



# Stability and Large Time Behavior of the 2D Boussinesq Equations with Mixed Partial Dissipation Near Hydrostatic Equilibrium

Dongxiang Chen<sup>1</sup> · Qifeng Liu<sup>1</sup>

Received: 8 June 2021 / Accepted: 11 August 2022 / Published online: 30 August 2022  
© The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Nature B.V. 2022

## Abstract

This paper establishes the large time behavior of the solution to two dimensional Boussinesq equations with mixed partial dissipation. Our main result is achieved in terms of the global  $H^2$ -stability. Finally, we also obtain the decay estimates of linearized Boussinesq equations.

**Keywords** Boussinesq equations · Large time behavior ·  $H^2$ -Stability · Partial dissipation

**Mathematics Subject Classification (2010)** 35Q30 · 76D03 · 76D07

## 1 Introduction

This note is concerned with the following two dimensional Boussinesq equations with mixed partial dissipation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t U_1 + U \cdot \nabla U_1 - \mu \partial_{22} U_1 + \partial_1 \bar{\pi} = 0, & (x, t) \in \mathbf{R}^2 \times (0, \infty), \\ \partial_t U_2 + U \cdot \nabla U_2 - \kappa \partial_{11} U_2 + \partial_2 \bar{\pi} = \Theta, & (x, t) \in \mathbf{R}^2 \times (0, \infty), \\ \partial_t \Theta + U \cdot \nabla \Theta - \eta \partial_{11} \Theta = 0, & (x, t) \in \mathbf{R}^2 \times (0, \infty), \\ \nabla \cdot U = 0, & (x, t) \in \mathbf{R}^2 \times (0, \infty), \\ U|_{t=0} = U_0, \Theta|_{t=0} = \Theta_0, & x \in \mathbf{R}^2, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where the unknown  $U = (U_1, U_2)$  denotes the velocity field,  $\bar{\pi}$  is the pressure,  $\Theta$  is the temperature,  $\mu$  and  $\kappa$  are the velocity viscosity,  $\eta$  is the thermal diffusivity. For the term  $\Theta$  in the second equation of (1.1) represents the buoyancy forcing generated due to the temperature variation.

---

✉ D. Chen  
[chendx020@163.com](mailto:chendx020@163.com)

Q. Liu  
[qifeng-liu@foxmail.com](mailto:qifeng-liu@foxmail.com)

<sup>1</sup> School of Mathematics and Statistics, Jiangxi Normal University, Nanchang, Jiangxi 330022, China

Let

$$u = U - U^0, \theta = \Theta - \Theta^0, \pi = \bar{\pi} - \bar{\pi}^0.$$

Then  $(u, \theta, \pi)$  obeys

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u_1 + u \cdot \nabla u_1 - \mu \partial_{22} u_1 + \partial_1 \pi = 0, & (x, t) \in \mathbf{R}^2 \times (0, \infty), \\ \partial_t u_2 + u \cdot \nabla u_2 - \kappa \partial_{11} u_2 + \partial_2 \pi = \theta, & (x, t) \in \mathbf{R}^2 \times (0, \infty), \\ \partial_t \theta + u \cdot \nabla \theta - \eta \partial_{11} \theta = -u_2, & (x, t) \in \mathbf{R}^2 \times (0, \infty), \\ \nabla \cdot u = 0, & (x, t) \in \mathbf{R}^2 \times (0, \infty), \\ u|_{t=0} = u_0, \theta|_{t=0} = \theta_0, & x \in \mathbf{R}^2, \end{cases} \tag{1.2}$$

where

$$U^0 = 0, \quad \Theta^0 = x_2, \quad \bar{\pi}^0 = \frac{1}{2} x_2^2 \tag{1.3}$$

is the steady solution of (1.1). Many geophysical flows such as atmospheric fronts and ocean circulations can be modeled by the Boussinesq equations. Recently, the stability and large time behavior issues on the Boussinesq equations have gained more and more interests and become the center of mathematic investigation. In the last thirty years, a considerable amount of literature has been published on the stability problem concerning the Boussinesq equations. Some of them focus on the stability of 2D Boussinesq equations with various partial dissipation (see e. g. [1], [2], [4], [5], [8], [9], [10], [11]). In 2019, Ji, Li, Wei and Wu [6] obtained the stability of the 2D Boussinesq equation (1.2) under the assumption that  $H^1$ -norm of initial data is small. However, they didn't give the large time behavior of the system (1.2). Very recently, Lai, Wu and Zhong [7] have established the global existence and stability of 2D Boussinesq equations with partial dissipation and temperature damping in the Sobolev space  $H^2(\mathbf{R}^2)$ . In addition, the large-time behavior of  $\|\nabla u\|_{L^2}$  and  $\|\nabla \theta\|_{L^2}$  is also obtained via energy methods. Motivated by [1], [9] and [7], the purpose of this paper is to address large time behavior of the solution to the system (1.2) and decay estimates of linearized equation of system (1.2). Our results are stated as follows.

**Theorem 1.1** *Let  $(u_0, \theta_0) \in H^2(\mathbf{R}^2)$  and  $\nabla \cdot u_0 = 0$ . If*

$$\|u_0\|_{H^2} + \|\theta_0\|_{H^2} \leq \varepsilon, \tag{1.4}$$

*holds for sufficiently small  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then, the system (1.2) admits a unique global smooth solution satisfying*

$$\|u(t)\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\theta(t)\|_{H^2}^2 + 2 \int_0^t \mu \|\partial_2 u_1(\tau)\|_{H^2}^2 + \kappa \|\partial_1 u_2(\tau)\|_{H^2}^2 + \eta \|\partial_1 \theta(\tau)\|_{H^2}^2 d\tau \leq C\varepsilon^2 \tag{1.5}$$

*for all  $t > 0$  and  $C = C(\mu, \kappa, \eta)$  is a positive constant. Moreover,*

$$\|\partial_1 u_2(t)\|_{L^2} \rightarrow 0, \quad \|\partial_2 u_1(t)\|_{L^2} \rightarrow 0, \quad \|\partial_1 \theta(t)\|_{L^2} \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty. \tag{1.6}$$

**Remark 1.2** Compared with Theorem 1.1 in [6], we obtain the stability under the  $H^2$ -norm of the initial data  $(u_0, \theta_0)$  is small because the achievement of large time behavior of the solution  $(u, \theta)$  to system (1.2) is heavily dependent on the uniform estimate (1.5).

Applying the  $\partial_1$  and  $\partial_2$  to (1.2)<sub>1</sub> and (1.2)<sub>2</sub>, respectively, to conclude

$$\pi = \Delta^{-1} \partial_2 \theta - \Delta^{-1} \nabla \cdot \nabla \cdot (u \otimes u) + \mu \Delta^{-1} \partial_1 \partial_{22} u_1 + \kappa \Delta^{-1} \partial_2 \partial_{11} u_2. \tag{1.7}$$

Then, the equation (1.2) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u_1 + u \cdot \nabla u_1 - \mu \partial_{22} u_1 + \partial_1 \Delta^{-1} \partial_2 \theta - \partial_1 \Delta^{-1} \nabla \cdot \nabla \cdot (u \otimes u) \\ \quad + \mu \partial_1 \Delta^{-1} \partial_1 \partial_{22} u_1 + \kappa \partial_1 \Delta^{-1} \partial_2 \partial_{11} u_2 = 0, \\ \partial_t u_2 + u \cdot \nabla u_2 - \kappa \partial_{11} u_2 - \partial_1 \partial_1 \Delta^{-1} \theta - \partial_2 \Delta^{-1} \nabla \cdot \nabla \cdot (u \otimes u) \\ \quad + \mu \partial_2 \Delta^{-1} \partial_1 \partial_{22} u_1 + \kappa \partial_2 \Delta^{-1} \partial_2 \partial_{11} u_2 = 0, \\ \partial_t \theta + u \cdot \nabla \theta - \eta \partial_{11} \theta = -u_2. \end{cases} \tag{1.8}$$

The linearized equations of (1.8) is

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u_1 - \Delta^{-1} (\mu \partial_2^4 + \kappa \partial_1^4) u_1 + \partial_1 \partial_2 \Delta^{-1} \theta = 0, \\ \partial_t u_2 - \Delta^{-1} (\mu \partial_2^4 + \kappa \partial_1^4) u_2 - \partial_1 \partial_1 \Delta^{-1} \theta = 0, \\ \partial_t \theta - \eta \partial_{11} \theta = -u_2. \end{cases} \tag{1.9}$$

The following theorem gives the explicit decay rates of the solution of (1.9).

**Theorem 1.3** *Let  $(u, \theta)$  be the corresponding solution of (1.9). Then we have the following two conclusions:*

(i) *Let  $\sigma > 0$ . Assume initial data  $(u_0, \theta_0)$  with  $\nabla \cdot u_0 = 0$  satisfying*

$$\|\Lambda_1^{-\sigma} u_0\|_{L^2} + \|\Lambda_1^{-\sigma} \theta_0\|_{L^2} + \|\Lambda_1^{-(\sigma+2)} \theta_0\|_{L^2} \leq \varepsilon \tag{1.10}$$

*for some  $\varepsilon$  small enough. Then  $(u, \theta)$  obeys the following decay estimate*

$$\|u(t)\|_{L^2} + \|\theta(t)\|_{L^2} \leq C \varepsilon t^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}}, \tag{1.11}$$

*where  $C > 0$  is a constant independent of  $\varepsilon$  and  $t$ .*

(ii) *Let  $m > 0$ . Assume initial data  $(u_0, \theta_0)$  with  $\nabla \cdot u_0 = 0$  satisfying*

$$\|u_0\|_{L^2} + \|\theta_0\|_{L^2} + \|\Lambda_1^{-2} \theta_0\|_{L^2} \leq \varepsilon \tag{1.12}$$

*for some  $\varepsilon$  small enough. Then  $(u, \theta)$  obeys the following decay estimate*

$$\|\partial_1^m u(t)\|_{L^2} + \|\partial_1^m \theta(t)\|_{L^2} \leq C \varepsilon t^{-\frac{m}{2}}, \tag{1.13}$$

*where  $C > 0$  is a constant independent of  $\varepsilon$  and  $t$ .*

**Remark 1.4** By taking the time derivative on (1.9) and making several substitutions, the system (1.9) turns into the following degenerate wave equations with damping:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u_1 + (\mu R_2^2 \partial_2^2 + \kappa R_1^2 \partial_1^2 - \eta \partial_{11}) \partial_t u_1 - (R_1^2 + \mu \eta R_1^2 \partial_2^4 + \kappa \eta R_1^2 \partial_1^4) u_1 = 0, \\ \partial_t u_2 + (\mu R_2^2 \partial_2^2 + \kappa R_1^2 \partial_1^2 - \eta \partial_{11}) \partial_t u_2 - (R_1^2 + \mu \eta R_1^2 \partial_2^4 + \kappa \eta R_1^2 \partial_1^4) u_2 = 0, \\ \partial_t \theta + (\mu R_2^2 \partial_2^2 + \kappa R_1^2 \partial_1^2 - \eta \partial_{11}) \partial_t \theta - (R_1^2 + \mu \eta R_1^2 \partial_2^4 + \kappa \eta R_1^2 \partial_1^4) \theta = 0, \end{cases} \quad (1.14)$$

where  $R_i = \partial_i(-\Delta)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  with  $i = 1, 2$  denotes the standard Resiz transform. Compared with the wave equations in [1], this system is more complex. The upper bounds for the kernel function  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , which is presented in Sect. 4, are more sophisticated to handle than that in [1]. These upper bounds play a crucial role in achieving the decay estimate in Theorem 1.3.

**Remark 1.5** Now we explain why we cannot obtain the decay rate of the system (1.8). The methods of proving Theorem 1.3 heavily depends on the spectral analysis of the wave equations (1.14). Unfortunately, it is very difficult for us to decouple the system (1.8). Consequently, we cannot build the decay estimates of system (1.8) via spectral methods. It is of great interest to address this problem.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Some crucial lemmas are presented in Sect. 2. We first build a priori estimates and employ the bootstrap argument to establish  $H^2$ -stability in Sect. 3. The large time behavior of the solution to system (1.1) is also obtained in Sect. 3. The proof of Theorem 1.3 can be found in Sect. 4.

**Notation** We recall the definition of the fractional Laplacian,  $\widehat{\Lambda_i^\beta f}(\xi) = |\xi_i|^\beta \widehat{f}(\xi)$ , for any real number  $\beta$  and  $i = 1, 2$ ,  $\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2)$ .

## 2 Several Useful Lemmas

For the convenience, we first recall the following version of the two dimensional anisotropic inequalities in the whole space  $\mathbf{R}^2$ . Lemma 2.1 is due to Cao and Wu [3].

**Lemma 2.1** Assume  $f, g, h, \partial_1 g$  and  $\partial_2 h$  are in  $L^2(\mathbf{R}^2)$ , then, for a constant  $C$ ,

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}^2} |fgh| dx \leq C \|f\|_{L^2(\mathbf{R}^2)} \|g\|_{L^2(\mathbf{R}^2)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\partial_1 g\|_{L^2(\mathbf{R}^2)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|h\|_{L^2(\mathbf{R}^2)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\partial_2 h\|_{L^2(\mathbf{R}^2)}^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (2.1)$$

**Lemma 2.2** Let  $f = f(t)$ , with  $t \in [0, \infty)$  be nonnegative continuous function. Assume  $f$  is integrable on  $[0, \infty)$ ,

$$\int_0^\infty f(t) dt < \infty.$$

Assume that for any  $\delta > 0$ , there is  $\rho > 0$  such that, for any  $0 \leq t_1 < t_2$  with  $t_2 - t_1 \leq \rho$ , either  $f(t_2) \leq f(t_1)$  or  $f(t_2) \geq f(t_1)$  and  $f(t_2) - f(t_1) \leq \delta$ . Then

$$f(t) \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty. \quad (2.2)$$

This Lemma can be found in [7].

### 3 Proofs of Theorem 1.1

#### 3.1 $H^2$ -Stability

For the sake of conciseness, we construct a suitable energy functional:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(t) = & \sup_{0 \leq \tau \leq t} (\|u(\tau)\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\theta(\tau)\|_{H^2}^2) \\
 & + 2 \int_0^t \mu \|\partial_2 u_1(\tau)\|_{H^2}^2 + \kappa \|\partial_1 u_2(\tau)\|_{H^2}^2 + \eta \|\partial_1 \theta(\tau)\|_{H^2}^2 d\tau.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.1}$$

**Step 1  $L^2$ -energy estimate.** A standard energy method yields

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|u(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\theta(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + 2 \int_0^t \mu \|\partial_2 u_1(\tau)\|_{L^2}^2 + \kappa \|\partial_1 u_2(\tau)\|_{L^2}^2 + \eta \|\partial_1 \theta(\tau)\|_{L^2}^2 d\tau \\
 \leq \|u_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\theta_0\|_{L^2}^2.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.2}$$

**Step 2  $\dot{H}^2$ -energy estimate.** Applying  $\Delta$  to both sides of the first, the second and the third equation of (1.2), respectively, then taking the  $L^2$ -inner product with  $(\Delta u_1, \Delta u_2, \Delta \theta)$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} (\|\Delta u(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\Delta \theta(t)\|_{L^2}^2) + \mu \|\partial_2 \Delta u_1\|_{L^2}^2 + \kappa \|\partial_1 \Delta u_2\|_{L^2}^2 + \eta \|\partial_1 \Delta \theta\|_{L^2}^2 \\
 & = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \Delta(u \cdot \nabla u_1) \Delta u_1 + \Delta(u \cdot \nabla u_2) \Delta u_2 dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (\Delta \theta \Delta u_2 - \Delta u_2 \Delta \theta) dx \\
 & \quad - \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \Delta(u \cdot \nabla \theta) \Delta \theta dx := I_1 + I_2 + I_3.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.3}$$

It is not difficult to check that  $I_2 = 0$ . To estimate  $I_1$ , we decompose  $I_1$  into the following form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_1 = & - \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \partial_{11} u \cdot \nabla u_1 \partial_{11} u_1 + 2 \partial_1 u \cdot \nabla \partial_1 u_1 \partial_{11} u_1 dx \\
 & - \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \partial_{22} u \cdot \nabla u_1 \partial_{22} u_1 + 2 \partial_2 u \cdot \nabla \partial_2 u_1 \partial_{22} u_1 dx \\
 & - \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \partial_{11} u \cdot \nabla u_2 \partial_{11} u_2 + 2 \partial_1 u \cdot \nabla \partial_1 u_2 \partial_{11} u_2 dx \\
 & - \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \partial_{22} u \cdot \nabla u_2 \partial_{22} u_2 + 2 \partial_2 u \cdot \nabla \partial_2 u_2 \partial_{22} u_2 dx \\
 & := I_{11} + I_{12} + I_{13} + I_{14}.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.4}$$

Thanks to the fact that  $\nabla \cdot u = 0$  and the Sobolev embedding, one gets

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{11} &= -3 \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} (\partial_{11}u_1)^2 \partial_1 u_1 dx - \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_{11}u_2 \partial_2 u_1 \partial_{11}u_1 dx \\
 &\quad - 2 \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_1 u_2 \partial_2 \partial_1 u_1 \partial_{11}u_1 dx \\
 &\leq C \|\partial_1 u_1\|_{L^2} \|\partial_{11}u_1\|_{L^4}^2 + C \|\partial_2 u_1\|_{L^\infty} \|\partial_{11}u_2\|_{L^2} \|\partial_{11}u_1\|_{L^2} \\
 &\quad + C \|\partial_1 u_2\|_{L^\infty} \|\partial_2 \partial_1 u_1\|_{L^2} \|\partial_{11}u_1\|_{L^2} \\
 &\leq C \|u\|_{H^2} (\|\partial_2 u_1\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 u_2\|_{H^2}^2).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.5}$$

Similarly,

$$I_{12}, I_{13}, I_{14} \leq C \|u\|_{H^2} (\|\partial_2 u_1\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 u_2\|_{H^2}^2).
 \tag{3.6}$$

Next, we split  $I_3$  into the following two parts:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_3 &= - \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_{11}(u \cdot \nabla \theta) \partial_{11} \theta + \partial_{22}(u \cdot \nabla \theta) \partial_{22} \theta dx \\
 &= - \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_{11}u \cdot \nabla \theta \partial_{11} \theta + 2 \partial_1 u \cdot \nabla \partial_1 \theta \partial_{11} \theta dx \\
 &\quad - \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_{22}u \cdot \nabla \theta \partial_{22} \theta + 2 \partial_2 u \cdot \nabla \partial_2 \theta \partial_{22} \theta dx \\
 &:= I_{31} + I_{32}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We can infer from the Hölder inequality and the Sobolev inequality

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{31} &= - \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_{11}u_1 \partial_1 \theta \partial_{11} \theta dx - \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_{11}u_2 \partial_2 \theta \partial_{11} \theta dx - 2 \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_1 u \cdot \nabla \partial_1 \theta \partial_{11} \theta dx \\
 &\leq C \|\partial_{11}u_1\|_{L^2} \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{L^4} \|\partial_{11} \theta\|_{L^4} + C \|\partial_{11}u_2\|_{L^4} \|\partial_2 \theta\|_{L^2} \|\partial_{11} \theta\|_{L^4} \\
 &\quad + C \|\partial_1 u\|_{L^2} \|\nabla \partial_1 \theta\|_{L^4} \|\partial_{11} \theta\|_{L^4} \\
 &\leq C \|u\|_{H^2} \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{H^2}^2 + C \|\theta\|_{H^2} (\|\partial_1 u_2\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{H^2}^2) \\
 &\leq C (\|u\|_{H^2} + \|\theta\|_{H^2}) (\|\partial_1 u_2\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{H^2}^2).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.7}$$

To handle  $I_{32}$ , we write

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{32} &\leq C \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_{22}u_1 \partial_1 \theta \partial_{22} \theta + \partial_2 u_1 \partial_1 \partial_2 \theta \partial_{22} \theta dx \right| \\
 &\quad + C \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_{22}u_2 \partial_2 \theta \partial_{22} \theta dx \right| + C \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_2 u_2 (\partial_{22} \theta)^2 dx \right| \\
 &:= I_{321} + I_{322} + I_{323}.
 \end{aligned}$$

According to the Hölder inequality, it deduces

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{321} &\leq C (\|\partial_{22}u_1\|_{L^4} \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{L^4} + \|\partial_2 u_1\|_{L^4} \|\partial_1 \partial_2 \theta\|_{L^4}) \|\partial_{22} \theta\|_{L^2} \\
 &\leq C \|\theta\|_{H^2} (\|\partial_2 u_1\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{H^2}^2).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.8}$$

Integrating by parts and the Hölder inequality give rise to

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{322} &\leq C \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \partial_1 \partial_2 u_1 \partial_2 \theta \partial_{22} \theta dx \right| \\
 &\leq C \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \partial_2 u_1 (\partial_1 \partial_2 \theta \partial_{22} \theta + \partial_2 \theta \partial_{22} \partial_1 \theta) dx \right| \\
 &\leq C \|\partial_2 u_1\|_{L^4} (\|\partial_1 \partial_2 \theta\|_{L^4} \|\partial_{22} \theta\|_{L^2} + \|\partial_2 \theta\|_{L^4} \|\partial_1 \partial_{22} \theta\|_{L^2}) \\
 &\leq C \|\theta\|_{H^2} (\|\partial_2 u_1\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{H^2}^2).
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

Form Lemma 2.1 and the Young inequality, one can follow that

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{323} &\leq C \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \partial_1 u_1 (\partial_{22} \theta)^2 dx \right| \\
 &\leq C \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} u_1 \partial_1 \partial_{22} \theta \partial_{22} \theta dx \right| \\
 &\leq C \|\partial_1 \partial_{22} \theta\|_{L^2} \|\partial_{22} \theta\|_{L^2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\partial_1 \partial_{22} \theta\|_{L^2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|u_1\|_{L^2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\partial_2 u_1\|_{L^2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
 &\leq C (\|u\|_{H^2} + \|\theta\|_{H^2}) (\|\partial_2 u_1\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{H^2}^2).
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.10}$$

Combining the estimates from (3.5) to (3.10) and integrating over  $[0, t]$ , we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\|\Delta u(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\Delta \theta(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + 2 \int_0^t \mu \|\partial_2 \Delta u_1\|_{L^2}^2 + \kappa \|\partial_1 \Delta u_2\|_{L^2}^2 + \eta \|\partial_1 \Delta \theta\|_{L^2}^2 d\tau \\
 &\leq \|\Delta u_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\Delta \theta_0\|_{L^2}^2 + C \int_0^t (\|u\|_{H^2} + \|\theta\|_{H^2}) (\|\partial_2 u_1\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 u_2\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{H^2}^2) d\tau.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

Adding (3.2) and (3.11) leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\|u(t)\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\theta(t)\|_{H^2}^2 + 2 \int_0^t \mu \|\partial_2 u_1\|_{H^2}^2 + \kappa \|\partial_1 u_2\|_{H^2}^2 + \eta \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{H^2}^2 d\tau \\
 &\leq C_0 (\|u_0\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\theta_0\|_{H^2}^2) + C_1 \sup_{0 \leq \tau \leq t} (\|u(\tau)\|_{H^2} + \|\theta(\tau)\|_{H^2}) \\
 &\quad \times \int_0^t (\|\partial_2 u_1\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 u_2\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{H^2}^2) d\tau,
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

which along with the definition of  $E(t)$  ensures

$$E(t) \leq C_0 E(0) + C_1 E^{\frac{3}{2}}(t). \tag{3.13}$$

To apply the bootstrapping argument, we make the ansatz

$$E(t) \leq \frac{1}{4C_1^2}. \tag{3.14}$$

We choose  $\varepsilon$  suitable small such that the initial  $H^2$ -norm  $E(0)$  sufficiently small, namely,

$$E(0) := \|u_0\|_{H^2}^2 + \|\theta_0\|_{H^2}^2 \leq \varepsilon^2 := \frac{1}{4C_1^2 C_0}. \tag{3.15}$$

In fact, when (3.14) and (3.15) holds, (3.13) implies

$$E(t) \leq \frac{1}{4C_1^2} + \frac{1}{2}E(t).$$

Therefore, the bootstrapping argument then concludes that, for all  $t > 0$

$$E(t) \leq \frac{1}{8C_1^2} \leq \frac{C_0}{2}\varepsilon^2,$$

which gives the desired inequality (1.5).

### 3.2 Large Time Behavior of the Boussinesq equation (1.2)

Now we pay our attention to show the inequality (1.6). Applying  $\partial_2$  to (1.8)<sub>1</sub> and  $\partial_1$  to (1.8)<sub>2</sub>, then taking the  $L^2$ -inner product with  $\partial_2u_1$  and  $\partial_1u_2$ , respectively. After performing  $L^2$ -inner product on both side of (1.8)<sub>3</sub> with  $\partial_1\theta$ , we add them to get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} (\|\partial_2u_1(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\partial_1u_2(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\partial_1\theta(t)\|_{L^2}^2) + \mu\|\partial_{22}u_1\|_{L^2}^2 + \kappa\|\partial_{11}u_2\|_{L^2}^2 + \eta\|\partial_{11}\theta\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &= - \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_2u \cdot \nabla u_1 \partial_2u_1 + \partial_1u \cdot \nabla u_2 \partial_1u_2 dx \\ & \quad - \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_2\partial_1\partial_2\Delta^{-1}\theta\partial_2u_1 - \partial_1\partial_1\partial_1\Delta^{-1}\theta\partial_1u_2 dx \\ & \quad + \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_2\partial_1\Delta^{-1}\nabla \cdot \nabla \cdot (u \otimes u)\partial_2u_1 dx + \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_1\partial_2\Delta^{-1}\nabla \cdot \nabla \cdot (u \otimes u)\partial_1u_2 dx \\ & \quad - \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_1u \cdot \nabla\theta\partial_1\theta dx - \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} \partial_1u_2\partial_1\theta dx \\ & \quad + \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} (\mu\partial_1\Delta^{-1}\partial_1\partial_{22}u_1 + \kappa\partial_1\Delta^{-1}\partial_2\partial_{11}u_2)\partial_2u_1 dx \\ & \quad + \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} (\mu\partial_2\Delta^{-1}\partial_1\partial_{22}u_1 + \kappa\partial_2\Delta^{-1}\partial_2\partial_{11}u_2)\partial_1u_2 dx \\ & := J_1 + J_2 + J_3 + J_4 + J_5 + J_6 + J_7 + J_8. \end{aligned} \tag{3.16}$$

Thanks to the fact  $\nabla \cdot u = 0$ , it's not hard to see that

$$\begin{aligned} J_1 &= - \int_{\mathbf{R}^2} (\partial_2u_1)^2\partial_1u_1 + \partial_2u_2(\partial_2u_1)^2 + \partial_1u_1(\partial_1u_2)^2 + (\partial_1u_2)^2\partial_2u_2 dx \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

By  $L^p$ - boundedness of the Riesz transform and the Hölder inequality, we get

$$\begin{aligned} J_2 &\leq C\|R_{22}\partial_1\theta\|_{L^2}\|\partial_2u_1\|_{L^2} + C\|R_{11}\partial_1\theta\|_{L^2}\|\partial_1u_2\|_{L^2} \\ &\leq C\|\partial_1\theta\|_{L^2}(\|\partial_2u_1\|_{L^2} + \|\partial_1u_2\|_{L^2}) \\ &\leq C\|u\|_{H^2}\|\theta\|_{H^2}. \end{aligned}$$



Thanks to  $L^p$ - boundedness of the Riesz transform and Sobolev’s embedding, one arrives at

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_3 &\leq C \|R_2 R_1(\partial_1(u \cdot \nabla u_1) + \partial_2(u \cdot \nabla u_2))\|_{L^2} \|\partial_2 u_1\|_{L^2} \\
 &\leq C \|\partial_1(u \cdot \nabla u_1) + \partial_2(u \cdot \nabla u_2)\|_{L^2} \|\partial_2 u_1\|_{L^2} \\
 &\leq C \|\partial_1 u \cdot \nabla u_1 + u \cdot \nabla \partial_1 u_1 + \partial_2 u \cdot \nabla u_2 + u \cdot \nabla \partial_2 u_2\|_{L^2} \|\partial_2 u_1\|_{L^2} \\
 &\leq C(\|\partial_1 u\|_{L^4} \|\nabla u_1\|_{L^4} + \|u\|_{L^\infty} \|\nabla \partial_1 u_1\|_{L^2} + C\|\partial_2 u\|_{L^4} \|\nabla u_2\|_{L^4}) \|\partial_2 u_1\|_{L^2} \\
 &\leq C \|u\|_{H^2}^3.
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$J_4 \leq C \|u\|_{H^2}^3.$$

Applying the Hölder inequality to get

$$J_5 \leq C \|\partial_1 u\|_{L^4} \|\nabla \theta\|_{L^4} \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{L^2} \leq C \|u\|_{H^2} \|\theta\|_{H^2}^2,$$

and

$$J_6 \leq C \|\partial_1 u_2\|_{L^2} \|\partial_1 \theta\|_{L^2} \leq C \|u\|_{H^2} \|\theta\|_{H^2}.$$

Integrating by parts and the  $L^p$ - boundedness of the Riesz transform give rise to

$$J_7 + J_8 \leq C \|u\|_{H^2}^2.$$

Inserting the estimate from  $J_1$  to  $J_6$  into (3.16) and integrating over  $[s, t]$  with  $0 < s < t < \infty$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 &(\|\partial_2 u_1(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 u_2(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 \theta(t)\|_{L^2}^2) \\
 &\quad - (\|\partial_2 u_1(s)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 u_2(s)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 \theta(s)\|_{L^2}^2) \leq C(\varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon^3)(t - s).
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.17}$$

Thanks to (1.5), one has

$$\int_0^\infty \|\partial_2 u_1(\tau)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 u_2(\tau)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\partial_1 \theta(\tau)\|_{L^2}^2 d\tau \leq C\varepsilon^2.$$

Therefore, as a result of Lemma 2.2, we conclude that

$$\|\partial_1 u_2(t)\|_{L^2} \rightarrow 0, \quad \|\partial_2 u_1(t)\|_{L^2} \rightarrow 0, \quad \|\partial_1 \theta(t)\|_{L^2} \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

This helps us to complete the proof of Theorem 1.1.

### 4 Proofs of Theorem 1.3

**Lemma 4.1** Assume that  $\phi$  satisfies the follow equation in  $\mathbf{R}^2$ ,

$$\partial_t \phi + (\mu R_2^2 \partial_2^2 + \kappa R_1^2 \partial_1^2 - \eta \partial_{11}) \partial_t \phi - (R_1^2 + \mu \eta R_1^2 \partial_2^4 + \kappa \eta R_1^2 \partial_1^4) \phi = 0, \tag{4.1}$$

with the initial conditions

$$\phi(x, 0) = \phi_0(x), \quad \partial_t \phi(x, 0) = \phi_1(x).$$

Then the solution  $\phi$  to (4.1) can be explicitly represented as

$$\phi(x, t) = G_1 \left( \phi_1 - \frac{1}{2} (\Delta^{-1} (\mu \partial_2^4 + \kappa \partial_1^4) + \eta \partial_{11}) \phi_0 \right) + G_2 \phi_0, \quad (4.2)$$

where  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are given as follows,

$$\widehat{G}_1(\xi, t) = \frac{e^{\lambda_2 t} - e^{\lambda_1 t}}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1}, \quad \widehat{G}_2(\xi, t) = \frac{1}{2} (e^{\lambda_1 t} + e^{\lambda_2 t}), \quad (4.3)$$

with  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  being the roots of the characteristic equation

$$\lambda^2 + \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right) \lambda + \frac{\xi_1^2 + \eta \xi_1^2 (\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4)}{|\xi|^2} = 0,$$

or

$$\lambda_1 = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right) - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\Gamma}, \quad (4.4)$$

$$\lambda_2 = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right) + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\Gamma}, \quad (4.5)$$

here

$$\Gamma = \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right)^2 - \frac{4 \xi_1^2 + 4 \eta \xi_1^2 (\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4)}{|\xi|^2}. \quad (4.6)$$

**Proof** Applying the Fourier transform on the space variable  $x$  to both sides of (4.1), we obtain

$$\partial_t \widehat{\phi} + \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right) \partial_t \widehat{\phi} + \frac{\xi_1^2 + \eta \xi_1^2 (\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4)}{|\xi|^2} \widehat{\phi} = 0,$$

namely,

$$(\partial_t - \lambda_2)(\partial_t - \lambda_1) \widehat{\phi} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad (\partial_t - \lambda_1)(\partial_t - \lambda_2) \widehat{\phi} = 0.$$

It is not difficult to rewrite the wave equation into two different systems,

$$(\partial_t - \lambda_2) \widehat{\phi} = \widehat{f}, \quad (4.7)$$

$$(\partial_t - \lambda_1) \widehat{f} = 0, \quad (4.8)$$

or

$$(\partial_t - \lambda_1) \widehat{\phi} = \widehat{g}, \quad (4.9)$$

$$(\partial_t - \lambda_2) \widehat{g} = 0. \quad (4.10)$$

By taking the difference of (4.9) and (4.7), it deduces

$$\widehat{\phi}(\xi, t) = (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^{-1}(\widehat{g} - \widehat{f}). \tag{4.11}$$

Then, (4.8) and (4.10) yield

$$\widehat{f}(\xi, t) = e^{\lambda_1 t} \widehat{f}(\xi, 0) = e^{\lambda_1 t}(\widehat{\phi}_1 - \lambda_2 \widehat{\phi}_0), \tag{4.12}$$

$$\widehat{g}(\xi, t) = e^{\lambda_2 t} \widehat{g}(\xi, 0) = e^{\lambda_2 t}(\widehat{\phi}_1 - \lambda_1 \widehat{\phi}_0). \tag{4.13}$$

Inserting (4.12) into (4.11) leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\phi}(\xi, t) &= (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^{-1} \left( (e^{\lambda_2 t} - e^{\lambda_1 t}) \widehat{\phi}_1 + (\lambda_2 e^{\lambda_1 t} - \lambda_1 e^{\lambda_2 t}) \widehat{\phi}_0 \right) \\ &= \frac{e^{\lambda_2 t} - e^{\lambda_1 t}}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1} (\widehat{\phi}_1 - \lambda_2 \widehat{\phi}_0) + e^{\lambda_2 t} \widehat{\phi}_0 \\ &= \frac{e^{\lambda_2 t} - e^{\lambda_1 t}}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1} \left( \widehat{\phi}_1 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right) \widehat{\phi}_0 \right) + \frac{1}{2} (e^{\lambda_1 t} + e^{\lambda_2 t}) \widehat{\phi}_0 \\ &= \widehat{G}_1 \left( \widehat{\phi}_1 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right) \widehat{\phi}_0 \right) + \widehat{G}_2 \widehat{\phi}_0, \end{aligned} \tag{4.14}$$

where we used the definition of  $\lambda_2$  in the third inequality. This completes the proof of Lemma 4.1. □

Due to the fact that  $\widehat{G}_1(\xi, t)$  and  $\widehat{G}_2(\xi, t)$  have a strong dependence on frequency, we need to be divided frequency space into several subdomains to obtain the optimal upper bound of  $\widehat{G}_1(\xi, t)$  and  $\widehat{G}_2(\xi, t)$ .

**Lemma 4.2** *Let  $\mathbf{R}^2 = S_1 \cup S_2$ . Here*

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 &= \left\{ \xi \in \mathbf{R}^2 : \Gamma = \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right)^2 - \frac{4 \xi_1^2 + 4 \eta \xi_1^2 (\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4)}{|\xi|^2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \leq \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right)^2 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

$$S_2 = \mathbf{R}^2 \setminus S_1.$$

Then  $\widehat{G}_1(\xi, t)$  and  $\widehat{G}_2(\xi, t)$  satisfy the following estimates:

(a)  $\forall \xi \in S_1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \lambda_1 &\leq -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right), \quad \operatorname{Re} \lambda_2 \leq -\frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right), \\ |\widehat{G}_1(\xi, t)| &\leq t e^{-\frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right) t}, \\ |\widehat{G}_2(\xi, t)| &\leq C e^{-\frac{\eta}{4} \xi_1^2 t}. \end{aligned} \tag{4.15}$$

(b)  $\forall \xi \in S_2$ ,

$$\lambda_1 \leq -\frac{3}{4} \left( \frac{\mu \xi_2^4 + \kappa \xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta \xi_1^2 \right), \quad \lambda_2 \leq -c_0 \xi_1^2,$$

$$|\widehat{G}_1(\xi, t)| \leq \frac{C}{\frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2} \left( e^{-\frac{3}{4} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t} + e^{-c_0\xi_1^2 t} \right), \quad (4.16)$$

$$|\widehat{G}_2(\xi, t)| \leq Ce^{-c\xi_1^2 t}.$$

**Proof** (a) For  $\xi \in S_1$ , we divide  $S_1$  into the following two regions:

$$S_{11} = \left\{ \xi \in S_1 : 0 \leq \Gamma \leq \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right)^2 \right\},$$

$$S_{12} = \{ \xi \in S_1 : \Gamma < 0 \}.$$

For any  $\xi \in S_{11}$ , according to the definition of  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  in (4.4) and (4.5),  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are real roots and satisfy

$$\lambda_1 \leq -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right),$$

$$\lambda_2 \leq -\frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right).$$

By the mean-value theorem, we know

$$|\widehat{G}_1(\xi, t)| \leq te^{\lambda_2 t} \leq te^{-\frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t},$$

$$|\widehat{G}_2(\xi, t)| \leq Ce^{-\frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t}.$$

For any  $\xi \in S_{12}$ ,  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are a pair of complex conjugate roots, then one has

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{G}_1(\xi, t) &= e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t} \frac{e^{\frac{i\sqrt{-\Gamma}}{2} t} - e^{-\frac{i\sqrt{-\Gamma}}{2} t}}{i\sqrt{-\Gamma}}, \\ &= e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t} \frac{2 \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{-\Gamma}}{2} t\right)}{\sqrt{-\Gamma}}. \end{aligned}$$

We can infer from  $|\sin x| \leq |x|$  that

$$|\widehat{G}_1(\xi, t)| \leq te^{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t},$$

$$|\widehat{G}_2(\xi, t)| \leq \frac{1}{2} (e^{t\operatorname{Re}\lambda_1} + e^{t\operatorname{Re}\lambda_2}) \leq Ce^{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t}.$$

(b) For  $\xi \in S_2$ ,  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are real roots, we have

$$\lambda_1 \leq -\frac{3}{4} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right),$$

and

$$\lambda_2 = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 - \sqrt{\Gamma} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= -\frac{1}{2} \frac{|\xi|^{-2}(4\xi_1^2 + 4\eta\xi_1^2(\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4))}{|\xi|^{-2}(\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4) + \eta\xi_1^2 + \sqrt{\Gamma}} \\
 &\leq -\frac{|\xi|^{-2}(\xi_1^2 + \eta\xi_1^2(\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4))}{|\xi|^{-2}(\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4) + \eta\xi_1^2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

In order to control  $\lambda_2$ , we further divide  $S_2$  into the following two regions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_{21} &= \{\xi \in S_2 : |\xi_1| \geq |\xi_2|\}, \\
 S_{22} &= \{\xi \in S_2 : |\xi_1| < |\xi_2|\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

For  $\xi \in S_{21}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda_2 &\leq -\frac{1 + \eta(\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4)}{\mu\xi_2^4\xi_1^{-2} + \kappa\xi_1^2 + \eta|\xi|^2} \leq -\frac{1 + \eta(\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4)}{\mu\xi_2^2 + \kappa\xi_1^2 + \eta|\xi|^2} \\
 &\leq -\frac{1 + \eta(\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4)}{(\mu + \kappa + 2\eta)\xi_1^2} \leq -\frac{\eta\kappa}{\mu + \kappa + 2\eta}\xi_1^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

For  $\xi \in S_{22}$ , one has

$$\lambda_2 \leq -\frac{\xi_1^2 + \eta\xi_1^2(\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4)}{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4 + \eta\xi_1^2|\xi|^2} \leq -\frac{\xi_1^2 + \eta\xi_1^2(\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4)}{(\mu + \kappa + 2\eta)\xi_2^4} \leq -\frac{\eta\mu}{\mu + \kappa + 2\eta}\xi_1^2.$$

Let  $c_0 = \min\{\frac{\eta\kappa}{\mu + \kappa + 2\eta}, \frac{\eta\mu}{\mu + \kappa + 2\eta}\}$ . Then we have

$$\lambda_2 \leq -c_0\xi_1^2, \quad \text{when } \xi \in S_2.$$

Thanks to  $\xi \in S_2$ , we have

$$\lambda_2 - \lambda_1 = \sqrt{\Gamma} > \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right).$$

Consequently, we can easily obtain the upper bounds for  $\widehat{G}_1(\xi, t)$  and  $\widehat{G}_2(\xi, t)$  where  $c = \min\{\frac{3}{4}\eta, c_0\}$ . This completes the proof of Lemma 4.2. □

Now we are ready to prove Theorem 1.3 according to Lemma 4.1 and Lemma 4.2.

**Proof** Applying Lemma 4.1 to (1.14) leads to

$$\begin{cases} u(x, t) = G_1 \left( \partial_t u(x, 0) - \frac{1}{2}(\Delta^{-1}(\mu\partial_2^4 + \kappa\partial_1^4) + \eta\partial_{11})u_0 \right) + G_2 u_0, \\ \theta(x, t) = G_1 \left( \partial_t \theta(x, 0) - \frac{1}{2}(\Delta^{-1}(\mu\partial_2^4 + \kappa\partial_1^4) + \eta\partial_{11})\theta_0 \right) + G_2 \theta_0. \end{cases} \tag{4.17}$$

Setting  $t = 0$  in the linearized equations (1.9), we get

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u_1(x, 0) = \Delta^{-1}(\mu\partial_2^4 + \kappa\partial_1^4)u_{10} - \partial_1\partial_2\Delta^{-1}\theta_0, \\ \partial_t u_2(x, 0) = \Delta^{-1}(\mu\partial_2^4 + \kappa\partial_1^4)u_{20} + \partial_1\partial_1\Delta^{-1}\theta_0, \\ \partial_t \theta(x, 0) = \eta\partial_{11}\theta_0 - u_{20}. \end{cases} \tag{4.18}$$

Then, inserting (4.18) into (4.17) yields

$$\begin{cases} u_1(x, t) = \frac{1}{2}G_1 \left( \Delta^{-1}(\mu\partial_2^4 + \kappa\partial_1^4) - \eta\partial_{11} \right) u_{10} - \partial_1\partial_2\Delta^{-1}G_1\theta_0 + G_2u_{10}, \\ u_2(x, t) = \frac{1}{2}G_1 \left( \Delta^{-1}(\mu\partial_2^4 + \kappa\partial_1^4) - \eta\partial_{11} \right) u_{20} + \partial_1\partial_1\Delta^{-1}G_1\theta_0 + G_2u_{20}, \\ \theta(x, t) = -\frac{1}{2}G_1 \left( \Delta^{-1}(\mu\partial_2^4 + \kappa\partial_1^4) - \eta\partial_{11} \right) \theta_0 + G_2\theta_0 - G_1u_{20}. \end{cases} \quad (4.19)$$

(i) To estimate  $\|u_1\|_{L^2}$ , by Plancherel’s Theorem and dividing the spatial domain  $\mathbf{R}^2$  as in Lemma 4.2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_1\|_{L^2} &= \|\widehat{u}_1\|_{L^2} \leq \frac{1}{2} \left\| \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} - \eta\xi_1^2 \right) \widehat{G}_1 \widehat{u}_{10} \right\|_{L^2(S_1)} + \left\| \frac{\xi_1\xi_2}{|\xi|^2} \widehat{G}_1 \widehat{\theta}_0 \right\|_{L^2(S_1)} \\ &\quad + \|\widehat{G}_2 \widehat{u}_{10}\|_{L^2(S_1)} + \frac{1}{2} \left\| \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} - \eta\xi_1^2 \right) \widehat{G}_1 \widehat{u}_{10} \right\|_{L^2(S_2)} \\ &\quad + \left\| \frac{\xi_1\xi_2}{|\xi|^2} \widehat{G}_1 \widehat{\theta}_0 \right\|_{L^2(S_2)} + \|\widehat{G}_2 \widehat{u}_{10}\|_{L^2(S_2)} \\ &= K_1 + K_2 + K_3 + K_4 + K_5 + K_6. \end{aligned}$$

Thanks to (4.15) and the fact that  $x^n e^{-x} \leq C(n)$  for any  $n \geq 0$  and  $x \geq 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 &\leq \left\| \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t e^{-\frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t} \widehat{u}_{10} \right\|_{L^2(S_1)} \\ &\leq C \| e^{-\frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t} \widehat{u}_{10} \|_{L^2} \\ &\leq C \|\xi_1\|^\sigma e^{-\frac{\eta}{8}\xi_1^2 t} |\xi_1|^{-\sigma} \widehat{u}_{10} \|_{L^2} \\ &\leq C t^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}} \|\Lambda_1^{-\sigma} u_{10}\|_{L^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\sigma > 0$ . By  $L^p$ -boundedness of the Riesz transform and (4.15), we get

$$\begin{aligned} K_2 &\leq \|\widehat{G}_1 \widehat{\theta}_0\|_{L^2(S_1)} \\ &\leq \| t e^{-\frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t} \widehat{\theta}_0 \|_{L^2} \\ &\leq \| t e^{-\frac{\eta}{4}\xi_1^2 t} \widehat{\theta}_0 \|_{L^2} \\ &\leq C \| e^{-\frac{\eta}{8}\xi_1^2 t} \xi_1^{-2} \widehat{\theta}_0 \|_{L^2} \\ &\leq C \|\xi_1\|^\sigma e^{-\frac{\eta}{8}\xi_1^2 t} \xi_1^{-(\sigma+2)} \widehat{\theta}_0 \|_{L^2} \\ &\leq C t^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}} \|\Lambda_1^{-(\sigma+2)} \theta_0\|_{L^2}. \end{aligned}$$

From (4.15), one can follow that

$$K_3 \leq C \| e^{-\frac{\eta}{4}\xi_1^2 t} \widehat{u}_{10} \|_{L^2}$$

$$\leq Ct^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}} \|\Lambda_1^{-\sigma} u_{10}\|_{L^2}.$$

Similarly, due to (4.16), one gets

$$\begin{aligned} K_4 &\leq C \left\| \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} - \eta\xi_1^2 \right) \frac{1}{\frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2} \left( e^{-\frac{3}{4} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t} + e^{-c_0\xi_1^2 t} \right) \widehat{u}_{10} \right\|_{L^2}, \\ &\leq C \|e^{-c\xi_1^2 t} \widehat{u}_{10}\|_{L^2} \\ &\leq Ct^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}} \|\Lambda_1^{-\sigma} u_{10}\|_{L^2}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} K_5 &\leq C \left\| \frac{1}{\frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2} \left( e^{-\frac{3}{4} \left( \frac{\mu\xi_2^4 + \kappa\xi_1^4}{|\xi|^2} + \eta\xi_1^2 \right) t} + e^{-c_0\xi_1^2 t} \right) \widehat{\theta}_0 \right\|_{L^2}, \\ &\leq C \|\xi_1\|^{-2} e^{-c\xi_1^2 t} \widehat{\theta}_0 \|_{L^2} \\ &\leq Ct^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}} \|\Lambda_1^{-(\sigma+2)} \theta_0\|_{L^2}. \end{aligned}$$

The estimates for  $K_6$  are similar to those for  $K_4$  and the bound is

$$\begin{aligned} K_6 &\leq C \|e^{-c\xi_1^2 t} \widehat{u}_{10}\|_{L^2} \\ &\leq Ct^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}} \|\Lambda_1^{-\sigma} u_{10}\|_{L^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Combining the estimates from  $K_1$  and  $K_6$ , we can obtain

$$\|u_1\|_{L^2} \leq Ct^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}} (\|\Lambda_1^{-\sigma} u_{10}\|_{L^2} + \|\Lambda_1^{-(\sigma+2)} \theta_0\|_{L^2}).$$

Similarly,

$$\|u_2\|_{L^2} \leq Ct^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}} (\|\Lambda_1^{-\sigma} u_{20}\|_{L^2} + \|\Lambda_1^{-(\sigma+2)} \theta_0\|_{L^2}),$$

and

$$\|\theta\|_{L^2} \leq Ct^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}} \|\Lambda_1^{-\sigma} \theta_0\|_{L^2}.$$

(ii) The bound for  $\|\partial_1^m u\|_{L^2}$  and  $\|\partial_1^m \theta\|_{L^2}$  are similar to case (i). This completes the proof of Theorem 1.3. □

**Acknowledgements** The authors are partially supported by NNSF of China under [Grant NO. 11971209 and 11961032].

### References

1. Ben Said, O., Pandey, U., Wu, J.: The stabilizing effect of the temperature on buoyancy-driven Fluids, (2020). [2005.11661v2](#) [math.AP]
2. Bianchini, R., Coti Zelati, M., Dolce, M.: Linear inviscid damping for shear flows near Couette in the 2D stably stratified regime, (2020). [2005.09058v1](#) [math.AP]
3. Cao, C., Wu, J.: Global regularity for the 2D anisotropic Boussinesq equations with vertical dissipation. Adv. Math. **226**, 985–1004 (2011)

4. Deng, W., Wu, J., Zhang, P.: Stability of Couette flow for 2D Boussinesq system with vertical dissipation. *J. Funct. Anal.* **281**(12), 109255 (2021)
5. Doering, C.R., Wu, J., Zhao, K., Zheng, X.: Long time behavior of the two-dimensional Boussinesq equations without buoyancy diffusion. *Physica D* **376**(377), 144–159 (2018)
6. Ji, R., Li, D., Wei, Y., Wu, J.: Stability of hydrostatic equilibrium to the 2D Boussinesq systems with partial dissipation. *Appl. Math. Lett.* **98**, 392–397 (2019)
7. Lai, S., Wu, J., Zhong, Y.: Stability and large-time behavior of the 2D Boussinesq equations with partial dissipation. *J. Differ. Equ.* **271**, 764–796 (2021)
8. Lai, S., Wu, J., Xu, X., Zhang, J., Zhong, Y.: Optimal decay estimates for 2D Boussinesq equations with partial dissipation. *J. Nonlinear Sci.* **33**, 16 (2021)
9. Tao, L., Wu, J.: The 2D Boussinesq equations with vertical dissipation and linear stability of shear flows. *J. Differ. Equ.* **267**, 1731–1747 (2019)
10. Tao, L., Wu, J., Zhao, K., Zheng, X.: Stability near hydrostatic equilibrium to the 2D Boussinesq equations without thermal diffusion. *Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal.* **237**, 585–630 (2020)
11. Wan, R.: Global well-posedness for the 2D Boussinesq equations with a velocity damping term. *Discrete Contin. Dyn. Syst.* **39**, 2709–2730 (2019)

**Publisher's Note** Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Springer Nature or its licensor holds exclusive rights to this article under a publishing agreement with the author(s) or other rightsholder(s); author self-archiving of the accepted manuscript version of this article is solely governed by the terms of such publishing agreement and applicable law.