ISSN: 2008-1898



Journal of Nonlinear Sciences and Applications



Journal Homepage: www.tjnsa.com - www.isr-publications.com/jnsa

# BKM's criterion for the 3D nematic liquid crystal flows in Besov spaces of negative regular index

Baoquan Yuan\*, Chengzhou Wei

School of Mathematics and Information Science, Henan Polytechnic University, Henan, 454000, China.

Communicated by Y. Hu

### Abstract

In this paper, we investigate the blow-up criterion of a smooth solution of the nematic liquid crystal flow in three-dimensional space. More precisely, We prove that if  $\int_0^T (\|\omega\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,\infty}^{-\alpha}}^{\frac{2}{2-\alpha}} + \|\nabla d\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,\infty}^0}^2) dt < \infty$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 2$ , then the solution (u, d) can be extended smoothly beyond t = T. ©2017 All rights reserved.

Keywords: Nematic liquid crystal flow, blow-up criteria, regularity criteria, Besov space. 2010 MSC: 35Q35, 35B65.

### 1. Introduction

In this paper, we are concerned with the following viscous incompressible flow of nematic liquid crystal in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \cdot \nabla u - \mu \Delta u + \nabla p = -\lambda \nabla \cdot (\nabla d \odot \nabla d), \\ \frac{\partial d}{\partial t} + u \cdot \nabla d = \gamma (\Delta d + |\nabla d|^2 d), \\ \text{divu} = 0, \\ u(x, 0) = u_0, \ d(x, 0) = d_0. \end{cases}$$
(1.1)

Here  $u = (u_1(x, t), u_2(x, t), u_3(x, t))$  denotes the velocity of the fluid at a point  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and time  $t \in [0, T)$ ; and  $d = (d_1(x, t), d_2(x, t), d_3(x, t))$  and p = p(x, t) stand for the macroscopic average of the nematic liquid crystal orientation field and the fluid pressure, respectively. The tensorial notation  $\nabla d \odot \nabla d$  denotes the  $3 \times 3$  matrix whose (i, j)-th entry is given by  $\partial_{x_i} d \cdot \partial_{x_j} d$ , and then  $(\nabla d \odot \nabla d)_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^3 \partial_{x_i} d_k \partial_{x_j} d_k$  for any i, j = 1, 2, 3. Moreover, it is easy to verify that  $\nabla \cdot (\nabla d \odot \nabla d) = \frac{1}{2} \nabla (|\nabla d|^2) + \Delta d \cdot \nabla d$ , where  $\nabla$  denotes the gradient operator  $(\partial_{x_1}, \partial_{x_2}, \partial_{x_3})$ .  $u_0$  and  $d_0$  are the prescribed initial data of u and d, and  $u_0$  satisfies the incompressible condition div $u_0 = 0$ . Clearly  $\Delta |d|^2 = 0$  because of |d| = 1, we thus have  $d \cdot \Delta d = -|\nabla d|^2$ .

Received 2017-03-07

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author

Email addresses: bqyuan@hpu.edu.cn (Baoquan Yuan), jisuanwei@163.com (Chengzhou Wei)

doi:10.22436/jnsa.010.06.17

 $\mu$  is the kinematic viscosity,  $\lambda$  is the competition between the kinetic and potential energies, and  $\gamma$  is the microscopic elastic relation time for the molecular orientation field.

The system (1.1) is a simplified version of the Ericksen-Leslie model (see [5, 16]), which was first introduced by Lin in [18] and studied by Lin and Liu in their important works in [21, 22] and Coutand and Shkoller in [4]. It is a macroscopic continuum description of the time evolution of the rod-like liquid crystal materials under the influence of both the velocity field u and the macroscopic description of the microscopic orientation configurations d. Due to the physical importance and real-world applications, there have been numerous attempts to formulate continuum theories describing the behavior of liquid crystal flows, we refer to the seminal papers [5, 16] and references therein. Mathematically, the system (1.1) can be seen as a variant of the Navier-Stokes problem with respect to the unknown velocity and pressure (u, p) coupled with heat flow of a harmonic map. When d is constant, this model becomes the well-known Navier-Stokes equation, we refer to the papers [1, 8, 13, 14], while when u = 0, the system is the harmonic heat flow equation on to a sphere [3, 28].

Besides the physical and real-world applications, there have been numerous attempts to study it from mathematical viewpoint. Many results to system (1.1) have been established (see, for example, [7, 9–11, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29]). Lin et al. [20] proved the global existence of Leray-Hopf type weak solutions for system (1.1) on the bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  under initial and boundary value conditions. When the space dimension  $n \ge 3$ , Li and Wang [17] obtained the existence of a local strong solution for general initial data and the global strong solution for small initial data. It is well-known that the strong solutions of heat flow of harmonic maps must be blowing up at finite time (see [2]), therefore we can not expect that the system (1.1) has a global smooth solution with general initial data. However, Wen and Ding [29] proved that if  $u_0(x) \in H^s(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathbb{R}^3)$  with  $\nabla \cdot u = 0$ , and  $d_0 \in H^{s+1}(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathbb{S}^2)$  for  $s \ge 3$ , then there exists  $T = T(||u_0||_{H^s}, ||d_0||_{H^{s+1}})$  such that system (1.1) has a unique local classical solution in the class

$$\begin{cases} u \in C([0,T]; H^{s}(\mathbb{R}^{3}, \mathbb{R}^{3})) \cap C^{1}([0,T]; H^{s-2}(\mathbb{R}^{3}, \mathbb{R}^{3})), \\ d \in C([0,T]; H^{s+1}(\mathbb{R}^{3}, \mathbb{S}^{2})) \cap C^{1}([0,T]; H^{s-1}(\mathbb{R}^{3}, \mathbb{S}^{2})). \end{cases}$$
(1.2)

The blow-up criteria of smooth solutions to nematic liquid crystal flow are important topic in the research of global well-posedness. Huang and Wang [11] established a BKM type blow-up criterion for the system (1.1). Namely, if T<sup>\*</sup> is the maximal time,  $0 < T^* < +\infty$ , then

$$\int_{0}^{T^{*}} (\|\omega\|_{\infty} + \|\nabla d\|_{\infty}^{2}) dt = \infty.$$
(1.3)

This result is improved by Liu and Zhao [25], who proved that the smooth solution (u, d) of (1.1) blows up at the time T<sup>\*</sup>, if and only if

$$\int_{0}^{\mathsf{T}^{*}} \frac{\|\omega\|_{\dot{B}^{0}_{\infty,\infty}} + \|\nabla d\|_{\dot{B}^{0}_{\infty,\infty}}^{2}}{\sqrt{1 + \ln(e + \|\omega\|_{\dot{B}^{0}_{\infty,\infty}} + \|\nabla d\|_{\dot{B}^{0}_{\infty,\infty}})}} dt = \infty.$$

This result is also improved by Zhao [30] in terms of two velocity components and molecular orientations. More precisely, let T<sup>\*</sup> be the maximal existence time of the local strong solution (u, d), then T<sup>\*</sup> <  $+\infty$  if and only if

$$\int_{0}^{1^{*}} (\|\nabla_{h} u^{h}\|_{\dot{B}^{0}_{p,2p/3}}^{q} + \|\nabla d\|_{\dot{B}^{0}_{\infty,\infty}}^{2}) dt = \infty, \text{ with } 3/p + 2/q = 2, 3/2$$

Recently, a new blow-up criterion in terms of velocity gradient in Besov spaces of negative indices is established by Fan and Zhou [6], i.e.,

$$abla \mathfrak{u}, \Delta^2 \mathfrak{d} \in L^{rac{2}{2-lpha}}(0,\mathsf{T};\dot{\mathsf{B}}_{\infty,\infty}^{-lpha}), \quad ext{with} \quad 0$$

In this paper, we consider the blow-up criterion of system (1.1) in terms of the vorticity in Besov space of negative index and the orientation field in the homogeneous Besov space, which improves the result of [11, 25].

Before stating our main result, we introduce some function spaces and notations. The norm of the Lebesgue space  $\|.\|_{L^p}$  is denoted by  $\|.\|_p$ . To simplify the notations, we shall use the letter C to denote a generic constant which may vary from line to line, and write  $\partial_t u = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$ ,  $\partial_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$ ,  $(u \cdot \nabla) = \sum_{i=1}^3 u_i \partial_i$ . Since the concrete values of the constants  $\mu$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $\gamma$  play no role in our discussion, to simplify the presentation, we shall assume that  $\mu = \lambda = \gamma = 1$  in this paper.

To this end, we state our result as follows.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $u_0 \in H^s(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathbb{R}^3)$  with  $\nabla \cdot u_0 = 0$  and  $d_0 \in H^{s+1}(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathbb{S}^2)$  with  $s \ge 3$ . Suppose that the pair (u, p) is a smooth solution to the equations (1.1) satisfying (1.2). If (u, d) satisfies the condition

$$\int_{0}^{T} (\|\omega(t)\|_{\dot{B}^{-r}_{\infty,\infty}}^{\frac{2}{2-r}} + \|\nabla d(t)\|_{\dot{B}^{0}_{\infty,\infty}}^{2}) dt < \infty, \quad 0 < r < 2,$$

then the solution (u, d) can be extended smoothly beyond t = T.

## 2. Preliminaries

In this preliminary section, we will present some lemmas which will be used in the proof of Theorem 1.1.

**Lemma 2.1** ([1, Theorem 2.42]). Let  $1 \le q and <math>\alpha$  be a positive real number. Then there exists a constant *C* such that

$$\|f\|_{L^p} \leqslant C \|f\|_{\dot{B}^{-\alpha}_{\infty,\infty}}^{1-\theta} \|f\|_{\dot{B}^{\beta}_{q,q}}^{\theta}, \quad \text{with } \beta = \alpha(\frac{p}{q}-1) \text{ and } \theta = \frac{q}{p}.$$

In particular, for q = 2 and p = 3, we have

$$\|f\|_{L^{3}}^{3} \leqslant C \|f\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,\infty}^{-r}} \|f\|_{\dot{H}^{\frac{r}{2}}}^{2}, \quad \text{with } r > 0.$$
(2.1)

For p = 4, q = 2,  $\alpha = \beta = 1$ , we have

$$\|f\|_{4} \leqslant C \|f\|_{\dot{B}^{-1}_{\infty,\infty}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla f\|_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$
(2.2)

**Lemma 2.2** (Commutator estimate [12]). Let 1 , <math>s > 0. Assume that  $f \in \dot{W}^{1,p_1} \cap \dot{W}^{s,p_3}$  and  $g \in L^{p_4} \cap \dot{W}^{s-1,p_2}$ , then there exists constant C independent of f, g such that

$$\|\wedge^{s}(fg) - f\wedge^{s}g\|_{p} \leq C(\|\nabla f\|_{p_{1}}\|g\|_{\dot{W}^{s-1,p_{2}}} + \|f\|_{\dot{W}^{s,p_{3}}}\|g\|_{p_{4}})$$
(2.3)

with  $p_2, p_3 \in (1, +\infty)$  such that

$$\frac{1}{p} = \frac{1}{p_1} + \frac{1}{p_2} = \frac{1}{p_3} + \frac{1}{p_4}.$$

*Here*  $\wedge := (-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  *is defined through the Fourier transform, namely* 

$$\widehat{\wedge \mathbf{f}}(\xi) = |\xi| \widehat{\mathbf{f}}(\xi)$$

### 3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

In this section we devote to prove Theorem 1.1, and the proof will be divided into two steps. Step I.  $\|u\|_{H^1} + \|\nabla d\|_{H^1}$  estimate.

In this step, we will show:

$$\sup_{0 < t < T} (\|\nabla u\|_2^2 + \|\Delta d\|_2^2) \leqslant C.$$
(3.1)

Firstly, we estimate L<sup>2</sup> norms of u and  $\nabla d$ . Multiplying both sides of the first equation of (1.1) by u and

integrating over  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , and then applying the identity  $\nabla \cdot (\nabla d \odot \nabla d) = \frac{1}{2} \nabla (|\nabla d|^2) + \Delta d \cdot \nabla d$ , we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\|\mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{2}+\|\nabla\mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{2} = -\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}}\nabla\mathrm{d}\cdot\Delta\mathrm{d}\cdot\mathrm{u}\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x},\tag{3.2}$$

where we have used the fact divu = 0. Multiplying both sides of the second equation of (1.1) by  $-\Delta d$  and integrating over  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , one has

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\|\nabla \mathbf{d}\|_{2}^{2} + \|\Delta \mathbf{d}\|_{2}^{2} - \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{d}) \cdot \Delta \mathbf{d}dx = -\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} |\nabla \mathbf{d}|^{2} \mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{d}dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} |\mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{d}|^{2} dx \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} |\Delta \mathbf{d}|^{2} dx, \quad (3.3)$$

where we have used the facts |d| = 1 and  $|\nabla d|^2 = -d \cdot \Delta d$ . Combining (3.2) and (3.3), and integrating in time, we get

$$\sup_{0 < t < T} \left( \|u\|_2^2 + \|\nabla d\|_2^2 \right) + \int_0^T \|\nabla u\|_2^2 dt \leqslant \|u_0\|_2^2 + \|\nabla d_0\|_2^2.$$

Secondly, taking the inner product of  $-\Delta u$  with the first equation of (1.1), by integrating by parts and using the incompressibility condition, we have

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{2} + \|\Delta \mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{2} \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u} \mathrm{d}x + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \nabla \mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u} \mathrm{d}x.$$
(3.4)

For the estimate of  $\Delta d$ , taking  $\Delta$  on both sides of the second equation of (1.1), multiplying  $\Delta d$  and integrating over  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , one has

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}\|\Delta d\|_{2}^{2} + \|\nabla\Delta d\|_{2}^{2} \leqslant -\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \Delta(\mathbf{u}\cdot\nabla d)\cdot\Delta ddx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \Delta(|\nabla d|^{2}d)\cdot\Delta ddx.$$
(3.5)

Combining the estimates (3.4) and (3.5), we obtain that

$$\begin{split} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} (\|\nabla u\|_{2}^{2} + \|\Delta d\|_{2}^{2}) + \|\Delta u\|_{2}^{2} + \|\nabla \Delta d\|_{2}^{2} \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} u \cdot \nabla u \cdot \Delta u dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \nabla d \cdot \Delta d \cdot \Delta u dx \\ - \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \Delta (u \cdot \nabla d) \cdot \Delta d dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \Delta (|\nabla d|^{2} d) \cdot \Delta d dx \\ = I_{1} + I_{2} + I_{3} + I_{4}. \end{split}$$
(3.6)

In what follows, we will deal with each term on the right-hand side of (3.6) separately. The first term can be bounded by (2.1) as follows.

$$I_{1} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u} d\mathbf{x} \leqslant -\sum_{k=1}^{3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \partial_{k} \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \partial_{k} \mathbf{u} d\mathbf{x}$$

$$\leqslant C \|\boldsymbol{\omega}\|_{3}^{3} \leqslant C \|\boldsymbol{\omega}\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,\infty}^{-r}} \|\boldsymbol{\omega}\|_{\dot{H}_{2}^{\frac{r}{2}}}^{2}$$

$$\leqslant C \|\boldsymbol{\omega}\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,\infty}^{-r}} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{2-r} \|\nabla \boldsymbol{\omega}\|_{2}^{r}$$

$$\leqslant C \|\boldsymbol{\omega}\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,\infty}^{-r}}^{2} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{6} \|\Delta \mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{2}.$$
(3.7)

To estimate  $I_2$ ,  $I_3$ ,  $I_4$ , we use (2.2) with  $f = \Delta d$  and |d| = 1, Young inequality and Hölder inequality and the following Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality:

$$\|\nabla \mathbf{d}\|_4^2 \leqslant \|\mathbf{d}\|_{\infty} \|\Delta \mathbf{d}\|_2.$$

$$\begin{split} I_{2} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \nabla d \cdot \Delta d \cdot \Delta u dx \leqslant \|\Delta u\|_{2} \|\nabla d\|_{4} \|\Delta d\|_{4} \\ &\leqslant \frac{1}{6} \|\Delta u\|_{2}^{2} + C \|d\|_{\infty} \|\Delta d\|_{2} \|\nabla d\|_{B_{\infty,\infty}^{0}} \|\nabla \Delta d\|_{2} \\ &\leqslant \frac{1}{6} \|\Delta u\|_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla \Delta d\|_{2}^{2} + C \|\nabla d\|_{B_{\infty,\infty}^{0}}^{2} \|\Delta d\|_{2}^{2}, \end{split}$$
(3.8)  
$$&\leqslant \frac{1}{6} \|\Delta u\|_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla \Delta d\|_{2}^{2} + C \|\nabla d\|_{B_{\infty,\infty}^{0}}^{2} \|\Delta d\|_{2}^{2}, \end{aligned}$$
$$I_{3} &= -\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \Delta (u \cdot \nabla d) \Delta ddx \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} |\Delta u| |\nabla d| |\Delta d| dx + 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} |\nabla u| |\nabla^{2} d| |\Delta d| dx \\ &\leqslant C (\|\Delta u\|_{2} \|\nabla d\|_{4} \|\Delta d\|_{4} + \|\nabla u\|_{2} \|\nabla^{2} d\|_{4} \|\Delta d\|_{4}) \\ &\leqslant C \|\Delta u\|_{2} \|d\|_{\infty}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\Delta d\|_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla d\|_{B_{0,\infty}^{0}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla \Delta d\|_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}} + \|\nabla u\|_{2} \|\nabla d\|_{B_{0,\infty}^{0}} \|\nabla \Delta d\|_{2} \\ &\leqslant \frac{1}{6} \|\Delta u\|_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla \Delta d\|_{2}^{2} + C \|\nabla d\|_{B_{0,\infty}^{0}}^{2} (\|\nabla u\|_{2}^{2} + \|\Delta d\|_{2}^{2}), \end{split}$$

where we have used the fact that  $\operatorname{divu} = 0$  implies that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u \cdot \nabla \Delta d \cdot \Delta d dx = 0$ .

$$\begin{split} I_{4} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \Delta(|\nabla d|^{2} d) \Delta ddx \leqslant |\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \nabla d|\nabla d|^{2} \cdot \nabla \Delta ddx| + |\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} d\nabla(|\nabla d|^{2}) \cdot \nabla \Delta ddx| \\ &\leqslant |\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \nabla(\nabla d|\nabla d|^{2}) \Delta ddx| + |\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} d\nabla(|\nabla d|^{2}) \cdot \nabla \Delta ddx| \\ &\leqslant C |\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} |\nabla d|^{2} |\nabla^{2} d|^{2} dx| + C |\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} |\nabla d| |\nabla^{2} d| |\nabla \Delta d| dx| \\ &\leqslant C ||\nabla d||_{4}^{2} ||\nabla^{2} d||_{4}^{2} + C ||\nabla d||_{4} ||\nabla^{2} d||_{4} ||\nabla \Delta d||_{2} \\ &\leqslant \frac{1}{12} ||\nabla \Delta d||_{2}^{2} + C ||\nabla d||_{4}^{2} ||\nabla^{2} d||_{4}^{2} \\ &\leqslant \frac{1}{6} ||\nabla \Delta d||_{2}^{2} + C ||\nabla d||_{4}^{2} ||\nabla^{2} d||_{2}^{2}. \end{split}$$

$$(3.10)$$

Plugging the estimates (3.7)-(3.10) back into (3.6) and absorbing the diffusive terms, one thus can deduce

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\|\nabla u\|_{2}^{2}+\|\Delta d\|_{2}^{2})+\frac{1}{2}(\|\Delta u\|_{2}^{2}+\|\nabla\Delta d\|_{2}^{2})\leqslant C(\|\omega\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,\infty}^{-r}}^{2}+\|\nabla d\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,\infty}^{0}}^{2})(\|\nabla u\|_{2}^{2}+\|\Delta d\|_{2}^{2}).$$

By Gronwall's inequality, we have

$$\begin{split} |\nabla u\|_{2}^{2} + \|\Delta d\|_{2}^{2} + \int_{0}^{1} (\|\Delta u\|_{2}^{2} + \|\nabla \Delta d\|_{2}^{2}) dt \\ &\leqslant (\|\nabla u_{0}\|_{2}^{2} + \|\Delta d_{0}\|_{2}^{2}) \exp\left\{\int_{0}^{T} (\|\omega\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,\infty}^{-r}}^{2} + \|\nabla d\|_{\dot{B}_{\infty,\infty}^{0}}^{2}) dt\right\} < C. \end{split}$$

Step II.  $\|u\|_{H^2} + \|\nabla d\|_{H^2}$  estimate.

In the following, we will show how to deduce  $||u||_{H^2} + ||\nabla d||_{H^2}$  estimate from  $||u||_{H^1} + ||\nabla d||_{H^1}$  estimate obtained in Step I.

Taking the operation  $\nabla^2$  on both sides of the first equation of (1.1),  $\nabla^3$  on both sides of the second equation of (1.1), multiplying ( $\nabla^2 \mathfrak{u}, \nabla^3 d$ ) to the resulting equations, and integrating over  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , we get

$$\begin{split} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} (\|\nabla^2 u\|_2^2 + \|\nabla^3 d\|_2^2) + \|\nabla^3 u\|_2^2 + \|\nabla^4 d\|_2^2 \leqslant -\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla^2 (u \cdot \nabla u) \nabla^2 u dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla^2 (\nabla d \cdot \Delta d) \nabla^2 u dx \\ -\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla^3 (u \cdot \nabla d) \nabla^3 ddx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla^3 (|\nabla d|^2 d) \nabla^3 ddx & (3.11) \\ &= J_1 + J_2 + J_3 + J_4. \end{split}$$

We estimate the right-hand side of (3.11) as follows.

For the first term, the commutator estimate (2.3) together with Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality and Hölder inequality yield that

$$\begin{split} J_{1} &= -\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} [\nabla^{2}(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}) - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\nabla^{2}\mathbf{u}]\nabla^{2}\mathbf{u}d\mathbf{x} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2} \|\nabla^{2}\mathbf{u}\|_{4}^{2} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2} \|\nabla^{2}\mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla^{3}\mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{\frac{3}{2}} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{4} \|\nabla^{2}\mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla^{3}\mathbf{u}\|_{2}^{2}, \end{split}$$
(3.12)

where we have applied the inequality  $\|\nabla^2 u\|_4 \leq \|\nabla^2 u\|_2^{\frac{1}{4}} \|\nabla^3 u\|_2^{\frac{3}{4}}$ . Applying (3.1), the second term  $J_2$  can be estimated as

$$\begin{split} J_{2} &= -\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \nabla(\nabla d \cdot \Delta d) \cdot \nabla^{3} u dx \\ &\leqslant C \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} |\nabla^{2} d|^{2} |\nabla^{3} u| dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} |\nabla d| |\nabla \Delta d| |\nabla^{3} u| dx \\ &\leqslant C \|\nabla^{2} d\|_{4}^{2} \|\nabla^{3} u\|_{2} + \|\nabla d\|_{4} \|\nabla \Delta d\|_{4} \|\nabla^{3} u\|_{2} \\ &\leqslant C (\|\nabla^{2} d\|_{4}^{4} + \|\nabla d\|_{4}^{2} \|\nabla \Delta d\|_{4}^{2}) + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla^{3} u\|_{2}^{2} \\ &\leqslant C (\|\nabla^{2} d\|_{2}^{\frac{5}{2}} \|\nabla^{4} d\|_{2}^{\frac{3}{2}} + \|\nabla d\|_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla^{2} d\|_{2}^{\frac{3}{2}} \|\nabla^{3} d\|_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla^{4} d\|_{2}^{\frac{3}{2}}) + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla^{3} u\|_{2}^{2} \\ &\leqslant C (\|\nabla^{2} d\|_{2}^{10} + \|\nabla^{2} d\|_{2}^{6} \|\nabla^{3} d\|_{2}^{2}) + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla^{4} d\|_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla^{3} u\|_{2}^{2}, \end{split}$$

$$(3.13)$$

where we have used the following Sobolev interpolation inequalities:

$$\|\nabla^{2}d\|_{4}^{4} \leq \|\nabla^{2}d\|_{2}^{\frac{5}{2}} \|\nabla^{4}d\|_{2}^{\frac{3}{2}}, \quad \|\nabla^{3}d\|_{4}^{2} \leq \|\nabla^{3}d\|_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla^{4}d\|_{2}^{\frac{3}{2}}.$$
(3.14)

Again, with the aid of the commutator estimate (2.3), Young inequality and Hölder inequality, we may conclude that

$$\begin{split} J_{3} &= -\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} [\nabla^{3}(u \cdot \nabla d) - u \cdot \nabla \nabla^{3} d] \nabla^{3} ddx \\ &\leq C \|\nabla u\|_{2} \|\nabla^{3} d\|_{2}^{2} + \|\nabla^{3} u\|_{2} \|\nabla d\|_{4} \|\nabla^{3} d\|_{4} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla u\|_{2} \|\nabla^{3} d\|_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\nabla^{4} d\|_{2}^{\frac{3}{2}} + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla^{3} u\|_{2}^{2} + \|\nabla d\|_{4}^{2} \|\nabla^{3} d\|_{4}^{2} \\ &\leq C \|\nabla u\|_{2}^{4} \|\nabla^{3} d\|_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{12} \|\nabla^{4} d\|_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla^{3} u\|_{2}^{2} + C \|\nabla^{2} d\|_{2}^{6} \|\nabla^{3} d\|_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{12} \|\nabla^{4} d\|_{2}^{2} \\ &\leq C (\|\nabla u\|_{2}^{4} + \|\nabla^{2} d\|_{2}^{6}) (\|\nabla^{2} u\|_{2}^{2} + \|\nabla^{3} d\|_{2}^{2}) + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla^{3} u\|_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{6} \|\nabla^{4} d\|_{2}^{2}, \end{split}$$

$$(3.15)$$

where we have used (3.14) and the following Sobolev interpolation inequality:

$$\|\nabla d\|_{4} \leq \|\nabla d\|_{2}^{\frac{1}{4}} \|\nabla^{2} d\|_{2}^{\frac{3}{4}}.$$
(3.16)

Finally, we move to estimate the last term J<sub>4</sub>, by using the facts that |d| = 1 and  $|\nabla d|^2 = -d \cdot \Delta d$ , we obtain

$$\begin{split} J_{4} &= -\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \Delta(|\nabla d|^{2}d) \cdot \Delta^{2} ddx \\ &= -\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} [\Delta(|\nabla d|^{2})d + 2\nabla(|\nabla d|^{2})\nabla d + |\nabla d|^{2}\Delta d] \cdot \Delta^{2} ddx \\ &\leqslant \left\{ C(\||\nabla^{2}d|^{2}\|_{2} + \|\nabla d \cdot \nabla^{3}d\|_{2} + \||\nabla d|^{2} \cdot |\nabla^{2}d|\|_{2}) + \|d|\Delta d|^{2}\|_{2} \right\} \cdot \|\Delta^{2}d\|_{2} \\ &\leqslant C(\|\nabla d\|_{4}\|\nabla^{3}d\|_{4} + \|\nabla^{2}d\|_{4}^{2})\|\nabla^{4}d\|_{2} \\ &\leqslant C(\|\nabla d\|_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}}\|\nabla^{2}d\|_{2}^{\frac{3}{4}}\|\nabla^{3}d\|_{2}^{\frac{1}{4}}\|\nabla^{4}d\|_{2}^{\frac{3}{4}} + \|\nabla^{2}d\|_{2}^{\frac{5}{4}}\|\nabla^{4}d\|_{2}^{\frac{3}{4}})\|\nabla^{4}d\|_{2} \\ &\leqslant C(\|\nabla^{2}d\|_{2}^{6}\|\nabla^{3}d\|_{2}^{2} + \|\nabla^{2}d\|_{2}^{10}) + \frac{1}{6}\|\nabla^{4}d\|_{2}^{2}. \end{split}$$
(3.17)

Inserting (3.12)-(3.13) and (3.15)-(3.17) into (3.11), it yields that

$$\begin{split} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} (\|\nabla^2 u\|_2^2 + \|\nabla^3 d\|_2^2) + \|\nabla^3 u\|_2^2 + \|\nabla^4 d\|_2^2 \leqslant C(\|\nabla u\|_2^4 + \|\nabla^2 d\|_2^6)(\|\nabla^2 u\|_2^2 + \|\nabla^3 d\|_2^2) + C\|\nabla^2 d\|_2^{10} \\ + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla^3 u\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla^4 d\|_2^2. \end{split}$$

Hence, by the Gronwall's inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\|\nabla^2 u\|_2^2 + \|\nabla^3 d\|_2^2) + \int_0^T (\|\nabla^3 u\|_2^2 + \|\nabla^4 d\|_2^2) dt \\ &\leqslant \left\{ \|\nabla^2 u_0\|_2^2 + \|\nabla^3 d_0\|_2^2 + C \int_0^T \|\nabla^2 d\|_2^{10} dt \right\} exp \left\{ \mathsf{T} \sup_{0 < t < \mathsf{T}} \|\nabla u(t)\|_2^4 + \|\nabla^2 d(t)\|_2^6 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

By using the Sobolev embedding  $H^2 \hookrightarrow L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , we can obtain the BKM's criterion (1.3) immediately, which completes the proof of Theorem 1.1.

## Acknowledgment

The research of B Yuan was partially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 11471103).

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