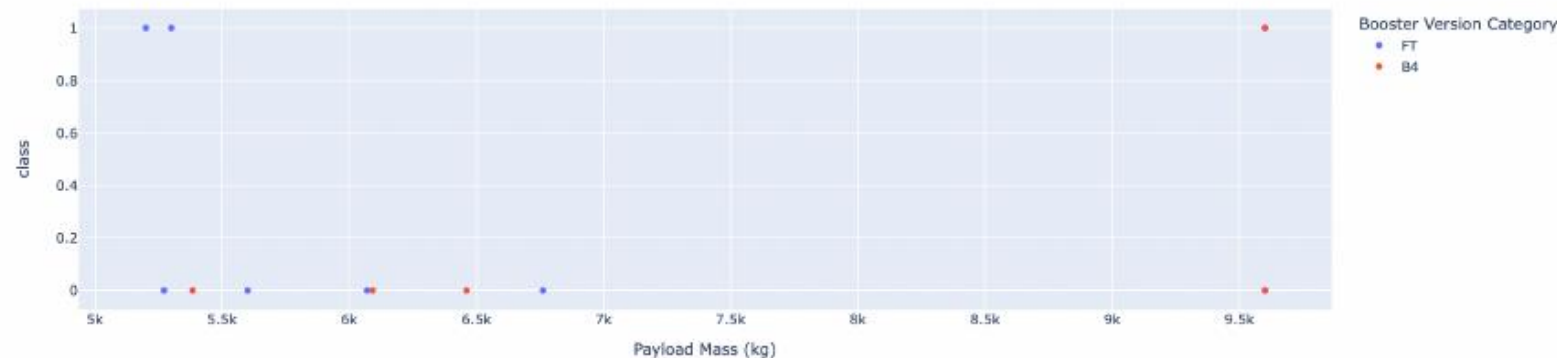


- Payloads under 5000kg have more successful landings

Payload range (Kg):



Correlation Between Payload and Success for All Sites



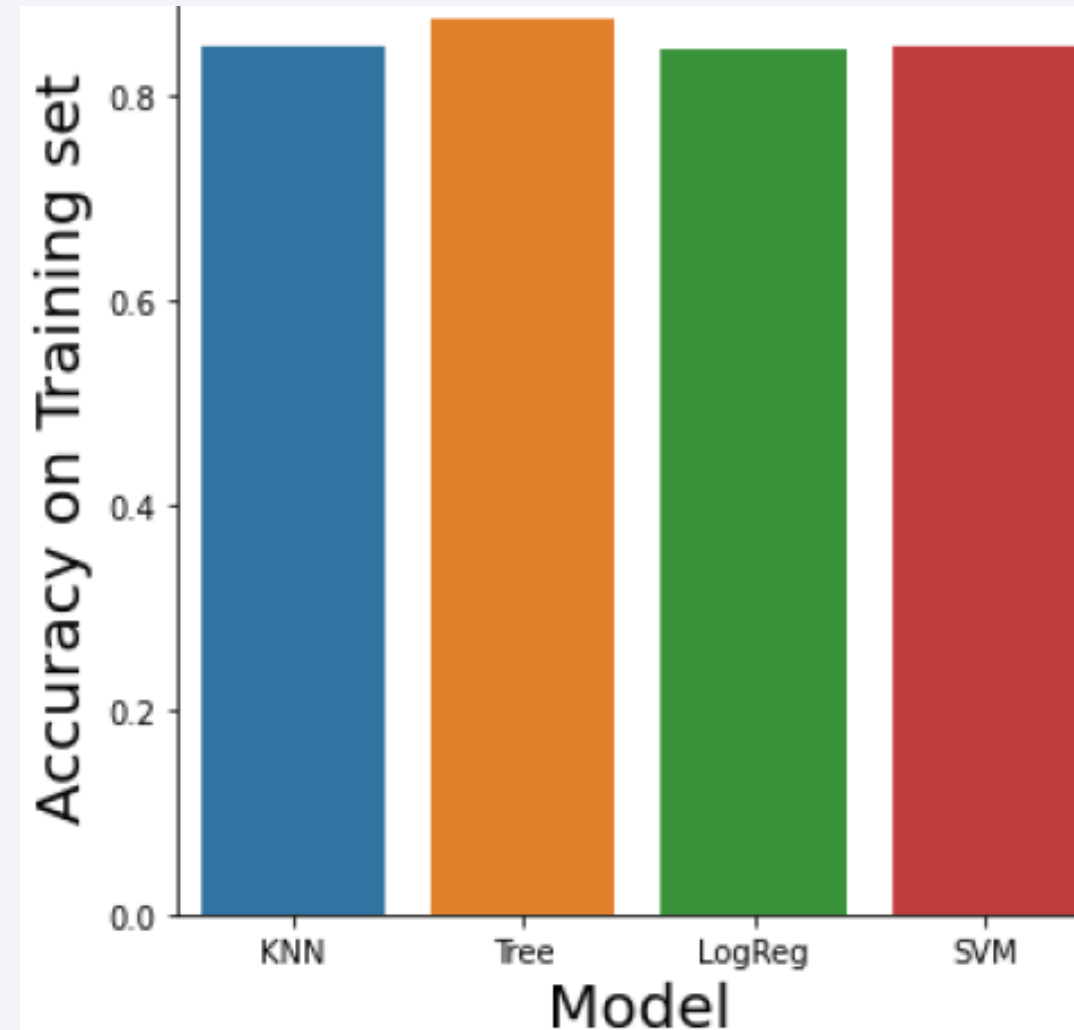
Section 5

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

# Classification Accuracy

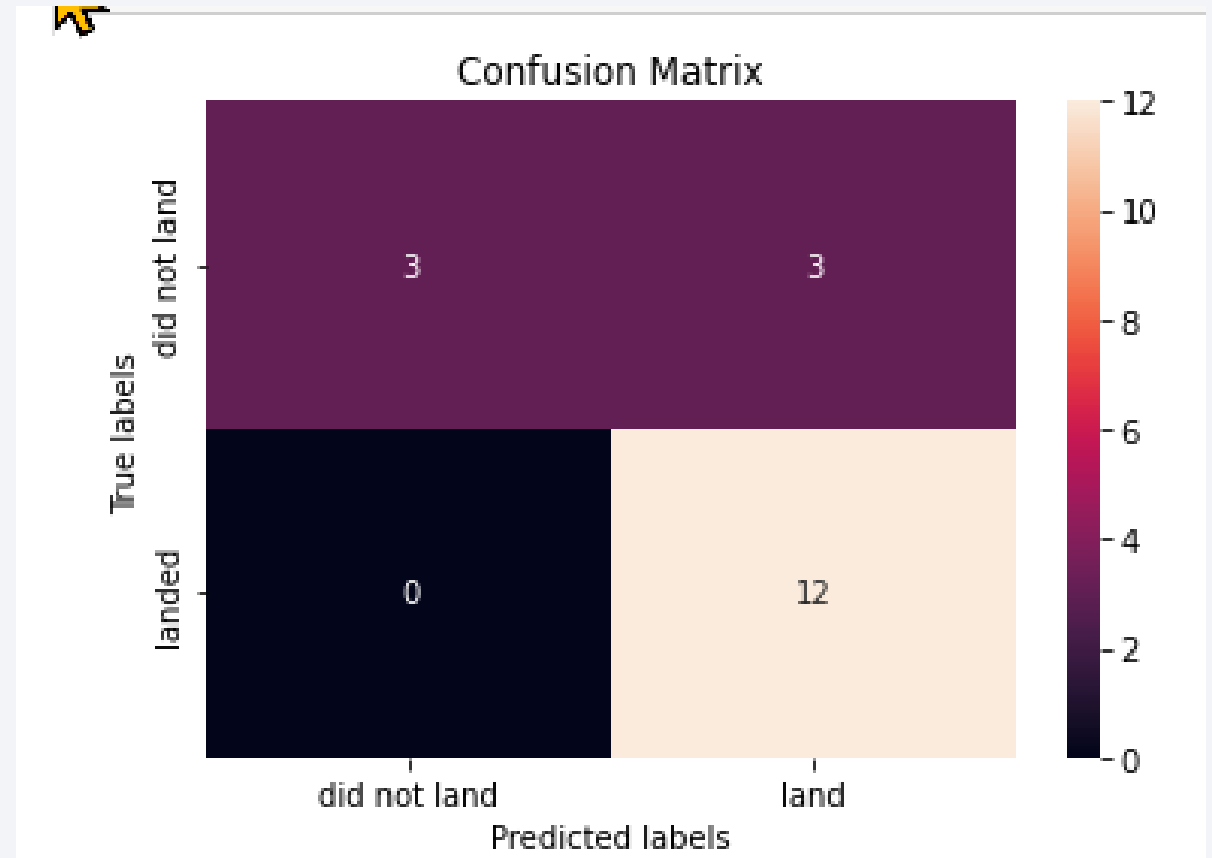
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- The tree model has the highest accuracy at 87.5%, but it is close to all other models which had 85%



# Confusion Matrix

- True negatives (top left) = 3
  - False positives (top right) = 3
  - False negatives (bottom left) = 0
  - True Positives (bottom right) = 12
- Summary
    - The combination of low (zero) False Negatives and high True Positives, this is a good model – but there is room for improvement
    - Additional feature engineering could prove useful



# Conclusions

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- Using the KSC LC-39A (Florida) site for the launch gives us the best probability for success
- Low weight payloads (under 5000kg) give a higher probability of success
- Using orbits of ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO give a higher probability of success
- Decision Tree was found to be the best performing model for predicting Falcon 9 Rocket landing success



Thank you!

