

# THE NAVIER-STOKES EQUATIONS IN NONENDPOINT BORDERLINE LORENTZ SPACES

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ABSTRACT. It is shown both locally and globally that  $L_t^\infty(L_x^{3,q})$  solutions to the three-dimensional Navier-Stokes equations are regular provided  $q \neq \infty$ . Here  $L_x^{3,q}$ ,  $0 < q \leq \infty$ , is an increasing scale of Lorentz spaces containing  $L_x^3$ . Thus the result provides an improvement of a result by Escauriaza, Seregin and Šverák ((Russian) Uspekhi Mat. Nauk **58** (2003), 3–44; translation in Russian Math. Surveys **58** (2003), 211–250), which treated the case  $q = 3$ . A new local energy bound and a new  $\epsilon$ -regularity criterion are combined with the backward uniqueness theory of parabolic equations to obtain the result. A weak-strong uniqueness of Leray-Hopf weak solutions in  $L_t^\infty(L_x^{3,q})$ ,  $q \neq \infty$ , is also obtained as a consequence.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This paper addresses certain regularity and uniqueness criteria for the three-dimensional Navier-Stokes equations

$$(1.1) \quad \partial_t u - \Delta u + \operatorname{div} u \otimes u + \nabla p = 0, \quad \operatorname{div} u = 0,$$

where  $u = u(x, t) = (u_1(x, t), u_2(x, t), u_3(x, t)) \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and  $p = p(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}$ , with  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and  $t \geq 0$ . The initial condition associated to (1.1) is given by

$$(1.2) \quad u(x, 0) = a(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3.$$

Equations (1.1)–(1.2) describes the motion an incompressible fluid in three spatial dimensions with unit viscosity and zero external force. Here  $u$  and  $p$  are referred to as the fluid velocity and pressure, respectively.

From the classical works of Leray [20] and Hopf [12], it is known that for any divergence-free vector field  $a \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$  there exists at least one weak solution to the Cauchy problem (1.1)–(1.2) in  $\mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, \infty)$ . Such a solution is now called *Leray-Hopf weak solution* for which its precise definition will be given next. Let  $\dot{C}_0^\infty$  denote the space of all divergence-free infinitely differentiable vector fields with compact support in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Let  $\dot{J}$  be the closure of  $\dot{C}_0^\infty$  in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , and  $\dot{J}^{1,2}$  be the closure of the same set with respect to the Dirichlet integral.

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**Definition 1.1.** A Leray-Hopf weak solution of the Cauchy problem (1.1)–(1.2) in  $Q_\infty := \mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, \infty)$  is a vector field  $u : Q_\infty \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  such that:

- (i)  $u \in L^\infty(0, \infty; \dot{J}) \cap L^2(0, \infty; \dot{J}^{1,2})$ ;
- (ii) The function  $t \rightarrow \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u(x, t)w(x)dx$  is continuous on  $[0, \infty)$  for any  $w \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$ ;
- (iii) For any  $w \in \dot{C}_0^\infty(Q_\infty)$  there holds

$$\int_{Q_\infty} (-u \cdot \partial_t w - u \otimes u : \nabla w + \nabla u : \nabla w) dx dt = 0;$$

- (iv) The energy inequality

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |u(x, t)|^2 dx + 2 \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|^2 dx ds \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |a(x)|^2 dx$$

holds for all  $t \in [0, \infty)$ , and

$$\|u(\cdot, t) - a(\cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow 0^+.$$

As of now the problems of uniqueness and regularity of Leray-Hopf weak solutions are still open. Only some partial results are known. The partial uniqueness result of Prodi [25] and Serrin [35], and the partial smoothness result of Ladyzhenskaya [18] can be summarized in the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.2.** Suppose that  $a \in \dot{J}$  and  $u, u_1$  are two Leray-Hopf weak solutions to the Cauchy problem (1.1)–(1.2). If  $u \in L^s(0, T; L^p(\mathbb{R}^3))$  for some  $T > 0$ , where

$$\frac{3}{p} + \frac{2}{s} = 1, \quad p \in (3, \infty],$$

then  $u = u_1$  in  $Q_T := \mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, T)$  and, moreover,  $u$  is smooth on  $\mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, T]$ .

Here recall that the condition  $u \in L^s(0, T; L^p(\mathbb{R}^3))$  means that

$$\|u\|_{L^s(0, T; L^p(\mathbb{R}^3))} := \left( \int_0^T \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)}^s dt \right)^{\frac{1}{s}} < +\infty \quad \text{if } s \in [1, \infty),$$

and

$$\|u\|_{L^s(0, T; L^p(\mathbb{R}^3))} := \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{t \in (0, T)} \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)} < +\infty \quad \text{if } s = \infty.$$

It is obvious that, when  $s = p$ ,  $L^p(0, T; L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)) = L^p(Q_T)$ . In general, if  $X$  is a Banach space with norm  $\|\cdot\|_X$ , then  $L^s(a, b; X)$ ,  $a < b$ , means the usual Banach space of strongly measurable  $X$ -valued functions  $f(t)$  on  $(a, b)$  such that the norm

$$(1.3) \quad \|u\|_{L^s(a, b; X)} := \left( \int_0^T \|f(t)\|_X^s dt \right)^{\frac{1}{s}} < +\infty$$

for  $s \in [1, \infty)$ , and with the usual modification of (1.3) in the case  $s = \infty$ .

The endpoint case  $p = 3$  and  $s = \infty$ , which is not covered by Theorem 1.2, was considered harder and has been settled by Escauriaza-Seregin-Šverák in the interesting work [5]:

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $a \in \dot{J} \cap L^3(\mathbb{R}^3)$ . Suppose that  $u$  is a Leray-Hopf weak solution of the Cauchy problem (1.1)–(1.2), and  $u$  satisfies the additional condition*

$$(1.4) \quad u \in L^\infty(0, T; L^3(\mathbb{R}^3))$$

for some  $T > 0$ . Then  $u \in L^5(Q_T)$  and hence it is unique and smooth on  $\mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, T]$ .

We remark that the condition  $a \in L^3(\mathbb{R}^3)$  in the above theorem is superfluous as it can be deduced from condition (1.4). A basic consequence of Theorem 1.3 is that if a Leray-Hopf weak solution  $u$  develops a singularity at a first finite time  $t_0 > 0$  then there necessarily holds

$$(1.5) \quad \limsup_{t \uparrow t_0} \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^3(\mathbb{R}^3)} = +\infty.$$

An improvement of this necessary condition of potential blow up can be found in the recent work [32]. See also the papers [7, 14] for another approach to regularity using certain profile decompositions.

It should be noticed that the uniqueness of  $u$  under condition of the form (1.4) had been known earlier not only for the Cauchy problem (1.1)–(1.2) but also for a general class of domains (see [16]). Moreover, local versions of the corresponding partial regularity results are also available (see [34], [38], and [5]). In particular, the local regularity result of [5] reads as follows.

**Theorem 1.4.** *Suppose that the pair of functions  $(u, p)$  satisfies the Navier-Stokes equations (1.1) in  $Q_1(0, 0) = B_1(0) \times (-1, 0)$  in the sense of distributions and has the following properties:*

$$(1.6) \quad u \in L^\infty(-1, 0; L^2(B_1)) \cap L^2(-1, 0; W^{1,2}(B_1))$$

and

$$p \in L^{3/2}(-1, 0; L^{3/2}(B_1)).$$

Suppose further that

$$u \in L^\infty(-1, 0; L^3(B_1)).$$

Then the velocity function  $u$  is Hölder continuous on  $\overline{Q}_{1/2}(0, 0)$ .

The main goal of this paper is to improve Theorems 1.3 and 1.4 by means of Lorentz spaces. Given a measurable set  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ , recall that the Lorentz space  $L^{p,q}(\Omega)$ , with  $p \in (0, \infty)$ ,  $q \in (0, \infty]$ , is the set of measurable functions  $g$  on  $\Omega$  such that the quasinorm  $\|g\|_{L^{p,q}(\Omega)}$  is finite. Here we define

$$\|g\|_{L^{p,q}(\Omega)} := \begin{cases} \left( p \int_0^\infty \alpha^q |\{x \in \Omega : |g(x)| > \alpha\}|^{\frac{q}{p}} \frac{d\alpha}{\alpha} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} & \text{if } q < \infty, \\ \sup_{\alpha > 0} \alpha |\{x \in \Omega : |g(x)| > \alpha\}|^{\frac{1}{p}} & \text{if } q = \infty. \end{cases}$$

The space  $L^{p,\infty}(\Omega)$  is often referred to as the Marcinkiewicz or weak  $L^p$  space. It is known that  $L^{p,p}(\Omega) = L^p(\Omega)$  and  $L^{p,q_1}(\Omega) \subset L^{p,q_2}(\Omega)$  whenever

$q_1 \leq q_2$ . On the other hand, if  $|\Omega|$  is finite then  $L^{p,q}(\Omega) \subset L^r(\Omega)$  for any  $0 < q \leq \infty$  and  $0 < r < p$ . Moreover,

$$\|g\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq |\Omega|^{\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{p}} \|g\|_{L^{p,q}(\Omega)}.$$

Lorentz spaces can be used to capture logarithmic singularities. For example, in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , for any  $\beta > 0$  we have

$$(1.7) \quad |x|^{-1} |\log(|x|/2)|^{-\beta} \in L^{3,q}(B_1(0)) \quad \text{if and only if } q > \frac{1}{\beta}.$$

Note that the inequality in (1.7) is strict. Of course, in the case  $\beta = 0$ , the function  $|x|^{-1}$  belongs to the Marcinkiewicz space  $L^{3,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ .

To the best of our knowledge, a criterion of local regularity for the Navier-Stokes equations in  $L^\infty(-1, 0; L^{3,\infty}(B_1))$  is still unknown. See [15, 22] for some partial results, which require a smallness condition. See also [36, 39] for some nonendpoint related results. The first result of this paper provides instead a regularity condition in terms of the borderline space  $L^\infty(-1, 0; L^{3,q}(B_1))$  for *any*  $q \in (0, \infty)$ , and thus excluding only the endpoint case  $q = \infty$ .

**Theorem 1.5.** *Suppose that the pair of functions  $(u, p)$  satisfies the Navier-Stokes equations (1.1) in  $Q_1(0, 0) = B_1(0) \times (-1, 0)$  in the sense of distributions such that (1.6) holds and*

$$(1.8) \quad p \in L^2(-1, 0; L^1(B_1)).$$

*Suppose further that*

$$(1.9) \quad u \in L^\infty(-1, 0; L^{3,q}(B_1))$$

*for some  $q \in (3, \infty)$ . Then the velocity function  $u$  is Hölder continuous on  $\overline{Q}_{1/2}(0, 0)$ .*

It is worth mentioning that even the regularity at  $(0, 0)$  is still unknown for solutions  $u$  satisfying the pointwise bound

$$|u(x, t)| \leq C |x|^{-1}$$

for a.e.  $(x, t) \in Q_1(0, 0)$ . A regularity result under this condition is known only for axially symmetric solutions (see [31] and also [3, 4]). On the other hand, in view of (1.7), Theorem 1.5 yields the regularity of  $u$  under a logarithmic ‘bump’ condition

$$|u(x, t)| \leq C |x|^{-1} |\log(|x|/2)|^{-\beta}$$

for any  $\beta > 0$ .

In fact, it is possible to obtain regularity under a weaker pointwise bound condition on the solution. In this case Theorem 1.5 is no longer applicable.

**Theorem 1.6.** *Suppose that the pair of functions  $(u, p)$  satisfies the Navier-Stokes equations (1.1) in  $Q_1(0, 0)$  in the sense of distributions such that (1.6) holds, and*

$$p \in L^{3/2}(-1, 0; L^1(B_1)).$$

Suppose further that for a.e.  $(x, t) \in Q_1(0, 0)$ , there holds

$$(1.10) \quad |u(x, t)| \leq f(t)|x|^{-1}g(x)$$

for nonnegative functions  $f \in L^\infty((-1, 0))$  and  $g \in L^\infty(B_1(0))$  such that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} g(x) = 0$ . Then  $u$  is Hölder continuous on  $\overline{Q}_{1/2}(0, 0)$ .

On the other hand, Theorem 1.5 can be used to deduce the following uniqueness and global regularity results, which give an improvement of Theorem 1.3.

**Theorem 1.7.** *Let  $a \in \dot{J}$ . Suppose that  $u$  is a Leray-Hopf weak solution of the Cauchy problem (1.1)–(1.2), and it satisfies the additional condition*

$$(1.11) \quad u \in L^\infty(0, T; L^{3,q}(\mathbb{R}^3))$$

for some  $q \in (3, \infty)$  and  $T > 0$ . Then  $u$  is smooth on  $\mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, T]$ . Moreover, if in addition  $a \in L^3(\mathbb{R}^3)$  then  $u \in L^5(Q_T)$  and hence it is unique in  $Q_T$  (in the sense of weak-strong uniqueness as in Theorem 1.2).

Theorem 1.7 implies that the necessary condition of potential blow up (1.5) can now be improved by replacing the  $L^3$  norm with any smaller  $L^{3,q}$  quasi-norm provided  $q \neq \infty$ . We should mention that this kind of potential blow up criterion has recently been extended in [8] to the norms of Besov spaces  $\dot{B}_{q,p}^{-1+3/p}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ ,  $3 < p, q < \infty$ , using profile decompositions in the framework of “strong” solutions. See also [2] for an earlier related result. In such a setting of strong solutions, the blow up criterion of [8] is more general than ours since

$$L^{3,q}(\mathbb{R}^3) \subset \dot{B}_{p,q}^{-1+3/p}(\mathbb{R}^3).$$

However, our blow up criterion here is obtained for Leray-Hopf weak solutions. Our regularity result also implies a new uniqueness criterion for Leray-Hopf weak solutions. Moreover, using instead the local regularity criterion, Theorem 1.5, we see that if  $(x_0, t_0)$  is a singular point of a Leray-Hopf weak solution  $u$  then it holds that

$$\limsup_{t \uparrow t_0} \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(B_\delta(x_0))} = +\infty$$

for any  $\delta > 0$  and  $q \neq \infty$ . Note that for a Leray-Hopf weak solution  $u$ , the associated pressure  $p$  can be chosen so that  $p \in L^2(0, \infty; L^{3/2}(\mathbb{R}^3))$  since  $|u|^2$  belongs to the same space (see, e.g., [30]).

Our approach to Theorems 1.5 and 1.7 is influenced by the above mentioned work of Escauriaza-Seregin-Šverák [5], which reduces the regularity matter to the backward uniqueness problem for parabolic equations with variable lower-order terms. A key ingredient, which makes our results stronger than that of [5], is a new  $\epsilon$ -regularity criterion for *suitable weak solutions* to the Navier-Stokes equations (see Proposition 3.2). See Definition 2.1 below for the notion of suitable weak solutions. In turn, this kind of  $\epsilon$ -regularity criterion is a consequence of a new bound for some scaling invariant energy quantities (see Corollary 2.4). Moreover, this new energy bound

is also essential in a blow-up procedure needed in the proof of Theorem 1.5. It provides a certain compactness result and thus yields a non-trivial ‘ancient solution’ (see Proposition 4.2), another important ingredient in the proof of Theorem 1.5.

On the other hand, the proof of Theorem 1.6 is simple. It requires only an  $\epsilon$ -regularity criterion of Seregin and Šverák in [30, Lemma 3.3].

## 2. PRELIMINARIES AND LOCAL ENERGY ESTIMATES

Throughout the paper we use the following notations for balls and parabolic cylinders:

$$B_r(x) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^3 : |x - y| < r\}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3, r > 0,$$

and

$$Q_r(z) = B_r(x) \times (t - r^2, t) \quad \text{with } z = (x, t).$$

The following scaling invariant quantities will be employed:

$$\begin{aligned} A(z_0, r) = A(u, z_0, r) &= \sup_{t_0 - r^2 \leq t \leq t_0} r^{-1} \int_{B_r(x_0)} |u(x, t)|^2 dx, \\ B(z_0, r) = B(u, z_0, r) &= r^{-1} \int_{Q_r(x_0)} |\nabla u(x, t)|^2 dx dt, \\ C(z_0, r) = C(u, z_0, r) &= r^{-3} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \|u\|_{L^{\frac{12}{5}}(B_r(x_0))}^4 dt, \\ C_1(z_0, r) = C_1(u, z_0, r) &= r^{-2} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \|u\|_{L^3(B_r(x_0))}^3 dt, \\ D(z_0, r) = D(p, z_0, r) &= r^{-3} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \|p\|_{L^{\frac{6}{5}}(B_r(x_0))}^2 dt, \\ D_1(z_0, r) = D_1(p, z_0, r) &= r^{-2} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \|p\|_{L^{\frac{3}{2}}(B_r(x_0))}^{3/2} dt. \end{aligned}$$

To analyze local properties of solutions, it is often useful to use the notion of suitable weak solutions. Such a notion of weak solutions was introduced in Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg [1] following the work of Scheffer [26]–[29]. Here we use the version introduced by Lin in [21].

**Definition 2.1.** *Let  $\omega$  be an open set in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and let  $-\infty < a < b < \infty$ . We say that a pair  $(u, p)$  is a suitable weak solution to the Navier-Stokes equations in  $Q = \omega \times (a, b)$  if the following conditions hold:*

- (i)  $u \in L^\infty(a, b; L^2(\omega)) \cap L^2(a, b; W^{1,2}(\omega))$  and  $p \in L^{3/2}(\omega \times (a, b))$ ;
- (ii)  $(u, p)$  satisfies the Navier-Stokes equations in the sense of distributions. That is,

$$\int_a^b \int_\omega \{-u \psi_t + \nabla u : \nabla \psi - (u \otimes u) : \nabla \psi - p \operatorname{div} \psi\} dx dt = 0$$

for all vector fields  $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\omega \times (a, b); \mathbb{R}^3)$ , and

$$\int_{\omega \times \{t\}} u(x, t) \cdot \nabla \phi(x) dx = 0$$

for a.e.  $t \in (a, b)$  and all real valued functions  $\phi \in C_0^\infty(\omega)$ ;

(iii)  $(u, p)$  satisfies the local generalized energy inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\omega} |u(x, t)|^2 \phi(x, t) dx + 2 \int_a^t \int_{\omega} |\nabla u|^2 \phi(x, s) dx ds \\ & \leq \int_a^t \int_{\omega} |u|^2 (\phi_t + \Delta \phi) dx ds + \int_a^t \int_{\omega} (|u|^2 + 2p) u \cdot \nabla \phi dx ds \end{aligned}$$

for a.e.  $t \in (a, b)$  and any nonnegative function  $\phi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R})$  vanishing in a neighborhood of the parabolic boundary  $\partial' Q = \omega \times \{t = a\} \cup \partial \omega \times [a, b]$ .

A proof of the following lemma can be found in [10, Lemma 6.1].

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $I(s)$  be a bounded nonnegative function in the interval  $[R_1, R_2]$ . Assume that for every  $s, \rho \in [R_1, R_2]$  and  $s < \rho$  we have*

$$I(s) \leq [A(\rho - s)^{-\alpha} + B(\rho - s)^{-\beta} + C] + \theta I(\rho)$$

with  $A, B, C \geq 0$ ,  $\alpha > \beta > 0$  and  $\theta \in [0, 1)$ . Then there holds

$$I(R_1) \leq c(\alpha, \theta) [A(R_2 - R_1)^{-\alpha} + B(R_2 - R_1)^{-\beta} + C].$$

In the next lemma  $L^{-1,2}(B_r(x_0))$  stands for the dual of the Sobolev space  $W_0^{1,2}(B_r(x_0))$ . The latter is defined as the completion of  $C_0^\infty(B_r(x_0))$  under the Dirichlet norm

$$\|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,2}(B_r(x_0))} = \left( \int_{B_r(x_0)} |\nabla \varphi|^2 dx \right)^{1/2}.$$

**Lemma 2.3.** *Suppose that  $(u, p)$  is a suitable weak solution to the Navier-Stokes equations in  $Q = \omega \times (a, b)$ . Let  $z_0 = (x_0, t_0)$  and  $r > 0$  be such that  $Q_r(z_0) \subset Q$ . Then there holds*

$$\begin{aligned} A(z_0, r/2) + B(z_0, r/2) & \leq C \left[ r^{-3} \int_{t_0-r^2}^{t_0} \| |u|^2 \|_{L^{-1,2}(B_r(x_0))}^2 dt \right]^{1/2} \\ & \quad + Cr^{-3} \int_{t_0-r^2}^{t_0} \| |u|^2 + 2p \|_{L^{-1,2}(B_r(x_0))}^2 dt. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* For  $z_0 = (x_0, t_0)$  and  $r > 0$  such that  $Q_r(z_0) \subset Q$ , we consider the cylinders

$$Q_s(z_0) = B_s(x_0) \times (t_0 - s^2, t_0) \subset Q_\rho(z_0) = B_\rho(x_0) \times (t_0 - \rho^2, t_0),$$

where  $r/2 \leq s < \rho \leq r$ .

Let  $\phi(x, t) = \eta_1(x) \eta_2(t)$  where  $\eta_1 \in C_0^\infty(B_\rho(x_0))$ ,  $0 \leq \eta_1 \leq 1$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\eta_1 \equiv 1$  on  $B_s(x_0)$ , and

$$|\nabla^\alpha \eta_1| \leq \frac{c}{(\rho - s)^{|\alpha|}}$$

for all multi-indices  $\alpha$  with  $|\alpha| \leq 3$ . The function  $\eta_2(t)$  is chosen so that  $\eta_2 \in C_0^\infty(t_0 - \rho^2, t_0 + \rho^2)$ ,  $0 \leq \eta_2 \leq 1$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\eta_2(t) \equiv 1$  for  $t \in [t_0 - s^2, t_0 + s^2]$ , and

$$|\eta_2'(t)| \leq \frac{c}{\rho^2 - s^2} \leq \frac{c}{r(\rho - s)}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} |\nabla \phi_t| &\leq \frac{c}{r(\rho - s)^2} \leq \frac{c}{(\rho - s)^3}, & |\nabla \Delta \phi| &\leq \frac{c}{(\rho - s)^3}, \\ |\nabla^2 \phi| &\leq \frac{c}{(\rho - s)^2}, & |\nabla \phi| &\leq \frac{c}{\rho - s}. \end{aligned}$$

We next define

$$I(s) = I_1(s) + I_2(s),$$

where

$$I_1(s) = \sup_{t_0 - s^2 \leq t \leq t_0} \int_{B_s(x_0)} |u(x, t)|^2 dx = s A(z_0, s)$$

and

$$I_2(s) = \int_{t_0 - s^2}^{t_0} \int_{B_s(x_0)} |\nabla u(x, t)|^2 dx dt = s B(z_0, s).$$

Using  $\phi$  as a test function in the generalized energy inequality we find

$$\begin{aligned} (2.1) \quad I(s) &\leq \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \left( \| |u|^2 \|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))} \| \nabla \phi_t + \nabla \Delta \phi \|_{L^2(B_\rho(x_0))} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \left\{ \| |u|^2 + 2p \|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))} \times \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \times \| \nabla u \cdot \nabla \phi + u \cdot \nabla^2 \phi \|_{L^2(B_\rho(x_0))} \right\} dt \right) \\ &=: J_1 + J_2. \end{aligned}$$

By the choice of test function we have

$$\begin{aligned} (2.2) \quad J_1 &\leq C \frac{\rho^{3/2}}{(\rho - s)^3} \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \| |u|^2 \|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))} dt \\ &\leq C \frac{\rho^{5/2}}{(\rho - s)^3} \left[ \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \| |u|^2 \|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))}^2 dt \right]^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned} J_2 &\leq C \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \left\{ \| |u|^2 + 2p \|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))} \times \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \left[ \frac{\| \nabla u \|_{L^2(B_\rho(x_0))}}{\rho - s} + \frac{\| u \|_{L^2(B_\rho(x_0))}}{(\rho - s)^2} \right] \right\} dt, \end{aligned}$$



and thus by Hölder's inequality we get

$$(2.3) \quad J_2 \leq \frac{C}{\rho - s} \left[ \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 + 2p \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))}^2 dt \right]^{1/2} I_2(\rho)^{1/2} \\ + \frac{C\rho}{(\rho - s)^2} \left[ \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 + 2p \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))}^2 dt \right]^{1/2} I_1(\rho)^{1/2}.$$

Combining inequalities (2.1)–(2.3) and using  $\rho \leq r$  we arrive at

$$I(s) \leq \frac{Cr^{5/2}}{(\rho - s)^3} \left[ \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))}^2 dt \right]^{1/2} \\ + \frac{C}{\rho - s} \left[ \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 + 2p \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))}^2 dt \right]^{1/2} I_2(\rho)^{1/2} \\ + \frac{Cr}{(\rho - s)^2} \left[ \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 + 2p \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))}^2 dt \right]^{1/2} I_1(\rho)^{1/2}.$$

By Young's inequality this yields

$$I(s) \leq \frac{Cr^{5/2}}{(\rho - s)^3} \left[ \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))}^2 dt \right]^{1/2} \\ + \left\{ \frac{C}{(\rho - s)^2} + \frac{Cr^2}{(\rho - s)^4} \right\} \int_{t_0 - \rho^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 + 2p \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_\rho(x_0))}^2 dt \\ + \frac{1}{2} I(\rho),$$

which implies in particular that

$$I(s) \leq \frac{Cr^{5/2}}{(\rho - s)^3} \left[ \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_r(x_0))}^2 dt \right]^{1/2} \\ + \frac{Cr^2}{(\rho - s)^4} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 + 2p \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_r(x_0))}^2 dt + \frac{1}{2} I(\rho).$$

Since this holds for all  $r/2 \leq s < \rho \leq r$  by Lemma 2.2 we find

$$I(r/2) \leq Cr^{-1/2} \left[ \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_r(x_0))}^2 dt \right]^{1/2} \\ + Cr^{-2} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 + 2p \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_r(x_0))}^2 dt.$$

Thus

$$A(z_0, r/2) + B(z_0, r/2) \leq C \left[ r^{-3} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_r(x_0))}^2 dt \right]^{1/2} \\ + Cr^{-3} \int_{t_0 - r^2}^{t_0} \left\| \|u\|^2 + 2p \right\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_r(x_0))}^2 dt$$

as desired.  $\square$

Note that for  $f \in L^{6/5}(B_r(x_0))$  and for  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(B_r(x_0))$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{B_r(x_0)} \varphi(x) f(x) dx \right| &\leq C \int_{B_r(x_0)} \left[ \int_{B_r(x_0)} \frac{|\nabla \varphi(y)|}{|x-y|^2} dy \right] |f(x)| dx \\ &= C \int_{B_r(x_0)} |\nabla \varphi(y)| \left[ \int_{B_r(x_0)} \frac{|f(x)| dx}{|x-y|^2} \right] dy \\ &\leq C \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^2(B_r(x_0))} \|\mathbf{I}_1(\chi_{B_r(x_0)} |f|)\|_{L^2(B_r(x_0))}. \end{aligned}$$

Here  $\mathbf{I}_1$  is the first order Riesz's potential defined by

$$\mathbf{I}_1(\mu)(x) = c \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{d\mu(y)}{|x-y|^2}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3,$$

for a nonnegative locally finite measure  $\mu$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Thus we find

$$(2.4) \quad \|f\|_{L^{-1,2}(B_r(x_0))} \leq C \|\mathbf{I}_1(\chi_{B_r(x_0)} |f|)\|_{L^2(B_r(x_0))} \leq C \|f\|_{L^{\frac{6}{5}}(B_r(x_0))}$$

by the embedding property of Riesz's potentials.

Using (2.4) we obtain the following important consequence of Lemma 2.3.

**Corollary 2.4.** *Suppose that  $(u, p)$  is a suitable weak solution to the Navier-Stokes equations in  $Q = \omega \times (a, b)$ . Let  $z_0 = (x_0, t_0)$  and  $r > 0$  be such that  $Q_r(z_0) \subset Q$ . Then there holds*

$$A(z_0, r/2) + B(z_0, r/2) \leq C[C(z_0, r)^{1/2} + C(z_0, r) + D(z_0, r)].$$

### 3. $\epsilon$ -REGULARITY CRITERIA

As demonstrated in [5], the proof of Theorem 1.4 above relies heavily on the following  $\epsilon$ -regularity criterion for suitable weak solutions to the Navier-Stokes equations (see [5, Lemma 2.2], see also [1, 19, 24]).

**Proposition 3.1.** *There exist positive constants  $\epsilon_0$  and  $C_k$ ,  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , such that the following holds. Suppose that the pair  $(u, p)$  is a suitable solution to the Navier-Stokes equations in  $Q_1(z_0)$  and satisfies the smallness condition*

$$C_1(u, z_0, 1) + D_1(p, z_0, 1) \leq \epsilon_0.$$

*Then  $\nabla^k u$  is Hölder continuous on  $\overline{Q}_{1/2}(z_0)$  for any integer  $k \geq 0$ , and*

$$\max_{z \in \overline{Q}_{1/2}(z_0)} |\nabla^k u(z)| \leq C_k.$$

To prove Theorem 1.5 we use instead a new different version of  $\epsilon$ -regularity criterion.

**Proposition 3.2.** *There exist positive constants  $\epsilon_1$  and  $C_k$ ,  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , such that the following holds. Suppose that the pair  $(u, p)$  is a suitable solution to the Navier-Stokes equations in  $Q_8(z_0)$  and satisfies the smallness condition*

$$(3.1) \quad C(u, z_0, 8) + D(p, z_0, 8) \leq \epsilon_1.$$

Then  $\nabla^k u$  is Hölder continuous on  $\overline{Q}_{1/2}(z_0)$  for any integer  $k \geq 0$ , and

$$\max_{z \in \overline{Q}_{1/2}(z_0)} |\nabla^k u(z)| \leq C_k.$$

The proof of Proposition 3.2 will be given at the end of this section. It requires the following two preliminary results. The first one is by now a well-known lemma that can be found in [21, Lemma 2.1].

**Lemma 3.3.** *Suppose that  $(u, p)$  is a suitable weak solution to the Navier-Stokes equations in  $Q = \omega \times (a, b)$ . Let  $z_0 = (x_0, t_0)$  and let  $\rho > 0$  be such that  $Q_\rho(z_0) \subset Q = \omega \times (a, b)$ . For any  $r \in (0, \rho]$  we have*

$$C_1(z_0, r) \leq C \left( \frac{\rho}{r} \right)^3 A(z_0, \rho)^{3/4} B(z_0, \rho)^{3/4} + C \left( \frac{r}{\rho} \right)^3 A(z_0, \rho)^{3/2}.$$

In what follows we shall use the following notation to denote the spatial average of a function  $f$  over a ball  $B_r(x_0)$ :

$$[f]_{x_0, r} := \frac{1}{|B_r(x_0)|} \int_{B_r(x_0)} f(x) dx.$$

**Lemma 3.4.** *Suppose that  $(u, p)$  is a suitable weak solution to the Navier-Stokes equations in  $Q = \omega \times (a, b)$ . Let  $z_0 = (x_0, t_0)$  and let  $\rho > 0$  be such that  $Q_\rho(z_0) \subset Q = \omega \times (a, b)$ . For any  $r \in (0, \rho/4]$  we have*

$$D_1(z_0, r) \leq C \left( \frac{\rho}{r} \right)^{3/2} A(z_0, \rho)^{3/4} B(z_0, \rho)^{3/4} + C \left( \frac{r}{\rho} \right)^{3/2} D(z_0, \rho)^{3/4}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $h_{x_0, \rho} = h_{x_0, \rho}(\cdot, t)$  be a function on  $B_\rho(x_0)$  for a.e.  $t$  such that

$$h_{x_0, \rho} = p - \tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho} \quad \text{in } B_\rho(x_0),$$

where  $\tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho}$  is defined by

$$\tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho} = R_i R_j [(u_i - [u_i]_{x_0, \rho})(u_j - [u_j]_{x_0, \rho}) \chi_{B_\rho(x_0)}].$$

Here  $R_i = D_i(-\Delta)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , is the  $i$ -th Riesz transform. Note that for any  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(B_\rho(x_0))$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} - \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} \tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho} \Delta \varphi dx &= \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} (u_i - [u_i]_{x_0, \rho})(u_j - [u_j]_{x_0, \rho}) D_{ij} \varphi dx \\ &= \int_B u_i u_j D_{ij} \varphi dx, \end{aligned}$$

which follows from the properties  $-R_i R_j(\Delta \varphi) = D_{ij} \varphi$  and  $\operatorname{div} u = 0$ . Thus, as  $p$  also solves

$$-\Delta p = \operatorname{div} \operatorname{div}(u \otimes u)$$

in the distributional sense, we see that  $h_{x_0, \rho}$  is harmonic in  $B_\rho(x_0)$  for a.e.  $t$ .

With this decomposition of the pressure  $p$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_r(x_0)} |p(x, t)|^{3/2} dx &= C \int_{B_r(x_0)} |\tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho} + h_{x_0, \rho}|^{3/2} dx \\ &\leq C \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |\tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho}|^{3/2} dx + C \int_{B_r(x_0)} |h_{x_0, \rho}|^{3/2} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Next, as  $h_{x_0, \rho}$  is harmonic in  $B_\rho(x_0)$ , for  $r \in (0, \rho/4]$  there holds

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \int_{B_r(x_0)} |h_{x_0, \rho}|^{3/2} dx \right)^{2/3} &\leq \left( \int_{B_r(x_0)} |h_{x_0, \rho}|^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq C \left( \int_{B_{\rho/4}(x_0)} |h_{x_0, \rho}|^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq C \left( \int_{B_{\rho/2}(x_0)} |h_{x_0, \rho}|^{6/5} dx \right)^{5/6}. \end{aligned}$$

This gives

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_r(x_0)} |p(x, t)|^{3/2} dx &\leq C \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |\tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho}|^{3/2} dx \\ &\quad + C \frac{r^3}{\rho^{15/4}} \left( \int_{B_{\rho/2}(x_0)} |h_{x_0, \rho}|^{6/5} dx \right)^{5/4}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus using  $h_{x_0, \rho} = p - \tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho}$  again we find

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_r(x_0)} |p(x, t)|^{3/2} dx &\leq C \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |\tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho}|^{3/2} dx \\ &\quad + C \frac{r^3}{\rho^{15/4}} \left( \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |\tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho}|^{6/5} dx \right)^{5/4} \\ &\quad + C \frac{r^3}{\rho^{15/4}} \left( \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |p|^{6/5} dx \right)^{5/4}. \end{aligned}$$

By Hölder's inequality this yields

$$\begin{aligned} (3.2) \quad \int_{B_r(x_0)} |p(x, t)|^{3/2} dx &\leq C \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{r}{\rho} \right)^3 \right] \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |\tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho}|^{3/2} dx \\ &\quad + C \frac{r^3}{\rho^{15/4}} \left( \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |p|^{6/5} dx \right)^{5/4}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by the Calderón-Zygmund estimate and a Sobolev interpolation inequality (see, e.g., (1.1) of [19]) we find

$$\begin{aligned}
(3.3) \quad \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |\tilde{p}_{x_0, \rho}|^{3/2} dx &\leq C \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |u - [u]_{x_0, \rho}|^3 dx \\
&\leq C \left( \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |\nabla u|^2 dx \right)^{3/4} \left( \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |u - [u]_{x_0, \rho}|^2 dx \right)^{3/4} \\
&\leq C \left( \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |\nabla u|^2 dx \right)^{3/4} \left( \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |u|^2 dx \right)^{3/4},
\end{aligned}$$

where we used the bound

$$\int_{B_r(x_0)} |u - [u]_{x_0, r}|^2 dx \leq \int_{B_r(x_0)} |u|^2 dx$$

in the last inequality.

Combining (3.2), (3.3) and using  $r/\rho \leq 1/4$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{B_r(x_0)} |p(x, t)|^{3/2} dx &\leq C \left( \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |\nabla u|^2 dx \right)^{3/4} \left( \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |u|^2 dx \right)^{3/4} \\
&\quad + C \frac{r^3}{\rho^{15/4}} \left( \int_{B_\rho(x_0)} |p|^{6/5} dx \right)^{5/4}.
\end{aligned}$$

Integrating the last bound with respect to  $dt/r^2$  over the interval  $(t_0 - r^2, t_0)$  and using Hölder's inequality we obtain

$$D_1(z_0, r) \leq C \left( \frac{\rho}{r} \right)^{3/2} A(z_0, \rho)^{3/4} B(z_0, \rho)^{3/4} + C \left( \frac{r}{\rho} \right)^{3/2} D(z_0, \rho)^{3/4}$$

as desired.  $\square$

We are now ready to prove Proposition 3.2.

**Proof of Proposition 3.2.** By Lemma 3.3 and Corollary 2.4 we have

$$\begin{aligned}
C_1(z_0, 1) &\leq CA(z_0, 1)^{3/4} B(z_0, 1)^{3/4} + CA(z_0, 1)^{3/2} \\
&\leq C[A(z_0, 1) + B(z_0, 1)]^{3/2} \\
&\leq C[C(z_0, 2)^{1/2} + C(z_0, 2) + D(z_0, 2)]^{3/2}.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus using (3.1) we find

$$(3.4) \quad C_1(z_0, 1) \leq C(\epsilon_1^{1/2} + \epsilon_1)^{3/2}.$$

On the other hand, using Lemma 3.4 with  $r = 1$  and  $\rho = 4$  there holds

$$D_1(z_0, 1) \leq C[A(z_0, 4) + B(z_0, 4)]^{3/2} + CD(z_0, 4)^{3/4},$$

which by Corollary 2.4 and (3.1) yields

$$\begin{aligned}
D_1(z_0, 1) &\leq C[C(z_0, 8)^{1/2} + C(z_0, 8) + D(z_0, 8)]^{3/2} + CD(z_0, 8)^{3/4} \\
&\leq C\epsilon_1^{3/2} + C\epsilon_1^{3/4}.
\end{aligned}$$

Now choosing  $\epsilon_1$  sufficiently small in (3.4) and the last bound, we can make

$$C_1(z_0, 1) + D_1(z_0, 1) \leq \epsilon_0,$$

and thus Proposition 3.1 implies the desired regularity result.  $\square$

#### 4. PROOF OF THEOREMS 1.5 AND 1.6

This section is devoted to the proof of Theorems 1.5 and 1.6. We shall need the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.1.** *Suppose that the pair of functions  $(u, p)$  satisfies the Navier-Stokes equations in  $Q := Q_1(0, 0) = B_1(0) \times (-1, 0)$  in the sense of distributions and has the properties (1.6), (1.8), and (1.9) for some  $q \in (3, \infty]$ . Then  $(u, p)$  forms a suitable solution to the Navier-Stokes equations in  $Q_{5/6}$  with a generalized energy equality,  $u \in L^4(Q)$ , and  $p \in L^2(Q_{5/6})$ . Moreover, the inequality*

$$(4.1) \quad \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(B_{3/4})} \leq \|u\|_{L^\infty(-(3/4)^2, 0; L^{3,q}(B_{3/4}))}$$

holds for all  $t \in [-(3/4)^2, 0]$ , and the function

$$t \rightarrow \int_{B_{3/4}} u(x, t) w(x) dx$$

is continuous on  $[-(3/4)^2, 0]$  for any  $w \in L^{3/2, q/(q-1)}(B_{3/4})$ . Here it is understood as usual that  $q/(q-1) = 1$  in the case  $q = \infty$ .

*Proof.* By Sobolev inequality we have  $u \in L^2(-1, 0; L^6(B_1))$ , which using (1.9) and the interpolative inequality

$$\|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^4(B_1)} \leq C \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(B_1)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^6(B_1)}^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

yields

$$(4.2) \quad u \in L^4(Q).$$

Thus by Hölder's inequality the nonlinear term

$$(4.3) \quad u \cdot \nabla u \in L^{4/3}(Q).$$

As above, we have a decomposition

$$p = \tilde{p} + h,$$

where  $\tilde{p} = R_i R_j [(u_i u_j) \chi_{B_1}]$ , and  $h$  is harmonic in  $B_1$ . By Calderón-Zygmund estimate we have

$$(4.4) \quad \|\tilde{p}\|_{L^2(-1, 0; L^2(B_1))} \leq C \|u\|_{L^4(-1, 0; L^4(B_1))}^2 = C \|u\|_{L^4(Q)}^2,$$

and by harmonicity and assumption (1.8) there holds

$$(4.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \|h\|_{L^2(-1, 0; L^\infty(B_{5/6}))} &\leq C \|h\|_{L^2(-1, 0; L^1(B_1))} \\ &= C \|p - \tilde{p}\|_{L^2(-1, 0; L^1(B_1))} \\ &\leq C \left[ \|p\|_{L^2(-1, 0; L^1(B_1))} + \|u\|_{L^4(Q)}^2 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Estimates (4.4)–(4.5) imply in particular that the pressure

$$(4.6) \quad p \in L^2(Q_{5/6}).$$

Using the inclusions (1.6), (4.2), (4.3), (4.6), and the local interior regularity of non-stationary Stokes systems we eventually find

$$\int_{Q_{3/4}} (|u|^4 + |\partial_t u|^{4/3} + |\nabla^2 u|^{4/3} + |\nabla p|^{4/3}) dx dt < +\infty.$$

It then follows that

$$u \in C([- (3/4)^2, 0]; L^{4/3}(B_{3/4}))$$

and thus the function

$$g_\varphi(t) := \int_{B_{3/4}} u(x, t) \varphi(x) dx$$

is continuous on  $[-(3/4)^2, 0]$  for any  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(B_{3/4})$ . This yields

$$\left| \int_{B_{3/4}} u(x, t) \varphi(x) dx \right| \leq C \|\varphi\|_{L^{3/2, q/(q-1)}(B_{3/4})} \|u\|_{L^\infty(-(3/4)^2, 0; L^{3, q}(B_{3/4}))}$$

for any  $t \in [-(3/4)^2, 0]$  and any  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(B_{3/4})$ . Thus by the density of  $C_0^\infty(B_{3/4})$  in  $L^{3/2, q/(q-1)}(B_{3/4})$  we see that

$$\|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3, q}(B_{3/4})} \leq C \|u\|_{L^\infty(-(3/4)^2, 0; L^{3, q}(B_{3/4}))}$$

for any  $t \in [-(3/4)^2, 0]$ . Then it can be seen, again by density, that the function  $g_\varphi(t)$  above is actually continuous on  $[-(3/4)^2, 0]$  for any  $\varphi \in L^{3/2, q/(q-1)}(B_{3/4})$ .

Finally, using (4.2) and a standard mollification in  $\mathbb{R}^{3+1}$  combined with a truncation in time of test functions, we obtain the local generalized energy equality in  $Q_{5/6}$ .  $\square$

We now proceed with the proof of Theorem 1.5.

**Proof of Theorem 1.5.** Henceforth, let the hypothesis of Theorem 1.5 be enforced. Notice that by Lemma 4.1  $(u, p)$  forms a suitable weak solution to the Navier-Stokes equations in  $Q_{5/6}(0, 0)$ . As in [5], the proof of Theorem 1.5 goes by a contradiction. Suppose that  $z_0 = (x_0, t_0) \in \overline{Q}_{1/2}(0, 0)$  is a singular point. By definition, this means that there exists no neighborhood  $\mathcal{N}$  of  $z_0$  such that  $u$  has a Hölder continuous representative on  $\mathcal{N} \cap B_1(0) \times (-1, 0]$ . By Lemma 3.3 of [30], there exist  $c_0 > 0$  and a sequence of numbers  $\epsilon_k \in (0, 1)$  such that  $\epsilon_k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$  and

$$(4.7) \quad A(z_0, \epsilon_k) = \sup_{t_0 - \epsilon_k^2 \leq s \leq t_0} \frac{1}{\epsilon_k} \int_{B(x_0, \epsilon_k)} |u(x, s)|^2 dx \geq c_0$$

for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Moreover, by Lemma 4.1 we have in particular

$$(4.8) \quad u(\cdot, t_0) \in L^{3, q}(B_{3/4}(0)).$$

Recall that we can decompose

$$p = \tilde{p} + h,$$

where  $h$  is harmonic in  $B_1$ , and  $\tilde{p} = R_i R_j [(u_i u_j) \chi_{B_1}]$ .

For each  $Q = \omega \times (a, b)$ , where  $\omega \Subset \mathbb{R}^3$  and  $-\infty < a < b \leq 0$ , we choose a large  $k_0 = k_0(Q) \geq 1$  so that for any  $k \geq k_0$  there hold the implications

$$x \in \omega \implies x_0 + \epsilon_k x \in B_{2/3},$$

and

$$t \in (a, b) \implies t_0 + \epsilon_k^2 t \in (-(2/3)^2, 0),$$

where the sequence  $\{\epsilon_k\}$  is as in (4.7).

Given such a  $Q = \omega \times (a, b)$ , let us set

$$u_k(x, t) = \epsilon_k u(x_0 + \epsilon_k x, t_0 + \epsilon_k^2 t), \quad p_k(x, t) = \epsilon_k^2 p(x_0 + \epsilon_k x, t_0 + \epsilon_k^2 t),$$

and

$$\tilde{p}_k(x, t) = \epsilon_k^2 \tilde{p}(x_0 + \epsilon_k x, t_0 + \epsilon_k^2 t), \quad h_k(x, t) = \epsilon_k^2 h(x_0 + \epsilon_k x, t_0 + \epsilon_k^2 t)$$

for any  $(x, t) \in Q$  and  $k \geq k_0(Q)$ .

The following proposition provides a non-trivial *ancient solution* (see [33] for this notion) that is essential in the proof of Theorem 1.5.

**Proposition 4.2.** (i) *There exist subsequence of  $(u_k, p_k)$ , still denoted by  $(u_k, p_k)$ , and a pair of functions*

$$(4.9) \quad (u_\infty, p_\infty) \in L^\infty(-\infty, 0; L^{3,q}(\mathbb{R}^3)) \times L^\infty(-\infty, 0; L^{3/2,q/2}(\mathbb{R}^3)),$$

with  $\operatorname{div} u_\infty = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3 \times (-\infty, 0)$ , such that

$$(4.10) \quad u_k \rightarrow u_\infty \quad \text{in } C([a, b]; L^s(\omega)),$$

$$\tilde{p}_k \rightarrow p_\infty \quad \text{weakly}^* \text{ in } L^\infty(a, b; L^{3/2,q/2}(\omega)),$$

for any  $s \in (1, 3)$ , and any  $\omega \Subset \mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $-\infty < a < b \leq 0$ .

(ii) *Moreover, for any  $Q = \omega \times (a, b)$  with  $\omega \Subset \mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $-\infty < a < b \leq 0$ ,*

$$|u_\infty|^2, \nabla u_\infty \in L^2(Q), \quad \partial_t u_\infty, \nabla^2 u_\infty, \nabla p_\infty \in L^{4/3}(Q),$$

and  $(u_\infty, p_\infty)$  forms a suitable weak solution of the Navier-Stokes equations in any such  $Q$ .

(iii) *Additionally,  $u_\infty$  satisfies the lower bound*

$$(4.11) \quad \sup_{t \in [-1, 0]} \int_{B_1(0)} |u_\infty(x, t)|^2 dx \geq c_0,$$

where  $c_0 > 0$  is the constant in (4.7).

*Proof.* For each  $Q = \omega \times (a, b)$ , where  $\omega \Subset \mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $-\infty < a < b \leq 0$ , and for every  $t \in [a, b]$  we have

$$(4.12) \quad \|u_k(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(\omega)} \leq \|u(\cdot, t_0 + \epsilon_k^2 t)\|_{L^{3,q}(B_{3/4})} \leq \|u\|_{L^\infty(-1, 0; L^{3,q}(B_1))}.$$



By Calderón-Zygmund estimate, for a.e.  $t \in (a, b)$  there holds

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.13) \quad \|\tilde{p}_k(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3/2, q/2}(\omega)} &\leq \|\tilde{p}(\cdot, t_0 + \epsilon_k^2 t)\|_{L^{3/2, q/2}(B_{3/4})} \\
 &\leq \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{t' \in (-(3/4)^2, 0)} \|\tilde{p}(\cdot, t')\|_{L^{3/2, q/2}(B_{3/4})} \\
 &\leq C \|u\|_{L^\infty(-1, 0; L^{3, q}(B_1))}^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by harmonicity we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_a^b \sup_{x \in \omega} |h_k(x, t)|^2 dt &\leq \epsilon_k^2 \int_{-(3/4)^2}^0 \sup_{x \in \omega} |h(x_0 + \epsilon_k x, s)|^2 ds \\
 &\leq \epsilon_k^2 \|h\|_{L^2(-1, 0; L^\infty(B_{3/4}))}^2 \\
 &\leq C \epsilon_k^2 \|h\|_{L^2(-1, 0; L^1(B_{5/6}))}^2
 \end{aligned}$$

provided  $k \geq k_0(Q)$ . Thus again by Calderón-Zygmund estimate we find

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.14) \quad \int_a^b \sup_{x \in \omega} |h_k(x, t)|^2 dt &\leq C \epsilon_k^2 \|p - \tilde{p}\|_{L^2(-1, 0; L^1(B_{5/6}))}^2 \\
 &\leq C \epsilon_k^2 \left[ \|p\|_{L^2(-1, 0; L^1(B_1))}^2 + \|u\|_{L^\infty(-1, 0; L^{3, q}(B_1))}^4 \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Using the last estimates for  $\tilde{p}_k$  and  $h_k$  and Hölder's inequality we have the following uniform bound for  $p_k$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.15) \quad \|p_k\|_{L^2(a, b; L^{6/5}(\omega))} &\leq \|\tilde{p}_k\|_{L^2(a, b; L^{6/5}(\omega))} + \|h_k\|_{L^2(a, b; L^{6/5}(\omega))} \\
 &\leq C(Q) \left[ \|p\|_{L^2(-1, 0; L^1(B_1))} + \|u\|_{L^\infty(-1, 0; L^{3, q}(B_1))}^2 \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

for any  $k \geq k_0(Q)$ . Here the constant  $C(Q)$  is independent of such  $k$ .

With regard to  $u_k$ , with  $k \geq k_0(Q)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.16) \quad \|u_k\|_{L^4(a, b; L^{12/5}(\omega))} &\leq C(Q) \|u_k\|_{L^\infty(a, b; L^{3, q}(\omega))} \\
 &\leq C(Q) \|u\|_{L^\infty(-1, 0; L^{3, q}(B_1))}.
 \end{aligned}$$

For each  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R})$  that vanishes in a neighborhood of the parabolic boundary  $\partial'Q = \omega \times \{t = a\} \cup \partial\omega \times [a, b]$ , we define

$$\varphi_k(x, t) = \epsilon_k^{-1} \varphi(\epsilon_k^{-1}(x - x_0), \epsilon_k^{-2}(t - t_0)).$$

Then with  $k \geq k_0(Q)$  we see that  $\varphi_k$  vanishes in a neighborhood of the parabolic boundary of  $Q_{3/4}(0, 0)$ . Using  $\varphi_k$  as a test function in the generalized

energy equality for  $(u, p)$  at  $t = t_0 + \epsilon_k^2 \tau$  with a.e.  $\tau \in (a, b)$  we find

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{B_{3/4}} |u(x, t)|^2 \varphi_k(x, t) dx + 2 \int_{-(3/4)^2}^t \int_{B_{3/4}} |\nabla u|^2 \varphi_k(x, s) dx ds \\ &= \int_{-(3/4)^2}^t \int_{B_{3/4}} |u|^2 (\partial_t \phi_k + \Delta \phi_k) dx ds \\ & \quad + \int_{-(3/4)^2}^t \int_{B_{3/4}} (|u|^2 + 2p) u \cdot \nabla \varphi_k dx ds. \end{aligned}$$

Hence by making a change of variables we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\omega} |u_k(y, \tau)|^2 \varphi(y, \tau) dy + 2 \int_a^\tau \int_{\omega} |\nabla u_k|^2 \varphi(y, s') dy ds' \\ &= \int_a^\tau \int_{\omega} |u_k|^2 (\phi_t + \Delta \phi) dy ds' + \int_a^\tau \int_{\omega} (|u_k|^2 + 2p_k) u_k \cdot \nabla \varphi dy ds' \end{aligned}$$

for a.e.  $\tau \in (a, b)$ .

Thus each  $u_k$  is a suitable solution in  $Q$  for any  $Q = \omega \times (a, b)$ , with  $\omega \Subset \mathbb{R}^3$  and  $-\infty < a < b \leq 0$ , and any  $k \geq k_0(Q)$ . Then, given such a  $Q$ , it follows from Corollary 2.4 and inequalities (4.15)–(4.16) (applied to an appropriate enlargement of  $Q$ ) that

$$(4.17) \quad \|u_k\|_{L^\infty(a, b; L^2(\omega))} + \|\nabla u_k\|_{L^2(a, b; L^2(\omega))} \leq C(Q)$$

for all sufficiently large  $k$  depending only on  $Q$ .

Using (4.17) and Sobolev inequality we have

$$\|u_k\|_{L^2(a, b; L^6(\omega))} \leq C(Q),$$

which by (4.12), interpolation, and Hölder's inequality gives

$$(4.18) \quad \|u_k\|_{L^4(\omega \times (a, b))} + \|u_k \cdot \nabla u_k\|_{L^{4/3}(\omega \times (a, b))} \leq C.$$

From the bounds (4.13) and (4.14) for  $\tilde{p}_k$  and  $h_k$  we also have

$$(4.19) \quad \|p_k\|_{L^s(\omega \times (a, b))} \leq C(Q, s) \|p_k\|_{L^2(a, b; L^{3/2, q/2}(\omega))} \leq C$$

for any  $s \in (0, 3/2)$ .

Using (4.17)–(4.19), it follows from the local interior regularity of solutions to non-stationary Stokes equations we find

$$(4.20) \quad \|\partial_t u_k\|_{L^{4/3}(\omega \times (a, b))} + \|\nabla^2 u_k\|_{L^{4/3}(\omega \times (a, b))} + \|\nabla p_k\|_{L^{4/3}(\omega \times (a, b))} \leq C$$

for all sufficiently large  $k$  depending only on  $Q$ .

At this point, using (4.12)–(4.13) and a diagonal process we may assume that

$$\begin{aligned} u_k &\rightarrow u_\infty \quad \text{weakly}^* \text{ in } L^\infty(a, b; L^{3, q}(\omega)) \\ \tilde{p}_k &\rightarrow p_\infty \quad \text{weakly}^* \text{ in } L^\infty(a, b; L^{3/2, q/2}(\omega)), \end{aligned}$$

for a pair of functions  $(u_\infty, p_\infty)$  satisfying (4.9), with  $\operatorname{div} u_\infty = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3 \times (-\infty, 0)$ .

Estimates (4.17) and (4.20) now yield

$$(4.21) \quad u_k \rightarrow u_\infty \quad \text{in} \quad C([a, b]; L^{4/3}(\omega)).$$

For any  $s \in (1, 3)$ , the uniform bound (4.12), and the inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u_k(\cdot, t) - u_k(\cdot, t')\|_{L^s(\omega)} \\ & \leq C(s) \|u_k(\cdot, t) - u_k(\cdot, t')\|_{L^1(\omega)}^{\frac{3}{2}(\frac{1}{s}-\frac{1}{3})} \|u_k(\cdot, t) - u_k(\cdot, t')\|_{L^{3,q}(\omega)}^{\frac{3}{2}(1-\frac{1}{s})} \\ & \leq C(s) |\omega|^{\frac{3}{8}(\frac{1}{s}-\frac{1}{3})} \|u_k(\cdot, t) - u_k(\cdot, t')\|_{L^{4/3}(\omega)}^{\frac{3}{2}(\frac{1}{s}-\frac{1}{3})} \|u_k(\cdot, t) - u_k(\cdot, t')\|_{L^{3,q}(\omega)}^{\frac{3}{2}(1-\frac{1}{s})} \end{aligned}$$

imply that each  $u_k \in C([a, b]; L^s(\omega))$ . Here we used interpolation in the first inequality (see, e.g., [11, Proposition 1.1.14]) and Hölder's inequality in the second one. Thus by using (4.21) and interpolating we obtain (4.10) for any  $s \in (1, 3)$ . This completes the proof of (i).

On the other hand, by (4.14) we have

$$h_k \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{strongly in} \quad L^2(a, b; L^\infty(\omega)),$$

for any  $-\infty < a < b \leq 0$  and  $\omega \Subset \mathbb{R}^3$ , and thus in the limit  $(u_\infty, p_\infty)$  satisfies the Navier-Stokes equations in the sense of distributions in  $\omega \times (a, b)$ . Now (ii) follows from (i), (4.17) and (4.20) via an argument as in the proof of Lemma 4.1.

Finally, note that by (4.7) and a change of variables we have

$$\sup_{-1 \leq t \leq 0} \int_{B(0,1)} |u_k(x, t)|^2 dx = \sup_{t_0 - \epsilon_k^2 \leq s \leq t_0} \frac{1}{\epsilon_k} \int_{B(x_0, \epsilon_k)} |u(y, s)|^2 dy \geq c_0.$$

Thus using (4.10) with  $s = 2$  we obtain (4.11), which proves (iii).  $\square$

We now continue with the proof of Theorem 1.5. By (i) of Proposition 4.2, we have

$$\int_{-M}^0 (\|u_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(\mathbb{R}^3)}^4 + \|p_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3/2,q/2}(\mathbb{R}^3)}^2) dt < +\infty$$

for any real number  $M > 0$ . Note that for a.e.  $t$ ,

$$\|u_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{B}_R(0))}^4 + \|p_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3/2,q/2}(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{B}_R(0))}^2 \rightarrow 0$$

as  $R \rightarrow +\infty$ . We thus have

$$\int_{-M}^0 (\|u_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{B}_R(0))}^4 + \|p_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3/2,q/2}(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{B}_R(0))}^2) dt \rightarrow 0$$

as  $R \rightarrow +\infty$ . This yields that for any  $M > 200$  there exists  $N = N(\epsilon_1, M) > 10$  such that

$$\int_{-M}^0 (\|u_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{B}_N(0))}^4 + \|p_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3/2,q/2}(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{B}_N(0))}^2) dt \leq \epsilon_2,$$

where

$$(4.22) \quad \epsilon_2 = 8^2 |B_1(0)|^{-1/3} \epsilon_1$$

with  $\epsilon_1$  being as found in Proposition 3.2.

We now fix such numbers  $M$  and  $N$  and consider any  $z_1$  that

$$z_1 = (x_1, t_1) \in (\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{B_{2N}(0)}) \times (-M/2, 0].$$

Then there holds

$$Q_8(z_1) = B_8(x_1) \times (t_1 - 8^2, t_1) \subset (\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{B_N(0)}) \times (-M, 0],$$

and hence

$$(4.23) \quad \int_{t_1-8^2}^{t_1} (\|u_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(B_8(x_1))}^4 + \|p_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3/2,q/2}(B_8(x_1))}^2) dt \leq \epsilon_2.$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{12/5}(B_8(x_1))}^4 + \|p_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{6/5}(B_8(x_1))}^2 \\ & \leq |B_8(x_1)|^{1/3} \left\{ \|u_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(B_8(x_1))}^4 + \|p_\infty(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3/2,q/2}(B_8(x_1))}^2 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

we see from (4.22)–(4.23) that

$$(4.24) \quad C(u_\infty, z_1, 8) + D(p_\infty, z_1, 8) \leq \epsilon_1.$$

The smallness property (4.24) and Proposition 3.2 now yield that  $\nabla^k u_\infty$ ,  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , is Hölder continuous on  $(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{B_{2N}(0)}) \times (-M/2, 0]$ , and

$$(4.25) \quad \max_{z \in \overline{Q_{1/2}(z_1)}} |\nabla^k u_\infty(z)| \leq C_k.$$

Let  $\omega_\infty = \text{curl } u_\infty$  be the vorticity of  $u_\infty$ . Then  $\omega_\infty$  satisfies the equation

$$\partial_t \omega_\infty - \Delta \omega_\infty + (u_\infty \cdot \nabla) \omega_\infty - (\omega_\infty \cdot \nabla) u_\infty = 0$$

on the set  $(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{B_{4N}(0)}) \times (-M/4, 0]$ , which by (4.25) gives

$$(4.26) \quad |\partial_t \omega_\infty - \Delta \omega_\infty| \leq C(|\omega_\infty| + |\nabla \omega_\infty|)$$

with

$$(4.27) \quad |\omega_\infty| \leq C < +\infty$$

on the set  $(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{B_{4N}(0)}) \times (-M/4, 0]$ , for a universal constant  $C > 0$ .

We now claim that

$$(4.28) \quad \omega_\infty = 0 \quad \text{on } (\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{B_{4N}(0)}) \times (-M/4, 0].$$

To see this, by applying the backward uniqueness theorem (see [5, Theorem 5.1] and [6]) and the bounds (4.26)–(4.27), it is enough to show that

$$(4.29) \quad \omega_\infty(y, 0) = 0 \quad \text{for all } y \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{B_{4N}(0)}.$$

Note that for any  $y \in \mathbb{R}^3$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{B_1(y)} |u_\infty(x, 0)| dx \\
 & \leq \int_{B_1(y)} |u_\infty(x, 0) - u_k(x, 0)| dx + \int_{B_1(y)} |u_k(x, 0)| dx \\
 & \leq \int_{B_1(y)} |u_\infty(x, 0) - u_k(x, 0)| dx + |B_1(0)|^{\frac{2}{3}} \|u_k(\cdot, 0)\|_{L^{3,q}(B_1(y))} \\
 & \leq \|u_\infty - u_k\|_{C([-M/4, 0]; L^1(B_1(y)))} + |B_1(0)|^{\frac{2}{3}} \|u(\cdot, t_0)\|_{L^{3,q}(B_{\epsilon_k}(x_0 + \epsilon_k y))}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus sending  $k \rightarrow +\infty$  we see that

$$\int_{B_1(y)} |u_\infty(x, 0)| dx = 0$$

for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , which yields (4.29) as desired. Here we have used (i) of Proposition 4.2 and (4.8).

At this point using (4.28) combined with the argument on pages 227–229 of [5], which ultimately employs the theory of unique continuation for parabolic inequalities, we see that in fact

$$\omega_\infty(\cdot, t) = 0 \quad \text{in the whole } \mathbb{R}^3$$

for a.e.  $t \in (-M/4, 0)$ . Thus  $u_\infty(\cdot, t)$  is globally harmonic and by a Liouville theorem it follows that  $u_\infty(\cdot, t) = 0$  for a.e.  $t \in (-M/4, 0)$ . This leads to a contradiction to the lower bound (4.11) and hence completes the proof of Theorem 1.5.

We next prove Theorem 1.6.

**Proof of Theorem 1.6.** Arguing as in the proof of Lemma 4.1 we see that  $(u, p)$  forms a suitable solution to the Navier-Stokes equations in  $Q_{5/6}$ .

Suppose that  $(x_0, t_0) \in \overline{Q}_{1/2}(0, 0)$  is a singular point. Then we must have that  $x_0 = 0$ . By Lemma 3.3 of [30], there exist  $c_0 > 0$  and a sequence of numbers  $\epsilon_k \in (0, 1/8)$  such that  $\epsilon_k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$  and

$$\sup_{t_0 - \epsilon_k^2 \leq s \leq t_0} \frac{1}{\epsilon_k} \int_{B(0, \epsilon_k)} |u(x, s)|^2 dx \geq c_0.$$

Using a change of variables and the condition (1.10), we then have

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 < c_0 & \leq \sup_{-1 \leq t \leq 0} \int_{B(0, 1)} |\epsilon_k u(\epsilon_k y, t_0 + \epsilon_k^2 t)|^2 dy \\
 & \leq \|f\|_{L^\infty((-1, 0))}^2 \int_{B_1(0)} |y|^{-2} g(\epsilon_k y)^2 dy.
 \end{aligned}$$

By the property of  $g$ , this is impossible to hold for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , and thus the proof of Theorem 1.6 is complete.  $\square$

## 5. PROOF OF THEOREMS 1.7

We shall prove Theorems 1.7 in this section. First observe that under the hypothesis of Theorem 1.7, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^4(\mathbb{R}^3)} &\leq C \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(\mathbb{R}^3)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^6(\mathbb{R}^3)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq C \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(\mathbb{R}^3)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$(5.1) \quad u \in L^4(Q_T) \quad \text{and} \quad u \cdot \nabla u \in L^{4/3}(Q_T),$$

where the latter follows from Hölder's inequality. Using these inclusions, the coercive estimates (see [9, 23, 37]) and the uniqueness theorem (see [17]) for the Stokes problem, we can introduce the *associated pressure*  $p$  such that

$$\partial_t u, \nabla^2 u, \nabla p \in L^{4/3}(\mathbb{R}^3 \times (\delta, T))$$

for any  $\delta \in (0, T)$ . Moreover, it follows from the pressure equation and the global condition (1.11) that

$$(5.2) \quad p \in L^\infty(0, T; L^{3/2, q/2}(\mathbb{R}^3)).$$

Arguing as in the proof of Lemma 4.1 we see that  $(u, p)$  forms a suitable weak solution in any bounded cylinder of  $Q_T$ . By (1.11) and (5.2), we have

$$(5.3) \quad \int_0^T (\|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3,q}(\mathbb{R}^3)}^4 + \|p(\cdot, t)\|_{L^{3/2, q/2}(\mathbb{R}^3)}^2) dt \leq C(T) < +\infty.$$

We next fix a  $\delta \in (0, T)$  and set  $r_0 = \sqrt{\delta/128}$ . Then using (5.3) we find a large number  $R = R(T, \delta) > 0$  such that

$$C(u, z_0, 8r_0) + D(p, z_0, 8r_0) \leq \epsilon_1$$

for any  $z_0 = (x_0, t_0) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B_R(0) \times [\delta, T]$ . Thus by scaling and Proposition 3.2, there holds

$$\sup_{\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B_R(0) \times [\delta, T]} |u| \leq C(\delta).$$

On the other hand, for any  $z_0 = (x_0, t_0) \in \overline{B}_R(0) \times [\delta, T]$  and with  $r_0$  as above,  $(u, p)$  is a suitable solution in  $Q_{r_0}(z_0)$ . Thus by scaling, Theorem 1.5, and the compactness of  $\overline{B}_R(0) \times [\delta, T]$ , we have

$$\sup_{\overline{B}_R(0) \times [\delta, T]} |u| \leq C(\delta).$$

Combining the last two bounds we obtain

$$\sup_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times [\delta, T]} |u| \leq C(\delta) < +\infty$$

which holds for any  $\delta \in (0, T)$ . Thus  $u$  is smooth on  $\mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, T]$ , and using  $u \in L^4(Q_T)$  (see (5.1)) and interpolation we see that  $u \in L^5(\mathbb{R}^3 \times (\delta, T))$  for any  $\delta \in (0, T)$ .

On the other hand, if  $a \in \dot{J} \cap L^3$  then by local strong solvability and weak-strong uniqueness  $u \in L^5(\mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, \delta_0))$  for some  $\delta_0 > 0$  (see, e.g., [5, Theorem 7.4] and [13]). Thus we conclude that  $u \in L^5(\mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, T))$  and hence by Theorem 1.2 it is unique in  $Q_T$ .

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