



IBM Developer  
SKILLS NETWORK

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

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# Outline

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

# Executive Summary

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- Data on SpaceX Falcon 9 was collected and analyzed for insights on successful landing outcomes. Predictive models were trained on relevant mission parameters to predict success.
- Summary of all results

# Introduction

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With the arrival of the commercial space age, many companies are making efforts to provide affordable space travel. The success of SpaceX in particular offers insights on how to better implement and design working and affordable rocket launches.

For SpaceY, the present study seeks to determine successful first stage launch landings and predict prices for launches based on mission parameters such as: payload mass, orbit, booster version, launch sites, and more.



Section 1

# Methodology

# Methodology

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## Executive Summary

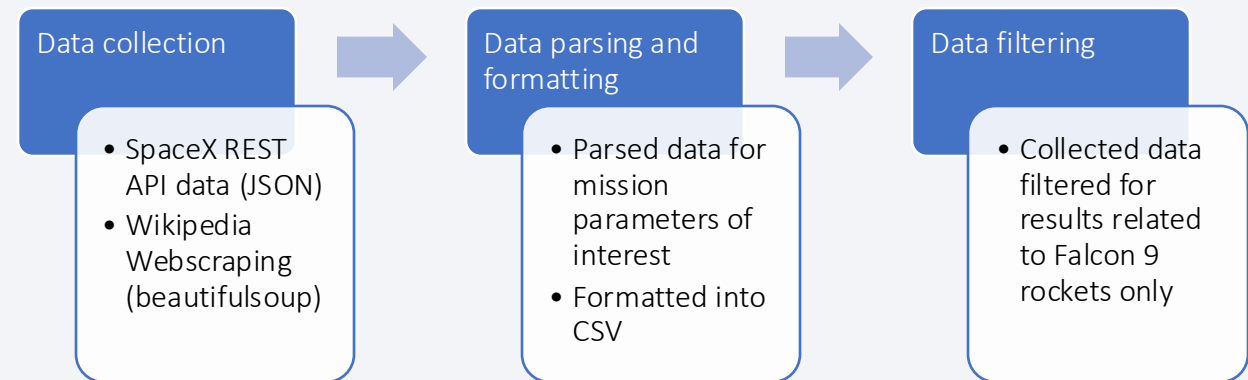
- Data collection methodology:
  - SpaceX launch data was collected through the SpaceX API and formatted using Python
  - Data was filtered for results related to Falcon 9 rocket launches only as this is the leading rocket of interest.
- Perform data wrangling
  - Records of Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launches were scraped from Wikipedia
  - Exploratory data analysis was conducted to calculate the number of launches on each site, the number and occurrence of each orbit, the number and occurrence of mission outcome of the orbits, and to create a landing outcome label.
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
  - Models were generated with an 80/20 train-test split and evaluated for accuracy using GridSearchCV approach
  - Models included: Logistic Regression, SVM, KNN, and Decision Tree.

# Data Collection

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Data collected:

- SpaceX launch data via SpaceX REST API
  - Provides data on booster type, payload, launch specifications, landing outcomes, etc.
  - API endpoints: [api.spacexdata.com/v4/](https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/)
- Falcon 9 launch data scraped from Wikipedia via BeautifulSoup
- Data was filtered for results related to Falcon 9 rocket launches only as this is the leading rocket of interest.



# Data Collection – SpaceX API

Data collection with  
SpaceX REST

Get Response  
from SpaceX API

```
spacex_url="https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launches/past"
```

```
response = requests.get(spacex_url)
```

Convert Response  
to JSON

```
data = pd.json_normalize(response.json())
```

Parse for relevant  
data

```
getBoosterVersion(data)
getLaunchSite(data)
getPayloadData(data)
getCoreData(data)

launch_dict = {'FlightNumber': list(data['flight_number']),
               'Date': list(data['date']),
               'BoosterVersion': BoosterVersion,
               'PayloadMass': PayloadMass,
               'Orbit': Orbit,
               'LaunchSite': LaunchSite,
               'Outcome': Outcome,
               'Flights': Flights,
               'GridFins': GridFins,
               'Reused': Reused,
               'Legs': Legs,
               'LandingPad': LandingPad,
               'Block': Block,
               'ReusedCount': ReusedCount,
               'Serial': Serial,
               'Longitude': Longitude,
               'Latitude': Latitude}

data_from_launch = pd.DataFrame.from_dict(launch_dict)
```

Create and filter  
dataframe

```
data_falcon9 = data_from_launch[data_from_launch["BoosterVersion"] == 'Falcon 9'].copy()
```

Export to CSV

```
data_falcon9.to_csv('dataset_part_1.csv', index=False)
```



# Data Collection - Scraping

Web scraping from  
Wikipedia with  
BeautifulSoup

Request Falcon9 Launch Wiki  
Page from URL

Extract all column/variable  
names from HTML Table header

Create dataframe by parsing  
launch HTML tables

```
static_url = "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_Falcon_9_and_Falcon_Heavy_launches&oldid=1027686922"
response = requests.get(static_url)
soup = BeautifulSoup(response.content, 'html.parser')
```

```
launch_dict = dict.fromkeys(column_names)

# Remove an irrelevant column
del launch_dict['Date and time ( )']

# Let's initial the launch_dict with each value to be an empty list
launch_dict['Flight No.'] = []
launch_dict['Launch site'] = []
launch_dict['Payload'] = []
launch_dict['Payload mass'] = []
launch_dict['Orbit'] = []
launch_dict['Customer'] = []
launch_dict['Launch outcome'] = []

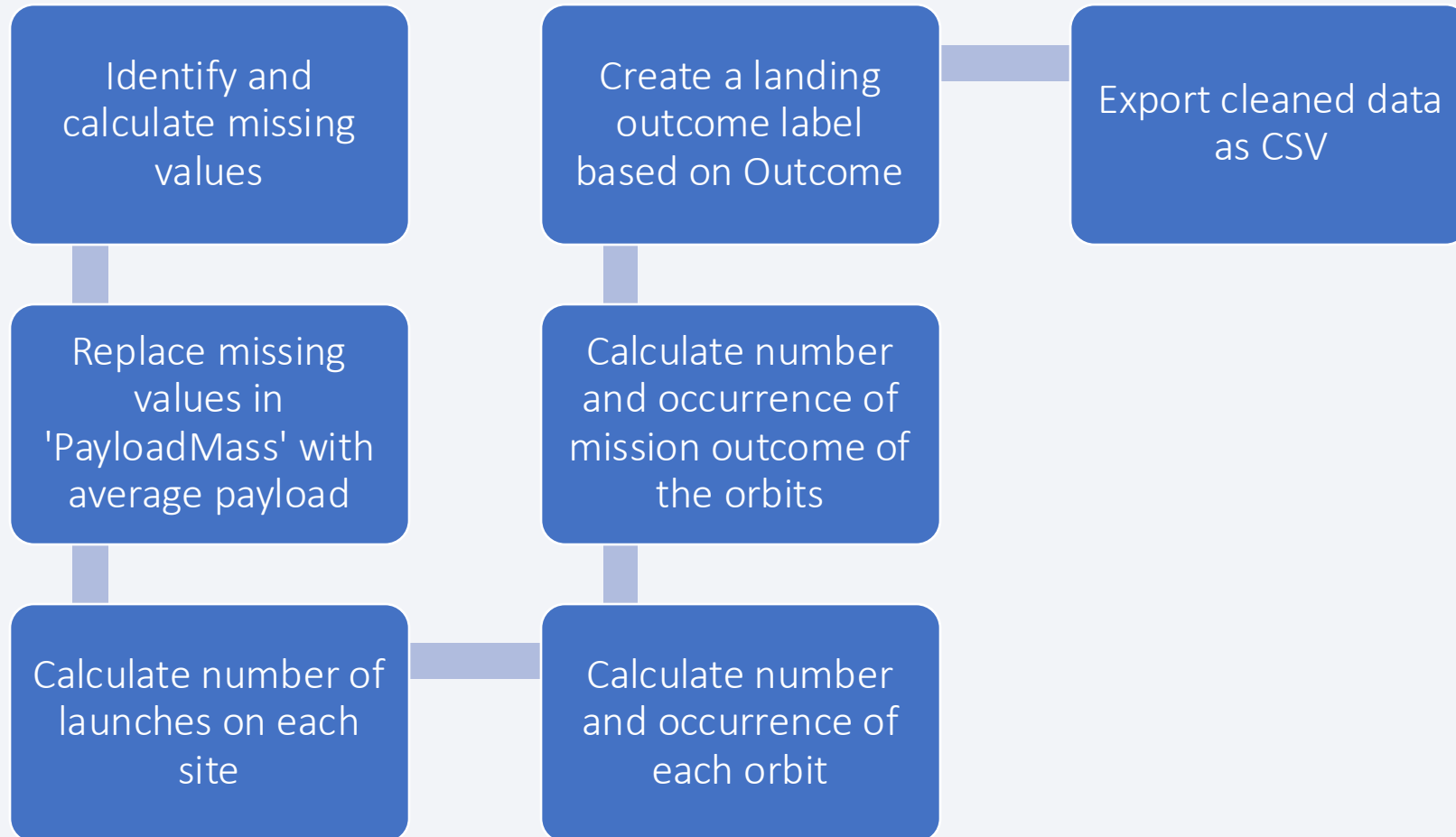
# Added some new columns
launch_dict['Version Booster'] = []
launch_dict['Booster landing'] = []
launch_dict['Date'] = []
launch_dict['Time'] = []
```

```
df = pd.DataFrame({ key:pd.Series(value) for key, value in launch_dict.items() })
df
```

	Flight No.	Launch site	Payload	Payload mass	Orbit	Customer	Launch outcome	Version Booster	Booster landing	Date	Time
0	1	CCAFS	Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit	0	LEO	SpaceX	Success	F9 v1.07B0003.18	Failure	4 June 2010	18:45
1	1	CCAFS	Dragon	0	LEO	NASA	Success	F9 v1.07B0003.18	Failure	4 June 2010	18:45
2	2	CCAFS	Dragon	525 kg	LEO	NASA	Success	F9 v1.07B0004.18	No attempt	8 December 2010	15:43
3	3	CCAFS	SpaceX CRS-1	4,700 kg	LEO	NASA	Success	F9 v1.07B0005.18	No attempt	22 May 2012	07:44
4	4	CCAFS	SpaceX CRS-2	4,877 kg	LEO	NASA	Success	F9 v1.07B0006.18	No attempt	8 October 2012	00:35
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
329	117	KSC	Starlink	~14,000 kg	LEO	None	Success	F9 B5B1051.10657	Success	9 May 2021	06:42
330	118	CCSFS	Starlink	15,600 kg	LEO	None	Success	F9 B5B1058.8660	Success	15 May 2021	22:56
331	119	KSC	SpaceX CRS-22	3,328 kg	LEO	NaN	NaN	F9 B5B1063.2665	NaN	26 May 2021	18:59
332	120	CCSFS	SXM-8	7,000 kg	GTO	NaN	NaN	F9 B5B1067.1668	NaN	3 June 2021	17:29
333	121	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	F9 B5	NaN	6 June 2021	04:26

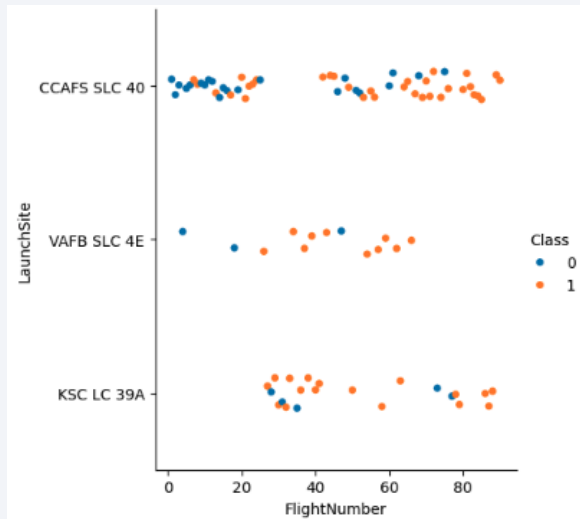
# Data Wrangling

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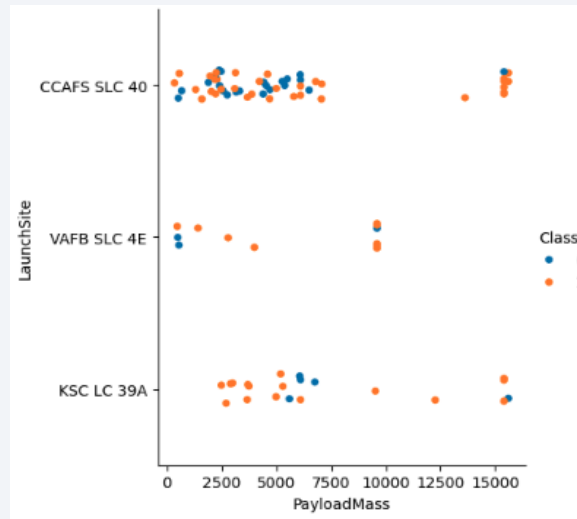


# EDA with Data Visualization

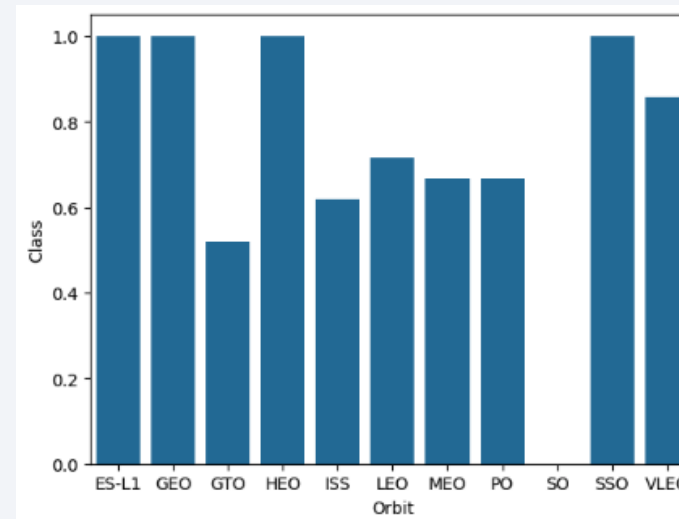
Flight Number vs. Launch Site



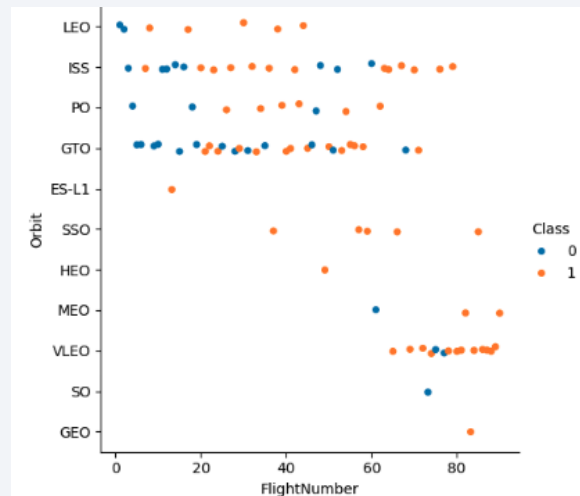
Payload Mass vs. Launch Site



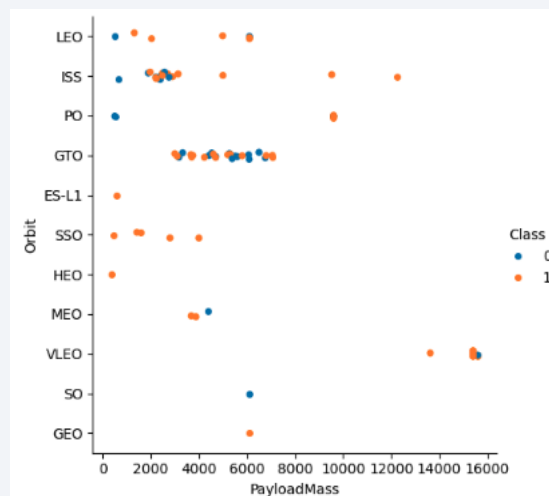
Relationship between Success Class and Orbit



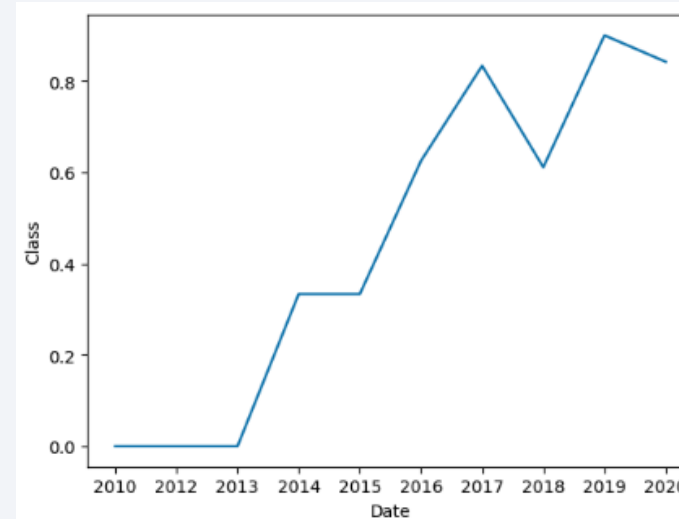
Flight Number vs. Orbit



Payload Mass vs. Orbit



Launch Success Yearly Trend



[GitHub - EDA Data Visualization](#)

# EDA with SQL

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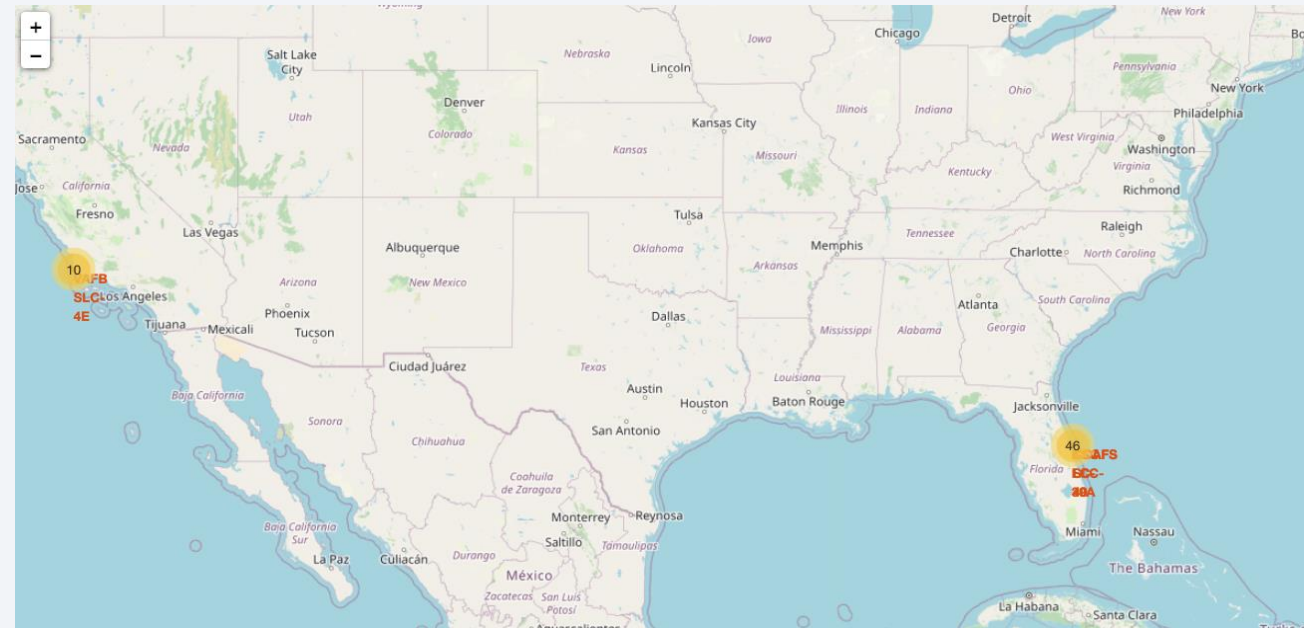
- SQL Queries

- Create SPACEXTABLE from SpaceX CSV
- Displayed names of unique launch sites in the space mission
- Displayed 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'
- Displayed the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)
- Displayed average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1
- Listed the data when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved
- Listed the names of the boosters which had success in drone ship and had payload mass between 4000 and 6000 kg
- Listed the total number of successful and failed mission outcomes
- Listed the names of the booster versions which had carried the maximum payload mass with a subquery
- Listed records that displayed the month, failure landing outcomes, booster version, and launch site for the year 2015
- Ranked the count of landing outcomes between the dates 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20 in descending order

# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

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- Created an interactive map with Folium with markers and circles to map launch sites geographically colored by success (green) and failure (red)
  - Adding these to a map would help provide some insights regarding geographical patterns about launch sites. Launch success may be dependent on location so finding an optimal location for building a launch site can be critical to success.



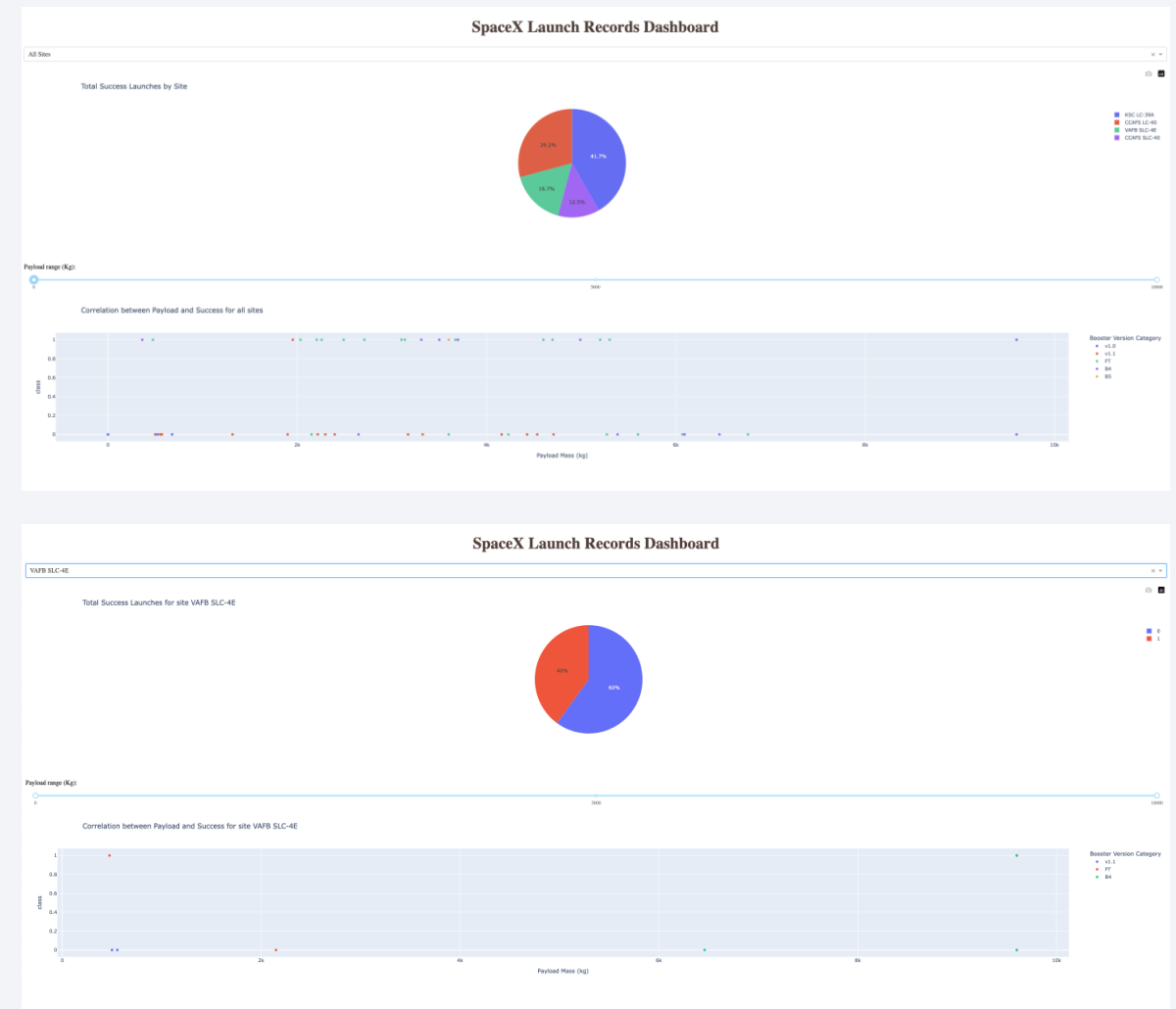
[GitHub - Folium Interactive Map](#)



# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- The Plotly Dashboard consisted of pie charts and scatterplots to show overall success for all launch sites, a breakdown of success and failure for specific sites and an interactive scaler to visualize the impact of weighted payloads.

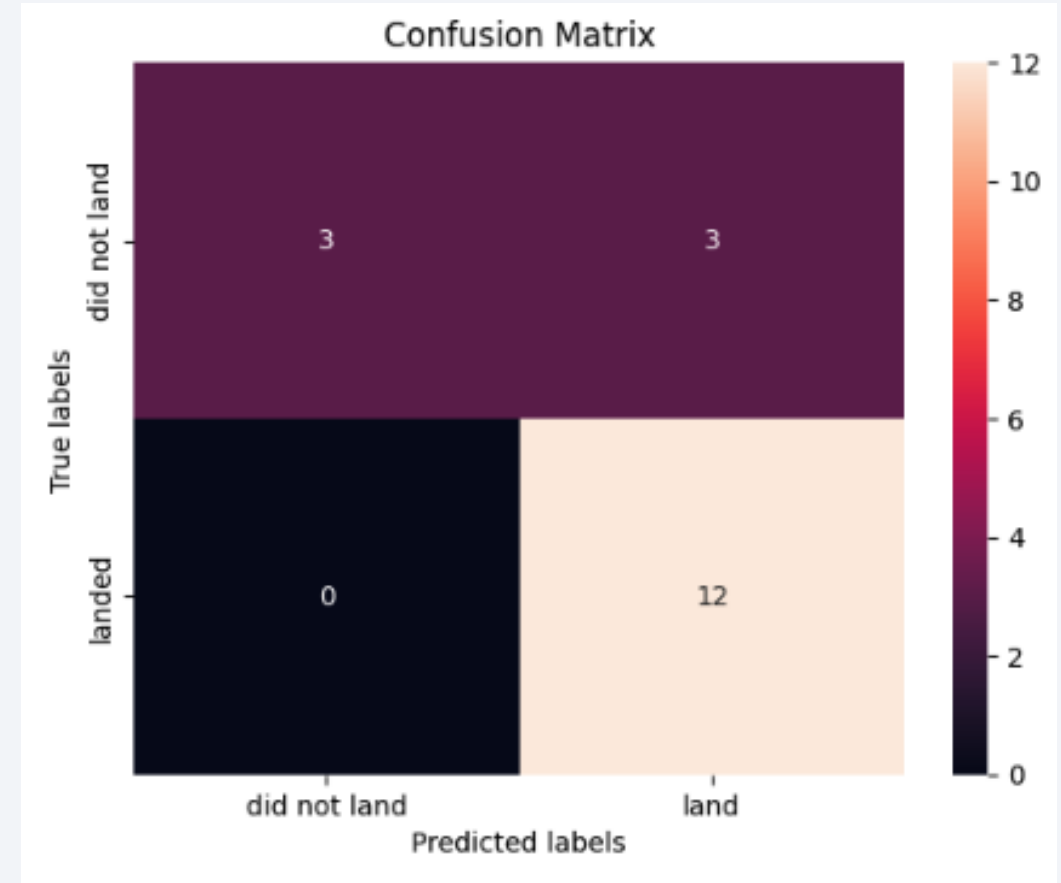
[GitHub - SpaceX Plotly Dashboard](#)



# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

- Objective: Create a model to predict if a launch will land successfully
- Models evaluated: Logistic Regression (LR), Support Vector Machine (SVM), Decision Tree (DT), and K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN)
- Models were evaluated on an 80/20 train-test split of scaled numerical launch data. Categorical values were one-hot encoded.
- All models achieved accuracy ~83%.

[GitHub - SpaceX ML Classification](#)



# Results

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- Exploratory data analysis results
  - API and Webscraping were sufficient in generating a working dataset of SpaceX launch data
  - EDA with SQL was effective in exploring SpaceX launch data
  - EDA with visualization (Python and Plotly) provides informative information on site specific success
- Predictive analysis results
  - All models achieved accuracy ~83%.



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 blue and red, creating a sense of motion or data flow. A faint, light blue grid pattern is also visible, particularly in the lower-left quadrant. The overall effect is high-tech and digital.

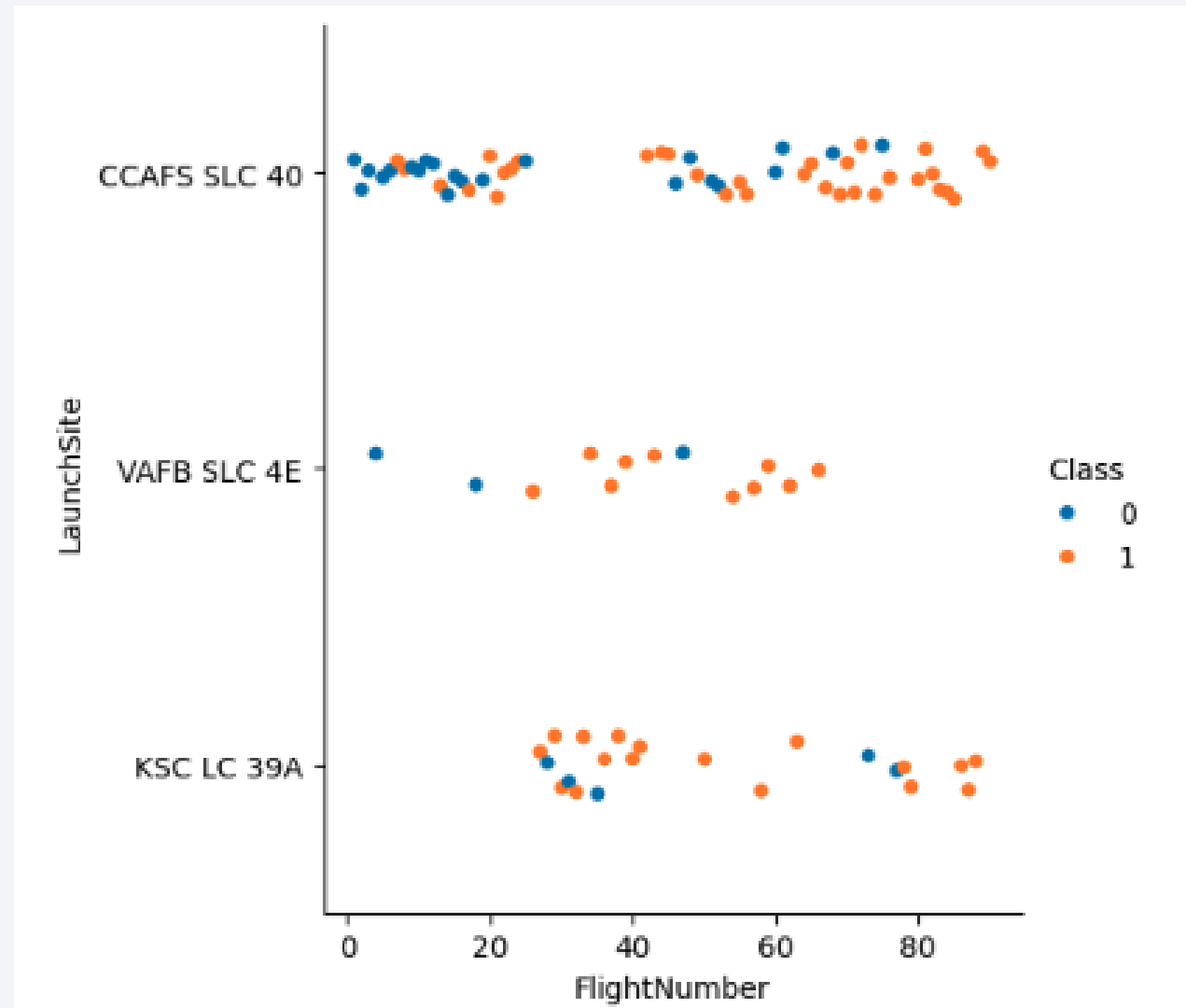
Section 2

# Insights drawn from EDA



# Flight Number vs. Launch Site

Increased flight numbers suggests increased success across launch sites.

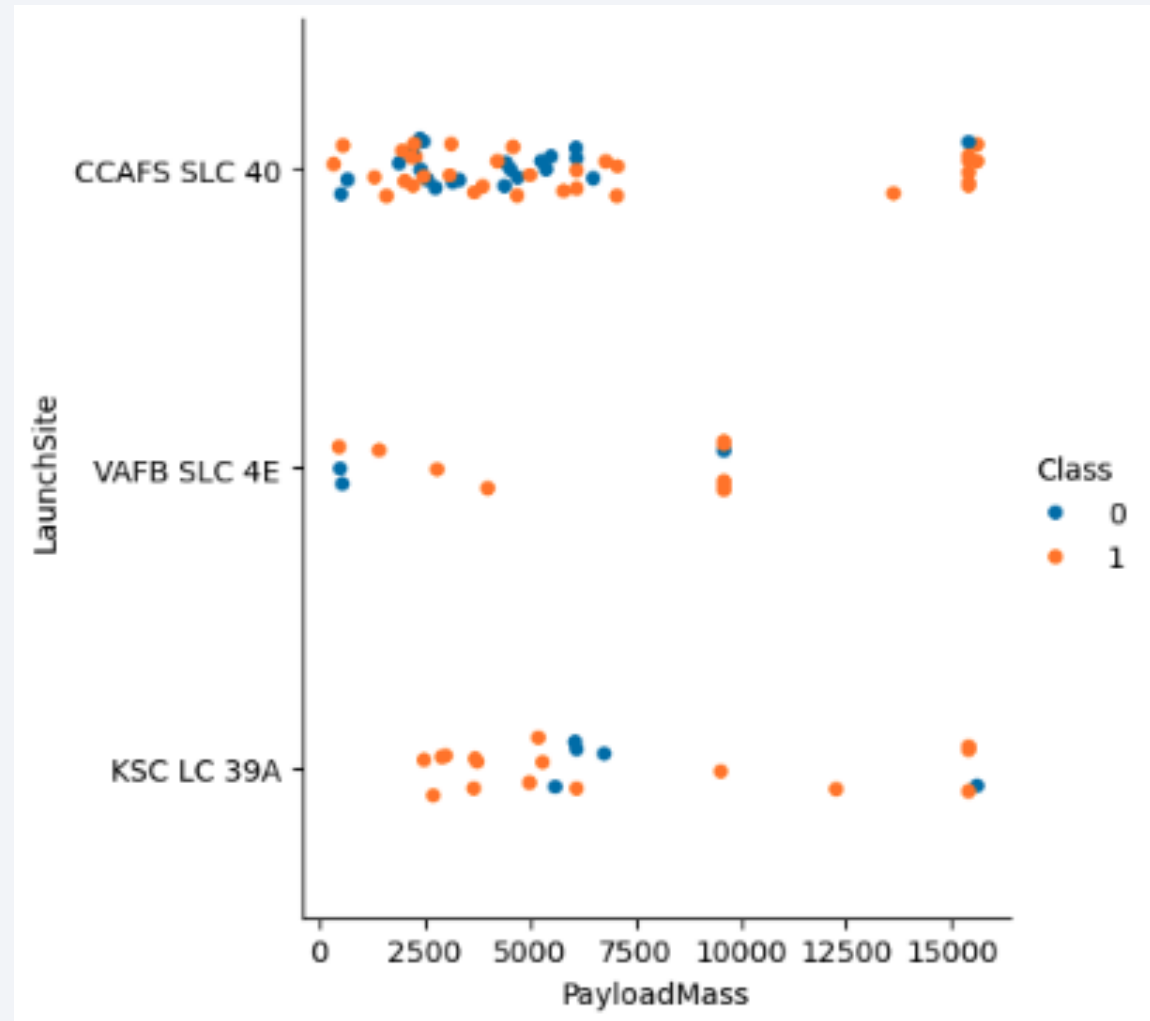




# Payload vs. Launch Site

Increasing payload does not indicate positive correlation with launch site success rate.

Note, VAFB SLC 4E did not launch rockets with a heavy payload.

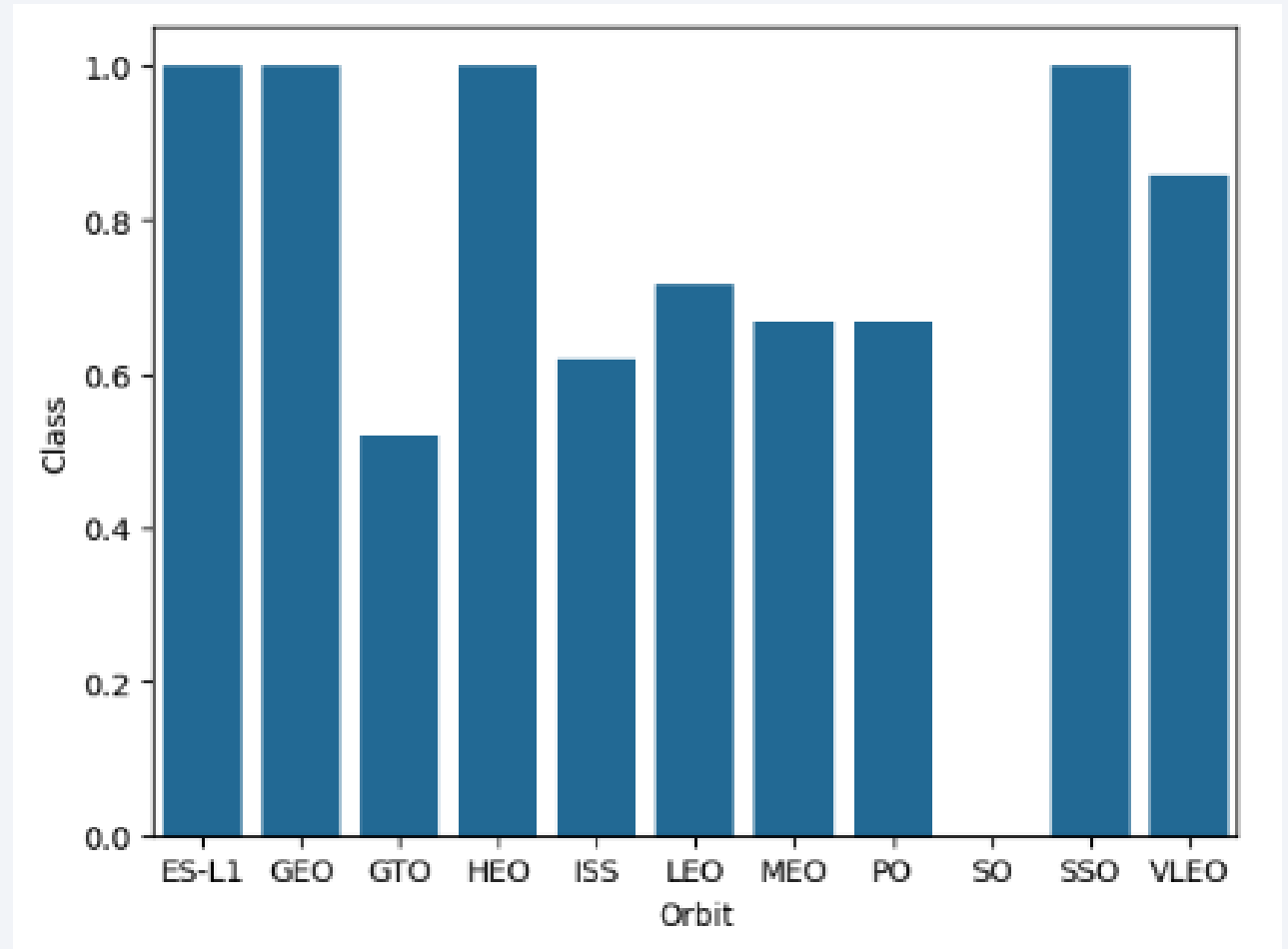


# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

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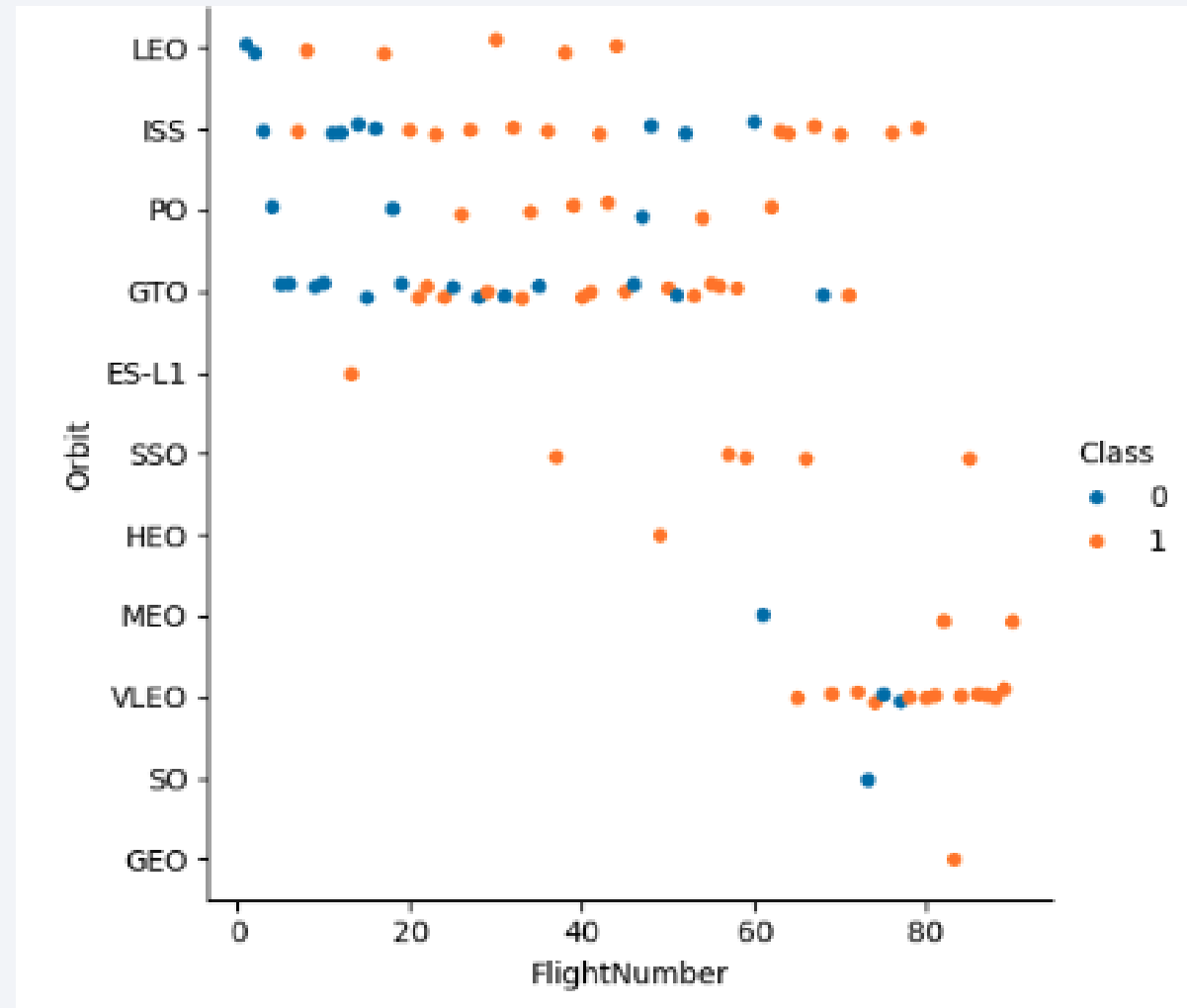
ES-L1, GEO, HEO, and SSO orbits have a 100% success rate.

SO orbit had a success rate of 0%.



# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

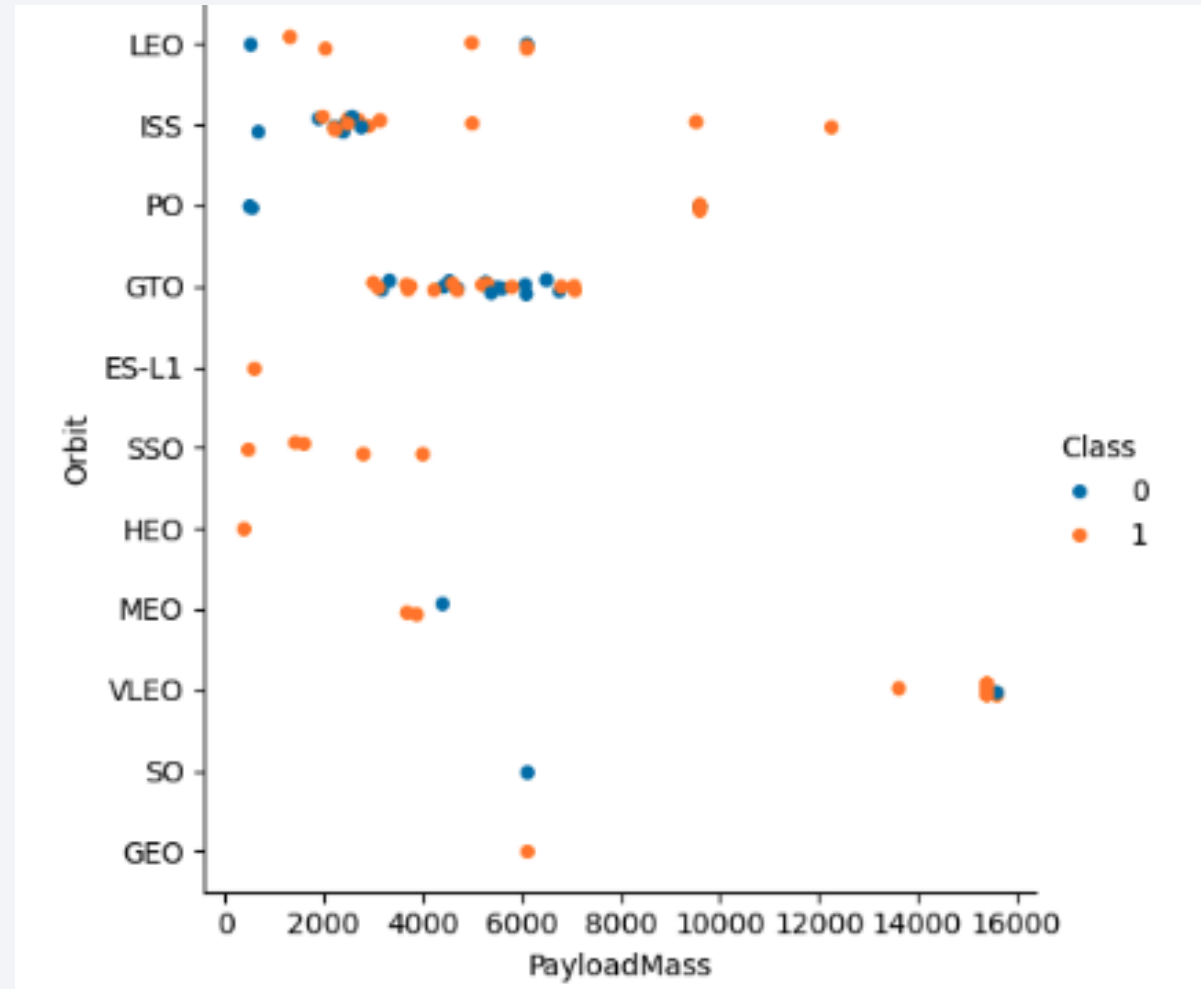
In the LEO orbit, success rate seems to be correlated with the number of flights. The GTO orbit appears to have no relationship between flight number and success.



# Payload vs. Orbit Type

Heavier payloads are positively correlated with PO, LEO and ISS orbits.

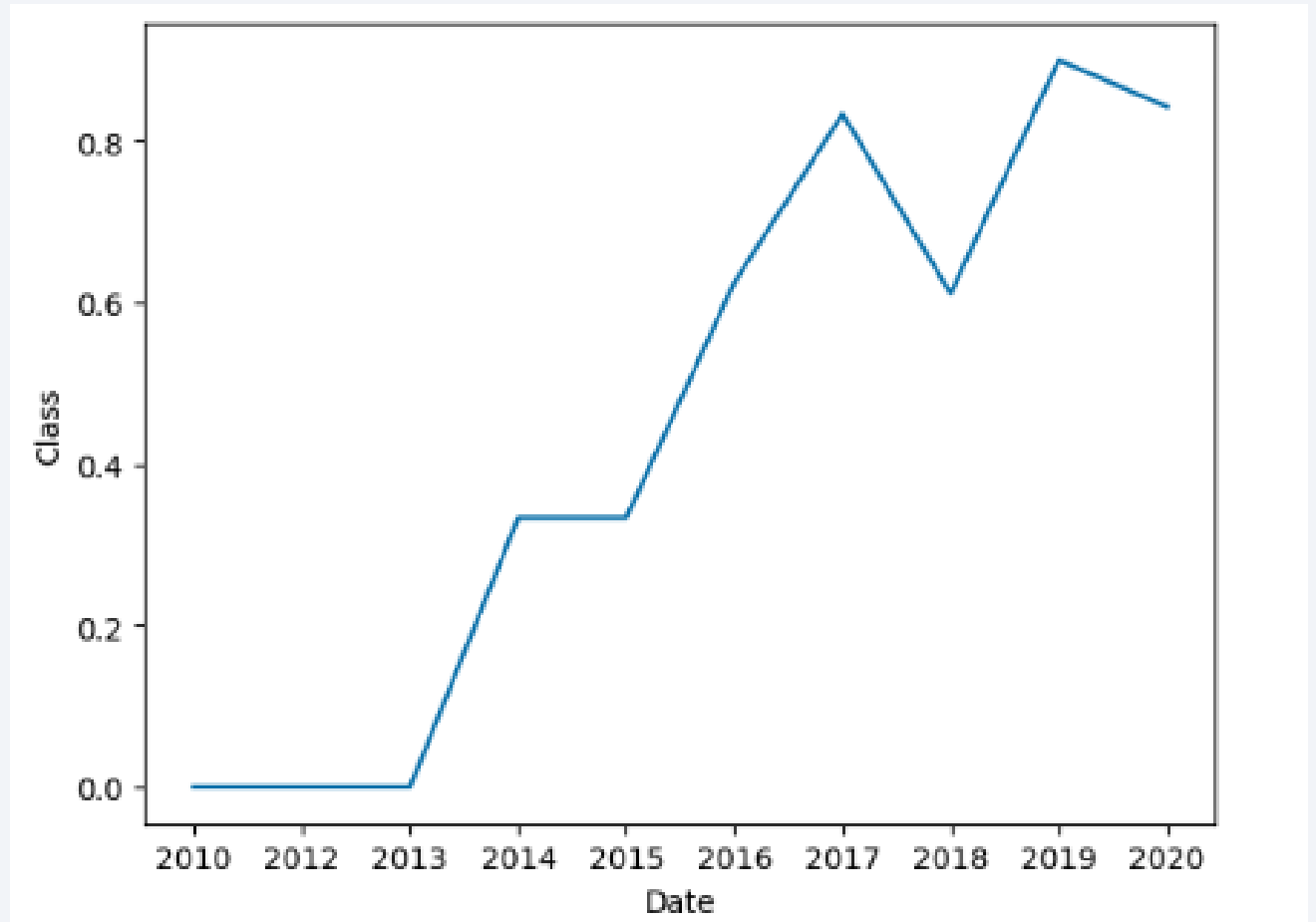
However GTO does not have a clear relationship with payload and success rate.



# Launch Success Yearly Trend

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Success rate has increased since 2013 until 2020.





# All Launch Site Names

---

Unique launch site names can be queried using DISTINCT

```
*sql SELECT DISTINCT Launch_Site FROM SPACEXTABLE;
```

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

Launch_Site
-------------

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

VAFB SLC-4E
-------------

KSC LC-39A
------------

CCAFS SLC-40
--------------

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

Querying for the first 5 launch sites that start with 'CCA' can be done using LIKE and LIMIT.

```
%sql SELECT * FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Launch_Site LIKE 'CCA%' LIMIT 5
```

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

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

# Total Payload Mass

---

Calculate the total payload carried by boosters from NASA using SUM() function and WHERE to specify that Customer is NASA

```
❖sql SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Customer LIKE 'NASA (CRS)'
```

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

SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_)
45596

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

---

Calculate the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1 using the AVG() function and a WHERE clause to specify Booster\_Version

```
%sql SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) as Average_Payload FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Booster_Version LIKE 'F9 v1.1'
```

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

Average_Payload
2928.4

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

---

To find the first successful landing outcome on a ground pad, the query must use the MIN() function to find the earliest date from the table where the landing outcome is equal to 'Success (ground pad)'

```
%sql SELECT MIN(DATE) FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Landing_Outcome LIKE 'Success (ground pad)'
```

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

```
Done.
```

<u>MIN(DATE)</u>
------------------

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



# Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

List all successful booster versions using a WHERE clause specifying Mission\_Outcome = 'Success' with a BETWEEN clause to limit payload between 4000 and 6000

```
%sql SELECT Booster_Version FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE (Mission_Outcome = 'Success')  
AND (PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_ BETWEEN 4000 AND 6000)
```

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

Booster_Version
F9 v1.1
F9 v1.1 B1011
F9 v1.1 B1014
F9 v1.1 B1016
F9 FT B1020
F9 FT B1022
F9 FT B1026
F9 FT B1030
F9 FT B1021.2
F9 FT B1032.1
F9 B4 B1040.1
F9 FT B1031.2
F9 FT B1032.2
F9 B4 B1040.2
F9 B5 B1046.2
F9 B5 B1047.2
F9 B5 B1046.3
F9 B5 B1048.3
F9 B5 B1051.2
F9 B5B1060.1
F9 B5 B1058.2
F9 B5B1062.1

# Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

---

The total number of successful and failure outcomes can be displayed by selecting the outcome and COUNT from the table after grouping by mission outcome.

```
%sql SELECT Mission_Outcome, COUNT(*) AS total FROM SPACEXTABLE GROUP BY Mission_Outcome
```

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

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

# Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

---

List the names of booster versions that carried the maximum payload mass by using a subquery to get the MAX payload from the whole table.

```
%sql SELECT Booster_Version FROM SPACEXTABLE
WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_ = (SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) FROM SPACEXTABLE)

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

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

---

List the failed landing\_outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015 by using SUBSTR to extract the Month and Year from 'Date'.

```
%sql SELECT SUBSTR(Date,6,2) AS Month, Landing_Outcome, Booster_Version, Launch_Site
FROM SPACEXTABLE
WHERE SUBSTR(Date,0,5)='2015' AND Landing_Outcome <> 'Success'
```

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

Month	Landing_Outcome	Booster_Version	Launch_Site
01	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40
02	Controlled (ocean)	F9 v1.1 B1013	CCAFS LC-40
03	No attempt	F9 v1.1 B1014	CCAFS LC-40
04	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40
04	No attempt	F9 v1.1 B1016	CCAFS LC-40
06	Precluded (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1018	CCAFS LC-40
12	Success (ground pad)	F9 FT B1019	CCAFS LC-40

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

---

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 using COUNT and BETWEEN in the WHERE clause.

Using ORDER BY count and DESC will return the ranking in descending order.

```
%sql SELECT Landing_Outcome, COUNT(*) AS count FROM SPACEXTABLE  
WHERE (Date BETWEEN '2010-06-04' AND '2017-03-20') ORDER BY count DESC
```

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

Landing_Outcome	count
Failure (parachute)	31

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 solid blue background on the left and a satellite photograph of Earth on the right. The Earth's surface is dark, with numerous bright yellow and orange lights representing cities and urban areas. The horizon of the Earth is visible as a thin, curved line separating the dark surface from the deep blue of space.

Section 3

# Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

# All Launch Site Locations

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All launch sites are within the United States, specifically Florida and California (yellow)





# Success-Failure Labeled Launch Outcomes

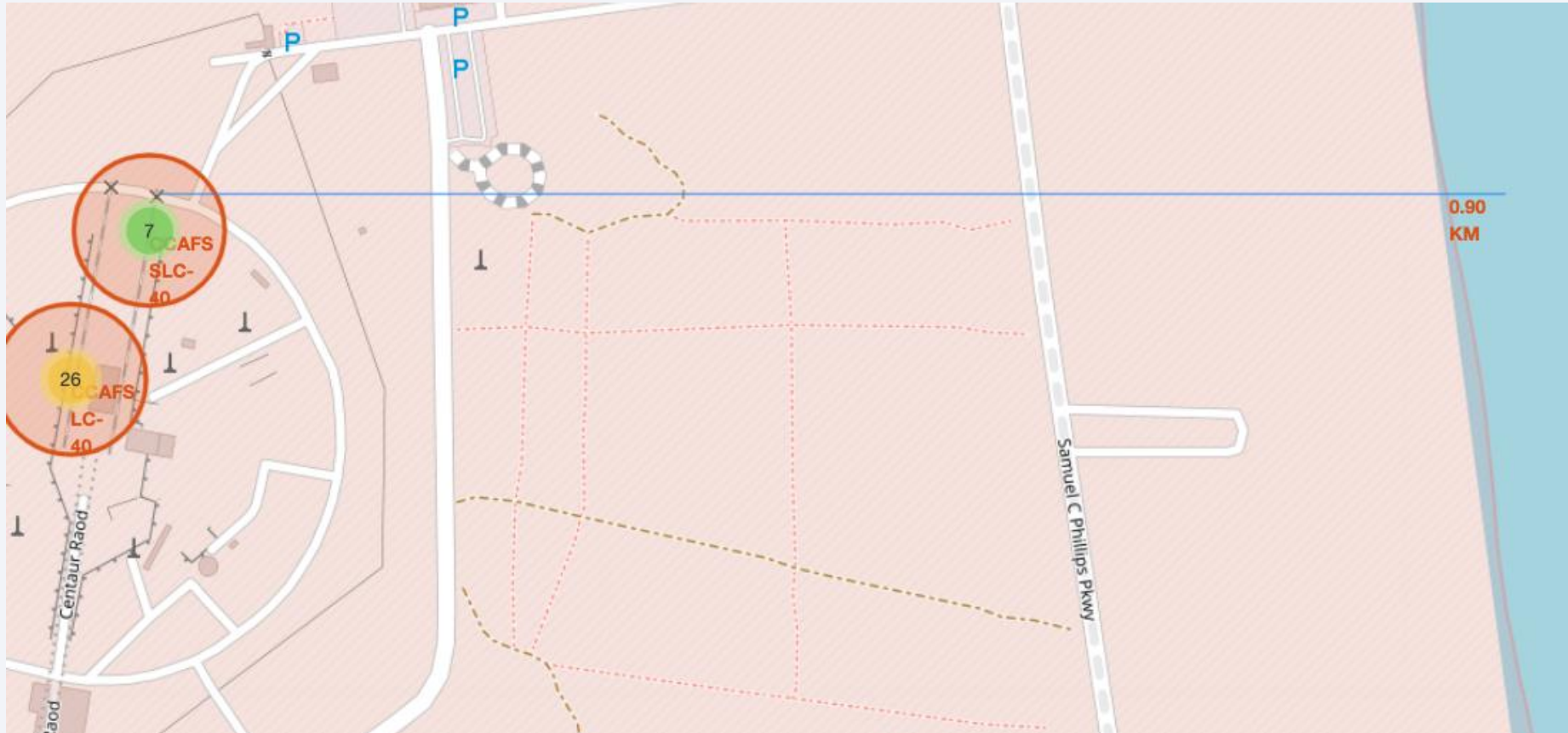
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Successful launch outcomes are indicated in green, failed launch outcomes are indicated in red





# Launch Site to Proximities

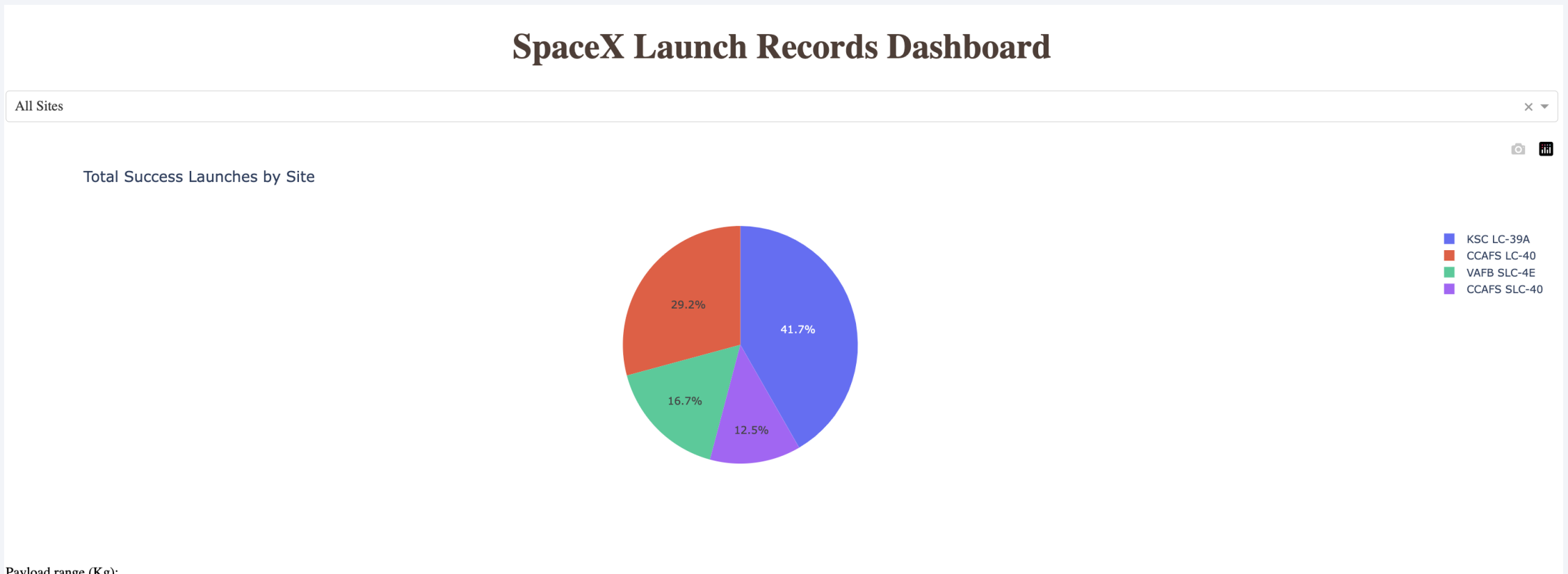




Section 4

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

# Total Success Launches by Site



KSC LC-39A had the highest success rate with 41.7%. CCAFS LC-40, VAFB SLC-4E, and CCAFS SLC-40 had 29.2%, 16.7%, and 12.5% success respectively.

# Highest Launch Success Ratio

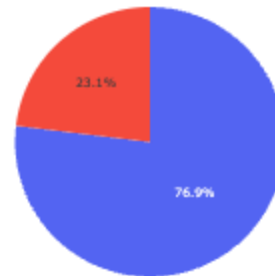
---

## SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard

KSC LC-39A

✕

Total Success Launches for site KSC LC-39A



■ 1  
■ 0

KSC LC-39A has the highest launch success ration with 76.9% .

# Payload and Launch Outcome for Different Boosters



Payload vs Launch Outcome classification for payloads between 3000 and 10000 kg. As payload increases, FT and B4 booster versions have better success.

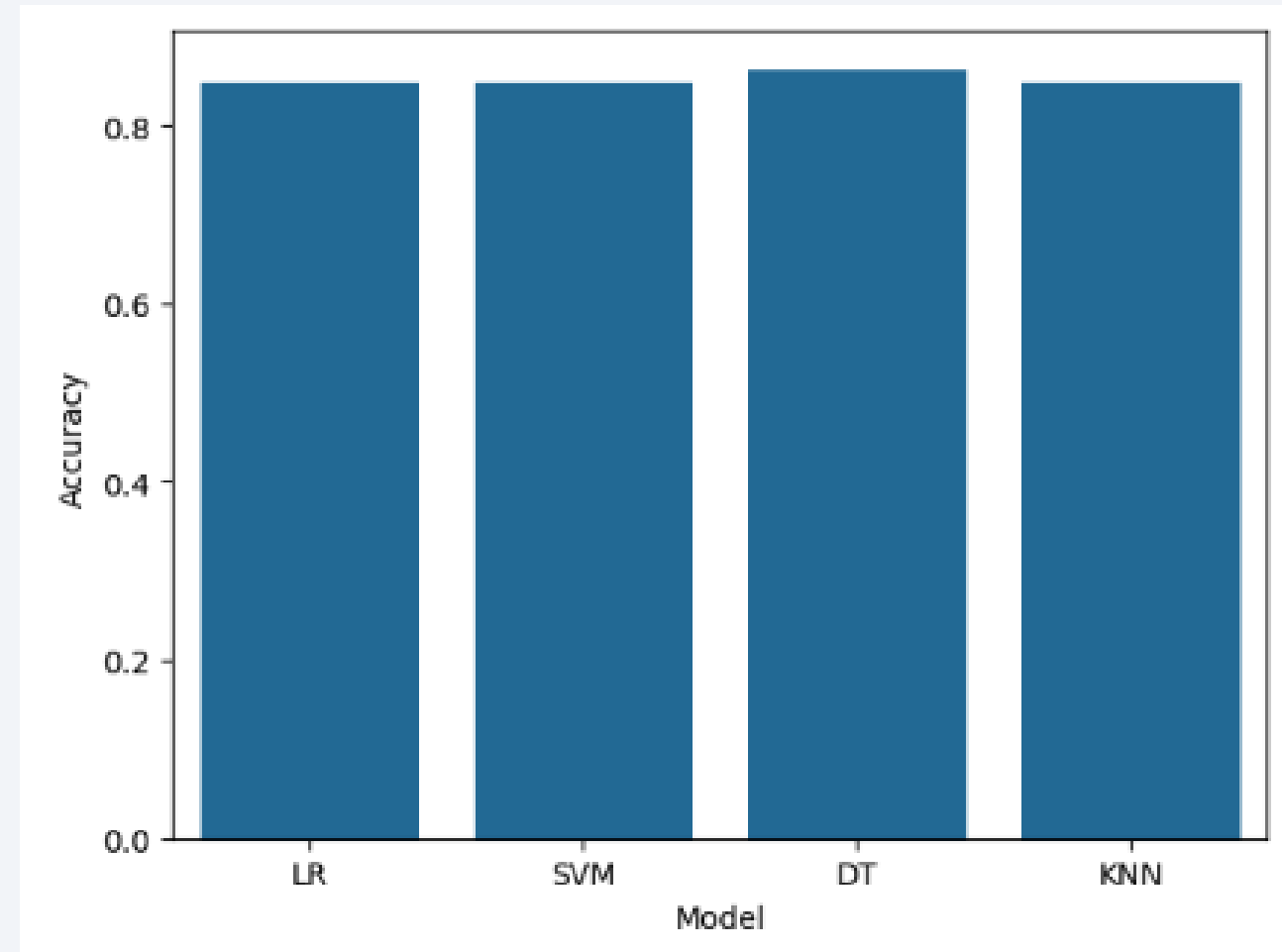


Section 5

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

# Classification Accuracy

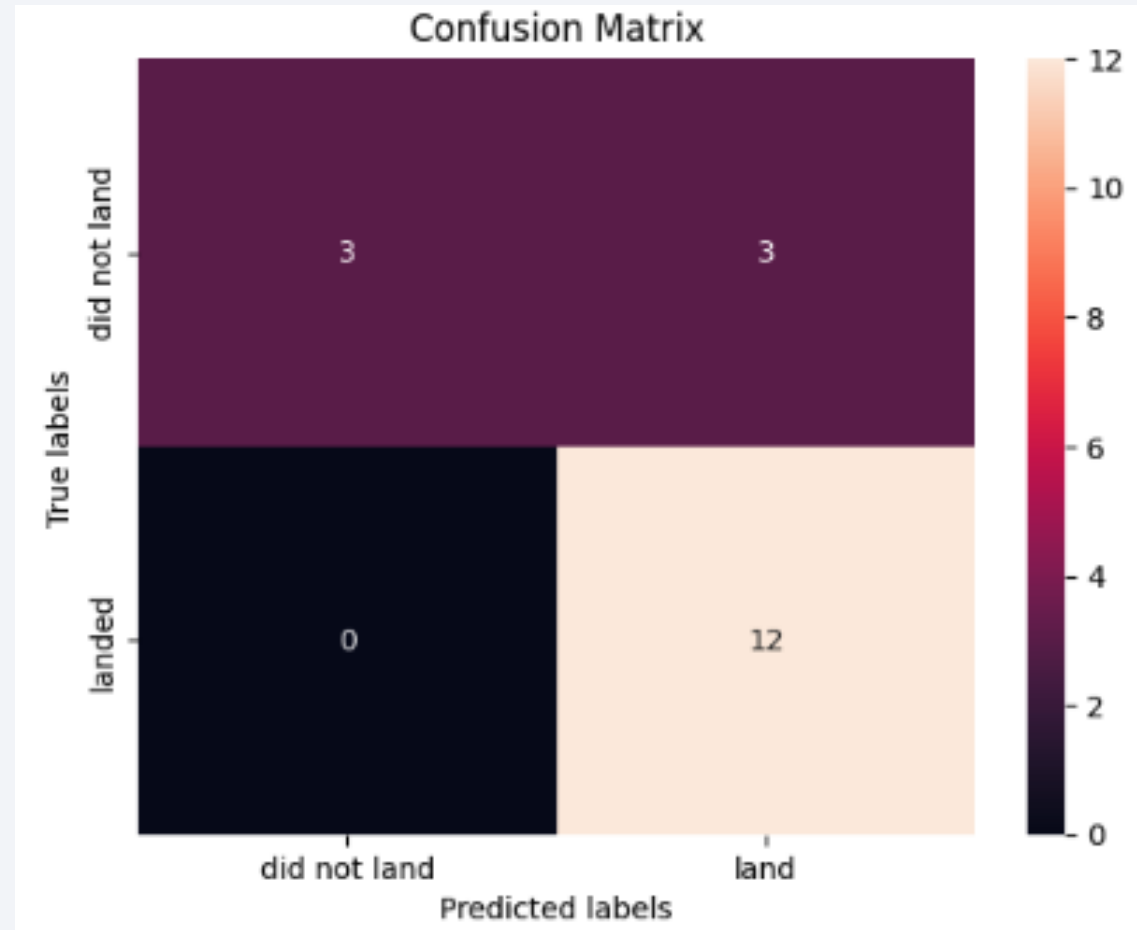
- Bar plot showing best measured classification accuracy for Logistic Regression (LR), Support Vector Machine (SVM), Decision Tree (DT), and K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN) models.
- All models have almost equal accuracy, but DT has a slight advantage.





# Confusion Matrix

As we see here, the model is able to distinguish between classes, but does indicate some false positives – predicts that 3 landed, but in reality they did not land.



# Conclusions

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- Highest success rate belonged to launches from KSC LC-39A
- There is some positive correlation between payload and orbit for signaling successful launch outcomes, however its correlations are poor at payloads < 5000 kg.
- The Decision Tree Model had the best accuracy.

# Appendix

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All code can be found on GitHub at: <https://github.com/aar0n-aguh0b/coursera/tree/main/capstone>

Thank you!

