



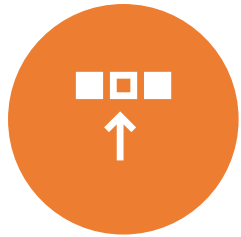
IBM Developer
SKILLS NETWORK

Winning Space Race with Data Science

Mohamed-Taha Mahdaoui
May 5th, 2025



Outline



EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION



METHODOLOGY

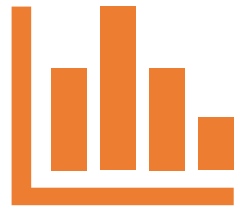


RESULTS



CONCLUSION

Executive Summary



SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGIES

Data Collection

Data Wrangling

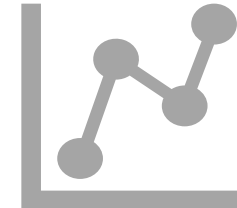
Exploratory Data Analysis with Data Visualization

Exploratory Data Analysis with SQL

Building an interactive map with Folium

Building a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Predictive analysis (Classification)



SUMMARY OF ALL RESULTS

Exploratory Data Analysis results

Interactive analytics demo in screenshots

Predictive analysis results

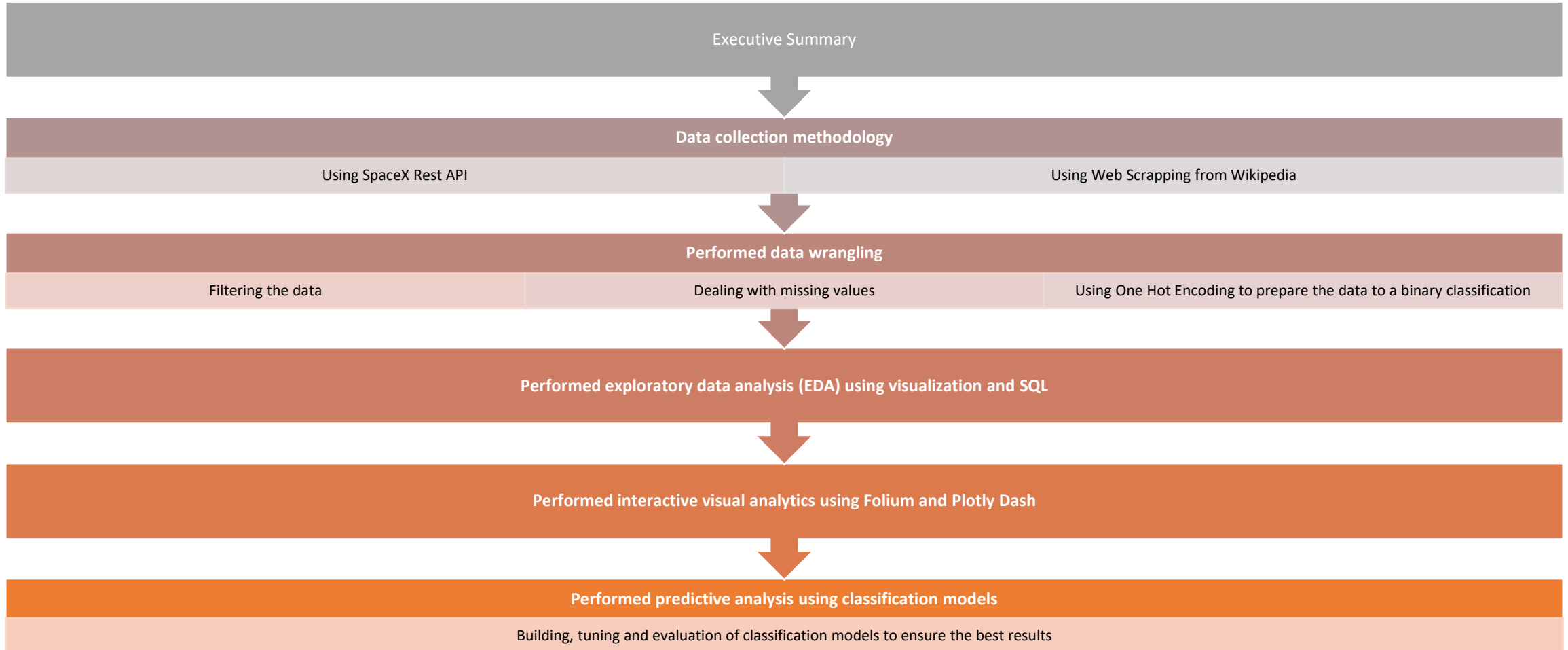
Introduction

- Project background and context
- SpaceX is the most successful company of the commercial space age, making space travel affordable. The company advertises Falcon 9 rocket launches on its website, with a cost of 62 million dollars; other providers cost upward of 165 million dollars each, much of the savings is because SpaceX can reuse the first stage. Therefore, if we can determine if the first stage will land, we can determine the cost of a launch. Based on public information and machine learning models, we are going to predict if SpaceX will reuse the first stage.
- Problems you want to find answers
 - How do variables such as payload mass, launch site, number of flights, and orbits affect the success of the first stage landing?
 - Does the rate of successful landings increase over the years?
 - What is the best algorithm that can be used for binary classification in this case?

Section 1

Methodology

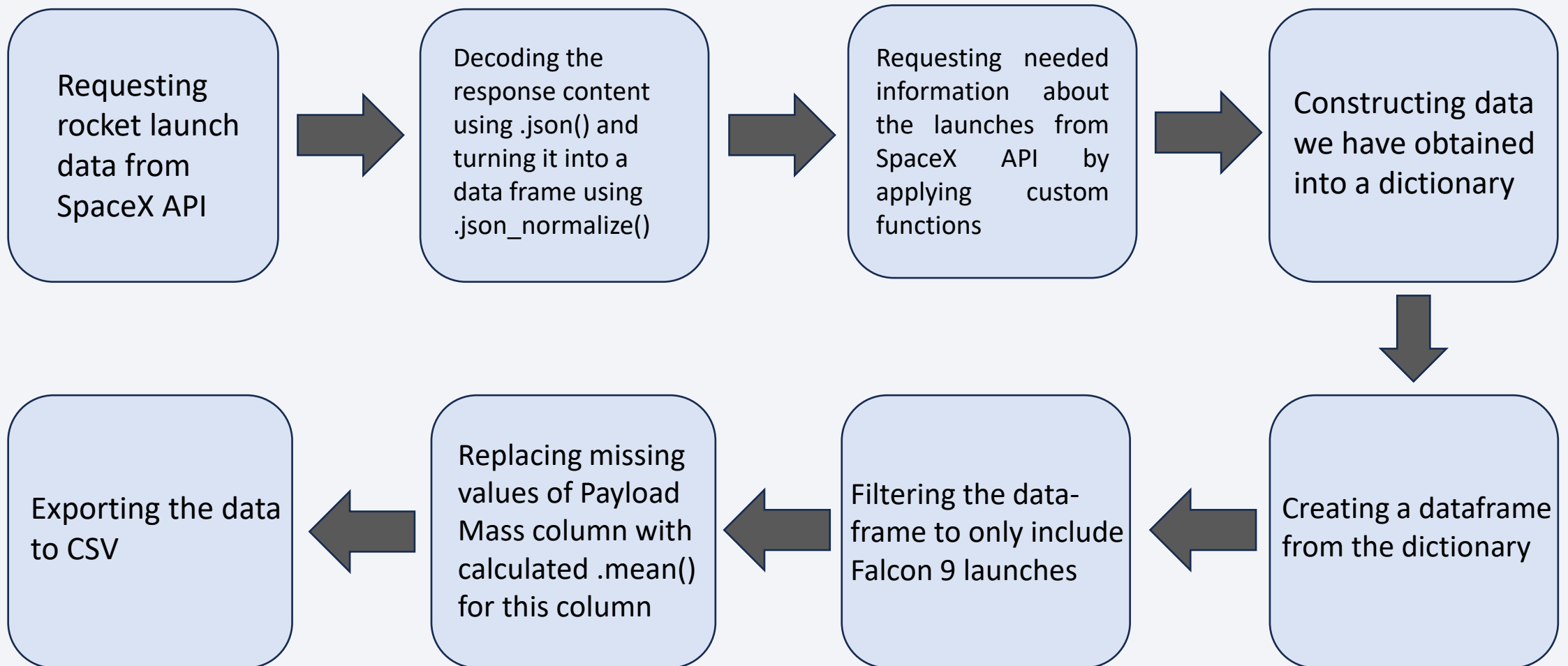
Methodology



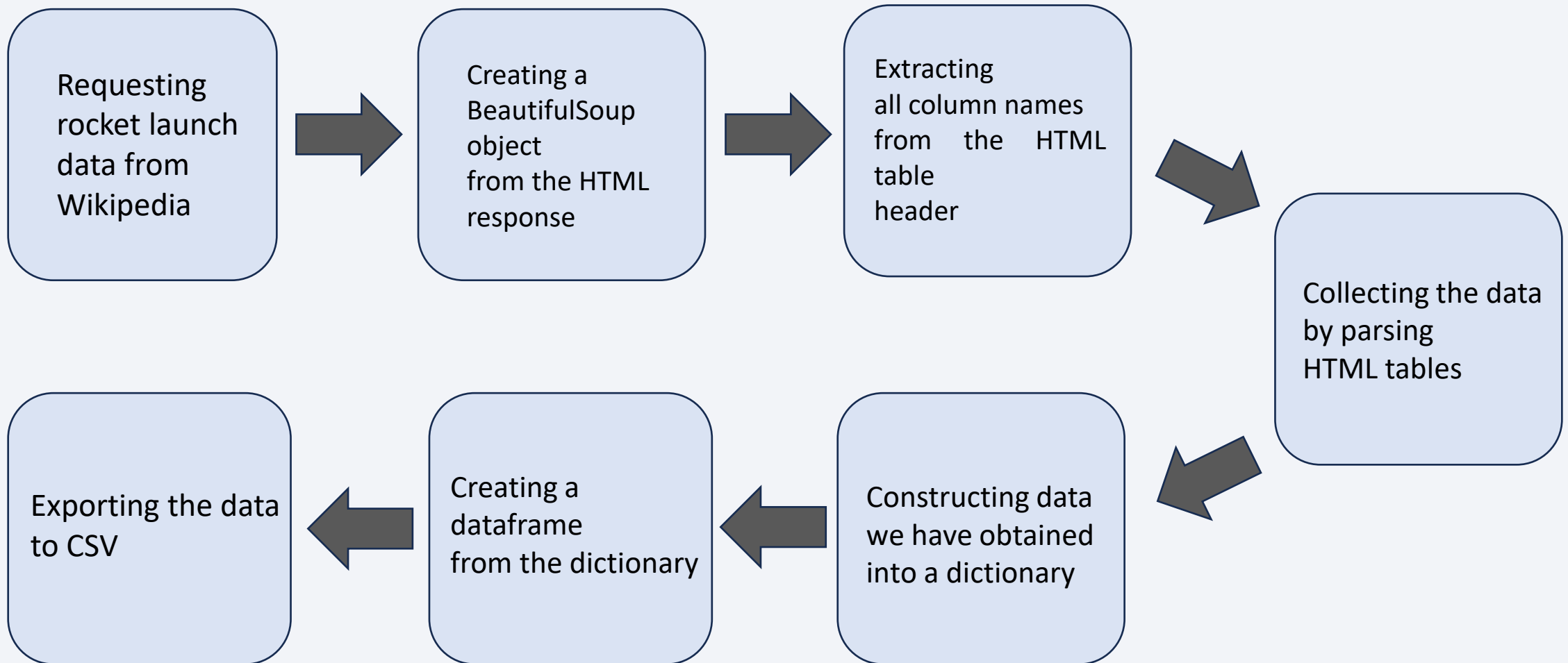
Data Collection

- Data collection process involved a combination of API requests from SpaceX REST API and Web Scraping data from a table in SpaceX's Wikipedia entry. We had to use both of these data collection methods in order to get complete information about the launches for a more detailed analysis.
- **Data Columns are obtained by using SpaceX REST API:**
 - **Columns:** FlightNumber, Date, BoosterVersion, PayloadMass, Orbit, LaunchSite, Outcome, Flights, GridFins, Reused, Legs, LandingPad, Block, ReusedCount, Serial, Longitude, Latitude.
- **Data Columns are obtained by using Wikipedia Web Scraping:**
 - **Columns:** Flight No., Launch site, Payload, PayloadMass, Orbit, Customer, LaunchOutcome, Version Booster, Booster landing, Date, Time.

Data Collection – SpaceX API



Data Collection – Scraping



Data Wrangling

In the data set, there are several different cases where the booster did not land successfully. Sometimes a landing was attempted but failed due to an accident; for example, True Ocean means the mission outcome was successfully landed to a specific region of the ocean while False Ocean means the mission outcome was unsuccessfully landed to a specific region of the ocean. True RTLS means the mission outcome was successfully landed to a ground pad False RTLS means the mission outcome was unsuccessfully landed to a groundpad. True ASDS means the mission outcome was successfully landed on a drone ship False ASDS means the mission outcome was unsuccessfully landed on a drone ship.

We mainly convert those outcomes into Training Labels with “1” means the booster successfully landed, “0” means it was unsuccessful.

Perform Exploratory Data Analysis and determine Training Labels

Calculate the number of launches on each site

Calculate the number and occurrence of each orbit

Calculate the number and occurrence of mission outcome per orbit type

Create a landing outcome label from Outcome column

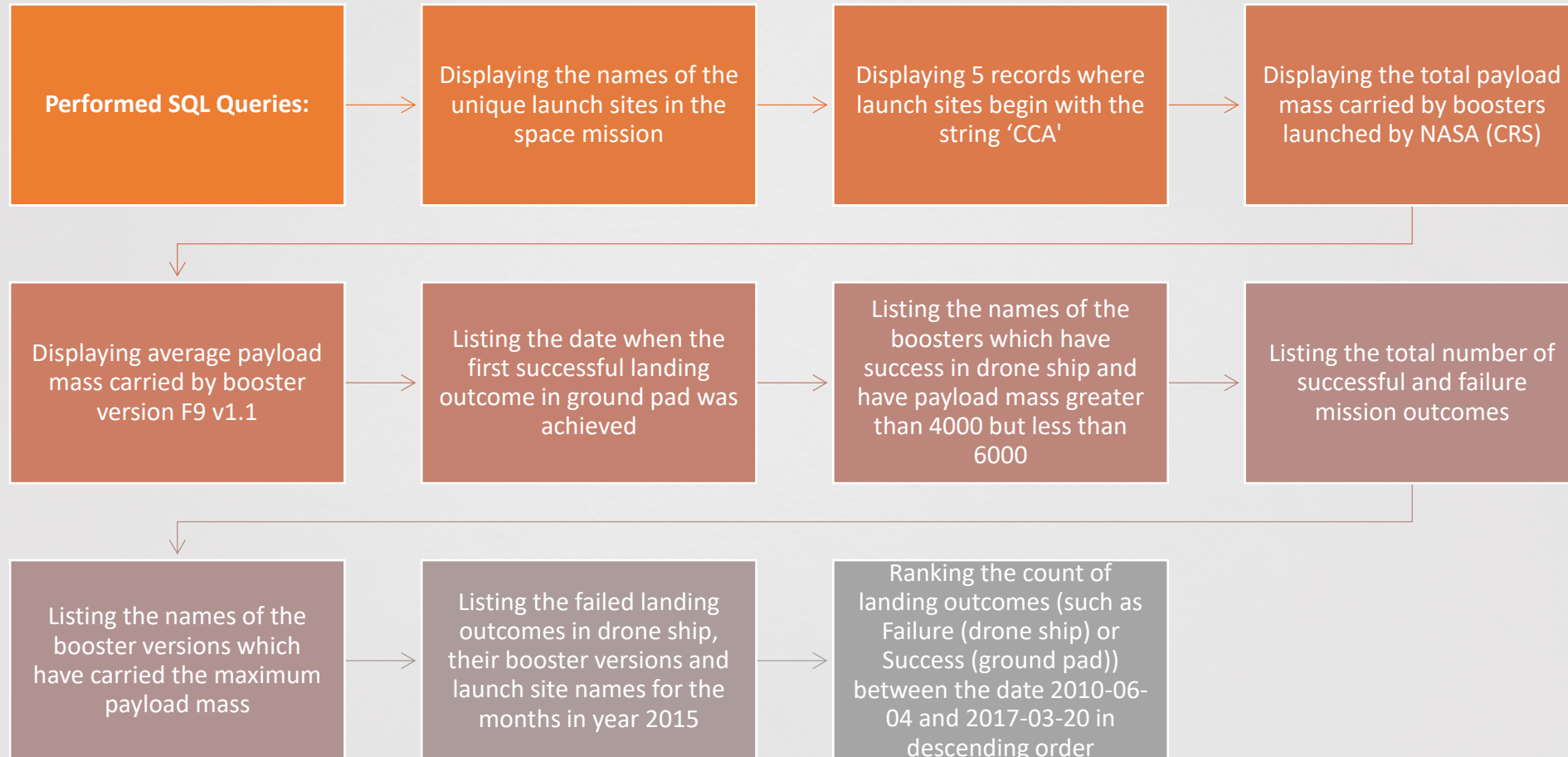
Exporting the data to CSV

EDA with Data Visualization

- **Charts plotted :**
 - Flight Number vs. Payload Mass, Flight Number vs. Launch Site, Payload Mass vs. Launch Site, Orbit Type vs. Success Rate, Flight Number vs. Orbit Type, Payload Mass vs Orbit Type and Success Rate Yearly Trend.
 - Scatter plots show the relationship between variables. If a relationship exists, they could be used in machine learning model.
 - Bar charts show comparisons among discrete categories. The goal is to show the relationship between the specific categories being compared and a measured value.
 - Line charts show trends in data over time (time series).

[GitHub: EDA with Data Visualization](#)

EDA with SQL



Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- **Markers of all Launch Sites:**

- - Added Marker with Circle, Popup Label and Text Label of NASA Johnson Space Center using its latitude and longitude coordinates as a start location.
- - Added Markers with Circle, Popup Label and Text Label of all Launch Sites using their latitude and longitude coordinates to show their geographical locations and proximity to Equator and coasts.

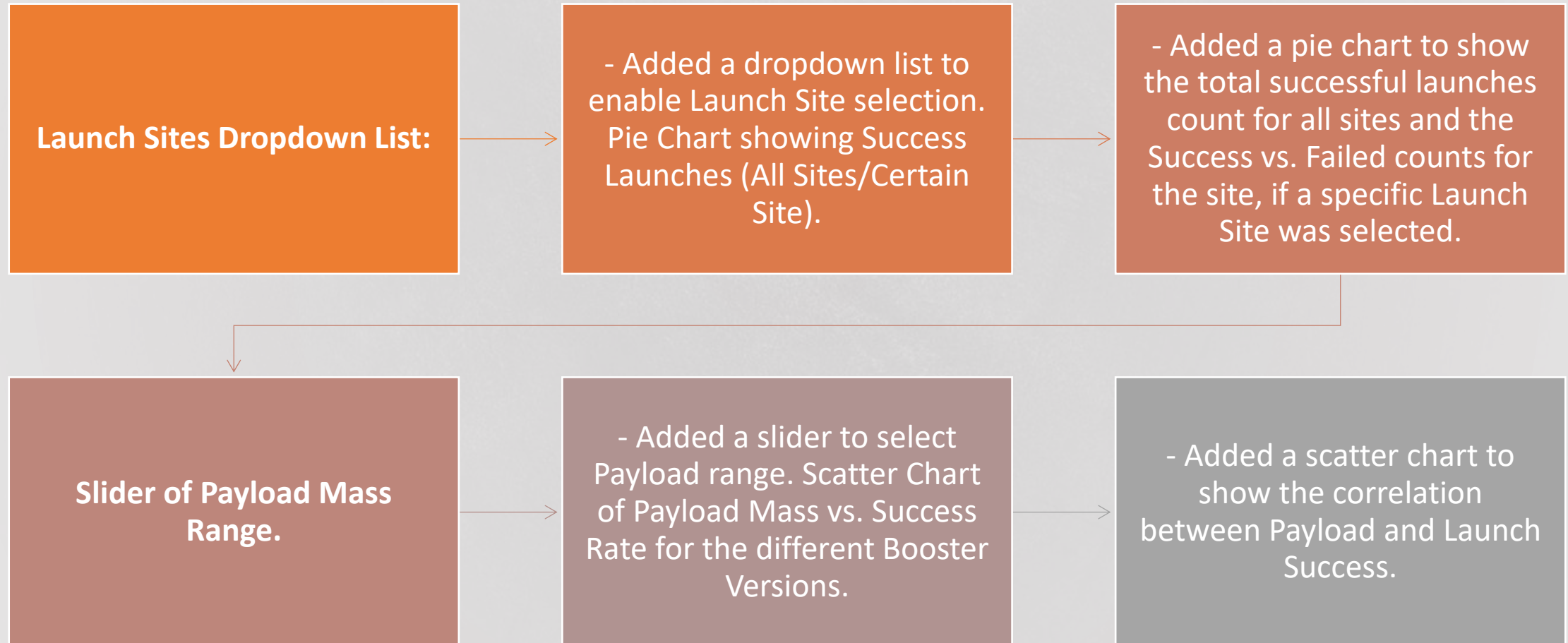
- **Colored Markers of the launch outcomes for each Launch Site:**

- - Added colored Markers of success (Green) and failed (Red) launches using Marker Cluster to identify which launch sites have relatively high success rates.

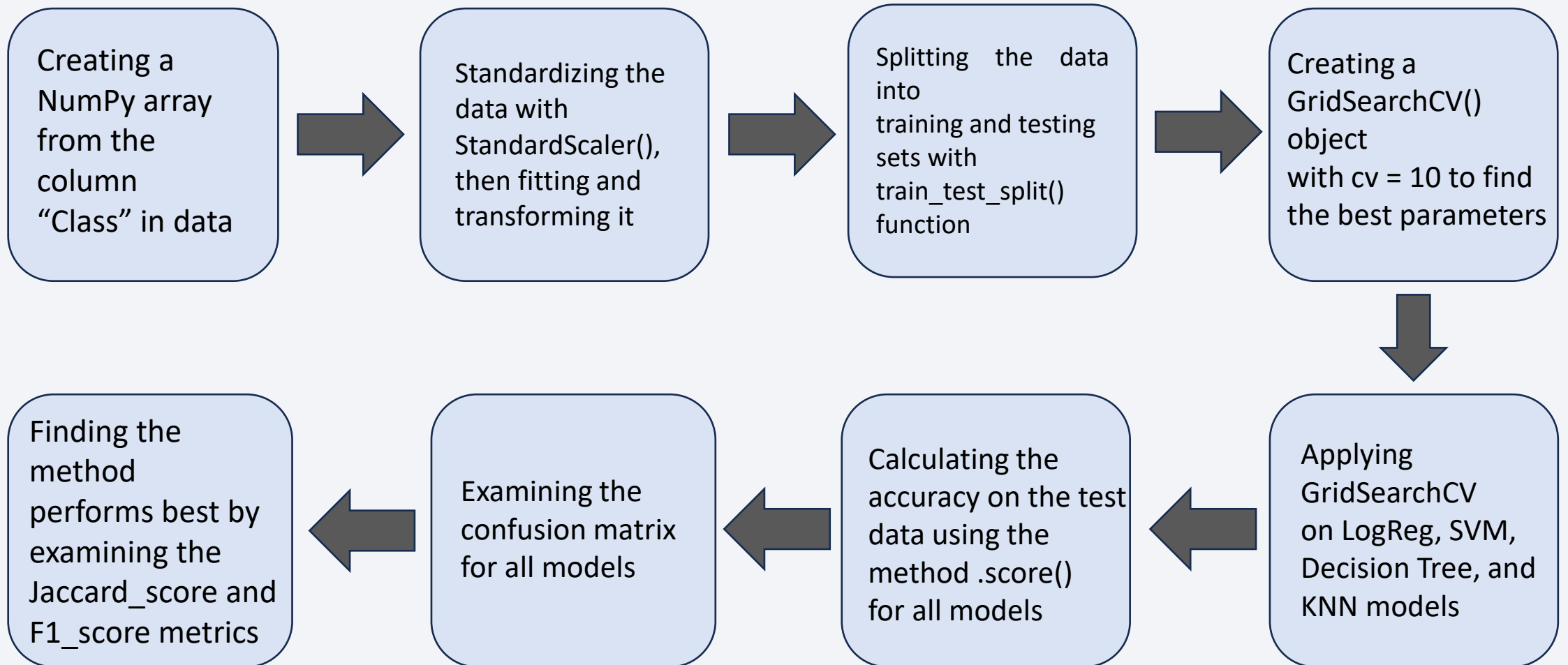
- **Distances between a Launch Site to its proximities:**

- - Added colored Lines to show distances between the Launch Site KSC LC-39A (as an example) and its proximities like Railway, Highway, Coastline and Closest City.

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash



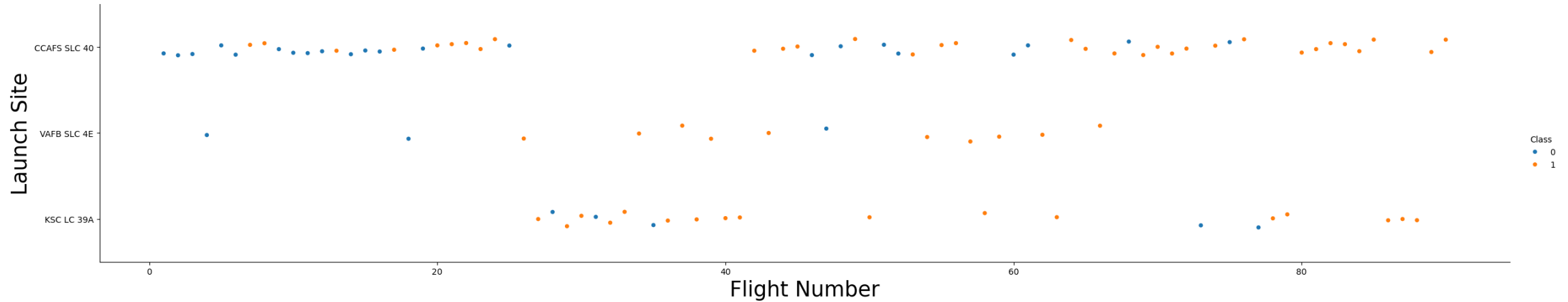
Predictive Analysis (Classification)



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-left quadrant. The overall effect is dynamic and technological.

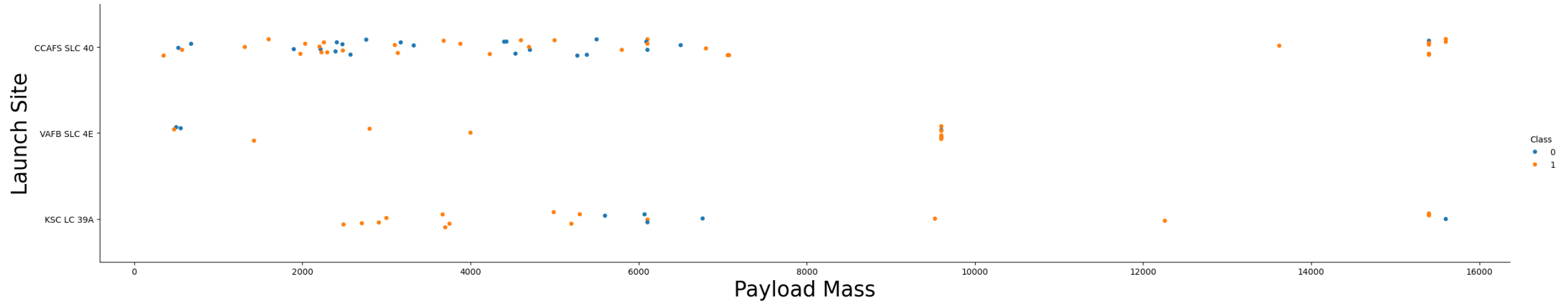
Section 2

Insights drawn from EDA



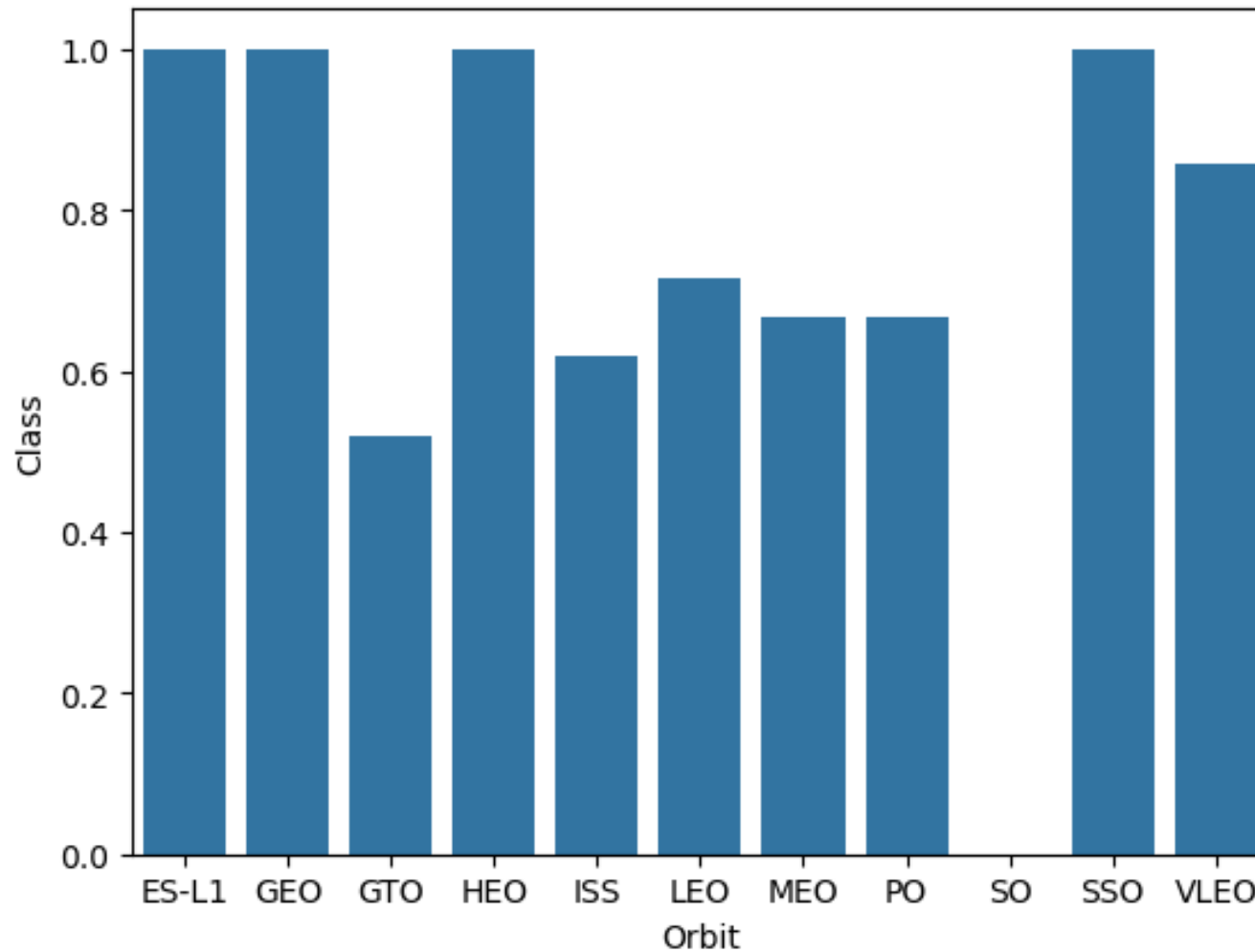
Flight Number vs. Launch Site

- Show a scatter plot of Flight Number vs. Launch Site
- The earliest flights all failed while the latest flights all succeeded.
- The CCAFS SLC 40 launch site has about a half of all launches.
- VAFB SLC 4E and KSC LC 39A have higher success rates.
- It can be assumed that each new launch has a higher rate of success.



Payload vs. Launch Site

- Show a scatter plot of Payload vs. Launch Site
- For every launch site the higher the payload mass, the higher the success rate.
- Most of the launches with payload mass over 7000 kg were successful.
- KSC LC 39A has a 100% success rate for payload mass under 5500 kg too.

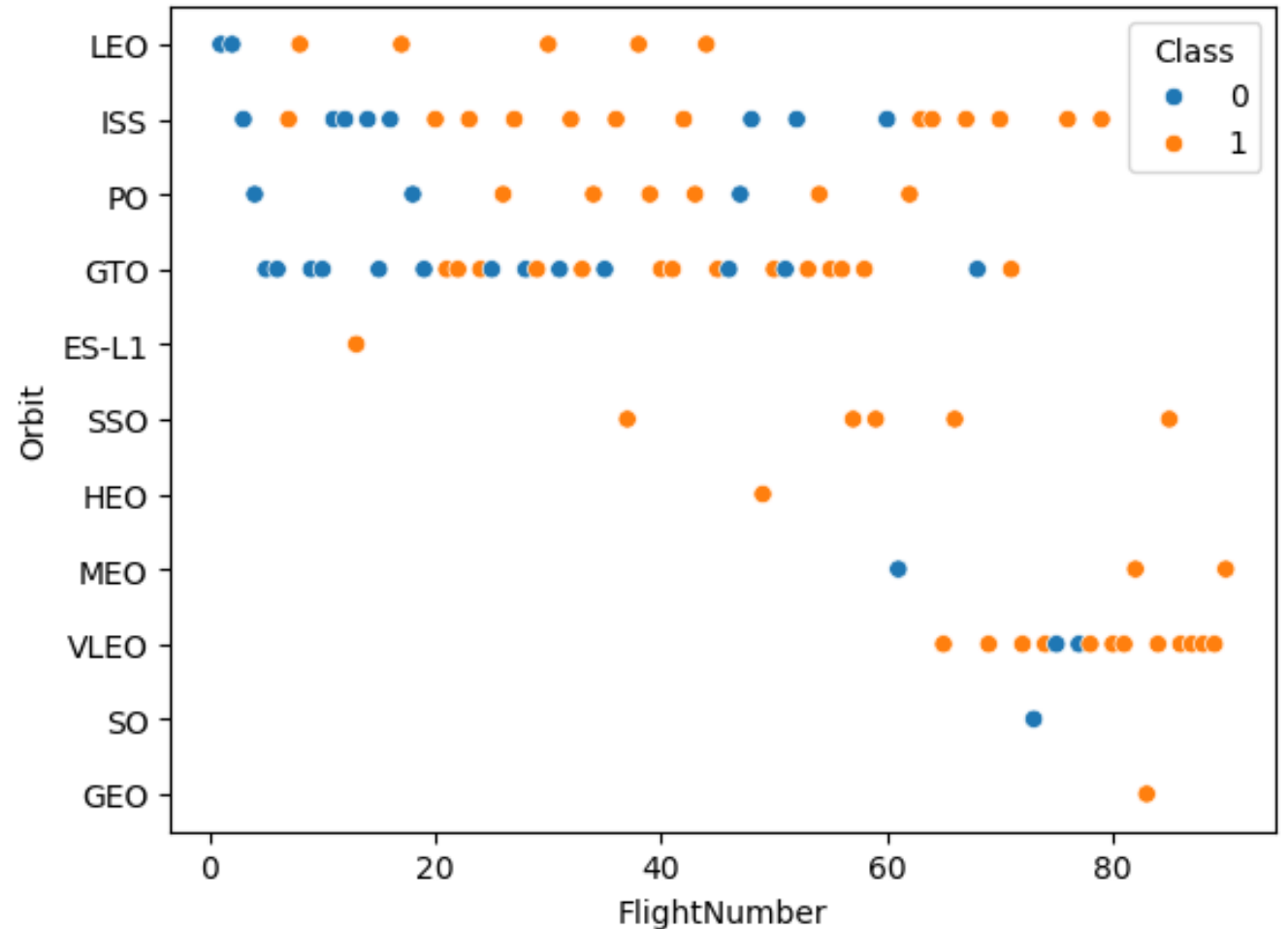


Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

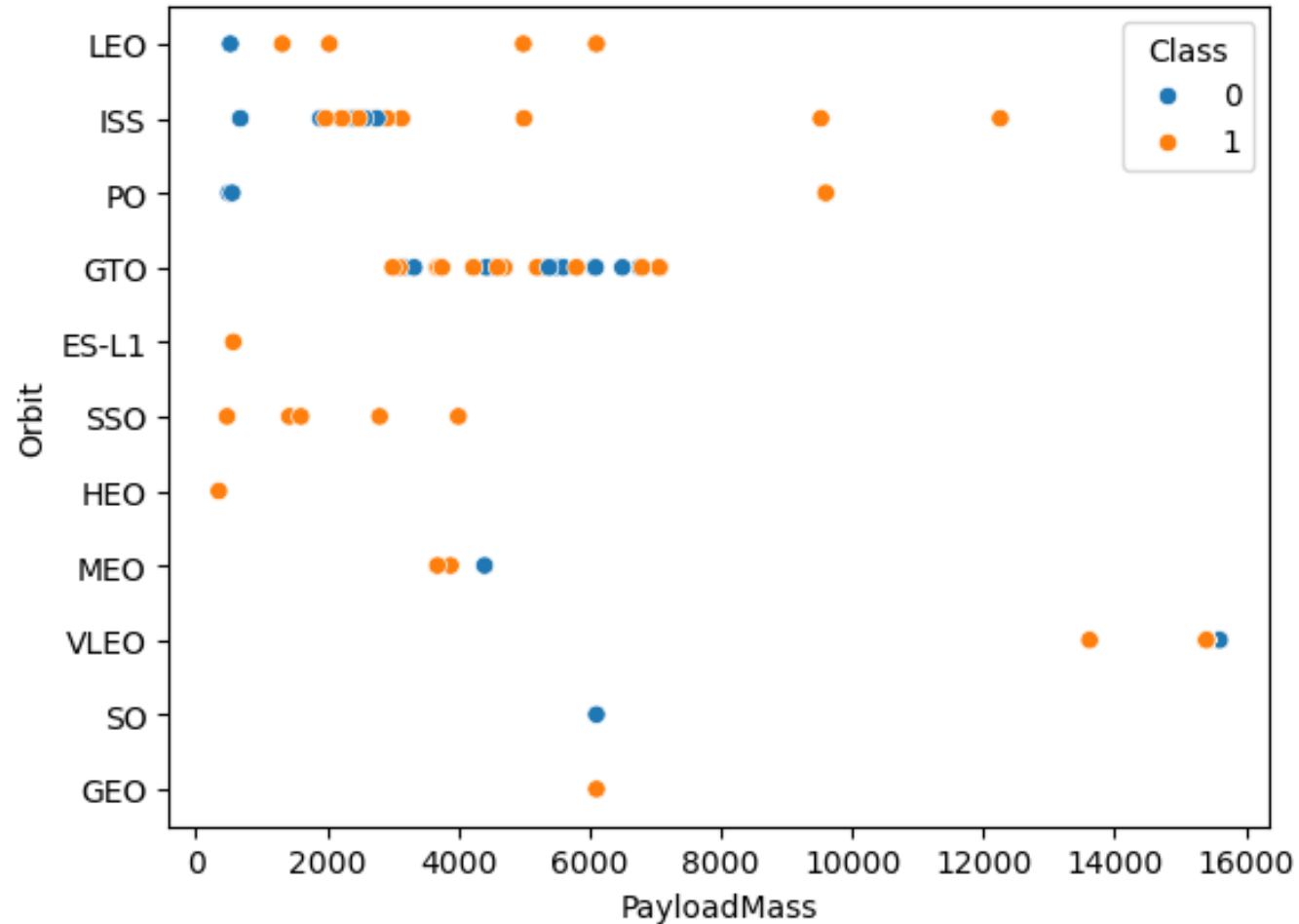
- Orbits with 100% success rate:
 - ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO
- Orbits with 0% success rate:
 - SO
- Orbits with success rate between 50% and 85%:
 - GTO, ISS, LEO, MEO, PO

Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

In the LEO orbit the Success appears related to the number of flights; on the other hand, there seems to be no relationship between flight number when in GTO orbit.



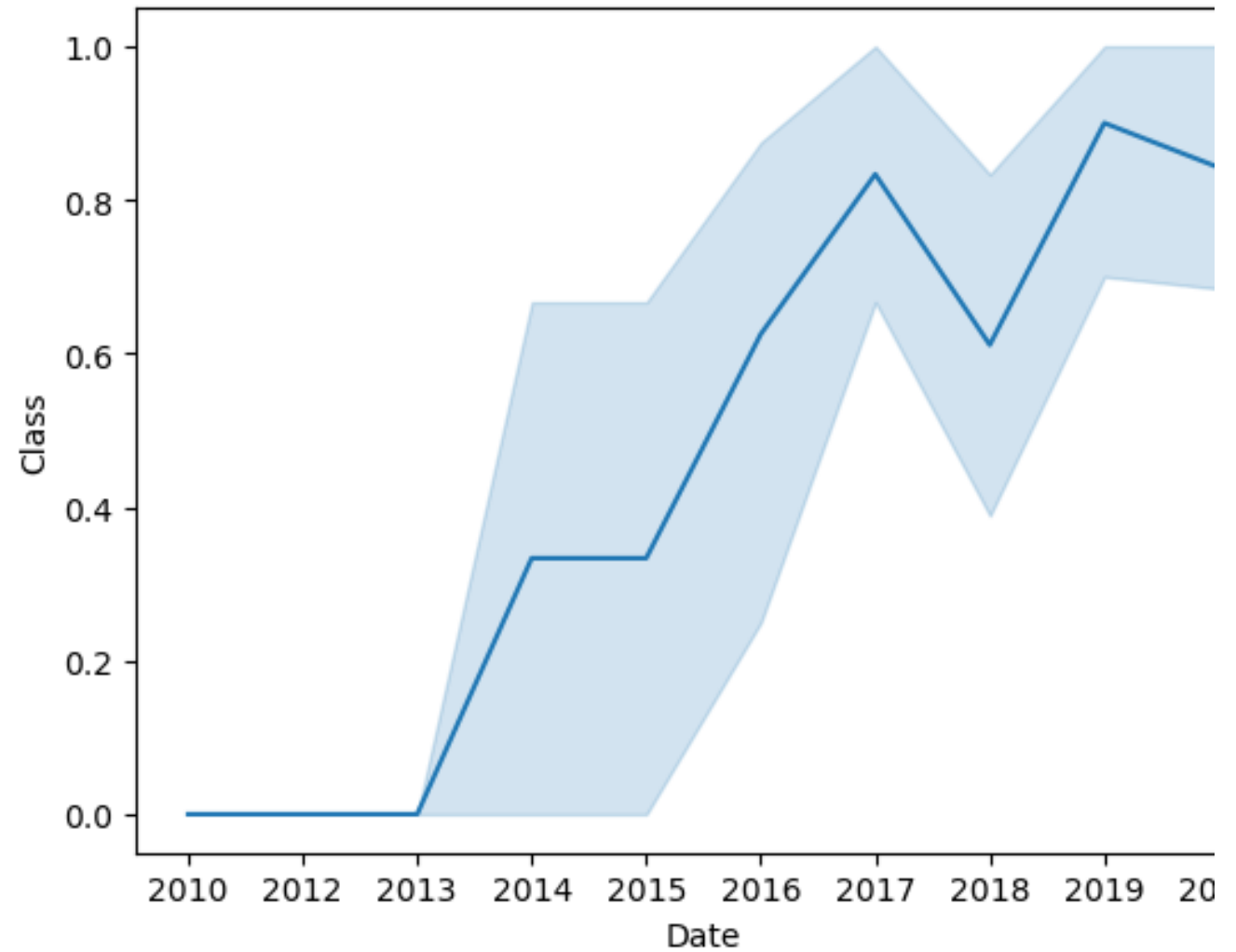
Payload vs. Orbit Type



Heavy payloads have a negative influence on GTO orbits and positive on GTO and Polar LEO (ISS) orbits.

Launch Success Yearly Trend

The success rate since 2013 kept increasing till 2020.



```
[11]: %sql select distinct("Launch_Site") from SPACEXTABLE;
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

```
Done.
```

```
[11]: Launch_Site
```

```
CCAFS LC-40
```

```
VAFB SLC-4E
```

```
KSC LC-39A
```

```
CCAFS SLC-40
```

All Launch Site Names

Displaying the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission.

Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

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

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

```
[12]: %sql select * from SPACEXTABLE where "Launch_Site" like "CCA%" limit 5;
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db  
Done.
```

```
[12]:
```

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

```
[13]: %sql select sum("PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_") from SPACEXTABLE where Customer = "NASA (CRS)";
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

```
Done.
```

```
[13]: sum("PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_")
```

```
45596
```

Total Payload Mass

Displaying the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS).

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

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

```
[15]: %sql select avg("PAYLOAD_MASS_KG") as Average_Payload_Mass from SPACEXTABLE where "Booster_Version" like "%F9 v1.1%";
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

```
Done.
```

```
[15]: Average_Payload_Mass
```

```
2534.6666666666665
```

```
[16]: %sql select min("Date") from SPACEXTABLE where "Landing_Outcome" = "Success (ground pad)";
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

```
Done.
```

```
[16]: min("Date")
```

```
2015-12-22
```

First Successful Ground Landing Date

Listing the date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved.

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

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

```
[17]: %%sql select distinct("Booster_Version") from SPACEXTABLE where "Landing_Outcome" = "Success (drone ship)"
      and "PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_" < 6000 and "PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_" > 4000;
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.
```

```
[17]: Booster_Version
```

```
F9 FT B1022
```

```
F9 FT B1026
```

```
F9 FT B1021.2
```

```
F9 FT B1031.2
```


Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

Listing the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes.

```
[18]: %%sql select mission_outcome, count(*) as Total_Outcome from SPACEXTABLE  
      group by mission_outcome;
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

Done.

```
[18]:
```

Mission_Outcome	Total_Outcome
Failure (in flight)	1
Success	98
Success	1
Success (payload status unclear)	1

Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

Listing the names of the booster versions which have carried the maximum payload mass.

```
[19]: %%sql SELECT DISTINCT("Booster_Version")
      FROM SPACEXTABLE
      WHERE "PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_" = (SELECT MAX("PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_") FROM SPACEXTABLE);

* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.
```

```
[19]: 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

2015 Launch Records

Listing the failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions and launch site names for the months in year 2015.

```
[21]: %%sql SELECT
      CASE SUBSTR(Date, 6, 2)
        WHEN '01' THEN 'January' WHEN '02' THEN 'February' WHEN '03' THEN 'March'
        WHEN '04' THEN 'April' WHEN '05' THEN 'May' WHEN '06' THEN 'June'
        WHEN '07' THEN 'July' WHEN '08' THEN 'August' WHEN '09' THEN 'September'
        WHEN '10' THEN 'October' WHEN '11' THEN 'November' WHEN '12' THEN 'December'
        ELSE 'Unknown'
      END AS Month,
      date,
      "Booster_Version",
      "Launch_Site",
      "Landing_Outcome" FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE SUBSTR(Date, 1, 4) = '2015'
      AND "Landing_Outcome" = 'Failure (drone ship)';

* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.
```

```
[21]:
```

Month	Date	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Landing_Outcome
January	2015-01-10	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)
April	2015-04-14	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)

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

Ranking 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.

```
[22]: %%sql SELECT "Landing_Outcome", count(*) as Countoutcome from SPACEXTABLE
      where Date <= "2017-03-20" and Date >= "2010-06-04"
      group by "Landing_Outcome"
      order by Countoutcome desc;
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

Done.

```
[22]:
```

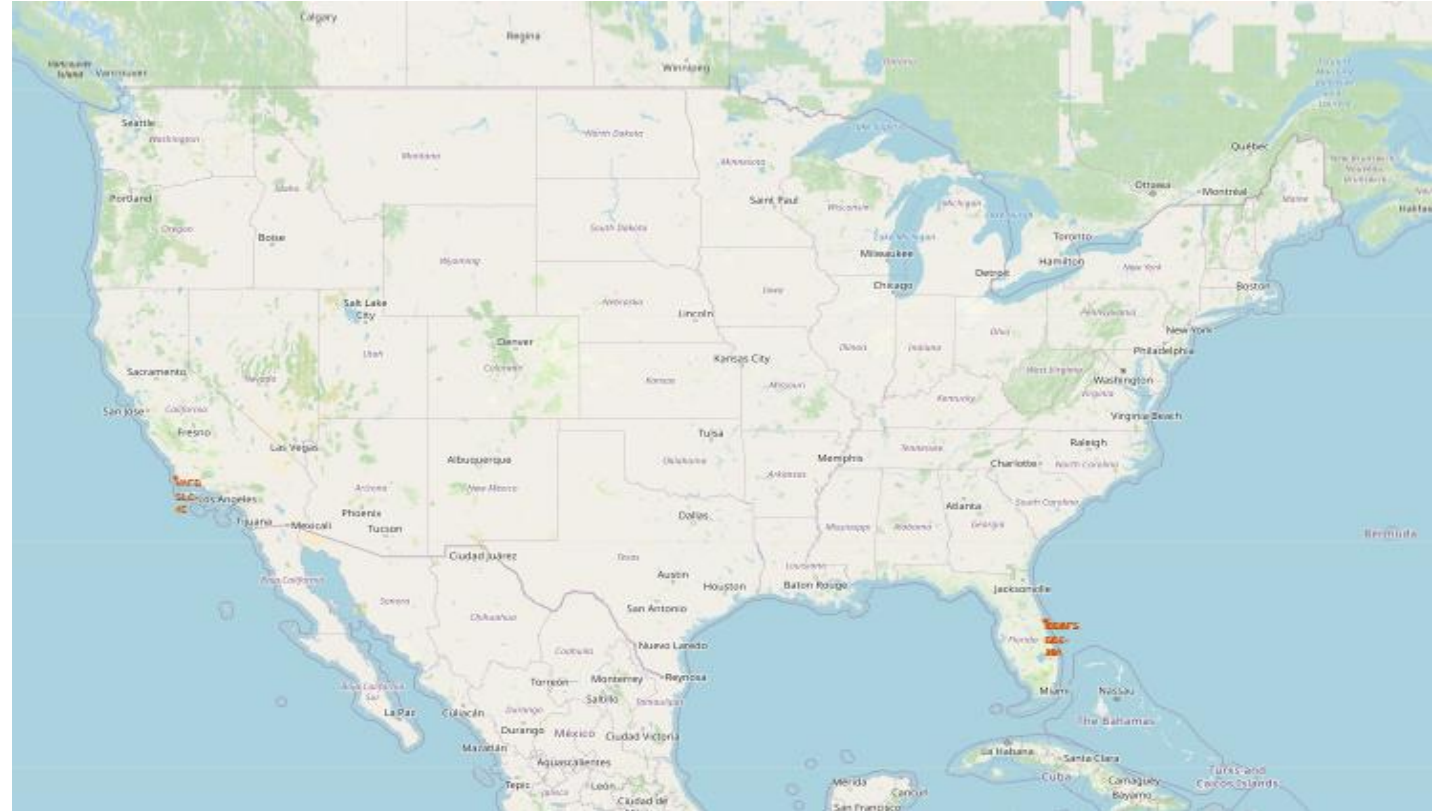
Landing_Outcome	Countoutcome
No attempt	10
Success (drone ship)	5
Failure (drone ship)	5
Success (ground pad)	3
Controlled (ocean)	3
Uncontrolled (ocean)	2
Failure (parachute)	2
Precluded (drone ship)	1

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

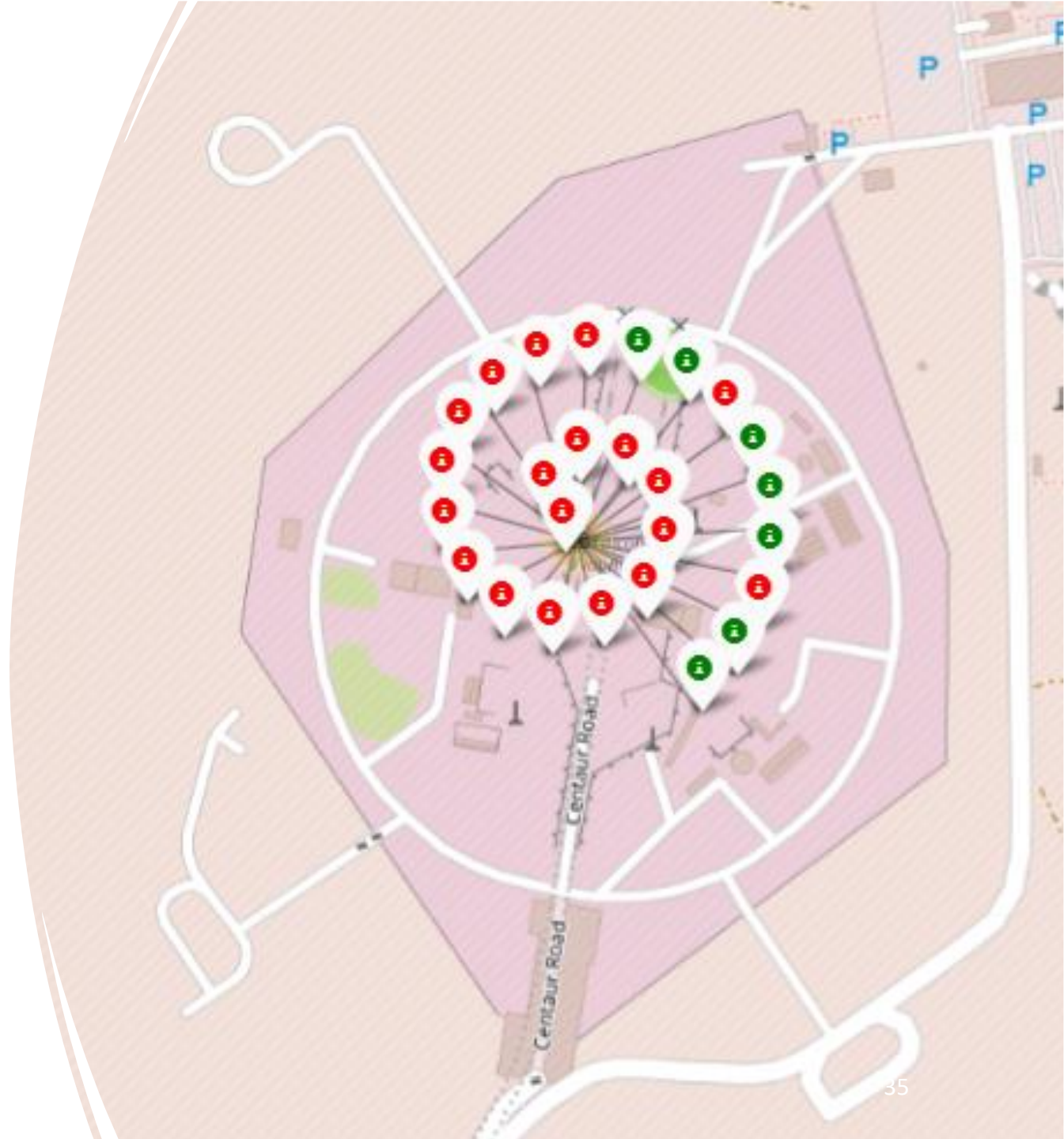
- Most of Launch sites are in proximity to the Equator line. The land is moving faster at the equator than any other place on the surface of the Earth. Anything on the surface of the Earth at the equator is already moving at 1670 km/hour. If a ship is launched from the equator it goes up into space, and it is also moving around the Earth at the same speed it was moving before launching. This is because of inertia. This speed will help the spacecraft keep up a good enough speed to stay in orbit.
- All launch sites are in very close proximity to the coast, while launching rockets towards the ocean it minimizes the risk of having any debris dropping or exploding near people.



All launch sites' location markers on a global map

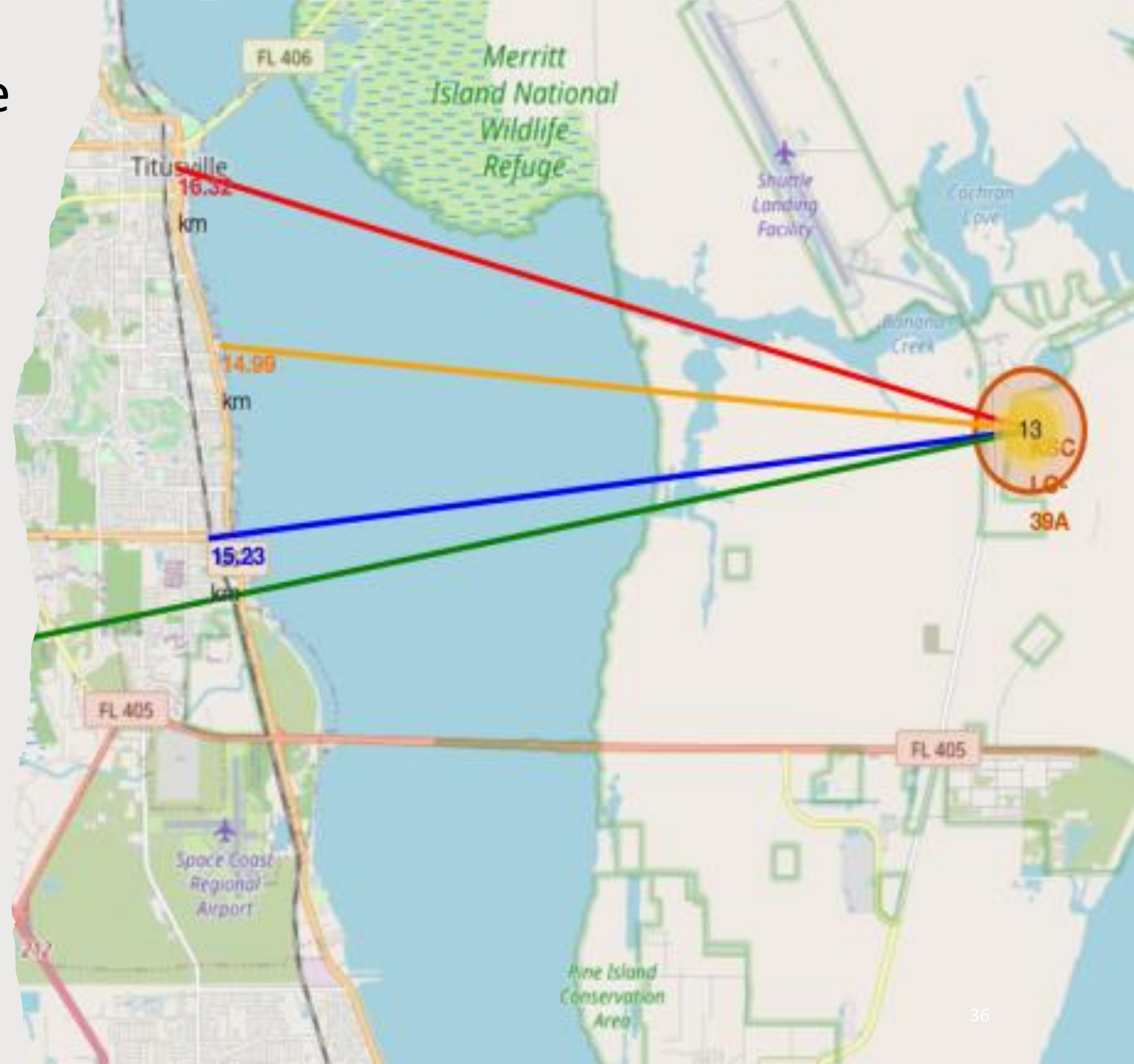
Color-labeled launch records on the map

- From the color-labeled markers we should be able to easily identify which launch sites have relatively high success rates.
 - Green Marker = Successful Launch
 - Red Marker = Failed Launch
- Launch Site KSC LC-39A has a very high Success Rate.



Distance from the launch site KSC LC-39A to its proximities

- From the visual analysis of the launch site KSC LC-39A we can clearly see that it is:
 - relatively close to railway (15.23 km)
 - relatively close to highway (20.28 km)
 - relatively close to coastline (14.99 km)
- The launch site KSC LC-39A is relatively close to its closest city Titusville (16.32 km).
- Failed rocket with its high speed can cover distances like 15-20 km in few seconds. It could be potentially dangerous to populated areas.





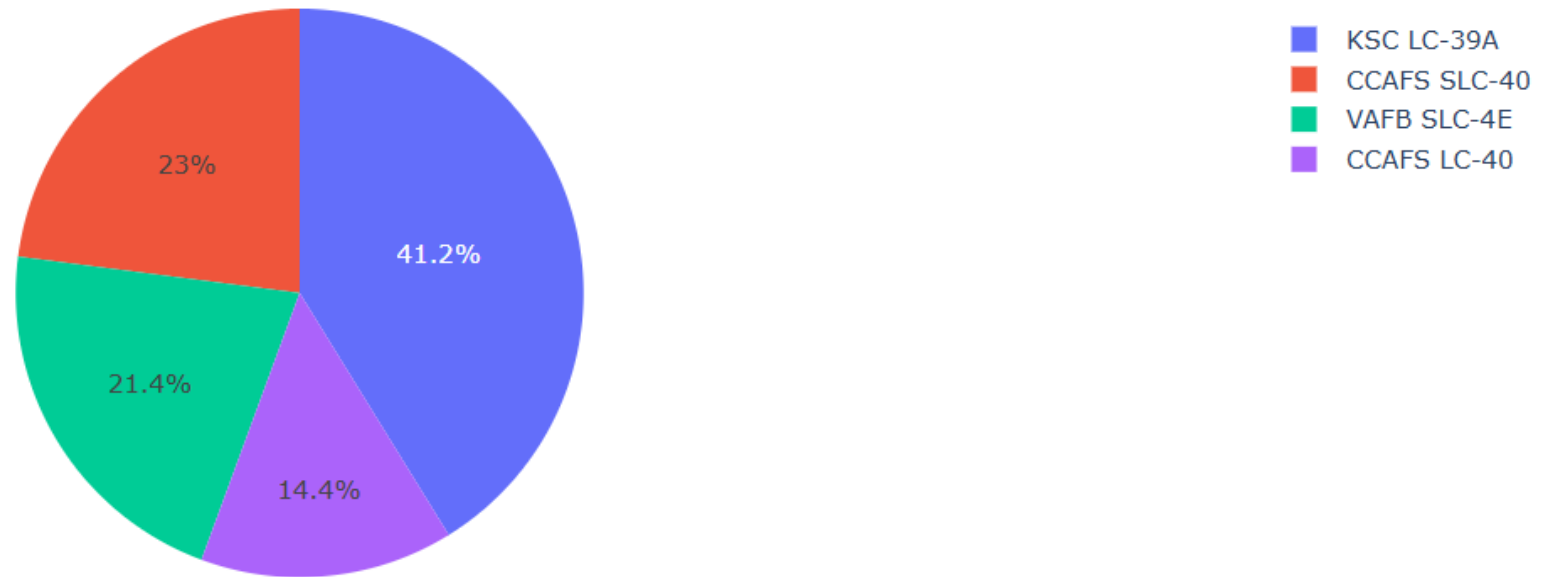
Section 4

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Launch success count for all sites

The chart clearly shows that from all the sites, KSC LC-39A has the most successful launches.

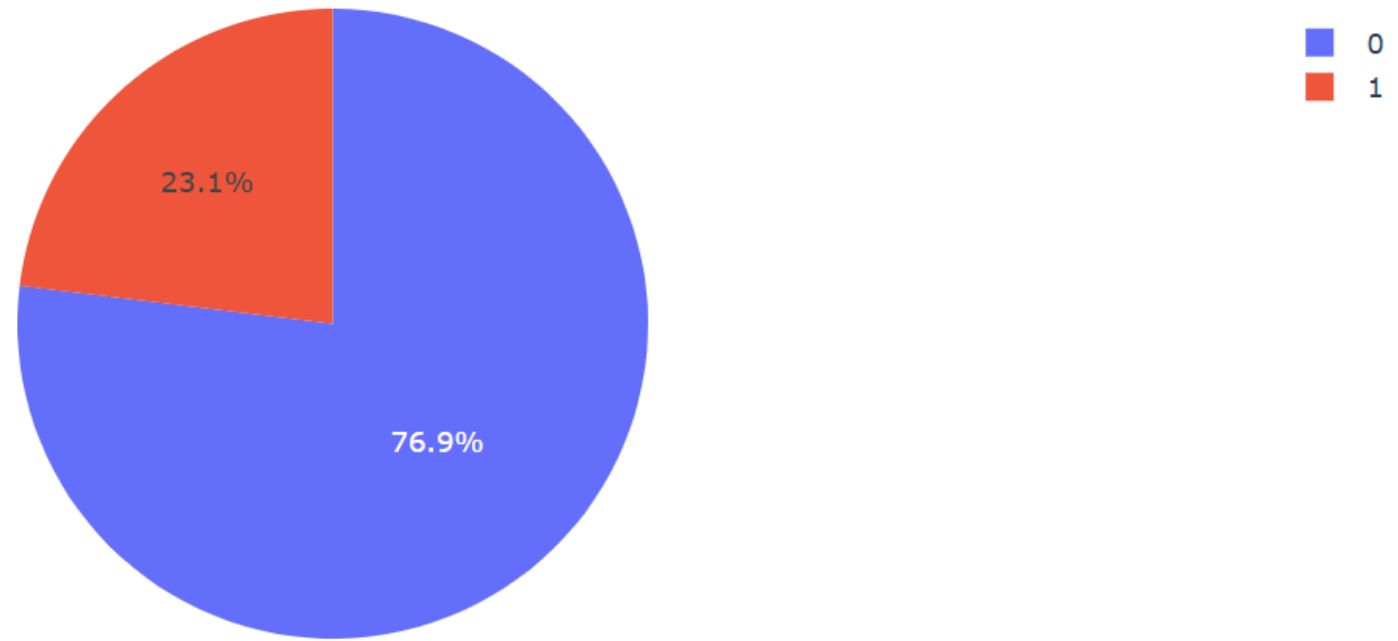
Total Success Launches by Site

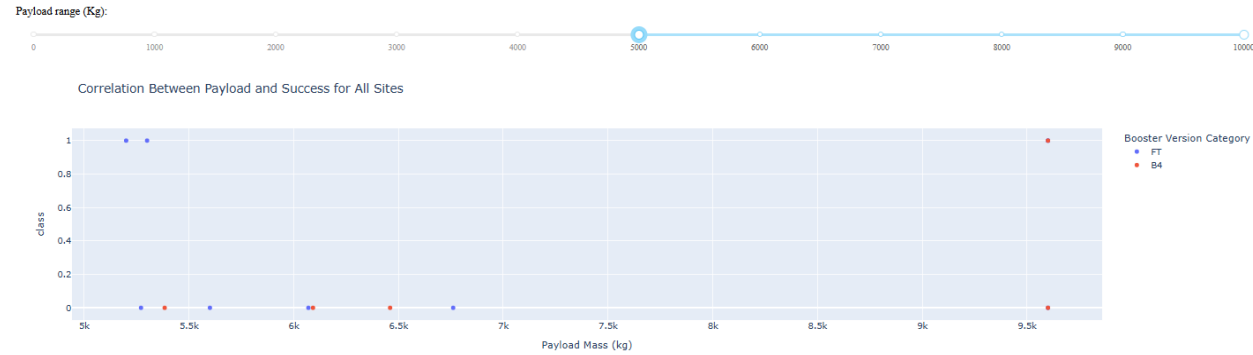


Launch site with highest launch success ratio

KSC LC-39A has the highest launch success rate (76.9%) with 10 successful and only 3 failed landings.

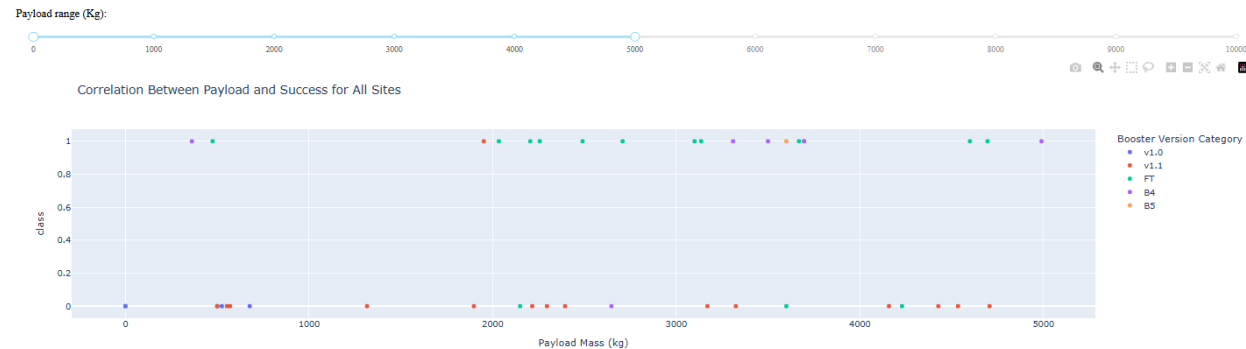
Total Success Launches for Site KSC LC-39A





Payload Mass vs. Launch Outcome for all sites

The charts show that payloads between 2000 and 5500 kg have the highest success rate.



Section 5

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

	LogReg	SVM	Tree	KNN
Jaccard_Score	0.833333	0.845070	0.880597	0.819444
F1_Score	0.909091	0.916031	0.936508	0.900763
Accuracy	0.866667	0.877778	0.911111	0.855556

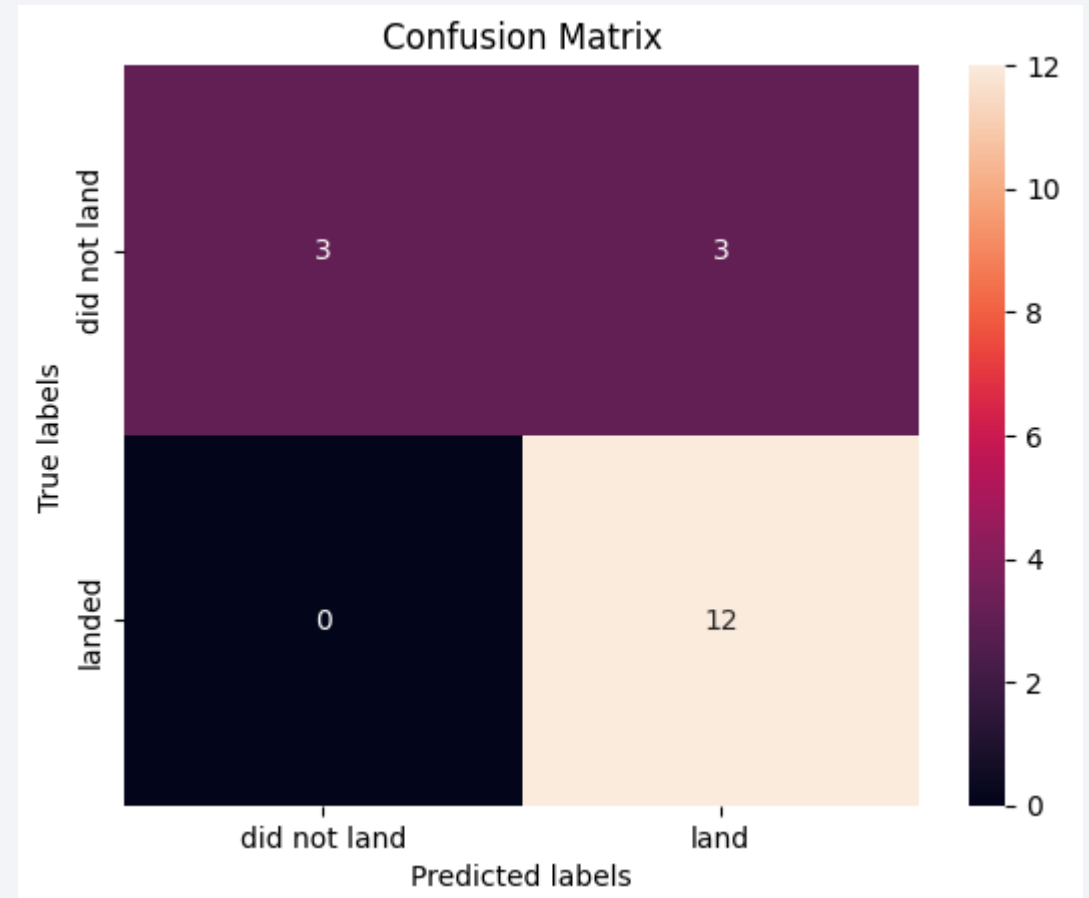
Classification Accuracy

The scores of the whole Dataset confirm that the best model is the Decision Tree Model. This model has not only higher scores, but also the highest accuracy.

Confusion Matrix

		Predicted Values	
		Negative	Positive
Actual Values	Negative	TN	FP
	Positive	FN	TP

Examining the confusion matrix, we see that logistic regression can distinguish between the different classes. We see that the major problem is false positives.



Conclusions

- Decision Tree Model is the best algorithm for this dataset.
- Launches with a low payload mass show better results than launches with a larger payload mass.
- Most of launch sites are in proximity to the Equator line and all the sites are in very close proximity to the coast.
- The success rate of launches increases over the years.
- KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate of the launches from all the sites.
- Orbits ES-L1, GEO, HEO and SSO have 100% success rate.

Thank you!

