
Scalable Neural Network Geometric Robustness Validation via Hölder Optimisation

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Abstract

Neural Network (NN) verification methods provide local robustness guarantees for a NN in the dense perturbation space of an input. In this paper we introduce H^2V , a method for the validation of local robustness of NNs against geometric perturbations. H^2V uniquely employs a Hilbert space-filling construction to recast multi-dimensional problems into single-dimensional ones and Hölder optimisation, iteratively refining the estimation of the Hölder constant for constructing the lower bound. In common with methods, Hölder optimisation might theoretically converge to a local minimum, thereby resulting in a robustness result being incorrect. However, we here identify conditions for H^2V to be provably sound, and show experimentally that even outside the soundness conditions, the risk of incorrect results can be minimised by introducing appropriate heuristics in the global optimisation procedure. Indeed, we found no incorrect results validated by H^2V on a large set of benchmarks from SoundnessBench and VNN-COMP. To assess the scalability of the approach, we report the results obtained on large NNs ranging from Resnet34 to Resnet152 and vision transformers. These point to SoA scalability of the approach when validating the local robustness of large NNs against geometric perturbations on the ImageNet dataset. Beyond image tasks, we show that the method’s scalability enables for the first time the robustness validation of large-scale 3D-NNs in video classification tasks against geometric perturbations for long-sequence input frames on Kinetics/UCF101 datasets.

1 Introduction

As well known, Neural Networks (NNs) are inherently vulnerable to adversarial perturbations [1], *i.e.*, their output is susceptible to fragilities, or attacks, in the neighbourhood of correctly processed inputs. In the context of machine vision models, input perturbations generating such fragilities can take various forms including noise, geometric changes, and illumination variations. Evaluating the robustness of a model, *i.e.*, its resistance to such small input changes, is particularly important in safety-critical applications.

The area of robustness verification [2] consists of methods providing formal guarantees that a model is locally robust in regions of the input space defined by a test point and a particular perturbation. With the exceptions discussed in the Related Work (Section 5), methods for the verification of local robustness are often theoretically *sound* (if a method reports that the model is either locally robust or not robust in a region, then that is guaranteed to be the case), and often *complete* (given unlimited time and resources a method can always resolve the local robustness query).

A well-known difficulty of sound and complete verification methods is their scalability: the robustness verification problem is theoretically NP-hard [3] and present SoA methods often fail to scale to large models, large inputs, or large perturbations [4], thereby hindering the application of the methods

in many noteworthy applications. Consequently, incomplete methods like adversarial testing are routinely used in applications to evaluate the robustness of large models [5, 6]. Yet, adversarial testing is known to fail to identify fragilities in a large number of cases, potentially instilling a false sense of robustness in the developer.

In this paper, we leverage on the considerations above to introduce H^2V , a method based on Hilbert curve mapping and Hölder optimisation for robustness Validation. Differently from some verification methods, H^2V is theoretically unsound in general. The practical impact of this is less significant than what may initially appear for two reasons. Firstly, in applications the assessment of a model’s robustness is typically based on the analysis of a large number of input samples and perturbations of varying magnitudes. It is the *aggregation of these results*, not any single query, that enables the analysis of a model’s robustness and the comparison across models. Secondly, the actual correctness of individual verification queries in SoA verification tools is often hindered by inherent system-level floating point precision errors and other issues [7, 8], thereby rendering theoretical soundness guarantees less significant in practice.

H^2V is based on Hölder optimisation and follows advanced developments in the area of global optimisation [9–11]. As such, in line with many global optimisation methods [12] for NN analysis, its convergence to the global minimum can be assured theoretically only if appropriate optimisation parameters are chosen. Given this, we refer to H^2V as a *robustness validation method*, rather than one for robustness verification, because in general the method may be unsound. However, in what follows we identify circumstances where the method is theoretically sound, thereby falling into the category of traditional verification methods. In cases where this assumption cannot be established, we demonstrate that in practice the optimisation procedure at the heart of H^2V results in no incorrect robustness results in all the validation benchmarks that we studied, including SoundnessBench [8], indeed outperforming in terms of soundness all current SoA and theoretically sound methods.

A major feature of H^2V lies in its scalability. As we demonstrate below, H^2V enables the validation of models with hundreds of millions of tunable parameters, thereby enabling the robustness analysis of models in many present applications.

In summary, our contributions are as follows:

- We propose H^2V , a global optimisation method for the validation of NNs based on space-filling dimensionality reduction and Hölder optimisation. We provide theoretical conditions for theoretical convergence, hence soundness. We illustrate that when these theoretical convergence conditions are not met, the potential of a robustness error in a single query is well contained. Indeed, no errors were found in the extensive evaluation reported.
- We use H^2V to validate the local robustness of models of up to 300M tunable parameters, including ResNet152 and Vision Transformers for image classification tasks, against geometric properties (rotation, scaling, and translation) on the large-scale ImageNet dataset.
- We use H^2V to validate the geometric robustness of 3D ResNet models in video classification tasks for streams of $32 \times 3 \times 256 \times 256$ inputs.

The rest of the paper is organised as follows. In Section 2 we present key notions of use throughout. We present H^2V in Section 3 where we give the technical details of the validation approach and present soundness conditions. In Section 4, we evaluate H^2V on large NNs for image classification and video classification; we also evaluate the correctness of the implementation empirically on SoundnessBench and additional benchmarks from VNN-COMP [4]. Section 5 discusses related work. We conclude in Section 6.

2 Preliminaries

This section outlines the background concepts and notation that facilitate the exposition of the validation method presented in the next section.

Hölder/Lipschitz constant. A function $f : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be Hölder continuous with exponent $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ if there exists a smallest constant $H \geq 0$, called the Hölder constant, such that for all $x, x' \in [a, b]$, the following inequality holds: $|f(x) - f(x')| \leq H|x - x'|^\alpha$. Lipschitz continuity [13] is a special case of Hölder continuity when $\alpha = 1$, in which case H becomes the Lipschitz constant L . These constants represent the highest rate at which the function can change in the interval.

Hilbert space-filling curve. A space-filling curve [14] is a function $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ that maps the unit interval $x \in [0, 1]$ onto a multidimensional hypercube $D = \{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in [a, b]^N\} \subset \mathbb{R}^N$:

$$\{h(x) : 0 \leq x \leq 1\} = \{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^N : a \leq \theta_i \leq b, i \in N\}. \quad (1)$$

The function h is surjective; so for every point in the hypercube, there exists at least one point in the interval which maps onto it.

The first examples of space-filling curves date back to Peano [14]; the one we adopt here is due to Hilbert [15]. Their definitions are given in the limit of infinitely many refinements of recursive constructions. Each recursive step discretises the space at a fixed resolution determined by a parameter m , thereby producing an m -approximation of the space. Specifically, the hypercube D is subdivided into $2^{N \times m}$ smaller hypercubes with 2^m subdivisions along each dimension. The Hilbert curve for an m -approximation, denoted $h_{N,m}$, traverses these unit hypercubes in a continuous manner, thus preserving spatial locality. As $m \rightarrow \infty$, the approximation converges to the true space-filling Hilbert curve, which fully covers the entire hypercube in the limit. An example of Hilbert curves $h_{N=3, m=3}(\cdot)$ can be seen on the left of Figure 1.

A property of Hilbert curves is that the multi-dimensional minimisation problem of a Lipschitz continuous function $f : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^c$ ($N, c \in \mathbb{R}$) can be accurately reduced to the one-dimensional problem along the m -approximation of the Hilbert curve $h_{N,m}$ [16]:

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^N} f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \min_{x \in [0, 1]} f(h(x)) \approx \min_{x \in [0, 1]} f(h_{N,m}(x)) = \min \tilde{f}(x), \quad (2)$$

where for brevity $\tilde{f}(x)$ denotes $f(h_{N,m}(x))$. Further, $\tilde{f}(x)$ is Hölder continuous with exponent $\alpha = 1/N$:

$$\forall x, x' \in [0, 1] : |\tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(x')| \leq H(|x - x'|)^{\frac{1}{N}}, \quad (3)$$

where $H = 2L\sqrt{N+3}$ is the Hölder constant and L is the Lipschitz constant of the original f .

Neural Networks with Lipschitz continuity. We consider Lipschitz continuous neural networks (NNs) $g : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^c$. NNs comprising convolutional, fully connected, and contrast-normalisation layers with ReLU activation functions are Lipschitz continuous [17]. Further, softmax layers, as well as sigmoid and hyperbolic tangent activation functions, also satisfy Lipschitz continuity [18]. We here focus on classification tasks where each input $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is assigned to the class \hat{y} among a set of classes $\{1, \dots, c\}$ determined by the largest NN output, *i.e.*, $\hat{y} = \arg \max_{j=1, \dots, c} g(\mathbf{x})_j$.

Local robustness verification. Given a NN $g : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^c$, an input \mathbf{x} to g , and a perturbation space $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$ of \mathbf{x} , the robustness verification problem establishes whether the class prediction of the network is consistent within the perturbation space. In other words, the problem is to determine whether:

$$\forall \mathbf{x}' \in \Omega(\mathbf{x}) : \arg \max_i g(\mathbf{x})_i = \arg \max_i g(\mathbf{x}')_i. \quad (4)$$

By taking $f(g, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = g(\mathbf{x}')_y - \max_{i \neq y} g(\mathbf{x}')_i$, where $y = \arg \max_i g(\mathbf{x})_i$, this is equivalent to establishing whether:

$$\forall \mathbf{x}' \in \Omega(\mathbf{x}) : f(g, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') > 0. \quad (5)$$

A NN g is said to be certifiably robust on input \mathbf{x} with respect to the perturbation space $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$ if Eq. (5) holds. Any violation of this property, *i.e.*, $\exists \mathbf{x}' \in \Omega(\mathbf{x}) : f(g, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') < 0$, indicates the presence of a counterexample (or attack, or fragility). A common perturbation space is the one generated by ℓ_p norms around \mathbf{x} , defined as $\Omega(\mathbf{x}) = \{\mathbf{x}' : \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|_p \leq \epsilon\}$ for a perturbation budget $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}$.

Local geometric robustness. A perturbation space that is of particular interest in computer vision is defined in terms of geometric perturbations on the input, such as rotation, translation, isotropic scaling or combinations thereof [19]. A geometric perturbation is a 2D affine transformation \mathbf{A}_θ that provides a mapping between source coordinates (x^s, y^s) of the input and target coordinates (x^t, y^t) of the transformed input:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x^s \\ y^s \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{A}_\theta \begin{bmatrix} x^t \\ y^t \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda \cos \gamma & -\lambda \sin \gamma & t_{\text{hor}} \\ \lambda \sin \gamma & \lambda \cos \gamma & t_{\text{ver}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x^t \\ y^t \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (6)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\theta} = [\gamma, \lambda, t^{\text{hor}}, t^{\text{ver}}]$ are the transformation parameters, with γ representing the rotation angle, λ denoting the scaling factor, and $t^{\text{hor}}, t^{\text{ver}}$ controlling the horizontal and vertical translation. Each

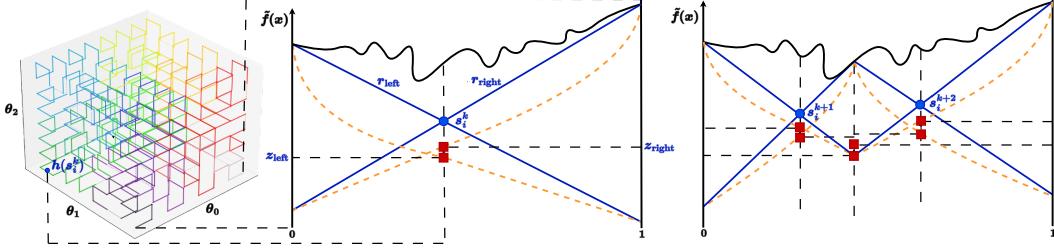


Figure 1: From left to right: Hilbert curve mapping; k -th iteration of H^2V 's optimisation; The subsequent iterations of H^2V 's optimisation.

pixel value V_{x^t, y^t} in the transformed image can be computed by calculating the pre-image of the pixel under A_θ and interpolating the (possibly non-integer) resulting coordinates using any interpolation scheme. We here adopt Spatial Transformation Networks [20] with bilinear interpolation to determine these values: $V_{x^t, y^t} = \sum_n^H \sum_m^W U_{nm} \max(0, 1 - |x^s - m|) \max(0, 1 - |y^s - n|)$, where U_{hw} is the value of the pixel with coordinates (n, m) .

Given interval constraints $\Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^4$, the geometric perturbation space $\Omega(\boldsymbol{x}) = \{V(\boldsymbol{x}, \theta) \mid \theta \in \Theta\}$ for an input \boldsymbol{x} is the set of all transformed inputs for each $\theta \in \Theta$, where each transformed input $V(\boldsymbol{x}, \theta)$ is obtained by determining $V_{x,y}$ for each pixel (x, y) of the input. Establishing the local robustness of NNs with respect to this space can be used to assess their robustness to geometric distortion effects, such as tilted camera orientation (rotation), positional shifts (translation), and zoom variations (isotropic scaling) [21].

Two key properties enable the derivation and efficiency of the validation procedure introduced in the next section. Firstly, prepending geometric transformation modules to Lipschitz continuous NNs preserves Lipschitz continuity [22]. Secondly, the perturbation dimensionality, *i.e.*, the number of parameters, of these modules is very low when compared to the input dimensionality, *i.e.*, the number of pixels, of norm-based perturbation modules. We will exploit this to provide an effective reduction to one dimension for a global optimisation method for more than one input dimensions.

In the following we consider the local geometric robustness problem $\forall \theta \in \Theta : f(g', \boldsymbol{x}, V(\boldsymbol{x}, \theta)) > 0$, where g' denotes a NN prepended with a geometric module on input \boldsymbol{x} [19]. Since g' and \boldsymbol{x} are fixed, we briefly denote the problem by $\forall \theta \in \Theta : f(\theta) > 0$.

3 Hölder-based Global Optimisation for Neural Network Validation

In this section we present H^2V , a Hölder-based global optimisation method for addressing the local geometric robustness problem defined in the previous section.

The method aims to find a solution to the optimisation problem $\min f(\theta)$ s.t. $\theta \in \Theta$, where Θ is an N -dimensional hyperrectangle encoding the perturbation space around an input. If the solution to the problem is greater than zero, then the robustness problem is answered positively by H^2V . To enable the utilisation of scalable 1D methods, H^2V first transforms the multivariate function of the optimisation problem into a univariate equivalent using the Hilbert space filling-curve. Some optimisation methods for the resulting univariate problem require knowledge of the Hölder constant [23], while some others do not [11]. Following the intractability of the accurate estimate of the constant [9], we here adapt a method from the latter category that relies on adaptive estimations of the constant throughout the optimisation process [9, 10, 18]. As we discuss in more detail below, while the method does not theoretically guarantee the identification of the global minimisers of the optimisation objective, as we demonstrate below, the potential for any potential unsound result is well-contained in view of widely employed settings in the resulting global optimisation problem.

In the following, we provide a technical exposition of H^2V . To ease its presentation, and without loss of generality, we assume that the input domain Θ is the hypercube $[0, 1]^N$. We begin with a short technical overview.

Overview. Figure 1 illustrates two consecutive iterations of H^2V . Having transformed the multivariate objective function into a univariate one, the algorithm iteratively operates on increasingly

tighter intervals of the one-dimensional input range. For each interval, it computes a low-bounding piecewise function (the dashed lines in the figure) using an estimation of the Hölder constant for that interval. Based on this low-bounding function, it then computes a lower bound for the interval (the minimum between z_{left} and z_{right} in the figure). At each iteration, the algorithm chooses the interval with the lowest bound to split into tighter intervals at the point where the estimated lower bound is observed. Lower-bounding functions for the new sub-intervals are then computed to facilitate the next iteration. The algorithm terminates when an optimisation budget ϵ is reached that reflects the minimum length of the selected interval. Below, we discuss this procedure in detail.

Initialisation. H^2V is initialised by: (i) transforming the multi-dimensional optimisation problem $\min f(\theta)$ s.t. $\theta \in [0, 1]^N$ to the one-dimensional problem $\min \tilde{f}(x)$ s.t. $x \in [0, 1]$ using the Hilbert space-filling curve, (ii) setting $\mathcal{I} = \{[0, 1]\}$ to be the set of initial intervals, and (iii) letting $\mathcal{O} = \{\}$ to be the set of already considered intervals. Then, for each iteration $k \geq 1$, H^2V executes the following steps.

Step 1 (Adaptive estimation of the Hölder constant). For each interval $i \in \mathcal{I}$, with $i = [a, b]$, H^2V computes a *local* Hölder constant $H_i = \frac{|\tilde{f}(b) - \tilde{f}(a)|}{|a - b|^{1/N}}$, and a *global* Hölder constant $h_k = \max\{H_i \mid i \in \mathcal{I}\}$. Based on these constants, it derives its (adaptive) estimation of the Hölder constant for interval i as $\hat{H}_i = r \cdot \max\{\kappa, \eta, \xi\}$, where:

- $\kappa = \max\{H_j \mid j = i \text{ or } j \text{ is adjacent to } i\}$ is the local component of the estimation, which represents the maximum value among the local constants of interval i and its neighbouring intervals (*i.e.*, all intervals within a given number of hops n_κ from i , including i itself).
- $\eta = h_k \frac{|a - b|}{X_{\max}}$ is the global component of the estimation, where $X_{\max} = \max\{(b' - a')^{1/N} \mid [a', b'] \in \mathcal{I}\}$ is the widest interval;
- ξ is a small value that prevents \hat{H}_i from becoming 0, thereby accounting for $\tilde{f}(x)$ varying over $[0, 1]$;
- $r > 1$ is the reliability parameter of the algorithm.

Intuitively, the adaptive estimation \hat{H}_i is dominated by the global component whenever an interval is large (and thus the local estimates are not reliable), and by the local component whenever an interval is small (and thus the local estimates are more accurate). A practical enhancement is introduced in more details below to mitigate potential underestimations of the constant.

Step 2 (Estimation of the lower bounds of the intervals). For each interval $i \in \mathcal{I}$, with $i = [a, b]$, the algorithm computes the point

$$s_i = \frac{b + a}{2} - \frac{\tilde{f}(b) - \tilde{f}(a)}{2\hat{H}_i(b - a)^{1/N}}. \quad (7)$$

This point is the intersection of the lines $r_{\text{left}}(x)$ and $r_{\text{right}}(x)$ (see the solid lines in Figure 1), which are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} r_{\text{left}}(x) &= -\hat{H}_i(b - a)^{\frac{1-N}{N}}x + \hat{H}_i(b - a)^{\frac{1-N}{N}}a + \tilde{f}(a), \\ r_{\text{right}}(x) &= \hat{H}_i(b - a)^{\frac{1-N}{N}}x - \hat{H}_i(b - a)^{\frac{1-N}{N}}b + \tilde{f}(b). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

These lines relax the piecewise lower bounding functions of \tilde{f} within the interval (the dashed lines in the figure); we refer to [9] for a formal description of the functions using the estimated Hölder constant. The lower bound l_i of the interval is then estimated as $l_i = \min(z_{\text{left}}, z_{\text{right}})$, where

$$z_{\text{left}} = \tilde{f}(a) - \hat{H}_i(s_i - a)^{1/N}, \quad z_{\text{right}} = \tilde{f}(b) - \hat{H}_i(b - s_i)^{1/N}. \quad (9)$$

The bound l_i corresponds to the minimum value of the lower bounding functions evaluated at the s_i .

Step 3 (Convergence and refinement). H^2V selects the interval $i \in \mathcal{I}$ with the minimum lower bound estimate l_i . Then,

- If the length of the interval $i = [a, b]$ is smaller than the optimisation budget, *i.e.*, $|b - a| \leq \epsilon$, it executes **Step 4** and terminates;
- Otherwise, it splits the selected interval with respect to $s_i = [a', b']$, and updates $\mathcal{I} \leftarrow \mathcal{I} \setminus \{i\} \cup \{[a, a'], [a', b']\}$, $\mathcal{O} \leftarrow \mathcal{O} \cup \{i\}$. It then repeats from **Step 1**.

Step 4 (Calibration and output). H^2V computes an estimation of the minimum of the function as $\tilde{f}_m = \min \left\{ \tilde{f}(a), \tilde{f}(b) \mid [a, b] \in \mathcal{I} \right\}$, and an estimation of the lower bound of the function as $l_m = \min \{l_j \mid j \in \mathcal{I} \cup \mathcal{O}\}$. The bound l_m is then calibrated as $l_m \leftarrow l_m - \eta$, where $\eta = L \cdot 2^{-(m+1)}\sqrt{N} + H \cdot (\epsilon/2)^{1/N}$, L and H are the present estimates of the global Lipschitz and Hölder constants, and m is the resolution of the Hilbert approximation. The calibration, which is theoretically analysed below, accounts for (i) approximation errors in the dimensionality reduction along the Hilbert curve, and (ii) the constrained nature of the optimisation budget ϵ within which the algorithm operates. Following the calibration, H^2V produces its output as follows:

- If $l_m > 0$, then it returns *robust*, i.e., a positive answer to the robustness of the underlying network.
- If $\tilde{f}_m < 0$, then it returns *non-robust*, along with a counterexample $h_{N,m}(x)$ corresponding to the value for which $\tilde{f}(x) = \tilde{f}_m$.

We now proceed to analyse the algorithm's soundness and examine practical methods for sustaining high reliability and computational efficiency. We begin by showing that a calibrated (as per **Step 4**) lower bound for the reduced one-dimensional space translates to a lower bound for the original N -dimensional space.

Theorem 1. *Let l_h^* be a lower bound of the one-dimensional problem $\min \tilde{f}(x)$ s.t. $x \in [0, 1]$ over the Hilbert space-filling curve. Then, we have that*

$$l_h^* - L \cdot 2^{-(m+1)}\sqrt{N} - H \cdot (\epsilon/2)^{1/N} \leq l^*, \quad (10)$$

where l^* is the optimal solution of the multi-dimensional problem $\min f(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ s.t. $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in [0, 1]^N$.

Proof. The proof is included in the Appendix. \square

Note that the first calibration term results from the approximation of the Hilbert curve reduction, while the second is a consequence of the limited optimisation budget. When the resolution of the Hilbert approximation is high enough, e.g., $m = 50$ in our experiments, the magnitude of the former term is negligible. Differently, the magnitude of the latter term grows with the number of dimensions, thus hindering the efficacy of H^2V to high-dimensional input domains.

Next, we show that given a sufficiently enough large value for the reliability parameter r , H^2V implements a sound verification procedure.

Theorem 2. *There exists r^* s.t. for all $r > r^*$, H^2V outputs robust iff $\forall \boldsymbol{\theta} \in [0, 1]^N : f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) > 0$.*

Proof. The result follows immediately from Theorem 1 and Theorem 3.8 in [9]. \square

Note that Theorem 2 does not provide a constructive way of determining r^* . Consequently, in practice, the Hölder constant can be underestimated at any iteration and interval, which may impact the localisation of the global minimisers and the convergence speed. Consequently, H^2V may output *robust* when the local geometric robustness problem is not robust. This reflects all existing global optimisation-based verification methods that do not necessitate knowledge of the true Lipschitz/Hölder constant [18, 24]. Note however that if H^2V reports *non-robust*, meaning the model is fragile in the specified neighbourhood, the conclusion is definitive. Note also that if in **Step 1** an overestimation of the Hölder constant is used, then H^2V is theoretically guaranteed to return sound results as the corollary below formalises.

Corollary 1. *Let H^* be the true Hölder constant. If for every iteration of **Step 1**, $\hat{H}_i \geq H^*$, then H^2V outputs robust iff $\forall \boldsymbol{\theta} \in [0, 1]^N : f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) > 0$.*

Proof. The corollary is a direct consequence of Theorems 3.6 and 3.8 in [9]. \square

Tight bounds for the Hölder constant are in general intractable to compute [9], while fast and loose bounds lead to major performance degradation of the verification procedure, as empirically analysed in the Appendix. In the light of this, H^2V relies on estimations of the constant as detailed in **Step 1**, but implements the following operational enhancements that remedy the potential underestimation of the constant.

Practical enhancements. To ensure high reliability, following convergence (*i.e.*, when the optimisation budget is reached), H^2V iteratively increases the value of the global Hölder constant h_k and the number of neighbourhood intervals n_k used in the estimation of the Hölder constant until either (i) a different interval is selected at **Step 3**, or (ii) a time limit (given as a parameter) is reached. Intuitively, if the algorithm converges to a local minimum following an underestimation of the Hölder constant, the iterative adjustment of the constant will eventually trigger an escape from said minimum. To further enable high practical efficacy, H^2V implements two global optimisation strategies [9]. First, it employs a heuristic whereby it dynamically adapts the Hölder constant based on both local and global information as detailed in **Step 1**. Second, for every iteration, following the selection of an interval $i = [a, b]$ and division thereof as per split point s_i at **Step 3**, it re-estimates the lower bound of an interval j at the next iteration only if one of the following conditions hold: (i) j is adjacent or contained in i ; (ii) the length of i is equal to X_{\max} ; (iii) the local Hölder constant for the sub-intervals of i is greater than the global Hölder constant h_k . These express the necessary conditions for triggering a change in the estimation of the lower bound l_j of each interval j (as per the definition of the adaptive estimation of the Hölder constant \hat{H}_j in **Step 1**). Taken together, these enhancements contribute towards achieving high efficiency and a very high degree of correctly answered verification problems.

4 Experimental Evaluation

Experimental Setup. Our experiments were conducted on a workstation equipped with a 16-core AMD Ryzen 9 9950X CPU, 192 GB of RAM, running Linux kernel 6.14.0-29-generic, and an NVIDIA RTX 5090 GPU with 32 GB of graphics memory. The implementation is in Python; the Hilbert space-filling curve mapping is implemented by using the `hilbertcurve` library [25]. The experimental evaluation is aimed to evaluate the practical applicability of the approach. We establish this by assessing the scalability of the approach on very large NNs and its reliability in practice. As we discuss below, our findings suggest that: the method scales to models such as vision transformers and video models that to our knowledge could not be previously verified and the implementation achieves the highest level of correctly answered verification queries.

In terms of geometric perturbations, we denote the rotation operation as $R(\gamma)$, where the angle varies within the range $\pm\gamma$, and the scaling operation as $S(\lambda)$, where the scaling factor ranges between $1 \pm \lambda$. Let $T(t)$ represent the translation operation, shifting an input by up to $\pm t$ proportionally in both the horizontal and vertical directions. Here we consider the combination of these three types of geometric transformations to evaluate the model’s robustness in terms of its *robust accuracy*, *i.e.*, the percentage of samples reported robust in the geometric neighbourhood considered. We report only the highlights in the rest of this section but base our conclusions on the comprehensive benchmarking for the method also reported in the Appendix.

Large NNs for Image Classification. To evaluate the performance of H^2V on image classification for large NNs, we benchmarked the robust accuracy obtained by the tool on 9 models from timm¹ of different sizes, ranging from 19M (Gmlp) to 300M (Large ViT_{16×16}) tunable parameters. These include several ResNet models up to ResNet152, trained to a good level of accuracy. The dataset used is ImageNet, with input sizes of either $3 \times 224 \times 224$ or $3 \times 299 \times 299$, depending on the model configuration. The verification queries consisted of any combination of input transformation consisting of rotation, translation and isotropic scaling with parameters 20° , 10%, and 10%, respectively. We set the timeout budget for each verification query to 1200s (20 minutes) and report the average runtime of H^2V in seconds. The runtimes are computed with respect to the robust and non-robust cases and do not include the timeouts. To the best of our knowledge, GeoRobust [22] is the only available tool that can handle such queries on high dimensional inputs for such large NNs. In particular, none of the tools in VNN-COMP [4, 21] can resolve such queries. We provide further benchmarking for completeness in the Appendix. Table 1 reports the results obtained for 500 ImageNet samples. We observe that in most cases H^2V significantly outperforms GeoRobust in terms of finding more counterexamples whilst exhibiting a smaller percentage of timeouts. GeoRobust is shown to have superior performance on non-ResNet models in terms of robust accuracy. However, further analysis of these results indicate that GeoRobust often incorrectly reported a model as robust. Indeed, H^2V identified several counterexamples (*i.e.*, 8 for Inception V3, 9 for ResNet34, 2 for ResNet50, 5 for ResNet101, 12 for ResNet152, 9 for Mixer, 15 for Gmlp, 21 for Swin, 30 for ViT) to verification

¹<https://huggingface.co/docs/timm>

Table 1: Evaluation results on 500 images from ImageNet against the perturbation combination (4 dimensions) of rotation (20°), translation (10%) and isotropic scaling (10%). The baseline performances are adopted from [22], except for ResNet-34, for which we rerun the experiment to obtain updated results due to changes in the timm (PyTorch Image Models) library.

Model	Input Size	Clean Acc (%)	No. Params (M)	Timeouts (%)		Robust Accuracy (%)		Average Runtime (s)
				GeoRobust*	H ² V	GeoRobust	H ² V	
Inception V3	$3 \times 299 \times 299$	73.4	24	4.0	0.6	24.2	23.0	150.51
ResNet34	$3 \times 299 \times 299$	72.0	22	4.2	1.0	27.8	26.0	101.55
ResNet50	$3 \times 299 \times 299$	78.4	26	22.9	1.8	31.1	40.8	253.97
ResNet101	$3 \times 299 \times 299$	80.0	45	6.0	2.2	48.2	47.0	430.27
ResNet152	$3 \times 299 \times 299$	79.6	60	7.2	2.0	46.2	46.8	477.01
Mixer	$3 \times 224 \times 224$	72.2	60	3.8	4.0	23.4	20.2	206.01
Gmlp	$3 \times 224 \times 224$	78.0	19	4.0	6.2	36.8	30.6	327.11
Swin	$3 \times 224 \times 224$	80.2	88	21.4	9.6	13.2	8.2	199.29
Large ViT _{16×16}	$3 \times 224 \times 224$	83.4	300	9.0	10.6	40.2	29.0	496.16

* GeoRobust's termination criterion is the query count; therefore, we here present the percentage of cases that remain undecided.

queries that were reported *robust* by GeoRobust. We suspect this is because GeoRobust's underlying global optimisation procedure can often use underestimations of the Lipschitz constant.

The results suggest that the ViT model considered is less robust than some ResNet models. This raises the question as to why the patch-based attention mechanisms do not translate into improved robustness [26]. The results here only refer to geometric robustness and require further analysis.

Large NNs for Video Classification. To further evaluate the performance of H²V, we now report the experimental results obtained when assessing the robustness of large models used for video classification. For this we considered end-to-end RGB 3D-NNs without flow information trained on the Kinetics-400 dataset [27]. Specifically, we evaluated 5 pre-trained NNs from the open-source library PyTorchVideo [28] with network parameters ranging from 3.79M to 32.45M, and up to $32 \times 3 \times 256 \times 256$ input dimensions: Slow-R50 [29], R(2+1)D-R50 [30], X3D_M [31], I3D-R50 [32], and C2D-R50 [33].

Table 2: Benchmarking static geometric robustness of video classification models against geometric transforms (R(20°) + S(10%) + T(10%)).

Model	Frame Length	Frame Rate	No. Params (M)	Clean Acc (%)	Timeouts (%)	Robust Acc (%)	Average Runtime (s)
X3D_M	16	5	3.79	73.0	3.0	37.0	1210.70
C2D-R50	8	8	24.33	73.0	3.0	36.0	768.88
I3D-R50	8	8	28.04	74.0	1.0	45.0	1118.28
R(2+1)D-R50	16	5	28.11	76.0	2.0	45.0	1874.70
Slow-R50	8	8	32.45	78.0	2.0	47.0	1238.82

For the evaluation, we randomly selected 100 videos from the dataset and evaluated the robustness of the models against perturbations applied to entire video (see the Appendix for technical details). The perturbations consisted of combinations of rotation, scaling and translation, using the same perturbation intensity used for the images above. We set the timeout budget for each verification query to 3600s (60 minutes) and report the average runtime of H²V in seconds. The runtimes are computed with respect to the robust and non-robust cases and do not include the timeouts. In terms of baselines, to the best of our knowledge, the only two verification methods applicable to video tasks are [34] and [35]. However, the former analyses the robustness of the extracted optical flow, rather than perturbing the RGB frames directly, thereby limiting its real-world applicability and comparability with our task. The latter can only scale to small NNs with small input sizes, hence it is not comparable with H²V.

The results are reported in Table 2. It can be observed that H²V was able to resolve a large proportion of the verification queries with a minimum rate of timeouts. To our knowledge, this is the first time that large video classifiers are evaluated for local robustness. In our results Slow-R50 and R(2+1)D-

Table 3: Soundness validation on SoundnessBench.

Benchmark	Input Dimensionality	No. Params	Tool	No. Robust	No. Non-Robust	No. Unknown	No. Unsound	Average Runtime (s)
CNN1	25-75	353K	$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	19	0	57	0	6.74
			PyRAT	12	0	64	0	3.50
			H^2V	27	0	49	0	66.06
CNN2	25-75	354K	$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	12	0	62	0	5.43
			PyRAT	5	0	69	0	15.32
			H^2V	16	0	58	0	63.31
CNN3	25-75	606K	$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	8	1	67	0	4.35
			PyRAT	5	0	71	0	9.63
			H^2V	12	0	64	0	62.87
CNN AvgPool	25-75	353K	$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	10	8	32	0	2.12
			PyRAT	6	0	54	0	18.80
			H^2V	12	0	48	0	65.47
CNN Tanh	25-75	353K	$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	0	1	37	0	0.71
			PyRAT	0	0	38	0	0.00
			H^2V	19	0	19	0	63.34
CNN Sigmoid	25-75	353K	$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	2	0	29	0	0.50
			PyRAT	1	0	30	0	0.36
			H^2V	19	0	12	0	63.80
MLP	10	3.13M	$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	20	3	48	0	0.79
			PyRAT	20	0	51	0	7.23
			H^2V	30	2	39	0	54.32

Table 4: Evaluation on TLL Verify Bench, a VNN-COMP benchmark.

Benchmark	Input Dimensionality	No. Params	Tool	No. Robust	No. Non-Robust	No. Unknown	No. Unsound	Average Runtime (s)
TLL Verify Bench	2	17k-67M	$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	15	17	0	0	37.93
			PyRAT	11	17	4	0	44.29
			H^2V	15	17	0	0	27.86

R50 achieved the highest robust accuracy (47.0% and 45.0%, respectively). These findings indicate that architectural refinements and expanding model capacity could potentially benefit robustness against geometric transformations.

Soundness Validation. We discussed in Sections 1 and 3 that since H^2V is based on global optimisation, it may return unsound results. This theoretical possibility can be mitigated, as it is routinely done in optimisation, by carefully choosing the optimisation parameters. The ablation studies of several relevant hyper-parameters, including the reliability parameter, the resolution parameter of the Hilbert curve, and the optimisation budget, are provided in the Appendix.

In what follows we evaluate the empirical soundness of H^2V . We do this in two ways. Firstly, we evaluate the results obtained by H^2V on SoundnessBench [8]. This is a recently released neural network verification benchmark, specifically designed for the validation of the correctness of verifiers by including the ground truth of the verification queries. Secondly, we report the results obtained by H^2V on low-dimensionality perturbations from VNN-COMP [4]. In this case the ground truth is not known, and thus, similarly to VNN-COMP, we compare the results against those produced by the SoA tools. In total, we evaluated the soundness of H^2V on 460 robustness queries. We found that all the results produced by H^2V on SoundnessBench were correct (*i.e.*, matching the ground truth provided), and all the results produced by H^2V on the VNN-COMP benchmarks were in line with those reported by $\alpha\beta$ -CROWN [36].

We report the results obtained on SoundnessBench in Table 3, using a timeout of 100 seconds. The benchmark comprises 24 models (primarily CNNs and MLPs) and includes 240 verification queries that ought to be resolved as *robust* and 186 that ought to be resolved as *non-robust*. Note that the latter include carefully hidden adversarial examples that are challenging for verifiers to discover. It has recently reported that several mainstream NN verifiers, including $\alpha\beta$ -CROWN [36], NeuralSAT [37], and Marabou [38], answer some of the instances incorrectly [8]. In contrast, H^2V returned the

correct result for all the queries, and achieved the highest number of verified queries. We refer to the Appendix for an exposition of the detailed performance of each method.

Lastly, Table 4 reports the results obtained on the TLL Verify Bench benchmark from VNN-COMP [4], using a default timeout of 600 seconds. The benchmark was selected because of the low-input dimensionality ($N = 2$) of the perturbations it includes, which makes it amenable to analysis via H^2V . We observe that H^2V achieves the same verification results as $\alpha\beta$ -CROWN (batch size 1) and PyRAT [39], while being more efficient and exhibiting no unsound cases.

5 Related work

An extensive body of literature exists on the verification of NN robustness against ℓ_p -bounded and other local perturbations; we refer to [2, 40] for surveys on the area. A variety of methods are used ranging from Mixed-Integer Linear Programming [41–44], to SMT [37, 38], abstract interpretation [39, 45–49], and branch-and-bound with symbolic interval propagation [36, 50–56]. All of these differ from H^2V in that they are theoretically sound. This guarantee does not always translate into sound implementations since unavoidable floating point approximations may impact the correctness of the bounds generated by symbolic interval propagation methods [7, 8]. In contrast, outside the soundness envelope discussed in Section 3, H^2V may in principle return “robust” for a model that admits attacks. We noted that this eventually is remote and can be mitigated by an appropriate choice of optimisation parameters as our experiments demonstrate.

In terms of scalability, the approaches cited above, notably symbolic interval propagation, outperform H^2V for large dimensionality problems. However, as shown in the previous section, H^2V considerably outperforms all SoA on geometric perturbations, including the approaches targeting geometric robustness directly [21, 22, 57–59] (see also a discussion in the Appendix).

Much closer to H^2V are existing methods based on global optimisation [18, 24, 60]. The key difference between H^2V and these methods is that the former couples Hölder optimisation with a dimensionality reduction technique, thereby scaling to larger models and to higher dimensions, as we empirically demonstrated. We note that existing optimisation methods provably converge only if particular parameters can be chosen. However, this choice is closely related to establishing an upper bound of the Lipschitz constant. This is normally intractable for large models and only estimations can be used in practice, thereby potentially resulting in unsound results, as we empirically observed.

6 Conclusions

We presented H^2V , a novel method for the robustness validation of NNs against geometric perturbations. We demonstrated that H^2V outperforms SoA robustness verification methods against geometric perturbations and scales to vision classification models of hundreds of millions of tunable parameters and large inputs, enabling, for the first time to our knowledge, the validation of large video classifiers. These results enable the rigorous validation of present vision systems including transformer-based architectures. We noted that, differently from several present verification methods, the theoretical soundness of H^2V cannot be guaranteed in all cases, but we presented the reasons why we do not regard this as a limitation in practice.

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A Proof of Theorem 1

Lemma 1. ([10, Theorem 2.1]) Let l_h^* be the solution of the lower bound along the Hilbert curve $h_{N,m}(x)$ for $f(\theta)$ satisfying the Lipschitz condition with constant L :

$$l_h^* \leq \min f(h_{N,m}(x)) = \min \tilde{f}(x), \quad x \in [0, 1]. \quad (11)$$

Considering the infinite optimisation budget, i.e., $\epsilon = 0$, then the true lower bound for the multi-dimensional problem $\min f(\theta)$ in the original space over the entire region $[0, 1]^N$:

$$l_h^* - L \cdot 2^{-(m+1)}\sqrt{N} \leq l^*. \quad (12)$$

Proof can be found in [10, Thm. 2.1]. □

Theorem 1. Let l_h^* be a lower bound of the one-dimensional problem $\min \tilde{f}(x)$ s.t. $x \in [0, 1]$ over the Hilbert space-filling curve. Then we have that

$$l_h^* - L \cdot 2^{-(m+1)}\sqrt{N} - H \cdot (\epsilon/2)^{1/N} \leq l^*, \quad (13)$$

where l^* is the optimal solution of the multi-dimensional problem $\min f(\theta)$ s.t. $\theta \in [0, 1]^N$.

Proof. The first calibration term directly comes from Lemma 1. Let $\tilde{f} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfy the Hölder condition with exponent $\alpha = 1/N$ and constant $H > 0$:

$$|\tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(y)| \leq H |x - y|^{1/N}, \quad \forall x, y \in [0, 1].$$

Assume that during H²V's optimisation process, Theorem 2 in the main manuscript has been satisfied, i.e., $r > r^*$ such that $\hat{H}_i \geq H_i$ for each interval, the algorithm terminates when the selected interval $[x_{i-1}, x_i]$ has length $\delta_i = |x_i - x_{i-1}| \leq \epsilon$. Let

$$x^* = \arg \min_{x \in [0, 1]} \tilde{f}(x), \quad \hat{x} = \arg \min \{\tilde{f}(x_i) : \text{sampled endpoints } x_i\},$$

and denote $\tilde{f}^* = \tilde{f}(x^*)$, $\hat{\tilde{f}} = \tilde{f}(\hat{x})$. Let ξ represent the endpoint of the interval $[x_{i-1}, x_i]$ that is closest to the true minimizer x^* . Then, upon termination [9], the true minimizer x^* will only fall into the chosen interval. By definition of ξ as the nearer endpoint, we have

$$|x^* - \xi| = \min\{|x^* - x_{i-1}|, |x^* - x_i|\} \leq \frac{|x^* - x_{i-1}| + |x^* - x_i|}{2} = \frac{\delta_i}{2} \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2}. \quad (14)$$

From the Hölder condition for the function \tilde{f} :

$$|\tilde{f}(\xi) - \tilde{f}(x^*)| \leq H |\xi - x^*|^{1/N} \leq H \left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}\right)^{1/N}. \quad (15)$$

Since $\hat{\tilde{f}} = \min_k \tilde{f}(x_k) \leq \tilde{f}(\xi)$,

$$\hat{\tilde{f}} - \tilde{f}^* \leq |\tilde{f}(\xi) - \tilde{f}(x^*)| \leq H \left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}\right)^{1/N}. \quad (16)$$

Therefore, $H \cdot (\epsilon/2)^{1/N}$ is incorporated into the lower bound in Eq. (13) as the second calibration term, thereby completing the proof. □

Summary: The first calibration term results from the approximation of the Hilbert curve reduction, while the second is a consequence of the limited optimisation budget. When the resolution of the Hilbert approximation is high enough, e.g., $m = 50$ in our experiments, the magnitude of the former term is negligible. Differently, the magnitude of the latter term grows with the number of dimensions, thus hindering the efficacy of H²V to high-dimensional input domains.

B Ablation Study

In this section we report several ablation studies for some hyper-parameters used in our method. Specifically, we conducted ablation studies on the reliability parameter r on two benchmarks with ground-truth: TLL Verify Bench from VNN-COMP (2 dimensions) and a MLP5 benchmark from SoundnessBench (10 dimensions). The timeout is set to 100 seconds. We report the counts of Robust, Non-Robust, and Unknown cases, respectively, along with the average runtime in seconds. The runtimes are computed with respect to the robust and non-robust cases and do not include the timeouts. The results show that H^2V outputs no unsound results for any value of $r > 1$. However, we note an increase difficulty to answer verification queries with bigger values of r . Empirical results from the optimisation literature [11] also suggest that the use of a small value close to 1, *e.g.*, 1.3, yields close to optimal solutions. This is aligned with the observations in [11].

In addition, the computational complexity of modern libraries providing the Hilbert space mapping grows linearly in m , so any value of $m > 30$, which already provides small calibration errors (see mathematical expression (Eq. 10) in the paper), would be adequate to use. We report an ablation study on m in Table 6 which confirms this intuition: any value of $m > 10$ resolved all verification queries with stable overheads.

Also note that the optimisation budget corresponds to the typical optimisation gap present in all convergent algorithms. As shown in Table 7, a smaller value generally enables the method to solve more verification queries, as it allows exploration of a finer-grained search space. Its value is thus contingent to available computation and temporal resources.

Table 5: Ablation study on the reliability parameter r .

Benchmark	Perturbation Dimensionality	No. Params	r	No. Robust (Sound)	No. Non-Robust	No. Unknown	Average Runtime (s)
TLL Verify Bench	2	17k-67M	1.1	15 (15)	17	0	26.45
			1.3	15 (15)	17	0	27.81
			1.5	15 (15)	17	0	26.06
			3	12 (12)	17	3	24.51
			6	6 (6)	17	9	17.60
			10	3 (3)	17	12	10.87
SoundnessBench MLP5 (epsilon 0.2)	10	3.13M	1.1	10 (10)	2	2	47.08
			1.3	10 (10)	2	2	50.81
			1.5	9 (9)	2	3	39.27
			3	0 (0)	2	12	4.04
			6	0 (0)	1	13	68.20
			10	0 (0)	0	14	-

Table 6: Ablation study on the Hilbert curve resolution parameter m .

Benchmark	Perturbation Dimensionality	No. Params	m	No. Robust (Sound)	No. Non-Robust	No. Unknown	Average Runtime (s)
TLL Verify Bench	2	17k-67M	10	0 (0)	17	15	1.65
			30	15 (15)	17	0	25.22
			50	15 (15)	17	0	26.06
			70	15 (15)	17	0	26.57
			90	15 (15)	17	0	27.39
SoundnessBench MLP5 (epsilon 0.2)	10	3.13M	10	10 (10)	1	3	44.85
			30	10 (10)	1	3	56.35
			50	10 (10)	2	2	50.81
			70	10 (10)	1	3	52.29
			90	9 (9)	2	3	47.92

C Additional Experimental Evaluation

We here provide additional experimental results for image and video tasks.

Table 7: Ablation study on the optimisation budget parameter ϵ .

Benchmark	Perturbation Dimensionality	No. Params	ϵ	No. Robust (sound)	No. Non-Robust	No. Unknown	Average Runtime (s)
TLL Verify Bench	2	17k-67M	$1e - 3$	0 (0)	17	15	1.60
			$1e - 6$	15 (15)	17	0	25.91
			$1e - 9$	15 (15)	17	0	26.60
			$1e - 13$	15 (15)	17	0	26.22
			$1e - 15$	15 (15)	17	0	26.06
SoundnessBench MLP5 (epsilon 0.2)	10	3.13M	$1e - 3$	0 (0)	0	14	-
			$1e - 6$	5 (5)	0	9	57.16
			$1e - 9$	10 (10)	2	2	45.10
			$1e - 13$	10 (10)	2	2	46.23
			$1e - 15$	10 (10)	2	2	50.81

C.1 Verification on Image Classification

We return to the simple case where we consider geometric perturbation in one dimension only. Table 8 reports the results obtained on the MNIST and CIFAR-10 datasets. H^2V outperforms other methods, including TSS [57], GeoRobust [22], DeepG [59], and GSmooth [58].

Table 8: Comparing with baseline methods on MNIST/CIFAR-10 against rotation and scaling. Baselines performance is adopted from [22, 57, 58].

Dataset	Model	Clean Acc	Pert	Adversarial Accuracy (%)				Robust Accuracy (%)				Average Runtime (s)	
				TSS	GeoRobust	GridSearch	H^2V	DeepG	GSmooth	TSS	GeoRobust	H^2V	
MNIST	Small CNN	99.4	R(50%)	98.2	98.2	98.2	98.2	85.8	95.7	97.4	98.2	98.2	55.38
		99.4	S(30%)	99.2	99.2	99.2	99.2	85.0	95.9	97.2	99.2	99.2	83.45
CIFAR-10	ResNet110	84.0	R(10°)	76.4	74.8	74.8	74.8	62.5	65.6	70.6	74.6	74.8	216.35
		81.2	R(30°)	69.4	66.6	66.4	66.4	10.6	-	63.6	66.2	66.4	169.37
		80.8	S(30%)	67.0	63.4	63.4	63.4	0.0	54.3	58.8	62.8	63.4	170.23

Additionally, we conducted experiments on Tiny ImageNet to evaluate the WideResNet (with 7.94M parameters), adopted from Certified Geometric Training (CGT) [61], which uses auto_LiRPA [62] to perform geometric robustness verification. Experimental results in Table 9 illustrate that H^2V verifies all images and returns any counterexample found.

Table 9: Comparing with baseline method CGT on the Tiny-ImageNet against rotation and scaling perturbations.

Perturbation	Clean Accuracy (%)	Timeouts (%)		Robust Accuracy (%)		Average Runtime (s)
		CGT	H^2V	CGT	H^2V	
S(2%)	33.10	4.06	0.00%	21.44	25.50	48.99
R(5°)	32.01	3.98	0.00%	17.49	21.47	45.58

C.2 Verification on Video Classification

We reported the results on several large 3D-NNs on the Kinetics dataset in the main manuscript. Here we report results on geometric robustness validation on the UCF101 dataset.

Long-length video classification often requires segmentation into shorter clips, achieved by considering $\mathbf{x} = n \times [v_{clip}]$. Two metrics are often used for assessing model performance: clip-level accuracy and video-level accuracy. Clip-level accuracy records the proportion of correctly predicted clips across all videos. Video-level accuracy is computed by aggregating the predicted probabilities of individual clips for each video and using the accumulated probabilities to compute the final prediction accuracy at the video level. Let $V(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$ represent the perturbed video/clip, we then analyse the video classifier's robustness by simulating the effects of geometric distortions, including tilted camera orientation (rotation), positional shifts (translation), and zoom variations (scaling). We focus on

geometric robustness against frame-agnostic perturbations at the video level. In this setting, the same transformation θ is applied consistently across all frames, and we evaluate the classifier’s ability to handle such uniform geometric distortions. This setup captures the overall impact of static transformations, such as those caused by incorrect camera positioning. The experiments conducted on the Kinetics dataset presented in the main manuscript also belong to this category.

Analogously, the local geometric robustness problems for video classification can be formulated as checking whether $\forall \theta \in \Theta : f(\theta) > 0$. In our setting this is solved by evaluating $\forall x \in [0, 1] : \tilde{f}(x) > 0$ in the corresponding optimisation problem. We here focus on a 3D-ResNet50 model, adapted from [63], to explore its robustness on the UCF101 dataset [64]. The model processes entire videos using a frame length of 16 and a frame rate of 1, with 46.4M network parameters. Since the frame-agnostic perturbations are applied uniformly across all frames in a video, the number of perturbation dimension ranges from 1 to 4.

We select the first two videos of each class in the test set, which consists of 202 videos in total. Since we are not aware of any previous work supporting this setup, to provide a baseline comparison, we adapted another global optimisation based verification method, DeepGO [18] with a pre-defined Lipschitz constant $L = 8$ (follow their settings), PGD [65], and as two strong baselines for comparison. We controlled the termination of all methods by setting a maximum number of queries $K = 100,000$ and timeout as 2400 seconds (40 minutes). The 3D-ResNet50 model we are adopting achieves 87.13% clean accuracy across the 202 videos. Detailed results against various consistent geometric perturbations at video level are summarised in Table 10. As we can see, H^2V obtains the best adversarial accuracy and robust accuracy and these values coincide. This means that the method could solve all queries for this model and inputs with no unknowns. We are also able to establish that for the parameters analysed, rotation has the highest impact on the fragility of the model. As we discuss in the main part of the paper, global optimisation-based verification methods without guarantees on the soundness of the upper bound of the Lipschitz constant may converge to a local minimum. As a consequence, they may potentially derive unsound results, as indicated in Table 10.

Table 10: Evaluation of static geometric robustness for a 3D-ResNet50 model with 87.13% clean video accuracy on UCF101 dataset. Below R, S, T refer to $R(20^\circ)$, $S(10\%)$, $T(10\%)$, respectively.

Perturbation	Perturbation Dimensionality	Adversarial Accuracy (%)		Robust Accuracy (%)		Average Runtime (s)
		PGD	H^2V	DeepGO	H^2V	
R	1	51.98	43.07	45.05	43.07	458.10
T	2	76.73	66.83	70.30	66.83	634.15
S	1	75.74	74.75	75.74	74.75	929.69
R + T	3	48.02	34.65	37.13	34.65	358.03
R + S	2	50.10	35.64	36.14	35.64	342.10
T + S	3	72.77	58.91	61.39	58.91	613.48
R + T + S	4	40.10	22.77	25.25	22.77	286.33

Figure 2 illustrates the impact of rotation (R), translation (T), scaling (S), and their combination on the static geometric robustness in video classification under different perturbation magnitudes. Note that H^2V is able to solve all the robustness verification among the following perturbation settings. A clear trend emerges, indicating that as the perturbation magnitude increases, robust accuracy consistently declines. While individual transformations already contribute to performance degradation, their combinations exacerbate the effect, leading to even more significant accuracy drops. Among these three geometric factors, scaling (S) appears to be the most stable than shifting and angular transformations, as its impact on accuracy degradation is relatively lower compared to rotation and translation.

C.3 Detailed Experimental Results on SoundnessBench and VNN-COMP

Table 11 reports detailed verification results on SoundnessBench [8] for $\alpha\beta$ -CROWN², PyRAT³, and H^2V , respectively, with default timeout setting 100 seconds for each instance. It can be seen that,

²<https://github.com/Verified-Intelligence/alpha-beta-CROWN>

³<https://git.frama-c.com/pub/pyrat>

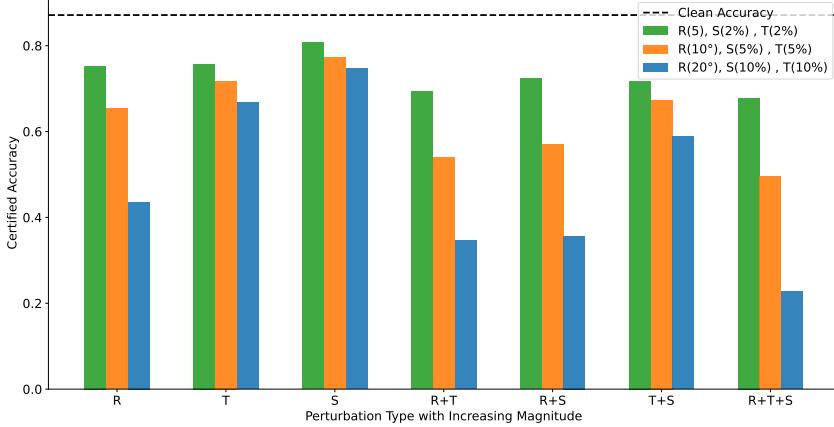


Figure 2: Robust accuracy decreases as perturbation magnitude increases.

differently from previously reported, in our tests, all three tested tools now pass the soundness tests. Previously [8] identified unsound results in $\alpha\beta$ -CROWN [36]. It can be observed that H^2V provides more positive answers for the verification queries, and finds counterexamples for queries that cannot be solved by other tools. This highlights its effectiveness in NN verification.

For additional benchmarking from VNN-COMP [4], we consider TLL Verify Bench, which has the low-input dimensionality of 2 of the perturbation. The TLL Verify Bench consists of Two-Level Lattice (TLL) NNs; it has been proposed as a means of comparing TLL-specific verification algorithms with general-purpose NN verification algorithms. We used the default timeout setting, 600 seconds, described in VNN-COMP 2023 [4]. H^2V achieved the same SOA performance on these two benchmarks as $\alpha\beta$ -CROWN.

Table 11: Soundness validation on SoundnessBench. Numbers in **bold** denote that counterexamples were found.

Perturbation Settings		No. Sample (Clean Unver.)	Results for Clean Instances (No. UNSAT Unknown)			Results for Unverifiable Instances (No. UNSAT SAT Unknown)			Average Runtime (s)			
Model Name	ϵ		$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	PyRAT	H^2V	$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	PyRAT	H^2V	$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	PyRAT	H^2V	
CNN 1 Conv	0.2	1×5×5	10 9	10 0	10 0	0 0 9	0 0 9	0 0 9	0.65	1.02	59.92	
CNN 1 Conv	0.2	3×5×5	10 9	9 1	0 10	10 0	0 0 9	0 0 9	0 0 9	13.51	15.87	73.68
CNN 1 Conv	0.5	1×5×5	10 10	0 10	0 10	7 3	0 0 10	0 0 10	0 0 10	-	-	63.97
CNN 1 Conv	0.5	3×5×5	10 8	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 0 8	0 0 8	0 0 8	-	-	-
CNN 2 Conv	0.2	1×5×5	10 7	9 1	5 5	10 0	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 7	2.11	15.32	58.74
CNN 2 Conv	0.2	3×5×5	10 7	3 7	0 10	6 4	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 7	15.38	-	70.92
CNN 2 Conv	0.5	1×5×5	10 10	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 0 10	0 0 10	0 0 10	-	-	-
CNN 2 Conv	0.5	3×5×5	10 10	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 0 10	0 0 10	0 0 10	-	-	-
CNN 3 Conv	0.2	1×5×5	10 10	8 2	5 5	9 1	0 0 10	0 0 10	0 0 10	4.79	9.63	64.14
CNN 3 Conv	0.2	3×5×5	10 7	0 10	0 10	1 9	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 7	-	-	69.45
CNN 3 Conv	0.5	1×5×5	10 9	0 10	0 10	2 8	0 0 9	0 0 9	0 0 9	-	-	53.89
CNN 3 Conv	0.5	3×5×5	10 10	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 1 9	0 0 10	0 0 10	0.82	-	-
CNN AvgPool	0.2	1×5×5	10 0	10 0	6 4	10 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	3.21	18.80	62.89
CNN AvgPool	0.2	3×5×5	10 1	0 10	0 10	1 9	0 0 0	0 0 1	0 0 1	-	-	86.15
CNN AvgPool	0.5	1×5×5	10 9	0 10	0 10	1 9	0 0 0	0 0 9	0 0 9	-	-	70.52
CNN AvgPool	0.5	3×5×5	10 10	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 8 2	0 0 10	0 0 10	0.74	-	-
CNN Tanh	0.2	1×5×5	10 8	0 10	0 10	10 0	0 1 7	0 0 8	0 0 8	0.71	-	58.04
CNN Tanh	0.2	3×5×5	10 10	0 10	0 10	9 1	0 0 10	0 0 10	0 0 10	-	-	69.23
CNN Sigmoid	0.2	1×5×5	10 1	2 8	1 9	9 1	0 0 1	0 0 1	0 0 1	0.50	0.36	56.45
CNN Sigmoid	0.2	3×5×5	10 10	0 10	0 10	10 0	0 0 10	0 0 10	0 0 10	-	-	70.43
MLP 4 Hidden	0.2	10	10 9	10 0	10 0	10 0	0 2 7	0 0 9	0 0 9	0.70	2.10	49.46
MLP 4 Hidden	0.5	10	10 9	1 9	1 9	3 7	0 0 9	0 0 9	0 0 9	1.60	60.10	76.00
MLP 5 Hidden	0.2	10	10 4	8 2	8 2	10 0	0 1 3	0 0 4	0 2 2	0.78	5.84	52.16
MLP 5 Hidden	0.5	10	10 9	1 9	1 9	7 3	0 0 9	0 0 9	0 0 9	1.31	16.83	55.66

D Comparison with the State-of-the-Art Methods

In this section, we compare H^2V with $\alpha\beta$ -CROWN, the SoA tool from VNN-COMP [4]. The verification queries from our main experiments cannot be used for this comparison. Firstly, the tools do not support the `affine_grid` and `grid_sample` required for the geometric perturbations via the Spatial Transformer Networks. Secondly, the tools do not scale to the sizes of the models considered in the main experiments. To illustrate this, we used the `ResNet18_cifar` model from the $\alpha\beta$ -CROWN repository, and considered different model sizes by adjusting the width of the layers through the `in_planes` parameter of the benchmark. For the verification of the models, we constructed one-pixel perturbations (corresponding to three dimensions), serving as a comparable low-dimensional proxy with H^2V capabilities. We then performed verification queries for $\epsilon = 0.1$ and $\epsilon = 0.3$.

Table 12 reports the results obtained on this simplified setting. We observe that $\alpha\beta$ -CROWN verifies the smallest case at $\epsilon = 0.1$ but either timeouts or runs out of memory (OOM) as ϵ increases or the model grows. In particular, $\alpha\beta$ -CROWN runs out of memory (OOM) on a relatively small model with 175,802 parameters. In contrast, H^2V consistently returns robust with lower and more stable memory consumption. In conclusion, SoA methods cannot scale to models of tens/hundreds of millions of parameters as we do here, or to ImageNet-scale inputs with geometric perturbations.

Table 12: Verification results against a one-pixel perturbation for CIFAR10 models.

Model	In_planes	No. Params	Perturbation Magnitude	Perturbation Dimensionality	Tool	Result	Peak Memory (MB)	Runtime (s)
ResNet18_cifar	2	11,270	0.1	3	PGD	Unknown	656	12.75
					$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	Robust	644	0.73
					H^2V	Robust	636	68.33
	2	11,270	0.3	3	PGD	Unknown	656	13.32
					$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	Unknown	4298	Timeout
	8	175,802	0.1	3	H^2V	Robust	636	61.02
					PGD	Unknown	678	14.16
					$\alpha\beta$ -CROWN	Unknown	OOM	Timeout
					H^2V	Robust	638	56.54

E Performance Analysis of H^2V With Soundness Guarantees

In Section 3, we noted that if Step 1 of H^2V uses an overestimation of the Hölder constant, then the method is theoretically guaranteed to produce sound results. Here, we use H^2V^* to denote H^2V with such overestimations. We then compare the scalability of H^2V and H^2V^* , allowing us to empirically identify the practical limitations of H^2V^* .

For this, we use the CIFAR10 and RESNET models from VNNCOMP and 1-pixel perturbations. Table13 reports the results. These show that H^2V^* is able to verify the models associated with small Lipschitz constants but timeouts when the constant exceeds a certain value. In contrast, H^2V validates all models and scales to models with significantly larger Lipschitz constants (*e.g.*, around 8e+50 for ResNet34) and much larger models (over 300M parameters), as reported in the paper. We stress that, unlike much of the existing verification literature, model size itself is not the primary bottleneck in our setting. This is instead the value of the Lipschitz constant, as these experiments demonstrate.

F Further implementation details of H^2V

In the main manuscript, we have described the optimisation process of our method in detail. The pseudocode of H^2V is also outlined in Algorithm 1. In the algorithm, we use K to control the maximum number of queries considered. The algorithm initiates the reliability parameter with $r = 1.3$, as recommended by [11]. When the algorithm converges (*i.e.*, when it reaches the optimisation budget), the size of the neighbourhood is increased $n_\kappa \leftarrow n_\kappa + 1$, and the value of the global Hölder constant iteratively loosened (*i.e.*, $h_k \leftarrow h_k \cdot 1.3$), until a different interval is selected in **Step 16** of the algorithm. This process is repeated until the the optimisation budget is reached for the same interval for 25 times, at which point the estimated lower bound is used to answer the geometric

Table 13: Verification results on different models on the CIFAR10 examples.

Model	Upper bound of Lipschitz Constant	No. Params	Perturbation Magnitude	Perturbation Dimensionality	Method	Result	Runtime (s)
marabou-cifar10/cifar10_small	1.2888e+02	2,456	0.1	3	H^2V	Robust	61.58
					H^2V^*	Robust	2.68
marabou-cifar10/cifar10_small	2.0159e+02	9,008	0.1	3	H^2V	Robust	53.37
					H^2V^*	Robust	4.49
marabou-cifar10/cifar10_small	4.2458e+02	34,400	0.1	3	H^2V	Robust	65.02
					H^2V^*	Robust	161.73
cifar10_resnet/resnet2b	2.2218e+08	112,006	0.1	3	H^2V	Robust	56.98
					H^2V^*	Unknown	Timeout
cifar10_resnet/resnet4b	7.8005e+13	123,734	0.1	3	H^2V	Robust	48.73
					H^2V^*	Unknown	Timeout

^{*} H^2V^* : H^2V with an upper bound of Lipschitz constant, hence an upper bound of Hölder constant as well.

robustness query. As shown in the experimental results, this solution provide a good approximation for the unknown Hölder constant.

G Additional Related Work

Besides what previously referenced, further approaches have been put forward for the verification of local robustness against geometric perturbations. We here compare these with H^2V .

By constructing the set of allowed perturbation values using an ℓ_p bound for each pixel and replacing it with a convex relaxation, [19, 47] provide an over-approximation for the solution but result in loose performance bounds.

TSS [57] and GSmooth [58] demonstrate the potential of randomised smoothing to certify robustness against individual geometric transformations. However, these approaches provide statistical guarantees which are of a different nature from other approaches. Also, as presented, they do not support combinations of transformations. Methods such as DeepG [59] and PWL [21] cater for combined transformations but rely on computationally expensive techniques like DeepPoly [47] or VENUS [44], making them infeasible for large NNs due to scalability issues.

GeoRobust [22] investigates the worst-case combinations of transformations affecting a network’s output for image inputs, by leveraging direct optimisation [66]. However, as shown in our main experiments, some unsound results have been revealed on the ImageNet dataset, which requires further analysis in terms of possible underestimations of the Lipschitz constant. Similar issues apply to existing verification methods based on global optimisation like DeepGO [18], as also shown in Table 10.

Algorithm 1 Geometric Robustness Validation of Neural Networks via H^2V .

Input: Original input x and its corresponding label y ; N -dimensional perturbation variables of the geometric transformation $\theta = [\gamma, t_{\text{horizontal}}, t_{\text{vertical}}, \lambda]$ with bounds $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^N$, Hilbert curve $h_{N,m}(\cdot)$, threat NN model; the property function \tilde{f} , the optimisation budget ϵ , and the maximum number of queries K .

Output: {UNSAT|SAT|Unknown}

```

1:  $x_0 = 0, x_1 = 1, k = 2$ 
2:  $z_j = \tilde{f}(x_j) = f(h(x_j)), j = 0, 1$             $\triangleright h(x)$  is the  $m$ -approximation of the Hilbert curve
3:  $\mathcal{O} = \{\}, \mathcal{I} = \{[0, 1]\}$                    $\triangleright$  Initialisation for set of initial intervals
4:  $\tilde{f}_m = \min \left\{ \tilde{f}(a), \tilde{f}(b) \mid [a, b] \in \mathcal{I} \right\}$ 
5: if  $\tilde{f}_m < 0$  then
6:   return SAT                                      $\triangleright$  Misclassification
7: end if
8: while  $k < K$  do
9:   for  $i = [a, b] \in \mathcal{I}$  do
10:    Compute the estimation of the Hölder constant  $\hat{H}_i$ 
11:     $s_i = \frac{b+a}{2} - \frac{\tilde{f}(b)-\tilde{f}(a)}{2\hat{H}_i(b-a)^{\frac{1-N}{N}}}$            $\triangleright$  Compute the intersection point for the interval
12:     $z_{\text{left}} = \tilde{f}(a) - \hat{H}_i(s_i - a)^{1/N}$   $\triangleright$  Compute the estimated lower bound from the left side
13:     $z_{\text{right}} = \tilde{f}(b) - \hat{H}_i(b - s_i)^{1/N}$   $\triangleright$  Compute the estimated lower bound from the right side
14:     $l_i = \min(z_{\text{left}}, z_{\text{right}})$ 
15:  end for
16:  Locate the interval from  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , with  $i = [a, b]$  who has minimum lower bound estimate  $l_i$ 
17:  if  $|b - a| \leq \epsilon$  then
18:    Compute the estimation of the lower bound of the function as  $l_m = \min \{l_j \mid j \in \mathcal{I} \cup \mathcal{O}\}$ .
19:    Compute the calibration of the lower bound  $l_m \leftarrow l_m - \eta$ 
20:    if  $l_m > 0$  then
21:      return UNSAT                                 $\triangleright$  The property is validated to hold
22:    else
23:      return Unknown
24:    end if
25:  end if
26:  Compute  $\tilde{f}(s_i), k = k + 1$                        $\triangleright$  Accept  $s_i$  as the new trial point
27:   $\mathcal{I} \leftarrow \mathcal{I} \setminus \{i\} \cup \{[a, a'], [a', b]\}, \mathcal{O} \leftarrow \mathcal{O} \cup \{i\}$        $\triangleright$  Split the interval  $[a, b]$  according to  $s_i$ 
28:  Compute the current minimum of the function as  $\tilde{f}_m = \min \left\{ \tilde{f}(a), \tilde{f}(b) \mid [a, b] \in \mathcal{I} \right\}$ ,
29:  if  $\tilde{f}_m < 0$  then
30:    return SAT                                      $\triangleright$  Found a counterexample
31:  end if
32: end while
33: return Unknown

```

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