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## 《Towards Retrieval-Based Neural Code Summarization- A Meta-Learning Approach》

2023

TSE(Early Access)

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### HQLgen: deep learning based HQL query generation from program context

Automated Software Engineering

2022-11 | Journal article

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CONTRIBUTORS: Ziyi Zhou; huiqun yu; Guisheng Fan; Zijie Huang; Kang Yang; Jiayin Zhang

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Source: Ziyi Zhou

### Summarizing source code with hierarchical code representation

Information and Software Technology

2022-03 | Journal article

DOI: [10.1016/j.infsof.2021.106761](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.infsof.2021.106761)

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CONTRIBUTORS: Ziyi Zhou; Huiqun Yu; Guisheng Fan; Zijie Huang; Xingguang Yang

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### Adversarial training and ensemble learning for automatic code summarization

Neural Computing and Applications

2021-10-05 | Journal article

DOI: [10.1007/s00521-021-05907-w](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00521-021-05907-w)

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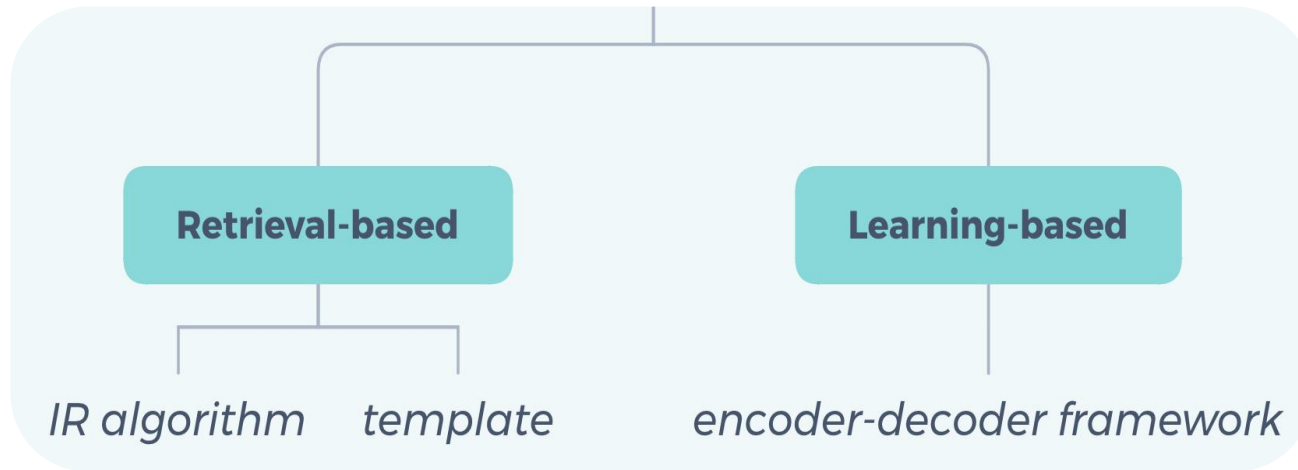
帮助



# Towards Retrieval-Based Neural Code Summarization- A Meta-Learning Approach

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## Code Summarization



Large Corpus

Generalization

## Meta-Learning

**Meta-learning** is a technique that endows an agent with the ability of learning to learn. It intends to design models that can adapt to new concepts rapidly without numerous training examples

Metric-based

Model-based

Optimization-based

Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning (MAML)



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## MLCS-Overview

### Meta-Learning for Code Summarization -- MLCS

#### Formal Task Definition

Given a target code snippet  $x^i$  to summarize, the goal is to learn a unique summarizer for it using its similar example pairs  $\mathcal{S}^i = \{\langle x^{ij}, y^{ij} \rangle | 1 \leq j \leq k_i\}$  as training data in a few-shot learning manner, where  $y^{ij}$  is the comment of the  $j$ -th similar code snippet  $x^{ij}$  and  $k_i$  is determined by the code-to-code retrieval process.

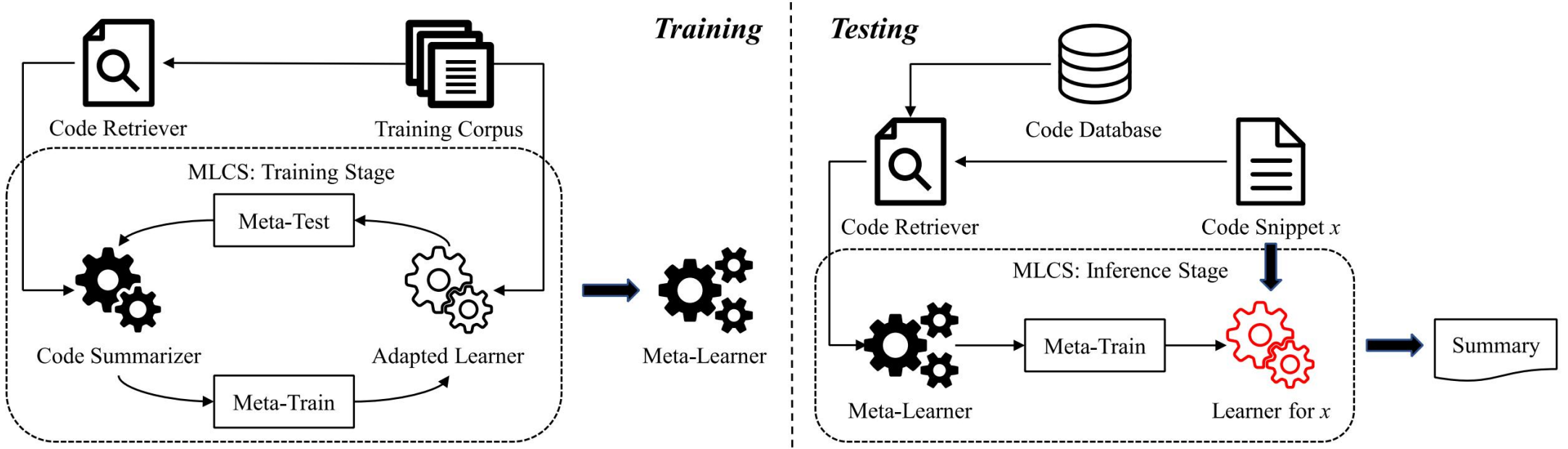


Fig. 1. Overall framework of our approach.



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## Training Stage

## Optimization

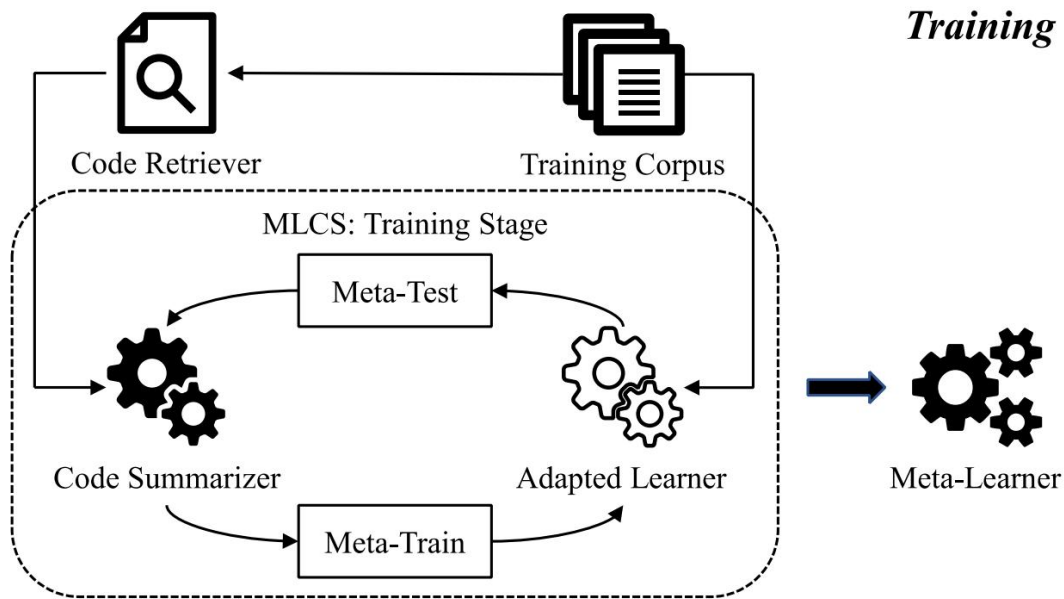
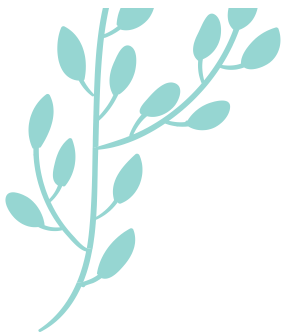


Fig. 1. Overall framework of our approach.



### Algorithm 1 MLCS: Training Stage

**Require:** Hyper-parameters  $\alpha, \beta, k, \varepsilon$

**Require:** Code summarization model  $f_\theta$

**Require:** Training dataset  $\mathcal{D}$  consisting of code-summary pairs

- 1: Randomly initialize  $\theta$
- 2: **while** not done **do**
- 3:   Sample batch of training pairs  $\{\langle x^i, y^i \rangle\}$  from  $\mathcal{D}$
- 4:   **for all**  $\langle x^i, y^i \rangle$  **do**
- 5:     Retrieve top- $k$  examples similar to code  $x^i$  and filter them by  $\varepsilon$  according to (12), build training set  $\mathcal{S}^i$
- 6:     Evaluate  $\nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{S}^i}(f_\theta)$  according to (15)
- 7:     Compute  $\theta'_i = \theta - \alpha \nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{S}^i}(f_\theta)$
- 8:   **end for**
- 9:   Update  $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \beta \nabla_\theta \sum_i \mathcal{L}_{\langle x^i, y^i \rangle}(f_{\theta'_i})$
- 10: **end while**

Text Edit Distance

$$\text{sim}(x^i, x^j) = 1 - \frac{\text{dis}(x^i, x^j)}{\max(|x^i|, |x^j|)} \quad (12)$$

$$w_j = u_j \cdot (\text{sim}(x^i, x^{ij}) + 0.5) \quad (14)$$

Gradient

$$\nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{S}^i}(f_\theta) = \sum_{j=1}^{k_i} w_j \nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}_{\langle x^{ij}, y^{ij} \rangle}(f_\theta) \quad (15)$$

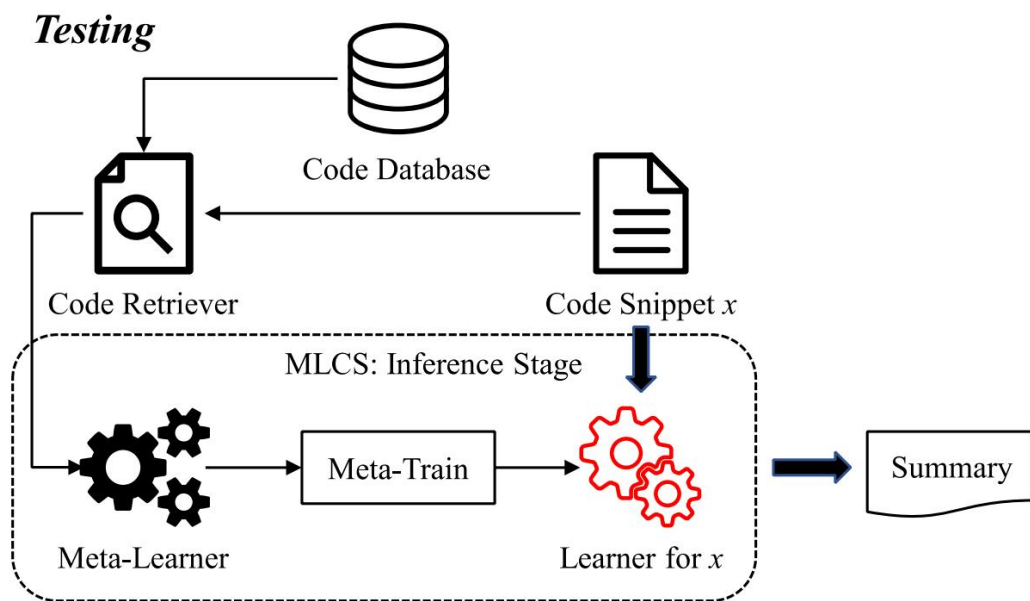




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## Testing Stage



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### Algorithm 2 MLCS: Inference Stage

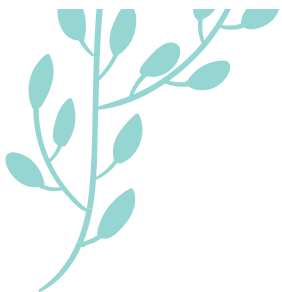
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**Require:** Hyper-parameters  $\alpha, n, k, \varepsilon$

**Require:** Meta-learner  $f'_\theta$  obtained via Algorithm 1

**Require:** Target code snippet  $x^i$

- 1:  $\gamma = \min\left(\frac{2}{3}\alpha, \frac{\alpha}{n-1}\right)$
  - 2: Retrieve top- $k$  examples similar to code  $x^i$  and filter them by  $\varepsilon$  according to (12), build training set  $\mathcal{S}^i$
  - 3: **for** step **in**  $n$
  - 4:     Evaluate  $\nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{S}^i}(f'_\theta)$  using  $\mathcal{S}^i$  according to (15)
  - 5:     Compute  $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \gamma \nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{S}^i}(f'_\theta)$
  - 6: **end for**
  - 7: **output** Target summary  $\hat{y}^i = f'_\theta(x^i)$
- 





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## Example

Example 1			
Source Code	<pre>public void add(IMultiPoint pt){     if (inProgress) {         throw new ConcurrentModificationException("Can't add point while iterator in progress");     }     points.add(pt); }</pre>		
	<i>sim</i> = 0.89	Signature	<code>public void add(TwoDNode dn)</code>

Example 2			
Source Code	<pre>def remove_duplicates(errors):     passed = defaultdict(list)     for error in errors:         key = (error.linter, error.number)         if (key in DUPLICATES):             if (key in passed[error.lnum]):                 continue             passed[error.lnum] = DUPLICATES[key]     (yield error)</pre>		
Retrieved	<i>sim</i> = 0.27	Signature Summary	<pre>def flatten_errors(cfg, res, levels=None, results=None)</pre> <p>an example function that will turn a nested dictionary of results into a flat list</p>
Generated	Reference NMT Rencos Re <sup>2</sup> Com NMT + MLCS	filter duplicates from given errors list remove all duplicates from a list of errors remove all duplicates from a list of errors an example function that will turn a nested dictionary of exceptions remove duplicates from the given errors	

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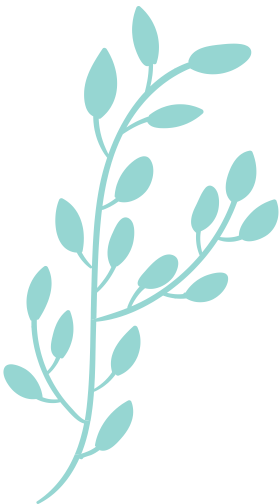
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## Dataset

Dataset	<method, summary>
JCSD( Java code summarization dataset)	87136
PCSD( Python code summarization dataset)	108726



## Evaluation Metrics

- **BLEU-N**

$$BLEU = BP \cdot \exp \left( \sum_{n=1}^N w_n \log p_n \right)$$
$$BP = \begin{cases} 1 & c > r \\ \exp \left( 1 - \frac{r}{c} \right) & c \leq r \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

- **Rouge-L**

- **Meteor**

$$P_{lcs} = \frac{LCS(X,Y)}{c}$$
$$R_{lcs} = \frac{LCS(X,Y)}{r}$$
$$F_{lcs} = \frac{(1 + \beta^2)P_{lcs}R_{lcs}}{R_{lcs} + \beta^2P_{lcs}} \quad (18)$$

$$METEOR = (1 - Pen) \cdot \frac{F_{mean}}{PR}$$
$$F_{mean} = \frac{1}{\alpha P + (1 - \alpha)R}$$
$$Pen = \gamma \cdot \left( \frac{ch}{m} \right)^\beta \quad (19)$$



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**RQ1:** *How does the proposed approach perform generally compared to the baselines?*

**RQ2:** *To what extent could MLCS improve existing neural code summarizers?*

**RQ3:** *What is the effect of using different numbers of retrieved examples, and how could the model benefit from multiple similar examples via MLCS?*

**RQ4:** *How well could MLCS adapt to different code retrieval methods?*

**RQ5:** *What is the quality of the summaries produced by our approach in practice?*

**RQ6:** *What is the impact of cross-project data splitting and near-duplicate removal on retrieval-based code summarizers?*

**RQ7:** *How does MLCS perform against existing code category-based method, and how does it perform on different code categories?*



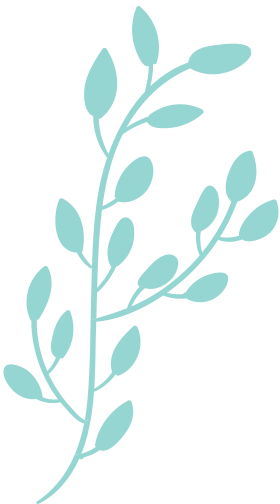




RQ1: Overall Performance

TABLE 2. OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF PROPOSED APPROACH COMPARED TO BASELINES.

Dataset	Model	BLEU-1	BLEU-2	BLEU-3	BLEU-4	BLEU-4(s)	ROUGE-L	METEOR
JCSD	DeepCom	26.03	16.53	11.57	8.91	14.95	32.71	15.95
	ast-attendgru	32.90	22.05	15.26	11.32	18.61	42.04	20.66
	NMT	32.66	21.87	15.54	12.02	18.99	41.69	20.72
	NMT (Tf)	32.02	21.93	17.01	14.33	19.80	37.32	19.88
	Rencos	34.94	24.15	17.55	13.55	20.59	42.85	21.56
	HGNN	31.80	23.54	18.95	15.59	21.11	36.95	19.07
	Re <sup>2</sup> Com	36.37	26.50	20.89	17.38	23.69	44.40	22.81
	NMT + MLCS	<b>37.86</b>	<b>29.00</b>	<b>23.47</b>	<b>20.16</b>	<b>26.47</b>	<b>46.94</b>	<b>23.89</b>
PCSD	DeepCom	24.92	15.86	11.64	8.92	15.07	30.23	14.95
	ast-attendgru	31.32	20.38	14.07	10.26	18.11	38.64	18.99
	NMT	30.58	19.62	13.95	10.61	17.98	37.29	18.51
	NMT (Tf)	30.02	20.26	15.90	13.16	18.91	34.21	18.55
	Rencos	33.70	22.80	16.77	12.85	20.44	39.97	20.12
	HGNN	31.92	22.51	17.42	13.97	20.67	38.04	19.29
	Re <sup>2</sup> Com	35.17	25.25	19.78	15.97	23.09	41.57	21.37
	NMT + MLCS	<b>35.89</b>	<b>26.43</b>	<b>21.16</b>	<b>17.38</b>	<b>24.70</b>	<b>43.06</b>	<b>21.98</b>





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## RQ2: Improvements of Applying MLCS

TABLE 3. THE IMPROVEMENTS OF THE BASELINES BY UTILIZING MLCS.

Dataset	Model	BLEU-1	BLEU-2	BLEU-3	BLEU-4	BLEU-4(s)	ROUGE-L	METEOR
JCSD	DeepCom + MLCS	34.36 (+32.0%)	26.40 (+59.7%)	21.94 (+89.6%)	18.95 (+112.7%)	24.37 (+63.0%)	40.30 (+23.2%)	20.97 (+31.5%)
	ast-attendgru + MLCS	37.88 (+15.1%)	28.60 (+29.7%)	22.74 (+49.0%)	19.17 (+69.3%)	25.76 (+38.4%)	47.37 (+12.7%)	23.78 (+15.1%)
	NMT + MLCS	37.86 (+15.9%)	29.00 (+32.6%)	23.47 (+51.0%)	20.16 (+67.7%)	26.47 (+39.4%)	46.94 (+12.6%)	23.89 (+15.3%)
	NMT (Tf) + MLCS	36.40 (+13.7%)	26.51 (+20.9%)	21.49 (+26.3%)	18.54 (+29.4%)	24.28 (+22.6%)	42.11 (+12.8%)	22.41 (+12.7%)
PCSD	DeepCom + MLCS	32.60 (+30.8%)	24.39 (+53.8%)	19.93 (+71.2%)	16.65 (+86.7%)	22.90 (+52.0%)	37.81 (+25.1%)	19.66 (+31.5%)
	ast-attendgru + MLCS	35.75 (+14.1%)	26.07 (+27.9%)	20.31 (+44.3%)	16.33 (+59.2%)	23.97 (+32.4%)	43.65 (+13.0%)	21.79 (+14.7%)
	NMT + MLCS	35.89 (+17.4%)	26.43 (+34.7%)	21.16 (+51.7%)	17.38 (+63.8%)	24.70 (+37.4%)	43.06 (+15.5%)	21.98 (+18.7%)
	NMT (Tf) + MLCS	33.81 (+12.6%)	24.28 (+19.8%)	19.58 (+23.1%)	16.50 (+25.4%)	22.83 (+20.7%)	38.70 (+13.1%)	20.63 (+11.2%)





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**RQ3:** *Effect of Gradient Aggregation Under Different Numbers of Similar Examples*

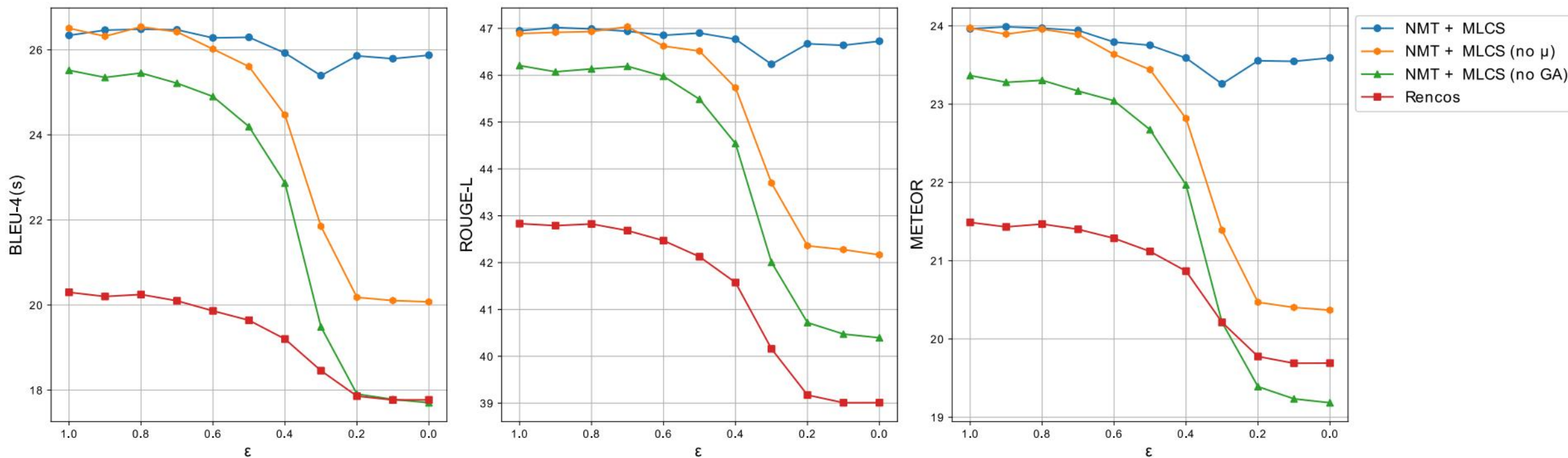


Fig. 3. Effect of changing  $\epsilon$  on performance with  $k = 10$ .







**RQ4: Performance of Using Different Code Retrievers**

TABLE 4. THE PERFORMANCE OF USING DIFFERENT CODE RETRIEVERS.

Model	Retriever	BLEU-1	BLEU-2	BLEU-3	BLEU-4	BLEU-4(s)	ROUGE-L	METEOR
Retrieval Only	VSM	34.71	26.31	22.51	19.85	24.39	38.22	21.27
	LSI	33.91	25.45	21.86	19.30	23.73	37.30	20.75
	FastText	32.23	24.38	20.92	18.47	22.75	35.25	19.63
	biLSTM	35.68	27.40	23.33	<b>20.43</b>	25.10	39.24	21.87
Re <sup>2</sup> Com	VSM	34.45	24.47	18.88	15.63	21.83	42.34	21.62
	LSI	34.51	24.48	18.86	15.61	21.87	42.43	21.61
	FastText	33.57	23.70	18.15	14.92	21.17	41.48	21.13
	biLSTM	36.37	26.50	20.89	17.38	23.69	44.40	22.81
NMT + MLCS	VSM	36.95	28.00	22.42	19.17	25.56	46.40	23.43
	LSI	36.94	27.97	22.46	19.22	25.59	46.22	23.36
	FastText	36.48	27.47	21.83	18.54	25.07	45.78	23.14
	biLSTM	<b>37.86</b>	<b>29.00</b>	<b>23.47</b>	20.16	<b>26.47</b>	<b>46.94</b>	<b>23.89</b>





RQ5: Human Evaluation

TABLE 5. THE RESULTS OF HUMAN EVALUATION.

Model	Naturalness	Informativeness
Reference	4.64	4.48
Retrieval Only	<b>4.53</b>	2.45
NMT	4.37	2.76
Rencos	4.47	2.95
Re <sup>2</sup> Com	4.35	2.88
NMT + MLCS	4.48	<b>3.20</b>







**RQ6:** *Cross-project Evaluation with Near- duplicates Removal*

TABLE 6. PERFORMANCE OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES WITH NEAR-DUPPLICATES REMOVAL.

Type	Model	BLEU-1	BLEU-2	BLEU-3	BLEU-4	BLEU-4(s)	ROUGE-L	METEOR
Non-retrieval-based	DeepCom	22.51	13.38	9.35	6.89	12.88	27.72	13.56
	ast-attendgru	29.15	17.98	11.78	8.22	15.99	36.46	17.75
	NMT	28.31	17.09	11.53	8.44	15.74	34.98	17.19
	NMT (Tf)	26.87	16.83	12.60	10.12	15.78	31.07	16.68
Retrieval-based	Rencos	30.87	19.86	14.02	10.33	17.85	37.27	18.52
	HGNN	29.05	19.46	14.53	11.37	17.96	35.26	17.65
	Re <sup>2</sup> Com	32.30	22.11	16.70	13.17	20.20	38.88	19.72
	NMT + MLCS	<b>32.98</b>	<b>23.16</b>	<b>17.82</b>	<b>14.22</b>	<b>21.45</b>	<b>40.05</b>	<b>20.15</b>





**RQ6:** *Cross-project Evaluation with Near- duplicates Removal*

TABLE 7. CROSS-PROJECT PERFORMANCE OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES WITH NEAR-DUPLICATES REMOVAL.

Type	Model	BLEU-1	BLEU-2	BLEU-3	BLEU-4	BLEU-4(s)	ROUGE-L	METEOR
Non-retrieval-based	DeepCom	10.75	3.07	1.13	0.48	4.35	14.56	6.80
	ast-attendgru	18.06	6.59	2.71	1.32	7.32	24.23	11.60
	NMT	17.79	6.24	2.51	1.16	7.21	23.96	11.44
	NMT (Tf)	12.94	3.91	1.95	1.33	5.32	16.22	8.41
Retrieval-based	Retrieval Only	10.44	3.82	2.72	2.34	5.19	12.89	6.93
	Rencos	14.75	5.03	2.28	1.29	6.03	18.99	9.24
	HGNN	13.06	4.41	2.22	1.43	5.97	18.41	8.56
	Re <sup>2</sup> Com	16.80	6.23	2.92	1.80	7.26	22.93	10.92
	ast-attendgru + MLCS	<b>18.14</b>	<b>7.42</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>8.45</b>	<b>25.33</b>	<b>11.86</b>





## RQ7: Comparison with Code Category-based Method

TABLE 8. SMOOTHED BLEU-4 SCORES OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES IN EACH COMMENT CATEGORY.

Model	What	Why	How-to-use	How-it-is-done	Property	Others	All
DeepCom	13.53	7.32	8.57	8.23	17.66	5.60	9.62
ast-attendgru	20.24	8.24	12.60	11.48	19.68	7.02	13.78
NMT	20.38	8.40	12.23	10.86	20.48	6.60	13.56
NMT(Tf)	16.91	6.46	9.44	9.25	20.14	3.34	10.88
Rencos	16.31	9.80	11.10	10.42	17.35	7.53	12.11
HGNN	13.78	7.56	8.86	7.77	20.97	5.90	9.77
Re <sup>2</sup> Com	19.75	10.89	12.91	12.14	22.96	<b>8.92</b>	14.25
ast-attendgru + MLCS	<b>21.56</b>	<b>11.97</b>	<b>13.76</b>	<b>13.13</b>	<b>25.09</b>	8.81	<b>15.37</b>



谢谢聆听

演讲完毕

