

Bernoulli distribution

The Bernoulli distribution is a [probability distribution](#). It takes a value of 1 with probability p and a value of 0 with probability $1-p$. It is sometimes written as **Ber**(p).^[1] It is used in [probability theory](#) and [statistics](#). It is named after a [Swiss](#) scientist [Jacob Bernoulli](#).

Overview

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A Bernoulli distribution is useful because it can be used to approximate the outcomes of an experiment (such as tossing a coin) as a range of percentages. It represents a "yes or no" type experiment. If the experiment succeeds, then it is given the value 1. If the experiment does not succeed, it is given value 0.^[2] This can be used, for example, in tossing a coin, where "1" means it lands on "heads", and "0" means it lands on "tails" (or the other way around).^[3]

This distribution has only one [parameter](#), the probability of a success (p). In fact, Bernoulli distribution is the [binomial distribution](#) with $n=1$, and n independent and identically distributed Bernoulli distributions also give rise to binomial distribution.

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- [Poisson distribution](#)

References

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1. [↑ "List of Probability and Statistics Symbols"](#). *Math Vault*. 2020-04-26. Retrieved 2020-09-12.
2. [↑ "Special Distributions | Bernoulli Distribution | Geometric Distribution | Binomial Distribution | Pascal Distribution | Poisson Distribution"](#). *www.probabilitycourse.com*. Retrieved 2020-09-12.
3. [↑](#) Weisstein, Eric W. ["Bernoulli Distribution"](#). *mathworld.wolfram.com*. Retrieved 2020-09-12.

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