

On the Euler Equations for Nonhomogeneous Fluids (II)

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1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

In this paper we consider the motion of a nonhomogeneous ideal incompressible fluid in a bounded connected open subset Ω of \mathbb{R}^3 . We assume that the boundary Γ is a compact manifold of dimension 2, without boundary, and that Ω is locally situated on one side of Γ . Γ has a finite number of connected components $\Gamma_0, \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_m$ such that Γ_j ($j = 1, \dots, m$) are inside of Γ_0 and outside of one another. In Sections 2 and 3 we assume that Ω is simply connected; in Section 4 we drop this condition. We denote by $v(t, x)$ the velocity field, by $\rho(t, x)$ the mass density, and by $\pi(t, x)$ the pressure. The Euler equations of the motion are (see for instance Sédov [14, Chap. IV, Sect. 1, p. 164])

$$\begin{aligned} \rho \left[\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + (v \cdot \nabla) v - b \right] &= -\nabla \pi & \text{in } Q_{T_0} &= [0, T_0] \times \bar{\Omega}, \\ \operatorname{div} v &= 0 & \text{in } Q_{T_0}, \\ v \cdot n &= 0 & \text{on } [0, T_0] \times \Gamma, \\ \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + v \cdot \nabla \rho &= 0 & \text{in } Q_{T_0}, \\ \rho|_{t=0} &= \rho_0 & \text{in } \bar{\Omega}, \\ v|_{t=0} &= a & \text{in } \bar{\Omega}, \end{aligned} \tag{E}$$

where $n = n(x)$ is the unit outward normal to the boundary Γ , $b = b(t, x)$ is the external force field, and $a = a(x)$, $\rho_0 = \rho_0(x)$ are the initial velocity field and the initial mass density, respectively.

Nonhomogeneous ideal incompressible fluids have been studied by several authors; see, for instance, Sédov [14], Zeytounian [18], Yih [17]. In some problems concerning oceanography (see, for instance, LeBlond and Mysak [10])

or, more generally, rotating systems (see also Kazhikhov [9]), Eq. (E)₁ is replaced by

$$\rho \left[\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + (v \cdot \nabla) v + 2\omega \wedge v - b \right] = -\nabla \pi,$$

where ω is the angular velocity. The perturbation term $2\omega \wedge v$ does not give rise to any difficulty and our results and proofs hold again if one assumes that $\omega \in C^{0,1+\lambda}(Q_{T_0})$.

For the case in which the fluid is homogeneous, i.e., the density ρ_0 (and consequently ρ) is constant, Eqs. (E) have been studied by several authors.

For the three-dimensional case see, for instance, Lichtenstein [11], Ebin and Marsden [6], Swann [15], Kato [8], Bourguignon and Brezis [5], Temam [16], Bardos and Frisch [2].

For nonhomogeneous fluids, Marsden [13] has proved (in the n -dimensional case) the existence of a local solution to problem (E), under the assumption that the external force field $b(t, x)$ is divergence free and tangential to the boundary, i.e., $\text{div } b = 0$ in Q_{T_0} and $b \cdot n = 0$ on $[0, T_0] \times \Gamma$. The proof relies on techniques of Riemannian geometry on infinite-dimensional manifolds.¹ In a previous paper [4], we have proved, in the two-dimensional case, the existence of a local solution to problem (E) without any restriction on the external field $b(t, x)$. In this paper we prove the corresponding result for the three-dimensional case, i.e.,

THEOREM A. *Let Γ be of class $C^{3+\lambda}$, $0 < \lambda < 1$, and let $a \in C^{1+\lambda}(\bar{\Omega})$ with $\text{div } a = 0$ in $\bar{\Omega}$ and $a \cdot n = 0$ on Γ , $\rho_0 \in C^{1+\lambda}(\bar{\Omega})$ with $\rho_0(x) > 0$ for each $x \in \bar{\Omega}$, and $b \in C^{0,1+\lambda}(Q_{T_0})$. Then there exists $T_1 \in [0, T_0]$, $v \in C^{1,1-\lambda}(Q_{T_1})$, $\rho \in C^{1+\lambda,1+\lambda}(Q_{T_1})$, $\pi \in C^{0,2+\lambda}(Q_{T_1})$ such that (v, ρ, π) is a solution of (E) in Q_{T_1} .*

A uniqueness theorem for problem (E) is proved by Graffi [20]. See also [3].

For the study of nonhomogeneous *viscous* incompressible fluids see Kazhikhov [9], [21] Antoncev and Kazhikhov [1], Ladyzhenskaya and Solonnikov [22], Lions [12], and Simon [23].

2. PRELIMINARIES AND EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL SOLUTION OF THE AUXILIARY SYSTEM (A)²

In this section and in Section 3 we assume that Ω is simply connected. We use the notations introduced in [4]. We need only to define for a vector function φ the operator

$$\text{curl } \varphi \equiv \left(\frac{\partial \varphi_3}{\partial x_2} - \frac{\partial \varphi_2}{\partial x_3}, \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x_3} - \frac{\partial \varphi_3}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial \varphi_2}{\partial x_1} - \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x_2} \right).$$

¹ For the analytic case on compact manifolds without boundary see [19].

² See the end of this section.

In the following $\varphi(t, x) \in C^{0,\lambda}(Q_T)$, $T \in]0, T_0]$, will be a generic element of the sphere

$$\|\varphi\|_{0,\lambda} \leq A \quad (2.1)$$

(where the radius A is a positive constant which we will specify below) such that for each $t \in [0, T]$

$$\operatorname{div} \varphi = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(\Omega), \quad \int_{\Gamma_i} \varphi \cdot n \, d\Gamma = 0 \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m. \quad (2.2)$$

This condition is equivalent to the existence of a vector function v_0 such that $\varphi = \operatorname{curl} v_0$; see for instance Foias and Temam [7, Proposition 1.3]. We denote by c, c_1, c_2, \dots , positive constants depending at most on λ and Ω .

Under our assumptions on Ω , the conditions on φ assure the existence of a unique solution $v \in C^{0,1+\lambda}(Q_T)$ of the elliptic system

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{curl} v &= \varphi && \text{in } Q_T, \\ \operatorname{div} v &= 0 && \text{in } Q_T, \\ v \cdot n &= 0 && \text{in } [0, T] \times \Gamma. \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

Moreover,

$$\|v\|_{0,1+\lambda} \leq c \|\varphi\|_{0,\lambda} \leq cA, \quad (2.4)$$

which corresponds to inequality (3.4) in [4].

As in [4] we construct the functions $U(s, t, x)$, $\rho(t, x)$, and $w(t, x)$ and we prove the corresponding Lemmas 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2.

We want now to study the equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} + (v \cdot \nabla) \zeta &= \beta + w \wedge \frac{\nabla \rho}{\rho^2} + (\zeta \cdot \nabla) v && \text{in } Q_T, \\ \zeta|_{t=0} &= \alpha && \text{in } \bar{\Omega}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

where $\alpha \equiv \operatorname{curl} a$ and $\beta \equiv \operatorname{curl} b$.

To solve (2.5) we use the well known method of characteristics. Consider in Q_T the C^1 -change of variable $(t, x) \rightarrow (t, x')$ defined by

$$x' = U(0, t, x), \quad \text{i.e. } x = U(t, 0, x'), \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \quad (2.6)$$

Set $\gamma \equiv \beta + w \wedge (\nabla \rho / \rho^2)$; system (2.5) becomes then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\tilde{\zeta}}{dt}(t, x') &= \gamma(t, U(t, 0, x')) + Dv(t, U(t, 0, x')) \cdot \tilde{\zeta}(t, x'), \\ \tilde{\zeta}(0, x') &= \alpha(x'), \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

where

$$\tilde{\zeta}(t, x') = \zeta(t, U(t, 0, x')), \tag{2.8}$$

i.e.,

$$\zeta(t, x) = \tilde{\zeta}(t, U(0, t, x)). \tag{2.9}$$

Dv is the matrix with $\partial v_i / \partial x_j$ in the i th row, j th column, and $Dv \cdot \tilde{\zeta}$ is the matrix product.

The linear ordinary system (2.7) has a unique solution for each $x' \in \bar{\Omega}$. Since $\alpha(x')$, $\gamma(t, U(t, 0, x'))$ and $Dv(t, U(t, 0, x'))$ are not differentiable with respect to x' , $\tilde{\zeta}(t, x')$ is generally not differentiable with respect to this last variable; hence $\zeta(t, x)$, being not differentiable in x , is not a classical solution of (2.5). For this reason we must define $\zeta(t, x)$ by (2.9). We denote by \bar{c} , \bar{c}_1 , \bar{c}_2, \dots , positive constants depending at most on λ, Ω, ρ_0 , and b .

LEMMA 2.1. *The solution $\tilde{\zeta}$ of system (2.7) satisfies*

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{\zeta}\|_{\infty} &\leq (\|\alpha\|_{\infty} + T\|\gamma\|_{\infty}) e^{T\|Dv\|_{\infty}} \leq \|\alpha\|_{\infty} e^{cTA} + T\bar{c}(A, T), \\ [\tilde{\zeta}]_{0,\lambda} &\leq ([\alpha]_{\lambda} + Te^{\lambda T\|v\|_0, \text{lip}}[\gamma]_{0,\lambda}) e^{T\|Dv\|_{\infty}} \\ &\quad + (\|\alpha\|_{\infty} + T\|\gamma\|_{\infty}) T[Dv]_{0,\lambda} e^{T(2\|Dv\|_{\infty} + \lambda\|v\|_0, \text{lip})} \\ &\leq [\alpha]_{\lambda} e^{cTA} + T\bar{c}(A, T)(1 + \|\alpha\|_{\infty}), \\ [\tilde{\zeta}]_{\lambda,0} &\leq [\|\gamma\|_{\infty} + (\|\alpha\|_{\infty} + T\|\gamma\|_{\infty})\|Dv\|_{\infty}] e^{T\|Dv\|_{\infty}} T^{1-\lambda} \\ &\leq T^{1-\lambda}\bar{c}(A, T)(1 + \|\alpha\|_{\infty}), \end{aligned} \tag{2.10}$$

where $\bar{c}(A, T)$ is nondecreasing in the variables A and T

Proof From (2.7) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} |\tilde{\zeta}(t, x')| &\leq \left| \frac{d\tilde{\zeta}(t, x')}{dt} \right| \leq \|\gamma\|_{\infty} + \|Dv\|_{\infty} |\tilde{\zeta}(t, x')|, \\ |\tilde{\zeta}(0, x')| &= |\alpha(x')|. \end{aligned}$$

By comparison theorems and (2.4) one obtains (2.10)₁. Moreover we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} |\tilde{\zeta}(t, x') - \tilde{\zeta}(t, x'')| &\leq \left| \frac{d}{dt} [\tilde{\zeta}(t, x') - \tilde{\zeta}(t, x'')] \right| \\ &\leq ([\gamma]_{0,\lambda} [U]_{0,\text{lip}}^{\lambda} + \|\tilde{\zeta}\|_{\infty} [Dv]_{0,\lambda} [U]_{0,\text{lip}}^{\lambda}) |x' - x''|^{\lambda} \\ &\quad + \|Dv\|_{\infty} |\tilde{\zeta}(t, x') - \tilde{\zeta}(t, x'')|, \\ |\tilde{\zeta}(0, x') - \tilde{\zeta}(0, x'')| &\leq [\alpha]_{\lambda} |x' - x''|^{\lambda}. \end{aligned}$$

From (2.10)₁ and estimate (3.7)₁ of [4] we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} |\tilde{\zeta}(t, x') - \tilde{\zeta}(t, x'')| &\leq [[\gamma]_{0,\lambda} + (\|\alpha\|_x + T \|\gamma\|_x) [Dv]_{0,\lambda} e^{T\|Dv\|_\infty} e^{\lambda T\|r\|_{0,11p}} \\ &\quad \times |x' - x''|^\lambda + \|Dv\|_x |\tilde{\zeta}(t, x') - \tilde{\zeta}(t, x'')|. \end{aligned}$$

By comparison theorems we have (2.10)₂.

Finally, from (2.7), (2.10)₁, and

$$|\tilde{\zeta}(t, x') - \tilde{\zeta}(s, x')| = \left| \int_s^t \frac{d}{d\tau} \tilde{\zeta}(\tau, x') d\tau \right|$$

one easily gets (2.10)₃. ■

From this lemma, (2.9), and estimate (3.7)₁, (3.7)₂ of [4], one easily obtains

LEMMA 2.2. *The function $\zeta(t, x)$ defined in (2.8) is such that $\zeta \in C^{\lambda,\lambda}(Q_T)$ and*

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{\zeta}\|_x = \|\tilde{\zeta}\|_x &\leq \|\alpha\|_x e^{cTA} + T\bar{c}(A, T), \\ [\tilde{\zeta}]_{0,\lambda} &\leq [\tilde{\zeta}]_{0,\lambda} [U]_{0,11p}^\lambda \leq [\alpha]_\lambda e^{cTA} + T\bar{c}(A, T)(1 + \|\alpha\|_x), \\ [\tilde{\zeta}]_{\lambda,0} &\leq [\tilde{\zeta}]_{\lambda,0} + [\tilde{\zeta}]_{0,\lambda} [U]_{11p,0}^\lambda \leq c_1 A^\lambda [\alpha]_\lambda e^{cTA} + T^{1-\lambda} \bar{c}(A, T)(1 + \|\alpha\|_x). \end{aligned} \tag{2.11}$$

Now we want to prove that for each $t \in [0, T]$ $\operatorname{div} \zeta = 0$ in $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ and $\int_{\Gamma_i} \zeta \cdot n d\Gamma = 0$ for each $i = 1, \dots, m$. First of all we observe that

$$\gamma = \operatorname{curl} g, \quad g \in C^{0,1+\lambda}(Q_T)$$

since $w \wedge \nabla \rho / \rho^2 = \operatorname{curl} w / \rho$, as one easily sees.

LEMMA 2.3. *Let $\zeta(t, x)$ be defined by (2.9). Then*

$$\operatorname{div} \zeta = 0 \quad \text{in} \quad \mathcal{D}'(\Omega) \tag{2.12}$$

and

$$\int_{\Gamma_i} \zeta \cdot n d\Gamma = 0 \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m, \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

Proof. Suppose that $a \in C^2(\bar{\Omega})$, $g \in C^{0,2}(Q_T)$, $v \in C^{0,2}(Q_T)$,

$$\operatorname{div} v = 0 \text{ in } Q_T, \quad \text{and} \quad v \cdot n = 0 \text{ on } [0, T] \times \Gamma.$$

Then the solution $\tilde{\zeta}$ of (2.7) belongs to $C^1(Q_T)$, and consequently $\zeta \in C^1(Q_T)$ is a classical solution of (2.5).

Since

$$(v \cdot \nabla)\zeta - (\zeta \cdot \nabla)v = v \operatorname{div} \zeta - \zeta \operatorname{div} v - \operatorname{curl}(v \wedge \zeta), \tag{2.13}$$

we obtain that ζ is the solution of

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} + v \operatorname{div} \zeta &= \operatorname{curl}(v \wedge \zeta) + \gamma & \text{in } Q_T, \\ \zeta|_{t=0} &= \alpha & \text{in } \bar{\Omega}. \end{aligned}$$

Let $\theta \in C^{1,2}(Q_T)$, $\theta = 0$ on $[0, T] \times \Gamma$, $\theta(T, x) = 0$ for each $x \in \bar{\Omega}$. We obtain

$$\int_{Q_T} \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} \cdot \nabla \theta \, dx \, dt + \int_{Q_T} (\operatorname{div} \zeta) v \cdot \nabla \theta \, dx \, dt = 0,$$

since $\operatorname{curl} \operatorname{grad} = 0$ and $\nabla \theta \wedge n = 0$ on $[0, T] \times \Gamma$. By integrating by parts

$$- \int_{Q_T} \zeta \cdot \nabla \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} \, dx \, dt + \int_{Q_T} (\operatorname{div} \zeta) v \cdot \nabla \theta \, dx \, dt = 0,$$

since $\theta|_{t=T} = 0$, $\operatorname{div} \zeta|_{t=0} = \operatorname{div} \alpha = 0$ and $\theta = 0$ on $[0, T] \times \Gamma$.

Moreover

$$- \int_{Q_T} \zeta \cdot \nabla \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} \, dx \, dt = \int_{Q_T} \operatorname{div} \zeta \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} \, dx \, dt$$

since $\theta|_{[0,T] \times \Gamma} = 0$.

Hence we have

$$\int_{Q_T} \operatorname{div} \zeta \left(\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + v \cdot \nabla \theta \right) \, dx \, dt = 0,$$

and consequently

$$\int_{Q_T} (\operatorname{div} \zeta) \psi \, dx \, dt = 0 \quad \forall \psi \in \mathcal{D}(Q_T),$$

since the solution $\theta(t, x)$ of

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + v \cdot \nabla \theta &= \psi & \text{in } Q_T, \\ \theta|_{t=T} &= 0 & \text{in } \bar{\Omega} \end{aligned}$$

is in $C^{1,2}(Q_T)$ and satisfies $\theta|_{[0,T] \times \Gamma} = 0$.

In conclusion we have $\operatorname{div} \zeta = 0$ in Q_T . Moreover

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Gamma_1} \zeta \cdot n \, d\Gamma &= \int_{\Gamma_1} \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} \cdot n \, d\Gamma = \int_{\Gamma_1} \gamma \cdot n \, d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_1} [(\zeta \cdot \nabla) v - (v \cdot \nabla) \zeta] \cdot n \, d\Gamma \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

by using (2.13). Hence for each $i = 1, \dots, m$

$$\int_{\Gamma_i} \zeta \cdot n \, d\Gamma = \int_{\Gamma_i} \alpha \cdot n \, d\Gamma = 0 \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

If a , g , and v are not regular, we can approximate them in the following way. By using the Friedrichs mollifiers we can find

$$\begin{aligned} a^m &\in C^{2+\lambda}(\bar{\Omega}), a^m \rightarrow a \text{ in } C^{1+\lambda/2}(\bar{\Omega}); & g^m &\in C^{0,2+\lambda}(Q_T), \\ g^m &\rightarrow g \text{ in } C^{0,1+\lambda/2}(Q_T); \tilde{v}^m &\in C^{0,2+\lambda}(Q_T), \tilde{v}^m &\rightarrow v \text{ in } C^{0,1+\lambda/2}(Q_T). \end{aligned}$$

Hence we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha^m &\equiv \operatorname{curl} a^m \rightarrow \alpha && \text{ in } C^{\lambda/2}(\bar{\Omega}), \\ \gamma^m &\equiv \operatorname{curl} g^m \rightarrow \gamma && \text{ in } C^{0,\lambda/2}(Q_T), \\ \varphi^m &\equiv \operatorname{curl} \tilde{v}^m \rightarrow \varphi && \text{ in } C^{0,\lambda/2}(Q_T). \end{aligned}$$

From this last result we see that the solutions v^m of

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{curl} v^m &= \varphi^m && \text{ in } Q_T, \\ \operatorname{div} v^m &= 0 && \text{ in } Q_T, \\ v^m \cdot n &= 0 && \text{ on } [0, T] \times \Gamma \end{aligned}$$

are such that $v^m \in C^{0,2+\lambda}(Q_T)$, $v^m \rightarrow v$ in $C^{0,1+\lambda/2}(Q_T)$. Define now the vector function ζ^m by using α^m , γ^m , and v^m ; by the first part of the proof it follows that $\operatorname{div} \zeta^m = 0$ in Q_T and $\int_{\Gamma_i} \zeta^m \cdot n \, d\Gamma = 0$ for each $i \in [0, T]$. Moreover, by using (2.7), we easily see that $\zeta^m \rightarrow \zeta$ in $C^0(Q_T)$; hence the lemma is proved. ■

The function ζ defined in (2.9) trivially satisfies (2.5)₂; moreover ζ is a solution of (2.5)₁ in the following weak sense:

LEMMA 2.4. *For each $\Phi \in C^1(\bar{\Omega})$ one has*

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\zeta, \Phi) = (\gamma, \Phi) + ((\zeta \cdot \nabla) v, \Phi) + ((v \cdot \nabla) \Phi, \zeta), \tag{2.14}$$

where (\cdot, \cdot) is the scalar product in $L^2(\Omega)$.

Proof. We have

$$\int_{\Omega} \zeta(t, x) \cdot \Phi(x) \, dx = \int_{\Omega} \tilde{\zeta}(t, x') \cdot \Phi(U(t, 0, x')) \, dx';$$

hence by (2.7)₁

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} \zeta(t, x) \cdot \Phi(x) \, dx \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \int_{\Omega} \left[\frac{d\tilde{\zeta}_i}{dt}(t, x') \Phi_i(U(t, 0, x')) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^3 \tilde{\zeta}_i(t, x') \frac{\partial \Phi_i}{\partial x_j}(U(t, 0, x')) \cdot v_j(t, U(t, 0, x')) \right] dx' \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \int_{\Omega} \left\{ \left[\gamma_i(t, x) + \sum_{j=1}^3 \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_j}(t, x) \zeta_j(t, x) \right] \Phi_i(x) + \sum_{j=1}^3 \zeta_i(t, x) \frac{\partial \Phi_i}{\partial x_j}(x) v_j(t, x) \right\} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Now we define the map F as follows. The domain of F consists of the functions φ of the sphere defined by (2.1) with A satisfying

$$A > \|\alpha\|_{\lambda}, \tag{2.15}$$

and such that (2.2) holds.

Finally we put $\zeta = F[\varphi]$.

It follows from estimates (2.11) and from Lemma 2.3 that there exists $T_1 \in]0, T_0]$ such that the set

$$S \equiv \{ \varphi \in C^{\lambda, \lambda}(Q_{T_1}) \mid \|\varphi\|_{0, \lambda} \leq A, [\varphi]_{\lambda, 0} \leq c_1 A^{1+\lambda}, \varphi \text{ satisfies (2.2)} \}$$

satisfies $F[S] \subset S$, where F , the norms, and the seminorms correspond to the interval $[0, T_1]$.

S is a convex set and by the Ascoli–Arzelà theorem it follows that S is compact in $C^0(Q_{T_1})$.

Moreover, as in [4], we obtain

LEMMA 2.5. *The map $F: S \rightarrow S$ has a fixed point.*

Hence we have construct a solution ζ, v, ρ, w of the auxiliary system

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} + (v \cdot \nabla) \zeta &= \beta + w \wedge \frac{\nabla \rho}{\rho^2} + (\zeta \cdot \nabla) v && \text{in } Q_{T_1}, \\
 \operatorname{curl} v &= \zeta && \text{in } Q_{T_1}, \\
 \operatorname{div} v &= 0 && \text{in } Q_{T_1}, \\
 v \cdot n &= 0 && \text{on } [0, T_1] \times \Gamma, \\
 \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + v \cdot \nabla \rho &= 0 && \text{in } Q_{T_1}, \\
 \rho|_{t=0} &= \rho_0 && \text{in } \bar{\Omega}, \\
 \operatorname{curl} w &= 0 && \text{in } Q_{T_1}, \\
 \operatorname{div} w &= \frac{\nabla \rho}{\rho} \cdot w + \rho \sum_{i,j} (D_i v_j) (D_j v_i) - \rho \operatorname{div} b && \text{in } Q_{T_1}, \\
 w \cdot n &= -\rho \sum_{i,j} (D_i n_j) v_i v_j - \rho b \cdot n && \text{on } [0, T_1] \times \Gamma, \\
 \zeta|_{t=0} &= \alpha && \text{in } \bar{\Omega},
 \end{aligned} \tag{A}$$

where equation (A)₁ is satisfied in the sense described in Lemma 2.4.

3. EXISTENCE OF A SOLUTION OF SYSTEM (E)

First we prove that $D_i v$ exists in the classical sense and belongs to $C^{0,\lambda}(Q_{T_1})$. We need two lemmas:

LEMMA 3.1. *If $v \in C^1(\bar{\Omega})$, $\operatorname{div} v = 0$ in Ω , and $v \cdot n = 0$ on Γ , then*

$$\begin{aligned}
 \operatorname{div}[(v \cdot \nabla) v] &= \sum_{i,j} (D_i v_j) (D_j v_i) && \text{in } \Omega, \\
 [(v \cdot \nabla) v] \cdot n &= -\sum_{i,j} (D_i n_j) v_i v_j, && \text{on } \Gamma,
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

where the operator div is in the sense of distributions in Ω .

See Bourguignon and Brezis [5, Sect. 3] or Temam [16, Lemma 1.1].

LEMMA 3.2. *If $v \in C^1(\bar{\Omega})$, $\zeta = \operatorname{curl} v$, we have*

$$((v \cdot \nabla)v, \operatorname{curl} \Phi) = -((v \cdot \nabla)\Phi, \zeta) - ((\zeta \cdot \nabla)v, \Phi) \quad \forall \Phi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega). \tag{3.2}$$

Proof. If $v \in C^2(\bar{\Omega})$, by a direct computation we have

$$\operatorname{curl}[(v \cdot \nabla)v] = (v \cdot \nabla)\zeta - (\zeta \cdot \nabla)v + (\operatorname{div} v)\zeta,$$

and this leads easily to (3.2).

If $v \in C^1(\bar{\Omega})$, we approximate it with $v_n \in C^2(\bar{\Omega})$. ■

Now we can prove the existence of $D_t v$.

LEMMA 3.3. *We have*

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = b + \frac{w}{\rho} - (v \cdot \nabla)v \quad \text{in} \quad Q_{T_1}; \tag{3.3}$$

hence $\partial v_i / \partial t \in C^{0,\lambda}(Q_{T_1})$.

Proof. Let $\Phi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$. We have

$$D_t(v, \operatorname{curl} \Phi) = D_t(\zeta, \Phi)$$

since $\operatorname{curl} v = \varphi = \zeta$. Moreover from (2.14), (3.2), and the equation $\gamma = \operatorname{curl}(b + w/\rho)$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} D_t(v, \operatorname{curl} \Phi) &= (\gamma, \Phi) + ((\zeta \cdot \nabla)v, \Phi) + ((v \cdot \nabla)\Phi, \zeta) \\ &= (\gamma, \Phi) - ((v \cdot \nabla)v, \operatorname{curl} \Phi) = \left(b + \frac{w}{\rho} - (v \cdot \nabla)v, \operatorname{curl} \Phi\right). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} (\varepsilon, \operatorname{curl} \Phi) &= (v(0, \cdot), \operatorname{curl} \Phi) + \int_0^t \left(b + \frac{w}{\rho} - (v \cdot \nabla)v, \operatorname{curl} \Phi\right) d\tau \\ &= (v(0, \cdot) + \int_0^t [b + \frac{w}{\rho} - (v \cdot \nabla)v] (\tau, \cdot) d\tau, \operatorname{curl} \Phi), \end{aligned}$$

and consequently for each $t \in [0, T_1]$

$$v(t, x) - v(0, x) - \int_0^t \left[b + \frac{w}{\rho} - (v \cdot \nabla)v\right] (\tau, x) d\tau = \nabla \mathcal{E}(t, x),$$

where $\mathcal{E} \in C^{1,\lambda}(\bar{\Omega})$, $\forall t \in [0, T_1]$. From (2.3)₂, (2.3)₃, (A)₈, (A)₉, and (3.1) we conclude that $\operatorname{div} \nabla \mathcal{E} = 0$ in the distributions sense, and $\nabla \mathcal{E} \cdot n = 0$ on $[0, T_1] \times \Gamma$, hence (3.3). ■

From (3.3) and (A)₇ it follows that

$$\rho \left[\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + (v \cdot \nabla)v - b \right] = -\nabla \pi \quad \text{in} \quad Q_{T_1},$$

i.e., (E)₁ holds, with $\pi \in C^{0,2+\lambda}(Q_{T_1})$ (see Lemmas 4.1 and 4.2 in [4]). Furthermore

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{curl}(v|_{t=0} - a) &= \zeta|_{t=0} - \alpha = 0 && \text{in } \bar{\Omega}, \\ \operatorname{div}(v|_{t=0} - a) &= 0 && \text{in } \bar{\Omega}, \\ (v|_{t=0} - a) \cdot n &= 0 && \text{on } \Gamma, \end{aligned}$$

and consequently (E)₆ holds.

Finally, as in Remark 5.5 in [4], we prove that $\rho \in C^{1+\lambda,1+\lambda}(Q_{T_1})$, and the proof of Theorem A is complete.

4. THE CASE Ω NOT SIMPLY CONNECTED

By the hypotheses on the domain Ω (see Section 1), it is clear that if Ω is not simply connected, one can make it so by means of a finite number of regular cuts. The number N of these cuts is the dimension of the first cohomology space $H_c(\Omega)$ of Ω , i.e., the quotient of the space of closed differential forms by the space of exact differential forms.

Moreover one can construct N functions q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N such that $v^{(k)} = \operatorname{grad} q_k$ are linearly independent and satisfy $v^{(k)} \in C^{1+\lambda}(\bar{\Omega})$, $\operatorname{div} v^{(k)} = 0$, $\operatorname{curl} v^{(k)} = 0$, $v^{(k)} \cdot n = 0$ on Γ . These $v^{(k)}$ are a basis of the space $H_c(\Omega)$.

Finally, one sees that a function w is a gradient if and only if $\operatorname{curl} w = 0$ and $(w, v^{(k)}) = 0$ for each $k = 1, \dots, N$ (for these results see Foias and Temam [7, Remark 1.2, Lemma 1.3, and Proposition 1.1]).

We can orthonormalize the $v^{(k)}$; if we denote the orthonormal system thus obtained by $u^{(k)}$, we have constructed a system of vectors which has the properties of that introduced in [8, Sect. 1].

The difference between two solutions v_1 and v_2 of (2.3) is given by

$$v_1(t, x) - v_2(t, x) = \sum_k \theta_k(t) u^{(k)}(x),$$

where the $\theta_k(t) \in C^0([0, T])$ are arbitrary.

We denote by $v(t, x)$ the solution of (2.3) such that $(v, u^{(k)}) = 0$ for each $k = 1, \dots, N$. Such a solution is obviously unique, and we have

$$\|v\|_{0,1+\lambda} \leq c \|\varphi\|_{0,\lambda}.$$

Moreover each solution \bar{v} of (2.3) can be written in the form

$$\bar{v}(t, x) = v(t, x) + \sum_k \theta_k(t) u^{(k)}(x).$$

Hence, arguing as in [4], we obtain a solution $\bar{v}, \bar{\rho}, \bar{w}$ of system (6.1)–(6.5) and

we prove Lemmas 7.2 and 7.3 and Remark 7.4 of [4]. Hence, by proceeding as before, we construct a function $\bar{\zeta}$ which satisfies the usual properties and we find a fixed point $\varphi = \bar{\zeta}$ (see Section 2 of this paper). The regularity of $D_t \bar{v}$ is proved as in Lemma 3.3 of this paper, by also using the fact that

$$D_t(\bar{v}, \mathbf{u}^{(k)}) = \left(\frac{\bar{w}}{\bar{\rho}} - (\bar{v} \cdot \nabla) \bar{v} + b, \mathbf{u}^{(k)} \right), \quad \forall t \in [0, T_1], \quad \forall k = 1, \dots, N;$$

finally one has

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{curl}(\bar{v}|_{t=0} - a) &= \bar{\zeta}|_{t=0} - \alpha = 0 && \text{in } \bar{\Omega}, \\ (\bar{v}|_{t=0} - a, \mathbf{u}^{(k)}) &= 0, && \forall k = 1, \dots, N, \\ \operatorname{div}(\bar{v}|_{t=0} - a) &= 0 && \text{in } \bar{\Omega}, \\ (\bar{v}|_{t=0} - a) \cdot \mathbf{n} &= 0 && \text{on } \Gamma, \end{aligned}$$

that is, $\bar{v}|_{t=0} = a$ in $\bar{\Omega}$.

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