

Example :-

1 toss of a fair coin twice, and let  $X$  be the no. of heads.

$$\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$$

$$R_X = \{0, 1, 2\}$$

$$P_X(x) = P(X=x)$$

$$P_X(0) = P(X=0) = P(TT) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$P_X(1) = P(X=1) = P\{TH, HT\} = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P_X(2) = P(X=2) = P\{HH\} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ \frac{1}{4} & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ \frac{3}{4} & 1 \leq x < 2 \\ 1 & x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

H.W. Show how to find  $F_X(x)$  ?

## Discrete random variables and Probability mass function

Let  $X$  be a random variable with CDF  $F_X(x)$ .

If  $F_X(x)$  changes value only at discrete set of points and is constant between those points. Then  $X$  is a discrete random variable.

Also, if  $R_X$  is a finite set of points or a countable, infinite set of points.

### Definition: (probability mass function)

Let  $X$  be a discrete random variable

with range  $R_X = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, \dots\}$ .

The function:-

$$p_X(x_k) = P(X=x_k), \quad k=1, 2, 3, \dots$$

is called the probability mass function (pmf) of  $X$