

## 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

| 0 | 1 | 0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 |

## Adjacency matrix W



| 0 | 1 | 0 |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| $1 / 2$ | $1 / 2$ | 0 |

Transition matrix $\mathbf{Q}$


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## An example



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## Random Walk algorithm

## Input:

- the adjacency matrix $\boldsymbol{W}$ of a graph $G=<V, E>$
- A subset of nodes $V_{C}$ having property $C$
- Initialization of nodes:
if $v \in V_{C}$ then $p_{v}^{0}=1 /\left|V_{c}\right| \quad$ else $p_{v}^{0}=0$
- Set transition matrix: $\boldsymbol{Q}=\boldsymbol{D}^{-1} \boldsymbol{W}$
where $\boldsymbol{D}$ is a diagonal matrix with $d_{i i}=\sum w_{i j}$
- Iteratively update until convergence or until $t=k$

$$
\boldsymbol{p}^{t}=\boldsymbol{Q}^{T} \boldsymbol{p}^{t-1}
$$

Output: $\boldsymbol{p}^{t}$

# 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 $V \backslash V_{C}$ w.r.t their likelihood to belong to $V_{c}$ ?


Random walk algorithm

