

# RoundTripRank: Graph-based Proximity with Importance and Specificity

Yuan Fang<sup>1,2</sup>

Kevin C.-C. Chang<sup>1,2</sup>

Hady W. Lauw<sup>3</sup>

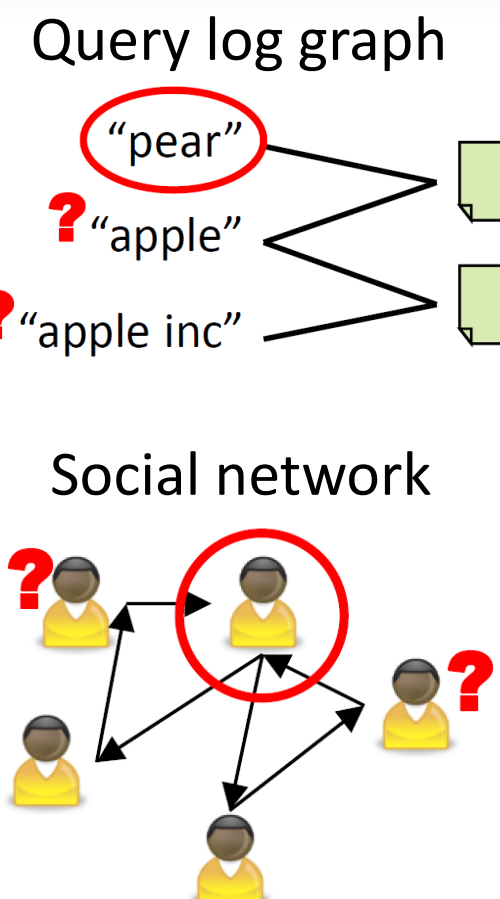
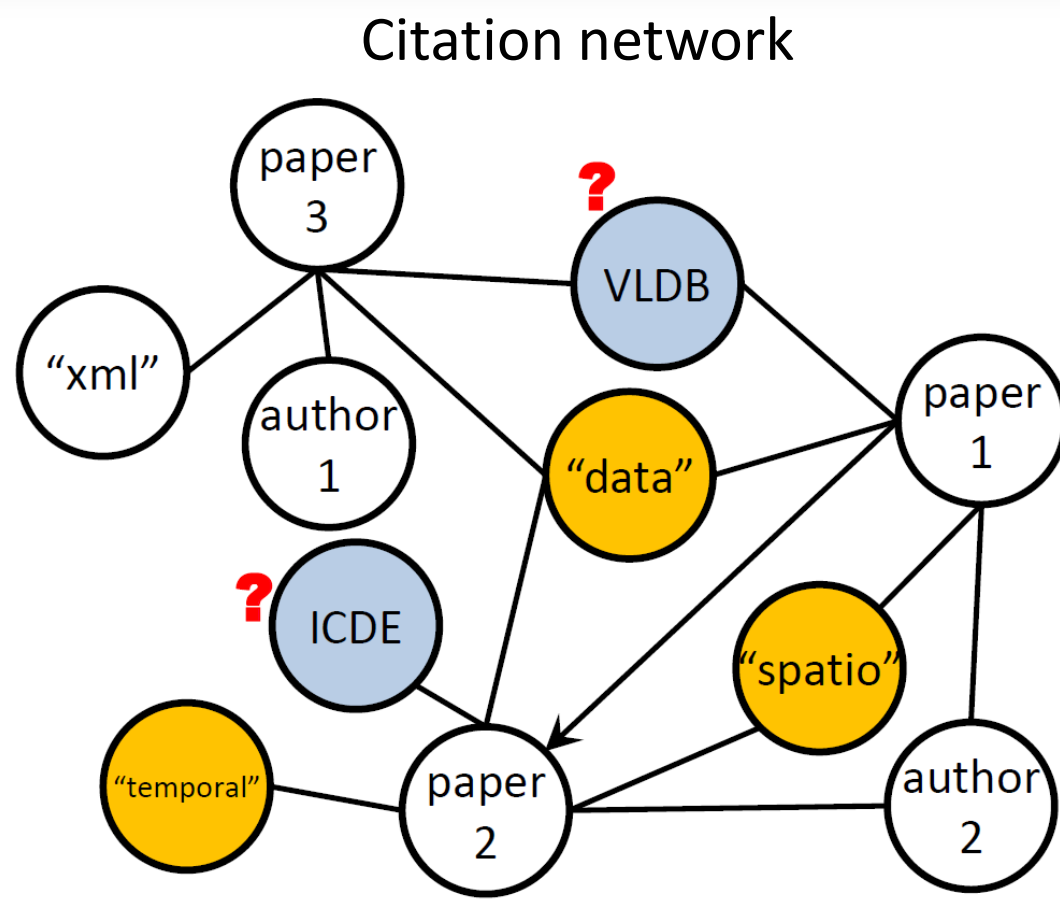
<sup>1</sup> University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

<sup>2</sup> Advanced Digital Sciences Center, Singapore

<sup>3</sup> Singapore Management University, Singapore



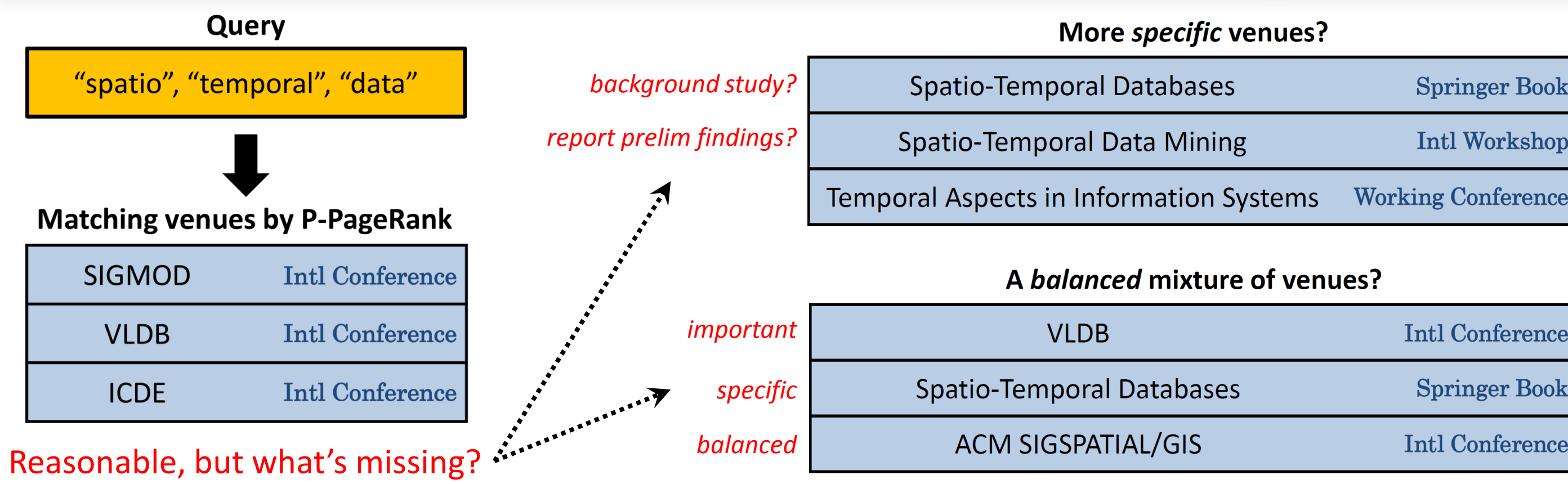
## Problem: Proximity Ranking on the Graph



## Example Applications

- Find expert reviewers for a paper
- Find matching venues for some keywords
- Find relevant pages for a search phrase
- Find similar search phrases of a given phrase

## Observations: Importance & Specificity and Their Flexible Trade-offs



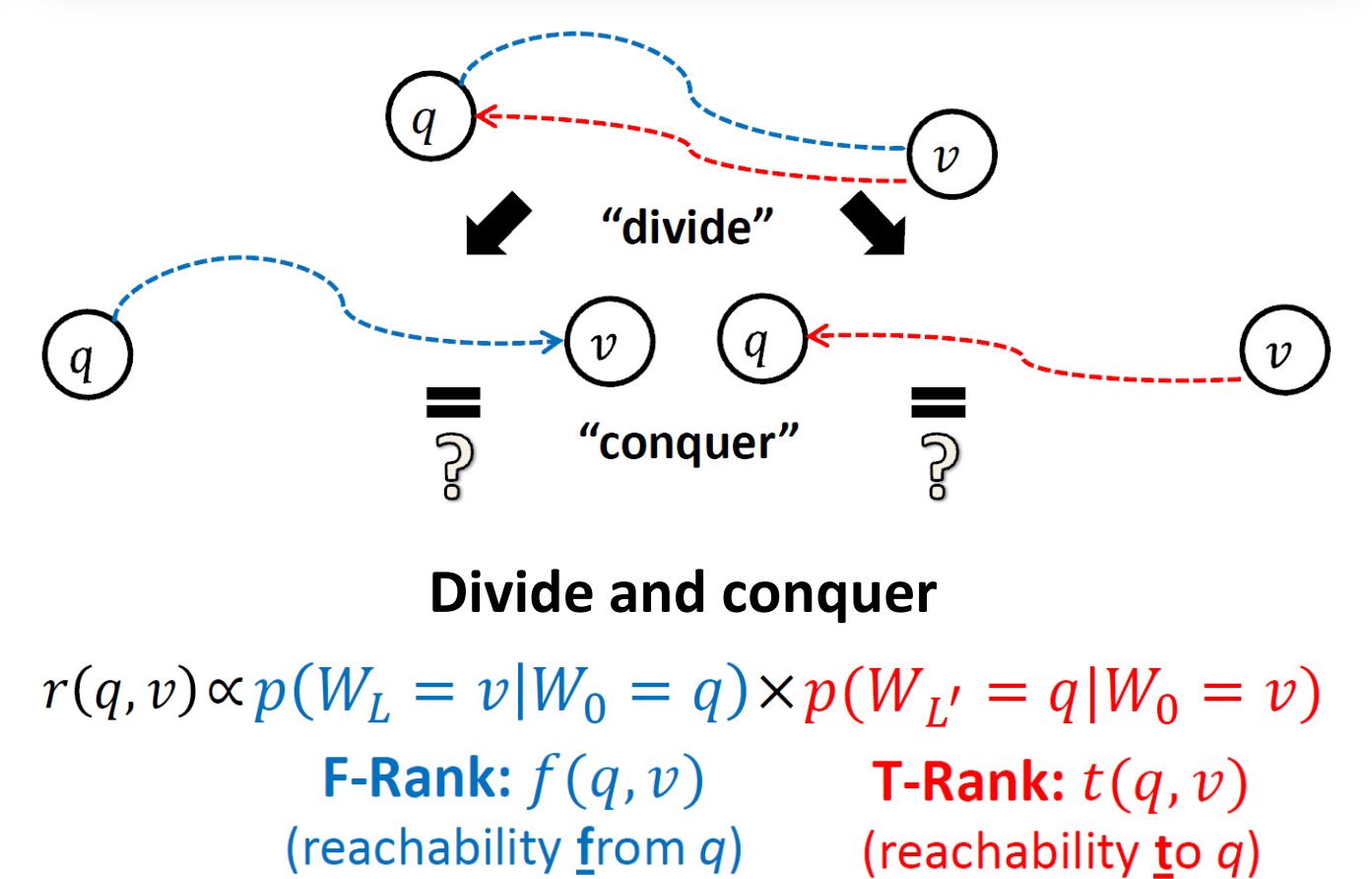
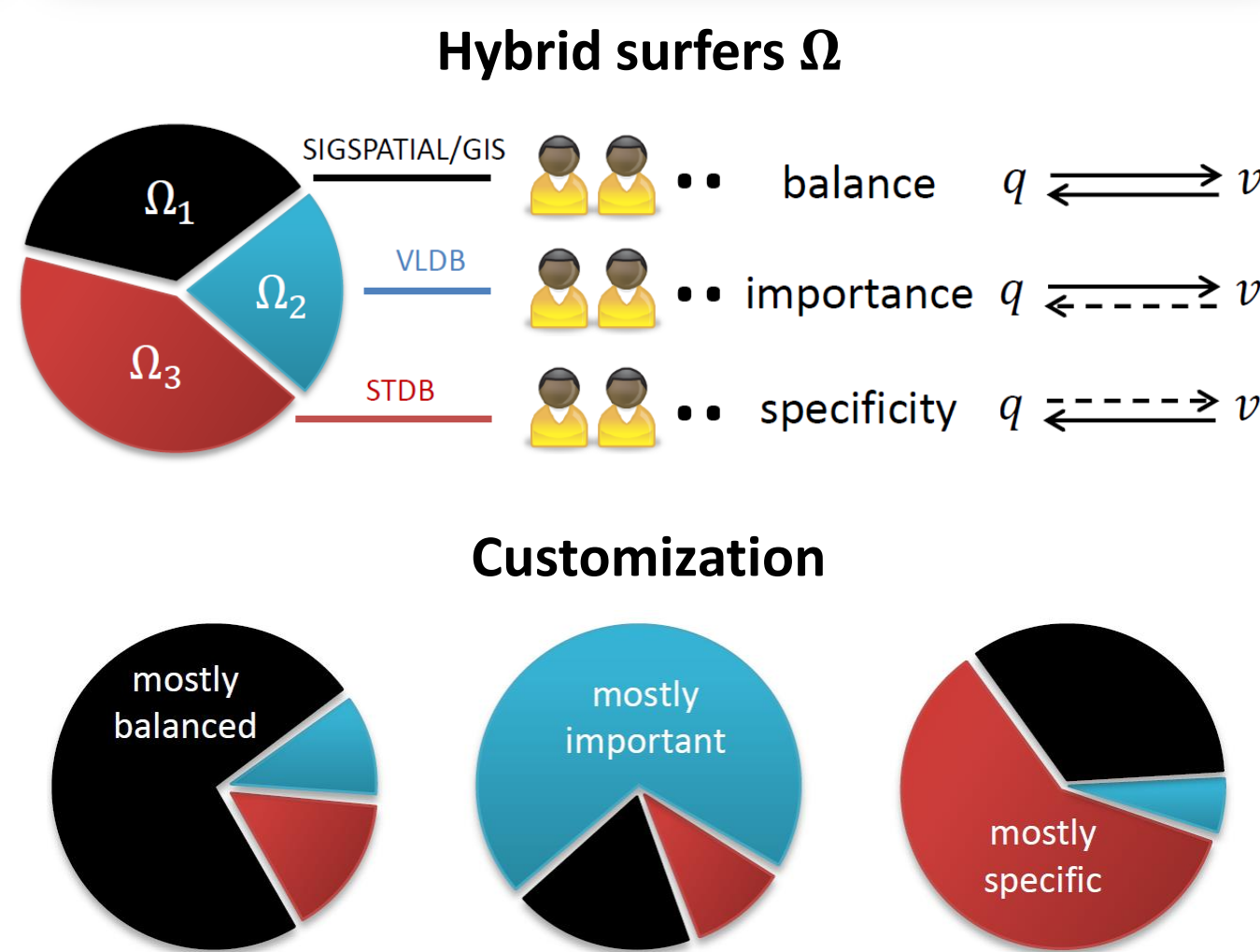
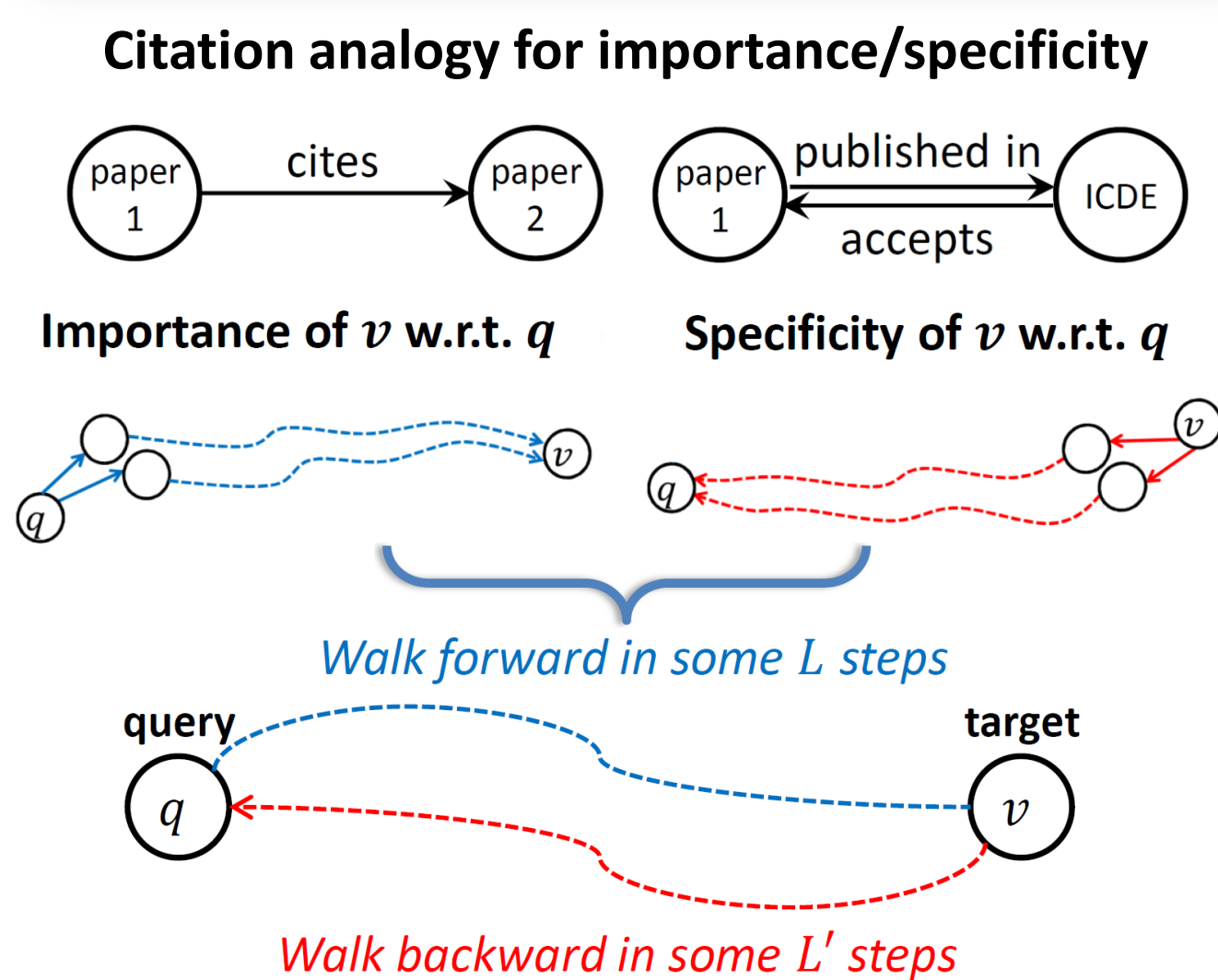
**Observation 1:**  
Most tasks require both importance and specificity.

**Observation 2:**  
The desirable trade-off varies from task to task.

**Challenge 1:** How to unify importance & specificity?

**Challenge 2:** How to customize their trade-offs?

**Challenge 3:** How to compute the proximity efficiently?



**RoundTripRank**  

$$r(q, v) \triangleq p(W_L = v | W_0 = W_{L+L'}, W_0 = q)$$

**RoundTripRank+**  

$$r_{\Omega}(q, v) \triangleq p(x = v | \forall \omega \in \Omega: W_0^{\omega} = W_{L+L'}^{\omega} = q, W_L^{\omega} = x)$$

**Divide and conquer**  

$$r(q, v) \propto p(W_L = v | W_0 = q) \times p(W_{L'} = q | W_0 = v)$$
**F-Rank:**  $f(q, v)$  (reachability from  $q$ )  
**T-Rank:**  $t(q, v)$  (reachability to  $q$ )

**RoundTripRank:**  $r(q, v) \propto f(q, v)t(q, v)$   
**RoundTripRank+:**  $r_{\Omega}(q, v) \propto f(q, v)^{1-\beta} t(q, v)^{\beta}$   
 Specificity bias:  $\beta = \frac{|\Omega_1| + |\Omega_3|}{2|\Omega_1| + |\Omega_2| + |\Omega_3|} \in [0, 1]$

**Finding 1:** Both importance & specificity are needed.

**Finding 2:** Customizable trade-offs are needed.

**Finding 3:** Our computational model enables efficient ranking.

