



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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## Summary of methodologies

Data Collection: SpaceX API & SpaceX Wikipedia Page

Data Wrangling: Missing Values replaced by mean values

Exploratory Analysis: Orbit Type; Outcomes; Payload Mass; Launch Sites; Time; Bit Type

Visual Analysis Site Mapping

Interactive Dashboard: Analysis by Site, Payload and Booster Version(s)

Predictive Analysis with Classification; Logic Regression, SVM, KNN, Decision Tree

## Summary of all results

Launch success rate increased over time

Orbit height related to success rate

Higher success rate for higher payload mass

Low success rate for booster versions v1.0, 1.1; high rate for FT, B4, B5

Higher success rate for Kennedy v Canaveral

# Introduction

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## Project background and context

- *SpaceX advertises low-cost launches of Falcon9*
- *Success due to reusability of stage 1*

## Problems you want to find answers

- *Determine whether stage 1 will land, determine launch cost(s)*
- *Information can be used for bidding against SpaceX for a launch.*





Section 1

# Methodology

# Methodology

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## Executive Summary

- **Data collection methodology:**
  - SpaceX API
  - Webscrape of SpaceX Wiki Page
- **Perform data wrangling**
  - Missing values replaced with mean values (payload mass)
- **Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL**
  - Analyze outcome by orbit type
  - Analyzed outcome by payload mass and booster version(s) w/ SQL
  - Visual Analysis with charts by payload mass, time, orbit, site.
- **Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash**
  - Visual analysis with map by launch site
  - Interactive dashboard with analysis by site, payload, and boosters.
- **Perform predictive analysis using classification models**
  - Logic Regression, SVM, KNN, Decision Tree
  - Parameter tuning w/ Grid Search

# Data Collection

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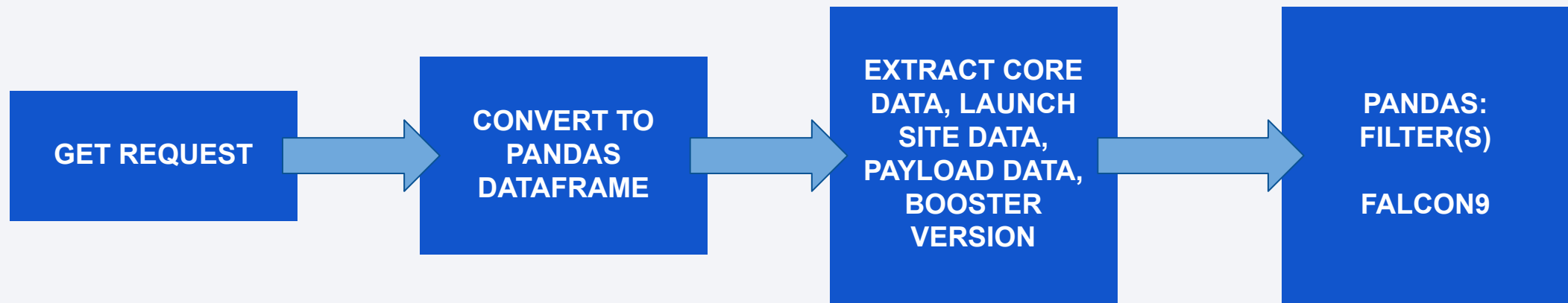
- SpaceX REST API
  - RESTful interface
  - Get core data
  - Get booster version
  - Get launch site data
  - Get payload data
- Webscrape of SpaceX wiki page
  - HTML Requests(HTTP-get)
  - Python/BS (BeautifulSoup)
  - Extract column names from HTML headers

**Data Collection Jupyter Notebook**

# Data Collection – SpaceX API

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- Send get request to SpaceX API
- Parse data into pandas dataframe
- Extract data with specific functions for core launch data, site data, payload mass and booster versions.
- Since data contains other than Falcon9 data, we filter for Falcon9 data only.

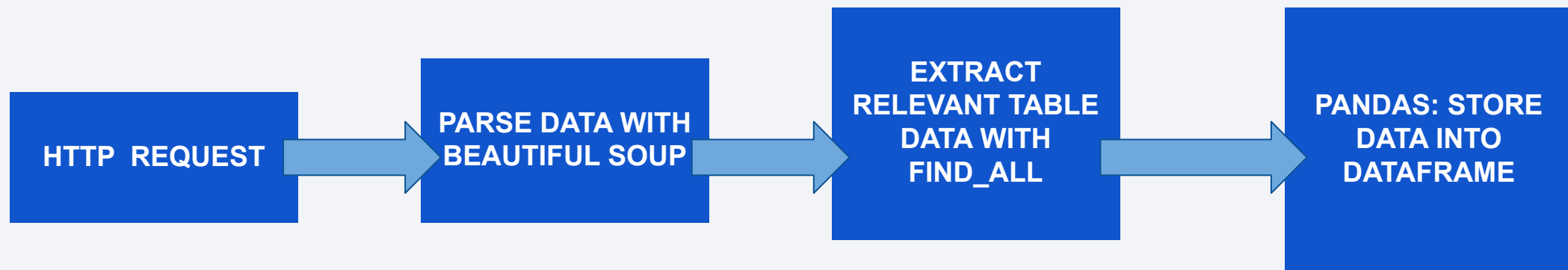




# Data Collection - Scraping

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- Send HTTP request to SpaceX wiki page
  - Parse data into Pandas dataframe with BeautifulSoup webscraper
  - Extract data with find\_all method
  - Store data in Pandas dataframe for later use
- 
- Add the GitHub URL of your completed EDA with data visualization notebook, as an external reference and peer-review purpose



# Data Wrangling

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- Dealing with missing values: The column for payload mass was missing several data points. They were filled with mean values.

[Data Wrangling](#)

# EDA with Data Visualization

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## Charts

- Payload mass v Flight number v Success rate: This shows us the development of the payload mass and the success rate over time.
- Launch site v Flight number v Success rate: This shows us the success rate of each launch site over time.
- Launch site v Payload mass v Success rate: This shows us which payload is most likely to succeed at a specific site
- Orbit type v Success rate: This can provide insight into which orbits have the highest success rate
- Orbit type v Flight number v Success rate: This shows the development of orbit type over time
- Orbit type v Payload mass v Success rate: This shows the success rate for specific clusters of payload mass/orbit type
- Success rate v Year: This shows the success of development over time

[Data Exploration](#)

# EDA with SQL

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## SQL Queries

- Extract a list of all launch sites
- Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'
- Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA
- Display the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1
- List the date when the first successful landing was achieved on ground pad
- List the names of boosters which have success in drone ship and have a payload mass great than 4000 but less than 6000
- List the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes
- List the names of the booster\_versions which carried the maximum payload mass
- List the failed landing\_outcomes in drone ship, booster versions, and the launch sites for 2015.
- Rank the count of landing\_outcomes (ie. Failure(drone)) or success (ground pad)) between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20, in descending order

[Data Analysis](#)

# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

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- Map Objects
  - Edged Circles; Launch Sites (1000m radius)
  - Markers: labeling all objects
  - MarkerCluster: markers around launch sites (red - failure; green - success) to indicate stage1 landing.
  - Lines: Measure the distance between the launch site and the next coast or next city



# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

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- **Input Elements**

- Dropdown list for the launch site (w/ option to select all)
- RangeSlider for selecting the payload mass

- **Output Elements**

- PieChart for showing the success rate of each launch site (or if all sites selected) to show the number of successful landings
- Scatterplot to show the success/failure rate by payload/booster

[PLOTLY Interactive Dashboard \(Download\)](#)

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

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- **Preprocessing**

- One-Hot-Encoding for categorical features
- Split data into dependent/independent variables and train/test data
- Scale data with StandardScaler

- **Model building for each method**

- logistic regression
- support vector machine
- decision tree
- k-nearest neighbor

- **Optimization**

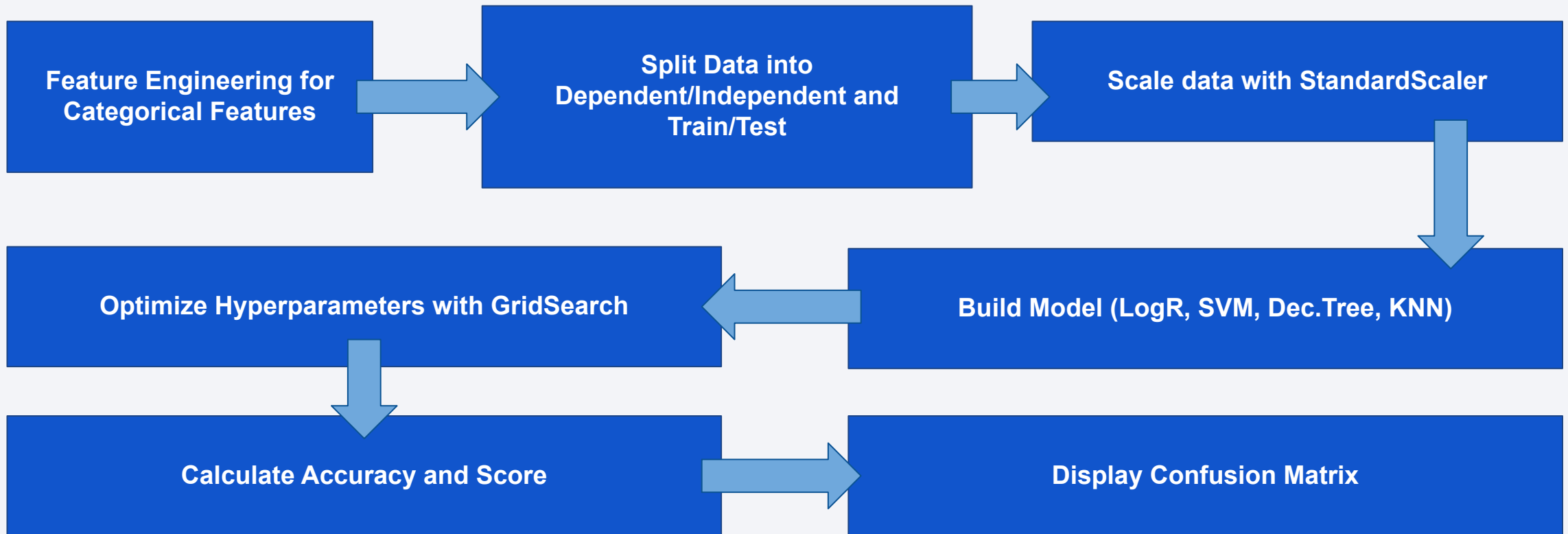
- Use GridSearch for optimizing the models based on their parameters

- **Evaluation**

- Use accuracy of GridSearch for selecting the best parameter
- Use score to compare each classification method

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

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# Results

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- Exploratory data analysis results

**Launch Success Rate**  
Increases over time

**Higher Success Rate**  
for higher orbits

- Interactive analytics demo in screenshots

Higher success rate  
for **higher payload mass**

Low success rate for  
**booster versions v1.0, 1.1**, high success rate  
for **FT, B4, B5**

Higher success rate  
for **Kennedy Center v Canaveral**

- Predictive analysis results

Best prediction  
results with **logistic regression** and **support vector machine**



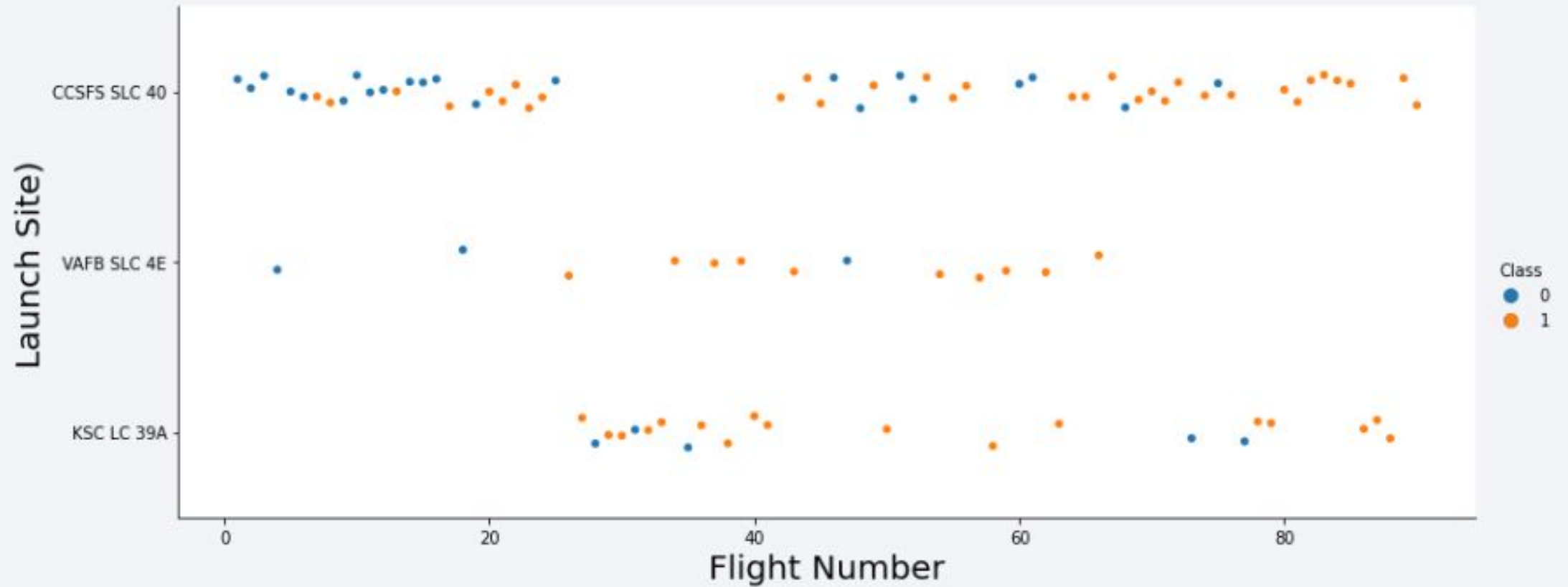
The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a solid blue area on the left side, which transitions into a dynamic pattern of diagonal streaks in shades of blue, red, and cyan on the right. These streaks have a textured, almost woven appearance, suggesting a digital or data-driven theme. A faint, dark grid pattern is also visible, particularly in the lower right quadrant.

Section 2

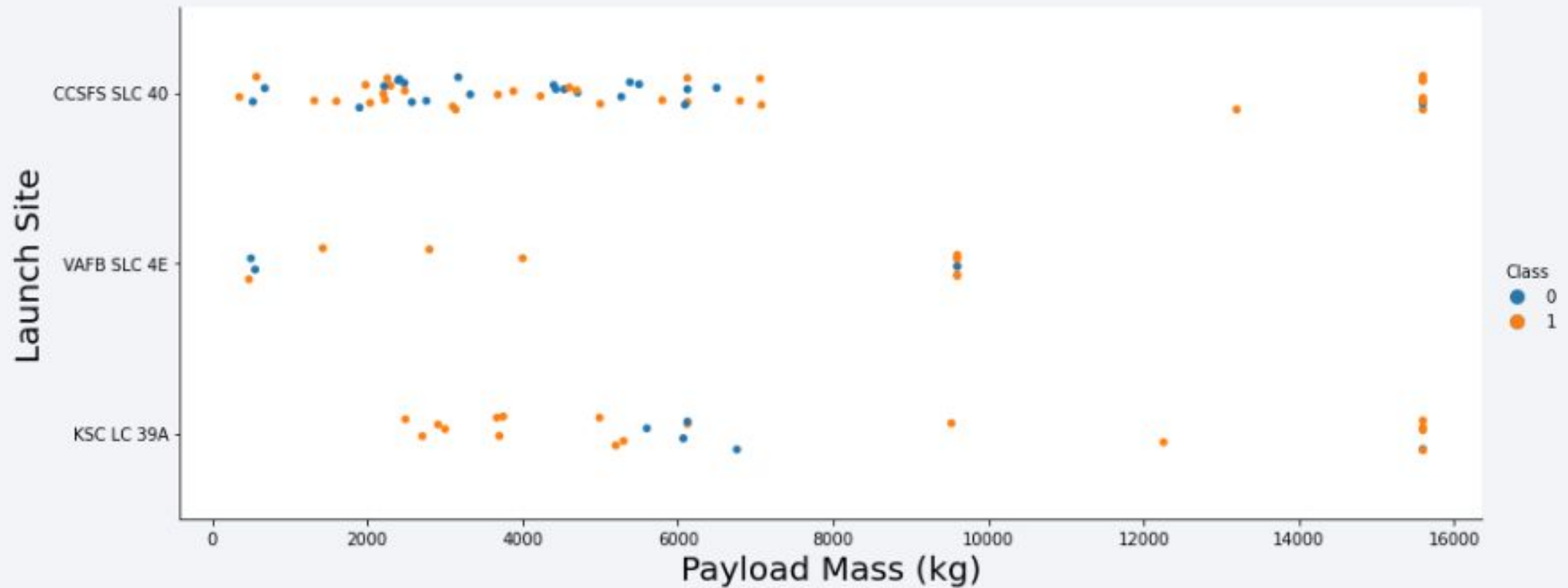
# Insights drawn from EDA



# Flight Number vs. Launch Site



# Payload vs. Launch Site



# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

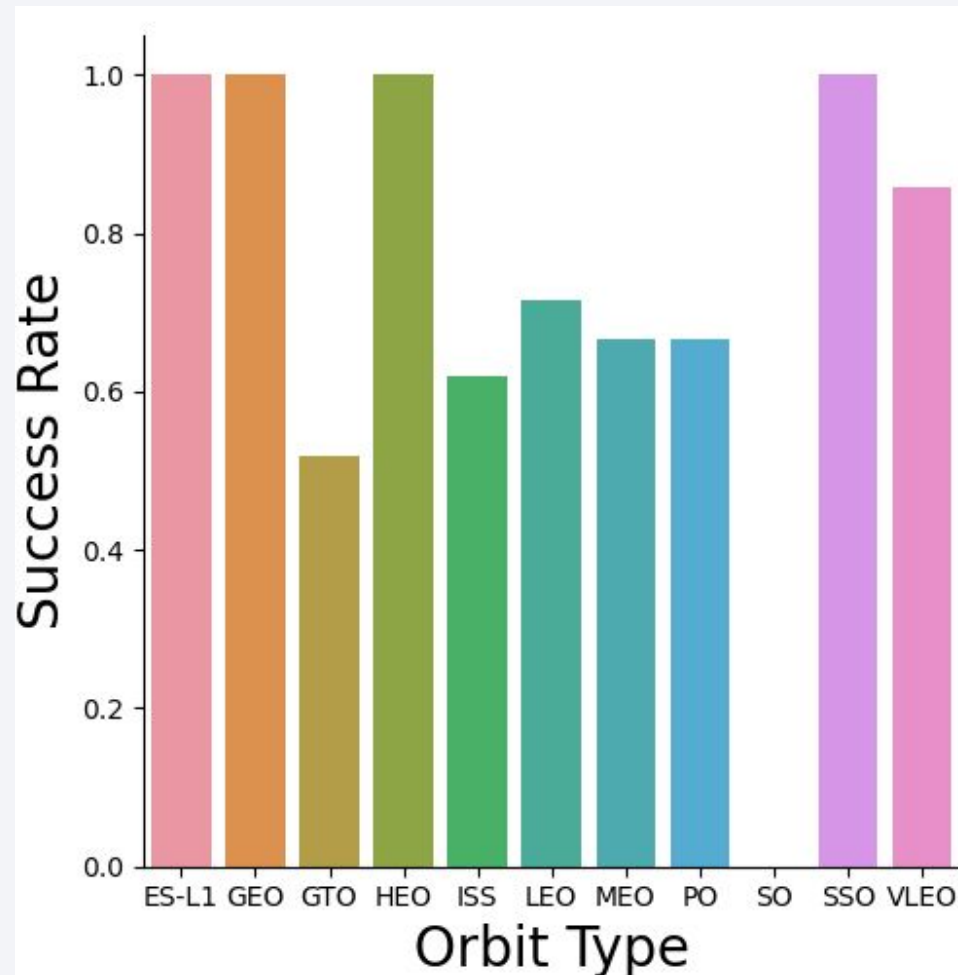
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- Low Earth Orbits

- GTO
- ISS
- LEO
- MEO
- PO
- VLEO

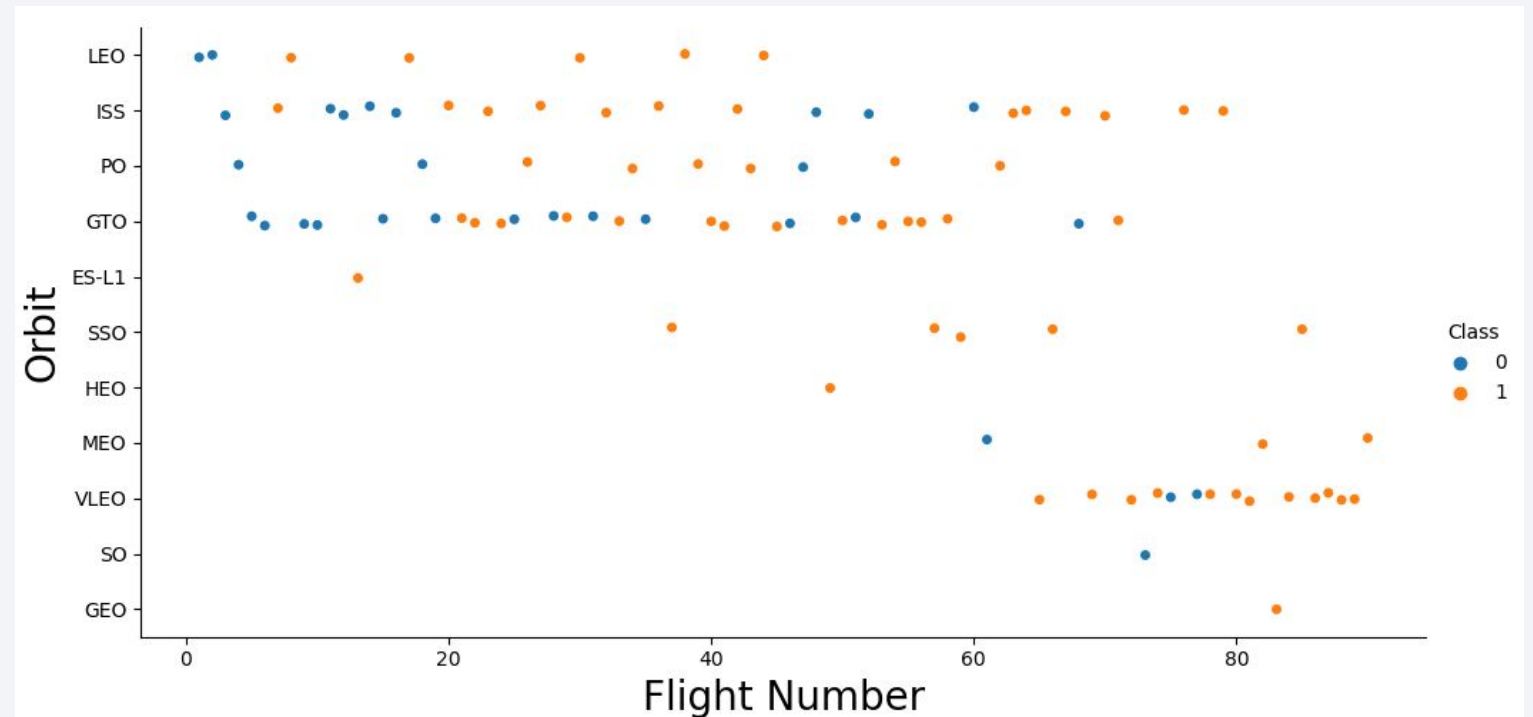
- High Earth Orbits

- ES-L1
- GEO
- HEO
- SSO

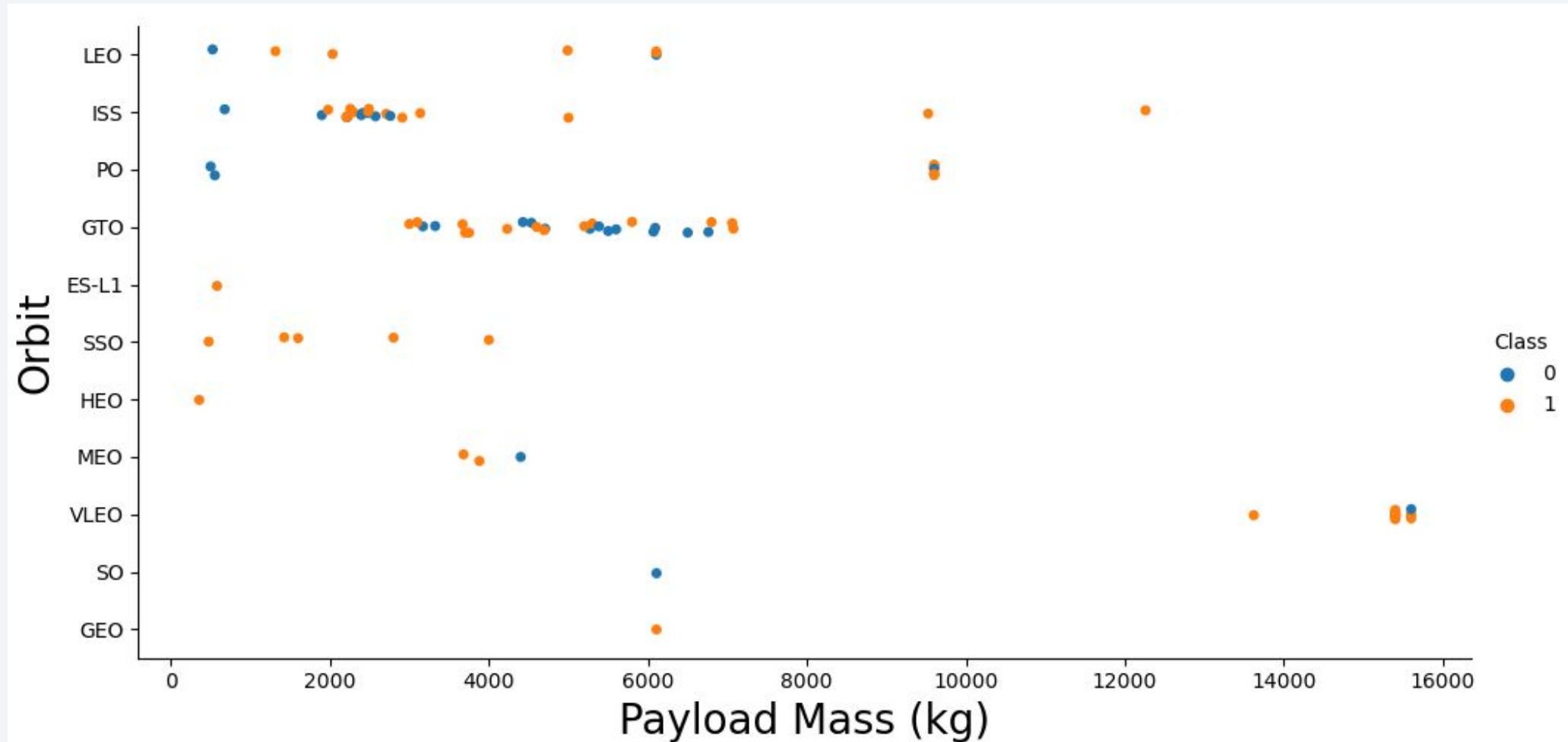


# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

- The predominant orbit types changed over time. The success rate increased over time for ALL orbit types.



# Payload vs. Orbit Type

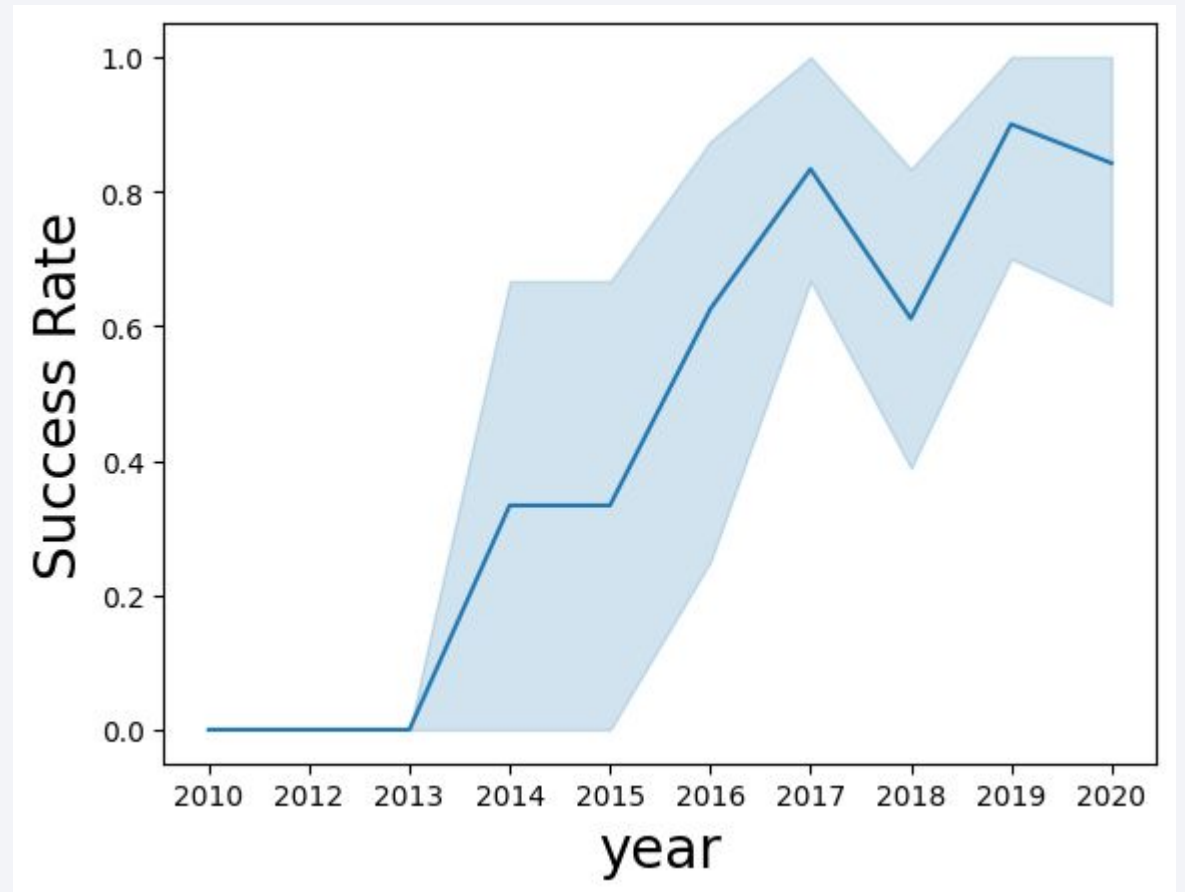




# Launch Success Yearly Trend

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- Launch success has increased over years



# All Launch Site Names

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- KSC: Kennedy Space Center
- CCA: Cape Canaveral Launch Center
- VAFB: Vandenberg, AFB

FlightNumber	LaunchSite
0	CCAFS LC-40
1	VAFB SLC-4E
2	KSC LC-39A
3	CCAFS SLC-40

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

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Sample records for starts at Cape Canaveral Space Center

Date	Time_(UTC)	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Payload	PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_	Orbit	Customer	Mission_C
2010-06-04 00:00:00	18:45:00	F9 v1.0 B0003	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit	0	LEO	SpaceX	Success
2010-12-08 00:00:00	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
2012-05-22 00:00:00	07:44:00	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success
2012-10-08 00:00:00	00:35:00	F9 v1.0 B0006	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-1	500	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success
2013-03-01 00:00:00	15:10:00	F9 v1.0 B0007	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-2	677	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success

# Total Payload Mass

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Total payload carried by boosters from NASA

$$\textit{sum}(\textit{payload\_mass\_kg}) = 45596$$

sum(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG)
45596

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

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Average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1

$$\textit{Avg, Payload\_Mass\_KG} = 2928.4$$

avg(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG)
2928.4



# First Successful Ground Landing Date

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Date of the first successful landing outcome on ground pad

*$\min(\text{Date})=2015-12-22$*

min(Date)
2015-12-22

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

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Names of boosters which have successfully landed on drone ship and had payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000

Booster Version	
0	F9 BT B1022
1	F9 BT B1026
2	F9 BT B1021.2
3	F9 BT B1031.2

# Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

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Total number of successful and failure mission outcomes

Mission Outcome	count(*)
Failure	1
Success	100

# Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

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Names of the booster which have  
carried the maximum payload mass

	Booster Version
0	F9 B5 B1048.4
1	F9 B5 B1049.4
2	F9 B5 B1051.3
3	F9 B5 B1056.4
4	F9 B5 B1048.5
5	F9 B5 B1051.4
6	F9 B5 1049.5
7	F9 B5 B1060.2
8	F9 B5 B1058.3
9	F9 B5 B1051.6
10	F9 B5 B1060.3
11	F9 B5 B1049.7

# 2015 Launch Records

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List of failed landing outcomes. Drone ship, Booster Version, Launch Site(s) accounted for. 2015.

landing_outcome	booster_version	launch_site
Failure (drone)	F9 v1.1B1012	CCAFS LC-40
Failure (drone)	F9 v1.1B1015	CCAFS LC-40
Failure (drone)	F9 v1.1B1017	VAFB SLC-4E
Failure (drone)	F9 FT B1020	CCAFS LC-40
Failure (drone)	F9 FT B1024	CCAFS LC-40

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

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Rank of the count of landing outcomes such as Failure on a drone ship v Success on a ground pad (Between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20) in descending order.

landing_outcome	count(*)
No attempt	10
Success (drone)	5
Failure (drone)	5
Success (pad)	3
Controlled (ocean)	3
Uncontrolled (ocean)	2
Precluded (drone)	1

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 with stars and a view of the Earth's surface from space. The Earth's surface is mostly dark, with a dense network of yellow and orange lights representing city lights at night. The lights are concentrated in a few areas, particularly along the coastlines and in the central part of the image. The horizon of the Earth is visible as a thin, curved line separating the dark surface from the black sky.

Section 3

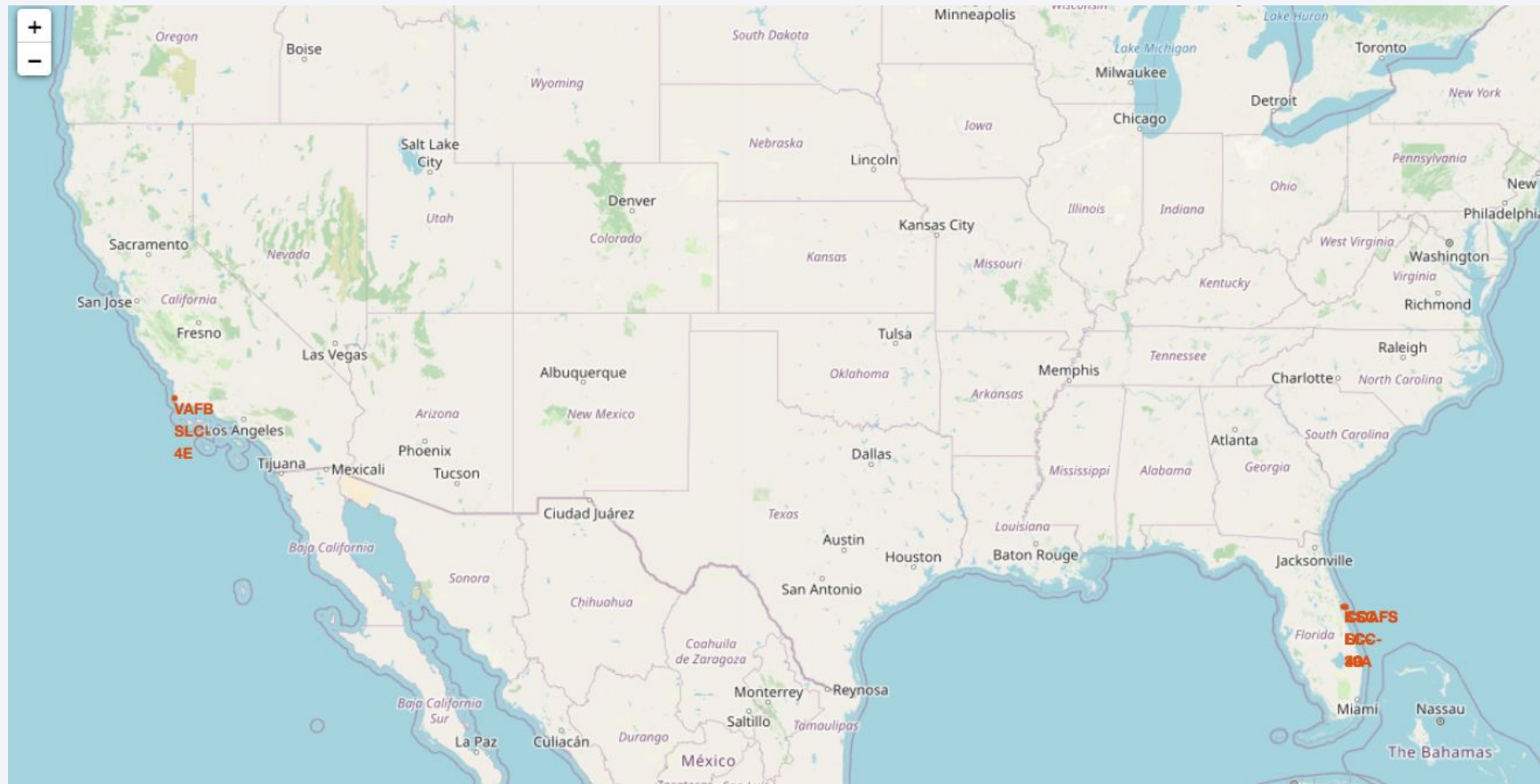
# Launch Sites Proximities Analysis



# Folium Map - Launch Sites

Launch sites are at the East and West coast, in Florida and California

[Interactive Map with Folium](#)

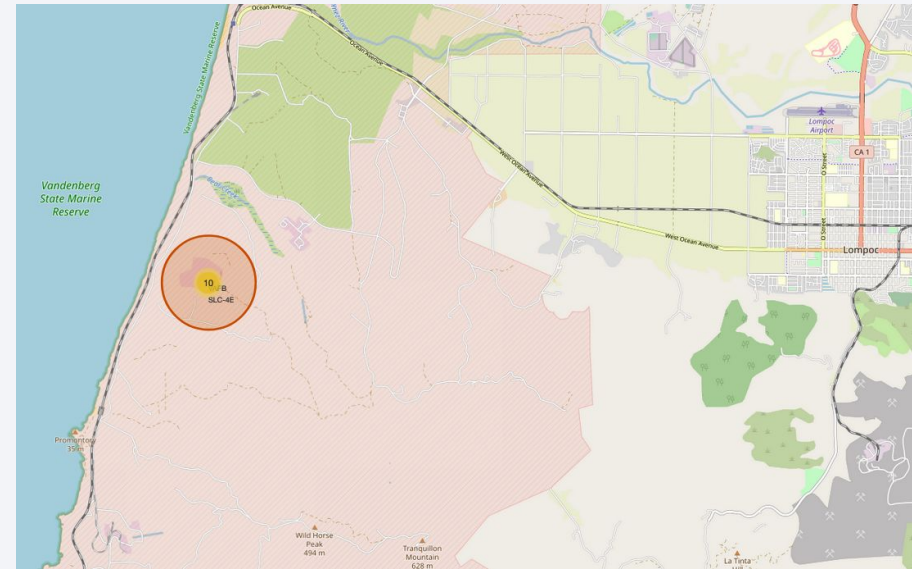


# Folium Map - Vandenburg AFB

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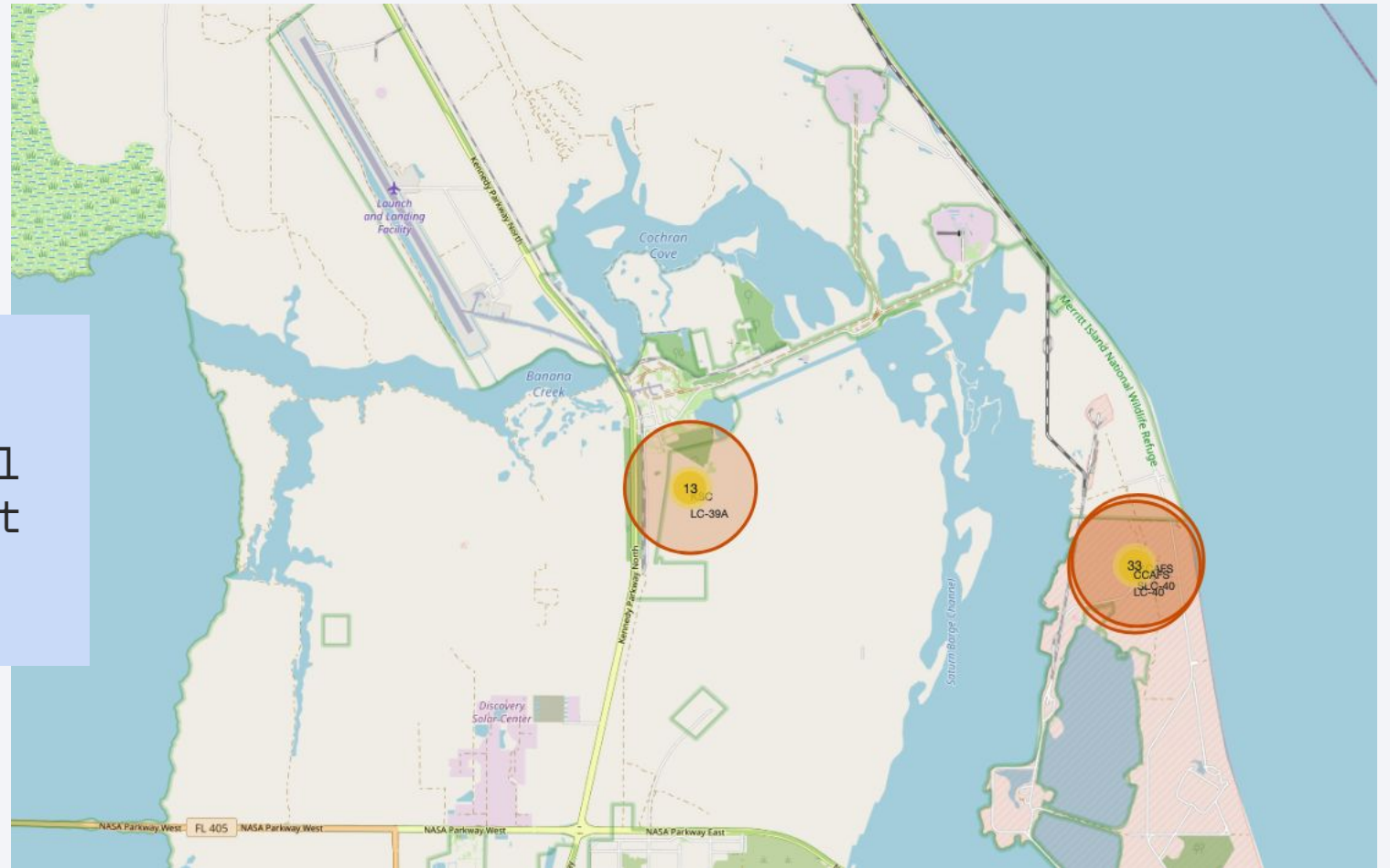
Close to the Vandenburg AFB is the town of Lompoc. This may be a safety issue if a stage 1 landing were to lose communication, since rockets generally come downward in an Eastern direction.

[Interactive Map with Folium](#)



# Folium Map - Proximity KSC/CCA

No city towards the Eastern Direction, ideal place for testing rocket launches



# Folium: Stage 1 Landing Success by Site

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Vandenburg AFB



Kennedy Space Center



Cape Canaveral





Section 4

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

# Dashboard - Launch Success Count For All Sites

**Kennedy Space Center**

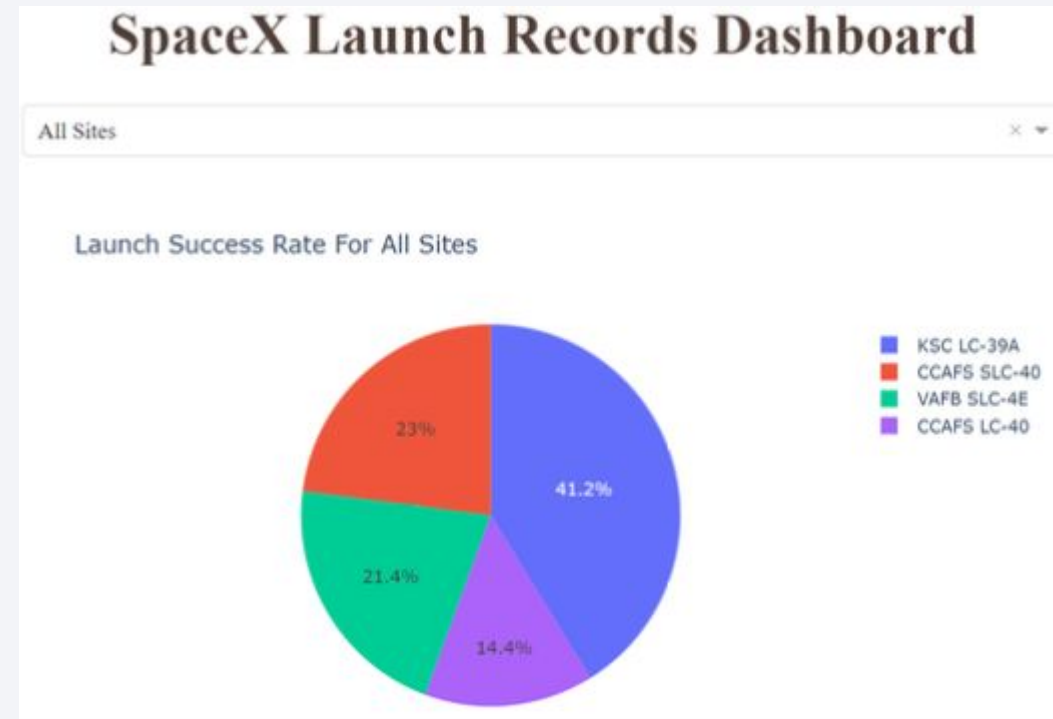
**KSC LC-39A**

**Has the most successful landings for Stage(1)**

**Vandenberg AFB**

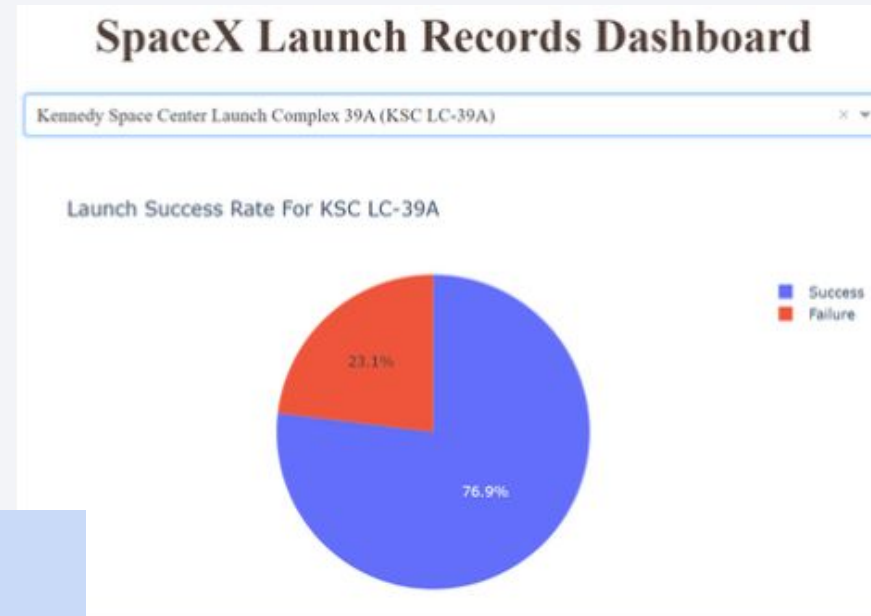
**VAFB SLC-4E**

**Has the least successful landings for Stage(1)**



# Dashboard - Success Rate Kennedy Space Center

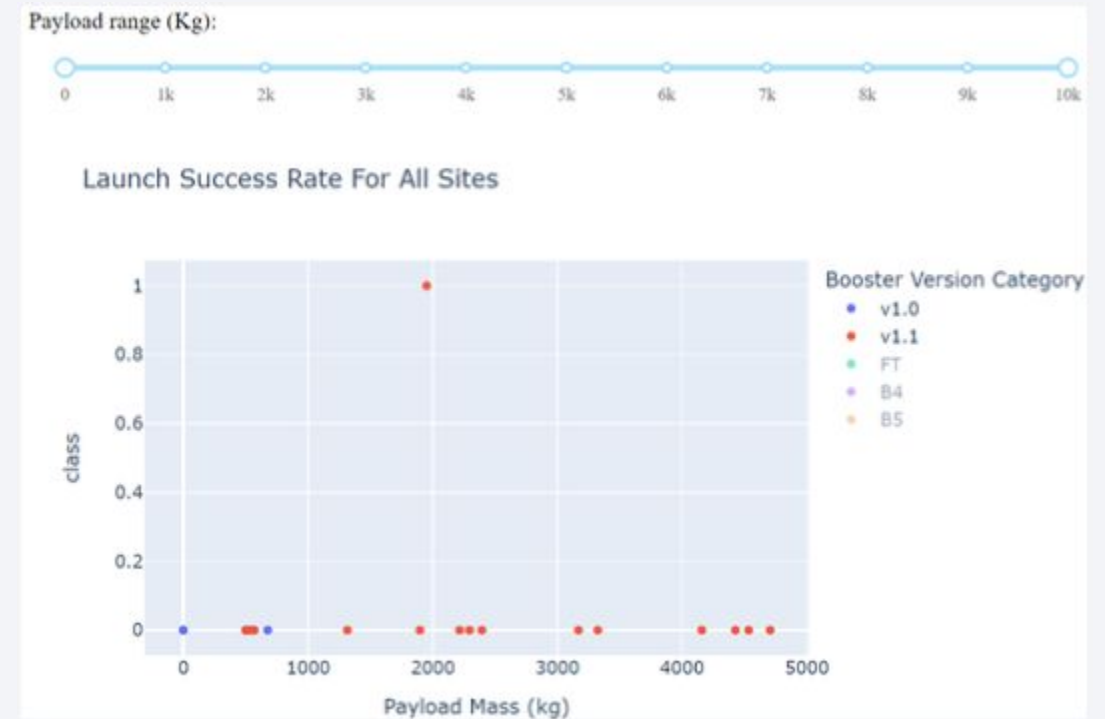
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More than 3 of 4 landings have been successful at **Kennedy Space Center**

# Dashboard - Booster Versions v1.0, v1.1

Success rate for Booster versions v1.0, 1.1 is **limited in the payload range to 10,000kg**





# Dashboard - Booster Versions v1.0, v1.1



Success rate for Booster versions FT, B4 and B5 is **better in the payload range to 10,000kg**



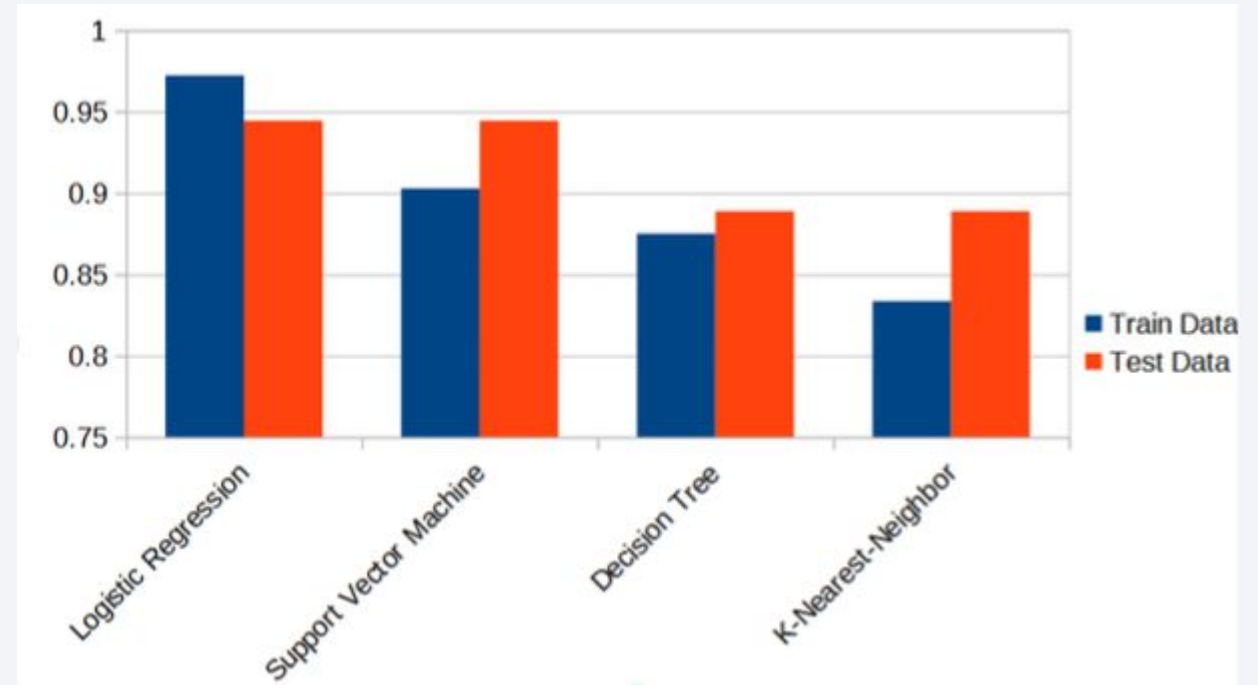
Section 5

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

# Classification Accuracy

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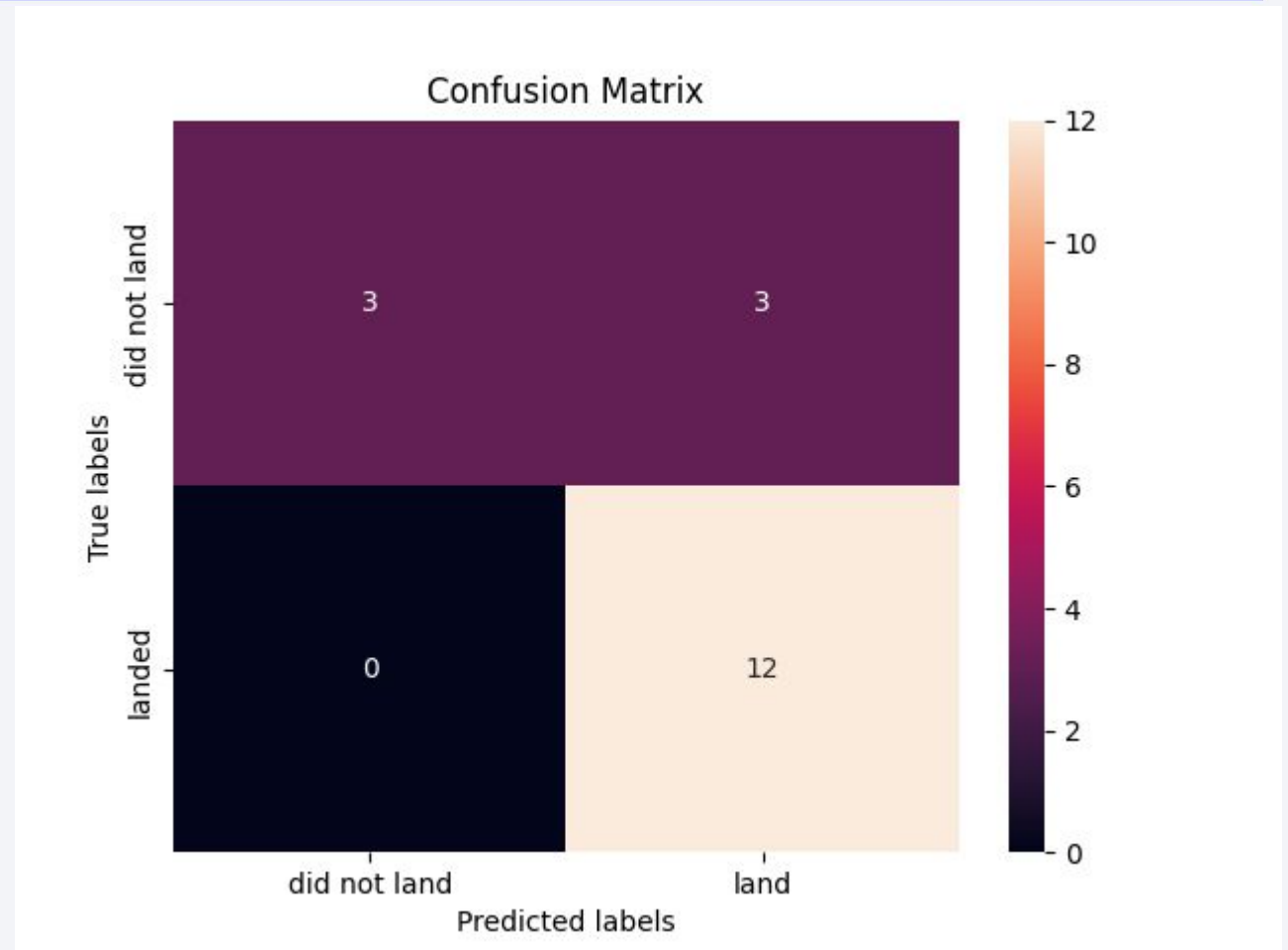
- Logistic Regression has the best result for train data
- Logistic Regression and Support Vector Machines have the best results on test data



# Confusion Matrix

True Positives 12  
True Negatives 3

False Positives 3  
False Negatives 0



# Conclusions

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All models had at least one false positive

None of the models had false negatives

Prediction with Logistic Regression is relatively accurate

Support Vector Machine also provides a good analysis for predicting landing outcomes

# Appendix

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All Python code and SQL can be inspected here:

1. [Jupyter Notebook](#)
2. [Plotly Dashboard](#)

Current version of this document can be downloaded from the following link:

3. [Analysis Presentation](#)



Thank you!

