

On the Role of Pressure in Theory of the Navier–Stokes and MHD Equations II

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7. MHD equations and analogous notions and results for the MHD equations

MHD = Magneto–Hydro–Dynamics

The fluid is supposed to be electrically conductive.

\mathbf{E} ... electric field

ϵ ... permittivity

\mathbf{b} ... magnetic field

μ ... permeability

\mathbf{u} ... velocity of motion of the fluid

ρ_e ... electric charge density

ρ_f ... fluid density

\mathbf{J} ... electric current density

σ ... electric conductivity tensor

Maxwell's equations:

$$\text{Gauss' law for the electric field:} \quad \operatorname{div} \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho_e}{\epsilon}, \quad (7.1)$$

$$\text{Faraday's law of induction:} \quad \mathbf{curl} \, \mathbf{E} = -\partial_t \mathbf{b} \quad (7.2)$$

$$\text{Gauss' law for the magnetic field:} \quad \operatorname{div} \mathbf{b} = 0 \quad (7.3)$$

$$\text{Ampère's law with Maxwell's addition:} \quad \mathbf{curl} \, \mathbf{b} = \mu \mathbf{J} + \epsilon \mu \partial_t \mathbf{E} \quad (7.4)$$

Ohm's law:

$$\mathbf{J} = \sigma (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{b}). \quad (7.5)$$

Transport equation for the charge density ρ_e :

Due to (7.4) and (7.1),

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \mu \operatorname{div} \mathbf{J} + \epsilon \mu \partial_t \operatorname{div} \mathbf{E} = \mu \operatorname{div} \mathbf{J} + \mu \partial_t \rho_e, \\ \partial_t \rho_e + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{J} &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (7.6)$$

Transport equation for \mathbf{b} . Due to (7.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \partial_t \mathbf{b} &= -\mathbf{curl} \, \mathbf{E} && \text{(Faraday's law)} \\
 &= -\mathbf{curl} \, (\sigma^{-1} \mathbf{J} - \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{b}) && \text{(due to Ohm's law)} \\
 &= -\mathbf{curl} \, [\sigma^{-1} (\mu^{-1} \mathbf{curl} \, \mathbf{b} - \epsilon \partial_t \mathbf{E}) - \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{b}] && \text{(due to Ampère's law)} \\
 &= \epsilon \partial_t \mathbf{curl} \, \mathbf{E} - \mathbf{curl} \, [\sigma^{-1} \mu^{-1} \mathbf{curl} \, \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{b}] \\
 &= -\epsilon \partial_t^2 \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{curl} \, [\sigma^{-1} \mu^{-1} \mathbf{curl} \, \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{b}] && \text{(due to Faraday's law)}
 \end{aligned}$$

Assuming further that $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$, $\sigma > 0$ and using the formula $\mathbf{curl}^2 \mathbf{b} = -\Delta \mathbf{b}$ (which holds for divergence-free vector fields), we get

$$\epsilon \partial_t^2 \mathbf{b} + \partial_t \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{curl} \, (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{b}) = \frac{1}{\sigma \mu} \Delta \mathbf{b}$$

Neglecting the first term on the left hand side (due to the smallness of ϵ in comparison to other quantities), we finally obtain

$$\partial_t \mathbf{b} = \frac{1}{\mu \sigma} \Delta \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{curl} \, (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{b}). \quad (7.7)$$

The complete system of MHD equations for an incompressible Newtonian electrically conductive fluid.

We assume that the fluid is incompressible, electrically conductive, with a constant density.

The momentum equation with the specific Lorentz force:

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f} - \frac{1}{\rho_f} \nabla p + \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{f}_L, \quad (7.8)$$

$$\text{where } \mathbf{f}_L = \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{b} = \left(\frac{1}{\mu} \mathbf{curl} \, \mathbf{b} - \epsilon \partial_t \mathbf{E} \right) \times \mathbf{b} \doteq \frac{1}{\mu} \mathbf{curl} \, \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{b},$$

the equation of continuity for the fluid:

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = 0, \quad (7.9)$$

the transport equation for the magnetic field:

$$\partial_t \mathbf{b} = \frac{1}{\mu \sigma} \Delta \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{curl} \, (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{b}), \quad (7.10)$$

the Gauss law for the magnetic field:

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{b} = 0. \quad (7.11)$$

Transformation to the dimensionless form.

Denote by U, T, L, B, P and F characteristic units for the velocity, time, length, magnetic induction, pressure and the external body force respectively.

Then

$$\mathbf{u} = U\mathbf{u}', \quad t = Tt', \quad \mathbf{x} = L\mathbf{x}', \quad \mathbf{b} = B\mathbf{b}', \quad p = Pp', \quad \mathbf{f} = F\mathbf{f}',$$

where $\mathbf{u}', t', \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{b}', p'$ and \mathbf{f}' represent the so called *dimensionless values* of the velocity, time, length, magnetic induction, pressure and the external body force, respectively.

Substituting to the equations (7.8)–(7.11) and omitting primes, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{U}{T} \partial_t \mathbf{u} + \frac{U^2}{L} \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} &= F \mathbf{f} - \frac{P}{\rho_f L} \nabla p + \frac{\nu U}{L^2} \Delta \mathbf{u} + \frac{B^2}{\mu L} \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{b}, \\ \frac{U}{L} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} &= 0, \\ \frac{B}{T} \partial_t \mathbf{b} + \frac{UB}{L} \mathbf{curl} (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{u}) &= \frac{B}{\mu \sigma L^2} \Delta \mathbf{b}, \\ \frac{B}{L} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{b} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Choosing $T := L/U$, $P := \rho_f U^2$, $F = U^2/L$, $B = \sqrt{\mu}U$ and multiplying the first equation by L/U^2 , the second equation by L/U , the third equation by $L/(UB)$ and the fourth equation by L/B , we obtain the system

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f} - \nabla p + \frac{1}{\mathcal{R}_f} \Delta \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{curl} \, \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{b}, \quad (7.12)$$

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = 0, \quad (7.13)$$

$$\partial_t \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{curl} \, (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{u}) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{R}_m} \Delta \mathbf{b}, \quad (7.14)$$

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{b} = 0, \quad (7.15)$$

where $\mathcal{R}_f := LU/\nu$ is the *fluid Reynolds number* and $\mathcal{R}_m := \mu\sigma LU$ is the *magnetic Reynolds number*.

Note that the equations (7.12) and (7.14) can also be written in the form

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f} - \nabla \left(p + \frac{1}{2} |\mathbf{b}|^2 \right) + \frac{1}{\mathcal{R}_f} \Delta \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{b}, \quad (7.12)$$

$$\partial_t \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{b} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{R}_m} \Delta \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}. \quad (7.14)$$

8. An interior regularity of the pressure in regions, where the velocity satisfies Serrin's integrability condition

Motivation. Let the initial–boundary value problem for the Navier–Stokes or MHD equations in $Q_T := \Omega \times (0, T)$ be given. It often happens that we study properties of solutions only in a sub-domain $\Omega' \times (T_1, T_2)$, where $\Omega' \subset\subset \Omega$ and $0 \leq T_1 < T_2 \leq T$. In order to reduce the problem in Q_T just to the problem in $\Omega' \times (T_1, T_2)$, we can use the *method of localization*.

Consider, for simplicity, just the Navier–Stokes equations. (I.e. $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}$ in the MHD system.)

Let $\Omega_2 \subset\subset \Omega_1 \subset \Omega$ and let η be an infinitely differentiable function in \mathbb{R}^3 , such that

$$\eta \begin{cases} = 1 & \text{in } \Omega_2, \\ \in [0, 1] & \text{in } \Omega_1 \setminus \Omega_2, \\ = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \Omega_1. \end{cases}$$

Multiply \mathbf{u} and p by η . The function $\eta\mathbf{u}$, however, is not divergence-free: $\operatorname{div}(\eta\mathbf{u}) = \nabla\eta \cdot \mathbf{u}$. Thus, we find \mathbf{U} such that $\operatorname{div} \mathbf{U} = \nabla\eta \cdot \mathbf{u}$ and put $\hat{\mathbf{u}} := \eta\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{U}$. The function

\mathbf{U} can be constructed by means of the so called Bogovskij–Pileckas operator. One can derive that $\widehat{\mathbf{u}}$ and $\widehat{p} := \eta p$ satisfy

$$\partial_t \widehat{\mathbf{u}} + \widehat{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla \widehat{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \widehat{p} = \nu \Delta \widehat{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{g}, \quad (8.16)$$

$$\operatorname{div} \widehat{\mathbf{u}} = 0 \quad (8.17)$$

in $\mathbb{R}^3 \times (\delta, T - \delta)$, where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{g} = & \eta \mathbf{f} - \partial_t \mathbf{U} - \mathbf{U} \cdot \nabla (\eta \mathbf{u}) - (\eta \mathbf{u}) \cdot \nabla \mathbf{U} + \mathbf{U} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{U} + (\eta \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \eta) \mathbf{u} \\ & - \eta (1 - \eta) \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} - 2\nu \nabla \eta \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} - \nu \mathbf{u} \Delta \eta + \nu \Delta \mathbf{U} + p \nabla \eta. \end{aligned} \quad (8.18)$$

The function \mathbf{g} depends on \mathbf{U} , p and η . We would like to have \mathbf{g} as “nice” as possible.

If (\mathbf{u}, p) is a suitable weak solution then the set of its singular points has the 1D Hausdorff measure equal to 0.

$(\mathbf{x}_0, t_0) \in Q_T$ is said to be a *regular point* of the solution (\mathbf{u}, p) if \mathbf{u} is essentially bounded in some space–time neighborhood of (\mathbf{x}_0, t_0) .

Each point in Q_T that is not regular, is said to be a *singular point* of the solution (\mathbf{u}, p) .

Denote by $\mathcal{S}[\mathbf{u}, p]$ the set of singular points.

Due to the information on the 1D Hausdorff measure of $\mathcal{S}[\mathbf{u}, p]$, Ω_1 and Ω_2 can be chosen so that $\overline{[\Omega_1 \setminus \Omega_2 \times (0, T)]} \cap \mathcal{S}[\mathbf{u}, p] = \emptyset$ and $\partial\Omega_1$ is arbitrarily close to $\partial\Omega'$.

Important question:

How regular are \mathbf{u} and p in $(\Omega_1 \setminus \Omega_2) \times (T_1, T_2)$?

Answers:

1) \mathbf{u} is essentially bounded in $(\Omega_1 \setminus \Omega_2) \times (\delta, T - \delta)$ for any $\delta > 0$, $\delta < T$. (Follows from the definition of a regular point.)

2) \mathbf{u} and all its spatial partial derivatives of all orders are essentially bounded in $(\Omega_1 \setminus \Omega_2) \times (T_1 + \delta, T_2 - \delta)$ for any $\delta > 0$, $\delta < T_2 - T_1$. (Follows from the result by J. Serrin [9], which says:

If $\Omega' \subset \Omega$, $(T_1, T_2) \subset (0, T)$ and $\mathbf{u} \in L^r(T_1, T_2; \mathbf{L}^s(\Omega'))$, where $2/r + 3/s = 1$, $2 < r < \infty$, then \mathbf{u} and all its spatial partial derivatives of all orders are essentially bounded in $\Omega'' \times (T_1 + \delta, T_2 - \delta)$ for any domain $\Omega'' \subset \subset \Omega'$ and $0 < \delta < T_2 - T_1$.

3) \mathbf{u} is Hölder-continuous in $(\Omega_1 \setminus \Omega_2) \times (T_1 + \delta, T_2 - \delta)$ for any $\delta > 0$, $\delta < T_2 - T_1$. (Follows from the result by A. Mahalov, B. Nicolaenko and T. Shilkin [3].)

Similar results also hold for the MHD equations. (See [3].) Here, it follows from equation (7.14) that one also can make the same statement on $\partial_t \mathbf{b}$ as on \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{b} .

These results, however, say nothing about the regularity of p and $\partial_t \mathbf{u}$.

Interior regularity of p and $\partial_t \mathbf{u}$ in regions where \mathbf{u} satisfies Serrin's condition.

Important condition (Serrin's condition):

(i) $\mathbf{u} \in L^\alpha(T_1, T_2; \mathbf{L}^\beta(\Omega'))$ for some $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\frac{2}{\alpha} + \frac{3}{\beta} = 1$, $3 < \beta < \infty$.

The Navier–Stokes equations in \mathbb{R}^3 :

Theorem 1. *Let $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^3$. Let Ω' be a domain in \mathbb{R}^3 , $0 \leq T_1 < T_2 \leq T$ and let \mathbf{u} be a weak solution to the Navier-Stokes system (with $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}$) in $\mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, T)$, satisfying condition (i) in $\Omega' \times (T_1, T_2)$. Let p be an associated pressure. Then $\partial_t \mathbf{u}$, ∇p and all their spatial derivatives (of all orders) are in $\mathbf{L}^\infty(\Omega'' \times (T_1 + \delta, T_2 + \delta))$ for any $\delta > 0$, $T_1 + \delta < T_2 - \delta$ and $\Omega'' \subset\subset \Omega'$.*

Since $p \in L^{5/3}(\mathbb{R}^3 \times (0, T))$ and ∇p has all spatial derivatives in $\mathbf{L}^\infty(\Omega'' \times (T_1 + \delta, T_1 - \delta))$ due to Theorem 1, the function $\vartheta \in L^{5/3}(0, T)$ can be chosen so that $p + \vartheta \in L^\infty(\Omega'' \times (T_1 + \delta, T_2 - \delta))$. (It is e.g. sufficient to put $\vartheta(t) := \int_{\Omega''} p(\mathbf{x}, t) \, d\mathbf{x}$.) Then all spatial derivatives of $(p + \vartheta) \nabla \eta$ are in $\mathbf{L}^\infty(\Omega'' \times (T_1 + \delta, T_2 - \delta))$.

The Navier–Stokes equations, the case $\Omega \neq \mathbb{R}^3$, no slip conditions:

The next theorem comes from the papers [4] and [10] by J.N., P. Penel and Z. Skalák, P. Kučera, respectively:

Theorem 2. *Let Ω be a bounded or exterior domain in \mathbb{R}^3 with the boundary at least of the class $C^{2+(h)}$ for some $h > 0$ or a half-space in \mathbb{R}^3 . Let Ω' be a sub-domain of Ω , $-\infty < T_1 < T_2 < \infty$ and let \mathbf{u} be a weak solution to the Navier-Stokes system (with $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}$) in $\Omega \times (0, T)$, satisfying the no-slip boundary condition $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ on $\partial\Omega \times (0, T)$ and condition (i) in $\Omega' \times (T_1, T_2)$. Let p be an associated pressure. Then $\partial_t \mathbf{u}$, ∇p and all their spatial derivatives (of all orders) are in $L^s(T_1 + \delta, T_2 - \delta; \mathbf{L}^\infty(\Omega''))$ for any $s \in (1, 2)$, $T_1 + \delta < T_2 - \delta$ and $\Omega'' \subset\subset \Omega'$.*

The Navier–Stokes equations, the case $\Omega \neq \mathbb{R}^3$, Navier’s boundary conditions:

One can take $s \in (0, 4]$ in Theorem 2. (See the paper [??] by P. Kučera, J.N., Z. Skalák.)

The Navier–Stokes equations, the case $\Omega \neq \mathbb{R}^3$, Navier–type boundary conditions:

One can take $s \in (0, \infty]$ in Theorem 2. (See the paper [5] by J.N., H. AlBaba.)

The MHD equations, either $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^3$ or $\Omega \neq \mathbb{R}^3$ and three types of boundary conditions for \mathbf{u} + the Navier–type boundary conditions for \mathbf{b} :

The same results as for the Navier–Stokes equations, see the paper [6] by J.N. and M. Yang.

9. On some regularity criteria for weak solutions to the Navier–Stokes and MHD equations, based on the pressure

Put $\pi := p + \frac{1}{2}|\mathbf{b}|^2$.

The next theorem follows from Theorem 4 in [6]:

Theorem 3. *Let Ω be the same as in Theorem 1 or Theorem 2. Let $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{b}, p)$ be a suitable weak solution to the MHD system with $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{0}$, where $\mathcal{R}_f = \mathcal{R}_m$, with the no-slip boundary condition for \mathbf{u} and the Navier-type boundary conditions for \mathbf{b} . Let Ω_1 be a sub-domain of Ω and $0 \leq t_1 < t_2 \leq T$. Let at least one of the following conditions hold:*

- (a) $\pi \in L^\alpha(t_1, t_2; L^\beta(\Omega_1))$ for some $\alpha \in [1, \infty)$, $\beta \in (\frac{3}{2}, \infty]$, $2/\alpha + 3/\beta = 2$,
- (b) $\nabla \pi \in L^\alpha(t_1, t_2; \mathbf{L}^\beta(\Omega_1))$ for some $\alpha \in [1, \infty)$, $\beta \in (1, \infty]$, $2/\alpha + 3/\beta = 3$.

Let $\Omega_2 \subset\subset \Omega_1$ and $0 < \delta < \frac{1}{2}(t_2 - t_1)$.

Then the solution $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{b}, \pi)$ is regular in $\Omega_2 \times (t_1 + \delta, t_2 - \delta)$.

If domain Ω is convex (and not such as in Theorem 1 or 2) then the statement on regularity can be extended to the whole domain Ω , up to the boundary. The corresponding result is the content of the next theorem, which follows from Theorem 5 in [??].

Theorem 4. *Let Ω be a convex domain in \mathbb{R}^3 . Let $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{b}, p)$ be a suitable weak solution to the MHD system in $\Omega \times (T_1, T_2)$ with the no-slip boundary condition for \mathbf{u} and the Navier-type boundary conditions for \mathbf{b} , where $\mathcal{R}_f = \mathcal{R}_m$. Let at least one of the conditions (a), (b) from Theorem 3 hold with $\Omega_1 = \Omega$ and $(T_1, T_2) = (0, T)$. Then the solution $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{b}, \pi)$ does not blow-up at any time instant $t \in (0, T]$.*

We assume that both \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{b} satisfy the Navier-type boundary conditions on $\partial\Omega \times (0, T)$ in the next criterion.

Recall that a function Φ on $[0, \infty)$ is said to be a *Young function* if it can be expressed in the form $\Phi(s) = \int_0^s \varphi(\sigma) \, d\sigma$ for $s \geq 0$, where $\varphi(0) = 0$, $\varphi(\sigma) > 0$ for $\sigma > 0$, φ is right-continuous and non-decreasing on $[0, \infty)$ and $\lim_{\sigma \rightarrow \infty} \varphi(\sigma) = \infty$. (See e.g. [?].) It follows from this definition that the Young function Φ is continuous, non-negative, strictly increasing and convex on $[0, \infty)$, and

- 1) $\Phi(0) = 0$, $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \Phi(s) = \infty$,
- 2) $\lim_{s \rightarrow 0+} \Phi(s)/s = 0$, $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \Phi(s)/s = \infty$,
- 3) if $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ then $\Phi(\alpha s) \leq \alpha \Phi(s)$ for all $s \geq 0$,
- 4) if $\beta > 1$ then $\Phi(\beta s) \geq \beta \Phi(s)$ for all $s \geq 0$,

see Lemma 4.2.2 in [8].

If D is a domain in \mathbb{R}^3 then the *Orlicz space* $L^\Phi(D)$ is the space of all measurable functions f on D with the finite norm, defined by

$$\|f\|_{L^\Phi(D)} := \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0; \int_D \Phi\left(\frac{|f(\mathbf{x})|}{\lambda}\right) d\mathbf{x} \leq 1 \right\}.$$

(This is the so called *Luxemburg norm* in $L^\Phi(D)$, see [8].)

We consider a Young function Φ that has these additional properties:

- (ii) $s^{-3/2} \Phi(s)$ is monotone increasing on $[0, \infty)$ and tends to infinity as $s \rightarrow \infty$,
- (iii) $\Phi(s)^{-2/3} \in L^1((1, \infty))$.

The next theorem comes from the papers [1] and [7].

Theorem 5. *Suppose that*

- Ω is a domain in \mathbb{R}^3 , same as in Theorem 1 or Theorem 2,
- the Young function Φ satisfies the conditions (ii) and (iii),
- $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{b}, p)$ is a suitable weak solution of the MHD equations (with $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{0}$) in $\Omega \times (0, T)$ with the Navier–type boundary conditions for both the velocity and the magnetic field (in the case $\Omega \neq \mathbb{R}^3$),
- Ω' is a sub-domain of Ω and $0 \leq T_1 < T_2 \leq T$.

Then the vector fields \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{b} are Hölder continuous in $\Omega' \times (T_1, T_2)$ if at least one of the following conditions holds;

- 1) $p_- \in L^\infty(T_1, T_2; L^\Phi(\Omega'))$,
- 2) $\mathcal{B}_+ \in L^\infty(T_1, T_2; L^\Phi(\Omega'))$, where $\mathcal{B} := p + \frac{1}{2}|\mathbf{u}|^2 + \frac{1}{2}|\mathbf{b}|^2$.

The subscripts “–” and “+” denote the negative and non-negative parts, respectively.

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