



Project Page

SNP INRs: The Surprising Effectiveness of Noise Pretraining for Implicit Neural Representations

Kushal Vyas¹, Alper Kayabasi², Daniel Kim¹,
Vishwanath Saragadam², Ashok Veeraraghavan¹, Guha Balakrishnan¹

¹Rice University

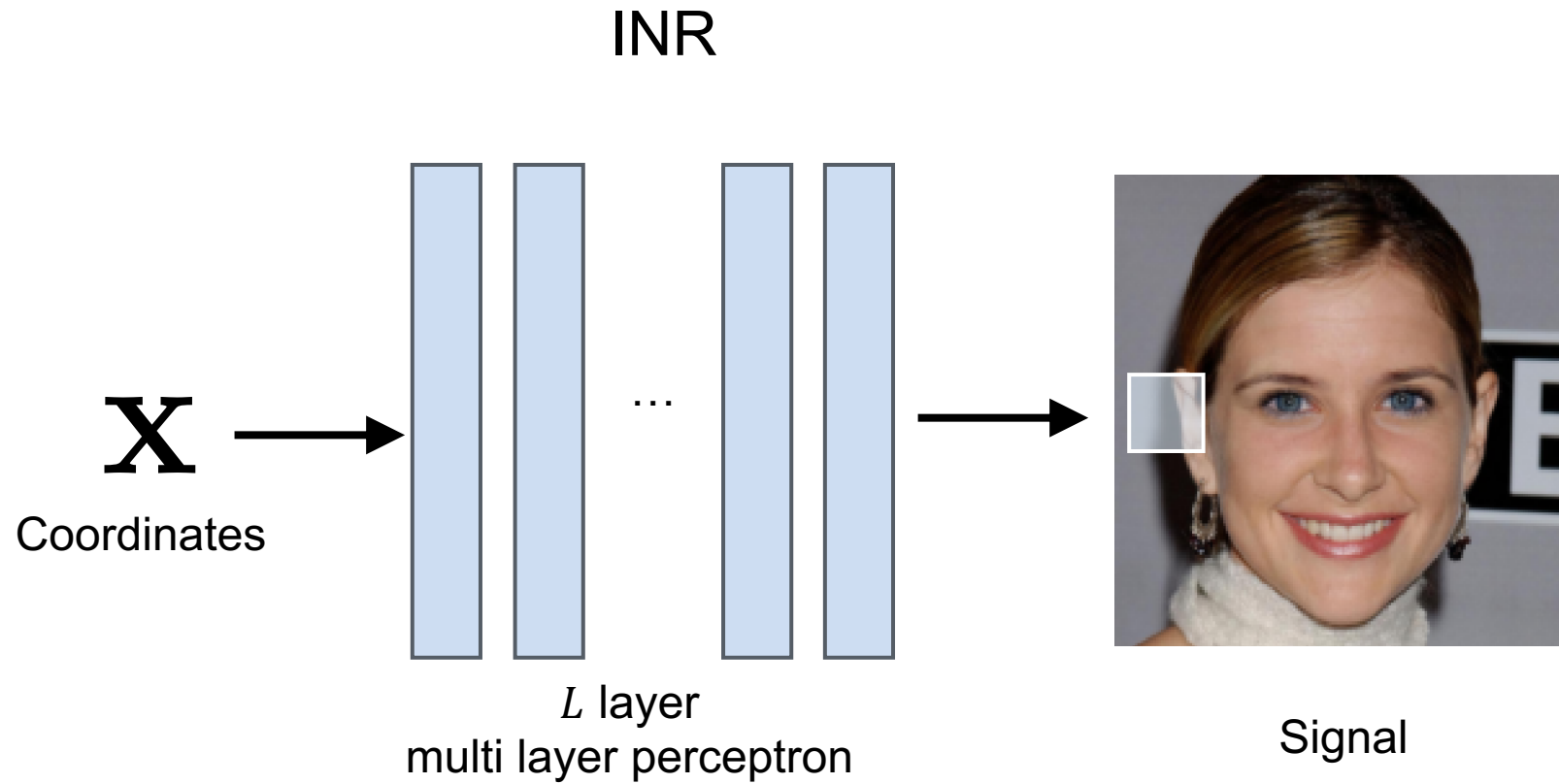


RICE UNIVERSITY

²University of California, Riverside

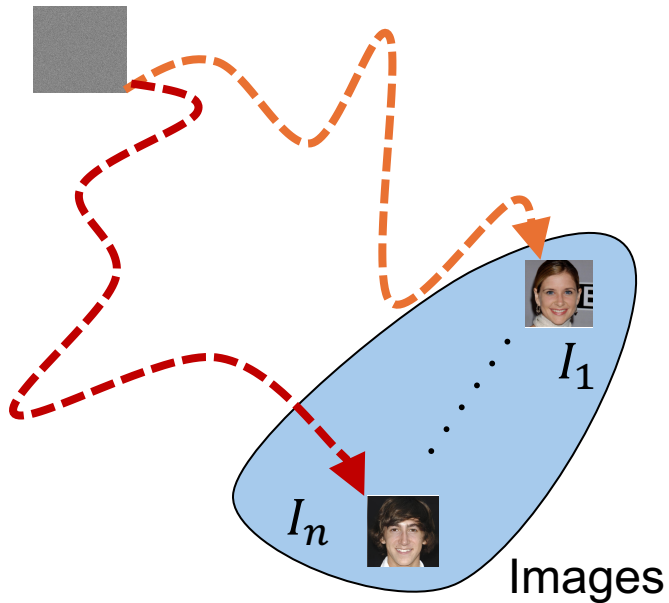


Implicit neural representations (INRs)

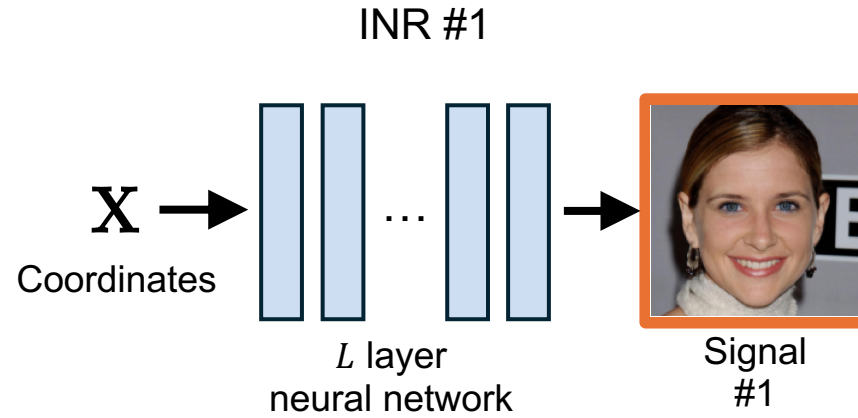


Random init. INRs lack generalizable features

Standard INR initialization



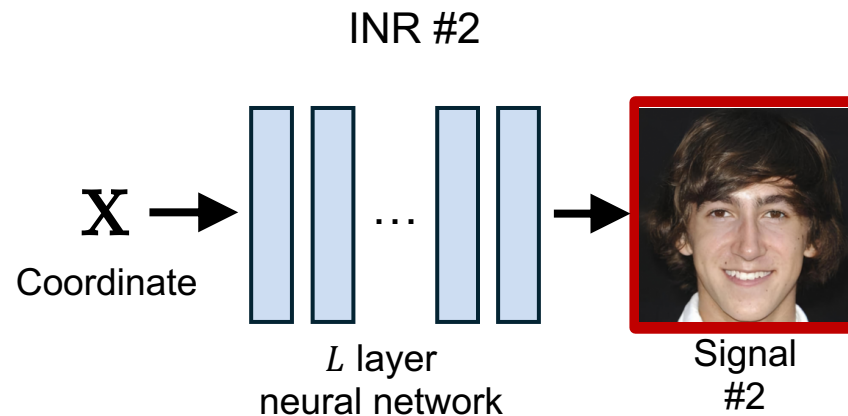
INR optimization trajectory converging to target images



Learned INR #1 Features



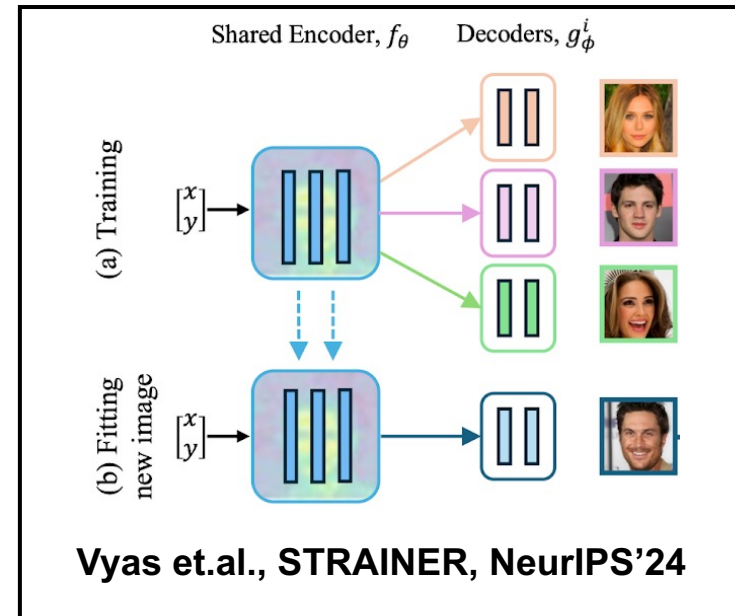
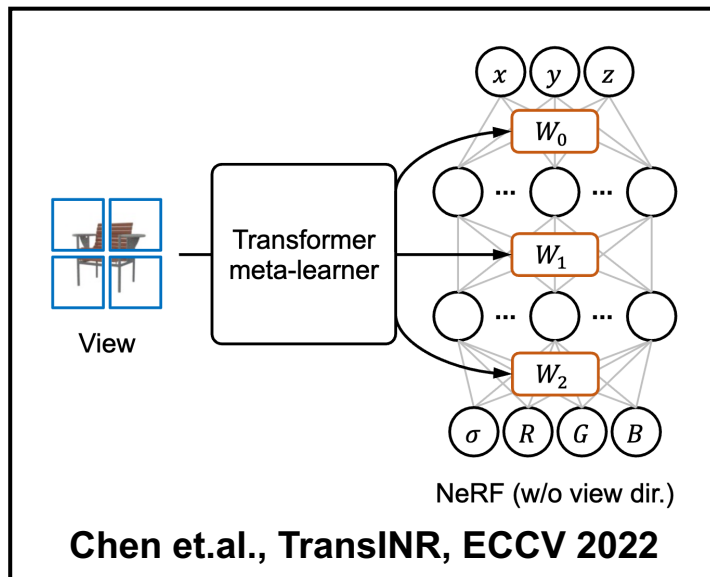
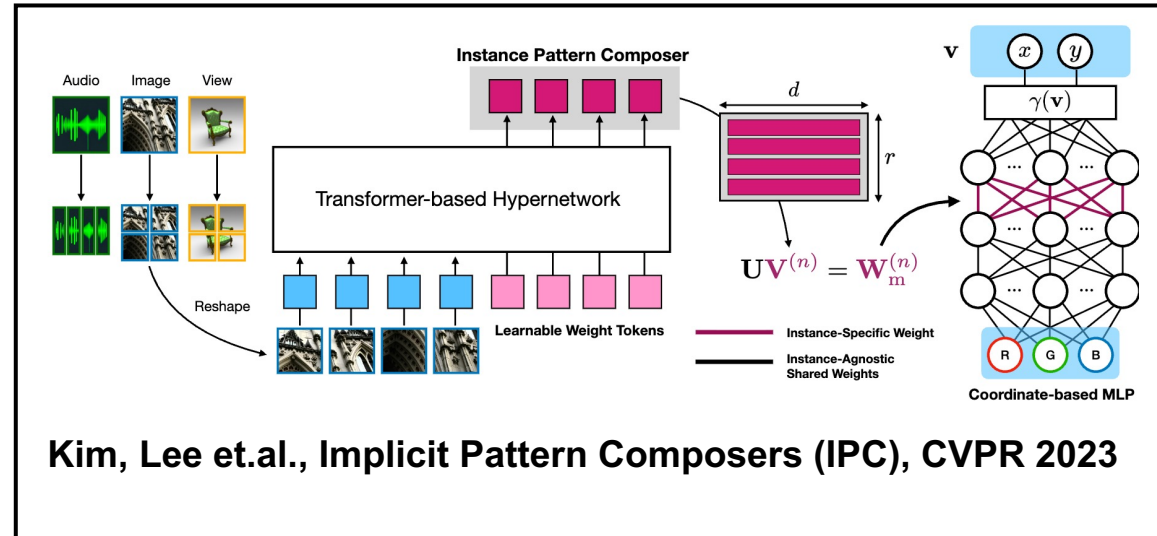
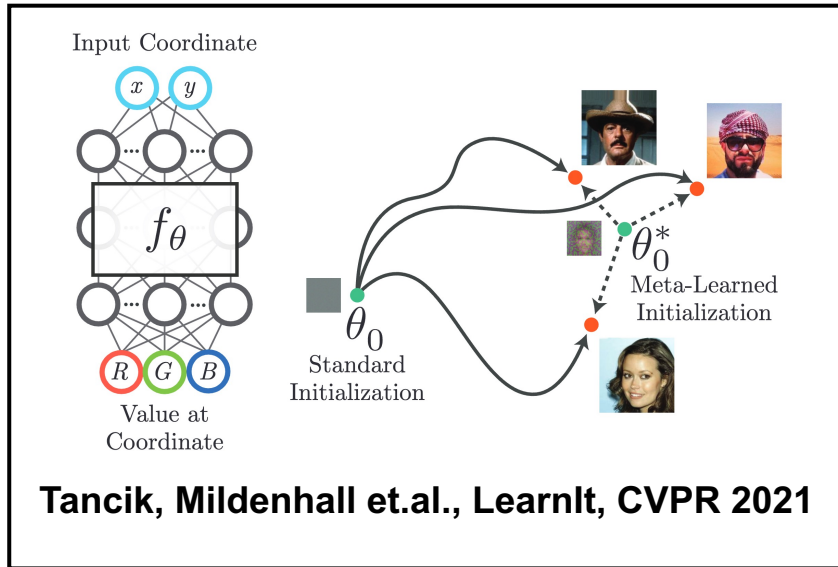
Learned INR features are highly dissimilar



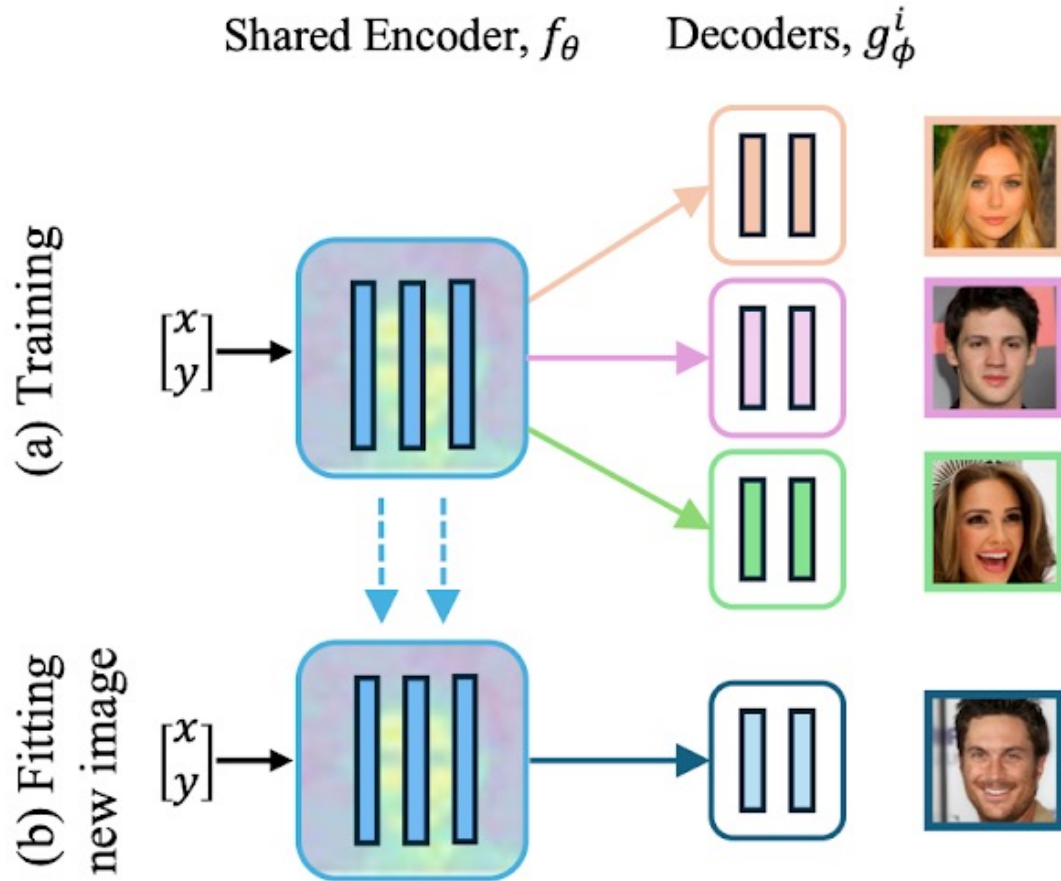
Learned INR #2 Features



Learning data-driven INR initializations



Prior work: Transferable INR features



Vyas et.al., STRAINER, NeurIPS'24

- **Pretraining (learning INR initialization):** STRAINER shares initial layers in the INR to capture **low-frequency structural details** while jointly fitting multiple signals of the same class.
- STRAINER **pretrained encoder** serves as a powerful and generalizable initialization for INRs
- **Test-time fitting on unseen signal:** STRAINER **pretrained encoder is retained**, along with a randomly initialized network. An unseen test signal is then iteratively fit to the INR.

Does the benefit of data-driven initialization stem from dataset-specific mid-to-high-level features, or simpler universal natural image statistics?

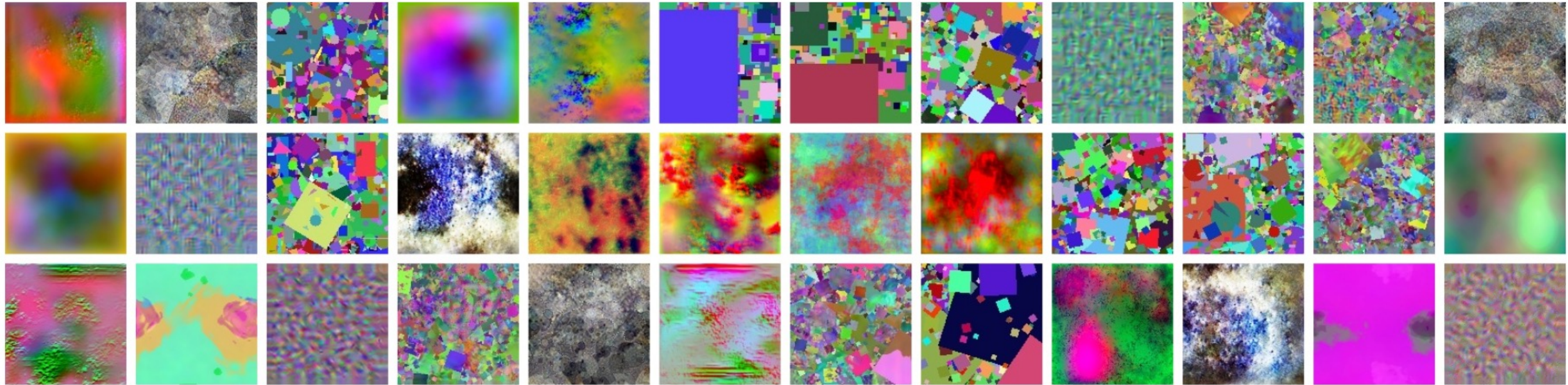
Does the benefit of data-driven initialization stem from dataset-specific mid-to-high-level features, or simpler universal natural image statistics?

Can we learn high-quality INR initializations from just image statistics, without any actual domain data?

Prior work: Pretraining deep networks only on natural image statistics

Inspiration:

Learning to See By Looking at Noise (Baradad et al., NeurIPS 2021)



Main result: can pretrain visual classifiers using noise alone!

Type of noises used for pretraining SNP INRs

Structured Noise



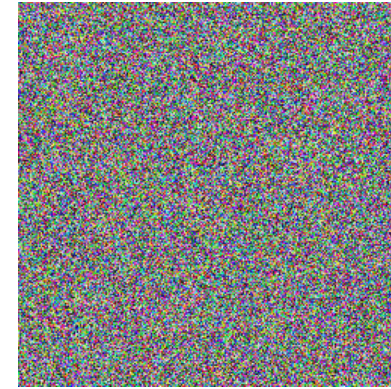
Noise with $1/f^\alpha$
spectral structure



Dead-leaves
noise

Captures natural statistics as prior

Unstructured Noise

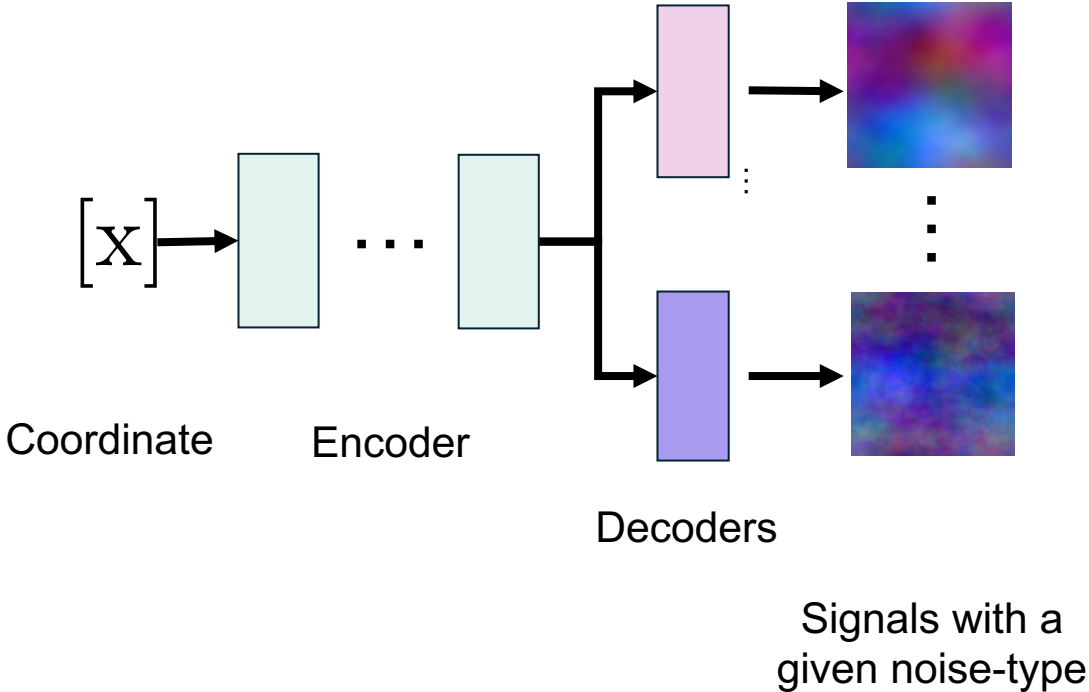


$\mathcal{U}(a, b)$

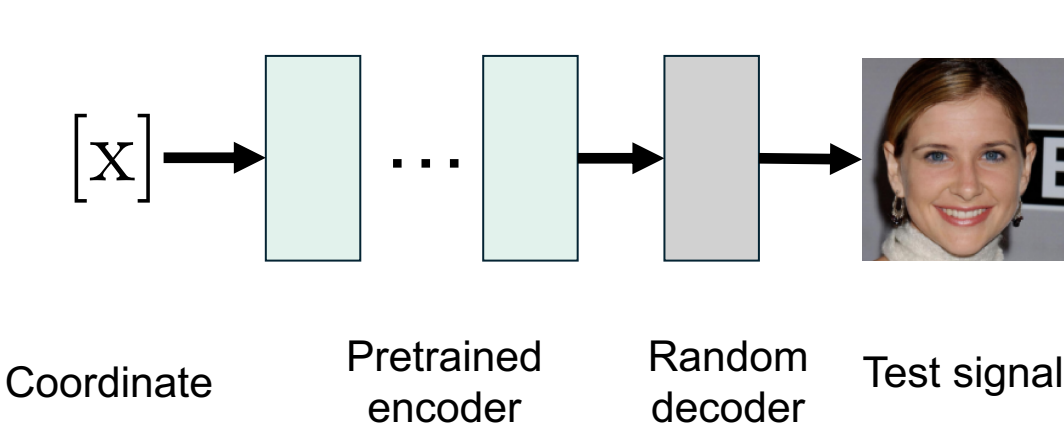
Forces INR to capture
uncorrelated patterns

SNP INRs: STRAINER with Noise Pretraining

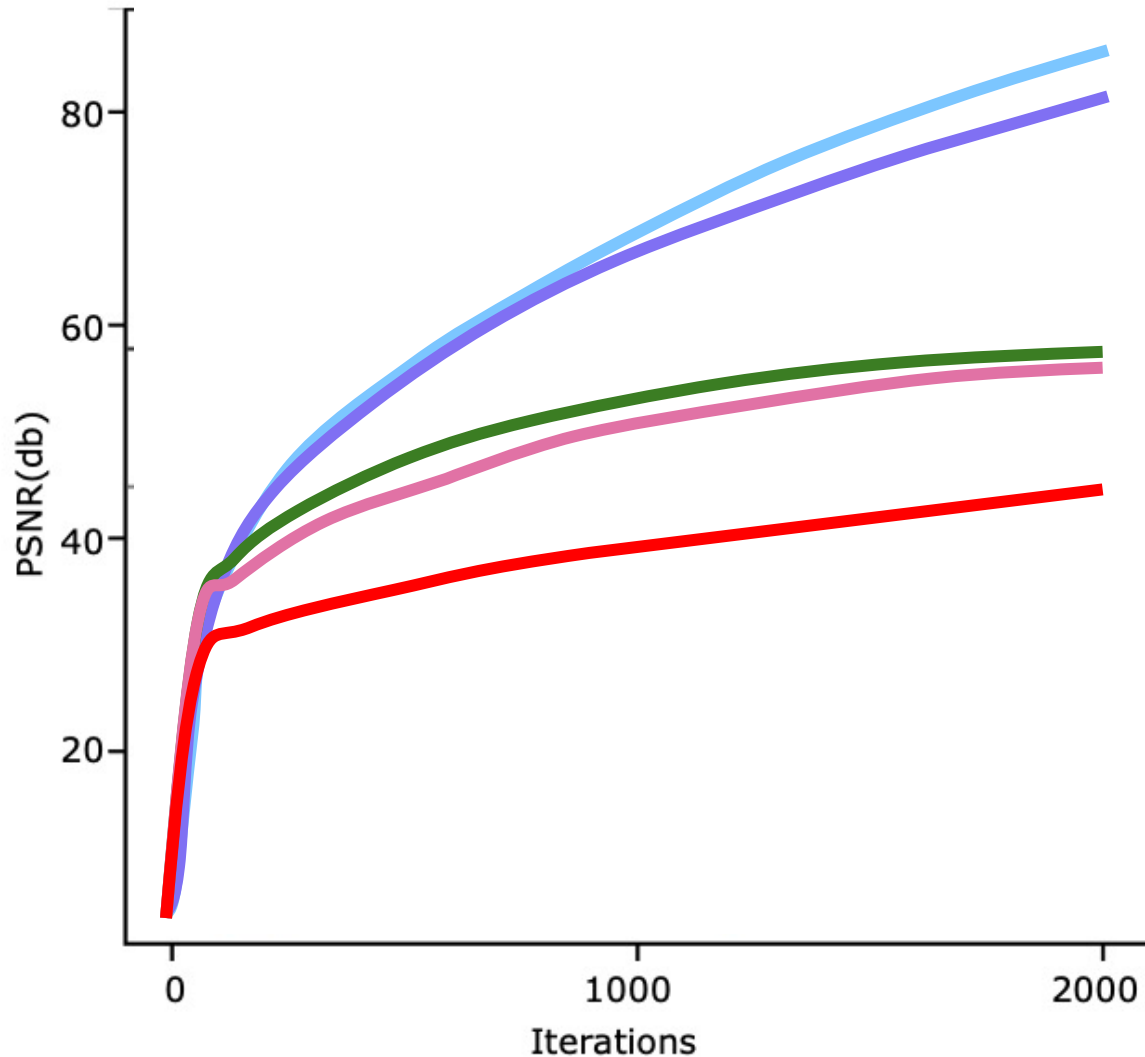
Training: Fit on samples of a noise type



Testing: Fit on real signal



Results: SNP INRs are excellent signal fitters!



Results on 178 x 178 CelebA-HQ images

Baselines

- Random Init.
- STRAINER domain-data (CelebA-HQ)

SNP : pretrained on noise

- Uniform Noise
- Gaussian Noise
- 1/f Noise (Spectrum)

Frequency coverage during reconstruction

Siren



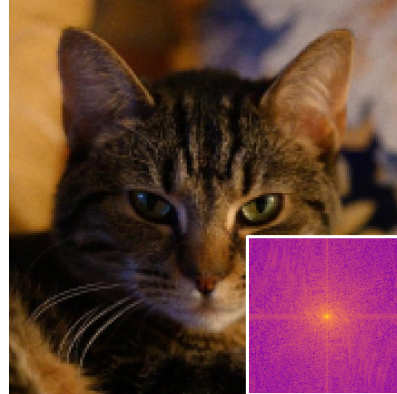
PSNR: 32.42,
SSIM: 0.90,
LPIPS: 0.21

SNP: Spectrum



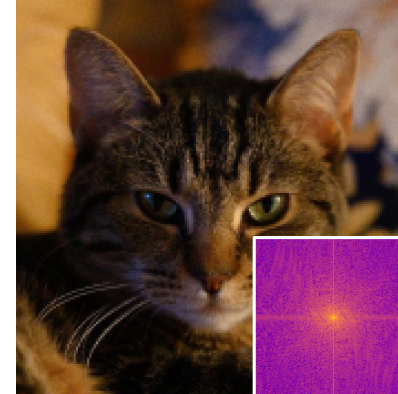
PSNR: 39.17,
SSIM: 0.98,
LPIPS: 0.03

STRAINER



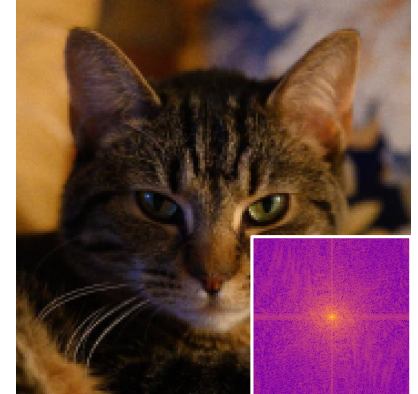
PSNR: 46.42,
SSIM: 0.99,
LPIPS: 0.003

SNP: Uniform

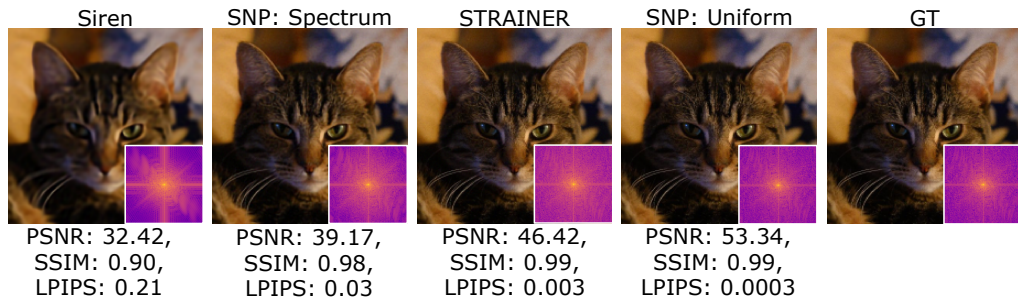


PSNR: 53.34,
SSIM: 0.99,
LPIPS: 0.0003

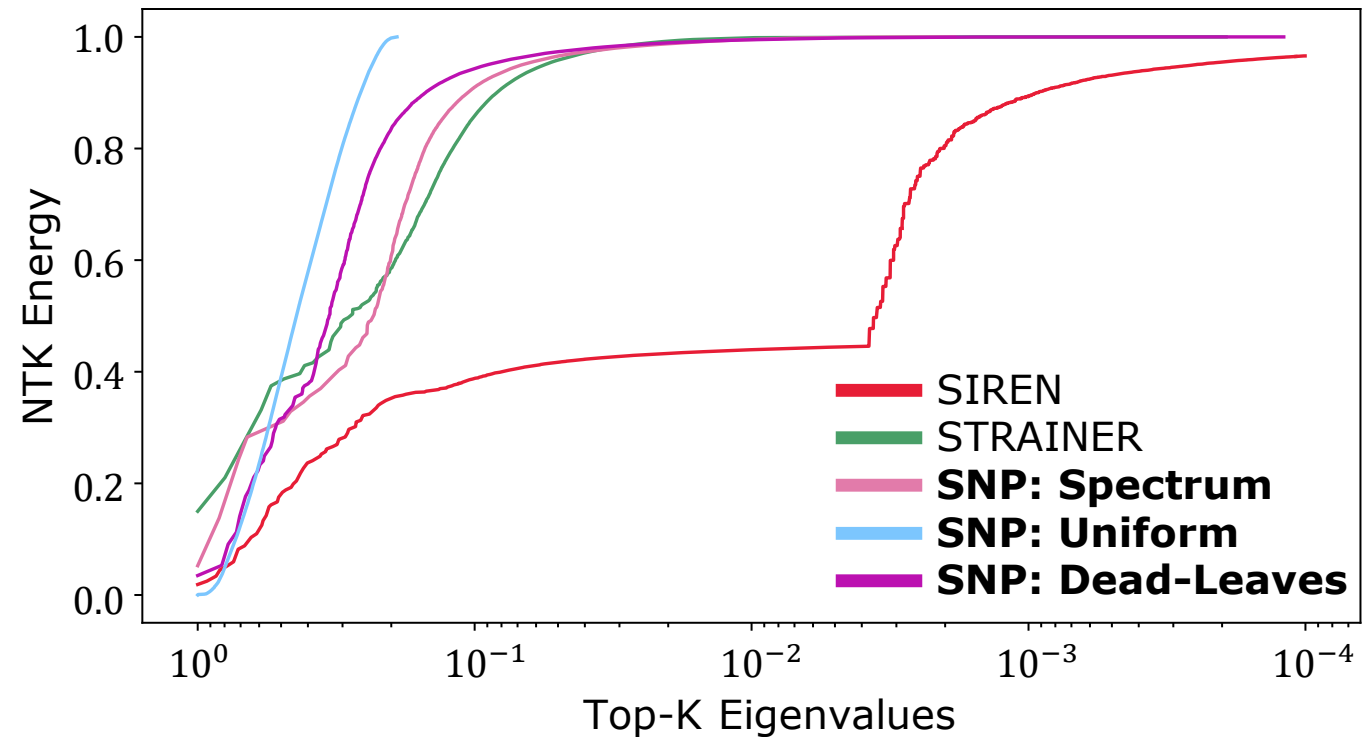
GT



Frequency coverage during reconstruction

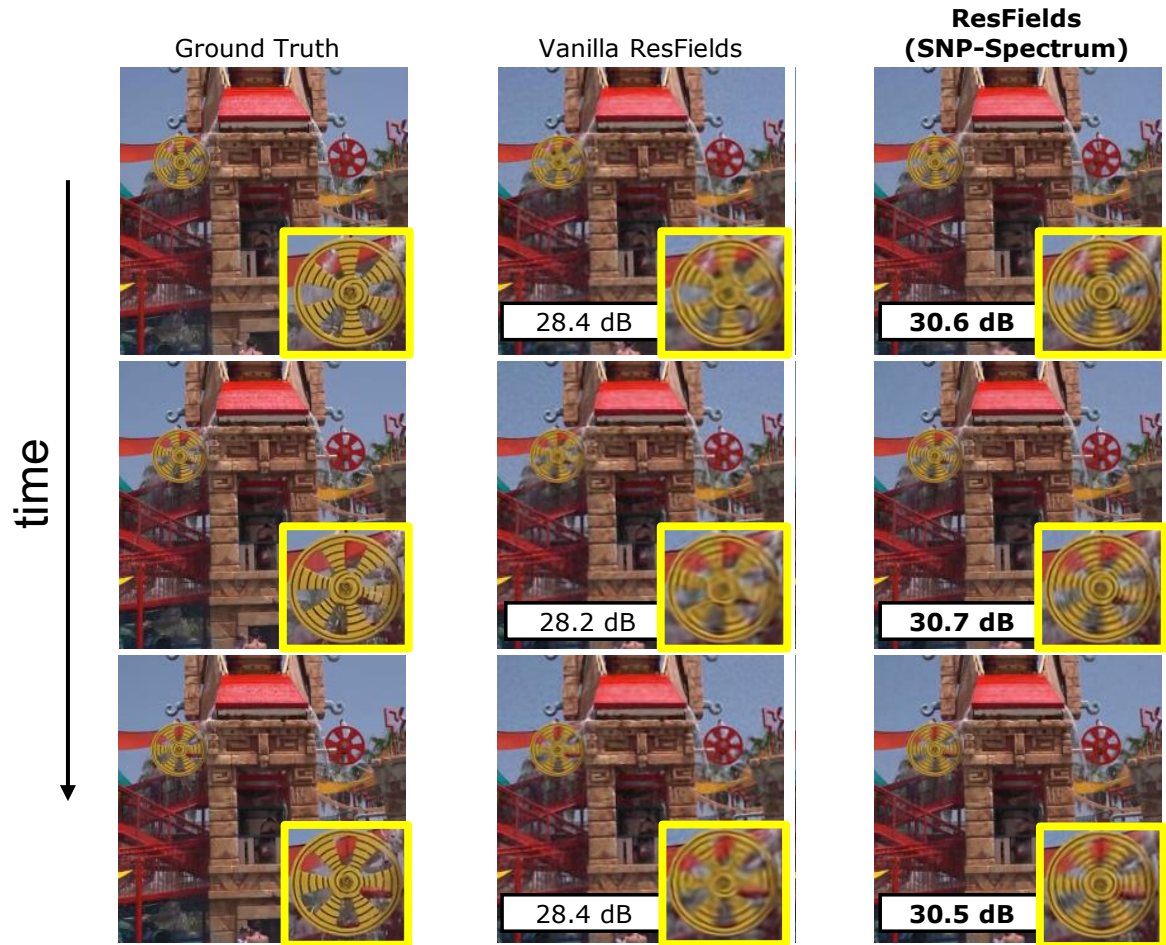


Neural tangent kernel (NTK) analysis

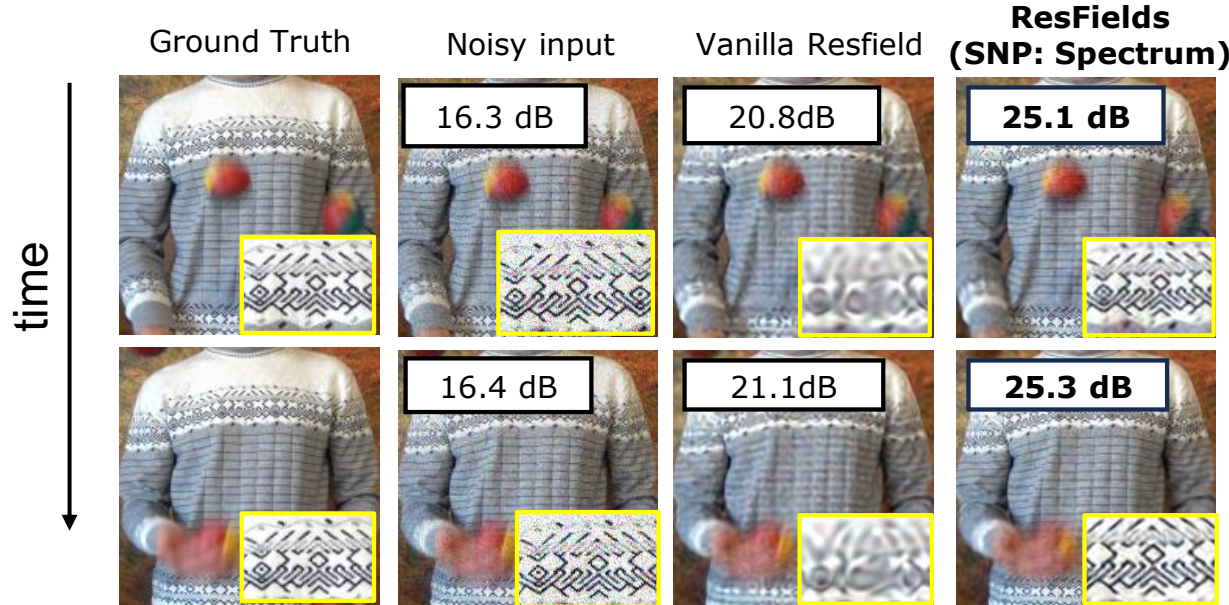


SNP INRs readily extend to video fitting and denoising

Video fitting

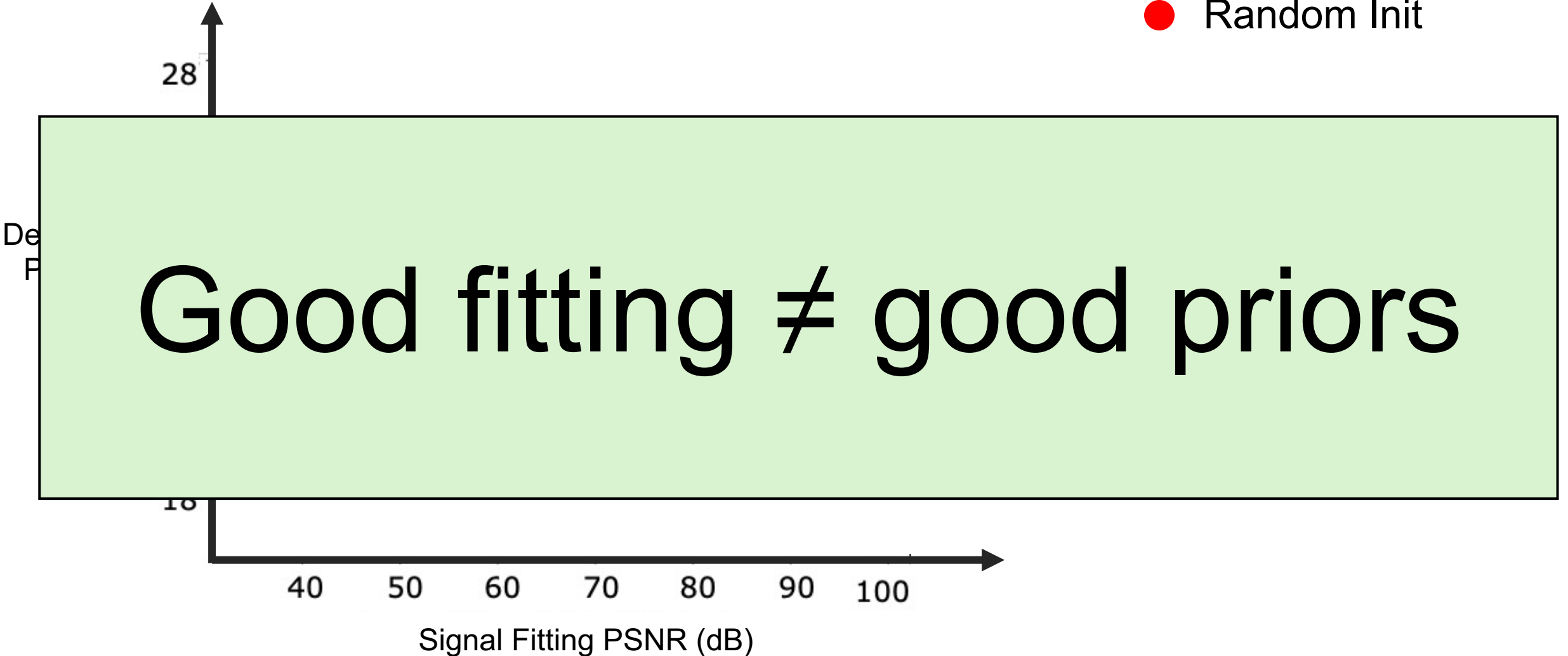


Video denoising

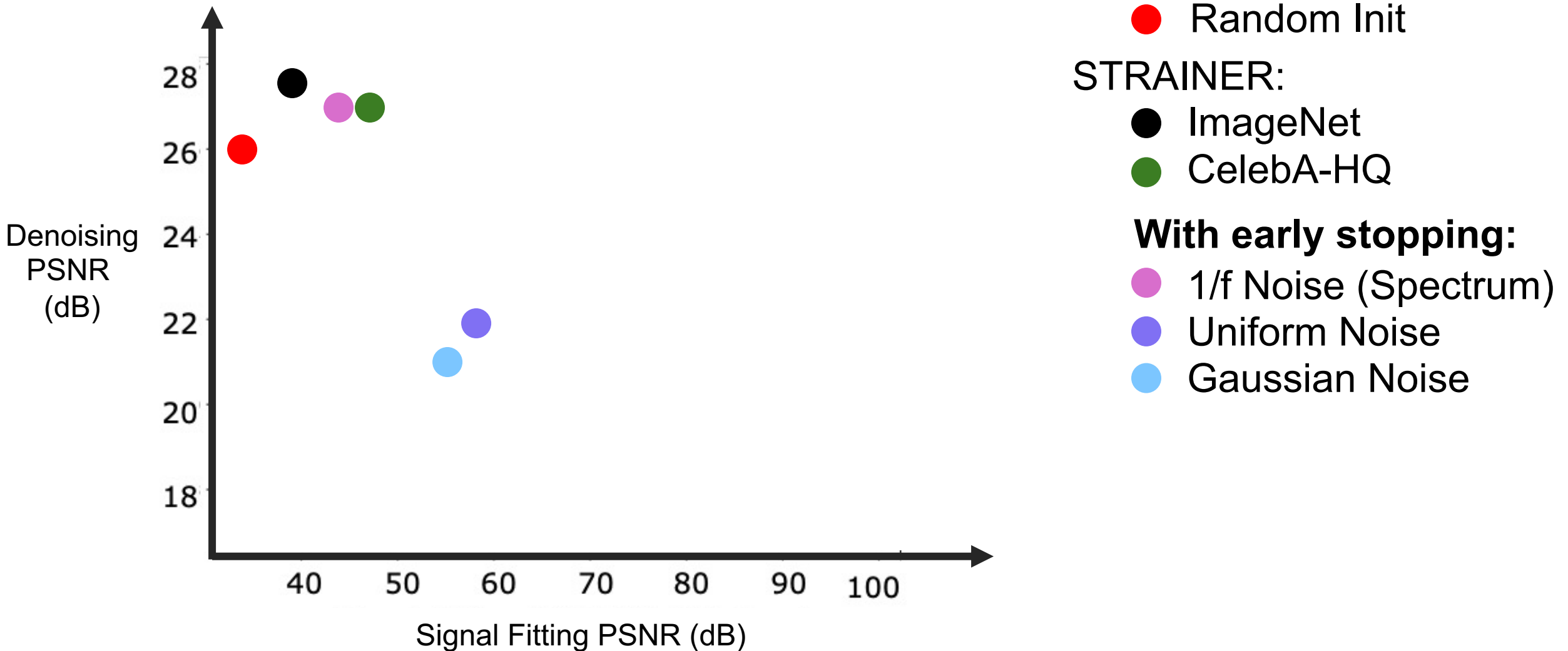


Denoising vs. Fitting (CelebA-HQ)

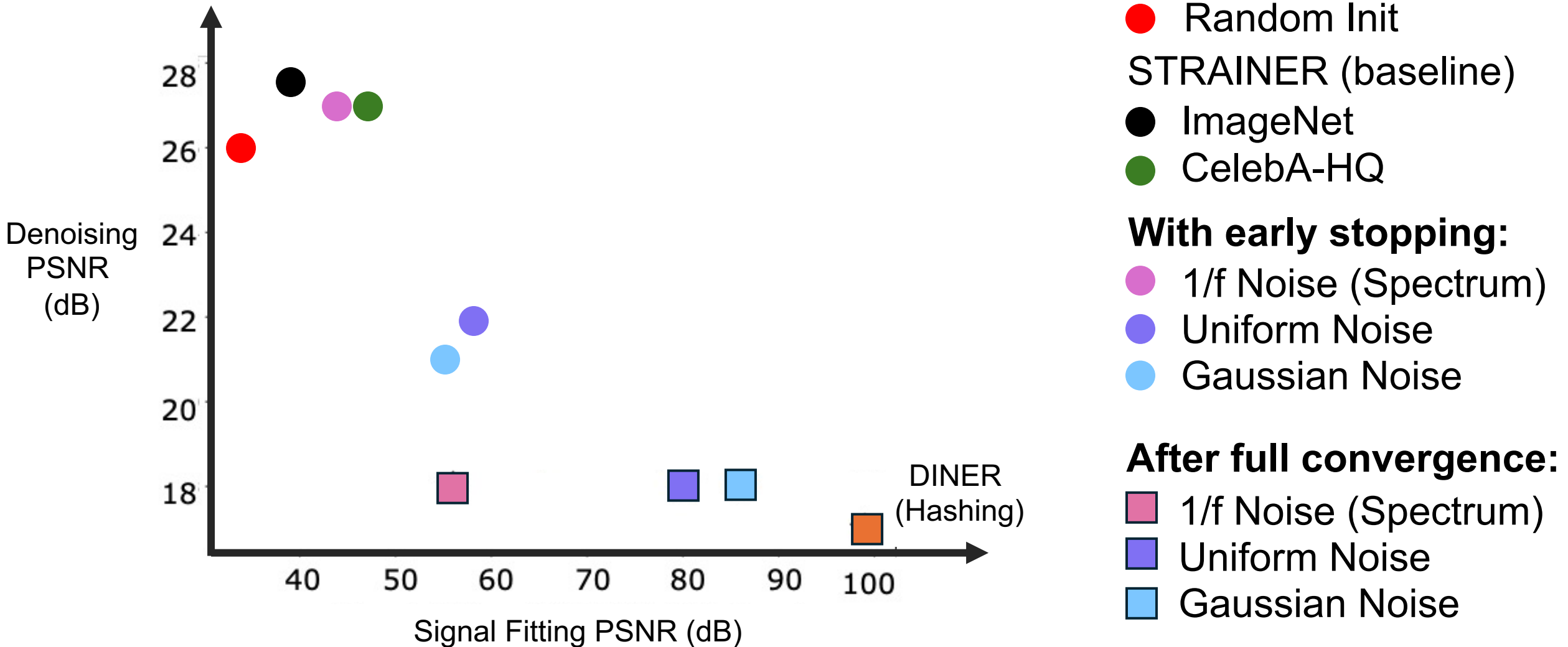
● Random Init



Denoising vs. Fitting (CelebA-HQ)



Denoising vs. Fitting (CelebA-HQ)

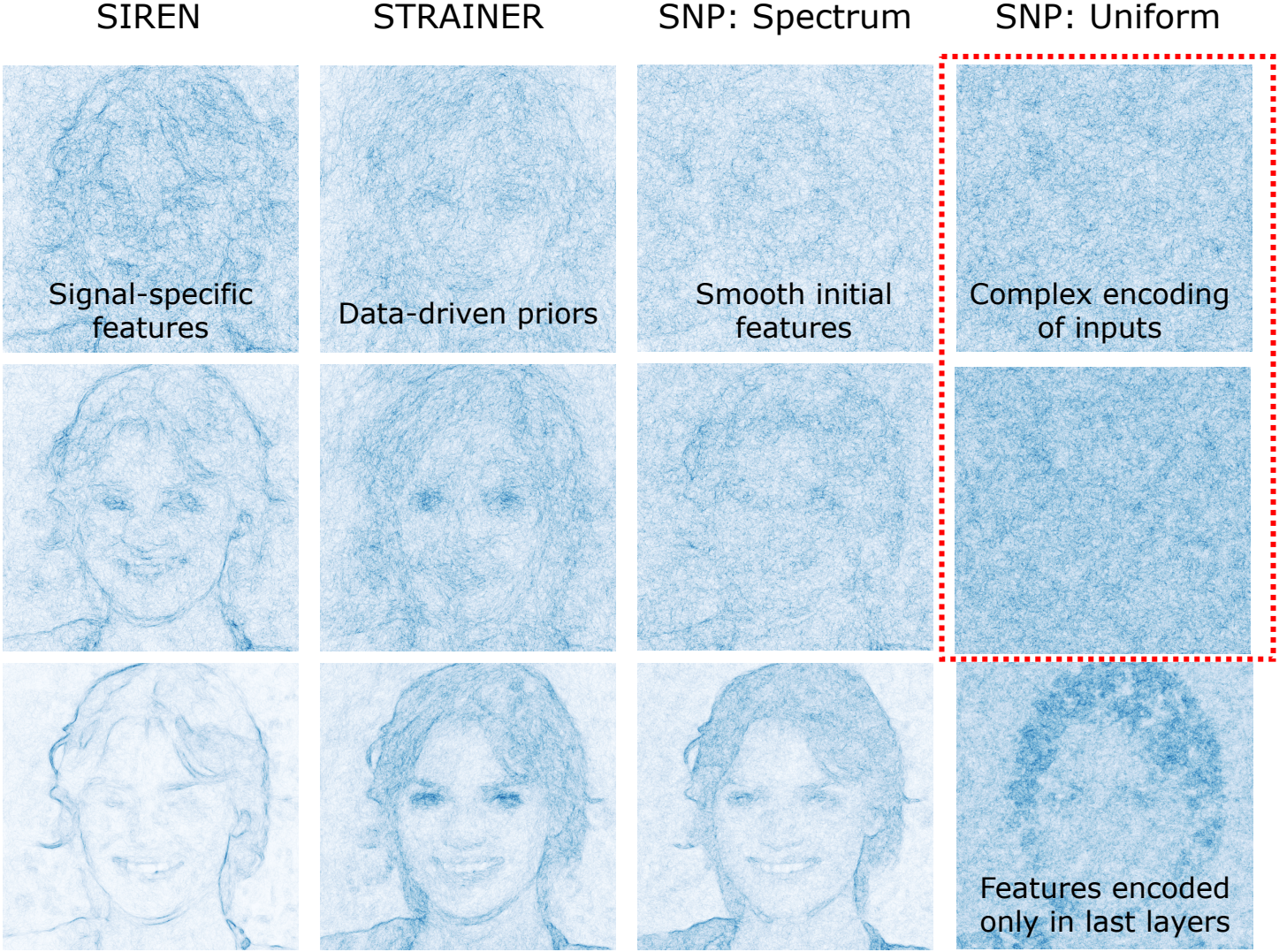


What does pretraining encode in the INR?



Test-signal

Initial INR layers

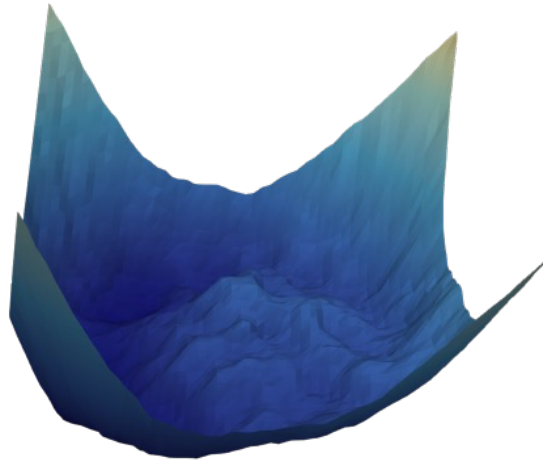


Complex random encoding in initial layers draws parallels to hash-encoding methods



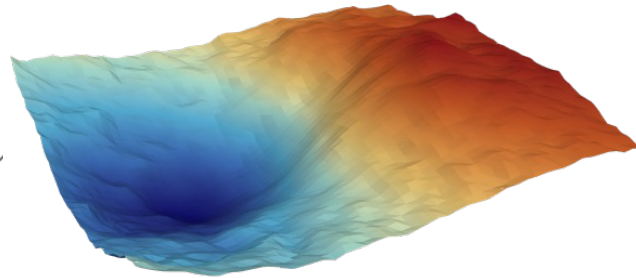
Visualizing the loss landscape of SNP INRs

SIREN

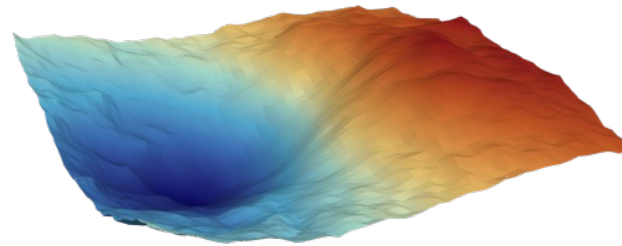


Rugged landscape,
unclear minimum

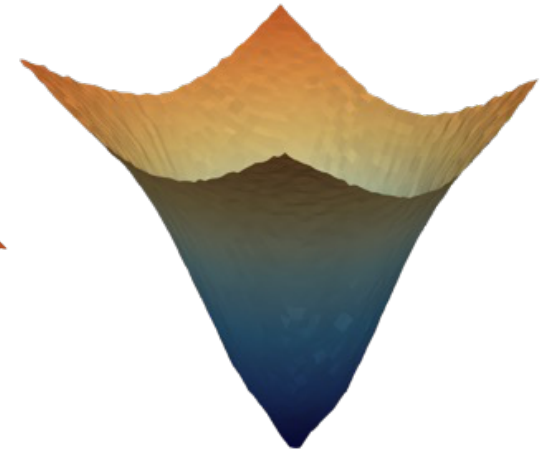
STRAINER



SNP: Spectrum



SNP: Uniform



STRAINER and SNP Spectrum have near-
identical loss landscapes

Smooth landscape,
distinctive minima

Summary and contributions

- We propose SNP INRs : a novel data-free initialization technique for implicit neural representations (INRs) using structured and unstructured noises.
- An overall recommendation of our study is to pretrain INRs on noise with $1/f^\alpha$ spectral structure to obtain fitting quality and inverse problem (denoising) performance at par with data-driven methods.
- We also show the surprising finding that pretraining on unstructured noise such as Uniform and Gaussian yields excellent high-quality signal fitters, with behavior similar to hash-encoding based methods.
- We support our study with more detailed analysis using neural tangent kernel, visualizing the loss landscape of SNP INRs, and

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Balakrishnan

**Poster #567. Poster session #1.
ExHall A-F, June 5, 2026.**



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