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► **To cite this version:**

Kostiantyn Maksymenko, Maureen Clerc, Théodore Papadopoulo. Data-driven cortical clustering to provide a family of plausible solutions to the M/EEG inverse problem. BIOMAG 2018, Aug 2018, Philadelphia, United States. hal-01874281

**HAL Id: hal-01874281**

**<https://hal.science/hal-01874281>**

Submitted on 14 Sep 2018

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# Data-driven cortical clustering to provide a family of plausible solutions to the M/EEG inverse problem

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## 1 MOTIVATION

- Sources are represented as a **connected cortical region**, rather than a dipole
- Several separated cortical regions can fit the data with similar accuracy. While convex optimization based methods give a single solution, we explore a **family of plausible solutions**
- Estimate not only the position, but also **extension range** of the regions

## 2 ASSUMPTIONS

- Data model:  $y = Lx + N$  ( $L$  is a lead field)
- Source space: cortical mesh
- Brain activity  $\mathcal{X}$ : single region with a constant amplitude over this region; one time sample

## 3 METHOD

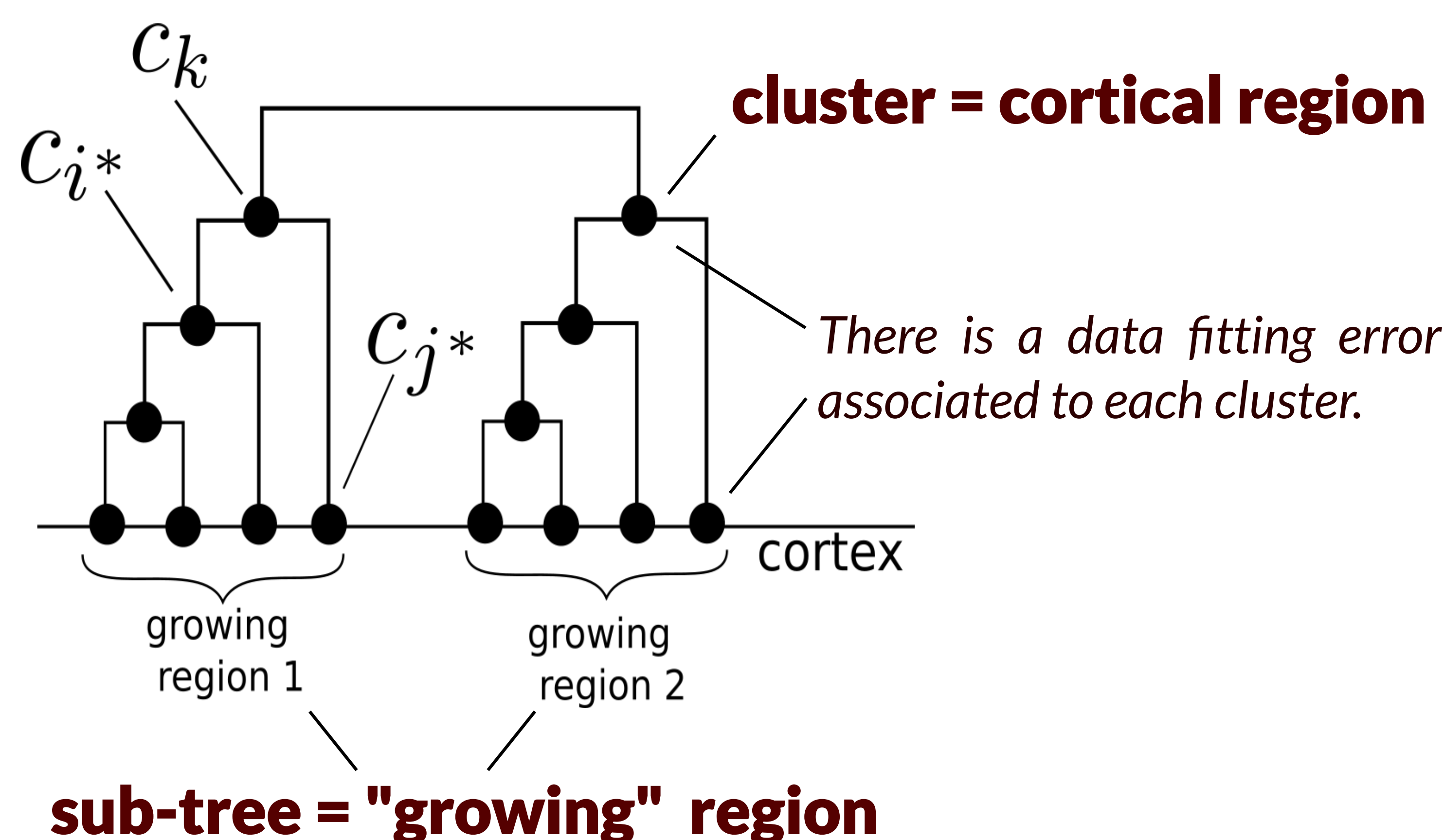
Adapting **hierarchical clustering** algorithm [1] to fit M/EEG data :

- Mesh vertices represent initial clusters
- Mesh edges define the cluster neighborhood

- Among all inter neighbors clusters, find clusters  $c_{i^*}, c_{j^*}$  which minimize:

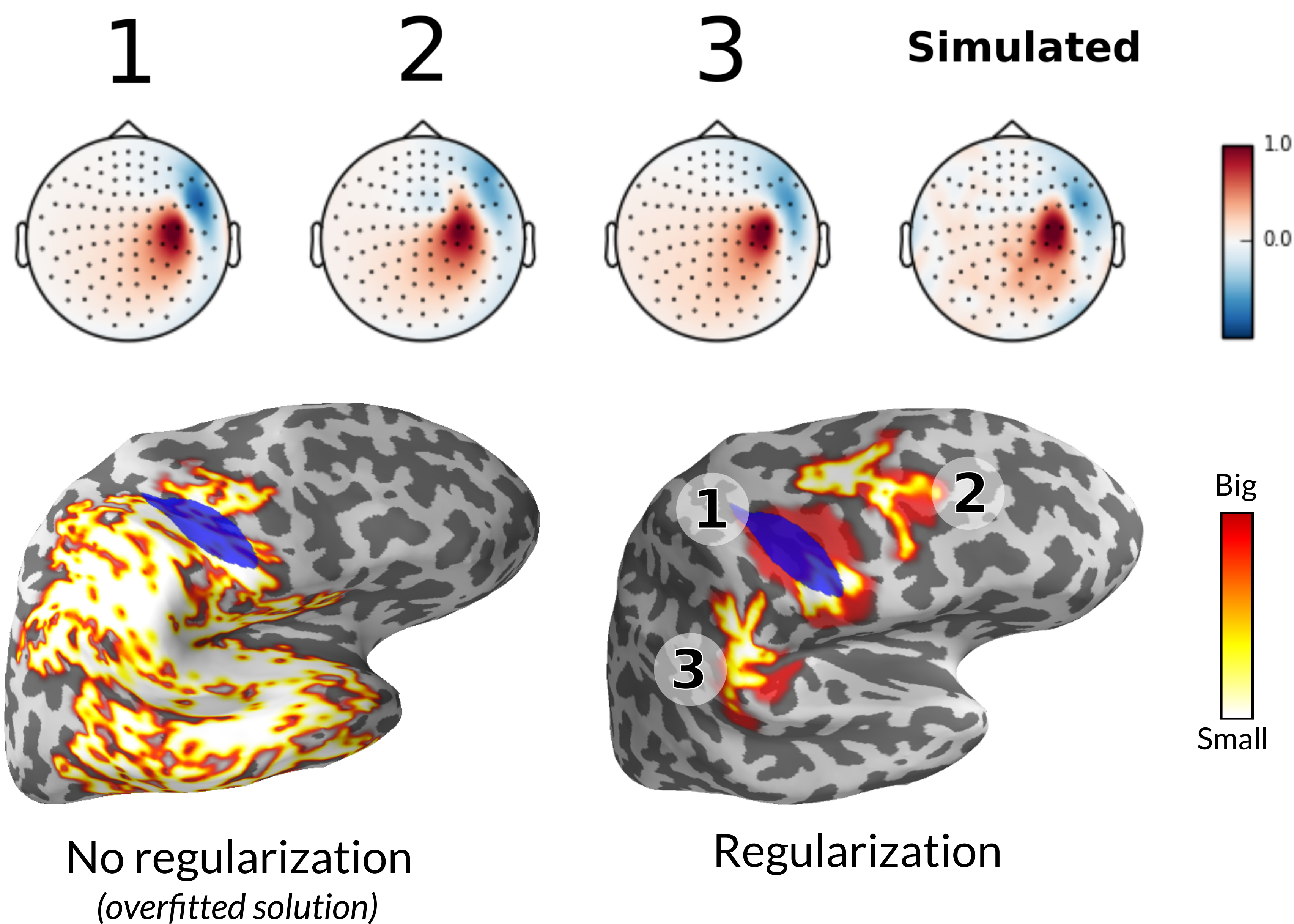
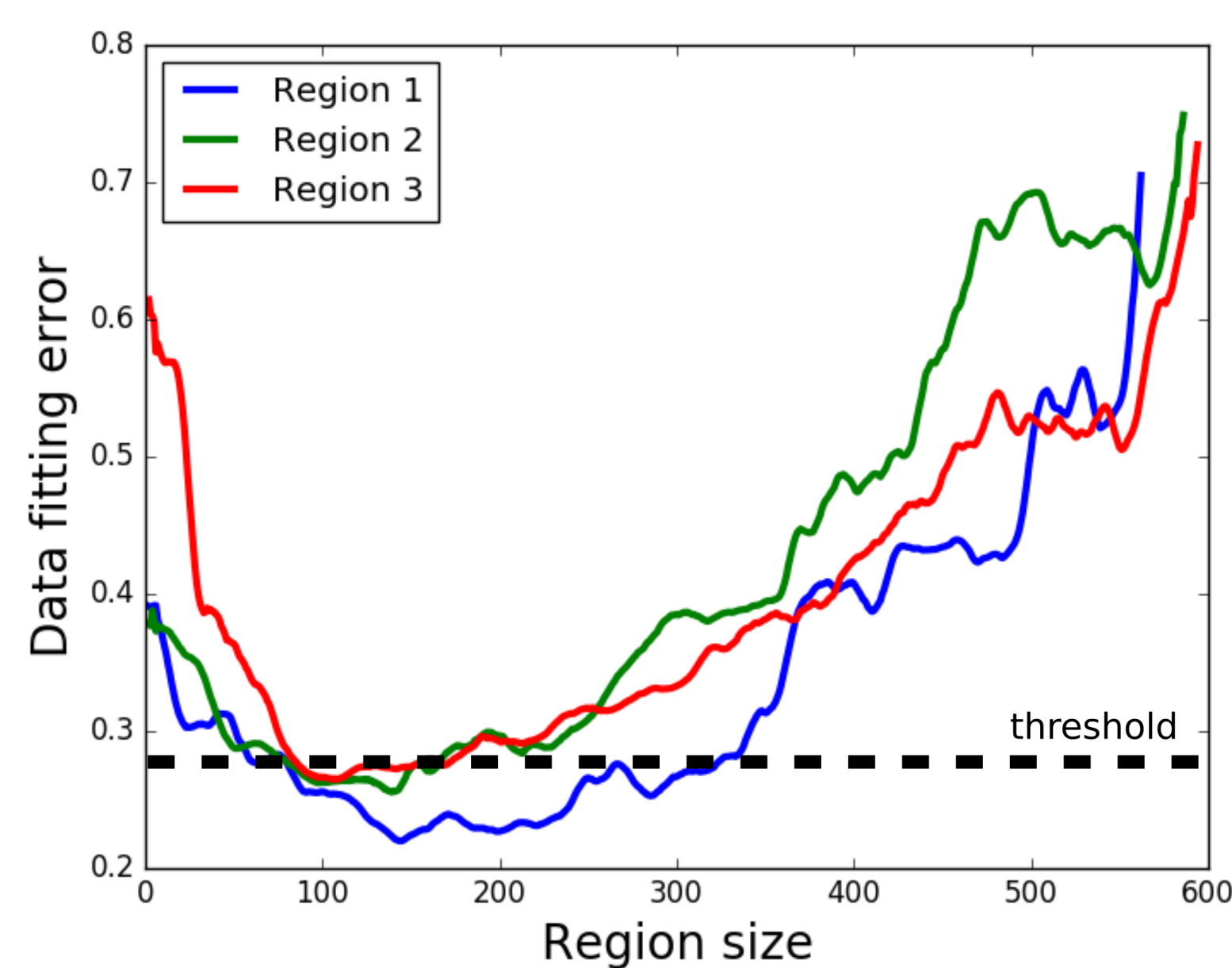
$$E(i, j) = \min_a \|y - a \cdot (L(c_i) + L(c_j))\|_2 + R(i, j)$$

- Merge these clusters:  $c_k = c_{i^*} \cup c_{j^*}, L(c_k) = L(c_{i^*}) + L(c_{j^*})$
- Repeat until the whole cortex is one cluster
- Cut the tree to obtain separated "growing" regions
- Select best regions by thresholding data fitting error



## 4 RESULTS

- Simulated MEG signal of one active region (in blue) with additive noise
- Reconstructed with and without regularization. (we regularized region shapes but other alternatives are possible)
- Obtained 3 spatially separated regions which explain the data with high accuracy (with regul.)
- Estimated the extension range of each region



## 5 CONCLUSIONS

New approach for the M/EEG inverse problem which:

- Deals with a "growing region" object, which allows to explore space of solutions
- Gives several candidates for solution and their extension ranges

Future work:

- Regularization term to be investigated
- Error thresholding to be investigated
- Multiple source case by adapting the MUSIC method [2]

Acknowledgement: This work has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program (ERC Advanced Grant agreement No 694665 : CoBCoM - Computational Brain Connectivity Mapping).

References: [1] F. Murtagh and P. Contreras. Methods of Hierarchical Clustering. Computing Research Repository - CORR, 2011. [2] N. Mäkelä, M. Stenroos, J. Sarvas and R.J. Ilmoniemi. Truncated RAP-MUSIC (TRAP-MUSIC) for MEG and EEG source localization. NeuroImage, Volume 167, 15 February 2018, Pages 73-83.