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THE VLASOV-POISSON-BOLTZMANN SYSTEM FOR SOFT POTENTIALS

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An important physical model describing the dynamics of dilute weakly ionized plasmas in the collisional kinetic theory is the Vlasov-Poisson-Boltzmann system for which the plasma responds strongly to the self-consistent electrostatic force. This paper is concerned with the electron dynamics of kinetic plasmas in the whole space when the positive charged ion flow provides a spatially uniform background. We establish the global existence and optimal convergence rates of solutions near a global Maxwellian to the Cauchy problem on the Vlasov-Poisson-Boltzmann system for angular cutoff soft potentials with $-2 \leq \gamma < 0$. The main idea is to introduce a time dependent weight function in the velocity variable to capture the singularity of the cross-section at zero relative velocity.

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1. Introduction

The Vlasov-Poisson-Boltzmann (called VPB in the sequel for simplicity) system is a physical model describing the motion of dilute weakly ionized plasmas (e.g., electrons and ions in the case of two-species) in the collisional kinetic theory, where

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plasmas respond strongly to the self-consistent electrostatic force. In physics, the ion mass is usually much larger than the electron mass so that the electrons move much faster than the ions. Thus, the ions are often described by a fixed background $n_b(x)$ and only the electrons move rapidly. In this simplified case, the VPB system takes the form of

$$\partial_t f + \xi \cdot \nabla_x f + \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi f = Q(f, f), \quad (1.1)$$

$$\Delta_x \phi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} f d\xi - 1, \quad \phi(x) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty, \quad (1.2)$$

$$f(0, x, \xi) = f_0(x, \xi). \quad (1.3)$$

Here the unknown $f = f(t, x, \xi) \geq 0$ is the density distribution function of the particles located at $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ with velocity $\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ at time $t \geq 0$. The potential function $\phi = \phi(t, x)$ generating the self-consistent electric field $\nabla_x \phi$ in (1.1) is coupled with $f(t, x, \xi)$ through the Poisson equation (1.2), where $n_b(x) \equiv 1$ is chosen to be a unit constant.

The bilinear collision operator Q acting only on the velocity variable, see Ref. 4, 14, 35, is defined by

$$Q(f, g) = \iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \left(f(\xi'_*) g(\xi') - f(\xi_*) g(\xi) \right) d\omega d\xi_*, \quad (1.4)$$

where (ξ, ξ_*) and (ξ', ξ'_*) , denoting velocities of two particles before and after their collisions respectively, satisfy

$$\xi' = \xi - [(\xi - \xi_*) \cdot \omega] \omega, \quad \xi'_* = \xi_* + [(\xi - \xi_*) \cdot \omega] \omega, \quad \omega \in \mathbb{S}^2,$$

by the conservation of momentum and energy

$$\xi + \xi_* = \xi' + \xi'_*, \quad |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2 = |\xi'|^2 + |\xi'_*|^2.$$

Note that the identity $|\xi - \xi_*| = |\xi' - \xi'_*|$ holds.

The function $|\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta)$ in (1.4) is the cross-section depending only on $|\xi - \xi_*|$ and $\cos \theta = (\xi - \xi_*) \cdot \omega / |\xi - \xi_*|$, and it satisfies $-3 < \gamma \leq 1$ and it is assumed to satisfy the Grad's angular cutoff assumption $0 \leq q_0(\theta) \leq C |\cos \theta|$. The exponent γ is determined by the potential of intermolecular forces, which is called the soft potential when $-3 < \gamma < 0$, the Maxwell model when $\gamma = 0$ and the hard potential when $0 < \gamma \leq 1$ including the hard sphere model $\gamma = 1$, $q_0(\theta) = \text{cont.} |\cos \theta|$. For the soft potential, the case $-2 < \gamma < 0$ is called the moderately soft potential and $-3 < \gamma < -2$ very soft potential, see Ref. 35. Notice ^{23,31,35} that the Coulomb potential coincides with the limit at $\gamma = -3$ for which the Boltzmann collision operator should be replaced by the Landau operator under the grazing collision.

It is an interesting problem to consider the nonlinear stability and convergence rates of a spatially homogeneous steady state \mathbf{M} for the Cauchy problem (1.1), (1.2), (1.3) when initial data f_0 is sufficiently close to \mathbf{M} in a certain sense, where

$$\mathbf{M} = (2\pi)^{-3/2} e^{-|\xi|^2/2}$$

is a normalized global Maxwellian. This problem was first solved by Guo²² for the VPB system on torus in the case of the hard sphere model. Since then, the case of non hard sphere models, i.e. $-3 < \gamma < 1$, under the angular cutoff assumption, has remained open. In a recent work¹³ for the VPB system over the whole space, we studied the problem for the case $0 \leq \gamma \leq 1$ that includes both the Maxwell model and general hard potentials. However, the method used in Ref. 13 can not be applied to the soft potentials, mainly because the collision frequency $\nu(\xi) \sim (1 + |\xi|)^\gamma$ with $\gamma < 0$ is degenerate in the large-velocity domain.

In this paper we shall study the problem in the soft potential case by further developing the approach in Ref. 13 with the following extra ingredients to overcome the specific mathematical difficulties in dealing with soft potentials:

- a new time-velocity-dependent weight in the form of $\exp\{(\xi)^2[q + \lambda/(1 + t)^\theta]\}$ to capture the dissipation for controlling the velocity growth in the nonlinear term for non hard sphere models, and
- a time-frequency/time weighted method to overcome the large-velocity degeneracy in the energy dissipation.

The approach and techniques that this paper together with Ref. 13 developed can be applied to some other collisional kinetic models for the non hard sphere interaction potential when an external forcing is present.

1.1. Main results

To this end, as in Ref. 22, set the perturbation $u = u(t, x, \xi)$ by

$$f(t, x, \xi) - \mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}^{1/2}u(t, x, \xi).$$

Then, the Cauchy problem (1.1)-(1.3) of the VPB system is reformulated as

$$\partial_t u + \xi \cdot \nabla_x u + \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u - \frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u - \nabla_x \phi \cdot \xi \mathbf{M}^{1/2} = \mathbf{L}u + \Gamma(u, u), \quad (1.5)$$

$$\Delta_x \phi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \mathbf{M}^{1/2} u d\xi, \quad \phi(x) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty, \quad (1.6)$$

$$u(0, x, \xi) = u_0(x, \xi) = \mathbf{M}^{-1/2}(f_0 - \mathbf{M}), \quad (1.7)$$

where the linearized collision operator \mathbf{L} and the quadratic nonlinear term Γ are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{L}u &= \mathbf{M}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left\{ Q(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{M}^{1/2}u) + Q(\mathbf{M}^{1/2}u, \mathbf{M}) \right\}, \\ \Gamma(u, u) &= \mathbf{M}^{-\frac{1}{2}} Q(\mathbf{M}^{1/2}u, \mathbf{M}^{1/2}u), \end{aligned}$$

respectively. Here, notice that due to (1.6), ϕ can be determined in terms of u by

$$\phi(t, x) = -\frac{1}{4\pi|x|} *_x \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \mathbf{M}^{1/2} u(t, x, \xi) d\xi. \quad (1.8)$$

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By plugging the above formula into the equation (1.5) for the reformulated VPB system, one has a single evolution equation for the perturbation u , see Ref. 12, 9.

Before stating our main result, we first introduce the following mixed time-velocity weight function

$$w_{\tau,q}(t, \xi) = \langle \xi \rangle^{\gamma\tau} e^{\langle \xi \rangle^2 \left[q + \frac{\lambda}{(1+t)^\vartheta} \right]}, \quad (1.9)$$

where $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$, $0 \leq q \ll 1$, $0 < \lambda \ll 1$, $0 < \vartheta \leq 1/4$, and $\langle \xi \rangle = (1 + |\xi|^2)^{1/2}$. Notice that even though $w_{\tau,q}(t, \xi)$ depends also on parameters λ and ϑ , we skip them for notational simplicity, and in many places we also use $q(t)$ to denote $q + \frac{\lambda}{(1+t)^\vartheta}$ for brevity. For given $u(t, x, \xi)$ with the corresponding function $\phi(t, x)$ given by (1.8), we then define a temporal energy norm

$$\|u\|_{N,\ell,q}(t) = \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta|\leq N} \|w_{|\beta|-\ell,q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha u(t)\| + \|\nabla_x \phi(t)\|_{H^N}, \quad (1.10)$$

where $N \geq 0$ is an integer, and $\ell \geq N$ is a constant.

The main result of this paper is stated as follows. Some more notations will be explained at the end of this section.

Theorem 1.1. *Let $-2 \leq \gamma < 0$, $N \geq 8$, $\ell_0 > \frac{5}{2}$, $\ell \geq 1 + \max\left\{N, \frac{\ell_0}{2} - \frac{1}{\gamma}\right\}$ and $q(t) = q + \frac{\lambda}{(1+t)^\vartheta} \geq 0$ with $0 \leq q \ll 1$, $0 < \lambda \ll 1$, and $0 < \vartheta \leq 1/4$. Assume that $f_0 = \mathbf{M} + \mathbf{M}^{1/2}u_0 \geq 0$ and*

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} \mathbf{M}^{1/2}u_0 \, dx d\xi = 0. \quad (1.11)$$

There are constants $\epsilon_0 > 0$, $C_0 > 0$ such that if

$$\sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta|\leq N} \|w_{|\beta|-\ell,q}(0, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha u_0\| + \left\| \left(1 + |x| + |\xi|^{-\frac{\gamma\ell_0}{2}}\right) u_0 \right\|_{Z_1} \leq \epsilon_0, \quad (1.12)$$

then the Cauchy problem (1.5), (1.6), (1.7) of the VPB system admits a unique global solution $u(t, x, \xi)$ satisfying $f(t, x, \xi) = \mathbf{M} + \mathbf{M}^{1/2}u(t, x, \xi) \geq 0$ and

$$\sup_{t \geq 0} \left\{ \|u\|_{N,\ell,q}(t) + (1+t)^{\frac{3}{4}} \|u\|_{N,\ell-1,q}(t) + (1+t)^{\frac{5}{4}} \|\nabla_x^2 \phi(t)\|_{H^{N-1}} \right\} \leq C_0 \epsilon_0. \quad (1.13)$$

Remark 1.1. The condition (1.11) implies that the ionized plasma system with electrons and ions are neutral at initial time. Due to the conservation of mass for (1.1) or (1.5), the neutral condition (1.11) holds for all time $t > 0$. Notice that (1.11) together with $\|(1 + |x|)u_0\|_{Z_1} < \infty$ can be used to remove the singularity of the Poisson kernel and to induce the same time-decay rate as in the case of the Boltzmann equation; see also Remark 3.1. Moreover, in (1.12), we put the extra space-velocity weight $1 + |x| + |\xi|^{-\frac{\gamma\ell_0}{2}}$ on u_0 in Z_1 -norm. This is necessary in the proof of Lemma 6.1 concerning the desired uniform-in-time *a priori* estimate.

Remark 1.2. The problem of the global existence for the very soft potential case $-3 < \gamma < -2$ is still left open. Despite this, we shall discuss in the next subsections the main difficulty.

We conclude this subsection by pointing out some possible extensions of Theorem 1.1. First, the arguments used in this paper can be adopted straightforwardly to deal with either the VPB system with soft potentials on torus with additional conservation laws as in Ref. 22 or the two-species VPB system with soft potentials as in Ref. 21, 37. Next, it could be quite interesting to apply the current approach as well as techniques in Ref. 20 and Ref. 31 to consider the Vlasov-Poisson-Landau system²³, where Q in (1.1) is replaced by the Landau operator

$$Q^L(f, f) = \nabla_\xi \cdot \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} B^L(\xi - \xi_*) [f(\xi_*) \nabla_\xi f(\xi) - f(\xi) \nabla_\xi f(\xi_*)] d\xi_* \right\},$$

where $B^L(\xi)$ is a non-negative matrix given by

$$B_{ij}^L(\xi) = \left(\delta_{ij} - \frac{\xi_i \xi_j}{|\xi|^2} \right) |\xi|^{\gamma+2}, \quad \gamma \geq -3.$$

Note that the soft potential for the Landau operator corresponds to the case $-3 \leq \gamma < -2$.

1.2. Strategy of the proof

We first recall several elementary properties of the linearized operator \mathbf{L} . First of all, \mathbf{L} can be written as $\mathbf{L} = -\nu + K$, where

$$\nu = \nu(\xi) \sim (1 + |\xi|)^\gamma$$

denotes the collision frequency, and K is a velocity integral operator with a real symmetric integral kernel $K(\xi, \xi_*)$. The explicit representation of ν and K will be given in the next section. It is known that \mathbf{L} is non-positive, the null space of \mathbf{L} is given by

$$\mathcal{N} = \text{span} \left\{ \mathbf{M}^{1/2}, \xi_i \mathbf{M}^{1/2} \ (1 \leq i \leq 3), |\xi|^2 \mathbf{M}^{1/2} \right\},$$

and $-\mathbf{L}$ is coercive in the sense that there is a constant $\kappa_0 > 0$ such that, cf. ^{4,18,28}

$$-\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u \mathbf{L} u d\xi \geq \kappa_0 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nu(\xi) |\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u|^2 d\xi \quad (1.14)$$

holds for $u = u(\xi)$, where \mathbf{I} means the identity operator and \mathbf{P} denotes the orthogonal projection from L_ξ^2 to \mathcal{N} . As in Ref. 19, 20, for any given any $u(t, x, \xi)$, one

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can write

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{P}u = \{a(t, x) + b(t, x) \cdot \xi + c(t, x) (|\xi|^2 - 3)\} \mathbf{M}^{1/2}, \\ a = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \mathbf{M}^{1/2} u \, d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \mathbf{M}^{1/2} \mathbf{P}u \, d\xi, \\ b_i = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \xi_i \mathbf{M}^{1/2} u \, d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \xi_i \mathbf{M}^{1/2} \mathbf{P}u \, d\xi, \quad 1 \leq i \leq 3, \\ c = \frac{1}{6} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\xi|^2 - 3) \mathbf{M}^{1/2} u \, d\xi = \frac{1}{6} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\xi|^2 - 3) \mathbf{M}^{1/2} \mathbf{P}u \, d\xi. \end{cases}$$

so that we have the macro-micro decomposition introduced in Ref. 19

$$u(t, x, \xi) = \mathbf{P}u(t, x, \xi) + \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u(t, x, \xi). \quad (1.15)$$

Here, $\mathbf{P}u$ is called the macroscopic component of $u(t, x, \xi)$ and $\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u$ the microscopic component of $u(t, x, \xi)$. For later use, one can rewrite \mathbf{P} as

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{P}u = \mathbf{P}_0 u \oplus \mathbf{P}_1 u, \\ \mathbf{P}_0 u = a(t, x) \mathbf{M}^{1/2}, \\ \mathbf{P}_1 u = \{b(t, x) \cdot \xi + c(t, x) (|\xi|^2 - 3)\} \mathbf{M}^{1/2}, \end{cases}$$

where \mathbf{P}_0 and \mathbf{P}_1 are the projectors corresponding to the hyperbolic and parabolic parts of the macroscopic component, respectively, see Ref. 9.

To prove Theorem 1.1, we introduce the equivalent temporal energy functional

$$\mathcal{E}_{N, \ell, q}(t) \sim \|u\|_{N, \ell, q}^2(t), \quad (1.16)$$

and the corresponding dissipation rate functional

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t) = & \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u(t) \right\|^2 \\ & + \frac{1}{(1+t)^{1+\vartheta}} \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u(t) \right\|^2 \\ & + \|a\|^2 + \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \|\nabla_x \partial^\alpha (a, b, c)\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (1.17)$$

We also introduce the time-weighted temporal sup-energy

$$\begin{aligned} X_{N, \ell, q}(t) = & \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} \mathcal{E}_{N, \ell, q}(s) + \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} (1+s)^{\frac{3}{2}} \mathcal{E}_{N, \ell-1, q}(s) \\ & + \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} (1+s)^{\frac{5}{2}} \left\| \nabla_x^2 \phi(s) \right\|_{H^{N-1}}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (1.18)$$

Here, the exact definitions of $\mathcal{E}_{N, \ell, q}(t)$ is given by (5.16) in the proof of Lemma 5.2.

The strategy to prove Theorem 1.1 is to obtain the uniform-in-time estimates under the *a priori* assumption that $X_{N, \ell, q}(t)$ is small enough over $0 \leq t < T$ for any given $T > 0$. Indeed,

- one can deduce that there is a temporal energy functional $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ satisfying (1.16) such that

$$\frac{d}{dt}\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t) + \kappa\mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t) \leq 0, \quad (1.19)$$

for $0 \leq t < T$, where $\mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ is given by (1.17), and moreover,

- by combining the time-decay property of the linearized system, one can prove that

$$X_{N,\ell,q}(t) \leq C \{ \epsilon_{N,\ell,q}^2 + X_{N,\ell,q}(t)^2 \} \quad (1.20)$$

for $0 \leq t < T$, where $\epsilon_{N,\ell,q}$ depends only on initial data u_0 .

Therefore, by the local existence of solutions as well as the continuity argument, $X_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ is bounded uniformly in all time $t \geq 0$ as long as $\epsilon_{N,\ell,q}$ is sufficiently small, which then implies Theorem 1.1.

We remark that this kind of strategy used here was first developed in Ref. 11 for the study of the time-decay property of the linearized Boltzmann equation with external forces and was later revisited in Ref. 10 for further generalization of the approach.

1.3. Difficulties and ideas

We now outline detailed ideas to carry out the above strategy with emphasize on the specific mathematical difficulties. Before that, it is worth to pointing out that for the VPB system with soft potentials, the only result available so far is Ref. 24 in which global classical solutions near vacuum are constructed. One may expect that the work ³² and its recent improvement ³⁴ by using the spectral analysis and the contraction mapping principle can be adapted to deal with this problem. However, we note that when the self-induced potential force is taken into account, even for the hard-sphere interaction, with the spectral property obtained in Ref. 16, the spectral theory corresponding to Ref. 32 has not been known so far, partially because the Poisson equation produces an additional nonlocal term with singular kernels.

Fortunately, the energy method recently developed in ^{20,19} works well in the presence of the self-induced electric field ^{22,38,12} or even electromagnetic field ^{21,30,7}. But due to the appearance of the nonlinear term $\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u$, the direct application of the coercive estimate (1.14) of the linearized collision operator \mathbf{L} works only for the hard-sphere interaction with $\gamma = 1$. Indeed with a bit weaker (softer) than hard-sphere interaction, such a term is beyond the control by either the usual energy or the energy dissipation rate so that even the local-in-time solutions can not be constructed within this framework.

To overcome this difficulty, a new weighed energy method was introduced in Ref. 13 by the authors of this paper to deal with the VPB system with hard potentials. Such a method is based on the use of a mixed time-velocity weight function

$$w_\ell^{hp}(t, \xi) = \langle \xi \rangle^{\frac{\ell}{2}} e^{\frac{\lambda|\xi|}{(1+t)^\vartheta}}, \quad (1.21)$$

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where $\ell \in \mathbb{R}$, $\lambda > 0$ and $\vartheta > 0$ are suitably chosen constants. One of the most important ingredients is to combine the time-decay of solutions with the usual weighted energy inequalities in order to obtain the uniform-in-time estimates.

The main purpose of this paper is to generalize the above argument so that it can be adapted to deal with the soft potential case. Compared with the hard potential case, the main difference lies in the fact that at high velocity the dissipation is much weaker than the instant energy. Our main ideas to overcome this are explained as follows.

Firstly, similar to the hard potential case¹³, we introduce an exponential weight factor

$$w_{\tau,q}^e(t, \xi) = \exp \left\{ \langle \xi \rangle^2 \left[q + \frac{\lambda}{(1+t)^\vartheta} \right] \right\}$$

in the weight function $w_{\tau,q}(t, \xi)$ given by (1.9). Notice that $q(t) := q + \lambda/(1+t)^\vartheta$ satisfies $0 < q(t) \ll 1$ by choices of q , λ and ϑ as stated in Theorem 1.1, and hence all the estimates on ν and K obtained in Ref. 31 can still be applied with respect to the weight function $w_{\tau,q}(t, \xi)$ considered here. A key observation to use the exponential factor is based on the identity

$$w_{\tau,q}^e(t, \xi) \partial_t g(t, x, \xi) = \partial_t \{ w_{\tau,q}^e(t, \xi) g(t, x, \xi) \} + \frac{\lambda \vartheta \langle \xi \rangle^2}{(1+t)^{1+\vartheta}} w_{\tau,q}^e(t, \xi) g(t, x, \xi).$$

Thus one can gain from the second term on the right hand side of the above identity an additional second-order velocity moment $\langle \xi \rangle^2$ with a compensation that the magnitude of the additional dissipation term decays in time with a rate $(1+t)^{-(1+\vartheta)}$. With this, the nonlinear term $\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u$ can be controlled as long as the electric field $\nabla_x \phi$ has the time-decay rate not slower than $(1+t)^{-(1+\vartheta)}$. Notice that in the case of the whole space, $\| \nabla_x^2 \phi \|_{H^{N-1}}$ as a part of the high-order energy functional decays at most as $(1+t)^{-\frac{5}{4}}$ and thus it is natural to require $0 < \vartheta \leq 1/4$.

Moreover, as used for hard potentials in Ref. 13, the first-order velocity moment $\langle \xi \rangle$ in the exponential factor of (1.21) is actually enough to deal with the large-velocity growth in $\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u$. The reason why we have chosen $\langle \xi \rangle^2$ for soft potentials is that one has to control another nonlinear term $\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u$. We shall clarify this point in more details later.

The second idea is to control the velocity ξ derivative of u . It is well-known that $\nabla_\xi u$ may grow in time. To overcome such a difficulty, we apply the algebraic velocity weight factor, introduced in^{20,18},

$$w_{|\beta|-\ell}^v(\xi) = \langle \xi \rangle^{\gamma(|\beta|-\ell)}, \quad \ell \geq |\beta|,$$

in the weight $w_{\tau,q}(t, \xi)$ given in (1.9) with $\tau = |\beta| - \ell$. This algebraic factor implies two properties of the velocity weight: one is that $w_{|\beta|-\ell}^v(\xi) \geq 1$ holds true due to $\ell \geq |\beta|$, and the other one is that the higher the order of the ξ -derivatives, the more negative velocity weights. The restriction $\ell \geq |\beta|$, more precisely

$$\ell - 1 \geq \max \left\{ N, \frac{\ell_0}{2} - \frac{1}{\gamma} \right\} \geq |\beta|,$$

results from the fact that one has to use the positive-power algebraic velocity weight $w_{|\beta|-\ell}^v(\xi)$ so as to obtain the closed estimate (1.20) on $X_{N,\ell,q}(t)$, because not only the nonlinear term $\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u$ contains the first-order velocity growth but also initial data is supposed to have an extra positive-power velocity weight $\langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma \ell_0}{2}}$ in the time-decay estimate (3.5) for the evolution operator of the linearized VPB system.

As pointed out in Ref. 18 for the study of the Boltzmann equation with soft potentials, the dependence of the weight $w_{|\beta|-\ell}^v(\xi)$ on $|\beta|$ makes it possible to control the linear term $\xi \cdot \nabla_x u$ in terms of the purely x -derivative dissipation for the weighted energy estimate on the mixed x - ξ derivatives. However, the algebraic velocity factor $w_{|\beta|-\ell}^v(\xi)$ produces an additional difficulty on the nonlinear term $\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u$ in the presence of the self-consistent electric field for the VPB system with soft potentials. To obtain the velocity weighted derivative estimate on such a nonlinear term, one should put an extra negative-power function $\langle \xi \rangle^\gamma$ in front of $\nabla_\xi \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u$ in the nonlinear term $\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u$ so that the velocity growth $\langle \xi \rangle^{-\gamma}$ comes up to have a balance. Then, as long as

$$-2 \leq \gamma < 0,$$

it is fortunate that the dissipation functional $\mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ given by (1.17) containing the second-order moment $\langle \xi \rangle^2$ can be used to control the term $\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u$.

At this point, it is not known how to use the argument of this paper to deal with the very soft potential case $-3 < \gamma < -2$. However, inspired by Ref. 23, we remark that one possible way is to have a stronger dissipation property of the linearized collision operator \mathbf{L} , particularly the possible velocity diffusion effect. In fact, for the Boltzmann equation without angular cutoff assumption, from the coercive estimate on the linearized Boltzmann collision operator \mathbf{L} obtained in ^{1,17}, it seems hopeful to deal with the case $-3 < \gamma < -2$ for such a physical situation, which will be reported in the future work.

Another ingredient of our analysis is the decay of solutions to the VPB system for soft potentials. Recall that the large-time behavior of global solutions has been studied extensively in recent years by using different approaches. One approach which usually leads to slower time-decay than in the linearized level is used in Ref. 38 on the basis of the improved energy estimates together with functional inequalities. The method of thirteen moments and compensation functions proposed by Kawashima in Ref. 27 which gives the optimal time rate without using the spectral theory; see Ref. 15 and Ref. 37 for two applications. Recently, concerning with the optimal time rate, a time-frequency analysis method has been developed in ^{9,8,7}. Precisely, in the same spirit of Ref. 36, some time-frequency functionals or interactive energy functionals are constructed in ^{9,8,7} to capture the dissipation of the degenerate components of the full system.

Back to the nonlinear VPB system, the main difficulty of deducing the decay rates of solutions for the soft potential is caused by the lack of a spectral gap for the linearized collision operator \mathbf{L} . Unlike the periodic domain ³¹, we need a careful and delicate estimate on the time decay of solutions to the corresponding

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linearized equation in the case of the whole space \mathbb{R}^3 . Following the recent work^{9,8}, our analysis is based on the weighted energy estimates, a time-frequency analysis method, and the construction of some interactive energy functionals, which gives a new and concise proof of the decay of the solution to the linearized equation with soft potentials. Here, we should mention the recent work²⁹ by Strain. Different from this work, by starting from the inequality

$$\partial_t E_\ell(\hat{u}) + \kappa \mathcal{D}_\ell(\hat{u}) \leq 0,$$

we use a new time-frequency weighted approach together with the time-frequency splitting technique in order to deduce the time-decay estimate on the solution u for the linearized VPB system; see Step 3 in the proof of Theorem 3.1 and the identity (3.18).

Finally we also point out a difference between the soft potential case and hard potentials studied in Ref. 13 for obtaining the time-decay of the energy functional $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$. The starting point is the Lyapunov inequality (1.19). In the hard potential case, the Gronwall inequality can be directly used when the lowest-order terms $\|(a, b, c)\|^2$ and $\|\nabla_x \phi\|^2$ are added into $\mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$. However, this fails for the soft potentials because $\mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ given by (1.17) contains the extra factor $\nu(\xi) \sim \langle \xi \rangle^\gamma$ which is degenerate at large-velocity domain when $\gamma < 0$. To overcome this difficulty, we have used the time-weighted estimate on (1.19) as well as an iterative technique on the basis of the inequality

$$\mathcal{D}_{N,\tilde{\ell},q}(t) + \|(b, c)(t)\|^2 + \|\nabla_x \phi(t)\|^2 \geq \kappa \mathcal{E}_{N,\tilde{\ell}-\frac{1}{2},q}(t)$$

for any $\tilde{\ell}$; see Step 2 in the proof of Lemma 6.1 for details.

Before concluding this introduction, we mention some previous results concerning the study of the VPB system in other respects, cf.^{5,25}, the Boltzmann equation with soft potentials, cf.^{33,2,3}, and also the exponential rate for the Boltzmann equation with general potentials in the collision kernel but under additional conditions on the regularity of solutions, cf.⁶.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we will list some estimates on ν and K proved in Ref. 31. In Section 3, we will study the time-decay property of the linearized VPB system without any source. In Section 4, we give the estimates on the nonlinear terms with respect to the weight function $w_{\tau,q}(t, \xi)$. In Section 5, we will close the *a priori* estimates on the solution to derive the desired inequality (1.19). In the last section, we will prove (1.20) to conclude Theorem 1.1.

1.4. Notations

Throughout this paper, C denotes some positive (generally large) constant and κ denotes some positive (generally small) constant, where both C and κ may take different values in different places. $A \lesssim B$ means $A \leq \frac{1}{\kappa} B$ and $A \sim B$ means $\kappa A \leq B \leq \frac{1}{\kappa} A$, both for a generic constant $0 < \kappa < 1$. For an integer $m \geq 0$, we use $H_{x,\xi}^m$, H_x^m , H_ξ^m to denote the usual Hilbert spaces $H^m(\mathbb{R}_x^3 \times \mathbb{R}_\xi^3)$, $H^m(\mathbb{R}_x^3)$,

$H^m(\mathbb{R}_\xi^3)$, respectively, and L^2 , L_x^2 , L_ξ^2 are used for the case when $m = 0$. When without any confusion, we use H^m to denote H_x^m and use L^2 to denote L_x^2 or $L_{x,\xi}^2$. We denote $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ by the inner product over $L_{x,\xi}^2$. For $q \geq 1$, we also define the mixed velocity-space Lebesgue space $Z_q = L_\xi^2(L_x^q) = L^2(\mathbb{R}_\xi^3; L^q(\mathbb{R}_x^3))$ with the norm

$$\|u\|_{Z_q} = \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |u(x, \xi)|^q dx \right)^{2/q} d\xi \right)^{1/2}, \quad u = u(x, \xi) \in Z_q.$$

For multi-indices $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3)$ and $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3)$, we denote $\partial_\beta^\alpha = \partial_x^\alpha \partial_\xi^\beta$, that is, $\partial_\beta^\alpha = \partial_{x_1}^{\alpha_1} \partial_{x_2}^{\alpha_2} \partial_{x_3}^{\alpha_3} \partial_{\xi_1}^{\beta_1} \partial_{\xi_2}^{\beta_2} \partial_{\xi_3}^{\beta_3}$. The length of α is $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3$ and the length of β is $|\beta| = \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3$.

2. Preliminaries

Recall that $\mathbf{L} = -\nu + K$ is defined by

$$\nu(\xi) = \iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^2} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}(\xi_*) d\omega d\xi_* \sim (1 + |\xi|)^\gamma,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} Ku(\xi) &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^2} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi'_*) u(\xi'_*) d\omega d\xi_* \\ &\quad + \iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^2} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi'_*) u(\xi'_*) d\omega d\xi_* \\ &\quad - \iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^2} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi) u(\xi_*) d\omega d\xi_* \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(\xi, \xi_*) u(\xi_*) d\xi_*. \end{aligned}$$

We list in the following lemma velocity weighted estimates on the collision frequency $\nu(\xi)$ and the integral operator K with respect to the velocity weight function

$$w_{\tau, \tilde{q}}(\xi) = \langle \xi \rangle^{\gamma\tau} e^{\tilde{q}(\xi)^2}, \quad \tau \in \mathbb{R}, \quad 0 \leq \tilde{q} \ll 1.$$

Lemma 2.1 (Ref. 31). *Let $-3 < \gamma < 0$, $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$, and $0 \leq \tilde{q} \ll 1$. If $|\beta| > 0$, then for any $\eta > 0$, there is $C_\eta > 0$ such that*

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} w_{\tau, \tilde{q}}^2(\xi) \partial_\beta(\nu u) \partial_\beta u d\xi &\geq \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nu(\xi) w_{\tau, \tilde{q}}^2(\xi) |\partial_\beta u|^2 d\xi \\ &\quad - \eta \sum_{|\beta_1| \leq |\beta|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nu(\xi) w_{\tau, \tilde{q}}^2(\xi) |\partial_{\beta_1} u|^2 d\xi - C_\eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \chi_{|\xi| \leq 2C_\eta} \langle \xi \rangle^{2\gamma\tau} |u|^2 d\xi. \end{aligned}$$

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If $|\beta| \geq 0$, then for any $\eta > 0$, there is $C_\eta > 0$ such that

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} w_{\tau, \bar{q}}^2(\xi) \partial_\beta (Kf) g d\xi \right| \leq \left\{ \eta \sum_{|\beta_1| \leq |\beta|} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nu(\xi) w_{\tau, \bar{q}}^2(\xi) |\partial_{\beta_1} f|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + C_\eta \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \chi_{|\xi| \leq 2C_\eta} \langle \xi \rangle^{2\gamma\tau} |f|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\} \times \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nu(\xi) w_{\tau, \bar{q}}^2(\xi) |g|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (2.1)$$

For later use, let us write down the macroscopic equations of the VPB system up to third-order moments by applying the macro-micro decomposition (1.15) introduced in Ref. 19. For that, as in Ref. 9, define moment functions $\Theta_{ij}(\cdot)$ and $\Lambda_i(\cdot)$, $1 \leq i, j \leq 3$, by

$$\Theta_{ij}(v) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\xi_i \xi_j - 1) \mathbf{M}^{1/2} v d\xi, \quad \Lambda_i(v) = \frac{1}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\xi|^2 - 5) \xi_i \mathbf{M}^{1/2} v d\xi, \quad (2.2)$$

for any $v = v(\xi)$. Then, one can derive from (1.5)-(1.6) a fluid-type system of equations

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t a + \nabla_x \cdot b = 0, \\ \partial_t b + \nabla_x (a + 2c) + \nabla_x \cdot \Theta(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) - \nabla_x \phi = \nabla_x \phi a, \\ \partial_t c + \frac{1}{3} \nabla_x \cdot b + \frac{5}{3} \nabla_x \cdot \Lambda(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) = \frac{1}{3} \nabla_x \phi \cdot b, \\ \Delta_x \phi = a, \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

and

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \Theta_{ij}(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) + \partial_i b_j + \partial_j b_i - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \nabla_x \cdot b - \frac{10}{3} \delta_{ij} \nabla_x \cdot \Lambda(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) \\ = \Theta_{ij}(r + G) - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \nabla_x \phi \cdot b, \\ \partial_t \Lambda_i(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) + \partial_i c = \Lambda_i(r + G) \end{cases} \quad (2.4)$$

with

$$r = -\xi \cdot \nabla_x \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u + \mathbf{L}u, \quad G = \Gamma(u, u) + \frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u - \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u,$$

where r is a linear term related only to the micro component $\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u$ and G is a quadratic nonlinear term. Here and hereafter, for simplicity, we used ∂_j to denote ∂_{x_j} for each $j = 1, 2, 3$. The above fluid-type system (2.3)-(2.4) plays a key role in the analysis of the zero-order energy estimate and the dissipation of the macroscopic component (a, b, c) in the case of the whole space; see ^{19,12,9,8,7}.

3. Time decay for the evolution operator

Consider the linearized homogeneous equation

$$\partial_t u + \xi \cdot \nabla_x u - \nabla_x \phi \cdot \xi \mathbf{M}^{1/2} = \mathbf{L}u, \quad (3.1)$$

with

$$\phi = -\frac{1}{4\pi|x|} *_x \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \mathbf{M}^{1/2} u(t, x, \xi) d\xi \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty. \quad (3.2)$$

Given $u_0 = u_0(x, \xi)$, $e^{tB} u_0$ is the solution to the Cauchy problem (3.1)-(3.2) with $u|_{t=0} = u_0$. For an integer m , set the index σ_m of the time-decay rate by

$$\sigma_m = \frac{3}{4} + \frac{m}{2},$$

which corresponds to the one for the case of the usual heat kernel in three dimensions.

The main result of this section is stated as follows.

Theorem 3.1. *Set $\mu = \mu(\xi) := \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}}$. Let $-3 < \gamma < 0$, $\ell \geq 0$, $\alpha \geq 0$, $m = |\alpha|$, $\ell_0 > 2\sigma_m$, and assume*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} a_0 dx = 0, \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (1 + |x|)|a_0| dx < \infty, \quad (3.3)$$

and

$$\|\mu^{\ell+\ell_0} u_0\|_{Z_1} + \|\mu^{\ell+\ell_0} \partial^\alpha u_0\| < \infty. \quad (3.4)$$

Then, the evolution operator e^{tB} satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\mu^\ell \partial^\alpha e^{tB} u_0\| + \|\partial^\alpha \nabla_x \Delta_x^{-1} \mathbf{P}_0 e^{tB} u_0\| \\ & \leq C(1+t)^{-\sigma_m} \left(\|\mu^{\ell+\ell_0} u_0\|_{Z_1} + \|\mu^{\ell+\ell_0} \partial^\alpha u_0\| + \|(1+|x|)a_0\|_{L_x^1} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

for any $t \geq 0$.

Proof. The proof is divided by three steps.

Step 1. The Fourier transform of (3.1)-(3.2) gives

$$\partial_t \hat{u} + i\xi \cdot k \hat{u} - ik \hat{\phi} \cdot \xi \mathbf{M}^{1/2} = \mathbf{L} \hat{u}, \quad (3.6)$$

with $-|k|^2 \hat{\phi} = \hat{a}$. By taking the complex inner product of the above equation with \hat{u} , integrating it over \mathbb{R}_ξ^3 and using (1.14), as in ⁹, one has

$$\partial_t \left(\|\hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2} \right) + \kappa \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \leq 0. \quad (3.7)$$

Furthermore, similar to derive (2.3) and (2.4) from the nonlinear VPB system, one can also derive from (3.1)-(3.2) a fluid-type system of linear equations

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t a + \nabla_x \cdot b &= 0, \\ \partial_t b + \nabla_x (a + 2c) + \nabla_x \cdot \Theta(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) - \nabla_x \phi &= 0, \\ \partial_t c + \frac{1}{3} \nabla_x \cdot b + \frac{5}{3} \nabla_x \cdot \Lambda(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) &= 0, \\ \Delta_x \phi &= a, \end{aligned}$$

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and

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \Theta_{ij}(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) + \partial_i b_j + \partial_j b_i - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \nabla_x \cdot b \\ - \frac{10}{3} \delta_{ij} \nabla_x \cdot \Lambda(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) = \Theta_{ij}(r), \\ \partial_t \Lambda_i(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) + \partial_i c = \Lambda_i(r) \end{aligned}$$

with $r = -\xi \cdot \nabla_x \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u + \mathbf{L}u$, where $\Theta(\cdot)$ and $\Lambda(\cdot)$ are defined in (2.2). From the above fluid-type system, as in ⁷, one can deduce

$$\partial_t \Re \mathcal{E}^{\text{int}}(\hat{u}(t, k)) + \kappa \left\{ \frac{|k|^2}{1 + |k|^2} \left| \widehat{(a, b, c)} \right|^2 + |\hat{a}|^2 \right\} \leq C \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2, \quad (3.8)$$

where $\mathcal{E}^{\text{int}}(\hat{u}(t, k))$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}^{\text{int}}(\hat{u}(t, k)) = \frac{1}{1 + |k|^2} \left\{ (ik\hat{c} \mid \Lambda(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u})) \right. \\ \left. + \sum_{jm} \left(ik_j \hat{b}_m + ik_m \hat{b}_j - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{jm} ik \cdot \hat{b} \mid \Theta_{jm}(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u}) \right) \right. \\ \left. + \kappa_1 (ik\hat{a} \mid \hat{b}) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for $0 < \kappa_2 \ll 1$, a suitable linear combination of (3.7) and (3.8) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \left[\|\hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2} + \kappa_2 \Re \mathcal{E}^{\text{int}}(\hat{u}(t, k)) \right] \\ + \kappa \left\{ \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|k|^2}{1 + |k|^2} \left| \widehat{(a, b, c)} \right|^2 + |\hat{a}|^2 \right\} \leq 0. \quad (3.9) \end{aligned}$$

Here, notice that since

$$|\mathcal{E}^{\text{int}}(\hat{u}(t, k))| \leq C \left\{ \|\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \left| \widehat{(a, b, c)} \right|^2 \right\},$$

we have taken $\kappa_2 > 0$ small enough such that

$$\|\hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2} + \kappa_2 \Re \mathcal{E}^{\text{int}}(\hat{u}(t, k)) \sim \|\hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2}. \quad (3.10)$$

Step 2. Applying $\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}$ to (3.6), we have

$$\partial_t \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} + i\xi \cdot k \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} = \mathbf{L} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} + \mathbf{P} i\xi \cdot k \hat{u} - i\xi \cdot k \mathbf{P} \hat{u}.$$

By further taking the complex inner product of the above equation with $\mu^{2\ell}(\xi) \{\mathbf{I} -$

$\mathbf{P}\}\hat{u}$ and integrating it over \mathbb{R}_ξ^3 , one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \partial_t \|\mu^\ell \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2} + \kappa \|\mu^{\ell-1} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \\ & \leq \Re \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (K \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}) \, d\xi \\ & \quad + \Re \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\mathbf{P}i\xi \cdot k\hat{u} - i\xi \cdot k\mathbf{P}\hat{u} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}) \, d\xi. \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

It follows from (2.1) that for any $\eta > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (K \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}) \, d\xi \right| \\ & \leq \left\{ \eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} \mu^\ell \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2} + C_\eta \left\| \chi_{|\xi| \leq 2C_\eta} \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma_\ell}{2}} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \right\| \right\} \\ & \quad \times \left\| \nu^{1/2} \mu^\ell \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \right\|, \end{aligned} \quad (3.12)$$

which further by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality implies

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (K \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}) \, d\xi \right| \\ & \leq \eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} \mu^\ell \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + C_\eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \right\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Notice that over $|k| \leq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \Re \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\mathbf{P}i\xi \cdot k\hat{u} - i\xi \cdot k\mathbf{P}\hat{u} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}) \, d\xi \chi_{|k| \leq 1} \\ & \leq C \left(\left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|k|^2}{1 + |k|^2} \left| \widehat{(a, b, c)} \right|^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Plugging the above two inequalities into (3.11) and fixing a small enough constant $\eta > 0$ give

$$\begin{aligned} & \partial_t \|\mu^\ell \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2} \chi_{|k| \leq 1} + \kappa \|\mu^{\ell-1} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k| \leq 1} \\ & \leq C \left(\left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|k|^2}{1 + |k|^2} \left| \widehat{(a, b, c)} \right|^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

To obtain the velocity-weighted estimate for the pointwise time-frequency variables over $|k| \geq 1$, we directly take the complex inner product of (3.6) with $\mu^{2\ell}(\xi) \hat{u}$ and integrate it over \mathbb{R}_ξ^3 to get that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \partial_t \|\mu^\ell \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \left\| \nu^{1/2} \mu^\ell \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \\ & = -\Re \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\nu(\xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) \mathbf{P}\hat{u}) \, d\xi + \Re \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (K \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) \hat{u}) \, d\xi \\ & \quad + \Re \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (ik\hat{\phi} \cdot \xi \mathbf{M}^{1/2} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) \hat{u}) \, d\xi. \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

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Here, Cauchy-Schwarz's inequality implies

$$-\Re \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\nu(\xi)\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi)\mathbf{P}\hat{u}) \, d\xi \leq C \left(\left\| \nu^{1/2}\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \left| \widehat{(a, b, c)} \right|^2 \right),$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \Re \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left(ik\hat{\phi} \cdot \xi \mathbf{M}^{1/2} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi)\hat{u} \right) \, d\xi \\ = \Re \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left(ik\hat{\phi} \cdot \xi \mathbf{M}^{1/2} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi)[\mathbf{P}\hat{u} + \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u}] \right) \, d\xi \\ \leq C \left\{ \left\| \nu^{1/2}\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \left| \widehat{(a, b, c)} \right|^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2} \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

where $|k|^2|\hat{\phi}|^2 = |\hat{a}|^2/|k|^2$ due to the Poisson equation $-|k|^2\hat{\phi} = \hat{a}$ was used. From (2.1), similar to the proof of (3.12), one has

$$\begin{aligned} \Re \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (K\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi)\hat{u}) \, d\xi \\ = \Re \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (K\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u} \mid \mu^{2\ell}(\xi)[\mathbf{P}\hat{u} + \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u}]) \, d\xi \\ \leq \eta \left\| \nu^{1/2}\mu^\ell\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + C_\eta \left(\left\| \nu^{1/2}\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \left| \widehat{(a, b, c)} \right|^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

By plugging the above two estimates into (3.14), fixing a small constant $\eta > 0$ and using $1 \leq \frac{2|k|^2}{1+|k|^2}\chi_{|k|\geq 1}$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \left\| \mu^\ell \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k|\geq 1} + \kappa \left\| \mu^{\ell-1}\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k|\geq 1} \\ \leq C \left(\left\| \nu^{1/2}\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|k|^2}{1+|k|^2} \left| \widehat{(a, b, c)} \right|^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

Now, for properly chosen constants $0 < \kappa_3, \kappa_4 \ll 1$, a suitable linear combination of (3.9), (3.13) and (3.15) yields that whenever $\ell \geq 0$,

$$\partial_t E_\ell(\hat{u}) + \kappa D_\ell(\hat{u}) \leq 0, \quad (3.16)$$

holds true for any $t \geq 0$, $k \in \mathbb{R}^3$, where $E_\ell(\hat{u})$ and $D_\ell(\hat{u})$ are given by

$$\begin{aligned} E_\ell(\hat{u}) &= \left\| \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2} + \kappa_2 \Re \mathcal{E}^{\text{int}}(\hat{u}(t, k)) \\ &\quad + \kappa_3 \left\| \mu^\ell\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k|\leq 1} + \kappa_4 \left\| \mu^\ell \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k|\geq 1}, \\ D_\ell(\hat{u}) &= \left\| \mu^{\ell-1}\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}\hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|k|^2}{1+|k|^2} \left| \widehat{(a, b, c)} \right|^2 + |\hat{a}|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Due to (3.10) and the fact that $\mathbf{P}\hat{u}$ decays exponentially in ξ , it is straightforward to check that for $\ell \geq 0$,

$$E_\ell(\hat{u}) \sim \left\| \mu^\ell \hat{u} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2}.$$

Step 3. To the end, set

$$\rho(k) = \frac{|k|^2}{1 + |k|^2}.$$

Let $0 < \epsilon \leq 1$ and $J > 0$ be chosen later. Multiplying (3.16) by $[1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^J$,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \{ [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^J E_\ell(\hat{u}) \} + \kappa [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^J D_\ell(\hat{u}) \leq J [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{J-1} \epsilon\rho(k) E_\ell(\hat{u}). \quad (3.17)$$

To estimate the right-hand term, we bound $E_\ell(\hat{u})$ in the way that

$$\begin{aligned} E_\ell(\hat{u}) &\sim \|\mu^\ell \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2} \\ &= \|\mu^\ell \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 (\chi_{|k| \leq 1} + \chi_{|k| > 1}) + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2} \\ &\lesssim (\|\mu^\ell \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \|\mu^\ell \mathbf{P} \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2) \chi_{|k| \leq 1} + \|\mu^\ell \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k| \geq 1} + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2} \\ &\lesssim \|\mu^\ell \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k| \leq 1} + \|\mu^\ell \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k| \geq 1} + |\widehat{(a, b, c)}|^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2}. \end{aligned}$$

That is,

$$\begin{aligned} E_\ell(\hat{u}) &\lesssim E_\ell^I(\hat{u}) + E^II(\hat{u}), \\ E_\ell^I(\hat{u}) &= \|\mu^\ell \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k| \leq 1} + \|\mu^\ell \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k| \geq 1}, \\ E^II(\hat{u}) &= |\widehat{(a, b, c)}|^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for the right-hand term of (3.17), one has

$$\begin{aligned} &J [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{J-1} \epsilon\rho(k) E_\ell(\hat{u}) \\ &\lesssim J [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{J-1} \epsilon\rho(k) E_\ell^I(\hat{u}) + J [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{J-1} \epsilon\rho(k) E^II(\hat{u}) := R_1 + R_2. \end{aligned}$$

We estimate R_1 and R_2 as follows. First, for R_2 ,

$$\begin{aligned} R_2 &= J [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{J-1} \epsilon\rho(k) E^II(\hat{u}) \\ &= J [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{J-1} \epsilon\rho(k) (|\widehat{(a, b, c)}|^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2}) \\ &= \epsilon J [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{J-1} \left\{ \frac{|k|^2}{1 + |k|^2} |\widehat{(a, b, c)}|^2 + \frac{1}{1 + |k|^2} |\hat{a}|^2 \right\} \\ &\leq \epsilon J [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^J \left\{ \frac{|k|^2}{1 + |k|^2} |\widehat{(a, b, c)}|^2 + \frac{|\hat{a}|^2}{|k|^2} \right\} \\ &\leq \epsilon J [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^J D_\ell(\hat{u}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, one can let

$$\epsilon J < \frac{\kappa}{4}$$

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where $\kappa > 0$ is given in (3.16), such that

$$R_2 \leq \frac{\kappa}{4} [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]^J D_\ell(\hat{u}).$$

For R_1 , we use the splitting

$$1 = \chi_{\mu^2(\xi) \leq [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]} + \chi_{\mu^2(\xi) > [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]}, \quad (3.18)$$

so that

$$E_\ell^I(\hat{u}) = E_\ell^I(\hat{u} \chi_{\mu^2(\xi) \leq [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]}) + E_\ell^I(\hat{u} \chi_{\mu^2(\xi) > [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]}) := E_\ell^{I<}(\hat{u}) + E_\ell^{I>}(\hat{u})$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} E_\ell^{I<}(\hat{u}) &= \int_{\mu^2(\xi) \leq [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]} \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) |\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}|^2 d\xi \chi_{|k| \leq 1} \\ &\quad + \int_{\mu^2(\xi) \leq [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]} \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) |\hat{u}|^2 d\xi \chi_{|k| \geq 1}, \\ E_\ell^{I>}(\hat{u}) &= \int_{\mu^2(\xi) \geq [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]} \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) |\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}|^2 d\xi \chi_{|k| \leq 1} \\ &\quad + \int_{\mu^2(\xi) \geq [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]} \mu^{2\ell}(\xi) |\hat{u}|^2 d\xi \chi_{|k| \geq 1}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, with this splitting, R_1 is bounded by

$$\begin{aligned} R_1 &= J[1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]^{J-1} \epsilon \rho(k) E_\ell^I(\hat{u}) \\ &\leq J[1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]^{J-1} \epsilon \rho(k) \{E_\ell^{I<}(\hat{u}) + E_\ell^{I>}(\hat{u})\} \\ &\leq \epsilon J[1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]^J \rho(k) E_{\ell-1}^{I<}(\hat{u}) \\ &\quad + J[1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]^{J-1} \epsilon \rho(k) E_\ell^{I>}(\hat{u}) := R_{11} + R_{12}, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used

$$E_\ell^{I<}(\hat{u}) \leq [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t] E_{\ell-1}^{I<}(\hat{u}).$$

For R_{11} , notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(k) E_{\ell-1}^{I<}(\hat{u}) &\leq \rho(k) (\|\mu^{\ell-1} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k| \leq 1} + \|\mu^{\ell-1} \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 \chi_{|k| \geq 1}) \\ &\lesssim \|\mu^{\ell-1} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \hat{u}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 + \rho(k) \left| \widehat{(a, b, c)} \right|^2 \\ &\leq C_1 D_\ell(\hat{u}) \end{aligned}$$

for a generic constant $C_1 \geq 1$, and hence

$$R_{11} \leq C_1 \epsilon J [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]^J D_\ell(\hat{u}).$$

One can make ϵJ further small such that

$$C_1 \epsilon J \leq \frac{\kappa}{4},$$

and hence

$$R_{11} \leq \frac{\kappa}{4} [1 + \epsilon \rho(k)t]^J D_\ell(\hat{u}).$$

To estimate R_{12} , let $p > 1$ be chosen later and compute

$$\begin{aligned} R_{12} &= J[1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{-p}\epsilon\rho(k) \cdot [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{J+p-1}E_\ell^{I>}(\hat{u}) \\ &\leq J[1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{-p}\epsilon\rho(k) \cdot E_{\ell+J+p-1}^{I>}(\hat{u}). \end{aligned}$$

Noticing that the estimate

$$E_{\ell+J+p-1}^{I>}(\hat{u}) \leq E_{\ell+J+p-1}^I(\hat{u}) \lesssim E_{\ell+J+p-1}(\hat{u}) \leq E_{\ell+J+p-1}(\hat{u}_0)$$

holds true by (3.16) due to $\ell + J + p - 1 \geq 0$, one has

$$R_{12} \leq J[1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{-p}\epsilon\rho(k)E_{\ell+J+p-1}(\hat{u}_0).$$

Therefore, collecting all estimates above, it follows from (3.17) that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}\{[1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^J E_\ell(\hat{u})\} + \frac{\kappa}{2}[1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^J D_\ell(\hat{u}) \\ \leq J[1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{-p}\epsilon\rho(k)E_{\ell+J+p-1}(\hat{u}_0). \end{aligned}$$

Integrating this inequality, using

$$\int_0^t [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)s]^{-p}\epsilon\rho(k)ds \leq \int_0^\infty (1 + \eta)^{-p}d\eta = C_p < \infty$$

for $p > 1$, and noticing $J + p - 1 > 0$, one has

$$[1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^J E_\ell(\hat{u}) \leq E_\ell(\hat{u}_0) + JC_p E_{\ell+J+p-1}(\hat{u}_0) \lesssim (1 + JC_p)E_{\ell+J+p-1}(\hat{u}_0),$$

that is, whenever $\ell \geq 0$,

$$E_\ell(\hat{u}) \lesssim [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{-J}E_{\ell+J+p-1}(\hat{u}_0),$$

for any $t \geq 0$, $k \in \mathbb{R}^3$, where the parameters p , ϵ and J with

$$p > 1, 0 < \epsilon \leq 1, J > 0, C_1\epsilon J \leq \frac{\kappa}{4}.$$

are still to be chosen.

Now, for any given $\ell_0 > 2\sigma_m$, we fix $J > 2\sigma_m$, $p > 1$ such that $\ell_0 = J + p - 1$ to have

$$E_\ell(\hat{u}) \lesssim [1 + \epsilon\rho(k)t]^{-J}E_{\ell+\ell_0}(\hat{u}_0).$$

Since $J > 2\sigma_m$, in the completely same way as in ⁹ and ¹³ by considering the frequency integration over $\mathbb{R}_k^3 = \{|k| \leq 1\} \cup \{|k| \geq 1\}$ with a little modification of the proof in ^{26,27}, one can derive the desired time-decay property (3.5) under conditions (3.3) and (3.4); the details are omitted for brevity. This completes the proof of Theorem 3.1. \square

Remark 3.1. The rate index σ_m in (3.5) is optimal in the sense that it is the same as in the case of the Boltzmann equation. In fact, from ^{32,34}, one has

$$\left\| \partial^\alpha e^{t(-\xi \cdot \nabla_x + \mathbf{L})} u_0 \right\| \leq C(1+t)^{-\sigma|\alpha|} (\|u_0\|_{Z_1} + \|\partial^\alpha u\|),$$

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for any $t \geq 0$, where \mathbf{L} the linearized Boltzmann operator in the case $0 \leq \gamma \leq 1$. Here, different from the hard potential case, the extra velocity weight $\langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma \ell_0}{2}}$ in (3.5) on initial data u_0 for soft potentials $-3 < \gamma < 0$ is needed. Moreover, as we mentioned before, the condition (3.3) is used to remove the singularity of the Poisson kernel and recover the optimal rate index σ_m , otherwise, only the rate $(1+t)^{-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{|\alpha|}{2}}$ can be obtained, see ⁹ and references therein.

4. Estimate on nonlinear terms

This section concerns some estimates on each nonlinear term in $G = \Gamma(u, u) + \frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u - \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u$ which will be needed in the next section. For this purpose, to simplify the notations, in the proof of all subsequent lemmas, w_τ is used to denote $w_{\tau, q}(t, \xi)$. That is

$$w_\tau \equiv w_{\tau, q}(t, \xi) = \langle \xi \rangle^{\gamma \tau} e^{q(t) \langle \xi \rangle^2}, \quad q(t) = q + \frac{\lambda}{(1+t)^\vartheta},$$

where $0 < q(t) \ll 1$ is fixed and $\tau = |\beta| - \ell \leq 0$ depending on the order of velocity derivatives may take different values in different places. Moreover, we also use in the proof

$$u_1 = \mathbf{P}u, \quad u_2 = \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u.$$

Now we turn to state the estimates on the nonlinear terms. To make the presentation clear, we divide it into several subsections. The first subsection is concerned with the estimates on $\Gamma(u, u)$.

4.1. Estimate on $\Gamma(u, u)$

We always use the decomposition

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(u, u) &= \Gamma(\mathbf{P}u, \mathbf{P}u) + \Gamma(\mathbf{P}u, \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) + \Gamma(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u, \mathbf{P}u) \\ &\quad + \Gamma(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u, \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u). \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

Recall

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(f, g) &= \Gamma^+(f, g) - \Gamma^-(f, g) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi_*) \left[\int_{\mathbb{S}^2} q_0(\theta) f(\xi'_*) g(\xi') d\omega \right] d\xi_* \\ &\quad - g(\xi) \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi_*) \left[\int_{\mathbb{S}^2} q_0(\theta) d\omega \right] f(\xi_*) d\xi_*. \end{aligned}$$

Our first result in this subsection is concerned with the estimate on $\Gamma(u, u)$ both without and with the weight.

Lemma 4.1. *Let $N \geq 4$, $\ell \geq 0$, $0 < q(t) \ll 1$. It holds that*

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Gamma(u, u), u \rangle &\leq C \|(a, b, c)\|_{H^1} \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\| \\ &+ C \left\{ \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^1} + \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq 4} \|\partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u\| \right\} \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Gamma(u, u), w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \rangle \\ \leq C \|(a, b, c)\|_{H^1} \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\| \\ + C \{\mathcal{E}_{N, \ell, q}(t)\}^{1/2} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

Proof. We will prove only (4.3), since (4.2) can be obtained in the similar way by noticing $\langle \Gamma(u, u), u \rangle = \langle \Gamma(u, u), \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \rangle$. To this end, set

$$I_1 = \langle \Gamma(u, u), w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \rangle,$$

and denote $I_{1,11}, I_{1,12}, I_{1,21}, I_{1,22}$ to be the terms corresponding to the decomposition (4.1). Now we turn to estimate these terms term by term.

Estimate on $I_{1,11}$: Since $\Gamma(u_1, u_1)$ decays exponentially in ξ ,

$$I_{1,11} \leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |(a, b, c)|^2 \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} dx \leq C \|(a, b, c)\|_{H^1} \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_2 \right\|,$$

where Hölder's inequality with $1 = 1/3 + 1/6 + 1/2$ and Sobolev's inequalities

$$\|(a, b, c)\|_{L^3} \leq C \|(a, b, c)\|_{H^1}, \quad \|(a, b, c)\|_{L^6} \leq C \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|$$

have been used.

Estimate on $I_{1,12}$: For the loss term,

$$\begin{aligned} I_{1,12}^- &\leq C \iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} |u_2(\xi)| \cdot |(a, b, c)| \nu(\xi) \cdot w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) |u_2(\xi)| dx d\xi \\ &\leq C \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^3} |(a, b, c)| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell}(\xi) u_2 \right\|^2 \leq C \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^1} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell}(\xi) u_2 \right\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used in the first inequality

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \mathbf{M}^{q'/2}(\xi_*) d\xi_* \leq C \langle \xi \rangle^\gamma \quad (4.4)$$

for $q' > 0$ and $-3 < \gamma < 0$. For the gain term, using Hölder's inequality, $I_{1,12}^+$ is bounded by

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\{ \iiint \iiint |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi_*) w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) |u_1(\xi'_*) u_2(\xi')|^2 dx d\xi d\xi_* d\omega \right\}^{1/2} \\ &\times \left\{ \iiint \iiint |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi_*) w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) |u_2(\xi)|^2 dx d\xi d\xi_* d\omega \right\}^{1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

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From (4.4), the second term in (4.5) is bounded by $\|\nu^{1/2}w_{-\ell}(\xi)u_2\|$. By noticing $\langle \xi \rangle \leq \min\{\langle \xi'_* \rangle \langle \xi' \rangle, \langle \xi'_* \rangle + \langle \xi' \rangle\}$ and

$$\begin{aligned} w_{-\ell}(\xi) &= \langle \xi \rangle^{-\gamma\ell} e^{q(t)\langle \xi \rangle} \\ &\leq C \langle \xi'_* \rangle^{-\gamma\ell} \langle \xi' \rangle^{-\gamma\ell} e^{q(t)\langle \xi'_* \rangle} e^{q(t)\langle \xi' \rangle} \leq C w_{-\ell}(\xi'_*) w_{-\ell}(\xi') \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

for $\ell \geq 0$, the first term in (4.5) is bounded by

$$\begin{aligned} & C \left\{ \int_{x, \xi, \xi'_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi'_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\xi'_*) w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) \mathbf{M}^{q'}(\xi'_*) |(a, b, c)|^2 |u_2(\xi')|^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\ & \leq C \left\{ \int_{x, \xi, \xi'_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi'_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) w_{-\ell}^2(\xi') \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) |(a, b, c)|^2 |u_2(\xi')|^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\ & = C \left\{ \int_{x, \xi, \xi'_*, \omega} |\xi' - \xi'_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) w_{-\ell}^2(\xi') \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) |(a, b, c)|^2 |u_2(\xi')|^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\ & = C \left\{ \int_{x, \xi, \xi'_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi'_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) |(a, b, c)|^2 |u_2(\xi)|^2 \right\}^{1/2}, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used $|\mathbf{P}u(\xi'_*)| \leq C|(a, b, c)|\mathbf{M}^{q'/2}(\xi'_*)$ with $0 < q' < 1$ in the first equation, $\mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi'_*) \leq C$, the inequality (4.6) and $w_{-\ell}(\xi'_*)\mathbf{M}^{q'/2}(\xi'_*) \leq C$ in the second equation, the identity $|\xi - \xi'_*| = |\xi' - \xi'_*|$ in the third equation and the change of variable $(\xi, \xi) \rightarrow (\xi', \xi'_*)$ with the unit Jacobian in the last equation. Thus, from (4.4), the first term in (4.5) is bounded by $C \sup_x |(a, b, c)| \cdot \|\nu^{1/2}w_{-\ell}(\xi)u_2\|$. Therefore,

$$I_{1,12}^+ \leq C \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^1} \left\| \nu^{1/2}w_{-\ell}(\xi)u_2 \right\|^2.$$

Estimate on $I_{1,21}$: This can be done in the completely same way as for $I_{1,12}$, so that

$$I_{1,21} \leq C \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^1} \left\| \nu^{1/2}w_{-\ell}(\xi)u_2 \right\|^2.$$

Estimate on $I_{1,22}$: By ³¹,

$$I_{1,22} \leq C \{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)\}^{1/2} \left\| \nu^{1/2}w_{-\ell}\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \right\|^2, \quad (4.7)$$

and for brevity we skip the proof of this term.

Now, the desired inequality (4.3) follows by collecting all the above estimates. This completes the proof of Lemma 4.1. \square

For the weighted estimates on $\partial_\beta^\alpha \Gamma(u, u)$, we have

Lemma 4.2. *Let $N \geq 8$, $1 \leq |\alpha| + |\beta| \leq N$, $\ell \geq |\beta|$ and $0 < q(t) \ll 1$. For given $u = u(t, x, \xi)$, define $u_{\alpha\beta}$ as $u_{\alpha\beta} = \partial^\alpha u$ if $|\beta| = 0$ and $u_{\alpha\beta} = \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u$ if $|\beta| \geq 1$.*

Then, it holds that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle \partial_\beta^\alpha \Gamma(u, u), w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\rangle \\ & \leq C \|(a, b, c)\|_{H^N} \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}} \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_{\alpha\beta} \right\| + C \{\mathcal{E}_{N, \ell, q}(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t). \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

Proof. Take α, β with $1 \leq |\alpha| + |\beta| \leq N$. Write

$$\partial_\beta^\alpha \Gamma(f, g) = \sum C_{\beta_0 \beta_1 \beta_2}^\beta C_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2}^\alpha \Gamma_0 \left(\partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} f, \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} g \right),$$

where the summation is taken over $\beta_0 + \beta_1 + \beta_2 = \beta$ and $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha$, and Γ_0 is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_0 \left(\partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} f, \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} g \right) &= \Gamma_0^+ \left(\partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} f, \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} g \right) - \Gamma_0^- \left(\partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} f, \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} g \right) \\ &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \partial_{\beta_0} \left[\mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi_*) \right] \partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} f(\xi'_*) \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} g(\xi'_*) d\xi d\omega \\ &\quad - \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} g(\xi) \iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \partial_{\beta_0} \left[\mathbf{M}^{1/2}(\xi_*) \right] \partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} f(\xi_*) d\xi_* d\omega. \end{aligned}$$

In what follows we set

$$I_2 = \left\langle \Gamma_0 \left(\partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} u, \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u \right), w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\rangle$$

and denote the terms corresponding to the decomposition (4.1) as $I_{2,11}, I_{2,12}, I_{2,21}$ and $I_{2,22}$. These terms will be estimated term by term as follows.

Estimate on $I_{2,11}$: Notice that $\Gamma_0 \left(\partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} u_1, \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_1 \right)$ decays exponentially in ξ since $-3 < \gamma < 0$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} I_{2,11} &\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \cdot |\partial^{\alpha_2}(a, b, c)| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_{\alpha\beta} \right\|_{L_\xi^2} dx \\ &\leq C \|(a, b, c)\|_{H^N} \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}} \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_{\alpha\beta} \right\|. \end{aligned}$$

Estimate on $I_{2,12}$: For the loss term, since

$$\begin{aligned} I_{2,12}^- &\leq \int_{x, \xi, \xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \left\{ \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \right\} \\ &\quad \times \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi) \right| \cdot w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) |u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi)| \\ &\leq C \int dx |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \int d\xi \langle \xi \rangle^\gamma w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi) u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi) \right|, \end{aligned}$$

we have for $|\alpha_1| \leq N/2$ that

$$\begin{aligned} I_{2,12}^- &\leq C \sup_x |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\| \\ &\quad \times \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\| \leq C \{\mathcal{E}_{N, \ell, q}(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t), \end{aligned}$$

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while for the case $|\alpha_1| \geq N/2$, we can get that

$$\begin{aligned} I_{2,12}^- &\leq C \int dx |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \\ &\leq C \sup_x \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)\| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\| \\ &\leq C \{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t). \end{aligned}$$

For the gain term $I_{2,12}^+$,

$$\begin{aligned} I_{2,12}^+ &\leq \int_{x,\xi,\xi_*,\omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \left\{ \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \right\} \\ &\quad \times \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') \right| \cdot w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) |u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi)|. \end{aligned}$$

We now turn to deduce an estimate on the right-hand side of the above inequality by considering the two cases $|\alpha_1| \leq N/2$ and $|\alpha_1| > N/2$, respectively. In the case of $|\alpha_1| \leq N/2$, we have from Hölder's inequality that

$$\begin{aligned} I_{2,12}^+ &\leq \int dx |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \\ &\quad \left\{ \int_{\xi,\xi_*,\omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') \right|^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\ &\quad \left\{ \int_{\xi,\xi_*,\omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) |u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi)|^2 \right\}^{1/2}. \quad (4.9) \end{aligned}$$

As for estimating the first factor in (4.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\xi,\xi_*,\omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') \right|^2 \\ &\leq C \int_{\xi,\xi_*,\omega} |\xi' - \xi'_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi') w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi'_*) \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') \right|^2 \\ &\leq C \int_{\xi,\xi_*,\omega} |\xi' - \xi'_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{4}}(\xi'_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi') \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') \right|^2 \\ &= C \int_{\xi,\xi_*,\omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{4}}(\xi_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi) \right|^2, \end{aligned}$$

which is bounded by $\left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2$. Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\xi,\xi_*,\omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) |u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi)|^2 \\ &\leq C \int_{\xi,\xi_*} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) |u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi)|^2 \\ &\leq C \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, plugging the above two estimates into (4.9), in the case when $|\alpha_1| \leq N/2$, we have

$$I_{2,12}^+ \leq C \sup_x |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\| \\ \times \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\| \leq C \{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t).$$

The discussion for the case $|\alpha_1| \geq N/2$ is divided into the following three subcases: In $\mathbb{D}_1 = \{|\xi_*| \geq \frac{1}{2}|\xi|\}$, we have

$$I_{2,121}^+ \leq C \int dx |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \\ \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi) \right|.$$

Here, by Hölder's inequality, we can deduce that

$$\int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi) \right| \\ \leq \left\{ \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') \right|^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \times \left\{ \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) |u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi)|^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \leq C \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_{\alpha\beta} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}.$$

Therefore, we have in this subcase that

$$I_{2,12}^+ \leq C \sup_x \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)\| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_{\alpha\beta} \right\| \\ \leq C \{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t). \quad (4.10)$$

Secondly, we consider the region $\mathbb{D}_2 = \{|\xi_*| \leq \frac{1}{2}|\xi|, |\xi| \leq 1\}$. In this case, we can get that

$$I_{2,122}^+ \leq C \int dx |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \\ \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi') \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi) \right|.$$

Similarly as in (4.9),

$$\int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi') \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi) \right| \\ \leq C \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_{\alpha\beta} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}.$$

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Hence, as in (4.10), the above two estimates imply

$$I_{2,122}^+ \leq C \{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t).$$

At last, we consider the region $\mathbb{D}_3 = \{|\xi_*| \leq \frac{1}{2}|\xi|, |\xi| \geq 1\}$. In this domain, $|\xi - \xi_*| \geq \frac{1}{2}|\xi|$ and hence

$$|\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \leq C|\xi|^\gamma \leq C(1 + |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^{\frac{\gamma}{2}}.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} I_{2,123}^+ &\leq C \int dx |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} (1 + |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^{\frac{\gamma}{2}} q_0(\theta) \\ &\quad \times \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi) \right|. \end{aligned} \quad (4.11)$$

From Hölder's inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} (1 + |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^{\frac{\gamma}{2}} q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi) \right| \\ &\leq \left\{ \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} (1 + |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^{\frac{\gamma}{2}} q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \left| \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2(\xi') \right|^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad \times \left\{ \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} (1 + |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^{\frac{\gamma}{2}} q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi'_*) w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) |u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi)|^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq C \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\|_{L_\xi^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where the computation similar to the estimate on the first factor in (4.5) by using $|\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2 = |\xi'|^2 + |\xi'_*|^2$ instead of $|\xi - \xi_*| = |\xi' - \xi'_*|$ has been performed. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} I_{2,123}^+ &\leq C \int dx |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \\ &\quad \times \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \\ &\leq C \sup_x \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)\| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\| \\ &\leq C \{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t). \end{aligned}$$

Estimate on $I_{2,21}$: For the loss term, due to

$$\begin{aligned} I_{2,21}^- &\leq \int dx |\partial^{\alpha_2}(a, b, c)| \\ &\quad \cdot \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \left| \partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} u_2(\xi_*) u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi) \right|, \end{aligned}$$

we have by Hölder's inequality that

$$I_{2,21}^- \leq C \sup_x |\partial^{\alpha_2}(a, b, c)| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} u_2 \right\| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_{\alpha\beta} \right\|$$

for $|\alpha_2| \leq N/2$, and

$$I_{2,21}^- \leq C \sup_x \left\| \nu^{1/2} \mathbf{M}^{q'/4} \partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha_2}(a, b, c)\| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_{\alpha\beta} \right\|$$

for $|\alpha_2| \geq N/2$. Hence, in both cases,

$$I_{2,21}^- \leq C \{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t).$$

For the gain term, by noticing that

$$I_{2,21}^+ \leq C \int dx |\partial^{\alpha_2}(a, b, c)| \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \cdot \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi') w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \left| \partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} u_2(\xi'_*) u_{\alpha\beta}(\xi) \right|,$$

then, in the same way as for $I_{2,12}^+$, when $|\alpha_2| \leq N/2$, we have

$$I_{2,21}^+ \leq C \sup_x |\partial^{\alpha_2}(a, b, c)| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} u_2 \right\| \times \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\| \leq C \{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t).$$

While when $|\alpha_2| \geq N/2$,

$$I_{2,21}^+ \leq C \begin{cases} \sup_x \left\| \nu^{\frac{1}{2}} \partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha_2}(a, b, c)\| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_{\alpha\beta} \right\| & \text{over } \mathbb{D}_1 \cup \mathbb{D}_2, \\ \sup_x \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_1}^{\alpha_1} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \times \|\partial^{\alpha_2}(a, b, c)\| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) u_{\alpha\beta} \right\| & \text{over } \mathbb{D}_3. \end{cases}$$

Therefore, for each α_2 ,

$$I_{2,21}^+ \leq C \{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t).$$

Estimate on $I_{2,22}$: As for (4.7), by ³¹,

$$I_{2,22} \leq C \{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t),$$

and we also skip the proof of this term for brevity.

Now, (4.8) follows by collecting all the above estimates. This completes the proof of Lemma 4.2. \square

4.2. Estimate on $\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u$

This subsection concerns the estimate on $\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u$. To this end, we first have the following result on the case of zeroth order derivative.

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Lemma 4.3. *Assume that u and ϕ satisfy the second equation of (2.3). It holds that*

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \frac{1}{2}\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u, u \right\rangle &\leq \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |b|^2 (a + 2c) dx \\ &\quad + C \{ \|(a, b, c)\|_{H^2} + \|\nabla_x \phi\|_{H^1} + \|\nabla_x \phi\| \cdot \|\nabla_x b\| \} \\ &\quad \times \left\{ \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|^2 + \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \right\} \\ &\quad + C \|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|_{H^1} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

Proof. Setting $I_3 = \langle \frac{1}{2}\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u, u \rangle$ and noticing $u = \mathbf{P}u + \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u = u_1 + u_2$,

$$I_3 = \sum_{m=1}^3 I_{3,m} = \left\langle \frac{1}{2}\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi, u_1^2 \right\rangle + \langle \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi, u_1 \cdot u_2 \rangle + \left\langle \frac{1}{2}\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi, u_2^2 \right\rangle.$$

First, for $I_{3,1}$, as in ^{12,7}, using the second equation of (2.3) to replace $\nabla_x \phi$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} I_{3,1} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla_x \phi \cdot b(a + 2c) dx = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |b|^2 (a + 2c) dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |b|^2 \left\{ \frac{5}{6} \nabla_x \cdot b + \frac{5}{3} \nabla_x \cdot \Lambda(u_2) - \frac{1}{3} \nabla_x \phi \cdot b \right\} dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} b(a + 2c) \cdot \{ \nabla_x(a + 2c) + \nabla_x \cdot \Theta(u_2) - \nabla_x \phi a \} dx, \end{aligned}$$

where $\Theta(\cdot)$ and $\Lambda(\cdot)$ are defined in (2.2). Further by the Hölder, Sobolev and Cauchy-Schwarz inequalities, the above equation implies

$$\begin{aligned} I_{3,1} &\leq \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |b|^2 (a + 2c) dx \\ &\quad + C \{ \|(a, b, c)\|_{H^2} + \|\nabla_x \phi\| \cdot \|\nabla_x b\| \} \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|^2 \\ &\quad + C \|(a, b, c)\|_{H^2} \{ \|\Lambda(u_2)\|^2 + \|\Theta(u_2)\|^2 \}. \end{aligned}$$

Noticing

$$\|\Lambda(u_2)\| + \|\Theta(u_2)\| \leq C \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_2 \right\|,$$

then $I_{3,1}$ is bounded by the right-hand term of (4.12). Next, for $I_{3,2}$ and $I_{3,3}$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} I_{3,2} &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla_x \phi| \cdot \left\| \xi \nu^{-1/2} u_1 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} dx \\ &\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla_x \phi| \cdot |(a, b, c)| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} dx \\ &\leq C \|\nabla_x \phi\|_{H^1} \left\{ \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|^2 + \left\| \nu^{1/2} u_2 \right\|^2 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$I_{3,3} \leq C \|\nabla_x \phi\|_{L_x^\infty} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{1/2} u_2 \right\|^2 \leq C \|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|_{H^1} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{1/2} u_2 \right\|^2.$$

Therefore, (4.12) follows from all the above estimates. This completes the proof of Lemma 4.3. \square

For the case of higher order derivatives with respect to x variable, we have

Lemma 4.4. *Let $N \geq 4$, $1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N$, and $\ell \geq 0$. It holds that*

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle \partial^\alpha \left(\frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u \right), w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha u \right\rangle \\ & \leq C \|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|_{H^{N-1}} \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \left\{ \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \|\partial^\alpha(a, b, c)\|^2 \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

Proof. Let I_4 be the left-hand term of (4.13). Corresponding to $u = \mathbf{P}u + \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u$, set

$$\begin{aligned} I_4 &= \sum_{m=1}^3 I_{4,m} = \left\langle \partial^\alpha \left(\frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u_1 \right), w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) \partial^\alpha u \right\rangle \\ & \quad + \left\langle \partial^\alpha \left(\frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u_2 \right), w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) \partial^\alpha u_1 \right\rangle + \left\langle \partial^\alpha \left(\frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u_2 \right), w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) \partial^\alpha u_2 \right\rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

For $I_{4,1}$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} I_{4,1} &= \sum_{|\alpha_1| \leq |\alpha|} C_{\alpha_1}^\alpha \left\langle \frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \partial^{\alpha - \alpha_1} \phi \partial^{\alpha_1} u_1, w_{|\alpha| - \ell}^2(\xi) \partial^\alpha u \right\rangle \\ & \leq C \sum_{|\alpha_1| \leq |\alpha|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha - \alpha_1} \phi| \cdot |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha_1} u\|_{L_\xi^2} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Here, when $|\alpha_1| \leq N/2$ and $|\alpha_1| < |\alpha|$, the integral term in the summation above is bounded by

$$\sup_x |\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)| \cdot \|\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha - \alpha_1} \phi\| \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha_1} u\|,$$

and when $|\alpha_1| \geq N/2$ or $\alpha_1 = \alpha$, it is bounded by

$$\sup_x |\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha - \alpha_1} \phi| \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha_1}(a, b, c)\| \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha_1} u\|.$$

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Thus, by the Sobolev inequality, $I_{4,1}$ is bounded by the right-hand term of (4.13). Similarly, we have for $I_{4,2}$ that

$$\begin{aligned} I_{4,2} &\leq C \sum_{|\alpha_1| \leq |\alpha|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha-\alpha_1} \phi| \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha_1} u_2\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot |\partial^\alpha(a, b, c)| \, dx \\ &\leq C \sum_{\{|\alpha_1| \leq N/2\} \cap \{|\alpha_1| < \alpha\}} \sup_x \|\partial^{\alpha_1} u_2\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot \|\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha-\alpha_1} \phi\| \cdot \|\partial^\alpha(a, b, c)\| \\ &\quad + \sum_{\{|\alpha_1| \geq N/2\} \cup \{|\alpha_1| = \alpha\}} \sup_x |\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha-\alpha_1} \phi| \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha_1} u_2\| \cdot \|\partial^\alpha(a, b, c)\|, \end{aligned}$$

which is also bounded by the right-hand term of (4.13) by Sobolev's inequality. Finally, for $I_{4,3}$, since

$$\begin{aligned} I_{4,3} &\leq C \sum_{|\alpha_1| \leq |\alpha|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha_1} \phi| \cdot \left\| |\xi|^{1/2} w_{-\ell}(\xi) \partial^{\alpha-\alpha_1} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \\ &\quad \times \left\| |\xi|^{1/2} w_{-\ell}(\xi) \partial^\alpha u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \, dx, \end{aligned}$$

it can be further estimated as for $I_{4,1}$ and $I_{4,2}$. Therefore, (4.13) follows from (4.14) by collecting all the above estimates. This completes the proof of Lemma 4.4. \square

For the case of higher order mixed derivatives with respect to both ξ and x variables, we have

Lemma 4.5. *Let $N \geq 4$, $1 \leq |\alpha| + |\beta| \leq N$ with $|\beta| \geq 1$, and $\ell \geq |\beta|$. It holds that*

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\langle \partial_\beta^\alpha \left(\frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right), w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\rangle \\ &\leq C \|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|_{H^{N-1}} \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N} \left\| |\xi|^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\|^2. \quad (4.15) \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Due to

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\langle \partial_\beta^\alpha \left(\frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u_2 \right), w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha u_2 \right\rangle \\ &= \sum C_{\alpha_1 \alpha_2}^\alpha C_{\beta_1 \beta_2}^\beta \left\langle \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\beta_1} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \partial^{\alpha_1} \phi \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2, w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha u_2 \right\rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where the summation is taken over $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha$ and $\beta_1 + \beta_2 = \beta$ with $|\beta_1| \leq 1$, and for simplicity we denote each integration term in the summation as I_5 . We now prove (4.15) by considering the following two cases: For the case $|\alpha_1| \leq N/2$, we have

$$I_5 \leq C \sup_x |\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha_1} \phi| \cdot \left\| |\xi|^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\| \cdot \left\| |\xi|^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha u_2 \right\|,$$

which is bounded by the right-hand term of (4.15). For the case $|\alpha_1| \geq N/2$, it is easy to see that

$$I_5 \leq C \sup_x \left\| |\xi|^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_{\beta_2}^{\alpha_2} u_2 \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot \|\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha_1} \phi\| \cdot \left\| |\xi|^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell}(\xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha u_2 \right\|,$$

which is also bounded by the right-hand term of (4.15). Therefore, (4.5) follows by combining both cases above. This completes the proof of Lemma 4.5. \square

4.3. Estimate on $\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u$

Now we turn to estimate $\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u$. For the case with only derivatives with respect to x variable, we have

Lemma 4.6. *Assume $-2 \leq \gamma < 0$. Let $N \geq 4$, $1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N$, and $\ell \geq 0$. It holds that*

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \partial^\alpha (\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u), w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha u \rangle \\ & \leq C \|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|_{H^{N-1}} \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N, |\beta| \leq 1} \|\langle \xi \rangle w_{|\beta|-\ell} \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u\|^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}}^2 \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.16)$$

Proof. Denote the left-hand side of (4.16) by I_6 and write it as

$$I_6 = I_{6,1} + \sum_{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha, |\alpha_1| \geq 1} C_{\alpha_1 \alpha_2}^\alpha \{I_{6,21}(\alpha_1) + I_{6,22}(\alpha_1)\}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} I_{6,1} &= \langle \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi \partial^\alpha u, w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) \partial^\alpha u \rangle, \\ I_{6,21}(\alpha_1) &= \langle \nabla_x \partial^{\alpha_1} \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi \partial^{\alpha_2} u_1, w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) \partial^\alpha u \rangle, \\ I_{6,22}(\alpha_1) &= \langle \nabla_x \partial^{\alpha_1} \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi \partial^{\alpha_2} u_2, w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) \partial^\alpha u \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

We estimate term by term as follows. To estimate $I_{6,1}$, notice

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_\xi w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) &= (-2\gamma\ell) \langle \xi \rangle^{-2\gamma\ell-1} \nabla_\xi \langle \xi \rangle e^{2q(t)\langle \xi \rangle^2} \\ &+ \langle \xi \rangle^{-2\gamma\ell} e^{2q(t)\langle \xi \rangle^2} \cdot 2q(t) \nabla_\xi \langle \xi \rangle^2 \leq C \langle \xi \rangle^{1-2\gamma\ell} e^{2q(t)\langle \xi \rangle^2} = C \langle \xi \rangle w_{-\ell}^2(\xi), \end{aligned}$$

where $\langle \xi \rangle \geq 1$ and the fact that both $q(t) = q + \lambda/(1+t)^\vartheta$ and $\nabla_\xi \langle \xi \rangle$ are bounded by a constant independent of t and ξ have been used. Then, from integration by part,

$$I_{6,1} = \left\langle -\frac{1}{2} \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi \{w_{-\ell}^2(\xi)\}, |\partial^\alpha u|^2 \right\rangle \leq C \sup_x |\nabla_x \phi| \cdot \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{1/2} w_{-\ell}(\xi) \partial^\alpha u \right\|^2,$$

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which is bounded by the right-hand side of (4.16). For $I_{6,21}(\alpha_1)$, it is straightforward to estimate it by

$$\begin{aligned} I_{6,21}(\alpha_1) &\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha_1} \phi| \cdot |\partial^{\alpha_2}(a, b, c)| \cdot \|\partial^{\alpha} u\|_{L_\xi^2} dx \\ &\leq C \|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|_{H^{N-1}} \left\{ \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}}^2 + \|\partial^{\alpha} u\|^2 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

To estimate $I_{6,22}(\alpha_1)$, notice $\langle \xi \rangle^{\gamma+2} \geq 1$ due to $-2 \leq \gamma < 0$ so that

$$w_{-\ell}^2(\xi) \leq \langle \xi \rangle w_{1-\ell}(\xi) \cdot \langle \xi \rangle w_{-\ell}(\xi).$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} I_{6,22}(\alpha_1) &\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha_1} \phi| \cdot \|\langle \xi \rangle w_{1-\ell}(\xi) \nabla_\xi \partial^{\alpha_2} u_2\|_{L_\xi^2} \cdot \|\langle \xi \rangle w_{-\ell}(\xi) \partial^{\alpha} u\|_{L_\xi^2} dx \\ &\leq C \|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|_{H^{N-1}} \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N, |\beta| \leq 1} \|\langle \xi \rangle w_{|\beta|-\ell} \partial_\beta^{\alpha} u_2\|^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \|\langle \xi \rangle w_{-\ell}(\xi) \partial^{\alpha} u\|^2 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

which is further bounded by the right-hand side of (4.16). By collecting all the above estimates, it then completes the proof of Lemma 4.6. \square

For the case of higher order mixed derivatives with respect to the ξ and x variables, we have

Lemma 4.7. *Assume $-2 \leq \gamma < 0$. Let $1 \leq |\alpha| + |\beta| \leq N$ with $|\beta| \geq 1$, and $\ell \geq |\beta|$. It holds that*

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\langle \partial_\beta^\alpha (\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u), w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\rangle \\ &\leq C \|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|_{H^{N-1}} \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N} \|\langle \xi \rangle w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u\|^2. \quad (4.17) \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Similar to the proof of Lemma 4.6, one can rewrite the left-hand side of (4.17) as

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\langle \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u, w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\rangle \\ &+ \sum_{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha, |\alpha_1| \geq 1} C_{\alpha_1 \alpha_2}^\alpha \left\langle \nabla_x \partial^{\alpha_1} \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi \partial_\beta^{\alpha_2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u, w_{|\beta|-\ell}^2(\xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Then, similar to arguments used to deal with $I_{6,1}$ and $I_{6,22}(\alpha_1)$ in Lemma 4.6, (4.17) follows and the details are omitted for brevity. This completes the proof of Lemma 4.7. \square

5. A priori estimates

We are ready to deduce the uniform-in-time *a priori* estimates on the solution to the VPB system. For this purpose, we define the time-weighted sup-energy $X_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ by (1.18), and suppose that the Cauchy problem (1.5)-(1.7) of the VPB system admits a smooth solution $u(t, x, \xi)$ over $0 \leq t < T$ for $0 < T \leq \infty$. We will deduce some energy type estimates on the basis of the following *a priori* assumption

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T} X_{N,\ell,q}(t) \leq \delta, \quad (5.1)$$

where $\delta > 0$ is a suitably chosen sufficiently small positive constant.

5.1. Dissipation of (a, b, c)

Recall the fluid-type system (2.3)-(2.4) derived from the VPB system (1.5)-(1.6) and also (2.2) for the definition of the high-order moment functions $\Theta(\cdot)$ and $\Lambda(\cdot)$. In this subsection, we are concerned with the dissipation of the macroscopic component (a, b, c) .

Lemma 5.1. *There is a temporal interactive functional $\mathcal{E}_N^{\text{int}}(t)$ such that*

$$|\mathcal{E}_N^{\text{int}}(t)| \leq C \left\{ \|a\|^2 + \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \left(\|\partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u(t)\|^2 + \|\partial^\alpha \nabla_x(a, b, c)\|^2 \right) \right\} \quad (5.2)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}_N^{\text{int}}(t) + \kappa \left\{ \|a\|^2 + \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \|\partial^\alpha \nabla_x(a, b, c)\|^2 \right\} \\ \leq C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \\ + C \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell}(t) \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \|\partial_x^\alpha(a, b, c)\|^2 \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (5.3)$$

hold for any $0 \leq t < T$, where the simplified notion $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell}(t) = \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ with $q = 0$ has been used.

Proof. Basing on the analysis of the macro fluid-type system (2.3)-(2.4), the desired estimates follow by repeating the arguments used in the proof of ⁹ for the hard-sphere case and hence details are omitted. Here, we only point out the repre-

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resentation of $\mathcal{E}_N^{\text{int}}(t)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_N^{\text{int}}(t) &= \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla_x \partial^\alpha c \cdot \Lambda(\partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) dx \\ &+ \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \sum_{ij=1}^3 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left(\partial_i \partial^\alpha b_j + \partial_j \partial^\alpha b_i - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \nabla_x \cdot \partial^\alpha b \right) \Theta_{ij}(\partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u) dx \\ &\quad - \kappa \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \partial^\alpha a \partial^\alpha \nabla_x \cdot b dx \end{aligned}$$

for a constant $\kappa > 0$ small enough. \square

5.2. Construction of $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$

We are ready to prove the energy inequality (1.19). In this subsection we consider the proof (1.19) in the following

Lemma 5.2. *Assume $-2 \leq \gamma < 0$. Let $N \geq 8$, $\ell \geq N$ and $q(t) = q + \frac{\lambda}{(1+t)^\vartheta} > 0$ with $0 \leq q \ll 1$, $0 < \lambda \ll 1$ and $0 < \vartheta \leq 1/4$. Suppose that the a priori assumption (5.1) holds for $\delta > 0$ small enough. Then, there is $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ satisfying (1.16) such that*

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t) + \kappa \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t) \leq 0 \quad (5.4)$$

holds for any $0 \leq t < T$, where $\mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ is given by (1.17).

Proof. It is divided by three steps as follows. Recall the VPB system (1.5)-(1.6).

Step 1. Energy estimates without any weight: First we consider the zero-th order energy type estimates. Multiplying (1.5) by u and integrating it over $\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$ gives

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \|u\|^2 + \|\nabla_x \phi\|^2 \right\} - \langle \mathbf{L}u, u \rangle = \langle \Gamma(u, u), u \rangle + \left\langle \frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u, u \right\rangle.$$

By applying (1.14), (4.2) and (4.12) to estimate three inner product terms above and then using (5.1), one has

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \|u\|^2 + \|\nabla_x \phi\|^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |b|^2 (a + 2c) dx \right\} + \kappa \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \right\|^2 \\ &\leq C\delta \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|^2 + \frac{C\delta}{(1+t)^{1+\vartheta}} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \right\|^2 \leq C\delta \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t). \end{aligned} \quad (5.5)$$

Next we consider the energy type estimates containing only x derivatives. Applying ∂_x^α with $1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N$ to (1.5), multiplying it by $\partial_x^\alpha u$ and then integrating it over $\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \|\partial^\alpha u\|^2 + \|\partial^\alpha \nabla_x \phi\|^2 \right\} - \langle \mathbf{L} \partial^\alpha u, \partial^\alpha u \rangle \\ &= \langle \partial^\alpha \Gamma(u, u), \partial^\alpha u \rangle + \left\langle \partial^\alpha \left(\frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u \right), \partial^\alpha u \right\rangle + \langle -\partial^\alpha (\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_x u), \partial^\alpha u \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

After using (1.14), (4.8), (4.13), (4.16) and then taking summation over $1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \left\{ \|\partial^\alpha u\|^2 + \|\partial^\alpha \nabla_x \phi\|^2 \right\} + \kappa \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \\ & \leq C \|(a, b, c)\|_{H^N} \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}} \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha u \right\| + C \{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}^h(t)\}^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t) \\ & \quad + C \|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|_{H^{N-1}} \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N, |\beta| \leq 1} \|\langle \xi \rangle w_{|\beta|-\ell,q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u\|^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}}^2 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

which under the *a priori* assumption (5.1) implies

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \left\{ \|\partial^\alpha u\|^2 + \|\partial^\alpha \nabla_x \phi\|^2 \right\} + \kappa \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \\ & \leq C \delta \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell,q}(t). \quad (5.6) \end{aligned}$$

Step 2. Energy estimates with the weight function $w_{|\beta|-\ell,q}(t, \xi)$:

Step 2.1. By applying $\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}$ to the equation (1.5), the time evolution of $\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u$ satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} & \partial_t \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u + \xi \cdot \nabla_x \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u + \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u + \nu(\xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \\ & = K \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u + \Gamma(u, u) + \frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u + \llbracket \mathbf{P}, \mathcal{T}_\phi \rrbracket u, \quad (5.7) \end{aligned}$$

where $\llbracket A, B \rrbracket = AB - BA$ denotes the commutator of two operators A, B , and \mathcal{T}_ϕ is given by

$$\mathcal{T}_\phi = \xi \cdot \nabla_x + \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi - \frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi.$$

By multiplying (5.7) by $w_{-\ell,q}^2(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u$ and taking integration over $\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|w_{-\ell,q}(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u\|^2 + \langle \nu(\xi), w_{-\ell,q}^2(t, \xi) |\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u|^2 \rangle \\ & \quad + \left\langle -\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} w_{-\ell,q}^2(t, \xi), |\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u|^2 \right\rangle \\ & = \langle K \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u, w_{-\ell,q}^2(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \rangle + \langle \Gamma(u, u), w_{-\ell,q}^2(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \rangle \\ & \quad + \langle -\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u, w_{-\ell,q}^2(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \rangle \\ & + \left\langle -\frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi, w_{-\ell,q}^2(t, \xi) |\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u|^2 \right\rangle + \langle \llbracket \mathbf{P}, \mathcal{T}_\phi \rrbracket u, w_{-\ell,q}^2(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \rangle. \quad (5.8) \end{aligned}$$

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For the left-hand third term of (5.8), notice

$$-\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) = \frac{\lambda \vartheta}{(1+t)^{1+\vartheta}} \langle \xi \rangle^2 w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi).$$

From (2.1), Hölder's inequality in x integration and Cauchy-Schwarz's inequality, the right-hand first term of (5.8) is bounded by

$$\begin{aligned} & \eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \\ & \quad + C_\eta \left\| \chi_{|\xi| \leq 2C_\eta} \langle \xi \rangle^{-\gamma \ell} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\| \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\| \\ & \leq 2\eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + C_\eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

for an arbitrary constant $\eta > 0$. The right-hand second, third and fourth terms of (5.8) are bounded by $C\delta \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t)$, where we have used (4.3) for the second term, velocity integration by part for the third term and also the *a priori* assumption (5.1). For the right-hand last term of (5.8), it is straightforward to estimate it by

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle [\mathbf{P}, \mathcal{T}_\phi] u, w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \rangle \\ & \leq \eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + C_\eta \left\{ \left\| \nu^{1/2} \nabla_x \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|^2 \right\} \\ & \quad + C_\eta \|\nabla_x \phi\|_{H^2}^2 \left\{ \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|^2 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

for $\eta > 0$. Plugging the above estimates into (5.8) and fixing a properly small constant $\eta > 0$ yield

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left\| w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \kappa \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \\ & \quad + \frac{\kappa}{(1+t)^{1+\vartheta}} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \leq C\delta \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t) \\ & \quad + C \left\{ \left\| \nu^{1/2} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \left\| \nu^{1/2} \nabla_x \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|^2 \right\}. \quad (5.9) \end{aligned}$$

Step 2.2. For the weighted estimate on the terms containing only x derivatives, we directly use (1.5). In fact, take $1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N$, and by applying ∂_x^α to (1.5) with

$$\mathbf{L}u = \mathbf{L}\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u = -\nu\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u + K\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u,$$

multiplying it by $w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_x^\alpha u$ and integrating over $\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left\| w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_x^\alpha u \right\|^2 + \langle \nu \langle \xi \rangle \partial_x^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u, w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_x^\alpha u \rangle \\ & \quad + \left\langle -\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi), |\partial_x^\alpha u|^2 \right\rangle \\ & = \langle K \partial_x^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u, w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_x^\alpha u \rangle + \left\langle \partial_x^\alpha \nabla_x \phi \cdot \xi \mathbf{M}^{1/2}, w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_x^\alpha u \right\rangle \\ & \quad + \left\langle \partial_x^\alpha \Gamma(u, u) - \partial_x^\alpha (\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u) + \partial_x^\alpha \left(\frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u \right), w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_x^\alpha u \right\rangle. \quad (5.10) \end{aligned}$$

For the left-hand terms of (5.10), one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \nu(\xi) \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u, w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha u \rangle \\ &= \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \langle \nu(\xi) \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u, w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha \mathbf{P} u \rangle \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 - C \|\partial^\alpha(a, b, c)\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle -\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi), |\partial^\alpha u|^2 \right\rangle &= \frac{\lambda \vartheta}{(1+t)^{1+\vartheta}} \|\langle \xi \rangle w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha u\|^2 \\ &\geq \frac{\lambda \vartheta}{2(1+t)^{1+\vartheta}} \|\langle \xi \rangle w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u\|^2 - C \|\partial^\alpha(a, b, c)\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

For the right-hand first term of (5.10), one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle K \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u, w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha u \rangle \\ &\leq \left\{ \eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\| + C_\eta \left\| \chi_{|\xi| \leq 2C_\eta} \langle \xi \rangle^{\gamma(-\ell)} \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\| \right\} \\ &\quad \times \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha u \right\| \\ &\leq C_\eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \\ &\quad + C_\eta \left\{ \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \|\partial^\alpha(a, b, c)\|^2 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\eta > 0$. For the right-hand second term of (5.10), we have that for $\eta > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \partial^\alpha \nabla_x \phi \cdot \xi \mathbf{M}^{1/2}, w_{-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha u \right\rangle &\leq \eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha u \right\|^2 + C_\eta \|\partial^\alpha \nabla_x \phi\|^2 \\ &\leq C_\eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + C_\eta \left\{ \|a\|^2 + \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}}^2 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

For the right-hand third term of (5.10), from Lemma 4.2, Lemma 4.4 and Lemma 4.6, it is bounded by

$$\begin{aligned} C\delta \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t) + \frac{C\delta}{(1+t)^{1+\vartheta}} \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N} \|\langle \xi \rangle w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u\|^2 \right. \\ \left. + \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}}^2 \right\} \leq C\delta \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t). \quad (5.11) \end{aligned}$$

Putting the above estimates into (5.10), taking summation over $1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N$ and

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fixing a small constant $\eta > 0$ give

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \|w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha u\|^2 \\
 & \quad + \kappa \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \\
 & \quad + \frac{\kappa}{(1+t)^{1+\vartheta}} \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha u \right\|^2 \\
 & \leq C \delta \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t) + C \left\{ \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}}^2 + \|a\|^2 \right\}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.12}$$

Step 2.3. For the weighted estimate on the mixed x - ξ derivatives, we use the equation (5.7) of $\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u$. Let $1 \leq m \leq N$. By applying ∂_β^α with $|\beta| = m$ and $|\alpha| + |\beta| \leq N$ to (5.7), multiplying it by $w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u$ and integrating over $\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$, one has

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u\|^2 \\
 & \quad + \left\langle \partial_\beta \{\nu(\xi) \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u\}, w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \right\rangle \\
 & \quad + \left\langle -\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi), |\partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u|^2 \right\rangle \\
 & \quad = \left\langle \partial_\beta K \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u, w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \right\rangle \\
 & \quad + \left\langle \partial_\beta^\alpha \left(\Gamma(u, u) - \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u + \frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \right), \right. \\
 & \quad \quad \left. w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \right\rangle \\
 & \quad + \left\langle -[\partial_\beta^\alpha, \xi \cdot \nabla_x] \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u, w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \right\rangle \\
 & \quad + \left\langle \partial_\beta^\alpha [\mathbf{P}, \mathcal{T}_\phi] u, w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}u \right\rangle. \tag{5.13}
 \end{aligned}$$

For the left-hand second term of (5.13), one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle \partial_\beta \{ \nu(\xi) \partial^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \}, w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta \partial^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\rangle \\ & \geq \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\|^2 \\ & \quad - \eta \sum_{|\beta_1| \leq |\beta|} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_{\beta_1}^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\|^2 \\ & \quad - C_\eta \left\| \chi_{|\xi| \leq 2C_\eta} \langle \xi \rangle^{\gamma(|\beta|-\ell)} \partial^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where $\eta > 0$ is arbitrary, and it is noticed that

$$\left\| \chi_{|\xi| \leq 2C_\eta} \langle \xi \rangle^{\gamma(|\beta|-\ell)} \partial^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\| \leq C \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\|.$$

For the right-hand first term of (5.13), we have that for $\eta > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle \partial_\beta K \partial^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u, w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\rangle \\ & \leq \left\{ \eta \sum_{|\beta_1| \leq |\beta|} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_{\beta_1}^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\| \right. \\ & \quad \left. + C_\eta \left\| \chi_{|\xi| \leq 2C_\eta} \langle \xi \rangle^{\gamma(|\beta|-\ell)} \partial^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\| \right\} \cdot \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\| \\ & \leq C_\eta \sum_{|\beta_1| \leq |\beta|} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_{\beta_1}^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\|^2 \\ & \quad + C_\eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

As in (5.11), from Lemma 4.2, Lemma 4.5 and Lemma 4.7, the right-hand second term of (5.13) is bounded by $C\delta\mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t)$.

For the right-hand third term of (5.13),

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle -\llbracket \partial_\beta^\alpha, \xi \cdot \nabla_x \rrbracket \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u, w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\rangle \\ & = \sum_{\beta_1 + \beta_2 = \beta, |\beta_1|=1} C_{\beta_1 \beta_2}^\beta \left\langle -\partial_{\beta_1} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \partial_{\beta_2}^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u, w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\rangle \\ & \leq \eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\|^2 \\ & \quad + C_\eta \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N, |\beta_1|=|\beta|-1} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta_2|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_{\beta_2}^\alpha \{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P} \} u \right\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where $\eta > 0$ is arbitrary, and we have used

$$\begin{aligned} w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) & = w_{|\beta|+\frac{1}{2}-\ell, q}(t, \xi) w_{|\beta_2|+\frac{1}{2}-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \\ & \leq C \nu^{1/2}(\xi) w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \cdot \nu^{1/2}(\xi) w_{|\beta_2|-\ell, q}(t, \xi). \end{aligned}$$

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The right-hand last term of (5.13) is estimated as

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \partial_\beta^\alpha [\mathbf{P}, \mathcal{T}_\phi] u, w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}^2(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\rangle &\leq \eta \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \\ &+ C_\eta (1 + \|\nabla_x \phi\|_{H^N}^2) \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}}^2 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

for $\eta > 0$. Therefore, by plugging all the estimates above into (5.13), taking summation over $\{|\beta| = m, |\alpha| + |\beta| \leq N\}$ for each given $1 \leq m \leq N$ and then taking the proper linear combination of those $N - 1$ estimates with properly chosen constants $C_m > 0$ ($1 \leq m \leq N$) and $\eta > 0$ small enough, one has

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \sum_{m=1}^N C_m \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N, |\beta|=m} \left\| w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \\ &\quad + \kappa \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N, |\beta| \geq 1} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{\kappa}{(1+t)^{1+\vartheta}} \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N, |\beta| \geq 1} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle w_{|\beta|-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 \\ &\leq C\delta \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t) + C \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \left\| \nu^{1/2} w_{-\ell, q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}}^2 \right\}. \end{aligned} \tag{5.14}$$

Step 3. *The proof of (5.4):* We take a proper linear combination of those estimates obtained in the previous two steps as follows. First of all, since $\delta > 0$ is sufficiently small, the linear combination $M_1 \times [(5.5) + (5.6)] + (5.3)$ for $M_1 > 0$ large enough gives

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \frac{M_1}{2} \left[\sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \left(\|\partial^\alpha u\|^2 + \|\partial^\alpha \nabla_x \phi\|^2 \right) - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |b|^2 (a + 2c) dx \right] + \mathcal{E}_N^{\text{int}}(t) \right\} \\ &\quad + \kappa \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \left\| \nu^{1/2} \partial^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u \right\|^2 + \|a\|^2 + \|\nabla_x(a, b, c)\|_{H^{N-1}}^2 \right\} \leq C\delta \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t), \end{aligned} \tag{5.15}$$

where the corresponding energy functional is equivalent to $\|u\|_{L_\xi^2(H_x^N)}^2 + \|\nabla_x \phi\|_{H^N}^2$. Now, the further linear combination $M_3 \times [M_2 \times (5.15) + (5.9) + (5.12)] + (5.14)$ for $M_2 > 0$ and $M_3 > 0$ large enough in turn gives

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}_{N, \ell, q}(t) + \kappa \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t) \leq C\delta \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell, q}(t),$$

where $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t) \\ &= M_3 \left[M_2 \left\{ \frac{M_1}{2} \left[\sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \left(\|\partial^\alpha u\|^2 + \|\partial^\alpha \nabla_x \phi\|^2 \right) - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |b|^2 (a + 2c) dx \right] + \mathcal{E}_N^{\text{int}}(t) \right\} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \|w_{-\ell,q}(t, \xi) \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u\|^2 + \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq N} \|w_{-\ell,q}(t, \xi) \partial^\alpha u\|^2 \right] \\ & \quad + \sum_{m=1}^N C_m \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N, |\beta|=m} \|w_{|\beta|-\ell,q}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} u\|^2. \quad (5.16) \end{aligned}$$

Notice (5.2). It is easy to see that

$$\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t) \sim \|u\|_{N,\ell,q}^2(t).$$

Therefore, (5.4) follows from the above inequality since $\delta > 0$ is small enough. This completes the proof of Lemma 5.2. \square

6. Global existence

Recall (1.18) for $X_{N,\ell,q}(t)$. To close the energy estimates under the *a priori* assumption (5.1), one has to obtain the time-decay of $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1,q}(t)$ and $\|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|_{H^{N-1}}^2$. The key is to prove the following

Lemma 6.1. *Assume $-2 \leq \gamma < 0$ and $\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} a_0(x) dx = 0$. Fix parameters N, ℓ_0, ℓ and $q(t) = q + \frac{\lambda}{(1+t)^\vartheta}$ as stated in Theorem 1.1. Suppose that the *a priori* assumption (5.1) holds true for $\delta > 0$ small enough. Then, one has*

$$X_{N,\ell,q}(t) \leq C \{ \epsilon_{N,\ell,q}^2 + X_{N,\ell,q}(t)^2 \}, \quad (6.1)$$

for any $t \geq 0$, where $\epsilon_{N,\ell,q}$ is defined by

$$\epsilon_{N,\ell,q} = \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N} \|w_{|\beta|-\ell,q}(0, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha u_0\| + \left\| (1 + |x| + \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma \ell_0}{2}}) u_0 \right\|_{Z_1}. \quad (6.2)$$

As preparation, we need an additional lemma concerning the time-decay estimates on the macroscopic quantity (a, b, c) in terms of initial data and $X_{N,\ell}(t)$. Here and afterwards, for notational simplicity, we write $X_{N,\ell}(t) = X_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ when $q = 0$, and in a similar way, $\epsilon_{N,\ell} = \epsilon_{N,\ell,0}$ and $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell}(t) = \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,0}(t)$ will be used.

Lemma 6.2. *Under the assumptions of Lemma 6.1, one has*

$$\|u(t)\| + \|\nabla_x \phi(t)\| \leq C(1+t)^{-\frac{3}{4}} \{ \epsilon_{N,\ell} + X_{N,\ell}(t) \}, \quad (6.3)$$

and

$$\|\nabla_x u(t)\|_{L_\xi^2(H_x^{N-2})} + \|\nabla_x^2 \phi(t)\| \leq C(1+t)^{-\frac{5}{4}} \{ \epsilon_{N,\ell} + X_{N,\ell}(t) \}, \quad (6.4)$$

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for any $0 \leq t < T$.

Proof. By Duhamel's principle, the solution u to the Cauchy problem (1.5)-(1.7) of the nonlinear VPB system can be written as the mild form

$$u(t) = e^{t\mathbf{B}}u_0 + \int_0^t e^{(t-s)\mathbf{B}}G(s) ds$$

with $G = \frac{1}{2}\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u - \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u + \Gamma(u, u)$. Notice that $\mathbf{P}_0 G(t) \equiv 0$ for all $t \geq 0$ and the condition (3.3) holds. Applying Theorem 3.1, one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u(t)\| + \|\nabla_x \phi(t)\| \\ & \leq C(1+t)^{-\frac{3}{4}} \left\{ \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} u_0 \right\|_{Z_1} + \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} u_0 \right\| + \|(1+|x|)a_0\|_{L_x^1} \right\} \\ & \quad + C \int_0^t (1+t-s)^{-\frac{3}{4}} \left\{ \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} G(s) \right\|_{Z_1} + \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} G(s) \right\| \right\} ds \end{aligned} \quad (6.5)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\nabla_x u(t)\|_{L_\xi^2(H_x^{N-2})} + \|\nabla_x^2 \phi(t)\| \\ & \leq C(1+t)^{-\frac{5}{4}} \left\{ \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} u_0 \right\|_{Z_1} + \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \nabla_x u_0 \right\|_{L_\xi^2(H_x^{N-2})} + \|(1+|x|)a_0\|_{L_x^1} \right\} \\ & \quad + C \int_0^t (1+t-s)^{-\frac{5}{4}} \left\{ \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} G(s) \right\|_{Z_1} + \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \nabla_x G(s) \right\|_{L_\xi^2(H_x^{N-2})} \right\} ds, \end{aligned} \quad (6.6)$$

where we recall that $\ell_0 > 2\sigma_1 = 2(\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{2}) = 5/2$ is a constant. In what follows, we shall estimate the right-hand time integrals in the above two inequalities.

To do that, we *claim* that

$$\left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} G(t) \right\|_{Z_1} + \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \partial^\alpha G(t) \right\| \leq C\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1}(t), \quad (6.7)$$

for any $0 \leq t < T$. Here, recall $\ell \geq 1 + \max\{N, \frac{\ell_0}{2} - \frac{1}{\gamma}\}$. In fact, one has the following estimates.

Estimate on terms containing ϕ : Direct calculations yield

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \left\{ -\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u + \frac{1}{2}\xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u \right\} \right\|_{Z_1} \\ & \leq C \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \|\nabla_x \phi\|_{L_x^2} \left\{ \|\nabla_\xi u\|_{L_x^2} + \langle \xi \rangle \|u\|_{L_x^2} \right\} \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \\ & \leq C \|\nabla_x \phi\| \left\{ \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \nabla_\xi u \right\| + \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0+1} u \right\| \right\} \\ & \leq C \|\nabla_x \phi\| \left\{ \left\| w_{-\frac{1}{2}\ell_0}(t, \xi) \nabla_\xi u \right\| + \left\| w_{-\frac{\ell_0}{2} + \frac{1}{\gamma}}(t, \xi) u \right\| \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (6.8)$$

Here, by recalling the assumption $\ell - 1 > \frac{\ell_0}{2} - \frac{1}{\gamma}$, (6.8) is further bounded by $C\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1}(t)$.

Similarly, by applying L_x^∞ -norm to the low-order derivative terms and using Sobolev's inequality, one also has

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \partial^\alpha \left\{ -\nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_\xi u + \frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla_x \phi u \right\} \right\| \\ \leq C \|\nabla_x \phi\|_{H^N} \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq N} \|w_{|\beta|-(\ell-1)}(t, \xi) \partial_\beta^\alpha u\| \leq C \mathcal{E}_{N, \ell-1}(t). \end{aligned}$$

Estimate on terms containing $\Gamma(u, u)$: First consider

$$\left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \Gamma(u, u) \right\|_{Z_1} \leq C \sum_{\pm} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \Gamma^\pm (\|u\|_{L_x^2}, \|u\|_{L_x^2}) \right\|_{L_\xi^2}, \quad (6.9)$$

where Hölder's inequality has been used. For the loss term, by noticing

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma^- (\|u\|_{L_x^2}, \|u\|_{L_x^2}) &= \|u(\xi)\|_{L_x^2} \iint |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\xi_*) \|u(\xi_*)\|_{L_x^2} d\xi_* d\omega \\ &\leq C \|u(\xi)\|_{L_x^2} \cdot \langle \xi \rangle^\gamma \sup_{\xi_*} \|u(\xi_*)\|_{L_x^2}, \end{aligned}$$

one has

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \Gamma^- (\|u\|_{L_x^2}, \|u\|_{L_x^2}) \right\|_{L_\xi^2} &\leq C \sup_{\xi_*} \|u(\xi_*)\|_{L_x^2} \cdot \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{\gamma(-\frac{\ell_0}{2}+1)} u \right\|_{L_{x,\xi}^2} \\ &\leq C (\|\nabla_\xi u\| + \|\nabla_\xi^2 u\|) \|w_{-\frac{\ell_0}{2}+1}(t, \xi) u\| \leq C \mathcal{E}_{N, \ell-1}(t). \end{aligned} \quad (6.10)$$

For the gain term,

$$\begin{aligned} J_1(t, \xi) &:= \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \Gamma^+ (\|u\|_{L_x^2}, \|u\|_{L_x^2}) \\ &= \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \iint |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\xi_*) \|u(\xi'_*)\|_{L_x^2} \|u(\xi')\|_{L_x^2} d\xi_* d\omega. \end{aligned}$$

We then consider the following three cases:

In $\mathbb{D}_1 = \{|\xi_*| \geq \frac{1}{2}|\xi|\}$:

$$J_1(t, \xi) \leq \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \int_{\xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi) \|u(\xi'_*)\|_{L_x^2} \|u(\xi')\|_{L_x^2}.$$

From Hölder's inequality, as before, $J_1(t, \xi)$ is bounded by

$$C \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0 + \frac{1}{2}\gamma} \left\{ \int_{\xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q'}{2}}(\xi) \|u(\xi'_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \|u(\xi')\|_{L_x^2}^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} \|J_1(t)\chi_{\mathbb{D}_1}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 &\leq C \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q''}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q''}{2}}(\xi) \|u(\xi'_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \|u(\xi')\|_{L_x^2}^2 \\ &\leq C \int_{\xi, \xi_*} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q''}{2}}(\xi_*) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{q''}{2}}(\xi) \|u(\xi_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \|u(\xi)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \\ &\leq C \sup_{\xi_*} \|u(\xi_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \cdot \int_{x, \xi} |u(x, \xi)|^2 \leq C \mathcal{E}_{N, \ell-1}(t)^2. \end{aligned}$$

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In $\mathbb{D}_2 = \{|\xi_*| \leq \frac{1}{2}|\xi|, |\xi| \leq 1\}$: From Hölder's inequality, one has

$$J_1(t, \xi)\chi_{\mathbb{D}_2} \leq \left\{ \int_{\xi, \omega} \chi_{\mathbb{D}_2} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\xi_*) \|u(\xi'_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \|u(\xi')\|_{L_x^2}^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

In \mathbb{D}_2 , $|\xi - \xi_*| \geq \frac{1}{2}|\xi|$ and moreover,

$$|\xi'| \leq 2|\xi| + |\xi_*| \leq \frac{5}{2}|\xi|, \quad |\xi'_*| \leq 2|\xi_*| + |\xi| \leq 2|\xi|.$$

These imply that in \mathbb{D}_2 ,

$$|\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \leq C \min\{|\xi'|^\gamma, |\xi'_*|^\gamma\} \chi_{|\xi'| \leq 3, |\xi'_*| \leq 3}.$$

Then, using the above estimate and then taking change of variable $(\xi, \xi_*) \rightarrow (\xi', \xi'_*)$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \|J_1(t)\chi_{\mathbb{D}_2}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 &\leq C \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} \chi_{\mathbb{D}_2} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\xi_*) \|u(\xi'_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \|u(\xi')\|_{L_x^2}^2 \\ &\leq C \int_{\xi, \xi_*} \chi_{|\xi| \leq 3, |\xi_*| \leq 3} \min\{|\xi|^\gamma, |\xi_*|^\gamma\} \|u(\xi_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \|u(\xi)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \\ &\leq C \sup_{\xi} \|u(\xi)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \cdot \|u\|^2 \leq C \mathcal{E}_{N, \ell-1}(t)^2. \end{aligned}$$

In $\mathbb{D}_3 = \{|\xi_*| \leq \frac{1}{2}|\xi|, |\xi| \geq 1\}$: In this case, as in the proof (4.11) for $I_{2,123}^+$, from Hölder's inequality, we can deduce that $J_1(t, \xi)$ is bounded by

$$C \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{7}{2}\ell_0} \left\{ \int_{\xi_*, \omega} (1 + |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\xi_*) \|u(\xi'_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \|u(\xi')\|_{L_x^2}^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

which further implies that $\|J_1(t)\chi_{\mathbb{D}_3}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2$ is bounded by

$$\begin{aligned} &C \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} \langle \xi \rangle^{-\gamma\ell_0} (1 + |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\xi_*) \|u(\xi'_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \|u(\xi')\|_{L_x^2}^2 \\ &\leq C \int_{\xi, \xi_*, \omega} \{ \langle \xi' \rangle^{-\gamma\ell_0} + \langle \xi'_* \rangle^{-\gamma\ell_0} \} (1 + |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^\gamma q_0(\theta) \mathbf{M}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\xi_*) \|u(\xi'_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \|u(\xi')\|_{L_x^2}^2 \\ &\leq C \int_{\xi, \xi_*} \{ \langle \xi \rangle^{-\gamma\ell_0} + \langle \xi_* \rangle^{-\gamma\ell_0} \} (1 + |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^\gamma \|u(\xi_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 \|u(\xi)\|_{L_x^2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \|J_1(t)\chi_{\mathbb{D}_3}\|_{L_\xi^2}^2 &\leq C \int \langle \xi \rangle^{-\gamma\ell_0 + \gamma} \|u(\xi)\|_{L_x^2}^2 d\xi \cdot \int \|u(\xi_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 d\xi_* \\ &\quad + C \int \langle \xi_* \rangle^{-\gamma\ell_0 + \gamma} \|u(\xi_*)\|_{L_x^2}^2 d\xi_* \cdot \int \|u(\xi)\|_{L_x^2}^2 d\xi \\ &\leq C \left\| w_{-\frac{\ell_0}{2} + \frac{1}{2}}(t, \xi) u \right\|^2 \|u\|^2 \leq C \mathcal{E}_{N, \ell-1}(t)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Collecting the above estimates, one has the estimate on the gain term

$$\left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{7}{2}\ell_0} \Gamma^+ (\|u\|_{L_x^2}, \|u\|_{L_x^2}) \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \leq C \|J_1(t)\|_{L_\xi^2} \leq C \mathcal{E}_{N, \ell-1}(t).$$

Combining the above with (6.10) and recalling (6.9), we have

$$\left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \Gamma(u, u) \right\|_{Z_1} \leq C \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell}(t). \quad (6.11)$$

Now, we consider the L^2 -norm of $\langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \partial^\alpha \Gamma(u, u)$ with $|\alpha| \leq N-1$. Notice

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \partial^\alpha \Gamma(u, u) \right\| &\leq C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \sum_{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha} \sum_{\pm} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \Gamma^\pm(\partial^{\alpha_1} u, \partial^{\alpha_2} u) \right\| \\ &\leq C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \sum_{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha, |\alpha_1| \leq N/2} \sum_{\pm} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \Gamma^\pm(\|\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha_1} u\|_{H_x^1}, \|\partial^{\alpha_2} u\|_{L_x^2}) \right\|_{L_\xi^2} \\ &\quad + C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \sum_{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha, |\alpha_1| > N/2} \sum_{\pm} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \Gamma^\pm(\|\partial^{\alpha_1} u\|_{L_x^2}, \|\nabla_x \partial^{\alpha_2} u\|_{H_x^1}) \right\|_{L_\xi^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where Sobolev's inequality $\|f\|_{L_x^\infty} \leq C \|\nabla_x f\|_{H_x^1}$ has been used. Then, as for (6.9), one has

$$\sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \partial^\alpha \Gamma(u, u) \right\| \leq C \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1}(t).$$

This together with (6.8), (6.9) and (6.11) give (6.7). \square

Hence, (6.7) together with (1.18) imply

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} G(s) \right\|_{Z_1} + \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N-1} \left\| \langle \xi \rangle^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}\ell_0} \partial^\alpha G(s) \right\| &\leq C \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1}(s) \\ &\leq C(1+s)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} (1+s)^{\frac{3}{2}} \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1}(s) \leq C(1+s)^{-\frac{3}{2}} X_{N,\ell}(t), \end{aligned}$$

for any $0 \leq s \leq t < T$. Further plugging the above estimate into (6.5) and (6.6) yields (6.3) and (6.4), respectively, where the following inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^t (1+t-s)^{-\frac{3}{4}} (1+s)^{-\frac{3}{2}} ds &\leq C(1+t)^{-\frac{3}{4}}, \\ \int_0^t (1+t-s)^{-\frac{5}{4}} (1+s)^{-\frac{3}{2}} ds &\leq C(1+t)^{-\frac{5}{4}}, \end{aligned}$$

together with (1.16) and (5.16) for the definition of $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}$ have been used. This completes the proof of Lemma 6.2. \square

Proof of Lemma 6.1: We divide it by three steps. Recall (1.18) for $X_{N,\ell,q}(t)$.

Step 1. From Lemma 5.2, the time integration of (5.4) directly gives

$$\sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(s) \leq \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(0) \leq C \epsilon_{N,\ell,q}^2. \quad (6.12)$$

Here, noticing $\Delta_x \phi(0, x) = a_0(x)$, we have removed $\|\nabla_x \phi(0, x)\|_{H^N}^2$ from $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(0)$ by the definition of (1.10) or (1.16) in terms of the inequalities

$$\|\nabla_x \phi_0\| \leq C \|a_0\|_{L_x^1}^{2/3} \|a_0\|_{L_x^2}^{1/3}$$

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and

$$\|\nabla_x^2 \phi_0\|_{H^{N-1}} = \|\nabla_x^2 \Delta_x^{-1} a_0\|_{H^{N-1}} \leq C \|a_0\|_{H^{N-1}}.$$

Therefore, $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(0) \leq C \epsilon_{N,\ell,q}^2$ holds true with $\epsilon_{N,\ell,q}$ given by (6.2).

Step 2. Take $0 < \epsilon < 1/2$ small enough. Recall (5.4). Notice that (5.4) also holds true when ℓ is replaced by $\ell - 1$ since all the conditions of Lemma 5.2 are still satisfied under the assumption that $\ell \geq 1 + N$ and $\sup_{0 \leq s < T} X_{N,\ell,q}(s) \leq \delta$ with $\delta > 0$ small enough. Thus, it holds that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1,q}(t) + \kappa \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell-1,q}(t) \leq 0.$$

Multiplying the above inequality by $(1+t)^{3/2+\epsilon}$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left[(1+t)^{\frac{3}{2}+\epsilon} \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1,q}(t) \right] + \kappa (1+t)^{\frac{3}{2}+\epsilon} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell-1,q}(t) \\ \leq \left(\frac{3}{2} + \epsilon \right) (1+t)^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon} \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1,q}(t). \end{aligned} \quad (6.13)$$

Similarly, from (5.4) with ℓ replaced by $\ell - 1/2$ and further multiplying it by $(1+t)^{1/2+\epsilon}$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left[(1+t)^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon} \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-\frac{1}{2},q}(t) \right] + \kappa (1+t)^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell-\frac{1}{2},q}(t) \\ \leq \left(\frac{1}{2} + \epsilon \right) (1+t)^{-\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon} \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-\frac{1}{2},q}(t) \leq C \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-\frac{1}{2},q}(t). \end{aligned} \quad (6.14)$$

Observe from (1.10), (1.16) and (1.17) that

$$\mathcal{D}_{N,\tilde{\ell},q}(t) + \|(b,c)(t)\|^2 + \|\nabla_x \phi(t)\|^2 \geq \kappa \mathcal{E}_{N,\tilde{\ell}-\frac{1}{2},q}(t)$$

holds for any given $\tilde{\ell}$. Then, from taking the time integration over $[0, t]$ of (6.13), (6.14) and (5.4) and further taking the appropriate linear combination, one has

$$\begin{aligned} (1+t)^{\frac{3}{2}+\epsilon} \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1,q}(t) \leq C \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(0) \\ + C \int_0^t (1+s)^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon} \{ \|(b,c)(s)\|^2 + \|\nabla_x \phi(s)\|^2 \} ds. \end{aligned}$$

Here, applying the first estimate (6.3) in Lemma 6.2 to the right-hand time integral term of the above inequality and noticing

$$\int_0^t (1+s)^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon} (1+s)^{-\frac{3}{2}} ds \leq C(1+t)^\epsilon,$$

it follows that

$$(1+t)^{\frac{3}{2}+\epsilon} \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1,q}(t) \leq C \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(0) + C(1+t)^\epsilon \{ \epsilon_{N,\ell}^2 + X_{N,\ell}(t)^2 \},$$

which implies

$$\sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} (1+s)^{\frac{3}{2}} \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell-1,q}(s) \leq C \{ \epsilon_{N,\ell,q}^2 + X_{N,\ell}(t)^2 \} \quad (6.15)$$

holds for any $0 \leq t < T$. Here, $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(0) \leq C\epsilon_{N,\ell,q}^2$ has been used.

Step 3. Notice

$$\|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|_{H^{N-1}}^2 \leq C \left\{ \|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|^2 + \|\nabla_x a\|_{H^{N-2}}^2 \right\} \leq C \left\{ \|\nabla_x^2 \phi\|^2 + \|\nabla_x u\|_{L_x^2(H_x^{N-2})}^2 \right\}.$$

Then, it is direct to deduce from (6.4)

$$\sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} (1+s)^{\frac{5}{2}} \|\nabla_x^2 \phi(s)\|_{H^{N-1}}^2 \leq C \left\{ \epsilon_{N,\ell}^2 + X_{N,\ell}(t)^2 \right\}. \quad (6.16)$$

Hence, the desired estimate (6.1) follows by summing (6.12), (6.15) and (6.16). This completes the proof of Lemma 6.1. \square

Now, we are in a position to give the

Proof of Theorem 1.1: Given $-2 \leq \gamma < 0$, we fix N, ℓ and $q(t) = q + \frac{\lambda}{(1+t)^\nu}$ as stated in Theorem 1.1. The local existence and uniqueness of the solution $u(t, x, \xi)$ to the Cauchy problem (1.5)-(1.7) can be proved in terms of the energy functional $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell,q}(t)$ given by (1.16), and the details are omitted for simplicity; see Ref. 22. Then, one only has to obtain the uniform-in-time estimate over $0 \leq t < T$ with $0 < T \leq \infty$. In fact, by the continuity argument, Lemma 6.1 implies that under the *a priori* assumption (5.1) for $\delta > 0$ small enough, one has

$$X_{N,\ell,q}(t) \leq C\epsilon_{N,\ell,q}^2, \quad 0 \leq t < T, \quad (6.17)$$

provided that $\epsilon_{N,\ell,q}$ defined by (6.2) is sufficiently small. Recalling the condition (1.12) for initial data u_0 which coincides with (6.2), the *a priori* assumption (5.1) can be closed. Then, the global existence follows, and (1.13) holds true from (6.17), (1.18), (1.16) and (1.10). This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1. \square

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