

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

Marie-Caroline Bouteloup May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023



#### Outline

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

#### **Executive Summary**

- Throughout the project, I will diligently follow the Data Science methodology, which
  involves various stages such as data collection, data wrangling, exploratory data analysis,
  data visualization, model development, model evaluation, and reporting the outcomes
  to relevant stakeholders.
- By leveraging the insights and models derived from my Data Science work, the startup I
  am working for will be equipped to make more informed and competitive bids against
  SpaceX for rocket launches.
- We will see at the end that the different algorithmic methods show the same results of 0.83 on the test data

#### Introduction



Falcon 9 Flight 20 OG2 first stage post-landing (23273082823).jpg

- The capstone project aims to predict the successful landing of the Falcon 9 first stage. SpaceX, the company behind Falcon 9, promotes its rocket launches on its website, offering a price of \$62 million per launch. In comparison, other providers charge over \$165 million for each launch due to their inability to reuse the first stage.
- Therefore, accurately predicting the first stage landing outcome would enable the estimation of launch costs. This information becomes valuable for competing companies interested in bidding against SpaceX for rocket launch contracts.



# Methodology

#### **Executive Summary**

- Data collection methodology:
  - Describe how data was collected
- Perform data wrangling
  - Describe how data was processed
- 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**

Description how the SpaceX Falcon9 datasets were collected

This project involves collecting data from the SpaceX REST API for a capstone assignment, focusing on rocket details, payload information, launch and landing specifications, and outcomes. The goal is to predict if SpaceX will attempt rocket landings. The specific endpoint used is "api.spacexdata.com/v4/launches/past." A GET request is made to obtain launch data in JSON format.

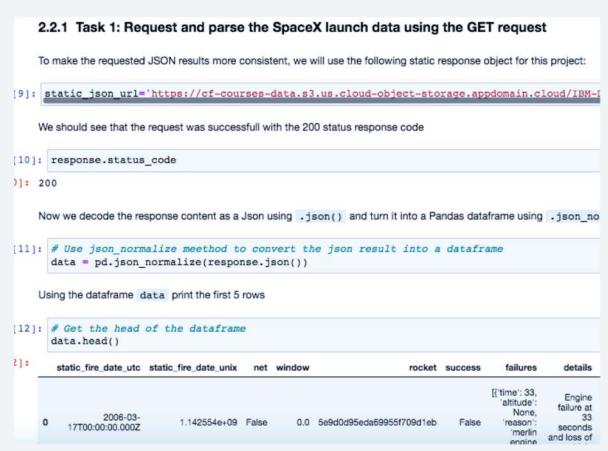
JSON data is converted into a structured table using the "json\_normalize" function. Falcon 9 launch data can also be acquired through web scraping using BeautifulSoup on Wiki pages. The scraped data is parsed and transformed into a Pandas dataframe for analysis.

Challenges include dealing with identification numbers in some columns, requiring additional API endpoints for specific data. Falcon 1 launches are filtered out to focus on Falcon 9 launches. Null values in the PayloadMass column are replaced with the mean of available data. NULL values in the LandingPad column indicate no landing pad, which will be addressed using one-hot encoding later on.

# Data Collection – SpaceX API

- 1. Request and parse the SpaceX launch data by making a GET request.
- 2. Decode the response content into JSON and normalize it to a Pandas dataframe.
- 3. Extract useful columns using provided launch ids.
- 4. Construct the dataset by combining the obtained columns into a dictionary.
- 5. Create a Pandas dataframe from the dictionary.
- 6. Filter the dataframe to include only Falcon 9 launches.
- 7. Handle missing values in the dataset.
- 8. Export the processed data to a CSV file.

**GitHub URL:** <a href="https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/1-Space-X%20Data%20Collection%20API.ipynb">https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/1-Space-X%20Data%20Collection%20API.ipynb</a>



# Data Collection - Scraping

- 1. Request the Falcon9 Launch Wiki page from its URL
- 2. Extract all column/variable names from the HTML table header
- 3. Create a data frame by parsing the launch HTML tables
- 4. Export to CSV file

**GitHub URL:** <a href="https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/2-Data%20Collection%20with%20Web%20Scraping.ipynb">https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/2-Data%20Collection%20with%20Web%20Scraping.ipynb</a>

#### 1.2.1 TASK 1: Request the Falcon9 Launch Wiki page from its URL

First, let's perform an HTTP GET method to request the Falcon9 Launch HTML page, as an HTT

```
]: # use requests.get() method with the provided static_url
# assign the response to a object
response = requests.get(static_url)
```

Create a BeautifulSoup object from the HTML response

# Use BeautifulSoup() to create a BeautifulSoup object from a response
soup = BeautifulSoup(response.content, 'html.parser')

Print the page title to verify if the BeautifulSoup object was created properly

```
]: # Use soup.title attribute soup.title
```

: <title>List of Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launches - Wikipedia</title>

# Data Wrangling

- 1. Calculate the number of launches on each site
- 2. Calculate the number and occurrence of each orbit
- 3. Calculate the number and occurence of mission outcome per orbit type
- 4. Create a landing outcome label from Outcome column
- 5. Export to CSV file

**GitHub URL:** <a href="https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/3-Data%20Wrangling.ipynb">https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/3-Data%20Wrangling.ipynb</a>

#### 1.3.2 TASK 1: Calculate the number of launches on each site

The data contains several Space X launch facilities: <u>Cape Canaveral Space</u> Launch C Complex 4E (SLC-4E), Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A KSC LC 39A .T

Next, let's see the number of launches for each site.

Use the method value\_counts() on the column LaunchSite to determine the

```
# Apply value_counts() on column LaunchSite
df['LaunchSite'].value_counts()
```

```
CCAFS SLC 40 55
KSC LC 39A 22
VAFB SLC 4E 13
Name: LaunchSite, dtype: int64
```

#### **EDA** with Data Visualization

1. Perform exploratory Data Analysis and Feature Engineering using Pandas and Matplotlib

**Exploratory Data Analysis** 

**Preparing Data Feature Engineering** 

- 2. Using scatter plots to visualize the relationship between FlightNumber vs. PayloadMassand, Flight Number vs. Launch Site and Payload vs. Launch Site, FlightNumber vs. Orbit type
- 3. a bar chart for the sucess rate of each orbit (comparison of values between several groups at the same time)
- 4. a line plot to observe that the sucess rate since 2013 kept increasing till 2020 (view data trends over time)

GitHub URL: <a href="https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/5-EDA%20with%20Visualization.ipynb">https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/5-EDA%20with%20Visualization.ipynb</a>

#### **EDA** with SQL

Summary of SQL queries used

**GitHub URL:** <a href="https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/4-EDA%20with%20SQL.ipynb">https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/4-EDA%20with%20SQL.ipynb</a>

Display the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission

```
%sql SELECT DISTINCT(launch_site) FROM SPACEXTBL
```

Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'

```
%sql SELECT * FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE Launch_Site LIKE 'CCA%' LIMIT 5;
```

Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)

```
%sql SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS 'Total_Payload_Mass(Kg)', Customer FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE Customer
```

Display average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1

```
%sql SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS 'Average_Payload_Mass(Kg)', Customer, Booster_Version FROM SPACEX
```

List the date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was acheived.

```
%sql SELECT "Date", Landing_Outcome, MIN(substr('Date',7,4)) AS '' FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE Landing_Outcom
```

#### **EDA** with SQL

• List the names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000

```
%sql SELECT Booster_Version, Landing_Outcome, PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE Landing_Outcome
```

List the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes

```
%sql SELECT Mission_Outcome, COUNT(Mission_Outcome) AS 'Total_Number' FROM SPACEXTBL GROUP BY Mis
```

• List the names of the booster\_versions which have carried the maximum payload mass. Use a subquery

```
%sql SELECT Booster_Version, Payload, PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ =
```

• List the records which will display the month names, failure landing\_outcomes in drone ship ,booster versions, launch site for the months in year 2015.

```
%sql SELECT substr(Date,4,2) AS 'Month', substr(Date,7,4) AS 'Year', Booster_Version, Launch_Site
```

13

 Rank the count of successful landing\_outcomes between the date 04-06-2010 and 20-03-2017 in descending order.

```
%sql SELECT Landing_Outcome, COUNT(*) AS 'Count' from SPACEXTBL WHERE Landing_Outcome LIKE 'S
```

# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- The success rate of rocket launches can be influenced by various factors, including payload mass, orbit type, and launch site location. The location of a launch site plays a crucial role in determining the initial trajectories of rockets. Identifying an optimal location for constructing a launch site involves considering multiple factors. By analyzing existing launch site locations, it is possible to gain insights into some of these factors.
- Interactive visual analytics using Folium will be performed to further explore and analyze the data. Folium is a Python library used for creating interactive maps and visualizations. This tool will enable a more interactive and dynamic approach to visualizing and understanding the launch site locations and their associated factors.
- After drawing the distance lines to the proximities, we can easily answer the following questions:
  - Are launch sites in close proximity to railways? Yes
  - Are launch sites in close proximity to highways? Yes
  - Are launch sites in close proximity to coastline? Yes
  - Do launch sites keep certain distance away from cities? Yes

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- The Plotly Dash app allowing users to perform interactive visual analysis on SpaceX launch data in real time.
- This dashboard application contains input components such as a dropdown list and a range slider to interact with a pie chart and a scatter point chart:
  - A drop-down entry component from the launch site
  - A callback function to display the success pie chart based on the selected site dropdown
  - A range slider to select the payload
  - A callback function to display the success scatter plot payload-scatter-chart

GitHub URL: https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/7-Build%20an%20Interactive%20Dashboard%20with%20Ploty%20Dash.py

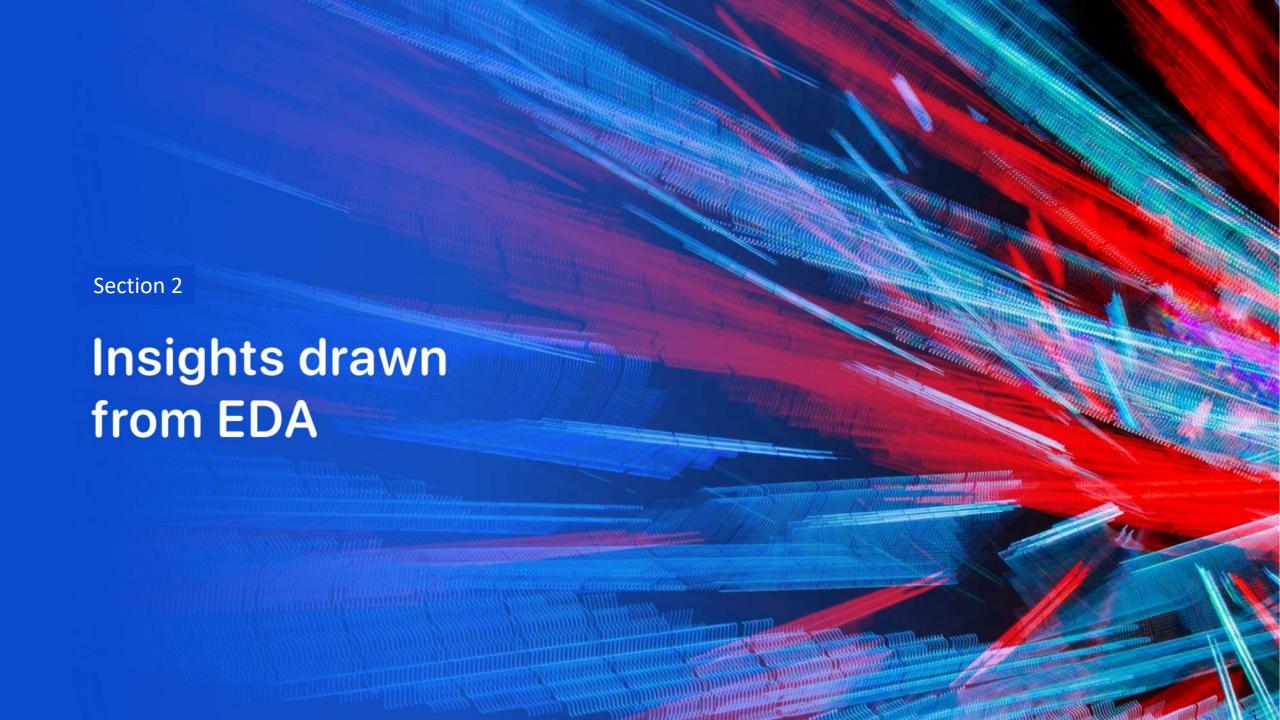
# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

- Summary of how I built, evaluated, improved and found the best performing classification model after load the data
- Perform exploratory Data Analysis and determine Training Labels:
  - create a column for the class, by applying the method to\_numpy() then assign it to the variable Y, make sure the output is a Pandas series.
  - Standardize the data in X then reassign it to the variable X using the transform provided below.
  - Split into training data and test data. Set the parameter test\_size to 0.2 and random\_state to 2. The training data and test data should be assigned to the following labels.
  - Find best Hyperparameter for SVM, Classification Trees and Logistic Regression
  - Find the method performs best using test data based on their accuracy scores and confusion matrix

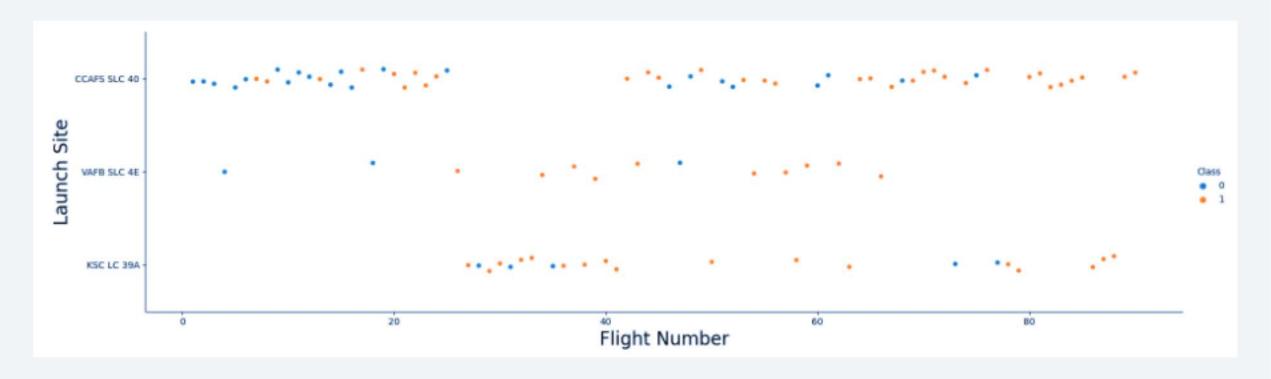
GitHub URL: https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/8-Space-X%20Machine%20Learning%20Prediction.ipynb

#### Results

- Exploratory data analysis results
- Interactive analytics demo in screenshots
- Predictive analysis results

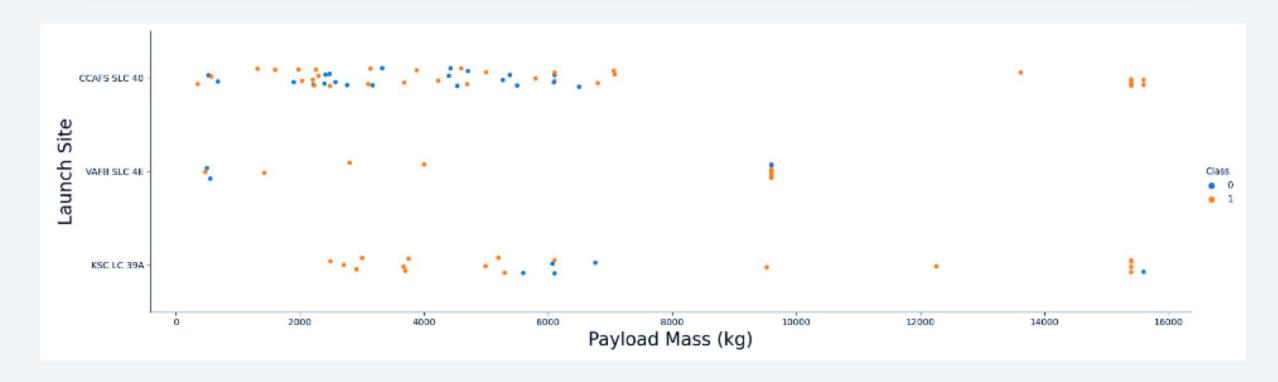


#### Flight Number vs. Launch Site



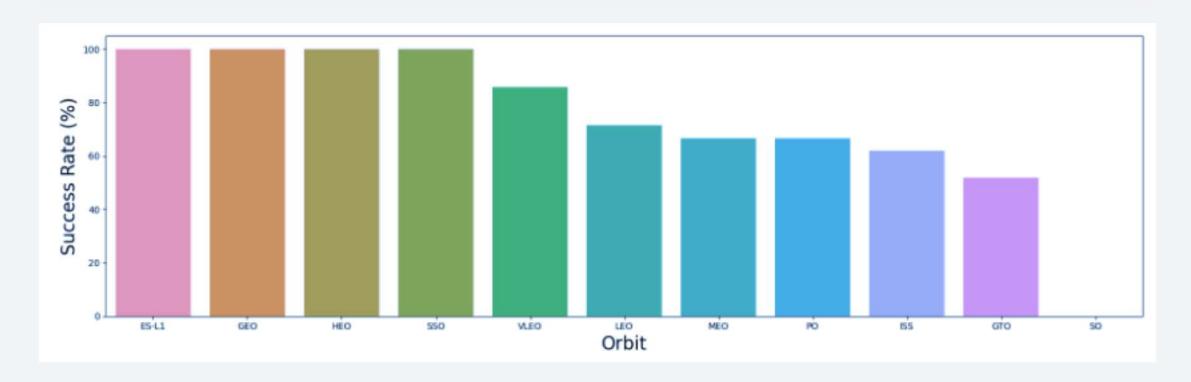
• We see that different launch sites have different success rates. VAFB SLC 4E, has a success rate of 50%, while CCAFS LC-40 and KSC LC-39A has a success rate of 80%.

#### Payload vs. Launch Site



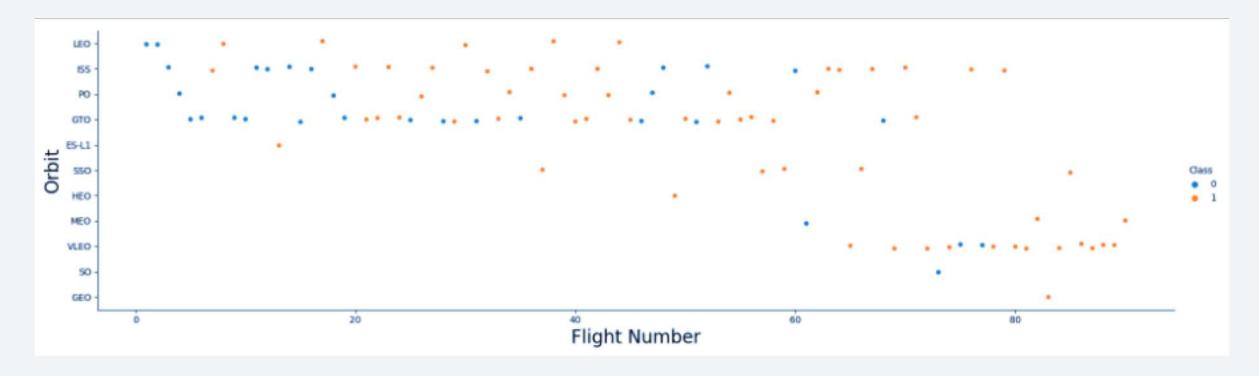
• Now if we observe Payload Vs. Launch Site scatter point chart we will find for the VAFB-SLC launch site there are no rockets launched for heavy payload mass(greater than 10000).

# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type



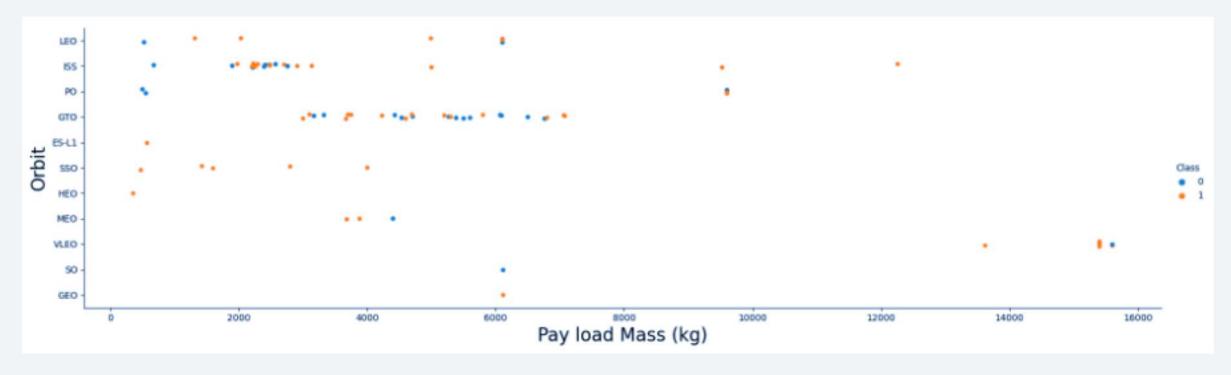
• The success rate of each orbit is 100% for ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO, an average of 60% for others but 0% for SO.

# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type



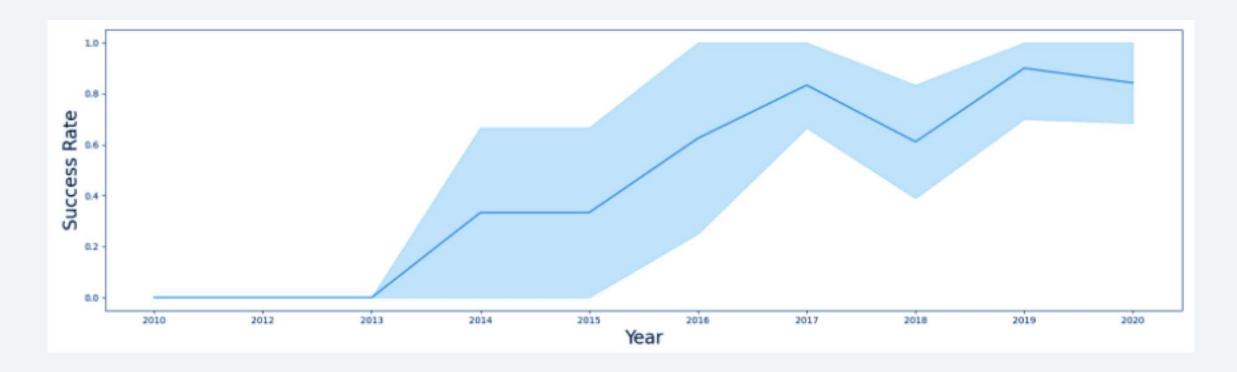
• We should see that in the LEO orbit the Success appears related to the number of flights; on the other hand, there seems to be no relationship between flight number when in GTO orbit.

#### Payload vs. Orbit Type



- With heavy payloads the successful landing or positive landing rate are more for PO, SSO, LEO and ISS.
- However for GTO we cannot distinguish this well as both positive landing rate and negative landing (unsuccessful mission) are both there here.

# Launch Success Yearly Trend



• We can observe that the sucess rate since 2013 kept increasing till 2020.

#### All Launch Site Names

We used *DISTINCT*(*launch\_site*) to find the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission

```
%sql SELECT DISTINCT(launch_site) FROM SPACEXTBL

* sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

Launch_Site

CCAFS LC-40

VAFB SLC-4E

KSC LC-39A

CCAFS SLC-40

None
```

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

%sql SELECT \* FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE Launch Site LIKE 'CCA%' LIMIT 5; \* sqlite:///my datal.db Done. Launch Site Date Booster\_Version Payload PAYLOAD MASS KG Orbit Customer Mission Outcome Landing Outcome CCAFS LC-Dragon Spacecraft 06/04/2010 18:45:00 F9 v1.0 B0003 0.0 LEO SpaceX Success Failure (parachute) Qualification Unit Dragon demo flight C1, CCAFS LC-**LEO** NASA two CubeSats, barrel of 0.0 Failure (parachute) 12/08/2010 15:43:00 F9 v1.0 B0004 Success (COTS) NRO Brouere cheese CCAFS LC-LE<sub>0</sub> NASA 22/05/2012 7:44:00 F9 v1.0 B0005 Dragon demo flight C2 525.0 Success No attempt (ISS) (COTS) CCAFS LC-NASA (CRS) 10/08/2012 0:35:00 F9 v1.0 B0006 SpaceX CRS-1 500.0 Success No attempt CCAFS LC-15:10:00 F9 v1.0 B0007 SpaceX CRS-2 677.0 NASA (CRS) 03/01/2013 Success No attempt

• We used the WHERE clauses of the Lunch\_Site column to select the launch sites, LIKE begin with the string CCA with the % and LIMIT limited to 5 lines.

# **Total Payload Mass**

```
$sql SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS 'Total_Payload_Mass(Kg)', Customer FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE Customer = 'NASA (CRS)';

* sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

Total_Payload_Mass(Kg) Customer

45596.0 NASA (CRS)
```

We used the SUM() function to calculate the total sum of the PAYLOAD\_MASS\_KG column for the customer NASA (CRS) from SPACEXTBL table.

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

```
* sql SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS 'Average_Payload_Mass(Kg)', Customer, Booster_Version
FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE Booster_Version LIKE 'F9 v1.1';

* sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

Average_Payload_Mass(Kg) Customer Booster_Version

2928.4 SES F9 v1.1
```

 We calculated the average of the PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_ column and displayed the Average\_Payload\_Mass(Kg), Customer, Booster\_Version columns then selected F9 v1.1 with LIKE of the Booster\_Version column from SPACEXTBL table.

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

```
# sql SELECT "Date", Landing_Outcome, MIN(substr('Date',7,4)) AS '' FROM SPACEXTBL
WHERE Landing_Outcome = 'Success (ground pad)';

* sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

Date Landing_Outcome

22/12/2015 Success (ground pad)
```

• We selected the *Date, Landing\_Outcome* columns where the first date of the *Date* column with the *MIN()* function, is *Success (ground pad)* of the *Landing\_Outcome* column.

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

• We selected *Booster\_Version, Landing\_Outcome, PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_* columns where the *Success (drone ship)* is in the *Landing\_Outcome* column and the search result *PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_* must between greater than 4000 and less than 6000.

#### Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

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

**Mission_Outcome Total_Number
None 0
Failure (in flight) 1
Success 98
Success 1
Success (payload status unclear) 1
```

 To know the total number of successful and failed mission results, we selected the *Mission\_Outcome* column, used the *COUNT()* function of the *Mission\_Outcome* column naming it *Total Number*, grouped with the *GROUP BY* clause of the *Mission\_Outcome* column.

# **Boosters Carried Maximum Payload**

```
% sql SELECT Booster_Version, Payload, PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ FROM SPACEXTBL
WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ = (SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM SPACEXTBL);
```

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

	Booster_Version	Payload	PAYLOAD_MASSKG_
Ι	F9 B5 B1048.4	Starlink 1 v1.0, SpaceX CRS-19	15600.0
	F9 B5 B1049.4	Starlink 2 v1.0, Crew Dragon in-flight abort test	15600.0
	F9 B5 B1051.3	Starlink 3 v1.0, Starlink 4 v1.0	15600.0
	F9 B5 B1056.4	Starlink 4 v1.0, SpaceX CRS-20	15600.0
	F9 B5 B1048.5	Starlink 5 v1.0, Starlink 6 v1.0	15600.0
	F9 B5 B1051.4	Starlink 6 v1.0, Crew Dragon Demo-2	15600.0
	F9 B5 B1049.5	Starlink 7 v1.0, Starlink 8 v1.0	15600.0
	F9 B5 B1060.2	Starlink 11 v1.0, Starlink 12 v1.0	15600.0
	F9 B5 B1058.3	Starlink 12 v1.0, Starlink 13 v1.0	15600.0
	F9 B5 B1051.6	Starlink 13 v1.0, Starlink 14 v1.0	15600.0
	F9 B5 B1060.3	Starlink 14 v1.0, GPS III-04	15600.0
	F9 B5 B1049.7	Starlink 15 v1.0, SpaceX CRS-21	15600.0

To list the names of the booster\_versions that carried the maximum payload mass we selected the columns
 Booster\_Version, Payload,
 PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_ and displayed the maximum mass of the column with the MAX() function of the PAYLOAD MASS\_\_KG\_ column.

#### 2015 Launch Records

```
# sql SELECT substr(Date, 4, 2) AS 'Month', substr(Date, 7, 4) AS 'Year', Booster_Version, Launch_Site,
Payload, Customer, Landing_Outcome FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE substr(Date, 7, 4) = '2015'
AND Landing_Outcome = 'Failure (drone ship)';

* sqlite:///my_datal.db
Done.

Month Year Booster_Version Launch_Site Payload Customer Landing_Outcome

10 2015 F9 v1.1 B1012 CCAFS LC-40 SpaceX CRS-5 NASA (CRS) Failure (drone ship)
04 2015 F9 v1.1 B1015 CCAFS LC-40 SpaceX CRS-6 NASA (CRS) Failure (drone ship)
```

• To list the records that will show month names, landing\_outcomes failures in the drone, booster, launch\_site versions for the months of the year 2015, we selected *Booster\_Version*, *Launch\_Site*, *Payload*, *Customer*, *Landing\_Outcome* columns subtracted the year with the *substr()* clause of the *Date* column to create a *Year* column and display the year 2015, then select Failure (drone ship) of the *Landing\_Outcome* column.

33

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

```
% sql SELECT Landing_Outcome, COUNT(*) AS 'Count' from SPACEXTBL WHERE Landing_Outcome LIKE 'Success%'
AND Date BETWEEN '04/06/2010' AND '20/03/2017' GROUP BY Landing_Outcome ORDER BY 2 DESC;

* sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

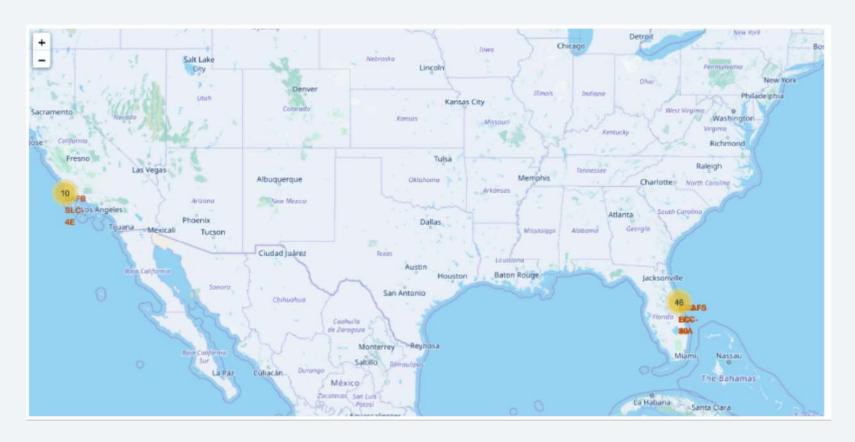
Landing_Outcome Count

Success (drone ship) 8
Success (ground pad) 7
```

• To rank the number of successful landing\_outcomes, we counted everything with the *COUNT(\*)* function and created a column *Count* the successes of the *Landing\_Outcome* column grouped with *GROUP BY* where the date must be between 04/06/2010 AND 20/03/2017 in descending order *DESC*.

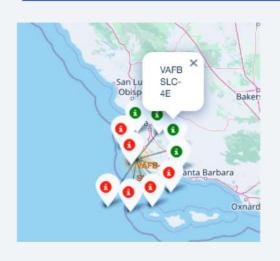


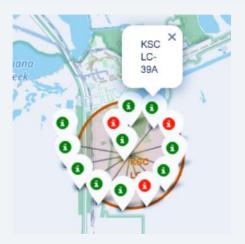
# Location of all SpaceX launch sites



• It is in the interest of rocket operators to use as little fuel as possible to reach orbit, hence the idea of getting as close as possible to the Equator line and coasts hence the yellow markers Spacex launch sites in the US.

# Show the color-labeled launch outcomes on the map









California sites

Florida sites

- We visualize the launch sites in California and Florida.
- It is noticed that the KSC LC-39A launch site in Florida has higher success rates compared to CCAFS LC-40 and CCAFS SLC-40.

### Screenshot of a selected launch site to its proximities





• The proximities of the CCAFS SLC-40 launch site are:

distance\_coastline = 0.86 km

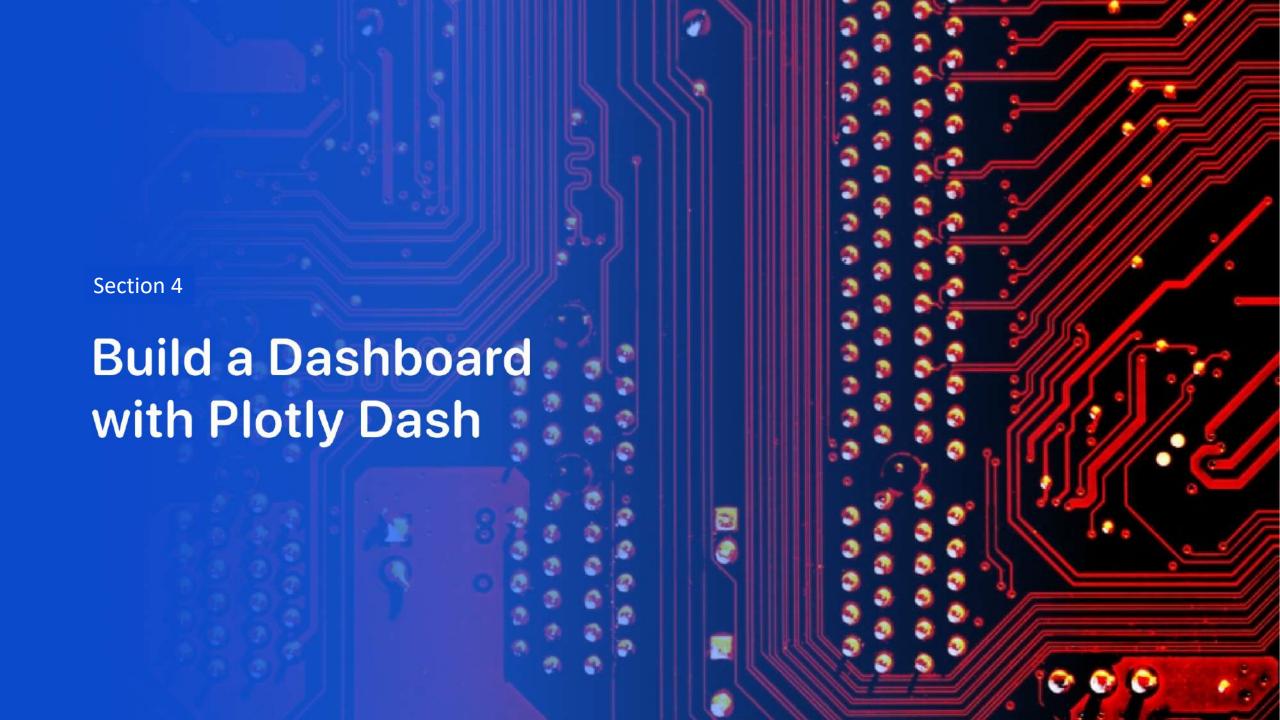
```
Distance railway = 1.27 km

Distance highway = 0.57 km

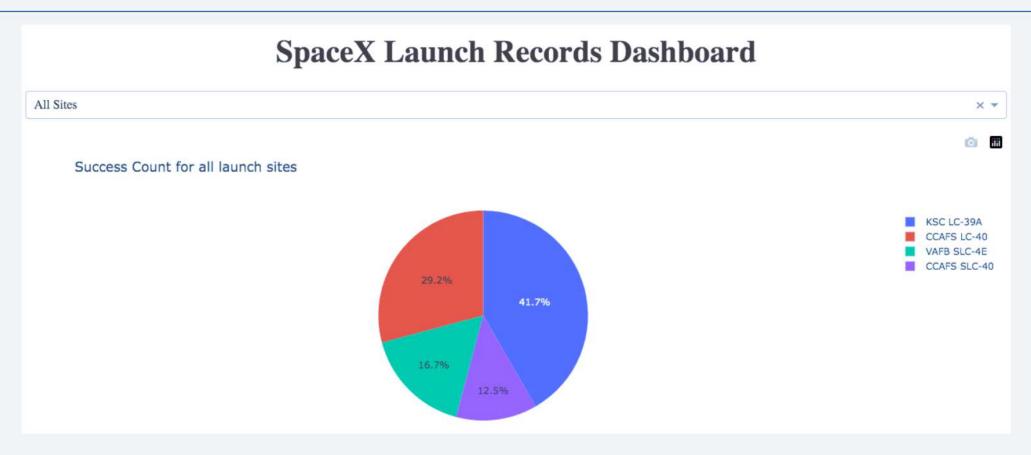
Distance closest_city (Titusville) = 23.13 km

Distance airport = 11.05 km

Distance city 2 (Melbourne) = 51.78 km
```

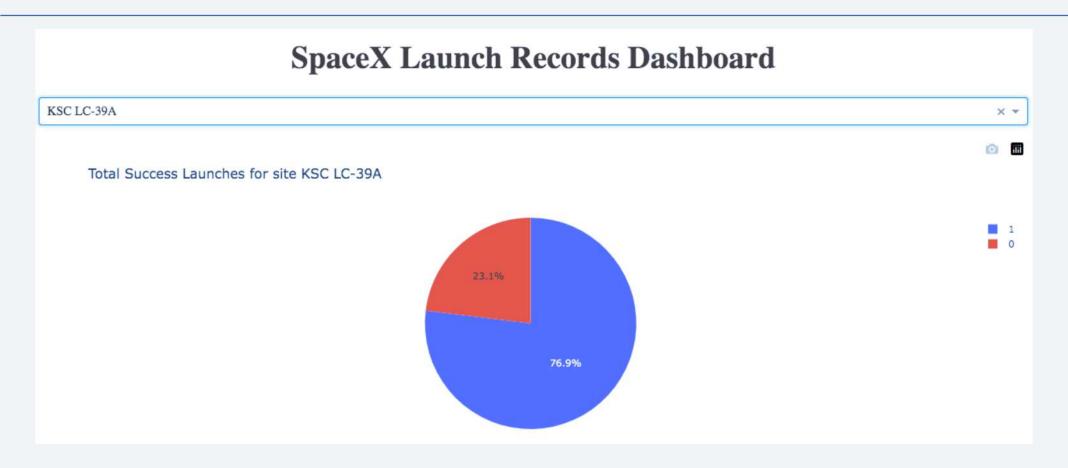


#### Screenshot of launch success count for all sites



- The launch success results counted for all sites, in a pie chart are:
  - 41.7% KSC LC-39A, 29.2% CCAFS LC-40, 16.7% VAFB SLC-4E and 12.5% CCAFS SLC-40

### Launch site with highest launch success ratio



• The launch site with highest launch success ratio is the KSLC-39A with 76.9%.

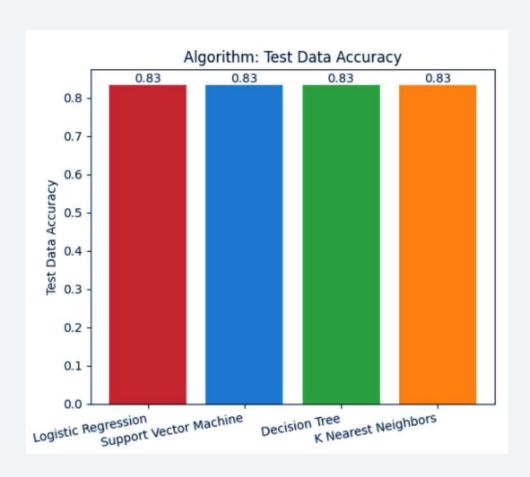
## Payload vs launch result for all sites



 The highest number of successful launches is the CCAFS LC-40 launch site with the FT booster version from a payload mass above 2000 kg.



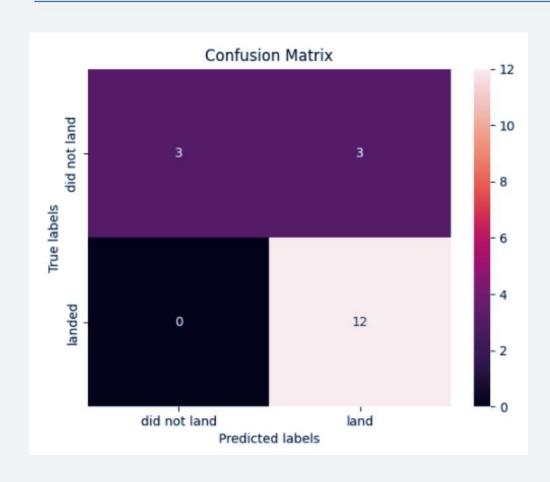
# **Classification Accuracy**



• The different algorithm methods show the same results of 0.83 on the test data.

Algorithm	Test Data Accuracy
Logistic Regression	0.833333
Support Vector Machine	0.833333
Decision Tree	0.833333
K Nearest Neighbors	0.833333

#### **Confusion Matrix**



- The model predicted:
  - 12 successful landings (True Positive)
  - 3 failed landings (True Negative)
- But,
  - 3 successful landings (false positive)
- False positives are problematic.

#### Conclusions

- We see that different launch sites have different success rates. VAFB SLC 4E, has a success rate of 50%, while CCAFS LC-40 and KSC LC-39A has a success rate of 80%.
- The success rate of each orbit is 100% for ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO, an average of 60% for others but 0% for SO
- We can observe that the success rate since 2013 kept increasing till 2020.
- We should see that in the LEO orbit the success appears related to the number of flights; on the other hand, there seems to be no relationship between flight number when in GTO orbit.
- Lighter payloads have a higher success rate.
- The predictive models used for this dataset have a result of 83%.

## **Appendix**

• IBM Applied Data Science Capstone: https://www.coursera.org/learn/applied-data-sciencecapstone/home/week/1

• GitHub repository: <a href="https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone">https://github.com/mariek22/IBM-Applied-Data-Science-Capstone</a>

