WTNet: A Weather Transfer Network for Domain-Adaptive All-In-One Adverse Weather Image Restoration

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Abstract

All-in-one adverse weather image restoration has attracted increasing attention due to its potential to recover high-quality images with a single model. However, existing methods often exhibit significant performance drops due to the domain gap between training and testing weather conditions. Moreover, they typically achieve only average, rather than optimal, performance across different weather conditions, when compared to weather-specific approaches. To address these two issues, we propose a novel Weather Transfer Network (WTNet), which fine-tunes all-in-one models to enhance their performance during testing. Recognizing the unavailability of paired degraded-clean images at test time, WTNet transfers degradation patterns from the testing images in an unseen target domain to clean images in the source domain, thereby generating the fine-tuning sets for enabling domain adaptation. Additionally, by leveraging the fine-tuning sets, allin-one models can be dynamically adapted to weather-specific or mixed weather models based on the transferred degradation patterns observed during testing. Experimental results demonstrate that WTNet can significantly enhance state-of-the-art all-in-one models across real-world image deraining, desnowing, and dehazing benchmarks. The source code is available at https://github.com/stellaahuang/WTNet.

1 Introduction

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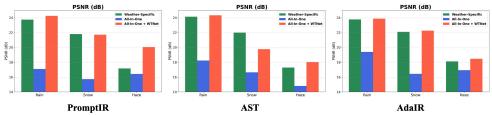


Figure 1: **Quantitative comparison of different training strategies.** Previous methods, including PromptIR [1], AST [1], and AdaIR [2], exhibit significant performance gaps between using weather-specific and all-in-one training strategies. In contrast, the proposed WTNet substantially improves these all-in-one models, even outperforming their weather-specific variants.

dynamic variations in weather pose a significant challenge, often limiting the generalization ability of models tailored for individual weather conditions in real-world applications. As a result, all-in-one image restoration approaches [2, 0, 23, 29, 60], which address various types of degradation within a unified model, have gained increasing attention in recent years.

Recent all-in-one restoration methods fall into two categories: approaches addressing general degradations [2], [2], and those tackling adverse weather conditions [3], [3]. To handle diverse weather conditions, several studies have incorporated degradation-specific features, such as weather-type queries [3], degradation-specific prompts [3], or multiteacher networks [3], into their unified models. While effective at addressing various degradations within a single network, these all-in-one methods tend to exhibit balanced but potentially lower performance across different degradations, compared to their weather-specific variants, i.e., blue vs. green bars in Figure 1. Additionally, existing all-in-one models often suffer from significant performance drops due to the domain gap between training and testing images. This issue is particularly pronounced in real-world scenarios where images frequently exhibit complex degradations resulting from mixed weather conditions, rather than a single type. These limitations hinder the potential of all-in-one models in diverse and uncontrollable weather conditions.

In this paper, we propose a novel Weather Transfer Network (WTNet), which fine-tunes all-in-one models to improve their performance during testing. Given that paired degraded-clean images are unavailable during testing, WTNet generates domain-adaptive fine-tuning sets, which encode the degradation patterns of the unseen target domain for effective domain adaptation. Unlike previous restoration methods that recover high-quality content from degraded inputs, WTNet takes a different approach: predicting degradation patterns. This task is generally simpler than content restoration because degradation patterns like rain, haze, and snow are typically visible, consistent, and less textured. After predicting degradation patterns, WTNet transfers them from unseen target domains to clean images in the source domain, thereby constructing fine-tuning sets, i.e., degradation-transferred and clean source-domain images, to adapt the restoration models during testing.

WTNet employs a physics-based model to disentangle and reassemble key weather components, including snow masks, rain streaks, haze density, and atmospheric light. Thus, WTNet can exploit the inherent inductive biases of weather formation, leading to more accurate weather pattern prediction and transfer. WTNet generates fine-tuning sets for test-time adaptation and offers two primary advantages. First, it effectively reduces the domain gap between training and testing sets by transferring degradation patterns from the target domain to the source domain. Second, it dynamically adapts all-in-one models to either weather-

specific or mixed-weather scenarios, guided by the degradation patterns observed during testing, thereby improving restoration performance, i.e., blue vs. orange bars in Figure 1.

Our contributions are summarized as follows: First, we propose WTNet, a novel framework that transfers degradation patterns from unseen target domains to source-domain clean images. This process creates domain-adaptive fine-tuning sets that enhance the performance of all-in-one models on unseen domains during testing. Second, WTNet enables dynamic adaptation of all-in-one models to specific or mixed weather conditions during testing, thereby unlocking their full potential and improving performance under uncontrollable weather scenarios. Third, extensive experimental results demonstrate that WTNet significantly boosts the performance of all-in-one restoration models across benchmark real-world image deraining, desnowing, and dehazing datasets.

2 Related Works

2.1 All-in-One Image Restoration

All-in-one image restoration aims to tackle various types of degradation using a single, unified model. To this end, several studies [1], [2], [2], [3], [4], [4], [4]] have explored incorporating degradation-specific features into unified architectures to handle diverse degradations adaptively. For instance, Li *et al.* [2] use contrastive learning to extract degradation-specific features, which are subsequently used to guide their all-in-one restoration model. Valanarasu *et al.* [3] utilize learnable weather-type queries to encode weather-specific information within a Transformer framework. Potlapalli *et al.* [3] employ learnable prompts to inject degradation-specific features into a unified restoration model. Cui *et al.* [3] adaptively restore degraded images by harnessing frequency-aware cues tailored to specific types of degradation. Although these methods handle diverse degradations using a single model, they often achieve a compromise in performance, resulting in balanced rather than optimal results across different degradation types. Moreover, they frequently suffer from significant performance drops due to the domain gap between training and testing images. This issue is even exacerbated in real-world scenarios, where images often suffer from complex degradations caused by mixed weather conditions.

2.2 Domain Adaptation for Restoration

Domain adaptation seeks to reduce the discrepancy between source and target domains. Since paired degraded-clean images are typically unavailable at test time, many studies employ generative models [12], [27] to synthesize pseudo training pairs for domain adaptation. For example, Chen *et al.* [3] and Shao *et al.* [42] leverage generative adversarial networks (GANs) [43] to synthesize paired training data from unpaired images for deraining and dehazing tasks, respectively. However, GAN-based methods may suffer from unstable optimization [13], [23] and mode collapse [52], [25]. As an alternative, some recent studies have explored diffusion models to achieve domain adaptation. For instance, He *et al.* [13] propose a domain adaptation approach for video deblurring based on a diffusion-based blurring model [13]. Although their method can generate domain-adaptive training pairs for deblurring, the reliance on video motion flow limits its applicability to image restoration.

Despite the effectiveness, the aforementioned methods [1, 12, 12] focus on mitigating domain gaps for specific degradations, such as deraining, dehazing, or deblurring, while overlooking the practicality and generalizability of all-in-one models for image restoration. In

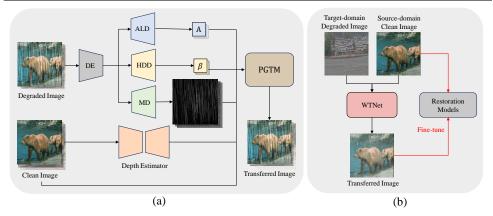


Figure 2: (a) WTNet Architecture: WTNet employs a Degradation Encoder (DE), Atmospheric Light Decoder (ALD), Haze Density Decoder (HDD), and Mask Decoder (MD) to parameterize weather-related features. These parameters are then transferred to the clean image via the Physics-Guided Transfer Module (PGTM). (b) Test-Time Domain Adaptation: WTNet transfers degradation patterns from target-domain images to source-domain clean images, generating domain-adaptive fine-tuning sets for restoration model adaptation.

contrast, we propose WTNet, a weather-transfer-based adaptation method that fine-tunes all-in-one adverse weather image restoration models during testing, enabling dynamic adaptation to a wider range of adverse weather conditions, including deraining, dehazing, desnowing, and even mixed-weather scenarios.

3 Proposed Method

This section introduces the proposed Weather Transfer Network (WTNet), a novel framework designed to transfer degradation patterns from weather-degraded images in unseen target domains to clean images from the source domain. The generated clean-degraded image pairs, embedded with target-domain degradation characteristics, are then used as domain-adaptive fine-tuning data to adapt all-in-one restoration models for improved performance on previously unseen target domains during testing. The remainder of this section provides an overview of the proposed approach, details each module of WTNet, and outlines the associated loss functions and fine-tuning strategy.

3.1 Overview

As illustrated in Figure 2, WTNet begins by employing a Degradation Encoder (DE) to extract degradation features from a target-domain weather-degraded image. These features are then projected into a parametric space using multiple specialized decoders. Specifically, the Atmospheric Light Decoder (ALD) and Haze Density Decoder (HDD) extract haze-related parameters corresponding to atmospheric light and haze density, while the Mask Decoder (MD) estimates occlusion masks caused by rain or snow. To transfer these weather-degradation patterns to source-domain clean images, we introduce the Physics-Guided Transfer Module (PGTM), inspired by the atmospheric scattering models [III], III]. By leveraging the inductive bias inherent in weather formation processes, PGTM enables effective and unified transfer of diverse weather patterns. During testing, WTNet facilitates adaptation of a

restoration model by generating paired training samples—source-domain clean images and their degraded counterparts with target-domain degradation characteristics—thus improving generalization to unseen weather conditions.

3.2 Degradation Encoder and Parametric Decoders

Given a degraded image $I^d \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times 3}$, WTNet employs the Degradation Encoder (DE) to extract degradation features $F^d \in \mathbb{R}^{(H/32) \times (W/32) \times 256}$. These features are subsequently processed by three specialized parametric decoders: the Atmospheric Light Decoder (ALD), Haze Density Decoder (HDD), and Mask Decoder (MD), which collectively parameterize F^d as follows:

$$A = ALD(F^d), \quad \beta = HDD(F^d), \quad \text{and} \quad M = MD(F^d),$$
 (1)

where $A \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ denote the atmospheric light and haze density, respectively, and $M \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times 1}$ with values in [0,1] represents the occlusion mask induced by rain or snow.

In our implementation, DE consists of six convolutional blocks, each comprising two residual blocks followed by a downsampling convolutional layer. Each of the three decoders, ALD, HDD, and MD, is composed of five convolutional blocks, where each block includes a bilinear upsampling layer followed by two residual blocks. To produce compact representations, a global average pooling layer is applied to the outputs of both ALD and HDD. To guide the disentanglement of degradation features, we incorporate PGTM, which maps the predicted parameters back to the degraded image space. This ensures that the parameterization produced by ALD, HDD, and MD remains physically meaningful and interpretable.

3.3 Physics-Guided Transfer Module (PGTM)

After retrieving weather parameters, A, β , and M, WTNet employs PGTM to transfer these parameters onto the clean image. As the first step, the occlusion mask M is applied to generate an initial degradation-transferred image $O^{\text{ini}} \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times 3}$ as follows:

$$O^{\text{ini}}(x) = I^{c}(x)(1 - M(x)) + S \cdot M(x), \tag{2}$$

where $I^c \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times 3}$ denotes the clean image. x represents the pixel index, and S is a scalar randomly sampled from the range [1.0, 2.61] to control the intensity of the occlusion effect, following the setting in [2].

WTNet then transfers the haze-related parameters A and β onto O^{ini} to generate the final weather-transferred image $O \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times 3}$ based on the atmospheric scattering model:

$$O(x) = O^{\text{ini}}(x)T(x) + A(1 - T(x)), \tag{3}$$

where $T(x) = e^{-\beta d(x)}$ denotes the transmission map, which quantifies the proportion of scene radiance that reaches the camera, as defined by the atmospheric scattering model [III], III], and $d(x) = \theta^{\text{dep}}(I^c(x))$ denotes the depth estimated from a pre-trained depth estimation network θ^{dep} [III].

By incorporating this physically grounded formulation, PGTM enables WTNet to simulate the formation process of adverse weather conditions, thereby facilitating the unified transfer of diverse degradation types in a physically interpretable manner.

		Rain		Snow		Haze		Average	
Method		PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑						
PromptIR [10]	Baseline	17.09	0.524	15.73	0.465	16.42	0.383	16.41	0.457
Fromptik [m]	+WTNet	24.12 (+7.03)	0.766 (+0.242)	22.10 (+6.37)	0.730 (+0.265)	19.81 (+3.39)	0.635 (+0.252)	22.01 (+5.60)	0.710 (+0.253)
AST [Baseline	18.23	0.592	16.64	0.542	14.80	0.405	16.56	0.513
ASI [M]	+WTNet	24.27 (+6.04)	0.762 (+0.170)	21.29 (+4.65)	0.698 (+0.156)	17.68 (+2.88)	0.575 (+0.170)	21.08 (+4.52)	0.678 (+0.165)
AdaIR [0]	Baseline	19.39	0.614	16.43	0.546	16.93	0.398	17.58	0.519
Adark [u]	+WTNet	23.21 (+3.82)	0.752 (+0.138)	22.11 (+5.68)	0.724 (+0.178)	19.49 (+2.56)	0.650 (+0.252)	21.60 (+4.02)	0.709 (+0.190)
Average Gain		+5.63	+0.183	+5.57	+0.200	+2.94	+0.225	+4.71	+0.203

Table 1: Quantitative comparison of image restoration performance under three real-world weather types: Rain, Snow, and Haze. Results are reported in PSNR (dB) and SSIM. WTNet consistently improves performance across all backbone models and weather conditions.

3.4 Loss Function

WTNet is trained on synthetic datasets of degraded-clean pairs $\{I_i^d, I_i^c\}_{i=1}^N$. We supervise the network in both the parametric and image spaces with the objective function:

$$\mathcal{L} = ||A_i - A_i^{GT}||_1 + ||\beta_i - \beta_i^{GT}||_1 + ||M_i - M_i^{GT}||_1 + ||O_i - I_i^d||_1, \tag{4}$$

where (A_i, A_i^{GT}) , (β_i, β_i^{GT}) , (M_i, M_i^{GT}) , and (O_i, I_i^d) denote the estimated results in (1) and (3) and their corresponding ground-truth.

3.5 Domain-Adaptive Fine-Tuning Strategy

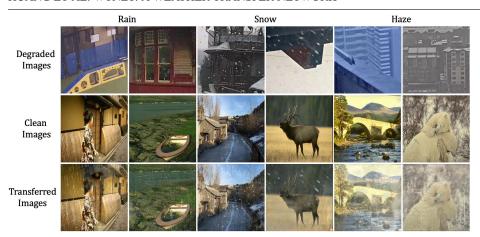
After training WTNet, we use it to transfer degradation patterns from target-domain degraded images $\{\hat{I}_i^a\}_{i=1}^N$ to source-domain clean images $\{I_i^c\}_{i=1}^N$, where we select N clean images randomly from the source domain. This process yields a domain-adaptive fine-tuning set $\{\hat{O}_i, I_i^c\}_{i=1}^N$, where $\hat{O}_i = \text{WTNet}(\hat{I}_i^d, I_i^c)$ denotes the weather-transferred image with degradation patterns from \hat{I}_i^d and scene content from I_i^c . We then fine-tune the all-in-one restoration model using this synthesized dataset, as illustrated in Figure 2(b). To ensure adaptation efficiency in test time, we fine-tune each restoration model for only a single epoch.

4 Experiments

4.1 Experiment Settings

Datasets. We train WTNet and restoration models using synthetic datasets: Rain100H [11] for deraining, Snow100K [12] for desnowing, and RESIDE [12] for dehazing. Specifically, Rain100H and Snow100K provide paired degraded-clean images along with their corresponding rain and snow masks, which serve as ground-truth occlusion masks for supervising WTNet's occlusion modeling. For dehazing, we synthesize hazy images from the clean images in RESIDE following the procedure described in [12], allowing us to generate hazy-clean image pairs with known atmospheric light and haze density. These datasets provide the necessary supervision signals—occlusion masks, atmospheric light, and haze density—for training WTNet to disentangle and transfer weather-related degradation parameters.

During training, we select 1,800 paired samples from each dataset, resulting in a total of 5,400 paired degraded-clean images for training WTNet and the restoration models. To demonstrate the generalizability of WTNet, we adopt the real-world dataset Weather-Stream [LN] during testing, which contains 3,000 rainy, 4,500 hazy, and 3,960 snowy images, along with their corresponding clean images captured by fixed webcams. Notably, WeatherStream presents additional challenges due to the presence of mixed-weather conditions, such as haze co-occurring with rain or snow, making it a suitable benchmark for assessing the robustness of domain adaptation and weather-specific restoration performance.



Implementation details. We optimize WTNet for 300 epochs with a batch size of 8 using the AdamW optimizer and a learning rate of 5×10^{-4} . During training and testing, all input images to WTNet are resized to 256×256 . WTNet contains 16 million parameters and has an inference time of 30 milliseconds (ms) to generate a weather-transferred image on an NVIDIA 2080Ti GPU.

Restoration Models. To assess the effectiveness of WTNet for test-time adaptation, we conduct experiments using three state-of-the-art restoration models: PromptIR [1], AST [1], and AdaIR [2], which serve as the evaluation backbones for domain adaptation performance. PromptIR and AdaIR are all-in-one frameworks capable of handling multiple degradation types within a single unified network, while AST is a degradation-specific model applied individually to each degradation type. All models are trained in an all-in-one fashion using a mixed set of 5,400 synthetic image pairs, following their default training configurations. During testing, each model is fine-tuned for one epoch using the domain-adaptive fine-tuning sets generated by WTNet, enabling adaptation to unseen target-domain degradations.

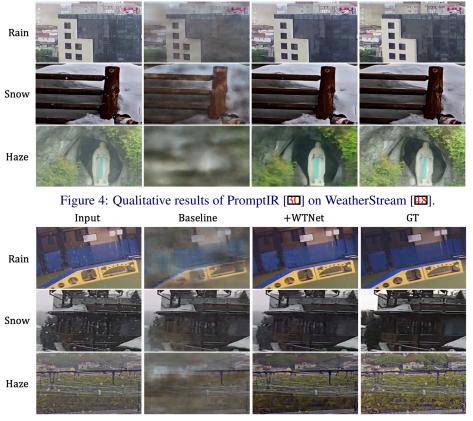
4.2 Experimental Results

Quantitative Comparison. We compare the restoration performances of three baseline models and their WTNet-enhanced counterparts in Table 1, where "Baseline" refers to models trained without WTNet, and "+WTNet" denotes models fine-tuned using the proposed WTNet framework. As shown in Table 1, WTNet consistently and significantly improves the performance of all three SoTA restoration models: PromptIR [50], AST [50], and AdaIR [70]. In particular, WTNet boosts the average PSNR of PromptIR, AST, and AdaIR by 5.59 dB, 4.15 dB, and 3.95 dB, respectively, on WeatherStram. Task-wise, WTNet also yields substantial performance gains, achieving average improvements of 5.91 dB for deraining, 4.97 dB for desnowing, and 2.79 dB for dehazing. In Figure 1, we further compare restoration performance across three training strategies: (i) weather-specific training, (ii) all-in-one training, and (iii) all-in-one training with WTNet. Models enhanced with WTNet not only outperform conventional all-in-one models but also approach, or in some cases surpass, the performance of weather-specific models. These results demonstrate WTNet's effective-

GT

+WTNet

Input



Baseline

Figure 5: Qualitative results of AST [51] on the WeatherStream [42] dataset.

ness in narrowing the performance gap between general-purpose and task-specific restoration strategies.

Qualitative Comparison. We present qualitative results of the weather-transferred images in Figure 3. As shown, degradation patterns from WeatherStream [are faithfully transferred onto clean images from Rain100H [and J. Snow100K [and RESIDE [and Re

We present qualitative de-weathering results on WeatherStream for three baseline models and their corresponding WTNet-enhanced versions. The baseline results are denoted as "Baseline," while the WTNet-enhanced outputs are denoted as "+WTNet." The comparisons are shown for PromptIR in Figure 4, AST in Figure 5, and AdaIR 6. Across these visualizations, the baseline models reveal several common limitations. In rain and snow scenarios, they often fail to fully remove degradations, resulting in residual artifacts and mild color distortions. In hazy scenes, they tend to struggle with recovering background structures, frequently producing overly smoothed or faded outputs. By contrast, WTNet-enhanced models

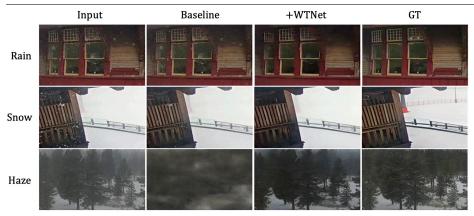


Figure 6: Qualitative results of AdaIR [1] on the WeatherStream [13] dataset.

	TM	Depth	HDD	ALD	MD	Rain	Snow	Haze	Avg.
Net1						17.09	15.73	16.42	16.41
Net2	1					18.90	17.43	16.00	17.44
Net3		✓	✓			21.71	16.21	17.53	18.48
Net4		✓	✓	✓		20.29	18.16	16.77	18.41
Net5		✓	✓		✓	22.25	16.23	16.52	18.33
Net6		✓	✓	✓	✓	24.24	21.71	20.04	22.00

Table 2: Component analysis of WTNet for restoration performance of PromptIR [in PSNR (dB) on WeatherStream [in PSNR (dB) or WeatherStream [in PSNR (dB) or

generate significantly improved results with sharper edges, clearer textures, and better structural preservation. These qualitative results highlight WTNet's superior generalization and restoration capability across a variety of challenging real-world weather conditions.

4.3 Ablation Studies

Component Analysis. In Table 2, we conduct an ablation study using PromptIR as the backbone model to evaluate each component in WTNet. Net1 represents the baseline model trained without WTNet. We first compare two strategies for generating transmission maps (TM): direct estimation (Net2) versus reconstruction using the Haze Density Decoder (HDD) and a pre-trained depth estimator (Depth) (Net3). The latter (Net3) outperforms direct estimation (Net2) and improves upon the baseline (Net1) by 2.07 dB on average.

Next, we assess the individual impact of the Atmospheric Light Decoder (ALD) and the Mask Decoder (MD) by incorporating them into Net3, forming Net4 and Net5, respectively. While neither component alone yields significant improvements over Net3, their combination in Net6 leads to a substantial average performance gain of 3.52 dB. Given that real-world adverse weather often involves compound degradations (e.g., haze with rain or snow), Net6, the final version of WTNet, integrates all weather-related parameters in a unified framework. This comprehensive design enables WTNet to robustly handle diverse degradation types, resulting in the best all-in-one performance across adverse weather restoration tasks.

Representation Analysis of A **and** β **.** To assess how different representations of atmospheric light A and haze density β affect restoration, we compare their scalar and spatial map forms in Table 3. Net1 and Net2 use mixed forms (scalar A with map β , and vice versa) and yield similar performance, suggesting limited individual impact. While using

	A: Map	A: Scalar	β : Map	β: Scalar	Rain	Snow	Haze	Avg.
Net1		✓	✓		22.15	21.34	18.65	20.71
Net2	✓			✓	22.62	21.24	18.49	20.78
Net3	✓		✓		23.22	21.58	18.64	21.15
Net4		✓		✓	24.12	22.10	19.81	22.01

Table 3: Representation analysis of atmospheric light A and haze density β , comparing spatial map and scalar forms, for restoration performance of PromptIR [\square] in PSNR (dB) on WeatherStream [\square].

maps for both parameters (Net3) improves results, scalar forms for both (Net4) achieve the best PSNR. This suggests that although spatial maps offer flexibility, scalar representations may generalize better on WeatherStream [LN] due to their simplicity and robustness.

Method	Rain	Snow	Haze	Average	
Baseline	19.31	17.31	12.37	16.33	
+Noise-DA	19.63 (+0.32)	18.15 (+0.84)	13.48 (+1.11)	17.09 (+0.76)	
+WTNet	25.32 (+6.01)	23.04 (+5.73)	19.01 (+6.64)	22.46 (+6.13)	

Table 4: Quantitative comparison of domain adaptation methods, WTNet (ours) and Noise-DA [23], in terms of PSNR (dB) on WeatherStream [23], using the restoration backbone from Noise-DA as the baseline.

Comparison with other domain adaptation methods. We compare WTNet with Noise-DA [23], a training-time domain adaptation method, using the restoration backbone adopted in the original Noise-DA. As shown in Table 4, Noise-DA improves the baseline by only 0.76 dB, showing limited adaptation under complex weather conditions. In contrast, WTNet conducts test-time adaptation and enhances PSNR by 6.13 dB on average by transferring degradation patterns and constructing domain-adaptive fine-tuning sets.

Limitations. WTNet is designed to address adverse weather conditions by leveraging the inductive biases of weather formation. However, it may not directly apply to other types of degradation, such as blur, low-light, or noise, which remain open for future research.

5 Conclusion

This paper introduces Weather Transfer Network (WTNet), a domain adaptation framework that enhances all-in-one image restoration under adverse weather conditions at test time. WTNet transfers degradation patterns from target-domain images to source-domain clean images to construct domain-adaptive fine-tuning sets for test-time adaptation. It explicitly disentangles and reassembles key weather components—including snow masks, rain streaks, haze density, and atmospheric light—leveraging the inductive biases of weather formation for accurate degradation transfer. By utilizing these adaptive fine-tuning sets, WTNet dynamically adapts restoration models to both weather-specific and mixed-weather scenarios, improving generalization and performance. Experiments on real-world deraining, desnowing, and dehazing benchmarks show that WTNet consistently enhances restoration quality and outperforms state-of-the-art methods, validating its effectiveness and practicality for real-world adverse weather image restoration.

Acknowledgements

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