

# Bernoulli random variable

- A random variable for modeling binary events
- Two possible outcomes:
  - Success - value 1
  - Failure - value 0
- Single parameter  $p$ , probability of a success
- multiple Bernoulli r.v. can be combined to model more complex random variables
- Shorthand notation:  $X \sim \text{Bern}(p)$
- $E(X) = p$ ,  $V(X) = p(1 - p)$

$$P(X = x | p) = \begin{cases} p, & \text{if } x = 1 \\ 1 - p, & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

$X$	$P(X = x)$
0	$1 - p$
1	$p$

# geometric random variable

- A r.v. modeling the number of (identical) Bernoulli trials needed to obtain the first success
- Infinite outcomes  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, \infty\}$
- Single parameter  $p$ , probability of a success for each trial
- Shorthand notation:  $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$
- $E(X) = \frac{1}{p}$ ,  $V(X) = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$

$$P(X = x | p) = p(1 - p)^{x-1}$$

$X$	$P(X = x)$
1	$p$
2	$p(1 - p)$
3	$p(1 - p)^2$
4	$p(1 - p)^3$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$\infty$	$p(1 - p)^\infty \approx 0$