

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTIONS

Definition

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

