Sensitivity of Echo Enabled Harmonic Generation to Sinusoidal Electron Beam Energy Structure

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Abstract

We analytically examine the bunching factor spectrum of a relativistic electron beam with sinusoidal energy structure that then undergoes an echo-enabled harmonic generation (EEHG) transformation to produce high harmonics. The performance is found to be described primarily by a simple scaling parameter. The dependence of the bunching amplitude on fluctuations of critical parameters is derived analytically, and compared with simulations. Where applicable, EEHG is also compared with high gain harmonic generation (HGHG) and we find that EEHG is generally less sensitive to several types of energy structure. In the presence of intermediate frequency modulations like those produced by the microbunching instability, EEHG is also found to lead to a cleaner bunching spectrum with substantially narrower intrinsic pedestal.

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I. INTRODUCTION

External seeding schemes like HGHG [1] and EEHG [2, 3] have been developed to improve the spectral brightness and spectral stability of high-gain free electron lasers (FELs). These techniques use lasers and dispersive electron beam transport elements to generate high harmonic density modulations that jump-start the FEL amplification process and produce narrowband, fully coherent radiation down to x-ray wavelengths.

The success of the seeding scheme, gauged in large part by the purity and stability of the final FEL output spectrum, depends sensitively on the details of the electron beam distribution. A primary contributor to deviations from ideal transform-limited FEL pulses are energy structures on the initial electron beam phase space. Uncontrolled energy structures lead to reductions in the spectral density (photons/eV) for FEL seeding systems because they are translated to the broader FEL output spectrum. Energy structures can occur as the result of collective effects during acceleration and compression [4] as in the case of coherent synchrotron radiation (CSR) [5–7] and the microbunching instability (MBI) [8–10], or transport effects such as wakefields. Wakefields typically have scale lengths comparable to the bunch length (tens of microns), whereas MBI can amplify broadband perturbations that end up peaked around $\gtrsim 1~\mu m$ wavelengths. In either case, such energy structures can be difficult to remove completely, and they mix extra frequencies into the FEL gain bandwidth that can spoil the high-contrast, narrowband performance improvements offered by seeding in general. An illustrative example is the background pedestal observed in the self-seeding spectrum at LCLS [11–13]. At soft x-rays, the otherwise narrow seeded spike is surrounded by a background of frequencies that can contain a sizable portion (e.g., $\sim 40\%$) of the power. For certain experiments, a final monochromator is needed to further filter the spectrum, but this comes with a limited efficiency (< 10%) that significantly reduces the overall gains in spectral brightness.

Understanding these effects is important for evaluating HGHG and EEHG as competitive external seeding schemes, as they differ in their sensitivity to phase space structures. Linear energy-time chirps, for example, have the general effect of shifting the harmonic frequency away from the target frequency in HGHG, and EEHG is less sensitive to these effects [14]. Similarly, it has also been shown that the EEHG bunching bandwidth is less sensitive to quadratic chirps [15], which are analogous to linear laser chirps [16]. EEHG may also be more robust to energy structures like those that result from MBI [17], though the extent to which is not completely clear for lack of one-to-one experimental comparisons, but simulation studies for upcoming FELs are ongoing [18, 19].

On the other hand, energy structures than can be precisely controlled offer additional tunability on the seeded FEL output. For example, small linear chirps can be used to shift the FEL frequency in a repeatable way [20]. Or, coherent modulations on the beam at IR wavelengths can produce discrete sidebands in the seeded FEL spectrum for dedicated multicolor operations [21].

Here we study EEHG analytically and with numerical simulations in an effort to shed light on some of these issues and establish the scaling and sensitivity. A general formalism is presented that introduces an energy modulation on the beam prior to the EEHG transformation. A simple scaling parameter is identified that governs the characteristics of the bunching spectrum for both EEHG and HGHG, and the bunching spectrum is then analyzed for two classes of idealized initial electron beam energy structure; long wavelength modulations that generate linear and quadratic chirps, and intermediate wavelength modulations shorter than

the beam, such as those encountered in collective effects. EEHG is compared with simple HGHG to highlight the general distinctions and to provide a conceptual framework for more detailed future comparisons, particularly for ultra-high harmonics that require cascading of multiple seeding stages.

II. EEHG SCALING FACTOR AND OPTIMIZATION

We closely follow the notation of [3] where the bunching factor for EEHG is given as,

$$\bar{b}_{n,m}(k_E) = e^{-\xi_E^2/2} J_n(-\xi_E A_1) J_m(-a_E A_2 B_2), \tag{1}$$

where the normalized laser modulations are $A_{1,2} = \Delta E_{1,2}/\sigma_E$ and normalized dispersions are $B_{1,2} = k_1 R_{56}^{(1,2)} \sigma_E/E > 0$. σ_E is the slice energy spread, and E is the beam energy. We assume ideal lasers that completely cover the electron beam. The EEHG harmonic frequency is,

$$k_E = a_E k_1 = nk_1 + mk_2, (2)$$

with $a_E = n + mK$ the harmonic number, n and m integers, and $K = k_2/k_1$. The optimal n is small and negative, and $m \gg 1$. We define the EEHG scaling factor as the parameter,

$$\xi_E = a_E B - mK B_1 = nB_1 + a_E B_2, \tag{3}$$

where $B = B_1 + B_2$. We will see that ξ_E governs the performance of the EEHG bunching process, and it is nearly always advantageous to minimize $|\xi_E|$. For $|\xi_E|$ small, the ratio of the dispersions is approximately the harmonic number, $a_E \sim |nB_1/B_2|$ and typically $B_1 \gg B_2$. The optimal value of ξ_E is found from the maximum of $|e^{-\xi_E^2/2}J_n(-\xi_E A_1)|$, and is given approximately by [22]:

$$\xi_E \simeq \pm \frac{j'_{n,1}}{A_1} \left[1 + \frac{1}{A_1^2} \frac{1}{1 - (n/j'_{n,1})^2} \right]^{-1}$$
 (4)

where $j'_{n,1} \approx |n| + 0.81 |n|^{1/3}$ is the first root of J'_n . $|\xi_E|$ decreases like $1/A_1$ for practical values, so a larger A_1 is generally preferable for the bunching performance, with the constraint that it (and A_2 combined) not be so large as to strongly inhibit FEL amplification. In EEHG the scaling factor ξ_E can also be negative. This carries several advantages [17, 23], and it affects, for example, the tunable region of excited sideband frequencies (Section IV B).

 A_1 determines the optimal ξ_E , so for a given A_2 , the optimal dispersion values are then,

$$B_2 = \frac{j'_{m,1}}{a_E A_2}, \qquad B_1 = (\xi_E - a_E B_2)/n. \tag{5}$$

Figure 1 shows the dependence of $|\bar{b}_{n,m}(k_E)|$ on the dispersions. The bunching factor peaks at two values of B_1 , the larger of which is in the preferred $\xi_E < 0$ region.

HGHG, in contrast, uses only one modulator and chicane to produce the harmonic frequency $k_H = a_H k_1$. The bunching factor is given by, $\bar{b}_{a_H}(k_H) = e^{-\xi_H^2/2} J_{a_H}(-\xi_H A_1)$, where the HGHG scaling factor is,

$$\xi_H = a_H B_1 > 0. \tag{6}$$

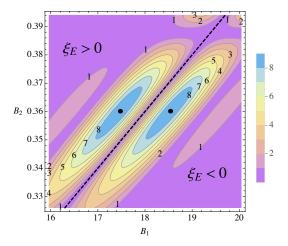


FIG. 1: $|\bar{b}_{n,m}(k_E)|$ % for a_E =50th harmonic of 260 nm lasers with n=-1 and $A_{1,2}=3$. The dashed line is $\xi_E=0$, and the $\xi_E=\pm 1/2$ optima (dots) lie at the centers of the bunching peaks in their respective regions, with a difference in dispersion $\Delta B_1=-2\xi_E/n$.

Analogous to ξ_E , ξ_H governs key performance aspects of the HGHG process. Equation (4) also gives the optimum for ξ_H with the replacement $n = a_H \gg 1$. The maximal harmonic bunching with the smallest energy spread yields $A_1 \approx a_H$, for which the optimization is $\xi_H \approx 1$. Compare this with EEHG where, for example, with $A_1 = 3$ and n = -1, the optimum gives $|\xi_E| \approx 1/2$. This difference between the scaling parameters ξ_E and ξ_H accounts for several distinctions between the two schemes.

A. Bunching sensitivity

The EEHG bunching factor can be expanded about small deviations from the optimal tune parameters $B_{1,2}$ and $A_{1,2}$ to reveal how the bunching amplitude is affected. The impact of small changes in the first dispersion ΔB_1 can be calculated by expansion about the value in (5). To second order, the bunching decreases as

$$\frac{\Delta \bar{b}_{n,m}}{\bar{b}_{n,m}} = -\frac{(\Delta B_1)^2}{2B_1^2} \left(\frac{nB_1}{\xi_E}\right)^2 \left[\xi_E^2 (A_1^2 + \xi_E^2 + 2) - n^2\right]
\simeq -\frac{(\Delta B_1)^2}{2B_1^2} \left(j'_{m,1} \frac{A_1}{A_2}\right)^2 \left[1 - n^2/(j'_{n,1})^2\right].$$
(7)

The second expression is the expansion for small ξ_E . From this we see that the bunching change is only weakly sensitive to n, but scales like $(\Delta B_1/B_1)^2 m^2$, and thus is increasingly more sensitive to high harmonics $m \gg 1$. The effect is shown in Figure 2. Small changes in

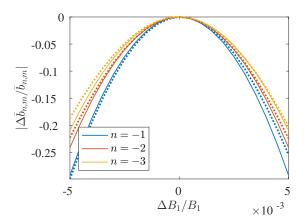


FIG. 2: Variation of bunching with deviations in B_1 from the approximate optimum in Eq. (4). $A_1 = 5$, $A_2 = 3$, $a_E = 100$ is assumed. Solid lines are from Eq. (7), dashed lines are from exact solutions.

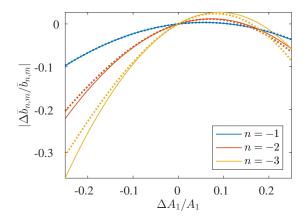


FIG. 3: Variation of bunching with deviations in A_1 from that used to calculate Eq. (4). $A_1 = 5$ is assumed. Solid lines are from Eq. (9), dashed lines are from exact solutions.

the second dispersion ΔB_2 yield a similar form, but with an additional term,

$$\frac{\Delta \bar{b}_{n,m}}{\bar{b}_{n,m}} \simeq -\frac{(\Delta B_2)^2}{2B_2^2} \left[\left(j'_{m,1} \frac{A_1}{A_2} \right)^2 \left[1 - n^2 / (j'_{n,1})^2 \right] + \left[(j'_{m,1})^2 - m^2 \right] \right].$$
(8)

For large harmonics, the second term scales like $m^{4/3}$ and can generally be neglected, so relative changes $\Delta B_1/B_1$ and $\Delta B_2/B_2$ reduce the bunching according to essentially the same scaling.

Similarly, if the first laser modulation fluctuates about the value A_1 , the bunching am-

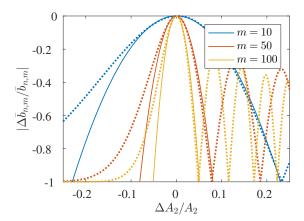


FIG. 4: Variation of bunching with deviations in A_2 from $j'_{m,1}/aB_2$. Solid lines are from Eq (10), dashed lines are from exact solutions.

plitude varies as:

$$\frac{\Delta \bar{b}_{n,m}}{\bar{b}_{n,m}} = \xi_E^2 \frac{\Delta A_1}{A_1} - \frac{(\Delta A_1)^2}{2A_1^2} \left[\xi_E^2 (1 + A_1^2) - n^2 \right]$$
 (9)

This is plotted in Fig. 3. There is a linear dependence on $\Delta A_1/A_1$ because the optimal energy modulation for a fixed ξ_E is $A_1 \simeq j'_{n,1}/\xi_E$, which is slightly larger than the nominal value used to calculate the optimal ξ_E . Clearly, the bunching in tunes with larger |n| is more sensitive to $\Delta A_1/A_1$. This can impact the performance of an EEHG seeding system that, for example, uses a larger |n| value in exchange for a smaller B_1 .

Both Eqs (7) and (9) deal with variations in the first modulator and chicane, so they also then apply directly to HGHG for the corresponding parameters with $\xi_E \to \xi_H$, and with $n \to a_H$.

A similar analysis applies for variation in the second EEHG modulation from the optimum in Eq. (5),

$$\frac{\Delta \bar{b}_{n,m}}{\bar{b}_{n,m}} = -\frac{(\Delta A_2)^2}{2A_2^2} \left[(j'_{m,1})^2 - m^2 \right],$$

$$\simeq -0.81 \frac{(\Delta A_2)^2}{A_2^2} m^{4/3}.$$
(10)

Figure 4 shows the effect that amplitude variations in the second modulator have on the bunching. Higher harmonics are increasingly more sensitive, and the bunching is strongly suppressed when $\Delta A_2/A_2 \simeq 1/m^{2/3}$. For example, it only takes a 5% increase in A_2 to kill the bunching at m=100. A comparison with Fig. 3 confirms that the EEHG bunching is much more sensitive to amplitude variations in the second modulator than in the first modulator.

III. LONG WAVELENGTH MODULATIONS

Let us consider the effect of initial energy structures on the beam that have long wavelengths compared to the bunch length, $\lambda_0 = 2\pi/k_0 \gg 2\pi\sigma_z$. We define h_1 and h_2 as the

dimensionless linear and quadratic coefficients of the energy variation,

$$p_0 = p + h_1 k_1 z + h_2 k_1^2 z^2, (11)$$

where $p = \Delta E/\sigma_E$ is the normalized energy variable, z is the coordinate in the beam, and

$$h_1 = \frac{1}{k_1} \frac{dp_0}{dz} \Big|_{z=0}, \quad h_2 = \frac{1}{2k_1^2} \frac{d^2p_0}{dz^2} \Big|_{z=0}.$$
 (12)

Previous analyses have computed the bunching factor spectrum for purely linear chirps [14], and independently for purely quadratic curvature [16].

The bunching spectrum for frequencies near k_E is then (see Appendix),

$$b_{n,m}(k) = \bar{b}_{n,m}(k) \frac{\exp\left[-\frac{\sigma_z^2(k-nk_1-mk_2+\xi h_1k_1)^2}{2(1+i\chi)}\right]}{\sqrt{1+i\chi}},$$
(13)

where

$$\xi = \frac{k}{k_1} B - mKB_1,\tag{14}$$

is the generalized scaling parameter at the frequency k, (where $\xi(k_E) = \xi_E$) and

$$\bar{b}_{n,m}(k) = e^{-\xi^2/2} J_n(-\xi A_1) J_m(-kA_2 B_2/k_1).$$
(15)

This is the bunching spectrum envelope. It is the spectral response function of the EEHG transformation as dictated by the tune, which is set by the scaled energy modulations and dispersive strengths.

We have also defined the quadratic chirp parameter

$$\chi(k) = 2\xi(k)h_2k_1^2\sigma_z^2. {16}$$

The relative energy spread of the beam in Eq. (11) is $\sigma_{p_0}^2 = 1 + (h_1 k_1 \sigma_z)^2 + 3(h_2 k_1^2 \sigma_z^2)^2$, so χ may be interpreted as the magnitude of the quadratic energy chirp over the whole beam, scaled by $\xi(k)$.

A. Harmonic Shift

The bunching in (13) has a sharp peak at $k = nk_1 + mk_2 - \xi h_1 k_1$. With Eq. (14), the new EEHG harmonic a is located at [14],

$$a = \frac{n + mK(1 + h_1 B_1)}{1 + h_1 B}. (17)$$

The linear chirp h_1 shifts the harmonic a away from the unchirped harmonic a_E in Eq. (2). The chirp also shifts the scaling parameter to $\xi(ak_1) = \xi_E/(1+h_1B)$, which can be used with Eq. (7) and with $\Delta \xi_E = n\Delta B_1$ to estimate the impact of h_1 on the bunching. In general, $|h_1| \ll 1$, so expanding to first order gives $a \approx a_E - h_1 \xi_E$ The same analysis can be applied for HGHG to yield $a \approx a_H - h_1 \xi_H$, and measurement of tunable shifts in output wavelength

have been reported in [24]. Thus the relative shift of the central frequency in the presence of a linear chirp between the two schemes is

$$\frac{(\Delta a)_{EEHG}}{(\Delta a)_{HGHG}} \approx \frac{\xi_E}{\xi_H}.\tag{18}$$

The relative shift depends only on the scaling factors for each scheme, and EEHG is generally less sensitive because $|\xi_E| < \xi_H$. Consider the aforementioned example where $A_1 = 3$ and n = -1, which gives $|\xi_E| \approx 1/2$, compared with $\xi_H \approx 1$ for HGHG. Note however that for n = -2, then $|\xi_E| \approx 0.85$ and they become comparable. We also see that for a fixed chirp h_1 , the direction of the central frequency shift in EEHG depends on the sign of ξ_E [23].

B. Cascaded HGHG

This model can be used to examine the harmonic shift from a linear chirp in EEHG compared with two-stage HGHG for high harmonic bunching. The bunching harmonic from the first stage of a cascaded HGHG setup is $a_H^{(1)} - h_1^{(1)} \xi_H^{(1)}$. The first stage harmonic, linear chirp, and scaling factor are labeled by the superscript. The bunched beam then radiates coherent light at this shifted harmonic frequency that, after some delay, modulates the beam again. Because cascaded HGHG utilizes fresh bunch seeding, we allow for the possibility that the chirp is different between the different parts of the beam and for the moment, that the scaling factor can also vary. After dispersion this second modulation produces bunching at a higher harmonic,

$$a \approx a_H^{(2)} \left(a_H^{(1)} - h_1^{(1)} \xi_H^{(1)} \right) - h_1^{(2)} \xi_H^{(2)}. \tag{19}$$

For the sake of comparison with EEHG, the goal is to reach the same final harmonic by both methods, so $a_E = a_H^{(2)} a_H^{(1)}$. An interesting feature of cascaded HGHG is that the shift in the harmonic away from $a_H^{(2)} a_H^{(1)}$ could be zeroed out if the contributions from the chirp in the second bunch cancel those from the first, namely, when $h_1^{(2)} \xi_H^{(2)} = -a_H^{(2)} h_1^{(1)} \xi_H^{(1)}$.

in the second bunch cancel those from the first, namely, when $h_1^{(2)}\xi_H^{(2)} = -a_H^{(2)}h_1^{(1)}\xi_H^{(1)}$. Assuming that the scaling factors in each HGHG stage are similar $(\xi_H^{(1)} \approx \xi_H^{(2)})$, the harmonic shift of HGHG compared with EEHG on the same linearly chirped beam is:

$$\frac{(\Delta a)_{EEHG}}{(\Delta a)_{C-HGHG}} \approx \frac{\xi_E}{a_H^{(2)}\xi_H}.$$
 (20)

We see that, as opposed to the single stage HGHG case in Eq. (18), even if the scaling factors ξ_E and ξ_H are similar in magnitude, the harmonic shift of the two-stage HGHG process is more pronounced due to the amplification of the shift from the first stage by the harmonic jump in the second stage. From this point of view, the final central wavelength shift of cascaded HGHG is reduced by performing a larger harmonic jump in the first stage to reduce $a_H^{(2)}$.

C. Harmonic Bandwidth

The bandwidth of the narrow harmonic spike at ak_1 is determined by $|b_{n,m}(k)|^2$ in Eq. (13). Assuming $|\bar{b}_{n,m}(k)|^2$ is essentially constant, the relative rms bandwidth $\sigma = \sigma_k/ak_1$ of the

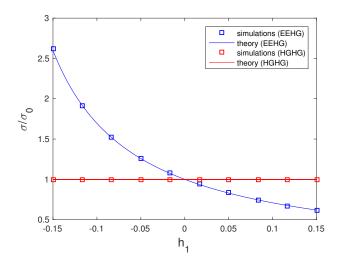


FIG. 5: Harmonic bunching bandwidth as a function of linear chirp. For EEHG $a_E = 10$, m = 11, K = 1, $B_1 = 3.73$, and $A_{1,2} = 3$. For HGHG $a_H = A_1 = 10$ and $B_1 = 0.11$. Numerical particle simulations written in MATLAB [25].

bunching spike is approximately

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 \frac{\left[1 + \left(\frac{\chi_E}{1 + h_1 B}\right)^2\right]^{1/2}}{1 + mKh_1 B_1 / a_E} \tag{21}$$

where $\chi_E = \chi(k_E) = 2\xi_E h_2 k_1^2 \sigma_z^2$, and $\sigma_0 = 1/(\sqrt{2}\sigma_z k_E)$ is the relative rms bandwidth of the harmonic spike in the absence of any initial energy structure on the beam.

We consider the behavior of the bunching bandwidth due to the linear and quadratic chirps separately. When the quadratic component vanishes $(h_2 = 0)$ and the beam has only a linear chirp, the calculated relative bandwidth with EEHG is then,

$$(\sigma)_{EEHG} = \frac{\sigma_0}{1 + mKh_1B_1/a_E} \qquad (h_2 = 0). \tag{22}$$

We see that it depends on product of the dispersion in the first chicane B_1 and the harmonic of the second laser m. HGHG only uses one laser and one chicane, so this term vanishes for HGHG:

$$(\sigma)_{HGHG} = \sigma_0, \qquad (h_2 = 0). \tag{23}$$

In HGHG, the change in bandwidth due to linear beam compression (or decompression) is offset by the identical shift in frequency, so the relative bandwidth is unaffected by the linear chirp. In contrast, the EEHG frequency shift doesn't correspond to the bunch length change through the large dispersion. Accordingly, with a positive linear chirp $h_1 > 0$ the bandwidth is smaller than when the beam has no chirp at all. The trends are shown in Figure 5, which includes cases of atypically large chirps to highlight the effect (e.g., $|h_1| = 0.16$ corresponds to an energy chirp of σ_E per laser wavelength λ_1). The denominator of Eq. (22) is essentially the bunch compression factor in the first EEHG chicane with $mKh_1B_1/a_E \simeq h_1B_1$, so this effect is negligible when the change in bunch length is small, $(|h_1B_1| \ll 1)$.

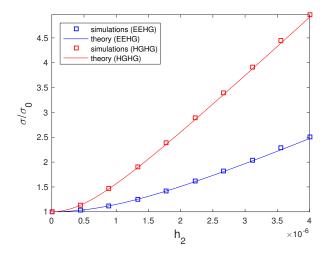


FIG. 6: Harmonic bunching bandwidth as a function of quadratic chirp. Same parameters as Fig. 5

When the linear component of the chirp vanishes $(h_1 = 0)$ and the beam has only a quadratic chirp, the scaled bandwidth is described by two regimes. The small curvature regime $|h_2k_1^2\sigma_z^2| < 1$ is satisfied when the curvature over the beam is on the order of the slice energy spread or less. The bandwidth then scales like $\sigma/\sigma_0 \approx 1 + \chi_E^2/2$. The comparative increase in relative bandwidth $\Delta \sigma = \sigma - \sigma_0$ due to h_2 in this regime is then,

$$\frac{(\Delta\sigma)_{EEHG}}{(\Delta\sigma)_{HGHG}} = \left(\frac{\xi_E}{\xi_H}\right)^2, \qquad (h_1 = 0, |\chi_E| < 1). \tag{24}$$

Perhaps more practically relevant is the $|\chi_E| > 1$ regime, which can occur if the quadratic component of energy variation over the beam is larger than the slice energy spread, $|h_2k_1^2\sigma_z^2| > 1$. In this case, the relative bandwidth is $\sigma/\sigma_0 \approx |\chi_E|$ and,

$$\frac{(\sigma)_{EEHG}}{(\sigma)_{HGHG}} = \left| \frac{\xi_E}{\xi_H} \right|, \qquad (h_1 = 0, |\chi_E| > 1). \tag{25}$$

Note from Eq. (13) that $|b_{n,m}|^2$ is reduced in this regime by the factor $|\chi_E|$.

Figure 6 shows the relative bandwidth growth of HGHG and EEHG due to h_2 , where again HGHG is approximately twice as sensitive to the quadratic curvature because $\xi_H \approx 2\xi_E$. The relative insensitivity of EEHG to quadratic curvature has also been verified experimentally [15].

Finally, it is interesting to point out that if ξ_E is sufficiently small, it is possible to be in the large curvature regime $|h_2k_1^2\sigma_z^2| > 1$ but for $|\chi_E| < 1$ so that the bandwidth scales quadratically with ξ_E . This is another case where small values of ξ_E (and ξ_H) can aid in mitigating undesirable effects.

IV. INTERMEDIATE WAVELENGTH MODULATIONS

Intermediate wavelength modulations are short compared to the bunch but long compared to the laser wavelengths, $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \ll \lambda_0 \ll 2\pi\sigma_z$. These are of practical concern specifically for MBI and/or high frequency wakefield effects. In particular, MBI in modern beams can produce strong initial energy modulations in the beam at micron wavelength scales which can then produce sidebands in the bunching spectrum. Because the MBI is a broadband instability, a large range of excited sidebands can be amplified by the FEL if they are within the FEL gain bandwidth. EEHG and HGHG have different sensitivity to such structures due to both their respective scaling factors, and their excitation bandwidths.

A. Excitation Bandwidth

The excitation bandwidth (EB) is defined here as the width of the bunching spectrum envelope $\bar{b}_{n,m}(k)$ in (15). Shown in Fig. 7 for EEHG, it specifies a frequency region around the target harmonic wherein sidebands can be generated in the bunching spectrum during the harmonic up conversion process. Inspection of Eq. (15) shows that the EB is determined by the Gaussian suppression factor $e^{-\xi^2/2}$. We can therefore approximate the extent of the EB by considering the values of ξ (and therefore k) that may still lead to bunching. For EEHG we define a full bandwidth bounded by $-2 \le \xi \le 2$, which gives

$$\left(\frac{\delta k}{k_E}\right)_{EEHG} = \frac{4}{a_E B} \approx \left|\frac{4nA_2}{a_E^2}\right|,$$
(26)

We have assumed $B \approx |a_E B_2/n|$ and $B_2 \approx 1/A_2$ in the last step. Initial modulation frequencies $k_0 = 2\pi/\lambda_0 < \delta k/2$ sit within the excitation bandwidth and may be excited as bunching sidebands at $k_E \pm k_0$ during the EEHG process. These sidebands are coherently amplified and grow at the same rate as the harmonic during FEL lasing if they are within the FEL bandwidth. In contrast, frequencies $k_0 > \delta k/2$ are outside the cutoff and are suppressed. We can thus relate the EB directly to the bandwidth of the coherently excited spectral pedestal in EEHG. From the scaling in (26) it is desirable to operate with the largest value of B (or smallest A_2) to narrow the pedestal, which corresponds to the smallest |n| tune for a given harmonic.

A potentially powerful feature of the EEHG EB is that it can be made smaller than the saturated bandwidth $\sim \rho$ [26] of a high-gain FEL in order to narrow the pedestal of excited frequencies. Consider a harmonic of $a_E = 100$, with $A_2 = 3$ and n = -1, for which $\delta k/k_E \approx 0.12\%$. This is smaller than the full bandwidth of most modern soft x-ray FELs.

We are compelled to define a similar excitation bandwidth for HGHG, but it turns out that the much weaker dispersion does not offer much damping of the sidebands. Using the previous logic, the HGHG EB can be defined by the bounds $0 < \xi = \frac{k}{k_1} B_1 \le 2$, which gives $(\delta k/k_H)_{HGHG} \sim 2/a_H B_1 = 2/\xi_H$. But because $\xi_H < 2$ for sufficient bunching, this describes a broadband EB of order unity,

$$\left(\frac{\delta k}{k_H}\right)_{HGHG} \sim \mathcal{O}(1).$$
 (27)

Whether the sidebands are in fact excited depends on their modulation amplitude and

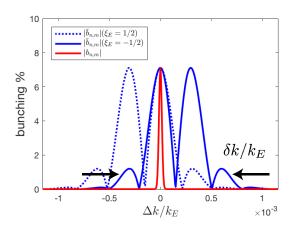


FIG. 7: Harmonic bunching spectrum envelopes (blue) of EEHG, and bunching harmonic spike (red), for $a_E = 100$ with $A_{1,2} = 3$, n = -1. The excitation bandwidth $\delta k/k_E$ is the width of the envelope, which shifts position depending on the sign of optimal ξ_E .

frequency, but in contrast to EEHG, there is no natural pedestal suppression or narrowing furnished by the HGHG process.

B. Sideband Bunching Amplitudes

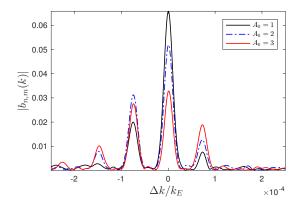
With the definition of the bunching envelope and excitation bandwidth (see Fig. 7), we can now consider how sidebands and spectral pedestals may be excited in EEHG. Consider a monochromatic energy modulation with amplitude A_0 and frequency k_0 on the e-beam prior to the EEHG transformation,

$$p_0 = p + A_0 \sin(k_0 z), \tag{28}$$

The bunching at the different discrete sideband frequencies $k_E + qk_0$, can be calculated from EEHG theory (see Eq. (41) in the Appendix). We presume the simple case where there is no spectral overlap between the bunching peaks for the different sidebands and their harmonics q, so the bunching factor at each frequency is given by the corresponding Bessel function J_q . The bunching at the target EEHG harmonic k_E is then simply given by,

$$b_{n,m}(k_E) = \bar{b}_{n,m}(k_E)J_0(-\xi_E A_0). \tag{29}$$

This is just the standard EEHG bunching factor modified by the J_0 term of the initial energy modulation for q = 0. Shown in Fig. 8, the bunching at k_E is reduced for $A_0 > 0$, and it is completely suppressed whenever $A_0 = j_{0,l}/\xi_E$, where $j_{0,l}$ is the l^{th} root of J_0 . Equation (29) also applies for HGHG, and because $|\xi_E| < \xi_H$, the EEHG bunching amplitude is more robust to small initial energy modulations. The reduction of the harmonic bunching is a broadband effect because Eq. (29) is independent of k_0 . Note that the bunching at k_E varies strongly as a function of A_0 according to the behavior of J_0 . As such, for large A_0 , it is possible to still produce harmonic bunching in a beam where the laser modulations are smaller than the initial modulation.



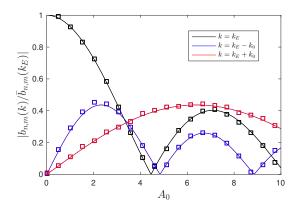


FIG. 8: Top: Bunching and sideband spectra for different A_0 with $a_E = 100$, $A_{1,2} = 3$, n = -1, and $k_0 = |k_1 \xi_E/2B|$. Bottom: Bunching amplitudes as a function of A_0 . Solid lines are predictions from the analytic model, squares are from numerical simulations.

The bunching at the nearest sideband frequencies $k_{\pm} = k_E \pm k_0$ is

$$b_{n,m}(k_{\pm}) = \bar{b}_{n,m}(k_{\pm})J_{\pm 1}(-\xi(k_{\pm})A_0), \tag{30}$$

where $\xi(k_{\pm}) = \xi_E \pm k_0 B/k_1$. The EEHG sideband bunching spectrum in (30) is highly sensitive to k_0 and A_0 , in part because the bunching envelope has strong amplitude variations within the excitation bandwidth. For example, modulations at frequencies near zeros of the bunching envelope $k_0 = -(k_1/B)(\pm j_{n,l}/A_1 + \xi_E)$ produce weak bunching sidebands, while those at in-between frequencies where it is peaked can produce strong bunching.

Figure 8 also shows how specific $k_E \pm k_0$ sideband amplitudes near k_E vary with A_0 . The dependence is not symmetric about k_E ; here the high frequency sideband (q = 1) is smaller than the low frequency sideband (q = -1) for $A_0 < 3$. The opposite would be true for the $\xi_E > 0$ tune.

A tunable A_0 may provide a way to simultaneously select or suppress different frequencies. As seen in the lower plot of Fig. 8 for example, at $A_0 \approx 3$ the bunching at $k_E, k_E + k_0$, and $k_E - k_0$ are all comparable, whereas for $A_0 \approx 4.5$ the bunching at $k_E + k_0$ dominates. This feature may have direct applications in tunable multicolor FELs for shifting the power between different colors.

If $k_0 \ll |k_1 \xi_E/B|$, the sidebands are very close to the harmonic k_E and can become comparable in amplitude. The ratio is,

$$\frac{b_{n,m}(k_{\pm})}{b_{n,m}(k_E)} \approx \mp \frac{J_1(A_0 \xi_E)}{J_0(A_0 \xi_E)}.$$
(31)

They are approximately equal when $|A_0\xi_E| \simeq 1.4$, so the energy modulation must satisfy

$$A_0 < |1.4/\xi_E| \tag{32}$$

to keep the sideband bunching smaller than the harmonic bunching. If so, we obtain the approximate relation,

$$\frac{b_{n,m}(k_{\pm})}{b_{n,m}(k_E)} \approx \mp \frac{A_0 \xi_E}{2} \left(1 + \frac{(A_0 \xi_E)^2}{8} \right). \tag{33}$$

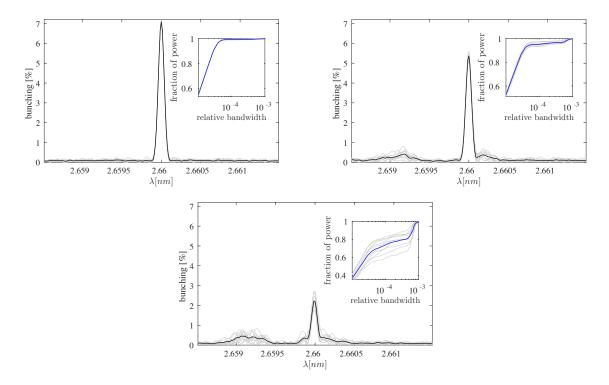


FIG. 9: EEHG bunching simulations for the $a_E=100$ harmonic of 266 nm lasers in the presence of broadband MBI energy modulations with rms energy spread a) $\sigma_{p_0}=1$, b) $\sigma_{p_0}=\sqrt{3}$, c) $\sigma_{p_0}=3$. The beam is modeled after the parameters of LCLS-II; E=4 GeV, $\sigma_E=500$ keV, and $\sigma_z/c=100$ fs $(\sigma_0=10^{-5})$. The EEHG energy modulations are $A_{1,2}=3$ and the dispersions are $R_{56}^{(1)}=12$ mm $(B_1=35.46)$ and $R_{56}^{(2)}=118$ μ m $(B_2=0.35)$. At these settings $\xi_E=-0.53$.

From the explicit dependence on the scaling parameter in this expression, we conclude that the contrast between the harmonic bunching at k_E and the nearest sidebands at $k_E \pm k_0$ is about twice as high in EEHG than in HGHG for the same A_0 . The EEHG bunching spectrum therefore appears to be more immune to sideband excitations.

C. Broadband Modulations

The single frequency initial energy modulations in this analytic model agree well with numerical simulations of the bunching. Realistic beams, however, often have energy structures that span a broad range of wavelengths.

Figure 9 shows the simulation results of EEHG on a beam that has a broad spectrum of energy modulations similar to those encountered from the MBI. The width of the plotted window is defined the EB given by Eq. (26). The spectrum of MBI energy structure is modeled to mimic the general microbunching gain spectrum due to longitudinal space charge (e.g., [27]), and has the form $p_0 = p + C \sum_i^N \delta_i^2 \exp(-\delta_i^2) \sin(\delta_i k_0 z + \phi_i)$, where N is the number of individual modulations (here 40), δ_i is the frequency factor, and ϕ_i is a random phase. The initial modulation spectrum is peaked at the wavelength $\lambda_0 = 3 \ \mu \text{m}$ here, and the value of the amplitude C is chosen to adjust the integrated energy spread σ_{p_0} after the modulations for the different cases. A range of frequencies for δ_i is chosen that

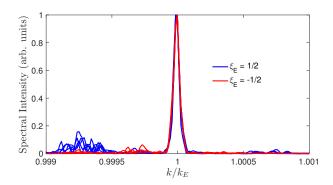


FIG. 10: FEL output spectrum for EEHG with $\xi_E < 0$ (red) shows reduced spectral pedestal than $\xi_E > 0$ (blue) on beam with $\sigma_{p_0} = \sqrt{3}$ broadband MBI noise. $A_{1,2} = 3$, $a_E = 75$, $\rho = 1.58 \times 10^{-3}$.

extends well into the high ($\ll \lambda_0$) and low ($\gg \lambda_0$) cutoff regions, with δ_i picked randomly from within each of the N evenly divided spectral portions. As N becomes large, the energy kick on each electron is effectively statistical, and the bunching at the harmonic is predicted to be attenuated by the factor $e^{-\xi_E^2(\sigma_{p_0}^2-1)/2}$ [22]. This is confirmed quantitatively by the steady reduction of the peak.

As σ_{p_0} increases from the noisy modulations, a growing pedestal is observed surrounding the central harmonic. The pedestal spectrum fluctuates in shape in each simulation owing to its simulated MBI origin, but the general EEHG envelope is clearly revealed in the emergence of specific regions of pedestal growth over multiple simulation runs, particularly for larger σ_{p_0} . The fraction of power (in $|b_{n,m}(k)|^2$) as a function of bandwidth is also plotted. From this example and in general, the contrast between the harmonic peak and pedestal height in the presence of such energy structures is significantly enhanced when $A_1 > \sigma_{p_0}$.

The spectral pedestal in Figure 9 is clearly not symmetric about k_E ; there is an satellite region of pedestal at shorter wavelengths. This is because the center of the EEHG bunching spectrum envelope at $\xi = 0$ (where the bunching is also zero), is shifted as usual from k_E by $-\xi_E k_1/B$. The satellite pedestal reflects the shape of the envelopes illustrated in Figure 7, which plots the optimized envelopes $|\bar{b}_{n,m}|$ for $\xi_E = 1/2$ and $\xi_E = -1/2$. Both EEHG tunes generate the same harmonic bunching, but with the $\xi_E = 1/2$ tune, the envelope is red-shifted compared to k_E , whereas for $\xi_E = -1/2$ it is blue-shifted. Figure 10 shows that this feature may be useful for purifying the FEL output spectrum. The spectrum is the output from multiple 3D simulations with the code PUFFIN [28] on a beam with noisy broadband energy modulations. Results show it is advantageous to choose the EEHG tune with $\xi_E < 0$ so that most of the sideband pedestal is at higher frequencies, particularly if the FEL bandwidth is less than the excitation bandwidth. This tune takes advantage of the red-shifted asymmetry of the FEL gain bandwidth to reduce the portion of the bunching pedestal that is amplified. Note also that certain frequencies can be further suppressed by the $J_{\pm 1}(-\xi(k_{\pm})A_0)$ term.

D. Bunching at Long Wavelengths

The coherent bunching at the sideband frequencies $k_E \pm k_0$ is not the only source of FEL pedestal formation. These frequencies are amplified exponentially, but bunching in the electron beam at much longer wavelengths (e.g., at λ_0) can also produce a pedestal

by parasitically mixing frequencies into the FEL bandwidth that grow even faster during high-gain lasing [13].

In the present model, we can also calculate bunching at the frequency k_0 generated during transport of the energy-modulated beam through the EEHG transformation. It is given by (41),

$$b_{0,0}(k_0) = e^{-(\xi')^2/2} J_0(\xi' A_1) J_0(k_0 A_2 B_2/k_1) J_1(-\xi' A_0), \tag{34}$$

where $\xi' = k_0 B/k_1$. Inspection shows that the excitation bandwidth is exactly the same as in (26), namely, the bunching at frequencies $k_0 > 2k_1/B$ is strongly damped by the strong dispersion. Assuming $k_0 \ll k_1/B$ and expanding to lowest order, the bunching is peaked near the frequency $k_0' \approx \frac{k_1}{B} \frac{2\sqrt{2/3}}{\sqrt{A_0^2 + 2A_1^2 + 4}}$, at which the bunching is,

$$|b_{0,0}(k_0')| \approx \frac{A_0}{3} \frac{2\sqrt{2/3}}{\sqrt{A_0^2 + 2A_1^2 + 4}}.$$
 (35)

The analysis in [13] showed that at $|b_{0,0}| \approx 1/3$ the rapidly growing sideband reaches the same power level as the coherently seeded harmonic peak at FEL saturation. This constraint suggests that the modulation amplitude at k'_0 should satisfy,

$$A_0 < A_1 \tag{36}$$

to keep the FEL sideband power from equaling the harmonic power.

HGHG is essentially insensitive to density modulations produced at long wavelengths in this manner because the required dispersion is too weak to produce significant bunching at k_0 from the pure energy modulations considered here. The long wavelength energy modulations, however, can also produce sidebands that grow quadratically in the FEL [13]. This phenomena applies to both HGHG and EEHG if the energy modulations survive through the harmonic up-conversion stages, and is a topic of future study.

V. CONCLUSIONS

With a simple model we have shown that EEHG and HGHG quantitatively exhibit different sensitivities to a variety of energy modulations imprinted on the electron beam prior to the harmonic up-conversion process. The sensitivities are governed primarily by the respective scaling parameters defined for each scheme, ξ_E and ξ_H , with EEHG being generally less sensitive to both long and intermediate wavelength modulations because typically $|\xi_E| < \xi_H$. For this reason the spectral bunching pedestal amplitude in EEHG is also smaller. The pedestal width in each scheme has also been examined and quantified by the intrinsic excitation bandwidth, EB. The strong dispersion required for EEHG leads to strong damping of sideband frequencies and therefore a much narrower EB, which can lead to a cleaner FEL spectrum if it is narrower than the FEL bandwidth. The EEHG bunching envelope may also be partially blue-shifted outside the FEL bandwidth with a $\xi_E < 0$ tune to further reduce the amplified pedestal. In general, the coherently seeded pedestal in both schemes is smaller the more strongly that $A_0 < |1.4/\xi_{E,H}|$ is satisfied.

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VII. APPENDIX

The derivation and notation of [3] for EEHG have been closely followed where applicable. Energy variables are expressed with respect to the mean beam energy and normalized to the slice energy spread, i.e., $p_i = \Delta E_i/\sigma_E$. We consider a finite beam with an initial longitudinal phase space distribution function $f(p,z) = (2\pi\sigma_z)^{-1}e^{-p^2/2-z^2/2\sigma_z^2}$ where σ_z is the rms length. Prior to the EEHG transformations, the beam is assumed to undergo a general initial energy modulation of the form:

$$p_0 = p + A_0 \sin(k_0 z + \phi) - A_0 \sin(\phi), \tag{37}$$

where $A_0 = \Delta E_0/\sigma_E$ is the normalized energy modulation amplitude, $\lambda_0 = 2\pi/k_0$ is the modulation wavelength, and ϕ is the phase. In anticipation of effects due to long wavelength modulations (e.g., wakes or rf chirps), the last term keeps the energy E of electrons in the beam core (z=0) unchanged regardless of the phase.

The beam then enters the EEHG system of two pairs of laser modulators $(k_{1,2} \gg k_0)$ and chicanes. The successive transformations are described by,

$$p_{1} = p_{0} + A_{1} \sin(k_{1}z),$$

$$z_{1} = z + B_{1}p_{1}/k_{1},$$

$$p_{2} = p_{1} + A_{2} \sin(k_{2}z_{1}),$$

$$z_{2} = z_{1} + B_{2}p_{2}/k_{1}.$$
(38)

Ideal lasers are assumed that completely cover the electron beam both longitudinally and transversally. Phase differences between the two lasers are assumed negligible. The bunching factor at the exit of the last chicane is defined as

$$b(k) = \int f(p, z)e^{-ikz_2(p, z)} dpdz, \qquad (39)$$

In terms of the initial coordinates (p, z) the exponential factor is,

$$e^{-ikz_2(p,z)} = e^{-ikz} \sum_{n,m=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i(nk_1+mk_2)z-i\xi p_0(p,z)} J_n(-\xi A_1) J_m(-kA_2 B_2/k_1)$$
(40a)

$$= \sum_{q,n,m=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i(k-qk_0-nk_1-mk_2)z} e^{-i\xi p} e^{iq\phi+i\xi A_0 \sin(\phi)} J_q(-\xi A_0) J_n(-\xi A_1) J_m(-kA_2 B_2/k_1)$$
(40b)

The integrals in Eq. (39) over the initial coordinates are straightforward. The full bunching can be written as a sum of the bunching at the different laser harmonics, $b(k) = \sum_{n,m} b_{n,m}(k)$, where

$$b_{n,m}(k) = \bar{b}_{n,m}(k)e^{i\xi A_0 \sin \phi} \times \sum_{q=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{iq\phi - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z^2(k - qk_0 - nk_1 - mk_2)^2} J_q(-\xi A_0),$$
(41)

where the bunching spectrum envelope $\bar{b}_{n,m}(k)$ is defined in Eq. (15). For intermediate wavelength modulations described here, the overall phase of the initial modulation is ignored.

For long wavelength modulations $\lambda_0 \gg 2\pi\sigma_z$ the first modulation p_0 is expanded to second order for the linear and quadratic chirps,

$$p_0 = p + h_1 k_1 z + h_2 k_1^2 z^2. (42)$$

In terms of the initial amplitude and phase of Eq. (37) we have $h_1 = A_0 k_0 \cos(\phi)/k_1$ and $h_2 = -A_0 k_0^2 \sin(\phi)/2k_1^2$. Substitution into Eq. (40a) and calculation of the integral in (39) yield the bunching spectrum in Eq. (13).

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