# ON THE ILL-POSEDNESS OF A WEAKLY DISPERSIVE ONE-DIMENSIONAL BOUSSINESQ SYSTEM 

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#### Abstract

We study the Cauchy problem for one-dimensional dispersive system of Boussinesq type which models weakly nonlinear long wave surface waves. We prove that such a system is illposed in $H^{s}(\mathbb{R})$ for $s<0$ in the sense that the solution does not depend continuously on the initial data. We also provide criteria for the formation of singularities.


## 1. Introduction

The theory of water waves embodies the equations of fluid mechanics, the concepts of wave propagation, and the critically important role of boundary dynamics. Due to the complexity of the governing equations for water waves, physicists and mathematicians are led to derive simpler sets of equations likely to describe the dynamics of the water waves in some specific physical regimes.

One regime that arises in practical situations is that of waves in a channel of approximately constant depth $h$ that are uniform across the channel, and which are of small amplitude and long wavelength. Similar waves appear as long-crested disturbances on larger bodies of water. Let $a$ be a typical wave amplitude and $\lambda$ a typical wavelength, the conditions above amount to

$$
\varepsilon=\frac{a}{h} \ll 1, \quad \delta=\frac{h^{2}}{\lambda^{2}} \ll 1 .
$$

The equations within the above scaling regime couple the free surface elevation $\eta$ to the horizontal component of the velocity $v$. When the nonlinear and dispersive effects are balanced, that is, $\varepsilon=O(\delta)$, and for one dimensional surfaces and flat bottoms, at the asymptotic expansion to the first order in $\varepsilon$, the system reduces to the well-known Boussinesq equation [8, 17, 18, 24]

$$
v_{t t}-v_{x x}-\frac{3 \varepsilon}{2}\left(v^{2}\right)_{x x}-\frac{\varepsilon}{3} v_{x x x x}=0,
$$

(note that $\eta=v+O(\varepsilon)$ ) and any perturbation of the surface splits up into two components moving in opposite directions.

[^0]Taking advantage of the freedom associated with the choice of the velocity variable and making full use of the lower-order relations (the wave equation written as a coupled system) in the dispersive terms, Bona-Chen-Saut [4, 5] put forward the following three-parameter family of Boussinesq systems (referred to as the $a b c d$ system) for one dimensional surface (a two-dimensional analogue is derived by Bona-Colin-Lannes [6]),

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\eta_{t}+v_{x}+(\eta v)_{x}+a v_{x x x}-b \eta_{t x x}=0  \tag{1.1}\\
v_{t}+\eta_{x}+v v_{x}+c \eta_{x x x}-d v_{t x x}=0,
\end{array}\right.
$$

which is formally equivalent models of solutions of the Euler equations. In the above system, $\eta(t, x)$ is proportional to the deviation of the free surface from its rest position, and $v(t, x)$ is proportional to the horizontal velocity taken at the scaled height $\theta$ with $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ ( $\theta=1$ at the free surface and $\theta=0$ at the bottom), and

$$
a=\left(\frac{\theta^{2}}{2}-\frac{1}{6}\right) \nu, \quad b=\left(\frac{\theta^{2}}{2}-\frac{1}{6}\right)(1-\nu), \quad c=\frac{\left(1-\theta^{2}\right)}{2} \mu-\tau, \quad d=\frac{\left(1-\theta^{2}\right)}{2}(1-\mu)
$$

with $\nu$ and $\mu$ arbitrary real numbers, and $\tau \geq 0$ the surface tension. Throughout this paper we will just be dealing with the pure gravity waves, that is, $\tau=0$.

Preliminary work on well-posedness of (1.1) is detailed in [5] for various collections of $a, b, c$, and $d$. The authors proved that all the linearly well-posed systems are locally nonlinearly well-posed. Notice that an interesting feature of (1.1) is that its dispersive properties can be quite different according to the choice of $a, b, c$, and $d$. In fact the dispersive relation is

$$
\omega^{2}(\xi)=-|\xi|^{2} \frac{\left(1-a|\xi|^{2}\right)\left(1-c|\xi|^{2}\right)}{\left(1+b|\xi|^{2}\right)\left(1+d|\xi|^{2}\right)}
$$

and hence the $(a, c)$ pair enhances dispersion while the $(b, d)$ pair weakens it. In this paper we will concentrate on the case of weak dispersion, that is, $a=c=0$ and $b=d=\frac{1}{6}$. After rescaling $b$ and $d$ to 1 the system becomes

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\eta_{t}-\eta_{t x x}+v_{x}+(\eta v)_{x}=0,  \tag{1.2}\\
v_{t}-v_{t x x}+\eta_{x}+v v_{x}=0,
\end{array} \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, t \geq 0\right.
$$

One of our goals is to obtain a sharp well-posedness result of the above system. It has been shown in [5] through a contraction principle that system (1.2) is well-posed in Sobolev spaces $H^{s}(\mathbb{R}) \times H^{s}(\mathbb{R})$ for $s \geq 0$. Using the idea of Bejenaru-Tao [2] we manage to prove, via explicitly constructed initial data, that the flow map fails to be continuous below $L^{2}(\mathbb{R}) \times L^{2}(\mathbb{R})$. The idea stems from looking at the second order iterates in a Picard iteration about the chosen initial data, which leads to a high-to-low frequency interaction: a solution starts off initially with small energy and Fourier transform supported primarily at high frequencies, but quickly generates a large energy at low frequencies. This norm explosion indicates that the solution operator, if it exists at all, has a severe singularity near the zero solution.

Our ill-posedness threshold agrees with the one for the BBM equation [7]. However, system (1.2) involves both the surface $\eta$ and velocity $v$ components and consequently generates many more interactions in the second iteration map than in the scalar BBM case. Our initial data is chosen to minimize the surface-velocity interactions but to maximize the frequency interactions of the linear propagators in the nonlinear terms. Similar techniques were used in proving a $C^{3}$ ill-posedness of the full gravity-capillary water wave problem [12].

Note that the weak dispersive system (1.1) corresponding to $a=c=0$ does possess global-in-time solutions. For the particular value $\theta^{2}=\frac{7}{9}$, the system features exact solitarywave solutions [10]. However for general $\theta \in[0,1]$ the existence of solitary waves is still open.

Another aspect of this paper concerns the formation of singularities of system (1.2). Applying an energy-type argument we show that solutions blow up in finite time when $v_{x}$ is not bounded below. Together with the use of the Hamiltonian functional, we further prove that blow-up in finite time happens if and only if $\eta$ becomes unbounded below, which improves the result of global existence obtained in [1] and also seems to agree with some numerical predictions in [11].

Since dissipation effects are ignored in the derivation of (1.1) and the overlying Euler system is Hamiltonian, it is expected that some special cases of (1.1) will also possess a Hamiltonian form. In particular, for our case system (1.2), the following functional

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{H}(\eta, v)=\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}}\left[\eta^{2}+(1+\eta) v^{2}\right] d x \tag{1.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

serves as a Hamiltonian. In addition, system (1.2) has the following conserved quantities

$$
\int_{\mathbb{R}} \eta d x, \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}} v d x, \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}}\left(\eta v+\eta_{x} v_{x}\right) d x
$$

along with $\mathcal{H}(\eta, v)([5])$.
The plan of the paper is as follows. In Section 2, we introduce the notations and function spaces to work with. In Section 3, we establish the analytical well-posedness of system (1.2) in Sobolev spaces $H^{s}(\mathbb{R}) \times H^{s}(\mathbb{R})$ for $s \geq 0$, and specify that when $s>1 / 2$ then the maximal time of existence is independent of the regularity index. In Section 4, we prove that system (1.2) is $C^{0}$ ill-posed below $L^{2}(\mathbb{R}) \times L^{2}(\mathbb{R})$. In Section 5, we discuss the formation of singularity and provide a series of blow-up criteria. Finally in Appendix, we give the decay estimates of the linearized equation.

## 2. Resolution space

In this section we introduce a few notation and we define our functional framework.
Let $\vec{u}(t, x)=(\eta(t, x), v(t, x))$. Denote $|\vec{u}(t)|_{p, q} \equiv|\eta(t)|_{p}+|v(t)|_{q}$ the norm in $L^{p} \times L^{q}$, for $1 \leq p, q \leq+\infty$, where $|\cdot|_{p}$ refers to the $L^{p} \equiv L^{p}(\mathbb{R}, d x)$ norm. Let $\|\vec{u}(t)\|_{s} \equiv$
$\|\eta(t)\|_{s}+\|v(t)\|_{s}$ for $s \geq 0$, denote the norm of Sobolev space $X^{s}=H^{s}(\mathbb{R}) \times H^{s}(\mathbb{R})$ where $\|u\|_{s}$ is the norm of Sobolev space $H^{s}(\mathbb{R})$.

For $u=u(t, x) \in \mathcal{S}^{\prime}\left(\mathbb{R}^{2}\right)$, let $\hat{u}$ be its Fourier transform in space. We define the Japanese bracket $\langle x\rangle=\left(1+|x|^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}$. The notation $A \sim B$ means that there exists a constant $c \geq 1$ such that $\frac{1}{c}|A| \leq|B| \leq c|A|$. For any positive $A$ and $B$, the notation $A \lesssim B$ (resp. $A \gtrsim B$ ) means that there exists a positive constant $c$ such that $A \leq c B$ (resp. $A \geq c B$ ).

Notice that one may rewrite (1.2) as the following abstract form

$$
\begin{equation*}
\vec{u}_{t}=A \vec{u}+N(\vec{u}) \tag{2.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
A=-\left(1-\partial_{x}^{2}\right)^{-1} \partial_{x}\left(\begin{array}{ll}
0 & 1  \tag{2.2}\\
1 & 0
\end{array}\right), N(\vec{u})=-\left(1-\partial_{x}^{2}\right)^{-1} \partial_{x}\binom{\eta v}{\frac{1}{2} v^{2}} .
$$

Then the linear semi-group $S(\cdot)$ associated with $(1.2)$ is given by

$$
(\widehat{S(t) \vec{\phi}})(\xi)=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\cos \left(t \xi\langle\xi\rangle^{-2}\right) & i \sin \left(t \xi\langle\xi\rangle^{-2}\right)  \tag{2.3}\\
i \sin \left(t \xi\langle\xi\rangle^{-2}\right) & \cos \left(t \xi\langle\xi\rangle^{-2}\right)
\end{array}\right) \hat{\vec{\phi}}(\xi) .
$$

In this way, we will mainly work on the following integral formulation of (1.2) with initial data $\vec{u}_{0}$

$$
\begin{align*}
\vec{u}(t) & =S(t) \vec{u}_{0}+\int_{0}^{t} S\left(t-t^{\prime}\right) N\left(\vec{u}\left(t^{\prime}\right)\right) d t^{\prime}  \tag{2.4}\\
& \equiv S(t) \vec{u}_{0}+N_{2}(\vec{u}, \vec{u}),
\end{align*}
$$

where for $\vec{u}(t)=\left(u_{1}, u_{2}\right)(t)$ and $\vec{v}(t)=\left(v_{1}, v_{2}\right)(t)$

$$
\begin{equation*}
N_{2}(\vec{u}, \vec{v})=-\frac{1}{2} \int_{0}^{t} S\left(t-t^{\prime}\right)\left(1-\partial_{x}^{2}\right)^{-1} \partial_{x}\binom{u_{1} v_{2}+u_{2} v_{1}}{u_{2} v_{2}}\left(t^{\prime}\right) d t^{\prime} \tag{2.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

is a bilinear operator.
We can apply a Picard iteration (fixed point argument) to solve the above integral equation locally in time in the space $X_{T}^{s}=C\left([0, T], X^{s}\right)$ equipped with the usual norm

$$
\|\vec{u}\|_{X_{T}^{s}}=\sup _{[0, T]}\|\vec{u}(t, \cdot)\|_{s} .
$$

Clearly, the free evolution operator $S(t)$ is unitary on $X^{s}$ for any $t \geq 0$, that is

$$
\left\|S(t) \vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s}=\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s}
$$

and hence for any $T>0$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\|S(t) \vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{X_{T}^{s}}=\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s} . \tag{2.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Similarly,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\|N_{2}(\vec{u}, \vec{u})\right\|_{X_{T}^{s}} \leq T\|S(t) N(\vec{u}(t))\|_{X_{T}^{s}}=T\|N(\vec{u}(t))\|_{X_{T}^{s}} . \tag{2.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Therefore the Picard iteration can be used if we can establish a bilinear estimate of $\|N(\vec{u}(t))\|_{X_{T}^{s}}$.

## 3. Local well-posedness

The goal of this section is to establish the local analytical well-posedness of system (1.2). As is explained above, we would first need a bilinear estimate for the nonlinear part in the integral formulation (2.4). This is achieved using the following lemma, which can be found in [7].
Lemma 3.1 ([7]). Let $u, v \in H^{s}(\mathbb{R}), s \geq 0$. Then

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\|\left(1-\partial_{x}^{2}\right)^{-1} \partial_{x}(u v)\right\|_{H^{s}} \leq C_{s}\|u\|_{H^{s}}\|v\|_{H^{s}} \tag{3.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $C_{s}>0$ is some constant depending only on $s$.
Applying the above lemma to (2.7) we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\|N_{2}(\vec{u}, \vec{u})\right\|_{X_{T}^{s}} \leq C_{s} T\|\vec{u}\|_{X_{T}^{s}}^{2} . \tag{3.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

The following lemma will be used to estimate the maximal time of existence for solutions.
Lemma 3.2. Let $s>s^{\prime}>1 / 2, s^{\prime} \geq s-1$ and $u, v \in H^{s}(\mathbb{R})$. Then

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\|\left(1-\partial_{x}^{2}\right)^{-1} \partial_{x}(u v)\right\|_{H^{s}} \leq C_{s}\|u\|_{H^{s^{\prime}}}\|v\|_{H^{s}} \tag{3.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $C_{s}>0$ is some constant depending only on $s$.
Proof. First it is easy to see that

$$
\left\|\left(1-\partial_{x}^{2}\right)^{-1} \partial_{x}(u v)\right\|_{H^{s}} \leq\|u v\|_{H^{s-1}} .
$$

When $s \geq 1$, from [19] and the assumption that $s^{\prime}>1 / 2, s^{\prime} \geq s-1$ we know that the elements of $H^{s^{\prime}}(\mathbb{R})$ are multipliers in $H^{s-1}(\mathbb{R})$, that is

$$
\|u v\|_{H^{s-1}} \leq C_{s}\|u\|_{H^{s^{\prime}}}\|v\|_{H^{s-1}}
$$

and hence we have (3.3).
When $s<1$,

$$
\|u v\|_{H^{s-1}} \leq\|u v\|_{L^{2}} \leq\|u\|_{H^{s^{\prime}}}\|v\|_{L^{2}} \leq\|u\|_{H^{s^{\prime}}}\|v\|_{H^{s}}
$$

thus we also arrive at (3.3).
Bejenaru-Tao's abstract well-posedness theory With the help of (2.6) and (3.2), the main analytic well-posedness theorem is given as below, where we follow the idea established by Bejenaru and Tao [2]. For a complete statement and proofs of the abstract result please refer to [2]. Here we just provide an argument for the estimate of the maximal existence time.

Theorem 3.1. (Local well-posedness in $\left.X^{0}=L^{2}(\mathbb{R}) \times L^{2}(\mathbb{R})\right)$ Fix $s \geq 0$, for any $\vec{u}_{0}(x)=$ $\left(\eta_{0}(x), v_{0}(x)\right) \in X^{s}$, there exist a $T=T\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)>0$ and a unique solution $\vec{u}(t, x)=(\eta(t, x), v(t, x)) \in$ $X_{T}^{s}$ to equation (2.4), and hence to (1.2) with initial value $\vec{u}_{0}$. The maximal existence time $T_{s}$ for the solution has the property that

$$
\begin{equation*}
T_{s} \geq \frac{1}{4 C_{s}\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s}} \tag{3.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $C_{s}>0$, and

$$
\begin{equation*}
T_{s}<\infty \Rightarrow \limsup _{t \rightarrow T_{s}^{-}}\|\vec{u}\|_{s}=\infty \tag{3.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Moreover, $T_{s}$ is independent of $s$ if $s>1 / 2$.
More specifically, we can construct the iterations $A_{n}: X^{s} \rightarrow X_{T}^{s}$ for $n=1,2, \ldots$ by the recursive formulae

$$
\begin{align*}
& A_{1}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)=S(t) \vec{u}_{0} \\
& A_{n}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)=\sum_{n_{1}, n_{2} \geq 1, n_{1}+n_{2}=n} N_{2}\left(A_{n_{1}}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right), A_{n_{2}}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)\right) \quad \text { for } n>1, \tag{3.6}
\end{align*}
$$

with the property that

$$
\left\|A_{n}(f)\right\|_{X_{T}^{s}} \leq(K T)^{n-1}\|f\|_{X^{s}}^{n}, \quad \text { for } n \geq 2 \text { and some } K>0
$$

and we have the absolutely convergent (in $X_{T}^{s}$ ) power series expansion

$$
\begin{equation*}
\vec{u}=\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{n}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right) . \tag{3.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

This implies the analyticity of the solution map $\vec{u}_{0} \mapsto \vec{u}$ from bounded sets of $X^{s}$ to $X_{T}^{s}$.
Proof. We only provide an argument for the maximal time of existence here. For any initial data $\vec{u}_{0} \in X^{s}$, define a map

$$
F: D \equiv\left\{\vec{u} \in X_{T}^{s}:\|\vec{u}\|_{X_{T}^{s}}<R=2\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{X^{s}}\right\} \rightarrow X_{T}^{s}
$$

as

$$
F(\vec{u})=S(t) \vec{u}_{0}+N_{2}(\vec{u}, \vec{u}) .
$$

Then from (2.6) and (3.2), for any $\vec{u}, \vec{w} \in D$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \|F(\vec{u})\|_{X_{T}^{s}} \leq\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s}+C_{s} T\|\vec{u}\|_{X_{T}^{s}}^{2}<\frac{R}{2}+C_{s} T R^{2} \\
& \|F(\vec{u})-F(\vec{w})\|_{X_{T}^{s}} \leq C_{s} T\|\vec{u}+\vec{w}\|_{X_{T}^{s}}\|\vec{u}-\vec{w}\|_{X_{T}^{s}}<2 R C_{s}\|\vec{u}-\vec{w}\|_{X_{T}^{s}} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Hence by choosing

$$
T=\frac{1}{2 C_{s} R}=\frac{1}{4 C_{s}\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s}}
$$

the map $F$ becomes a contraction from $D$ into itself. Therefore for each $s \geq 0$, the maximal existence time $T_{s}$ satisfies

$$
T_{s} \geq \frac{1}{4 C_{s}\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s}}
$$

and $T_{s}$ is finite implies that the $X^{s}$-norm of solution blows up to infinity as $t \rightarrow T_{s}$. Hence we have proved (3.4) and (3.5).

It is obvious that $T_{s}$ is a non-increasing function of $s$. Let $s>1 / 2$. For any $1 / 2<s^{\prime}<s$, suppose that $T_{s}<T_{s^{\prime}}$. Therefore by uniqueness the maximal $X^{s}$ and $X^{s^{\prime}}$ solutions coincide on $\left[0, T_{s}\right)$. Also from the definition of $T_{s}$ and $T_{s^{\prime}},\|\vec{u}(t)\|_{s^{\prime}}$ remains bounded on $\left[0, T_{s}\right]$ while $\|\vec{u}(t)\|_{s}$ blows up as $t \rightarrow T_{s}$. From (2.4) and Lemma 3.2 we have

$$
\begin{align*}
\|\vec{u}(t)\|_{s} & \leq\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s}+\int_{0}^{t}\left\|N\left(\vec{u}\left(t^{\prime}\right)\right)\right\|_{s} d t^{\prime} \\
& \leq\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s}+\int_{0}^{t}\left\|\left(1-\partial_{x}^{2}\right)^{-1} \partial_{x}\binom{\eta v}{\frac{1}{2} v^{2}}\left(t^{\prime}\right)\right\|_{s} d t^{\prime}  \tag{3.8}\\
& \leq\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s}+C_{s} \int_{0}^{t}\left\|\vec{u}\left(t^{\prime}\right)\right\|_{s^{\prime}}\left\|\vec{u}\left(t^{\prime}\right)\right\|_{s} d t^{\prime}
\end{align*}
$$

Then by Gronwall's inequality we conclude that $\|\vec{u}(t)\|_{s}$ is bounded on $\left[0, T_{s}\right)$, which is a contradiction. Therefore, $T_{s}=T_{s^{\prime}}$ and hence it does not depend on $s$ when $s>1 / 2$.

## 4. ILL-POSEDNESS

The ill-posedness result we discuss here can be viewed as an application of a general result proved in [2]. Roughly speaking, this general ill-posedness result requires the two following ingredients:
(1) The equation is analytically well-posed until a certain critical index $s_{c}$ and the corresponding solution-map is also analytic in the space of solutions.
(2) Below this critical index, one iteration of the Picard scheme is not continuous. The discontinuity may be driven by high-to-low frequency interactions that blow up in frequencies of order smaller or equal to one.
The first ingredient is given by Theorem 3.1 whereas the second one can be derived using the abstract ill-posedness theory in [2] (c.f. Proposion 1 in [2]), which says that if the map $\vec{u}_{0} \mapsto \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{n}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)$ is continuous in a coarse topology, then each component $\vec{u}_{0} \mapsto A_{n}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)$ of the series is also continuous in this coarse topology. Therefore, we may reduce the discontinuity of the flow map to disproving a bilinear estimate, namely, we will show that the second iteration $A_{2}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)$ is not continuous.

Our ill-posedness result is stated below.

Theorem 4.1. (Ill-posedness below $X^{0}$ ) For any $s<0$, let $R>0$ be arbitrary. Denote $B_{R}$ the ball

$$
B_{R}=\left\{\vec{u}_{0} \in X^{s}:\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{0}<R\right\} .
$$

Let $T$ and $\vec{u}_{0} \mapsto \vec{u}$ be as in Theorem 3.1. Then the solution map $\vec{u}_{0} \mapsto \vec{u}$ is discontinuous from $B_{R}$ (with the $X^{s}$ topology) to $X_{T}^{0}$ (with the $X_{T}^{s^{\prime}}$ topology) for any $s^{\prime} \in \mathbb{R}$.

Remark 4.1. Note that for the one-component analogue of (1.2), c.f. the BBM equation [3], it was shown by Bona-Tzvetkov [7] that the associated Cauchy problem is $C^{2}$ ill-posed below $L^{2}(\mathbb{R})$ by proving that the second Picard iteration fails to be continuous. In fact their problem fits in the framework of Bejenaru-Tao, and hence one can infer that the BBM equation is $C^{0}$ ill-posed below $L^{2}$. Our result here suggests the same threshold for the system (1.2), but the frequency interactions here are more delicate.
4.1. Second iteration $A_{2}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)$. By definition (3.6), we know

$$
A_{2}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)=N_{2}\left(S(t) \vec{u}_{0}, S(t) \vec{u}_{0}\right)=\int_{0}^{t} S\left(t-t^{\prime}\right) N\left(S\left(t^{\prime}\right) \vec{u}_{0}\right) d t^{\prime}
$$

Our goal is to construct initial data $\vec{u}_{0}$ that violates

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\|A_{2}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)\right\|_{X_{T}^{s^{\prime}}} \lesssim\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s}^{2} \quad \text { for } s<0 \tag{4.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

For simplification of notation, we denote

$$
S(t)\binom{\eta}{v}=\binom{L_{1} \eta+L_{2} v}{L_{2} \eta+L_{1} v}
$$

where

$$
\begin{align*}
& \widehat{L}_{1}(\xi, t)=\cos (\lambda(\xi) t) \\
& \widehat{L}_{2}(\xi, t)=i \sin (\lambda(\xi) t) \tag{4.2}
\end{align*}
$$

with $\lambda(\xi)=\xi\langle\xi\rangle^{-2}$. For an initial datum $\vec{u}_{0}=\binom{\eta_{0}}{v_{0}}$, let $\binom{\eta_{1}}{v_{1}}(t)=S(t)\binom{\eta_{0}}{v_{0}}$. Then

$$
A_{2}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)=\int_{0}^{t} S\left(t-t^{\prime}\right)\left(1-\partial_{x}^{2}\right)^{-1} \partial_{x}\binom{\eta_{1} v_{1}}{\frac{1}{2} v_{1}^{2}}\left(t^{\prime}\right) d t^{\prime} \equiv \int_{0}^{t}\binom{Q_{1}}{Q_{2}} d t^{\prime}
$$

Taking the Fourier Transform of the above second order iterations yields the following set of terms

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \widehat{Q}_{1}=\frac{i \xi}{1+\xi^{2}}\left[\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\eta_{1} v_{1}}\left(\xi, t^{\prime}\right)+\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\frac{1}{2}} v_{1}^{2}\left(\xi, t^{\prime}\right)\right] \\
& =\frac{i \xi}{1+\xi^{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right)\left(\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right)+\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right)\right) \\
& \times\left(\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right)+\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right)\right) d \xi_{1}+ \\
& \frac{i \xi}{2\left(1+\xi^{2}\right)} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right)\left(\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right)+\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right)\right) \\
& \times\left(\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right)+\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right)\right) d \xi_{1}, \\
& \widehat{Q}_{2}=\frac{i \xi}{1+\xi^{2}}\left[\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\eta_{1} v_{1}}\left(\xi, t^{\prime}\right)+\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\frac{1}{2}} v_{1}^{2}\left(\xi, t^{\prime}\right)\right] \\
& =\frac{i \xi}{1+\xi^{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right)\left(\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right)+\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right)\right) \\
& \times\left(\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right)+\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right)\right) d \xi_{1}+ \\
& \frac{i \xi}{2\left(1+\xi^{2}\right)} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right)\left(\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right)+\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right)\right) \\
& \times\left(\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right)+\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right)\right) d \xi_{1} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Of the above 16 terms in the two Duhamel operators $\widehat{Q}_{1}$ and $\widehat{Q}_{2}$, we look for a dominant lower bound term that violates an assumed upper bound in (4.1). This lower bound will arise from the following construction.
4.2. Choice of data. For a large $N$ we choose initial data $\vec{u}_{0}=\left(\eta_{0}, v_{0}\right)$ so that

$$
\begin{align*}
& \widehat{\eta}_{0}=0 \\
& \widehat{v}_{0}=N^{-s} \chi_{\left\{N-\frac{1}{2} \leq|\xi| \leq N+\frac{1}{2}\right\}}, \tag{4.3}
\end{align*}
$$

where $\chi$ is the characteristic function. In this way we eliminate all interactions in $A_{2}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)$ involving $\eta_{0}$. Then our expressions for $\widehat{Q}_{1}$ and $\widehat{Q}_{2}$ reduce to the following:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\widehat{Q}_{1}=\frac{i \xi}{1+\xi^{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} & {\left[\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)+\frac{1}{2} \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)\right] } \\
& \times \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right) d \xi_{1}
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \widehat{Q}_{2}=\frac{i \xi}{1+\xi^{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} {\left[\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)+\frac{1}{2} \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)\right] } \\
& \times \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right) d \xi_{1} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Proposition 4.1. If $N$ is sufficiently large, then on the support of $\widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right)$ and for $0 \leq t^{\prime} \leq t \leq 1$ we have the following bound:

$$
\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)+\frac{1}{2} \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \geq \frac{1}{32} .
$$

Proof. Since $N$ is large we know that on the support of $\widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right)$

$$
\frac{1}{2 N} \leq\left|\lambda\left(\xi_{1}\right)\right|,\left|\lambda\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right)\right| \leq \frac{1}{N} .
$$

So when $0 \leq t^{\prime} \leq t \leq 1$,

$$
1 \geq \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right), \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \geq \frac{1}{2}
$$

As for $\widehat{L}_{2}$, we know that

$$
\left|\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)\right|=\left|\sin \left(\lambda\left(\xi_{1}\right) t^{\prime}\right)\right| \leq\left|\sin \left(\frac{t^{\prime}}{N}\right)\right| \leq \frac{t^{\prime}}{N} \leq \frac{1}{N} .
$$

Hence similarly

$$
\left|\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)\right| \leq \frac{1}{N} .
$$

Because on the support of $\widehat{\widehat{v}}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right), N-\frac{1}{2} \leq\left|\xi_{1}\right|,\left|\xi-\xi_{1}\right| \leq N+\frac{1}{2}$, we deduce that $|\xi| \leq 1$ or $2 N-1 \leq|\xi| \leq 2 N+1$.

If $|\xi| \leq 1$, then

$$
|\lambda(\xi)| \leq|\lambda(1)| \leq \frac{1}{2} .
$$

So

$$
\begin{aligned}
\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) & =\cos \left(\lambda(\xi)\left(t-t^{\prime}\right)\right) \geq \cos \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \geq \frac{1}{2} \\
\left|\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right)\right| & =\left|\sin \left(\lambda(\xi)\left(t-t^{\prime}\right)\right)\right| \leq \sin \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \leq \frac{1}{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left|\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)\right| \leq \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{N} \cdot 1=\frac{1}{2 N} \\
& \frac{1}{2} \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \geq \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}=\frac{1}{16} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Hence by choosing $N$ sufficiently large, say, $N \geq 16$ we obtain the desired bound.

If $2 N-1 \leq|\xi| \leq 2 N+1$, then $|\lambda(\xi)| \leq \frac{1}{N}$ and hence

$$
\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \geq \frac{1}{2}, \quad\left|\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right)\right| \leq \frac{1}{N}
$$

Therefore

$$
\begin{gathered}
\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)+\frac{1}{2} \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \\
\geq \frac{1}{16}-\frac{1}{2 N^{2}} \geq \frac{1}{32}
\end{gathered}
$$

for $N \geq 4$.
Remark 4.2. Here we only estimate the symbols in $\widehat{Q}_{2}$ because we are seeking a lower bound of $\left\|A_{2}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)\right\|_{X_{T}^{s^{\prime}}}$. From the definition of the symbols $\widehat{L}_{1}$ and $\widehat{L}_{2}$ we see that a lower bound can be obtained only when there is a multiplier consisting of all $\widehat{L}_{1}$-symbols. This is why we assign $\widehat{\eta}_{0}=0$, since if $\widehat{v}_{0}=0$ then the corresponding $\widehat{Q}_{1}$ and $\widehat{Q}_{2}$ are

$$
\begin{aligned}
\widehat{Q}_{1}=\frac{i \xi}{1+\xi^{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} & {\left[\widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)+\frac{1}{2} \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)\right] } \\
\times & \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right) \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right) d \xi_{1}, \\
\widehat{Q}_{2}=\frac{i \xi}{1+\xi^{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} & {\left[\widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)+\frac{1}{2} \widehat{L}_{1}\left(\xi, t-t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right) \widehat{L}_{2}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}, t^{\prime}\right)\right] } \\
& \times \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right) \widehat{\eta}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right) d \xi_{1},
\end{aligned}
$$

and all the multipliers contain the symbol $\widehat{L}_{2}$.
4.3. Ill-posedness. Choosing initial data as in (4.3), we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{s}=\left\|\binom{\eta_{0}}{v_{0}}\right\|_{s}=\left\|v_{0}\right\|_{H^{s}}=\left\|\langle\xi\rangle^{s} \widehat{v}_{0}\right\|_{L^{2}} \sim 1 \tag{4.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof of Theorem 4.1. Fix $s<0$ and $s^{\prime}$. Suppose for contradiction that the corresponding solution map is continuous. Then from Proposition 1 in [2], we have (4.1).

From (3.4) and (4.4) we may rescale $T$ to be 1 . Consider a low-frequency region $I=$ $\{|\xi| \leq 1\}$, and therefore $\langle\xi\rangle^{s^{\prime}} \sim 1$. It then follows from Proposition 4.1 that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left\|A_{2}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)\right\|_{X_{T}^{s^{\prime}}} & =\sup _{0 \leq t \leq T}\left\|\langle\xi\rangle^{s^{\prime}} \int_{0}^{t}\binom{Q_{1}}{Q_{2}} d t^{\prime}\right\|_{L_{\xi}^{2} \times L_{\xi}^{2}} \\
& =\sup _{0 \leq t \leq T}\left\|\langle\xi\rangle^{s^{\prime}} \int_{0}^{t} Q_{1} d t^{\prime}\right\|_{L_{\xi}^{2}}+\sup _{0 \leq t \leq T}\left\|\langle\xi\rangle^{s^{\prime}} \int_{0}^{t} Q_{2} d t^{\prime}\right\|_{L_{\xi}^{2}} \\
& \geq \sup _{0 \leq t \leq T}\left\|\langle\xi\rangle^{s^{\prime}} \int_{0}^{t} Q_{2} d t^{\prime}\right\|_{L_{\xi}^{2}} \\
& \geq \frac{1}{32}\left\|\langle\xi\rangle^{s^{\prime}} \frac{i \xi}{1+\xi^{2}} \int_{0}^{1} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi_{1}\right) \widehat{v}_{0}\left(\xi-\xi_{1}\right) d \xi_{1} d t^{\prime}\right\|_{L_{\xi}^{2}(I)} \\
& \gtrsim N^{-s}\|\xi\|_{L^{2}(I)} \gtrsim N^{-s}
\end{aligned}
$$

which violates (4.1) when $s<0$.

## 5. Blow-up criteria

In the previous two sections we have established the local well-posedness and ill-posedness of solutions to system (1.2). Attention is now given to the formation of singularities.

As is pointed out in [5], (1.2) possesses a Hamiltonian structure with the Hamiltonian functional

$$
\mathcal{H}(\vec{u})=\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}}\left[\eta^{2}+(1+\eta) v^{2}\right] d x
$$

and hence for any local solution $\vec{u} \in X^{s}$ with $s>1 / 2, \mathcal{H}(\vec{u})$ is conserved.
Now we give our first blow-up criterion.
Theorem 5.1. Let $s>3 / 2$. A solution $\vec{u}=(\eta, v)$ of (1.2) with initial data $\vec{u}_{0} \in X^{s}$ blows up in finite time $T<\infty$ if and only if

$$
\begin{equation*}
\liminf _{t \rightarrow T}\left[\inf _{x \in \mathbb{R}} v_{x}(t, x)\right]=-\infty \tag{5.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof. We first prove the result for some $s \geq 2$. Multiplying (1.2) by $\vec{u}$ and using integration by parts we obtain

$$
\begin{align*}
\frac{d}{d t}\|\vec{u}\|_{1}^{2} & =\frac{d}{d t} \int_{\mathbb{R}}\left(\eta^{2}+\eta_{x}^{2}+v^{2}+v_{x}^{2}\right) d x \\
& =-\int_{\mathbb{R}}\left[v_{x} \eta+(\eta v)_{x} \eta+\eta_{x} v+v^{2} v_{x}\right] d x  \tag{5.2}\\
& =-\int_{\mathbb{R}} v_{x} \eta^{2} d x
\end{align*}
$$

Thus applying Gronwall's inequality we know that the $X^{1}$-norm of the solution does not blow-up in finite time if and only if $v_{x}(t, \cdot)$ is bounded from below on $[0, T)$.

Next we use (3.8) in Theorem 3.1 to conclude that the $X^{r}$-norm of solution does not blow up for all $1 \leq r \leq s$ if and only if $v_{x}(t, \cdot)$ is bounded from below on $[0, T)$. Therefore we proved the statement of the theorem for all $s \geq 2$. Lastly, a density argument and the continuous dependence on initial data ensures the validity for all $s>3 / 2$.

Remark 5.1. The result in Theorem 5.1 indicates the blow-up of the slope of velocity. But it is quite different from the phenomenon of "wave-breaking" (solution remains bounded but the slope becomes infinity in finite time) which happens in a class of shallow water models $[9,13,14,15,16,21,25]$. For our system (1.2), the conservation laws are not strong enough to provide a priori bounds for the solutions. Though in Theorem 5.1 the regularity index is assumed to be above $3 / 2$, from Theorem 3.1 we see that when $s>1 / 2$ (hence the functions are pointwise defined), the maximal time of existence is independent of the regularity index $s$. Hence this suggests that one may be able to look for a blow-up criterion in a lower regularity setting. In fact we can further refine our blow-up criterion as below, which asserts that it is indeed the pointwise blow-up of the solution itself rather than its slope.

Theorem 5.2. Let $s>1 / 2$. A solution $\vec{u}=(\eta, v)$ of (1.2) with initial data $\vec{u}_{0} \in X^{s}$ blows up in finite time $T<\infty$ if and only if

$$
\begin{equation*}
\liminf _{t \rightarrow T}\left[\inf _{x \in \mathbb{R}} \eta(t, x)\right]=-\infty \tag{5.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof. " $\Rightarrow$ ": Similarly, we first prove the result for $s \geq 1$. If not, suppose that $\eta(t, x) \geq-M$ on $0 \leq t<T$ for some $M>0$. It follows from the conservation law of the Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}$ that

$$
\int_{\mathbb{R}} \eta^{2} d x=\mathcal{H}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)-\int_{\mathbb{R}}(1+\eta) v^{2} d x \leq \mathcal{H}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)+M \int_{\mathbb{R}} v^{2} d x
$$

On the other hand, multiplying the second equation in (1.2) by $2 v$, integrating over $\mathbb{R}$, and using the above inequality we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{d t} \int_{\mathbb{R}} v^{2}+v_{x}^{2} d x & =2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} v_{x} \eta d x \leq\left|v_{x}\right|_{2}^{2}+|\eta|_{2}^{2} \\
& \leq \mathcal{H}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)+M|v|_{2}^{2}+\left|v_{x}\right|_{2}^{2} \\
& \leq \mathcal{H}\left(\vec{u}_{0}\right)+(M+1)\|v\|_{H^{1}}^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

Then using Gronwall's inequality we deduce

$$
\|v\|_{H^{1}} \leq C\left(\vec{u}_{0}, T\right) .
$$

Now multiplying the first equation in (1.2) by $2 \eta$, integrating over $\mathbb{R}$, and using the estimate for $\|v\|_{H^{1}}$ we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{d t} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \eta^{2}+\eta_{x}^{2} d x & =-2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} \eta v_{x} d x+2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} \eta \eta_{x} v d x \\
& \leq 2\left|v_{x}\right|_{2}|\eta|_{2}+|v|_{\infty}\left(|\eta|_{2}^{2}+\left|\eta_{x}\right|_{2}^{2}\right) \\
& \lesssim\|\eta\|_{H^{1}}+\|\eta\|_{H^{1}}^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

Hence

$$
\|\eta\|_{H^{1}} \leq C\left(\vec{u}_{0}, T\right)
$$

In this way we see that the $X^{1}$-norm of the solution does not blow up. Then from (3.8) in Theorem 3.1 we conclude that the $X^{s}$-norm of solution does not blow up, which is a contradiction.

Now for $1 / 2<s<1$, a density argument and the continuous dependence on initial data ensures the same result.
$" \Leftarrow$ ": This is can be proved by a use of the Sobolev embedding $H^{s}(\mathbb{R}) \hookrightarrow L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ for $s>1 / 2$.

Remark 5.2. (1) From the above two theorems it is clearly seen that when $s>3 / 2$, the blow-up of the slope of the velocity is equivalent to the blow-up of the surface profile.
(2) From Theorem 5.2 we also obtain a criterion for global existence of solutions: for $s>1 / 2$, if $\eta(t, x)$ is bounded from below on $t \in\left[0, T_{\max }\right)$, then $T_{\max }=\infty$. This is an improvement of the result in [1], where the global existence of solutions requires that $\eta(t, x)>-1+\alpha$ for some $\alpha>0$.

Finally we give a blow-up characterization of the velocity profile.
Corollary 5.1. Let $s>1 / 2$. A solution $\vec{u}=(\eta, v)$ of (1.2) with initial data $\vec{u}_{0} \in X^{s}$ blows up in finite time $T<\infty$ if and only if

$$
\begin{equation*}
\limsup _{t \rightarrow T}|v(t, \cdot)|_{\infty}=\infty \tag{5.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof. " $\Rightarrow$ ": If not, suppose $|v|_{\infty} \leq M$ on $0 \leq t<T$ for some $M>0$. From (5.2)

$$
\frac{d}{d t}\|\vec{u}\|_{1}^{2}=-\int_{\mathbb{R}} v_{x} \eta^{2} d x=2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} v \eta \eta_{x} d x \leq 2 M\|\eta\|_{H^{1}}^{2}
$$

So by Gronwall's inequality, $\|\vec{u}\|_{1}$ is bounded. Hence $|\eta|_{\infty}$ remains bounded, which is a contradiction.
$" \Leftarrow "$ : Again we can prove this by the Sobolev embedding $H^{s}(\mathbb{R}) \hookrightarrow L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ for $s>1 / 2$.

## Appendix A. Linear estimates

In this section, attention is now given to $L^{1} \rightarrow L^{\infty}$ estimate of solutions to the linear equation of (1.2).

Theorem A.1. Consider the linearized equation of (1.2)

$$
\begin{equation*}
\vec{u}_{t}-A \vec{u}=0 \tag{A.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

with $\vec{u}(0)=\vec{u}_{0}=\binom{\eta_{0}}{v_{0}}$. If $\vec{u}_{0} \in X^{1} \cap\left(L^{1} \times L^{1}\right)$, then $\vec{u}(t) \in X^{1} \cap\left(L^{\infty} \times L^{\infty}\right)$ and satisfies

$$
\begin{equation*}
|\vec{u}(t)|_{\infty, \infty} \lesssim(1+t)^{-\frac{1}{8}}\left(\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{1}+\left|\vec{u}_{0}\right|_{1,1}\right), \quad \text { for } t>0 \tag{A.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

To prove Theorem A.1, we need the following two lemmas. The first one is the well-known Van der Corput lemma which we state without proof [22, 23].
Lemma A.1. Let $h$ be either convex or concave on $[a, b]$ with $-\infty \leq a<b \leq \infty$. Then

$$
\left|\int_{a}^{b} e^{i h(\xi)} d \xi\right| \leq 4\left\{\min _{[a, b]}\left|h^{\prime \prime}\right|\right\}^{-1 / 2} \quad \text { for } h^{\prime \prime} \neq 0 \quad \text { in }[a, b]
$$

Applying the above Van der Corput lemma to the linearized equation (A.1), we obtain
Lemma A.2. Let $n, t>1$ and $0<\epsilon<1$. Then

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sup _{\alpha \in \mathbf{R}}\left|\int_{|\xi| \leq n} e^{i t h(\xi, \alpha)} d \xi\right| \lesssim\left(\epsilon+t^{-\frac{1}{2}} \max \left\{\epsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}}, n^{\frac{3}{2}}\right\}\right) \tag{A.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $h(\xi, \alpha)=\frac{\xi}{1+\xi^{2}}+\alpha \xi$.
Proof. We use the stationary phase method $[20,22]$ and Lemma A.1. Since

$$
\begin{gathered}
\frac{\partial h}{\partial \xi}=\frac{1-\xi^{2}}{\left(1+\xi^{2}\right)^{2}}+\alpha \quad \text { and } \\
\frac{\partial^{2} h}{\partial \xi^{2}}=\frac{2 \xi\left(\xi^{2}-3\right)}{\left(1+\xi^{2}\right)^{3}}
\end{gathered}
$$

for $\epsilon$ small and $n$ large enough, it follows from Lemma 2.2 that

$$
\left|\int_{\epsilon<|\xi|<\sqrt{3}-\epsilon} e^{i t h(\xi, \alpha)} d \xi\right| \leq 4 t^{-\frac{1}{2}} \min \left\{\left|\frac{\partial^{2} h}{\partial \xi^{2}}(\epsilon, \alpha)\right|^{-\frac{1}{2}},\left|\frac{\partial^{2} h}{\partial \xi^{2}}(\sqrt{3}-\epsilon, \alpha)\right|^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right\} \leq c \epsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}} t^{-\frac{1}{2}}
$$

and

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left|\int_{\sqrt{3}+\epsilon<|\xi|<n} e^{i t h(\xi, \alpha)} d \xi\right| & \leq 4 t^{-\frac{1}{2}} \min \left\{\left|\frac{\partial^{2} h}{\partial \xi^{2}}(n, \alpha)\right|^{-\frac{1}{2}},\left|\frac{\partial^{2} h}{\partial \xi^{2}}(\sqrt{3}+\epsilon, \alpha)\right|^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right\} \\
& \leq c t^{-\frac{1}{2}} \max \left\{n^{\frac{3}{2}}, \epsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

On the other hand,

$$
\left|\int_{|\xi|<\epsilon} e^{i t h(\xi, \alpha)} d \xi\right| \leq c \epsilon
$$

and

$$
\left|\int_{\sqrt{3}-\epsilon<|\xi|<\sqrt{3}+\epsilon} e^{i t h(\xi, \alpha)} d \xi\right| \leq c \epsilon
$$

Therefore, the above estimates imply (A.3).
Proof of Theorem A.1. One can write the solution $\vec{u}=S(t) \vec{u}_{0}$ of (A.1) as

$$
\vec{u}(t)=\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i x \xi}\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\cos \left(t \xi\langle\xi\rangle^{-2}\right) & i \sin \left(t \xi\langle\xi\rangle^{-2}\right)  \tag{A.4}\\
i \sin \left(t \xi\langle\xi\rangle^{-2}\right) & \cos \left(t \xi\langle\xi\rangle^{-2}\right)
\end{array}\right) \widehat{\vec{u}_{0}}(\xi) d \xi
$$

where $\widehat{\vec{u}_{0}}$ is the Fourier transform of $\vec{u}_{0}$. It follows that

$$
|u(t)|_{\infty, \infty} \leq c \Sigma\left|\int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\left(\widehat{\eta}_{0} \pm \widehat{v}_{0}\right) e^{i t h(\xi, \pm x \xi / t)} d \xi\right|
$$

where the sum $\Sigma$ is over all two sign combinations. Using Lemma A.2, we obtain

$$
\begin{aligned}
|\vec{u}(t)|_{\infty, \infty} \lesssim & \int_{|\xi| \geq n}\left(\left|\widehat{\eta}_{0}\right|+\left|\widehat{v}_{0}\right|\right) d \xi+\left|\int_{|\xi|<n}\left(\widehat{\eta}_{0} \pm \widehat{v}_{0}\right) e^{i t h\left(\xi, \pm \frac{x}{t}\right)} d \xi\right| \\
\lesssim & \left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{1}\left(\int_{|\xi| \geq n}\left(1+\xi^{2}\right)^{-1} d \xi\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
& +\int_{\mathbb{R}}\left(\left|\eta_{0}(x)\right|+\left|v_{0}(x)\right|\right) d x\left|\int_{|\xi|<n} e^{i t h\left(\xi, \pm \frac{x}{t}\right)} d \xi\right| \\
\lesssim & n^{-\frac{1}{2}}\left\|\vec{u}_{0}\right\|_{1}+\left(\epsilon+t^{-\frac{1}{2}} \max \left\{\epsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}}, n^{\frac{3}{2}}\right\}\right)\left|\vec{u}_{0}\right|_{1,1} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore the estimate (A.2) can be obtained by choosing $\epsilon=t^{-\frac{1}{3}}$ and $n=t^{\frac{1}{4}}$. Since $S(t)$ is a unitary group in $X^{s}$ for any $s \geq 0$, we know $\vec{u}(t)=S(t) \vec{u}_{0} \in X^{1}$.

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