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633 Days of Foundation Time Series Models in Production: Lessons, Successes, and Open Challenges

After almost two years of making TimeGPT available to practitioners, this paper reflects on lessons learned from real-world use cases across industries. It covers successes such as scalability, ease of integration, and improved forecasting accuracy alongside challenges like handling edge cases, managing user expectations, and maintaining performance under diverse conditions. Key lessons emphasize the importance of feedback loops for continuous model refinement, intuitive user interfaces to drive adoption, and rigorous benchmarking against traditional approaches in production. Open problems include automating the selection of relevant exogenous variables, enhancing accuracy for specific use cases, and navigating trade-offs between pretraining and fine-tuning. By sharing this experience, we aim to inspire further innovation in foundation models for time series applications.