

# Winning Space Race with Data Science

William Lathlean
June 2024



### Outline

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

# **Executive Summary**

- SpaceX has developed a reusable first stage for their Falcon 9 rocket.
- Reuse of the first stage provides a huge savings, over \$100 million each launch.
- Using a variety of methodologies, we will predict:
  - Success or failure for each launch
  - The optimum payload size
  - Best launch sites
- Summary of methodologies
  - Data Collection (using API, Web Scraping)
  - Data Wrangling
  - Exploratory Data Analysis (using SQL, Data Visualization)
  - Interactive Visual Analytics (using Folium)
  - Interactive Dashboard (using Plotly Dash)
  - Launch Outcome Prediction (using Machine Learning)
- Summary of all results
  - Exploratory Data Analysis result
  - Interactive analytics in screenshots
  - Predictive Analytics result

### Introduction

### Background

- The commercial space age has begun, making space travel more accessible through companies like Virgin Galactic, Rocket Lab, Blue Origin, and SpaceX.
- SpaceX stands out with significant accomplishments, such as sending spacecraft to the International Space Station, launching the Starlink satellite internet constellation, and conducting manned missions, facilitated by cost-effective rocket launches due to the reusability of the Falcon 9's first stage.

### Problems to Solve

- Determine the price of each rocket launch for a new competitor, Space Y, by analyzing SpaceX's costs.
- Predict if SpaceX will reuse the first stage of their Falcon 9 rockets using a machine learning model and public information, without relying on traditional rocket science methods.



# Methodology

### **Executive Summary**

- Data collection methodology:
  - From SpaceX using REST API
  - From Wikipedia using BeautifulSoup
- Perform data wrangling
  - Data cleaning, filtering, dealing with missing values
  - Class label creation
  - Performed one-hot encoding
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models
  - How to build, tune, evaluate classification models

### **Data Collection**

### Collect Data from SpaceX

Retrieve Spacex
launch data via URL
using request.get
(REST API)

Decode JSON
response using
.json() method

Convert to Pandas data frame using .json\_normalize() method

### Collect Data from Wikipedia

Retrieve Spacex launch data via URL using request.get (HTML) Create a
BeautifulSoup object
from the HTML
response using
html.parser

Locate the table containing desired data

Create a dictionary from the table data

Convert to Pandas
data frame using
pd.DataFrame on the
values in the
dictionary

# Data Collection – SpaceX API

- Full code available on GitHub:
- <u>WL\_jupyter-labs-spacex-data-collection-api.ipynb</u>

Get data through call to API response = requests.get(static\_json\_url)



Check response code response.status\_code (200 is success)



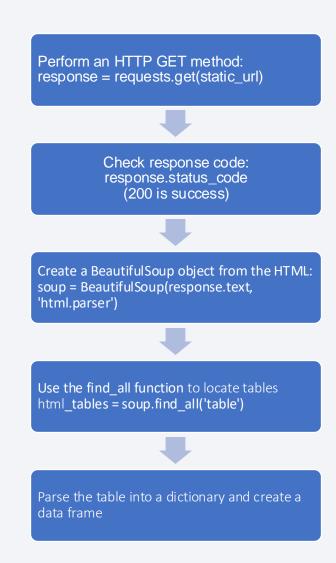
Decode JSON response: data\_json = response.json()



Convert JSON data to DataFrame: data = pd.json normalize(data json)

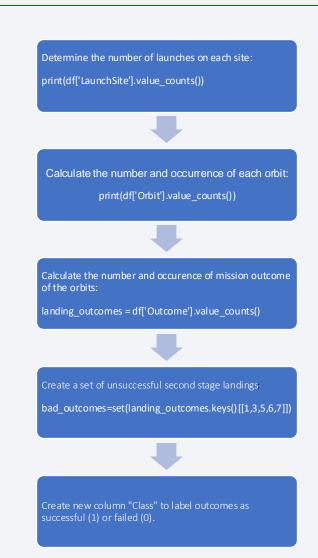
# **Data Collection - Scraping**

- Full code available on GitHub:
- WL\_jupyter-labs-webscraping-2.ipynb



# **Data Wrangling**

- Full code available on GitHub:
- WL\_jupyter-labs-spacex-Data wrangling.jpynb

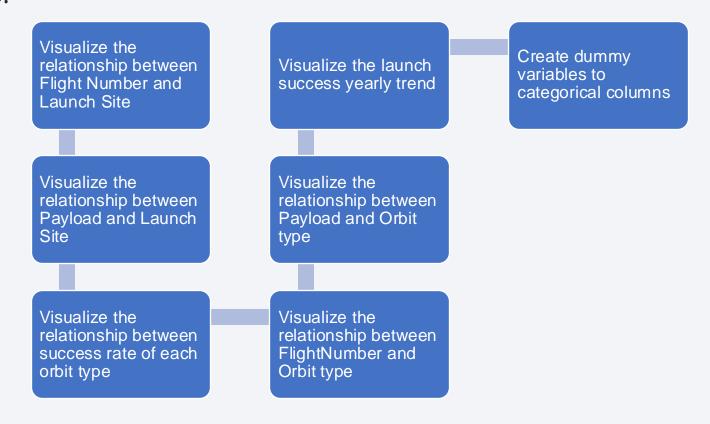


CCAFS SLC 40 55 KSC LC 39A 22 VAFB SLC 4E 13

Name: LaunchSite, dtype: int64

### **EDA** with Data Visualization

- Full code available on GitHub:
- <u>WL\_jupyter-labs-eda-dataviz.ipynb</u>



### EDA with SQL

- Full code available on GitHub:
- <u>WL jupyter-labs-eda-sql-coursera sqllite.ipynb</u>



## Build an Interactive Map with Folium

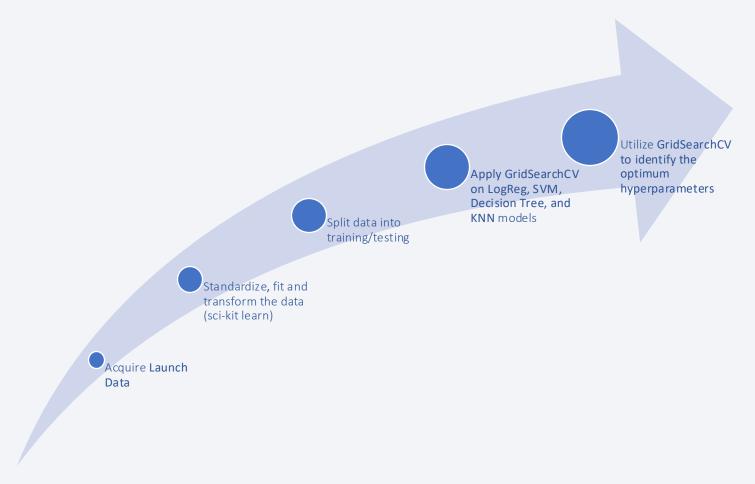
- Map objects were added, such as:
  - Circles (to indicate specific locations, like Johnson Space Center, and SpaceX launch sites)
  - Markers (showing individual launches and indicating success or failure)
  - Labels (launch site names)
  - Lines (showing relationships and distances between objects)
- These objects were added to help visually recognize geographical patterns about launch sites and their results.
- Jupyter lab code: WL lab jupyter launch site location.ipynb

## Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- An interactive dashboard was created using Plotly Dash displaying the following:
  - A drop down list to allow the user to select a specific launch site (or all sites) for the data to be displayed.
  - A pie chart displaying the total successful launches by selected site(s)
  - A scatter plot showing the correlation between Payload Mass (Kg) to Outome for all of the various booster versions launched from selected site(s).
  - A slider to select payload range to be displayed in the scatter plot

• GitHub URL: spacex dash app.ipynb

# Predictive Analysis (Classification)



• GitHub URL: SpaceX Machine Learning Prediction Part 5.jupyterlite.ipynb

### Results

### Exploratory Data Analysis

- Most successful launch site = KSC LC-39A
- Launch success 2013-2020 upward trend
- Orbit types with highest success rate (100%)
  - SSO (5 launches)
  - ES-L1 (1 launch)
  - GEO (1 launch)
  - HEO (1 launch)

### Visual Analysis

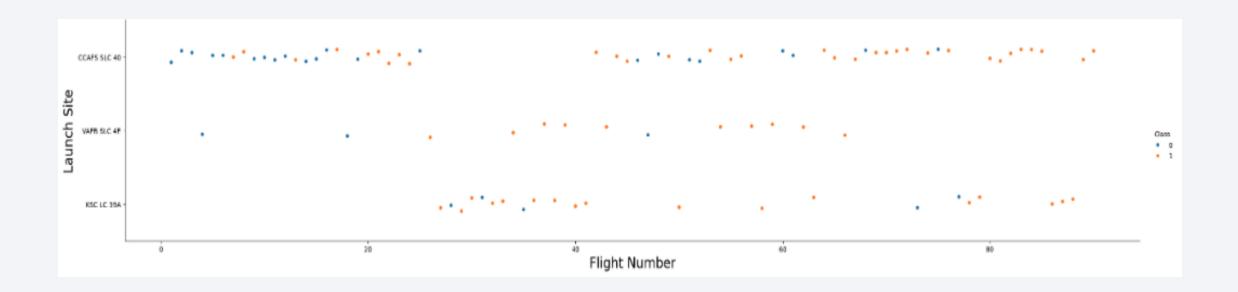
- Four launch sites, all are situated near coastlines
- Launch sites are within relatively close proximity to railways, highways, airports and/or military bases.
- More launches from East cost sites

### Predictive Analysis

 Decision Tree classifier performed best at 94.44% accuracy (as opposed to other methods ranged 83%-88%)

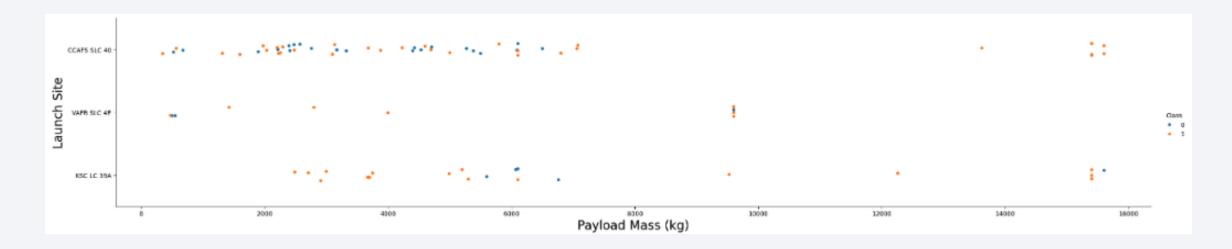


# Flight Number vs. Launch Site



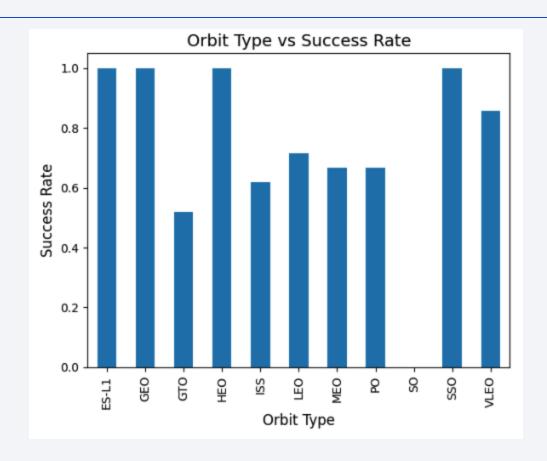
- Launch success (orange dots) increased with number of flights.
- CCAFS SLC 40 site had most launches overall

### Payload vs. Launch Site



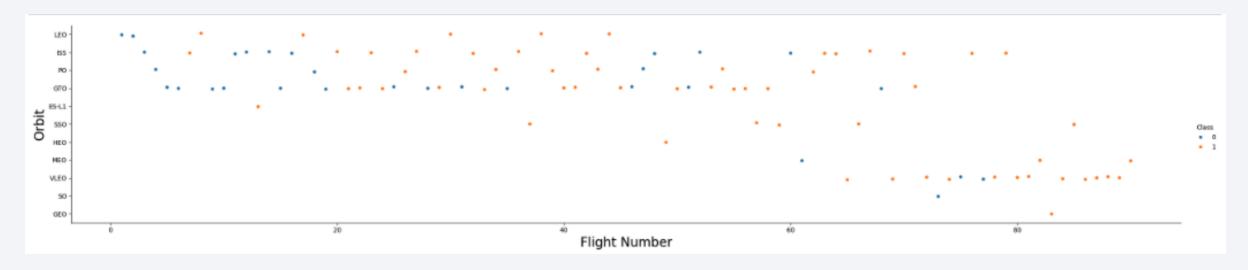
- No launches from VAFB-SLC site with payload mass greater than 10,000 kg
- It appears that launch success is greater for payloads over 10,000 kg

# Success Rate vs. Orbit Type



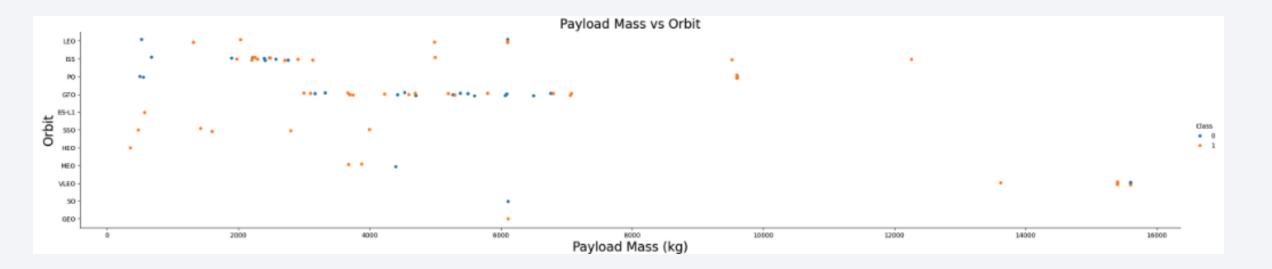
- SSO, ES-L1, GEO, and HEO type orbits were 100% successful.
- SO orbit type has no successful launches.

# Flight Number vs. Orbit Type



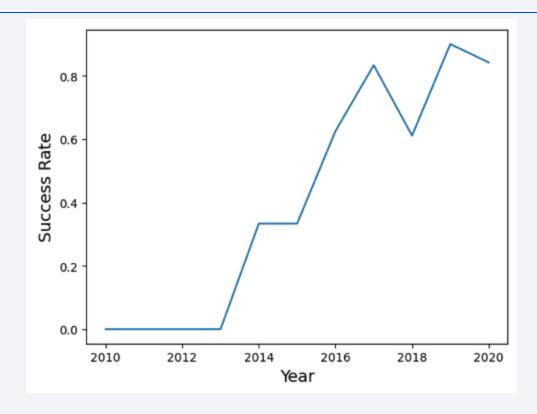
- LEO orbits appear to increase in success with the number of flights
- VLEO orbits have been more consistently successful
- GTO data is inconclusive, no obvious correlation

# Payload vs. Orbit Type



- Polar, LEO and ISS have increased success/positive landing rates with higher payloads
- Again, GTO data is inconclusive, no apparent correlation.

# Launch Success Yearly Trend



• The launch success rate has been increasing between 2013 - 2020

### All Launch Site Names

- Using the keyword DISTINCT in our query, we can show unique launch site names.
- %sql SELECT DISTINCT "Launch\_Site" FROM SPACEXTABLE;

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

# Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

- To find 5 records where launch sites begin with `CCA`, we use:
  - LIKE and the % wildcard to search for Launch\_Site values that match the pattern 'CCA%'
  - o LIMIT 5 to limit the return results to five rows of data
- %sql SELECT \* FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE "Launch\_Site" like 'CCA%' LIMIT 5

Date	Time (UTC)	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Payload	PAYLOAD_MASSKG_	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

# **Total Payload Mass**

• To calculate the total payload carried by boosters from NASA, we use:

%sql SELECT Customer, sum(payload\_mass\_\_kg\_) as total\_payload FROM SPACEXTABLE WHERE Customer LIKE 'NASA (CRS)%';

Customer	total_payload
NASA (CRS)	48213

# Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

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

%sql select AVG(PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_) from SPACEXTABLE where Booster\_Version like 'F9 v1.1%';

AVG(PAYLOAD\_MASS\_\_KG\_)

2534.6666666666665

# First Successful Ground Landing Date

• To find the dates of the first successful landing outcome on ground pad

%sql select Landing\_Outcome, min(Date) from SPACEXTABLE where "Landing\_Outcome" =
"Success (ground pad)";

Landing_Outcome	min(Date)
Success (ground pad)	2015-12-22

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

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

```
%%sql
select distinct Booster_Version, Landing_Outcome, payload_mass__kg_ as Payload
from spacextable
where Landing_Outcome = "Success (drone ship)"
and (payload_mass__kg_ < 6000
and payload_mass__kg_ > 4000)
order by payload_mass__kg_ asc;
```

Booster_Version	Landing_Outcome	Payload
F9 FT B1026	Success (drone ship)	4600
F9 FT B1022	Success (drone ship)	4696
F9 FT B1031.2	Success (drone ship)	5200
F9 FT B1021.2	Success (drone ship)	5300

### Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

• To calculate the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes

```
%%sql
select
   case
    when Mission_Outcome like 'Success%' then 'Success'
    when Mission_Outcome like 'Failure%' then 'Failure'
   end as Outcome,
   count(*) as Total_Missions
from spacextable
group by Outcome;
```

Outcome	Total_Missions
Failure	1
Success	100

## **Boosters Carried Maximum Payload**

• To list the names of the booster which have carried the maximum payload mass:

```
%%sql
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	PAYLOAD_MASSKG_
F9 B5 B1048.4	15600
F9 B5 B1048.5	15600
F9 B5 B1049.4	15600
F9 B5 B1049.5	15600
F9 B5 B1049.7	15600
F9 B5 B1051.3	15600
F9 B5 B1051.4	15600
F9 B5 B1051.6	15600
F9 B5 B1056.4	15600
F9 B5 B1058.3	15600
F9 B5 B1060.2	15600
F9 B5 B1060.3	15600

### 2015 Launch Records

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

```
%%sql
select
case
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '01' then 'January'
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '02' then 'February'
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '03' then 'March'
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '04' then 'April'
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '06' then 'June'
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '06' then 'June'
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '07' then 'July'
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '08' then 'August'
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '09' then 'September'
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '10' then 'October'
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '11' then 'November'
    when substr(Date, 6, 2) = '11' then 'December'
end as Month_Name,
Landing_Outcome,
Booster_Version,
Launch_Site
from spacextable
where substr(Date, 0, 5) = '2015' and Landing_Outcome like 'Failure (drone ship)'
;
```

Month_Name	Landing_Outcome	Booster_Version	Launch_Site
January	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40
April	Failure (drone ship)	F9 v1.1 B1015	CCAFS LC-40

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

• To 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:

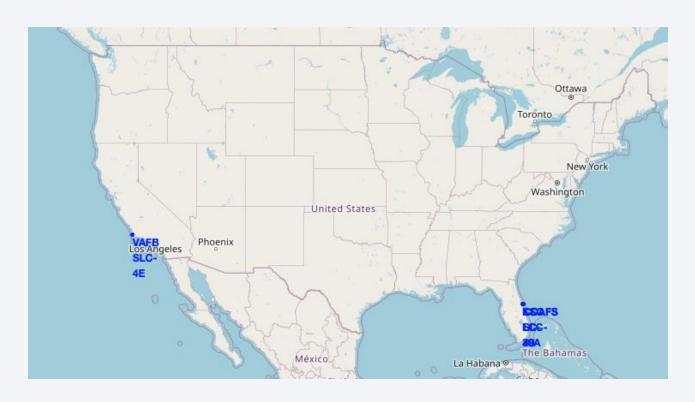
```
%%sql
select
Landing_Outcome,
count(*) as Outcome_Count,
rank() over (order by count(*) desc) as Rank
from spacextable
where Date between '2010-06-04' and '2017-03-20'
group by Landing_Outcome
order by Outcome Count desc
```

Landing_Outcome	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



# SpaceX Launch Sites Studied

• Data pertaining to four launch sites was explored.



CCAFS LC-40	20 562202	00 577050
	20.502302	-80.577356
CCAFS SLC-40	28.563197	-80.576820
KSC LC-39A	28.573255	-80.646895
VAFB SLC-4E	34.632834	-120.610745
	KSC LC-39A	CCAFS SLC-40 28.563197 KSC LC-39A 28.573255 VAFB SLC-4E 34.632834

- Launch sites located near the coast
- One West coast site
- Three East coast sites
- Locations are in the south, relatively close proximity to the equator

### Launch Outcome Cluster Markers

• By adding colored markers to the map for each launch outcome, we can visually identify which sites have the most launches and highest success rates

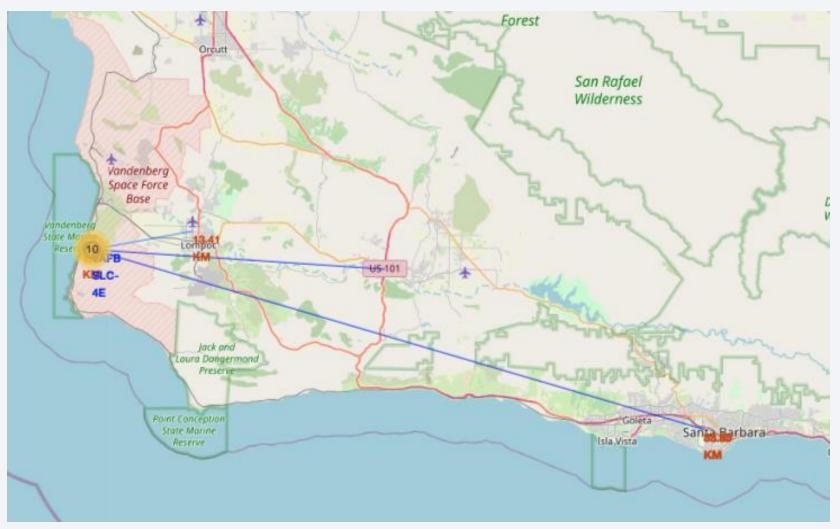


CCAFS SLC-40

VAFB SLC-4E

36

# Proximity to Launch Site

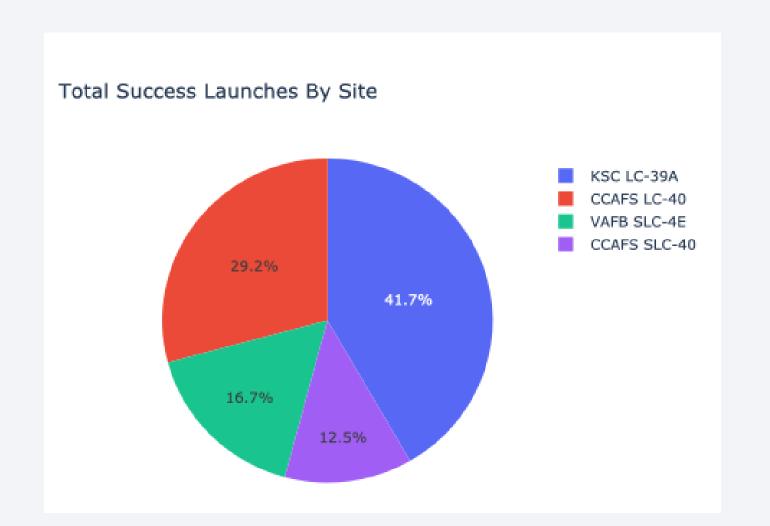


- Using the map we can visually locate landmarks, cities, resources, etc and the distance to each.
- For the site shown
  here, distances
  were determined to the
  nearest large city/town, to
  the nearest airport, and the
  nearest highway.



### **Total Launch Success Counts – All Sites**

• KSC LC-39A had the highest count of successful launches.



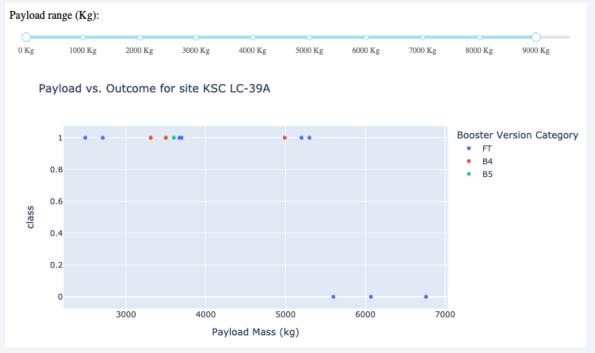
# Highest Launch Success Ratio

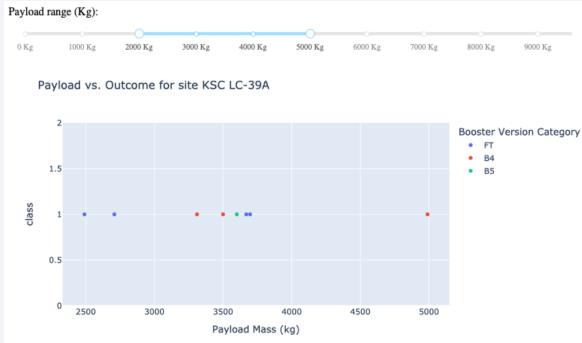
KSC LS-39A achieved a launch success ratio of 76.9%



## Payload to Success Correlation

• Using the slider to select various ranges of payloads, we can view the respective data for each booster version and the outcomes for the chosen range.

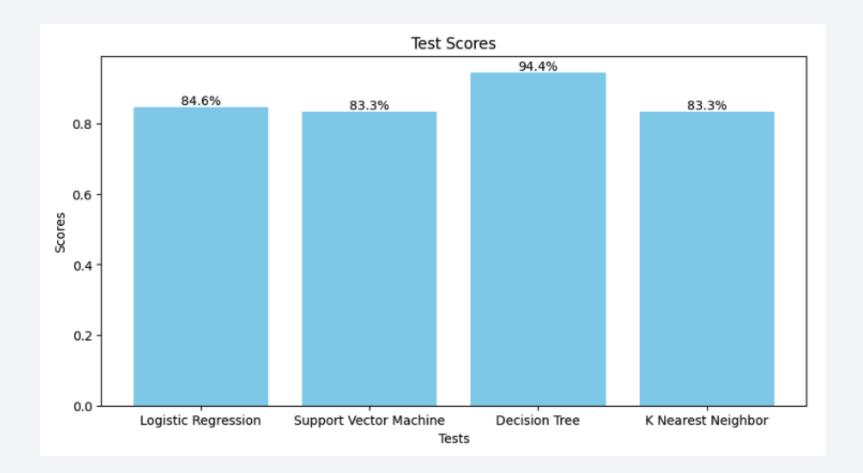






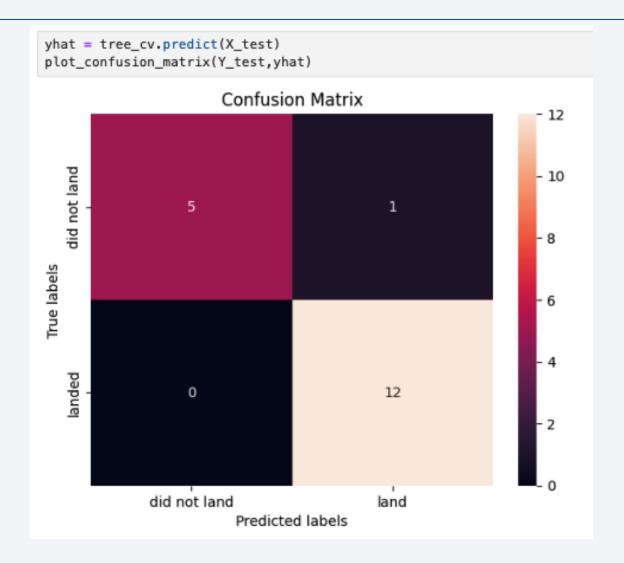
# **Classification Accuracy**

• Decision Tree model had the highest accuracy.



### **Confusion Matrix**

- The confusion matrix compares the actual target values with those predicted by the model.
- The quadrants display
   True Negatives (TN = 5),
   False Positives (FP = 1),
   False Negatives (FN = 0), and
   True Positives (TP = 12)
- Accuracy:
  = (TP+TN)/(TP+TN+FP+FN)
  = (12+5)/(12+5+1+0)
  = 17/18
  ≈ 0.944 or 94.4%



### **Conclusions**

- Overall launch success has increased over time (2013-2020)
- As the number of launches increases, so does the success rate
- Most successful launch site is KSC LC-39A
- Launch success is greater for payloads over 10,000 kg
- Orbit types SSO (5 launches), ES-L1 (1 launch), GEO (1 launch), and HEO (1 launch)
  have the highest success rate (100%)
- Decision Tree classifier performed best at 94.44% accuracy (as opposed to other methods ranged 83%-88%)

# **Appendix**

• Jupyter Notebooks and other material available on GitHub:

**Space-Y-Project** 

