

Accelerating Code Search with Deep Hashing and Code Classification

王焱林

wangyin36@mail.sysu.edu.cn

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Accelerating Code Search with Deep Hashing and Code Classification

**Wenchao Gu^{1*}, Yanlin Wang^{2,†}, Lun Du², Hongyu Zhang³,
Shi Han², Dongmei Zhang², and Michael R. Lyu¹**

¹ Department of Computer Science and Engineering,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China.

² Microsoft Research Asia, Beijing, China

³ The University of Newcastle, Australia

What is code search? (in a narrow sense)

- Code search aims to retrieve the **code** snippets according to the natural language **query**/description given by users.

Query: **how to sort an array with bubble sort?**

Answer:

```
void BubbleSort(int arr[], int n) {  
    int i, j, flag, temp;  
    for(i = 0; i < n-1; i++) {  
        flag = 0;  
        for(j = 0; j < (n-i-1); j++) {  
            if(arr[j] > arr[j+1]) {  
                flag = 1;  
                temp = arr[j];  
                arr[j] = arr[j+1];  
                arr[j+1] = temp;  
            }  
        }  
        if(flag == 0)  
            break;  
    }  
}
```

What is code search?

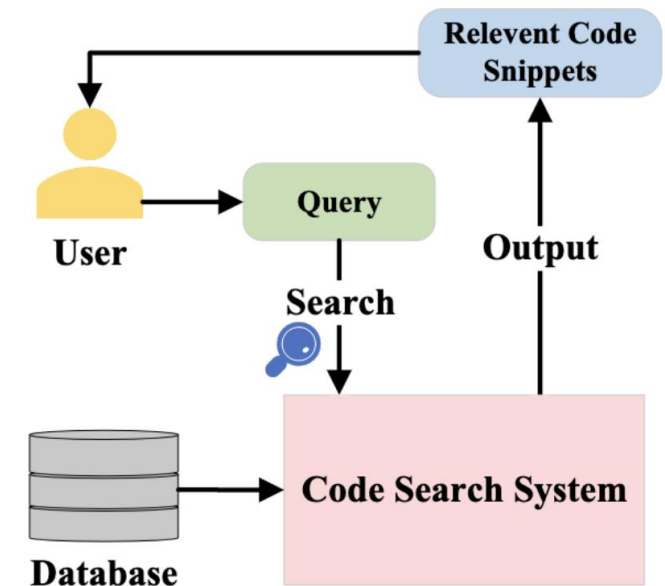
- Given a **query**, return its corresponding **code**

No.	Code Search Task	Query	Codebases	#Studies	Percent
1	Text-Based Code Search	Text	Source Code	34	51%
2	Code Clone Search	Source Code	Source Code	9	14%
3	I/O Example Code Search	Input/Output Example	Source Code	8	12%
4	API-Based Code Search	API	Source Code	7	11%
5	Binary Clone Search	Binary Code	Binary Code	5	7%
6	UI Code Search	UI Sketch	UI Code	3	4%
7	Programming Video Search	Text	Code in Video	1	1%
-	Total	-	-	67	100%

Opportunities and Challenges in Code Search Tools. Liu et. al. ACM Computing Surveys. 2020.

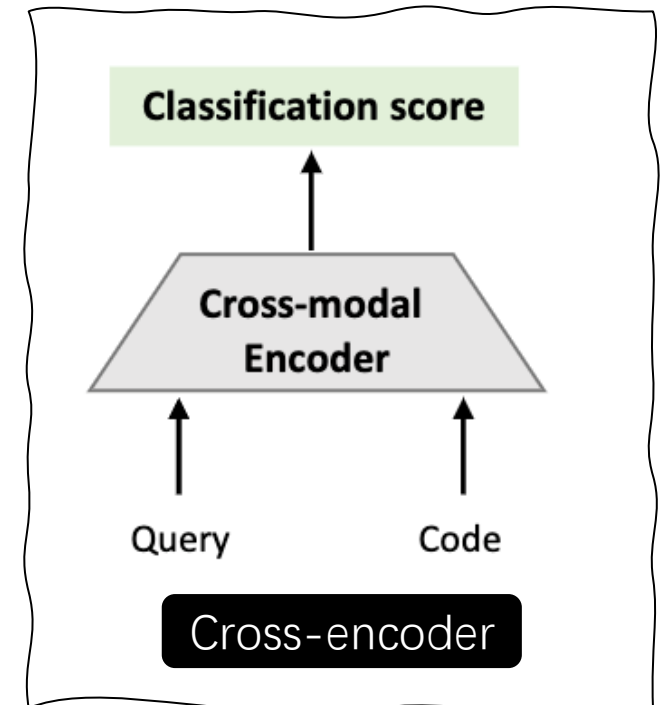
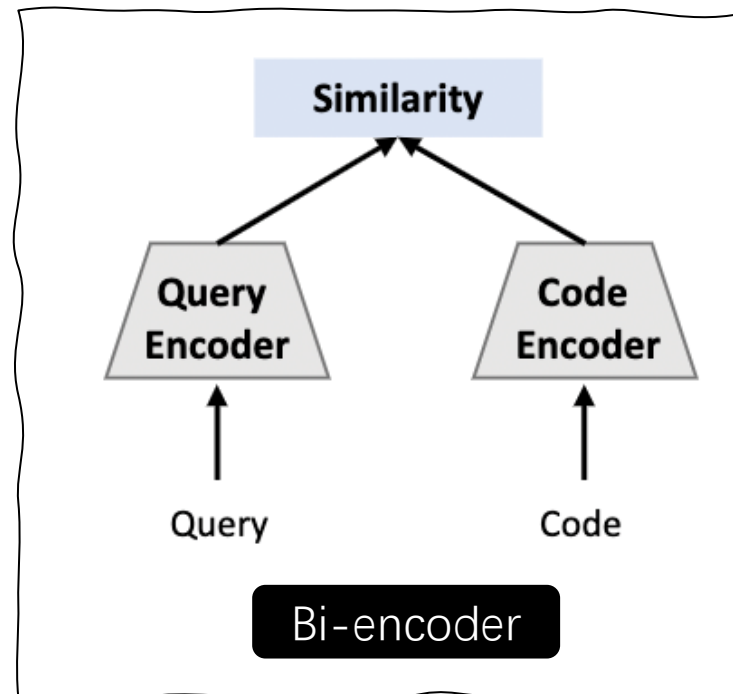
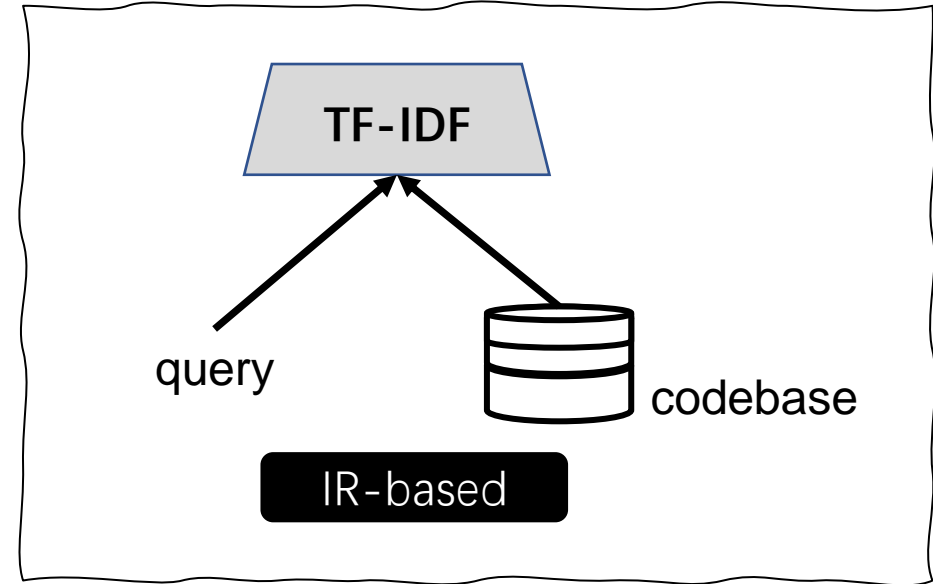
Why is it important?

- Code search is a frequent developer activity in software development practices.
- It improves programming **productivity** as developers' time and energy can be saved by reusing existing code.
- On Google Code Search, a developer composes **12 search queries per weekday** on average [*Sadowski et al.*].



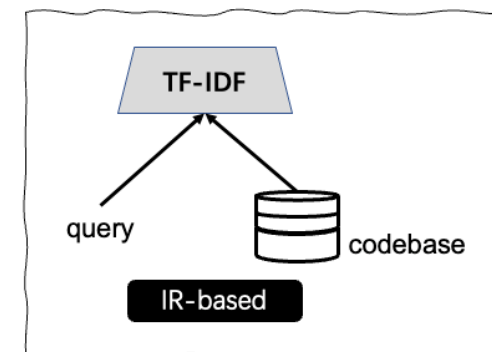
Existing approaches

- Information Retrieval-based
 - BOW, Jaccard, TF-IDF, BM25, etc
- Deep Learning-based
 - Cross-encoder paradigm
 - CODEnn
 - biRNN, SelfAtt
 - CodeBERT
 - ...
 - Bi-encoder paradigm
 - GraphCodeBERT
 - CoCLR
 - ...

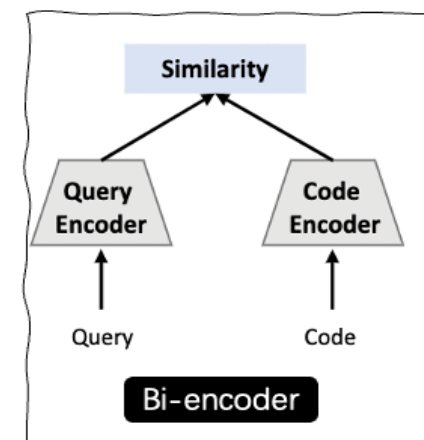


Limitations

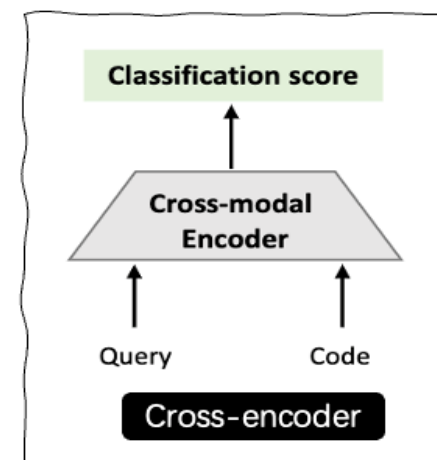
IR-based:
Fast but not accurate



DL-based:
Accurate but slow, especially for the cross-encoder paradigm!



Model	MRR	Need training	Per query time / s	R@1	R@5	R@10	R@100	R@1000
<i>Text matching IR model</i>								
Jaccard	0.2425	No	0.0130 ± 0.0004	17.7	30.7	36.7	59.4	83.0
BOW	0.2220	No	0.0011 ± 0.0000	16.1	28.1	33.6	56.6	82.6
TFIDF	0.2397	No	0.0011 ± 0.0001	16.9	30.8	37.1	62.9	87.1
BM25	0.4523	No	0.0062 ± 0.0003	35.6	56.4	63.4	81.0	92.0
<i>Bi-encoder DL model</i>								
CODenn	0.1775	Yes	0.0033 ± 0.0001	11.1	23.9	30.7	57.3	82.3
CodeBERT-bi	0.6669	Yes	0.0021 ± 0.0003	57.4	77.9	83.3	94.6	98.8
GraphCodeBERT	0.6948	Yes	0.0048 ± 0.0002	59.3	82.1	87.3	96.5	99.1
<i>Cross-encoder DL model</i>								
CodeBERT	0.7015	Yes	802.43 ± 51.29	62.4	79.2	83.7	94.5	98.7
CoCLR	0.6349	Yes	766.27 ± 47.79	51.6	78.3	84.6	95.7	99.0



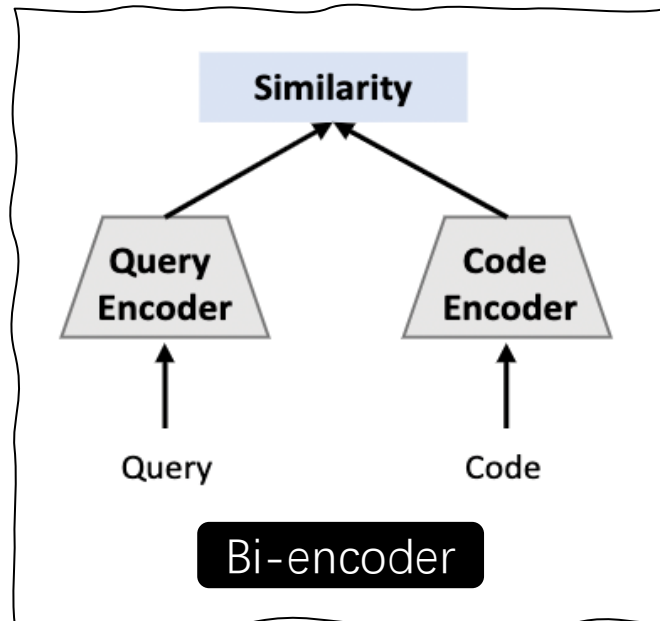
Revisiting Code Search in a Two-Stage Paradigm, Hu et. al., WSDM 2023.



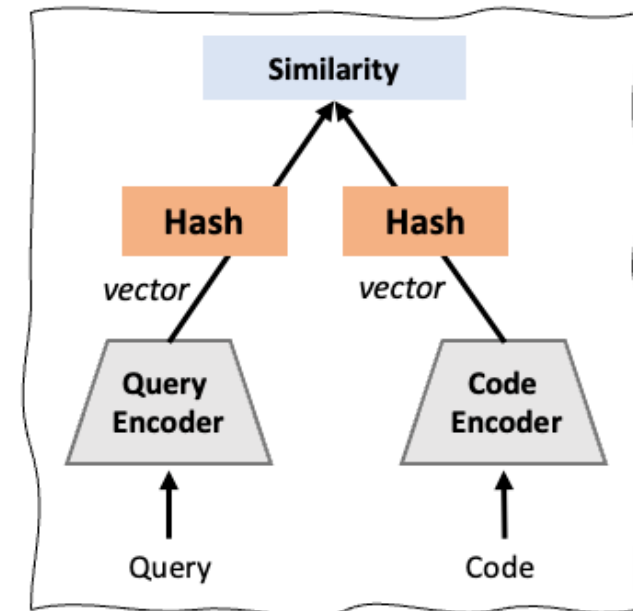
Previous research on code search mainly focuses on **accuracy** but neglects the retrieval **efficiency**.



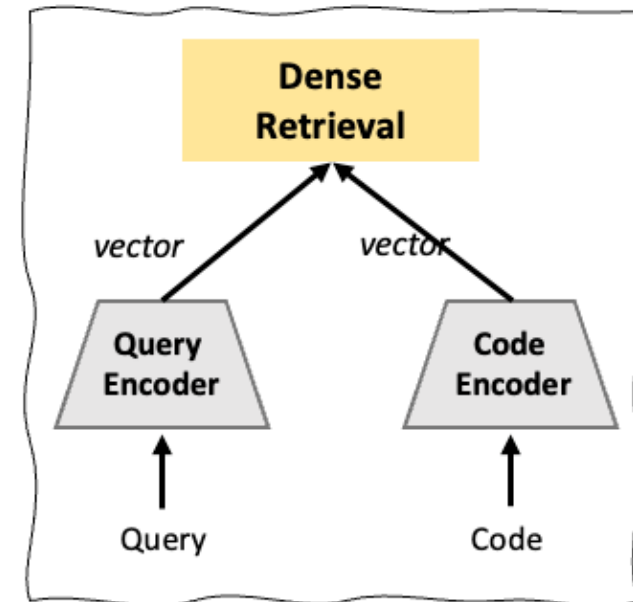
Possible improvements



Deep Hashing



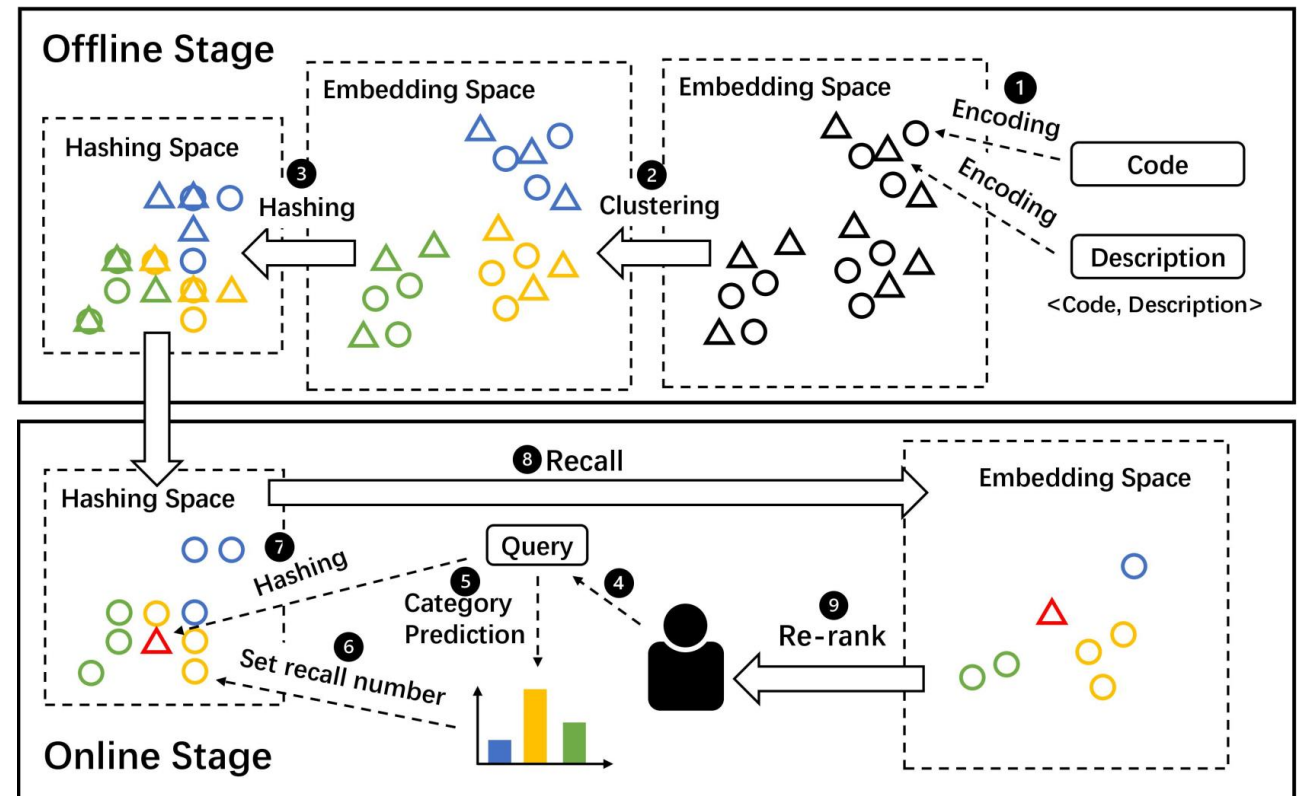
Dense Retrieval



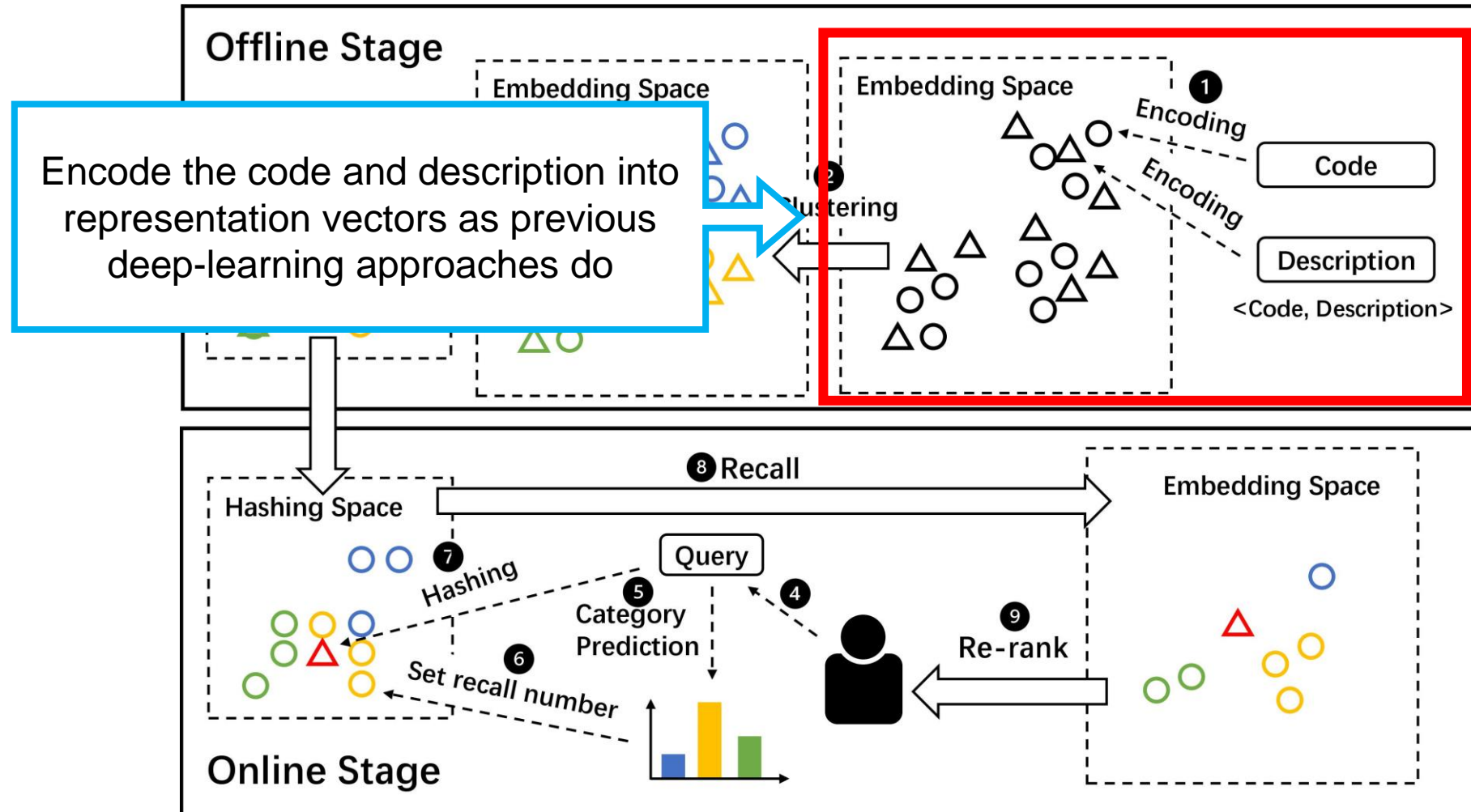
Our Exploration on the Deep Hashing Approach:

CoSHC: Accelerating Code Search with Deep Hashing and Code Classification (ACL'22)

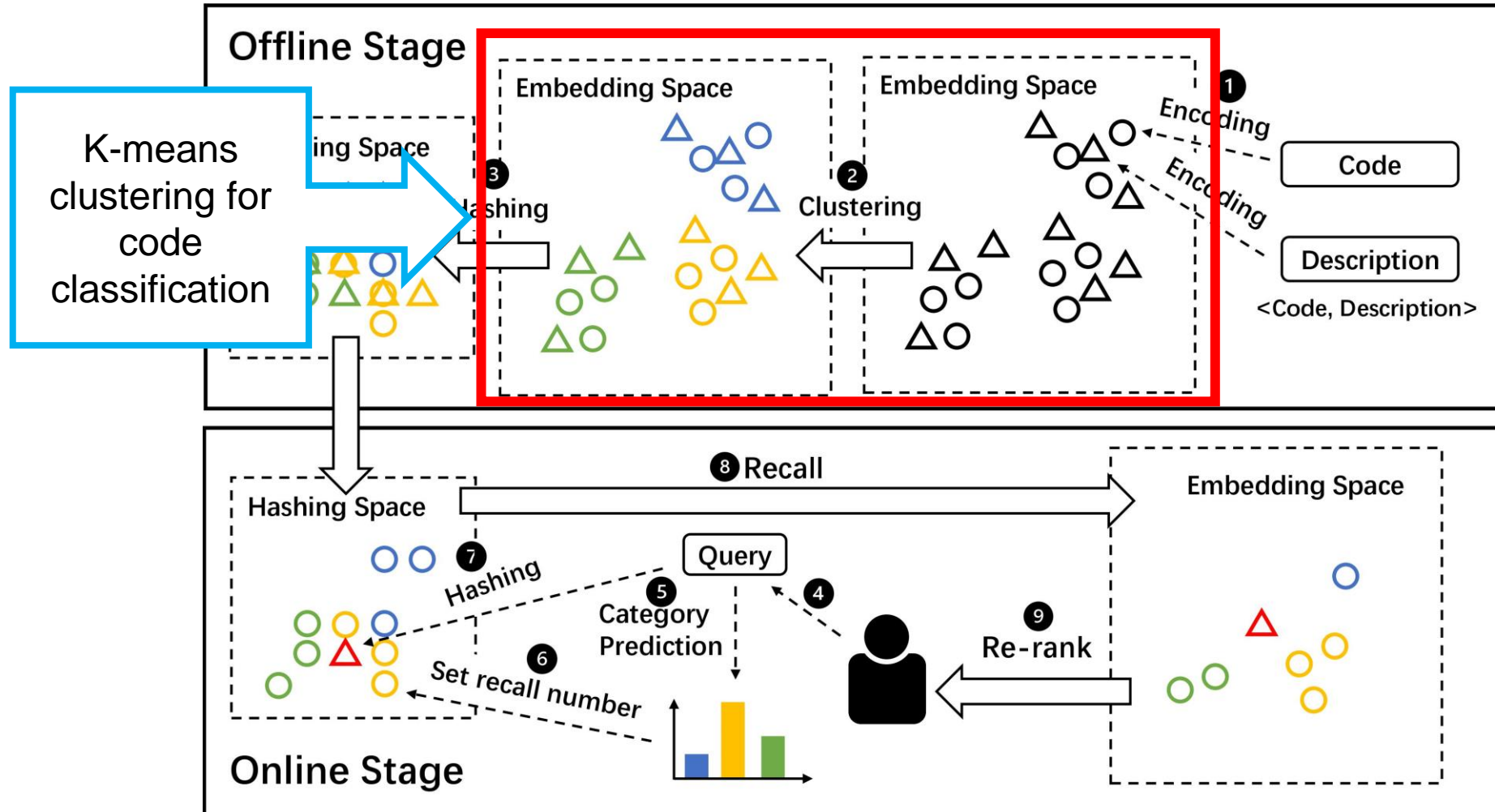
- We adopt the **recall and re-rank mechanism** with the integration of code clustering and deep hashing to improve the retrieval efficiency.
- Offline stage + Online stage



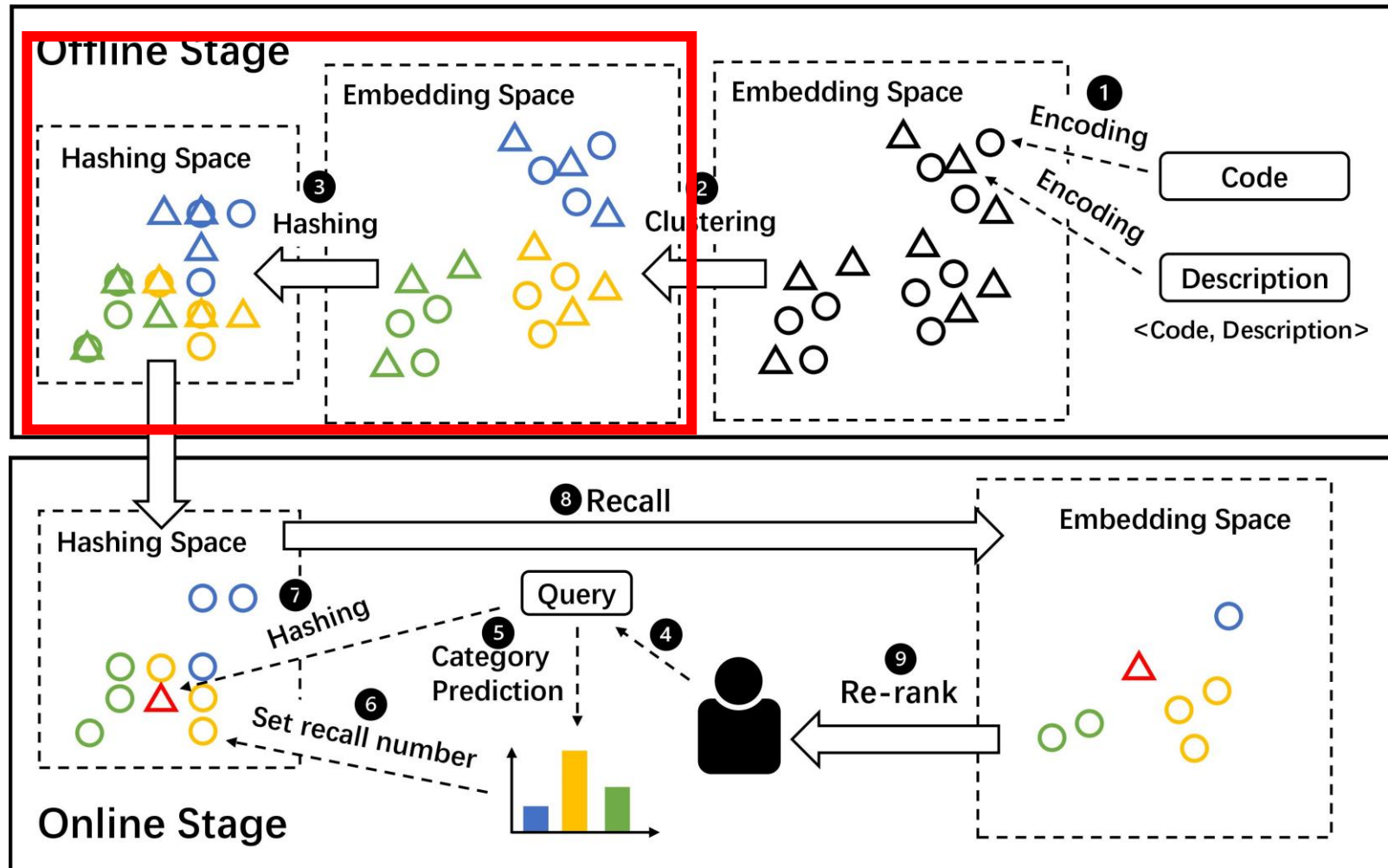
Framework - Offline Stage



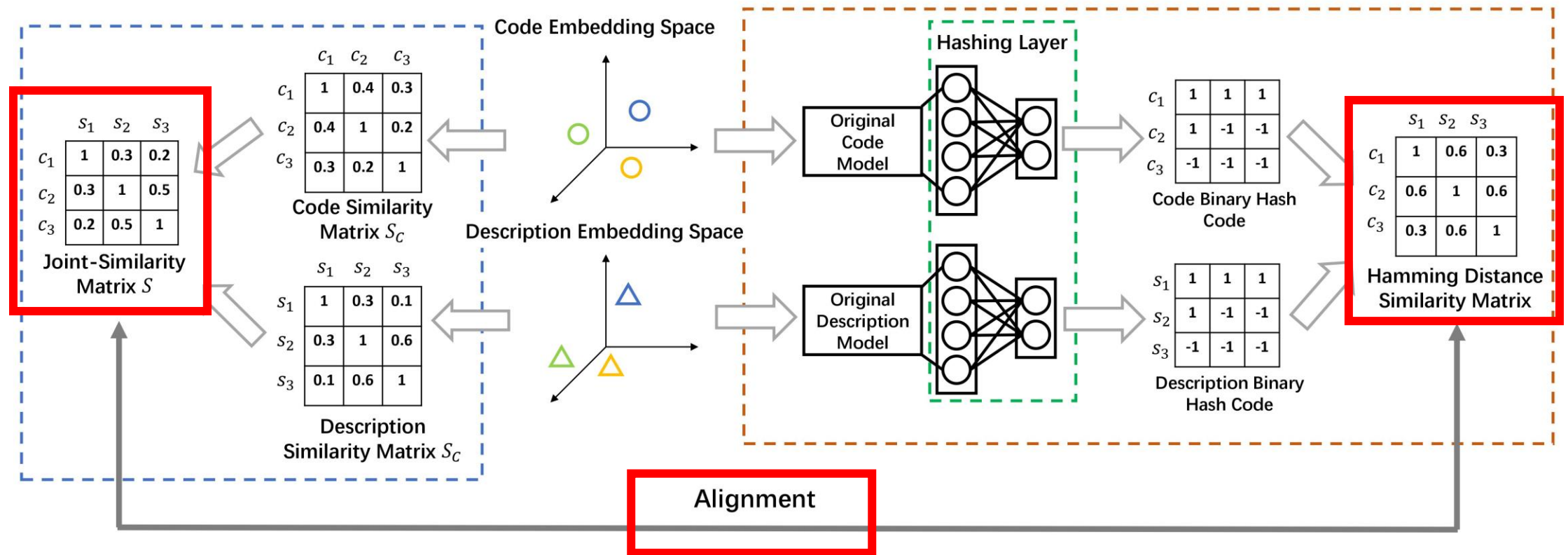
Framework



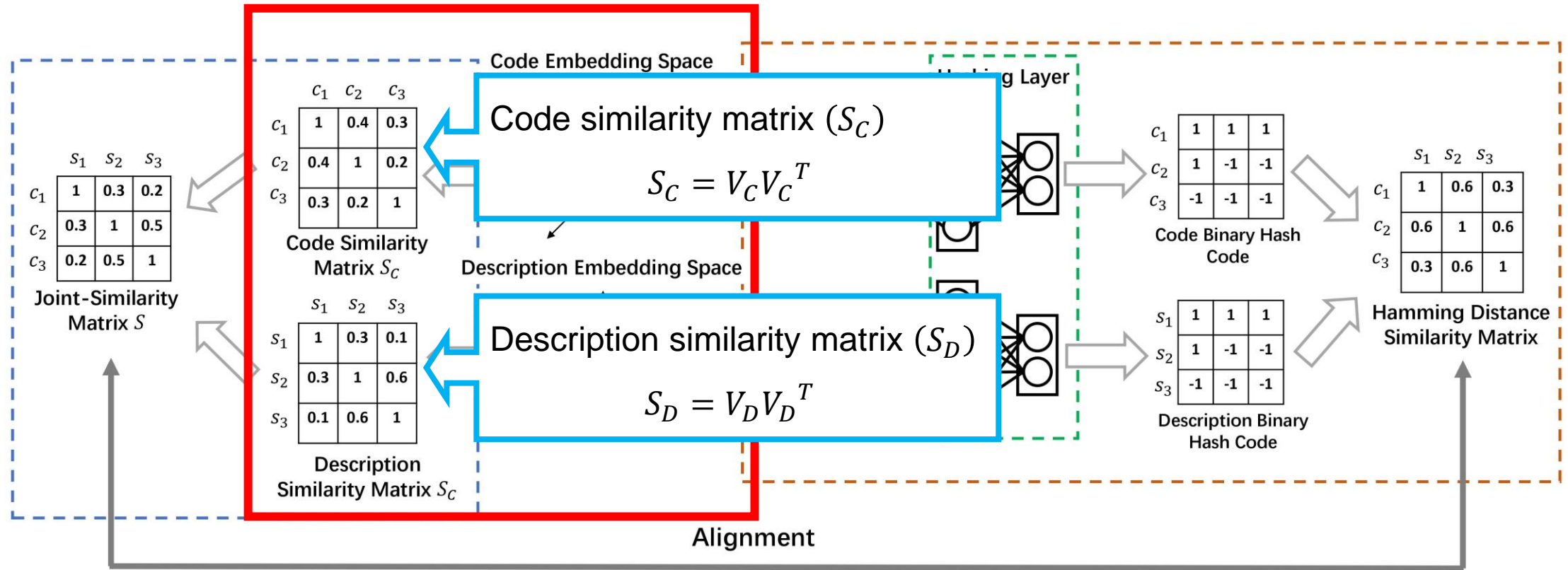
Framework



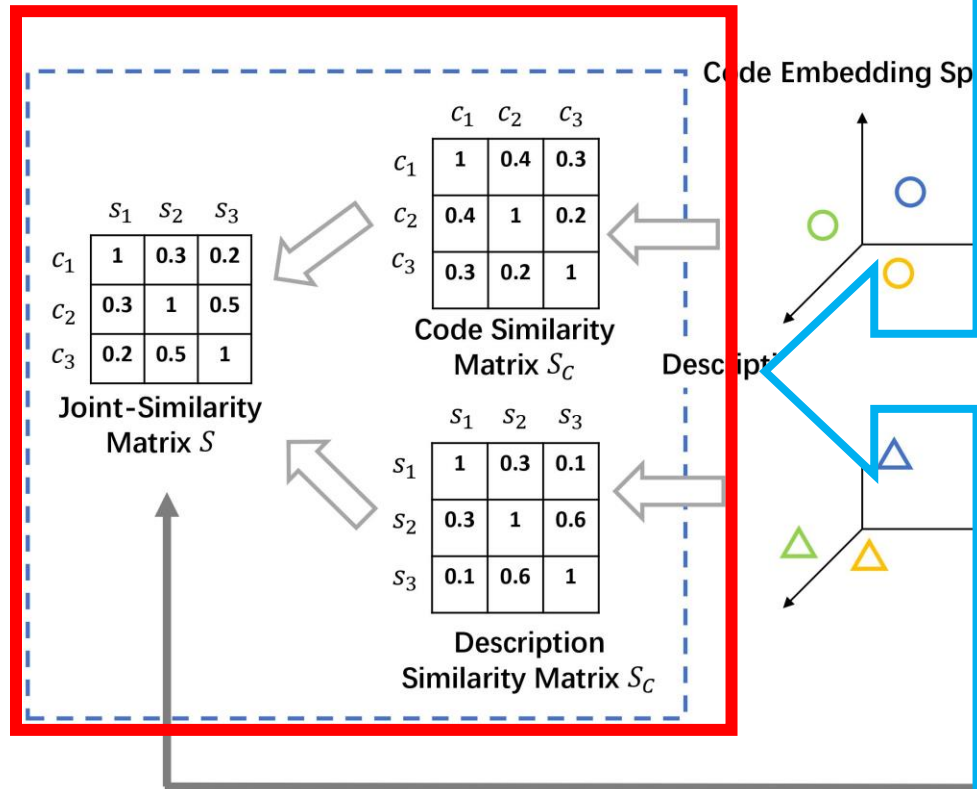
Architecture of the hashing module



Architecture of the hashing module



Architecture of the hashing module



Combines both code and description similarity matrix:

$$\tilde{S} = \beta S_C + (1 - \beta) S_D$$

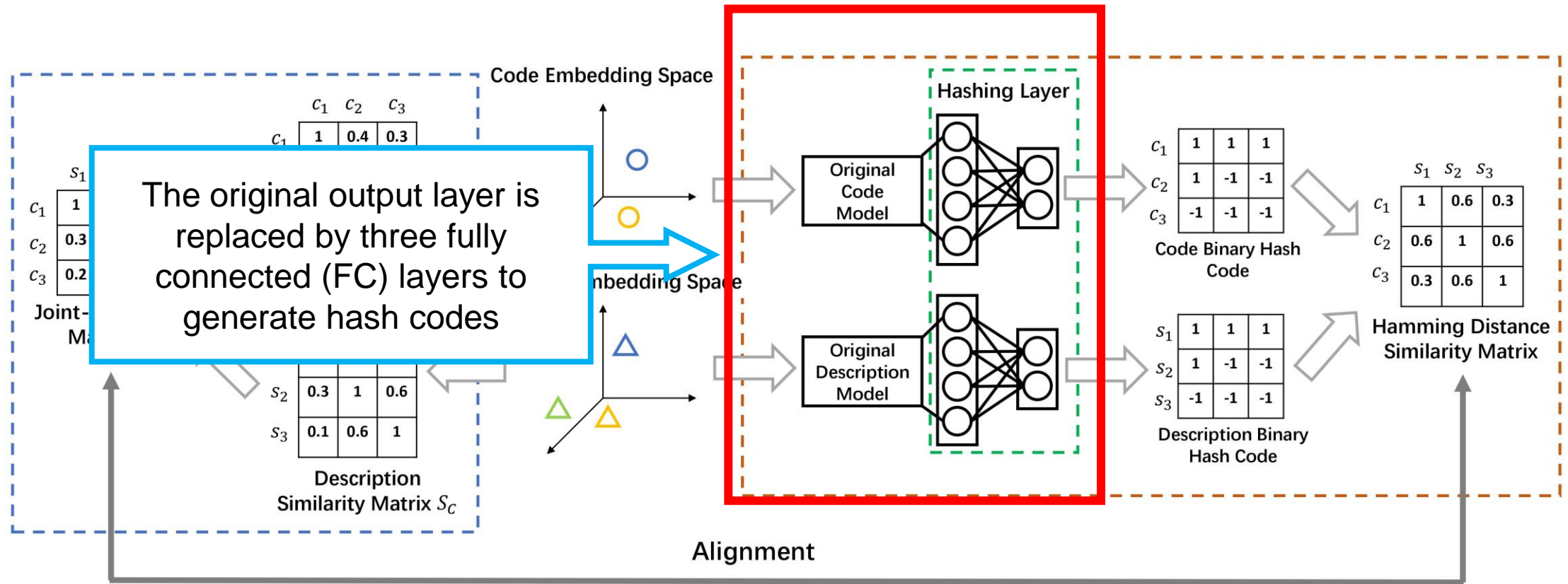
Involves $\tilde{S}\tilde{S}^T$ to describe a high order neighborhood similarity information:

$$S = (1 - \eta)\tilde{S} + \frac{\tilde{S}\tilde{S}^T}{m}$$

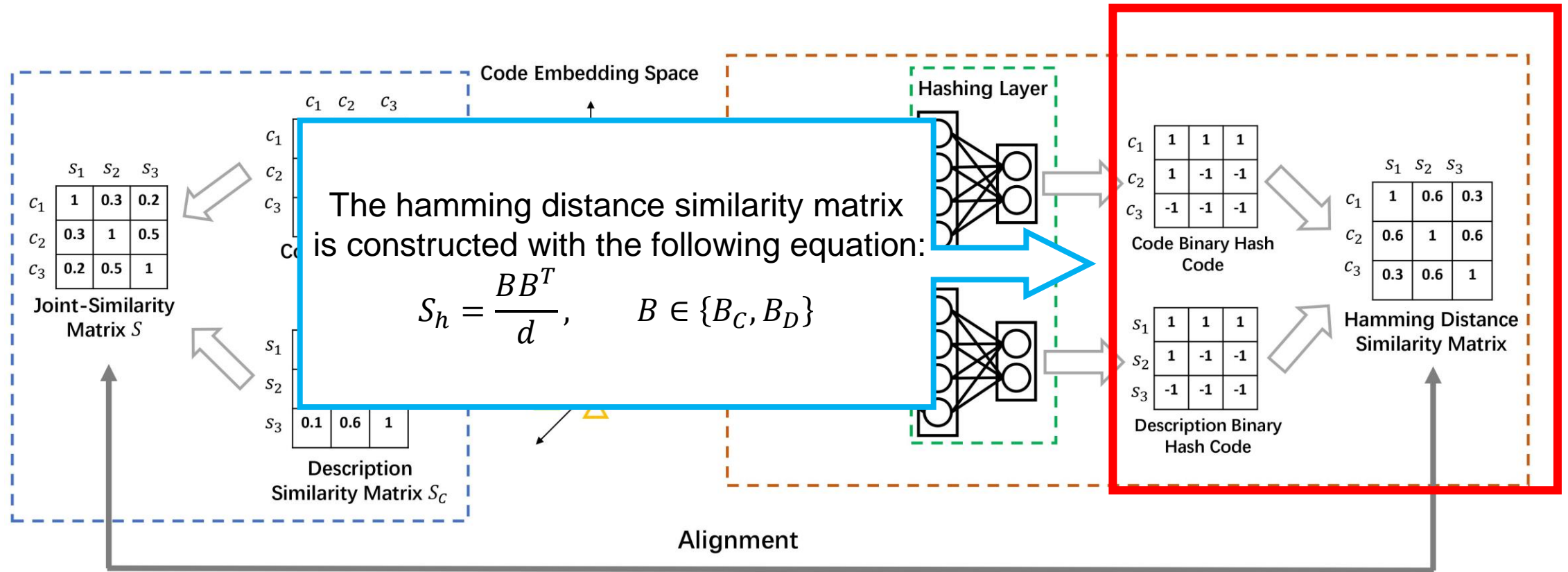
Sets diagonal elements of the joint-similarity matrix to be 1:

$$S_{F_{ij}} = \begin{cases} 1, & i = j \\ S_{ij}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

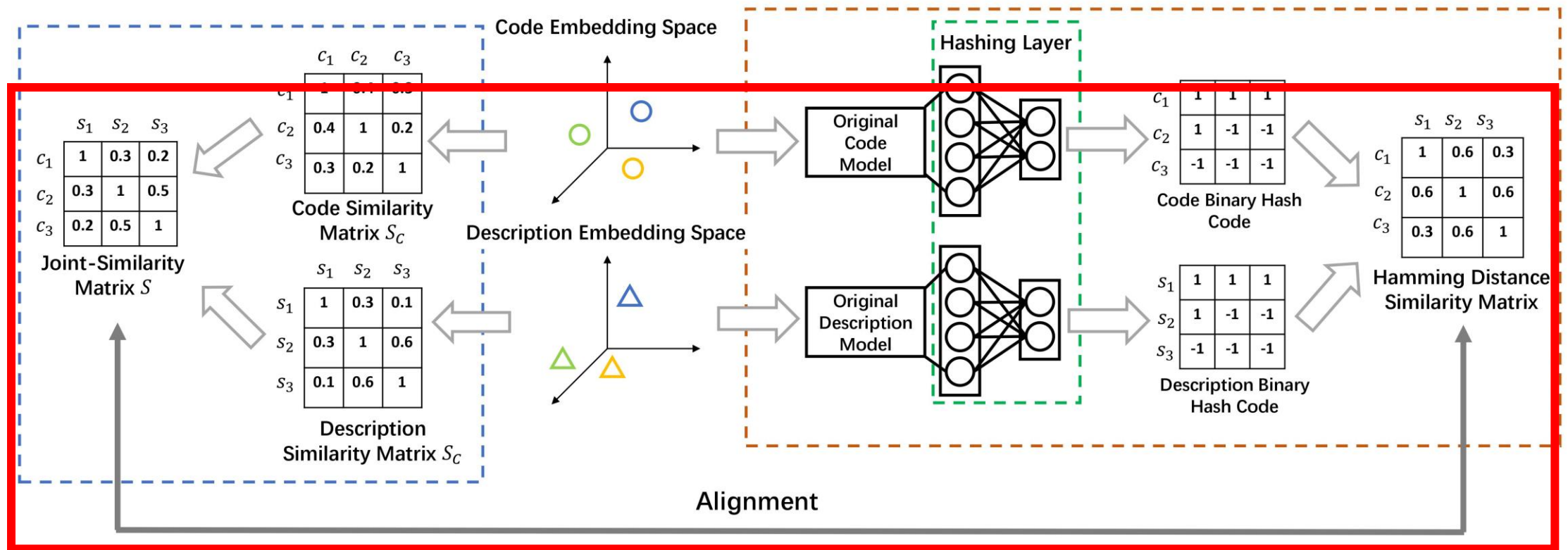
Architecture of the hashing module



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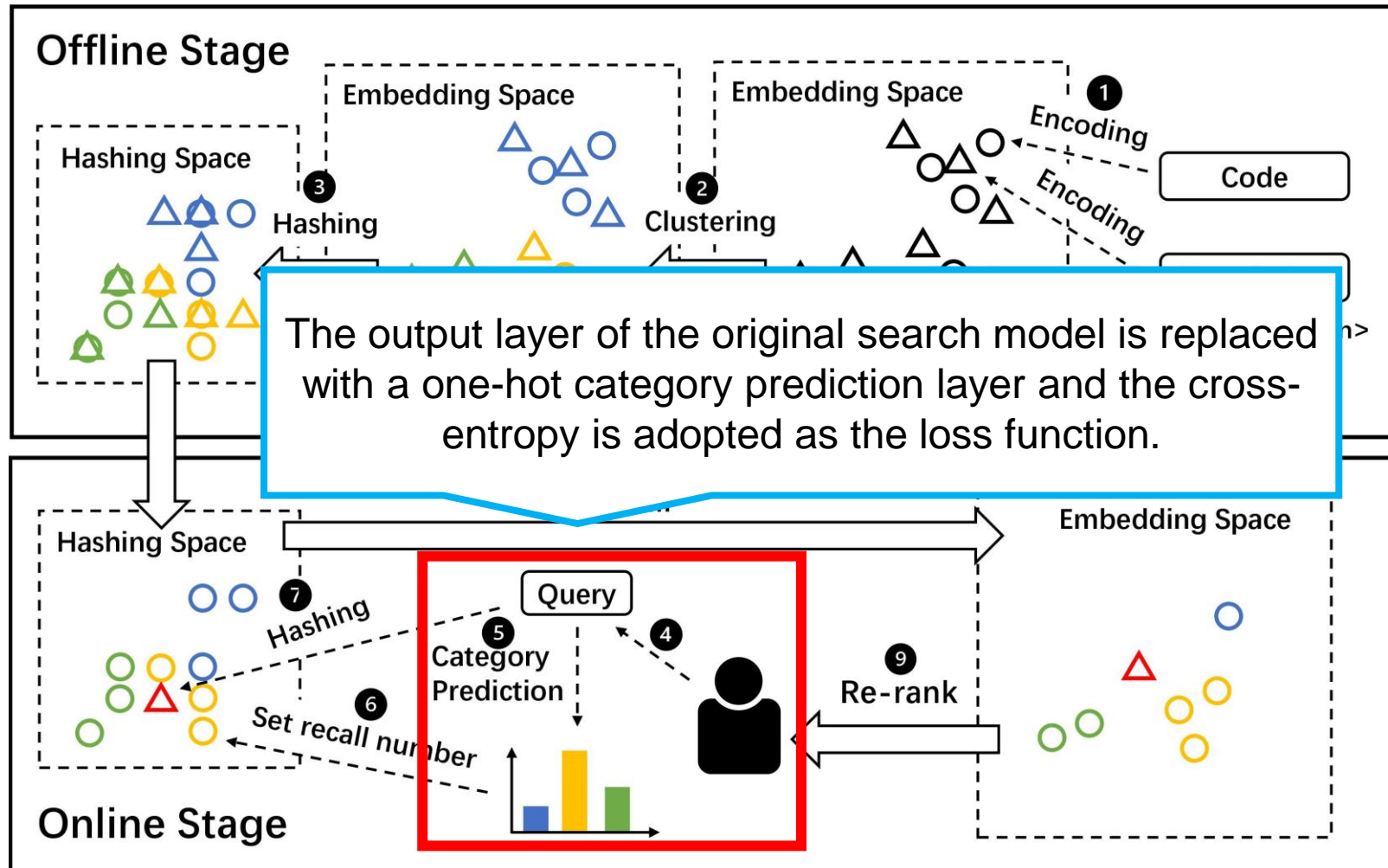
Hash code alignment

- The loss function of alignment is

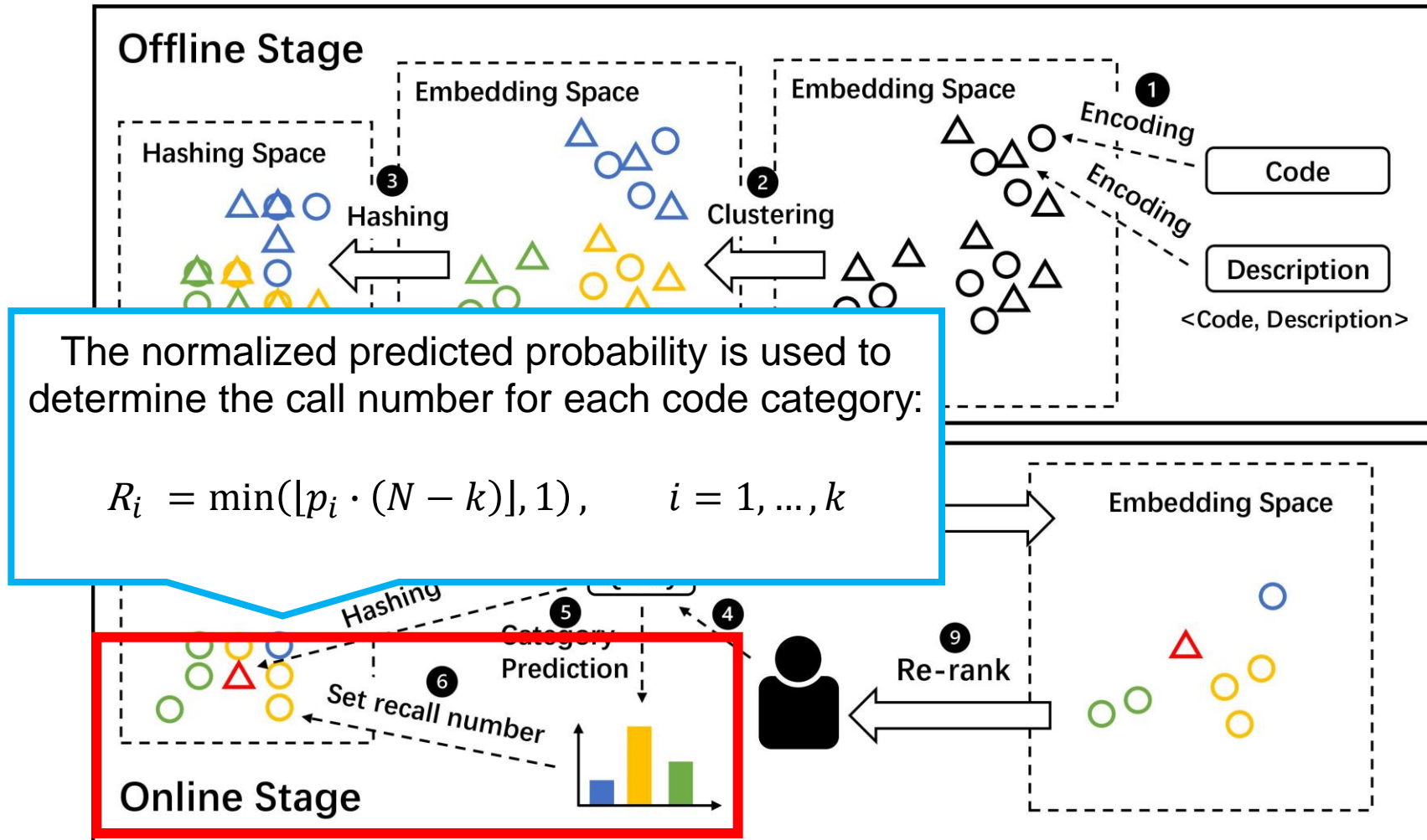
$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \min_{B_C, B_D} \left\| \min(\mu S_F, 1) - \frac{B_C B_D^T}{d} \right\|_F^2 + \lambda_1 \left\| \min(\mu S_F, 1) - \frac{B_C B_C^T}{d} \right\|_F^2 + \lambda_2 \left\| \min(\mu S_F, 1) - \frac{B_D B_D^T}{d} \right\|_F^2$$

$s. t. B_C, B_D \in \{-1, +1\}^{m \times d}$

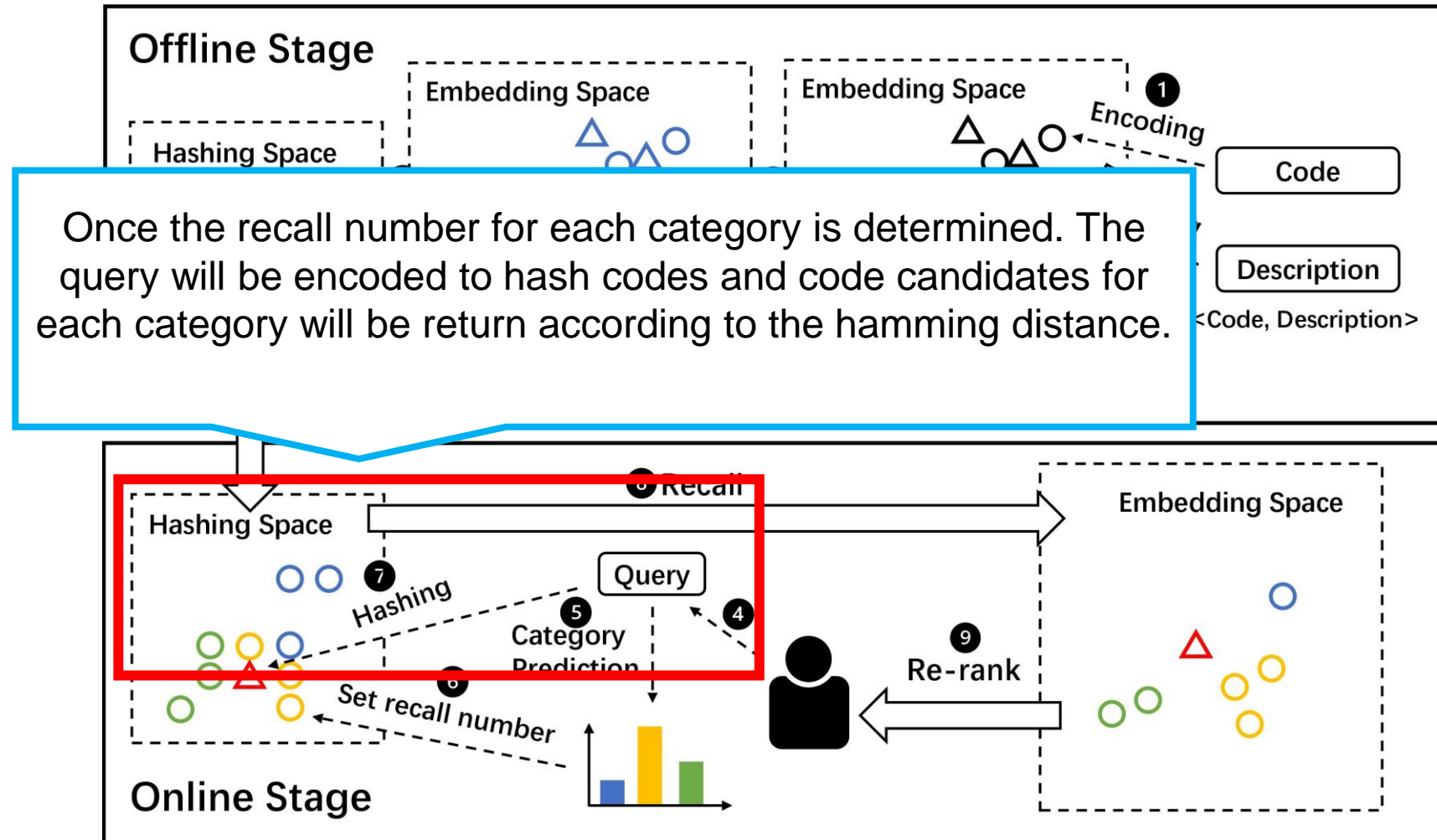
Framework – Online Stage



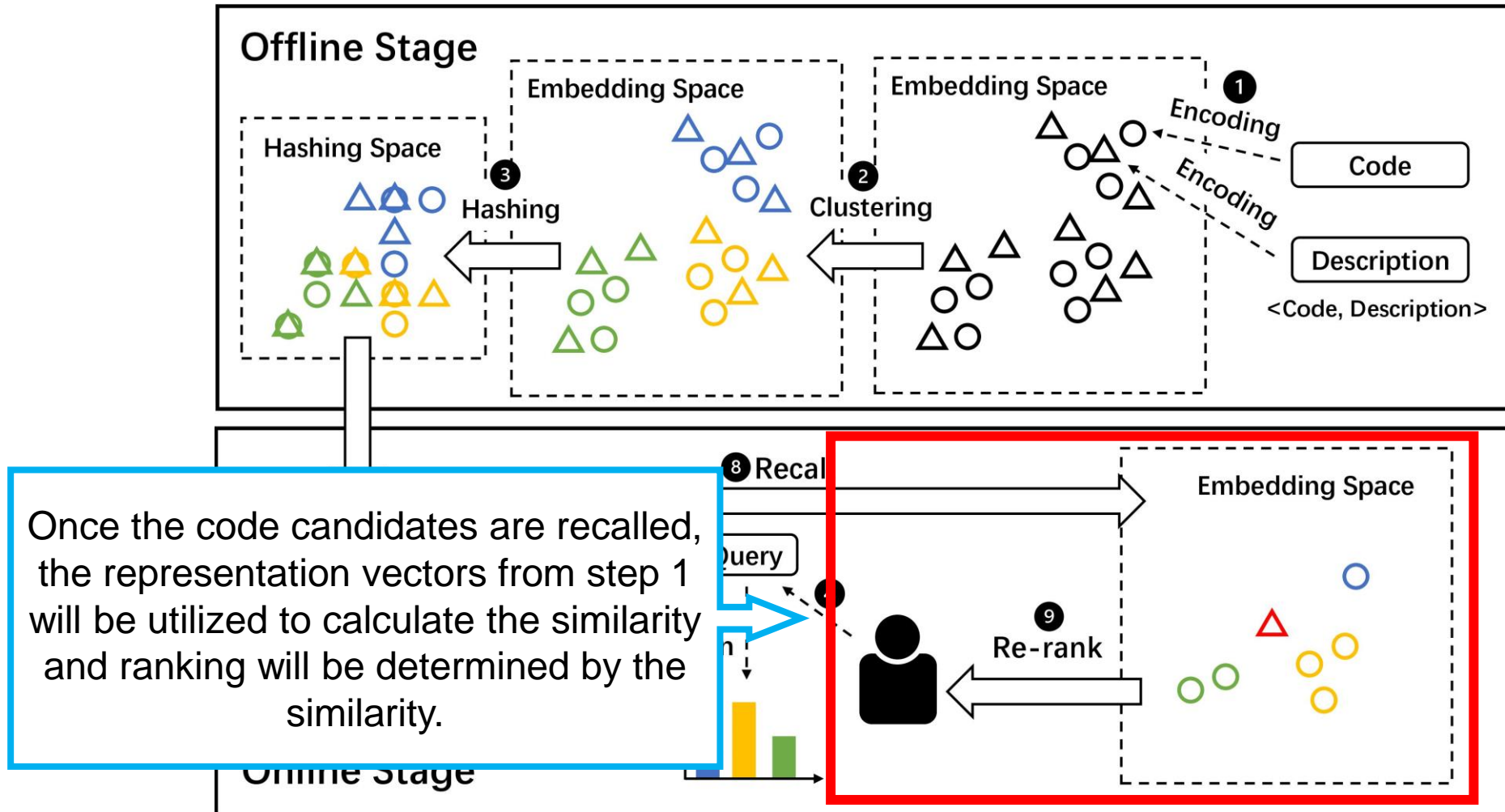
Framework



Framework



Framework



Evaluation 1: Time efficiency

- Dataset: CodeSearchNet

	Python	Java
<i>Total Time</i>		
CodeBERT	572.97s	247.78s
CoSHC	33.87s (↓94.09%)	15.78s (↓93.51%)
<i>(1) Vector Similarity Calculation</i>		
CodeBERT	531.95s	234.08s
CoSHC	14.43s (↓97.29%)	7.25s (↓96.90%)
<i>(2) Array Sorting</i>		
CodeBERT	41.02s	13.70s
CoSHC	19.44s (↓53.61%)	8.53s (↓37.74%)

COSHC can greatly reduce the cost of similarity calculation. Besides, COSHC can also reduce the cost of sorting by dividing a large code dataset into several small code datasets

Evaluation 2: Overall performance

Model	Python			Java		
	R@1	R@5	R@10	R@1	R@5	R@10
UNIF	0.071	0.173	0.236	0.084	0.193	0.254
CoSHC _{UNIF}	0.072 (↑1.4%)	0.177 (↑2.3%)	0.241 (↑2.1%)	0.086 (↑2.4%)	0.198 (↑2.6%)	0.264 (↑3.9%)
–w/o classification	0.071 (0.0%)	0.174 (↑0.6%)	0.236 (0.0%)	0.085 (↑1.2%)	0.193 (0.0%)	0.254 (0.0%)
–one classification	0.069 (↓2.8%)	0.163 (↓5.8%)	0.216 (↓8.5%)	0.083 (↓1.2%)	0.183 (↓5.2%)	0.236 (↓7.1%)
–ideal classification	0.077 (↑6.9%)	0.202 (↑16.8%)	0.277 (↑17.4%)	0.093 (↑10.7%)	0.222 (↑15.0%)	0.296 (↑16.5%)
RNN	0.111	0.253	0.333	0.073	0.184	0.250
CoSHC _{RNN}	0.112 (↑0.9%)	0.259 (↑2.4%)	0.343 (↑5.0%)	0.076 (↑4.1%)	0.194 (↑5.4%)	0.265 (↑6.0%)
–w/o classification	0.112 (↑0.9%)	0.254 (↑0.4%)	0.335 (↑0.6%)	0.073 (0.0%)	0.186 (↑1.1%)	0.253 (↑1.2%)
–one classification	0.112 (↑0.9%)	0.243 (↓4.0%)	0.311 (↓6.6%)	0.075 (↑2.7%)	0.182 (↓1.1%)	0.240 (↓4.0%)
–ideal classification	0.123 (↑10.8%)	0.289 (↑14.2%)	0.385 (↑15.6%)	0.084 (↑15.1%)	0.221 (↑20.1%)	0.302 (↑20.8%)
CodeBERTa	0.124	0.250	0.314	0.089	0.203	0.264
CoSHC _{CodeBERTa}	0.123 (↓0.8%)	0.247 (↓1.2%)	0.309 (↓1.6%)	0.090 (↑1.1%)	0.210 (↑3.4%)	0.272 (↑3.0%)
–w/o classification	0.122 (↓1.6%)	0.242 (↓3.2%)	0.302 (↓3.8%)	0.089 (0.0%)	0.201 (↓1.0%)	0.258 (↓2.3%)
–one classification	0.116 (↓6.5%)	0.221 (↓11.6%)	0.271 (↓13.7%)	0.085 (↓4.5%)	0.189 (↓6.9%)	0.238 (↓9.8%)
–ideal classification	0.135 (↑8.9%)	0.276 (↑10.4%)	0.346 (↑10.2%)	0.100 (↑12.4%)	0.235 (↑15.8%)	0.305 (↑15.5%)
CodeBERT	0.451	0.683	0.759	0.319	0.537	0.608
CoSHC _{CodeBERT}	0.451 (0.0%)	0.679 (↓0.6%)	0.750 (↓1.2%)	0.318 (↓0.3%)	0.533 (↓0.7%)	0.602 (↓1.0%)
–w/o classification	0.449 (↓0.4%)	0.673 (↓1.5%)	0.742 (↓2.2%)	0.316 (↓0.9%)	0.527 (↓1.9%)	0.593 (↓2.5%)
–one classification	0.425 (↓5.8%)	0.613 (↓10.2%)	0.665 (↓12.4%)	0.304 (↓4.7%)	0.483 (↓10.1%)	0.532 (↓12.5%)
–ideal classification	0.460 (↑2.0%)	0.703 (↑2.9%)	0.775 (↑2.1%)	0.329 (↑3.1%)	0.555 (↑3.4%)	0.627 (↑3.1%)
GraphCodeBERT	0.485	0.726	0.792	0.353	0.571	0.640
CoSHC _{GraphCodeBERT}	0.483 (↓0.4%)	0.719 (↓1.0%)	0.782 (↓1.3%)	0.350 (↓0.8%)	0.561 (↓1.8%)	0.625 (↓2.3%)
–w/o classification	0.481 (↓0.8%)	0.713 (↓1.8%)	0.774 (↓2.3%)	0.347 (↓1.7%)	0.553 (↓3.2%)	0.616 (↓3.7%)
–one classification	0.459 (↓5.4%)	0.653 (↓10.1%)	0.698 (↓11.9%)	0.329 (↓7.8%)	0.505 (↓11.6%)	0.551 (↓13.9%)
–ideal classification	0.494 (↑1.9%)	0.741 (↑2.1%)	0.803 (↑1.4%)	0.361 (↑2.3%)	0.585 (↑2.5%)	0.649 (↑1.4%)

CoSHC can retain original model performance well.

(e.g., at least **99.2%**, **98.2%** and **97.7%** accuracy of GraphCodeBERT on Java in terms of R@1, R@5 and R@10, respectively).

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CoSHC even outperforms the original baseline model when the performance of the baselines are not so good.

Evaluation 2: Effectiveness of Code Classification

Model	Python			Java		
	R@1	R@5	R@10	R@1	R@5	R@10
UNIF	0.071	0.173	0.236	0.084	0.193	0.254
CoSHC _{UNIF}	0.072 (↑1.4%)	0.177 (↑2.3%)	0.241 (↑2.1%)	0.086 (↑2.4%)	0.198 (↑2.6%)	0.264 (↑3.9%)
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–ideal classification	0.123 (↑10.8%)	0.289 (↑14.2%)	0.385 (↑15.6%)	0.084 (↑15.1%)	0.221 (↑20.1%)	0.302 (↑20.8%)
CodeBERTa	0.124	0.250	0.314	0.089	0.203	0.264
CoSHC _{CodeBERTa}	0.123 (↓0.8%)	0.247 (↓1.2%)	0.309 (↓1.6%)	0.090 (↑1.1%)	0.210 (↑3.4%)	0.272 (↑3.0%)
–w/o classification	0.122 (↓1.6%)	0.242 (↓3.2%)	0.302 (↓3.8%)	0.089 (0.0%)	0.201 (↓1.0%)	0.258 (↓2.3%)
–one classification	0.116 (↓6.5%)	0.221 (↓11.6%)	0.271 (↓13.7%)	0.085 (↓4.5%)	0.189 (↓6.9%)	0.238 (↓9.8%)
–ideal classification	0.135 (↑8.9%)	0.276 (↑10.4%)	0.346 (↑10.2%)	0.100 (↑12.4%)	0.235 (↑15.8%)	0.305 (↑15.5%)
CodeBERT	0.451	0.683	0.759	0.319	0.537	0.608
CoSHC _{CodeBERT}	0.451 (0.0%)	0.679 (↓0.6%)	0.750 (↓1.2%)	0.318 (↓0.3%)	0.533 (↓0.7%)	0.602 (↓1.0%)
–w/o classification	0.449 (↓0.4%)	0.673 (↓1.5%)	0.742 (↓2.2%)	0.316 (↓0.9%)	0.527 (↓1.9%)	0.593 (↓2.5%)
–one classification	0.425 (↓5.8%)	0.613 (↓10.2%)	0.665 (↓12.4%)	0.304 (↓4.7%)	0.483 (↓10.1%)	0.532 (↓12.5%)
–ideal classification	0.460 (↑2.0%)	0.703 (↑2.9%)	0.775 (↑2.1%)	0.329 (↑3.1%)	0.555 (↑3.4%)	0.627 (↑3.1%)
GraphCodeBERT	0.485	0.726	0.792	0.353	0.571	0.640
CoSHC _{GraphCodeBERT}	0.483 (↓0.4%)	0.719 (↓1.0%)	0.782 (↓1.3%)	0.350 (↓0.8%)	0.561 (↓1.8%)	0.625 (↓2.3%)
–w/o classification	0.481 (↓0.8%)	0.713 (↓1.8%)	0.774 (↓2.3%)	0.347 (↓1.7%)	0.553 (↓3.2%)	0.616 (↓3.7%)
–one classification	0.459 (↓5.4%)	0.653 (↓10.1%)	0.698 (↓11.9%)	0.329 (↓7.8%)	0.505 (↓11.6%)	0.551 (↓13.9%)
–ideal classification	0.494 (↑1.9%)	0.741 (↑2.1%)	0.803 (↑1.4%)	0.361 (↑2.3%)	0.585 (↑2.5%)	0.649 (↑1.4%)

With the ideal category labels, CoSHC can even outperform all baseline models.

Evaluation 3: Ablation Study

Model	Python			Java		
	R@1	R@5	R@10	R@1	R@5	R@10
UNIF	0.071	0.173	0.236	0.084	0.193	0.254
CoSHC _{UNIF}	0.072 (↑1.4%)	0.177 (↑2.3%)	0.241 (↑2.1%)	0.086 (↑2.4%)	0.198 (↑2.6%)	0.264 (↑3.9%)
–w/o classification	0.071 (0.0%)	0.174 (↑0.6%)	0.236 (0.0%)	0.085 (↑1.2%)	0.193 (0.0%)	0.254 (0.0%)
–one classification	0.069 (↓2.8%)	0.163 (↓5.8%)	0.216 (↓8.5%)	0.083 (↓1.2%)	0.183 (↓5.2%)	0.236 (↓7.1%)
–ideal classification	0.077 (↑6.9%)	0.202 (↑16.8%)	0.277 (↑17.4%)	0.093 (↑10.7%)	0.222 (↑15.0%)	0.296 (↑16.5%)
RNN	0.111	0.253	0.333	0.073	0.184	0.250
CoSHC _{RNN}	0.112 (↑0.9%)	0.259 (↑2.4%)	0.343 (↑5.0%)	0.076 (↑4.1%)	0.194 (↑5.4%)	0.265 (↑6.0%)
–w/o classification	0.112 (↑0.9%)	0.254 (↑0.4%)	0.335 (↑0.6%)	0.073 (0.0%)	0.186 (↑1.1%)	0.253 (↑1.2%)
–one classification	0.112 (↑0.9%)	0.243 (↓4.0%)	0.311 (↓6.6%)	0.075 (↑2.7%)	0.182 (↓1.1%)	0.240 (↓4.0%)
–ideal classification	0.123 (↑10.8%)	0.289 (↑14.2%)	0.385 (↑15.6%)	0.084 (↑15.1%)	0.221 (↑20.1%)	0.302 (↑20.8%)
CodeBERTa	0.124	0.250	0.314	0.089	0.203	0.264
CoSHC _{CodeBERTa}	0.123 (↓0.8%)	0.247 (↓1.2%)	0.309 (↓1.6%)	0.090 (↑1.1%)	0.210 (↑3.4%)	0.272 (↑3.0%)
–w/o classification	0.122 (↓1.6%)	0.242 (↓3.2%)	0.302 (↓3.8%)	0.089 (0.0%)	0.201 (↓1.0%)	0.258 (↓2.3%)
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–ideal classification	0.135 (↑8.9%)	0.276 (↑10.4%)	0.346 (↑10.2%)	0.100 (↑12.4%)	0.235 (↑15.8%)	0.305 (↑15.5%)
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–w/o classification	0.481 (↓0.8%)	0.713 (↓1.8%)	0.774 (↓2.3%)	0.347 (↓1.7%)	0.553 (↓3.2%)	0.616 (↓3.7%)
–one classification	0.459 (↓5.4%)	0.653 (↓10.1%)	0.698 (↓11.9%)	0.329 (↓7.8%)	0.505 (↓11.6%)	0.551 (↓13.9%)
–ideal classification	0.494 (↑1.9%)	0.741 (↑2.1%)	0.803 (↑7.4%)	0.361 (↑2.3%)	0.585 (↑2.5%)	0.649 (↑1.4%)

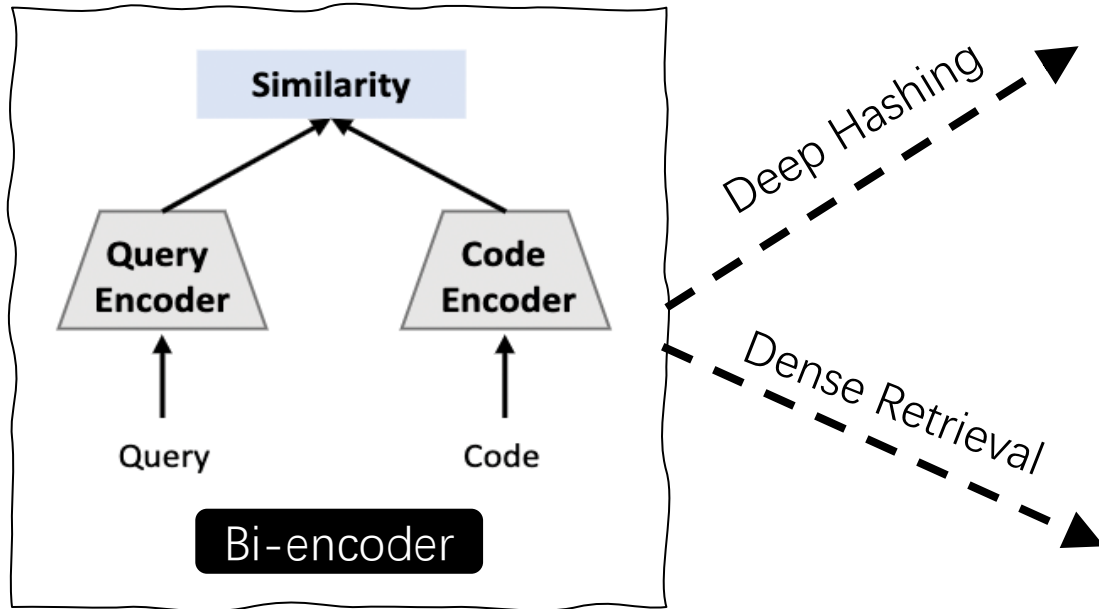
CoSHC outperforms all the variants

Evaluation 4: Classification Accuracy

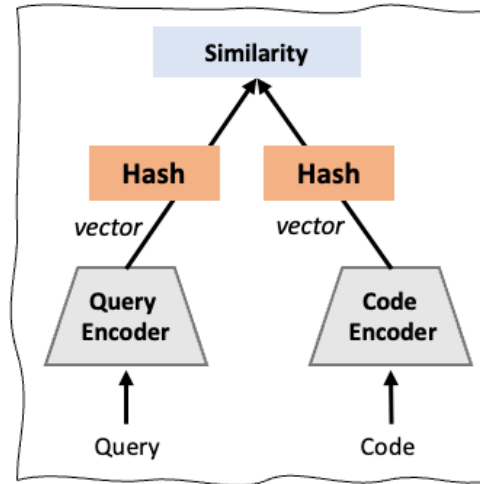
Model	Python Acc.	Java Acc.
CoSHC _{UNIF}	0.558	0.545
CoSHC _{RNN}	0.610	0.535
CoSHC _{CodeBERTa}	0.591	0.571
CoSHC _{CodeBERT}	0.694	0.657
CoSHC _{GraphCodeBERT}	0.713	0.653

The retrieval accuracy of the original code search models is higher, the prediction accuracy also tends to be higher.

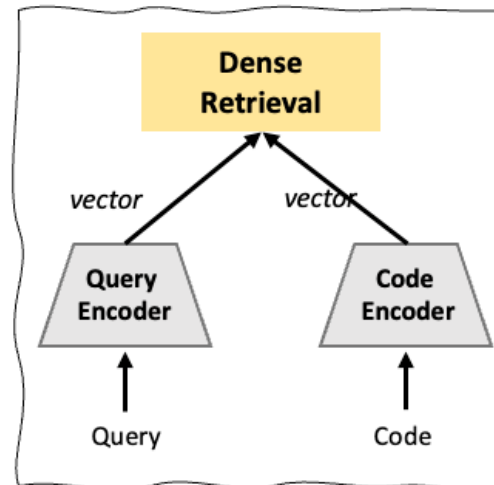
Ongoing/Future work



Deep Hashing



Dense Retrieval



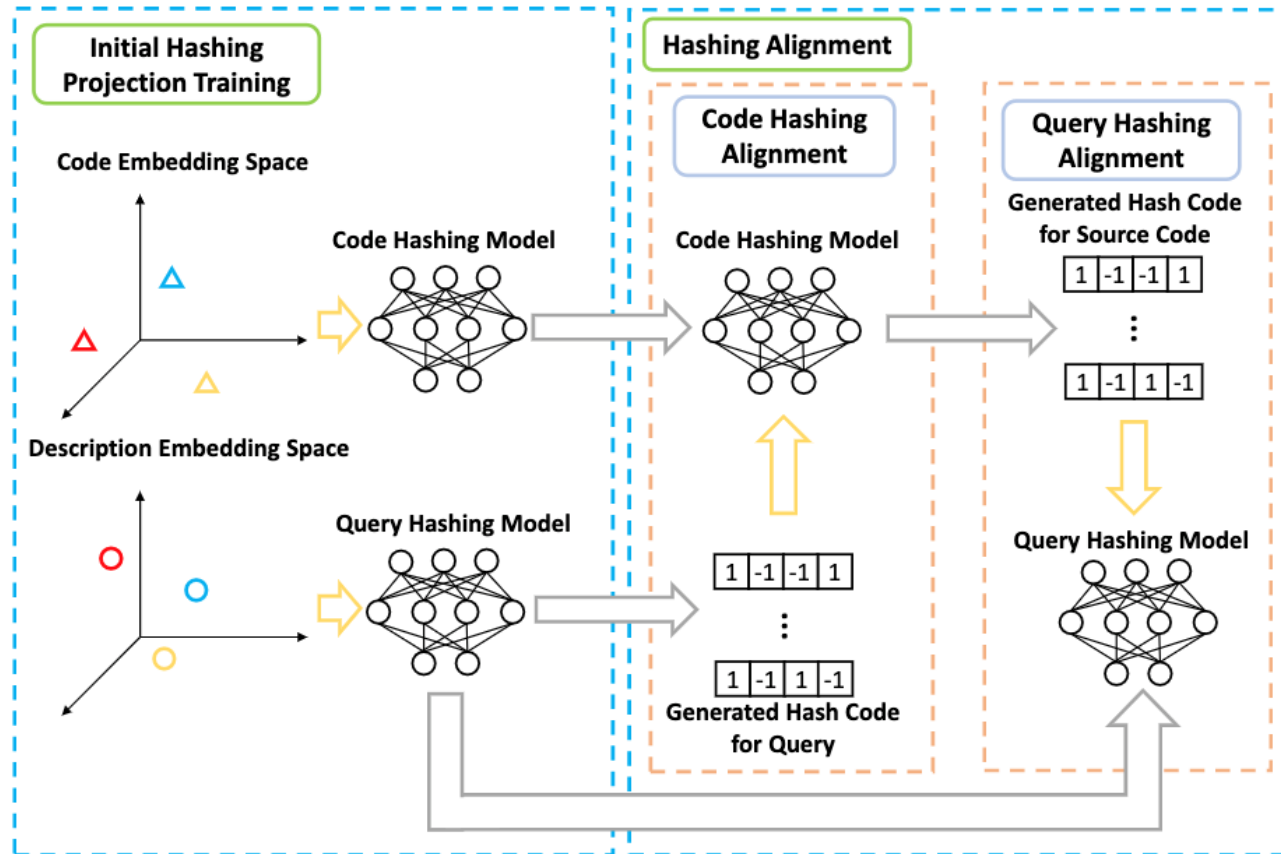
Works 😊

Further improvements (?)

?

Ongoing/Future work

1. Improvement on CoSHC with segmented hashing



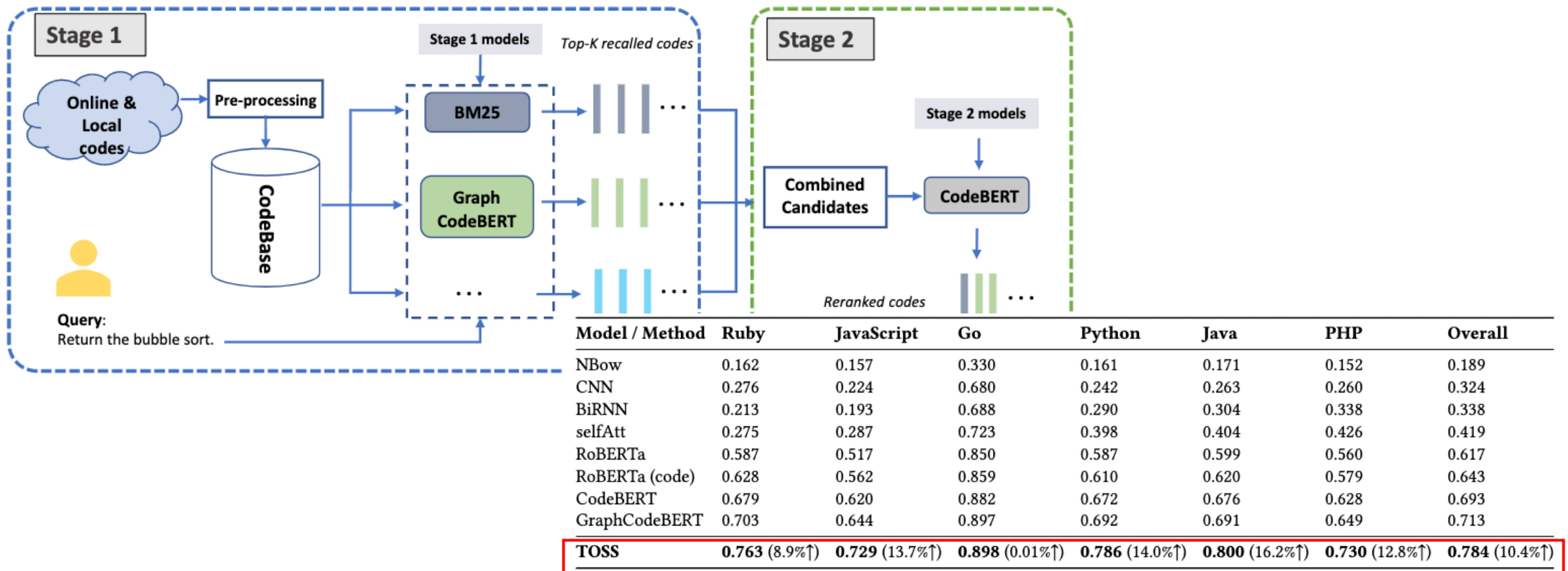
Promising preliminary results



Ongoing/Future work

2. Combination of IR & DL based approaches

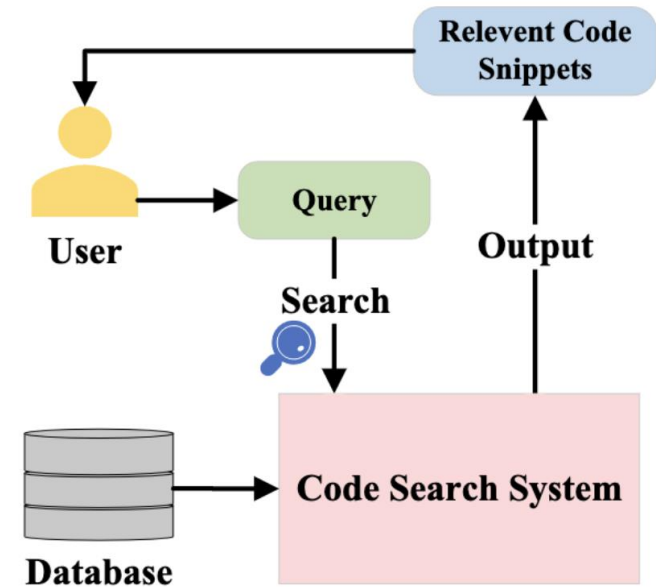
- Preliminary results are promising, both in accuracy and efficiency.



Ongoing/Future work



- Multi-stage retrieval
- Better evaluation metrics for code search
- Larger and more practical datasets
- Human in the loop: Interactive multi-turn code search



Thanks!

Open for discussion and collaboration:

wangyin36@mail.sysu.edu.cn

<https://yanlin.info>