Abstract. We prove that exist strong 2-dimensional solutions for two Cauchy-Dirichlet problems to the Navier-Stokes-Fourier system which characterizes the Newtonian fluids under heat-conducting effects. The regularity of solutions to the problems under study is proved through compactness methods and fixed point arguments, instead assuming the existence of weak solutions to the problems.

1. Introduction

Let \( \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \) be a bounded open domain sufficiently regular and \( T > 0 \). Let us consider the Cauchy-Dirichlet problem in the following form:

\[
\begin{align*}
\partial_t \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u} - \text{div}(\mu(\theta)\mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}) &= f - \nabla p \quad \text{in } Q_T := \Omega \times ]0, T[; \\
\text{div } \mathbf{u} &= 0 \quad \text{in } Q_T; \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\partial_t \theta + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \theta - \text{div}(k(\theta)\nabla \theta) &= \mu(\theta)\mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}^2 + g \quad \text{in } Q_T; \\
\mathbf{u} \big|_{t=0} &= \mathbf{u}_0, \quad \theta \big|_{t=0} = \theta_0, \quad \text{in } \Omega; \\
\mathbf{u} = \bar{\mathbf{u}}, \quad \theta = \bar{\theta}, \quad \text{on } \partial \Omega \times ]0, T[;
\end{align*}
\]

where \( p \) denotes the pressure, \( \mu \) the viscosity, \( \theta \) the temperature, \( \mathbf{u} \) the velocity of the fluid and \( \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T) \), \( f \) denotes the given external body forces and \( g \) the heat source. The Kirchoff transformation allows us to assume constant the thermal conductivity, i.e.

\[ k(\theta) \equiv k. \]

In the present work the product of two tensors is given by \( D : \tau = D_{ij}\tau_{ij} \) and the norm by \( |D|^2 = D : D \).

The Navier-Stokes-Fourier system arises from fluid thermomechanics. In fact, it is constituted by momentum and energy equations when the constitutive relations for the Cauchy stress and heat flux are assumed linear. The density is constant and assumed equal to one. The initial conditions are given in (3) and we assume Dirichlet boundary conditions in (4). For the sake of clarity we found convenient that the boundary conditions are taken to be homogeneous,

\[
\mathbf{u} \equiv 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\theta} \equiv 0.
\]

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The abstract mathematical viscosity can be illustrated with Arrhenius law: \( \mu(\theta) = \mu_0 \exp\left[\frac{E_0}{\theta - 1/\theta_r}/R\right] \), where \( \mu_0, E_0, \theta_r \) are constants of reference and \( R \) is the gas constant.

In the seventies, Lauder and Spalding proposed the \( k - \varepsilon \) model (it consists of two equations for the turbulence kinetic energy \( k \) and the rate of dissipation \( \varepsilon \) of the turbulent energy) to describe the mean of a turbulence flow. Unfortunately, the turbulence is essentially a three dimensional phenomenon and it is not clear that this model produces physically relevant results (a positive energy, for example). Despite the fact that the validity of \( k - \varepsilon \) model is not universal, it presents a good compromise between simplicity and generality (see [17]). In this context, the equations (1) represent the averaged Navier-Stokes equation in which \( u, \pi \) and \( f \) are the mean values of velocity, pressure and external forces, respectively, the viscosity is the eddy viscosity, and the equation (2) represents the \( k - \varepsilon \) model, that is, \( \theta \) denotes the mean turbulent kinetic energy and

\[
g = -\theta|\theta|^{1/2}
\]

denoting the Navier-Stokes turbulence. More physical motivation can be found in [1, 3] for instance.

Several authors proved existence of solutions to similar mathematical problems in fluid thermomechanics (see for example [4, 8, 13, 14, 18, 21] and the references therein). The existence of at least a weak solution is given in [6] for different constitutive relations in the Cauchy stress and in the Fourier heat flux. We refer to [7] for the existence of strong and classical solutions to the stationary coupled system under general constitutive relations.

Although the continuity of the coefficients, to prove the regularity of solution to the coupled system, additional terms appear which invalidate the direct application of known regularity results ([9, 11, 12, 16] between others). Notice that if the velocity \( \mathbf{u} \) is a weak solution to (1) the Joule effect term \( \mu(\theta)|D\mathbf{u}|^2 \) belongs to \( L^1(Q_T) \) and the existence of a solution of the energy equation (2) requires \( L^1 \)-theory (see [5, 6] and the references therein). We wish to emphasize that at the present work we do not show regularity for every weak solution, we prove existence results under smallness restrictions only on the ratio between the derivative of the viscosity and the lower bound of the viscosity function and the thermal conductivity constant (cf. (11)). Indeed, here we prove that the equation (which is satisfied by the solution) is valid almost everywhere in \( Q_T \) which means that the strong solutions coincide by the uniqueness result with the weak solutions in a smaller space.

The outline of the paper is as follows. In next section we present the appropriate functional framework and we state two main existence results. First existence result is established under a known function \( g \) and the second one is given for \( g = -\theta|\theta|^{1/2} \). In section 3, we prove
some technical results. Sections 4 and 5 are devoted to the proofs of the solvability of the problems under study. The uniqueness results are proved in section 6 without any additional assumption on the data.

2. Assumptions and main results

Here we assume that \( \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n \) is a bounded open set with sufficiently smooth boundary \( \partial \Omega \). In the framework of Lebesgue and Sobolev spaces, we introduce for \( q > 1 \) \[ J^{1,q}(\Omega) = \{ u \in W^{1,q}(\Omega) : \nabla \cdot u = 0 \text{ in } \Omega \}, \]
where the vector spaces of vector-valued or tensor-valued functions are denoted by bold. It is known that \( J^{1,q}_0(\Omega) = J^{1,q}(\Omega) \cap W^{1,q}_0(\Omega) \) with norm \( \| \cdot \|_{(1),q,\Omega} = \| \nabla \cdot \|_{q,\Omega} \).

We will use the following Banach spaces, for \( 1 \leq q, r \leq \infty \), \[ L^{q,r}(Q_T) = L^r(0,T;L^q(\Omega)) \]
\[ W^{1,0}_q(Q_T) = L^q(0,T;W^{1,q}(\Omega)) \]
\[ W^{1,1}_q(Q_T) = L^q(0,T;W^{1,q}(\Omega)) \cap W^{1,q}(0,T;L^q(\Omega)) \]
\[ W^{2,1}_q(Q_T) = L^q(0,T;W^{2,q}(\Omega)) \cap W^{1,q}(0,T;L^q(\Omega)). \]

We recall that the following continuous inclusion \( W^{2,1}_q(Q_T) \hookrightarrow C^{k,\alpha}(\bar{Q}_T) \) only occurs if \( q > (n+2)/(2-k) \) and \( 0 \leq \alpha < 2-k-(n+2)/q \). This means for \( k = 0 \) that \( q > n/2 + 1 \geq 2 \) \( (n = 2, 3) \), i.e., the Banach space \( W^{2,1}_q(Q_T) \) is not embedded in the Banach space of Hölder continuous functions with exponent \( \alpha \) in the \( x \)-variables and \( \alpha/2 \) in the \( t \)-variable. Note that \( u(0) \) makes sense for all \( u \in W^{1,1}_q(Q_T) \) since \( W^{1,1}_q(Q_T) \hookrightarrow C([0,T];L^q(\Omega)) \).

The following assertions on data are assumed as well as the following assumptions on the physical parameters appearing in the equations are established.

\( \bullet \) \( f : Q_T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \) is given such that \( f \in L^2(Q_T) \) and \( \partial_t f \in L^2(Q_T) \);

\( \bullet \) \( \mu : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) is a function of class \( C^1 \) such that \( 0 < \mu_0 \leq \mu(s) \leq \mu_1, \quad |\mu'(s)| \leq \mu_2, \quad \forall s \in \mathbb{R}; \)

\( \bullet \) \( u_0 \in J^{1,2}_0(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega) \) and \( \theta_0 \in H^1_0(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega) \) satisfy the following compatibility conditions \( \nabla u_0 \cdot n = 0, \quad \nabla \theta_0 \cdot n = 0, \quad \text{on } \partial \Omega, \) where \( n \) denotes the unit outward normal to the boundary \( \partial \Omega \).
The system (1)-(5) has the variational formulation

\[
\begin{aligned}
&\int_Q \partial_t u \cdot v + \int_Q \left( \mu(\theta) D u : D v + (u \cdot \nabla) u \cdot v \right) = \int_Q f \cdot v \\
&\forall v \in L^2(0,T;J^{1,2}_0(\Omega)), \quad u \big|_{t=0} = u_0 \text{ in } \Omega;
\end{aligned}
\]

(9)

\[
\begin{aligned}
&\int_Q (\partial_t \theta) \eta + \int_Q \left( k \nabla \theta \cdot \nabla \eta + u \cdot \nabla \theta \eta \right) = \int_Q \left( \mu(\theta) |D u|^2 + g \right) \eta \\
&\forall \eta \in L^2(0,T;W^{1,2}_0(\Omega)), \quad \theta \big|_{t=0} = \theta_0 \text{ in } \Omega.
\end{aligned}
\]

Remark 2.1. For all \(u, v \in J^{1,2}_0(\Omega)\), the convective term verifies

\[
\int_{\Omega} (u \cdot \nabla) u \cdot v = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u : v \otimes u = \int_{\Omega} (\nabla u)^T : u \otimes v = 2 \int_{\Omega} D u : u \otimes v.
\]

Theorem 2.1. Suppose that (6)-(8) be fulfilled and \(n = 2\). Let \(g : Q_T \to \mathbb{R}\) be such that \(g \in L^2(Q_T)\) and

\[
\partial_t g \in L^2(Q_T).
\]

Under the assumption that

\[
\frac{\mu^4}{(2\mu_0)} \text{ and } \frac{\mu_2^4}{(2k)} \text{ are sufficiently small},
\]

then the problem (9) admits, at least, one solution \((u, \theta) \in L^2(0,T;J^{1,2}_0(\Omega)) \times L^2(0,T;H^1_0(\Omega))\) which is strong, i.e.

\[
(u, \theta) \in W^{2,1}_2(Q_T) \times W^{2,1}_2(Q_T).
\]

Moreover, such solution is Hölder continuous, \((u, \theta) \in C^{0,\alpha}(\bar{Q}_T) \times C^{0,\alpha}(\bar{Q}_T)\), for some \(\alpha > 0\).

It is known that the pressure is recovered as a distribution from the variational formulation thanks to the De Rham Theorem [15]. Using Theorem 2.1 we can rewrite (1) as

\[
\nabla p = f - \partial_t u - (u \cdot \nabla) u + \mu'(\theta) \nabla \theta D u + \mu(\theta) \Delta u \in L^2(Q_T).
\]

Theorem 2.2. Suppose that (6)-(8) and (11) be fulfilled. Under \(g = -\theta|\theta|^{1/2}\), the problem (9) admits, at least, one strong solution. Moreover, such solution is Hölder continuous, and \(\theta \in W^{2,1}_r(Q_T), \text{ for all } r < 3\).

Henceforth we denote by \(C\) every positive constant depending on the data, but not on the unknown functions \(u, p\) or \(\theta\).

3. A priori estimates

The main result theorems 2.1 and 2.2 are proved using the following fixed point argument. We fix \(\xi \in W^{1,1}_4(Q_T)\) and we solve the following
auxiliary problems

\begin{equation}
\int_\Omega \partial_t u \cdot v + \int_\Omega \left( \mu(\xi)D u : D v + v \otimes u : \nabla u \right) = \int_\Omega f \cdot v
\end{equation}
a.e. \( t \in [0,T] \) \( \forall v \in \mathcal{J}^{1,2}_0(\Omega), \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}|_{t=0} = u_0 \) in \( \Omega \);

\begin{equation}
\int_\Omega (\partial_t \theta) \eta + \int_\Omega \left( k \nabla \theta \cdot \nabla \eta + u \cdot \nabla \theta \eta \right) = \int_\Omega \left( \mu(\xi)\frac{D u}{2} + g \right) \eta,
\end{equation}
a.e. \( t \in [0,T] \) \( \forall \eta \in W^{1,2}_0(\Omega), \quad \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t}|_{t=0} = \theta_0 \) in \( \Omega \).

Let us begin to prove a crucial embedding proposition.

**Proposition 3.1.** Assuming \( v \in L^{2(q-1)}(Q_T) \), for any \( q \geq 2 \), and \( \partial_t v \in L^2(Q_T) \) then \( v \) belongs to a bounded set of \( L^{\infty}(0,T;L^2(\Omega)) \).

**Proof.** Let us argue as in [10] writing

\[ |v(\cdot,t)|^q = \int_0^t \frac{d}{ds} |v(\cdot,s)|^q = q \int_0^t |v(\cdot,s)|^{q-2} v(\cdot,s) \partial_s v(\cdot,s). \]

Integrating with respect to the space variable and using Schwarz inequality, it follows

\[
\|v\|_{q,\Omega}(t) \leq q \int_0^t \|v\|^{q-1}_{2,\Omega} \|\partial_s v\|_{2,\Omega}
\]

\[
\leq q \left( \int_0^t \|v\|^{2(q-1)}_{2(q-1),\Omega} \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_0^t \|\partial_s v\|^{2}_{2,\Omega} \right)^{1/2}.
\]

Then we can conclude

\[
\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \|v\|_{q,\Omega}(t) \leq q \|v\|^{(q-1)}_{2(q-1),Q_T} \|\partial_t v\|_{2,Q_T}.
\]

\[\square\]

**Lemma 3.1 (Interpolative inequalities [20]).** The interpolative inequalities hold

\begin{equation}
\forall v \in H^2(\Omega), \quad \|\nabla v\|_{q,\Omega} \leq \|v\|_{2,\Omega}^{\frac{(2-n)q+2n}{4q}} \|\nabla^2 v\|_{2,\Omega}^{\frac{(2+n)q-2n}{4q}}
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
\forall v \in H^1_0(\Omega), \quad \|v\|_{q,\Omega} \leq \|v\|_{r,\Omega}^{\frac{(2+n)(q-2)+2n}{4q}} \|\nabla v\|_{2,\Omega}^{\frac{1}{4q}}.\]

In particular, \( L^{\infty}(Q_T) \cap L^2(0,T;H^1(\Omega)) \hookrightarrow L^{2(n+r)/n}(Q_T) \) and

\begin{equation}
\forall v \in H^1_0(\Omega), \quad \|v\|_{q,\Omega} \leq \|v\|_{2,\Omega}^{\frac{2+n}{4q}} \|\nabla v\|_{2,\Omega}^{\frac{1}{4q} \left(\frac{3}{2}-\frac{1}{q}\right)n},
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
\forall v \in H^1(\Omega), \quad \|v\|_{2(n+2)/r,\Omega} \leq \|v\|_{2,\Omega}^{\frac{n}{2q}} \|\nabla v\|_{2,\Omega}^{\frac{n}{2q}}.
\end{equation}

Taking \( n = 2 \) in Lemma 3.1 we obtain \( L^{2,\infty}(Q_T) \cap L^2(0,T;H^1(\Omega)) \hookrightarrow L^4(Q_T) \), and if we take \( n = 3 \) we have \( L^{2,\infty}(Q_T) \cap L^2(0,T;H^1(\Omega)) \hookrightarrow L^{10/3}(Q_T) \). Let us prove the following regularity result.
Proposition 3.2 \((n \geq 2)\). Assuming \(v \in L^{2,\infty}(Q_T) \cap L^2(0,T;H^1(\Omega))\) and \(\partial_t v \in L^2(Q_T)\) then \(v\) belongs to a bounded set of \(L^q(Q_T)\), for any \(q < 2(n+1)/(n-1)\). Moreover, \(v\) belongs to a bounded set of \(L^r,\infty(Q_T)\), for any \(r < 2n/(n-1)\).

Proof. From Lemma 3.1, we have \(v \in L^{2(n+2)/n}(Q_T)\) and we apply Proposition 3.1 with \(2(q-1) = 2(n+2)/n\), i.e., \(q = 1 + (n+2)/n\). Next, using Lemma 3.1 with \(v \in L^{1+(n+2)/n,\infty}(Q_T) \cap L^2(0,T;H^1(\Omega))\) we obtain \(v \in L^{2(n+1+(n+2)/n)/n}(Q_T)\). Define
\[
q_0 = \frac{n+2}{n}, \quad q_1 = \frac{n+1+q_0}{n},
\]
and arguing by iteration, we apply Proposition 3.1 with \(2(q-1) = 2q_k\), i.e., \(q = 1 + q_k\). Now, using Lemma 3.1 with \(v \in L^{1+q,n,\infty}(Q_T) \cap L^2(0,T;H^1(\Omega))\) we obtain \(v \in L^{2+n+q_k/n}(Q_T)\).

Thus defining by recurrence
\[
q_{k+1} = \frac{n+1+q_k}{n}, \quad k \in \mathbb{N},
\]
this sequence is monotone increasing, bounded onto \([0, (n+1)/(n-1)]\) and its limit is \(q = (n+1)/(n-1)\), which concludes the first statement of the proof of Proposition 3.2.

Again applying Proposition 3.1 with \(2(r-1) = q < 2(n+1)/(n-1)\), i.e., \(r = q/2+1 < 2n/(n-1)\), we get \(v \in L^{q/2+1,\infty}(Q_T)\) if \(q \geq 2\).

Lemma 3.2 ([19, Lemma 4]). Let \(\delta > 0\), \(\alpha > 0\) and \(q > 1\). For any \(v \in L^{\infty}(0,T;C^{0,\alpha}(\Omega))\) verifying \(\partial_t v \in L^q(Q_T)\), there exists a constant \(C > 0\) such that
\[
|v(x,t_1) - v(x,t_2)| \leq C\left[\|v\|_{L^\infty(0,T;C^{0,\alpha}(\Omega))} + \|\partial_t v\|_{L^q(Q_T)}\right]|t_1 - t_2|^\beta,
\]
for every \(x \in B_\delta\) and every \(t_1, t_2 \in [0,T]\), where \(\beta = \alpha(q-1)/(\alpha q + n(q-1))\). In particular, \(v\) is Hölder continuous in \(Q_T\).

Proposition 3.3. Under the assumptions \(f \in L^2(Q_T),\) \((7)\) and \(u_0 \in J^{1,2}_0(\Omega),\) if \(\nabla \xi \in L^4(Q)\) then the solution \(u\) of \((12)\) is such that \(\nabla u\) belongs to a bounded set of \(L^2(0,T;J^{1,2}_0(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0,T;L^2(\Omega))\). Moreover, it satisfies
\[
\|\nabla u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \leq \frac{4}{\mu_0} \left( T\|\nabla u_0\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \frac{4}{\mu_0} \|\mu\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 F\left(\frac{\mu^2}{2\mu_0}\|\nabla \xi\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^4\right) \right);
\]
with \(F\) a positive strictly increasing function on its argument.

Proof. We choose \(v = \Delta u\) as a test function in \((12)\), then
\[
\int_\Omega \partial_t (\nabla u) \cdot \nabla v + \int_\Omega \{\mu'(\xi) \nabla \xi \otimes Du + \mu(\xi) \nabla^2 u\} : \nabla^2 v = \int_\Omega f \cdot \nabla u - \int_\Omega \Delta u \otimes u : \nabla u.
\]
Here $\nabla^2 \mathbf{u} = (\partial_k D_{ij})$ is a third order tensor, with $D_{ij} = ((\partial_j u_i + \partial_i u_j)/2)$, and $\nabla \xi \otimes D \mathbf{u} : \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} = \partial_k \xi D_{ij} \partial_k D_{ij}$ under the Einstein convention.

Using the assumption (7) and the property of the convective term vanishes in the two dimensional space (cf. [16], for instance) we have

$$1 \frac{d}{dt} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \mu_0 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla^2 \mathbf{u}|^2 \leq \mu_2 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \xi \otimes D \mathbf{u} : \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}| + \int_{\Omega} |f \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u}|.$$

Applying Hölder inequalities and integrating in time for each $t \in [0, T[$, it follows

$$\frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}^2(t) + \mu_0 \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} |\nabla^2 \mathbf{u}|^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}(0)\|_{2, \Omega}^2 +$$

$$+ \mu_2 \int_0^t \|\nabla \xi\|_{4, \Omega} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega} \|\nabla^2 \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega} + \int_0^t \|f\|_{2, \Omega} \|\nabla^2 \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}.$$

Applying Lemma 3.1, (16) with $n = 2$ and $v = \nabla \mathbf{u}$, to the second term on right hand side of the above inequality and successively using Young inequalities, we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}^2(t) + \mu_0 \int_0^t \|\nabla^2 \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}(0)\|_{2, \Omega}^2 +$$

$$+ \frac{\mu_2}{4\mu_0} \int_0^t \|\nabla \xi\|_{4, \Omega}^4 \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{3\mu_0}{4} \int_0^t \|\nabla^2 \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}^2 +$$

$$+ \frac{2}{\mu_0} \int_0^t \|f\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{\mu_0}{8} \int_0^t \|\nabla^2 \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}^2.$$

Thus, we deduce

$$\frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}^2(t) + \frac{\mu_0}{8} \int_0^t \|\nabla^2 \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}_0\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{2}{\mu_0} \int_0^t \|f\|_{2, \Omega}^2 +$$

$$+ \frac{\mu_2}{4\mu_0} \int_0^t \|\nabla \xi\|_{4, \Omega}^4 \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}^2.$$

Thus we conclude the estimate in $L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega))$ with help of Gronwall Lemma

\begin{equation}
\text{ess sup}_{t \in [0, T]} \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_{2, \Omega}^2 \leq (T \|\nabla \mathbf{u}_0\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{4}{\mu_0} \|f\|_{2, Q_T}^2) \exp[\mathcal{G}(\xi)]
\end{equation}

where $\mathcal{G}(\xi) = \frac{\mu^2}{2\mu_0} \|\nabla \xi\|_{1, Q_T}^4$.

Next the estimate in $L^2(0, T; H^1_0(\Omega))$ follows

$$\|\nabla^2 \mathbf{u}\|_{2, Q_T}^2 \leq \frac{4}{\mu_0} (T \|\nabla \mathbf{u}_0\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{4}{\mu_0} \|f\|_{2, Q_T}^2) (1 + \mathcal{G}(\xi) \exp[\mathcal{G}(\xi)]) .$$

Finally applying Lemma 3.1, (16) with $n = 2$ and $v = \nabla \mathbf{u}$, $\nabla \mathbf{u}$ belonging to a bounded set of $L^2(0, T; H^1(\Omega)) \cap L^2(0, \infty; Q_T)$ implies (17) with $\mathcal{F}(d) = \exp[d](1 + d \exp[d])$. \hfill $\square$
Lemma 3.3. Under the assumptions of Proposition 3.3, \( \theta_0 \in L^2(\Omega) \) and \( g \in L^2(\Omega_T) \), then the solution \((u, \theta)\) of (12)-(13) satisfies

\begin{align}
(19) & \quad \|u\|^4_{4,\Omega_T} \leq \frac{1}{\mu_0}(T\|u_0\|^2_{2,\Omega} + \frac{1}{\mu_0}\|f\|^2_{2,\Omega_T})^2; \\
(20) & \quad \|\theta\|^4_{4,\Omega_T} \leq \frac{1}{k}(T\|\theta_0\|^2_{2,\Omega} + \frac{4}{\mu_0}(T\|\nabla u_0\|^2_{2,\Omega} + \frac{4}{\mu_0}\|f\|^2_{2,\Omega_T})^2 \mathcal{F}(\frac{\mu_1^2}{2\mu_0}\|\nabla \xi\|^4_{4,Q_T} + \|g\|^2_{2,Q_T}) )^2.
\end{align}

Proof. The energy inequalities hold

\[
\|u\|^2_{2,\Omega}(t) + \mu_0 \int_0^t \|\nabla u\|^2_{2,\Omega} \leq \|u_0\|^2_{2,\Omega} + \frac{1}{\mu_0} \int_0^t \|f\|^2_{2,\Omega};
\]
\[
\|\theta\|^2_{2,\Omega}(t) + k \int_0^t \|\nabla \theta\|^2_{2,\Omega} \leq \|\theta_0\|^2_{2,\Omega} + \frac{1}{k} \int_0^t (\mu_1\|\nabla u\|^2_{2,\Omega} + \|g\|^2_{2,\Omega}^2).
\]

To prove the estimates in \( L^\infty(0,T;L^2(\Omega)) \cap L^2(0,T;H_0^1(\Omega)) \) we do simultaneously as in standard manner. Using (16) and (17) we obtain (19)-(20).

Remark 3.1. If \( g = -\theta|\theta|^{1/2} \) the energy inequality on \( \theta \) given in the proof of Lemma 3.3 can be simplified since

\[
\int_\Omega g\theta = -\int_\Omega |\theta|^{1/2}\theta^2 \leq 0.
\]

Consequently (20) reads

\[
\|\theta\|^4_{4,\Omega_T} \leq \frac{1}{k}(T\|\theta_0\|^2_{2,\Omega} + \frac{4}{\mu_0}(T\|\nabla u_0\|^2_{2,\Omega} + \frac{4}{\mu_0}\|f\|^2_{2,\Omega_T})^2 \mathcal{F}(\frac{\mu_1^2}{2\mu_0}\|\nabla \xi\|^4_{4,Q_T} )^2.
\]

Proposition 3.4. Under the assumptions of Lemma 3.3, (7) and \( \theta_0 \in H_0^1(\Omega) \), if \( \nabla \xi \in L^4(Q) \) then the solution \( \theta \) of (13) is such that \( \nabla \theta \) belongs to a bounded set of \( L^2(0,T;H_0^1(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0,T;L^2(\Omega)) \). Moreover, it satisfies

\begin{align}
(21) & \quad \|\nabla \theta\|^4_{4,\Omega_T} \leq C(1 + \mathcal{F}(\frac{\mu_1^2}{2\mu_0}\|\nabla \xi\|^4_{4,Q_T})),
\end{align}

with \( \mathcal{F} \) given as in Proposition 3.3 and \( C \) depending only on \( \Omega, T, \mu_0, \mu_1, k, \|u_0\|_{2,\Omega}, \|\nabla u_0\|_{2,\Omega}, \|f\|_{2,Q_T}, \|\nabla \theta_0\|_{2,\Omega} \) and \( \|g\|_{2,Q_T} \).
Proof. Proceeding as in the proof of Proposition 3.3, we choose \( \eta = \Delta \theta \) as a test function in (13), then we have

\[
\frac{1}{2} \| \nabla \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 (t) + k \int_0^t \| \nabla^2 \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \| \nabla \theta (0) \|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \\
+ \int_0^t \| u \|_{4, \Omega} \| \nabla \theta \|_{4, \Omega} \| \nabla^2 \theta \|_{2, \Omega} + \\
\mu_1 \int_0^t \| \nabla u \|_{4, \Omega}^2 \| \nabla^2 \theta \|_{2, \Omega} + \\
+ \int_0^t \| g \|_{2, \Omega} \| \nabla^2 \theta \|_{2, \Omega},
\]

denoting by \( \nabla^2 \) the tensor \((\partial_{ij})\) of second order spatial derivatives.

Applying interpolation (16) and Young inequalities, we deduce

\[
\frac{1}{2} \| \nabla \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 (t) + k \int_0^t \| \nabla^2 \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \| \nabla \theta (0) \|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{1}{4k} \int_0^t \| u \|_{4, \Omega}^4 \| \nabla \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \\
+ \frac{3k}{4} \int_0^t \| \nabla^2 \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{2}{k} \int_0^t \{ \mu_1^2 \| \nabla u \|_{4, \Omega}^4 + \| g \|_{2, \Omega}^2 \} + \frac{k}{8} \int_0^t \| \nabla^2 \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2.
\]

Using (17), from Gronwall Lemma we conclude

\[
\text{ess sup}_{t \in [0,T]} \| \nabla \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 \leq C (1 + \mathcal{F} \left( \frac{\mu_1^2}{2 \mu_0} \| \nabla \xi \|_{4, Q_T}^4 \right) ) \exp \left[ \| u \|_{4, Q_T}^4 / 4 \right],
\]

with \( C \) depending only on \( \Omega, T, \mu_0, \mu_1, \| \nabla u_0 \|_{2, \Omega}, \| f \|_{2, Q_T}, \| \nabla \theta_0 \|_{2, \Omega} \) and \( \| g \|_{2, Q_T} \). Notice that the estimate (19) on \( u \) is only dependent on the data. Then we get \( \| \nabla^2 \theta \|_{2, Q_T}^2 \leq C (1 + \mathcal{F} ( \mu_1^2 \| \nabla \xi \|_{4, Q_T}^4 / (2 \mu_0) ) ) \) and also (21). \( \square \)

Remark 3.2. For \( g = -\theta |\theta|^{1/2} \), the proof of Proposition 3.4 is still valid if we take into account that

\[
\int_0^T g \Delta \theta \leq \| \theta \|_{4, \Omega} \| \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^{1/2} \| \Delta \theta \|_{2, \Omega}.
\]

Consequently, using (20) we conclude (21) with \( C \) depending only on \( \Omega, T, \mu_0, \mu_1, k, \| u_0 \|_{2, \Omega}, \| \nabla u_0 \|_{2, \Omega}, \| f \|_{2, Q_T}, \| \nabla \theta_0 \|_{2, \Omega} \) and \( \| \theta_0 \|_{2, \Omega} \).

Proposition 3.5. Under the assumptions (6)-(8), if \( \xi \in W_{4,1}^1 (Q) \) such that \( \nabla \xi (0) = \nabla \theta_0 \) then the solution \( u \) of (12) is such that \( \partial_t u \) belongs to a bounded set of \( L^2 (0, T; H^1_0 (\Omega)) \cap L^\infty (0, T; L^2 (\Omega)) \).

Proof. Differentiating (1) with respect to time (cf. Remark 3.3), multiplying by \( v = \partial_t u \), integrating over the space variables and using the orthogonality property of the convective term (cf. [11, pp. 128]), we
obtain
\[
\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \| \partial_t u \|^2_{2, \Omega} + \int_\Omega [\mu'(\xi) \partial_t \xi D u + \mu(\xi) \partial_t D u] : D \partial_t u = \int_\Omega \partial_t^2 u \partial_t u + \int_\Omega \partial_t [\mu(\xi) D u] : D \partial_t u = - \int_\Omega \partial_t u \otimes \partial_t u : \nabla u + \int_\Omega \partial_t f \cdot \partial_t u.
\]

Using the assumption (7), Hölder inequalities and integrating in time for each \( t \in [0, T] \), it follows
\[
\frac{1}{2} \| \partial_t u \|^2_{2, \Omega} + \mu_0 \int_0^T \int_\Omega \| \nabla \partial_t u \|^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \| \partial_t u(0) \|^2_{2, \Omega} + \int_0^T \| \partial_t f \|_{2, \Omega} \| \partial_t u \|_{2, \Omega} + \mu_2 \int_0^T \| \partial_t \xi \|_{4, \Omega} \| \nabla \partial_t u \|_{2, \Omega} + \int_0^T \| \partial_t u \|_{2, \Omega} \| \nabla u \|_{2, \Omega} + (22) \quad + \mu_2 \int_0^T \| \partial_t \xi \|_{4, \Omega} \| \nabla \partial_t u \|_{2, \Omega} + \int_0^T \| \partial_t u \|_{2, \Omega} \| \nabla u \|_{2, \Omega}.
\]

Let us study separately each term of the right hand side of the above inequality.

**FIRST TERM.** To estimate \( \| \partial_t u(0) \|^2_{2, \Omega} \) we choose \( v = \partial_t u(0) \) as a test function in (12) for the particular case \( t = 0 \). Thus, we observe that
\[
\| u'(0) \|^2_{2, \Omega} + \int_\Omega u'(0) \otimes u_0 : \nabla u_0 - \int_\Omega f(0) \cdot u'(0) = - \int_\Omega \mu(\xi(0)) D u_0 : D u'(0).
\]

Using the Green formula and (8) it follows
\[
\| u'(0) \|^2_{2, \Omega} + \int_\Omega u'(0) \otimes u_0 : \nabla u_0 - \int_\Omega f(0) \cdot u'(0) = \int_\Omega \mu'(\xi(0)) D u_0 : \nabla \xi(0) \otimes u'(0) + \int_\Omega \mu(\xi(0)) \Delta u_0 \cdot u'(0).
\]

Applying Hölder inequalities, we get
\[
\| u'(0) \|_{2, \Omega} \leq \mu_2 \| \nabla \theta_0 \|_{4, \Omega} \| \nabla u_0 \|_{4, \Omega} + \mu_1 \| \nabla u_0 \|_{(1), 2, \Omega} + \| u_0 \|_{4, \Omega} \| \nabla u_0 \|_{4, \Omega} + \| f(0) \|_{2, \Omega} := C.
\]

Note that \( f \in L^2(Q_T) \) and \( \partial_t f \in L^2(Q_T) \) then \( f \in C([0, T]; L^2(\Omega)) \).

**SECOND TERM.** It is sufficient the use of Young inequality.

**THIRD TERM.** Applying Young inequalities, it follows:
\[
\mu_2 \| \partial_t \xi \|_{4, \Omega} \| \nabla u \|_{4, \Omega} \| \nabla \partial_t u \|_{2, \Omega} \leq \frac{\mu_2}{2 \mu_0} \{ \| \partial_t \xi \|_{4, \Omega}^4 + \| \nabla u \|_{4, \Omega}^4 \} + \frac{\mu_0}{4} \| \nabla \partial_t u \|_{2, \Omega}^2.
\]
Forth term. Applying the interpolation inequality (16), with \( n = 2 \)
and \( v = \theta \), and using Young inequality, it follows
\[
\| \partial_t \theta \|_{4, \Omega}^4 \leq \| \partial_t \theta \|_{2, \Omega} \| \nabla \theta \|_{2, \Omega} \leq \frac{1}{\mu_0} \| \nabla \theta \|_{2, \Omega} \| \partial_t \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{\mu_0}{4} \| \nabla \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2.
\]
Substituting each calculation in (22), we get
\[
\| \partial_t \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \mu_0 \int_0^t \| \nabla \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 \leq C + \int_0^t \| \partial_t f \|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{\mu_0^2}{\mu_0} \left\{ \int_0^t \| \partial_t \xi \|_{4, \Omega}^4 + \int_0^t \| \nabla \theta \|_{4, \Omega}^4 \right\} + \int_0^t \left\{ 1 + \frac{2}{\mu_0} \| \nabla \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 \right\} \| \partial_t \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2.
\]
We conclude that \( \partial_t \theta \) belongs in a bounded set of \( L^{2, \infty}(Q_T) \) from
Gronwall Lemma and using (17) and (18). Subsequently we obtain
that \( \partial_t \theta \) belongs to bounded sets of \( W^{1,0}_2(Q_T) \) and of \( L^4(Q_T) \).

Remark 3.3. To differentiate the system (1) with respect to the
variable \( t \) and the choice of the test function have meaning in the following
sense. We first form the difference ratio of the system with respect to
\( t \), multiply the relation by the difference ratio of the solution with respect
to \( t \), integrate the obtained equation over the domain \( \Omega \) and then pass
to the limit as \( \Delta t \to 0 \).

Proposition 3.6. Under the assumptions (6)-(8) and (10), if \( \partial_t \xi \in L^4(Q) \) then the solution \( \theta \) given at Proposition 3.4 is such that \( \partial_t \theta \) belongs to a bounded set of \( L^2(0, T; H^1_0(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega)) \). In particular, the following estimate holds
\[
\| \partial_t \theta \|_{4, Q_T} \leq C(1 + B(\frac{\mu_0^2}{2\mu_0} \| \nabla \xi \|^4_{4, Q_T}, \frac{\mu_0^2}{2k} \| \partial_t \xi \|^4_{4, Q_T})),
\]
with \( B \) a positive strictly increasing function on its arguments. Moreover, \( \nabla \theta \) belongs to a bounded set of \( L^q(Q_T) \) for any \( q < 6 \).

Proof. We recall the equation
\[
\partial_t \theta + u \cdot \nabla \theta - k \Delta \theta = \mu(\xi)|Du|^2 + g \text{ in } Q_T.
\]
Differentiating the above equation with respect to time (cf. Remark
3.3), we deduce
\[
\partial_t^2 \theta - k \partial_t \Delta \theta = -\partial_t u \cdot \nabla \theta - u \cdot \partial_t \nabla \theta + +\mu'(\xi)\partial_t \xi|Du|^2 + \mu(\xi)2Du \partial_t \theta + \partial_t g.
\]
If multiply (24) by \( \eta = \partial_t \theta \), using the orthogonality property of the
convective term, after standard calculations it follows
\[
\frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \frac{d}{dt} \| \partial_t \theta \|_{2, \Omega}^2 + k \int_0^t \int_\Omega |\nabla \partial_t \theta|^2 + \int_0^t \int_\Omega \partial_t u \cdot \nabla \theta \partial_t \theta = = \int_0^t \int_\Omega (\mu'(\xi)\partial_t \xi|Du|^2 + 2\mu(\xi)\partial_t Du \partial_t \theta + \int_0^t \int_\Omega \partial_t g \partial_t \theta.
\]
Using the assumption (7) and Hölder inequalities, we get

\begin{equation}
\frac{1}{2} \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2(t) + k \int_0^t \left\| \nabla \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \left\| \partial_t \theta(0) \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \int_0^t \left\| \partial_t \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \theta \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega} + \mu_2 \int_0^t \left\| \partial_t \xi \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \mathbf{u} \right\|_{3, \Omega} \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{4, \Omega} + \mu_1 \int_0^t \left\| \nabla \partial_t \mathbf{u} \right\|_{2, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{4, \Omega} + \int_0^t \left\| \partial_t g \right\|_{2, \Omega} \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}.
\end{equation}

Let us examine separately each term of the above inequality.

**First Term.** Choosing \( \eta = \partial_t \theta(0) \) as a test function in (13) for the particular case \( t = 0 \) and applying (8), we obtain

\[
\left\| \partial_t \theta(0) \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \int_\Omega \mathbf{u}_0 \cdot \nabla \theta_0 \partial_t \theta(0) - \int_\Omega g(0) \theta'(0) - \int_\Omega \mu(\xi(0)) |D\mathbf{u}_0|^2 \theta'(0)
\]

\[
= -k \int_\Omega \nabla \theta_0 \cdot \nabla \theta'(0) = k \int_\Omega \Delta \theta_0 \theta'(0).
\]

Consequently, we find

\[
\left\| \partial_t \theta(0) \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2 \leq k \left\| \nabla \theta_0 \right\|_{(1), 2, \Omega} + \left\| \mathbf{u}_0 \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \theta_0 \right\|_{4, \Omega} + \left\| g(0) \right\|_{2, \Omega} + \mu_1 \left\| \nabla \mathbf{u}_0 \right\|_{4, \Omega}^2 := C.
\]

**Second Term.** Applying Young inequalities, we have

\[
\left\| \partial_t \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \theta \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega} \leq \frac{1}{4} \left\{ \left\| \partial_t \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega}^4 + \left\| \nabla \theta \right\|_{4, \Omega}^4 \right\} + \frac{1}{2} \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2.
\]

**Third Term.** Using interpolation inequality (16) and Young inequalities we get

\[
\mu_2 \left\| \partial_t \xi \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega} \leq \mu_2 \left\| \partial_t \xi \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^{1/2} \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^{1/2}
\]

\[
\leq \frac{1}{2} \left\| \nabla \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega}^4 + \frac{\mu_2^2}{4k} \left\| \partial_t \xi \right\|_{4, \Omega}^4 \left\| \nabla \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{k}{4} \left\| \nabla \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2.
\]

**Forth Term.** Using interpolation inequality (16) and Young inequalities we get

\[
\mu_1 \left\| \nabla \partial_t \mathbf{u} \right\|_{2, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{4, \Omega} \leq \mu_1 \left\| \nabla \partial_t \mathbf{u} \right\|_{2, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega} \left\| \nabla \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^{1/2} \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^{1/2}
\]

\[
\leq \frac{\mu_1^2}{2} \left\| \nabla \mathbf{u} \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{1}{4k} \left\| \nabla \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega}^4 \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \frac{k}{4} \left\| \nabla \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2.
\]

**Fifth Term.** It is sufficient the use of Young inequality.

Then, introducing all these terms in (25) we conclude

\[
\left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2(t) + k \int_0^t \left\| \nabla \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2 \leq C + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \left\| \nabla \theta \right\|_{4, \Omega}^4 + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \left\| \partial_t \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega}^4 + \int_0^t \left( \frac{1}{2} \left\| \nabla \mathbf{u} \right\|_{4, \Omega}^4 + \frac{\mu_2^2}{2k} \left\| \partial_t \xi \right\|_{4, \Omega}^4 \left\| \partial_t \theta \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \mu_1 \left\| \nabla \partial_t \mathbf{u} \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \int_0^t \left\| \nabla \partial_t \mathbf{u} \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2 + \int_0^t \left\| \partial_t g \right\|_{2, \Omega}^2.
\]
Recalling Propositions 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5, we use Gronwall Lemma to obtain
\[
(26) \quad \text{ess sup}_{t \in [0,T]} \|\partial_t \theta\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \leq C(1 + B_t \frac{\mu_2}{2\mu_0} \|\nabla \xi\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2, \frac{\mu_4}{2k} \|\partial_t \xi\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^4)).
\]
Applying this result in the last expression we conclude the desired result (23).

Finally applying Proposition 3.4, \(\nabla \theta\) belongs to a bounded set of \(L^2(0,T; H^1(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0,T; L^2(\Omega))\). Since we also have \(\partial_t \nabla \theta \in L^2(Q_T)\) then Proposition 3.2 implies that \(\nabla \theta\) belongs to a bounded set of \(L^q(Q_T)\) for any \(q < 6\).

\textbf{Remark 3.4.} For \(g = -\theta |\theta|^{1/2}\), the result of Proposition 3.6 is still valid if in its proof we take into account that
\[
\int_\Omega \partial_t g \partial_t \theta = -\frac{3}{2} \int_\Omega |\theta|^{1/2} |\partial_t \theta|^2 \leq 0.
\]

\textbf{Proposition 3.7.} Under the assumptions (7) and (10), if \(\theta\) is the solution given at Proposition 3.4, then \(\partial_t^2 \theta\) belongs to a bounded set of \(L^2(0,T; H^{-1}(\Omega))\).

\textit{Proof.} Considering (24) and since we already proved that
\[
\partial_t \mathbf{u} \text{ and } \nabla \theta \in L^4(Q_T); \quad \mathbf{u} \in L^\infty(0,T; L^2(\Omega)) \quad \text{and} \quad \partial_t \nabla \theta \in L^2(Q_T);
\]
\[
\nabla \mathbf{u} \in L^\infty(0,T; L^2(\Omega)) \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \partial_t \mathbf{u} \in L^2(Q_T); \quad |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2 \in L^4(0,T; L^{4/3}(\Omega))
\]
we have
\[
\partial_t^2 \theta - k \partial_t \Delta \theta \in L^2(0,T; L^1(\Omega)).
\]

Taking the operator div: \(L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{-1}(\Omega)\), it permits to get
\[
\partial_t \Delta \theta = \nabla \cdot (\partial_t \nabla \theta) \in L^2(0,T; H^{-1}(\Omega)),
\]
then it results that \(\partial_t^2 \theta \in L^2(0,T; H^{-1}(\Omega))\).

\textbf{Proposition 3.8.} Under the assumptions of Propositions 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6, the solution \(\theta\) of (13) is such that \(\partial_t \theta\) belongs to a bounded set of \(L^2(0,T; L^{2+\delta}(\Omega))\) for some \(\delta > 0\), and consequently to a bounded set of \(L^{4+\delta}(Q_T)\).

\textit{Proof.} In consequence of Proposition 3.7, \(\partial_t^2 \theta\) does not belong in \(L^2(Q_T)\) and we cannot apply the argument used in Proposition 3.6. Let us argue as in [2], multiplying (24) by \(\eta = \partial_t \theta |\partial_t \theta|^\delta\) and integrating over the space variable, we obtain
\[
\int_\Omega \partial_t^2 \theta \partial_t \theta |\partial_t \theta|^\delta + k(1 + \delta) \int_\Omega \partial_t \nabla \theta \cdot \nabla (\partial_t \theta |\partial_t \theta|^\delta) +
\]
\[
\int_\Omega \partial_t \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \theta \partial_t \theta |\partial_t \theta|^\delta = \int_\Omega \partial_t (\mu(\xi)|\mathbf{u}|^2) \partial_t \theta |\partial_t \theta|^\delta + \int_\Omega \partial_t g \partial_t \theta |\partial_t \theta|^\delta.
\]
Applying Hölder inequalities under the relations for the exponents
\[
\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1 - 2\delta}{4} + \frac{1 + \delta}{2} = 1, \quad \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{3 - 5\delta}{10} + \frac{\delta}{2} = 1, \quad \delta < \frac{1}{2} \left( < \frac{3}{5} \right),
\]
it follows
\[
\frac{1}{2 + \delta} \int_0^t \frac{d}{dt} \|
\nabla \theta \|_{2 + \delta, \Omega}^{2 + \delta} + k(1 + \delta) \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \partial_t \theta|^2 |\partial_t \theta|^\delta \leq I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + I_4 + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} \partial_t g \partial_t \theta,
\]
with
\[
I_1 := \int_0^t \|
\partial_t u\|_{4, \Omega} \|
\nabla \theta\|_{4/(1 - 2\delta), \Omega} \|
\partial_t \theta\|_{1 + \delta, \Omega}^{1 + \delta},
\]
\[
I_2 := \int_0^t \|
\partial_t u\|_{5, \Omega} \|
\nabla \partial_t \theta\|_{2, \Omega} \|
\partial_t \theta\|_{10/(3 - 5\delta), \Omega} \|
\partial_t \theta\|_{2, \Omega}^{\delta},
\]
\[
I_3 := \mu_2 \int_0^t \|
\partial_t \xi\|_{4, \Omega} \|
\nabla \partial_t \theta\|_{2, \Omega} \|
\partial_t \theta\|_{10/(3 - 5\delta), \Omega} \|
\partial_t \theta\|_{2, \Omega}^{\delta},
\]
\[
I_4 := 2\mu_1 \int_0^t \|
\partial_t \partial_t u\|_{2, \Omega} \|
\nabla \partial_t u\|_{5, \Omega} \|
\partial_t \theta\|_{10/(3 - 5\delta), \Omega} \|
\partial_t \theta\|_{2, \Omega}^{\delta}.
\]

From Proposition 3.6, \( \nabla \theta \) belongs to a bounded set of \( L^q(Q_T) \hookrightarrow L^{4/(1 - 2\delta), 4/3}(Q_T) \) for any \( q < 6 \) and consequently we must choose \( \delta < 1/6 \). Thus, using (26) we obtain
\[
I_1 \leq C(1 + \mathcal{B}(\xi))^{(1 + \delta)/2} \|
\partial_t u\|_{4, Q_T} \|
\nabla \theta\|_{4/(1 - 2\delta), 4/3, Q_T}.
\]

Thanks to Proposition 3.3, we get \( u \in L^\infty(0, T; L^1(\Omega)) \hookrightarrow L^\infty(0, T; L^\delta(\Omega)) \), and thanks to Proposition 3.6, we get \( \partial_t \theta \) belongs to a bounded set of \( L^2(0, T; H^1(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega)) \hookrightarrow L^{10/(3 - 5\delta), 2}(Q_T) \) for any \( \delta < 3/5 \). Then, we obtain
\[
I_2 \leq C(1 + \mathcal{B}(\xi))^{\delta/2} \|
\partial_t u\|_{5, Q_T} \|
\nabla \partial_t \theta\|_{2, Q_T} \|
\partial_t \theta\|_{10/(3 - 5\delta), 2, Q_T}.
\]

From Proposition 3.3, \( \nabla u \) belongs to a bounded set of \( L^2(0, T; H^1(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega)) \). From Proposition 3.5, \( \partial_t \partial_t u \) belongs to a bounded set of \( L^2(0, T; H^1(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega)) \). In particular, applying Proposition 3.1 we have
\[
(27) \quad \nabla u \in L^{3, \infty}(Q_T).
\]

Thanks to Proposition 3.2, \( \nabla u \) belongs to a bounded set of \( L^2(0, T; H^1(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0, T; L^3(\Omega)) \hookrightarrow L^{8/(1 - 2\delta), 8/3}(Q_T) \) for any \( \delta < 1/6 \). Then, it follows
\[
I_3 \leq C(1 + \mathcal{B}(\xi))^{(1 + \delta)/2} \|
\partial_t \xi\|_{4, Q_T} \|
\nabla \partial_t u\|_{2, Q_T} \|
\partial_t \partial_t u\|_{10/(3 - 5\delta), 8/3, Q_T}.
\]

From Proposition 3.6, \( \partial_t \theta \) belongs to a bounded set of \( L^2(0, T; H^1(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega)) \hookrightarrow L^{10/(3 - 5\delta), 10/3}(Q_T) \) for any \( \delta < 1/5 \). Then, we obtain
\[
I_4 \leq C(1 + \mathcal{B}(\xi))^{\delta/2} \|
\nabla \partial_t u\|_{5, Q_T} \|
\partial_t \partial_t u\|_{2, Q_T} \|
\partial_t \theta\|_{10/(3 - 5\delta), 10/3, Q_T}.
\]
Therefore we conclude an estimate in $L^{2+\delta,\infty}(Q_T)$ and applying Lemma 3.1 we obtain $L^{2+\delta,\infty}(Q_T) \cap L^2(0,T;H^1(\Omega)) \hookrightarrow L^{4+\delta}(Q_T)$.

4. Proof of Theorem 2.1

In order to apply Schauder theorem, we build an operator $\mathcal{L}$ defined on $W^{1,1}_4(Q)$, which maps $\xi \mapsto u = u(\xi) \mapsto \theta \in W^{1,1}_4(Q)$; where $u$ and $\theta$ are the solutions to the problems (12) and (13), respectively.

**Step 1.** From Propositions 3.4 and 3.6, $\mathcal{L}$ maps the convex closed set $K := \{ \xi \in W^{1,1}_4(Q_T) : \nabla \xi(0) = \nabla \theta_0, \| \xi \| < R \}$ to itself, choosing $R > 0$ such that

$$R := C \left( 1 + \mathcal{F} \left( \frac{\mu_0^4}{2 \mu_0} R \right) + \mathcal{B} \left( \frac{\mu_0^4}{2 \mu_0} R, \frac{\mu_0^4}{2 \mu_0} R \right) \right)$$

under the assumption (11).

**Step 2.** Let us prove that $\mathcal{L}$ is a well defined mapping. For each $\xi \in W^{1,1}_4(Q)$, from the existence theory for the Navier-Stokes system there exists a unique 2-dimensional solution $u \in L^\infty(0,T;L^2(\Omega)) \cap L^2(0,T;H^1_0(\Omega))$ (see for example [11] or [15]). Hence, thanks to Proposition 3.3 we have $\nabla u \in L^4(Q_T)$. Thus from the existence theory for the parabolic equations there exists $\theta \in L^\infty(0,T;L^2(\Omega)) \cap L^2(0,T;J^1(\Omega))$ the unique solution to the problem (13). Then, Propositions 3.4 and 3.6 guarantee the sufficient regularity to obtain $\theta \in W^{1,1}_4(Q)$.

**Step 3.** In order to prove that $\mathcal{L}$ is compact, we take a sequence $\xi_m$ weakly convergent to $\xi$ in $W^{1,1}_4(Q_T)$, and corresponding solutions $u_m$ and $\theta_m$ to the problems (12) and (13), respectively. The estimates (21) and (23) infer that we can extract a subsequence, still denoted by $\theta_m$, such that

$$\nabla \theta_m \rightharpoonup \nabla \theta \text{ in } L^4(Q_T), \quad \partial_t \theta_m \rightharpoonup \partial_t \theta \text{ in } L^4(Q_T).$$

From Propositions 3.4 and 3.6, we have $\nabla \theta_m$ and $\partial_t \nabla \theta_m$ bounded in $L^2(0,T;H^1_0(\Omega))$ and $L^2(Q_T)$, respectively. Moreover $\partial_t \theta_m$ bounded in $L^2(0,T;H^1_0(\Omega))$ and from Proposition 3.7 we get $\partial_t^2 \theta_m$ bounded in $L^2(0,T;H^{1-1}(\Omega))$. Then by a compactness result (cf. [22, page 90]) we obtain

$$\nabla \theta_m \rightarrow \nabla \theta \text{ in } L^2(0,T;L^q(\Omega)), \quad q < \infty;$$

$$\partial_t \theta_m \rightarrow \partial_t \theta \text{ in } L^2(0,T;L^q(\Omega)), \quad q < \infty.$$

In order to apply these strong convergences we use Proposition 3.2 to $\nabla \theta_m$ obtaining that it is bounded in $L^5(Q_T)$ and consequently

$$\nabla \theta_m \rightarrow \nabla \theta \text{ in } L^4(Q_T).$$
Next using Proposition 3.8, it follows
\[ \partial_t \theta_m \rightarrow \partial_t \theta \text{ in } L^4(Q_T). \]

Easily we conclude that \( \theta \) is the limit solution to the problem (13).

In conclusion, Schauder Theorem guarantees the existence of at least one fixed point and accordingly there exists a strong solution \((u, \theta)\) in the conditions of Theorem 2.1.

Finally let us prove that the strong solution is Hölder continuous. First we recall (27) and thus using Lemma 3.2 we conclude that \( u \) is Hölder continuous. Analogous for \( \theta \).

5. Proof of Theorem 2.2

We argue as in the proof of Theorem 2.1. Let \( \mathcal{L} \) be the operator which maps
\[ \xi \in W^{1,1}_4(Q) \mapsto u = u(\xi) \mapsto \theta \in W^{1,1}_4(Q); \]
where \( u \) and \( \theta \) are the solutions to the problems (12) and (13) with \( g \) replaced by \( -\theta |\theta|^{1/2} \), respectively.

Proceeding as in steps 1 and 2, the operator \( \mathcal{L} \) is well defined considering Remarks 3.2 and 3.4. Consequently the argument of the proof of Theorem 2.1 can be followed \textit{mutatis mutandis}.

Moreover, considering that for all \( q < 6 \) we have
\[ |\nabla u|^2 \in L^{q/2}(Q_T); \quad |\theta|^{1/2}\theta \in L^\infty(Q_T); \quad u \cdot \nabla \theta \in L^q(Q_T), \]
applying the regularity theory for the heat equation
\[ \partial_t \theta - k \Delta \theta = \mu(\theta)|D u|^2 - |\theta|^{1/2}\theta - u \cdot \nabla \theta \quad \text{in } Q_T; \]
we find that \( \theta \in W^{2,1}_{q/2}(Q_T) \).

6. Uniqueness

In this section, we show that the solutions obtained in Theorem 2.1 and 2.2 are unique.

6.1. Uniqueness for Theorem 2.1. We proceed in a classical manner. We suppose the existence of two solutions \((u_1, \theta_1)\) and \((u_2, \theta_2)\) and we define \( u = u_1 - u_2 \) and \( \theta = \theta_1 - \theta_2 \). So that \((u, \theta)\) verifies the following variational formulation
(28)
\[
\begin{align*}
\int_\Omega \partial_t u \cdot v + \int_\Omega \mu(\theta_1) Du : Dv &= \int_\Omega (\mu(\theta_2) - \mu(\theta_1)) Du_2 : Dv \\
&\quad - \int_\Omega \left( \nabla u_2 : v \otimes u + \nabla u : v \otimes u_1 \right)
\end{align*}
\]
a.e. \( t \in [0, T] \quad \forall v \in J^{1,2}_0(\Omega), \quad u|_{t=0} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega; \\
\int_\Omega (\partial_t \theta) \eta + k \int_\Omega \nabla \theta \cdot \nabla \eta &= - \int_\Omega \left( u \cdot \nabla \theta_2 + u_1 \cdot \nabla \theta \right) \eta + \int_\Omega (\mu(\theta_1)|Du_1|^2 - \mu(\theta_2)|Du_2|^2) \eta \quad \\
\text{a.e. } t \in [0, T] \quad &\forall \eta \in W^{1,2}_0(\Omega), \quad \theta|_{t=0} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega.
\]
Taking $v = u$ and $\eta = \theta$, using (7) and the orthogonality property to the convective terms, and summing the resulting relations we find
\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|u\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|\theta\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \mu_0 \|Du\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + k\|\nabla \theta\|_{2,\Omega}^2 & \leq \\
\leq -\int_\Omega \nabla u_2 : u \otimes u - \int_\Omega u \cdot \nabla \theta_2 \theta + \int_\Omega (\mu(\theta_2) - \mu(\theta_1)) Du_2 : Du \\
+ \int_\Omega (\mu(\theta_1) - \mu(\theta_2))|Du_1|^2 \theta + \int_\Omega \mu(\theta_2) Du : D(u_1 + u_2) \theta.
\end{align*}
\]
Arguing as in [11, pp. 154] we get
\[
I_1 := \left| \int_\Omega \nabla u_2 : u \otimes u \right| \leq \|\nabla u_2\|_{2,\Omega} \|u\|_{2,\Omega}^2 \leq \\
\leq \frac{\mu_0}{8} \|\nabla u\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \frac{2}{\mu_0} \|\nabla u_2\|_{2,\Omega} \|u\|_{2,\Omega}^2.
\]
Analogously we have
\[
I_2 := \left| \int_\Omega u \cdot \nabla \theta_2 \theta \right| \leq \|u\|_{4,\Omega} \|\nabla \theta_2\|_{2,\Omega} \|\theta\|_{4,\Omega} \leq \\
\leq \frac{\mu_0}{8} \|\nabla u\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \frac{2}{\mu_0} \|\nabla \theta_2\|_{2,\Omega} \|u\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \frac{k}{8} \|\nabla \theta_2\|_{2,\Omega}^2 \|\nabla \theta_2\|_{2,\Omega}^2.
\]
Next using the Mean Value Theorem, for every $X = (x, t) \in Q_T$ there exists $\psi_X$ between $\theta_1(X)$ and $\theta_2(X)$ such that
\[
|\mu(\theta_1) - \mu(\theta_2)| = \mu'(\psi_X) |\theta|,
\]
and successively applying (7) and Hölder inequality
\[
I_3 := \int_\Omega |\mu(\theta_1) - \mu(\theta_2)||Du_2 : Du| \leq \mu_2 \|\theta\|_{4,\Omega} \|Du_2\|_{4,\Omega} \|Du\|_{2,\Omega}.
\]
Applying (15) this term can be estimated as follows
\[
I_3 \leq \mu_2 \|\theta\|_{2,\Omega}^{1/2} \|\nabla \theta\|_{2,\Omega}^{1/2} \|Du_2\|_{4,\Omega} \|Du\|_{4,\Omega} \leq \\
\leq \frac{4 \mu_2^2}{k \mu_0} \|\theta\|_{2,\Omega}^4 \|Du_2\|_{4,\Omega}^4 + \frac{k}{8} \|\nabla \theta\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \frac{\mu_0}{8} \|\nabla u\|_{2,\Omega}^2.
\]
Analogously we get
\[
I_4 := \int_\Omega (\mu(\theta_1) - \mu(\theta_2))|Du_1|^2 \theta \leq \mu_2 \|\theta\|_{4,\Omega}^2 \|Du_1\|_{4,\Omega} \|Du\|_{4,\Omega} \leq \\
\leq \frac{2 \mu_2^2}{k} \|\theta\|_{2,\Omega}^4 \|Du_1\|_{4,\Omega}^4 + \frac{k}{8} \|\nabla \theta\|_{2,\Omega}^2.
\]
and also
\[
I_5 := \int_\Omega \mu(\theta_2) Du : D(u_1 + u_2) \theta \leq \mu_1 \|\theta\|_{4,\Omega} \|D(u_1 + u_2)\|_{4,\Omega} \|Du\|_{2,\Omega} \\
\leq \frac{4 \mu_4^2}{k \mu_0} \|\theta\|_{2,\Omega}^4 \|D(u_1 + u_2)\|_{4,\Omega}^4 + \frac{k}{8} \|\nabla \theta\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \frac{\mu_0}{8} \|\nabla u\|_{2,\Omega}^2.
\]
Then these inequalities imply
\[
\frac{d}{dt} \left( \|u\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \|\theta\|_{2,\Omega}^2 \right) \leq \frac{2}{\mu_0} \left( \|D u_2\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \|\nabla \theta_2\|_{2,\Omega}^2 \right) \|u\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \\
+ \frac{2}{k} \left( \|\nabla \theta_2\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \frac{2\mu^4_0 + 8\mu^4}{\mu_0} \|D u_2\|_{4,\Omega}^4 + (\mu_2^4 + \frac{8\mu^4}{\mu_0}) \|D u_1\|_{4,\Omega}^4 \right) \|\theta\|_{2,\Omega}^2.
\]

Considering that \((u, \theta)|_{t=0} = (0, 0)\), Gronwall Lemma allows us to conclude that \((u, \theta) = (0, 0)\).

6.2. Uniqueness for Theorem 2.2. Proceeding as in Section 6.2 we find
\[
\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|u\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|\theta\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + \mu_0 \|D u\|_{2,\Omega}^2 + k \|\nabla \theta\|_{2,\Omega}^2 \leq \\
I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + I_4 + I_5 - \int_{\Omega} (|\theta_1|^{1/2} - |\theta_2|^{1/2}) \theta_2 \theta.
\]

For every \(t \in [0, T]\), define
\[
[|\theta_1|^{1/2} + |\theta_2|^{1/2} > 0] = \{x \in \Omega : |\theta_1(x, t)|^{1/2} + |\theta_2(x, t)|^{1/2} > 0\}
\]
then the last term in RHS of the above inequality reads
\[
- \int_{\Omega} (|\theta_1|^{1/2} - |\theta_2|^{1/2}) \theta_2 \theta = - \int_{[|\theta_1|^{1/2} + |\theta_2|^{1/2} > 0]} \frac{|\theta_1| - |\theta_2|}{|\theta_1|^{1/2} + |\theta_2|^{1/2}} \theta_2 \theta \leq \\
\leq \int_{[|\theta_1|^{1/2} + |\theta_2|^{1/2} > 0]} \frac{|\theta_2|}{|\theta_1|^{1/2} + |\theta_2|^{1/2}} \theta^2 \leq \int_{\Omega} \|\theta_2\|_{1/2} \theta^2 \leq \|\theta_2\|_{1/2} \|\theta\|_{2,\Omega}^2.
\]

Therefore we can conclude the desired uniqueness.

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