



# Coupled oscillators approach to data analysis

## A foreword

**Michael Rosenblum**

*Institute of Physics and Astronomy, Potsdam University, Germany*

URL: [www.stat.physik.uni-potsdam.de/~mros](http://www.stat.physik.uni-potsdam.de/~mros)

# Terminological problem in interdisciplinary research

Many common special words have different meaning in different fields, in particular, in physics and in neuroscience!

We shall be very careful with the following words

- coupling
- synchronization
- locking
- phase

# Terminological problem in interdisciplinary research

Many common special words have different meaning in different fields, in particular, in physics and in neuroscience!

We shall be very careful with the following words

- coupling
- synchronization
- locking
- phase

# Phase: what is it?

Phase is a key notion in nonlinear dynamics and coupled oscillators theory

Phase is widely used in data analysis in engineering and neuroscience

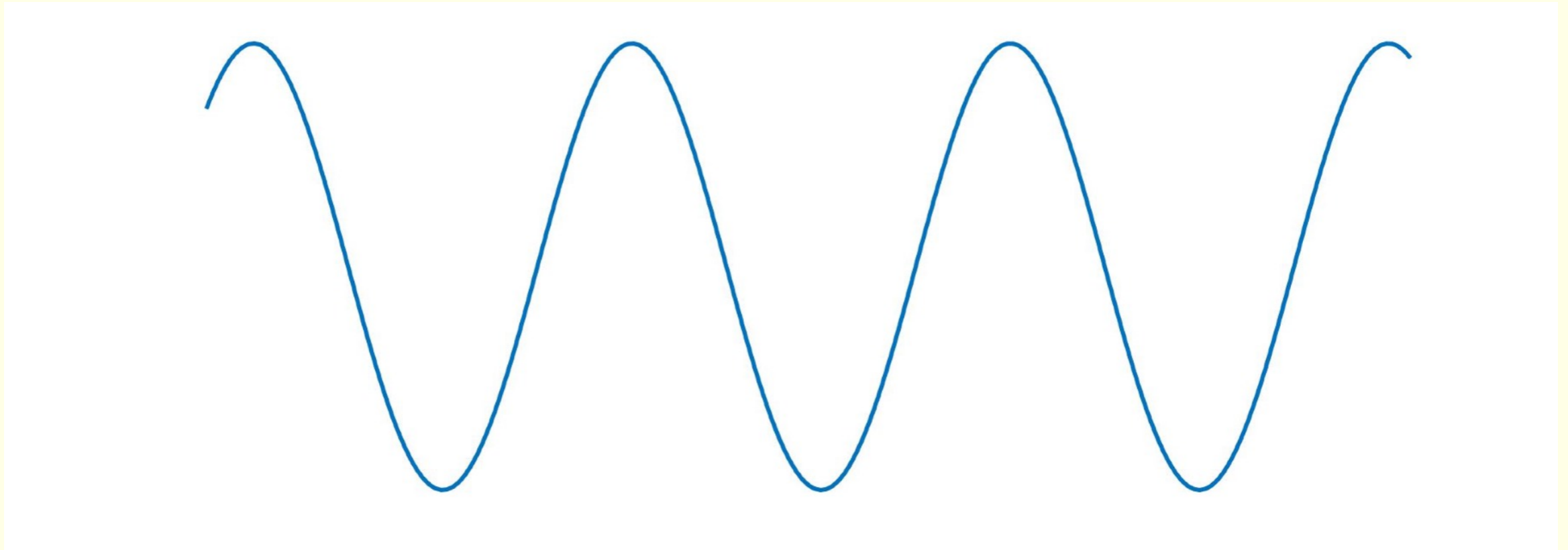
# Phase: what is it?

Phase is a key notion in nonlinear dynamics and coupled oscillators theory

Phase is widely used in data analysis in engineering and neuroscience

Is it the same quantity?

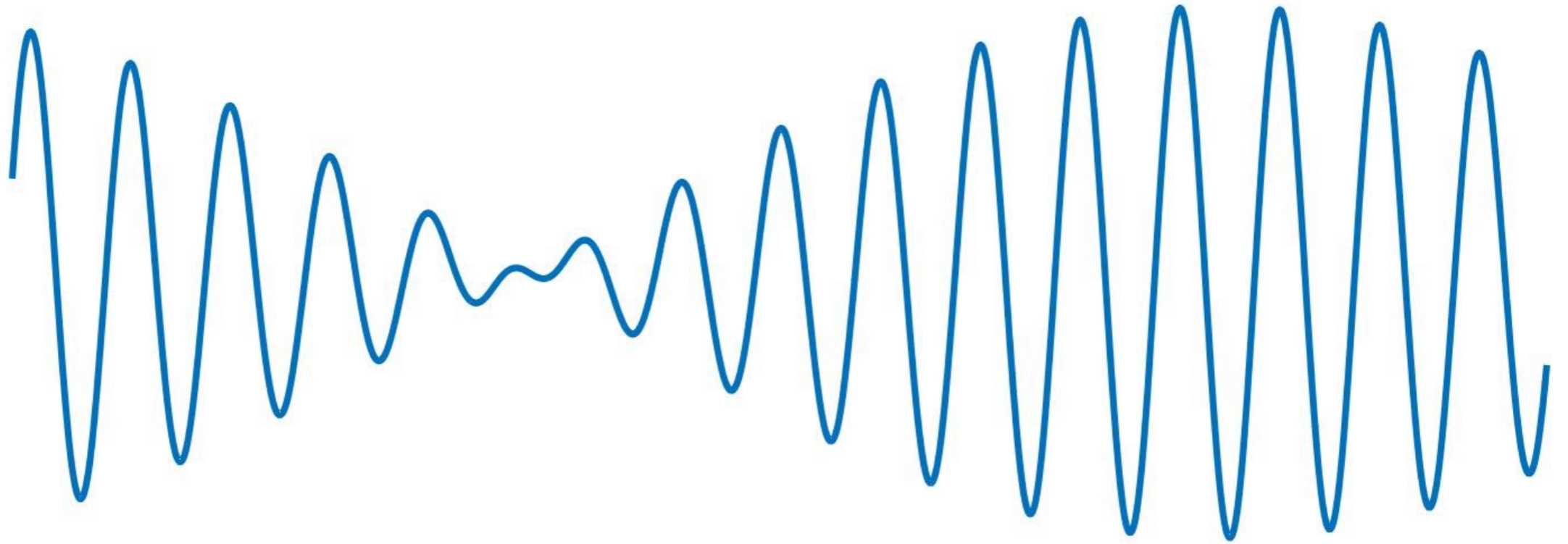
# Phase: simple questions



$$x = A \sin(\omega t + \alpha)$$

What is phase here:  $\alpha$  or  $\omega t + \alpha$  ?

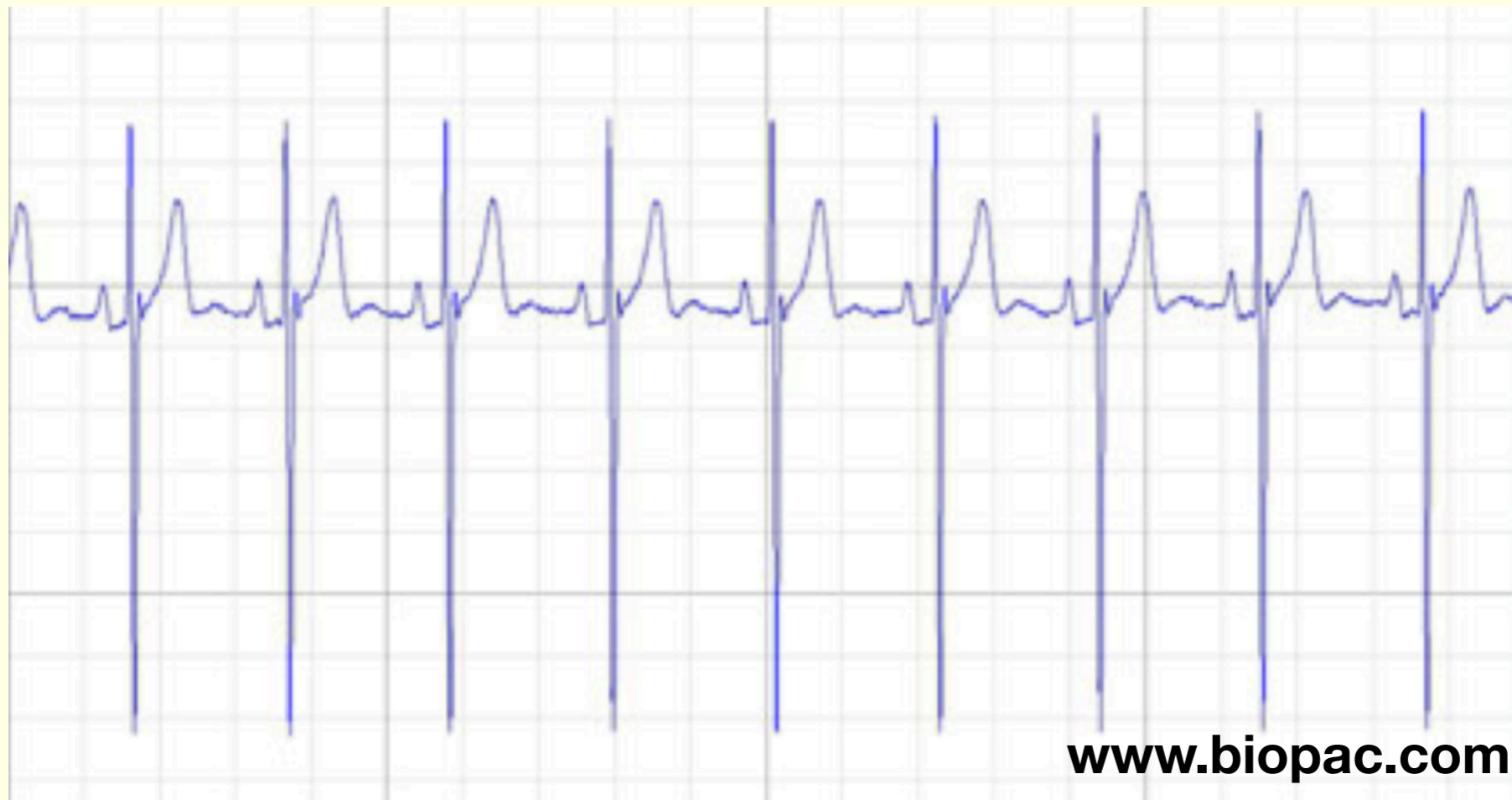
## Phase: simple questions II



$$x = \sin(\omega_1 t + \alpha) + \sin(\omega_2 t)$$

What is phase here?

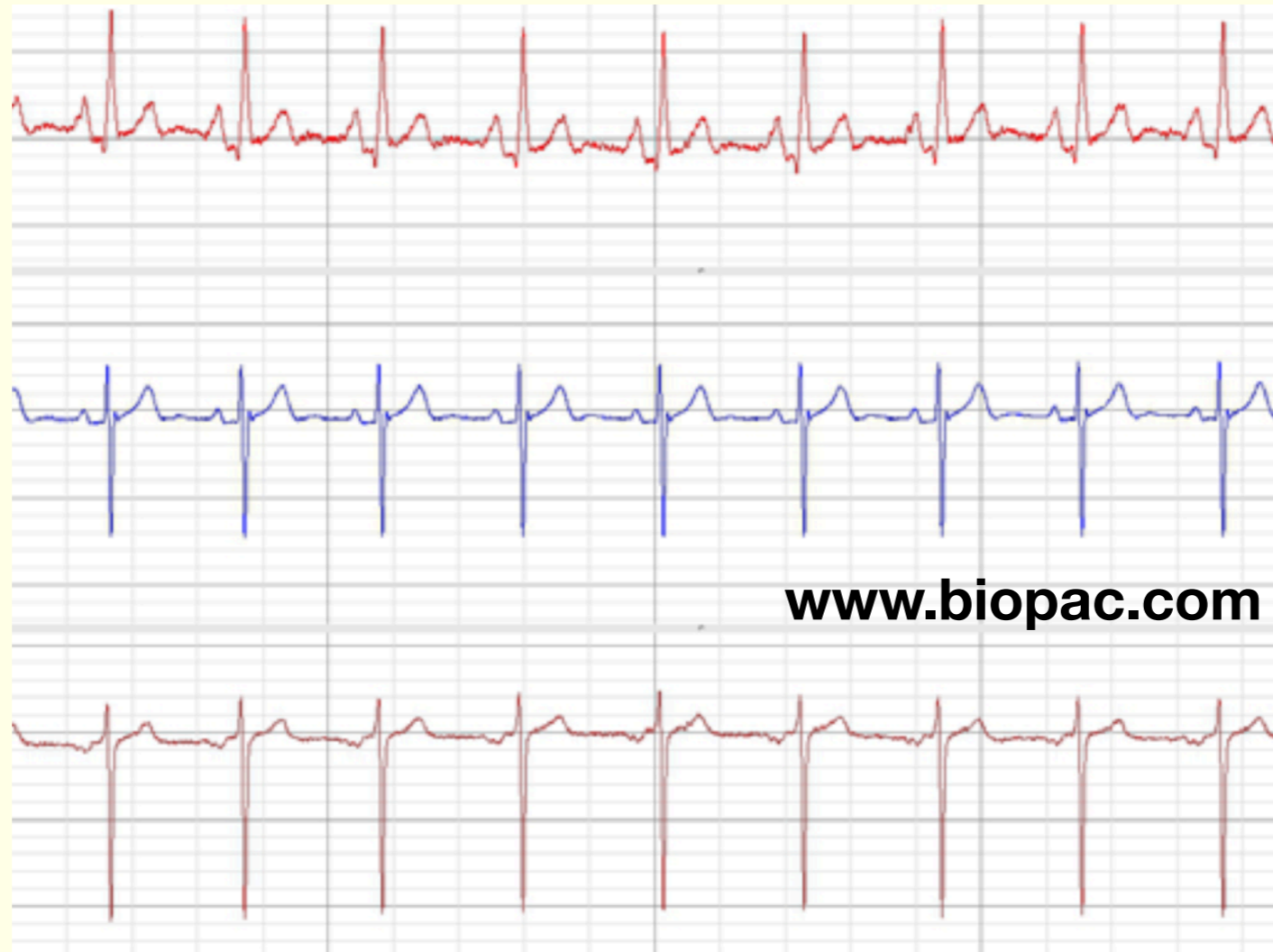
# Phase: simple questions III



Human electrocardiogram: What is phase here?



# Phase: simple questions IV



**3-Lead ECG Recording**

Human 3-Lead ECG Recording: What is phase here?

Shall different traces provide same or different phases?

If yes, how to achieve it?

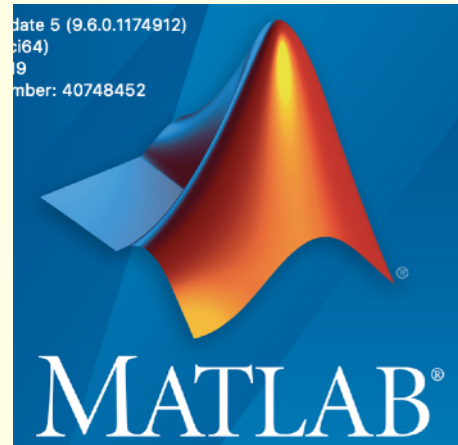
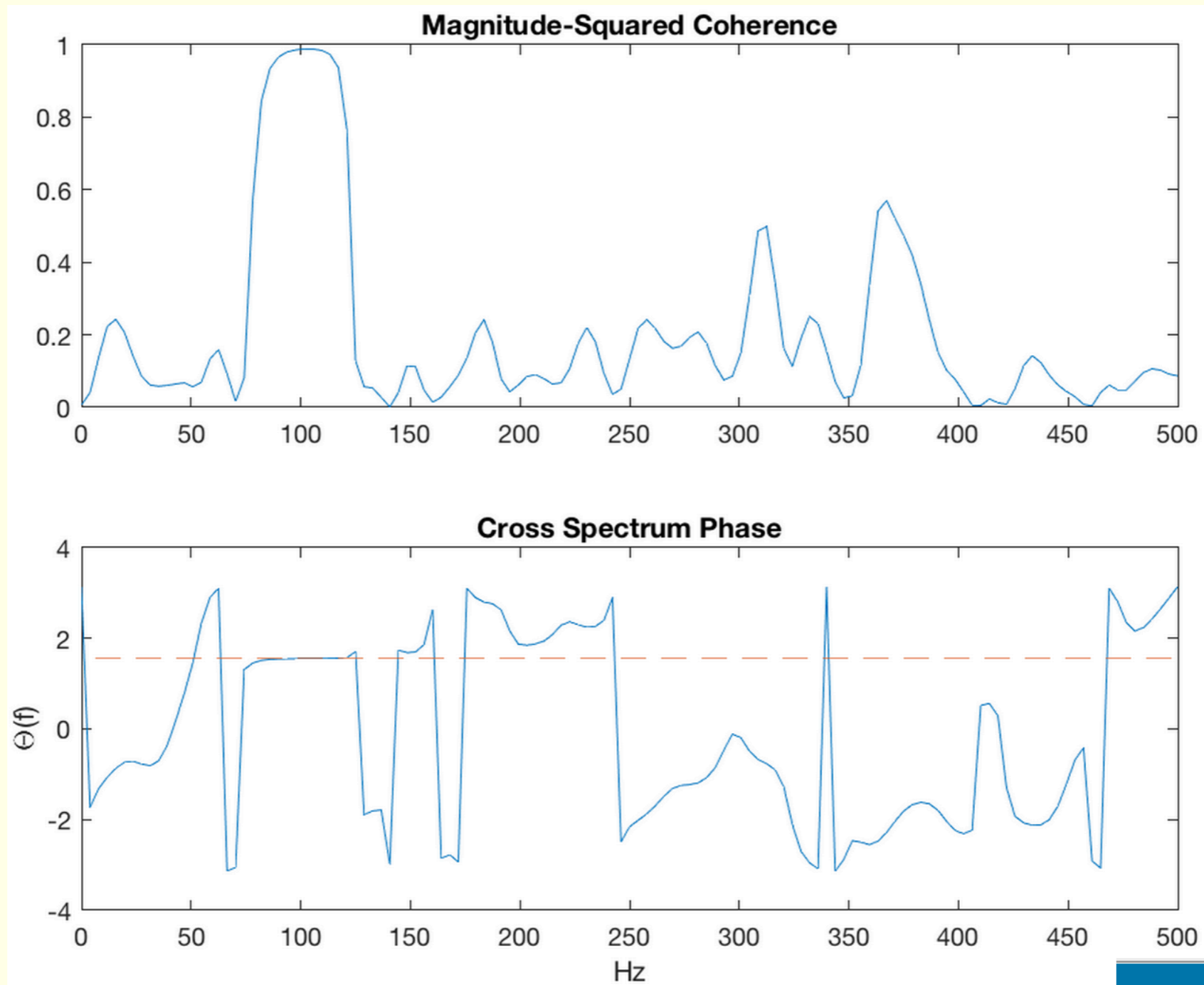
# Phase: simple questions V

For computation of phase people use:

- Fourier Transform
- Hilbert Transform
- Complex Wavelet Transform
- ...

What is the relation between these approaches?

# Phase: simple questions VI



What is this phase?

Documentation

☰ CONTENTS

« Documentation Home

« Signal Processing Toolbox

# Phase: final question

Why exactly phase?

# Phase: physical viewpoint

The word “phase” appears in many branches of physics (e.g. “phase transitions”)

We stick to the definition used in **nonlinear dynamics**, and, particularly, in

**theory of coupled oscillators and their synchronization**

# Coupled oscillators and synchronization

In this theory we distinguish between phase of an **oscillator** and phase of a **signal**

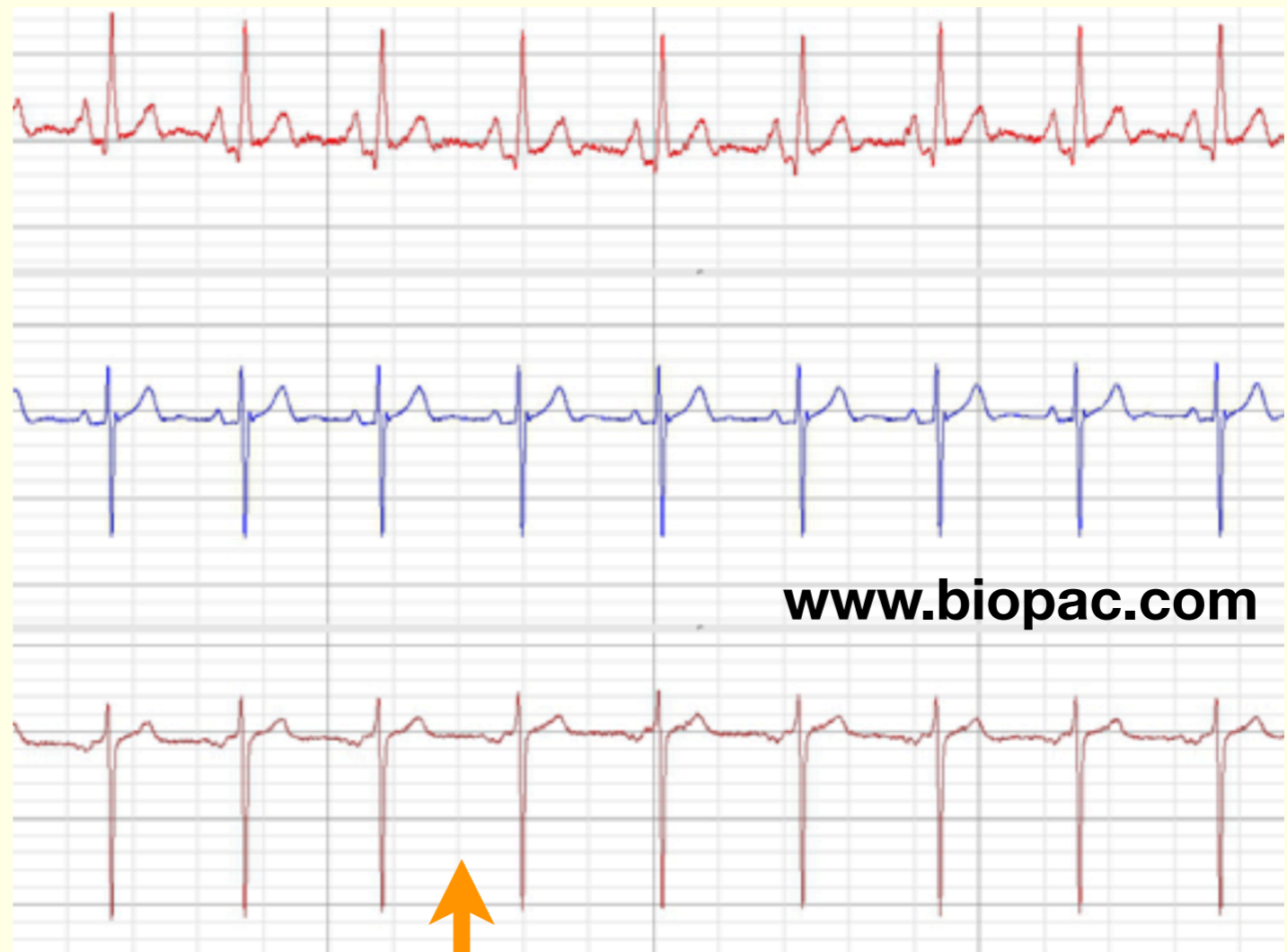
# Coupled oscillators and synchronization

In this theory we distinguish between phase of an **oscillator** and phase of a **signal**

An example:



Oscillator



Measurement (signals, time series)

# Coupled oscillators and synchronization II

In this theory we distinguish between phase of an **oscillator** and phase of a **signal**

Phase of an oscillator can be defined  
rigorously and unambiguously



# Coupled oscillators and synchronization II

In this theory we distinguish between phase of an **oscillator** and phase of a **signal**

Phase of an oscillator can be defined  
rigorously and unambiguously

Computation of the oscillator's phase from time series  
remains a challenge, though a lot of progress has been achieved  
within last two decades

# Coupled oscillators and synchronization III

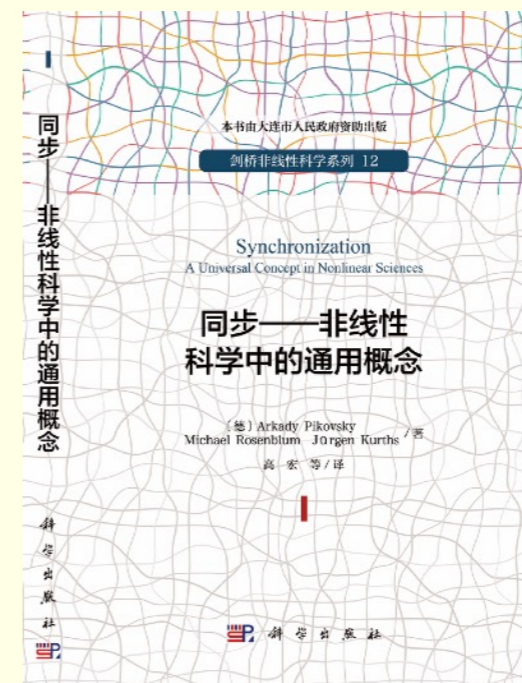
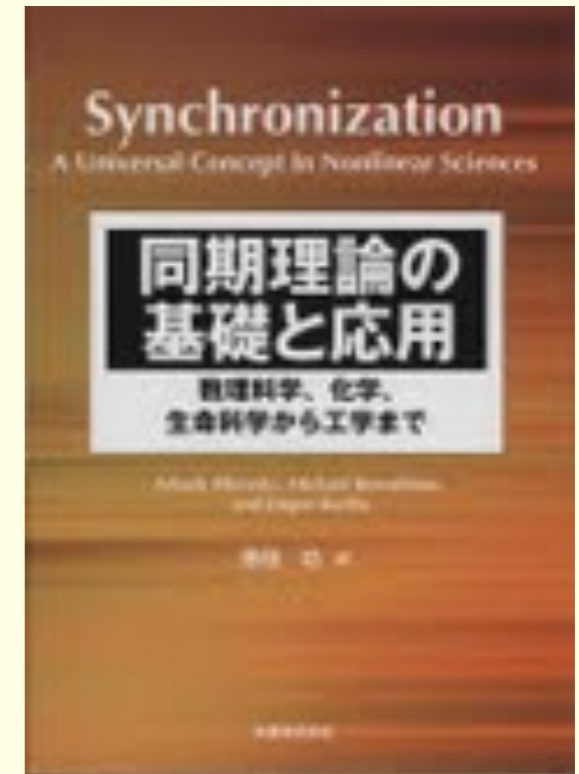
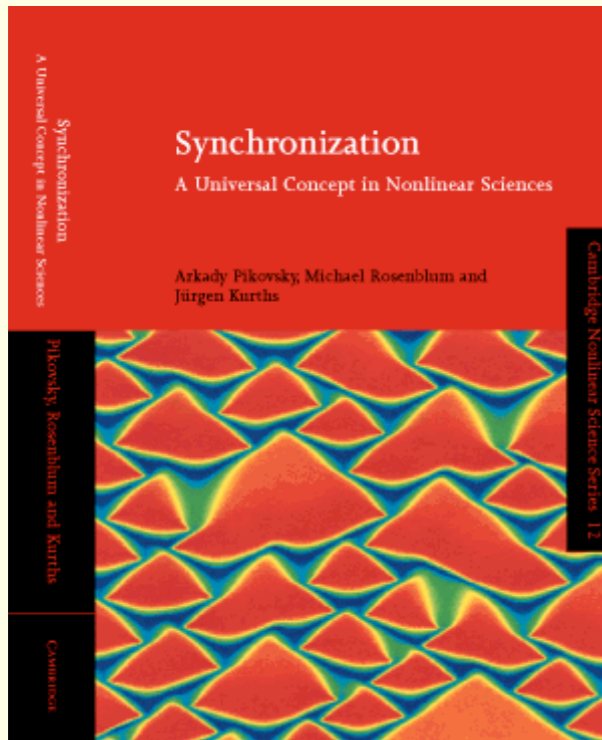
A very hot topic, with tenths of publications every month!!!

Applications in natural sciences and engineering

Many applications in life sciences: on the level of genes, cells, organs and physiological subsystems,  
and even on the level of human individuals

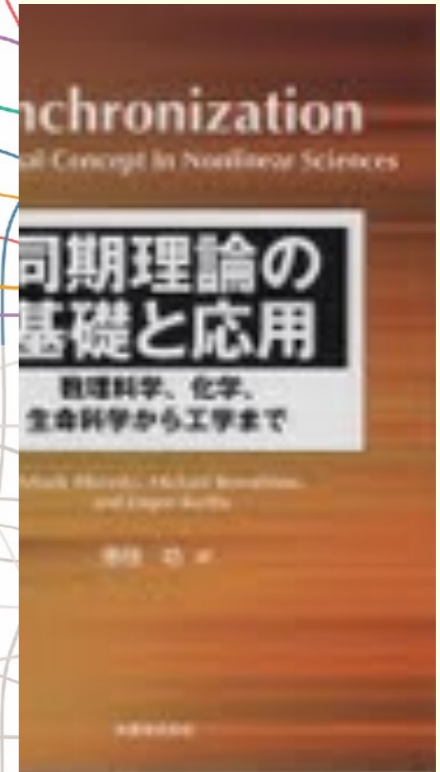
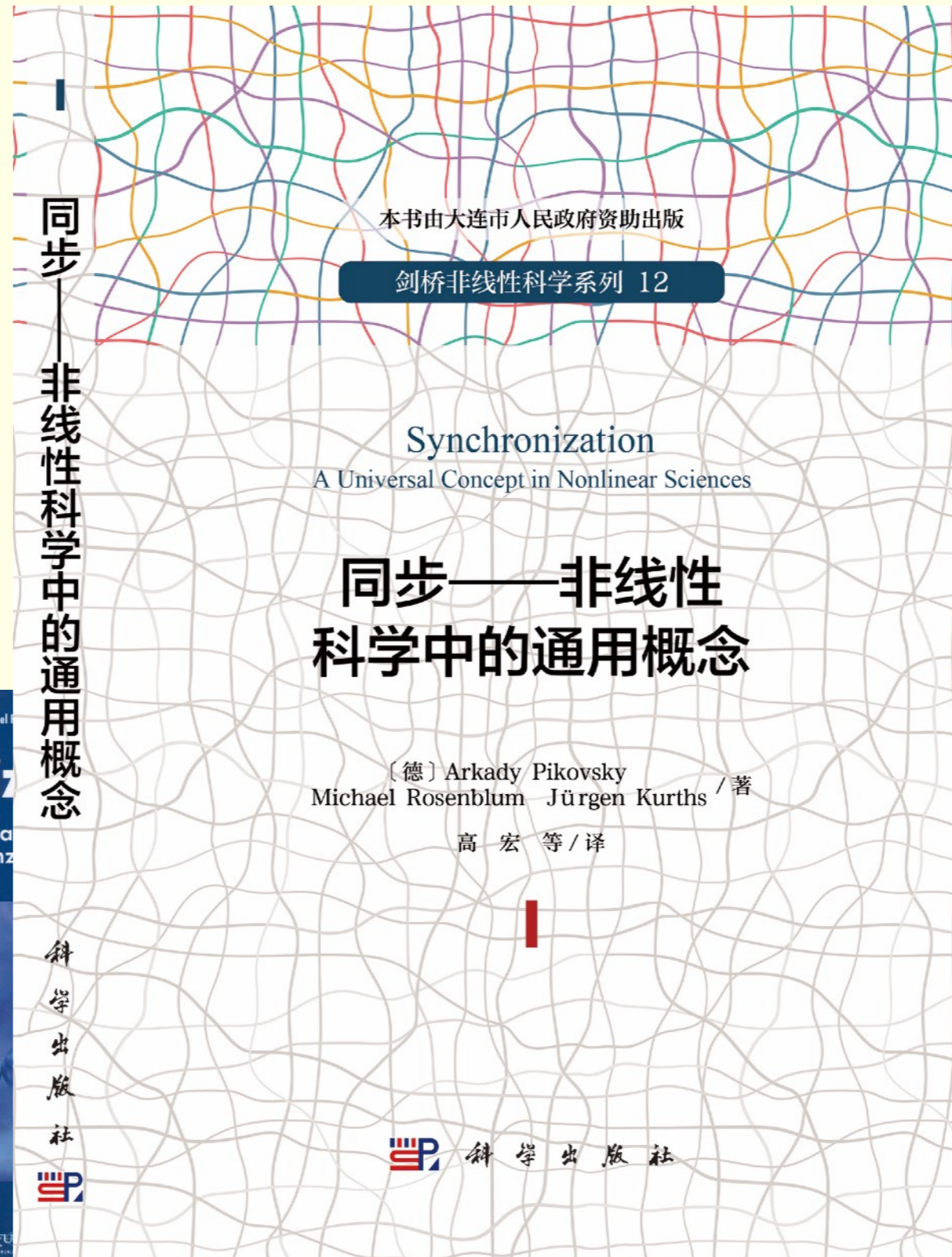
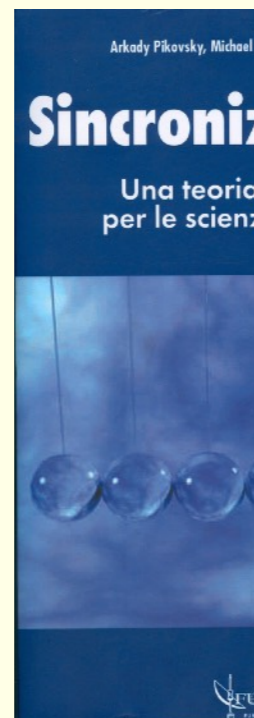
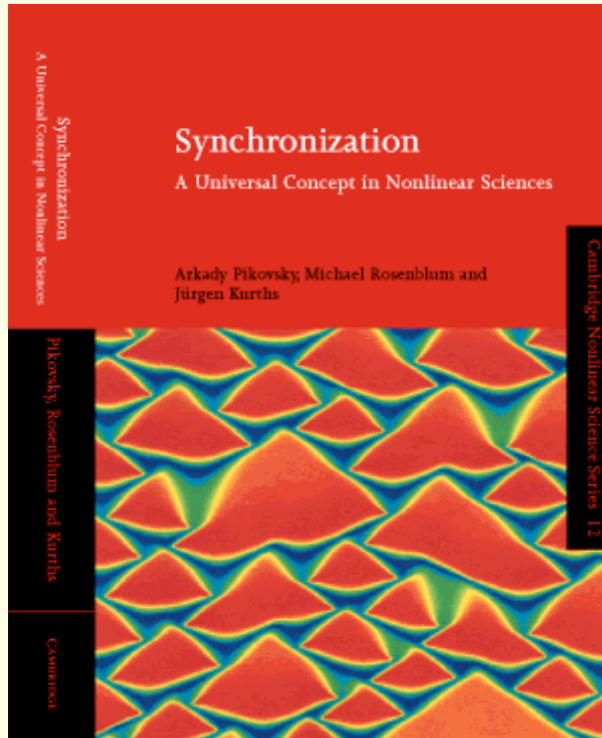
# Coupled oscillators and synchronization: references

- A. Pikovsky, M. Rosenblum, J. Kurths, Synchronization. A Universal Concept in Nonlinear Sciences, 2001



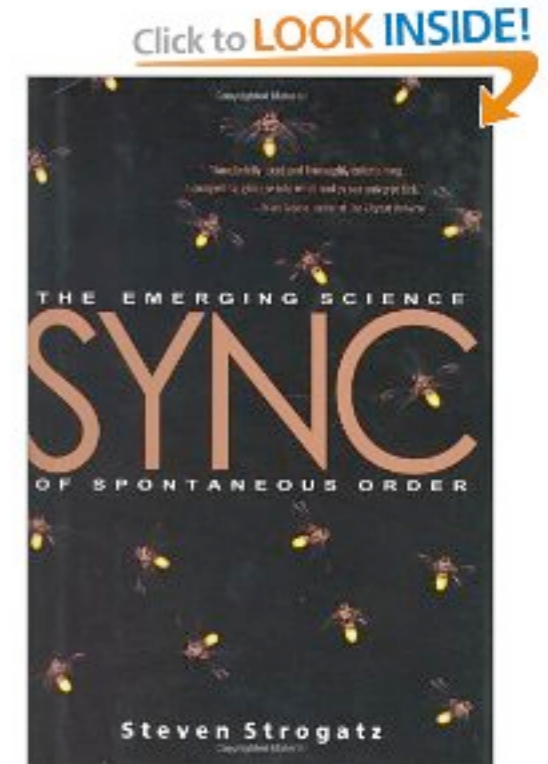
# Coupled oscillators and synchronization: references

- A. Pikovsky, M. Rosenblum, J. Kurths, Synchronization. A Universal Concept in Nonlinear Sciences, 2001



# Coupled oscillators and synchronization: references

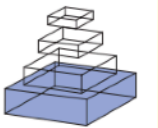
- S. Strogatz, *Sync: The Emerging Science of Spontaneous Order*, 2003



... and many review papers, e.g.

frontiers in  
**HUMAN NEUROSCIENCE**

**REVIEW ARTICLE**  
published: 11 November 2010  
doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2010.00190



## Generative models of cortical oscillations: neurobiological implications of the Kuramoto model

**Michael Breakspear<sup>1,2,3,4\*</sup>, Stewart Heitmann<sup>1,2</sup> and Andreas Daffertshofer<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW, Australia

<sup>2</sup> The Black Dog Institute, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney, NSW, Australia

<sup>3</sup> Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Brisbane, QLD, Australia

<sup>4</sup> Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Brisbane, QLD, Australia

<sup>5</sup> Research Institute MOVE, VU University Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands