



IBM Developer  
SKILLS NETWORK

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

Gregory Fountain  
16 Oct 2024



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

# Executive Summary

---

- Summary of methodologies
  - Data Collection
  - Data Wrangling
  - Exploratory Data Analysis with SQL and Visualization
  - Interactive visual analytics
  - Predictive Analysis
- Summary of all results
  - EDA results
  - Dashboard Analytics Results
  - Predictive Analysis results

- Project background and context
  - SpaceX has been considered one of the most successful companies in the commercial space age, making space travel more affordable and accessible. Much of the savings that Space X sees is because of their ability to reuse the first stage rocket motors. What can other companies, like Space Y, do to compete with Space X and reduce their operational costs?
- Questions to Answer
  - How do variables such as payload mass, launch site, types of orbit and number of flights affect the success of a first stage landing?
  - Does the rate of successful landings increase over the years?
  - What algorithms provide the greatest accuracy for predicting the success or failure of future rockets?





Section 1

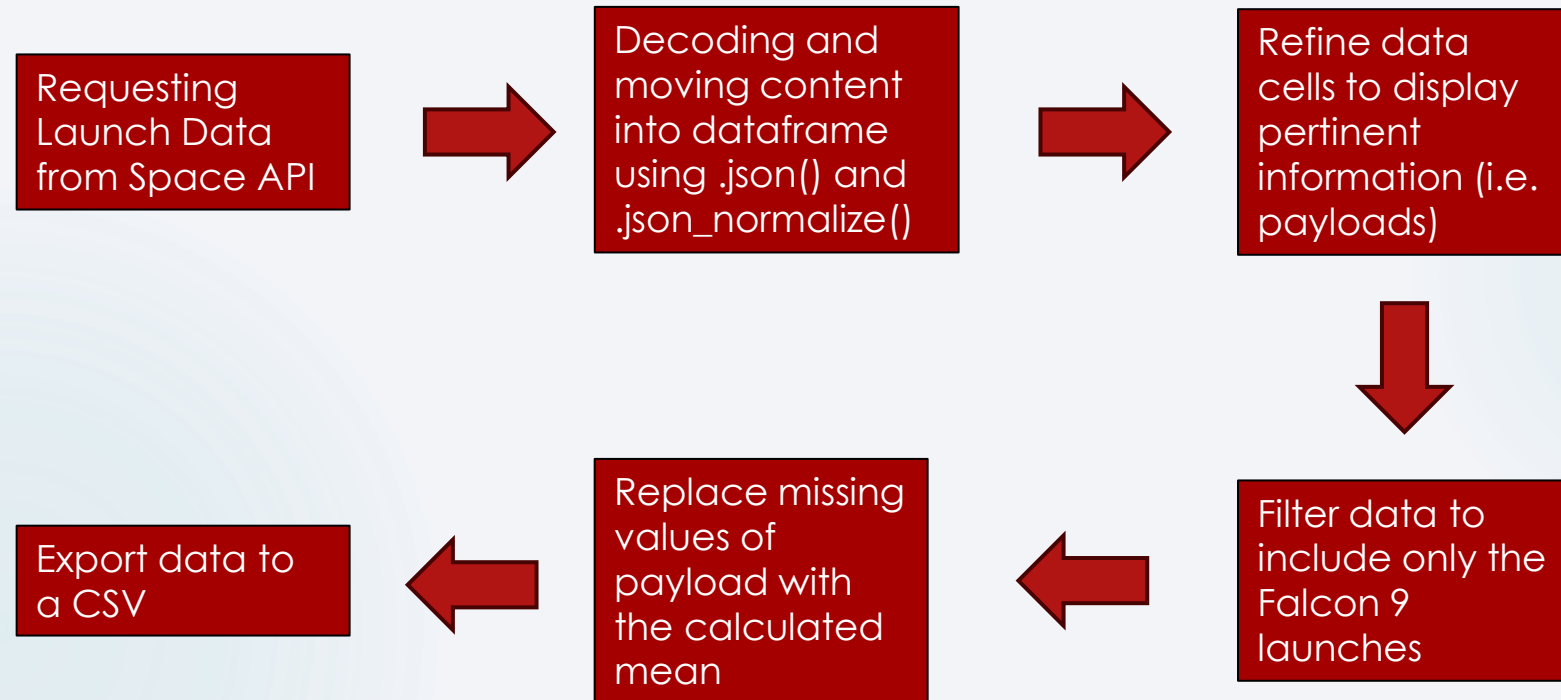
# Methodology

- Data collection methodology:
  - Using SpaceX API
  - Using Webscraping from Wikipedia
- Perform data wrangling
  - Filtering Data
  - Dealing with missing values
  - Preparing data for binary classification
- Performed exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Performed interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Performed predictive analysis using classification models

- ▶ Data was collected through a combination of:
  - ▶ SpaceX API
  - ▶ Web Scraping from Wikipedia page on SpaceX's Falcon 9 launches ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Falcon\\_9\\_and\\_Falcon\\_Heavy\\_launches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Falcon_9_and_Falcon_Heavy_launches))
- ▶ Both methods were used to get the most complete information about launches and recoveries for more detailed analysis and included data in the following categories:
  - ▶ Flight #, Booster Versions, Payload, Orbit Types, Launch Sites, Recovery Outcomes, and Landing Pad Types.

# Data Collection – SpaceX API

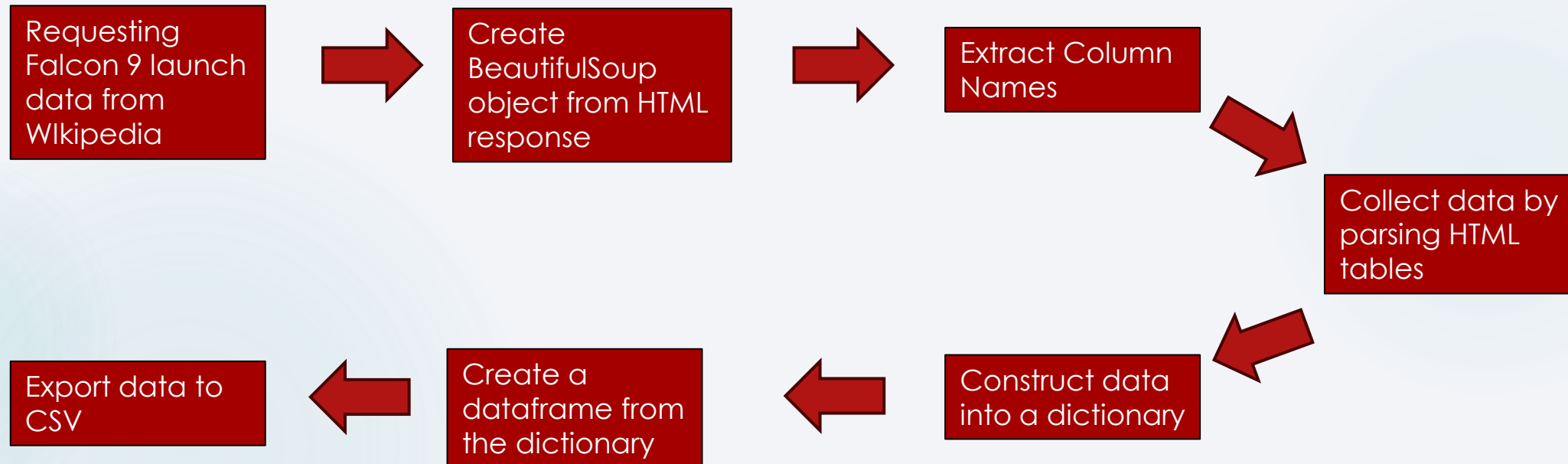
8

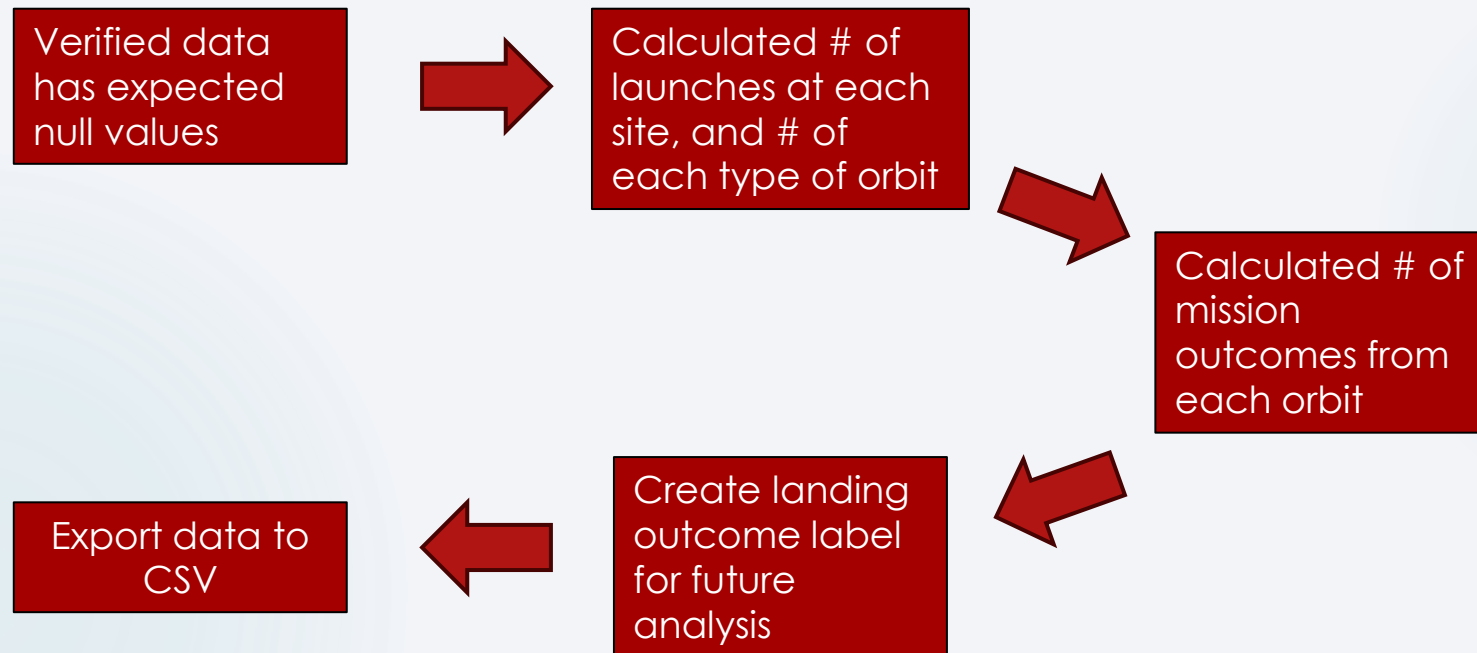




# Data Collection – Webscraping

9

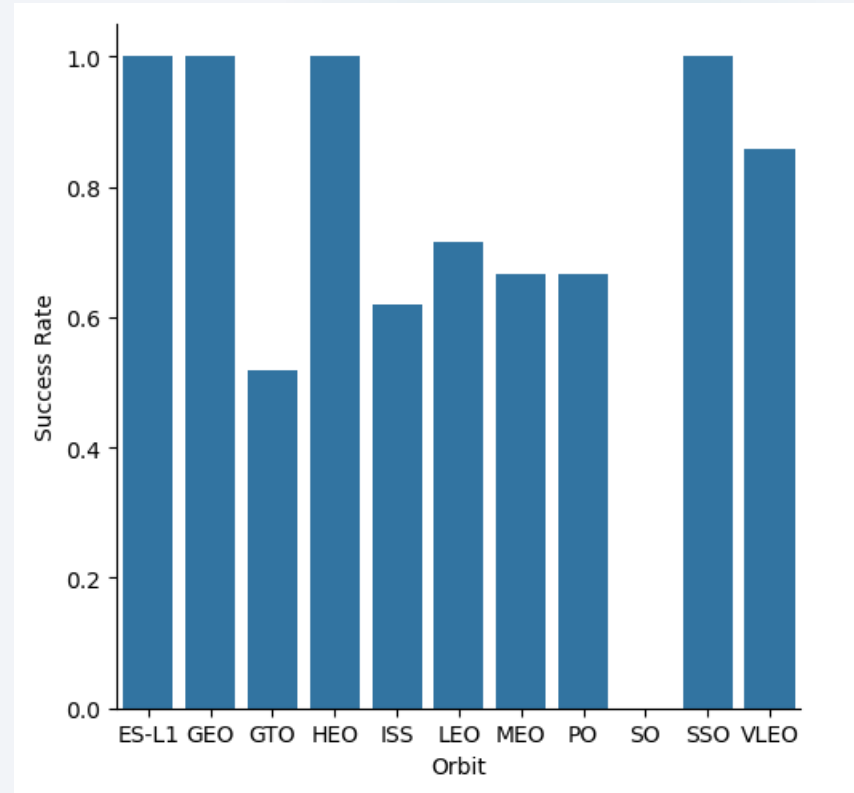
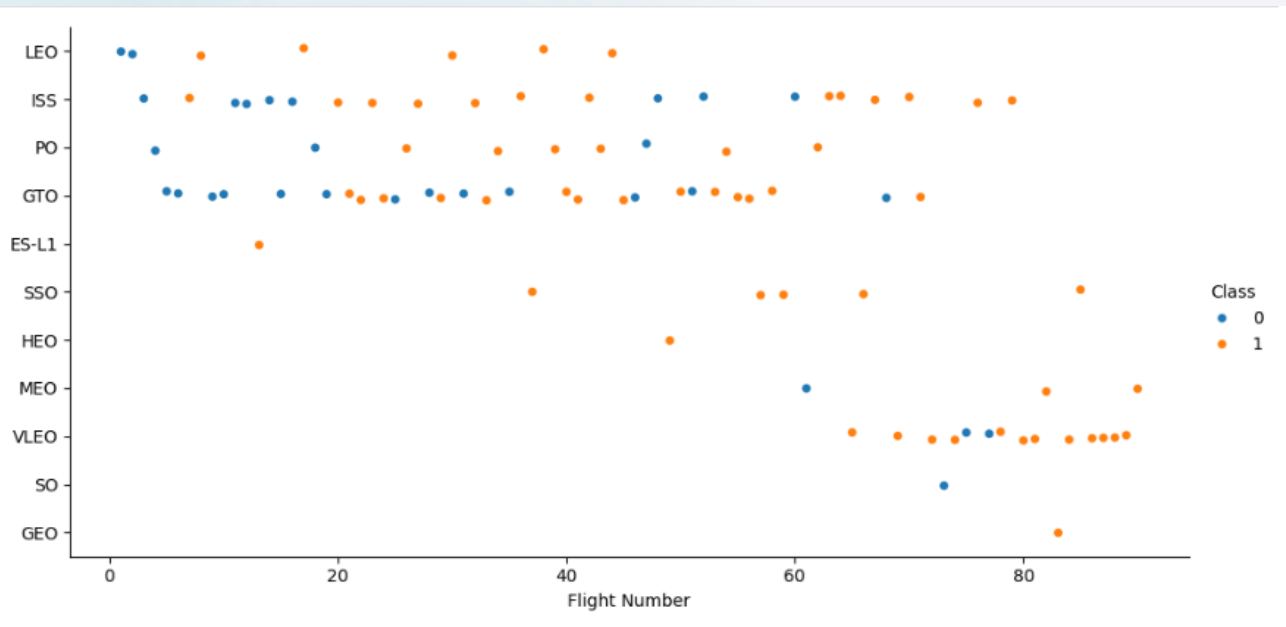




# EDA with Data Visualization

11

- ▶ Explored data via scatterplots (Payload Mass vs Flight Number, Launch site vs flight number, launch site vs payload mass, and bar charts (success rate and orbit))
- ▶ [Github – EDA with Data Visualization](#)



- ▶ The following SQL queries were performed:
  - ▶ Names of unique launch sites
  - ▶ Top 5 Launch sites whose name begin with 'CCA'
  - ▶ Total payload mass carried by boosters on NASA (CRS) missions
  - ▶ Date the first successful landing to a ground pad was accomplished
  - ▶ Total number of successful and failure mission outcomes
  - ▶ Names of booster versions which carried the max payload
  - ▶ Failed landing outcomes to drone ship, what the booster version was, and the launch site names for year 2015
  - ▶ Rank of landing outcomes based off overall count between 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20
- ▶ [Github – EDA with SQL](#)



# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

---

13

- ▶ Markers added to indicate launch sites
- ▶ Circles added to highlight area such as the NASA Johnson Space Center, and launch sites
- ▶ Marker clusters indicates groups of launches from within a site
- ▶ Lines were used to indicate distances from key features (railways, coastlines) from launch sites
- ▶ [Github – Interactive Map with Folium](#)

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

14

- ▶ Created dropdown to select desired sites for display
- ▶ Pie chart depicted on the dashboard for total successful launches by site
- ▶ Scatter plot depicts successes and failures by Booster Version and Payload Mass vis selection of payload on the slider bar
- ▶ [Github – Dashboard with Plotly](#)

## SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard

All Sites

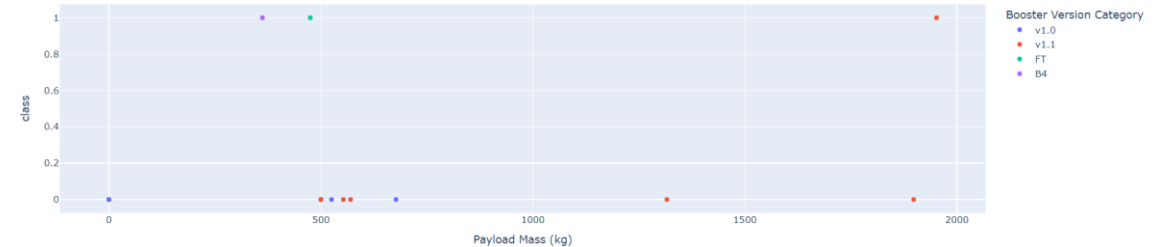
Total Success Launches by Site



Payload range (Kg):

Payload range (Kg):

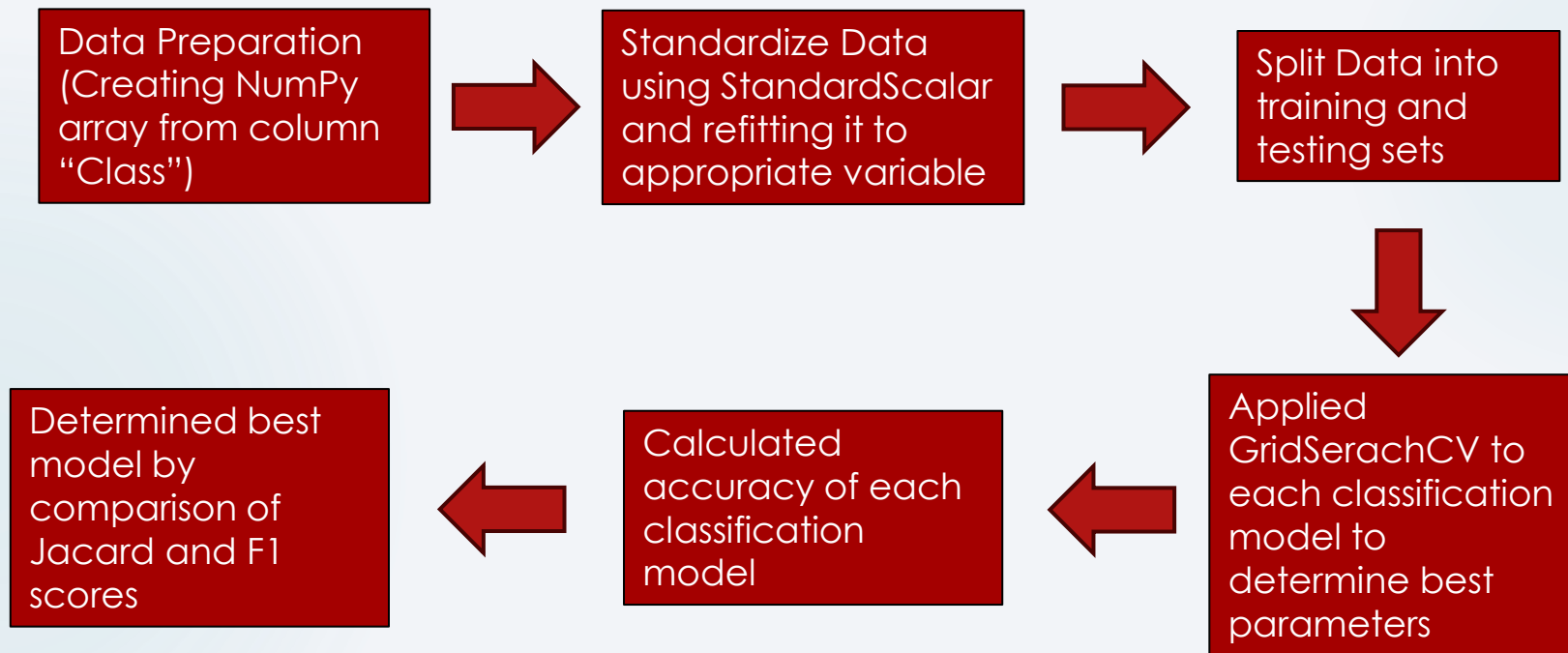
Correlation Between Payload and Success for All Sites



# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

15

► Four classification models were compared: logistic regression, support vector machine, decision tree, and K nearest neighbors.



► [Github – Machine Learning Prediction](#)





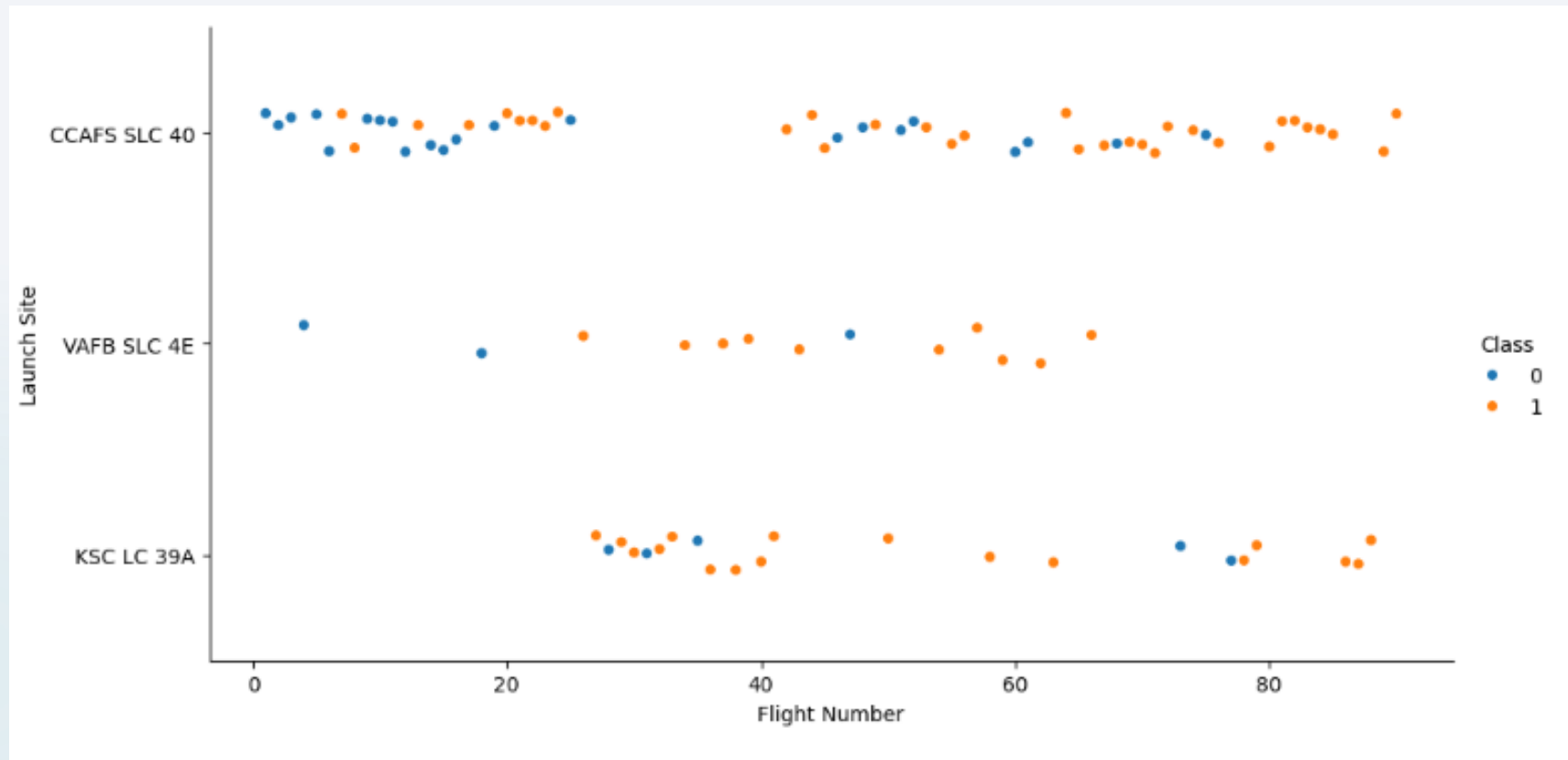
Section 2

# Insights drawn from EDA



# Flight Number vs. Launch Site

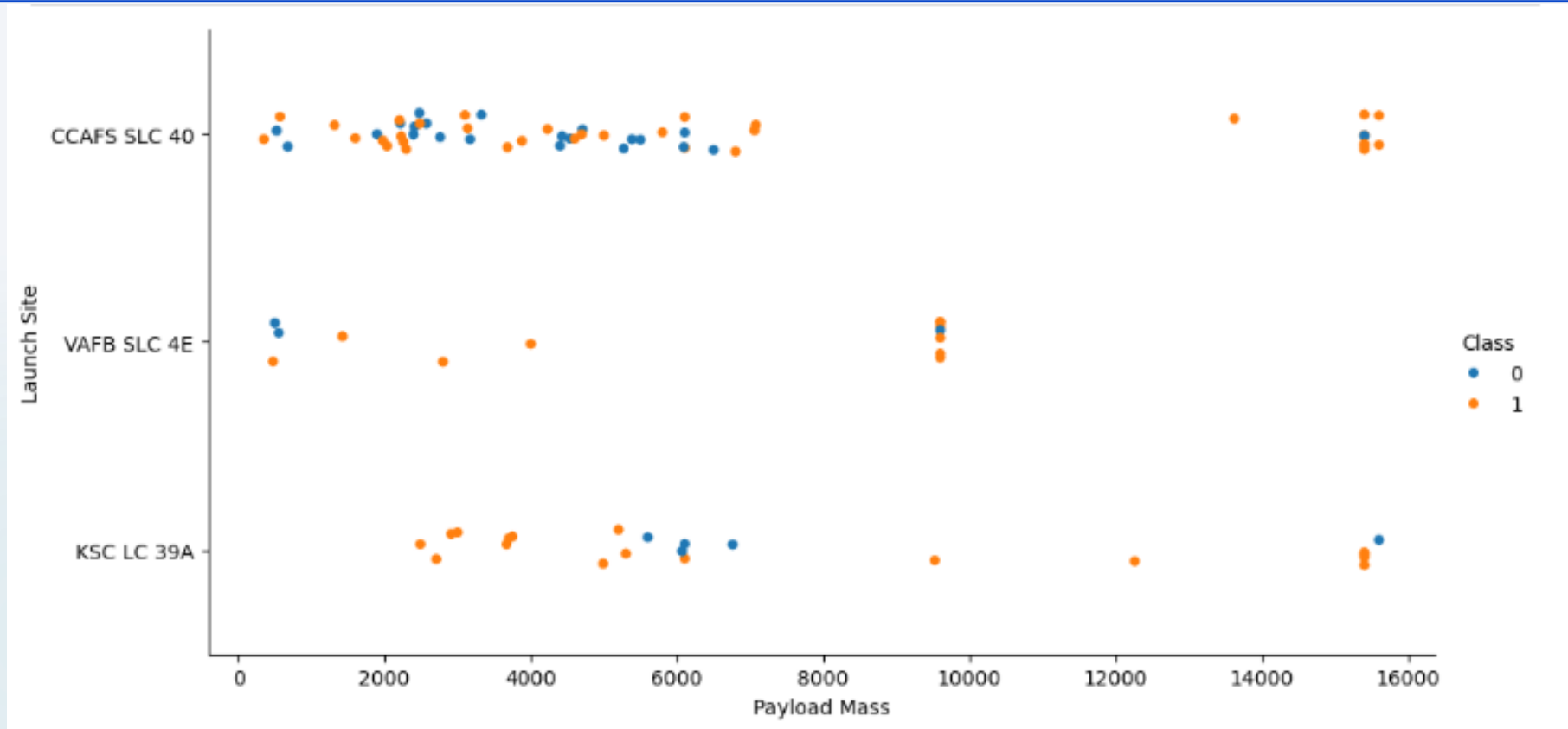
17



- ▶ All flight recoveries after Flight #80 have been successes
- ▶ CCAFS SLC 40 has most total launches and has the highest # of recent successes
- ▶ CCAFS SLC 40 & KSC LC 39A are more popular for launches since Flt # 60

# Payload vs. Launch Site

18

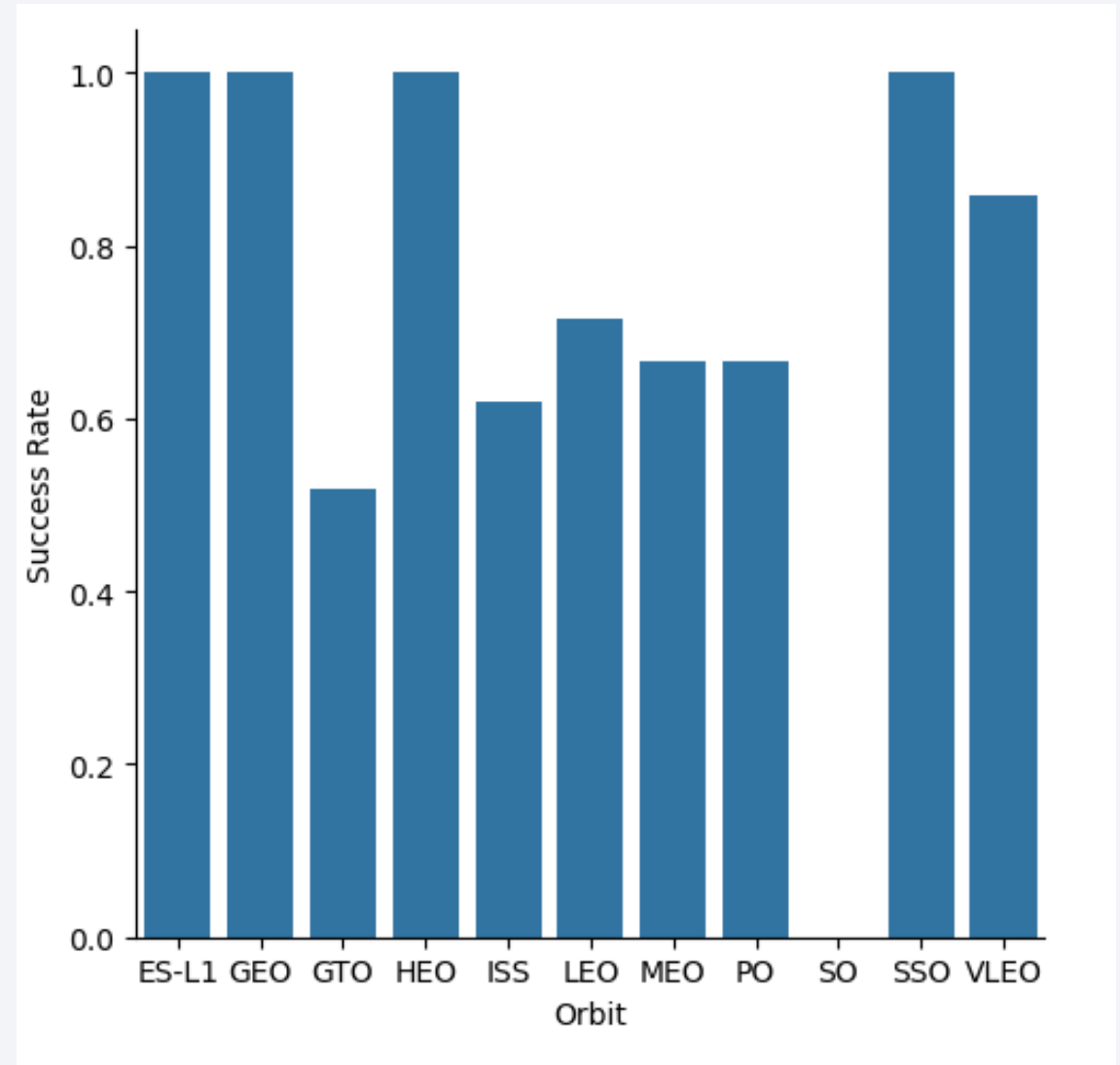


- ▶ As payload mass at each site increases relative success rate increases
- ▶ VAFB SLC 4E has good success rate of high payloads but hasn't launched a mission with payload > 10000
- ▶ KSC LC 39A HAS 100% success rate for payloads < 5500 kg

# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

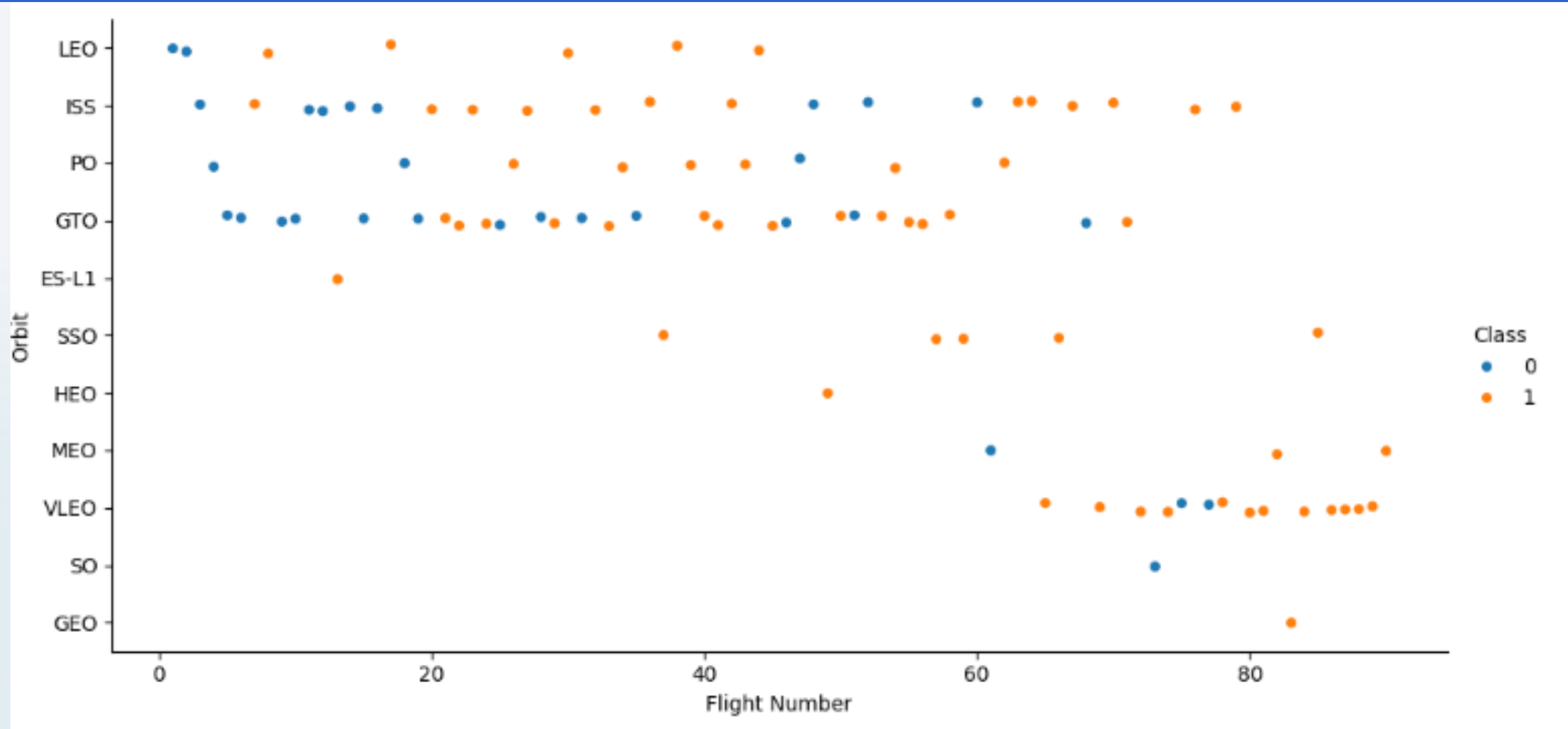
19

- ▶ Orbits with 100% success:
  - ▶ ES-L1, GEO, HEO and SSO
- ▶ Orbit SO has 0% success
- ▶ All remaining orbits have between 50-90% success rate



# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

20

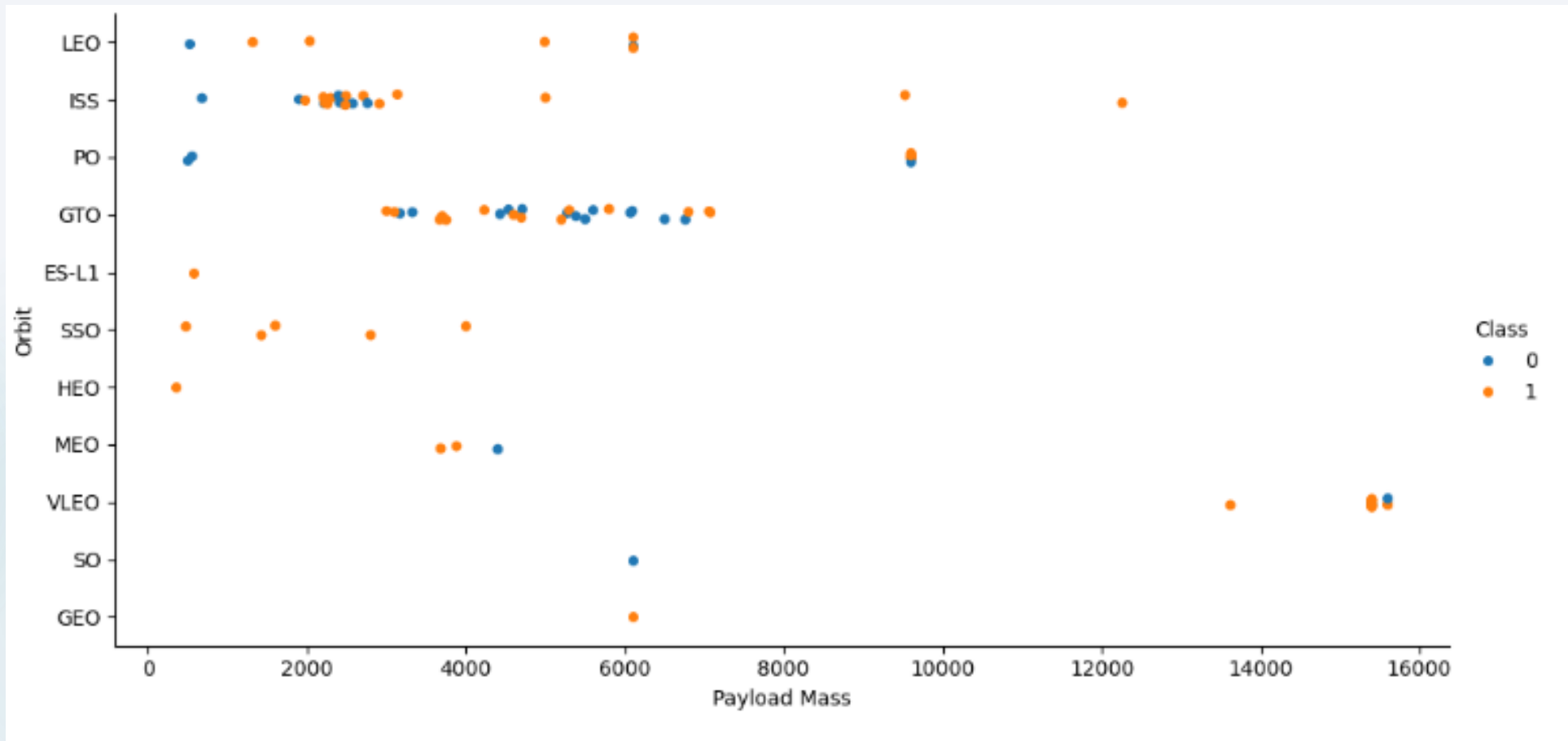


- ▶ Early orbit types: LEO, ISS, PO, and GTO don't have a correlation to success in relation to Flight #
- ▶ Orbit VLEO success rate has improved with more flights



# Payload vs. Orbit Type

21

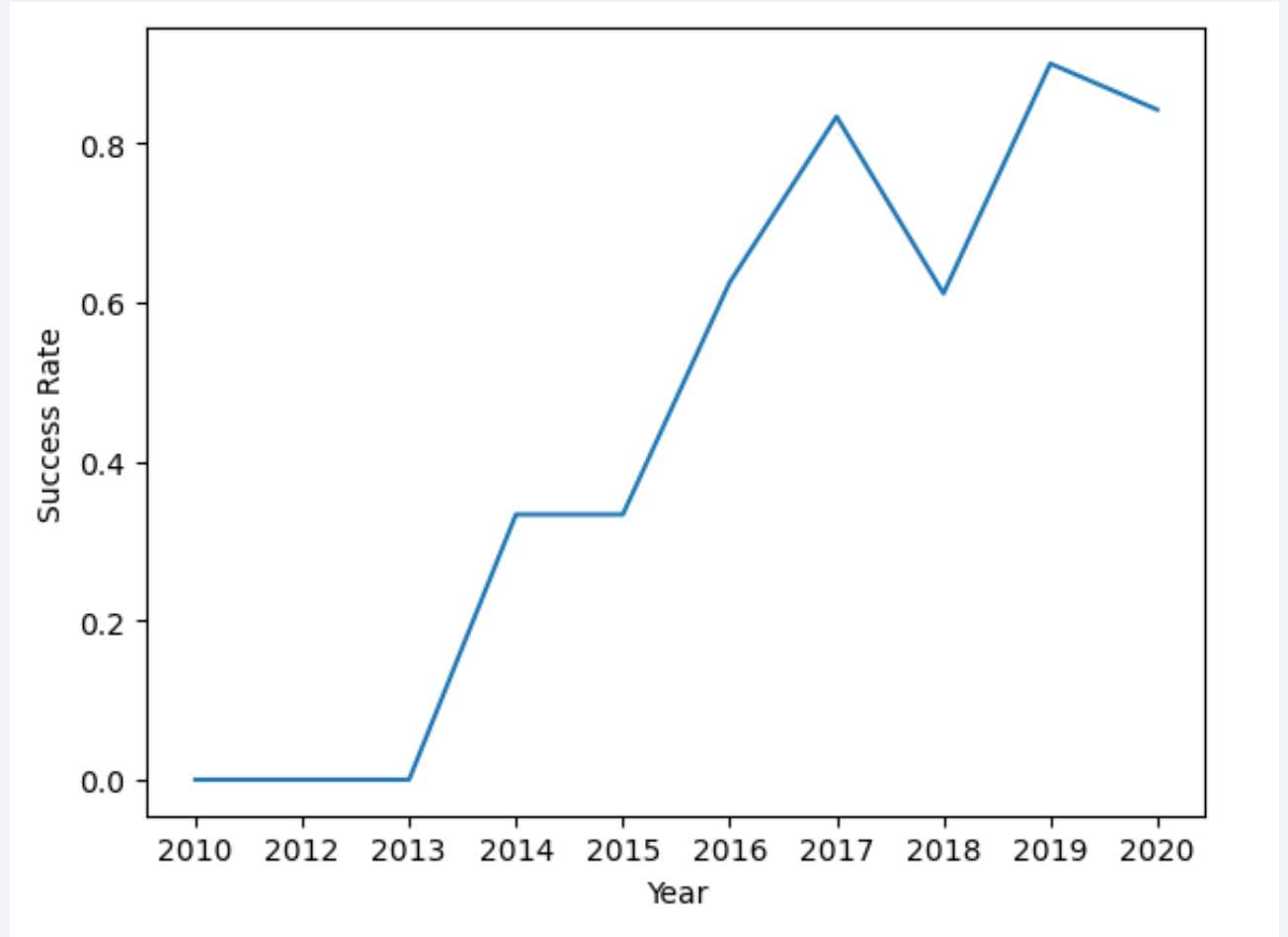


- ▶ GTO orbits have a weak correlation between payload and landing success
- ▶ ISS orbits have an improved landing success rate with higher payloads

# Landing Success Yearly Trend

22

► Generally, landing success rate has increased over time with a brief decline in 2018



# All Launch Site Names

23

```
%sql select distinct "launch_site" from SPACEXTABLE
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.
: Launch_Site
-----
CCAFS LC-40
VAFB SLC-4E
KSC LC-39A
CCAFS SLC-40
```

- Display of unique launch sites within the data set

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

24

```
%sql select * from SPACEXTABLE where Launch_Site like 'CCA%' limit 5
```

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

Date	Time (UTC)	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Payload	PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_	Orbit	Customer	Mission_Outcome
2010-06-04	18:45:00	F9 v1.0 B0003	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit	0	LEO	SpaceX	Success
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
2012-05-22	7:44:00	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success
2012-10-08	0:35:00	F9 v1.0 B0006	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-1	500	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success
2013-03-01	15:10:00	F9 v1.0 B0007	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-2	677	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success

► Displaying first 5 records of launch sites whose name includes 'CCA'



# Total Payload Mass

25

```
%sql select sum(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) as total_payload_mass from SPACEXTABLE where Customer like 'NASA (CRS)'
```

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

```
Done.
```

<u>total_payload_mass</u>
---------------------------

45596
-------

- ▶ Displaying total payload mass from NASA (CRS) missions

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

26

```
%sql select avg(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) as avg_payload_mass from SPACEXTABLE where "booster_version" like "F9 v1
```

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

<u>avg_payload_mass</u>
2534.6666666666665

- ▶ Displaying the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

27

```
%sql select min(Date) from SPACEXTABLE where "landing_outcome" = 'Success (ground pad)'
```

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

<u>min(Date)</u>
------------------

2015-12-22
------------

- Date of first successful ground pad landing

## Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000 28

---

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

- List 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 29

```
%sql select "mission_outcome", count (*) as total from SPACEXTABLE group by "mission_outcome"
```

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

```
Done.
```

Mission_Outcome	total
Failure (in flight)	1
Success	98
Success	1
Success (payload status unclear)	1

► Display of number of mission successes and failures

# Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

30

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

► List of booster names which have carried the maximum payload mass



# 2015 Launch Records

31

```
%%sql select substr(Date,6,2) as month,Date, Landing_Outcome, Booster_Version, Launch_Site from SPACEXTABLE  
       where Landing_Outcome = 'Failure (drone ship)' and substr(Date,0,5) = '2015'
```

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

month	Date	Landing_Outcome	Booster_Version	Launch_Site
01	2015-01-10	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40
04	2015-04-14	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40

► List Launch site, booster version and date of failed landings to a drone ship in 2015

# Rank Landing Outcomes Between 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20 32

```
%%sql select Landing_Outcome, count (*) as count_outcome from SPACEXTABLE where Date between '2010-06-04' and '2017-03-20'  
group by Landing_Outcome order by count_outcome desc
```

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

Landing_Outcome	count_outcome
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

► Ranking of number of landing outcomes between 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20

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, and a solid red vertical bar is located in the top right corner.

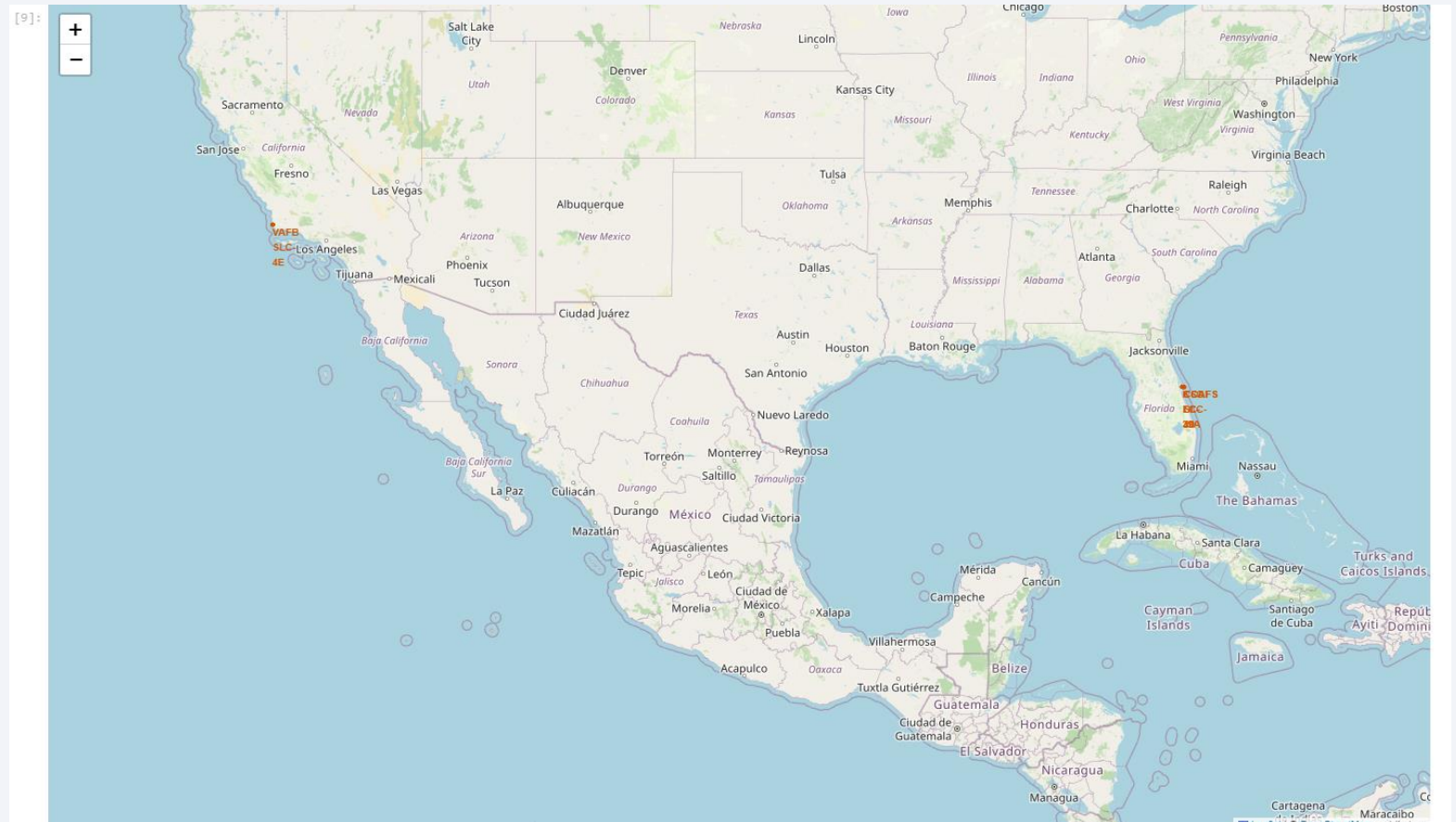
Section 3

# Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

# All Launch Site Locations

34

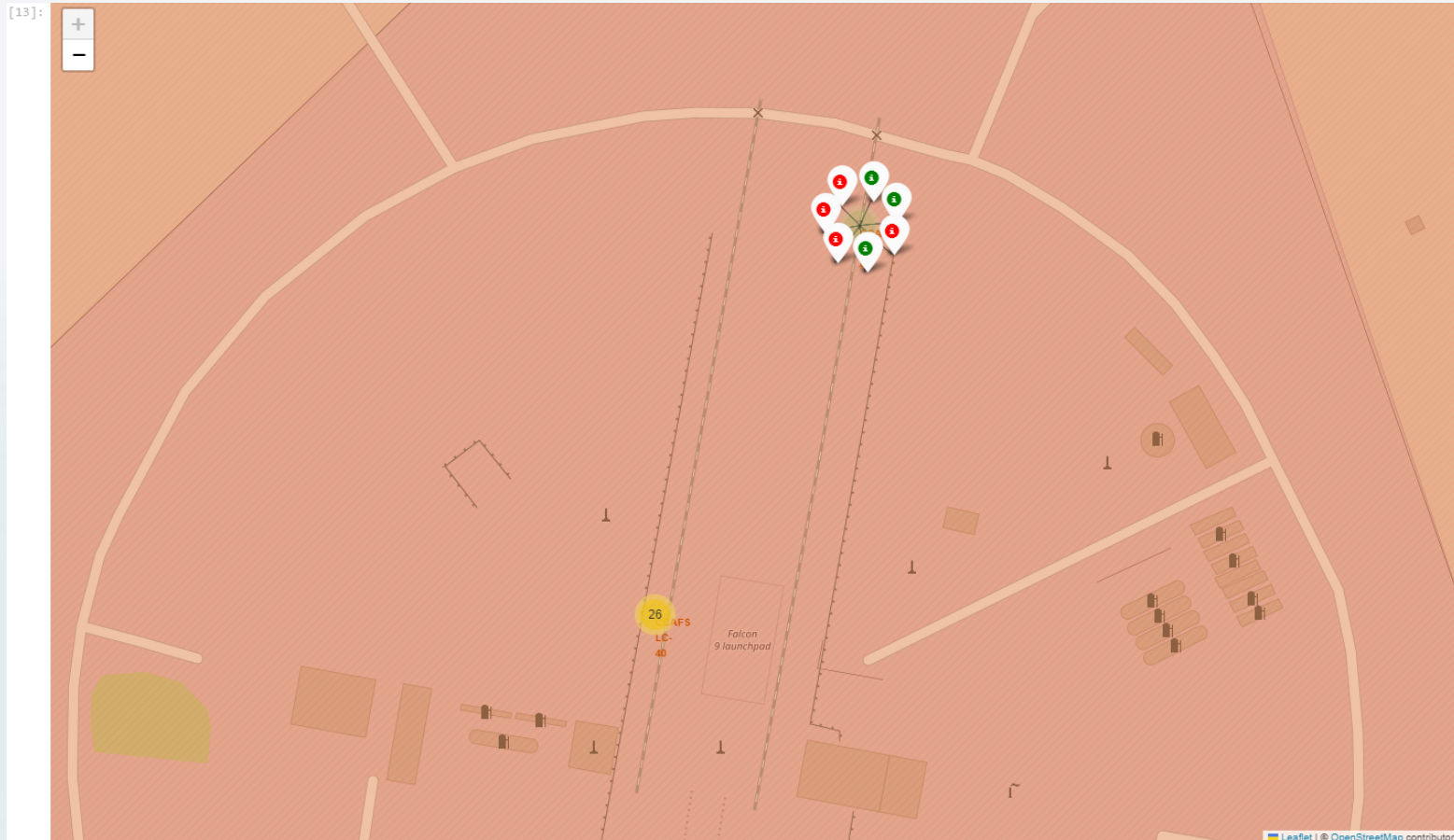
► The map to the left shows all launch site locations pulled from the Falcon 9 dataset





# Successful vs Unsuccessful Landing Outcomes

35

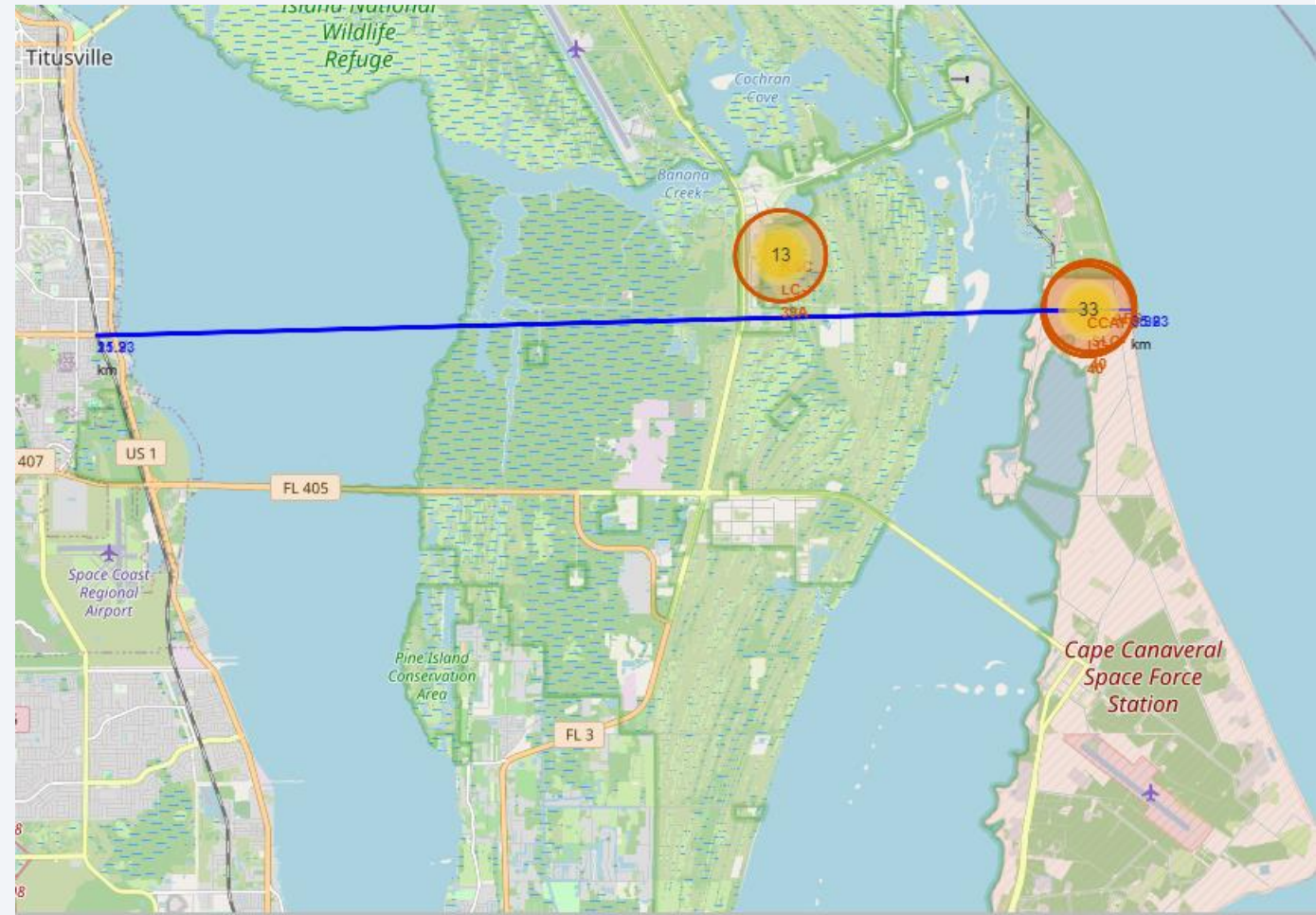


► We've added color coded launch positions to show which launches resulted in successful or unsuccessful landings at completion of the mission

# Proximity of Launch Sites to Key Features

36

► To the right we see the distance and direction from our launch site to the nearest railway and coastline





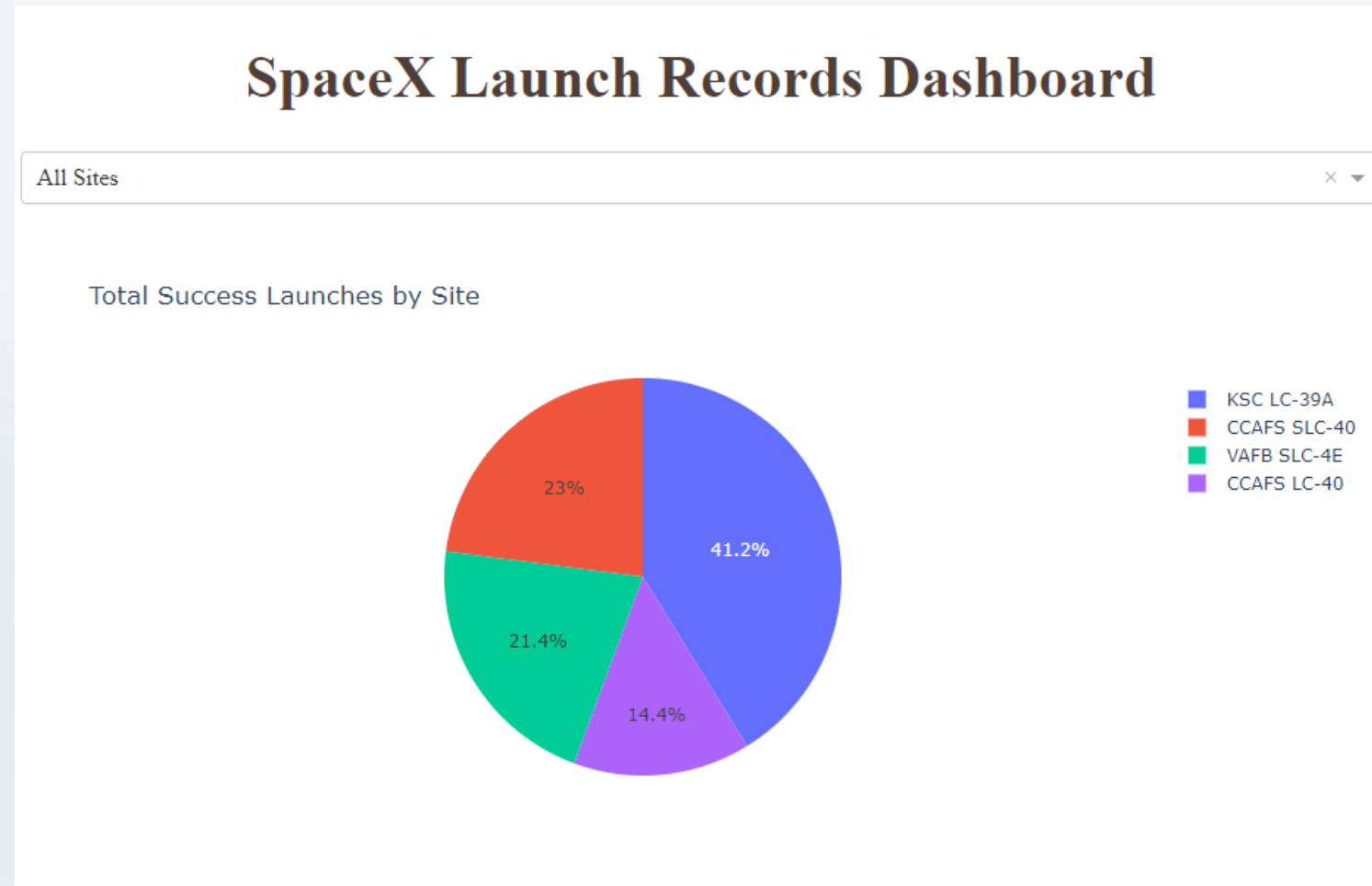


Section 4

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

# Distribution of Successes by Launch Site

38



► This shows that KSC LC-39A has the best success rate of the launch sites

# KSC LC-39A Success Rate

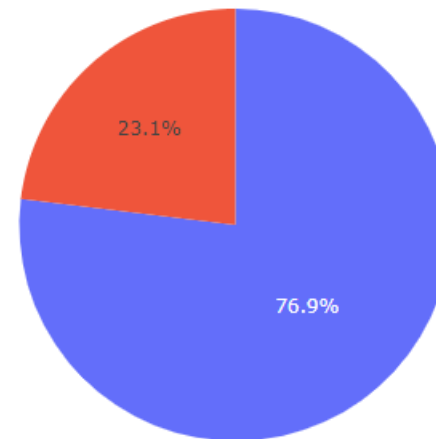
39

## SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard

KSC LC-39A

× ▼

Total Success Launches for Site KSC LC-39A



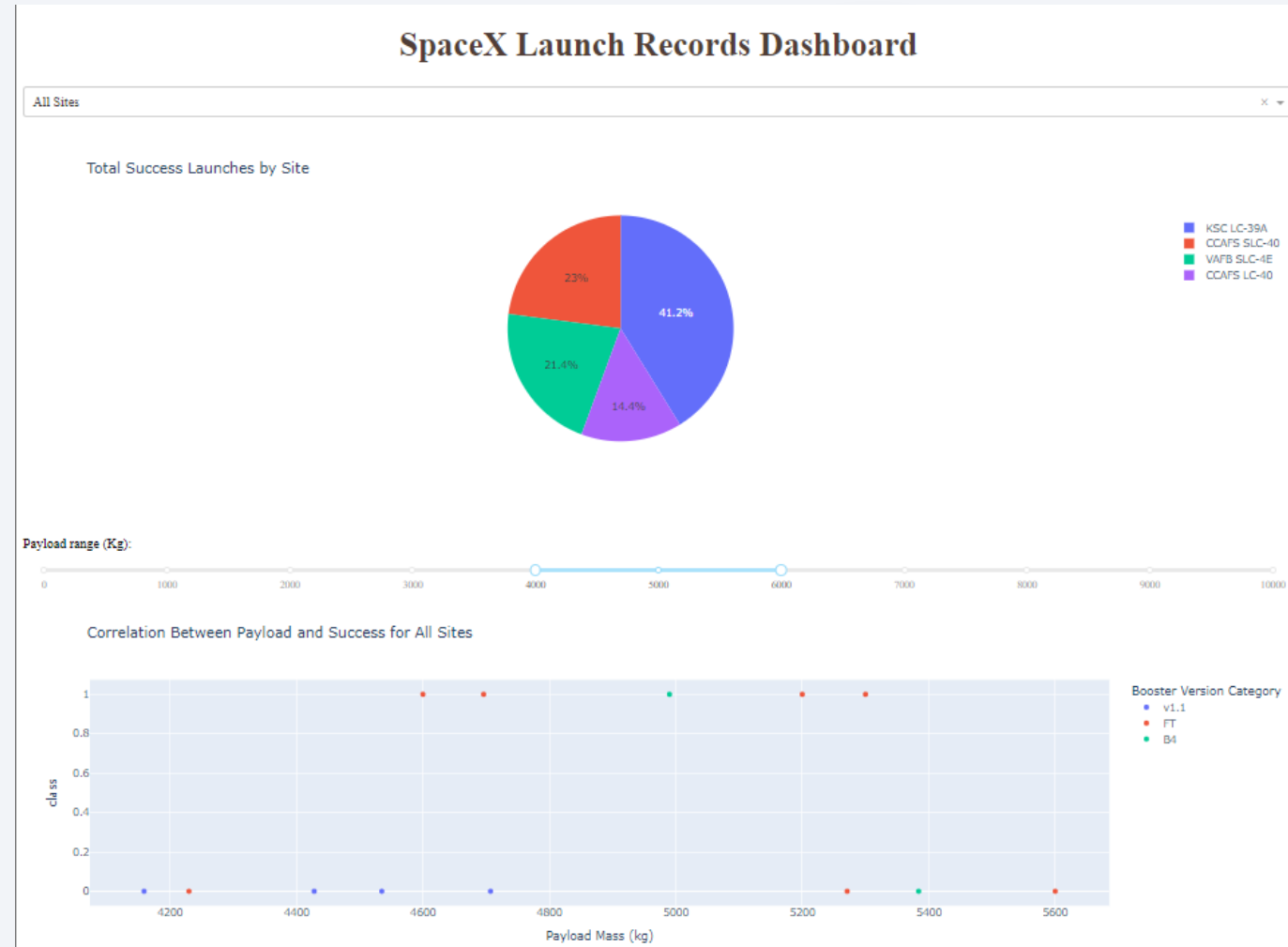
■ 0  
■ 1

► KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate of all the launch sites at 76.9%

# Success at all Sites with Higher Payloads

40

► For mid range payloads, the FT booster gives the best success from all of the launch sites.





The background of the slide is an abstract composition. The left half is a solid blue field. The right half features a series of concentric, curved white and light blue lines that create a sense of depth and motion, resembling a tunnel or a stylized architectural structure. A solid red rectangle is positioned in the upper right corner.

Section 5

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

# Classification Accuracy

42

▶ While using just the test set alone did not yield insight into the best model, using the entire dataset showed that SVM will give the most accurate predictions

## Scores and Accuracy for Test Set

	LogReg	SVM	Tree	KNN
<b>Jaccard_Score</b>	0.800000	0.800000	0.750000	0.800000
<b>F1_Score</b>	0.888889	0.888889	0.857143	0.888889
<b>Accuracy</b>	0.833333	0.833333	0.777778	0.833333

## Scores and Accuracy for Entire Data Set

	LogReg	SVM	Tree	KNN
<b>Jaccard_Score</b>	0.833333	0.845070	0.833333	0.819444
<b>F1_Score</b>	0.909091	0.916031	0.909091	0.900763
<b>Accuracy</b>	0.866667	0.877778	0.866667	0.855556

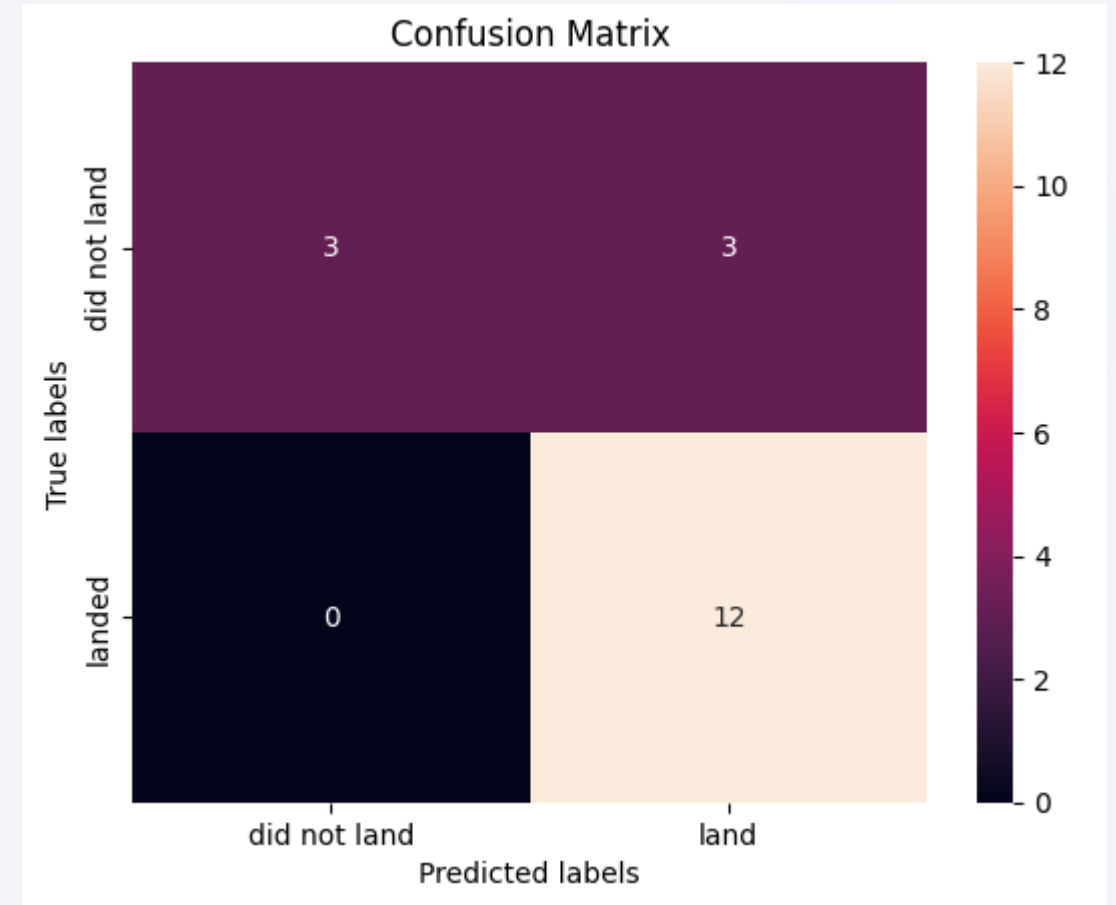


# Confusion Matrix

43

Examining the Confusion Matrix see that largest problem was False Positives, but overall, the SVM yielded the most accurate predictions.

		Predicted Values	
		Negative	Positive
Actual Values	Negative	TN	FP
	Positive	FN	TP



# Conclusions

---

- ▶ SVM gave us the most accuracy out of the different models
- ▶ KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate of all the launch sites
- ▶ Orbits ES-L1, GEO, HEO, and SSO have a 100% success rate
- ▶ Success rate has increased over time as more flights have occurred

# Appendix

---

45

- ▶ [Github Main Page for IBM Data Science Capstone](#)
- ▶ [Thank you to Coursera and the Instructors for the Course](#)

Thank you!

