

Winning Space Race with Data Science

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Outline

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion

Executive Summary

- Summary of methodologies
 - i. Data Collection through API
 - ii. Data Collection with Web Scraping
 - iii. Data Wrangling - Exploratory Data Analysis with SQL
 - iv. Exploratory Data Analysis with Data Visualization
 - v. Interactive Visual Analytics with Folium
 - vi. Machine Learning Prediction
- Summary of all results
 - i. Exploratory Data Analysis result
 - ii. Interactive analytics in screenshots
 - iii. Predictive Analytics result from Machine Learning Lab

Introduction

SpaceX is a revolutionary company who has disrupted the space industry by offering a rocket launch specifically Falcon 9 as low as 62 million dollars; while other providers cost upward of 165 million dollars each. Most of this saving thanks to SpaceX's astounding idea to reuse the first stage of the launch by re-land the rocket to be used on the next mission. Repeating this process will make the price even further down. As a data scientist of a startup rivaling SpaceX, the goal of this project is to create the machine learning pipeline to predict the landing outcome of the first stage in the future. This project is crucial in identifying the right price to bid against SpaceX for a rocket launch.

The problems included:

- Identifying all factors that influence the landing outcome
- The relationship between each variable and how it is affecting the outcome
- The best condition needed to increase the probability of successful landing

Methodology

Executive Summary

- Data collection methodology:
- Perform data wrangling
- Perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) using visualization and SQL
- Perform interactive visual analytics using Folium and Plotly Dash
- Perform predictive analysis using classification models

Data collection – SpaceX API

```
spacex_url="https://api.spacexdata.com/v4/launches/past"
```

```
response = requests.get(spacex_url)
```

```
: # Use json_normalize meethod to convert the json result into a dataframe  
data = response.json()  
data = pd.json_normalize(data)
```

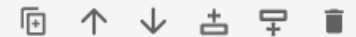
```
# Lets take a subset of our dataframe keeping only the features we want and the flight number, and date_utc.  
data = data[['rocket', 'payloads', 'launchpad', 'cores', 'flight_number', 'date_utc']]  
  
# We will remove rows with multiple cores because those are falcon rockets with 2 extra rocket boosters and rows that have multiple payloads i  
data = data[data['cores'].map(len)==1]  
data = data[data['payloads'].map(len)==1]  
  
# Since payloads and cores are lists of size 1 we will also extract the single value in the list and replace the feature.  
data['cores'] = data['cores'].map(lambda x: x[0])  
data['payloads'] = data['payloads'].map(lambda x: x[0])  
  
# We also want to convert the date_utc to a datetime datatype and then extracting the date leaving the time  
data['date'] = pd.to_datetime(data['date_utc']).dt.date  
  
# Using the date we will restrict the dates of the launches  
data = data[data['date'] <= datetime.date(2020, 11, 13)]
```

Data Collection - Scrapping

```
# use requests.get() method with the provided static_url
# assign the response to a object
data = requests.get(static_url).text
```

```
# Use BeautifulSoup() to create a BeautifulSoup object from a response text content
soup = BeautifulSoup(data, 'html.parser')
```

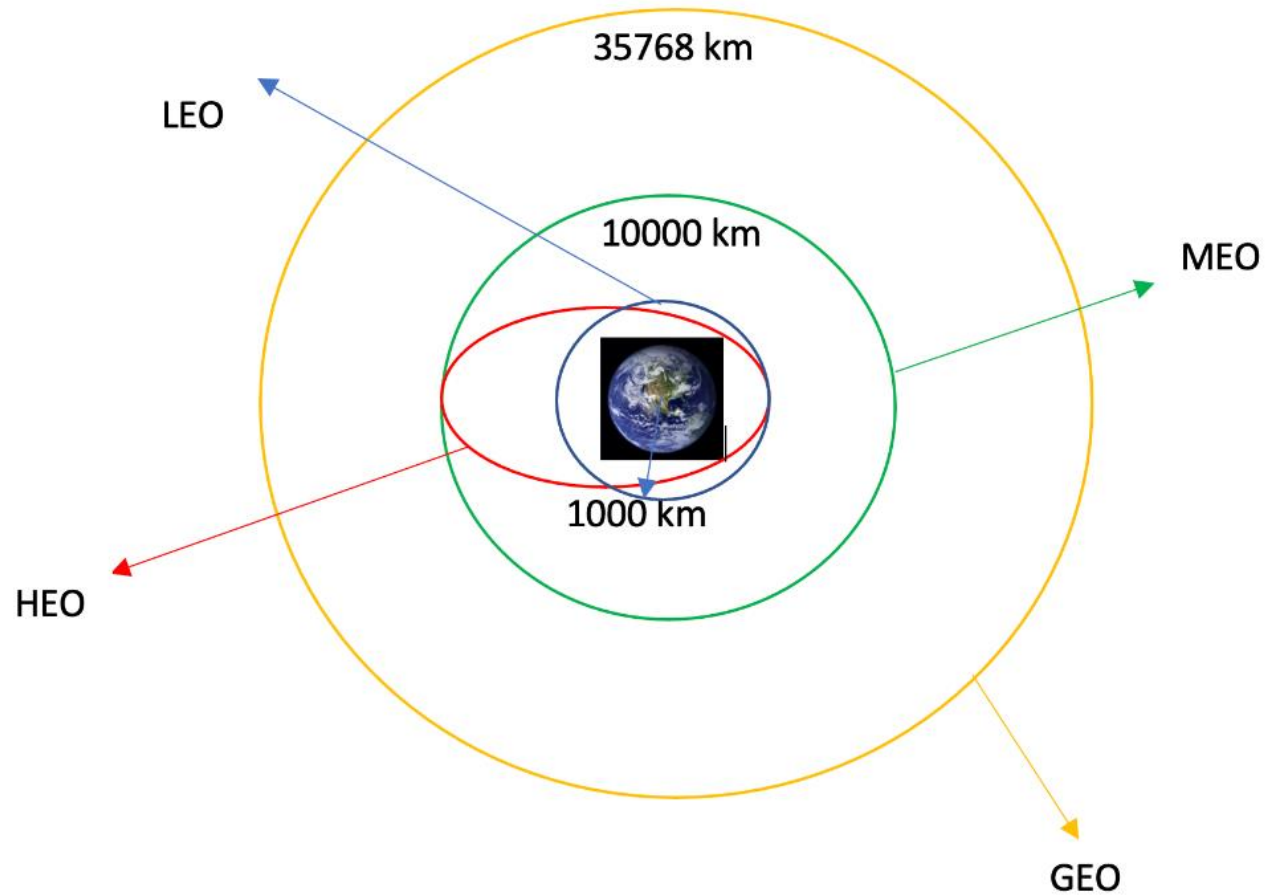
```
extracted_row = 0
#Extract each table
for table_number, table in enumerate(soup.find_all('table', "wikitable plainrowheaders collapsible")):
    # get table row
    for rows in table.find_all("tr"):
        #check to see if first table heading is as number corresponding to launch a number
        if rows.th:
            if rows.th.string:
                flight_number=rows.th.string.strip()
                flag=flight_number.isdigit()
            else:
                flag=False
        #get table element
        row=rows.find_all('td')
        #if it is number save cells in a dictionary
        if flag:
            extracted_row += 1
```



Data Wrangling

- Data Wrangling is the process of cleaning and unifying messy and complex data sets for easy access and Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA).
- We will first calculate the number of launches on each site, then calculate the number and occurrence of mission outcome per orbit type.
- We then create a landing outcome label from the outcome column. This will make it easier for further analysis, visualization, and ML. Lastly, we will export the result to a CSV

Data Wrangling



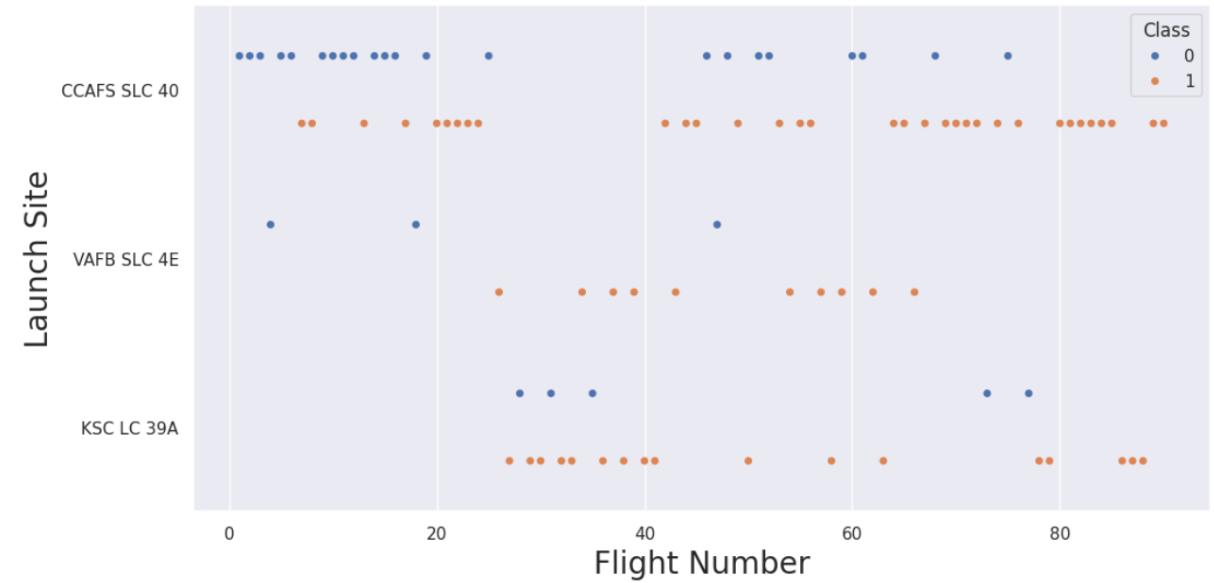
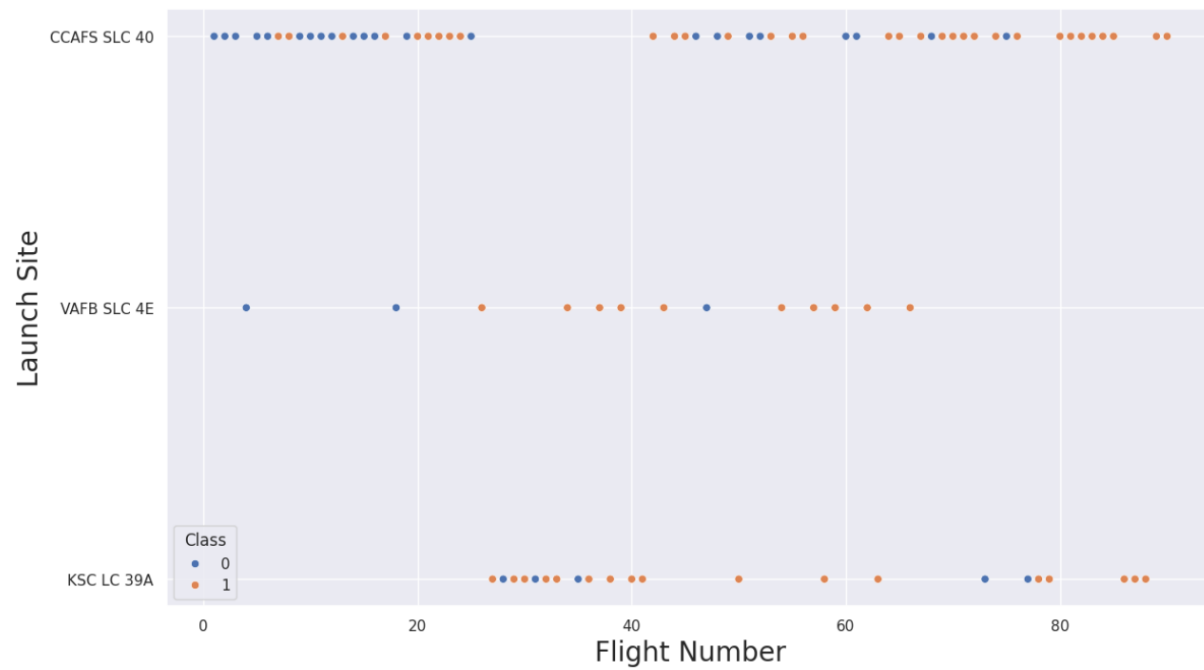
EDA with Data Visualization

We first started by using scatter graph to find the relationship between the attributes such as between:

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

Scatter plots show dependency of attributes on each other. Once a pattern is determined from the graphs. It's very easy to see which factors affecting the most to the success of the landing outcomes.

EDA with Data Visualization



EDA with Data Visualization

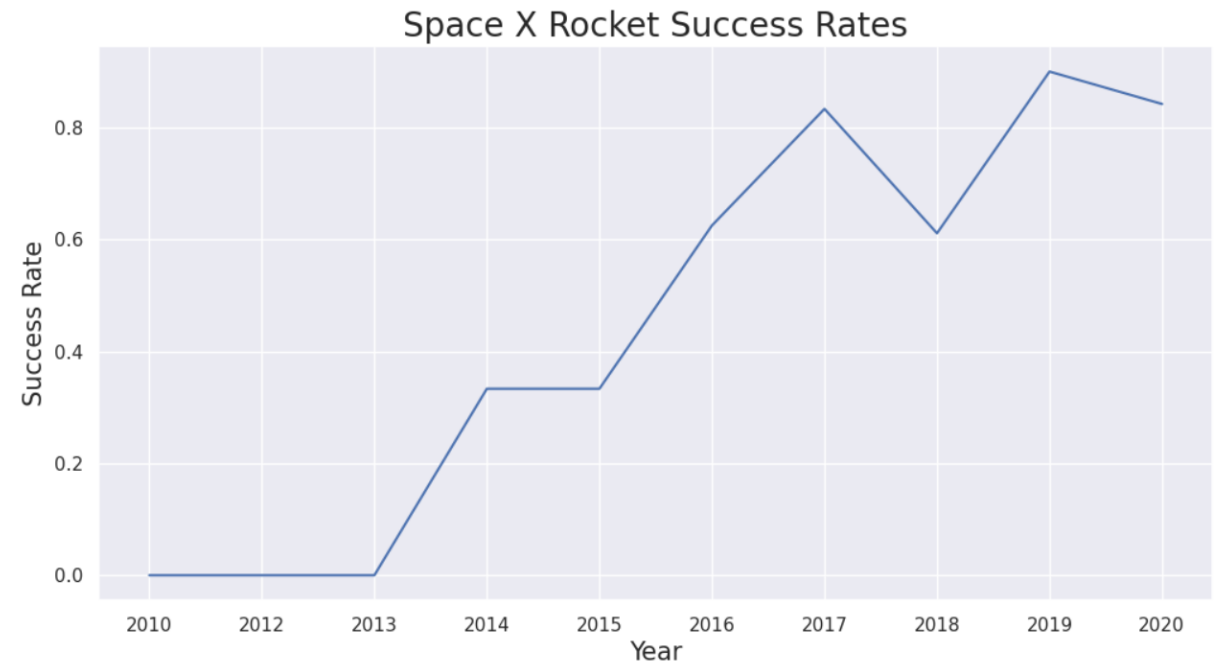
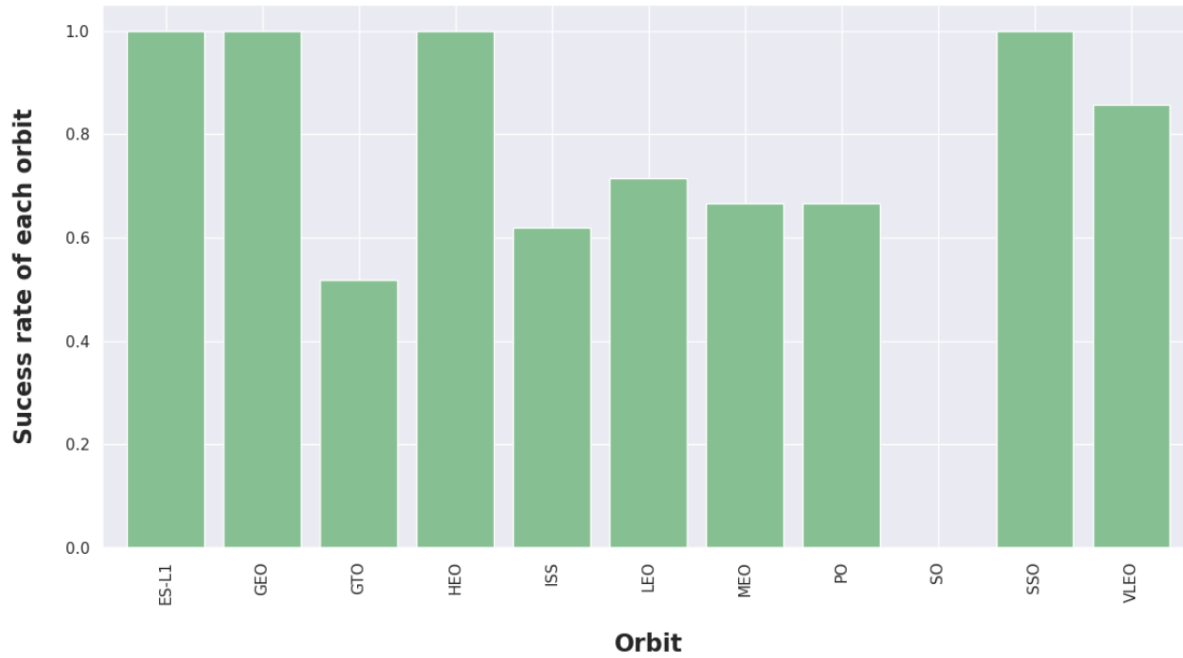
Once we get a hint of the relationships using scatter plot. We will then use further visualization tools such as bar graph and line plots graph for further analysis.

Bar graphs is one of the easiest way to interpret the relationship between the attributes. In this case, we will use the bar graph to determine which orbits have the highest probability of success.

We then use the line graph to show a trends or pattern of the attribute over time which in this case, is used for see the launch success yearly trend.

We then use Feature Engineering to be used in success prediction in the future module by created the dummy variables to categorical columns.

EDA with Data Visualization



EDA with SQL

Using SQL, we had performed many queries to get better understanding of the dataset, Ex:

- Displaying the names of the launch sites.
- Displaying 5 records where launch sites begin with the string 'CCA'.
- Displaying the total payload mass carried by booster launched by NASA (CRS).
- Displaying the average payload mass carried by booster version F9 v1.1.
- Listing the date when the first successful landing outcome in ground pad was achieved.
- Listing the names of the boosters which have success in drone ship and have payload mass greater than 4000 but less than 6000.
- Listing the total number of successful and failure mission outcomes.
- Listing the names of the booster_versions which have carried the maximum payload mass.
- Listing the failed landing_outcomes in drone ship, their booster versions, and launch sites names for in year 2015.
- Rank the count of landing outcomes or success between the date 2010-06-04 and 2017-03-20, in descending order

Build an Interactive Map with Folium

To visualize the launch data into an interactive map. We took the latitude and longitude coordinates at each launch site and added a circle marker around each launch site with a label of the name of the launch site.

We then assigned the dataframe `launch_outcomes(failure,success)` to classes 0 and 1 with Red and Green markers on the map in `MarkerCluster()`.

We then used the Haversine's formula to calculate the distance of the launch sites to various landmarks to find answers to the questions of:

- How close the launch sites with railways, highways and coastlines?
- How close the launch sites with nearby cities?

Build a Dashboard with Plotly Dash

- We built an interactive dashboard with Plotly dash which allowing the user to play around with the data as they need.
- We plotted pie charts showing the total launches by a certain sites.
- We then plotted scatter graph showing the relationship with Outcome and Payload Mass (Kg) for the different booster version.

Predictive Analysis (Classification)

Building the Model

- Load the dataset into NumPy and Pandas
- Transform the data and then split into training and test datasets
- Decide which type of ML to use
- Set the parameters and algorithms to GridSearchCV and fit it to dataset

Evaluating the Model

- Check the accuracy for each model
- Get tuned hyperparameters for each type of algorithms.
- plot the confusion matrix.

Improving the Model

- Use Feature Engineering and Algorithm Tuning

Find the Best Model

- The model with the best accuracy score will be the best performing model.

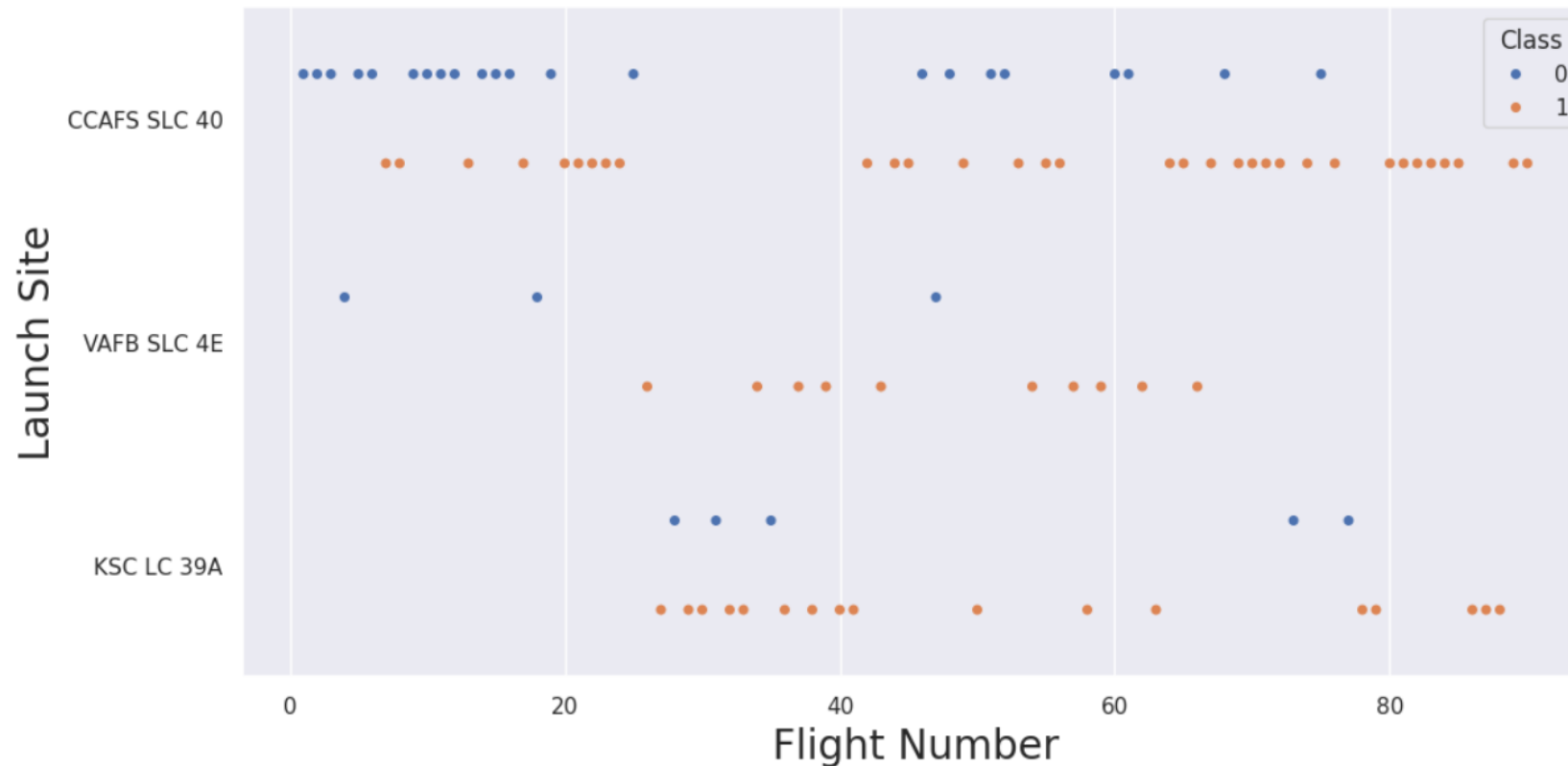
Results

The results will be categorized to 3 main results which is:

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

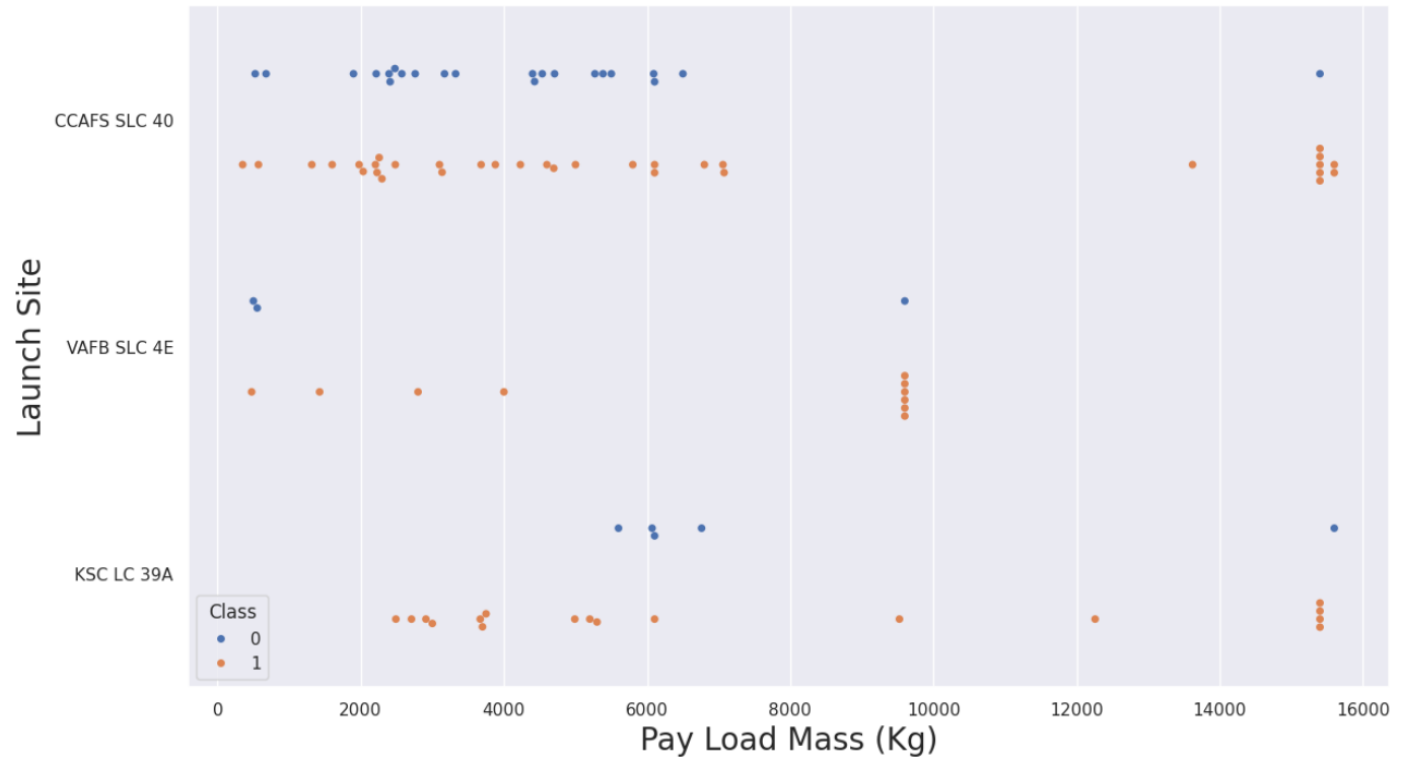
Flight Number vs. Launch Site

- This scatter plot shows that the larger the flights amount of the launch site, the greater the success rate will be. However, site CCAFS SLC40 shows the least pattern of this.



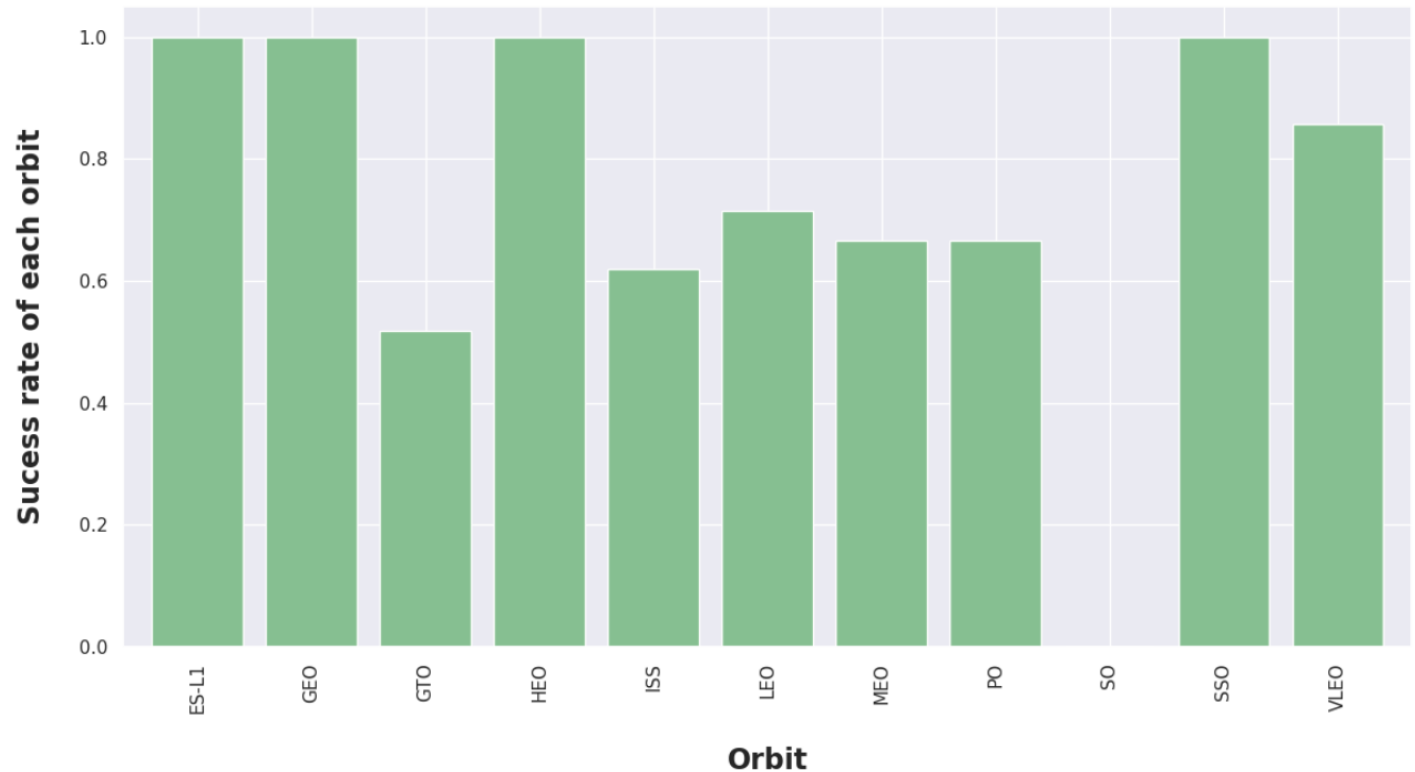
Payload vs. Launch Site

- This scatter plot shows once the pay load mass is greater than 7000kg, the probability of the success rate will be highly increased.
- However, there is no clear pattern to say the launch site is dependent to the pay load mass for the success rate.



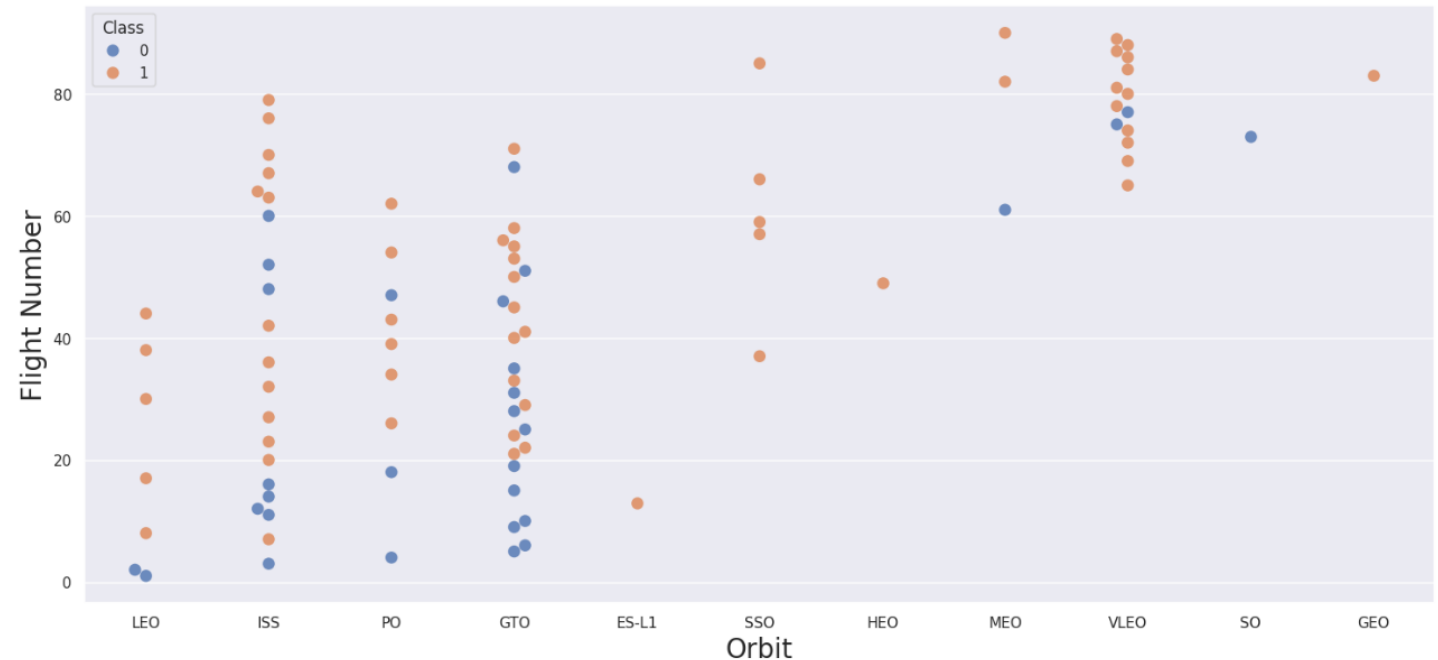
Success Rate vs. Orbit Type

- This figure depicted the possibility of the orbits to influences the landing outcomes as some orbits has 100% success rate such as SSO, HEO, GEO AND ES-L1 while SO orbit produced 0% rate of success.
- However, deeper analysis show that some of this orbits has only 1 occurrence such as GEO, SO, HEO and ES-L1 which mean this data need more dataset to see pattern or trend before we draw any conclusion.



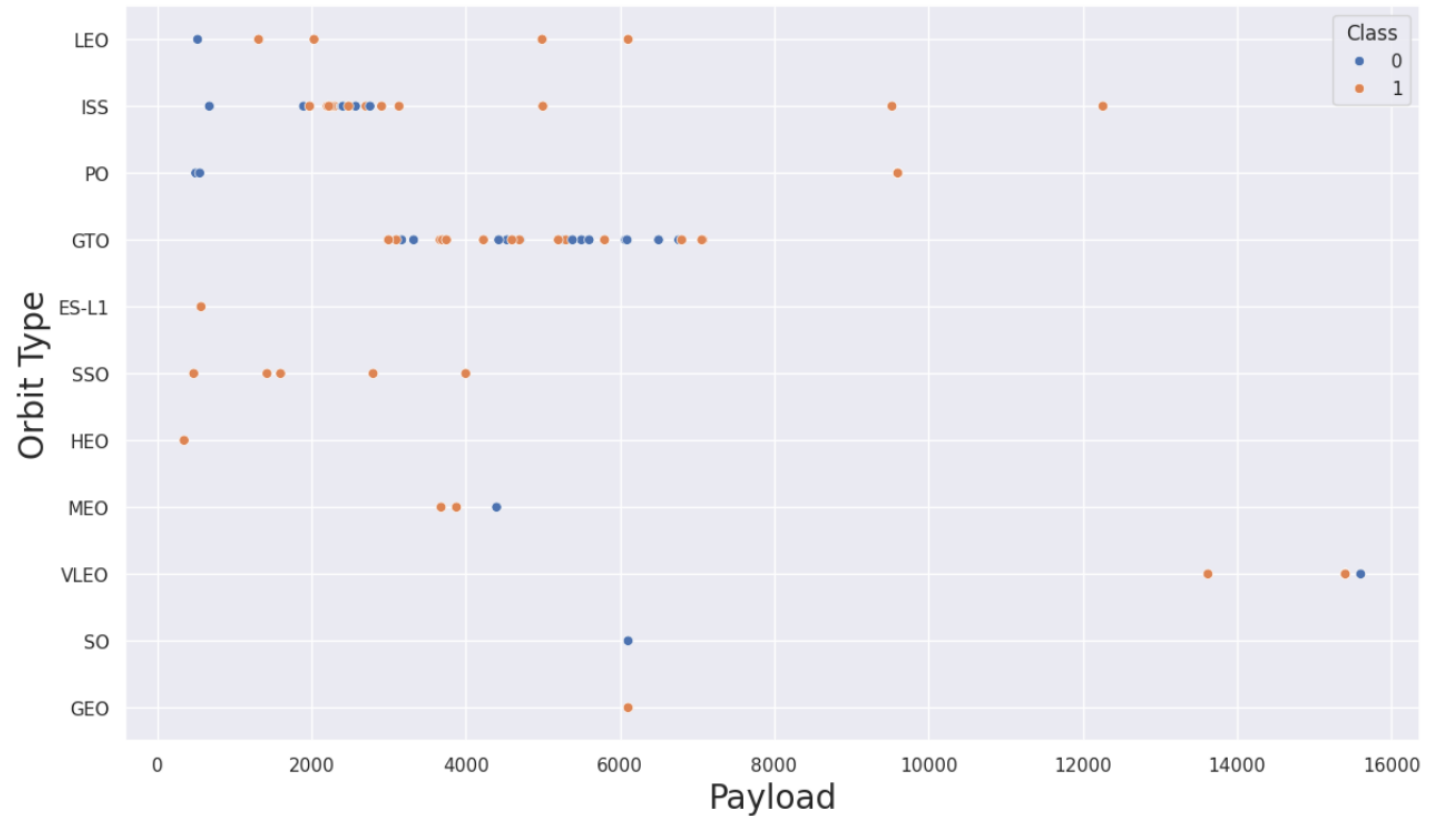
Flight Number vs. Orbit Type

- This scatter plot shows that generally, the larger the flight number on each orbits, the greater the success rate (especially LEO orbit) except for GTO orbit which depicts no relationship between both attributes.
- Orbit that only has 1 occurrence should also be excluded from above statement as it's needed more dataset.



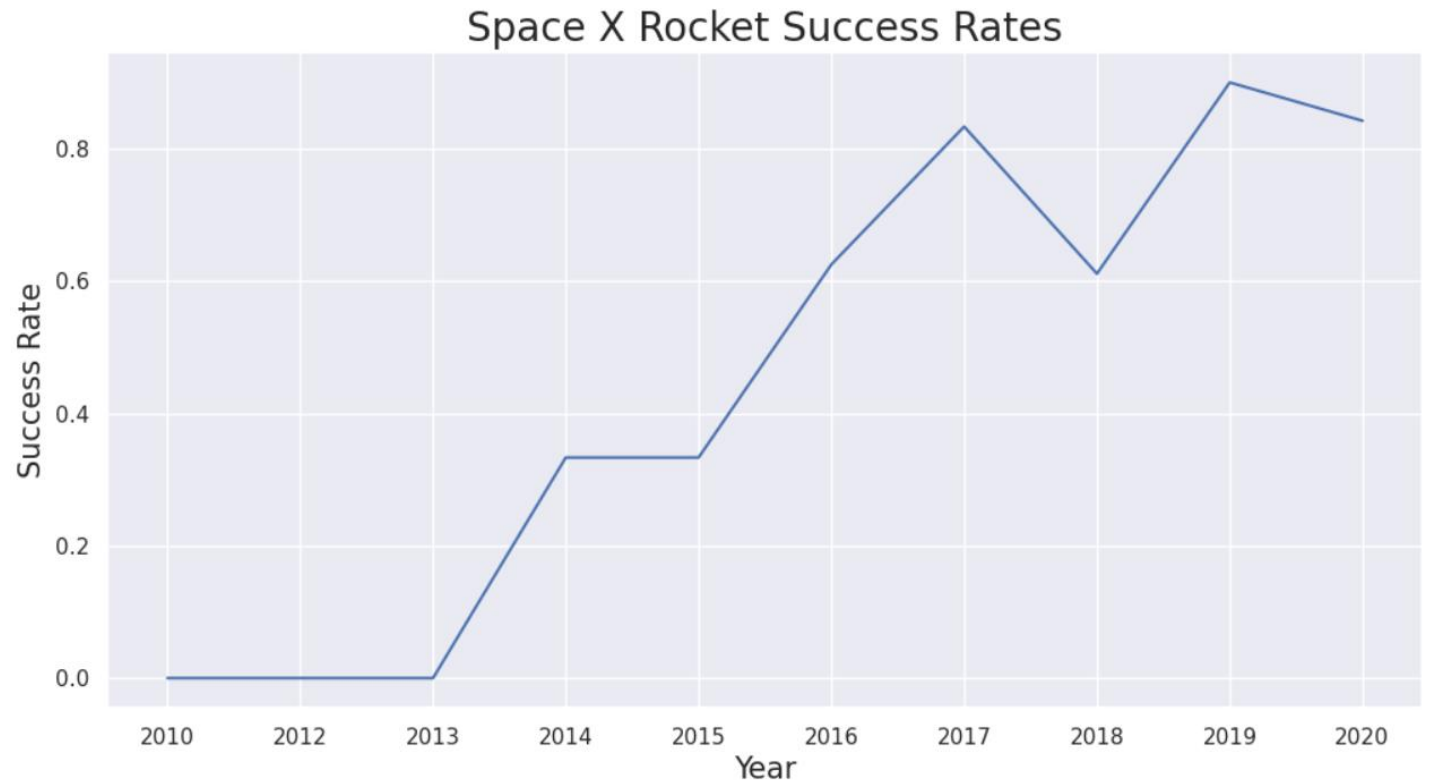
Payload vs. Orbit Type

- Heavier payload has positive impact on LEO, ISS and P0 orbit. However, it has negative impact on MEO and VLEO orbit.
- GTO orbit seem to depict no relation between the attributes.
- Meanwhile, again, SO, GEO and HEO orbit need more dataset to see any pattern or trend



Launch Success Yearly Trend

- This figures clearly depicted and increasing trend from the year 2013 until 2020.
- If this trend continue for the next year onward. The success rate will steadily increase until reaching 1/100% success rate.



All Launch Site Names

- We used the key word DISTINCT to show only unique launch sites from the SpaceX data.

```
%sql select distinct(LAUNCH_SITE) from SPACEXTBL
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

Done.

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

Launch Site Names Begin with 'CCA'

- We used the query above to display 5 records where launch sites begin with `CCA`

```
%sql select * from SPACEXTBL where LAUNCH_SITE like 'CCA%' limit 5
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

Done.

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

Total Payload Mass

- We calculated the total payload carried by boosters from NASA as 45596 using the query below

```
%sql select sum(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_) from SPACEXTBL where CUSTOMER = 'NASA (CRS)'
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

```
Done.
```

```
sum(PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_)
```

```
45596
```

Average Payload Mass by F9 v1.1

```
%sql select avg(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) from SPACEXTBL where BOOSTER_VERSION = 'F9 v1.1'
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

Done.

```
avg(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_)
```

2928.4

First Successful Ground Landing Date

```
%sql select min(DATE) from SPACEXTBL where Landing_Outcome = 'Success (ground pad)'
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

Done.

min(DATE)

2015-12-22

Successful Drone Ship Landing with Payload between 4000 and 6000

```
%sql select BOOSTER_VERSION from SPACEXTBL where Landing_Outcome = 'Success (drone ship)' and PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ > 4000 and PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ < 6000
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db  
Done.
```

Booster_Version

F9 FT B1022

F9 FT B1026

F9 FT B1021.2

F9 FT B1031.2

Total Number of Successful and Failure Mission Outcomes

```
%sql select count(MISSION_OUTCOME) from SPACEXTBL where MISSION_OUTCOME = 'Success'
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

```
Done.
```

```
count(MISSION_OUTCOME)
```

98

```
%sql select count(MISSION_OUTCOME) from SPACEXTBL where MISSION_OUTCOME = 'Failure (in flight)'
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

```
Done.
```

```
count(MISSION_OUTCOME)
```

1

Boosters Carried Maximum Payload

```
%sql select BOOSTER_VERSION from SPACEXTBL where PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_ = (select max(PAYLOAD_MASS__KG_) from SPACEXTBL)
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

Done.

Booster_Version

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

2015 Launch Records

```
%sql SELECT BOOSTER_VERSION, LAUNCH_SITE FROM SPACEXTBL WHERE DATE LIKE '2015-%' AND \
LANDING_OUTCOME = 'Failure (drone ship)';
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

Done.

Booster_Version	Launch_Site
-----------------	-------------

F9 v1.1 B1012	CCAFS LC-40
---------------	-------------

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

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

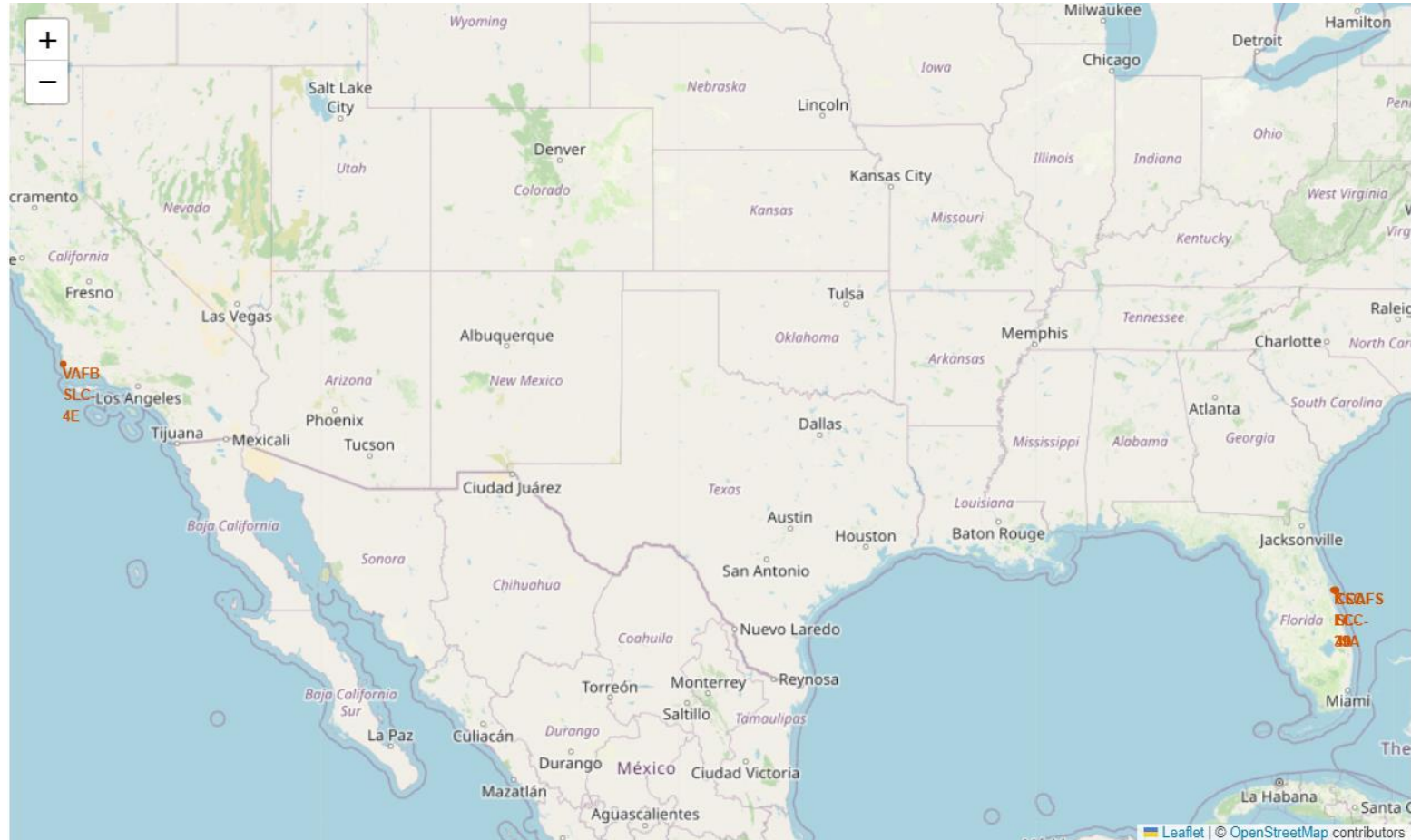
```
%sql select * from SPACEXTBL where Landing_Outcome like 'Success%' and (DATE between '2010-06-04' and '2017-03-20') order by date desc
```

```
* sqlite:///my_data1.db
```

Done.

Date	Time (UTC)	Booster_Version	Launch_Site	Payload	PAYLOAD_MASS_KG_	Orbit	Customer	Mission_Outcome	Landing_Outcome
2017-02-19	14:39:00	F9 FT B1031.1	KSC LC-39A	SpaceX CRS-10	2490	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	Success (ground pad)
2017-01-14	17:54:00	F9 FT B1029.1	VAFB SLC-4E	Iridium NEXT 1	9600	Polar LEO	Iridium Communications	Success	Success (drone ship)
2016-08-14	5:26:00	F9 FT B1026	CCAFS LC-40	JCSAT-16	4600	GTO	SKY Perfect JSAT Group	Success	Success (drone ship)
2016-07-18	4:45:00	F9 FT B1025.1	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-9	2257	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	Success (ground pad)
2016-05-27	21:39:00	F9 FT B1023.1	CCAFS LC-40	Thaicom 8	3100	GTO	Thaicom	Success	Success (drone ship)
2016-05-06	5:21:00	F9 FT B1022	CCAFS LC-40	JCSAT-14	4696	GTO	SKY Perfect JSAT Group	Success	Success (drone ship)
2016-04-08	20:43:00	F9 FT B1021.1	CCAFS LC-40	SpaceX CRS-8	3136	LEO (ISS)	NASA (CRS)	Success	Success (drone ship)
2015-12-22	1:29:00	F9 FT B1019	CCAFS LC-40	OG2 Mission 2 11 Orbcomm-OG2 satellites	2034	LEO	Orbcomm	Success	Success (ground pad)

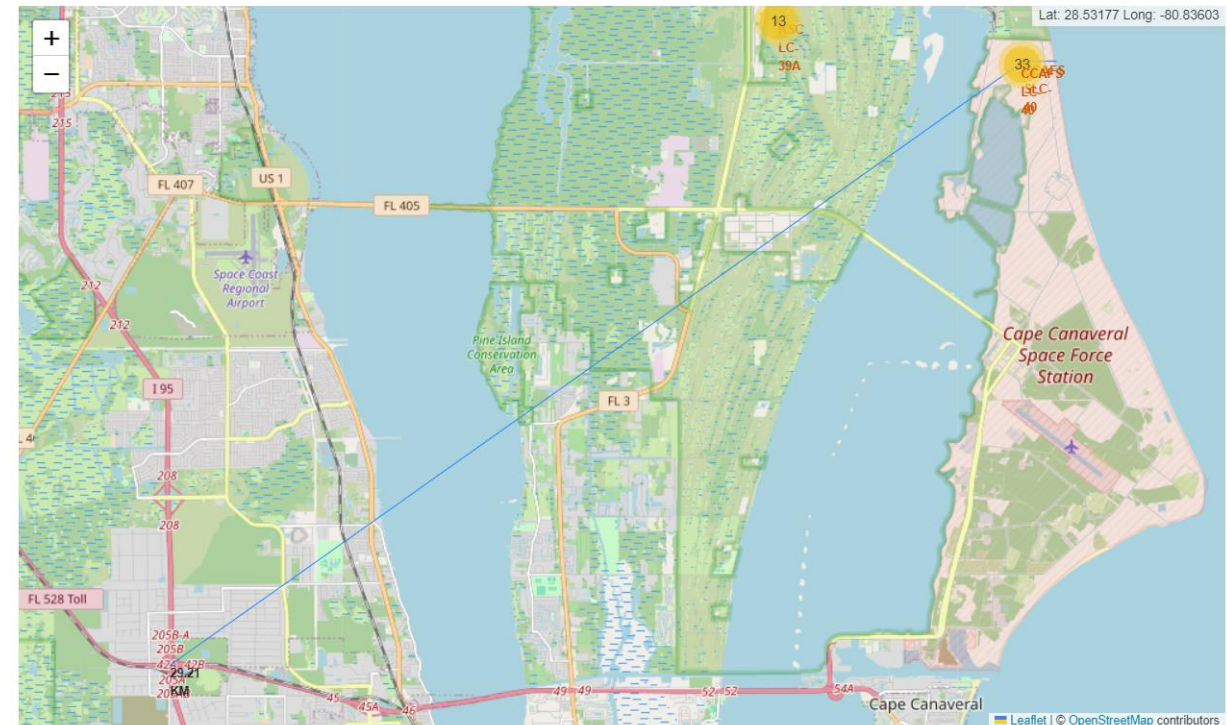
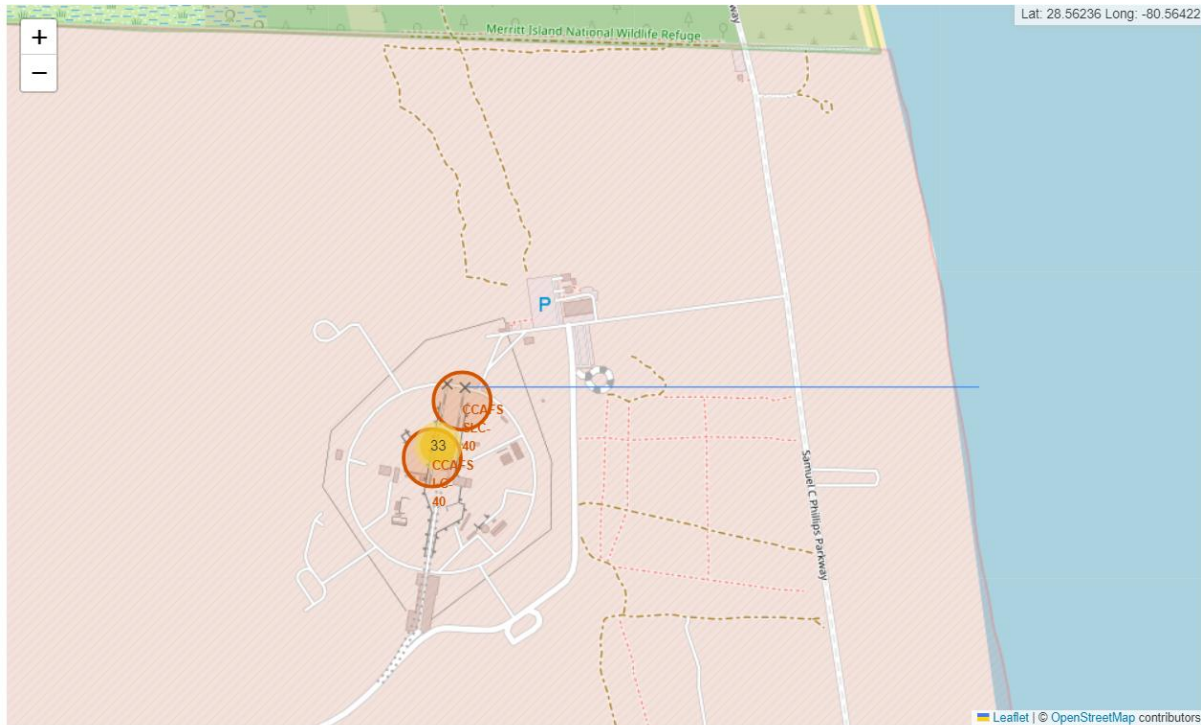
Location of all the Launch Sites



Markers showing launch sites with color labels



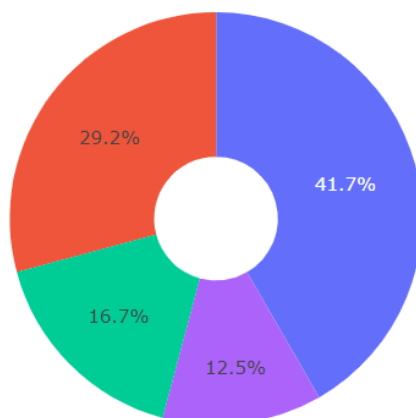
Launch Sites Distance to Landmarks



The success percentage by each sites



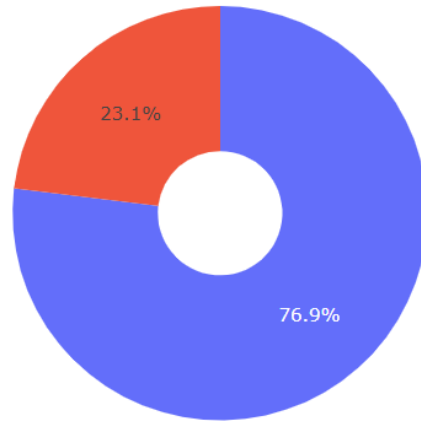
Total Success Launches By all sites



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

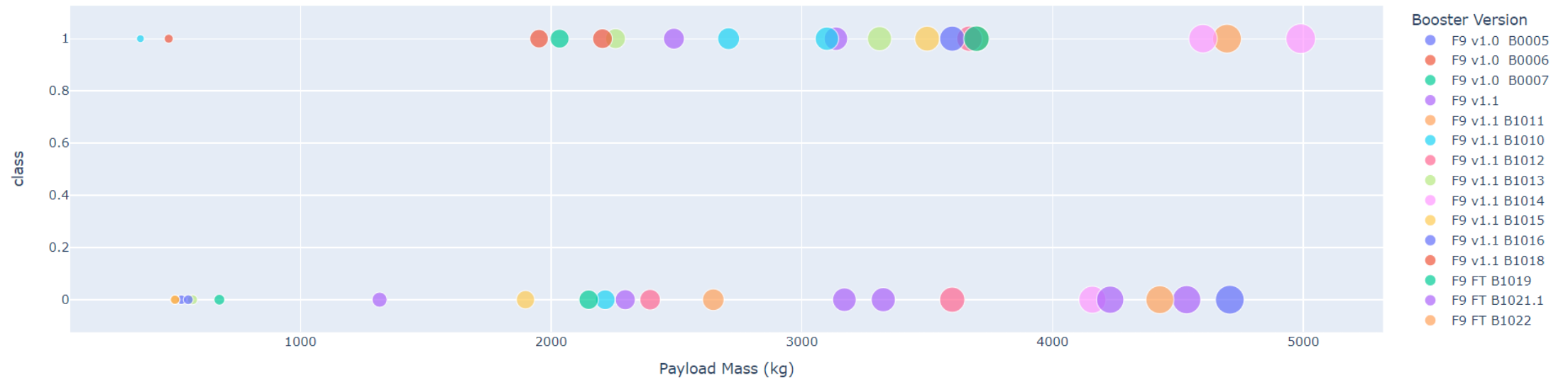
The highest launch-success ratio: KSC LC-39A

Total Success Launches for site KSC LC-39A



Payload vs Launch Outcome Scatter Plot

Payload range (Kg):



Classification Accuracy

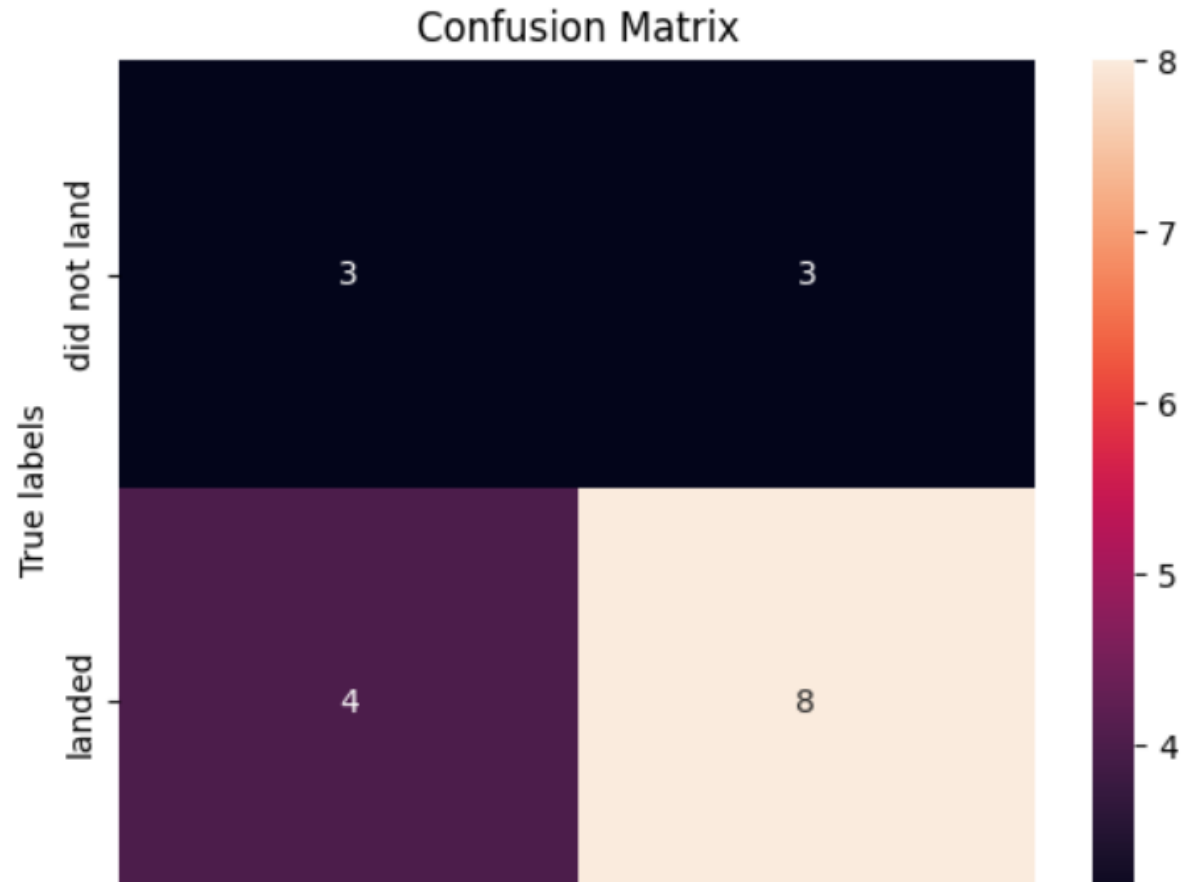
```
algorithms = {'KNN':knn_cv.best_score_, 'Tree':tree_cv.best_score_, 'LogisticRegression':logreg_cv.best_score_}
bestalgorithm = max(algorithms, key=algorithms.get)
print('Best Algorithm is',bestalgorithm,'with a score of',algorithms[bestalgorithm])
if bestalgorithm == 'Tree':
    print('Best Params is :',tree_cv.best_params_)
if bestalgorithm == 'KNN':
    print('Best Params is :',knn_cv.best_params_)
if bestalgorithm == 'LogisticRegression':
    print('Best Params is :',logreg_cv.best_params_)
```

Best Algorithm is Tree with a score of 0.8892857142857145

Best Params is : {'criterion': 'entropy', 'max_depth': 4, 'max_features': 'sqrt', 'min_samples_leaf': 1, 'min_samples_split': 5, 'splitter': 'random'}

Confusion Matrix

- The confusion matrix for the decision tree classifier shows that the classifier can distinguish between the different classes. The major problem is the false positives .i.e., unsuccessful landing marked as successful landing by the classifier.



Conclusion

We can conclude that:

- The Tree Classifier Algorithm is the best Machine Learning approach for this dataset.
- The low weighted payloads (which define as 4000kg and below) performed better than the heavy weighted payloads.
- Starting from the year 2013, the success rate for SpaceX launches is increased, directly proportional time in years to 2020, which it will eventually perfect the launches in the future.
- KSC LC-39A have the most successful launches of any sites; 76.9% • SSO orbit have the most success rate; 100% and more than 1 occurrence.