



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

# Executive Summary

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- In this report, we will be analyzing a database of past SpaceX launches to determine the likelihood of success of future launches.
- The methods used include data wrangling, exploratory data analysis, interactive data visualization, and predictive analysis with multiple machine learning models.
- Results showed that launch site, orbit, payload mass, and booster version were all predictors of a launch success.

# Introduction

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- The goal of this project is to predict if the first stage of a Falcon 9 rocket will land successfully.
- If the rocket lands successfully and can be reused, it will greatly reduce the overall cost of the launch.



Section 1

# Methodology

# Methodology

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## Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
  - Data was retrieved via SpaceX API and by webscraping
- Perform data wrangling
  - Data was cleaned to include only relevant information
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
  - Machine learning models tested include Logistic Regression, K Nearest Neighbors, Decision Tree, and SVM

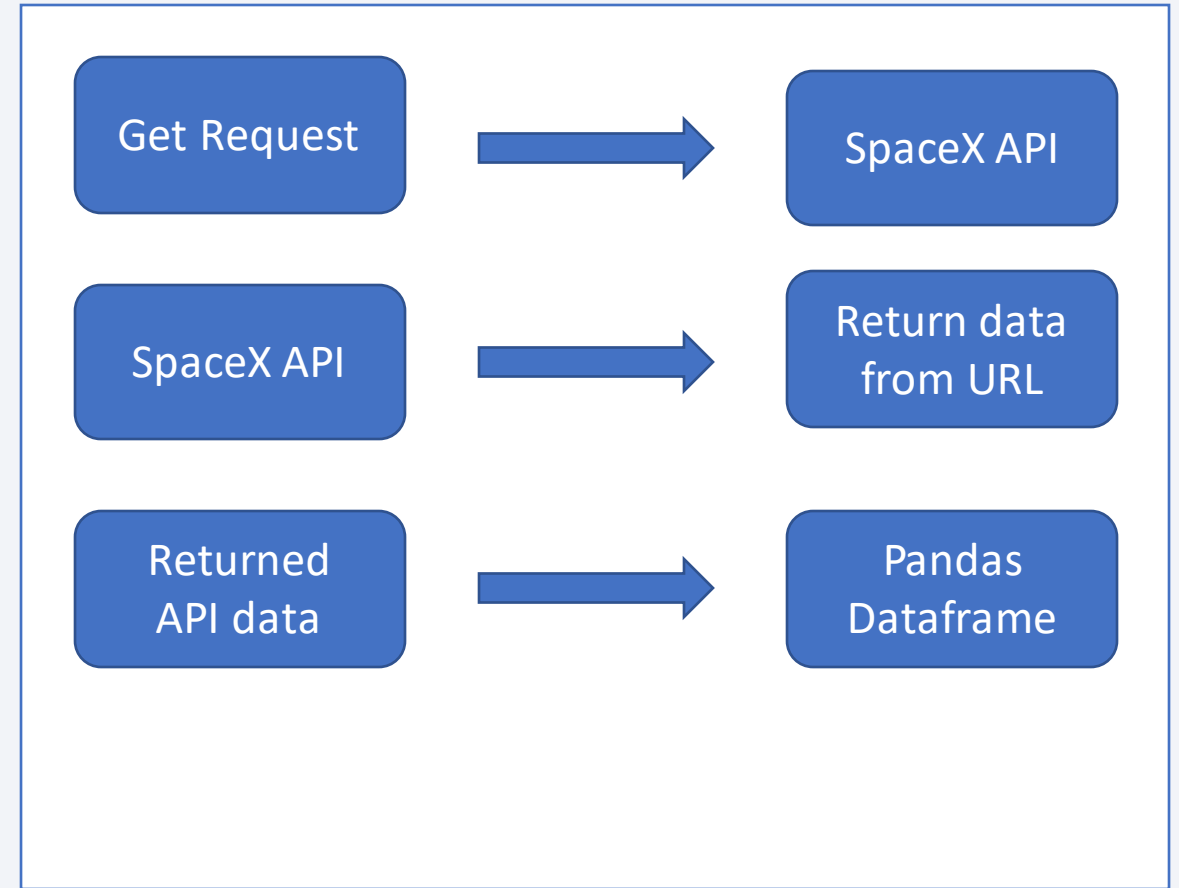
# Data Collection

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- Data was collected by using a get request to the SpaceX API
- Data was also acquired from Wikipedia via webscraping

# Data Collection – SpaceX API

- Several functions were defined to get data from the API and append it to a new dataframe.
- Get request was sent to the SpaceX API to retrieve data. It was then made into a pandas dataframe.
- [https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/jupyter-labs-spacex-data-collection-api%20\(1\).ipynb](https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/jupyter-labs-spacex-data-collection-api%20(1).ipynb)

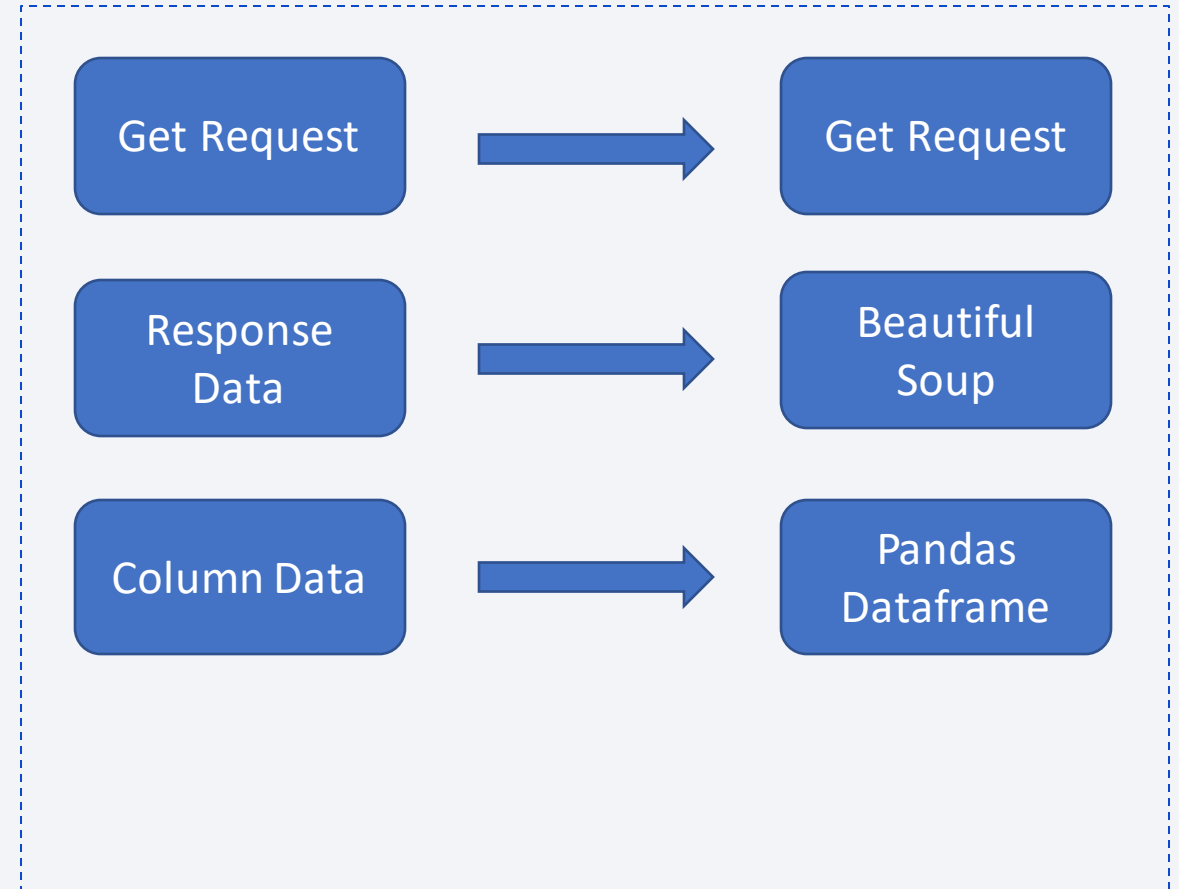




# Data Collection - Scraping

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- A get response was sent to the Wikipedia URL to obtain data
- Response content was converted to a BeautifulSoup object
- The correct table was identified, and the columns were extracted to a dataframe
- <https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/jupyter-labs-webscraping.ipynb>



# Data Wrangling

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- Number of launches per site was calculated with the `value_counts` method
- Number of launches to each orbit was found with the `value_counts` method
- A new dataframe of outcomes was created based on the count of each result
- A new column "Class" was added and any launches with bad outcomes were set to 0, and all else set to 1
- The average success rate was determined to be 66%
- [https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/labs-jupyter-spacex-data\\_wrangling\\_jupyterlite.jupyterlite.ipynb](https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/labs-jupyter-spacex-data_wrangling_jupyterlite.jupyterlite.ipynb)

# EDA with Data Visualization

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- A scatter plot of Flight Number vs. Payload Mass, colored by Class, was created to observe the change in success rate over time
- A scatter plot of Launch Site vs. Flight Number, colored by Class, showed which sites had the most successful launches
- A bar chart of class and orbit showed which orbits had the highest success rate
- A scatter plot of Flight Number vs. Orbit, colored by Class, showed that orbits changed over time and influenced the success of the launch

# EDA with Data Visualization

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- A scatterplot of Payload vs. Orbit, colored by Class, showed which orbit types worked best for heavy payloads
- A line chart of Date and Class is evidence that launch success has increased over time
- <https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/jupyter-labs-eda-dataviz.ipynb.jupyterlite.ipynb>

# EDA with SQL

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- Select Distinct Launch Sites
- Select 5 Launch Sites beginning with CCA
- Select total Payload Mass
- Select Date of first successful landing
- Select Booster Versions with successful drone ship landings and Payload Mass between 4000 and 6000kg
- Select total number of successful and failed missions
- Select which Booster Versions have carried maximum Payload
- Select month of failed drone ship missions in 2015
- Rank the count of successful landings between 04/66/10 and 20/03/17

[https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbfefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/jupyter-labs-eda-sql-coursera\\_sqlite.ipynb](https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbfefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/jupyter-labs-eda-sql-coursera_sqlite.ipynb)



# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

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- Markers and labels for all launch sites added to map
- Pop icons added to each site to show the number of successful and failed missions
- Distance from VAFB SLC-4E to coast calculated and marked
- Distance from VAFB SLC-4E to Santa Barbara calculated and marked
- [https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/lab\\_jupyter\\_launch\\_site\\_location.jupyterlite.ipynb](https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/lab_jupyter_launch_site_location.jupyterlite.ipynb)

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

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- Added pie chart to show success rates for each site
- Added site dropdown to pie chart to show percentage of successful / failed missions at selected site
- Added scatter chart to show Payload vs. Launch Outcome
- Added range slider for the scatter plot to control which payload masses are displayed
- [https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/c4096040808a4e0644daf758bf591cfb0719a7b4/spacex\\_dash\\_app.py](https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/c4096040808a4e0644daf758bf591cfb0719a7b4/spacex_dash_app.py)

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

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- Preprocessed and normalized data for X and Y values
- Split data into training and testing splits
- Created model objects for Logistic Regression, SVM, Decision Tree, and KNN
- Used GridSearchCV to choose best hyperparameters and fit the models
- Obtained score and confusion matrix for each model to determine which performed best
- [https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/SpaceX\\_Machine\\_Learning\\_Prediction\\_Part\\_5.jupyterlite%20\(1\).ipynb](https://github.com/baw08d/IBM-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/fc1bbbefc246db9dcf4ee7a896e06fb81c3aeb9a/SpaceX_Machine_Learning_Prediction_Part_5.jupyterlite%20(1).ipynb)

# Results

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



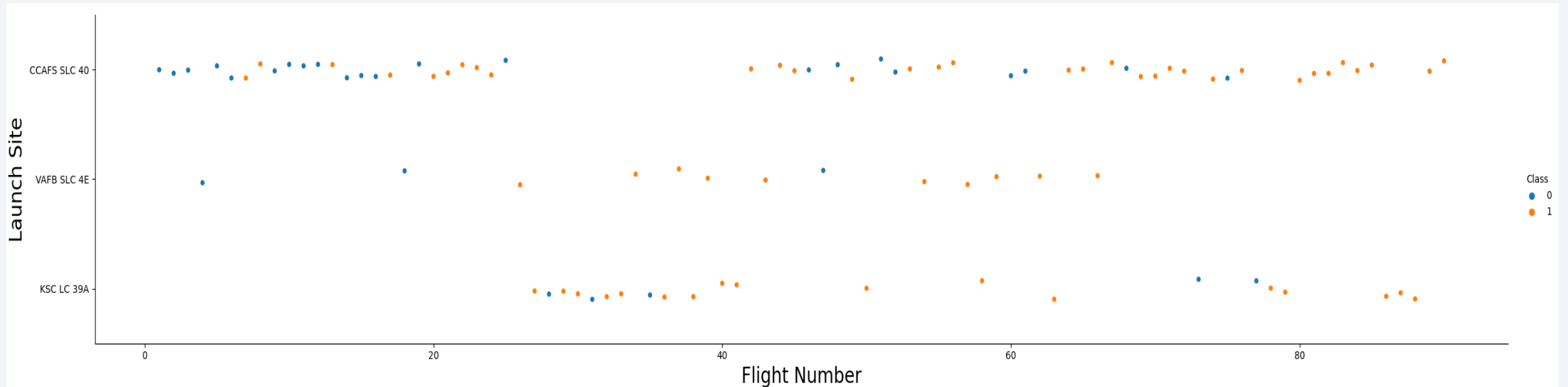


Section 2

# Insights drawn from EDA

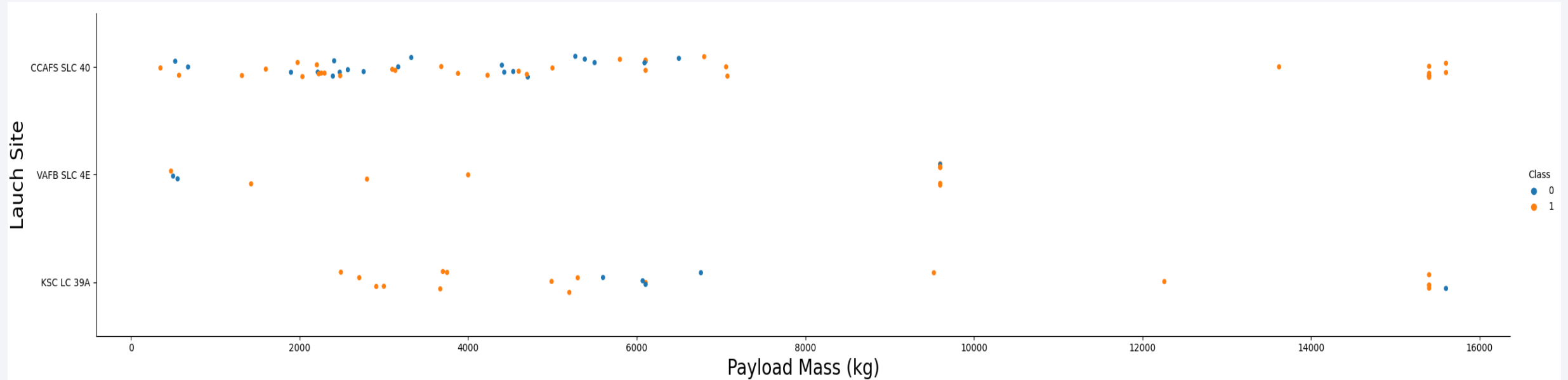


# Flight Number vs. Launch Site



- At site VAFB SLC 4E, later flight numbers have a higher success rate
- Site CCAFS SLC 40 also has somewhat more successes as flight number increases

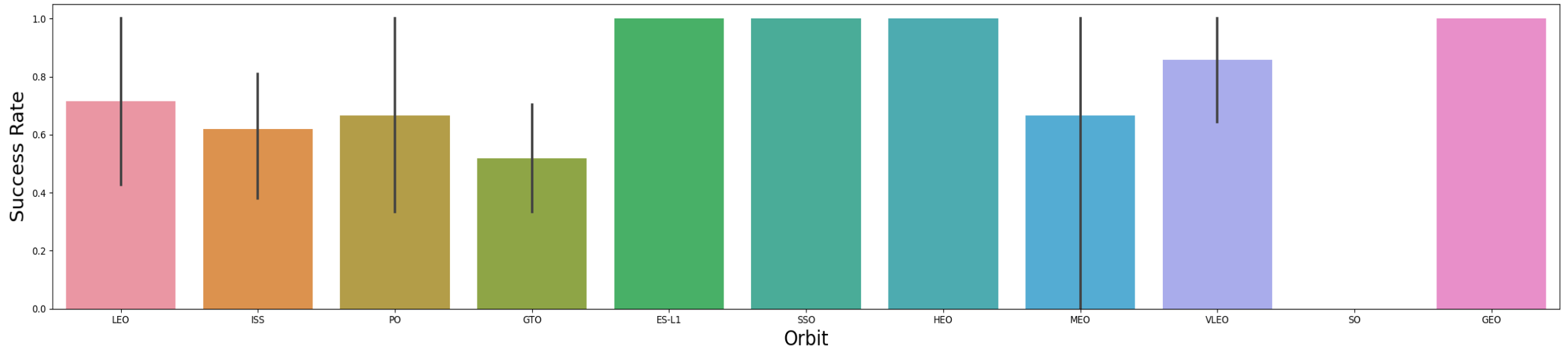
# Payload vs. Launch Site



- The highest payload mass rockets were only launched from KSC LS 39A and CCAFS SLC 40
- These launches also have a high success rate
- Launches in the 6000kg range from KSC LS 39A had very low success rate

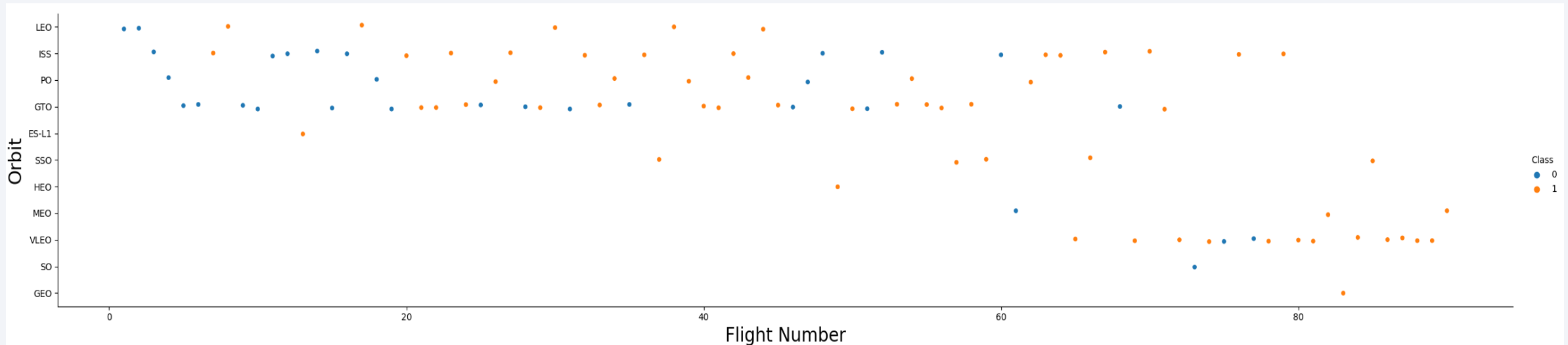
# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

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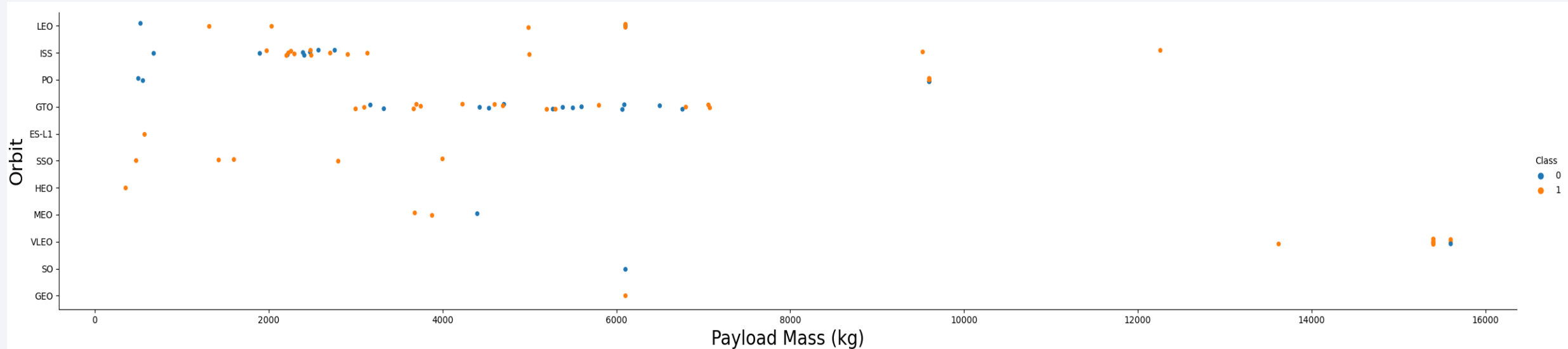
- ES-L1, SSO, HEO, and GEO orbit types all have 100% success rates
- There were no successful launches in the SO orbit
- All others have mixed success

# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type



- Orbits VLEO, SO, and GEO are only the target of later Flight Number missions
- Orbit type LEO has a higher success rate in later missions
- As seen on the previous slide, SSO, HEO, GEO, and ES-L1 all have 100% success rate, however, only SSO has multiple launches for a good sample size

# Payload vs. Orbit Type

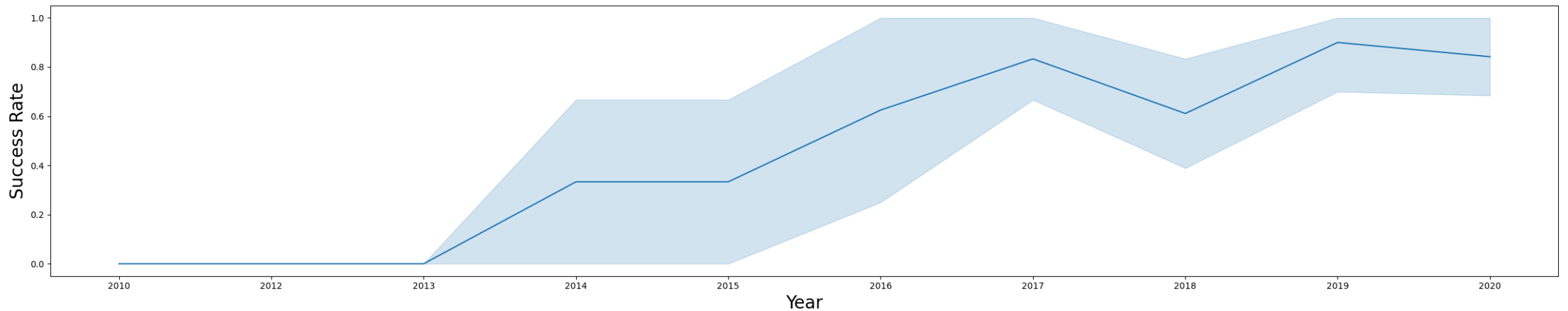


- Missions to LEO orbit have a higher success rate with increased Payload Mass
- The highest Payload Masses are at VLEO orbit, and have a high success rate



# Launch Success Yearly Trend

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- There were no successful launches in 2010, 2011, or 2012
- Since 2013, there has been an overall improvement in success rate over time
- 2018 has a dip in successful launches compared to the surrounding year

# All Launch Site Names

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- Find the names of the unique launch sites:

| Launch_Site  |
|--------------|
| CCAFS LC-40  |
| VAFB SLC-4E  |
| KSC LC-39A   |
| CCAFS SLC-40 |

**%%sql**

```
SELECT DISTINCT LAUNCH_SITE FROM SPACEXTBL;
```

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

- Find 5 records where launch sites begin with 'CCA':

In [8]:

```
%%sql
SELECT * FROM SPACEXTBL
WHERE LAUNCH_SITE LIKE 'CCA%'
limit 5;
```

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

Out[8]:

| Date       | Time (UTC) | Booster_Version | Launch_Site | Payload   | PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_ | Orbit     | Customer        | Mission_Outcome | Landing_Outcome     |
|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|---|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 04-06-2010 | 18:45:00   | F9 v1.0 B0003   | CCAFS LC-40 | Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit                          | 0                | LEO       | SpaceX          | Success         | Failure (parachute) |
| 08-12-2010 | 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) |
| 22-05-2012 | 07:44:00   | F9 v1.0 B0005   | CCAFS LC-40 | Dragon demo flight C2   | 525              | LEO (ISS) | NASA (COTS)     | Success         | No attempt          |
| 08-10-2012 | 00:35:00   | F9 v1.0 B0006   | CCAFS LC-40 | SpaceX CRS-1  | 500              | LEO (ISS) | NASA (CRS)      | Success         | No attempt          |
| 01-03-2013 | 15:10:00   | F9 v1.0 B0007   | CCAFS LC-40 | SpaceX CRS-2  | 677              | LEO (ISS) | NASA (CRS)      | Success         | No attempt          |

# Total Payload Mass

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- Calculate the total payload carried by boosters from NASA:

```
SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_)
```

```
107010
```

- **%%sql**
- **SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_) FROM SPACEXTBL**
- **WHERE CUSTOMER LIKE '%NASA%';**

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

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- Calculate the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1:

| AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) |
|------------------------|
| 2534.6666666666665     |

- `%%sql`
- `SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM SPACEXTBL`
- `WHERE "Booster_Version" LIKE '%F9 v1.1%';`



# First Successful Ground Landing Date

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- Find the dates of the first successful landing outcome on ground pad:

|             |
|-------------|
| MIN("Date") |
| 01-05-2017  |

- `%%sql`
- `SELECT MIN("Date") FROM SPACEXTBL`
- `WHERE "Landing _Outcome" LIKE 'Success (ground pad)';`

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

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- List the names of boosters which have successfully landed on drone ship and had payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000:

| Booster_Version |
|-----------------|
| F9 FT B1022     |
| F9 FT B1026     |
| F9 FT B1021.2   |
| F9 FT B1031.2   |

- `%%sql`
- `SELECT "Booster_Version" FROM SPACEXTBL`
- `WHERE "Landing _Outcome" LIKE 'Success (drone ship)'`
- `and PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ BETWEEN 4000 AND 6000 ;`

# Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

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- Calculate the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes:

| Mission_Outcome                  | COUNT(*) |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Failure (in flight)              | 1        |
| Success                          | 98       |
| Success                          | 1        |
| Success (payload status unclear) | 1        |

- **%%sql**
- **SELECT "Mission\_Outcome", COUNT(\*) FROM SPACEXTBL**
- **GROUP BY "Mission\_Outcome";**

# Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

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- List the names of the booster which have carried the maximum payload mass:

| Booster_Version |
|-----------------|
| F9 v1.1 B1018   |

- `%%sql`
- `SELECT "Booster_Version" FROM SPACEXTBL`
- `WHERE "Booster_Version" IN (SELECT MAX("Booster_Version")  
FROM SPACEXTBL);`

# 2015 Launch Records

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- List the failed landing\_outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015:

| <code>substr("Date",4,2)</code> | <code>Booster_Version</code> | <code>Launch_Site</code> | <code>Landing_Outcome</code> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 01                              | F9 v1.1 B1012                | CCAFS LC-40              | Failure (drone ship)         |
| 04                              | F9 v1.1 B1015                | CCAFS LC-40              | Failure (drone ship)         |

- `%%sql`
- `SELECT substr("Date",4,2),  
"Booster_Version","Launch_Site","Landing _Outcome" FROM SPACEXTBL`
- `WHERE "Landing _Outcome" LIKE 'Failure (drone ship)'`
- `and substr("Date",7,4) = '2015';`

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

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- Rank the count of successful landing outcomes between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20, in descending order:

| Landing_Outcome      | COUNT("Landing_Outcome") |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Success              | 20                       |
| Success (drone ship) | 8                        |
| Success (ground pad) | 6                        |

- `%%sql`
- `SELECT "Landing _Outcome",COUNT("Landing _Outcome") FROM SPACEXTBL`
- `WHERE "Landing _Outcome" LIKE '%Success%'`
- `and "Date" BETWEEN "04-06-2010" AND "20-03-2017"`
- `GROUP BY "Landing _Outcome"`

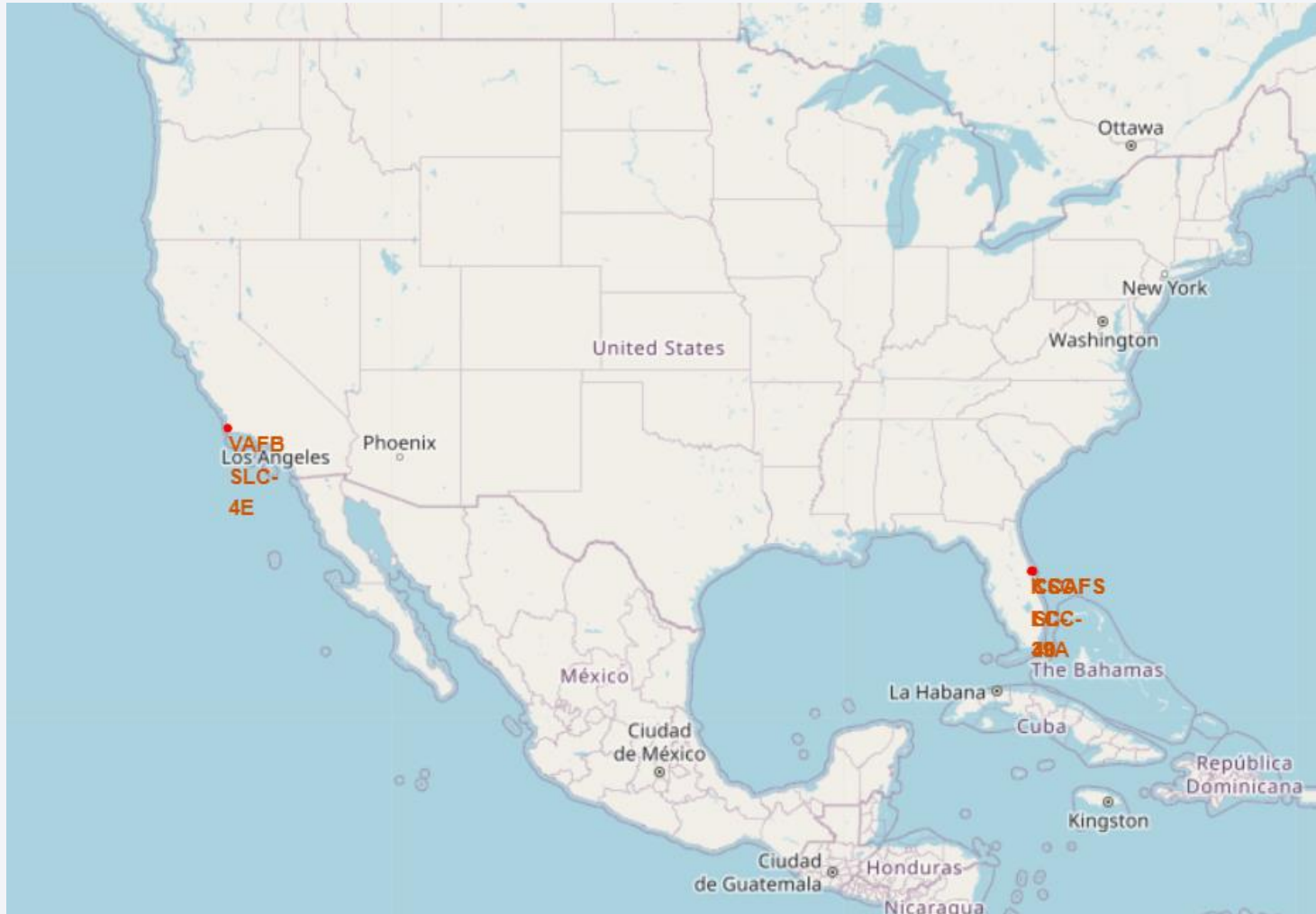
A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and the glowing lights of cities at night. The background is a deep blue gradient.

Section 3

# Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

# Launch Site Locations on Folium Map

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- Launch Site locations marked and labeled on Folium map.
- Three launch sites in Florida are located so closely that the labels overlap (KSC LC-39A, CCAFS SLC-40, CCAFS LC-40)
- The fourth site is on the opposite side of the country (VAFB SLC-4E)



# Mission Outcomes at Each Site



- This map has pop up labels added to every site to display how many successful and failed missions were sent.
- Successful missions are green and failed are in red
- Screenshot shows KSC LC-39A, which has significantly more successful launches than failures

# Distance from Launch Site to Nearest City



- On this map, the distance from VAFB SLC-4E to Santa Barbara has been calculated and marked
- The nearest city to this site is approximately 85.61 KM

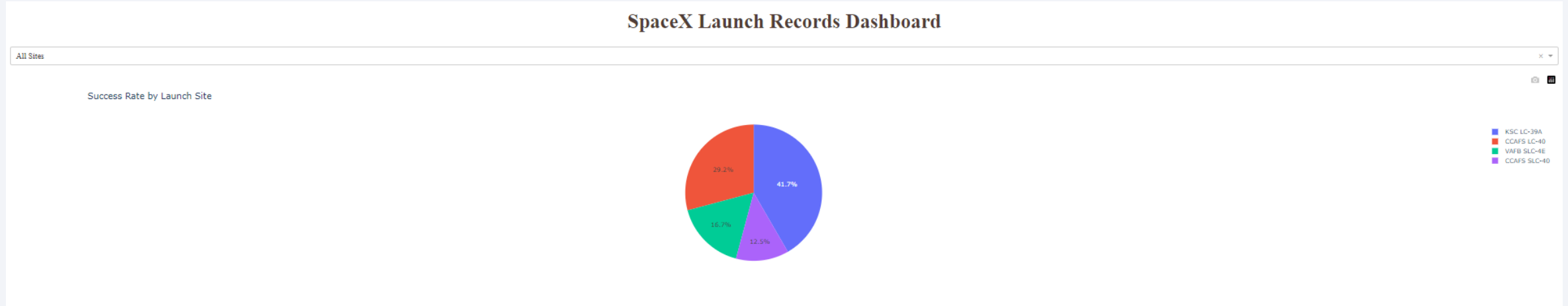




Section 4

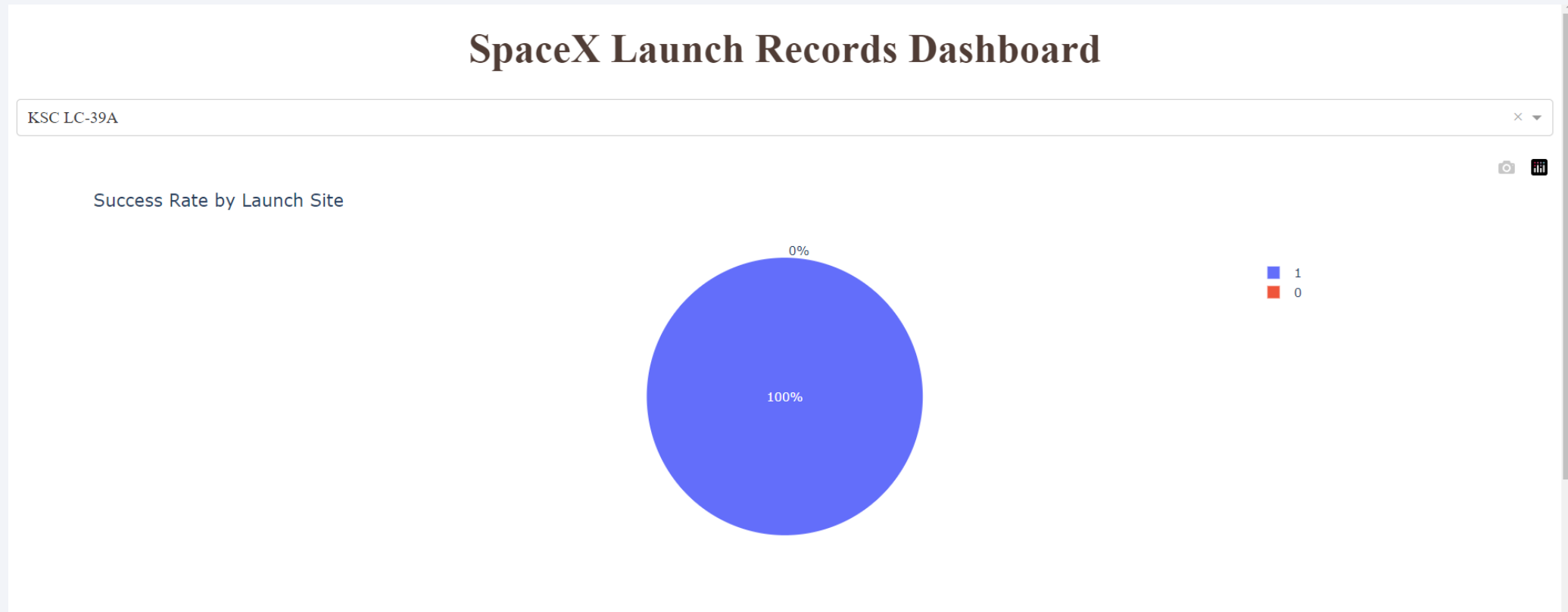
# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

# Count of Launch Successes for All Sites



- This is a pie chart showing the success rate for all sites (All sites is selected in the dropdown)
- Site KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate at 41.7%, followed by CCAFS LC-40 at 29.2%

# Single Launch Site Pie Chart



- Pie chart of success rate for one selected site

# Payload vs. Launch Outcome Scatter Plot

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- Payload vs. Landing Outcome with range slider above, colors show different booster versions
- V1.1 booster types have a low success rate, while FT boosters have a high success rate
- Overall, Payload Mass does not seem to have a consistent effect on success rate



Section 5

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

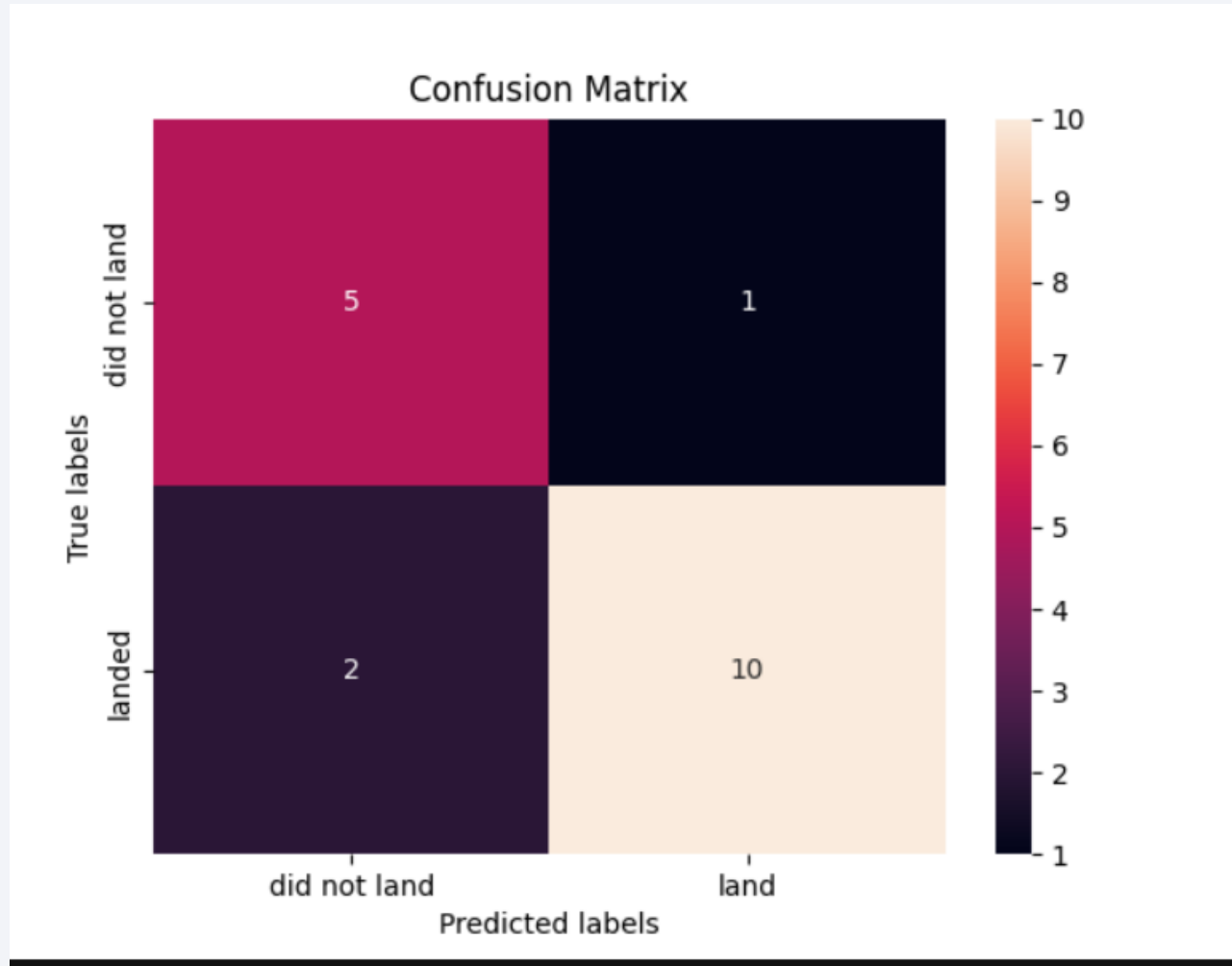
# Classification Accuracy

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- After fitting the best hyperparameters, all four model types correctly predicted 15 out of the 18 test samples
- The low sample size makes it difficult to know which model worked best
- KNN, SVM, and LR all had three false positives
- Decision Tree had one false positive and two false negatives
- Decision Tree was chosen as the best model due to the aims of the project; false negatives will be less harmful to our goal than false positives



# Confusion Matrix



- Confusion Matrix for the Decision Tree Model
- There is one false positive in the upper right-hand corner, and two false negatives in the lower left-hand corner
- The other 15 outcomes were predicted correctly, for a model accuracy of 83.34%

# Conclusions

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- There is an overall upward trend in success rate over time, which is to be expected as SpaceX continues to learn from past launches and improve upon any issues
- Orbit type SSO has 100% success rate, even with multiple launches and would be a good target for future launches
- Certain Payload Masses have higher success with a specific Booster Version or Orbit type
- Launch site KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate

Thank you!

