

## CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTIONS

## Definition

Given a distribution  $p: \Omega \to \mathbf{R}$ , the *cumulative distribution* (or *cumulative distribution function*, cdf) of a random variable  $x: \Omega \to \mathbf{R}$  is the function  $F: \mathbf{R} \to \mathbf{R}$  defined by

$$F(t) = \mathbf{P}(x \le t),$$

for all  $t \in \mathbf{R}$ .

## **Properties**

The cumulative distribution of any random variable is

- 1. piecewise constant and
- 2. right continuous.

