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Article in Tuijin Jishu/Journal of Propulsion Technology · December 2023

DOI: 10.52783/tjpt.v44.i5.2845

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Unveiling the Cosmos: A Data-Driven Journey into the Frontiers of Space Exploration

Sharia Arfin Tanim¹, Fariya Sultana Prity², Mursalin Khan³, Tonmoy Mohajan⁴, Kazi Tanvir^{5*}

^{1,2,3}Department of Computer Science, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), Kuratoli, Dhaka, Bangladesh

⁴Department Of Electrical And Electronic Engineering, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Chittagong, Bangladesh

^{5*}Department of Mathematics, School of Advanced Sciences (SAS), Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India.

Abstract: This study provides an in-depth examination of space launch data over the long-time frame from 1957 to 2023. By combining data from a Kaggle dataset with web-scraped data for 2023, the research employs a methodical approach that includes important stages including data pretreatment, exploratory data analysis (EDA), and sophisticated visualization tools. A wide range of visualizations, from the conventional bar and line charts to more specialized forms like the sunburst chart and choropleth map, is used in the research to reveal important discoveries. The focus of the research is on how space missions are distributed, carefully identifying trends between rocket models, nations, and companies. This project advances a more sophisticated understanding of the patterns influencing the ever-changing field of space launches.

Keywords: Space Launches, Aerospace Industry, Mission Success Factors, Space Exploration Trends, Company Performance, Geospatial Analysis.

1. Introduction

A space mission is a well-designed space mission with specific goals that include technology advancement, scientific exploration, and the study of celestial bodies [1-3]. These goals include deploying satellites, sending people into space, and learning more about the larger universe. The design, development, and operation of various spacecraft, such as satellites, rovers, probes, and crewed vehicles, are all part of space missions, which have as their goals data collection, experimentation, or the achievement of useful and scientific goals [4,5]. Space exploration, which is carried out by commercial companies, international partnerships, and space organizations, greatly advances our understanding of the cosmos. Science, technology, and engineering advance because of it [6].

The complex difficulties involved in organizing, carrying out, and assessing space missions are the background issues in space mission analysis. The size and hostile environment of space, the requirement for accuracy in spacecraft construction and operation, and the inherent dangers of space exploration are some of the reasons contributing to the complexity of space missions [7, 8]. Furthermore, new developments in technology and mission objectives present ongoing difficulties that call for a sophisticated grasp of multidisciplinary subjects including data processing, aerospace engineering, and astrodynamics [9]. Effective methods and tools for mission planning, risk assessment, and performance evaluation are critical as space agencies and commercial groups take on more ambitious missions. Space mission analysis is a dynamic and developing topic with important implications for space exploration's future because addressing these issues is essential to the endeavors' sustainability and success [10].

This research endeavors to fill in the gaps in the existing space mission planning methods using a comprehensive analysis and application of data science methodology and techniques.

- Make use of data analysis findings to pinpoint areas where mission planning needs to be improved.
- Enhance the overall performance of the mission by making technological and operational improvements.
- Utilize data analytics to make well-informed decisions when planning space missions.
- Make sure data plays a crucial part in decision-making for the success of space missions.

The aerospace industry, which improves spacecraft design and mission planning, space agencies, who acquire insights for more successful missions, and the academic community, which advances space exploration studies, are among the benefits [11].

This constitutes a research inquiry:

In order to benefit space agencies, the aerospace sector, academic research, and better planning, risk assessment, and interdisciplinary collaboration, how might space mission analysis be improved?

2. Literature Review

The process of establishing a space system at the system level to accomplish mission objectives is known as space mission analysis. Although the conventional procedure is well-established, it can still be improved in certain ways. A proposed framework aims to make clear how system-level design and mission objectives are related, create quantitative judgement standards for assessing design options, use big data analysis to identify critical requirements and system drivers and optimize system design to achieve mission goals [12]. Space missions require real-time telemetry-based 3D situational awareness visualizations to communicate mission objectives and provide flight system health updates. Nevertheless, the existing development approach is not cost-effective since it requires creating distinct visualization systems for every mission. Theia is a low-cost, readily adaptable multi-project telemetry-based visualization system for numerous missions [13][14]. The use of SysML models for model-based safety and reliability analysis is becoming more popular, however, integration with complex space mission design is still required. To thoroughly identify failure modes and link them to an event tree, a framework is provided that consists of an event-based analysis approach and a multisystem collaborative failure analysis method [15]. Fusion propulsion programs are being developed to evaluate spacecraft mission profiles and performance for advanced designs, demonstrating potential for analyzing fusion-based propulsion systems [16].

Table 1: Previous analysis of space missions

| References | Insights | Analysis |
|---|--|---|
| Wen Cen et al. [17] | Earth 2.0 space mission analysis covers spacecraft orbit, stability, and communication. | Preliminary spacecraft design meets mission requirements. |
| Reliability Modeling and Analysis for Space Phased-Mission System [18] | Proposed reliability method for Tianwen-1 Mars Probe's EDL process. | Integrated method shows good engineering applicability for complex space systems. |
| Guoqiang Liu et. al [19] | Proposed reliability method for Tianwen-1 Mars Probe's EDL process. | Proposed method is applicable and extendable to complex space systems. |
| Qiaoli Kong et. al [20] | Analyzes space-borne GPS data quality for COSMIC-2 mission. | Data quality assessments reveal low utilization and interrupted carrier-phase data. |
| Quantify how space mission influence geopolitical dynamics? A security and social policy approach. [21] | Develops System-of-System engineering for exploration missions, proposes equation for geopolitical impact. | Computational method evaluates geopolitical importance of a space mission. |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Cesare Guariniello et. al [22] | Discusses active mission success estimation (AMSE) for risk analysis in space missions. | Presents results of a collaboration on System-of-System engineering methodologies. |
| Ada-Rhodes Short et. al [23] | Discusses active mission success estimation (AMSE) for risk analysis in space missions. | Presents AMSE analysis results in a human-readable form. |
| Vassilis Angelopolous et. al [24] | Discusses Space Physics Environment Data Analysis System (SPEDAS) for space physics data analysis. | Describes implementation and organization of SPEDAS software for data retrieval. |
| Jay Trimble et. al [25] | Discusses the development of open-source software for mission control visualization. | Describes open-source software allowing mission control visualization on desktop, tablet, and phone. |
| Massimiliano Vasile et. Al [26] | Discusses the relationship between mission analysis and system design in space missions. | Mentions the role of mission analysts in the overall design process. |

Although it has limits, the table that is provided offers insightful information on space mission analysis from a variety of research articles. One drawback is the difficulty in drawing direct comparisons due to the variations in the breadth and depth of research amongst references. Future studies about space mission analysis could concentrate on standardizing vocabulary and procedures to get around this. Furthermore, the table primarily presents the findings of individual studies; therefore, to improve its comprehensiveness, a meta-analysis approach could be utilized to combine findings and pinpoint general trends, guaranteeing a more coherent and sophisticated comprehension of space mission analysis in a variety of contexts.

3. Methodology

To extract insightful information, make inferences, and aid in decision-making, the data analysis methodology comprises methodical procedures for data inspection, cleansing, transformation, and modeling [27]. It seeks to reveal patterns, trends, and linkages within datasets using statistical, mathematical, or computational tools to support well-informed and data-driven decision processes [28].

The full data analysis technique is depicted in Figure 1, which also shows the methodical steps involved in data transformation, cleaning, inspection, and modeling. Informed and data-driven decision-making is made easier with the use of statistical, mathematical, or computational tools to reveal patterns, trends, and relationships within datasets. This process is known as visualization.

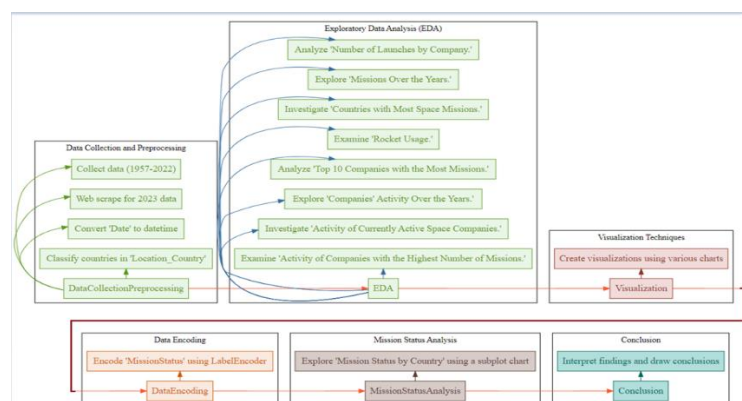


Figure 1: Comprehensive Data Analysis Methodology: A Visual Overview

Using online scraping tools, the research methodology used in this study is intended to systematically analyze and interpret space launch data from 1957 to 2022, with an extend to 2023. Data collection, preparation, exploratory data analysis (EDA), visualization, and interpretation are all included in the methodology.

Data Collection and Preprocessing:

The first step is to obtain data on space launches from Kaggle, a well-known dataset site. Information from 1957 to 2022 is included in the dataset; web scraping was used to collect the 2023 dataset. Figure 2: Web scraping phases diagrammed. To improve its eligibility for analysis, preparation processes are then applied to the gathered dataset.

Web scraping equation: $D_{2023} = \text{WebScape}(\text{URL})$

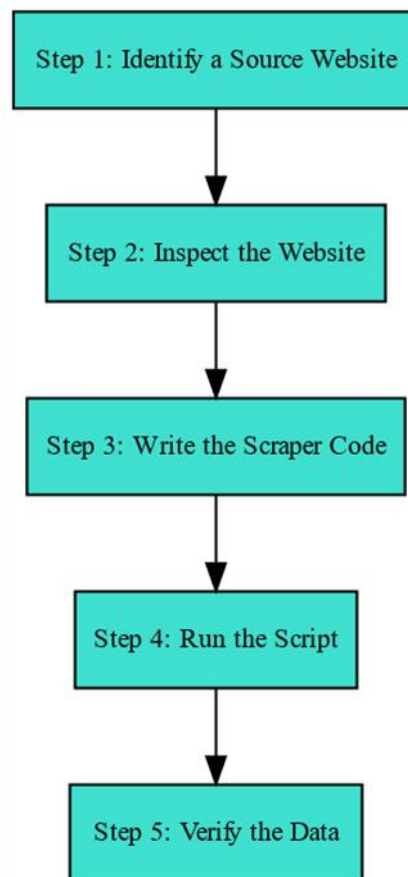


Figure 2: Sequential Steps of Web Scraping Process

Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA):

The following steps are included in the EDA phase:

Date Conversion and Country Classification:

The 'Date' column is converted to a datetime format (D_{datetime}), facilitating temporal analysis. Simultaneously, the 'Location' column is processed to classify countries (C).

$D_{\text{datetime}} = \text{to_datetime}(\text{Draw})$

Visualization Techniques:

A range of visual aids are utilized to clarify patterns and trends present in the data. For example, a bar chart displays the "Number of Launches by Company."

$V_{\text{bar}} = \text{create_bar_chart}(D, \text{'Company'}, \text{'Launches'})$

Data Encoding:

A label encoder (LE) is used to encrypt the 'MissionStatus' column in order to prepare the data for additional analysis.

$L_E = \text{LabelEncoder}()$

Mission Status Analysis:

A subplot chart is used to analyse how mission status is distributed among several nations (SC).

$SC = \text{subplot_chart}(D_{\text{encoded}}, 'Location_Country', 'MissionStatus')$

4. Result And Analysis

Starting with an overview of the space launch dataset, the analysis highlights important statistics such as the total number of records, summary statistics, and a peek at the structure of the dataset.

Number of Launches by Company: A visual depiction of the top 30 corporations and their corresponding numbers of space launches may be seen in Figure 3's bar chart. The distribution of launch activities among various companies is clarified by this analysis.

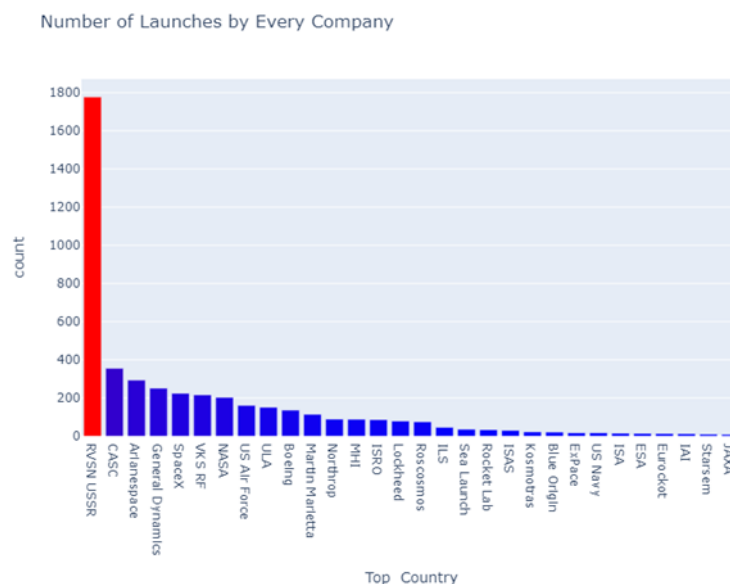


Figure 3: Distribution of Space Launches Among Top Companies

Space agencies, commercial aerospace firms, and organizations involved in space exploration are among the corporations listed. It depicts a tabular or structured form, maybe a chart or table, describing the "Number of Launches by Every Company." Numerous organizations, including SpaceX, Rocket Lab, Blue Origin, Roscosmos, NASA, and others, are included on the list.

The tabular structure, with the appropriate numerical values positioned on the right side of the table, proposes a visual representation of the number of launches carried out by each organization. The left-hand bars or lines suggest a graphical representation, which could be the number of launches. The vertical axis may represent individual organizations, while the horizontal axis can represent the total number of launches, which could be anything from 0 to 1800.

The labels on the left, like "Top Country," point to more details about the nations connected to these space ventures. The design and layout give a brief summary of the different companies' comparative launch operations, much like a visual representation of the launch data. To accurately understand the graph and obtain significant

insights into the prominence and distribution of space launches among the listed entities, more background information and analysis would be needed.

Missions Over the Years:

A line graph showing the number of space missions carried out annually is shown in Figure 4. The overall trend and variations in space launch activity throughout time are revealed by this temporal study.

In this case, "Total_Missions 360 0 300 20 Number of missions over the years" seems to be a graphic representation of the overall number of missions completed during a specific time frame. The numbers that are scattered throughout the text, including "360," "0," "300," and "20," probably represent the number of missions completed in particular years or time frames. The graphic depiction appears to show a distribution or trend in mission counts, maybe across a timeline or a range of categories indicated by the years. The context given by the text annotation "Number of missions over the years" suggests that the picture shows the distribution or historical evolution of space missions across the given period of time. The title and the inclusion of numerical numbers suggest a quantitative analysis that emphasises the rise and fall of space missions across the years or eras shown. Additional analysis of the graphical representation or access to the actual graphical information would be required to obtain a more thorough understanding.

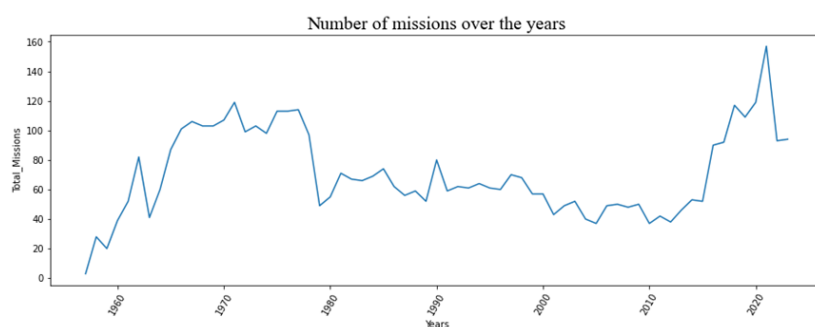


Figure 4: Evolution of Space Missions Over Time

Top Countries with Most Space Missions:

The top 10 nations with the most space missions are displayed in the bar chart in Figure 5. Understanding the regional distribution of space launch activity is aided by this research.

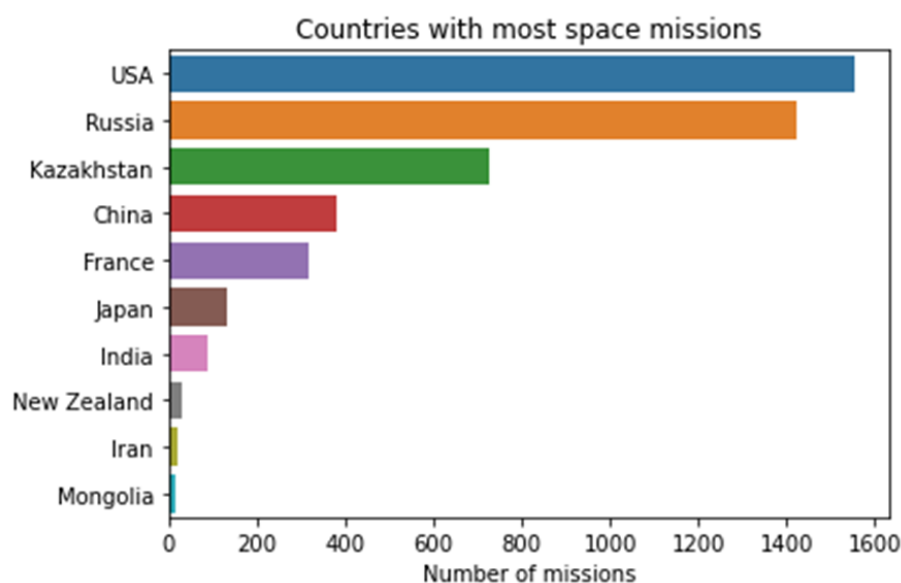


Figure 5: Distribution of Space Missions Across Top Countries

The image that is displayed gives a summary of the nations and the number of space missions they have each carried out. The list highlights the distribution of missions across various areas and features well-known countries with ongoing space programs. The USA shows up as a prominent leader and probably has many space missions under its belt. Russia is next, indicating the country's lengthy history and contributions to space travel. Japan, China, France, Kazakhstan, and China are also recognized for their extensive participation in space projects. The following is a list of countries that vary in their level of participation in space activities: India, New Zealand, Iran, and Mongolia.

The numbers arranged underneath the nation names, which span from 0 to 1600, most likely indicate the number of space missions that each nation has carried out. A visual depiction of the size of space missions is given by the ascending numerical scale, where the highest points probably correlate to the nations with the greatest number of missions ever recorded. All things considered, this presentation provides an overview of the global distribution of space missions and a distinct picture of the major countries that are advancing space exploration.

Rocket Usage Analysis:

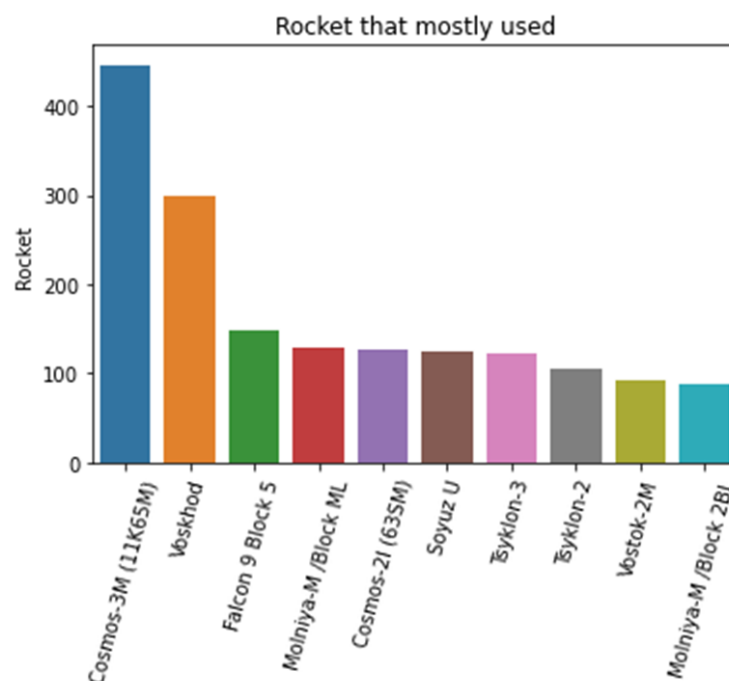


Figure 6: Analysis of Rocket Utilization in Space Missions

A bar chart showing the top 10 rockets that have been used most frequently in space missions is shown in Figure 6. This analysis provides information about the use and acceptance of several rocket models.

The phrase "Rocket that mostly used 400 300 200 100" in this instance alludes to a graphical depiction of rocket usage, with the numbers 400, 300, 200, and 100 on the y-axis most likely denoting the frequency or quantity of rocket usage. The term "Rocket that is mostly used" denotes an emphasis on locating and displaying the rockets that are used the most frequently.

The graphical representation looks like a bar chart or other comparable visualization, with numerical numbers showing how frequently rockets are used on the y-axis. The rocket with the number "400" has the highest bar, indicating that it has been utilized the most. Other rockets with values "300," "200," and "100" have diminishing bars.

Top 10 Companies with the Most Missions:

The top 10 firms according to the total number of missions completed are displayed in the bar chart in Figure 7. This study identifies the main players in space launch operations.

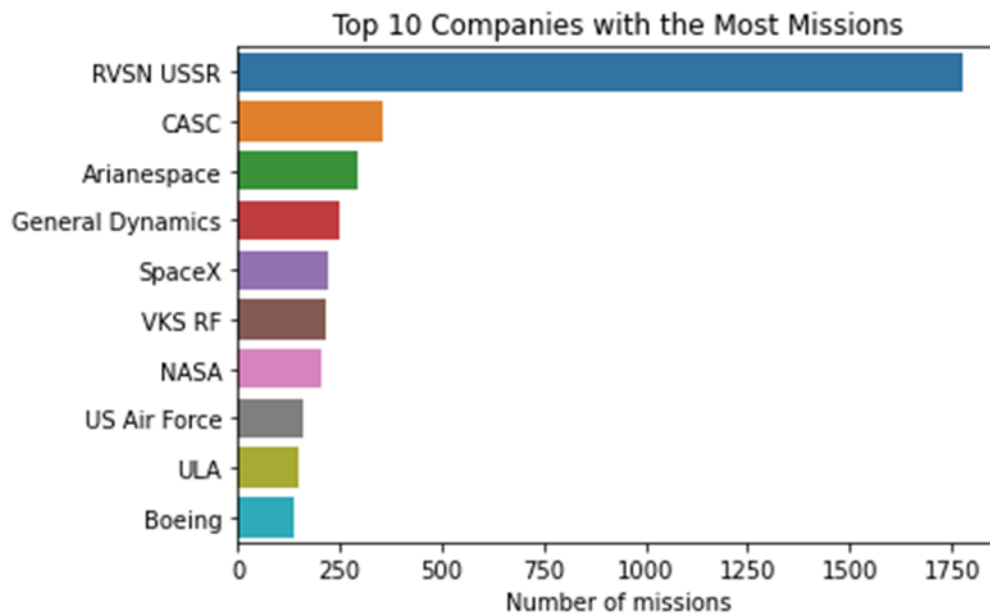


Figure 7: Top 10 Companies with the Highest Number of Space Missions

NASA, SpaceX, General Dynamics, Boeing, USAirForce, and Avianespace are among the mentioned companies. The numbers that go with it, such "250," "300," "70," "1000," "1250," "3500," and "1750," imply a quantitative depiction and could reflect the number of missions that each business has completed. The term "Top 10 Companies with the Most Missions" highlights the importance of classifying or ranking these businesses according to the activities that make up their missions. The way the data are arranged along the vertical axis and the label "Number of missions" that goes with it suggest a graphic representation, maybe a bar chart or a graph, in which each firm is linked to a particular number that represents the number of missions that it has completed. The material that has been presented suggests a visual analysis that highlights the importance and mission contributions of these leading aerospace organizations.

Companies Activity Over the Years:

A line graph illustrating the top businesses' mission activity throughout time is shown in Figure 8. A thorough understanding of each company's involvement in space missions is offered by this time study.

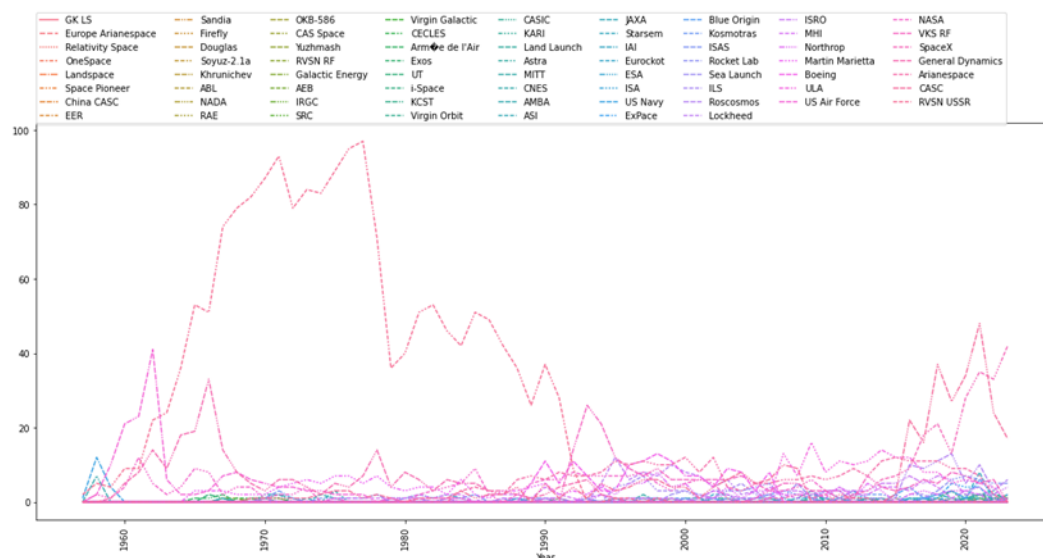


Figure 8: Temporal Evolution of Space Mission Activity Among Top Companies

The image seems to be a graphic depiction or chart showing the chronology of space-related missions, activities, and the participation of different aerospace businesses and organizations from 1970 to 2020. The data is arranged geographically and by businesses, emphasizing their contributions to technological advancement and space exploration. Among the notable firms are American corporations SpaceX, Boeing, and Blue Origin; European organizations Arianespace and Roscosmos; and Chinese organizations CASC. The chronological sequence denoted by the years 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 provides a historical synopsis of space-related undertakings, with each of the listed companies or organizations most likely contributing significantly to space missions and developments in their respective eras. Some entries, such as "100" and "3960," have numerical values attached to them that could be indicative of metrics or milestones about the operations of the companies referenced. All things considered, the picture offers a thorough synopsis of the international space exploration scene and the major participants throughout several decades.

The activity of Currently Active Space Companies:

The missions carried out by space businesses that are still in operation are shown in Figure 9 as a line chart. This report sheds light on the major space industry companies' most recent actions. SpaceX, Rocket Lab, Eurockot, Landspace, IRGC, Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin, Virgin Orbit, Arianespace, ISRO, Roscosmos, Northrop, OneSpace, Relativity Space, Soyuz-2.1a, MHI, Exos, iSpace, Astra, Firefly, VSN RF, NADA, AKA, VKS RF, ExPace, and Galactic Energy are just a few of the recognized players whose names appear among them. The list offers a broad overview of organizations working in the space sector, with contributions from different nations and areas as well as a global presence.

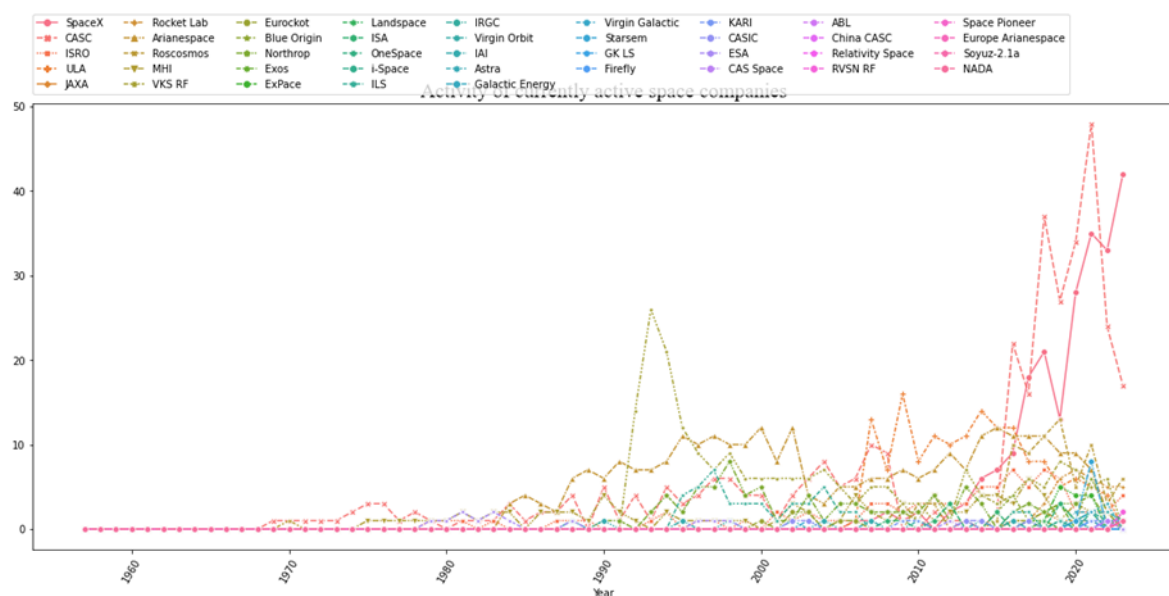


Figure 9: Activity of Currently Active Space Companies

The activity of Companies with the Highest Number of Missions:

A line graph showing the mission activity of the firms with the most missions is shown in Figure 10. This report demonstrates how top businesses have continued to participate in space exploration. This indicates a numerical breakdown, with the value "20" coming after "100". The list of aerospace and space-related businesses that follow is followed by a list of symbols or notations that correspond to each company. Boeing, UA, USAirForce, NASA, VKSRF, SpaceX, General Dynamics, Avianespace, CASC, and RVSN USSR are among the companies listed. Symbols like "-#-" and "-~" can be used as separators or comments between the entities. The text's overarching theme, "Activity of companies with the highest number of missions," suggests that the emphasis should be on the numerical numbers, which may represent mission counts or some other quantitative indicator related to the aerospace companies that are listed. To accurately comprehend the numerical figures and symbols in the context of space missions and commercial activity, more contextual data or analysis would be needed.

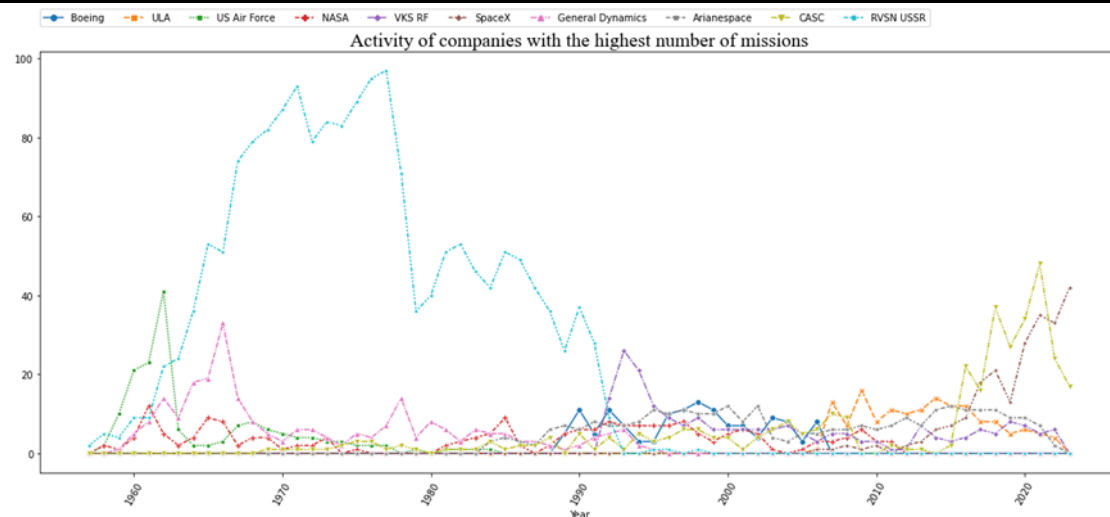


Figure 10: Temporal Evolution of Space Missions for Companies with the Highest Mission Counts

Mission Status Distribution by Country:

The subplot chart in Figure 11 shows how mission status is distributed across different nations. A comprehensive grasp of the success and failure rates of space missions in various geographical regions is given by this analysis.

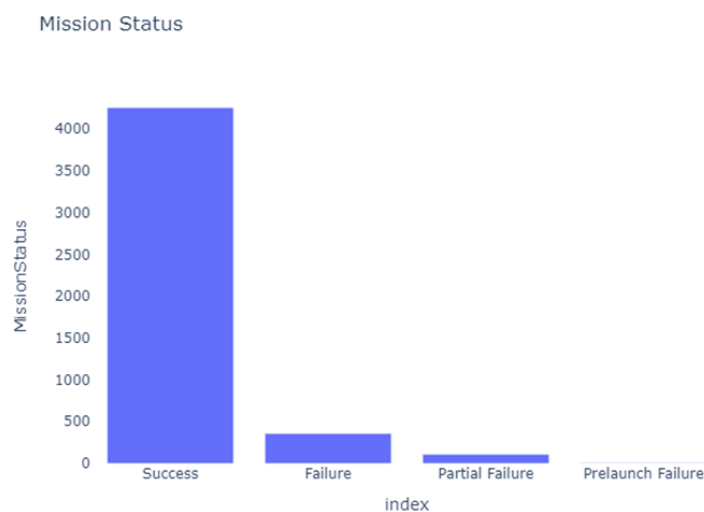


Figure 11: Distribution of Mission Status Across Countries

The organized design, which uses numbers between 4000 and 500, implies a pictorial representation of mission results over time. The frequency or count of missions falling into categories could be represented by the vertical axis, which is most frequently shown by the numerical figures. 'Success,' 'Failure,' 'Partial Failure,' and 'Prelaunch Failure' appear to be the various mission statuses, signifying the result of every mission. The "index" horizontal axis can be used to determine the position or hierarchy of each category. A falling order of mission counts or frequencies may be implied by the ascending order of numerical numbers on the vertical axis.

Choropleth Map:

A geographical perspective on the results of space missions is provided by the choropleth map displayed in Figure 12, which shows the mission status by nation.

Status Mission by Countries

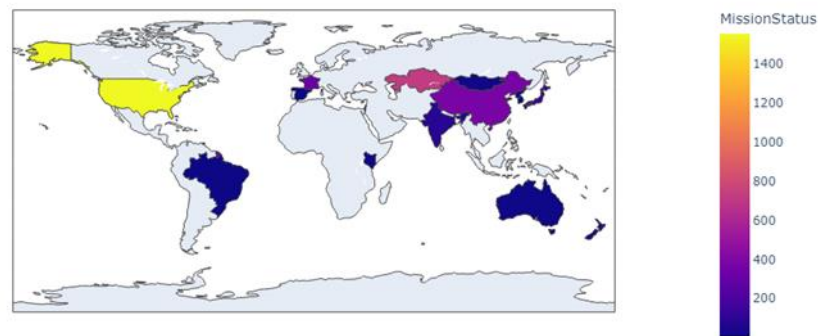


Figure 12: Geographical Distribution of Mission Status - Choropleth Map

Every number, for example, "1400," "1200," and so on, probably represents the number of missions sent to each of the different nations. The values' progression from 1400 to 200 can represent a mission count descending order, illustrating how space missions are distributed across different nations. The reference to "MissionStatus" implies that the numerical numbers indicate the state or result of the missions carried out by each nation.

4.11. Sunburst Chart:

Figure 13 shows the distribution of mission status among various companies together with their corresponding results in a sunburst graphic. This graphic offers a thorough synopsis of the mission results in relation to certain firms [29].

Sunburst Chart for some Countries



Figure 13: Sunburst Chart Illustrating Mission Status Distribution Across Companies

5. Conclusion

To sum up, our research has offered a comprehensive analysis of space launch data covering more than 60 years, from 1957 to 2023. An accurate and current understanding of space launch activity has been obtained by combining data from a Kaggle dataset with web-scraped data for the most recent year. Important discoveries have been made by the methodical application of data pretreatment, exploratory data analysis (EDA), and different visualization techniques. A detailed investigation of the distribution of space missions throughout businesses, nations, and rocket models has been made easier by the wide range of visualizations, which include standard bar and line charts in addition to more specialized forms like the sunburst chart and choropleth map.

Future research in this area should focus on predictive modeling and more detailed assessments. It is worthwhile to investigate the elements that affect mission success, investigate the particulars of businesses with distinctive launch profiles, and use machine learning for predictive analytics. Furthermore, considering the geopolitical and environmental effects of space missions can help us comprehend the wider picture more thoroughly. Capturing changing trends and patterns in the dynamic field of space exploration will require ongoing updates to the dataset and studies. Incorporating new technologies and approaches will improve the scope and depth of upcoming research in this dynamic field.

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