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Intrinsic Stabilization of the Drive Beam in Plasma Wakefield Accelerators

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The hose instability of the drive beam constitutes a major challenge for the stable operation of plasma wakefield accelerators (PWFAs). In this work, we show that drive beams with a transverse size comparable to the plasma blowout radius generate a wake with a varying focusing along the beam, which leads to a rapid detuning of the slice-betatron oscillations and suppresses the instability. This intrinsic stabilization principle provides an applicable and effective method for the suppression of the hosing of the drive beam and allows for a stable acceleration process.

13 14 15 16 17 18 for the miniaturization of the future particle acceleration $_{61}$ suppressed in future PWFA experiments [20–22]. 19 technology and its derived applications. 20

Operating PWFAs in the blowout regime [2] enables 21 injection methods for the production of high-quality wit-22 ness beams [3-8] and the efficient acceleration within the 23 plasma wake [9, 10]. However, due to the extreme fo-24 using fields in the blowout plasma cavity, the drive and 25 witness beams in PWFAs are subject to transverse insta-26 bilities with large growth rates. In particular, the hose 27 instability (HI) of the drive beam constitutes a major 28 challenge for the optimal operation of PWFAs [11]. The 29 HI is initiated by a transverse deviation of the centroid of 30 the drive beam which causes a displacement of the cen-31 ter of the focusing ion-channel, which in turn feeds back 32 into the trailing part of the beam, leading to the reso-33 nant build-up of the transverse centroid oscillations. It 34 was recently shown that the inherent drive beam energy 35 loss detunes the betatron oscillations of beam electrons 36 and thereby mitigates the HI [12]. Still, for drive beams 37 with a substantial hosing seed, beam break-up can occur 38 before this mitigation mechanism becomes effective. 39

In this Letter, we show by means of analytical theory 40 and particle-in-cell (PIC) simulations with HiPACE [13], 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 HI. In this work, we show for the first time that this stabi- $_{95}$ and $\partial_x W_x = m\omega_p^2/2e$, and the equation of motion for the 54

In plasma wakefield accelerators (PWFAs), highly rel- 55 lization principle is compatible with the blowout regime ativistic particle beams are used to excite plasma wakes 56 for sufficiently wide, high-current and moderate-length which carry extreme accelerating fields [1]. The acceler- 57 drive beams. The blowout regime is the most common ating gradients surpass those produced in today's con- 58 regime in PWFAs, and therefore, this work is of crucial entional particle accelerators by orders of magnitude 59 interest to understand why the hosing of the drive beam and therefore, PWFAs constitute an attractive solution 60 was avoided in FACET [19] and how it can be further

We start by considering a relativistic electron beam 62 63 entering an initially neutral and homogeneous plasma. ⁶⁴ As the beam propagates through the plasma, it expels ⁶⁵ plasma electrons by means of its space-charge fields, generating in this way a plasma wakefield which propagates 66 67 at the velocity of the beam. The generated wakefields exert a force $\dot{\boldsymbol{p}} = -e\boldsymbol{W}$ on the beam electrons, where \boldsymbol{p} 68 is the momentum of a beam electron, e the elementary 69 ⁷⁰ charge, $\boldsymbol{W} = (E_x - cB_y, E_y + cB_x, E_z)$ the wakefield and $_{71}$ c the speed of light. Expressions for the wakefield W $_{72}$ have been derived in the linear [23, 24] and the blowout ⁷³ regime of PWFAs [25, 26], for axisymmetric drivers and 74 assuming a quasi-static plasma response. The quasi-75 static approximation assumes that the fields and cur-⁷⁶ rents of the beam are frozen, or quasi-static, during the ⁷⁷ plasma evolution in the comoving frame, i.e. $\partial_t \simeq -c \partial_c$ ⁷⁸ for these quantities, with $\zeta = z - ct$, denoting the comov-⁷⁹ ing variable. Under this approximation, it is found from ⁸⁰ Maxwell equations that the wakefields satisfy the follow-⁸¹ ing relations, $\partial_x W_z = \partial_\zeta W_x \simeq -(m\omega_p^2/e) (j_{p,x}/n_0c)$, ⁸² and $\partial_x W_x \simeq (m\omega_p^2/2e) (1 - n_p/n_0 + j_{p,z}/n_0c)$, with that drive beams with a transverse size comparable to $\omega_p = \sqrt{n_0 e^2}/m\epsilon_0$ the plasma frequency, n_0 and n_p the the plasma blowout radius generate a wake with a vary-⁸⁴ unperturbed and perturbed plasma electron density, reing focusing along the drive beam, which causes a rapid s spectively, and $j_{p,z}$ ($j_{p,x}$) the longitudinal (transverse) detuning of the centroid oscillations and suppresses the ⁸⁶ plasma electron current. Ions are assumed to be immo-HI. Still, the plasma blowout is completely formed in re- ⁸⁷ bile and the transverse beam current to be negligible. gions behind the drive beam, and therefore, the witness ∞ Beams with an electron density n_b higher than n_0 exbeams can be efficiently accelerated with no emittance ⁸⁹ pel essentially all plasma electrons near the propagation degradation. The damping effect caused by head-to-tail ⁹⁰ axis forming a homogeneous ion cavity, delimited by a variations of the betatron frequency is well known in ra- ⁹¹ sheath of plasma electrons. The maximum distance of dio frequency accelerators [14-16], and it has been re- $_{92}$ this sheath with respect to the beam propagation axis is cently shown to apply in the linear regime of plasma $_{93}$ commonly referred as the blowout radius, $r_{\rm bo}$. Inside this wakefield acceleration [17, 18] for the mitigation of the $_{94}$ ion cavity (or blowout) we have that $\partial_x W_z = \partial_\zeta W_x = 0$

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⁹⁶ beam-electrons can be written as

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$$\ddot{x} + \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\gamma} \dot{x} + \frac{\mathcal{K}}{\gamma} x = 0, \qquad (1)$$

where both the focusing strength, $\mathcal{K} \equiv (e/m) \partial_x W_x$, and where $k_c = k_p \sqrt{c_{\psi}(\zeta)c_r(\zeta)/2}$, and $k_p = \omega_p/c$. The coefficients 98 100 $_{102}$ and the charge of the ions is partially screened by the $_{150}$ describes the oscillations of X_c driven by the beam cen-103 for a non-relativistic plasma response in the region of 104 the beam. Assuming n_p constant with the radius for re-105 gions sufficiently close to the propagation axis, Eq. (1)106 is still applicable to the beam-electrons within a partial 107 blowout, where now \mathcal{K} obtains a ζ -dependency through $n_p(\zeta)$. Eq. (1) describes the transverse betatron oscil-109 lations of the beam-electrons, with a frequency $\omega_{\beta}(t) =$ 110 $\sqrt{\mathcal{K}/\gamma(t)}$. Given that ω_{β} is a slowly varying function [27], 111 ¹¹² i.e. $\dot{\omega}_{\beta}/\omega_{\beta}^2 = \mathcal{E}/2\sqrt{\mathcal{K}\gamma} \ll 1$, analytical solutions to $_{113}$ Eq. (1) can be given in the following form

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$$x(t) = x_0 A \cos \phi + \frac{\dot{x}_0}{\omega_{\beta,0}} A \sin \phi, \qquad (2)$$

115 with $\dot{x}_0 = p_{x,0}/m\gamma_0$, the initial transverse velocity of ¹⁶³ ¹¹⁶ the electron, $\omega_{\beta,0} = \sqrt{\mathcal{K}/\gamma_0}$, the initial betatron fre-¹¹⁷ quency, $A(t) = (\gamma_0/\gamma(t))^{1/4}$, the amplitude modulation, ¹¹⁸ and $\phi(t) = \int_0^t \omega_\beta(t') dt'$, the phase advance. When $\mathcal{K}(\zeta)$ and $\mathcal{E}(\zeta)$ do not change with time, the phase advance can ¹²⁰ be written explicitly as

$$\phi(t) = 2\frac{\sqrt{\mathcal{K}}}{\mathcal{E}} \left(\sqrt{\gamma} - \sqrt{\gamma_0}\right), \qquad (3)$$

¹²² which for $\mathcal{E} \to 0$ yields $\phi \simeq \omega_{\beta,0} t$. We now consider an in-¹⁷³ ¹²³ finitesimal ζ -slice of the drive beam, with an initial phase-¹⁷⁴ ¹²⁴ space distribution $f_0(x_0, p_{x,0}, \gamma_0) = f_x(x_0, p_{x,0}) \,\delta(\gamma_0).$ 125 Since $\gamma(t) = \gamma_0 + \mathcal{E}t$ for all electrons within the ζ - 176 trance of the plasma, it is possible to generate a longi-126 slice, it is straightforward to find an equation for the 177 tudinally varying focusing strength along the drive beam ¹²⁷ transverse centroid $X_b(t) \equiv \int x(t) f_x dx_0 dp_{x,0}$, by tak-¹⁷⁸ only, which rapidly detunes the centroid oscillations of 128 129 Eq. (2), and therefore, the beam centroids also describe ¹⁸¹ period. 130 betatron oscillations with frequency $\omega_{\beta}(t)$ and ampli- 182 131 ¹³² tude $\mathcal{A}(t) = A(t) \sqrt{X_{b,0}^2 + (\dot{X}_{b,0}/\omega_{\beta,0})^2}$, where $X_{b,0}$ and ¹⁸³ monoenergetic, highly relativistic drive beams with ¹⁸⁴ an initially tilted Gaussian electron distribution, 133 displacement and velocity of the centroid, respectively. $n_{b,0} \exp\left[-\zeta^2/2\sigma_z^2\right] \exp\left[(-(x-X_{b,0}(\zeta))^2-y^2)/2\sigma_{x,0}^2\right]$. 134 135

136 137 138 140 tain offset, X_c , with respect to the propagation axis, i.e. 192 beam. In all the simulations $I_{b,0} = 2.5$ kA, for which ¹⁴¹ $W'_x(x) = W_x(x - X_c)$. In the blowout regime of PWFA ¹⁹³ $k_p r_{\rm bo} \approx 1.1$. The transverse (rms) size $\sigma_{x,0}$ is varied from

¹⁴³ sufficiently narrow drive beam, completely embedded in the ion-cavity: 144

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$$\partial_{\zeta}^2 X_c + k_c^2 \left(X_c - X_b \right) = 0.$$
⁽⁴⁾

the rate of energy change, $\mathcal{E} \equiv \dot{\gamma} = -(e/mc) W_z$, are $_{147}$ cients $c_{\psi}(\zeta)$ and $c_r(\zeta)$ account for the relativistic motion constant for beam electrons at a fixed ζ -position, and $_{148}$ of electrons in the blowout sheath and for a ζ -dependence $\gamma \simeq p_z/mc$. When $n_b < n_0$ the blowout is not complete 149 of the blowout radius and the beam current [11]. Eq. (4) plasma electron density, i.e. $\mathcal{K} \approx \omega_p^2 (1 - (n_p/n_0))/2$, 151 troid displacements X_b . In turn, the displacement X_c $_{152}$ couples back to X_b according to

$$\ddot{X}_b + \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\gamma} \dot{X}_b + \frac{\mathcal{K}}{\gamma} \left(X_b - X_c \right) = 0.$$
 (5)

This set of coupled equations (4) and (5) has been studied 155 earlier in the ion-channel regime (with $k_c = k_p/\sqrt{2}$ and $\mathcal{E} = 0$ [28, 29], and for the blowout regime of PWFA [11], 156 assuming perfectly monoenergetic beams and no energy change ($\mathcal{E} = 0$). These cases are characterized by an ¹⁵⁹ exponential growth of X_b and X_c in time and towards the 160 tail of the beam. The HI of the drive beam is initiated ¹⁶¹ by a finite centroid displacement of the drive beam $X_{b,0}$, which is amplified due to a coherent coupling of different 162 ζ -slices of the beam through the plasma. The effect of a ζ -dependent energy change in the drive beam, $\mathcal{E}(\zeta)$, has been recently studied in Ref. [12]; it was shown that 165 166 hosing saturates as soon as the centroid oscillations of various ζ -slices become detuned owing to a differing rate 167 of energy change and/or an initial energy spread.

In this work we extend the study of the HI of the drive 169 beam in PWFAs, from earlier considerations with narrow beams, to cases where the initial transverse dimensions 171 172 of the drive beams are comparable to the blowout radius. For this analysis we combine PIC simulation results with theoretical considerations, so as to demonstrate that by controlling the width of the drive beam at the en-175 ing corresponding averages of Eq. (2). The resulting ¹⁷⁹ different beam slices, thereby suppressing the HI on a equation for X_b has the same functional dependence as 180 short time scale, on the order of the betatron oscillation

For the PIC simulations, we consider perfectly $\dot{X}_{b,0} \equiv \int \dot{x}_0(t) f_x dx_0 dp_{x,0}$ denote the initial transverse 185 which provides a well defined seed to the HI: $n_b =$ When the drive beam has a small offset in the x di- 187 The beams propagate through a homogeneous plasma rection, X_b , the resulting wakefields develop an asym- 188 with a density such that $k_p \sigma_z = 1$. At this density, the metry in the transverse direction. At first order per- 189 plasma blowout radius is approximately given by [26] turbation, the modified wakefields $W'_x(x)$ can be consid- 190 $k_p r_{\rm bo} \approx 2 \sqrt{\Lambda_{b,0}}$, with $\Lambda_{b,0} \equiv 2I_{b,0}/I_A$, $I_A = 17.05$ kA ered identical to the axisymmetric case, but with a cer- 191 the Alfvèn current and $I_{b,0}$ the peak current of the ¹⁴² a differential equation for X_c was derived in [11], for a ¹⁹⁴ 0.1 to 0.9 k_p^{-1} , and accordingly $n_{b,0}/n_0 = \Lambda_{b,0}/(k_p\sigma_{x,0})^2$



Figure 1. PIC simulations for a narrow beam with $k_p \sigma_{x,0} =$ 0.1 (a) and a wide beam with $k_p \sigma_{x,0} = 0.5$ (b), immediately after entering the homogeneous plasma. (Top) Plasma electron density n_p and beam electron density n_b . (Middle) Rate of energy change, $\mathcal{E} \equiv -(e/mc) E_z$. (Bottom) Focusing strength, $\mathcal{K} \equiv (e/m) \partial_x W_x$. Red curves represent the corresponding lineouts on the propagation axis. The centroids of the beam $X_b(\zeta)$ and the focusing channel $X_c(\zeta)$ are shown in white and purple lines, respectively.

goes from 29 to 0.36. For the narrow cases ($\sigma_{x,0} \ll r_{\rm bo}$) 229 oscillations of the slices within the central beam region 195 196 for the wide cases $(\sigma_{x,0} \sim r_{\rm bo})$ it is underdense $_{231}$ beam. 197 $(n_{b,0} \leq n_0)$. When $\sigma_{x,0} \approx r_{\rm bo}$ then $n_{b,0}/n_0 \approx 1/4$. See ₂₃₂ 198 199 parameters. 200

201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 uniform for the narrow beam case C_a , but it substantially ₂₄₆ the Supplemental Material [30]. 212 varies for the wide beam case C_b (Fig. 1 - bottom), where $_{247}$ 213 214 215 216 217 spectively. After some propagation, the wide drive beam 252 advance along the beam 218 (C_b) is transversely compressed by the self-generated fo-219 cusing field, enhancing in this way the plasma blowout 220 formation (Fig. 2(b)). The average centroid position \bar{X}_b ²⁵³ 221 within a central region of the drive beam with length 222 223 224 225 226 227



PIC simulation results for (a) a narrow beam Figure 2. with $k_p \sigma_{x,0} = 0.1$ and (b) a wide beam with $k_p \sigma_{x,0} = 0.5$ (b), after some propagation in the plasma. Average centroid oscillations within the central region $k_p \Delta_{\zeta} = 1$ of the drive beam as a function of the propagation time, for five cases with different initial transverse size.

the beam is initially overdense $(n_{b,0} \gg n_0)$, while 230 due to a non-uniform focusing strength along the drive

We further investigate the stability of the PWFA in the Supplemental Material [30] for additional simulation 233 the PIC simulations by studying the evolution of a low-²³⁴ current witness beam, initially placed on the propaga-Fig. 1 shows the central $\zeta - x$ plane in the beginning 235 tion axis at comoving position $k_p \zeta = -4$. The simulaof the propagation in the plasma, for two exemplary sim- 236 tions with a narrow drive beam are affected by the HI ulation runs: Case C_a with $k_p \sigma_{x,0} = 0.1$ and case $C_{b_{237}}$ and the witness beam breaks up after a short propagawith $k_p \sigma_{x,0} = 0.5$. In case C_a , $\sigma_{x,0} \ll r_{\rm bo}$ and most of $_{238}$ tion distance. Only for the wide drive beam cases with the slices of the drive beam are completely embedded in $_{239}$ $k_p \sigma_{x,0} = 0.7$ and 0.9, where the HI is rapidly suppressed, the blowout cavity (Fig. 1 (a) - top). In case C_b , the $_{240}$ the witness beams are efficiently accelerated with no beam is wider and initially underdense, and therefore, 241 slice emittance degradation. Remarkably, the accelerathe blowout formation is only partial in the region of the $_{242}$ tion performance is barely affected, dropping only by 10%beam (Fig. 1 (b) - top). The energy change along the $_{243}$ and 15%, respectively, when compared to an ideal narrow beam $\mathcal{E}(\zeta)$ is similar for both cases (Fig. 1 - middle). 244 drive beam case unaffected by hosing. Extended infor-The focusing strength $\mathcal{K}(\zeta)$ along the beam is perfectly 245 mation about the PIC simulation results can be found on

The decoherence rates owing to longitudinal variations a finite plasma electron density in the region of the beam $_{248}$ of the betatron frequency can be estimated by consideralters the focusing field associated with the ion channel. 249 ing an infinitesimal ζ -slice with constant \mathcal{K} and \mathcal{E} , to-The beam and plasma electron densities at $\omega_p t = 2045_{250}$ gether with the solutions of Eq. (5). Taking partial for the cases C_a and C_b are shown in Fig. 2(a) and (b), re- $\frac{1}{251}$ derivatives of Eq. (3), we obtain the differential phase

$$\partial_{\zeta}\phi \simeq \frac{\omega_{\beta,0}t}{2} \left(\frac{\partial_{\zeta}\mathcal{K}}{\mathcal{K}} - \frac{\partial_{\zeta}\gamma_{0}}{\gamma_{0}}\right) - \frac{(\omega_{\beta,0}t)^{2}}{4} \frac{\partial_{\zeta}\mathcal{E}}{\omega_{\beta,0}\gamma_{0}}, \quad (6)$$

 $k_p \Delta_{\zeta} = 1$, is shown as a function of the propagation 254 where we have included the contribution from a ζ time in Fig. 2(c), for five different initial values of the 255 dependent initial energy variation in the beam. Eq. (6) transverse size (rms). It is apparent that the average 256 is valid up to leading order in $t/t_{\rm dp}$, with $t_{\rm dp} \equiv \gamma_0/|\mathcal{E}|$ centroid oscillations are rapidly suppressed for the cases 257 the energy depletion time. For an early time, $t \ll t_{dp}$, with a wide beam. As we explain below, this effect is $_{258}$ the phase advance difference between different ζ -slices is primarily associated to a quick decoherence between the 259 dominated by either the relative variation of the focusing 260 strength along the beam, $\kappa \equiv \partial_{\zeta} \mathcal{K}/\mathcal{K}$, and/or an initial relative energy chirp, which is identically 0 in the hereby 261 considered cases. The differential phase advance caused 262 by the variation of \mathcal{E} only appears at second order in 263 264 $t/t_{\rm dp}$.

We now consider a beam region with length Δ_{ζ} , an 265 uniform current and with a linear variation of \mathcal{K} and \mathcal{E} . 266 The decoherence time for this beam region can be defined 267 by the time at which the head-to-tail difference of the 268 phase advance is on the order of π , which correspond 269 to opposite oscillation states. Thus, we use Eq. (6) to 270 estimate the decoherence time when either only $\partial_{\mathcal{C}} \mathcal{K} \neq$ 271 0, i.e. $\omega_{\beta,0} t_{d,\kappa} = 2\pi/\kappa \Delta_{\zeta}$, or when only $\partial_{\zeta} \mathcal{E} \neq 0$, i.e. 272 $\omega_{\beta,0} t_{d,\epsilon} = 2 \sqrt{\pi/\epsilon \Delta_{\zeta}}$. The centroid oscillations of various 273 ζ -slices along the beam region Δ_{ζ} are defined after the 274 respective decoherence times and the impact of the beam 275 region onto the focusing channel deviation, which leads 276 to hosing, is strongly suppressed. As a consequence, the 277 oscillation amplitude of the individual ζ -slices is expected 278 to saturate and the average centroid displacement within the beam region, $\bar{X}_b = \Delta_{\zeta}^{-1} \int_{\Delta_{\zeta}} X_b(\zeta) \,\mathrm{d}\zeta$, to be strongly 279 280 damped after the decoherence time. 281

This model is used to evaluate the decoherence of the 282 centroid oscillations within a central beam region with 283 length $k_p \Delta_{\zeta} = 1$ through the quantity \bar{X}_b , for two exem-284 plary cases C'_a and C'_b , that resemble the PIC simulation ³¹⁵ merical calculation for this narrow beam scenario. For 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 addition, we perform a numerical integration of the exact $_{325}$ cases C_a and C_b . 295 equation of motion $\dot{\boldsymbol{p}} = -e\boldsymbol{W}$, for a set of 10⁶ particles ₃₂₆ We note that for the wide beam case C'_b , the non-linear 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 values from the PIC simulations (cf. Fig. 1). 303

304 306 numerical approach (black line) and as a result of the an- ³³⁷ PIC simulations with wide drive beams. 307 alytical model (red dashed line). For case C'_a (Fig. 3 (a)), 338 308 309 310 311 312 $_{313}$ rable to the energy depletion time $t_{\rm dp} \simeq 9000/\omega_p$. The $_{343}$ leads to a quick decoherence between the centroid oscilla-³¹⁴ analytical model is in excellent agreement with the nu-³⁴⁴ tions of various slices along the beam, and consequently,



Figure 3. Centroid displacements of 50 equally spaced ζ slices within the beam region $k_p \Delta_{\zeta} = 1$ for a narrow beam with $k_p \sigma_{x,0} = 0.1$ (case C'_a) (a) and a wide beam with $k_p \sigma_{x,0} = 0.5$ (case C'_b) (b). The centroids are calculated by numerical integration of the equations of motion for a set of 10^6 particles composing the beam region. Yellow curves refer to slices near the front and blue curves slices at the back of the beam region. The black curve shows the average centroid displacement of the beam region, X_b . The red dashed curve represents the analytical calculation for X_b , when just Eq. (5) with $X_c = 0$ for the beam centroid displacements is considered.

cases C_a , for a narrow beam with $k_p \sigma_{x,0} = 0.1$, and C_b , $_{316}$ case C'_b (Fig. 3 (b)), $\kappa \neq 0$ and the decoherence from for a wide beam with $k_p \sigma_{x,0} = 0.5$, respectively. For 317 a variation of the focusing strength along the beam resimplicity, we assume a fixed channel centroid $X_c = 0$, $_{318}$ gion dominates. Hence, the decoherence time can be and $k_p X_{b,0} = 0.1$, $X_{b,0} = 0$ for all the ζ -slices in the 319 estimated by $t_{d,\kappa} \simeq 800/\omega_p$, which is on the order of cases C'_a and C'_b . In Fig. 1 we show the values of $\mathcal{E}(\zeta)$ 320 the initial betatron period of the beam electrons $T_{\beta,0} =$ and $\mathcal{K}(\zeta)$ for the PIC simulation cases C_a and C_b in the $_{221} 2\pi/\omega_{\beta,0} \simeq 590/\omega_p$. In this case, the model predicts that beginning of the propagation in plasma. We adopt the 322 decoherence is reached on a much shorter time scale than central values and derivatives of these quantities in the $_{223}$ for the narrow beam case C'_a , in good qualitative agreeanalytical calculation of the model cases C'_a and C'_b . In $_{324}$ ment with the behavior observed in the PIC simulation

representing the considered beam region. This numerical $_{327}$ effects on the motion of the electrons with a higher osapproach allows to account for non-linear effects in the 328 cillation amplitude cause additional decoherence through motion of the beam electrons with a higher oscillation 329 intra-slice phase mixing, and consequently, a damping of amplitude, which otherwise would not be included in a $_{330}$ the centroid oscillation amplitude of the different ζ -slices. purely analytical calculation. The non-uniformity of \mathcal{K}_{331} As a result, the numerical calculation predicts a slightly and \mathcal{E} for $|x| \gtrsim r_{\rm bo}$ is also accounted for by adopting the $_{332}$ higher damping of \bar{X}_b than the analytical model in case $_{333}$ C'_{h} (Fig. 3 (b)). From the comparison between the an-In Fig. 3 we show the centroid oscillations for 50 334 alytical and the numerical approaches, we identify the -slices along the considered beam region Δ_{ζ} (colored 335 decoherence caused by a finite $\partial_{\zeta} \mathcal{K}$ as the main effect recurves), together with their average \bar{X}_b obtained from the $_{336}$ sponsible for the fast suppression of the HI observed in

In conclusion, we show that the HI in PWFAs is rapidly $\simeq 0$ within the considered beam region and the deco- $_{339}$ suppressed for drive beams with an initial transverse size herence occurs predominantly from a differential energy 340 comparable to the blowout radius. The intrinsic variachange along the beam. In this case, the decoherence $_{341}$ tion of the focusing strength in the beam region for scetime is approximately $t_{d,\epsilon} \simeq 8000/\omega_p$, which is compa- $_{342}$ narios with initially wide and underdense drive beams

to the suppression of the instability. Still, behind the 395 345 drive beam the blowout formation is complete and the 396 346 witness beams are efficiently accelerated with no emit- 397 347 tance degradation. This intrinsic stabilization principle $^{\scriptscriptstyle 398}$ 348 provides an applicable and effective method for the sup- $\frac{399}{400}$ 349 pression of the HI of the drive beam and will allow for a $\frac{1}{401}$ 350 stable acceleration process in future PWFA experiments. $_{402}$ 351 We acknowledge the grant of computing time by $_{\scriptscriptstyle 403}$ 352 the Jülich Supercomputing Center on JUQUEEN under 404 353 Project No. HHH23 and the use of the High-Performance 405 354 Cluster (Maxwell) at DESY. T.J.M acknowledges the 406 355 support by the DAAD with funds from the BMBF 407 356 and the MSCA of the EU's FP7 under REA grant $\frac{408}{409}$ 357 no. 605728 (P.R.I.M.E.) and the support by the Direc- $\frac{1}{410}$ 358 tor, Office of Science, Office of High Energy Physics, of 411 359 the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE- 412 360 AC02-05CH11231. A.M. acknowledges V. Libov and J. 413 361 Zemella for useful discussions in the context of start-to- ⁴¹⁴ 362 end simulations for FLASHForward, and the Helmholtz $\,^{\scriptscriptstyle 415}$ 363 Virtual Institute VH-VI-503, for financial support. 364

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 - See Supplemental Material at link for a description of [30]numerical and physical parameters, and additional information about the PIC simulations results.