



## 1. Goal & Problem

**Goal:** Develop **provable posterior sampling** method for **ill-posed** imaging problems by combining **physical models** and **generative models**.

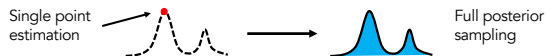


**Plug-and-play priors (PnP)** is a deterministic method that integrates forward model and denoising priors to do **maximum a posterior (MAP)** estimation

$$\arg \max_x \log \pi(x) \quad \pi \propto \ell(y|x)p(x)$$

Likelihood    Prior

**Problem:** PnP can only produce a single point estimate, failing to capture the entire distribution.



**Strategy:** Extend PnP for posterior sampling by connecting denoiser with score function.

## 3. Theoretical Guarantees

**Theorem [Sun, Wu, Chen].** The law  $(\nu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  for the continuous interpolation of  $\{x_k\}_{k=0}^N$  in PMC satisfies

$$\frac{1}{N\gamma} \int_0^{N\gamma} \text{FI}(\nu_t \| \pi) dt \leq \frac{4\text{KL}(\nu_0 \| \pi)}{N\gamma} + \text{error}(\gamma, \sigma, \epsilon)$$

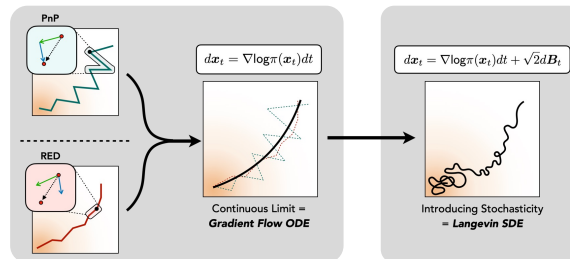
$N$ : number of iterations     $\text{KL}(\cdot \| \pi)$ : KL divergence     $\text{FI}(\cdot \| \pi)$ : Fisher information

$\gamma$ : step-size     $\sigma$ : blur strength     $\epsilon$ : score training error

**Contribution #3:** We show that PMC achieves  **$O(1/N)$  stationarity** w.r.t the **true posterior** in the joint presence of

- **nonlinear** forward model,
- **imperfect** score function (denoiser), and
- **weighted annealing**.

## 2. Plug-and-Play Monte Carlo (PMC)



**Contribution #1:** We show the continuous limits of gradient-based PnP and RED converge to the **gradient flow ODE** associated with the posterior.

- We use **Tweedie's formula** to connect the minimum mean squared error (**MMSE**) denoiser with the **image prior score**.

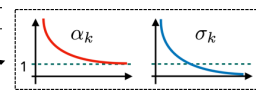
**Contribution #2.(a):** We develop PMC as sampling extensions of PnP/RED by discretizing the **Langevin SDE** using PnP/RED's discretization strategies.

**Contribution #2.(b):** We propose **weighted annealing** to accelerate the convergence of .

### Algorithm 1 Plug-and-play Monte Carlo (PMC)

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1: input:  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, \gamma > 0, \alpha_0 > 0$ , and  $\sigma_0 > 0$ .
2: for  $k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$  do
3:    $z_k \leftarrow \mathcal{N}(0, I)$ 
4:    $\sigma_k, \alpha_k \leftarrow \text{WeightedAnnealing}(\sigma_0, \alpha_0, k)$ 
5:   switch discretization
6:   case PnP:
7:      $\mathcal{P}_k(x_k) \leftarrow \nabla g(x_k) - \alpha_k S_\theta(x_k - \gamma \nabla g(x_k), \sigma_k)$ 
8:      $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - \gamma \mathcal{P}_k(x_k) + \sqrt{2\gamma} z_k$ 
9:   case RED:
10:     $\mathcal{G}_k(x_k) \leftarrow \nabla g(x_k) - \alpha_k S_\theta(x_k, \sigma_k)$ 
11:     $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - \gamma \mathcal{G}_k(x_k) + \sqrt{2\gamma} z_k$ 
12: end for
  
```

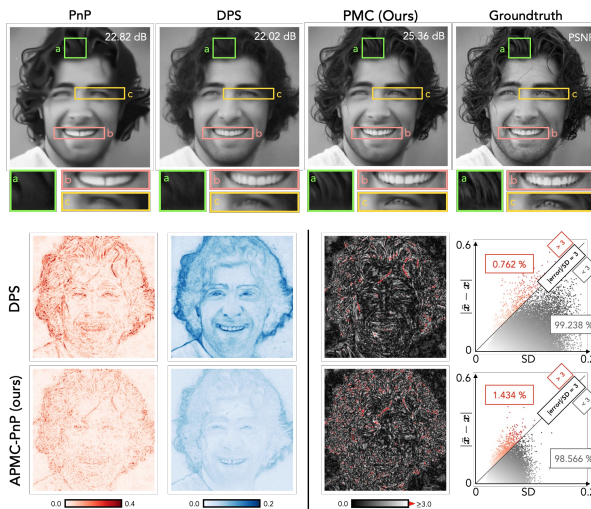


$g(x) = -\log \ell(y|x)$   
Enforcing **consistency with measurements**.

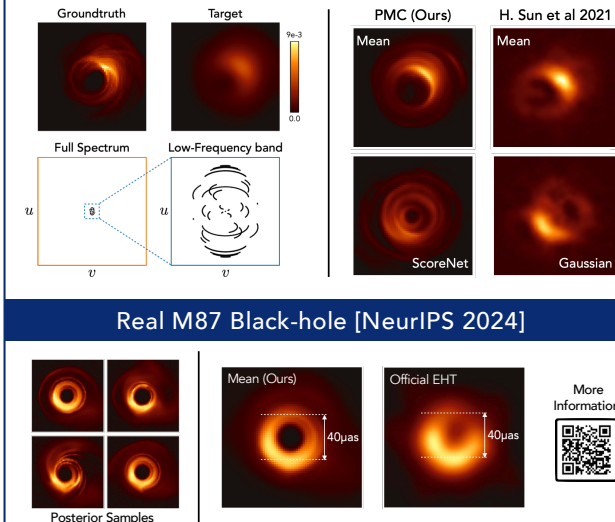
$S_\theta(x, \sigma)$   
Enforcing **generative prior** learned from data.

Fig. Illustration of update rule

## 4. Compressed Sensing (1:10)



## 5. Nonlinear Black-hole Imaging



### Real M87 Black-hole [NeurIPS 2024]

