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*Research article*

## Robustness of regularity and convergence of Galerkin approximations for 3D generalized incompressible Navier-Stokes equations

Ning Duan, Hao Pan and Xiaopeng Zhao\*

College of Sciences, Northeastern University, Shenyang 110004, China

\* **Correspondence:** Email: zhaoxiaopeng@mail.neu.edu.cn; Tel: +862483683382; Fax: +862483676883.

**Abstract:** In this paper, we first consider the robustness of strong solutions for 3D generalized Navier-Stokes equations, i.e., we show the set of all initial conditions  $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$  with  $\nabla \cdot u_0 = 0$  that give rise to a strong solution of the generalized Navier-Stokes equations on the time interval  $[0, T]$  is open in  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ . Moreover, we prove that the Galerkin approximations of a strong solution of the 3D generalized Navier-Stokes equations converge strongly to  $u$  in  $L^\infty(0, T; H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$  and  $L^2(0, T; H^{\kappa+1}(\mathbb{T}^3) \cap H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$ .

**Keywords:** robustness; convergence; Galerkin approximations; strong solution; generalized Navier-Stokes equations

**Mathematics Subject Classification:** 35B65, 76D05

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### 1. Introduction

Let  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^3$  or  $\mathbb{T}^3$ , and consider the Cauchy problem of 3D generalized incompressible Navier-Stokes equations:

$$\begin{cases} u_t + u \cdot \nabla u + (-\Delta)^\kappa u + \nabla \pi = 0, \\ \nabla \cdot u = 0, \\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x), \end{cases} \quad x \in \Omega, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $u = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$  is the velocity field of the fluid and  $\pi \in \mathbb{R}$  is the pressure. The definitions of the fractional Laplacian operator are different between  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and  $\mathbb{T}^3$ :

- If  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^3$ , the fractional Laplacian operator  $(-\Delta)^\kappa$  is defined through the Fourier transform [1], namely,

$$\widehat{(-\Delta)^\kappa f}(\xi) = \widehat{\Lambda^\kappa f}(\xi) = |\xi|^{2\kappa} \widehat{f}(\xi),$$

and  $\widehat{f}$  is the Fourier transform of  $f$ . Sometimes we write  $\Lambda = (-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  for notational convenience.

- For the case  $\Omega = \mathbb{T}^3$ , we use the Fourier decomposition to define the fractional Laplacian  $(-\Delta)^\kappa$  (see [2, 3]). For any  $u \in L^2_{per}(\Omega)$ , define

$$u(x) = \sum_{k_1, k_2, k_3 \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{u}_{k_1 k_2 k_3} e^{ik_1 x_1 + ik_2 x_2 + ik_3 x_3},$$

where  $i^2 = -1$ . The Fourier coefficients are given by

$$\hat{u}_{k_1 k_2 k_3} = \langle u, e^{ik_1 x_1 + ik_2 x_2 + ik_3 x_3} \rangle = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{\Omega} u e^{ik_1 x_1 + ik_2 x_2 + ik_3 x_3} dx.$$

Hence, the fractional Laplacian can be defined by

$$(-\Delta)^\kappa u := \Lambda^{2\kappa} u := \sum_{k_1, k_2, k_3 \in \mathbb{Z}} (k_1^2 + k_2^2 + k_3^2)^\kappa \hat{u}_{k_1 k_2 k_3} e^{ik_1 x_1 + ik_2 x_2 + ik_3 x_3}.$$

We remark that if  $\kappa = 1$ , system (1.1) reduces to be Navier-Stokes equations, which have drawn much attention. Especially, the results of the global well-posedness of the initial value problem for Navier-Stokes equations in various classical function spaces were obtained due to the absence of global well-posedness for large initial data. Fujita and Kato [4] obtained the global well-posedness for small initial data and the local well-posedness for large initial data in  $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$  with  $s \geq \frac{n}{2} - 1$ . Many other interesting and improved results have been established in  $L^n(\mathbb{R}^n)$  by Kato [5], in the Besov space by Cannone [6] and Planchon [7], and in the larger bounded mean oscillation (BMO) space by Koch and Tataru [8]. Furthermore, Lei and Lin [9] proved global well-posedness results in the Wiener space  $\chi^{-1}$ . For more results on the Navier-Stokes equations, we refer the reader to [10–15] and the references therein.

It was Lions [16] who first investigated the generalized incompressible Navier-Stokes equations, and established the existence and uniqueness of a global regular solution under the condition that  $\kappa \geq \frac{5}{4}$  (see also [17] and [18]); note that the magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) equations reduce to the Navier-Stokes equations when the magnetic field  $b = 0$ ). In cases where  $\kappa < \frac{5}{4}$ , several studies have aimed at deriving regularity criteria or establishing partial regularity for the 3D generalized Navier-Stokes system; see, for example, [19, 20] and [18]. Furthermore, a number of works have explored the global existence of strong or smooth solutions for these equations with small initial data in various function spaces, such as Sobolev spaces [21, 22], pseudomeasure spaces [23], and the Lei-Lin space [24]. Results concerning the asymptotic behavior and regularity criteria space of solutions to the generalized Navier-Stokes equations can be found in [25, 26] and the references therein. In the past two years, some classical results on the generalized Navier-Stokes equations have also emerged. For example, for the stationary generalized Navier-Stokes equations in dimensions four and five, Liu and Zuo [27] proved the existence of partial regular weak solutions and the Liouville-type theorem; Chamorro and Mansais [28] studied the mild solutions for the forced, incompressible generalized Navier-Stokes equations via a fixed-point argument, which relies on suitable estimates for the initial data, the nonlinearity, and the external forces. Besides, Wu [29] proved the energy equality for distributional solutions to the generalized Navier-Stokes equations. For more results on the generalized Navier-Stokes equations, we refer the reader to [30–33] and the references cited therein.

We note that in [14, 34], Robinson and collaborators investigated the robustness of strong solutions for two types of second-order dissipative equations in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . However, for fractional dissipative equations,

the stability of solutions under perturbations has not yet been addressed. In this paper, adopting an approach similar to that in [14, 34], we first study the robustness of strong solutions to system (1.1)–a Cauchy problem involving fractional dissipation. Specifically, we demonstrate that on a finite time interval  $[0, T]$ , the smoothness of solutions to the generalized Navier-Stokes equations remains stable under small perturbations in the initial data with respect to the  $H^1$ -norm. More precisely, we establish the following theorem:

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^3$ . Assume that  $\frac{3}{4} < \kappa < \frac{3}{2}$ ,  $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , and  $\nabla \cdot u_0 = 0$ , which gives rise to a strong solution  $u(x, t)$  of system (1.1) on the time interval  $[0, T]$ . Moreover, if  $v_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ ,  $\nabla \cdot v_0 = 0$ , and*

$$\|\nabla v_0 - \nabla u_0\|_{L^2} \leq R,$$

*then  $v_0$  also gives rise to a strong solution of system (1.1) on  $[0, T]$ . Here, the number  $R$  satisfies*

$$R(u) = \left(\frac{4\kappa - 3}{2\kappa CT}\right)^{1-\frac{3}{4\kappa}} \exp\left[-c \int_0^t \left(\|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4\kappa}{4\kappa-3}} + \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3-2\kappa}{\kappa}} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{4-\frac{3}{\kappa}}\right) ds\right], \quad (1.2)$$

*where  $C$  is an absolute constant.*

The second goal of this paper is to study the convergence of Galerkin approximations of a strong solution  $u$  of the 3D generalized Navier-Stokes equations in  $\mathbb{T}^3$ . In order to consider this problem, we introduce the space  $C_{0,div}^\infty(\mathbb{T}^3)$  as the space of divergence free vector fields in  $(C_0^\infty(\mathbb{T}^3))^3$ , and define  $L_{0,div}^2(\mathbb{T}^3)$  and  $H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3)$  as the closure of  $C_{0,div}^\infty(\mathbb{T}^3)$  with respect to the  $L^2$  and  $H_0^1$  norms, respectively. Define the Stokes operator  $A : H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3) \rightarrow L_{0,div}^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$  such that

$$(Au, \xi) = (\nabla u, \nabla \xi), \quad \forall \xi \in H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3),$$

with domain  $D(A) = H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3) \cap H^2(\mathbb{T}^3)$  (see, e.g., [35, Chapter III]). Assume that  $P_n$  is the projection onto the space spanned by the first  $n$  eigenvectors of the Stokes operator  $A$ , and we consider

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u_n + A^\kappa u_n + P_n(u_n \cdot \nabla u_n) = 0, \\ u_n(0) = P_n u_0, \end{cases} \quad (1.3)$$

where  $\kappa \in [1, \frac{3}{2}]$ . We will prove that the solution of problem (1.3) converges strongly to the solution  $u$  of problem (1.1) in  $L^\infty(0, T; H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$  and  $L^2(0, T; H^{\kappa+1}(\mathbb{T}^3) \cap H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$ .

It should be noted that establishing strong convergence in  $L^2(0, T; H^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$  for Galerkin approximations of weak solutions remains challenging, even when the solution  $u$  itself belongs to  $L^2(0, T; H^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$ . In contrast, the situation improves significantly for strong solutions. Specifically, we demonstrate that every strong solution of the generalized incompressible Navier-Stokes equations in  $\mathbb{T}^3$  can be obtained as the limit of its corresponding Galerkin approximations. The following theorem formalizes this result:

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $\Omega = \mathbb{T}^3$ . Assume that  $\frac{3}{4} < \kappa < \frac{3}{2}$  and  $u(x, t)$  is the strong solution of problem (1.1) on the time interval  $[0, T]$  corresponding to  $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{T}^3)$ . Suppose  $u_n$  is the Galerkin approximations corresponding to the same initial condition  $u_0$ , i.e.,  $u_n$  satisfies (1.3), then  $u_n$  converges strongly to  $u$  in  $L^\infty(0, T; H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$  and  $L^2(0, T; H^{\kappa+1}(\mathbb{T}^3) \cap H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$ .*

**Remark 1.3.** *The main purpose of this section is to consider two problems: the robustness of strong solutions and the Galerkin approximations of strong solutions for generalized Navier-Stokes equations. It should be noted that in [14], the authors studied the 3D incompressible Navier-Stokes equations and derived corresponding conclusions. By comparison, our main results can be regarded as an extension of Robinson et al. [14] to fractional-order equations. In other words, the main conclusions of Robinson et al. [14] can be seen as a special case of our results when  $\kappa = 1$ .*

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we introduce some preliminary results and lemmas. In Section 3, we present the proof of Theorem 1.1, which addresses the robustness of regularity. Subsequently, Section 4 is devoted to analyzing the convergence of Galerkin approximations.

## 2. Preliminaries

This section presents several essential inequalities and lemmas that will be instrumental in proving the main results.

The following Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality was proved in [36]:

**Lemma 2.1** ([36]). *Let  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^3$  or  $\mathbb{T}^3$ . Suppose that  $0 \leq m, \alpha \leq l$ , then*

$$\|\nabla^\alpha f\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \leq C \|\nabla^m f\|_{L^q(\Omega)}^{1-\theta} \|\nabla^l f\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^\theta, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\theta \in [0, 1]$  and

$$\frac{\alpha}{3} - \frac{1}{p} = \left(\frac{m}{3} - \frac{1}{q}\right)(1 - \theta) + \left(\frac{l}{3} - \frac{1}{r}\right)\theta. \quad (2.2)$$

Here, when  $p = \infty$ , we require that  $0 < \theta < 1$ .

The following lemma will be useful for our subsequent analysis.

**Lemma 2.2** ([14]). *Let  $f$  be a non-negative function and  $X$  a function satisfying the differential inequality*

$$\frac{dX}{dt} \leq \alpha X^\beta + f(t), \quad X(0) = a,$$

where  $a > 0$  and  $\alpha, \beta > 0$ . Moreover, assume that  $Y$  is the solution of

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \alpha Y^\beta, \quad Y(0) = b + \int_0^T f(s) ds.$$

Prove that

- (i)  $a < b \Rightarrow X(t) < Y(t)$  and
- (ii)  $a \leq b \Rightarrow X(t) \leq Y(t)$

on the interval of existence of  $Y$ .

By using Lemma 2.2, we can easily obtain the following result:

**Lemma 2.3** ([14]). Assume the two parameters  $\alpha, \beta > 0$ . Let  $f_n \geq 0$  be a sequence of non-negative functions on  $[0, T]$ . Suppose that  $(y_n)$  is a sequence of non-negative functions on  $(0, T)$  that satisfy

$$\frac{dy_n}{dt}(t) \leq \alpha y_n^\beta(t) + f_n(t).$$

If

$$\eta_n := y_n(0) + \int_0^T f_n(s) ds \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty,$$

then  $y_n \rightarrow 0$  uniformly on  $[0, T]$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

### 3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

Assume that  $u$  and  $v$  are strong solutions for system (1.1) with the initial data  $u_0$  and  $v_0$ , respectively. Moreover, set

$$\omega(t) = u(t) - v(t).$$

The main purpose of this section is to show that the  $H^1$ -norm of  $\omega$  cannot blow up on  $[0, T]$  if  $v_0$  is sufficiently close to  $u_0$ .

It is easy to see that if  $v$  loses regularity on  $[0, T]$ , then there must exist some time  $T^* \leq T$  such that  $v$  is smooth on  $(0, T^*)$  and  $\|\nabla v\|_{L^2} \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow T^*$ . Clearly, if this happens, then one also has  $\|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2} \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow T^*$ . Hence, we suppose that there exists such a  $T^*$  and derive a contradiction.

We begin by deriving a differential inequality for  $|\nabla \omega|$  that depends solely on  $\omega$  and  $u$ , with no explicit dependence on  $v$ . Since  $u$  and  $v$  are two strong solutions for system (1.1) on  $(0, T^*)$ , we have

$$(u_t, \Delta \omega) + ((-\Delta)^k u, \Delta \omega) + (u \cdot \nabla u, \Delta \omega) = 0,$$

and

$$-(v_t, \Delta \omega) - ((-\Delta)^k v, \Delta \omega) - (v \cdot \nabla v, \Delta \omega) = 0.$$

Note that  $\omega = u - v$ . Therefore, combining the above two equalities together gives

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\Lambda^{k+1} \omega\|_{L^2}^2 \leq |(u \cdot \nabla \omega, \Delta \omega)| + |(\omega \cdot \nabla u, \Delta \omega)| + |(\omega \cdot \nabla \omega, \Delta \omega)|. \quad (3.1)$$

By applying Hölder's inequality, Lebesgue interpolation, the Sobolev embedding  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \hookrightarrow L^6(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , and Young's inequality, we can estimate the three terms on the right-hand side of (3.1) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} |(u \cdot \nabla \omega, \Delta \omega)| &\leq \|u\|_{L^6} \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^{\frac{6}{5-2k}}} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^{\frac{3}{k}}} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{k+1} \omega\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\frac{5}{2}-k} \omega\|_{L^2} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{k+1} \omega\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{k+1} \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{2k}-1} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^{2-\frac{3}{2k}} \\ &= C \|\Lambda^{k+1} \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{2k}} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^{2-\frac{3}{2k}} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{3} \|\Lambda^{k+1} \omega\|_{L^2}^2 + C \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4k}{4k-3}} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2, \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
|(\omega \cdot \nabla u, \Delta \omega)| &\leq \|\omega\|_{L^6} \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^{\frac{6}{5-2\kappa}}} \|\nabla u\|_{L^{\frac{3}{\kappa}}} \\
&\leq C \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} \omega\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\frac{5}{2}-\kappa} u\|_{L^2} \\
&\leq C \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} \omega\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{2\kappa}-1} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{2-\frac{3}{2\kappa}} \\
&\leq \frac{1}{3} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} \omega\|_{L^2}^2 + C \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{\kappa}-2} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{4-\frac{3}{\kappa}},
\end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
|(\omega \cdot \nabla \omega, \Delta \omega)| &\leq \|\omega\|_{L^6} \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^{\frac{6}{5-2\kappa}}} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^{\frac{3}{\kappa}}} \\
&\leq C \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} \omega\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\frac{5}{2}-\kappa} \omega\|_{L^2} \\
&\leq C \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} \omega\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{2\kappa}-1} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^{2-\frac{3}{2\kappa}} \\
&= C \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{2\kappa}} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^{3-\frac{3}{2\kappa}} \\
&\leq \frac{1}{3} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} \omega\|_{L^2}^2 + C \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{12\kappa-6}{4\kappa-3}}.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

Plugging (3.2)–(3.4) into (3.1) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dt} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 &\leq C \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4\kappa}{4\kappa-3}} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 + C \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{\kappa}-2} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{4-\frac{3}{\kappa}} + C \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{12\kappa-6}{4\kappa-3}} \\
&\leq C \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{12\kappa-6}{4\kappa-3}} + C \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 (\|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4\kappa}{4\kappa-3}} + \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{\kappa}-2} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{4-\frac{3}{\kappa}}),
\end{aligned}$$

which can be rewritten as

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 - \alpha(t) \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{12\kappa-6}{4\kappa-3}}, \tag{3.5}$$

where

$$\alpha(t) = \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4\kappa}{4\kappa-3}} + \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{\kappa}-2} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{4-\frac{3}{\kappa}}. \tag{3.6}$$

Next, multiplying (3.5) by  $e^{-\int_0^t \alpha(s) ds}$ , we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dt} \left( e^{-\int_0^t \alpha(s) ds} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 \right) &\leq C e^{-\int_0^t \alpha(s) ds} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{12\kappa-6}{4\kappa-3}} \\
&= C e^{\frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3} \int_0^t \alpha(s) ds} e^{-\frac{6\kappa-3}{4\kappa-3} \int_0^t \alpha(s) ds} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{12\kappa-6}{4\kappa-3}} \\
&\leq C e^{\frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3} \int_0^t \alpha(s) ds} \left( e^{-\int_0^t \alpha(s) ds} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 \right)^{\frac{6\kappa-3}{4\kappa-3}},
\end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( e^{-\int_0^t \alpha(s) ds} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 \right) \leq \beta \left( e^{-\int_0^t \alpha(s) ds} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 \right)^{\frac{6\kappa-3}{4\kappa-3}}, \tag{3.7}$$

where  $\alpha$  is given in (3.6) and  $\beta$  satisfies

$$\beta = C \exp \left[ \frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3} \int_0^t \alpha(s) ds \right]. \tag{3.8}$$

Define  $X(t) = e^{-\int_0^t \alpha(s) ds} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2$ . On the basis of the above two steps, we derive that on  $(0, T^*)$ , the function  $X(t)$  satisfies

$$\dot{X} \leq \beta X^{\frac{6\kappa-3}{4\kappa-3}}, \quad X(0) = \|\nabla \omega(0)\|_{L^2}^2,$$

where  $\beta$  is given in (3.8). Hence,  $X(t) \leq Y(t)$ , where  $Y$  is the solution of the following ordinary differential equation:

$$\dot{Y} = \beta Y^{\frac{6\kappa-3}{4\kappa-3}}, \quad Y(0) = \|\nabla\omega(0)\|_{L^2}^2,$$

as long as the solution  $Y$  exists. Then, by direct computation of  $Y$ , one arrives at

$$e^{-\int_0^t \alpha(s) ds} \|\nabla\omega(t)\|_{L^2}^2 \leq \frac{Y(0)}{\left(1 - \frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3} \beta t Y^{\frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3}}(0)\right)^{\frac{4\kappa-3}{2\kappa}}},$$

as long as

$$Y(0) < \left(\frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3} \beta t\right)^{-\frac{4\kappa-3}{2\kappa}}. \tag{3.9}$$

Hence, if we know that  $Y(0) < \left(\frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3} \beta(t)T\right)^{-\frac{4\kappa-3}{2\kappa}}$ , then clearly for each  $t \in (0, T^*)$ , where  $T^* \leq T$ , we have (3.9) together with

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla\omega(t)\|_{L^2}^2 &\leq e^{\int_0^t \alpha(s) ds} \frac{Y(0)}{\left(1 - \frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3} \beta t Y^{\frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3}}(0)\right)^{\frac{4\kappa-3}{2\kappa}}} \\ &\leq e^{\int_0^T \alpha(s) ds} \frac{Y(0)}{\left(1 - \frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3} \beta T Y^{\frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3}}(0)\right)^{\frac{4\kappa-3}{2\kappa}}} := C_T. \end{aligned}$$

Rewriting the condition (3.9) in our original variables, we deduce that if

$$\|\nabla\omega(0)\|_{L^2} < \left(\frac{4\kappa-3}{2\kappa c T}\right)^{1-\frac{3}{4\kappa}} \exp\left[-c \int_0^t \left(\|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4\kappa}{4\kappa-3}} + \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3-2\kappa}{\kappa}} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{4-\frac{3}{\kappa}}\right) ds\right],$$

then  $\|\nabla\omega(t)\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C_T$  for all  $t \in [0, T^*)$ , so  $\|\nabla\omega(T^*)\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C_T$ . In consequence,  $\omega$  does not blow up at any time  $T^* \leq T$ , hence we complete the proof.

#### 4. Proof of Theorem 1.2

Assume that  $u(x, t)$  is the strong solution of problem (1.1) on the time interval  $[0, T]$  corresponding to  $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{T}^3)$ . Then, we have

$$u \in L^\infty(0, T; H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3)) \cap L^2(0, T; H^{\kappa+1}(\mathbb{T}^3)) \cap H_{0,div}^1(\mathbb{T}^3). \tag{4.1}$$

Using (4.1) and the fact that  $H^{\kappa+1}(\mathbb{T}^3) \rightarrow H^{\frac{5}{2}-\kappa}(\mathbb{T}^3)$  ( $\frac{3}{4} \leq \kappa < \frac{3}{2}$ ), we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T \|u \cdot \nabla u\|_{L^{\frac{6}{1+2\kappa}}}^2 dt &\leq C \int_0^T \|u\|_{L^6}^2 \|\nabla u\|_{L^{\frac{3}{\kappa}}}^2 dt \leq C \int_0^T \|u\|_{L^6}^2 \|\Lambda^{\frac{5}{2}-\kappa} u\|_{L^2}^2 dt \\ &\leq C \|u\|_{L^\infty(0,T;H^1)} \|\Lambda^{\frac{5}{2}-\kappa} u\|_{L^2(0,T;L^2)}^2 \\ &\leq C \|u\|_{L^\infty(0,T;H^1)} \|u\|_{L^2(0,T;H^{\kappa+1})}^2 \leq C, \end{aligned} \tag{4.2}$$

which implies that  $u \cdot \nabla u \in L^2(0, T; L^{\frac{6}{1+2\kappa}}(\mathbb{T}^3))$ . Moreover, suppose that  $u_n$  is the sequence of Galerkin approximations of  $u$ . We will show that the  $H^1$  norm of the difference

$$\omega_n = u - u_n,$$

tends uniformly to 0 on  $[0, T]$  as  $n$  tends to infinity.

We first derive a differential inequality for  $\|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^2}$  that depends on  $\omega_n$  and the strong solution  $u$ , but not explicitly on  $u_n$ . Note that  $u(t)$  is a strong solution to system (1.1) on  $(0, T)$ . Hence,

$$(u_t, A\omega_n) + (A^{\kappa+1}u, A^{\kappa+1}\omega_n) + (\mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u], A\omega_n) = 0, \quad (4.3)$$

where  $\mathbb{P}$  is the Leray projector. Introduce  $Q_n$  via the identity  $Id = P_n + Q_n$ , then the above equation can be rewritten as

$$(u_t, A\omega_n) + (A^{\kappa+1}u, A^{\kappa+1}\omega_n) + (P_n[u \cdot \nabla u], A\omega_n) = -(Q_n\mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u], A\omega_n). \quad (4.4)$$

Taking the inner product of (1.3)<sub>1</sub> with  $A\omega_n$ , it yields that

$$(\partial_t u_n, A\omega_n) + (A^{\kappa+1}u_n, A^{\kappa+1}\omega_n) + (P_n[u_n \cdot \nabla u_n], A\omega_n) = 0. \quad (4.5)$$

Combining (4.4) and (4.5) together gives

$$\begin{aligned} & (\partial_t \omega_n, A\omega_n) + (A^{\kappa+1}\omega_n, A^{\kappa+1}\omega_n) \\ &= (P_n[u_n \cdot \nabla u_n - u \cdot \nabla u], A\omega_n) - (Q_n\mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u], A\omega_n), \end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2}^2 &\leq |(u \cdot \nabla\omega_n, P_n A\omega_n)| + |(\omega_n \cdot \nabla u, P_n A\omega_n)| \\ &\quad + |(\omega_n \cdot \nabla\omega_n, P_n A\omega_n)| + |(Q_n\mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u], A\omega_n)|. \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

By using Hölder's inequality, Lebesgue's interpolation, Sobolev's embedding  $H^1(\mathbb{T}^3) \rightarrow L^6(\mathbb{T}^3)$ , and Young's inequality, we can bound the three terms on the right hand side of (4.6) as

$$\begin{aligned} |(u \cdot \nabla\omega_n, P_n A\omega_n)| &\leq \|u\|_{L^6} \|\Delta\omega_n\|_{L^{\frac{6}{5-2\kappa}}} \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^{\frac{3}{\kappa}}} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\frac{5}{2}-\kappa}\omega_n\|_{L^2} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{2\kappa}-1} \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^2}^{2-\frac{3}{2\kappa}} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{8} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2}^2 + C \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4\kappa}{4\kappa-3}} \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^2}^2, \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} |(\omega_n \cdot \nabla u, P_n A\omega_n)| &\leq \|\omega_n\|_{L^6} \|\Delta\omega_n\|_{L^{\frac{6}{5-2\kappa}}} \|\nabla u\|_{L^{\frac{3}{\kappa}}} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\frac{5}{2}-\kappa}u\|_{L^2} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{2\kappa}-1} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{2-\frac{3}{2\kappa}} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{8} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2}^2 + C \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^2}^2 \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{\kappa}-2} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{4-\frac{3}{\kappa}}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

$$\begin{aligned} |(\omega_n \cdot \nabla\omega_n, P_n A\omega_n)| &\leq \|\omega_n\|_{L^6} \|\Delta\omega_n\|_{L^{\frac{6}{5-2\kappa}}} \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^{\frac{3}{\kappa}}} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\frac{5}{2}-\kappa}\omega_n\|_{L^2} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{2\kappa}-1} \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^2}^{2-\frac{3}{2\kappa}} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{8} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1}\omega_n\|_{L^2}^2 + C \|\nabla\omega_n\|_{L^2}^{\frac{12\kappa-6}{4\kappa-3}}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.9)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} |(Q_n \mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u], A\omega_n)| &\leq \|A\omega_n\|_{L^{\frac{6}{5-2\kappa}}} \|Q_n \mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u]\|_{L^{\frac{6}{1+2\kappa}}} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{8} \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} \omega_n\|_{L^2}^2 + C \|Q_n \mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u]\|_{L^{\frac{6}{1+2\kappa}}}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (4.10)$$

Plugging (4.7)–(4.10) into (4.6) gives

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|\nabla \omega_n\|_{L^2}^2 + \|A^{\kappa+1} \omega_n\|_{L^2}^2 \leq \alpha(t) \|\nabla \omega_n\|_{L^2}^2 + C \|\nabla \omega_n\|_{L^2}^{\frac{12\kappa-6}{4\kappa-3}} + f_n(t), \quad (4.11)$$

where

$$\alpha(t) = C \left( \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4\kappa}{4\kappa-3}} + \|\Lambda^{\kappa+1} u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{3}{\kappa}-2} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{4-\frac{3}{\kappa}} \right),$$

and

$$f_n(t) = C \|Q_n \mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u]\|_{L^{\frac{6}{1+2\kappa}}}^2.$$

Next, an integrating factor is applied to simplify equation (4.11). The detailed steps are omitted here, as they closely follow the reasoning provided in Section 3. The result is that

$$\frac{d}{dt} y_n(t) \leq \beta y_n^{\frac{6\kappa-3}{4\kappa-3}}(t) + f_n(t), \quad (4.12)$$

where

$$\beta = C \exp \left[ \frac{2\kappa}{4\kappa-3} \int_0^t \alpha(s) ds \right],$$

and

$$y_n(t) = \|\nabla \omega_n(t)\|_{L^2}^2 \exp \left( - \int_0^t \alpha(s) ds \right).$$

Hence, set

$$\eta_n = \|\nabla \omega_n(0)\|_{L^2}^2 + \int_0^T \|Q_n \mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u]\|_{L^{\frac{6}{1+2\kappa}}}^2 ds. \quad (4.13)$$

What we need to do is to show that  $\eta_n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . In fact,  $P_n$  is the projection onto the space spanned by the first  $n$  eigenvectors of the Stokes operator  $A$  and  $Q_n$  in its orthogonal complement. Denoting these eigenfunctions by  $\{\zeta_j\}_{j=1}^\infty$ , and their corresponding eigenvalues by  $0 < \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots$ , we obtain

$$P_n u = \sum_{j=1}^n (u, \zeta_j) \zeta_j, \quad \text{and} \quad Q_n u = \int_{j=n+1}^\infty (u, \zeta_j) \zeta_j.$$

Hence, if  $u \in H_{0,\text{div}}^1(\mathbb{T}^3)$ , then

$$\|Q_n u\|_{H_{0,\text{div}}^1(\mathbb{T}^3)}^2 = \sum_{j=n+1}^\infty \lambda_j |(u, \zeta_j)|^2 \leq \sum_{j=1}^\infty \lambda_j |(u, \zeta_j)|^2 = \|u\|_{H_{0,\text{div}}^1(\mathbb{T}^3)}^2,$$

and clearly,  $Q_n u \rightarrow 0$  in  $H_{0,\text{div}}^1(\mathbb{T}^3)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  (see [37]). Based on the above properties of  $Q_n$ , we immediately obtain

$$\|\nabla \omega_n(0)\|_{L^2}^2 = \|\nabla u(0) - \nabla P_n u(0)\|_{L^2}^2 \leq \|u_0 - P_n u_0\|_{H^1}^2 \rightarrow 0. \quad (4.14)$$

On the other hand, to show the convergence of the integral term, observe that since

$$\|\mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u]\|_{L^{\frac{6}{1+2\kappa}}}^2 \leq C\|u\|_{L^6}\|\nabla u\|_{L^{\frac{3}{\kappa}}} \leq C\|\nabla u\|_{L^2}\|\nabla u\|_{L^{\frac{3}{2-\kappa}}} \leq C\|\nabla u\|_{L^2}\|\nabla u\|_{H^\kappa},$$

and the regularity result (4.1) guarantees that  $u \in L^2(0, T; H^{\kappa+1}(\mathbb{T}^3) \cap H_{0,\text{div}}^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$ , it follows that

$$\mathbb{P}(u \cdot \nabla u) \in H^1(\mathbb{T}^3) \quad \text{for a.e. } s \in [0, T].$$

One therefore knows that  $\|Q_n \mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u]\|_{L^{\frac{6}{1+2\kappa}}}^2$  converges pointwise to 0 for a.e.  $s \in [0, T]$ , while it is clear that

$$\|Q_n \mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u]\|_{L^{\frac{6}{1+2\kappa}}}^2 \leq \|\mathbb{P}(u \cdot \nabla u)\|_{L^{\frac{6}{1+2\kappa}}}^2 \quad \text{for a.e. } s \in [0, T].$$

The right-hand side is an element of  $L^1(0, T)$  (based on (4.2)). It follows from the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem that

$$\int_0^T \|Q_n \mathbb{P}[u \cdot \nabla u]\|_{L^{\frac{6}{1+2\kappa}}}^2 ds \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \quad (4.15)$$

Plugging (4.14) and (4.15) into (4.13), we obtain  $\eta_n \rightarrow 0$  as required. Then, from Lemma 2.3, we deduce that

$$\|\nabla \omega_n\|_{L^2}^2 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{uniformly on } (0, T).$$

Thus,  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $L^\infty(0, T; H_{0,\text{div}}^1(\mathbb{T}^3)) \cap L^2(0, T; H^{\kappa+1}(\mathbb{T}^3) \cap H_{0,\text{div}}^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$ . This completes the proof.

## 5. Conclusions

This work establishes two key results for the 3D generalized Navier-Stokes equations. First, the set of initial data in  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$  yielding a strong solution on  $[0, T]$  is open, proving structural stability under  $H^1$  perturbations. Second, Galerkin approximations converge strongly to the solution in  $L^\infty(0, T; H_{0,\text{div}}^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$  and  $L^2(0, T; H^{\kappa+1}(\mathbb{T}^3) \cap H_{0,\text{div}}^1(\mathbb{T}^3))$ . The robustness result ensures that small  $H^1$  errors in initial conditions (e.g., from measurement or discretization) do not prevent strong solution existence, enhancing reliability in physical modeling. The convergence proof rigorously validates spectral and finite element methods, which is crucial for high-fidelity simulations such as direct numerical simulation. Future research may extend robustness to weaker (e.g.,  $L^2$ ) norms, generalize the results to bounded domains or higher dimensions, analyze coupled systems (e.g., MHD), and incorporate stochastic initial perturbations for uncertainty quantification.

### Author contributions

Ning Duan: Writing-original draft; Hao Pan: Formal analysis; Xiaopeng Zhao: Writing-review & editing, methodology.

### Use of Generative-AI tools declaration

The authors declare they have not used Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the creation of this article.

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare there is no conflict of interest.

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