

## A NOTE ON UNIQUENESS OF STOCHASTIC NAVIER—STOKES EQUATIONS

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**Abstract.** We give two versions of uniqueness theorems for general stochastic Navier–Stokes equations with feedback in the forces and in the noise term.

### 1. Introduction

We consider the following system of stochastic Navier–Stokes equations

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} du = [\nu \Delta u + \langle u, \nabla \rangle u + f(t, u)]dt + g(t, u)dw_t, \\ \operatorname{div} u = 0. \end{cases}$$

This system was first considered in [1] with  $g(t, u) = 1$ ,  $f$  independent of  $u$ , and one-dimensional Wiener process. It has been investigated since then by many authors (see, for example, [12], [13]) but first existence results covering the case of  $g$  depending on  $u$  appeared in 1991: [3] for dimension  $n = 1$ , [2] for  $n = 2$ , and [5] for  $n \leq 4$ . The paper [5] uses the methods of nonstandard analysis but a standard proof of a similar result is also available [7]. Note that (1) is not covered by the existing general theory of stochastic partial differential equations because of quadratic type of nonlinearity.

The existence results of [2] and [5] concern weak solution. For dimension  $n = 2$  stronger solutions are found in [7] and for the special case of periodic boundary conditions further regularity is shown in [5], see Theorems 2.3, 2.4 below.

Uniqueness was proved in [5] for  $n = 2$  in a narrow class of solutions with general form of the coefficients  $f$  and  $g$ , under some Lipschitz conditions. In [9] we find a uniqueness theorem ( $n = 2$ ) in a broader class of solutions (weak solutions) but in a more particular situation ( $f$  independent of  $t$  and  $u$ ,

$g$  independent of  $t$ ) and under more restrictive conditions. (in particular, the Lipschitz condition involves a different norm).

Here we generalize both results cited above. We prove uniqueness of weak solutions in the general situation and under the Lipschitz condition weaker than in [9] and slightly weaker than in [5], and in the class broader than in [5]. We also show that for  $n = 3$  we have at most one strong solution; this result is possibly with empty content because we do not if there exist any (an open question even in the deterministic case  $g = 0$ ).

## 2. Preliminaries

**Notations:** Let  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \leq 4$ , be a bounded domain with the boundary of class  $C^2$ .

$\mathbf{H}$  is the closure of the set  $\{u \in C_0^\infty(D, \mathbb{R}^n): \operatorname{div} u = 0\}$  in the  $L^2$  norm  $|u| = (u, u)^{1/2}$ ,

$$(u, v) = \sum_{j=1}^n \int_D u^j(x) v^j(x) dx.$$

$\mathbf{V}$  is the closure of  $\{u \in C_0^\infty(D, \mathbb{R}^n): \operatorname{div} u = 0\}$  in the norm  $|u| + \|u\|$  where  $\|u\| = ((u, u))^{1/2}$ ,

$$((u, v)) = \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_j}, \frac{\partial v}{\partial x_j} \right).$$

$\mathbf{H}$  and  $\mathbf{V}$  are Hilbert spaces with scalar products  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  and  $((\cdot, \cdot))$  respectively.

By  $A$  we denote the self-adjoint extension of the operator  $-\Delta$  in  $\mathbf{H}$  and by  $\{e_k\}$  the orthonormal basis of its eigenfunctions with the corresponding eigenvalues  $\lambda_k \nearrow \infty$ . Note that  $((u, v)) = \sum_{k=1}^\infty \lambda_k u_k v_k$ , where  $u_k = (u, e_k)$ .

By  $\mathbf{V}'$  we denote the space dual to  $\mathbf{V}$ , with the duality extending the scalar product in  $\mathbf{H}$ .

We put

$$b(u, v, z) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n \int_D u^j(x) \frac{\partial v^i}{\partial x_j}(x) z^i(x) dx = (\langle u, \nabla \rangle v, z)$$

whenever the integrals make sense. Note that for  $u, v, z \in \mathbf{V}$  we have  $b(u, v, z) = -b(u, z, v)$ , hence  $b(u, v, v) = 0$ .

We shall need some well-known inequalities for  $b$  (see [11] for example) and we list them here for reference:

- (2)  $|b(u, v, z)| \leq c \|u\| \|v\| \|z\|,$
- (3)  $|b(u, v, z)| \leq c \|u\| |Av| |z|,$
- (4)  $|b(u, v, z)| \leq c |Au| \|v\| |z|,$
- (5)  $|b(u, v, z)| \leq c |u|^{\frac{1}{2}} \|u\|^{\frac{1}{2}} |v|^{\frac{1}{2}} \|v\|^{\frac{1}{2}} |z|$  if  $n = 2,$

for suitable  $u, v,$  and  $z$ . The inequality (2) allows us to define a  $\mathbf{V}'$ -valued quadratic form  $B(u)$  by

$$B(u)(z) = b(u, u, z).$$

Wiener processes with values in  $\mathbf{H}$  are defined as in [8] for example:

DEFINITION 2.1. Let  $Q : \mathbf{H} \rightarrow \mathbf{H}$  be a linear, non-negative, trace class operator. An  $\mathbf{H}$ -valued square integrable stochastic process  $w(t), t \geq 0$ , defined on a filtered probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}, P)$  is a *Wiener process* with the covariance operator  $Q$  if

- 1)  $w(0) = 0,$
- 2)  $Ew(t) = 0, \text{Cov}[w(t) - w(s)] = (t - s)Q, \text{ for all } s, t \geq 0,$
- 3)  $w$  has independent increments,
- 4)  $w$  has continuous paths,
- 5)  $w$  is adapted to  $(\mathcal{F}_t)$ .

Such a Wiener process has the following structure: let  $\{d_i\}$  be an orthonormal set of eigenvectors of  $Q$  with eigenvalues  $\gamma_i$ , so that  $\text{tr}Q = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \gamma_i$ ; then  $w(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \beta_i(t)d_i$ , where  $\beta_i$  are mutually independent real Wiener processes with  $E(\beta_i^2(t)) = \gamma_i t$ .

The stochastic integral  $\int g dw$  is defined in [8] as follows. First we introduce the space of integrands. For any Hilbert space  $\mathbf{Y}$  we denote by  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{Y})$  the space of all stochastic processes

$$g : [0, T] \times \Omega \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{Y})$$

such that

$$E \left( \int_0^T |g(t)|_{\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{Y}}^2 dt \right) < \infty$$

and for all  $h \in \mathbf{H}$ ,  $g(t)h$  is a  $\mathbf{Y}$ -valued stochastic process measurable with respect to the filtration  $\mathcal{F}_t$ .

The stochastic integral  $\int_0^t g(s)dw(s) \in \mathbf{Y}$  is defined for all  $g \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{Y})$  by

$$\int_0^t g(s)dw(s) = L^2 - \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^m \int_0^t g(s)d_i \beta_i(s).$$

Note that if we write  $w_k(t) = (w(t), e_k)$  and  $w^{(m)}(t) = \sum_{k=1}^m w_k(t)e_k$ , then  $w^{(m)}$  is a Wiener process with covariance  $Q_m = \text{Pr}_m Q \text{Pr}_m$  and

$$\int_0^t g(s)dw^{(m)}(s) \xrightarrow{L^2} \int_0^t g(s)dw(s) \quad \text{in } \mathbf{H}.$$

If  $g \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{H})$  and  $v \in \mathbf{H}$  we write  $(v, g)$  for the element of  $\mathbf{H}$  given by  $((v, g), u) = (v, gu)$  for  $u \in \mathbf{H}$  (i.e.  $(v, g) = g^*v$ ), so that  $\int_0^t (v, g(s))dw(s)$  makes sense.

We can now explain what we mean by a solution of (1).

DEFINITION 2.2. Let  $u_0 \in \mathbf{H}$ ,  $f : [0, \infty) \times \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}'$ , and  $g : [0, \infty) \times \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{V}')$ . A stochastic process  $u(t, \omega)$  is a *weak solution of the stochastic Navier-Stokes equations* (1) if

$$(6) \quad E \left( \sup_{t \leq T} |u(t)|^2 + \int_0^T \|u(t)\|^2 dt \right) \leq c(T) \quad \text{for all } T$$

and

$$(7) \quad u(t) = u_0 + \int_0^t [-\nu Au(s) - B(u(s)) + f(s, u(s))]ds + \int_0^t g(s, u(s))dw(s)$$

holds as an identity in  $\mathbf{V}'$  (the first integral is understood in the sense of Bochner). We say that  $u$  is a *strong solution* if (6) is replaced by

$$(8) \quad P \left( \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|u(t)\|^2 + \int_0^T |Au(t)|^2 dt < \infty \right) = 1 \quad \text{for all } T.$$

Note that  $\nabla p$  as an element of  $\mathbf{V}'$  is equal to 0:  $\nabla p[v] = (p, \text{div} v) = 0$ .

For completeness of exposition we give two existence theorems, one from [5] and one from [7]. The first is on existence of solutions for  $n \leq 4$  and the second shows additional regularity of solution in dimension 2.

We consider the set  $K_m = \{v : \|v\| \leq m\} \subseteq \mathbf{V}$  with the strong topology of  $\mathbf{H}$ . In the theorem below, continuity on each  $K_m$  turns out to be the appropriate condition for the coefficients  $f, g$ . Note that this is weaker than continuity on  $\mathbf{V}$  in either the  $\mathbf{H}$ -norm or the weak topology of  $\mathbf{V}$ .

**THEOREM 2.3.** [5] Suppose that  $u_0 \in \mathbf{H}$  and

$$f : [0, \infty) \times \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}', \quad g : [0, \infty) \times \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{H})$$

are jointly measurable functions with the following properties

- (i)  $f(t, \cdot) \in C(K_m, \mathbf{V}'_{\text{weak}})$  for all  $m$ ,
- (ii)  $g(t, \cdot) \in C(K_m, \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{H})_{\text{weak}})$  for all  $m$ ,
- (iii)  $|f(t, u)|_{\mathbf{V}'} + |g(t, u)|_{\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{H}} \leq a(t)(1 + |u|)$  where  $a \in L^2(0, T)$  for all  $T$ .

Then there exists a probability space  $\Omega$  and a Wiener process  $w$  such that equation (7) has a weak solution  $u$  on  $\Omega$ .

**THEOREM 2.4.** [7] Suppose that  $u_0 \in \mathbf{V}$  and  $f(t, u) \in \mathbf{H}$ ,  $g(t, u) \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{V})$  with

$$|f(t, u)| + |g(t, u)|_{\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{V}} \leq a(t)(1 + \|u\|)$$

where  $\int_0^T a^2(t) dt < \infty$ , all  $T$ .

Then (1) has a strong solution.

### 3. The case $n = 2$ - weak solutions

The theorem proved in this section: requires that the coefficients  $f$  and  $g$  be Lipschitz continuous in  $u$ .

- A1.  $|f(t, u) - f(t, v)|_{\mathbf{V}'} \leq c_1 \|u - v\| + c_2 |u - v|$ ,
- A2.  $|g(t, u) - g(t, v)|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{H})}^2 \leq c_3 \|u - v\|^2 + c_4 |u - v|^2$ ,
- A3.  $c_1 + c_3 \text{tr } Q \leq 2\nu$ .

**REMARK 3.1.** We can replace A2 and A3 by slightly less restrictive

- A2'.  $\text{tr}((g(t, u) - g(t, v))Q(g(t, u) - g(t, v))^T) \leq c_5 \|u - v\|^2 + c_7 |u - v|^2$ ,
- A3'.  $c_1 + c_5 \leq 2\nu$ .

and the proof remains virtually the same, see Remark 3.3. The conditions in [9] were A1 with  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$  and A2' with  $c_5 = 0$ . In [5] we find A1-3 with  $c_1 = 0$ .

**THEOREM 3.2.** Suppose that A1-A3 (or A1, A2', and A3') hold. Then there is at most one weak solution to the stochastic Navier-Stokes equation.

**PROOF.** Let  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  be two solutions of (1) with the same initial value. The Itô formula (see [8], for example) applied to  $|u_1(t) - u_2(t)|^2$  yields

$$\begin{aligned} |u_1(t) - u_2(t)|^2 &= -2\nu \int_0^t \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\quad + 2 \int_0^t (B(u_1(s)) - B(u_2(s)), u_1(s) - u_2(s)) ds \\ &\quad + 2 \int_0^t (f(s, u_1(s)) - f(s, u_2(s)), u_1(s) - u_2(s)) ds \\ &\quad + 2 \int_0^t (u_1(s) - u_2(s), g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s))) dw_s \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \text{tr} \left[ (g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s))) Q (g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s)))^T \right] ds. \end{aligned}$$

We denote  $\beta = 2\nu - c_1 - c_3 \text{tr} Q$  which is positive by A3. Taking account of A1 and A2 (or A1 and A2') we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| \int_0^t (f(s, u_1(s)) - f(s, u_2(s)), u_1(s) - u_2(s)) ds \right| \\ &\leq \int_0^t |f(s, u_1(s)) - f(s, u_2(s))|_{V'} \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\| ds \\ &\leq c_1 \int_0^t \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\quad + c_2 \int_0^t |u_1(s) - u_2(s)| \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\| ds \\ &\leq c_1 \int_0^t \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\quad + \frac{\beta}{2} \int_0^t \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|^2 ds + \frac{2c_2^2}{\beta} \int_0^t |u_1(s) - u_2(s)|^2 ds \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_0^t \text{tr} \left[ (g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s))) Q (g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s)))^T \right] ds \\ (9) \quad &\leq \int_0^t \text{tr} Q |g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s))|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{H})}^2 ds \end{aligned}$$

$$(10) \quad \leq c_3 \text{tr} Q \int_0^t \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|^2 ds + c_4 \int_0^t |u_1(s) - u_2(s)|^2 ds.$$

We use (5) and  $(B(u), u) = 0$  to deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^t (B(u_1(s)) - B(u_2(s)), u_1(s) - u_2(s)) ds \\ & \leq 2^{3/2} \int_0^t \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\| \|u_2(s)\| |u_1(s) - u_2(s)| ds \\ & \leq \frac{\beta}{2} \int_0^t \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|^2 ds + \frac{16}{\beta} \int_0^t \|u_2(s)\|^2 |u_1(s) - u_2(s)|^2 ds. \end{aligned}$$

Inserting the last three estimates into the formula for  $|u_1(s) - u_2(s)|^2$  above we have

$$\begin{aligned} |u_1(t) - u_2(t)|^2 & \leq c_5 \int_0^t |u_1(s) - u_2(s)|^2 ds \\ & \quad + c_6 \int_0^t \|u_2(s)\|^2 |u_1(s) - u_2(s)|^2 ds \\ & \quad + \int_0^t (u_1(s) - u_2(s), g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s))) dw_s \end{aligned}$$

for some constants  $c_5, c_6$ . Now, following the idea of the uniqueness proof of [9] (see also [10], p.264) we consider the process

$$\eta(t) = \exp \left( -c_6 \int_0^t \|u_2(s)\|^2 ds \right).$$

Computing the differential  $d(\eta(t)|u_1(t) - u_2(t)|^2)$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \eta(t)|u_1(t) - u_2(t)|^2 & \leq c_5 \int_0^t \eta(s)|u_1(s) - u_2(s)|^2 ds \\ & \quad + \int_0^t \eta(s)(u_1(s) - u_2(s), g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s))) dw_s \end{aligned}$$

and taking mathematical expectation we arrive at

$$E(\eta(t)|u_1(t) - u_2(t)|^2) \leq Ec_5 \int_0^t \eta(s)|u_1(s) - u_2(s)|^2 ds.$$

Using the Gronwall lemma we get  $E\eta(t)|u_1(t) - u_2(t)|^2 = 0$  hence since  $\int_0^t \|u_2(s)\|^2 ds < \infty$  almost everywhere by (6), we find that  $|u_1(t) - u_2(t)|^2 = 0$  which finishes the proof.  $\square$

REMARK 3.3. If we assume A2', A3' instead of A2, A3, then the only difference in the proof is that (9) is redundant and A2' yields (10) directly with  $c_5 = c_3 \text{tr} Q$  (from that on we employ A3' instead of A3).

#### 4. The case $n = 3$ - strong solutions

Now, to prove uniqueness of strong solutions we need the following conditions.

$$B1. |f(t, u) - f(t, v)| \leq c_7 \|u - v\|,$$

$$B2. |g(t, u) - g(t, v)|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{V})} \leq c_8 \|u - v\|,$$

REMARK 4.1. In a similar manner as in Remark 3.1 we can also relax B2:

$$B2'. \operatorname{tr} \left( A^{1/2} (g(t, u) - g(t, v)) Q (g(t, u) - g(t, v))^T A^{1/2} \right) \leq c'_7 \|u - v\|^2,$$

with the same proof.

THEOREM. Suppose that B1, B2 (or B1, B2') hold. If  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  are solutions satisfying (8) with the same initial value, then they coincide.

PROOF. We apply the Itô formula to  $\|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|^2$  obtaining

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|^2 \\ &= -2\nu \int_0^t |Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)|^2 ds \\ &+ 2 \int_0^t (B(u_1(s)) - B(u_2(s)), Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)) ds \\ &+ 2 \int_0^t (f(s, u_1(s)) - f(s, u_2(s)), Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)) ds \\ &+ 2 \int_0^t (Au_1(s) - Au_2(s), g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s))) dw_s \\ &+ \int_0^t \operatorname{tr} [A^{1/2} (g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s))) Q (g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s)))^T A^{1/2}] ds. \end{aligned}$$

To estimate the term involving the operator  $B$  we use (3) and (4).

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^t (B(u_1(s)) - B(u_2(s)), Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)) ds \\ &= \int_0^t \left( b(u_1(s), u_1 - u_2(s), Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - b(u_1(s) - u_2(s), u_2(s), Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)) \right) ds \\ &\leq \int_0^t \left( |Au_1(s)| \|u_1 - u_2(s)\| |Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)| \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\| |Au_2(s)| |Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)| \right) ds \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \nu \int_0^t |Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)|^2 ds \\ &\quad + \int_0^t c_9 \|u_1 - u_2(s)\|^2 \left( |Au_1(s)|^2 + |Au_2(s)|^2 \right) ds \end{aligned}$$

The estimates of the remaining non-stochastic integrals are similar as in the proof of Theorem 3.2. Using B1 and B2, respectively, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_0^t (f(s, u_1(s)) - f(s, u_2(s)), Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)) ds \\ &\leq \int_0^t |f(s, u_1(s)) - f(s, u_2(s))| \cdot |Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)| ds \\ &\leq \nu \int_0^t |Au_1(s) - Au_2(s)|^2 ds + \int_0^t c_{10} \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|^2 ds, \\ &\int_0^t \text{tr} \left[ A^{1/2} (g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s))) Q (g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s)))^T A^{1/2} \right] ds \\ &\leq \int_0^t \text{tr} Q |g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s))|_{\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{V}}^2 ds \\ &\leq \int_0^t c_{11} \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|^2 ds. \end{aligned}$$

Going back to the formula for  $\|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|^2$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|^2 &\leq \int_0^t c_9 \|u_1 - u_2(s)\|^2 \left( |Au_1(s)|^2 + |Au_2(s)|^2 \right) ds \\ &\quad + \int_0^t (c_{10} + c_{11}) \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\quad + \int_0^t (Au_1(s) - Au_2(s), g(s, u_1(s)) - g(s, u_2(s))) dw_s. \end{aligned}$$

We now introduce the auxiliary process

$$\xi(t) = \exp \left( -c_9 \int_0^t \left( |Au_1(s)|^2 + |Au_2(s)|^2 \right) ds \right).$$

Computing the differential  $d(\xi(t)\|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|^2)$  and taking mathematical expectation we get

$$E(\xi(t)\|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|^2) \leq Ec_{12} \int_0^t \xi(s) \|u_1(s) - u_2(s)\|^2 ds.$$

Using the Gronwall lemma we get  $E(\xi(t)\|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|^2) = 0$ . Since

$$\int_0^t (|Au_1(s)|^2 + |Au_2(s)|^2) ds < \infty$$

almost everywhere by (8), we find that  $\|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|^2 = 0$  which finishes the proof.  $\square$

REMARK 4.3. Similarly as in the deterministic case, various versions of the notion of strong solution lead to the same result.

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