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SEQUENTIAL LOSS OF REGULARITY FOR SUPER-CRITICAL NONLINEAR SCHRÖDINGER EQUATIONS

THOMAS ALAZARD AND RÉMI CARLES

ABSTRACT. We consider the nonlinear Schrödinger equation with defocusing, smooth, nonlinearity. Below the critical Sobolev regularity, it is known that the Cauchy problem is ill-posed. We show that this is even worse, namely that there is a loss of regularity, in the same spirit as the result due to G. Lebeau in the case of the wave equation. We use an isotropic change of variable, which reduces the problem to a super-critical WKB analysis. For super-cubic, smooth nonlinearity, this analysis is new, and relies on the introduction of a modulated energy functional *à la* Brenier.

1. INTRODUCTION

We consider the following defocusing nonlinear Schrödinger equation on \mathbb{R}^n :

$$(1.1) \quad i\partial_t \psi + \frac{1}{2} \Delta \psi = |\psi|^{2\sigma} \psi \quad ; \quad \psi|_{t=0} = \varphi,$$

where $\sigma \geq 1$ is an integer, so that the nonlinearity is smooth. It is well-known that the critical Sobolev regularity corresponds to the value given by scaling arguments,

$$s_c := \frac{n}{2} - \frac{1}{\sigma}.$$

Throughout this paper, we assume $s_c > 0$. If $\varphi \in H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with $s \geq s_c$, then the Cauchy problem (1.1) is locally well-posed in $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ [5]. On the other hand, if $s < s_c$, then the Cauchy problem (1.1) is ill-posed [7] (see also the appendices in [2, 3]). The worst phenomenon proved there is the norm inflation. For $0 < s < s_c$, one can find a sequence $(\psi^h)_{0 < h \leq 1}$ of solutions to (1.1) and $0 < t^h \rightarrow 0$, such that $\varphi^h \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and

$$\|\varphi^h\|_{H^s} \xrightarrow{h \rightarrow 0} 0 \quad ; \quad \|\psi^h(t^h)\|_{H^s} \xrightarrow{h \rightarrow 0} +\infty.$$

In [3], the above result is strengthened as follows:

Theorem 1.1 ([3], Corollary 1.7). *Let $\sigma = 1$ and $n \geq 3$. Let $0 < s < s_c$. We can find a family $(\varphi^h)_{0 < h \leq 1}$ in $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with*

$$\|\varphi^h\|_{H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } h \rightarrow 0,$$

and $0 < t^h \rightarrow 0$, such that the solution ψ^h to (1.1) satisfies:

$$\|\psi^h(t^h)\|_{H^k(\mathbb{R}^n)} \rightarrow +\infty \text{ as } h \rightarrow 0, \quad \forall k \in \left] \frac{s}{2} - s, s \right].$$

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This result is to be compared with the main result in [17], which we recall with notations adapted to make the comparison with the Schrödinger case easier. For super-critical wave equations

$$(\partial_t^2 - \Delta) u + u^{2\sigma+1} = 0,$$

G. Lebeau shows that one can find a *fixed* initial datum in H^s , and a sequence of times $0 < t^h \rightarrow 0$, such that the H^k norms of the solution are unbounded along the sequence t^h , for $k \in]I(s), s]$. The expression for $I(s)$ is related to the critical Sobolev exponent

$$s_{\text{sob}} = \frac{n}{2} \frac{\sigma}{\sigma + 1},$$

which corresponds to the embedding $H^{s_{\text{sob}}}(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset L^{2\sigma+2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. In [17], we find:

$$(1.2) \quad I(s) = 1 \text{ if } 1 < s \leq s_{\text{sob}} \quad ; \quad I(s) = \frac{s}{1 + \sigma(s_c - s)} \text{ if } s_{\text{sob}} \leq s < s_c.$$

Note that we have

$$(1.3) \quad \frac{s_{\text{sob}}}{1 + \sigma(s_c - s_{\text{sob}})} = 1.$$

The approach in [17] consists in using an *anisotropic* scaling, as opposed to the isotropic scaling used in [16, 7]. We first compare Theorem 1.1 with the approach of [17]. Consider, for $n \geq 5$, the case $s = n/4$. Then the interval for k is: $k \in]1, n/4]$. Recall that (1.1) has two important (formally) conserved quantities: mass and energy,

$$(1.4) \quad \begin{aligned} M(t) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\psi(t, x)|^2 dx \equiv M(0), \\ E(\psi(t)) &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\nabla \psi(t, x)|^2 dx + \frac{1}{\sigma + 1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\psi(t, x)|^{2\sigma+2} dx \equiv E(\varphi). \end{aligned}$$

When $\sigma = 1$, the boundedness in $H^{n/4}$ and Sobolev embeddings show that the energy E^h associated to ψ^h goes to zero as h goes to zero. On the other hand, all the H^k norms, with $k > 1$, are unbounded at time $t^h \rightarrow 0$. We thus get the analogue of the result of G. Lebeau when $I(s) = 1$, with the drawback that we consider a *sequence* of initial data only. The information that we don't have for Schrödinger equations, and which is available for wave equations, is the finite speed of propagation, that is used in [17] to construct a fixed initial datum. On the other hand, our approach involves an *isotropic* scaling, which is recalled and generalized in Section 2. Moreover, our range for k is broader when $1 < s < s_{\text{sob}}$, and we allow the range $0 < s < 1$. In this paper, we extend Th. 1.1 to the general case $\sigma \geq 1$.

Before stating our main result, let us focus on the notion of solution to (1.1). In view of Theorem 1.1 and 1.3 below, we assume that the initial data are in the Schwartz class: $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then (1.1) has a local smooth solution: for all $s > n/2$, there exists $T_s > 0$ such that (1.1) has a unique solution $\psi \in C([-T_s, T_s]; H^s)$. If $n \leq 2$, then (1.1) has a global smooth solution, $\psi \in C(\mathbb{R}; H^s)$ for all $s \geq 0$, and the identities (1.4) hold for all time. The same is true when $n = 3$ and $\sigma = 1$. These results are established in [11]. In the H^1 -critical three dimensional case ($n = 3$ and $\sigma = 2$), it is proved in [8] that solutions with H^s regularity ($s > 1$) remain in H^s for all time; the same is true in the four dimensional case ($n = 4$ and $\sigma = 1$), from [21]. On the other hand, if the nonlinearity is H^1 super-critical ($\sigma > \frac{2}{n-2}$), then it is not known in general whether the solution remains smooth for all time or not.

In Theorem 1.1, the solution ψ^h is a smooth solution, that remains smooth up to time t^h , thanks to a result due to E. Grenier [13]. In general, the solution that we consider is a weak solution:

Definition 1.2. Let $\varphi \in H^1 \cap L^{2\sigma+2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. A (global) weak solution to (1.1) is a function $\psi \in C(\mathbb{R}; \mathcal{D}') \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}; H^1 \cap L^{2\sigma+2})$ solving (1.1) in $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n) \cap C(\mathbb{R}; L^2)$, and such that:

- $\|\psi(t)\|_{L^2} = \|\varphi\|_{L^2}, \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$.
- $E(\psi(t)) \leq E(\varphi), \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$.

From [12], for $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, (1.1) has a global weak solution. The proof in [12] is based on Galerkin method. We use a different construction, as in [17], which is described in Section 4. Note also that when the nonlinearity is H^1 -subcritical, then the weak solution is unique, and coincides with the strong solution.

Theorem 1.3. Let $\sigma \geq 1$. Assume that $s_c = n/2 - 1/\sigma > 0$, and let $0 < s < s_c$. There exists a family $(\varphi^h)_{0 < h \leq 1}$ in $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with

$$\|\varphi^h\|_{H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } h \rightarrow 0,$$

a solution ψ^h to (1.1) and $0 < t^h \rightarrow 0$, such that:

$$\|\psi^h(t^h)\|_{H^k(\mathbb{R}^n)} \rightarrow +\infty \text{ as } h \rightarrow 0, \forall k \in \left] \frac{s}{1 + \sigma(s_c - s)}, s \right].$$

Remark 1.4. Comparing our result with [17, Th. 1], we still have a sequence of initial data, in contrast with a fixed datum in [17]. On the other hand, we have a definition for $I(s)$ which is uniform for $0 < s < s_c$, and meets the definition of G. Lebeau in the case $s_{\text{sob}} \leq s < s_c$. For $1 < s < s_{\text{sob}}$, we obtain a broader range for k , and for $0 < s \leq 1$, no analogous result is available for the wave equation.

In view of (1.3), we obtain, for H^1 super-critical nonlinearities:

Corollary 1.5. Let $n \geq 3$ and $\sigma > \frac{2}{n-2}$. There exists a family $(\varphi^h)_{0 < h \leq 1}$ in $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with

$$\|\varphi^h\|_{H^1} + \|\varphi^h\|_{L^{2\sigma+2}} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } h \rightarrow 0,$$

a solution ψ^h to (1.1) and $0 < t^h \rightarrow 0$, such that:

$$\|\psi^h(t^h)\|_{H^k(\mathbb{R}^n)} \rightarrow +\infty \text{ as } h \rightarrow 0, \forall k \in \left] 1, \frac{n\sigma}{2(\sigma+1)} \right].$$

Thus, we have a sequence of solutions whose energy goes to zero, and whose all the Sobolev norms above the energy are unbounded along a time sequence going to zero.

As in [3], the idea for the proof of Theorem 1.3 consists in reducing the analysis to a super-critical WKB analysis, for an equation of the form:

$$(1.5) \quad i\varepsilon \partial_t u^\varepsilon + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} \Delta u^\varepsilon = |u^\varepsilon|^{2\sigma} u^\varepsilon \quad ; \quad u^\varepsilon(0, x) = a_0(x).$$

The parameter ε goes to zero. The above equation is super-critical as far as geometrical optics is concerned: if one plugs an approximate solution of the form

$$v^\varepsilon \sim e^{i\phi/\varepsilon} (\mathbf{a}_0 + \varepsilon \mathbf{a}_1 + \varepsilon^2 \mathbf{a}_2 + \dots)$$

into the equation, then closing the systems of equations for $\phi, \mathbf{a}_0, \mathbf{a}_1, \dots$ is a very delicate issue (see e.g. [4]). In the case $\sigma = 1$, this issue was resolved by E. Grenier

[13]. However, it seems that the main idea in [13] is not easy to adapt in the case $\sigma \geq 2$. For instance, a rigorous WKB analysis is still needed for the quintic, defocusing nonlinear Schrödinger equation. In this paper, we use a functional that yields sufficiently many informations to infer Theorem 1.3. This functional may be viewed as a generalization of the one used in [18] in the cubic case, following an idea introduced by Y. Brenier [1]. The general form for this modulated energy functional was announced in [18]. However, we will see that making the corresponding analysis rigorous is not straightforward.

The main idea of the proof of Theorem 1.3 consists in noticing that for an ε -independent initial datum a_0 in (1.5), the solution u^ε becomes ε -oscillatory for times of order $\mathcal{O}(1)$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. This phenomenon is typical of super-critical régimes, as far as geometrical optics is concerned (see also [6]). This crucial step is stated in Theorem 2.1, which in turn is proved thanks to the above mentioned modulated energy functional.

We end this introduction with a remark concerning the study of the Cauchy problem for (1.1). From [7], it is known that the Cauchy problem is not well posed in $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for $0 < s < s_c$. Yet, one can try to solve the Cauchy problem by searching the solutions in a larger space. Denote $H^\infty = \bigcap_{s>0} H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Recall the notion of well-posed in the sense of Hadamard:

Definition 1.6. Let $s \geq k \geq 0$. The Cauchy problem for (1.1) is well posed from $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to $H^k(\mathbb{R}^n)$ if, for all bounded subset $B \subset H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$, there exist $T > 0$ and a Banach space $X_T \hookrightarrow C([0, T]; H^k(\mathbb{R}^n))$ such that:

- (1) For all $\varphi \in B \cap H^\infty$, there exists a unique solution $\psi \in C([0, T]; H^\infty)$ to (1.1).
- (2) The mapping $\varphi \in (H^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n), \|\cdot\|_B) \mapsto \psi \in X_T$ is continuous.

The following result is a direct consequence of our analysis (see Remark 2.2).

Corollary 1.7. Let $n \geq 1$ and $\sigma \geq 1$ be such that $\sigma > 2/n$. The Cauchy problem for (1.1) is not well posed from $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to $H^k(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for all (s, k) such that

$$0 < s < s_c = \frac{n}{2} - \frac{1}{\sigma}, \quad k > \frac{s}{1 + \sigma(s_c - s)}.$$

2. REDUCTION OF THE PROBLEM

Let $0 < s < s_c$ and $a_0 \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. For a sequence h aimed at going to zero, consider the family of initial data

$$(2.1) \quad \varphi^h(x) = h^{s-\frac{n}{2}} a_0\left(\frac{x}{h}\right).$$

Let $\varepsilon = h^{\sigma(s_c - s)}$. By assumption, ε and h go simultaneously to zero. Define the function u^ε by the relation:

$$(2.2) \quad u^\varepsilon(t, x) = h^{\frac{n}{2}-s} \psi^h(h^2 \varepsilon t, hx).$$

Then (1.1) is equivalent to (1.5). Note that we have the relation:

$$\|\psi^h(t)\|_{\dot{H}^m} = h^{s-m} \left\| u^\varepsilon\left(\frac{t}{h^2 \varepsilon}\right) \right\|_{\dot{H}^m}.$$

Our aim is to show that for some $\tau > 0$ independent of ε ,

$$(2.3) \quad \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \varepsilon^k \|u^\varepsilon(\tau)\|_{\dot{H}^k} > 0, \quad \forall k \geq 0.$$

Back to ψ , this will yield $t^h = \tau h^2 \varepsilon$ and

$$\|\psi^h(t^h)\|_{\dot{H}^k} \gtrsim h^{s-k} \varepsilon^{-k} = h^{s-k(1+\sigma(s_c-s))}.$$

To complete the above reduction, note that in view of Theorem 1.3, we only have to prove (2.3) for $k \in]0, 1]$. Indeed, for $k > 1$, there exists $C_k > 0$ such that

$$\|f\|_{\dot{H}^1} \leq C_k \|f\|_{L^2}^{1-1/k} \|f\|_{\dot{H}^k}^{1/k}, \quad \forall f \in H^k(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

This inequality is straightforward thanks to Fourier analysis. Note also that thanks to the conservation of mass for u^ε , we have:

$$\|u^\varepsilon(t)\|_{\dot{H}^1} \leq C_k \|a_0\|_{L^2}^{1-1/k} \|u^\varepsilon(t)\|_{\dot{H}^k}^{1/k}.$$

Up to replacing a_0 with $|\log h|^{-1} a_0$, the analysis of this section shows that Theorem 1.3 follows from:

Theorem 2.1. *Let $n \geq 1$, $a_0 \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be non-trivial, and $\sigma \geq 1$. There exists a solution u^ε to (1.5) and $\tau > 0$ such that for all $k \in]0, 1]$,*

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \|\varepsilon |D_x|^k u^\varepsilon(\tau)\|_{L^2} > 0, \quad \text{where } D_x = -i\nabla.$$

Remark 2.2. As we will see, the previous conclusion holds for all family of smooth solutions u^ε defined on a time interval independent of ε . In particular, Corollary 1.7 also follows from this analysis. To see this, suppose, by contradiction, that the Cauchy problem is well posed from $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to $H^k(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Since the family of initial data given by (2.1) is bounded in $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$, the first point in Definition 1.6 implies that the solutions ψ^h are defined for a time interval $[0, T]$ independent of h . As a result, the function u^ε , as given by (2.2), is defined for $t \in [0, T/(\varepsilon h^2)]$ with value in $H^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and hence on the fixed time interval $[0, T]$. Then, Theorem 4.1 implies that there exists $\tau > 0$ such that $\liminf \|\varepsilon |D_x|^k u^\varepsilon(\tau)\|_{L^2} > 0$. Back to ψ^h this yields the existence of a sequence τ^h such that $\|\psi^h(\tau^h)\|_{H^k}$ tends to $+\infty$, which contradicts the continuity given by the second point of the definition.

Remark 2.3. If we could prove Theorem 2.1 for $k = 1$ only, then back to ψ^h , this would yield Theorem 1.3 for $I(s) < k \leq s$, where $I(s)$ is given by (1.2), like in [17].

Consider the case $k = 1$, and recall that the conservation of energy for u^ε reads, as long as u^ε is a strong solution of (1.5):

$$E^\varepsilon(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\varepsilon \nabla u^\varepsilon(t, x)|^2 dx + \frac{1}{\sigma + 1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u^\varepsilon(t, x)|^{2\sigma+2} dx \equiv E^\varepsilon(0).$$

At time $t = 0$, the first term (kinetic energy) is of order $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$, while the second (potential energy) is dominating, of order $\mathcal{O}(1)$. Therefore, the game consists in showing that there exists $\tau > 0$, time at which the kinetic energy is of the order of the total (initial) energy as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Some important features of the proof of this result can be revealed by analyzing the linear case with variable coefficients:

$$i\varepsilon \partial_t u^\varepsilon + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} \Delta u^\varepsilon = V(x) u^\varepsilon \quad ; \quad u^\varepsilon(0, x) = a_0(x).$$

Introduce the operator $H^\varepsilon := -(\varepsilon^2/2)\Delta + V(x)$, so that $u^\varepsilon(t) = e^{-itH^\varepsilon/\varepsilon} a_0$. Now, let $\text{Op}_\varepsilon(q)$ be a semiclassical pseudo-differential operator with symbol $q(x, \xi) \in S_{1,0}^1$. Since $e^{itH^\varepsilon/\varepsilon}$ is unitary, by means of Egorov's Theorem (see [20]), we obtain

$$\|\text{Op}_\varepsilon(q) u^\varepsilon\|_{L^2} = \|e^{itH^\varepsilon/\varepsilon} \text{Op}_\varepsilon(q) e^{-itH^\varepsilon/\varepsilon} a_0\|_{L^2} = \|\text{Op}_\varepsilon(q \circ \Phi_t) a_0\|_{L^2} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon),$$

where Φ_t is the Hamiltonian flow associated with H^ε . For small times, one can relate Φ_t to the solution $\phi(t, x)$ of the Hamilton–Jacobi equation:

$$(2.4) \quad \partial_t \phi + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \phi|^2 + V(x) = 0 \quad ; \quad \phi(0, x) = 0,$$

by the identity $\Phi_t(x, \xi) = (X(t, x) + t\xi, \xi + (\nabla \phi)(t, X(t, x)))$, where X satisfies $\partial_t X(t, x) = (\nabla \phi)(t, X(t, x))$ with $X(0, x) = x$. Hence, with $q(x, \xi) = i\xi$, we infer

$$\|\varepsilon \nabla u^\varepsilon(t)\|_{L^2} = \|(\nabla \phi)(t, X(t, x))a_0\|_{L^2} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon),$$

so that the kinetic energy is of order $\mathcal{O}(1)$ provided that $(\nabla \phi)(t, X(t, \cdot))a_0 \neq 0$.

The previous argument can be made explicit for the harmonic oscillator

$$(2.5) \quad i\varepsilon \partial_t u_\ell^\varepsilon + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} \Delta u_\ell^\varepsilon = \frac{|x|^2}{2} u_\ell^\varepsilon \quad ; \quad u_\ell^\varepsilon(0, x) = a_0(x).$$

Lemma 2.4. *Let $n \geq 1$, and $a_0 \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ (non-trivial). There exists $\tau > 0$ such that the solution u_ℓ^ε to (2.5) satisfies*

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \|\varepsilon \nabla u_\ell^\varepsilon(\tau)\|_{L^2} > 0.$$

Proof. The standard WKB approach yields, at leading order, the following approximate solution:

$$v_\ell^\varepsilon(t, x) = a_\ell(t, x) e^{i\phi_\ell(t, x)/\varepsilon},$$

where ϕ_ℓ and a_ℓ are given by an eikonal equation and a transport equation. Since we consider an harmonic oscillator, we can compute ϕ_ℓ and a_ℓ explicitly:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \phi_\ell + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \phi_\ell|^2 + \frac{|x|^2}{2} &= 0 ; \quad \phi_\ell|_{t=0} = 0 : \quad \phi_\ell(t, x) = \frac{-|x|^2}{2} \tan t. \\ \partial_t a_\ell + \nabla \phi_\ell \cdot \nabla a_\ell + \frac{1}{2} a_\ell \Delta \phi_\ell &= 0 ; \quad a_\ell|_{t=0} = a_0 : \quad a_\ell(t, x) = \frac{1}{(\cos t)^{n/2}} a_0 \left(\frac{x}{\cos t} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Energy estimates then yield (see for instance [4, §3] for more details):

$$\|\varepsilon \nabla u_\ell^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \nabla v_\ell^\varepsilon\|_{L^\infty([0, T]; L^2)} \leq C_T \varepsilon, \quad \forall T \in \left[0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right[.$$

Since

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \|\varepsilon \nabla v_\ell^\varepsilon(t)\|_{L^2} = \sin t \|x a_0\|_{L^2}, \quad \forall t \in \left[0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right[,$$

the lemma follows easily. \square

The strategy for proving Theorem 2.1 is the same: we compare with the limit system. For nonlinear Schrödinger equation, the eikonal equation which gives the phase is coupled to the transport equation: the limiting system reads

$$(2.6) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t \phi + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \phi|^2 + |a|^{2\sigma} = 0 & ; \quad \phi|_{t=0} = 0, \\ \partial_t a + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla a + \frac{1}{2} a \Delta \phi = 0 & ; \quad a|_{t=0} = a_0. \end{cases}$$

By introducing $v = \nabla \phi$, one can transform this system into a quasi-linear system of nonlinear equations. An important feature of the system thus obtained is that it does not enter into the classical framework of symmetric hyperbolic systems for $\sigma \geq 2$. Nevertheless, one can solve the Cauchy problem (2.6) for all $\sigma \geq 1$ by a nonlinear change of variable. This is done in section 3 following an idea due to T. Makino, S. Ukai and S. Kawashima [19].

For the general case $\sigma \geq 1$, we establish a modulated energy estimate, following the pioneering work of Y. Brenier [1]. The idea consists in obtaining an estimate for the L^2 norm of $\varepsilon \nabla a^\varepsilon$ where a^ε is the modulated unknown function $a^\varepsilon := u^\varepsilon e^{-i\phi/\varepsilon}$. It is found that a^ε satisfies

$$i\varepsilon \left(\partial_t a^\varepsilon + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla a^\varepsilon + \frac{1}{2} a^\varepsilon \Delta \phi \right) + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} \Delta a^\varepsilon = \left(|a^\varepsilon|^{2\sigma} - |a|^{2\sigma} \right) a^\varepsilon.$$

For $\sigma = 1$, one can obtain estimates uniform in ε , that is

$$\|\varepsilon \nabla a^\varepsilon\|_{L^\infty([0,T];L^2)} + \| |a^\varepsilon|^2 - |a|^2 \|_{L^\infty([0,T];L^2)} = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon),$$

by an integration by parts argument. Again, this is based on the hyperbolicity in the case $\sigma = 1$ (see [18] for an application of this idea to the Gross-Pitaevskii equations). Using a modulated energy functional adapted to our problem, we prove the estimate (see Theorem 4.1 below):

$$\|\varepsilon \nabla a^\varepsilon\|_{L^\infty([0,T];L^2)} + \| (|a^\varepsilon|^2 - |a|^2) (|a^\varepsilon|^{\sigma-1} + |a|^{\sigma-1}) \|_{L^\infty([0,T];L^2)} = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon).$$

This is enough to prove Theorem 2.1 for $k = 1$. Finally, to cover the range $k \in]0, 1]$, we microlocalize the previous estimate by means of wave packets operator.

3. THE LIMITING SYSTEM

Being optimistic, one would try to mimic the approach of E. Grenier [13], and write the solution u^ε to (1.5) as $u^\varepsilon = a^\varepsilon e^{i\phi^\varepsilon/\varepsilon}$, where

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t \phi^\varepsilon + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \phi^\varepsilon|^2 + |a^\varepsilon|^{2\sigma} = 0 & ; \quad \phi^\varepsilon|_{t=0} = 0, \\ \partial_t a^\varepsilon + \nabla \phi^\varepsilon \cdot \nabla a^\varepsilon + \frac{1}{2} a^\varepsilon \Delta \phi^\varepsilon = i \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \Delta a^\varepsilon & ; \quad a^\varepsilon|_{t=0} = a_0. \end{cases}$$

Considering the unknown $v^\varepsilon = \nabla \phi^\varepsilon$ instead of ϕ^ε , the first step in the analysis would be to solve

$$(3.2) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t v^\varepsilon + v^\varepsilon \cdot \nabla v^\varepsilon + \nabla (|a^\varepsilon|^{2\sigma}) = 0 & ; \quad v^\varepsilon|_{t=0} = 0, \\ \partial_t a^\varepsilon + v^\varepsilon \cdot \nabla a^\varepsilon + \frac{1}{2} a^\varepsilon \operatorname{div} v^\varepsilon = i \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \Delta a^\varepsilon & ; \quad a^\varepsilon|_{t=0} = a_0. \end{cases}$$

In [13], E. Grenier considers the unknown $\mathbf{u}^\varepsilon = (v^\varepsilon, \operatorname{Re} a^\varepsilon, \operatorname{Im} a^\varepsilon) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+2}$. It solves a partial differential equation of the form

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u}^\varepsilon + \sum_{j=1}^n A_j(\mathbf{u}^\varepsilon) \partial_j \mathbf{u}^\varepsilon = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} L \mathbf{u}^\varepsilon.$$

In the case $\sigma = 1$, the left-hand side of the above equation defines a symmetric quasi-linear hyperbolic system in the sense of Friedrichs, with a constant symmetrizer. The linear operator L corresponds to the term $i\Delta$ on the right hand side of (3.2): it is skew-symmetric, and does not appear in the energy estimates. Therefore, one can construct a smooth solution to (3.2) on some time interval $[0, T]$ with $T > 0$ independent of ε . In the case $\sigma \geq 2$, the symmetrizer of [13] would become

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4\sigma|a^\varepsilon|^{2\sigma-2}} I_n & 0 \\ 0 & I_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

For $a^\varepsilon \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$, this matrix is not uniformly bounded, and this is why the analysis in [13] is restricted to nonlinearities which are defocusing, and cubic at the origin.

This apparent lack of hyperbolicity is not a real problem for the homogeneous nonlinearity that we consider, provided that we analyze the limiting system only:

$$(3.3) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t \phi + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \phi|^2 + |a|^{2\sigma} = 0 & ; \quad \phi|_{t=0} = 0, \\ \partial_t a + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla a + \frac{1}{2} a \Delta \phi = 0 & ; \quad a|_{t=0} = a_0. \end{cases}$$

Note that the above restriction remains apparently valid for this system: in the presence of vacuum (zeroes of a), the symmetrizer S is singular. This may lead to a loss of regularity in the energy estimates. However, we shall see that thanks to the special structure of (3.3), we can construct solutions to (3.3) in Sobolev spaces of sufficiently large order. Following an idea due to T. Makino, S. Ukai and S. Kawashima [19], we prove:

Lemma 3.1. *Let $a_0 \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. There exists $T > 0$ such that (3.3) has a unique solution $(\phi, a) \in C^\infty([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n)^2$, such that $(\phi, a) \in C([0, T], H^s)^2$ for all $s \geq 0$. Moreover, $\langle x \rangle^s \nabla \phi \in C([0, T], L^2)$ for all $s \geq 0$, where $\langle x \rangle = (1 + |x|^2)^{1/2}$.*

Proof. Differentiating the first equation in (3.3), we first consider:

$$(3.4) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t v + v \cdot \nabla v + \nabla (|a|^{2\sigma}) = 0 & ; \quad v|_{t=0} = 0, \\ \partial_t a + v \cdot \nabla a + \frac{1}{2} a \operatorname{div} v = 0 & ; \quad a|_{t=0} = a_0. \end{cases}$$

Adapting the idea of [19], consider the unknown $(v, u) = (v, a^\sigma)$. Even though the map $a \mapsto a^\sigma$ is not bijective, this will suffice to prove the lemma. The pair (v, u) solves:

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t v + v \cdot \nabla v + \nabla (|u|^2) = 0 & ; \quad v|_{t=0} = 0, \\ \partial_t u + v \cdot \nabla u + \frac{\sigma}{2} u \operatorname{div} v = 0 & ; \quad u|_{t=0} = a_0^\sigma \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n). \end{cases}$$

This system is hyperbolic symmetric, with a constant symmetrizer. Therefore, there exist $T > 0$ and a unique solution $(v, u) \in C^\infty([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n)^2$, such that $(v, u) \in C([0, T], H^s)^2$ for all $s \geq 0$. The fact that $\langle x \rangle^s v \in C([0, T], L^2)$ follows easily by considering the momenta of u and v . Now that v is known, we define a as the solution of the transport equation

$$\partial_t a + v \cdot \nabla a + \frac{1}{2} a \operatorname{div} v = 0 \quad ; \quad a|_{t=0} = a_0.$$

The function a has the regularity announced in Lemma 3.1. By uniqueness for (3.5), we have $u = a^\sigma$, so (v, a) solves (3.4). To conclude, we notice that v is irrotational, so there exists $\tilde{\phi}$ such that $v = \nabla \tilde{\phi}$. Setting $\phi = \tilde{\phi} + F$, where $F = F(t)$ is a function of time only, (ϕ, a) solves (3.3). Uniqueness follows from the uniqueness for (3.5). \square

Remark 3.2. The above proof shows that if we assume only $a_0 \in H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with $s > n/2 + 1$, then $u, v \in C([0, T]; H^s)$. We infer $a \in C([0, T]; H^{s-1})$: the possible loss of regularity due to the lack of hyperbolicity for (3.3) remains limited.

Remark 3.3. The nonlinear change of unknown function, $u = a^\sigma$, suggests that the above approach cannot be adapted to study (3.2), since we have to deal with the term $i\Delta a^\varepsilon$, and prevent the loss of regularity that it may cause in the energy estimates.

4. SEMI-CLASSICAL LIMIT

Introduce the hydrodynamic variables:

$$\rho = |a|^2 \quad ; \quad \rho^\varepsilon = |u^\varepsilon|^2 \quad ; \quad J^\varepsilon = \text{Im}(\varepsilon \bar{u}^\varepsilon \nabla u^\varepsilon).$$

The main result of this section is:

Theorem 4.1. *Let $n \geq 1$, and $\sigma \geq 1$ be an integer. Let $(v, a) \in C([0, T]; H^\infty)^2$ given by Lemma 3.1, where $v = \nabla \phi$. Then we have the following estimate:*

$$\|(\varepsilon \nabla - iv)u^\varepsilon\|_{L^\infty([0, T]; L^2)}^2 + \left\| (\rho^\varepsilon - \rho)^2 \left((\rho^\varepsilon)^{\sigma-1} + \rho^{\sigma-1} \right) \right\|_{L^\infty([0, T]; L^1)} = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2).$$

Note that the above quantities are well-defined for weak solutions. We outline the argument in a formal proof, which is then made rigorous.

Formal proof. For $y \geq 0$, denote

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) &= y^\sigma \quad ; \quad F(y) = \int_0^y f(z) dz = \frac{1}{\sigma+1} y^{\sigma+1} \quad ; \\ G(y) &= \int_0^y z f'(z) dz = y f(y) - F(y) = \frac{\sigma}{\sigma+1} y^{\sigma+1}. \end{aligned}$$

We check that $(\rho^\varepsilon, J^\varepsilon)$ satisfies, for $\sigma \geq 1$:

$$(4.1) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t \rho^\varepsilon + \text{div} J^\varepsilon = 0. \\ \partial_t J_j^\varepsilon + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{4} \sum_k \partial_k (4 \text{Re} \partial_j \bar{u}^\varepsilon \partial_k u^\varepsilon - \partial_{jk}^2 \rho^\varepsilon) + \partial_j G(\rho^\varepsilon) = 0. \end{cases}$$

For $y \geq 0$, denote

$$f(y) = y^\sigma \quad ; \quad F(y) = \int_0^y f(z) dz = \frac{1}{\sigma+1} y^{\sigma+1}.$$

As suggested in [18, Remark 1, (2)], introduce the modulated energy functional:

$$H^\varepsilon(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |(\varepsilon \nabla - iv)u^\varepsilon|^2 dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (F(\rho^\varepsilon) - F(\rho) - (\rho^\varepsilon - \rho)f(\rho)) dx.$$

Denote

$$K^\varepsilon(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |(\varepsilon \nabla - iv)u^\varepsilon|^2 dx.$$

Integrations by parts, which are studied in more detail below, yield:

$$\frac{d}{dt} H^\varepsilon(t) = \mathcal{O}(K^\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2) - \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (G(\rho^\varepsilon) - G(\rho) - (\rho^\varepsilon - \rho)G'(\rho)) \text{div} v dx.$$

We check that there exists $c > 0$ such that

$$H^\varepsilon(t) \geq K^\varepsilon(t) + c \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (\rho^\varepsilon - \rho)^2 \left((\rho^\varepsilon)^{\sigma-1} + \rho^{\sigma-1} \right) dx.$$

Setting

$$\tilde{H}^\varepsilon(t) = K^\varepsilon(t) + c \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (\rho^\varepsilon - \rho)^2 \left((\rho^\varepsilon)^{\sigma-1} + \rho^{\sigma-1} \right) dx,$$

we have:

$$\tilde{H}^\varepsilon(t) \leq \tilde{H}^\varepsilon(0) + C \int_0^t \left(\tilde{H}^\varepsilon(s) + \varepsilon^2 \right) ds.$$

We infer by Gronwall lemma that $\tilde{H}^\varepsilon(t) = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$ so long as it is defined, which is exactly the result of Theorem 4.1. \square

Rigorous proof. In general, the above integrations by parts do not make sense for any $t \in [0, T]$, since we consider weak solutions only. To make the above approach rigorous, we work on a sequence of global strong solutions, converging to a weak solution. For $(\delta_m)_m$ a sequence of positive numbers going to zero, introduce the saturated nonlinearity, defined for $y \geq 0$:

$$f_m(y) = \frac{y^\sigma}{1 + (\delta_m y)^\sigma}.$$

Note that f_m is a symbol of degree 0. For fixed m , we have a global strong solution $u_m^\varepsilon \in C(\mathbb{R}; H^1)$ to:

$$(4.2) \quad i\varepsilon \partial_t u_m^\varepsilon + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} \Delta u_m^\varepsilon = f_m(|u_m^\varepsilon|^\sigma) u_m^\varepsilon \quad ; \quad u_m^\varepsilon(0, x) = a_0(x).$$

As $m \rightarrow \infty$, the sequence $(u_m^\varepsilon)_m$ converges to a weak solution of (1.5) (see [12, 17]). For $y \geq 0$, introduce also

$$F_m(y) = \int_0^y f_m(z) dz \quad ; \quad G_m(y) = \int_0^y z f'_m(z) dz = y f_m(y) - F_m(y).$$

The mass and energy associated to u_m^ε are conserved:

$$\begin{aligned} M_m^\varepsilon(t) &= \int |u_m^\varepsilon(t, x)|^2 dx \equiv \|a_0\|_{L^2}^2. \\ E_m^\varepsilon(t) &= \frac{1}{2} \|\varepsilon \nabla u_m^\varepsilon(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} F_m(|u_m^\varepsilon(t, x)|^2) dx \equiv E_m^\varepsilon(0). \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, the solution is in $H^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for all time: $u_m^\varepsilon \in C(\mathbb{R}; H^2)$. To see this, we use an idea due to T. Kato [14, 15], and consider $\partial_t u_m^\varepsilon$. Energy estimates show that $\partial_t u_m^\varepsilon \in C(\mathbb{R}; L^2)$, since f_m is a symbol of degree 0. Using (4.2) and the boundedness of f_m , we infer $\Delta u_m^\varepsilon \in C(\mathbb{R}; L^2)$.

We consider the hydrodynamic variables:

$$\rho_m^\varepsilon = |u_m^\varepsilon|^2 \quad ; \quad J_m^\varepsilon = \text{Im}(\varepsilon \bar{u}_m^\varepsilon \nabla u_m^\varepsilon).$$

From the above discussion, we have:

$$(4.3) \quad \rho_m^\varepsilon(t) \in W^{2,1}(\mathbb{R}^n) \text{ and } J_m^\varepsilon(t) \in W^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n), \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

The analogue of (4.1) is:

$$(4.4) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t \rho_m^\varepsilon + \text{div } J_m^\varepsilon = 0. \\ \partial_t (J_m^\varepsilon)_j + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{4} \sum_k \partial_k (4 \text{Re } \partial_j \bar{u}_m^\varepsilon \partial_k u_m^\varepsilon - \partial_{jk}^2 \rho_m^\varepsilon) + \partial_j G_m(\rho_m^\varepsilon) = 0. \end{cases}$$

Introduce the modulated energy functional ‘‘adapted to (4.2)’’:

$$H_m^\varepsilon(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |(\varepsilon \nabla - iv) u_m^\varepsilon|^2 dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (F_m(\rho_m^\varepsilon) - F_m(\rho) - (\rho_m^\varepsilon - \rho) f_m(\rho)) dx.$$

Notice that this functional is not exactly adapted to (4.2), since the limiting quantities (as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$) ρ and v are constructed with the nonlinearity f and not the nonlinearity f_m . We also distinguish the kinetic part:

$$K_m^\varepsilon(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |(\varepsilon \nabla - iv) u_m^\varepsilon|^2 dx.$$

Thanks to the conservation of energy for u_m^ε , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} K_m^\varepsilon &= -\frac{d}{dt} \int F_m(\rho_m^\varepsilon) dx + \frac{1}{2} \int |v|^2 \partial_t \rho_m^\varepsilon + \int \rho_m^\varepsilon v \cdot \partial_t v \\ &\quad - \int J_m^\varepsilon \cdot \partial_t v - \int v \cdot \partial_t J_m^\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Using Lemma 3.1, (4.3) and (4.4), (licit) integrations by parts yield:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} K_m^\varepsilon &= -\frac{d}{dt} \int F_m(\rho_m^\varepsilon) dx - \frac{1}{2} \int |v|^2 \operatorname{div} J_m^\varepsilon - \sum_{j,k} \rho_m^\varepsilon v_j v_k \partial_j v_k \\ &\quad - \int \rho_m^\varepsilon \nabla f(\rho) \cdot v + \int (v \cdot \nabla v) \cdot J_m^\varepsilon + \int \nabla f(\rho) \cdot J_m^\varepsilon \\ &\quad - \sum_{j,k} \int \partial_k v_j \operatorname{Re}(\varepsilon \partial_j \overline{u_m^\varepsilon} \varepsilon \partial_k u_m^\varepsilon) - \frac{\varepsilon^2}{4} \int \nabla(\operatorname{div} v) \cdot \nabla \rho_m^\varepsilon + \int \rho_m^\varepsilon v \cdot \nabla f_m(\rho^\varepsilon). \end{aligned}$$

Proceeding as in [18], we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon^2 \int \operatorname{div}(\nabla v) \cdot \nabla \rho_m^\varepsilon &= \varepsilon \int \operatorname{div}(\nabla v) \cdot (\overline{u_m^\varepsilon} \varepsilon \nabla u_m^\varepsilon + u_m^\varepsilon \varepsilon \nabla \overline{u_m^\varepsilon}) \\ &= \varepsilon \int \operatorname{div}(\nabla v) \cdot \left(\overline{u_m^\varepsilon} (\varepsilon \nabla - iv) u_m^\varepsilon + u_m^\varepsilon \overline{(\varepsilon \nabla - iv) u_m^\varepsilon} \right) \\ &= \mathcal{O}(K_m^\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the conservation of mass and Young's inequality. From now on, we use the convention that the constant associated to the notation \mathcal{O} is independent of m and ε . Treating the term involving $\partial_k v_j \operatorname{Re}(\varepsilon \partial_j \overline{u_m^\varepsilon} \varepsilon \partial_k u_m^\varepsilon)$ in a similar fashion, simplifications yield:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} K_m^\varepsilon &= \mathcal{O}(K_m^\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2) - \frac{d}{dt} \int F_m(\rho_m^\varepsilon) + \int \nabla f_m(\rho_m^\varepsilon) \rho_m^\varepsilon v \\ &\quad - \int \nabla f(\rho) \cdot (\rho_m^\varepsilon v - J_m^\varepsilon). \end{aligned}$$

Similar computations for $H_m^\varepsilon - K_m^\varepsilon$ yield:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} H_m^\varepsilon &= \mathcal{O}(K_m^\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2) - \int (G_m(\rho_m^\varepsilon) - G_m(\rho) - (\rho_m^\varepsilon - \rho) G_m'(\rho)) \operatorname{div} v \\ &\quad + \int \nabla(f(\rho) - f_m(\rho)) \cdot (J_m^\varepsilon - \rho_m^\varepsilon v). \end{aligned}$$

Note that $f(\rho) - f_m(\rho) \rightarrow 0$ in $L^\infty([0, T]; W^{1, \infty})$ as $m \rightarrow \infty$. We can thus write:

$$(4.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} H_m^\varepsilon &= \mathcal{O}(K_m^\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2) + o_{m \rightarrow \infty}(1) \\ &\quad - \int (G_m(\rho_m^\varepsilon) - G_m(\rho) - (\rho_m^\varepsilon - \rho) G_m'(\rho)) \operatorname{div} v. \end{aligned}$$

We check that there exists C independent of m such that

$$|G_m(\rho_m^\varepsilon) - G_m(\rho) - (\rho_m^\varepsilon - \rho) G_m'(\rho)| \leq C(\rho_m^\varepsilon - \rho)^2 (\theta_m(\rho_m^\varepsilon) + \theta_m(\rho)),$$

where we have set, for $y \geq 0$,

$$\theta(y) = \frac{y^{\sigma-1}}{1+y^\sigma} \quad ; \quad \theta_m(y) = \frac{y^{\sigma-1}}{1+(\delta_m y)^\sigma}.$$

Easy computations show that there exists $K > 0$ such that

$$\frac{1}{K} (\theta(a) + \theta(b)) \leq \theta(a + b) \leq K (\theta(a) + \theta(b)), \quad \forall a, b \geq 0.$$

Since the numerator of θ_m is homogeneous, we infer that the above estimate remains true when θ is replaced by θ_m , with the same constant K (independent of m). Therefore, there exists $c > 0$ independent of m , such that:

$$H_m^\varepsilon(t) \geq \tilde{H}_m^\varepsilon(t) := K_m^\varepsilon(t) + c \int (\rho_m^\varepsilon - \rho)^2 (\theta_m(\rho_m^\varepsilon) + \theta_m(\rho)).$$

Using Gronwall lemma, we infer

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \tilde{H}_m^\varepsilon(t) \leq C\varepsilon^2 + o_{m \rightarrow \infty}(1),$$

for some constant C independent of m . Letting $m \rightarrow \infty$, Fatou's lemma yields Theorem 4.1. \square

5. END OF THE PROOF OF THEOREM 1.3

To conclude, the heuristic argument is as follows. From Theorem 4.1, we expect

$$\|\varepsilon \nabla u^\varepsilon(t)\|_{L^2} \approx \|v(t)u^\varepsilon(t)\|_{L^2} \approx \|v(t)a(t)\|_{L^2}.$$

This follows easily from Hölder's inequality. For the values $k \in]0, 1[$ in Theorem 4.1, we morally use an estimate of the form

$$\| |v(t)|^k u^\varepsilon(t) \|_{L^2} \lesssim \| |\varepsilon D_x|^k u^\varepsilon(t) \|_{L^2} + \| |\varepsilon D_x - v(t)|^k u^\varepsilon(t) \|_{L^2},$$

where the first term of the right-hand side goes to zero by interpolation between $k = 0$ and $k = 1$. The aim of the following lemma is to justify such a statement.

Lemma 5.1. *There exists a constant K such that, for all $\varepsilon \in]0, 1[$, for all $s \in [0, 1]$, for all $u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and for all $v \in W^{1, \infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$,*

$$\| |v|^s u \|_{L^2} \leq \| |\varepsilon D_x|^s u \|_{L^2} + \| (\varepsilon \nabla - iv)u \|_{L^2}^s \| u \|_{L^2}^{1-s} + \varepsilon^{s/2} K (1 + \|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty}) \| u \|_{L^2}.$$

Proof. We begin with the following elementary inequality: For all $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$ and all $s \in [0, 1]$, there holds

$$(5.1) \quad |x|^s \leq |y|^s + |x - y|^s.$$

To see this, note that the result is obvious if $|x| \leq |y|$. Else, write $|y| = \lambda|x|$ with $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ and use the inequalities $\lambda \leq \lambda^s$ and $(1 - \lambda) \leq (1 - \lambda)^s$.

With this preliminary established, introduce the wave-packets operator (see e.g. [9, 10, 20])

$$W^\varepsilon v(x, \xi) = c_n \varepsilon^{-3n/4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{i(x-y) \cdot \xi / \varepsilon - (x-y)^2 / 2\varepsilon} v(y) dy,$$

with $c_n = 2^{-n/2} \pi^{-3n/4}$. The mapping $v \mapsto W^\varepsilon v$ is continuous from the Schwartz class $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^{2n})$, and W^ε extends as an isometry from $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to $L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})$:

$$\|W^\varepsilon v\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})} = \|v\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}.$$

By applying (5.1), we have

$$\| |v(x)|^s W^\varepsilon u \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})} \leq \| |\xi|^s W^\varepsilon u \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})} + \| |\xi - v(x)|^s W^\varepsilon u \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})}.$$

Therefore, since

$$\begin{aligned} \|\xi - v(x)|^s W^\varepsilon u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})} &\leq \|W^\varepsilon u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})}^{1-s} \|\xi - v(x)|W^\varepsilon u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})}^s \\ &\leq \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}^{1-s} \|(\xi - v(x))W^\varepsilon u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})}^s, \end{aligned}$$

to obtain the desired estimate, we need only prove that

$$(5.2) \quad \||v(x)|^s W^\varepsilon u - W^\varepsilon(|v|^s u)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})} \leq K\varepsilon^{s/2} \|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty}^s \|u\|_{L^2},$$

$$(5.3) \quad \||\xi|^s W^\varepsilon u - W^\varepsilon(|\varepsilon D_x|^s u)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})} \leq K\varepsilon^{s/2} \|u\|_{L^2},$$

$$(5.4) \quad \|(i\xi - iv(x))W^\varepsilon u - W^\varepsilon((\varepsilon\nabla - iv)u)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})} \leq K\varepsilon^{1/2}(1 + \|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty})\|u\|_{L^2}.$$

These properties follows from the fact that the wave packets operator conjugates the action of pseudo-differential operators, approximately, to multiplication by symbols. For smooth symbols, one has sharp results (see [9, 10, 20]). For the rough symbols $|v(x)|^s$ and $|\varepsilon\xi|^s$, one can proceed as follows.

To prove (5.2), directly from the definition, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} &\||v|^s W^\varepsilon u - W^\varepsilon(|v|^s u)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})}^2 \\ &= c_n^2 (2\pi)^n \varepsilon^{-n/2} \iint e^{-(x-y)^2/\varepsilon} \||v(x)|^s - |v(y)|^s\|^2 |u(y)|^2 dy dx. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, since $v \in W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, the inequality (5.1) implies

$$\begin{aligned} &\||v|^s W^\varepsilon u - W^\varepsilon(|v|^s u)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})}^2 \\ &\leq K \|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty}^{2s} \iint \varepsilon^{-n/2} e^{-(x-y)^2/\varepsilon} |x-y|^{2s} |u(y)|^2 dy dx \\ &\leq K \|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty}^{2s} \iint e^{-z^2} |\sqrt{\varepsilon}z|^{2s} |u(x - \sqrt{\varepsilon}z)|^2 dz dx, \end{aligned}$$

which proves (5.2).

We next compute $W^\varepsilon(|\varepsilon D_x|^s u)(x, \xi)$: it is given by

$$c_n (2\pi)^{-n/2} \varepsilon^{-7n/4} \iint e^{i(x-y)\cdot(\xi-\theta)/\varepsilon - (x-y)^2/2\varepsilon} e^{ix\cdot\theta/\varepsilon} |\theta|^s \widehat{u}\left(\frac{\theta}{\varepsilon}\right) d\theta dy,$$

where \widehat{u} is the Fourier transform of u . Hence, by using

$$(2\pi)^{-n/2} \int e^{i(x-y)\cdot(\xi-\theta)/\varepsilon - (x-y)^2/2\varepsilon} dy = \varepsilon^{n/2} e^{-(\xi-\theta)^2/2\varepsilon},$$

we find

$$W^\varepsilon(|\varepsilon D_x|^s u)(x, \xi) := e^{ix\cdot\xi/\varepsilon} W^\varepsilon w^\varepsilon(\xi, -x),$$

with $w^\varepsilon(\tau) := |\tau|^s \varepsilon^{-n/2} \widehat{u}(\tau/\varepsilon)$. This leads us back to the situation of the previous step (with $|v(x)|^s$ replaced with $|x|^s$), and hence (5.3) is proved.

Finally, the arguments establishing (5.2) and (5.3) also yield the usual estimates

$$\begin{aligned} \|v W^\varepsilon u - W^\varepsilon(vu)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})} &\leq K\varepsilon^{1/2} \|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty} \|u\|_{L^2}, \\ \|i\xi W^\varepsilon u - W^\varepsilon(\varepsilon\nabla u)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n})} &\leq K\varepsilon^{1/2} \|u\|_{L^2}, \end{aligned}$$

which proves (5.4). This completes the proof of the lemma. \square

We infer that the heuristic argument of the beginning of this section is justified:

Corollary 5.2. *For all $t \in [0, T]$ and all $k \in]0, 1]$, we have:*

$$(5.5) \quad \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \|\varepsilon D_x|^k u^\varepsilon(t)\|_{L^2} \geq \| |v(t)|^k a(t) \|_{L^2}.$$

Proof. Let $t \in [0, T]$. It follows from the previous lemma that

$$\|\varepsilon D_x|^k u^\varepsilon(t)\|_{L^2} = \| |v(t)|^k u^\varepsilon(t) \|_{L^2} + o(1).$$

Write

$$\| |v(t)|^k a(t) \|_{L^2} \leq \| |v(t)|^k u^\varepsilon(t) \|_{L^2} + \| |v(t)|^{2k} (|u^\varepsilon(t)|^2 - |a(t)|^2) \|_{L^1}.$$

From Hölder's inequality, the last term is bounded by

$$(5.6) \quad \| |v(t)|^{2k} \|_{L^{1+1/\sigma}} \| |u^\varepsilon(t)|^2 - |a(t)|^2 \|_{L^{\sigma+1}}.$$

When $k \geq \sigma/(\sigma+1)$, Lemma 3.1 and Sobolev embedding show that the first term is bounded on $[0, T]$. When $0 < k < \sigma/(\sigma+1)$, Hölder's inequality yields:

$$\| |v(t)|^{2k} \|_{L^{1+1/\sigma}} \leq C_N \| \langle x \rangle^N v(t) \|_{L^2}^{2k\sigma/(\sigma+1)} \quad \text{for } N > \frac{n}{2k} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma+1} - k \right).$$

Lemma 3.1 and Theorem 4.1 show that (5.6) goes to zero as ε tends to 0. \square

To complete the proof of Theorem 2.1, it remains only to prove that the right-hand side in (5.5) is non trivial. To see this, we note that, from (3.4),

$$a|_{t=0} = a_0 \quad ; \quad v|_{t=0} = 0 \quad ; \quad \partial_t v|_{t=0} = -\nabla (|a_0|^{2\sigma}).$$

Therefore, by continuity (see Lemma 3.1), we obtain the following result.

Lemma 5.3. *There exists $\tau > 0$ such that*

$$(5.7) \quad \int |v(\tau, x)|^{2k} |a(\tau, x)|^2 dx > 0, \quad \forall k \in [0, 1].$$

This implies Theorem 2.1, hence Theorem 1.3.

Remark 5.4. We can compare the results of this paper with the analysis in [7]. The approximate solution used in [7] consists in neglecting the Laplacian in (1.5):

$$i\varepsilon \partial_t w^\varepsilon = |w^\varepsilon|^{2\sigma} w^\varepsilon \quad ; \quad w^\varepsilon|_{t=0} = a_0, \quad \text{hence } w^\varepsilon(t, x) = a_0(x) e^{-it|a_0(x)|^{2\sigma}/\varepsilon}.$$

A direct application of Gronwall lemma shows that w^ε is a suitable approximation of u^ε up to time of order $c\varepsilon |\log \varepsilon|^\theta$, for some $c, \theta > 0$. The Taylor expansion in time for v shows that

$$v(t, x) = -t \nabla (|a_0(x)|^{2\sigma}) + \mathcal{O}(t^3).$$

The formal analysis of [3, §3.1] is thus justified also in this case: $w^\varepsilon(t)$ is a good approximation of $u^\varepsilon(t)$ for $t \ll \varepsilon^{1/3}$:

$$\|\varepsilon D_x|^s u^\varepsilon(t)\|_{L^2} \approx \| |v(t)|^s a(t) \|_{L^2} \approx \|\varepsilon D_x|^s w^\varepsilon(t)\|_{L^2} \quad \text{for } t \ll \varepsilon^{1/3}.$$

To prove this point, it seems necessary to perform a quasilinear analysis (see §3), and the semilinear approach based on Gronwall lemma is not enough.

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