

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

Dino Dobrinic 11/16/2023



#### Outline

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

### **Executive Summary**

- Module 1: Data Collection
  - Methodology: RESTful API to gather data on Falcon 9 launches
  - Results: Dataset containing information on Falcon 9 first-stage landings
- Module 2: Data Wrangling and Dashboard
  - Methodology: Built a dashboard using Plotly Dash to interactively analyze launch records
  - Results: Developed an interactive dashboard for exploring launch records
- Module 3: Interactive Map
  - Methodology: Utilized Folium to create an interactive map. Analyzed the launch site proximity and visualized it on the map.
  - Results: Generated an interactive map illustrating the launch site locations
- Module 4: Machine Learning for Landing Prediction
  - Methodology: Applied machine learning algorithms (SVM, Classification Trees, Logistic Regression) for landing prediction
  - Results: Determined the effectiveness of each model in predicting landing success

#### Introduction

- SpaceX stands as a revolutionary force in the space industry, disrupting traditional norms by offering rocket launches, particularly Falcon 9, at an unprecedented cost of as low as 62 million dollars, a significant reduction compared to other providers charging upwards of 165 million dollars per launch. This substantial cost-saving innovation is primarily attributed to SpaceX's groundbreaking concept of reusing the first stage of the rocket by successfully re-landing it for deployment in subsequent missions. The iterative application of this process promises further reductions in launch costs.
- As a data scientist for a startup aiming to compete with SpaceX, the primary objective of this project is to establish a robust machine learning pipeline capable of predicting the landing outcome of Falcon 9's first stage in future missions. The success of this predictive model is pivotal in determining the optimal bidding price against SpaceX for rocket launches.
- Key challenges addressed in this project include:
  - Identifying all relevant factors influencing the landing outcome.
  - Investigating the relationships between each variable and their impact on the overall outcome.
  - Determining the optimal conditions necessary to enhance the probability of a successful landing.



# Methodology

#### **Executive Summary**

- Data collection methodology:
  - Data was collected using SpaceX REST API and web scrapping from Wikipedia
- Perform data wrangling
  - Data was processed using one-hot encoding for categorical features
- 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 collection involves the systematic gathering and measurement of information pertaining to specific variables within a predefined system. This process allows for the examination of pertinent questions and the evaluation of outcomes. In this case, the dataset was acquired through both REST API and Web Scraping methods from Wikipedia.
- To collect data via REST API, we initiated the process with a get request. Subsequently, we decoded the response content into JSON format and transformed it into a pandas dataframe using the json\_normalize() function. Following this, we performed data cleaning procedures, checked for missing values, and filled any gaps with the necessary information.
- In the case of web scraping, we utilized BeautifulSoup to extract launch records presented in HTML tables. The extracted data was then parsed and converted into a pandas dataframe, facilitating further analysis.

# Data Collection - SpaceX API

- Request and parse the SpaceX
   launch data using the GET request
- Use json\_normalize() method to convert json result to dataframe
- Dealing with Missing Values (i.e., performed data cleaning and filling the missing value)
- From:
  - https://github.com/ddobrinic/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/jupyterlabs-spacex-data-collection-api.ipynb

Get request (spaceX data)



Parse the SpaceX launch data – json normalize() method



Filter the dataframe to only include Falcon 9 launches



Dealing with Missing Values – replace nan values with mean

spacex\_url="https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launches/past"

response = requests.get(spacex\_url)

# Use json\_normalize meethod to convert the json result :
data = pd.json\_normalize(response.json())

# Hint data['BoosterVersion']!='Falcon 1'
data\_falcon9 = df[df['BoosterVersion'] != 'Falcon 1']
data\_falcon9.head()

# Calculate the mean value of PayloadMass column
m = data\_falcon9.PayloadMass.mean()
print(m)
# Replace the np.nan values with its mean value

data\_falcon9['PayloadMass'].replace(np.nan, m)

# **Data Collection - Scraping**

- Web scraping of the Falcon 9
   launch records with Beautiful Soup
- Extract a Falcon 9 launch records
   HTML table from Wikipedia
- Parse the table and convert it into a Pandas data frame
- From:
  - https://github.com/ddobrinic/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/jupyterlabs-webscraping.ipynb

Request the Falcon9 Launch Wiki page from its URL

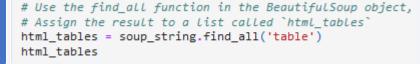
import requests
a = requests.get(static url).text

Create a BeautifulSoup object from the HTML response

# Use BeautifulSoup() to create a BeautifulSoup object
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
soup\_string = BeautifulSoup(a)



Extract all column names from the HTML table header

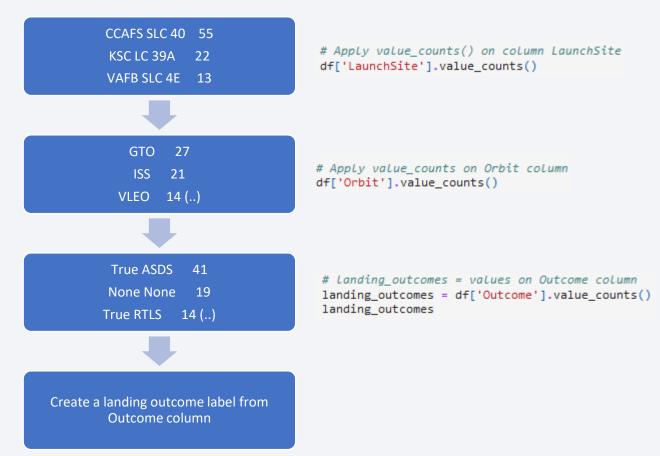




Create a data frame by parsing the launch HTML tables

# **Data Wrangling**

- Calculate the number of launches on each site
- Calculate the number and occurrence of each orbit
- Calculate the number and occurrence of mission outcome of the orbits
- Create a landing outcome label from Outcome column
- From:
  - https://github.com/ddobrinic/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/labsjupyter-spacex-Data%20wrangling.ipynb



#### **EDA** with Data Visualization

#### Scatter Plot

- Flight Number vs Payload Mass
- Flight Number vs Launch Site
- Payload vs Launch Site
- Orbit vs Flight Number
- Payload vs Orbit Type
- Orbit vs Payload Mass

Scatter plots are an essential type of data visualization that shows relationships between variables.

#### Bar Graph

Success rate vs Orbit

Bar graphs show the relationship between numeric and categoric variables.

#### Line Graph

Sucess Rate vs Year

Line graphs is commonly drawn to show information that changes over time.

From: https://github.com/ddobrinic/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/jupyter\_labs\_eda\_datavi21.ipynb

#### EDA with SQL

- SpaceX DataSet was firstly loaded into the corresponding table in Db2 database (Link: https://github.com/ddobrinic/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/jupyter-labs-eda-sql-coursera\_sqllite.ipynb)
- Then, a SQL queries were executed to answer the following questions:
  - Display the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission
  - Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'
  - Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)
  - Display average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1
  - List the date when the first succesful landing outcome in ground pad was acheived.
  - List the names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000
  - List the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes
  - List the names of the booster\_versions which have carried the maximum payload mass.
  - List the records which will display the month names, failure landing\_outcomes in drone ship ,booster versions, launch\_site for the months in year 2015.
  - 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.

### Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- Folium makes it easy to visualize data that's been manipulated in Python on an interactive leaflet map.
  - Folium.map.Marker and folium.Circle were used to show NASA Johnson Space Center and each launch site
  - MarkerCluster() method was used to display multiple objects located on the same coordinate
  - Then dataframe launch\_outcomes(failure,success) with classes 0 and 1 was mapped Red and Green markers on the map using MarkerCluster() method
- These objects are created in order to understand better the problem and the data.
   We can show easily all launch sites, their surroundings and the number of successful and unsuccessful landings.
- Link to the code: https://github.com/ddobrinic/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/lab\_jupyter\_launch\_site\_location.ipynb

### Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- Combined with Python, Plotly Dash delivers interactive, customizable data apps.
- For this project, a dashboard was created in order to analyze launch records interactively
- Some of the methods that were added to the dashboard are:
  - dcc.Dropdown (choose launch site)
  - dcc.Graph(pie chart and scatter plot)
  - dcc.RangeSlider(select payload range)
- Link to the code: https://github.com/ddobrinic/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/spacex\_dash\_app\_2.py

### Predictive Analysis (Classification)

- Load dataset
- Normalize data
- Split data into train and test

Data preparation

#### Model train

- •Selection of machine learning models
- GridSearchCV finding parameters for each model
- •Training GridSearchModel models with training dataset

- •Get best hyperparameters for each type of model
- •Compute accuracy for each model with test dataset
- Plot Confusion Matrix

Model evaluation

# Model comparison

- Comparison of ML models according to their accuracy
- •The model with the best accuracy will be chosen

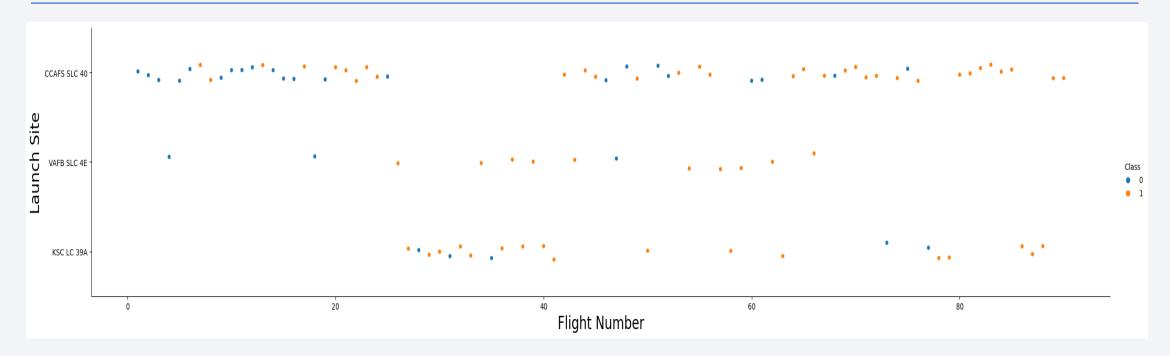
#### Link to the code:

#### Results

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

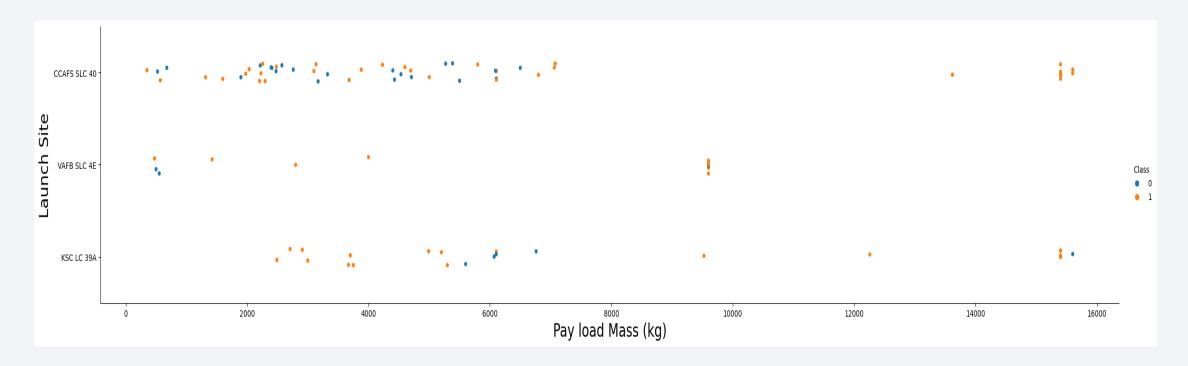


# Flight Number vs. Launch Site



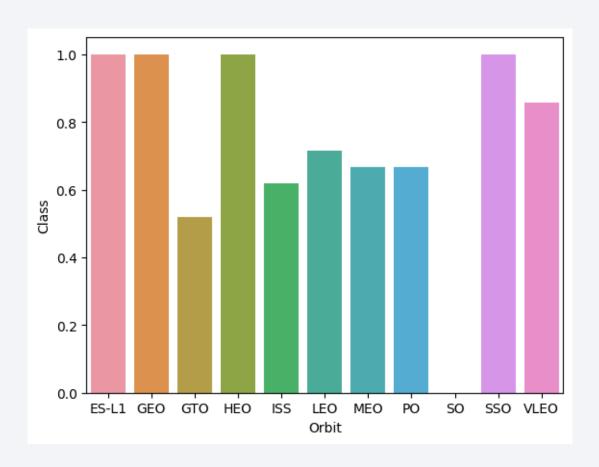
• This scatter plot shows the relationship between the number of flights and launch sites. From this plot, we can see that, for each site, the success rate is increasing with the number of flights.

### Payload vs. Launch Site



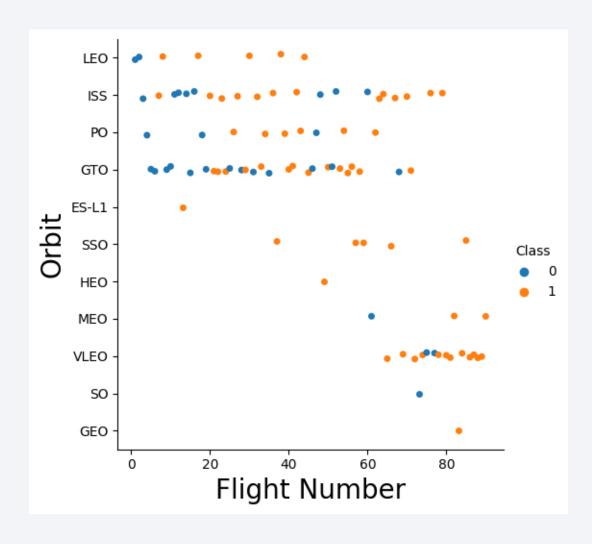
- This scatter plot shows the relationship between the Payload mass and launch sites. From this plot, we can see that, there is no clear pattern to say the launch site is dependent to the pay load mass for the positive success rate.
- CCAFS SLC 40 points out as the launch site with most sucessful landings with highers payload mass

### Success Rate vs. Orbit Type



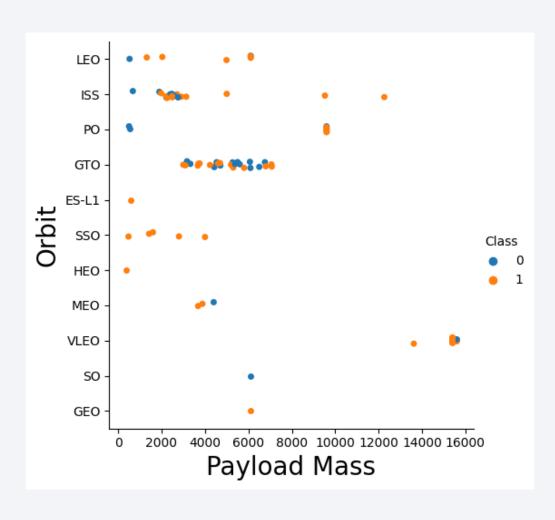
- This bar chart shows the success rate for different orbit types. We can see that ES-L1, GEO, HEO, and SSO have 100% success rate
- However, some orbits have only 1 occurence and therefore, a deeper analysis is needed to conclude which orbit has the best sucessful rate

# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type



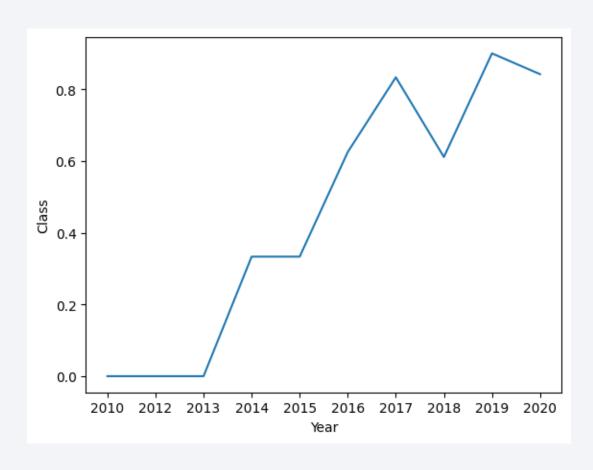
- LEO orbit the Success appears related to the number of flights (it increases); on the other hand, there seems to be no relationship between flight number when in GTO orbit.
- Also, orbits with only 1 landings should be excluded from the further analysis

# Payload vs. Orbit Type



- With heavy payloads the successful landing or positive landing rate are more for Polar, VLEO 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

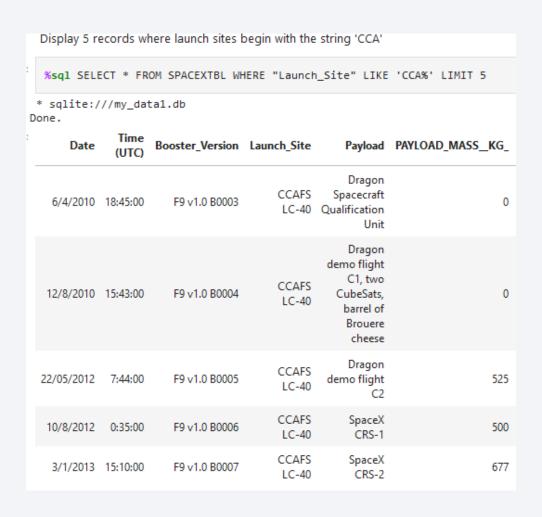


 You can observe that the success rate since 2013 kept increasing till 2017 (stable in 2014) and after 2015 it started increasing.

#### All Launch Site Names

- DISTINCT keyword in SQL eliminates all duplicate records from the result returned by the SQL query.
- Only unique records are returned when the DISTINCT keyword is used while fetching records from a table having multiple duplicate records.
- Unique launch sites are:
  - CCAFS LC-40
  - VAFB SLC-4E
  - KSC LC-39A
  - CCAFS SLC-40

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'



- The LIKE operator is used in a WHERE clause to search for a specified pattern in a column.
- The percent sign % represents zero, one, or multiple characters
- This query displayed 5 records where launch sites begin with `CCA`

# **Total Payload Mass**

```
Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)

**sql SELECT SUM("PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_") AS "total payload mass" FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE "Customer" = "NASA (CRS)"

* sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

**total payload mass

45596
```

 This query returns the sum of all payload masses where the customer is NASA (CRS).

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

```
Display average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1

**sql SELECT AVG("PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_") AS "average payload mass" FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE "Booster_Version" = "F9 v1.1"

* sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

average payload mass

2928.4
```

- This query returned the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1
- The result is 2928.4 kg

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

- This query returned the dates of the first successful landing outcome on ground pad
- Present your query result with a short explanation here

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

```
List the names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000

**sql SELECT Booster_Version FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE "Landing_Outcome" = "Success (drone ship)" AND "PAYLOAD_MASS__KG

* sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

**Booster_Version

F9 v1.0 B0003

F9 v1.0 B0005

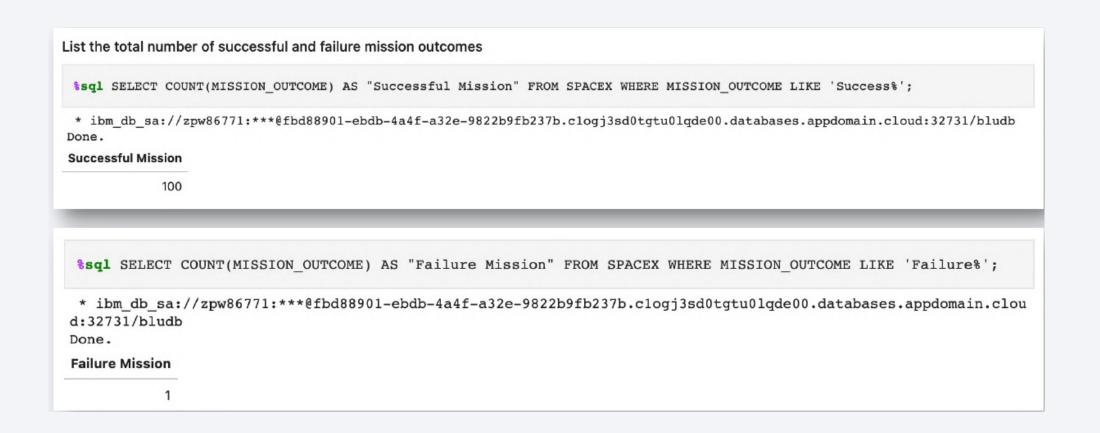
F9 v1.0 B0006

F9 v1.0 B0007

F9 v1.1 B1003
```

 This query returned the names of boosters which have successfully landed on drone ship and had payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000

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



This query listed the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes

# **Boosters Carried Maximum Payload**

```
List the names of the booster versions which have carried the maximum payload mass. Use a subquery
  %sql SELECT Booster_Version FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ = (SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM SPACEXTE
 * 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
```

 This query showed the booster that have carried the maximum payload using a subquery in the WHERE clause and the MAX() function.

#### 2015 Launch Records

```
%sql SELECT substr("DATE", 4, 2) AS MONTH, "BOOSTER_VERSION", "LAUNCH_SITE" FROM SPACEXTBL\
WHERE "LANDING _OUTCOME" = 'Failure (drone ship)' and substr("DATE",7,4) = '2015'
```

MONTH	Booster_Version	Launch_Site
01	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40
04	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40

• This query returns month, booster version, launch site where landing was unsuccessful and landing date took place in 2015. Substr function process date in order to take month or year. Substr(DATE, 4, 2) shows month. Substr(DATE, 7, 4) shows year.

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

#### SQL Query Results

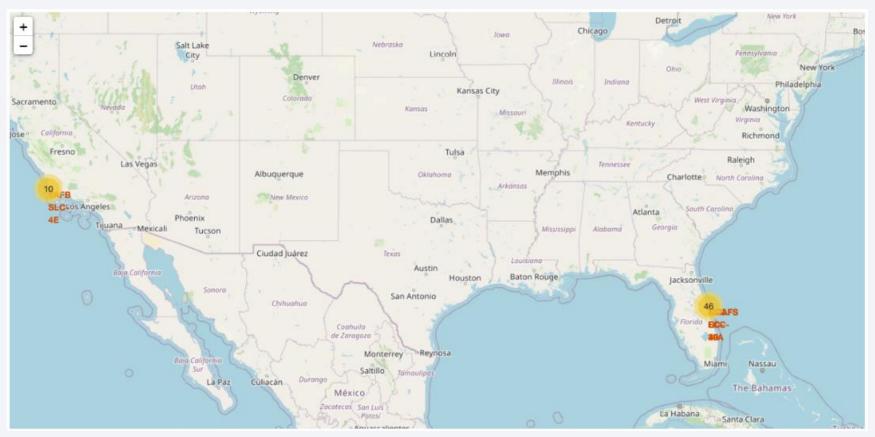
```
%sql SELECT "LANDING _OUTCOME", COUNT("LANDING _OUTCOME") FROM SPACEXTBL\
WHERE "DATE" >= '04-06-2010' and "DATE" <= '20-03-2017' and "LANDING _OUTCOME" LIKE '%Success%'\
GROUP BY "LANDING _OUTCOME" \
ORDER BY COUNT("LANDING _OUTCOME") DESC;</pre>
```

Landing _Outcome	COUNT("LANDING _OUTCOME")
Success	20
Success (drone ship)	8
Success (ground pad)	6

 This query returns landing outcomes and their count where mission was successful and date is between 04/06/2010 and 20/03/2017. The GROUP BY clause groups results by landing outcome and ORDER BY COUNT DESC shows results in decreasing order.

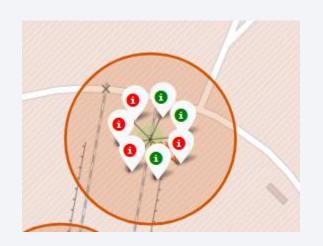


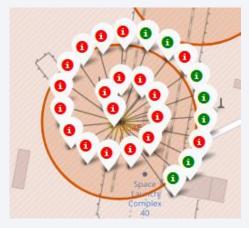
# Folium Map - Space X Launch Sites

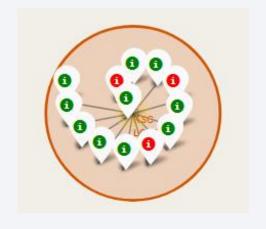


• Launch sites for Space X are located on the coast of the United States

# Folium Map - Markers

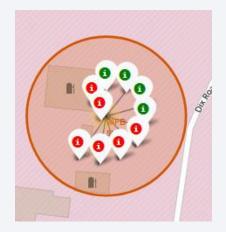






Florida Launch Sites

Green marker indicates successful launches, whereas Red marker indicated unsuccessful launches.



California Launch Site

#### Folium Map - Distances between Launch Sites and landmarks

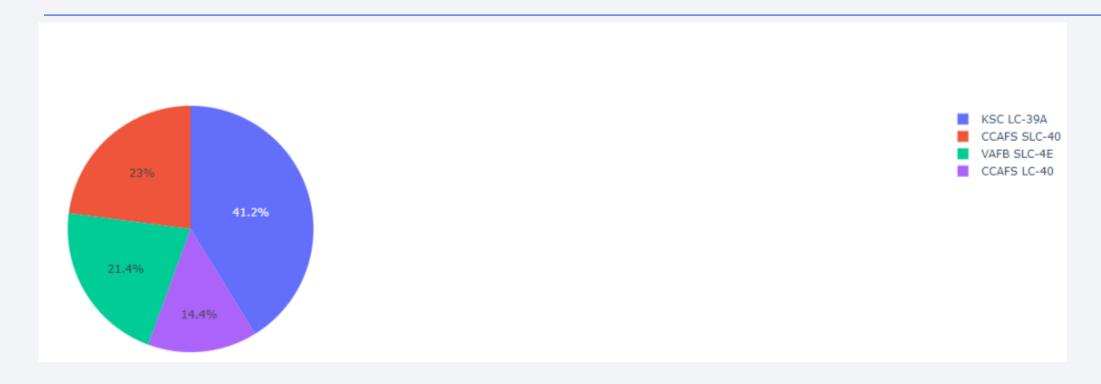




- Are launch sites in close proximity to railways? No
- Are launch sites in close proximity to highways? No
- Are launch sites in close proximity to coastline? Yes
- Are launch sites in close proximity to the cities? No



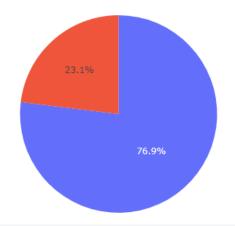
#### Dashboard – Success percentage for each launch site



• From this chart, we can see that KSC LC-39A has the best success rate of launches, as compared to other launch sites

#### Dashboard – Total success launches for KSC LC-39A

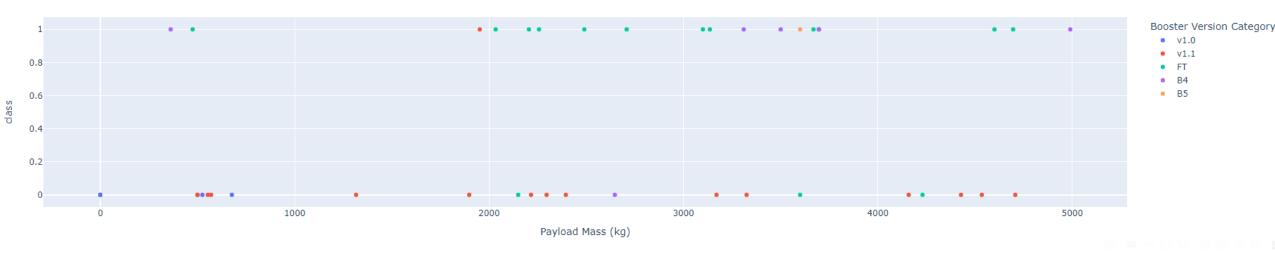
Success vs. Failure Counts for KSC LC-39A



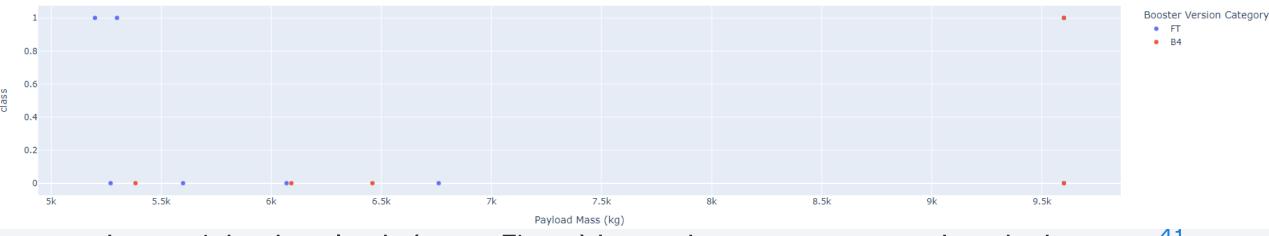
 KSC LC-39A Launch Site achieved 76.9% success launces, and 23.1% failed launches.

# Dashboard - Payload vs Launch Outcome

Payload Mass vs. Class (Payload Range: 0 to 5000)



Payload Mass vs. Class (Payload Range: 5000 to 10000)



• Low weighted payloads (upper Figure) have a better success rate than the heavy weighted payloads (lower Figure).

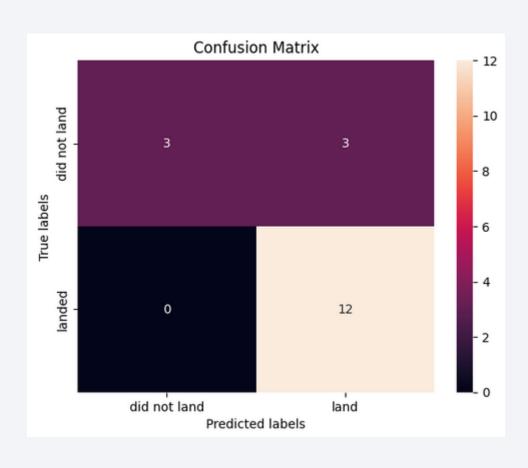
41



# Classification Accuracy

• In my research, all of the used machine learning models have achieved the same test accuracy of 83.33%, except the Decision Tree algorithm, which achieved 72.22%

#### **Confusion Matrix**



- Since the test accuracy for three ML methods are identical, one confusion matrix is presented
- We can see that our ML model has:
  - 12 True Positive instances
  - 3 True Negative instances
  - 3 False Positive instances
  - 0 False Negative instances
- Further goal should be reducing of the false positive cases

44

#### **Conclusions**

- Payload mass is a crucial factor influencing mission success, with low-weighted payloads (defined as 4000kg and below) consistently performing better than heavier payloads.
- Notably, from 2013 onward, the success rate of SpaceX launches has demonstrated a consistent increase, indicating a positive trend that is expected to further enhance mission success in the future.
- Among launch sites, KSC LC-39A stands out with the highest success rate of 76.9%.
- The success rates for specific orbits vary, with GEO, HEO, SSO, and ES L1 exhibiting the best performance.
- The dataset suggests a correlation between launch success and factors such as the launch site, orbit, and the number of previous launches. This correlation may be indicative of an evolving knowledge base contributing to mission success.
- Although the data doesn't currently explain the disparities between launch sites, further exploration, possibly including atmospheric or other relevant data, could provide more insights.
- Additional observations include the geographical advantage of launch sites near the equator, the proximity
  of all launch sites to the coast, and the positive correlation between launch success and increasing payload
  mass across all launch sites.

