

ON SOME STABILITY THEOREM OF THE NAVIER-STOKES EQUATION  
IN  
THE THREE DIMENSIONAL EXTERIOR DOMAIN

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**Problem, History and our Motivation of study.** The motion of nonstationary flow of an incompressible viscous fluid past an isolated rigid body is formulated by the following initial boundary value problem of the Navier-Stokes equation:

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} \mathbf{u}_t - \Delta \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \mathbf{f}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 & \text{in } (0, \infty) \times \Omega, \\ \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{u}|_{t=0} = \mathbf{a} \\ \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{u}(t, x) = \mathbf{u}_\infty. \end{cases}$$

Here,  $\Omega$  is the exterior domain in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  identified with the region filled by a viscous incompressible fluid;  $\partial\Omega$  denotes the boundary of  $\Omega$  which is assumed to be a smooth and compact hypersurface;  $\mathbf{u} = {}^T(u_1, u_2, u_3)$  ( ${}^T M$  means the transposed  $M$ ) and  $p$  denote the unknown velocity vector and pressure, respectively, while  $\mathbf{f} = {}^T(f_1, f_2, f_3)$  and  $\mathbf{a} = {}^T(a_1, a_2, a_3)$  denote the given external force and initial velocity, respectively.  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$  is the given speed of the motion of the fluid at infinity and  $\mathbf{0} = {}^T(0, 0, 0)$ .

Here and hereafter, we use the standard notation in the vector analysis. For example, we put

$$\Delta \mathbf{u} = {}^T(\Delta u_1, \Delta u_2, \Delta u_3), \quad \Delta u_j = \sum_{\ell=1}^3 \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial x_\ell^2}, \quad \nabla = {}^T(\partial_1, \partial_2, \partial_3), \quad \partial_\ell = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_\ell}$$

$$(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} = {}^T((\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)v_1, (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)v_2, (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)v_3), \quad (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)v_j = \sum_{\ell=1}^3 u_\ell \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial x_\ell},$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \text{div } \mathbf{u} = \sum_{\ell=1}^3 \frac{\partial u_\ell}{\partial x_\ell}, \quad \mathbf{u} = {}^T(u_1, u_2, u_3), \quad \mathbf{v} = {}^T(v_1, v_2, v_3)$$

$$\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 v_1 & u_2 v_1 & u_3 v_1 \\ u_1 v_2 & u_2 v_2 & u_3 v_2 \\ u_1 v_3 & u_2 v_3 & u_3 v_3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \nabla \cdot F = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{\ell=1}^3 \partial_\ell f_{1\ell} \\ \sum_{\ell=1}^3 \partial_\ell f_{2\ell} \\ \sum_{\ell=1}^3 \partial_\ell f_{3\ell} \end{pmatrix}, \quad F = \begin{pmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Putting  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_\infty + \mathbf{v}$ , instead of (1), here we consider the following problem :

$$(2) \quad \begin{cases} \mathbf{v}_t - \Delta \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} + \nabla p = \mathbf{f}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 & \text{in } (0, \infty) \times \Omega, \\ \mathbf{v}|_{\partial\Omega} = -\mathbf{u}_\infty, \quad \mathbf{v}|_{t=0} = \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{u}_\infty \\ \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{v}(t, x) = \mathbf{0}. \end{cases}$$



In this direction, Kato [21] solved the problem (1) in the  $L_n$ -framework when  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ),  $\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}$ ,  $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}$  and the  $L_n$  norm of  $\mathbf{a}$  is very small. He employed various  $L_p$  norms and  $L_p$ - $L_q$  estimates for the semigroup generated by the Stokes operator. Iwashita [18] (cf. also Borchers and Miyakawa [3], Giga and Sohr [15]) extended Kato's method to the case where  $\Omega \neq \mathbb{R}^n$  ( $n \geq 3$ ),  $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}$  and the  $L_n$  norm of  $\mathbf{a}$  is very small. Our argument about the stability theorem is also based on  $L_p$  -  $L_q$  type decay estimates of the Oseen semigroup. In connection with the stability problem, from the results due to Kato and Iwashita we have the stability of trivial solution  $\mathbf{0}$  of the stationary problem of (3) with respect to small  $L_n$  perturbation when  $\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}$ .

Our interest here is to consider the stability problem when  $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{f}(x)$  is non-trivial. When  $\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\mathbf{f} = \nabla \cdot F(x)$ ,  $F$  having suitable decay property at infinity, Borchers and Miyakawa [6] and Kozono and Yamazaki [23, 24] proved the stability of physically reasonable solutions of (3) with  $\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}$  with respect to small  $L_{n,\infty}(\Omega)$  perturbation, that is the problem (4) admits a unique solution  $\mathbf{z}(t, x) \in BC((0, \infty); L_{n,\infty}(\Omega))$  when  $\|\mathbf{w}\|_{L_{n,\infty}(\Omega)}$  and  $\|\mathbf{b}\|_{L_{n,\infty}(\Omega)}$  are small enough,  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$ ,  $n \geq 3$  and  $\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}$ .

On the other hand, when  $\mathbf{u}_\infty \neq \mathbf{0}$ , Shibata [32] proved the stability of physically reasonable solutions of (3) with respect to small  $L_3(\Omega)$  perturbation, that is the problem (4) admits a unique solution  $\mathbf{z}(t, x) \in BC([0, \infty); L_3(\Omega))$  when some weighted norm of  $\mathbf{w}(x)$ ,  $\|\mathbf{b}\|_{L_3(\Omega)}$  and  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty|$  are small enough and  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$ . But, the smallness assumption of  $\mathbf{w}$  depends on  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty|$ , and therefore from Shibata [32] we can not consider the limit process :  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \rightarrow 0$ . One of the reason is that the solution class for non-zero  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$  is different from the  $\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}$  case. Since the solution class is the same when  $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}$ , from Shibata [32] we can see that the solution of (1) in the non-zero  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$  case tends to the solution in the case when  $\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}$  in  $L_3(\Omega)$  norm for each  $t > 0$  (moreover, in  $L_\infty(\Omega)$  norm) when  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \rightarrow 0$ .

The motivation of our study here is to consider the limit process :  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \rightarrow 0$  when  $\mathbf{f}(x)$  is non-trivial. Since  $L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)$  seems to be the optimal space when  $\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}$ , we have to consider (4) also in  $L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)$  when  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \neq \mathbf{0}$ . Unfortunately, we have not yet obtained any answer about the limit process. Here, we can report only that when  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty|$  is small enough, our solutions to (3) and (4) have uniform estimations with respect to  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty|$ . From this, we can obtain some weak star limit, but it is very weak conclusion concerning the limit process and therefore we omit the precise statement. We hope that such direction of study of the Navier-Stokes equation has own interest and that our study gives an interesting aspect in the study of the Navier-Stokes equation.

**Statement of main results.** In order to state our main results precisely, first of all we introduce the definition of the Lorenz spaces  $L_{p,q}(\Omega)$  for  $1 \leq p < \infty$  as follows :

$$f \in L_{p,q}(G) \stackrel{def}{\iff} \begin{cases} \|f\|_{L_{p,q}(G)} = \left\{ \int_0^\infty [t^{1/p} f^*(t)]^q \frac{dt}{t} \right\}^{1/q} & 1 \leq q < \infty, ; \\ \|f\|_{L_{p,\infty}(G)} = \sup_{\sigma > 0} \sigma m(\sigma, f)^{1/p} < \infty & q = \infty, \end{cases}$$

where

$$f^*(t) = \inf\{\sigma > 0 \mid m(\sigma, f) \leq t\}; \quad m(\sigma, f) = |\{x \in G \mid |f(x)| > \sigma\}|$$

and  $|\cdot|$  denotes the Lebesgue measure.

Below, we consider only the case where the external force  $\mathbf{f}$  is given by the following potential form :

$$\mathbf{f}(x) = \nabla \cdot F(x), \quad F = \begin{pmatrix} F_{11}, F_{12}, F_{13} \\ F_{21}, F_{22}, F_{23} \\ F_{31}, F_{32}, F_{33} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that under the assumption :  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0$  we have

$$(\mathbf{w} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{w} = \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{w}).$$

Below, we say that  $(\mathbf{w}, \pi)$  is a solution to (3) if

$$\langle \nabla \mathbf{w}, \nabla \varphi \rangle + \langle (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{w}, \varphi \rangle - \langle \mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{w}, \nabla \varphi \rangle - \langle \pi, \nabla \cdot \varphi \rangle = - \langle F, \nabla \varphi \rangle$$

for any  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)^3$ , and

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \quad \mathbf{w}|_{\partial\Omega} = -\mathbf{u}_\infty, \quad \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{w}(x) = \mathbf{0}.$$

Here and hereafter we put

$$\nabla \varphi = \begin{pmatrix} \partial_1 \varphi_1, \partial_2 \varphi_1, \partial_3 \varphi_1 \\ \partial_1 \varphi_2, \partial_2 \varphi_2, \partial_3 \varphi_2 \\ \partial_1 \varphi_3, \partial_2 \varphi_3, \partial_3 \varphi_3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ for } \varphi = {}^T(\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3);$$

$$\langle p, q \rangle = \int_{\Omega} p(x)q(x) dx \text{ when } p \text{ and } q \text{ are scalar};$$

$$\langle \Phi, \Psi \rangle = \sum_{j,k=1}^3 \langle \Phi_{jk}, \Psi_{jk} \rangle \text{ for } 3 \times 3 \text{ matrices } \Phi = (\Phi_{jk}), \Psi = (\Psi_{jk});$$

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^3 \langle u_j, v_j \rangle \text{ for } \mathbf{u} = {}^T(u_1, u_2, u_3), \mathbf{v} = {}^T(v_1, v_2, v_3);$$

**Theorem 1.** (1)(Existence) *There exists an  $\epsilon > 0$  such that  $F = (F_{jk})$ ,  $F_{jk} \in L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega)$  and*

$$\sum_{j,k=1}^3 \|F_{jk}\|_{L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega)} + |\mathbf{u}_\infty| \leq \epsilon,$$

*then the problem (3) admits a solution  $(\mathbf{w}, \pi) \in L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)^3 \times L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega)$  such that  $\nabla \mathbf{w} \in L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega)^{3 \times 3}$ , and moreover*

$$\|\nabla \mathbf{w}\|_{L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega)} + \|\mathbf{w}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} + \|\pi\|_{L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega)} \leq C\epsilon$$

*where  $C$  is independent of  $F$ ,  $\mathbf{w}$ ,  $\pi$ ,  $\epsilon$  and  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$ .*

(2) (Uniqueness) *There exists an  $\epsilon' > 0$  such that if  $(\mathbf{w}_j, \pi_j)$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , are solutions of (3) with the same external force  $\mathbf{f}$  such that  $\mathbf{w}_j \in L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)$ ,  $\nabla \mathbf{w}_j \in L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega)$ ,  $\pi_j \in L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega)$  and moreover*

$$\|\mathbf{w}_j\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} \leq \epsilon'$$

then  $\mathbf{w}_1 = \mathbf{w}_2$  and  $\pi_1 = \pi_2$ .

Now, we will discuss the stability. Namely, we will discuss an existence of solutions of (4) with some uniform estimates with respect to  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$ . Moreover, we will discuss some decay property of solutions to (4). The problem (4) will be considered as a perturbation of the following evolutional Oseen equation :

$$(7) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_t - \Delta \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + \nabla p &= 0, & \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0 & \text{in } (0, \infty) \times \Omega, \\ \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} &= 0, & \mathbf{u}|_{t=0} &= \mathbf{a}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\mathbb{P}$  denote the regular projection from  $L_{p,q}(\Omega)^3$  into  $L_{\sigma,p,q}(\Omega)^3 = \{\mathbf{v} \in L_{p,q}(\Omega) \mid \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0\}$  (cf. Kozono and Yamazaki [23, 24], Borchers and Miyakawa [6]). If we operate  $\mathbb{P}$  to (7), we have

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_t + \mathbb{P}(-\Delta + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla)) \mathbf{u} &= 0 & \text{in } (0, \infty) \times \Omega, \\ \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} &= \mathbf{0}, & \mathbf{u}|_{t=0} &= \mathbf{a}. \end{aligned}$$

The Oseen operator  $\mathbb{P}(-\Delta + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla))$  generates an analytic semigroup  $\{T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$ , which was proved by Miyakawa [29]. The following theorem concerning the decay property of  $\{T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  is a key of our stability theorem.

**Theorem 2.** ( $L_{p,r} - L_{q,r}$  estimate) (i) *When  $t \geq 2$  and  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \leq \sigma$ , we have the following estimates :*

- (1)  $\|T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{q,r}(\Omega)} \leq Ct^{-\nu} \|\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{p,r}(\Omega)},$   
 $1 < p < \infty, \nu = \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q} \right), 1 < p \leq q < \infty, 1 \leq r \leq \infty.$
- (2)  $\|T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}\|_{L_\infty(\Omega)} \leq Ct^{-3/2p} \|\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{p,r}(\Omega)}, \quad 1 < p < \infty, 1 \leq r \leq \infty.$
- (3)  $\|\nabla T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{q,r}(\Omega)} \leq Ct^{-(\nu+1/2)} \|\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{p,r}(\Omega)}, \quad 1 < p \leq q \leq 3, 1 \leq r \leq \infty.$
- (4)  $\|\nabla T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{q,r}(\Omega)} \leq Ct^{-3/2p} \|\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{p,r}(\Omega)},$   
 $1 < p \leq q, 3 < q < \infty, 1 \leq r \leq \infty.$
- (5)  $\|\nabla T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}\|_{L_\infty(\Omega)} \leq Ct^{-3/2p} \|\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{p,r}(\Omega)}, \quad 1 < p < \infty, 1 \leq r \leq \infty.$

Here,  $C$  is independent of  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$  while  $C$  depends on  $p, q, r$  and  $\sigma$ .

(ii) *When  $0 < t \leq 2$  and  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \leq \sigma$ , we have the following estimates :*

- (1)  $\|T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{q,r}(\Omega)} \leq Ct^{-\nu} \|\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{p,r}(\Omega)}, \quad 1 < p \leq q < \infty, 1 \leq r \leq \infty.$
- (2)  $\|\nabla T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{q,r}(\Omega)} \leq Ct^{-(\nu+1/2)} \|\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{q,r}(\Omega)}, \quad 1 < p \leq q < \infty, 1 \leq r \leq \infty.$

Here,  $C$  is also independent of  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$  while  $C$  depends on  $p, q, r$  and  $\sigma$ .

Applying  $\mathbb{P}$  to (4) formally we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{z}_t + \mathbb{P}(-\Delta + \mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{z} + \nabla \cdot [\mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{z} \otimes \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{z} \otimes \mathbf{z}] &= \mathbf{0}, \\ \mathbf{z}|_{\partial\Omega} &= \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{z}|_{t=0} = \mathbf{b}. \end{aligned}$$

Applying the Duhamel's principle, we have

$$\mathbf{z}(t) = T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{b} - \int_0^t T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\mathbb{P}\nabla \cdot [\mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{z}(s) + \mathbf{z}(s) \otimes \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{z}(s) \otimes \mathbf{z}(s)] ds.$$

Testing the equation by  $\varphi \in C_{0,\sigma}^\infty(\Omega) = \{\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega) \mid \nabla \cdot \varphi = 0\}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{z}(t), \varphi \rangle &= \langle T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{b}, \varphi \rangle \\ &\quad - \int_0^t \langle T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\mathbb{P}\nabla \cdot [\mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{z}(s) + \mathbf{z}(s) \otimes \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{z}(s) \otimes \mathbf{z}(s)], \varphi \rangle ds \\ &= \langle T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{b}, \varphi \rangle \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \langle \mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{z}(s) + \mathbf{z}(s) \otimes \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{z}(s) \otimes \mathbf{z}(s), \nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi] \rangle ds. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we introduce the following definition.

**Definition 3.** Let  $3 < p < \infty$ . We call  $\mathbf{z}$  a mild solution of (4) in the class  $S_p$  if  $\mathbf{z}$  satisfies the following conditions :

$$(i) \quad \mathbf{z} \in BC((0, \infty); L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)), \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{z} = 0, \quad t^{(1/2-3/2p)}\mathbf{z}(t, \cdot) \in BC((0, \infty); L_{p,\infty}(\Omega));$$

$$(ii) \quad \begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{z}(t), \varphi \rangle &= \langle T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{b}, \varphi \rangle \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \langle \mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{z}(s) + \mathbf{z}(s) \otimes \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{z}(s) \otimes \mathbf{z}(s), \nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi] \rangle ds; \end{aligned}$$

$$(iii) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \langle \mathbf{z}(t), \varphi \rangle = \langle \mathbf{b}, \varphi \rangle \quad \forall \varphi \in C_{0,\sigma}^\infty(\Omega).$$

If a mild solution is regular in the usual sense, then it satisfies (4). To prove the regularity is now rather standard (cf. Kozono and Yamazaki [24], also Yamazaki [33]), and therefore we only give a sketch of our proof about the following existence theorem of mild solutions below.

**Theorem 4.** Let  $3 < p < \infty$ . Then, there exists a  $\sigma > 0$  such that if  $\|\mathbf{b}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} + |\mathbf{u}_\infty| \leq \sigma$  and  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$ , then (4) admits a mild solution  $\mathbf{z}$  in class  $S_p$ . Moreover,  $\mathbf{z}$  satisfies the following estimate :

$$(9) \quad [\mathbf{z}]_{3,\infty,t} + [\mathbf{z}]_{p,\infty,t} \leq C\sigma \quad \forall t \in (0, \infty),$$

where  $C > 0$  is a constant independent of  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ ,

$$(10) \quad \begin{aligned} [\mathbf{z}]_{3,\infty,t} &= \sup_{0 < s < t} \|\mathbf{z}(s, \cdot)\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)}, \\ [\mathbf{z}]_{p,\infty,t} &= \sup_{0 < s < t} s^{(1/2-3/2p)} \|\mathbf{z}(s, \cdot)\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)}. \end{aligned}$$

*Remark.* By Marcinkiewitz interpolation theorem, for any  $r \in (3, p)$  we have

$$\|\mathbf{z}(t, \cdot)\|_{L_r(\Omega)} \leq C_r t^{-(1/2-3/2r)} \sigma \quad \forall t \in (0, \infty).$$

Open Problem. Show the following decay property of our mild solution  $\mathbf{z}$  :

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{0 < s < t} s^{1/2} \|\mathbf{z}(s, \cdot)\|_{L_\infty(\Omega)} &\leq C\sigma, \\ \sup_{0 < s < t} s^{1/2} \|\nabla \mathbf{z}(s, \cdot)\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} &\leq C\sigma. \end{aligned}$$

### Sketch of Our Proof.

#### A Sketch of Our Proof of Theorem 1.

The linearized equation of (3) is the following Oseen equation in  $\Omega$  :

$$(11) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + \nabla \pi = \nabla \cdot F, & \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 & \text{in } \Omega, \\ \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} = \mathbf{0}. \end{cases}$$

In order to show the unique existence and estimates of solutions to (11), when  $\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}$ , Kozono and Yamazaki [23] used the duality argument. But, when  $\mathbf{u}_\infty \neq \mathbf{0}$ , this method does not seem to match with the Oseen equation, because of the first order term  $\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla$ . We used a compact perturbation method, the idea of which going back to Shibata [31]. Namely, combining the unique existence and estimates of solutions in the whole space case and in the bounded domain case by using the cut-off technique, we reduce the problem to the Fredholm type equation on the right hand side. And then, the sharp uniqueness theorem for the Oseen equation in  $\Omega$  implies the invertibility of this Fredholm equation. Since we have to keep the divergence free condition, we use Bogovski lemma ([3, 4] and also [14, 20]). Essentially the same argument is found also in Shibata [32], Iwashita [20] and Kobayashi and Shibata [22]. While we have proved a linear theorem with very general exponents  $p$  and  $q$ , here we only state the following theorem in order to explain our basical idea.

**Linear Theorem.** Let  $3/2 \leq p < 3$  and  $F = (F_{ij})$  ( $3 \times 3$  matrix) with  $F_{ij} \in L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)$ . Then, there exists an  $\epsilon > 0$  independent of  $F$  such that if  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \leq \epsilon$ , then (11) admits a unique solution  $(\mathbf{u}, \pi) \in L_{3p/(3-p),\infty}(\Omega)^3 \times L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)$  with  $\nabla \mathbf{u} \in L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)^{3 \times 3}$ .

Moreover, there exists a constant  $C$  independent of  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$ ,  $F$ ,  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\pi$  such that

$$(12) \quad \|\mathbf{u}\|_{L_{3p/(3-p),\infty}(\Omega)} + \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)} + \|\pi\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)} \leq C \|F\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)}.$$

In order to solve (3) by using Linear Theorem, we construct a vector of  $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$  functions  $\mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(x)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(x) &= 0, \quad \mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}|_{\partial\Omega} = -\mathbf{u}_\infty, \quad \mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(x) = \mathbf{0} \quad (|x| \geq \exists R), \\ |\partial_x^\alpha \mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(x)| &\leq C_\alpha |\mathbf{u}_\infty| \quad \forall \alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Such a vector-valued function is easily constructed by using the Bogovskii theorem ([3, 4] and also [14, 20]). Put  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{u}_\infty} + \mathbf{v}$  and then (11) is reduced to the following equation :

$$(12) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} + \nabla \cdot [(\mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{u}_\infty} + \mathbf{v}) \otimes (\mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{u}_\infty} + \mathbf{v})] + \nabla \pi = \nabla \cdot F & \text{in } \Omega, \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 & \text{in } \Omega, \quad \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} = \mathbf{0}, \quad \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{v}(x) = \mathbf{0}. \end{cases}$$

As the underlying space, we put

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_\sigma = \{(\mathbf{u}, \pi) \in L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)^3 \times L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega) \mid \nabla \mathbf{u} \in L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega)^{3 \times 3}, \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} = \mathbf{0}, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \\ \|\mathbf{u}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} + \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega)} + \|\nabla \pi\|_{L_{3/2,\infty}(\Omega)} \leq \sigma\}, \end{aligned}$$

because the exponent  $p$  for which the assertions that  $\mathbf{w} \in L_{3p/(3-p)}(\Omega)$  implies  $\mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{w} \in L_p(\Omega)$  and that  $\nabla \mathbf{w} \in L_p(\Omega)$  implies  $\mathbf{w} \in L_{3p/(3-p)}(\Omega)$  is equal to  $3/2$  only. By using Linear Theorem and the contraction mapping principle, we can prove the existence of solutions to (12) in  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  immediately under suitable choice of a small positive number  $\sigma$ .

From now on, we give

*A Sketch of Our Proof of Linear Theorem.* 1st step : Analysis of solutions in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . By Fourier transform we can write a solution  $(\mathbf{u}, \pi)$  to the equation in the whole space :

$$(-\Delta \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla)) \mathbf{u} + \nabla \pi = \nabla \cdot F, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3$$

by the following form :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}(x) &= E_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}[F](x) = \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left[ \sum_{j=1}^3 \frac{i\xi_j}{|\xi|^2 + i\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \xi} \left( \hat{F}_j(\xi) - \frac{\xi(\xi \cdot \hat{F}_j(\xi))}{|\xi|^2} \right) \right] (x), \\ \pi(x) &= \Pi[F](x) = \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left[ \sum_{j=1}^3 \frac{\xi_j(\xi \cdot \hat{F}_j(\xi))}{|\xi|^2} \right] (x). \end{aligned}$$



Since

$$\left| \xi^\alpha \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \right)^\alpha (|\xi|^2 + i|\mathbf{u}_\infty|\xi_1)^{-1} \right| \leq C_\alpha |\xi|^2 + i|\mathbf{u}_\infty|\xi_1|^{-1} \quad \forall \alpha,$$

where  $C_\alpha$  is independent of  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$ , by the orthogonal transformation in  $\xi$  and the Lizorkin theorem about the Fourier multiplier oprator we can see easily that

$$\|\mathbf{u}\|_{L_{3p/(3-p)}(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{L_p(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|\pi\|_{L_p(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C_p \|F\|_{L_p(\mathbb{R}^3)}.$$

Since  $L_{p,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3) = (L_{p_1}, L_{p_2})_{\theta,\infty}$ ,  $1/p = (1-\theta)/p_1 + \theta/p_2$  in the real interpolation sense, we have

$$(13) \quad \|\mathbf{u}\|_{L_{3p/(3-p),\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|\pi\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C_p \|F\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)}.$$

After cutting off the solutions, we have to handle with the following equation :

$$(14) \quad -\Delta \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + \nabla \pi = \mathbf{f}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3,$$

where  $\mathbf{f} \in L_{p,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)$  with  $\text{supp } \mathbf{f} \subset B_b = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid |x| < b\}$ . Let  $(E(\mathbf{u}_\infty)(x), P(x))$  denote the Oseen fundamental solution whose exact formula was given by Oseen [30] (cf. also [14, 22, 32]), and then the solution of (14) is given by the convolution formula :  $\mathbf{u} = E(\mathbf{u}_\infty) * \mathbf{f}$  and  $\pi = P * \mathbf{f}$ . Since

$$|E(\mathbf{u}_\infty)(x)| \leq \frac{C}{|x|}, \quad |\nabla E(\mathbf{u}_\infty)| \leq \begin{cases} \frac{C}{|x|^{3/2} s_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(x)^{1/2}} & (\mathbf{u}_\infty \neq \mathbf{0}) \\ \frac{C}{|x|^2} & (\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}), \end{cases} \quad |p(x)| \leq \frac{C}{|x|^2}$$

where  $s_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(x) = |x| - \mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot x / |\mathbf{u}_\infty|$  and  $C$  is independent of  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$ , we have

$$\|E(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C, \quad \|\nabla E(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\|_{L_{3/2,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C, \quad \|p\|_{L_{3/2,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C,$$

where  $C$  is independent of  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$ . Therefore, by the generalized Young inequality we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{u}\|_{L_{3p/(3-p),\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} &\leq \|E(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\|_{L_{3/2,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} \|\mathbf{f}\|_{L_q(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C_b \|\mathbf{f}\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)}, \\ \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} &\leq \|\nabla E(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\|_{L_{3/2,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} \|\mathbf{f}\|_{L_q(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C_b \|\mathbf{f}\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)}, \\ \|p\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} &\leq \|P\|_{L_{3/2,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} \|\mathbf{f}\|_{L_q(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C_b \|\mathbf{f}\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $1 + (3-p)/3p = 1/3 + 1/q$ ,  $1 + 1/p = 2/3 + 1/q$  and  $1 \leq q < p$ . To obtain that  $q \geq 1$ , we need the assumption :  $p \geq 3/2$ . The restriction :  $p < 3$  comes from the Sobolev inequality :

$$\|\mathbf{u}\|_{L_{3p/(3-p),\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C_p \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{L_p(\mathbb{R}^3)}.$$

*2nd step : Solutions in a bounded domain.* Let  $D$  be a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with smooth boundary  $\partial D$ . By interpolating the well-known theorem concerning the Stokes equation and Oseen equation in a bounded domain, we have the following theorem.

**Theorem.** Given  $F = (F_{ij}) \in L_{p,\infty}(D)^{3 \times 3}$ ,  $F_0 \in L_{p,\infty}(D)$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists a unique solution  $(\mathbf{w}, \pi) \in W_{p,\infty}^1(D)^3 \times L_{p,\infty}(D)$  to the equation :

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \nabla \mathbf{w}, \nabla \varphi \rangle + \langle (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{w}, \varphi \rangle - \langle \pi, \nabla \cdot \varphi \rangle \\ & = \langle F, \nabla \varphi \rangle + \langle F_0, \varphi \rangle \quad \forall \varphi \in C_0^\infty(D), \\ & \int_D \pi \, dx = c, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad \mathbf{w}|_{\partial\Omega} = \mathbf{0}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, if  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \leq \sigma_0$  and  $1 < p < 3$ , then there exists a constant  $C$  depending on  $p$ ,  $D$  and  $\sigma_0$  such that

$$\|\mathbf{w}\|_{L_{3p/(3-p),\infty}(D)} + \|\nabla \mathbf{w}\|_{L_{p,\infty}(D)} + \|\pi\|_{L_{p,\infty}(D)} \leq C \|(F, F_0)\|_{L_{p,\infty}(D)}$$

If  $F = 0$ , then  $\mathbf{w} \in W_{p,\infty}^2(D)$ ,  $\pi \in W_{p,\infty}^1(D)$  and

$$\|\mathbf{w}\|_{W_{p,\infty}^2(D)} + \|\pi\|_{W_{p,\infty}^1(D)} \leq C \|F_0\|_{L_{p,\infty}(D)}.$$

Here and hereafter,

$$W_{p,\infty}^m(G) = \{w \in L_{p,\infty}(G) \mid \|w\|_{W_{p,\infty}^m(G)} = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \|\partial_x^\alpha w\|_{L_{p,\infty}(G)} < \infty\}.$$

For the latter purpose, we write the solution given in the above theorem as follows :

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathcal{L}(D, \mathbf{u}_\infty)[F, F_0, c], \quad \pi = \mathfrak{p}(D, \mathbf{u}_\infty)[F, F_0, c].$$

*3rd step : Bogovskii Operator.* Let  $1 < p < \infty$  and let  $D$  be a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with smooth boundary  $\partial D$ .

$$\begin{aligned} W_{p,\infty,0}^m(D) &= \{u \in W_{p,\infty}^m(D) \mid \partial_x^\alpha u|_{\partial D} = 0 \quad (|\alpha| \leq m-1)\}, \\ \overset{\circ}{W}_{p,\infty,0}^m(D) &= \{u \in W_{p,\infty,0}^m(D) \mid \int_D u \, dx = 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

Interpolating the well-known Bogovskii theorem ([3, 4] and also [14, 20]), we can construct a linear operator  $\mathbb{B} : \overset{\circ}{W}_{p,\infty,0}^m(D) \longrightarrow W_{p,\infty,0}^{m+1}(D)^3$  such that for  $f \in \overset{\circ}{W}_{p,\infty,0}^m(D)$  we have  $\nabla \cdot \mathbb{B}[f] = f$  in  $D$  and

$$\|\mathbb{B}[f]\|_{W_{p,\infty}^{m+1}(D)} \leq C \|f\|_{W_{p,\infty}^m(D)}$$

where the constant  $C$  depends on  $m$ ,  $p$  and  $D$ . Since  $\mathbb{B}[f] \in W_{p,\infty,0}^{m+1}(D)^3$ , we can extend  $\mathbb{B}[f]$  to the whole space by  $\mathbf{0}$  outside  $D$ , and then  $\mathbb{B}[f] \in W_{p,\infty}^{m+1}(\mathbb{R}^3)^3$ ,  $\text{supp } \mathbb{B}[f] \subset D$ ,  $\nabla \cdot \mathbb{B}[f] = f_0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and

$$\|\mathbb{B}[f]\|_{W_{p,\infty}^{m+1}(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C \|f\|_{W_{p,\infty}^m(D)}$$

where  $f_0(x)$  also denotes the 0 extension of  $f$  to the whole space.

4th step : A Reduction to the Equation of the Fredholm type. Devide soluton to (11) into three parts :

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v}_\infty + \mathbf{v}_0 + \mathbf{v}_c, \quad \pi = \pi_\infty + \pi_0 + \pi_c.$$

$\mathbf{v}_\infty$  and  $\pi_\infty$  are defined in the following manner. Let  $\varphi_\infty$  and  $\psi_\infty$  be functions in  $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$  such that

$$\varphi_\infty = \begin{cases} 1 & |x| \geq R \\ 0 & |x| \leq R-1 \end{cases}, \quad \psi_\infty = \begin{cases} 1 & |x| \geq R-1 \\ 0 & |x| \leq R-2 \end{cases}.$$

Note that  $\psi_\infty = 1$  on  $\text{supp } \varphi_\infty$ . Put

$$\mathbf{v}_\infty = \psi_\infty E_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}[\varphi_\infty F] - \mathbb{B}[\nabla \psi_\infty \cdot E_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}[\varphi_\infty F]], \quad \pi_\infty = \psi_\infty \Pi[\varphi_\infty F].$$

Put  $\varphi_0 = 1 - \psi_\infty$  and let  $\psi_0 \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$  such that

$$\psi_0(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & |x| \leq R \\ 0 & |x| \geq R+1 \end{cases}, \quad \psi_0(x) = 1 \text{ on } \text{supp } \varphi_0.$$

Take  $R$  so large that  $B_{R-4} \supset \partial\Omega$ . Put  $D = \Omega_{R+2} = \Omega \cap B_{R+2}$ , and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} v_0 &= \psi_0 \mathcal{L}(D, \mathbf{u}_\infty)[\varphi_0 F, 0, 0] - \mathbb{B}[\nabla \psi_0 \cdot \mathcal{L}(D, \mathbf{u}_\infty)[\varphi_0 F, 0, 0]], \\ \pi_0 &= \psi_0 \mathfrak{p}(D, \mathbf{u}_\infty)[\varphi_0 F, 0, 0]. \end{aligned}$$

Then, we arrive at the following equation to  $(\mathbf{v}_c, \pi_c)$  :

$$(15) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta \mathbf{v}_c + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v}_c + \nabla \pi_c = r(\mathbf{u}_\infty)[f], & \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_c = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \\ \mathbf{v}_c|_{\partial\Omega} = \mathbf{0} \end{cases}$$

where  $r(\mathbf{u}_\infty)[F] \in L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)$ ,  $\text{supp } r(\mathbf{u}_\infty)[F] \subset D' = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid R-2 \leq |x| \leq R+1\}$  and  $\|r(\mathbf{u}_\infty)[F]\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)} \leq C \|F\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)}$  with some constant  $C > 0$  independent of  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$  whenever  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \leq \sigma_0$ . From this point of view, we are going to solve the following equation :

$$(16) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + \nabla \pi = \mathbf{f}, & \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \\ \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} = \mathbf{0} \end{cases}$$

where  $\mathbf{f} \in L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)$  and  $\text{supp } \mathbf{f} \subset D'$ . The equation (16) is solved by the compact perturbation method. In fact, put

$$\begin{aligned} P(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\mathbf{f} &= (1 - \varphi)E(\mathbf{u}_\infty) * \mathbf{f}^0 + \varphi \mathcal{L}(\Omega_{R+2}, 0)[0, \mathbf{f}|_{\Omega_{R+2}}, c] \\ &\quad + \mathbb{B}[(\nabla \varphi) \cdot (E(\mathbf{u}_\infty) * \mathbf{f}^0)] - \mathbb{B}[(\nabla \varphi) \cdot \mathcal{L}(\Omega_{R+2}, 0)[0, \mathbf{f}|_{\Omega_{R+2}}, c]] \\ Q\mathbf{f} &= (1 - \varphi)p * \mathbf{f}^0 + \varphi \mathfrak{p}(\Omega_{R+2}, 0)[0, \mathbf{f}|_{\Omega_{R+2}}, c] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$c = \int_{\Omega_{R+2}} \pi * \mathbf{f}^0 dx, \quad \varphi(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & |x| \leq R-2 \\ 0 & |x| \geq R+1 \end{cases}, \quad \mathbf{f}^0(x) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{f}(x) & x \in \Omega \\ \mathbf{0} & x \notin \Omega \end{cases}$$

and  $\mathbf{f}|_{\Omega_{R+2}}$  is the restriction of  $\mathbf{f}$  to  $\Omega_{R+2}$ .  $P(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\mathbf{f}$  and  $Q\mathbf{f}$  satisfy the following equation :

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta + \mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla)P(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\mathbf{f} + \nabla(Q\mathbf{f}) &= \mathbf{f} + S(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\mathbf{f}, \quad \nabla \cdot P(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\mathbf{f} = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega. \\ P(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\mathbf{f}|_{\partial\Omega} &= \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} S(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\mathbf{f} &= 2(\nabla\varphi) \cdot \nabla E(\mathbf{u}_\infty) * \mathbf{f}^0 + (\Delta\varphi)E(\mathbf{u}_\infty) * \mathbf{f}^0 + [(\mathbf{u}_\infty \nabla \cdot)\varphi]E(\mathbf{u}_\infty) * \mathbf{f}^0 \\ &\quad + 2(\nabla\varphi) \cdot \mathcal{L}(\Omega_{R+2}, 0)[0, \mathbf{f}|_{\Omega_{R+2}}, c] - (\Delta\varphi)\mathcal{L}(\Omega_{R+2}, 0)[0, \mathbf{f}|_{\Omega_{R+2}}, c] - \\ &\quad + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla)(\varphi\mathcal{L}(\Omega_{R+2}, 0)[0, \mathbf{f}|_{\Omega_{R+2}}, c]) \\ &\quad + (-\Delta + \mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla)(\mathbb{B}[(\nabla\varphi) \cdot E(\mathbf{u}_\infty) * \mathbf{f}^0] - \mathbb{B}[(\nabla\varphi) \cdot \mathcal{L}(\Omega_{R+2}, 0)[0, \mathbf{f}|_{\Omega_{R+2}}, c]]) \\ &\quad - (\nabla\varphi)(p * \mathbf{f}^0 - \mathfrak{p}(\Omega_{R+2}, 0)[0, \mathbf{f}|_{\Omega_{R+2}}, c]). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $S(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\mathbf{f} \in W_{p,\infty}^1(\Omega)$  and  $\text{supp } S(\mathbf{u}_\infty)\mathbf{f} \subset D'$ ,  $S(\mathbf{u}_\infty)$  is a compact operator from  $L_{p,\infty,D'}(\Omega)$  into itself, where

$$L_{p,\infty,D'}(\Omega) = \{\mathbf{f} \in L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)^3 \mid \text{supp } \mathbf{f} \subset D'\}.$$

By using the representation formula of  $E(\mathbf{u}_\infty) * \mathbf{f}^0$ , we see easily that

$$(17) \quad \|S(\mathbf{u}_\infty) - S(\mathbf{0})\|_{\mathcal{L}(L_{p,\infty,D'}(\Omega))} \leq C|\mathbf{u}_\infty|^{1/2}$$

when  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \leq 1$ , where  $\mathcal{L}(L_{p,\infty,D'}(\Omega))$  is the set of bounded linear operators from  $L_{p,\infty,D'}(\Omega)$  into itself.

Our uniqueness theorem is the following one.

**Uniqueness Theorem.** *Let  $1 < p < \infty$ . If  $(\mathbf{u}, \pi) \in \mathcal{S}'(\Omega)^4 \cap (W_{p,loc}^2(\Omega))^3 \times W_{p,loc}^1(\Omega)$  satisfies the homogeneous equation :*

$$-\Delta\mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u}_\infty \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u} + \nabla\pi = \mathbf{0}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} = \mathbf{0}$$

and the growth order condition :

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} R^{-3} \int_{R \leq |x| \leq 2R} |\mathbf{u}(x)| dx = 0, \quad \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} R^{-3} \int_{R \leq |x| \leq 2R} |\pi(x)| dx = 0,$$

then  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\pi = 0$ . Here, we put

$$\mathcal{S}'(\Omega) = \{u \mid \exists U \in \mathcal{S}' \text{ such that } u = U \text{ on } \Omega\}.$$

*Remark.* if  $1 < p < 3$  and  $\mathbf{u} \in L_{3p/(3-p),\infty}(\Omega)$ ,  $\nabla\mathbf{u} \in L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)$  and  $\pi \in L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)$ , then  $(\mathbf{u}, \pi)$  satisfies the growth order condition. But, in general the uniqueness does not hold for the exterior domain when  $\mathbf{u} \in L_{p,loc}(\Omega)^3$  with  $\nabla\mathbf{u} \in L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)^{3 \times 3}$  and  $p \geq 3$ .

By using the Fredholm alternative theorem for the  $I+$  compact operator, we have the following lemma.

**Key Lemma.** *There exists an  $\epsilon > 0$  such that if  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \leq \epsilon$ , then the inverse operator  $(I + S(\mathbf{u}_\infty))^{-1}$  of  $I + S(\mathbf{u}_\infty)$  exists in  $\mathcal{L}(L_{p,\infty,D'}(\Omega))$ . Moreover, we have*

$$\|(I + S(\mathbf{u}_\infty))^{-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L_{p,\infty,D'}(\Omega))} \leq C$$

where  $C$  is independent of  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$  whenever  $|\mathbf{u}_\infty| \leq \epsilon$ .

*Proof.* By (17), it is sufficient to show the lemma in the case where  $\mathbf{u}_\infty = \mathbf{0}$ . In view of Fredholm alternative theorem, we have only to show the injectivity of  $I + S(\mathbf{u}_\infty)$ . Therefore, we take  $\mathbf{f} \in L_{p,\infty,D'}(\Omega)$  such that  $(I + S(\mathbf{u}_\infty))\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}$ . And, we will show that  $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}$ . By the definition of  $S(\mathbf{u}_\infty)$  we have  $-\Delta P(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{f} + \nabla Q\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}$  in  $\Omega$ ,  $\nabla \cdot P(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{f} = 0$  in  $\Omega$  and  $P(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{f}|_{\partial\Omega} = \mathbf{0}$ . By the uniqueness theorem,  $P(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{f} = 0$  and  $Q\mathbf{f} = 0$ . And then, employing the argument due to Shibata [31] and also Iwashita [20], we see that  $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}$ .

By Key lemma, the solution  $(\mathbf{v}_c, \pi_c)$  of (15) can be written by the formula :

$$\mathbf{v}_c = P(\mathbf{u}_\infty)(I + S(\mathbf{u}_\infty))^{-1}r(\mathbf{u}_\infty)[\mathbf{f}], \quad \pi_c = Q(I + S(\mathbf{u}_\infty))^{-1}r(\mathbf{u}_\infty)[\mathbf{f}],$$

which completes our proof of Linear Theorem.

#### A Sketch of Our Proofs of Theorems 2 and 4

In order to show Theorem 2, we use the following estimate due to Kobayashi and Shibata [] :

$$(18) \quad \sum_{j=0}^1 \|\partial_t^j T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}\|_{W_\infty^m(\Omega_R)} \leq C_{p,m,R}(1+t)^{-3/2p} \|\mathbf{a}\|_{L_p(\Omega)}$$

for any  $1 < p < \infty$ ,  $m \geq 0$  and  $R \gg 1$  with a suitable constant  $C_{p,m,R}$  independent of  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$ . Interpolating this inequality, we have

$$(19) \quad \sum_{j=0}^1 \|\partial_t^j T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}\|_{W_\infty^m(\Omega_R)} \leq C_{p,m,R}(1+t)^{-3/2p} \|\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{p,q}(\Omega)}$$

for any  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $1 \leq q \leq \infty$ . Let  $S_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}$  denote a solution of the evolutionary Oseen equation in the whole space. By the usual  $L_p - L_q$  estimate and the interpolation theorem, we have

$$(20) \quad \|\partial_t^j \partial_x^\alpha S_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{q,r}(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C_{p,q,r,j,\alpha} t^{-(\nu+j+|\alpha|/2)} \|\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{p,r}(\mathbb{R}^3)}, \quad \nu = \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q} \right)$$

for  $1 < p \leq q < \infty$ ,  $1 \leq r \leq \infty$ , and

$$(21) \quad \|\partial_t^j \partial_x^\alpha S_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{a}\|_{L_\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C_{p,q,r,j,\alpha} t^{-(3/2p+j+|\alpha|/2)} \|\mathbf{a}\|_{L_{p,r}(\mathbb{R}^3)}$$

for  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $1 \leq r \leq \infty$ , when  $t > 0$ . By using the cut-off function and combining (18), (19) and (20) and employing the same argument due to Kobayashi and Shibata [22] and also Iwashita [20], we have Theorem 2.

Now, we will give a sketch of our proof of Theorem 4. We proved Theorem 4 by the contraction mapping principle. As the underlying space, we put

$$\mathcal{I}_\sigma = \{ \mathbf{u}(t, \cdot) \in BC((0, \infty); L_{3, \infty}(\Omega)^3) \mid \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \\ [\mathbf{u}]_{3, \infty, t} + [\mathbf{u}]_{p, \infty, t} \leq \sigma \text{ for } \forall t > 0 \}.$$

Given  $\mathbf{u}(t) = \mathbf{u}(t, \cdot) \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ , let us define  $\mathbf{v}(t) = \mathbf{v}(t, \cdot)$  for each  $t > 0$  by the formula :

$$\langle \mathbf{v}(t), \varphi \rangle = \langle T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t) \mathbf{b}, \varphi \rangle \\ - \int_0^t \langle \mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{u}(s) + \mathbf{u}(s, \cdot) \otimes \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{u}(s) \otimes \mathbf{u}(s), \nabla [T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi] \rangle ds$$

for all  $\varphi \in C_{0, \sigma}^\infty(\Omega)$ . What we have to show is that

$$(22) \quad | \langle \mathbf{v}(t), \varphi \rangle | \leq C \{ \|\mathbf{b}\|_{L_{3, \infty}(\Omega)} + \|\mathbf{w}\|_{L_{3, \infty}(\Omega)} [\mathbf{u}]_{3, \infty, t} + [\mathbf{u}]_{3, \infty, t}^2 \} \|\varphi\|_{L_{3/2, 1}(\Omega)},$$

$$(23) \quad | \langle \mathbf{v}(t), \varphi \rangle | \leq C t^{-(1/2-3/2p)} \{ \|\mathbf{b}\|_{L_{3, \infty}(\Omega)} + \|\mathbf{w}\|_{L_{3, \infty}(\Omega)} [\mathbf{u}]_{p, \infty, t} \\ + [\mathbf{u}]_{3, \infty, t} [\mathbf{u}]_{p, \infty, t} \} \|\varphi\|_{L_{q, 1}(\Omega)}, \quad \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1.$$

Since we can get the continuity of  $\mathbf{v}(t, \cdot)$  with respect to  $t > 0$  by considering the difference :  $\langle \mathbf{v}(t_1) - \mathbf{v}(t_2), \varphi \rangle$ , we see that  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{I}_\sigma$ . Taking  $\sigma$  smaller if necessary, we can also see easily that the map :  $\mathbf{u} \mapsto \mathbf{v}$  is a contraction one from  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  into iteself, which completes the proof of Theorem 4.

Therefore, we shall explain how to get (22) and (23) below. The key is the following lemma.

**LEMMA.** *If  $1 < q < r \leq 3$  and  $1/q - 1/r = 1/3$ , then we have*

$$\int_0^\infty \|\nabla [T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\varphi]\|_{L_{r, 1}(\Omega)} dt \leq C_{r, q} \|\varphi\|_{L_{q, 1}(\Omega)}.$$

*Remark.* From the usual  $L_p - L_q$  estimate, we have

$$\|\nabla [T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\varphi]\|_{L_r(\Omega)} \leq C_{r, q} t^{-1} \|\varphi\|_{L_q(\Omega)}$$

when  $1/q - 1/r = 1/3$ , which does not imply the integrability. In order to get the integrability, we used a little bit smaller spaces  $L_{r, 1}$  and  $L_{q, 1}$  than  $L_r$  and  $L_q$ , which is a crucial part of our argument.

*Proof of LEMMA.* Observe that

$$\int_0^\infty \|\nabla [T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\varphi]\|_{L_{r, 1}(\Omega)} dt = \sum_{j=-\infty}^\infty \int_{2^{j-1}}^{2^j} \|\nabla [T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\varphi]\|_{L_{r, 1}(\Omega)} dt \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=-\infty}^\infty 2^j m_j$$

where

$$m_j = \sup_{2^{j-1} \leq t \leq 2^j} \|\nabla[T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)}.$$

By  $L_{p,1} - L_{q,1}$  estimate,

$$\|\nabla[T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)} \leq d_{p_k} t^{-\frac{3}{2}\left(\frac{1}{p_k} - \frac{1}{r}\right) + \frac{1}{2}} \|\varphi\|_{L_{p_k,1}(\Omega)}$$

with suitable constant  $d_{p_k}$  independent of  $\mathbf{u}_\infty$  for  $k = 0, 1$ , where  $1 < p_0 < q < p_1 < r \leq 3$ . Since  $2^{j-1} \leq t \leq 2^j$ , we see that

$$m_j \leq d_{p_k} 2^{\left(\frac{3}{2}\left(\frac{1}{p_k} - \frac{1}{r}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\right)j} (2^j)^{-\left(\frac{3}{2}\left(\frac{1}{p_k} - \frac{1}{r}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\right)j} \|\varphi\|_{L_{p_k,1}(\Omega)}.$$

Put

$$C_{p_k} = d_{p_k} 2^{\left(\frac{3}{2}\left(\frac{1}{p_k} - \frac{1}{r}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\right)j} \quad \text{and} \quad s_k = \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{1}{p_k} - \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{2},$$

and then

$$\sup_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} (2^j)^{s_k} m_j \leq C_{p_k} \|\varphi\|_{L_{p_k,1}(\Omega)}, \quad k = 0, 1.$$

By the real interpolation, we see that

$$(\ell_\infty^{s_0}, \ell_\infty^{s_1})_{\theta,1} = \ell_1^s, \quad s = (1-\theta)s_0 + \theta s_1, \quad 0 < \theta < 1$$

(cf. J. Bergh and J. Löfström [2, Theorem 5.6.1]). Therefore, we have

$$\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} 2^{js} m_j \leq C_q \|\varphi\|_{L_{q,1}(\Omega)}, \quad \frac{1}{q} = \frac{1-\theta}{p_0} + \frac{\theta}{p_1}.$$

In particular,

$$s = (1-\theta)s_0 + \theta s_1 = \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{2} = 1$$

because  $1/q - 1/r = 1/3$ , and therefore we have

$$\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} 2^j m_j \leq C_q \|\varphi\|_{L_{q,1}(\Omega)},$$

which completes the proof of the lemma.

To show (22), observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \|T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{b}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} &\leq C \|\mathbf{b}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)}; \\ \left| \int_0^t \langle \mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{u}(s), \nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi] \rangle ds \right| \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \|\mathbf{w}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} \int_0^t \|\mathbf{u}(s)\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{3,1}(\Omega)} ds \\
&\leq \|\mathbf{w}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} [\mathbf{u}]_{3,\infty,t} \int_0^\infty \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{3,1}(\Omega)} ds
\end{aligned}$$

using LEMMA and noting that  $2/3 - 1/3 = 1/3$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq C \|\mathbf{w}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} [\mathbf{u}]_{3,\infty,t} \|\varphi\|_{L_{3/2,1}(\Omega)} \\
&\left| \int_0^t \langle \mathbf{u}(s) \otimes \mathbf{u}(s), \nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi] \rangle ds \right| \\
&\leq \int_0^t \|\mathbf{u}(s)\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)}^2 \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{3,1}(\Omega)} ds \\
&\leq C [\mathbf{u}]_{3,\infty,t}^2 \int_0^\infty \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{3,1}(\Omega)} ds \\
&\leq C [\mathbf{u}]_{3,\infty,t}^2 \|\varphi\|_{L_{3/2,1}(\Omega)}.
\end{aligned}$$

To show (23), observe that

$$\|T_{\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t)\mathbf{b}\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)} \leq Ct^{-(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p})} \|\mathbf{b}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)}.$$

Choose  $r$  so that  $1/3 + 1/p + 1/r = 1$ , and then  $1/q - 1/r = 1/3$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left| \int_0^t \langle \mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{u}(s), \nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi] \rangle ds \right| \\
&\leq \|\mathbf{w}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} \int_0^t \|\mathbf{u}(s)\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)} \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)} ds \\
&\leq \|\mathbf{w}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} [\mathbf{u}]_{p,\infty,t} \int_0^t s^{-(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p})} \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)} ds \\
&\leq Ct^{-(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p})} \|\mathbf{w}\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} [\mathbf{u}]_{p,\infty,t} \|\varphi\|_{L_{q,1}(\Omega)}.
\end{aligned}$$

In fact, since

$$\|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)} \leq C(t-s)^{-1} \|\varphi\|_{L_{q,1}(\Omega)}$$

as follows from that  $(3/2)(1/q - 1/r) + 1/2 = 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_0^{t/2} s^{-(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p})} \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)} ds \\
&\leq C \int_0^{t/2} s^{-(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p})} (t-s)^{-1} ds \|\varphi\|_{L_{q,1}(\Omega)} \\
&\leq C(t/2)^{-1} \int_0^{t/2} s^{-(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p})} ds \|\varphi\|_{L_{q,1}(\Omega)} \\
&\leq C(t/2)^{-1} (t/2)^{(\frac{1}{2}+\frac{3}{2p})} \|\varphi\|_{L_{q,1}(\Omega)} \\
&\leq C^{-(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p})} \|\varphi\|_{L_{q,1}(\Omega)}.
\end{aligned}$$



On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{t/2}^t s^{-\left(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p}\right)} \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)} ds \\
& \leq (t/2)^{-\left(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p}\right)} \int_{t/2}^t \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)} ds \\
& \leq Ct^{-\left(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p}\right)} \int_0^\infty \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(s)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)} ds \\
& \leq Ct^{-\left(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p}\right)} \|\varphi\|_{L_{q,1}(\Omega)},
\end{aligned}$$

and therefore we have

$$\int_0^t s^{-\left(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p}\right)} \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)} ds \leq Ct^{-\left(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p}\right)} \|\varphi\|_{L_{q,1}(\Omega)}.$$

In the same manner, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \int_0^t \langle \mathbf{u}(s) \otimes \mathbf{u}(s), \nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi] \rangle ds \right| \\
& \leq \int_0^t \|\mathbf{u}(s)\|_{L_{3,\infty}(\Omega)} \|\mathbf{u}(s)\|_{L_{p,\infty}(\Omega)} \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)} ds \\
& \leq C[\mathbf{u}]_{3,\infty,t} [\mathbf{u}]_{p,\infty,t} \int_0^t s^{-\left(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p}\right)} \|\nabla[T_{-\mathbf{u}_\infty}(t-s)\varphi]\|_{L_{r,1}(\Omega)} ds \\
& \leq Ct^{-\left(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{2p}\right)} [\mathbf{u}]_{3,\infty,t} [\mathbf{u}]_{p,\infty,t} \|\varphi\|_{L_{q,1}(\Omega)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Combining these estimations implies (23), which completes the proof of Theorem 4.

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