

Report

AMESP - Phase 2 WP3



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Contents

1	WP3 Overview	2
1.1	Objectives	2
1.2	Timeline of Executed Tasks	2
1.3	Conventions	2
2	First Approach: PID Controller	3
2.1	Time Response Analysis	3
2.1.1	Subsubsection	3
3	Second Approach: Current-based Classification and Control	3
3.1	Measuring the currents by spray mode	4
3.2	Reproducing Results from Verdoold et al. (2013)	6
3.3	Crown influences on i_{GND}	7
3.3.1	Attenuating Crown Influences on i_{GND}	8
3.3.2	8 vs 16 Needles in the Crown	9
3.4	Classifying the Spraying Mode	9
3.5	Optimizing the Signal Acquisition	11
3.6	Optimizing the Classification	13
3.6.1	Trying different statistical parameters	13
3.6.2	Classification via small Neural Networks	15
3.7	Proof-of-Concept Real-time EHDA Classification	16
3.8	Proof-of-Concept Real-Time EHDA Control	16
	References	17

1 WP3 Overview

1.1 Objectives

Based on the signed proposal, ...

1.2 Timeline of Executed Tasks

1.3 Conventions

Throughout this section, we'll refer multiple times to physical variables of the system. Figure 1 shows the variable conventions we'll use in this text.

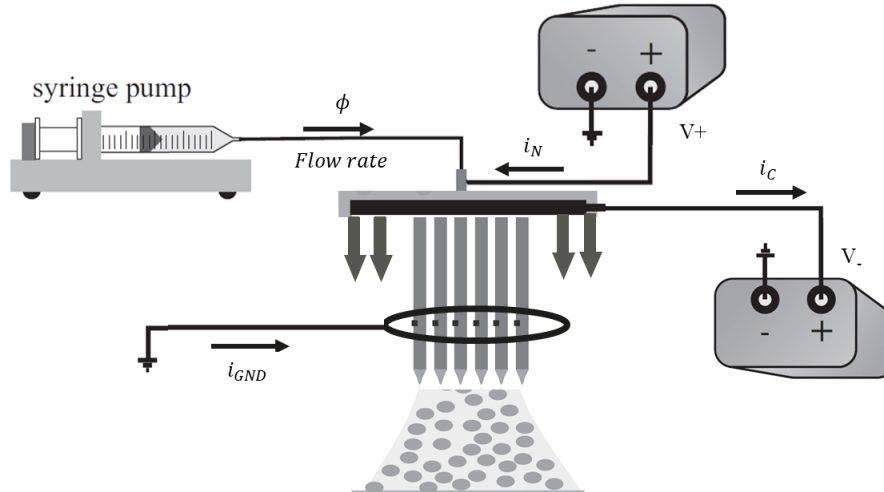


Figure 1. Variable conventions and nomenclature. Source: adapted from Verdoold et al. (2013).

As shown in Figure 1, we have

- i_N : current flowing from the positive high voltage source to the nozzles
- i_C : current flowing from the crown to the negative high voltage source
- i_{GND} : current flowing from the ground to the ring
- ϕ : flow rate of the syringe pump
- V_+ : voltage of the positive high voltage
- V_- : voltage of the negative high voltage

The direction of the currents was chosen as shown in Figure 1 to ensure they are always positive in the measurements, facilitating the analysis.

2 First Approach: PID Controller

2.1 Time Response Analysis

Before developing a proof-of-concept PID controller for the multinozzle, we first need to understand the time response of system to changes in the input.

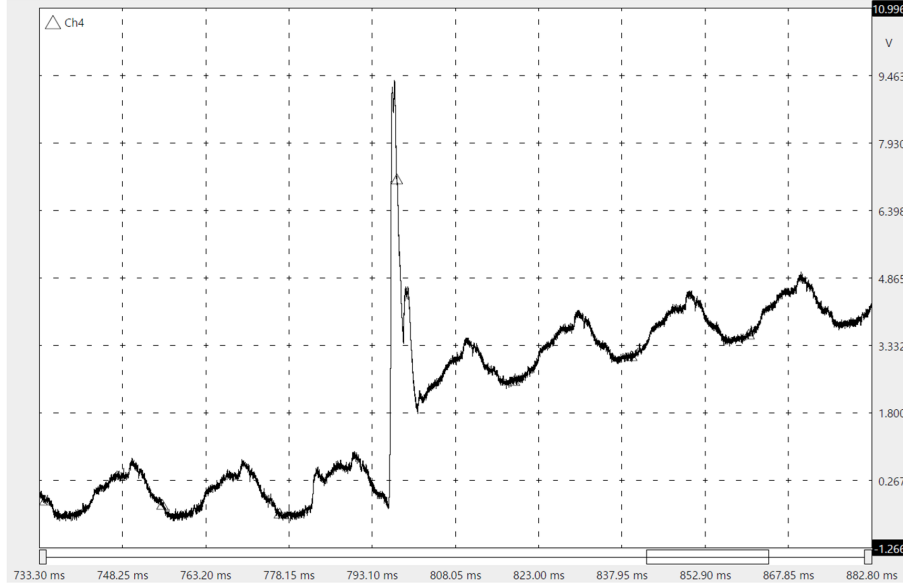


Figure 2. Inrush current on the positive HV+ line.

2.1.1 Subsubsection

Hello, here is some text without a meaning. This text should show what a printed text will look like at this place. If you read this text, you will get no information. Really? Is there no information? Is there a difference between this text and some nonsense like “Huardest gefburn”? Kjift – not at all! A blind text like this gives you information about the selected font, how the letters are written and an impression of the look. This text should contain all letters of the alphabet and it should be written in of the original language. There is no need for special content, but the length of words should match the language.

3 Second Approach: Current-based Classification and Control

Once identified the issues with the first approach, we attempted to design a controller based on the classification suggested by Verdoold et al. (2013).

The strategy adopted will be to first classify the electrospray mode by looking at current values on the system, and then experimentally design a controller that can move from an intermittent to a cone-jet spray mode.

However, Verdoold’s method was designed for the single nozzle, and it is not clear if we can extend his classification to a multinozzle configuration. Therefore, part of this work includes an attempt to extend his classification to the system developed by Gilbert.

3.1 Measuring the currents by spray mode

The first test done was to measure the current on all three lines of the sprayhead and verify if we see a pattern in the shape of current that can be used to classify the spray mode. Figure 3 shows the setup used for this test. V_- was fixed on $V_- = -4.5kV$.

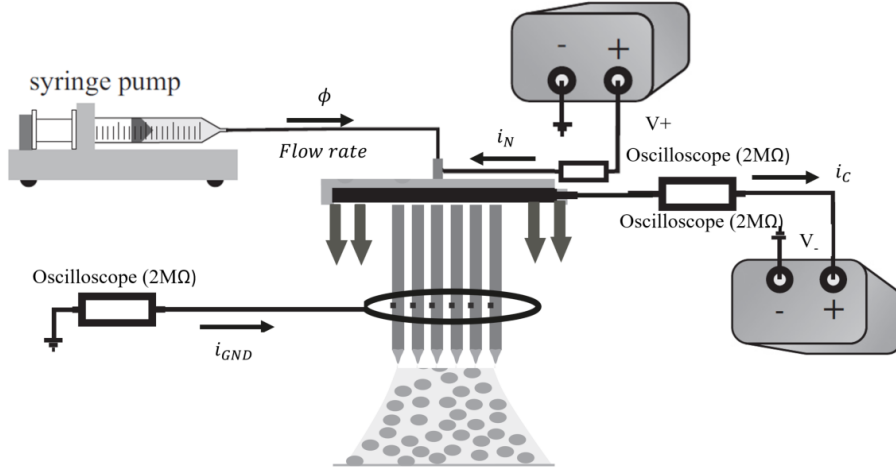


Figure 3. Setup to measure all three currents on the sprayhead. Source: adapted from Verdoold et al. (2013).

Using three oscilloscopes, all three currents were sampled at 5 kHz, collecting 20.000 samples of each (totalling a 4 seconds time window). Notice that, although the oscilloscope has multiple channels, we cannot use the same oscilloscope as the channels are interconnected internally: the high voltage differences would damage the instrument. Therefore, we use one oscilloscope for each line.

Figure 4 and Figure 5 show the waveforms obtained for $\phi = 20$ mL/h; $\phi = 30$ mL/h; $\phi = 50$ mL/h for two different time windows: 50ms and 500ms.

As we can see in Figure 4 and Figure 5, we don’t see a clear distinction in the shape of the current by different spray modes, in both time windows. The sharp peaks we see on the waveforms are most likely caused by a high-frequency noise in signal, especially since we use banana adapters for the oscilloscope in this test, instead of coaxial cables, which pick up less noise.

Attempting to see a distinction on Figure 5 via the standard deviation also fails, as shown on Figure 6.

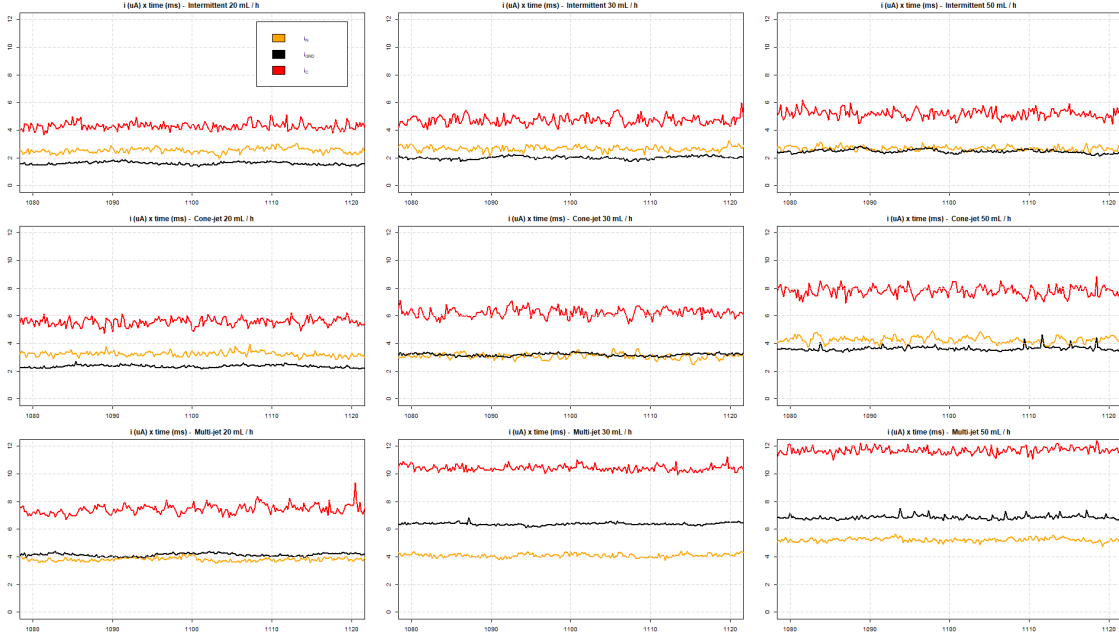


Figure 4. i_N , i_{GND} and i_C over time by different spray modes - 50 ms time window.

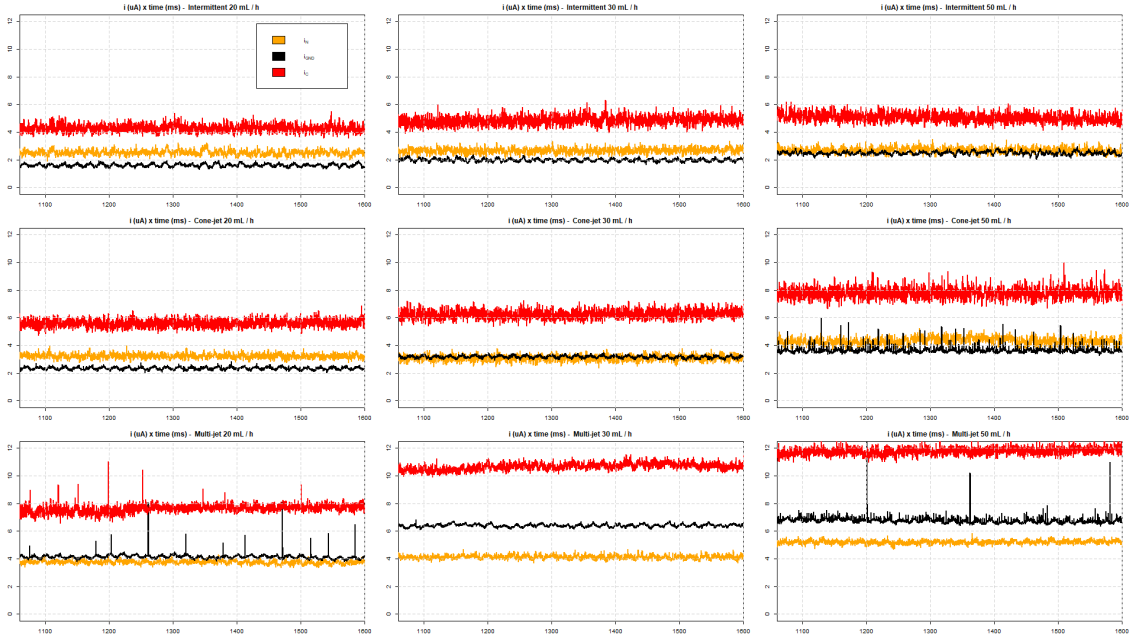


Figure 5. i_N , i_{GND} and i_C over time by different spray modes - 500 ms time window.

Without a clear distinction in the current waveforms it would not possible to continue with this approach. Therefore, we need to first understand why we are not seeing distinctions in the shape of the current, particularly between the intermittent and cone-jet spray modes, as it is clear in the literature that there should be a difference.

To do this, we'll begin by attempting to reproduce Verdoold et al. (2013)'s results, with the goal of isolating if the problem is our measurement strategy or if it is

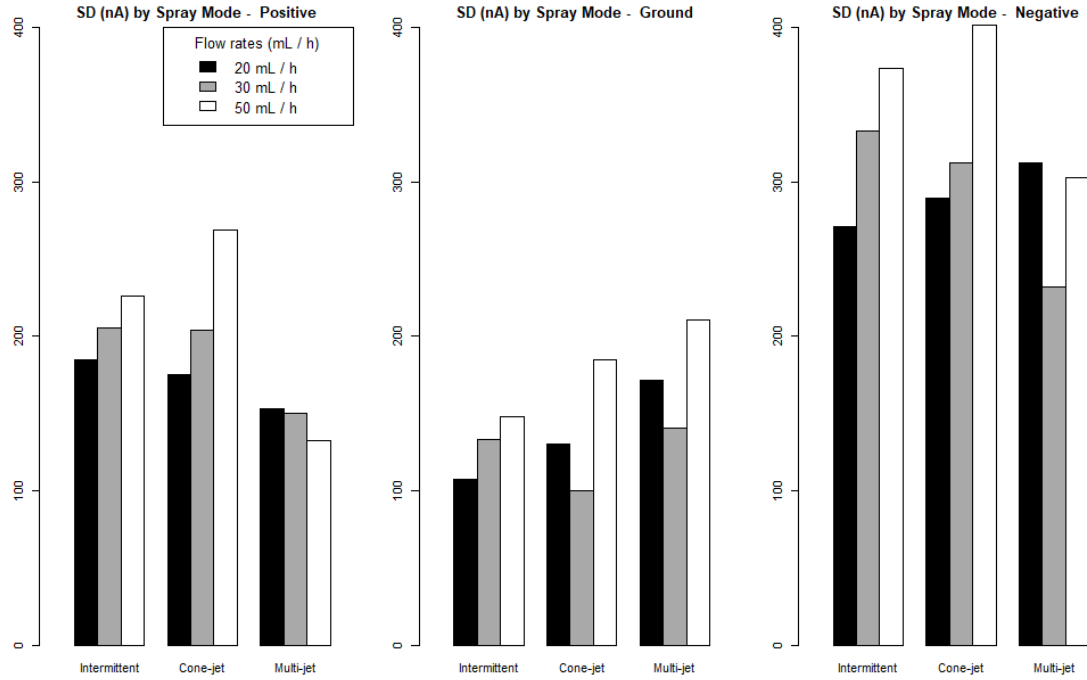


Figure 6. Standard deviation on Figure 5 of i_N , i_{GND} and i_C by spray mode.

something related to the sprayhead itself.

3.2 Reproducing Results from Verdoold et al. (2013)

Figure 7 shows the setup used to reproduce Verdoold et al. (2013)’s approach. We used a sampling frequency of 5 kHz and $\phi = 1$ mL/h.

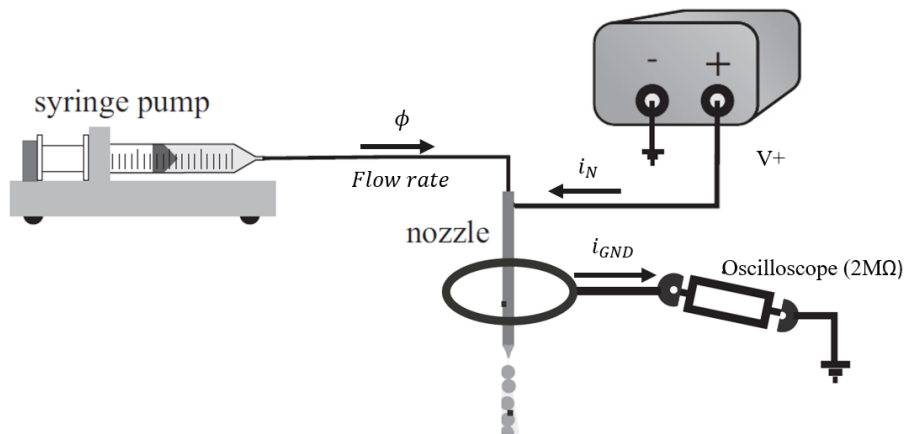


Figure 7. Setup used to reproduce Verdoold’s classification method. Source: adapted from Verdoold et al. (2013).

The results obtained are shown in Figure 8.

As we can see in Figure 8, we see a clear distinction between the spray modes,

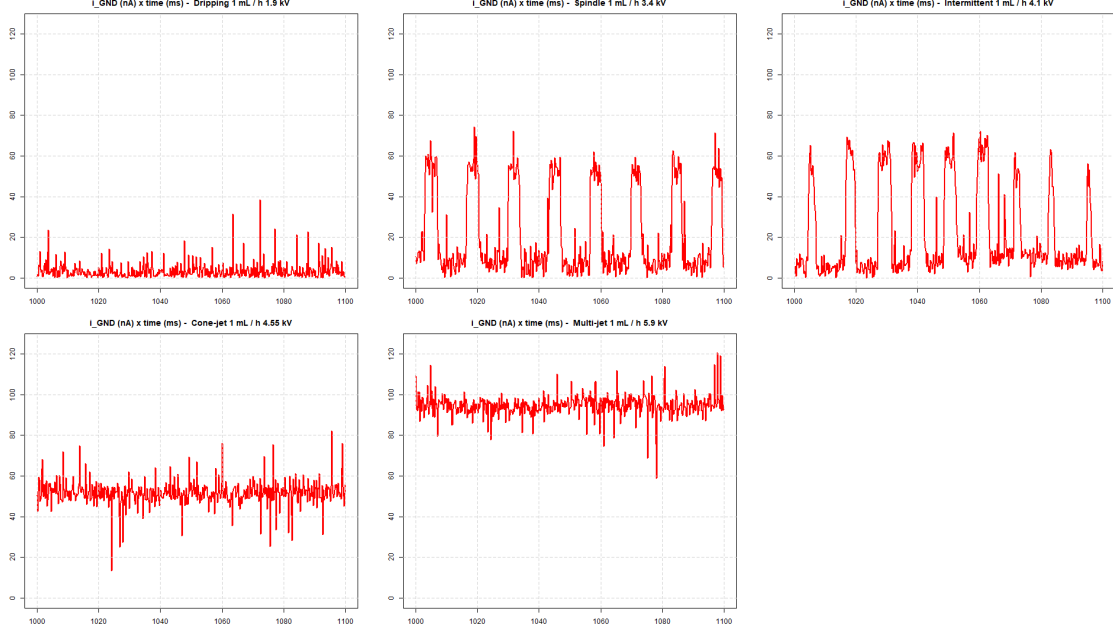


Figure 8. Results from the attempt to reproduce Verdoold’s results on our setup.

which is what we wish to see in the multinozzle. We can conclude that our measurement methodology can reproduce the results, therefore it must be something in the multinozzle that is ”hiding” the intermittent spray signal.

Comparing the single nozzle setup on Figure 7 and the multinozzle on Figure 3, the most significant difference is indeed the presence of the crown. Therefore, let’s begin by understanding the influence of the crown on i_{GND} , which is the current that we know is capable of showing a distinction of spraying modes.

3.3 Crown influences on i_{GND}

To understand the influence of the crown on the ground current, we’ll use the same setup shown on Figure 3, but we’ll make $V_+ = 0\text{ V}$, $\phi = 0\text{ mL/h}$ and measure i_{GND} for different crown voltages. Since there is no flow and no positive voltage, we’ll be measuring the current on the ground ring introduced by the crown only. In addition, we’ll use coaxial cables during the measurements.

Figure 9 shows the shape of i_{GND} for different values of V_- .

As seen of Figure 9 (a), the crown alone introduces a signal on i_{GND} starting from $V_- = -4\text{ kV}$, which increases in both average value and standard deviation as V_- increases. This is consistent with what happens at the crown: from $V_- = -4\text{ kV}$ onwards the sharp needles of the crown begin to ionize the air, producing ions that can be directed to ground ring. This results in a current $i_{GND} > 0$ induced by the crown.

In addition, on Figure 9 (b) we see that the standard deviation introduced by the crown is significant. As we saw on Figure 8, the intermittent spray mode presents

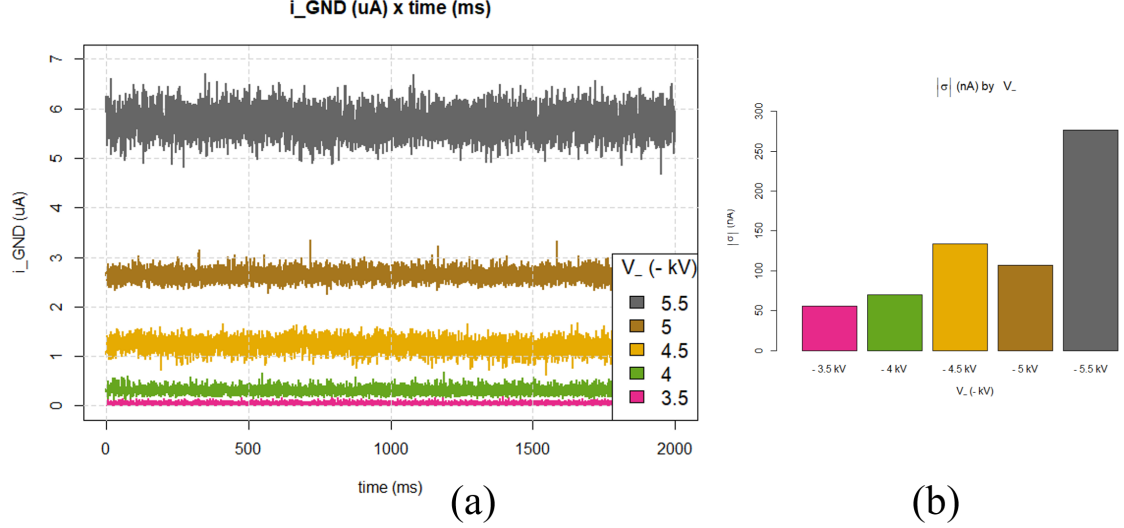


Figure 9. i_{GND} for different values of V_- . (a) Waveform and (b) standard deviation

peaks in the current signal in order of 50 nA, but the "noise" introduced by the crown alone is already over 50 nA when $V_- = -4.5$ kV, which is voltage used on the results of Figure 5. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the reason we are not seeing a good distinction between the spray modes on Figure 5 is because of this signal introduced by the crown alone.

3.3.1 Attenuating Crown Influences on i_{GND}

In order to verify the above hypothesis, we can try to reduce the influence of the crown in the signal and verify if the intermittent signal becomes distinguishable. We can achieve this adding digital filters in the oscilloscope software to remove the following frequencies:

- 50 Hz frequency from the electric grid: use a stop band in the range 48 - 52 Hz
- All frequencies above 100 Hz: use low pass filter with cut-off frequency 100 Hz.

Since the intermittent peaks are usually under 100 Hz (Verdoold et al., 2013), we can remove anything above this frequency from the signal as it is not what we wish to measure.

Using this, we once again collect the signals of Figure 9, obtaining the signal on Figure 10.

Comparing Figure 10 and Figure 9, we see that the filters significantly reduce the standard deviation (i.e. the "noise") in i_{GND} . For $V_- = -4.5$ kV, the standard deviation is already almost three times smaller. However, it remains above 50 nA, so

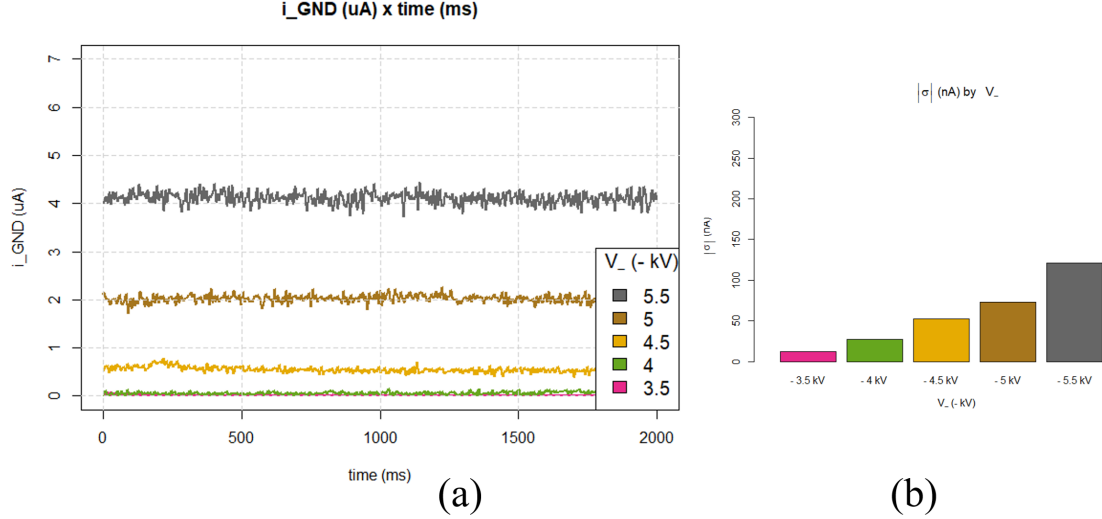


Figure 10. i_{GND} for different values of V_- with digital filters. (a) Waveform and (b) standard deviation

it could still make it difficult to see the intermittent peaks in the signal. Ideally, we would use the $V_- = -4$ kV to get the smallest amount of noise introduced, but it is not clear if it possible to achieve a good neutralization with such a small V_- .

3.3.2 8 vs 16 Needles in the Crown

Around this time, Gilbert request us to test the crown with 8 needles for the WP2, as opposed to the 16 needles we had always used until this point. Difficulties to reinsert removed needles meant that from this point onwards we would always use a needle with 8 needles.

Therefore, before we continue with this analysis, we need to understand how the signal introduces on i_{GND} has changed. We've re-done the test of Figure 10, obtaining the results shown on Figure 11

Comparing Figure 10 and Figure 11, we see that the 8 needles introduce a much smaller signal on the i_{GND} , both in terms of average value as in standard deviation. This will be helpful to make the intermittent peaks on the signal more visible, as for $V_- = -4.5$ kV the introduced standard deviation is only 10 nA.

3.4 Classifying the Spraying Mode

With everything that we've now learned about the influence of the crown and the necessity of filters, we can now repeat the experiment of Figure 3, using the same setup of Figure 3, but again only measuring i_{GND} . The oscilloscope was configured with $f_s = 5$ kHz and a sample size of $N_s = 20.000$. The crown had 8 needles and was fixed with $V_- = -4$ kV to reduce as far as possible the influence of the crown on i_{GND} .

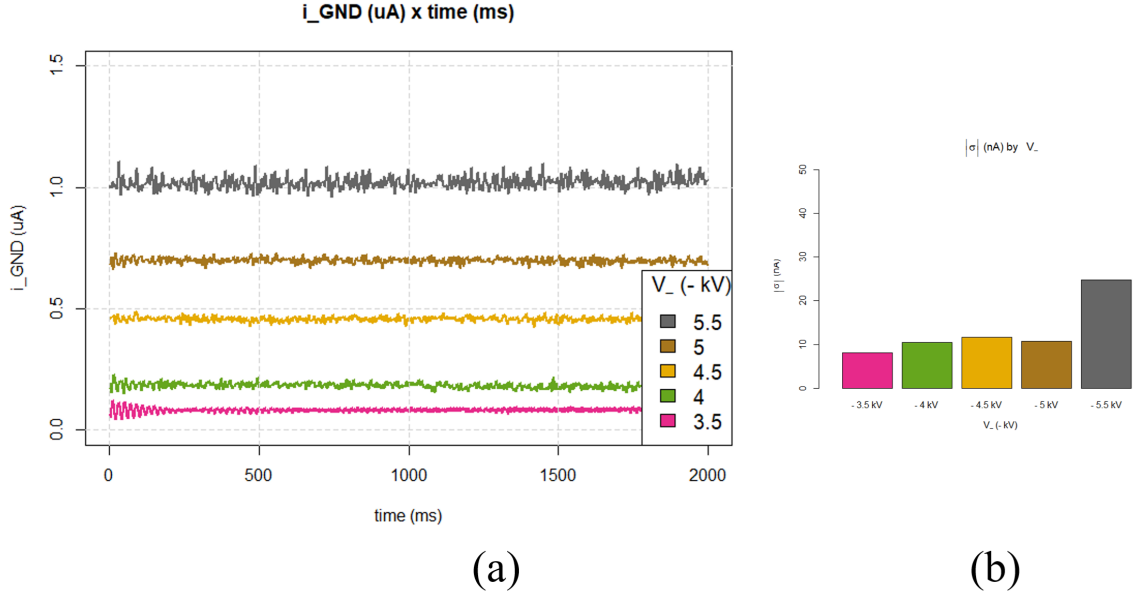


Figure 11. i_{GND} for different values of V_- with digital filters - Crown with 8 needles. (a) Waveform and (b) standard deviation

Figure 12 shows the result obtained. The intermittent is clearly distinguishable from the cone-jet mode. However, expected, we cannot distinguish the elongated cone-jet and the multi-jet from the cone-jet.

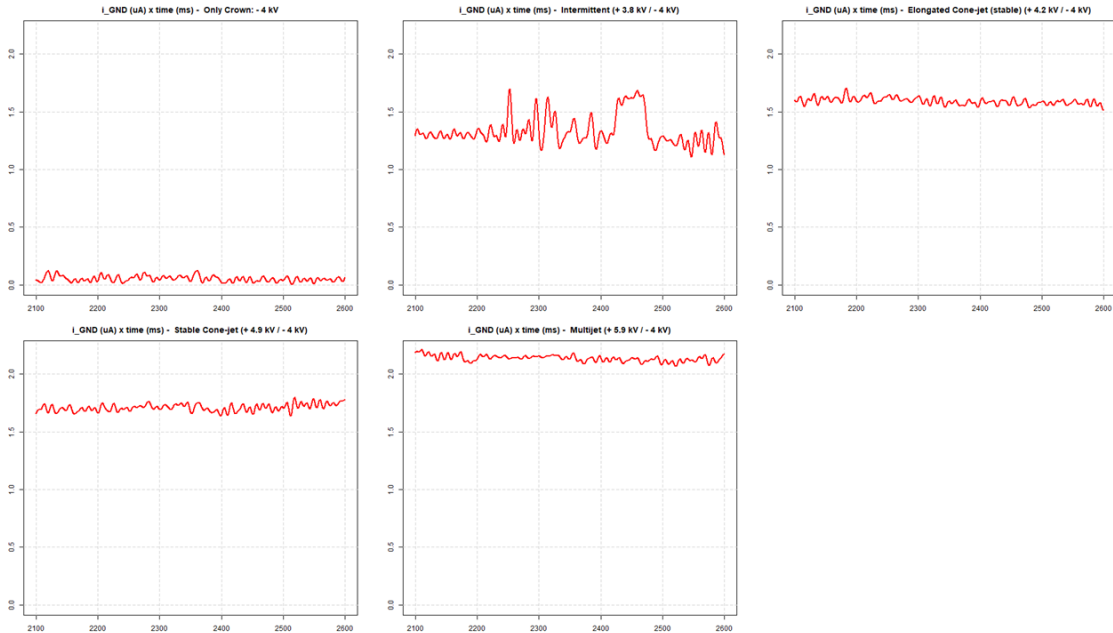
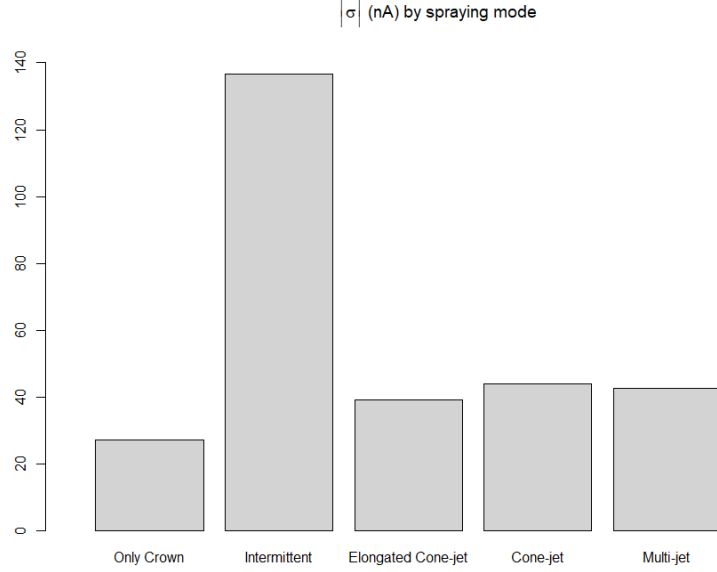


Figure 12. i_{GND} for different spray modes.

Calculating the standard deviation on Figure 12 also allows for a good distinction between the spraying modes, as shown in Figure 13.

Based on Figure 13, we could use a simple if-else classification algorithm based on the standard deviation, defining a threshold for what is classified as intermittent or cone-jet. For example, we could say that if $\sigma > 60$ nA then it is intermittent, else it



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Figure 13. Standard deviation of i_{GND} for different spray modes.

is cone-jet (once inside the stable region defined by the mapping of the WP1). An algorithm for this will be further explored on subsection 3.7.

3.5 Optimizing the Signal Acquisition

In the previous sections, the signal was acquired using the minimum sampling frequency suggested by the Verdoold et al. (2013) of $f_s = 5$ kHz. A sample size of $N_s = 20,000$ was used to obtain a spectral resolution of 0.25 Hz for frequency domain analysis, also suggested by Verdoold as the minimum. However, talks with Gilbert showed that the sampling frequency was too computationally expensive and the sample size was too slow, as it resulted in a sampling time window of 4 seconds, which is too large.

Therefore, to attempt to meet these requirements, we need to find the minimum sampling frequency and minimum sample size that can still reliably distinguish the signal of the intermittent from the cone-jet.

To do this, we'll use the following method:

- Collect a time window of $T = 100$ seconds for different values of f_s , resulting in a sample size of $N_s = T \cdot f_s$
- Break the $T = 100$ seconds into smaller time windows - denoted as S_i - of size T_S .
- Calculate the relevant statistical parameters in each S_i and store these values in an array of size T/T_S
- Plot a boxplot of the calculated statistical parameters

Figure 14 further explains the method above visually. T_S will be chosen for different values for the result to be verified. Note that $i = 1, 2, \dots, T/T_S$, and the goal is to find the minimum T_S .

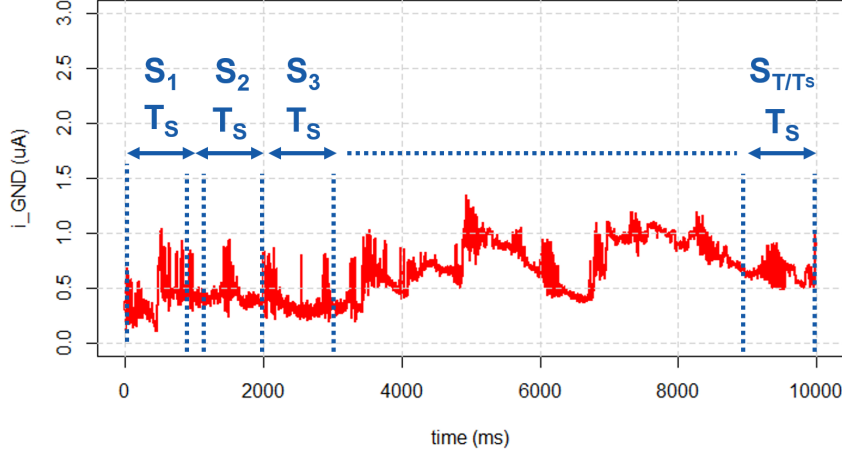


Figure 14. Method to find the minimum sample size that can still classify the EHDA mode via the current.

We'll use the same setup shown in Figure 3, using only the oscilloscope for i_{GND} . We begin with $f_s = 5 \text{ kHz}$, with $T_S = 0.01 \text{ s}; 0.1 \text{ s}; 1 \text{ s}; 10 \text{ s}$. Note that we are first changing T_S over four orders of magnitude to understand the general influence of T_S on the calculated standard deviation. The result obtained is shown on Figure 15.

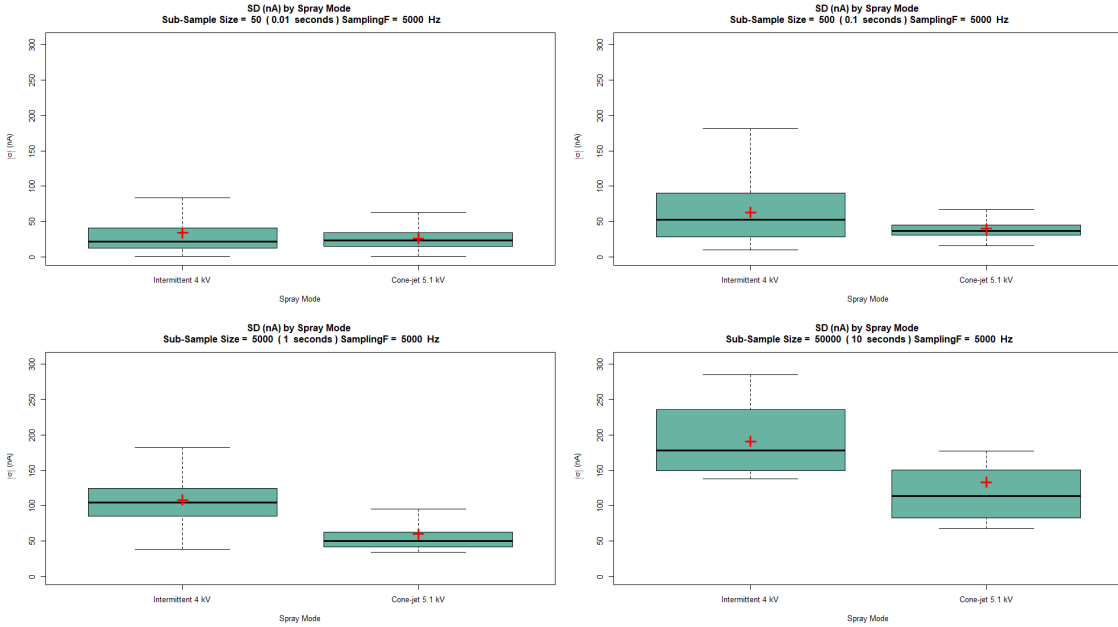


Figure 15. Calculated standard deviation for $f_s = 5 \text{ kHz}$, with $T_S = 0.01 \text{ s}; 0.1 \text{ s}; 1 \text{ s}; 10 \text{ s}$

As we can see on Figure 15, $T_S = 1 \text{ s}$ appears to be the best sample size to differentiate between the intermittent and the cone-jet. Other orders of magnitude of T_S do not allow for a clear distinction between spraying mode via the statistical

values. The next test is to change T_S around 1 second and compare them, using $T_S = 0.25\text{ s}; 0.5\text{ s}; 0.75\text{ s}; 1\text{ s}$. Figure 16 shows the results obtained for this test.

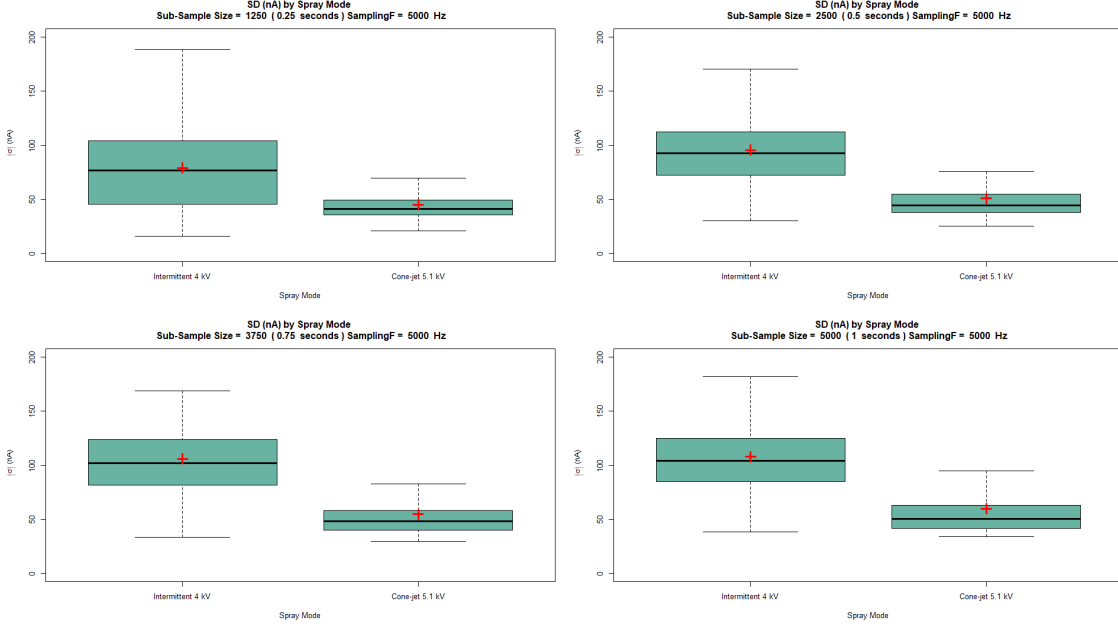


Figure 16. Calculated standard deviation for $f_s = 5\text{ kHz}$, with $T_S = 0.25\text{ s}; 0.5\text{ s}; 0.75\text{ s}; 1\text{ s}$

As seen on Figure 16, $T_S = 0.5\text{ s}$ appears to be the smallest sample size that can differentiate the spraying modes. $T_S = 0.5\text{ s}$ may still be feasible, but it presents significant overlapping between the two modes around $\sigma = 50\text{ nA}$.

Now we need to find the minimum sampling frequency that can distinguish the spraying modes. We'll fix $T_S = 0.5\text{ s}$ and compare the calculated statistical parameters for the following values of f_s : $f_s = 0.5\text{ kHz}; 1\text{ kHz}; 2\text{ kHz}; 5\text{ kHz}$. Figure 17 shows the result obtained for this test.

As we can see on Figure 17, $f_s = 2\text{ kHz}$ appears to be the smallest sampling frequency that can still distinguish the spraying modes.

The conclusion we can derive from these tests is that $T_S = 0.5\text{ s}$ and $f_s = 2\text{ kHz}$ are the minimum sample size and sampling frequency that can distinguish the spraying modes via statistical parameters. Note that this results in a sample size of $N_s = T_S f_s = 1.000$, which uses significantly less memory than the $N_s = 20.000$. We'll move forward with these values of N_s and f_s , seeking to test the classification with parameters that are consistent with Gilbert's requirements.

3.6 Optimizing the Classification

3.6.1 Trying different statistical parameters

So far, we've only the standard deviation of the signal to differentiate the spraying modes. However, we can also use other statistical parameters to distinguish the

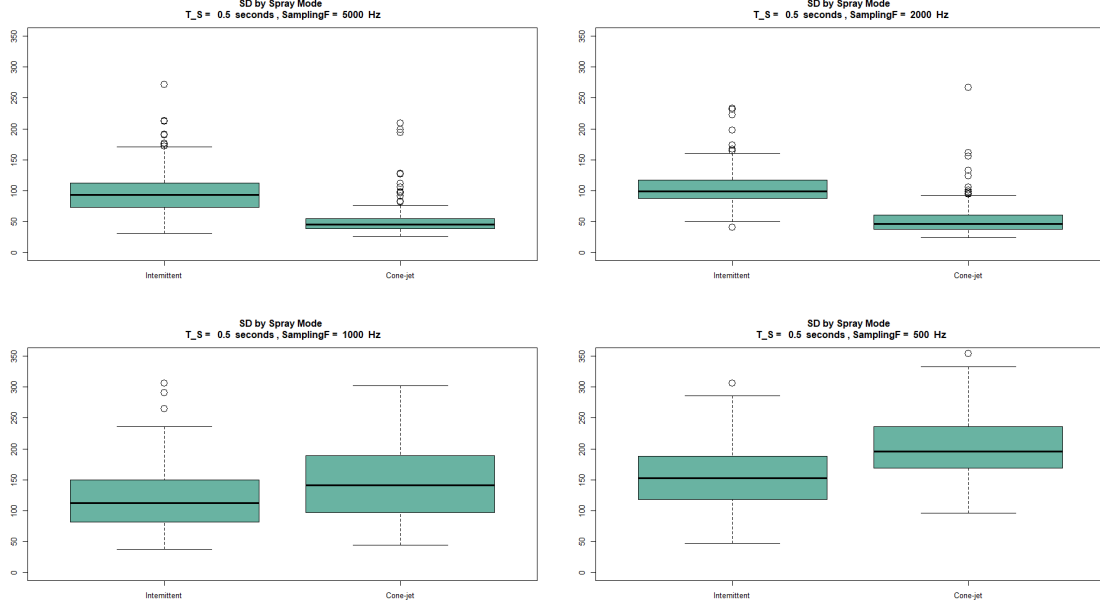


Figure 17. Calculated standard deviation for $T_s = 0.5$ s, with $f_s = 0.5$ kHz; 1 kHz; 2 kHz; 5 kHz

waveforms. The first one that we can try is the Relative Standard Deviation (RSD), defined on Equation 1

$$RSD = \left| \frac{\sigma}{\bar{I}} \right| \quad (1)$$

where

- σ : standard deviation
- \bar{I} : arithmetic mean

Table 1 shows how the RSD can be a useful metric in the classification. When the spraying mode is intermittent, we expect the signal to display a large σ and a small \bar{I} , since the potential is lower and therefore also the mean value of the current in the system. This results in an overall value large value of the ratio.

Table 1. Expected behaviour of RSD for different spraying modes.

	Intermittent	Cone-jet
Numerator (σ)	HIGH	LOW
Denominator (\bar{I})	LOW	HIGH
Overall Ratio (σ/\bar{I})	LARGE	SMALL

On the other hand, when we have a cone-jet, we expect the signal to display a small σ - as the signal is much more stable - and a larger \bar{I} , given the larger potential. This results in an overall value small value of the ratio.

Therefore, both components of the fraction contribute in opposite directions to change the overall value of the ratio between the spraying modes, making this metric a potentially good classification parameter.

Figure 18 shows the the same result of Figure 17 using the RSD instead of the standard deviation.

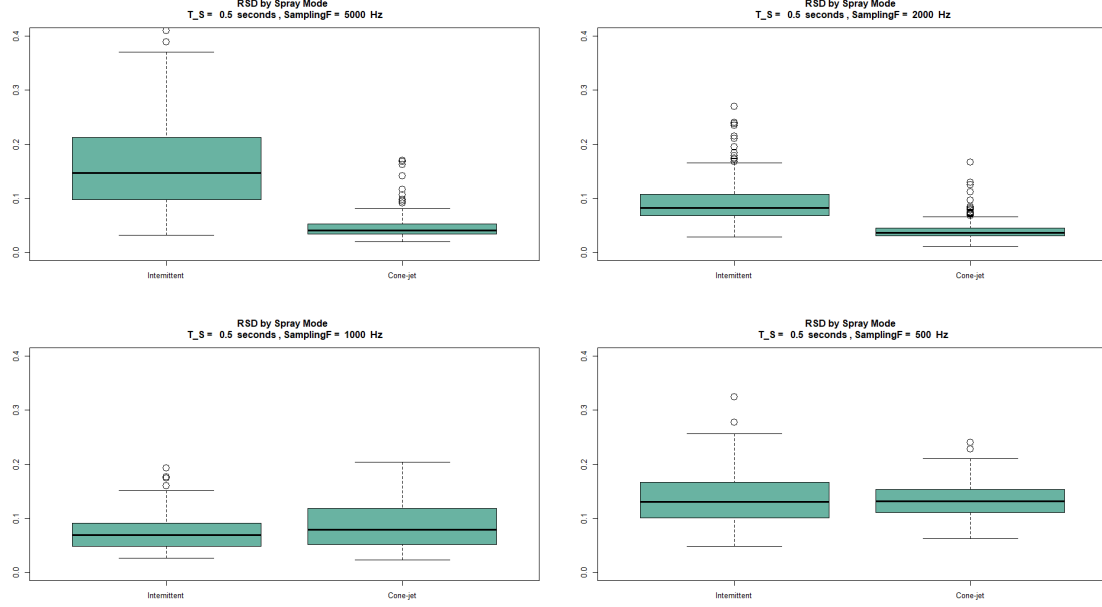


Figure 18. Calculated RSD for $T_s = 0.5$ s, with $f_s = 0.5$ kHz; 1 kHz; 2 kHz; 5 kHz

As we can see on Figure 18, we can achieve a good distinction between the spraying modes with the RSD. However, the order of magnitude of the value is very small, which can be inconvenient. A simple to resolve this is take the inverse of the RSD, that we can define as the Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR), shown on Equation 2

$$SNR = \frac{1}{RSD} = \left| \frac{\bar{I}}{\sigma} \right| \quad (2)$$

In Equation 2, we call the standard deviation as the "noise", and the mean as the "signal". Figure 19 shows the same result of Figure 17 using the SNR.

As seen on Figure 19, the SNR is also a good metric to distinguish the intermittent and cone-jet modes. Unlike the RSD, the SNR spreads from the range 0 - 50, making it more convenient than the RSD and showing less outliers. Therefore, the RSD will be used from this point on, using $f_s = 2$ kHz and $N_s = 1.000$ ($T_s = 0.5$ s).

3.6.2 Classification via small Neural Networks

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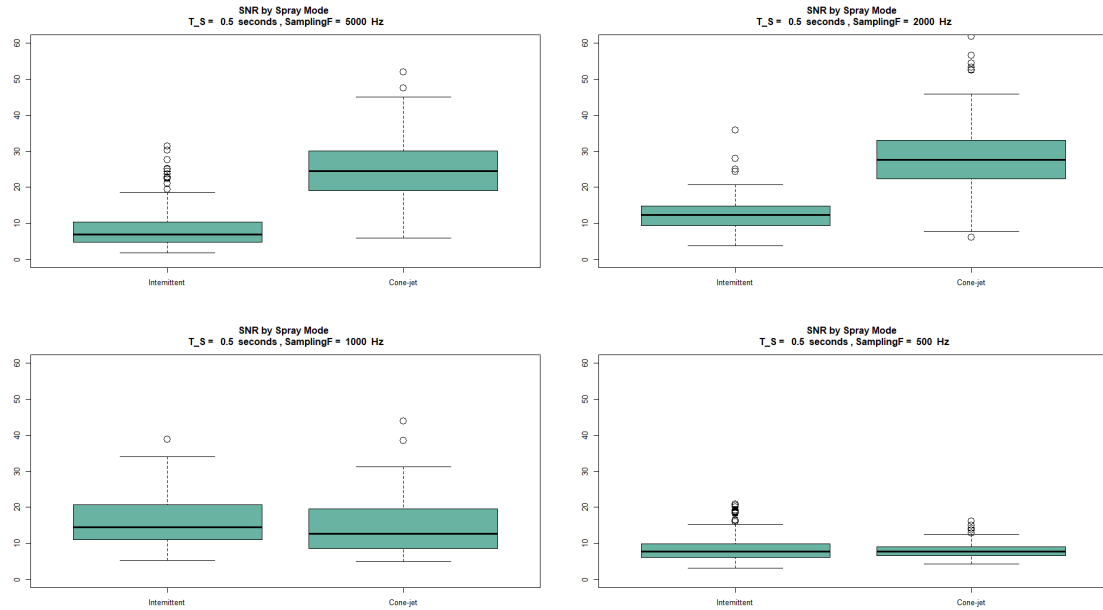


Figure 19. Calculated SNR for $T_s = 0.5$ s, with $f_s = 0.5$ kHz; 1 kHz; 2 kHz; 5 kHz

3.7 Proof-of-Concept Real-time EHDA Classification

TODO

- try to reduce sample window
- use subsequent windows
- show common issues (step in the current value, etc)
- add pseudocode + complexity

3.8 Proof-of-Concept Real-Time EHDA Control

TODO

- problem with subsequent window: how will it take into account the adjustments we're making;
- is it fast enough? if it even works at all!
- add pseudocode + complexity

References

Verdoold, S., Agostinho, L., Yutteri, C., and Marijnissen, J. (2013). A generic electrospray classification. *Journal of Aerosol Science*, 67:87–103.