Engorgio: An Arbitrary-Precision Unbounded-Size Hybrid Encrypted Database via Quantized Fully Homomorphic Encryption

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Abstract

This work proposes an encrypted hybrid database framework that combines vectorized data search and relational data query over quantized fully homomorphic encryption (FHE). We observe that, due to the lack of efficient encrypted data ordering capabilities, most existing encrypted database (EDB) frameworks do not support hybrid queries involving both vectorized and relational data. To further enrich query expressiveness while retaining evaluation efficiency, we propose Engorgio, a hybrid EDB framework based on quantized data ordering techniques over FHE. Specifically, we design a new quantized data encoding scheme along with a set of novel comparison and permutation algorithms to accurately generate and apply orders between large-precision data items. Furthermore, we optimize specific query types, including full table scan, batched query, and Top-k query to enhance the practical performance of the proposed framework. In the experiment, we show that, compared to the state-of-the-art EDB frameworks, Engorgio is up to $28 \times -854 \times$ faster in homomorphic comparison, $65 \times -687 \times$ faster in homomorphic sorting and $15 \times -1,640 \times$ faster over a variety of end-to-end relational, vectorized, and hybrid SQL benchmarks. Using Engorgio, the amortized runtime for executing a relational and hybrid query on a 48-core processor is under 3 and 75 seconds, respectively, over a 10K-row hybrid database.

1 Introduction

Hybrid databases (DBs) supporting complex queries that combine high-dimensional vector searching and relational data filtering emerge as a powerful tool in establishing advanced big data applications such as recommendation systems [85], fraud detection [84], retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) systems [48, 61], and many more [91, 93, 96]. In such applications, it is often the case that the data owner and the storage provider are of different geological locations, where the DBs are stored and queried in an outsourced form [99]. While data outsourcing addresses the demands of low-cost and flexible data management [4, 5, 31, 69, 87, 98], images and high-dimensional data stored in the hybrid DBs can be highly sensitive, causing substantial security concerns over data breaching [19, 86].

Facing the security challenges against data outsourcing, we see recent literature that explore the use of fully homomorphic encryption (FHE) in constructing encrypted data management systems. Notably, FHE are utilized to establish encrypted databases (EDBs) [10,44,56,79,97] and encrypted vector searching (EVS) systems [33,49,81,99,101]. For example, [10] and [97] propose multi-scheme FHE infrastructures capable of implementing a wide range of common SQL query statements to establish end-to-end EDBs. Similarly, existing works also propose designs of EVS functionalities based FHE, such as encrypted sorting [20, 49] and encrypted *k*-nearest neighbors [22, 33, 83, 101].

Motivation: Despite the substantial progresses, the current designs of EDB and EVS face two key challenges when handling queries over encrypted data with both relational and vectorized properties: data precision and execution efficiency. First, data items in hybrid DB can vary significantly in formats, ranging from multi-precision integers to gigabyte files, and losing even a single bit in data precision can result in completely incorrect system response. For example, due to insufficient data precision, some existing methods [33, 97] can only sort around 500 to 1,000 data items. Second, the number of data items can be extremely large in DB systems, easily exceeding millions of records. Although some constructions [10, 49, 95] do support various hybrid SQL statements over relatively large number of items, the execution time of such queries can be prohibitive over large-size DBs. For instance, it takes HE³DB [10] nearly 2 days to complete an ORDER BY query over 4,096 data items. As a result, the main motivation for this work is to develop a unified hybrid EDB framework that executes SQL queries over arbitrary-precision data with unbounded DB size.

Table 1: Qualitative Comparison of Existing FHE-Based Data Management Systems

	VPIR [70]	Kortekaas [56]	Antonio <i>et al.</i> [43]	HEDA [79]	HE ³ DB [10]	ArcEDB [97]	TFHE-rs [<mark>95</mark>]	PEGASUS [65]	Zuber <i>et al.</i> [101]	Hong <i>et al.</i> [49]	Cong <i>et al.</i> [33]	Ours
Data Types	Scalar	Scalar	Scalar	Scalar	Scalar	Scalar	Scalar	Hybrid	Vector	Vector	Vector	Hybrid
Sorting	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\bullet	\mathbb{O}^*		•	\bullet		•	\bullet
Column Sync.	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc		•	\mathbb{O}^+	\mathbb{O}^+	\mathbb{O}^+	\mathbb{O}^+	\mathbb{O}^+	\bullet
Top-k	\bigcirc	0	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	•	•	\bullet	\bullet	\bullet
Query Precision [†]	Medium	Arbitrary	Arbitrary	Low	Medium	Arbitrary	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Arbitrary
Ordering Precision [†]	\bigcirc	0	0	\bigcirc	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Arbitrary
Unbounded-Size	0	0	0	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc	0	0	0	0	0	
Conversion Free	•	•	0	0	\bigcirc	0	•	0	•	•	0	•

* Do not support sorting sequences with duplicated elements. ⁺ The computational complexity of synchronization is equivalent to sorting. [†] Low precision is less than 16 bits; Medium precision is less than 32 bits, or can be improved with the larger parameters, which lead to a decrease in efficiency.

1.1 Our Contribution

To tackle the challenge, in this work, we propose Engorgio, an encrypted database framework tailored for processing hybrid queries over data at scale. We observe that most existing FHEbased encrypted data processing platforms lack the native support for hybrid queries, primarily due to the difficulty in designing highly usable data ordering algorithms. To address such issues, we propose a new set of single-instruction-multidata (SIMD) FHE operators over quantized ciphertexts to effectively solve the trilemma between query efficiency, data accuracy and operator expressiveness. The key design principle here is to separate the processes of order generation (i.e., comparisons between data items) and order application (i.e., permuting data items), such that an expressive set hybrid SQL statements can be efficiently supported. The main contributions of this work are summarized as follows.

- A New FHE Infrastructure for Hybrid EDB: To the best of our knowledge, Engorgio is the first FHE-based EDB framework that is capable of efficiently executing hybrid queries over encrypted data. We propose a quantized FHE scheme equipped with new data ordering operators to accurately handle hybrid SQL queries over large-volume DBs.
- Homomorphic SIMD Data Ordering: Based on the quantized FHE scheme, we introduce a new homomorphic comparison operator that can compare arbitrary-precision data in a SIMD fashion. Furthermore, we propose a symmetric sparsity encoding technique to speedup the homomorphic permutation process according to the comparison results, where the permutation complexity can be amortized to O(1).
- Optimizing Hybrid Query Toolkit: We develop and optimize a comprehensive list of SQL statements to support various types of hybrid queries over Engorgio. We support most relational statements in the TPC-H benchmark (e.g., GROUP BY, SELECT, JOIN), as well as advanced vectorized statements (e.g., Distance,

ORDER BY, Limit k). We also propose a separate design of the sorting (i.e., HomSort) and the synchronizing (i.e., HomSync) operators, which is crucial for fast evaluation of hybrid queries.

• Thorough Experiments: We show that Engorgio achieves $28 \times -854 \times$ faster homomorphic comparison, $65 \times -687 \times$ faster homomorphic sorting, $42 \times -4, 595 \times$ faster homomorphic synchronization, and $4 \times -58 \times$ faster homomorphic Top-*k* over the state-of-the-art (SOTA) solutions. For end-to-end query evaluation, Engorgio runs $15 \times -621 \times$ faster on relational queries, $30 \times -388 \times$ faster on vectorized queries, and $68 \times -1, 640 \times$ faster on hybrid queries when comparing to the SOTA FHE-based EDB frameworks.

1.2 Related Works

1.2.1 Encrypted Databases

The study of EDB attracts research interests from across the fields, where numerous protocols and systems are proposed to effectively perform SQL query execution on encrypted data [9,10,34,38,39,42,44,44,52,56,63,72,74–77,79,88,90, 92,97]. Here, we classify existing EDB works into two main categories: secure multi-party EDB and outsourced EDB.

Multi-Party EDB: A number of secure multi-party EDB protocols [9, 34, 38, 39, 52, 63, 75, 88, 90, 92] are designed specifically for evaluating queries [1, 34, 38, 92] and carry out data analysis [9, 63, 75] based on private information that is distributed among mutually distrustful parties. Nevertheless, as noted in [10, 38, 97], due to the inherent complexity of designing multi-party protocols, operators proposed in secure multi-party EDBs are often incompatible with one another, posing significant challenges in integrating different EDB operators into a unified database framework for evaluating sophisticated SQL queries. Furthermore, distributing secrets among participating parties in MPC-based techniques generally leads to substantial requirements in communication bandwidth and interaction complexity [3, 15, 16, 38].

Outsourced EDB: Outsourced EDBs [10, 44, 56, 72, 74, 76, 79, 97] mainly focus on securely outsourcing the storage of and computation over private data to an untrusted cloud server. Most outsourced EDBs are constructed over multiple cryptographic primitives, such as searchable encryption (SE) [44, 72, 74], order-preserving encryption (OPE) [64, 76], oblivious RAM (ORAM) [23, 40, 42], partially homomorphic encryption (PHE) [44, 72, 74, 76], and fully homomorphic encryption [10, 79, 97]. However, as mentioned in [10, 97], earlier EDB constructions face challenges in terms of security (e.g., leakage-abuse attacks), efficiency (e.g., extensive communication complexity), and usability (e.g., limited query expressiveness and data analysis capability). For FHE-based outsourced EDB solutions, we provide a more detailed analysis in Section 1.2.3.

1.2.2 Encrypted Vector Searching Systems

In a vector searching system, a server holds a database consisting of high-dimensional feature vectors. To query the database, the client sends a query vector to the server to obtain the collection of feature vectors (also known as neighbors) which are "similar" to the submitted query vector. To protect data confidentiality in such vector searching systems, various EVS systems are proposed [12, 22, 33, 36, 41, 48, 49, 62, 81, 83, 89, 94, 101]. Essentially, the core of an EVS system is the privacy-preserving vector similarity search algorithm, which can be used to establish EVS query statements such as Distance, Top-k, etc. To build the vector similarity search algorithm, a variety of primitives including localitysensitive hashing (LSH) [12,81], OPE [89], Garbled Circuits (GC) [22], ORAM [23], and PHE [36,41] are are employed. However, similar to outsourced EDBs, existing EVS systems also face the difficult trade-off between security and efficiency. Namely, while LSH and OPE based solutions are fast, such EVS systems do leak access patterns. In comparison, GC and ORAM guarantee provable security to the encrypted searching schemes at the cost of large communication overheads.

1.2.3 FHE-Based EDB and EVS

More recently, fast developments in FHE-based cryptographic primitives give rise to new designs of EDBs and EVSs. In Table 1, we summarize the main characteristics of existing FHE-based EDB and EVS frameworks. We first point out that most existing frameworks (such as HE³DB [10], ArcEDB [97], and Cong *et al.* [33]) are either designed solely as an EDB or an EVS, but not both. Furthermore, the inherent noises residing in FHE ciphertexts pose an even bigger challenge against a usable hybrid EDB construction, as such noises can severely damage data precision during hybrid queries. As illustrated in Table 1, many existing works [10, 33, 43, 49, 56, 65, 70, 79, 95, 97, 101] suffer from inadequate data precision when performing non-linear FHE

operations, such as homomorphic comparisons and ciphertext format conversions. Likewise, for queries that have deep multiplicative depth (e.g., sorting and logic aggregation functions), can only accomplish such tasks over a small number of items (i.e., bounded-size) due to the severe loss of precision after a large number of consecutive FHE multiplications.

1.2.4 Quantization for FHE

Quantization is a common technique in the field of machine learning [24, 25, 37, 55, 57, 58, 66, 100] to approximate highprecision floating-point operations using integer arithmetic. Such quantization methods are primarily used to enhance computation efficiency at the cost of reduced data precision, as low-precision integers are much easier to compute than largeprecision real numbers. However, when used as an encoding step in FHE-based hybrid DBs, the loss of precision induced by data quantization can be catastrophic. Therefore, one of the main goals of this work is to devise an accuracy-aware quantization framework with rigorous error analysis, such that arbitrary-precision data can be correctly processed by expressive hybrid queries.

2 Cryptographic Preliminaries

In this section, we introduce the main concepts of the RNS-CKKS scheme and the associated FHE operators in Section 2.1 and Section 2.2, respectively.

Throughout this paper, we use bold lowercase letters (e.g., **a**) for vectors, tilde lowercase letters (e.g., \tilde{a}) for polynomials, and bold uppercase letters (e.g., A) for matrices. We use $\mathbf{a} \ll k$ to denote a k-step cyclic left rotation of the elements in a vector **a**. We use \circ to represent the Hadamard product (i.e., element-wise product) between vectors and polynomials. diag(A), diag_{+k}(A), and diag_{-k}(A) depicts the extracted vector formed by the elements on the main diagonal, the k-th super-diagonal, and the k-th sub-diagonal, respectively. We use λ to denote the security parameter, P the plaintext modulus, Q the ciphertext modulus, and N the lattice dimension. Let \mathbb{Z}_O be the set of integers modulo Q, we define R, R_O , $R_{\mathbb{O}}$, and $\widetilde{R_{\mathbb{R}}}$ to denote $\mathbb{Z}(X)/(X^N+1)$, $\mathbb{Z}(X)/(X^N+1) \mod Q$, $\mathbb{Q}(X)/(X^N+1)$, and $\mathbb{R}(X)/(X^N+1)$, respectively, where S(X) is the univariate polynomial in X whose coefficients are from the set S.

2.1 RNS-CKKS

Different from prior EDBs [10, 79, 97], Engorgio is built exclusively upon the RNS-CKKS [26] scheme along with the series of subsequent optimizations [13, 27, 45–47, 60].

In RNS-CKKS, the ciphertexts are constructed exclusively over the ring learning with errors (RLWE) hardness assumption [67, 78], where the encryption of a vector of plaintext messages $\tilde{m} \in R_Q$ under a secret key $\tilde{s} \in R_Q$ is given as:

$$\mathsf{RLWE}^{N,Q}_{\tilde{s}}(\tilde{m}) = (\tilde{b},\tilde{a}) = (-\tilde{a}\cdot\tilde{s} + \Delta\tilde{m} + \tilde{e},\tilde{a})$$

where $\tilde{a} \in R_Q$ is chosen uniformly at random, the noise \tilde{e} is sampled from some distribution χ_{noise} , and Δ is a scaling factor to protect the least significant bits of the message from the noises. Note that, the ciphertext modulus Q can be one of a sequence of positive integers $Q_0 < Q_1 < \cdots < Q_{L-1}$, where the *i*-th modulus step Q_i corresponds to the *i*-th multiplication level. In the classic RNS-CKKS scheme, after each ciphertext multiplication, the ciphertext modulus is decremented by one level (i.e., from Q_i to Q_{i-1}), When the ciphertext modulus reaches Q_0 , no more multiplications can be further performed. To increase the multiplication level back to L - 1, the bootstrapping [7,27,60] operator is executed, where the ciphertext modulus is restored from Q_0 to Q_{L-1} .

2.2 Homomorphic Operators

2.2.1 Basic Homomorphic Operators

We primarily use the following basic homomorphic operators to evaluate linear functions (e.g., polynomials) over RLWE ciphertexts.

• + , - and ·: Ciphertext addition, subtraction and multiplication. In this work, we consider an RLWE ciphertext to be a tuple of polynomials, where additions (+) and multiplications (·) are executed in a component-wise manner between ciphertexts. For example, given two RLWE ciphertexts RLWE₀ = $(\tilde{b_0}, \tilde{a_0})$ and RLWE₁ = $(\tilde{b_1}, \tilde{a_1})$. The addition between the two ciphertexts is defined as RLWE $(\tilde{m}_0 + \tilde{m}_1) = \text{RLWE}(\tilde{m}_0) + \text{RLWE}(\tilde{m}_1) = (\tilde{b_0} + \tilde{b_1}, \tilde{a_0} + \tilde{a_1})$. Similarly, one can define the homomorphic subtraction between two RLWE ciphertexts. Lastly, given two RLWE ciphertexts RLWE (\tilde{m}_0) and RLWE (\tilde{m}_1) which encrypt the plaintext polynomials $\tilde{m_0}$ and $\tilde{m_1}$, the homomorphic multiplication RLWE $(\tilde{m}_0) \cdot \text{RLWE}(\tilde{m}_1)$ results in RLWE $(\tilde{m}_0 \cdot \tilde{m}_1)$. More details on ciphertext multiplication process can be found in [17].

• Rotate(RLWE(\tilde{m}), **RK**, k): The homomorphic rotation operator. Given a ciphertext $ct = \text{RLWE}(\tilde{m})$, the rotation key **RK**, and an integer $k \in \mathbb{N}$, Rotate outputs a ciphertext RLWE($\tilde{m} \ll k$).

• $\operatorname{Poly}_{\rho}(\operatorname{RLWE}(\tilde{m}))$: Polynomial evaluation over ciphertext. For some uni-variate polynomial ρ , $\operatorname{Poly}_{\rho}(\operatorname{RLWE}(\tilde{m}))$ denotes the homomorphic evaluation of ρ on the input ciphertext $\operatorname{RLWE}(\tilde{m})$. In other words, after applying $\operatorname{Poly}_{\rho}$, the output ciphertext $\operatorname{RLWE}(\rho(\tilde{m})) = \operatorname{Poly}_{\rho}(\operatorname{RLWE}(\tilde{m}))$ can be decrypted to obtain $\rho(\tilde{m})$.

• HomGate(RLWE(\tilde{m}_0), RLWE(\tilde{m}_1), OP): Logic gate evaluation over the input ciphertexts. Given two ciphertexts RLWE(\tilde{m}_0) and RLWE(\tilde{m}_1) encrypting Boolean polynomials \tilde{m}_0 and \tilde{m}_1 , and a two-input logic gate OP, HomGate(RLWE(\tilde{m}_0), RLWE(\tilde{m}_1), OP) outputs RLWE(\tilde{m}_{OP}) where $\tilde{m}_{OP}[i] = OP(\tilde{m}_0[i], \tilde{m}_1[i])$ and $\tilde{m}[i]$ represents the *i*-th

coefficient of the polynomial \tilde{m} . The evaluation of HomGate can be accomplished using the homomorphic multiplication and addition operators. Taking NAND as an example, we have that $\mathsf{RLWE}(\tilde{m}_{OP}) = (0, 1) - \mathsf{RLWE}(\tilde{m}_0) \cdot \mathsf{RLWE}(\tilde{m}_1)$. Here, **0** and **1** depict a plaintext vector whose elements are all 0's and 1's, respectively. In this way, we can evaluate arbitrary two-input logic functions such as AND, OR, XOR, NOT, etc.

2.2.2 Approximate Homomorphic Comparison

As previously noted, the RNS-CKKS scheme supports the efficient evaluation of arithmetic operations, such as additions and multiplications, between ciphertexts. However, performing logical operations, e.g., comparisons, presents to be much more challenging. To tackle this issue, approximated homomorphic comparison operators based on polynomial approximations are proposed [28,29,50,59]. Here, we use a high-degree polynomial ρ_{sgn} designed to approximate the sgn function, specified as: sgn(x) = 1 if x > 0, 0 if x = 0, and -1 if x < 0. We follow the definition in [28] and describe the precision to which the polynomial ρ_{sgn} approximates the sign function as (Θ, α) :

$$|\rho_{\text{sgn}}(x) - \text{sgn}(x)| < 2^{-\alpha} \text{ for } x \in [-1, -\Theta] \cup 0 \cup [\Theta, 1],$$
(1)

where Θ and α decide the output and input precision of the sign function, and thereby the output and input precision of the comparison operator. Therefore, we say that the following two notations are equivalent: $\rho_{\text{sgn}}(x)$ and $\text{sgn}_{(\Theta,\alpha)}$. Equation (1) implies that due to the discontinuous nature of sgn(x), $x \in [-\Theta, 0) \cup (0, \Theta]$ is not taken into account when measuring the accuracy between $\text{sgn}_{(\Theta,\alpha)}$ and sgn(x), because the error in this interval will exceed $2^{-\alpha}$. Thus, we derive the construction of the approximate homomorphic comparison for two inputs RLWE(\tilde{x}), RLWE(\tilde{y}) with precision (Θ, α) as:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{RLWE}(\tilde{r}_{\tilde{x},\tilde{y}}) &= \mathsf{ApprHomComp}_{(\Theta,\alpha)}(\mathsf{RLWE}(\tilde{x}),\mathsf{RLWE}(\tilde{y})) \\ &= \frac{\mathsf{sgn}_{(\Theta,\alpha)}(\mathsf{RLWE}(\tilde{x}) - \mathsf{RLWE}(\tilde{y})) + 1}{2}, \end{aligned}$$
(2)

where $\tilde{r}_{\tilde{x},\tilde{y}}$ is the comparison result:

$$\tilde{r}_{\tilde{x},\tilde{y}}[i] = \begin{cases} 1 \pm 2^{-\alpha}, & \text{if } \tilde{x}[i] > \tilde{y}[i] \\ 1/2 \pm 2^{-\alpha}, & \text{if } \tilde{x}[i] = \tilde{y}[i] \\ 0 \pm 2^{-\alpha}, & \text{if } \tilde{x}[i] < \tilde{y}[i]. \end{cases}$$
(3)

There are many works exploring how to optimize the degree of approximate polynomials and find better ways to composite polynomials [28, 29, 50, 59]. In this paper, since we treat ApprHomComp as a black box component, in order to maintain generality, we employ the Chebyshev approximation [18,21,68,80], which is one of the most basic and widely used polynomial approximation techniques, to evaluate a sign function on a ciphertext. As [71] suggests, we use polynomials of orders 59-1007 for tasks of varying precision.



Figure 1: An example of processing a hybrid query over Engorgio. Here, we demonstrate how to run a Top-*k* query that combines attribute filtering with vector searching.

3 Framework Overview

In this section, we first formulate the main challenges for Engorgio in Section 3.1. Then, we provide a high-level workflow of Engorgio in Section 3.2. We then discuss the concrete constructions of the quantized FHE scheme in Section 3.3. Next, we summarize how to implement key SQL statements for the hybrid data ordering process in Section 3.4. Lastly, we present our threat model and the security analysis in Section 3.5.

3.1 Motivation and Observation

We identify two key challenges that motivate the design of Engorgio, namely, accuracy and efficiency. First, data records in hybrid EDBs can have extremely large data precision (e.g., millions of bits for image files). Thus, the underlying homomorphic comparison and sorting algorithms need to be able to handle data with arbitrarily-large precision. Second, hybrid EDBs naturally have large DB sizes. As a result, the constructed homomorphic algorithms also have to be fast, such that large-size DBs can be efficiently evaluated within a reasonable amount of time. In what follows, we explain the concrete technical challenges and observations.

Challenge and Observation 1: When comparing between ciphertexts, existing comparison methods face the fundamental trade-off between data accuracy and efficiency. For instance, the accuracy for both TFHE- and CKKS-based homomorphic comparison functions [10, 29, 59, 97] become insufficient in sorting more than 5,000 data items under a reasonably efficient parameter range. To resolve such accuracy-efficiency dilemma, we devise a new quantization framework to split large-precision data into lower-precision data segments, and execute SIMD-compatible homomorphic comparison opera-

tor over such segments to produce binary comparison outputs.

Challenge and Observation 2: Even with a sufficiently accurate comparison operator, querying a large amount of hybrid data items appears to be yet challenging due to the lack of efficient sorting algorithms. In specific, most existing sorting algorithms rely on tightly coupled comparison and permutation functions to sort data items. However, such constructions can be inefficient to sort multiple data columns. For example, in [33], applying a set of generated orders to a new data column (i.e., the order synchronization process) is as slow as re-sorting the data column. Consequently, especially when facing large hybrid DB with high cross-column synchronization needs, most existing FHE-based EDB infrastructures struggles to achieve a reasonable level of query performnace. To tackle such challenge, we propose a matrix-multiplicationbased homomorphic permutation technique to accelerate the process of order synchronization, which drastically enhance the overall sorting performance over large-size hybrid EDBs.

3.2 Engorgio Workflow

Similar to prior FHE-based data management platforms [10, 79, 97], the process of running queries on Engorgio involves three main phases: client data encryption, client query encryption, and server query evaluation. Below, we provide a concise overview of the main operations involved in each phase, which are also depicted in Figure 1.

• Client data encryption: For every relational data table $\mathcal{T} \in \mathcal{D}$, each column t_i in \mathcal{T} is divided into $J = \lceil |\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}/N \rceil$ pieces of size-*N* column chunks, and is encrypted via the TableEncrypt function as $[\mathcal{T}]$. Meanwhile, for each vector feature table $\mathcal{VT} \in \mathcal{D}$, each column vt_i is divided into $VJ = \lceil |\mathcal{VT}|_{\text{row}}/N \rceil$ pieces of vector column chunks, where

each vector column chunk $vc_{i,j}$ is of size N. Then, we further divide each of the vector column chunks $vc_{i,j}$ into D element blocks, assuming that the longest vector is of length D. Consequently, we have $VJ \cdot D$ pieces of size-N data blocks, which can finally be encrypted by the standard TableEncrypt function. The resulting encrypted vector feature table is denoted as $[\mathcal{VT}]$. Combining the relational data tables and the vector feature tables, we obtain the encrypted hybrid database $[\mathcal{D}]$ as a concatenation of vector feature table $[\mathcal{VT}]$ and relational data table $[\mathcal{T}]$. Along with the associated keys (i.e., **RK** and **BK**), $[\mathcal{D}]$ is sent to the server for cloud storage.

• Client query encryption: During the client query encryption phase, the client encrypts the private data in the query through the QueryEncrypt function. Engorgio allows users to express a hybrid query as a standard SQL format through a typical SELECT statement. A standard SELECT SQL query in Engorgio follows the form $Q = (\mathcal{PA}, \mathcal{PV}, \mathsf{Agg}, \mathsf{Attr}^{\mathsf{Agg}})$, where $\mathcal{PA} = (\mathcal{P}_0, \mathcal{P}_1, ..., \mathcal{P}_{|\mathcal{PA}|-1}, \mathcal{CG}_0, \mathcal{CG}_1, ..., \mathcal{CG}_{|\mathcal{PA}|-2}),$ where \mathcal{P}_i represents a collection of attribute predicates over the relational DB, and CG_i are the logical gate functions to concatenate different predicates. In contrast to relational queries, the vector query $\mathcal{PV} = (\mathsf{Feat}, \mathcal{V}, O\mathcal{P})$ is made up of a public feature label Feat, a private feature vector \mathcal{V} , and a public vector operator OP (e.g., Top-k). Agg represents the aggregation function applied to the aggregation attribute Attr^{Agg}. To encrypt Q, we execute QueryEncrypt on each of the condition values in the private predicate \mathcal{P}_i , as well as all elements in the private vector \mathcal{V} . Subsequently, we obtain the encrypted relational predicates and encrypted vector features $[\mathcal{PA}] = ([\mathcal{P}]_0, [\mathcal{P}]_1, \dots, [\mathcal{P}]_{|\mathcal{PA}|-1}, \mathcal{CG}_0, \mathcal{CG}_1, \dots, \mathcal{CG}_{|\mathcal{PA}|-2})$ and $[\mathcal{PV}] = (\mathsf{Feat}, [\mathcal{V}], \mathcal{OP})$, respectively. The encrypted query is then formatted as $[Q] = ([\mathcal{PA}], [\mathcal{PV}], Agg, Attr^{Agg}).$

• Server query evaluation: In the query evaluation phase, the server carries out the evaluation of the encrypted hybrid query [Q] over the encrypted hybrid database $[\mathcal{D}]$. The core steps involved in the homomorphic evaluation of the hybrid query are 1 relational data filtering, 2 vector distance calculation, 3 hybrid data ordering, and 4 hybrid data query. Note that, the first two steps are interchangeable depending on the exact query format. For the relational data filtering step, each encrypted attribute predicate $[\mathcal{P}]_i$ is evaluated over the corresponding encrypted attribute table $[\mathcal{T}] \in \mathcal{D}$ using the homomorphic comparison and HomGate functions. The filtered result is a series of ciphertexts encrypting true (a value of 1) or false (a value of 0). At the same time, HomDist is used to calculate the encrypted distances between the querying vector $[\mathcal{V}]$ with label Feat and the associated vector column in $[\mathcal{VT}]$ with the same attribute label. Following the relational data filtering and distance calculation, we apply a homomorphic multiplication operator to combine the filtered results with the encrypted distances, yielding a set of encrypted distances that satisfy the filtering conditions. Then the encrypted distance is ordered using HomOrder functions such as HomTopK, and the HomSync is employed to synchronize other columns.

3.3 Quantized FHE

In what follows, we introduce the quantized FHE scheme developed based on the RNS-CKKS scheme to effectively solve the accuracy obstacle against hybrid EDB.

3.3.1 Data Quantization and Encoding

Here, we outline the set of quantized encoding and decoding operators proposed to concretely characterize the errors homomorphically added to the plaintext messages.

• $\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta} \leftarrow \text{QuantEncode}(\tilde{m}, \zeta, B_g)$: For a polynomial of realvalued messages $\tilde{m}(X) = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} m_i X^i$ where $m_i \in \mathbb{R}$, given the precision parameter ζ and a quantized radix base B_g , QuantEncode first maps each $m_i \in \mathbb{R}$ into a rational value $m_i^{\zeta} \in \mathbb{Q}$ with precision $\zeta \in \mathbb{Z}$ as

$$m_i^{\zeta} = \text{QuantEncode}(m_i)_{\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{Q}} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{p_i, q_i} \left| m_i - \frac{p_i}{q_i} \right|,$$
 (4)

where $\frac{p_i}{q_i}$ is the best rational approximation to the real number m_i up to a precision of ζ . Thus we obtain polynomial of rational-valued messages $\tilde{m}^{\zeta} = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} m_i^{\zeta} X^i$, where $m_i^{\zeta} \in \mathbb{Q}$. After embedding m_i into the rational number m_i^{ζ} with up to ζ bits of errors, we map m_i^{ζ} into a *P*-bit integer m_i^{ζ} as

$$\mathfrak{m}_{i}^{\zeta} = \texttt{QuantEncode}(m_{i}^{\zeta})_{\mathbb{Q} \to \mathbb{Z}_{P}} = m_{i}^{\zeta} 2^{\ell_{q_{i}}} \bmod P, \quad (5)$$

where $P = B_g^{\lceil \frac{\zeta}{\log B_g} \rceil}$. By conducting such mapping for each m_i^{ζ} , we say that $\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta}(X) = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \mathfrak{m}_i^{\zeta} X^i \in R_P$ is a quantized message polynomial with a precision of ζ .

• $\hat{\mathfrak{m}} \leftarrow \text{QuantSegment}(\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta}, B_g)$: Note that, to encrypt data with arbitrary precision, the above approach results in an infinitely large *P*. Hence, for practical purposes, we apply segmentation function QuantSegment to $\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta}$ to further split the quantized message polynomial, such that each segment can fit into a fixed-precision plaintext space R_P . For some quantized message polynomial $\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta} = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \mathfrak{m}_i^{\zeta} \cdot X^i \in R_P$ with precision ζ (which can potentially extremely large such as a file), let $\mathfrak{m}_i^{\zeta} = \sum_{j=0}^{w-1} \mathfrak{m}_{\text{seg}_{i,j}} B_g^{\ i}$, we obtain *w* segmented polynomials

QuantSegment
$$(\hat{\tilde{m}}^{\zeta}) = \hat{\mathfrak{m}} = \{\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}_0^{\zeta}, \tilde{\mathfrak{m}}_1^{\zeta}, \cdots, \tilde{\mathfrak{m}}_{w-1}^{\zeta}\},$$
 (6)

where $\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}_{i}^{\zeta} = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \mathfrak{m}_{\operatorname{seg}_{j,i}} X^{j} \in R_{B_{g}}$, and $w = \lceil \frac{\zeta}{\log B_{g}} \rceil$.

• $\widehat{\text{QRLWE}}_{\tilde{s}}^{\varsigma}(\hat{\mathfrak{m}}) \leftarrow \text{QuantEnc}(\hat{\mathfrak{m}}, \tilde{s})$: Based on the quantized segmented polynomial representation, we define the quantized version an RLWE encryption as

$$\widehat{\mathsf{QRLWE}}_{\tilde{s}}^{\zeta}(\hat{\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}}) = (\mathsf{RLWE}_{\tilde{s}}(\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}_{0}^{\zeta}), \cdots, \mathsf{RLWE}_{\tilde{s}}(\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}_{w-1}^{\zeta})).$$

In other words, the quantized encryption of $\hat{\mathfrak{m}}$ under QRLWE is simply the respective encryption of $\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}_i^{\zeta}$ under the RLWE ciphertexts. We use $\widehat{\mathsf{QRLWE}}^{\zeta}[i]$ to denote the *i*-th chunk $\mathsf{RLWE}_{\tilde{s}}(\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}_{i}^{\zeta})$ ciphertext in $\widehat{\mathsf{QRLWE}}_{\tilde{s}}^{\zeta}(\hat{\mathfrak{m}})$.

• $\hat{\mathfrak{m}} \leftarrow \text{QuantDec}(\widehat{\text{QRLWE}}_{\hat{s}}^{\varsigma}(\hat{\mathfrak{m}}), \hat{s})$: The decryption of a quantized RLWE ciphertext simply applies the CKKS decryption operator to each of the RLWE chunks $\widehat{\text{QRLWE}}^{\zeta}[i]$ to get $\hat{\mathfrak{m}}$. Note that, applying decryption does not fully recover the original plaintext message $\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta}$.

• $\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta} \leftarrow \text{QuantMerge}(\hat{\mathfrak{m}})$: After obtaining the quantized chunks $\{\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}_{i}^{\zeta}\}$, we can combine the chunks using the QuantMerge function and get

$$\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta} = \text{QuantMerge}(\hat{\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}}) = \sum_{i=0}^{w-1} \tilde{\mathfrak{m}}_{i}^{\zeta} B_{g}^{\ i} \in R_{P}. \tag{7}$$

Essentially, QuantMerge is the inverse of QuantSegment, recombining the segmented polynomials to derive the $\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta}$.

• $\tilde{m}^{\zeta} \leftarrow \text{QuantDecode}(\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta})$: To further recover the original data format, we apply QuantDecode, the inverse function of QuantEncode, mapping $\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta}$ from R_P back to $R_{\mathbb{Q}}$:

$$ilde{m}^{\zeta} = \text{QuantDecode}_{\mathbb{Z}_{p} \to \mathbb{Q}}(ilde{\mathfrak{m}}^{\zeta}) = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} rac{\mathfrak{m}_{i}^{\zeta}}{2^{\ell_{q_{i}}}} X^{i} \in R_{\mathbb{Q}}.$$
 (8)

3.4 Key Operators in Hybrid Database

In what follows, we describe the set of key homomorphic SQL operators that can be used to construct advanced SQL statements.

• $[\mathcal{T}], [\mathcal{VT}] \leftarrow \text{TableEncrypt}(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{VT})$: TableEncrypt is constructed over the QuantEncode, QuantSegment, and QueryEncrypt operators to encrypt the database tables \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{VT} as QRLWE ciphertexts. TableEncrypt produces the encrypted tables $[\mathcal{T}]$ and $[\mathcal{VT}]$ corresponding to \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{VT} , respectively.

• $[Q] \leftarrow \text{QueryEncrypt}(Q)$: QueryEncrypt encrypts a hybrid SQL query $Q = (\mathcal{PA}, \mathcal{PV}, \text{Agg}, \text{Attr}^{\text{Agg}})$ as $\widehat{\text{QRLWE}}$ ciphertexts. The result is an encrypted hybrid query $[Q] = ([\mathcal{PA}], [\mathcal{PV}], \text{Agg}, \text{Attr}^{\text{Agg}})$.

• $[\mathcal{F}] \leftarrow \text{HomFilter}([\mathcal{PA}], [\mathcal{T}])$: HomFilter filters the encrypted table $[\mathcal{T}]$ with an encrypted attribute predicate $[\mathcal{PA}]$ and outputs a set of QRLWE ciphertexts $[\mathcal{F}]$ as results. The quantized homomorphic comparison operators ArbQuantComp (detailed in Section 4.1) and the HomGate operator mentioned in Section 2.2 are used by HomFilter to enhance the filtering accuracy and operator expressiveness.

• [D] \leftarrow HomDist([\mathcal{V}],[$\mathcal{V}\mathcal{T}$]): HomDist homomorphically calculates the squared Euclidean distance between the querying feature vector [\mathcal{V}] and vectors stored in the encrypted vector table [$\mathcal{V}\mathcal{T}$] by performing element-wise homomorphic multiplication and addition in a SIMD manner. HomDist outputs $|\mathcal{V}\mathcal{T}|_{row}$ encrypted distances [D]. • $[\mathcal{O}] \leftarrow \operatorname{HomOrder}([\mathcal{F}], [D], [\mathcal{T}], [\mathcal{VT}], \mathcal{OP})$: HomOrder sorts and synchronizes the encrypted hybrid data in $[\mathcal{T}]$ and $[\mathcal{VT}]$ based on the encrypted distance [D] and attribute filtering results $[\mathcal{F}]$. The output is an encrypted ordered table $[\mathcal{O}]$ produced according to the ordering operation specified in \mathcal{OP} (e.g., Top-k, Sort, MIN). HomOrder contains two basic operators, HomSort and HomSync, which are described in Section 4.2.

• $[\mathcal{R}] \leftarrow \text{HomAgg}(\text{Agg}, \text{Attr}^{\text{Agg}}, [\mathcal{T}], [\mathcal{O}])$: HomAgg aggregates the column Attr^{Agg} with the aggregation function Agg on the encrypted table $[\mathcal{T}]$ and the encrypted ordered result $[\mathcal{O}]$. HomAgg outputs the encrypted aggregation result $[\mathcal{R}]$.

• $[\mathcal{R}]_i \leftarrow \text{HomGROUP}([Q], [\mathcal{T}], \text{Attr}^{\text{Group}})$: HomGROUP performs GROUP BY on the encrypted table $[\mathcal{T}]$ with the group attribute Attr^{Group}. Similar to [10, 79, 97], we issue multiple copies of [Q] with equality tests (also based on ArbQuantComp proposed in Section 4.1) for the group attribute, and produce the grouped result $[\mathcal{R}]_i$.

3.5 Threat Model and Security

Our security goal is to protect the outsourced hybrid database \mathcal{D} owned by the client \mathcal{C} from the semi-honest server \mathcal{S} . The concrete public and private data inside the server's scope is summarized as follows.

Public Data:

• $|\mathcal{D}|$: The size of the database, i.e., the number of data (including vector) tables in \mathcal{D} .

• $|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}, |\mathcal{T}|_{\text{col}}, |\mathcal{VT}|_{\text{row}}, |\mathcal{VT}|_{\text{col}}$: The number of rows as well as the number of columns in some table $\mathcal{T} \in \mathcal{D}$ (or $\mathcal{VT} \in \mathcal{D}$).

• |Q|: The number of filtering predicates in a SQL query.

• *CG*: The logic connection (e.g., AND, OR) between the filtering predicates in a SQL query.

• Attr, |Attr|, w_{Attr} : The attribute label (e.g., gender, date), the range of the attribute (e.g., |Month| = 12), and the number of quantized segments for this attribute.

• Feat, |Feat|, w_{Feat} : The feature label (e.g., picture), the length of vectors under the particular feature label (e.g., |picture| = 1024 for a 32 × 32-pixel picture vector), and the number of quantized segments for this feature.

• *OP*: The data ordering operators and the associate parameters, including Top-k, Sort, MIN, and MAX.

• The aggregation functions (e.g., SUM, COUNT) in a query. **Private Data**:

• $\mathcal{T}_{i,j}$, for $i \in |\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}$, $j \in |\mathcal{T}|_{\text{col}}$: Exact values of the relational data items in all $\mathcal{T} \in \mathcal{D}$.

• $\mathcal{VT}_{i,j}$, for $i \in |\mathcal{VT}|_{\text{row}}$, $j \in |\mathcal{VT}|_{\text{col}}$: Exact values of the vector feature items in all $\mathcal{VT} \in \mathcal{D}$.

• $\mathcal{P}_i \in \mathcal{PA}, \ \mathcal{V}_i \in \mathcal{PV}$, for $i \in |Q|$: The attribute and vector predicate values in the SQL query.

Security of Engorgio: Similar to that in previous works [10, 32, 44, 56, 76, 79, 97], the private data owned by the client are all encrypted using FHE. Hence, the security

of Engorgio can be directly reduced to that of the underlying FHE scheme. However, one subtle difference here is that, without executing data ordering operators, data queries with vectorized predicates (e.g., Distance(Feat) < 50) are susceptible to volume leakage attacks [54], as the volume of querying result is dependent on the predicate conditions. Hence, in Engorgio, we force all vectorized queries to include a data ordering operator (e.g., min, max or Top-k). Using such an approach, the amount of exposed information from a vectorized query is strictly limited to the public parameters. In other words, in our setup, existing volume leakage attacks cannot learn any additional knowledge beyond what can already be inferred from public information. We formalize the end-to-end security guarantees of Engorgio as follows:

Theorem 1. Given some ideal functionality \mathfrak{F} , Engorgio securely evaluates \mathfrak{F} when instantiated with a semanticallysecure homomorphic encryption scheme against semi-honest adversaries with a computational security parameter of λ .

Here, we use the ideal functionality \mathfrak{F} to capture the behavior of an ideal system while satisfying the security properties mentioned above. Due to space limitation, the formal definition of \mathfrak{F} can be found in Appendix B.

4 Quantized Homomorphic Data Ordering

In this section, we discuss details on the key cryptographic techniques to efficiently perform arbitrary-precision encrypted data ordering in Engorgio. Our approach contains two core components: the quantized homomorphic comparison algorithm ArbQuantComp (Section 4.1), and the quantized homomorphic sorting algorithm HomSort (Section 4.2).

4.1 Quantized Homomorphic Comparison

4.1.1 Binarized Homomorphic Comparison

To solve the performance-usability dilemma discussed in Section 3.1, we propose a new binarized homomorphic comparison operator BHomComp capable of generating Boolean logic values for a various of comparison functions, such as >, <, ==, \leq , and \geq . Our construction is based on the approximate sign function described by Equation (3) in Section 2.2.2, where the comparison result is ternary. To binarize Equation (3), the key idea of BHomComp is to construct a set of linear transformations over the approximate comparison results to extract the hidden equality relation.

The detailed algorithm for BHomComp is provided in Algorithm 1, given two ciphertexts $ct_{\tilde{x}}$ and $ct_{\tilde{y}}$, encrypting \tilde{x} and \tilde{y} respectively. Let cmp be the comparison function, e.g., $>, <, ==, \leq, \text{ or } \geq, \text{ and } \beta$ be the comparison precision parameter such that $\beta < \alpha$. BHomComp outputs an RLWE ciphertext $ct_{\tilde{r}}$ encrypting the polynomial of comparison results \tilde{r} , where $\tilde{r}[i] = 1 \pm 2^{-\beta}$ if the predicate $\tilde{x}[i] \text{ cmp } \tilde{y}[i]$ is

Algorithm 1: Binarized Homomorphic Comparison					
BHomComp					
Input :Two RLWE ciphertexts $ct_{\tilde{x}}$ and $ct_{\tilde{y}}$,					
comparison operator cmp, and precision					
parameter (Θ, α) .					
Output : An RLWE ciphertext $ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp}} = RLWE(\tilde{r}_{cmp})$,					
where $\tilde{r}_{cmp}[i] = 1 \pm 2^{-\beta}$ if $\tilde{x}[i]$ cmp $\tilde{y}[i]$ is					
True, else $\tilde{r}_{cmp}[i] = 0 \pm 2^{-\beta}$ and $\beta < \alpha$.					
1 $ct_1 \leftarrow \texttt{ApprHomComp}_{(\Theta, \alpha)}(ct_{ ilde{x}}, ct_{ ilde{y}})$					
2 $ct_2 \leftarrow (0, 1) - ct_1$					
$3 \ ct_3 \leftarrow 4ct_1 \cdot ct_2$					
4 switch cmp do					
5 case \geq do $ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp}} \leftarrow ct_1 + \frac{1}{2}ct_3;$					
$\mathbf{case} > \mathbf{do} \ ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp}} \leftarrow ct_1 - \frac{1}{2}ct_3;$					
7 case \leq do $ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp}} \leftarrow ct_2 + \frac{1}{2}ct_3;$					
8 case < do $ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp}} \leftarrow ct_2 - \frac{1}{2}ct_3;$					
9 case == do $ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp}} \leftarrow ct_3$;					
10 case \neq do $ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp}} \leftarrow (0,1) - ct_3;$					
Return : $ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp}}$					

true, and $\tilde{r}[i] = 0 \pm 2^{-\beta}$ if the predicate is false. We take > as an example to walk through the procedure of Algorithm 1. On Line 1–2, we compute the approximate comparison results $ct_1 = \text{ApprHomComp}_{(\Theta,\alpha)}(ct_{\bar{x}}, ct_{\bar{y}})$ and $ct_2 = \text{ApprHomComp}_{(\Theta,\alpha)}(ct_{\bar{y}}, ct_{\bar{x}}) = 1 - ct_1$. Next, on Line 3, we compute the equality result $ct_3 = 4ct_1 \cdot ct_2$. Lastly, on Line 6, we eliminate non-binary values and output the binarized comparison result as $ct_{\bar{t}} = ct_1 - \frac{1}{2}ct_3$.

While BHomComp can carry out different kinds of comparison functions, the output ciphertexts are constrained by the limited precision parameter β , which is smaller than the input precision α . To increase β , we need to adopt significantly larger encryption parameters as well as higher degree approximation polynomials, resulting in much slower computations. To address the above issue, we design a rectification polynomial $\rho_{\text{Rectify}}(x)$ to correct the accumulated noises in and produce accurate results. Given a pre-defined precision parameter α and an interval $[1 - 2^{-\beta}, 1 + 2^{-\beta}] \cup [0 - 2^{-\beta}, 0 + 2^{-\beta}]$, we want to generate a polynomial $\rho_{\text{Rectify}}(x)$ such that

$$\forall x \in [1 - 2^{-\beta}, 1 + 2^{-\beta}] \cup [0 - 2^{-\beta}, 0 + 2^{-\beta}] \qquad (9)$$
$$|\rho_{\text{Rectify}}(x) - \lceil x \rfloor| < 2^{-\alpha}.$$

Based on the equioscillation theorem [68], we are able to find the approximation polynomial of the rectify function. Through quantized encoding and the rectify function, we get the quantization layer. By inserting the above quantization layer after the BHomComp, the noise can be continuously controlled to be lower than $2^{-\alpha}$, which facilitates the design of the arbitrary-precision quantized homomorphic comparison.

Algorithm 2: Arbitrary-Precision Quantized Homo-					
morphic Comparison ArbQ	uantComp				
Input : Two QRLWE ci	phertexts $ct_{\tilde{x}^{\zeta}}$, $ct_{\tilde{y}^{\zeta}}$.				
Input :Comparison ope	rator cmp and precision				
parameter (Θ, α).				
Output : An RLWE ciphe	$extext \ ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp}} = RLWE(\tilde{r}_{cmp}),$				
where $\tilde{r}_{cmp}[i] = 1$	1 ± 2^{-lpha} if $ ilde{x}^{\zeta}[i]$ cmp $ ilde{y}^{\zeta}[i]$ is				
True, else $\tilde{r}_{cmp}[i]$	$= 0 \pm 2^{-\alpha}.$				
1 for $i = 0$ to $w - 1$ do					
$2 ct_{\tilde{r}_{\text{cmp},i}} \leftarrow \text{BHomComp}(c)$	$t_{ ilde{\chi}\zeta}[i], ct_{ ilde{y}\zeta}[i], ext{cmp}, (\Theta, lpha))$				
3 $ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp,i}} \leftarrow \rho_{Rectify}(ct_{cmp})$, <i>i</i>)				
4 $Ct_{\tilde{r}_{==,i}} \leftarrow \operatorname{BHomComp}(c)$	$t_{\tilde{x}^{\zeta}}[i], ct_{\tilde{y}^{\zeta}}[i], ==, (\Theta, \alpha))$				
5 $ct_{\tilde{r}_{=,i}} \leftarrow \rho_{\text{Rectify}}(ct_{==})$	(i,i)				
$6 \ \mathbf{C} t_{\tilde{r}_0} \leftarrow \mathbf{C} t_{\tilde{r}_{\texttt{CMP}},0}$					
7 for $j = 1$ to $w - 1$ do					
8 $ct_{\tilde{r}_j} \leftarrow \texttt{BatchHomMux}$	$(ct_{\tilde{r}_{j-1}}, ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp,j}}, ct_{\tilde{r}_{==,j}})$				
9 $Ct_{\tilde{r}_{CMP}} \leftarrow Ct_{\tilde{r}_{W-1}}$					
Return : $ct_{\tilde{r}_{cmp}}$					

4.1.2 Arbitrary-Precision Comparison

To achieve arbitrary-precision comparison without incurring heavy computational burdens, we extend the BHomComp operator from RLWE to QRLWE. We derive a new divideand-conquer strategy to construct the arbitrary-precision homomorphic comparison operator ArbQuantComp over the QRLWE ciphertexts as defined in Section 3.3.1.

In Algorithm 2, we provide the concrete algorithmic construction of ArbQuantComp. Given two ciphertexts $ct_{\tilde{r}\zeta}$ and $ct_{\tilde{v}\zeta}$ encrypting $\hat{\tilde{t}}$ and $\hat{\tilde{\eta}}$ as inputs, where $\hat{\tilde{t}}$ and $\hat{\tilde{\eta}}$ contains w quantized segmentations of \tilde{x}^{ζ} and \tilde{y}^{ζ} . cmp is the comparison function. ArbQuantComp outputs an RLWE ciphertext $ct_{\tilde{t}_{comp}}$ encrypting the batched comparison result polynomial \tilde{r} , where for each of the *i*-th slot in \tilde{r} , $\tilde{r}[i] = 1 \pm 2^{-\alpha}$ if the predicate $\tilde{x}^{\zeta}[i] \operatorname{cmp} \tilde{y}^{\zeta}[i]$ holds true, and $\tilde{r}[i] = 0 \pm 2^{-\alpha}$ otherwise. We use the strictly larger than function > as an example to explain Algorithm 2 step-by-step. First, by definition, each of $ct_{\tilde{r}\zeta}$ and $ct_{\tilde{v}\zeta}$ consists w RLWE ciphertexts. Hence, to carry out the large comparison between $ct_{\tilde{y}\zeta}$ and $ct_{\tilde{y}\zeta}$, we first perform comparisons over each of the RLWE chunk in $ct_{\tilde{r}\zeta}$ and $ct_{\tilde{r}\zeta}$ via the BHomComp operator. To implement such comparison, on Line 1-5 in Algorithm 2, we apply the BHomComp to the individual RLWE ciphertexts in $ct_{\tilde{y}\xi}[i]$ and $ct_{\tilde{y}\xi}[i]$ along with the precision-rectifying polynomial $\rho_{Rectify}.$ Next, upon obtaining the *w* result polynomials $\{ct_{\tilde{r}>0}, ct_{\tilde{r}>1}, \dots, ct_{\tilde{r}>w-1}\},\$ we merge the individual comparison results to produce a single RLWE ciphertext representing the final comparison outcome $ct_{\tilde{r}_{>}}$. Hence, on Line 6–9, we merge the comparison results $ct_{\tilde{r}_{>,i}} = \mathsf{RLWE}(\tilde{r}_{>,i})$ with the equality test results $ct_{\tilde{r}_{--i}} = \mathsf{RLWE}(\tilde{r}_{=-i})$. In the merging process, we make use of a batched homomorphic multiplexer (MUX) opera-



Figure 2: Examples of (a) a 4-element bitonic sorting network and (b) the associated matrix-based permutation process.

tor BatchHomMux, which perform the following computation

$$ct_{\tilde{r}_{j}} = \text{BatchHomMux}(ct_{\tilde{r}_{j-1}}, ct_{\tilde{r}_{>,j}}, ct_{\tilde{r}_{==,j}})$$
$$= ct_{\tilde{r}_{>,j}} + ct_{\tilde{r}_{==,j}} \cdot (ct_{\tilde{r}_{j-1}} - ct_{\tilde{r}_{>,j}}).$$
(10)

Here, $ct_{\tilde{r}_j}$ encrypts a polynomial \tilde{r}_j where $\tilde{r}_j[i]$ equals $\tilde{r}_{j-1}[i]$ when $\tilde{r}_{==,j}[i] == 1$ and $\tilde{r}_{>,j}[i]$ otherwise, i.e., $\tilde{r}_j[i] = (\tilde{r}_{==,j}[i] == 1)$? $\tilde{r}_{j-1}[i]$: $\tilde{r}_{>,j}[i]$. Essentially, BatchHomMux homomorphically selects between $ct_{\tilde{r}_{j-1}}$ and $ct_{\tilde{r}_{>,j}}$ based on the value of $ct_{\tilde{r}_{==,j}}$ in a SIMD manner. Line 6–9 in Algorithm 2 is simply iterating over each of the segmented comparison result $ct_{\tilde{r}_{>,j}}$ from small to large, and check if the comparison between the *j*-th data chunks determines the final comparison result. In other words, considering the case w = 2, the comparison $\tilde{x}^{\zeta} > \tilde{y}^{\zeta}$ can be computed as $(\hat{\mathfrak{x}}[1] == \hat{\mathfrak{y}}[1])$? $(\hat{\mathfrak{x}}[0] > \hat{\mathfrak{y}}[0]) : (\hat{\mathfrak{x}}[1] > \hat{\mathfrak{y}}[1])$, where $\hat{\mathfrak{x}}[1]$ and $\hat{\mathfrak{y}}[1]$ encrypt the most significant bits of \tilde{x} and \tilde{y} , respectively.

Note that, as specified in Equation (6), the data precision for each of the segmented plaintext chunk in the input QRLWE ciphertexts is B_g . In contrast, the precision of the resulting RLWE ciphertext from ArbQuantComp is α . Hence, we set $\alpha > 2B_g$ to ensure that the ArbQuantComp operator generates outputs with the same precision level as the inputs.

4.2 Quantized Homomorphic Sorting

4.2.1 The Basic Sorting Scheme

Based on the quantized comparison operators, we propose a new two-stage sorting framework to efficiently execute the bitonic sorting algorithm [8] over FHE ciphertexts. Our HomSort operator construction follows the bitonic algorithm [8], where the sorting process proceeds in terms of parts and stages. As shown in Figure 2a, each *stage* in the bitonic sorting network contains multiple parts. For a table with a row size of $|\mathcal{T}|_{row}$, each part performs $|\mathcal{T}|_{row}/2$ sets of comparisons and data swaps. Completing all the parts in the *i*-th stage in the sorting network produces $|\mathcal{T}|_{row}/2^{i+1}$ partially sorted subsequences, each of length 2^{i+1} . Based on the architecture of the bitonic network, we divide our sorting procedure into two steps: the order generation (i.e., the comparison) step and the order application (i.e., the permutation) Algorithm 3: Order Generation HomOrdGen

Input : A QRLWE ciphertext $ct_{\tilde{x}}$, rotate key **RK**, precision parameter (Θ, α), table size $|\mathcal{T}|_{row}$, stage s and part p. **Output :** An RLWE ciphertext $ct_{cmp_{s,p}}$, which encrypts the comparison result of stage s, part p. 1 for i = 0 to $|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}$ step 2^{s+2} do $Mask[i:i+2^{s+1}] \leftarrow 1$ 2 **Mask**[$i + 2^{s+1}$: $i + 2^{s+2} - 1$] $\leftarrow -1$ 3 4 for i = 0 to $|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}$ step 2^{s-p+1} do **Eli**[$i: i+2^{s-p}$] $\leftarrow 1$ 5 **Eli**[$i + 2^{s-p}$: $i + 2^{s-p+1} - 1$] $\leftarrow 0$ 6 **7** for i = 0 to w - 1 do $ct_{\text{mask}}[i] \leftarrow ct_{\tilde{x}}[i] \cdot \mathbf{Mask}$ 8 $ct_{rot}[i] \leftarrow Rotate(ct_{mask}[i], \mathbf{RK}, 2^{s-p})$ 10 $ct_{cmp_{s,p}} \leftarrow ArbQuantComp(ct_{mask}, ct_{rot}, >, (\Theta, \alpha)) \cdot Eli$ Return : ct_{cmps,p}

Algorithm 4: Order Application HomOrdApp

Ι	nput : A QRLWE ciphertext $ct_{\tilde{x}}$, an encoded
	permutation matrix $\mathbf{M}_{s,p}$, table size $ \mathcal{T} _{row}$,
	stage s, part p, and rotate key RK .
(Dutput : A QRLWE ciphertext <i>ct</i> _{res} , which encrypts
	the sort result of stage s, part p.
1 f	or $i = 0$ to $w - 1$ do
2	$ct_{\sup}[i] \leftarrow \texttt{Rotate}(ct_{\tilde{x}}[i], \mathbf{RK}, \mathcal{T} _{row} - 2^{s-p})$
3	$ct_{sub}[i] \leftarrow \texttt{Rotate}(ct_{\tilde{x}}[i], \mathbf{RK}, 2^{s-p})$
4	$ct_{\mathrm{res}}[i] \leftarrow$
	$ct_{\sup}[i] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,p}[0] + ct_{\tilde{x}}[i] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,p}[1] + ct_{\sup}[i] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,p}[2]$
ŀ	Return : <i>ct</i> _{res}

Algorithm 5	Homomor	phic Sort	HomSort
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Input : An unsorted QRLWE ciphertext $ct_{\tilde{x}}$, rotate key **RK**, stage *s*, part *p*, table size $|\mathcal{T}|_{row}$, and precision parameter (Θ, α) . **Output :** A QRLWE ciphertext ct_{res} , which encrypts a sorted column. 1 $ct_{res} \leftarrow ct_{\tilde{x}}$ 2 for s = 0 to $\log_2(|\mathcal{T}|_{row})$ do for p = 0 to s do 3 4 $ct_{cmp_{s,p}} \leftarrow$ HomordGen $(ct_{res}, \mathbf{RK}, (\Theta, \alpha), |\mathcal{T}|_{row}, s, p)$ 5

 $\mathbf{M}_{s,p} \leftarrow \texttt{MEncode}(ct_{\texttt{cmp}_{s,p}}, \mathbf{RK}, |\mathcal{T}|_{\texttt{row}}, s, p)$

6 $ct_{res} \leftarrow$ $\texttt{HomOrdApp}(\mathit{ct}_{\mathsf{res}},\mathbf{M}_{\mathit{s},p},|\mathcal{T}|_{\mathsf{row}},\mathit{s},p,\mathbf{RK})$

Return : *ct*_{res}

step. Here, we consider the case where $|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}} \leq N$, while the extension for $|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}} > N$ will be discussed in Section 5.1. In what follows, we take Figure 2 as an example to explain the overall sorting procedure.

• Order Generation Step: Taking an unsorted array $\mathbf{x} = [a, b, c, d]$ as example, according to the bitonic sorting network illustrated in Figure 2a, we need to compute a > band d > c in the zeroth part of the zeroth stage (*part*₀, *stage*₀). Hence, suppose that **x** is encrypted as $ct_{\tilde{x}}$, we derive the HomOrdGen operator depicted in Algorithm 3. As specified on Line 1-6 of Algorithm 3, we first initialize the mask and elimination vectors Mask and Eli. Then, on Line 8, we multiply $ct_{\tilde{x}}$ by the mask vector $\mathbf{Mask} = [1, 1, -1, -1]$ and get $ct_{\tilde{x}_{Mask}}$, which encrypts [a, b, -c, -d]. Next, we compute Rotate $(ct_{\tilde{x}}[i] \cdot \mathbf{Mask}, \mathbf{RK}, 1)$ to obtain $ct_{\tilde{x}_{rot}}$, which encrypts [b, -c, -d, a] (Line 9). Lastly on Line 10, we conduct the > comparison between $ct_{\tilde{x}_{mask}}$ and $ct_{\tilde{x}_{rot}}$, followed by a coefficient-wise multiplication by an elimination vector Eli = [1, 0, 1, 0]. After the multiplication, we obtain the comparison result $ct_{cmp_{s,p}}$ that encrypts [a > b, 0, d > c, 0]. Note that the comparison result $cmp_{s,p}$ is essentially a sequence of relative orders between a, b, c and d. Hence, we refer to this step as the order generation step.

• Order Application Step: After order generation, we need to apply the orders over the input vector via elementwise permutation. Unlike prior works [10, 33, 65, 97], we use homomorphic vector-matrix multiplication to homomorphically permute the plaintext elements in the ciphertexts. In Figure 2b, we show an example of our matrix-based permutation technique. To begin with, we encode the comparison results into the corresponding positions of the permutation matrix using the MEncode operator (the concrete encoding procedures are detailed in Appendix C.1). Then, we only need to perform a simple inner product between an unsorted input vector and the permutation matrix, i.e., the HomOrdApp operator, to swap the elements in the input vector and produce the sorted output. The detailed algorithm for HomSort is provided in Algorithm 5. Given an unsorted QRLWE ciphertext $ct_{\tilde{x}}$, HomSort iterate through the each of the $\log_2(|\mathcal{T}|_{row})(\log_2(|\mathcal{T}|_{row})+1)/2$ parts of the bitonic algorithm (Line 2-3). The main loop body calls HomOrdGen, MEncode, and HomOrdApp on Line 4-6 repetitively, resulting in the sorted QRLWE ciphertext ct_{res} . After sorting one specific column, we can also synchronize the orders (or intermediate orders) of the sorted column to other data columns. In particular, we can extract all the permutation matrices $[\mathbf{M}_{0,0}, \mathbf{M}_{1,0}, \cdots, \mathbf{M}_{log_2(|\mathcal{T}|_{row})-1, log_2(|\mathcal{T}|_{row})-1}]$ during the sorting process, and execute HomOrdApp on the target columns to synchronize the data orders. The exact synchronization algorithm is detailed in Appendix C.2.

Remark: The advantage of using vector-matrix multiplication for order application is that once the permutation matrix is obtained, we can directly use the permutation matrix to synchronize the order to other data columns through HomSync. However, the homomorphic vector-matrix multiplication has complexity $O(|\mathcal{T}|_{row}^2)$ for permuting $|\mathcal{T}|_{row}$ items, which can be slow. Therefore, in the following section, we introduce



Figure 3: Demonstrations of (a) the symmetric sparsity matrix encoding and (b) the matrix-based permutation process.

a new matrix encoding method to reduce the permutation complexity from $O(|\mathcal{T}|_{row}^2)$ to $O(|\mathcal{T}|_{row})$.

4.2.2 Matrix-Based Fast Permutation

We note that, when permuting the to-be-sorted vectors, the permutation matrix has the following two properties as shown in Figure 3: i) symmetric along the diagonal, and ii) only the main diagonal, one sub-diagonal, and one super-diagonal contain valid order information.

Based on the above observations, we propose a fast permutation algorithm HomOrdApp to homomorphically permute a vector based on the symmetric sparsity matrix encoding. Figure 3 illustrates the permutation matrix $\mathbf{M}_{0,0}$ of $(stage_0, part_0)$ where the input vector $\mathbf{v}_{0,0}$ has a length of eight. We can see that, only the elements on the main diagonal and the dotted lines parallel to the diagonal contain the actual comparison results, while the rest of the positions are all zeroes. Subsequently, we encode the elements on these three lines as $\mathbf{v}_{diag} = diag(\mathbf{M}_{0,0})$, $\mathbf{v}_{sub} = [diag_{-1}(\mathbf{M}_{0,0}), 0]$, and $\mathbf{v}_{sup} = [0, diag_{+1}(\mathbf{M}_{0,0})]$. Then, the permutation of $\mathbf{v}_{0,0}$ based on $\mathbf{M}_{0,0}$ is given by

$$\mathbf{v}_{0,0} \cdot \mathbf{M}_{0,0} = \mathbf{v}_{0,0} \circ \mathbf{v}_{\text{diag}} + (\mathbf{v}_{0,0} \ll 1) \circ \mathbf{v}_{\text{sub}} + (\mathbf{v}_{0,0} \ll 7) \circ \mathbf{v}_{\text{sup}}.$$

More concretely, as shown in Algorithm 4, to permute a QRLWE ciphertext $ct_{s,p}$ containing w RLWE ciphertexts of length $|\mathcal{T}|_{row}$ based on an encoded permutation matrix $\mathbf{M}_{s,p}$, we invoke 2w homomorphic rotations on Line 1-3 and 3w homomorphic multiplications on Line 4 to carry out the homomorphic permutation.

4.2.3 Complexity Analysis

Here, we compare the concrete SQL operation costs of Engorgio against HE³DB [10] and ArcEDB [97]. As shown in Table 2, for most SQL statements, Engorgio can reduce the computation costs by a factor of N due to the use of SIMD packing. As a result of both SIMD packing and sparse matrix encoding, when all data items can be packed into a single ciphertext, the number of ciphertext multiplications remains constant (i.e., O(1)) with respect to the number of data items in Engorgio. Furthermore, by solely relying on the RNS-CKKS scheme, Engorgio does not need to apply the costly ciphertext conversion operations as in [10,97], significantly improving the performance of most filter-aggregation queries. In Section 6.2, we quantitatively assess the performance gain of Engorgio against [10,97].

5 Hybrid Data Querying Optimization

In this section, we propose several optimization techniques when applying the sorting operator presented in Section 4 in hybrid data querying.

5.1 Full Table Scan Query

When executing hybrid queries over data tables \mathcal{T} whose row size exceed the number of SIMD slots in the FHE encryption scheme (i.e., $|\mathcal{T}|_{row} > N$), existing works face challenges either in terms of limited precision [10, 33] or incompatible operator design [49, 97]. To address both issues, we devise an extension to our matrix-based homomorphic sorting scheme proposed in Section 4.2 to act over multiple ciphertexts. Given a set of QRLWE ciphertexts { ct_0, ct_1, \dots, ct_l } that encrypt one long unsorted array of length (padded to) $N \cdot l$, the idea is to break the size- $N \cdot l$ permutation into smaller N-size permutations through matrix decomposition. Since the size- $(N \cdot l)^2$ permutation matrices { $\mathbf{M}_0, \mathbf{M}_1, \dots, \mathbf{M}_l$ } along its main diagonal. For example, if l = 2, we have

$$[ct_0, ct_1] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,p} = [ct_0, ct_1] \cdot [\operatorname{diag}(\mathbf{M}_0), \operatorname{diag}(\mathbf{M}_1)] + [ct_0, ct_1] \ll (2^{s-p}) \cdot [\mathbf{0}, \operatorname{diag}_{-2^{s-p}}(\mathbf{M}_0), \operatorname{diag}_{-2^{s-p}}(\mathbf{M}_1)] + [ct_0, ct_1] \ll (N - 2^{s-p}) \cdot [\operatorname{diag}_{2^{s-p}}(\mathbf{M}_0), \operatorname{diag}_{2^{s-p}}(\mathbf{M}_1), \mathbf{0}].$$

Due to space limitations, more details on the unboundedsize sorting algorithms are outlined in Appendix C.3.

5.2 Batched Query

In contrast to the case where $|\mathcal{T}|_{row} > N$ as discussed above, we also see real-world databases with table sizes much less than the number of SIMD slots, i.e., $|\mathcal{T}|_{row} \ll N$. In such case we can batch multiple queries into a single ciphertext to enhance the overall efficiency. For example, suppose that we wish to execute *t* queries on a table of *d* rows where $d \ll N$. We can batch the *t* queries (either relational or vectorized) into a single query as long as $d \cdot t < N$. Although batched filtering and distance computations are relatively easy to achieve, batched sorting can be more challenging due to the need of early termination in the bitonic sorting network. Specifically, to batch sorting *d* sets of filtered results, we need to first encode the *i*-th hybrid filter result into the $i \times d$ -th position of the batched input vector. Then, we perform the

SQL ⁺	Method	# Comparison	# Gate	# Conversion	# Multiplication	# Rotate
SELECT	ArcEDB [97] HE ³ DB [10] This Work	$\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \cdot Q \\ \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \cdot Q \\ \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \cdot Q / N \end{array}$	$\begin{split} \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \cdot (\mathcal{Q} -1) \\ \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \cdot (\mathcal{Q} -1) \\ \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \cdot (\mathcal{Q} -1)/N \end{split}$	$\log(P) \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \cdot \mathcal{Q} ^*$ None None	None None None	None None None
MIN/MAX	ArcEDB [97] HE ³ DB [10] This Work	$egin{aligned} \log(P)(\mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}-1) \ \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}-1 \ (\mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}-1)/N \end{aligned}$	None None $(\mathcal{T} _{row} - 1)/N$	$\begin{array}{c} \log(P)(2 \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}-1) \\ 2 \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}-1 \\ \mathrm{None} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \log(P)(2 \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}-1) \\ 2 \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}-1 \\ 4(\mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}-1)/N \end{array}$	None None $3(\mathcal{T} _{row}-1)/N$
GROUP BY	ArcEDB [97] HE ³ DB [10] This Work	$\begin{split} & \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \cdot Attr^{Group} \\ & \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \cdot Attr^{Group} \\ & \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \cdot Attr^{Group} / N \end{split}$	None None None	$ \mathcal{T} _{ m row} \cdot { m Attr}^{{ m Group}} $ None None	None None None	None None None
ORDER BY	ArcEDB [97] HE ³ DB [10] This Work	$\frac{\log(P)(\mathcal{T} _{\text{row}}^2 - \mathcal{T} _{\text{row}})/2}{ \mathcal{T} _{\text{row}} \log^2 \mathcal{T} _{\text{row}}} \\ \mathcal{T} _{\text{row}} \log^2 (\mathcal{T} _{\text{row}})/N$	$\begin{array}{c} 2\log(P) \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \\ \mathrm{None} \\ \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \log^2(\mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}) / N \end{array}$	$\begin{split} & \log(P) \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \\ \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} (\log^2 \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} + 1) \\ & \mathrm{None} \end{split}$	$\begin{split} \mathcal{T} ^2_{\mathrm{row}} &- \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \\ \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} (\log^2 \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} + 1) \\ 4 \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}} \log^2 (\mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}) / N \end{split}$	$\begin{split} \mathcal{T} _{\text{row}} - 1 \\ \text{None} \\ 3 \mathcal{T} _{\text{row}} \log^2(\mathcal{T} _{\text{row}})/N \end{split}$

Table 2: Operation costs comparison for each homomorphic SQL statements.

 $|Q|, |\mathcal{T}|_{row}, |Attr^{Group}|, \log(P)$ are publicly known to the server. * Required when the SELECT condition involves inner table data or aggregated results. + The complexities of SUM, COUNT and AVG operators are not listed because they are consistent in HE³DB, ArcEDB and this work.



Figure 4: The conceptual illustrations of (a) a full 8-element sorting network and (b) the pruned Top-1 network.

aforementioned HomSort algorithm on the batched input vector but early terminate the sorting process after completing the $(\log_2(d) - 1)$ -th stage. Due to the inherent property of the bitonic algorithm, after $\log_2(d) - 1$ stages, the batched input vector is partially sorted at every *d* intervals, which is precisely the desired sorted result. We provide a detailed BatchedSort algorithm in Appendix C.4.

5.3 Top-k Query

As mentioned in [51], it is generally the case that database clients only care about the most relevant k results (i.e., Top-k) to a particular query. Thus, we propose an optimization for implementing the Top-k query statement over the HomSort operator inspired by [82].

As mentioned in Section 5.2, due to the inherent property of the bitonic algorithm, the intermediate ciphertexts at the $\log_2(d)$ -th stage contain $|\mathcal{T}|_{row}/2d$ partially ordered sequences of length d. Therefore, we can cut off certain parts in the sorting network to improve the performance of the Top-kstatement. In Figure 4b, we show an example of selecting the Top-1 out of 8 input elements. The observation here is that, we can prune the 8-input sorting network in Figure 4a to only sort the elements that have the potential to become the Top-1 element. Roughly speaking, to select the Top-*k* from $|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}$ elements, we first perform the $\log_2(k)$ complete storing stages over all the $|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}$ elements. Then, we get $|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}/2k$ sorted blocks, each of length 2k. Next, we execute the $\log_2(k)$ -th stage for $\log_2(|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}) - \log_2(k) - 1$ times. During *t*-th execution of the $\log_2(k)$ -th stage, we adjust the rotation step of *part*₀ to $2^{\log_2(k)} + (2^{t+1} - 1) \cdot 2k$. Subsequently, we get the top *k* out of the $|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}$ elements. We observe that the complexity of the above homomorphic Top-*k* algorithm is $O(|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}} \log^2 k)$ for an input sequence of $|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}$ elements. Note that, since it is generally the case that $k \ll |\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}$, we obtain a complexity reduction of nearly $\log^2 |\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}$ when compared to the unmodified bitonic algorithm (which has a complexity of $O(|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}} \log^2 |\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}})$). The concrete homomorphic Top-*k* algorithm is explained in Appendix C.5.

6 Evaluation

In evaluating Engorgio, we wish to answer the following two main research questions (RQs).

•**RQ1**: How efficient are the individual components of Engorgio compared to state-of-the-art (SOTA) methods?

•**RQ2**: How does Engorgio perform in relational, vector, and hybrid SQL queries?

6.1 Experiment Setup

We implement Engorgio based on OpenFHE [6] using C++17 and compiled with GCC 10.2.0. We set the lattice dimension $D = 2^{17}$, the ciphertext slot size $N = D/2 = 2^{16}$, and the largest ciphertext modulus Q_L to be a 3,516-bit integer. The secret keys are drawn from a ternary distribution as specified in [30]. The above parameters provide 128-bit of security level according to [2, 14]. The experiments are carried out on an Intel Xeon Gold 6226R processor with 512 GB of RAM in



Figure 5: Microbenchmark results for homomorphic comparison, sorting, synchronization, and Top-*k*.

Table 3: Benchmark results for SQL statements over 1K rows.

SQL	HE ³ DB [10] (s)	ArcEDB [9	97] (s)	Engor	gio (s)
SELECT	276.2	$1 \times$	9.9	$28 \times$	1.2	230×
MIN/MAX	1,219.4	$10 \times$	12,501.5	$1 \times$	79.9	156 imes
GROUP BY	377.9	$2.1 \times$	807.9	$1 \times$	2.3	349 ×
ORDER BY	26,613.1	$15 \times$	394,724.9	$1 \times$	574.3	$687 \times$

a single-thread environment. The relational part of our hybrid database is made up of the TPC-H benchmarks [35] and the vector part is made up of the data in SIFT1M dataset [53].

6.2 Microbenchmarks

To answer **RQ1**, we perform a comprehensive set of microbenchmarks to test the efficiency for each of the basic homomorphic operators in Engorgio, including data filtering, data ordering, order synchronization, and Top-k selection.

Table 4: Ciphertext size analysis of 1M rows records with different precision.

Precision	Methods	Cipherte	ext Size
	ArcEDB [97]	4GB	$512 \times$
16-bit	HE ³ DB [10]	2GB	$256 \times$
	This Work	8MB	$1 \times$
	ArcEDB [97]	8GB	512×
32-bit	HE ³ DB [10]	2GB	$128 \times$
	This Work	16MB	$1 \times$
	ArcEDB [97]	16GB	$512 \times$
64-bit	HE ³ DB [10]		_
	This Work	32MB	$1 \times$

- means the method does not support such level of precision.

• **Filtering**: Here, we compare the proposed ArbQuantComp operator against the best-performing existing solutions [10, 49, 59, 65, 95, 97]. As shown in Figure 5a and Figure 5b, many existing works cannot perform homomorphic comparisons with 64-bit precision. Note that, ArcEDB [97] is categorized into online and offline phase, with details provided in Appendix D.1. Notably, Engorgio is $28 \times -854 \times$ faster than the SOTA homomorphic comparison methods for a precision level of 32-bit or above.

• Sorting: We compare HomSort to existing solutions that support homomorphic sort [10, 49, 65, 95, 97]. We vary the unsorted vector length from 2^3 to 2^{17} with 16-bit precision. As shown in Figure 5c, due to the large noise growth, most existing methods [49, 97] are limited by the number of elements that can be sorted (i.e., the length of the unsorted vector). Meanwhile, HE³DB [10] can only sort vectors with 8-bit precision elements due to the noise growth from ciphertext conversion. In contrast, Engorgio can sort vectors with length beyond 2^{16} while demonstrating $65 \times -687 \times$ speedup against the SOTA sorting algorithms.

• Synchronization and Top-k: We test the performance of order synchronization and Top-k query. As shown in Figure 5d, Engorgio is $42 \times -4,595 \times$ faster than leading methods [23,97] when the synchronizing sequence length ranges from 2^3 to 2^{15} . Similarly, for Top-k, as depicted in Figure 5e, Engorgio is $4 \times -58 \times$ faster than the SOTA solutions [33,95].

• SQL Operation: Through Table 3, we illustrate that, to echo with the theoretical complexity analysis in Section 4.2.3, Engorgio can indeed accelerate the evaluation speeds of various homomorphic SQL statements by $8 \times -687 \times$, when compared to those in [10] and [97].

6.3 SQL Benchmarks

To answer the **RQ2**, we evaluated the performance of Engorgio on various end-to-end SQL queries, including relational queries, vectorized queries, and hybrid queries.

• **Relational Query**: For the relational query, we compare our results with the most recent FHE-based frameworks [10,97]. We use queries in TPC-H benchmarks [35] to



Figure 6: Comparisons of query and response sizes with varying numbers of concurrent TPC-H Q6 queries.



(e) Hybrid query performance comparisons

Figure 7: Relational, vectorized, and hybrid end-to-end SQL query performance comparisons with varying sizes of $|\mathcal{T}|_{row}$.

test the performance of Engorgio under varying row sizes. As shown in Figure 7a, Engorgio is $15 \times -20 \times$ faster than [97] and $329 \times -353 \times$ faster than [10] over 16-bit TPC-H Q1. As illustrated in Figure 7b, for queries like TPC-H Q12 that involve inner-table comparisons, Engorgio can be $242 \times -251 \times$ faster than [10] and $616 \times -621 \times$ faster than [97]. In terms of memory performance, as illustrated in Table 4, we can reduce the peak memory consumption by up to $512 \times$.

• Vectorized Query: We construct two vectorized queries VQ1 and VQ2, which consist of vector searching, Top-*k*, and

synchronization statements (detailed in Appendix D.2). We compare our results with the most relevant frameworks [33, 95]. As shown in Figure 7c, Engorgio is $43 \times -55 \times$ (resp. $30 \times -38 \times$) faster than [33] and $241 \times -388 \times$ (resp. $202 \times -317 \times$) faster than [95] over VQ1 (resp. VQ2).

• Hybrid Query: We construct two hybrid queries HQ1 and HQ2 (detailed in Appendix D.2). Since there is no publicly available work that support hybrid queries over EDBs, we estimate the performance of existing works [10,95,97] based on the supported operators. As shown in Figure 7e, Engorgio runs $68 \times -80 \times$ faster than [10], $80 \times -120 \times$ faster than TFHE-rs [95], and $142 \times -1,640 \times$ faster than [97] under various row sizes for HQ1 and HQ2.

• Communication Costs: We compare the query and response sizes with respect to different numbers of concurrently issued TPC-H Q6 queries as a measure of communication costs. As shown in Figure 6, when compared to [10] and [97], Engorgio can reduce the query and response sizes by up to $1,014 \times$ and $976 \times$, respectively.

Lastly, when all the 48 processor cores are utilized, the amortized runtime of Engorgio can be under 3 and 75 seconds for TPC-H Q1 and HQ2, respectively, over a 10K-row EDB.

Remark: Although Engorgio provides substantial latency reductions for the queries over hybrid EDBs, we still identify the homomorphic comparison function as the fundamental challenge against FHE-based EDBs. In particular, the current approximation polynomials in implementing the homomorphic comparison function yet face the limited precision and high multiplicative depth problems. Thus, finding better polynomials to approximate the comparison function is one of the key future research directions.

7 Conclusions

In this work, we present Engorgio, an FHE-based encrypted hybrid database framework that evaluates arbitrary-precision hybrid SQL statements on large-size databases. By designing a set of new data ordering and querying primitives, we are able to efficiently apply both relational and vectorized queries over arbitrary-precision data. In the experiments, we show that Engorgio can outperform the SOTA FHE-based EDB frameworks across a comprehensive set of SQL benchmarks.

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Ethics Considerations And Compliance With The Open Science Policy

This section outlines the ethical considerations and compliance with the open science policy of this work.

Ethics Considerations

This work proposes an encrypted hybrid database framework, which mainly focuses on the protection of sensitive data in hybrid databases. Importantly, the experimental portion of this research does not involve live systems but is conducted in a controlled environment. Below, we discuss the ethical implications of the research, adherence to open science principles, and our compliance with the relevant guidelines.

• **Beneficence**: The main objective of our research is to protect data security, which aligns with the idea of beneficence. By developing and evaluating Engorgio, we seek to enhance data security and prevent unauthorized access, thereby protecting users from potential harms associated with data breaches. Based on our database outsourcing research background, we have conducted a thorough risk assessment and ensured that our methodologies will not produce potential negative outcomes. The experimental setup is contained within a secure and isolated environment to avoid any negative impacts on public systems or individuals.

• **Respect For Persons**: Respect for the individual is one of the core principles of this work. This is because the original intention of this work is to protect the security of personal sensitive data in an outsourced environment while ensuring the security of sensitive data in query statements. We maintain high standards of integrity in all aspects of the research process. All data used in the experiments are anonymized and securely managed to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

• Justice: The principle of justice requires a fair distribution of the benefits and burdens of research. In our work, we ensure that users of the outsourced database benefit from the server's high computational resources while maintaining data security. We also make sure that the server does not result in data breaches or other issues, thus enhancing service quality and ensuring that both parties involved benefit from the research. Additionally, our research does not use sensitive or personal data from public systems, avoiding any unfair negative impacts on individuals or groups.

• **Respect for Law and Public Interest**: Our work follows all pertinent laws and guidelines on data security and cryptographic research. We have also looked over our procedures to make sure Engorgio follows public interest criteria and does not support any illegal behavior or unethical activity.

Open Science Policy

Following the open science policy, we are dedicated to guaranteeing that our work is transparent and easily available. The following actions are in place:

• **Reproducibility**: To facilitate reproducibility and independent validation of our work, we will provide detailed descriptions of our experimental setup and results. Additionally, all relevant research artifacts will be submitted for the artifact evaluation process. This submission will ensure the availability, functionality, and reproducibility of our work, allowing for thorough assessment by the committee.

• **Open Access**: Our source code and materials for replicating experiments are publicly available at https://zenodo.org/records/14730651.

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A FULL NOTATIONS

We summarize the notations and operators used in this work in Table A1.

B SECURITY PROOF

Proof of Theorem 1. We assume that the client performs the encryption function over the hybrid database \mathcal{D} and the query Q locally. From the encryption procedures mentioned in Section 2.1, we know that the client holds the private key \tilde{s} . We safely hold it true that the original RNS-CKKS cryptosystem [26] attains indistinguishability under chosen-plaintext

Appendix Table A1: Summary of Notations

Notation	Description
$egin{aligned} \mathcal{D} \ \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{VT} \ \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}, \mathcal{VT} _{\mathrm{row}} \ \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{col}}, \mathcal{VT} _{\mathrm{col}} \end{aligned}$	The database The relational or feature data table The number of rows in table \mathcal{T} or \mathcal{VT} The number of columns in table \mathcal{T} or \mathcal{VT}
Q Q PA, PV	The SQL query The number of predicates in query Q The attribute and vector query
\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{V} $ \mathcal{T} _{row}$	The attribute and vector predicate values The size of the unsorted sequence The logic connection
ΟΥ ΟΥ Attr Δασ	The data ordering operators The attribute label The aggregation function
$ \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{F} F$	The feature label The encrypted database The encrypted filter result
[D] [O] [R]	The encrypted distance The encrypted ordered table The encrypted query result
λ P	The security parameter The plaintext modulus
$Q \\ N \\ \mathbb{Z}_Q$	The ciphertext modulus for RLWE The lattice dimension for an RLWE The set of n-vectors over \mathbb{Z}_{Q}
$\stackrel{\sim}{R}_{Q}$	The cyclotomic ring $\mathbb{Z}[X]/(X^N + 1)$ The cyclotomic ring $\mathbb{Z}_{\mathbb{Q}}[X]/(X^N + 1)$ The noise distribution
λ Δ a	The noise distribution The scaling factor An element in vector domain The it belowget of n
a[i] \tilde{a} $\tilde{a}[i]$	An element in polynomial ring The i-th coefficient of \tilde{a}
Α ζ W	The quantization precision The number of quantized segments
B _g m m	The quantized ratix base The quantized polynomial A collection of segmented polynomials
$RLWE^{N,Q}_{\tilde{s}}(\tilde{m})$	An RLWE ciphertexts encrypting \tilde{m} with parameters (N, Q) and secret \tilde{s}
$\widehat{QRLWE}^{\zeta}_{\tilde{s}}(\hat{\tilde{\mathfrak{m}}})$	with precision ζ and secret \tilde{s} The extracted vector formed by the
diag, diag $_{\pm k}$	elements on the main diagonal, the <i>k</i> -th super-diagonal or the <i>k</i> -th sub-diagonal Circular left shift
$\overset{\circ}{+,-,}$	The Hadamard product Addition, subtraction and multiplication

attack (i.e., achieves IND-CPA security). In addition, we assume that the adversary \mathcal{A} (the server) is semi-honest, i.e., the adversary follows the workflow honestly but wishes to learn as much information as possible from the client. Recall that the IND-CPA security of the RNS-CKKS cryptosystem [26] relies on the hardness of the decision ring learning with errors (R-LWE) problem, formulated as follows.

Definition 1. Let R^{\vee} be the dual fractional ideal of *R*. For

security parameter λ , let $Q = Q(\lambda) \ge 2$ be a positive integer modulus, $\chi = \chi(\lambda)$ be a distribution over R, and $s \in R_q^{\vee}$ be a random element, we denote $A_{N,Q,\chi}(s)$ as the RLWE distribution obtained by sampling $a \leftarrow R_q$ uniformly at random, $e \leftarrow \chi$ and returning $(a, a \cdot s + e) \in R_q \times R_q^{\vee}$. The decision ring learning with errors is defined as Decision-R-LWE_{N,Q,\chi} is to distinguish between the distribution $A_{N,Q,\chi}(s)$ and the uniform distribution $U(R_q \times R_q^{\vee})$.

In addition, we employ the following corollary from [73].

Corollary 1. (*Corollary 6.3 in* [73]) Let K be any number field of degree N, and $R = O_K$. Let $\alpha = \alpha(N) \in (0,1)$, and let $Q = Q(N) \ge 2$ be an integer such that $\alpha Q \ge \omega(1)$. There is a polynomial-time quantum reduction from K-SIVP_{γ} to (average-case, decision) R-LWE_{N,O,X} for any

$$\gamma \le \max\{\omega(\sqrt{N\log N/\alpha}, \sqrt{2N})\}.$$
 (A1)

It is assumed that solving K-*SIVP*, which is the shortest independent vector problem limited to the ideal lattices in the number field K, is NP-hard [11, 73]. Together with Definition 2, Corollary 1 from [73] essentially shows that the decision R-LWE problem is difficult independent of the choice of the number field K and modulus Q.

Here, we prove Engorgio's security guarantees under the simulation paradigm by defining two worlds: the real world and the ideal world. In the real world, the actual protocol is run by honest parties. In contrast, in the ideal world, an ideal functionality \mathfrak{F} takes inputs from the parties and directly outputs the result to the relevant party. We construct a simple simulator S that simulates the view of the semi-honest server \mathcal{A} on our system.

Ideal Functionality \mathfrak{F} . We first define our ideal functionality \mathfrak{F} which stores the current hybrid database and responds to queries in the following way:

1) TableEncrypt($\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{VT}$): \mathfrak{F} runs table encryption, and produces the encrypted tables $[\mathcal{T}]$ and $[\mathcal{VT}]$ corresponding to \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{VT} , respectively.

2) QueryEncrypt(Q): \mathfrak{F} runs query encryption for a given query $Q = (\mathcal{PA}, \mathcal{PV}, \operatorname{Agg}, \operatorname{Attr}^{\operatorname{Agg}})$, and results in an encrypted query $[Q] = ([\mathcal{PA}], [\mathcal{PV}], \operatorname{Agg}, \operatorname{Attr}^{\operatorname{Agg}})$, where Agg represents the aggregation function applied to the aggregation attribute $\operatorname{Attr}^{\operatorname{Agg}}$.

3) HomFilter($[\mathcal{PA}], [\mathcal{T}]$): \mathfrak{F} filters the table $[\mathcal{T}]$ with an encrypted attribute predicate $[\mathcal{PA}]$ and outputs the filtering result $[\mathcal{F}]$.

4) HomDist($[\mathcal{V}], [\mathcal{VT}]$): \mathfrak{F} calculates the squared Euclidean distance between the querying feature vector $[\mathcal{V}]$ and vectors stored in the encrypted vector table $[\mathcal{VT}]$, and produces encrypted distances [D].

5) HomOrder($[\mathcal{F}], [D], [\mathcal{T}], [\mathcal{VT}], \mathcal{OP}$): \mathfrak{F} sorts and synchronizes the encrypted hybrid data in $[\mathcal{T}]$ and $[\mathcal{VT}]$ based on the encrypted distance [D] and attribute filtering results

 $[\mathcal{F}]$. The output is an encrypted ordered table $[\mathcal{O}]$ produced according to the ordering operation specified in \mathcal{OP} (e.g., Top-k, Sort, MIN).

6) HomAgg(Agg, Attr^{Agg}, $[\mathcal{T}], [\mathcal{O}]$): \mathfrak{F} aggregates the column Attr^{Agg} with the aggregation function Agg on the encrypted table $[\mathcal{T}]$ and the encrypted ordered result $[\mathcal{O}]$, resulting in the encrypted aggregation result $[\mathcal{R}]$.

7) HomGROUP([Q], [\mathcal{T}], Attr^{Group}): \mathfrak{F} performs GROUP BY on the encrypted table [\mathcal{T}] with the group attribute Attr^{Group} and produce the grouped result [\mathcal{R}]_{*i*}.

We allow \mathfrak{F} to leak Leak(\mathfrak{F}) = (struct_Q, scheme_P), where struct_Q refer to the public data defined in Section 3.5 and scheme_P refer to the public data about the encryption scheme, including the security parameter λ , lattice dimension N, the ciphertext modulus Q, the associated keys (i.e., **RK** and **BK**).

Definition 2. Let π represent the protocol for an encrypted hybrid database, which takes query Q from the client as input. \mathfrak{F} simulates the functionality offered by π as a trusted entity. Let \mathcal{A} be an adversary who observes the view of a semihonest server during the protocol run and gets the final output. Let $\operatorname{View}_{\pi}^{Real}$ denote the view of \mathcal{A} in the real world experiment, while $\operatorname{View}_{\pi,\operatorname{Leak}(\mathfrak{F}(Q))}^{Ideal}$ refers to the simulated view of \mathcal{A} , which is generated by a simulator S in the ideal world given only the leakage of \mathfrak{F} . Then, \exists a probabilistic polynomial time (PPT) algorithm S for all non-uniform algorithms \mathcal{A} PPT in λ , s.t.

$$Pr[Q \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(\lambda); i \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \{0,1\}; \mathcal{A}(\texttt{View}_i, Q) = i] \leq \frac{1}{2} + \operatorname{negl}(\lambda),$$

where $\operatorname{View}_0 = \operatorname{View}_{\pi}^{Real}$ and $\operatorname{View}_1 = \operatorname{View}_{\pi,\operatorname{Leak}(\mathfrak{F}(\mathcal{Q}))}^{Ideal}$.

We begin by first providing a construction for our simulator S for the ideal world.

Simulator Construction. The simulator S is constructed as follows:

1) On receiving (TableEncrypt) from $\mathfrak{F}: \mathcal{S}$ stores it locally and forwards it to the adversary \mathcal{A} .

2) On receiving (QueryEncrypt) from \mathfrak{F} : The simulator S samples a random query $Q_{\text{rand}} = (\mathscr{PA}_{\text{rand}}, \mathscr{PV}_{\text{rand}}, \operatorname{Agg}_{\text{rand}}, \operatorname{Attr}_{\text{rand}}^{\operatorname{Agg}})$ satisfying the query structure and generates an encryption of random query $[Q_{\text{rand}}] = ([\mathscr{PA}_{\text{rand}}], [\mathscr{PV}_{\text{rand}}], \operatorname{Agg}_{\text{rand}}, \operatorname{Attr}_{\text{rand}}^{\operatorname{Agg}})$ using the key generation and encryption steps.

3) On receiving (HomFilter) from \mathfrak{F} : The simulator S outputs the filtering result $[\mathcal{F}_{rand}]$ by performing the homomorphic filtering using \mathcal{PA}_{rand} and $[\mathcal{T}]$ as the input. S then sends the $[\mathcal{F}_{rand}]$ to \mathcal{A} .

4) On receiving (HomDist) from \mathfrak{F} : The simulator S outputs the encrypted distance result $[D_{rand}]$ by calculating the distance using $[\mathcal{V}_{rand}]$ and $[\mathcal{VT}]$ as the input. S then sends the $[D_{rand}]$ to \mathcal{A} .

5) On receiving (HomOrder) from \mathfrak{F} : The simulator S outputs an encrypted ordered table $[\mathcal{O}_{rand}]$ by ordering the encrypted hybrid data in $[\mathcal{T}]$ and $[\mathcal{VT}]$ using the encrypted distance $[D_{rand}]$ and attribute filtering results $[\mathcal{F}_{rand}]$. S then sends the $[\mathcal{O}_{rand}]$ to \mathcal{A} .

6) On receiving (HomAgg) from \mathfrak{F} : The simulator S outputs the encrypted aggregation result $[\mathcal{R}_{rand}]$ by aggregating the column Attr^{Agg} with the aggregation function Agg on the encrypted table $[\mathcal{T}]$ and the encrypted ordered result $[\mathcal{O}_{rand}]$. S then sends the $[\mathcal{R}_{rand}]$ to \mathcal{A} .

7) On receiving (HomGROUP) from \mathfrak{F} : The simulator \mathcal{S} outputs produce the grouped result $[\mathcal{R}_{rand}]_i$ by performing GROUP BY on the encrypted table $[\mathcal{T}]$ with the group attribute Attr^{Group}. \mathcal{S} then sends the $[\mathcal{R}_{rand}]_i$ to \mathcal{A} .

Right now, it is sufficient to demonstrate that the view of any adversary interacting with Engorgio is indistinguishable from their view of the original RNS-CKKS cryptosystem, as detailed in Section 2.1. Recall that in the Engorgio protocol, the server carries out the homomorphic query evaluation over the encrypted hybrid database $[\mathcal{D}]$ using the encrypted query [Q]. This process yields the encrypted query result $[\mathcal{R}]$ along with certain intermediate results (e.g., $[\mathcal{F}]$, [D], [O]). While querying operations in Engorgio (i.e., HomFilter, HomDist, HomOrder, HomAgg, and HomGROUP) can be expressed as the combination of basic homomorphic operations (i.e., multiplication, addition, rotation, etc.), we collectively refer to these homomorphic query operations as HQO and the plain query operations as PQO. Without loss of generality, we assume that the client encrypts a query $Q \in U(R_q \times R_q^{\vee})$, while the server executes the homomorphic query operator HQO over the ciphertext [Q]. Due to the homomorphic property, the relationship HQO([Q]) = [PQO(Q)] holds. We first prove the security of the homomorphic query operation in the following lemma:

Lemma 1. The homomorphic query operation HQO against semi-honest adversaries with a computational security parameter of λ .

Proof. Basically, S simulates the behavior of the client within the homomorphic query evaluation protocol π , all while remaining unaware of any input. Here, the real view of the semi-honest server on the client is

$$\mathtt{View}^{\pi}(N, P, Q, \chi, Q) = \mathtt{HQO}([Q]) = [\mathtt{PQO}(Q)]. \tag{A2}$$

Meanwhile, the output of the simulator is

$$\mathcal{S}(N, P, Q, \chi) = \mathrm{HQO}([Q_{\mathrm{rand}}]) = [\mathrm{PQO}(Q_{\mathrm{rand}})].$$
(A3)

From Definition 2 and Corollary 1, it follows that the decision R-LWE problem is hard for any number field with any modulus. In other words, no efficient distinguisher can differentiate R-LWE samples from uniformly random polynomials $U(R_q \times R_q^{\vee})$ for any input Q, i.e.,

$$[PQO(Q)] \stackrel{c}{=} U(R_q \times R_q^{\vee}), \tag{A4}$$

where $\stackrel{c}{\equiv}$ indicates that the left and right sides are computationally indistinguishable. Since [PQO(Q_{rand})] is a valid encryption of a vector of PQO(Q_{rand}), we can conclude that

$$[\operatorname{PQO}(Q)] \stackrel{c}{\equiv} U(R_q \times R_q^{\vee}) \stackrel{c}{\equiv} [\operatorname{PQO}(Q_{\operatorname{rand}})], \qquad (A5)$$

for any input *Q*. In other words, assuming the hardness of the decision R-LWE problem, a semi-honest server cannot distinguish between a valid encryption process and the output of a simulator. Consequently, the semantic security of protocol π can be directly reduced to the hardness of the decision R-LWE problem. Specifically, any efficient semi-honest adversary capable of breaking the security of π would also be able to efficiently solve the decision R-LWE problem and the K-*SIVP* problem.

Previously, we demonstrated the security of HQO. Since the evaluation of a query is composed of multiple HQOs, we now prove the security of the combination of multiple HQOs.

Lemma 2. The combination of HQOs against semi-honest adversaries with a computational security parameter of λ .

Proof. Since there exists neither interaction nor decryption process between the client and the server during the computation process of multiple concatenated HQOs, all the intermediate results are valid FHE ciphertexts. In other words, no efficient distinguisher can differentiate the intermediate R-LWE samples from uniformly random polynomials, i.e.,

$$[\mathcal{F}] \stackrel{c}{\equiv} U(R_q \times R_q^{\vee}) \stackrel{c}{\equiv} [\mathcal{F}_{\text{rand}}]$$
(A6)

$$[\mathsf{D}] \stackrel{c}{\equiv} U(R_q \times R_q^{\vee}) \stackrel{c}{\equiv} [\mathsf{D}_{\mathrm{rand}}]$$
(A7)

$$[\mathcal{O}] \stackrel{c}{\equiv} U(R_q \times R_q^{\vee}) \stackrel{c}{\equiv} [\mathcal{O}_{\text{rand}}]$$
(A8)

$$[\mathcal{R}] \stackrel{c}{\equiv} U(R_q \times R_q^{\vee}) \stackrel{c}{\equiv} [\mathcal{R}_{\text{rand}}] \tag{A9}$$

$$[\mathcal{R}]_i \stackrel{c}{\equiv} U(R_q \times R_q^{\vee}) \stackrel{c}{\equiv} [\mathcal{R}_{\text{rand}}]_i, \tag{A10}$$

where $[HomOrder(\mathcal{F}, \mathsf{D})] = [\mathcal{O}]$, $[HomAgg(\mathcal{O})] = [\mathcal{R}]$, and $[HomGROUP(\mathcal{R})] = [\mathcal{R}]_i$.

Since the Engorgio protocol is a single-round protocol, there is only one round of interaction during the query process: the user sends the encrypted query, and the server sends back the encrypted query result. No additional communication or decryption operations occur in between, ensuring that the protocol does not leak any information under the security parameter of λ . Combining Lemma 1 and Lemma 2, we conclude that Engorgio securely evaluates the ideal functionality \mathfrak{F} when instantiated with semantically secure homomorphic encryption, and is secure against semi-honest adversaries with a computational security parameter of λ .

1	Algorithm 6: Matrix Encoding MEncode						
	Input :Comparison result $ct_{cmp_{s,p}}$, rotate key RK .						
	Input : Table size $ \mathcal{T} _{row}$, stage <i>s</i> , part <i>p</i> .						
	Output : Encoded permutation Matrix $\mathbf{M}_{s,p}$.						
1	$ct_{\text{cmp}_{diag}} \leftarrow$						
	$ct_{\text{cmp}_{s,p}} + \text{Rotate}(ct_{\text{cmp}_{s,p}}, \mathbf{RK}, \mathcal{T} _{\text{row}} - 2^{s-p})$						
2	$ct_{\texttt{cmp}_{sub}} \leftarrow \texttt{HomGate}(ct_{\texttt{cmp}_{s,p}},\texttt{NOT})$						
3	$ct_{\text{cmp}_{\text{sup}}} \leftarrow \text{Rotate}(ct_{\text{cmp}_{\text{sub}}}, \mathbf{RK}, \mathcal{T} _{\text{row}} - 2^{s-p})$						
	Return : $\mathbf{M}_{s,p} = [ct_{\text{cmp}_{sup}}, ct_{\text{cmp}_{diag}}, ct_{\text{cmp}_{sub}}]$						

Algorithm 7:	Homomorphic	Synchronization
HomSync		
Input : An unso	orted QRLWE cip	hertext <i>ct</i> _{0,0} . Sorting
matrice	s $[\mathbf{M}_{0,0}, \mathbf{M}_{1,0}, \cdots]$	$,\mathbf{M}_{\log_2 N-1,\log_2 N}],$
rotate k	ey RK , and preci	sion parameter
$(\Theta, \alpha).$		
Output : A QRL	WE ciphertext ct ₁	es, which encrypts a
synchro	nized column.	
1 $ct_{res} \leftarrow ct_{0,0}$		
2 for $s = 0$ to \log_2	$ \mathcal{T} _{\mathrm{row}}$ do	
3 for $p = 0$ to	s do	

4 | HomOrdApp
$$(ct_{res}, \mathbf{M}_{s,p}, |\mathcal{T}|_{row}, s, p, \mathbf{RK}, (\Theta, \alpha))$$

Return : ct_{res}

C DETAIL ALGORITHMS

C.1 Permutation Matrix Encoding

As shown in Algorithm 6, given the comparison result $ct_{cmp_{s,p}}$, MEncode apply Rotate to $ct_{cmp_{s,p}}$ and add the rotate result with $ct_{cmp_{s,p}}$ to obtain the $ct_{cmp_{diag}}$ on Line 1. Then on Line 2-3 apply HomGate and Rotate to obtain $ct_{cmp_{sup}}$ and $ct_{cmp_{sub}}$, thus the permutation matrix is encoded as $\mathbf{M}_{s,p} = [ct_{cmp_{sup}}, ct_{cmp_{sub}}]$.

C.2 Homomorphic Synchronization

As detailed in Algorithm 7, given an unsorted QRLWE ciphertext, and sorting matrices, we synchronize this ciphertext base on the sorting matrices by performing HomOrdApp on Line 4. Therefore output a QRLWE ciphertext *ct*_{res}, which encrypts a synchronized column.

C.3 Unbounded-Size Sorting

The core idea of unbounded-size sorting is to treat multiple ciphertexts that need to be sorted as a whole ciphertext, arrange the multiple permutation matrices along the diagonal into a large permutation matrix, and then execute the sorting algorithm. We first propose CrossRot to perform homomorphic rotation over multiple ciphertexts. As detailed in Algorithm 8, for a QRLWE ciphertext vector **CT** and rotate step *T*, we

Algorithm 8:	Cross-Ciphertext	Rotation CrossRot
--------------	------------------	-------------------

	Input : A RLWE ciphertext vector CT , which
	contains l RLWE ciphertexts, encrypts Nl
	values, rotate key RK and rotate step T .
	Output : A RLWE ciphertext vector CT _{rot} , which
	contains <i>l</i> RLWE ciphertexts after cyclic left
	shift T position.
1	giant $\leftarrow \left \frac{T}{N}\right $
2	for $i = 0$ to $\overline{l} - 1$ do
3	$\mathbf{CT}_{\mathrm{prerot}}[i] \leftarrow \mathbf{CT}[(i+giant) \mod l]$
4	$baby \leftarrow T \mod N$
5	$\mathbf{Mask}_0[0:N-baby] \leftarrow \{1\}^{N-baby}$
6	$\mathbf{Mask}_0[N-baby:N] \leftarrow \{0\}^{baby}$
7	$\mathbf{Mask}_1 \leftarrow \{1\}^N - \mathbf{Mask}_0$
8	for $j = 0$ to $l - 2$ do
9	$\mathbf{CT}_{\mathrm{rot}}[j] \leftarrow$
	$Rotate(\mathbf{CT}_{prerot}[j], \mathbf{RK}, baby) \cdot \mathbf{Mask}_0 +$
	$Rotate(\mathbf{CT}_{prerot}[j+1], \mathbf{RK}, baby) \cdot \mathbf{Mask}_1$
10	$\mathbf{CT}_{rot}[l-1] \leftarrow \mathtt{Rotate}(\mathbf{CT}_{\mathrm{prerot}}[l], \mathbf{RK}, baby)$
	$Mask_0 + Rotate(CT_{prerot}[0], RK, baby) \cdot Mask_1$
	Return : CT _{rot}

divide the rotation into two parts, the giant part $\left|\frac{T}{N}\right|$ and the baby part T mod N. For the giant part, we rearrange the positions of each QRLWE ciphertext (Line 1-3). For the baby part, we rotate the adjacent ciphertexts, multiply them by the mask vectors corresponding to the adjacent ciphertexts, and merge them together (Line 5-11). We use CrossRot to replace Rotate in Algorithm 3, MEncode, and Algorithm 4, resulting in UHomOrdGen, UMatEncode, and UHomOrdApp for unbounded-size sorting algorithm Algorithm 9. The Algorithm 9 first initialize mask vector and the eliminate vector similar to Algorithm 3, but here the vector length is Nl (Line 1-9). Then we use CrossRot and ArbOuantComp to carry out pairwise comparisons of different positions in ciphertext vector according to the sorting network (Line 10-13). Then we invoke UMatEncode to encode the permutation matrix (Line 14). Finally, we invoke 2 CrossRot and 3l homomorphic multiplications for each ciphertext segment to perform permutation (Line 15-20).

C.4 Batched Sorting

As detailed in Algorithm 10, given an unsorted QRLWE ciphertext $ct_{0,0}$, which encrypts $N/|\mathcal{T}|_{row}$ unsorted columns, table size $|\mathcal{T}|_{row}$ (padding to a power of two), rotate key **RK**, and precision parameter (Θ, α). BatchedSort outputs QRLWE ciphertext ct_{res} , which encrypts $N/|\mathcal{T}|_{row}$ sorted columns. We iteratively perform the aforementioned HomOrdGen, MEncode, and HomOrdApp on Line 1-6, but terminate the sorting process early in stage $s = \log_2 |\mathcal{T}|_{row}$ to obtain the $N/|\mathcal{T}|_{row}$ sorted columns. For simplicity, we assume that

Algorithm 9: Unbounded Homomorphic Sort		
_UnboundedSort		
Input : An unsorted QRLWE ciphertext vector		
$\mathbf{CT}_{0,0}$, which contains <i>l</i> QRLWE ciphertexts,		
each ciphertext encrypts a plaintext with		
length N.		
Input : Table size <i>Nl</i> and rotate key RK .		
Output : A QRLWE ciphertext vector CT _{res} , which		
encrypts a sorted vector result.		
1 $\mathbf{CT}_{res} \leftarrow \mathbf{CT}_{0,0}$		
2 for $s = 0$ to $\log_2(Nl) - 1$ do		
3 for $p = 0$ to s do		
4 for $i = 0$ to Nl step 2^{s+2} do		
5 Mask $[i:i+2^{s+1}] \leftarrow 1$		
6 Mask $[i+2^{s+1}:i+2^{s+2}-1] \leftarrow -1$		
7 for $i = 0$ to Nl step 2^{s-p+1} do		
8 Eli $[i:i+2^{s-p}] \leftarrow 1$		
9 Eli $[i+2^{s-p}:i+2^{s-p+1}-1] \leftarrow 0$		
10 for $i = 0$ to $w - 1$ do		
11 $ $ $CT_{rot}[i] \leftarrow CrossRot(CT_{s,p}[i] \cdot$		
$\mathbf{Mask}, \mathbf{RK}, 2^{s-p}) \cdot \mathbf{Eli}$		
12 $\mathbf{CT}_{\mathrm{mask}}[i] \leftarrow \mathbf{CT}_{s,p}[i] \cdot \mathbf{Mask} \cdot \mathbf{Eli}$		
13 $CT_{cmp_{s,p}}[i] \leftarrow ArbQuantComp(CT_{mask}[i], CT_{rot}[i], >$		
$(\Theta, \alpha))$		
14 $\mathbf{M}_{s,p} \leftarrow \texttt{MEncode}(ct_{\texttt{cmp}_{s,p}}, \mathbf{RK}, N, s, p)$		
15 for $i = 0$ to w do		
16 CT _{sup} $[i] \leftarrow$		
CrossRot $(\mathbf{CT}_{s,p}[i], \mathbf{RK}, N-2^{s-p})$		
17 $ $ $CT_{sub}[i] \leftarrow CrossRot(CT_{s,p}[i], \mathbf{RK}, 2^{s-p})$		
18 for $i = 0$ to $w - 1$ do		
19 for $j = 0$ to $l - 1$ do		
20 $ $ $ $ $CT_{res}[i][j] \leftarrow$		
$\mathbf{CT}_{\sup}[i][j] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,p}[0][i] + \mathbf{CT}_{s,p}[i][j] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,p}[0][i] + \mathbf{CT}_{s,p}[i][j] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,p}[i][j] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,p}$		
$ \mathbf{M}_{s,p}[1][i] + \mathbf{CT}_{sub}[i][j] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,p}[2][i]$		
Return : CT _{res}		

there is only one ciphertext after packing, that is, $\frac{x|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}}{N} = 1$. When $\frac{x|\mathcal{T}|_{\text{row}}}{N} > 1$, we use unbounded-sort proposed in Section 5.1 to execute the above steps.

C.5 Homomorphic Top-k

As detailed in Algorithm 11, given an unsorted QRLWE ciphertext $ct_{0,0}$, rotate key **RK**, precision parameter (Θ, α) , and Top-*k* parameter *k*, We first perform the first $\log_2(k)$ stages of the sorting algorithm on Line 1-6, and then execute the $\log_2(k)$ -th stage for $\log_2(N) - \log_2(k) - 1$ times on Line 7-11. During *t*-th execution of the $\log_2(k)$ -th stage, we perform *part*₀ on Line 7-22 by adjusting the rotation step of *part*₀ in MEncode, HomOrdGen, and HomOrdApp to $2^{\log_2(k)} + (2^{t+1} - 1) \cdot 2k$. Finally, HomTopK outputs QRLWE ciphertext ct_{res} , where the first *k* elements are the top-*k* results.

Algorithm 10: Batched Sort BatchedSort

	<u> </u>	
I	input : An unsorted QRLWE ciphertext $ct_{0,0}$, which	
	encrypts $N/ \mathcal{T} _{row}$ unsorted columns.	
1	(nput :Column length $ \mathcal{T} _{row}$, rotate key RK , and	
	precision parameter (Θ, α) .	
(Dutput : A QRLWE ciphertext <i>ct</i> _{res} , which encrypts	
	encrypts $N/ \mathcal{T} _{row}$ sorted columns.	
1 ($ct_{\mathrm{res}} \leftarrow ct_{0,0}$	
2 f	for $s = 0$ to $\log_2(\mathcal{T} _{row})$ do	
3	for $p = 0$ to s do	
4	$ct_{cmp_{s,p}} \leftarrow$	
	Hom \widetilde{O} rd $Gen(ct_{res}, \mathcal{T} _{row}, s, p, \mathbf{RK}, (\Theta, \alpha))$	
5	$\mathbf{M}_{s,p} \leftarrow \texttt{MEncode}(ct_{\texttt{cmp}_{s,p}}, \mathbf{RK}, N, s, p)$	
6	$ct_{\rm res} \leftarrow$	
	HomOrdApp $(ct_{ ext{res}}, \mathbf{M}_{s,p}, \mathcal{T} _{ ext{row}}, s, p, \mathbf{RK})$	
Return : <i>ct</i> _{res}		



Appendix Figure C1: The detail vectorized query and hybrid query benchmarks in Section 6.3.

D EXPERIMENT DETAILS

D.1 Microbenchmark Details

In the filtering test, we divide ArcEDB [97] comparison into the offline phase and the online phase. This is because the comparison algorithm of [97] requires an RLWE ciphertext and an RGSW ciphertext as input. The offline phase involves the direct comparison of RGSW ciphertexts generated by the user. In contrast, the online phase is required for more complex operations, such as inner table comparisons or comparisons after filtering or aggregation. These operations necessitate a sophisticated ciphertext conversion algorithm to transform RLWE ciphertexts into RGSW ciphertexts. For the synchronization benchmark, since both [97] and [23] require RGSW ciphertext as input, we add ciphertext conversion in their test to complete the synchronization. For the Top-kbenchmark, we set the input length to 256 and the values of kto 1, 4, 8, and 16, respectively.

Algorithm 11: Homomorphic Top-k HomTopK **Input** : An unsorted QRLWE ciphertext $ct_{0,0}$, rotate key **RK**, precision parameter (Θ, α) , and k. **Output :** A QRLWE ciphertext ct_{res} , where the first k elements are the Top-k results. 1 $ct_{res} \leftarrow ct_{0,0}$ **2** for s = 0 to $\log_2 k$ do for p = 0 to s do 3 4 $ct_{cmp_{s,p}} \leftarrow$ HomOrdGen $(ct_{res}, N, s, p, \mathbf{RK}, (\Theta, \alpha))$ $\mathbf{M}_{s,p} \leftarrow \texttt{MEncode}(ct_{\texttt{cmp}_{s,p}}, N, s, p, \mathbf{RK})$ 5 6 $ct_{res} \leftarrow HomOrdApp(ct_{res}, \mathbf{M}_{s,p}, N, s, p, \mathbf{RK})$ 7 for i = 0 to $\log_2(N) - \log_2(k) - 1$ do $s \leftarrow \log_2(k)$ 8 $Step \leftarrow 2^s + (2^{i+1} - 1) \cdot 2k$ 9 for i = 0 to N step 2^{s+2} do 10 $Mask[i:i+2^{s+1}] \leftarrow 1$ 11 **Mask**[$i + 2^{s+1}: i + 2^{s+2} - 1$] $\leftarrow -1$ 12 for i = 0 to N step 2^{s+1} do 13 **Eli**[$i: i+2^s$] $\leftarrow 1$ 14 **Eli**[$i + 2^{s}: i + 2^{s+1} - 1$] $\leftarrow 0$ 15 for i = 0 to w - 1 do 16 $ct_{\text{mask}}[i] \leftarrow ct_{\tilde{x}}[i] \cdot \mathbf{Mask}$ 17 $ct_{rot}[i] \leftarrow Rotate(ct_{mask}[i], \mathbf{RK}, Step)$ 18 $ct_{cmp_{s,0}} \leftarrow ArbQuantComp(ct_{mask}, ct_{rot}, >$ 19 $(\Theta, \alpha) \cdot \mathbf{Eli}$ $ct_{cmp_{diag}} \leftarrow ct_{cmp_{s,0}} + Rotate(ct_{cmp_{s,0}}, \mathbf{RK}, -Step)$ 20 $ct_{cmp_{sub}} \leftarrow HomGate(ct_{cmp_{sub}}, NOT)$ 21 $ct_{\text{cmp}_{\text{sup}}} \leftarrow \text{Rotate}(ct_{\text{cmp}_{\text{sub}}}, \mathbf{RK}, N - Step)$ 22 for i = 0 to w - 1 do 23 $ct_{sup}[i] \leftarrow Rotate(ct_{res}[i], \mathbf{RK}, N-Step)$ 24 $ct_{sub}[i] \leftarrow Rotate(ct_{res}[i], \mathbf{RK}, Step)$ 25 $ct_{res}[i] \leftarrow ct_{sup}[i] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,0}[0] + ct_{res}[i] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,0}[1] +$ 26 $ct_{sub}[i] \cdot \mathbf{M}_{s,0}[2]$ for p = 1 to $\log_2 k$ do 27 28 $ct_{\operatorname{cmp}_{\log_2 k,p}} \leftarrow$ HomOrdGen $(ct_{res}, N, \log_2 k, p, \mathbf{RK}, (\Theta, \alpha))$ $\mathbf{M}_{\log_2 k, p} \leftarrow \texttt{MEncode}(ct_{\texttt{cmp}_{s,p}}, N, s, p, \mathbf{RK})$ 29 30 $ct_{res} \leftarrow$ HomOrdApp $(ct_{res}, \mathbf{M}_{\log_2 k, p}, N, \log_2 k, p, \mathbf{RK})$ **Return :***ct*_{res}

D.2 SQL Benchmark Details

For TPC-H benchmark [35], we remove the JOIN conditions to be consistent with [10] and [97]. We give the vectorized query benchmarks VQ1 and VQ2 in Figure C1a and Figure C1b, as well as the hybrid query benchmarks HQ1 and HQ2 in Figure C1c and Figure C1d. For hybrid query tests, since [10] and [97] do not support vector distance calculation, we remove the Distance operator for fair comparison.