

WAVELET DIFFUSION POSTERIOR SAMPLING WITH FREQUENCY DOMAIN GUIDANCE

Anonymous authors

Paper under double-blind review

ABSTRACT

Inverse imaging problems often involve the reconstruction of high-fidelity signals from noisy and incomplete measurements. Recent advances in diffusion models have achieved promising results for these tasks, yet most approaches operate in the spatial domain and struggle to preserve high-frequency details under noise. To address this issue, we introduce Wavelet diffusion posterior sampling (WDPS), a frequency domain framework that integrates wavelet transforms with posterior sampling. By decomposing images into multiscale frequency subbands, WDPS performs posterior updates adaptively across low- and high-frequency components, enabling more stable sampling trajectories and improved detail recovery. To further enhance robustness, we propose a wavelet-regularized diffusion strategy that dynamically adjusts the influence of frequency-domain constraints during sampling. We demonstrate our approach on both linear and nonlinear inverse problems. We also extend our task to the lensless camera task to show the applicability of our approach. Our results highlight the effectiveness of frequency-domain posterior diffusion as a general and efficient solution to noisy inverse problems.

1 INTRODUCTION

Inverse problems Kawar et al. (2021; 2022); Chung et al. (2022a;b); Kim et al. (2023); Chung et al. (2023); Daras et al. (2024) are central to computational imaging, where the goal is to reconstruct a clean signal X^* from noisy and incomplete measurements $Y = \mathcal{A}(X^*) + \epsilon$, with \mathcal{A} denoting the forward operator and ϵ representing measurement noise. Such problems arise in a wide range of applications, including medical imaging Webber & Reader (2024), computational photography Nehme & Michaeli (2025), and scientific visualization Yair et al. (2024). However, the inherent ill-posedness of inverse problems Cardoso et al. (2023); Yang et al. (2024), together with the presence of noise, makes high-fidelity recovery particularly challenging.

Recent advances in diffusion models Ho et al. (2020); Song et al. (2020) have demonstrated impressive performance in image generation and inverse problems such as inpainting, super-resolution, and deblurring Chung et al. (2022a;b); Kim et al. (2023); Chung et al. (2023); Daras et al. (2024). A common strategy is *diffusion posterior sampling* (DPS) Chung et al. (2022a), which incorporates measurement consistency constraints during the sampling process. While effective in noiseless or linear cases, spatial-domain posterior sampling often struggles to preserve high-frequency structures under noise Qian et al. (2024); Wan et al. (2023); Song et al. (2025); Li et al. (2025a). This limitation results in blurry reconstructions, loss of fine textures, and unstable convergence when facing complex forward operators. In particular, DPS applies posterior corrections uniformly in the image space, where low- and high-frequency information are entangled. As a result, enforcing data consistency can inadvertently suppress high-frequency structures, leading to a systematic trade-off between fidelity and detail preservation. This motivates the need for a representation that disentangles frequencies and allows more targeted posterior updates.

Images exhibit a natural multi-scale structure: low-frequency components capture global appearance, while high-frequency components encode fine-grained details such as edges and textures. Wavelet transforms Chen et al. (2024); Jin et al. (2025); Huang et al. (2024); Li et al. (2025b) provide an effective decomposition of these components into subbands (LL, LH, HL, HH), enabling frequency-aware processing. Operating in the frequency domain offers the potential to decouple global consistency

054 from local detail restoration, making it particularly well-suited for inverse problems with strong noise
 055 or nonlinear degradations.

056 In this work, we propose **Wavelet Diffusion Posterior Sampling (WDPS)**, a frequency-domain
 057 framework that integrates wavelet transforms with posterior sampling. WDPS decomposes inter-
 058 mediate samples into wavelet subbands, performs posterior updates adaptively across low- and
 059 high-frequency components, and reconstructs the image using the inverse wavelet transform. Fur-
 060 thermore, we introduce a wavelet-regularized diffusion strategy, which dynamically adjusts the
 061 influence of frequency-domain constraints during sampling, stabilizing the trajectory and improving
 062 generalization. In summary, our main contributions can be summarized as follows:

- 063
- 064 • We introduce WDPS, a framework that performs diffusion posterior sampling directly in the
 065 wavelet frequency domain, enabling frequency-aware reconstructions that better preserve
 066 fine details under noise.
- 067 • We propose a wavelet-regularized sampling scheme that adaptively controls frequency-
 068 domain constraints, improving stability and convergence, and further analyze the stability of
 069 dynamic wavelet-regularized sampling
- 070 • We conduct extensive experiments on FFHQ and ImageNet across diverse tasks (inpainting,
 071 super-resolution, etc). We also extend our task to the lensless camera task to show general-
 072 ization of our approach. WDPS consistently outperforms spatial-domain baselines such as
 073 DPS, achieving sharper reconstructions and better quantitative scores (FID, LPIPS, PSNR,
 074 and SSIM).

076 2 RELATED WORKS

077

078 Diffusion models Ho et al. (2020); Song et al. (2020) define a generative process as the reverse of a
 079 noising process, typically described by a variance-preserving SDE

$$081 \quad dX_t = -\frac{\beta(t)}{2} X_t dt + \sqrt{\beta(t)} dw, \quad (1)$$

082

083 whose reverse SDE includes the data score $\nabla_{X_t} \log p_t(X_t)$. In the Bayesian setting of an inverse
 084 problem $Y = \mathcal{A}(X^*) + \epsilon$, the goal is to sample from the posterior $p(X_0|Y)$, which formally satisfies
 085 Bayes' rule

$$086 \quad p(X_0|Y) = \frac{p(Y|X_0)p(X_0)}{p(Y)}. \quad (2)$$

087

088 Naïvely, one might try to modify the reverse SDE to

$$089 \quad dX_t = \left[-\frac{\beta(t)}{2} X_t - \beta(t) (\nabla_{X_t} \log p_t(X_t) + \nabla_{X_t} \log p_t(Y|X_t)) \right] dt + \sqrt{\beta(t)} dw, \quad (3)$$

090

091 so that the drift contains both the prior and the likelihood gradients. However, the likelihood term
 092 $\nabla_{X_t} \log p_t(Y|X_t)$ is analytically intractable at intermediate noise levels t , so most existing works
 093 resort to alternating “unconditional diffusion + projection onto the measurement subspace” under the
 094 assumption of negligible noise. This projection can amplify noise and fails for nonlinear operators.

095

096 Diffusion Posterior Sampling (DPS) Chung et al. (2022a) circumvents this difficulty by (i) using
 097 Tweedie’s formula to compute the posterior mean of the clean sample

$$098 \quad \hat{X}_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}(t)}} \left(X_t + (1 - \bar{\alpha}(t)) s_\theta(X_t, t) \right), \quad (4)$$

099

100 which approximates $\mathbb{E}[X_0|X_t]$; and (ii) replacing the intractable expectation in $p(Y|X_t) =$
 101 $\int p(Y|X_0)p(X_0|X_t)dX_0$ with $p(Y|\hat{X}_0)$, leading to a tractable surrogate likelihood. The gradient of
 102 this surrogate gives the practical update

$$103 \quad \nabla_{X_t} \log p_t(X_t|Y) \approx s_\theta(X_t, t) - \rho \nabla_{X_t} \|Y - \mathcal{A}(\hat{X}_0)\|_2^2, \quad (5)$$

104

105 or with a weighted norm $\|\cdot\|_\Lambda$ for Poisson noise. Discretizing this yields the DPS algorithms for
 106 both Gaussian and Poisson measurements.

While DPS already improves robustness to noise, it still operates entirely in the spatial domain, applying the same posterior correction to all frequencies. In contrast, our proposed Wavelet Diffusion Posterior Sampling (WDPS) decomposes intermediate samples into multi-scale wavelet subbands, applies frequency-adaptive posterior updates and a dynamic wavelet regularizer, thereby addressing the high-frequency suppression and instability observed in spatial-domain posterior sampling. Additional related works are presented in the Appendix.

3 METHOD

Our method uses the wavelet transform to transfer the image from the spatial domain to the frequency domain during the diffusion sampling process, and performs the posterior update directly in the frequency domain.

3.1 WAVELET-BASED POSTERIOR

We denote by $\mathcal{W} : \mathbb{R}^{H \times W} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{H/2 \times W/2 \times 4}$ the discrete wavelet transform (DWT) Heil & Walnut (1989); Sundararajan (2016); Othman & Zeebaree (2020), which decomposes an input image into four sub-bands at each scale. Given an intermediate sample at step i , $X'_{i-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 3 \times H \times W}$, as shown in Figure 3, the wavelet coefficients are

$$W_{i-1} = \mathcal{W}(X'_{i-1}) = (W_{i-1}^{\text{LL}}, W_{i-1}^{\text{LH}}, W_{i-1}^{\text{HL}}, W_{i-1}^{\text{HH}}), \quad (6)$$

where

- W_{i-1}^{LL} (low–low) contains the low-frequency approximation coefficients representing global structure and smooth regions,
- W_{i-1}^{LH} (low–high) captures vertical high-frequency details,
- W_{i-1}^{HL} (high–low) captures horizontal high-frequency details, and
- W_{i-1}^{HH} (high–high) captures diagonal high-frequency details such as edges and fine textures.

Mathematically, for a one-level separable 2-D wavelet transform, we define a *low-pass filter* h and a corresponding *high-pass filter* g . For the simplest case of the Haar (Daubechies-1) wavelet, these filters are

$$h = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[1, 1], \quad g = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[1, -1]. \quad (7)$$

Here, h extracts the smooth (low-frequency) components of the signal, while g extracts the detailed (high-frequency) variations. Using these filters, the four sub-bands at each scale can be expressed as

$$W^{\text{LL}} = (X * h * h^{\top}) \downarrow 2, \quad (8)$$

$$W^{\text{LH}} = (X * h * g^{\top}) \downarrow 2, \quad (9)$$

$$W^{\text{HL}} = (X * g * h^{\top}) \downarrow 2, \quad (10)$$

$$W^{\text{HH}} = (X * g * g^{\top}) \downarrow 2, \quad (11)$$

where X is the input image, $*$ denotes convolution along rows/columns, and $\downarrow 2$ indicates downsampling by a factor of 2, i.e., retaining only every second sample along each spatial dimension. After this filtering and downsampling, each sub-band has size $H/2 \times W/2$. Specifically, W^{LL} contains approximation coefficients capturing global structure, W^{LH} and W^{HL} encode vertical and horizontal details, while W^{HH} captures diagonal details.

During our posterior update we operate directly on W_{i-1} rather than on the raw spatial-domain tensor. Each of the four sub-bands can be processed separately or with sub-band-dependent step sizes, which allows frequency-aware adaptation of the likelihood gradient

$$W'_{i-1} = W_{i-1} - \zeta_i \nabla_{W_i} \|Y - \mathcal{A}(\hat{X}_0)\|_2^2, \quad (12)$$

where \hat{X}_0 is the Tweedie estimate of the clean image at the current step. After this frequency-domain posterior correction, we transform the updated coefficients back to the spatial domain using the inverse wavelet transform (IDWT):

$$X_{i-1} = \mathcal{W}^{-1}(W'_{i-1}), \quad (13)$$

where $\mathcal{W}^{-1}(\cdot)$ denotes the **inverse discrete wavelet transform**. Given the four sub-bands W_{i-1}^{LL} , W_{i-1}^{LH} , W_{i-1}^{HL} and W_{i-1}^{HH} (each of size $H/2 \times W/2$), the reconstruction can be written as

$$X_{i-1} = ((W_{i-1}^{LL} \uparrow 2) * \tilde{h} * \tilde{h}^\top) + ((W_{i-1}^{LH} \uparrow 2) * \tilde{h} * \tilde{g}^\top) \\ + ((W_{i-1}^{HL} \uparrow 2) * \tilde{g} * \tilde{h}^\top) + ((W_{i-1}^{HH} \uparrow 2) * \tilde{g} * \tilde{g}^\top), \quad (14)$$

where $\uparrow 2$ denotes upsampling by inserting zeros between samples along each dimension, $*$ denotes convolution, and \tilde{h} and \tilde{g} are the synthesis (inverse) low-pass and high-pass filters corresponding to h and g used in the forward DWT. This reconstruction exactly reverses the DWT, producing a $H \times W$ spatial-domain image from the four $H/2 \times W/2$ sub-bands.

By explicitly separating low- and high-frequency components through $\mathcal{W}(\cdot)$ and $\mathcal{W}^{-1}(\cdot)$, our method preserves significant features and fine details of X_0 while suppressing noise and artifacts during sampling. This description matches the detailed procedure summarized in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1 Wavelet Diffusion Posterior Sampling (WDPS)

Require: $N, Y, \{\zeta_i\}_{i=1}^N, \{\tilde{\sigma}_i\}_{i=1}^N$
1: $X_N \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$
2: **for** $i = N - 1$ **downto** 0 **do**
3: $\hat{s} \leftarrow s_\theta(X_i, i)$
4: $\hat{X}_0 \leftarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_i}} \left(X_i + (1 - \alpha_i) \hat{s} \right)$
5: $z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$
6: $X'_{i-1} \leftarrow \frac{\sqrt{\alpha_i(1-\alpha_{i-1})}}{1-\alpha_i} X_i + \frac{\sqrt{\alpha_{i-1}\beta_i}}{1-\alpha_i} \hat{X}_0 + \tilde{\sigma}_i z$
7: $W_{i-1} \leftarrow \mathcal{W}(X'_{i-1})$
8: $W'_{i-1} \leftarrow W_{i-1} - \zeta_i \nabla_{W_i} \|Y - \mathcal{A}(\hat{X}_0)\|_2^2$
9: $X_{i-1} \leftarrow \mathcal{W}^{-1}(W'_{i-1})$
10: **end for**
11: **return** \hat{X}_0

3.2 WAVELET-REGULARIZED DIFFUSION SAMPLING

Inverse problems are inherently ill-posed, and unconstrained diffusion sampling may accumulate unstable high-frequency artifacts. To stabilize the trajectory, we introduce a *wavelet-based regularization* that adaptively scales the wavelet coefficients at each reverse step using a time-varying strength parameter.

Wavelet-strength schedule. For a reverse step index $i \in \{1, \dots, T\}$, the wavelet strength is defined as

$$r(i; a, b) = \frac{1}{C + \exp(i \cdot \frac{a}{b})}, \quad a > 0, b = T, C > 0 \quad (15)$$

where T denotes the total number of diffusion steps, a controls the exponential decay rate, b normalizes the horizon (default $b = 1000$), and C determines the baseline offset of the regularization schedule. For different values of C , Figure 4 depicts the regularization schedule under varying baseline offsets. This function produces a smoothly decaying value over the course of sampling: at the first step ($i = 1$), $r \approx 0.125$, while towards the end of sampling $r \rightarrow 0$. Thus, the effective regularization is stronger in early steps—where the problem is highly underdetermined—and gradually diminishes as the estimate stabilizes.

Subband update. Given the discrete wavelet transform (DWT) of an intermediate iterate X'_{i-1} ,

$$W_{i-1} = (W_{i-1}^{LL}, W_{i-1}^{LH}, W_{i-1}^{HL}, W_{i-1}^{HH}), \quad (16)$$

we preserve the low-frequency band and scale the high-frequency subbands by the wavelet strength:

$$W_{i-1}^{LL'} = W_{i-1}^{LL}, \quad (17)$$

$$W_{i-1}^{s'} = r(i; a, b) \cdot W_{i-1}^s, \quad s \in \{LH, HL, HH\}. \quad (18)$$

The updated coefficients are then transformed back into the spatial domain:

$$X_{i-1} = \mathcal{W}^{-1}(W'_{i-1}). \quad (19)$$

3.3 THEORETICAL JUSTIFICATION

The wavelet-strength schedule $r(i)$ is motivated by three key observations. (1) Natural images are approximately sparse in the wavelet domain (Donoho, 2006), where most high-frequency coefficients are negligible or noise-dominated; suppressing them early removes instability without harming structure. (2) The discrete wavelet transform provides a multiresolution analysis (Mallat, 2002), so a decaying $r(i)$ naturally enforces a coarse-to-fine trajectory: global structures first, then fine details. (3) The dynamic schedule stabilizes sampling by imposing strong constraints when the problem is most ill-posed and gradually relaxing them as convergence is reached. This balances stability and detail recovery, justifying wavelet-regularized diffusion sampling. Next, we analyze dynamic regularization stability in the wavelet domain.

Dynamic regularization stability. We analyze the reverse-time update in the wavelet domain

$$W'_{i-1} = S_{r_i}(W_{i-1} - \zeta_i \nabla_W \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}^{-1}(W_{i-1}); y)), \quad i = T, \dots, 1, \quad (20)$$

where $\mathcal{L}(x; y) = \|\mathcal{A}(x) - y\|_2^2$ is the data-fidelity loss, \mathcal{W} is an orthonormal DWT (so $\|\mathcal{W}x\| = \|x\|$), and S_{r_i} is a wavelet-regularization operator parameterized by a decaying schedule $r_i = r(i; a, b)$.

Theorem 1 (Stability of dynamic wavelet-regularized sampling) *Assume:*

1. (**Smooth forward model**) $\mathcal{A} : \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times 3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is L_A -Lipschitz and has L_∇ -Lipschitz Jacobian.
2. (**Wavelet isometry**) \mathcal{W} is orthonormal, hence $\|\mathcal{W}x\|_2 = \|x\|_2$ and $\|\nabla_W \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}^{-1}(\cdot); y)\| \leq L \|\cdot\|$ for some $L > 0$.
3. (**Nonexpansive regularizer**) For every $r \in [0, r_1]$, the operator $S_r : \mathbb{R}^{H/2 \times W/2 \times 4} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{H/2 \times W/2 \times 4}$ is nonexpansive: $\|S_r(u) - S_r(v)\|_2 \leq \|u - v\|_2$. This holds for (i) High-Frequency gating $S_r(u) = (u^{LL}, r u^{LH}, r u^{HL}, r u^{HH})$ with $r \in [0, 1]$; and (ii) soft-thresholding $S_r(u) = \text{soft}(u; \tau_r)$, which is firmly nonexpansive as a proximal map.
4. (**Step size**) $0 < \zeta_i \leq 2/L$ for all i (e.g., $\zeta_i \leq 1/L$ is sufficient), where L is a Lipschitz constant of $\nabla_W \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}^{-1}(\cdot); y)$.

Then each one-step map

$$\mathcal{T}_i(\cdot; y) = S_{r_i}(\text{Id} - \zeta_i \nabla_W \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}^{-1}(\cdot); y)) \quad (21)$$

is nonexpansive in the iterate and Lipschitz in the measurement:

$$\|\mathcal{T}_i(U; y) - \mathcal{T}_i(V; y)\|_2 \leq \|U - V\|_2, \quad \|\mathcal{T}_i(U; y) - \mathcal{T}_i(U; y')\|_2 \leq c_i \|y - y'\|_2, \quad (22)$$

for some constants $c_i = \zeta_i \text{Lip}_y(\nabla_W \mathcal{L})$. Consequently, for trajectories driven by the same noise X_T and two measurements y, y' ,

$$\|X_0(y) - X_0(y')\|_2 \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^T c_i \right) \|y - y'\|_2, \quad (23)$$

i.e., the final reconstruction is Lipschitz-stable with respect to perturbations in y . If, in addition, each gradient step is strictly contractive (e.g., by strong convexity in a local basin or smaller ζ_i), the bound tightens to a decaying product form.

Theorem 1 shows that the update rule is nonexpansive in the iterate and Lipschitz-stable with respect to the measurement, i.e., small perturbations in y do not cause large deviations in the reconstruction. The dynamic wavelet strength $r(i)$ is central: large values in early steps suppress unstable high-frequency components under the ill-posed forward operator, while its decay later permits fine details to emerge without sacrificing stability. This justifies the coarse-to-fine behavior of our method—stable against noise initially, yet flexible enough to refine textures and edges as sampling progresses.

Table 1: Quantitative results (FID ↓, LPIPS ↓) on FFHQ Dataset across different tasks.

Methods	Super Resolution		Inpainting		Gaussian Blur		Motion Blur	
	FID ↓	LPIPS ↓	FID ↓	LPIPS ↓	FID ↓	LPIPS ↓	FID ↓	LPIPS ↓
WDPS (ours)	32.74	0.1979	27.11	0.1106	26.12	0.1501	28.17	0.1804
DPS Chung et al. (2022a)	36.50	0.1932	34.16	0.1115	29.78	0.1461	31.68	0.1873
DDRM Kwarar et al. (2022)	62.15	0.294	69.71	0.587	74.92	0.332	–	–
MCG Chung et al. (2022b)	87.64	0.520	29.26	0.286	101.2	0.340	310.5	0.702
PnP-ADMM Chan et al. (2016)	66.52	0.353	123.6	0.692	90.42	0.441	89.08	0.405
Score-SDE Song et al. (2020)	96.72	0.563	76.54	0.612	109.0	0.403	292.2	0.657
ADMM-TV Wahlberg et al. (2012)	110.6	0.428	181.5	0.463	186.7	0.507	152.3	0.508

Table 2: Quantitative results (FID ↓, LPIPS ↓) on ImageNet dataset across different tasks.

Methods	Motion Blur		Gaussian Blur		Inpainting		Super Resolution	
	FID ↓	LPIPS ↓	FID ↓	LPIPS ↓	FID ↓	LPIPS ↓	FID ↓	LPIPS ↓
WDPS (ours)	42.80	0.2201	39.49	0.2548	39.62	0.1953	50.55	0.3319
DPS Chung et al. (2022a)	44.67	0.2450	44.93	0.2747	49.35	0.2073	54.10	0.3319
DDRM Kwarar et al. (2022)	–	–	63.02	0.427	45.95	0.245	59.57	0.339
MCG Chung et al. (2022b)	186.9	0.758	95.04	0.550	39.74	0.330	144.5	0.637
PnP-ADMM Chan et al. (2016)	89.76	0.483	100.6	0.519	78.02	0.367	97.22	0.433
Score-SDE Song et al. (2020)	98.25	0.591	123.0	0.667	54.07	0.315	170.7	0.701
ADMM-TV Wahlberg et al. (2012)	138.8	0.525	155.7	0.588	87.69	0.319	130.9	0.523

4 EXPERIMENT

4.1 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

We evaluate our Wavelet Diffusion Posterior Sampling (WDPS) framework on two widely used datasets that exhibit diverging characteristics: FFHQ (256×256) (Karras et al., 2019) and ImageNet (256×256) (Deng et al., 2009). For ImageNet, we adopt the pre-trained diffusion model released by Dhariwal & Nichol (2021) and directly use it without task-specific finetuning. For FFHQ, we sample with the pretrained model used in Chung et al. (2022a).

Forward measurement operators are specified as follows: (i) **Inpainting**: We use a 128×128 box mask following Chung et al. (2022a), and in random-type inpainting we mask out 92% of the pixels across all RGB channels. (ii) **Super-resolution**: Bicubic downsampling is applied. (iii) **Gaussian blur**: Convolution with a Gaussian kernel of size 61×61 and standard deviation 3.0. (iv) **Motion blur**: Convolution with randomly generated motion kernels of size 61×61 and intensity 0.5. (v) **Nonlinear deblurring**: We employ a neural network-based forward model following Chung et al. (2022a). (vi) **Lensless camera**: Following Antipa et al. (2017); Monakhova et al. (2019); Hung et al. (2025), we apply a diffuser point spread function (PSF) as the forward operator to simulate lensless measurements. For noise models, Gaussian noise with $\sigma = 0.05$ is added to the measurement domain, and the Poisson noise level is set to $\lambda = 1.0$.

To assess reconstruction quality, we employ both pixel-level and perceptual metrics. Pixel-level fidelity is measured using Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR, ↑) and Structural Similarity Index Measure (SSIM, ↑). Perceptual quality is evaluated with Fréchet Inception Distance (FID, ↓) and Learned Perceptual Image Patch Similarity (LPIPS, ↓). These complementary metrics ensure a comprehensive comparison between WDPS and the baseline Diffusion Posterior Sampling (DPS).

4.2 RESULTS ON LINEAR INVERSE PROBLEM

Table 3: Quantitative results (PSNR ↑, SSIM ↑) on ImageNet dataset across different tasks.

Methods	Motion Blur		Gaussian Blur		Inpainting		Super Resolution	
	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑
WDPS (ours)	27.68	0.7654	23.96	0.6424	27.98	0.7762	22.63	0.6114
DPS Chung et al. (2022a)	24.63	0.6735	23.30	0.6126	28.09	0.7763	22.55	0.6019

Table 4: Quantitative results (PSNR \uparrow , SSIM \uparrow) on FFHQ dataset across different tasks.

Methods	Motion Blur		Gaussian Blur		Inpainting		Super Resolution		Nonlinear Blur	
	PSNR \uparrow	SSIM \uparrow	PSNR \uparrow	SSIM \uparrow	PSNR \uparrow	SSIM \uparrow	PSNR \uparrow	SSIM \uparrow	PSNR \uparrow	SSIM \uparrow
WDPS (ours)	23.34	0.6551	25.00	0.6894	29.48	0.8305	23.61	0.6615	23.15	0.6466
DPS Chung et al. (2022a)	22.54	0.6311	24.89	0.6884	29.39	0.8347	23.59	0.6622	22.82	0.6322

We evaluate the proposed WDPS method against the DPS baseline as well as several representative baselines, including DDRM Kawar et al. (2022), MCG Chung et al. (2022b), PnP-ADMM Chan et al. (2016), Score-SDE Song et al. (2020), ADMM-TV Wahlberg et al. (2012), BKS-based approaches Tran et al. (2021), and FPS Dou & Song (2024). The quantitative results across five common image restoration tasks on the FFHQ dataset are reported in Table 1, using Fréchet Inception Distance (FID, \downarrow) and Learned Perceptual Image Patch Similarity (LPIPS, \downarrow). WDPS achieves consistently lower FID than DPS across all tasks, with particularly large margins under motion blur (28.17 vs. 31.68), Gaussian blur (26.12 vs. 29.78), and inpainting (27.11 vs. 34.16). Perceptual quality, measured by LPIPS, is also generally improved (e.g., 0.1804 vs. 0.1873 for motion blur; 0.1106 vs. 0.1115 for inpainting). In super-resolution, WDPS shows a clear FID improvement (32.74 vs. 36.50), while DPS attains a slightly better LPIPS.

We further evaluate WDPS on the ImageNet validation set with 1,000 images, using pre-trained diffusion models without task-specific fine-tuning. The results across five restoration tasks are reported in Table 2 and Table 5. WDPS consistently outperforms DPS across all metrics. In motion blur, it improves PSNR by over 3 dB (27.68 vs. 24.63) while also yielding better SSIM and LPIPS. Similar improvements are observed for Gaussian blur, where FID decreases from 44.93 to 39.49.

Inpainting shows a large perceptual gain (FID 39.62 vs. 49.35), despite DPS achieving a marginally higher PSNR. Super-resolution further confirms the advantage, with WDPS reducing FID (50.55 vs. 54.10) while maintaining competitive LPIPS.

Overall, WDPS demonstrates a consistent advantage over DPS and outperforms traditional baselines by a wide margin, delivering reconstructions that are perceptually closer to the ground truth. WDPS generalizes well beyond FFHQ, consistently surpassing DPS on ImageNet, especially in perceptual metrics (FID and LPIPS), and scaling effectively to diverse and challenging restoration tasks.

Table 5: Quantitative results on ImageNet Nonlinear Blur task.

Methods	FID \downarrow	LPIPS \downarrow
WDPS (ours)	65.68	0.3679
FPS Dou & Song (2024)	196.07	0.7423
DPS Chung et al. (2022a)	78.54	0.4190
MGPS Moufad et al. (2024a)	110	0.43

4.3 RESULTS ON NONLINEAR INVERSE PROBLEM

For nonlinear blur, WDPS achieves the best quantitative results, improving both FID (65.68 vs. 78.54) and LPIPS (0.368 vs. 0.419), demonstrating robustness to complex degradations. In addition, WDPS surpasses both DPS (35.11 vs. 38.50) and FPS (196.1 FID), highlighting its robustness to complex degradations.

Overall, WDPS generalizes well beyond FFHQ, consistently surpassing DPS on ImageNet, especially in perceptual metrics (FID and LPIPS), and scaling effectively to diverse and challenging restoration tasks. Below, we provide potential explanations why our method excels in non-linear inverse problems. (i) *Subband-adaptive posterior corrections.* WDPS computes the posterior update in the wavelet domain, decomposing x into low- and high-frequency subbands and applying band-specific step sizes. This subband conditioning decouples the ill-scaled directions induced by $\nabla A(x)$, preventing the likelihood gradient from disproportionately damping high-frequency coefficients. Edges and fine textures receive well-calibrated corrections while low-frequency structure remains stable, yielding better measurement fits.

(ii) *Coarse-to-fine scheduling via dynamic wavelet regularization.* Early diffusion steps are the most ill-posed: noise levels are high, the posterior is broad, and nonlinearities in $A(\cdot)$ can amplify spurious

Table 6: Quantitative results on FFHQ Nonlinear Blur task.

Methods	FID \downarrow	LPIPS \downarrow
WDPS (ours)	35.11	0.2203
DPS Chung et al. (2022a)	38.50	0.2291
FPS Dou & Song (2024)	196.5	0.701
BKS-styleGAN2 Tran et al. (2021)	63.18	0.407
BKS-generic Tran et al. (2021)	141.0	0.640
MCG Chung et al. (2022b)	180.1	0.695
MGPS Moufad et al. (2024a)	50.8	0.23

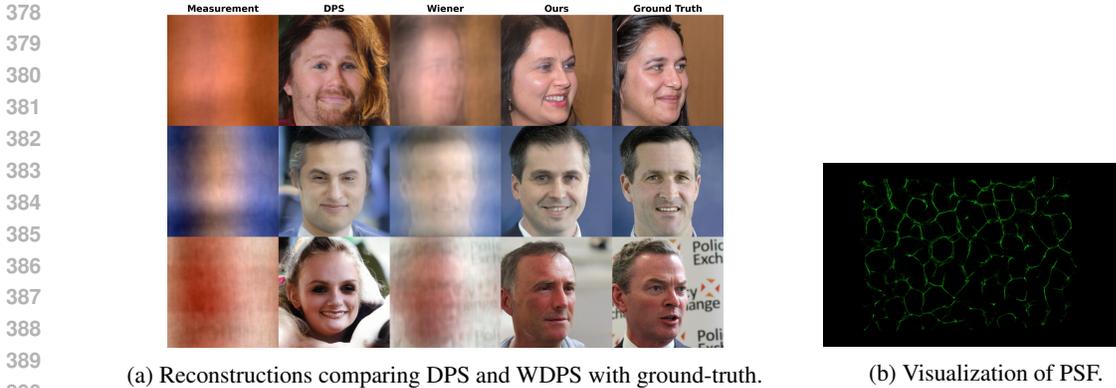


Figure 1: Evaluation on the DiffuserCam dataset. (a) Example reconstructions with DPS and WDPS compared against ground truth. (b) Corresponding point spread function (PSF). The image is enhanced for better visualization.

Table 7: Quantitative results (FID ↓, PSNR ↑, SSIM ↑, LPIPS ↓) on DiffuserCam Task.

Methods	FID ↓	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑	LPIPS ↓
WDPS (ours)	36.77	16.30	0.4632	0.3693
DPS Chung et al. (2022a)	47.24	14.29	0.3842	0.4220
FPS-SMC Dou & Song (2024)	330.77	8.88	0.1915	0.8518
ADMM Wahlberg et al. (2012)	272.32	14.42	0.4572	0.6499
Wiener Deconvolution	261.10	15.38	0.5357	0.6451

detail. WDPS introduces a time-varying wavelet regularizer that is strong at the beginning (suppressing unstable high-frequency digressions) and is gradually relaxed to let fine-scale information emerge as the noise level decays. This schedule acts as an implicit continuation method—first solving an easier, smoothed problem and then homotopying to the fully detailed reconstruction—thereby reducing artifacts that commonly plague nonlinear inverse solvers.

(iii) *Improved gradient conditioning and stability.* Performing the data-consistency correction on \hat{x}_0 in the wavelet domain improves the conditioning of the update map. The resulting reverse dynamics are less sensitive to local Lipschitz spikes of $A(\cdot)$ and to moderate operator/model mismatch. Empirically, this manifests as lower variance across runs, fewer catastrophic samples, and improved sample efficiency (fewer steps required to reach a given quality).

(iv) *Robustness to model mismatch.* Realistic nonlinear degradations rarely match the training-time assumptions of baseline samplers. Because WDPS regularizes *frequencies* rather than *pixels*, it tolerates moderate mismatches in the forward map by preserving the spectral statistics of natural images even when the likelihood term is slightly mis-specified. Spatial-only corrections, in contrast, tend to either oversmooth to satisfy data consistency or overfit noise amplified through $A(\cdot)$.

4.4 RESULTS ON LENSELESS IMAGE

We evaluate the proposed WDPS method against the DPS baseline on lensless imaging, where measurements are formed by convolving the original image with a point spread function (PSF). The PSF acts as a perturbation kernel that encodes the optical response of the lensless system, making the inverse problem highly ill-posed. For this task, we adopt the PSF provided by Hung et al. (2025) and apply it to FFHQ images using the same pre-trained model as in previous experiments. Quantitative results are reported in Table 7 while qualitative reconstructions are shown in Figure 1. Under this challenging forward operator, DPS produces severely distorted and unrealistic facial reconstructions. In contrast, WDPS effectively suppresses these artifacts and yields reconstructions that closely resemble the ground-truth images, demonstrating its robustness in lensless imaging scenarios.

The results confirm that the WDPS method outperforms the baseline methods in both quantitative metrics and perceptual quality. The ability to leverage frequency-domain information through wavelet transforms and posterior sampling enhances the reconstruction quality, especially for tasks requiring

432 fine detail preservation such as nonlinear deblurring. Our approach sets a new benchmark for solving
 433 inverse problems and opens avenues for future work in frequency-domain diffusion models.
 434

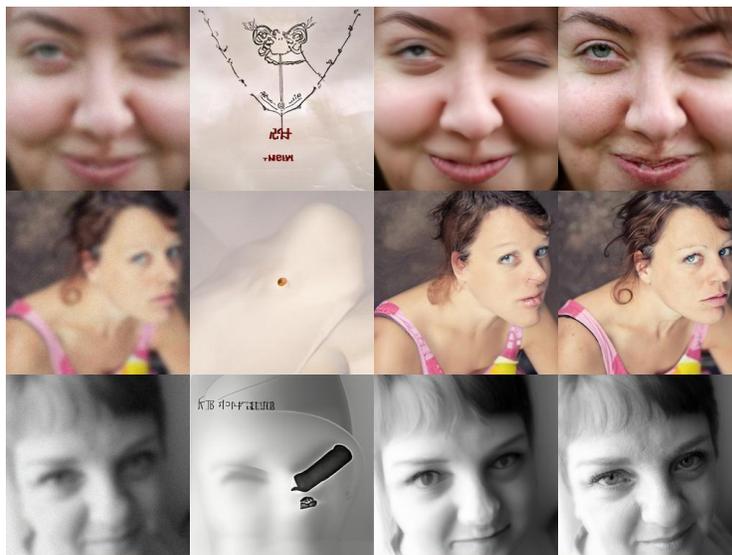
436 4.5 ABLATION STUDY

437 We conduct an ablation study on the proposed dynamic wavelet regularization schedule. Results are
 438 provided in Tables 8.
 439

440 On ImageNet, the dynamic schedule consistently improves
 441 performance across all metrics, confirming its effectiveness in
 442 stabilizing training and preserving high-frequency details in
 443 diverse and challenging settings. On FFHQ, the gains are gener-
 444 ally more modest for tasks such as blur or inpainting, since
 445 the dataset consists of high-quality, homogeneous face images
 446 where the diffusion prior alone already provides strong
 447 reconstructions. An exception is super-resolution, where the
 448 task is inherently ill-posed and requires recovery of high-
 449 frequency details; here the schedule plays a crucial role, lead-
 450 ing to dramatic improvements (e.g., FID 32.74 vs. 192.41).
 451 For physics-based imaging (DiffuserCam), the benefits are
 452 smaller and task-dependent: WDPS improves FID and PSNR,
 453 while SSIM and LPIPS may not always benefit. Due to page limits, additional ablation results are
 454 provided in Appendix E.

Table 8: Quantitative results (FID, LPIPS) for the first three tasks.

Task	Method	FID ↓	LPIPS ↓
Motion Blur	strength	48.2538	0.3354
	no-strength	187.3271	0.7754
Gaussian Blur	strength	39.4935	0.2548
	no-strength	182.6592	0.7586
Inpainting	strength	39.6198	0.1953
	no-strength	128.5177	0.6185



473 Figure 2: Gaussian Blur ablation on ImageNet—rows: **Measurement**, **No-strength**, **Strength**,
 474 **Ground Truth**.
 475

478 5 CONCLUSION

481 We present a frequency-domain-based posterior sampling approach that leverages frequency fea-
 482 tures to improve performance on image inverse problems. By operating in the frequency domain,
 483 this method enables more effective reconstruction and opens new avenues for future research into
 484 frequency-aware image processing techniques. Our approach, Wavelet-based Diffusion Posterior
 485 Sampling (WDPS), demonstrates strong performance compared to state-of-the-art methods on the
 evaluated tasks, highlighting its potential for broad applicability across various domains.

REFERENCES

- 486
487
488 Nick Antipa, Grace Kuo, Reinhard Heckel, Ben Mildenhall, Emrah Bostan, Ren Ng, and Laura
489 Waller. Diffusercam: lensless single-exposure 3d imaging. *Optica*, 5(1):1–9, 2017.
- 490
491 Vivek Boominathan, Jesse K Adams, Jacob T Robinson, and Ashok Veeraraghavan. Phlatcam:
492 Designed phase-mask based thin lensless camera. *IEEE transactions on pattern analysis and
493 machine intelligence*, 42(7):1618–1629, 2020.
- 494
495 Gabriel Cardoso, Yazid Janati El Idrissi, Sylvain Le Corff, and Eric Moulines. Monte carlo guided
496 diffusion for bayesian linear inverse problems. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2308.07983*, 2023.
- 497
498 Stanley H Chan, Xiran Wang, and Omar A Elgendy. Plug-and-play admm for image restoration:
499 Fixed-point convergence and applications. *IEEE Transactions on Computational Imaging*, 3(1):
500 84–98, 2016.
- 501
502 Xin Chen, Li Zeng, Ming Gao, Chi Ding, and Yougang Bian. Diffwt: Diffusion-based pedestrian
503 trajectory prediction with time-frequency wavelet transform. *IEEE Internet of Things Journal*,
504 2024.
- 505
506 Hyungjin Chung, Jeongsol Kim, Michael T Mccann, Marc L Klasky, and Jong Chul Ye. Diffusion
507 posterior sampling for general noisy inverse problems. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2209.14687*, 2022a.
- 508
509 Hyungjin Chung, Byeongsu Sim, Dohoon Ryu, and Jong Chul Ye. Improving diffusion models for
510 inverse problems using manifold constraints. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*,
511 35:25683–25696, 2022b.
- 512
513 Hyungjin Chung, Dohoon Ryu, Michael T McCann, Marc L Klasky, and Jong Chul Ye. Solving
514 3d inverse problems using pre-trained 2d diffusion models. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF
515 conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*, pp. 22542–22551, 2023.
- 516
517 Giannis Daras, Hyungjin Chung, Chieh-Hsin Lai, Yuki Mitsufuji, Jong Chul Ye, Peyman Milanfar,
518 Alexandros G Dimakis, and Mauricio Delbracio. A survey on diffusion models for inverse problems.
519 *arXiv preprint arXiv:2410.00083*, 2024.
- 520
521 Antoine De Paepe, Alexandre Bousse, Clémentine Phung-Ngoc, Youness Mellak, and Dimitris
522 Visvikis. Adaptive diffusion models for sparse-view motion-corrected head cone-beam ct. *arXiv
523 preprint arXiv:2504.14033*, 2025a.
- 524
525 Antoine De Paepe, Alexandre Bousse, Clémentine Phung-Ngoc, and Dimitris Visvikis. Solving
526 blind inverse problems: Adaptive diffusion models for motion-corrected sparse-view 4dct. *arXiv
527 preprint arXiv:2501.12249*, 2025b.
- 528
529 Jia Deng, Wei Dong, Richard Socher, Li-Jia Li, Kai Li, and Li Fei-Fei. Imagenet: A large-scale
530 hierarchical image database. In *2009 IEEE conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*,
531 pp. 248–255. Ieee, 2009.
- 532
533 Prafulla Dhariwal and Alexander Nichol. Diffusion models beat gans on image synthesis. *Advances
534 in neural information processing systems*, 34:8780–8794, 2021.
- 535
536 David L Donoho. Compressed sensing. *IEEE Transactions on information theory*, 52(4):1289–1306,
537 2006.
- 538
539 Zehao Dou and Yang Song. Diffusion posterior sampling for linear inverse problem solving: A
540 filtering perspective. In *The Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2024.
- 541
542 Christopher E Heil and David F Walnut. Continuous and discrete wavelet transforms. *SIAM review*,
543 31(4):628–666, 1989.
- 544
545 Jonathan Ho, Ajay Jain, and Pieter Abbeel. Denoising diffusion probabilistic models. *Advances in
546 neural information processing systems*, 33:6840–6851, 2020.
- 547
548 Yi Huang, Jiancheng Huang, Jianzhuang Liu, Mingfu Yan, Yu Dong, Jiayi Lv, Chaoqi Chen, and
549 Shifeng Chen. Wavedm: Wavelet-based diffusion models for image restoration. *IEEE Transactions
550 on Multimedia*, 26:7058–7073, 2024.

- 540 Clara S Hung, Leyla A Kabuli, Vasilisa Ponomarenko, and Laura Waller. Scalable dataset acquisition
541 for data-driven lensless imaging. In *Computational Optical Imaging and Artificial Intelligence in*
542 *Biomedical Sciences II*, volume 13333, pp. 54–58. SPIE, 2025.
- 543 Haiyan Jin, Jing Wang, Fengyuan Zuo, Haonan Su, Zhaolin Xiao, Bin Wang, and Yuanlin Zhang.
544 Diffusion model with multi-layer wavelet transform for low-light image enhancement. In *ICASSP*
545 *2025-2025 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*,
546 pp. 1–5. IEEE, 2025.
- 547 Tero Karras, Samuli Laine, and Timo Aila. A style-based generator architecture for generative
548 adversarial networks. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern*
549 *recognition*, pp. 4401–4410, 2019.
- 551 Bahjat Kawar, Gregory Vaksman, and Michael Elad. Snips: Solving noisy inverse problems stochas-
552 tically. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 34:21757–21769, 2021.
- 553 Bahjat Kawar, Michael Elad, Stefano Ermon, and Jiaming Song. Denoising diffusion restoration
554 models. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 35:23593–23606, 2022.
- 555 Jeongsol Kim, Geon Yeong Park, Hyungjin Chung, and Jong Chul Ye. Regularization by texts for
556 latent diffusion inverse solvers. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2311.15658*, 2023.
- 557 Xiaolong Li, Yonghui Tan, Kunming Liu, Xuan Wang, and Xusheng Zhou. Dsfi-cd: Diffusion-driven
558 space-frequency domain information interaction for remote sensing image change detection. *IEEE*
559 *Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing*, 2025a.
- 560 Xiaopan Li, Shiqian Wu, Xin Yuan, Shoulie Xie, and Sos Aгаian. Hierarchical wavelet-guided
561 diffusion model for single image deblurring. *The Visual Computer*, 41(6):3785–3800, 2025b.
- 562 Stephane G Mallat. A theory for multiresolution signal decomposition: the wavelet representation.
563 *IEEE transactions on pattern analysis and machine intelligence*, 11(7):674–693, 2002.
- 564 Kristina Monakhova, Joshua Yurtsever, Grace Kuo, Nick Antipa, Kyrollos Yanny, and Laura Waller.
565 Learned reconstructions for practical mask-based lensless imaging. *Optics express*, 27(20):28075–
566 28090, 2019.
- 567 Badr Moufad, Yazid Janati, Lisa Bedin, Alain Durmus, Randal Douc, Eric Moulines, and Jimmy
568 Olsson. Variational diffusion posterior sampling with midpoint guidance. *arXiv preprint*
569 *arXiv:2410.09945*, 2024a.
- 570 Badr Moufad, Yazid Janati, Lisa Bedin, Alain Durmus, Randal Douc, Eric Moulines, and Jimmy
571 Olsson. Variational diffusion posterior sampling with midpoint guidance, 2024b. URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2410.09945>.
- 572 Elias Nehme and Tomer Michaeli. Generative ai for solving inverse problems in computational
573 imaging. *XRDS: Crossroads, The ACM Magazine for Students*, 31(2):32–37, 2025.
- 574 Gheyath Othman and Diyar Qader Zeebaree. The applications of discrete wavelet transform in image
575 processing: A review. *Journal of Soft Computing and Data Mining*, 1(2):31–43, 2020.
- 576 Xiuxi Pan, Xiao Chen, Saori Takeyama, and Masahiro Yamaguchi. Image reconstruction with
577 transformer for mask-based lensless imaging. *Optics Letters*, 47(7):1843–1846, 2022.
- 578 Clémentine Phung-Ngoc, Alexandre Bousse, Antoine De Paepe, Hong-Phuong Dang, Olivier Saut,
579 and Dimitris Visvikis. Joint reconstruction of activity and attenuation in pet by diffusion posterior
580 sampling in wavelet coefficient space. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2505.18782*, 2025.
- 581 Yurui Qian, Qi Cai, Yingwei Pan, Yehao Li, Ting Yao, Qibin Sun, and Tao Mei. Boosting diffusion
582 models with moving average sampling in frequency domain. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF*
583 *conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*, pp. 8911–8920, 2024.
- 584 Jingyu Song, Haiyong Xu, Gangyi Jiang, Mei Yu, Yeyao Chen, Ting Luo, and Yang Song. Frequency
585 domain-based latent diffusion model for underwater image enhancement. *Pattern Recognition*,
586 160:111198, 2025.

594 Yang Song, Jascha Sohl-Dickstein, Diederik P Kingma, Abhishek Kumar, Stefano Ermon, and Ben
595 Poole. Score-based generative modeling through stochastic differential equations. *arXiv preprint*
596 *arXiv:2011.13456*, 2020.

597 D Sundararajan. *Discrete wavelet transform: a signal processing approach*. John Wiley & Sons,
598 2016.

600 Phong Tran, Anh Tuan Tran, Quynh Phung, and Minh Hoai. Explore image deblurring via encoded
601 blur kernel space. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern*
602 *recognition*, pp. 11956–11965, 2021.

603 Bo Wahlberg, Stephen Boyd, Mariette Annergren, and Yang Wang. An admm algorithm for a class of
604 total variation regularized estimation problems. *IFAC Proceedings Volumes*, 45(16):83–88, 2012.

606 Weilin Wan, Yiming Huang, Shutong Wu, Taku Komura, Wenping Wang, Dinesh Jayaraman,
607 and Lingjie Liu. Diffusionphase: Motion diffusion in frequency domain. *arXiv preprint*
608 *arXiv:2312.04036*, 2023.

609 George Webber and Andrew J Reader. Diffusion models for medical image reconstruction. *BJRl*
610 *Artificial Intelligence*, 1(1):ubae013, 2024.

612 Omer Yair, Elias Nehme, and Tomer Michaeli. Uncertainty visualization via low-dimensional
613 posterior projections. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and*
614 *Pattern Recognition*, pp. 11041–11051, 2024.

615 Zhixiong Yang, Jingyuan Xia, Shengxi Li, Xinghua Huang, Shuanghui Zhang, Zhen Liu, Yaowen Fu,
616 and Yongxiang Liu. A dynamic kernel prior model for unsupervised blind image super-resolution.
617 In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*, pp.
618 26046–26056, 2024.

619 Bingliang Zhang, Wenda Chu, Julius Berner, Chenlin Meng, Anima Anandkumar, and Yang Song.
620 Improving diffusion inverse problem solving with decoupled noise annealing. In *Proceedings of*
621 *the Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference*, pp. 20895–20905, 2025.

622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647

A ADDITIONAL RELATED WORKS

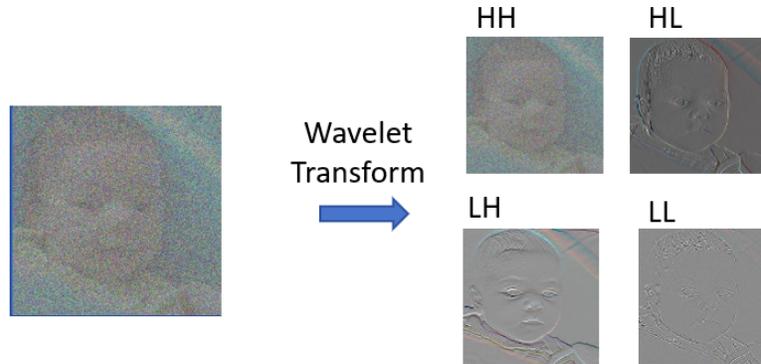


Figure 3: Wavelet Transform.

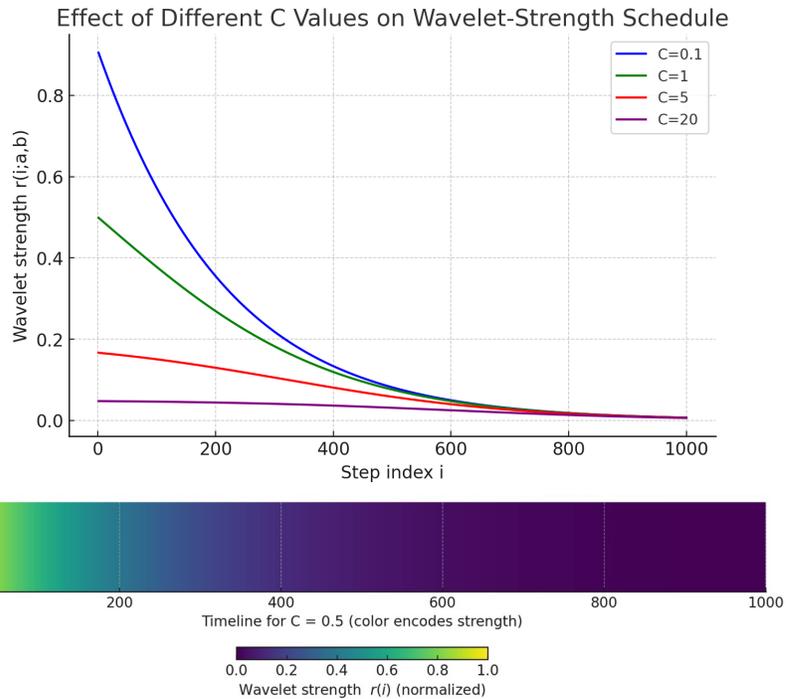


Figure 4: Regularization Schedule Under Different Baseline Offset.

A.1 DIFFUSION MODEL ON FREQUENCY DOMAIN

Recent research Qian et al. (2024); Wan et al. (2023); Song et al. (2025); Li et al. (2025a); Phung-Ngoc et al. (2025); De Paepe et al. (2025b;a) has highlighted the advantages of applying diffusion models in the frequency domain. Such frequency-based diffusion models typically achieve superior generative performance compared to traditional methods operating solely in the spatial (image) domain. For instance, Qian et al. (2024) reinterpret iterative denoising as an optimization process and introduce Moving Average Sampling in the Frequency domain (MASF): instead of simply averaging

intermediate denoised samples, they first map them back to data space and then perform a moving average separately on different frequency components. This frequency-aware ensembling stabilizes the sampling trajectory and improves both unconditional and conditional diffusion models with negligible extra cost. Similarly, Wan et al. (2023) present the first text-conditioned human motion generation method in the frequency domain of motions, encoding motion sequences into a compact phase space that preserves high-frequency periodic details and then using a conditional diffusion model to predict these parameters from text, enabling smooth transitions and diverse long-term motion synthesis. Song et al. (2025) tackle underwater image enhancement by proposing a two-stage frequency-domain latent diffusion model (FD-LDM): a lightweight parameter estimation network first corrects color bias, and then high- and low-frequency priors are extracted and fused with a refined latent diffusion model to further enhance degraded underwater images. Li et al. (2025a) address change detection in remote sensing by proposing DSFI-CD, which uses a conditional denoising diffusion model to generate pseudo-images and introduces a spatial–frequency interaction module plus an edge-enhanced module to better capture high-frequency edge information and improve robustness.

Utilizing frequency-domain methods naturally aligns with a divide-and-conquer approach, enabling inverse problems to be addressed independently within distinct frequency bands—such as high-frequency and low-frequency components. However, existing frequency-based approaches often emphasize improvements in model architectures rather than exploring novel sampling techniques.

A.2 WAVELET TRANSFORMS

Wavelet transforms have been widely incorporated into generative modeling frameworks Chen et al. (2024); Jin et al. (2025); Huang et al. (2024); Li et al. (2025b). For example, Chen et al. (2024) use a discrete wavelet transform with a conditional diffusion model to generate accurate multi-modal pedestrian trajectories. Similarly, Jin et al. (2025) proposes MWT-Diff for low-light image enhancement, replacing convolutional up/down-sampling with multi-layer wavelet transforms in a U-Net to extract high-order multi-scale features and fuse them for reconstruction. These works show how wavelet–frequency representations can enhance diffusion models; however, our WDPS likewise exploits multi-scale information but applies it to posterior updates for inverse imaging tasks.

A.3 LENSLESS CAMERA TASK

Mask-based lensless imaging systems Antipa et al. (2017); Monakhova et al. (2019); Pan et al. (2022); Boominathan et al. (2020); Hung et al. (2025) provide an appealing alternative to traditional lensed cameras due to their compact design, reduced weight, and mechanical simplicity. Instead of directly forming an image through optical lenses, these systems capture multiplexed light patterns on a sensor, which must then be computationally inverted to recover the scene. This inversion is inherently an ill-posed problem, making lensless imaging a natural testbed for evaluating reconstruction algorithms.

In our experiments, we do not build a new physical system; instead, we adopt the forward operator defined by a lensless camera point spread function (PSF) and apply it to standard datasets such as FFHQ. This allows us to simulate realistic lensless measurements while retaining controlled ground-truth references. Compared to conventional model-based reconstructions, which often require heavy computation, precise calibration, and hand-crafted denoisers, our frequency-domain diffusion framework provides a more generalizable and robust solution under these challenging lensless conditions.

B DETAILED PROOF OF THEOREM 1.

We denote the loss by

$$\mathcal{L}(x; y) = \|\mathcal{A}(x) - y\|_2^2, \quad x = \mathcal{W}^{-1}(W), \quad (24)$$

and the one-step operator as

$$\mathcal{T}_i(\cdot; y) = S_{r_i}(\text{Id} - \zeta_i \nabla_W \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}^{-1}(\cdot); y)). \quad (25)$$

Here \mathcal{W} is an orthonormal discrete wavelet transform, and S_{r_i} denotes the dynamic wavelet regularization operator (either High-Frequency gating or soft-thresholding). Our goal is to show: 1) \mathcal{T}_i is

756 nonexpansive in its input; 2) \mathcal{T}_i is Lipschitz with respect to the measurement y ; 3) the composition of
 757 T steps yields global Lipschitz stability of the reconstruction $X_0(y)$ with respect to y .

758
 759 **Step 1. Wavelet isometry.** Since \mathcal{W} is orthonormal, we have

$$760 \quad \|\mathcal{W}_1 - \mathcal{W}_2\|_2 = \|\mathcal{W}^{-1}(\mathcal{W}_1) - \mathcal{W}^{-1}(\mathcal{W}_2)\|_2, \quad (26)$$

761 and by the chain rule

$$762 \quad \nabla_W \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}^{-1}(W); y) = \mathcal{W} \nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x; y), \quad x = \mathcal{W}^{-1}(W). \quad (27)$$

763 Thus the Lipschitz constant of $\nabla_W \mathcal{L}$ equals that of $\nabla_x \mathcal{L}$.

764
 765 **Step 2. Lipschitz constant of the gradient.** If \mathcal{A} is linear, $\mathcal{A}(x) = Ax$, then

$$766 \quad \mathcal{L}(x; y) = \|Ax - y\|_2^2, \quad \nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x; y) = 2A^\top (Ax - y). \quad (28)$$

767 Therefore $\nabla_x \mathcal{L}$ is L -Lipschitz with $L = 2\|A\|_2^2$. The same constant applies in the wavelet domain:
 768 $\nabla_W \mathcal{L}$ is L -Lipschitz.

769
 770 **Step 3. Nonexpansiveness of the gradient step.** Define the gradient descent step

$$771 \quad G_i(W; y) = W - \zeta_i \nabla_W \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}^{-1}(W); y). \quad (29)$$

772 By standard results (Baillon–Haddad or cocoercivity of smooth convex functions), if $0 < \zeta_i \leq 2/L$,
 773 then

$$774 \quad \|G_i(U; y) - G_i(V; y)\|_2 \leq \|U - V\|_2. \quad (30)$$

775 Hence $G_i(\cdot; y)$ is nonexpansive.

776
 777 **Step 4. Nonexpansiveness of the regularizer.** By assumption, S_{r_i} is nonexpansive:

$$778 \quad \|S_{r_i}(U) - S_{r_i}(V)\|_2 \leq \|U - V\|_2. \quad (31)$$

779 This is satisfied both by (i) *High-Frequency gating* $S_{r_i}(u) = (u^{\text{LL}}, r_i u^{\text{LH}}, r_i u^{\text{HL}}, r_i u^{\text{HH}})$ with
 780 $r_i \in [0, 1]$; (ii) *Soft-thresholding*, which is firmly nonexpansive as a proximal map.

781
 782 **Step 5. One-step nonexpansiveness and Lipschitz continuity in y .** Since $\mathcal{T}_i = S_{r_i} \circ G_i$, both
 783 operators being nonexpansive, their composition is nonexpansive:

$$784 \quad \|\mathcal{T}_i(U; y) - \mathcal{T}_i(V; y)\|_2 \leq \|U - V\|_2. \quad (32)$$

785 For Lipschitz continuity in the measurement, consider

$$786 \quad \|\mathcal{T}_i(U; y) - \mathcal{T}_i(U; y')\|_2 \leq \zeta_i \|\nabla_W \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}^{-1}(U); y) - \nabla_W \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}^{-1}(U); y')\|_2. \quad (33)$$

787 By the mean-value inequality, the RHS is bounded by $c_i \|y - y'\|_2$ for some constant $c_i =$
 788 $\zeta_i \text{Lip}_y(\nabla_W \mathcal{L})$.

789
 790 **Step 6. Stability over T steps.** Let X_T be the common initialization (noise) and $X_0(y)$, $X_0(y')$
 791 the final reconstructions under two measurements. Applying the nonexpansiveness and Lipschitz
 792 property iteratively, we obtain

$$793 \quad \|X_0(y) - X_0(y')\|_2 \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^T c_i \right) \|y - y'\|_2. \quad (34)$$

794 Thus the reconstruction is Lipschitz-stable with respect to measurement perturbations.

795
 796 **Step 7. Strict contraction case.** If each gradient step is strictly contractive (e.g., due to strong
 797 convexity in a local basin or by taking smaller ζ_i), the bound improves to a product form via a discrete
 798 Grönwall inequality, yielding exponentially decaying error propagation across steps.

801 \square

802 C STATEMENT ON THE USE OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

803
 804 We used a large language model strictly for editorial polishing of writing (e.g., grammar, concision,
 805 and clarity). The tool was not used to generate substantive content including research ideas and
 806 data analyses. No sensitive or identifying information was shared. All LLM-suggested edits were
 807 screened by the authors for accuracy and appropriateness, and the final text reflects authors' intent and
 808 judgment. The authors accept full responsibility for the integrity and originality of the manuscript.
 809

D RUNTIME COMPARISON

To further evaluate the efficiency of our method, we report the average runtime for sampling a single image. All experiments are conducted on an NVIDIA A6000 GPU. As shown in Table 10, WDPS runs slightly slower than DPS on both datasets. This additional cost comes from the wavelet-domain regularization, but it is marginal compared to the overall runtime and is justified by the improvement in reconstruction quality.

E ABLATION STUDY ON REGULARIZATION STRENGTH

We evaluate the proposed dynamic wavelet regularization schedule (reported in the first row of each block) against a baseline without regularization (second row), with results presented in Tables 11, 13, and 12. On ImageNet, the dynamic schedule consistently enhances performance across all metrics, demonstrating its ability to stabilize training and preserve high-frequency details in complex and varied scenarios. For FFHQ, improvements are generally more modest in tasks such as deblurring and inpainting, since the dataset contains high-quality, homogeneous facial images where the diffusion prior alone already yields strong reconstructions. A notable exception is super-resolution, where recovering high-frequency structure is essential; in this setting the schedule is critical, producing substantial gains (e.g., FID 32.74 vs. 192.41). For physics-based imaging (DiffuserCam), the impact is more task-specific: WDPS boosts FID and PSNR, whereas SSIM and LPIPS do not always improve. Taken together, these findings suggest that dynamic wavelet regularization provides broad benefits for ill-posed inverse problems, delivering particularly large improvements in high-frequency recovery tasks, while its advantages in physics-driven settings are more nuanced.

Table 11: Quantitative Results on FFHQ Dataset Across Different Tasks

Task	Method	FID ↓	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑	LPIPS ↓
Motion Blur	strength	28.17	23.34	0.6551	0.1804
	no-strength	27.6417	22.8215	0.6434	0.1843
Gaussian Blur	strength	26.12	25.00	0.6894	0.1513
	no-strength	26.0683	25.0087	0.6903	0.1508
Inpainting	strength	27.11	29.39	0.8305	0.1106
	no-strength	27.6930	28.6620	0.8201	0.1219
Super Resolution	strength	32.74	23.61	0.6615	0.1979
	no-strength	192.4145	6.8106	0.3532	0.6352
Nonlinear Blur	strength	35.11	23.15	0.6466	0.2203
	no-strength	38.7448	23.0002	0.6445	0.2195

Table 12: Quantitative Results on DiffuserCam Task(ablation)

Task	Method	FID ↓	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑	LPIPS ↓
DiffuserCam	strength	36.77	16.30	0.4632	0.3693
	no-strength	40.1778	16.2401	0.4648	0.3690

Table 9: Quantitative results (PSNR ↑, SSIM ↑) on ImageNet Nonlinear Blur task.

Methods	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑
WDPS (ours)	21.94	0.5818
FPS Dou & Song (2024)	12.66	0.2947
DPS Chung et al. (2022a)	21.72	0.5512
MGPS Moufad et al. (2024b)	22.4	0.57

Table 10: Average runtime for sampling a single image (minutes:seconds) on an NVIDIA A6000 GPU.

Method	FFHQ	ImageNet
DPS	1:02	3:19
WDPS	1:12	3:25

Method	PSNR \uparrow	SSIM \uparrow	FID \downarrow	LPIPS \downarrow
DAPS (CVPR 2025)	27.64	0.721	82.54	0.198
WDPS (ours)	25.00	0.689	26.12	0.151

Table 14: Comparison with DAPS on FFHQ Gaussian Blur. DAPS yields higher pixel-level fidelity (PSNR/SSIM), while WDPS achieves substantially better perceptual quality (FID/LPIPS).

Table 13: Quantitative Results on ImageNet Dataset Across Different Tasks

Task	Method	FID \downarrow	PSNR \uparrow	SSIM \uparrow	LPIPS \downarrow
Motion Blur	strength	48.2538	21.3515	0.5706	0.3354
	no-strength	187.3271	8.5685	0.3174	0.7754
Gaussian Blur	strength	39.4935	23.9636	0.6424	0.2548
	no-strength	182.6592	8.9774	0.3325	0.7586
Inpainting	strength	39.6198	27.9836	0.7762	0.1953
	no-strength	128.5177	13.2764	0.4284	0.6185
Super Resolution	strength	50.5472	22.6251	0.6114	0.7569
	no-strength	191.6817	5.4544	0.2952	0.8446
Nonlinear Blur	strength	65.6763	21.9391	0.5818	0.3679
	no-strength	187.5502	9.0486	0.3239	0.7541

F COMPARISON WITH DAPS

We additionally report results from DAPS Zhang et al. (2025) on FFHQ Gaussian Blur in Table 14. DAPS achieves stronger pixel-level fidelity (PSNR 27.64, SSIM 0.721) than WDPS (PSNR 25.00, SSIM 0.689), which suggests that DAPS preserves low-frequency content more closely under this setting. However, WDPS substantially outperforms DAPS on perceptual metrics, with much lower FID (26.12 vs. 82.54) and LPIPS (0.151 vs. 0.198). This contrast appears to indicate that, while DAPS favors pixel-aligned reconstructions, WDPS better captures perceptual realism and high-frequency details, aligning with our goal of frequency-aware posterior sampling in challenging restoration tasks.

G SAMPLING EXAMPLES

In this section, we present qualitative sampling results to illustrate the performance of our method across different inverse imaging tasks. We provide side-by-side comparisons on both FFHQ and ImageNet datasets under various degradations, including motion blur, Gaussian blur, nonlinear blur, super-resolution, and inpainting. Each figure shows the measurement, reconstructions from DPS and WDPS, and the corresponding ground-truth image. The results highlight the superior visual fidelity of WDPS, especially in challenging scenarios where fine structures and high-frequency details need to be preserved.

918
919
920
921
922
923
924
925
926
927
928
929
930
931
932
933
934
935
936
937
938
939
940
941
942
943
944
945
946
947
948
949
950
951
952
953
954
955
956
957
958
959
960
961
962
963
964
965
966
967
968
969
970
971



Figure 5: Motion Blur Ablation on ImageNet Dataset: Each row shows a sample, where the images from left to right are **Measurement**, **Non-strength**, **Strength**, and **Ground Truth**.

972
973
974
975
976
977
978
979
980
981
982
983
984
985
986
987
988
989
990
991
992
993
994
995
996
997
998
999
1000
1001
1002
1003
1004
1005
1006
1007
1008
1009
1010
1011
1012
1013
1014
1015
1016
1017
1018
1019
1020
1021
1022
1023
1024
1025

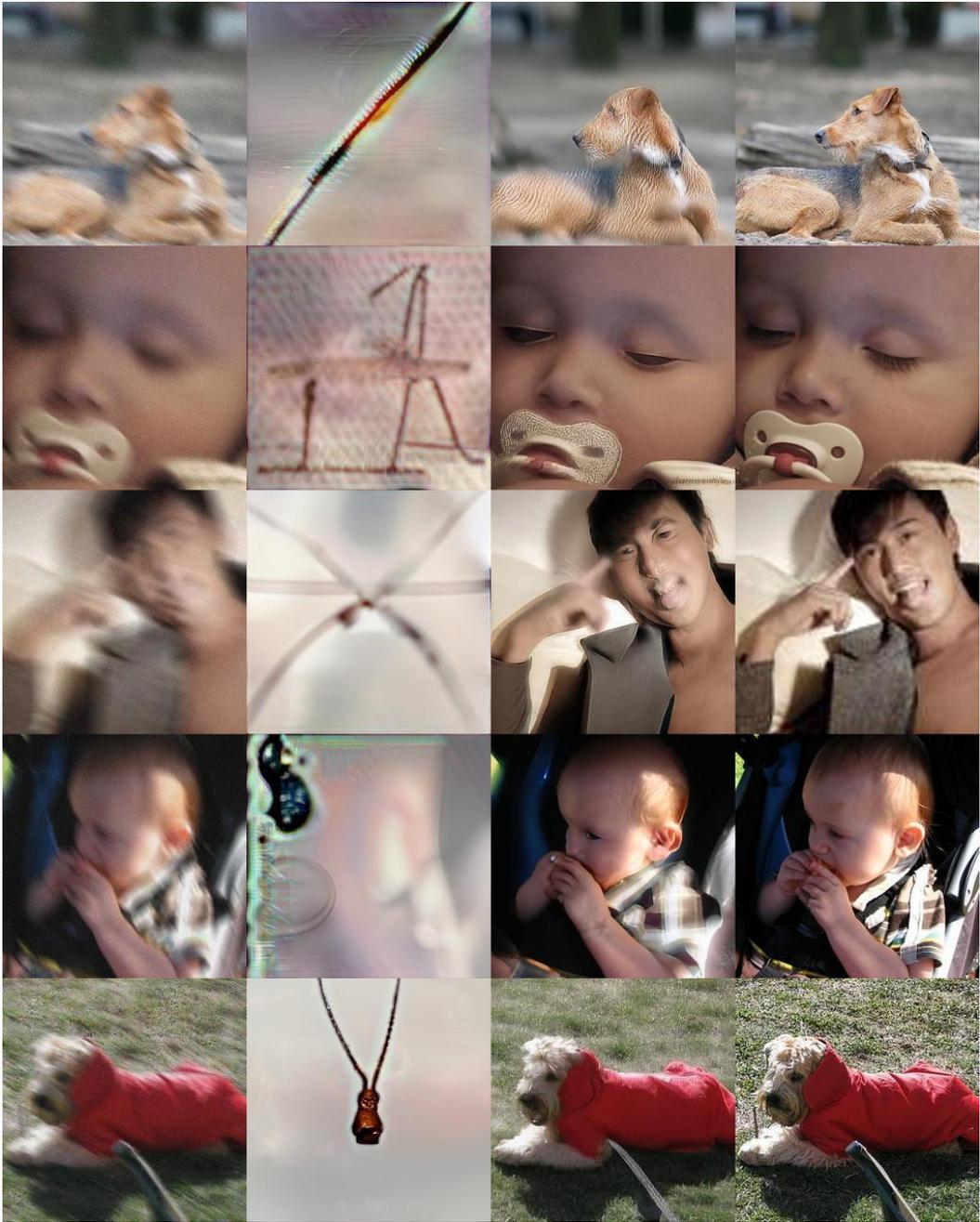


Figure 6: Nonlinear Blur Ablation on ImageNet Dataset: Each row shows a sample. From left to right: **Measurement, Strength, Non-strength, Ground Truth.**

1026
1027
1028
1029
1030
1031
1032
1033
1034
1035
1036
1037
1038
1039
1040
1041
1042
1043
1044
1045
1046
1047
1048
1049
1050
1051
1052
1053
1054
1055
1056
1057
1058
1059
1060
1061
1062
1063
1064
1065
1066
1067
1068
1069
1070
1071
1072
1073
1074
1075
1076
1077
1078
1079



Figure 7: Inpainting Ablation on ImageNet Dataset: Each row shows a sample. From left to right: **Measurement, Non-strength, Strength, and Ground Truth.**

1080
1081
1082
1083
1084
1085
1086
1087
1088
1089
1090
1091
1092
1093
1094
1095
1096
1097
1098
1099
1100
1101
1102
1103
1104
1105
1106
1107
1108
1109
1110
1111
1112
1113
1114
1115
1116
1117
1118
1119
1120
1121
1122
1123
1124
1125
1126
1127
1128
1129
1130
1131
1132
1133



Figure 8: Super-resolution Ablation on ImageNet Dataset: Each row shows a sample. From left to right: **Measurement, Non-strength, Strength, and Ground Truth.**

1134
1135
1136
1137
1138
1139
1140
1141
1142
1143
1144
1145
1146
1147
1148
1149
1150
1151
1152
1153
1154
1155
1156
1157
1158
1159
1160
1161
1162
1163
1164
1165
1166
1167
1168
1169
1170
1171
1172
1173
1174
1175
1176
1177
1178
1179
1180
1181
1182
1183
1184
1185
1186
1187



Figure 9: FFHQ DiffuserCam Ablation: Each row shows a sample. From left to right: **Measurement**, **Non-strength**, **Strength**, and **Ground Truth**.

1188
1189
1190
1191
1192
1193
1194
1195
1196
1197
1198
1199
1200
1201
1202
1203
1204
1205
1206
1207
1208
1209
1210
1211
1212
1213
1214
1215
1216
1217
1218
1219
1220
1221
1222
1223
1224
1225
1226
1227
1228
1229
1230
1231
1232
1233
1234
1235
1236
1237
1238
1239
1240
1241

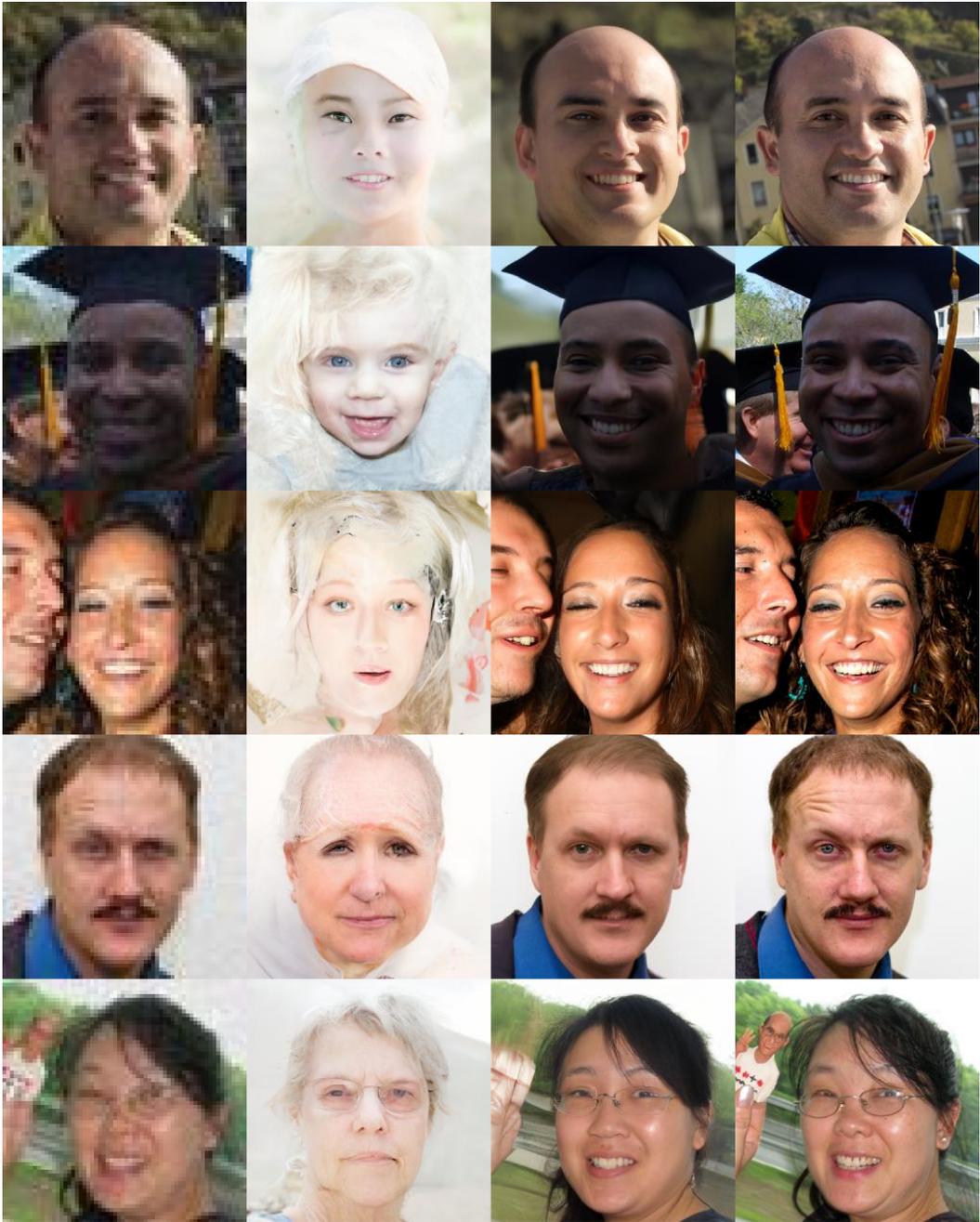


Figure 10: FFHQ Super Resolution Ablation: Each row shows a sample. From left to right: **Measurement, Non-strength, Strength, and Ground Truth.**

1242
1243
1244
1245
1246
1247
1248
1249
1250
1251
1252
1253
1254
1255
1256
1257
1258
1259
1260
1261
1262
1263
1264
1265
1266
1267
1268
1269
1270
1271
1272
1273
1274
1275
1276
1277
1278
1279
1280
1281
1282
1283
1284
1285
1286
1287
1288
1289
1290
1291
1292
1293
1294
1295

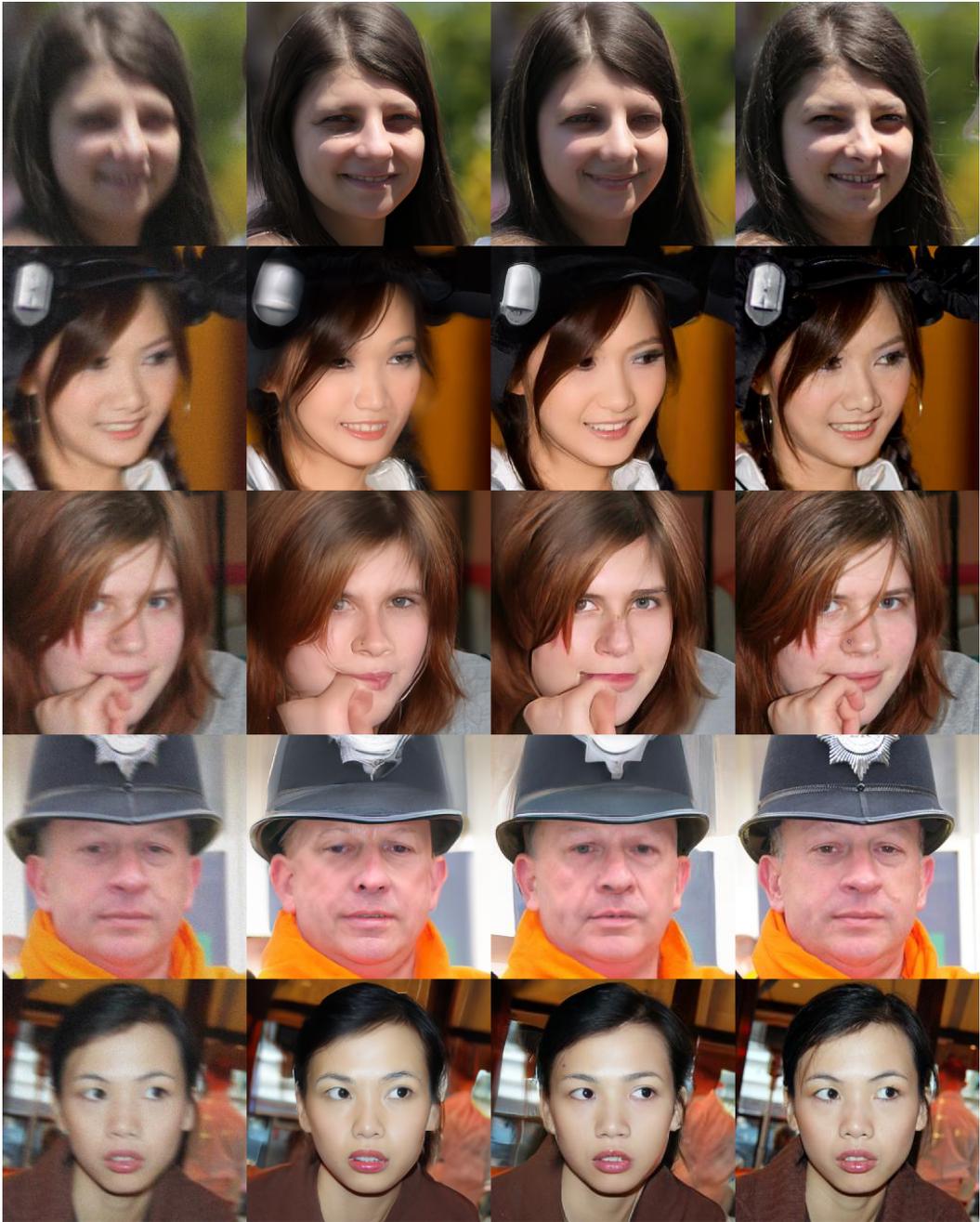


Figure 11: FFHQ Nonlinear Blur Ablation: Each row shows a sample. From left to right: **Measurement**, **Non-strength**, **Strength**, and **Ground Truth**.

1296
 1297
 1298
 1299
 1300
 1301
 1302
 1303
 1304
 1305
 1306
 1307
 1308
 1309
 1310
 1311
 1312
 1313
 1314
 1315
 1316
 1317
 1318
 1319
 1320
 1321
 1322
 1323
 1324
 1325
 1326
 1327
 1328
 1329
 1330
 1331
 1332
 1333
 1334
 1335
 1336
 1337
 1338
 1339
 1340
 1341
 1342
 1343
 1344
 1345
 1346
 1347
 1348
 1349



Figure 12: Nonlinear Blur Ablation on ImageNet Dataset: Each row shows a sample. From left to right: **Measurement**, **DPS**, **WDPS**, and **Ground Truth**.

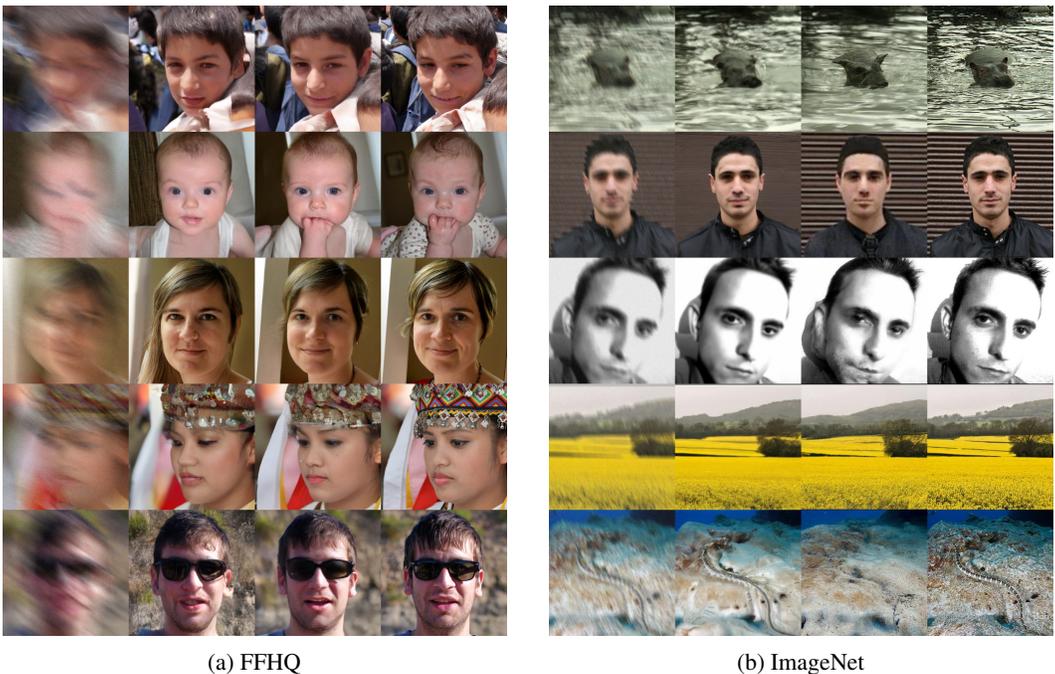


Figure 13: Motion Blur Ablation: Each row shows a sample. From left to right: **Measurement**, **DPS**, **WDPS**, and **Ground Truth**.

1350
 1351
 1352
 1353
 1354
 1355
 1356
 1357
 1358
 1359
 1360
 1361
 1362
 1363
 1364
 1365
 1366
 1367
 1368
 1369
 1370
 1371
 1372
 1373
 1374
 1375
 1376
 1377
 1378
 1379
 1380
 1381
 1382
 1383
 1384
 1385
 1386
 1387
 1388
 1389
 1390
 1391
 1392
 1393
 1394
 1395
 1396
 1397
 1398
 1399
 1400
 1401
 1402
 1403

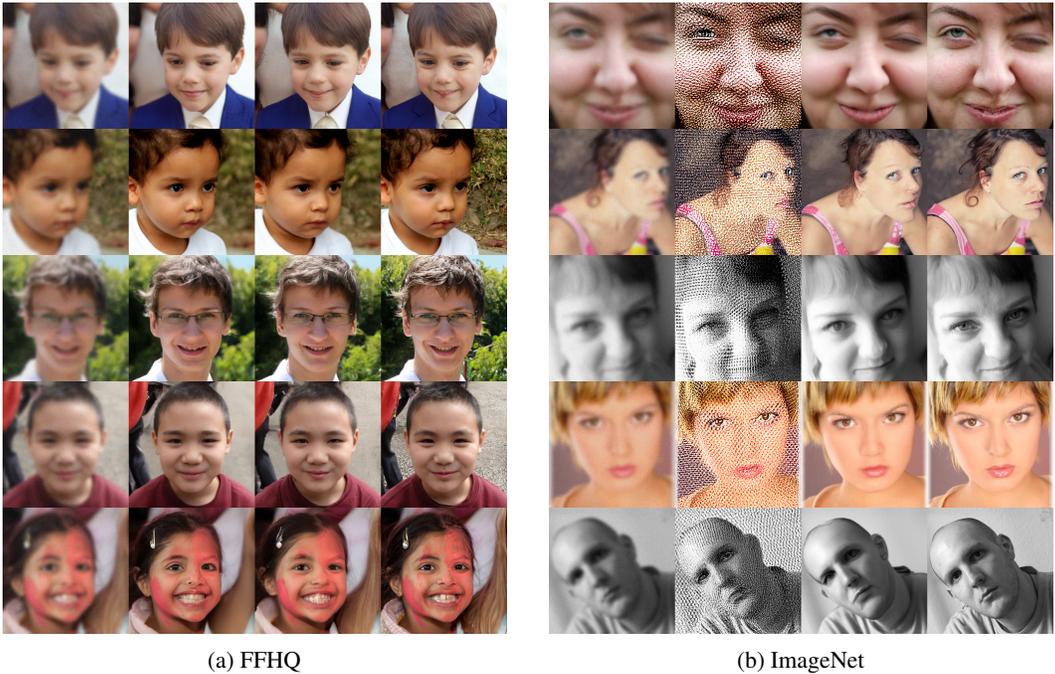


Figure 14: Gaussian Blur Ablation: Each row shows a sample. From left to right: **Measurement**, **DPS**, **WDPS**, and **Ground Truth**.



Figure 15: Super Resolution Ablation: Each row shows a sample. From left to right: **Measurement**, **DPS**, **WDPS**, and **Ground Truth**.

1404
1405
1406
1407
1408
1409
1410
1411
1412
1413
1414
1415
1416
1417
1418
1419
1420
1421
1422
1423
1424
1425
1426
1427
1428
1429
1430
1431
1432
1433
1434
1435
1436
1437
1438
1439
1440
1441
1442
1443
1444
1445
1446
1447
1448
1449
1450
1451
1452
1453
1454
1455
1456
1457

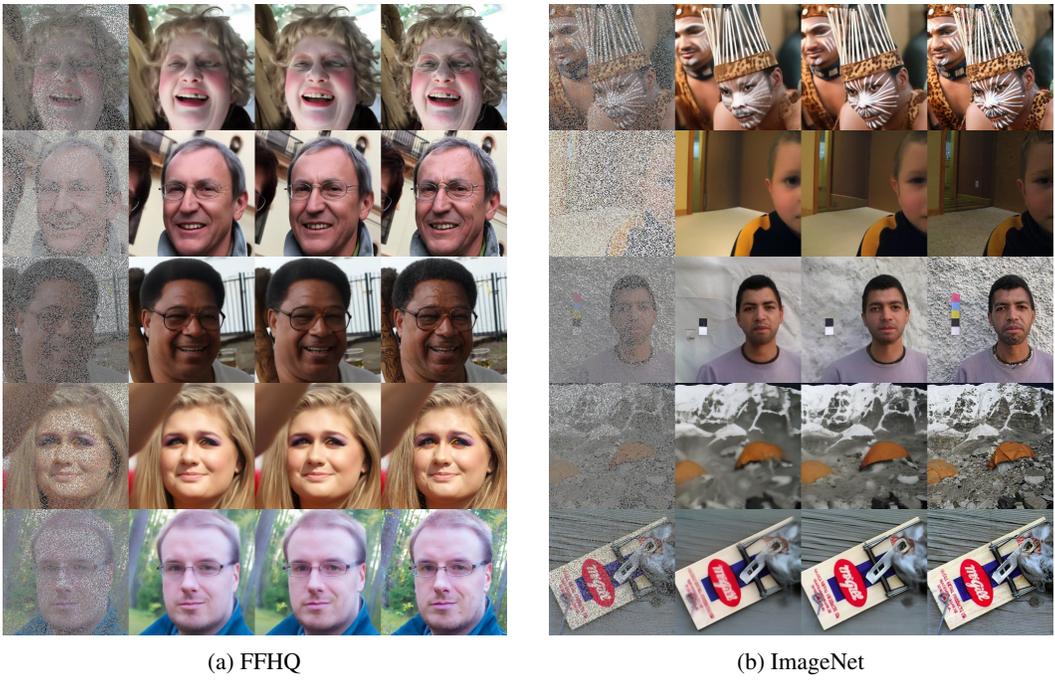


Figure 16: Inpainting Ablation: Each row shows a sample. From left to right: **Measurement**, **DPS**, **WDPS**, and **Ground Truth**.