

Winning Space Race with Data Science

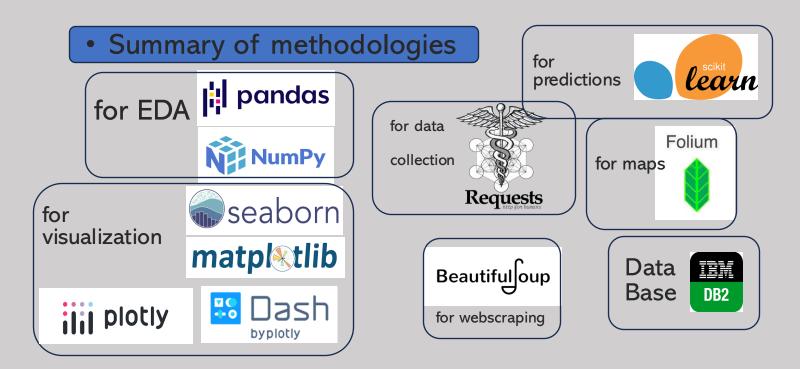
Santiago Paniagua July 30th 2025



Outline

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion

Executive Summary



Before, we have the libraries used to understand the data and be able to have predictions on the data.

Summary of all results

- -What makes the rocket land successfully?
- -What does SpaceX have to take in count for future successful landings?

Introduction

Project background and context

SpaceX advertises Falcon 9 rocket launches on its website with a cost of 62 million dollars; other providers cost upwards of 165 million dollars each, much of the savings is because SpaceX can reuse the first stage.

Problems you want to find answers

We want to determine if the first stage will land so that we are able to determine the cost of a launch.



Methodology

Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
 - SpaceX's API
 - Web Scrapping performed on Wikipedia
- Perform data wrangling
 - The data was filtered using Pandas. Just Falcon 9 data was used.
 - One-hot encoding was performed whether successful landing.
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
 - Using different types of charts and diagrams, and SQL queries to show relationship between variable, to reveal patterns of the data, and to understand the data
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
 - Scikit-learn was used to find the best model among multiple.

Data Collection

How data sets were collected:

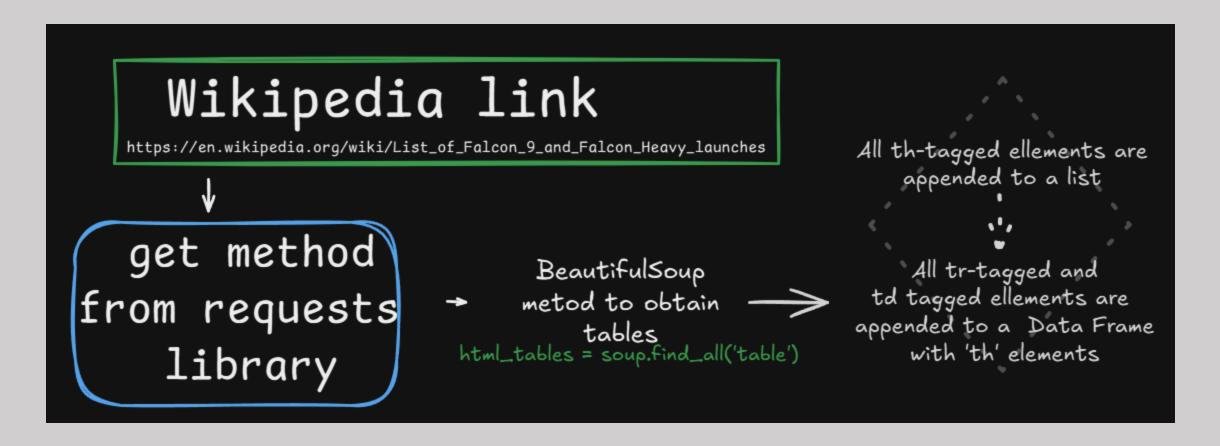
The data is from Spacex's database firstly functions where executed to call specific columns (rocket, launchpad, payloads, cores...). It was done with the library Requests and auxiliary functions to have the columns as list.

Then, the data had a process: from an URL was stored and decoded to JSON. To be able to work with Pandas, that JSON was transformed into Data Frame. The Data Frame was cleaned just to have Falcon 9 information as well as missing values.

Data Collection - SpaceX API

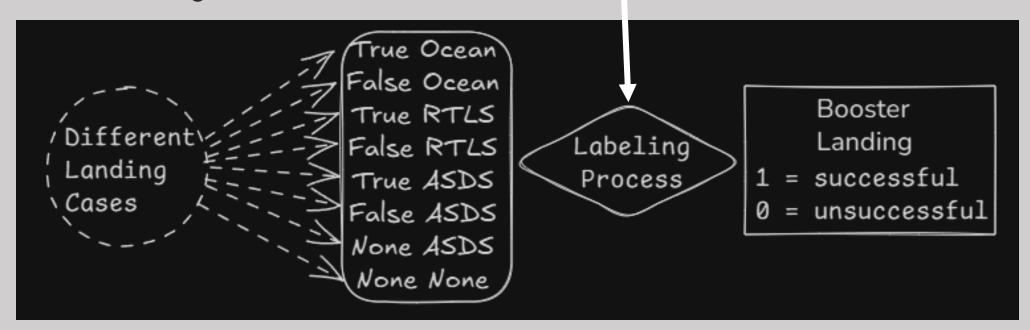
Data Collection Flow https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launches/past > JSON is normalized Stored to variable content variable > is decoded to response JSON

Data Collection - Scraping



Data Wrangling

- Missing values were found to handle them, the count of launches on each site was done.
- The number and occurrence of mission outcome of the orbits was put together to create a Landing Outcome Label from the outcome column.



EDA with Data Visualization

Three types of visualizations where done: Scatter Plots, Barchar, Stepchar

The scatter plots were done to understand the relationship of the next pairs of vaiables:

- Launch Site vs Flight Number (p21)
- Launch Site vs Payload Mass (p22)
- Flight Number vs Orbit (p24)
- Payload Mass vs Orbit (p25)

Barchar

Used to see the Success Rate by Orbit. (graph on p23)

Stepchar

Used to see the Success Rate Over Tlme (p26)

EDA with SQL

- A table is created with no null date records (cell #9)
- Table names are found (SPACEXTBL, SPACEXTABLE)(cell #11)
- Distinct "Launch_Sites" are found (CCAFS LC-40, VAFB SLC-4E, KSC LC-39A, CCAFS SLC-40)(cell

•	Launch sites	beginning	with CCA	are found	(cell #15))
	Laarier Sites	20911111119	With Cort	are rourid	(con n n n n)	,

- Total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)=45596 (cell #18)
- Average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1=2928.4 (cell #19)
- Date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved=2018-07-22 (cell #21)
- Names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000 = F9 FT B1022, F9 FT B1026, F9 FT B1021.2, F9 FT B1031.2
- Total number of successful and failure mission outcomes (cell #24)(first table on the right)
- All the booster_versions that have carried the maximum payload mass (cell #25)
- Records which will display the month names, failure landing_outcomes in drone ship ,booster versions, launch_site for the months in year 2015 (2nd table on the right)

Mission_ Outcome	Total_PayloadMass_KG
Failure (in flight)	1952
Success	608615
#13) Success	4400
Success (payload status unclear)	5000

Booster_Vers

ion

F9 v1.1

B1012

F9 v1.1

B1015

Launch_Site

CCAFS LC-

40

CCAFS LC-

Month

2015-01

2015-04

Failure (drone

ship)

Failure (drone

ship)

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. (cell #27)

Landing_Outcome	Count	Rank
No attempt	10	1
Success (drone ship)	5	2
Failure (drone ship)	5	2
Success (ground pad)	3	4
Controlled (ocean)	3	4
Uncontrolled (ocean)	2	6
Failure (parachute)	2	6
Precluded (drone ship)	1	8

Jupyter Notebook with SQL queries

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

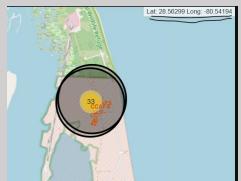
1)Launch Sites were tagged.



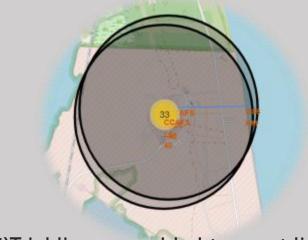




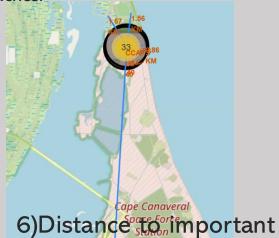
3)Tags added for successfull and unsuccessful lauches.



4)On the top-right-corner, mouse position was added to be able to know distance from launch sites to important infrastructure



5)Trial line was added to coast line.



infrastructure was added.

Jupyter Notebook in GitHub

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

All sites, CCAF LC-40, VAFB SLC-4E, KSC LC-39A, CCAFS SLC-40 are the options available from the drop down menu.

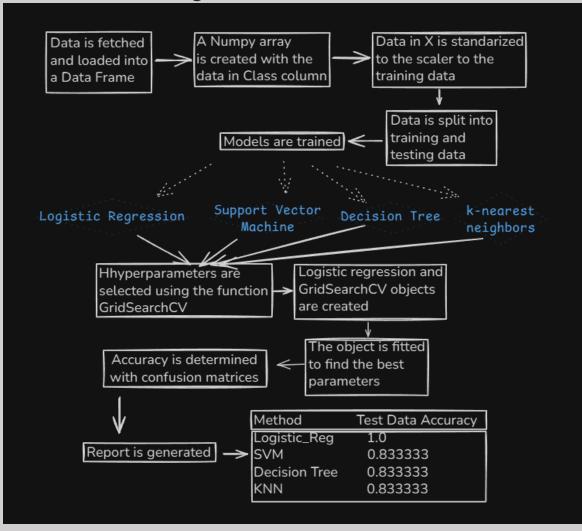
For all sites the piechart plots percentage of launches whithin the total for each launch site.

For the rest, the piechart plots successful launches vs unsuccesful launches percentage.

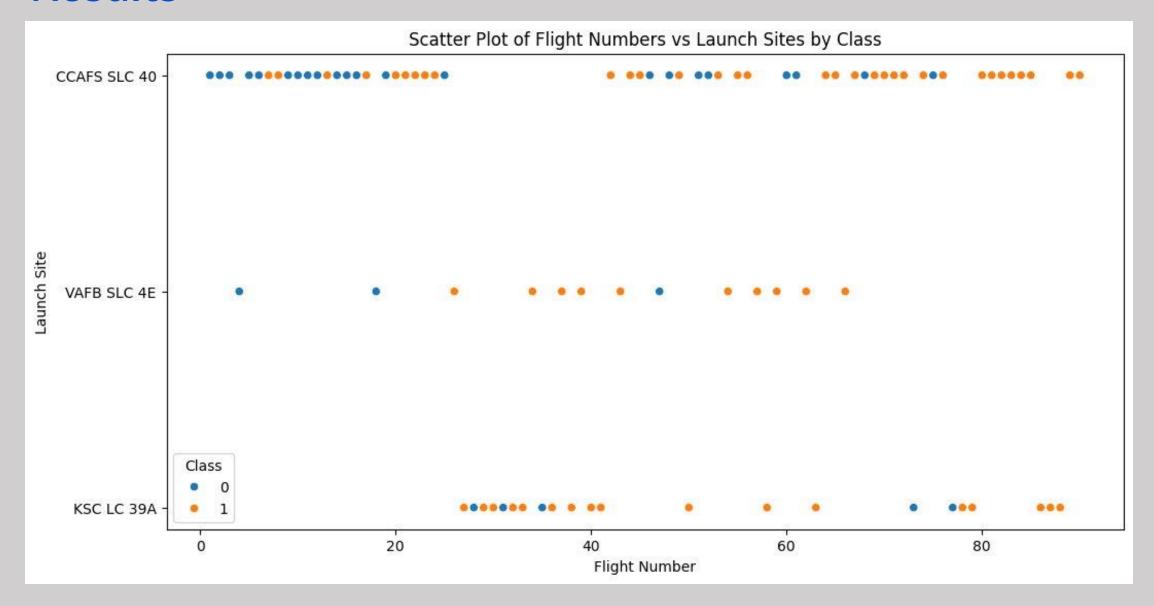
The scatter plot with a range slider allows to filter what is plotted according to the payload.

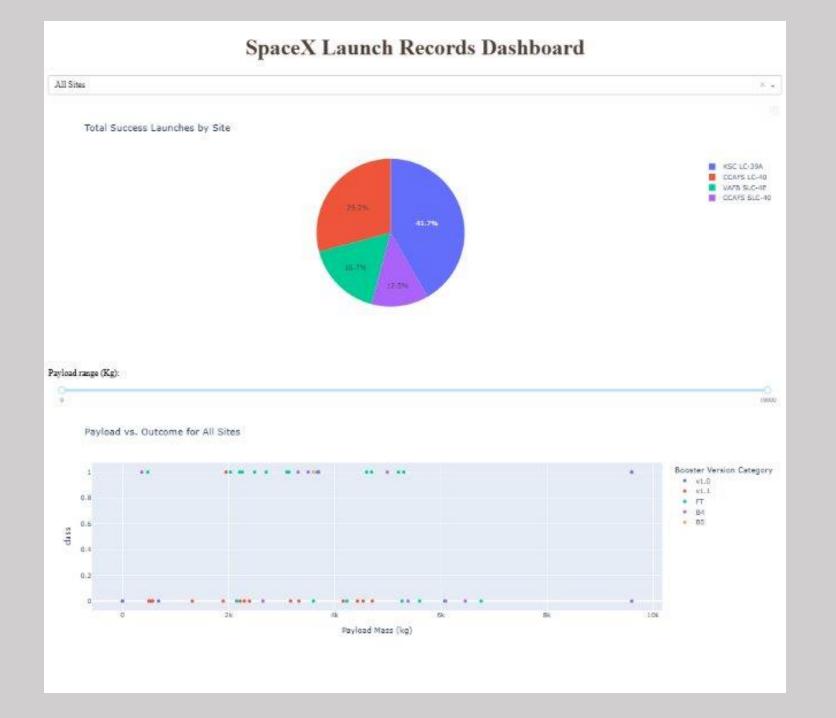
Predictive Analysis (Classification)

The evaluated models are: Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machine, Decision Tree and K-nearest Neighbors.



Results



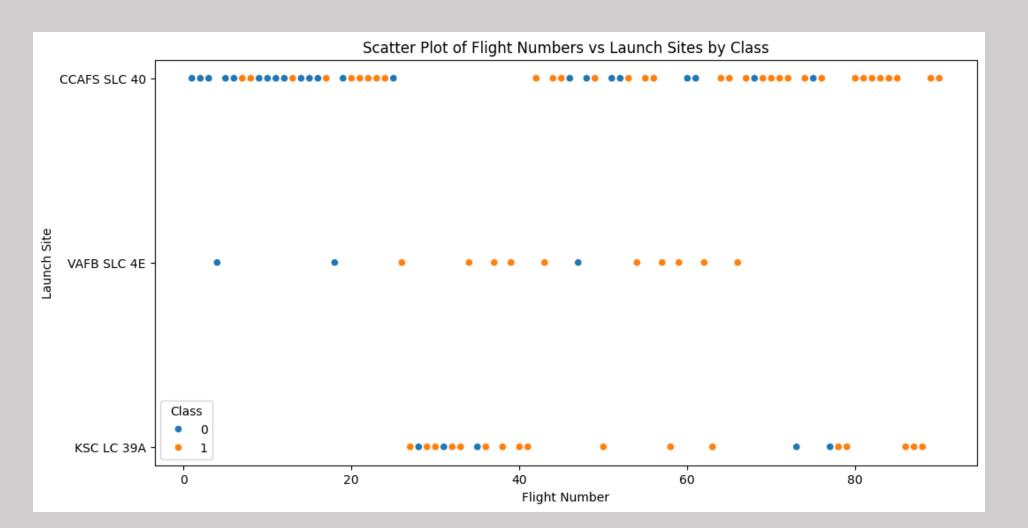


Method	Test Data Accuracy
Logistic_Reg	1.0
SVM	0.833333
Decision Tree	0.833333
KNN	0.833333

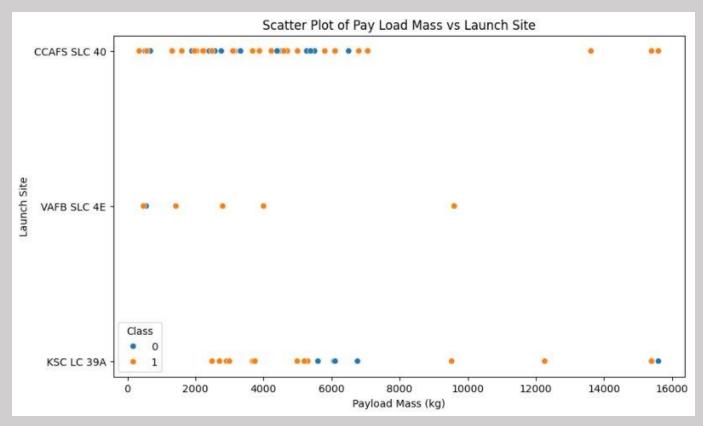


Flight Number vs. Launch Site

Approximately on Flight Number 53, the missions began to be successful.



Payload vs. Launch Site

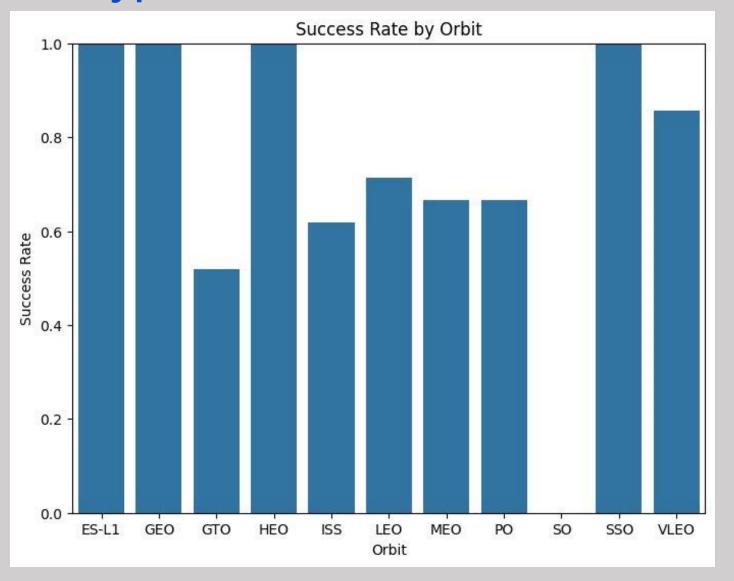


The best Launch Site being Payload the priority is Cape Canaveral Space Launch Complex 40.

Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

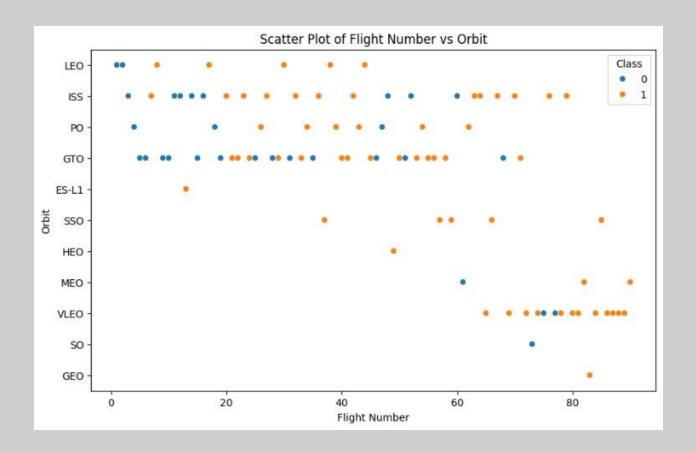
The best orbits are ES-L1, GEO,HEO and SSO in regards of success rate.

The worst performing orbit is GTO



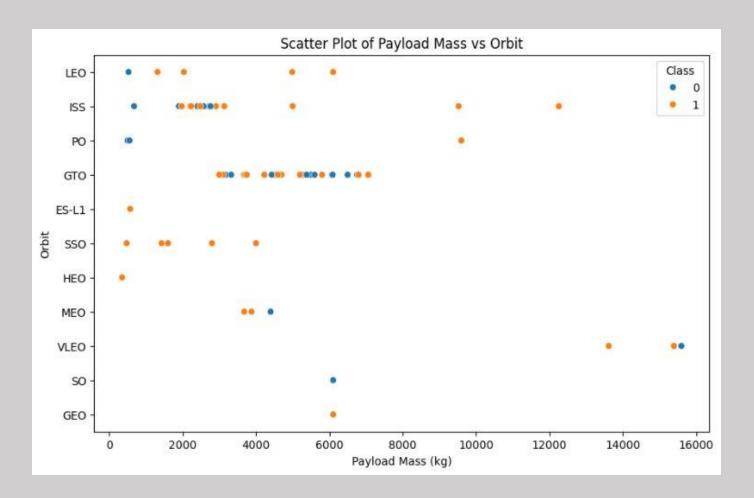
Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

The best orbits are ES-L1, GEO,HEO and SSO in regards of success rate.



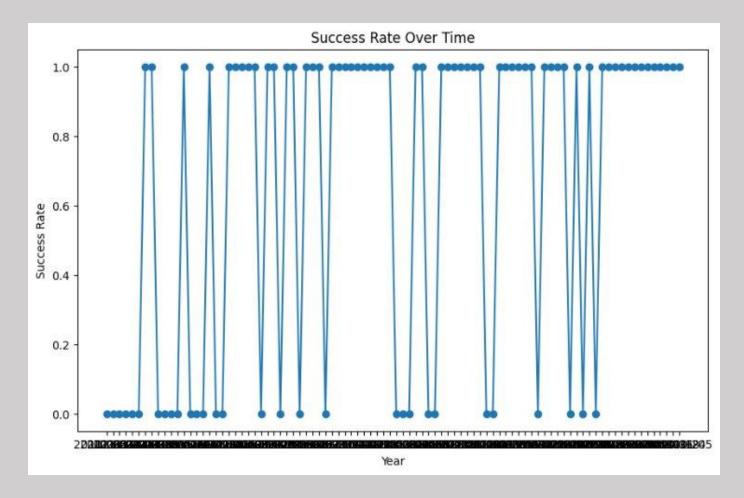
Payload vs. Orbit Type

The best orbits taking in count the payload are ISS and VLEO



Launch Success Yearly Trend

It was very difficult to properly print the years, but the success rate stays successful from 2022.



All Launch Site Names

The next sql query was performed to obtain launch site names:

```
[13]:
      %%sql
       SELECT DISTINCT Launch_Site
       FROM SPACEXTBL;
        * sqlite:///my_data1.db
       Done.
[13]:
        Launch Site
        CCAFS LC-40
        VAFB SLC-4E
         KSC LC-39A
       CCAFS SLC-40
```

Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

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	7:44:00	F9 v1.0 B0005	CCAFS LC- 40	Dragon demo flight C2	525	LEO (ISS)	NASA (COTS)	Success	No attempt
2012- 10-08	0:35:00	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

This launch site is the one with the best performance, here a quere was performed to obtain the table above.

Total Payload Mass

Below, we have a screenshot where the sql query was performed with its result.

```
%%sql
[18]:
      SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD MASS KG )
      FROM SPACEXTBL
      WHERE Customer = 'NASA (CRS)';
       * sqlite:///my_data1.db
      Done.
[18]: SUM(PAYLOAD MASS KG)
                         45596
```

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

```
[19]:
      %%sql
      SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_)
      FROM SPACEXTBL
      WHERE Booster_Version LIKE 'F9 v1.1';
       * sqlite:///my_data1.db
      Done.
[19]: AVG(PAYLOAD MASS KG)
                         2928.4
```

First Successful Ground Landing Date

The very first try was on 2015, but the very first successful landing was on 2018.

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

```
[23]:
      %%sql
      SELECT Booster_Version
      FROM SPACEXTBL
      WHERE Landing_Outcome = 'Success (drone ship)'
         AND PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ BETWEEN 4000 AND 6000;
       * sqlite:///my_data1.db
       Done.
[23]:
      Booster_Version
          F9 FT B1022
           F9 FT B1026
         F9 FT B1021.2
         F9 FT B1031.2
```

Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

[24]:	<pre>%%sql SELECT Mission_Outcome,</pre>	G_) AS Total_PayloadMa	ss_KG		
* sqlite:///my_data1.db Done.					
[24]:	Mission_Outcome	Total_PayloadMass_KG			
	Failure (in flight)	1952			
	Success	608615			
	Success	4400			
	Success (payload status unclear)	5000			

Other factors determine more than the payload whether the outcome will be successful or not.

Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

```
F9 B5 B1048.4
                                                                                                         F9 B5 B1049.4
                                                                                                         F9 B5 B1051.3
                                                                                                         F9 B5 B1056.4
                                                                                                         F9 B5 B1048.5
       %%sql
[25]:
       SELECT Booster_Version
                                                                                                         F9 B5 B1051.4
       FROM SPACEXTBL
       WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ = ( SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM SPACEXTBL );
                                                                                                         F9 B5 B1049.5
                                                                                                         F9 B5 B1060.2
                                                                                                         F9 B5 B1058.3
                                                                                                         F9 B5 B1051.6
                                                                                                         F9 B5 B1060.3
                                                                                                         F9 B5 B1049.7
```

[25]:

Booster_Version

2015 Launch Records

```
[26]: %%sql
      SELECT
          STRFTIME('%Y-%m', Date) AS Month,
          Landing Outcome,
          Booster_Version,
          Launch_Site
      FROM
          SPACEXTBL
      WHERE
          Landing_Outcome = 'Failure (drone ship)'
      AND
         SUBSTR(Date, 1, 4) = '2015';
       * sqlite:///my data1.db
      Done.
[26]:
       Month Landing_Outcome Booster_Version Launch_Site
      2015-01 Failure (drone ship)
                                    F9 v1.1 B1012 CCAFS LC-40
      2015-04 Failure (drone ship)
                                    F9 v1.1 B1015 CCAFS LC-40
```

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

```
%%sql
[27]:
       SELECT
           Landing Outcome,
           COUNT(*) AS Count,
           RANK() OVER (ORDER BY COUNT(*) DESC) AS Rank
       FROM
           SPACEXTBL
       WHERE
           Date BETWEEN '2010-06-04' AND '2017-03-20'
       GROUP BY
           Landing Outcome;
        * sqlite:///my_data1.db
       Done.
```

[27]:	Landing_Outcome	Count	Rank
	No attempt	10	1
	Success (drone ship)	5	2
	Failure (drone ship)	5	2
	Success (ground pad)	3	4
	Controlled (ocean)	3	4
	Uncontrolled (ocean)	2	6
	Failure (parachute)	2	6
	Precluded (drone ship)	1	8

Drone ship is the safest option according to the data to perform the booster landing.

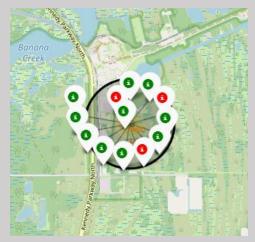


All locaton sites groupded

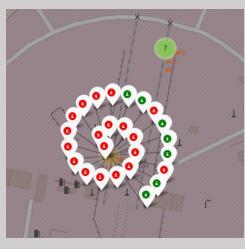


Both launchsites are located in Space Force facilities, Vandenberg Space Launch Complex 4 on the left and Cape Canaveral Space Launch Complex 40 on the right where SpaceX's launches are done.

Landing Sites with Tags







CCAFS SLC-40



East Coast

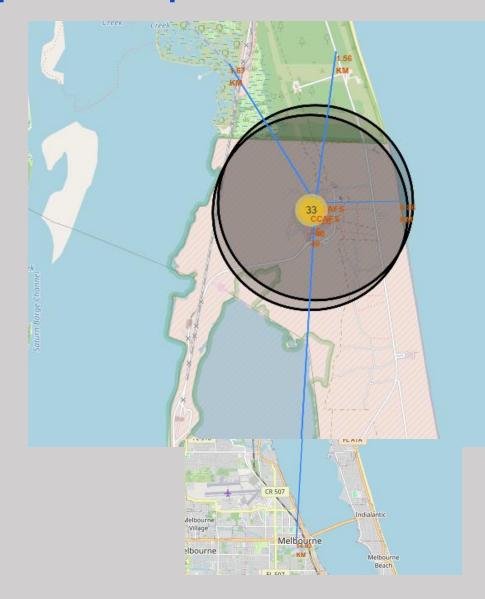


West Coast

• KSC LC-39A is the location with the highest number of successful landings.

VAFB SLC-4E

Important points near the location

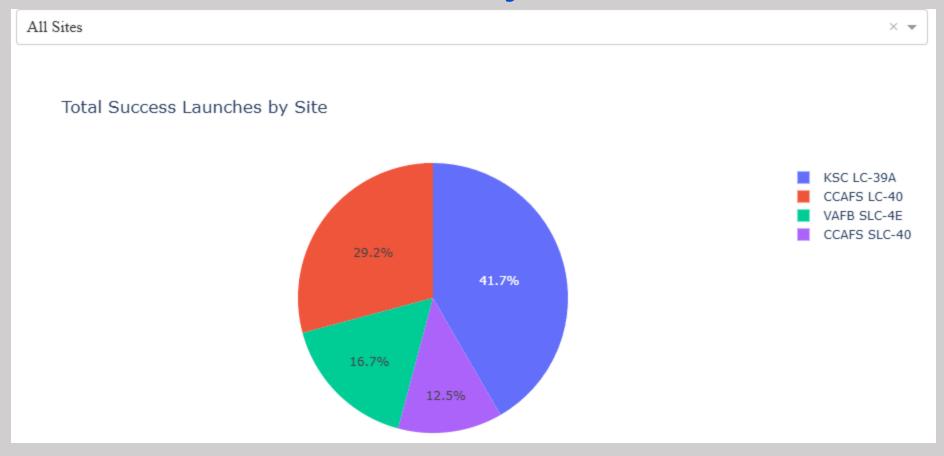


Cape Canaveral Space Force Station's SLC-40 is about 1Km away from the Atlantic Ocea and about 1.5Km away from a railway and road.

The closest city is Melbourn-Florida

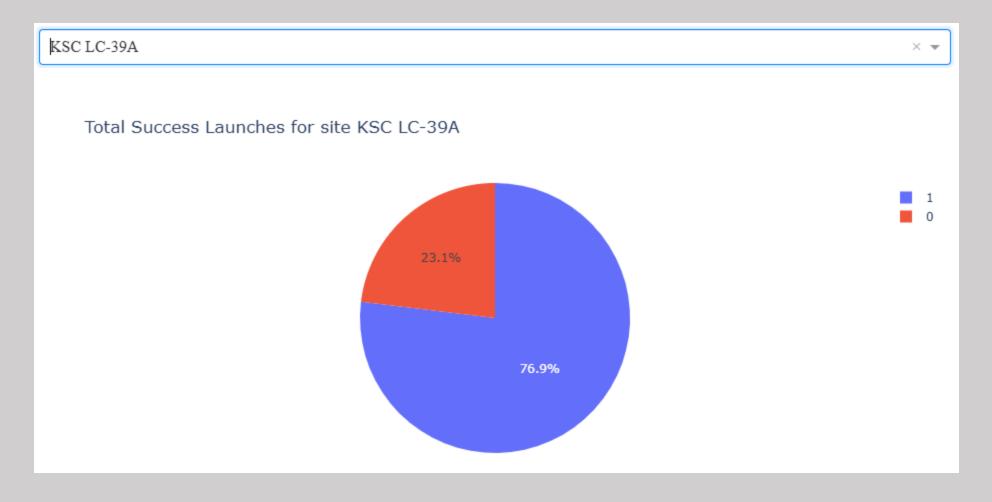


All Total Success Launches by Site



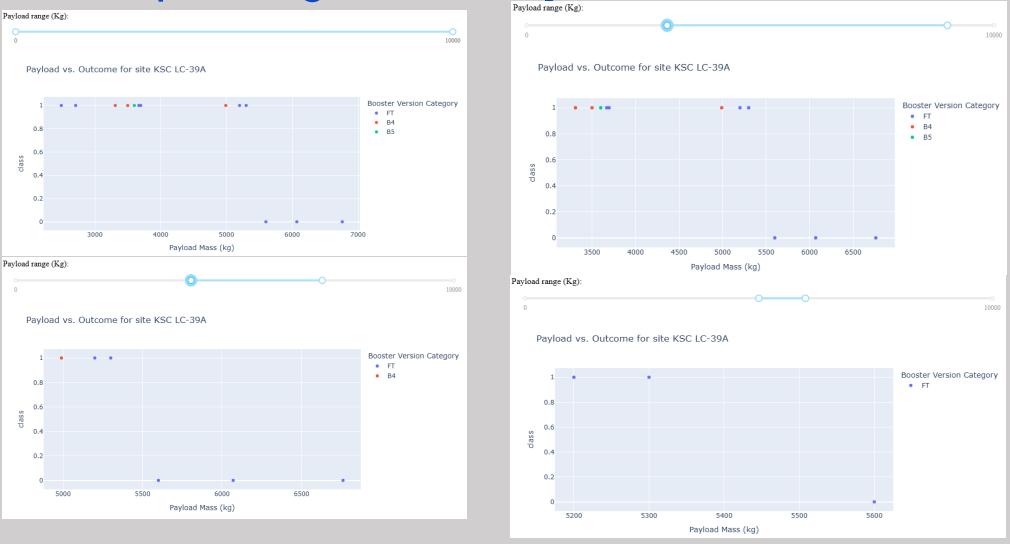
KSC LC-39A is the Launch Site with the most successful launches and CCAFS SLC-40 is the one with the lowest ammount.

Successful vs Unsuccessful Launches for KSC LC-39A



Successful Launches expressed in ratio are 3.34 : 1. It means that are 3.34 times bigger than the unsuccessful ones

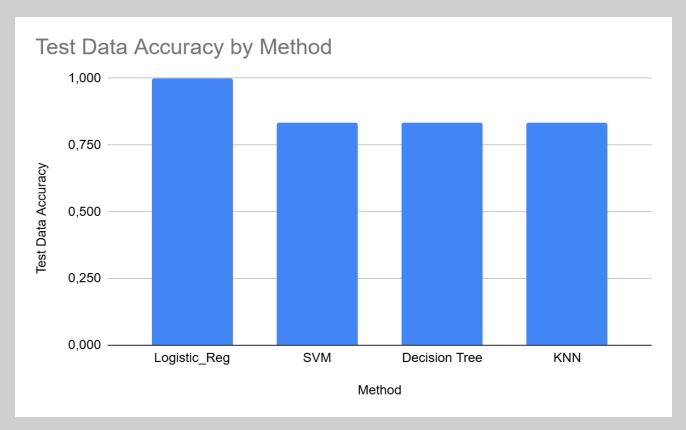
Plots depending on the Payload



The settings on the top left corner shows the payload interval with highest success rate.

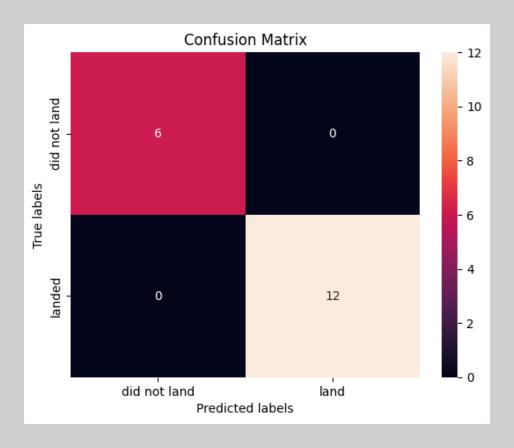


Classification Accuracy



The model with the highest accuracy was Logistic Rregression.

Confusion Matrix



This is a confusion matrix for the Logistic Regresion. There were no instances where the model made an error, we can say that the model has achieved an excellent level of accuracy as it correctly predicted all instances with 100% precision and recall.

Conclusions

- Cape Canaveral Space Launch Complex 40 has the highest number of successful landings.
- The model that best predicts the lading of Falcon 9 is Logistic Regression with a score of 1.
- ES-L1, GEO, HEO and SSO have a 100% success rate
- With heavy payloads the successful landing or positive landing rate are more for Polar, LEO and ISS.

