

**LOCAL WELL-POSEDNESS FOR AN ERICKSEN-LESLIE'S
 PARABOLIC-HYPERBOLIC COMPRESSIBLE
 NON-ISOTHERMAL MODEL FOR LIQUID CRYSTALS**

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ABSTRACT. In this article we prove the local well-posedness for an Ericksen-Leslie's parabolic-hyperbolic compressible non-isothermal model for nematic liquid crystals with positive initial density.

1. INTRODUCTION

We consider the following Ericksen-Leslie system modeling the hydrodynamic flow of compressible nematic liquid crystals [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]:

$$\partial_t \rho + \operatorname{div}(\rho u) = 0, \tag{1.1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \partial_t(\rho u) + \operatorname{div}(\rho u \otimes u) + \nabla p(\rho, \theta) - \mu \Delta u - (\lambda + \mu) \nabla \operatorname{div} u \\ & = -\nabla \cdot \left(\nabla d \odot \nabla d - \frac{1}{2} |\nabla d|^2 \mathbb{I}_3 \right), \end{aligned} \tag{1.2}$$

$$\partial_t(\rho e) + \operatorname{div}(\rho u e) + p \operatorname{div} u - \Delta \theta = \frac{\mu}{2} |\nabla u + \nabla u^t|^2 + \lambda (\operatorname{div} u)^2 + |\dot{d}|^2, \tag{1.3}$$

$$\ddot{d} - \Delta d = d(|\nabla d|^2 - |\dot{d}|^2), \quad |d| = 1, \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, \infty), \tag{1.4}$$

$$(\rho, u, \theta, d, d_t)(\cdot, 0) = (\rho_0, u_0, \theta_0, d_0, d_1) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3, \quad |d_0| = 1, \quad d_0 \cdot d_1 = 0. \tag{1.5}$$

Here ρ, u, θ is the density, velocity and temperature of the fluid, and d represents the macroscopic average of the nematic liquid crystals orientation field. $e := C_V \theta$ is the internal energy and $p := R\rho\theta$ is the pressure with positive constants C_V and R . The viscosity coefficients μ and λ of the fluid satisfy $\mu > 0$ and $\lambda + \frac{2}{3}\mu \geq 0$. The symbol $\nabla d \odot \nabla d$ denotes a matrix whose (i, j) th entry is $\partial_i d \partial_j d$, \mathbb{I}_3 is the identity matrix of order 3, and it is easy to see that

$$\operatorname{div} \left(\nabla d \odot \nabla d - \frac{1}{2} |\nabla d|^2 \mathbb{I}_3 \right) = - \sum_k \nabla d_k \Delta d_k, \quad \dot{d} := d_t + u \cdot \nabla d.$$

u^t is the transpose of vector u and $\partial_t u \equiv u_t$.

System (1.1)-(1.3) is the well-known full compressible Navier-Stokes-Fourier system. When $u = 0$, (1.4) reduces to the wave maps system, which is one of the most beautiful and challenging nonlinear hyperbolic system. It has captured the

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attention of mathematicians for more than thirty years now. Moreover, the wave maps system is nothing other than the Euler-Lagrange system for the nonlinear sigma model, which is one of the fundamental problems in classical field theory.

When θ is a positive constant and the equation (1.4) is replaced by a harmonic heat flow

$$\dot{d} - \Delta d = d|\nabla d|^2, \quad (1.6)$$

this problem has received many studies. Huang, Wang and Wen [6, 7] (see also [8, 9]) show the local well-posedness of strong solutions with vacuum and prove some regularity criteria. Ding, Huang, Wen and Zi [10] (also see [11, 12]) studied the low Mach number limit. Jiang, Jiang and Wang [13] (see also [14]) proved the global existence of weak solutions in \mathbb{R}^2 .

When the fluid is incompressible, i.e., $\operatorname{div} u = 0$, the similar model has been studied in [15, 16].

The aim of this article is to prove a local-well posedness result when $\inf \rho_0 \geq 1/C$, we will prove the following result.

Theorem 1.1. *Let $1/C \leq \rho_0 \leq C$, $0 \leq \theta_0$, $\nabla \rho_0 \in H^2$, $u_0, \theta_0, \dot{d}_0, \nabla d_0 \in H^3$, with $|d_0| = 1, d_0 \cdot d_1 = 0$. Then problem (1.1)-(1.5) has a unique strong solution (ρ, u, θ, d) satisfying*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{C} \leq \rho \leq C, \quad 0 \leq \theta, \quad |d| = 1, \\ \nabla \rho \in L^\infty(0, T; H^2), \quad u, \theta, \dot{d}, \nabla d \in L^\infty(0, T; H^3), \\ u, \theta \in L^2(0, T; H^4), \quad u_t, \theta_t \in L^2(0, T; H^2) \end{aligned} \quad (1.7)$$

for some $T > 0$.

Remark 1.2. When $n = 2$ and taking $d := \begin{pmatrix} \cos \phi \\ \sin \phi \end{pmatrix}$, System (1.1)-(1.4) reduces to

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \rho + \operatorname{div}(\rho u) &= 0, \\ \partial_t(\rho u) + \operatorname{div}(\rho u \otimes u) + \nabla p(\rho, \theta) - \mu \Delta u - (\lambda + \mu) \nabla \operatorname{div} u \\ &= -\nabla \cdot \left(\nabla \phi \otimes \nabla \phi - \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \phi|^2 \mathbb{I}_2 \right), \\ \partial_t(\rho e) + \operatorname{div}(\rho u e) + p \operatorname{div} u - \Delta \theta &= \frac{\mu}{2} |\nabla u + \nabla u^t|^2 + \lambda (\operatorname{div} u)^2 + |\dot{\phi}|^2, \\ \ddot{\phi} - \Delta \phi &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

And hence the well-known wave map

$$d_{tt} - \Delta d = d(|\nabla d|^2 - |d_t|^2)$$

reduces to the wave equation $\phi_{tt} - \Delta \phi = 0$.

Remark 1.3. Let d be a smooth solution to the system (1.4) with the initial data $(d, d_t)(\cdot, 0) = (d_0, d_1)$, if the initial data (d_0, d_1) obeys the conditions

$$|d_0| = 1, \quad d_0 \cdot d_1 = 0,$$

then we have $|d| = 1$ and $d \cdot d_t = 0$ for all times t .

Proof of Remark 1.3. Denote $w := |d|^2 - 1$, multiplying (1.4) by d , we see that

$$\ddot{w} - \Delta w = 2w(|\nabla d|^2 - |\dot{d}|^2).$$

Testing the above equation by \dot{w} , we find that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int (\dot{w}^2 + |\nabla w|^2) dx \\ &= 2 \int w \dot{w} (|\nabla d|^2 - |\dot{d}|^2) dx + \int \Delta w (u \cdot \nabla w) dx - \int (u \cdot \nabla) \dot{w} \cdot \dot{w} dx \\ &= 2 \int w \dot{w} (|\nabla d|^2 - |\dot{d}|^2) dx - \sum_i \int \partial_j u_i \partial_i w \partial_j w dx + \frac{1}{2} \int |\nabla w|^2 \operatorname{div} u dx \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \int \dot{w}^2 \operatorname{div} u dx \\ &\leq C \int (w^2 + \dot{w}^2 + |\nabla w|^2) dx. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, we observe that

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int w^2 dx = \int w (\dot{w} - u \cdot \nabla w) dx \leq C \int (w^2 + \dot{w}^2 + |\nabla w|^2) dx.$$

Combining the above two estimates and using the Gronwall inequality, we finish the proof. \square

We denote

$$\begin{aligned} M(t) := & 1 + \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{\rho}(\cdot, s) \right\|_{L^\infty} + \|\rho(\cdot, s)\|_{L^\infty} + \|\nabla \rho(\cdot, s)\|_{H^2} + \|u(\cdot, s)\|_{H^3} \right. \\ & \left. + \|\theta(\cdot, s)\|_{H^3} + \|\dot{d}(\cdot, s)\|_{H^3} + \|\nabla d(\cdot, s)\|_{H^3} \right\} \\ & + \|u\|_{L^2(0,t;H^4)} + \|u_t\|_{L^2(0,t;H^2)} + \|\theta\|_{L^2(0,t;H^4)} + \|\theta_t\|_{L^2(0,t;H^2)}. \end{aligned} \tag{1.8}$$

Theorem 1.4. *Let T^* be the maximal time of existence for problem (1.1)-(1.5) in the sense of Theorem 1.1. Then for any $t \in [0, T^*)$, we have that*

$$M(t) \leq C_0 M(0) \exp(\sqrt{t} C(M(t))) \tag{1.9}$$

for some given nondecreasing continuous functions $C_0(\cdot)$ and $C(\cdot)$.

It follows from (1.9) [17, 18, 19] that

$$\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} M(t) \leq C \tag{1.10}$$

for some $T \in (0, T^*)$.

In the proofs below, we will use the following bilinear commutator and product estimates due to Kato-Ponce [20]:

$$\|D^s(fg) - fD^s g\|_{L^p} \leq C(\|\nabla f\|_{L^{p_1}} \|D^{s-1} g\|_{L^{q_1}} + \|D^s f\|_{L^{p_2}} \|g\|_{L^{q_2}}), \tag{1.11}$$

$$\|D^s(fg)\|_{L^p} \leq C(\|f\|_{L^{p_1}} \|D^s g\|_{L^{q_1}} + \|D^s f\|_{L^{p_2}} \|g\|_{L^{q_2}}) \tag{1.12}$$

with $s > 0$ and $\frac{1}{p} = \frac{1}{p_1} + \frac{1}{q_1} = \frac{1}{p_2} + \frac{1}{q_2}$ and $1 < p < \infty$.

The proof of the uniqueness part is standard, we omit it here.

It is easy to prove Theorem 1.1 by the Galerkin method if we have (1.9) [6], thus we only need to show a priori estimates (1.9).

2. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.4

Since the physical constants C_V and R do not bring any essential difficulties in our arguments, we shall take $C_V = R = 1$. First, it follows from (1.1) that

$$\rho(x, t) = \rho_0(y(0; x, t)) \exp \left\{ - \int_0^t \operatorname{div} u(y(s; x, t), s) ds \right\}, \quad (2.1)$$

where $y(s; x, t)$ is the characteristic curve defined by

$$\frac{dy}{ds} = u(y, s), \quad y(t; x, t) = x.$$

Then (2.1) gives

$$\rho, \frac{1}{\rho} \leq C_0 \exp(tC(M)). \quad (2.2)$$

Applying ∇ to (1.1), testing by $\nabla \rho$, we see that

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int |\nabla \rho|^2 dx = - \int \nabla \operatorname{div}(\rho u) \nabla \rho dx \leq C(M),$$

which yields

$$\|\nabla \rho(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2} \leq C_0 + tC(M). \quad (2.3)$$

Applying D^3 to (1.1), testing by $D^3 \rho$, using (1.11) and (1.12), we find that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int (D^3 \rho)^2 dx \\ &= - \int (D^3(u \nabla \rho) - u \cdot \nabla D^3 \rho) D^3 \rho dx - \int u \cdot \nabla D^3 \rho \cdot D^3 \rho dx \\ & \quad - \int D^3(\rho \operatorname{div} u) D^3 \rho dx \\ & \leq C(\|\nabla u\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3 \rho\|_{L^2} + \|\nabla \rho\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3 u\|_{L^2}) \|D^3 \rho\|_{L^2} \\ & \quad + C(\|\rho\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3 \operatorname{div} u\|_{L^2} + \|\operatorname{div} u\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3 \rho\|_{L^2}) \|D^3 \rho\|_{L^2} \\ & \leq C(M) + C(M) \|D^3 \operatorname{div} u\|_{L^2}, \end{aligned}$$

which leads to

$$\|D^3 \rho(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2} \leq C + \sqrt{t}C(M). \quad (2.4)$$

It is easy to show that

$$\|u(\cdot, t)\|_{H^2} = \|u_0 + \int_0^t u_t ds\|_{H^2} \leq C_0 + \sqrt{t}C(M), \quad (2.5)$$

$$\|\theta(\cdot, t)\|_{H^2} \leq C_0 + \sqrt{t}C(M). \quad (2.6)$$

Testing (1.4) by \dot{d} and using $d \cdot \dot{d} = 0$, we infer that

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int (|\dot{d}|^2 + |\nabla d|^2) dx = \int u \cdot \nabla d \cdot \Delta d dx - \int (u \cdot \nabla) \dot{d} \cdot \dot{d} dx \leq C(M),$$

which implies

$$\|\dot{d}(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2} + \|\nabla d(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2} \leq C_0 + tC(M). \quad (2.7)$$

Taking D^3 to (1.2), testing by D^3u and using (1.1), we derive

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int \rho |D^3u|^2 dx + \mu \int |\nabla D^3u|^2 dx + (\lambda + \mu) \int (\operatorname{div} D^3u)^2 dx \\
&= \int D^3p \cdot \operatorname{div} D^3u dx - \int (D^3(\rho u \cdot \nabla u) - \rho u \cdot \nabla D^3u) D^3u dx \\
&\quad - \int (D^3(\rho u_t) - \rho D^3u_t) D^3u dx - \int (D^3(\nabla d \cdot \Delta d) - \nabla d \cdot \Delta D^3d) D^3u dx \\
&\quad - \int (D^3u \cdot \nabla) d \cdot \Delta D^3d dx \\
&=: I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + I_4 - I_5.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

Applying D^3 to (1.4) and testing by $D^3\dot{d}$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int (|D^3\dot{d}|^2 + |\nabla D^3d|^2) dx \\
&= - \int (D^3(u \cdot \nabla \dot{d}) - u \cdot \nabla D^3\dot{d}) D^3\dot{d} dx - \int (u \cdot \nabla) D^3\dot{d} \cdot D^3\dot{d} dx \\
&\quad + \int D^3(d(|\nabla d|^2 - |\dot{d}|^2)) D^3\dot{d} dx + \int \Delta D^3d \cdot (u \cdot \nabla D^3d) dx \\
&\quad + \int \Delta D^3d \cdot (D^3(u \cdot \nabla d) - u \cdot \nabla D^3d - (D^3u \cdot \nabla) d) dx + I_5 \\
&=: \ell_1 + \ell_2 + \ell_3 + \ell_4 + \ell_5 + I_5.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

Summing (2.8) and (2.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int (\rho |D^3u|^2 + |D^3\dot{d}|^2 + |\nabla D^3d|^2) dx \\
&\quad + \mu \int |\nabla D^3u|^2 dx + (\lambda + \mu) \int (\operatorname{div} D^3u)^2 dx \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^4 (I_i + \ell_i) + \ell_5.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.10}$$

Using (1.11) and (1.12), we bound I_i ($i = 1, \dots, 4$) and ℓ_i ($i = 1, \dots, 5$) as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}
I_1 &\leq C(\|\rho\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3\theta\|_{L^2} + \|\theta\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3\rho\|_{L^2}) \|\operatorname{div} D^3u\|_{L^2} \leq C(M) \|\operatorname{div} D^3u\|_{L^2}; \\
I_2 &\leq C(\|\nabla(\rho u)\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3u\|_{L^2} + \|\nabla u\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3(\rho u)\|_{L^2}) \|D^3u\|_{L^2} \leq C(M); \\
I_3 &\leq C(\|\nabla\rho\|_{L^\infty} \|D^2u_t\|_{L^2} + \|u_t\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3\rho\|_{L^2}) \|D^3u\|_{L^2} \leq C(M) \|u_t\|_{H^2}; \\
I_4 &\leq C\|\nabla^2 d\|_{L^\infty} \|D^4d\|_{L^2} \|D^3u\|_{L^2} \leq C(M); \\
\ell_1 &\leq C\|\nabla u\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3\dot{d}\|_{L^2}^2 + C\|\nabla\dot{d}\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3u\|_{L^2} \|D^3\dot{d}\|_{L^2} \leq C(M); \\
\ell_2 &= \frac{1}{2} \int |D^3\dot{d}|^2 \operatorname{div} u dx \leq C(M); \\
\ell_3 &\leq C(\|d\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3(|\nabla d|^2 - |\dot{d}|^2)\|_{L^2} + (\|\nabla d\|_{L^\infty}^2 + \|\dot{d}\|_{L^\infty}^2) \|D^3d\|_{L^2}) \|D^3\dot{d}\|_{L^2} \\
&\leq C(M);
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\ell_4 &= \sum_{i,j} \int u_i \partial_i D^3 d \partial_j^2 D^3 d \, dx \\
&= - \sum_{i,j} \int \partial_j u_i \partial_i D^3 d \partial_j D^3 d \, dx + \sum_{i,j} \frac{1}{2} \int \partial_i u_i (\partial_j D^3 d)^2 \, dx \\
&\leq C \|\nabla u\|_{L^\infty} \|D^4 d\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C(M); \\
\ell_5 &= \int \Delta D^3 d (C_1 D^2 u \cdot \nabla D d + C_2 D u \cdot \nabla D^2 d) \, dx \\
&= - \sum_i \int \partial_i D^3 d \partial_i (C_1 D^2 u \nabla D d + C_2 D u \cdot \nabla D^2 d) \, dx \\
&\leq C \|D^4 d\|_{L^2} (\|D^3 u\|_{L^2} \|\nabla^2 d\|_{L^\infty} + \|D^2 u\|_{L^3} \|D^3 d\|_{L^6} + \|\nabla u\|_{L^\infty} \|D^4 d\|_{L^2}) \\
&\leq C(M).
\end{aligned}$$

Inserting the above estimates into (2.10), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int (\rho |D^3 u|^2 + |D^3 \dot{d}|^2 + |\nabla D^3 d|^2) \, dx \\
&+ \mu \int |\nabla D^3 u|^2 \, dx + (\lambda + \mu) \int (\operatorname{div} D^3 u)^2 \, dx \\
&\leq C(M) \|\operatorname{div} D^3 u\|_{L^2} + C(M) + C(M) \|u_t\|_{H^2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.11}$$

Integrating the above estimates in $[0, t]$, we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned}
&\|D^3 u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|D^3 \dot{d}(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla D^3 d(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \int_0^t \int |D^4 u|^2 \, dx \, ds \\
&\leq C_0 \exp(\sqrt{t} C(M)).
\end{aligned} \tag{2.12}$$

On the other hand, it follows from (1.2) that

$$u_t = -u \cdot \nabla u + \frac{1}{\rho} \left[\mu \Delta u + (\lambda + \mu) \nabla \operatorname{div} u - \nabla p - \nabla \cdot (\nabla d \odot \nabla d - \frac{1}{2} |\nabla d|^2 \mathbb{I}_3) \right]$$

which easily implies

$$\|u_t\|_{L^2(0,t;H^2)} \leq C_0 \exp(\sqrt{t} C(M)). \tag{2.13}$$

Applying D^3 to (1.3), testing by $D^3 \theta$ and using (1.1), (1.11), and (1.12), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int \rho (D^3 \theta)^2 \, dx + \int |\nabla D^3 \theta|^2 \, dx \\
&= - \int (D^3(\rho u \cdot \nabla \theta) - \rho u \cdot \nabla D^3 \theta) D^3 \theta \, dx - \int D^3(p \operatorname{div} u) \cdot D^3 \theta \, dx \\
&\quad - \int (D^3(\rho \theta_t) - \rho D^3 \theta_t) D^3 \theta \, dx \\
&\quad + \int D^3 \left[\frac{\mu}{2} |\nabla u + \nabla u^t|^2 + \lambda (\operatorname{div} u)^2 + |\dot{d}|^2 \right] D^3 \theta \, dx \\
&\leq C (\|\nabla(\rho u)\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3 \theta\|_{L^2} + \|\nabla \theta\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3(\rho u)\|_{L^2}) \|D^3 \theta\|_{L^2} \\
&\quad + C (\|p\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3 \operatorname{div} u\|_{L^2} + \|\operatorname{div} u\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3 p\|_{L^2}) \|D^3 \theta\|_{L^2} \\
&\quad + C (\|\nabla \rho\|_{L^\infty} \|D^2 \theta_t\|_{L^2} + \|\theta_t\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3 \rho\|_{L^2}) \|D^3 \theta\|_{L^2} \\
&\quad + C (\|\nabla u\|_{L^\infty} \|D^4 u\|_{L^2} + \|\dot{d}\|_{L^\infty} \|D^3 \dot{d}\|_{L^2}) \|D^3 \theta\|_{L^2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\leq C(M) + C(M)\|D^3 \operatorname{div} u\|_{L^2} + C(M)\|\theta_t\|_{H^2} + C(M)\|D^4 u\|_{L^2},$$

which gives

$$\|D^3 \theta(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \int_0^t \int |D^4 \theta|^2 dx ds \leq C_0 \exp(\sqrt{t}C(M)). \quad (2.14)$$

On the other hand, from (1.3) it follows that

$$\theta_t = -u \cdot \nabla \theta - \frac{p}{\rho} \operatorname{div} u + \frac{1}{\rho} \left[\frac{\mu}{2} |\nabla u + \nabla u^t|^2 + \lambda (\operatorname{div} u)^2 + |\dot{d}|^2 \right], \quad (2.15)$$

which easily leads to

$$\|\theta_t\|_{L^2(0,t;H^2)} \leq C_0 \exp(\sqrt{t}C(M)). \quad (2.16)$$

This completes the proof.

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