

1 We thank the reviewers for their careful reading of the manuscript and their constructive suggestions.

2 **Reviewer-1/3, Novelty of switching & comparing against Chimera:** We compared Glyph against Chimera [14].
3 Chimera supports the switching between BFV and TFHE, while Glyph enables the switching between BGV and TFHE.
4 **Chimera CANNOT support the switching between BGV and TFHE.** We selected BGV for two reasons. (1) Our
5 baseline FHESGD [2] adopted BGV. (2) MultCPs and MultCCs of BGV are faster than those of BFV. We further
6 demonstrated Glyph achieves faster privacy-preserving training speed than Chimera but obtains the same accuracy.

7 **Reviewer-1/3, Novelty of transfer learning & comparing against EPIC:** Glyph is the first work to use transfer
8 learning to achieve fast non-interactive HE-based privacy-preserving CNN training. Based on transfer learning, EPIC
9 replaces the last fully-connected layer of a neural network by a SVM and retrains the network by the same plaintext
10 dataset. During an inference of EPIC, the first several layers are computed by the client, while the last layer of SVM
11 is done by the server. EPIC depends on multi-party computation that exchanges huge amounts of data between the
12 client and the server. Some users may not have such large network bandwidth. Moreover, EPIC CANNOT work with
13 state-of-the-art CNNs. In contrast, Glyph first trains a CNN network model by a plaintext public dataset. And then, it
14 homomorphically retrains the CNN model with a freshly initialized full-connected layer by an encrypted private dataset
15 based on transfer learning. Except sending the encrypted input data, the training of Glyph does not involve the client.

16 **Reviewer-1/2, Scalability, computing overhead and machines:** We reported the training latency in Table 4. Com-
17 pared to our baseline FHESGD [2], Glyph is more scalable, since it can support the training of deeper CNNs on
18 larger datasets, e.g., Skin-Cancer-MNIST. We will add the training latency on plaintext data in the next version of this
19 manuscript. For data sizes (encrypted training data and key-switching keys), a BGV ciphertext with 60 slots is 256
20 KB. 60 Skin-Cancer-MNIST images cost $28 \times 28 \times 3 \times 8 \times 256KB = 4.6GB$. The amortized size of each encrypted
21 image is 76.6MB. One TFHE ciphertext with 1 slot is 2 KB. Each encrypted image occupies $28 \times 28 \times 3 \times 8 \times 2KB$
22 $= 36.7$ MB. Key-switching key samples have the size of 64 MB. Our baseline FHESGD uses a 2.30GHz Intel Xeon
23 E5-2698v3 processor with two sockets and sixteen cores per socket. The machine has 250GB of main memory. And
24 Glyph is tested on an Intel Xeon E7-8890v4 2.2GHz CPU with 256GB DRAM. The CPU also has two sockets, each of
25 which owns 12 cores and supports 24 threads. Two machine configurations are similar. The peak main memory usage
26 of Glyph is $\sim 150GB$.

27 **Reviewer-1, Performance improvement 69%~99%:** Our Glyph-based CNN (BGV-TFHE) reduces the training
28 latency by 69% over Chimera (BFV-TFHE) on the MNIST dataset. Compared to the FHESGD-based MLP, our
29 Glyph-based MLP reduces the training latency by 97.4% on the MNIST dataset. We will update this number in our
30 manuscript.

31 **Reviewer-1, Bit-width of networks :** We used 8-bit integers. We presented a 3-bit LUT in Section 3 as one example
32 to explain the mechanism of TFHE-based activations.

33 **Reviewer-2/3, Why not HEAAN?:** Although HEAAN supports fixed-point numbers, we did NOT choose HEAAN
34 for 3 reasons. (1) The training of state-of-the-art CNNs can be accurately done with only integers [R1]. (2) Our baseline
35 FHESGD [2] uses BGV that supports only integers. (3) In order to support complex number, compared to BGV/BFV,
36 HEAAN has only 50% batching slots, which degrades the speed of privacy-persevering training.

37 **[R1] Wu, Shuang, et al. "Training and Inference with Integers in Deep Neural Networks." International Conference on**
38 **Learning Representations. 2018.**

39 **Reviewer-2, Model poisoning and boarder impact:** We used the same threat model as FHESGD [2]. In our threat
40 model, Glyph aims to protect the privacy of clients, i.e., the input data and the output data are encrypted. We did NOT
41 consider model poisoning in the threat model since this is a different security problem. We will consider this issue in
42 our future work.

43 **Reviewer-3, Why FHESGD is worse than Glyph, and the switching strategy:** Both FHESGD and Glyph use BGV
44 to compute linear layers. For activations, FHESGD uses BGV-based lookup tables, which is slow, as shown in Table 2.
45 Glyph adopts TFHE to implement nonlinear activations, which is much faster, since TFHE can naturally support binary
46 logic operations. Glyph uses BGV first, since the first layer is typically a linear layer. It switches to TFHE, since the
47 following layer is an activation layer.