

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

Talgat Azhibekov  
25/09/2023



# OUTLINE

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

In this data science capstone project an outcome of Space X ship Falcon 9 first stage launch was predicted. First off all, data was collected using two methods requesting API and Web scraping. Then, data was processed by using pandas library followed by EDA techniques. EDA was performed with data visualization applying seaborn library and with SQL. During these stages data was cleaned and transformed to necessary formats, interesting feature relationships and dependencies were identified, landings success rates were calculated for each orbits and launch sites. To visually observe identified insights Plotly dashboards were created. Afterwards, each launch sites with landing outcomes were depicted on the world map by means of Folium functionality. Finally, predictive analysis was performed by using four classification models with accuracy 83.33%.

# INTRODUCTION

In 1961 first human successfully made one orbit around Earth. Since then active space exploration developed. The main drawback of such missions is extremely high budget. Nowadays, due to the usable first stage technology a Space X company can launch Falcon 9 rocket with a cost of 62 million dollars. While other providers offers start from 162 million dollars.

In this capstone, based on historical data, the Falcon 9 first stage successful landing will be predicted. Therefore, the cost of a launch can be determined. This information can be used if an alternate company wants to bid against SpaceX for a rocket launch.



Section 1

# Methodology

# METHODOLOGY

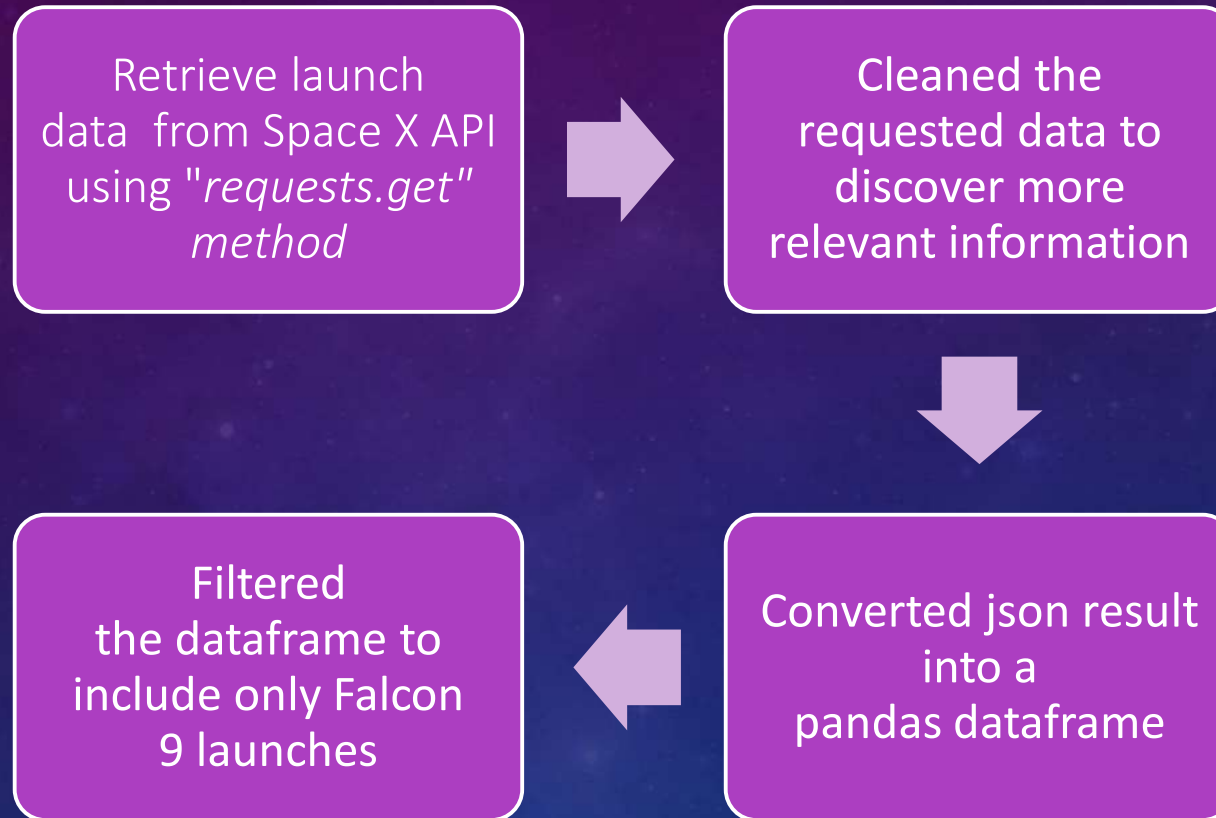
- Executive Summary
- Data collection methodology:
  - Describe how data was collected
- Perform data wrangling
  - Describe how data was processed
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
  - How to build, tune, evaluate classification models

# DATA COLLECTION

Data sets were collected by 2 ways:

- Made a get request to the Space X API.
- Web scraping from the Wikipedia page

# DATA COLLECTION – SPACE X API

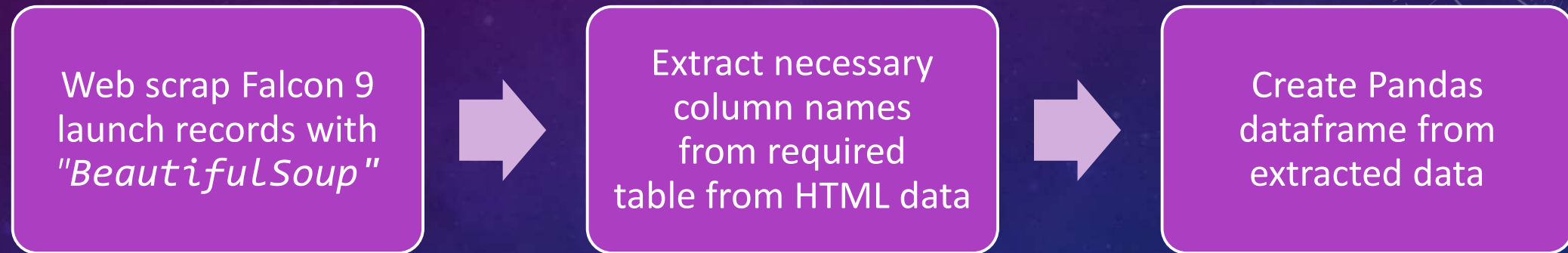


GitHub URL:

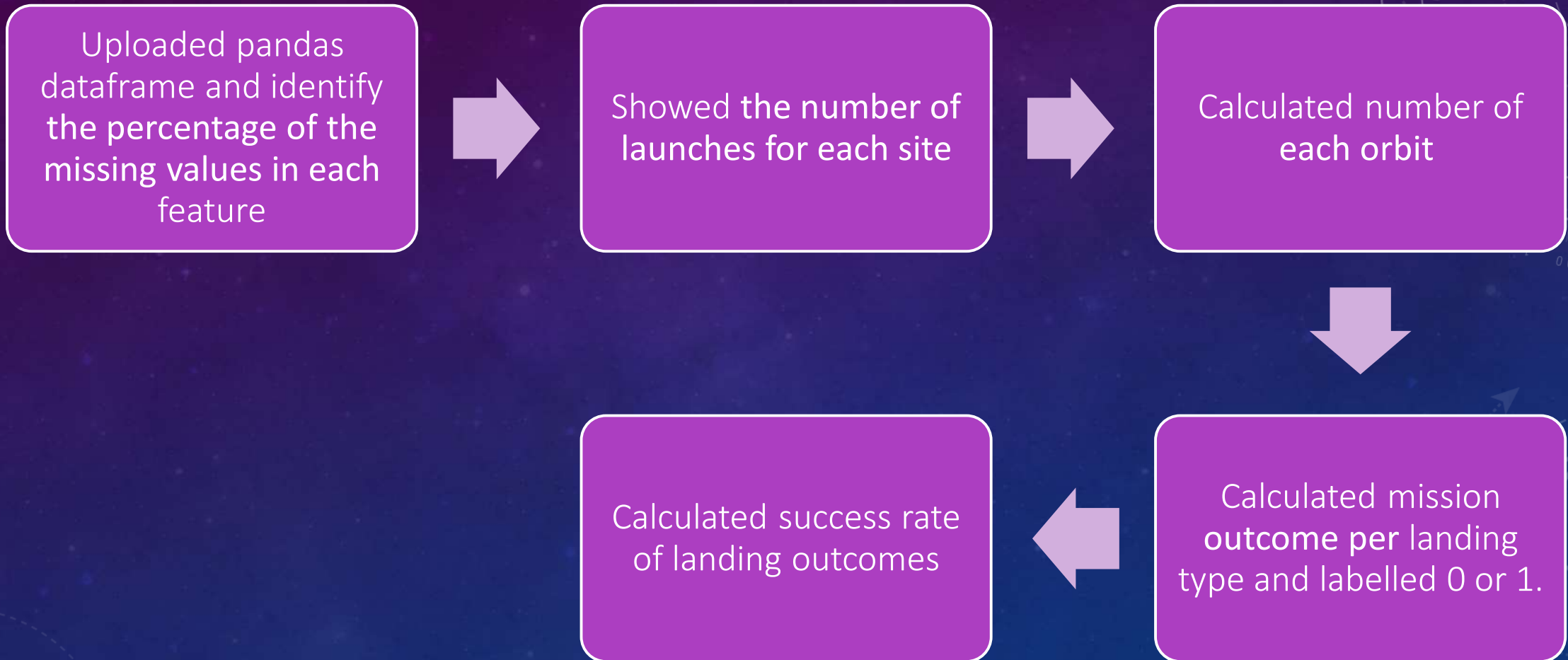
[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)



# DATA COLLECTION – WEB SCRAPING



# DATA WRANGLING



# EDA WITH DATA VISUALIZATION

By using the seaborn Python data visualization library the following main charts were plotted to identify useful relationships between data features:

- **FlightNumber vs LaunchSite** – By increasing the flight numbers the number of successful landings increased from all launch sites.
- **FlightNumber vs PayloadMass** – More massive the payload, the less likely the first stage will return.
- **FlightNumber vs Orbit** – LEO orbit's Success is related to the number of flights. On the other hand, there is no relationship between flight number in GTO orbit.
- **Success rates of the orbits** – ES-L1, GEO, HEO and SSO have the highest success rates.
- **Success rate vs Years** – Success rate since 2013 kept increasing till 2020 with slight decrease in 2018.

# EDA WITH SQL

After loading the SQL extension and establishing a connection with the database the following main SQL queries were performed:

- Displayed the unique launch sites and the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS).
- Identified the date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved and the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes.
- Listed the names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass between 4000kg and 6000kg.
- By using subquery found the names of the booster\_versions which have carried the maximum payload mass.
- By using complicated queries extracted necessary launch information occurred in specific date frame.

GitHub URL:

[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)



# BUILD AN INTERACTIVE MAP WITH FOLIUM

To perform more interactive visual analytics using Folium the following main map objects were created:

- Created circles for each launch sites with a popup labels showing their names.
- Created markers at each launch sites with icons showing their names.
- Created marker clusters at each launch sites with colour codes. Green – successful, Red- unsuccessful.
- Calculated distances from launch sites to coastlines, railways, highways, cities and drew lines to show closest routes.

GitHub URL:

[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)

# BUILD A DASHBOARD WITH PLOTLY DASH

- Added a Launch Site Drop-down Input Component – to see which one has the largest success count.
- Added a callback function and displayed pie-chart – to show success rates of launch sites on pie-chart based on selected site dropdown.
- Added a Range Slider to Select Payload – to easily select different payload range and see if variable payload is correlated with mission outcome.
- Added a callback function and displayed scatter chart – to observe how payload may be correlated with mission outcomes for selected launch sites.

GitHub URL:

[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)

# PREDICTIVE ANALYSIS (CLASSIFICATION)



# RESULTS

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

GitHub URL:

[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)

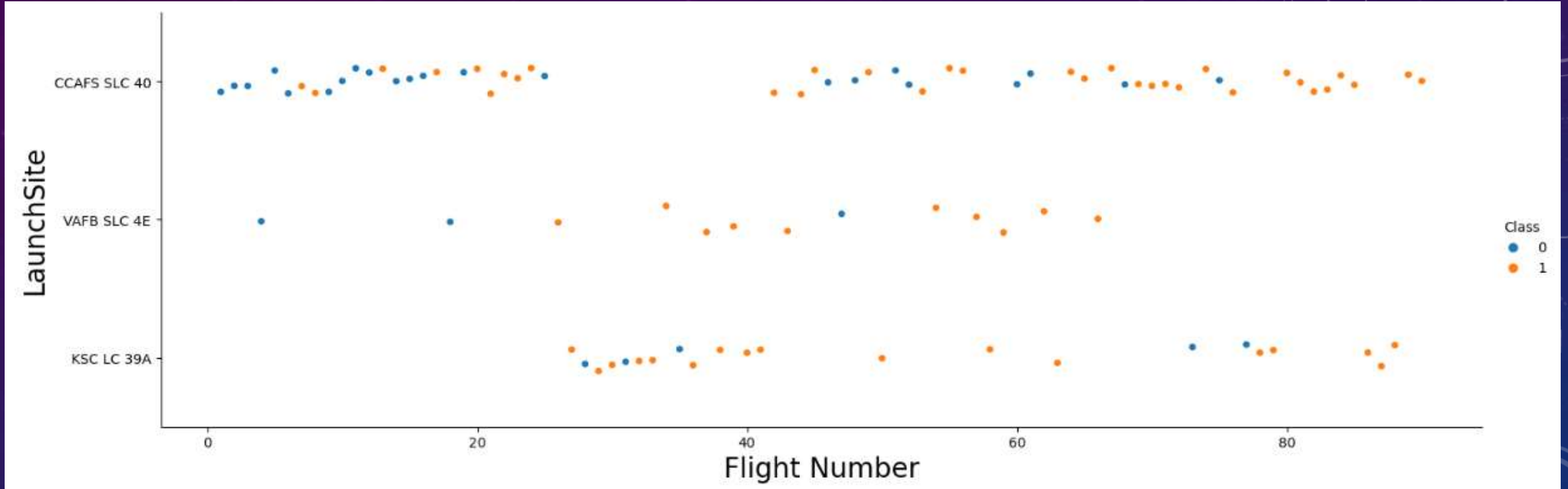


The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a solid blue area on the left side, which transitions into a dynamic pattern of diagonal streaks in shades of blue, red, and cyan on the right. Overlaid on these streaks is a faint, semi-transparent grid of small squares, creating a complex, layered visual effect.

Section 2

# Insights drawn from EDA

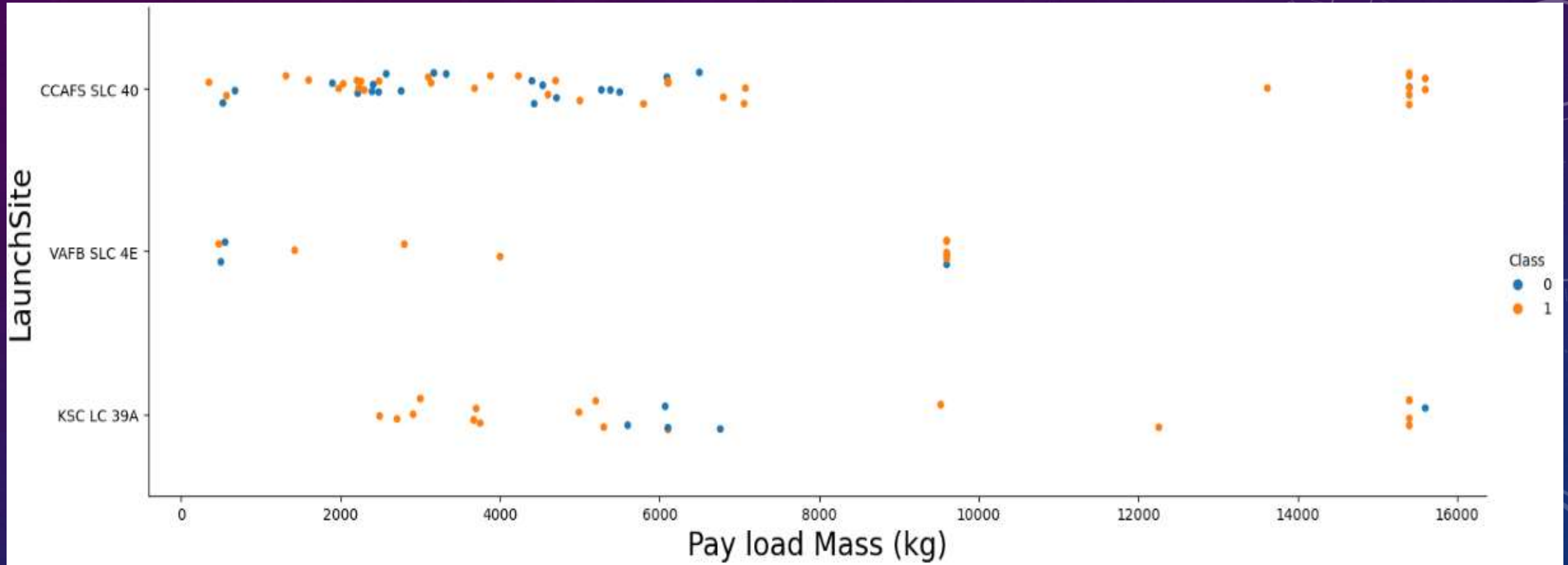
# FLIGHT NUMBER VS. LAUNCH SITE



By increasing the flight numbers the number of successful landings increased from all launch sites



# PAYLOAD VS. LAUNCH SITE

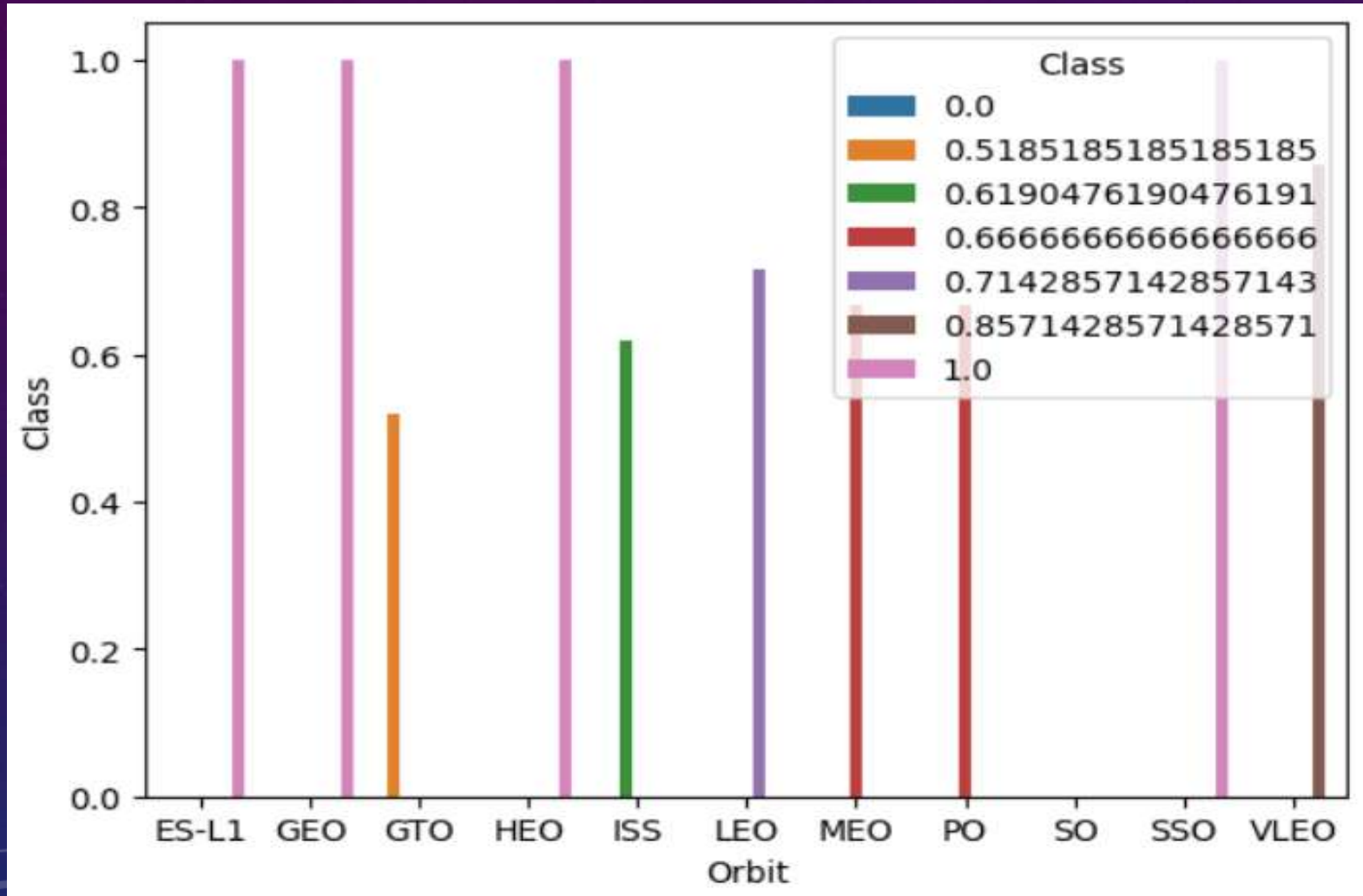


It is shown on this scatter point chart that the VAFB-SLC 4E launchsite has no rockets launched for heavy payload mass(greater than 10000kg). Also for CCAFS SLC 40 launchsite success rate increases above pay load mass 8000kg.

GitHub URL:

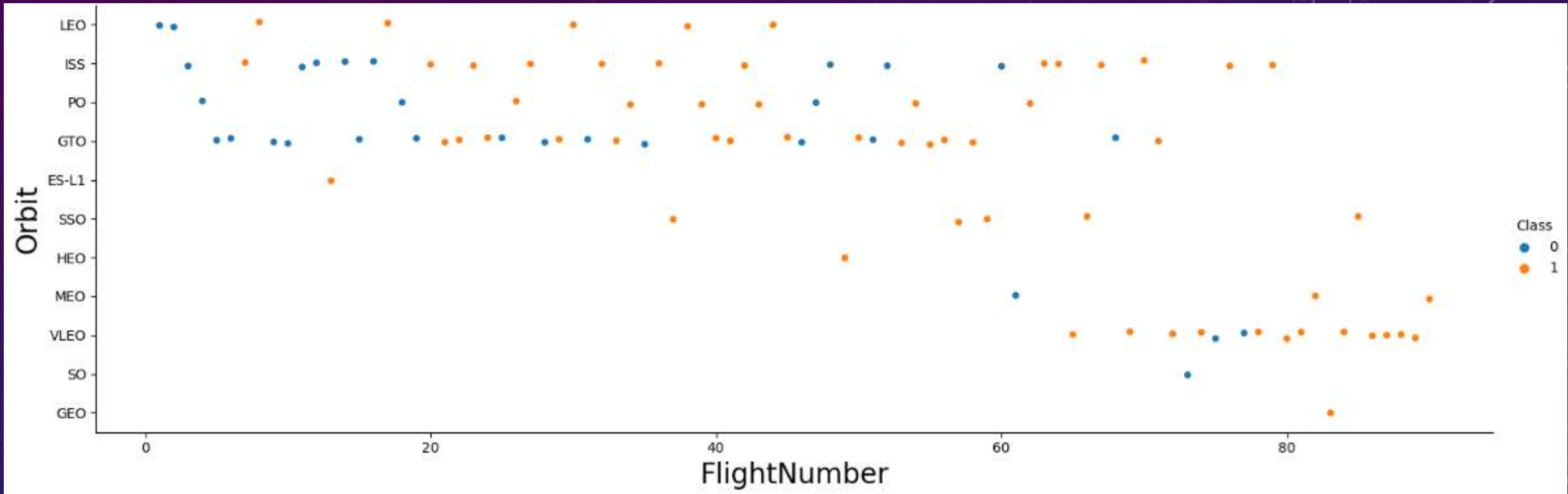
[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)

# SUCCESS RATE VS. ORBIT TYPE



It is shown on this bar chart that the orbits ES-L1, GEO, HEO and SSO have the highest success rates.



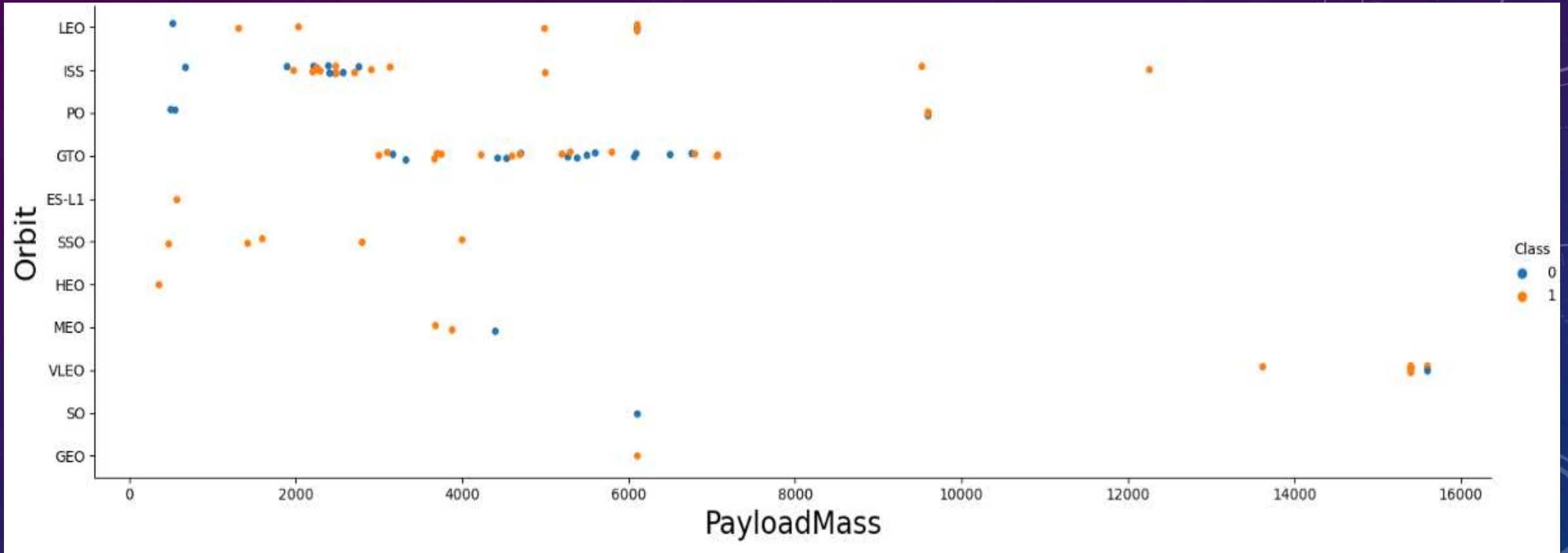


LEO orbit's Success is related to the number of flights. On the other hand, there is no relationship between flight number in GTO orbit.

GitHub URL:  
[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)

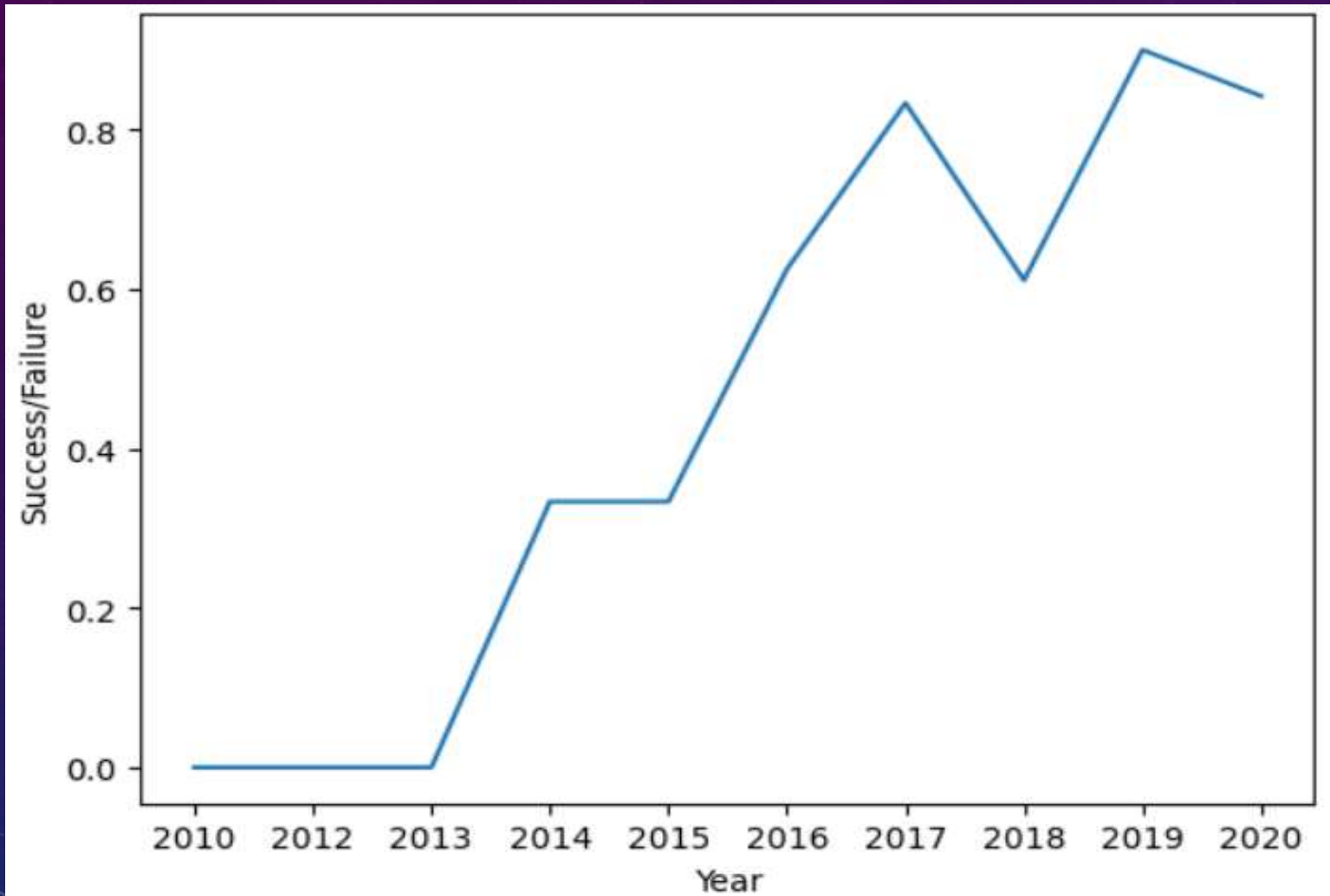
[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)

# PAYLOAD VS. ORBIT TYPE



With heavy payloads the successful landing rate are higher for PO, LEO and ISS.  
However for GTO it cannot be distinguished well as both positive and negative landings are both there.

# LAUNCH SUCCESS YEARLY TREND



Success rate since 2013 kept increasing till 2020 with slight decrease in 2018

# ALL LAUNCH SITE NAMES

```
In [7]: %sql select distinct "Launch_Site" from SPACEXTBL
```

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

```
Out[7]:
```

Launch_Site
CCAFS LC-40
VAFB SLC-4E
KSC LC-39A
CCAFS SLC-40
None

By implementing SQL request the 4 unique launch sites were identified.



# LAUNCH SITE NAMES BEGIN WITH 'CCA'

```
In [9]: %sql select "Launch_Site" from SPACEXTBL where "Launch_Site" Like '%CCA%' limit 5
```

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

```
Out[9]:
```

Launch_Site
CCAFS LC-40
CCAFS LC-40
CCAFS LC-40
CCAFS LC-40
CCAFS LC-40

By implementing SQL request with limitation the 5 launch sites beginning from CCA were identified.

# TOTAL PAYLOAD MASS

```
In [10]: %sql select sum("PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_") from SPACEXTBL where Customer = "NASA (CRS)"
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.

Out[10]:
```

sum("PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_")
45596.0

By using sum function the total payload mass was calculated for "NASA (CRS)".

# AVERAGE PAYLOAD MASS BY F9 V1.1

```
In [11]: %sql select AVG("PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_") from SPACEXTBL where Booster_Version = "F9 v1.1"
          * sqlite:///my_data1.db
          Done.
```

Out[11]:

AVG("PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_")
2928.4

By using AVG function the average payload mass was calculated for booster version "F9 v1.1".

# FIRST SUCCESSFUL GROUND LANDING DATE

```
In [12]: %sql select Min("Date") from SPACEXTBL where Landing_Outcome = "Success (ground pad)"
```

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

```
Out[12]:
```

Min("Date")
01/08/2018

By using Min function the first successful ground landing date was identified.



# SUCCESSFUL DRONE SHIP LANDING WITH PAYLOAD BETWEEN 4000 AND 6000

```
In [17]: %sql select Booster_Version from SPACEXTBL where Landing_Outcome = "Success (drone ship)" and PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_ between 4000 and
```

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

```
Out[17]: Booster_Version
```

```
F9 FT B1022
```

```
F9 FT B1026
```

```
F9 FT B1021.2
```

```
F9 FT B1031.2
```

By using between function the successful drone ship landing with payload more than 4000kg and less than 6000kg were identified.

GitHub URL:

[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)

# TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL AND FAILURE MISSION OUTCOMES

```
In [19]: %sql select count("Mission_Outcome") from SPACEXTBL
```

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

```
Out[19]:
```

count("Mission_Outcome")
101

By using count function the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes were found.

# BOOSTERS CARRIED MAXIMUM PAYLOAD

```
In [23]: %sql select ("Booster_Version") from SPACEXTBL where PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_ = (select max("PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_")from SPACEXTBL)
```

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

```
Out[23]: 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
```

By using subquery and max function boosters with maximum payloads were listed.

GitHub URL:

[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)

# 2015 LAUNCH RECORDS

In [38]:

```
%sql SELECT substr(Date,4,2) as month, DATE,BOOSTER_VERSION, LAUNCH_SITE, [Landing _Outcome] \
FROM SPACEXTBL \
where [Landing _Outcome] = 'Failure (drone ship)' and substr(Date,7,4)='2015';
```

\* sqlite:///my\_data1.db

Done.

Out[38]:

	month	Date	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Landing _Outcome
	01	10-01-2015	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)
	04	14-04-2015	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)

By using special date format displayed main information regarding failure drone ship in 2015

GitHub URL:

[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)



# RANK LANDING OUTCOMES BETWEEN 2010-06-04 AND 2017-03-20

Rank the count of successful landing\_outcomes between the date 04-06-2010 and 20-03-2017 in descending order.

In [37]:

```
%sql SELECT [Landing _Outcome], count(*) as count_outcomes \
FROM SPACEXTBL \
WHERE DATE between '04-06-2010' and '20-03-2017' group by [Landing _Outcome] order by count_outcomes DESC;
```

\* sqlite:///my\_data1.db  
Done.

Out[37]:

Landing _Outcome	count_outcomes
Success	20
No attempt	10
Success (drone ship)	8
Success (ground pad)	6
Failure (drone ship)	4
Failure	3
Controlled (ocean)	3
Failure (parachute)	2
No attempt	1

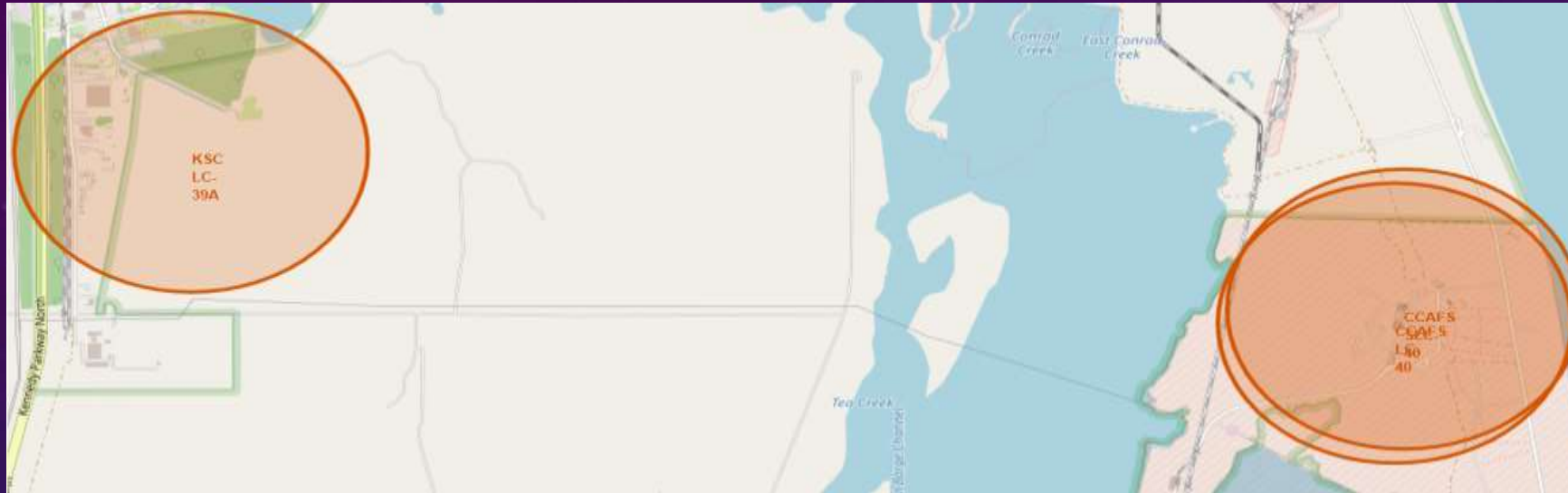
By using count function listed landing outcomes between 04/06/2010 and 20/03/2017 in descending order.

A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and city lights at night. The image is a composite of a dark blue sky and a view of the Earth's surface, which is covered in a dense network of yellow and orange lights representing urban areas. The horizon line is visible, separating the dark sky from the illuminated Earth.

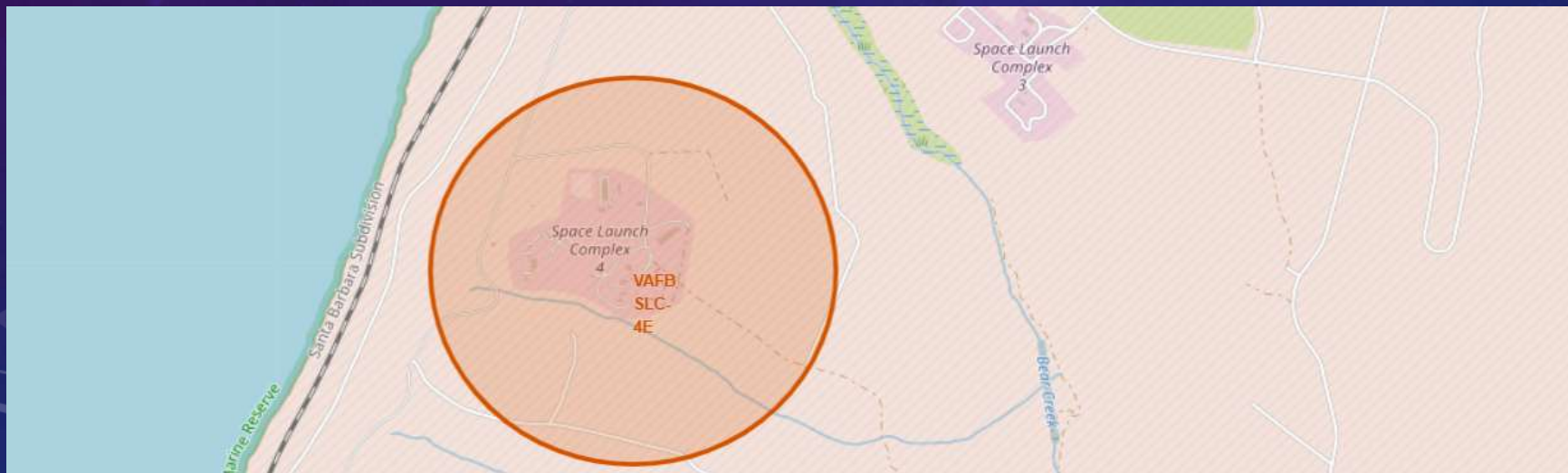
Section 3

# Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

# LAUNCH SITES LOCATIONS ON THE MAP



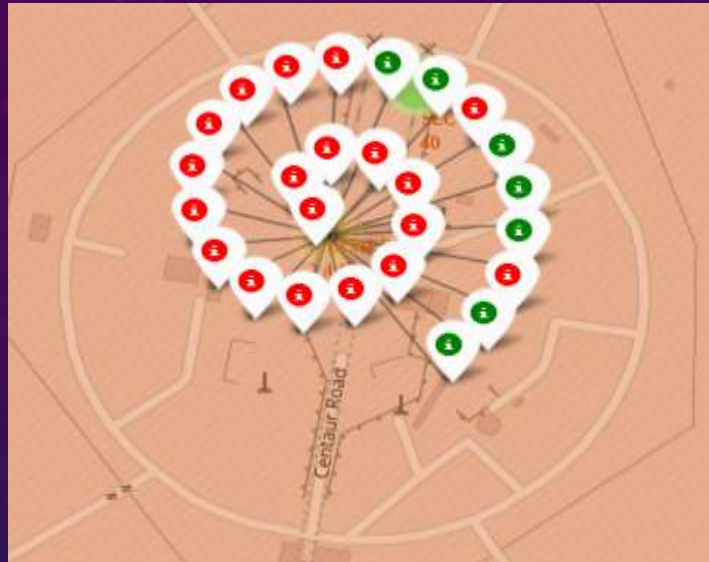
By creating Folium map markers and circles displayed 4 launch site locations on the map. It can be observed that 3 launch sites are located very close to each other and 2 of them overlapping.



GitHub URL:  
[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)



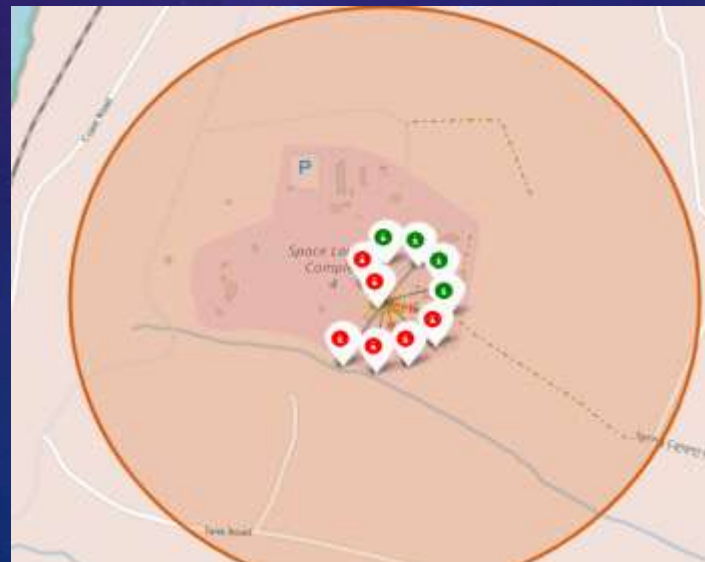
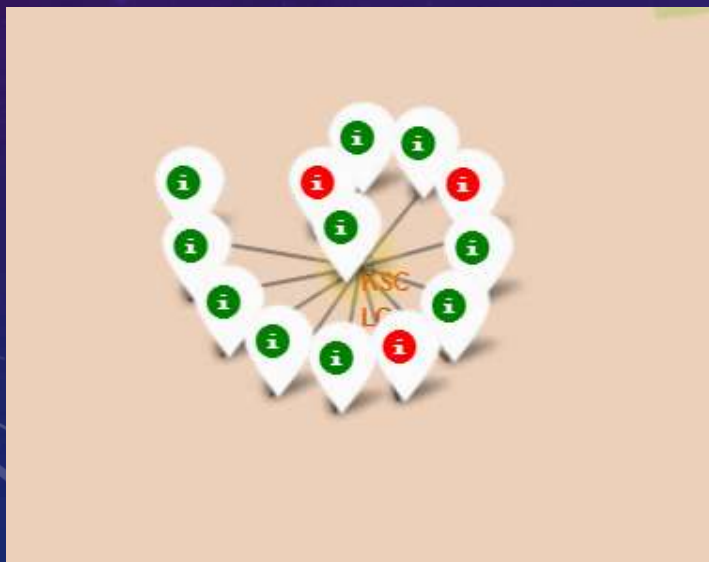
# LAUNCH OUTCOMES



Green – Successful landing  
Red – Unsuccessful landing

KSC-LC-39A: highest success rate

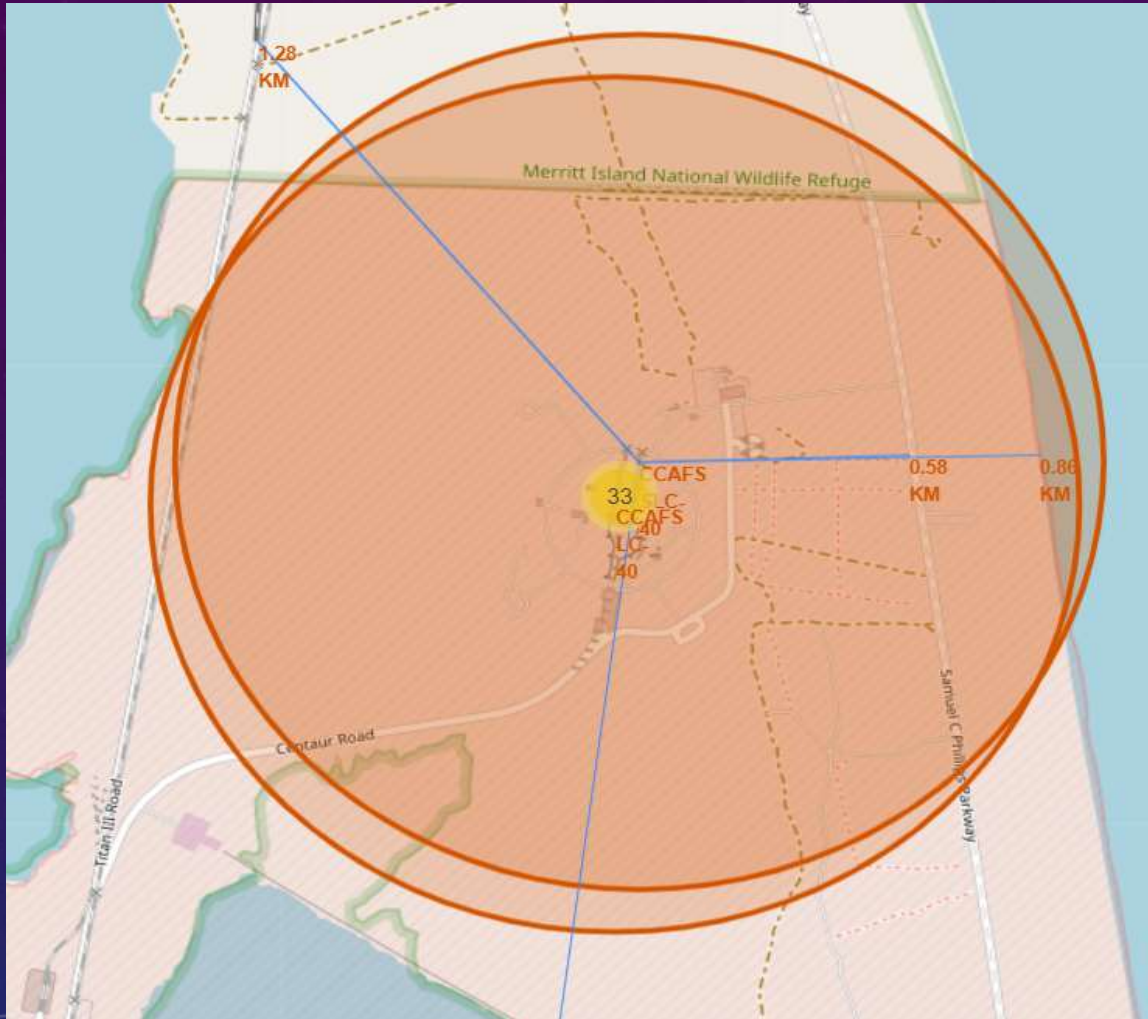
CCAFS-LC-40: largest number of launches, but most of them were unsuccessful



GitHub URL:  
[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)



# DISTANCES FROM CCAFS-SLC-40 LAUNCH SITE TO ITS PROXIMITIES



Distances:

To the coastline: 0.86 km

To the highway: 0.58 km

To the railroad: 1.28 km

To the city: 51.43 km

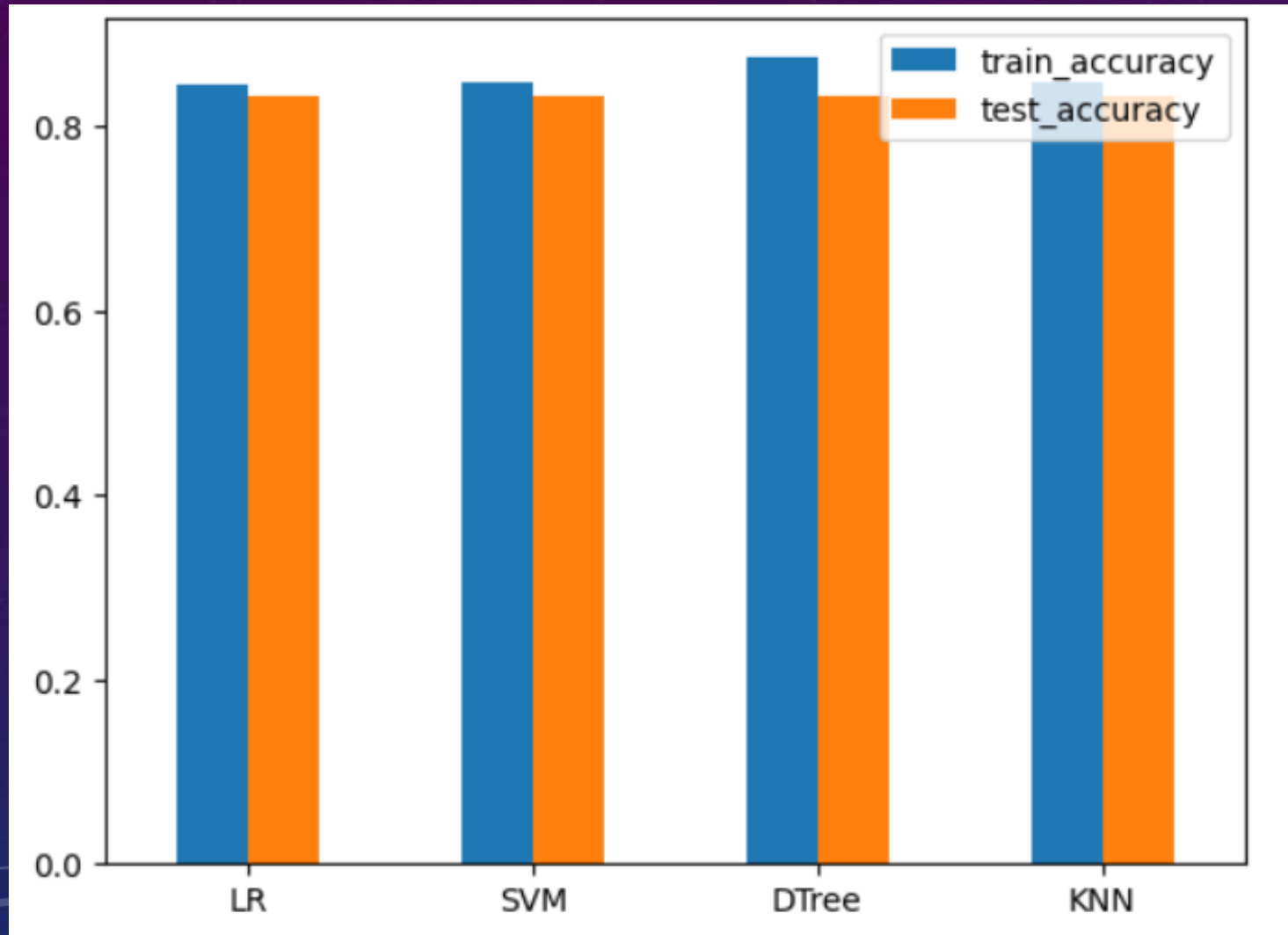
GitHub URL:

[https://github.com/Tal-gatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS-Capstone.git](https://github.com/Tal-gatAzhibekov/IBM_DS-Capstone.git)

Section 5

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

# CLASSIFICATION ACCURACY



Test\_data accuracy for all models is the same: 0.8333

Train\_data accuracy:

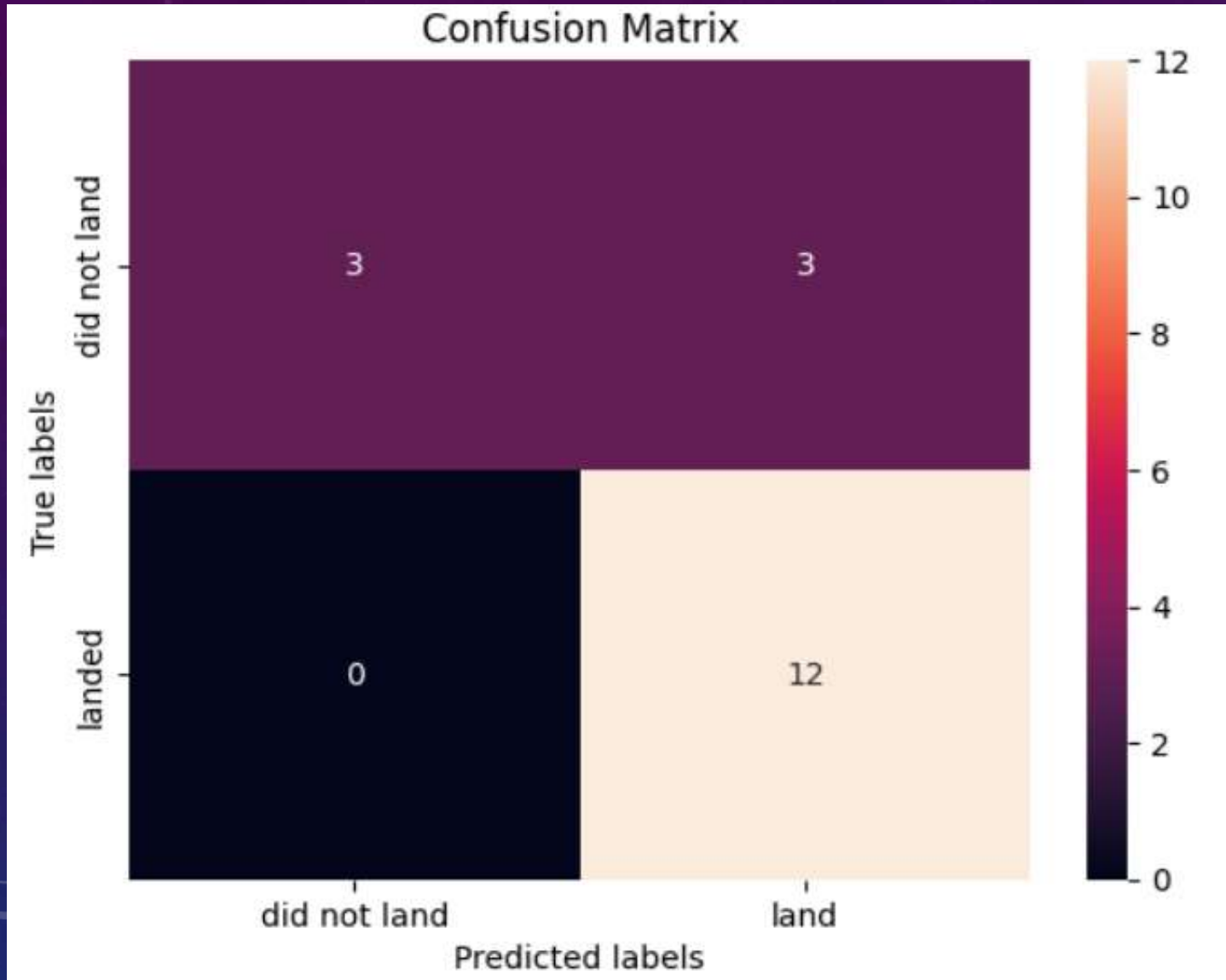
- 1) Decision Tree: 0.875
- 2) Support Vector Machine: 0.8482
- 3) K nearest neighbour: 0.8482
- 4) Linear Regression: 0.8464

As can be seen train data accuracies almost the same within the models. Only Decision Tree model has a slight higher score.

GitHub URL:

[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)

# CONFUSION MATRIX



Confusion matrixes of all models revealed the same, as test\_data accuracy was the same.

It is seen that models can distinguish between the different classes quite good. The major problem is false positives, where models predicted 3 launches as successful landings, in fact they did not land.

GitHub URL:  
[https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM\\_DS\\_Capstone.git](https://github.com/TalgatAzhibekov/IBM_DS_Capstone.git)



# CONCLUSIONS

---

It was a quite long journey which included all main stages of a data science project.

From EDA with visualization it was revealed that landing success increased with the number of flights. Overall success rate kept increasing from 2013 till 2020 with slight decrease in 2018.

From Folium maps activities the launching site locations hidden peculiarities discovered. So that they are located close to the equator line, coastlines and railroads. On the other hand, far away from big cities.

It is interesting to note that all four machine learning models (LR, SVM, DTree, KNN) showed exactly the same accuracy on test data 83.33%. While on train data the decision tree model calculated the best score 87.5% with minor difference from other models.

In conclusion, being able to predict the landing outcome of the Falcon 9's first stage with 83.33% accuracy gives enough confidence to be more prepared for future launches.

Thank you!

