

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

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### Outline

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

# **Executive Summary**

#### This project follows these steps:

- Data Collection
- Data Wrangling
- Exploratory Data Analysis
- Interactive Visual Analytics
- Predictive Analysis (Classification)

### This project produced the following outputs and visualizations:

- 1. Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) results
- 2. Geospatial analytics
- 3. Interactive dashboard
- 4. Predictive analysis of classification models

### Introduction

- SpaceX launches Falcon 9 rockets at a cost of around \$62m. This is considerably cheaper than other providers (which usually cost upwards of \$165m), and much of the savings are because SpaceX can land, and then re-use the first stage of the rocket.
- If we can make predictions on whether the first stage will land, we can determine the cost
  of a launch, and use this information to assess whether or not an alternate company
  should bid and SpaceX for a rocket launch.
- This project will ultimately predict if the Space X Falcon 9 first stage will land successfully.



# Methodology

#### **Executive Summary**

Data collection methodology:

Making GET requests to the SpaceX REST API Web Scraping

Perform data wrangling:

Using the .fillna() method to remove NaN values

Using the .value counts() method to determine the following:

Number of launches on each site.

Number and occurrence of each orbit.

Number and occurrence of mission outcome per orbit type

Creating a landing outcome label that shows the following:

0 when the booster did not land successfully

1 when the booster did land successfully

Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL:

Using SQL queries to manipulate and evaluate the SpaceX dataset.

Using Pandas and Matplotlib to visualize relationships between variables, and determine patterns.

#### **Interactive Visual Analytics:**

Geospatial analytics using Folium
Creating an interactive dashboard using Plotly Dash

#### Data Modelling and Evaluation:

Using Scikit-Learn to:

Pre-process (standardize) the data Split the data into training and testing data using train\_test\_split

Train different classification models

Find hyperparameters using GridSearchCV

Plotting confusion matrices for each classification model. Assessing the accuracy of each classification model.

# Data Collection – SpaceX API

Using the SpaceX API to retrieve data about launches, including information about the rocket used, payload delivered, launch specifications, landing specifications, and landing outcome.

- Make a GET response to the SpaceX REST API
- Convert the response to a .json file then to a Pandas DataFrame
- Use custom logic to clean the data (see Appendix)
- Define lists for data to be stored in
- Call custom functions (see Appendix) to retrieve data and fill the lists
- Use these lists as values in a dictionary and construct the dataset
- Create a Pandas DataFrame from the constructed dictionary dataset
- Filter the DataFrame to only include Falcon 9 launches
- Reset the FlightNumber column
- Replace missing values of PayloadMass with the mean PayloadMass value

```
spacex url="https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launches/past"
           response = requests.get(spacex_url)
                             # Call getBoosterVersion
  #Global variables
                                                                launch_dict = {'FlightNumber': list(data['flight_number']),
                             getBoosterVersion(data)
                                                                'Date': list(data['date']),
 BoosterVersion = []
                                                                'BoosterVersion':BoosterVersion,
 PayloadMass = []
                            the list has now been update
                                                                'PayloadMass':PayloadMass,
 Orbit = []
                                                                'Orbit':Orbit,
 LaunchSite = []
                             BoosterVersion[0:5]
                                                                'LaunchSite':LaunchSite,
 Outcome = []
                                                                'Outcome':Outcome,
 Flights = []
                            we can apply the rest of the fu
                                                                'Flights':Flights,
 GridFins = []
                                                                'GridFins':GridFins,
 Reused = []
                                                                'Reused': Reused,
                             # Call getLaunchSite
 Legs = []
                             getLaunchSite(data)
                                                                'Legs':Legs,
  LandingPad = []
                                                                'LandingPad':LandingPad,
 Block = []
                                                                'Block':Block,
                             # Call getPayloadData
 ReusedCount = []
                                                                'ReusedCount':ReusedCount,
                             getPayloadData(data)
 Serial = []
                                                                'Serial':Serial,
 Longitude = []
                                                                'Longitude': Longitude,
                             # Call getCoreData
                                                                'Latitude': Latitude}
  Latitude = []
                             getCoreData(data)
                             # Create a data from launch dict
                             df = pd.DataFrame.from_dict(launch_dict)
                                      data_falcon9.isnull().sum()
         data_falcon9.loc[:,'FlightNumber'] = list(range(1, data_falcon9.shape[0]+1))
data_falcon9 = data_falcon9.fillna(value={'PayloadMass': data_falcon9['PayloadMass'].mean()})
```

# **Data Collection - Scraping**

- Web scraping to collect Falcon 9 historical launch records from a Wikipedia page titled List of Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launches.
- Request the HTML page from the static URL
- Assign the response to an object
- Create a BeautifulSoup object from the HTML response object.
- Find all tables within the HTML page.
- Collect all column header names from the tables found within the HTML page
- Use the column names as keys in a dictionary
- Use custom functions and logic to parse all launch tables (see Appendix) to fill the dictionary values
- Convert the dictionary to a Pandas DataFrame ready for export

```
static_url = "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_Falcon_9_and_Falcon_Heavy_launches&oldid=1027686922"

response = requests.get(static_url)
# assign the response to a object
data = response.text

Create a BeautifulSoup object from the HTML response
```

- # Use BeautifulSoup() to create a BeautifulSoup object
  soup = BeautifulSoup(data, "html.parser")

  ntml\_tables = soup.find\_all('table')
- for row in first\_launch\_table.find\_all('th'):
   name = extract\_column\_from\_header(row)
   if(name != None and len(name) > 0):
   column\_names.append(name)

```
# Remove an irrelvant column

del launch_dict['Date and time ( )']

# Let's initial the launch_dict with each value to be an empty list launch_dict['Flight No.'] = []
launch_dict['Launch site'] = []
launch_dict['Payload'] = []
launch_dict['Payload mass'] = []
launch_dict['Orbit'] = []
launch_dict['Customer'] = []
launch_dict['Launch outcome'] = []
# Added some new columns
launch_dict['Version Booster']=[]
launch_dict['Booster landing']=[]
launch_dict['Date']=[]
launch_dict['Time']=[]
```

```
df = pd.DataFrame(launch_dict)
```

# **Data Wrangling**

- The SpaceX dataset contains several Space X launch facilities, and each location is in the LaunchSite column.
- Each launch aims to a dedicated orbit, and some of the common orbit types are shown in the figure below. The orbit type is in the Orbit column.

#### **Initial Data Exploration:**

- Using the .value\_counts() method to determine the following:
  - 1. Number of launches on each site
  - Number and occurrence of each orbit
  - 3. Number and occurrence of landing outcome per orbit type

```
# Apply value counts on Orbit column
                                                                                    # landing outcomes = values on Outcome column
                                                 df['Orbit'].value_counts()
                                                                                    landing outcomes= df['Outcome'].value counts()
# Apply value counts() on column LaunchSite GTO
                                                          21
df['LaunchSite'].value counts()
                                                  VLEO
                                                                                    True ASDS
                                                  PO
                                                                                                   19
                                                                                     None None
                                                 LEO
                                                                                    True RTLS
                                                                                                   14
                 22
KSC LC 39A
                                                                                    False ASDS
VAFB SLC 4E
                 13
                                                                                    True Ocean
Name: LaunchSite, dtype: int64
                                                                                    False Ocean
                                                                                    None ASDS
                                                                                    False RTLS
                                                 Name: Orbit, dtype: int64
                                                                                    Name: Outcome, dtype: int64
```

The landing outcome is shown in the Outcome column:

True Ocean – the mission outcome was successfully landed to a specific region of the ocean

False Ocean – the mission outcome was unsuccessfully landed to a specific region of the ocean.

True RTLS – the mission outcome was successfully landed to a ground pad

False RTLS – the mission outcome was unsuccessfully landed to a ground pad.

True ASDS – the mission outcome was successfully landed to a drone ship

False ASDS – the mission outcome was unsuccessfully landed to a drone ship.

None ASDS and None None - these represent a failure to land

```
bad_outcomes=set(landing_outcomes.keys()[[1,3,5,6,7]])
bad_outcomes
{'False ASDS', 'False Ocean', 'False RTLS', 'None ASDS', 'None None'}
```

# **Data Wrangling**

- To determine whether a booster will successfully land, it is best to have a binary column, i.e., where the value is 1 or 0, representing the success of the landing.
- This is done by:
  - Defining a set of unsuccessful (bad) outcomes, bad outcome
  - 2. Creating a list, landing\_class, where the element is 0 if the corresponding row in Outcome is in the set bad outcome, otherwise, it's 1.
  - 3. Create a Class column that contains the values from the list landing\_class
  - 4. Export the DataFrame as a .csv file.

```
landing_class = []

for outcome in df['Outcome']:
    if outcome in bad_outcomes:
        landing_class.append(0)
    else:
        landing_class.append(1)
# landing_class = 1 otherwise
```

```
df['Class']=landing_class
df[['Class']].head(8)
```

```
df.to_csv("dataset_part_2.csv", index=False)
```

### **EDA** with Data Visualization

#### **SCATTER CHARTS**

Scatter charts are useful to observe relationships, or correlations, between two numeric variables.

Scatter charts were produced to visualize the relationships between:

- Flight Number and Launch Site
- Payload and Launch Site
- Orbit Type and Flight Number
- Payload and Orbit Type

#### **BAR CHART**

Bar charts are used to compare a numerical value to a categorical variable. Horizontal or vertical bar charts can be used, depending on the size of the data.

A bar chart was produced to visualize the relationship between:

• Success Rate and Orbit Type

#### LINE CHARTS

Line charts contain numerical values on both axes and are generally used to show the change of a variable over time.

Line charts were produced to visualize the relationships between:

 Success Rate and Year (i.e. the launch success yearly trend)

## **EDA** with SQL

#### The SQL queries performed on the data set were used to:

- 1. Display the names of the unique launch sites in the space mission
- 2. Display 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'
- 3. Display the total payload mass carried by boosters launched by NASA (CRS)
- 4. Display the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1
- 5. List the date when the first successful landing outcome on a ground pad was achieved
- 6. List the names of the boosters which had success on a drone ship and a payload mass between 4000 and 6000 kg
- 7. List the total number of successful and failed mission outcomes
- 8. List the names of the booster versions which have carried the maximum payload mass
- 9. List the failed landing outcomes on drone ships, their booster versions, and launch site names for 2015
- 10. 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

# Build an Interactive Map with Folium

#### 1. Mark all launch sites on a map

Initialise the map using a Folium Map object

Add a folium.Circle and folium.Marker for each launch site on the launch map

#### 2. Mark the success/failed launches for each site on a map

As many launches have the same coordinates, it makes sense to cluster them together.

Before clustering them, assign a marker colour of successful (class = 1) as green, and failed (class = 0) as red. To put the launches into clusters, for each launch, add a folium. Marker to the MarkerCluster() object.

Create an icon as a text label, assigning the icon color as the marker colour determined previously.

#### 3. Calculate the distances between a launch site to its proximities

To explore the proximities of launch sites, calculations of distances between points can be made using the Lat and Long values. After marking a point using the Lat and Long values, create a folium. Marker object to show the distance. To display the distance line between two points, draw a folium. PolyLine and add this to the map.

# Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- 1. Pie chart (px.pie()) showing the total successful launches per site
  - This makes it clear to see which sites are most successful.
  - The chart could also be filtered (using a dcc.Dropdown() object) to see the success/failure ratio for an individual site
- Scatter graph (px.scatter()) to show the correlation between outcome (success or not) and payload mass (kg)
  - This could be filtered (using a RangeSlider() object) by ranges of payload masses
  - It could also be filtered by booster version

# **Predictive Analysis**

The following steps were taking to develop, evaluate, and find the best performing classification model:

#### Model Development

- To prepare the dataset for model development:
  - Load dataset
  - Perform necessary data transformations (standardise and pre-process)
  - Split data into training and test data sets, using train test split()
  - Decide which type of machine learning algorithms are most appropriate
- For each chosen algorithm:
  - Create a GridSearchCV object and a dictionary of parameters
  - Fit the object to the parameters
  - Use the training data set to train the model

#### Model Evaluation

- For each chosen algorithm:
  - Using the output GridSearchCV object:
    - Check the tuned hyperparameters (best\_params\_)
    - Check the accuracy (score and best\_score\_)
  - Plot and examine the Confusion Matrix

# Finding the Best Classification Model

- Review the accuracy scores for all chosen algorithms
- The model with the highest accuracy score is determined as the best performing model

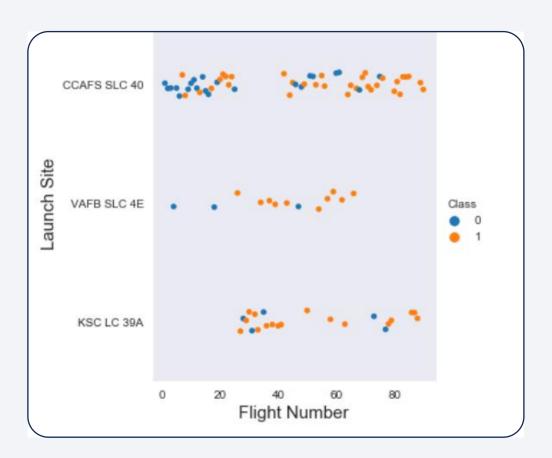
### Results

Exploratory data analysis
Interactive analytics
Predictive analysis



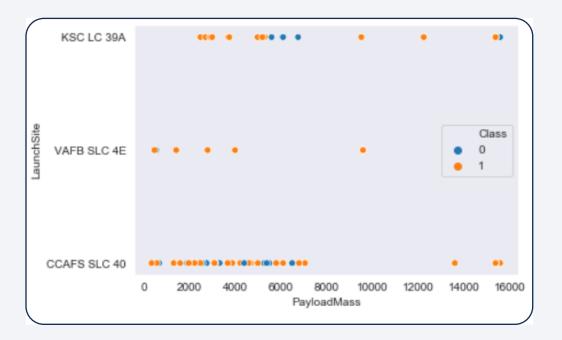
# Flight Number vs. Launch Site

- The scatter plot of Launch Site vs. Flight Number shows that:
- As the number of flights increases, the rate of success at a launch site increases.
- Most of the early flights (flight numbers < 30) were launched from CCAFS SLC 40, and were generally unsuccessful.</li>
- The flights from VAFB SLC 4E also show this trend, that earlier flights were less successful.
- No early flights were launched from KSC LC 39A, so the launches from this site are more successful.
- Above a flight number of around 30, there are significantly more successful landings (Class = 1).



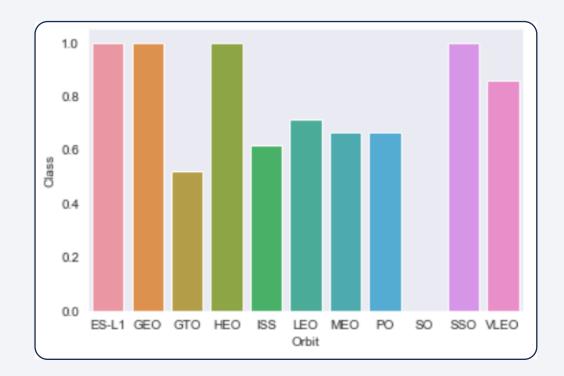
# Payload vs. Launch Site

- The scatter plot of Launch Site vs. Payload Mass shows that:
- Above a payload mass of around 7000 kg, there are very few unsuccessful landings, but there is also far less data for these heavier launches.
- There is no clear correlation between payload mass and success rate for a given launch site.
- All sites launched a variety of payload masses, with most of the launches from CCAFS SLC 40 being comparatively lighter payloads (with some outliers).



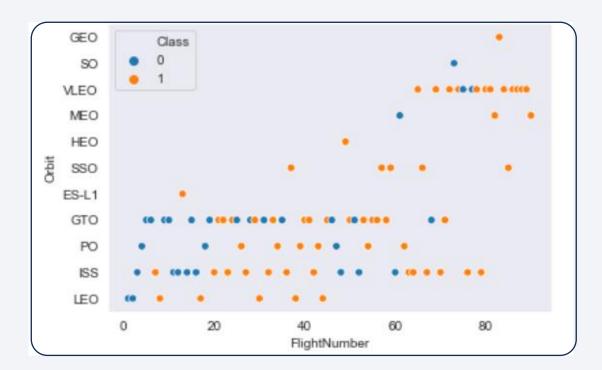
# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

- The bar chart of Success Rate vs. Orbit Type shows that the following orbits have the highest (100%) success rate:
- ES-L1 (Earth-Sun First Lagrangian Point)
- GEO (Geostationary Orbit)
- HEO (High Earth Orbit)
- SSO (Sun-synchronous Orbit)
- The orbit with the lowest (0%) success rate is:
- SO (Heliocentric Orbit)



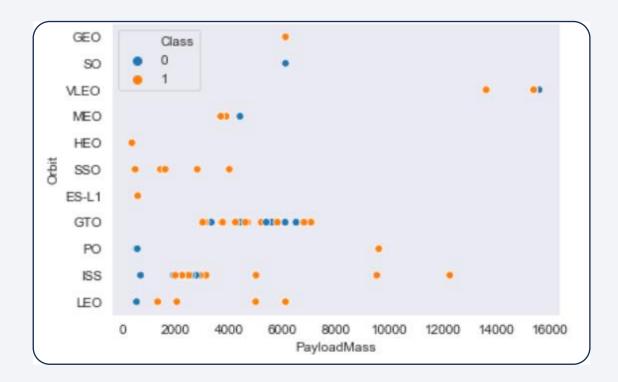
# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

- This scatter plot of Orbit Type vs. Flight number shows a few useful things that the previous plots did not, such as:
- The 100% success rate of GEO, HEO, and ES-L1 orbits can be explained by only having 1 flight into the respective orbits.
- The 100% success rate in SSO is more impressive, with 5 successful flights.
- There is little relationship between Flight Number and Success Rate for GTO.
- Generally, as Flight Number increases, the success rate increases. This is most extreme for LEO, where unsuccessful landings only occurred for the low flight numbers (early launches).



# Payload vs. Orbit Type

- This scatter plot of Orbit Type vs. Payload Mass shows that:
- The following orbit types have more success with heavy payloads:
  - PO (although the number of data points is small)
  - ISS
  - LEO
- For GTO, the relationship between payload mass and success rate is unclear.
- VLEO (Very Low Earth Orbit) launches are associated with heavier payloads, which makes intuitive sense.



# Launch Success Yearly Trend

- The line chart of yearly average success rate shows that:
- Between 2010 and 2013, all landings were unsuccessful (as the success rate is 0).
- After 2013, the success rate generally increased, despite small dips in 2018 and 2020.
- After 2016, there was always a greater than 50% chance of success.



### All Launch Site Names

• Find the names of the unique launch sites.

\*\*SQL SELECT DISTINCT (LAUNCH\_SITE) FROM SPACEXTBL;

VAFB SLC-4E

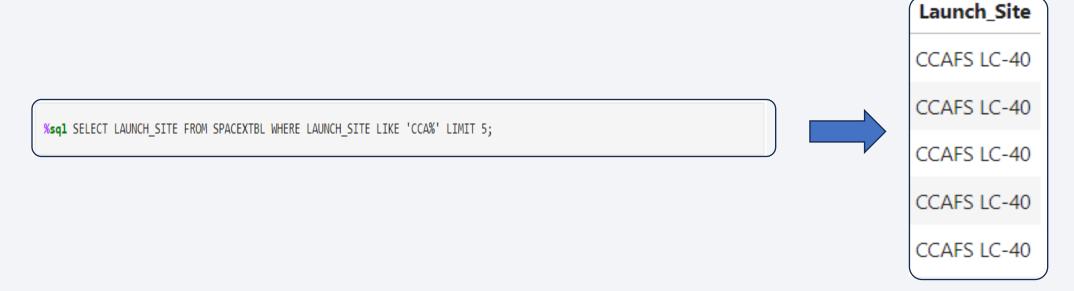
KSC LC-39A

CCAFS SLC-40

The word UNIQUE returns only unique values from the LAUNCH\_SITE column of the SPACEXTBL table.

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

Find 5 records where launch sites begin with 'CCA'.



• LIMIT 5 fetches only 5 records, and the LIKE keyword is used with the wild card 'CCA%' to retrieve string values beginning with 'CCA'.

# **Total Payload Mass**

Calculate the total payload carried by boosters from NASA.

%sql SELECT SUM(PAYLOAD\_MASS\_KG\_) AS TOTAL\_PAYLOAD\_MASS FROM SPACEXTBL \
WHERE CUSTOMER = 'NASA (CRS)';

• The <u>SUM</u> keyword is used to calculate the total of the <u>LAUNCH</u> column, and the <u>SUM</u> keyword (and the associated condition) filters the results to only boosters from NASA (CRS).

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

Calculate the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1.

%sql SELECT AVG(PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_) AS AVERAGE\_PAYLOAD\_MASS FROM SPACEXTBL \
WHERE BOOSTER\_VERSION = 'F9 v1.1'

 The AVG keyword is used to calculate the average of the PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_ column, and the WHERE keyword (and the associated condition) filters the results to only the F9 v1.1 booster version.

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

Find the dates of the first successful landing outcome on ground pad.

```
%sql SELECT MIN(DATE) AS FIRST_SUCCESSFUL_GROUND_LANDING FROM SPACEXTBL \
WHERE Landing_Outcome = 'Success (ground pad)';

[FIRST_SUCCESSFUL_GROUND_LANDING]
2015-12-22
```

• The MIN keyword is used to calculate the minimum of the DATE column, i.e. the first date, and the WHERE keyword (and the associated condition) filters the results to only the successful ground pad landings.

### Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

• List the names of boosters which have successfully landed on drone ship and had payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000.

| F9 FT B1022 | F9 FT B1026 | F9 FT B1021.2 | F9 FT B1021.2 | F9 FT B1031.2 | F9 FT B1

• The WHERE keyword is used to filter the results to include only those that satisfy both conditions in the brackets (as the AND keyword is also used). The BETWEEN keyword allows for 4000 < x < 6000 values to be selected.

**Booster Version** 

#### Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

Calculate the total number of successful and failure mission outcome.

%sql SELECT Mission\_Outcome,COUNT(Mission\_Outcome) FROM SPACEXTBL GROUP BY Mission\_Outcome;



Mission_Outcome	COUNT(Mission_Outcome)	
Failure (in flight)	1	
Success	98	
Success	1	
Success (payload status unclear)	1	

• The COUNT keyword is used to calculate the total number of mission outcomes, and the GROUPBY keyword is also used to group these results by the type of mission outcome.

# **Boosters Carried Maximum Payload**

• List the names of the booster which have carried the maximum payload mass.



A subquery is used here. The SELECT statement within the brackets finds the maximum payload, and this
value is used in the WHERE condition. The DISTINCT keyword is then used to retrieve only distinct /unique
booster versions.

### 2015 Launch Records

• List the failed landing\_outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch site names for in year 2015.

```
*sql SELECT BOOSTER_VERSION, LAUNCH_SITE FROM SPACEXTBL \
WHERE (LANDING_OUTCOME = 'Failure (drone ship)') AND (EXTRACT(YEAR FROM DATE) = '2015');

F9 v1.1 B1012 CCAFS LC-40

F9 v1.1 B1015 CCAFS LC-40
```

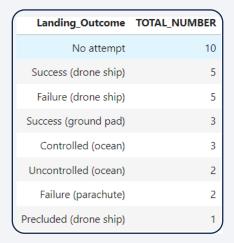
• The WHERE keyword is used to filter the results for only failed landing outcomes, AND only for the year of 2015.

### 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.

```
%sql SELECT Landing_Outcome, COUNT(Landing_Outcome) AS TOTAL_NUMBER FROM SPACEXTBL \
    WHERE DATE BETWEEN '2010-06-04' AND '2017-03-20' \
    GROUP BY Landing_Outcome \
    ORDER BY TOTAL_NUMBER DESC;
```





• The WHERE keyword is used with the BETWEEN keyword to filter the results to dates only within those specified. The results are then grouped and ordered, using the keywords GROUP BY and ORDER BY, respectively, where DESC is used to specify the descending order.



# All launch sites map

All SpaceX launch sites are on coasts of the United States of America, specifically Florida and California.



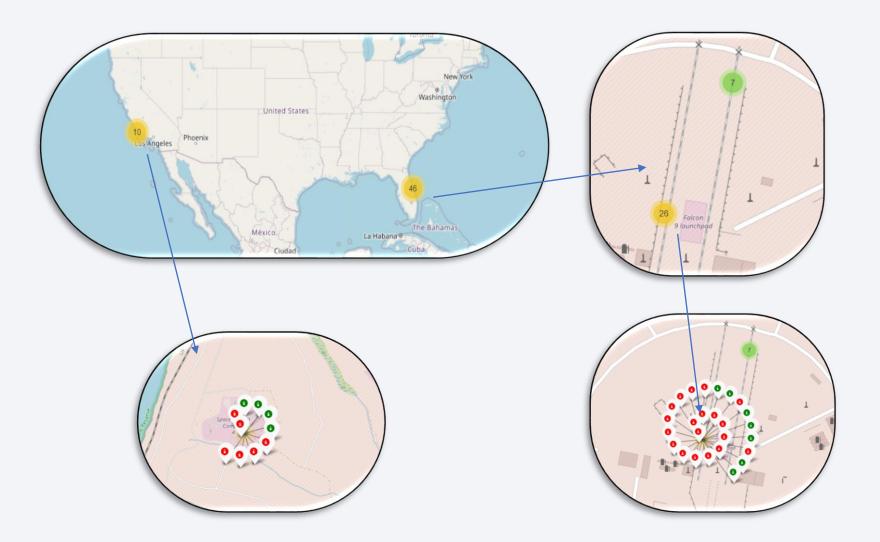






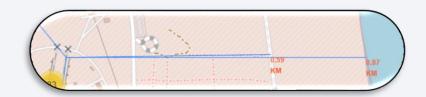
# Success/failed launches for each site

Launches have been grouped into clusters, and annotated with green icons for successful launches, and red icons for failed launches.

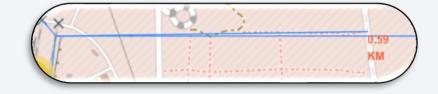


# Proximity of launch sites to other points of interest

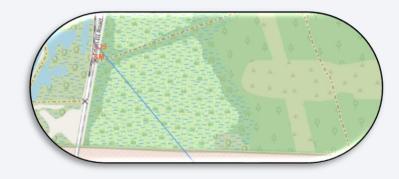
We can see the closest coastline, railway, highway, city from the launch site



Closest Coastline is 0.87KM away from launch Site.



Closest Highway is 0.59KM away from launch Site.



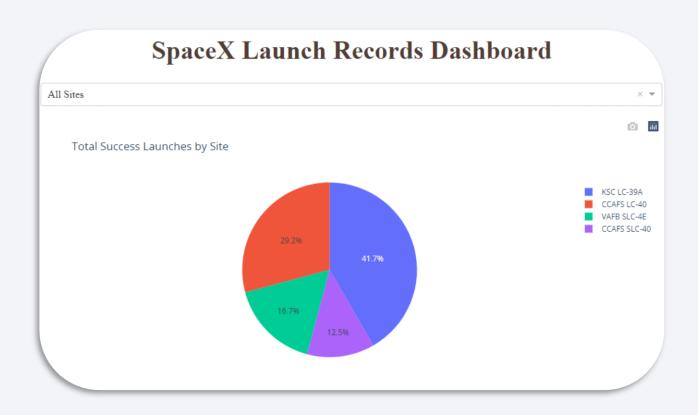
Closest Railway is 1.29KM away from launch Site.



Closest City is 51.74 KM away from launch Site.

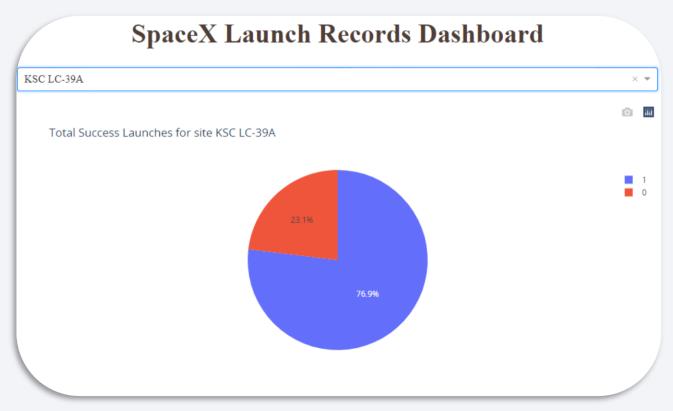


### launch success count for all sites



• The launch site KSC LC-39 A had the most successful launches, with 41.7% of the total successful launches.

### Pie chart for the launch site with highest launch success ratio



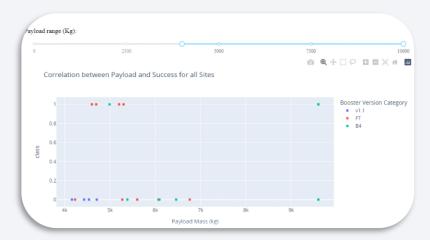
The launch site KSC LC-39 A also had the highest rate of successful launches, with a 76.9% success rate.

# Launch Outcome VS. Payload scatter plot for all sites

- Plotting the launch outcome vs. payload for all sites shows a gap around 4000 kg, so it makes sense to split the data into 2 ranges:
  - 0 4000 kg (low payloads)
  - 4000 10000 kg (massive payloads)
- From these 2 plots, it can be shown that the success for massive payloads is lower than that for low payloads.
- It is also worth noting that some booster types (v1.0 and B5) have not been launched with massive payloads.





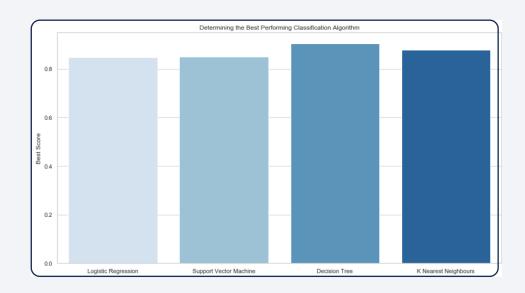


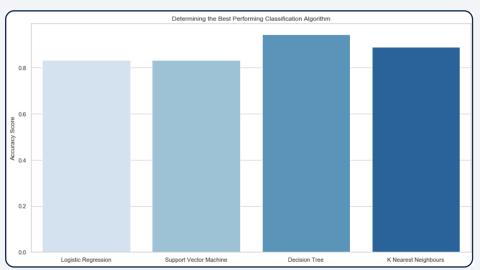


# **Classification Accuracy**

- Plotting the Accuracy Score and Best Score for each classification algorithm produces the following result:
- The Decision Tree model has the highest classification accuracy
  - The Accuracy Score is 94.44%
  - The Best Score is 90.36%

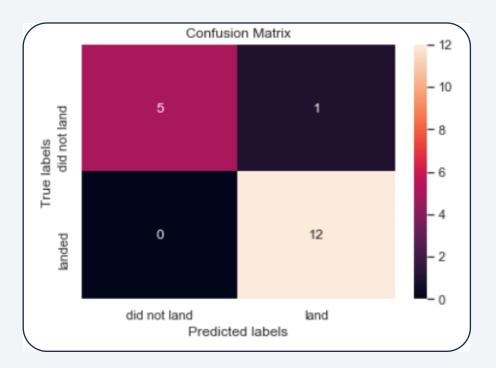
	Algorithm	Accuracy Score	Best Score
0	Logistic Regression	0.833333	0.846429
1	Support Vector Machine	0.833333	0.848214
2	Decision Tree	0.944444	0.903571
3	K Nearest Neighbours	0.888889	0.876786





### **Confusion Matrix**

- As shown previously, best performing classification model is the Decision Tree model, with an accuracy of 94.44%.
- This is explained by the confusion matrix, which shows only 1 out of 18 total results classified incorrectly (a false positive, shown in the top-right corner).
- The other 17 results are correctly classified (5 did not land, 12 did land).



### **Conclusions**

- As the number of flights increases, the rate of success at a launch site increases, with most early flights being unsuccessful. I.e. with more experience, the success rate increases.
  - Between 2010 and 2013, all landings were unsuccessful (as the success rate is 0).
  - After 2013, the success rate generally increased, despite small dips in 2018 and 2020.
  - After 2016, there was always a greater than 50% chance of success.
- Orbit types ES-L1, GEO, HEO, and SSO, have the highest (100%) success rate.
  - The 100% success rate of GEO, HEO, and ES-L1 orbits can be explained by only having 1 flight into the respective orbits.
  - The 100% success rate in SSO is more impressive, with 5 successful flights.
  - The orbit types PO, ISS, and LEO, have more success with heavy payloads:
  - VLEO (Very Low Earth Orbit) launches are associated with heavier payloads, which makes intuitive sense.
- The launch site KSC LC-39 A had the most successful launches, with 41.7% of the total successful launches, and also the highest rate of successful launches, with a 76.9% success rate.
- The success for massive payloads (over 4000kg) is lower than that for low payloads.
- The best performing classification model is the Decision Tree model, with an accuracy of 94.44%.

