

# What is a Random Walk

- Given a graph and a starting point (node), we select a neighbor of it at random, and move to this neighbor;
- Then we select a neighbor of this node and move to it, and so on;
- The (random) sequence of nodes selected this way is a random walk on the graph

### An example





Adjacency matrix W





## An example









#### Random Walk algorithm

Input:

- the adjacency matrix W of a graph  $G = \langle V, E \rangle$
- A subset of nodes  $V_c$  having property C
- Initialization of nodes: if  $v \in V_c$  then  $p_v^0 = 1 / |V_c|$  else  $p_v^0 = 0$
- Set transition matrix:  $Q = D^{-1}W$ where **D** is a diagonal matrix with  $d_{ii} = \sum w_{ij}$
- Iteratively update until convergence or j until t=k $p^{t} = Q^{T}p^{t-1}$

Output: **p**<sup>t</sup>

#### Random walking algorithm to rank genes w.r.t to a functional class C

- Having a set V of genes, a subset  $V_c$  of genes are "a priori" known to belong to a given functional class C (i.e. a Gene Ontology class)
- Can we rank the other genes in the set  $V \setminus V_c$  w.r.t their likelihood to belong to  $V_c$  ?

algorithm

