

Data Driven Space Exploration:

Predicting Falcon9 Landings

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Methodology Adopted:

- Data Collection
- Data Wrangling
- Exploratory Data Analysis with:
 - Data Visualization
 - SQL
- Interactive Map with Folium
- Dashboard with Plotly Dash
- Predictive Analysis -
Classification

Results

- Insights drawn from EDA
- Launch Sites Proximities Analysis
- Dashboard with Plotly Dash
- Predictive Analysis

INTRODUCTION

Space Industry Today:

- Lead by SpaceX's Falcon9 Rocket
- Due to its cost-effective launches priced at \$62 million
- 62% lesser than others

Reason for the cost efficiency?

- Reusable rocket stages

Step 1

Predict if Falcon9's first stage will land successfully

Step 2

Determine the cost of a launch

Step 3

Use this information against an alternate company for bidding for a rocket launch operation

INTRODUCTION

PROBLEM STATEMENT

- ✓ For a given set of features about Falcon9 rocket launch (i.e. Payload Mass, Orbit Type, Launch specifications, Landing specifications, Landing Outcome etc.),
Will the first stage of the rocket land successfully?
- ✓ What is the best algorithm that can be used for classification tasks of this dataset?





METHODOLOGY

DATA COLLECTION

Method 1: SpaceX API

Collect Data using
SpaceX REST
API



Get the response
in the form of
JSON object



Convert JSON
object to a
dataframe

<https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launches/past>

Method 2: Scraping

Using
“BeautifulSoup”
package to web
scrape some
HTML tables



Parse the data
from the tables



Convert into a
Pandas Dataframe

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Falcon_9_and_Falcon_Heavy_launches

DATA COLLECTION – SpaceX API



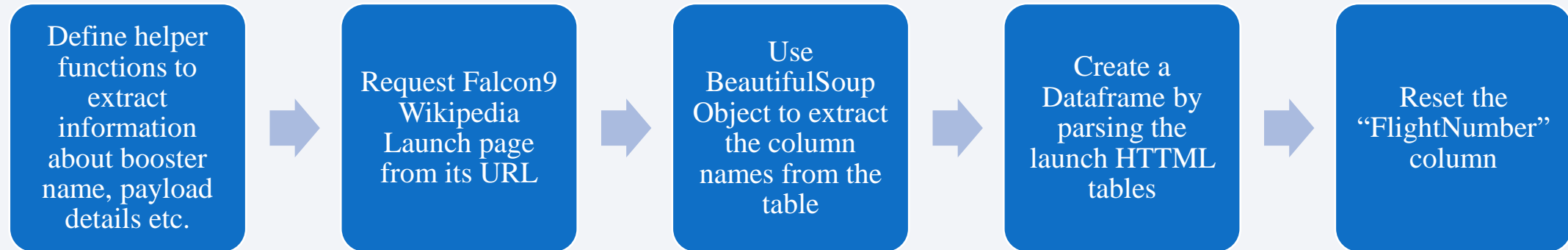
➤ **Output:** Dataframe with 90 rows x 17 columns

| | FlightNumber | Date | BoosterVersion | PayloadMass | Orbit | LaunchSite | Outcome | Flights | GridFins | Reused | Legs | | LandingPad | Block | ReusedCount | Serial | Longitude | Latitude |
|---|--------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------|--------------|----------------|---------|----------|--------|-------|--|------------|-------|-------------|--------|-------------|-----------|
| 4 | 1 | 2010-06-04 | Falcon 9 | NaN | LEO | CCSFS SLC 40 | None None | 1 | False | False | False | | None | 1.0 | 0 | B0003 | -80.577366 | 28.561857 |
| 5 | 2 | 2012-05-22 | Falcon 9 | 525.0 | LEO | CCSFS SLC 40 | None None | 1 | False | False | False | | None | 1.0 | 0 | B0005 | -80.577366 | 28.561857 |
| 6 | 3 | 2013-03-01 | Falcon 9 | 677.0 | ISS | CCSFS SLC 40 | None None | 1 | False | False | False | | None | 1.0 | 0 | B0007 | -80.577366 | 28.561857 |
| 7 | 4 | 2013-09-29 | Falcon 9 | 500.0 | PO | VAFB SLC 4E | False Ocean | 1 | False | False | False | | None | 1.0 | 0 | B1003 | -120.610829 | 34.632093 |

Figure: Dataframe with data extracted using SpaceX API

GitHub Link: [Lab1_DataCollectionwithAPI](#)

DATA COLLECTION – Scrapping



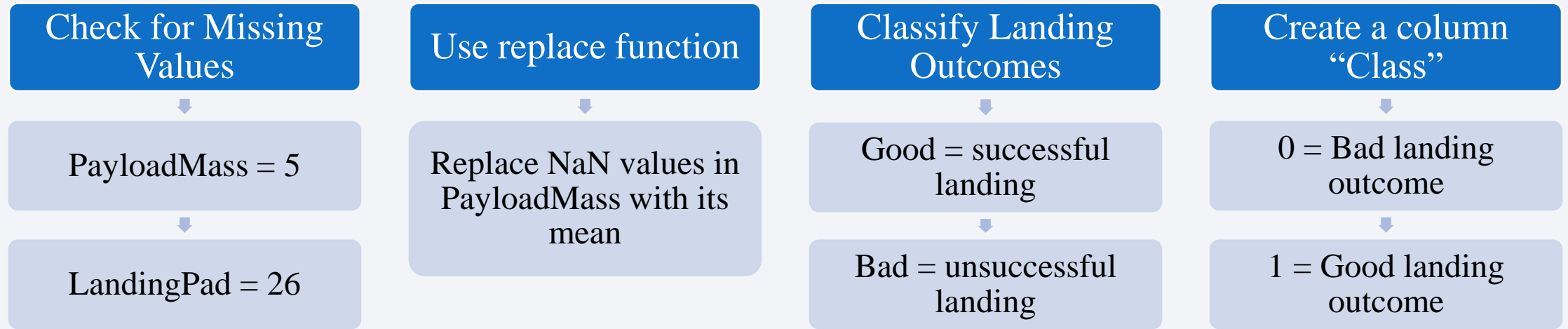
➤ **Output:** Dataframe with 121 rows x 11 columns

| | Flight No. | Launch site | Payload | Payload mass | Orbit | Customer | Launch outcome | Version Booster | Booster landing | Date | Time |
|---|------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------|----------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| 0 | 1 | CCAFS | Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit | 0 | LEO | SpaceX | Success\n | F9 v1.07B0003.18 | Failure | 4 June 2010 | 18:45 |
| 1 | 1 | CCAFS | Dragon | 0 | LEO | NASA | Success | F9 v1.07B0003.18 | Failure | 4 June 2010 | 18:45 |
| 2 | 2 | CCAFS | Dragon | 525 kg | LEO | NASA | Success | F9 v1.07B0004.18 | No attempt\n | 8 December 2010 | 15:43 |
| 3 | 3 | CCAFS | SpaceX CRS-1 | 4,700 kg | LEO | NASA | Success\n | F9 v1.07B0005.18 | No attempt | 22 May 2012 | 07:44 |
| 4 | 4 | CCAFS | SpaceX CRS-2 | 4,877 kg | LEO | NASA | Success\n | F9 v1.07B0006.18 | No attempt\n | 8 October 2012 | 00:35 |

Figure: Dataframe with data extracted using Webscraping

GitHub Link: [Lab2_DataCollection_WebScraping](#)

DATA WRANGLING



| | FlightNumber | Date | BoosterVersion | PayloadMass | Orbit | LaunchSite | Outcome | Flights | GridFins | Reused | Legs | LandingPad | Block | ReusedCount | Serial | Longitude | Latitude | Class |
|---|--------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------|--------------|----------------|---------|----------|--------|-------|------------|-------|-------------|--------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| 0 | 1 | 2010-06-04 | Falcon 9 | 6104.959412 | LEO | CCAFS SLC 40 | None None | 1 | False | False | False | NaN | 1.0 | 0 | B0003 | -80.577366 | 28.561857 | 0 |
| 1 | 2 | 2012-05-22 | Falcon 9 | 525.000000 | LEO | CCAFS SLC 40 | None None | 1 | False | False | False | NaN | 1.0 | 0 | B0005 | -80.577366 | 28.561857 | 0 |
| 2 | 3 | 2013-03-01 | Falcon 9 | 677.000000 | ISS | CCAFS SLC 40 | None None | 1 | False | False | False | NaN | 1.0 | 0 | B0007 | -80.577366 | 28.561857 | 0 |
| 3 | 4 | 2013-09-29 | Falcon 9 | 500.000000 | PO | VAFB SLC 4E | False Ocean | 1 | False | False | False | NaN | 1.0 | 0 | B1003 | -120.610829 | 34.632093 | 0 |
| 4 | 5 | 2013-12-03 | Falcon 9 | 3170.000000 | GTO | CCAFS SLC 40 | None None | 1 | False | False | False | NaN | 1.0 | 0 | B1004 | -80.577366 | 28.561857 | 0 |

Figure: Dataframe post data wrangling

GitHub Link: [Lab3_DataWrangling](#)

EDA WITH DATA VISUALIZATION

Libraries Used

1. Matplotlib

- A plotting library
- Used for creating interactive visualizations in Python

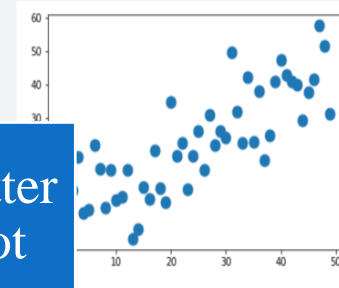
2. Seaborn

- A data visualization library based on Matplotlib
- Used to plot statistical graphs

GitHub Link: [Lab4_EDAwithVisualization](#)

Types of Charts used:

Scatter Plot



Bar Chart



Line Chart



EDA WITH DATA VISUALIZATION

Following charts were plotted:

- Scatter Plot between Flight Number and Launch Site
- Scatter Plot between Payload Mass and Launch Site
- Bar Chart for the success rate of each Orbit
- Scatter Plot between Flight Number and Orbit type
- Scatter Plot between Payload Mass and Orbit type
- Line Chart for the launch success yearly trend

GitHub Link: [Lab4_EDAwithVisualization](#)

EDA WITH SQL

Following SQL queries were executed:

- Names of unique launch sites used
- Records with launch sites beginning 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 of first successful landing in ground pad
- Names of boosters which have success in drone ship and payload mass greater than 4000 and lesser than 6000
- Total number of success and failure outcomes
- Names of boosters carrying the maximum payload mass
- Ranking of landing outcomes

GitHub Link: [Lab5_EDAwithSQL](#)

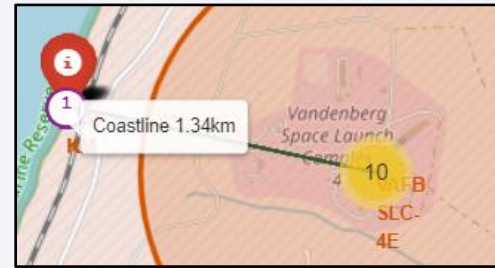
INTERACTIVE MAPS WITH FOLIUM

➤ **Folium Library:** Used to visualize the data through interactive maps



Marker

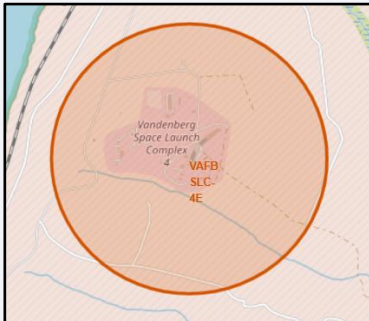
- Used to mark the location of the launch sites



Polyline

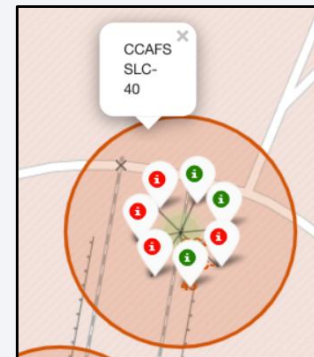
- Used to connect the launch site to other points of interest (e.g.: coastline)

Map Objects Used



Circle

- Used to highlight the region around the marker



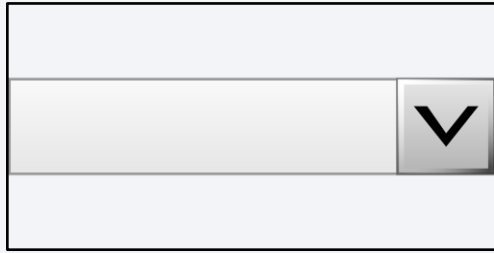
Marker Cluster

- Group nearby markers for enhanced readability

GitHub Link: [Lab6_VisualAnalyticswithFolium](#)

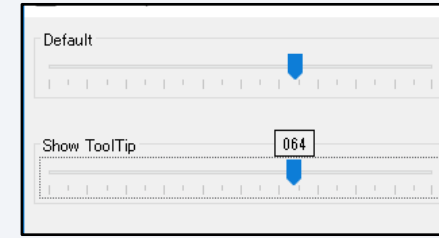
DASHBOARD WITH PLOTLY DASH

➤ **Plotly Dash:** A Python framework used to create interactive dashboards



Dropdown

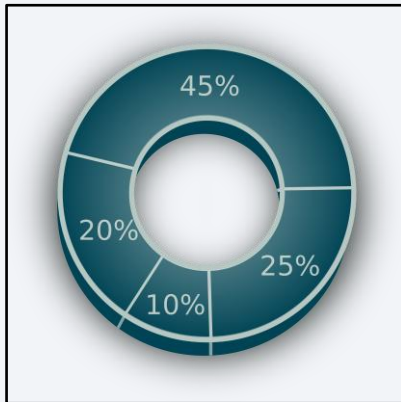
- Used to filter the data to select a particular launch site



Range Slider

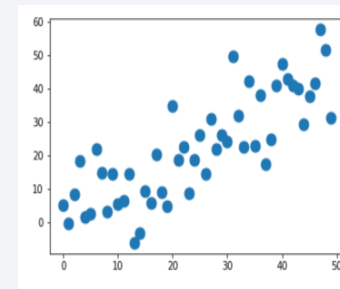
- Used to adjust the range of the values to selectively view data

Elements used



Pie Chart

- Used to display the success rate of the launches

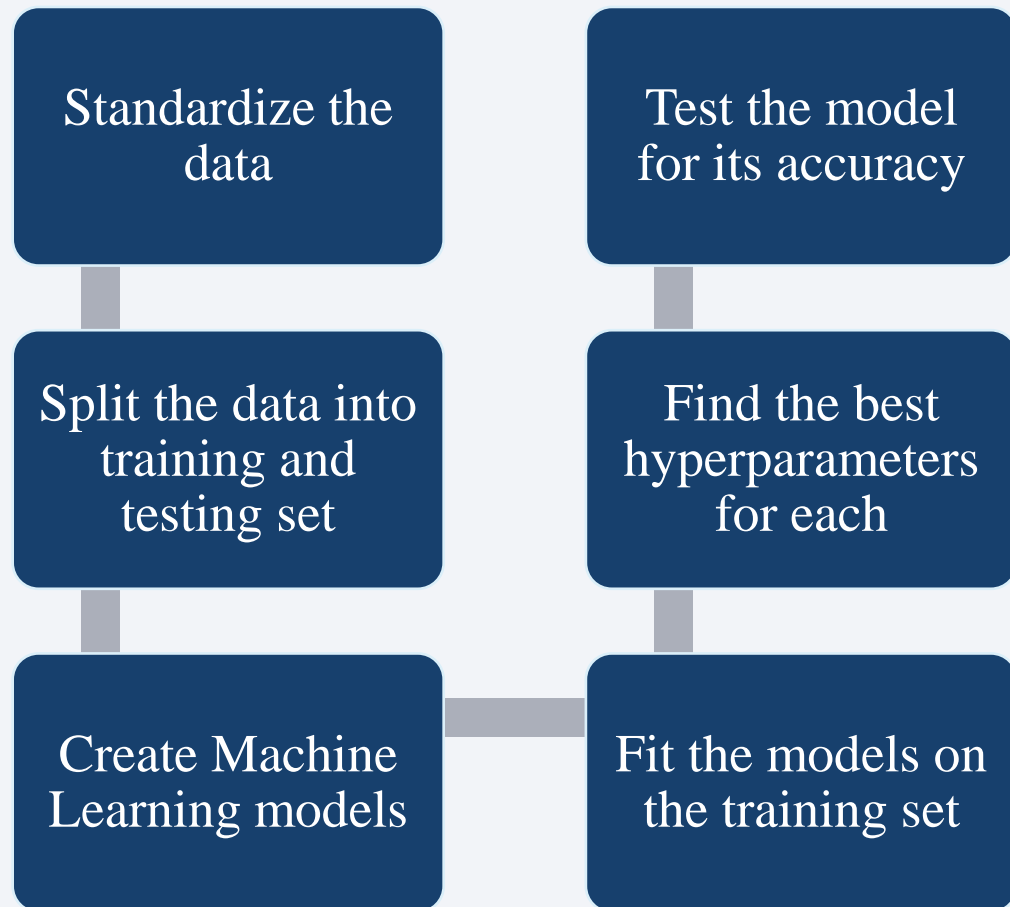


Scatter Plot

- Used to show the correlation between two variables

GitHub Link: [Lab7_spacex_dash_app](#)

PREDICTIVE ANALYSIS – CLASSIFICATION



Machine Learning models used:

1. Logistic Regression
2. Support Vector Machines (SVM)
3. Decision Tree
4. K – Nearest Neighbors (KNN)

GitHub Link: [Lab8_MachineLearningPrediction](#)



SECTION 1

INSIGHTS DRAWN FROM EDA



FLIGHT NUMBER v/s LAUNCH SITE

Observations:

As the flight number increases, the landings become more successful (represented by the orange dots)

- At Site “CCAFS SLC 40”, beyond Flight Number = 60, most of the landings are successful

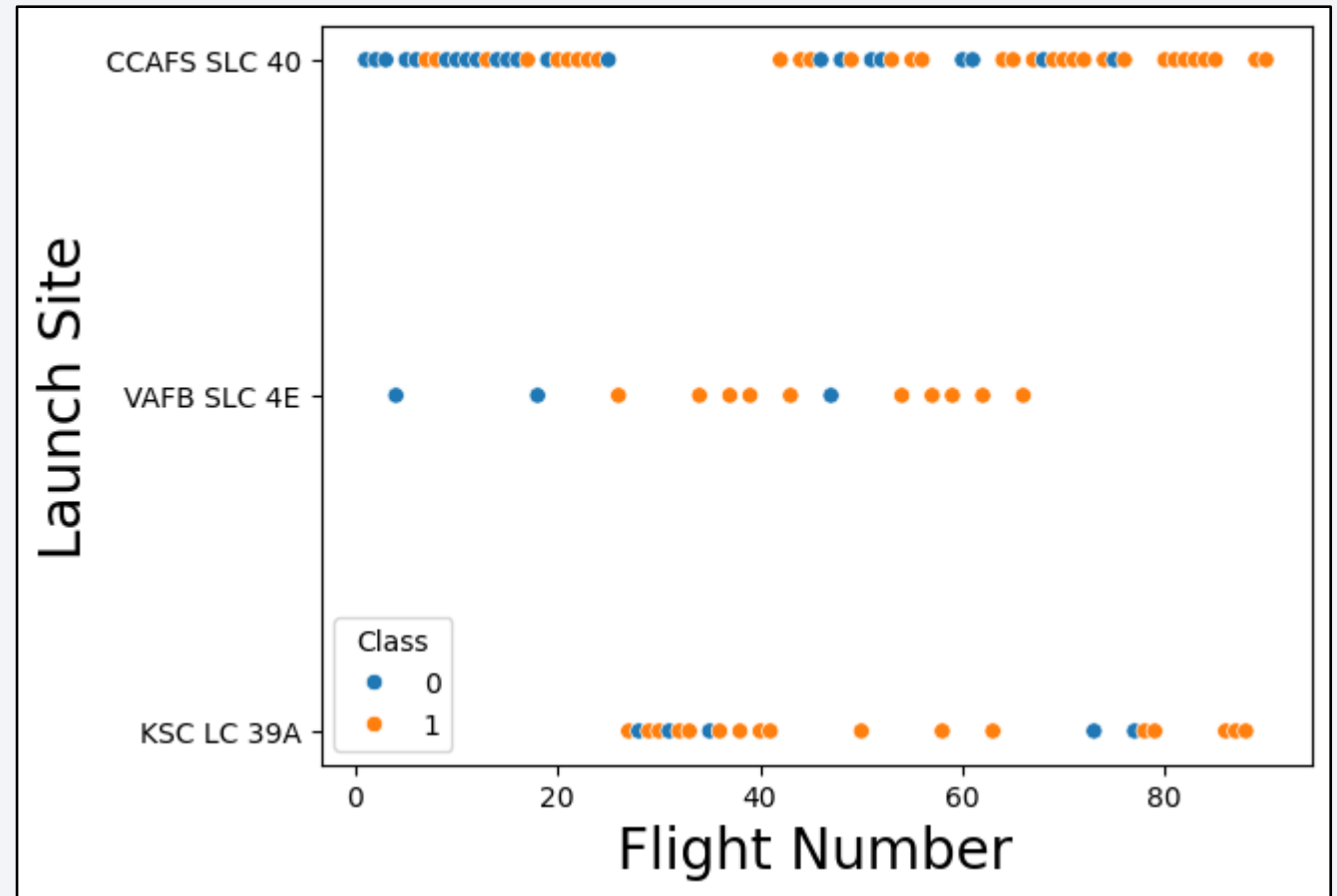


Chart: Scatter Plot of Flight Number v/s Launch Site

PAYLOAD v/s LAUNCH SITE

Observations:

- For the launch site “VAFB SLC 4E”, there are no rockets launched for heavy payload mass (i.e., greater than 10,000 kg)

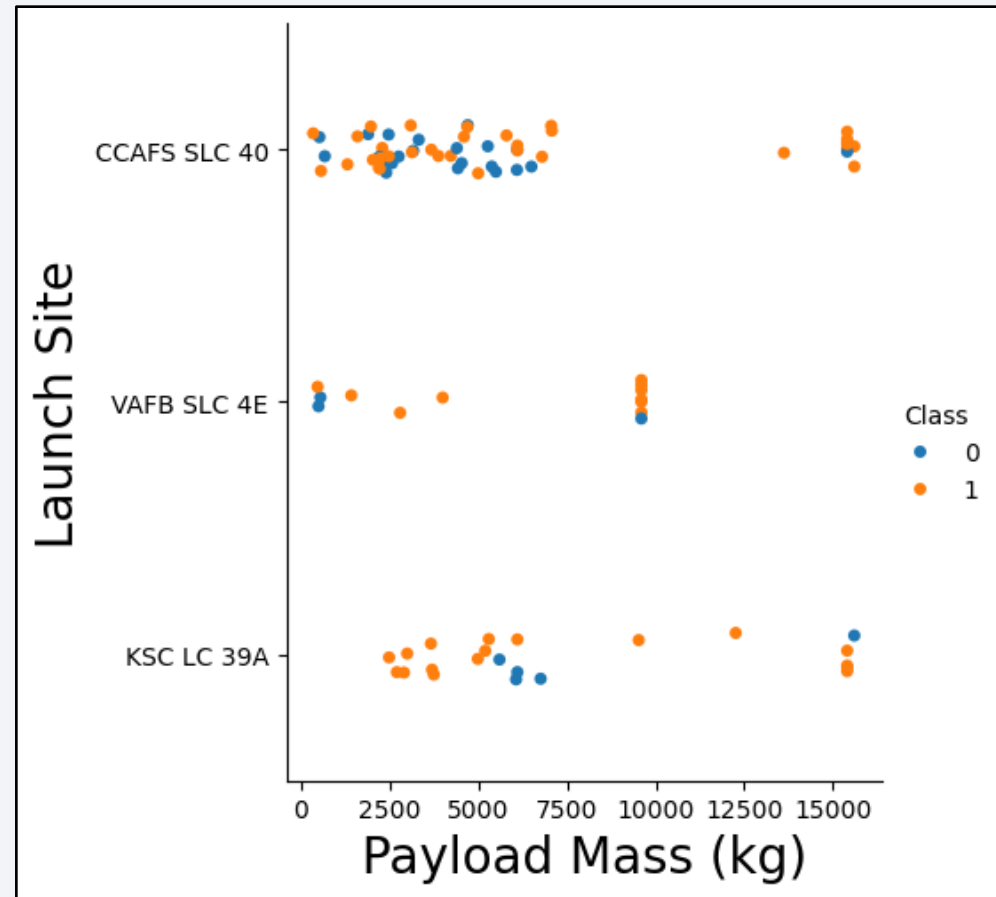


Chart: Scatter Plot of Payload Mass v/s Launch Site

ORBIT TYPE v/s SUCCESS RATE

Observations:

➤ The following orbits have a 100% Success Rate (i.e. all rockets in this orbit have successfully landed):

1. ES – L1
2. SSO
3. HEO
4. GEO

➤ Orbit with 0% Success Rate: SO

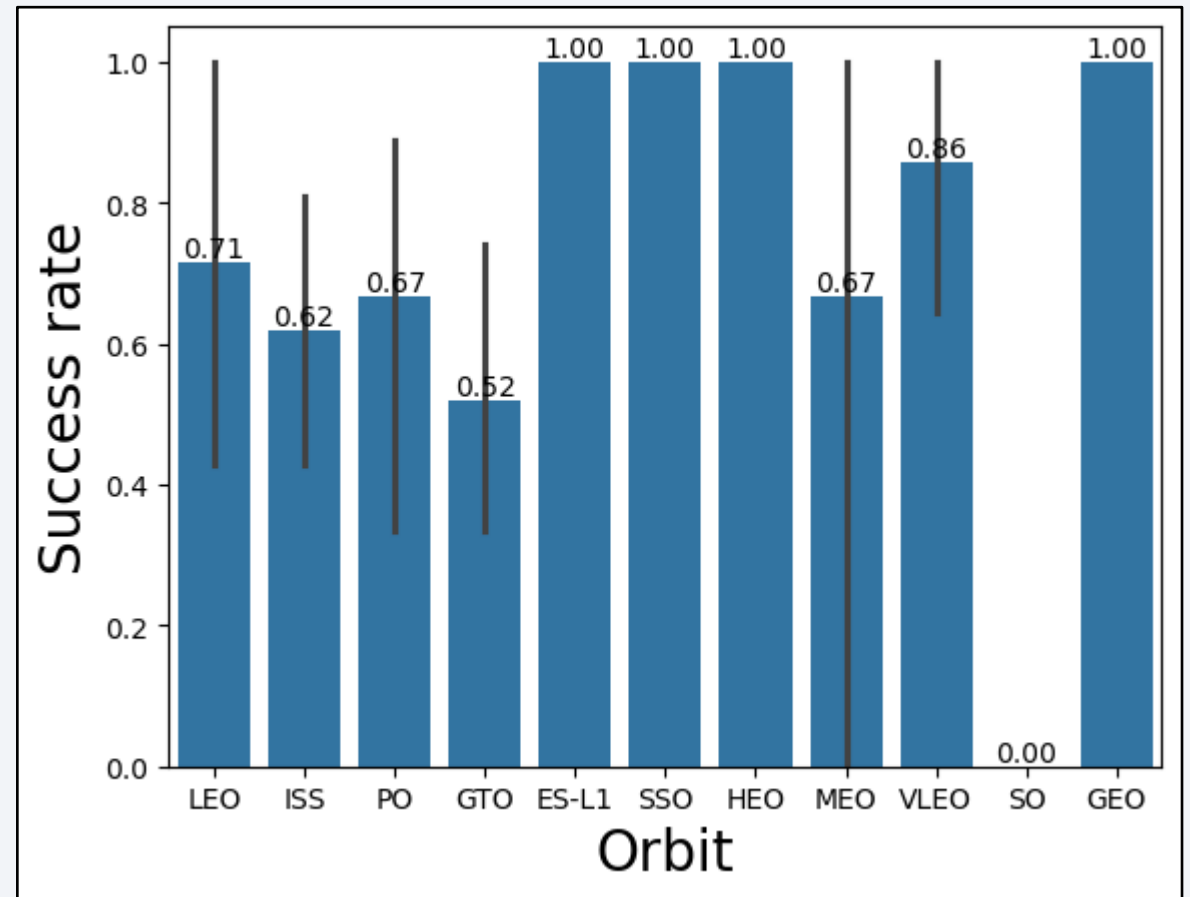


Chart: Bar Plot of Orbit Type v/s Success Rate

FLIGHT NUMBER v/s ORBIT TYPE

Observations:

- In Orbit “Leo”, success has a positive relationship with Flight number
- In Orbit “GTO”, there is no relationship of success with Flight number

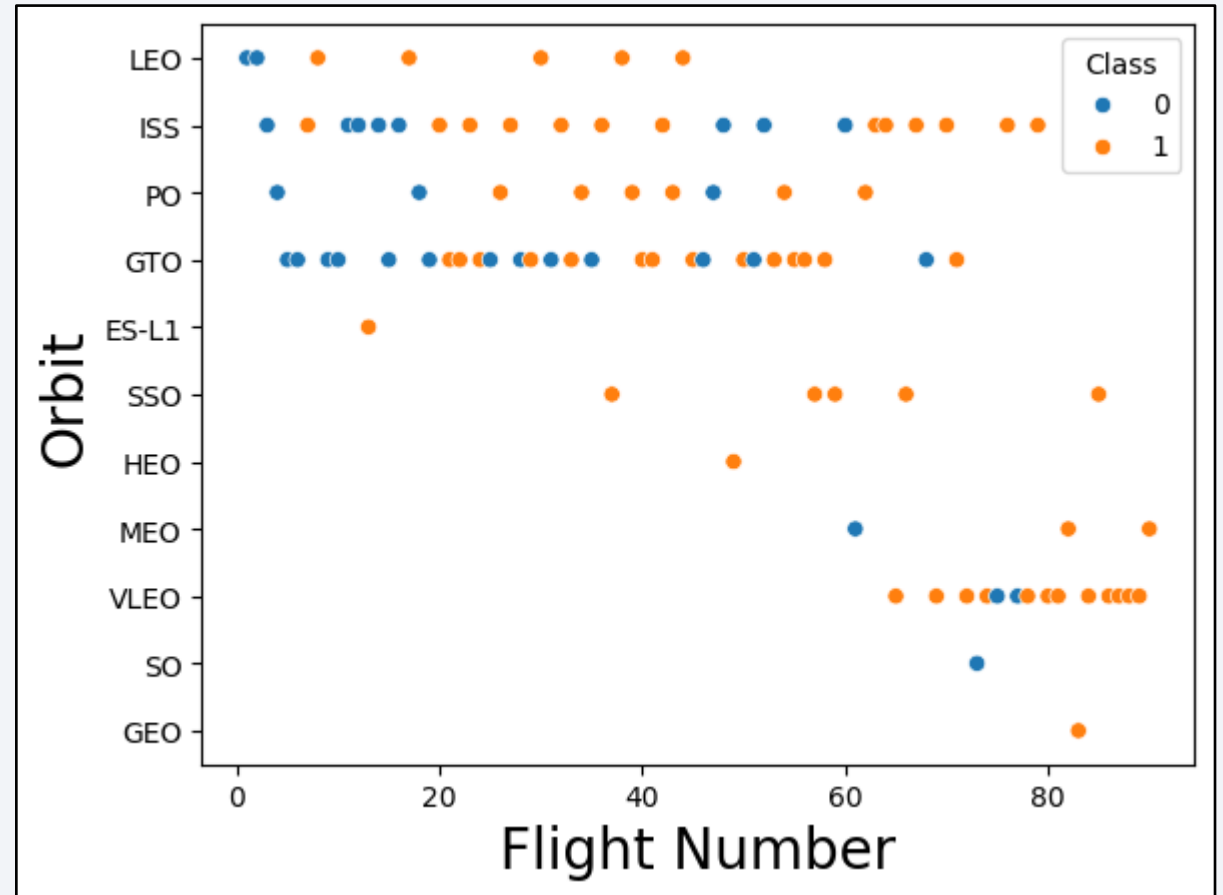


Chart: Scatter Plot of Flight Number v/s Orbit Type

PAYLOAD v/s ORBIT TYPE

Observations:

➤ With heavy payload masses, the successful landings are more for the following orbits:

1. PO
2. LEO
3. ISS

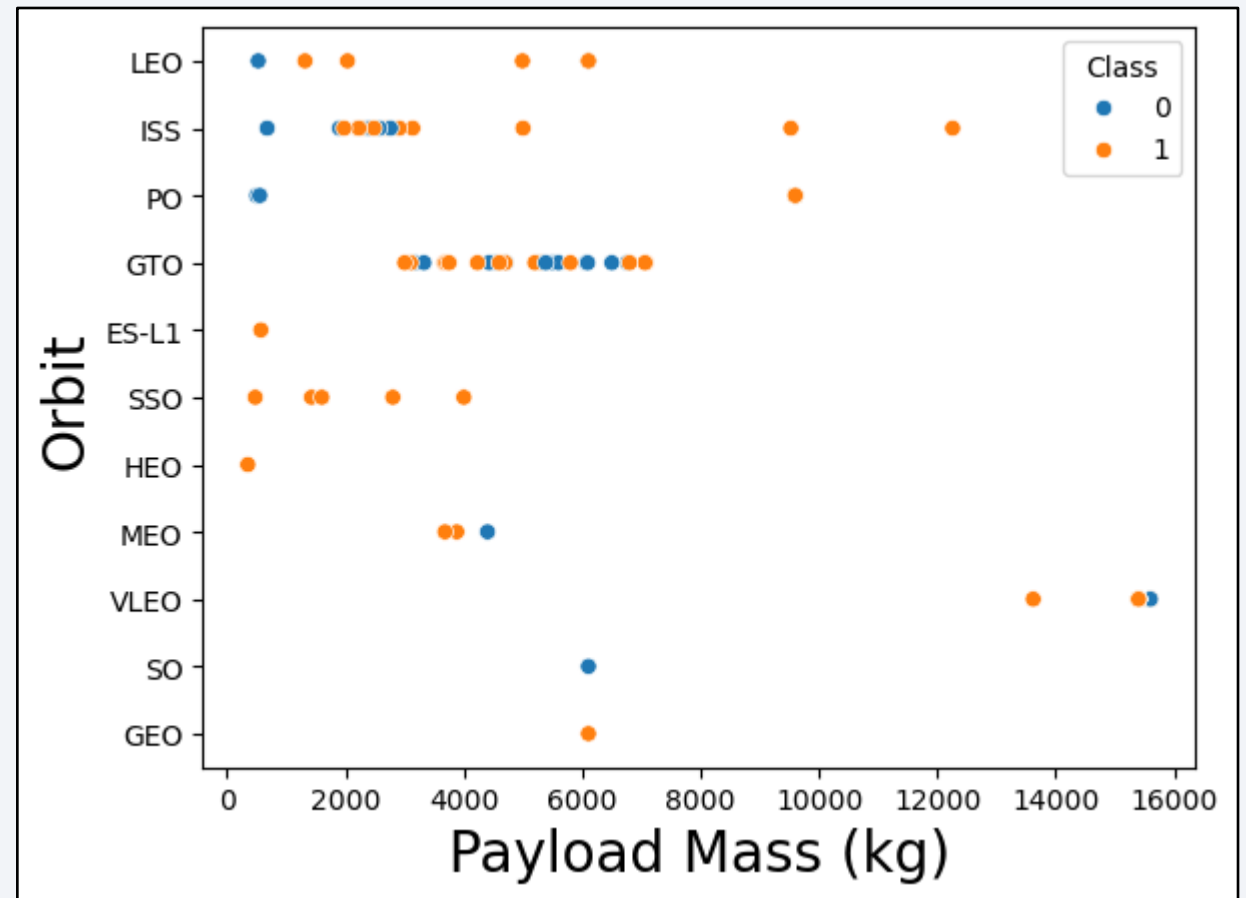


Chart: Scatter Plot of Payload Mass v/s Orbit Type

LAUNCH SUCCESS YEARLY TREND

Observations:

- Since 2013, there has been an upward increasing trend in the success rate of the landings till 2019.

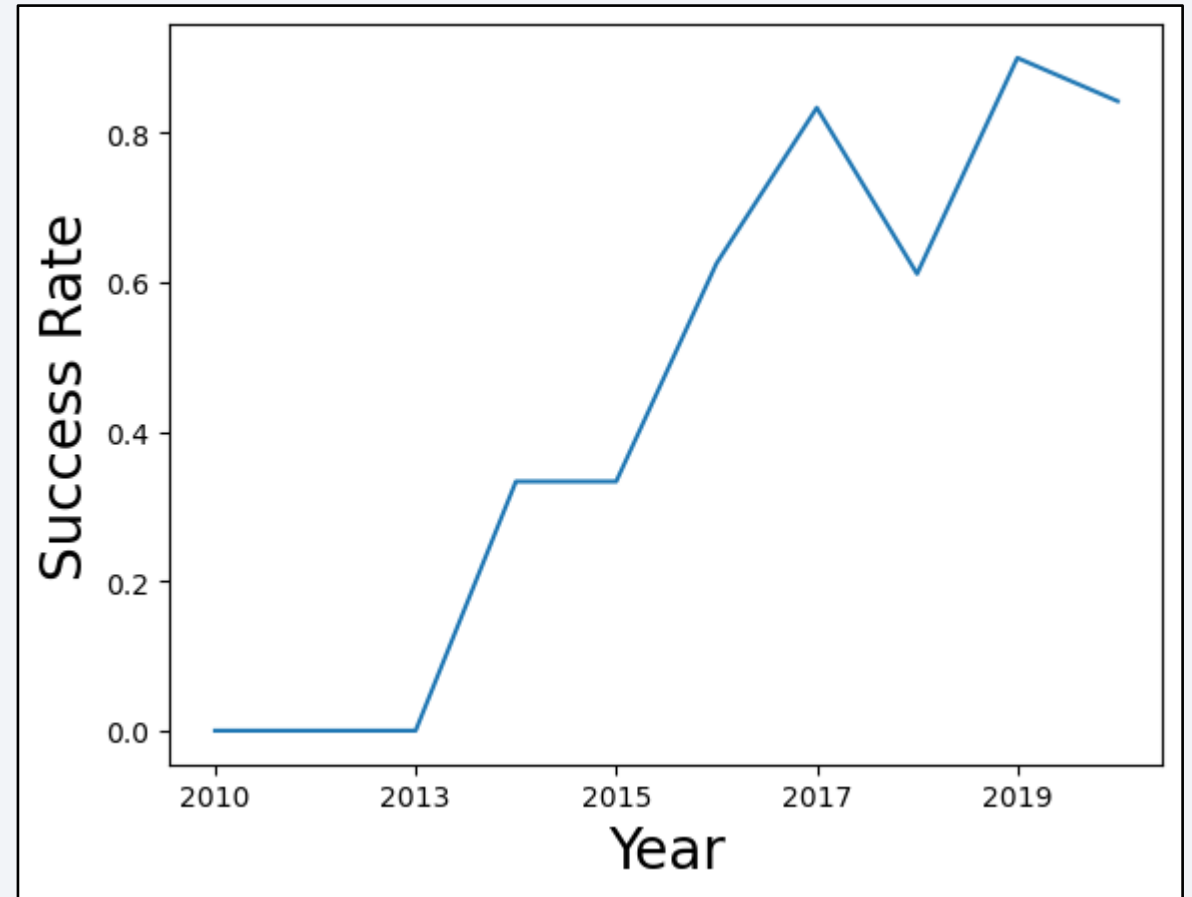


Chart: Line Plot of Year v/s Success Rate

ALL LAUNCH SITE NAMES

There are 4 unique Launch Sites extracted using the “**DISTINCT**” keyword in SQL:

1. CCAFS LC – 40
2. VAFB SLC – 4E
3. KSC LC – 39A
4. CCAFS SLC - 40

| Launch_Site |
|--------------|
| CCAFS LC-40 |
| VAFB SLC-4E |
| KSC LC-39A |
| CCAFS SLC-40 |

Output: All Launch Site Names

LAUNCH SITE NAMES STARTING WITH ‘CCA’

The first 5 records with Launch Sites beginning with “CCA” are:

| 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 | 7:44:00 | F9 v1.0 B0005 | CCAFS LC-40 | Dragon demo flight C2 | 525 | LEO (ISS) | NASA (COTS) | Success | No attempt |
| 2012-10-08 | 0:35:00 | 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 attempt |

Output: Dataframe records with launch site names starting with ‘CCA’

PAYLOAD MASS DETAILS

Total Payload Mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS) is **45596 kg**.

```
sum("PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_")  
45596
```

***Output:** Total payload mass carried by NASA (CRS)
boosters*

The average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1 is **2928.4 kg**

```
avg("PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_")  
2928.4
```

***Output:** Average payload mass carried by
booster F9 v1.1*

FIRST SUCCESSFUL GROUND LANDING DATE

The first successful landing outcome on ground pad was recorded on

“22nd December 2015”

| Date |
|------------|
| 2015-12-22 |

Output: Date of first successful ground pad landing

SUCCESSFUL DRONE SHIP LANDING WITH PAYLOAD RANGE

There are 4 boosters which have successfully landed on drone ship and had payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000:

1. F9 FT B1022
2. F9 FT B1026
3. F9 FT B1021.2
4. F9 FT B1031.2

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

Output: Names of boosters with successful drone ship landing within payload range of 4000-6000kg

TOTAL SUCCESSFUL & FAILURE MISSION OUTCOMES

Based on the output table:

- Total number of successful mission outcomes = 100
- Total number of failure mission outcomes = 1

| Mission_Outcome | count(Mission_Outcome) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Failure (in flight) | 1 |
| Success | 98 |
| Success | 1 |
| Success (payload status unclear) | 1 |

Output: Total Successful and Failure mission outcomes

BOOSTERS CARRYING MAXIMUM PAYLOAD

- Maximum Payload Mass = 15600 kg
- Number of boosters carrying maximum payload mass = 12

| 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 |

Output: Boosters carrying maximum payload

LAUNCH RECORDS OF 2015

There are 2 records with failure outcome in landing in the drone ship in the year 2015:

| Month | Landing_Outcome | Booster_Version | Launch_Site |
|-------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 01 | Failure (drone ship) | F9 v1.1 B1012 | CCAFS LC-40 |
| 04 | Failure (drone ship) | F9 v1.1 B1015 | CCAFS LC-40 |

Output: Records with failure landing outcomes in drone ship in 2015

RANK OF LANDING OUTCOMES

Ranking of the count of landing outcomes between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20, in descending order is:

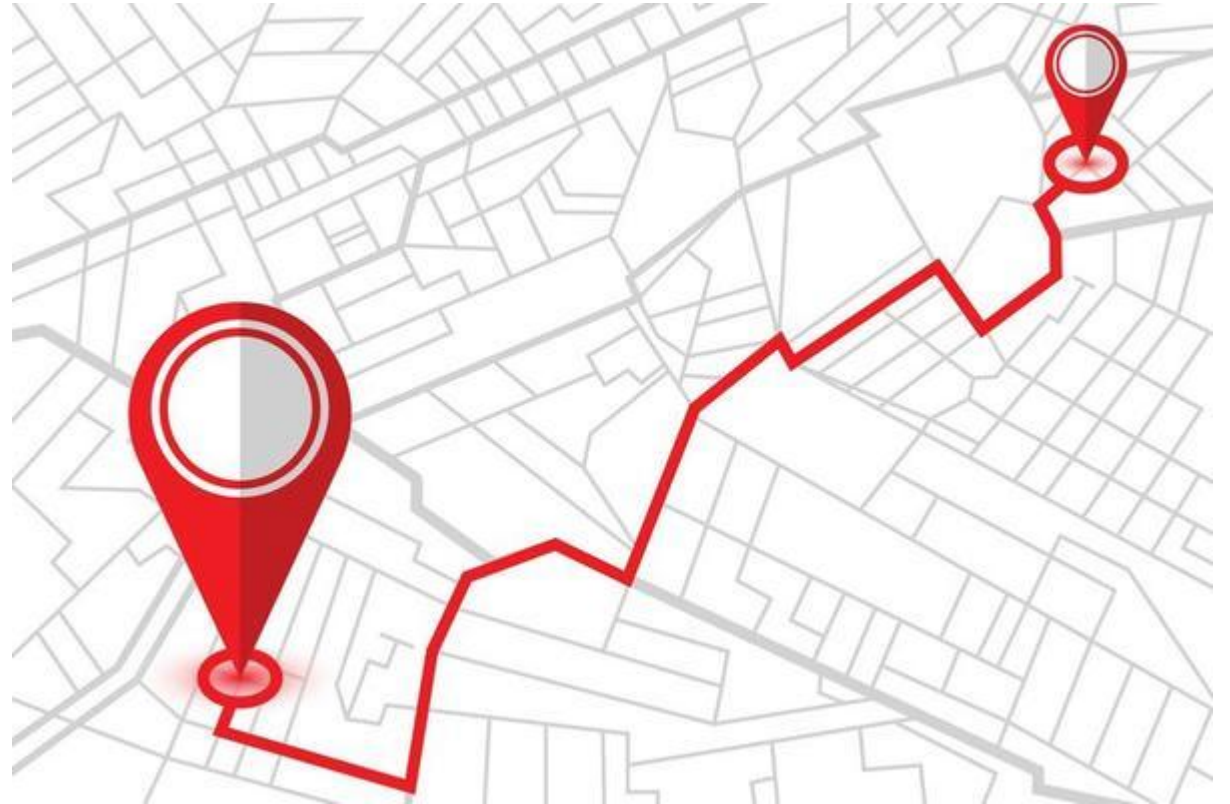
- 10 rockets made no landing attempts
- 8 rockets successfully landed on drone ship and ground pad collectively
- 7 rockets failed to land on drone ship and ground pad collectively

| Landing_Outcome | count(Landing_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 |

Output: Ranking of landing outcomes between 4th June 2010 and 20th March 2017

SECTION 2

**LAUNCH
SITES'
PROXIMITIES
ANALYSIS**



LOCATION MARKERS FOR LAUNCH SITES

4 Markers locating the launch sites:

- VAFB SLC – 4E: West Coast
 - KSC LC – 39A: East Coast
 - CCAFS LC – 40: East Coast
 - CCAFS SLC – 40: East Coast
- All launch sites are near the Equator and Coastlines



Figure: Map showing location markers of all 4 launch sites

Note: On the east coast, 3 launch site markers are overlapping

COLOR CODED LAUNCH OUTCOMES

Colored Markers are used to analyze the success rates of launch sites:

➤ **Red Marker** = Unsuccessful Launch

➤ **Green Marker** = Successful Launch

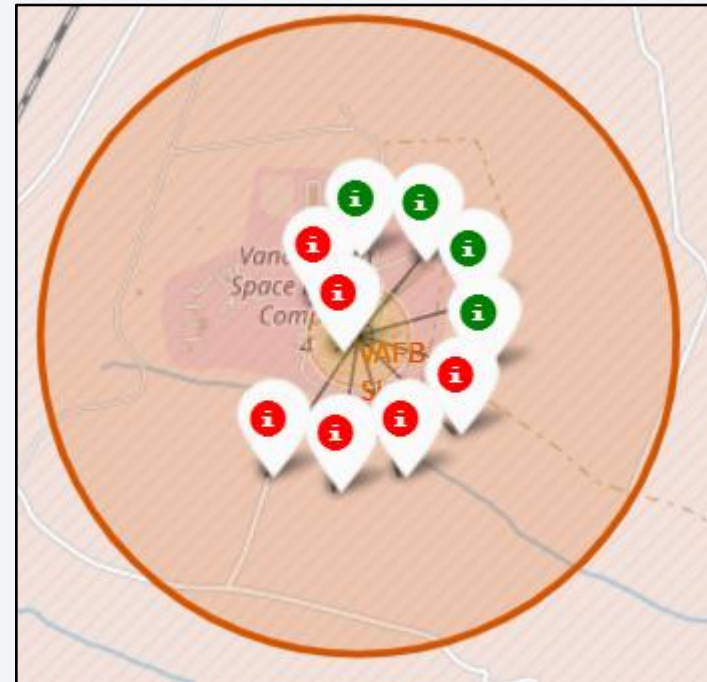


Figure: Successful and Unsuccessful launch outcomes for a particular launch site – represented by Markers

DISTANCE FROM KSC LC – 39A TO ITS PROXIMITIES

Launch Site: **KSC LC – 39A**

- Distance to Railway: 15.32 km
 - Distance to Highway: 20.28 km
 - Distance to Coastline: 14.99 km
 - Distance to Titusville (closest city): 16.32 km
- ✓ Well positioned site with optimal safety and logistical efficiency

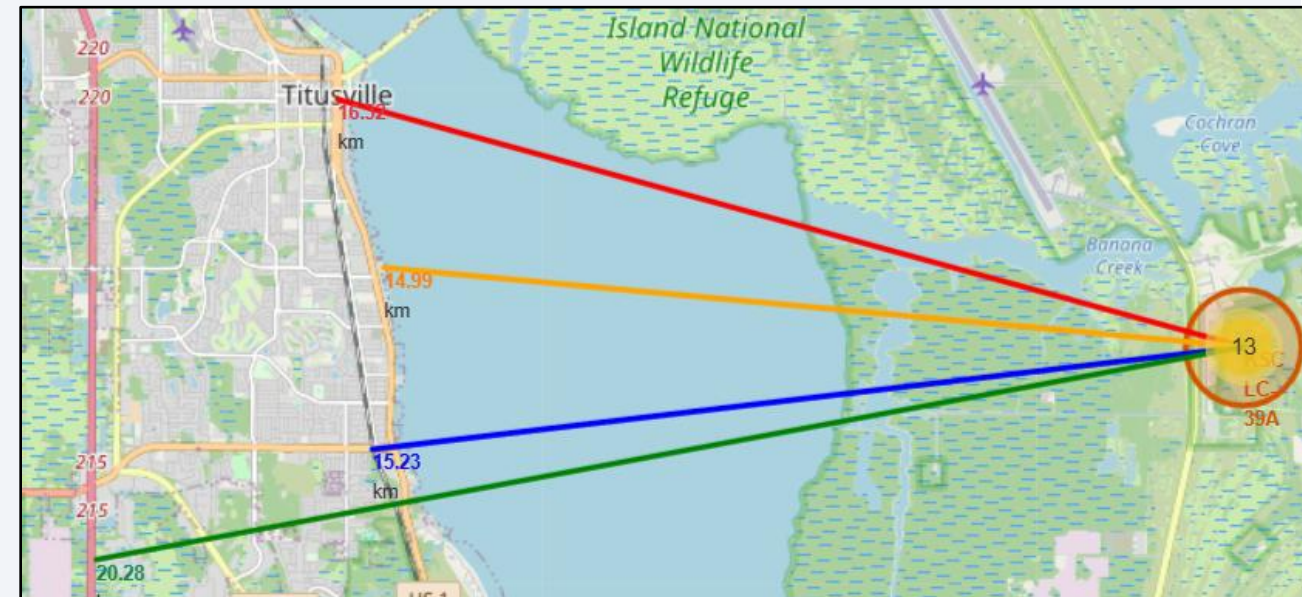
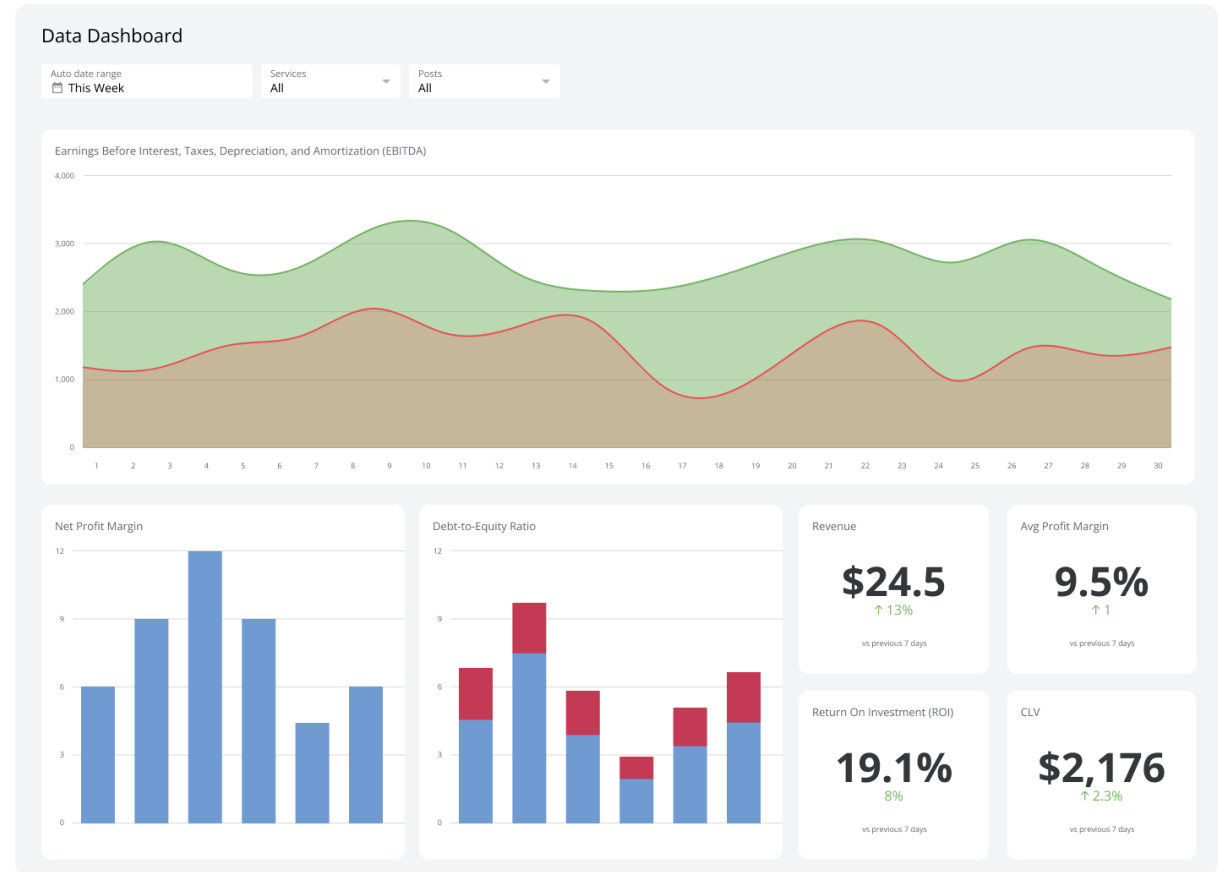


Figure: Map showing polylines indicating the distances between launch site and nearby proximities

SECTION 3

DASHBOARD WITH PLOTLY DASH



LAUNCH SUCCESS PIE CHART FOR ALL SITES

Observation:

➤ KSC LC – 39A (represented by blue slice): Max launch success = 41.7%

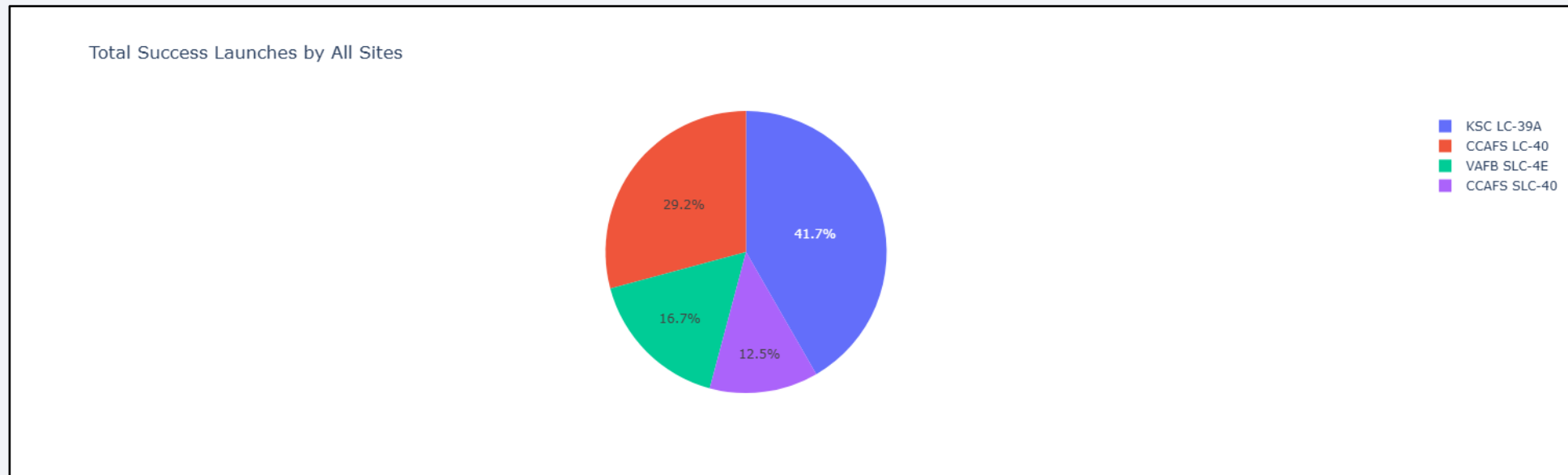


Chart: Pie Chart showing launch success percentage for all sites

SUCCESS RATE OF KSC LC – 39A

- Launch site with highest launch success ratio: KSC LC – 39A
- Success Rate = 76.9%

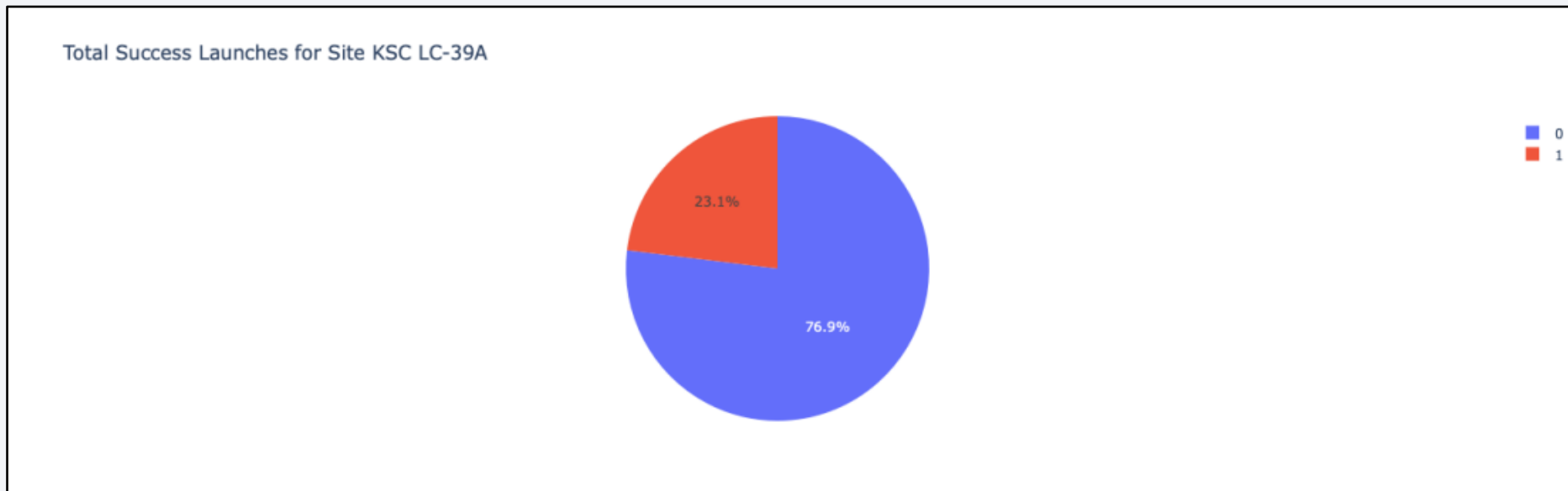


Chart: Pie Chart showing launch success percentage for KSC LC – 39A

SCATTER PLOT FOR CORRELATION

Launch Site with highest success rate: KSC LC – 39A

➤ **Observation:** Booster Version = FT has the highest success for payload range between 0 to 10000kg



Chart: Scatter Plot showing correlation between payload mass and launch class for KSC LC – 39A

SECTION 3

PREDICTIVE ANALYSIS (CLASSIFICATION)



CLASSIFICATION ACCURACY

| Model | Accuracy |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Logistic Regression | 84.64% |
| SVM | 84.82% |
| Decision Tree | 86.25% |
| KNN | 84.82% |

➤ Best Model: Decision Tree

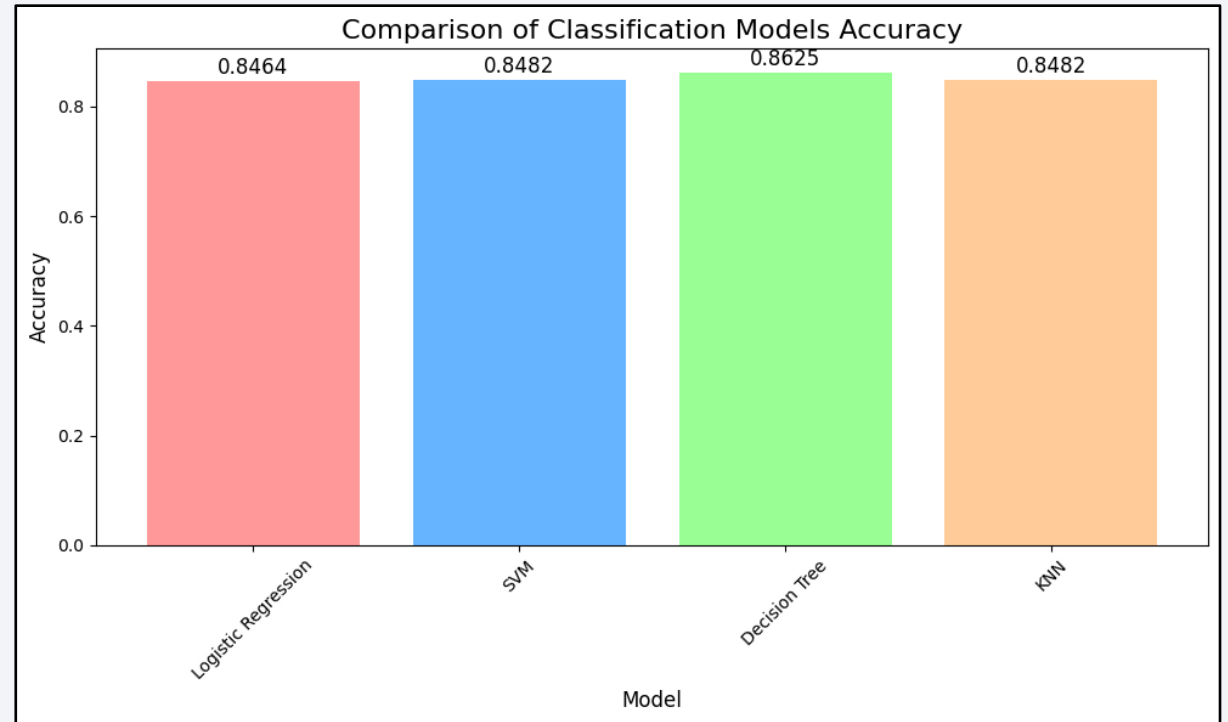


Chart: Bar Chart showing accuracy of classification models

CONFUSION MATRIX

- Correctly classified 14 out of 18 records
- Model Accuracy = 78%

| | | Actual Values | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | Positive (1) | Negative (0) |
| Predicted Values | Positive (1) | TP | FP |
| | Negative (0) | FN | TN |

Ideal Confusion Matrix

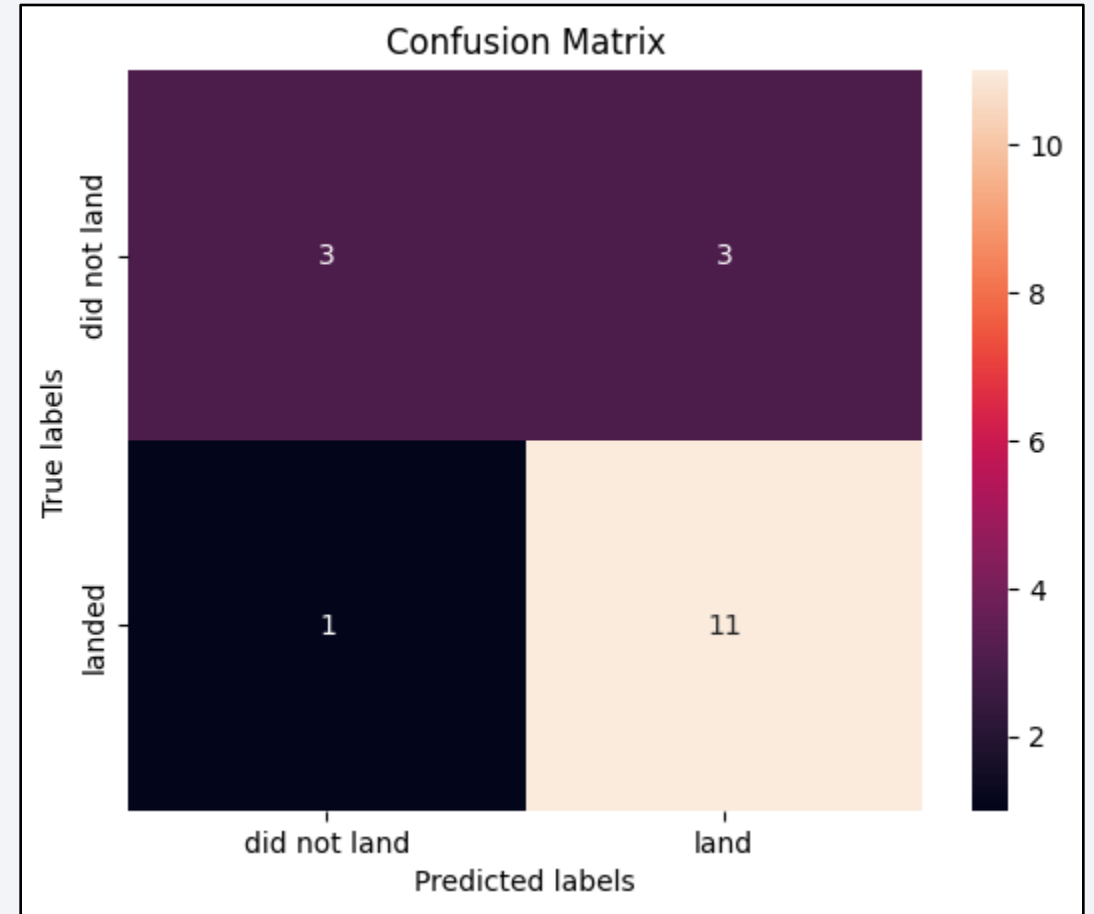
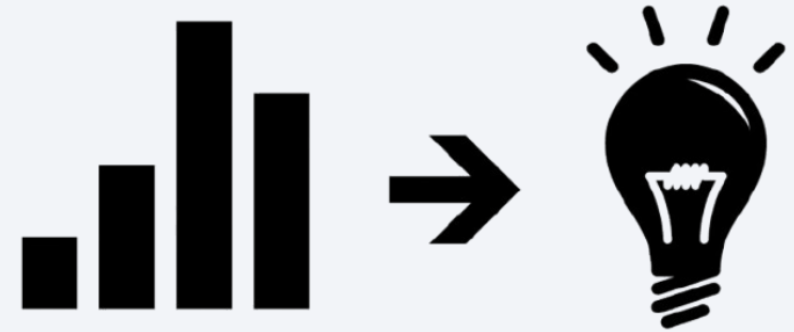


Chart: Confusion Matrix for Decision Tree Model

CONCLUSION

- Orbits ES – L1, GEO, HEO and SSO have 100% success rates.
- The success rate of launches increases over the years
- Total number of successful mission outcomes = 100
- KSC LC – 39A has the highest success rate of all launch sites.
- Decision Tree Model is highest performing model for classification tasks in this dataset



APPENDIX

GitHub Link:
*Coursera Applied DS Cap
stone Project.git*



THANK YOU!

