

# Modeling the temporal architecture of sleep-wake transition dynamics

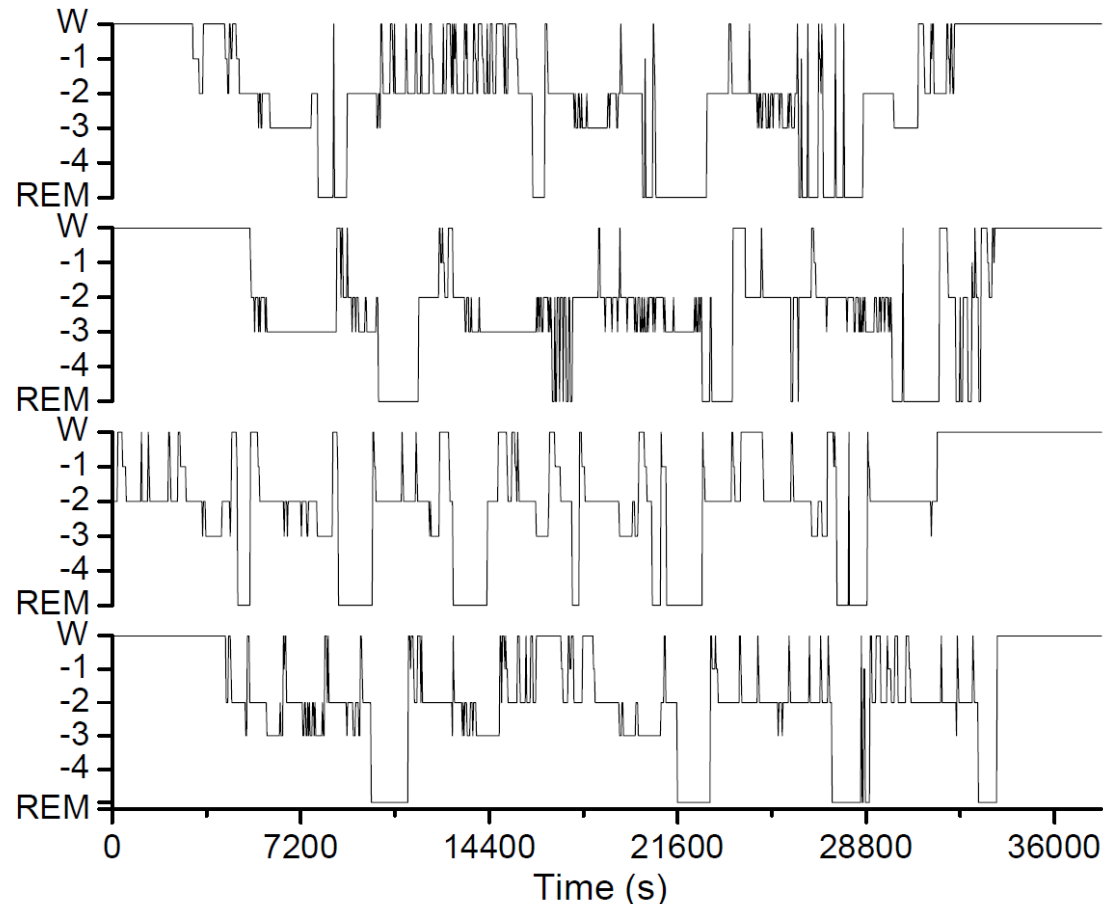
Victoria Booth, Depts of Mathematics and Anesthesiology,  
University of Michigan

Cecilia Diniz Behn, Dept of Mathematics, Gettysburg College



# Human sleep temporal architecture

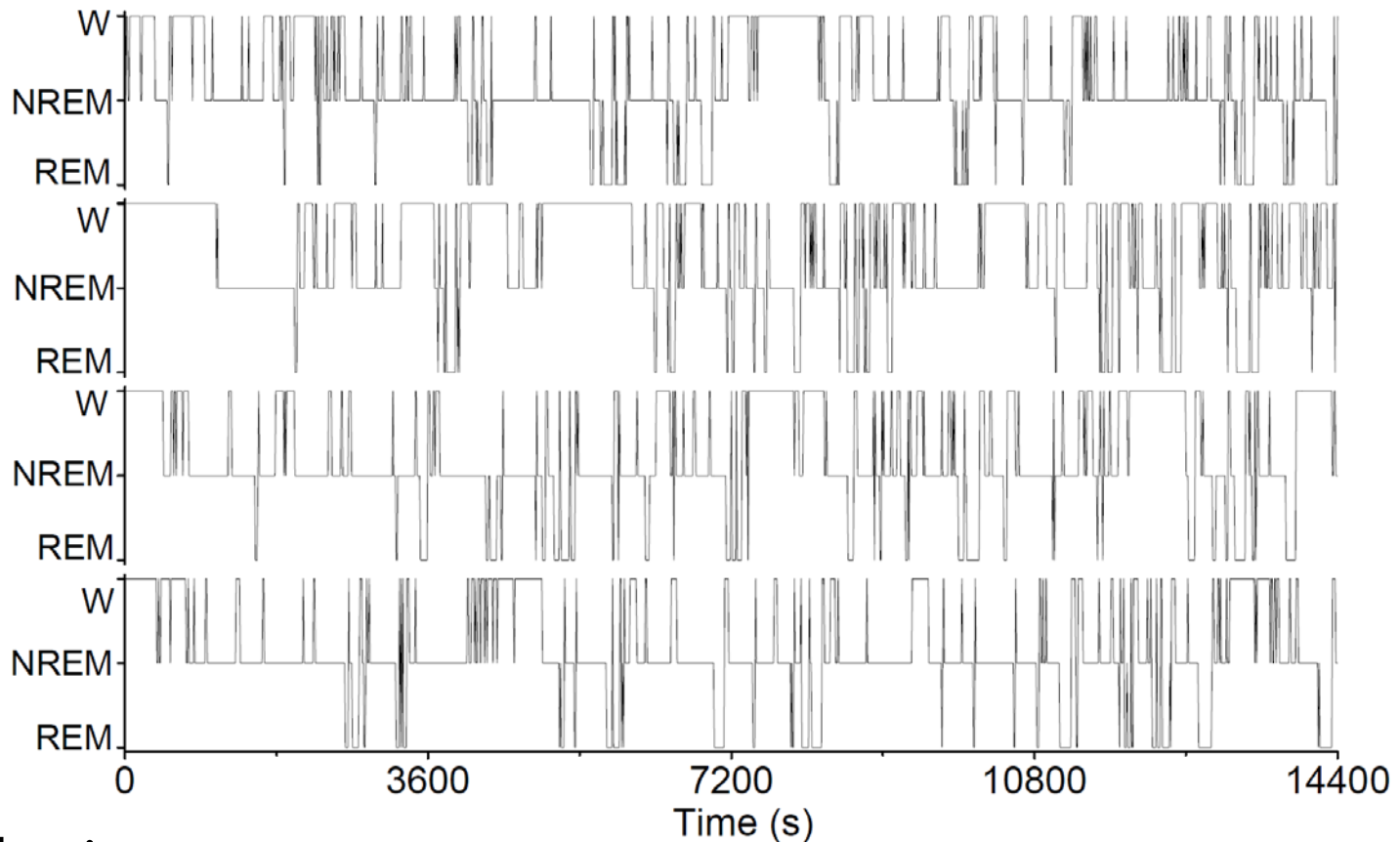
---



- ▶ NREM-REM cycling (~90 min cycle length)
- ▶ Healthy sleep is fragmented by brief wake bouts
- ▶ Human sleep recordings from SHHS ([dcweb1.case.edu/serc](http://dcweb1.case.edu/serc))

# Rat sleep temporal architecture

---



- ▶ Polyphasic
- ▶ Highly fragmented with variable state dynamics

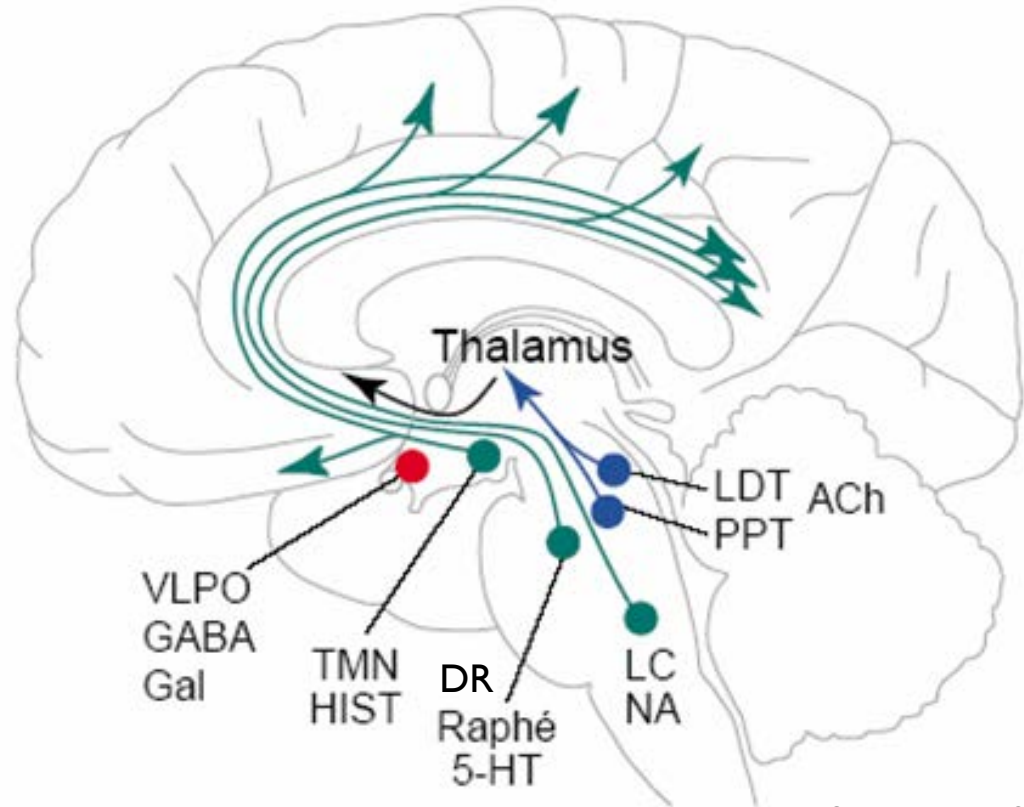
---

▶ Rat sleep in the light period recordings courtesy of George Mashour (Anesthesiology, U of Michigan)

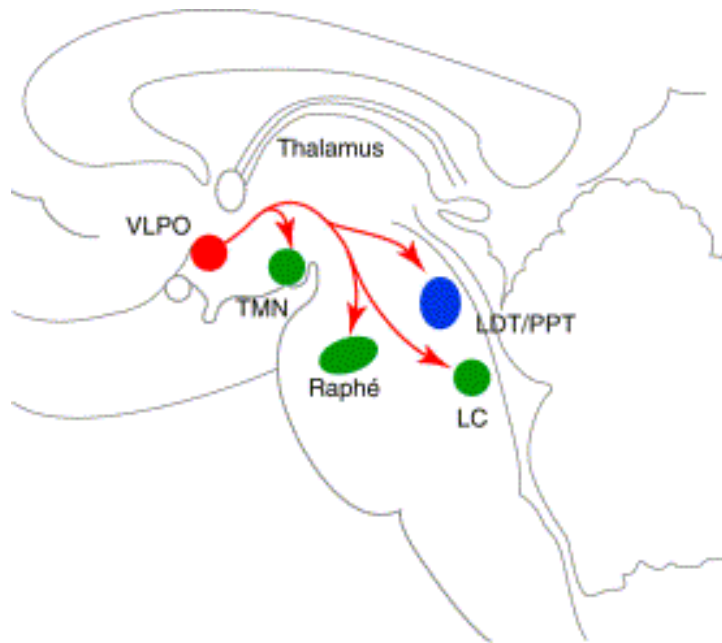
# Anatomy and physiology of sleep-wake regulation

---

- ▶ High activity in **LC/DR/TMN** and **LDT/PPT** promotes wake
- ▶ Wake characterized by high expression of **norepinephrine (NE)**, **serotonin (5-HT)** and **acetylcholine (ACh)** to thalamus and cortical regions

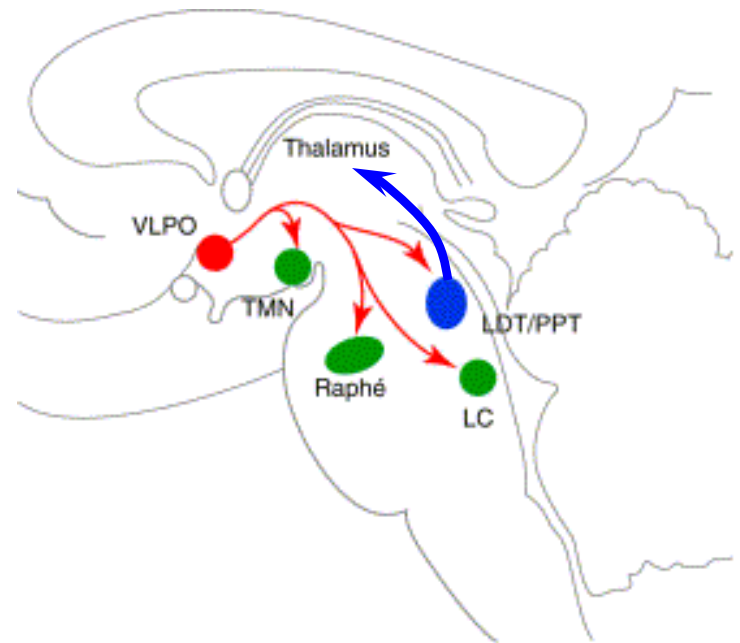


Saper et al., 2001



Sleep states characterized by low activity in **LC/DR/TMN**.

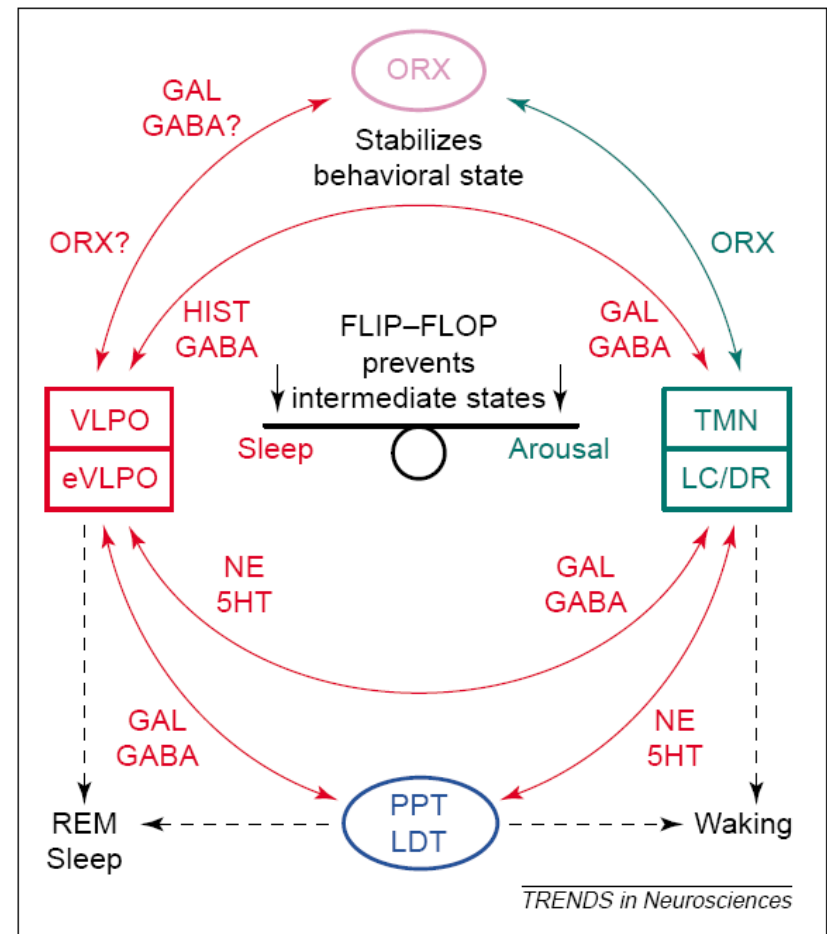
**VLPO** neurons have high activity during sleep and GABAergic projections to **LC/DR/TMN**



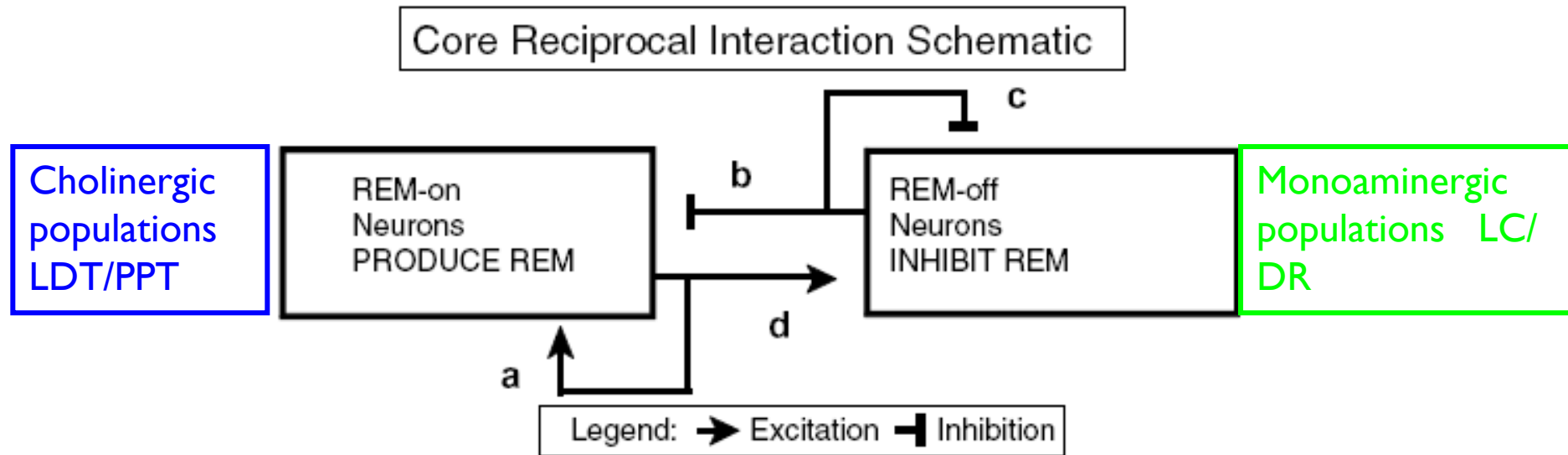
In REM sleep, **cholinergic populations** reactivate. ACh in thalamus and brainstem induce REM characteristics.

# Sleep-wake flip-flop switch

- ▶ Mutual inhibitory synaptic projections between wake-active populations and VLPO suggests bistable flip-flop switch
- ▶ Dynamics of mutual inhibition could account for:
  - ▶ Fast transitions between states
  - ▶ Stability of sleep and wake states

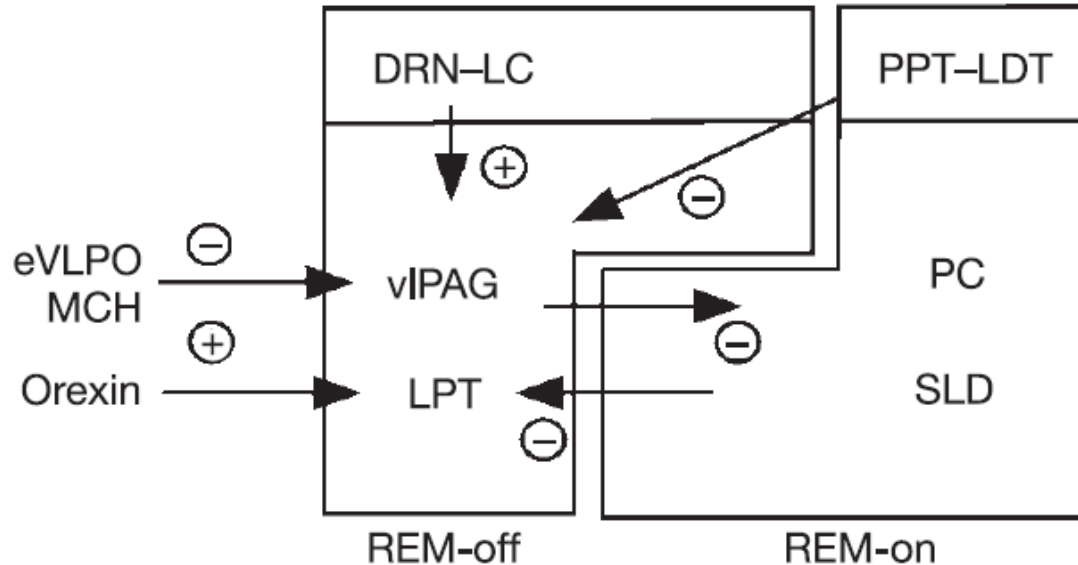


# Reciprocal Interaction model for REM sleep cycling



- Monoaminergic inhibition from **LC/DR** inhibits REM-on subpopulation of **LDT/PPT**
- Cholinergic excitation from **LDT/PPT** activates **LC/DR** to terminate REM-on activity

# REM-on/REM-off flip-flop switch

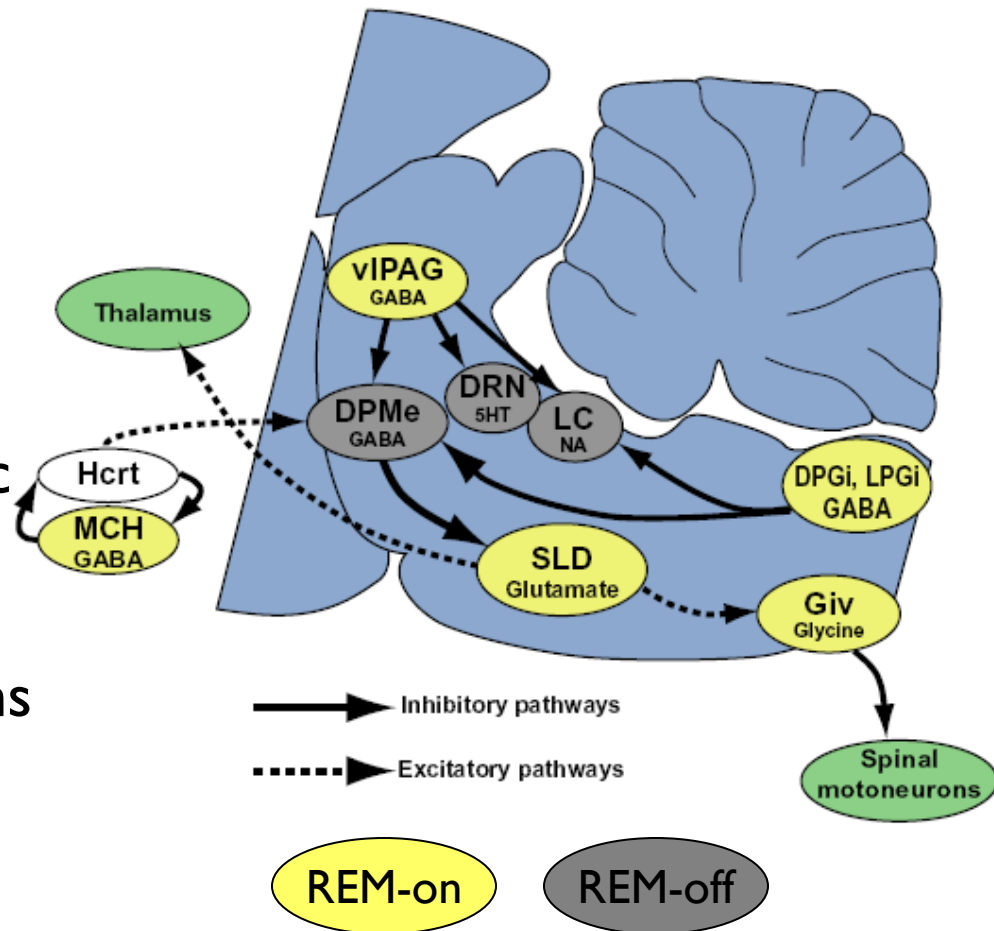


- ▶ REM-on: Sublaterodorsal nucleus (SLD), precoeruleus (PC)
- ▶ REM-off: Ventrolateral periaqueductal grey matter (vIPAG), lateral pontine tegmentum (LPT)
- ▶ Mutual GABAergic projections between REM-on and REM-off populations



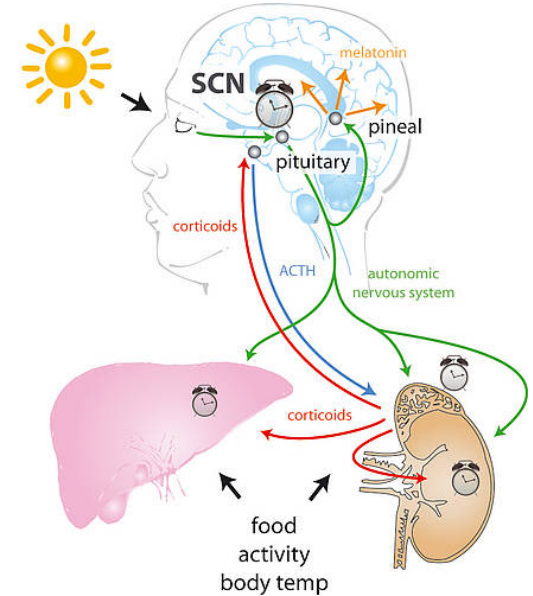
# GABAergic-glutamatergic hypothesis for REM generation

- ▶ REM-on: Sublaterodorsal nucleus (SLD), dorsal paragigantocellular reticular nucleus (DPGi), Ventrolateral periaqueductal grey matter (vIPAG)
- ▶ REM-off: Deep mesencephalic reticular nucleus (DPMc)
- ▶ Inhibitory projections are distributed among populations

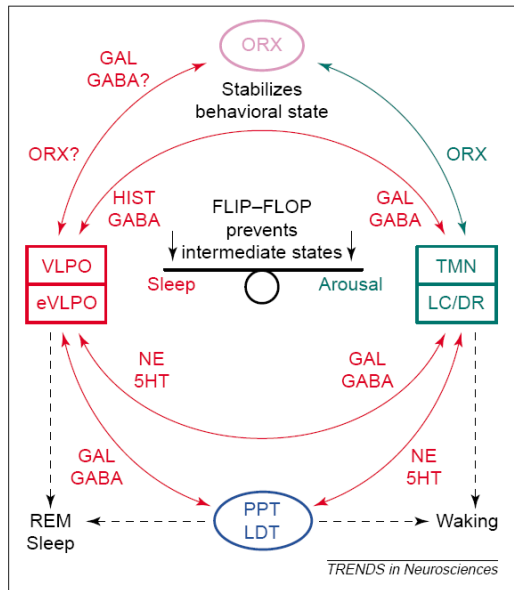


# Multiple time scales of sleep-wake dynamics

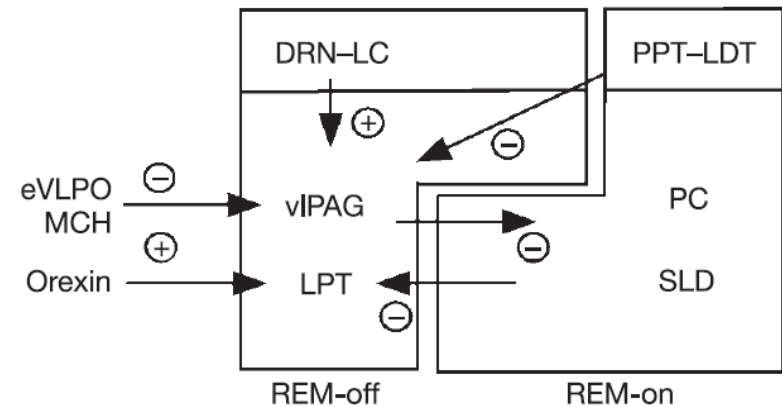
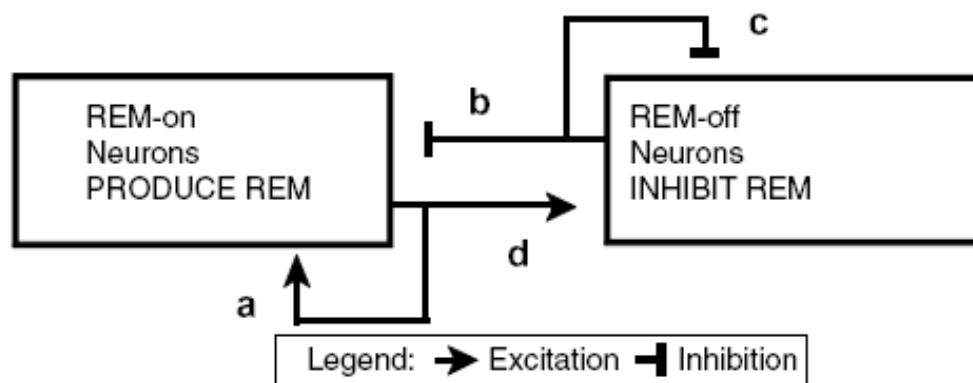
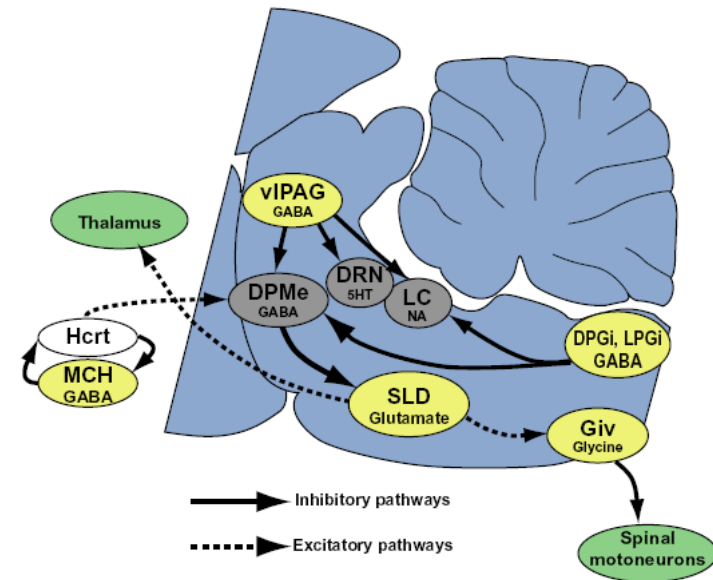
1. Daily 24 hour rhythm of wake and sleep
  - ▶ Mediated by Suprachiasmatic Nucleus (SCN)
2. Homeostatic sleep drive ( $< 24h$ )
  - ▶ Mediated by adenosine



# Proposed neuronal sleep-wake regulatory networks

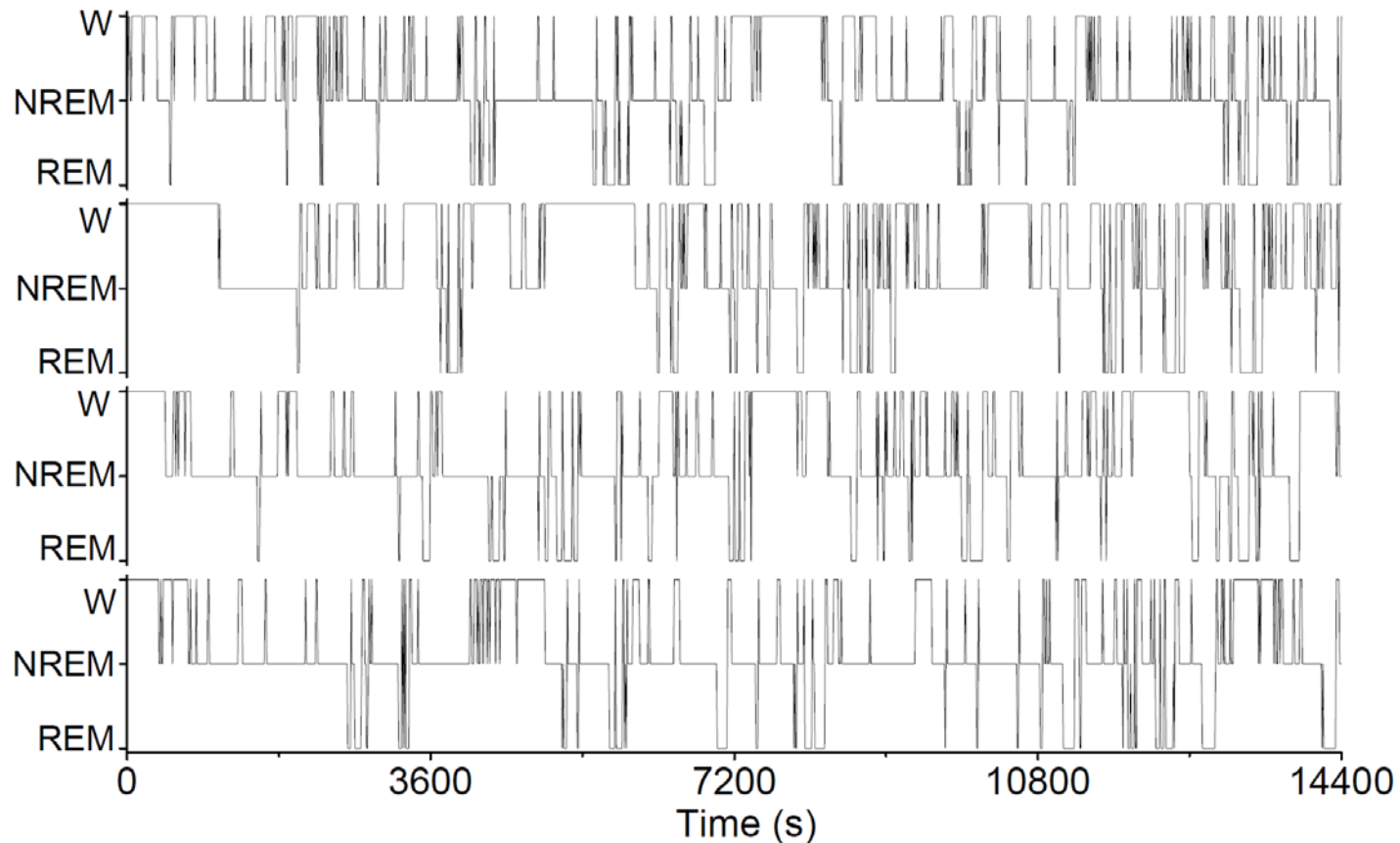


All based on underlying deterministic network



# Rat sleep temporal architecture

---

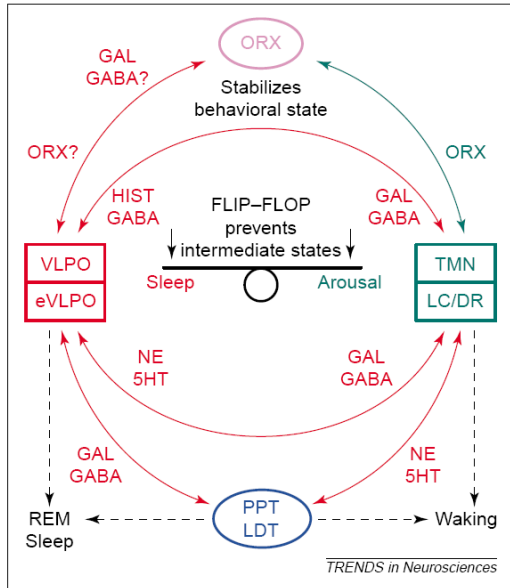


- ▶ Can deterministic network model replicate actual sleep-wake temporal architecture?

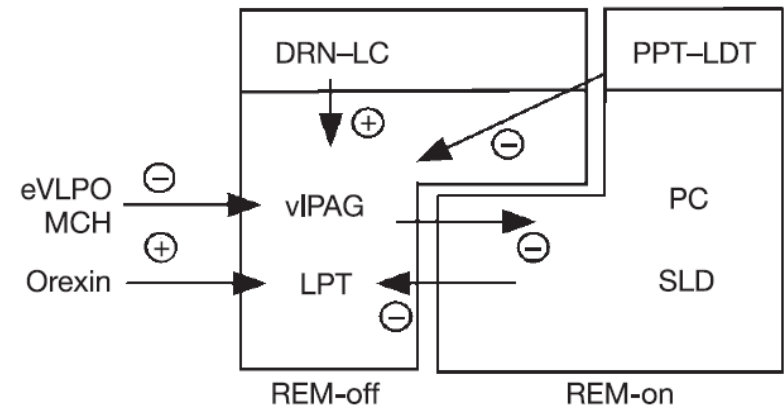
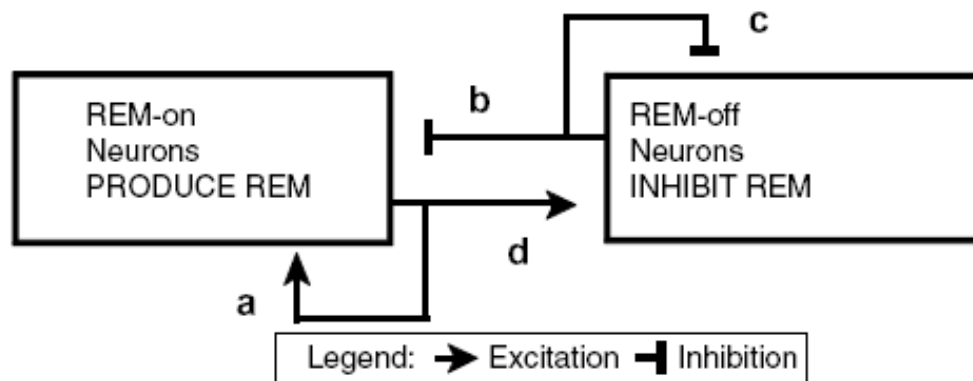
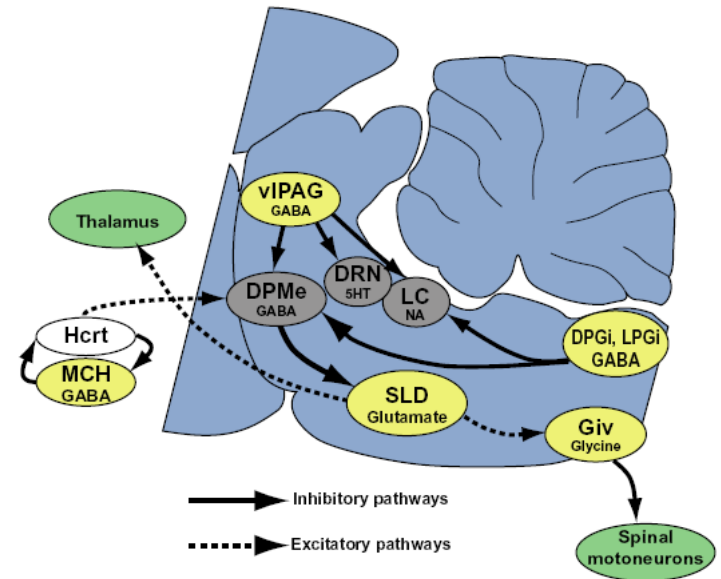
---

▶ Rat sleep in the light period recordings courtesy of George Mashour (Anesthesiology, U of Michigan)

# How to model neuronal sleep-wake regulatory networks?



??



# Why a firing rate model?

---

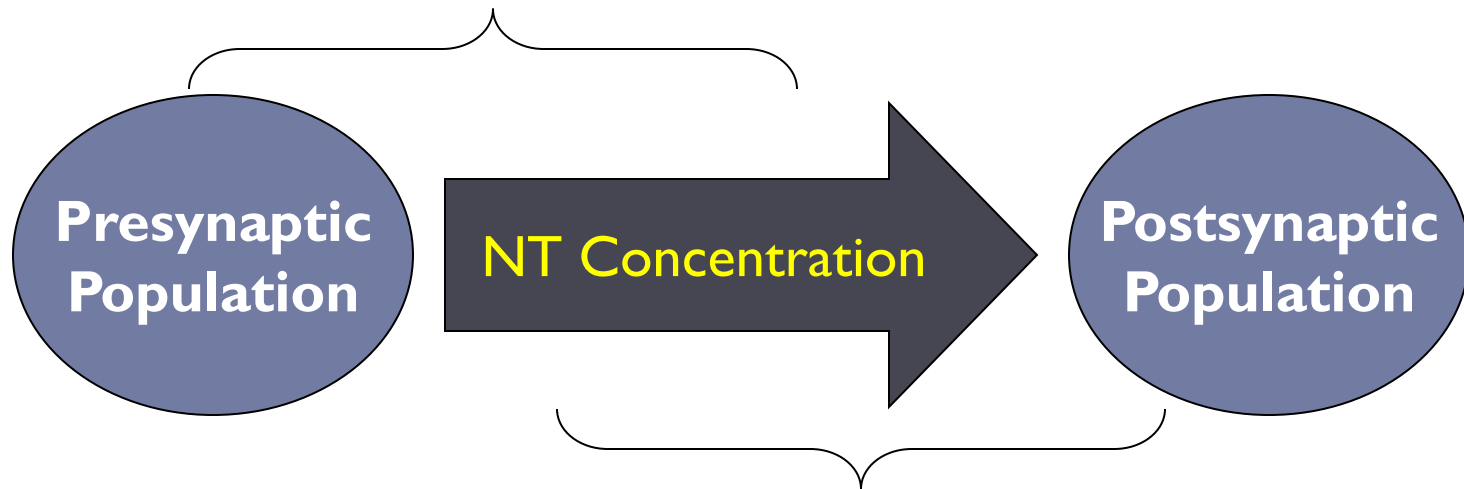
- ▶ Population activity levels determine behavioral state
- ▶ Rhythms of firing in these populations appear to be less important than the neuromodulatory environments they create
- ▶ Time scale of sleep-wake behavior much longer than ms time scale of individual neuronal activity
- ▶ Variable of interest:  $F_X(t)$  = average firing rate of neurons in population  $X$  in Hz



# Firing rate model formalism

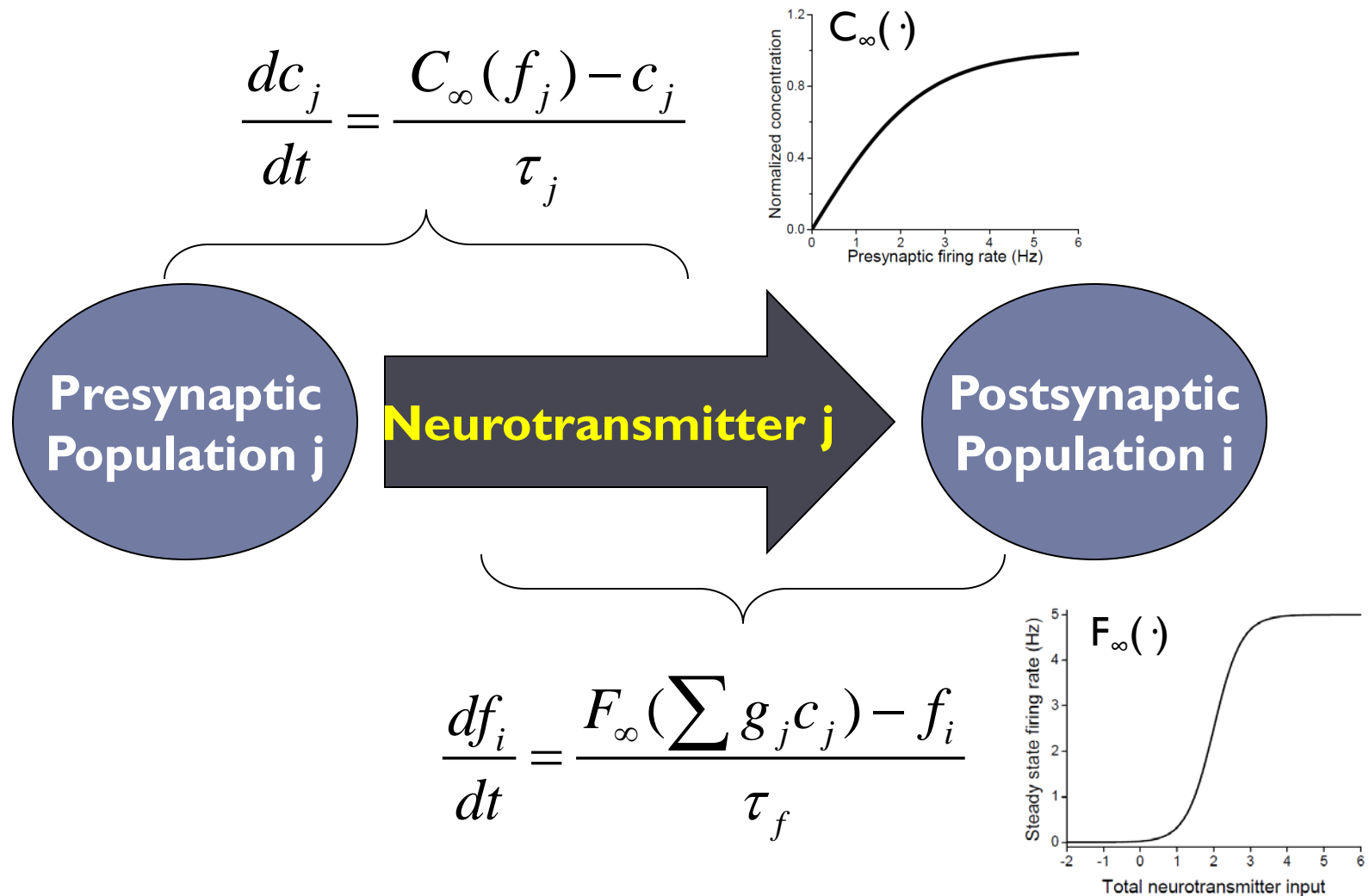
---

Dependence of total NT release on  
presynaptic firing rate



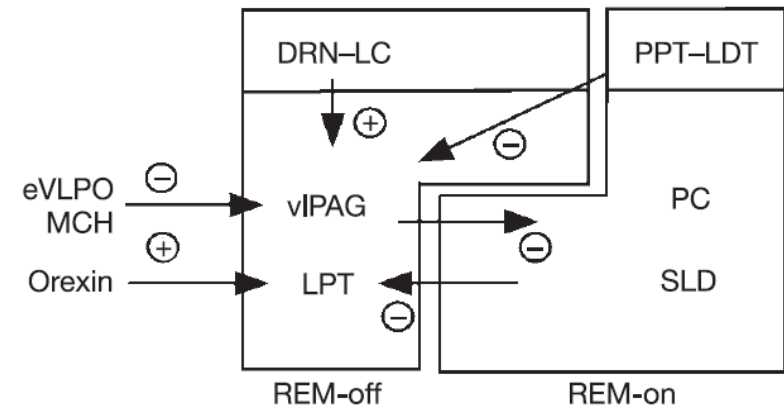
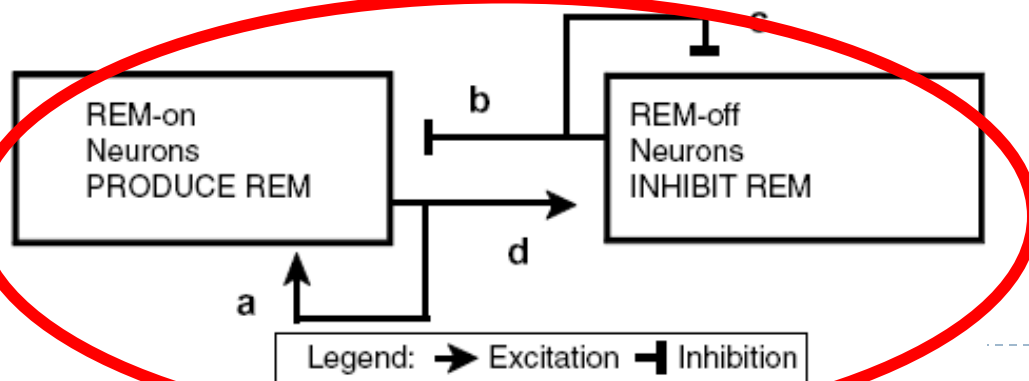
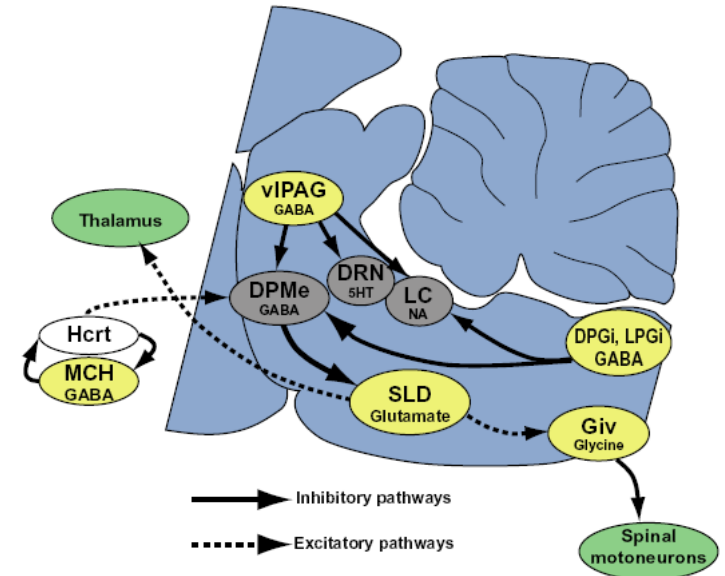
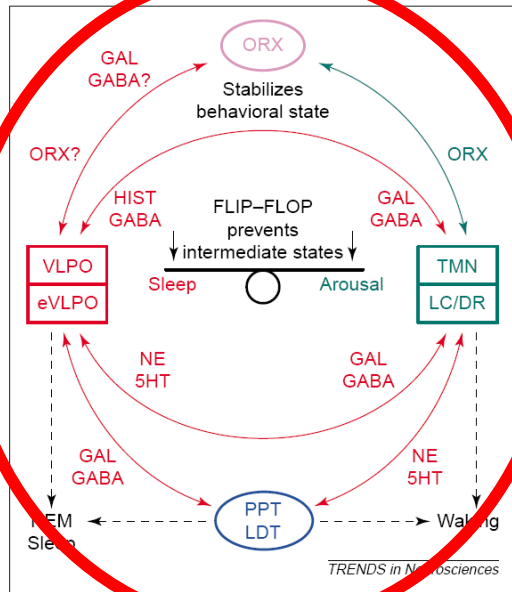
Dependence of postsynaptic firing rate on  
total NT concentration

# Neurotransmitter/population firing rate model formalism



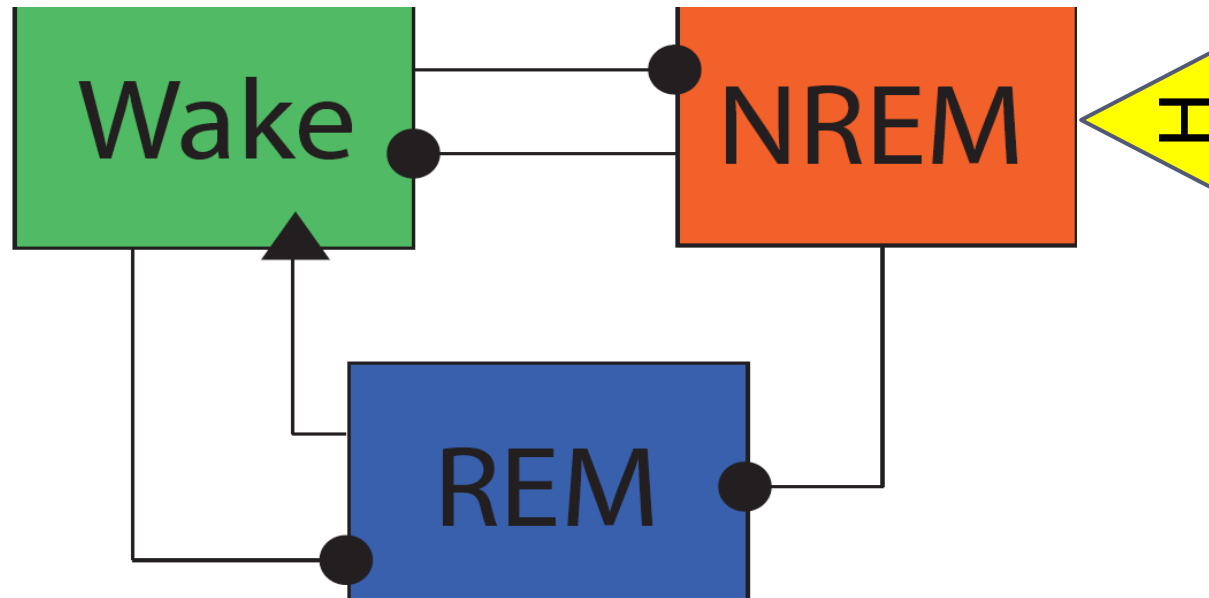


# What sleep-wake regulatory network to model?



# Minimal 3-state sleep-wake regulation network

---



- ▶ Sleep homeostat,  $H$ , drives slow transitions between wake and sleep states
- ▶  $H$  modulates activation of NREM population mimicking action of adenosine on VLPO

# Reduced sleep-wake regulatory network model

---

**Wake:**  $F_W' = \frac{F_{W\infty} [g_{N,W} C_{N\infty}(F_N) + g_{R,W} C_{R\infty}(F_R) + g_{W,W} C_{W\infty}(F_W)]}{\tau_W}$

**NREM:**  $F_N' = \frac{F_{N\infty(h)} [g_{W,N} C_{W\infty}(F_W) + g_{N,N} C_{N\infty}(F_N)]}{\tau_N}$

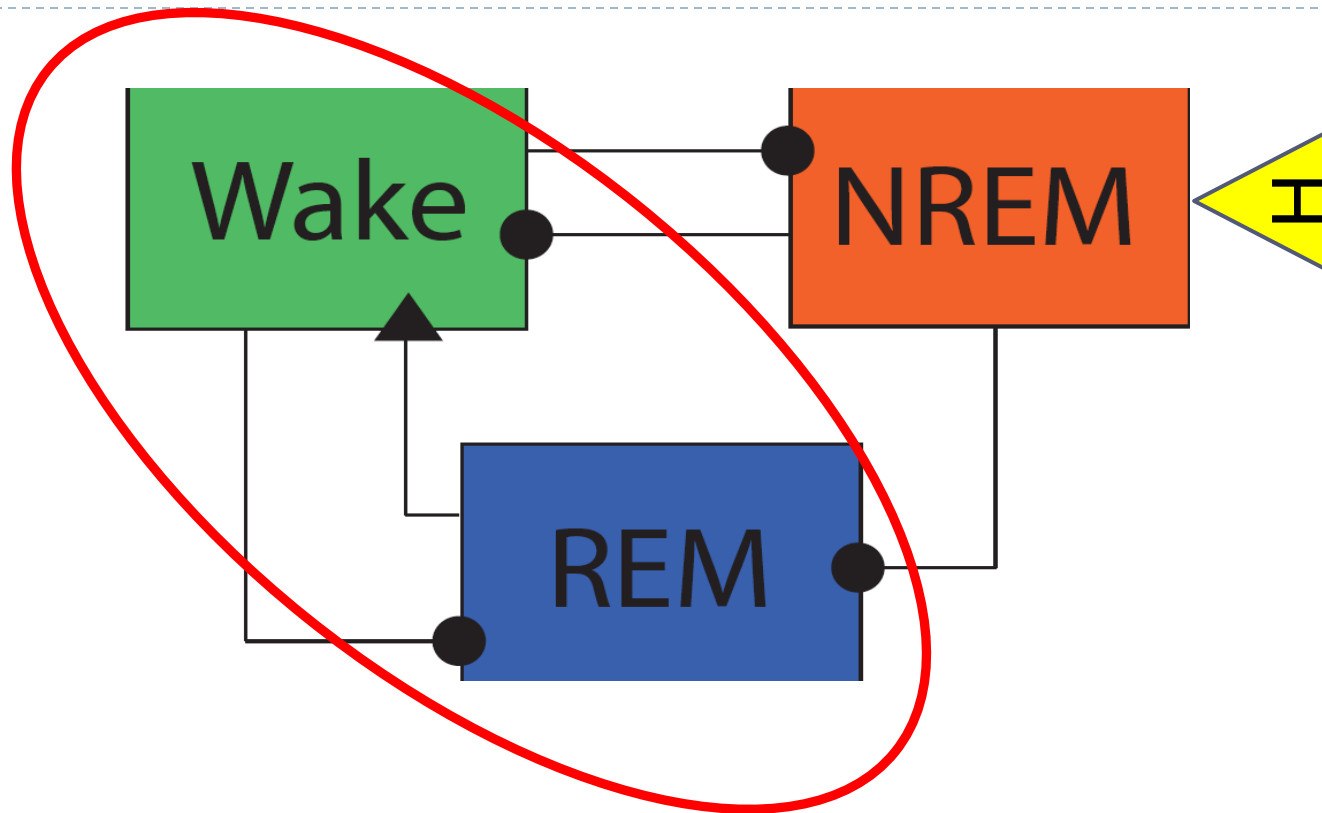
**REM:**  $F_R' = \frac{F_{R\infty} [g_{W,R} C_{W\infty}(F_W) + g_{N,R} C_{N\infty}(F_N) + g_{R,R} C_{R\infty}(F_R)]}{\tau_R}$

$$h' = \begin{cases} \frac{1-h}{\tau_2} & \text{when } F_W \geq \theta_W \\ \frac{-h}{\tau_1} & \text{when } F_W < \theta_W \end{cases} \quad \begin{aligned} C_{X\infty}(F_X) &= \tanh(F_X / \gamma_X) \\ F_{X\infty}(c) &= \frac{X_{\max}}{2} (1 + \tanh((c - \beta_X) / \alpha_X)) \end{aligned}$$

$X = W, N, R$

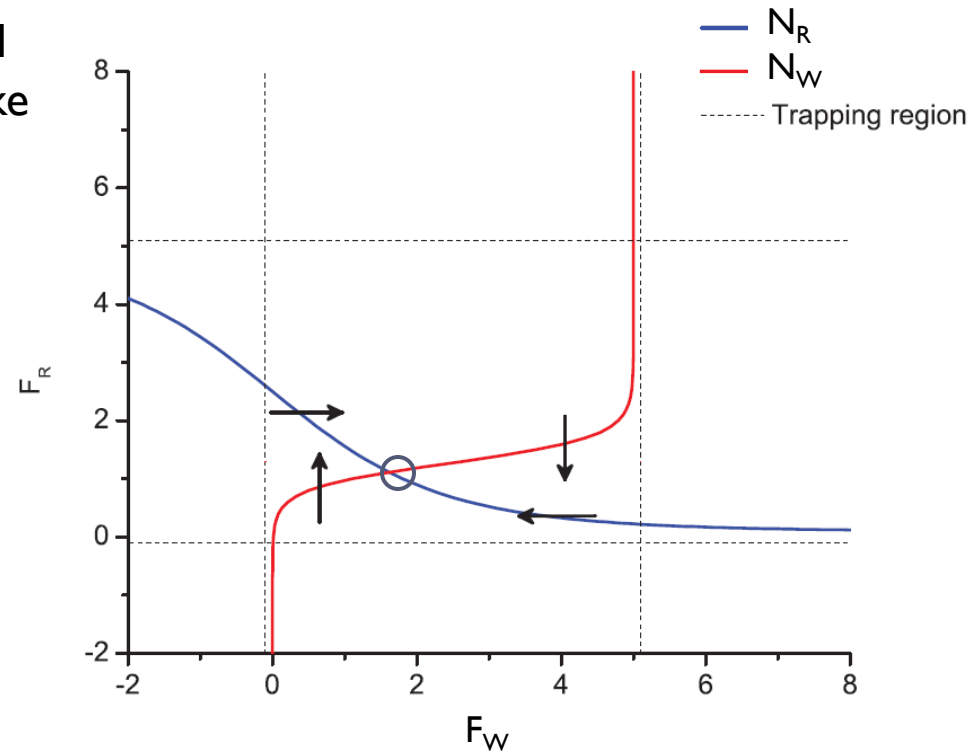
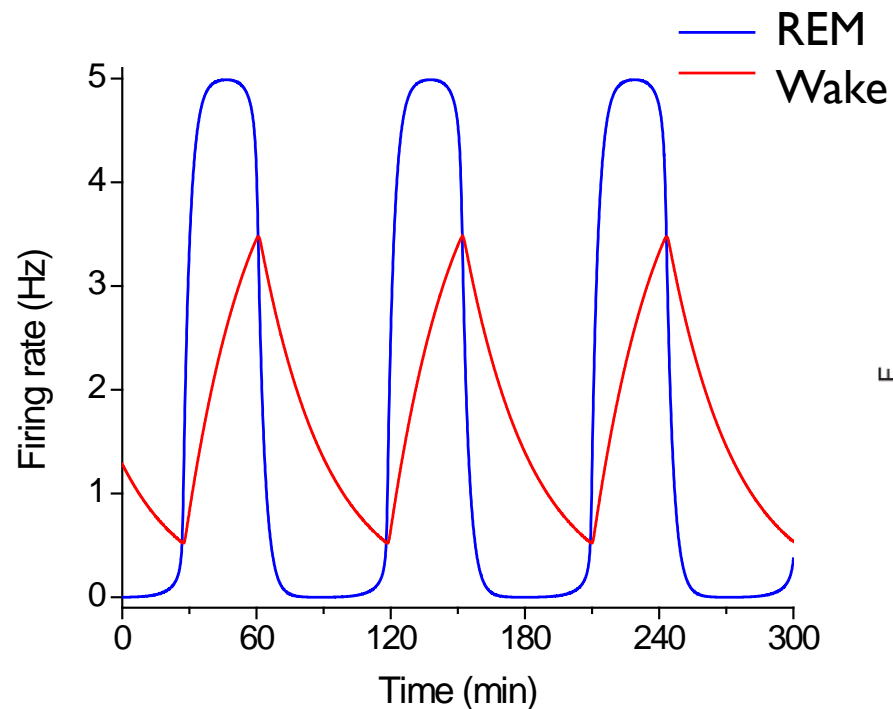
# Minimal 3-state sleep-wake regulation network

---



- ▶ Consider dynamics of isolated reciprocal interaction subnetwork

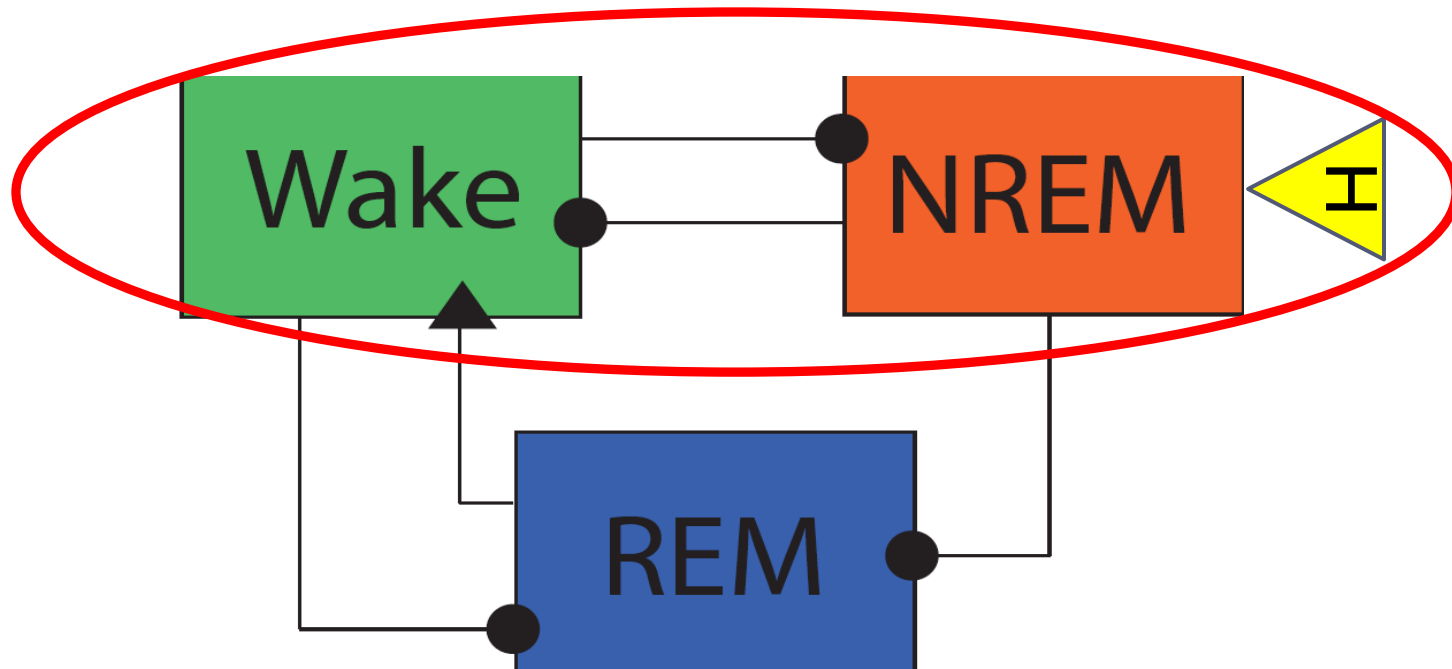
# Reciprocal Interaction network admits stable limit cycle solutions



- By Poincare-Bendixson Theorem, stable cycling exists when all fixed points are unstable

# Minimal 3-state sleep-wake regulation network

---

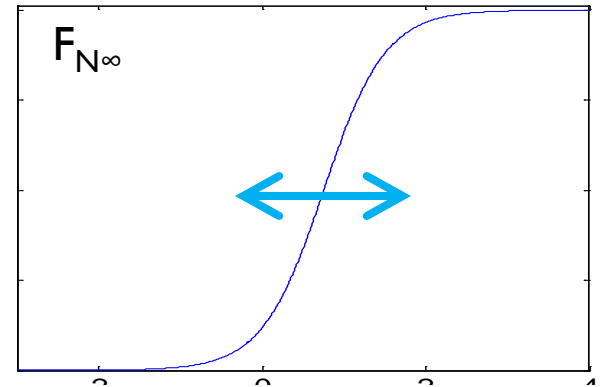


- Consider dynamics of isolated mutual inhibition subnetwork

# Action of homeostatic sleep drive

**NREM:**  $F_N' = \frac{F_{N\infty}(h) [g_{W,N} C_{W\infty}(F_W) + g_{N,N} C_{N\infty}(F_N)]}{\tau_N}$

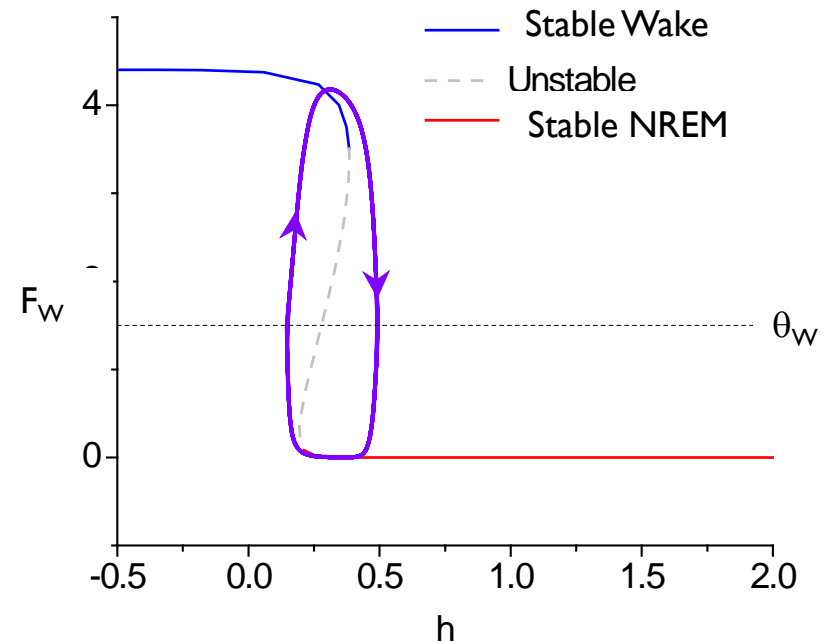
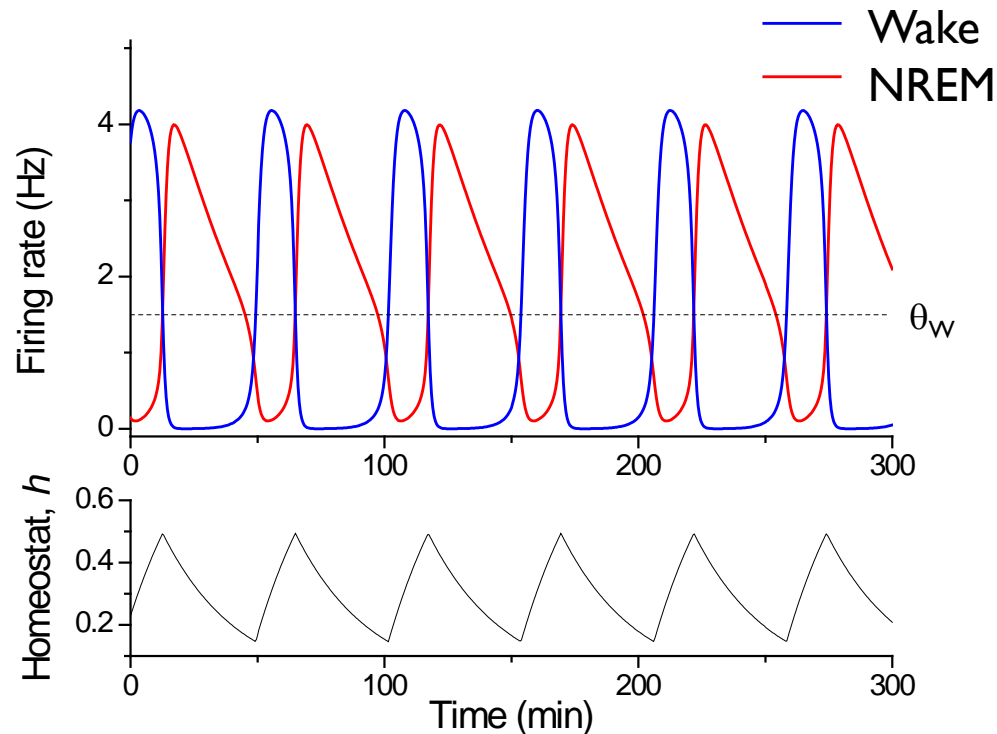
$$h' = \begin{cases} \frac{1-h}{\tau_2} & \text{when } F_W \geq \theta_W \\ \frac{-h}{\tau_1} & \text{when } F_W < \theta_W \end{cases}$$



$$F_{N\infty}(c) = \frac{N_{\max}}{2} (1 + \tanh((c - \beta_N(h)) / \alpha_N))$$

# Hysteresis loop cycling in mutual inhibition subnetwork

- ▶ Exploit slowly varying  $h(t)$  for a Fast-Slow Decomposition
  - ▶ Let  $h$  be a parameter and compute steady state solutions for values of  $h = [0, 1]$

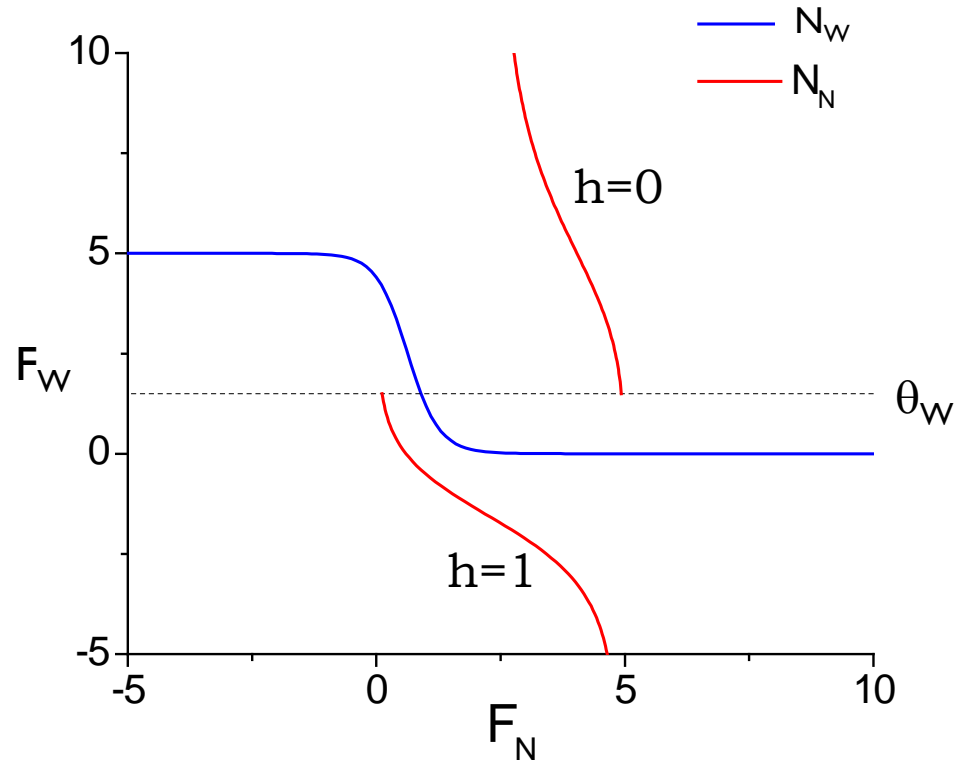


- ▶ Sleep homeostat  $h$  acts on slower time scale



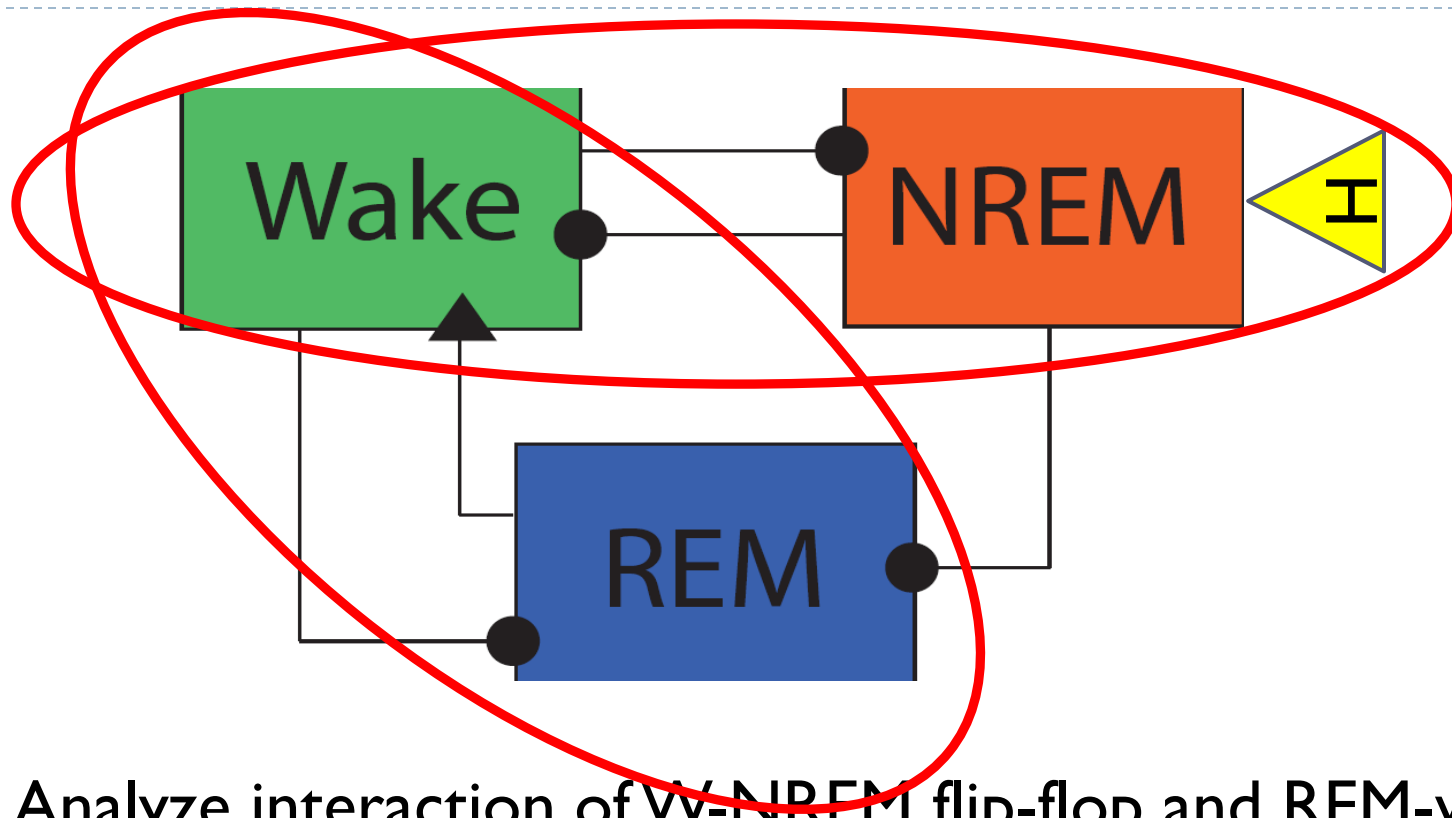
# Condition for existence of hysteresis-loop cycling

- Discontinuity in  $h(t)$  introduces discontinuity in  $F_N$  nullcline



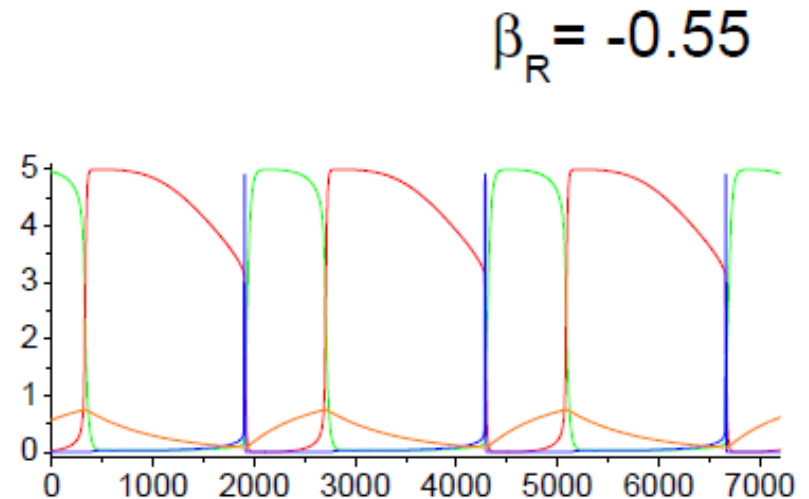
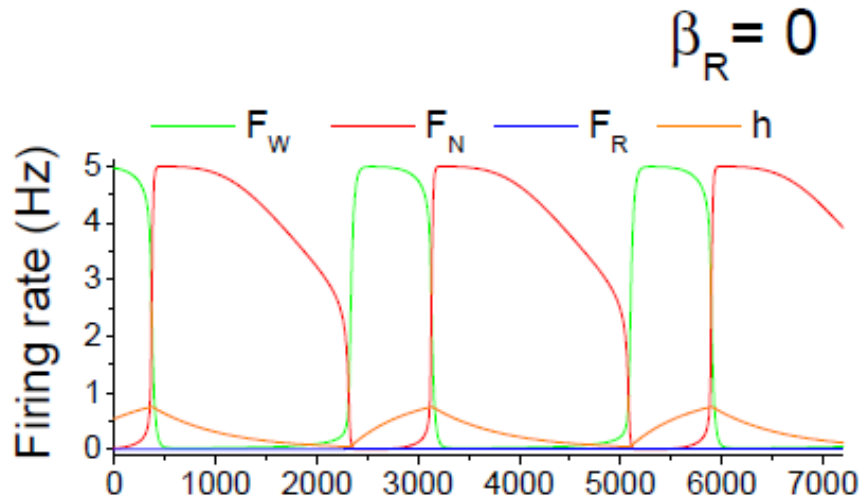
Hysteresis-loop cycling possible if no intersection of discontinuous  $F_N$  nullcline and  $F_W$  nullcline

# Minimal 3-state sleep-wake regulation network



- ▶ Analyze interaction of W-NREM flip-flop and REM-wake reciprocal interaction
- ▶ Consider dynamics as half-activation threshold for REM population,  $\beta_R$ , is varied

# Dynamics as activation threshold of REM population, $\beta_R$ , is decreased

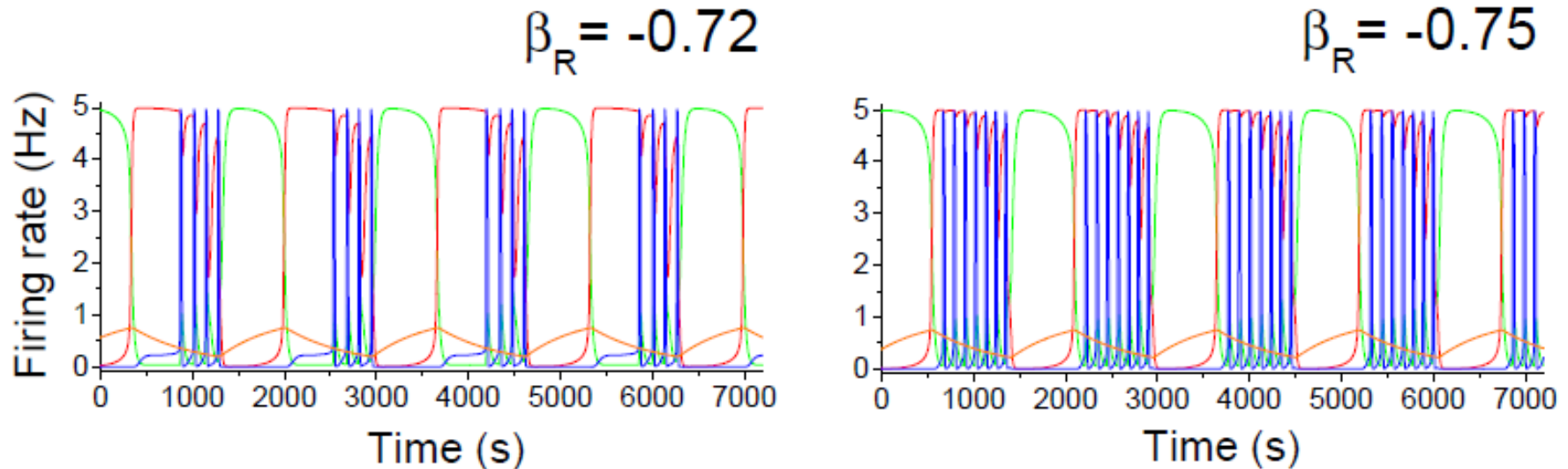


- ▶ High  $\beta_R$ : REM population doesn't activate;

- ▶ Low  $\beta_R$ : REM population activates transiently at NREM-to-wake transition

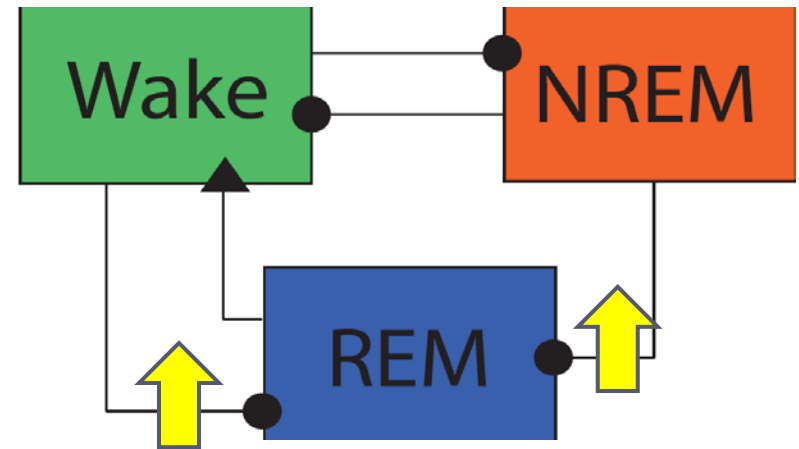
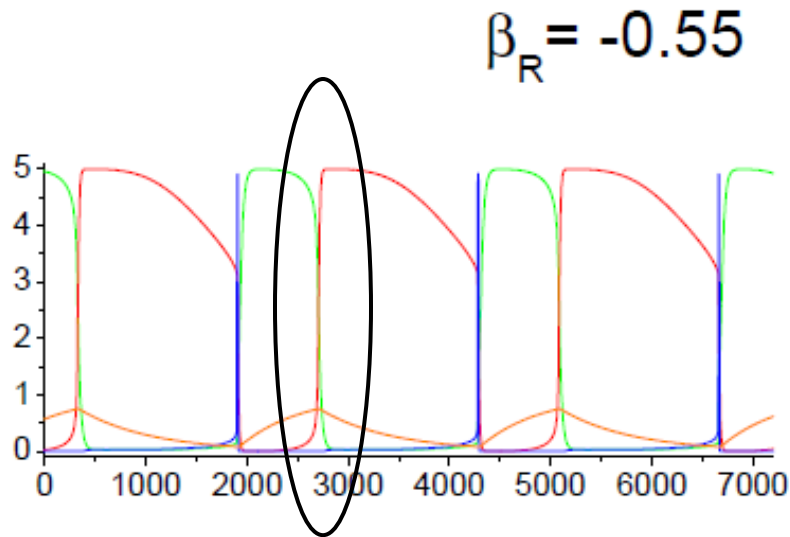
# Dynamics as activation threshold of REM population, $\beta_R$ , is decreased

---



- ▶ Lower  $\beta_R$  : Periodic REM cycling during NREM, with brief post-REM wake activation

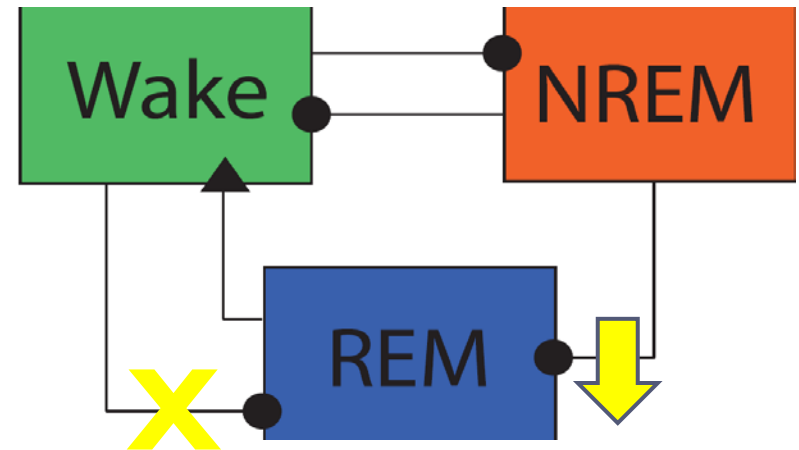
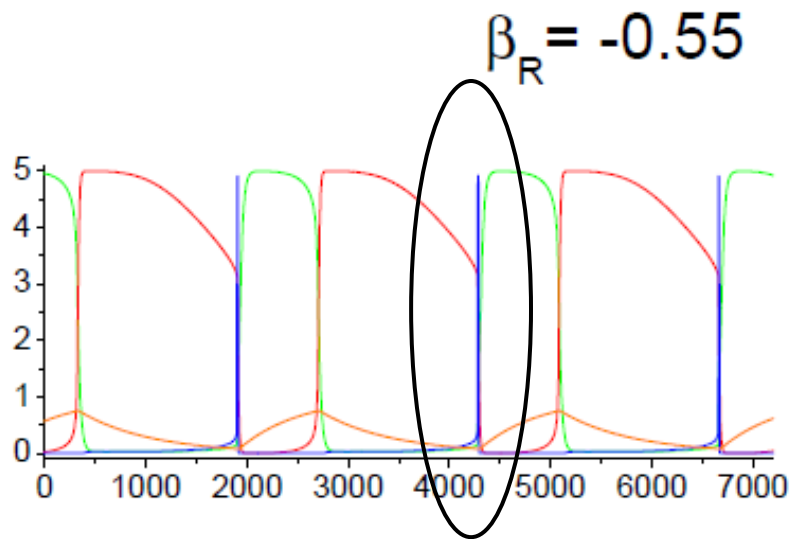
# Network structure provides for wake – NREM – REM transition dynamics



- ▶ Wake to NREM transition occurs due to homeostatic activation of NREM population
  - ▶ REM population receives inhibition from Wake and increasing inhibition from NREM as it activates
  - ▶ NREM is activated when Wake inactivates

# Network structure provides for wake – NREM – REM transition dynamics

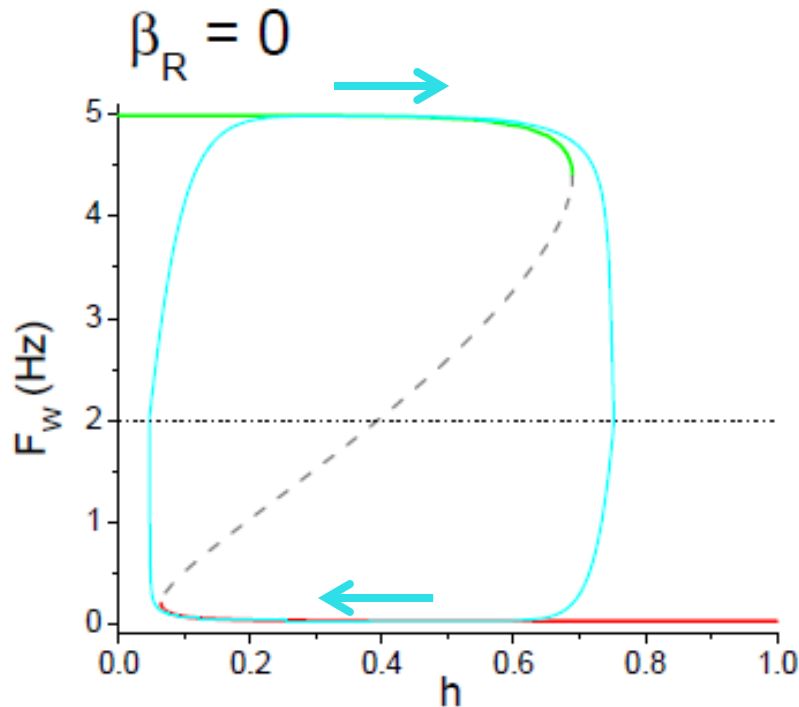
---



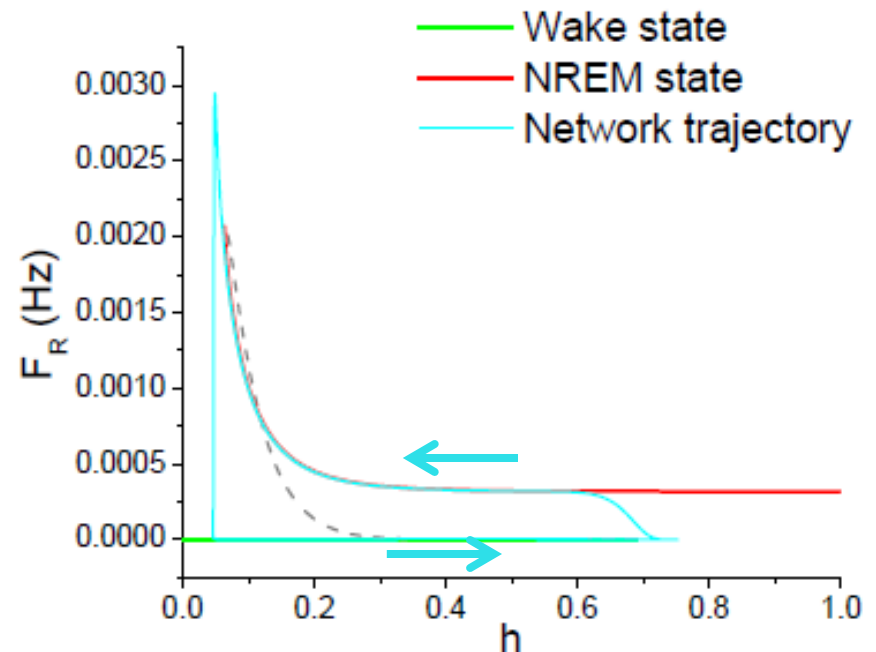
- ▶ NREM to wake transition occurs due to homeostatic *inactivation* of NREM population
  - ▶ Inhibition to REM population decreases as NREM inactivates
  - ▶ Wake inhibition to REM increases as it activates

# Fast-Slow Analysis: Bifurcation structure with respect to slow variable $h$

## Wake Population



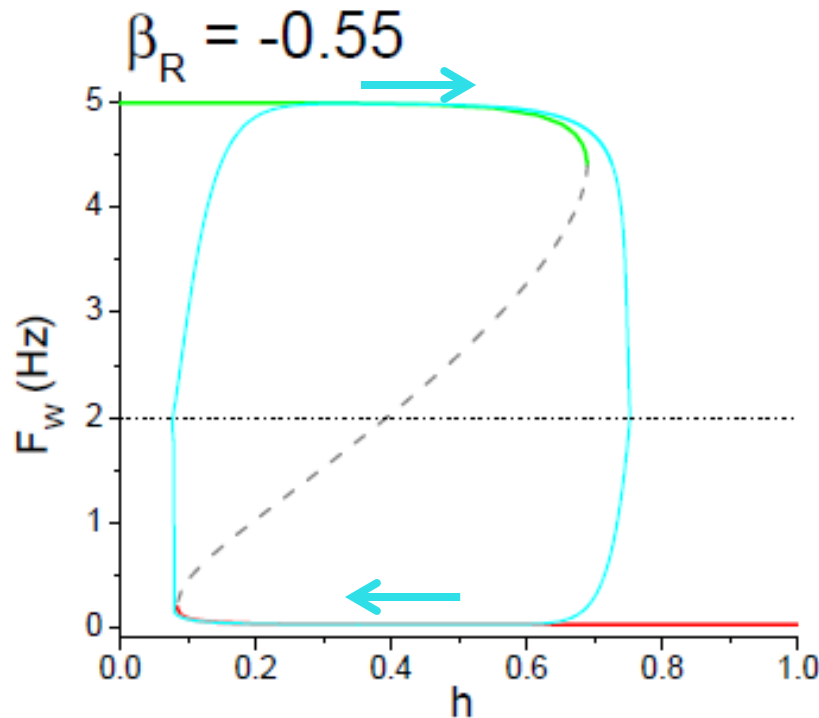
## REM Population



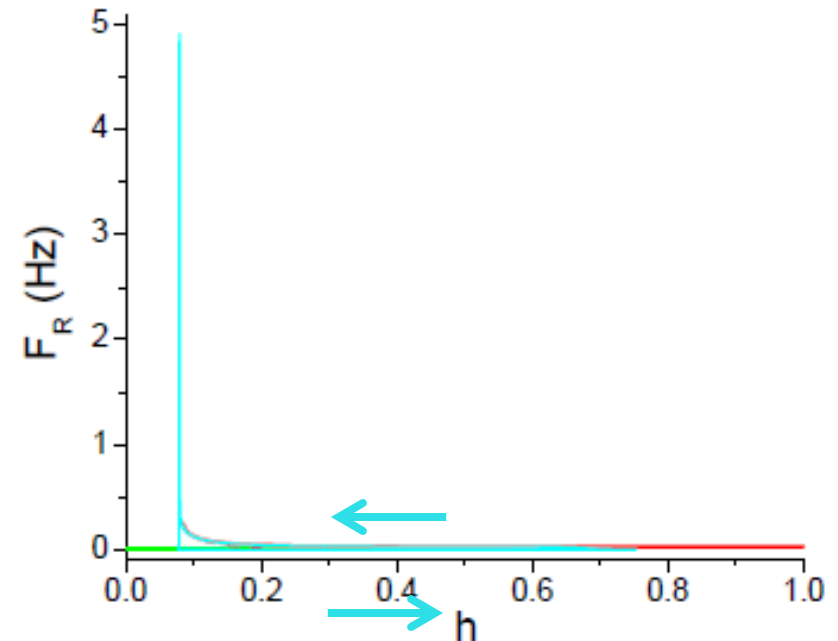
- ▶ High  $\beta_R$ : Stable wake and NREM states form Z-shaped steady state curve; trajectory follows hysteresis loop
- ▶ Wake:  $h$  increases; Sleep:  $h$  decreases

# Fast-Slow Analysis: Bifurcation structure with respect to slow variable $h$

Wake Population



REM Population

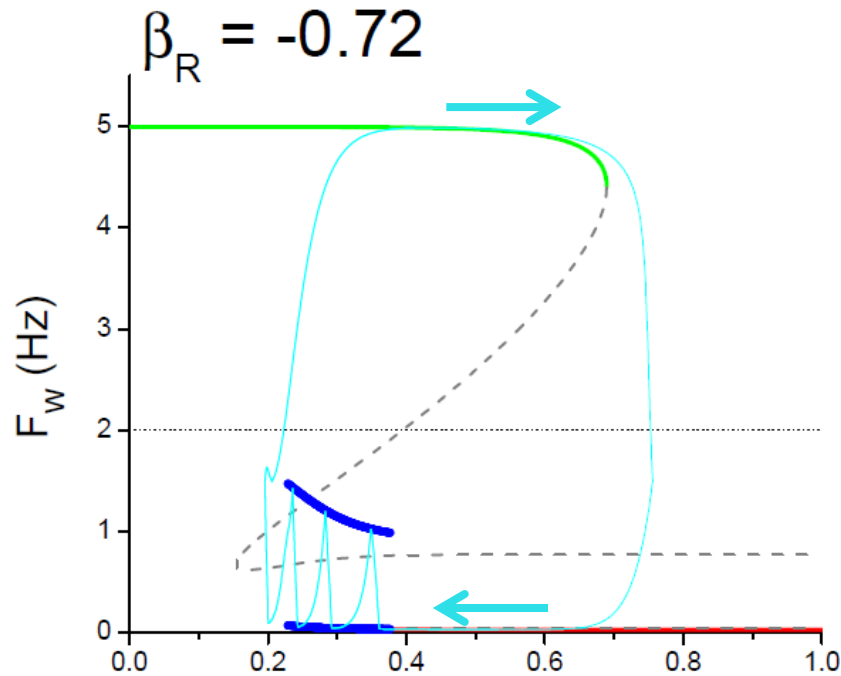


- ▶ Low  $\beta_R$ : REM exhibits high-amplitude transient at saddle-node point on NREM stable branch

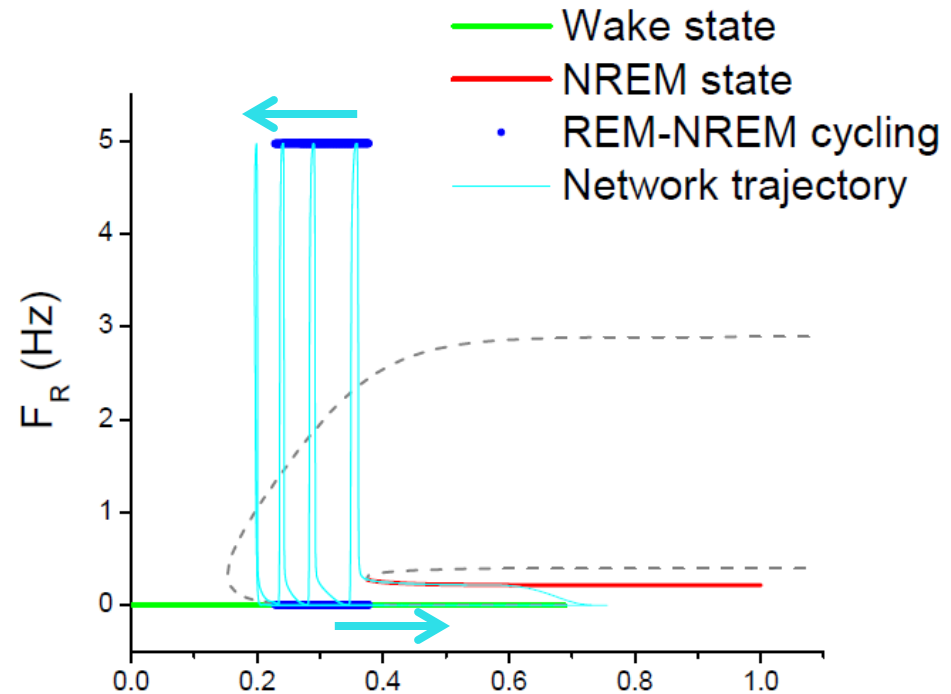


# Fast-Slow Analysis: Bifurcation structure with respect to slow variable $h$

## Wake Population



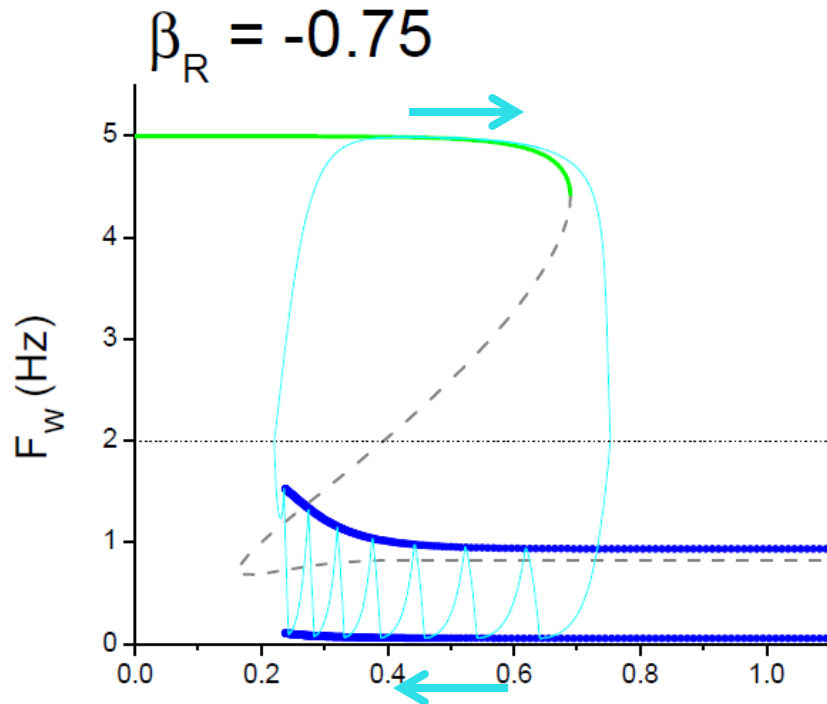
## REM Population



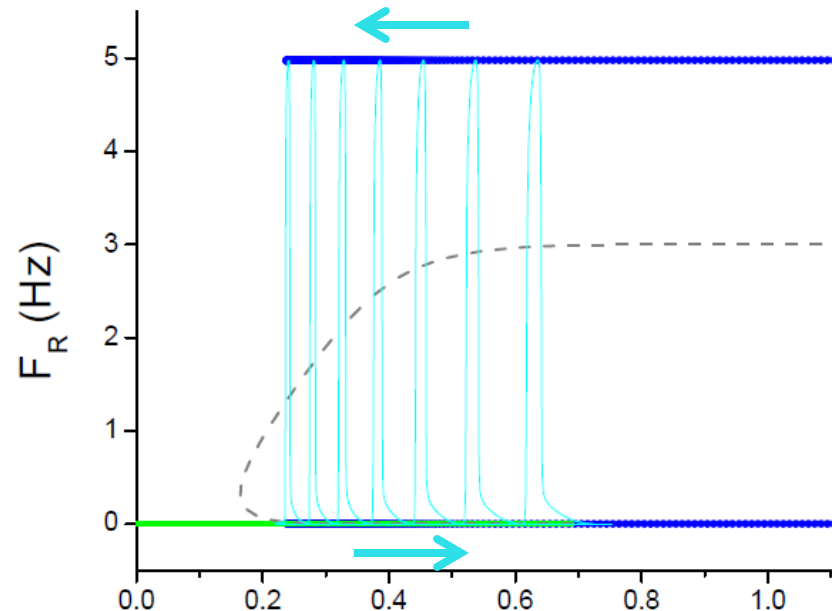
- ▶ Lower  $\beta_R$ : Stable branch of periodic high-amplitude REM / low-amplitude wake oscillations appears over small  $h$  interval

# Fast-Slow Analysis: Bifurcation structure with respect to slow variable $h$

Wake Population

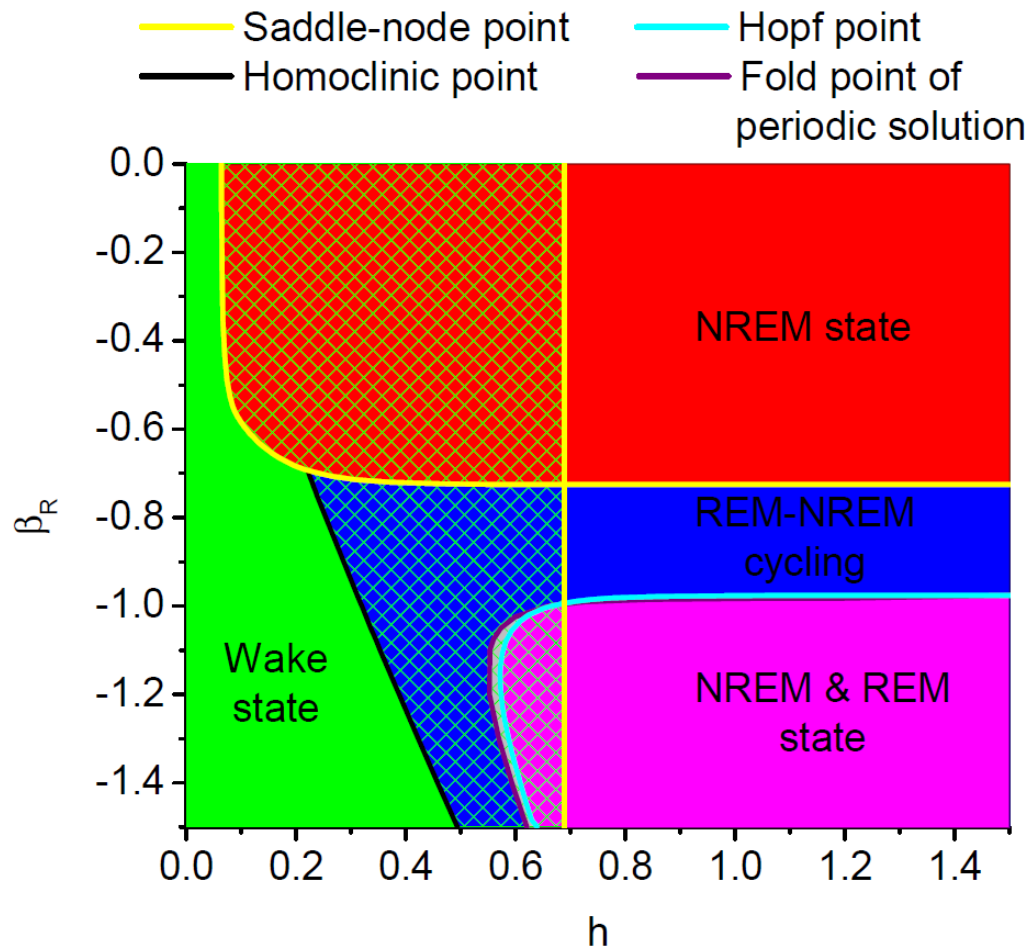


REM Population



- ▶ Lower  $\beta_R$ : Periodic branch replaces steady NREM state branch, REM oscillations occur during entire sleep state

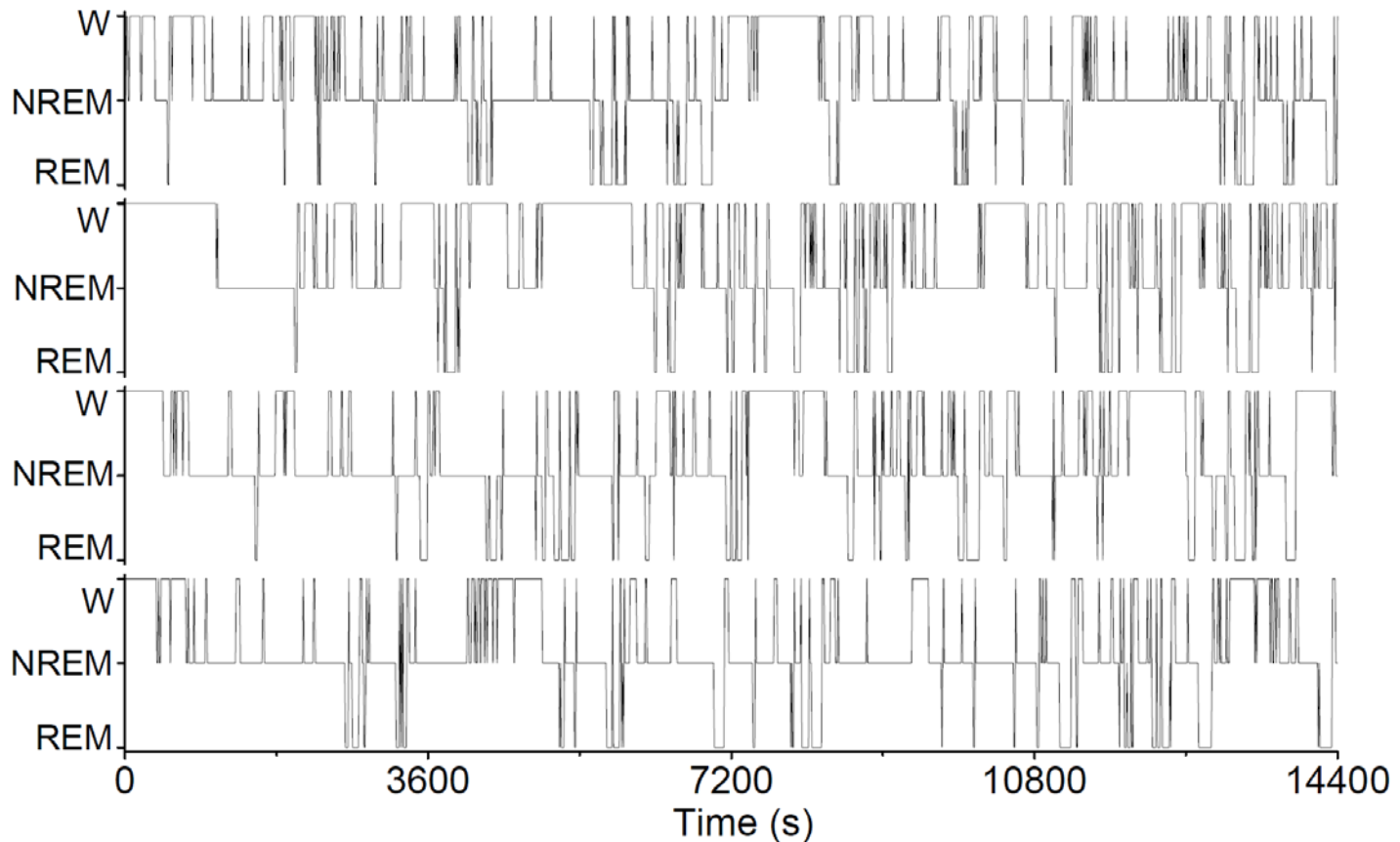
# Bifurcation diagram in $\beta_R$ and $h$



- Hatching indicates bistability with steady wake state

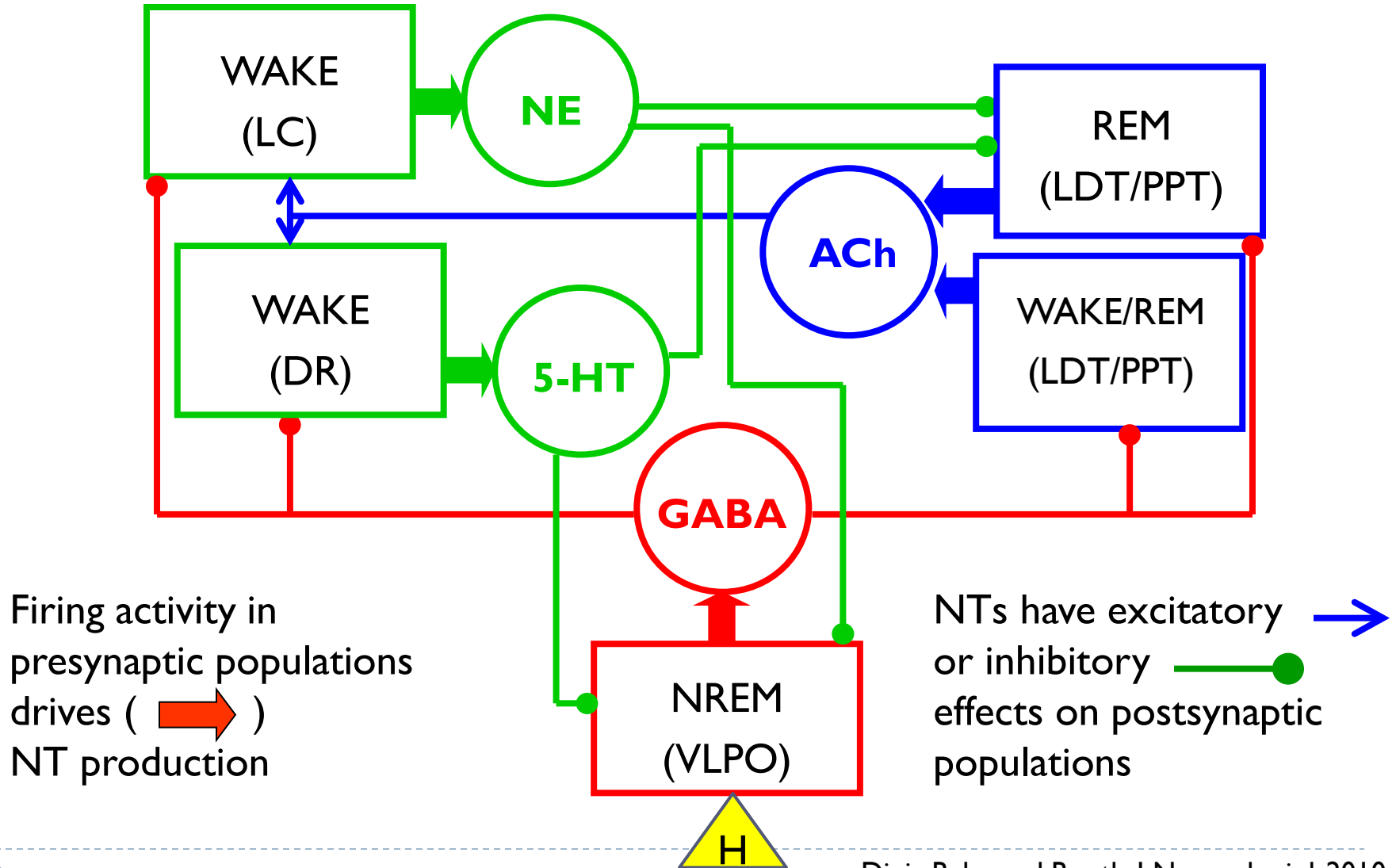
# Rat sleep temporal architecture

---

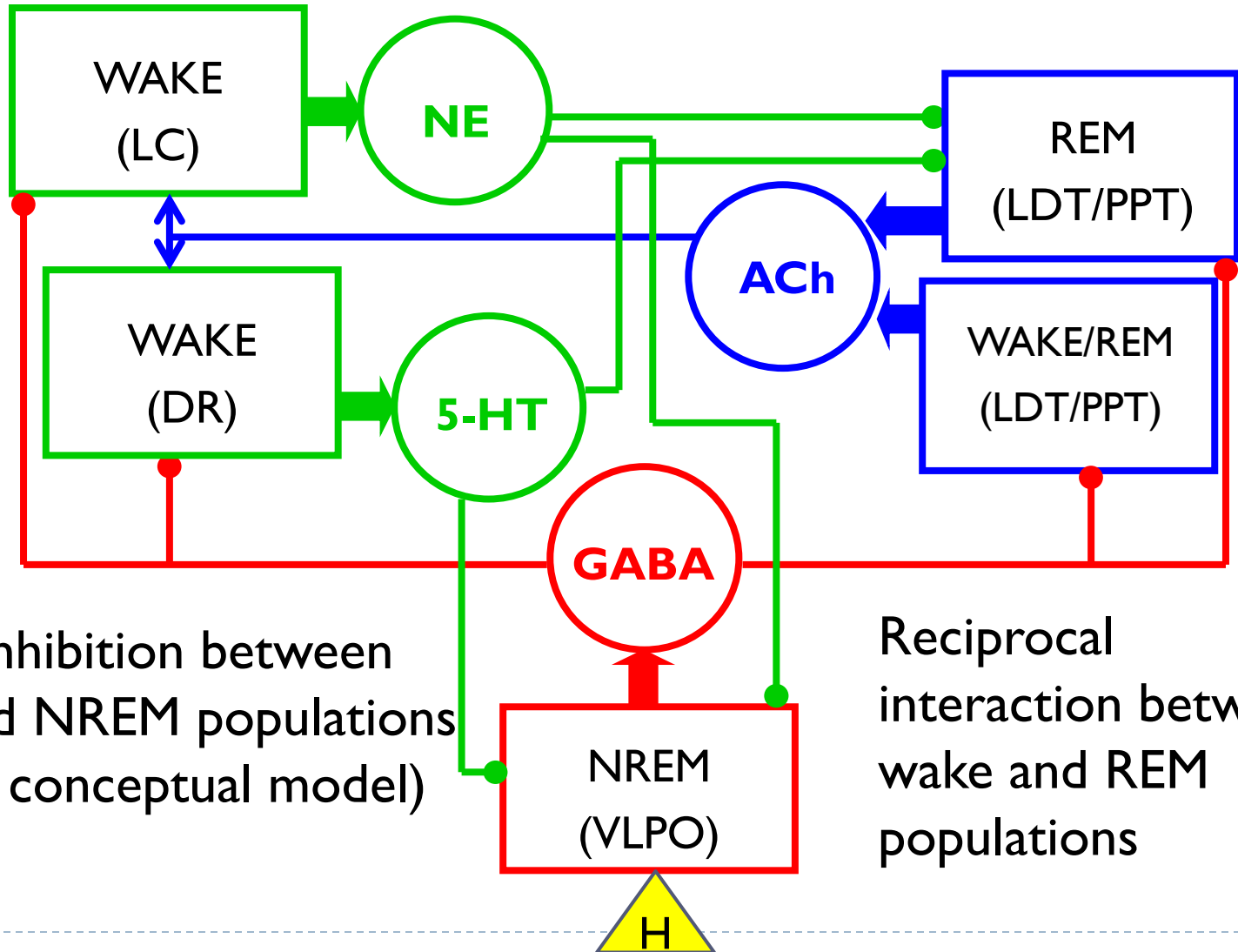


- Can this network generate actual sleep-wake dynamics?

# Neuronal population and neurotransmitter interaction network for sleep-wake regulation



# Neuronal population and neurotransmitter interaction network for sleep-wake regulation



Mutual inhibition between wake and NREM populations (flip-flop conceptual model)

Reciprocal interaction between wake and REM populations

# Sleep-wake regulatory network model

$$f_{LC}' = \frac{f_{LC\infty}(g_{A-LC} c_A - g_{N-LC} c_N - g_{G-LC} c_G + \eta) - f_{LC}}{\tau_{LC}}$$

$$\frac{dc_N}{dt} = \frac{\sigma_N c_{N\infty}(f_{LC}) - c_N}{\tau^N}$$

$$f_{DR}' = \frac{f_{DR\infty}(g_{A-DR} c_A - g_{S-DR} c_S - g_{G-DR} c_G + \eta) - f_{DR}}{\tau_{DR}}$$

$$\frac{dc_S}{dt} = \frac{\sigma_S c_{S\infty}(f_{DR}) - c_S}{\tau^S}$$

$$f_{VLPO}' = \frac{f_{VLPO\infty}(-g_{N-VLPO} c_N - g_{S-VLPO} c_S - g_{G-VLPO} c_G) - f_{VLPO}}{\tau_{VLPO}}$$

$$\frac{dc_G}{dt} = \frac{\sigma_G c_{G\infty}(f_{VLPO}) - c_G}{\tau^G}$$

$$f_R' = \frac{f_{R\infty}(g_{A-R} c_A - g_{N-R} c_N - g_{S-R} c_S - g_{G-R} c_G) - f_R}{\tau_R}$$

$$\frac{dc_{AR}}{dt} = \frac{\sigma_{AR} c_{AR\infty}(f_R) - c_{AR}}{\tau^A}$$

$$f_{WR}' = \frac{f_{WR\infty}(g_{A-WR} c_A - g_{G-WR} c_G) - f_{WR}}{\tau_{WR}}$$

$$\frac{dc_{AWR}}{dt} = \frac{\sigma_{AWR} c_{AWR\infty}(f_{WR}) - c_{AWR}}{\tau^A}$$

Homeostatic sleep  
drive promotes  
NREM sleep

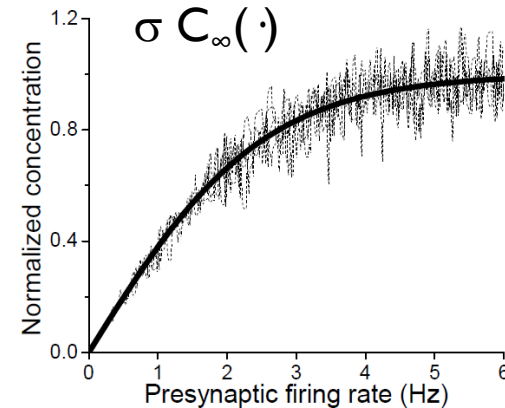
$$h' = \begin{cases} (h_{\max} - h) / \tau_{hw} & \text{during wake} \\ -(h - h_{\min}) / \tau_{hs} & \text{during sleep states} \end{cases}$$

# Stochastic elements in model

---

- ▶ **Variable neurotransmitter release**

- ▶ simulating stochasticity of synaptic transmission



- ▶ **Variable homeostatic sleep drive**

- ▶ simulating stochasticity of adenosine levels & action

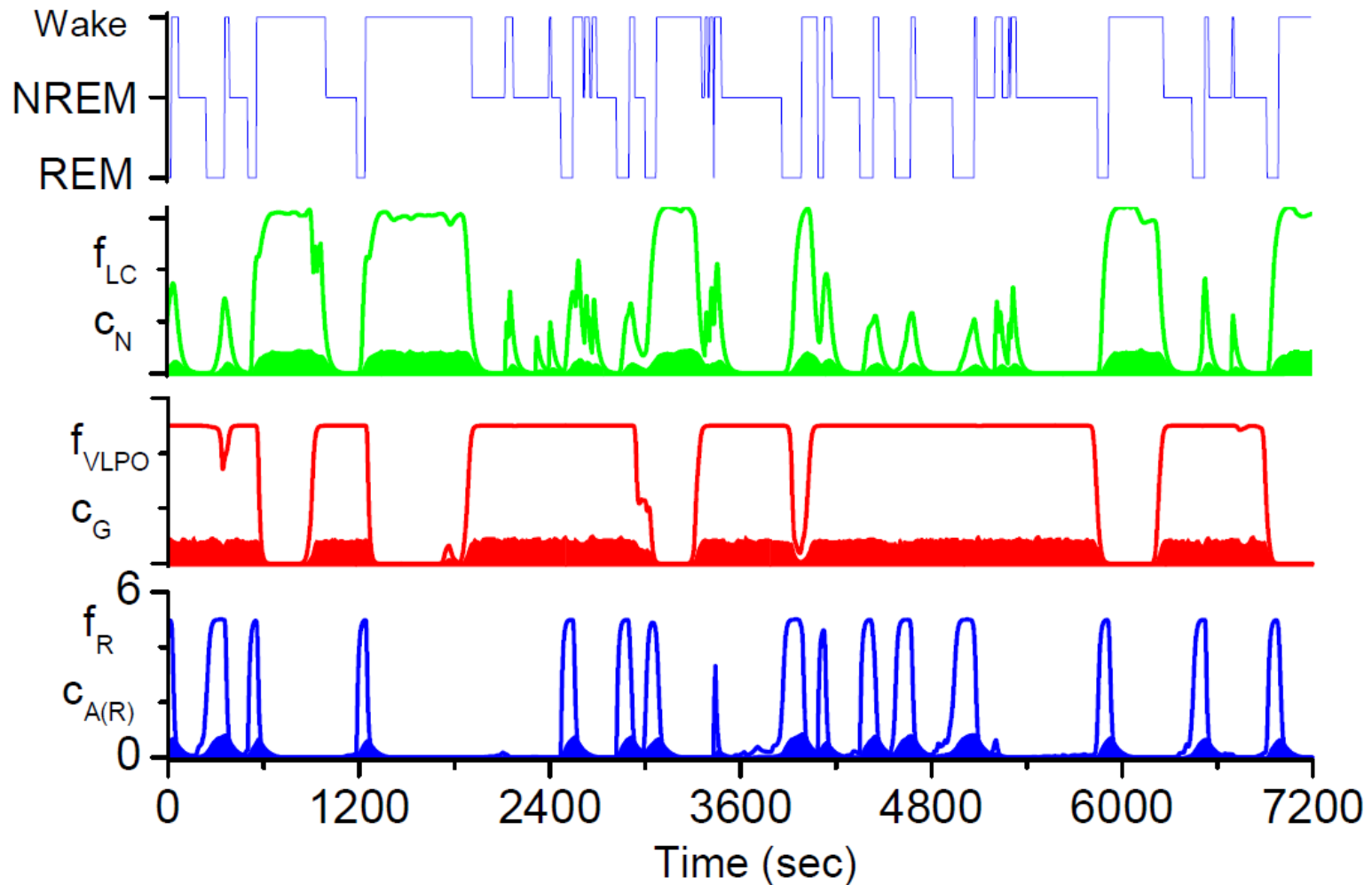
- ▶ **Random excitatory inputs to populations**

- ▶ simulating excitatory afferent activity from other brain regions





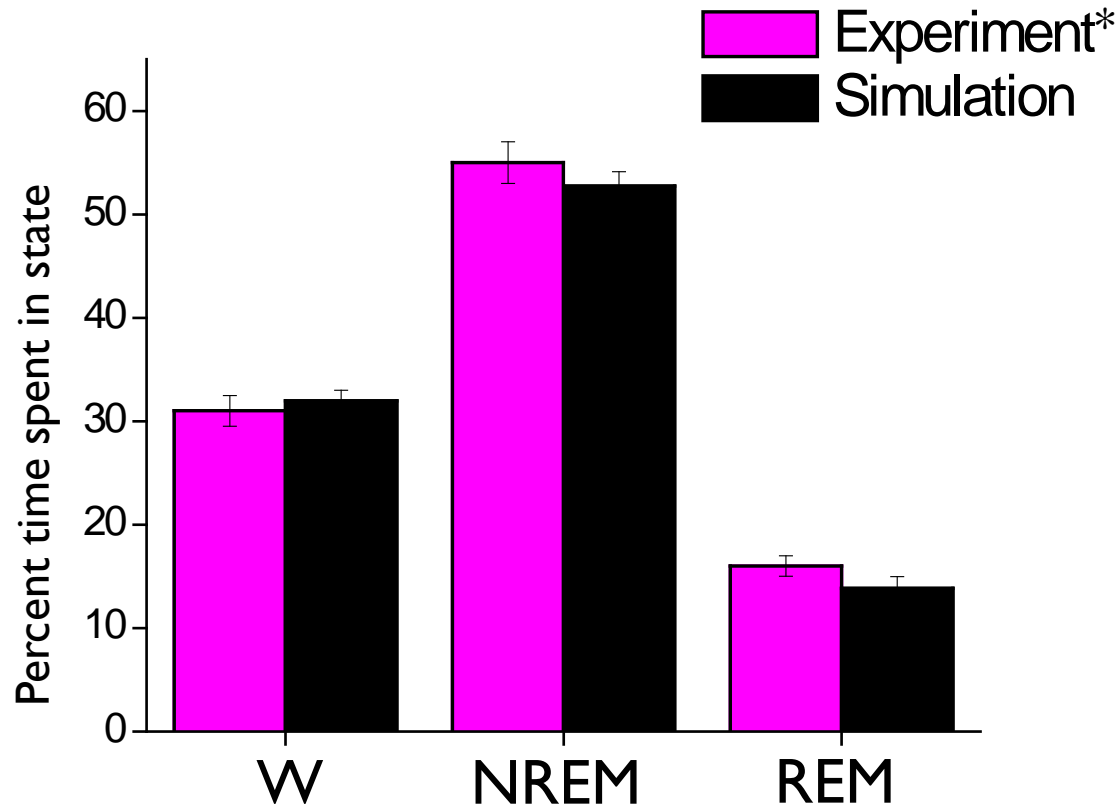
# Simulated rat sleep-wake behavior



# Simulations fit to general characteristics of wake, NREM sleep, and REM sleep

---

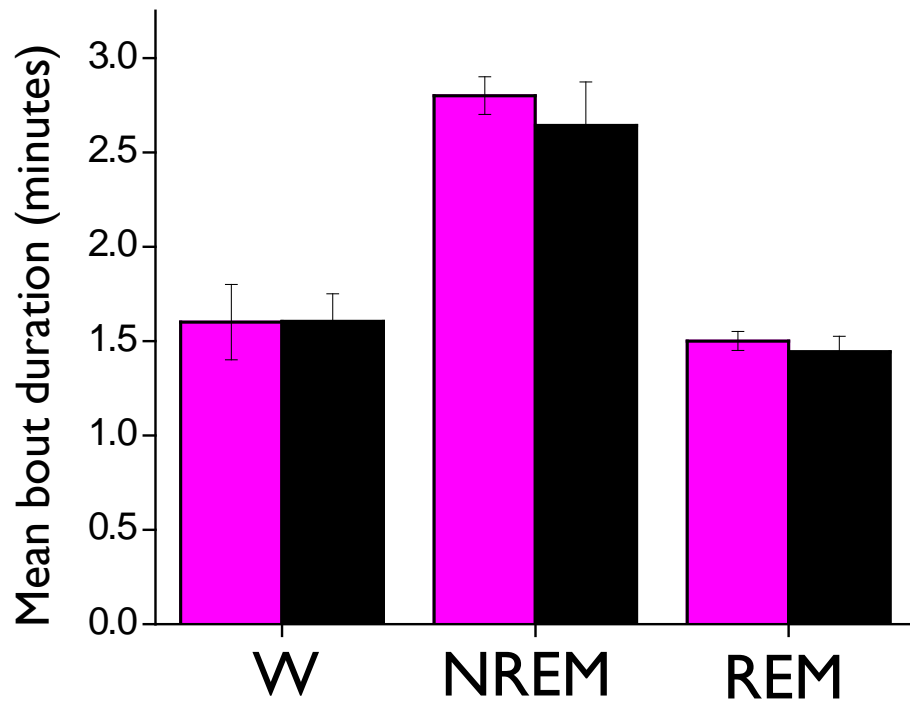
## Percent time spent in state



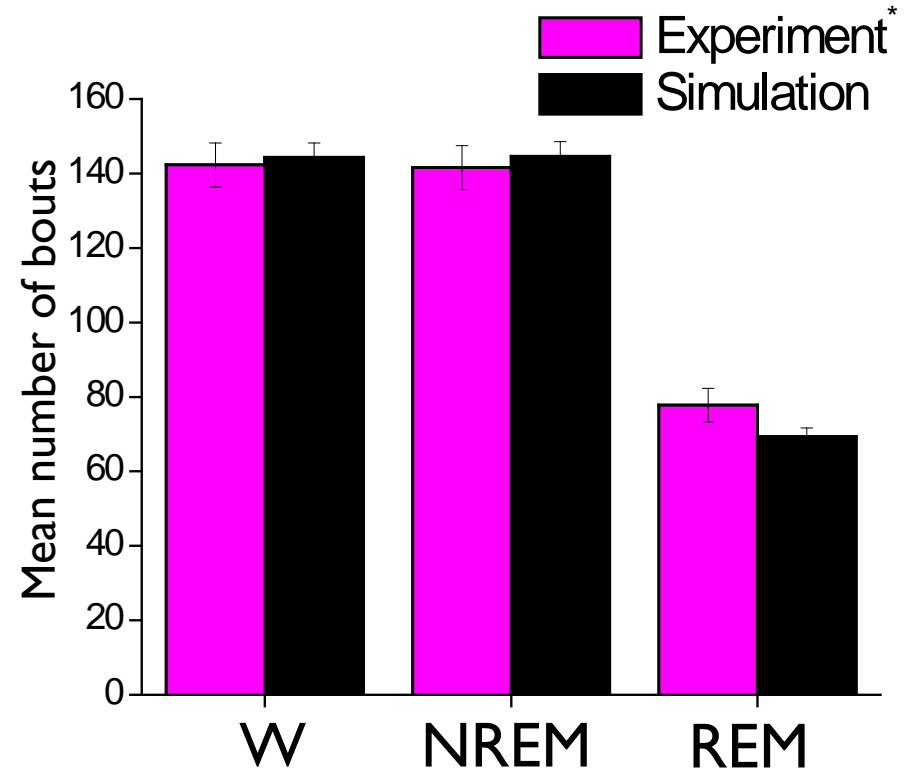
- Experimental data from Blanco-Centurion et al., J. Neurosci., 2007 of 12-hr rat sleep recording during light period



## Mean bout duration

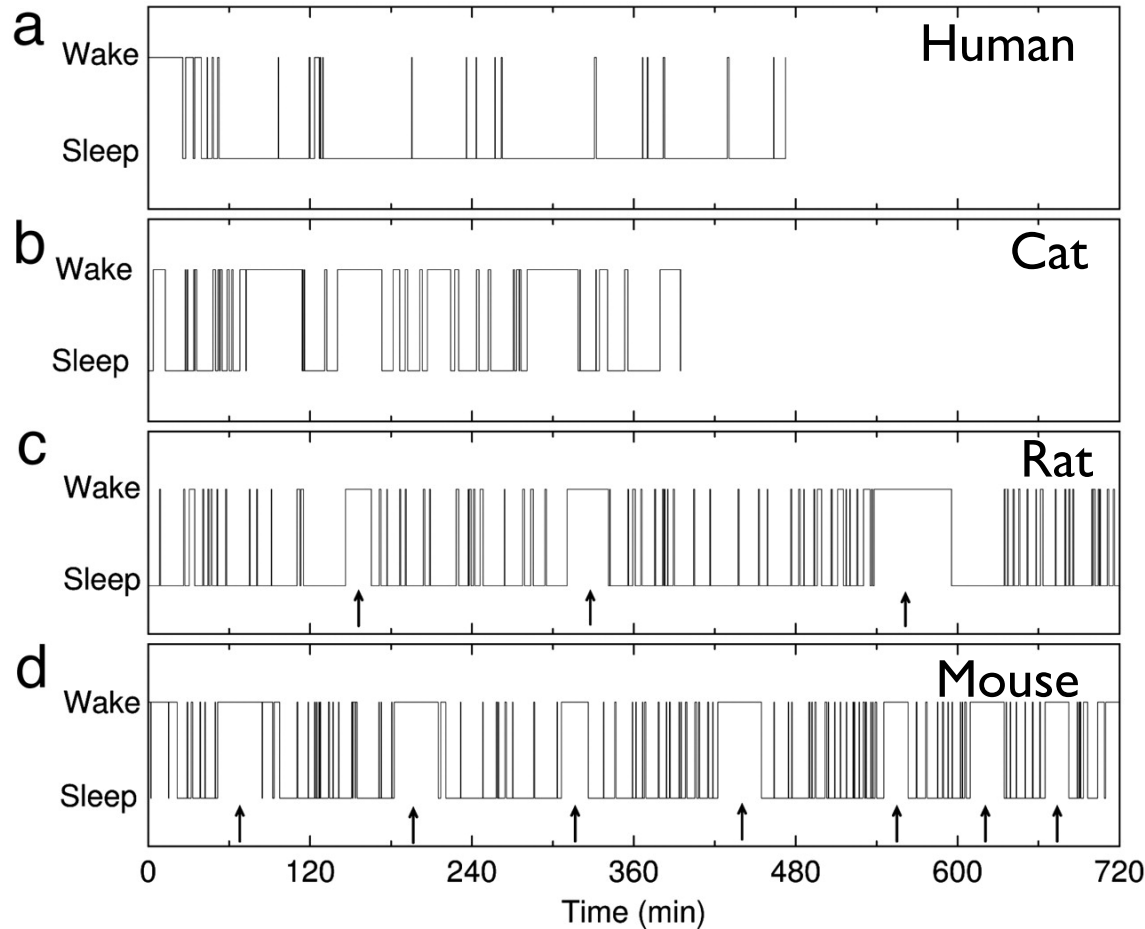


## Mean number of bouts



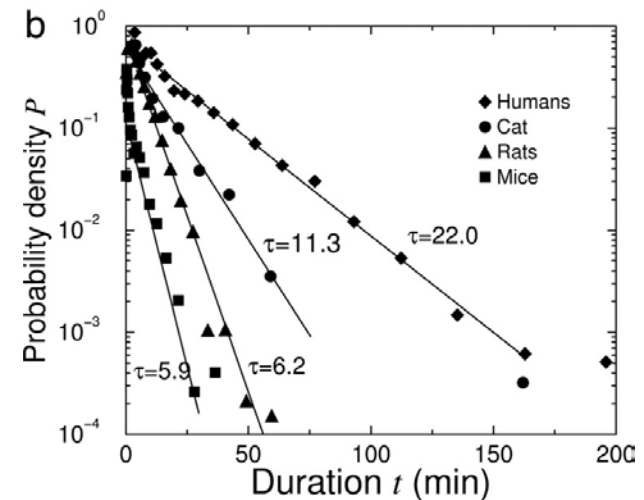
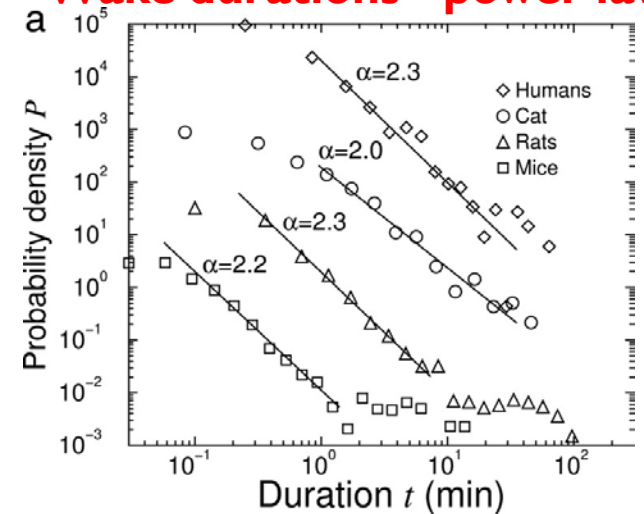
- Experimental data from Blanco-Centurion et al., J. Neurosci., 2007 of 12-hr rat sleep recording during light period

# Temporal dynamics of sleep-wake patterning in different species



Lo C et al. PNAS 2004;101:17545-17548

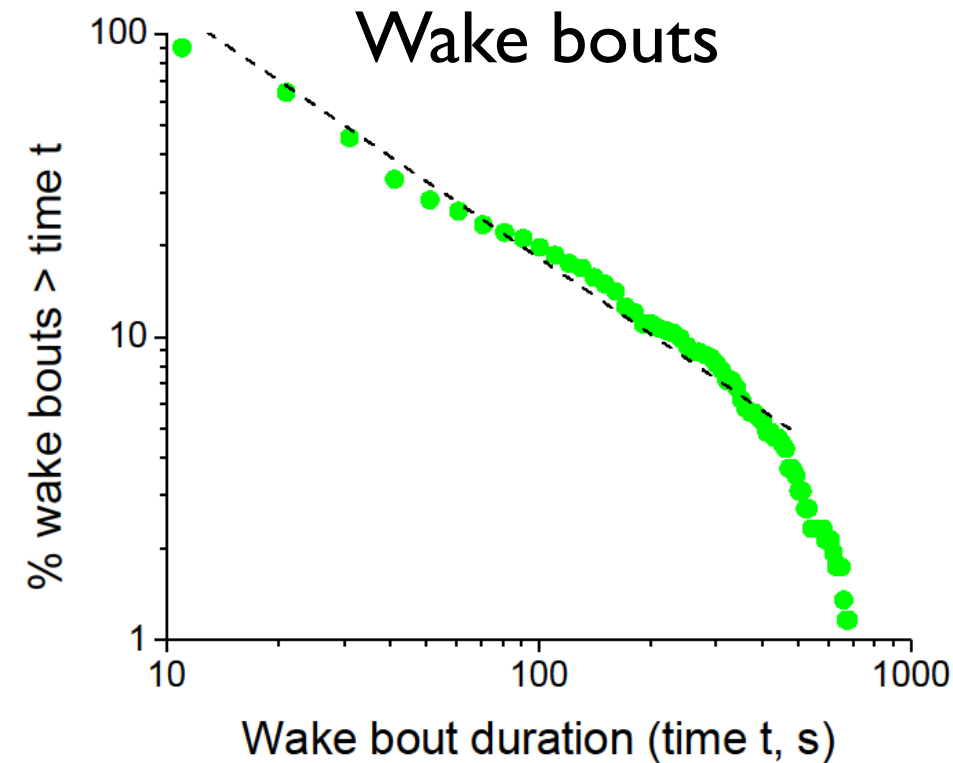
**Wake durations - power law**



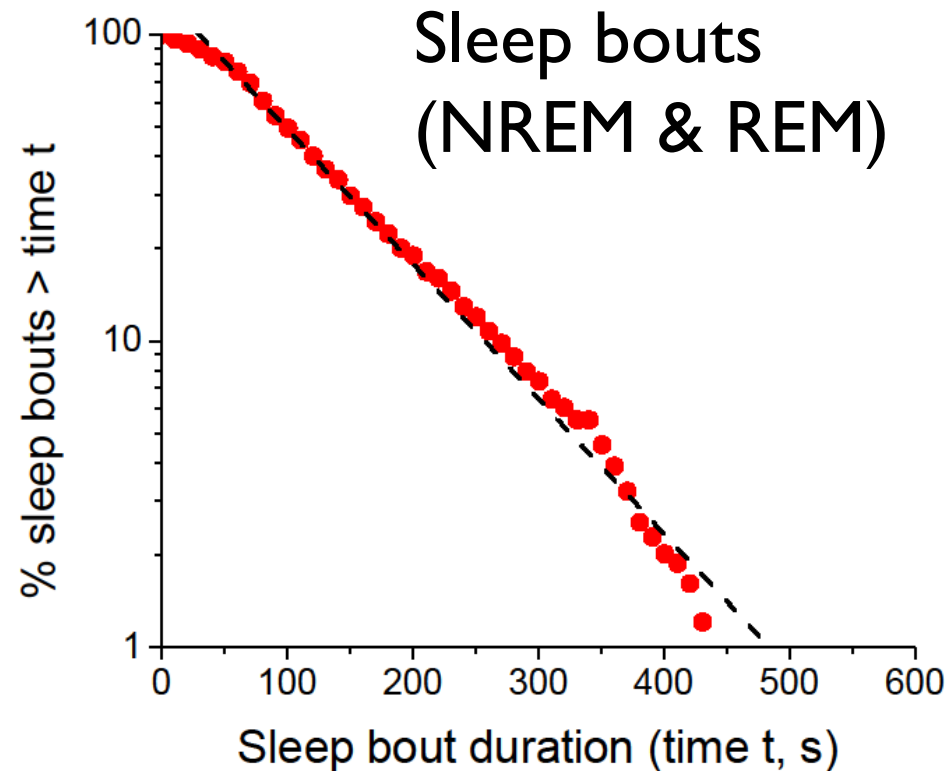
**Sleep durations - exponential**

PNAS

# Full model can generate bout length distributions with appropriate characteristics

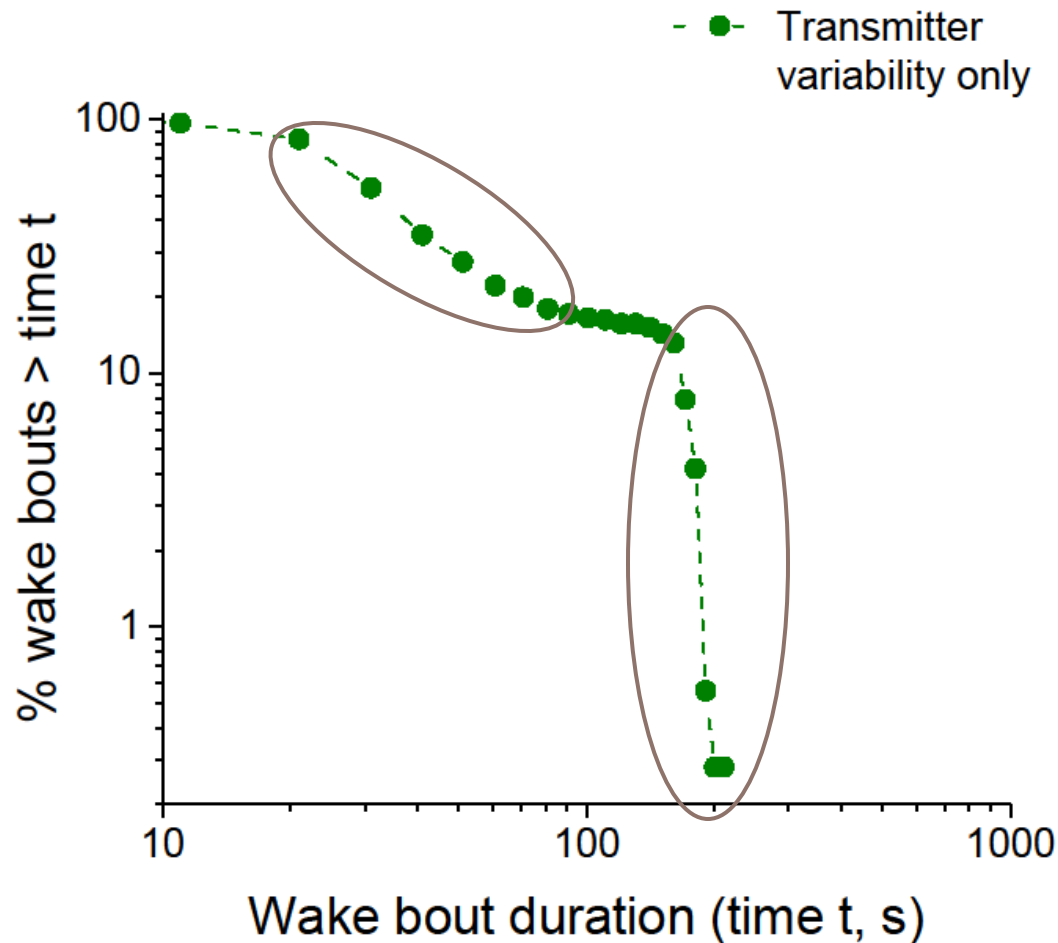


Power law fit:  $86 t^{-0.837}$   
( $r^2=0.9724$ )



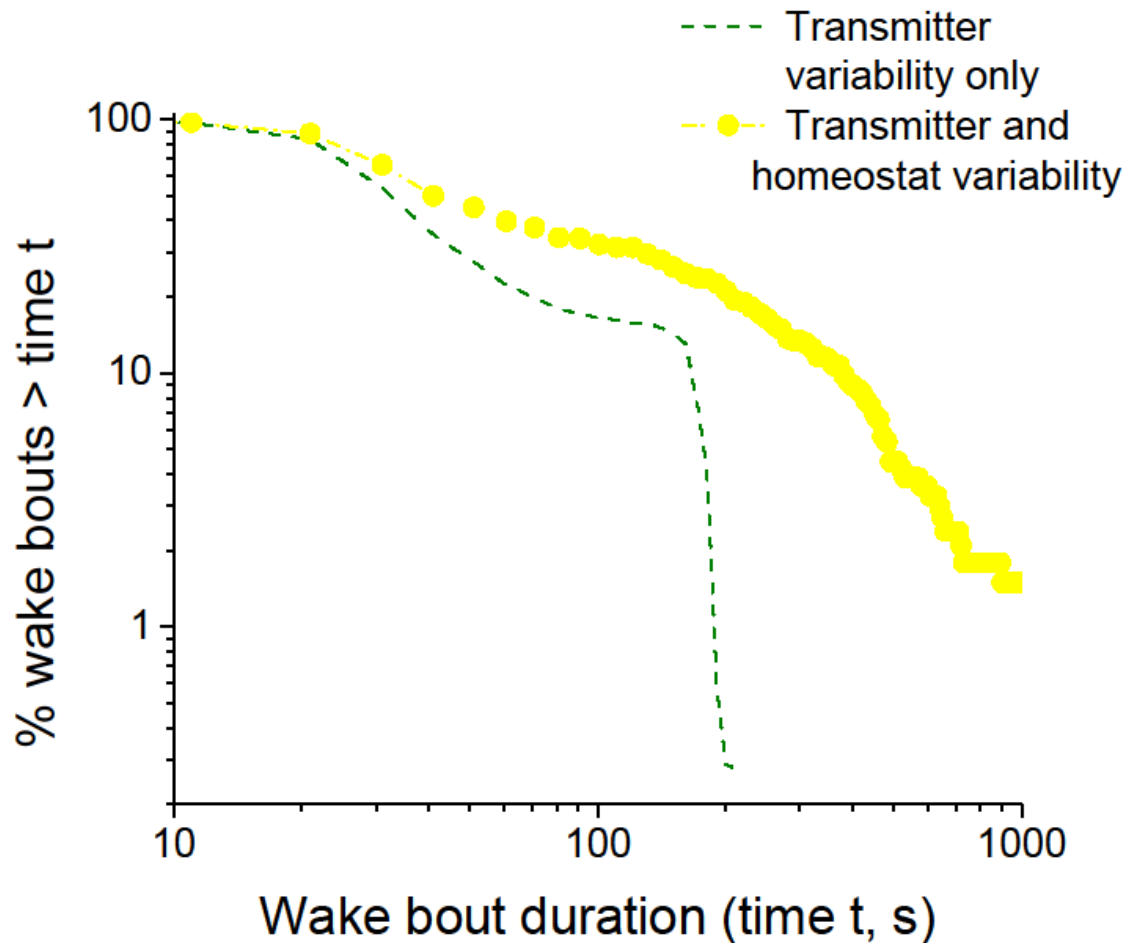
Exponential fit:  $135.8 e^{-0.01 t}$   
( $r^2=0.9882$ )

# Power law-like wake bout distribution



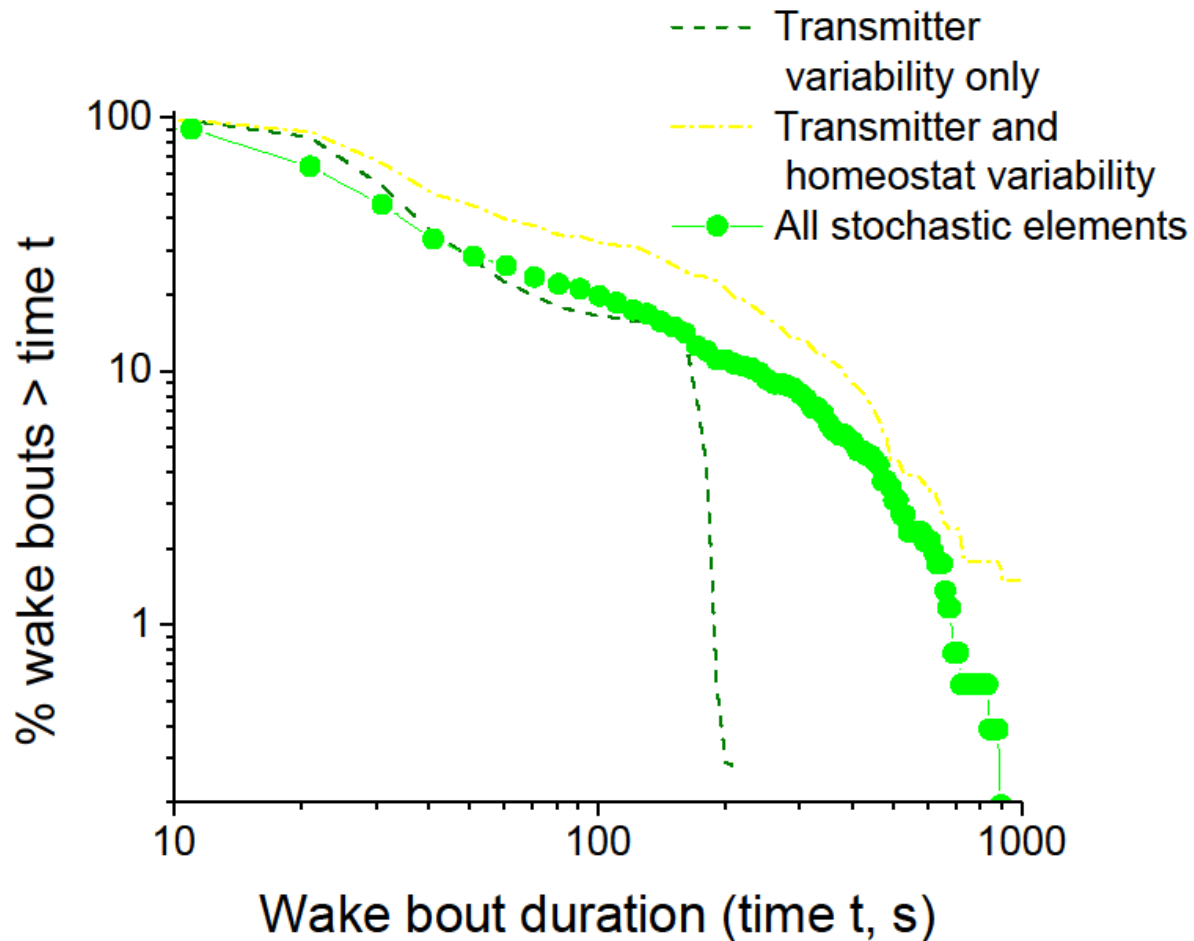
- ▶ With only transmitter variability, wake bout distribution is *bimodal*
  - ▶ Homeostatically controlled long wake bouts
  - ▶ Post-REM short wake bouts

# Power law-like wake bout distribution



- Variability in homeostat levels introduces more variance in durations of long wake bouts

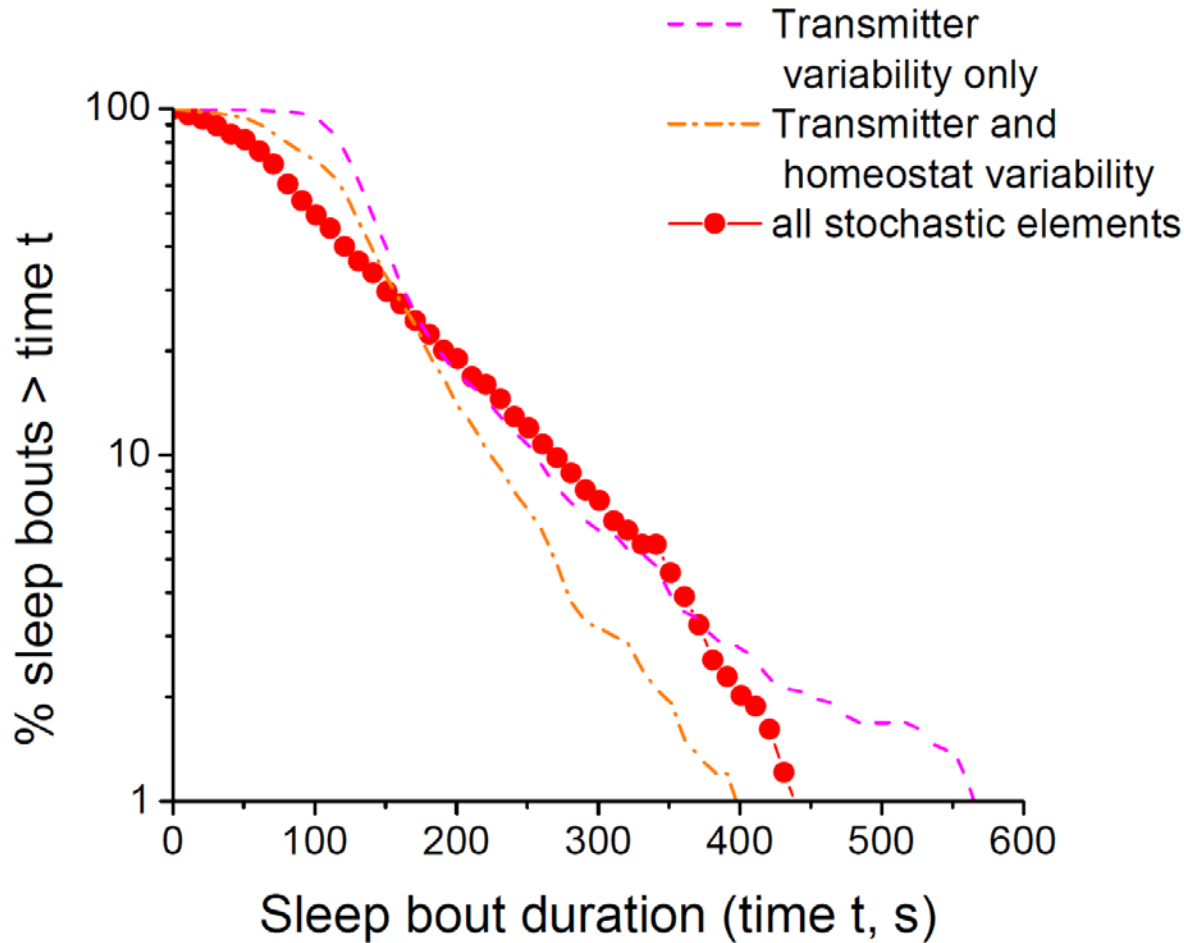
# Power law-like wake bout distribution



- ▶ Random inputs to wake populations generate many brief wake bouts
- ▶ Contribute to initial power-law profile

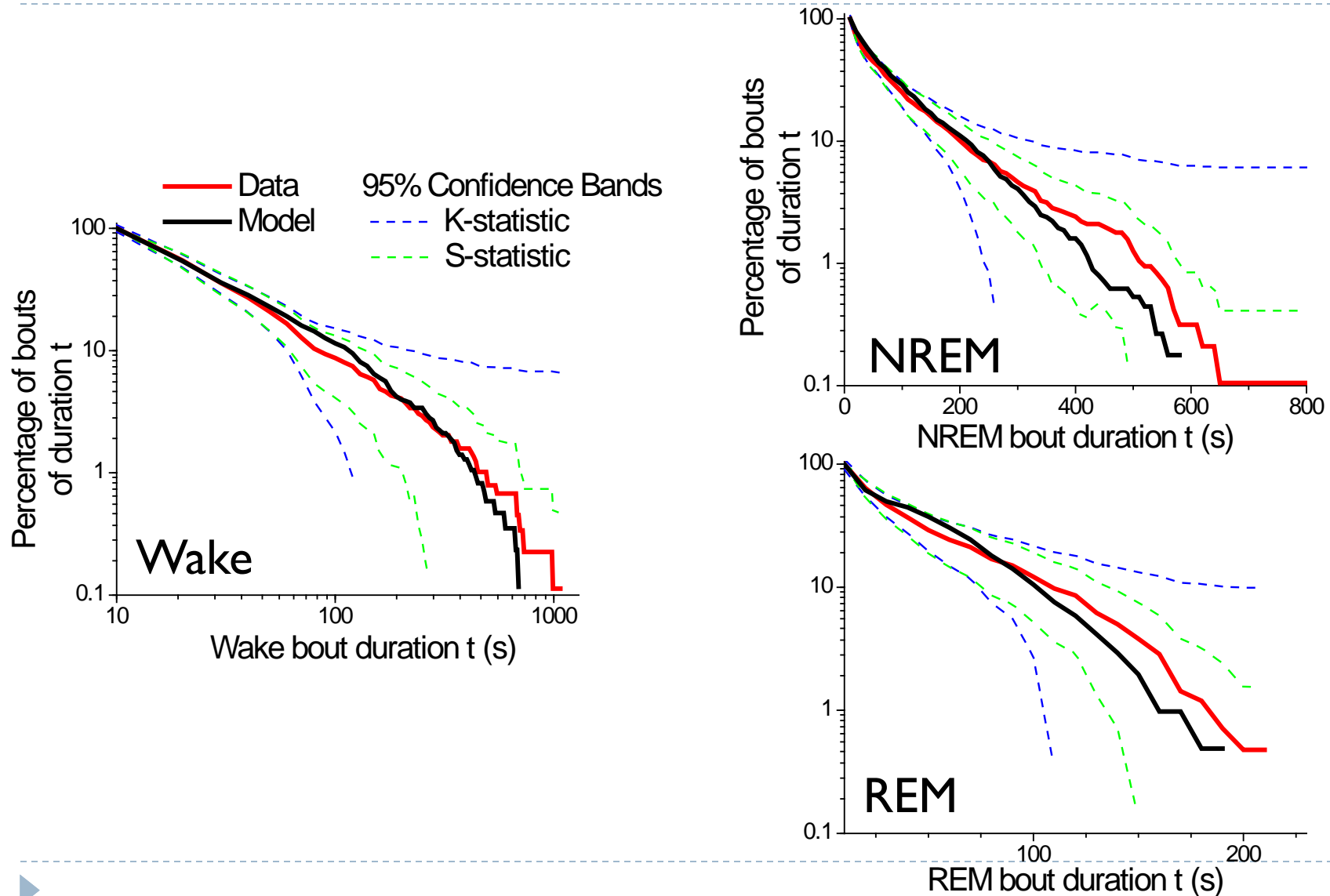


# Exponential sleep (NREM & REM) bout distribution



- ▶ Longest sleep bout durations show exponential distribution
  - ▶ variable termination of sleep states by wake
- ▶ Randomly initiated brief wake bouts fragment sleep
  - ▶ contribute to initial exponential profile

# Current work: Analyzing model fit to bout distributions from experimental data



# Investigating diverse sleep properties using the model

---

- ▶ Simulate experiments that manipulate sleep-wake network by microinjection of neurotransmitter agonists/antagonists (Diniz Behn and Booth, J Neurophysiol, 2010)
- ▶ Investigate circadian modulation of sleep-wake patterning and bi-directional coupling between sleep-wake network and the SCN (Fleshner et al, Phil Trans Royal Soc A, 2011)
- ▶ Comparative analysis of sleep-wake dynamics generated by different network structures, i.e. mutual inhibition network for REM generation (Diniz Behn et al, submitted)



# Acknowledgments

---

- ▶ Cecilia Diniz Behn,  
Gettysburg College

UM Dept of Anesthesiology

- ▶ George Mashour
- ▶ Ralph Lydic

UM Dept of Mathematics

- ▶ Danny Forger
- ▶ Justin Dunmyre
- ▶ Michelle Fleshner
- ▶ Aparna Ananthasubramanian
- ▶ Rebecca Gleit

- ▶ AFOSR Program in  
Chronobiology
- ▶ NSF DMS-1121361





Thank you!