

ON A PERTURBED SYSTEM OF CHEMOTAXIS, II

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Abstract: We study a parabolic-elliptic system with nonlinear boundary condition, describing the chemotactic aggregation of cellular slime molds. We show the well-posedness locally in time, blowup criterion of the solution, and finiteness of the blowup points.

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1. Introduction

This paper is concerned with the parabolic-elliptic system describing chemo-

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tactic aggregation, that is,

$$\begin{cases} u_t = \nabla \cdot (\nabla u - \chi u \nabla v) & \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T) \\ 0 = \Delta v - \gamma v - f(v) + \alpha u & \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T) \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} - \chi u \frac{\partial v}{\partial \nu} = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \times (0, T) \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial \nu} + g(v) = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \times (0, T) \\ u|_{t=0} = u_0 & \text{on } \overline{\Omega}, \end{cases} \quad (\text{GCZ})$$

where Ω is a bounded domain in \mathbf{R}^n with smooth boundary $\partial\Omega$, χ, α, γ are positive constants, $f = f(s)$, $g = g(s)$ are smooth functions, and ν is the unit outward normal vector on $\partial\Omega$. The unknown functions $u = u(x, t)$ and $v = v(x, t)$ stand for the cell density and the concentration of the chemical substance at $(x, t) \in \overline{\Omega} \times [0, T)$, respectively, and $F = -\nabla u + \chi u \nabla v$ is the flux of u so that the effect of diffusion $-\nabla \cdot \nabla u$ and that of chemotaxis compete for u to vary. Another description is the movement from the gravitational equilibrium of polytropic fluid, see [4], [6].

For the problem (GCZ) with $f(v) = g(v) = 0$, Nagai [16] showed that the conjecture of Childress and Percus [9] concerning $n = 2$ is true for radially symmetric solutions, that is, the chemotaxis collapse can occur if the total cell number on $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^2$ is larger than $8\pi/\alpha\chi$ and can not occur in the other case, and then, Nagai, Senba and Yosida [17] and Senba and Suzuki [22] corrected this value to $4\pi/\alpha\chi$ in the general case, see also Biler [5] and Gajewski and Zacharias [11]. Then, Senba and Suzuki [21] and Suzuki [23] showed the formation of collapses with the quantized mass for the blowup solution in finite time, refining the conjecture of Nanjundiah [19].

For the problem (GCZ) with $f(v) = \beta|v|^{p-1}v$ and $g(v) = 0$, Chen and Zhong [8] studied the existence and the non-existence of the solution global in time, while Kurokiba and Suzuki [13] showed the finiteness of the blowup points of the blowup solution in finite time.

In this paper we impose the following conditions on (GCZ):

$$u_0 \geq 0, \quad u_0 \not\equiv 0 \text{ on } \Omega \tag{1.1}$$

$$u_0 \in C^3(\overline{\Omega}) \tag{1.2}$$

$$f, g \text{ is smooth, say } C^2 \tag{1.3}$$

$$f'(s), g'(s) \geq 0 \tag{1.4}$$

$$f(0), g(0) \leq 0 \tag{1.5}$$

$$|f'(s)| \leq C(1 + |s|^{p_1-1}) \tag{1.6}$$

$$|g'(s)| \leq C(1 + |s|^{p_2-1}) \tag{1.7}$$

for all $s \in \mathbf{R}$, where $C > 0$, $p_1 \in (1, p^*)$ and $p_2 \in (1, p^{**})$ with

$$\begin{aligned}
 p^* &= \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } n = 2 \\ \frac{n+2}{n-2} & \text{if } n \geq 3 \end{cases} \\
 p^{**} &= \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } n = 2 \\ \frac{n}{n-2} & \text{if } n \geq 3. \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{1.8}$$

We assume the compatibility condition to the parabolic part:

$$\frac{\partial u_0}{\partial \nu} - u_0 \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial \nu} = 0,
 \tag{1.9}$$

where v_0 denotes the solution to (2.1) for $u = u_0$, see the following section. Then, we obtain the classical solution local in time:

Theorem 1. If (1.1)-(1.9) hold, then there exists a unique non-negative classical solution $(u, v) \in C^{2+\theta, 1+\theta/2}(\overline{Q_T}) \times C([0, T]; C^{2+\theta}(\overline{\Omega}))$ to (GCZ) with $\theta \in (0, 1)$ provided that T is sufficiently small.

Henceforth $T_{\max} \in (0, +\infty]$ and \mathcal{B} stand for the maximal existence time of the solution and the blowup set of u , respectively:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_{\max} &= \sup \{ T > 0 \mid \text{the solution } (u(\cdot, t), v(\cdot, t)) \text{ exists for } t \in [0, T) \}, \\
 \mathcal{B} &= \{ x_0 \in \overline{\Omega} \mid \text{there exist } t_k \uparrow T_{\max} \\
 &\quad \text{and } x_k \rightarrow x_0 \text{ such that } u(x_k, t_k) \rightarrow +\infty \text{ as } k \rightarrow \infty \},
 \end{aligned}$$

and call each $x_0 \in \mathcal{B}$ the blowup point. The following theorem assures that $T_{\max} < +\infty$ implies $\mathcal{B} \neq \emptyset$:

Theorem 2. If (1.1)-(1.9), $n = 2$ and $T_{\max} < +\infty$ hold, then it holds that

$$\lim_{t \uparrow T_{\max}} \int_{\Omega} u \log u dx = \infty.$$

Now, we state the main theorem.

Theorem 3. If (1.1)-(1.9), $n = 2$ and $T_{\max} < +\infty$ hold, then it holds that $\#(\mathcal{B} \cap \Omega) < +\infty$.

Concerning the finiteness of $\mathcal{B} \cap \partial\Omega$, see the final remark of this paper.

This paper is composed of four sections. Theorems 1, 2, and 3 are proven in sections 2, 3, and 4, respectively. Henceforth, we put $\chi = \alpha = \gamma = 1$ without loss of generality.

2. Proof of Theorem 1

To begin with, we study the elliptic equation

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta v + v + f(v) = u & \text{in } \Omega \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial \nu} + g(v) = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases} \tag{2.1}$$

Lemma 4. If (1.3)-(1.7) hold and $u = u(x) \geq 0$ is in $C^1(\overline{\Omega})$, then (2.1) has a unique non- negative classical solution $v = v(x) \in C^{2+\theta}(\overline{\Omega})$.

Proof. To confirm the uniqueness of v , let v_1 and v_2 be the classical solutions to (2.1) and set $w := v_1 - v_2$. Then, it holds that

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta w + w = -f(v_1) + f(v_2) & \text{in } \Omega \\ \frac{\partial w}{\partial \nu} = -g(v_1) + g(v_2) & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

and therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla w|^2 + w^2 dx &= - \int_{\partial\Omega} (v_1 - v_2)(g(v_1) - g(v_2)) dS \\ &\quad - \int_{\Omega} (v_1 - v_2)(f(v_1) - f(v_2)) dx \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

by (1.4). This implies $v_1 = v_2$.

To show the non-negativity $v \geq 0$, we take $v_- = \min(v, 0) \leq 0$. Since

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla v_-|^2 + v_-^2 + f(v)v_- dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} g(v)v_- dS = \int_{\Omega} uv_- dx \leq 0$$

holds by (2.1), it follows that $v_- = 0$ from (1.4)-(1.5).

The existence of v is obtained by the variational method. We set

$$I[v] := \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v|^2 + v^2 dx - \int_{\Omega} uv dx + \int_{\Omega} \tilde{f}(v_+) dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} \tilde{g}(v_+) dS \tag{2.2}$$

for $v_+ = \max(v, 0) \geq 0$ and

$$\tilde{f}(v) := \int_0^v f(s) ds, \quad \tilde{g}(v) := \int_0^v g(s) ds. \tag{2.3}$$

and show that I attains the minimum in $H^1 = H^1(\Omega)$, using (1.6)-(1.7). Since the assumption (1.6)-(1.7) guarantees the sub-criticalness of the nonlinearity, the minimizer will actually be in $C^{2+\theta}(\overline{\Omega})$ by the bootstrap argument.

First, we confirm the coercivity of the functional I . In fact, given $0 < \delta \ll 1$, we take $L = L(\delta) > 0$, using (1.4), such that

$$\frac{f(s)}{s} \geq \frac{f(0)}{s} \geq -\delta, \quad \frac{g(s)}{s} \geq \frac{g(0)}{s} \geq -\delta \quad \text{for all } s \geq L.$$

It holds that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{f}(v) &= \int_0^L f(s)ds + \int_L^v \frac{f(s)}{s} \cdot sds \\ &\geq \int_0^L f(s)ds + \frac{\delta}{2}L^2 - \frac{\delta}{2}v^2 \geq -\delta v^2 \end{aligned}$$

for $v \geq l_1$, where $l_1 = \max\{L, \sqrt{2\delta^{-1}|\int_0^L f(s)ds + \delta L^2/2|}\}$, and similarly,

$$\tilde{g}(v) \geq -\delta v^2$$

for $v \geq l_2$, where $l_2 = \max\{L, \sqrt{2\delta^{-1}|\int_0^L g(s)ds + \delta L^2/2|}\}$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \tilde{f}(v_+)dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} \tilde{g}(v_+)dS &= \int_{\{0 \leq v < l_1\}} \tilde{f}(v)dx + \int_{\{v \geq l_1\}} \tilde{f}(v)dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\{0 \leq v < l_2\}} \tilde{g}(v)dS + \int_{\{v \geq l_2\}} \tilde{g}(v)dS \\ &\geq -\delta \int_{\Omega} v^2 dx - \delta \int_{\partial\Omega} v^2 dS - C(\Omega, f, g), \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

where $C(\Omega, f, g) = |\Omega| \min_{|s| \leq l_1} \tilde{f}(s) + |\partial\Omega| \min_{|s| \leq l_2} \tilde{g}(s)$.

Since

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla v|^2 dx + \int_{\Omega} v^2 dx \geq \sigma \int_{\partial\Omega} v^2 dS \tag{2.5}$$

holds for some constant $\sigma = \sigma(n, \Omega) > 0$ by the continuity of the trace operator $\gamma : H^1(\Omega) \rightarrow L^2(\partial\Omega)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} I[v] &\geq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v|^2 dx + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon - \delta\right) \int_{\Omega} v^2 dx - \delta \int_{\partial\Omega} v^2 dS \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4\varepsilon} \int_{\Omega} u^2 dx - C(\Omega, f, g) \\ &\geq \left(\frac{1}{2} - \sigma^{-1}\delta\right) \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v|^2 dx + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon - \delta - \sigma^{-1}\delta\right) \int_{\Omega} v^2 dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -\frac{1}{4\varepsilon} \int_{\Omega} u^2 dx - C(\Omega, f, g) \\
 \geq & \left(\frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon - \delta - \sigma^{-1}\delta \right) \|v\|_{H^1}^2 - \frac{1}{4\varepsilon} \int_{\Omega} u^2 dx - C(\Omega, f, g)
 \end{aligned}$$

by (2.2) and (2.4)-(2.5), where $\varepsilon > 0$ is arbitrary. Taking $\delta, \varepsilon > 0$ such that $(\frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon - \delta - \sigma^{-1}\delta) > 0$, we thus obtain the coerciveness of I on $H^1(\Omega)$:

$$I[v] \geq \nu \|v\|_{H^1}^2 - C, \quad v \in H^1(\Omega), \tag{2.6}$$

where $\nu > 0$ and $C > 0$ are constants.

To confirm the weak lower semi-continuity of I , let $\{v_k\} \subset H^1(\Omega)$ be a minimizing sequence:

$$I[v_k] \rightarrow \inf_{w \in H^1} I[w] > -\infty.$$

Since $\{v_k\}$ is bounded from below by (2.6), we can extract a subsequence, denoted by the same symbol, such that

$$v_k \rightharpoonup v \text{ weakly in } H^1(\Omega)$$

for some v , and then it follows that

$$\|v\|_{H^1} \leq \liminf_k \|v_k\|_{H^1}. \tag{2.7}$$

Meanwhile, we have the compact imbedding

$$H^1(\Omega) \hookrightarrow W^{s,q}(\Omega)$$

and the continuous imbedding

$$W^{s,q}(\Omega) \hookrightarrow W^{s-\frac{1}{q},q}(\partial\Omega)$$

for $0 < s < 1$ and $1 \leq q < q^*$, $\frac{1}{q^*} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1-s}{n}$, see [1], which implies the compact imbeddings

$$H^1(\Omega) \hookrightarrow L^{p_1+1}(\Omega), \quad L^{p_2+1}(\partial\Omega)$$

for p_1, p_2 prescribed by (1.8). From this compactness, passing if necessary to yet another subsequence, we see that there exist $h_1 \in L^{p_1+1}(\Omega)$ and $h_2 \in L^{p_2+1}(\partial\Omega)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & v_k(x) \rightarrow v(x) \text{ for a.e. } x \in \Omega, \quad v_k(\xi) \rightarrow v(\xi) \text{ for a.e. } \xi \in \partial\Omega, \\
 & |v_k(x)| \leq h_1(x) \text{ for a.e. } x \in \Omega, \quad |v_k(\xi)| \leq h_2(\xi) \text{ for a.e. } \xi \in \partial\Omega.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since \tilde{f} and \tilde{g} are continuous

$$\tilde{f}(v_k(x)) \rightarrow \tilde{f}(v_k(x)) \text{ for a.e. } x \in \Omega, \quad \tilde{g}(v_k(\xi)) \rightarrow \tilde{g}(v_k(\xi)) \text{ for a.e. } \xi \in \Omega,$$

and it follows from (1.6)-(1.7) that

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{f}(v_k(x))| &\leq C(1 + h_1^{p_1+1}(x)) \text{ for a.e. } x \in \Omega, \\ |\tilde{g}(v_k(\xi))| &\leq C(1 + h_2^{p_2+1}(\xi)) \text{ for a.e. } \xi \in \Omega. \end{aligned}$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} &-\int_{\Omega} uv_k dx + \int_{\Omega} \tilde{f}(v_k) dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} \tilde{g}(v_k) dS \\ &\rightarrow -\int_{\Omega} uv dx + \int_{\Omega} \tilde{f}(v) dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} \tilde{g}(v) dS \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

by the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem together with the above facts, and consequently

$$I[v] \leq \liminf_k I[v_k].$$

We obtain $I[v] = \inf_{w \in H^1} I[w]$ as desired.

Finally, we show the regularity of v . We shall do it only in the case $n \geq 3$, for it is done more easily in the case $n = 2$. Set

$$r = \frac{2n}{p_1(n-2)} \in \left(\frac{2n}{n+2}, \frac{2n}{n-2} \right), \quad s = \frac{2n}{n+(n-2)(p_2-1)} \in \left(\frac{2n}{n+2}, 2 \right).$$

We use (1.6)-(1.7) to get

$$\|u - f(v)\|_r \leq \|u\|_r + C(1 + \|v\|_{r p_1}^{p_1}) \leq \|u\|_r + C(1 + \|v\|_{H^1}^{p_1})$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \|g(v)\|_{W^{1-1/s, s}(\partial\Omega)} &\leq C(\|g(v)\|_s + \|g'(v)|\nabla v\|_s) \\ &\leq C(1 + \|v\|_{p_2 s}^{p_2} + \|g'(v)\|_{\frac{2s}{2-s}} \|\nabla v\|_2) \\ &\leq C(1 + \|v\|_{H^1}^{p_2} + \|\nabla v\|_2 + \|v\|_{\frac{2s(p_2-1)}{2-s}}^{p_2-1} \|\nabla v\|_2) \\ &= C(1 + \|v\|_{H^1}^{p_2} + \|\nabla v\|_2 + \|v\|_{\frac{2n}{n-2}}^{p_2-1} \|\nabla v\|_2) \\ &\leq C(1 + \|v\|_{H^1} + \|v\|_{H^1}^{p_2}). \end{aligned}$$

From these inequalities and the L^p estimates (see [2]), it follows that

$$v \in W^{2, \tilde{q}_0}(\Omega) \quad \text{with } \tilde{q}_0 = \min(r, s) \in \left(\frac{2n}{n+2}, 2 \right).$$

If $2n/(n+2) < \tilde{q}_{k-1} \leq n$, then we define $q_k, r_k, s_k, \tilde{q}_k$ recursively as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 q_k &= \begin{cases} \frac{n\tilde{q}_{k-1}}{n-\tilde{q}_{k-1}} & (\frac{2n}{n+2} < \tilde{q}_{k-1} < n) \\ \text{any larger real than } n & (\tilde{q}_{k-1} = n), \end{cases} \\
 r_k &= \begin{cases} \frac{q_k^*}{p_1} & (\frac{2n}{n+2} < \tilde{q}_{k-1} < \frac{n}{2}) \\ \text{any larger real than } n & (\frac{n}{2} \leq \tilde{q}_{k-1} \leq n), \end{cases} \\
 s_k &= \begin{cases} \frac{q_k q_k^*}{q_k^* + q_k(p_2 - 1)} & (\frac{2n}{n+2} < \tilde{q}_{k-1} < \frac{n}{2}) \\ \text{any real in } (\frac{n}{2}, n) & (\tilde{q}_{k-1} = \frac{n}{2}) \\ \text{any real in } (n, q_k) & (\frac{n}{2} < \tilde{q}_{k-1} \leq n), \end{cases} \quad \tilde{q}_k = \min(r_k, s_k),
 \end{aligned}$$

where $q_k^* = nq_k/(n - q_k)$ for $\tilde{q}_{k-1} \in (2n/(n+2), n/2)$. For the above r_k and s_k , we similarly deduce

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|u - f(v)\|_{r_k} &\leq \|u\|_{r_k} + C(1 + \|v\|_{W^{1,q_k}}^{p_1}), \\
 \|g(v)\|_{W^{1-1/s_k, s_k}(\partial\Omega)} &\leq C(1 + \|v\|_{W^{1,q_k}} + \|v\|_{W^{1,q_k}}^{p_2}).
 \end{aligned}$$

Then we use the L^p estimates, again, so that $v \in W^{2,\tilde{q}_k}(\Omega)$. Repeating this finite times, we obtain

$$v \in W^{2,l}(\Omega) \hookrightarrow C^{2-n/l}(\bar{\Omega}) \quad \text{for some } l > n,$$

and conclude the desired regularity $v \in C^{2+\theta}(\bar{\Omega})$ by the Schauder estimate, see [2]. The proof is complete. \square

Proof of Theorem 1. We define

$$u^{(0)} \equiv u_0 \quad \text{on } \bar{\Omega},$$

and $v^{(0)}, u^{(1)}, v^{(1)}, \dots$ inductively as follows:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta v^{(k)} + v^{(k)} = -f(v^{(k)}) + u^{(k)} & \text{in } Q_T \\ \frac{\partial v^{(k)}}{\partial \nu} = -g(v^{(k)}) & \text{on } \Gamma_T \end{cases} \quad (2.9)$$

and

$$\begin{cases} u_t^{(k+1)} - \Delta u^{(k+1)} + \nabla \cdot (u^{(k+1)} \nabla v_0) = -\nabla \cdot (u^{(k)} \nabla (v^{(k)} - v_0)) & \text{in } Q_T \\ \frac{\partial u^{(k+1)}}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial \nu} u^{(k+1)} = \left(\frac{\partial v^{(k)}}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial \nu} \right) u^{(k)} & \text{in } \Gamma_T \\ u^{(k+1)}|_{t=0} = u_0 & \text{on } \bar{\Omega}, \end{cases} \quad (2.10)$$

where $Q_T := \Omega \times (0, T)$ and $\Gamma_T := \partial\Omega \times (0, T)$. We take

$$q > n + 2 \tag{2.11}$$

and obtain the continuous imbedding

$$W_q^{2,1}(Q_T) \hookrightarrow C^{2-(n+2)/q, 1-(n+2)/2q}(\overline{Q_T}), \tag{2.12}$$

where $C^{l,l/2}(\overline{Q_T})$ ($0 < l \notin \mathbf{N}$) is the standard Hölder space and its norm is denoted by $[\cdot]_{l,Q_T}$, see [14].

Set

$$X_{M,T} := \{u \in W_q^{2,1}(Q_T) \mid u \geq 0, \|u\|_{W_q^{2,1}(Q_T)} \leq M, u|_{t=0} = u_0\} \tag{2.13}$$

for $M > 0$ and $0 < T \ll 1$ to be decided later. From (2.11), (2.12) and Lemma 4, we can define $v^{(k)}$ as the solution to (2.9) with non-negativity if $u^{(k)} \in X_{M,T}$. Henceforth, C_i^* ($i = 1, 2, \dots$) denotes the positive constant which is monotone increasing on T and depends on M and given data, but not on $u^{(k)}$ and $v^{(k)}$. Using the mean value theorem and standard elliptic regularity, we can find the inequality

$$\sup_{\substack{x \in \overline{\Omega} \\ t, s \in [0, T], t \neq s}} \frac{|v^{(k)}(x, t) - v^{(k)}(x, s)| + |\nabla v^{(k)}(x, t) - \nabla v^{(k)}(x, s)|}{|t - s|^{1-(n+2)/2q}} \leq C_1^*, \tag{2.14}$$

where C_1^* is independent of T .

If $u^{(k)} \in X_{M,T}$ and $v^{(k)}$ is a solution to (2.9), then there exists a unique solution $u^{(k+1)} \in W_q^{2,1}(Q_T)$ to (2.10) such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|u^{(k+1)}\|_{W_q^{2,1}(Q_T)} \leq C_0^*(T) & \left\{ \|u_0\|_{W^{2,q}(\Omega)} + \|\nabla \cdot (u^{(k)} \nabla (v^{(k)} - v_0))\|_{L^q(Q_T)} \right. \\ & \left. + \left\| \left(\frac{\partial v^{(k)}}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial \nu} \right) u^{(k)} \right\|_{W_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} \right\}, \end{aligned} \tag{2.15}$$

by the $W_q^{2,1}$ -theory, see [14]. Note that $C_0^*(T)$ is independent of M and monotone increasing on T . We compute

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\nabla \cdot (u^{(k)} \nabla (v^{(k)} - v_0))\|_{L^q(Q_T)} \\ \leq & M (\|v^{(k)} - v_0\|_{L^\infty(Q_T)} + \|\nabla (v^{(k)} - v_0)\|_{L^\infty(Q_T)} \\ & + \|f(v^{(k)}) - f(v_0)\|_{L^\infty(Q_T)} + \|u^{(k)} - u_0\|_{L^\infty(Q_T)}). \end{aligned} \tag{2.16}$$

It holds that

$$\|v^{(k)} - v_0\|_{C(\overline{Q_T})} + \|\nabla(v^{(k)} - v_0)\|_{C(\overline{Q_T})} \leq T^{1-(n+2)/2q} C_1^* \tag{2.17}$$

by (2.14). Since f is smooth, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(v^{(k)}) - f(v_0)\|_{L^\infty(Q_T)} &\leq C_2^* \|v^{(k)} - v_0\|_{L^\infty(Q_T)} \\ &\leq T^{1-(n+2)/2q} C_1^* C_2^*. \end{aligned} \tag{2.18}$$

We remark the following fact (see [14]): If (2.11) holds and $0 < T \ll 1$ then

$$[u]_{1+\theta, Q_T} \leq C_3^* (T^{\theta/2} \|u\|_{W_q^{2,1}(Q_T)} + T^{-1+\theta/2} \|u\|_{L^q(Q_T)}), \tag{2.19}$$

where $\theta = 1 - (n + 2)/q$ and the constant C_3^* is independent of $0 < T \ll 1$. Using Hölder’s inequality, we have

$$\|u^{(k)} - u_0\|_{L^q(Q_T)}^q \leq \frac{1}{q} T^q \|u_t^{(k)}\|_{L^q(Q_T)}^q,$$

and then

$$[u^{(k)} - u_0]_{1+\theta, Q_T} \leq T^{\theta/2} \cdot 3C_3^* M \tag{2.20}$$

by (2.19). Combining (2.16)-(2.18) and (2.20), we obtain

$$\|\nabla \cdot (u^{(k)} \nabla(v^{(k)} - v_0))\|_{L^q(Q_T)} \leq C_4^* T^{1/2-(n+2)/2q}. \tag{2.21}$$

Next, we estimate the boundary integral term as

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\| \left(\frac{\partial v^{(k)}}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial \nu} \right) u^{(k)} \right\|_{W_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} \\ &\leq \|g(v^{(k)}) - g(v_0)\|_{L^\infty(\Gamma_T)} \cdot \|u^{(k)}\|_{W_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} \\ &\quad + \|g(v^{(k)}) - g(v_0)\|_{W_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} \cdot \|u^{(k)}\|_{L^\infty(\Gamma_T)} \\ &\leq CM(\|g(v^{(k)}) - g(v_0)\|_{L^\infty(\Gamma_T)} + \|g(v^{(k)}) - g(v_0)\|_{W_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)}), \end{aligned} \tag{2.22}$$

where C is independent of M and T . Since g is smooth and (2.14) holds, we have

$$\|g(v^{(k)}) - g(v_0)\|_{L^\infty(\Gamma_T)} \leq T^{1-(n+2)/2q} C_5^* \tag{2.23}$$

Following the notations of [14], we take the canonical set $B \subset \mathbf{R}^{n-1}$, for instance the unit cube in \mathbf{R}^{n-1} , and the finite family of the mappings $\Phi_j : B \rightarrow$

$V_j \subset \partial\Omega$ ($j \in \mathcal{J}$) each of which is one-to-one, onto and smooth, and satisfies $\cup_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \Phi_j B = \partial\Omega$. Let $\{\rho_j\}_{j \in \mathcal{J}}$, $0 \leq \rho_j \leq 1$, be a smooth partition of unity subject to $\{\Phi_j(B)\}_{j \in \mathcal{J}}$. Set

$$\|u\|_{W_q^{\lambda, \lambda/2}(\Gamma_T)} := \|u\|_{L^q(\Gamma_T)} + \langle u \rangle_{L_q^{\lambda, \lambda/2}(\Gamma_T)}$$

for $0 < \lambda < 1$, where

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_{L^q(\Gamma_T)} &:= \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \|\Phi_j^*(u\rho_j)\|_{L^q(B \times (0, T))}, \\ \langle u \rangle_{L_q^{\lambda, \lambda/2}(\Gamma_T)} &:= \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \langle \Phi_j^*(u\rho_j) \rangle_{L_q^{\lambda, \lambda/2}(B \times (0, T))}, \\ \langle w \rangle_{L_q^{\lambda, \lambda/2}(B \times (0, T))} &:= \left\{ \int_0^T dt \int \int_{B \times B} \frac{|w(x, t) - w(y, t)|^q}{|x - y|^{n-1+\lambda q}} dx dy \right\}^{1/q} \\ &\quad + \left\{ \int_B dx \int_0^T \int_0^T \frac{|w(x, t) - w(x, s)|^q}{|t - s|^{1+\lambda q/2}} dt ds \right\}^{1/q} \\ &=: \langle w \rangle_{L_q^{\lambda, 0}(B \times (0, T))} + \langle w \rangle_{L_q^{0, \lambda/2}(B \times (0, T))}, \end{aligned}$$

and Φ_j^* is the pull back induced by Φ_j .

We set $w_j^{(k)} = \Phi_j^*(v^{(k)}\rho_j)$ and may take the unit cube as the above B . We calculate according to the above definition and get

$$\|v^{(k)}\|_{L^q(\Gamma_T)} + \langle v^{(k)} \rangle_{L_q^{1-1/q, 0}(\Gamma_T)} \leq T^{1/q} C \sup_{0 < t < T} \|v^{(k)}(\cdot, t)\|_{W^{1, q}(\Omega)}, \quad (2.24)$$

$$\langle w_j^{(k)} \rangle_{L_q^{0, (1-1/q)/2}(B \times (0, T))} \leq T^{(q+1-n)/2q} C_1^*. \quad (2.25)$$

From the elliptic regularity and (2.20) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|v^{(k)}(t) - v_0\|_{W^{1, q}(\Omega)} &\leq C_6^* \|u^{(k)}(t) - u_0\|_{C(\bar{\Omega})} \\ &\leq T^{\frac{1}{2}(1-(n+2)/q)} \cdot 3C_3^* C_6^* M, \end{aligned} \quad (2.26)$$

and then

$$\sup_{0 < t < T} \|v^{(k)}(\cdot, t)\|_{W^{1, q}(\Omega)} \leq \|v_0\|_{W^{1, q}} + T^{\frac{1}{2}(1-(n+2)/q)} \cdot 2C_3^* C_6^* M. \quad (2.27)$$

Combining (2.24), (2.25) and (2.27), we get

$$\|v^{(k)}\|_{W_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} \leq T^{1/q} C_7^*. \quad (2.28)$$

One can see that if there exist constants A_i ($i = 1, 2$) such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|v^{(k)}\|_{L^\infty(\Gamma_T)} + \|v_0\|_{L^\infty(\Gamma_T)} \leq A_1, \\ & \langle v^{(k)} \rangle_{L_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} + \langle v_0 \rangle_{L_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} \leq A_2, \end{aligned}$$

then there exists a constant C_8^* depending only on q, A_1, A_2, g and Ω such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|g(v^{(k)}) - g(v_0)\|_{W_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} \\ & \leq C_8^* (\|v^{(k)} - v_0\|_{W_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} + \|v^{(k)} - v_0\|_{L^\infty(\Gamma_T)}). \end{aligned} \tag{2.29}$$

It holds that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|v^{(k)} - v_0\|_{L^q(\Gamma_T)} + \langle v^{(k)} - v_0 \rangle_{L_q^{1-1/q, 0}(\Gamma_T)} \\ & \leq T^{1/q} C \sup_{0 < t < T} \|v^{(k)}(\cdot, t) - v_0\|_{W^{1,q}(\Omega)} \\ & \leq T^{\frac{1}{2}(1-n/q)} C_9^* \end{aligned}$$

by (2.26) and the trace embedding, and that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v^{(k)} - v_0 \rangle_{L_q^{0, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} & = \langle v^{(k)} \rangle_{L_q^{0, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} \\ & \leq T^{(q+1-n)/2q} C_{1\#}^* \mathcal{J} \end{aligned}$$

by (2.25). Hence, we get

$$\|v^{(k)} - v_0\|_{W_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} \leq T^{(q-n)/2q} C_{10}^*. \tag{2.30}$$

Combining (2.22), (2.23), (2.17) and (2.29)-(2.30), we obtain

$$\left\| \left(\frac{\partial v^k}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial \nu} \right) u^{(k)} \right\|_{W_q^{1-1/q, 1/2-1/2q}(\Gamma_T)} \leq T^{(q-n)/2q} C_{11}^*. \tag{2.31}$$

From (2.15), (2.21) and (2.31) we arrive at the following inequality:

$$\|u^{(k+1)}\|_{W_q^{2,1}(Q_T)} \leq C_0^*(T) (\|u_0\|_{W^{2,q}(\Omega)} + T^{(q-n)/2q} C_{12}^*). \tag{2.32}$$

We fix $0 < \delta \ll 1$. Noting that C_0^* and C_{12}^* are monotone increasing on \mathbb{T} , we can take M and T in (2.13) such that

$$M = 2\|u_0\|_{W^{2,q}(\Omega)} \max\{1, C_0^*(\delta)\}, \quad T^{(q-n)/2q} C_{12}^*(\delta) \leq \|u_0\|_{W^{2,q}(\Omega)}. \tag{2.33}$$

Then we can define a mapping

$$\Psi : X_{M,T} \ni u^{(k)} \mapsto u^{(k+1)} \in X_{M,T}.$$

To prove the existence of the solution in local-time, it suffices to prove that Ψ is a contraction mapping on $X_{M,T}$. But we omit the proof since the calculations are similar to the above ones which assure that Ψ is a mapping on $X_{M,T}$. We may need to replace T with \tilde{T} which is sufficiently smaller than the previous T . Fix $M > 0$ and $0 < T \ll 1$ such that Ψ is a contraction mapping on $X_{M,T}$, and let (u, v) be a solution to (GCZ) satisfying $u \in X_{M,T}$. The uniqueness of the solution is reduced to that of u by Lemma 4. Let (u_1, v_1) be another solution to (GCZ). By the above argument, we see that there exist M_1 and T_1 such that Ψ is a contraction mapping on X_{M_1, T_1} . If we set

$$M' := \max\{M, M_1\}, \quad T' := \min\{T, T_1\},$$

then both u and u_1 are in $X_{M', T'}$. Since Ψ is also a contraction mapping on $X_{M', T'}$, the fixed point is unique in $X_{M', T'}$, and therefore

$$u_1 = u_2 \quad \text{in } Q_{T'}.$$

The uniqueness, $u = u_1$ in Q_T , is clear if $T' = T$. Otherwise, we take

$$T_0 := \inf\{\tau \in (0, T) \mid u \neq u_1 \text{ in } Q_\tau\} \in [T_1, T).$$

It holds that $\sup_{t \in (0, T_0)} \|u_1(t)\|_{W_q^{2,1}(Q_T)} \leq C$ for some $C > 0$. In fact, smoothness of the solution in $\overline{Q_{T_0}}$ follows from (2.11), (2.12), (2.14), Lemma 4 and the Schauder theory with (1.9), see [14]. Therefore, there exists $0 < \delta \ll 1$ such that $u = u_1$ in $Q_{T_0+\delta}$, which is a contradiction by the definition of T_0 . Thus the uniqueness is shown. Smoothness of the solution is similar to the above. The proof of Theorem 1 is complete. \square

3. Proof of Theorem 2

We confirm several facts used later (see [21], [23]). The Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality in two space dimensions is described by

$$\|w\|_2^2 \leq K^2(\|\nabla w\|_1^2 + \|w\|_1^2) \quad \text{for all } w \in W^{1,1}(\Omega), \quad (3.1)$$

where K is a constant determined by Ω . We put $B_R(x_0) = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^2 \mid |x - x_0| < R\}$. To derive local in space estimates, we take the smooth cut-off function φ satisfying

$$0 \leq \varphi \leq 1 \quad \text{in } \mathbf{R}^2, \quad \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial \nu} = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega.$$

First, given $x_0 \in \Omega$ and $0 < R' < R$ with $B_{2R}(x_0) \subset \Omega$, we take such φ by

$$\varphi(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & (x \in B_{R'}(x_0)) \\ 0 & (x \in \mathbf{R}^2 \setminus B_R(x_0)). \end{cases}$$

Given $x_0 \in \partial\Omega$, next, we take a smooth conformal mapping $X : B_{2R} \cap \overline{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^2$ satisfying $x_0 \mapsto 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} X(B_{2R}(x_0) \cap \Omega) &\subset \{(x_1, x_2) \mid x_2 > 0\}, \\ X(B_{2R}(x_0) \cap \partial\Omega) &\subset \{(x_1, x_2) \mid x_2 = 0\}, \\ X(B_{R'}(x_0) \cap \Omega) &\subset B_{1/2}(0), \quad X(\Omega \setminus B_R(x_0)) \subset \mathbf{R}^2 \setminus B_1(0) \end{aligned}$$

for $0 < R' < R \ll 1$. Then set $\varphi(x) := \eta(X(x))$, where $\eta \in C_0^\infty(\mathbf{R}^2)$, $0 \leq \eta \leq 1$, $\eta = 1$ in $B_{1/2}(0)$, and $\eta = 0$ in $\mathbf{R}^2 \setminus B_1(0)$. It holds that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial\nu}(\eta \circ X) = \frac{\partial X}{\partial\nu} \cdot (\nabla\eta \circ X) = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega$$

because $(\partial X)/(\partial\nu)$ is proportional to $(0, 1)$.

The above φ is sometimes written as $\varphi_{x_0, R', R}$. Then, $\psi := (\varphi_{x_0, R', R})^6$ satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(x) &= \begin{cases} 1 & (x \in B_{R'}(x_0)) \\ 0 & (x \in \mathbf{R}^2 \setminus B_R(x_0)), \end{cases} \\ 0 \leq \psi \leq 1 &\quad \text{in } \mathbf{R}^2, \quad \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\nu} = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \\ |\nabla\psi| \leq A\psi^{5/6}, \quad |\Delta\psi| \leq B\psi^{2/3} &\quad \text{in } \mathbf{R}^2, \end{aligned}$$

where A and B are positive constants determined by R' and R . We use the following estimates derived from (3.1), see [21, 23] for the proof.

Lemma 5. The following inequalities hold for any $s > 1$, where $C > 0$ is a constant:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx &\leq 2K^2 \int_{B_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} u dx \cdot \int_{\Omega} u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx + K^2 \left(\frac{A^2}{2} + 1\right) \|u\|_1^2, \\ \int_{\Omega} u^2 dx &\leq \frac{2K^2}{\log s} \int_{\Omega} (u \log u + e^{-1}) dx \cdot \int_{\Omega} u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 dx + 2K^2 \|u\|_1^2 + 3s^2 |\Omega|, \\ \int_{\Omega} u^3 \psi dx &\leq \frac{72K^2}{\log s} \int_{B_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} (u \log u + e^{-1}) dx \cdot \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx \\ &\quad + C \|u\|_{L^1(B_R(x_0) \cap \Omega)}^3 + 10|\Omega|s^3. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 5 is irrelevant to (GCZ) and the above u is not necessarily to be the solution. Here, we emphasize the mass conservation, i.e.

$$\|u(t)\|_1 = \|u_0\|_1 = \text{constant} \quad \text{for } 0 \leq t < T_{\max}. \tag{3.2}$$

This property is derived from the first boundary condition of (GCZ) and the non-negativity of u . The second equation of (GCZ) is written as

$$-\Delta v + v = -f(v) + u \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial \nu} = -g(v) \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega.$$

Since $|f(v)| = -f(v) \leq -f(0) = |f(0)|$ if $f(v) \leq 0$ by (1.4)-(1.5), we obtain

$$|f(v)| \leq |f(0)| + f(v)$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} |f(v)| dx &\leq |\Omega| \cdot |f(0)| + \int_{\Omega} f(v) dx \\ &= |\Omega| \cdot |f(0)| - \int_{\partial\Omega} g(v) dS - \int_{\Omega} v dx + \int_{\Omega} u dx \\ &\leq |\Omega| \cdot |f(0)| + |\partial\Omega| \cdot |g(0)| + \|u\|_1 \leq \text{constant}. \end{aligned}$$

It also holds that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\partial\Omega} |g(v)| dS &\leq |\partial\Omega| \cdot |g(0)| + \int_{\partial\Omega} g(v) dS \\ &= |\partial\Omega| \cdot |g(0)| + \int_{\Omega} -v - f(v) + u dx \\ &\leq |\partial\Omega| \cdot |g(0)| + \int_{\Omega} |f(v)| dx + \|u\|_1 \leq \text{constant}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, we apply the L^1 estimate of [7] to obtain

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T_{\max}} \|v(t)\|_{W^{1,q}} \leq C_q \quad \text{for } q \in [1, 2), \tag{3.3}$$

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T_{\max}} \|v(t)\|_q \leq C_q \quad \text{for } q \in [1, \infty), \tag{3.4}$$

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T_{\max}} \|v(t)\|_{L^q(\partial\Omega)} \leq C_q \quad \text{for } q \in [1, \infty), \tag{3.5}$$

by Sobolev's and the trace embedding theorems, see [1].

Henceforth, we assume $T_{\max} < \infty$.

Lemma 6. We obtain $x_0 \in \mathcal{B}$ if and only if

$$\limsup_{t \uparrow T_{\max}} \int_{B_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} u \log u dx = \infty \tag{3.6}$$

for any $0 < R \ll 1$.

Proof. The 'if' part is obvious by the definition of \mathcal{B} . To show the converse, we assume

$$\limsup_{t \uparrow T_{\max}} \int_{B_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} u \log u dx < \infty \tag{3.7}$$

for some $0 < R \ll 1$ and show $x_0 \notin \mathcal{B}$. In fact, this implies

$$\limsup_{t \uparrow T_{\max}} \int_{\Omega} (u \log u) \psi dx < \infty$$

for $\psi = (\varphi_{x_0, R', R})^6$ ($0 < R' < R$). Multiplying the first equation of (GCZ) by $u\psi$ and integrating over Ω , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx + \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 dx + \int_{\Omega} u \nabla u \cdot \nabla \psi dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} u \psi \nabla u \cdot \nabla v dx + \int_{\Omega} u^2 \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx. \end{aligned} \tag{3.8}$$

The first term of the right hand of (3.8) is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} u \psi \nabla u \cdot \nabla v dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \psi \nabla u^2 \cdot \nabla v dx \\ &= I - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi \Delta v dx - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx, \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

where

$$I := -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\partial \Omega} \psi u^2 g(v) dS. \tag{3.10}$$

Then, using the second equation of (GCZ) and (1.4)-(1.5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} u \psi \nabla u \cdot \nabla v dx \\ &= I - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^2 (v + f(v)) \psi dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^3 \psi dx - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx \\ &\leq I + \frac{1}{2} |f(0)| \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^3 \psi dx - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \leq & I + \frac{1}{2}|f(0)| \int_{\Omega} u^2\psi dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^3\psi dx \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} v\nabla u^2 \cdot \nabla\psi dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^2v\Delta\psi dx. \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

From (3.8)-(3.11) it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u^2\psi dx + \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2\psi dx + \int_{\Omega} u\nabla u \cdot \nabla\psi dx \\ \leq & I + \frac{1}{2}|f(0)| \int_{\Omega} u^2\psi dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^3\psi dx \\ & - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} v\nabla u^2 \cdot \nabla\psi dx - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^2v\Delta\psi dx. \end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

Using Young’s inequality, we get the following inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\Omega} u^2v\Delta\psi dx \right| & \leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^2\psi^{2/3} \cdot Bv dx \\ & \leq \frac{1}{3} \int_{\Omega} u^3\psi dx + \frac{B^3}{6} \|v\|_3^3, \end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \left| \int_{\Omega} v\nabla u^2 \cdot \nabla\psi dx \right| & \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|\psi^{1/2} \cdot u\psi^{1/3} \cdot Av dx \\ & \leq \frac{1}{4} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2\psi dx + \int_{\Omega} u^2\psi^{2/3} \cdot A^2v^2 dx \\ & \leq \frac{1}{4} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2\psi dx + \frac{1}{3} \int_{\Omega} u^3\psi dx + \frac{4A^6}{3} \|v\|_6^6, \end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\Omega} u\nabla u \cdot \nabla\psi dx \right| & \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|\psi^{1/2} \cdot u\psi^{1/3} \cdot Adx \\ & \leq \frac{1}{4} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2\psi dx + \frac{1}{3} \int_{\Omega} u^3\psi dx + \frac{4A^6}{3} |\Omega|. \end{aligned} \tag{3.15}$$

Combining (3.12)-(3.15), we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u^2\psi dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2\psi dx \leq I + \frac{1}{2}|f(0)| \int_{\Omega} u^2\psi dx + \frac{3}{2} \int_{\Omega} u^3\psi dx + C_1, \tag{3.16}$$

where $C_1 > 0$ is an absolute constant induced by (3.4).

Now, we estimate I defined by (3.10). We see that there exists an absolute constant M_1 (only depending on $g(0)$) such that

$$I \leq M_1 \int_{\partial\Omega} u^2 \psi dS \quad (3.17)$$

by (1.3)-(1.5). We take a constant L such that

$$\|w\|_{L^1(\partial\Omega)} \leq M_2 \|w\|_{W^{1,1}(\Omega)} \quad \text{for all } w \in W^{1,1}(\Omega). \quad (3.18)$$

Fix $0 < \varepsilon_i \ll 1$ ($i = 1, 2$). It holds that

$$\|u^2 \psi\|_{W^{1,1}} = \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx + \int_{\Omega} |\nabla(u^2 \psi)| dx, \quad (3.19)$$

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla(u^2 \psi)| dx \leq 2 \int_{\Omega} u |\nabla u| \psi dx + \int_{\Omega} u^2 |\nabla \psi| dx, \quad (3.20)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \int_{\Omega} u |\nabla u| \psi dx &= 2 \int_{\Omega} u \psi^{1/2} \cdot |\nabla u| \psi^{1/2} dx \\ &\leq 2\varepsilon_1 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx + 2\varepsilon_1^{-1} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx, \end{aligned} \quad (3.21)$$

and

$$\int_{\Omega} u^2 |\nabla \psi| dx \leq \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi^{2/3} \cdot A \psi^{1/6} dx \leq \varepsilon_2 \int_{\Omega} u^3 \psi dx + \frac{4}{27} \varepsilon_2^{-2} A^6 |\Omega|. \quad (3.22)$$

Combining (3.17)-(3.22), we get

$$\begin{aligned} I &\leq M_1 M_2 \left\{ (1 + 2\varepsilon_1^{-1}) \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx + 2\varepsilon_1 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \varepsilon_2 \int_{\Omega} u^3 \psi dx + \frac{4}{27} \varepsilon_2^{-2} A^6 |\Omega| \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.23)$$

From (3.12) and (3.23), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx + \left(\frac{1}{2} - 2\varepsilon_1 M_1 M_2 \right) \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx \\ &\leq C_1 + \frac{4}{27} \varepsilon_2^{-2} M_1 M_2 A^6 |\Omega| + \left(\frac{3}{2} + \varepsilon_2 M_1 M_2 \right) \int_{\Omega} u^3 \psi dx \\ &\quad + \left\{ (1 + 2\varepsilon_1^{-1}) M_1 M_2 + \frac{1}{2} |f(0)| \right\} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx. \end{aligned}$$

Taking $\varepsilon_1 = (8M_1M_2)^{-1}$, $\varepsilon_2 = (2M_1M_2)^{-1}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 dx \\ & \leq C_2 + 4 \int_{\Omega} u^3 \psi dx + \{2(1 + 16M_1M_2) + |f(0)|\} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx. \end{aligned} \quad (3.24)$$

Now we use (3.7) and prescribe $s \gg 1$ by

$$\frac{72K^2}{\log s} \int_{B_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} (u \log u + e^{-1}) dx \leq \frac{1}{8}.$$

Then it follows that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx \leq C_3 + \{2(1 + 16M_1M_2) + |f(0)|\} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx$$

by Lemma 5. We use Gronwall's inequality and our assumption $T = T_{\max} < \infty$ to get

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx < \infty. \quad (3.25)$$

We continue the process, multiplying the first equation of (GCZ) by $u^2 \psi$ and integrating by parts. We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{3} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u^3 \psi + 2 \int_{\Omega} u |\nabla u|^2 + \int_{\Omega} u^2 \nabla u \cdot \nabla \psi dx \\ & = 2 \int_{\Omega} u^2 (\nabla u \cdot \nabla v) \psi dx + \int_{\Omega} u^3 \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx, \end{aligned}$$

which is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} w^2 \psi dx + \frac{8}{3} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla w|^2 \psi dx + 2 \int_{\Omega} w \nabla w \cdot \nabla \psi dx \\ & = 4 \int_{\Omega} w (\nabla w \cdot \nabla v) \psi dx + 3 \int_{\Omega} w^2 \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx, \end{aligned}$$

where $w := u^{3/2}$. Using the second equation of (GCZ), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & 4 \int_{\Omega} w (\nabla w \cdot \nabla v) \psi dx = 2 \int_{\Omega} (\nabla w^2 \cdot \nabla v) \psi dx \\ & = II - 2 \int_{\Omega} w^2 \psi \Delta v dx - 2 \int_{\Omega} w^2 \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= II - 2 \int_{\Omega} w^2(v + f(v))\psi dx + 2 \int_{\Omega} w^{8/3}\psi dx - 2 \int_{\Omega} w^2 \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx \\
 &\leq II + 2|f(0)| + 2 \int_{\Omega} w^2\psi dx + 2 \int_{\Omega} w^{8/3}\psi dx - 2 \int_{\Omega} w^2 \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx,
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$II := -2 \int_{\partial\Omega} \psi w^2 g(v) dS. \tag{3.26}$$

Then, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} w^2 \psi dx + \frac{8}{3} |\nabla w|^2 \psi dx + 2 \int_{\Omega} w \nabla w \cdot \nabla \psi dx \\
 &\leq II + 2|f(0)| \int_{\Omega} w^2 \psi dx + 2 \int_{\Omega} w^{8/3} \psi dx \\
 &\quad - \int_{\Omega} v \nabla w^2 \cdot \nabla \psi dx - \int_{\Omega} v w^2 \Delta \psi dx. \tag{3.27}
 \end{aligned}$$

By the calculation analogous to (3.13)-(3.15) and (3.23), we get the following inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned}
 2 \left| \int_{\Omega} w \nabla w \cdot \nabla \psi dx \right| &\leq \frac{1}{3} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla w|^2 \psi dx + 3 \int_{\Omega} w^3 \psi dx + \frac{4}{9} A^6 |\Omega| \\
 2 \int_{\Omega} w^{8/3} \psi dx &\leq 2 \int_{\Omega} w^3 \psi dx + \left(\frac{8}{9}\right)^8 \frac{2}{9} |\Omega| \tag{3.28}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left| \int_{\Omega} v \nabla w^2 \cdot \nabla \psi dx \right| &\leq \frac{1}{3} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla w|^2 \psi dx + 3 \int_{\Omega} w^3 \psi dx + \frac{4}{9} A^6 \|v\|_6^6 \\
 \left| \int_{\Omega} v w^2 \Delta \psi dx \right| &\leq \int_{\Omega} w^3 \psi dx + \frac{4}{27} B^3 \|v\|_3^3 \tag{3.29}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 II \leq 4M_1 M_2 \left\{ (1 + 2\varepsilon_1^{-1}) \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx + 2\varepsilon_1 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx \right. \\
 \left. + \varepsilon_2 \int_{\Omega} u^3 \psi dx + \frac{4}{27} \varepsilon_2^{-2} A^6 |\Omega| \right\}, \tag{3.30}
 \end{aligned}$$

where ε_1 and ε_2 are arbitrary positive constants. Inequalities (3.27)-(3.30) are summarized by

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} w^2 \psi dx + (2 - 8\varepsilon_1 M_1 M_2) \int_{\Omega} |\nabla w|^2 \psi dx \\
 &\leq C_4 + \frac{16}{27} \varepsilon_2^{-2} M_1 M_2 A^6 |\Omega| + (9 + 4\varepsilon_2 M_1 M_2) \int_{\Omega} w^3 \psi dx
 \end{aligned}$$

$$+ \{4M_1M_2(1 + 2\varepsilon_1^{-1}) + 2|f(0)|\} \int_{\Omega} w^2\psi dx,$$

where $C_4 > 0$ is an absolute constant induced by (3.4). If we take $\varepsilon_1 = (16M_1M_2)^{-1}$ and $\varepsilon_2 = (4M_1M_2)^{-1}$, then it holds that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} w^2\psi dx + \frac{3}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla w|^2\psi dx &\leq C_5 + 10 \int_{\Omega} w^3\psi dx \\ &+ \{4M_1M_2(1 + 32M_1M_2) + 2|f(0)|\} \int_{\Omega} w^2\psi dx. \end{aligned} \tag{3.31}$$

Since (3.25) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{0 \leq t < T} \int_{B_{R'}(x_0) \cap \Omega} w \log w dx &< \infty \\ \sup_{0 \leq t < T} \|w\|_{L^1(B_{R'}(x_0) \cap \Omega)} &< \infty \end{aligned}$$

for $R' \in (0, R)$, we can repeat the argument of the previous stage. We see

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T} \|w\|_{L^2(B_r(x_0) \cap \Omega)}^{2/3} = \sup_{0 \leq t < T} \|u\|_{L^3(B_r(x_0) \cap \Omega)} < \infty, \tag{3.32}$$

replacing u, R and $\psi = (\varphi_{x_0, R', R})^6$ by w, R' , and $\psi = (\varphi_{x_0, R'', R'})^6$ respectively, where $R'' \in (0, R')$ and $r \in (0, R)$. For $h := u - f(v)$, we have

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T} \|h\|_{L^3(B_r(x_0) \cap \Omega)} < \infty$$

by (3.4) and (3.32), and then

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T} \|v\|_{W^{2,3}(B_{r'}(x_0) \cap \Omega)} < \infty \quad \text{for } r' \in (0, r),$$

follows from the elliptic regularity. Since $R' \in (0, R)$ and $r' \in (0, R')$ are arbitrary, Sobolev's embedding guarantees

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T} \|v\|_{C^1(B_r(x_0) \cap \Omega)} < \infty \quad \text{for all } r \in (0, R). \tag{3.33}$$

Repeating the arguments once more, we have

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T} \|u\|_{L^4(B_r(x_0) \cap \Omega)} < \infty \quad \text{for all } r \in (0, R). \tag{3.34}$$

From this stage, we use only the first equation of (GCZ). The rest of the proof is thus analogous to Step 3 of Lemma 5 of [21] (see also [23]). Skipping

details, we just mention that estimates (3.33)-(3.34) and the Moser’s iteration scheme (see [3]) are used to obtain

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T} \|u\psi\|_\infty < \infty.$$

This implies

$$\limsup_{t \uparrow T} \|u\|_{L^\infty(B_{r'}(x_0) \cap \Omega)} < \infty,$$

and therefore $x_0 \notin \mathcal{B}$. \square

Proof of Theorem 2. We shall prove that

$$\limsup_{t \uparrow T} \int_\Omega u \log u \, dx < \infty \tag{3.35}$$

follows from

$$\liminf_{t \uparrow T} \int_\Omega u \log u \, dx < \infty. \tag{3.36}$$

In fact, the proof of Lemma 6 is valid even to $\varphi \equiv 1$, and hence we can show that (3.35) implies

$$\limsup_{t \uparrow T} \|u\|_\infty < \infty. \tag{3.37}$$

If (3.37) is the case, then the standard theories (see [2], [12] and [14]) and (3.3)-(3.5) guarantee that the solution u to (GCZ) is continued after $t = T$. Thus, $T_{\max} < \infty$ implies (3.36) and hence we obtain the result $\lim_{t \uparrow T} \int_\Omega u \log u \, dx = \infty$.

Now, multiplying $\log u$ by the first equation of (GCZ), and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_\Omega u \log u \, dx + \int_\Omega u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 + uv + u(f(v) - f(0)) \, dx \\ = |f(0)| \cdot \|u\|_1 + \int_\Omega u^2 \, dx. \end{aligned} \tag{3.38}$$

Using Lemma 5 and (3.2), we see

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_\Omega u \log u \, dx + \left\{ 1 - \frac{2K^2}{\log s} \int_\Omega (u \log u + e^{-1}) \, dx \right\} \int_\Omega u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 \, dx \\ \leq C_6 \|u_0\|_1^2 + 3s^2 |\Omega|, \end{aligned}$$

where $s > 0$ is arbitrary. Then, we take

$$s = s(t) = \exp(2K^2 \int_\Omega (u \log u + e^{-1}) \, dx) > 1,$$

and obtain

$$\frac{dJ}{dt} \leq C_6 \|u_0\|_1^2 + 3|\Omega| \exp(4K^2J), \quad J(t) := \int_{\Omega} (u \log u + e^{-1}) dx. \quad (3.39)$$

From this differential inequality, we can conclude that (3.36) \Rightarrow (3.35). \square

4. Proof of Theorem 3

We take the Green's function $G = G(x, x')$ defined by

$$(-\Delta_{x'} + 1)G = \delta(x' - x) \quad (x' \in \Omega), \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \nu_{x'}} G = 0 \quad (x' \in \partial\Omega)$$

for $x \in \Omega$, where δ denotes the Dirac' delta function, and shall use the following lemma (see [21],[23] for the proof):

Lemma 7. It holds that $\rho \in L^\infty(\Omega \times \Omega)$, where

$$\rho(x, x') = \nabla\psi(x) \cdot \nabla_x G(x, x') + \nabla\psi(x') \cdot \nabla_{x'} G(x, x').$$

First, we show the following lemma:

Lemma 8. It holds that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} (u \log u) \psi + \frac{1}{4} u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 \psi \, dx \leq 5 \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi \, dx + C_8.$$

Proof. Multiplying $\psi \log u$ to the first equation of (GCZ), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} (u \log u) \psi \, dx &= - \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla \{(\log u + 1)\psi\} \, dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega} u \nabla v \cdot \nabla \{(\log u + 1)\psi\} \, dx =: -F_1 + F_2. \end{aligned}$$

From the second equation of (GCZ)

$$\begin{aligned} F_2 &= \int_{\Omega} \nabla v \cdot \nabla u \, dx + \int_{\Omega} u(\log u + 1) \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi \, dx \\ &= III - \int_{\Omega} u \nabla \cdot (\psi \nabla v) \, dx + \int_{\Omega} u(\log u + 1) \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi \, dx \end{aligned}$$

$$= III + \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx - \int_{\Omega} u \psi (v + f(v)) dx + \int_{\Omega} (u \log u) \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx,$$

where

$$III := \int_{\partial\Omega} u \psi g(v) dS. \tag{4.1}$$

We also have that

$$F_1 = \int_{\Omega} u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx + \int_{\Omega} (\log u + 1) \nabla u \cdot \nabla \psi dx.$$

Then we obtain the following inequality:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} (u \log u) \psi dx + \int_{\Omega} u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx + \int_{\Omega} u \psi (v + f(v) - f(0)) dx \\ &= III + |f(0)| \int_{\Omega} u \psi dx - \int_{\Omega} (\log u + 1) \nabla u \cdot \nabla \psi dx + \int_{\Omega} (u \log u) \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx. \end{aligned} \tag{4.2}$$

Here, we recall the elementary inequality: Let $\alpha > 0$ and $0 < \beta < 2$. Then it holds that

$$(|\log u| + 1)^\alpha u^\beta \leq u^2 + d_{\alpha,\beta},$$

where $k_{\alpha,\beta}$ is a positive constant determined by only α and β .

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\Omega} (\log u + 1) \nabla u \cdot \nabla \psi dx \right| \leq A \int_{\Omega} (|\log u| + 1) u^{1/2} \psi^{1/3} \cdot u^{-1/2} |\nabla u| \psi^{1/2} dx \\ & \leq A |\partial\Omega|^{1/6} \left\{ \int_{\Omega} (|\log u| + 1)^3 u^{3/2} \psi dx \right\}^{1/3} \left\{ \int_{\Omega} u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx \right\}^{1/2} \\ & \leq A |\partial\Omega|^{1/6} \left\{ \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx + d_{3,3/2} |\Omega| \right\}^{1/3} \left\{ \int_{\Omega} u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx \right\}^{1/2} \\ & \leq \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{4} u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 \psi u^2 \psi dx + d_{3,3/2} |\Omega| + \frac{4}{27} A^6 |\Omega|. \end{aligned} \tag{4.3}$$

The fifth term of the right-hand side of equality (4.2) is equal to

$$- \int_{\Omega} v \nabla \cdot (u \log u \nabla \psi) dx = - \int_{\Omega} v (\log u + 1) \nabla u \cdot \nabla \psi dx - \int_{\Omega} (v u \log u) \Delta \psi dx \tag{4.4}$$

by $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \nu} \Big|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$. Each term of the right-hand side of equality (4.4) is estimated as follows:

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} v (\log u + 1) \nabla u \cdot \nabla \psi dx \right|$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\leq A \int_{\Omega} v \cdot u^{1/2} (|\log u| + 1) \psi^{1/3} \cdot u^{-1/2} |\nabla u| \psi^{1/2} dx \\
 &\leq A \|v\|_6 \left\{ u^{3/2} (|\log u| + 1)^3 \psi dx \right\}^{1/3} \left\{ u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx \right\}^{1/2} \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{4} \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx + d_{3,3/2} |\Omega| + \frac{4}{27} A^6 \|v\|_6^6.
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.5}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left| \int_{\Omega} (vu \log u) \Delta \psi dx \right| \leq B \int_{\Omega} v |u \log u| \psi^{2/3} dx \\
 &\leq B \|v\|_3 \left\{ \int_{\Omega} u^{3/2} (|\log u| + 1)^{3/2} \psi dx \right\}^{2/3} \\
 &\leq \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx + d_{3/2,3/2} |\Omega| + \frac{4}{27} B^3 \|v\|_3^3.
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.6}$$

Finally, *III*, defined by (4.1), is estimated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 III &\leq M_1 \int_{\partial\Omega} u \psi dS \leq M_1 M_2 \left(\int_{\Omega} u (\psi + |\nabla \psi|) dx + \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u| \psi dx \right) \\
 &\leq M_1 M_2 \left(\|u\|_1 + \int_{\Omega} u \psi^{1/2} \cdot A \psi^{1/3} dx + \int_{\Omega} u^{-1/2} |\nabla u| \cdot u^{1/2} \psi dx \right) \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{4} \int_{\Omega} u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 dx + \int_{\Omega} u^2 \psi dx + C_7,
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.7}$$

where M_1 and M_2 are positive constants determined by (3.17) and (3.18), and C_7 is a constant depending only on $\|u_0\|_1, M_1, M_2$ and A . Combining (4.2)-(4.6), we get the desired estimate. \square

We are now in a position to prove the finiteness of blowup points.

Proof of Theorem 3. We take $x_0 \in \mathcal{B}$. From Lemmas 5 and 8, it follows that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u \log u \psi dx + \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - 40K^2 \int_{B_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} u dx \right) \int_{\Omega} u^{-1} |\nabla u|^2 \psi dx \leq C_9, \tag{4.8}$$

and therefore, the condition

$$\limsup_{t \uparrow T} \int_{B_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} u dx < \varepsilon_0 := \frac{1}{40K^2}$$

implies

$$\limsup_{t \uparrow T} \int_{B'_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} u \log u dx \leq \limsup_{t \uparrow T} \int_{\Omega} (u \log u) \psi dx < \infty$$

for any $0 < R' < R$. This implies $x_0 \notin \mathcal{B}$ by Lemma 6, a contradiction. That is, each $x_0 \in \mathcal{B}$ admits the estimate

$$\limsup_{t \uparrow T} \int_{B_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} u dx \geq \varepsilon_0 \quad \text{for any } 0 < R \ll 1. \tag{4.9}$$

We shall replace this inequality by

$$\liminf_{t \uparrow T} \int_{B_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} u dx \geq \varepsilon_0 \quad \text{for any } 0 < R \ll 1. \tag{4.10}$$

If this is the case, it follows that

$$\#\mathcal{B} \leq \frac{\|u_0\|_1}{\varepsilon_0} < \infty$$

by virtue of the mass conservation (3.2), and then the proof is complete.

To prove (4.10), it suffices to show that

$$\sup_{0 < t < T} \left| \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u \psi dx \right| \leq C(x_0) < \infty \tag{4.11}$$

by the assumption $T_{\max} < +\infty$. In fact, if (4.11) is the case, the convergence

$$\lim_{t \uparrow T} \int_{\Omega} u \psi dx = \int_{\Omega} u_0(x) \psi(x) dx + \int_0^T \left(\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u(\cdot, t) \psi dx \right) dt$$

exists, and therefore it holds that

$$\liminf_{t \uparrow T} \int_{B_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} u dx \geq \lim_{t \uparrow T} \int_{\Omega} u \psi dx \geq \limsup_{t \uparrow T} \int_{B'_R(x_0) \cap \Omega} u dx \geq \varepsilon_0$$

because $0 < R \ll 1$ is arbitrary in (4.9).

Now, we use the first equation of (GCZ) and $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \nu} \Big|_{\partial \Omega} = 0$, and derive

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u \psi dx = \int_{\Omega} u \Delta \psi dx + \int_{\Omega} u \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi dx =: F_3 + F_4. \tag{4.12}$$

It is clear that

$$|F_3| \leq B \|u_0\|_1. \tag{4.13}$$

Also, F_4 is equal to

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{\Omega} u(x, t) \nabla \psi(x) \cdot \nabla_x \left\{ \int_{\Omega} G(x, x') [u(x', t) - f(v(x', t))] dx' \right. \\
 & \qquad \qquad \qquad \left. - \int_{\partial\Omega} G(x, \xi) g(v(\xi, t)) dS_{\xi} \right\} dx \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \rho(x, x') u(x, t) u(x', t) dx dx' \\
 & \quad - \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} u(x, t) \nabla \psi(x) \cdot \nabla_x G(x, x') f(v(x', t)) dx' dx \\
 & \quad - \int_{\Omega} u(x, t) \nabla \psi(x) \cdot \left\{ \int_{\partial\Omega} \nabla_x G(x, \xi) g(v(\xi, t)) dS_{\xi} \right\} dx \\
 &=: F_4^{(1)} - F_4^{(2)} - F_4^{(3)}. \tag{4.14}
 \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 7 implies that

$$|F_4^{(1)}| \leq \|\rho\|_{\infty} \|u_0\|_1^2, \tag{4.15}$$

while

$$\begin{aligned}
 |F_4^{(2)}| &\leq A \|u_0\|_1 \|(-\Delta + 1)^{-1} f(v)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \leq C_{10} \|(-\Delta + 1)^{-1} f(v)\|_{W^{2,3}} \\
 &\leq C_{11} \|f(v)\|_3 \leq C_{12} (1 + \|v\|_{3p_1}^{p_1}) \leq C_{13} \tag{4.16}
 \end{aligned}$$

by the Sobolev embedding, (1.7) and (3.4), where C_{13} is independent of t . Finally, if ψ is supported in $\bar{\Omega}$ it holds that

$$|F_4^{(3)}| \leq C_{15}(x_0) \tag{4.17}$$

which is the case of $x_0 \in \Omega$. We obtain the finiteness of the inner blowup points and the proof is complete. \square

The finiteness of boundary blowup points is an open question. In this connection, we recall that this situation is also the case of the Dirichlet boundary condition to v where the non-existence of the boundary blowup point arises in the stationary state, see [18].

The crucial estimate in our argument arises in accordance with

$$H = \int_{\partial\Omega} G(x, \xi) g(v(\xi, t)) dS_{\xi}$$

satisfying

$$(-\Delta + 1)H = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \quad \frac{\partial H}{\partial \nu} = g \text{ on } \partial\Omega$$

for $g(\xi, t) = g(v(\xi, t))$. An expected sharp estimate is concerned with the weak norm, see [10],

$$\|v\|_{H_w^1(\Omega)} \leq C$$

in (2.1) for the prescribed $\|u\|_1 = \lambda$. Then, it will follow that

$$\|g\|_{H_w^1(\Omega)} \leq C$$

if $g = g(v)$ is appropriate. Then, we take $\zeta \in H_w^2(\Omega)$ such that $\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial \nu} = g$ on $\partial\Omega$. Then we obtain

$$(-\Delta + 1)h = (\Delta - 1)\zeta \text{ in } \Omega, \quad \frac{\partial h}{\partial \nu} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega$$

for $h = H - \zeta$ with $(\Delta - 1)\zeta \in L_w^2(\Omega)$. This relation will imply

$$\|H\|_{H_w^2(\Omega)} \leq C,$$

and consequently,

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} u \nabla \psi \cdot \nabla H dx \right| \leq C \int_{\Omega} (u \log u + e^{-1}) dx$$

by

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\Omega} u \nabla \psi \cdot \nabla H dx \right| &\leq C [u]_{L \log L} \|H\|_{H_w^2(\Omega)} \\ [f]_{L \log L} &= \int_{\Omega} |f(x)| \log \left(1 + \frac{|f(x)|}{\|f\|_1} \right) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we obtain

$$\left| \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u \psi dx \right| \leq C \left(1 + \int_{\Omega} (u \log u + e^{-1}) \psi dx \right) \tag{4.18}$$

besides (4.8).

Inequality (4.18) is not appropriate to control the local L^1 norm of u in time, but we can infer the finiteness of boundary blowup points, assuming

$$\iint_{\Omega \times [0, T)} u \log u \, dx dt < +\infty.$$

In this connection, we remind

$$\int_{\Omega} u \log u \, dx \geq \delta_1 \log \frac{1}{T-t} - C$$

derived from (3.39) with $\delta_1 > 0$.

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