

# Developing Real-Time Control For Electrospinning of Nanofibers

Measurements & Impact of Relative Humidity and Evaporation

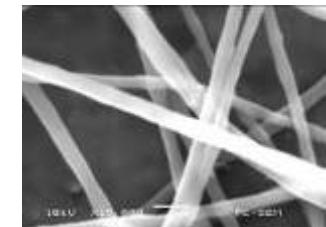
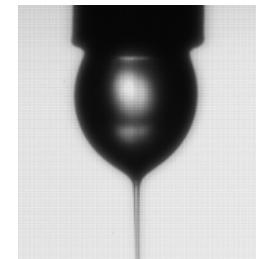
**Yunshen Cai, Xuri Yan, Thierry Desire and Michael Geyelber**  
**Boston University, Department of Mechanical Engineering**

## Review PEO/Water Results

- Measurements to predict fiber diameter
- Impact of humidity: Evaporation & Current

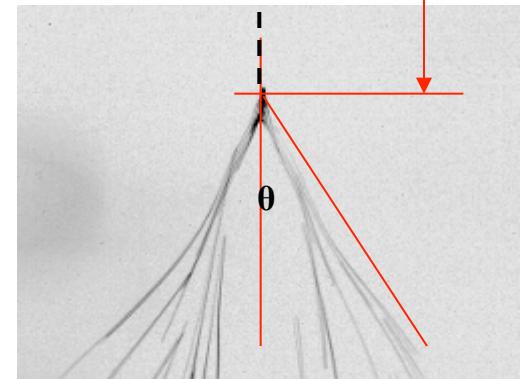
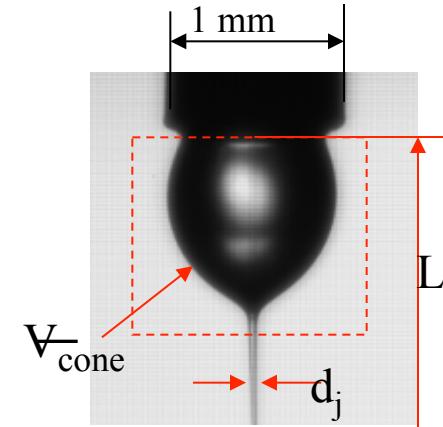
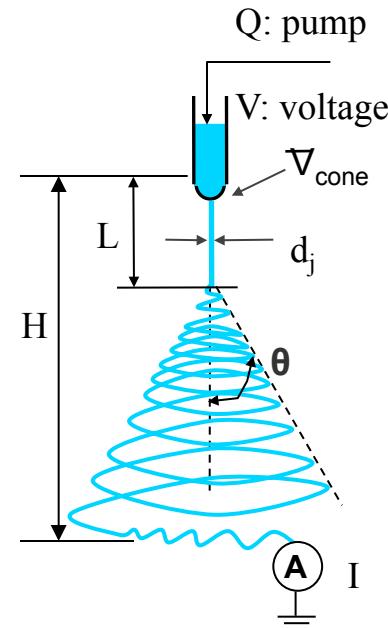
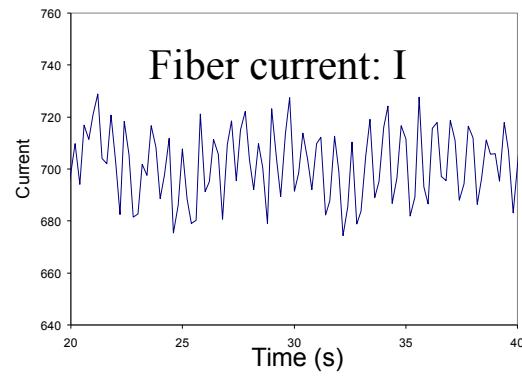
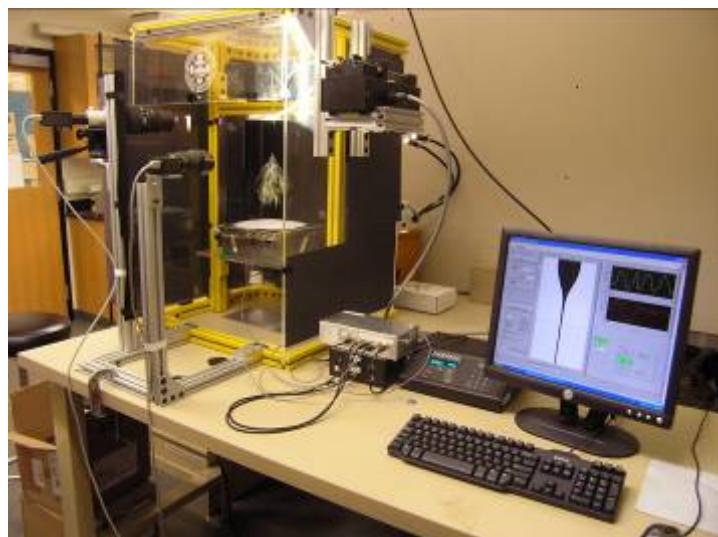
## Extension to non-aqueous solvent: alcohol

- Evaporation Rates
- Fiber diameter relation to evaporation rate &  $D_{jet}$
- Role of humidity
- Process dynamics for control



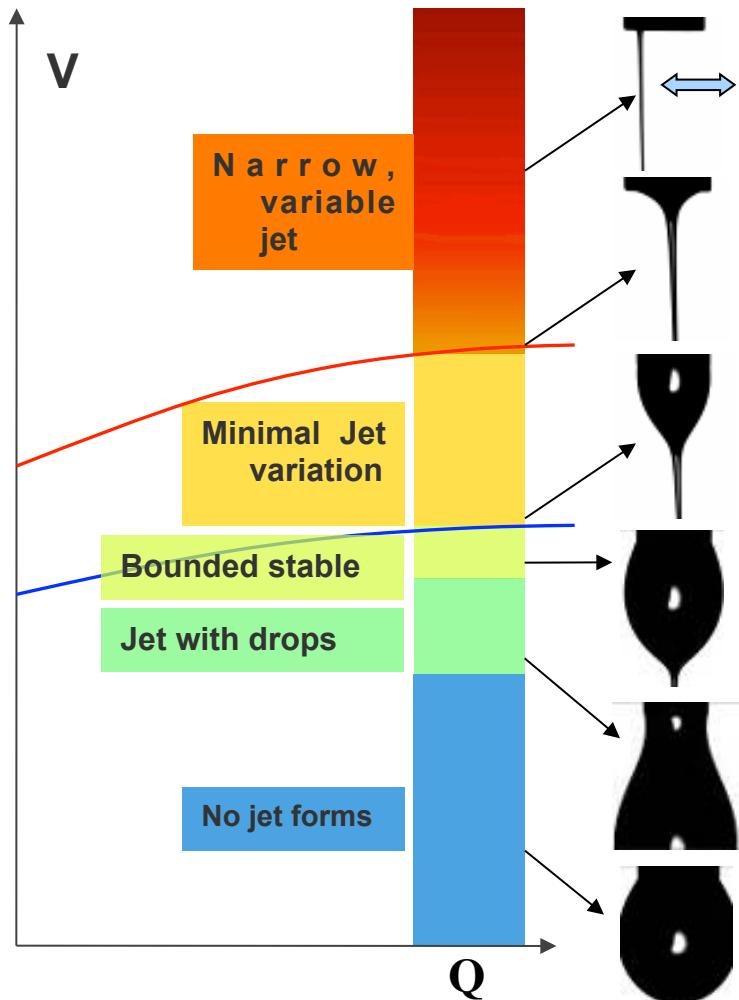
**Acknowledgements:** We appreciate the funding support from the NSF (**CMMI0826106**) and Army (**W911QY-11-1-0014**), and the contributions of David Ouk and Vicki Liu

# Development of the Measurement & Actuation System

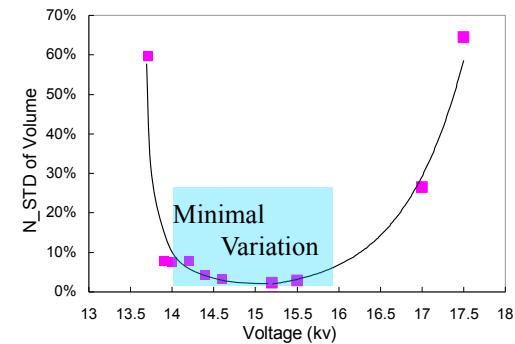
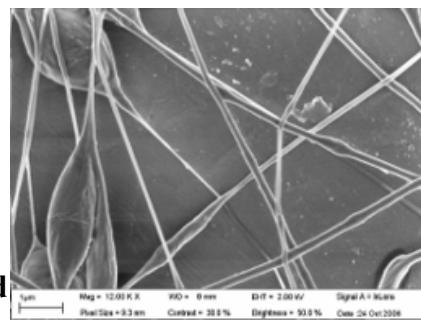
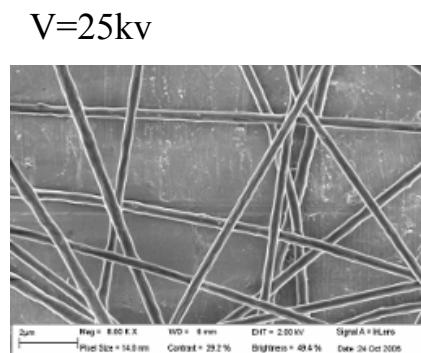
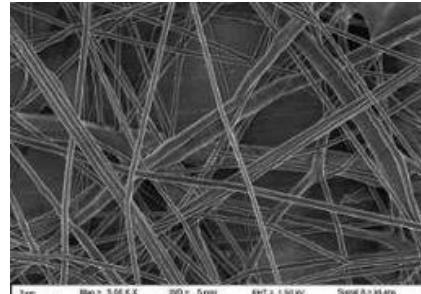


-Humidity: RH; -Temperature: T;

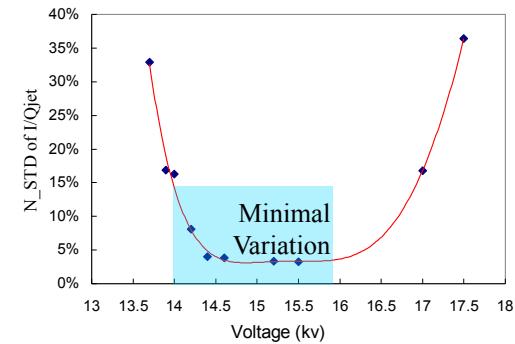
# Operation regime determination for mapping process conditions



Electrospinning regimes identified by electric field strength and the corresponding Taylor cone shapes, 2M, 2.5%



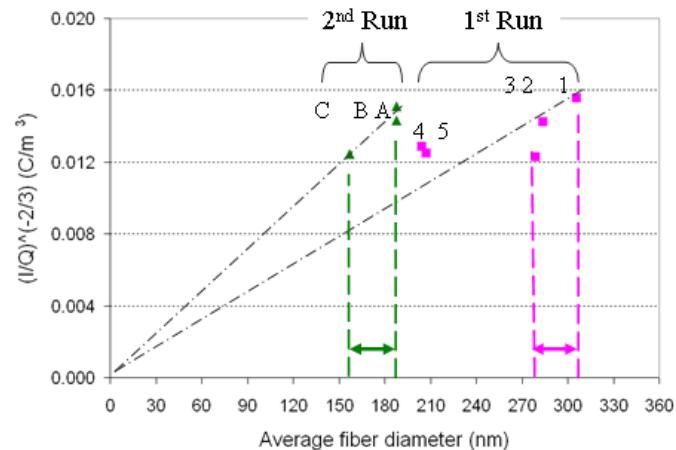
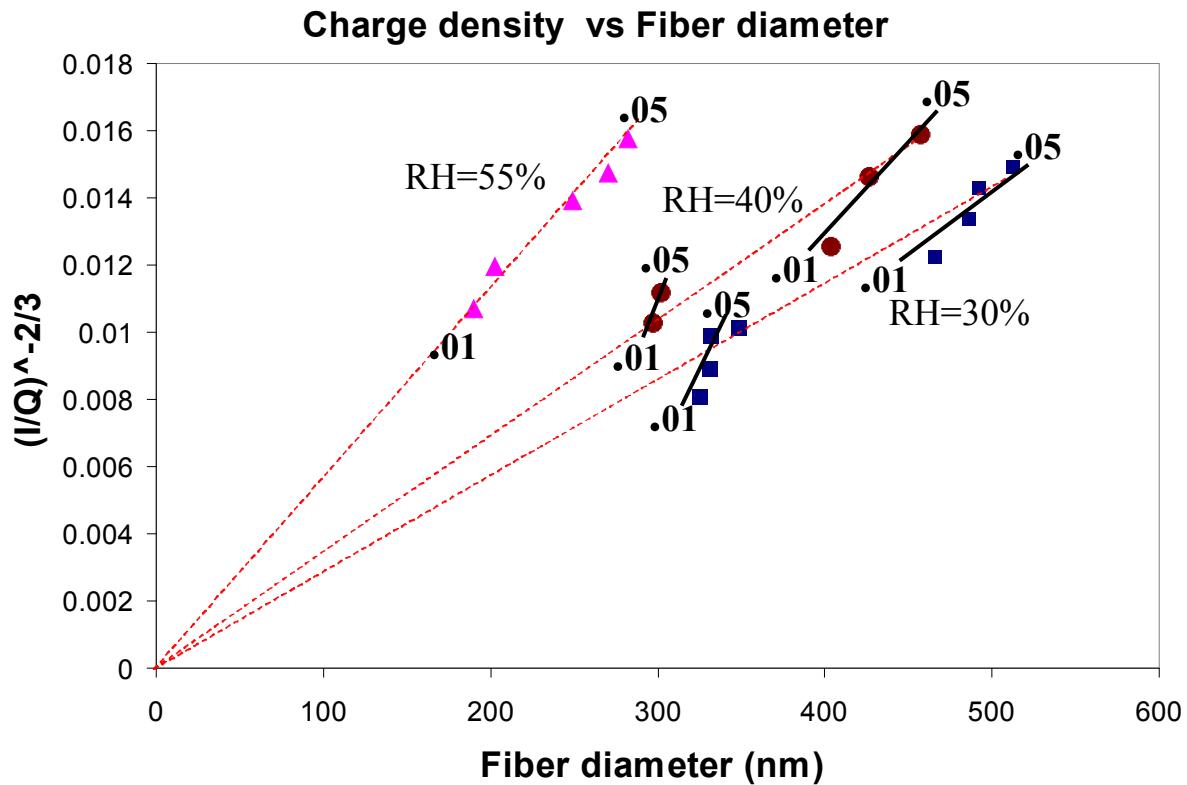
Volume variations  
2.5%, Mw=2M, Q=0.01



Charge density  
2.5%, Mw=2M, Q=0.01

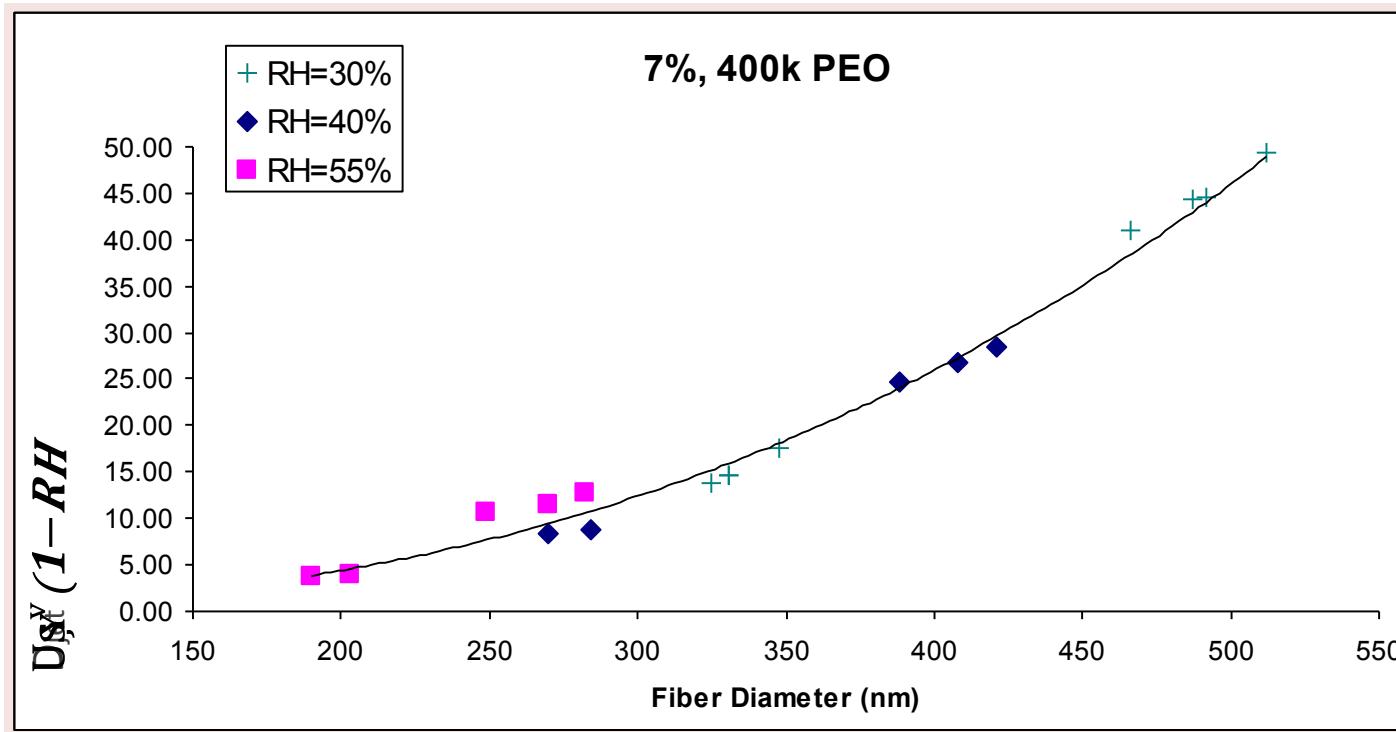
# Effects of Humidity: Fiber Diameter & Charge Density

7wt% PEO in Water



Solvent evaporation rate (relative humidity, RH) causes the run to run variations  
Evaporation rate (RH for water) is key factor for resulting fiber diameter  
Charge density does not seem to provide global correlation

# Jet Diameter/RH Correlation to Fiber Diameter

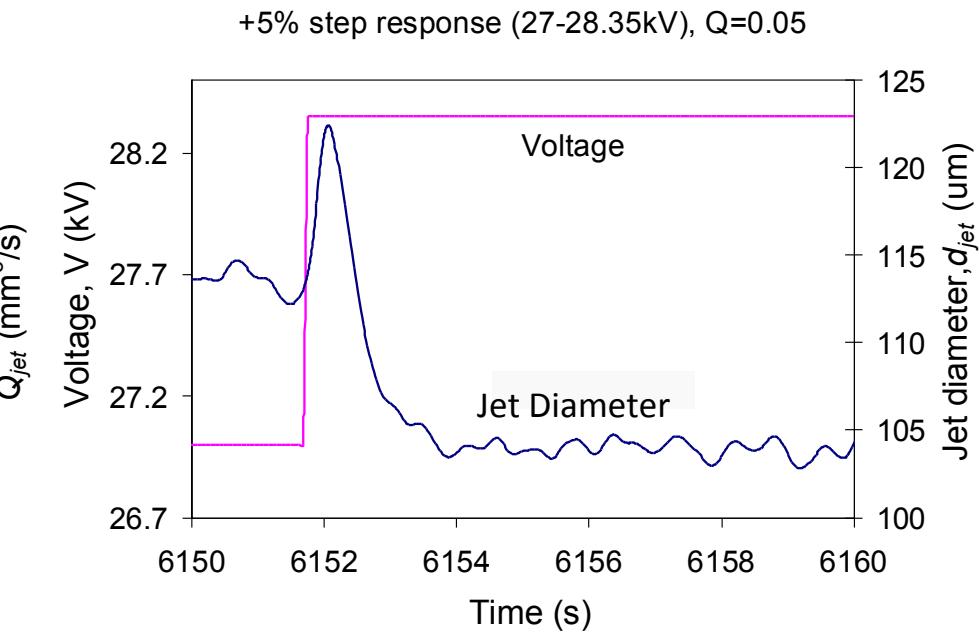
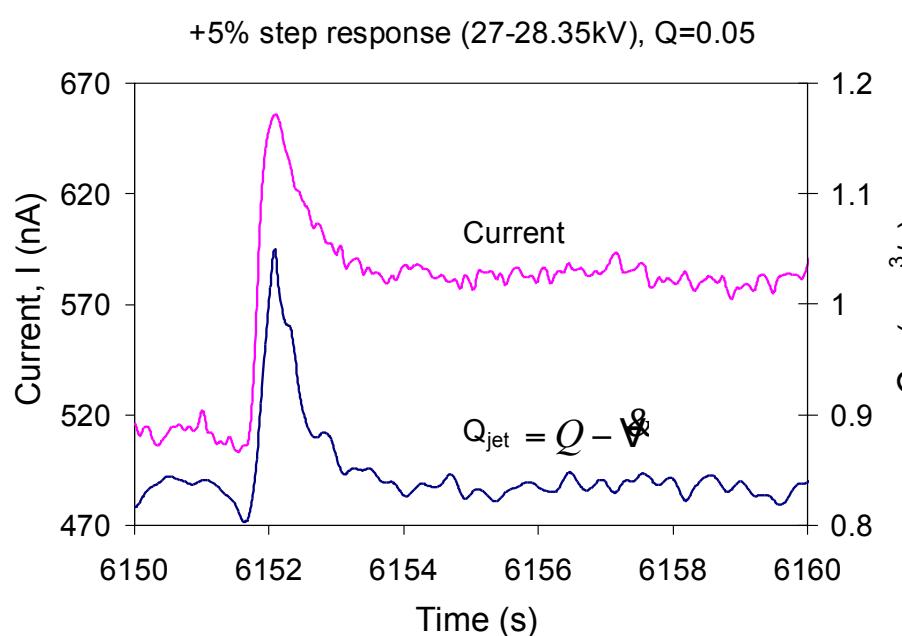


## RH Impact

- Acts as disturbance: need control
- Use RH to achieve desired fiber diameter
- RH  $\uparrow$   $D_{fiber}$



# Dynamics of key process variables: PEO/Water



Extra volume forms  $Q_{jet}$  spike, then back to steady-state  $Q$ ;  
Large overshoot in electric current from excess charges advected downstream  
Right-half-plane (RHP) zero in jet diameter implicates control limitations

