

Winning Space Race with Data Science

Michael 5/13/2025



Outline

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- Methodology
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- Conclusion
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Executive Summary

• High-level description of project goals: predicting Falcon 9 the first stage landing success to assess launch cost efficiency

Introduction

- SpaceX has revolutionized the aerospace industry by introducing reusable rocket technology. One of the most significant cost-saving measures is the ability to recover and reuse the Falcon 9 rocket's first stage. A successful landing significantly reduces the cost of a launch, bringing it down from approximately \$165 million to just \$62 million.
- Problems you want to find answers:
- 1. Can we predict whether the first stage of falcon 9 will land successfully based on launch characteristics?
- 2. What is the predicted cost of a SpaceX Launch?
- 3. How can visualizations help decision-makers quickly identify patterns in successful vs failed landings?



Methodology

Executive Summary

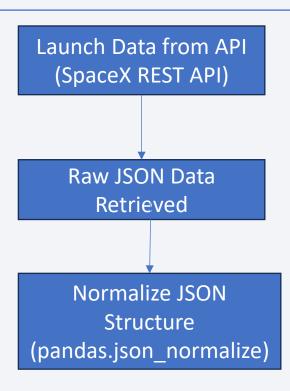
- Data collection methodology:
 - Describe how data was collected
- Perform data wrangling
 - Describe how data was processed
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
 - How to build, tune, evaluate classification models

Data Collection

- Data was collected from the SpaceX URL using an API request
- This allowed us to get data straight from the source

Data Collection – SpaceX API

- To begin the analysis, data was collected directly from the publicly available SpaceX RESTful API
- This API provides detailed information about Falcon 9 rocket launches, including mission details, payloads, rocket specifications, launch sites, and landing outcomes
- By retrieving raw JSON responses, data was normalized by using pandas.json_normalize



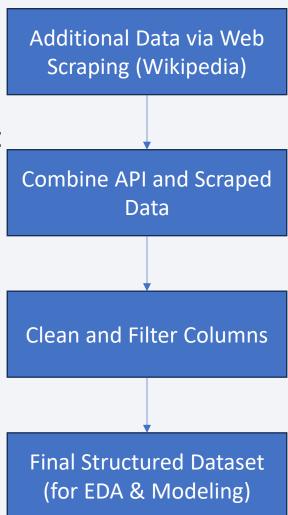
- Link
- https://github.com/poofmagicdragon/Coursera-Data-Science-Submissions/blob/f2295d2a693b0740813ba68f9903065609937ab1/jupyter-labs-spacex-data-collection-api.jpynb

Data Collection - Scraping

 The scaping process was conducted using Python's requests library to fetch HTML content and BeautifulSoup to parse and extract relevant information

Link

• https://github.com/poofmagicdragon/Coursera-Data-Science-Submissions/blob/f2295d2a693b0740813ba68f9903065609937ab1/jupyter-labs-spacex-data-collection-api.ipynb



Data Wrangling

- Data wrangling was done by converting nested JSON responses into flat tables using json_normalize
- Columns like payload mass, orbit type, and launch site were standardized, and missing values were handled through imputation or removal
- Categorical variables were transformed using one hot encoding

Link

 https://github.com/poofmagicdragon/Coursera-Data-Science-Submissions/blob/a7367941173bd9941c8d4400fcfe2918cd71bb73/labs-jupyter-spacex-Data%20wrangling.ipynb

EDA with Data Visualization

- Graphs we used include:
- A scatter plot Flight number vs Launch Site
- A scatter plot of Payload Mass vs Launch Site
- A bar chart of Class vs Orbit

- Link
- https://github.com/poofmagicdragon/Coursera-Data-Science-Submissions/blob/7fd4d18f79e662c9998f7183dbac8f4f4abc2c7f/edadatavi z.ipynb

EDA with SQL

- SQL Queries include:
- Names of unique launch sites
- Total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA
- Average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1

- Link
- https://github.com/poofmagicdragon/Coursera-Data-Science-Submissions/blob/7fd4d18f79e662c9998f7183dbac8f4f4abc2c7 f/edadataviz.ipynb

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- Circles are used to highlight the location of the launch site to make it easier to see
- Launch outcomes were added to each site so we can see which ones have the most number of successes

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- Summarize what plots/graphs and interactions you have added to a dashboard
- Explain why you added those plots and interactions
- Add the GitHub URL of your completed Plotly Dash lab, as an external reference and peer-review purpose

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

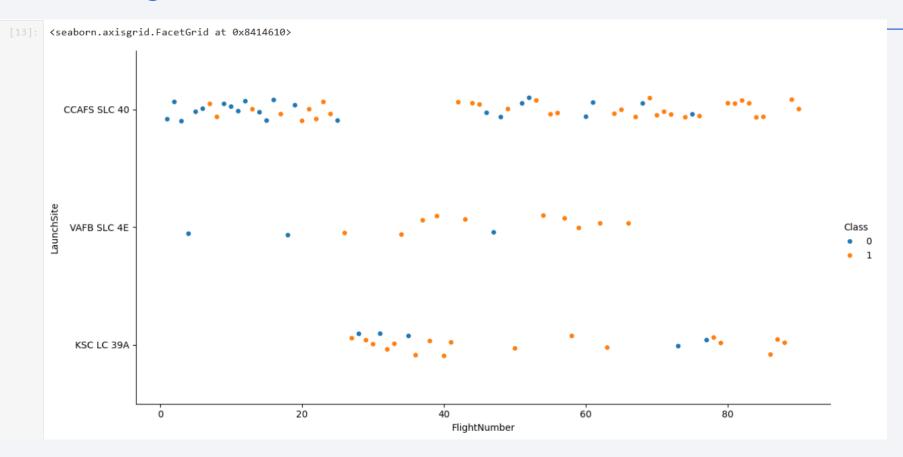
- Summarize how you built, evaluated, improved, and found the best performing classification model
- You need present your model development process using key phrases and flowchart
- Add the GitHub URL of your completed predictive analysis lab, as an external reference and peer-review purpose

Results

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

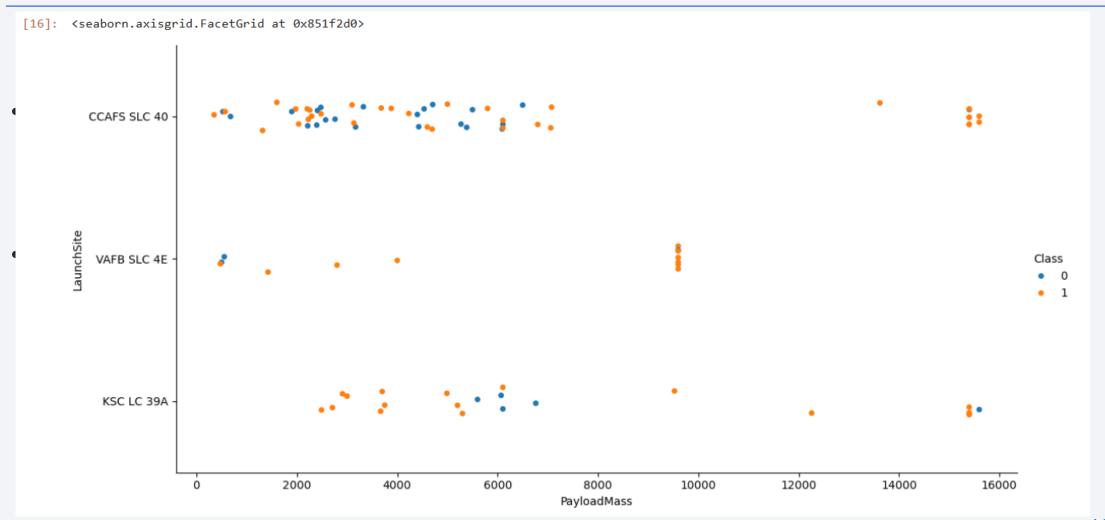


Flight Number vs. Launch Site

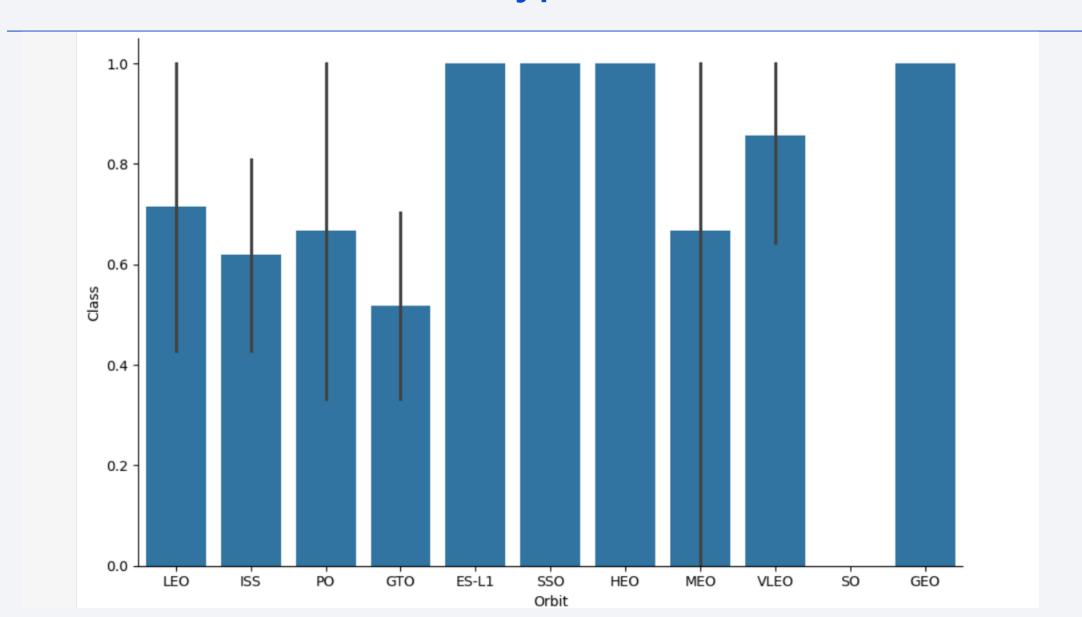


We can see that SLC has two clusters. The first has mostly Class O and the second has mostly class 1.

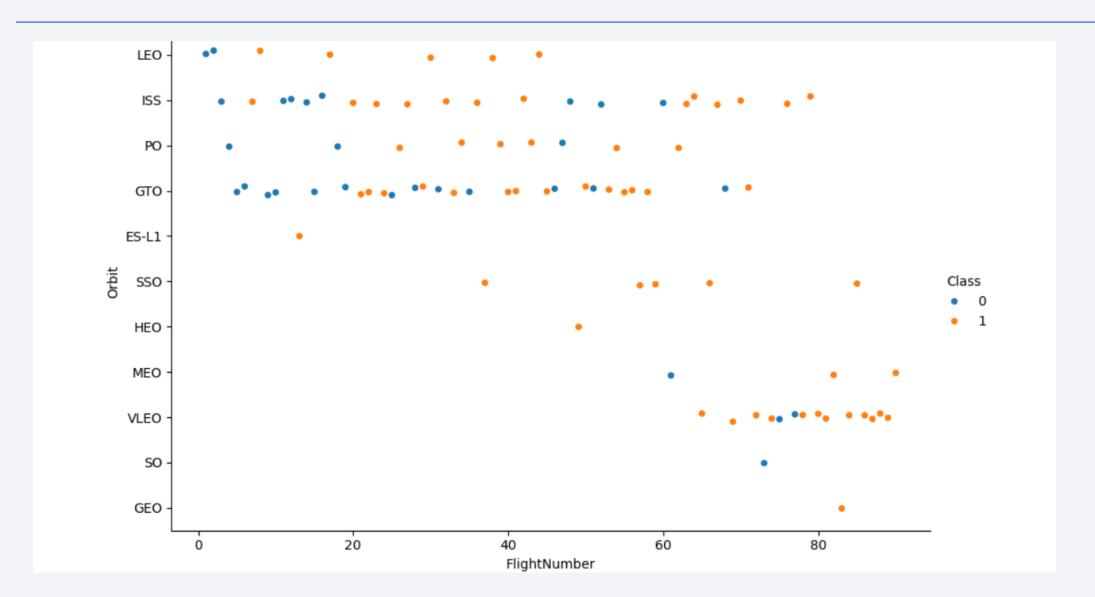
Payload vs. Launch Site



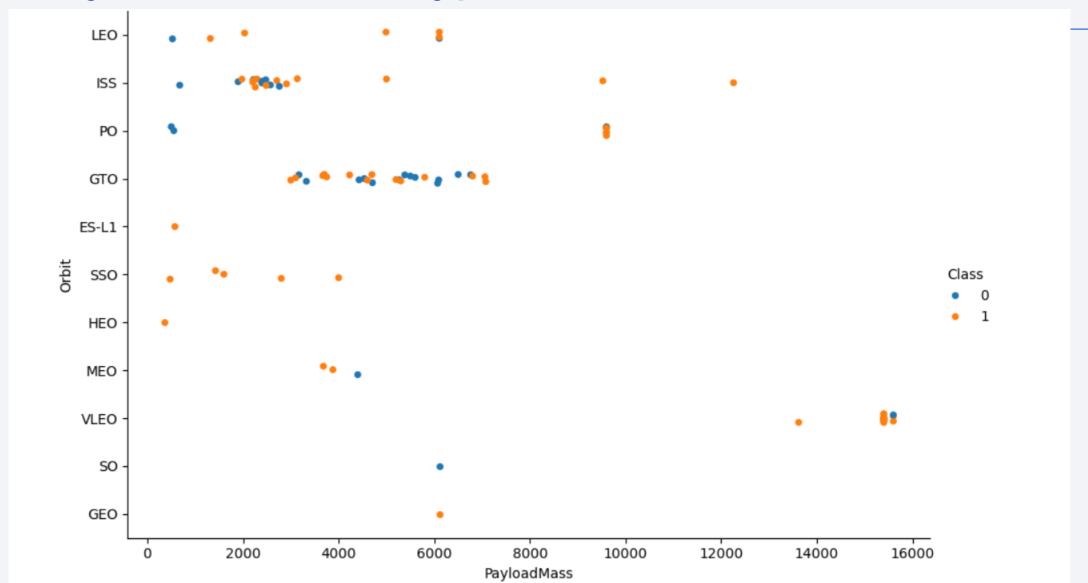
Success Rate vs. Orbit Type



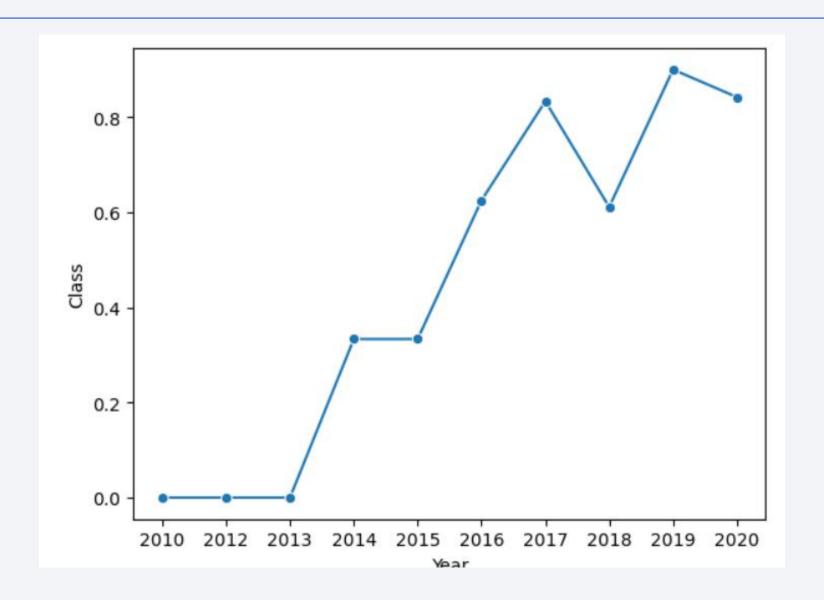
Flight Number vs. Orbit Type



Payload vs. Orbit Type



Launch Success Yearly Trend



All Launch Site Names

```
Display the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission
      %sql SELECT DISTINCT(Launch_Site) FROM SPACEXTABLE;
[16]:
        * sqlite:///my data1.db
       Done.
[16]:
        Launch_Site
        CCAFS LC-40
        VAFB SLC-4E
         KSC LC-39A
       CCAFS SLC-40
```

Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA' [26]: %%sql SELECT * FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Launch Site LIKE 'CCA%' LIMIT 5; * sqlite:///my_data1.db Done. [26]: Date Booster_Version Launch_Site Payload PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_ Orbit Customer Mission_Outcome Landing_Outcome (UTC) 2010-CCAFS LC-Dragon Spacecraft 18:45:00 F9 v1.0 B0003 0 LEO SpaceX Failure (parachute) **Qualification Unit** 06-04 Dragon demo flight C1, CCAFS LC-2010-LEO NASA 15:43:00 F9 v1.0 B0004 two CubeSats, barrel of Failure (parachute) 0 Success 12-08 40 (ISS) (COTS) NRO Brouere cheese CCAFS LC-2012-LEO NASA Dragon demo flight C2 7:44:00 F9 v1.0 B0005 525 Success No attempt 05-22 (COTS) (ISS) 2012-CCAFS LC-0:35:00 F9 v1.0 B0006 SpaceX CRS-1 500 NASA (CRS) No attempt Success 10-08 40 2013-CCAFS LC-15:10:00 F9 v1.0 B0007 SpaceX CRS-2 677 NASA (CRS) Success No attempt 03-01

Total Payload Mass

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

[27]: %sql SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM SPACEXTABLE

* sqlite://my_data1.db
Done.

[27]: SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_)

619967
```

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

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

[28]: 

%%sql SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM SPACEXTABLE

WHERE Booster_Version LIKE 'F9 v1.0%'

* sqlite://my_data1.db
Done.

[28]: 

AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_)

340.4
```

First Successful Ground Landing Date

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload 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 [33]: **%%sql SELECT** Booster_Version **FROM** SPACEXTABLE WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ > 4000 AND PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ < 6000 AND Mission_Outcome == 'Success' * sqlite:///my data1.db Done. Booster_Version F9 v1.1 F9 v1.1 B1011 F9 v1.1 B1014 F9 v1.1 B1016 F9 FT B1020 F9 FT B1022 F9 FT B1026 F9 FT B1030 F9 FT B1021.2 F9 FT B1032.1 F9 B4 B1040.1

Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

```
List the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes
%%sql SELECT COUNT(Mission_Outcome) as Successes FROM SPACEXTABLE
WHERE Mission_Outcome == 'Success'
 * sqlite:///my data1.db
Done.
Successes
      98
%%sql SELECT COUNT(Mission Outcome) as Failures FROM SPACEXTABLE
WHERE Mission Outcome == 'Failure (in flight)'
 * sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.
Failures
```

Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

```
%%sql SELECT Booster_Version FROM SPACEXTABLE
WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ == (SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM SPACEXTABLE)
 * sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.
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
```

2015 Launch Records

```
%%sql SELECT substr(Date, 6,2) as Month, Landing_Outcome, Booster_Version, Launch_Site FROM SPACEXTABLE
WHERE substr(Date, 0, 5) = '2015' AND Landing_Outcome LIKE 'Failure%'

* sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.

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
```

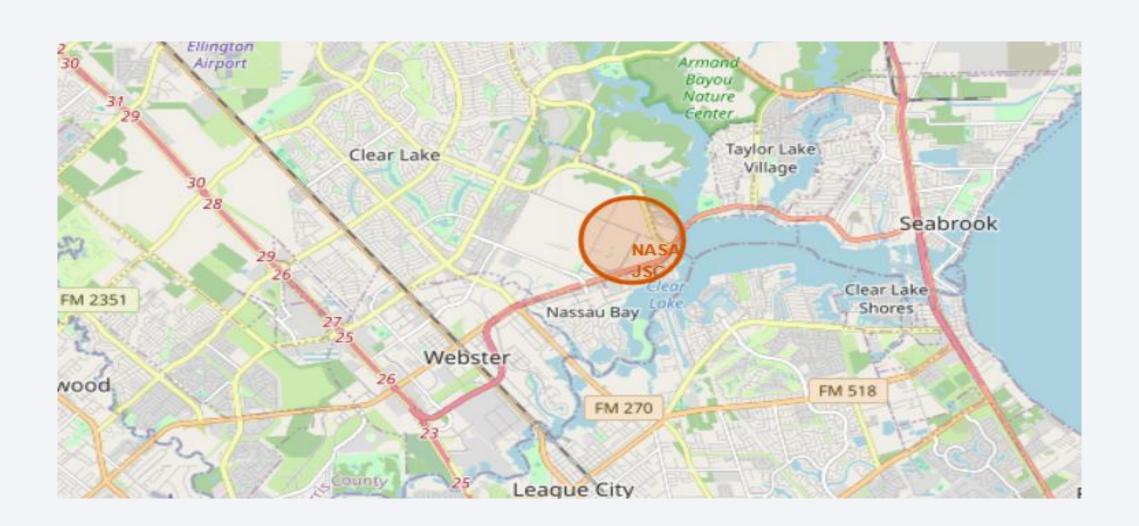
Rank Landing Outcomes Between 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20

```
%%sql SELECT COUNT(Landing_Outcome) FROM SPACEXTABLE
WHERE Date BETWEEN '2010-06-04' AND '2017-03-20'

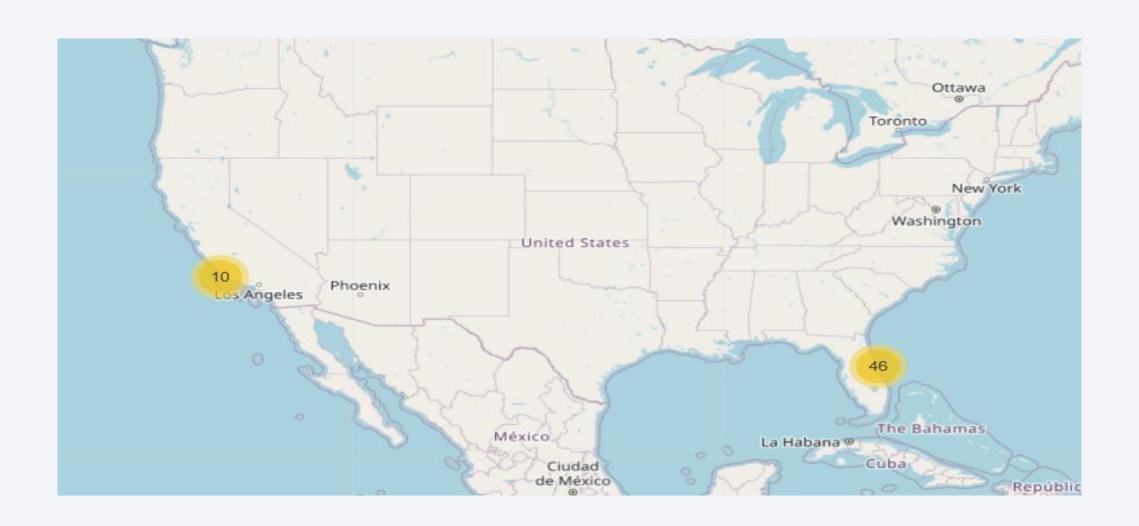
* sqlite://my_data1.db
Done.
COUNT(Landing_Outcome)
```



Houston, Texas NASA Johnson Space Center



Number of Launches from Different Stations

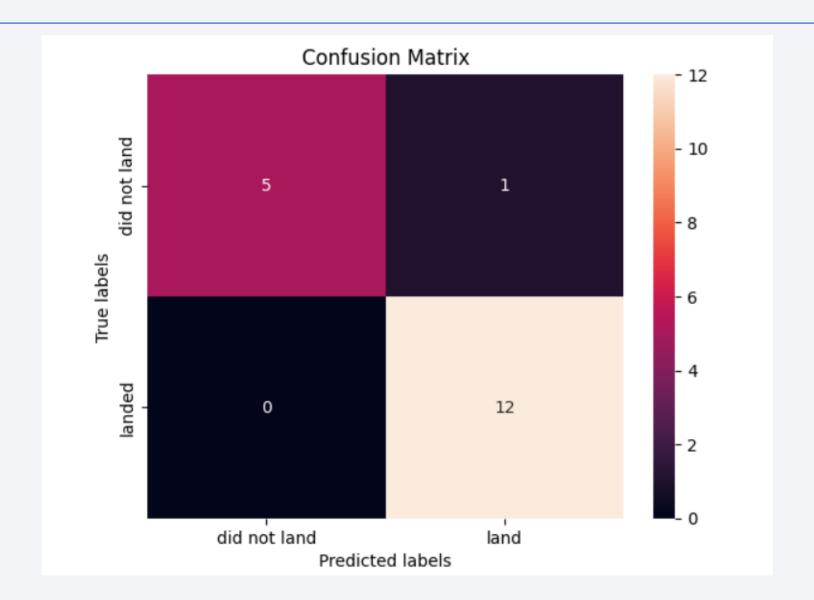


Successes of Launches at Certain Space Stations





Confusion Matrix



Conclusions

- This project set out to analyze and predict the success of SpaceX Falcon 9 first-stage landings
- From exploratory analysis payload mass had correlations with success rates, and certain orbit types
- We also used machine learning and grid search based on various launch features
- These models offer potential for predicting the likelihood of landing success.

