IBM Developer
SKILLS NETWORK

Winning Space Race with Data Science

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19/05/2025

Outline

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

Executive Summary

- Retrieved data from the SpaceX public API and Wikipedia. Generated a target column named ‘class’ to indicate successful landings. Performed data exploration using SQL queries, visualizations, interactive maps (Folium), and dashboards. Selected key features for modeling, converted categorical variables using one-hot encoding, and standardized the dataset. Applied GridSearchCV to optimize model parameters and compared the accuracy scores across all trained machine learning models.
- Developed and evaluated four machine learning models: Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machine, Decision Tree Classifier, and K-Nearest Neighbors. All models achieved comparable performance, with an accuracy of approximately 83.33%. However, they consistently overestimated the likelihood of successful landings. Additional data is required to improve model performance and reliability.

Introduction

SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket – The Verge

- Background:

- Commercial Space Age is Here
- Space X has best pricing ($62 million vs. $165 million USD)
- Largely due to ability to recover part of rocket (Stage 1)
- Space Y wants to compete with Space X

- Problem:

- Space Y tasks us to train a machine learning model to predict successful Stage 1 recovery

Section 1

Methodology

Overview of Data Collection, Wrangling, Visualization, Dashboard, And Model Methods

Methodology

Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
  - Combined data from SpaceX public API and SpaceX Wikipedia page
- Perform data wrangling
  - Classifying true landings as successful and unsuccessful otherwise
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
  - Tuned models using GridSearchCV

Data Collection

The dataset was gathered through a mix of API requests to SpaceX's public API and web scraping of tabular data from SpaceX's Wikipedia page.

Space X API Data Columns:

FlightNumber, Date, BoosterVersion, PayloadMass, Orbit, LaunchSite, Outcome, Flights, GridFins,

Reused, Legs, LandingPad, Block, ReusedCount, Serial, Longitude, Latitude

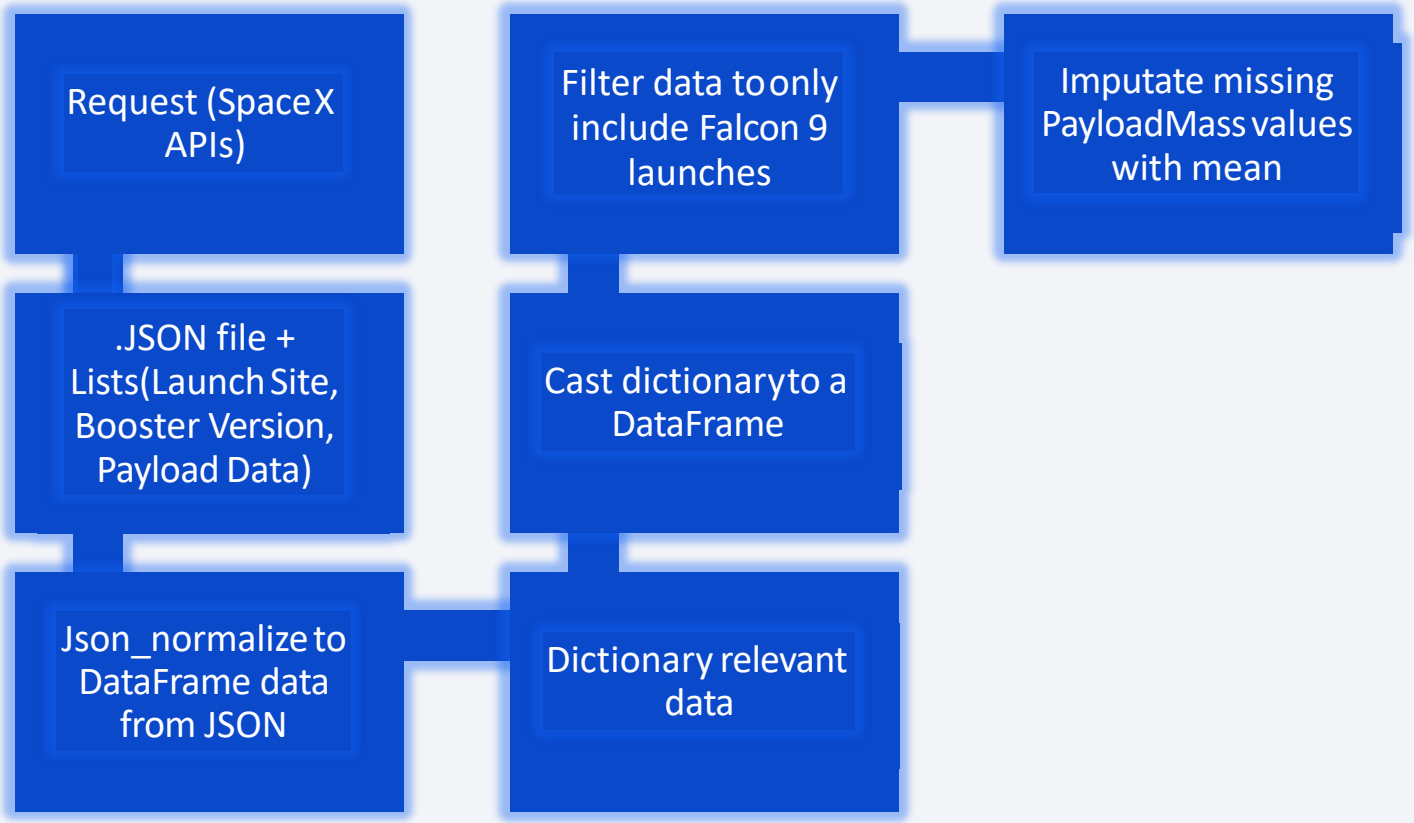
Wikipedia Webscrape Data Columns:

Flight No., Launch site, Payload, PayloadMass, Orbit, Customer, Launch outcome, Version Booster, Booster landing, Date, Time

Data Collection – SpaceX API

GitHub url:

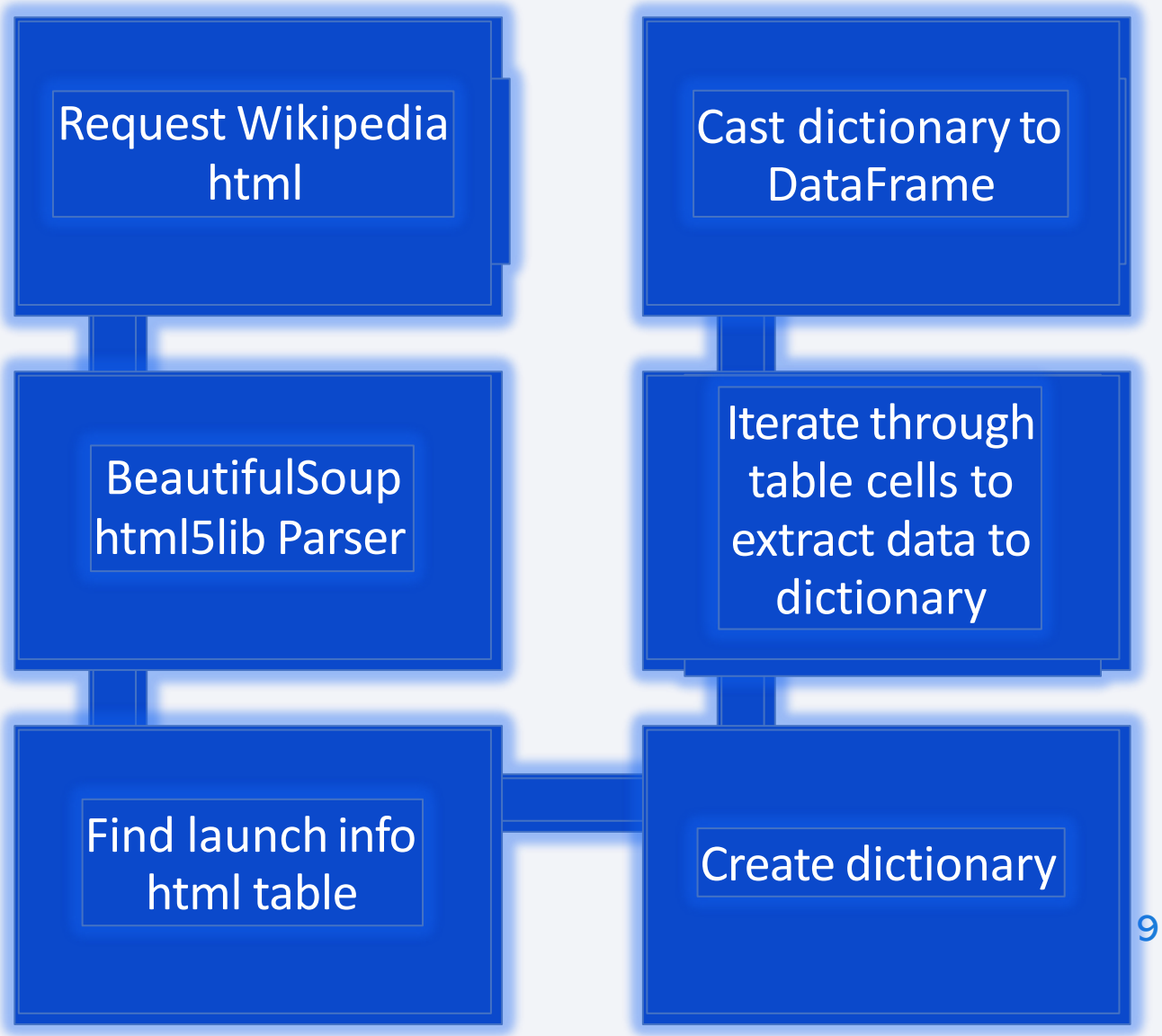
https://github.com/sakuoko/IBM-Data-Science-Professional-Certificate/blob/main/10.%20Applied%20Data%20Science%20Capstone/jupyter-labs-spacex-data-collection-api.ipynb



Data Collection - Scraping

GitHub url:

https://github.com/sakuoko/IBM-Data-Science-Professional-Certificate/blob/main/10.%20Applied%20Data%20Science%20Capstone/jupyter-labs-webscraping.ipynb



Data Wrangling

Generate a binary training label to classify landing outcomes, assigning 1 for success and 0 for failure. The outcome is determined by combining two fields: ‘Mission Outcome’ and ‘Landing Location’. Create a new column named ‘class’ with a value of 1 if the ‘Mission Outcome’ "True" and the landing location is one of "ASDS", "RTLS", or "Ocean"; otherwise, assign 0.

Value Mapping

- “True ASDS”, “True RTLS”, “True Ocean” →1
- “None None”, “False ASDS”, “None ASDS”, “False Ocean”, “False RTLS” → 0

GitHub url:

https://github.com/sakuoko/IBM-Data-Science-Professional-Certificate/blob/main/10.%20Applied%20Data%20Science%20Capstone/labs-jupyter-spacex-Data%20wrangling.ipynb

EDA with Data Visualization

Exploratory Data Analysis was conducted on features including Flight Number, Payload Mass, Launch Site, Orbit, Class, and Year. Visualizations included comparisons such as Flight Number vs. Payload Mass, Flight Number vs. Launch Site, Payload Mass vs. Launch Site, Orbit vs. Success Rate, Flight Number vs. Orbit, Payload vs. Orbit, and yearly trends in success. Scatter plots, line graphs, and bar charts were utilized to examine potential relationships between variables, aiding in the selection of features for training the machine learning model.

GitHub url:

https://github.com/sakuoko/IBM-Data-Science-Professional-Certificate/blob/main/10.%20Applied%20Data%20Science%20Capstone/eda dataviz.ipynb

EDA with SQL

- Loaded data set into IBM DB2 Database.
- Queried using SQL Python integration.
- Queries were made to get a better understanding of the dataset.
- Queried information about launch site names, mission outcomes, various pay load sizes of customers and booster versions, and landing outcomes

GitHub url:

https://github.com/sakuoko/IBM-Data-Science-Professional-Certificate/blob/main/10.%20Applied%20Data%20Science%20Capstone/jupyter-labs-eda-sql-coursera_sqllite.ipynb

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- Folium maps mark Launch Sites, successful and unsuccessful landings, and a proximity example to key locations: Railway, Highway, Coast, and City.

- This allows us to understand why launch sites may be located where they are. Also visualizes successful landings relative to location.

GitHub url:

https://github.com/sakuoko/IBM-Data-Science-Professional-Certificate/blob/main/10.%20Applied%20Data%20Science%20Capstone/lab_jupyter_launch_site_location.ipynb

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Dashboard includes a pie chart and a scatter plot.

Pie chart can be selected to show distribution of successful landings across all launch sites and can be selected to show individual launch site success rates.

Scatter plot takes two inputs: All sites or individual site and payload mass on a slider between 0 and 10000 kg.

The pie chart is used to visualize launch site success rate. The scatter plot can help us see how success varies across launch sites, payload mass, and booster version category.

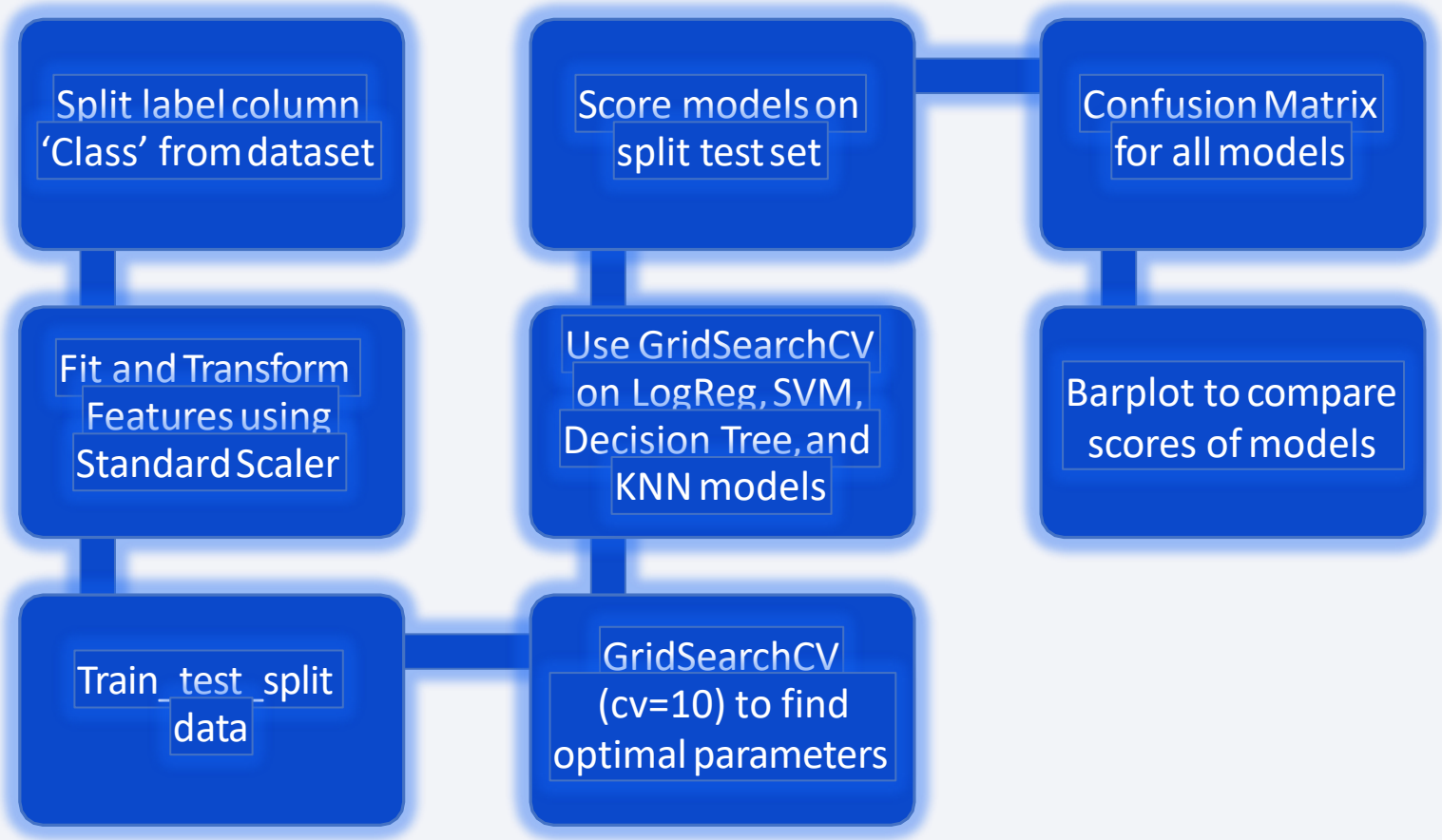
GitHub url:

https://github.com/sakuoko/IBM-Data-Science-Professional-Certificate/blob/main/10.%20Applied%20Data%20Science%20Capstone/spacex_dash_app.py

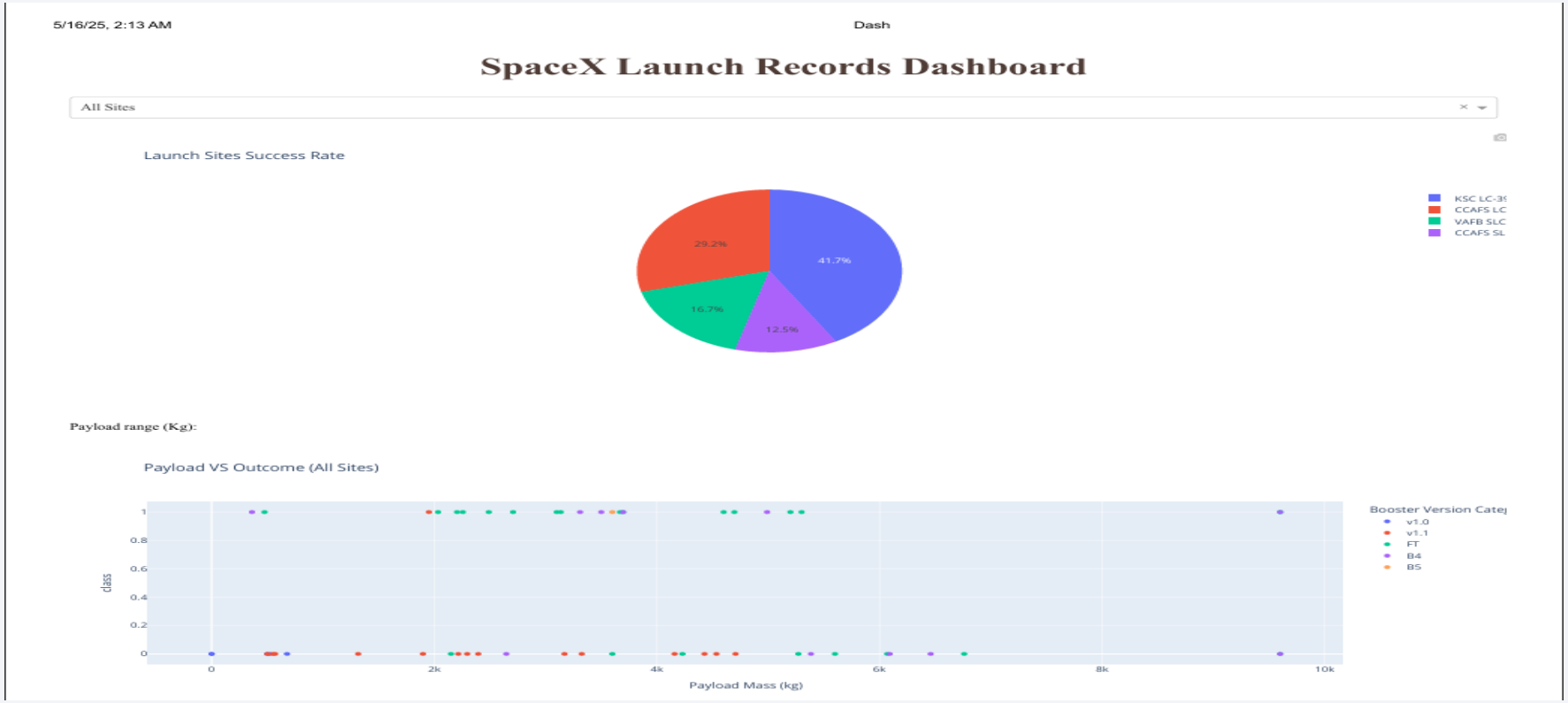
Predictive Analysis (Classification)

GitHub url:

https://github.com/sakuoko/IBM-Data-Science-Professional-Certificate/blob/main/10.%20Applied%20Data%20Science%20Capstone/SpaceX_Machine%20Learning%20Prediction_Part_5.ipynb



Results



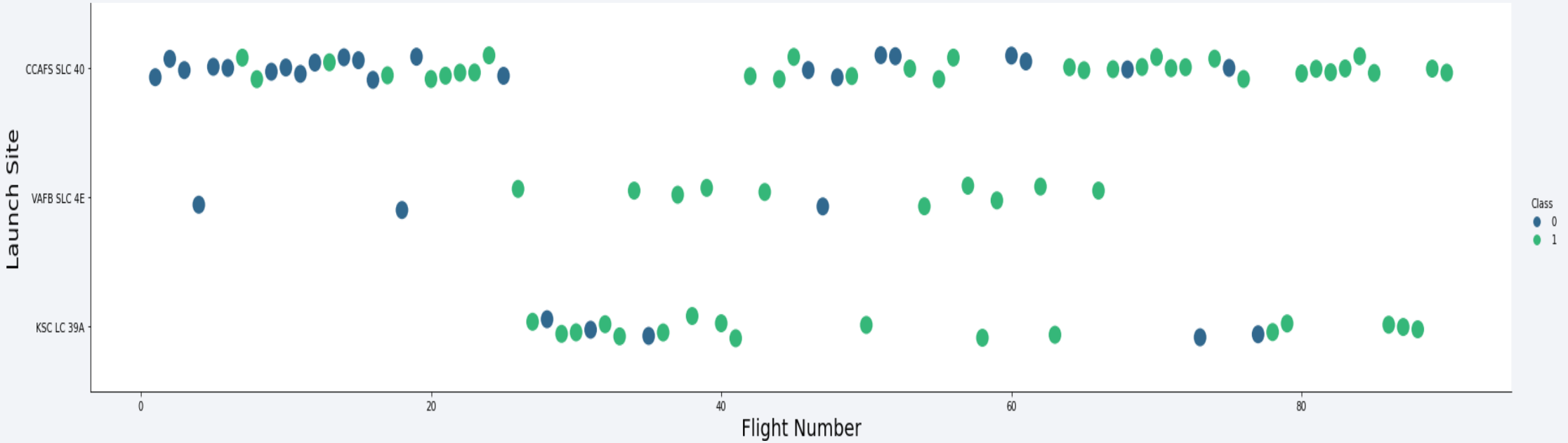
This is a preview of the Plotly dashboard. The following sides will show the results of EDA with visualization, EDA with SQL, Interactive Map with Folium, and finally the results of our model with about 83% accuracy.

Section 2

Insights drawn from EDA

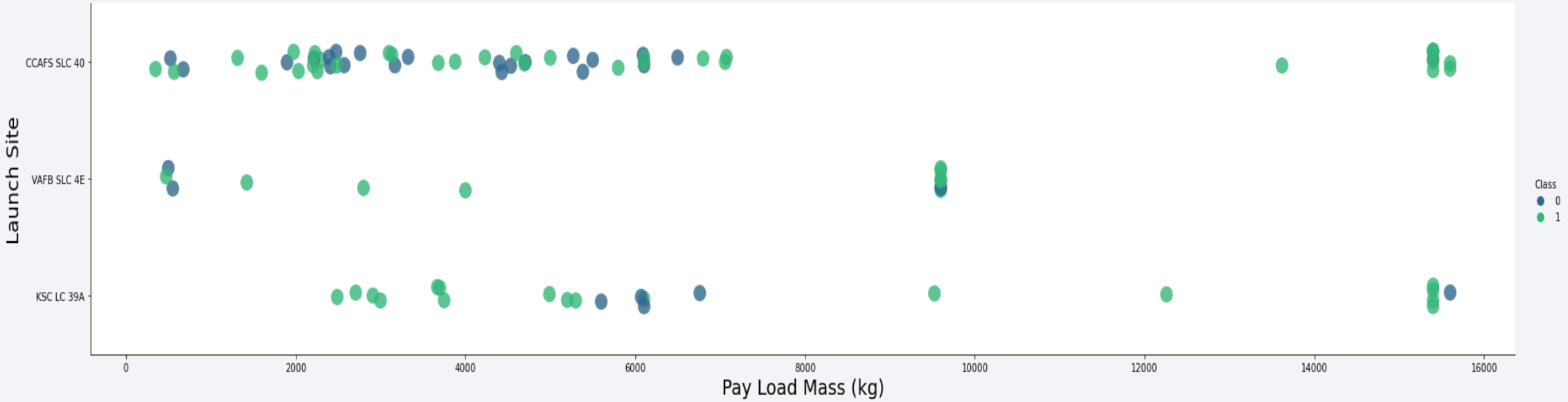
Exploratory Data Analysis With Seaborn Plots

Flight Number vs. Launch Site



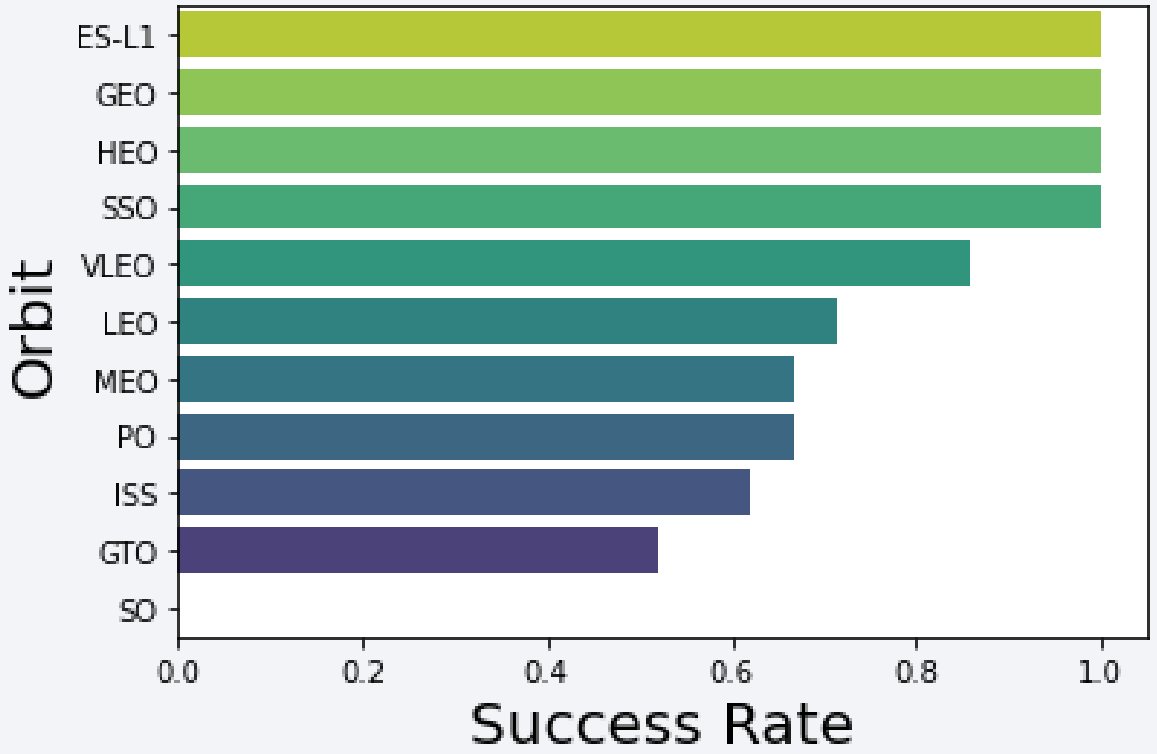
Graphic suggests an increase in success rate over time (indicated in Flight Number).
Likely a big breakthrough around flight 20 which significantly increased success rate.
CCAFS appears to be the main launch site as it has the most volume.

Payload vs. Launch Site



Payload mass appears to fall mostly between 0-6000 kg. Different launch sites also seem to use different payload mass.

Success Rate vs. Orbit Type



Success Rate Scale with
0 as 0%
0.6 as 60%
1 as 100%

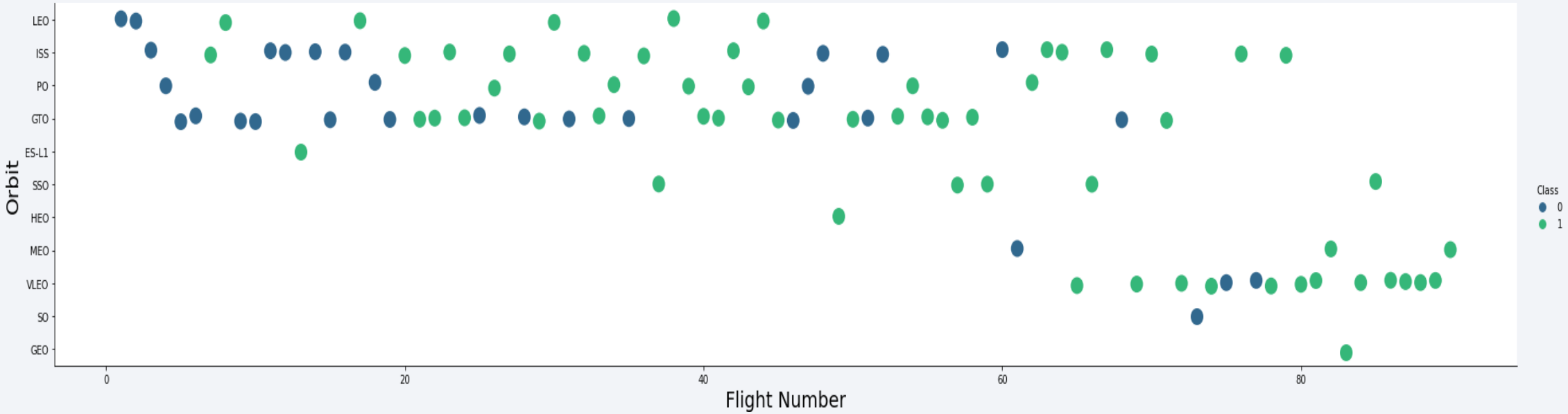
ES-L1 (1), GEO (1), HEO (1) have 100% success rate (sample sizes in parenthesis) SSO (5) has 100% success rate

VLEO (14) has decent success rate and attempts

SO (1) has 0% success rate

GTO (27) has the around 50% success rate but largest sample

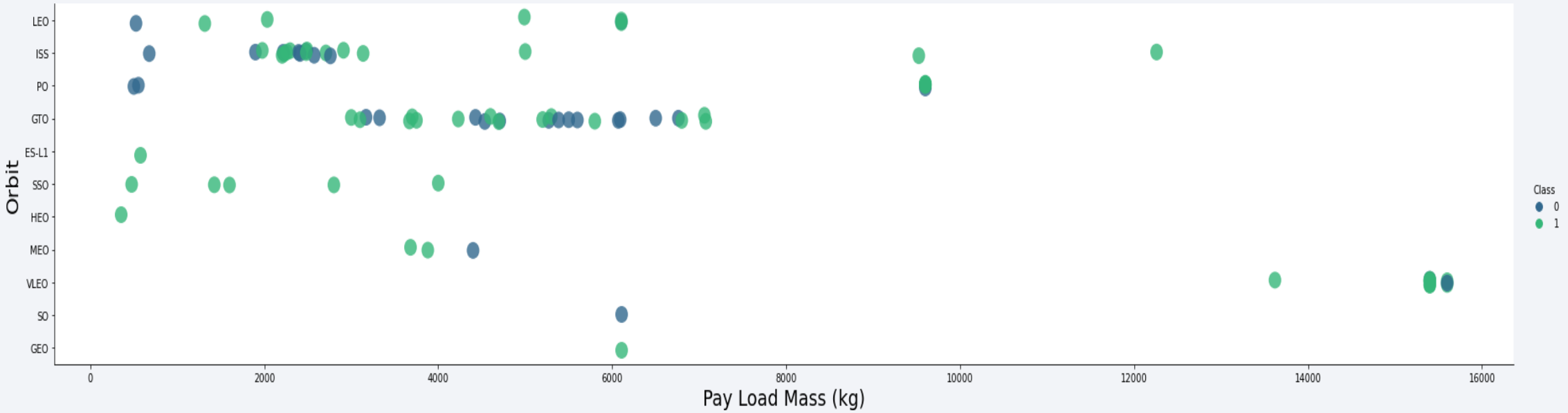
Flight Number vs. Orbit Type



Launch Orbit preferences changed over Flight Number. Launch Outcome seems to correlate with this preference.

SpaceX started with LEO orbits which saw moderate success LEO and returned to VLEO in recent launches SpaceX appears to perform better in lower orbits or Sun-synchronous orbits

Payload vs. Orbit Type

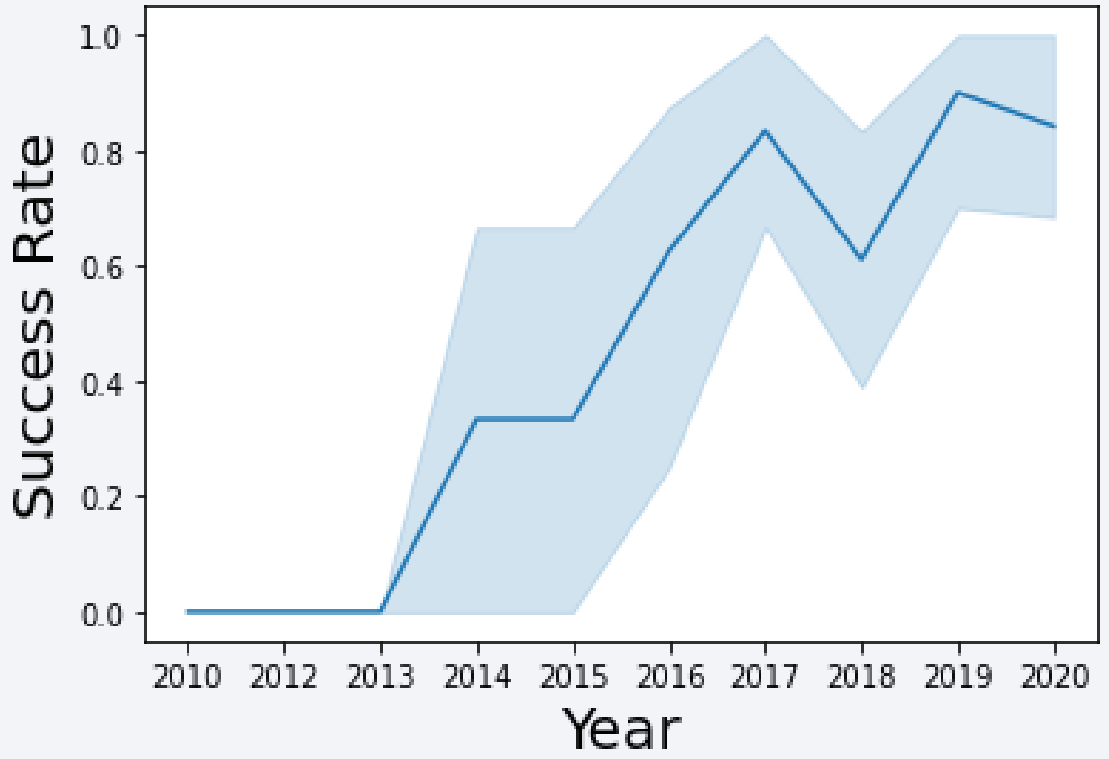


Payload mass seems to correlate with orbit

LEO and SSO seem to have relatively low payload mass

The other most successful orbit VLEO only has payload mass values in the higher end of the range

Launch Success Yearly Trend



95% confidence interval
(light blue shading)

Success generally increases over time since 2013 with a slight dip in 2018

Success in recent years at around 80%

All Launch Site Names

- Query unique launch site names from database.
- CCAFS SLC-40 and CCAFSSLC-40 likely all represent the same
- launch site with data entry errors.
- CCAFS LC-40 was the previous

name. Likely only 3 unique

Launch_Site values: CCAFS SLC-

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

```
In [4]: %%sql
        SELECT UNIQUE LAUNCH_SITE
        FROM SPACEXDATASET;
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2
Done.
```

Out[4]:

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

Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

In [5]:
```
%%sql
SELECT *
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE LAUNCH_SITE LIKE 'CCA%'
LIMIT 5;
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.appdomain.cloud:31198/bludb
Done.
```

Out[5]:

DATE	time__utc_	booster_version	launch_site	payload	payload_mass__kg_	orbit	customer	mission_outcome	landing__outcome
2010-06-04	18:45:00	F9 v1.0 B0003	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon Spacecraft Qualification Unit	0	LEO	SpaceX	Success	Failure (parachute)
2010-12-08	15:43:00	F9 v1.0 B0004	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C1, two CubeSats, barrel of Brouere cheese	0	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS) NRO	Success	Failure (parachute)
2012-05-22	07:44:00	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC-40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success	No attempt
2012-10-08	00:35:00	F9 v1.0 B0006	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-1	500	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt
2013-03-01	15:10:00	F9 v1.0 B0007	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-2	677	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	No attempt

First five entries in database with Launch Site name beginning with CCA.

Total Payload Mass

```
%%sql
SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS SUM_PAYLOAD_MASS_KG
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE CUSTOMER = 'NASA (CRS)';
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86
Done.
```

sum_payload_mass_kg
45596

- This query sums the total payload mass in kg where NASA was the customer.
- CRS stands for Commercial Resupply Services which indicates that these payloads were sent to the International Space Station (ISS).

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

```
%%sql
SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS AVG_PAYLOAD_MASS_KG
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE booster_version = 'F9 v1.1'
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-8(
Done.
```

avg_payload_mass_kg
2928

- This query calculates the average payload mass or launches which used booster version F9 v1.1
- Average payload mass of F9 1.1 is on the low end of our payload mass range

First Successful Ground Landing Date

```
%%sql
SELECT MIN(DATE) AS FIRST_SUCCESS
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE landing__outcome = 'Success (ground pad)';
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81
Done.
```

first_success
2015-12-22

This query returns the first successful ground pad landing date. First ground pad landing wasn't until the end of 2015. Successful landings in general appear starting 2014.

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

```
%%sql
SELECT booster_version
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE landing__outcome = 'Success (drone ship)' AND payload_mass__kg_ BETWEEN 4001 AND 5999;
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.database
Done.
```

booster_version
F9 FT B1022
F9 FT B1026
F9 FT B1021.2
F9 FT B1031.2

This query returns the four booster versions that had successful drone ship landings and a payload mass between 4000 and 6000 exclusively.

Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

- This query returns a count of each mission outcome.
- SpaceX appears to achieve its mission outcome nearly 99% of the time.
- This means that most of the landing failures are intended.
- Interestingly, one launch has an unclear payload status and unfortunately one failed in flight.

```
%%sql
SELECT mission_outcome, COUNT(*) AS no_outcome
FROM SPACEXDATASET
GROUP BY mission_outcome;
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-
Done.
```

mission_outcome	no_outcome
Failure (in flight)	1
Success	99
Success (payload status unclear)	1

Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

- This query returns the booster versions that carried the highest payload mass of 15600 kg.
- These booster versions are very similar and all are of the F9 B5 B10xx.x variety.
- This likely indicates payload mass correlates with the booster version that is used.

```
%%sql
SELECT booster_version, PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ = (SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM SPACEXDATASET);
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1
Done.
```

booster_version	payload_mass__kg_
F9 B5 B1048.4	15600
F9 B5 B1049.4	15600
F9 B5 B1051.3	15600
F9 B5 B1056.4	15600
F9 B5 B1048.5	15600
F9 B5 B1051.4	15600
F9 B5 B1049.5	15600
F9 B5 B1060.2	15600
F9 B5 B1058.3	15600
F9 B5 B1051.6	15600
F9 B5 B1060.3	15600
F9 B5 B1049.7	15600

2015 Launch Records

```
%%sql
SELECT MONTHNAME(DATE) AS MONTH, landing__outcome, booster_version, PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_, launch_site
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE landing__outcome = 'Failure (drone ship)' AND YEAR(DATE) = 2015;
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg.databases.app
Done.
```

MONTH	landing__outcome	booster_version	payload_mass__kg_	launch_site
January	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1012	2395	CCAFS LC-40
April	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1015	1898	CCAFS LC-40

- This query returns the Month, Landing Outcome, Booster Version, Payload Mass (kg), and Launch site of 2015 launches where stage 1 failed to land on a drone ship.
- There were two such occurrences.

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

```
%%sql
SELECT landing__outcome, COUNT(*) AS no_outcome
FROM SPACEXDATASET
WHERE landing__outcome LIKE 'Succes%' AND DATE BETWEEN '2010-06-04' AND '2017-03-20'
GROUP BY landing__outcome
ORDER BY no_outcome DESC;
```

```
 * ibm_db_sa://ftb12020:***@0c77d6f2-5da9-48a9-81f8-86b520b87518.bs2io90l08kqb1od8lcg
Done.
```

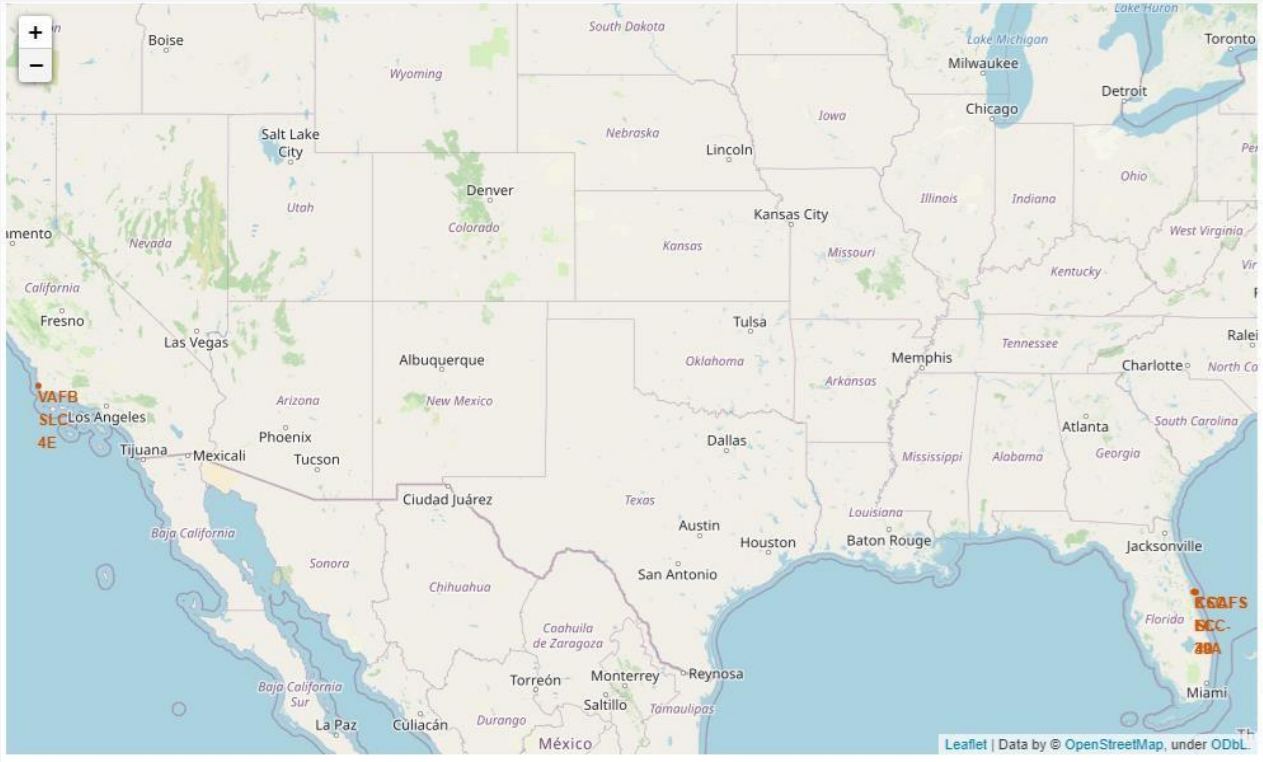
landing__outcome	no_outcome
Success (drone ship)	5
Success (ground pad)	3

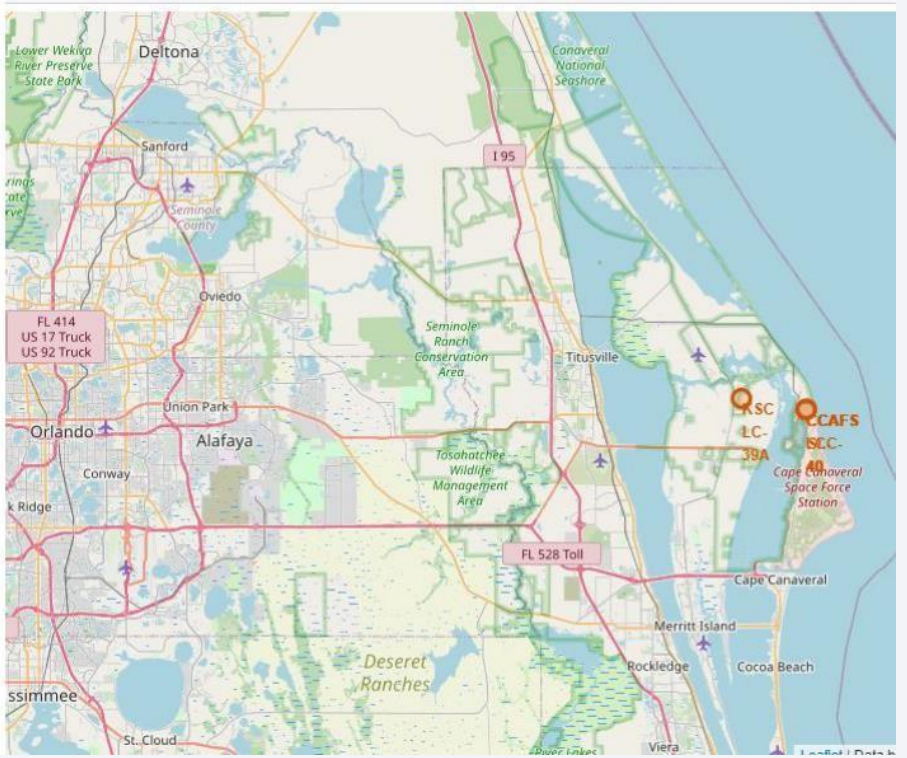
- This query returns a list of successful landings and between 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20 inclusively.
- There are two types of successful landing outcomes: drone ship and ground pad landings.
- There were 8 successful landings in total during this time period

Section 3

Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

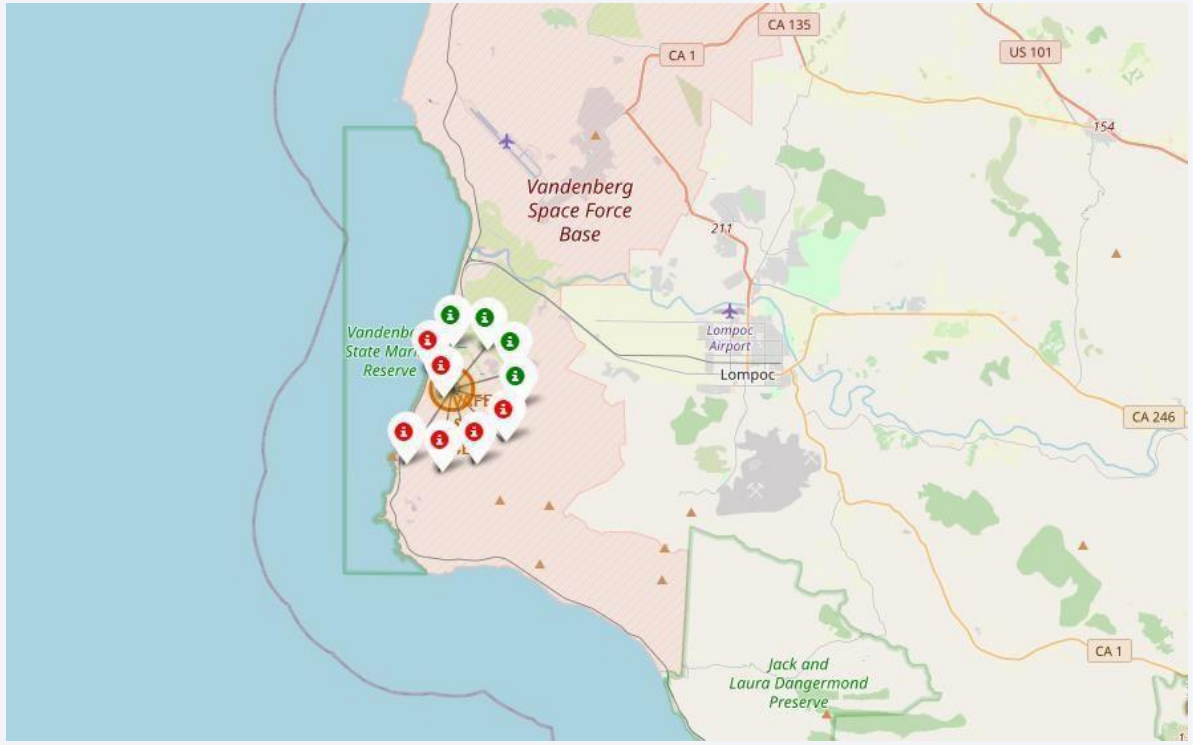
Launch Site Locations





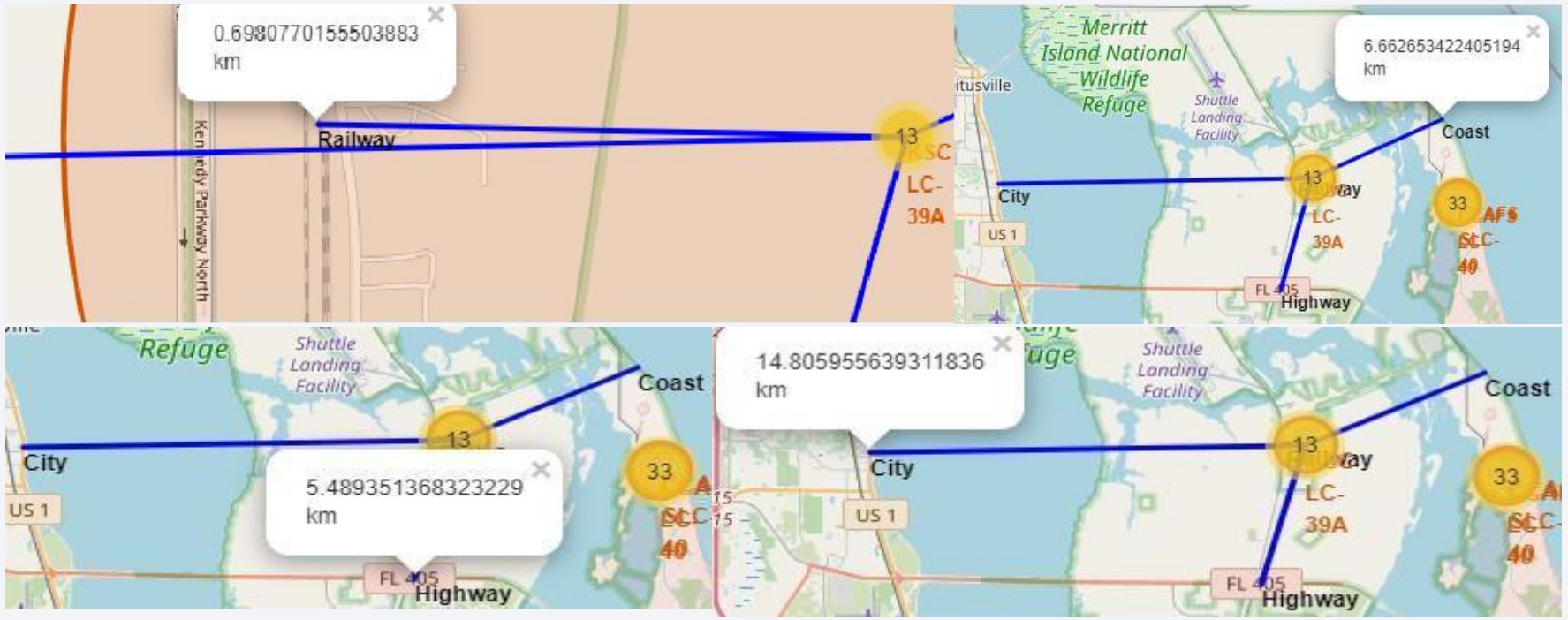
The left map shows all launch sites relative US map. The right map shows the two Florida launch sites since they are very close to each other. All launch sites are near the ocean.

Colour Coded Launch Markers

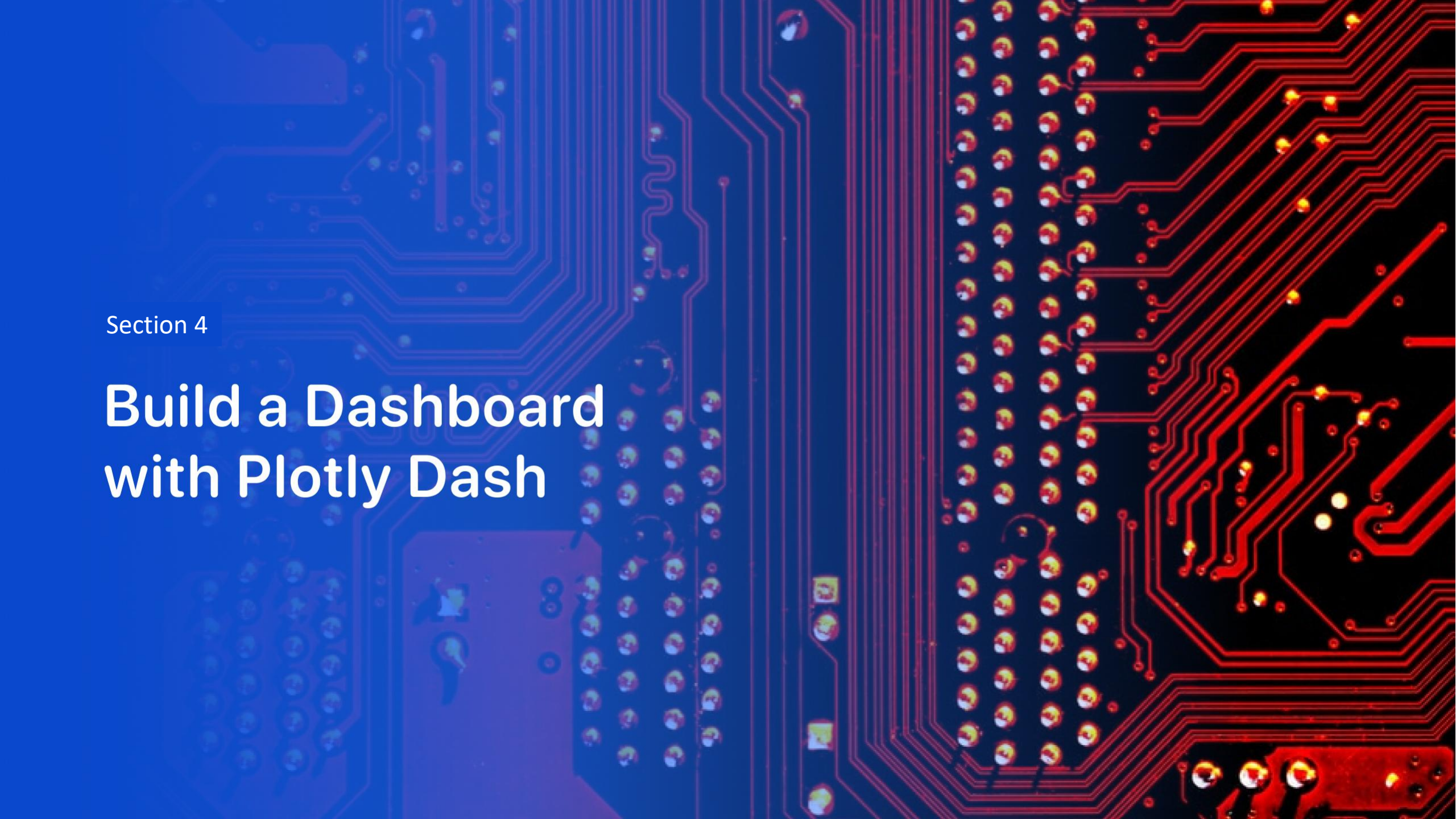


- Clusters on Folium map can be clicked on to display each successful landing (green icon) and failed
- landing (red icon). In this example VAFB SLC-4E shows 4 successful landings and 6 failed landings.

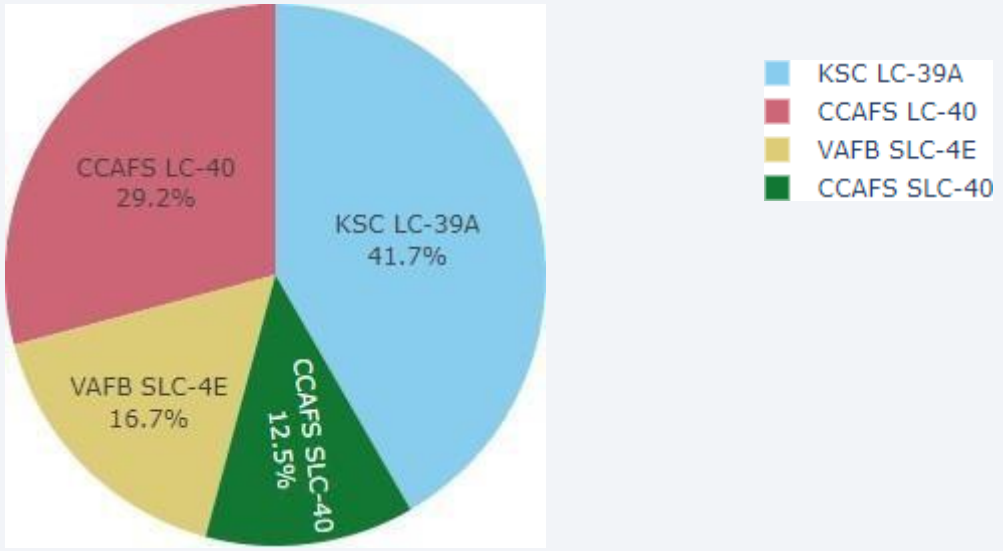
Key Locations Proximities



- Using KSC LC-39A as an example, launch sites are very close to railways for large part and supply transportation. Launch sites are close to highways for human and supply transport. Launch sites are also close to coasts and relatively far from cities so that launch failures can land in the sea to avoid rockets falling on densely populated areas.

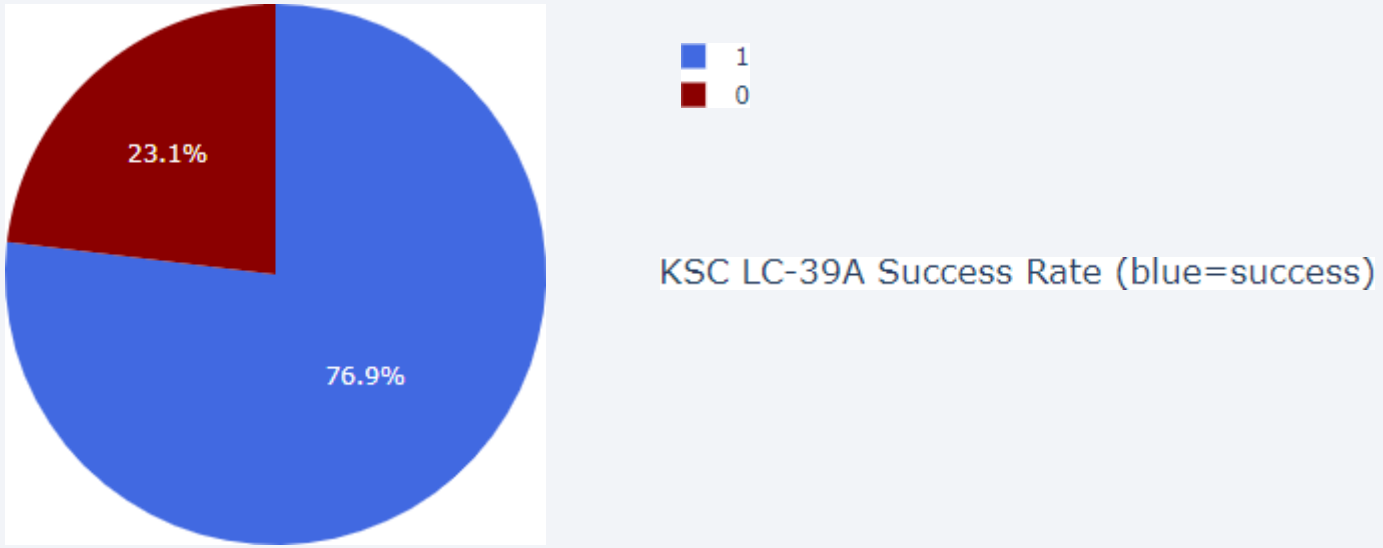

Section 4
Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Successful Launches Across Launch Sites



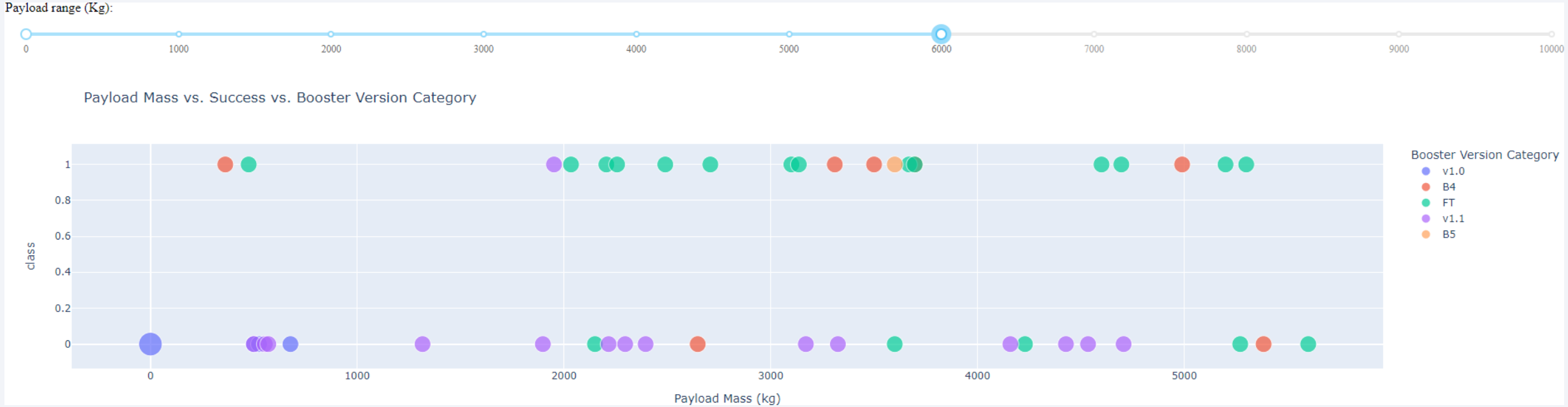
This is the distribution of successful landings across all launch sites. CCAFS LC-40 is the old name of CCAFS SLC-40 so CCAFS and KSC have the same amount of successful landings, but a majority of the successful landings where performed before the name change. VAFB has the smallest share of successful landings. This may be due to smaller sample and increase in difficulty of launching in the west coast.

Highest Success Rate Launch Sites



KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate with 10 successful landings and 3 failed landings.

Payload Mass vs. Success vs. Booster Version Category

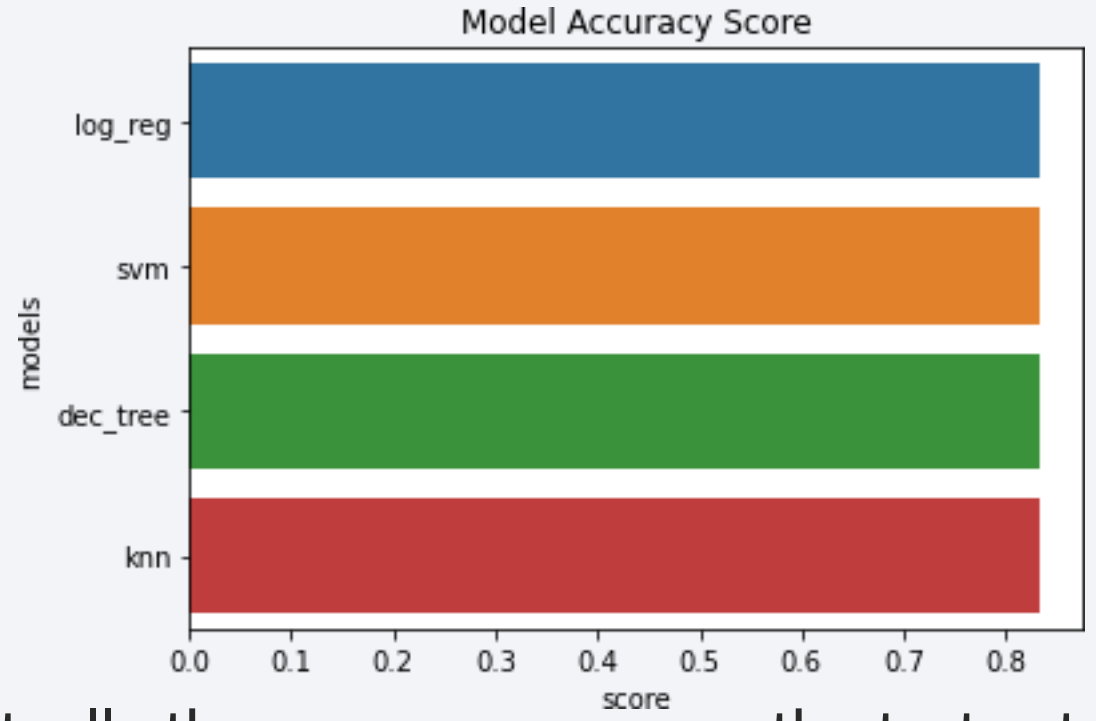


Plotly dashboard has a Payload range selector. However, this is set from 0-10000 instead of the max Payload of 15600. Class indicates 1 for successful landing and 0 for failure. Scatter plot also accounts for booster version category in color and number of launches in point size. In this particular range of 0-6000, interestingly there are two failed landings with payloads of zero kg.

Section 5

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

Classification Accuracy

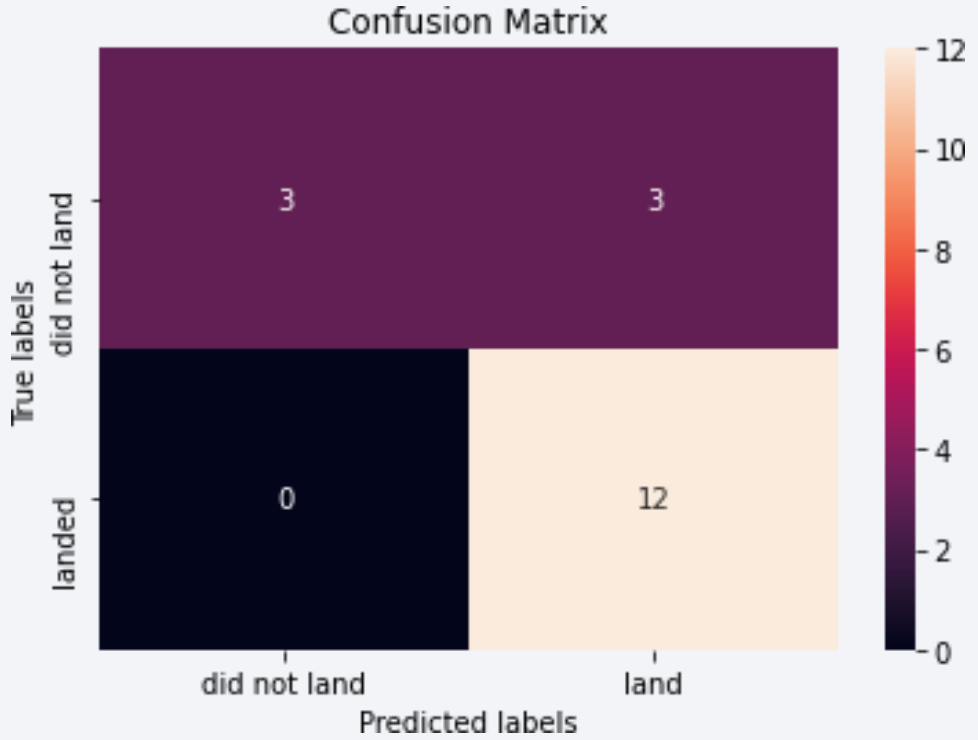


All models had virtually the same accuracy on the test set at 83.33% accuracy. It should be noted that test size is small at only sample size of 18.

This can cause large variance in accuracy results, such as those in Decision Tree Classifier model in repeated runs.

We likely need more data to determine the best model.

Confusion Matrix



Correct predictions are on a diagonal from top left to bottom right.

Since all models performed the same for the test set, the confusion matrix is the same across all models. The models predicted 12 successful landings when the true label was successful landing.

The models predicted 3 unsuccessful landings when the true label was unsuccessful landing.

The models predicted 3 successful landings when the true label was unsuccessful landings (false positives). Our models over predict successful landings.

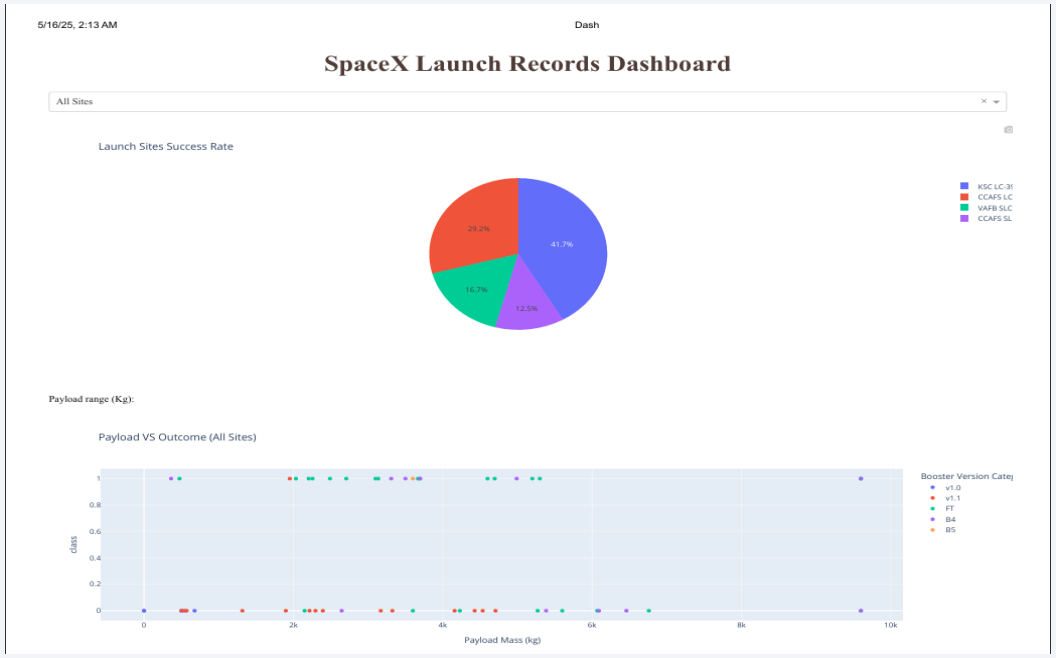
Conclusions

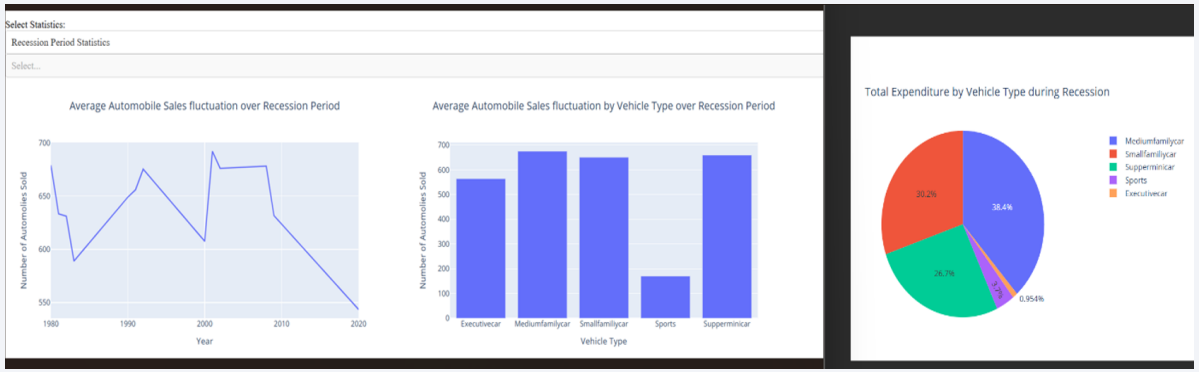
- Objective: Build a machine learning model for SpaceY to compete with SpaceX.
- Purpose: Predict the likelihood of a successful Stage 1 landing to potentially save around $100 million USD per launch.
- Data Sources: Collected from SpaceX's public API and via web scraping from the SpaceX Wikipedia page.
- Data Processing: Created training labels and stored the dataset in a DB2 SQL database.
- Visualization: Designed an interactive dashboard to explore key variables and insights.
- Model Performance: Developed a machine learning model achieving 83% accuracy.
- Application: SpaceY's Allon Mask can leverage the model to estimate the probability of a successful Stage 1 landing before launch and make informed go/no-go decisions.
- Recommendation: Acquiring additional data could enhance model selection and improve prediction accuracy.

Appendix

GitHub url:

https://github.com/sakuoko/IBM-Data-Science-Professional-Certificate/tree/main





Thank you!