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# Variational inequality solutions and finite stopping time for a class of shear-thinning flows

Laurent CHUPIN, Nicolae CÎNDEA and Geoffrey LACOUR <sup>\*1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Université Clermont Auvergne, CNRS, LMBP, F-63000 Clermont-Ferrand, France

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## Abstract

The aim of this paper is to study the existence of variational inequality weak solutions and of a finite stopping time for a large class of generalized Newtonian fluids shear-thinning flows. The existence of dissipative solutions for such flows is known since [1]. We submit here an alternative approach using variational inequality solutions as presented in [18] in the two-dimensional Bingham flow. In order to prove the existence of such solutions we regularize the non-linear term and then we apply a Galerkin method for finally passing to the limit with respect to both regularization and Galerkin discretization parameters. In a second time, we prove the existence of a finite stopping time for Ostwald-De Waele and Bingham flows in dimension  $N \in \{2, 3\}$ .

## 1 Introduction

The aim of this paper is to study the existence and some properties of solutions of the system

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u + u \cdot \nabla u + \nabla p - \Delta u - \operatorname{div} (F(|D(u)|) D(u)) = f & \text{in } (0, T) \times \Omega \\ \operatorname{div}(u) = 0 & \text{in } (0, T) \times \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } [0, T) \times \partial\Omega \\ u = u_0 & \text{on } \{0\} \times \Omega \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

in the form of nonlinear parabolic variational inequalities, where  $\Omega$  is an open bounded subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , for  $N \in \{2, 3\}$  with a regular enough boundary  $\partial\Omega$ . Such nonlinear systems describe the flow of so-called generalized Newtonian fluids and give rise to several relevant models. Let us give some examples. First, if  $F(t) = C$ , the system (1.1) is nothing else than the Navier-Stokes equations for a viscous incompressible fluid. Also, by choosing  $F(t) = (1 + t^2)^{\frac{p-2}{2}}$ , system (1.1) describes a Carreau flow. Another relevant case is obtained by choosing, for  $p \in (1, 2)$  by  $F(t) = t^{p-2}$  for  $t > 0$  which leads to an Ostwald-De Waele (power-law) flow. In the particular case of Bingham arising for  $p = 1$  which describes a viscoplastic behavior, we get  $F(0) \in [0, 1]$ , where  $\tau^* = 1 > 0$  is the so-called plasticity threshold, which is scaled here. In the latter case, the function is multivalued at the origin (note that a physical consequence of this phenomenon is the nonexistence of a reference viscosity for threshold fluids, see for example [5]). It is now established that this problem can be circumvented by considering the function outside the origin by a regularization process and by giving a meaning to its limit, in sense of subdifferential. This approach has been successfully carried out in the case of a two-dimensional Bingham flow for example (see for example [18]). In the present paper, we focus on the mathematical analysis of shear-thinning flows: a flow is said to be shear-thinning when its viscosity decreases as a function of the stresses applied to it, which is to say, in the flows we consider, that the function decreases as the shear rate increases. We mainly refer to [11, 9, 25] for the physical motivations of such models. Throughout the present article, we will consider simple fluid flows, that is we will make the assumption that the shear rate is the second invariant of the strain-rate tensor, and moreover it is a scalar

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<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author: Geoffrey Lacour - [geoffrey.lacour@uca.fr](mailto:geoffrey.lacour@uca.fr)

quantity given by  $|D(u)|$ .

Since the 1960s, the study of such systems has been the subject of numerous articles (see, for instance, [22] and references therein). On one hand, the existence of weak solutions of (1.1) is a difficult problem which has been studied in many particular cases. When the shear tensor  $S$  has an  $p$ -structure (see [17] for a definition), the existence of weak solutions has been established under certain hypotheses for  $p > \frac{2N}{N+2}$  (see [19], and also [31]). The study of the existence of solutions under other assumptions has been done in [22] in the case  $p > \frac{2N}{N+2}$ , in [30] for the case  $N = 3$  and  $p \geq \frac{9}{4}$ , and in [37] for  $p > \frac{2N+2}{N+2}$ , and in [7] for the three-dimensional periodic case in space with  $p > \frac{7}{5}$ . One can avoid such hypotheses on  $p$  by using dissipative solutions. The existence of dissipative solutions has been proved in [1] in the three-dimensional setting. Nevertheless, variational inequality solutions are particularly interesting in view of numerical simulations perspective (see for example [26, Chapter 4] or [35]) as for controllability (see for example [24] or [27])

We recall that in the three-dimensional setting, it is known that we can prove the existence of a unique weak solution to the incompressible Navier-Stokes equations, as long as the norm of the initial velocity field is small enough and the force term is sufficiently regular. This theorem has been generalized for a large class of non-singular stress tensors in [3], as long as the initial velocity field  $u_0$  and the force term  $f$  are regular enough. The study of the regularity of solutions in a more general framework is a difficult problem, the case of the flow of an incompressible Newtonian fluid governed by the Navier-Stokes equations remaining open in the three dimensional case. However, the existence of regular solutions, sometimes giving rise to the uniqueness of solutions or even to the existence of strong solutions, has been established in the case of shear tensors having an  $(p, \mu)$ -structure in [16] and in [7] in a three-dimensional periodic in space case. In the steady case, some results have been obtained as in [21] (existence for  $p > \frac{2N}{N+2}$ ), in [38] (regularity), in [8] (regularity), or in [12] (existence and regularity).

Finally, a property of some non-Newtonian shear-thinning flows is the existence of a finite stopping time, that is, roughly speaking, a time from which the fluid is at the rest. This property has been established, for example, in the case of a two-dimensional Bingham flow in [14], and in the case of some electrorheological fluids in [2].

In this paper, we firstly establish the existence of weak solutions by a parabolic variational inequality (see Theorem 3.1 and Definition 2.1) as used in [18] for shear tensors  $\tau$  of the form  $\tau(D(u)) = F(|D(u)|)D(u) + D(u)$ , by setting conditions directly on the viscosity coefficient  $F$ , restricting ourselves to the case of shear-thinning flows. More precisely, we will make the following assumptions:

$$(C1) \quad F : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty);$$

$$(C2) \quad F \in W_{loc}^{1,\infty}((0, +\infty));$$

$$(C3) \quad t \mapsto tF(t) \text{ is non-decreasing on } (0, +\infty);$$

$$(C4) \quad \text{there exist } p \in [1, 2], t_0 > 0 \text{ and } K > 0 \text{ such that for every } t \geq t_0, F(t) \leq Kt^{p-2}.$$

Some examples of functions verifying the above assumptions are given in Appendix A. We emphasize in particular that this takes into account many physical models, such as the Carreau, Bingham, Herschel-Bulkley, Cross, or power law flows.

**Remark 1.** *Assumption (C3) is equivalent to the fact that for all  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ , the function  $t \mapsto tF(\sqrt{\varepsilon + t^2})$  is non-decreasing. Indeed, we can write:*

$$\forall t \in (0, +\infty), tF(\sqrt{\varepsilon + t^2}) = \left( \frac{t}{\sqrt{\varepsilon + t^2}} \right) \sqrt{\varepsilon + t^2} F(\sqrt{\varepsilon + t^2}).$$

*Hence,  $t \mapsto tF(\sqrt{\varepsilon + t^2})$  is the product of two non-negative and non-decreasing functions, so it is a non-decreasing function. The opposite implication being obvious by setting  $\varepsilon = 0$ .*

Then, in Section 5 we establish the existence of a finite stopping time for solutions of (1.1) in the case of a function  $F$  verifying (C1)-(C4) and such that

$$F(t) \geq Ct^{p-2}. \quad (1.2)$$

This shows in particular the existence of a finite time from which the fluid is at rest, when the flow is comparable to that of a power-law or threshold fluid, thus for a shear-thinning flow. One of the main objectives of this paper, in addition to completing some existing results, is to provide simple hypotheses to verify the existence of solutions for shear-thinning flows. Emphasis is also placed on considering solutions whose regularization is that generally used in numerical simulations, in order to make sense of the finite stopping time observed numerically and experimentally. Let us conclude by observing that many thixotropic flows (such as blood) are represented by usual shear-thinning models, depending on the circumstances of the flow studied (see [33]).

We will note in a generic way the constants by the letter  $C$  throughout this article, and will omit their dependence on the parameters in the notations.

## 2 Weak characterization of solutions by a parabolic variational inequality

In this section we introduce a weak formulation of system (1.1) using a parabolic variational inequality (see Definition 2.1). Firstly, we point out that in the system (1.1), we do not consider any frictional force on  $\partial\Omega$ . Recalling that  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  is the closure of  $\mathcal{C}_0^\infty(\Omega)$  into  $H^1(\Omega)$ , it is thus natural to assume that the initial velocity field  $u_0$  is of null trace on  $\partial\Omega$ , that is  $u_0$  belongs to  $H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)$ , the space of functions  $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  such that  $\operatorname{div}(v) = 0$ , where  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  is endowed with the norm  $u \mapsto \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}$ . We denote  $H_\sigma^{-1}(\Omega)$  its dual and  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is the duality product between  $H_\sigma^{-1}(\Omega)$  and  $H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)$ . Following the ideas employed for showing the existence of solution to Bingham equations in [18, 28], we define a functional  $j$  making appear the viscous non-linear term in (1.1) in its derivative.

We fix for the moment  $0 \leq \varepsilon \leq \delta$  and we define a function  $G_\varepsilon : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$  and a functional  $j_\varepsilon : H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$G_\varepsilon(t) = \int_0^t sF(\sqrt{\varepsilon + s^2}) ds \quad \text{for every } t \in (0, +\infty) \quad (2.1)$$

and

$$j_\varepsilon(v) = \int_\Omega G_\varepsilon(|D(v)|) dx, \quad (v \in H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)), \quad (2.2)$$

respectively. We also denote  $j = j_0$  and  $G = G_0$ . One can check that  $G_\varepsilon$  is a convex functional for  $\varepsilon$  small enough. Indeed,

$$G'_\varepsilon(t) = tF(\sqrt{\varepsilon + t^2}), \quad \text{for every } t \in (0, +\infty),$$

and applying the hypothesis (C3) the convexity of  $G$  follows immediately.

**Lemma 2.1.** *For every  $\varepsilon > 0$  the functional  $j_\varepsilon$  defined by (2.2) is convex and verifies*

$$\langle j'_\varepsilon(v), w \rangle_{-1,1} = \int_\Omega F\left(\sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(v)|^2}\right) (D(v) : D(w)) dx \quad (v, w \in H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)). \quad (2.3)$$

*Proof.* The convexity of  $j_\varepsilon$  is immediately obtained from the hypothesis (C3) and (2.2). For every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} (G_\varepsilon(|D(v + tw)|)) &= G'_\varepsilon(|D(v + tw)|) \frac{d}{dt} (|D(v + tw)|) \\ &= F\left(\sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(v + tw)|^2}\right) |D(v + tw)| \left(\frac{D(v + tw) : D(w)}{|D(v + tw)|}\right) \\ &= F\left(\sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(v + tw)|^2}\right) D(v + tw) : D(w). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \langle j'_\varepsilon(v + tw), w \rangle &= \frac{d}{dt} j_\varepsilon(v + tw) = \int_\Omega \frac{d}{dt} (G_\varepsilon(|D(v + tw)|)) dx \\ &= \int_\Omega F\left(\sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(v + tw)|^2}\right) D(v + tw) : D(w) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Letting  $t$  going to 0 we obtain (2.3).  $\square$

**Remark 2.** We point out that  $j'$  is well defined. Firstly, by our assumptions (C2) and (C3), we can deduce that for all  $\beta \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ , there exists  $\delta_0$  such that:

$$F(t) \leq t^{-(1+\beta)} \quad \text{for every } t \in (0, \delta_0).$$

Indeed, assume that this last inequality does not hold, then for every  $\delta_0 > 0$ , there exists  $t_0 \in (0, \delta_0)$  such that:

$$F(t_0) > t_0^{-(1+\beta)}.$$

We can consider without loss of generality that  $\delta_0 < \min\left(1, F(1)^{-\frac{1}{\beta}}\right)$ , which implies, using our assumption (C3):

$$\delta_0^{-\beta} < t_0^{-\beta} < t_0 F(t_0) \leq F(1).$$

This contradiction shows the result. We recall Korn's  $L^2$  equality for divergence free vector fields:

$$\int_\Omega |D(\varphi)|^2 dx = \frac{1}{2} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1}^2, \quad (\varphi \in H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)).$$

Using these last results and applying Cauchy Schwarz's and Hölder's inequalities, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle j'(u), \varphi \rangle_{-1,1}| &= \left| \int_\Omega F(|D(u)|) D(u) : D(\varphi) dx \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \int_\Omega F(|D(u)|)^2 |D(u)|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \int_{\{|D(u)| \leq \delta_0\}} F(|D(u)|)^2 |D(u)|^2 dx + \int_{\{|D(u)| > \delta_0\}} F(|D(u)|)^2 |D(u)|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \int_{\{|D(u)| \leq \delta_0\}} |D(u)|^{-2\beta} dx + \int_{\{|D(u)| > \delta_0\}} F(|D(u)|)^2 |D(u)|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{1}{1-2\beta} \int_{\{|D(u)| \leq \delta_0\}} \int_0^{|D(u)|} s^{1-2\beta} ds dx + \int_{\{|D(u)| > \delta_0\}} F(|D(u)|)^2 |D(u)|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1}. \end{aligned}$$

And so  $j'$  is well-defined.

**Definition 2.1** (Weak solution of (1.1)). We say that a function  $u \in L^2((0, T), H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)) \cap \mathcal{C}_w((0, T), L_\sigma^2(\Omega))$  such that  $u' \in L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0, T), H_\sigma^{-1}(\Omega))$  is a weak solution of (1.1) if and only if  $u$  verifies  $u|_{t=0} = u_0 \in H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)$ , and for all  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}^\infty((0, T) \times \Omega)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_0^T \langle u'(t), \varphi(t) \rangle dt + \frac{1}{2} \left( \|u_0\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 - \|u(T)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right) + \int_0^T \int_\Omega D(u(t)) : D(\varphi(t) - u(t)) dx \\ &- \int_0^T \int_\Omega (u(t) \cdot \nabla u(t)) \cdot \varphi(t) dx dt + \int_0^T \int_\Omega G(|D(\varphi(t))|) - G(|D(u(t))|) dx dt \\ &\geq \int_0^T \langle f(t), \varphi(t) - u(t) \rangle dt. \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

Let's quickly motivate this definition. First, we point out that since  $u$  belongs to  $\mathcal{C}_w((0, T), L^2_\sigma(\Omega))$ , Definition 2.1 makes sense. Then, if we consider that the Lebesgue measure of the set

$$\{(t, x) \in (0, T) \times \Omega \mid |D(u)(t, x)| \leq \delta\}$$

is equal to zero for a small  $\delta > 0$ , we have, from an argument similar to the one in Lemma 2.1 that:

$$\int_0^T \langle j'(u), \varphi \rangle dt = \int_0^T \int_\Omega F(|D(u)|) (D(u) : D(\varphi)) dx dt.$$

Now, if we replace  $\varphi$  by  $u + s\varphi$ , with  $s > 0$ , in the variational inequality (2.4), we obtain after dividing by  $s$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T \int_\Omega D(u) : D(\varphi) dx dt + \int_0^T \int_\Omega \frac{G(|D(u + s\varphi)|) - G(|D(u)|)}{s} dx dt \\ & \geq \int_0^T \int_\Omega \langle f - u', \varphi \rangle dt - \int_0^T \int_\Omega (u \cdot \nabla u) \cdot \varphi dx dt. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $j$  admits a Fréchet-derivative, it also admits a Gâteaux-derivative and both are the same. Hence, taking the limit as  $s \rightarrow 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T \int_\Omega D(u) : D(\varphi) dx dt + \int_0^T \int_\Omega F(|D(u)|) (D(u) : D(\varphi)) dx dt \\ & \geq \int_0^T \int_\Omega \langle f - u', \varphi \rangle dt - \int_0^T \int_\Omega (u \cdot \nabla u) \cdot \varphi dx dt. \end{aligned}$$

Repeating once again the previous reasoning but writing  $u - s\varphi$  instead of  $u + s\varphi$ , we get the following equality:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T \int_\Omega D(u) : D(\varphi) dx dt + \int_0^T \int_\Omega F(|D(u)|) (D(u) : D(\varphi)) dx dt \\ & = \int_0^T \int_\Omega \langle f - u', \varphi \rangle dt - \int_0^T \int_\Omega (u \cdot \nabla u) \cdot \varphi dx dt. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, assuming that  $u$  is regular enough, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_\Omega \Delta u \cdot \varphi dx dt - \int_0^T \int_\Omega \operatorname{div} (F(|D(u)|) D(u)) \varphi dx dt \\ & = \int_0^T \int_\Omega (f - u' - u \cdot \nabla u) \cdot \varphi dx dt. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore De Rham's theorem for a domain with Lipschitz boundary states that there exists a pressure term  $p$  such that  $f = \nabla p$  into some well chosen Sobolev space (see [17, section 2] for details). Considering such a function and also the two previous observations, we can write:

$$\int_0^T \int_\Omega \left( u' + u \cdot \nabla u - \frac{1}{2} \Delta u + \nabla p - \operatorname{div} (F(|D(u)|) D(u)) - f \right) \varphi dx dt = 0, \quad (\varphi \in \mathcal{C}^\infty((0, T) \times \Omega)),$$

which is almost everywhere equivalent to the equation (1.1) up to the multiplicative dynamic viscosity constant  $\frac{1}{2}$ . We have omitted this constant in Definition 2.1 for convenience, and note that it is enough to add the constant 2 in front of the term  $\int_0^T \int_\Omega D(u) : D(u - \varphi) dx dt$  in order to find exactly (1.1).

Finding a solution to the parabolic variational inequality thus amounts to giving meaning to the integral of the nonlinear viscosity coefficient term inherent in the problem, which can be a singular integral in the case of a power-law or a Bingham fluid.

### 3 Main results

We present in this section the main results of this article. The study of the existence of solutions by variational inequality has been developed following the classical Stampacchia's theorem and was further developed in [28]. Then, this method was successfully applied for some nonlinear parabolic problems, as the two dimensional Bingham equations in [18], or some power law systems in [29]. Following the same approach, we get the following existence theorem.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Assume that the function  $F$  satisfies the hypotheses (C1)-(C4) and that  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $N \in \{2, 3\}$ , is a bounded domain with a Lipschitz boundary,  $T > 0$  and consider an initial datum  $u_0 \in H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)$  and a force term  $f \in L^2((0, T), H_\sigma^{-1}(\Omega))$ . Then, there exists a weak solution  $u$  of (1.1) having the following regularity*

$$u \in \mathcal{C}_w((0, T), L_\sigma^2(\Omega)) \cap L^2((0, T), H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)) \quad \text{and} \quad u' \in L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0, T), H_\sigma^{-1}(\Omega)).$$

This theorem thus ensures the existence of suitable solutions in the two-dimensional and three-dimensional cases. It follows from classical arguments that the solutions are Hölder continuous in time, for a well-chosen Hölder coefficient. Moreover, we show in the appendix, in Corollary ?? of Proposition B.1 that in some interesting cases as for power-law flows, that the solutions satisfy an energy equality.

Unlike the Navier-Stokes case, the nonlinear term in the Bingham equations allows us to obtain the rest of the fluid in finite time in the two-dimensional case. This has been demonstrated in [14], using the following approach: it is assumed that the force term will compensate the initial kinetic energy of the fluid, which amounts to establishing a relation between the norm  $\|u_0\|_{L^2}$  and an integral of  $\|f(t)\|_{L^2}$ . This argument is based on the use of the following Nirenberg-Strauss inequality:

$$\exists \gamma > 0, \forall u \in H_0^1(\Omega), \|u\|_{L^2} \leq \gamma \int_{\Omega} |D(u)| \, dx.$$

We note that such an inequality cannot be true in dimension greater than two, because it would contradict the optimality of Sobolev embeddings. We therefore propose to slightly adapt this approach to show the existence of a stopping finite time in both the two and the three-dimensional cases. Firstly, let us formalize the definition.

**Definition 3.1** (Finite stopping time). *Let  $u$  be a weak solution in the sense of Definition 2.1 of the system (1.1). We say that  $T_0 \in (0, T)$  is a finite stopping time for  $u$  if:*

$$\|u(T_0)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} = 0.$$

In order to prove the existence of a finite stopping time for the solution  $u$  provided by Theorem 3.1, we do not make any assumption on the initial velocity field, but we assume that after a certain time the fluid is no longer subjected to any external force. More exactly we make some more assumption on  $F$  as stated by the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.2** (Existence of a finite stopping time). *Assume that the hypotheses of Theorem 3.1 are verified, that  $T > 0$  is chosen large enough, and let  $p \in [1, 2)$ . Moreover, we assume that there exists two positive constants  $\kappa$  and  $T_1 < T$  such that*

$$F(t) \geq \kappa t^{p-2} \text{ for every } t \in (0, +\infty) \quad \text{and} \quad f = 0 \text{ almost everywhere on } (T_1, T). \quad (3.1)$$

*Then, there exists a finite stopping time  $T_0 \in (0, T)$  for  $u$  in the sense of Definition 3.1.*

### 4 Proof of Theorem 3.1

In this section, we establish the proof of Theorem 3.1 in the bi-dimensional and three-dimensional settings. In order to prove this result, we begin by establishing an energy estimate for solutions obtained by the Galerkin method in order to obtain uniform bounds with respect to the parameters. We note here that we will have two parameters: a first parameter due to Galerkin's approximation, and a second one due to the regularization proper to the viscosity coefficient  $F$ .

## 4.1 Existence of a Galerkin weak solution

We apply here the usual Galerkin method using the Stokes operator in homogeneous Dirichlet setting, and we use its eigenfunctions  $(w_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  as an orthogonal basis of  $H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)$  and orthonormal basis of  $L_\sigma^2(\Omega)$  (see [20] for details about this property, and [34, Section 2.3] for details concerning the Stokes operator).

For every positive integer  $m$ , we denote by  $P_m$  the projection of  $L_\sigma^2(\Omega)$  onto  $\text{Span}((w_i)_{1 \leq i \leq m})$ . We would like to formally define our Galerkin system as follows.

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u_m + P_m(u_m \cdot \nabla u_m) + \nabla P_m(p) & -\Delta u_m - P_m(\text{div}(F(|D(u_m)|)D(u_m))) = P_m f \\ \text{div}(u_m) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T) \times \Omega \\ u_m = 0 & \text{on } [0, T) \times \partial\Omega \\ u_m = P_m(u_0) & \text{on } \{0\} \times \Omega. \end{cases} \quad (4.1)$$

In order to avoid the issue posed by the nonlinear term in domains for which the fluid is not deformed we consider the following regularized Galerkin system:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u_{m,\varepsilon} + P_m(u_{m,\varepsilon} \cdot \nabla u_{m,\varepsilon}) + \nabla P_m(p) - \Delta u_{m,\varepsilon} - P_m \left( \text{div} \left( F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2} \right) D(u_{m,\varepsilon}) \right) \right) = P_m f \\ \text{div}(u_{m,\varepsilon}) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T) \times \Omega \\ u_{m,\varepsilon} = 0 & \text{on } [0, T) \times \partial\Omega \\ u_{m,\varepsilon} = P_m(u_0) & \text{on } \{0\} \times \Omega, \end{cases} \quad (4.2)$$

with  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ . Applying a Galerkin method, we can see that, writing  $u_{m,\varepsilon}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m d_m^i(t) w_i$ , we obtain the ordinary differential system for all  $1 \leq i \leq m$ :

$$\begin{aligned} d_m^i{}'(t) &= \langle f, w_i \rangle - \int_\Omega \frac{1}{2} \|w_i\|_{H_0^1}^2 d_m^i(t) \, dx - \int_\Omega D(u_0) : D(w_i) \, dx \\ &\quad - \int_\Omega \frac{1}{2} \|w_i\|_{H_0^1}^2 F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{1}{2} \|w_j\|_{H_0^1}^2 (d_m^j(t))^2 + 2(D(w_j) : D(u_0)) d_m^j(t) + \frac{1}{2} \|u_0\|_{H_0^1}^2} \right) d_m^i(t) \, dx \\ &\quad - \int_\Omega F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{1}{2} \|w_j\|_{H_0^1}^2 (d_m^j(t))^2 + 2(D(w_j) : D(u_0)) d_m^j(t) + \frac{1}{2} \|u_0\|_{H_0^1}^2} \right) (D(u_0) : D(w_i)) \, dx \\ &\quad - \sum_{j=1}^m \int_\Omega w_j \cdot \nabla w_i d_m^i(t) d_m^j(t) \, dx, \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

completed with initial condition  $d_m^i(0) = (u_0, w_i)_{H_0^1}$ . This system is described by a locally Lipschitz continuous function with respect to  $d_m$ . Indeed, applying the hypothesis (C2), the function  $\psi : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$\psi(x) = F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon^2 + \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{1}{2} \|w_j\|_{H_0^1}^2 x_j^2 + 2(D(w_j) : D(u_0)) x_j + \frac{1}{2} \|u_0\|_{H_0^1}^2} \right) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

is locally Lipschitz. The Picard-Lindelöf theorem shows the existence of a solution for system (4.2).

## 4.2 Energy estimate and consequences

We recall that the solution  $u_{m,\varepsilon}$  of (4.2) belongs to  $\text{Span}((w_i)_{1 \leq i \leq m})$ , for  $(w_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  the basis of  $H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)$  which are the eigenfunctions of the Stokes operator in the homogeneous Dirichlet setting.

In order to clarify our presentation, we specify that we consider the following notion of solution.



**Definition 4.1** (Solution of (4.2)). We say that  $u_{m,\varepsilon} \in L^2((0,T), H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega))$ ,  $u'_{m,\varepsilon} \in L^2((0,T), H^{-1}(\Omega))$  is a weak solution of (4.2) if for every  $\varphi \in C^\infty((0,T) \times \Omega)$  and for a.e.  $t \in (0,T)$  it satisfies

$$\langle u'_{m,\varepsilon}, \varphi \rangle + \int_{\Omega} D(u_{m,\varepsilon}) : D(\varphi) dx + \langle j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon}), \varphi \rangle - \int_{\Omega} (u_{m,\varepsilon} \cdot \nabla u_{m,\varepsilon}) \cdot \varphi dx = \langle f, \varphi \rangle. \quad (4.4)$$

We also say that (4.4) is the formulation in space of the solution of (4.2) when the time is fixed. We point out that this definition makes sense since we are studying smooth finite dimensional Galerkin solutions. Then, in order to obtain weak limits into the Galerkin formulation, we establish some estimates.

**Proposition 4.1.** Assume that  $u_{m,\varepsilon}$  is a solution of (4.2) in the sense of Definition 4.1. Then, there exists a positive constant  $C$  depending on  $p$ ,  $\Omega$ ,  $N$ ,  $T$ ,  $\|u_0\|_{L^2(\Omega)}$  and  $\|f\|_{L^2((0,T), H^{-1}(\Omega))}$  such that the following estimates hold:

1.  $\|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^\infty((0,T), L^2_\sigma)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2((0,T), H_{0,\sigma}^1)}^2 \leq C \left( \|f\|_{L^2((0,T), H^{-1})}^2 + \|u_0\|_{L^2}^2 \right);$
2.  $\|j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon})\|_{L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0,T), H^{-1})} \leq C \left( 1 + \|f\|_{L^2((0,T), H^{-1})} + \|u_0\|_{L^2} \right)^{p-1};$
3.  $\|u'_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0,T), H^{-1})} \leq C \left( \|f\|_{L^2((0,T), H^{-1})}^2 + \|u_0\|_{L^2}^2 \right) + C \left( \|f\|_{L^2((0,T), H^{-1})}^2 + \|u_0\|_{L^2}^2 \right)^2 + C \left( 1 + \|f\|_{L^2((0,T), H^{-1})} + \|u_0\|_{L^2} \right)^{p-1}.$

Before the proof of Proposition 4.1, we state some useful results. We start by recalling a well known Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality (for the proof, see, for instance, [32] or [23]).

**Theorem 4.1** (Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality on bounded Lipschitz domain). Assume that  $\Omega$  is a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  with Lipschitz boundary. Moreover, assume that there exists a couple  $(q, r) \in [1, +\infty]$ ,  $\theta \in [0, 1]$  and  $(l, k) \in \mathbb{N}^2$  such that:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{1}{p} = \frac{k}{N} + \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{l}{N}\right) \theta + \frac{1-\theta}{q} \\ \frac{k}{l} \leq \theta \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

Then, there exists  $C := C(k, l, N, r, q, \theta, \Omega) > 0$  such that the following inequality holds:

$$\|\nabla^k u\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \leq C \|u\|_{W^{l,r}(\Omega)}^\theta \|u\|_{L^q(\Omega)}^{1-\theta}.$$

The following result formalizes some other properties.

**Lemma 4.1.** Let  $X$  be a Banach space, and  $\gamma \geq \frac{1}{2}$ . Then, the following inequality holds:

$$\forall (u, v) \in X^2, \|u + v\|_X^\gamma \leq 2^{(\gamma - \frac{1}{2})} (\|u\|_X^\gamma + \|v\|_X^\gamma).$$

*Proof.* Using the convexity of  $t \mapsto t^{2(2-p)}$  and triangle's inequality of the norm, we get:

$$\|u + v\|_X^{2\gamma} = 2^{2\gamma} \left\| \frac{u+v}{2} \right\|_X^{2\gamma} \leq 2^{2\gamma-1} (\|u\|_X^{2\gamma} + \|v\|_X^{2\gamma}).$$

Applying now the well-known inequality:  $\forall (a, b) \in [0, +\infty)^2$ ,  $\sqrt{a+b} \leq \sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b}$ , we get the result.  $\square$

*Proof of Proposition 4.1.*

1. Setting  $\varphi = u_{m,\varepsilon}$  in the weak formulation, we get:

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2}^2 + \int_{\Omega} |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx + \underbrace{\langle j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon}), u_{m,\varepsilon} \rangle}_{\geq 0} - \underbrace{\int_{\Omega} (u_{m,\varepsilon} \cdot \nabla u_{m,\varepsilon}) \cdot u_{m,\varepsilon} dx}_{=0} = \langle f, u_{m,\varepsilon} \rangle.$$

Using the well-known Korn's  $L^2$  equality for divergence free vectors fields, we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{H_0^1}^2 \leq 2 \langle f(t), u_{m,\varepsilon}(t) \rangle.$$

Moreover, we have:

$$2 \langle f(t), u_{m,\varepsilon}(t) \rangle \leq 2 \|f(t)\|_{H^{-1}}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{H_0^1}^2.$$

Then, using the above inequality and integrating on  $(0, t)$  we get

$$\|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1}^2 dt \leq 2 \int_0^t \|f\|_{H^{-1}}^2 dt + \|u_0\|_{L^2}^2. \quad (4.5)$$

Indeed, we recall that  $(P_m(u_0), w_i)_{L^2} = (u_0, P_m w_i)_{L^2} = (u_0, w_i)_{L^2}$ , and the conclusion follows. From now on, we will omit to detail this last part which is usual.

2. We have, using Cauchy-Schwarz's inequality and Korn's equality in the divergence free  $L^2$  setting:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon}), \varphi \rangle &= \int_\Omega F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2} \right) D(u_{m,\varepsilon}) : D(\varphi) dx \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \int_\Omega F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2} \right)^2 |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

From hypothesis (C4), setting  $A = \Omega \cap \{|D(u_{m,\varepsilon})| \leq t_0\}$  and  $B$  its complement in  $\Omega$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_\Omega F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2} \right)^2 |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx &= \int_A F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2} \right)^2 |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx \\ &\quad + \int_B F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2} \right)^2 |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx. \end{aligned}$$

Let's estimate these two integrals independently. By assumption (C3), we have that the application  $t \mapsto t^2 F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + t^2} \right)^2$  is non-decreasing, and we obtain directly:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_A F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2} \right)^2 |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx &\leq F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + t_0^2} \right)^2 t_0^2 |A| \\ &\leq F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + t_0^2} \right)^2 t_0^2 |\Omega| \\ &\leq F \left( \sqrt{1 + t_0^2} \right)^2 \sqrt{1 + t_0^2} |\Omega| \\ &\leq C. \end{aligned}$$

Then we have, using again (C4):

$$\begin{aligned} \int_B F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2} \right)^2 |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx &\leq K \int_B \frac{|D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2}{(\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2)^{2-p}} dx \\ &\leq K \int_B |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^{2(p-1)} dx \\ &\leq K \int_B |\nabla u_{m,\varepsilon}|^{2(p-1)} dx \\ &\leq C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1}^{2(p-1)}, \end{aligned}$$

where we used Jensen's inequality in the concave setting with  $t \mapsto t^{p-1}$  in the last line. So, we obtain:

$$\left( \int_{\Omega} F \left( \sqrt{\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2} \right)^2 |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq \left( C + C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1}^{2(p-1)} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (4.7)$$

Thus, combining the inequality (4.6)-(4.7) and using Lemma 4.1 with  $\gamma = \frac{2}{N}$ , we get:

$$\|j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon})\|_{H^{-1}}^{\frac{4}{N}} \leq C + C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1}^{\frac{4(p-1)}{N}}.$$

Therefore, integrating in time over  $(0, T)$ :

$$\|j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon})\|_{L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0,T),H^{-1})}^{\frac{4}{N}} \leq C + C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^{\frac{4(p-1)}{N}}((0,T),H_0^1)}^{\frac{4(p-1)}{N}}.$$

Then, since  $0 < \frac{4(p-1)}{N} \leq 2$ , we get, using the embedding  $L^2 \hookrightarrow L^{\frac{4(p-1)}{N}}$  and Lemma 4.1 with  $X := H_0^1$ ,  $q = \frac{4(p-1)}{N}$  and  $p = 2$  on  $\|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^{\frac{4(p-1)}{N}}((0,T),H_0^1)}$ :

$$\|j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon})\|_{L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0,T),H^{-1})}^{\frac{4}{N}} \leq C + C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2((0,T),H_0^1)}^{\frac{4(p-1)}{N}}.$$

Using the first point of the proposition for  $t = T$ , and since  $\frac{4(p-1)}{N} \geq 0$ , we get:

$$\|j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon})\|_{L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0,T),H^{-1})}^{\frac{4}{N}} \leq C + C (\|f\|_{L^2((0,T),H^{-1})} + \|u_0\|_{L^2})^{\frac{4(p-1)}{N}}.$$

Then, using the exponent  $\frac{N}{4}$  on both sides and applying once again Lemma 4.1 with  $\gamma = \frac{N}{4}$  on the right-hand side in the inequality above leads us to:

$$\|j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon})\|_{L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0,T),H^{-1})} \leq C + C (\|f\|_{L^2((0,T),H^{-1})} + \|u_0\|_{L^2})^{p-1}.$$

This is the wished result.

3. From the weak formulation (4.4) we get

$$\langle u'_{m,\varepsilon}, \varphi \rangle = - \int_{\Omega} D(u_{m,\varepsilon}) : D(\varphi) dx - \langle j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon}), \varphi \rangle + \int_{\Omega} (u_{m,\varepsilon} \cdot \nabla u_{m,\varepsilon}) \cdot \varphi dx + \langle f, \varphi \rangle. \quad (4.8)$$

Let us point out that

$$\int_{\Omega} D(u_{m,\varepsilon}) : D(\varphi) dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_{m,\varepsilon} \cdot \nabla \varphi dx \leq \frac{1}{2} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1}. \quad (4.9)$$

Also, setting  $p = 4$ ,  $k = 0$ ,  $l = 1$ ,  $r = q = 2$ , and  $s = 2$  into Theorem 4.1, we get the existence of a positive constant  $C$  which only depends on  $N$  and  $\Omega$  such that:

$$\|u\|_{L^4} \leq C \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{N}{4}} \|u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4-N}{4}}$$

and, renaming  $C$ , we get:

$$\|u\|_{L^4}^2 \leq C \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{N}{2}} \|u\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4-N}{2}}. \quad (4.10)$$

Then, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\left| \int_{\Omega} (u_{m,\varepsilon} \cdot \nabla u_{m,\varepsilon}) \cdot \varphi \, dx \right| &\leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |u_{m,\varepsilon}|^2 \cdot |\nabla \varphi| \, dx \\
&\leq \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^4}^2 \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^2} \\
&\leq C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4-N}{2}} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1}^{\frac{N}{2}} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1}.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.11}$$

So, putting (4.9)–(4.11) and the second estimate of the Proposition 4.1 in (4.8), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle u'_{m,\varepsilon}, \varphi \rangle &\leq \frac{1}{2} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1} + \|j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon})\|_{H^{-1}} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1} + C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4-N}{2}} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1}^{\frac{N}{2}} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1} \\
&\quad + \|f\|_{H^{-1}} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1},
\end{aligned}$$

and, therefore,

$$\|u'_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{H^{-1}} \leq \frac{1}{2} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1} + \|j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon})\|_{H^{-1}} + C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2}^{\frac{4-N}{2}} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1}^{\frac{N}{2}} + \|f\|_{H^{-1}}.$$

Now, using the following convexity inequality

$$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, \forall (x_i)_{1 \leq i \leq k} \in (0, +\infty)^k, \exists C > 0, \left( \sum_{i=1}^k x_i \right)^{\frac{4}{N}} \leq C \sum_{i=1}^k x_i^{\frac{4}{N}}$$

we get:

$$\|u'_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{H^{-1}}^{\frac{4}{N}} \leq C \left( \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1}^{\frac{4}{N}} + \|j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon})\|_{H^{-1}}^{\frac{4}{N}} + \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2}^{\frac{8-2N}{N}} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{H_0^1}^2 + \|f\|_{H^{-1}}^{\frac{4}{N}} \right).$$

Since  $N \in \{2, 3\}$ , we have  $\frac{4}{N} \leq 2$ . Hence, integrating in time over  $(0, T)$  and using the embedding  $L^2(\Omega) \hookrightarrow L^{\frac{4}{N}}(\Omega)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\|u'_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0,T),H^{-1})}^{\frac{4}{N}} &\leq C \left( \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2((0,T),H_0^1)}^{\frac{4}{N}} + \|j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon})\|_{L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0,T),H^{-1})}^{\frac{4}{N}} \right) \\
&\quad + C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^\infty((0,T),L^2)}^{\frac{8-2N}{N}} \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2((0,T),H_0^1)}^{\frac{4}{N}} + C \|f\|_{L^2((0,T),H^{-1})}^{\frac{4}{N}}.
\end{aligned}$$

Using the previously given convexity inequality and the first and second points of the proposition we obtain the desired result.  $\square$

### 4.3 Weak convergence

We are now interested in the weak convergence with respect to the estimates proven in Section 4.2. Here, we prove such convergences by passing to the limit with respect to the parameter  $\varepsilon$  in a first time, then by passing to the limit with respect to the Galerkin parameter  $m$ .

Before proving Theorem 3.1, we establish several useful lemmas.

**Lemma 4.2.** *Consider that  $\varphi \in L^2((0, T), H_0^1(\Omega))$ , then there exists a constant  $C(\varepsilon, \varphi) > 0$  which goes to zero as  $\varepsilon$  does, such that the following inequality holds:*

$$j_\varepsilon(\varphi) + C(\varepsilon, \varphi) \geq j(\varphi), \tag{4.12}$$

where  $j_\varepsilon$  and  $j$  are defined by (2.2).

*Proof.* Recalling that the assumption (C3) states that  $t \mapsto tF(t)$  is increasing, we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
j(\varphi) &:= \int_{\Omega} \int_0^{|D(\varphi)|} sF(s) \, ds \, dx \\
&\leq \int_{\Omega} \int_0^{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} sF(s) \, ds \, dx + \int_{\Omega} \int_{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}^{\sqrt{\varepsilon}+|D(\varphi)|} sF(s) \, ds \, dx \\
&\leq \varepsilon \sqrt{\varepsilon} F(\varepsilon) |\Omega| + \int_{\Omega} \int_0^{\sqrt{2|D(\varphi)|\sqrt{\varepsilon}+|D(\varphi)|^2}} sF(\sqrt{\varepsilon+s^2}) \, ds \, dx \\
&\leq \underbrace{\varepsilon \sqrt{\varepsilon} F(\varepsilon) |\Omega| + \int_{\Omega} \int_{|D(\varphi)|}^{2^{\frac{1}{2}} \varepsilon^{\frac{1}{4}} |D(\varphi)|^{\frac{1}{2}} + |D(\varphi)|} sF(\sqrt{\varepsilon+s^2}) \, ds \, dx}_{:=C(\varepsilon, \varphi)} + j_{\varepsilon}(\varphi),
\end{aligned}$$

which is the wished result.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.3.** *Consider  $\Omega$  an open bounded subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  with Lipschitz boundary, and a sequence  $(w_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that  $w_n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} w$  in  $L^2((0, T), H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega))$ . Then, for almost all  $(t, x) \in (0, T) \times \Omega$ , the following inequality holds:*

$$|D(w_n)(t, x)| \geq |D(w)(t, x)|.$$

*Proof.* Firstly, let us recall that since  $w_n \rightharpoonup w$  in  $L^2((0, T), H_0^1(\Omega))$  then, for all Lebesgue points  $t_0 \in (0, T)$  and  $x_0 \in \Omega$ , for all  $\delta > 0$  and  $R > 0$  small enough, we have  $w_n \rightharpoonup w$  in  $L^2((t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta), H^1(B(x_0, R)))$ . Indeed, we have for all test function  $\varphi$ :

$$\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} \nabla w_n \cdot \nabla \varphi \, dt \, dx \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} \nabla w \cdot \nabla \varphi \, dt \, dx.$$

Hence, we can take  $\varphi$ , which belongs to  $C_0^\infty((t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta) \times B(x_0, R))$  (up to arguing by density thereafter), satisfying:

$$\nabla \varphi = \begin{cases} \nabla \psi & \text{on } (t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta) \times B(x_0, R) \\ 0 & \text{on } (0, T) \times \Omega \setminus (t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta) \times B(x_0, R) \end{cases}$$

and so this leads to:

$$\int_{t_0 - \delta}^{t_0 + \delta} \int_{B(x_0, R)} \nabla w_n \cdot \nabla \psi \, dt \, dx \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_{t_0 - \delta}^{t_0 + \delta} \int_{B(x_0, R)} \nabla w \cdot \nabla \psi \, dt \, dx.$$

That is  $w_n \rightharpoonup w$  in  $L^2((t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta), H^1(B(x_0, R)))$ . Now, applying Korn's  $L^2$  equality and using that fact we get for all Lebesgue point  $t_0$  of  $(0, T)$  and  $x_0 \in \Omega$  that:

$$\int_{t_0 - \delta}^{t_0 + \delta} \int_{B(x_0, R)} |D(w_n)|^2 \, dx \, dt \geq \int_{t_0 - \delta}^{t_0 + \delta} \int_{B(x_0, R)} |D(w)|^2 \, dx \, dt.$$

Dividing each side by  $2\delta|B(x_0, R)|$ , we get:

$$\int_{t_0 - \delta}^{t_0 + \delta} \int_{B(x_0, R)} |D(w_n)|^2 \, dx \, dt \geq \int_{t_0 - \delta}^{t_0 + \delta} \int_{B(x_0, R)} |D(w)|^2 \, dx \, dt$$

then letting  $(\delta, R) \rightarrow (0, 0)$  leads to the result, applying Lebesgue's differentiation theorem.  $\square$

The following lemma gives the convergence of  $u_{m,\varepsilon}$  when  $\varepsilon$  goes to zero.

**Lemma 4.4.** *With the hypotheses of Proposition 4.1 there exists  $v_m \in L^2((0, T), H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty((0, T), L_\sigma^2(\Omega))$  with  $v'_m \in L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0, T), H_\sigma^{-1}(\Omega))$  such that, up to subsequences:*

1.  $u'_{m,\varepsilon} \rightharpoonup v'_m$  in  $L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0, T), H_\sigma^{-1}(\Omega))$ ;

2.  $u_{m,\varepsilon} \rightharpoonup v_m$  in  $L^2((0, T), H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega))$ ;
3.  $u_{m,\varepsilon} \rightarrow v_m$  in  $L^2((0, T), L_\sigma^2(\Omega))$ ;
4.  $u_{m,\varepsilon} \xrightarrow{*} v_m$  in  $L^\infty((0, T), L_\sigma^2(\Omega))$ .

Moreover,  $v_m$  satisfies, for all  $\psi \in C^\infty((0, T) \times \Omega)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \left( \|v_m(T)\|_{L^2}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \|u_0\|_{L^2}^2 \right) - \int_0^T \langle v'_m, \psi \rangle dt + \int_0^T \int_\Omega D(v_m) : D(v_m - \psi) dx dt \\ & + \int_0^T j(v_m) - j(\psi) dt - \int_0^T \int_\Omega (v_m \cdot \nabla v_m) \cdot \psi dx dt \leq \int_0^T \langle f, v_m - \psi \rangle dt. \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

*Proof.* The first and second points follow from the reflexivity of  $L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0, T), H_\sigma^{-1}(\Omega))$  and  $L^2((0, T), H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega))$  respectively, the third one from Aubin-Lions' Lemma, and the last one by Banach-Alaoglu-Bourbaki's theorem.

Then, since  $u_{m,\varepsilon}$  is a solution of (4.2), it satisfies (4.4). Testing against  $\varphi = u_{m,\varepsilon} - \psi$  in (4.4) for a test function  $\psi$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle u'_{m,\varepsilon}, u_{m,\varepsilon} - \psi \rangle + \int_\Omega D(u_{m,\varepsilon}) : D(u_{m,\varepsilon} - \psi) dx + \langle j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon}), u_{m,\varepsilon} - \psi \rangle \\ & - \int_\Omega (u_{m,\varepsilon} \cdot \nabla u_{m,\varepsilon}) \cdot \psi dx = \langle f, u_{m,\varepsilon} - \psi \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

Applying Lemma 2.1 leads to the well-known convexity inequality:

$$j_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon}) - j_\varepsilon(\psi) \leq \langle j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon}), u_{m,\varepsilon} - \psi \rangle. \quad (4.15)$$

Using now Lemma 4.2 for  $u_{m,\varepsilon}$  in (4.15), we get:

$$j(u_{m,\varepsilon}) - C(\varepsilon, u_{m,\varepsilon}) - j_\varepsilon(\psi) \leq \langle j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon}), u_{m,\varepsilon} - \psi \rangle$$

and then, by (C3) and Lemma 4.3 applied to  $u_{m,\varepsilon}$  for the convergence toward  $v_m$ , we get:

$$j(v_m) - C(\varepsilon, u_{m,\varepsilon}) - j_\varepsilon(\psi) \leq \langle j'_\varepsilon(u_{m,\varepsilon}), u_{m,\varepsilon} - \psi \rangle.$$

Then, we can write (see [20] part 5.9. for details):

$$\forall \varphi \in H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega), \int_\Omega u_{m,\varepsilon}(T) \varphi dx = \langle u_{m,\varepsilon}(T), \varphi \rangle = \int_0^T \langle u'_{m,\varepsilon}(t), \varphi \rangle dt + \langle u_0, \varphi \rangle. \quad (4.16)$$

Now, we also have, using Proposition 4.1:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T \langle u'_{m,\varepsilon}(t), \varphi \rangle dt + \langle u_0, \varphi \rangle & \leq \|u'_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0,T), H^{-1})} \left( \int_0^T \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1}^{\frac{4-N}{4}} dt \right)^{\frac{4-N}{4}} + C \|u_0\|_{L^2} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1} \\ & \leq C \left( T^{\frac{4-N}{4}} + \|u_0\|_{L^2} \right) \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1}. \end{aligned}$$

In the above inequality we considered  $\varphi$  as a function in  $L^\infty((0, T), H_0^1(\Omega))$ , so it belongs to  $L^{\frac{4}{4-N}}((0, T), H_0^1(\Omega))$  and its left-hand side defines a linear form over  $L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0, T), H^{-1}(\Omega))$ .

Also, the weak convergence leads to:

$$\int_0^T \langle u'_{m,\varepsilon}(t), \varphi \rangle dt \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^T \langle v'_m(t), \varphi \rangle dt. \quad (4.17)$$

Finally, (4.16) and (4.17) imply, up to apply a dominated convergence theorem, to:

$$u_{m,\varepsilon}(T) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} v_m(T) \quad \text{in } L^2(\Omega). \quad (4.18)$$

Then, (4.18) implies:

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2} (\|u_{m,\varepsilon}(T)\|_{L^2}^2 - \|P_m(u_0)\|_{L^2}^2) \geq \frac{1}{2} (\|v_m(T)\|_{L^2}^2 - \|P_m(u_0)\|_{L^2}^2) \quad (4.19)$$

Also, from usual estimates (see [34, Chapter 4]), since  $u_{m,\varepsilon} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} v_m$  in  $L^2((0, T), H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega))$ , we have:

$$\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx dt \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |D(v_m)|^2 dx dt \quad (4.20)$$

and

$$\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (u_{m,\varepsilon} \cdot \nabla u_{m,\varepsilon}) \cdot \psi dx dt \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (v_m \cdot \nabla v_m) \cdot \psi dx dt. \quad (4.21)$$

Integrating in time (4.14), and passing to the limit over  $\varepsilon$ , combining with (4.20), (4.21), and (4.19) leads to (4.13).  $\square$

Arguing in the same way, we obtain the following result.

**Lemma 4.5.** *Under the assumptions of Proposition 4.1, there exists  $u \in L^2((0, T), H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty((0, T), L_\sigma^2(\Omega))$  with  $u' \in L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0, T), H_\sigma^{-1}(\Omega))$  such that the function  $v_m$  given by Lemma 4.4 verifies.*

1.  $v'_m \rightharpoonup u'$  in  $L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0, T), H_\sigma^{-1}(\Omega))$ ;
2.  $v_m \rightarrow u$  in  $L^2((0, T), L_\sigma^2(\Omega))$ ;
3.  $v_m \rightharpoonup u$  in  $L^2((0, T), H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega))$ ;
4.  $v_m \overset{*}{\rightharpoonup} u$  in  $L^\infty((0, T), L_\sigma^2(\Omega))$ .

Moreover, we point out that  $u \in C_w((0, T), L_\sigma^2(\Omega))$  from the above estimates (see [10, Proposition V.1.7. p.363] for details).

*Proof of Theorem 3.1.* We point out that the coefficients of  $v_m$  given by Lemma 4.4 satisfy an ODE as (4.3) with  $\varepsilon = 0$ , then  $v_m$  is still smooth in space and time. Moreover, we can take up again the method previously used, that is we can write :

$$\forall \varphi \in H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega), \int_{\Omega} v_m(T) \varphi dx = \langle v_m(T), \varphi \rangle = \int_0^T \langle v'_m(t), \varphi \rangle dt + \langle P_m(u_0), \varphi \rangle. \quad (4.22)$$

Using Proposition 4.1 then leads to:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T \langle v'_m(t), \varphi \rangle dt + \langle u_0, \varphi \rangle &\leq \|v'_m\|_{L^{\frac{4}{N}}((0,T), H^{-1})} \left( \int_0^T \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1}^{\frac{4}{4-N}} dt \right)^{\frac{4-N}{4}} + C \|u_0\|_{L^2} \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1} \\ &\leq C \left( T^{\frac{4-N}{4}} + \|u_0\|_{L^2} \right) \|\varphi\|_{H_0^1}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.23)$$

Then, the weak convergence leads to:

$$\int_0^T \langle v'_m(t), \varphi \rangle dt \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^T \langle v'_m(t), \varphi \rangle dt. \quad (4.24)$$

Finally, (4.22) and (4.24) imply:

$$v_m(T) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} u(T) \quad \text{in } L^2(\Omega). \quad (4.25)$$

Then, (4.18) implies:

$$\liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{2} (\|v_m(T)\|_{L^2}^2 - \|P_m(u_0)\|_{L^2}^2) \geq \frac{1}{2} (\|u(T)\|_{L^2}^2 - \|u_0\|_{L^2}^2) \quad (4.26)$$

Using once again usual estimates for Navier-Stokes equation, since  $v_m \xrightarrow{m \rightarrow +\infty} u$  in  $L^2((0, T), H_{0,\sigma}^1(\Omega))$ , we have:

$$\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |D(v_m)|^2 dx dt \xrightarrow{m \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |D(u)|^2 dx dt \quad (4.27)$$

and

$$\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (v_m \cdot \nabla v_m) \cdot \psi dx dt \xrightarrow{m \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (u \cdot \nabla u) \cdot \psi dx dt. \quad (4.28)$$

Applying lemma 4.3 with our assumption (C3) and passing to the limit over  $m$ , we get:

$$\varliminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T j(v_m) dt \geq j(u). \quad (4.29)$$

Passing to the limit over  $m$  in (4.23), combining with (4.27), (4.28), (4.29) and (4.26) leads to:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \left( \|u(T)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 - \|u_0\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right) - \int_0^T \langle u', \psi \rangle dt + \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} D(u) : D(u - \psi) dx dt + \int_0^T j(u) - j(\psi) dt \\ - \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (u \cdot \nabla u) \cdot \psi dx dt \leq \int_0^T \langle f, u - \psi \rangle dt \end{aligned} \quad (4.30)$$

which is the desired result, that is  $u$  is a weak solution of (1.1).  $\square$

## 5 Existence of a finite stopping time for shear-thinning flows

In this part, we assume that hypotheses of the Theorem 3.2 are fulfilled. We are interested to show the existence of a finite stopping time of weak solutions of (1.1) for a viscosity coefficient  $F$  which behaves at least as a power-law model, following classical methods for proving such an extinction profile. In fact, one can observe that the nonlinearity proper to Ostald-De Waele or Bingham flows in some special cases implies the existence of such a finite stopping time, as it has already been proved for the two-dimensional Bingham equation under some assumptions in [14]. Moreover, the study of such a profile has been proved in the case of the parabolic  $p$ -Laplacian, see [15, section VII.2] for a bounded initial datum or [4, Theorem 4.6] for the case  $p = 1$  and with initial datum belonging to  $L^2(\Omega)$ . In this section, we will moreover assume for convenience that the force term belongs to  $L^2((0, T), L^2(\Omega))$  or, if necessary, we will identify the duality bracket  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  with the  $L^2$  inner product. Note that this assumption is not necessary, the results remain valid for  $f \in L^2((0, T), H_{\sigma}^{-1}(\Omega))$ .

Before proving the Theorem 3.2, we need to prove the following useful lemma.

**Lemma 5.1.** *Assume that  $u \in L^6(\Omega)$ . Then, for all  $r \in (0, 3)$ , the following inequality holds:*

$$\|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^r \leq \left( \frac{3-r}{3} \right) \|u\|_{L^{\frac{4r}{3-r}}(\Omega)}^{\frac{4r}{3-r}} + \left( \frac{r}{3} \right) \|u\|_{L^6(\Omega)}^2. \quad (5.1)$$

*Proof of Lemma 5.1.* First, we write for  $s \in (0, 2)$ :

$$\|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 := \int_{\Omega} |u|^s |u|^{2-s} dx. \quad (5.2)$$

Now, passing to the power  $\frac{r}{2}$  and using Hölder's inequality in (5.2) leads to:

$$\|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^r \leq \left( \int_{\Omega} |u|^{sp} dx \right)^{\frac{r}{2p}} \left( \int_{\Omega} |u|^{(2-s)q} dx \right)^{\frac{r}{2q}}. \quad (5.3)$$

Finally, we apply Young's inequality into (5.3) to obtain:



$$\|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^r \leq \frac{1}{a} \left( \int_{\Omega} |u|^{sp} dx \right)^{\frac{ar}{p}} + \frac{1}{b} \left( \int_{\Omega} |u|^{(2-s)q} dx \right)^{\frac{br}{q}}. \quad (5.4)$$

Fixing successively  $p = \frac{3}{2s}$ ,  $s = \frac{4}{3}$ , and  $b = \frac{3}{r}$  leads to (5.1), that is the result is proved. We point out that it is necessary to have  $r \in (0, 3)$  in order to satisfy the necessary conditions in the inequalities used above:

$$\begin{cases} s \in (0, \frac{3}{2}), \\ r > 0, \\ \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1, \\ \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} = 1. \end{cases}$$

□

Moreover, we recall the Nirenberg-Strauss inequality:

**Lemma 5.2** ([36, Theorem 1]). *Let  $\Omega$  be an open bounded subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  with Lipschitz boundary, then there exists a constant  $C > 0$  which depends of  $N$  and  $\Omega$  such that for all  $u \in W_0^{1, \frac{N}{N-1}}(\Omega)$  the following inequality holds:*

$$\|u\|_{L^{\frac{N}{N-1}}(\Omega)} \leq C \|D(u)\|_{L^1(\Omega)}. \quad (5.5)$$

We are now able to prove Theorem 3.2. We point out that the proof being well-known in the two-dimensional case (see [14]) and can be in that last case a direct application of the Korn's inequality and Sobolev's embedding theorem. For this reason, we only give a proof in the three-dimensional setting.

*Proof of Theorem 3.2.* Let  $u_{m,\varepsilon}$  be the solution of (4.2). Choosing  $\varphi = u_{m,\varepsilon}$  in (4.4) we get:

$$\langle u'_{m,\varepsilon}, u_{m,\varepsilon} \rangle + \int_{\Omega} |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx + \underbrace{\langle j'_{\varepsilon}(u_{m,\varepsilon}), u_{m,\varepsilon} \rangle - \int_{\Omega} (u_{m,\varepsilon} \nabla u_{m,\varepsilon}) u_{m,\varepsilon} dx}_{=0} = \langle f, u_{m,\varepsilon} \rangle. \quad (5.6)$$

Combining (2.2) and (3.1), we obtain

$$\langle j'_{\varepsilon}(u_{m,\varepsilon}), u_{m,\varepsilon} \rangle \geq \int_{\Omega} |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 (\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2)^{\frac{p-2}{2}} dx \quad (5.7)$$

Now, observing that:

$$|D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 = \varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 - \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad (\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2)^{\frac{p-2}{2}} \leq \varepsilon^{\frac{p-2}{2}},$$

and since:

$$|D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^p \leq (\varepsilon + |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2)^{\frac{p}{2}},$$

we get from (5.6) and (5.7), we get:

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right) + \int_{\Omega} |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx + C \|D(u_{m,\varepsilon})\|_{L^p(\Omega)}^p \leq \langle f, u_{m,\varepsilon} \rangle + |\Omega| \varepsilon^{\frac{p}{2}}. \quad (5.8)$$

Then, using successively the embedding  $L^p(\Omega) \hookrightarrow L^1(\Omega)$ , assumption (3.1) and the Theorem 5.2, we get from (5.8), for  $t \in (T_1, t)$ :

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right) + \int_{\Omega} |D(u_{m,\varepsilon})|^2 dx + C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^{\frac{3}{2}}(\Omega)}^p \leq |\Omega| \varepsilon^{\frac{p}{2}}. \quad (5.9)$$

Now, from the embedding  $\{u \in H_0^1(\Omega) / \|D(u)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} < +\infty\} \hookrightarrow L^6(\Omega)$  which can be obtained using Korn's  $L^2$  equality and Sobolev embedding  $H_0^1(\Omega) \hookrightarrow L^6(\Omega)$  we get from (5.9):

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right) + C \left( \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^6(\Omega)}^2 + \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^{\frac{3}{2}}(\Omega)}^p \right) \leq |\Omega| \varepsilon^{\frac{p}{2}}. \quad (5.10)$$

Now, we can apply Lemma 5.1 with  $r = \frac{3p}{p+4}$  to get:

$$\|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^{1-2\left(\frac{2-p}{p+4}\right)} \leq \left( \frac{4}{p+4} \right) \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^{\frac{3}{2}}(\Omega)}^p + \left( \frac{p}{p+4} \right) \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^6(\Omega)}^2. \quad (5.11)$$

Then, (5.11) combined with (5.10) leads to, for  $t \in (T_1, T)$ :

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right) + C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^{1-2\left(\frac{2-p}{p+4}\right)} \leq |\Omega| \varepsilon^{\frac{p}{2}}. \quad (5.12)$$

Assume that for all  $t \in (T_1, T)$ , we get that  $\|u_{m,\varepsilon}\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \geq \frac{1}{\mu} |\Omega| \varepsilon^{\frac{p}{2}}$ , for some  $\mu > 0$  small enough. Then dividing by  $\|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}$  the both sides of (5.12), we obtain for almost all  $t \in (T_1, T)$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \right) + C \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^{-2\left(\frac{2-p}{p+4}\right)} \leq |\Omega| \varepsilon^{\frac{p}{2}},$$

which is equivalent to:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^{\frac{8-p}{p+4}} \right) \leq \mu - C.$$

Up to take  $\mu < C$ , integrating over  $(T_1, t)$ , we have for almost all  $t \in (T_1, T)$ :

$$\|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^{\frac{8-p}{p+4}} \leq \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(T_1)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^{\frac{8-p}{p+4}} + (C - \mu)(T_1 - t),$$

which leads to  $\|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^{\frac{8-p}{p+4}} < 0$  for  $t$  large enough, up to take  $T$  large enough. This is a contradiction, so, there exists a time  $T_0 \in (0, T)$  such that  $\|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\| \leq \frac{1}{\mu} |\Omega| \varepsilon^{\frac{p}{2}}$ , and so letting  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  leads to  $\|v_m(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} = 0$  for all  $t \in [T_0, T)$ . Indeed, assume that  $t_s$  is the time for which we have  $\|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t_s)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq \frac{1}{\mu} |\Omega| \varepsilon^{\frac{p}{2}}$ . Then one can verify that  $t \mapsto \|u_{m,\varepsilon}(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2$  is non-increasing on  $[\max(t_s, T_1), T)$ , and we get the result setting  $T_0 = \max(t_s, T_1)$ .

So we get that there exists  $\tilde{t} \in [T_0, T)$  such that  $\|u(\tilde{t})\|_{L^2(\Omega)} = 0$ . If it was not the case, we would have:

$$\forall t \in [T_0, T), \|v_m(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} < \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)},$$

which implies:

$$\int_{T_0}^T \|v_m(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 dt < \int_{T_0}^T \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 dt.$$

This would be a contradiction with the uniform bound of  $(v_m)_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $L^2((T_0, T), L^2_\sigma(\Omega))$  and the convergence  $v_m \rightharpoonup u$  in  $L^2((T_0, T), L^2_\sigma(\Omega))$ . Also, there exists  $\tilde{t}$  in  $[T_0, T)$  such that  $\|u(\tilde{t})\|_{L^2(\Omega)} = 0$ , and, arguing as we have already done for  $(v_m)_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ , we have that  $t \mapsto \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2$  is non-increasing on  $[\tilde{t}, T)$ . Finally, since  $u \in \mathcal{C}_w((0, T), L^2_\sigma(\Omega))$ , we get:

$$\forall t \in [\tilde{t}, T), \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} = 0,$$

which is the desired result and concludes the proof.  $\square$

## 6 Conclusions and problems remaining open

In this paper, we have been able to establish the existence of variational inequality solutions for a large class of generalized Newtonian flows in both two- and three-dimensional settings, including threshold fluid flows. This result completes that of [18] and should be related to that obtained in [1] in the context of dissipative solutions. The issue of global regularity in the three-dimensional setting remains open, the question being still widely open for the Leray-Hopf (and Leray) solutions of the incompressible Navier-Stokes equations.

An important question would be to know if it is possible to control this extinction profile, the question of the control of solutions of quasilinear parabolic equations of  $p$ -Laplacian type remaining currently open.

### A Some examples of functions $F$

In this section, we give some examples of functions  $F$  satisfying the conditions (C1)-(C4), most of which correspond to models of non-Newtonian coherent flows in the physical sense. This is the case for quasi-Newtonian fluids such as blood, threshold fluids such as mayonnaise, or more generally in the case of polymeric liquids.

1. Firstly, in order to describe power-law fluids (also known as Ostwald-De Waele or Norton-Hoff flows), we can consider functions  $(F_p)_{1 < p < 2}$  given by:

$$F_p : \begin{cases} (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty) \\ t \mapsto t^{p-2}. \end{cases}$$

2. Considering functions  $(F_{\mu,p})_{\mu > 0, p \in [1,2]}$  of the form

$$F_{\mu,p} : \begin{cases} (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty) \\ t \mapsto (\mu + t^2)^{\frac{p-2}{2}} \end{cases}$$

leads to Carreau flows.

3. Cross fluids are obtained by choosing function  $(F_{\gamma,\alpha})_{\gamma > 0, p \in [1,2]}$  given by:

$$F_{\gamma,p} : \begin{cases} (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty) \\ t \mapsto \gamma + t^{p-2}. \end{cases}$$

4. Another possible choice is to take functions  $(F_{p,\beta,\gamma})$  given

$$F_{p,\beta,\gamma} : \begin{cases} (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty) \\ t \mapsto \begin{cases} t^{p-2} \log(1+t)^{-\beta} & \text{If } t \in (0, \gamma] \\ \log(1+\gamma)^{-\beta} t^{p-2} & \text{If } t \in (\gamma, +\infty) \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

for  $1 < p < 2$  and some  $\beta, \gamma > 0$  with  $\gamma$  small enough.

## B An energy equality

The purpose of this appendix is to establish, for some  $F$  and in the two-dimensional case, a energy equality (non-constructive) for the weak solutions of (1.1), which are continuous in time from Aubin-Lions's lemma. More exactly, we have the following result.

Note that it is sometimes hard to establish such equalities in the non-Newtonian setting, we quote as example the work of [6] on the subject.

**Proposition B.1.** *Assume that  $N = 2$  and that  $u$  is a weak solution to (1.1) satisfying assumptions of Theorem 3.1. Moreover, assume that there exists  $\theta > 0$  such that for all  $t \in (0, T)$ , we have:*

$$G(t) = \theta t^2 F(\theta t). \quad (\text{B.1})$$

Then we have for almost all  $t \in (0, T)$  that there exists  $\eta(t) \in (0, 1]$  such that:

$$\frac{1}{2} \|u(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|u\|_{L^2((0,T),H_0^1)}^2 + \int_0^t \frac{1}{\eta(s)} \langle j'(\eta(s)u), u \rangle ds = \frac{1}{2} \|u_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \int_0^t \langle f, u \rangle ds.$$

*Proof.* Testing against  $\chi_{(0,t)}(\varphi - u_{m,\varepsilon})$  in the weak formulation (4.4), for a well-chosen  $t$  and passing to the weak limit over  $m$  and  $\varepsilon$ , by Lemma 4.5, since  $\|v_m(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \geq \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}$ , we have for almost all time  $t \in (0, T)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^t \langle u', \varphi \rangle ds + \frac{1}{2} \left( \|u_0\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 - \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right) + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} D(u) : D(\varphi - u) dx ds \\ - \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} (u \cdot \nabla u) \cdot \varphi dx ds + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} j(\varphi) - j(u) ds \geq \int_0^t \langle f, \varphi - u \rangle ds. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.2})$$

Testing against  $\varphi = 0$  in (B.2), we get:

$$\frac{1}{2} \left( \|u_0\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 - \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right) + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} |D(u)|^2 dx ds + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} G(|D(u)|) dx ds \leq \int_0^t \langle f, u \rangle ds. \quad (\text{B.3})$$

Now, we write:

$$\forall r \in (0, +\infty), G(r) = \int_0^r sF(s) ds = r^2 \int_0^1 yF(ry) dy.$$

We point out that the result still holds for  $r = 0$ . Combining the above equality and (B.1), we deduce that:

$$\int_{\Omega} G(|D(u)|) dx = \int_{\Omega} \theta |D(u)|^2 F(\theta |D(u)|) dx = \frac{1}{\theta} \langle j'(\theta u), \theta u \rangle.$$

So, (B.3) leads to:

$$\frac{1}{2} \left( \|u_0\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 - \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right) + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} |D(u)|^2 dx ds + \frac{1}{\theta} \int_0^t \langle j'(\theta u), \theta u \rangle ds \leq \int_0^t \langle f, u \rangle ds. \quad (\text{B.4})$$

Using now  $\varphi = (1 + \delta)v_m$  in Lemma 4.5 (for every  $\delta > 0$ ) as a test function, then dividing each side of the obtained inequality by  $\delta > 0$  and passing to the limit with respect to the parameter  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  we obtain, after passing to the limit over  $m$  recalling that  $G$  admits a Gâteaux-derivative, that:

$$\frac{1}{2} \left( \|u_0\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 - \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right) + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} |D(u)|^2 dx ds + \int_0^t \langle j'(u), u \rangle ds \geq \int_0^t \langle f, u \rangle ds. \quad (\text{B.5})$$

Finally, using once again the assumption (C2), we obtain from the inequalities (B.4) and (B.5), that there exists  $\eta \in [\theta, 1]$  such that:

$$\frac{1}{2} \left( \|u_0\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 - \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \right) + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} |D(u)|^2 dx ds + \int_0^t \frac{1}{\eta} \langle j'(\eta u), \eta u \rangle ds - \int_0^t \langle f, u \rangle ds = 0,$$

which is the wished result. □

**Remark 3.** Clearly, the case of threshold flows is contained into the previous proposition, since we can write, for  $t > 0$ :

$$\int_0^t s^{p-1} ds = \frac{1}{p} t^p = \theta t^2 (\theta t)^{p-2}$$

with  $\theta = p^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}$  if  $1 < p < 2$ ,  $\theta = 1$  if  $p = 1$ .

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