

Winning Space Race with Data Science

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Outline

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

Section 1

Methodology

Methodology

Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
 - Data was collected through SpaceX API and Web scraping on Wikipedia.
- Perform data wrangling
 - Check data for null and remove all null value from data
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
 - Build, tune, evaluate classification models

Data Collection

Data was collected using a combination of retrieval techniques:

- HTTP requests against various SpaceX API endpoints:

Initial launch data was obtained from: `/v4/launches/past`

Additional data was backfilled from:

☐ `/v4/rockets`

☐ `/v4/launchpads`

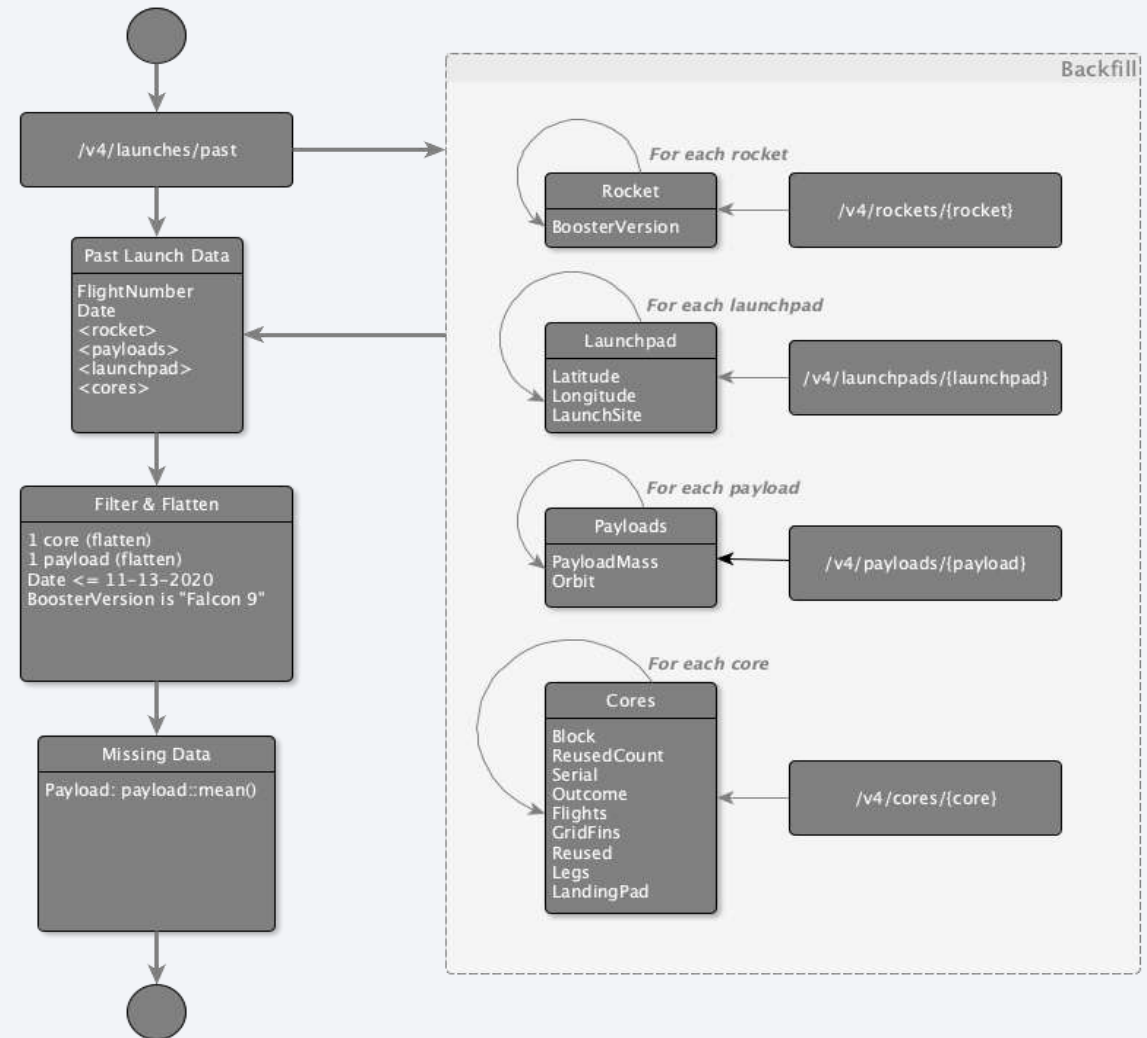
☐ `/v4/payloads`

☐ `/v4/cores`

- Tabular data from the List of Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launches Wikipedia page.

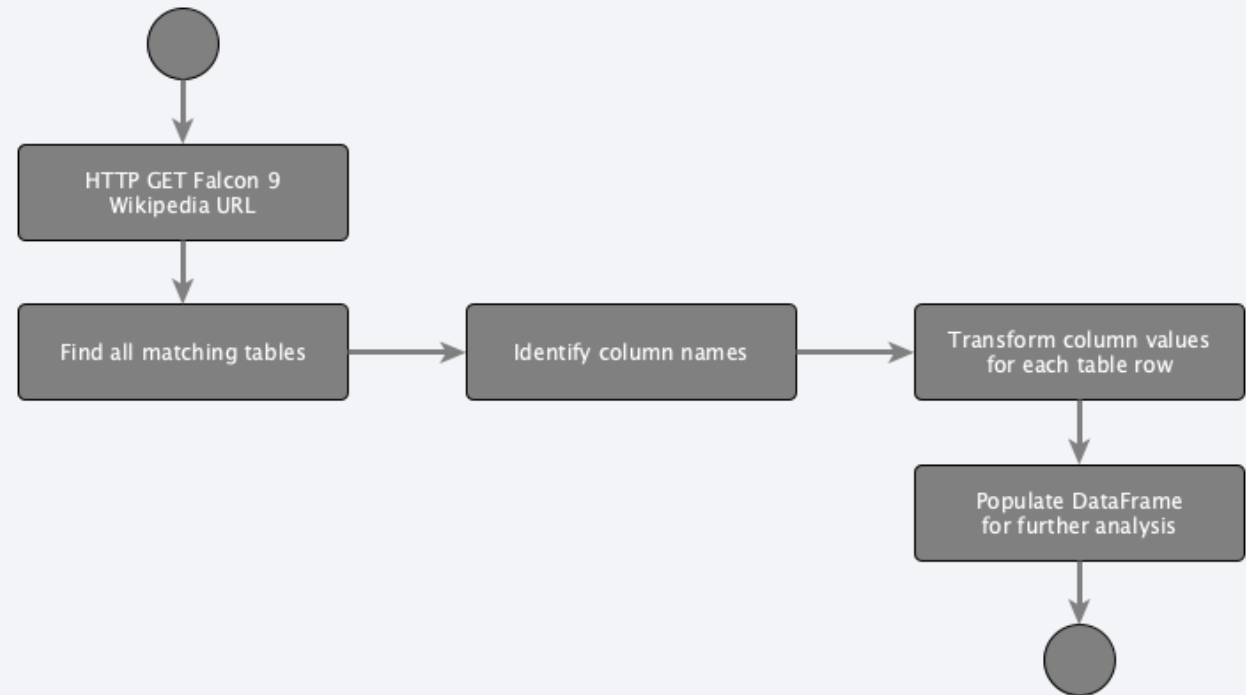
Data Collection – SpaceX API

- The initial data was obtained from the `/v4/launches/past` API endpoint.
- Additional data was backfilled from the `rocket`, `launchpad`, `payloads`, and `cores` API endpoints, for records with extant corresponding IDs.
- [GitHub Link](#)



Data Collection - Scraping

- Web scraping workflow:
 - Send HTTP Get to Falcon 9 Launch page at Wikipedia, to retrieve the HTML source
 - Create a BeautifulSoup object to extract the tables containing launch data
 - Populate a Pandas DataFrame using the extracted columns

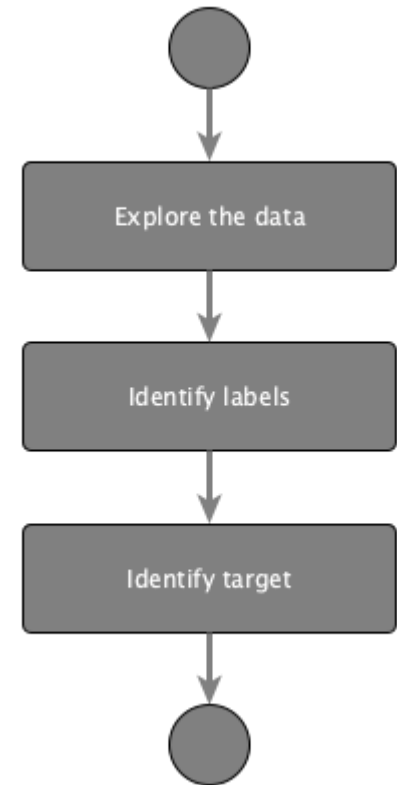


[GitHub Link](#)

Data Wrangling

- Goals:
 - Use Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) to find patterns in the data.
 - Determine the labels for training supervised models.
- Steps:
 - Find missing values as a percentage of each attribute
 - Identify column types, numerical or categorical
 - Show launches per Launch Site
 - Show distribution of Orbit type in the data set
 - Explore outcomes, and group them by binary outcome (success or failure)
 - Store outcome as "Class" label, to be used as target value in training

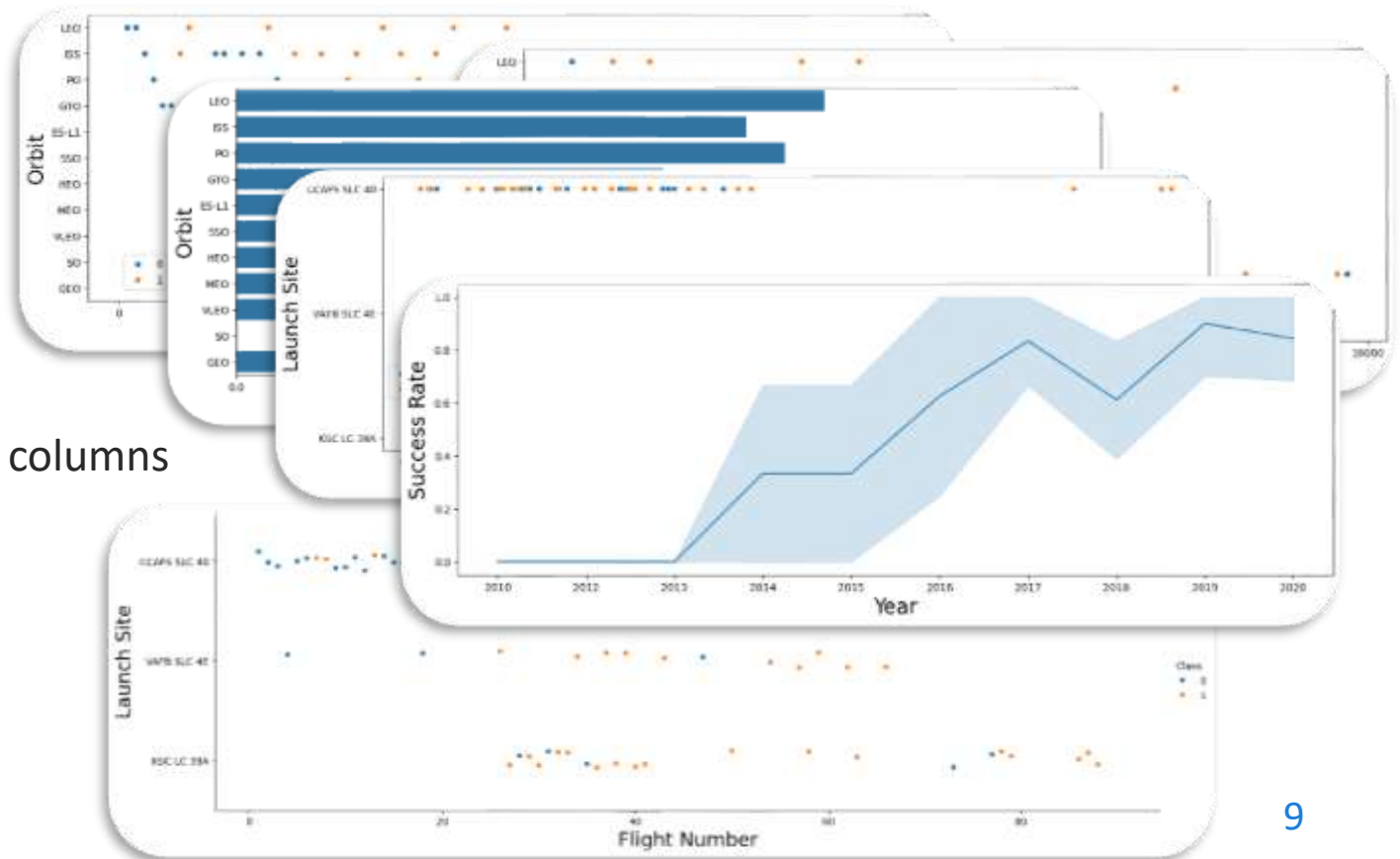
[GitHub Link](#)



EDA with Data Visualization

- Visualize relationships to gain insight into the importance of each variable:
 - Flight Number and Outcome
 - Flight Number and Launch Site
 - Payload and Launch Site
 - Orbit and Outcome
 - Flight Number and Orbit
 - Payload and Orbit
 - Yearly success rate
- Expand categorical variables into "dummy" columns
- Convert numerical columns into `float64`

[GitHub Link](#)



EDA with SQL

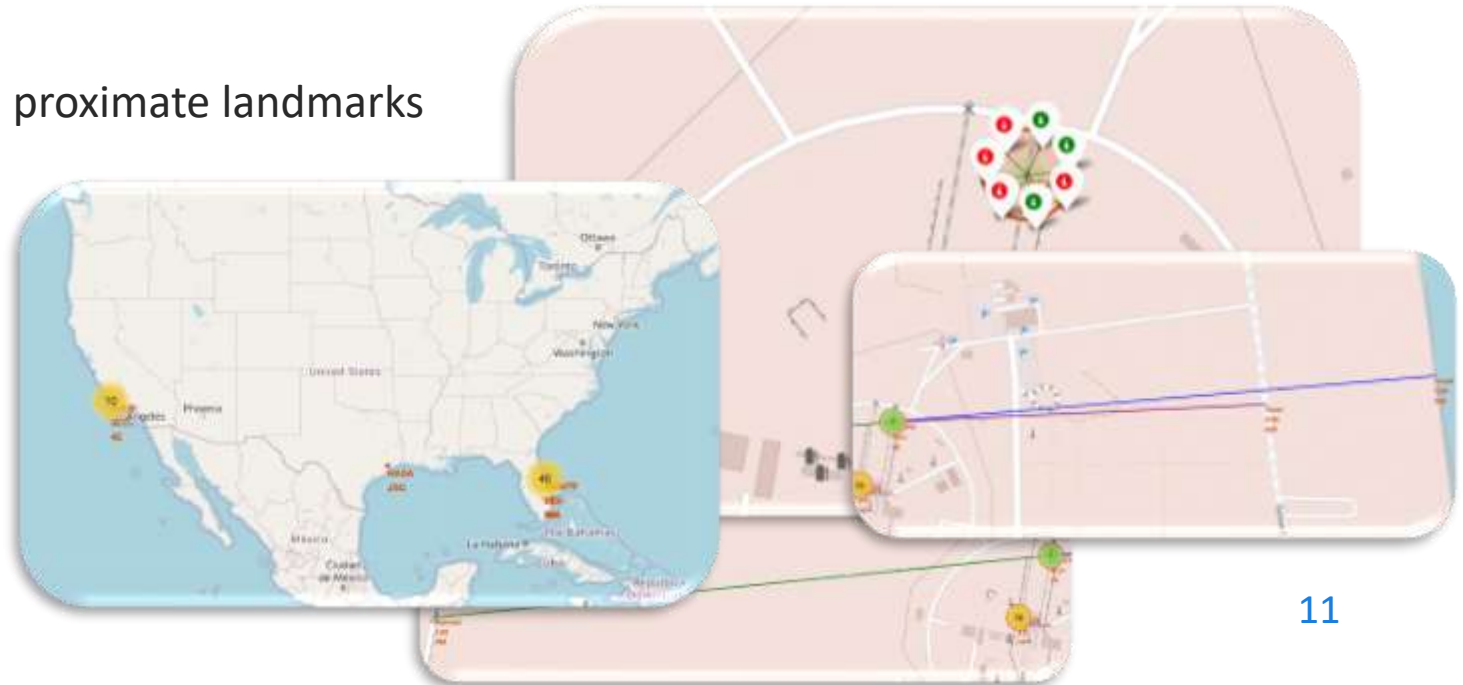
- SQL Queries Performed:
 - Show each unique launch site
 - Show 5 records where launch site names begin with 'CCA'
 - Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by 'NASA (CRS)'
 - Display the average payload mass carried by the v1.1 Falcon 9 booster
 - List the date of the first successful ground landing outcome
 - List the booster versions with successful outcomes landing on the drone ship with payloads between 4000kg and 6000kg.
 - List the number of successful and failed mission outcomes
 - List all of the booster versions that carried the max payload mass
 - List the month name, outcome, booster version, and launch site for missions with failure outcomes landing on a drone ship in 2015.
 - Show the distribution of outcomes between June 4th, 2010 and March 20th, 2017

[GitHub Link](#)

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

- To find geographical patterns in the data the following items were marked on a map of launch sites:
 - All Launch Sites
 - Successful and Failed Launches
 - Distances between a launch site and proximate landmarks

[GitHub Link](#)



Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

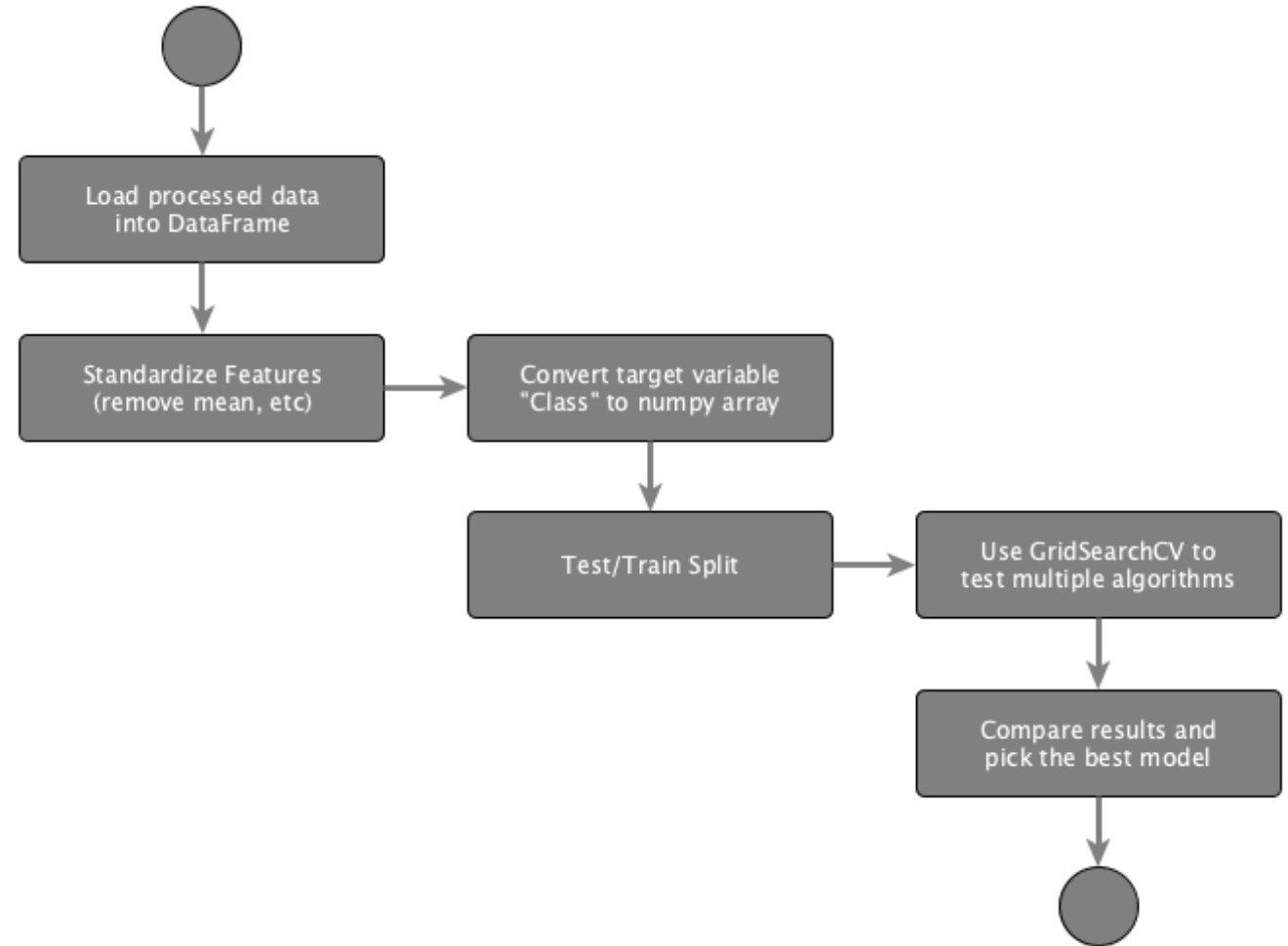
To enable interactive exploration of the data, a Plotly Dash dashboard was developed to include:

- A dropdown selector to choose a Launch Site, affecting:
 - A pie chart
 - All sites selected: shows the breakdown of successful outcomes across all sites
 - A launch site selected: shows the breakdown of successful vs failed launches for the given site
 - A scatter plot
 - All sites selected: shows outcome by payload mass and booster version for all sites
 - A launch site selected: shows outcome by payload mass and booster version for the given site
- A Payload Mass range selector that filters data points on the scatter plot

[GitHub Link](#)

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

- Load data
- Apply StandardizedScaler on X
- Convert Y to numpy array
- Split training and testing data
- Use GridSearchCV to test hyperparameters for multiple algorithms:
 - Logistic Regression
 - SVC
 - Decision Tree Classifier
 - K Neighbors Classifier
- [GitHub Link](#)



Results

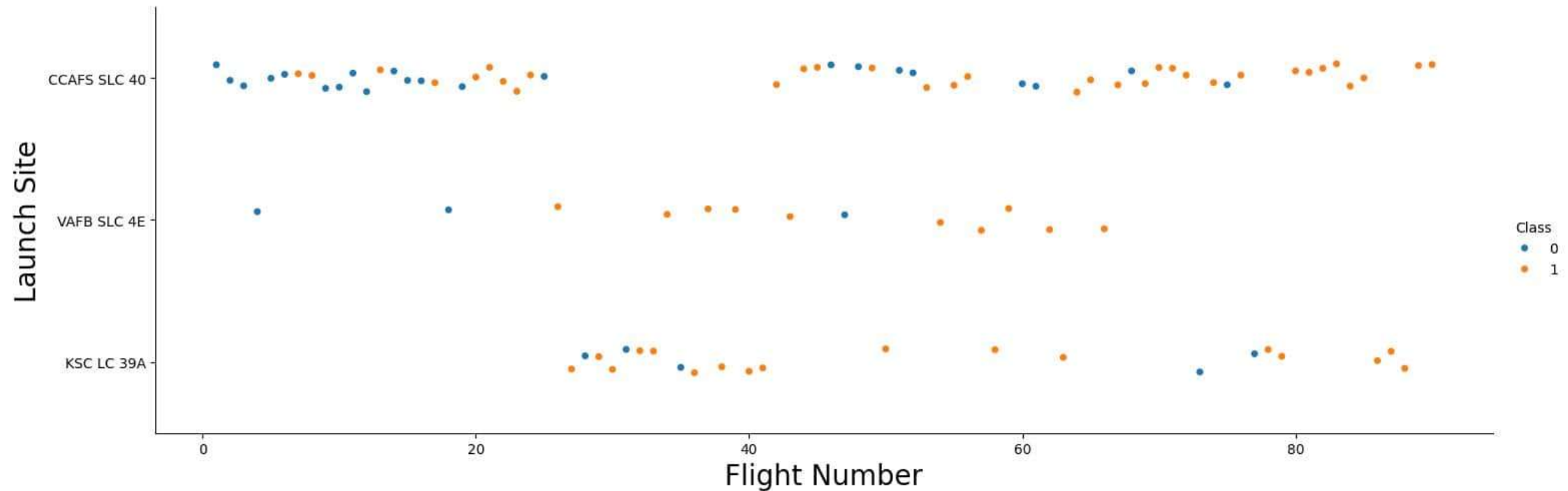
- Exploratory data analysis results
- Interactive analytics demo in screenshots
- Predictive analysis results

The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a solid blue area on the left side, which transitions into a dynamic pattern of diagonal streaks in shades of blue, red, and cyan on the right. These streaks have a motion-blur effect, suggesting speed or data flow. Overlaid on these streaks is a faint, semi-transparent grid pattern, reminiscent of a digital or data visualization theme.

Section 2

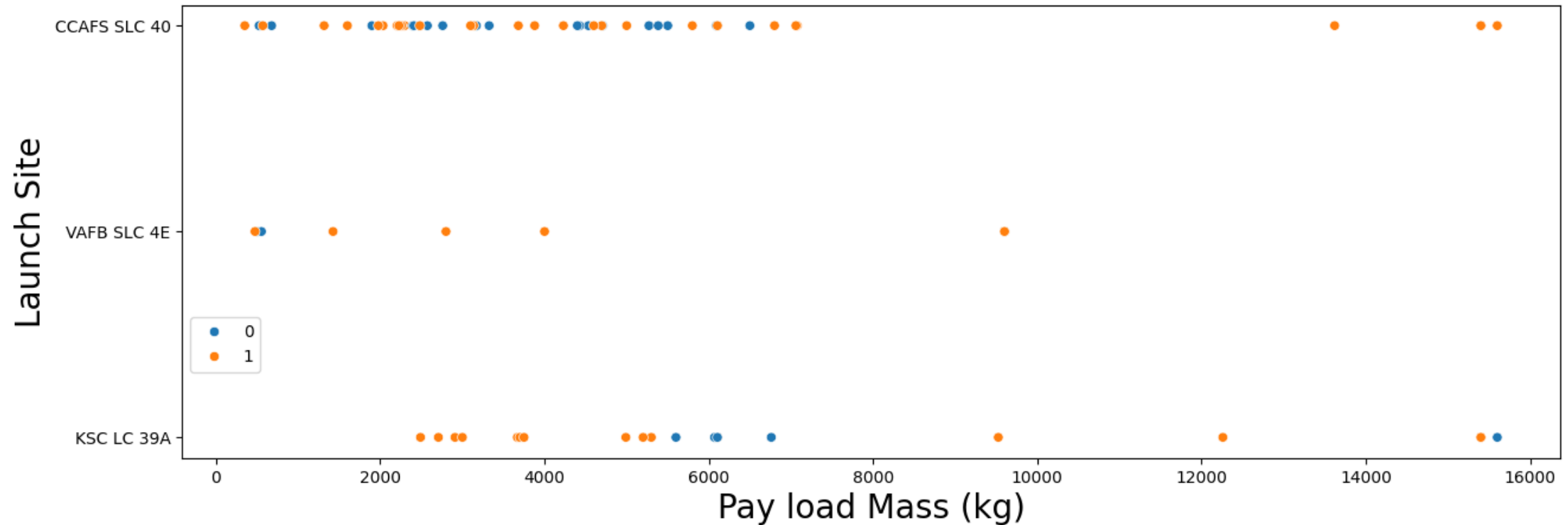
Insights drawn from EDA

Flight Number vs. Launch Site



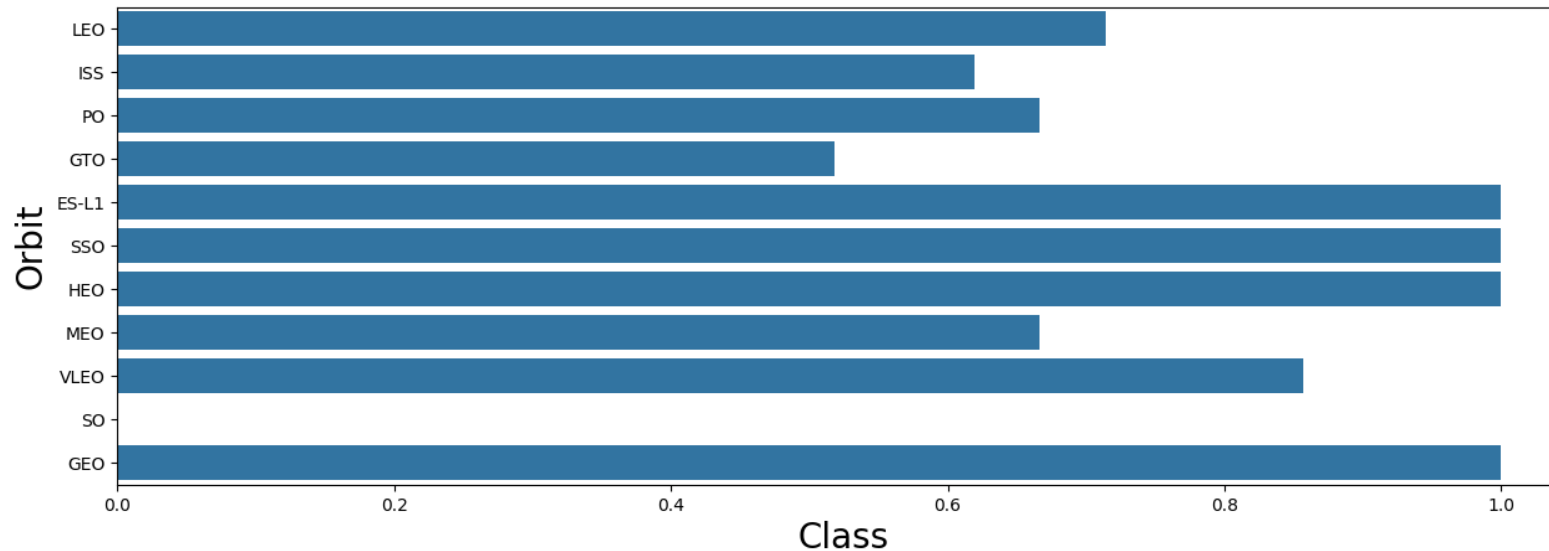
- All sites show a mix of first stage landing successes and failures, with successes increasing over time.
- Early flights predominantly resulted in failures, indicating improvements to technology or process.
- While CCAFS SLC 40 has the most total flights, VAFB SLC 4E appears to have a relatively higher proportion of successful landing outcomes.

Payload vs. Launch Site



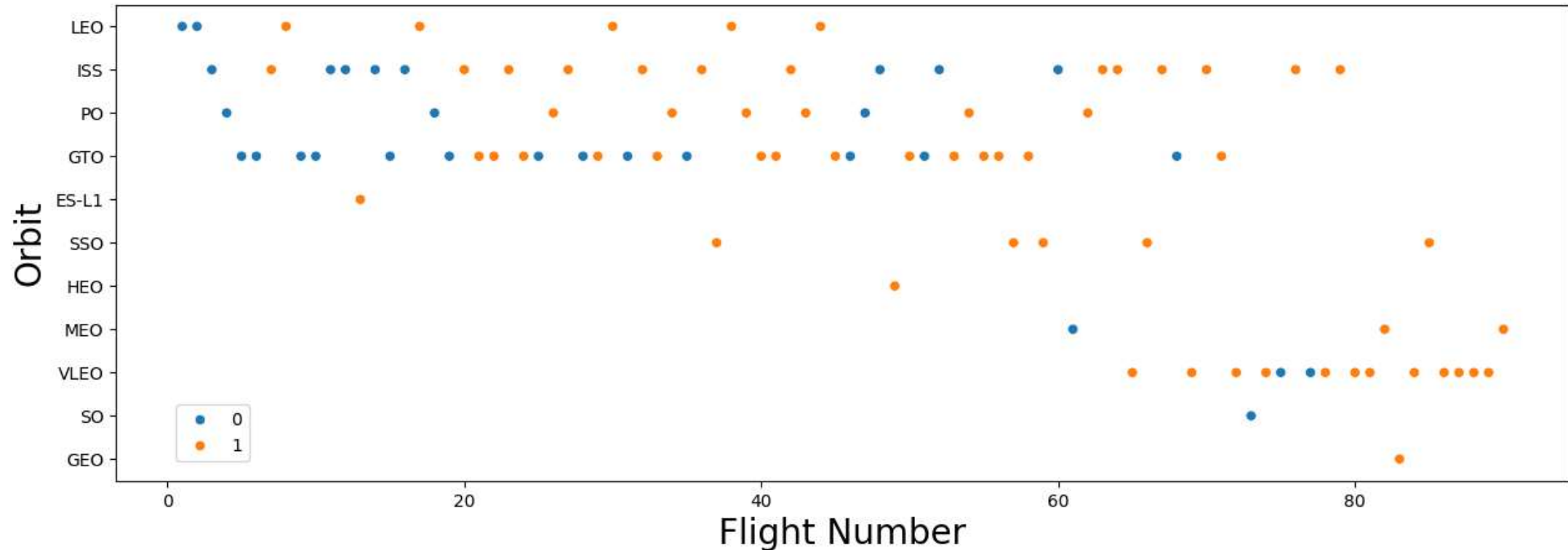
- All sites show a wide range of payload weights, from light to heavy payloads.
- Early flights trend toward lighter payloads, representing the bulk of the landing failures.
- This suggests technological or operational improvements lead to a greater rate of success with heavier payloads.

Success Rate vs. Orbit Type



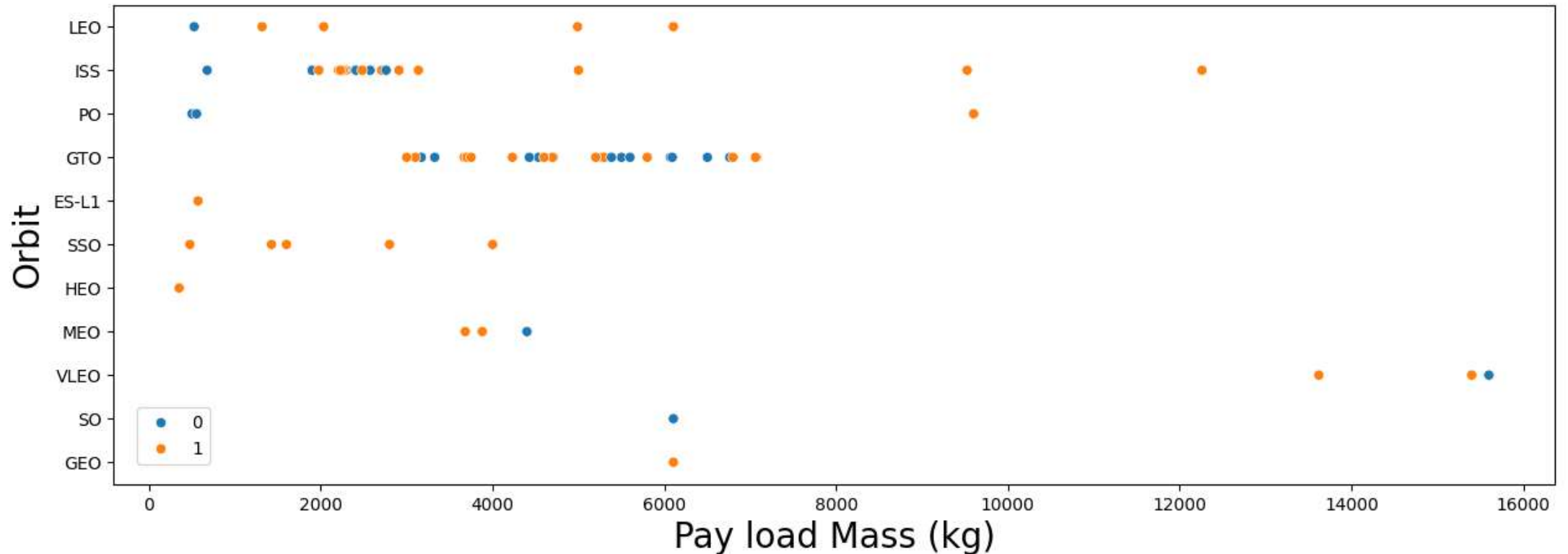
- Some orbits, such as ES-L1, SSO, HEO, and GEO consistently show high success rates.
- Others such as GTO show more mixed outcomes, suggesting some orbit types may introduce operational or technological challenges.
- With only one launch, there is not enough data for the SO orbit type to provide an accurate analysis.

Flight Number vs. Orbit Type



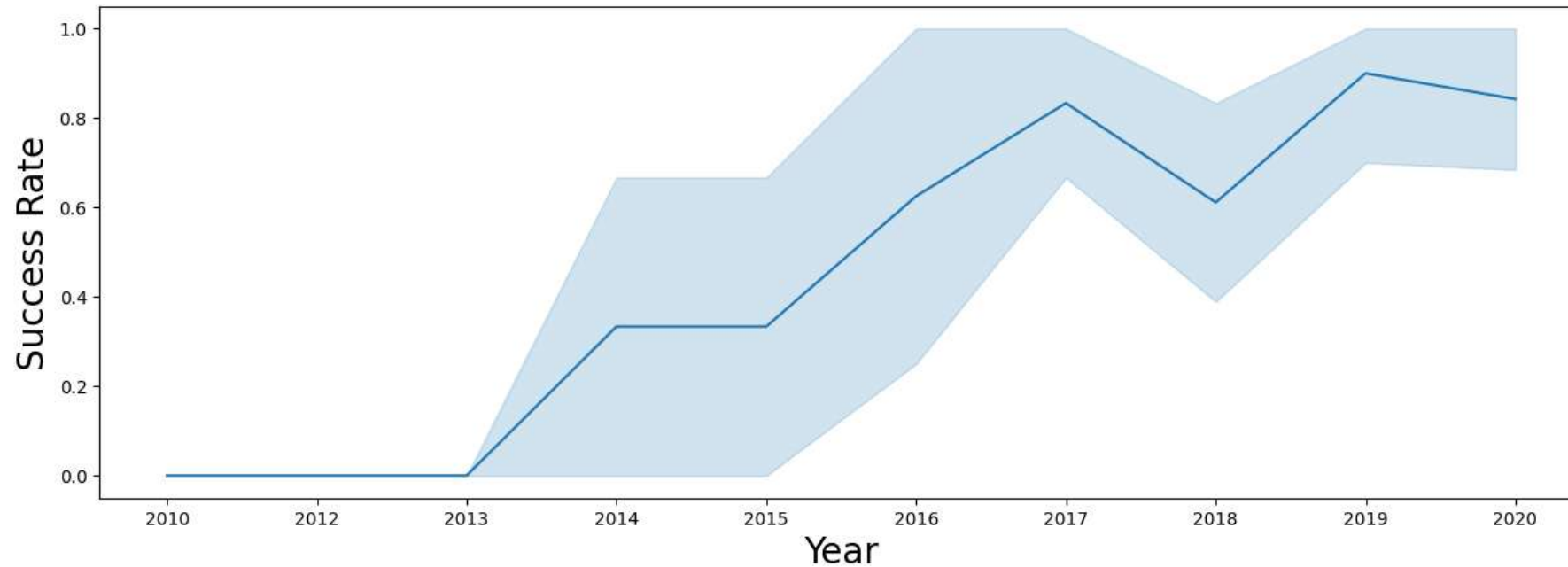
- Many orbits are represented throughout the flight number range, some orbits are not attempted until later flights.
- There is a noticeable improvement in landing success as flight numbers increase, indicating an accumulation of experience and ongoing improvements.

Payload vs. Orbit Type



- Many orbits are represented across a wide range of payload masses, but others like SSO, MEO, HEO and GEO show a generally lower range.
- Orbits with a constrained payload range, tend to show a higher rate of landing success.
- While payload mass does not appear to directly determine mission success, its interplay with orbit suggests a significant correlation.

Launch Success Yearly Trend



- Yearly trend shows a consistent progression from early challenges to high reliability in first stage landings over time.
- From 2016 onward, SpaceX experienced year over year improvement in success rate with a minor setback in 2018.

All Launch Site Names

There are four unique Launch Sites

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

```
SELECT DISTINCT Launch_Site from SPACEXTABLE;
```


Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

- First five records where launch sites 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

```
SELECT * FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Launch_Site LIKE 'CCA%' LIMIT 5;
```

Total Payload Mass

The total payload carried by boosters from NASA (CRS) is **45,596kg**.

```
SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS TOTAL_PAYLOAD  
FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Customer = 'NASA (CRS)';
```

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

The average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1 is **2,534.67kg**.

```
SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) AS AVG_PAYLOAD_MASS  
FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Booster_Version LIKE 'F9 v1.1%';
```

First Successful Ground Landing Date

The first successful landing outcome on ground pad occurred on **December 22nd, 2015**.

```
SELECT MIN(Date) as LaunchDate
FROM SPACEXTABLE
WHERE Landing_Outcome = 'Success (ground pad)';
```

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

The boosters which have successfully landed on drone ship and had payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000 are:

Booster	Payload Mass
F9 FT B1022	4,696kg
F9 FT B1026	4,600kg
F9 FT B1021.2	5,300kg
F9 FT B1031.2	5,200kg

```
SELECT Booster_Version, PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_  
FROM SPACEXTABLE  
WHERE Landing_Outcome = 'Success (drone ship)'  
AND PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ BETWEEN 4000 AND 6000;
```

Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

- Total number of successful and failure mission outcomes

Mission Status	Count
Failure	1
Success	100

```
SELECT CASE
    WHEN Mission_Outcome LIKE 'Success%' THEN 'Success'
    WHEN Mission_Outcome LIKE 'Failure%' THEN 'Failure'
END as Mission_Status, COUNT(*)
FROM SPACEXTABLE
GROUP BY Mission_Status;
```

Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

- The maximum payload sent was **15,600kg**.
- The boosters that carried the maximum payload are:

```
SELECT
  DISTINCT Booster_Version,
  PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_
FROM SPACEXTABLE
  WHERE PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ = (
    SELECT MAX(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) FROM
    SPACEXTABLE
  )
ORDER BY Booster_Version;
```

Booster Version
F9 B5 B1048.4
F9 B5 B1048.5
F9 B5 B1049.4
F9 B5 B1049.5
F9 B5 B1049.7
F9 B5 B1051.3
F9 B5 B1051.4
F9 B5 B1051.6
F9 B5 B1056.4
F9 B5 B1058.3
F9 B5 B1060.2
F9 B5 B1060.3

2015 Launch Records

- List of failed landing outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015:

Month	Outcome	Booster	Launch Site
January	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40
April	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40

```
SELECT
CASE strftime('%m', Date)
WHEN '01' THEN 'January'
WHEN '02' THEN 'February'
WHEN '03' THEN 'March'
WHEN '04' THEN 'April'
WHEN '05' THEN 'May'
WHEN '06' THEN 'June'
WHEN '07' THEN 'July'
WHEN '08' THEN 'August'
WHEN '09' THEN 'September'
WHEN '10' THEN 'October'
WHEN '11' THEN 'November'
WHEN '12' THEN 'December'
END as Month,
Landing_Outcome, Booster_Version, Launch_Site, Date
FROM SPACEXTABLE
WHERE strftime('%Y', Date) = '2015' AND Landing_Outcome = 'Failure (drone ship)';
```

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

- Rank the count of landing outcomes between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20, in descending order:

```
SELECT
    Landing_Outcome,
    COUNT(*) as Count
FROM SPACEXTABLE
WHERE
    Date BETWEEN
        '2010-06-04' AND '2017-03-20'
GROUP BY Landing_Outcome
ORDER BY Count DESC;
```

Landing Outcome	Count
No attempt	10
Success (drone ship)	5
Failure (drone ship)	5
Success (ground pad)	3
Controlled (ocean)	3
Uncontrolled (ocean)	2
Failure (parachute)	2
Precluded (drone ship)	1

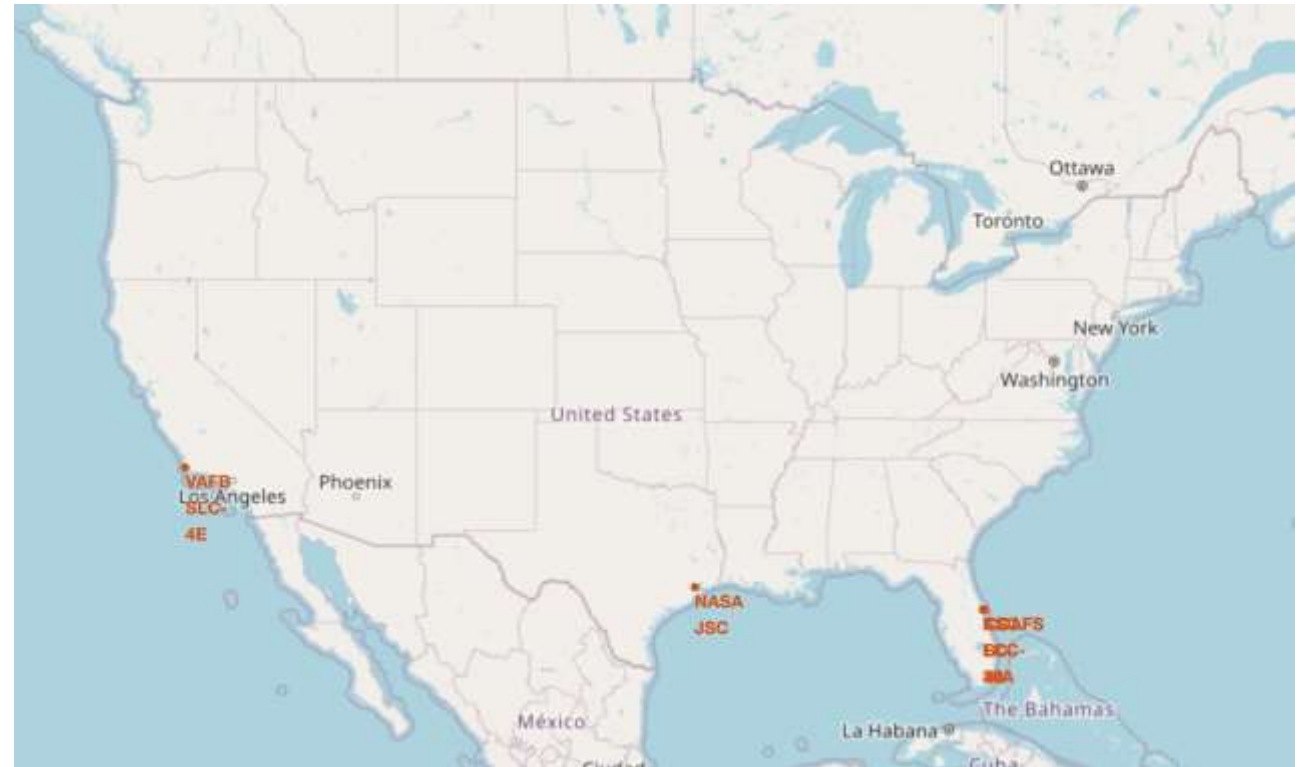
A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and city lights at night. The image is a composite of a solid blue rectangle on the left and a satellite photograph of Earth on the right. The Earth's surface is dark, with numerous bright yellow and orange lights representing cities and urban areas. The horizon of the Earth is visible, separating the dark surface from the deep blue of the sky.

Section 3

Launch Sites Proximities Analysis

Launch Site Locations

- Launch sites are located near coastal regions in Florida and California to reduce risk of catastrophic failures affecting human activities.

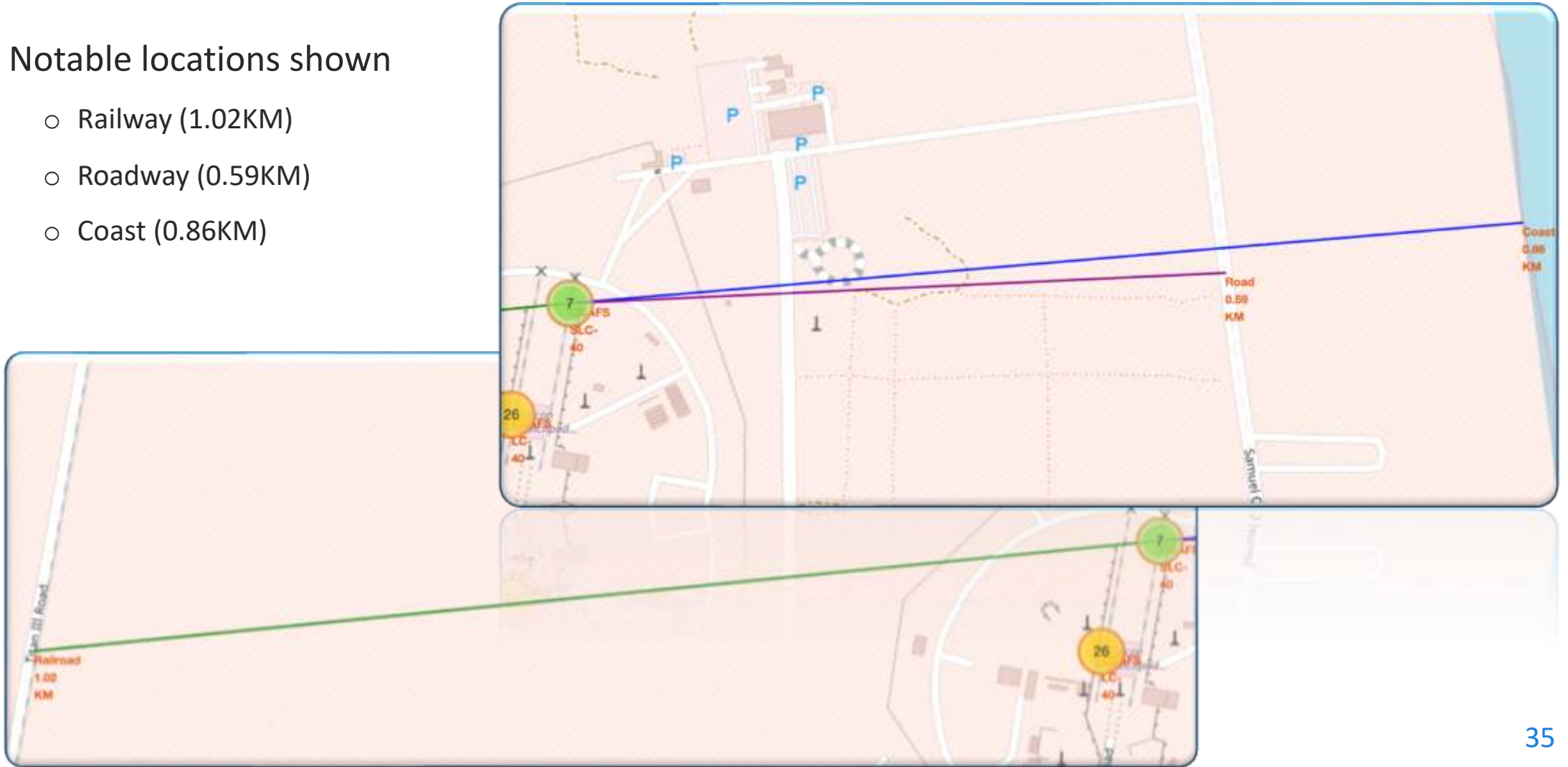


Launch Outcomes



Notable Proximate Locations

- Notable locations shown
 - Railway (1.02KM)
 - Roadway (0.59KM)
 - Coast (0.86KM)





Section 4

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

All Launch Sites: Successful Landings

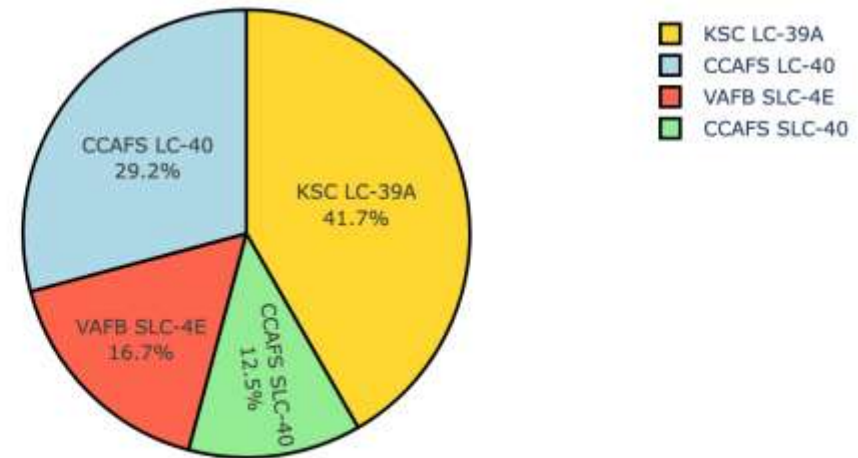
- KSC LC-39A experienced the highest proportion of successful landings, followed by CCAFS LC-40.
- VAFB SLC-4E and CCAFS SLC-40 the lowest.

SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard

All Sites

X ▼

Total Successful Launches by Site

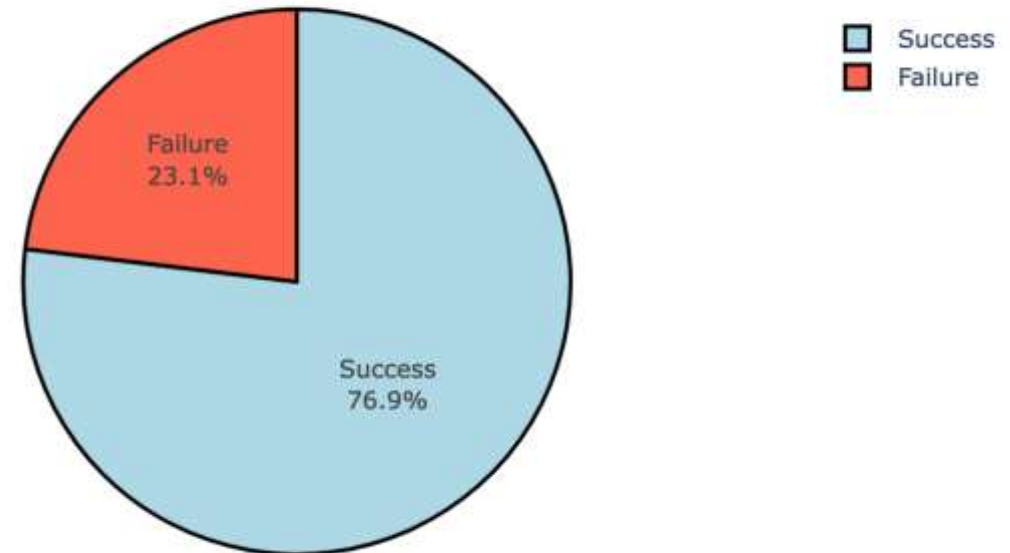


Per-site Launch Success Ratio: High

- KSC LC-39A had the highest ratio of successful landings

KSC LC-39A ✕ ▾

Launch Success vs Failure for site KSC LC-39A

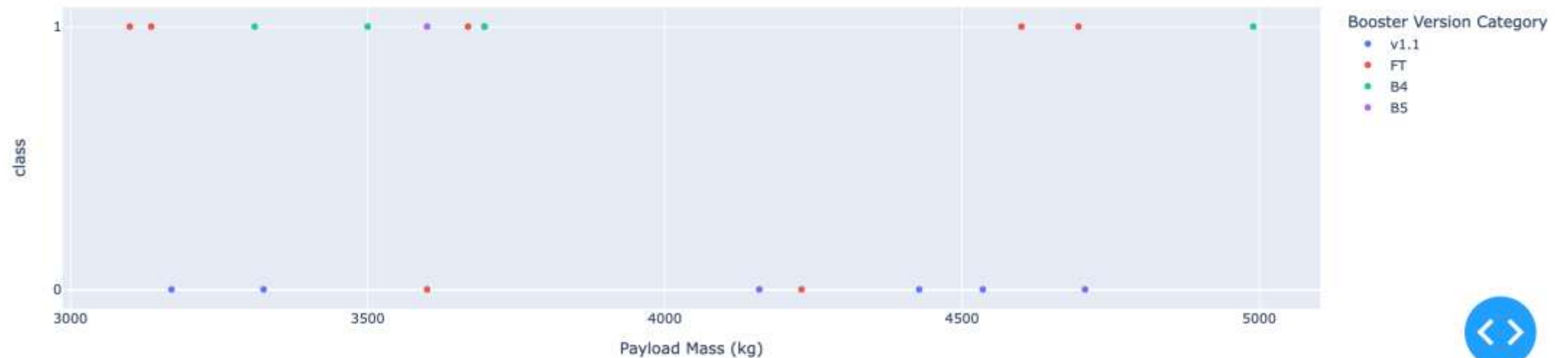


Payload Range

Payload range (Kg):



Payload Success Rate for All Sites



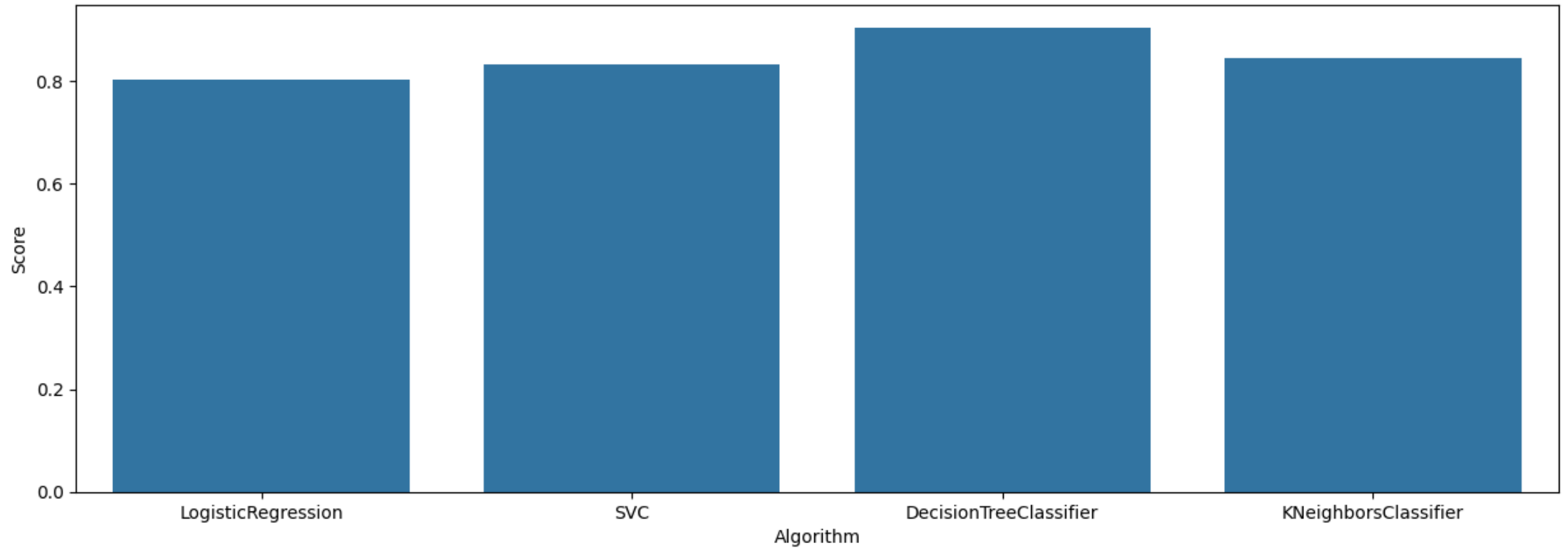
- With a payload mass between 3,000kg and 5,000kg, v1.1 boosters performed the worst.
- In the same payload range, B4 and B5 boosters had the best success rate, followed by FT.



Section 5

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

Classification Accuracy



- Of the algorithms tested, the DecisionTreeClassifier was the most accurate.

Confusion Matrix

- 14 observations were correctly predicted as successful landings (true positive)
- 3 observations were correctly predicted as failed landings (true negative)
- 1 observation was incorrectly predicted as a successful landing (false positive)
- No observations were incorrectly predicted as a failed landing (false negative)



Conclusions

- Success rates increase over time, across all factors, which indicates continuous and incremental operational improvements and technological advancements.
- Different orbits have varying success rates, with ES-L1, SSO, HEO, and GEO showing consistently successful outcomes.
- Launch site was a highly predictive factor, with KSC LC-39A being a top performer, closely followed by CCAFS LC-40.
- Many of the predictive models evaluated were able to predict landing outcome with an acceptable level of accuracy. In the testing performed, DecisionTreeClassifier produced best results with high accuracy, precision, and recall.

Appendix

- Data Sources
 - SpaceX API
 - Collected Data: dataset_part_1.csv
 - Wikipedia: List of Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launches (June 2021)
 - Data after wrangling: dataset_part_2.csv
 - Geographical data: spacex_launch_geo.csv
 - Interactive data source: spacex_launch_dash.csv

Thank you!

