ON ALMOST GLOBAL EXISTENCE AND LOCAL WELL-POSEDNESS FOR SOME 3-D QUASI-LINEAR WAVE EQUATIONS

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ABSTRACT. We study the Cauchy problem for a quasilinear wave equation with low-regularity data. A space-time $L^2$ estimate for the variable coefficient wave equation plays a central role for this purpose. Assuming radial symmetry, we establish the almost global existence of a strong solution for every small initial data in $H^2 \times H^1$. We also show that the initial value problem is locally well-posed.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we consider the quasilinear wave equation

\[
\partial_t^2 \phi - \Delta \phi + h(\phi) \Delta \phi = F(\partial \phi) \quad \text{in} \ (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^3
\]

for a real-valued function $\phi = \phi(t, x)$, obeying the initial conditions

\[
\phi(0, \cdot) = f, \quad \partial_t \phi(0, \cdot) = g.
\]
We assume that the function $h$ is smooth and $h(0) = 0$. We also assume that $F$ is smooth and quadratic with respect to $\partial \phi = (\partial \phi / \partial t, \nabla \phi)$, where $\nabla \phi = (\partial \phi / \partial x^1, \partial \phi / \partial x^2, \partial \phi / \partial x^3)$. Assuming radial symmetry, we aim at showing the almost global existence of a low regularity solution to the initial value problem (1.1), (1.2).

When the equation (1.1) is semilinear, namely $h \equiv 0$, Ponce-Sideris [14] proved that the initial value problem (1.1), (1.2) is locally well-posed in $H^s \times H^{s-1}$ if $s > 2$. Smith-Tataru [17] further proved that the local well-posedness in $H^s \times H^{s-1}$ holds for the quasilinear case with $s > 2$. These results are sharp in general, because the examples given by Lindblad [9], [10] show that we cannot always expect the well-posedness for quadratically nonlinear wave equations in $H^2 \times H^1$. However, as far as radially symmetric solutions are concerned, there is still room for investigation.

Indeed, we know by Klainerman-Machedon [6] that the Cauchy problem (1.1), (1.2) is locally well-posed in $H^2_{rad} \times H^2_{rad}$, if the equation (1.1) is semilinear (here $H^m_{rad}$ denotes the set of all functions in $H^m$ with radial symmetry). Furthermore, the $H^2 \times H^1$-radial solutions to the semilinear Cauchy problem exist almost globally for small initial data (Hidano-Yokoyama [3]). In view of these results, it is naturally expected to extend the study of the $H^2 \times H^1$-radial solutions to the quasilinear case. We will show that the quasilinear Cauchy problem (1.1), (1.2) is locally well-posed in $H^2_{rad} \times H^2_{rad}$, and the radial solutions exist almost globally for small data.

Before stating the main result, let us introduce some function spaces. For brevity’s sake, we set $S_T = (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^3$ in what follows. Firstly, we set

$$X_m(T) = \bigcap_{j=0}^{m} C^j([0, T]; H^{m-j}_{rad}(\mathbb{R}^3))$$

for $m = 1, 2$. For each $\phi \in X_m(T)$ we let

$$||\phi||_{X_m(T)} = ||\phi||_{L^\infty([0, T]; L^2(\mathbb{R}^3))} + ||\phi||_{E_m(T)},$$

where

$$||\phi||_{E_1(T)} = ||\nabla \phi||_{L^\infty([0, T]; L^2(\mathbb{R}^3))} + ||\partial_t \phi||_{L^\infty([0, T]; L^2(\mathbb{R}^3))},$$

$$||\phi||_{E_2(T)} = ||\phi||_{E_1(T)} + ||\nabla \phi||_{E_1(T)} + ||\partial_t \phi||_{E_1(T)}.$$ Secondly, we define

$$Y_m(T) = \{ \phi : \phi \in L^1_{loc}(S_T), \ ||\phi||_{Y_m(T)} < \infty \}$$

for $m = 1, 2$, where

$$||\phi||^2_{Y_1(T)} = (1 + T)^{-1/2} \left( ||r^{-5/4} \phi||^2_{L^2(S_T)} + ||r^{-1/4} \partial \phi||^2_{L^2(S_T)} \right),$$

$$||\phi||^2_{Y_2(T)} = ||\phi||^2_{Y_1(T)} + ||\partial \phi||^2_{Y_1(T)}.$$ Lastly, we set

$$Z_m(T) = \{ \phi : \phi \in L^1_{loc}(S_T), \ ||\phi||_{Z_m(T)} < \infty \}$$

for $m = 1, 2$, where

$$||\phi||^2_{Z_1(T)} = (\log(2 + T))^{-1} \left( ||r^{-5/4} \phi||^2_{L^2(S_T)} + ||r^{-1/4} \partial \phi||^2_{L^2(S_T)} \right),$$

$$||\phi||^2_{Z_2(T)} = ||\phi||^2_{Z_1(T)} + ||\partial \phi||^2_{Z_1(T)}.$$ It is obvious that $Y_m(T) \subset Z_m(T)$. Moreover, we can easily see that $C^2([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^3) \cap X_m(T) \subset Y_m(T)$ ($m = 1, 2$).
Now let us state our main result. Since we are concerned only with radially symmetric solutions, we naturally suppose that $F(\partial \phi)$ takes the form
\[
F(\partial \phi) = a(\partial_1 \phi)^2 + b|\nabla \phi|^2
\]
for some constants $a$, $b$. After reading the proofs of our results, however, the readers will be convinced that we can more generally consider the case where the coefficients $a$ and $b$ depend on the unknown function $\phi$.

**Theorem 1.1.** Suppose that $(f, g) \in H_{\text{rad}}^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \times H_{\text{rad}}^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$. Then there exist positive constants $A_1, \varepsilon_0$ with the following property: if $(f, g)$ and $T$ satisfy
\[
\|\nabla f\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)} = \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_0 \quad \text{and} \quad T \leq \exp(A_1 \varepsilon^{-1}),
\]
then the initial value problem (1.1), (1.2) has a solution $\phi \in X_2(T) \cap Y_2(T)$. Also, there exists a constant $M_1$ such that
\[
\|\phi\|_{X_2(T)} + \|\phi\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)} \leq M_1 \varepsilon.
\]
Here the constants $A_1, \varepsilon_0$ and $M_1$ depend on $a$, $b$, and $h$.

We notice that, since $H^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \subset L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$ and $H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \subset L^4(\mathbb{R}^3)$, the solution $\phi$ satisfies the equation (1.1) as an equality in $C([0, T]; L^2(\mathbb{R}^3))$.

We next consider the problem of well-posedness. It is shown in Section 6.2 that the solution map $\Phi : (f, g) \mapsto \phi$ is well-defined on the set
\[
D(\varepsilon_0) = \{(f, g) : (f, g) \in H_{\text{rad}}^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \times H_{\text{rad}}^1(\mathbb{R}^3), \|\nabla f\|_{H^1} + \|g\|_{H^1} < \varepsilon_0\},
\]
where $\phi$ is a solution of (1.1), (1.2) with $T = T_\varepsilon = \exp(A_1 \varepsilon^{-1})$, $\varepsilon = \|\nabla f\|_{H^1} + \|g\|_{H^1}$. $D(\varepsilon_0)$ is a topological space with the relative topology in $H^1 \times L^2$. Our result of well-posedness is as follows:

**Theorem 1.2.** The solution map $\Phi : D(\varepsilon_0) \to X_1(T_{\varepsilon_0}) \cap Y_1(T_{\varepsilon_0})$ is well-defined and Lipschitz continuous.

As mentioned above, Hidano-Yokoyama [3] proved the almost global existence of radial solutions for small initial data in $H^2 \times H^1$, when $h = 0$ in (1.1). The key to this result is an effective use of the space-time $L^2$ estimate
\[
(\log(2 + T))^{-1/2} \left( \|r^{-3/2 + \mu} \langle r \rangle^{-\mu} \phi\|_{L^2((0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^3)} + \|r^{-1/2 + \mu} \langle r \rangle^{-\mu} \partial_1 \phi\|_{L^2((0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^3)} \right)
\leq C \left( \|\nabla f\|_{L^2} + \|g\|_{L^2} + \int_0^T \|\Box \phi(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2} \, dt \right),
\]
where $r = |x|$, $\langle r \rangle = (1 + r^2)^{1/2}$ and $0 < \mu < 1/2$ (see also the Appendix of [2]). This type of inequalities is originally used in Keel-Smith-Sogge [4], and is very useful, because the right-hand side of (1.3) is the same as that of the energy inequality. Combining this with the energy inequality, we can prove the almost global existence for the semilinear case. In order to adapt this approach in such a way that we can apply it to the present problem, we need to prove a space-time $L^2$ estimate for the perturbed wave equation with a variable coefficient differential operator (Theorem 2.1). This generalization was made by Metcalfe-Sogge [13]. They employed the
method of Rodnianski [18]; a space-time $L^2$ estimate is derived from an energy-momentum tensor, which produces several useful quantities by contracting it with suitable vector fields. The vector field they used takes the form

$$X = \sum_{a=1}^{n} \frac{x^a}{\rho + r} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^a}.$$  

Since their $L^2_{t,x}$ estimate was for the study of the initial-boundary value problem in a domain exterior to obstacles, we need to supplement their estimate with an $L^2_{t,x}$ estimate near the spatial origin. Following Metcalfe’s suggestions [12], we use

$$X = \sum_{a=1}^{n} \left( \frac{r}{1 + r} \right)^\kappa \frac{x^a}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^a}$$

for $0 < \kappa < 1$ and obtain a space-time $L^2$ estimate on $(0, T) \times \{r < 1\}$. Combining this with the estimate of Metcalfe-Sogge [13], we can obtain an $L^2_{t,x}$ estimate on $(0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^n$, which plays a central role in our study.

As is usual with the quasilinear problems, we are faced with difficulties caused by the loss of derivatives, when solving the initial value problem (1.1), (1.2) by successive approximations. Because the loss of derivatives prevents us from showing the convergence of the second derivatives, it is far from trivial to prove that the solution thereby obtained has the regularity stated in Theorem 1.1. In order to prove the continuity in time of the second derivatives, we use the method of difference quotient. We find in the proof that the space-time $L^2$ estimate is useful again.

We remark that the global existence fails in general, by results of John [5] and Sideris [16]. However, if we assume $F(\partial \phi) = 0$, we can expect the global existence of the Cauchy problem (1.1), (1.2). Lindblad [8] proved the global existence of classical solutions for small and smooth initial data, assuming radial symmetry. When the radial symmetry is not imposed, it is known by Alinhac [1] that the global existence remains true for small and smooth data. Furthermore, Lindblad [11] considered more general quasilinear wave equations and proved the global existence result. Note that all these results require considerably higher regularity and rapider decay at infinity for the initial data. A significant improvement of this regularity assumption was made by Zhou-Lei [19], in which they proved the global existence for radially symmetric, compactly supported $H^2 \times H^1$-data. Compared with that of [19], our analysis in this paper is not strong enough to prove the global existence, but our result in Theorem 1.1 does not require this support assumption.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we prove a space-time $L^2$ estimate for a classical solution of the perturbed wave equation. Almost global existence for the initial value problem (1.1), (1.2) is established from Section 3 through Section 5. In Section 3, we define a sequence of successive approximation to (1.1), (1.2) and prove its convergence to a weak solution on some time interval. It turns out to be a strong solution in Section 4, and we further see that the solution actually exists almost globally in Section 5. In Section 6, we discuss the problem of the continuity property of the solution map. For this purpose, we need to confirm that the space-time $L^2$ estimate is applicable to our low-regularity solutions. After that, we show that the solution map is well-defined, and prove Theorem 1.2.

Throughout this paper, we use the summation convention that repeated upper and lower indices are summed. We use the Greek letters $\alpha, \beta, \ldots$ when the indices are from 0 to $n$, and the Latin letters $a, b, \ldots$ when they run from 1 to
n. We also use the geometric convention of raising and lowering indices with respect to the Minkowski metric \((g_{\alpha\beta}) = \text{diag}(-1, 1, \ldots, 1)\). As usual, \(x^0 = t\) and \(x = (x^1, x^2, \ldots, x^n)\) are the time and the space variables respectively. We remark that \(\partial^0 = \partial_t = \partial / \partial x^0\), \(\partial^a = \partial / \partial x^a\) for \(a = 1, 2, \ldots, n\). We set \(r = |x|\) and \(\langle r \rangle = (r^2 + |x|^2)^{1/2}\). We let \(|\cdot|\) denote the usual Euclidean norm, namely \(|x| = [(x^1)^2 + \cdots + (x^n)^2]^{1/2}\), \(|\phi| = [(\partial_t \phi)^2 + (\partial_1 \phi)^2 + \cdots + (\partial_n \phi)^2]^{1/2}\) etc.

2. Space-time \(L^2\) estimate

In this section, we consider the variable coefficient linear wave equation

\[
\partial^2_t \phi - \Delta \phi + h^{\alpha\beta}(t, x) \partial_\alpha \partial_\beta \phi = F(t, x) \quad \text{in } (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^n,
\]

with initial data

\[
\phi(0, \cdot) = f \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n), \quad \partial_t \phi(0, \cdot) = g \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n.
\]

Using the geometric multiplier method of Rodnianski in the Appendix of [18], we are going to prove a local-in-time space-time \(L^2\) estimate for a solution of (2.1), (2.2) when \(n \geq 3\).

Let \(h^{\alpha\beta} \in C^1([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n)\) \((\alpha, \beta = 0, 1, \ldots, n)\), and suppose that they are uniformly bounded together with their first derivatives. In addition, we require that they satisfy the following conditions:

\[
\sum_{\alpha, \beta = 0}^{n} |h^{\alpha\beta}(t, x)| \leq \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{for } (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n,
\]

\[
h^{\alpha\beta}(t, x) = h^{\beta\alpha}(t, x) \quad \text{for } (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \alpha, \beta = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, n.
\]

Theorem 2.1. Let \(n \geq 3\). Let \(\phi \in C^2([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n)\) be a solution of the initial value problem (2.1), (2.2) satisfying the conditions (2.3), (2.4). Suppose also that \(\phi \in C^0([0, T]; H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)) \cap C^1([0, T]; L^2(\mathbb{R}^n))\) and

\[
|\partial \phi||F| + \frac{|\phi||F|}{r^{1-2\mu}(r)^{2\mu}} \in L^1((0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^n).
\]

Then, for \(0 < \mu < 1/2\), we have

\[
(1 + T)^{-2\mu}\left(\|r^{-3/2 + \mu} \phi\|^2_{L^2((0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^n)} + \|r^{-1/2 + \mu} \partial \phi\|^2_{L^2((0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^n)}\right)
\]

\[
+ (\log(2 + T))^{-1} \left(\|r^{-3/2 + \mu} \partial \phi\|^2_{L^2((0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^n)} \right)
\]

\[
\leq C_1 \left(\|\nabla f\|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)} + \|g\|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}\right)
\]

\[
+ C_1 \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left(|\partial \phi||F| + \frac{|\phi||F|}{r^{1-2\mu}(r)^{2\mu}} + |\partial h||\partial \phi|^2 \right.
\]

\[
\left. + |\partial h||\partial \phi|^2 \right) \left. \frac{1}{r^{1-2\mu}(r)^{2\mu}} + \frac{|h||\partial \phi|^2}{r^{1-2\mu}(r)^{2\mu}} + \frac{|h||\partial \phi|^2}{r^{2-2\mu}(r)^{2\mu}} \right) dx dt.
\]

Here \(C_1\) is a positive constant depending only on \(n\) and \(\mu\).

We begin by considering a weighted \(L^2\) estimate of the solution of (2.1), (2.2) over the domain \((0, T) \times \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, |x| < 1\}\).
Lemma 2.2. Let \( n \geq 3 \). Let \( \phi \) be the classical solution of (2.1), (2.2) stated in Theorem 2.1. Then, for \( 0 < \mu < 1/2 \), we have

\[
(2.6) \quad \int_0^T \int_{\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| < 1\}} \left( \frac{(\partial_t \phi)^2 + |\nabla \phi|^2}{r^{1-2\mu}} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{3-2\mu}} \right) dx dt \\
\leq C(\|\nabla f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}^2 + \|g\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}^2) \\
+ C \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( |\partial \phi||F| + \frac{|\phi||F|}{r^{1-2\mu}(r)^{2\mu}} + |\partial h||\partial \phi|^2 \\
+ |\partial h||\phi \partial \phi| + \frac{|h||\partial \phi|^2}{r^{1-2\mu}(r)^{2\mu}} + \frac{|h||\phi \partial \phi|}{r^{2-2\mu}(r)^{2\mu}} \right) dx dt.
\]

Here \( C \) is a positive constant depending only on \( n \) and \( \mu \).

Proof. Following [13], we define the energy-momentum tensor

\[
(2.7) \quad Q_{\alpha\beta}[\phi] = \partial_{\alpha} \phi \partial_{\beta} \phi - \frac{1}{2} g_{\alpha\beta} \partial^n \phi \partial_n \phi \\
- g_{\alpha\gamma} h^{\gamma \delta} \partial_\delta \phi \partial_\beta \phi + \frac{1}{2} g_{\alpha\beta} h^{\gamma \delta} \partial_\gamma \phi \partial_\delta \phi
\]

for \( \alpha, \beta = 0, 1, \ldots, n \), where \( (g_{\alpha\beta}) = \text{diag}(-1, 1, \ldots, 1) \). For a function \( f(r) \) suitably chosen later, we set

\[
(2.8) \quad X^0 = 0, \quad X^a = \frac{f(r)x^a}{r} \quad \text{for} \quad a = 1, 2, \ldots, n.
\]

Contracting the energy-momentum tensor \( Q[\phi] \) with the vector field \( X \), we define

\[
(2.9) \quad P_\alpha[\phi, X] = Q_{\alpha\beta}[\phi] X^\beta \quad \text{for} \quad \alpha = 0, 1, \ldots, n.
\]

We also set

\[
\pi_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\alpha X_\beta + \partial_\beta X_\alpha) \quad \text{for} \quad \alpha, \beta = 0, 1, \ldots, n.
\]

Then we have

\[
\partial^\alpha P_\alpha[\phi, X] = f'(r)(\partial_t \phi)^2 + \frac{f(r)}{r} \nabla \phi^2 - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \pi \partial^n \phi \partial_n \phi - f(r)(\partial_t \phi)^2 \\
- f(r) \partial_t h^{\gamma \delta} \partial_\delta \phi \partial_\gamma \phi + \frac{1}{2} f(r) \partial_t h^{\gamma \delta} \partial_\delta \phi \partial_\gamma \phi - \frac{x^a}{r} f'(r) h^{a \delta} \partial_\delta \phi \partial_t \phi \\
+ \frac{x^a f(r)}{r^2} h^{a \delta} \partial_\delta \phi \partial_t \phi - \frac{f(r)}{r} h^{a \delta} \partial_\delta \phi \partial_a \phi + \frac{1}{2} (\text{tr} \pi) h^{\gamma \delta} \partial_\gamma \phi \partial_\delta \phi,
\]

where

\[
\text{tr} \pi = f'(r) + (n - 1) \frac{f(r)}{r}
\]

(see [13], p.199). Here \( \nabla \phi \) denotes the angular portion of the spatial gradient \( \nabla \phi \).

Furthermore, we introduce the modified momentum density

\[
(2.10) \quad \bar{P}_\alpha[\phi, X] = P_\alpha[\phi, X] + \frac{n - 1}{2} \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) \phi \partial_\alpha \phi \\
- \frac{n - 1}{4} \partial_\alpha \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) \phi^2 - \frac{n - 1}{2} \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) g_{\alpha\gamma} h^{\gamma \beta} \phi \partial_\beta \phi
\]
for \( \alpha = 0, 1, \ldots, n \). Then we obtain

\[
\partial^\alpha \bar{P}_\alpha \phi, X = \frac{f'(r)(\partial_r \phi)^2 + f(r)}{r} \lVert \nabla \phi \rVert^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{f'(r)}{r} \partial^\gamma \phi \partial_\gamma \phi
\]

(2.11)

where

\[
R = -f(r)(\partial_r \phi)F - \frac{n-1}{2} \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) \phi F
\]

(2.12)

\[
+ f(r)\left( \partial_\gamma h^\gamma \partial \delta \phi \right) \partial_r \phi + \frac{n-1}{2} \phi \nabla \phi^2 - \frac{1}{2} f'(r) \partial^\gamma \phi \partial_\gamma \phi
\]

(see [13], pp.199–200). The identity (2.11) further leads to

(2.13)

\[
\partial^\alpha \bar{P}_\alpha \phi, X = \frac{1}{2} f'(r)(\nabla \phi^2 + |\partial_r \phi|^2)
\]

\[+
\left( \frac{f(r)}{r} - f'(r) \right) \nabla \phi^2 - \frac{n-1}{4} \Delta \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) \phi^2 + R.
\]

Now we set

(2.14)

\[f(r) = \left( \frac{r}{1+r} \right)^\kappa \]

for \( 0 < \kappa < 1 \). We first show that

(2.15)

\[\frac{f(r)}{r} - f'(r) \geq (1-\kappa) \frac{r^{\kappa-1}}{(1+r)^\kappa}\]

and

(2.16)

\[\Delta \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) \leq - \frac{\kappa(1-\kappa)}{r^{3-\kappa}(1+r)^{2+\kappa}}.\]

In fact, (2.15) is an immediate result of

\[\frac{f(r)}{r} - f'(r) = \frac{r^{\kappa-1}}{(1+r)^\kappa} \left( 1 - \frac{\kappa}{1+r} \right).\]

In order to compute \( \Delta \left( f(r)/r \right) \), we note that

\[
\Delta \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) = \frac{1}{r^{n-1}} \partial_r \left( r^{n-1} \partial_r \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) \right)
\]

\[= \frac{1}{r^{n-1}} \partial_r \left( r^{n-2} \left( f'(r) - \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) \right).\]
Using this identity, we have

\[
\Delta \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) = r^{1-n} \partial_r \left( \frac{r^{n-3+\kappa}}{(1+r)^\kappa} \left( \frac{\kappa}{1+r} - 1 \right) \right)
\]

\[
= \left( \frac{(n-3+\kappa)r^{3+\kappa}}{(1+r)^\kappa} - \frac{\kappa r^{2+\kappa}}{(1+r)^{\kappa+1}} \right) \left( \frac{\kappa}{1+r} - 1 \right)
\]

\[
- \frac{\kappa r^{-2+\kappa}}{(1+r)^{\kappa+2}},
\]

which gives (2.16), because

\[
\Delta \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) \leq \left( \frac{\kappa r^{-3+\kappa}}{(1+r)^\kappa} - \frac{\kappa r^{-2+\kappa}}{(1+r)^{\kappa+1}} \right) \left( \frac{\kappa}{1+r} - 1 \right)
\]

\[
\leq - \frac{\kappa (1-\kappa)}{r^{3-\kappa}(1+r)^{2+\kappa}}.
\]

If we integrate (2.13) over \([0,T] \times \mathbb{R}^n\) and apply the divergence theorem, we get

\[
\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left[ \frac{1}{2} f'(r)(|\nabla \phi|^2 + |\partial_t \phi|^2) + \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} - f'(r) \right) |\nabla \phi|^2 \right] dx dt
\]

\[
- \frac{n-1}{4} \Delta \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) \varphi^2 dx dt
\]

\[
= - \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \tilde{P}_0[\phi, X](T, x) dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \tilde{P}_0[\phi, X](0, x) dx - \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \tilde{R} dx dt.
\]

To obtain (2.17), we should note that there exists a sequence \(\{R_k\}\) so that \(R_k \to \infty\) and

\[
\lim_{k \to \infty} \int_0^T \int_{|x|=R_k} \tilde{P}_a[\phi, X](t, x) : \frac{x^a}{r} dS dt = 0.
\]

Indeed, the existence of such a sequence can be easily deduced from \(\tilde{P}_a[\phi, X] : x^a/r \in L^1([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n)\). To see this integrability, we recall (2.7)-(2.10) and obtain

\[
\tilde{P}_a[\phi, X] : \frac{x^a}{r} = P_a[\phi, X] : \frac{x^a}{r} + \frac{n-1}{2} f(r) \phi \partial_x \phi
\]

\[
- \frac{n-1}{4} \partial_r \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) \varphi^2 - \frac{n-1}{2} \frac{x_n f(r)}{r^2} h^{a\beta} \phi \partial_\beta \phi
\]

\[
= f(r)(\partial_r \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} f(r) \partial_r \phi \partial_r \phi - \frac{x_n f(r)}{r} h^{a\beta} \partial_\beta \phi \partial_r \phi
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} f(r) h^{a\beta} \partial_\beta \phi \partial_r \phi + \frac{n-1}{2} f(r) \phi \partial_r \phi
\]

\[
- \frac{n-1}{4} \partial_r \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) \varphi^2 - \frac{n-1}{2} \frac{x_n f(r)}{r^2} h^{a\beta} \phi \partial_\beta \phi.
\]

This gives the estimate

\[
\tilde{P}_a[\phi, X] : \frac{x^a}{r} \leq C \left( |\partial \phi|^2 + \frac{\varphi^2}{r^2} \right),
\]

because \(|f(r)| \leq 1, |\partial_t (f(r)/r)| \leq Cr^{-2}\) by (2.14). Hence we conclude \(\tilde{P}_a[\phi, X] : x^a/r \in L^1([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n)\) by Hardy’s inequality.
So it remains to bound the right-hand side of (2.19). By (2.7)–(2.10), we get

\[
\|\overline{P}_0[\phi, X](T, \cdot)\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \left( \|\partial \phi(T, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}^2 + \left\| \frac{\phi(T, \cdot)}{r} \right\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}^2 \right)
\]

Similarly, we have

\[
\|\overline{P}_0[\phi, X](0, \cdot)\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C\|\partial \phi(0, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}^2.
\]

In addition, the standard energy inequality yields

\[
\|\partial \phi(T, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}^2 \leq C|\partial \phi(0, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}^2 + C\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (|\partial_t \phi F| + |\partial h||\partial \phi|^2) \, dxdt.
\]

Lastly, we see from (2.12) and (2.14) that

\[
|\overline{R}| \leq C \left( |\partial \phi||F| + \frac{|\phi||F|}{r^{1-\kappa}(1+r)^\kappa} + |\partial h||\partial \phi|^2 + \frac{|\partial h||\partial \phi|}{r^{1-\kappa}(1+r)^\kappa} + \frac{|h||\partial \phi|^2}{r^{1-\kappa}(1+r)^\kappa} + \frac{|h||\phi \partial \phi|}{r^{2-\kappa}(1+r)^\kappa} \right).
\]

Combining (2.19)–(2.23), we conclude that

\[
\int_0^T \int_{\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| < 1\}} \left( \frac{|\partial \phi|^2}{r^{1-\kappa}} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{3-\kappa}} \right) \, dxdt 
\]

This gives (2.6), if we set \( \kappa = 2\mu \) (0 < \( \mu < 1/2 \)).
Lemma 2.3. Let $n \geq 3$. Let $\phi$ be the classical solution of (2.1), (2.2) stated in Theorem 2.1. Then, for $T > 1$ and $0 < \mu < 1/2$, we have

\[
(2.24) \quad T^{-2\mu} \int_0^T \int_{\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; 1 < r < T\}} \left( \frac{(\partial_t \phi)^2 + |\nabla \phi|^2}{r^{1-2\mu}} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{3-2\mu}} \right) dx dt + (\log(2 + T))^{-1} \int_0^T \int_{\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; 1 < r < T\}} \left( \frac{(\partial_t \phi)^2 + |\nabla \phi|^2}{r} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^3} \right) dx dt \\
\leq C(\|\nabla f\|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)} + \|g\|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}) + C \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( |\partial_t \phi||F| + \frac{|\phi||F|}{r} + |\partial h||\phi|^2 \\
+ \frac{|\partial h||\phi\partial \phi|}{r} + \frac{|h||\phi\partial \phi|}{r^2} + \frac{|h||\phi\partial \phi|}{r^3} \right) dx dt.
\]

Here $C$ is a positive constant depending only on $n$ and $\mu$.

Proof. Though this estimate is essentially proven in [13], we show the proof for the sake of completeness. Just as in the proof of the last lemma, we use the geometric multiplier method. Instead of (2.14), we choose

\[
(2.25) \quad f(r) = \frac{r}{\rho + r}
\]

(see [13], p.197). If $\rho = 2^k$ and $2^{k-1} \leq r \leq 2^k$ ($k = 1, 2, \ldots$), we can easily see that

\[
(2.26) \quad f'(r) = \frac{\rho}{(\rho + r)^2} \geq \frac{1}{2(\rho + r)},
\]

\[
(2.27) \quad \frac{f(r)}{r} - f'(r) = \frac{r}{(\rho + r)^2} \geq \frac{1}{3(\rho + r)},
\]

and

\[
(2.28) \quad -\Delta \left( \frac{f(r)}{r} \right) = \frac{(n-3)r + (n-1)\rho}{r(\rho + r)^3} \geq \frac{(n-1)\rho}{r(\rho + r)^3} \geq \frac{n-1}{(\rho + r)^3}.
\]

Combining (2.17) and (2.26)–(2.28), we get

\[
(2.29) \quad \int_0^T \int_{2^{k-1} < r < 2^k} \left( \frac{(\partial_t \phi)^2 + |\nabla \phi|^2}{2^k + r} + \frac{\phi^2}{(2^k + r)^3} \right) dx dt \\
\leq 4 \left( \|P_0[\phi, X](T, \cdot)\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} + \|\hat{P}_0[\phi, X](0, \cdot)\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \right) + 4 \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\hat{R}| dx dt \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, \ldots.
\]

We note that the $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$-norm of $\hat{P}_0[\phi, X](T, x)$ and that of $\hat{P}_0[\phi, X](0, x)$ have a bound similar to (2.20) and (2.21), respectively, with the constant $C$ independent of $k$. Concerning $\hat{R}$, we see from (2.12) that

\[
|\hat{R}| \leq C \left( |\partial \phi||F| + \frac{|\phi||F|}{1 + r} + |\partial h||\phi|^2 \\
+ \frac{|\partial h||\phi\partial \phi|}{1 + r} + \frac{|h||\phi\partial \phi|}{1 + r} + \frac{|h||\phi\partial \phi|}{(1 + r)^2} \right).
\]
for a positive constant $C$ which is independent of $k$. Therefore, it follows from (2.29) that

$$
(2.30) \quad \int_0^T \int_{2^{k-1} < r < 2^k} \left( \frac{(\partial_t \phi)^2 + |\nabla \phi|^2}{r} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^3} \right) dxdt \leq C \| \partial \phi(0, \cdot) \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}^2 + C \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( |\partial \phi| |F| + \frac{|\phi| |F|}{r} + |\partial h| |\partial \phi|^2 \right. \\
+ \left. \frac{|\partial h| |\phi \partial \phi|}{r} + \frac{|h| |\partial \phi|^2}{r} + \frac{|h| |\phi \partial \phi|}{r^2} \right) dxdt.
$$

Now let $N$ be the smallest integer not smaller than $\log_2 T$. If $0 < \mu < 1/2$, we have

$$
(2.31) \quad T^{-2\mu} \int_0^T \int_{1 < r < T} \left( \frac{|\partial \phi|^2}{r^{1+2\mu}} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{3-2\mu}} \right) dxdt \\
+ (\log(2 + T))^{-1} \int_0^T \int_{1 < r < T} \left( \frac{|\partial \phi|^2}{r^\mu} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{3-2\mu}} \right) dxdt \leq T^{-2\mu} \sum_{k=1}^N \int_0^T \int_{2^{k-1} < r < 2^k} \left( \frac{|\partial \phi|^2}{r^{1+2\mu}} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{3-2\mu}} \right) dxdt \\
+ (\log(2 + T))^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^N \int_0^T \int_{2^{k-1} < r < 2^k} \left( \frac{|\partial \phi|^2}{r^\mu} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{3-2\mu}} \right) dxdt \leq C \sup_{k \geq 1} \int_0^T \int_{2^{k-1} < r < 2^k} \left( \frac{|\partial \phi|^2}{r^\mu} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{3-2\mu}} \right) dxdt.
$$

By (2.30) and (2.31), we obtain (2.24). $\square$

Proof of Theorem 2.1. In view of Lemma 2.2 and Lemma 2.3, it remains to prove the weighted $L^2$ estimate of the solution over $\{0, T\} \times \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, |x| > T \}$. If $0 < \mu < 1/2$, we have

$$
(1 + T)^{-2\mu} \int_0^T \int_{r > T} \left( \frac{|\partial \phi|^2}{r^{1+2\mu}} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{3-2\mu}} \right) dxdt \\
+ (\log(2 + T))^{-1} \int_0^T \int_{r > T} \left( \frac{|\partial \phi|^2}{r^{1+2\mu}} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{3-2\mu}} \right) dxdt \leq \frac{C}{T} \int_0^T \int_{r > T} \left( \frac{|\partial \phi|^2}{r^\mu} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{2\mu}} \right) dxdt \leq C \sup_{0 < t < T} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{|\partial \phi|^2}{r^\mu} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^2} \right) dx.
$$

Using Hardy’s inequality and the standard energy inequality, we see that the last quantity is bounded by the right-hand side of (2.5). $\square$
3. LOCAL EXISTENCE

3.1. Preliminaries. This section is concerned with the initial value problem for the quasilinear wave equation (1.1). We ask for a solution of (1.1) with initial values (1.2). For this purpose, we define a sequence of functions as follows.

Firstly, we choose a suitable radially symmetric function $\rho \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$ and set

$$\rho_j(x) = j^3 \rho(jx) \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

so that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \rho_j(x) \, dx = 1, \quad \rho_j(x) \geq 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

Secondly, we set

$$f_k(x) = \rho_{2k} * f(x), \quad g_k(x) = \rho_{2k} * g(x)$$

for $k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$ As is well known,

$$f_k, \; g_k \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3) \quad \text{for } k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, \quad \|f_k - f\|_{H^2} \to 0, \quad \|g_k - g\|_{H^1} \to 0 \quad \text{as } k \to \infty.$$

Note that if $f$ and $g$ are radially symmetric, then $f_k$ and $g_k$ are also radially symmetric. We also have

$$\sum_{k=1}^\infty (\|\nabla f_k - \nabla f_{k-1}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g_k - g_{k-1}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}) < \infty.$$

Indeed, we can easily check this by using

$$\|\rho_{2k} * \varphi - \varphi\|_{L^2} \leq C 2^{-k} \|\varphi\|_{H^1}.$$

Finally, we let $\phi_{-1} \equiv 0$ and define $\phi_k \ (k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots)$ recursively by solving

$$\partial_t^2 \phi_k - \Delta \phi_k + h(\phi_{k-1}) \Delta \phi_k = F(\partial \phi_{k-1}) \quad \text{in } S_T,$$

$$\phi_k(0, \cdot) = f_k, \quad \partial_t \phi_k(0, \cdot) = g_k \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3.$$

In order to ensure that the sequence $\{\phi_k\}$ is well-defined, we will have to assume that $\varepsilon = \|\nabla f\|_{H^1} + \|g\|_{H^1}$ is small enough and $T \leq \exp(A_1 \varepsilon^{-1})$ for some positive constant $A_1$ (see Lemma 3.3). Applying a standard existence, uniqueness and regularity theorem to (3.4)-(3.5), we will see that, for all $k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, \phi_k$ is certainly defined, radially symmetric for all time and satisfies

$$\phi_k \in C^\infty(S_T) \cap X_2(T) (\subset Y_2(T)).$$

In order to estimate the sequence, we will frequently use the Sobolev-type inequalities below.

**Lemma 3.1.** Assume that $\phi \in \cap_{j=0}^2 C^j([0, T]; H^{2-j}(\mathbb{R}^3))$. Then we have

$$|\phi(t, x)| \leq C_S \|\phi\|_{E_2(T)}$$

for $(t, x) \in \overline{S_T}$. If in addition $\phi(t, \cdot)$ is radially symmetric, we also have

$$|\phi(t, x)| \leq C_S r^{-1/2} \|\nabla \phi(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)},$$

$$|\partial_t \phi(t, x)| \leq C_S r^{-1/2} r^{-1/2} \|\phi\|_{E_2(T)}$$

for $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times (\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\})$. Here $C_S$ is a positive constant.
Proof. The inequality (3.7) is a result of the Sobolev embeddings $W^{1,6}(\mathbb{R}^3) \subset L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$ and $H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \subset L^6(\mathbb{R}^3)$. To obtain (3.8) and (3.9), we use the Sobolev-type inequalities

\begin{equation}
3.10 \quad r^{1/2}|v(x)| \leq C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 1} \|\nabla \Omega^\alpha v\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)},
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
3.11 \quad r|v(x)| \leq C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2} \|\Omega^\alpha v\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} + C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 1} \|\nabla \Omega^\alpha v\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}.
\end{equation}

See Lemma 4.2 of [7] and Lemma 3.3 of [15]. Here $\Omega = (\Omega_{12}, \Omega_{23}, \Omega_{31})$, $\Omega_{ab} = x_a \partial_b - x_b \partial_a$ ($a, b = 1, 2, 3$). Note that $\Omega v = 0$ if $v$ is radially symmetric. Hence, (3.8) immediately follows from (3.10). If we use (3.10) for $r < 1$, and (3.11) for $r > 1$, we get

$$|v(x)| \leq C \frac{1}{R}(r)^{-1/2} \|v\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)}$$

for a radially symmetric function $v$. Applying this inequality to $\partial_t \phi, \partial_r \phi$ and noting \[\|\partial_t \phi(t, \cdot)\|_{H^1} \leq C \|\nabla \phi(t, \cdot)\|_{H^1}\] we have (3.9). $\square$

If we let $n = 3$ and $\mu = 1/4$ in Theorem 2.1, (2.5) gives

\begin{align*}
\|\phi\|_{Y_1(T)}^2 + \|\phi\|_{Z_1(T)}^2 &\leq C(\|\nabla f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}) \\
&\quad + C \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left(\|\partial_t \phi\|_{L^2} + \frac{|\phi|}{r^{1/2}(r^{1/2})} \right) dx dt \\
&\quad + C \left(\|h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} + \|r^{1/2}(r^{1/2})\partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)}\right) \\
&\quad \times \left(\|r^{-5/4}(r^{1/4})\|_{L^2(S_T)}^2 + \|r^{-1/4}(r^{1/4})\partial h\|_{L^2(S_T)}^2\right).
\end{align*}

Thus we immediately see the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.2.** Let $\phi \in C^2(\overline{S_T}) \cap X_1(T)$ be a solution of the wave equation

\begin{equation}
\partial_t^2 \phi - \Delta \phi + h(t, x)\Delta \phi = F \quad \text{in } S_T,
\end{equation}

with initial data $(f, g) \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \times L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$. Here $h \in C^1(\overline{S_T})$ is uniformly bounded together with their first derivatives, and it also satisfies

\begin{align*}
3.13 \quad &\|h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} \leq \frac{1}{6}, \\
3.14 \quad &\|r^{1/2}(r^{1/2})\partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} < \infty.
\end{align*}

(i) Suppose $r^{1/4}F \in L^2(S_T)$ and $0 \leq t \leq T$. Then we have

\begin{align*}
3.15 \quad &\|\partial_t \phi(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|\phi\|_{Y_1(T)}^2 + \|\phi\|_{Z_1(T)}^2 \\
&\leq C_2(\|\nabla f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}) \\
&\quad + C_2(1 + T)^{1/4} \|\phi\|_{Y_1(T)} \|r^{1/4}F\|_{L^2(S_T)} \\
&\quad + C_2(1 + T)^{1/2} \|\phi\|_{Z_1(T)} \left(\|h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} + \|r^{1/2}(r^{1/2})\partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)}\right).
\end{align*}
(ii) Suppose \( r^{1/4}(r)^{1/4} F \in L^2(S_T) \) and \( 0 \leq t \leq T \). Then we have
\[
(3.16) \quad \|\partial_\phi(t, \cdot)\|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|\phi\|^2_{Z_1(T)} + \|\tilde{\phi}\|^2_{Z_1(T)} \\
\leq C_2(\|\nabla f\|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g\|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}) \\
+ C_2(\log(2 + T))^{1/2} \|\phi\|_{Z_1(T)} \|r^{1/4}(r)^{1/4} F\|_{L^2(S_T)} \\
+ C_2 \log(2 + T) \|\tilde{\phi}\|^2_{Z_1(T)} \left(\|h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} + \|r^{1/2}(r)^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)}\right).
\]
Here \( C_2 \) is a positive constant.

3.2. Boundedness of \( \{\phi_k\} \) in \( X_2(T) \cap Y_2(T) \).

**Lemma 3.3.** Let \((f, g) \in H^2_{rad}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times H^1_{rad}(\mathbb{R}^3)\) and set \( \varepsilon = \|\nabla f\|_{H^1} + \|g\|_{H^1} \). Then there exist positive constants \( \varepsilon_1, A_1 \) so that we can define the sequence \( \{\phi_k\} \) (see (3.4), (3.5)) if \( \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_1 \) and \( T \leq \exp(A_1/\varepsilon) \). In addition, there exists a constant \( M_1 \) such that
\[
\|\phi_k\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\phi_k\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi_k\|_{Z_2(T)} \leq M_1 \varepsilon \quad \text{for } k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots
\]
Here \( A_1, \varepsilon_1, \) and \( M_1 \) depend on \( a, b, \) and \( h \).

By Lemma 3.1, there exists a positive number \( c_0 \) such that
\[
(3.17) \quad \|\phi\|_{E_2(T)} \leq c_0 \quad \implies \quad |h(\phi(t, x))| \leq \frac{1}{6}
\]
for \((t, x) \in \overline{S_T}\). If \( \|\phi_{k-1}\|_{E_2(T)} \leq c_0 \), then we can apply a standard existence theorem for (3.4), (3.5) to define \( \phi_k \). We will see in the proof of Lemma 3.3 that \( \|\phi_k\|_{E_2(T)} \leq c_0 \), provided \( \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_1 \) and \( T \leq \exp(A_1/\varepsilon) \). This ensures the well-definedness of the sequence \( \{\phi_k\} \).

**Lemma 3.4.** Let \( \phi, \tilde{\phi} \in C^\infty(\overline{S_T}) \cap X_2(T) \). Assume that they satisfy
\[
(3.18) \quad \partial_t^2 \tilde{\phi} - \Delta \tilde{\phi} + h(\tilde{\phi}) \Delta \tilde{\phi} = F(\partial_\phi) \quad \text{in } S_T
\]
and \( \|\tilde{\phi}\|_{E_2(T)} \leq c_0 \). Then we have
\[
(3.19) \quad \|\phi\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\phi\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)} \\
\leq C_3 \left(\|\partial_\phi(0, \cdot)\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|\partial_\phi(0, \cdot)\|^2_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)}\right) \\
+ C_3 \|\tilde{\phi}\|_{E_2(T)} \left(\|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)} + \|\tilde{\phi}\|_{Z_2(T)}\right) \log(2 + T).
\]
Here, \( C_3 \) is a positive constant depending on \( F, h, C_S \) and \( C_2 \).

Proof of Lemma 3.4. Differentiating (3.18) with respect to \( x_\alpha \) \((\alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3)\), we see that
\[
(3.20) \quad \partial_t^2(\partial_\phi) - \Delta(\partial_\phi) + h(\tilde{\phi}) \Delta(\partial_\phi) = \partial_\alpha F(\partial_\phi) - \partial_\alpha h(\tilde{\phi}) \Delta \phi.
\]
Since \( \tilde{\phi} \) is radially symmetric by the definition of \( X_2(T) \), Lemma 3.1 gives
\[
|F(\partial_\phi)| \leq Cr^{-1/2}(r)^{-1/2} \|\tilde{\phi}\|_{E_2(T)} |\partial \phi|, \\
|\partial_\alpha F(\partial_\phi)| \leq Cr^{-1/2}(r)^{-1/2} \|\tilde{\phi}\|_{E_2(T)} |\partial^2 \phi|, \\
|\partial h(\tilde{\phi})| \leq Cr^{-1/2}(r)^{-1/2} \|\tilde{\phi}\|_{E_2(T)}.
\]
Thus we get
\[
\|r^{1/4}(r)^{1/4} F(\partial_\phi)\|_{L^2_{rad}} + \|r^{1/4}(r)^{1/4} (\partial_\alpha F(\partial_\phi) - \partial_\alpha h(\tilde{\phi}) \Delta \phi)\|_{L^1_{rad}} \\
\leq C \|\tilde{\phi}\|_{E_2(T)} \left(\|\tilde{\phi}\|_{Z_2(T)} + \|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)}\right) \left(\log(2 + T)\right)^{1/2},
\]
where $L^p_{t,x}$ stands for $L^p(S_T)$. Similarly, we have
\[
\|h(\tilde{\phi})\|_{L^\infty_{t,x}} + \|r^{1/2}(r)^{1/2}\partial h(\tilde{\phi})\|_{L^\infty_{t,x}} \leq C\|\tilde{\phi}\|_{E_2(T)}.
\]

Thanks to (3.17), we also see that (3.13) is satisfied for $h(\tilde{\phi})$.

Applying (3.16) to (3.18) and (3.20), we obtain
\[
(3.21) \quad \|\partial \phi(t,\cdot)\|_{L^2_x}^2 + \|\partial^2 \phi(t,\cdot)\|_{L^2_x}^2 + \|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)}^2 + \|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)}^2 \\
\quad \leq C(\|\partial \phi(0,\cdot)\|_{L^2_x}^2 + \|\partial^2 \phi(0,\cdot)\|_{L^2_x}^2) + C\|\tilde{\phi}\|_{E_2(T)}\|\tilde{\phi}\|_{E_2(T)}(\|\tilde{\phi}\|_{Z_2(T)} + \|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)}) \log(2 + T)
\]
\[
\leq C(\|\partial \phi(0,\cdot)\|_{L^2_x}^2 + \|\partial^2 \phi(0,\cdot)\|_{L^2_x}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)}^2) + C\|\tilde{\phi}\|_{E_2(T)}(\|\tilde{\phi}\|_{Z_2(T)} + \|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)}) \log(2 + T)^2
\]

for $0 \leq t \leq T$. In order to get (3.19) from this estimate, we note that
\[
\|\partial_t^2 \phi(0,\cdot)\|_{L^2_x} \leq C\|\nabla^2 \phi(0,\cdot)\|_{L^2_x} + C\|\partial \phi(0,\cdot)\|_{L^2_x}^2
\]
\[
\leq C\|\nabla^2 \phi(0,\cdot)\|_{L^2_x} + C\|\partial \phi(0,\cdot)\|_{H^2_x}
\]
by (3.18) and Sobolev’s inequality. \qed

Proof of Lemma 3.3. The proof proceeds by induction. First, letting $\phi := \phi_0$, $\tilde{\phi} := 0$, we apply Lemma 3.4 to the equation
\[
\partial_t^2 \phi_0 - \Delta \phi_0 = 0
\]
and get
\[
(3.22) \quad \|\phi_0\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\phi_0\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi_0\|_{Z_2(T)} \leq C_3(\|\nabla f_0\|_{H^1} + \|g_0\|_{H^1})
\]
Since we easily see from the definition (3.2) of $f_k$, $g_k$ that
\[
(3.23) \quad \|\nabla f_k\|_{H^1} + \|g_k\|_{H^1} \leq \|\nabla f\|_{H^1} + \|g\|_{H^1} = \varepsilon
\]
for all $k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$, it follows from (3.22) and (3.23) with $k = 0$ that
\[
(3.24) \quad \|\phi_0\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\phi_0\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi_0\|_{Z_2(T)} \leq C_3\varepsilon.
\]
In order to define $\phi_1$ by (3.4)–(3.5), we need to verify that $\phi_0$ satisfies $\|\phi_0\|_{E_2(T)} \leq c_0$ (see (3.17)). If we take $\varepsilon_1$ small so that the inequality $C_3\varepsilon_1 \leq c_0$ may hold, (3.24) shows that it is true. Now we are in a position to apply a standard existence, uniqueness, and regularity theorem to (3.4)–(3.5) with $k = 1$, and we see that $\phi_1 \in C^\infty(S_T) \cap X_2(T)$. Moreover, by virtue of Lemma 3.4, $\phi_1$ enjoys the estimate
\[
(3.25) \quad \|\phi_1\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\phi_1\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi_1\|_{Z_2(T)}
\]
\[
\leq C_3(\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2) + C_3\|\phi_0\|_{E_2(T)}(\|\phi_1\|_{Z_2(T)} + \|\phi_0\|_{Z_2(T)}) \log(2 + T),
\]
which immediately leads to
\[
(3.26) \quad \|\phi_1\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\phi_1\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi_1\|_{Z_2(T)}
\]
\[
\leq \frac{4}{3}C_3(\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2) + \frac{1}{3}\|\phi_0\|_{Z_2(T)},
\]
provided that $T$ is chosen so that the inequality $C_3\|\phi_0\|_{E_2(T)} \log(2 + T) \leq 1/4$ may hold. Thanks to the boundedness of $\|\phi_0\|_{E_2(T)}$ (see (3.24)), we can choose $T$ in such
bound, we finally conclude that

\[
\| \phi_1 \|_{E_2(T)} + \| \phi_1 \|_{Y_2(T)} + \| \phi_1 \|_{Z_2(T)} \leq M_1 \varepsilon
\]

for \( \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_1 \), where \( M_1 = 4C_3 \).

Before proceeding, we must take \( \varepsilon_1 \) still smaller so that

\[
M_1 \varepsilon_1 \leq c_0 \quad \text{and} \quad C_3 M_1 \varepsilon_1 \log 3 \leq \frac{1}{8}
\]

may hold. Setting \( A_1 := 1/(8C_3M_1) \), we also take \( T \) still smaller so that \( T \leq \exp(A_1/\varepsilon) \), thereby the inequality

\[
C_3 M_1 \varepsilon \log(2 + T) \leq C_3 M_1 \varepsilon \log(2 + e^{A_1/\varepsilon}) \leq C_3 M_1 \varepsilon \log(3e^{A_1/\varepsilon}) = C_3 M_1 \varepsilon \log 3 + \frac{1}{8} \leq \frac{1}{4}
\]

may hold for \( \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_1 \).

Now we suppose that we have successively defined \( \phi_0, \phi_1, \ldots, \phi_{k-1} \in C^\infty(S_T) \cap X_2(T) \) by (3.4)–(3.5) satisfying

\[
\| \phi_\alpha \|_{E_2(T)} + \| \phi_\alpha \|_{Y_2(T)} + \| \phi_\alpha \|_{Z_2(T)} \leq M_1 \varepsilon
\]

for \( \alpha = 0, 1, \ldots, k - 1 \). A repetition of the above argument is all that is needed to show that, according to (3.4)–(3.5), we can define \( \phi_k \) in \( C^\infty(S_T) \cap X_2(T) \) satisfying the estimate

\[
\| \phi_k \|_{E_2(T)} + \| \phi_k \|_{Y_2(T)} + \| \phi_k \|_{Z_2(T)} \leq M_1 \varepsilon.
\]

Lemma 3.3 is thus proved by induction. \( \square \)

3.3. Convergence in \( X_1(T) \cap Y_1(T) \).

Lemma 3.5. Let \( \phi^{(i)}, \tilde{\phi}^{(i)} \in C^\infty(S_T) \cap X_2(T) \) (\( i = 1, 2 \)). Assume that they satisfy

\[
\partial_t^2 \phi^{(i)} - \Delta \phi^{(i)} + h(\tilde{\phi}^{(i)}) \Delta \tilde{\phi}^{(i)} = F(\partial_\phi^{(i)}) \quad \text{in} \; S_T
\]

and \( \| \tilde{\phi}^{(i)} \|_{E_2(T)} \leq c_0 \) for \( i = 1, 2 \). Then we have

\[
\| \phi^{(1)} - \phi^{(2)} \|_{E_2(T)} + \| \phi^{(1)} - \phi^{(2)} \|_{Y_1(T)} + \| \phi^{(1)} - \phi^{(2)} \|_{Z_1(T)} \leq C_4 \| \phi^{(1)} \|_{(0, -)} - \partial \phi^{(2)}(0, -) \|_{L^2}
\]

\[
+ C_4 \left( \| \tilde{\phi}^{(1)} \|_{E_2(T)} + \| \tilde{\phi}^{(2)} \|_{E_2(T)} + \| \phi^{(1)} \|_{Y_1(T)} \right) (1 + T)^{1/2}
\]

\[
\times \left( \| \tilde{\phi}^{(1)} - \tilde{\phi}^{(2)} \|_{E_2(T)} + \| \phi^{(1)} - \phi^{(2)} \|_{Y_1(T)} \right)
\]

\[
+ \| \phi^{(1)} - \phi^{(2)} \|_{Y_1(T)}.
\]

Here, \( C_4 \) is a positive constant depending on \( F, h, C_S, \) and \( C_2 \).

Proof. If we set \( \phi^* = \phi^{(1)} - \phi^{(2)} \), it satisfies

\[
\partial_t^2 \phi^* - \Delta \phi^* + h(\tilde{\phi}^{(1)}) \Delta \phi^* = F(\partial_\phi^{(1)}) - F(\partial_\phi^{(2)}) + (h(\tilde{\phi}^{(2)}) - h(\tilde{\phi}^{(1)})) \Delta \phi^{(2)}.
\]
By (3.15), we have
\[
\|\partial \phi^*(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2_t}^2 + \|\partial \phi^*\|_{Y(T)}^2 + \|\phi^*\|_{Z(t)}^2
\leq C\|\partial \phi^*(0, \cdot)\|_{L^2_t}^2 + C\|r^{1/4}(F(\partial \phi^*(1)) - F(\partial \phi^*(2)))\|_{L^2_{t,x}} \|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)}(1 + T)^{1/4}
+ C\|r^{1/4}(h(\phi^*(2)) - h(\phi^*(1)))\|_{L^2_{t,x}} \|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)}(1 + T)^{1/4}
+ C\|\partial h(\phi^*(1))\|_{L^2_{t,x}} + \|r^{1/2}(r^{1/2} \partial h(\phi^*(1)))\|_{L^2_{t,x}} \|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)}(1 + T)^{1/2}.
\]
Here $L^p_{t,x}$ denotes $L^p(S_T)$. By Lemma 3.1, we easily see that
\[
|F(\partial \phi^*(1)) - F(\partial \phi^*(2))| \\
\leq C r^{-1/2}(r^{-1/2}(\|\phi^*(1)\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\phi^*(2)\|_{E_2(T)})\|\partial \phi^*(1) - \partial \phi^*(2)|,
\]
\[
|h(\phi^*(2)) - h(\phi^*(1))| \leq C r^{-1/2}(\|\phi^*(2) - \phi^*(1)\|_{E_1(T)},
\]
\[
\|\partial h(\phi^*(1))\|_{L^2_{t,x}} + \|r^{1/2}(r^{1/2} \partial h(\phi^*(1)))\|_{L^2_{t,x}} \leq C\|\partial \phi^*(1)\|_{E_2(T)}.
\]

Note that the assumption $\|\tilde{\phi}^0\|_{E_2(T)} \leq c_0$ is used here. Comparing the second estimate with the first one, we see that the factor $r^{-1/2}$ appearing in the second estimate is weaker than the factor $r^{-1/2}(r^{-1/2}$ appearing in the first one. It is due to the second estimate that we have to use (3.15) instead of (3.16). Combining these estimates and the Schwarz inequality, we obtain
\[
\|\partial \phi^*(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2_t}^2 + \|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)}^2 + \|\phi^*\|_{Z(t)}^2
\leq C\|\partial \phi^*(0, \cdot)\|_{L^2_t}^2 + C(\|\tilde{\phi}^0\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\tilde{\phi}^0\|_{E_2(T)})\|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)} \|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)}(1 + T)^{1/2}
+ C\|\phi^*\|_{E_2(T)} \|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)} \|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)}(1 + T)^{1/2}
+ C\|\tilde{\phi}^0\|_{E_2(T)} \|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)}(1 + T)^{1/2}
\leq C\|\partial \phi^*(0, \cdot)\|_{L^2_t}^2 + C(\|\tilde{\phi}^0\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\tilde{\phi}^0\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\tilde{\phi}^0\|_{Y(T)})^2
\times(1 + T)(\|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)} + \|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)} + \|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)})^2 + \frac{1}{2}\|\phi^*\|_{Y(T)}^2,
\]
where $\tilde{\phi}^0 = \tilde{\phi}^0(1) - \tilde{\phi}^0(2)$. This gives (3.32).

**Lemma 3.6.** Let $(f,g) \in H^2_{rad}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times H^1_{rad}(\mathbb{R}^3)$. There exist positive constants $\varepsilon_2, A_2$ so that the sequence $\{\phi_k\}$ defined in Lemma 3.3 converges to a function $\phi \in X_1(T) \cap Y_1(T)$ if $\|\nabla f\|_{H^1} + \|g\|_{H^1} = \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_2$ and $T \leq A_2 \varepsilon^{-2}$. In addition, $\phi \in L^\infty([0, T]; H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)) \cap C^{0,1}([0, T]; H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)) \cap Y_2(T)$. Here we denote by $C^{0,1}$ the space of Lipschitz continuous functions. $A_2$ and $\varepsilon_2$ depend on $a, b$ and $h$.

Proof. Let $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_1$ and $T \leq \exp(A_1/\varepsilon)$. Then $\{\phi_k\}$ is well-defined by Lemma 3.3. Moreover, we have
\[
\|\phi_k\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\phi_k\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi_k\|_{Z_2(T)} \leq M_1 \varepsilon
\]
and $\|\phi_k\|_{E_2(T)} \leq c_0$ for $k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$. Therefore, if
\[
(3.33) \quad C_4 \cdot 2M_1 \varepsilon(1 + T)^{1/2} \leq \frac{1}{4},
\]
then it follows from Lemma 3.5 that
\[
\|\phi_k - \phi_{k-1}\|_{E_1(T)} + \|\phi_k - \phi_{k-1}\|_{Y_1(T)} \\
\leq \frac{4}{3} C_4 \|\partial \phi_k(0,\cdot) - \partial \phi_{k-1}(0,\cdot)\|_{L^2} \\
+ \frac{1}{3} (\|\phi_{k-1} - \phi_{k-2}\|_{E_1(T)} + \|\phi_{k-1} - \phi_{k-2}\|_{Y_1(T)}),
\]
which, together with (3.3), implies
\[
\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (\|\phi_k - \phi_{k-1}\|_{E_1(T)} + \|\phi_k - \phi_{k-1}\|_{Y_1(T)}) < \infty.
\]
Hence, \(\{\phi_k\}\) turns out to be a Cauchy sequence in \(X_1(T) \cap Y_1(T)\) as long as \(T \leq A_2 \varepsilon^{-2}\) and \(\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_2\), where \(A_2\) and \(\varepsilon_2\) are chosen so that
\[
(3.34) \quad \varepsilon_2 \leq \varepsilon_1, \quad 2\sqrt{2} C_4 M_1 \varepsilon_2 \leq \frac{1}{4}, \quad A_2 = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 8^2 C_4^2 M_1^2}.
\]
Now it remains to prove that its limit \(\phi\) belongs to \(L^\infty([0,T]; H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)) \cap C^{0,1}([0,T]; H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)) \cap Y_2(T)\). Since \(\{\partial_\alpha \phi_k(t,\cdot)\}\) is bounded in \(H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)\) and \(\{\partial_\alpha \phi_k(t,\cdot)\}\) converges to \(\partial_\alpha \phi(t,\cdot)\) in \(L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)\), we see that \(\{\partial_\alpha \phi_k(t,\cdot)\}\) has a unique limit point \(\partial_\alpha \phi(t,\cdot)\) with respect to the weak topology of \(H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)\). Therefore,
\[
(3.35) \quad \|\partial \phi(t,\cdot)\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq \liminf_{k \to \infty} \|\partial \phi_k(t,\cdot)\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq M_1 \varepsilon
\]
for \(0 \leq t \leq T \leq A_2 \varepsilon^{-2}\), which shows that \(\phi \in L^\infty([0,T]; H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)) \cap C^{0,1}([0,T]; H^1(\mathbb{R}^3))\).
By similar arguments, we conclude that \(\phi \in Y_2(T)\) and
\[
\|\phi\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)} \leq \liminf_{k \to \infty} (\|\phi_k\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi_k\|_{Z_2(T)}) \leq M_1 \varepsilon.
\]
This completes the proof of Lemma 3.6.

\textbf{Remark 3.7.} Remark that (3.35) holds for all \(t \in [0,T]\), not to mention almost everywhere. To be precise,
\[
\|\partial \phi(t,\cdot)\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|\phi\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)} \leq M_1 \varepsilon \quad \text{for all} \quad t \in [0,T].
\]

Here \(M_1\) is the constant appearing in Lemma 3.3.

4. Regularity

4.1. Preliminaries. As a continuation of the previous section, we will show that the limit \(\phi\) of \(\{\phi_k\}\) satisfies the equation (1.1) in the strong sense.

\textbf{Lemma 4.1.} Let \((f, g) \in H^2_{\text{rad}}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times H^1_{\text{rad}}(\mathbb{R}^3)\) and \(\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_1\). Assume that the sequence \(\{\phi_k\}\) defined in Lemma 3.3 converges to a function \(\phi\) in \(X_1(T) \cap Y_1(T)\) for some \(T \leq \exp(A_1/\varepsilon)\). Then \(\phi \in X_2(T)\).

As before, we set \(\varepsilon = \|\nabla f\|_{H^1} + \|g\|_{H^1}\). We have already proven in Lemma 3.6 that the assumptions in this lemma is satisfied for \(\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_2\) and \(T \leq A_2 \varepsilon^{-2}\). Note that the proof of Lemma 3.6 implies \(\|\partial \phi(t,\cdot)\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|\phi\|_{Y_2(T)} + \|\phi\|_{Z_2(T)} \leq M_1 \varepsilon\) for all \(t \in [0,T]\) (see Remark 3.7).

We have to show that \(\partial_\alpha \partial_\beta \phi \in C^0([0,T]; L^2(\mathbb{R}^3))\) for \(\alpha, \beta = 0, 1, 2, 3\). Let \(t_0 \in [0,T]\), and let \(\{t_n\}\) be an arbitrary sequence such that
\[
t_0 + t_n \in (0,T) \quad \text{for} \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \to \infty} t_n = 0.
\]
We first aim at proving
\[ \partial_\alpha \partial_\alpha \phi(t_0 + t_\alpha, \cdot) \to \partial_\alpha \partial_\alpha \phi(t_0, \cdot) \quad \text{in } L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \quad \text{as } n \to \infty, \]
for \( a = 1, 2, 3 \) and \( \alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3 \). In what follows, we set
\[ \psi(t, x) = \phi(t_0 + t, x). \]

By the assumption, \( \{ \partial_\alpha \psi(t_\alpha, \cdot) \} \) is a bounded sequence in \( H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \). Moreover, \( \{ \partial_\alpha \psi(t_\alpha, \cdot) \} \) converges to \( \partial_\alpha \psi(0, \cdot) \) in \( L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \). Hence, the sequence \( \{ \partial_\alpha \partial_\alpha \psi(t_\alpha, \cdot) \} \) converges weakly to \( \partial_\alpha \partial_\alpha \psi(0, \cdot) \). To prove the strong convergence, we note the following fact: for a weakly convergent sequence \( \{ w_n \} \) in a Hilbert space \( H \), the strong convergence is equivalent to the estimate \( \limsup_{n \to \infty} \| w_n \|_H \leq \| w \|_H \).

In an abuse of notation, we set
\[ \| [u, v] \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left[ \frac{1}{2} |u(x)|^2 + \frac{1}{2} (1 - h(\psi(0, x))) |v(x)|^2 \right] dx \]
for \( u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \), \( v = (v_1, v_2, v_3) \in (L^2(\mathbb{R}^3))^3 \). By (3.17), this norm is equivalent to the usual norm of \( (L^2(\mathbb{R}^3))^3 \). So we aim at showing that
\[
\limsup_{n \to \infty} \| \partial_\alpha \partial_\alpha \psi(t_\alpha, \cdot), \partial_\alpha \nabla \psi(t_\alpha, \cdot) \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} \\
\leq \| \partial_\alpha \partial_\alpha \psi(0, \cdot), \partial_\alpha \nabla \psi(0, \cdot) \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}.
\]

Before showing (4.1), let us prove two lemmas needed later.

**Lemma 4.2.** Let \( \rho_k \) be the function defined by (3.1). Assume \( 0 \leq \alpha < 3 \), \( \beta \in \mathbb{R} \), and \( 0 \leq \gamma < 1 \). Then we have
\[
(4.2) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{\rho_k(y)}{|x - y|^\alpha (x - y)^\beta} dy \leq C |x|^{-\alpha} \langle x \rangle^{-\beta},
\]
\[
(4.3) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{\rho_k(y)}{|x - y|^\alpha} dy \leq C |x|^{-\alpha},
\]
\[
(4.4) \quad \int_0^1 \frac{d\theta}{|x + \theta z|^\gamma (x + \theta z)^\beta} \leq C |x|^{-\gamma} \langle x \rangle^{-\beta} \quad \text{for } |z| \leq 1,
\]
\[
(4.5) \quad \int_0^1 \frac{d\theta}{|x + \theta z|^\gamma} \leq C |x|^{-\gamma} \quad \text{for } |z| \leq 1.
\]

Here, in (4.2)–(4.3), \( C \) is a constant independent of \( k \).

**Proof.** We only prove (4.3) and (4.5), since the others follow from similar arguments. It is obvious that (4.3) holds for \( |x| \geq 3 \), because \( 2|x|/3 \leq |x - y| \leq 2|x| \) when \( |y| \leq 1 \). So we suppose \( |x| < 3 \) in what follows. Since \( |x|/2 \leq |x - y| \leq 3|x|/2 \) for \( |y| \leq |x|/2 \), we have
\[
\int_{|y| \leq |x|/2} \frac{\rho_k(y)}{|x - y|^\alpha} dy \leq C |x|^{-\alpha}.
\]
If \( |x|/2 < |y| < 1/k \), then we have \( |x - y| < 3/k \) and \( k < 2|x|^{-1} \). Hence, we get
\[
\int_{|y| > |x|/2} \frac{\rho_k(y)}{|x - y|^\alpha} dy \leq \int_{|x - y| < 3/k} \frac{Ck^3}{|x - y|^\alpha} dy \leq C k^\alpha \leq C |x|^{-\alpha}.
\]
Thus we have proven (4.3).
We next prove (4.5) only for $|x| < 3$, since otherwise the inequality is obviously true. If we set $x_z = x \cdot z/|z|$, then we see that

\begin{equation}
(4.6) \quad \int_0^1 |x + \theta z|^{-\gamma} d\theta
= \int_0^1 (|x|^2 + 2\theta x_z|z| + \theta^2|z|^2)^{-\gamma/2} d\theta
= \frac{1}{|z|} \int_{x_z}^{x_z + |z|} (\lambda^2 + |x|^2 - x_z^2)^{-\gamma/2} d\lambda
\leq \frac{C}{|z|} \int_{x_z}^{x_z + |z|} (|\lambda| + \sqrt{|x|^2 - x_z^2})^{-\gamma} d\lambda,
\end{equation}

where $\lambda = x_z + \theta|z|$. Hence the case $|x_z| \leq |x|/2$ is easily handled, because we can use $|\lambda| + \sqrt{|x|^2 - x_z^2} \geq \sqrt{|x|^2 - (|x|/2)^2} = \sqrt{3}|x|/2$. So we assume $|x|/2 \leq |x_z| \leq |x|$ in what follows. Let us set

$$I = |z|^{-1} \int_{x_z}^{x_z + |z|} (|\lambda| + \sqrt{|x|^2 - x_z^2})^{-\gamma} d\lambda.$$

• case 1: $x_z \geq 0$.
We simply estimate the integrand as $(\lambda + \sqrt{|x|^2 - x_z^2})^{-\gamma} \leq \lambda^{-\gamma} \leq x_z^{-\gamma}$ and get

$$I \leq |z|^{-1} \int_{x_z}^{x_z + |z|} x_z^{-\gamma} d\lambda
\leq |z|^{-1} (|x|/2)^{-\gamma} \int_{x_z}^{x_z + |z|} d\lambda = 2^\gamma |x|^{-\gamma}.$$

• case 2: $x_z < 0 < x_z + |z|$. Note that $|x_z| < |z|$ in this case.
We can write the integral $I$ as $I = I_1 + I_2$, where

$$I_1 = 2|z|^{-1} \int_0^{|x_z|} (\lambda + \sqrt{|x|^2 - x_z^2})^{-\gamma} d\lambda,
I_2 = |z|^{-1} \int_{|x_z|}^{x_z + |z|} (\lambda + \sqrt{|x|^2 - x_z^2})^{-\gamma} d\lambda.$$

Since $0 \leq \gamma < 1$ by assumption, we have

$$I_1 \leq 2|z|^{-1} \int_0^{|x_z|} \lambda^{-\gamma} d\lambda
= 2(1 - \gamma)^{-1} |z|^{-1} |x_z|^{1-\gamma} \leq C|x|^{-\gamma}.$$

We consider the estimate of $I_2$ when $|x_z| \leq |z|/2$, because $I_2 < 0$ otherwise. We can treat this term as in case 1:

$$I_2 \leq |z|^{-1} \int_{|x_z|}^{x_z + |z|} |x_z|^{-\gamma} d\lambda \leq C|x|^{-\gamma}.$$

• case 3: $x_z + |z| \leq 0$. Note that $|z| \leq |x_z|$ in this case.
By using the substitution $\lambda = -\mu$, we see

$$I = |z|^{-1} \int_{|x_z| - |z|}^{|x_z|} (\mu + \sqrt{|x|^2 - x_z^2})^{-\gamma} d\mu.$$
Therefore, we have checked that (4.5) holds for all the cases.

Lemma 4.3. Let \( \{\phi_k\} \) be the sequence defined in Lemma 3.3. Let \( \phi \) be the function stated in Lemma 4.1. Then for any \( \eta \in \mathbb{R}^3 \),
\[
\|r^{-1/4} \tau_\eta (\partial \phi_k - \partial \phi)\|_{L^2(S_T)} \to 0 \quad \text{as} \quad k \to \infty.
\]
Here, \( \tau_\eta u(t,x) = u(t,x + \eta) \).

Proof. Set \( B(\eta) = \{ x; x \in \mathbb{R}^3, |x - \eta| < 1 \} \) and \( B(\eta)^c = \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B(\eta) \). Then we can write
\[
\|r^{-1/4} \tau_\eta (\partial \phi_k - \partial \phi)\|_{L^2(S_T)}^2 = \| (\tau_\eta r^{-1/4})(\partial \phi_k - \partial \phi)\|_{L^2(S_T)}^2.
\]

It is easy to see that \( \lim_{k \to \infty} \| (\tau_\eta r^{-1/4})(\partial \phi_k - \partial \phi)\|_{L^2((0,T) \times B(\eta)^c)}^2 = 0 \), because \( \| (\tau_\eta r^{-1/4})(\partial \phi_k - \partial \phi)\|_{L^2((0,T) \times B(\eta)^c)}^2 \leq T \| \phi_k - \phi \|_{L^2(T)}^2 \). To handle the other term, we use Lemma 3.1 and get
\[
|\partial \phi_k(t,x) - \partial \phi(t,x)| \leq C|x|^{-1/2} (\| \phi_k \|_{L^2(T)} + \| \phi \|_{L^2(T)}) \leq C|x|^{-1/2}.
\]

This gives
\[
\| (\tau_\eta r^{-1/4})(\partial \phi_k - \partial \phi)\|_{L^2((0,T) \times B(\eta))}^2 \leq C \int_0^T \int_{|x - \eta| < 1} |x - \eta|^{-1/2} |x|^{-1/2} |\partial \phi_k(t,x) - \partial \phi(t,x)| dx dt,
\]
and hence \( \lim_{k \to \infty} \| (\tau_\eta r^{-1/4})(\partial \phi_k - \partial \phi)\|_{L^2((0,T) \times B(\eta))}^2 = 0 \) by the Schwarz inequality.

4.2. Proof of Lemma 4.1. We set
\[
\psi_k(t,x) = \phi_k(t_0 + t,x) \quad \text{for} \quad t_0 + t \in (0,T), \quad k = 0,1,2,\ldots.
\]
Then \( \psi_k \) satisfies
\[
(4.7) \quad \partial^2_t (\Delta_\eta \psi_k) - (1 - h(\psi_{k-1})) \Delta (\Delta_\eta \psi_k) = \Delta_\eta F(\psi_{k-1}) - \Delta_\eta h(\psi_{k-1}) \Delta_\eta \tau_\eta \psi_k
\]
for \( \eta \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad k = 0,1,2,\ldots, \) where
\[
\tau_\eta u(t,x) = u(t,x + \eta), \quad \Delta_\eta = \tau_\eta - 1.
\]
Integrating \((4.7)\times \partial_t \Delta \eta \psi_k\) as usual, we have
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\partial_t \Delta \eta \psi_k)^2 + \frac{1}{2} (1 - h(\psi_{k-1})) |\nabla \Delta \eta \psi_k|^2 \right] (t, x) \, dx
\]
\[
= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\partial_t \Delta \eta \psi_k)^2 + \frac{1}{2} (1 - h(\psi_{k-1})) |\nabla \Delta \eta \psi_k|^2 \right] (0, x) \, dx
\]
\[
+ \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left[ \partial_t \Delta \eta \psi_k (\Delta \eta F (\partial \psi_{k-1}) - \Delta \eta h(\psi_{k-1}) \Delta \eta \psi_k)ight.
\]
\[
- \frac{1}{2} \partial_t h(\psi_{k-1}) |\nabla \Delta \eta \psi_k|^2 + \partial_a h(\psi_{k-1}) \partial_t \Delta \eta \psi_k \partial^a \Delta \eta \psi_k \bigg] \, dx \, ds.
\]

Note that
\[
|h(\psi_k(t, x)) - h(\psi(t, x))|
\leq C \|\psi_k(t, \cdot) - \psi(t, \cdot)\|_{W^{1,6}}^{1/4} \|\psi_k(t, \cdot) - \psi(t, \cdot)\|_{W^{1,6}}^{3/4}
\leq C \|\psi_k(t, \cdot) - \psi(t, \cdot)\|_{W^{1,6}}^{1/2} \|\psi_k(t, \cdot) - \psi(t, \cdot)\|_{W^{1,6}}^{3/4}
\]
by the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality. Hence, passing to the limit, we immediately see that
\[
(4.8) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\partial_t \Delta \eta \psi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} (1 - h(\psi)) |\nabla \Delta \eta \psi|^2 \right] (t, x) \, dx
\]
\[
\leq \|\partial_t \Delta \eta \psi(0, \cdot), \nabla \Delta \eta \psi(0, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}^2 + C \limsup_{k \to \infty} (I_k + II_k + III_k),
\]
where we set

\[
I_k = \int_{I_t} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\partial_t \Delta \eta \psi_k||\partial \Delta \eta \psi_{k-1}||\tau \partial \psi_{k-1}| + |\partial \psi_{k-1}| \, dx \, ds,
\]

\[
II_k = \int_{I_t} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\partial_t \Delta \eta \psi_k||D \Delta \eta \psi_{k-1}||\Delta \psi_k| \, dx \, ds,
\]

\[
III_k = \int_{I_t} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\partial \psi_{k-1}||\partial \Delta \eta \psi_k|^2 \, dx \, ds
\]
and

\[
I_t = \begin{cases} 
(0, t) & \text{if } t > 0, \\
(t, 0) & \text{if } t < 0.
\end{cases}
\]

Let us consider \(II_k\) first. By Lemma 3.1 and the Schwarz inequality, we have

\[
II_k = \int_{I_t} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\partial_t \Delta \eta \psi_k||\partial \Delta \eta \psi_{k-1}||\Delta \psi_k| \, dx \, ds
\]
\[
\leq C \|\Delta \eta \psi_{k-1}\|_{L^\infty(I_t; H^1)} \int_{I_t} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|\partial_t \Delta \eta \psi_k||\Delta \psi_k|}{r^{1/2}} \, dx \, ds
\]
\[
\leq C \|\Delta \eta \psi_{k-1}\|_{L^\infty(I_t; H^1)} \|r^{-1/4} \Delta \eta \partial \psi_k\|_{L^2(I_t \times \mathbb{R}^3)} \times \|r^{-1/4} \Delta \psi_k\|_{L^2(I_t \times \mathbb{R}^3)}.
\]

Hence, noting Lemma 4.3 and Lemma 3.3, we get

\[
(4.11) \quad \limsup_{k \to \infty} II_k \leq C \|\Delta \eta \psi\|_{L^\infty(I_t; H^1)} \|r^{-1/4} \Delta \eta \partial \psi\|_{L^2(I_t \times \mathbb{R}^3)}.
\]

As for \(III_k\), we estimate it as

\[
III_k \leq C \|\partial \psi_{k-1}\|_{L^\infty(I_t; H^1)} \|r^{-1/4} \Delta \eta \psi_k\|^2_{L^2(I_t \times \mathbb{R}^3)}
\]
by Lemma 3.1. Noting Lemma 4.3 and Lemma 3.3 again, we see
\begin{equation}
\limsup_{k \to \infty} III_k \leq C \|r^{-1/4} \Delta \eta \partial \psi\|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)}^2.
\end{equation}

Similarly,
\begin{equation}
\limsup_{k \to \infty} I_k \leq C \|r^{-1/4} \Delta \eta \partial \psi\|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)}^2 + C \|r^{-1/4} \Delta \eta \partial \psi\|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)}^2.
\end{equation}

As a consequence of (4.8) and (4.11)–(4.13), we obtain
\begin{equation}
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \partial_t \Delta \eta \psi \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - h(\psi) \right) \| \nabla \Delta \eta \psi \|^2 \right] (t, x) \, dx \\
\leq \| \| \partial_t \Delta \eta \psi(0, \cdot), \nabla \Delta \eta \psi(0, \cdot) \|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} + C \| \| \Delta \eta \psi \|_{L^\infty(I_t; H^1)} \| r^{-1/4} \Delta \eta \partial_t \psi \|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)} \\
+ C \| r^{-1/4} \Delta \eta \partial \psi \|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)}^2 + C \| r^{-1/4} \Delta \eta \partial \psi \|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)}^2.
\end{equation}

Now we set \( \eta = \delta e_j \), where \( e_j \) is the unit coordinate vector in the \( x_j \) direction. Then it is well known that
\begin{equation}
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{2} \left( \partial_t \Delta \delta e_j \psi(0, x) \right)^2 \, dx \leq \delta^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{2} \left( \partial_t \partial_j \psi(0, x) \right)^2 \, dx,
\end{equation}
\begin{equation}
\| \Delta \delta e_j \psi \|_{L^\infty(I_t; H^1)} \leq \| \delta \|\partial_j \psi\|_{L^\infty(I_t; H^1)}.
\end{equation}

In order to estimate \( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - h(\psi(0, x)) \right) \| \nabla \Delta \delta e_j \psi(0, x) \|^2 \, dx \), we note that
\[ \| \partial_t \Delta \delta e_j \psi(0, \cdot) - \delta \partial_t \partial_j \psi(0, \cdot) \|_{L^2} = o(\delta), \]
where \( o(\delta)/\delta \to 0 \) as \( \delta \to 0 \). Therefore, in view of
\( \| \nabla \Delta \delta e_j \psi(0, x) \|^2 - \delta^2 \| \nabla \partial_j \psi(0, x) \|^2 \]
\[ = \left( \partial_t \Delta \delta e_j \psi(0, x) - \delta \partial_t \partial_j \psi(0, x) \right) \partial^a \Delta \delta e_j \psi(0, x) \\
+ \delta \partial_t \partial_j \psi(0, x) \left( \partial^a \Delta \delta e_j \psi(0, x) - \delta \partial_t \partial_j \psi(0, x) \right), \]
we see that
\begin{equation}
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - h(\psi(0, x)) \right) \| \nabla \Delta \delta e_j \psi(0, x) \|^2 \, dx \\
= \delta^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - h(\psi(0, x)) \right) \| \nabla \partial_j \psi(0, x) \|^2 \, dx + o(\delta^2),
\end{equation}
where \( o(\delta^2)/\delta^2 \to 0 \) as \( \delta \to 0 \). Hence from (4.14)–(4.17), we have
\begin{equation}
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{2} \left( \partial_t \Delta \delta e_j \psi \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - h(\psi) \right) \| \nabla \Delta \delta e_j \psi \|^2 \, dx \\
\leq \delta^2 \| \| \partial_t \partial_j \psi(0, \cdot), \nabla \partial_j \psi(0, \cdot) \|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} + C \| \| \partial_j \psi \|_{L^\infty(I_t; H^1)} \| r^{-1/4} \Delta \delta e_j \partial_t \psi \|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)} \\
+ C \| r^{-1/4} \Delta \delta e_j \nabla \psi \|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)} + C \| r^{-1/4} \Delta \delta e_j \nabla \psi \|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)} + o(\delta^2).
\end{equation}

It remains to estimate \( \| r^{-1/4} \Delta \delta e_j \partial_\alpha \psi \|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)} \) \( (\alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3) \). We first notice that
\begin{equation}
\| r^{-1/4} \Delta \delta e_j \partial_\alpha \psi \|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)} = \lim_{\rho \to \infty} \| r^{-1/4} \rho_t \Delta \delta e_j \partial_\alpha \psi \|_{L^2(I_t, \mathbb{R}^3)}.
\end{equation}
In fact, we can apply a similar argument as Lemma 4.3 to the estimate of \( \|r^{-1/4}(\rho_l \ast \Delta_{\delta e_j} \partial \psi - \Delta_{\delta e_j} \partial \psi)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} \) by dividing the domain of integration as \( \mathbb{R}^3 = \{r < 1\} \cup \{r \geq 1\} \). Since \( \rho_l \ast \Delta_{\delta e_j} \partial \psi(s, x) \) is smooth with respect to \( x \), we have

\[
|\rho_l \ast \Delta_{\delta e_j} \partial \psi(s, x)|^2 \leq \delta^2 \int_0^1 |\rho_l \ast \partial_j \partial \psi(s, x + \theta \delta e_j)|^2 d\theta,
\]

hence we get

\[
\|r^{-1/4}(\rho_l \ast \Delta_{\delta e_j} \partial \psi(s, \cdot))\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}^2 \\
\leq \delta^2 \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} r^{-1/2} |\rho_l \ast \partial_j \partial \psi(s, x + \theta \delta e_j)|^2 dx d\theta.
\]

Furthermore, the Schwarz inequality gives

\[
|\rho_l \ast \partial_j \partial \psi(s, x + \theta \delta e_j)|^2 \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \rho_l(x + \theta \delta e_j - y)|\partial_j \partial \psi(s, y)|^2 dy.
\]

Thus we obtain

\[
(4.20) \quad \|r^{-1/4}(\rho_l \ast \Delta_{\delta e_j} \partial \psi(s, \cdot))\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}^2 \\
\leq \delta^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} a_l(y, \delta)|\partial_j \partial \psi(s, y)|^2 dy,
\]

where

\[
a_l(y, \delta) = \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x|^{-1/2} \rho_l(x + \theta \delta e_j - y) \, dx d\theta \quad (|\delta| \leq 1).
\]

By (4.3) and (4.5), we have

\[
(4.21) \quad a_l(y, \delta) \leq C \int_0^1 |\delta \delta e_j - y|^{-1/2} d\theta \leq C|y|^{-1/2}.
\]

Consequently, as a result of (4.19)–(4.21), we obtain

\[
(4.22) \quad \|r^{-1/4} \Delta_{\delta e_j} \partial \psi\|_{L^2(I_t \times \mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C|\delta|\|r^{-1/4} \partial_j \partial \psi\|_{L^2(I_t \times \mathbb{R}^3)}.
\]

Therefore, by (4.18) and (4.22), we arrive at

\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left[ \frac{1}{2} |\partial_t \Delta_{\delta e_j} \psi|^2 + \frac{1}{2} (1 - h(\psi)) |\nabla \Delta_{\delta e_j} \psi|^2 \right] (t, x) \, dx \\
\leq \delta^2 \|\partial_t \partial \psi(0, \cdot), \nabla \partial \psi(0, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}^2 \\
+ C\delta^2 \|\partial \psi\|_{L^\infty(I_t; H^1)} \|r^{-1/4} \partial_j \partial \psi\|_{L^2(I_t \times \mathbb{R}^3)} \\
+ C\delta^2 \|r^{-1/4} \partial_j \partial \psi\|_{L^2(I_t \times \mathbb{R}^3)}^2 + o(\delta^2),
\]

which further yields

\[
(4.23) \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left[ \frac{1}{2} |\partial_t \partial \psi|^2 + \frac{1}{2} (1 - h(\psi)) |\nabla \partial \psi|^2 \right] (t, x) \, dx \\
\leq \|\partial_t \partial \psi(0, \cdot), \nabla \partial \psi(0, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}^2 \\
+ C\|\partial \psi\|_{L^\infty(I_t; H^1)} \|r^{-1/4} \partial_j \partial \psi\|_{L^2(I_t \times \mathbb{R}^3)} + C\|r^{-1/4} \partial_j \partial \psi\|_{L^2(I_t \times \mathbb{R}^3)}^2
\]

for \( t_0 + t \in (0, T) \).

Finally, noting

\[
|h(\psi(0, x)) - h(\psi(t, x))| \\
\leq C\|\psi(0, \cdot) - \psi(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2}^{1/4} \|\nabla \psi(0, \cdot) - \nabla \psi(t, \cdot)\|_{H^1}^{3/4},
\]
(4.23) leads to (4.1). Thus we have proven
\[
\partial_\alpha \partial_\alpha \phi \in C^0([0, T]; L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)) \quad \text{for } a = 1, 2, 3, \quad \alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3.
\]

To show that \(\partial_\alpha^2 \phi \in C^0([0, T]; L^2(\mathbb{R}^3))\), we use the equation (3.4). Let \(v \in C_0^\infty((0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^3)\). Since the sequence \(\{\phi_k\}\) converges to \(\phi\) in \(X_1(T) \cap Y_1(T)\), it is easy to verify that the limit of the equation
\[
- \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\partial_t \phi_k \partial_t v - \nabla \phi_k \cdot \nabla v + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla (h(\phi_k) v)) \, dx \, dt
\]

as \(k \to \infty\) gives
\[
- \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\partial_t \phi \partial_t v - \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla v + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla (h(\phi) v)) \, dx \, dt
= \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} F(\partial \phi) \, v \, dx \, dt.
\]

Therefore, we obtain \(\partial_\alpha^2 \phi = \Delta \phi - h(\phi) \Delta \phi + F(\partial \phi)\) in \((0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^3\). Since \(H^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \subset L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)\) and \(H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \subset L^4(\mathbb{R}^3)\), this implies \(\partial_\alpha^2 \phi \in C^0([0, T]; L^2(\mathbb{R}^3))\).

5. Almost Global Existence

In this section we complete the proof of Theorem 1.1. So far, we have proven that there exists a strong solution for the initial value problem (1.1), (1.2) for \(T \leq A_2 \varepsilon^{-2}\), where \(\varepsilon = \|\nabla f\|_{H^l} + \|g\|_{H^l}\) and \(\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_2\). It remains to show that the solution actually extends to the time \(t \leq \exp(A_1 \varepsilon^{-1})\).

Let us define a sequence \(\{\psi_k^{T_1}\}\) by (3.4), (3.5), where we now set \(f_k, g_k\) as
\[
f_k = \rho_{2k} \ast \phi(T_1, \cdot), \quad g_k = \rho_{2k} \ast \partial_t \phi(T_1, \cdot)
\]

for \(T_1 = A_2 \varepsilon^{-2}\). Note that \(\|\nabla \phi(T_1, \cdot)\|_{H^l} + \|\partial_t \phi(T_1, \cdot)\|_{H^l} \leq M_1 \varepsilon\) (see Remark 3.7). Suppose that \(\varepsilon\) is small so that \(M_1 \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_2\). If we choose \(T\) smaller so that \(T \leq A_2 (M_1 \varepsilon)^{-2}\), then we see by Lemma 3.3 and Lemma 3.6 that \(\|\psi_k^{T_1}\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\psi_k^{T_1}\|_{Y_2(T)} \leq M_2 \varepsilon\) and \(\{\psi_k^{T_1}\}\) converges to a function \(\psi^{T_1}\) in \(X_1(T) \cap Y_1(T)\). In addition, \(\psi_k \in X_2(T) \cap Y_2(T)\) and \(\|\psi_k^{T_1}\|_{E_2(T)} + \|\psi_k^{T_1}\|_{Y_2(T)} \leq M_2 \varepsilon\). We consider another sequence \(\{\phi_k^{T_1}\}\) on \([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^3\), defined by \(\phi_k^{T_1}(t, x) = \phi_k(t + T_1, x)\). Then it follows from Lemma 3.5 that
\[
\|\psi_k^{T_1} - \phi_k^{T_1}\|_{E_1(T)} + \|\psi_k^{T_1} - \phi_k^{T_1}\|_{Y_1(T)} \leq C_4 \|\partial \psi_k^{T_1}(0, \cdot) - \partial \phi_k^{T_1}(0, \cdot)\|_{L^2}
\]
\[
+ C_4 \left(\|\psi_k^{T_1} - \phi_k^{T_1}\|_{E_1(T)} + \|\phi_k^{T_1} - \phi_k^{T_1}\|_{E_1(T)} + \|\psi_k^{T_1} - \phi_k^{T_1}\|_{Y_1(T)}\right)(1 + T)^{1/2}
\]
\[
\times \left(\|\psi_k^{T_1} - \phi_k^{T_1}\|_{E_1(T)} + \|\psi_k^{T_1} - \phi_k^{T_1}\|_{Y_1(T)} + \|\psi_k^{T_1} - \phi_k^{T_1}\|_{Y_1(T)}\right).
\]

We take \(A_3\) and \(\varepsilon_0\) so that
\[
M_1 \varepsilon_0 \leq \varepsilon_2, \quad C_4 (2M_1 \varepsilon_0 + M_1^2 \varepsilon_0) \cdot 2^{1/2} \leq \frac{1}{4},
\]
\[
A_3 \leq A_2 M_1^{-2}, \quad A_3 \leq \frac{1}{2 \cdot 4^2 C_4^2 M_1^2 (2 + M_1)^2}.
\]
Then for $T_2 = A_3 \varepsilon_0^{-2}$ and $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_0$, we have

$$C_4 (2 M_1 \varepsilon + M_2^2 \varepsilon) (1 + T_2)^{1/2} \leq \frac{1}{4},$$

and thus

$$\| \psi^{T_1}_k - \phi^{T_1}_k \|_{L^1(X_k)} + \| \psi^{T_1}_k - \phi^{T_1}_k \|_{L^1(Y_k)} \leq \frac{4}{3} C_4 \| \partial \psi^{T_1}_k (0, \cdot) - \partial \phi^{T_1}_k (0, \cdot) \|_{L^2} + \frac{1}{3} (\| \psi^{T_1}_k - \phi^{T_1}_k \|_{L^1(X_k)} + \| \psi^{T_1}_k - \phi^{T_1}_k \|_{L^1(Y_k)}).
$$

Hence we have $\| \psi^{T_1}_k - \phi^{T_1}_k \|_{E_1(t)} + \| \psi^{T_1}_k - \phi^{T_1}_k \|_{Y_1(t)} \to 0$ as $k \to \infty$, which implies $\phi^{T_1}_k \to \phi^{T_1}$ in $X_1(T_2) \cap Y_1(T_2)$. Therefore, we have shown that there exists an extension of $\phi \in X_1(T_1) \cap Y_1(T_1)$ such that $\phi_k \to \phi$ in $X_1(T_1 + T_2) \cap Y_1(T_1 + T_2)$, and it turns out that $\| \phi \|_{E_2(\{T_1 + T_2\})} + \| \phi \|_{Y_2(\{T_1 + T_2\})} + \| \phi \|_{Z_2(\{T_1 + T_2\})} \leq M_1 \varepsilon$. Repeating this argument, we can extend the solution as long as $T \leq \exp(A_1 \varepsilon^{-1})$. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1.

6. Continuous dependence on the data

6.1. Preliminaries. We have proven the almost global existence of a strong solution to the initial value problem (1.1), (1.2). In this section, we further discuss the question whether the solution depends continuously on the data (Theorem 1.2).

In order to prove Theorem 1.2, we should weaken the regularity assumptions of Lemma 3.2 so as to apply the estimates (3.15)–(3.16) to low-regularity solutions.

**Lemma 6.1.** Let $\phi \in C^2(S_T) \cap X_1(T)$ be a solution of (3.12) satisfying $\| \phi \|_{C^0(S_T)} < \infty$ with initial data $(f, g) \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \times L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$. Assume (3.13), (3.14) and $h \in X_1(T)$.

Then the assertions (i), (ii) in Lemma 3.2 remain valid.

**Proof.** We set

(6.1) \hspace{1cm} h_k(t, \cdot) = \rho_k * h(t, \cdot) \quad \text{for} \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \ldots,

which is the convolution of $\rho_k$ and $h(t, \cdot)$ as functions on $\mathbb{R}^3$. Recalling the definition of $\rho_k$, we see that $h_k \in C^1(S_T)$ and $\| h_k \|_{C^1(S_T)} < \infty$. Since $\phi$ satisfies the equation

(6.2) \hspace{1cm} \partial_t^2 \phi - \Delta \phi + h_k(t, x) \Delta \phi = F + (h_k - h) \Delta \phi,

we have, applying the inequality preceding Lemma 3.2,

$$\| \partial \phi(t, \cdot) \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \| \phi \|_{L^1(T)} + \| \phi \|_{Z_1(T)} \leq C \left( \| \nabla \phi(0, \cdot) \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \| \partial \phi(0, \cdot) \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} \right)$$

$$+ C \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left( |\partial \phi||F| + \frac{|\phi||F|}{r^{1/2}(r)^{1/2}} \right) dx \, dt$$

$$+ C \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left( |\partial \phi||h_k - h|| \Delta \phi | + \frac{|\phi||(h_k - h)|| \Delta \phi |}{r^{1/2}(r)^{1/2}} \right) dx \, dt$$

$$+ C \left( \| h_k \|_{L^\infty_\tau} + \| r^{1/2}(r)^{1/2} \partial h_k \|_{L^\infty_\tau} \right)$$

$$\times \left( \| r^{-5/4}(r)^{-1/4} \phi \|_{L^2_\tau}^2 + \| r^{-1/4}(r)^{-1/4} \partial \phi \|_{L^2_\tau}^2 \right)$$

for $T \leq \exp(A_1 \varepsilon^{-1})$. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.2.
for $0 \leq t \leq T$. Here $L^p_{t,x}$ stands for $L^p(S_T)$. Using Lemma 4.2, we have

$$\partial h_k(t,x) \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \rho_k(y) |\partial h(t,x-y)| dy \leq \|r^{1/2}(r)^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty_{t,x}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{\rho_k(y)}{|x-y|^{1/2}(x-y)^{1/2}} dy \leq C \|r^{1/2}(r)^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty_{t,x}} |x|^{-1/2} \langle x \rangle^{-1/2},$$

and hence

$$\|h_k\|_{L^\infty_{t,x}} + \|r^{1/2}(r)^{1/2} \partial h_k\|_{L^\infty_{t,x}} \leq C (\|h\|_{L^\infty_{t,x}} + \|r^{1/2}(r)^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty_{t,x}}).$$

Therefore, noting

$$\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left( |\partial \phi ||(h_k - h)\Delta \phi| + \|\phi||h_k - h\|_{L^2_{t,x}} \right) dx dt \leq C \|\Delta \phi\|_{L^\infty_{t,x}} (\|\partial \phi\|_{L^2_{t,x}} + \|\phi\|_{L^2_{t,x}}) \|h_k - h\|_{L^2_{t,x}}$$

and passing to the limit, we obtain the desired estimate.

\[ \square \]

Lemma 6.2. Let $\phi \in X_1(T) \cap Y_1(T)$ be a weak solution of (3.12) with initial data $(f,g) \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \times L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$. Assume (3.13), (3.14) and $h \in X_1(T)$. Then the assertions (i), (ii) in Lemma 3.2 remain valid.

Here the constant $C_2$ appearing in (3.15)–(3.16) should be replaced by a larger one, which is written as $C_2$ again. We say that $\phi \in X_1(T) \cap Y_1(T)$ is a weak solution of (3.12) if

$$\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\partial_t \phi \partial_t \psi - \partial^j \phi \partial_j \psi + \partial^j \phi \partial_j (h \psi)) dx dt = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} F \psi dx dt$$

holds for all $\psi \in C_0^\infty(S_T)$.

Proof. Let $\tilde{\phi}$ be the zero-extension of $\phi$, i.e.

$$\tilde{\phi}(t,x) = \begin{cases} \phi(t,x) & \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq T, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We also extend $h$, $F$ to $\tilde{h}$, $\tilde{F}$ similarly. We set

$$\tilde{\rho}_k(t,x) = \rho_k^{(1)} \left( t + \frac{1}{k} \right) \rho_k(x) \text{ for } (t,x) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3,$$

where $\rho_k^{(1)}(t)$ is a 1-dimensional counterpart of (3.1). We define

$$\tilde{\phi}_k(t,x) = \tilde{\rho}_k \tilde{\phi}(t,x),$$

where $u \ast v$ denotes the convolution of functions $u,v$ on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3$. Here we take $k$ large enough, so that $1/k < T/4$.

We first show that

$$\partial_t^2 \tilde{\phi}_k - \Delta \tilde{\phi}_k + h(t,x) \Delta \tilde{\phi}_k = \tilde{\rho}_k \tilde{\phi} + \tilde{h} \Delta \tilde{\phi}_k - \partial^j \tilde{\rho}_k \tilde{\partial}_j \tilde{\phi} + \tilde{\rho}_k \tilde{\partial}_j \tilde{h} \tilde{\partial}_j \tilde{\phi}$$

for $0 < t < T - 2/k$. Here, $\tilde{\partial}_j \phi$ and $\tilde{\partial}_j h$ denote the zero-extensions of $\partial_j \phi$ and $\partial_j h$, respectively. To verify this, we compute $\langle \partial_t^2 \tilde{\phi}_k - \Delta \tilde{\phi}_k, \psi \rangle$ for $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3)$, assuming $\text{supp } \psi \subset (0, T - 2/k) \times \mathbb{R}^3$. Note that if we define a product $\ast$ by

$$u \ast v = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u(s-t, y-x) v(s,y) dy, ds,$$
then \( \text{supp} \bar{\rho}_k \psi \subset (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^3 \). Therefore, we easily see that
\[
\langle \partial^2_h \bar{\phi}_k, \psi \rangle = -\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \partial_h \phi \partial_s (\bar{\rho}_k \psi) dx dt.
\]
Hence, by (6.4), we get
\[
\langle \partial^2_h \bar{\phi}_k - \Delta \bar{\phi}_k, \psi \rangle = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} F \cdot \bar{\rho}_k \psi dx dt + \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \partial^i \phi \partial_j (h \cdot \bar{\rho}_k \psi) dx dt
\]
\[
= \langle \bar{\rho}_k F + \bar{\rho}_k (\partial^i \phi j \bar{\rho}_k), \psi \rangle.
\]
This gives (6.6).

We next show that
\[
\|r^{1/4} (r)^{1/4} [h \Delta \bar{\rho}_k - \partial^j \bar{\rho}_k (h \partial^i \phi)] \|_{L^2((0, T-2/k) \times \mathbb{R}^3)} + \|r^{1/4} (r)^{1/4} \bar{\rho}_k (\partial^i h \partial^j \phi) \|_{L^2((0, T-2/k) \times \mathbb{R}^3)}
\]
\[
\leq C \|r^{1/2} (r)^{1/2} \partial h \|_{L^\infty(S_T)} \|r^{-1/4} (r)^{-1/4} \nabla \phi \|_{L^2(S_T)}
\]
for \( k = 1, 2, 3, \ldots \). For this purpose, set \( u_j = \partial_j \phi \) and
\[
I_k = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \partial^j \bar{\rho}_k (t - s, x - y) (h(t, x) - h(s, y)) u_j(s, y) dy ds,
\]
\[
\Pi_k = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \bar{\rho}_k (t - s, x - y) \partial^j h(s, y) u_j(s, y) dy ds.
\]
In what follows, we will prove
\[
\|r^{1/4} (r)^{1/4} I_k \|_{L^2(S_{T_k})} + \|r^{1/4} (r)^{1/4} \Pi_k \|_{L^2(S_{T_k})}
\]
\[
\leq C \|r^{1/2} (r)^{1/2} \partial h \|_{L^\infty(S_T)} \|r^{-1/4} (r)^{-1/4} \nabla \phi \|_{L^2(S_T)},
\]
where we set \( S_{T_k} = (0, T - 2/k) \times \mathbb{R}^3 \).

We first consider the estimate on \( \Pi_k \). Since
\[
|\Pi_k| = \left| \int_0^T \rho_k^{(1)}(t, s + \frac{1}{k}) \rho_k \ast (\partial^j h(s, \cdot) u_j(s, \cdot)) ds \right|
\]
\[
\leq \left( \int_0^T \rho_k^{(1)}(t, s + \frac{1}{k}) |\rho_k \ast (\partial^j h(s, \cdot) u_j(s, \cdot))|^2 ds \right)^{1/2}
\]
by the Schwarz inequality, we have
\[
\|r^{1/4} (r)^{1/4} \Pi_k \|_{L^2(S_{T_k})}^2 \leq \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x|^{1/2} (x)^{1/2} |\rho_k \ast (\partial^j h(s, \cdot) u_j(s, \cdot))|^2 dx ds
\]
\[
\leq \|r^{1/2} (r)^{1/2} \partial h \|_{L^\infty(S_T)} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x|^{1/2} (x)^{1/2}
\]
\[
\times \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{\rho_k(x - y) |\nabla \phi(s, y)|}{|y|^{1/2} (y)^{1/2}} dy \right)^2 dx ds.
\]
To estimate the last integral, let us set
\[
\Pi_k^{(1)} = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x|^{1/2} \langle x \rangle^{1/2} \left( \int_{|y|<1/k} \frac{\rho_k(x-y)|\nabla \phi(s,y)|}{|y|^{1/2} (y)^{1/2}} dy \right)^2 dx ds,
\]
\[
\Pi_k^{(2)} = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x|^{1/2} \langle x \rangle^{1/2} \left( \int_{|y|>1/k} \frac{\rho_k(x-y)|\nabla \phi(s,y)|}{|y|^{1/2} (y)^{1/2}} dy \right)^2 dx ds.
\]
Since \(|x| < 2/k\) if \(|x-y| < 1/k\) and \(|y| < 1/k\), it follows
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x|^{1/2} \langle x \rangle^{1/2} \int_{|y|>1/k} \frac{k \rho_k(x-y)^2}{|y|^{1/2}} dy dx \\
\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} k^{-1/2} \int_{|y|<1/k} \frac{k^3 \rho_k(x-y)}{|y|^{1/2}} dy dx \\
= C \int_{|y|<1/k} \frac{k^{5/2}}{|y|^{1/2}} dy \leq C.
\]
Therefore, by the Schwarz inequality, we obtain
\[
\Pi_k^{(1)} \leq \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x|^{1/2} \langle x \rangle^{1/2} \left( \int_{|y|<1/k} \frac{\rho_k(x-y)^2}{|y|^{1/2}} dy \right) \\
\times \|r^{-1/4} (r)^{-1/4} \nabla \phi(s,\cdot)\|_{L^2(S_T)}^2 dx ds \leq C \|r^{-1/4} (r)^{-1/4} \nabla \phi\|_{L^2(S_T)}^2.
\]
Meanwhile, since \(|x| \leq 2|y|\) if \(|x-y| < 1/k\) and \(|y| > 1/k\), we have
\[
\Pi_k^{(2)} \leq C \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{\rho_k(x-y)|\nabla \phi(s,y)|}{|y|^{1/4} (y)^{1/4}} dy \right)^2 dx ds \\
\leq C \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{\rho_k(x-y)|\nabla \phi(s,y)|^2}{|y|^{1/2} (y)^{1/2}} dy dx ds \\
\leq C \|r^{-1/4} (r)^{-1/4} \nabla \phi\|_{L^2(S_T)}^2.
\]
Thus we conclude that
\[
\|r^{1/4} (r)^{1/4} \Pi_k\|_{L^2(S_{T_k})} \leq C \|r^{1/2} (r)^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} \|r^{-1/4} (r)^{-1/4} \nabla \phi\|_{L^2(S_T)}.
\]
We next turn ourself to the estimate of \(I_k\). Suppose \(|t-s| \leq 1/k\), \(|x-y| \leq 1/k\) and set \(z = y-x\). Using Lemma 4.2, we get
\[
|h(t,x) - h(s,y)| \leq ||(t-s,x-y)|| \int_0^1 |\partial h(t + \theta(s-t), x + \theta(y-x))| \ d\theta \\
\leq C k^{-1} \|r^{1/2} (r)^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} \int_0^1 \frac{d\theta}{|x + \theta z|^{1/2} (x + \theta z)^{1/2}} \\
\leq C k^{-1} \|r^{1/2} (r)^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} |x|^{-1/2} (x)^{-1/2}.
\]
for $0 \leq t \leq T - 2/k$. Strictly speaking, here we should first approximate $\tilde{h}$ as \((6.1)\), and then use \((6.3)\). This justification is easy, so we omit it.

It follows from the above estimate that

$$|I_k| \leq C\|r^{1/2} \langle r \rangle^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} |x|^{-1/2} \langle x \rangle^{-1/2} \times \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} k^{-1} |\partial^j \tilde{\rho}_k(t - s, x - y)| |u_j(s, y)| dy ds.$$ 

Since $\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} k^{-1} |\partial^j \tilde{\rho}_k(t - s, x - y)| dy ds \leq C$, we proceed as

$$|I_k| \leq C\|r^{1/2} \langle r \rangle^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} |x|^{-1/2} \langle x \rangle^{-1/2} \times \left(\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} k^{-1} |\partial^j \tilde{\rho}_k(t - s, x - y)| |u_j(s, y)|^2 dy ds\right)^{1/2}$$

for $0 \leq t \leq T - 2/k$. This gives

$$\|r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} I_k\|_{L^2(S_T)} \leq C\|r^{1/2} \langle r \rangle^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} \times \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} k^{-1} |\partial^j \tilde{\rho}_k(x - y)| |u_j(s, y)|^2 dxdy ds.$$ 

Since we are able to show

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} k^{-1} |\partial^j \tilde{\rho}_k(x - y)| \frac{dx}{|x|^{1/2} \langle x \rangle^{1/2}} \leq C |y|^{-1/2} \langle y \rangle^{-1/2}$$

in the same way as in the proof of Lemma 4.2, we arrive at

$$\|r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} I_k\|_{L^2(S_T)} \leq C\|r^{1/2} \langle r \rangle^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} \|r^{-1/4} \langle r \rangle^{-1/4} \nabla \phi\|_{L^2(S_T)}.$$ 

This completes the proof of \((6.7)\).

Now we are in a position to apply Lemma 6.1 to \((6.6)\). We can see that $\|\tilde{\phi}\|_{C^2(S_T)} < \infty$ by the Schwarz inequality. Let us prove below that \((3.16)\) holds in the present setting if $r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} F \in L^2(S_T)$. The inequality \((3.15)\) can be proven similarly. We set

$$F_k = \tilde{\rho}_k \hat{F} + \tilde{h} \Delta \tilde{\rho}_k - \partial^j \tilde{\rho}_k \tilde{\tilde{\rho}}(\tilde{h} \partial_j \phi) + \tilde{\rho}_k \hat{F} \partial_j \phi$$

(the right-hand side of \((6.6)\)) and estimate $\|r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} F_k\|_{L^2(S_T)}$. By using \((6.7)\), we get

\[(6.8) \quad \|r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} F_k\|_{L^2(S_T)} \leq \|r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} \tilde{\rho}_k \hat{F}\|_{L^2(S_T)} + C\|r^{1/2} \langle r \rangle^{1/2} \partial h\|_{L^\infty(S_T)} \|r^{-1/4} \langle r \rangle^{-1/4} \nabla \phi\|_{L^2(S_T)}.
\]

Furthermore, we see that

$$\|r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} \tilde{\rho}_k \hat{F}\|_{L^2(S_T)} \leq C \|r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} F\|_{L^2(S_T)}.$$ 

In fact, if we set $G(t, x) = r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} F(t, x)$, we have

$$|\tilde{\rho}_k \hat{F}(t, x)|^2 = \left| \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \tilde{\rho}_k(t - s, x - y)G(s, y)dy ds \right|^2 \leq Cr^{-1/2} \langle r \rangle^{-1/2} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \tilde{\rho}_k(t - s, x - y)|G(s, y)|^2 dy ds$$
by the Schwarz inequality and Lemma 4.2, which immediately yields
\[
\|r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} \bar{\rho}_k \bar{\phi} \|^2_{L^2(S_{T_k})} \\
\leq C \int_0^{T-2/k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_0^{T} \bar{\rho}_k(t - s, x - y) |G(s, y)|^2 dy ds dx dt \\
\leq C \|G\|^2_{L^2(S_{T})} = \|r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} F \|^2_{L^2(S_{T})},
\]
as desired. Thus (6.8) gives

\[ ||r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} F_k||_{L^2(S_{T_k})} \leq C ||r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} F||_{L^2(S_{T})} + C ||r^{1/2} \langle r \rangle^{1/2} \partial h||_{L^\infty(S_{T})} ||r^{-1/4} \langle r \rangle^{-1/4} \nabla \phi||_{L^2(S_{T})}. \]

Therefore, by Lemma 6.1, we have

\[ ||\partial \bar{\phi}_k(t, \cdot)||_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}^2 + ||\bar{\phi}_k||_{Z_1(T-2/k)}^2 + ||\bar{\phi}_k||_{Z_1(T-2/k)}^2 \leq C (||\nabla \bar{\phi}_k(0, \cdot)||_{L^2}^2 + ||\partial \bar{\phi}_k(0, \cdot)||_{L^2}^2) + C (\log(2 + T))^{1/2} ||\bar{\phi}_k||_{Z_1(T-2/k)} \\
\times (||r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} F||_{L^2(S_{T})} + ||r^{1/2} \langle r \rangle^{1/2} \partial h||_{L^\infty(S_{T})} ||r^{-1/4} \langle r \rangle^{-1/4} \nabla \phi||_{L^2(S_{T})}) + C \log(2 + T) ||\bar{\phi}_k||_{Z_1(T-2/k)}^2 \\
\times (||h||_{L^\infty(S_{T})} + ||r^{1/2} \langle r \rangle^{1/2} \partial h||_{L^\infty(S_{T})})
\]
for \( 0 < t < T - 2/k. \)

To estimate \( ||\bar{\phi}_k||_{Z_1(T-2/k)} \) appearing on the right-hand side of (6.10), we note that, by the Schwarz inequality and Lemma 4.2,

\[
||r^{-1/4} \langle r \rangle^{-1/4} \partial \bar{\phi}_k||_{L^2(S_{T_k})}^2 \\
= \int_0^{T-2/k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x|^{-1/2} \langle x \rangle^{-1/2} \\
\times \left| \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \bar{\rho}_k(t - s, x - y) \partial \phi(s, y) dy ds \right| dx dt \\
\leq \int_0^{T-2/k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x|^{-1/2} \langle x \rangle^{-1/2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \rho_k(x - y) |\partial \phi(s, y)|^2 dy dx ds \\
\leq C ||r^{-1/4} \langle r \rangle^{-1/4} \partial \phi||_{L^2(S_{T})}^2.
\]

Similarly, we also have

\[
||r^{-5/4} \langle r \rangle^{-5/4} \partial \bar{\phi}_k||_{L^2(S_{T_k})} \leq C ||r^{-5/4} \langle r \rangle^{-1/4} \phi||_{L^2(S_{T})}.
\]

Hence, (6.10) leads to

\[ ||\partial \bar{\phi}_k(t, \cdot)||_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}^2 + ||\bar{\phi}_k||_{Z_1(T-2/k)}^2 + ||\bar{\phi}_k||_{Z_1(T-2/k)}^2 \leq C (||\nabla \bar{\phi}_k(0, \cdot)||_{L^2}^2 + ||\partial \bar{\phi}_k(0, \cdot)||_{L^2}^2) + C (\log(2 + T))^{1/2} ||\bar{\phi}_k||_{Z_1(T-2/k)}^2 \\
\times (||r^{1/4} \langle r \rangle^{1/4} F||_{L^2(S_{T})} + ||r^{1/2} \langle r \rangle^{1/2} \partial h||_{L^\infty(S_{T})}) + C \log(2 + T) ||\phi||_{Z_1(T)}^2 \\
\times (||h||_{L^\infty(S_{T})} + ||r^{1/2} \langle r \rangle^{1/2} \partial h||_{L^\infty(S_{T})}).
\]

Finally, the inequality above passes to the limit as follows.
\[ -(\frac{1}{2})\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{8} \]

\[ \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \tilde{\rho}_k(t-s,y)\partial_\alpha \phi(s,y)dyds, \]

and hence

\[ \| \partial_\alpha \tilde{\phi}_k(t,\cdot) - \partial_\alpha \phi(t,\cdot) \|_{L^2} \]
\[ \leq \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \tilde{\rho}_k(t-s,y)\| \partial_\alpha \phi(s,\cdot - y) - \partial_\alpha \phi(t,\cdot) \|_{L^2}dyds \]
\[ \leq \int_0^T \rho_k(y)\| \partial_\alpha \phi(t,\cdot - y) - \partial_\alpha \phi(t,\cdot) \|_{L^2}dy, \]

Thus we have \( \lim_{k \to \infty} \partial_\alpha \tilde{\phi}_k(t,\cdot) = \partial_\alpha \phi(t,\cdot) \) in \( L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \).

- \( \| \phi \|_{Z_1(T)}^2 \leq \liminf_{k \to \infty} \| \tilde{\phi}_k \|_{Z_1(T-2/k)}^2, \quad \| \phi \|_{Z_1(T)}^2 \leq \liminf_{k \to \infty} \| \tilde{\phi}_k \|_{Z_1(T-2/k)}^2. \)

By definition,

\[ (1 + T - 2/k)^{1/2} \| \tilde{\phi}_k \|_{Y_1(T-2/k)}^2 \]
\[ = \int_0^{T-2/k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} r^{-5/2}|\tilde{\phi}_k|^2dxdt + \int_0^{T-2/k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} r^{-1/2}|\partial_\alpha \tilde{\phi}_k|^2dxdt \]
\[ = \int_0^{T-2/k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} r^{-5/2}|\tilde{\rho}_k*\tilde{\phi}|^2dxdt + \int_0^{T-2/k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} r^{-1/2}|\tilde{\rho}_k*\partial_\alpha \tilde{\phi}|^2dxdt. \]

Hence we have \( \| \phi \|_{Y_1(T)}^2 \leq \liminf_{k \to \infty} \| \tilde{\phi}_k \|_{Y_1(T-2/k)}^2 \) by Fatou’s lemma. Similarly, \( \| \phi \|_{Z_1(T)}^2 \leq \liminf_{k \to \infty} \| \tilde{\phi}_k \|_{Z_1(T-2/k)}^2 \).

6.2. Continuous Dependence on the Data.

**Lemma 6.3.** Let \( \phi \in X_2(T) \cap Y_3(T) \) be a solution of (1.1), (1.2). If \( \| \nabla f \|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \| g \|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)} = \varepsilon \) \( \leq \varepsilon_1 \) and \( T \leq \exp(A_1/\varepsilon) \), then we have

\[
\| \phi \|_{E_2(T)} + \| \phi \|_{Y_2(T)} + \| \phi \|_{Z_2(T)} \leq M_1 \varepsilon.
\]

Here, \( \varepsilon_1, A_1 \) and \( M_1 \) are the same constants as those in Lemma 3.3.

Proof. Let \( \tilde{T} \leq T \) be the largest number such that (6.12) holds. It is obvious that \( \tilde{T} > 0 \). Since it is now evident from Lemma 6.2 that Lemma 3.4 holds for \( \phi, \tilde{\phi} \in X_2(T) \), we get

\[
\| \phi \|_{E_2(\tilde{T})} + \| \phi \|_{Y_2(\tilde{T})} + \| \phi \|_{Z_2(\tilde{T})} \leq C_3(\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2) + 2C_3M_1 \varepsilon \| \phi \|_{Z_2(\tilde{T})} \log(2 + \tilde{T})
\]

by considering (3.18) in \( S_T \) and letting \( \tilde{\phi} := \phi \) in (3.19). Assume \( \tilde{T} < T \). Since \( T \leq \exp(A_1/\varepsilon) \), it follows from (6.13) and (3.29) that

\[
\| \phi \|_{E_2(\tilde{T})} + \| \phi \|_{Y_2(\tilde{T})} + \| \phi \|_{Z_2(\tilde{T})} < \frac{1}{2}M_1 \varepsilon + \frac{1}{2} \| \phi \|_{Z_2(\tilde{T})},
\]

This gives \( \| \phi \|_{E_2(\tilde{T})} + \| \phi \|_{Y_2(\tilde{T})} + \| \phi \|_{Z_2(\tilde{T})} < M_1 \varepsilon \), which contradicts the definition of \( \tilde{T} \). Thus \( \tilde{T} = T \).
Lemma 6.4. Let $\phi_1, \phi_2 \in X_2(T) \cap Y_2(T)$ be solutions of (1.1), (1.2). If $\| \nabla f \|_{H^1} + \| g \|_{H^1} = \epsilon \leq \epsilon_2$ and $T \leq \exp(A_1/\epsilon)$, we have $\phi_1 = \phi_2$.

Proof. It is obvious from Lemma 6.2 that we can apply Lemma 3.5 to $\phi_1, \phi_2$. By Lemma 3.5 and Lemma 6.3, we have

$$\| \phi_1 - \phi_2 \|_{E_1(t)} + \| \phi_1 - \phi_2 \|_{Y_1(t)} \leq C_4 \cdot 2M_1 \epsilon \cdot \sqrt{2} \cdot (\| \phi_1 - \phi_2 \|_{E_1(1)} + \| \phi_1 - \phi_2 \|_{Y_1(1)}).$$

Hence, noting (3.34), we have $\phi_1 = \phi_2$ for $\epsilon \leq \epsilon_2$ and $0 \leq t \leq 1$. Applying the same estimate to $\phi_1(t + 1, x)$ and $\phi_2(t + 1, x)$, we see that $\phi_1 = \phi_2$ for $0 \leq t \leq 1$. Repeating this procedure, we conclude that $\phi_1 = \phi_2$ as long as $t \leq \exp(A_1/\epsilon)$. □

Proof of Theorem 1.2. It is evident from Theorem 1.1 and Lemma 6.4 that the map $\Phi$ is well-defined. Let $(f, g)$, $(\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \in D(\varepsilon_0)$. By Lemma 3.5 and Lemma 6.3, we have

$$\| \Phi(f, g) - \Phi(\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \|_{E_1(t)} + \| \Phi(f, g) - \Phi(\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \|_{Y_1(t)} \leq C_4 \| (\nabla f, g) - (\nabla \tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \|_{L^2}$$

$$+ 2C_4 \cdot M_1 \varepsilon_0 \cdot (1 + t)^{1/2} \times (\| \Phi(f, g) - \Phi(\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \|_{E_1(t)} + \| \Phi(f, g) - \Phi(\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \|_{Y_1(t)}).$$

Thus for $t \leq A_2 \varepsilon_0^{-2}$,

$$\| \Phi(f, g) - \Phi(\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \|_{E_1(t)} + \| \Phi(f, g) - \Phi(\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \|_{Y_1(t)} \leq 2C_4 \left( \| \nabla (f - \tilde{f}) \|_{L^2} + \| g - \tilde{g} \|_{L^2} \right).$$

If we choose $N$ large enough so that $N \cdot A_2 \varepsilon_0^{-2} \geq T_{\varepsilon_0}$, then we get

$$\| \Phi(f, g) - \Phi(\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \|_{E_1(T_{\varepsilon_0})} + \| \Phi(f, g) - \Phi(\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \|_{Y_1(T_{\varepsilon_0})} \leq (2C_4)^N \left( \| \nabla (f - \tilde{f}) \|_{L^2} + \| g - \tilde{g} \|_{L^2} \right).$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.2. □

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