IBM Developer
SKILLS NETWORK

Winning Space Race with Data Science

Faaiz Khan

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Outline

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

- The methodologies which were used to analyze data:
  - Data Collection using web scraping and SpaceX API;
  - Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA), including data wrangling, data visualization and interactive visual analytics;
  - Machine Learning Prediction.
- Summary of all results
  - It was possible to collected valuable data from public sources;
  - EDA allowed to identify which features are the best to predict success of launchings;
  - Machine Learning Prediction showed the best model to predict which characteristics are important to drive this opportunity by the best way, using all collected data.

Introduction

- **Project background and context**

SpaceX is the most successful company of the commercial space age, making space travel affordable. The company advertises Falcon 9 rocket launches on its website, with a cost of 62 million dollars; other providers cost upward of 165 million dollars each, much of the savings is because SpaceX can reuse the first stage. Therefore, if we can determine if the first stage will land, we can determine the cost of a launch. Based on public information and machine learning models, we are going to predict if SpaceX will reuse the first stage.

- **Problems you want to find answers**

How do variables such as payload mass, launch site, number of flights, and orbits affect the success of the first stage landing?

Does the rate of successful landings increase over the years?

What is the best algorithm that can be used for binary classification in this case?

Section 1

Methodology

Methodology

Executive Summary

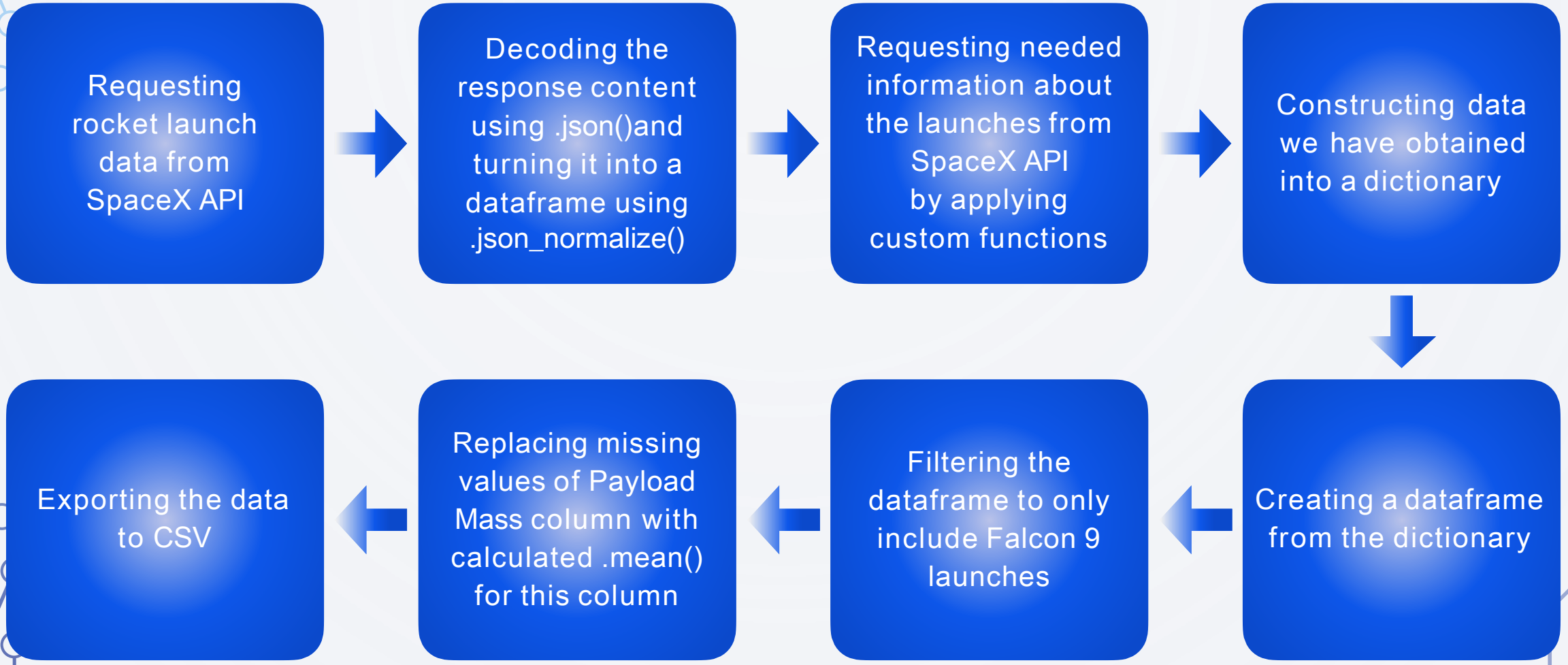
- Data collection methodology:
  - Data was collected using SpaceX API and web scraping from Wikipedia.
- Perform data wrangling
  - One-hot encoding was applied to categorical features
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
  - How to build, tune, evaluate classification models

Data Collection

The data was collected using various methods

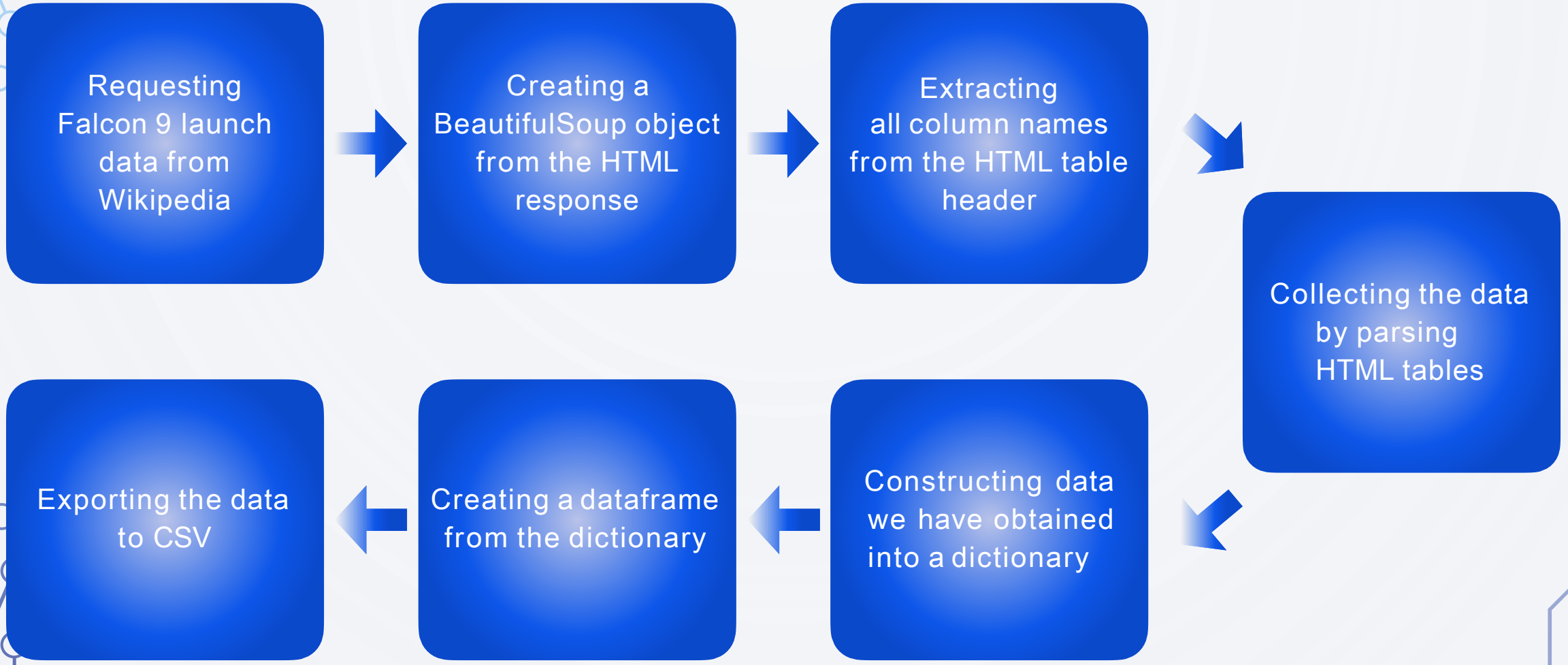
- Data collection was done using get request to the SpaceX API.
- Next, we decoded the response content as a Json using .json() function call and turn it into a pandas dataframe using .json_normalize().
- We then cleaned the data, checked for missing values and fill in missing values where necessary.
- In addition, we performed web scraping from Wikipedia for Falcon 9 launch records with BeautifulSoup.
- The objective was to extract the launch records as HTML table, parse the table and convert it to a pandas dataframe for future analysis.

Data Collection – SpaceX API



GitHub URL: Data Collection API

Data Collection - Scraping



GitHub URL: Data Collection with Web Scraping

Data Wrangling

In the data set, there are several different cases where the booster did not land successfully. Sometimes a landing was attempted but failed due to an accident; for example, True Ocean means the mission outcome was successfully landed to a specific region of the ocean while False Ocean means the mission outcome was unsuccessfully landed to a specific region of the ocean. True RTLS means the mission outcome was successfully landed to a ground pad False RTLS means the mission outcome was unsuccessfully landed to a ground pad.True ASDS means the mission outcome was successfully landed on a drone ship False ASDS means the mission outcome was unsuccessfully landed on a drone ship.

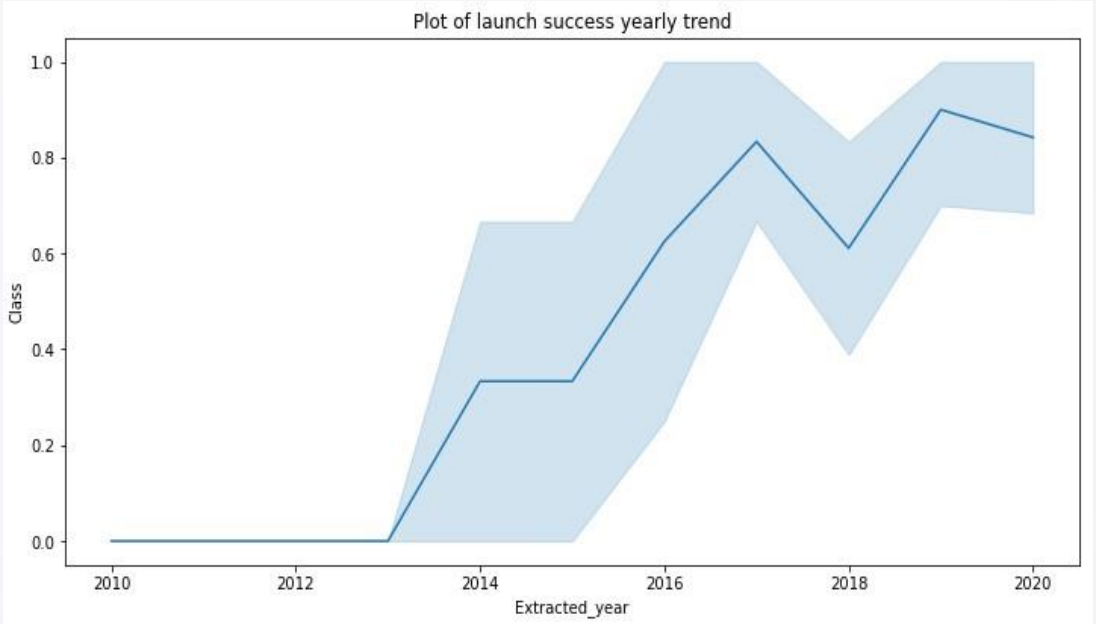
We mainly convert those outcomes into Training Labels with “1” means the booster successfully landed, “0” means it was unsuccessful.

- Perform exploratory Data Analysis and determine Training Labels
- Calculate the number of launches on each site
- Calculate the number and occurrence of each orbit
- Calculate the number and occurrence of mission outcome per orbit type
- Create a landing outcome label from Outcome column
- Exporting the data to CSV

GitHub URL: Data Wrangling

EDA with Data Visualization

We explored the data by visualizing the relationship between flight number and launch Site, payload and launch site, success rate of each orbit type, flight number and orbit type, the launch success yearly trend.



[GitHub URL: EDA with Data Visualization]

EDA with SQL

The following SQL queries were performed:

- Names of the unique launch sites in the space mission;
- Top 5 launch sites whose name begin with the string 'CCA';
- Total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS);
- Average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1;
- Date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved;
- Names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass between 4000 and 6000 kg;
- Total number of successful and failure mission outcomes;
- Names of the booster versions which have carried the maximum payload mass;
- Failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015;
- rank of the count of landing outcomes (such as Failure (drone ship) or Success (groundpad) between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20.

GitHub URL: EDA with SQL

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

Markers of all Launch Sites:

- Added Marker with Circle, Popup Label and Text Label of NASA Johnson Space Center using its latitude and longitude coordinates as a start location.
- Added Markers with Circle, Popup Label and Text Label of all Launch Sites using their latitude and longitude coordinates to show their geographical locations and proximity to Equator and coasts.

Colored Markers of the launch outcomes for each Launch Site:

- Added colored Markers of success (Green) and failed (Red) launches using Marker Cluster to identify which launch sites have relatively high success rates.

Distances between a Launch Site to its proximities:

- Added colored Lines to show distances between the Launch Site KSC LC-39A (as an example) and its proximities like Railway, Highway, Coastline and Closest City.

GitHub URL: Interactive Visual Analytics with Folium

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Launch Sites Dropdown List:

- Explain Added a dropdown list to enable Launch Site selection.

Pie Chart showing Success Launches (All Sites/Certain Site):

- Added a pie chart to show the total successful launches count for all sites and the Success vs. Failed counts for the site, if a specific Launch Site was selected.

Slider of Payload Mass Range:

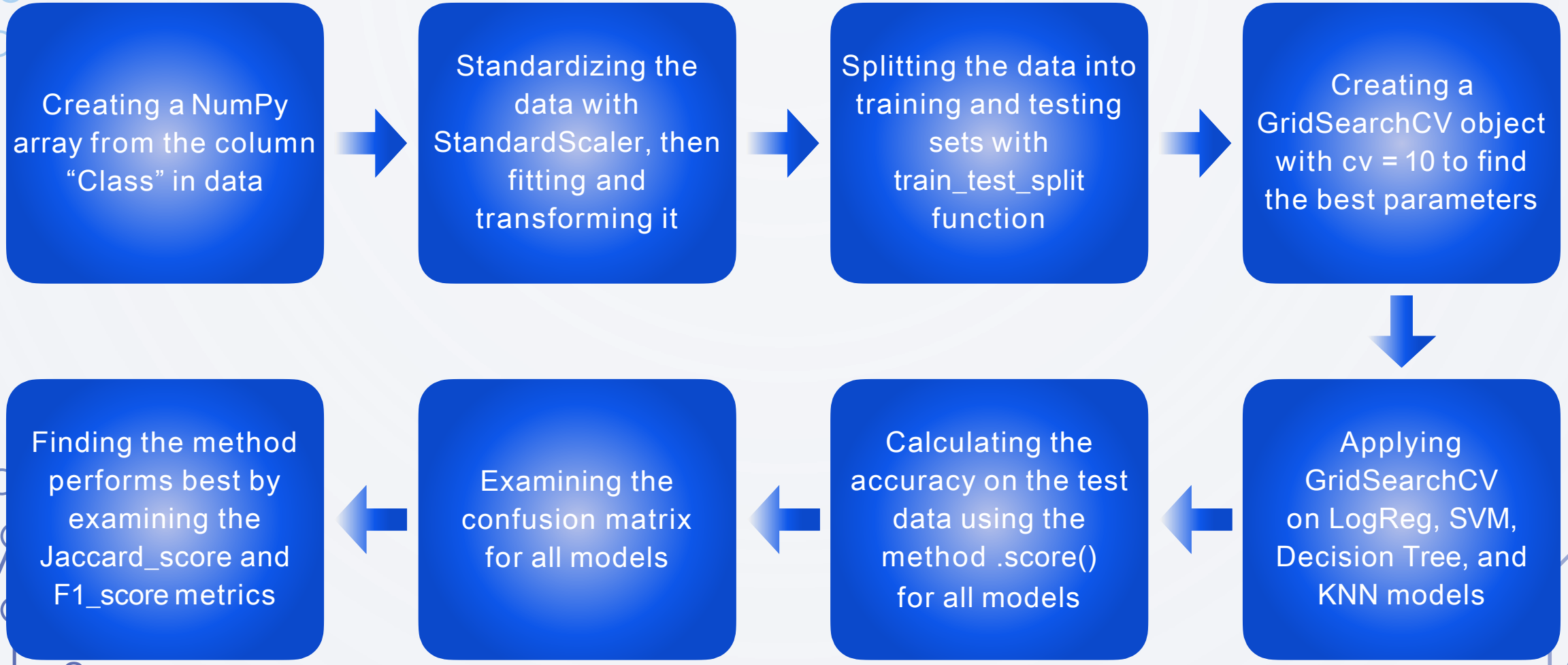
- Added a slider to select Payload range.

Scatter Chart of Payload Mass vs. Success Rate for the different Booster Versions:

- Added a scatter chart to show the correlation between Payload and Launch Success.

GitHub URL: SpaceX Dash App

Predictive Analysis (Classification)



GitHub URL: Machine Learning Prediction

Results

Exploratory data analysis results:

- Space X uses 4 different launch sites;
- The first launches were done to Space X itself and NASA;
- The average payload of F9 v1.1 booster is 2,928 kg;
- The first success landing outcome happened in 2015 fiver year after the first launch;
- Many Falcon 9 booster versions were successful at landing in drone ships having payload above the average;
- Almost 100% of mission outcomes were successful;
- Two booster versions failed at landing in drone ships in 2015: F9 v1.1 B1012 and F9 v1.1 B1015;
- The number of landing outcomes became as better as years passed.

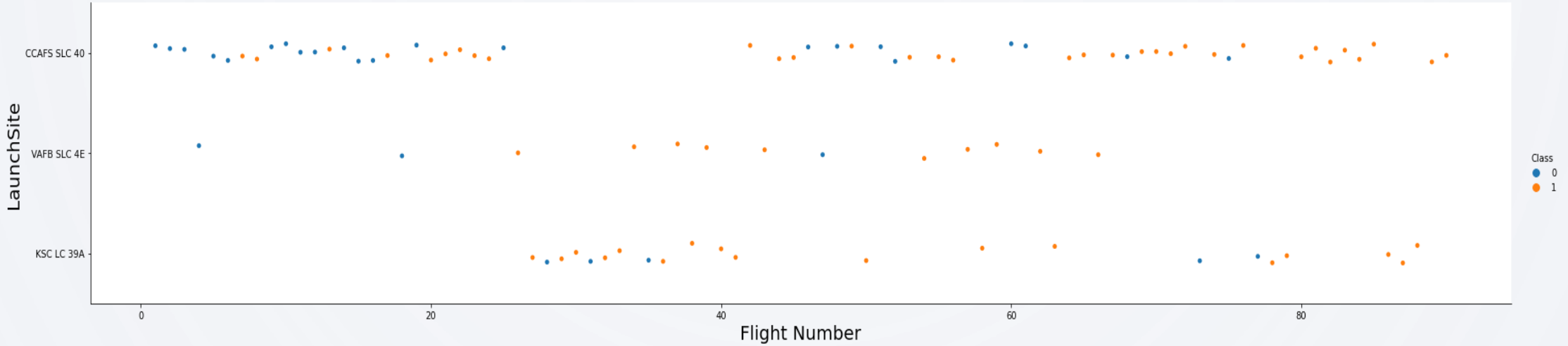
Results

- Using interactive analytics was possible to identify that launch sites use to be in safety places, near sea, for example and have a good logistic infrastructure around.
- Most launches happens at east cost launch sites.

Section 2

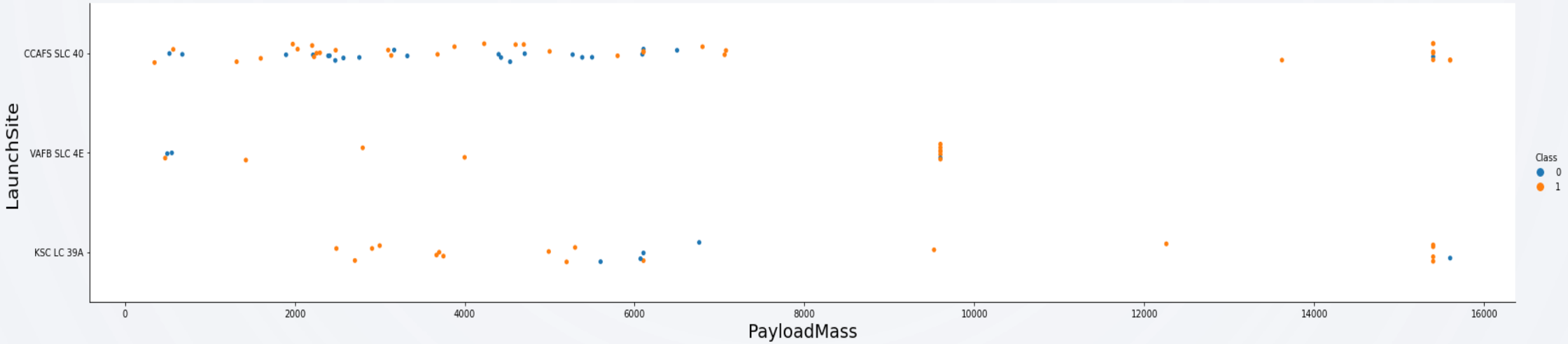
Insights drawn from EDA

Flight Number vs. Launch Site



- According to the plot above, it's possible to verify that the best launch site nowadays is CCAF5 SLC 40, where most of recent launches were successful;
- In second place VAFB SLC 4E and third place KSC LC 39A;
- It's also possible to see that the general success rate improved over time.

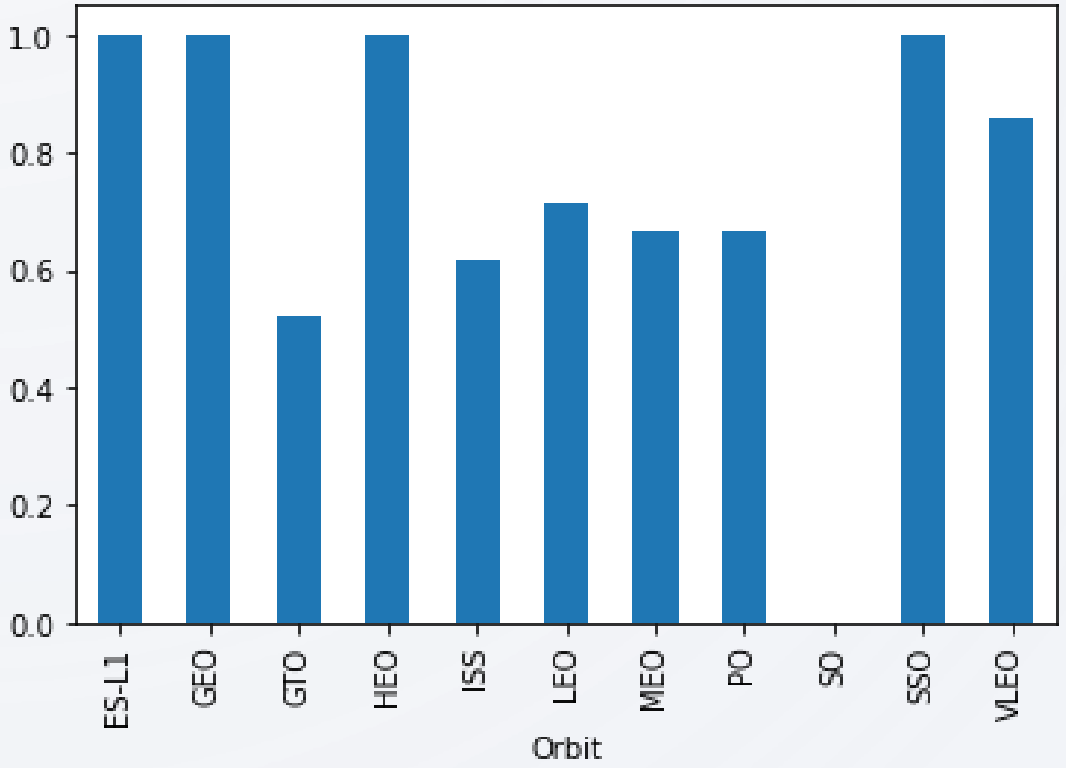
Payload vs. Launch Site



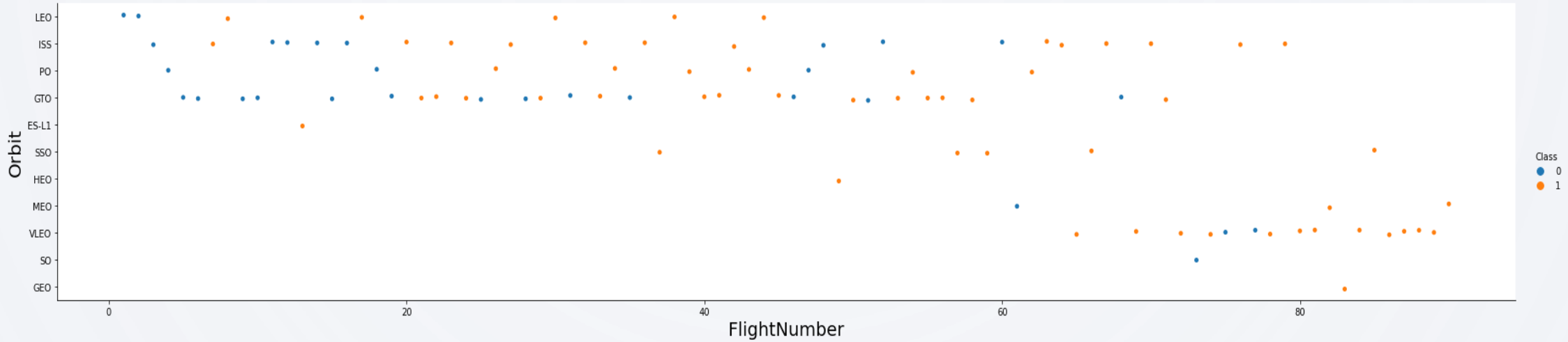
- Payloads over 9,000kg (about the weight of a school bus) have excellent success rate;
- Payloads over 12,000kg seems to be possible only on CCAFS SLC 40 and KSC LC 39A launch sites.

Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

- The biggest success rates happens to orbits:
  - ES-L1
  - GEO
  - HEO
  - SSO
- Followed by:
  - VLEO (above 80%); and
  - LFO (above 70%).

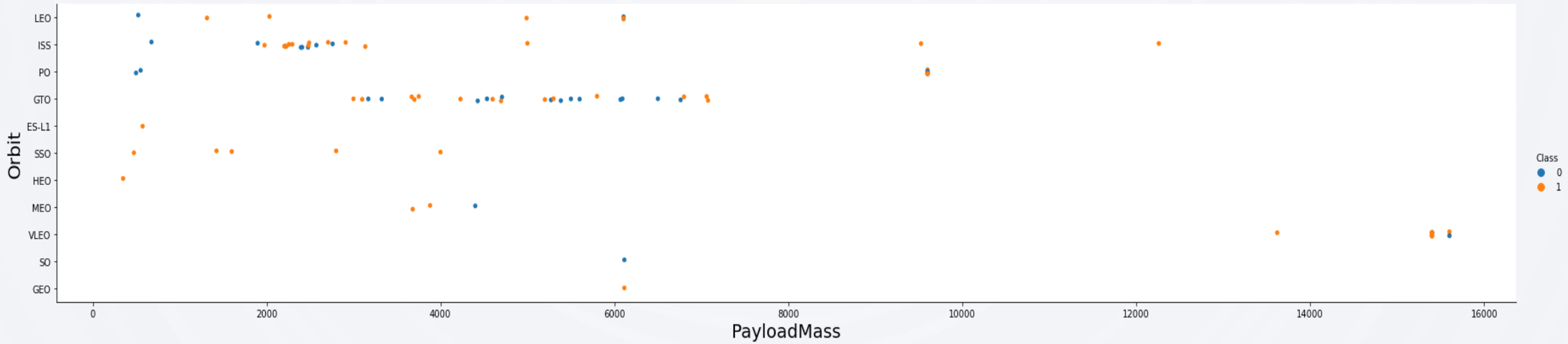


Flight Number vs. Orbit Type



- Apparently, success rate improved over time to all orbits;
- VLEO orbit seems a new business opportunity, due to recent increase of its frequency.

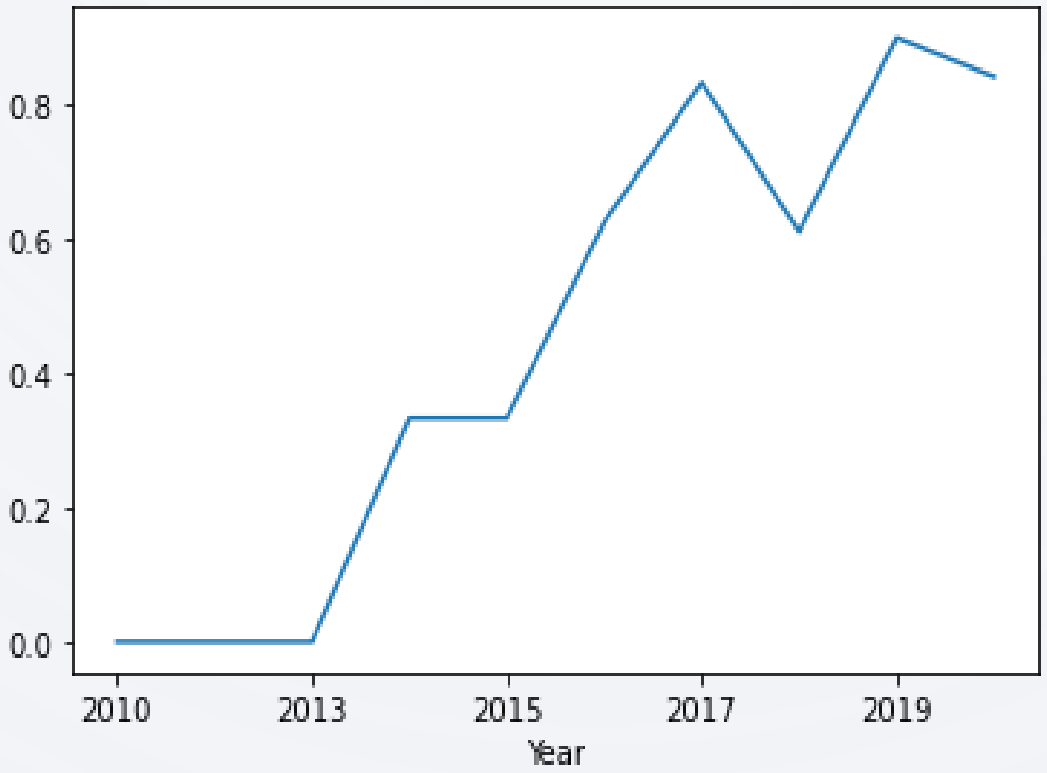
Payload vs. Orbit Type



- Apparently, there is no relation between payload and success rate to orbit GTO;
- ISS orbit has the widest range of payload and a good rate of success;
- There are few launches to the orbits SO and GEO.

Launch Success Yearly Trend

- Success rate started increasing in 2013 and kept until 2020;
- It seems that the first three years were a period of adjusts and improvement of technology.



All Launch Site Names

- According to data, there are four launch sites:
- They are obtained by selecting unique occurrences of “launch_site” values from the dataset.

Launch Site
CCAFS LC-40
CCAFS SLC-40
KSC LC-39A
VAFB SLC-4E

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

- Ranking of all landing outcomes between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20:

This view of data alerts us that “No attempt” must be taken in account.

Landing Outcome	Occurrences
No attempt	10
Failure (drone ship)	5
Success (drone ship)	5
Controlled (ocean)	3
Success (ground pad)	3
Failure (parachute)	2
Uncontrolled (ocean)	2
Precluded (drone ship)	1

Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

- 5 records where launch sites begin with `CCA`:
- Here we can see five samples of Cape Canaveral launches.

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	07:44:00	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success	No attempt
2012-10-08	00:35:00	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 attemp

Total Payload Mass

- Total payload carried by boosters from NASA:
- Total payload calculated above, by summing all payloads whose codes contain ‘CRS’, which corresponds to NASA.

Total Payload (kg)
111.268

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

- Average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1:
- Filtering data by the booster version above and calculating the average payload mass we obtained the value of 2,928 kg.

Avg Payload (kg)
2.928

First Successful Ground Landing Date

- First successful landing outcome on ground pad:
- By filtering data by successful landing outcome on ground pad and getting the minimum value for date it's possible to identify the first occurrence, that happened on 12/22/2015.

Min Date
2015-12-22

Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

- Number of successful and failure mission outcomes:
- Grouping mission outcomes and counting records for each group led us to the summary above.

Mission Outcome	Occurrences
Success	99
Success (payload status unclear)	1
Failure (in flight)	1

Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

- Boosters which have carried the maximum payload mass
- These are the boosters which have carried the maximum payload mass registered in the dataset.

Booster Version
F9 B5 B1051.4
F9 B5 B1051.6
F9 B5 B1056.4
F9 B5 B1058.3
F9 B5 B1060.2
F9 B5 B1060.3

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

2015 Launch Records

- Failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015
- The list above has the only two occurrences.

Booster Version	Launch Site
F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40
F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40

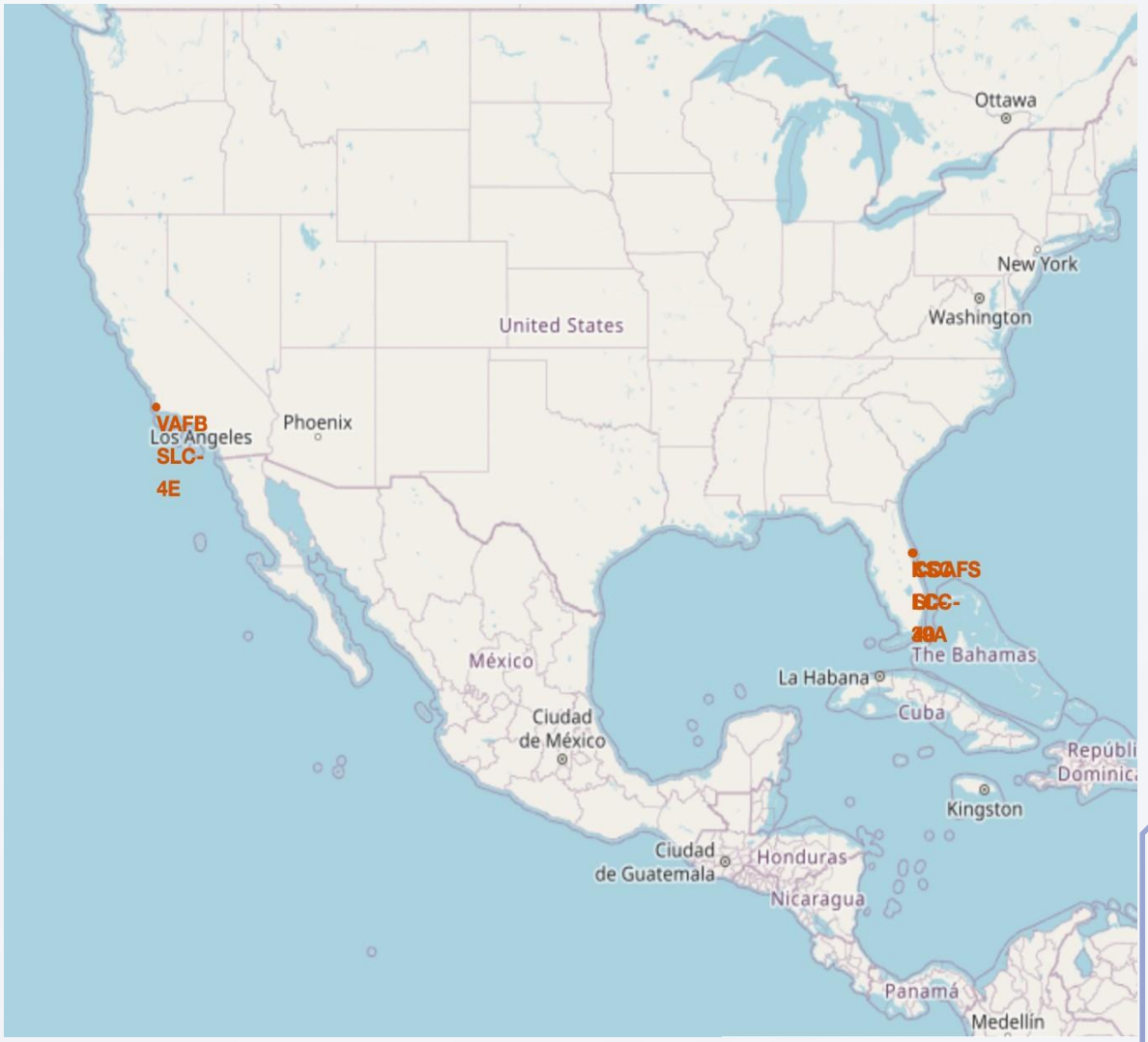
Section 3

Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

All launch sites location markers on a global map

Explanation:

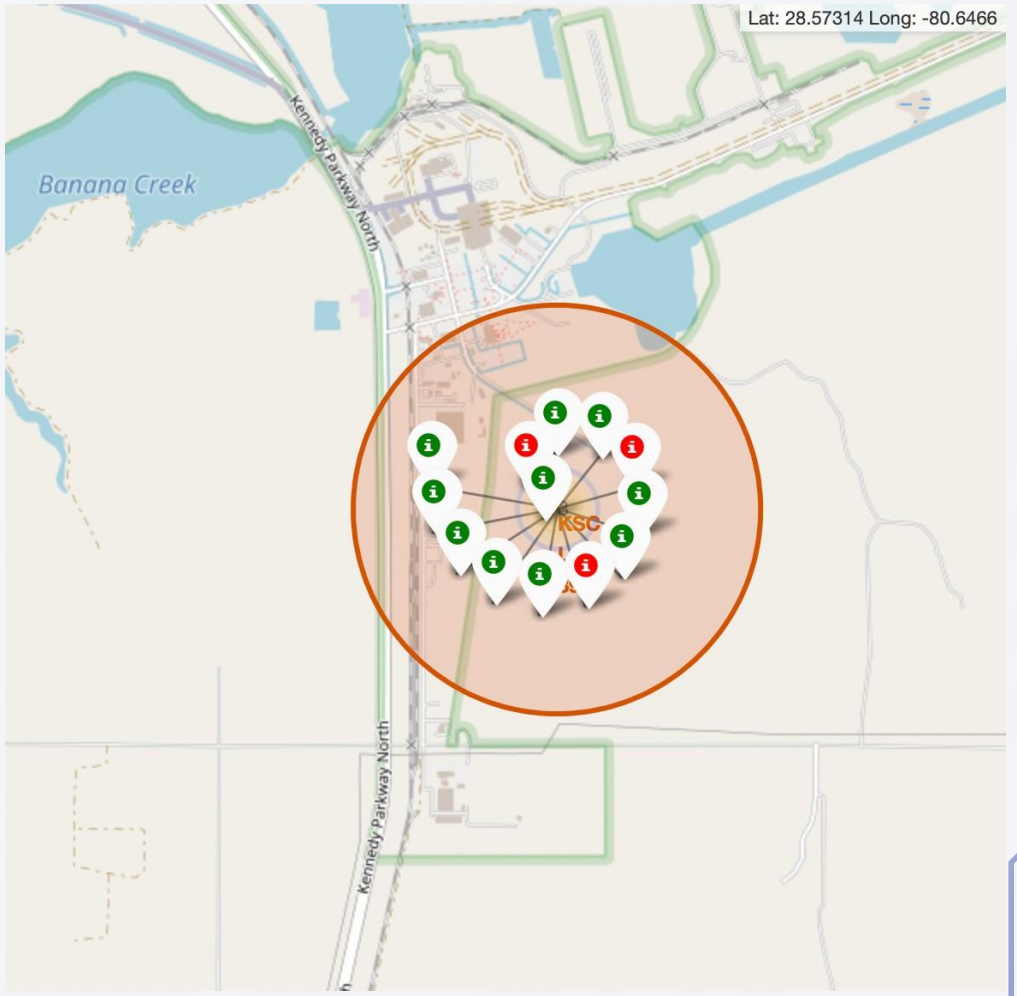
- Most of Launch sites are in proximity to the Equator line. The land is moving faster at the equator than any other place on the surface of the Earth. Anything on the surface of the Earth at the equator is already moving at 1670 km/hour. If a ship is launched from the equator it goes up into space, and it is also moving around the Earth at the same speed it was moving before launching. This is because of inertia. This speed will help the spacecraft keep up a good enough speed to stay in orbit.
- All launch sites are in very close proximity to the coast, while launching rockets towards the ocean it minimises the risk of having any debris dropping or exploding near people.



Markers showing launch sites with color labels

Explanation:

- From the colour-labeled markers we should be able to easily identify which launch sites have relatively high success rates.
  - Green Marker = Successful Launch
  - Red Marker = Failed Launch
- Launch Site KSC LC-39A has a very high Success Rate.



Launch Site distance to landmarks

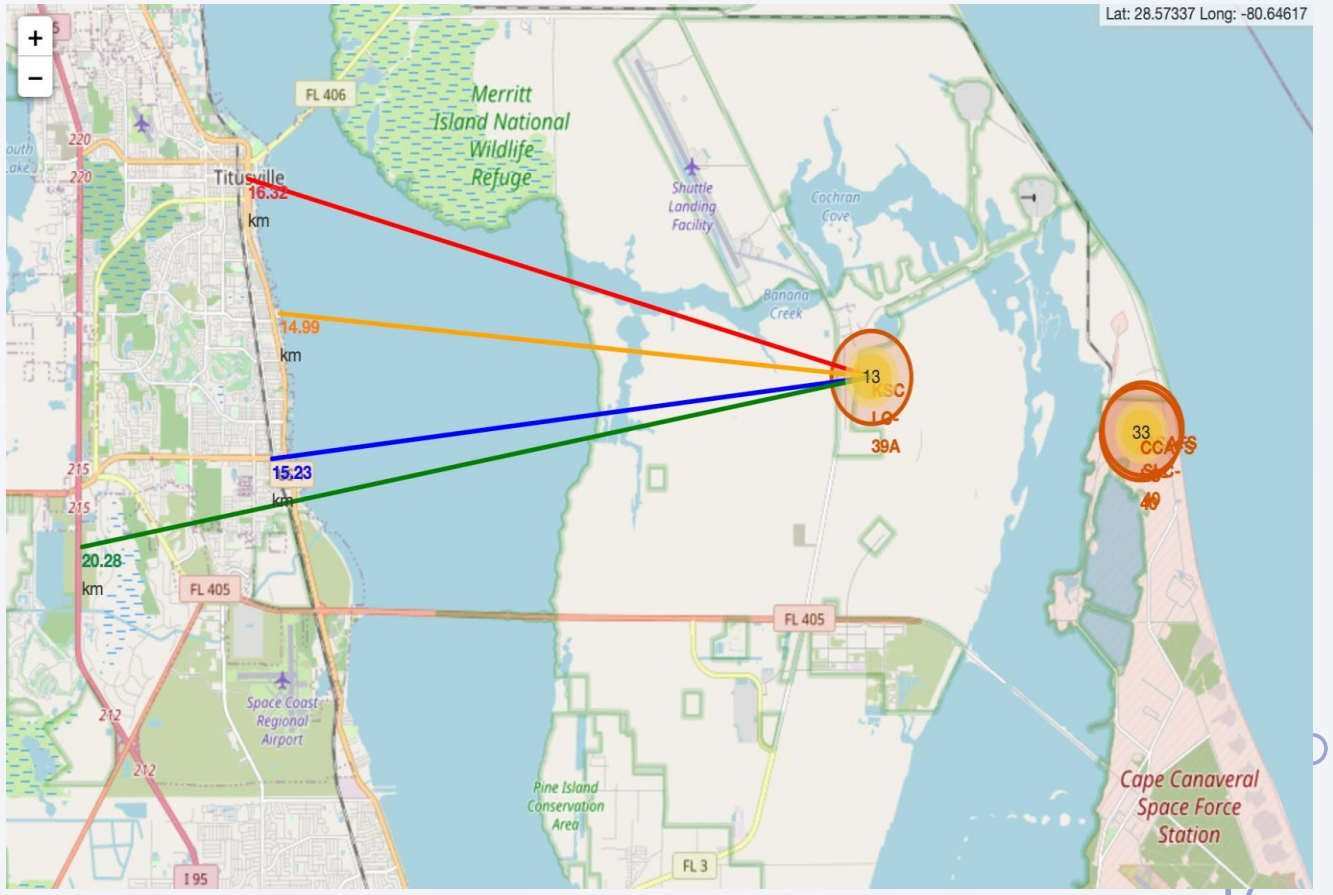
Explanation:

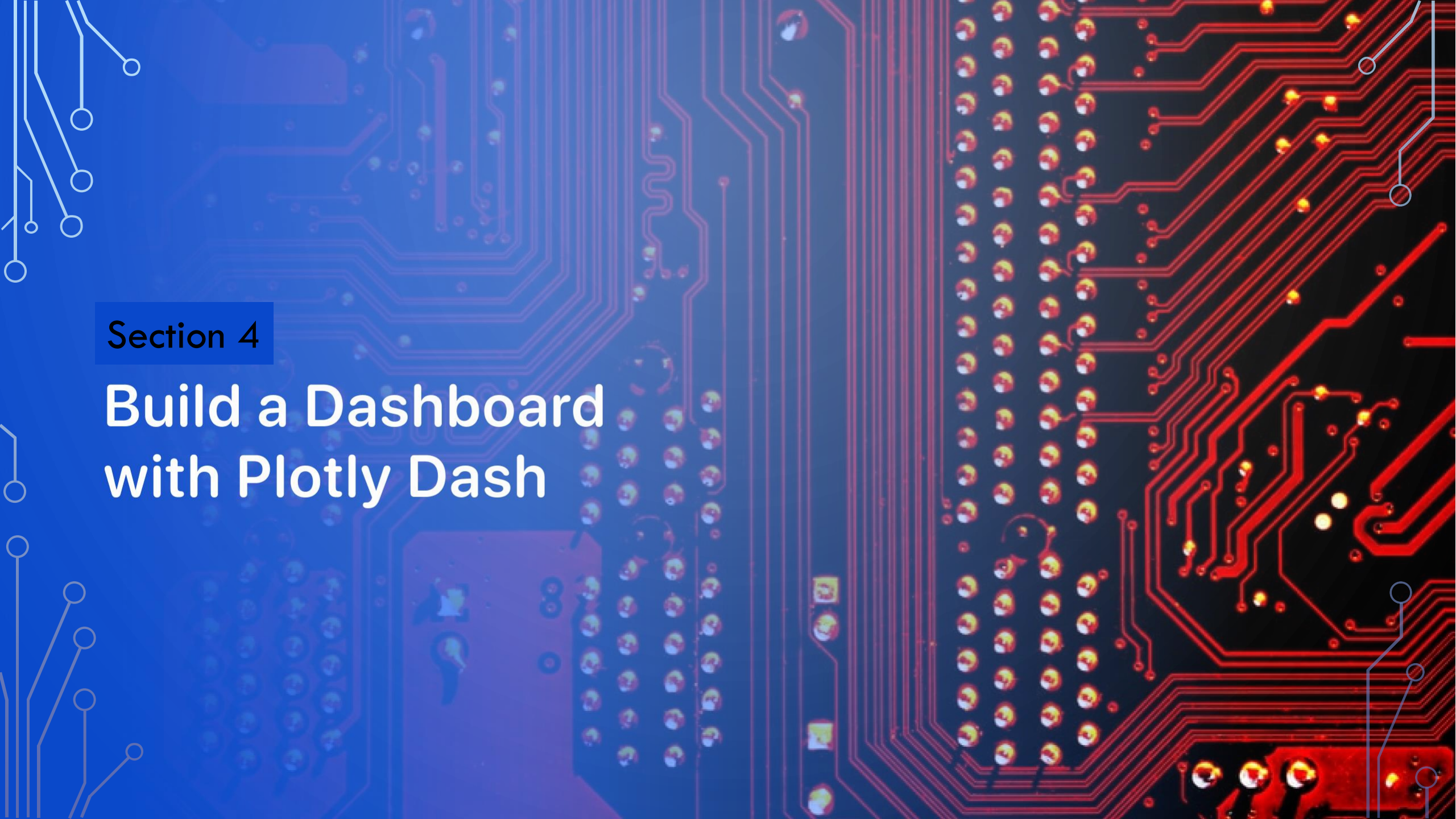
From the visual analysis of the launch site KSC LC-39A we can clearly see that it is:

- relative close to railway (15.23 km)
- relative close to highway (20.28 km)
- relative close to coastline (14.99 km)

Also the launch site KSC LC-39A is relative close to its closest city Titusville (16.32 km).

Failed rocket with its high speed can cover distances like 15-20 km in few seconds. It could be potentially dangerous to populated areas.

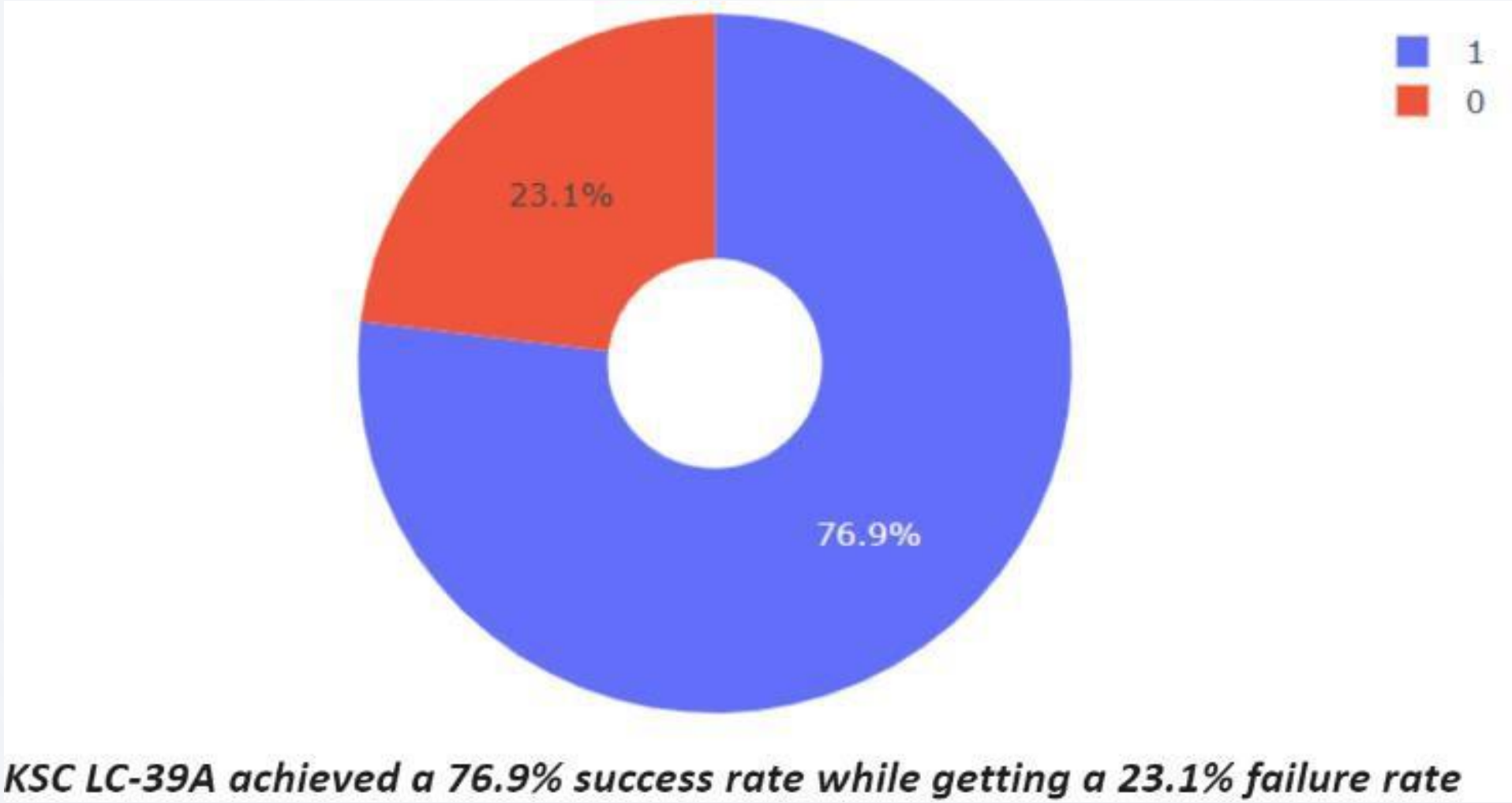



Section 4
Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Pie chart showing the success percentage achieved by each launch site

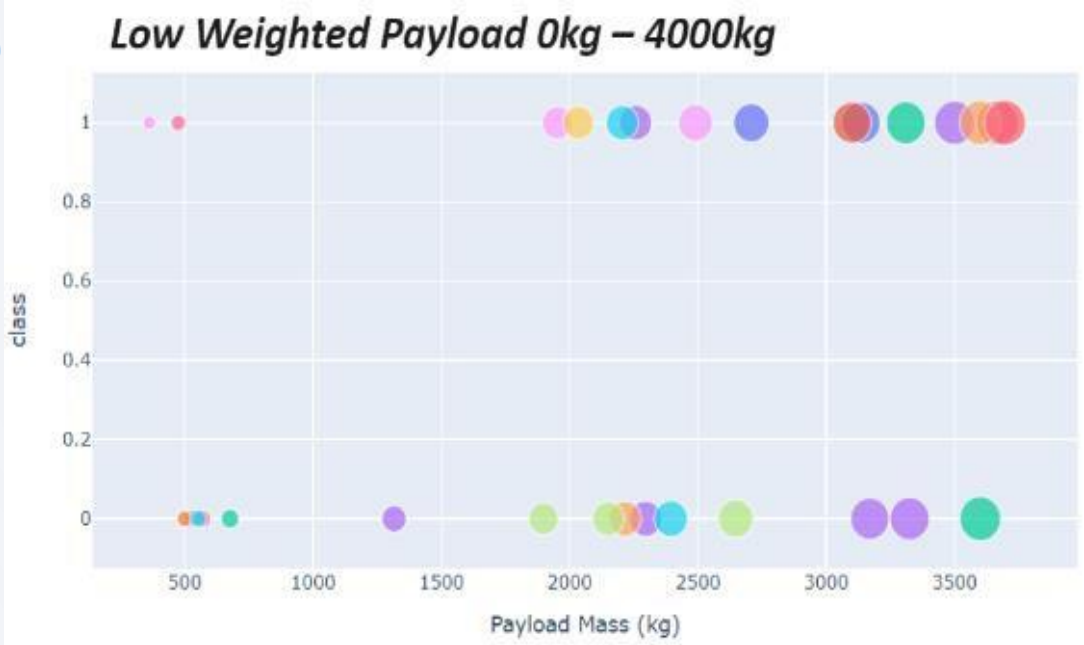
We can see that KSC LC-39A had the most successful launches from all the sites

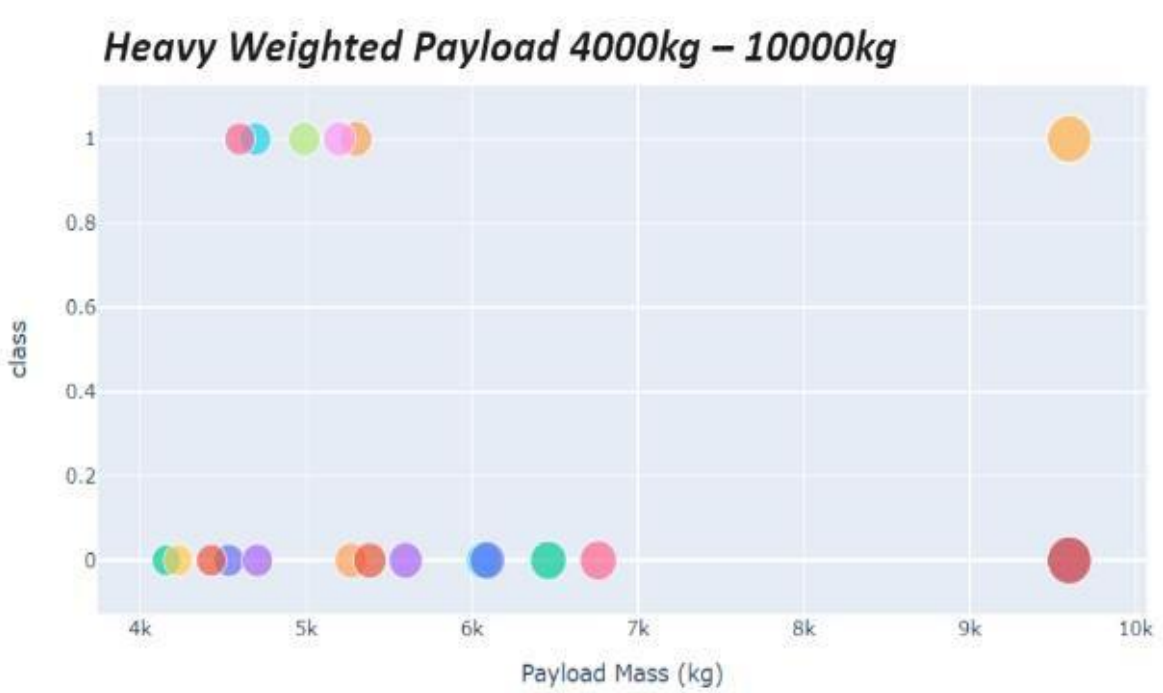
Pie chart showing the Launch site with the highest launch success ratio



KSC LC-39A achieved a 76.9% success rate while getting a 23.1% failure rate

Scatter plot of Payload vs Launch Outcome for all sites, with different payload selected in the range slider





We can see the success rates for low weighted payloads is higher than the heavy weighted payloads

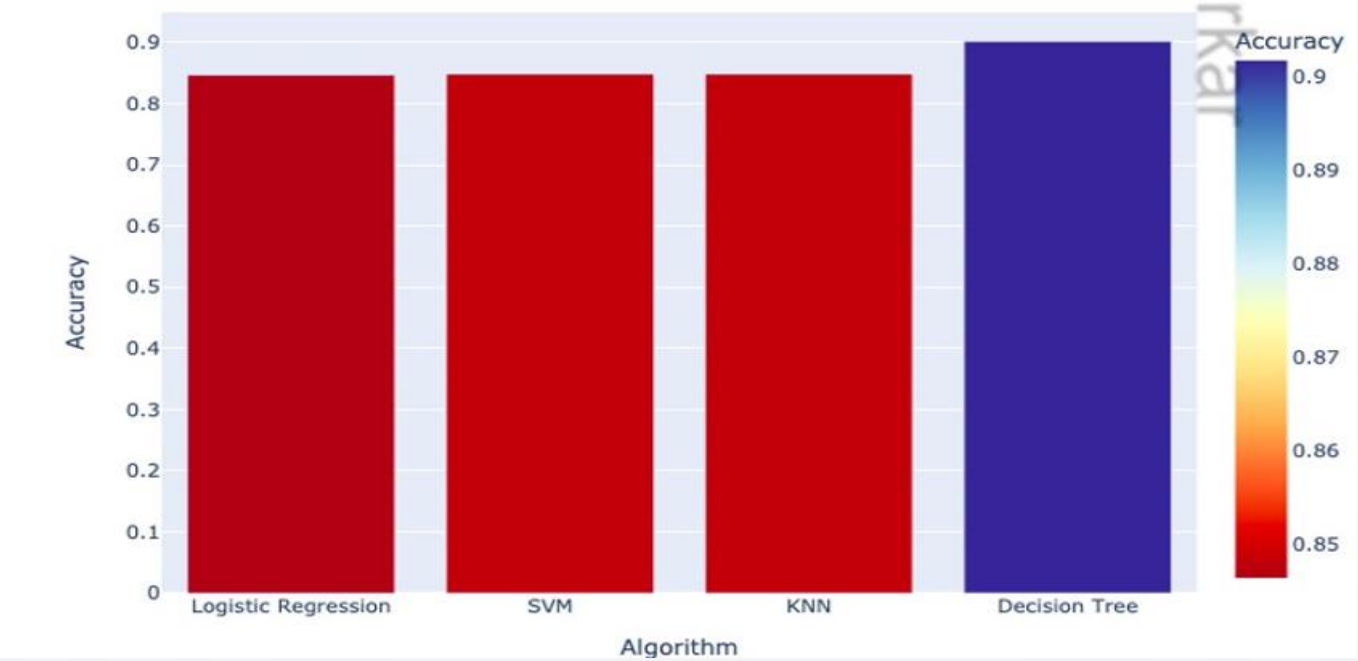
Section 5

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

Classification Accuracy

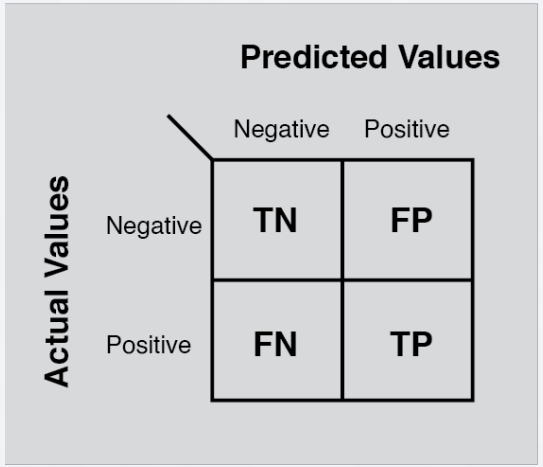
Explanation:

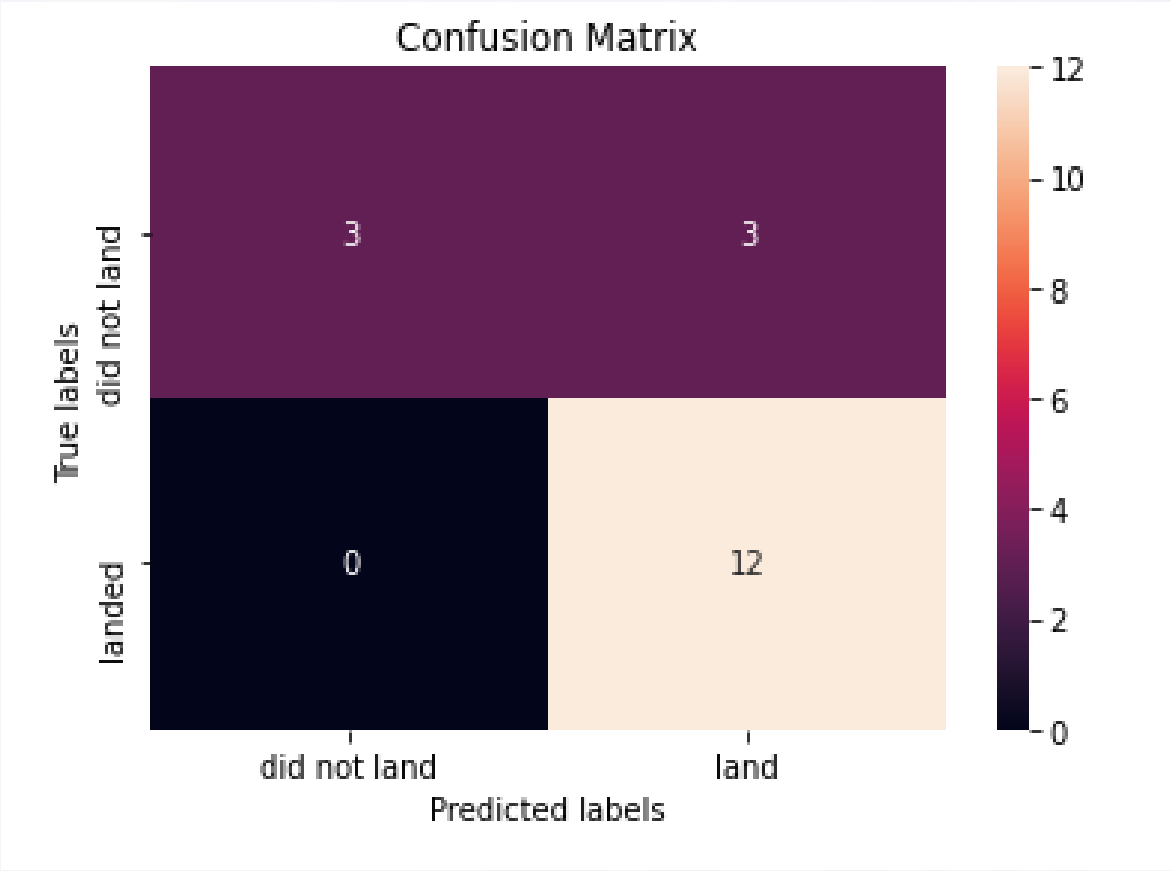
- Based on the scores of the Test Set, we can not confirm which method performs best.
- Same Test Set scores may be due to the small test sample size (18 samples). Therefore, we tested all methods based on the whole Dataset.
- The scores of the whole Dataset confirm that the best model is the Decision Tree Model. This model has not only higher scores, but also the highest accuracy.



Confusion Matrix

- Examining the confusion matrix, we see that logistic regression can distinguish between the different classes. We see that the major problem is false positives.





Conclusions

- Decision Tree Model is the best algorithm for this dataset.
- Launches with a low payload mass show better results than launches with a larger payload mass.
- Most of launch sites are in proximity to the Equator line and all the sites are in very close proximity to the coast.
- The success rate of launches increases over the years.
- KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate of the launches from all the sites.
- Orbits ES-L1, GEO, HEO and SSO have 100% success rate.

Thank you!