Intermittent demand forecasting with skforecast

Importing Libraries for Data Processing

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
```

Importing Libraries for Visualisation*

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import plotly.graph_objects as go
import plotly.express as px
import plotly.io as pio
pio.templates.default = "seaborn"
```

Importing Libraries for Modeling

```
pip install skforecast
```

```
from lightgbm import LGBMRegressor
from sklearn.preprocessing import FunctionTransformer
from sklearn.metrics import mean_absolute_error
from skforecast.ForecasterAutoreg import ForecasterAutoreg
from skforecast.ForecasterAutoregCustom import ForecasterAutoregCustom
from skforecast.model_selection import grid_search_forecaster
from skforecast.model_selection import backtesting_forecaster
```

About the Data

The data used in this example represents the number of users who visited a store during its opening hours from Monday to Friday, between 7:00 and 20:00. Therefore, any predictions outside this period are not useful and can either be ignored or set to 0.

```
url = ('https://raw.githubusercontent.com/JoaquinAmatRodrigo/Estadistica-machine'
       '-learning-python/master/data/intermittent_demand.csv')
data = pd.read_csv(url, sep=',')
```

```
data['date_time'] = pd.to_datetime(data['date_time'], format='%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S') #formatting the date
data = data.set_index('date_time')
data = data.asfreq('H')
```

```
data = data.sort_index()
data.head(3)
```

	users
date_time	
2011-01-01 00:00:00	0.0
2011-01-01 01:00:00	0.0
2011-01-01 02:00:00	0.0

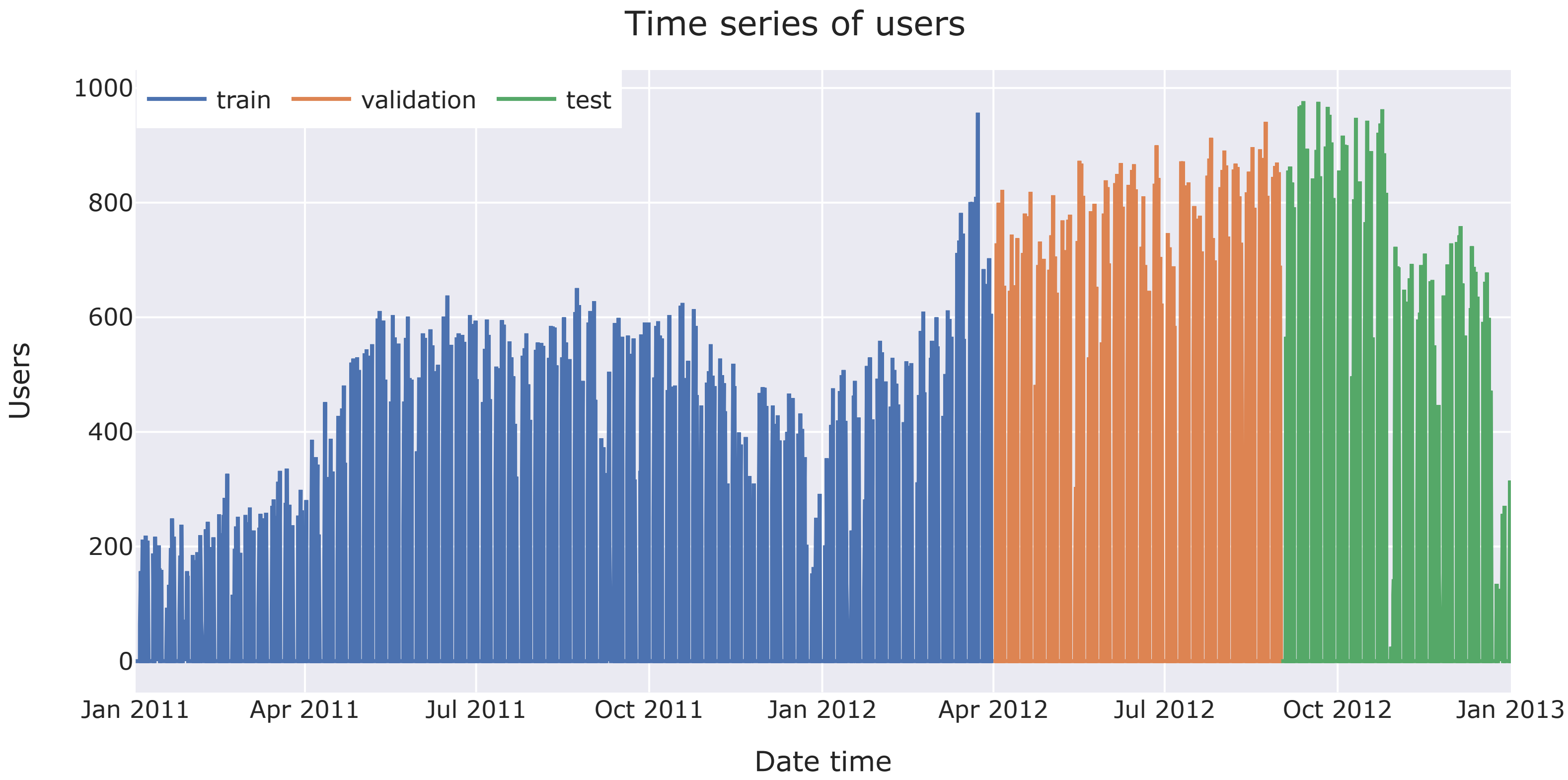
Splitting the data in train-test-val

```
end_train = '2012-03-31 23:59:00'
end_validation = '2012-08-31 23:59:00'
data_train = data.loc[: end_train, :]
data_val   = data.loc[end_train:end_validation, :]
data_test  = data.loc[end_validation:, :]

print(f"Dates train      : {data_train.index.min()} --- {data_train.index.max()}  (n={len(data_train)})")
print(f"Dates validation : {data_val.index.min()} --- {data_val.index.max()}  (n={len(data_val)})")
print(f"Dates test       : {data_test.index.min()} --- {data_test.index.max()}  (n={len(data_test)})")
```

```
Dates train      : 2011-01-01 00:00:00 --- 2012-03-31 23:00:00  (n=10944)
Dates validation : 2012-04-01 00:00:00 --- 2012-08-31 23:00:00  (n=3672)
Dates test       : 2012-09-01 00:00:00 --- 2012-12-31 23:00:00  (n=2928)
```

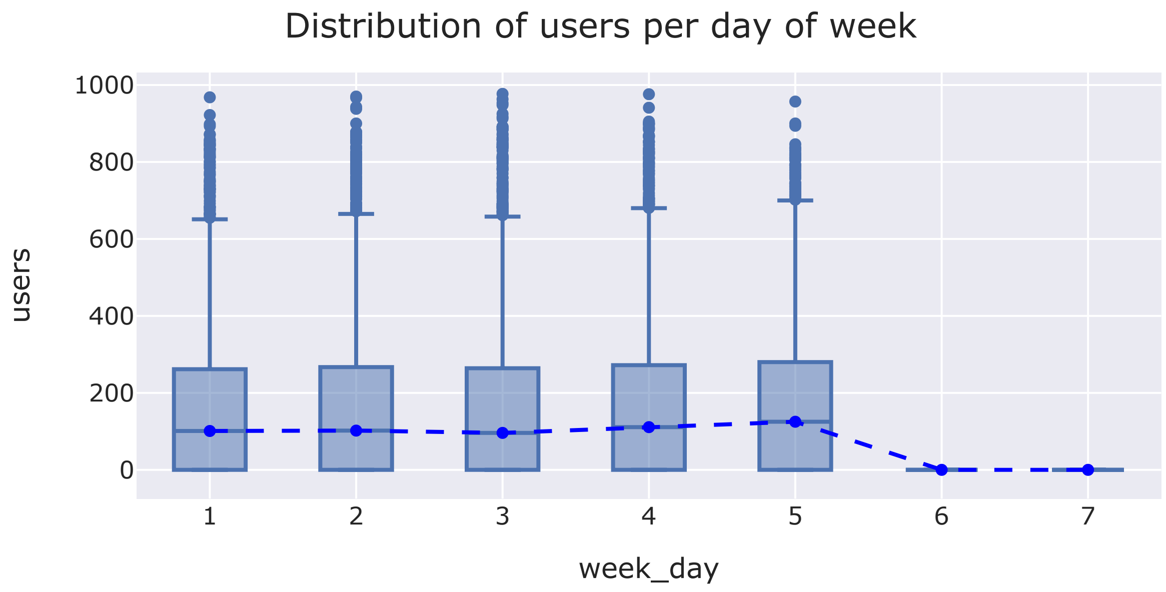
Plot time series

```
fig = go.Figure()
trace1 = go.Scatter(x=data_train.index, y=data_train['users'], name="train", mode="lines")
trace2 = go.Scatter(x=data_val.index, y=data_val['users'], name="validation", mode="lines")
trace3 = go.Scatter(x=data_test.index, y=data_test['users'], name="test", mode="lines")
fig.add_trace(trace1)
fig.add_trace(trace2)
fig.add_trace(trace3)
fig.update_layout(
    title="Time series of users",
    xaxis_title="Date time",
    yaxis_title="Users",
    width  = 800,
    height = 400,
    margin=dict(l=20, r=20, t=35, b=20),
    legend=dict(
        orientation="h",
        yanchor="top",
        y=1,
        xanchor="left",
        x=0.001
    )
)
fig.show()
```



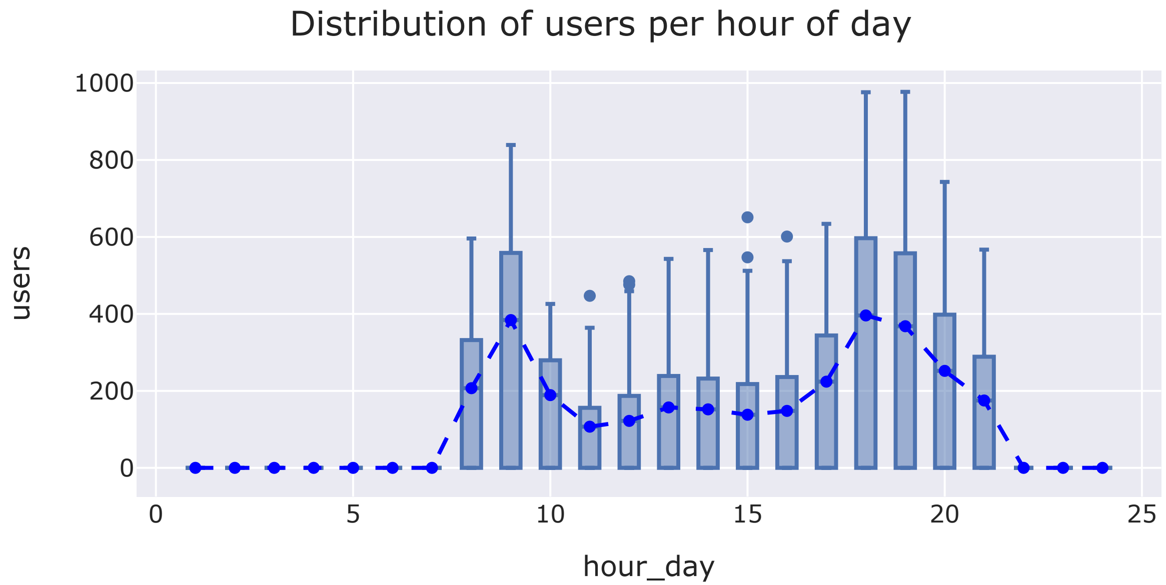
Boxplot for weekly seasonality

```
data['week_day'] = data.index.day_of_week + 1
fig = px.box(
        data,
        x="week_day",
        y="users",
        title = 'Distribution of users per day of week',
        width=600,
        height=300
     )
median_values = data.groupby('week_day')['users'].median()
fig.add_trace(
    go.Scatter(
        x=median_values.index,
        y=median_values.values,
        mode='lines+markers',
        line=dict(color='blue', dash='dash'),
        showlegend=False
    )
)
fig.update_layout(margin=dict(l=20, r=20, t=35, b=20))
fig.show()
```



Boxplot for daily seasonality

```
data['hour_day'] = data.index.hour + 1
fig = px.box(
        data,
        x="hour_day",
        y="users",
        title = 'Distribution of users per hour of day',
        width=600,
        height=300
     )
median_values = data.groupby('hour_day')['users'].median()
fig.add_trace(
    go.Scatter(
        x=median_values.index,
        y=median_values.values,
        mode='lines+markers',
        line=dict(color='blue', dash='dash'),
        showlegend=False
    )
)
fig.update_layout(margin=dict(l=20, r=20, t=35, b=20))
fig.show()
```



Define a custom metric to evaluate the model

To accurately evaluate the performance of the model, it is crucial to define a metric that closely reflects the business scenario in which the model will be used. Specifically, in this case, the model's performance should be optimized during weekdays from 9:00 to 20:00.

```
def custom_metric(y_true, y_pred):
    """
    Calculate the mean absolute error using only the predicted values for weekdays
    from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM
    """

    day_of_week = y_true.index.day_of_week
    hour_of_day = y_true.index.hour
    mask = day_of_week.isin([0, 1, 2, 3, 4]) | ((hour_of_day > 7) | (hour_of_day < 20))
    metric = mean_absolute_error(y_true[mask], y_pred[mask])

    return metric
```

Forecasting

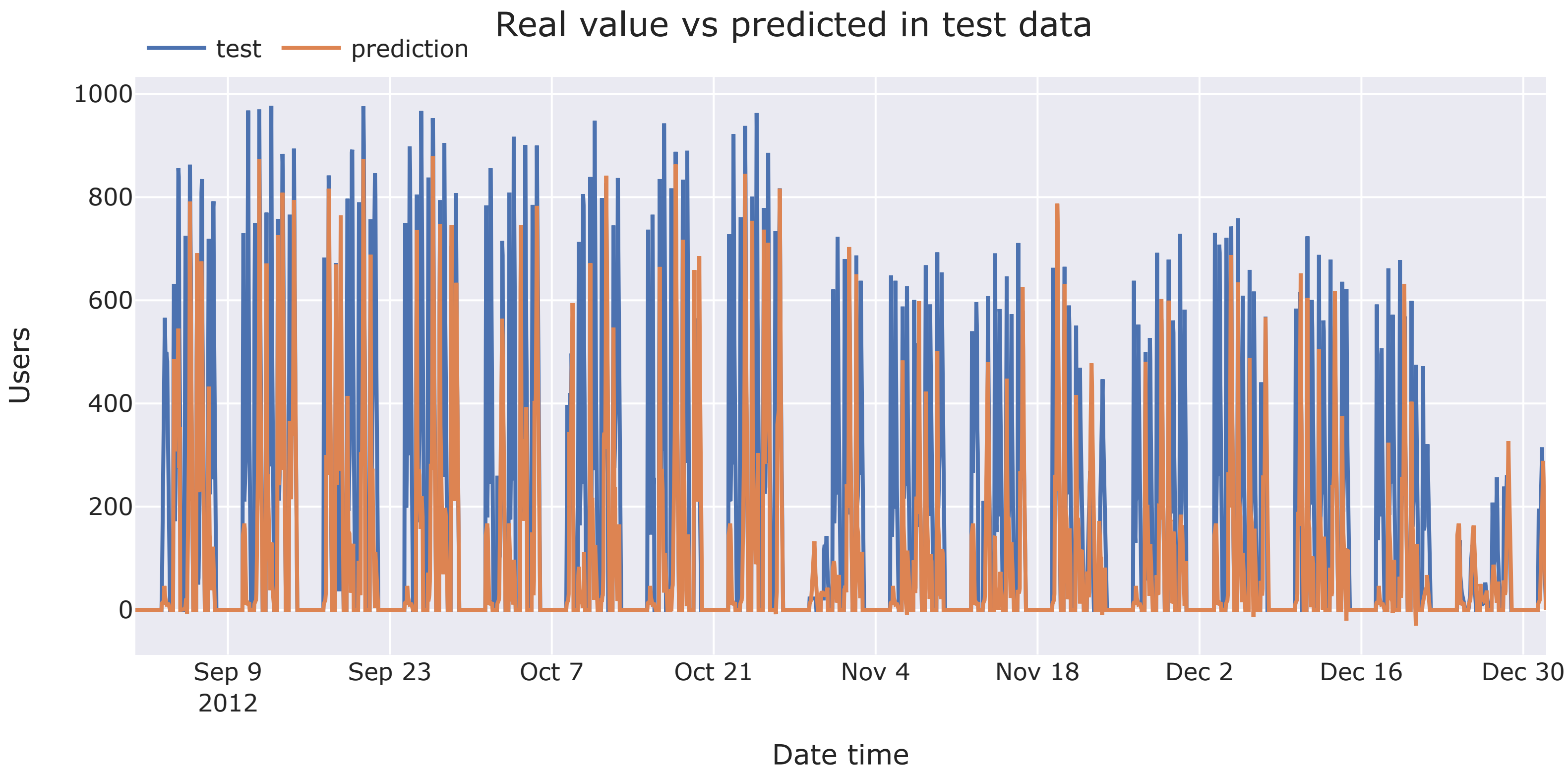
```
# Create forecaster
forecaster = ForecasterAutoreg(
                 regressor = LGBMRegressor(
                                 learning_rate = 0.1,
                                 max_depth     = 5,
                                 n_estimators  = 500,
                                 random_state  = 123,
                             ),
                 lags = 24
             )
forecaster
```

```
=================
ForecasterAutoreg
=================
Regressor: LGBMRegressor(max_depth=5, n_estimators=500, random_state=123)
Lags: [ 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24]
Transformer for y: None
Transformer for exog: None
Window size: 24
Weight function included: False
Differentiation order: None
Exogenous included: False
Type of exogenous variable: None
Exogenous variables names: None
Training range: None
Training index type: None
Training index frequency: None
Regressor parameters: {'boosting_type': 'gbdt', 'class_weight': None, 'colsample_bytree': 1.0, 'importance_type': 'split',
'learning_rate': 0.1, 'max_depth': 5, 'min_child_samples': 20, 'min_child_weight': 0.001, 'min_split_gain': 0.0,
'n_estimators': 500, 'n_jobs': None, 'num_leaves': 31, 'objective': None, 'random_state': 123, 'reg_alpha': 0.0, 'reg_lambda':
0.0, 'subsample': 1.0, 'subsample_for_bin': 200000, 'subsample_freq': 0}
fit_kwargs: {}
Creation date: 2024-04-16 16:31:24
Last fit date: None
Skforecast version: 0.11.0
```

```
Python version: 3.10.12
Forecaster id: None
```

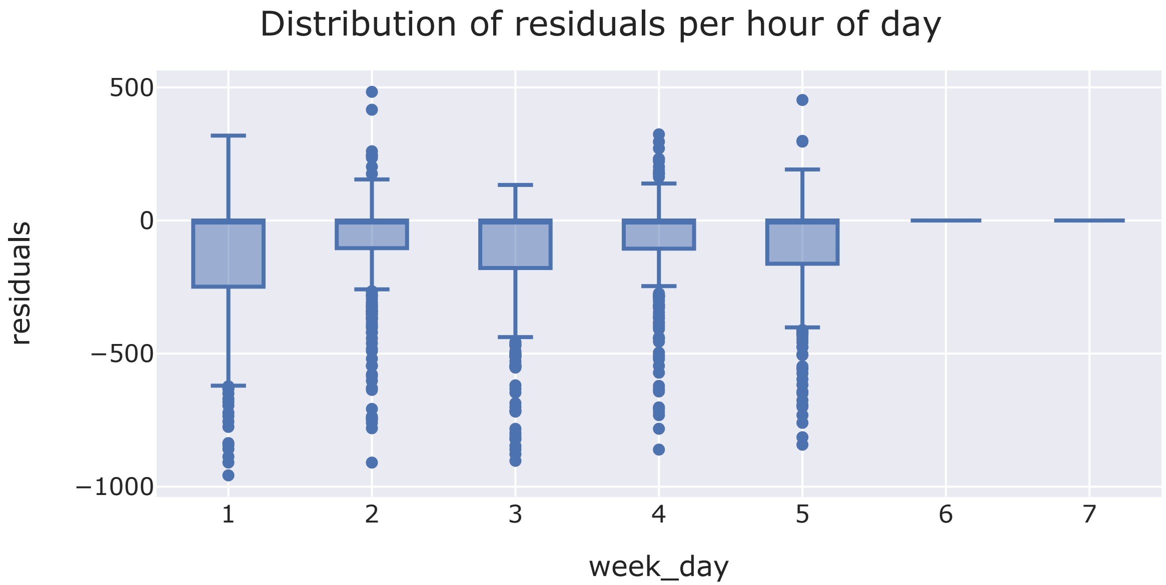
```
# Backtesting test period
metric, predictions = backtesting_forecaster(
                          forecaster         = forecaster,
                          y                  = data['users'],
                          initial_train_size = len(data.loc[:end_validation]),
                          fixed_train_size   = False,
                          steps              = 36,
                          refit              = False,
                          metric             = custom_metric,
                          verbose            = True
                      )

print(f"Backtest error: {metric}")


# Set to zero predictions for closed hours
hour = data_test.index.hour
day_of_week = data_test.index.day_of_week
closed_hours = (hour < 7) | (hour > 20)
closed_days = day_of_week.isin([5, 6])
is_closed = (closed_hours) | (closed_days)
predictions[is_closed] = 0
```

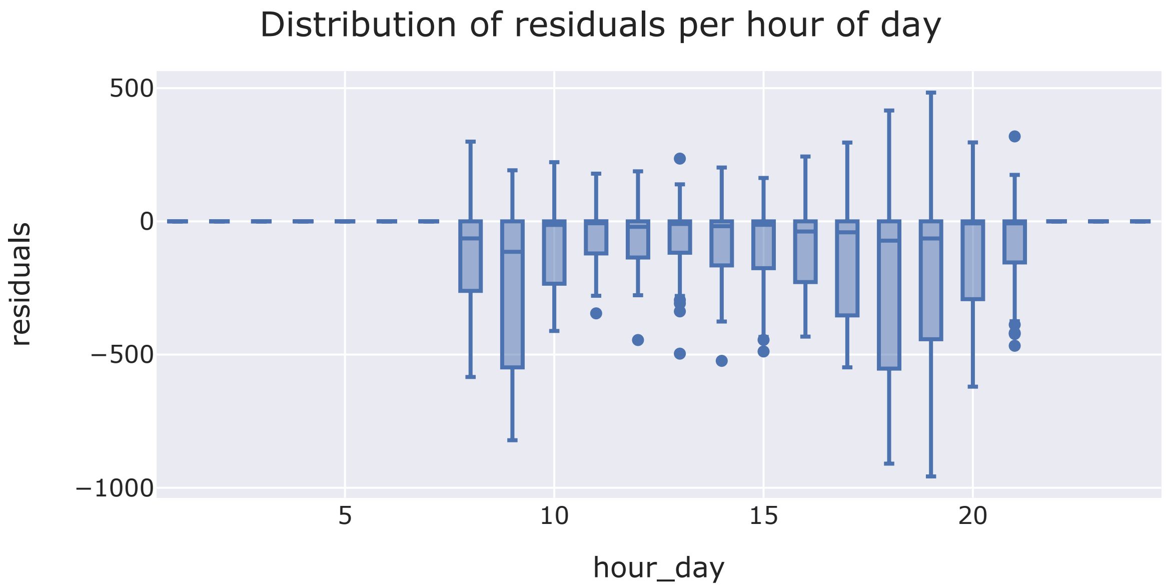
```
# Plot predictions vs real value

fig = go.Figure()
trace1 = go.Scatter(x=data_test.index, y=data_test['users'], name="test", mode="lines")
trace2 = go.Scatter(x=predictions.index, y=predictions['pred'], name="prediction", mode="lines")
fig.add_trace(trace1)
fig.add_trace(trace2)
fig.update_layout(
    title="Real value vs predicted in test data",
    xaxis_title="Date time",
    yaxis_title="Users",
    width  = 800,
    height = 400,
    margin=dict(l=20, r=20, t=35, b=20),
    legend=dict(
        orientation="h",
        yanchor="top",
        y=1.1,
        xanchor="left",
        x=0.001
    )
)
fig.show()
```



When analysing the estimated predictions, it is clear that the model struggles to accurately capture the patterns of store opening and closing times. In addition, the influence of lags leads to an underestimation of the first few hours of the day and the days following the closing days.

```
# Distribution of residuals by day of week and hour of day
residuals = (predictions['pred'] - data_test['users']).to_frame('residuals')
residuals['week_day'] = residuals.index.day_of_week + 1
residuals['hour_day'] = residuals.index.hour + 1

fig = px.box(
        residuals,
        x="week_day",
        y="residuals",
        title = 'Distribution of residuals per hour of day',
        width=600,
        height=300
     )
fig.update_layout(margin=dict(l=20, r=20, t=35, b=20))
fig.show()

fig = px.box(
        residuals,
        x="hour_day",
        y="residuals",
        title = 'Distribution of residuals per hour of day',
        width=600,
        height=300
     )
fig.update_layout(margin=dict(l=20, r=20, t=35, b=20))
fig.show()
```





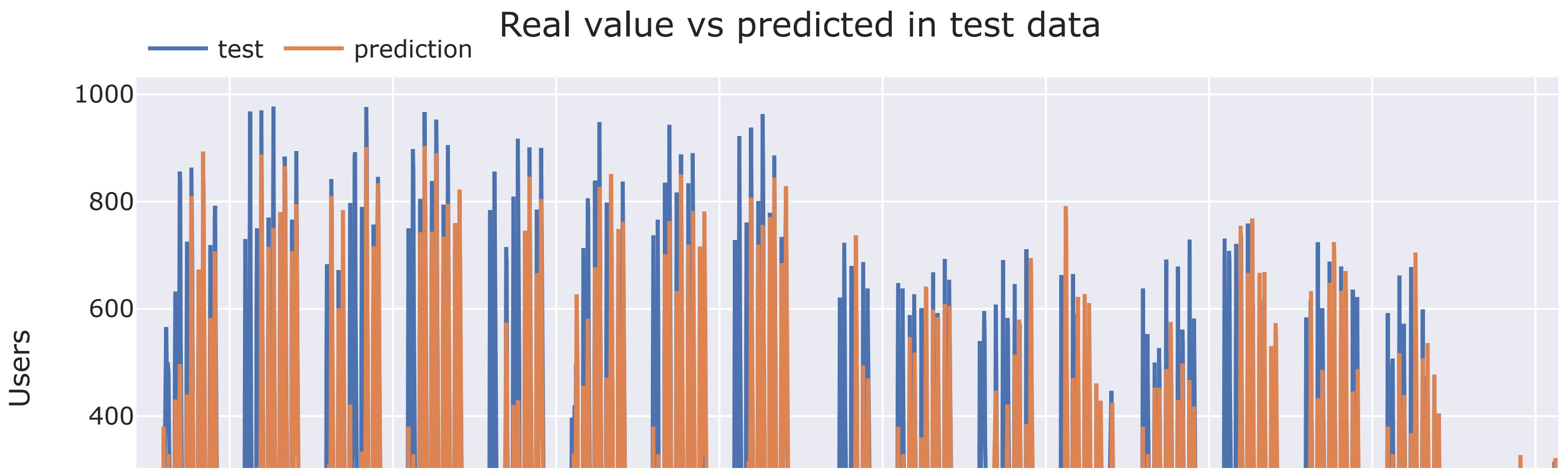
Inform the model when the store is closed

Exogenous variables can be used in a forecasting model to provide additional information and improve the model's ability to detect patterns. This approach offers the advantage of incorporating external factors that could influence the accuracy of the forecast, leading to a more reliable and accurate forecasting model.

```
# Create exogenous variable
hour = data.index.hour
day_of_week = data.index.day_of_week
closed_hours = (hour < 7) | (hour > 20)
closed_days = day_of_week.isin([5, 6])
is_closed = (closed_hours) | (closed_days)
data['is_closed'] = is_closed

end_train = '2012-03-31 23:59:00'
end_validation = '2012-08-31 23:59:00'
data_train = data.loc[: end_train, :]
data_val   = data.loc[end_train:end_validation, :]
data_test  = data.loc[end_validation:, :]
```

```
# Backtesting test period
metric, predictions = backtesting_forecaster(
    forecaster         = forecaster,
    y                  = data['users'],
    exog               = data['is_closed'],
    initial_train_size = len(data.loc[:end_validation]),
    fixed_train_size   = False,
    steps              = 36,
    refit              = False,
    metric             = custom_metric,
    verbose            = False
)

print(f"Backtest error: {metric}")
```

```
# Set to zero predictions for closed hours
hour = data_test.index.hour
day_of_week = data_test.index.day_of_week
closed_hours = (hour < 7) | (hour > 20)
closed_days = day_of_week.isin([5, 6])
is_closed = (closed_hours) | (closed_days)
predictions[is_closed] = 0


# Plot predictions vs real value
fig = go.Figure()
trace1 = go.Scatter(x=data_test.index, y=data_test['users'], name="test", mode="lines")
trace2 = go.Scatter(x=predictions.index, y=predictions['pred'], name="prediction", mode="lines")
fig.add_trace(trace1)
fig.add_trace(trace2)
fig.update_layout(
    title="Real value vs predicted in test data",
    xaxis_title="Date time",
    yaxis_title="Users",
    width  = 800,
    height = 400,
    margin=dict(l=20, r=20, t=35, b=20),
    legend=dict(
        orientation="h",
        yanchor="top",
        y=1.1,
        xanchor="left",
        x=0.001
    )
)
fig.show()
```


Real value vs predicted in test data
test
prediction
Users
1000
800
600
400