

# Final Report COMP 433

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## Abstract

Accurate time-series forecasting is essential in domains such as climate science, energy management, economics, and e-commerce, where decisions depend on anticipating future trends from historical observations. This report focuses on the Retrieval-Augmented Time-Series Forecasting (RAFT) framework, which integrates a shallow MLP forecaster with a retrieval module that selects similar historical segments from the entire time series. We reproduce the experiments from the original RAFT paper across benchmark datasets spanning energy, transportation, finance, health, and weather, and evaluate performance using Mean Squared Error (MSE) and Mean Absolute Error (MAE). We then extend the evaluation to an e-commerce sales dataset to assess generalization in a highly non-stationary business setting.

gle with these dynamics, while modern deep learning approaches that can capture this complexity often demand substantial computational resources.

More broadly, real-world time series present difficulties for existing forecasting models across all domains due to complex, non-stationary patterns that vary in peaks, periods, and shapes. In e-commerce sales, these patterns are explained by sales, holidays, and recommendation algorithms; in energy applications, it's mostly explained by weather, etc. Since these patterns might lack time correlation and might be generated by non-deterministic causes, they result in infrequent repetitions and various statistical distributions. This causes problems for the existing prediction models in extrapolating from these irregular patterns, and when all patterns are learned and memorized by the model, including noisy and random ones, accuracy and generalizability are affected.

Traditionally, statistical methods such as ARIMA and exponential smoothing have formed the basis for time-series forecasting, but the field has naturally shifted towards deep learning approaches. Early approaches used CNNs to identify local temporal patterns [3] and RNNs with LSTM variants to detect patterns from past data [11]. More recently, the field has moved towards the direction of Transformer-based architectures, which showed strong results and captured complex input patterns. Examples include Autoformer [21] and FEDformer [24], which enhanced attention mechanisms to identify trends.

However, these transformer-based models, despite being effective, require substantial computational resources, making them difficult to utilize for real-time industrial applications. Moreover, studies have demonstrated that lightweight models can achieve high performance by decomposing the time series and con-

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Problem Statement

Accurate time-series forecasting is essential across numerous scientific and industrial domains, especially in time-dependent applications where decisions need to be made by anticipating future trends based on historical observations. Such applications include climate science, energy management, economics, and user behavior analysis [1, 5, 9, 25]. E-commerce is one such domain where forecasting has become increasingly vital, yet the rapid adoption of online retail has introduced unique challenges characterized by complex, non-stationary sales patterns that shift unpredictably due to promotions, seasonality, and external market factors. Traditional forecasting methods strug-

068 ducting a multi-periodicity analysis.

069 To address these limitations, lightweight retrieval  
070 augmented architectures appeared as a promising re-  
071 search direction. The RAFT framework proposed by  
072 the paper “Retrieval Augmented Time Series Forecast-  
073 ing” [10] integrates a simple shallow MLP module for  
074 forecasting with a retrieval mechanism that uses simi-  
075 lar historical segments, achieving strong performances  
076 without the computational resources or architectural  
077 complexity of Transformers. The method is inspired  
078 by the popular retrieval-augmented generation (RAG)  
079 often used in large language models [14].

080 This approach offers two main advantages that ad-  
081 dress the issues mentioned above. First, by using re-  
082 trieval historical segments explicitly at inference time,  
083 learning can cover patterns that do not have any tem-  
084 poral correlation in the series. Second, the retrieval  
085 mechanism allows the model to leverage rare histori-  
086 cal patterns when they reappear.

087 In this report, we reproduce the results of the RAFT  
088 paper [10] and validate their claims by conducting the  
089 experiments across the benchmark datasets cited in the  
090 paper. We expect to achieve the performances cited  
091 in the paper to demonstrate the effectiveness of re-  
092 trieval augmented forecasting in comparison to state-  
093 of-the-art baseline transformer models, with a high  
094 computational efficiency. For these benchmarks, we  
095 use Mean Squared Error (MSE) and Mean Absolute  
096 Error (MAE) as metrics. Building upon this, once the  
097 basic results are reproduced, we extend the testing of  
098 the model to an e-commerce sales dataset to evaluate  
099 generalization. For all of these, we visualize results  
100 with time-series plots comparing predicted and actual  
101 trajectories.

## 102 1.2. Related Works

103 Time-series forecasting has significantly progressed  
104 over the past decade, especially with the advances in  
105 deep learning methods. Models such as CNNs [3] and  
106 RNNs [11] were used at first, achieving effective re-  
107 sults in capturing patterns in historical data. These  
108 early deep learning methods laid the foundation for  
109 more advanced architectures to be later used for time-

110 series forecasting.

111 Significant improvements were made with the ad-  
112 vent of attention mechanisms and transformer-based  
113 architectures [19]. These models were effective in cap-  
114 turing the dependencies and intricacies in time-based  
115 data, resulting in several proposed models like Auto-  
116 Former [21] and FedFormer [24]. AutoFormer and  
117 FedFormer both decompose the series into compo-  
118 nents to have a more accurate prediction by identify-  
119 ing trends and seasonal patterns. These decomposition  
120 techniques help the models learn characteristics with  
121 different temporal behaviors.

122 In addition to the new transformer architectures, re-  
123 cent methods are using techniques like time series de-  
124 composition and multi-periodicity analysis involving  
125 downsampling and upsampling the series at various  
126 period intervals [20].

127 Despite the advancements in transformer-based  
128 models, lightweight models for time series forecast-  
129 ing based on MLPs have achieved good performances  
130 when complemented with other techniques. Chen et  
131 al. [6] showed that even a simple MLP-based ap-  
132 proach can achieve competitive performances for fore-  
133 casting, questioning the necessity of very complex  
134 and resource-consuming architectures. This discov-  
135 ery led to the appearance of several lightweight MLP-  
136 based models such as TiDE [7], TSMixer [6], and  
137 TimeMixer [20] that were developed to address train-  
138 ing efficiency in time-series forecasting. These meth-  
139 ods implement many approaches such as series decom-  
140 position and multi-periodicity mentioned above, to ex-  
141 tract relevant information for the MLPs to learn from  
142 or use at inference time.

143 Beyond time-series forecasting, we look at the other  
144 aspect presented by the paper which is retrieval aug-  
145 mented generation (RAG) which has gained popular-  
146 ity, mostly in natural language processing and large  
147 language models [14]. Traditionally, RAG retrieves  
148 document chunks relevant to the task at hand, from  
149 external corpuses to help the LLM response to be rel-  
150 evant and to prevent hallucination [2, 14]. This shows  
151 that supplementing the model’s inputs with retrieved  
152 information can be more efficient than encoding all  
153 knowledge in the model’s weights solely.

154 Retrieval-augmented techniques have been applied  
 155 to other structured data problems outside of natural  
 156 language processing. Some approaches have applied  
 157 attention-based retrieval on tabular and structured data  
 158 [8].

159 There also exists work exploring the potential of re-  
 160 triev ing similar segments in time-series forecasting be-  
 161 fore the RAFT paper was introduced [12, 22]. How-  
 162 ever, these methods focused on multiple time-series  
 163 and meta learning which is different from the focus  
 164 of the RAFT paper, where there is only one time series  
 165 available for training.

166 Similar to how RAG is used in LLMs to supplement  
 167 the input with additional information, RAFT aims to  
 168 reduce the learning complexity in time-series by sup-  
 169 plementing the input with the needed context. The  
 170 MLP model does not have to learn the complex pat-  
 171 terns through its weights which are kept simple. An  
 172 additional retrieval model is appended and simplifies  
 173 the learning process. This also improves the perfor-  
 174 mance for datasets with spikes and irregularities.

## 175 2. Methodology

176 In this section, we describe the implementation of  
 177 the Retrieval-Augmented Forecasting of Time-Series  
 178 (RAFT) proposed by the paper [10]. We start with an  
 179 overview of the whole architecture, followed by a de-  
 180 tailed explanation of the retrieval mechanism and the  
 181 forecast module as they were presented in the paper,  
 182 and finally, a small overview of the datasets.

### 183 2.1. Architecture Overview

184 The RAFT consists of two main modules. The re-  
 185 triev al module to find relevant patches to the query  
 186 used as an input, and an MLP for the forecasting that  
 187 is fed the retrieved patches as input and predicts future  
 188 values  $y$ . An overview of this architecture is illustrated  
 189 in Figure 1.

190 Given a time series  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times T}$  of length  $T$  with  $C$   
 191 variates or channels (columns in the Python implemen-  
 192 tation), RAFT uses historical observation  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times L}$



193 Figure 1. High-level illustration of the RAFT method [10].

194 to predict future values  $y \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times F}$  that are as close as  
 195 possible to the actual future values  $y_0$ . In this case, hy-  
 196 perparameters  $L$  and  $F$  denote the look-back window  
 197 size and the forecasting window size, respectively.

198 The key idea proposed by the paper is to augment  
 199 the forecasting module with a retrieval mechanism that  
 200 provides similar historical patterns from the entire time  
 201 series before passing them to the forecasting module,  
 202 unlike traditional attention-based models that have a  
 203 fixed lookback window.

204 Given an input  $x$ , as described above, the retrieval  
 205 module finds the  $m$  most relevant patches, where  $m$   
 206 is a hyperparameter to the model. For each retrieved  
 207 patch, the subsequent patches are also retrieved, pro-  
 208 viding additional information about the context. Im-  
 209 portance weights are calculated based on the corre-  
 210 lation between the input  $x$  and the patches, and they are  
 211 aggregated through a weighted sum, similar to how the  
 212 attention mechanism works in other popular architec-  
 213 tures. The main difference is that the RAFT retrieval  
 214 model can retrieve data from the entire time series and  
 215 not from a single fixed lookback window. This mech-  
 216 anism allows the model to detect patterns in arbitrary  
 217 periods in the data, as long as they are similar or cor-  
 218 related to the input.

219 Another addition is that the retrieval module can ag-  
 220 gregate results with multiple different periods, since  
 221 trends and temporal patterns might have different time  
 222 scales. This is done by downsampling the time se-  
 223 ries with different periods  $P$  and applying the retrieval  
 224 module described above to each time series resulting  
 225 from the downsampling. The retrieved results are pro-  
 226 cessed by a linear projection and summed. The final  
 227 result is concatenated with the inputs and passed to the  
 228 linear MLP for producing the final prediction.

228

## 2.2. Retrieval Module

229 In this section, we describe in more detail the retrieval  
 230 mechanism both for single periods and multiple periods.  
 231 The retrieval mechanism works by extracting key-  
 232 value pairs based on an input  $x$ . First, the time-series  
 233  $S$  is split into a collection

$$234 \quad K = \{k_1, \dots, k_{T-(L+F)+1}\}$$

235 of key patches with a sliding window of length  $L$  with  
 236 a stride of 1. The indices indicate the starting time  
 237 step of the patches, knowing they have length  $L$ , hence  
 238  $k_i \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times L}$ . Any patch overlapping with the given  
 239 input  $x$  is excluded from  $K$  during training to ensure a  
 240 better generalization.

241 Using the key patches defined above, a collection  
 242 of value patches is defined, of length  $F$  similar to the  
 243 expected prediction,

$$244 \quad V = \{v_1, \dots, v_{T-(L+F)+1}\},$$

245 where each  $v_i \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times F}$  sequentially follows after  $k_i$  in  
 246 the time series.

247 After creating the key patch set  $K$  and the value set  
 248  $V$ , the input  $x$  is used as a query to retrieve the most  
 249 similar keys and their corresponding value patches.  
 250 For all patches, the numerical value at the final time  
 251 step is considered an offset and subtracted from all el-  
 252 ements in the patch as a form of preprocessing, giving  
 253 us  $\hat{x}$ ,  $\hat{K}$  and  $\hat{V}$ . This is inspired by existing literature  
 254 and acts as some form of normalization.

255 Then, the Pearson correlation is used as a similarity  
 256 function to find the similarity  $\rho_i$  between given  $\hat{x}$  and  
 257 all key patches in  $\hat{K}$ :

$$258 \quad \rho_i = s(\hat{x}, \hat{k}_i), \quad \hat{k}_i \in \hat{K}.$$

259 The patches with top- $m$  correlations are retrieved,  
 260 knowing  $m$  is a hyperparameter, and obtaining  $J$  rep-  
 261 resenting the indices of the top- $m$  patches.

262 Using another hyperparameter, temperature  $\tau$ , value  
 263 patches are assigned weights with the following equa-  
 264 tion:

$$265 \quad w_i = \begin{cases} \frac{\exp(\rho_i/\tau)}{\sum_{j \in J} \exp(\rho_j/\tau)}, & i \in J, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

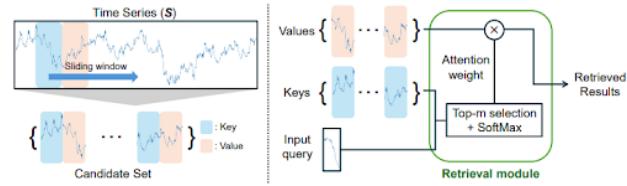


Figure 2. Retrieval mechanism [10].

The final retrieval result is simply the weighted sum  
 266 of value patches:  
 267

$$268 \quad \tilde{v} = \sum_{i=1}^{|V|} w_i v_i.$$

This weighted sum ensures that the most similar  
 269 historical patterns have the most impact on the predic-  
 270 tion while still allowing other less relevant patches to  
 271 provide some information, as summarized in Figure 2.  
 272

## 2.3. Forecast Module

**Single period.** Given the input  $x$  and the retrieved  
 274 patch  $\tilde{v}$ , the offset is subtracted from  $x$  to obtain  $\hat{x}$  sim-  
 275 ilarly to what was done in the retrieval process, and  
 276 then the model concatenates  $f(\hat{x})$  and  $g(\tilde{v})$  where  $f$   
 277 and  $g$  are both linear projections to  $\mathbb{R}^F$  and the result  
 278 is processed to obtain an output in  $\mathbb{R}^F$ . The final ex-  
 279 pression for the output  $\hat{y}$  is:  
 280

$$281 \quad \hat{y} = h(f(\hat{x}) \oplus g(\tilde{v}))$$

representing what is done by the linear MLP.  
 282

**Multiple periods.** Multiple periods are used to re-  
 283 trieve both local patterns from small time windows and  
 284 global trends from larger time windows. We consider  
 285  $n$  periods  $P$ . For each period, the query  $x$  is downsam-  
 286 pled with average pooling and we obtain  $x^{(p)}$ ,  $K^{(p)}$ ,  
 287 and  $V^{(p)}$ , and  $\tilde{v}^{(p)}$  for each  $p$ . Then for all values of  
 288  $p$ , the retrieval results are processed with a linear layer  
 289  $g^{(p)}$ , projected to the same dimensions, summed and  
 290 concatenated with the linear projection of the input.  
 291 The result is passed to a linear layer  $h$  to obtain the  
 292

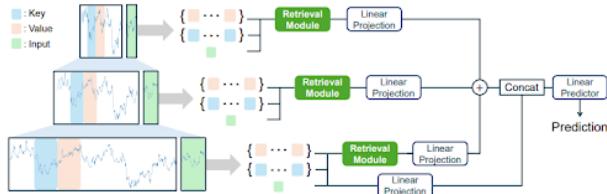


Figure 3. RAFT with multiple periods [10].

293 final result  $\hat{y}$  given by the formula:

$$294 \quad \hat{y} = h \left( f(\hat{x}) \oplus \sum_{p \in P} g^{(p)}(\tilde{v}^{(p)}) \right).$$

295 The overall multi-period RAFT architecture is illustrated  
296 in Figure 3.

297 For both approaches, after finding  $\hat{y}$ , the offset  $x_L$   
298 is added back to every time step in  $\hat{y}$  to obtain the final  
299 forecast  $y$  and the model is trained by minimizing:

$$300 \quad \mathcal{L} = \text{MSE}(y, y_0).$$

## 301 2.4. Datasets

302 **Benchmark datasets from the RAFT paper.**  
303 RAFT was evaluated on ten public datasets spanning  
304 energy, economics, health, and transportation.  
305 All datasets are multivariate, with train/validation/test  
306 splits and normalized features. For training, sliding-  
307 window sequences with look-back  $L$  and forecast hori-  
308 zon  $F$  are generated. The datasets include:

- 309 • **ETTh1 and ETTh2 (Energy, hourly):** Trans-  
310 former temperature measurements (2016–2018)  
311 [23].
- 312 • **ETTm1 and ETTm2 (Energy, 15 min):** Same  
313 source at higher frequency [23].
- 314 • **Electricity (Energy, hourly):** Household power  
315 consumption over 4 years [18].
- 316 • **Exchange (Finance, daily):** Exchange rates of 8  
317 countries (1990–2016) [13].
- 318 • **Illness (Health, weekly):** U.S. influenza-like illness  
319 ratios (2002–2021) [4].
- 320 • **Solar (Energy, 10 min):** Solar power production  
321 from plants in Alabama (2006) [16].

- **Traffic (Transportation, hourly):** Freeway occu-  
322 pancy rates from loop detectors [13].
- **Weather (Environment, 10 min):** Meteorologi-  
323 cal observations in Germany, including tempera-  
324 ture, CO<sub>2</sub>, and humidity [15].

325 **Additional dataset (E-commerce sales).** After val-  
326 idating the benchmarks, we evaluate an open e-  
327 commerce sales dataset due to its relevance in this  
328 context [17]. Retrieval can be powerful for non-  
329 stationary business data where external events influ-  
330 ence trends. This dataset contains transactional sales  
331 data over time, which we convert into a multivariate  
332 time series with temporal and seasonal features to im-  
333 prove model accuracy.

## 3. Results

This section details in depth the experimental design  
337 used to optimize the strategy, validate the methodol-  
338 ogy, and the choice made in regards to hyperparam-  
339 eters across all datasets.

### 3.1. Experimental Setup and Data Processing

All experiments are conducted under the forecasting  
342 formulation proposed by the paper. In fact, for each  
343 dataset, a sliding window, a technique used for ob-  
344 ject detection and time series forecasting, are built to  
345 generate supervised training sequences. The ETTh1,  
346 ETTh2, ETTm1, and ETTm2 are all 15 minutes and  
347 hourly dataset that use a 96-step input window and 48-  
348 step look-ahead label segment. These datasets also use  
349 a 96-step forecasting horizon which describes the fu-  
350 ture time period over which predictions are made. On  
351 the other hand, datasets having lower frequencies like  
352 the E-commerce Sales (daily) use shorter windows.  
353 All datasets are normalized independently within each  
354 split. The RAFT dataloader automatically splits each  
355 dataset into predetermined train, validation, and test  
356 suites. For instance, the ETTh1 and ETTh2 are both  
357 allocated 8449, 2785, and 2785 samples respectively.  
358 On the contrary, the ETTm1 and ETTm2 which are of  
359 high resolution contain over 34,000 training test suites.  
360 Before training, the RAFT model performs a retrieval-

362 index construction over the splits in order to allow the  
363 model to access historical partners during the learning  
364 phase.

### 365 3.2. Model Optimization and Validation Strategy

366 In order to optimize the models, we decide to adopt  
367 a consistent training protocol across the datasets. The  
368 RAFT model is trained using Adam optimizer with an  
369 initial learning rate of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  and a dynamic decay  
370 schedule that has a role to reduce in half the learning  
371 rate whenever the validation loss does not move. As  
372 an example, in the ETTh2 dataset the learning rate is  
373 updated from  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  to  $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  from epoch 2  
374 to epoch 3. It is important to note that all models are  
375 trained for 10 epochs with a batch size of 32. Also, val-  
376 idation is performed on every epoch. For each epoch,  
377 the RAFT model reports the training, validation, and  
378 test losses. We use these validation metrics to guide  
379 the learning rate and adjust it. This can also help to  
380 find some early indicators of overfitting too. For ex-  
381 ample, in the ETTh1 validation loss stabilizes around  
382 0.70 while the training loss is continuously decreas-  
383 ing. This indicates the model is not overfitting despite  
384 continuous optimization.

### 385 3.3. Performance Metrics and Evaluation Method- 386 ology

387 Since long-term time-series forecasting is a regression  
388 problem, the traditional metrics used in deep learning  
389 such as precision, F1, and recall are not applicable  
390 in this case. However, we use Mean Squared Error  
391 (MSE) and Mean Absolute Error (MAE) to evaluate  
392 the model performance. First, the training validation  
393 loss is monitored at every epoch to detect overfitting.  
394 Then, epoch-level convergence patterns are analyzed  
395 in order to check for stability under the current learn-  
396 ing rate. Lastly, the performance is quantified using  
397 the MSE and MAE at the final epoch. For example,  
398 the RAFT model achieved a test MSE of 0.4040 on  
399 ETTh1 and 0.2980 on the ETTh2. These metrics will  
400 be presented in the Main Results section and used for  
401 the comparative analysis.

### 3.4. Hyperparameter Rationale and Model Config- 402 uration

403 All experiments use a consistent set of hypermarkets in  
404 order to ensure a fair and controlled comparison across  
405 all datasets. The transformer uses a model dimension  
406 of 512, a feed-forward dimension of 2048, a two-layer  
407 encoder, height attention heads, and a single layer de-  
408 coder. Also, the retrieval module uses Top-k=5 nearest  
409 neighbors and six convolutional kernels. We observed  
410 that having a k beyond five resulted in diminishing per-  
411 formances for most datasets. The de-stationary pro-  
412 jection module is made of two hidden layers of size  
413 128. This module is responsible for modulating input  
414 sequences in order to stabilize learning. Training hy-  
415 perparameters like an initial learning rate of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  
416 a batch size of 32, and 10 epochs were selected after  
417 yielding the best results based upon the paper. Based  
418 on these choices, we agree that they have been well  
419 chosen since even on small-scale datasets like the E-  
420 Commerce with only 464 training samples, the model  
421 still achieves satisfactory performance.

### 3.5. Main Results

423 Our reproduction of the RAFT framework confirms  
424 its efficacy and robustness under significant hardware  
425 constraints. For the ETTh1, ETTh2, ETTm1, and  
426 ETTm2 datasets [23], we replicated the performance  
427 reported by Han et al. [10] within a negligible mar-  
428 gin ( $MSE \Delta < 0.02$ , see Table 1), despite limit-  
429 ing the lookback window to 48 steps due to memory  
430 constraints. On the Exchange dataset [13], this con-  
431 strained configuration outperformed the original re-  
432 sults [10], suggesting that shorter historical context  
433 can effectively regularize financial time-series predi-  
434 ctions by filtering out distant noise.

435 However, experiments revealed critical trade-offs  
436 between model dimensionality and memory con-  
437 straints on datasets with high feature counts. On the  
438 Solar dataset [13], 137 independent variates increased  
439 the retrieval cache’s memory footprint. Restricting the  
440 lookback to 48 steps failed to capture the necessary  
441 24-hour seasonal cycle, resulting in degraded perfor-  
442 mance (Table 1).

Table 1. Comparison between our reproduced RAFT results and the original paper on key datasets.

Dataset	Metric	Ours	Original	$\Delta$	Status
ETTh1	MSE	0.387	0.367	+0.020	Comparable
ETTh1	MAE	0.414	0.397	+0.017	
ETTh2	MSE	0.296	0.276	+0.020	Comparable
ETTh2	MAE	0.350	0.344	+0.006	
ETTm1	MSE	0.329	0.302	+0.027	Comparable
ETTm1	MAE	0.371	0.349	+0.022	
ETTm2	MSE	0.177	0.164	+0.013	Successful
ETTm2	MAE	0.266	0.256	+0.010	
Weather	MSE	0.235 (L=720)	0.165	+0.070	Acceptable
Weather	MAE	0.278 (L=720)	0.222	+0.056	
Exchange	MSE	0.084	0.091	-0.007	Superior
Exchange	MAE	0.200	0.209	-0.009	
Solar*	MSE	0.216 (L=48)	0.192	+0.024	Degraded
Solar*	MAE	0.263 (L=48)	0.251	+0.012	
E-commerce	MSE	1.904 (L=24)	N/A	N/A	New Benchmark
E-commerce	MAE	1.085 (L=24)	N/A	N/A	

\* Solar dataset used batch size 16.

444 The Weather dataset [15] indicates a correlation  
 445 between context length and accuracy; increasing the  
 446 lookback window from 48 to 720 improved MSE from  
 447 0.263 to 0.235 (Table 1). The remaining gap com-  
 448 pared to the original baseline reported by Han et al.  
 449 [10] of 0.165 might stems from two factors: GPU  
 450 memory constraints that forced single-period retrieval  
 451 ( $n_{\text{period}} = 1$ ) rather than multi-period parallel training  
 452 ( $n = 3$ ) needed to capture global trends, and the in-  
 453 ability to replicate the exact dataset version since the  
 454 original study does not specify which year was used  
 455 for their Weather dataset experiments, potentially in-  
 456 troducing distribution shifts that contribute to this dis-  
 457 parity (Table 1).

458 The plots from ETTh1 and Weather validate the dif-  
 459 ferential impact of context length ( $L$ ) and inherent ar-  
 460 chitectural constraints on Retrieval Augmented Fore-  
 461 casting for Time series.

462 On the ETTh1 dataset (Figure 4), the model shows  
 463 strong stability and reliability. Despite being restricted  
 464 to a small lookback window of  $L=48$ , the prediction  
 465 (orange line) correctly forecasts the complex hourly  
 466 cycles and major directional shifts of the temperature  
 467 signal. While the primary visual characteristic is a re-

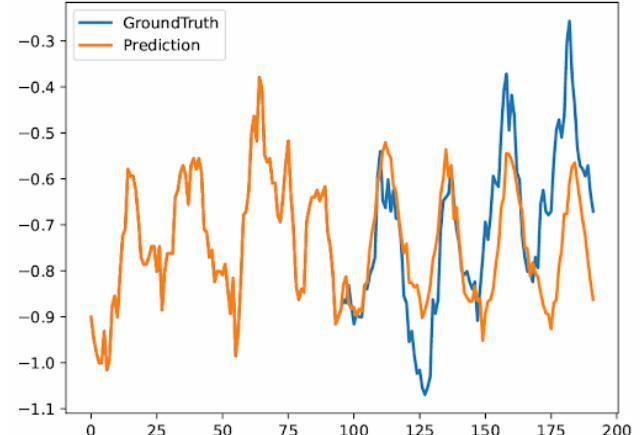


Figure 4. ETTh1 prediction visualization (Plot A).

468duction in peak size (amplitude attenuation), this phe-  
 469nomenon, a common side effect of the retrieval mech-  
 470anism, smoothing out past data, still successfully main-  
 471tains a low Mean Absolute Error (MAE) [10].

472 In contrast, the Weather dataset (Figure 5), which  
 473 required a full lookback ( $L=720$ ) to achieve an ac-  
 474 ceptable result, still reveals a performance gap. Al-  
 475 though the resulting Mean Squared Error (MSE 0.235)  
 476 is highly competitive and often surpasses comparable

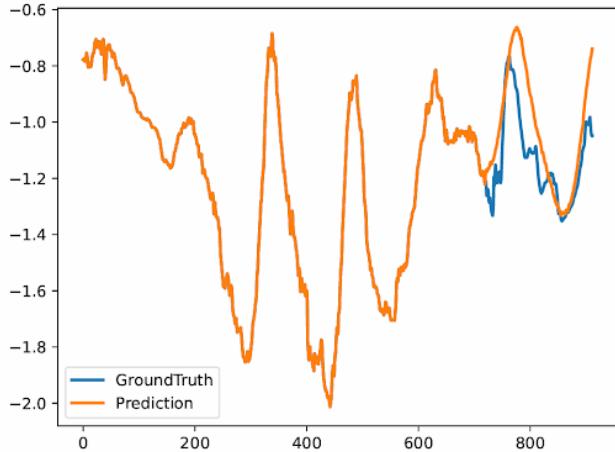


Figure 5. Weather prediction visualization (Plot B).

477 deep learning models tested in the original work [10],  
478 the remaining disparity confirms significant areas for  
479 improvement. While the prediction successfully cap-  
480 tures the overall long-term trend and directionality, it  
481 exhibits predicted peaks that are too sharp (amplitude  
482 overestimation) and a noticeable timing delay (phase  
483 variation) in the recovery periods. The magnitude of  
484 this disparity confirms the combined problem of de-  
485 sign limits and dataset disparity. We suspect the pri-  
486 mary reason for the remaining performance gap lies  
487 in the data distribution shift resulting from the use of a  
488 different dataset than the one benchmarked in the orig-  
489 inal paper [10].

490

## References

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