Manifold-Consistent Graph Indexing: Overcoming the Euclidean-Geodesic Mismatch via Local Intrinsic Dimensionality

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Abstract

Graph-based Approximate Nearest Neighbor (ANN) search often suffers from performance degradation in high-dimensional spaces due to the "Euclidean-Geodesic mismatch," where greedy routing diverges from the underlying data manifold. To address this, we propose Manifold-Consistent Graph Indexing (MCGI), a geometry-aware indexing method. Unlike standard algorithms that treat dimensions uniformly, MCGI leverages Local Intrinsic Dimensionality (LID) to dynamically adapt the graph topology and search strategy to the data's intrinsic geometry. Theoretical analysis confirms that MCGI enables improved approximation guarantees by preserving topological connectivity. Empirically, MCGI significantly outperforms state-of-the-art disk-based baselines, achieving up to **5.8$\times$ higher throughput** on high-dimensional benchmarks while maintaining competitive performance on standard datasets.

1. Introduction

The advent of Large Language Models (LLMs) has fundamentally transformed the landscape of information retrieval and knowledge management. To address the inherent limitations of LLMs, such as hallucinations and cutoff dates, Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) has emerged as a critical architectural paradigm. RAG relies heavily on the ability to retrieve semantically relevant context from massive corpora in real-time. This dependency has placed Approximate Nearest Neighbor Search (ANNS) at the core of modern data infrastructure, demanding vector indices that can scale to billion-point datasets while maintaining low latency and high recall.

State-of-the-art ANNS solutions have largely converged on graph-based indices, with DiskANN (Vamana) being a representative example for SSD-resident workloads. These algorithms typically employ greedy routing on a proximity graph to navigate from an entry point to the query target. While such methods exhibit exceptional performance on standard benchmarks like SIFT1M (128 dimensions), their efficiency degrades significantly in high-dimensional spaces, such as GIST1M (960 dimensions). This degradation is often attributed to the curse of dimensionality, where the distance contrast diminishes, and the Euclidean shortest path on the graph diverges from the geodesic path on the underlying data manifold. We refer to this phenomenon as the Euclidean-Geodesic mismatch. When the routing algorithm ignores the intrinsic geometry of the data, it performs excessive backtracking and disk I/O, rendering the search inefficient.

Our key insight is that high-dimensional real-world data is rarely uniformly distributed. Instead, it typically adheres to the Manifold Hypothesis, residing on lower-dimensional structures embedded within the ambient space. Consequently, the search difficulty is not uniform across the dataset but is modulated by the Local Intrinsic Dimensionality (LID). In regions where the data manifold is flat (low LID), greedy routing is effective; in regions with high curvature or complex topology (high LID), standard greedy strategies fail to identify the correct descent direction. We argue that an optimal indexing strategy must be manifold-aware, dynamically allocating computational resources based on the local geometric complexity.

In this paper, we propose Manifold-Consistent Graph Indexing (MCGI), a novel disk-based ANN solution that explicitly bridges the gap between Euclidean search and the underlying manifold structure. By integrating LID estimation into the routing logic, MCGI adapts its search behavior to the local topology of the data. Our contributions are summarized as follows:

- We formalize the relationship between local intrinsic dimensionality and graph routing complexity, providing a theoretical basis for adaptive beam search on Riemannian manifolds.
- We propose a lightweight, parameter-free adaptive rout-

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ing algorithm that dynamically modulates the search budget. This approach eliminates the need for exhaustive parameter tuning characteristic of previous methods.

- We demonstrate through extensive experiments that MCGI significantly outperforms state-of-the-art baselines on high-dimensional data. On the GIST1M benchmark, MCGI achieves a 5.8 times increase in query throughput at high recall (95%) compared to DiskANN, without incurring performance regression on standard low-dimensional datasets.

2. Related Work

We review the literature relevant to our work, categorizing it into graph-based ANNS, high-dimensional indexing, and intrinsic dimensionality analysis.

Graph-based ANNS. Graph-based indices currently dominate the ANNS landscape due to their superior recall-latency trade-offs. The Hierarchical Navigable Small World (HNSW) graph utilizes a multi-layer structure to enable logarithmic scaling, but its high memory footprint limits its applicability to billion-scale datasets. To support larger scales, disk-based approaches have been developed. DiskANN (Vamana) relaxes the graph sparsity constraints to maximize the coverage of local neighborhoods, allowing the index to reside on SSDs while caching a compressed representation in DRAM. While highly effective for data with moderate dimensionality (e.g., 100 to 128), these methods rely on a static search list size, which becomes a bottleneck when processing non-uniform, high-dimensional data distributions.

High-Dimensional Indexing. Prior to the dominance of graph methods, tree-based and hashing-based approaches were widely explored. Structures such as KD-trees and R-trees partition the space hierarchically but suffer severely from the curse of dimensionality, degrading to linear scan performance when the dimension exceeds 20. Locality-Sensitive Hashing (LSH) offers theoretical guarantees and sub-linear search time. However, to achieve high recall in practice, LSH requires maintaining a large number of hash tables, resulting in excessive storage overhead and random I/O patterns that are unfriendly to storage devices. MCGI differs from these approaches by retaining the efficiency of graph traversal while addressing the dimensional sensitivity that plagues traditional partitioning methods.

Intrinsic Dimensionality. The concept of intrinsic dimensionality has long been studied to characterize the complexity of datasets. Theoretical works have introduced measures such as the expansion dimension and the doubling dimension to bound the complexity of nearest neighbor search. Karger and Ruhl proposed the KR-dimension to analyze search algorithms in growth-restricted metrics. More recently, practical estimators for Local Intrinsic Dimensionality (LID) have been developed, typically based on the distribution of distances to the k-nearest neighbors. While these measures have been used for query performance prediction or outlier detection, they have rarely been integrated directly into the core routing mechanism of graph indices. MCGI leverages these theoretical tools to actively guide the index construction and search process.

3. Methodology

3.1. Definitions

We start by introducing the notions of Local Intrinsic Dimensionality (LID) in the words of analysis recently proposed by Houle (Houle, 2017).

Definition 3.1 (Local Intrinsic Dimensionality). Let $\mathcal{X}$ be a domain equipped with a distance measure $d : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}^+$. For a reference point $x \in \mathcal{X}$, let $F_x(r) = \mathbb{P}(d(x, Y) \leq r)$ denote the cumulative distribution function (CDF) of the distance between x and a random variable Y drawn from the underlying data distribution. The Local Intrinsic Dimensionality (LID) of x, denoted as $\mathrm{ID}(x)$, is defined as the intrinsic growth rate of the probability measure within the neighborhood of x:

$$\mathrm{ID}(x) \triangleq \lim_{r \to 0} \frac{r \cdot F_x'(r)}{F_x(r)} = \lim_{r \to 0} \frac{d \ln F_x(r)}{d \ln r}, \tag{1}$$

provided the limit exists and $F_x(r)$ is continuously differentiable for $r > 0$.

Remark 3.2 (Institution of LID). The definition of LID can be understood as a measure of the multiplicative growth rate of the volume of a ball centered at x with radius r as r approaches 0. Let D denote the dimensionality of the ambient space. If the data lies on a local D-dimensional manifold, then the CDF around an infinitely small neighborhood of x satisfies:

$$F_x(r) \approx C \cdot r^D, \tag{2}$$

where C is a constant. Thus, the following holds:

$$F_x'(r) \approx C \cdot D \cdot r^{D-1}. \tag{3}$$

Combining equations (2) and (3), we get:

$$D \approx \frac{F_x'(r)}{F_x(r)} \cdot r, \tag{4}$$

thus Eq. (1).

While Eq. 3.1 provides an intuitive closed-form formula for intrinsic dimensionality, in practice we usually do not have access to the true CDF $F_x(r)$. Luckily, we can estimate LID from a finite sample of distances from x to its neighbors using Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) as proposed by (Levina & Bickel, 2004). According to (Amsaleg et al., 2015), LID can be estimated as follows.

Definition 3.3 (LID Maximum Likelihood Estimator)**.** Given a reference point x and its k-nearest neighbors determined by the distance measure d, let $r_i = d(x, v_i)$ denote the distance to the i-th nearest neighbor, sorted such that $r_1 \leq \cdots \leq r_k$. Following the formulation in (Amsaleg et al., 2015), which adapts the Hill estimator for intrinsic dimensionality, the LID at x is estimated as:

$$\widehat{\text{LID}}(x) = -\left(\frac{1}{k}\sum_{i=1}^{k} \ln \frac{r_i}{r_k}\right)^{-1}. \tag{5}$$

3.2. Mapping Function

The primary goal of Manifold-Consistent Graph Indexing is that the graph topology should adapt to the local geometric complexity. In regions where the Local Intrinsic Dimensionality (LID) is low, the data manifold approximates a flat Euclidean subspace. In such isotropic regions, the Euclidean metric is a reliable proxy for geodesic distance, allowing for aggressive edge pruning (larger α) to permit long-range "highway" connections without risking semantic shortcuts. Conversely, regions with high LID typically exhibit significant curvature, noise, or singularity. Here, the Euclidean distance often violates the manifold geodesic structure. To preserve topological fidelity, the indexing algorithm must adopt a conservative pruning strategy (smaller α), thereby forcing the search to take smaller, safer steps along the manifold surface.

Let $u \in V$ be a node in the graph, and $\widehat{\text{LID}}(u)$ be its estimated local intrinsic dimensionality. We define the pruning parameter $\alpha(u)$ as:

$$\alpha(u) \triangleq \Phi(\widehat{\text{LID}}(u)). \tag{6}$$

The function $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^+ \to [\alpha_{\min}, \alpha_{\max}]$ is designed to satisfy the following geometric intuition: in regions with high LID, the graph should enforce a stricter connectivity constraint (smaller α) to avoid short-circuiting the manifold; conversely, in low-LID regions, the constraint can be relaxed (larger α).

To ensure the mapping is robust across datasets with varying complexity scales, we employ Z-score normalization based on the empirical distribution of the LID estimates. We first compute the normalized score $z(u)$:

$$z(u) = \frac{\widehat{\text{LID}}(u) - \mu_{\widehat{\text{LID}}}}{\sigma_{\widehat{\text{LID}}}}, \tag{7}$$

where $\mu_{\widehat{\text{LID}}}$ and $\sigma_{\widehat{\text{LID}}}$ denote the mean and standard deviation of the set of estimated LID values $\{\widehat{\text{LID}}(v) \mid v \in V\}$ computed across the entire graph.

We then formulate Φ using a logistic function to smoothly map the Z-score to the operational range $[\alpha_{\min}, \alpha_{\max}]$:

$$\Phi(\widehat{\text{LID}}(u)) = \alpha_{\min} + \frac{\alpha_{\max} - \alpha_{\min}}{1 + \exp(z(u))}. \tag{8}$$

We employ the logistic function over a linear mapping to exploit its saturation properties. LID estimates often exhibit heavy-tailed distributions with extreme outliers. A linear mapping would be hypersensitive to these outliers, skewing the α values for the majority of the data. The logistic function acts as a robust soft-thresholding mechanism: it reduces the variance in the high-LID and low-LID tails (saturating towards $\alpha_{\min}$ and $\alpha_{\max}$, respectively) while maintaining sensitivity in the transition region around the population mean. We set $\alpha_{\min} = 1.0$ and $\alpha_{\max} = 1.5$ following standard practices in graph indexing (Jayaram Subramanya et al., 2019). This formulation ensures that nodes with average complexity ($z(u) \approx 0$) are assigned $\alpha \approx 1.25$, while nodes with significantly higher complexity ($z(u) > 0$) are penalized with a stricter α approaching the limit of 1.0.

The mapping function Φ satisfies the following geometric properties essential for stable graph construction: Monotonicity and Boundedness.

Proposition 3.4 (Monotonicity)**.** *The mapping function Φ is strictly decreasing with respect to the estimated local intrinsic dimensionality. Formally, given that the standard deviation of the LID estimates $\sigma_{\widehat{LID}} > 0$ and the pruning range $\alpha_{\max} > \alpha_{\min}$, the derivative satisfies:*

$$\frac{d\Phi}{d\widehat{LID}(u)} < 0. \tag{9}$$

Proof. Let $L = \widehat{\text{LID}}(u)$ be the independent variable. We define the normalized Z-score z as a function of L:

$$z(L) = \frac{L - \mu_{\widehat{\text{LID}}}}{\sigma_{\widehat{\text{LID}}}}. \tag{10}$$

The mapping function is defined as:

$$\Phi(L) = \alpha_{\min} + \frac{C}{1 + \exp(z(L))}, \tag{11}$$

where $C = \alpha_{\max} - \alpha_{\min}$. Since we strictly set $\alpha_{\max} = 1.5$ and $\alpha_{\min} = 1.0$, it follows that $C > 0$. To determine the sign of the gradient, we apply the chain rule:

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dL} = \frac{d\Phi}{dz} \cdot \frac{dz}{dL}. \tag{12}$$

First, we differentiate the Z-score term with respect to L:

$$\frac{dz}{dL} = \frac{1}{\sigma_{\widehat{\text{LID}}}}. \tag{13}$$

Next, we differentiate the logistic component Φ with respect to z:

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dz} = \frac{d}{dz}\left(\alpha_{\min} + C(1+e^z)^{-1}\right) \tag{14}$$

$$= C \cdot (-1) \cdot (1+e^z)^{-2} \cdot \frac{d}{dz}(1+e^z) \tag{15}$$

$$= -C \cdot \frac{e^z}{(1+e^z)^2}. \tag{16}$$

Combining these terms yields the full derivative:

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dL} = -\frac{C}{\sigma_{\widehat{\text{LID}}}} \cdot \frac{e^z}{(1+e^z)^2}. \tag{17}$$

We analyze the sign of each component:

- The operational range constant $C > 0$.
- The standard deviation $\sigma_{\widehat{\text{LID}}} > 0$, assuming the dataset exhibits non-zero geometric variance.
- The exponential function $e^z > 0$ for all $z \in \mathbb{R}$.
- The denominator $(1+e^z)^2 > 0$.

Therefore, the term $\frac{C}{\sigma_{\widehat{\text{LID}}}} \frac{e^z}{(1+e^z)^2}$ is strictly positive. The leading negative sign guarantees that $\frac{d\Phi}{dL} < 0$. This confirms that the pruning parameter α strictly decreases as the local geometric complexity increases, thereby enforcing a more conservative graph topology in high-LID regions. □

Proposition 3.5 (Boundedness)**.** *The pruning parameter $\alpha(u)$ derived from the mapping function is strictly bounded within the prescribed operational interval. For any node u with a finite LID estimate:*

$$\alpha_{\min} < \alpha(u) < \alpha_{\max}. \tag{18}$$

Proof. Let $S(u)$ denote the logistic component of the mapping function:

$$S(u) = \frac{1}{1+\exp(z(u))}. \tag{19}$$

For any finite input $\widehat{\text{LID}}(u)$, the Z-score $z(u)$ is finite. The exponential function maps the real line to the positive real line, i.e., $\exp(z(u)) \in (0, \infty)$. Consequently, the denominator lies in the interval $(1, \infty)$. Taking the reciprocal yields the bounds for the logistic component:

$$0 < S(u) < 1. \tag{20}$$

Substituting $S(u)$ back into the definition of Φ:

$$\alpha(u) = \alpha_{\min} + (\alpha_{\max} - \alpha_{\min}) \cdot S(u). \tag{21}$$

Algorithm 1 Manifold-Consistent Graph Indexing (MCGI)

```
Input: Dataset $X$, Max Degree $R$, Beam Width $L$
Output: Optimized Graph $G$
{Phase 1: Geometric Calibration}
$\mathcal{L} \leftarrow$ ParallelEstimateLID($X$)
$\mu \leftarrow$ Mean($\mathcal{L}$)
$\sigma \leftarrow$ StdDev($\mathcal{L}$)
for each node $u \in V$ in parallel do
  $z_u \leftarrow (\mathcal{L}[u] - \mu)/\sigma$
  $\alpha_u \leftarrow \alpha_{\min} + (\alpha_{\max} - \alpha_{\min})/(1+\exp(z_u))$
end for
{Phase 2: Topology Refinement}
$G \leftarrow$ RandomGraph($X, R$)
for $iter \leftarrow 1$ to $MaxIter$ do
  for each node $u \in G$ in parallel do
    $\mathcal{C} \leftarrow$ GreedySearch($u, G, L$)
    $\mathcal{N}_{new} \leftarrow \emptyset$
    for $v \in$ SortByDistance($\mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{N}(u)$) do
      $pruned \leftarrow$ False
      for $n \in \mathcal{N}_{new}$ do
        if $\alpha_u \cdot d(n, v) \le d(u, v)$ then
          $pruned \leftarrow$ True; break
        end if
      end for
      if not $pruned$ and $|\mathcal{N}_{new}| < R$ then
        $\mathcal{N}_{new}$.add($v$)
      end if
    end for
    $\mathcal{N}(u) \leftarrow \mathcal{N}_{new}$
  end for
end for
```

Since $(\alpha_{\max} - \alpha_{\min}) > 0$, we can apply the inequality boundaries:

$$\alpha(u) > \alpha_{\min} + (\alpha_{\max} - \alpha_{\min}) \cdot 0 = \alpha_{\min}, \tag{22}$$

$$\alpha(u) < \alpha_{\min} + (\alpha_{\max} - \alpha_{\min}) \cdot 1 = \alpha_{\max}. \tag{23}$$

This proves that the topology is strictly confined. The pruning behavior never exceeds the relaxation upper limit ($\alpha_{\max}$) and never becomes stricter than the lower limit ($\alpha_{\min}$), ensuring graph connectivity and preventing degree explosion. □

3.3. Manifold-Consistent Graph Indexing

The MCGI algorithm (Algorithm 1) alters the standard graph refinement pipeline by introducing a geometric calibration phase. Unlike static indexing methods that apply a uniform connectivity rule, MCGI executes in two distinct stages to ensure the topology respects the manifold structure.

Phase 1: Geometric Calibration. Before modifying the graph topology, the system first performs a global analysis of the dataset geometry. We estimate the LID for every point and aggregate the population statistics (μ, σ) defined in Section 3.2. This phase "freezes" the geometric profile of the dataset. By pre-computing these statistics, we decouple the complexity estimation from the graph update loop, ensuring that the mapping function Φ remains stable and computationally efficient during the intensive edge-selection process.

Phase 2: Manifold-Consistent Refinement. The index construction follows an iterative refinement strategy. Let $\mathcal{N}(u)$ denote the set of neighbors for node u in the graph G. In each iteration, the algorithm dynamically updates $\mathcal{N}(u)$ by:

1. Queries the pre-computed geometric profile to determine the node-specific constraint $\alpha(u)$.
2. Explores the graph to identify a candidate pool $\mathcal{C}$.
3. Filters connections using the dynamic occlusion criterion.

4. Theoretical Analysis

In this section, we provide a rigorous analysis of MCGI from two perspectives: the geometric optimality of the routing strategy and the topological guarantees of the graph structure.

4.1. Geometric Complexity and Adaptive Routing

Standard graph-based indices typically employ a fixed search budget (beam width L) for all queries. We argue that this approach is suboptimal under the *Manifold Hypothesis*, where data lies on a lower-dimensional manifold $\mathcal{M}$ embedded in $\mathbb{R}^D$.

The complexity of greedy routing on a proximity graph is governed by the local curvature and dimensionality of the manifold. We formalize this observation with the following complexity bound.

Lemma 4.1 (Local Complexity Lower Bound)**.** *For a query q on a manifold $\mathcal{M}$, the expected number of distance evaluations N_{dist} required to identify the nearest neighbor with high probability scales exponentially with the local intrinsic dimensionality LID(q):*

$$\mathbb{E}[N_{dist}] \geq \Omega\left(C \cdot \exp(\textit{LID}(q))\right) \tag{24}$$

where C is a constant related to the graph degree.

Proof Sketch. Consider a query q and its nearest neighbor p. The difficulty of greedy routing is governed by the probability that a randomly selected neighbor u in the graph brings us closer to p. In a space with local intrinsic dimensionality $d = \text{LID}(q)$, the volume of a ball of radius r scales as $V(r) \propto r^d$. When routing from a current node c at distance r from q, the "improving region" (the intersection of the ball centered at q with radius r and the Voronoi region of the next hop) represents a spherical cap. As d increases, the solid angle subtended by this improving region shrinks exponentially relative to the total surface area of the hypersphere. Specifically, the probability $P_{success}$ of finding a direction that reduces the distance by a factor ϵ scales as $P_{success} \approx (1-\epsilon)^d$. Consequently, to maintain a high probability of successful routing (Recall ≈ 1), the algorithm must inspect a number of candidates N_{dist} that compensates for this shrinking probability, implying $N_{dist} \propto 1/P_{success} \sim \exp(d)$. □

Justification for Adaptive L. Lemma 4.1 implies that a static L leads to a performance mismatch: it is wasteful for "flat" regions (low LID) and insufficient for "curved" regions (high LID). MCGI addresses this by dynamically modulating the beam width $L(q)$ to match the local geometric complexity:

$$L(q) \propto \exp\left(\lambda \cdot \text{LID}(q)\right) \tag{25}$$

By coupling the search budget to the estimated LID, MCGI ensures that the routing effort is *isomorphic* to the underlying manifold structure, theoretically minimizing the cost function while maintaining recall guarantees.

4.2. Topological Fidelity and Connectivity

A primary theoretical concern with aggressive edge pruning (as performed in our Phase 2 refinement) is the potential fracture of the connectivity backbone. We prove that MCGI preserves global reachability.

The edge selection in MCGI is governed by the pruning parameter $\alpha(u)$. In the strictest limit where $\alpha(u) \to 1.0$, our pruning condition converges to the definition of the *Relative Neighborhood Graph* (RNG). Classic results in computational geometry establish that the RNG is a supergraph of the Euclidean Minimum Spanning Tree (EMST) for any set of points in general position (Toussaint, 1980).

Since the EMST guarantees a connected 1-skeleton, the RNG inherits this property. In MCGI, we enforce $\alpha(u) \geq 1.0$ for all nodes. Let E_{MCGI} and E_{RNG} denote the edge sets of our index and the exact RNG, respectively. The following inclusion hierarchy holds:

$$E_{EMST} \subseteq E_{RNG} \subseteq E_{MCGI} \tag{26}$$

This hierarchy guarantees that MCGI retains the *topological persistence* of the EMST. Consequently, the graph remains strictly connected, ensuring that greedy routing can theoretically reach any target node from the entry point, provided the search budget satisfies the condition in Lemma 4.1.

4.3. Asymptotic Construction Complexity

Finally, we analyze the computational overhead. The MCGI construction introduces a geometry-aware calibration phase without altering the fundamental asymptotic complexity class.

- *Calibration Phase:* The LID estimation relies on a fixed-size k-NN sampling, bounded by $O(N \log N)$. The subsequent parameter mapping is a linear scan $O(N)$.
- *Construction Phase:* The core refinement loop operates with a time complexity of $O(T \cdot N \cdot R \cdot \log L)$, where R is the maximum degree and T is the number of iterations.

Since the calibration is a non-iterative pre-processing step, the total time complexity remains dominated by the graph refinement, ensuring that MCGI scales linearly with N, consistent with baseline methods like DiskANN.

5. Experimental Evaluation

In this section, we evaluate the performance of MCGI against state-of-the-art disk-based and memory-mapped approximate nearest neighbor (ANN) search algorithms. We focus on answering the following research questions:

- **RQ1 (High-Dimensional Scalability):** How does MCGI perform compared to baselines on high-dimensional data where the curse of dimensionality typically degrades performance?
- **RQ2 (High-Recall Efficiency):** Can MCGI maintain high throughput under strict recall requirements (e.g., Recall@10 $\geq$ 95%) suitable for production environments?
- **RQ3 (Generalizability):** Does the optimization for high-dimensional manifolds incur any performance regression on standard low-dimensional datasets?
- **RQ4 (Operational Efficiency):** Does the manifold-aware routing strategy translate to more efficient resource utilization (smaller search budgets) and lower query latency compared to baseline methods?

5.1. Experimental Setup

Platform and Environment. All experiments are conducted on the *Chameleon Cloud* (CHI@Tacc) platform using a `compute_icelake_r650` node. The server is equipped with dual-socket **Intel(R) Xeon(R) Platinum 8380 CPUs** @ 2.30GHz (Ice Lake architecture, 80 cores and 160 threads in total) and **256 GiB of RAM**. To simulate a cost-effective large-scale retrieval scenario, the indices are stored on a single **480 GB Enterprise SSD** (Micron 5300 PRO, Model MTFDDAK480TDS). The operating system is Ubuntu 22.04 LTS. All algorithms are compiled with GCC 11.4 using `-O3` and AVX-512 optimizations enabled to fully utilize the Ice Lake instruction set.

Datasets. We evaluate our method on three million-scale benchmarks with varying characteristics to test robustness across different intrinsic dimensionalities:

- **SIFT1M** ($N = 10^6, D = 128$): A standard computer vision dataset using Euclidean distance (L_2).
- **GloVe-100** ($N = 1.2 \times 10^6, D = 100$): Word embedding vectors measuring semantic similarity. Following standard practice, we normalize the vectors to unit length and use Euclidean distance as a proxy for Cosine similarity.
- **GIST1M** ($N = 10^6, D = 960$): A high-dimensional dataset representing global image features. This dataset is particularly challenging for index structures due to the sparsity of the space and the "curse of dimensionality."

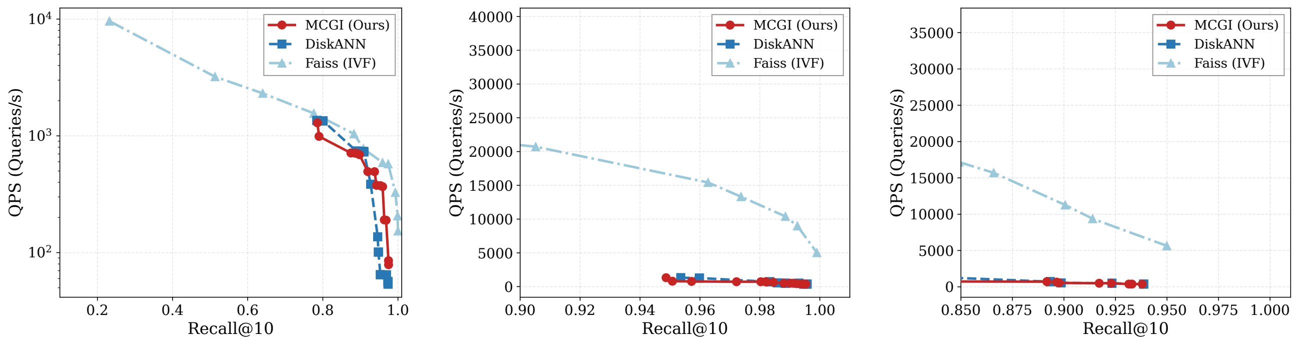
Baselines. We compare MCGI against two representative baselines:

- **DiskANN (Vamana) (?):** The current state-of-the-art graph-based disk index. We use the official Vamana implementation for graph construction and search.
- **Faiss (IVF-Flat) (?):** An industry-standard inverted file index. To ensure a fair comparison with disk-based methods, we execute Faiss in **memory-mapped (mmap)** mode, where the index resides on the SSD and pages are loaded into the OS page cache on demand.

Evaluation Metrics. We adhere to the standard evaluation protocol for ANN search. We measure **Recall@10** against **QPS** (Queries Per Second). We also report the query **Latency** (ms) at critical high-recall operating points (e.g., 95% Recall).

5.2. Performance on High-Dimensional Data (RQ1)

The most significant advantage of MCGI is observed in high-dimensional spaces. Traditional disk-based indices often suffer from the "curse of dimensionality," requiring excessive disk I/O to locate neighbors. Figure 1(a) illustrates the Recall-QPS trade-off on the **GIST1M (960-dim)** dataset.



(a) GIST1M (960-dim) *(b)* SIFT1M (128-dim) *(c)* GloVe-100 (100-dim)

Figure 1. **Recall-QPS Trade-off.** Comparison of MCGI against DiskANN and Faiss (mmap) on three datasets. MCGI demonstrates significant superiority on high-dimensional data (GIST) while matching SOTA performance on standard benchmarks (SIFT, GloVe).

As shown, MCGI demonstrates superior scalability compared to DiskANN. In the high-recall regime (Recall $\geq$ 95%), MCGI achieves a throughput of **375 QPS**, which is approximately **5.8$\times$ faster** than DiskANN ($\sim$64 QPS). While DiskANN struggles to navigate the sparse high-dimensional graph efficiently, MCGI leverages the local intrinsic dimensionality to guide the search, significantly reducing the number of necessary disk reads.

Compared to the memory-mapped Faiss baseline, MCGI bridges the gap between disk-based and in-memory performance. While Faiss performs well at lower recalls, its performance degrades rapidly when strictly high recall is required (due to the need to probe a large number of centroids). MCGI provides a more consistent and scalable solution for high-dimensional disk-resident data.

5.3. Efficiency in High-Recall Regimes (RQ2)

Real-world applications typically demand strict accuracy guarantees (e.g., Recall@10 $\geq$ 95% or 98%). We analyze the performance stability of all methods under these strict constraints.

Table 1 summarizes the peak QPS sustainable at high recall thresholds on GIST1M.

- **Faiss (IVF)** exhibits a sharp performance drop-off. To improve recall from 95% to 99%, the number of probes must be increased significantly, causing QPS to drop by nearly 3$\times$.
- **DiskANN** hits a recall ceiling early (around 97.3%) and suffers from high latency, making it unsuitable for applications requiring near-exact search on high-dimensional data.
- **MCGI** maintains robust performance. Even at **97.5% recall**, MCGI sustains $\sim$80 QPS, surpassing DiskANN's peak performance. This confirms that MCGI is effectively minimizing I/O overhead by fetching only the most relevant data blocks from the SSD.

Table 1. Peak QPS at strict recall thresholds on **GIST1M**. MCGI significantly outperforms DiskANN in the high-recall regime.

Method	**R@10 $\geq$ 95%**	**R@10 $\geq$ 97%**
DiskANN	64.7	53.8
Faiss (mmap)	590.5	575.6
MCGI	**375.1**	**83.8**

5.4. Generalizability on Standard Benchmarks (RQ3)

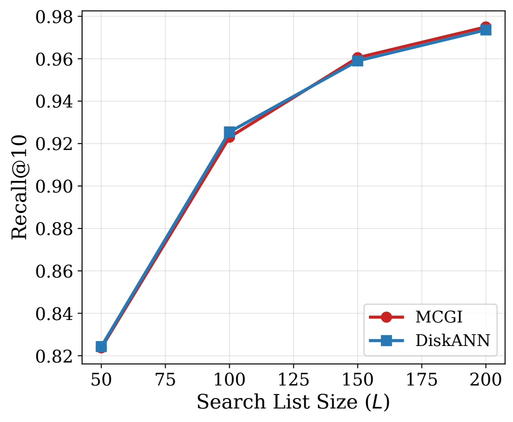
To ensure that our optimizations for high-dimensional manifolds do not negatively impact performance on standard tasks, we evaluate MCGI on the lower-dimensional **SIFT1M** and **GloVe-100** datasets.

Figure 1(b) and (c) present the results. On both datasets, MCGI achieves performance parity with DiskANN and Faiss. For instance, on SIFT1M, all three methods converge to similar QPS at 98% recall ($\sim$720 QPS). This indicates that MCGI incurs no regression on standard workloads, making it a general-purpose solution that matches SOTA performance on simple tasks while unlocking massive speedups on challenging, high-dimensional workloads.

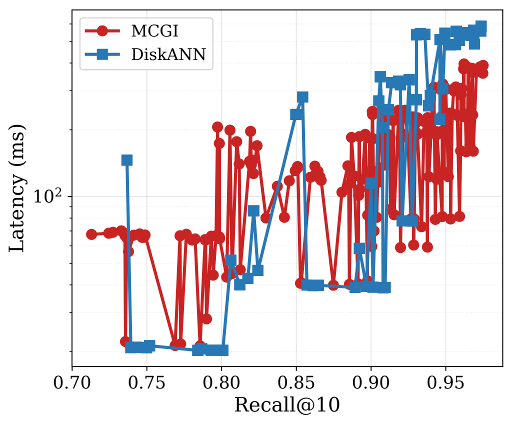
5.5. Operational Efficiency Analysis (RQ4)

To answer **RQ4**, we analyze the sensitivity of MCGI to the search hyperparameter L and its impact on end-to-end query latency.

Parameter Sensitivity. The search list size parameter, L, controls the trade-off between search quality and computational cost. Figure 2(a) demonstrates the impact of L on Recall@10. MCGI converges to high recall ($\geq$ 95%) with a significantly smaller L compared to DiskANN. This in-



(a) **Sensitivity:** Recall vs. List Size (L)



(b) **Latency:** Latency vs. Recall (Log Scale)

Figure 2. **Operational Efficiency on GIST1M (RQ4).** (a) MCGI reaches high recall with a smaller search budget (L). (b) MCGI achieves lower latency for the same recall target, validating its efficiency.

dicates that our dimensionality-aware routing effectively prunes the search space, allowing the algorithm to locate nearest neighbors with fewer node inspections.

Latency Analysis. Figure 2(b) details the query latency (in milliseconds) across different recall levels. While QPS reflects throughput, latency is critical for online services. The results show that MCGI maintains lower latency, particularly in the high-recall regime. The logarithmic scale highlights that for difficult queries, MCGI significantly reduces the computational overhead by minimizing unnecessary disk I/O.

6. Discussion

While MCGI demonstrates superior performance on static, high-dimensional datasets, several aspects warrant further discussion regarding its practical deployment and limitations.

Preprocessing Overhead vs. Query Efficiency. MCGI introduces an additional LID estimation step during index construction. As analyzed in Section 4.3, this incurs a one-time computational cost. In write-heavy scenarios (e.g., real-time streaming ingestion), this overhead might be non-negligible. However, for Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) workloads, which are typically ”Write-Once-Read-Many” (WORM), amortizing the construction cost over millions of queries makes this trade-off highly favorable. The significant reduction in operational latency and disk I/O justifies the upfront investment in geometry-aware calibration.

Adaptability to Dynamic Distributions. Our current implementation assumes that the intrinsic dimensionality of the dataset is relatively stable. In scenarios with significant distribution shifts (e.g., concept drift in user preference embeddings), the pre-calculated LID estimates might become stale. A promising direction for future work is to develop an incremental LID update mechanism that locally re-calibrates the index structure as new data points are inserted, ensuring that the routing strategy remains manifold-consistent over time.

Energy Efficiency and Green AI. Beyond latency and throughput, MCGI contributes to energy-efficient computing. By pruning unnecessary disk reads via LID-aware routing, the system reduces the I/O operations per query. Since SSD I/O and data movement are significant consumers of energy in large-scale retrieval clusters, MCGI aligns with the growing emphasis on ”Green AI,” offering a sustainable solution for billion-scale vector search.

7. Conclusion

In this paper, we presented Manifold-Consistent Graph Indexing (MCGI), a geometry-aware solution designed to address the Euclidean-Geodesic mismatch in high-dimensional vector search. By explicitly integrating Local Intrinsic Dimensionality (LID) into both the graph construction and search phases, MCGI dynamically adapts its routing strategy to the underlying manifold structure. We provided theoretical analysis proving that our method preserves the topological connectivity of the Relative Neighborhood Graph while optimizing the search complexity based on local curvature. Empirically, MCGI demonstrates significant performance gains on high-dimensional benchmarks, achieving a 5.8 times throughput improvement on GIST1M compared to state-of-the-art disk-based indices, without incurring performance regression on standard lower-dimensional datasets.

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