

Winning Space Race with Data Science

Fernando Valenzuela Mardones 20 May 2025



Outline

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

Executive Summary

Summary of methodologies

Our approach encompassed a dual methodology involving API integration and web scraping techniques for data collection. Following the acquisition phase, we employed a suite of Python Data manipulation methods to meticulously process and cleanse the dataset. Subsequently, SQL queries were garnered through systematic data visualization and trend analysis. Concluding our analytical framework, we implemented supervised machine learning models to make predictions about the success of the landing event.

Summary of all results

Through meticulous data analysis, we identified discernible patterns and correlations among variables directly influencing the success of landing events. Leveraging these insights, we developed and trained a predictive model that demonstrated a notable capability to accurately forecast the probability of a successful landing event. Notably, the model achieved a commendable accuracy rate of 83%, underscoring its effectiveness in providing reliable prognostications within this domain.

3

Introduction

- SpaceX's commitment to reusable rockets has significantly mitigated space travel costs by strategically focusing on the retrieval of the first rocket phase. The recovery of this initial phase is paramount in preserving and reusing expensive components, contributing directly to cost reduction. An in-depth analysis of the success rate of these retrieval events serves as a valuable metric for evaluating efficiency and cost-effectiveness in SpaceX's pioneering approach. This particular project is geared towards predicting the success of the first phase retrieval event, thereby offering predictive insights aimed at enhancing decision-making within the space industry.
- Our objective is to forecast the success of first-phase rocket retrieval, with the overarching aim of optimizing resource allocation. By achieving this predictive capability, we seek to enhance mission success rates and contribute to substantial cost savings.



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

Describe how data sets were collected:

Data was first collected using SpaceX API (a RESTful API) by making a get request to the SpaceX API. This was done by first defining a series helper functions that would help in the use the API to extract information using identification numbers in the launch data and the requesting rocket launch data from the SpaceX API URL.

Finally, to make the requested JSON results more consistent, the SpaceX launch data was requested and parsed using the GET request and the decoded the response content as alson result which was then converted into a Pandas data frame.

Also performed web scraping to collect Falcon 9 historical launch records from a Wikipedia page titled List of Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launches records are stored in aHTML. Using BeautifulSoup and request Libraries, I extract the Falcon 9 launch HTML table records from the Wikipedia page, Parsed the table and converted it into a Pandas Data Frame.

Data Collection – SpaceX API

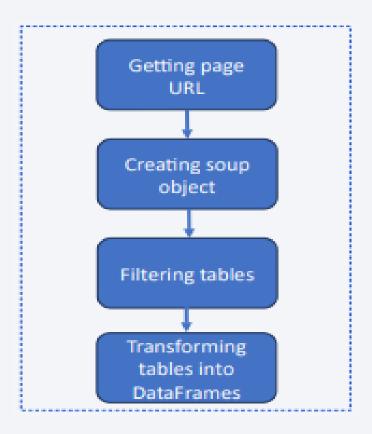
- 1) Define auxiliary function to parse the data.
- 2) Retrieve data from the **REST API** using the method **GET**.
- 3) Parse the data with the previously built auxiliary functions.
- 4) Store the data in PANDAS DataFrame

Jupyter Labs Spacex Data Collection API

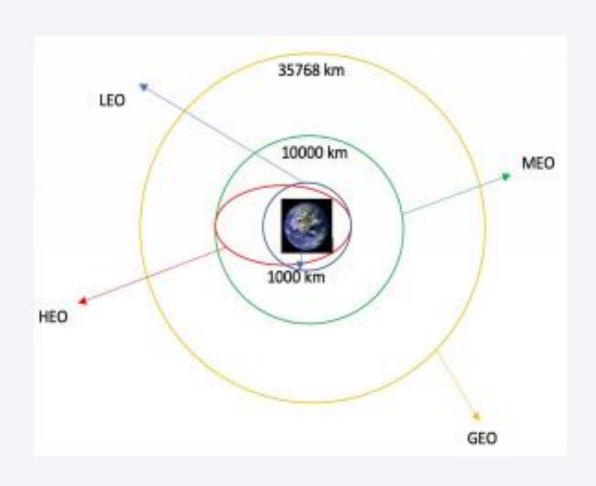


Data Collection - Scraping

- 1) Using the get request.get method to download page code.
- 2) Created a BeutifulSoup object to manipulate the html text.
- 3) Filtered the desired tables using soup manipulation methods.
- 4) Converted the data from the HTML to pandas Data Frame format.

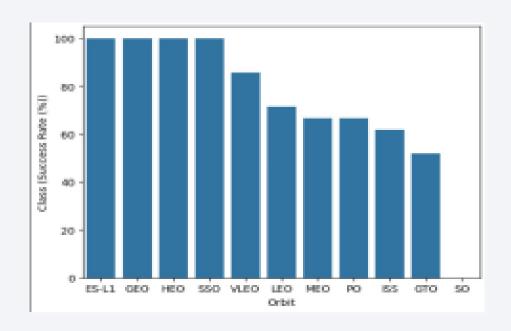


Data Wrangling

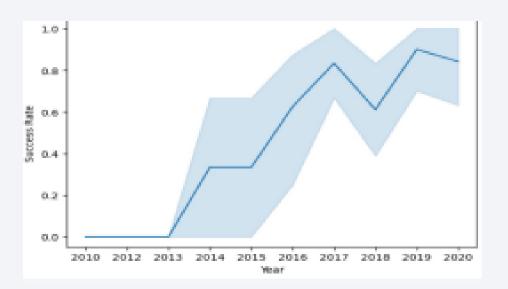


We performed exploratory data analysis and determined the training labels. We calculated the number of launches at each site, and the number and occurrence of each orbits We created landing outcome label from outcome column and exported the results to CSV.

EDA with Data Visualization



Explored the data by visualizing the relationship between flight number and launch Site, payload and launch site, success rate of each orbit type, flight number and orbit type, the launch success yearly trend.



EDA with SQL

Using SQL, we had performed many queries to get better understanding of the dataset

- 1) Displaying the names of the launch sites.
- 2) Displaying 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'.
- 3) Displaying the total payload mass carried by booster launched by NASA (CRS).
- 4) Displaying the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1.
- 5) Listing the date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved.
- 6) Listing the names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000.
- 7) Listing the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes.
- 8) Listing the names of the booster versions which have carried the maximum payload mass.
- 9) Listing the failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch sites names for in year 2015.- Rank the count of landing outcomes or success between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20, in descending order.

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- We marked all launch sites, and added map objects such as markers, circles, lines to mark the success or failure of launches for each site on the folium map.
- We assigned the feature launch outcomes (failure or success) to class 0 and 1.i.e., Ofor failure, and 1 for success.
- Using the color-labeled marker clusters, we identified which launch sites have relatively high success rate.
- We calculated the distances between a launch site to its proximities. We answered some question for instance:
- Are launch sites near railways, highways and coastlines.
- Do launch sites keep certain distance away from cities.

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

We built an interactive dashboard with Plotly dash.

We plotted pie charts showing the total launches by a certain sites.

We plotted scatter graph showing the relationship with Outcome and PayloadMass (Kg) for the different booster version.

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

We loaded the data using numpy and pandas, transformed the data, split our data into training and testing.

We built different machine learning models and tune different hyperparameters using GridSearchCV.

We used accuracy as the metric for our model, improved the model using feature engineering and algorithm tuning.

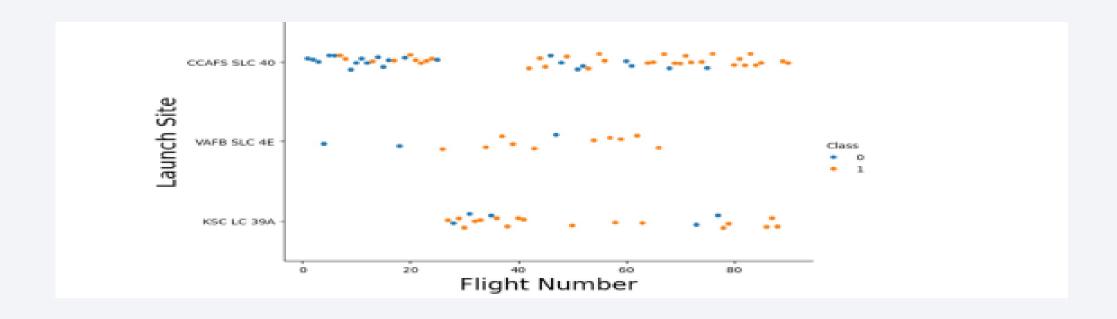
We found the best performing classification model.

Results

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

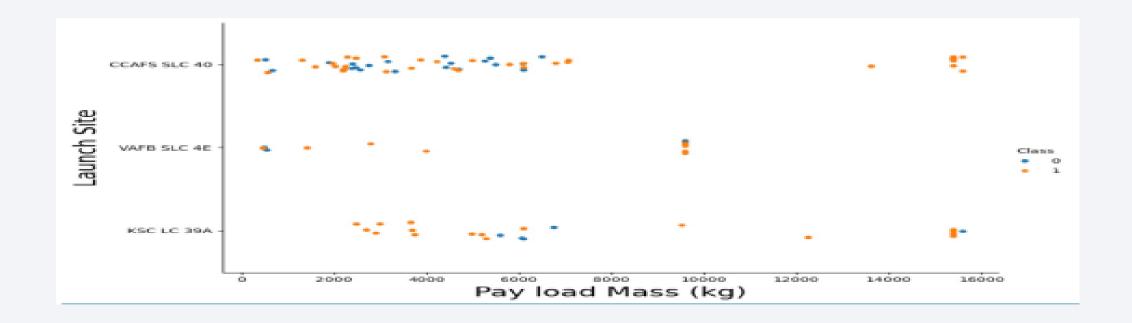


Flight Number vs. Launch Site



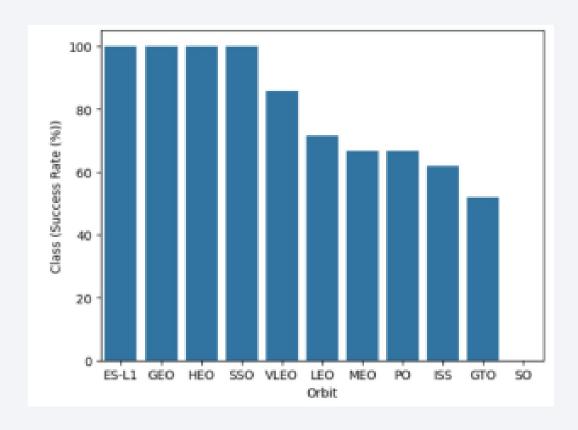
From the plot, we found that the larger the flight amount at a launch site, the greater the success rate at a launch site.

Payload vs. Launch Site



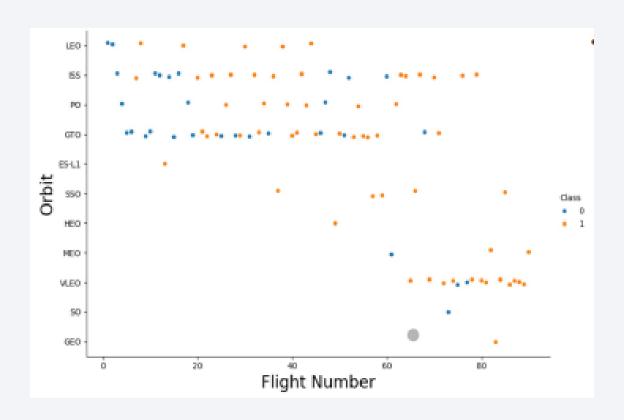
• The greater the payload mass for launch site CCAFS SLC 40 the higher the success rate for the rocket.

Success Rate vs. Orbit Type



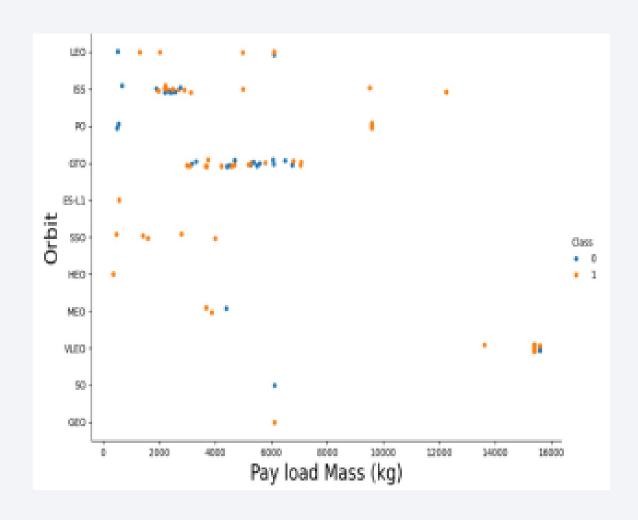
From the plot, we can see that ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO, VLEO had the most success rate.

Flight Number vs. Orbit Type



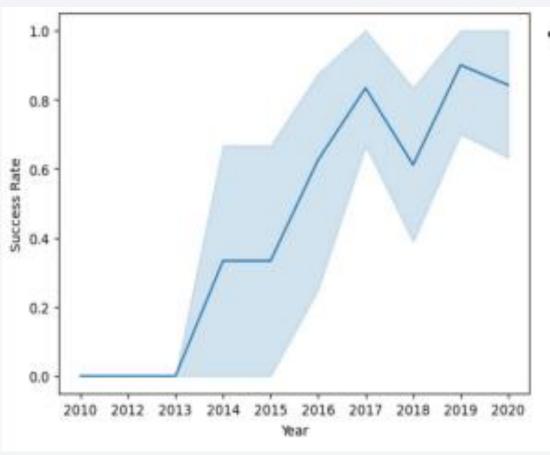
The plot below shows the Flight Number vs. Orbit type. We observe that in the LEO orbit, success is related to the number of flights whereas in the GTO orbit, there is no relationship between flight number and the orbit.

Payload vs. Orbit Type



We can observe that with heavy payloads, the successful landing are more for PO,LEO and ISS orbits

Launch Success Yearly Trend



 From the plot, we can observe that success rate since 2013 kept on increasing till 2020.

All Launch Site Names

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

In [31]: teql SELECT DISTINCT LAUNCH_SITE as "Launch_Sites" FROM SPACEXTBL;

* aqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

Out[31]: Launch_Sites

CCAFS LC-40

VAFB SLC-4E

KSC LC-39A

CCAFS SLC-40
```

• We used the key word DISTINCT to show only unique launch sites from the SpaceX data.

Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'									
ted; serect . Lace , Shuceriar, Messe Pennep Fire Fixe , COMP, Fixel 21									
* sqlite:///mg_dotal.db bone.									
Date	Time (UTC)	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Payload	PAYLOAD_MASSKO_	Orbit	Customer	Mission_Outcome	Landin _Outcom
04- 06- 2010	18:45:00	F9 √1.0 B0003	CCAFS LC- 40	Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit	D	LEO	SpaceX	Successi	Failu (parachut
08- 12- 2010	15:43:00	F9 VLD B0004	CCAPS LC- 40	Oragon demo flight C1, two CubeSatx, barrel of Brouere cheese	D	LEO [183]	NASA (COTS) NRD	Succees	Failu (parachub
22- 05- 2012	07144100	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC- 40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success	No attem
08- 10- 2012	00:35:00	F9 V1.0 B0006	CCAPS LC- 40	SpaceX CRS-1	500	LEO [188]	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attemp
01- 03- 2013	15/10/00	F9 v1.0 B0007	CCAFS LC- 40	SpaceX CRS-2	677	LEO (188)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attern

 We used the query above to display 5 records where launch sites begin with CCA.

Total Payload Mass

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

In [17]: 
sql SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) as "Total Payload Nass(Kgs)", Customer FROM 'SPACEXTBL' WHERE Customer = 'NASA * sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

Out[17]: 
Total Payload Mass(Kgs) Customer

45596 NASA (CRS)
```

 We calculated the total payload carried by boosters from NASA as 45596 using the query below.

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

First Successful Ground Landing Date

```
Task 5

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

Hint:Use min function

In [21]: *sql select MIN(DATE) FROM 'SPACEXTBL' WHERE "Landing _Outcome" = "Success (ground pad)";

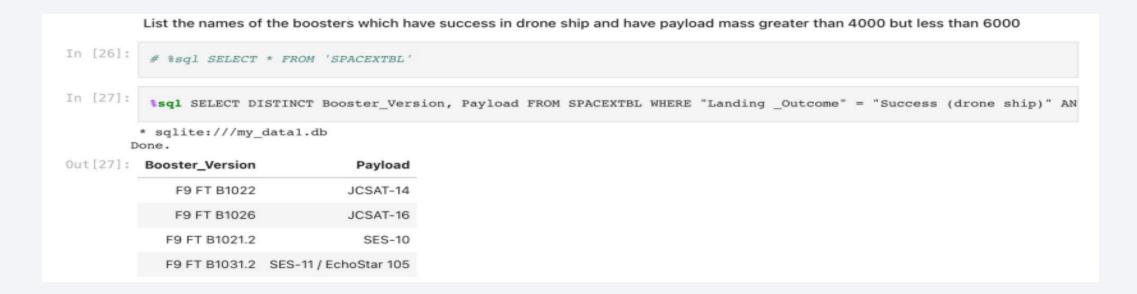
* sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.

Out[21]: MIN(DATE)

O1-05-2017
```

• We observed that the dates of the first successful landing outcome on ground pad was 1st May 2017.

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000



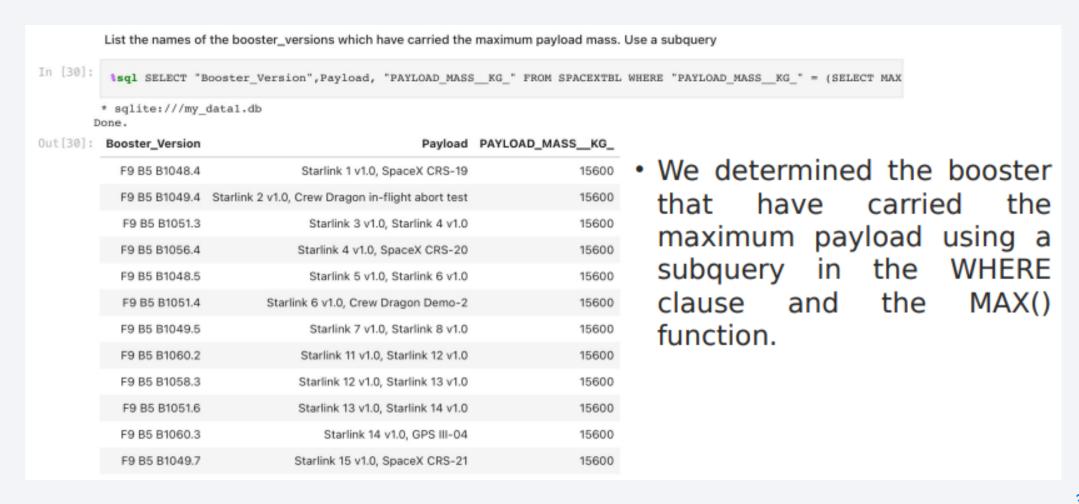
• We used the WHERE clause to filter for boosters which have success fully landed on drone-ship and applied the and condition to determine successful landing with payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000.

Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

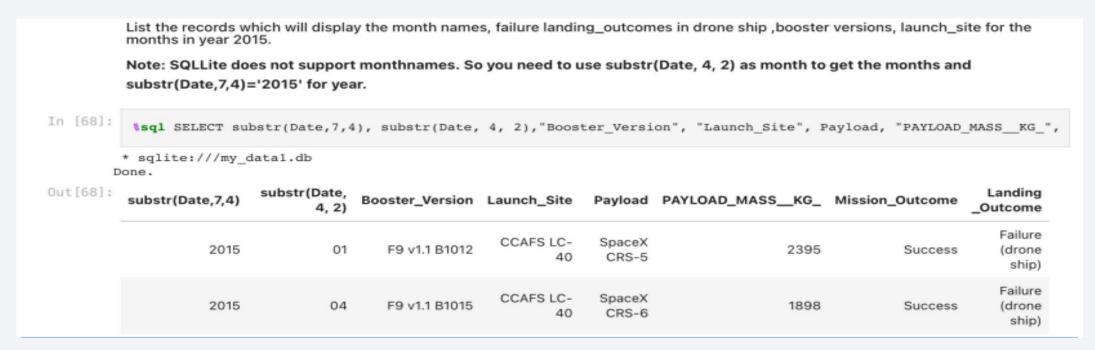


• Total number of Mission outcome was a success or a failure.

Boosters Carried Maximum Payload



2015 Launch Records



• We used a combinations of the WHERE clause, LIKE, AND, and Between conditions to filter for failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for year 2015.

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.

In [45]:

\$sql SELECT LANDING_OUTCOME, COUNT(*) AS COUNT_LAUNCHES FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE DATE BETWEEN '2010-06-04' AND '2017-

* sqlite:///my_datal.db Done.

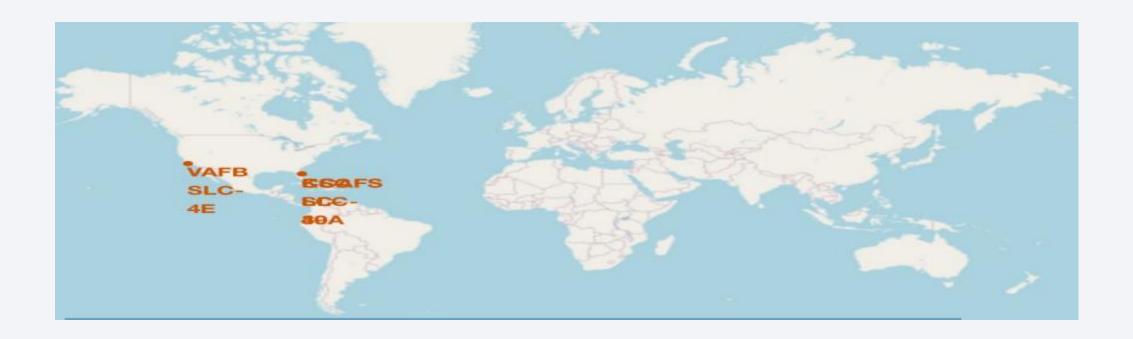
Out[45]:

COUNT_LAUNCHES		
10		
5		
5		
3		
3		
2		
2		
1		

- We selected Landing outcome sand the COUNT of landing outcomes from the data and-used the WHERE clause to filter for landing outcomes between 2010-06-04 to 2010-03-20.
- We applied the group by clause to group the landing outcomes and the order by clause to order the grouped landing outcomes in descending order.



All launch sites global map markers

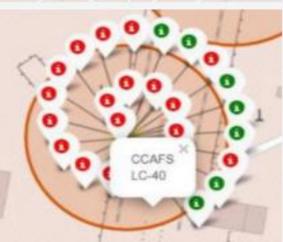


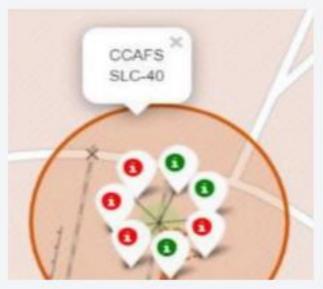
• We can see that the Space launch sites are in the United States of America coasts. Florida and California.

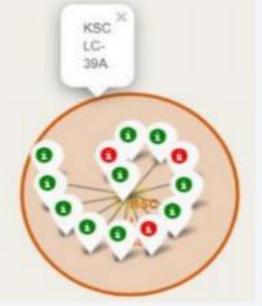
Markers showing launch sites with color labels

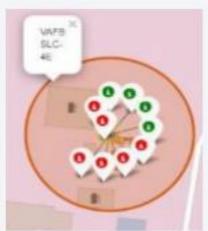


Green marker showing **Successful** Launches. Red marker showing **Unsuccessful** Launches.









Launch Site distance to landmarks

Are lunch sites is close proximity to railways?

No

Are lunch sites is close proximity to highway?

No

Are lunch sites is close proximity to coastline?

Yes

Do launch sites keep certain distance away from cities?

Yes





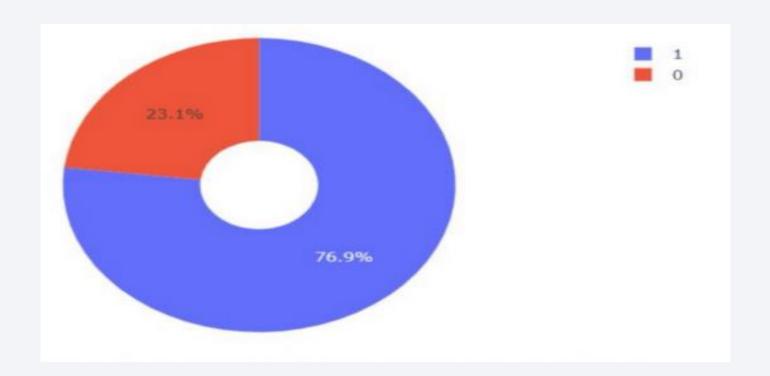
Pie chart showing the success percentage achieved by each launch site

Total success launches by all sites



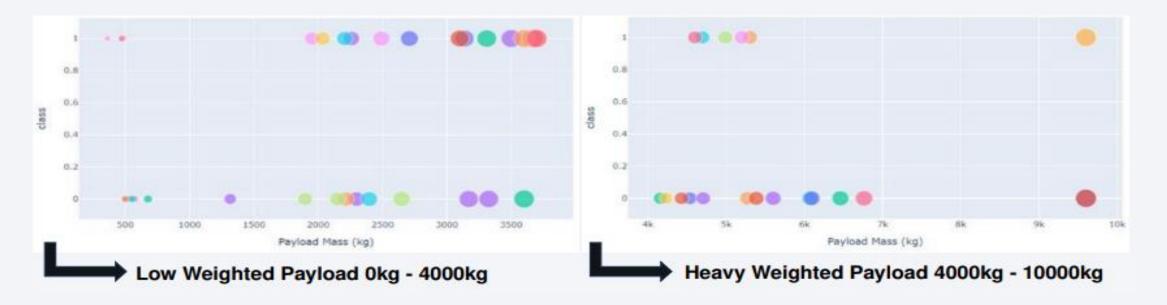
• We can see that KSC LC-39A had the most successful launches from all the sities.

Pie chart showing the Launch site with the highest launch success ratio



 KSC LC-39A achieved a 76.9% success rate while getting a 23.1% failure rate

Scatter plot of Payload vs Launch Outcome for all sites, with different payload selected in the range slider



We can see the success rates for low weighted payloads is higher than the heavy weighted payloads.



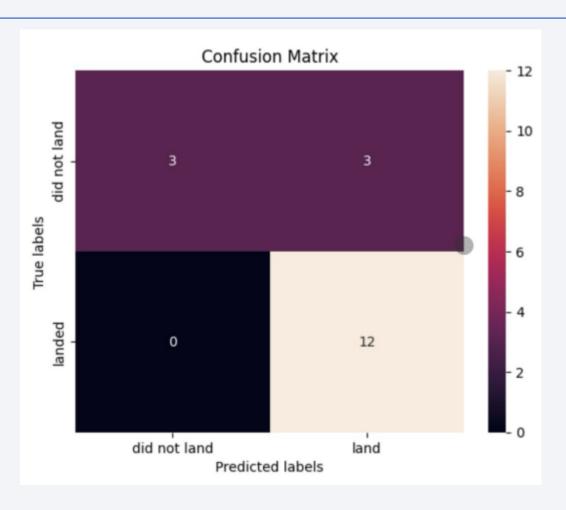
Classification Accuracy

 The decision tree classifier is the model with the highest classification accuracy

```
algorithms = {'KNN':knn_cv.best_score_,'Tree':tree_cv.best_score_,'LogisticRegression':logreg_cv.best_score_})
bestalgorithm = max(algorithms, key=algorithms.get)
print('Best Algorithm is',bestalgorithm,'with a score of',algorithms[bestalgorithm])
if bestalgorithm == 'Tree':
    print('Best Params is :',tree_cv.best_params_)
if bestalgorithm == 'KNN':
    print('Best Params is :',knn_cv.best_params_)
if bestalgorithm == 'LogisticRegression':
    print('Best Params is :',logreg_cv.best_params_)
Best Algorithm is Tree with a score of 0.8767857142857143
Best Params is : {'criterion': 'entropy', 'max_depth': 2, 'max_features': 'sqrt', 'min_samples_leaf': 4, 'min_samples_split': 2, 'splitter': 'random'}
```

Confusion Matrix

The confusion matrix for the decision tree classifier shows that the classifier can distinguish between the different classes. The major problem is the false positives .i.e., unsuccessful landing marked as successful landing by the classifier.



Conclusions

We can conclude that:

The larger the flight amount at a launch site, the greater the success rate at a launch site.

Launch success rate started to increase in 2013 till 2020.

Orbits ES-L1, GEO, HEO, SSO, VLEO had the most success rate.

KSC LC-39A had the most successful launches of any sites.

The Decision tree classifier is the best machine learning algorithm for this task.

Appendix

• Include any relevant assets like Python code snippets, SQL queries, charts, Notebook outputs, or data sets that you may have created during this project

