

1 We thank the reviewers for their encouraging feedback, and suggestions for improvement.

2 The main contribution of the paper is a novel abstraction technique to reduce the state-space for output range analysis  
3 of neural networks. Our approach is orthogonal to existing approaches in that it can be used in conjunction with  
4 existing verification approaches. In particular, it allows one to apply the existing approaches on a “smaller” system  
5 with fewer neurons, though the verification techniques need to be extended from the model of neural networks to those  
6 with “interval weights”. In the paper, we demonstrate that such an extension is feasible, by applying it to a verification  
7 technique based on MILP encoding. Next, we address the issues raised by the reviewers:

8 1. [Just one experiment, no comparison with existing methods. What are the practical limitations of the method  
9 on real-world network sizes and architectures? \(Reviewer 2 and Reviewer 3\)](#)

10 We would like to note that the area of formal verification for neural network is in its nascent stages, and  
11 extensive benchmarking has not been performed for the same. Hence, we performed our experimentation  
12 on a well known example used in the related works, to show a proof of concept for our work. We agree  
13 that more extensive experimentation is required to fully understand the scalability of the approach. Our  
14 experiments focused on evaluating the benefits of the abstraction technique, and extensive comparisons with  
15 other techniques were not performed, since, our methods is orthogonal to existing verification methods.  
16 However, implicitly we compare our method with the MILP based encoding method, for instance, in [4],  
17 where our experimental analysis shows that the abstraction + MILP outperforms just MILP based encoding.  
18 We envision that several heuristics will need to be explored to scale this and other verification techniques  
19 to the real-world network sizes. It will be interesting to explore the extension of our methods for different  
20 architectures.

21 2. [Degree of approximation and false positives. \(Reviewer 1 and Reviewer 2\)](#)

22 Figure 10 briefly highlights the trade-off between the degrees of approximation and the output range. In  
23 general, as the number of abstract nodes increases, the approximation error of the interval neural network  
24 decreases, and the output range becomes more precise. However, we observed that the exact output range  
25 might be affected by the particular partition, even when we fix the number of abstract nodes. Hence, it is  
26 important to explore partitioning strategies.

27 3. [Exploration of partitioning strategies and comparison. \(Reviewer 1 and Reviewer 2\)](#)

28 This is an important line of research, and is known in the formal methods community as “abstraction/refinement  
29 strategies”, which refers to iterative constructing more precise abstraction starting from some abstraction. One  
30 such methodology is known as counter-example guided abstraction refinement, wherein, a “counter-example”  
31 from the current abstraction is analyzed to construct the next abstraction. We intend to explore the idea in the  
32 near future, however, it requires new foundations and insights, and will require more extensive research. In  
33 this paper, we have explore random refinement strategies to highlight the need for clever refinement strategies.

34 4. [Formal definition of algorithms. \(Reviewer 2\)](#)

35 We will add an algorithm summarizing the abstraction and verification procedures.