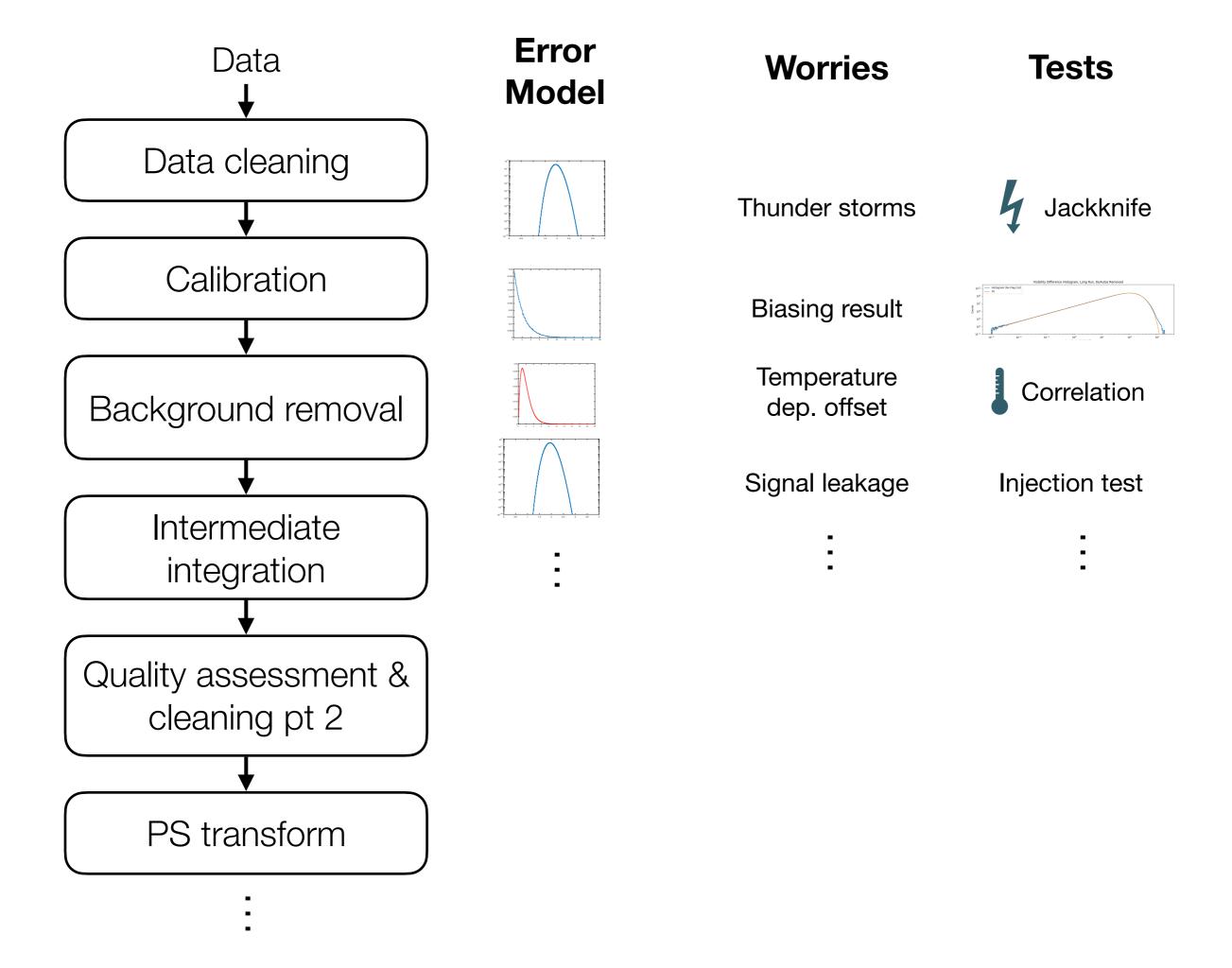
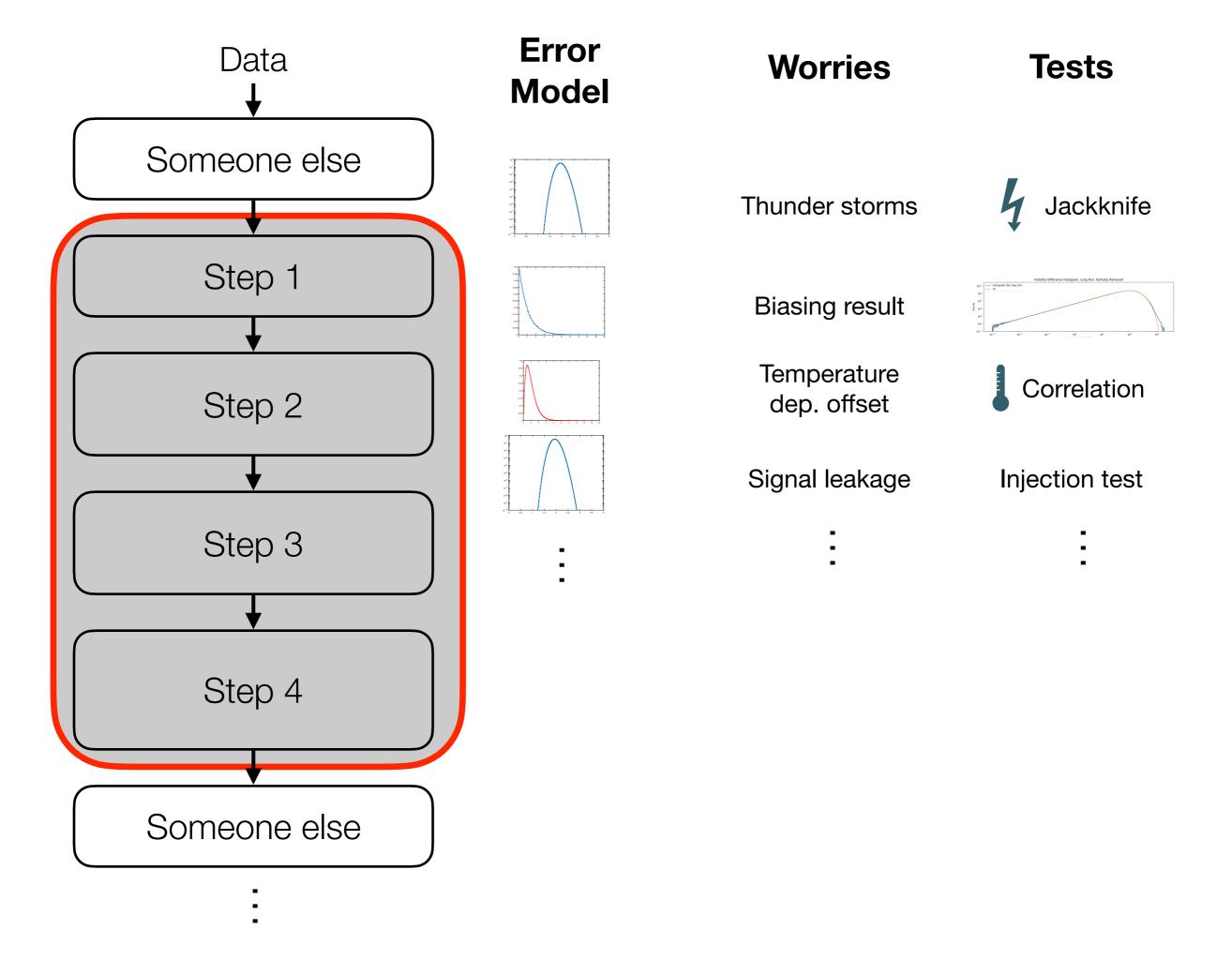
Class 9: Analysis plan

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Questions

- Big questions: what you want to know in the end
- · Little questions: what should data look like at each step
- Worries: Concerns about the analysis as a whole, but best answered with well understood intermediate products.

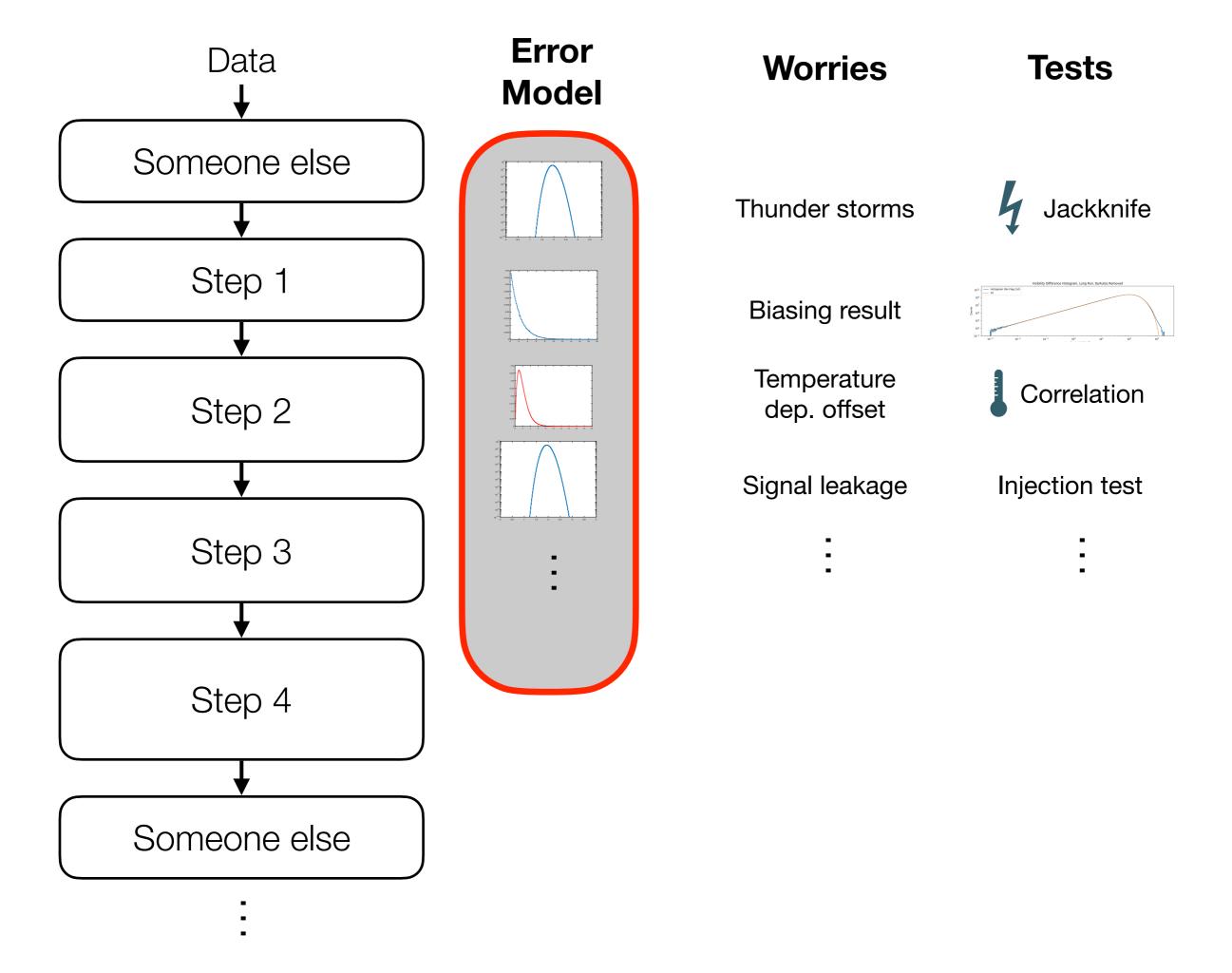


Little steps

Break your analysis problem into a few simple steps.

Examples:

- Filtering data in a specific way (throw outliers on metric A)
- Transforming the data (e.g. averaging, taking a Fourier Transform)
- A calibration step
- Determining or transforming units (e.g. milliVolts to keV)
- Fitting a model (data now in parameter space)

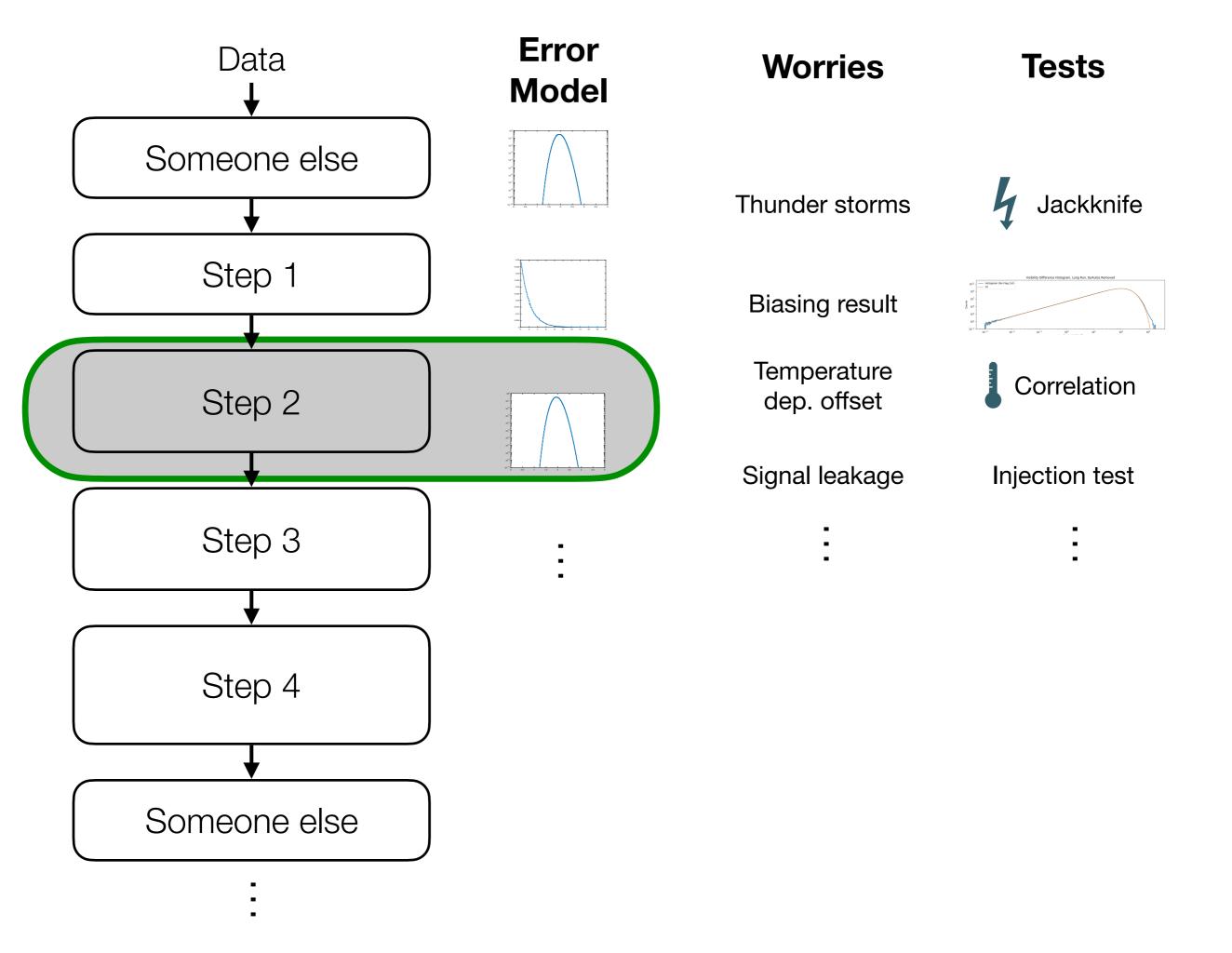


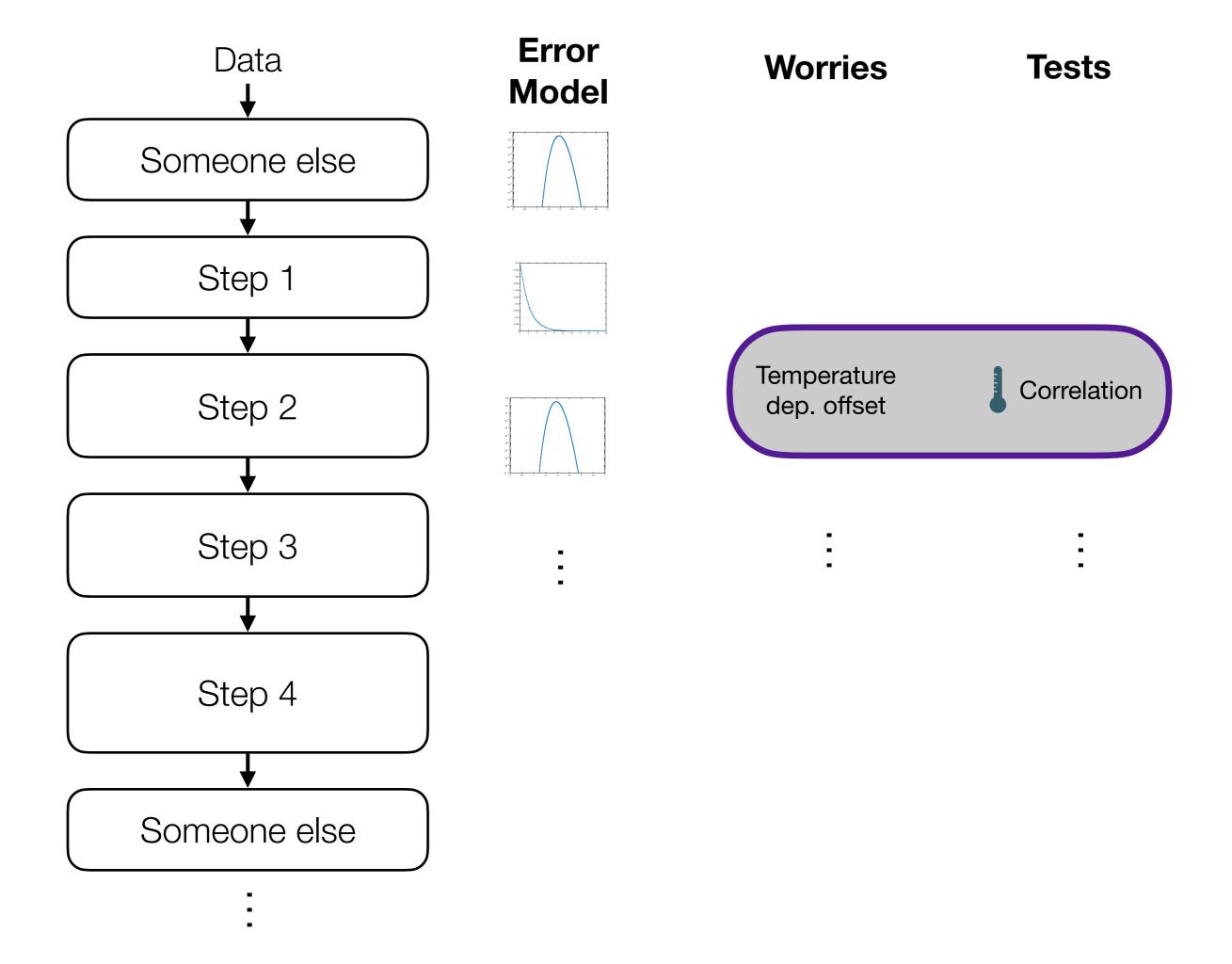
Predict background at each step

Examples:

- Unit or axis change (mV->keV, or uncalibrated to calibrated)
- Filtering or removal of outliers (data quality cuts)
- A mathematical transformation (average, square, Fourier Transform, parameter fit).

Can be placeholders but think about the background and how it changes.





Develop a list of worries & tests

Make a list of worries

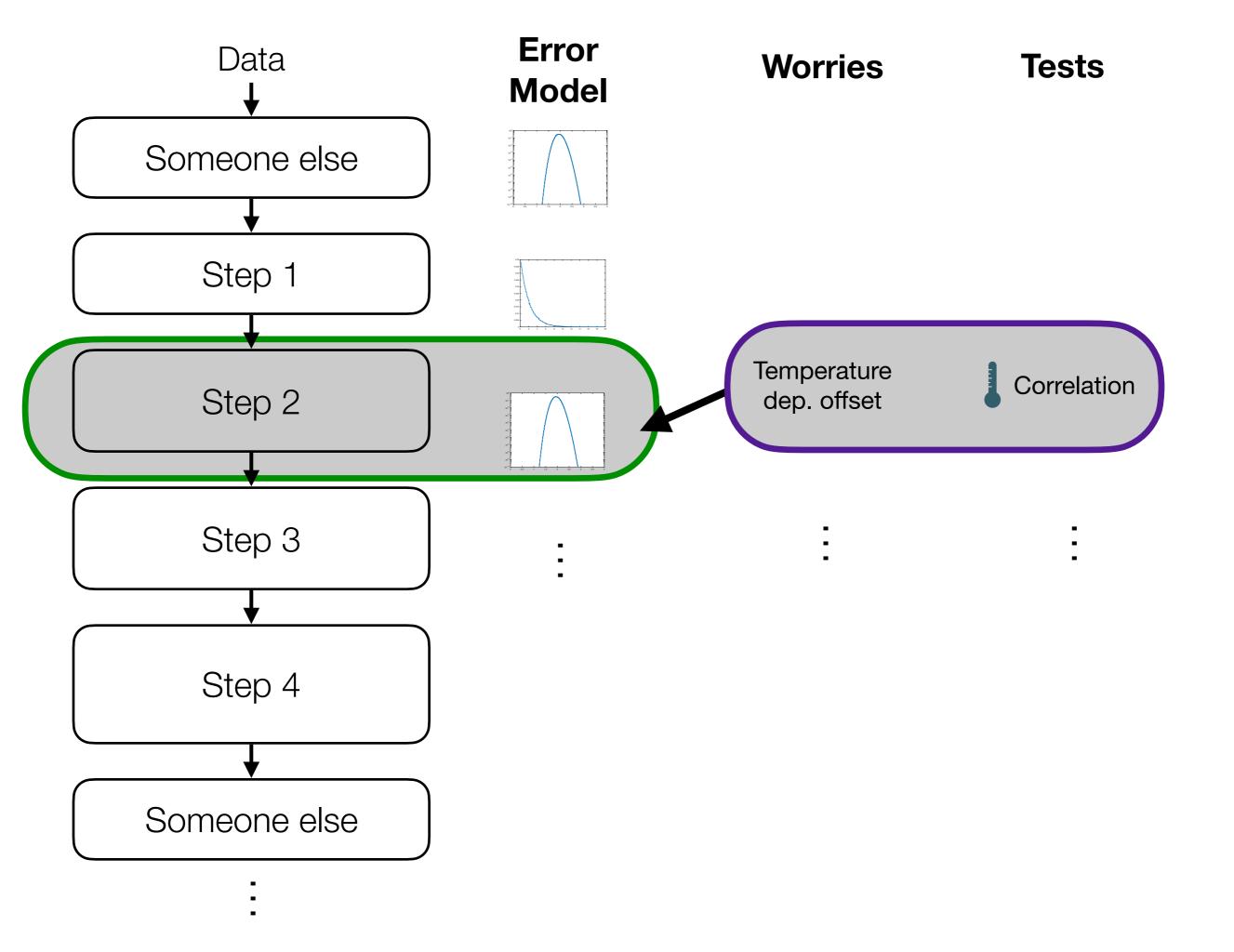
Take your time, creative & concrete both useful

Develop a test for each

jackknife, specific plot, or statistical test

Link to analysis step(s) where test is best performed

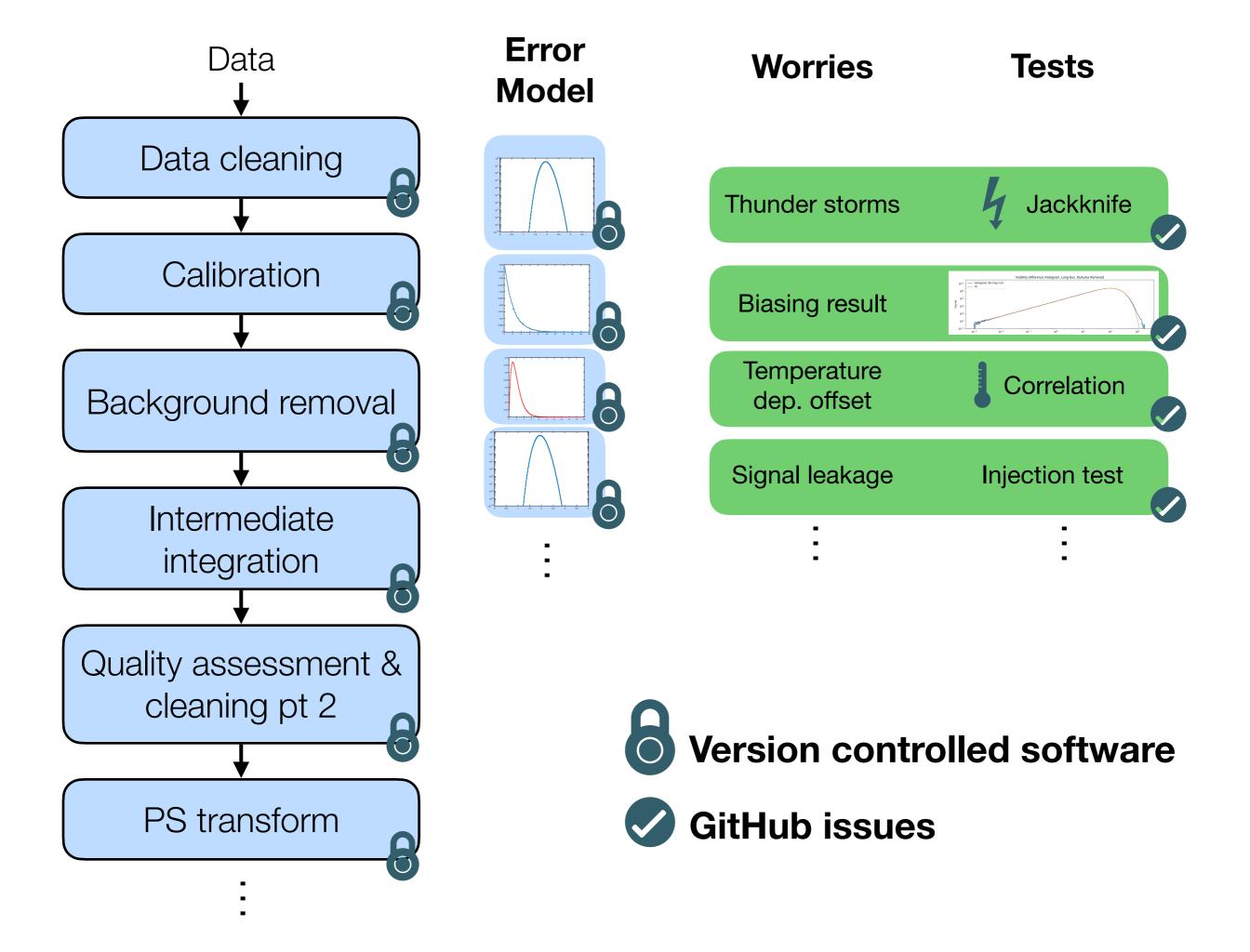
 Many questions usually best answered on some intermediate data space and/or internal analysis switch



Organize

GitHub issues are great here

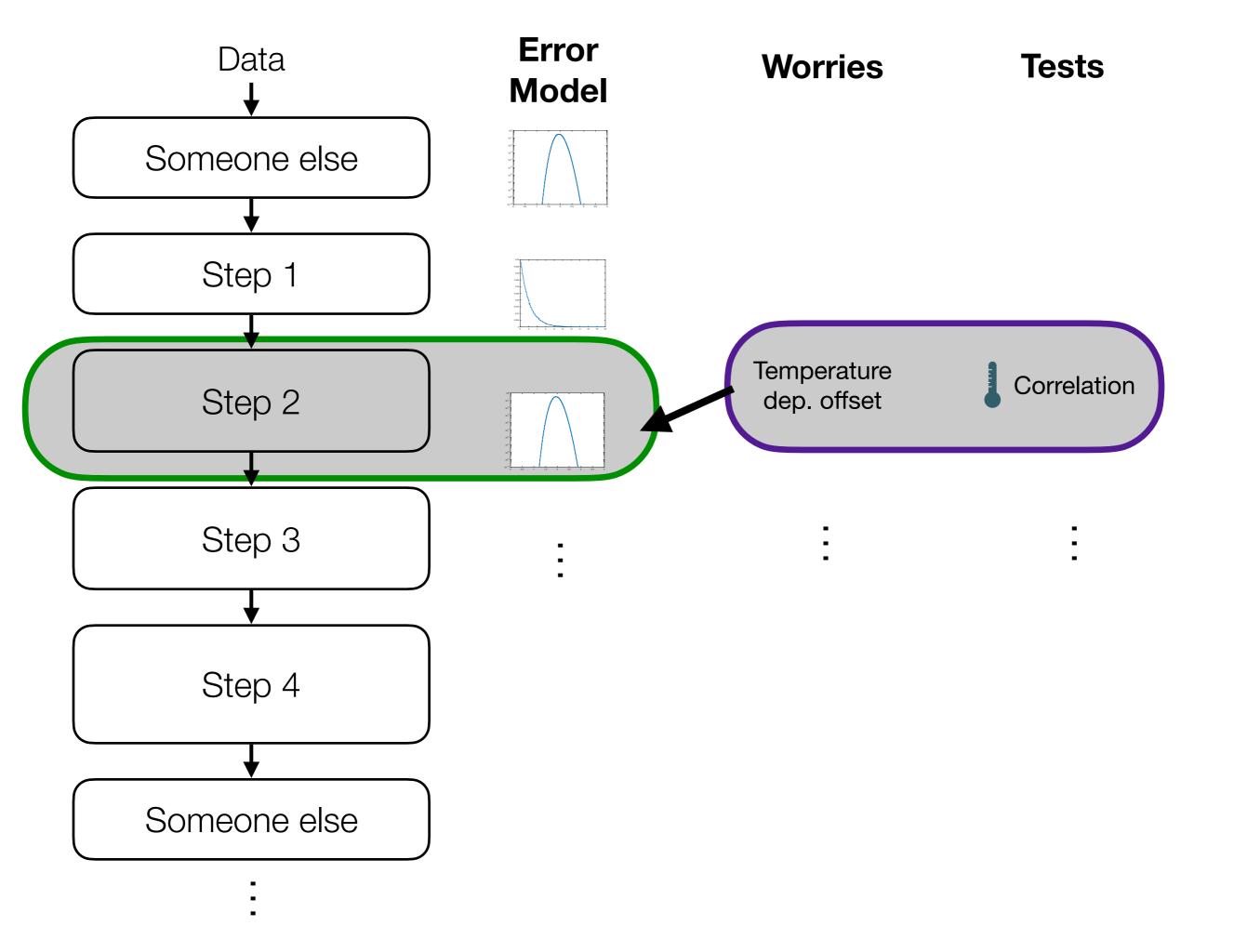
- Self-contained analysis steps & code
- Linking of tests to specific analysis & testing code
- Documenting progress on worries (memos also great)
- Checking off of worries (closing issues)
- Ties in with more advanced techniques, e.g. provenance (next week)



TANIT. PANIC.

Your assignment

- Design an analysis chain
 - Break into small steps
 - Predict background at each step
- Make a list of worries
 - Develop a jackknife or test for each worry
 - Determine at which step(s) the test is best done



Metadata

Metadata

All the information about your data

- When it was taken
- What instrument took it
- How it was calibrated (calibration version, code that did calibration, etc.)
- Prior steps in analysis

Any information you need about the data for a plot

Metadata as a nutrition label for your data



Tagging your data with information



Metadata goals

- Basic: you can read the information about your data from the file (nutrition label for everything on a plot)
- Goal: you can recreate the analysis as needed (routines run, git hashes, etc.)
- Advanced: can recreate full instrument & analysis state (e.g. adds links back into Monitor & Control database; library versions)

How to store metadata

- Don't store it in the file name
 - Too mutable
 - Not enough space
- Almost all modern file formats have locations for metadata (e.g. headers)
 - FITS, hdf5, AVRO...

Using a standard binary file format (fits, hdf5, avro)

- · Accurate (conversion, endian issues, etc.)
- Compact (stores the bits; lossless compression possible)
- Fast (no extra conversion)
- Partial read & write (some of them, important for big data)
- Standard & user defined places to put metadata!

Filenames

- It is useful to have some form of metadata in filename
 - File number, date, etc.
- Too easy to overwrite
- Store all metadata in file headers
 - Copy useful subset into file name for convenience
 - If internal metadata and file name disagree, internal wins