

# Entropy: Definition

Entropy  $H(X)$  measures the uncertainty/randomness of random variable  $X$

$$H(X) = H(p) = \sum_{x \in \Omega} -p(x) \log p(x) \quad \Omega = \text{all possible values}$$

Define  $0 \log 0 = 0$ ,  $\log = \log_2$

Example:

$$H(X) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{fair coin } p(\text{Head}) = 0.5 \\ \text{between 0 and 1} & \text{biased coin } p(\text{Head}) = 0.8 \\ 0 & \text{completely biased } p(\text{Head}) = 1 \end{cases}$$
