



IBM Developer  
SKILLS NETWORK

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

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# Outline

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

# Executive Summary

- The research seeks to predict whether the Falcon 9 first stage will land successfully, thereby allowing the SpaceX program to reuse the first stage in a future rocket launch.
- Summary of methodologies
  - Collect data with SpaceX API
  - Wrangle Data with success/fail variable from Falcon 9 launch records
  - Explore the data in terms of launch site, orbit, payload mass, version booster, and booster landing
  - Analyze the data with SQL to calculate statistics on number of successes and failures
  - Explore launch site statistics and locations
  - Visualize successful launch data
  - Build models using logistic regression, support vector machine, decision tree, and K nearest neighbor
- Summary of all results
  - All models performed with similar results, with the decision tree slightly outperforming the other models.

# Introduction

- Background
  - We seek to predict if the Falcon 9 first stage will land successfully. SpaceX claims their Falcon 9 rocket launches at an expense of 62 million dollars; other providers show a cost of up to 165 million dollars each. The difference in cost is due to that fact that SpaceX can reuse the first stage. Therefore if we can predict if the first stage will land, we can determine the expense of a launch.
- Problems to Explore
  - How much do launch site location, orbits, payload mass, and number of flights affect landing success?
  - Have the rate of successful landings improved over time?
  - What is the best model to predict for successful landings?



Section 1

# Methodology

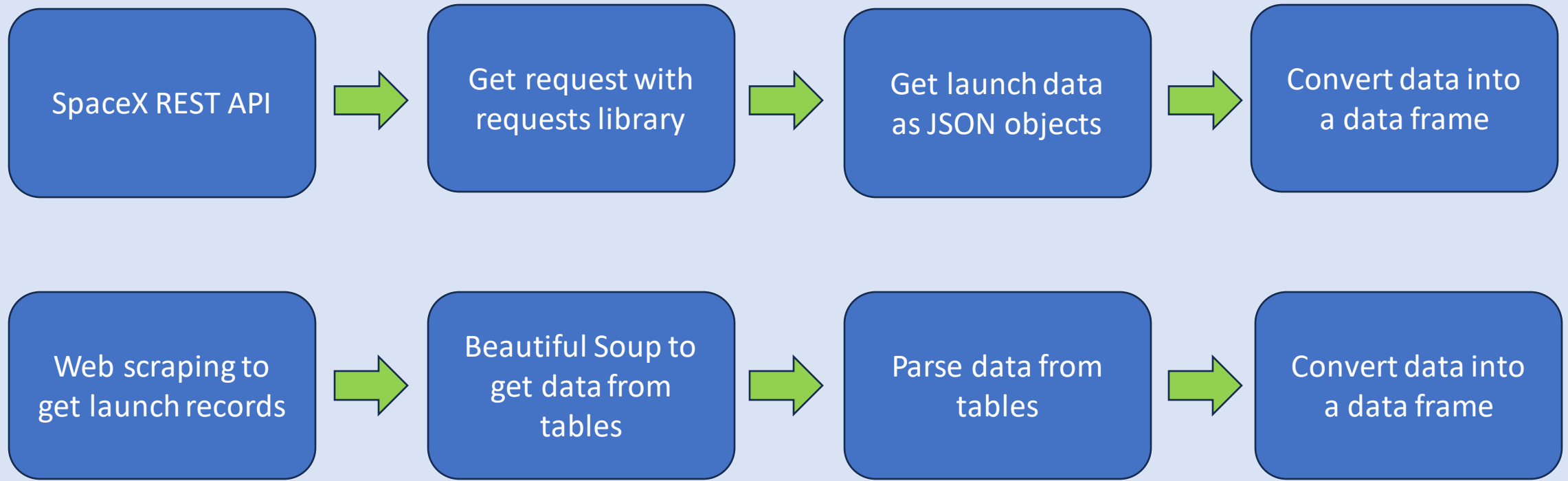
# Methodology

- Executive Summary
- Data collection methodology:
  - SpaceX API and web scraping techniques
- Perform data wrangling
  - Filter the data and handle missing values
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
  - Tune and evaluate models to find the best models and parameters



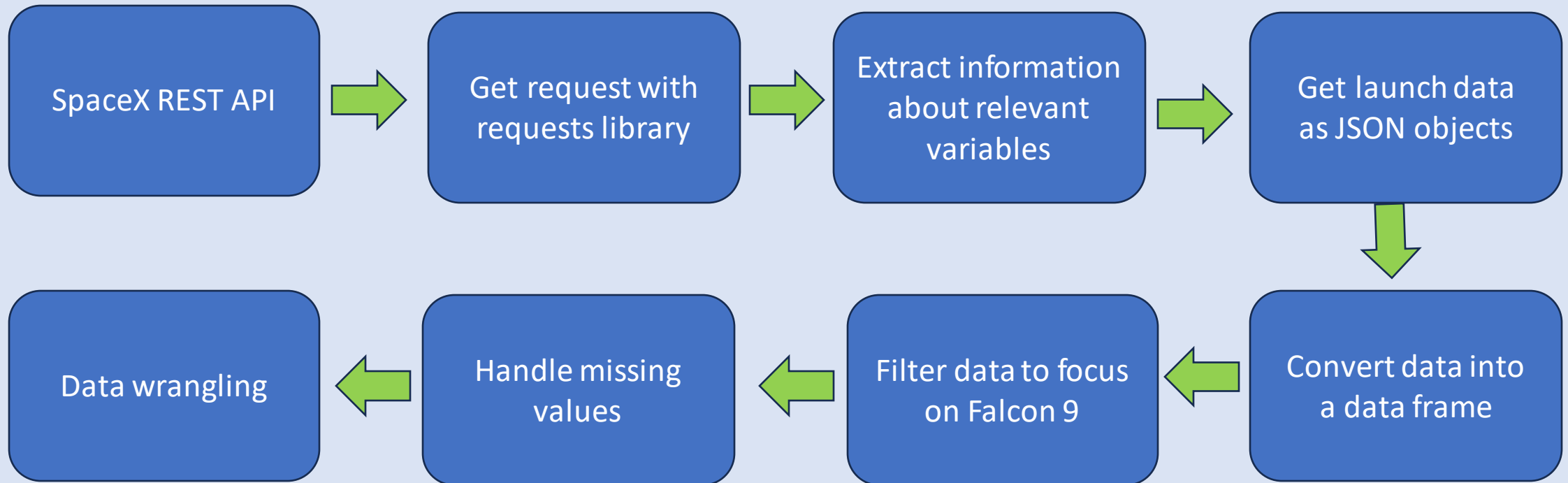
# Data Collection

The data was retrieved from SpaceX REST API and by using web scraping techniques on wiki pages.



# Data Collection – SpaceX API

Use API to collect data and ensure that it is in the desired format.

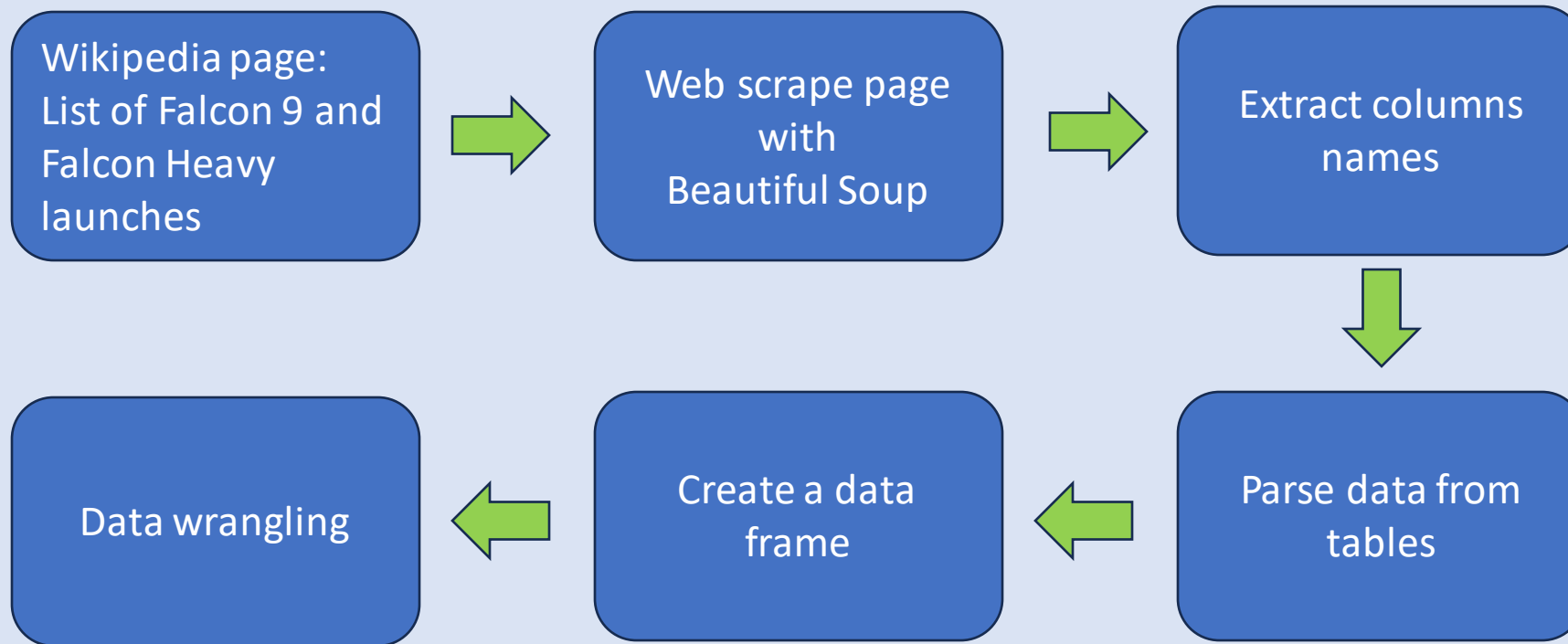


- GitHub URL of the completed SpaceX API calls notebook
- <https://github.com/ghornung/1-SpaceX-Capstone.git>



# Data Collection – Scraping

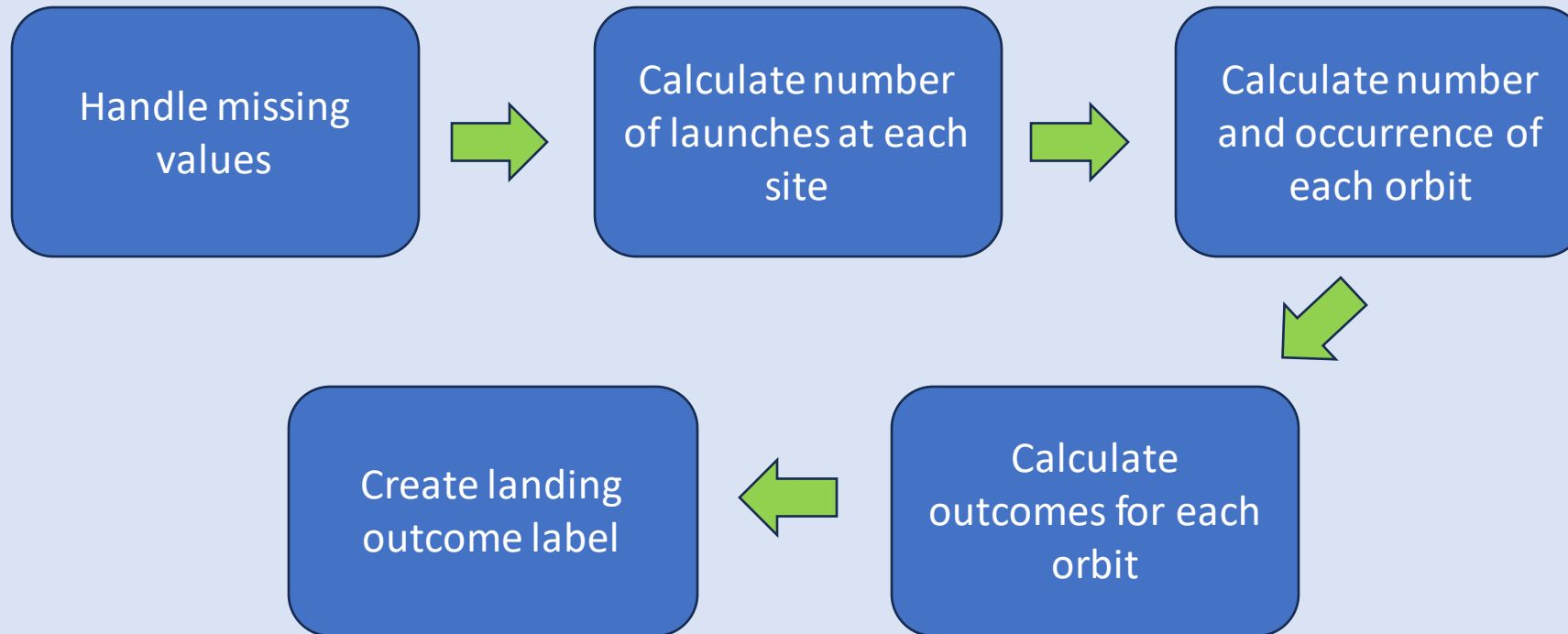
Use web scraping to collect Falcon 9 launch data from wiki pages.



- GitHub URL of the completed web scraping notebook
- <https://github.com/ghornung/2-SpaceX-Capstone.git>

# Data Wrangling

We find patterns in the data and determine the labels for training supervised models.



- GitHub URL of completed data wrangling related notebook
- <https://github.com/ghornung/3-SpaceX-Capstone-.git>

# EDA with Data Visualization

- Charts plotted:
  - Flight number vs payload mass
  - Launch site vs flight number
  - Payload mass vs launch site
  - Orbit vs class
  - Orbit vs flight number
  - Payload mass vs orbit
  - Success rate by year
- GitHub URL of completed EDA with data visualization notebook
- <https://github.com/ghornung/5-SpaceX-Capstone.git>

# EDA with SQL

- SQL queries
  - Names of the unique launch sites
  - Launch sites that begin with CCA
  - Total payload mass carried by boosters
  - Average payload mass carried by boosters
  - Date of first successful landing on ground pad
  - Boosters which have had success in drone ship
  - Total number of successes and failures
  - Names of boosters with maximum payload mass
  - Rank count of landing outcomes in descending order
- GitHub URL completed EDA with SQL notebook
- <https://github.com/ghornung/4-SpaceX-Capstone.git>

# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- Summary of map objects created and added to folium map
  - `folium.Circle` - adds a highlighted circle area with a text label on a specific coordinate
  - `folium.Marker` - marks each launch site on the map
  - `MarkerCluster` object – marks several objects with the same coordinates
  - `MousePosition` - gets coordinate for a mouse over a point on the map.
  - `PolyLine` – indicates distance between a launch site to a selected coastline point or to another point
- GitHub URL completed interactive map with Folium map
- <https://github.com/ghornung/6-SpaceX-Capstone.git>



# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- Summary of plots/graphs and interactions added to a dashboard
  - This dashboard contains a dropdown list and slider to interact with pie charts and scatter point charts.
    - The drop down menu allows four different launch sites to be selected
    - A pie chart is rendered based on the launch site selected and the number of successful launches
    - A slider is included to identify patterns in different payloads.
- GitHub URL of completed Plotly Dash
- <https://github.com/ghornung/7-SpaceX-Capstone.git>

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

- Summary of building, evaluating, improving, and finding the best performing classification model

NumPy array from  
the column Class  
in data

Standardize the  
data in X

Split the data X and  
Y into training and  
test data

Create a logistic  
regression object

Compare the  
accuracies to find  
the best model

Create a k nearest  
neighbors object

Create a decision  
tree classifier  
object

Create a support  
vector machine  
object

- GitHub URL of completed predictive analysis lab
- <https://github.com/ghornung/8-SpaceX-Capstone.git>

# Results

## Exploratory data analysis results

- Launch success rate has improved over time.
- KSC LC 39A is the landing site with the highest success rate.
- Orbit types ES-L1, GEO, HEO, and SSO have a 100% success rate

## Interactive analytics demo in screenshots

- Launch site tend to be located relatively near the equator and close to the coast.

## Predictive analysis results

- The decision tree model is the best suited for the data set.

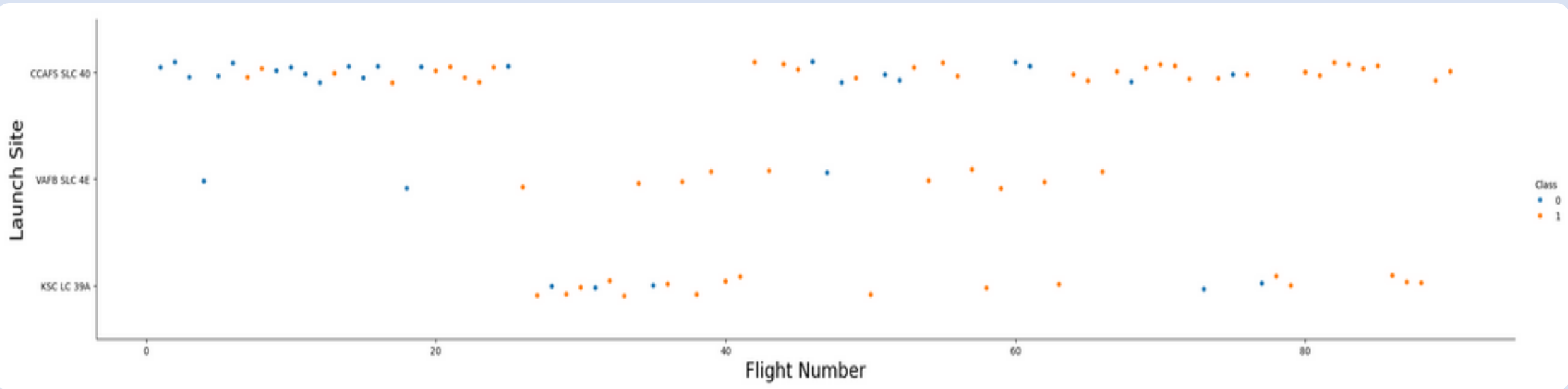


The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a dark blue field on the left side, which transitions into a complex pattern of diagonal streaks in shades of blue, red, and teal on the right. These streaks have a textured, almost woven appearance. Overlaid on this pattern is a faint, light blue grid that creates a sense of depth and structure.

Section 2

# Insights drawn from EDA

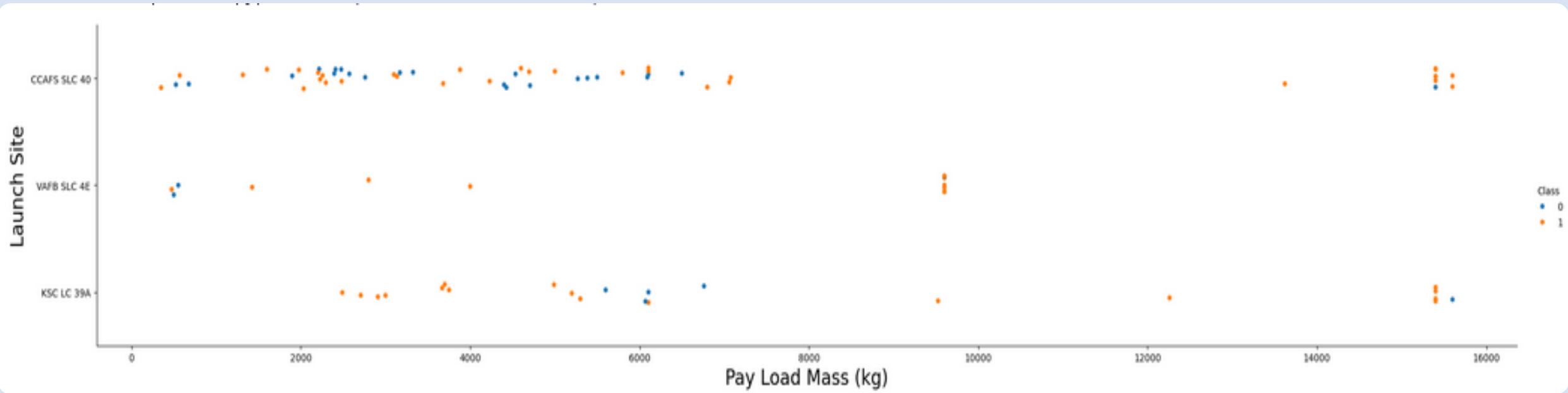




# Flight Number vs. Launch Site

- Over time, the rate of successful launches has increased at all sites.
- Site CCAFS SLC-40 in particular shows a high successful landing rate as time has progressed.

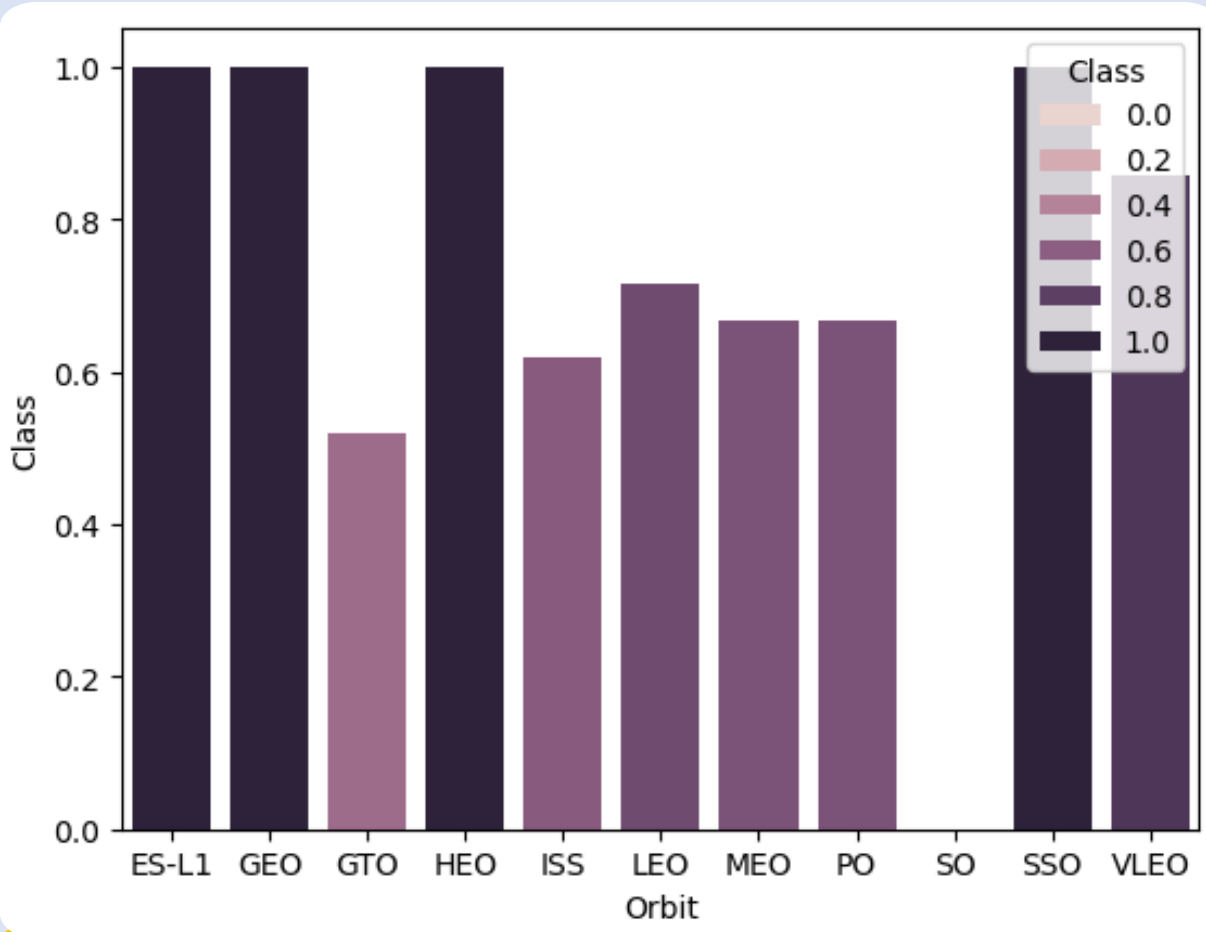




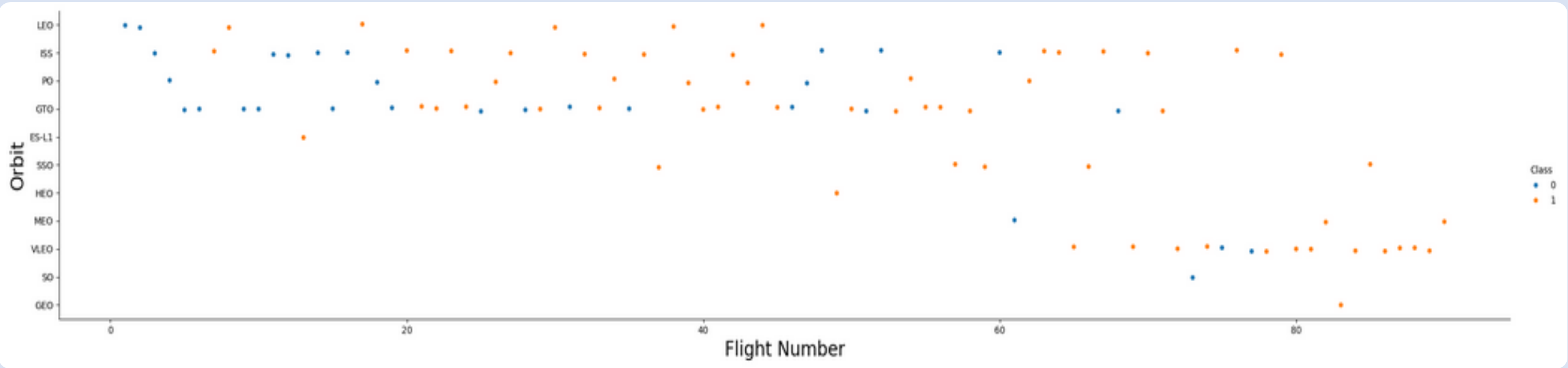
## Payload vs. Launch Site

- Site VAFB SCL-4E did not have a launch with a payload mass greater than 10000kg.
- Site KSC LC-39A did not have a launch with a payload mass less than 2500kg.
- Site CCAFS SLC-40 did not have a launch with a payload mass between 7500 and 13000kg.

# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

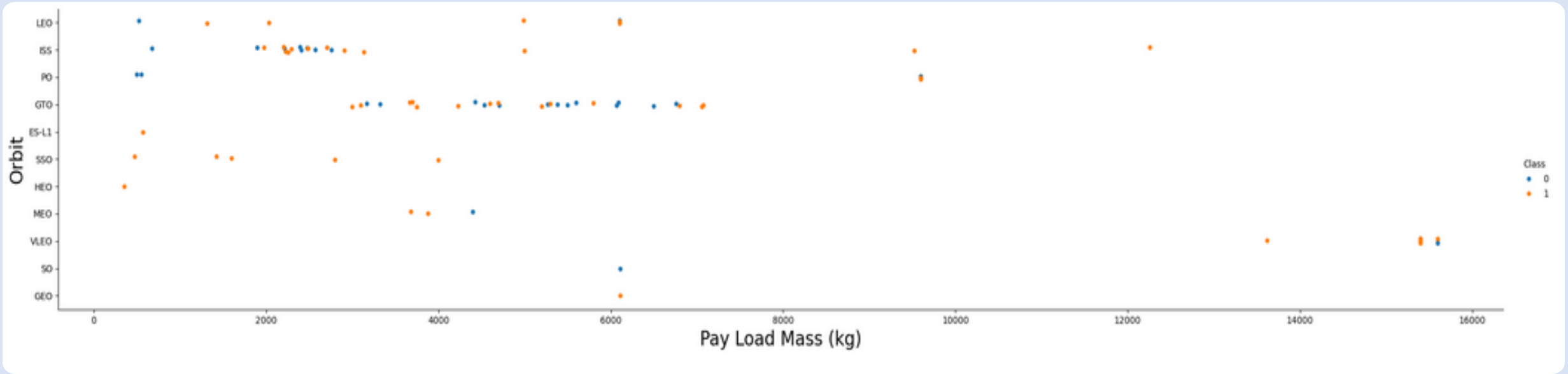


- Orbit types ES-L1, GEO, HEO, and SSO have the highest success rate at 100%.
- Orbit SO had a 0% success rate.



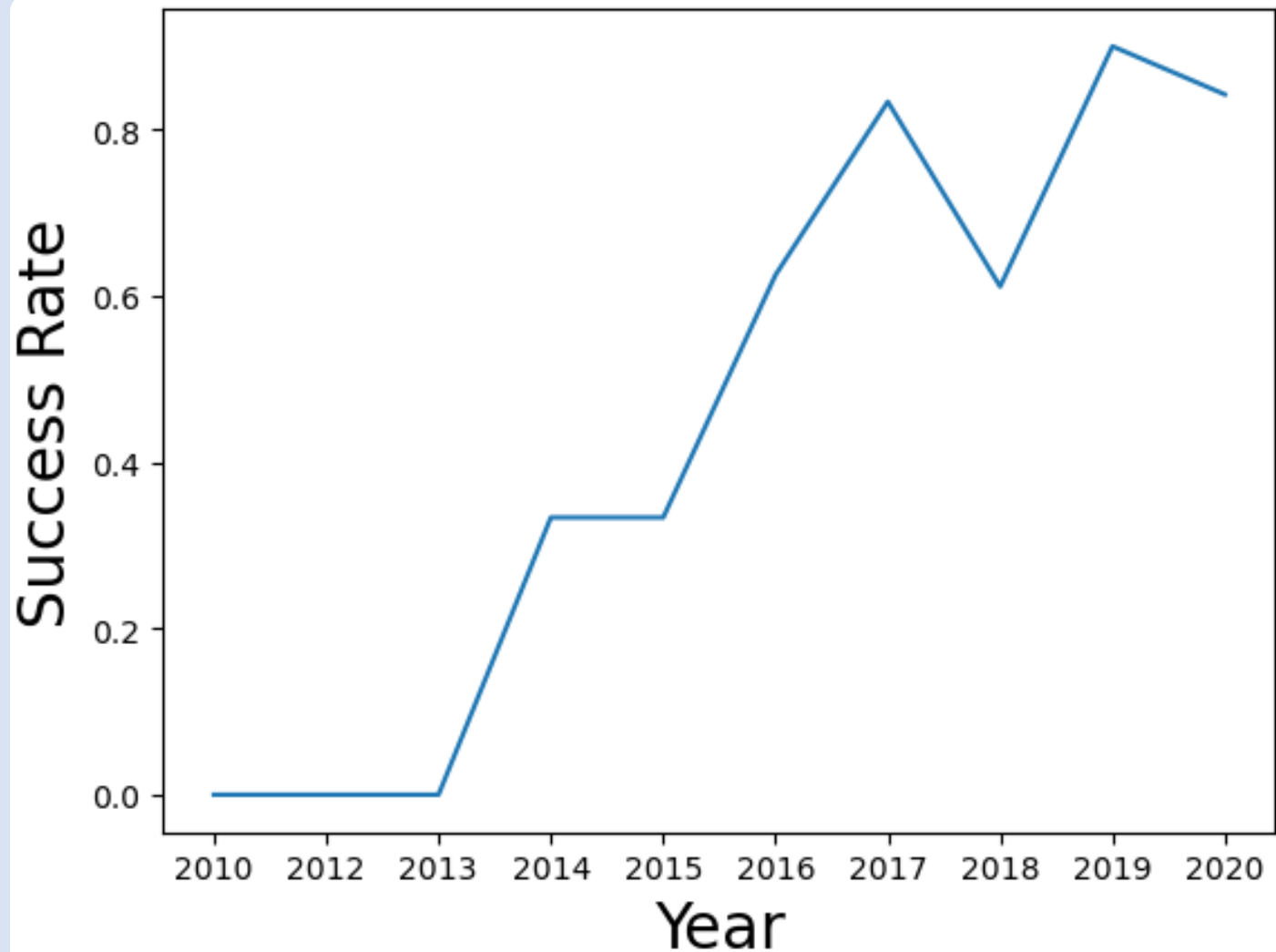
# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

- Orbits with a higher number of flight tend to have a higher success rate.
- An exception to this is orbit GTO.



## Payload vs. Orbit Type

- Orbits LEO, ISS, and PO have done well with heavy payloads.
- Orbit GTO shows both positive and negative results with heavy payloads.



## Launch Success Yearly Trend

- This chart clearly shows an increased success rate over time.



# All Launch Site Names

- There are four unique launch sites in this study.
- The distinct statement returns these four unique sites.

```
%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

```
%sql select LAUNCH_SITE from SPACEXTABLE where (LAUNCH_SITE) like 'CCA%' LIMIT 5;
```

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

Done.

**Launch\_Site**

CCAFS LC-40

CCAFS LC-40

CCAFS LC-40

CCAFS LC-40

CCAFS LC-40

Launch Site  
Names Begin  
with 'CCA'

- Like 'CCA%' LIMIT 5 returns 5 records where launch sites begin with 'CCA'

```
%sql select sum(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) as payloadmass from SPACEXTABLE;
```

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

```
Done.
```

<b>payloadmass</b>
--------------------

619967
--------

# Total Payload Mass

- We calculate the total payload carried by boosters from NASA using the sum function.

```
%sql select avg(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) from SPACEXTABLE where (Booster_Version) like 'F9 v1.1';
```

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

```
Done.
```

```
avg(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_)
```

---

```
2928.4
```

## Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

- We calculate the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1 using the average function (avg).

```
%sql select DATE from SPACEXTABLE where (Landing_Outcome) like 'Success (ground pad)' LIMIT 1;
```

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

```
Done.
```

Date
2015-12-22

## First Successful Ground Landing Date

- We find the dates of the first successful landing outcome on ground pad by selecting the first date which indicated a success and ground pad.



```
%sql select Booster_Version from SPACEXTABLE
where (Landing_Outcome) like 'Success (drone ship)' and PAYLOAD_MASS_KG > 4000 and PAYLOAD_MASS_KG < 6000;
```

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

Done.

### Booster\_Version

F9 FT B1022

F9 FT B1026

F9 FT B1021.2

F9 FT B1031.2

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

- We can list the names of boosters which have successfully landed on drone ship and had payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000 with the use of the greater than and less than functions.

# Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

- We can list the names of the booster which have carried the maximum payload mass by using the max function.

```
%sql select max(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) from SPACEXTABLE;

* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.

max(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_)
15600

%sql select Booster_Version as boosterversion from SPACEXTABLE where PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_ = (15600);

* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.

boosterversion
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
```

```
%sql select count(Mission_Outcome) as successes from SPACEXTABLE where (Mission_Outcome) like 'Success%';
```

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

```
Done.
```

```
successes
```

---

```
100
```

```
%sql select count(Mission_Outcome) as failures from SPACEXTABLE where (Mission_Outcome) like 'Failure%';
```

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

```
Done.
```

```
failures
```

---

```
1
```

## Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

- We calculate the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes with the use of the count function.

```
%sql select substr(Date, 6,2),Mission_Outcome,booster_version,launch_site from SPACEXTABLE where substr(Date,0,5)='2015';
```

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

Done.

substr(Date, 6,2)	Mission_Outcome	Booster_Version	Launch_Site
01	Success	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40
02	Success	F9 v1.1 B1013	CCAFS LC-40
03	Success	F9 v1.1 B1014	CCAFS LC-40
04	Success	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40
04	Success	F9 v1.1 B1016	CCAFS LC-40
06	Failure (in flight)	F9 v1.1 B1018	CCAFS LC-40
12	Success	F9 FT B1019	CCAFS LC-40

- We can list the landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015
- SQLite does not support month names. So we use substr(Date, 6,2) as month to get the months and substr(Date,0,5)='2015' for year.

## 2015 Launch Records

```
%sql select landing_outcome as "Landing Outcome", COUNT(landing_outcome) as "total" from SPACE_TABLE\
where date between '2010-06-04' and '2017-03-20'\
GROUP BY landing_outcome\
order by count(landing_outcome) desc;
```

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

Done.

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

- We 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 by using count and group by.

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

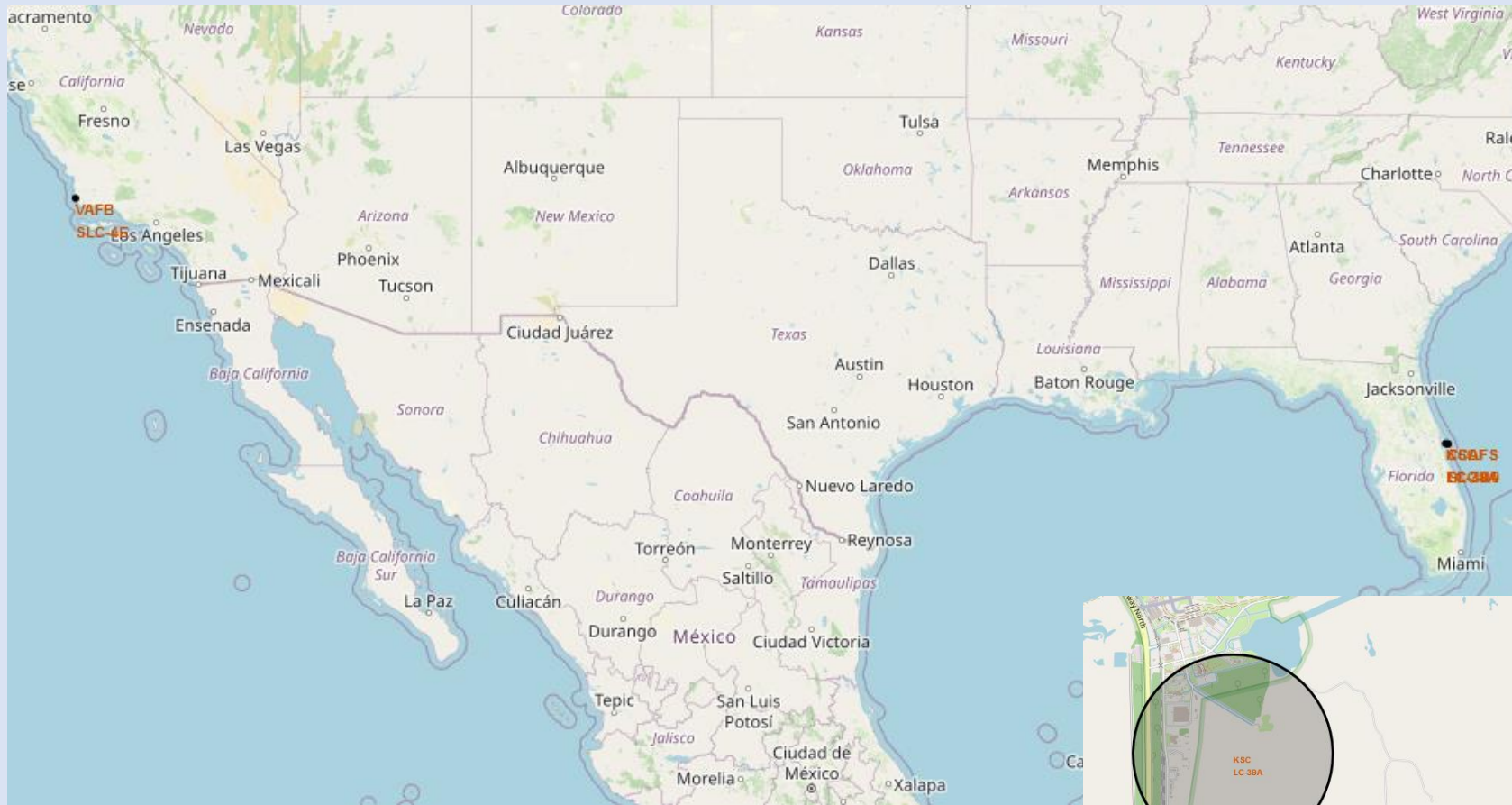
A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and city lights at night. The image is a composite of a solid blue background on the left and a satellite photograph of Earth on the right. The Earth's surface is dark, with numerous bright yellow and orange lights representing 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

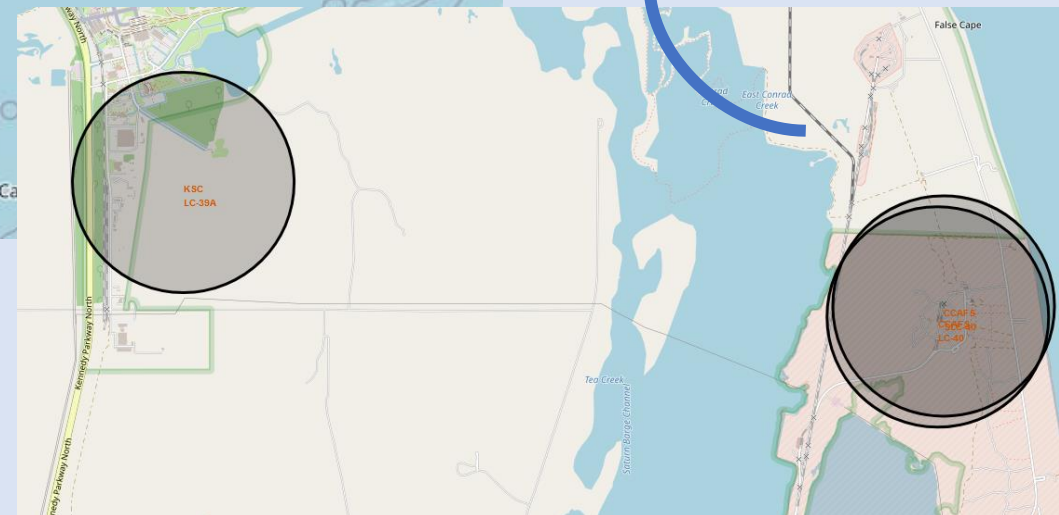
# Launch Sites Proximities Analysis



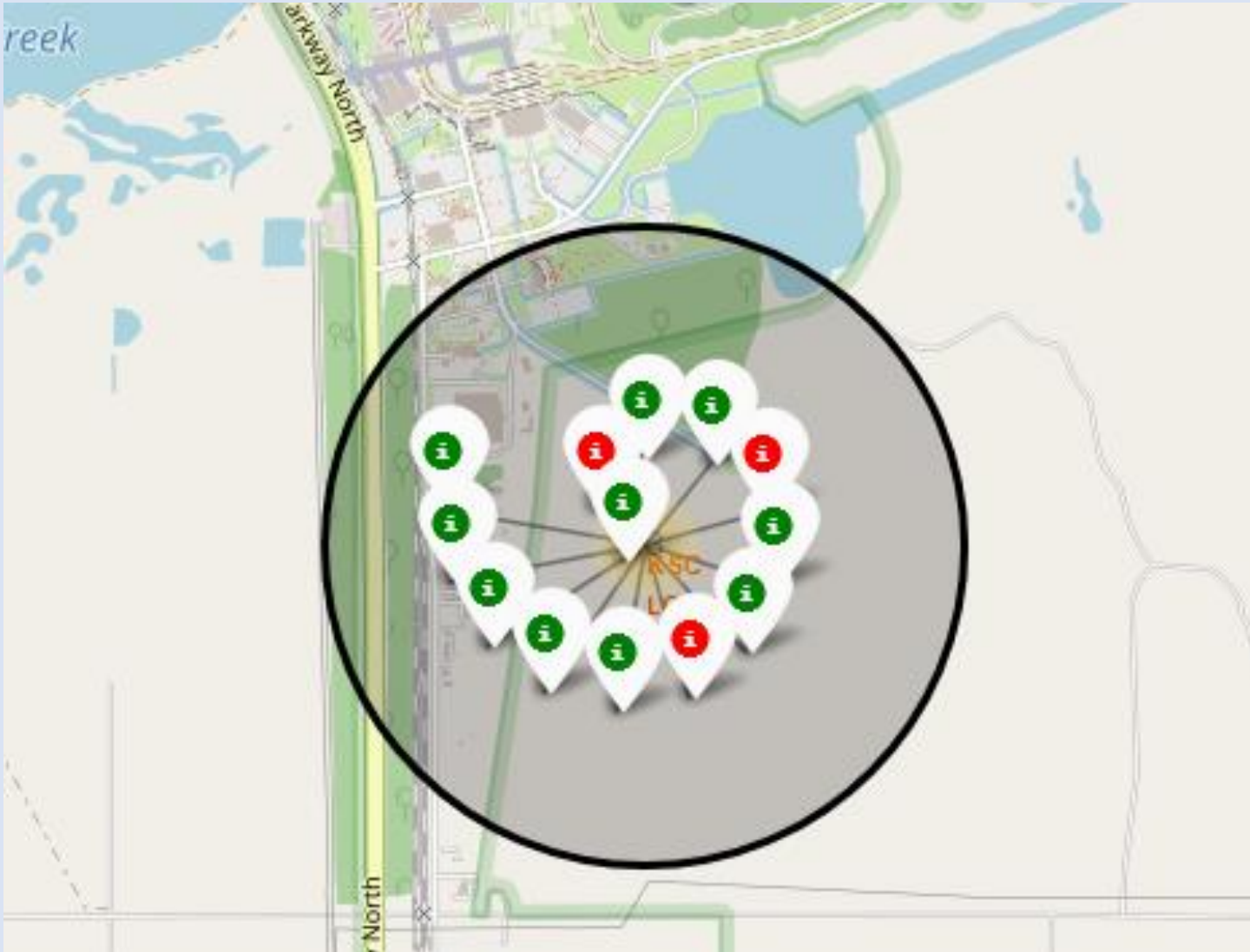
# All Launch Sites



- One site is one the west coast, while the other three are on the east coast and very close together.



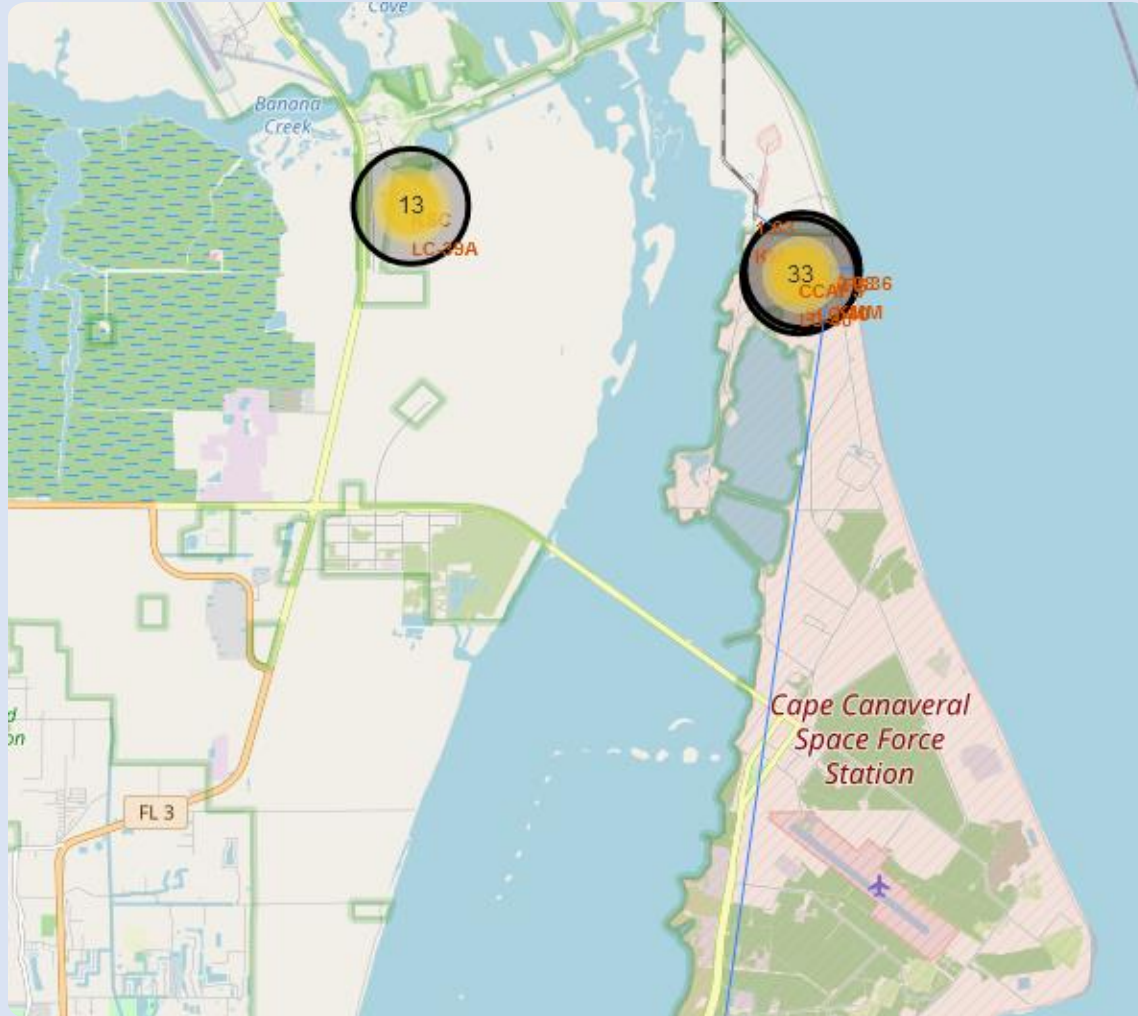
# Landing Success/Failures by Site



- Cluster markers for each site indicate the number of successes and failures.



# Calculating Distances from Launch Sites



- The launch sites shown are 13 and 33 km from the nearest railroad.



Section 4

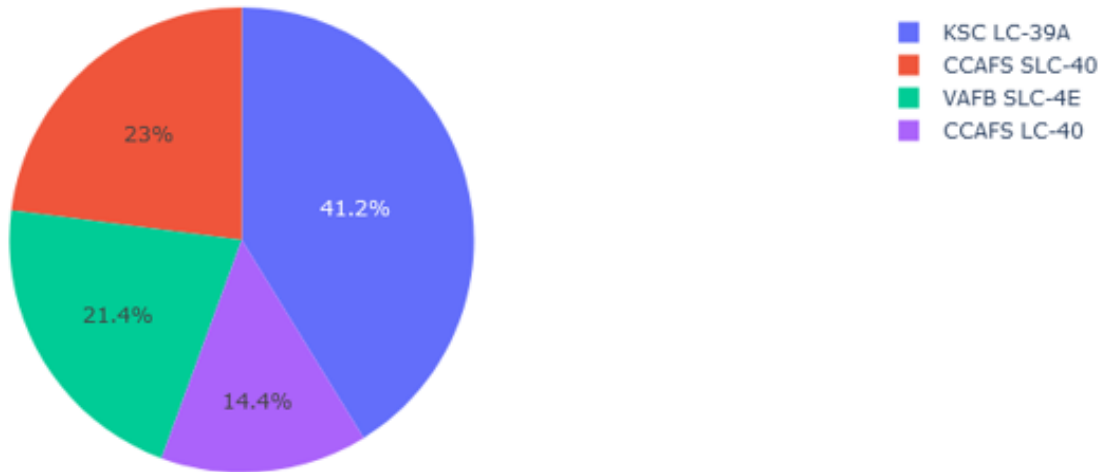
# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

# SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard

All Sites

✕ ▼

Total Launch Successes by Site



- KSC LC-39A has the highest number of successful launches.

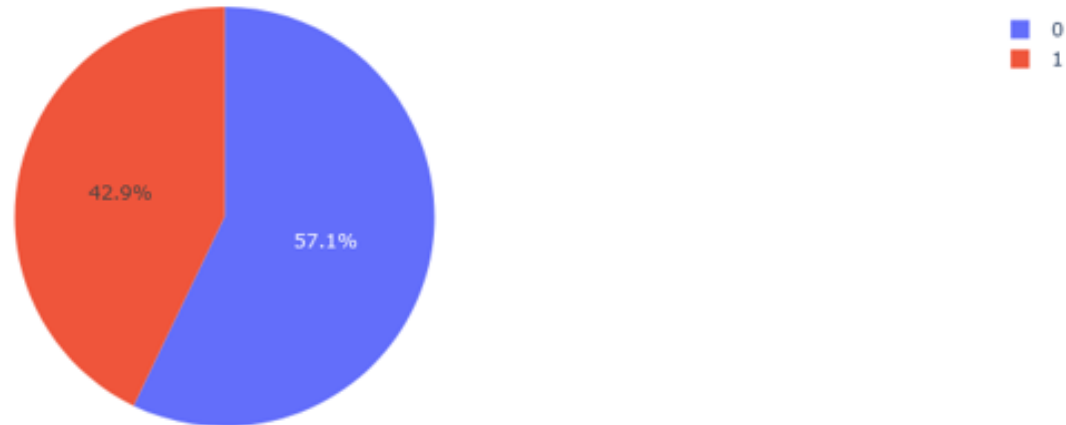
Total Launch Successes  
by Site

# KSC LC-39A

## SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard

KSC LC-39A

Total Launch success for Site CCAFS SLC-40



- KSC LC-39A has the highest number of successful launches.

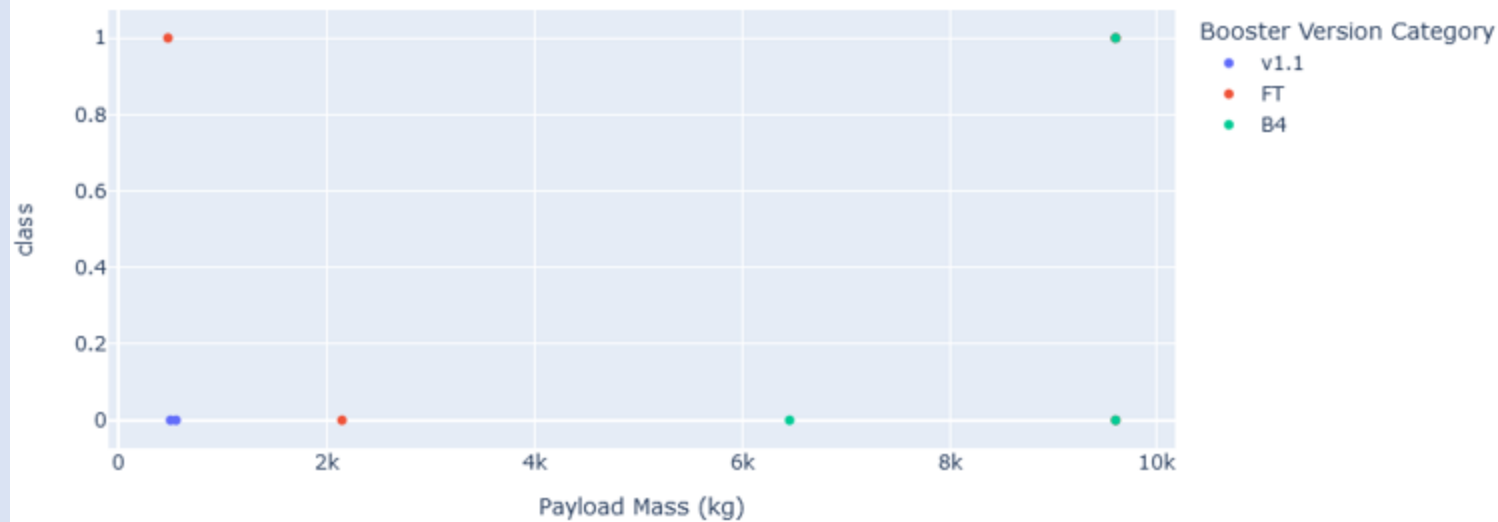
# Payload Mass vs Launch Outcome



- The majority of successful launches are in the 2500-500kg range.



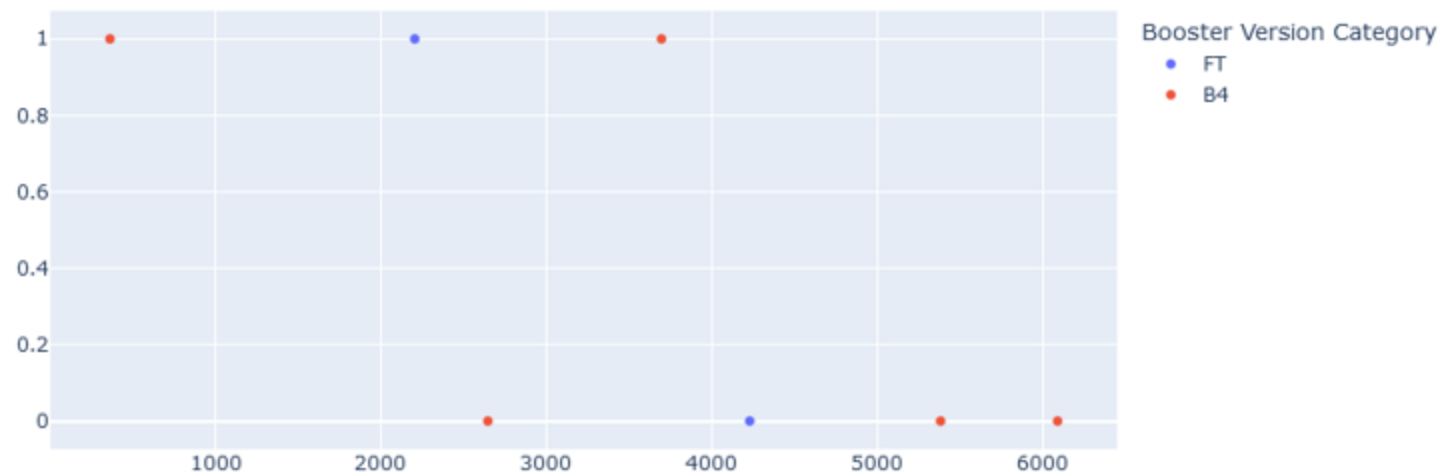
Correlation Between Payload Mass and success for Site VAFB SLC-4E



## Payload Mass vs Launch Outcome

- The majority of successful launches are in the 2500-500kg range.

Correlation Between Payload Mass and success for Site CCAFS SLC-40

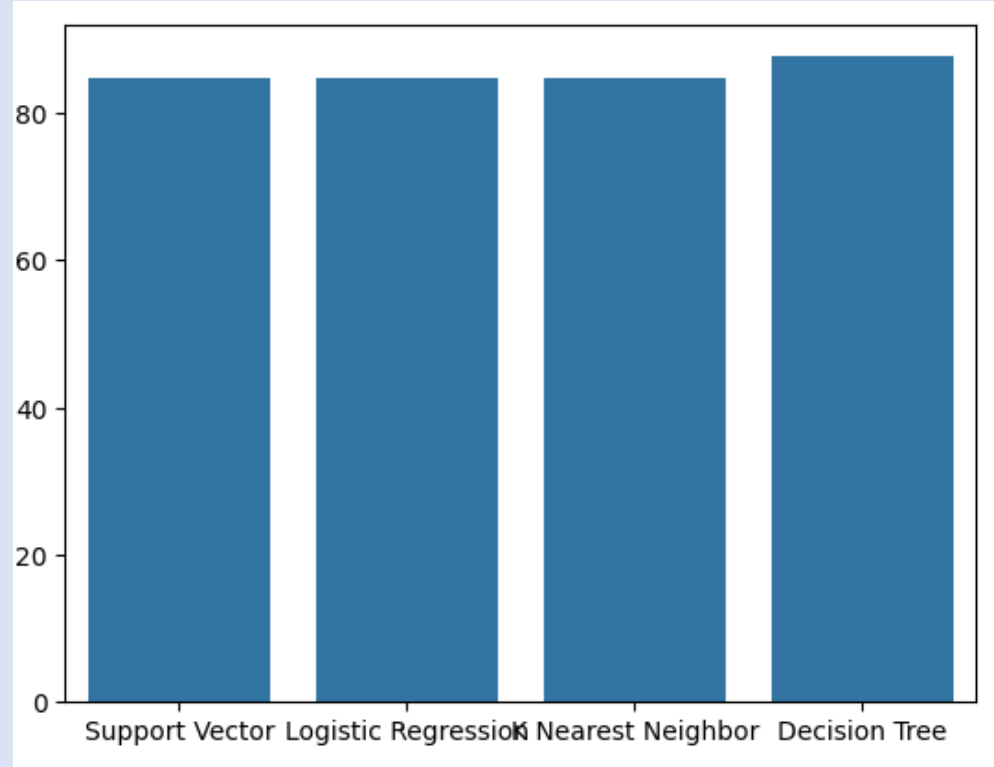


Section 5

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

# Classification Accuracy

- As we see from the accuracy scores, the built model accuracy for all built classification models are very similar.
- However, the Decision Tree model has a slightly higher score, at 86.25% accuracy.

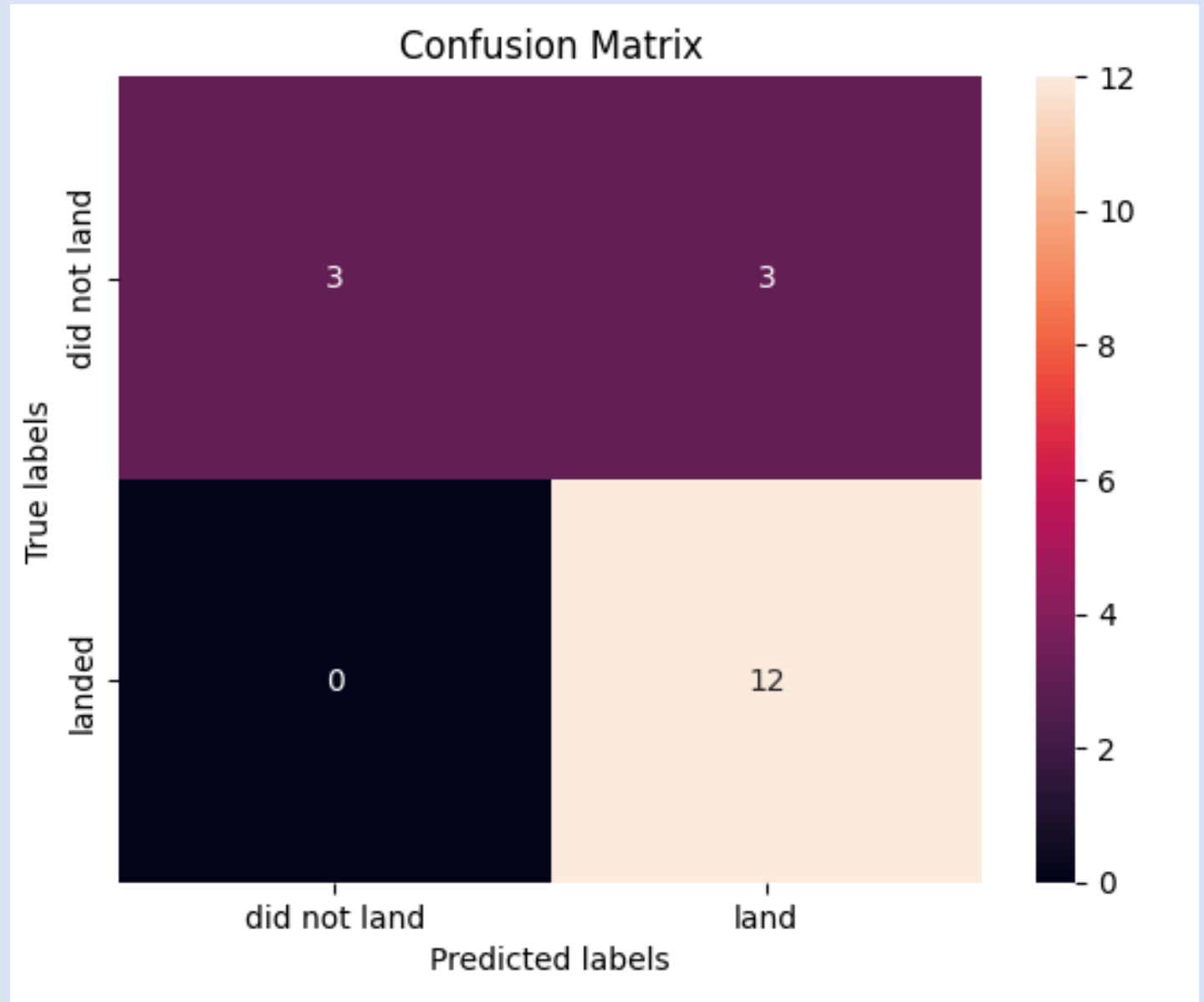


	ML Method	Accuracy Score %
0	Support Vector	84.821429
1	Logistic Regression	84.642857
2	K Nearest Neighbor	84.821429
3	Decision Tree	86.250000



# Confusion Matrix

- The confusion matrix for all models is the same.



# Conclusions

Point 1: Launch success rate has improved over time.

Point 2: KSC LC 39A is the landing site with the highest success rate.

Point 3: Orbit types ES-L1, GEO, HEO, and SSO have a 100% success rate

Point 4: Launch site tend to be located relatively near the equator and close to the coast.

Point 5: The decision tree model is the best suited for the data set

Thank you!

