Zdeněk Skalák Additional note on partial regularity of weak solutions of the Navier-Stokes equations in the class  $L^{\infty}(0, T, L^3(\Omega)^3)$ 

Applications of Mathematics, Vol. 48 (2003), No. 2, 153-159

Persistent URL: http://dml.cz/dmlcz/134524

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## ADDITIONAL NOTE ON PARTIAL REGULARITY OF WEAK SOLUTIONS OF THE NAVIER-STOKES EQUATIONS IN THE CLASS $L^{\infty}(0, T, L^3(\Omega)^3)^*$

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(Received March 21, 2001)

Abstract. We present a simplified proof of a theorem proved recently concerning the number of singular points of weak solutions to the Navier-Stokes equations. If a weak solution **u** belongs to  $L^{\infty}(0, T, L^3(\Omega)^3)$ , then the set of all possible singular points of **u** in  $\Omega$  is at most finite at every time  $t_0 \in (0, T)$ .

Keywords: Navier-Stokes equations, partial regularity

MSC 2000: 35Q10, 35B65

(3)

Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with  $C^{2+\mu}$  ( $\mu > 0$ ) boundary  $\partial\Omega$ , T > 0 and  $Q_T = \Omega \times (0, T)$ . Consider the Navier-Stokes equations describing the evolution of the velocity **u** and the pressure p in  $Q_T$ :

(1) 
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} - \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \mathbf{f},$$

$$div \mathbf{u} = 0,$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$$
 on  $\partial \Omega \times (0)$ 

$$\mathbf{u}|_{t=0} = \mathbf{u}_0$$

where **f** is the external body force and  $\nu > 0$  is the viscosity coefficient. The existence and properties of weak solutions to (1)–(4) are discussed for example in [6].

,T),

The attention of many authors in the last decades has been directed to the question whether a smooth solution to (1)-(4) can at a certain instant of time lose its smoothness and develop a singularity. One of the basic papers concerning the problem was

<sup>\*</sup> This work has been supported by the Research Plan of the Czech Ministry of Education No. J04/98/210000010 and by the Institute of Hydrodynamics, project No. 5041/5001

written by L. Caffarelli, R. Kohn and L. Nirenberg (see [1]). They established the concept of a suitable weak solution to (1)-(4) and proved that if **u** is such a weak solution then the one-dimensional Hausdorff measure of the set S of all singular points of **u** is equal to zero. A point  $(\mathbf{x}, t) \in Q_T$  is called regular if **u** is essentially bounded on some space-time neighbourhood of  $(\mathbf{x}, t)$ . Otherwise, the point is singular.

We will concentrate on an interesting result proved by J. Neustupa in [4]:

**Theorem 1.** Let  $\mathbf{u} \in L^{\infty}(0, T, L^3(\Omega)^3)$  be a weak solution to (1)–(4), where  $\mathbf{f} \in L^2(Q_T)^3 \cup L^q_{\text{loc}}(Q_T)^3$  for some q > 5/2 and div  $\mathbf{f} = 0$ . Then the set  $S_{t_0} = S \cap \{(\mathbf{x}, t) \in Q_T; t = t_0\}$  contains no more than  $K^3/\varepsilon_5^3$  points for every  $t_0 \in (0, T)$ , where

$$K = \sup_{t \in (0,T)} \left( \int_{\Omega} |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \right)^{1/2}$$

and  $\varepsilon_5$  is the number given by Lemma 3.

In other words, the solution **u** can develop only a finite number of singularities at every particular time. The goal of this paper is to present a simplified proof of Theorem 1. Our simplification is due to the following two facts. Firstly, it is not necessary to use the concept of a separated subset of  $S_{t_0}$  (as was done in [4]) and so we can avoid the proofs of some technical lemmas. Secondly, we do not use the cut-off function technique. The boundary integrals developing as a result of this approach can be handled easily and do not represent any major problem. When reading the paper it is helpful to have [4] at hand.

Lemma 1 was proved in [2] for weak solutions to (1)–(4) and  $\mathbf{f} = 0$ . It is not difficult to generalize it to the case  $\mathbf{f} \neq \mathbf{0}$ .

**Lemma 1.** There exists an absolute constant  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  such that if

$$\sup_{t \in (t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)} \left( \int_{B_r(\mathbf{x}_0)} |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \right)^{1/3} < \varepsilon_0$$

for some r > 0,  $\sigma > 0$ , then  $(\mathbf{x}_0, t_0)$  is a regular point.

The following lemma is an easy consequence of Lemma 1.

**Lemma 2.** There exists an absolute constant  $\varepsilon_0$  such that for every singular point  $(\mathbf{x}_0, t_0) \in S$  we have

$$\lim_{r \to 0_+} \limsup_{t \to t_0^-} \left( \int_{B_r(\mathbf{x}_0)} |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \right)^{1/3} > \varepsilon_0.$$

Suppose throughout the paper that  $\mathbf{f}$  satisfies the assumptions of Theorem 1. Further, let  $\mathbf{u} \in L^{\infty}(0, T, L^{3}(\Omega)^{3})$  be a weak solution to (1)–(4). Finally, let  $(\mathbf{x}_{0}, t_{0}) \in Q_{T}$  be an arbitrary singular point of  $\mathbf{u}, r \in (0, 1), \sigma > 0$  and  $\overline{B_{r}(\mathbf{x}_{0})} \times \langle t_{0} - \sigma, t_{0} + \sigma \rangle \subset Q_{T}$ , where  $B_{r}(\mathbf{x}_{0}) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{3}; |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{0}| < r\}$ . Using the uniqueness theorem for the weak solutions to (1)–(4) from  $L^{\infty}(0, T, L^{3}(\Omega)^{3})$  proved by H. Kozono and H. Sohr in [3] and the theorem on the existence of suitable weak solutions from [1] we obtain that  $\mathbf{u}$  is suitable on  $(\delta, T)$  for every  $\delta$ . Using [1] once more we come to the conclusion that the one-dimensional Hausdorff measure of the set S of all singular points of  $\mathbf{u}$  is equal to zero. Therefore, we may suppose without loss of generality that  $S \cap (\partial B_{r}(\mathbf{x}_{0}) \times \langle t_{0} - \sigma, t_{0} + \sigma) = \emptyset$ . Denote  $D = B_{r}(\mathbf{x}_{0})$  and  $\Gamma = \partial D$ . Under the assumptions of this paragraph we can state the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.** Under the assumptions of the preceding paragraph there exists an absolute constant  $\varepsilon_5 > 0$  independent of  $(\mathbf{x}_0, t_0)$  and r such that

$$\liminf_{t \to t_0^-} \left( \int_D |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \right)^{1/3} \ge \varepsilon_5.$$

Proof. We can write  $(t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma) = G \cup \bigcup_{\gamma \in N} (a_\gamma, b_\gamma)$ , where G is a countable set and  $\mathbf{u} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(a_\gamma, b_\gamma, W^{2,2}(\Omega) \cap W^{1,2}_{0,\sigma}(\Omega))$ ,  $d\mathbf{u}/dt \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(a_\gamma, b_\gamma, L^2_{\sigma}(\Omega))$  and  $p \in W^{1,2}(\Omega)$  for almost every  $t \in (a_\gamma, b_\gamma)$ . According to [6] we have  $L^2(D)^3 = H_0 \oplus H_1 \oplus H_2$ , where

$$H_{0} = \{ \mathbf{u} \in L^{2}(D)^{3}; \text{ div } \mathbf{u} = 0, (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n})|_{\Gamma} = 0 \},$$
  

$$H_{1} = \{ \mathbf{u} \in L^{2}(D)^{3}; \mathbf{u} = \nabla q, q \in W^{1,2}(D), \Delta q = 0 \},$$
  

$$H_{2} = \{ \mathbf{u} \in L^{2}(D)^{3}; \mathbf{u} = \nabla P, P \in W_{0}^{1,2}(D) \}.$$

Let  $\pi_i$  denote the projector operator from  $L^2(D)^3$  on  $H_i$ , i = 1, 2, 3 and put  $\pi_{01} = \pi_0 + \pi_1$ . Suppose now that  $t \in (a_\gamma, b_\gamma)$  for some  $\gamma \in N$ . Multiplying equation (1) by  $\pi_{01}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|)$  and integrating over D we get

(5) 
$$\frac{1}{3} \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} - \nu \int_{D} (\Delta \mathbf{u}) \cdot \pi_{01}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + \int_{D} (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}) \cdot \pi_{01}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + \int_{D} (\nabla p) \cdot \pi_{01}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} = \int_{D} \mathbf{f} \cdot \pi_{01}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}.$$

Let us now estimate the last four terms in (5). We denote by c a generic constant independent of  $(\mathbf{x}_0, t_0), r$  and  $\sigma, C$  will denote a generic  $L^1$ -function on  $(t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)$ 

and  $\delta>0$  will be specified later. We have

(6) 
$$\nu \int_{D} (\Delta \mathbf{u}) \cdot \pi_{01}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} = \nu \int_{D} (\Delta \mathbf{u}) \cdot (\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} = \nu \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\partial u_{i}}{\partial x_{j}} n_{j} u_{i} |\mathbf{u}| \, \mathrm{d}\Gamma$$
$$- \nu \int_{D} \frac{\partial u_{i}}{\partial x_{j}} \frac{\partial u_{i}}{\partial x_{j}} |\mathbf{u}| \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} - \nu \int_{D} \frac{\partial u_{i}}{\partial x_{j}} u_{i} \frac{u_{k}}{|\mathbf{u}|} \frac{\partial u_{k}}{\partial x_{j}} \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}$$

Since **u** is bounded on  $\Gamma \times (t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)$  and  $\nabla \mathbf{u} \in L^2(Q_T)$ , the first integral on the right-hand side of (6) can be viewed as a function from  $L^1(t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)$  and we get

(7) 
$$\nu \int_{D} (\Delta \mathbf{u}) \cdot \pi_{01}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} = C(t) - \nu \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}| |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} - \frac{4}{9} \nu \int_{D} |\nabla |\mathbf{u}|^{3/2} |^2 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}.$$

Further,

$$(8) \qquad \left| \int_{D} (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}) \cdot \pi_{01}(\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{u} |) \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right| \\ \leq \left( \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3/2} \cdot |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^{3/2} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right)^{2/3} \cdot \left( \int_{D} |\pi_{01}(\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{u} |)|^{3} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right)^{1/3} \\ \leq c \left( \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right)^{1/6} \left( \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}| \cdot |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^{2} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{6} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right)^{1/3} \\ \leq \delta \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}| \cdot |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^{2} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} + \frac{c}{\delta} \left( \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right)^{1/3} \left( \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{6} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right)^{2/3} \\ \leq \delta \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}| \cdot |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^{2} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} + \frac{c}{\delta} \left( \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right)^{2/3} \left( \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{9} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right)^{1/3} \\ \leq \delta \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}| \cdot |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^{2} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} + \left( \delta + \frac{c}{\delta^{2}} \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right) ||\mathbf{u}|^{3/2}|_{6}^{2} \\ \leq \delta \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}| \cdot |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^{2} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} + c \left( \delta + \frac{c}{\delta^{2}} \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right) \\ \times \left( \frac{1}{r^{2}} \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} + \int_{D} |\nabla |\mathbf{u}|^{3/2}|^{2} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right).$$

Since  $\mathbf{u} \in L^{\infty}(0, T, L^3(\Omega)^3)$  it follows from (8) that

(9) 
$$\left| \int_{D} (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}) \cdot \pi_{01}(\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{u} |) \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right| \\ \leq \delta \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}| \cdot |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^{2} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} + c \left( \delta + \frac{c}{\delta^{2}} \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} \right) \int_{D} |\nabla |\mathbf{u}|^{3/2} |^{2} \, \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x} + C(t).$$

Let us estimate the last term on the right-hand side of (5):

$$\int_{D} (\nabla p) \cdot \pi_{01}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} = \int_{D} (\nabla p) \cdot \pi_{1}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} = \int_{D} \nabla p \cdot \nabla q \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x},$$

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where  $\Delta q = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial q}{\partial n}|_{\Gamma} = (\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}| - \nabla P) \cdot n|_{\Gamma}$ ,  $\Delta P = \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|)$  and  $P \in W_0^{1,2}(D) \cap W^{2,2}(D)$ (see [6] Chapter 1). Moreover,  $q \in W^{2,2}(D)$ . Therefore,

(10) 
$$\left| \int_{D} (\nabla p) \cdot \pi_{01}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \right| = \left| \int_{\Gamma} p \frac{\partial q}{\partial n} \, \mathrm{d}\Gamma \right| \leqslant \delta \int_{\Gamma} \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial n} \right|^{2} \, \mathrm{d}\Gamma + \frac{1}{\delta} \int_{\Gamma} |p|^{2} \, \mathrm{d}\Gamma.$$

It was proved in [5] that  $p \in L^2(\varepsilon, T, L^2(\Omega))$  for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  and therefore the last term from (10) can be viewed as a function from  $L^1(t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)$ . Further, we have

(11) 
$$\delta \int_{\Gamma} \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial n} \right|^2 d\Gamma = \delta \int_{\Gamma} \left| (\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{u} | - \nabla P) \cdot n \right|^2 d\Gamma$$
$$\leqslant \delta \int_{\Gamma} |\mathbf{u}|^4 d\Gamma + \delta \int_{\Gamma} \left| \frac{\partial P}{\partial n} \right|^2 d\Gamma$$

and  $t \mapsto \delta \int_{\Gamma} |\mathbf{u}|^4 \,\mathrm{d}\Gamma$  is a bounded function on  $(t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)$ . It follows further that

(12) 
$$\int_{\Gamma} \left| \frac{\partial P}{\partial n} \right|^2 \mathrm{d}\Gamma \leqslant c \left( \frac{1}{r^{3/2}} |\nabla P|_{3/2}^{3/2} + |\nabla^2 P|_{3/2}^{3/2} \right)^{\frac{4}{3}} \leqslant c \left| \mathrm{div}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \right|_{3/2}^2$$
$$\leqslant c \left( \int_D |\mathbf{u}|^{3/2} |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^{3/2} \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \right)^{4/3}$$
$$\leqslant c \left( \int_D |\mathbf{u}|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \right)^{1/3} \left( \int_D |\mathbf{u}| |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \right).$$

Summing up (10), (11) and (12) we obtain

(13) 
$$\left| \int_{D} (\nabla p) \cdot \pi_{01}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{u}|) \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \right| = c\delta \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}| |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + C(t).$$

Finally, the right-hand side of (5) can be viewed as an  $L^1$ -function on  $(t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)$ and we can conclude from (5), (7), (9) and (13) that

(14) 
$$\frac{1}{3} \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{dt}} \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + (\nu - c\delta) \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}| |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^{2} \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + \left(\frac{4\nu}{9} - c\delta - \frac{c}{\delta^{2}} \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}\right) \int_{D} |\nabla |\mathbf{u}|^{3/2} |^{2} \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \leqslant C(t).$$

Supposing that from now on c and C are fixed and choosing  $\delta = (2\nu)/(9c)$  we obtain

(15) 
$$\frac{1}{3} \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{dt}} \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + \frac{7\nu}{9} \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}| |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^{2} \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + \left(\frac{2\nu}{9} - \frac{c}{\delta^{2}} \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}|^{3} \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}\right) \int_{D} |\nabla |\mathbf{u}|^{3/2} |^{2} \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \leqslant C(t).$$

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Let now

(16) 
$$(c/\delta^2) \int_D |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t^*)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} < \nu/9$$

for some  $t^* \in (t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)$ . Then

(17) 
$$(c/\delta^2) \int_D |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} < 2\nu/9$$

for every  $t \in \langle t^*, t^* + \tau \rangle \cap (t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)$ , where  $\tau$  is a constant independent of  $t^*$  such that  $\int_I C(t) dt < (\nu \delta^2)/(27c)$  for every interval  $I \subset (t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)$  of the length  $\tau$ . Indeed, define  $A = \sup M$ , where  $M = \{\eta \in (0, \tau); (c/\delta^2) \int_D |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)|^3 d\mathbf{x} < 2\nu/9, \forall t \in \langle t^*, t^* + \eta \rangle \cap (t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma) \}$ . Obviously, it follows from the  $L^3(\Omega)^3$ -right continuity of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $(t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)$  that  $M \neq \emptyset$  and further  $A \in M$ . It suffices to show that  $A = \tau$ . Assuming that  $A < t_0 + \sigma - t^*$  and integrating (15) over  $(t^*, t^* + A)$  we obtain

(18) 
$$\int_{D} |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t^* + A)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \leq \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t^*)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + 3 \int_{t^*}^{t^* + A} C(t) \, \mathrm{d}t \\ < \frac{\nu \delta^2}{9c} + \frac{3\nu \delta^2}{27c} = \frac{2\nu \delta^2}{9c},$$

that is

(19) 
$$(c/\delta^2) \int_D |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t^* + A)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} < 2\nu/9.$$

The equality  $A = \tau$  now follows from (19), the definition of A and the  $L^3(\Omega)^3$ -right continuity of **u** on  $(t_0 - \sigma, t_0 + \sigma)$ .

Put further  $\delta_0 = (\nu \delta^2)/(9c)$  and choose  $\varepsilon_5 > 0$  such that  $(2\varepsilon_5)^3 < \delta_0$ . If  $\liminf_{t \to t_0^-} (\int_D |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x})^{1/3} < \varepsilon_5$  then there would exist a sequence  $t_n \to t_0^-$  such that  $t_0 - t_n < \tau$  and  $(\int_D |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t_n)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x})^{1/3} < 2\varepsilon_5$ ,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , i.e.  $\int_D |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t_n)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} < (2\varepsilon_5)^3 < \delta_0$ . Integrating (15) over  $(t_n,t)$ , where  $t \in \langle t_n, t_0 \rangle$ , we obtain

(20) 
$$\int_{D} |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \leqslant \int_{D} |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t_n)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + 3 \int_{t_n}^t C(\xi) \, \mathrm{d}\xi \leqslant (2\varepsilon_5)^3 + \varepsilon_4.$$

Since  $\varepsilon_4$  can be made arbitrarily small when considering sufficiently big n, it follows that

(21) 
$$\lim_{t \to t_0^-} \sup \left( \int_D |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \right)^{1/3} \leqslant \left( (2\varepsilon_5)^3 + \varepsilon_4 \right)^{1/3}.$$

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Choosing now  $\varepsilon_5$  and  $\varepsilon_4$  sufficiently small, the right-hand side of (21) can be made arbitrarily small, which contradicts Lemma 2. It means that in fact

$$\liminf_{t \to t_0^-} \left( \int_D |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)|^3 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \right)^{1/3} \ge \varepsilon_5$$

and  $\varepsilon_5$  is an absolute constant independent of  $(\mathbf{x}_0, t_0)$  and r. Lemma 3 is proved.  $\Box$ 

Proof of Theorem 1. Now it is easy to prove Theorem 1. Let  $\{(\mathbf{x}_{01}, t_0), \ldots, (\mathbf{x}_{0n}, t_0)\}$  be a finite set of singular points of **u**. Then there exists r > 0 and  $\sigma > 0$  such that  $B_r(\mathbf{x}_{0i}) \cap B_r(\mathbf{x}_{0j}) = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$  and

(22) 
$$K^{3} \ge \int_{\Omega} |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t)|^{3} \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \ge \sum_{i=1}^{n} \int_{B_{r}(\mathbf{x}_{0i})} |\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t)|^{3} \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \ge n\varepsilon_{5}^{3}$$

for every  $t \in (t_0 - \sigma, t_0)$ . This implies that the number of singular points developing at the time  $t_0$  cannot exceed  $K^3/\varepsilon_5^3$ .

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