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Executive Summary

Summary of Methodologies

The research attempts to identify the factors for a successful rocket landing. To make this determination, the following methodologies where used:

- Collect data using SpaceX REST API and web scraping techniques
- Wrangle data to create success/fail outcome variable
- **Explore** data with data visualization techniques, considering the following factors: payload, launch site, flight number and yearly trend
- **Analyze** the data with SQL, calculating the following statistics: total payload, payload range for successful launches, and total # of successful and failed outcomes
- **Explore** launch site success rates and proximity to geographical markers
- **Visualize** the launch sites with the most success and successful payload ranges
- **Build Models** to predict landing outcomes using logistic regression, support vector machine (SVM), decision tree and K-nearest neighbor (KNN)

Results

Exploratory Data Analysis:

- · Launch success has improved over time
- KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate among landing sites
- Orbits ES-L1, GEO, HEO, and SSO have a 100% success rate

Visualization/An

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Predictive Analytics:

• All mod els perf orm ed simil arly on the test set. The deci sion

tree mod el sligh tly outp erfor med

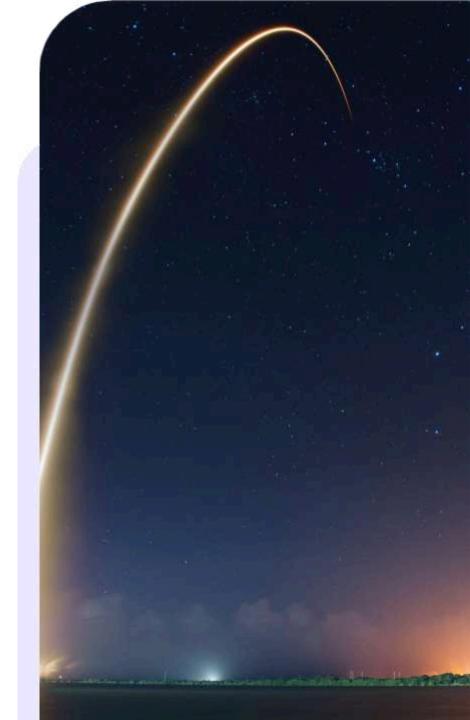
Introduction

Background

SpaceX, a leader in the space industry, strives to make space travel affordable for everyone. Its accomplishments include sending spacecraft to the international space station, launching a satellite constellation that provides internet access and sending manned missions to space. SpaceX can do this because the rocket launches are relatively inexpensive (\$62 million per launch) due to its novel reuse of the first stage of its Falcon 9 rocket. Other providers, which are not able to reuse the first stage, cost upwards of \$165 million each. By determining if the first stage will land, we can determine the price of the launch. To do this, we can use public data and machine learning models to predict whether SpaceX – or a competing company – can reuse the first stage.

Explore

- How payload mass, launch site, number of flights, and orbits affect first-stage landing success
- Rate of successful landings over time
- Best predictive model for successful landing (binary classification)





Methodology

Steps

- **Collect** data using SpaceX REST API and web scraping techniques
- Wrangle data by filtering the data, handling missing values and applying one hot encoding – to prepare the data for analysis and modeling
- **Explore** data via EDA with SQL and data visualization techniques
- Visualize the data using Folium and Plotly Dash
- **Build Models** to predict landing outcomes using classification models. Tune and evaluate models to find best model and parameters



Data Collection — API

Steps

- **Request data** from SpaceX API (rocket launch data)
- Decode response using .json() and convert to a dataframe using .json_normalize()
- **Request information** about the launches from SpaceX API using custom functions
- Create dictionary from the data
- Create dataframe from the dictionary
- Filter dataframe to contain only Falcon 9 launches
- Replace missing values of Payload Mass with calculated .mean()
- Export data to csv file



Data Collection — Web Scrapin

Steps

- Request data (Falcon 9 launch data) from Wikipedia
- Create BeautifulSoup object from HTML response
- Extract column names from HTML table header
- **Collect data** from parsing HTML tables
- Create dictionary from the data
- **Create dataframe** from the dictionary
- Export data to csv file



Data Wrangling

Steps

- **Perform EDA** and determine data labels
- Calculate:
 - # of launches for each site
 - # and occurrence of orbit
 - # and occurrence of mission outcome per orbit type]
- **Create binary** landing outcome column (dependent variable)
- **Export data** to csv file

Landing Outcome

- Landing was not always successful
- **True Ocean:** mission outcome had a successful landing to a specific region of the ocean

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Landing Outcome



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EDA with Visualization

Charts

- Flight Number vs. Payload
- Flight Number vs. Launch Site
- Payload Mass (kg) vs. Launch Site
- Payload Mass (kg) vs. Orbit type

Analysis

- **View relationship** by using **scatter plots**. The variables could be useful for machine learning if a relationship exists
- **Show comparisons** among discrete categories with **bar charts**. Bar charts show the relationships among the categories and a measured value.



EDA with SQL

Queries

Display

:

- Names of unique launch sites
- 5 records where launch site begins with 'CCA'
- Total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)
- Average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1.

List:

- Date of first successful landing on ground pad
- Names of boosters which had success landing on drone ship and have payload mass greater than 4,000 but less than 6,000
- Total number of successful and failed missions
- Names of booster versions which have carried the max payload
- Failed landing outcomes on drone ship, their booster version and launch



site for the months in the year 2015

• Count of landing outcomes between 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20 (desc)

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Map with Folium

Markers Indicating Launch Sites

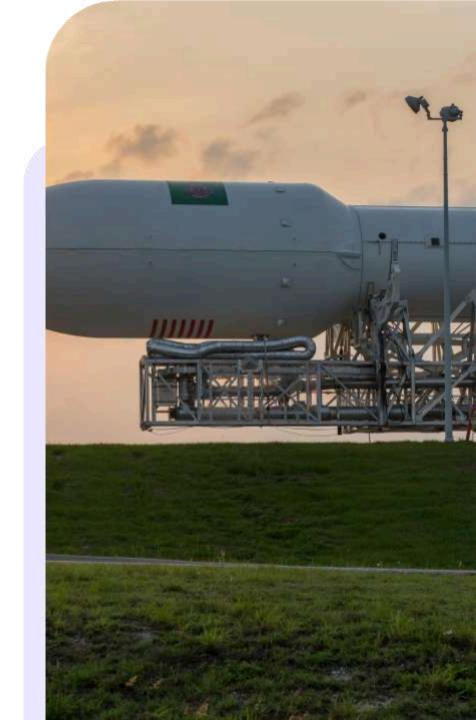
- Added blue circle at NASA Johnson Space Center's coordinate with a popup label showing its name using its latitude and longitude coordinates
- Added **red circles** at **all launch sites coordinates** with a **popup label** showing its name using its latitude and longitude coordinates

Colored Markers of Launch Outcomes

Added colored markers of successful (green) and unsuccessful (red)
 launches at each launch site to show which launch sites have high success rates

Distances Between a Launch Site to Proximities

Added colored lines to show distance between launch site CCAFS
 SLC- 40 and its proximity to the nearest coastline, railway, highway, and city



Dashboard with Plotly Dash

Dropdown List with Launch Sites

Allow user to select all launch sites or a certain launch site

Pie Chart Showing Successful Launches

Allow user to see successful and unsuccessful launches as a percent of the total

Slider of Payload Mass Range

Allow user to select payload mass range

Scatter Chart Showing Payload Mass vs. Success Rate by Booster Version

Allow user to see the correlation between Payload and Launch Success



Predictive Analytics

Charts

- Create NumPy array from the Class column
- **Standardize** the data with StandardScaler. Fit and transform the data.
- Split the data using train_test_split
- **Create** a GridSearchCV object with cv=10 for parameter optimization
- Apply GridSearchCV on different algorithms: logistic regression (LogisticRegression()), support vector machine (SVC()), decision tree (DecisionTreeClassifier()), K-Nearest Neighbor (KNeighborsClassifier())
- Calculate accuracy on the test data using .score() for all models
- **Assess** the confusion matrix for all models
- **Identify** the best model using Jaccard_Score, F1_Score and Accuracy





Results Summary

Exploratory Data Analysis

- Launch success has improved over time
- KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate among landing sites
- Orbits ES-L1, GEO, HEO and SSO have a 100% success rate

Visual Analytics

- Most launch sites are near the equator, and all are close to the coast
- Launch sites are far enough away from anything a failed launch can damage (city, highway, railway), while still close enough to bring people and material to support launch activities

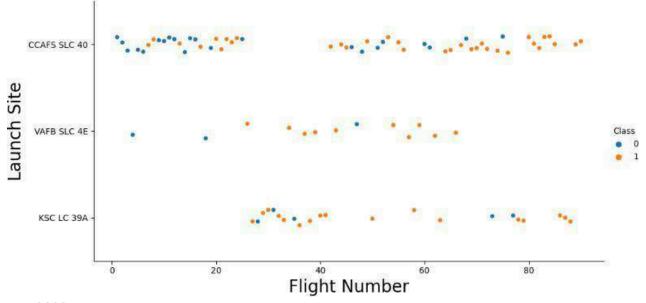
Predictive Analytics

• Decision Tree model is the best predictive model for the dataset



Flight Number vs. Launch Site

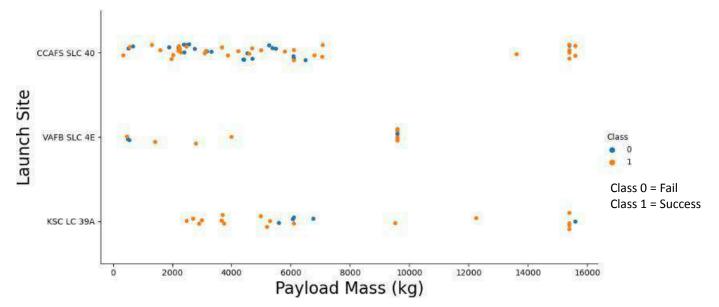
- Earlier flights had a lower success rate (blue = fail)
- Later flights had a higher success rate (orange = success)
- Around half of launches were from CCAFS SLC 40 launch site
- VAFB SLC 4E and KSC LC 39A have higher success rates
- We can infer that new launches have a higher success rate





Payload vs. Launch Site

- Typically, the **higher** the **payload mass** (kg), the **higher** the **success rate**
- Most launces with a payload greater than 7,000 kg were successful
- KSC LC 39A has a 100% success rate for launches less than 5,500 kg
- VAFB SKC 4E has not launched anything greater than ~10,000 kg





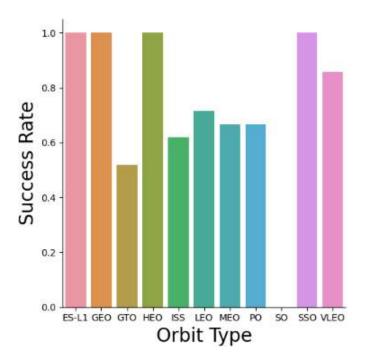
Success Rate by Orbit

Exploratory Data Analysis

• 100% Success Rate: ES-L1, GEO, HEO and SSO

• **50%-80% Success Rate**: GTO, ISS, LEO, MEO, PO

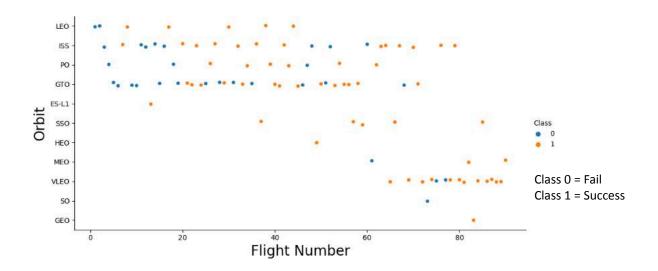
• 0% Success Rate: SO





Flight Number vs. Orbit

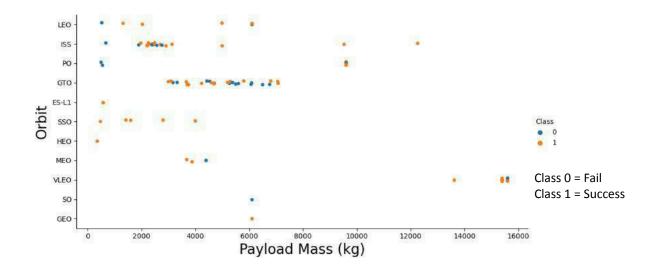
- The success rate typically increases with the number of flights for each orbit
- This relationship is highly apparent for the LEO orbit
- The GTO orbit, however, does not follow this trend





Payload vs. Orbit

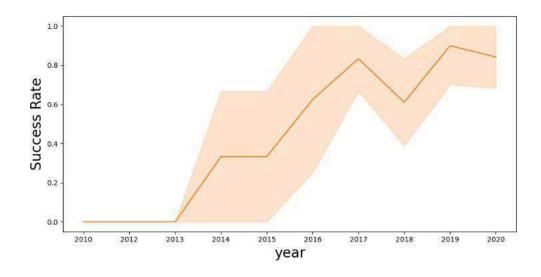
- Heavy payloads are better with LEO, ISS and PO orbits
- The GTO orbit has mixed success with heavier payloads





Launch Success over Time

- The success rate improved from 2013-2017 and 2018-2019
- The success rate decreased from 2017-2018 and from 2019-2020
- Overall, the success rate has improved since 2013





Launch Site Information

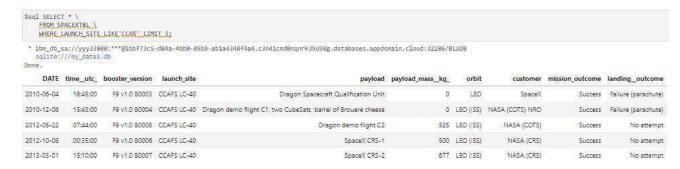
Launch Site Names

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



Records with Launch Site Starting with CCA

Displaying 5 records below



Landing Ou



Payload Mass

Total Payload Mass

 45,596 kg (total) carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)

Average Payload Mas

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```
%sql SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) \
    FROM SPACEXTBL_\
    WHERE CUSTOMER = 'NASA_(CRS)':
    ibm_db_sa://yyy33880:***@lbbf73c5-d84a-4l
    sqlite:///my_datal.db
Done.
    1
45596
```

```
%sql SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) \
    FROM SPACEXTBL_\
    WHERE BOOSTER VERSION = 'F9 v1.1';

* ibm_db_sa://yyy33800:***@1bbf73c5-d84a-4
    sqlite:///my_data1.db
Done.

1
2928
```

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Landing & Mission Info

1st Successful Landing in Ground Pad E

Booster Drone Ship Landing

•

12/22/2015 • Booster mass greater than 4,000 but less than 6,000

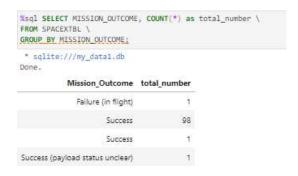
 JSCAT-14, JSCAT-16, SES-10, SES-11 / EchoStar 105

```
%sql SELECT MIN(DATE) \
FROM SPACEXTBL \
WHERE LANDING OUTCOME = 'Success (ground pad)'
* ibm_db_sa://yyy33800:***@lbbf73c5-d84a-4bb0-85b'
sqlite://my_datal.db
Done.
1
2015-12-22
```



Total Number of Successful and Failed Mission Outcomes

- 1 Failure in Flight
- 99 Success
- 1 Success (payload status unclear)





Boosters

Carrying Max Payload

- 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





Failed Landings on Drone Ship

In 2015

• Showing month, date, booster version, launch site and landing outcome



Count of Successful Landings

Ranked Descending

 Count of landing outcomes between 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20 in descending order

```
%sql SELECT [Landing _Outcome], count(*) as count_outcomes \
FROM SPACEXTBL \
WHERE DATE between '84-85-2010' and '29-83-2017' group by [Landing _Outcome] order by count_outcomes DESC;

* sqlite:///my_datal.db
Done.

Landing_Outcome count_outcomes

Success 20

No attempt 10

Success (drone ship) 8

Success (ground pad) 6

Failure (drone ship) 4

Failure 3

Controlled (ocean) 3

Failure (parachute) 2

No attempt 1
```

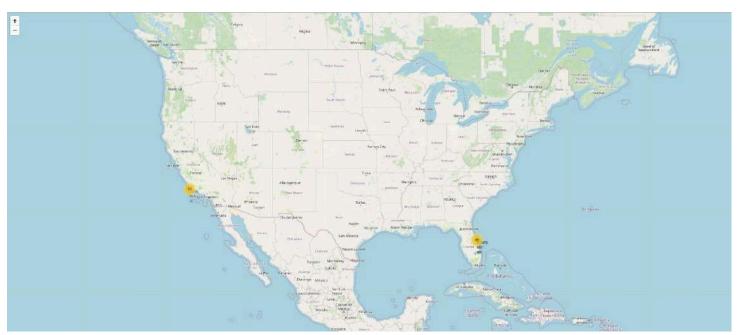




Launch Sites

With Markers

Near Equator: the closer the launch site to the equator, the easier it is to launch to equatorial orbit, and the more help you get from Earth's rotation for a prograde orbit. Rockets launched from sites near the equator get an additional natural boost - due to the rotational speed of earth - that helps save the cost of putting in extra fuel and boosters.





Launch Outcomes

At Each Launch Site

- Outcomes:
- Green markers for successful launches
- Red markers for unsuccessful launches
- Launch site CCAFS SLC-40 has a 3/7 success rate (42.9%)





Distance to Proximities

CCAFS SLC-40

- .86 km from nearest coastline
- 21.96 km from nearest railway
- 23.23 km from nearest city
- **26.88 km** from nearest highway

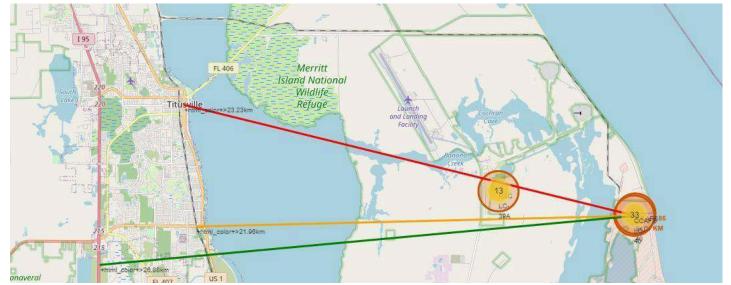




Distance to Proximities

CCAFS SLC-40

- **Coasts**: help ensure that spent stages dropped along the launch path or failed launches don't fall on people or property.
- **Safety / Security:** needs to be an exclusion zone around the launch site to keep unauthorized people away and keep people safe.
- **Transportation/Infrastructure and Cities**: need to be away from anything a failed launch can damage, but still close enough to roads/rails/docks to be able to bring people and material to or from it in support of launch activities.





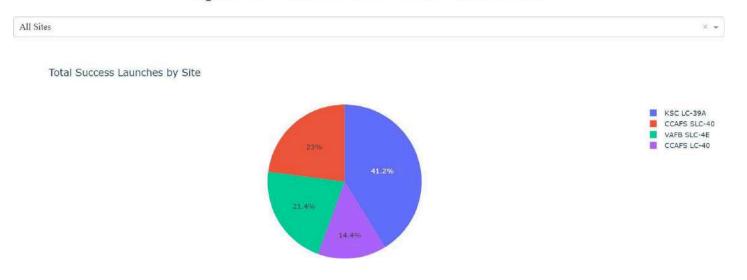


Launch Success by Site

Success as Percent of Total

 KSC LC-39A has the most successful launches amongst launch sites (41.2%)

SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard



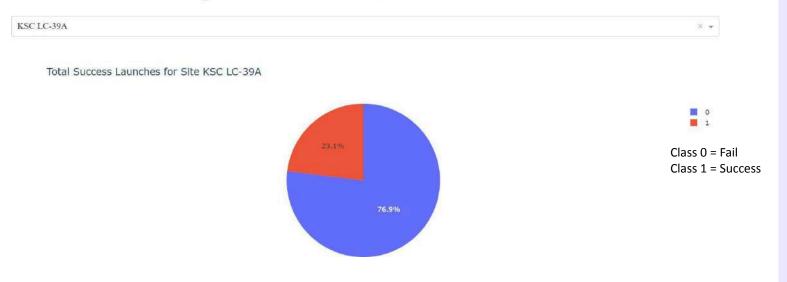


Launch Success (KSC LC-29A)

Success as Percent of Total

- KSC LC-39A has the highest success rate amongst launch sites (76.9%)
- 10 successful launches and 3 failed launches

SpaceX Launch Records Dashboard

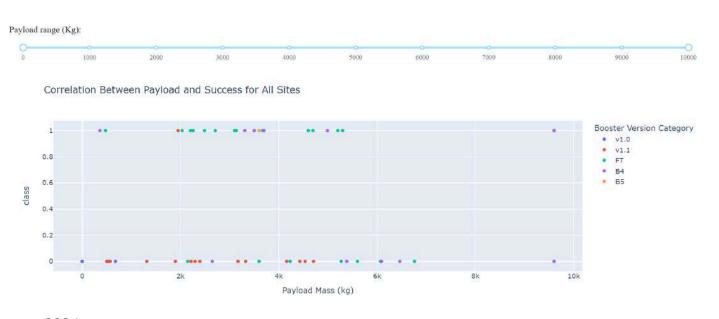




Payload Mass and Success

By Booster Version

- Payloads between 2,000 kg and 5,000 kg have the highest success rate
- 1 indicating successful outcome and 0 indicating an unsuccessful outcome







Classification

Accuracy

- All the models performed at about the same level and had the same scores and accuracy. This is likely due to the small dataset. The Decision Tree model slightly outperformed the rest when looking at .best_score_
- .best_score_ is the average of all cv folds for a single combination of the parameters

	LogReg	SVM	Tree	KNN
Jaccard_Score	0.800000	0.800000	0.800000	000008.0
F1_Score	0.888889	0.888889	0.888889	0.888889
Accuracy	0.833333	0.833333	0.833333	0.833333

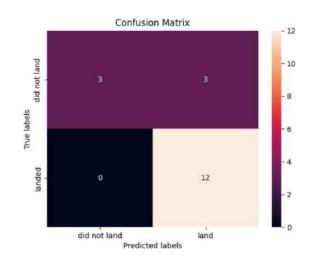
```
models = { 'KNeighbors':knn_cv.best_score_,
              'DecisionTree':tree_cv.best_score_,
              'LogisticRegression':logreg_cv.best_score_,
              'SupportVector': svm_cv.best_score }
bestalgorithm = max(models, key=models.get)
print('Best model is', bestalgorithm,'with a score of', models[bestalgorithm])
if bestalgorithm == 'DecisionTree':
    print('Best params is :', tree_cv.best_params_)
if bestalgorithm == 'KNeighbors':
    print('Best params is :', knn cv.best params')
if bestalgorithm == 'LogisticRegression':
    print('Best params is :', logreg_cv.best_params_)
if bestalgorithm == 'SupportVector':
    print('Best params is :', svm_cv.best_params_)
Best model is DecisionTree with a score of 0.9017857142857142
Best params is : {'criterion': 'gini', 'max_depth': 16, 'max_features': 'auto', 'min_samples_leaf': 4, 'min_samples_split': 10, 'splitter': 'random'}
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```



Confusion Matrices

Performance Summary

- A confusion matrix summarizes the performance of a classification algorithm
- All the confusion matrices were identical
- The fact that there are false positives (Type 1 error) is not good
- Confusion Matrix Outputs:
 - 12 True positive
 - 3 True negative
 - 3 False positive
 - 0 False Negative
- **Precision** = TP / (TP + FP)
 - 12 / 15 = .80
- Recall = TP / (TP + FN)
 - 12 / 12 = 1
- **F1 Score** = 2 * (Precision * Recall) / (Precision + Recall)
 - 2*(.8*1)/(.8+1)=.89
- **Accuracy** = (TP + TN) / (TP + TN + FP + FN) = .833

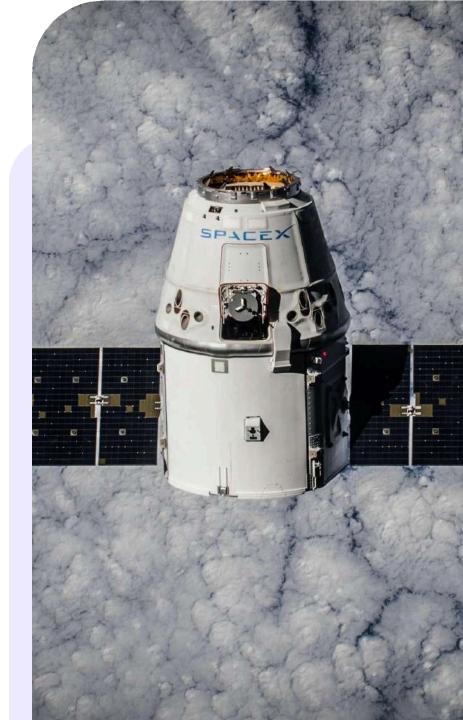




Conclusion

Research

- **Model Performance**: The models performed similarly on the test set with the decision tree model slightly outperforming
- **Equator**: Most of the launch sites are near the equator for an additional natural boost due to the rotational speed of earth which helps save the cost of putting in extra fuel and boosters
- Coast: All the launch sites are close to the coast
- Launch Success: Increases over time
- **KSC LC-39A**: Has the highest success rate among launch sites. Has a 100% success rate for launches less than 5,500 kg
- Orbits: ES-L1, GEO, HEO, and SSO have a 100% success rate
- **Payload Mass**: Across all launch sites, the higher the payload mass (kg), the higher the success rate



Conclusion

Things to Consider

- **Dataset**: A larger dataset will help build on the predictive analytics results to help understand if the findings can be generalizable to a larger data set
- **Feature Analysis / PCA**: Additional feature analysis or principal component analysis should be conducted to see if it can help improve accuracy
- **XGBoost**: Is a powerful model which was not utilized in this study. It would be interesting to see if it outperforms the other classification models

