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Gala, Sadek, Ragusa, Maria Alessandra, & Théra, Michel. (2021). A new regularity criterion of weak solutions to the 3D micropolar fluid flows in terms of the pressure. *Bollettino Della Unione Matematica Italiana (2008)*, 14(2), 331–337.

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<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40574-020-00257-2>

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A new regularity criterion of weak solutions to the 3D micropolar fluid flows in terms of the pressure

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Received: 16 April 2020 / Accepted: 8 September 2020 / Published online: 21 September 2020
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Abstract

In this study, we establish a new regularity criterion of weak solutions to the three-dimensional micropolar fluid flows by imposing a critical growth condition on the pressure field.

Keywords Micropolar fluid flows · Weak solutions · Pressure criterion · Besov spaces

Mathematics Subject Classification 35Q35 · 35B65 · 76D05

1 Introduction and the main result

In this paper we consider the following Cauchy problem for the incompressible micropolar fluid equations in $\mathbb{R}^3$:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u - \Delta u + (u \cdot \nabla) u + \nabla \pi - \nabla \times \omega = 0, \\ \partial_t \omega - \Delta \omega - \nabla \nabla \cdot \omega + 2\omega + (u \cdot \nabla) \omega - \nabla \times u = 0, \\ \nabla \cdot u = 0, \\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x), \quad \omega(x, 0) = \omega_0(x), \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where $u = u(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^3$, $\omega = \omega(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and $\pi = \pi(x, t)$ denote the unknown velocity of the fluid, the micro-rotational velocity of the fluid particles and the unknown scalar pressure of the fluid at the point $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, T)$, respectively, while u_0, ω_0 are given initial data satisfying $\nabla \cdot u = 0$ in the sense of distributions.

This model for micropolar fluid flows proposed by Eringen [6] enables to consider some physical phenomena that cannot be treated by the classical Navier–Stokes equations for the

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viscous incompressible fluids, such as for example, the motion of animal blood, muddy fluids, liquid crystals and dilute aqueous polymer solutions, colloidal suspensions, etc.

When the micro-rotation effects are neglected or $\omega = 0$, (1.1) reduces to the incompressible Navier–Stokes equations, and it is well known that the regularity criteria for weak solution for the fluid dynamical models attracts more and more attention. There are many important results on the velocity or vorticity or pressure blow-up criteria for Navier–Stokes equations, micropolar fluid equations and MHD equations and so on (see e.g., [1–4, 7–10, 14, 16, 17] and the references therein).

As for the pressure criterion, let us first recall some interesting results on pressure regularity of Navier–Stokes equations. In Ref. [13], He and Gala proved regularity of weak solutions under the condition

$$\int_0^T \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2 dt < \infty. \quad (1.2)$$

Here and thereafter, $\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}$ stands for the homogeneous Besov space, (for the definition see e.g. [12, 13]). Later on, Guo and Gala [12] refined the condition (1.2) to

$$\int_0^T \frac{\|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2}{1 + \log(e + \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}})} dt < \infty. \quad (1.3)$$

Motivated by the paper of Guo and Gala [12], the aim of this paper is to give a new regularity criterion for weak solutions to the 3D micropolar fluid flows in terms of the pressure in critical Besov spaces. More precisely, our main result reads as follows.

Theorem 1.1 *Let $T > 0$ and $(u_0, \omega_0) \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \cap L^4(\mathbb{R}^3)$ with $\nabla \cdot u_0 = 0$ in the sense of distributions. Assume that (u, ω) is a weak solution of the 3D micropolar fluid flows (1.1) on $(0, T)$. If the pressure π satisfies the following condition :*

$$\int_0^T \frac{\|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2}{\left(e + \log\left(e + \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}\right)\right) \log\left(e + \log\left(e + \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}\right)\right)} dt < \infty, \quad (1.4)$$

then (u, ω) is regular on $(0, T]$, i.e., $(u, \omega) \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, T])$.

Remark 1.1 This result provides a new information concerning the question of the regularity of weak solutions of the micropolar fluid equations and extends those of [13] and [12]. In particular, the double-logarithm estimate (1.4) is sharper than any other results [12, 13].

Before stating our result, let us recall what we mean by a weak solution.

Definition 1.2 ([14]) Let $(u_0, \omega_0) \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$ and $\nabla \cdot u_0 = 0$. A measurable function $(u(x, t), \omega(x, t))$ is called a weak solution to the 3D micropolar flows equations (1.1) on $(0, T)$ if (u, ω) satisfies the following properties :

- (1) $(u, \omega) \in L^\infty((0, T); L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)) \cap L^2((0, T); H^1(\mathbb{R}^3))$ for all $T > 0$;
- (2) $(u(x, t), \omega(x, t))$ verifies (1.1) in the sense of distribution;
- (3) The following energy inequality holds :

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\omega(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2 + 2 \int_0^t (\|\nabla u(\cdot, \tau)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \omega(\cdot, \tau)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \cdot \omega(\cdot, \tau)\|_{L^2}^2) d\tau \\ & \leq \|u_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\omega_0\|_{L^2}^2, \end{aligned}$$

for all $0 \leq t \leq T$.

By a strong solution we mean a weak solution (u, ω) such that

$$(u, \omega) \in L^\infty((0, T); H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)) \cap L^2((0, T); H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)).$$

It is well known that strong solutions are regular (say, classical) and unique in the class of weak solutions.

In order to prove Theorem 1.1, we first establish some estimates between pressure and velocity. Taking div and $\nabla \operatorname{div}$ to both sides of the micropolar fluid flows for smooth solution (u, π) , separately, we get the well-known pressure-velocity relation in $\mathbb{R}^3$, given by

$$\pi = (-\Delta)^{-1} \sum_{i,j=1}^3 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} (u_i u_j) \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \pi = (-\Delta)^{-1} \sum_{i,j=1}^3 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} (\nabla(u_i u_j)).$$

Then, the Calderón-Zygmund inequality implies that for any $1 < \alpha < +\infty$:

$$\|\pi\|_{L^\alpha} \leq C \|u\|_{L^{2\alpha}}^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \|\nabla \pi\|_{L^\alpha} \leq C \| |u| \nabla u \|_{L^\alpha}. \quad (1.5)$$

2 Proof of Theorem 1.1

Now we are in the position to prove Theorem 1.1. Firstly, by means of the local existence result, which is similar to the one of the Navier–Stokes equations (refer to Giga [11], see also Dong et al. [5]), and the standard local solution extension technique, Eq. (1.1) with $(u_0, \omega_0) \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \cap L^4(\mathbb{R}^3)$ admits a unique L^4 -strong solution (u, ω) on a maximal time interval. For the notation simplicity, we may suppose that the maximal time interval is $[0, T)$. Thus, in order to prove Theorems 1.1, it remains to show that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow T} (\|u(t)\|_4 + \|\omega(t)\|_4) < \infty.$$

This will lead to a contradiction to the estimates to be derived below.

Proof Before going into the proof, we recall the following inequality established in Ref. [15] (see also [12]):

$$\|f\|_{L^4}^2 \leq C \|f\|_{B_{\infty,\infty}^{-1}} \|\nabla f\|_{L^2}. \quad (2.1)$$

Testing (1.1)₁ by $u |u|^2$ and using (1.1)₃, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4} \frac{d}{dt} \|u\|_{L^4}^4 + \| |u| \nabla u \|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla |u|^2\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\nabla \times \omega) \cdot u |u|^2 dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (u \cdot \nabla \pi) |u|^2 dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \omega [\nabla \times (u |u|^2)] dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \pi u \cdot \nabla |u|^2 dx \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

Testing (1.1)₂ by $\omega |\omega|^2$ and using (1.1)₃, we infer that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4} \frac{d}{dt} \|\omega\|_{L^4}^4 + \| |\omega| \nabla \cdot \omega \|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla |\omega|^2\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\nabla \times u) \cdot \omega |\omega|^2 dx - 2 \|\omega\|_{L^4}^4 \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u [\nabla \times (\omega |\omega|^2)] dx - 2 \|\omega\|_{L^4}^4, \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

where we have used the following identities due to the divergence free property of the velocity field u :

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (u \cdot \nabla) u \cdot u |u|^2 dx = 0 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (u \cdot \nabla) \omega \cdot \omega |\omega|^2 dx.$$

Summing up (2.2) and (2.3), it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4} \frac{d}{dt} (\|u\|_{L^4}^4 + \|\omega\|_{L^4}^4) + \| |u| \nabla u \|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla |u|^2\|_{L^2}^2 + \| |\omega| \nabla \cdot \omega \|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla |\omega|^2\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \omega [\nabla \times (u |u|^2)] dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u [\nabla \times (\omega |\omega|^2)] dx - 2 \|\omega\|_{L^4}^4 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \pi u \cdot \nabla |u|^2 dx. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

Using the Hölder inequality and the Young inequality and integration by parts, we derive the estimate of the first three terms on the right-hand side of (2.4) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \omega [\nabla \times (u |u|^2)] dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u [\nabla \times (\omega |\omega|^2)] dx - 2 \|\omega\|_{L^4}^4 \\ & \leq \|u\|_{L^4} \|\omega\|_{L^4} (\| |u| \nabla u \|_{L^2} + \| |\omega| \nabla \omega \|_{L^2}) - 2 \|\omega\|_{L^4}^4 \\ & \leq \| |u| \nabla u \|_{L^2}^2 + \| |\omega| \nabla \omega \|_{L^2}^2 + C \|u\|_{L^4}^4. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

To estimate the last term of the right-hand side of (2.4), we have after integrating by parts and employing the Hölder inequality and the Young inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \pi u \cdot \nabla |u|^2 dx & \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\pi| |u| |\nabla |u|^2| dx \\ & \leq C \|\pi\|_{L^4}^2 \|u\|_{L^4}^2 + \frac{1}{4} \|\nabla |u|^2\|_{L^2}^2 \\ & \leq C \|\pi\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,1}^{-1}} \|\nabla \pi\|_{L^2} \|u\|_{L^4}^2 + \frac{1}{4} \|\nabla |u|^2\|_{L^2}^2 \\ & \leq C \|\pi\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,1}^{-1}} \|u\|_{L^4}^2 \| |u| \nabla u \|_{L^2} + \frac{1}{4} \|\nabla |u|^2\|_{L^2}^2 \\ & \leq C \|\pi\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,1}^{-1}}^2 \|u\|_{L^4}^4 + \frac{1}{2} \| |u| \nabla u \|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{4} \|\nabla |u|^2\|_{L^2}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} (\|u(t)\|_{L^4}^4 + \|\omega(t)\|_{L^4}^4) + \| |u| \nabla u \|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla |u|^2\|_{L^2}^2 + \| |\omega| \nabla \cdot \omega \|_{L^2}^2 + \| |\omega| \nabla \omega \|_{L^2}^2 \\ & \leq C (1 + \|\pi\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,1}^{-1}}^2) \|u\|_{L^4}^4 \end{aligned}$$

Taking the Gronwall inequality into consideration, one shows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^4}^4 + \|\omega(\cdot, t)\|_{L^4}^4 \\ & \leq (\|u_0\|_{L^4}^4 + \|\omega_0\|_{L^4}^4) \exp \left(C \int_0^t (1 + \|\pi(\cdot, \tau)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,1}^{-1}}^2) d\tau \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

Taking the inner product of (1.1)₁ with $-\Delta u$, (1.1)₂ with $-\Delta \omega$ in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$, and adding the resulting equations together, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} (\|\nabla u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \omega(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2) + \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \nabla \cdot \omega\|_{L^2}^2 + 2 \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (u \cdot \nabla) u \cdot \Delta u dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\nabla \times \omega) \cdot \Delta u dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (u \cdot \nabla) \omega \cdot \Delta \omega dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\nabla \times u) \cdot \Delta \omega dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \|u\|_{L^4} \|\nabla u\|_{L^4} \|\Delta u\|_{L^2} + \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2} \|\Delta u\|_{L^2} + \|u\|_{L^4} \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^4} \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^2} + \|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^2} \\
&\leq C \|u\|_{L^4}^{\frac{6}{5}} \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{9}{5}} + \|\omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\Delta u\|_{L^2} + \|u\|_{L^4} \|\omega\|_{L^4}^{\frac{1}{5}} \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^2}^{\frac{9}{5}} + \|u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^2} \\
&\leq C \|u\|_{L^4}^2 + C \|\omega\|_{L^2}^2 + C(\|u\|_{L^4}^{12} + \|\omega\|_{L^4}^{12}) + C \|u\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^2}^2) \\
&\leq C(1 + \|u\|_{L^4}^{12} + \|\omega\|_{L^4}^{12}) + \frac{1}{2}(\|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^2}^2),
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used the Gagliardo–Nirenberg inequalities:

$$\|\nabla u\|_{L^4} \leq C \|u\|_{L^4}^{\frac{5}{4}} \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4}{5}} \quad \text{and} \quad \|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \leq C \|u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

This yields

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{d}{dt} (\|\nabla u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \omega(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2) + \|\Delta u\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\Delta \omega\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \nabla \cdot \omega\|_{L^2}^2 + 2 \|\nabla \omega\|_{L^2}^2 \\
&\leq C(1 + \|u\|_{L^4}^{12} + \|\omega\|_{L^4}^{12}).
\end{aligned}$$

Integrating the above inequality over $(0, t)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\|\nabla u(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \omega(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \int_0^t (\|\Delta u(\tau)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\Delta \omega(\tau)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \nabla \cdot \omega(\tau)\|_{L^2}^2 + 2 \|\nabla \omega(\tau)\|_{L^2}^2) d\tau \\
&\leq \|\nabla u_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \omega_0\|_{L^2}^2 + C \int_0^t (1 + \|u(\tau)\|_{L^4}^{12} + \|\omega(\tau)\|_{L^4}^{12}) d\tau.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

On the other hand, by a Sobolev embedding theorem $\dot{H}^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \hookrightarrow L^6(\mathbb{R}^3)$, (2.8) and (1.5), we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
e + \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{L^3} &\leq e + C \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^6}^2 \leq e + C \|\nabla u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2 \\
&\leq e + C(\|\nabla u_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \omega_0\|_{L^2}^2) + C \int_0^t (1 + \|u(\cdot, \tau)\|_{L^4}^{12}) d\tau \\
&\leq e + C(\|\nabla u_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \omega_0\|_{L^2}^2) + C(e + t) \sup_{0 \leq \tau \leq t} (1 + \|u(\cdot, \tau)\|_{L^4}^{12}) \\
&\leq C(e + \|\nabla u_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \omega_0\|_{L^2}^2) (e + t) \sup_{0 \leq \tau \leq t} (1 + \|u(\cdot, \tau)\|_{L^4}^{12}) \\
&\leq C_0(e + t) \exp \left(C \int_0^t (1 + \|\pi(\cdot, \tau)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2) d\tau \right),
\end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

where the constant $C_0 = C(e, \|\nabla u_0\|_{L^2}, \|\nabla \omega_0\|_{L^2}, \|u_0\|_{L^4}, \|\omega_0\|_{L^4})$. Using the fact that $L^3(\mathbb{R}^3) \subset \dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^3)$, it follows that

$$e + \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}} \leq C(e + t) \exp \left(C \int_0^t (1 + \|\pi(\cdot, \tau)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2) d\tau \right) \tag{2.10}$$

Now, taking the logarithm on both sides of (2.10), we can conclude that

$$\log(e + \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}) \leq \log(C(e + t)) + C \int_0^t (1 + \|\pi(\cdot, \tau)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2) d\tau. \tag{2.11}$$

For simplicity, let

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{Z}(t) &= \log(e + \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}), \\
\mathcal{E}(t) &= \log(C(e + t)) + C \int_0^t (1 + \|\pi(\cdot, \tau)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2) d\tau,
\end{aligned} \tag{2.12}$$

with $\mathcal{E}(0) = \log(Ce)$. Then, the above inequality (2.11) implies that

$$0 < \mathcal{Z}(t) \leq \mathcal{E}(t)$$

and we easily get

$$(e + \mathcal{Z}(t)) \log(e + \mathcal{Z}(t)) \leq (e + \mathcal{E}(t)) \log(e + \mathcal{E}(t)).$$

On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \log(e + \mathcal{E}(t)) &= \frac{1}{e + \mathcal{E}(t)} \left(\frac{1}{e + t} + C(1 + \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2) \right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{e^2} + C \frac{1 + \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2}{e + \mathcal{E}(t)} \\ &= \frac{1}{e^2} + C \frac{1 + \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2}{(e + \mathcal{E}(t)) \ln(e + \mathcal{E}(t))} \log(e + \mathcal{E}(t)) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{e^2} + C \frac{1 + \|\pi(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2}{(e + \mathcal{Z}(t)) \ln(e + \mathcal{Z}(t))} \log(e + \mathcal{E}(t)) \end{aligned}$$

Applying the Gronwall inequality to $\log(e + \mathcal{E}(t))$, we find

$$\begin{aligned} &\log(e + \mathcal{E}(t)) \\ &\leq \log(e + \mathcal{E}(0)) \exp \left(\frac{T}{e^2} + C \int_0^t \frac{1 + \|\pi(\cdot, \tau)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2}{(e + \mathcal{Z}(\tau)) \log(e + \mathcal{Z}(\tau))} d\tau \right), \end{aligned}$$

which yields

$$e + \mathcal{E}(t) \leq (e + \mathcal{E}(0)) \exp \left(\frac{T}{e^2} + C \int_0^t \frac{1 + \|\pi(\cdot, \tau)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2}{(e + \mathcal{Z}(\tau)) \log(e + \mathcal{Z}(\tau))} d\tau \right)$$

and from (2.12), we deduce that

$$\int_0^t \|\pi(\cdot, \tau)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2 d\tau \leq (e + \mathcal{E}(0)) \exp \left(\frac{T}{e^2} + \frac{1}{C} \int_0^t \frac{1 + \|\pi(\cdot, \tau)\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty, \infty}^{-1}}^2}{(e + \mathcal{Z}(\tau)) \log(e + \mathcal{Z}(\tau))} d\tau \right) < \infty. \quad (2.13)$$

Hence by virtue of (2.7), (2.8) and (2.13), we conclude that

$$(u, \omega) \in L^\infty((0, T); H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)) \cap L^2((0, T); H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)),$$

which completes the proof of Theorem 1.1. $\square$

Acknowledgements The publication was prepared with the support of the “RUDN University Program 5-100”. Part of the work was carried out while S. Gala was a long-term visitor at the University of Catania. The hospitality of Catania University is graciously acknowledged. Research of M. Théra is supported by the Australian Research Council (ARC) grant DP160100854 and benefited from the support of the FMJH Program PGMO and from the support of EDF. The funding was provided by Gruppo Nazionale per l’Analisi Matematica, la Probabilità e le loro Applicazioni (2019).

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