Abstract Submitted for the DPP19 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Ion motion and hosing suppression in plasma-based accelerators¹ CARLO BENEDETTI, TIMON MEHRLING, CARL SCHROEDER, CAMERON GEDDES, ERIC ESAREY, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory — Plasma accelerators have been proposed as drivers for the next generation of colliders. Achieving high efficiency while preserving excellent beam quality is critical to realizing this application. High efficiency requires large longitudinal wakefield excitation by the witness beam, and this has an associated large transverse wake that will drive the hosing instability. Furtheremore, for high-energy beams with low emittance, the focusing forces in the plasma will pinch the witness beam and increase the beam density, orders of magnitude above the background ion density, leading to ion motion. This results in nonlinear focusing and emittance growth. We present a solution to mitigate the hosing instability in plasma accelerators that relies on ion motion. The response of the ions to a high-density beam is described, including the coupling to the hosing instability. It is shown that the ion-motion-induced head-to-tail variation in the focusing experienced by the beam suppresses hosing. A class of initial beam distributions are identified that are equilibrium solutions in the plasma wake, including ion motion. Using these beam distributions enables ion motion without emittance growth. Hence, stable and quality-preserving acceleration in plasma-based accelerators is possible.

¹Work supported by Office of Science, US DOE, Contract No. DE-AC02-05CH11231

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Date submitted: 26 Jun 2019

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