

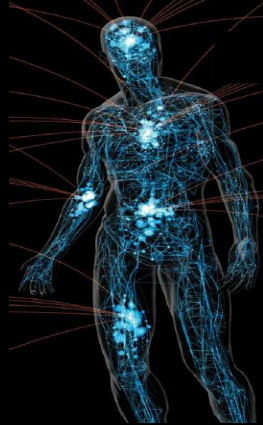
# Novel time delay stability approach to infer coupling in systems with bursting dynamics and to identify networks of organ interactions



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*Phase transitions in physiologic coupling. PNAS 109(26) (2012).*

*Network Physiology reveals relations between network topology and physiological function. Nature Communications 3:702 (2012).*

*Network Physiology: How organ systems dynamically interact. PLoS ONE 10(11): e0142143 (2015).*

ISINP, Como 7/26/17



# Multiple Organ Failure

- leading cause of death in most intensive care units

(Deitch EA. *Ann. Surg.* 1992;216:117–134;

Buchman TG. *Complex Systems Science in BioMedicine* 2006; 631–640.)

- autopsy findings in patients show that:

- organs are intact

- tissue architecture is preserved

- cells do not appear abnormal

(Lizana FG et al. *Med. Clin.* 2000;114:99–103)

**What went wrong?**

# Multiple Organ Failure

- Multiple Organ Failure = Uncoupled Oscillators?!

(Buchman TG. Ibid)

- critical care medicine offers support for specific organ systems but also need to support (“fix”) the links between organ systems

**→ Important to identify and quantify interactions between organ systems, and how these interactions change under different conditions and with medical treatment.**

- prior to our work, there was no systematic method to quantify these interactions



# Network of physiological interactions

Despite its importance to physiology and medicine the network of interactions between organ systems in the human body is *not known*



**Need a map of real-time communications between organ systems**

## Challenges:

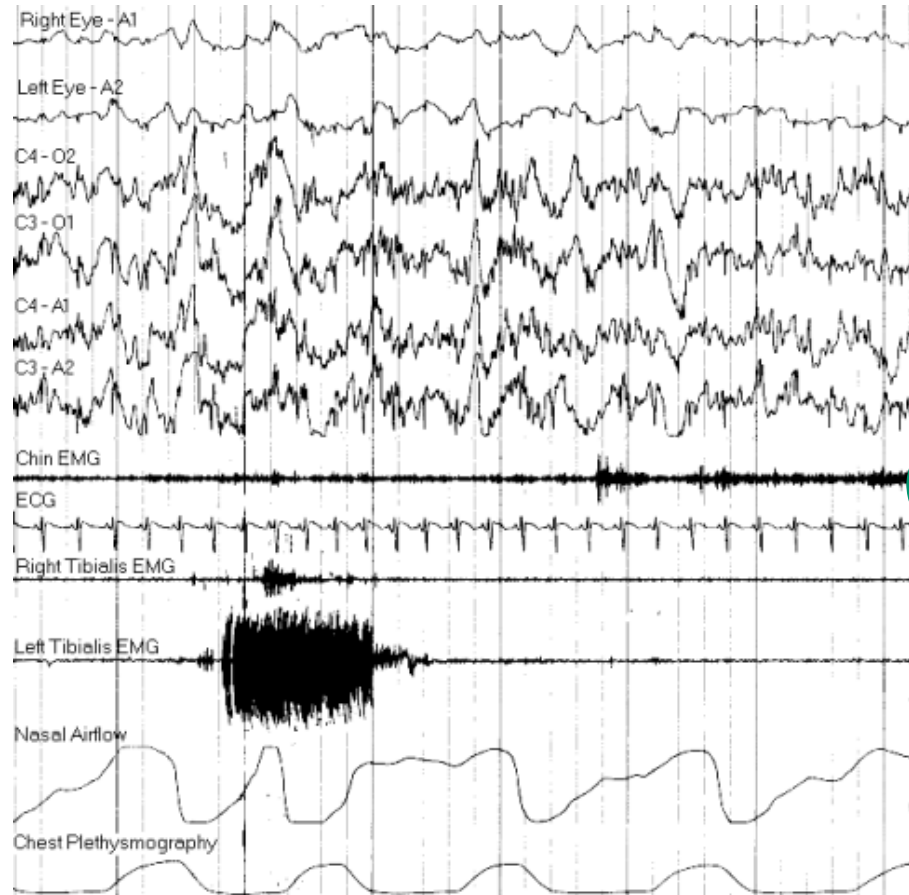
- Network nodes are not simple units but complex dynamical systems
- Network nodes are diverse systems working on different time scales
- Network nodes are involved in multiple simultaneous interactions
- Network nodes have output characteristics that change in time
- Network links/strength of coupling between systems varies in time

# Physiological data



**Muscle tone  
EMG**

**Respiration**



**Eye movements  
EOG**

**Brain activity  
EEG**

**Heart dynamics  
ECG**

→ Network of dynamical interactions; study the evolution of multiple physiologic interactions across different physiologic states

# Synchronization: Definition

**“Synchronization is an adjustment of rhythms of **self-sustained** oscillators due to their weak interaction.”**

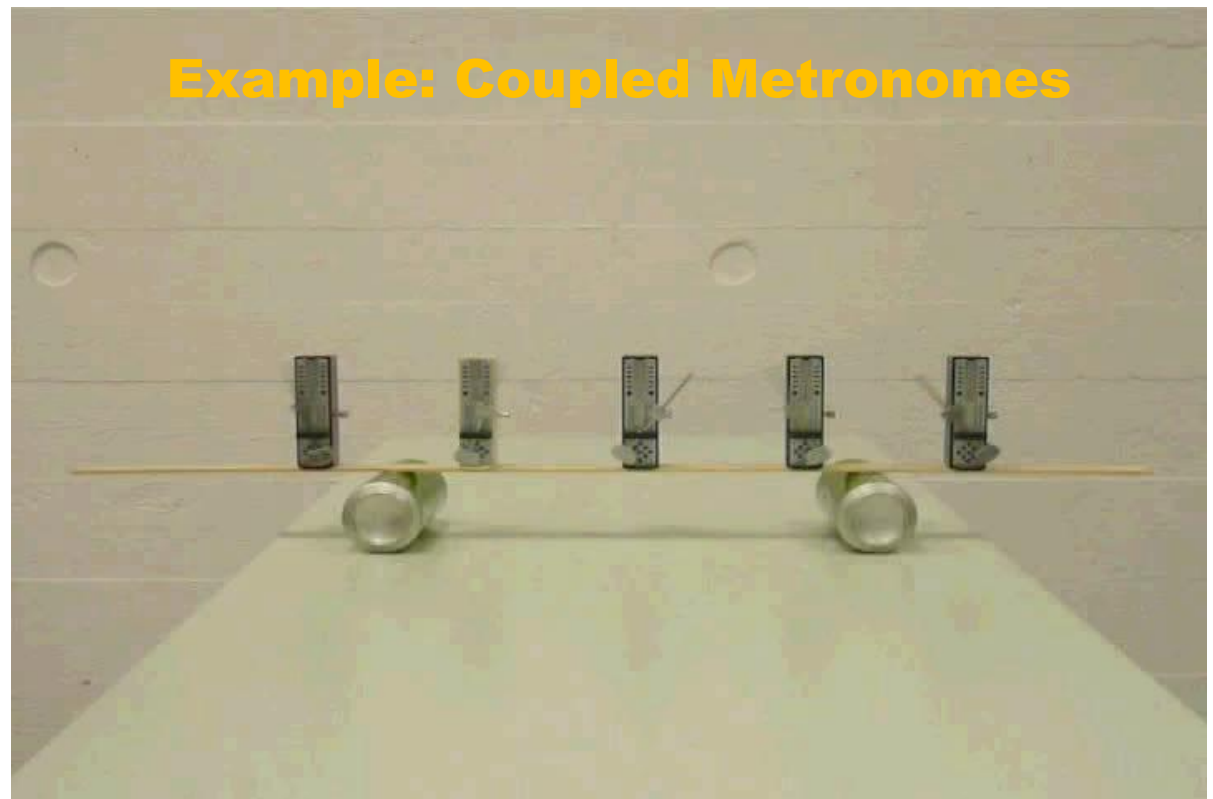
**Pikovsky, Rosenblum, Kurths.**

**Synchronization: a universal concept in nonlinear sciences**

**Oxford University Press, 2001**

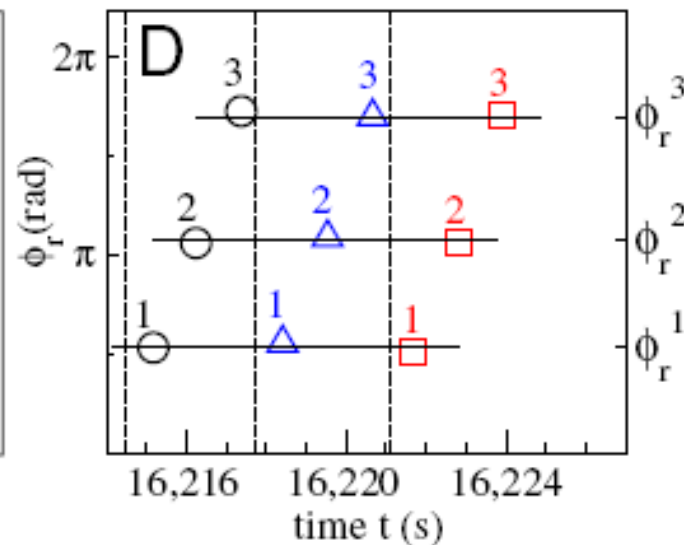
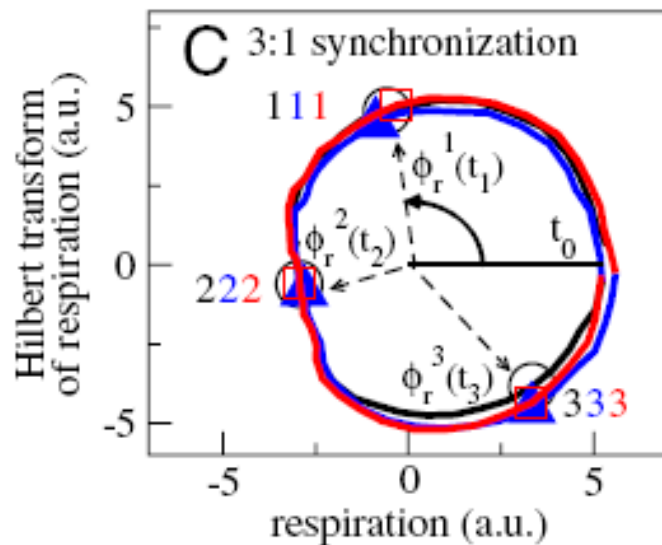
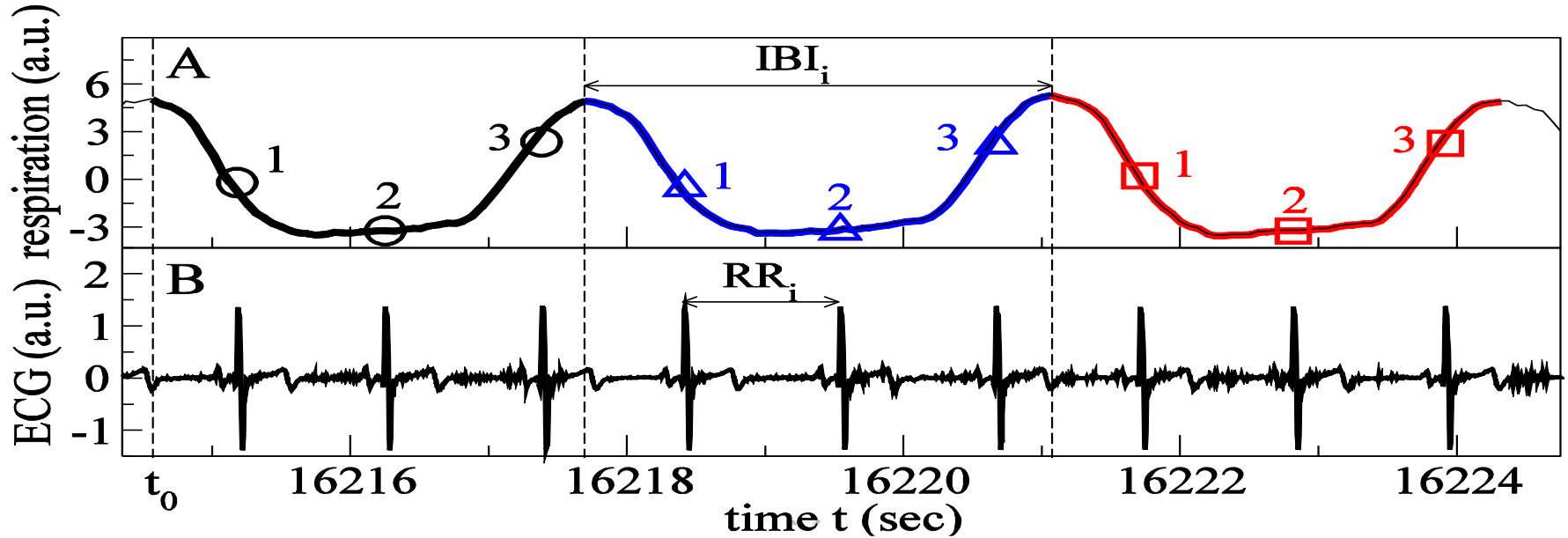
**Start:**  
**different frequencies,**  
**different phases**  
**→ No synchronization**

**End:**  
**same frequencies,**  
**same phase difference**  
**(“phase locked”)**  
**→ Synchronization**

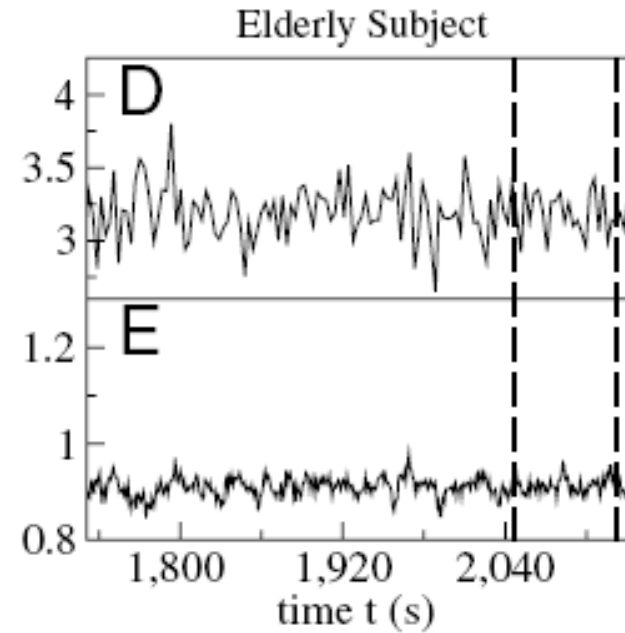
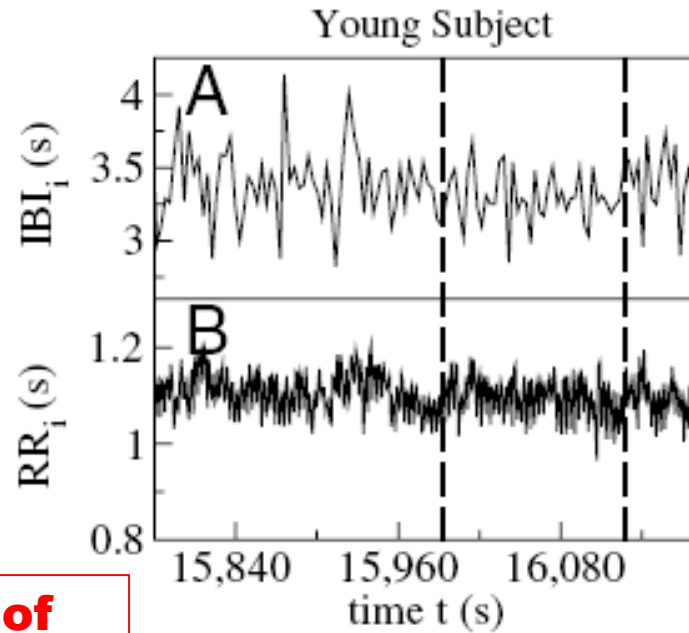




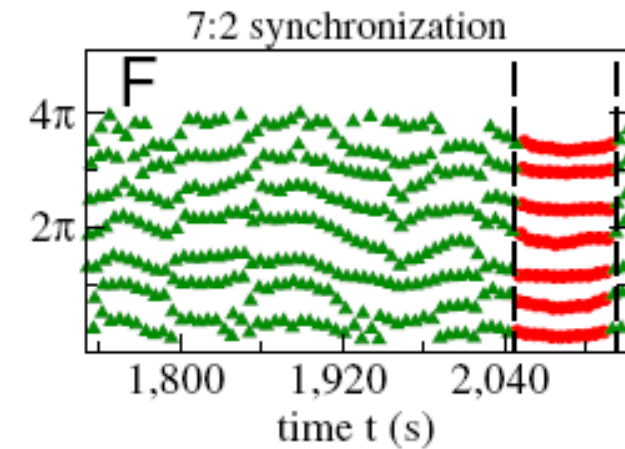
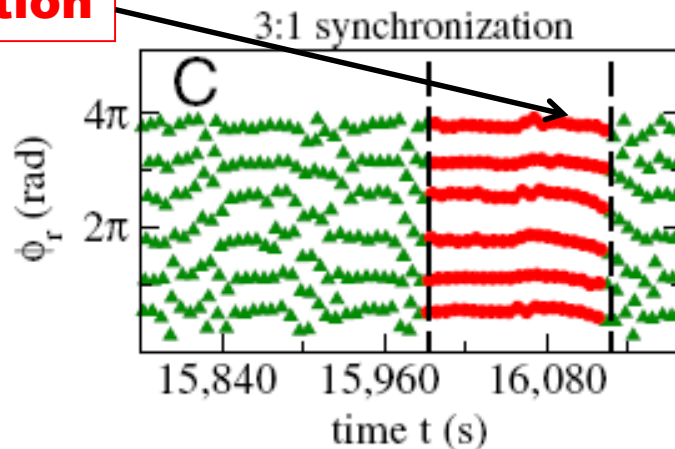
# Cardio-respiratory phase synchronization



# Cardio-respiratory phase synchronization despite continuous fluctuations



**Segments of Synchronization**





# Cardio-respiratory phase synchronization

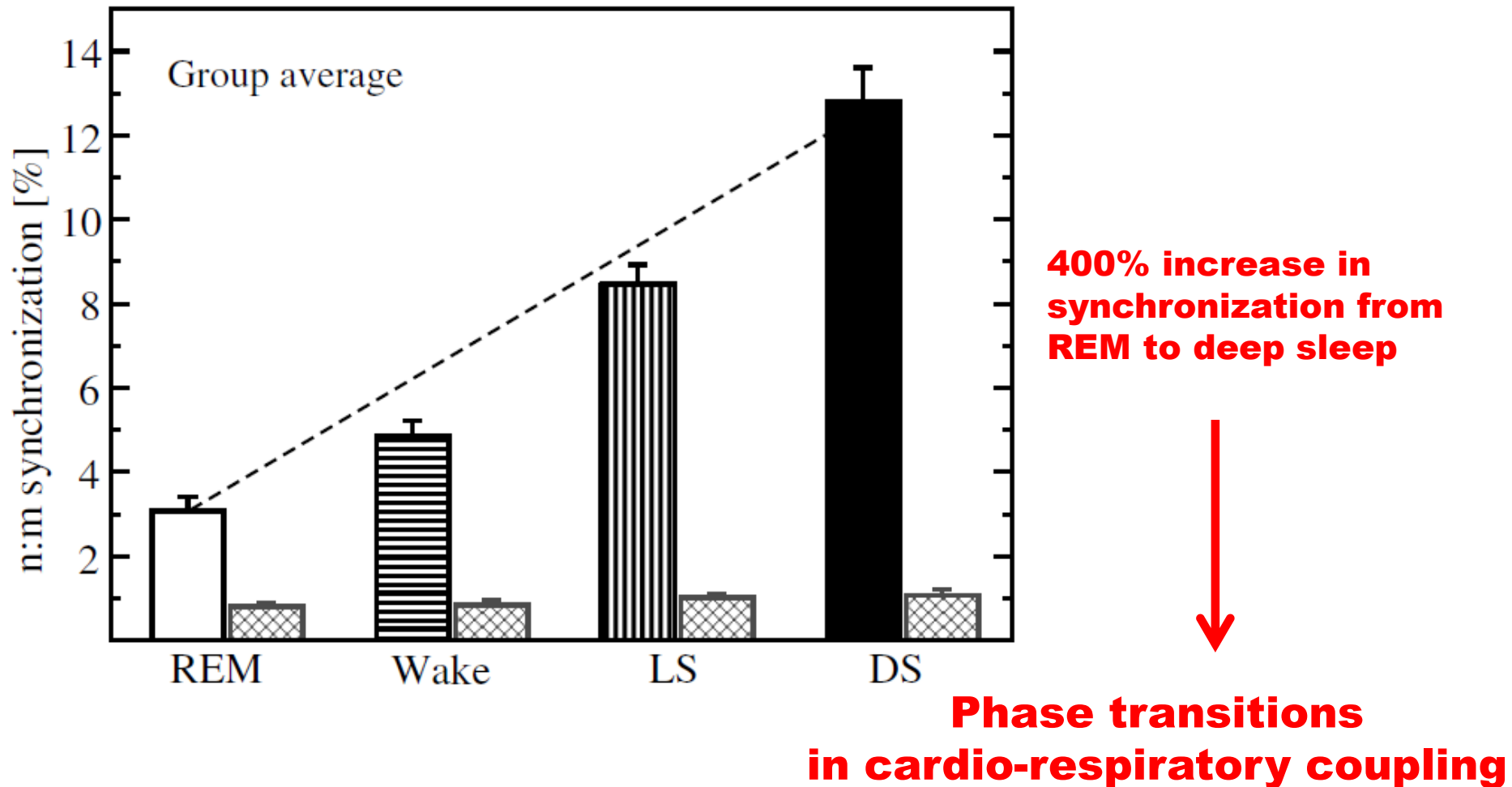
## during full-night sleep

### **Polysomnographic Database:**

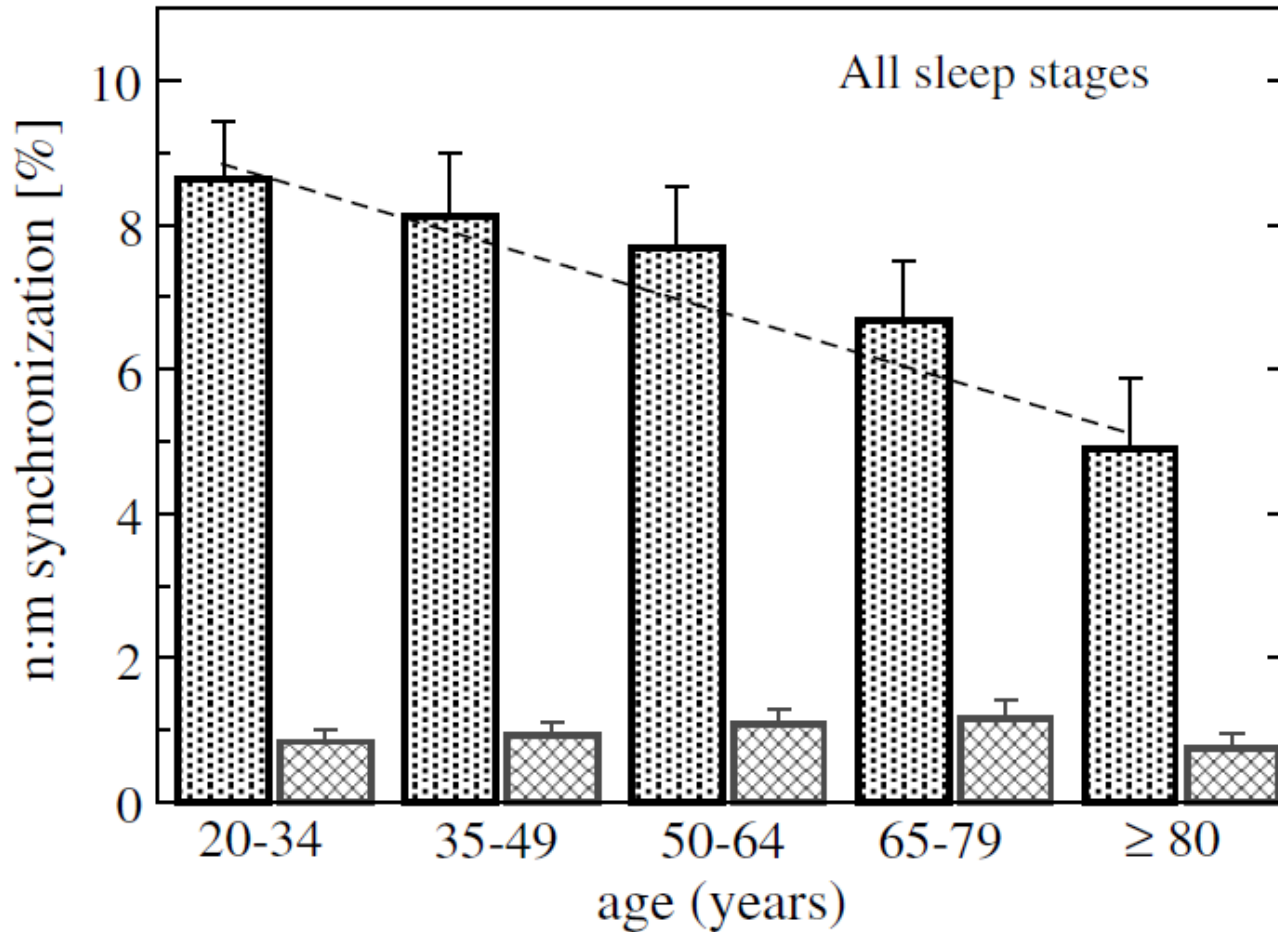
- **simultaneous recordings of heartbeat, respiration and sleep stages of 200 healthy subjects during sleep (EU-Project SIESTA)**
- **all age groups from 20-90 years**
- **data length 8 hours**

# Cardio-respiratory phase synchronization across sleep stages

## Pronounced stratification of synchronization



# Cardio-respiratory phase synchronization across age groups

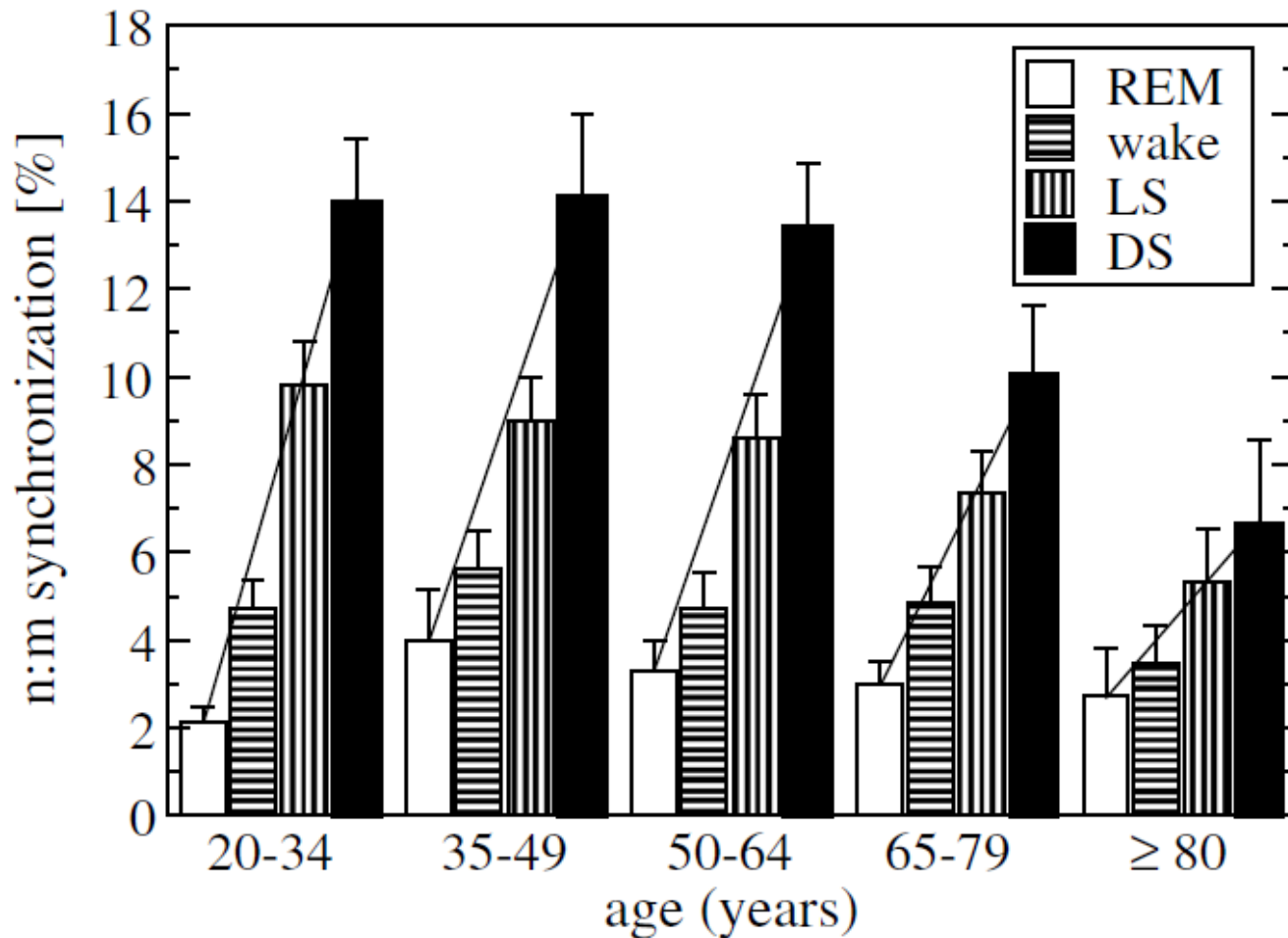


**50% reduction  
with advanced  
age**



# Cardio-respiratory phase synchronization

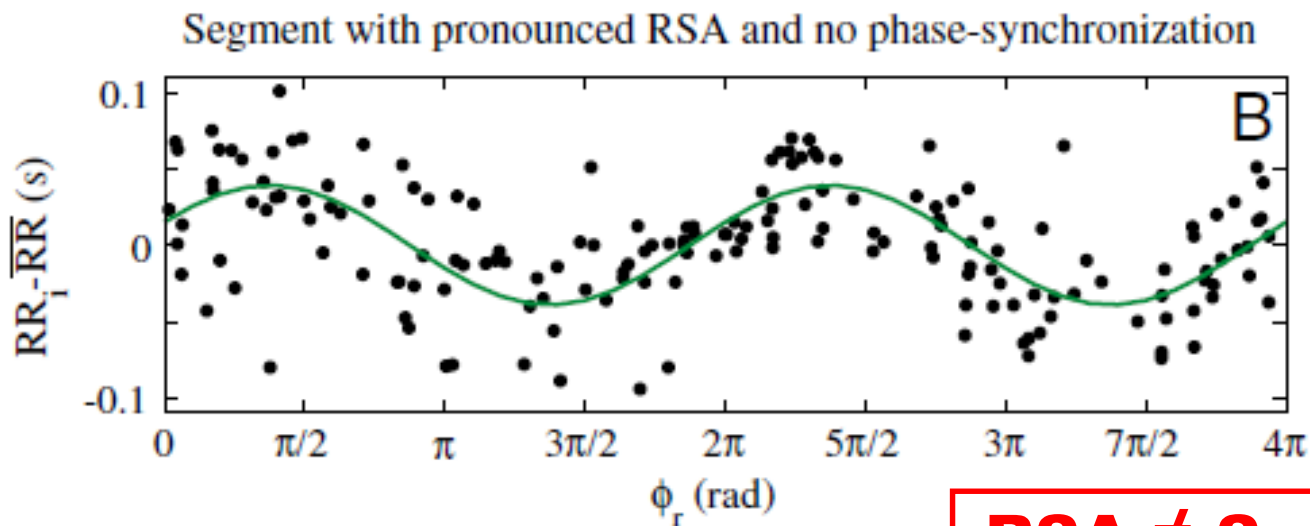
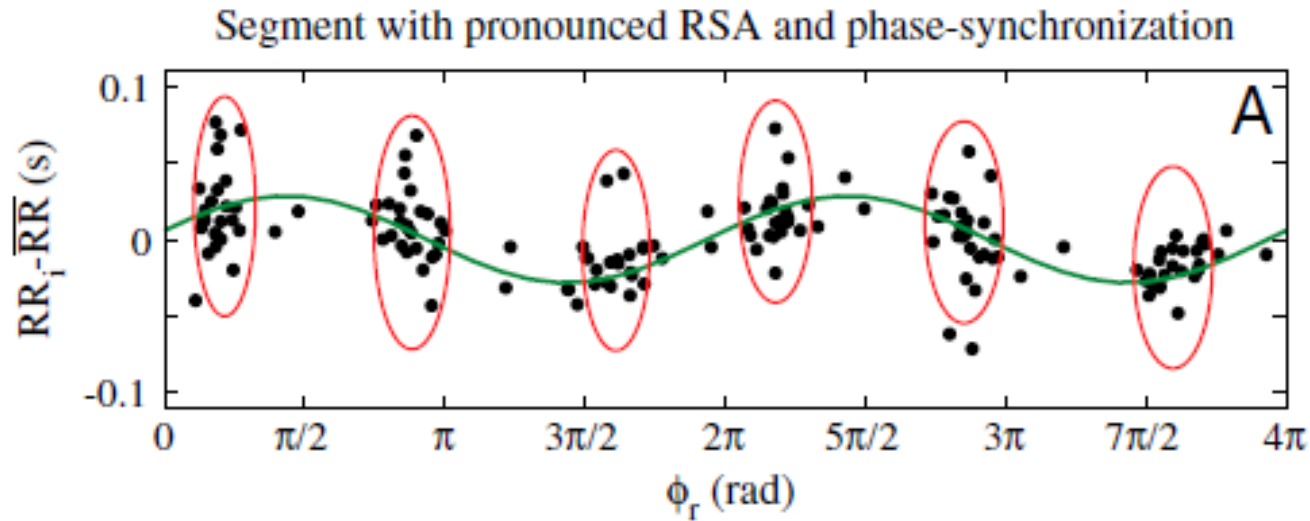
Stratification pattern across all age groups



**sleep-stage stratification pattern is *stable* for all age groups**

# RSA versus Phase Synchronization

two distinct forms of cardio-respiratory coupling

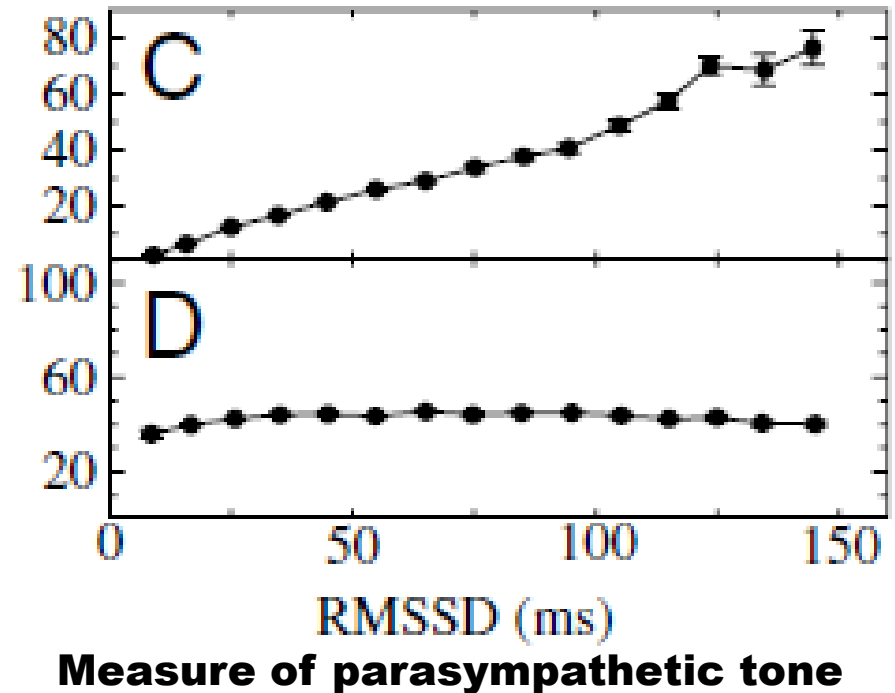
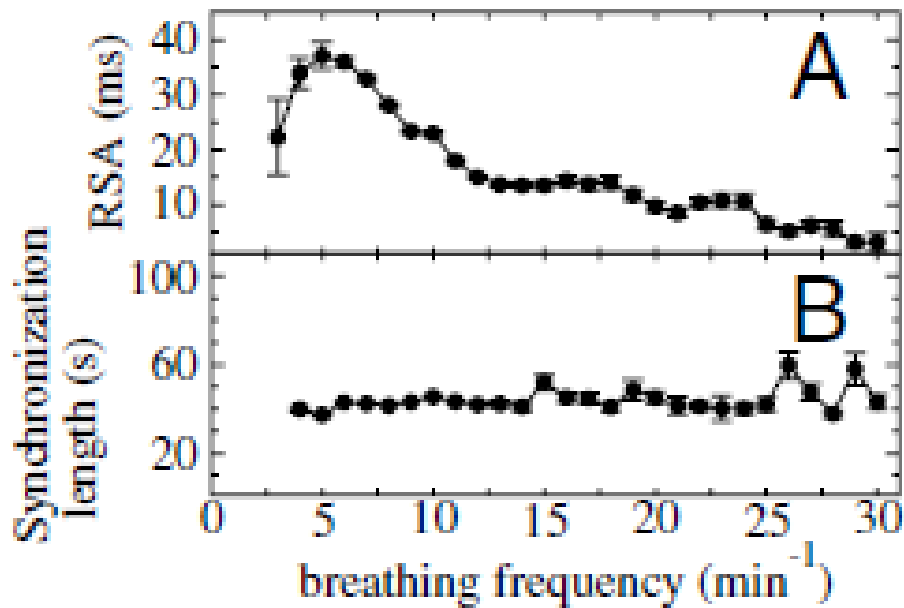


Same subject,  
same sleep  
stage episode

**RSA  $\neq$  Synchronization**

# RSA versus Phase synchronization

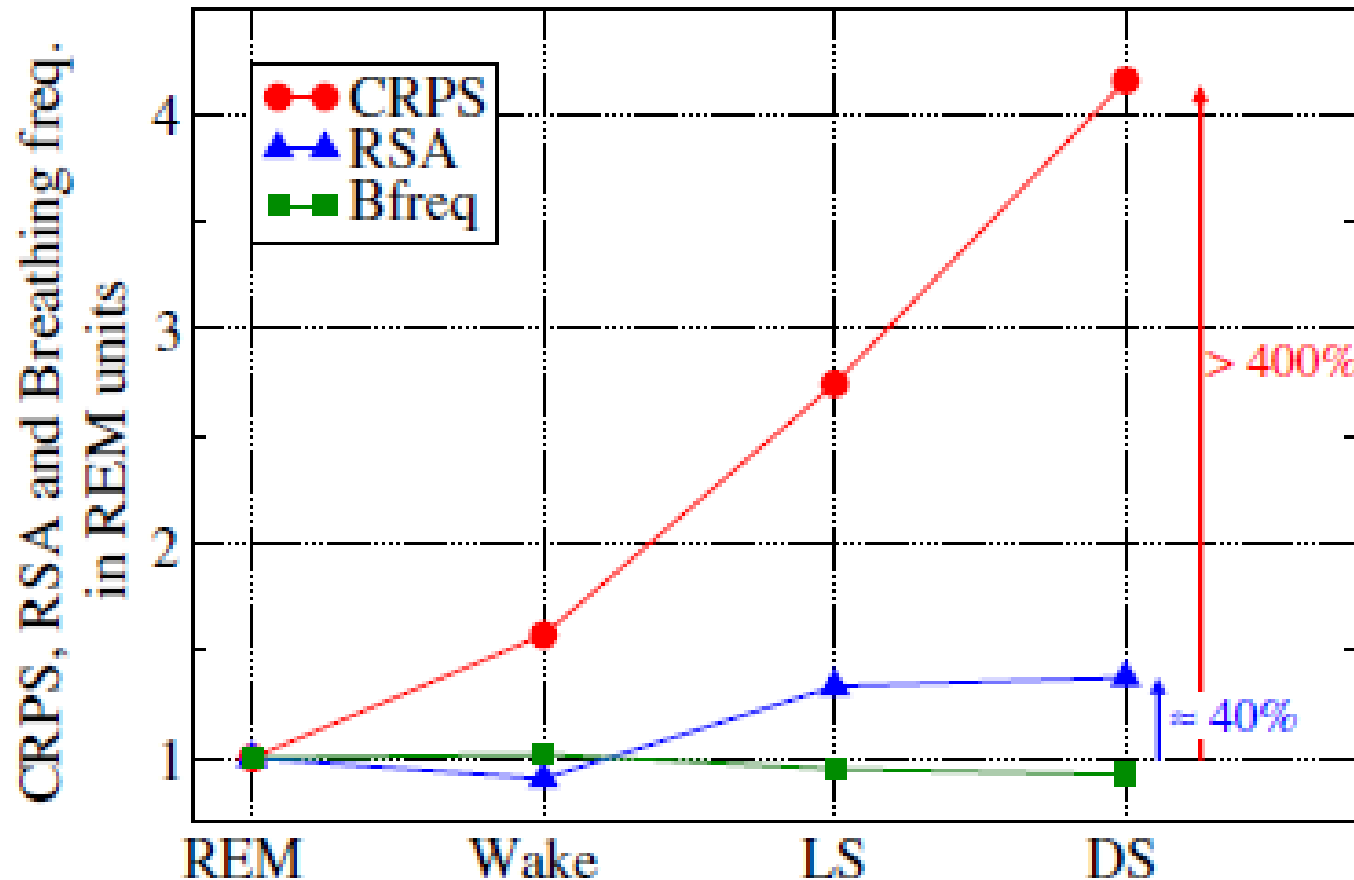
Dependence on key physiologic variables



→ **different mechanisms underlie these two forms of cardio-respiratory interaction**

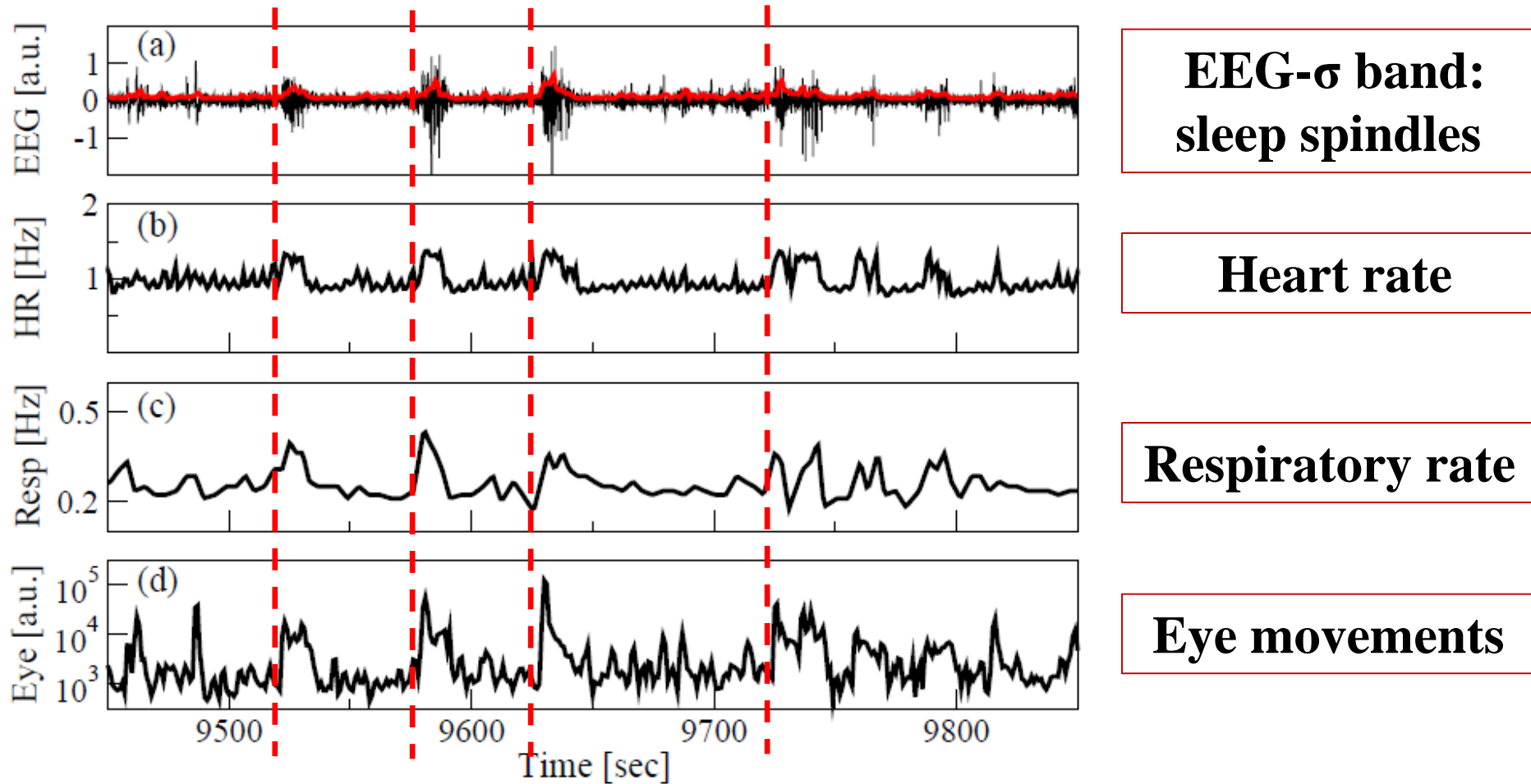


# RSA versus Phase synchronization



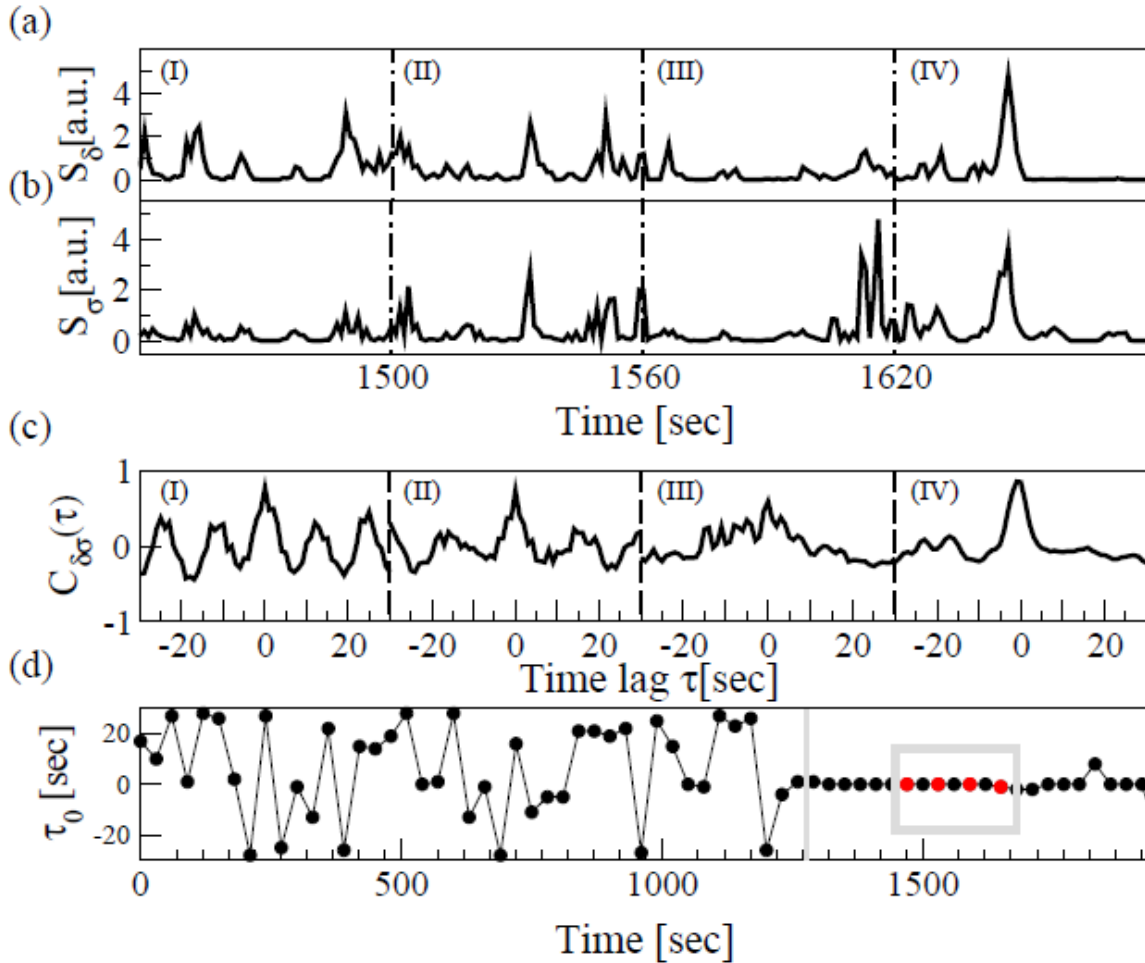
→ **cardio-respiratory phase synchronization:**  
**very sensitive marker of neuroautonomic control**

# Synchronized activity across diverse systems



→ Bursts in the dynamics of one system are correlated with bursts in other systems

# Quantifying interactions between diverse systems: concept of Time Delay Stability



normalized spectral  
power of EEG- $\delta$  band

normalized spectral  
power of EEG- $\sigma$  band

Cross-correlation  
function vs. time lag  
in 60 sec windows

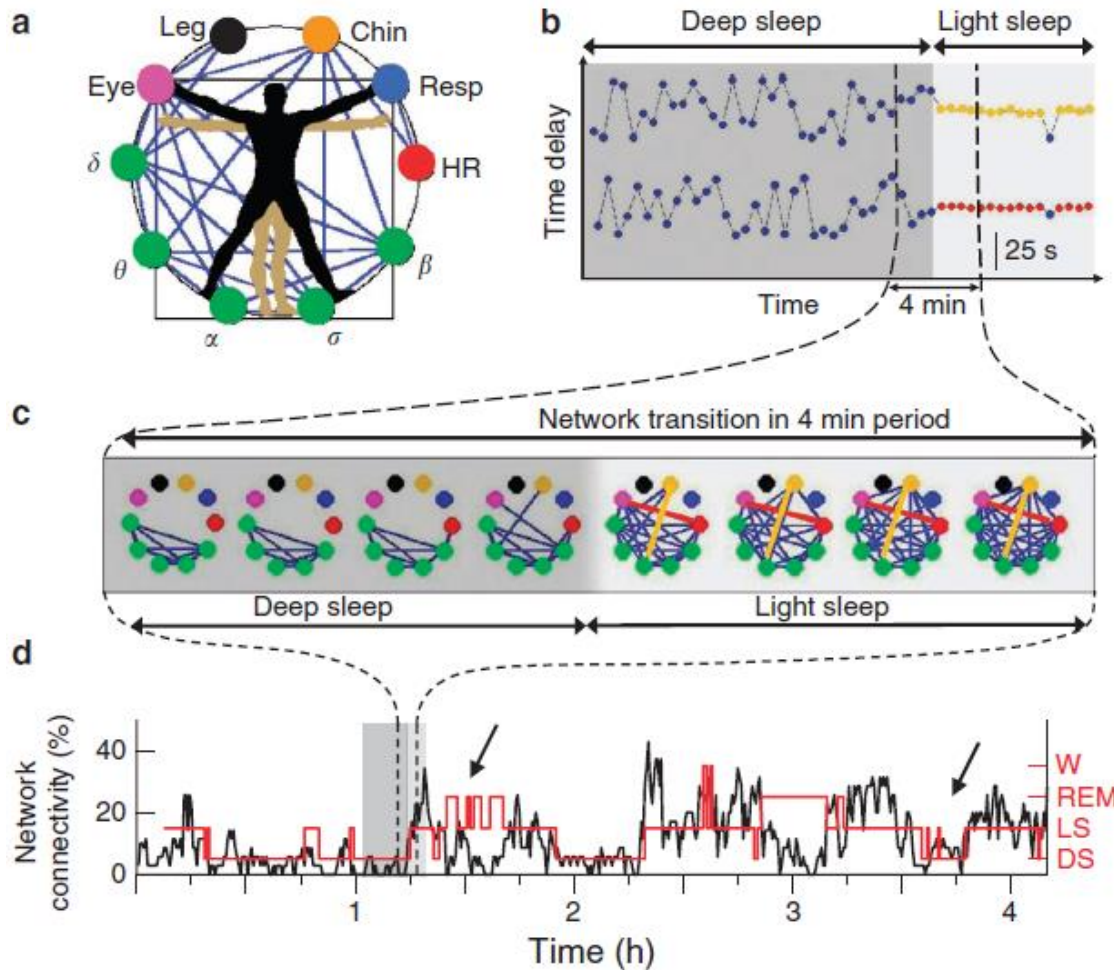
Time delay vs. real time

$$\%TDS = \frac{\text{stable time}}{\text{total time}} \times 100$$

→ Time periods of constant time delay indicate stable interaction  
represented by network links



# Transitions in the network of physiological interactions



$\alpha$  – Chin interaction

HR – Eye interaction

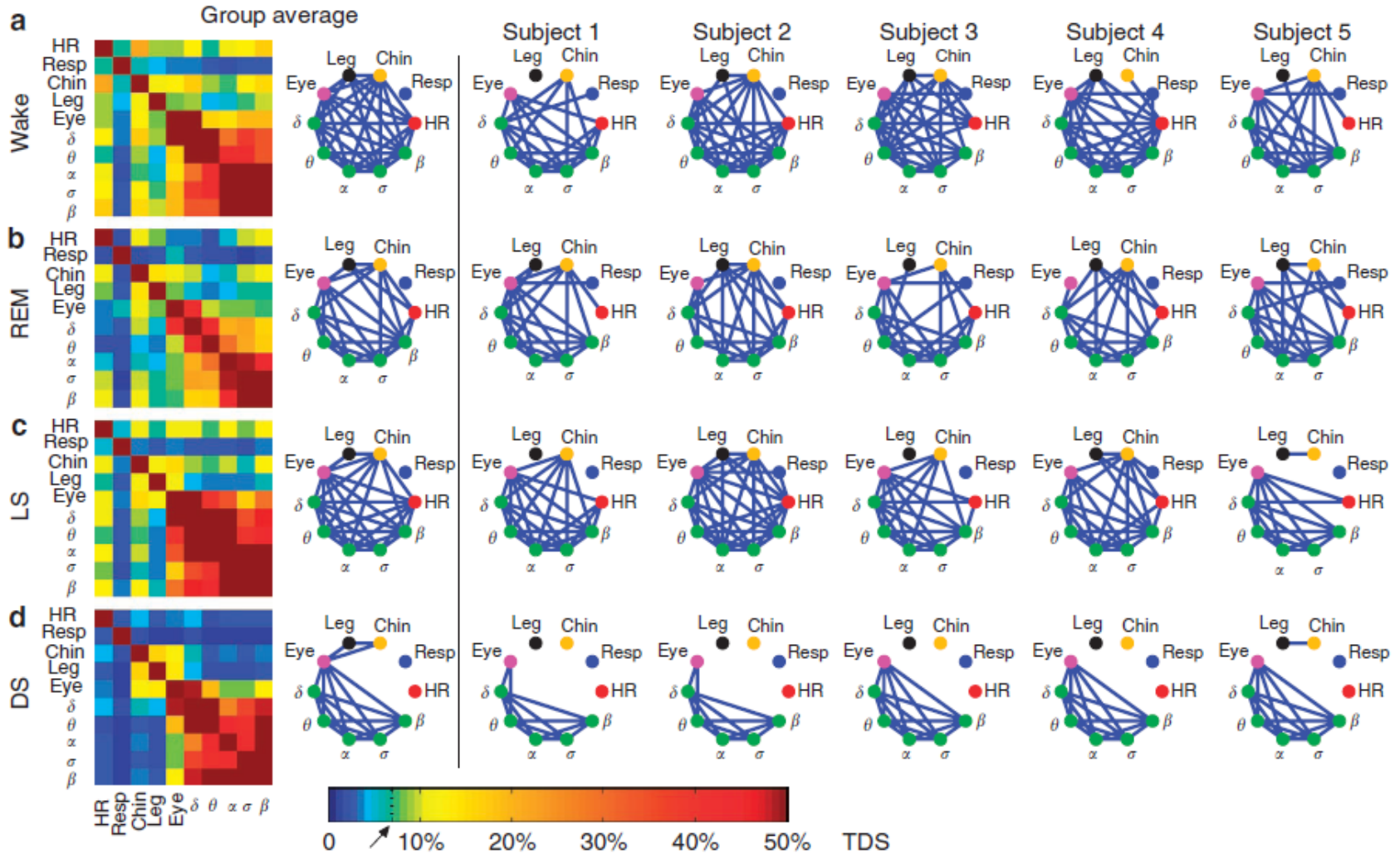
4 min snapshot

Dynamical Evolution

→ Fast reorganization of network connectivity with transitions across physiologic states

# Network connectivity across sleep stages

## Wake, REM sleep, Light sleep (LS), Deep sleep (DS)



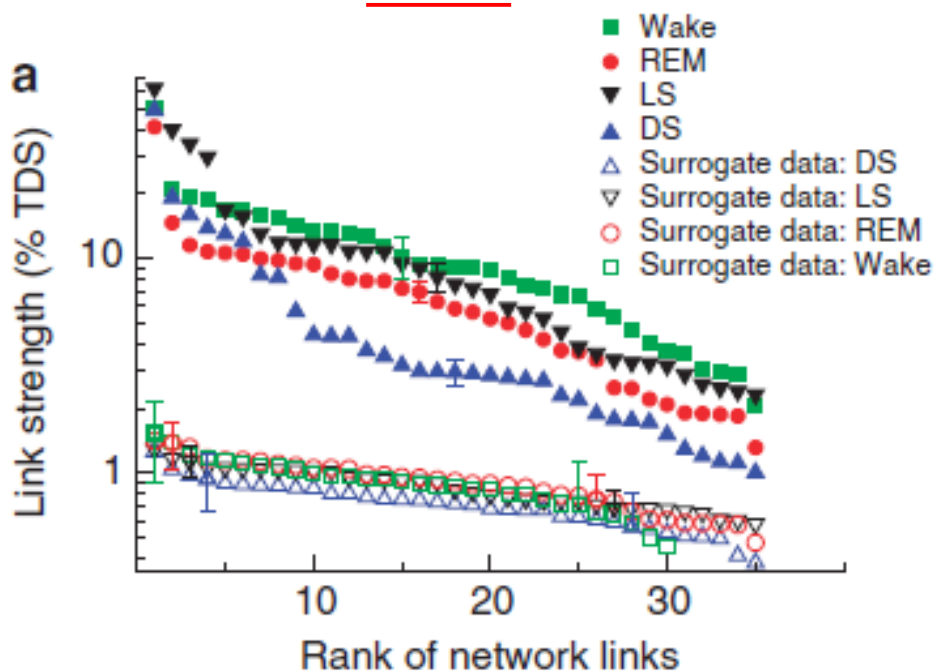
→ Network topology changes with sleep-stage transitions



# Rank distributions of the strength of network links

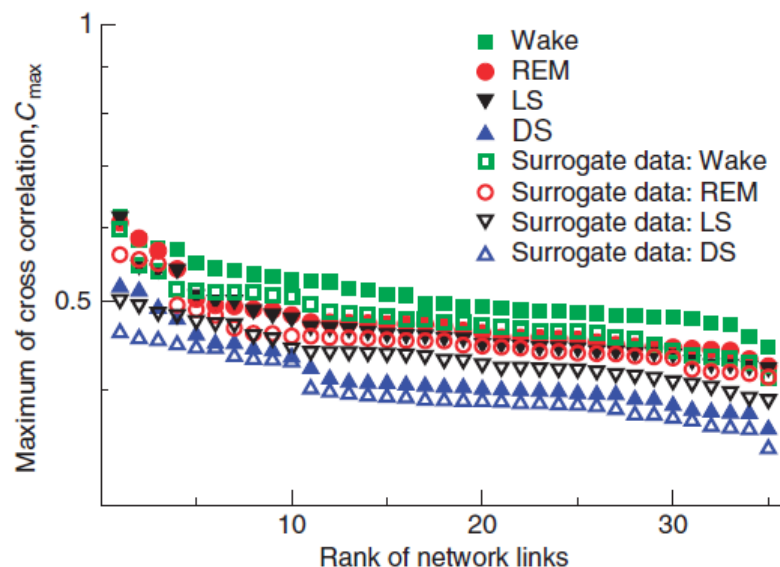
## Group-averaged strength of individual links

### TDS



Sleep-stage stratification pattern  
for most links

### Cross-Corr



No difference between real and  
surrogate data

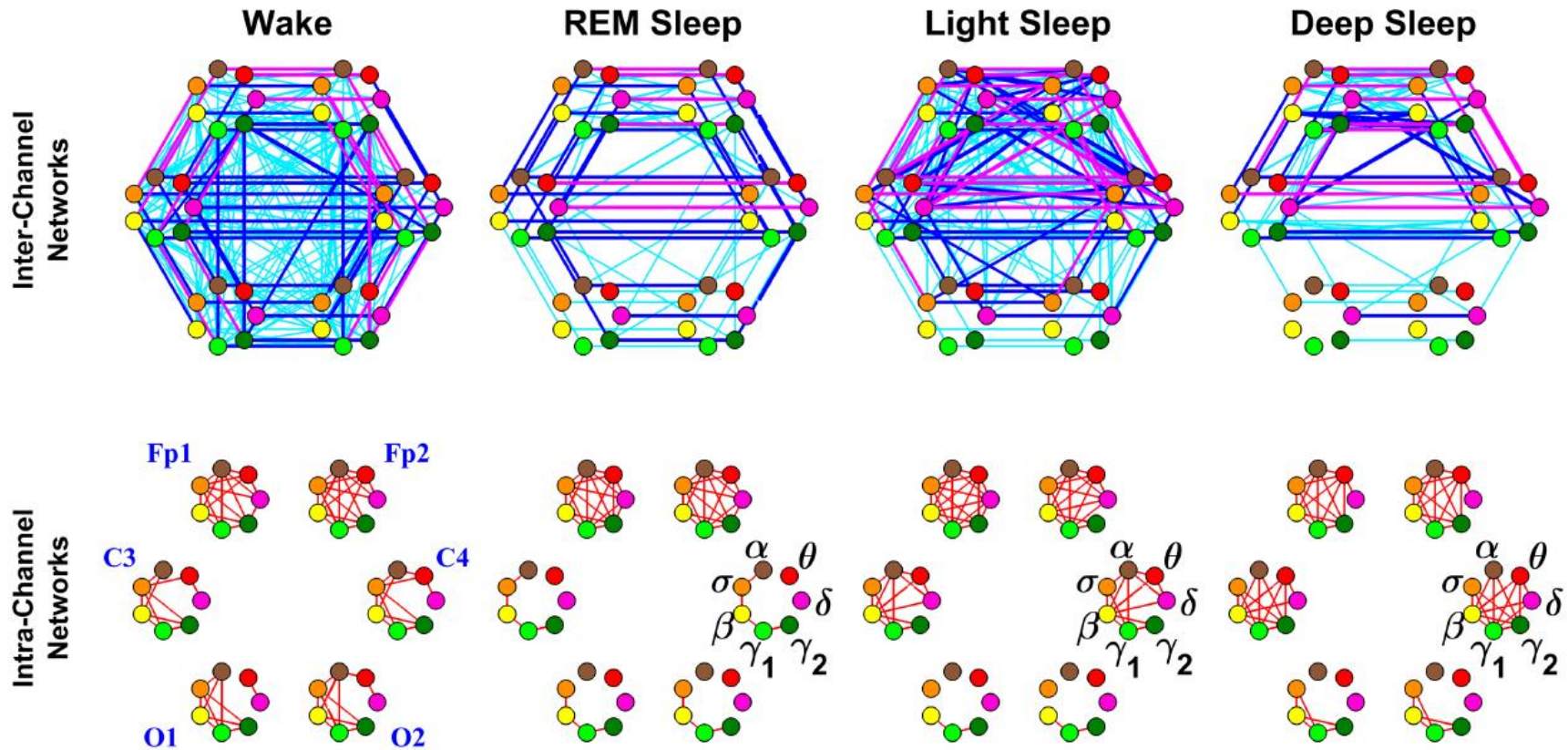


## Time Delay Stability (TDS)

- **Suitable for heterogeneous and non-stationary signals**
- **Not affected by autocorrelations**
- **For systems with changing coupling strength**  
→ **Captures the dynamics of interactions**
- **Can be applied to diverse systems**

# Network Physiology

## Networks of brain activity across sleep stages



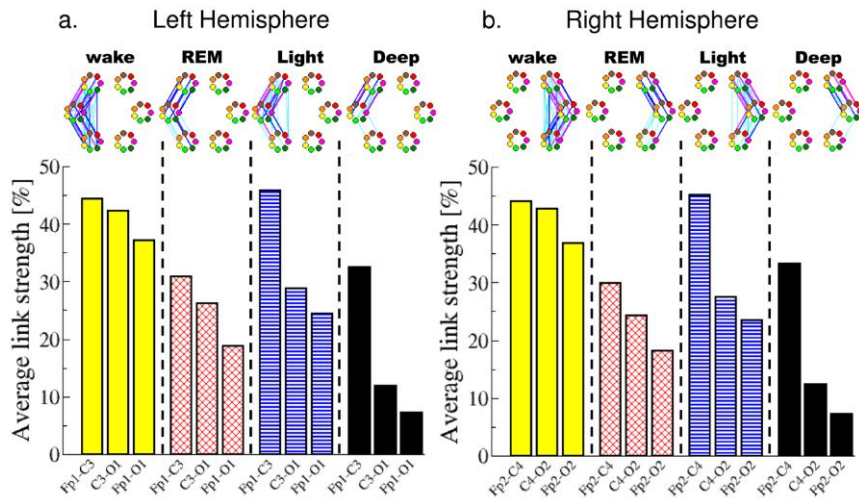
Phase transition in link strength and network topology



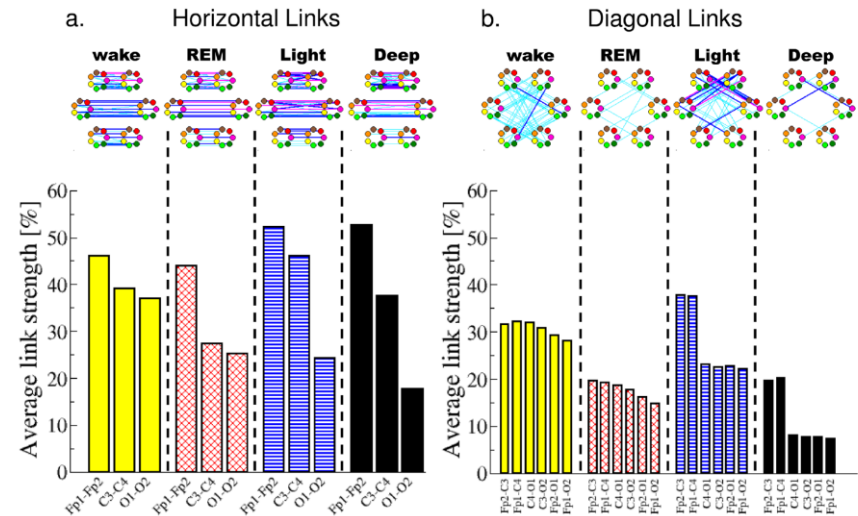
# Network Physiology

## Networks of brain activity across sleep stages

Links within Brain Hemispheres

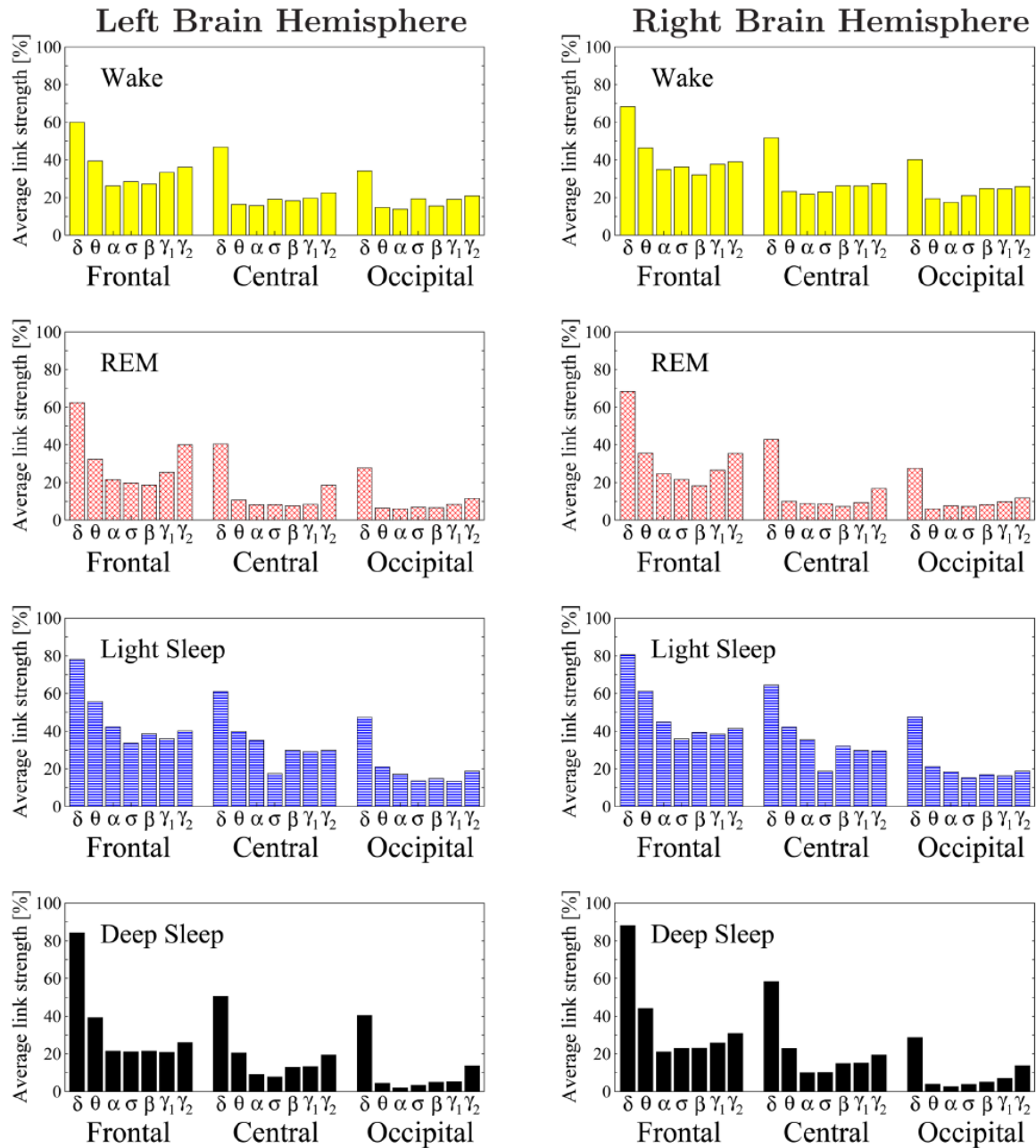


Links across Brain Hemispheres

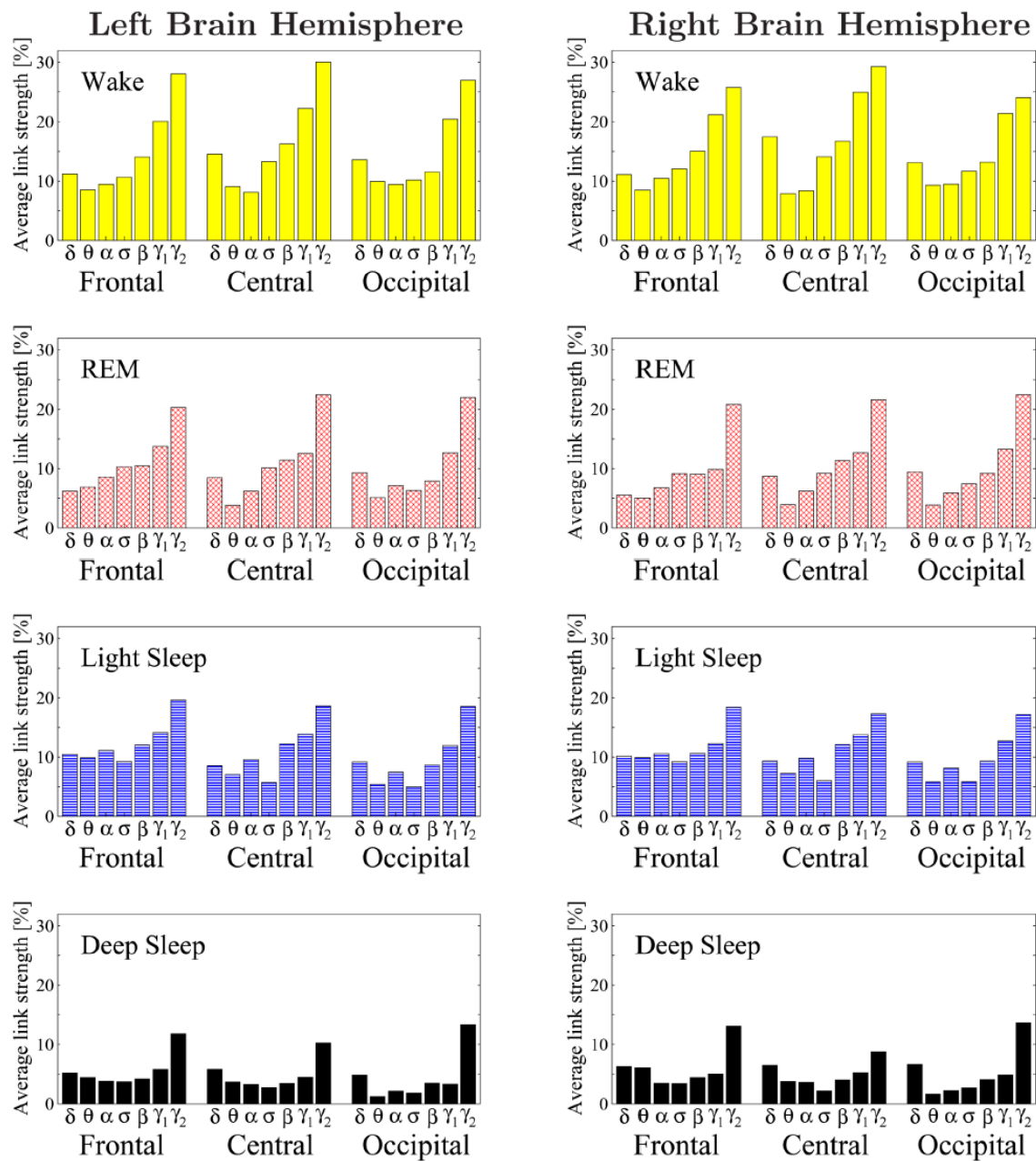


→ Sleep-stage stratification pattern for physiologic interactions

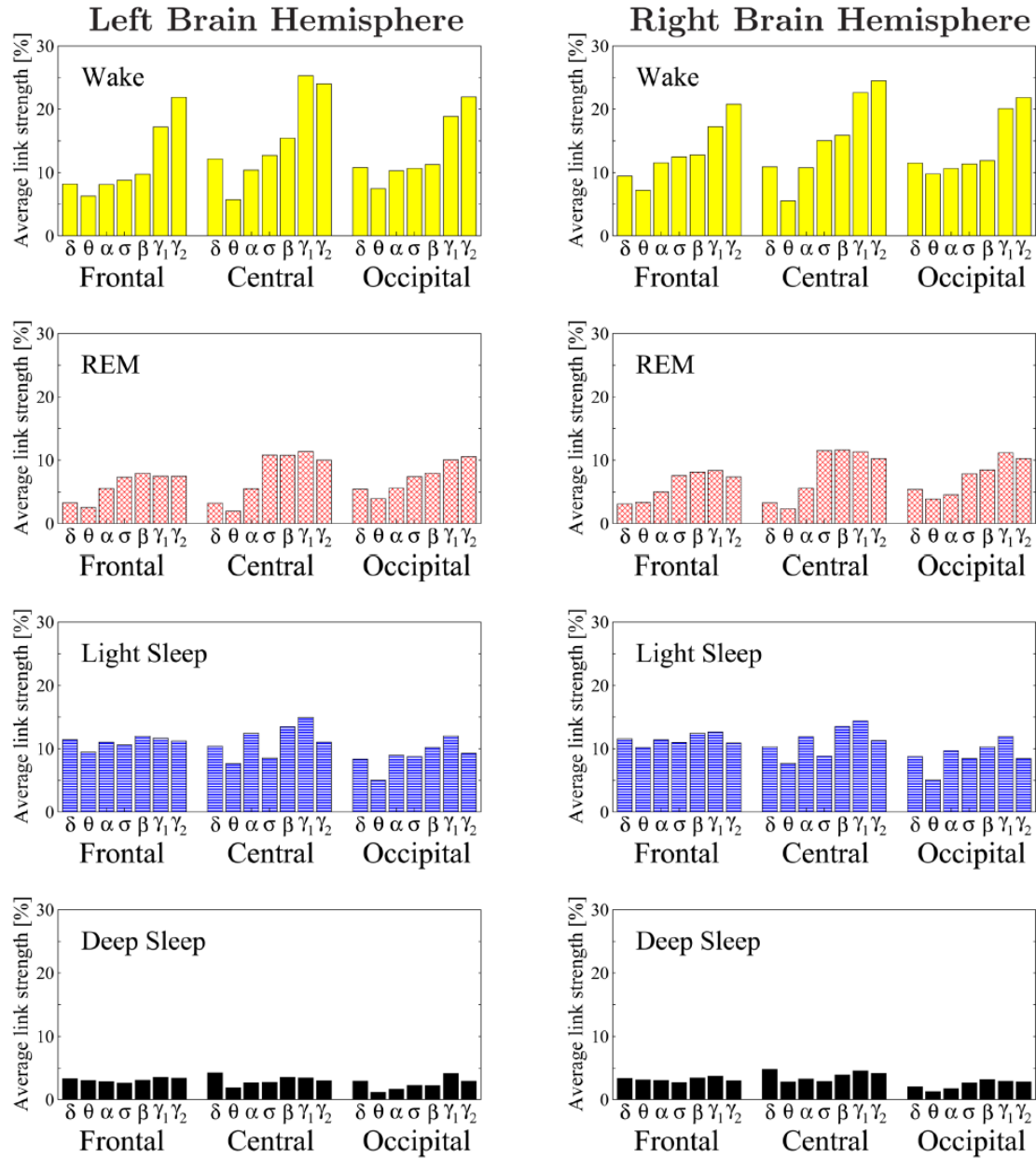
# Brain-Eye Interaction



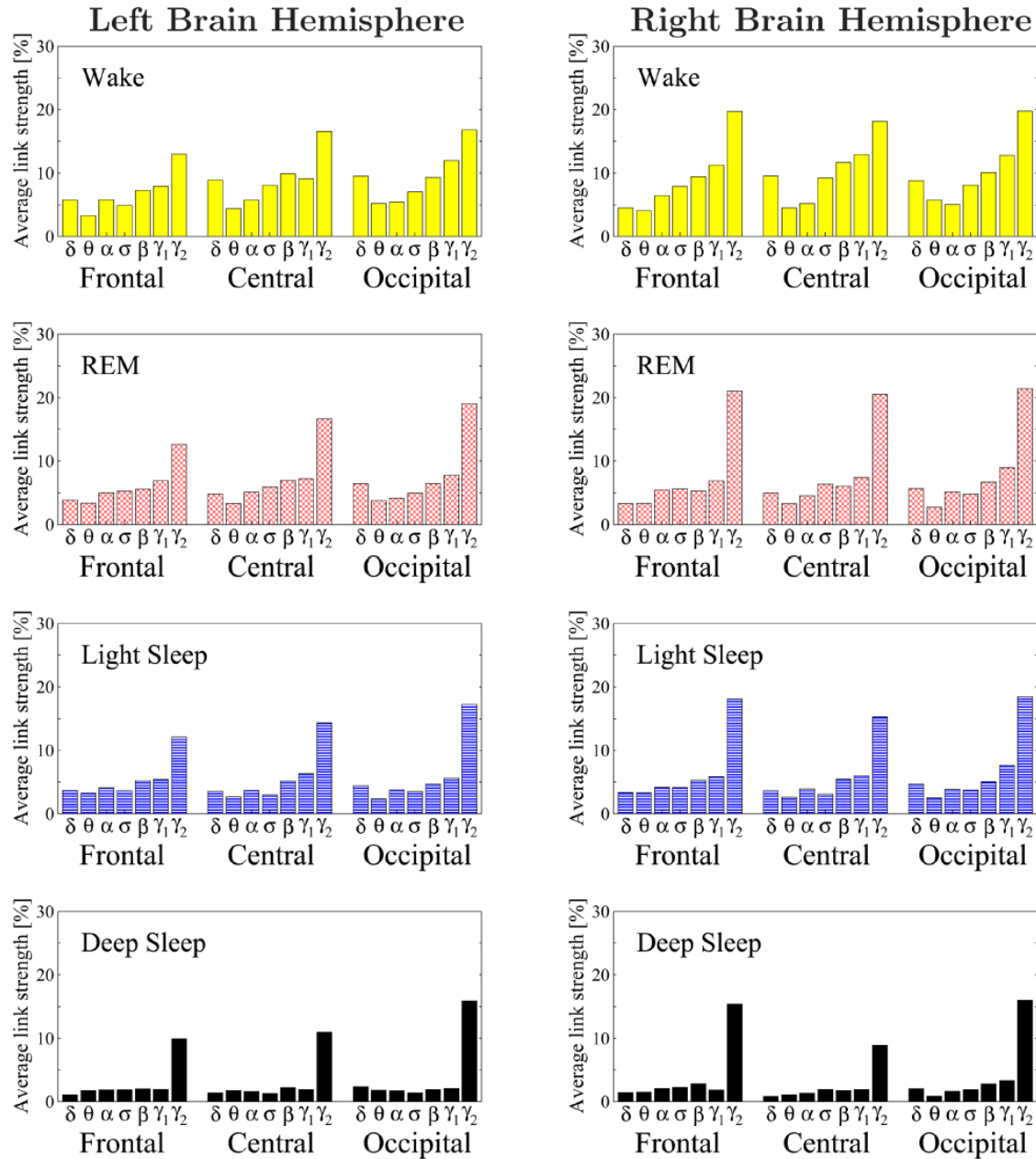
# Brain-Chin Interaction



# Brain-Heart Interaction

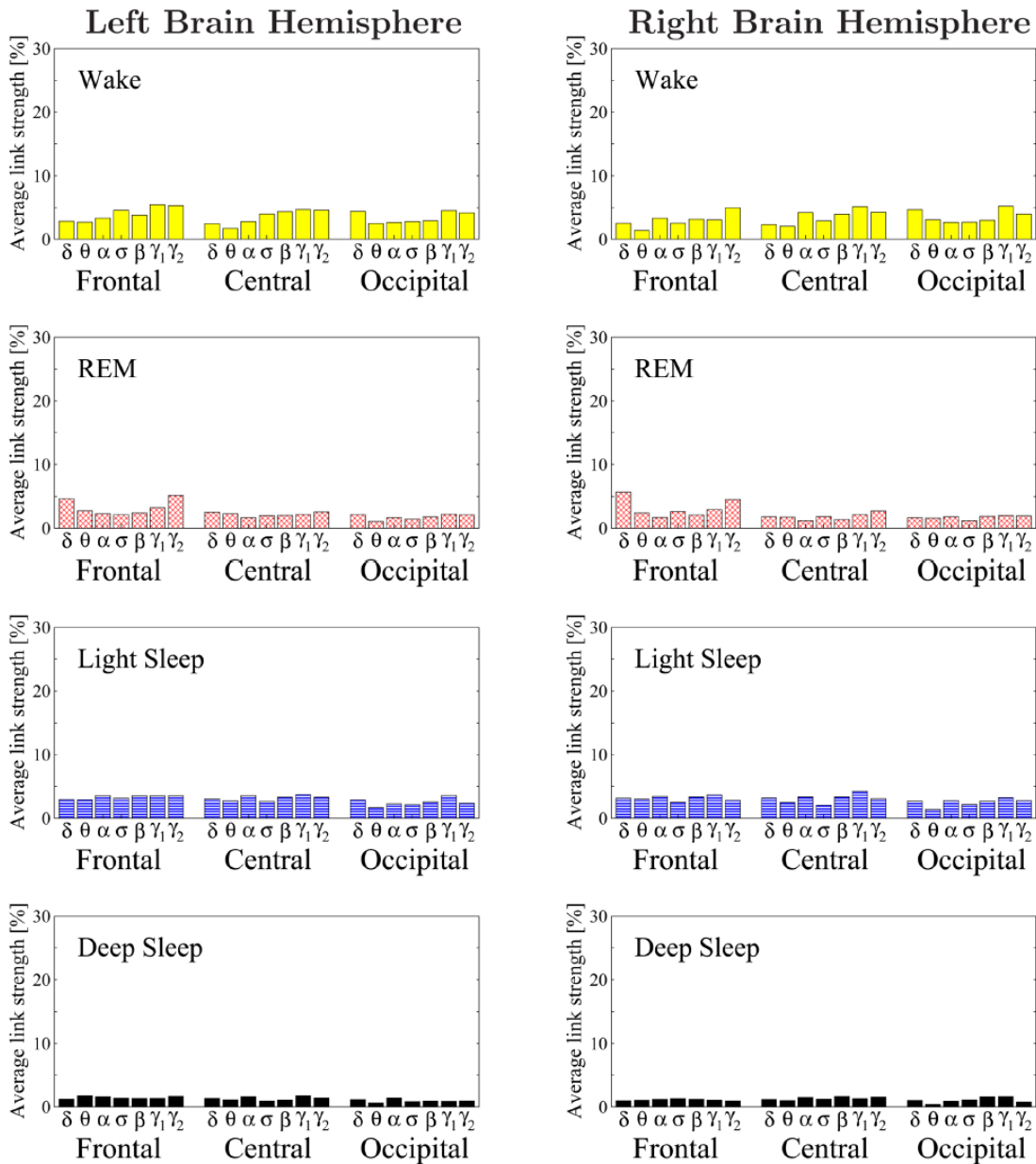


# Brain-Leg Interaction





# Brain-Respiration Interaction



# Summary

- ✓ **First method/framework to quantify coupling between different organ systems → Constructed a network of physiologic interactions between different organs**
  - ✓ **Dynamical evolution of the physiologic network during sleep → network topology changes with physiologic states**
  - ✓ **Sleep-stage stratification pattern for physiologic interactions**
  - ✓ **Example of coexisting forms of coupling: CRPS, RSA, TDS**
- **Next: Application to clinical medicine**  
    **→ Multiple Organ Failure**

# **THANK YOU!**

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