



IBM Developer  
SKILLS NETWORK

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

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10<sup>th</sup> August 2023



# Outline

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

# Executive Summary

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- Summary of methodologies
  - Data collection
  - Data Wrangling
  - EDA with Data Visualization
  - EDA with SQL
  - Building an interactive map with Folium
  - Building a Dashboard with Plotly Dash
  - Predictive Analysis (Classification)
- Summary of all results
  - EDA Results
  - Interactive Analysis
  - Predictive Analysis

# Introduction

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- Project background and context
  - Commercial rocket launches is a very competitive market.
  - In terms of cost, China, India, Russia are tough competitors. Since 2017, SpaceX Falcon9/Falcon9 Heavy is increasingly dominating the market with better cost per kg thanks to the reusable booster concept.
  - SpaceX advertises Falcon 9 rocket launches on its website, with a cost of \$62 million; other providers cost upward of \$165 million each, much of the savings is because SpaceX can reuse the first stage.
- Problems you want to find answers
  - The project task is to predict if the first stage of the Space X Falcon 9 rocket will land successfully



Section 1

# Methodology

# Methodology

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## Executive Summary

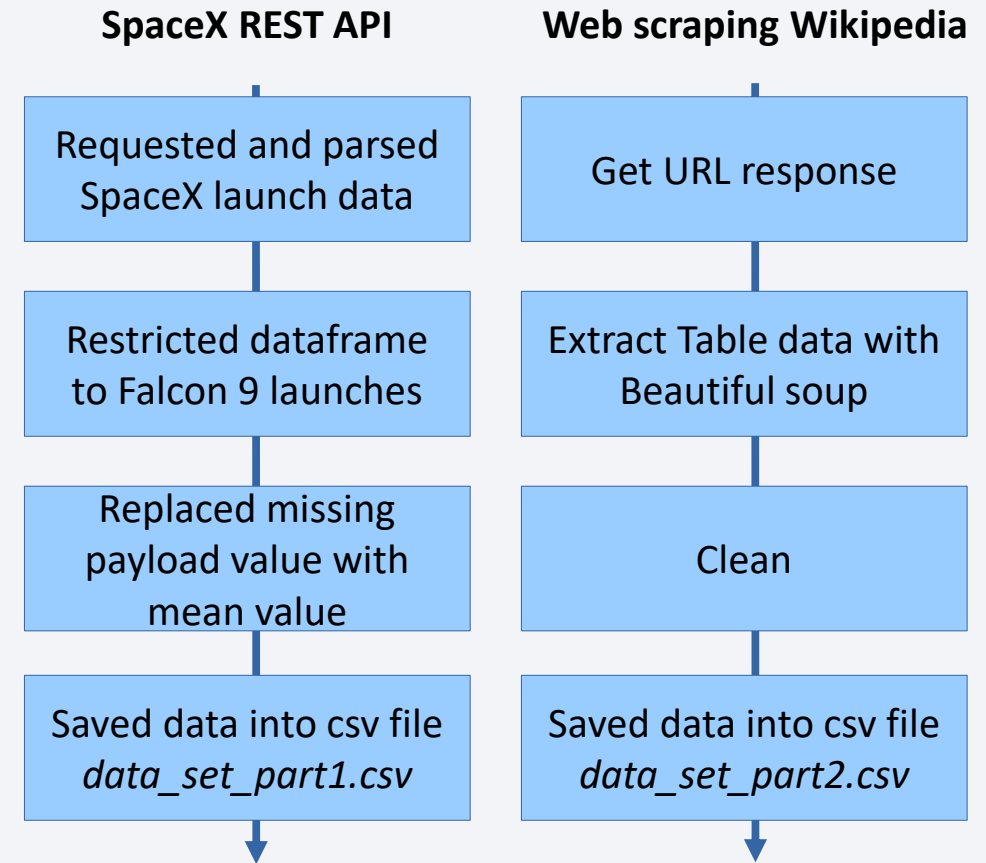
- Data collection methodology:
  - SpaceX Rest API
  - Web Scraping from Wikipedia
- Perform data wrangling
  - One Hot Encoding data fields for Machine Learning and data cleaning of null values and irrelevant columns
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
  - Linear Regression, KNN, SVM, Decision Tree models have been built and evaluated for the best classifier.

# Data Collection

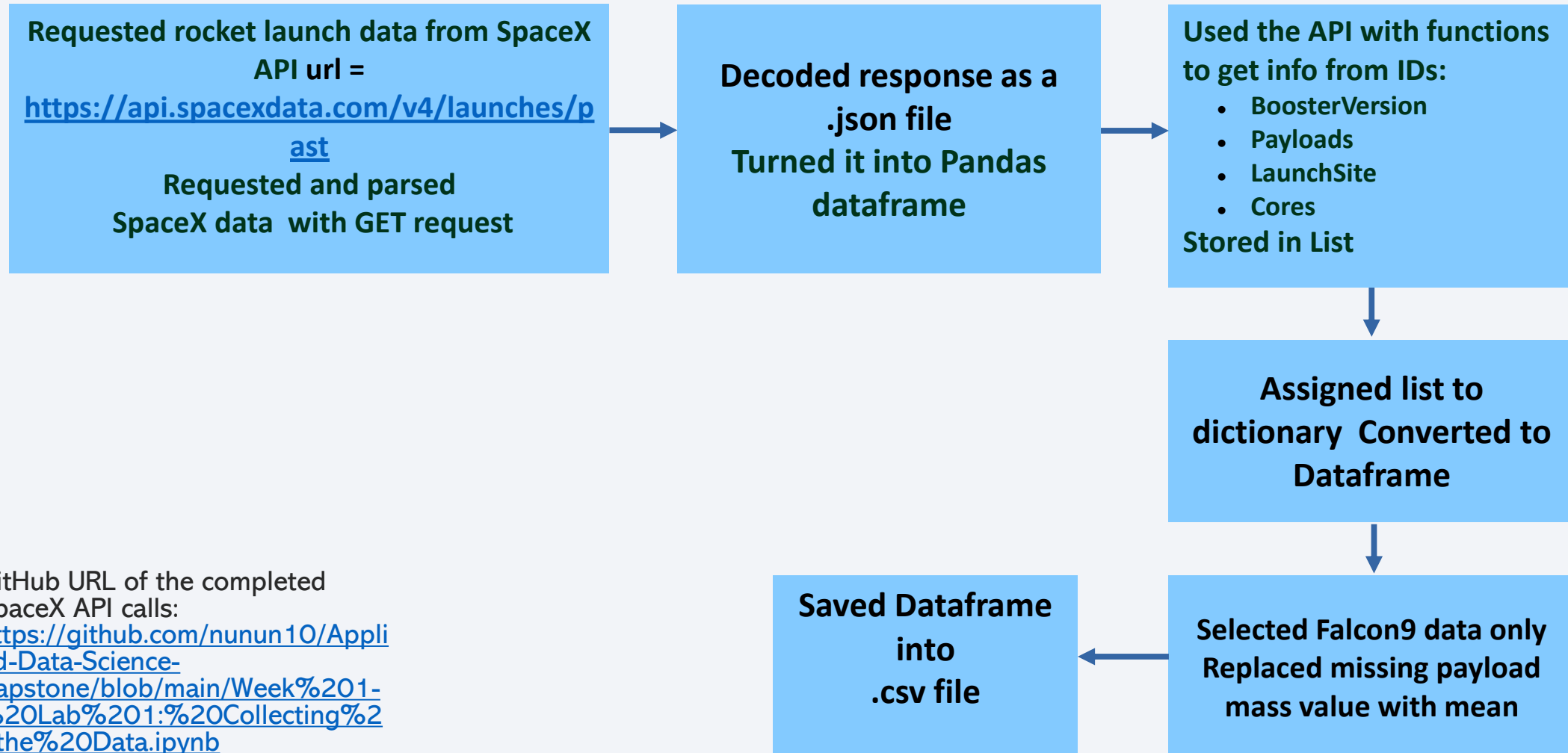
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Data was collected by the following methods:

- open source SpaceX REST API
- webscraping Falcon9 launch data in Wikipedia



# Data Collection – SpaceX API

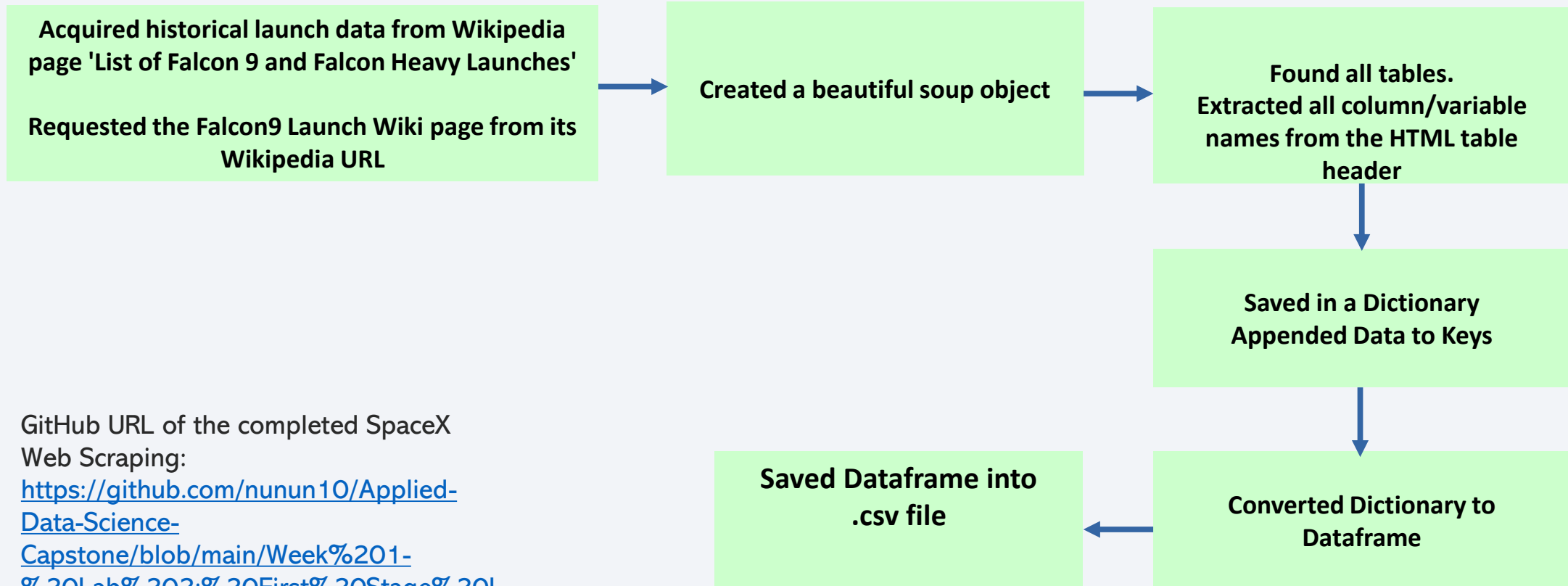


GitHub URL of the completed  
SpaceX API calls:  
<https://github.com/nunun10/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/Week%201-%20Lab%201:%20Collecting%20Other%20Data.ipynb>



# Data Collection - Scraping

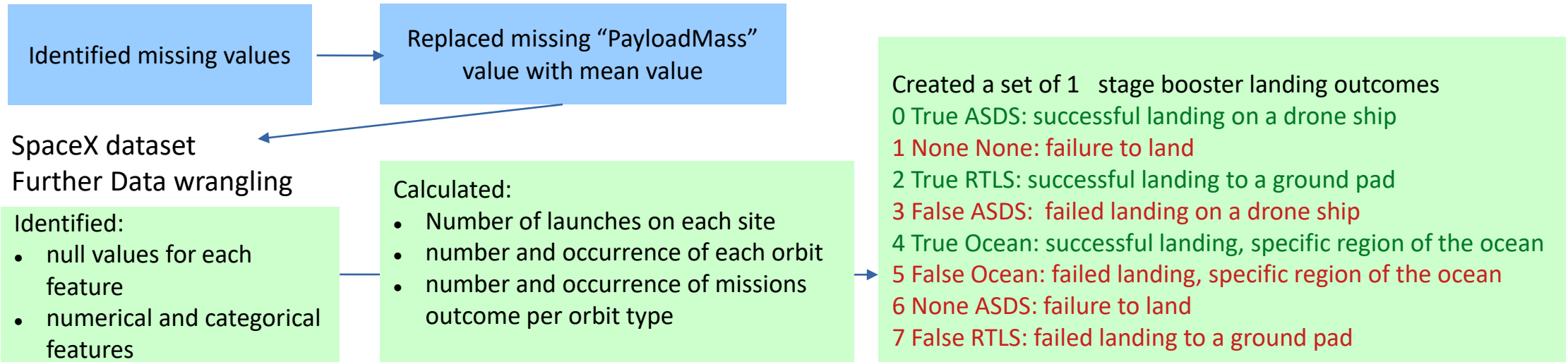
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GitHub URL of the completed SpaceX Web Scraping:  
<https://github.com/nunun10/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/Week%201-%20Lab%202:%20First%20Stage%20Landing%20Prediction%20Web%20Scraping.ipynb>

# Data Wrangling

Dataframe  
From SpaceX API



	FlightNumber	Date	BoosterVersion	PayloadMass	Orbit	LaunchSite	Outcome	Class
49	50	2018-05-11	Falcon 9	3750.00	GTO	KSC LC 39A	True ASDS	1
47	48	2018-04-02	Falcon 9	2760.00	ISS	CCAFS SLC 40	None None	0
50	51	2018-06-04	Falcon 9	5383.85	GTO	CCAFS SLC 40	None None	0
44	45	2018-01-31	Falcon 9	4230.00	GTO	CCAFS SLC 40	True Ocean	1
11	12	2015-01-10	Falcon 9	2395.00	ISS	CCAFS SLC 40	False ASDS	0

# EDA with Data Visualization

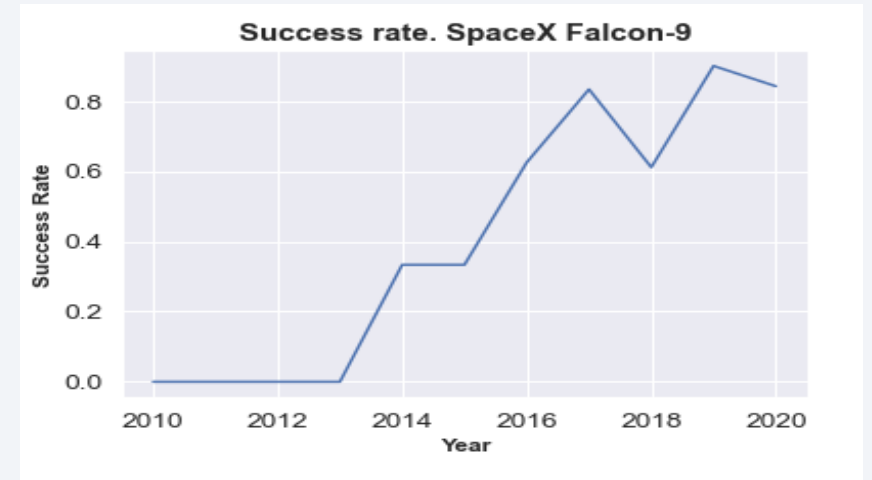
Exploring data in the Falcon 9 data frame searching for factors and relations influencing launching success rate (booster recovery).

- Payload mass
- Orbit type
- Launch site

Graphs and scatter charts with Matplotlib – Seaborn and Analysis.

Results with Scatter charts are labeled: class 0-1 (failure/success).

- Payload mass v. Flight Number
- Launch Site v. Flight number
- Launch Site v. Payload mass
- Orbit v. Flight number
- Orbit v. Payload mass
- Histogram: success rate for each orbit
- Falcon 9 & Ariane-5 launch success yearly trend.



# EDA with SQL

---

The following were created:

- MySQL local server
- Database: 'spacex\_database'
- SpaceX csv file in Table “spacex\_v11”
- Connection “conn” with “spacex\_database”.

GitHub URL of the completed EDA with data visualization notebook:

<https://github.com/nunun10/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/Week%20-%20Lab%201:%20EDA%20with%20SQL.ipynb>

# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

Launch success rate may depend on the location and proximity of a launch site. **Folium Interactive Map** was used for visualizing and analyzing **SpaceX Launch Sites**.

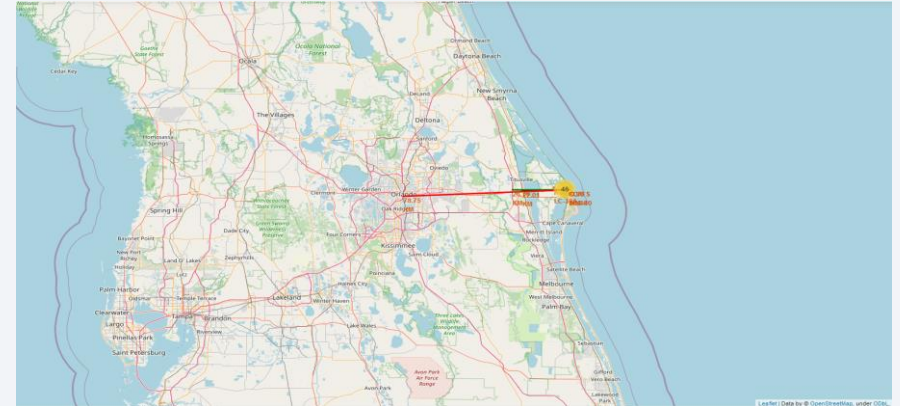
- Used Interactive mapping library called Folium
- Identified all SpaceX launch sites on a map: Florida, California
- Included longitude and latitude info.
- Identified successful/failed launches for each site on map

Calculated the distance between a launch site (CCAFS\_SLC40 in Cape Canaveral, FL ) and:

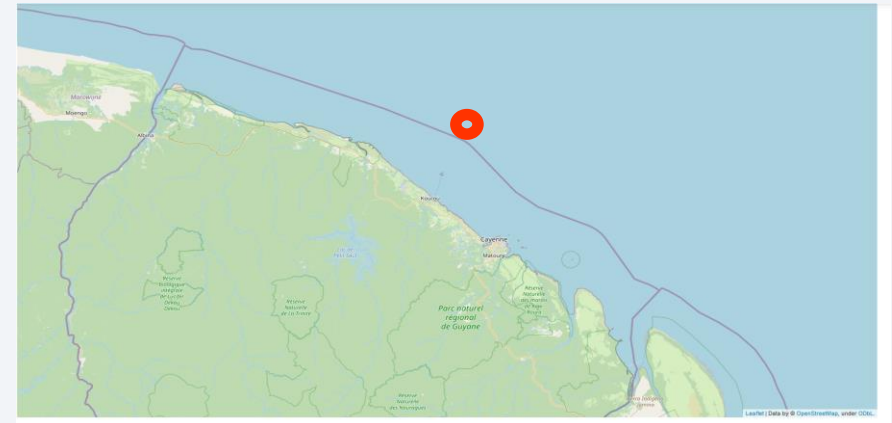
- Closest coastline
- Closest high traffic density railway: Florida East Coast Railway
- Closest high traffic density highway: Interstate I95
- Closest high density urban area: Orlando (FL)

For reference, we added the localization of European Space Agency (ESA) /ArianeEspace Ariane 5 and Soyuz launch pads in Kourou, French Guiana.

GitHub URL of the completed notebook: <https://github.com/nunun10/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/Week%203-%20Lab%201:%20Launch%20Sites%20Locations%20Analysis%20with%20Folium.ipynb>



CCAFS\_SLC40 in Cape Canaveral FL  
Coordinates: -80.577°, 28.563°



Ariane launch pad - Kourou in French Guiana  
Coordinates: -52.792°, 5.265° (~ Equator)



# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

We built an interactive dashboard with Plotly including:

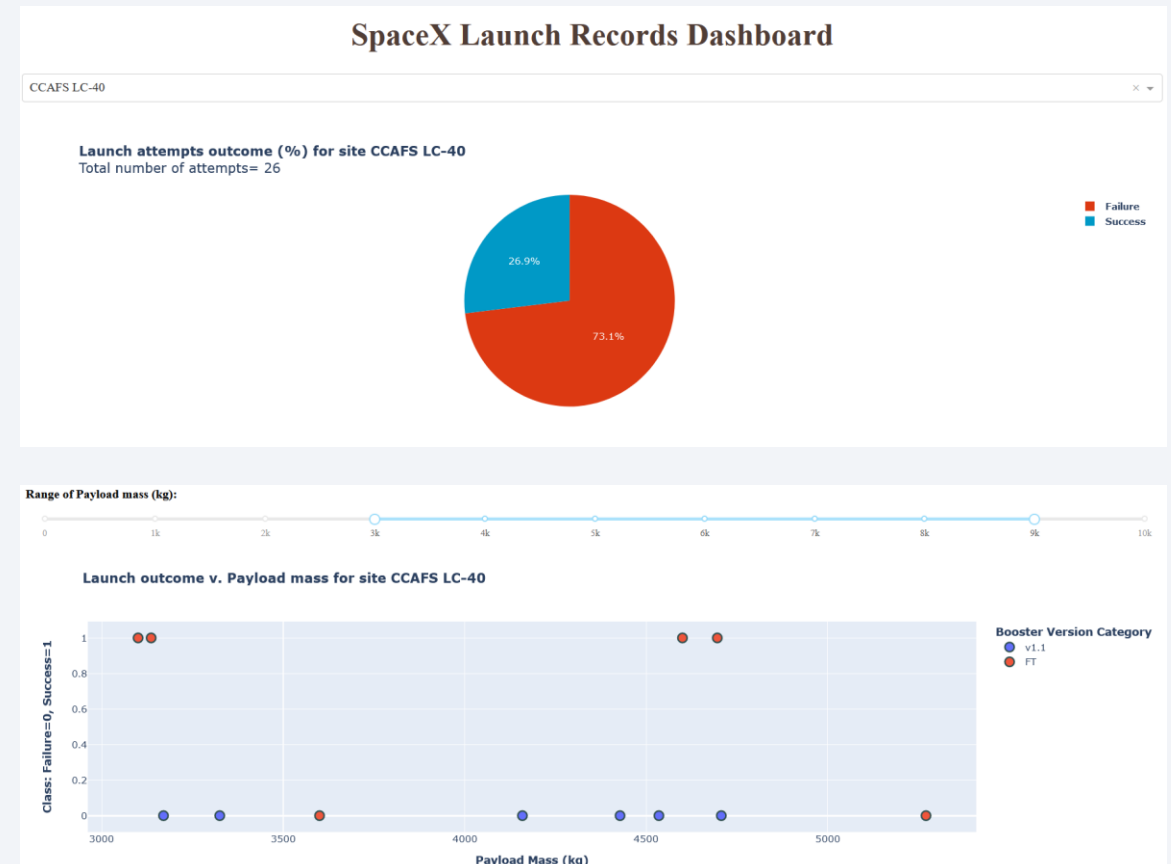
- Dropdown menu for selecting launch sites
- Pie charts displaying success rate.
- Scatter chart displaying launch site, payload mass, success/failure
- Range slider for selecting range of payload mass (kg).

for analyzing SpaceX launch records features:

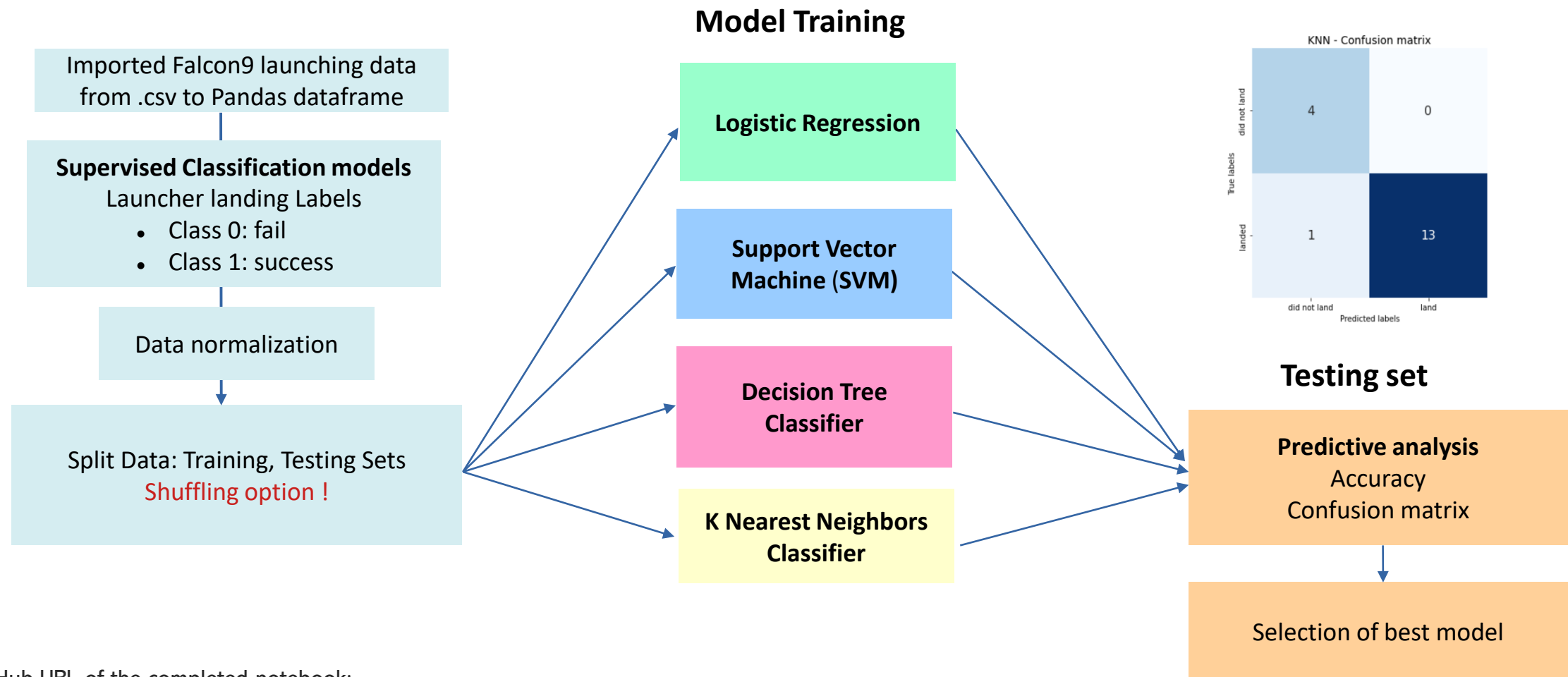
- site with largest successful launches.
- site with highest launch success rate
- payload range(s) with highest launch success rate
- payload range(s) with lowest launch success rate
- F9 Booster version (v1.0, v1.1, FT, B4, B5, etc.) with highest launch success rate.

GitHub URL of the completed notebook :

<https://github.com/nunun10/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/Week%203-%20Lab%202:%20Interactive%20Dashboard%20with%20Plotly%20Dash.py>



# Predictive Analysis (Classification)



GitHub URL of the completed notebook:  
<https://github.com/nunun10/Applied-Data-Science-Capstone/blob/main/Week%204-%20Lab%201-%20First%20Stage%20Landing%20Prediction%20ML.ipynb>

# Results

---

- The SVM, KNN, Decision Tree and Logistic Regression models are the best in terms of prediction accuracy for this dataset
- Low weighted payloads perform better than the heavier payloads.
- The success rate for SpaceX launches is directly proportional to time in years they will eventually perfect the launches.
- KSC LC 39A had the most successful launches from all the sites
- Orbit GEO, HEO, SSO, ES L1 has the best Success Rate.

# Conclusions

- The SVM, KNN, Decision Tree and Logistic Regression models are the best in terms of prediction accuracy for this dataset
- Low weighted payloads perform better than the heavier payloads.
- The success rate for SpaceX launches is directly proportional to time in years they will eventually perfect the launches.
- KSC LC 39A had the most successful launches from all the sites
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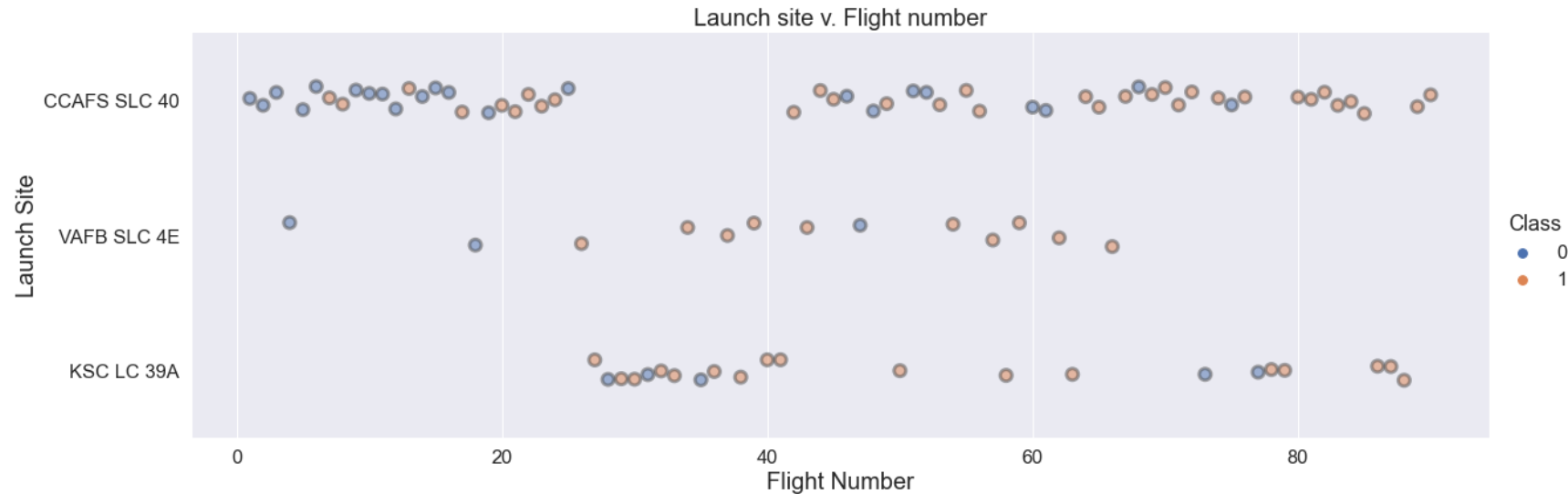
The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a dark blue base color. Overlaid on this are numerous diagonal streaks in shades of red and cyan. A faint, light blue grid pattern is also visible, particularly in the lower-left quadrant. The overall effect is dynamic and technological.

Section 2

# Insights drawn from EDA



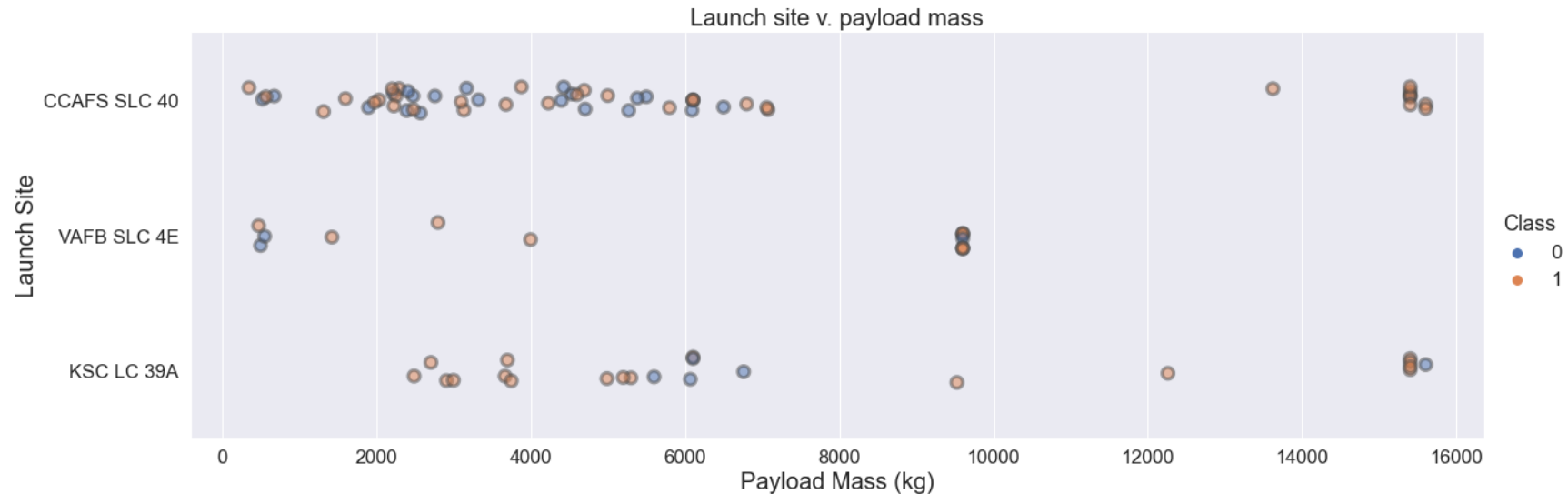
# Launch Site v. Flight Number



The chart displays valuable info about:

- Chronology: flight numbers
  - Number of flights per launch site
  - Success/Failure per launch site
- 
- Cape Canaveral CCAFS-SLC 40 is the most used launch site.
  - CCAFS-SLC 40 concentrates most of failures , particularly **in the early stage of Falcon9 project**.
  - Given CCAFS-SLC 40 southern location, most “risky” GTO and GEO launches may take place there.
  - Additional info needed: orbit, payload mass

# Launch Site v. Payload



The chart brings additional info:

- Payload mass per launch site
  - Success/Failure per payload mass
- 
- Given Falcon9 specifications, heavy payloads > 10000 kg are sent to low/medium orbits LEO/MEO only.
  - It looks like the percentage of failures is lower for heavy payload. Which would indicate that low orbits are less risky to the success of the mission (recovery of booster).
  - Light payloads are not necessarily all sent to GTO/GEO.
  - More information is needed for extracting some correlation: success rate v. payload/orbit

# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

## Remarks:

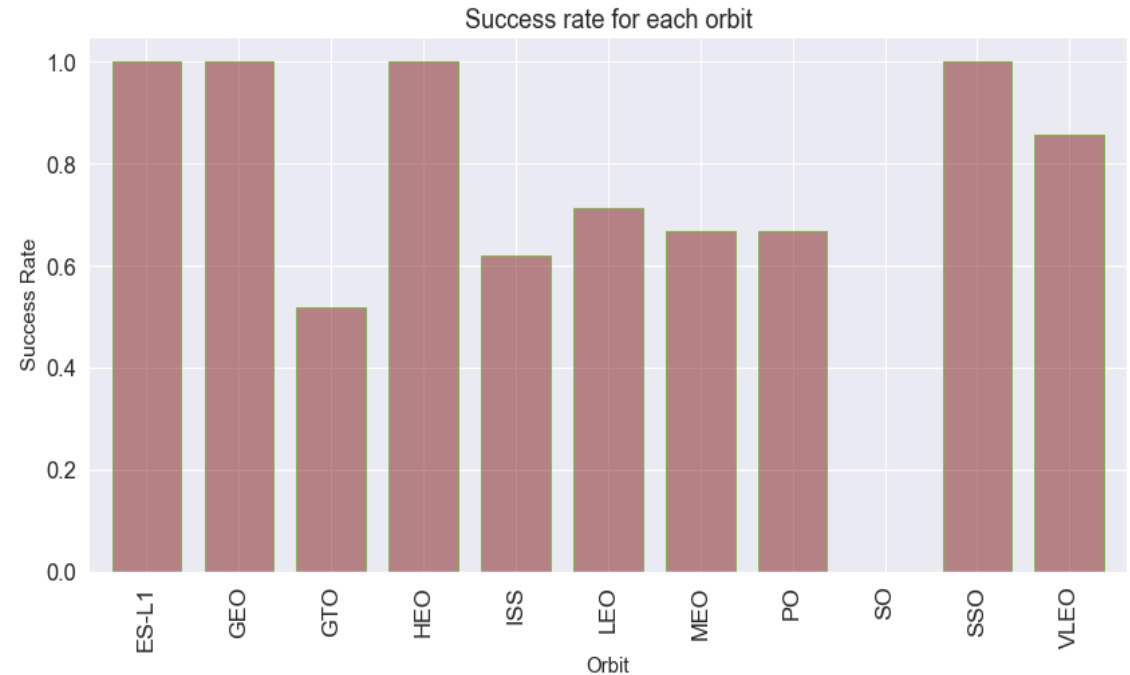
- GTO is a transfer orbit to GEO. Low thrust engines of the payload (satellite) complete the orbiting phase.
- We ignore results: GEO, SO, HEO, ESL-1, MEO. The number of flights is not significant.

**GTO sees the lowest success rate as suggested in previous slide.**

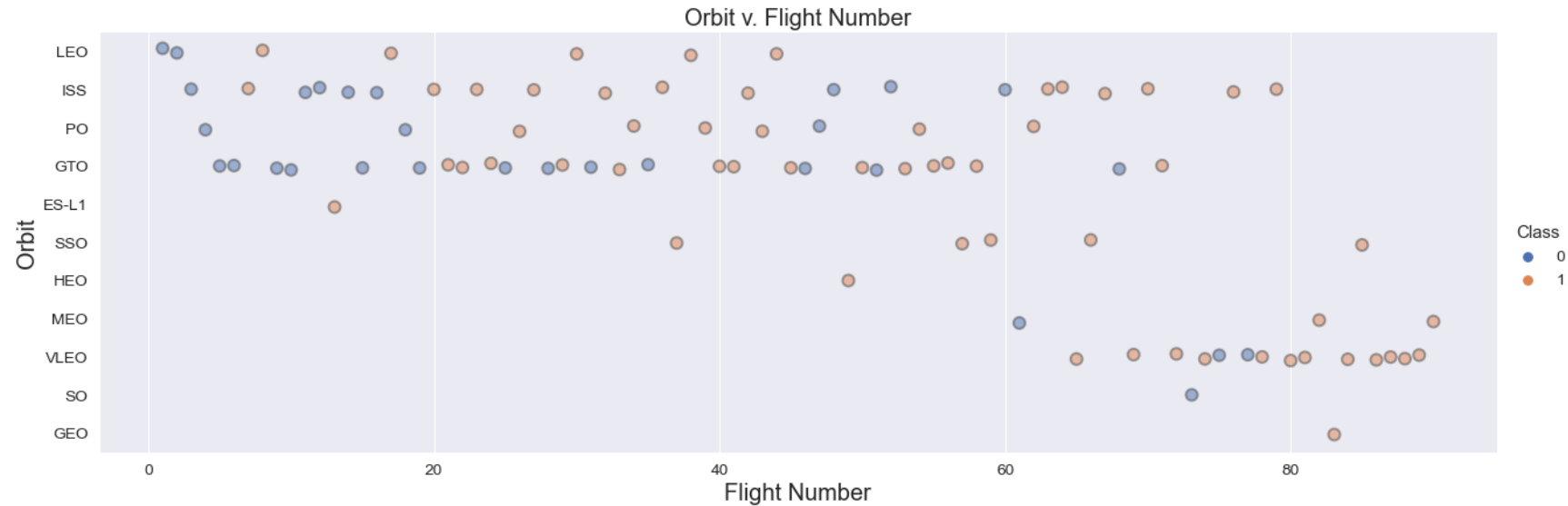
**SSO (polar low orbit) the highest one.**

**Success rate may strongly depend on both:**

- payload mass
- orbit.



# Flight Number v. Orbit Type



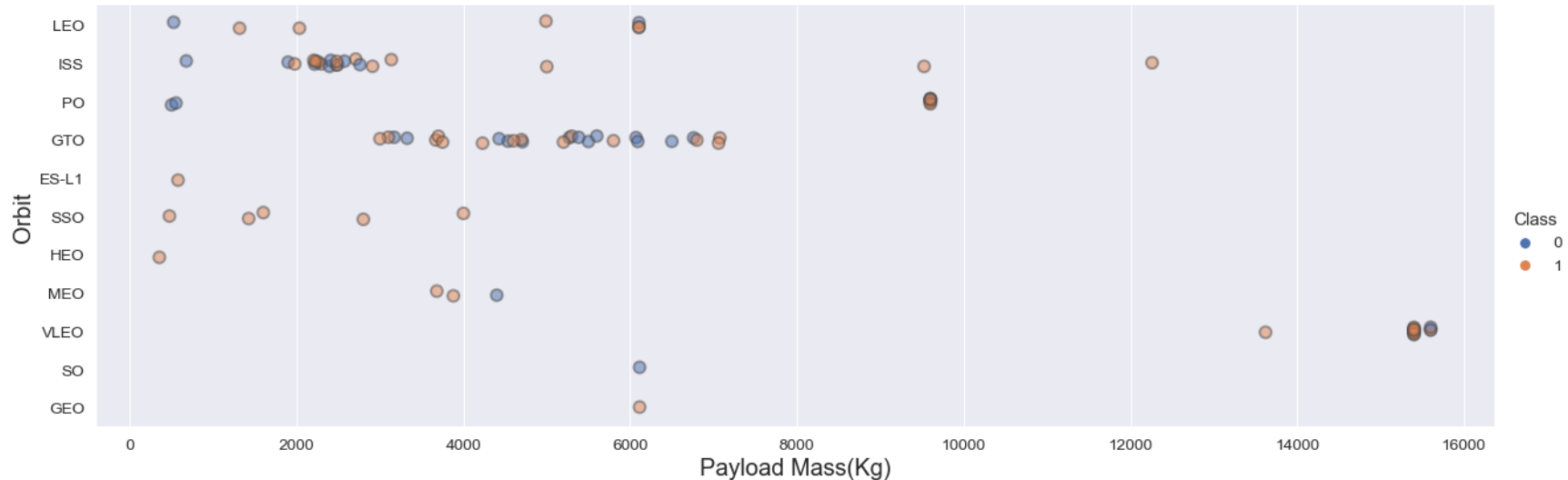
The chart brings additional info:

- Number of flights per Orbit.
- Success rate per orbit
- The number of flights for: GEO, SO, HEO, ESL-1, MEO is not significant for concluding about success rate.
- PO, SSO, ISS, VLEO are low orbits
- GTO is a transfer orbit to GEO.

It looks like GTO are higher risk missions, low orbits are lower risk.

We confirm with the following histogram.

# Orbit Type v. Payload



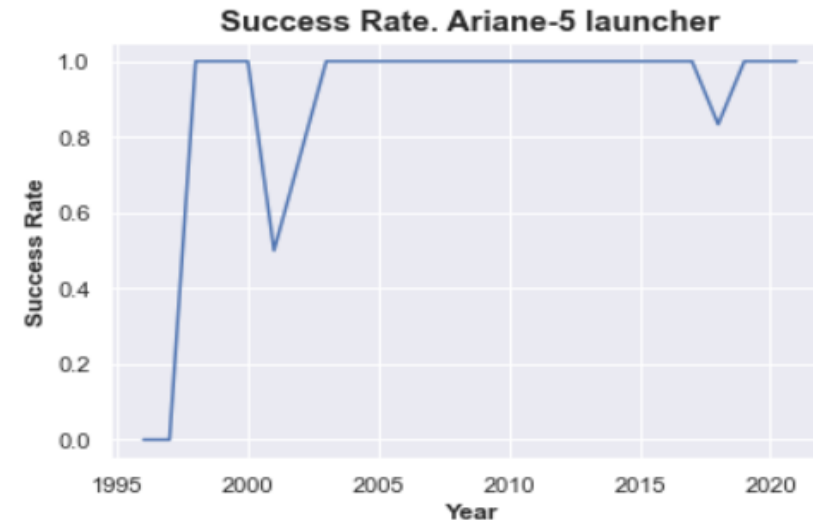
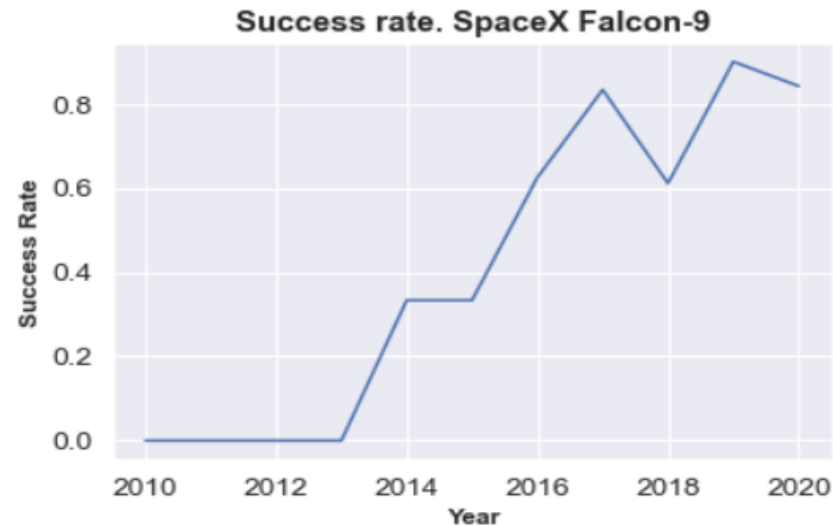
The chart brings final info about “Orbit v. Payload”. It describes the distribution “success rate v. (payload, orbit)”

Main trends:

- Maximum success rate with: low orbit except (ISS) and low payload mass
- ISS: based on “[Orbit Type v. Flight Number](#)” 5/8 failures occurred in the early stage of Falcon 9 project. When Falcon 9 reliability was low.
- Between 2000 and 7500 kg, success rate seems to be evenly distributed for GTO.
- Independently of payload mass, GTO is a risky “orbit” affecting missions success rate. Falcon 9 reliability improves over time, but there are still recent failed booster recovery after GTO launches.



# Launch Success Yearly Trend



Falcon 9 reliability significantly improves over time .

Success rate, **here defined after successful booster recovery for Falcon9**, depends on:

- Payload mass
- Orbit
- + other factors we investigate next
- Independently of payload mass, orbits, **Ariane 5 has a close to 100% success rate** for 82 flights since 2003.
- Falcon9 average booster recovery success rate is 66%.
- Success rate currently sufficient for SpaceX financial viability.

# All Launch Site Names

Before starting launch sites analysis, we list the names of all launch sites and some launch records (from SQL queries).

```
df_unique_launchsites=pd.read_sql_query("Select distinct Launch_Site from spacex_v11 ",conn)
print(df_unique_launchsites)
```

	Launch_Site
0	CCAFS LC-40
1	VAFB SLC-4E
2	KSC LC-39A
3	CCAFS SLC-40

There are 4 distinct launch sites

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

## 5 records where launch sites begin with `CCA`

```
df_launchsites_CCA5=pd.read_sql_query("Select * from spacex_v11 where Launch_Site Like 'CCA%' Limit 5",conn)
df_launchsites_CCA5
```

	Id	Date	Time (UTC)	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Payload	PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_	Orbit	Customer	Mission_Outcome	Landing_Outcome
0	1	2010-04-06	0 days 18:45:00	F9 v1.0 B0003	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit	0	LEO	SpaceX	Success	Failure (parachute)
1	2	2010-08-12	0 days 15:43:00	F9 v1.0 B0004	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C1, two CubeSats, barrel of...	0	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS) NRO	Success	Failure (parachute)
2	3	2012-05-22	0 days 07:44:00	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success	No attempt
3	4	2012-10-08	0 days 00:35:00	F9 v1.0 B0006	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-1	500	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt
4	5	2013-03-01	0 days 15:10:00	F9 v1.0 B0007	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-2	677	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt

# SpaceX: All launch sites



# Total Payload Mass

Calculate the total payload carried by boosters from NASA (2 methods)

```
# For validation purposes... sum in df_NASA_CRS 'PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_' column
df_NASA_CRS=pd.read_sql_query("Select * from spacex_v11 where Customer='NASA (CRS)'",conn)
print(df_NASA_CRS.head(2))
print('----')
print('Total payload mass, customer= NASA (CRS):', df_NASA_CRS['PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_'].sum(), ' kg')
```

	id	Date	Time (UTC)	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Payload \
0	4	2012-10-08	0 days 00:35:00	F9 v1.0 B0006	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-1
1	5	2013-03-01	0 days 15:10:00	F9 v1.0 B0007	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-2

	PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_	Orbit	Customer	Mission_Outcome	Landing_Outcome
0	500	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt
1	677	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt

----  
Total payload mass, customer= NASA (CRS): 45596 kg

```
# Based on SQL only...
sql_nasa_crs_mass= """ Select sum(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) as 'Total payload mass (kg) NASA CRS'
                        from spacex_v11
                        where Customer='NASA (CRS)' """
payload_NASA_CRS=pd.read_sql_query(sql_nasa_crs_mass,conn)
print(payload_NASA_CRS)
```

	Total payload mass (kg) NASA CRS
0	45596.0



# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

Calculate the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1

```
payload_F9v11=pd.read_sql_query("Select avg(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) as 'avg mass (kg)' from spacex_v11 where Booster_Version='F9 v1.1'",conn)
print(payload_F9v11)
```

```
   avg mass (kg)
0          2928.4
```

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

Find the dates of the first successful landing outcome on ground pad

```
min_date_success_landing=pd.read_sql_query("select min(Date) from spacex_v11 where Landing_Outcome = 'Success (ground pad)'",conn)
print(min_date_success_landing)
```

```
min(Date)
0    2015-12-22
```

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

---

%sql select BOOSTER\_VERSION from SPACEXTBL where landing\_outcome='Success (drone ship)' and PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_ BETWEEN 4000 and 6000;

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 from SPACEXTBL where landing_outcome='Success (drone ship)' and PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_
```

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

Done.

Booster_Version
-----------------

F9 FT B1022
-------------

F9 FT B1026
-------------

F9 FT B1021.2
---------------

F9 FT B1031.2
---------------

# Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

---

List the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes

```
%sql select count(MISSION_OUTCOME) as missionoutcomes from SPACEXTBL GROUP BY MISSION_OUTCOME;
```

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

Done.

<b>missionoutcomes</b>
1
98
1
1

# Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

List the names of the boosters which have carried the maximum payload mass

```
# sql query
qboost= """Select distinct Booster_Version, max(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) as max_payload_mass
from spacex_v11
group by Booster_Version
order by max_payload_mass desc"""
```

```
boost_max_load= pd.read_sql_query(qboost,conn)
boost_max_load.head(5)
```

	Booster_Version	max_payload_mass
0	F9 B5 B1049.4	15600
1	F9 B5 B1060.2	15600
2	F9 B5 B1048.4	15600
3	F9 B5 B1048.5	15600
4	F9 B5 B1056.4	15600

# 2015 Launch Records

List the failed landing\_outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015

```
# sql query
q_failed_landing= """ Select Date, Booster_Version, Launch_Site, Landing_Outcome
                        from spacex_v11
                        where Landing_Outcome = 'Failure (drone ship)'
                        and Date like '%2015%' """
```

```
fail_drone= pd.read_sql_query(q_failed_landing,conn)
fail_drone.head(5)
```

	Date	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Landing_Outcome
0	2015-01-10	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)
1	2015-04-14	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40	Failure (drone ship)

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

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

```
# sql query
q_count_landing= """ Select Landing_Outcome, count(*) as count_landings
                      from spacex_v11
                      where Date between '2010-06-04' and '2017-03-20'
                      group by Landing_Outcome
                      order by count_landings desc """
```

```
count_landing= pd.read_sql_query(q_count_landing,conn)
count_landing.head(10)
```

	Landing_Outcome	count_landings
0	No attempt	10
1	Failure (drone ship)	5
2	Success (drone ship)	5
3	Controlled (ocean)	3
4	Success (ground pad)	3
5	Uncontrolled (ocean)	2
6	Failure (parachute)	1
7	Precluded (drone ship)	1



A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and city lights at night. The background is a deep blue gradient.

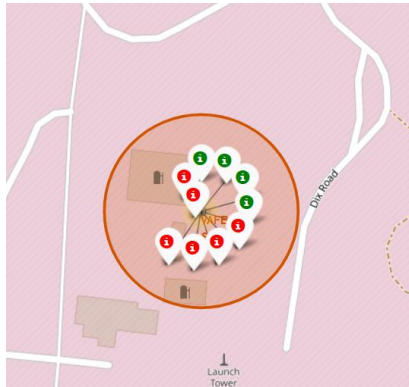
Section 3

# Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

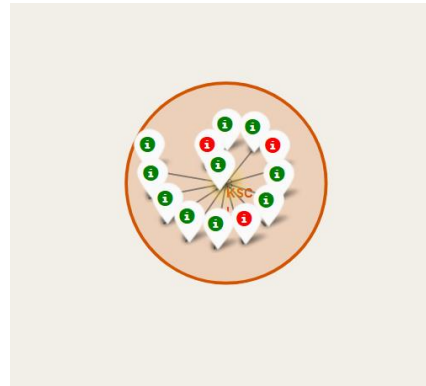
# SpaceX: All launch sites



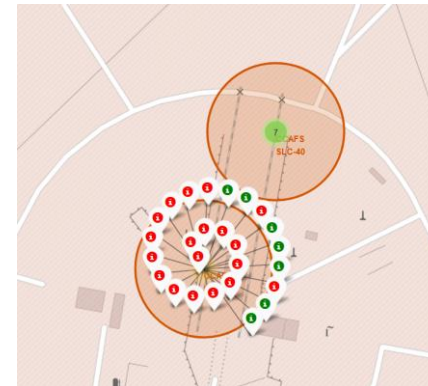
# Falcon 9 Success/Failed launches for each site



Vandenberg Space Launch Complex 4 (CA)  
VAFB SLC-4E



Kennedy Space Center (FL)  
KSC LC 39A



Cape Canaveral (FL)  
CCAFS-LC40



Cape Canaveral (FL)  
CCAFS-SLC40

Launch Site	class	
CCAFS LC-40	0	19
	1	7
CCAFS SLC-40	0	4
	1	3
KSC LC-39A	0	3
	1	10
VAFB SLC-4E	0	6
	1	4

**Table: Synthesis of launches outcomes**

Class 0= failure

Class 1= success



# ESA Unique Launch site – Kourou, French Guiana.

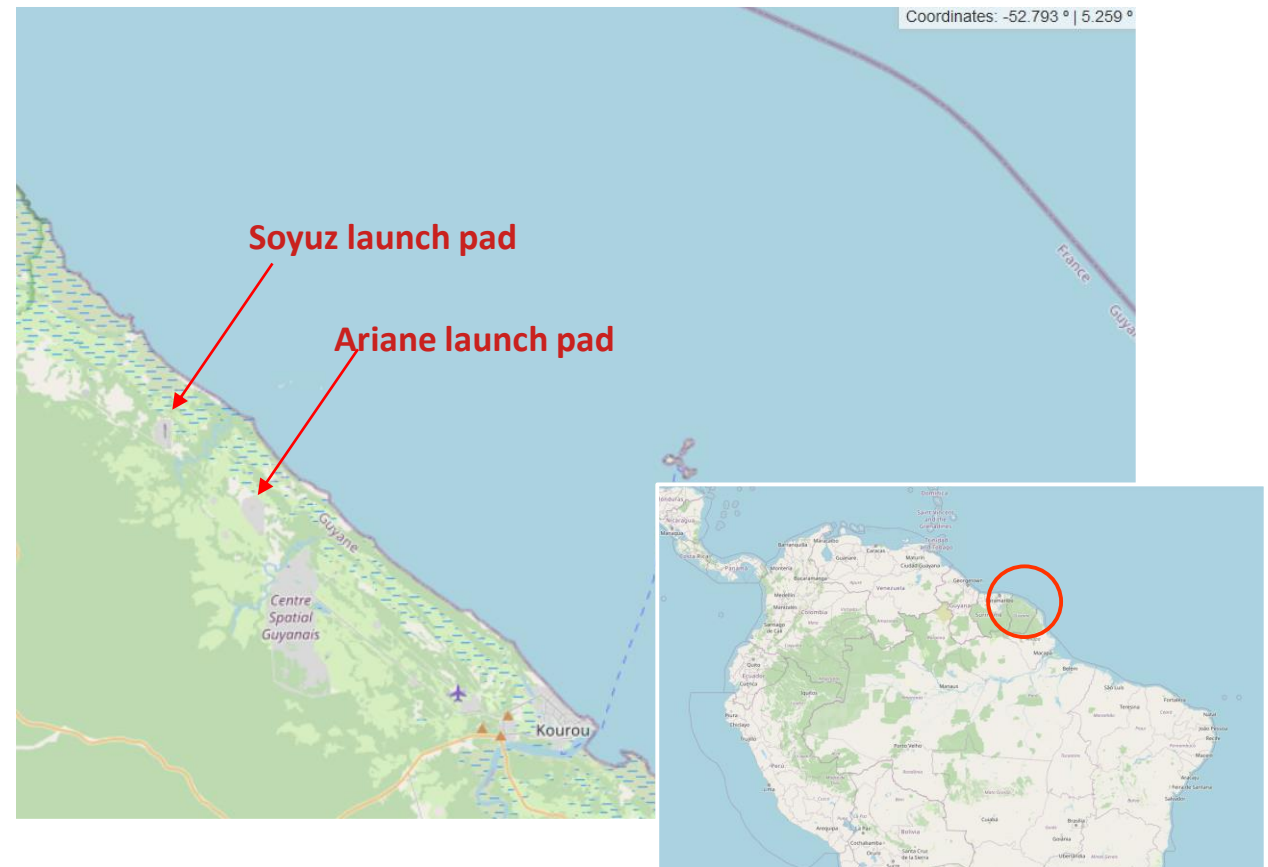
**European Space Agency (ESA)/Arianespace launch sites in Kourou, French Guiana (France).**

Kourou launch sites: Ariane, Soyuz

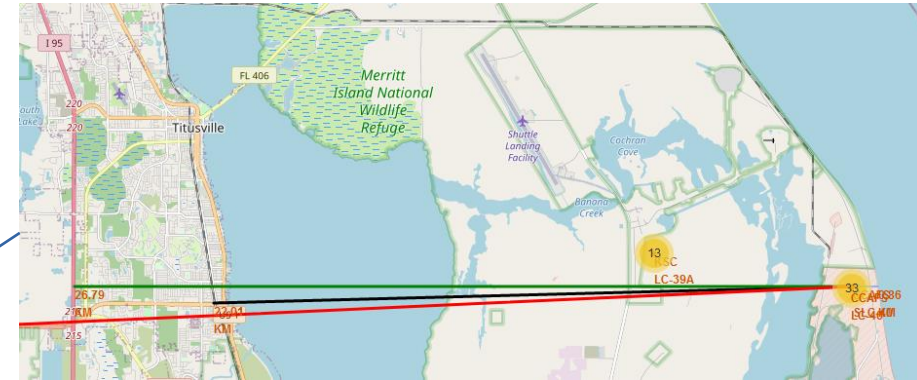
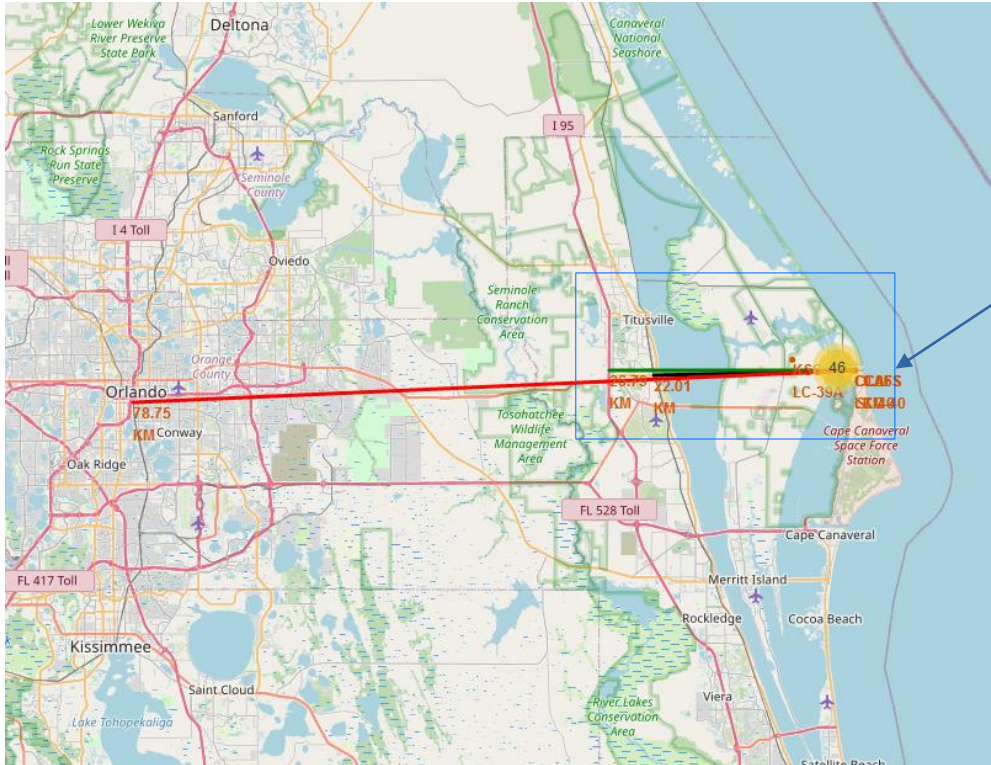
- are very close to the Equator: it's a strong advantage for GTO/GEO flights
- are in a remote area far from any high density inhabited area and high traffic infrastructures
- Are close to the coast

Strong Advantage over SpaceX, in terms of safety and GTO/GEO flights and energy required at lift-off.

SpaceX could compete and reduce energy at lift-off for GTO-GEO flights by introducing a concept like “Sea Launch”.



# Distances between the launch site to its proximities



## Distance from CCAFS\_SLC40 to:

- Closest coast: ~900 m
- Florida East Coast Railway: 22.0 km
- Highway I 95: 26.8 km
- Orlando: 78.75 km

Launch sites are close to coasts. For safety issues if launcher is lost in the early stage of the flight.

Rockets are launched:

- From West to East over the ocean in Florida.
  - North or South bound over the ocean in California. (Polar orbits only)
- Launch sites are relatively far from populated areas for protecting population from serious incidents at lift off: explosion on the launch pad.





Section 4

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

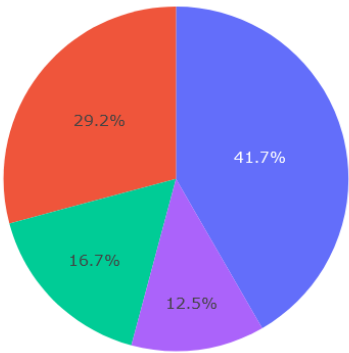
# SpaceX Falcon 9: Launch success count for all sites

## SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard

All Sites×▼



Share of Successful Launches by Site (%)



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

Launch Site	class	
CCAFS LC-40	0	19
	1	7
CCAFS SLC-40	0	4
	1	3
KSC LC-39A	0	3
	1	10
VAFB SLC-4E	0	6
	1	4

The dahsboard allows an interactive visualization and analysis of Falcon successful launches. It completes scattered charts. Here for all sites, we can identify the launch site with highest success rate. Kennedy Space Center in Florida.



# SpaceX Falcon9 Launch site with highest launch success ratio

## KSC LC-39A

Kennedy Space Center in Florida.  
13 flights, 10 successful missions.

- Heavy payload are “high risk”
- Success does not seem to depend upon boosters versions with low mass payload <5500kg.
- B5 and FT are the most reused launchers. Data is not sufficient, but may indicates that they are as reliable as 1 time launchers.

KSC LC-39A

### Launch attempts outcome (%) for site KSC LC-39A

Total number of attempts= 13

Number of success= 10

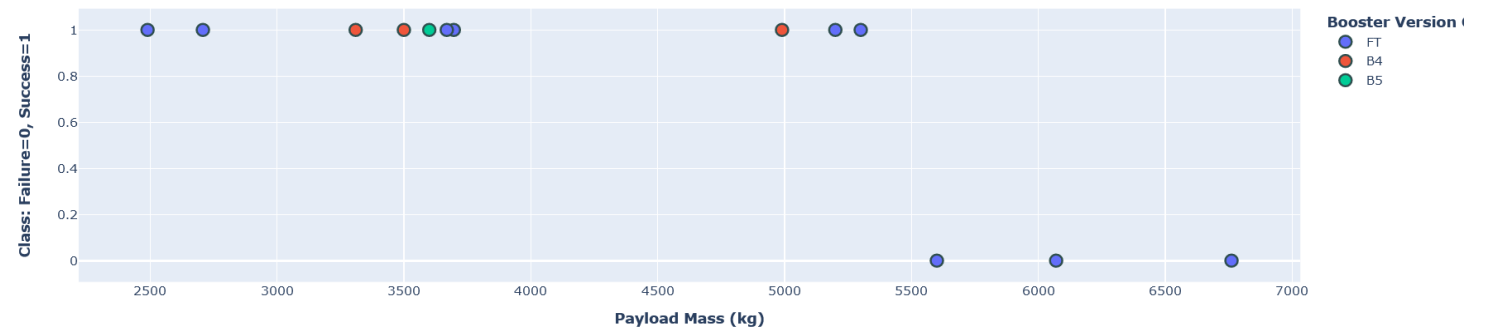
Number of failures= 3



Range of Payload mass (kg):



### Launch outcome v. Payload mass for site KSC LC-39A



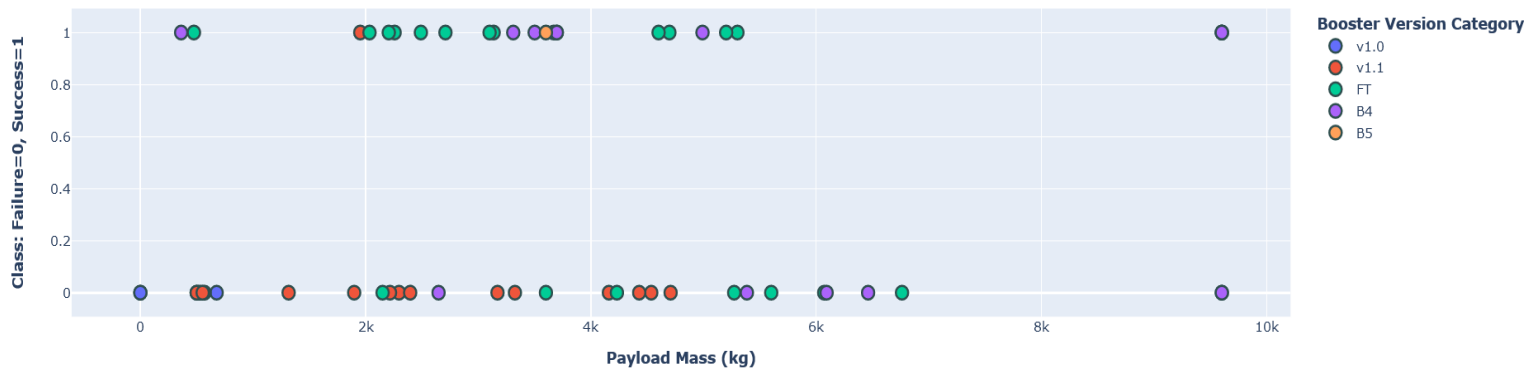
# Launch outcome v. Payload mass (all sites)

- V1.0 and v1.1 are early launchers with low reliability.  
Landing legs, were pioneered on the Falcon 9 v1.1 version, but that version never landed intact. They were phased out in 2015.
- FT: “Full Thrust” is the next generation and has the highest success rate for payload mass under 6 tons. Including with “drone landing” (see details in next slide).
- Many FT flights are done with reused launchers. And show good reliability.
- Heavy payload are “high risk”.

Range of Payload mass (kg):



Launch outcome v. Payload mass for all sites

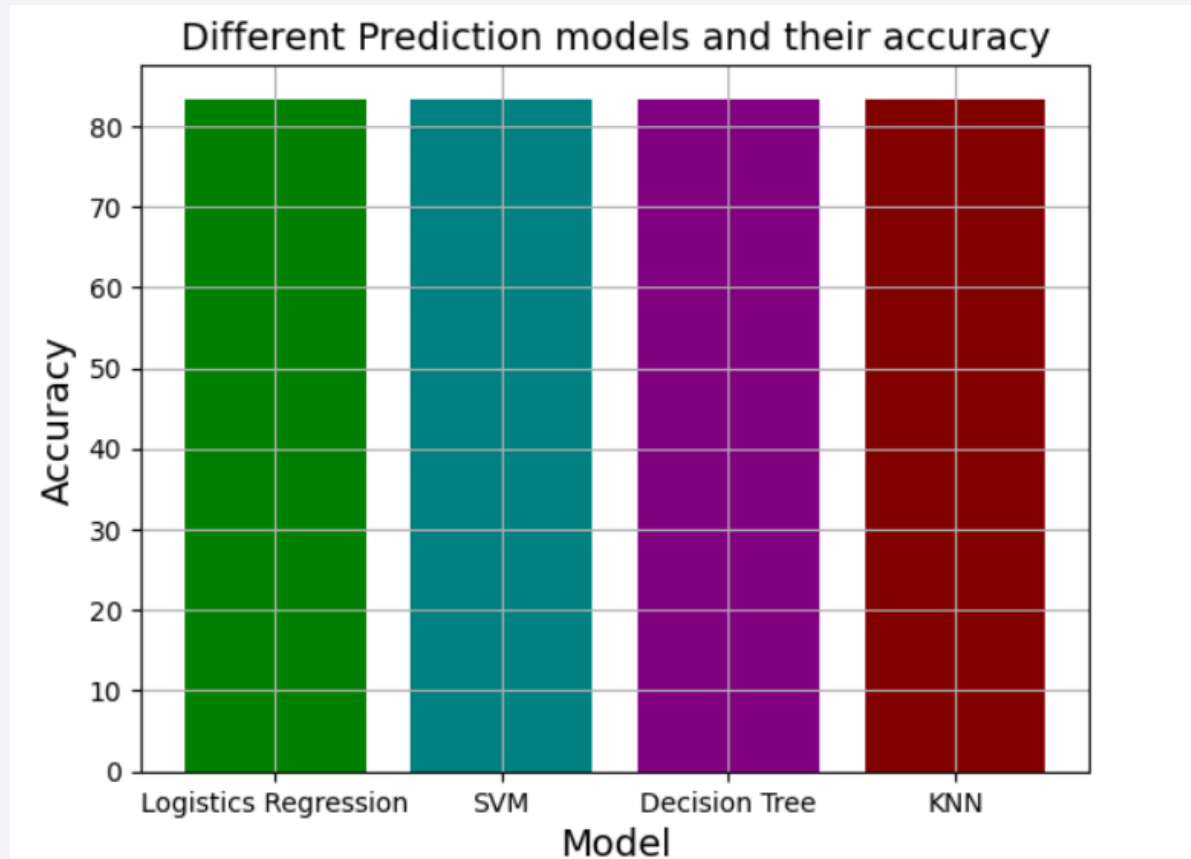


Section 5

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)

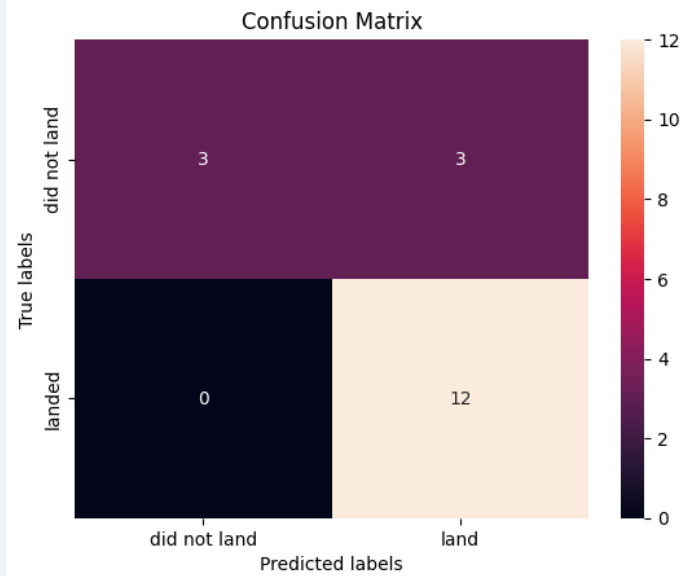
# Classification Accuracy

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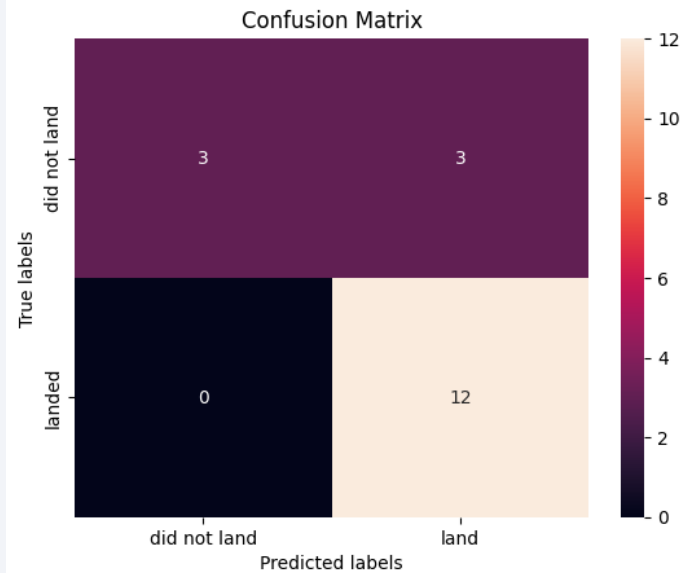


All the models performed equally well with accuracy of 83.33333%

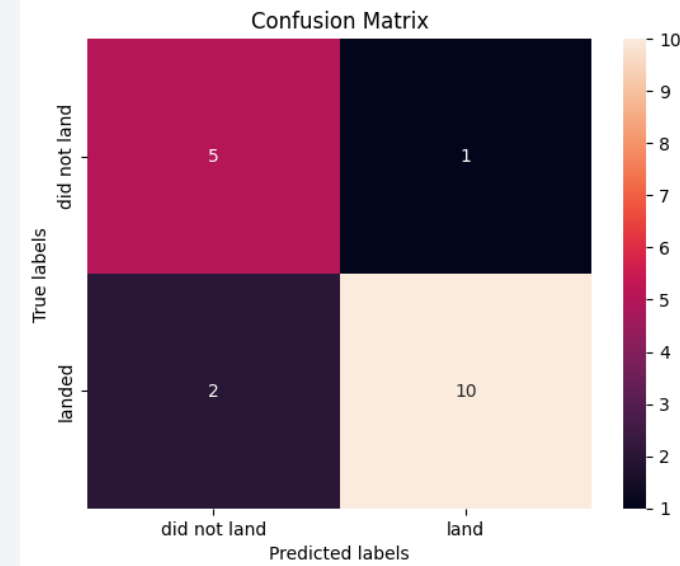
# Confusion Matrix



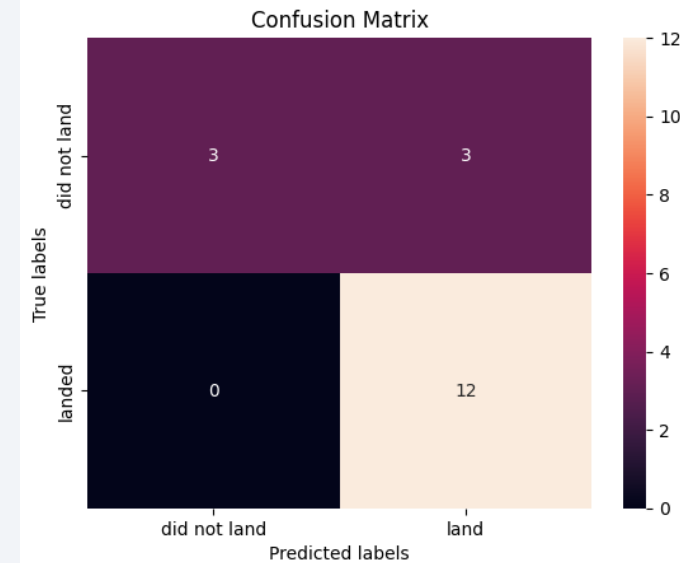
KNN



SVM



Decision Tree



Logistic regression

# Conclusions

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- The SVM, KNN, Decision Tree and Logistic Regression models are the best in terms of prediction accuracy for this dataset
- Low weighted payloads perform better than the heavier payloads.
- The success rate for SpaceX launches is directly proportional to time in years they will eventually perfect the launches.
- KSC LC 39A had the most successful launches from all the sites
- Orbit GEO, HEO, SSO, ES L1 has the best Success Rate.



Thank you!

