

# **A map-based approach to understanding circadian modulation of sleep**

**Cecilia Diniz Behn**

**Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics  
Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO, USA**

**Division of Endocrinology, Department of Pediatrics  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO, USA**



**COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES**

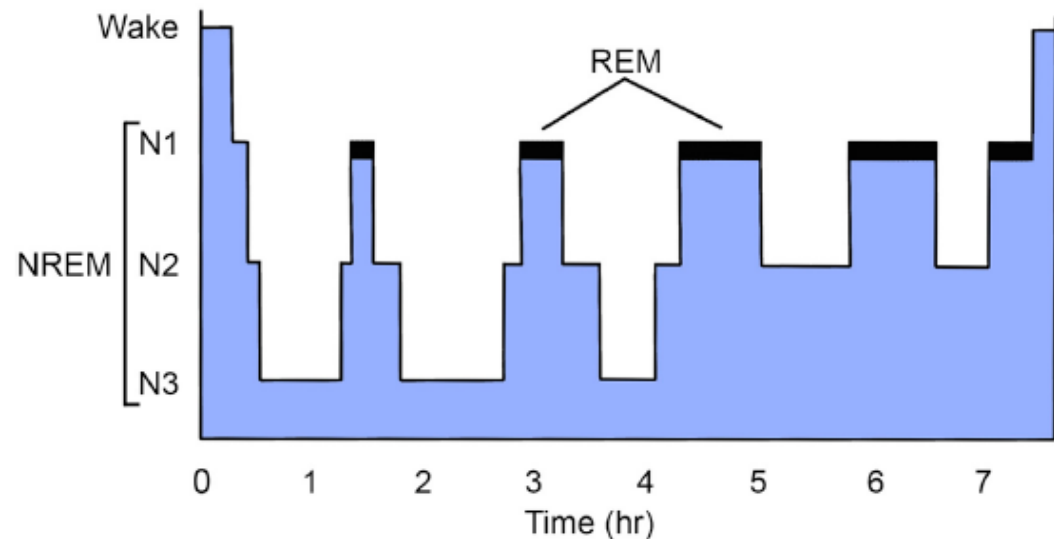
---

# Overview

- Motivation
  - Sleep/wake network model
  - 1-D map
    - Algorithm for map
    - Map for different REM behavior patterns
    - Bifurcations in map as homeostatic parameter varies
  - Conclusions and future directions
-

# Human sleep/wake behavior

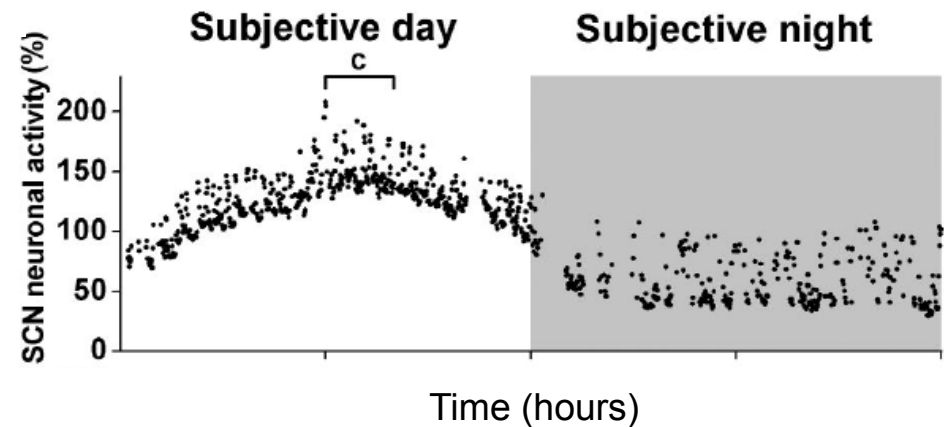
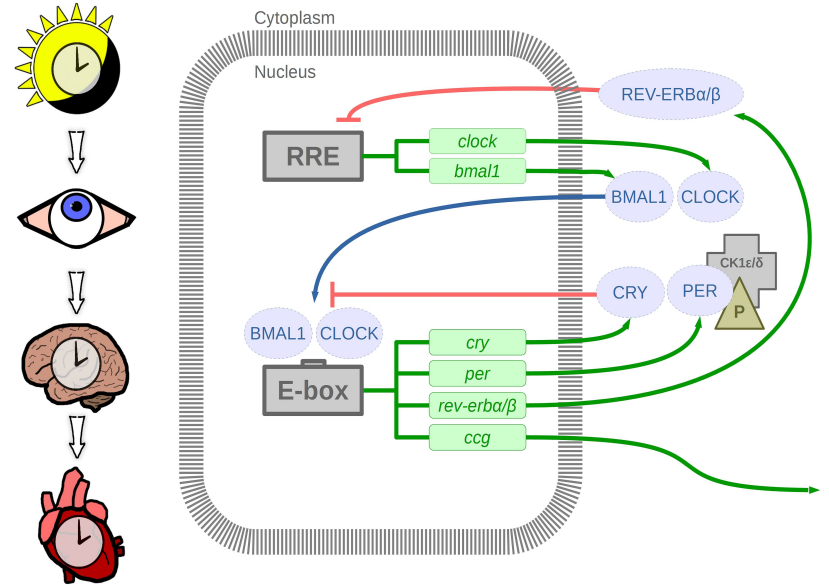
- Normal adult human sleep occurs in a consolidated nighttime period
- Sleep includes both rapid-eye movement (REM) sleep and non-REM (NREM) sleep
- Over the course of the night, people cycle between NREM and REM sleep approximately every 90 minutes



Scammell et al., Neuron, 2017

# Circadian rhythms

- *Circa dia*: “about a day;” approximately 24 hours
- Biological rhythm observed in nearly all species
- Generated by molecular clock in neurons within the suprachiasmatic nucleus of the hypothalamus (SCN)
- Clock modulates firing of SCN neurons

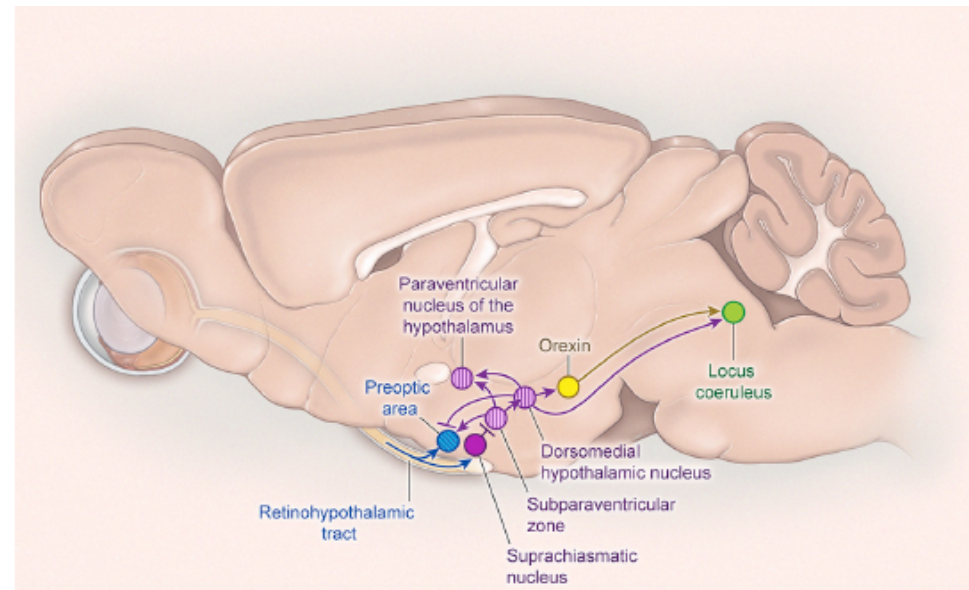




# SCN modulates timing of sleep/wake behavior

- SCN entrains to the environmental light/dark cycle
- SCN acts as master pacemaker and determines timing of sleep/wake behavior
- Perturbations to entrained system result in misalignment of behavior and circadian phase

## Neural pathways that regulate circadian modulation of sleep



---

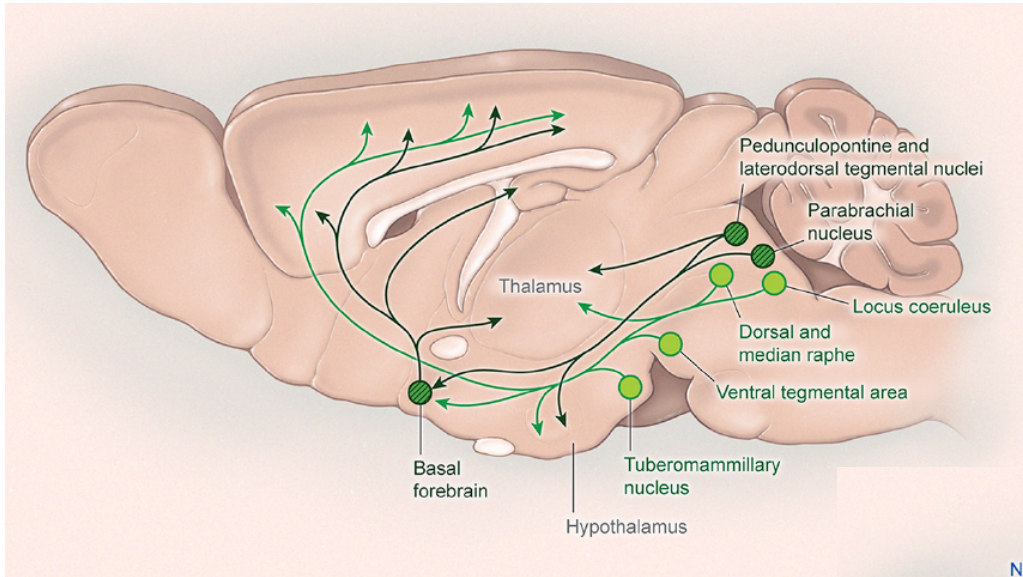
# Goal

Use mathematical modeling and analysis to investigate circadian modulation of sleep/wake behavior and the dynamics of re-entrainment.

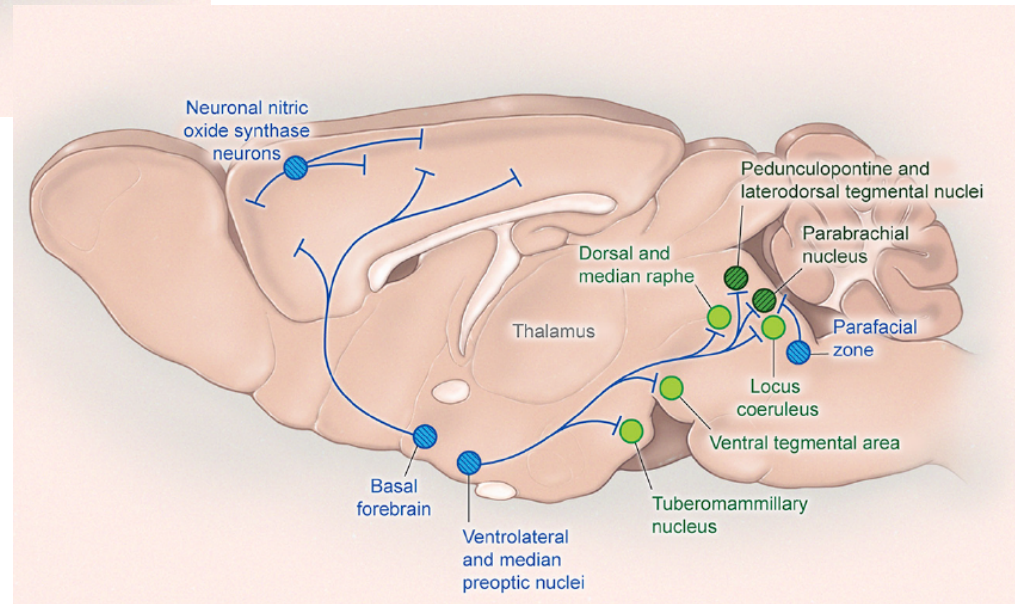
---

# Physiology of sleep/wake regulation

## Wake-promoting pathways

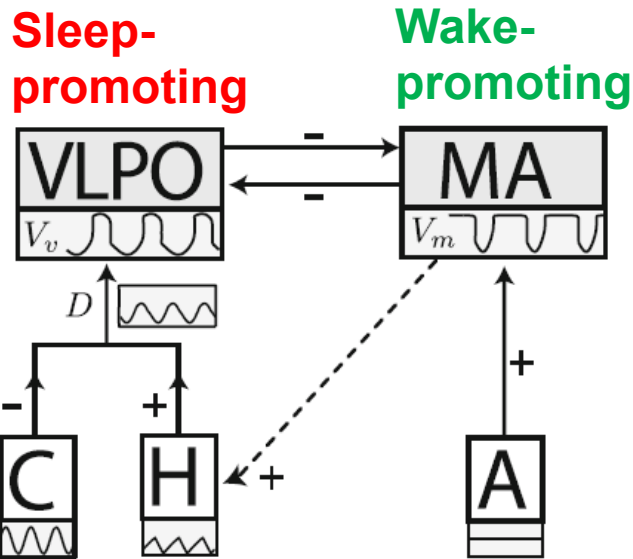


## NREM-promoting pathways

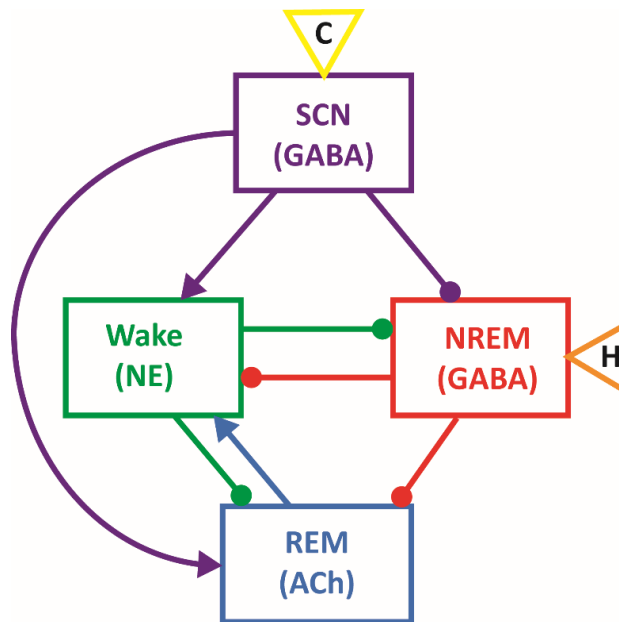


# Models of the sleep/wake regulatory network

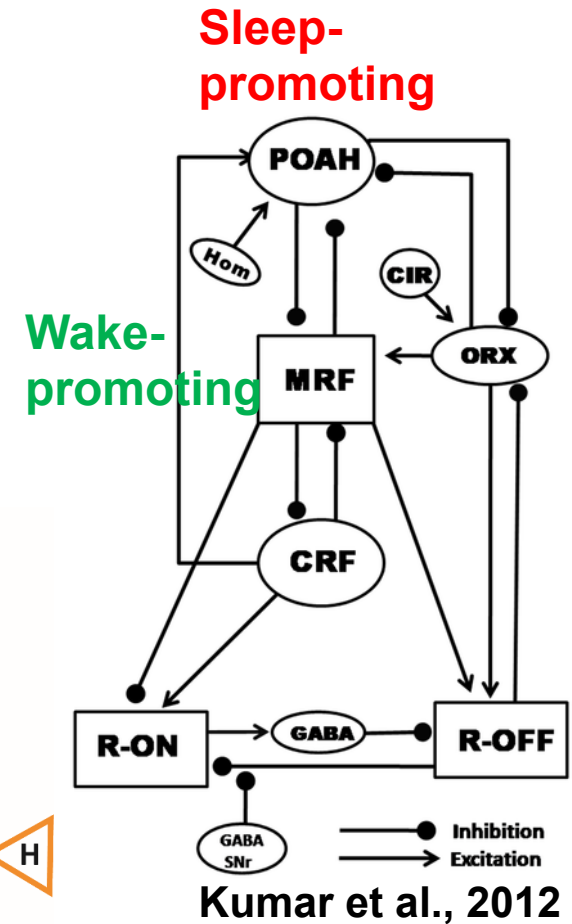
- Competing hypotheses for the structure of the network have led to multiple mathematical models



Phillips and Robinson, 2007, 2008



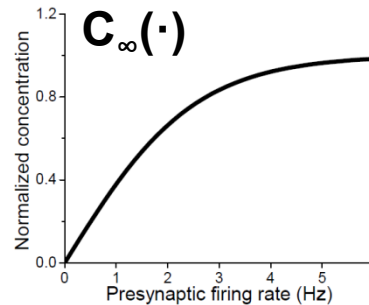
Diniz Behn and Booth, 2010, 2011, 2013



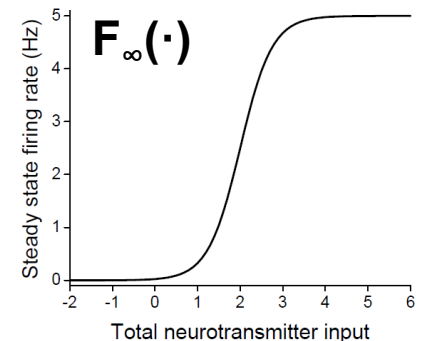
Kumar et al., 2012

# Reduced population firing rate model formalism

$$C_{X\infty}(F_X) = \tanh(F_X / \gamma_X)$$



$$\frac{df_i}{dt} = \frac{F_{\infty}(\sum g_j c_j) - f_i}{\tau_f}$$



# Reduced sleep/wake regulatory network model

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

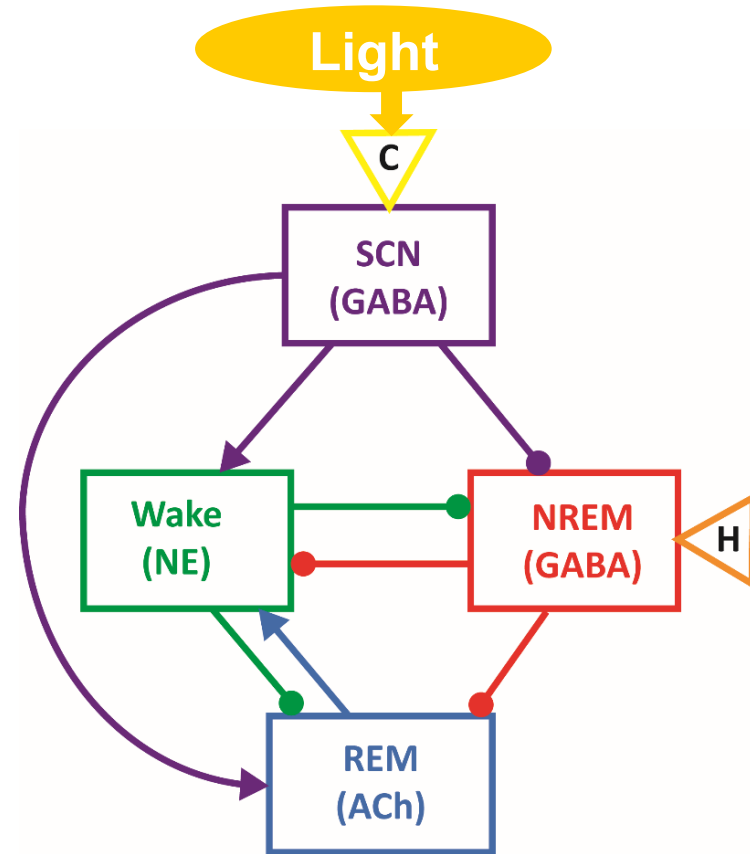
$$\text{NREM: } F_N' = \frac{F_{N\infty(h)} [g_{W,N} C_{W\infty}(F_W) + g_{N,N} C_{N\infty}(F_N)] - F_N}{\tau_N}$$

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

$$F_{X\infty}(c) = \frac{X_{\max}}{2} (1 + \tanh((c - \beta_X) / \alpha_X)); \quad C_{X\infty}(F_X) = \tanh(F_X / \gamma_X)$$

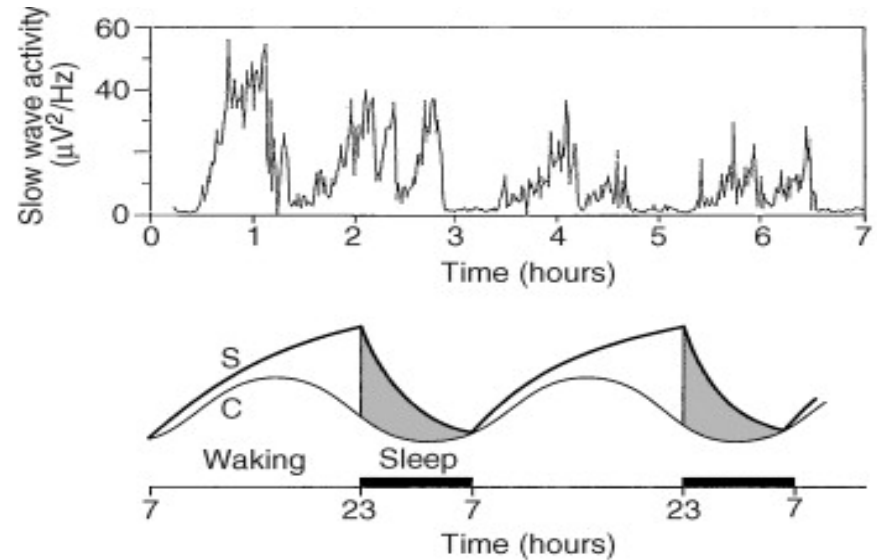
# Homeostatic and circadian drives

- Interactions in the sleep/wake regulatory network are modulated by homeostatic and circadian drives
- Homeostatic drive represents sleep need that increases with time awake
- Circadian drive represents sleep need that varies with time of day



# Homeostatic sleep drive

- Denoted by  $H$
- Fit to time course of slow wave activity
- Mimics effect of adenosine
- Promotes activity of NREM-promoting population



$$H' = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (h_{\max} - H) / \tau_{hw} \\ -(H - h_{\min}) / \tau_{hs} \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{during wake} \\ \text{during sleep states} \end{array} \right\}$$



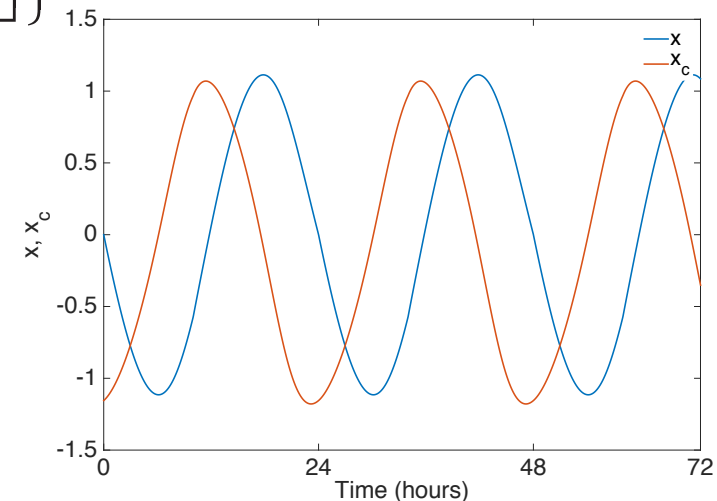
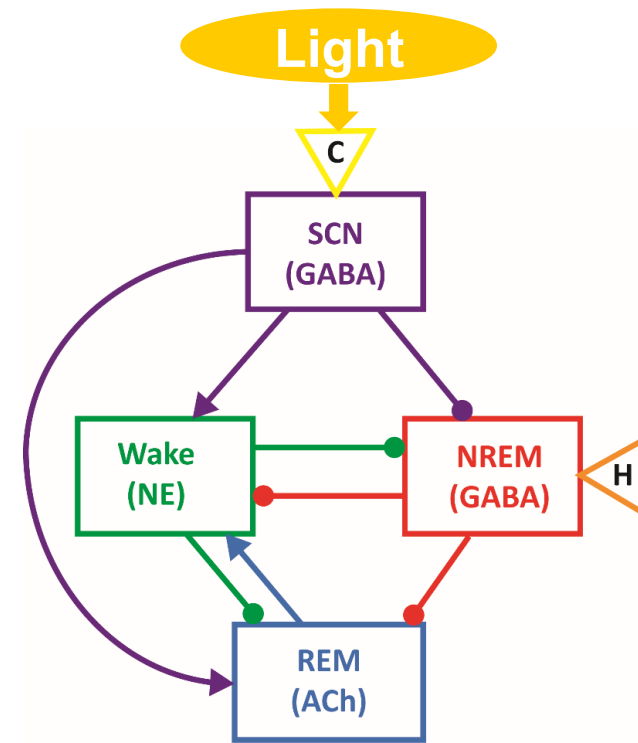
# Circadian drive

- Human circadian pacemaker represented as modified van der Pol oscillator (Forger et al., 1999):

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{\pi}{12}(x_c + B)$$

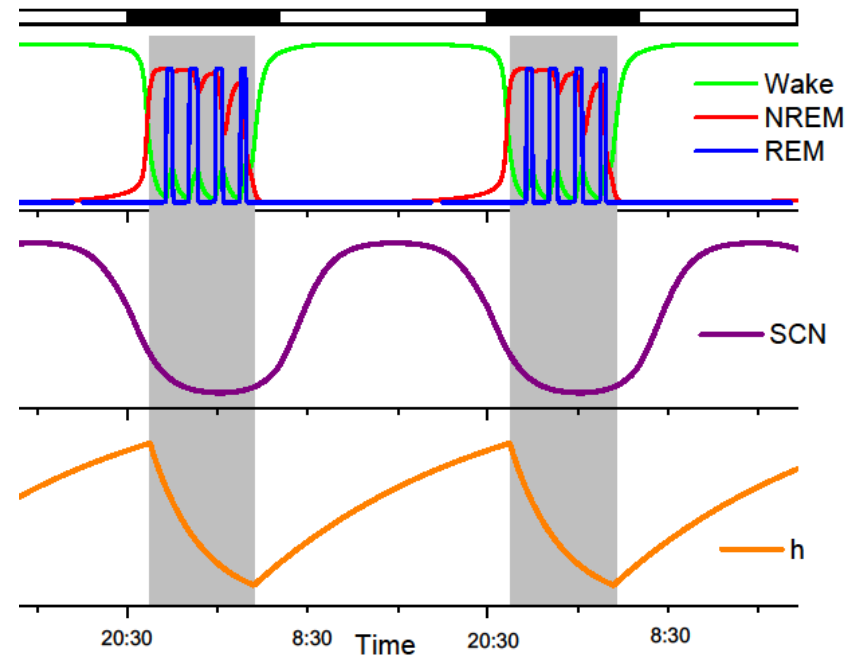
$$\frac{dx_c}{dt} = \frac{\pi}{12} \left\{ \mu \left( x_c - \frac{4x_c^3}{3} \right) - x \left[ \left( \frac{24}{0.99669\tau_x} \right)^2 + kB \right] \right\}.$$

- Can be entrained to external light schedule with light input mediated through B



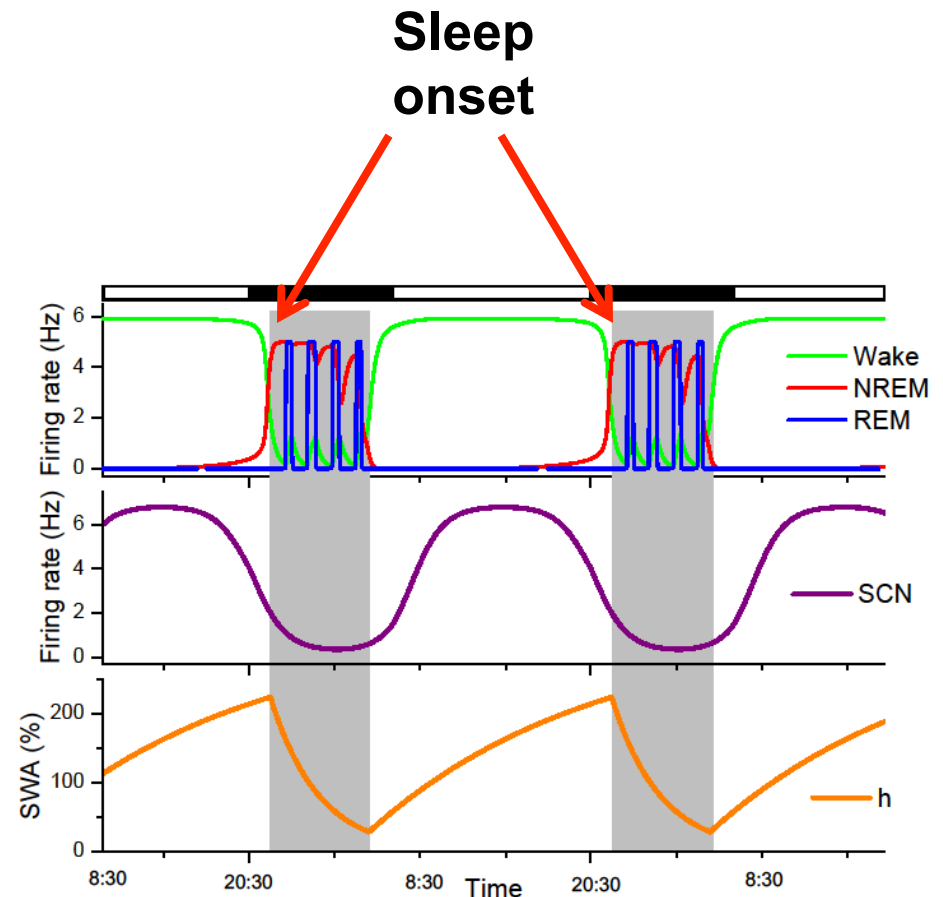
# Simulated stereotypical human sleep

- Behavioral state determined by activity of neuronal populations
- Under normal conditions, sleep cycle and circadian rhythm are synchronized
- More interesting dynamics occur in de-synchronizing situations:
  - All-nighters
  - Sleep deprivation & recovery
  - Shift work



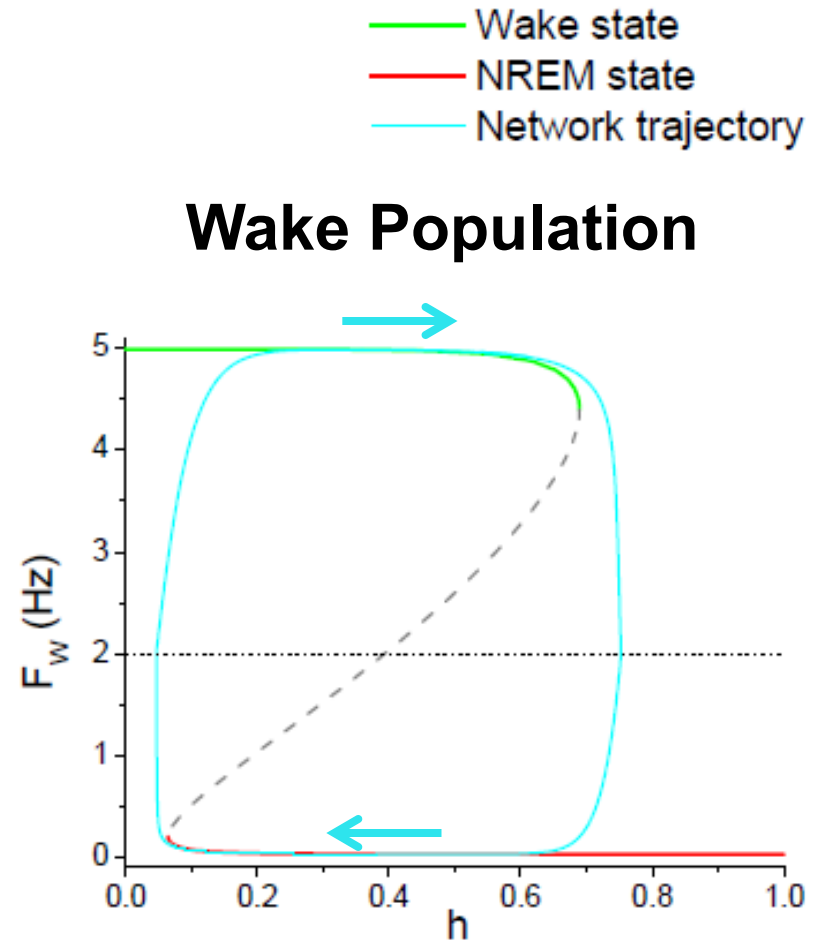
# Map construction

- Numerically constructed a 1-D map to describe dependence of sleep on circadian phase in full model
- Simulated the model from initial conditions corresponding to sleep onset occurring at different circadian phases
  - Algorithm to define sleep onset in high dimensional model



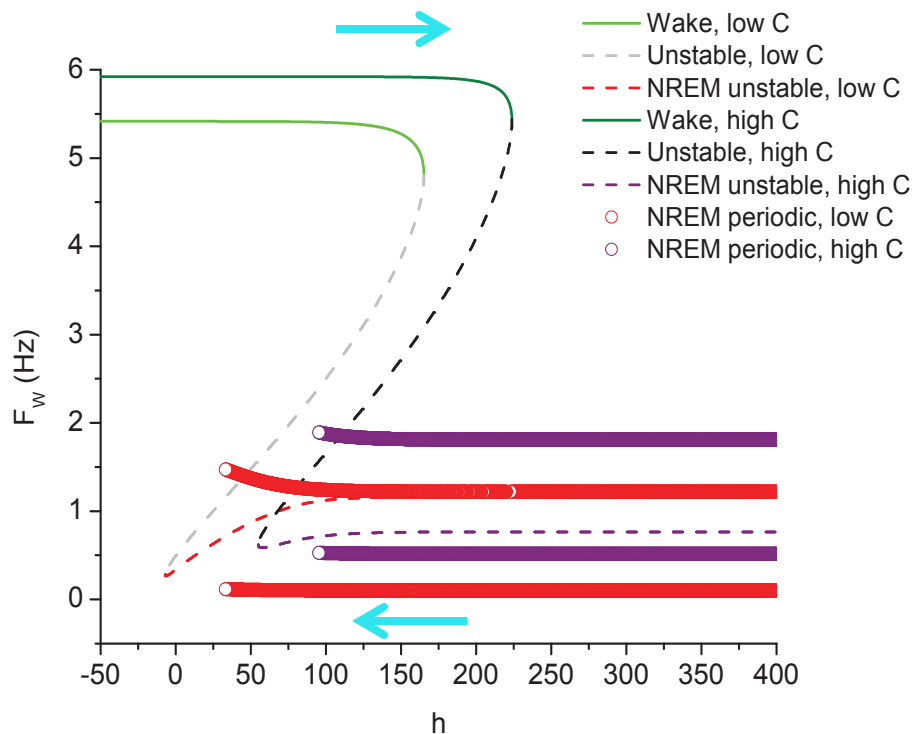
# Transitions between sleep and wake correspond to movement around hysteresis loop

- Fast-slow decomposition with slow parameter  $h$
- Stable wake and NREM states form Z-shaped steady state curve
- Sleep onset corresponds to upper knee of Z



# Circadian modulation introduces another slow variable

## Wake Population



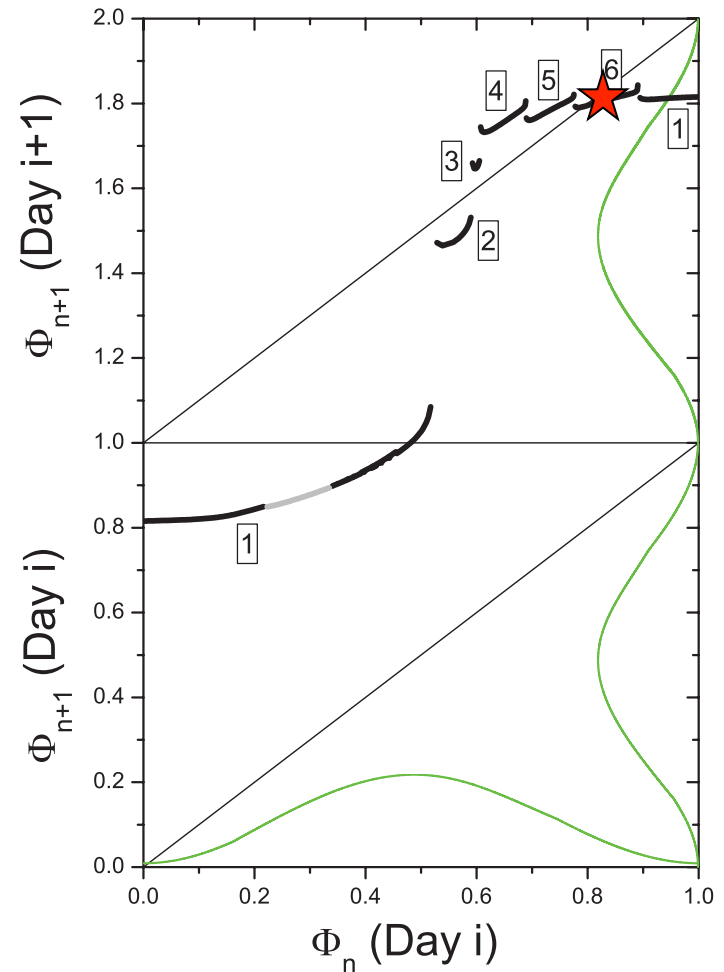
- 3 time scales in system
  - Neuronal dynamics are fast
  - Homeostatic drive and circadian modulation are slow
- Circadian modulation slowly varies  $Z$
- Sleep onset tracks position of knee in full high-dimensional space

# Numerical algorithm for computing a 1D map for this model

- Compute **appropriate** initial conditions for sleep onset for each circadian phase
  - Sleep onset occurs at upper saddle-node point so this specifies network variables
  - Use two-parameter numerical continuation to determine the values of the remaining circadian variables
- For each set of ICs, simulate full model and track circadian phase of subsequent sleep onsets

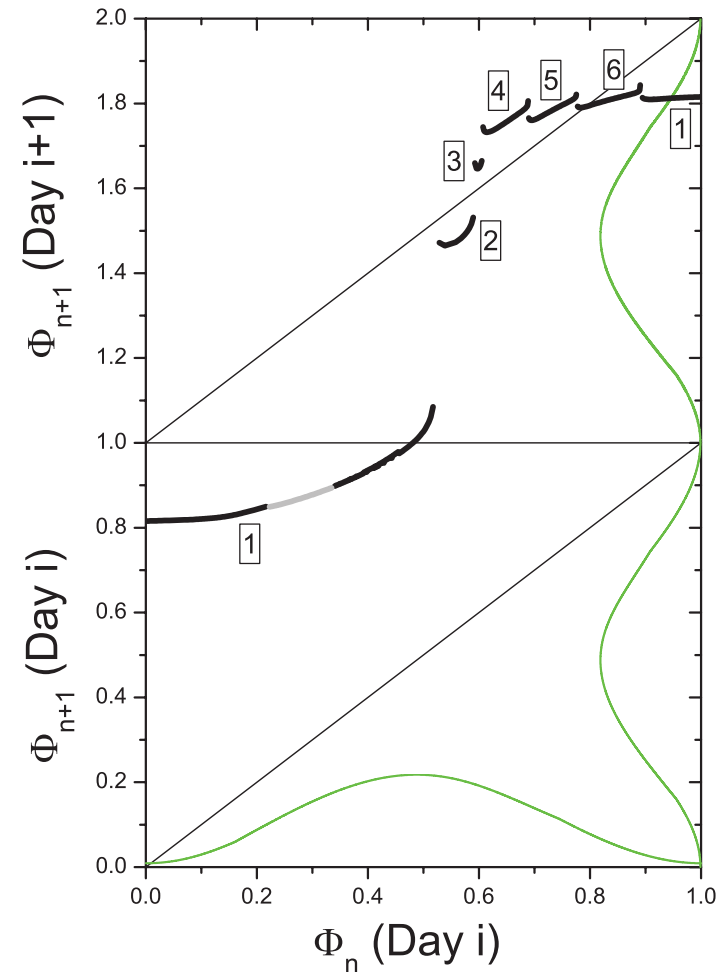
# 1D map for full model

- Computed map of  $\Phi_{n+1}$  as a function of  $\Phi_n$
- Vertical discontinuities between different branches of map
- Fixed point of map (★) at  $\Phi=0.793$  corresponds to entrained case
- Slope  $< 1$  ( $\sim 0.35$ ) at fixed point indicates stability



# Wake-promoting zone in 1D map

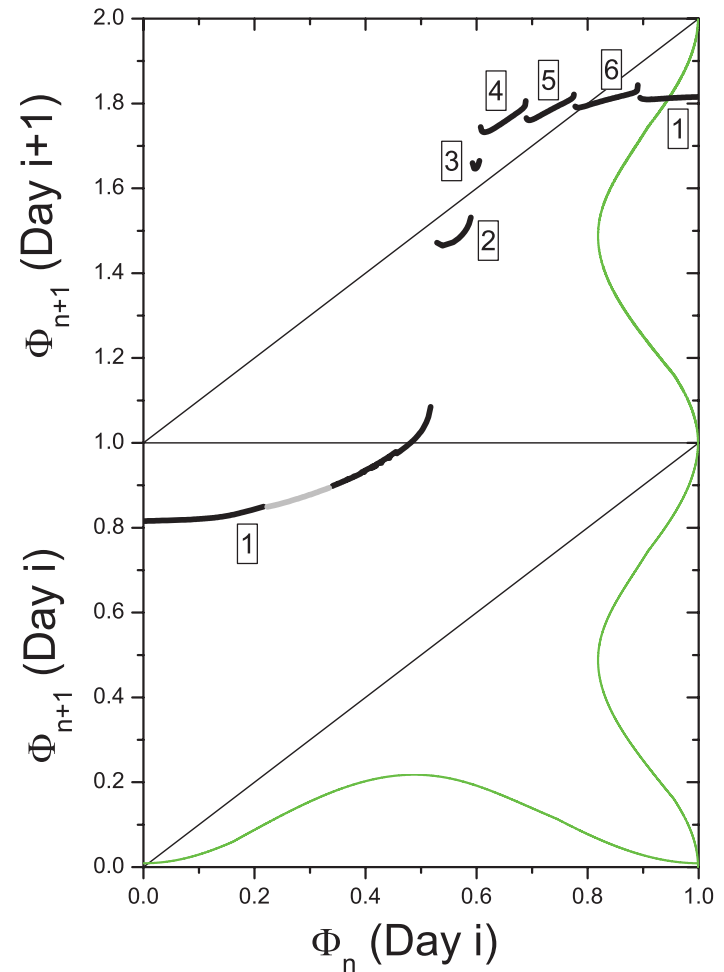
- In grey region, sleep onset did not immediately occur from the given ICs
  - Initially,  $F_W$  decreased and  $F_N$  increased
  - Then variables reversed directions
- Related to system time scales
- To force transition, used ICs on unstable manifold of saddle associated with upper saddle-node point
- Refer to this region as “wake-promoting zone”





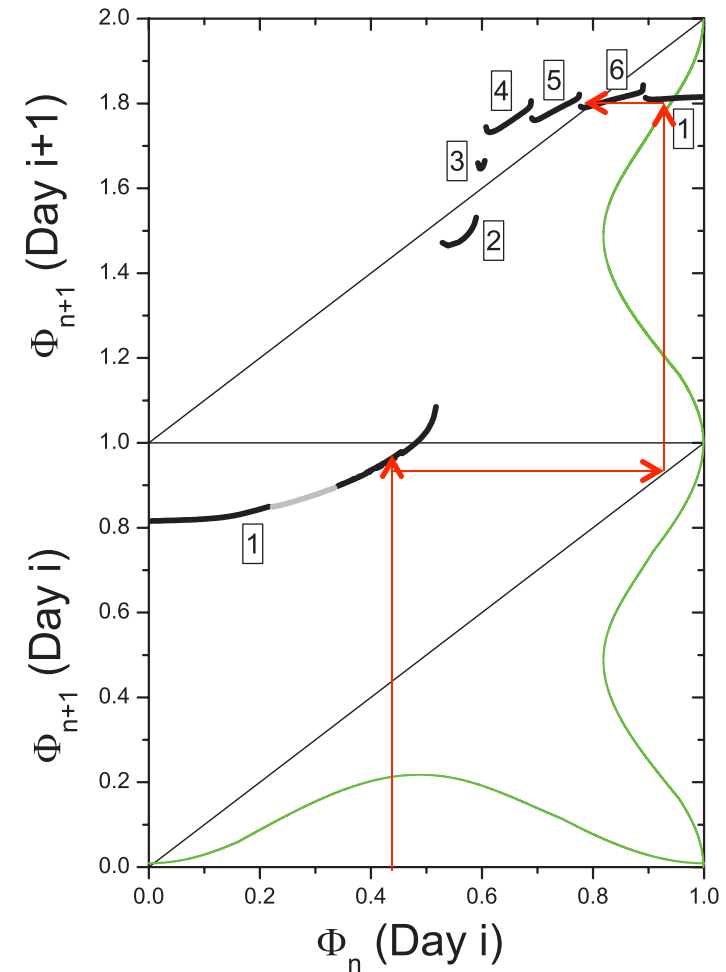
# Different branches of map associated with different numbers of REM bouts

- Sleep cycle associated with fixed point has 4 REM bouts
- Branches 2 & 6 also have 4 REM bouts
- Branches 3, 4, & 5 have more REM bouts
- Branch 1 has only 3 REM bouts

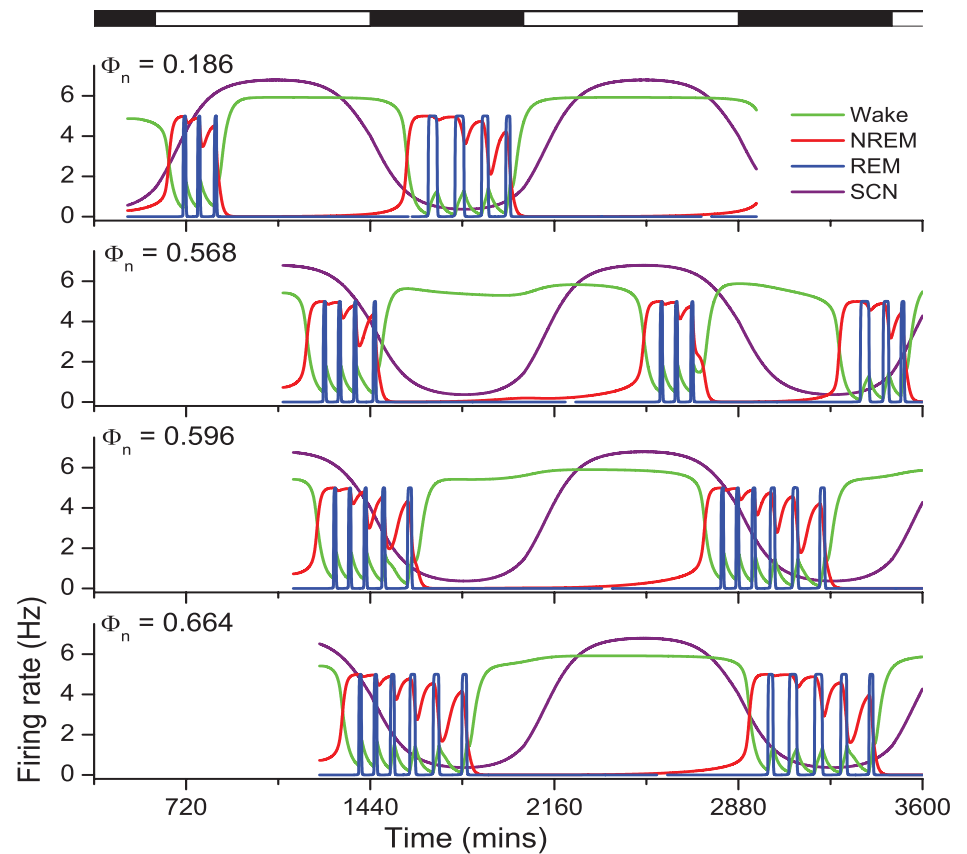
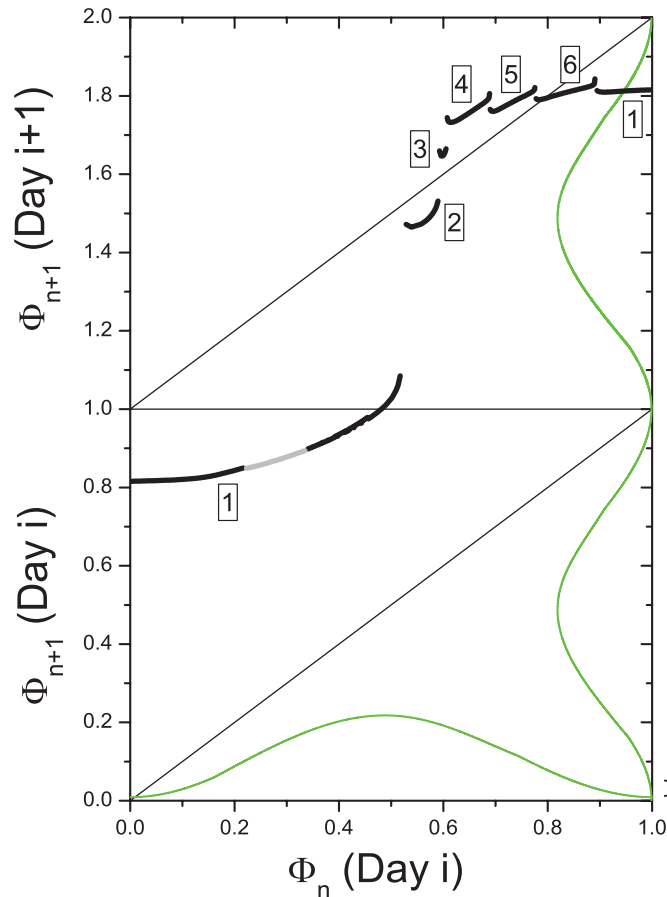


# Tracking re-entrainment using 1D map

- Cobwebbing on this map shows re-entrainment dynamics
- Iterates converge to stable fixed point
- Re-entrainment typically occurs after 2-4 days



# Trajectories corresponding to different initial phases



# Time scale of homeostatic sleep drive

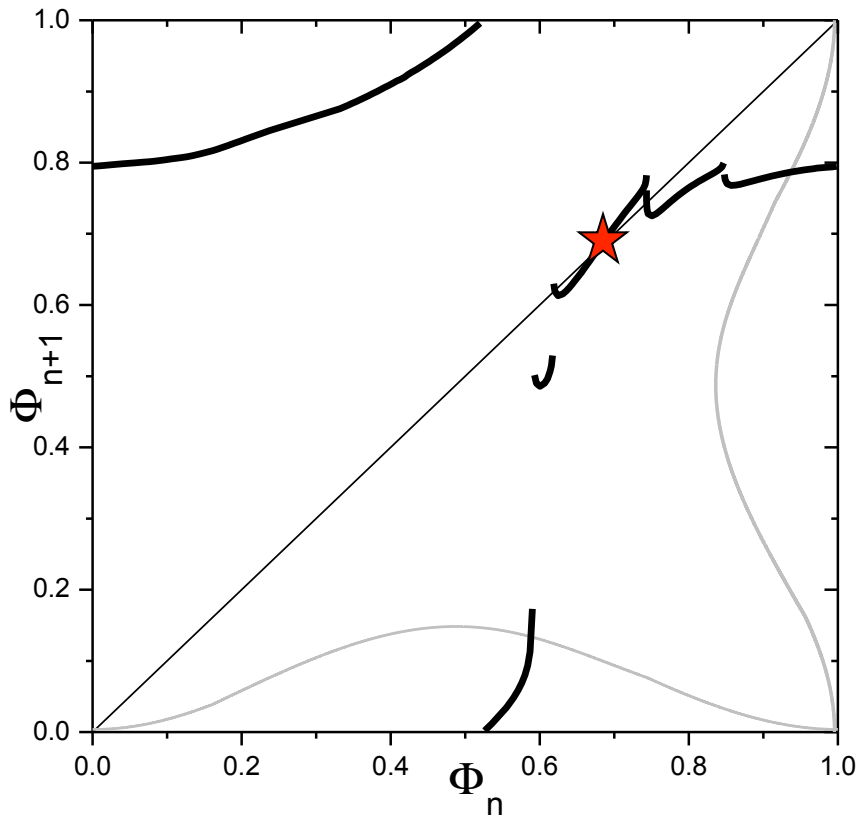
- Time course of slow wave activity changes in early childhood
- May play a role in transitions from napping to non-napping behavior in early childhood
- Introduced scaling parameter  $\chi$  to investigate bifurcations in sleep patterns as  $h$  time scale varies

$$h' = \frac{(H_{max} - h)}{\chi \tau_{hw}} H[F_W - \theta_W] - \frac{h}{\chi \tau_{hs}} H[\theta_W - F_W]$$

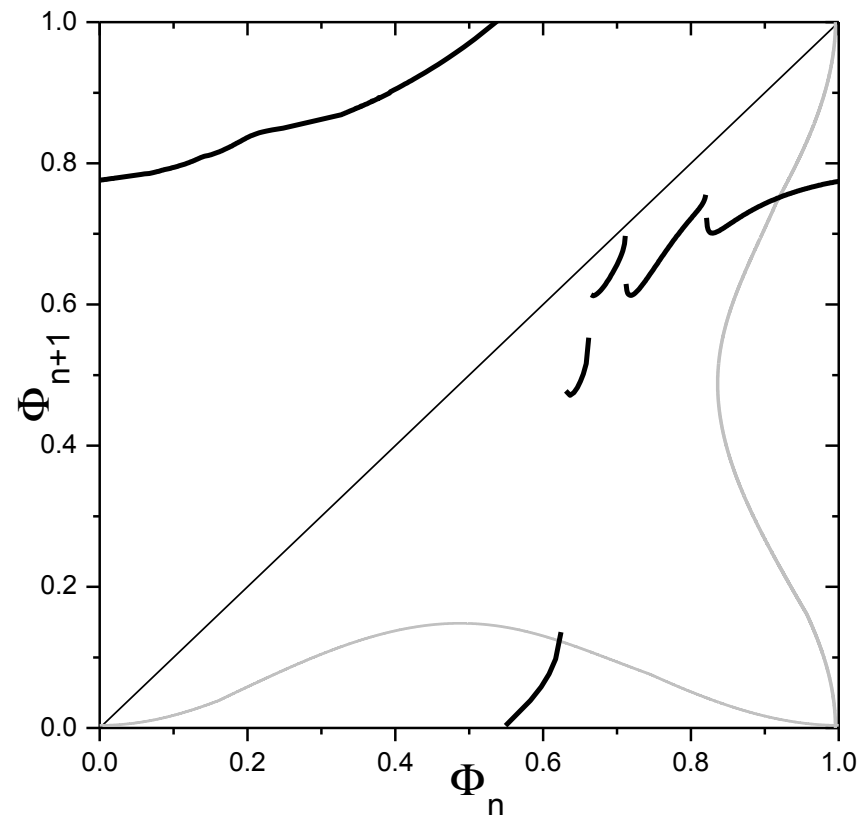
# Maps as $\chi$ decreases

- Fixed point for synchronized solution loses stability
- Fixed point loses existence due to discontinuity

$\chi = 0.89$

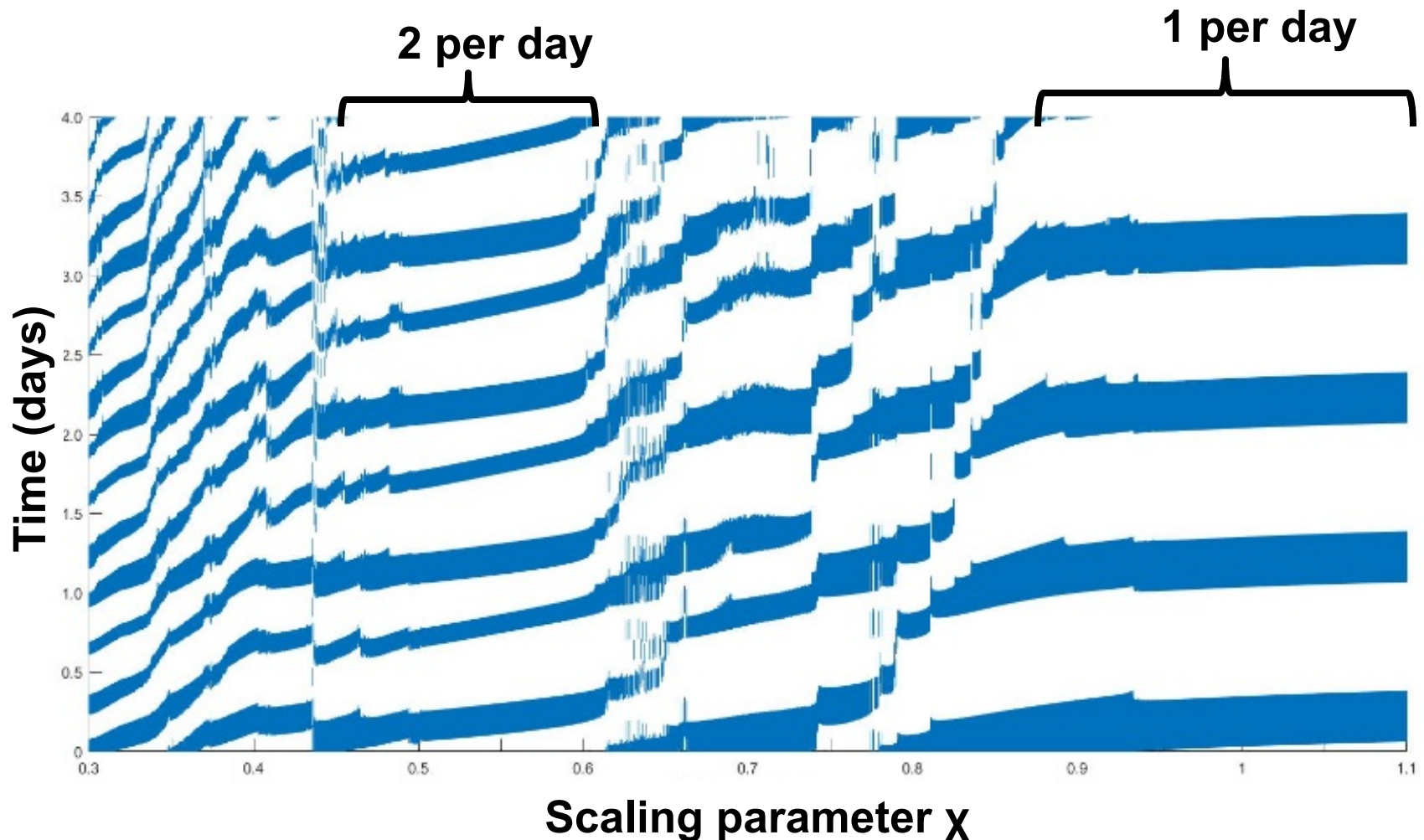


$\chi = 0.8$



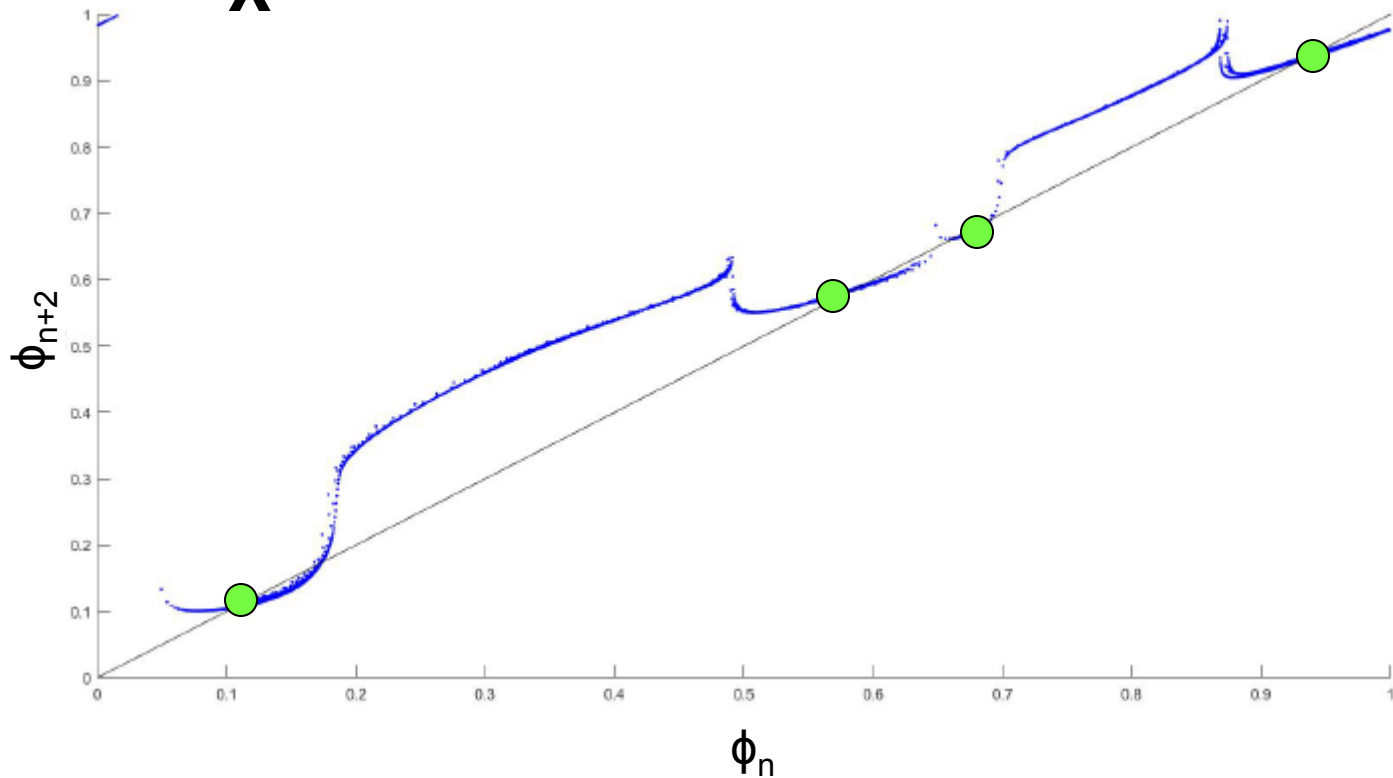
# Bifurcations in number of daily sleep episodes

- As  $\chi$  decreases more sleep episodes occur per day



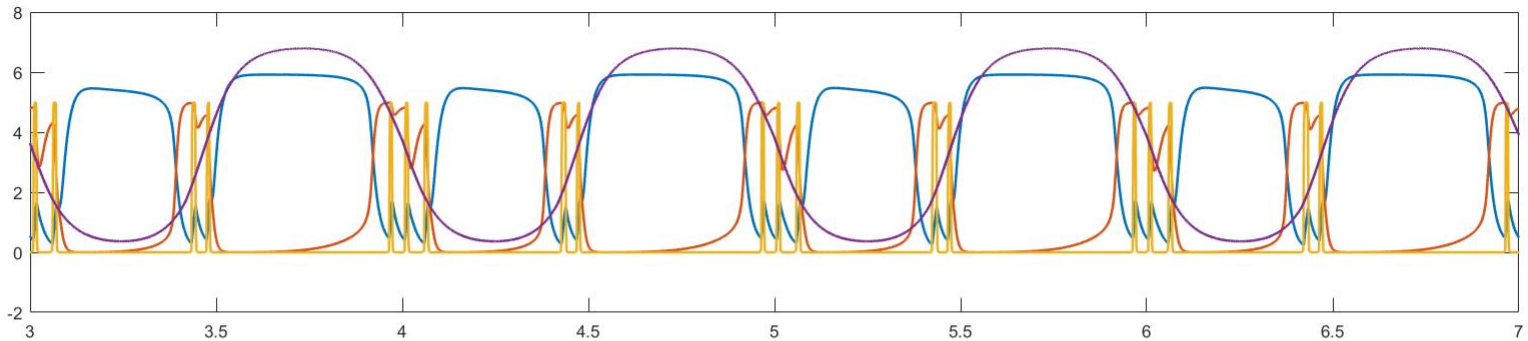
# 2<sup>nd</sup> iterate map to examine region with 2 sleep cycles per day

$\chi=0.58$

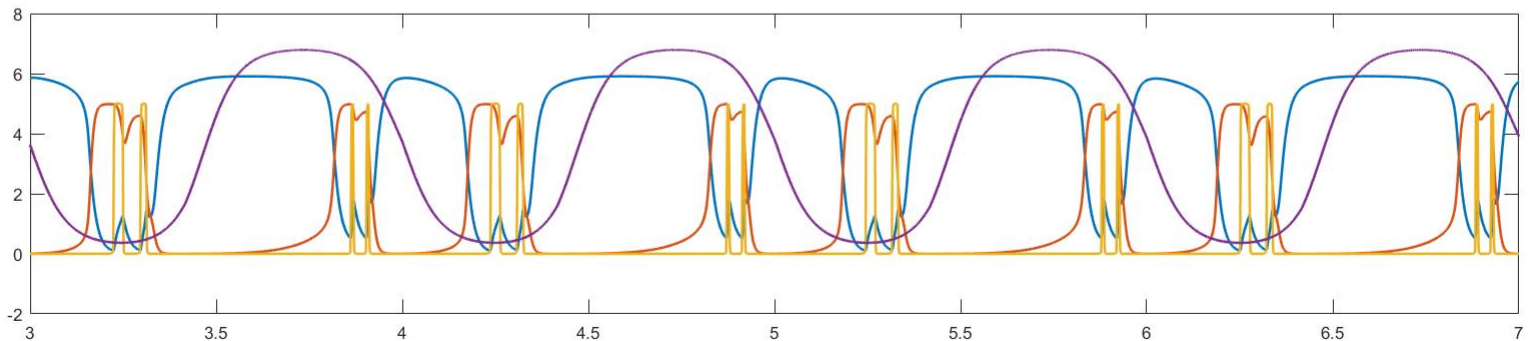


For  $\chi=0.58$ , two stable two cycles

**Early & Late  
Nighttime  
Sleep**



**Nap/  
Nighttime  
Sleep**

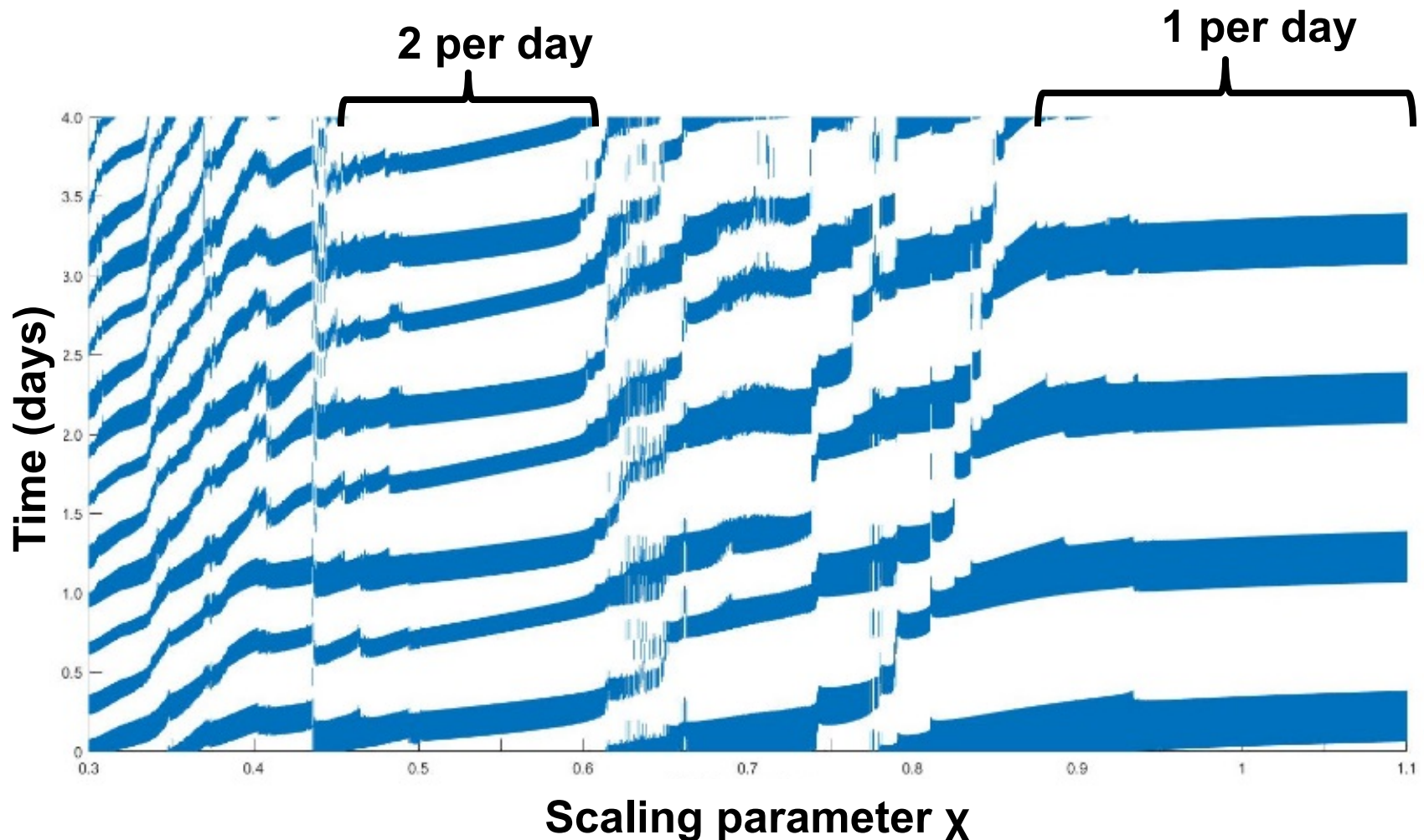


**Time (days)**



# Bifurcations in number of daily sleep episodes

- As  $\chi$  decreases more sleep episodes occur per day

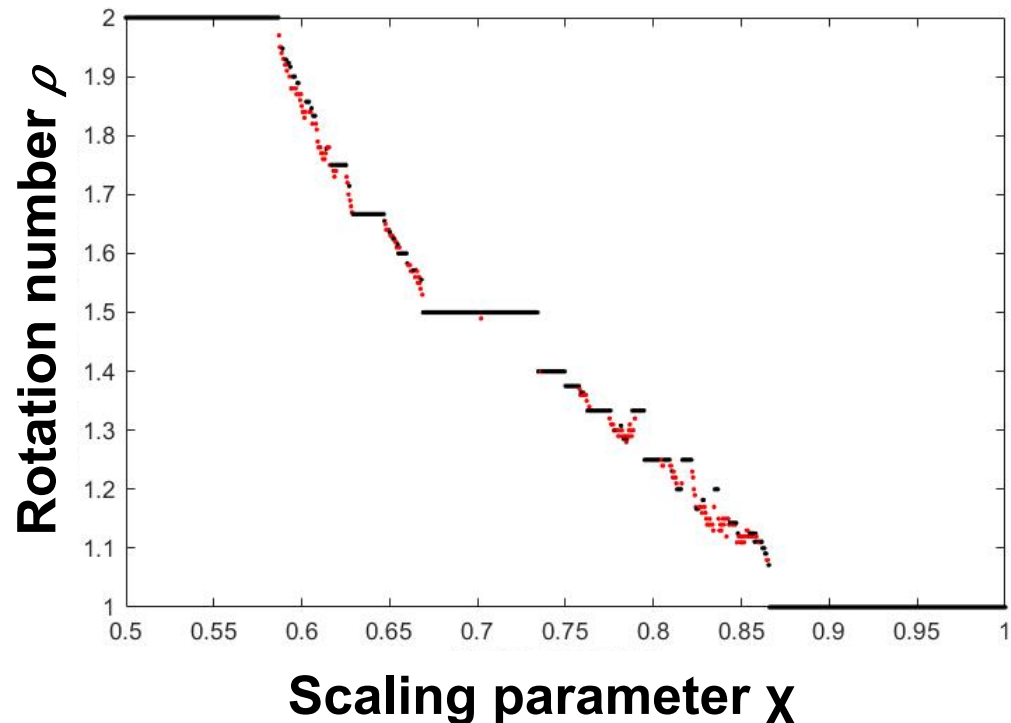


# Devil's staircase structure in number of daily sleep episodes

- $M$  = number of sleep episodes and  $N$  = number of days in periodic solution
- Define rotation number

$$\rho = M / N$$

- Examine how  $\rho$  changes as a function of  $\chi$
- Consistent with a ***border collision*** bifurcation

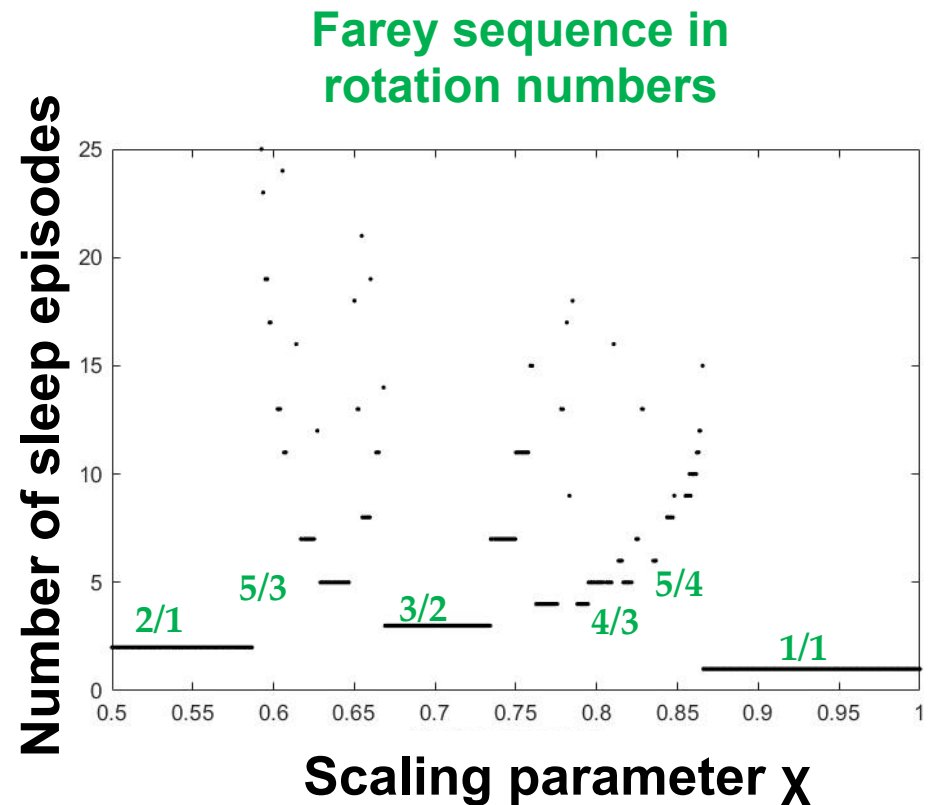


**Red points = no stable periodic solution found**

# Period-adding behavior in number of daily sleep episodes

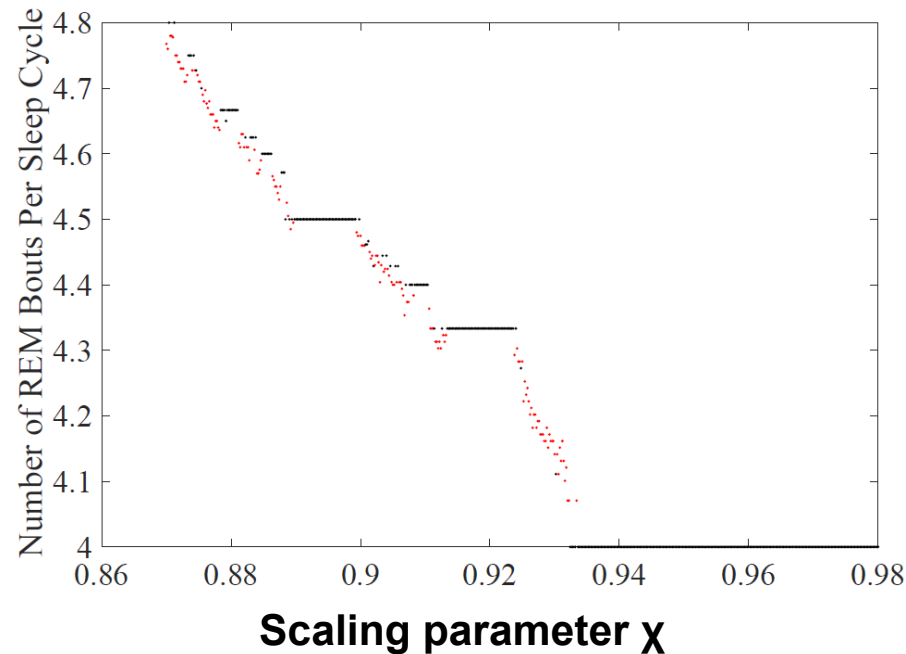
- Rotation numbers follow a Farey sequence
- If the rotation numbers  $a/b$  and  $c/d$  of two disjoint intervals are Farey neighbors ( $|ad-bc|=1$ ), then between them, there is a cycle with a rotation number = their Farey sum:

$$\frac{a}{b} \oplus \frac{c}{d} = \frac{a+c}{b+d}$$



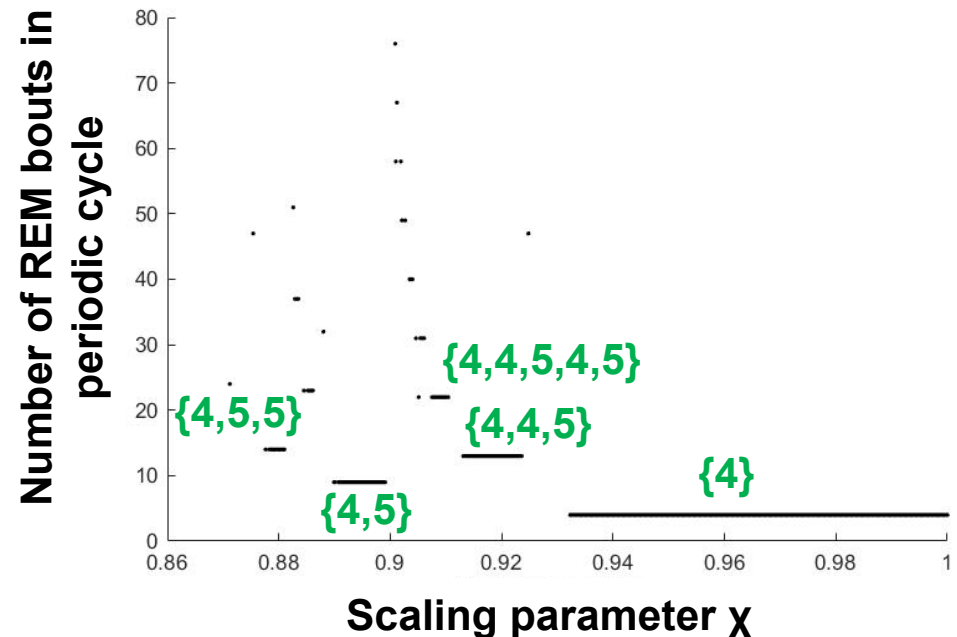
# Period-adding bifurcation in number of REM episodes

- When fixed point loses stability, the number of REM bouts per night alternates between 4 and 5



**Red points = no stable periodic solution found**

## Patterns of REM bouts “add”



# Conclusions & future work

- 1D maps for sleep-wake network
  - Provide insight into circadian modulation of sleep
  - Can be used to predict re-entrainment after desynchronization of sleep and circadian rhythms
  - Establish a framework for understanding bifurcations of sleep-wake patterns as model parameters vary
  - Implications for developmentally-mediated changes
- Current work includes
  - Analysis of interactions of multiple slow time scales in the system
  - Using maps to understand recovery from sleep deprivation

# Acknowledgements

- Victoria Booth, University of Michigan
- Ismael Xique (MS 2014), University of Michigan
- Kelsey Kalmbach (MS 2016), Colorado School of Mines
- Sofia Piltz, University of Michigan



---

Thank you!

---