

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

Vishal Murmu 22-03-2025



### **Outline**

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

# **Executive Summary**

- 4 Models were incorporated to determine the best model based on GridSearchCV
- Decision Tree model ad the highest accuracy

#### Introduction

- SpaceX has gained worldwide attention for a series of historic milestones.
- It is the only private company ever to return a spacecraft from low-earth orbit, which it first accomplished in December 2010. SpaceX advertises Falcon 9 rocket launches on its website with a cost of 62 million dollars whereas other providers cost upward of 165 million dollars each, much of the savings is because Space X can reuse the first stage.
- Therefore, if we can determine if the first stage will land, we can determine the cost of a launch.
- This information can be used if an alternate company wants to bid against SpaceX for a rocket launch.
- By performing the analysis, we will be able to determine the parameters (factors) which maximizes the 'success' outcomes of the landing



# Methodology

#### **Executive Summary**

- Data collection methodology:
  - Publicly available Dataset
- Perform data wrangling
  - Data filtered to only contain Falcon 9 launches
  - Launch outcome was reclassified as binary variable (O Failure, 1- Success)
- 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**

- Use API calls, launch datasets were retrieved and segregated
- Booster Version had both Falcon 1 and Falcon 9 data. Thus, data was filtered to contain only Falcon 9 launches
- PayLoadMass variable had 5 missing values thus it was replaced with the mean of the remaining Payload values using mean() and replace() functions
- Webscraping was done to retrieve launch outcomes
- Launch Outcome was finally converted into binary values (where, O is Failure and 1 is Success)

### Data Collection – SpaceX API

#### **GETTING LAUNCH IDs**

static\_json\_url='https://cf-courses-data.s3.us.cloudobject-storage.appdomain.cloud/IBM-DS0321EN-SkillsNetwork/datasets/API\_call\_spacex\_api.json'



#### APPENDING BOOSTER DATA

response =
requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.co
m/v4/rockets/"+str(x)).json()



#### APPENDING LAUNCH SITE DATA

response =
requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launchp
ads/"+str(x)).json()

Longitude.append(response['longitude'])

Latitude.append(response['latitude'])

LaunchSite.append(response['name'])

#### APPENDING PAYLOAD DATA

response = requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/payloads/"+load).jso n()



#### APPENDING CORE DATA

response = requests.get("https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/cores/"+core['core']).json()

Outcome.append(str(core['landing\_success'])+' '+str(core['landing\_type']))

Flights.append(core['flight'])

GridFins.append(core['gridfins'])

Reused.append(core['reused'])

Legs.append(core['legs'])

LandingPad.append(core['landpad'])

# **Data Collection - Scraping**

static\_url = "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List\_of\_Falcon\_9\_and\_Falcon\_Heavy\_launches&oldid=1027686922"

#### API Calling Wikipedia page



```
html_tables = soup.find_all('table')
```

Creating soup object



# Let's print the third table and check its content
first\_launch\_table = html\_tables[2]
print(first\_launch\_table)

Retrieving Table and Column Names



Looping through the soup object and appending data

Github Link: Web Scraping

### **Data Wrangling**

#### Identifying datatypes of data variables

#### df.dtypes FlightNumber int64 Date object object BoosterVersion PayloadMass float64 object Orbit object LaunchSite object Outcome Flights int64 GridFins bool bool Reused bool Legs LandingPad object Block float64 ReusedCount int64 Serial object float64 Longitude Latitude float64 dtype: object

#### Identifying number of facilities

#### Github: Data Wrangling

#### Converting target variable to binary values

```
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]])
bad_outcomes

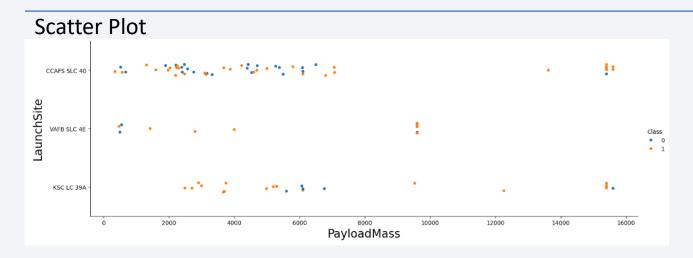
{'False ASDS', 'False Ocean', 'False RTLS', 'None ASDS', 'None None'}
```

```
# landing_class = 0 if bad_outcome
# landing_class = 1 otherwise

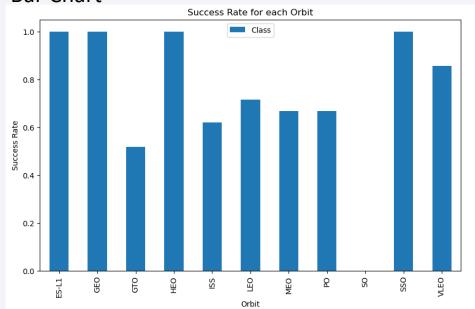
landing_class = []

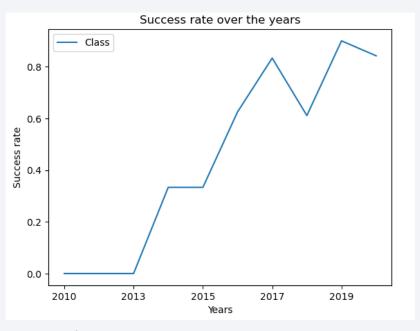
for i in df["Outcome"]:
    if i in bad_outcomes:
        landing_class.append(0)
    else:
        landing_class.append(1)
landing_class
```

### **EDA** with Data Visualization



#### **Bar Chart**

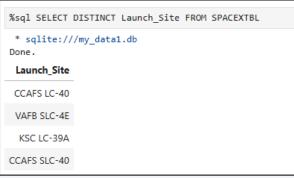


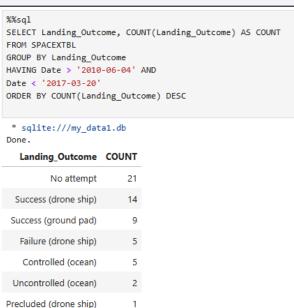


Line Chart

Github: Data Visualization

### **EDA** with SQL





```
%sql SELECT * FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE Launch Site LIKE ('%CCA%') LIMIT 5
 * sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.
                   Booster_Version Launch_Site
                                                                        Payload PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ Orbit
                                                                                                                  Customer Mission_Outcome Landing_Outcome
  2010-
                                      CCAFS LC-
                                                    Dragon Spacecraft Qualification
          18:45:00
                      F9 v1.0 B0003
                                                                                                         LEO
                                                                                                                                      Success Failure (parachute)
  06-04
                                      CCAFS LC-
                                                       Dragon demo flight C1, two
  2010-
                     F9 v1.0 B0004
                                                                                                                                      Success Failure (parachute)
                                             40 CubeSats, barrel of Brouere cheese
  12-08
                                      CCAFS LC-
  2012-
                      F9 v1.0 B0005
                                                           Dragon demo flight C2
                                                                                                                NASA (COTS)
           7:44:00
                                                                                                                                      Success
                                                                                                                                                     No attempt
  05-22
                                      CCAFS LC-
  2012-
                     F9 v1.0 B0006
                                                                   SpaceX CRS-1
                                                                                                                 NASA (CRS)
                                                                                                                                      Success
                                                                                                                                                     No attempt
  10-08
                                      CCAFS LC-
          15:10:00
                     F9 v1.0 B0007
                                                                   SpaceX CRS-2
                                                                                                                 NASA (CRS)
                                                                                                                                                     No attempt
                                                                                                                                      Success
  03-01
```

```
%%sql

SELECT COUNT(Landing_Outcome) AS Count,
CASE

WHEN Landing_Outcome LIKE ('%Success%') THEN 'Success'
WHEN Landing_Outcome LIKE ('%None%') THEN 'Failure'
WHEN Landing_Outcome LIKE ('%Failure%') THEN 'Failure'
ELSE 'Failure'
END AS Outcome
FROM SPACEXTBL
GROUP BY Outcome

* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.

Count Outcome

40 Failure

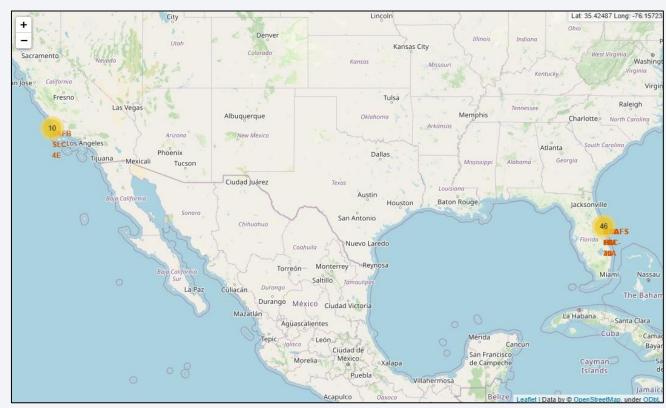
61 Success
```

```
SELECT DISTINCT Booster_Version FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE
PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ = (SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM SPACEXTBL) ORDER BY Booster_Version
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Booster Version
  F9 B5 B1048.4
  F9 B5 B1048.5
  F9 B5 B1049.4
  F9 B5 B1049.5
  F9 B5 B1049.7
  F9 B5 B1051.3
  F9 B5 B1051.4
  F9 B5 B1051.6
  F9 B5 B1056.4
  F9 B5 B1058.3
  F9 B5 B1060.2
  F9 B5 B1060.3
```

# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

Folium map created to visually identify success of each launch site

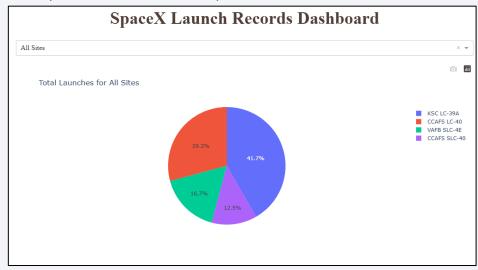


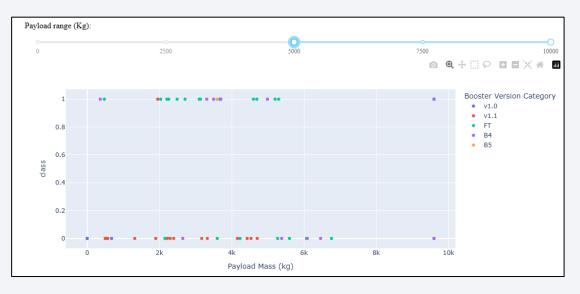


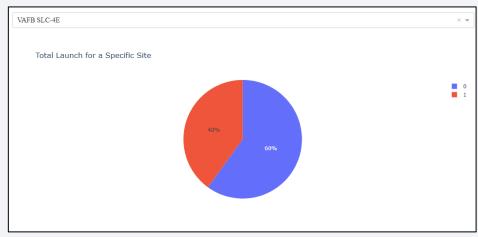
Github: Folium Plots

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

#### Plotly dash was built to identify the success rate of each site







Github: Plotly Dash

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

- Below models were used to build predictive analysis:
  - Logarithmic Regression
  - SVM
  - Decision Tree
  - KNN
- GridSearchCV was used to determine best parameters for each model and consequently calculate accuracy
- Among the models mentioned, Decision Tree model has the highest accuracy

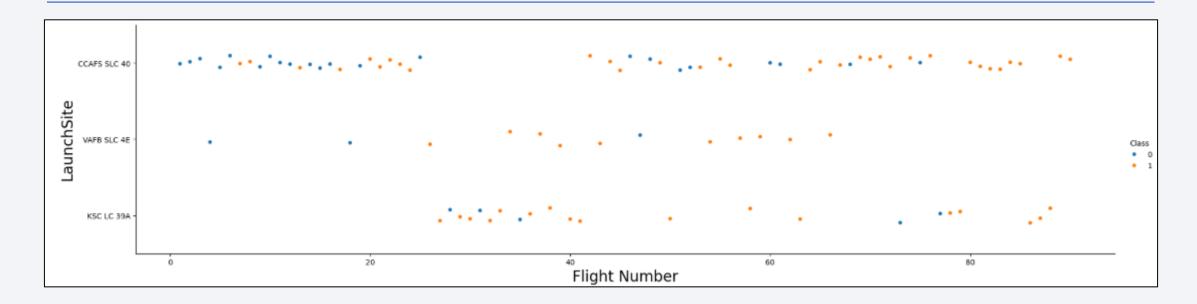
Github: Predictive Analysis

### Results

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

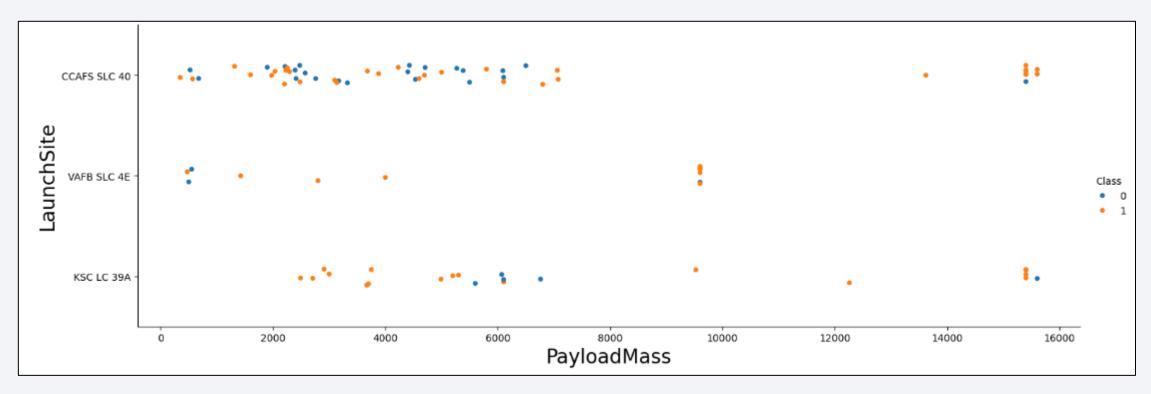


# Flight Number vs. Launch Site



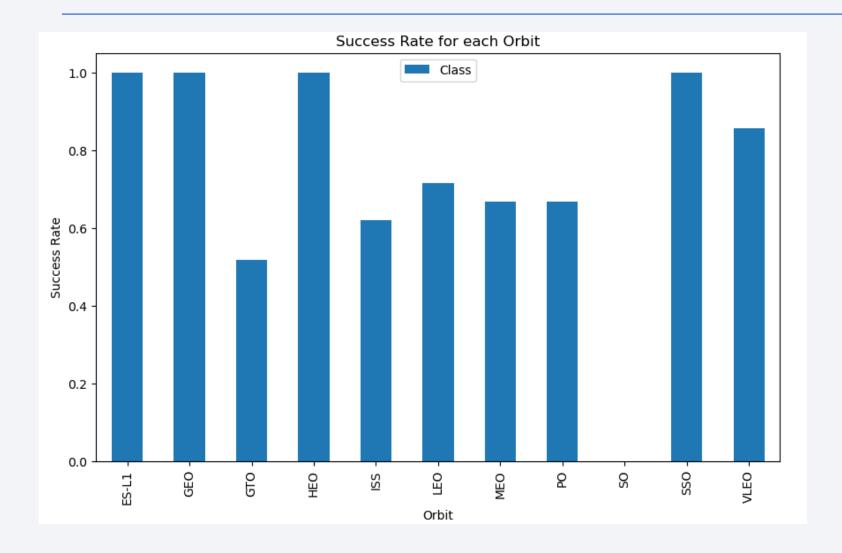
Based on the above scatter plot, for all the launch sites, success rate was higher in the launches after flight number 40.

# Payload vs. Launch Site



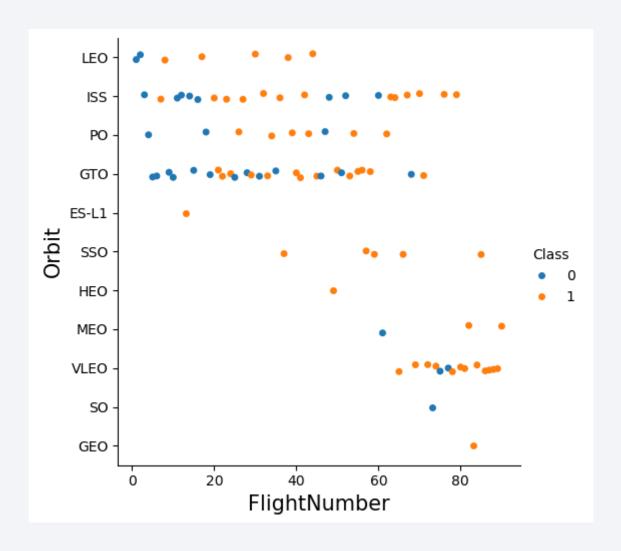
Based on the above scatter plot, for all the launch sites, success rate was higher when the Payload mass was greater than 8000 kg

# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type



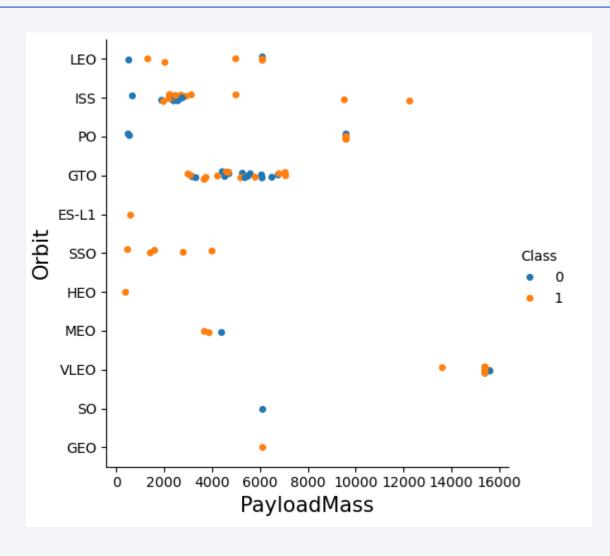
Success rate Orbits SO, GTO, ISS, LEO, MEO, PO was fairly low, whereas, Success rate of ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO was 100%

# 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.

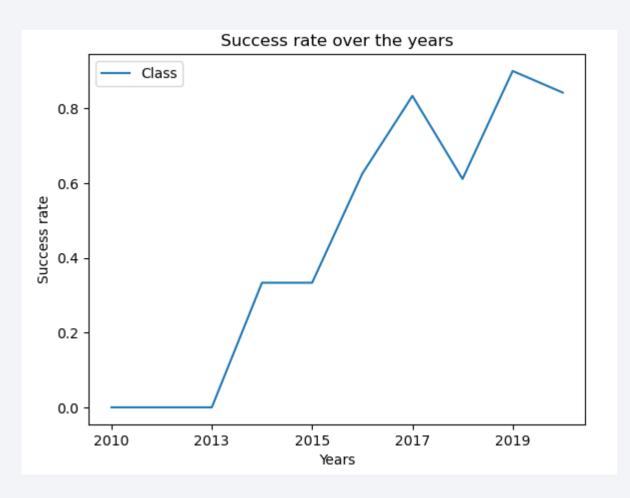
# Payload vs. Orbit Type



With heavy payloads the successful landing or positive landing rate are more for Polar, LEO and ISS.

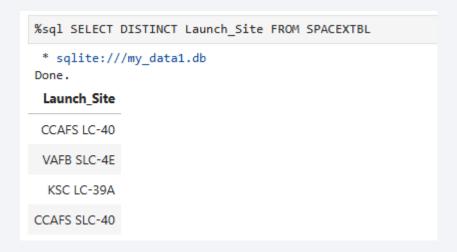
However for GTO we cannot distinguish this well as both positive landing rate and negative landing(unsuccessful mission) are both there here.

# Launch Success Yearly Trend



Success rate since 2013 kept increasing till 2017 (stable in 2014) and after 2015 it started increasing.

### All Launch Site Names



There are 4 launch sites from which Falcon 9 was launched

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

%sql SELECT \* FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE Launch Site LIKE ('%CCA%') LIMIT 5 \* sqlite:///my\_data1.db Done. Booster\_Version Launch\_Site Payload PAYLOAD MASS KG Customer Mission\_Outcome Landing\_Outcome Date Orbit CCAFS LC-Dragon Spacecraft Qualification 2010-F9 v1.0 B0003 18:45:00 0 LEO SpaceX Success Failure (parachute) 06-04 Unit Dragon demo flight C1, two 2010-CCAFS LC-NASA (COTS) LEO Failure (parachute) 15:43:00 F9 v1.0 B0004 0 Success CubeSats, barrel of Brouere cheese 12-08 (ISS) NRO 2012-CCAFS LC-7:44:00 F9 v1.0 B0005 Dragon demo flight C2 525 NASA (COTS) Success No attempt 05-22 2012-CCAFS LC-LEO 0:35:00 F9 v1.0 B0006 SpaceX CRS-1 500 NASA (CRS) No attempt Success (ISS) 10-08 CCAFS LC-2013-LEO 15:10:00 F9 v1.0 B0007 677 NASA (CRS) SpaceX CRS-2 Success No attempt (ISS) 03-01

# **Total Payload Mass**

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

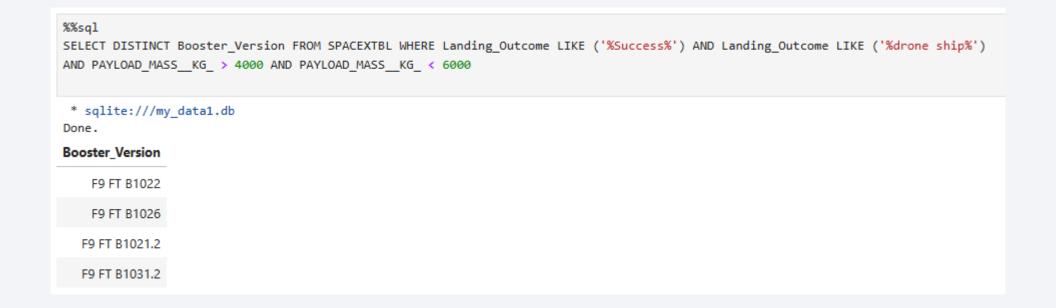
```
%sql SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS AVG_PAYLOAD FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE Booster_Version LIKE ('%F9 v1.1%')

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

2534.666666666665
```

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

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



#### Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

```
%%sql
SELECT COUNT(Landing_Outcome) AS Count,
CASE
WHEN Landing_Outcome LIKE ('%Success%') THEN 'Success'
WHEN Landing_Outcome LIKE ('%None%') THEN 'Failure'
WHEN Landing_Outcome LIKE ('%Failure%') THEN 'Failure'
ELSE 'Failure'
END AS Outcome
FROM SPACEXTBL
GROUP BY Outcome

* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.
Count Outcome

40 Failure
61 Success
```

# **Boosters Carried Maximum Payload**

```
%%sql
SELECT DISTINCT Booster_Version FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE
PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ = (SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM SPACEXTBL) ORDER BY Booster_Version
 * sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.
Booster_Version
  F9 B5 B1048.4
  F9 B5 B1048.5
  F9 B5 B1049.4
  F9 B5 B1049.5
  F9 B5 B1049.7
  F9 B5 B1051.3
  F9 B5 B1051.4
  F9 B5 B1051.6
  F9 B5 B1056.4
  F9 B5 B1058.3
  F9 B5 B1060.2
  F9 B5 B1060.3
```

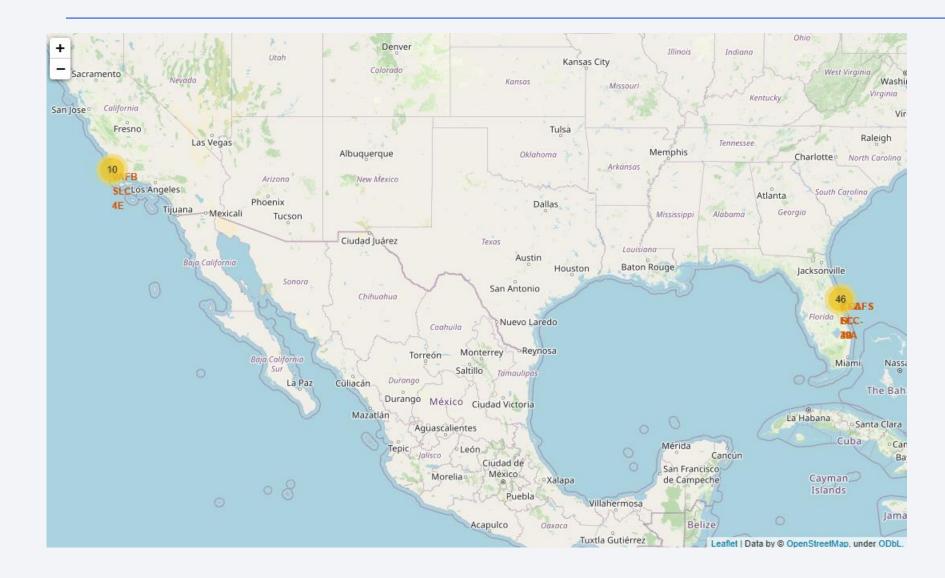
#### 2015 Launch Records

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

```
%%sql
SELECT Landing Outcome, COUNT(Landing Outcome) AS COUNT
FROM SPACEXTBL
GROUP BY Landing Outcome
HAVING Date > '2010-06-04' AND
Date < '2017-03-20'
ORDER BY COUNT(Landing Outcome) DESC
 * sqlite:///my data1.db
Done.
  Landing_Outcome COUNT
        No attempt
                         21
 Success (drone ship)
Success (ground pad)
                          9
  Failure (drone ship)
                          5
   Controlled (ocean)
 Uncontrolled (ocean)
Precluded (drone ship)
```



#### Launch Site and Count of Launches



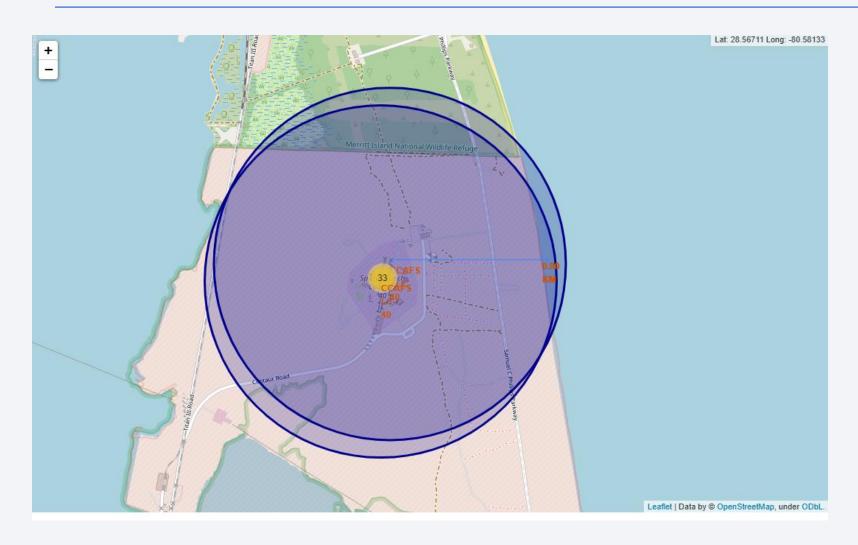
The folium map highlights launch site locations and number of launchs in the marker

### Color-labeled markers in marker clusters



In this Folium output,
Markers are individually
marked as Success
(Green) and Failure
(Red). In this way, it will
easier to identify
visually the success rate
of each launch site

# Proximity of launch site from map features



In this Folium output, distance from a particular map feature (coastline) is highlighted. This can be useful to determine the distance of launch sites to features like highway, railway and coastline



### Distribution of launch

#### **SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard**

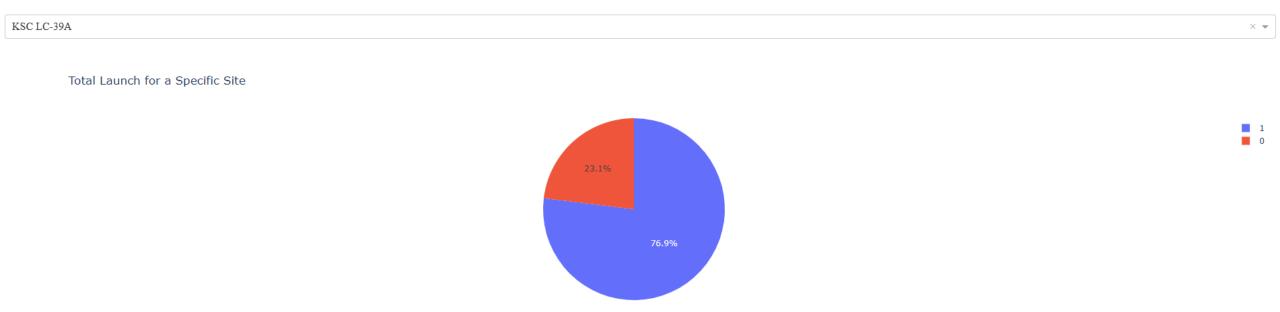


Payload range (Kg):

Majority of launches are done at site KSC LC-39A (~42%) and CCAFS LC-40 (~30%)

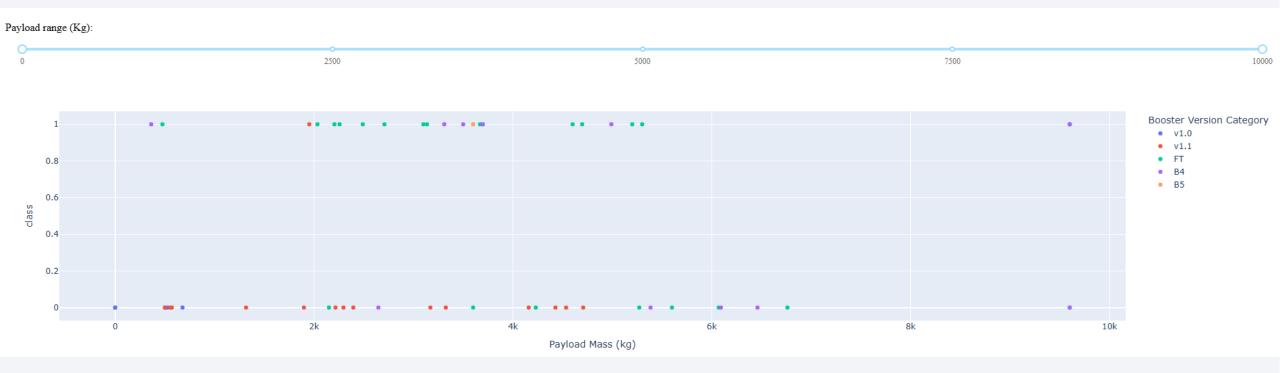
# Launch Site with Highest Success Rate

#### **SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard**



KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate

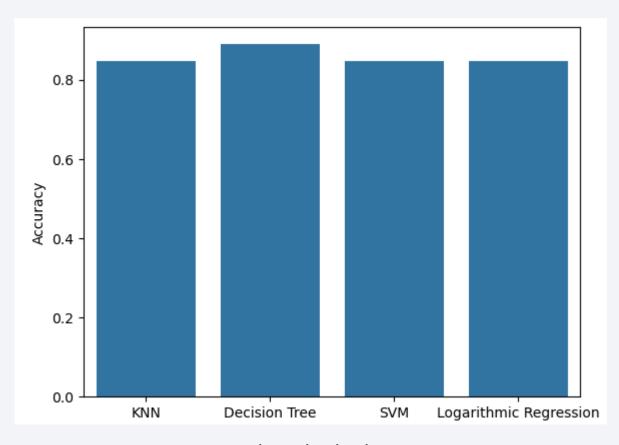
# Payload vs Outcome Scatter Plot



Although there is not a visible difference in the success rate across varied payload mass, it worthwhile to note that Booster version 'FT' has the highest success rate

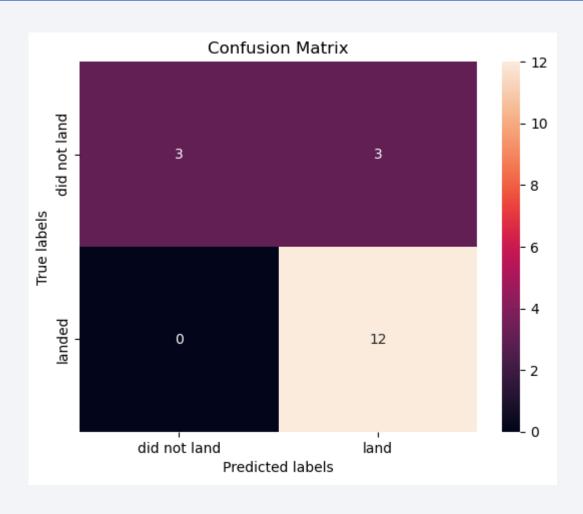


# **Classification Accuracy**



Decision Tree has the highest accuracy

### **Confusion Matrix**



The figure highlights confusion matrix of the Decision tree model.

The model accurately calculated the predicted 'success' outcomes against true 'success' outcomes (High recall)

However, the model falsely predicted few 'failure' outcomes as 'success' (Lower Precision)

#### Conclusions

- In this study, various models were incorporated to determine the rocket would land successfully or not.
- Key parameters to consider to maximize the success outcomes are:
  - Booster version
  - Launch site

# **Appendix**

• N/A

