

On Mean Field Limits for Dynamical Systems

Niklas Boers1 · Peter Pickl1

Received: 12 July 2013 / Accepted: 5 August 2015 / Published online: 18 August 2015 © Springer Science+Business Media New York 2015

Abstract We present a purely probabilistic proof of propagation of molecular chaos for *N*particle systems in dimension 3 with interaction forces scaling like $1/|q|^{3\lambda-1}$ with λ smaller but close to one and cut-off at $q = N^{-1/3}$. The proof yields a Gronwall estimate for the maximal distance between exact microscopic and approximate mean-field dynamics. This can be used to show weak convergence of the one-particle marginals to solutions of the respective mean-field equation without cut-off in a quantitative way. Our results thus lead to a derivation of the Vlasov equation from the microscopic *N*-particle dynamics with force term arbitrarily close to the physically relevant Coulomb- and gravitational forces.

Keywords Vlasov equation · Classical mean-field · Statisitcal mechanics · Propagation of chaos

1 Introduction

Consider a system consisting of *N* interacting identical particles subject to Newtonian time evolution. The dynamics is given by the respective Newtonian flow $(\Psi_{t,s}^N)_{t,s \in \mathbb{R}} : \mathbb{R}^{6N} \to$ \mathbb{R}^{6N} , which is assumed to be symmetric under permutation of coordinates. Denoting the interaction force by $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}^3$ and the distribution function on phase space \mathbb{R}^6 with position coordinates *q* and momentum coordinates *p* by $k : \mathbb{R}^6 \to \mathbb{R}^+_0$, the Vlasov equation
is given by the non-linear PDE
 $\partial_t k + \nabla_q k \cdot \dot{q} + \nabla_p k \cdot f * \tilde{k}_t = 0,$ (1)
where $\tilde{k}_t(q) = \int k_t(q, p)d^3p$. is given by the non-linear PDE

$$
\partial_t k + \nabla_q k \cdot \dot{q} + \nabla_p k \cdot f * \tilde{k}_t = 0,\tag{1}
$$

The global existence and uniqueness of solutions of this equation for suitable initial conditions is well understood, even for singular interactions (see [\[8](#page-15-0)[–10](#page-15-1)]).

B Peter Pickl pickl@math.lmu.de

LMU Munich, Munich, Germany

Our goal here is to derive the Vlasov equation from the microscopic Newtonian *N*-particle dynamics. For this purpose, we compare the microscopic *N*-particle time evolution with an effective one-particle description given by the Vlasov flow $(\varphi_{t,s}^N)_{t,s \in \mathbb{R}} : \mathbb{R}^6 \to \mathbb{R}^6$ and prove convergence of $\Psi_{t,s}^N$ to the product of $\varphi_{t,s}^N$ in the limit $N \to \infty$ in a suitable sense. From this, convergence of the one-particle marginals of the *N*-particle systems against solutions of the Vlasov equation follows.

This is usually referred to as *propagation of molecular chaos*. Classical results of this kind are valid for Lipschitz-bounded forces $[1,2]$ $[1,2]$. Even if formulated probabilistically, these results rely on deterministic initial conditions. Such approaches have difficulties for singular interactions in combination with clustering of particles. A very good overview is given in the book by Herbert Spohn [\[11\]](#page-15-4).

Recently, Hauray and Jabin could include singular interaction forces scaling like 1/|*q*| α in three dimensions with α < 1 [\[5\]](#page-15-5) as well as the physically more interesting case with α smaller but close to 2, and a lower bound on the cut-off at $q = N^{-1/6}$ [\[6](#page-15-6)]. While their convergence Theorem is deterministic as well, it is valid for quite generic initial conditions chosen according to the respective *N*-particle law. Furthermore, the latter work quantifies the rate of convergence in Wasserstein distance for large enough *N*.

Another deterministic result [\[7\]](#page-15-7), which is valid for repulsive pair-interactions, assumes no cut-off but some additional technical condition which can be read as a bound on the maximal forces of the microscopic system along the trajectories.

The strategy which we shall present in the following is *designed* for stochastic initial conditions. Using typicality arguments it is possible to derive the Vlasov equation where deterministic methods fail: For singular interactions there are in fact deterministic initial conditions for which the dynamics is not described by the Vlasov equation (see Remark [1.2\)](#page-2-0) and in general it might be hard to rule out such initial conditions by bounds on the energy. However, such "bad" initial conditions of particles may, while not impossible, be very atypical in the sense that the respective volume in phase space is small. This offers the chance to generalize our technique and prove Vlasov-like results also for more singular potentials and/or more complicated dynamics, as for example the Vlasov–Maxwell system (for a recent result see for example $[3,4]$ $[3,4]$ $[3,4]$) or for systems involving other field degrees of freedom.

In this article, the heart of the idea shall be presented for the case of forces with singularities slightly weaker than for Coulomb- or gravitational forces: $f \sim 1/|q|^{3\lambda - 1}$ with $5/6 < \lambda < 1$ and cut-off at $q = N^{-1/3}$. This particular cut-off width can be physically motivated by the fact that the typical inter-particle distance in position space \mathbb{R}^3 is given by $N^{-1/3}$. Our proof relies on a Gronwall estimate for a suitable notion of distance between exact and mean-field dynamics. We remark that the final result on the convergence of the 1-particle marginals to solutions of the Vlasov equation is quantitative in the sense that it provides the rate of convergence in *N*.

We first state our requirements on Φ^N and φ^N :

Definition 1.1 (a) Let for some $5/6 < \lambda < 1$ and any $N \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ the interaction force $f^N : \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}^3$ be given by

$$
f^N(q) = \begin{cases} \frac{q}{|q|^{3\lambda}} & \text{if } |q| \ge N^{-1/3} \\ qN^{\lambda} & \text{else.} \end{cases}
$$

In this sense, f^{∞} denotes the force without cut-off.

We shall in the following use the notation $X = (Q, P) = (q_1, \ldots, q_N, p_1, \ldots, p_N)$ and $(Q)_j = q_j \in \mathbb{R}^3$. The total force of the system is given by $F : \mathbb{R}^{6N} \to \mathbb{R}^{3N}$, where

(*F*(*X*))_{*j*} := $\sum_{i \neq j} (N-1)^{-1} f^N(q_j - q_i)$ is the force exhibited on a single coordinate *j*. Note that we omit to make the dependence of *F* on the particle number *N* explicit.

(b) Let $\Psi_{t,s}^N$ be the Newtonian flow on \mathbb{R}^{6N} , defined by

$$
\frac{d}{dt}\Psi_{t,s}^N(X) = V(\Psi_{t,s}^N(X))
$$
\n(2)

where *V* is given by $V(X) = (P, F(X))$.

(c) We introduce now for any probability density $k_0 : \mathbb{R}^6 \to \mathbb{R}^+_0$ the effective one particle flow $(\varphi_{t,s}^N)_{t\geq s}$ given by the following coupled equations: First, we define $k : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^6 \to$ \mathbb{R}_0^+ , which gives for each time *t* the effective distribution function time-evolved with respect to $\varphi_{t,s}^N(x)$: $k(0, \cdot) = k_0$ and

$$
k_t^N(x) := k^N(t, x) = k_0(\varphi_{0,t}^N(x)).
$$
\n(3)

Second, for $x = (q, p)$, the effective flow $\varphi_{t,s}^N$ itself is defined by

$$
\frac{d}{dt}\varphi_{t,s}^N(x) = v(\varphi_{t,s}^N(x)),\tag{4}
$$

where v is given by $v(x) = (p, \overline{f}_t^N(q))$. Here, the *mean-field force* \overline{f}_t^N is defined as \overline{f}_t^N $\frac{d}{dt} \varphi_{t,s}^N(x) = v(\varphi_{t,s}^N(x))$

there *v* is given by $v(x) = (p, \overline{f}_t^N(q))$. Here, the
 $v_t^N = f^N * \widetilde{k}_t^N$ and $\widetilde{k}^N : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}_0^+$ is given by $\overline{dt} \frac{\varphi_{t,s}(x)}{\sqrt{f}_t^N(q)}$
 $(\overline{p}, \overline{f}_t^N(q))$
 $\mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}_0^+$
 $\overline{f}_t^N(q) :=$

$$
\widetilde{k}_t^N(q) := \int k_t^N(q, p) d^3p.
$$

(d) We shall lift this flow to the *N*-particle phase-space. The respective $\Phi_{t,s}^N$ satisfies

$$
\frac{d}{dt}\Phi_{t,s}^N(X) = \overline{V}_t(\Phi_{t,s}^N(X)),
$$

We shall lift this flow to the *N*-particle phase-space. The respective
 $\frac{d}{dt} \Phi_{t,s}^N(X) = \overline{V}_t(\Phi_{t,s}^N(X)),$

with $\overline{V}_t(X) = (P, \overline{F}_t(Q))$ and \overline{F}_t given by $(\overline{F}_t(Q))_j := \overline{f}_t^N(q_j).$

Remark 1.1 It is of course possible to generalize to $0 \le \lambda \le 1$. Also other coupling constants in the force f , in particular a factor -1 , are possible. One can also generalize to dimension $d \neq 3$. Depending on λ and d it is possible to choose a narrower cut-off. To keep the notation as simple as possible we restrict ourselves to the situation above.

Remark 1.2 In the model we are considering there are in fact configurations *X* for which the Wasserstein distance between the empirical densities and the effective distribution function will, despite being initially small, become large during time evolution. Consider a configuration *X* for which groups of $N^{3/4}$ particles cluster in the sense that they are all located at the same coordinate. There are $N^{1/4}$ such clusters in total, and we assume that each of them is distributed independently according to a probability density *k*. Choose a typical distribution wasserstein uistance between the empirical densities and the effective distribution function
will, despite being initially small, become large during time evolution. Consider a configura-
tion X for which groups of $N^{3/4$ distribution δ and the effective distribution k is small. However, the potential energy of each particle-pair in a given cluster scales as $N^{-2/3}$, and thus the potential energy of each of the *N* particles diverges as $N \rightarrow \infty$. Eventually, the clusters will break up, resulting in large deviations of the kinetic energies and consequently the momenta from the mean-field case.

Notation 1 k_t^N : $\mathbb{R}^6 \to \mathbb{R}_0^+$ can be understood as a one particle probability density. All probabilities and expectation values are meant with respect to the product measure given at a certain time, i.e. for any random variable $H : \mathbb{R}^{6N} \to \mathbb{R}$ and any element *A* of the Borel σ -algebra

 $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}$

$$
\mathbb{P}_t(H \in A) = \int_{H^{-1}(A)} \prod_{j=1}^N k_t^N(x_j) dX \tag{5}
$$

$$
\mathbb{E}_t(H) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{6N}} H(X) \prod_{j=1}^N k_t^N(x_j) dX.
$$
\n
$$
\text{invariant it follows that}
$$
\n
$$
\Phi_{t,s}^N = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{6N}} H(\Phi_{t,s}^N(X)) \prod_{k}^N k_s^N(x_j) dX
$$
\n(6)

Since $\Phi_{t,s}^N$ leaves the measure invariant it follows that

$$
\mathbb{E}_s(H \circ \Phi_{t,s}^N) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{6N}} H(\Phi_{t,s}^N(X)) \prod_{j=1}^N k_s^N(x_j) dX
$$

$$
= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{6N}} H(X) \prod_{j=1}^N k_s^N(\varphi_{s,t}^N(x_j)) dX.
$$

Since $k_s^N(\varphi_{s,t}^N(x_j)) = k_t^N(x_j)$ it follows that

$$
\mathbb{E}_s(H \circ \Phi_{t,s}^N) = \mathbb{E}_t(H). \tag{7}
$$

We first state our result for interaction forces with cut-off:

Theorem 1.1 *Let* $t > 0$ *be such that there exists a* $C_0 < \infty$ *with*

$$
g(\mathbf{H} \circ \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{t,s}) = \mathbb{E}_t(\mathbf{H}).
$$
\n
$$
\text{function forces with cut-off:}
$$
\n
$$
u \text{ there exists a } C_0 < \infty \text{ with}
$$
\n
$$
\sup_{0 \le s \le t} \|\widetilde{k}_s^N\|_{\infty} < C_0. \tag{8}
$$

Then, under the assumptions given in Definition [1.1](#page-1-0)*, there exists a constant* $C_1 < \infty$ *such that*

$$
\mathbb{P}_0\left(\sup_{0\leq s\leq t}\left|\Psi_{s,0}^N(X)-\Phi_{s,0}^N(X)\right|_{\infty} > N^{-1/3}\right) \leq C_1 N^{\frac{-2+2\lambda}{3}}.\tag{9}
$$

Under further assumptions on the initial conditions k_0 , as well as on the solution of the Vlasov equation *without* cut-off (denoted by k_t^{∞}), we can show that solutions for forces with cut-off approximate solutions for forces without cut-off. Consequently, under these additional assumptions, Theorem [1.1](#page-3-0) can be generalized to the case of interaction forces without cut-off:

Theorem 1.2 *Let* $\nabla k_0(x) \leq C_0(1+|x|)^{-7}$ *for some* $C_0 < \infty$ *. Let* $t > 0$ *be such that there exists a* $C_1 < \infty$ *with* zec -7 .

$$
\sup_{0\leq s\leq t} \|\widetilde{k}_s^{\infty}\|_{\infty} < C_1. \tag{10}
$$

Then, under the assumptions given in Definition [1.1](#page-1-0)*, there exist constants* C_2 , $C_3 < \infty$ *such that*

$$
\mathbb{P}_0\left(\sup_{0\le s\le t}\left|\Psi_{s,0}^N(X)-\Phi_{s,0}^\infty(X)\right|_\infty > C_2N^{-1/3}\right) \le C_3N^{\frac{-2+2\lambda}{3}}.\tag{11}
$$

We can further show that Theorem [1.1](#page-3-0) (respectively Theorem [1.2\)](#page-3-1) implies weak convergence of the one-particle marginals of the microscopic *N*-particle system to solutions of the Vlasov equation with cut-off, i.e. k_t^N (respectively without cut-off, i.e. k_t^{∞}):

Definition 1.2 Let *L* be the space of functions $f : \mathbb{R}^6 \to \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$
f \in \mathcal{L} \Leftrightarrow \|f\|_{\infty} = \|f\|_{L} = 1
$$

where $|| f ||_L$ denotes the global Lipschitz constant of *f*.

For two probability densities $k, l : \mathbb{R}^6 \to \mathbb{R}^+_0$ the *bounded Lipschitz distance* is defined by

$$
d_L(k, l) := \sup_{f \in \mathcal{L}} \left| \int (k(x) - l(x)) f(x) d^6 x \right|.
$$

Corollary 1.1 Let $t > 0$, and let for probability densities $k_0 : \mathbb{R}^6 \to \mathbb{R}^+_0$ the N-particle den*sities K* : $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{6N} \to \mathbb{R}^+$ *be given by K*₀(*X*) = $\prod_{j=1}^{N} k_0(x_j)$ *k*₀ : $\mathbb{R}^6 \to \mathbb{R}^+_0$ *the N-particle densities K* : $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{6N} \to \mathbb{R}^+$ *be given by K*₀(*X*) = $\prod_{j=1}^{N} k_$ *K*, and let for pr
 R^{\pm} be given by
 *K*_t⁽¹⁾(x₁) :=

Then, under the conditions of Theorem [1.1](#page-3-0) *(respectively Theorem* [1.2](#page-3-1)*), the reduced oneparticle marginal given by*

$$
K_t^{(1)}(x_1) := \int K_t(X) d^6 x_2 d^6 x_3 \dots d^6 x_N
$$

converges weakly to k^N ^t in the sense that

$$
d_L(K_t^{(1)}, k_t^N) \le CN^{\frac{-2+2\lambda}{3}} \qquad \left(\text{respectively } d_L(K_t^{(1)}, k_t^{\infty}) \le CN^{\frac{-2+2\lambda}{3}}\right)
$$
\n
$$
\text{for some } C < \infty.
$$

2 Proof of Theorem [1.1](#page-3-0)

Notation 2 Constants appearing in estimates will generically be denoted by *C*. We shall not distinguish constants appearing in a sequence of estimates, i.e. in $X \le CY \le CZ$, the constants *C* may differ.

We first introduce a suitable notion of distance on \mathbb{R}^{3N} which enables us to prove that for finite time $\Psi_{t,0}^N$ and $\Phi_{t,0}^N$ will typically be close with respect to that notion of distance. Since we are dealing with probabilistic initial conditions, we introduce a stochastic process *Jt* which is such that

- (a) we can show that the expectation value of J_t is small and
- (b) a small expectation value of *J_t* implies that—typically— $\Psi_{t,0}^N(X)$ and $\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)$ are close, i.e. Theorem 1.1.
 Definition 2.1 Let $J_t : \mathbb{R}^{6N} \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ be the stochastic process given by
 $J_t(X) := \$ i.e. Theorem [1.1.](#page-3-0)

Definition 2.1 Let J_t : $\mathbb{R}^{6N} \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ be the stochastic process given by

$$
J_t(X) := \min \left\{ 1, N^{1/3} \sup_{0 \le s \le t} \left| \Psi_{s,0}^N(X) - \Phi_{s,0}^N(X) \right|_{\infty} \right\}.
$$

Here $|\cdot|_{\infty}$ denotes the supremum norm on \mathbb{R}^{6N} .

We shall prove the following

Lemma 2.1 *Let t* > 0*. Then, under the assumptions of Theorem* [1.1](#page-3-0)*, there exists a constant* $C < \infty$ *such that*

$$
\mathbb{E}_0(J_t) \le C N^{\frac{-2+2\lambda}{3}}.\tag{12}
$$

Since the probability

 \overline{a}

$$
\mathbb{P}_0\left(\sup_{0\leq s\leq t}\left|\Psi_{s,0}^N(X)-\Phi_{s,0}^N(X)\right|_{\infty}\geq N^{-1/3}\right)=\mathbb{P}_0(J_t=1)\leq \mathbb{E}_0(J_t),
$$

 \overline{a}

Theorem [1.1](#page-3-0) is a direct consequence of the Lemma.

The proof of Lemma [2.1](#page-4-0) is based on a Gronwall argument, i.e. we shall give an upper bound on the difference

$$
\mathbb{E}_0(J_{t+dt} - J_t) = \mathbb{E}_0(J_{t+dt}) - \mathbb{E}_0(J_t). \tag{13}
$$

We will do so by a suitable partition of the phase space \mathbb{R}^{6N} .

Definition 2.2 For any subset $A \subset \mathbb{R}^{6N}$, any random variable *J* and any *s* we define the restricted expectation value of *J* with respect to k_s^N by

$$
\mathbb{E}_s(J\mid \mathcal{A}) := \mathbb{E}_s(J^{\mathcal{A}})
$$

where $J^{\mathcal{A}}$ is the random variable given by

$$
J^{A}(X) = \begin{cases} J(X) & \text{if } X \in \mathcal{A} \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}
$$

ws directly that

$$
\mathbb{E}_{0}(J) = \sum \mathbb{E}_{0}(J \mid \mathcal{A}_{j})
$$

From this definition it follows directly that

$$
\mathbb{E}_0(J) = \sum_{j \in I} \mathbb{E}_0(J \mid \mathcal{A}_j)
$$
\n(14)

for any partition $\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = \mathbb{R}^{6N}$.

Our strategy can now be summarised as follows: First note that those configurations where *J_t* is maximal, i.e. $|\Psi_{t,0}^{N}(X) - \Phi_{t,0}^{N}(X)|_{\infty}$ ≥ $N^{-1/3}$, are irrelevant for finding an upper bound of $\mathbb{E}_0(J_t + dt) - \mathbb{E}_0(J_t)$. Below we shall call the set of such configurations *A* and show that $\mathbb{E}_0(L_t, t - L + 4) \le 0$ $\mathbb{E}_0(J_{t+dt}-J_t\mid \mathcal{A})\leq 0.$ \mathbf{h} \mathbf{s}

We are thus left with configurations for which $|\Psi_{N_0}^N(X) - \Phi_{s_0}^N(X)|_{\infty} < N^{-1/3}$. The we did thus fort with comiguations for which $\begin{bmatrix} x_{s,0}^{(X)} & x_{s}^{(X)} \\ y_{s,0}^{(X)} & y_{s}^{(X)} \end{bmatrix}$

$$
\left| F(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X)) - \overline{F}(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) \right| \le \left| F(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X)) - F(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) \right|
$$

$$
+ \left| F(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) - \overline{F}(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) \right|.
$$

Note that $\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)$ is product distributed. The set of configurations X for which the first term $|F(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) - \overline{F}(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X))|$ is large will be denoted by *B*. Large means in our case "larger" than $N^{-1/3}$ ", since any difference in the force is directly translated into a growth in the difference $|\Psi_{t,0}^{N}(X) - \Phi_{t,0}^{N}(X)|_{\infty}$, which is multiplied by $N^{1/3}$ in the definition of *J_t*. We shall show below that the probability to be in β is small.

If *F* was globally Lipschitz continuous, the second term $|F(\Phi_{s,0}^N(X)) - F(\Psi_{s,0}^N(X))|_{\infty}$ would directly translate into the difference $|\Psi_{s,0}^{N}(X) - \Phi_{s,0}^{N}(X)|_{\infty}$ and the result would be proven. However, the forces we consider are mildly singular, and hence there is no uniform Lipschitz constant (in particular not in *N*). There exist in fact configurations *X*—for example when all particles have the same position—for which this force becomes singular in the limit $N \to \infty$. However, we shall show that, for *typical* distributions, the force does indeed satisfy a Lipschitz condition.

To implement this argument, we will introduce a function *g* which can be used to control the difference $| f^N(x) - f^N(x + \delta) |$. Here, δ is smaller than $2N^{-1/3}$, since in the coordinates of any two interacting particles we only need to take into account fluctuations smaller than To implement this argument, we will introduce
the difference $|f^N(x) - f^N(x + \delta)|$. Here, δ is sm
of any two interacting particles we only need to $N^{-1/3}$. We will then control $G = (N - 1)^{-1} \sum$ $j \neq k$ *g*($q_j - q_k$) for typical configurations. Below we will denote the set of configurations where G is large by C and show that it is very improbable to be in *C*. For the configurations which are left we have a Lipschitz condition on *F* and will get a good estimate on $|F(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) - F(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X))|_{\infty}$. the configuration $|F|$
stimate on $|F|$
 $g(q) := \begin{cases} \frac{54}{|q|^3} & \text{if } q \neq 0 \\ N^{\lambda} & \text{if } q \neq 0 \end{cases}$

Definition 2.3 Let

$$
g(q) := \begin{cases} \frac{54}{|q|^{3\lambda}} & \text{if } |q| \ge 3\sqrt{3}N^{-1/3} \\ N^{\lambda} & \text{else.} \end{cases}
$$

Definition 2.3 Let
 $g(q) := \begin{cases} \frac{54}{|q|^{3\lambda}} & \text{if } |q| \ge 3\sqrt{3}N^{-1/3} \\ N^{\lambda} & \text{else.} \end{cases}$

and *G* be defined by $(G(X))_j := \sum_{j \neq i} (N-1)^{-1} g(q_j - q_i)$. Furthermore let \overline{G}_t be given $g(q) := \begin{cases} \frac{54}{|q|^{3\lambda}} \\ N^{\lambda} \end{cases}$
and *G* be defined by $(G(X))_j := \sum_{j \neq i} (N)$
by $(\overline{G}_t(X))_j := \overline{g}_t(q_j)$ with $\overline{g}_t(q) = g * \widetilde{k}_i$ $\overline{G}_t(X)$ _{*i*} := $\overline{g}_t(q_j)$ with $\overline{g}_t(q) = g * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q)$. $\sum_{j \neq i} (N-1)$

Lemma 2.2 *For any* $\delta \in \mathbb{R}^3$ *with* $|\delta|_{\infty} < 2N^{-\frac{1}{3}}$ *it follows that*

$$
\left|f^{N}(q)-f^{N}(q+\delta)\right|_{\infty} < g(q)|\delta|_{\infty}.
$$

Proof First note that the derivative of f^N is bounded by N^{λ} . Hence the estimate holds for $|a| < 3\sqrt{3}N^{-1/3}$ $|q| < 3\sqrt{3}N^{-1/3}$.

For $|q| \geq 3\sqrt{3}N^{-1/3}$ we have the largest difference if δ points in the opposite direction of *q*. The largest derivative between *q* and $q + \delta$ is then at the point closest to the center. It follows that f points in

$$
\left|f^{N}(q) - f^{N}(q + \delta)\right|_{\infty} \le \left|\frac{d}{dr}(r^{1-3\lambda})\right|_{r=|q|-|\delta|}\right| \tag{15}
$$

$$
= |1 - 3\lambda|(|q| - |\delta|)^{-3\lambda}.
$$
 (16)

Since $\frac{2}{3}|q| \ge 2\sqrt{3}N^{-1/3} > |\delta|_{\infty} \ge |\delta|$ it follows that $|q| - |\delta| = \frac{|q|}{3} + \frac{2}{3}|q| - |\delta| > \frac{|q|}{3}$ Using this and $|1 - 3\lambda| < 2$ we get

$$
\left| f^N(q) - f^N(q + \delta) \right|_{\infty} < 2 \cdot 3^{3\lambda} |q|^{-3\lambda} < 54|q|^{-3\lambda}.\tag{17}
$$

 \Box

Definition 2.4 Let for any $t \in \mathbb{R}$ the (in fact time dependent) sets *A*, *B*, $C \subset \mathbb{R}^{6N}$ be given by \cdot

$$
X \in \mathcal{A} \Leftrightarrow |J_t(X)| = 1 \tag{18}
$$

$$
X \in \mathcal{B} \Leftrightarrow \left| F(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) - \overline{F}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) \right|_{\infty} > N^{\frac{-3+2\lambda}{3}} \tag{19}
$$

$$
X \in \mathcal{C} \Leftrightarrow \left| G(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) - \overline{G}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) \right|_{\infty} > 1. \tag{20}
$$

Since J_t is bounded by one and $J_t(X) = 1$ for any $X \in A$ it follows that $J_{t+dt}(X)$ – $J_t(X) \leq 0$ for any $X \in \mathcal{A}$. Therefore

$$
\mathbb{E}_0(J_{t+dt}-J_t\mid \mathcal{A})\leq 0. \tag{21}
$$

 \mathcal{L} Springer

By Definition [1.1](#page-1-0) it follows that

$$
\Psi_{t+dt,0}^{N}(X) = \Psi_{t,0}^{N}(X) + V(\Psi_{t,0}^{N}(X))dt + o_{N}(dt)
$$
\n(22)

$$
\Phi_{t+dt,0}^N(X) = \Phi_{t,0}^N(X) + \overline{V}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X))dt + o_N(dt)
$$
\n(23)

where the index N on ρ_N appears in order to remind the reader that the limit is *not* uniform in *N*. e the index N on ρ_N appears in order to remind the re

By triangle inequality we get that

$$
\left| \Psi_{t+dt,0}^{N}(X) - \Phi_{t+dt,0}^{N}(X) \right|_{\infty} \leq \left| \Psi_{t,0}^{N}(X) - \Phi_{t,0}^{N}(X) \right|_{\infty} + \left| V(\Psi_{t,0}^{N}(X)) - \overline{V}_{t}(\Phi_{t,0}^{N}(X)) \right|_{\infty} dt + o_{N}(dt),
$$

therefore

$$
J_{t+dt}(X) - J_t(X) \le \left| V(\Psi^N_{t,0}(X))dt - \overline{V}_t(\Phi^N_{t,0}(X)) \right|_{\infty} N^{1/3} dt + o_N(dt)
$$

and thus

$$
\mathbb{E}_0(J_{t+dt} - J_t \mid \mathcal{A}^c) - \mathbb{E}_0\left(\left|V \circ \Psi_{t,0}^N - \overline{V}_t \circ \Phi_{t,0}^N\right|_{\infty} \middle|\mathcal{A}^c\right)N^{1/3}dt = o_N(dt),\tag{24}
$$

where A^c denotes the complement of the set A .

the set A^c using Definition [2.4:](#page-6-0) $\overline{}$

where A denotes the complement of the set A.
\nWe are left with estimating
$$
\mathbb{E}_0(V \circ \Psi_{t,0}^N - \overline{V}_t \circ \Phi_{t,0}^N \mid \mathcal{A}^c)
$$
 and will now further partition
\nthe set \mathcal{A}^c using Definition 2.4:
\n
$$
\mathbb{E}_0 (J_{t+dt} - J_t) = \mathbb{E}_0 (J_{t+dt} - J_t \mid \mathcal{A}) \qquad (\leq 0)
$$
\n
$$
+ \mathbb{E}_0 (J_{t+dt} - J_t \mid \mathcal{A}^c) - \mathbb{E}_0 (\left| V(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X)) - \overline{V}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) \right|_{\infty} \mid \mathcal{A}^c) N^{1/3} dt \qquad (= o_N(dt))
$$
\n
$$
+ \mathbb{E}_0 (\left| V(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X)) - \overline{V}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) \right|_{\infty} \mid (\mathcal{B} \cup \mathcal{C}) \setminus \mathcal{A}) N^{1/3} dt
$$
\n
$$
+ \mathbb{E}_0 (\left| V(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X)) - \overline{V}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) \right|_{\infty} \mid (\mathcal{B} \cup \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{A})^c) N^{1/3} dt.
$$
\n
$$
\leq \left(\sup_{X \in \mathbb{R}^{6N}} \{ |F(X)|_{\infty} \} + \sup_{X \in \mathbb{R}^{6N}} \{ |F(X)|_{\infty} \} + N^{-1/3} \right) (\mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{B}) + \mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{C})) N^{1/3} dt
$$
\n
$$
+ \mathbb{E}_0 (\left| V(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X)) - \overline{V}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)) \right|_{\infty} \mid (\mathcal{B} \cup \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{A})^c) N^{1/3} dt + o_N(dt),
$$

where we used that on the set $(B\cup C)\setminus A$, the momentum part of $|V(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X)) - \overline{V}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X))|$ is bounded by $N^{-1/3}$.

Since the two-particle force is bounded by $N^{2/3}$ it follows that the total force acting on each particle is also bounded by $N^{2/3}$. Furthermore, the mean-field force is bounded, thus rc $\overline{1}$ \checkmark

$$
\mathbb{E}_0(J_{t+dt}-J_t) \le (2N+1)\left(\mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{B}) + \mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{C})\right)dt\tag{25}
$$

$$
+ \mathbb{E}_0 \left(\left| V(\Psi_t^N(X)) - \overline{V}_t(\Phi_t^N(X)) \right|_{\infty} \left| (\mathcal{B} \cup \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{A})^c \right) N^{1/3} dt \right. (26)
$$

+ $o_N(dt)$.

At this point we have arrived at the crucial estimates of our proof. Based on the law of large numbers, we shall now show that the probability to be in the set *B* or *C* is smaller than $C_{\gamma} N^{-\gamma}$ for any $\gamma > 0$ and some C_{γ} . This yields that [\(25\)](#page-7-0) is small (see Corollary [2.1\)](#page-11-0). The control of [\(26\)](#page-7-0) is then provided in Lemma [2.4.](#page-11-1)

Since *f* and *g* do have some similarities, we shall give the law of large numbers argument for an appropriate general function *h* and use this general estimate thereafter to control $\mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{B})$ and $\mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{C})$ in Corollary [2.1.](#page-11-0) function h and \vert
 $\cdot \mathbb{R}^a$ for some $\vert h(q) \vert \leq \min \left\{ \vert \right.$

Lemma 2.3 *Let* $h : \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}^a$ *for some a* $\in \mathbb{N}$ *be a function with*

$$
|h(q)| \le \min\left\{N^{-\frac{2\lambda}{3}}|q|^{1-3\lambda}, N^{\frac{\lambda-1}{3}}\right\},\
$$

$$
-q_i) \text{ and } \mathcal{D}_j \subset \mathbb{R}^{6N} \text{ be given by}
$$

$$
\mathcal{D}_j \Leftrightarrow |H_j(X) - (N-1)h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_j)|
$$

let h : ℝ³ → ℝ^{*a} for some a* ∈ ℕ *be a function*
 $|h(q)| \le \min \left\{ N^{-\frac{2\lambda}{3}} |q|^{1-3\lambda}, N^{\frac{\lambda}{2}} \right\}$
 let H_j(*X*) := $\sum_{i \ne j} h(q_j - q_i)$ *and* $\mathcal{D}_j \subset \mathbb{R}^{6N}$ *be given by*</sup> $let~H_j$
with \widetilde{k}_i

$$
X \in \mathcal{D}_j \Leftrightarrow \left| H_j(X) - (N-1)h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_j) \right| > 1
$$

 \widetilde{k}_t^N as in Theorem 1.1 and

$$
X - (N - 1)
$$

$$
\mathcal{D} = \bigcup_{j=1}^{N} \mathcal{D}_j.
$$

Then there exists a $C_{\gamma} < \infty$ *for any* $\gamma > 0$ *such that* $\mathbb{P}_t(\mathcal{D}) \leq C_{\gamma} N^{-\gamma}$ *.*

Proof Due to symmetry in exchanging any two coordinates $\mathbb{P}_t(\mathcal{D}) \leq C_{\gamma} N^{-\gamma}$.
 Proof Due to symmetry in exchanging any two coordinates $\mathbb{P}_t(\mathcal{D}) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{N} \mathbb{P}_t(\mathcal{D}_j) = N^{-\gamma}$. *N*P_t(*D*₁). So it is sufficient to show that for any $\gamma > 0$ there exists a $\tilde{C}_{\gamma} < \infty$ such that

$$
\mathbb{P}_t(\mathcal{D}_1) \le C_\gamma N^{-\gamma}.\tag{27}
$$

The proof of [\(27\)](#page-8-0) is based on a law of large numbers argument. Using Markov we get that for any even natural number *M H*₁(*X*) − (*N* − 1)*h* ∗ \tilde{k}_i
*H*₁(*X*) − (*N* − 1)*h* ∗ \tilde{k}_i Usii
M

$$
\mathbb{P}_t(\mathcal{D}_1) \leq \mathbb{E}_t\left(\left(H_1(X) - (N-1)h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1)\right)^M\right).
$$

So let $M \in 2\mathbb{N}$ be some even natural number.

Let *M* be a set of multi-indices, more precisely the set of all maps α : $\{1, 2, ..., M\}$ \rightarrow $\{2,\ldots,N\}$. Define $|\cdot|:\mathcal{M}\to\mathbb{N}$ as the number of elements in the image of α Let *M* be a set of multi-indices, more precisely
{2,..., *N*}. Define $|\cdot|: M \to \mathbb{N}$ as the number o
 $|\alpha| = |\alpha(\{1, ..., \}$
For any $1 \le j \le N$ let $\alpha_j := \sum_{i=1}^M \delta(\alpha(i), j)$ and

$$
|\alpha| = |\alpha({1, ..., M})|.
$$

\n
$$
\iota_j := \sum_{i=1}^M \delta(\alpha(i), j) \text{ and }
$$

\n
$$
G^{\alpha} := \prod_{j=2}^N \left(h(q_1 - q_j) - h * \tilde{k}_i^N(q_1) \right)^{\alpha_j}.
$$
\n(28)

It follows that

follows that
\n
$$
\mathbb{E}_t \left(\left(H_1(X) - (N-1)h * \tilde{k}_t^N(q_1) \right)^M \right) = \mathbb{E}_t \left(\left(\sum_{i=2}^N \left(h(q_i - q_1) - h * \tilde{k}_t^N(q_1) \right) \right)^M \right)
$$
\n
$$
= \sum_{\alpha \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbb{E}_t(G^{\alpha}).
$$

Note that $\mathbb{E}_t(G^\alpha) = 0$ whenever there exists a $1 \leq j \leq N$ such that $\alpha_j = 1$. This can be seen be integrating the *j*th variable first.

 $\circled{2}$ Springer

Whenever $|\alpha| > M/2$ there has to be at least one index *j* such that $\alpha_j = 1$. Thus

N. Boers, P. Pickl
\n
$$
| > M/2 \text{ there has to be at least one index } j \text{ such that } \alpha_j = 1. \text{ Thus}
$$
\n
$$
\mathbb{E}_t \left(\left(H_1(X) - (N-1)h * \tilde{k}_t^N(q_1) \right)^M \right) = \sum_{|\alpha| \le M/2} \mathbb{E}_t(G^{\alpha}). \tag{29}
$$

To proceed we shall need the following two formulae: For any two functions $f, g : \mathbb{R}^3 \to$ R

$$
||f * g||_{\infty} \le ||f||_{1 \wedge \infty} ||g||_{1 \vee \infty}
$$
 (30)

$$
||fg||_1 \le ||f||_{1\wedge\infty}||g||_{1\vee\infty} \tag{31}
$$

where

$$
\|\cdot\|_{1\wedge\infty} := \|\cdot\|_1 + \|\cdot\|_{\infty} \tag{32}
$$

and

$$
\|g\|_{1\vee\infty} := \inf_{g_1 + g_{\infty} = g} \{ \|g_1\|_1 + \|g_{\infty}\|_{\infty} \}.
$$
 (33)

These formulas can be proven in the following way: For any $g_1 + g_\infty = g$ we have using triangle inequality, Young and Hölder

$$
||f * g||_{\infty} \le ||f * g_1||_{\infty} + ||f * g_{\infty}||_{\infty} \le ||f||_{\infty} ||g_1||_1 + ||f||_1 ||g_{\infty}||_{\infty}
$$

$$
\le ||f||_{1 \wedge \infty} (||g_1||_1 + ||g_{\infty}||_{\infty})
$$

as well as

$$
||fg||_1 \le ||fg_1||_1 + ||fg_\infty||_1 \le ||f||_\infty ||g_1||_1 + ||f||_1 ||g_\infty||_\infty
$$

\n
$$
\le ||f||_{1 \wedge \infty} (||g_1||_1 + ||g_\infty||_\infty).
$$

\n
$$
\text{sing the infimum over all possible } g_1 \text{ and } g_\infty \text{ the formulae follow.}
$$

\nSince $||\widetilde{k}_i^N||_1 = 1$ and $||\widetilde{k}_i^N||_\infty$ is bounded (cf. Eq. (8)) it holds that

Taking the infimum over all possible g_1 and g_∞ the formulae follow.

 $\mathfrak k$

$$
\log(\|g_1\|_1 + \|g_\infty\|_\infty).
$$

possible g_1 and g_∞ the formula

$$
|g_\infty \text{ is bounded (cf. Eq. (8)) it}
$$

$$
||h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1)||_\infty \le C ||h||_{1 \vee \infty}
$$

Now

$$
||h||_{1\vee\infty} \leq \int_{|q| < 1} |h(q)| d^3 q + \sup_{|q| \geq 1} |h(q)|
$$

\n
$$
\leq \int_{|q| < 1} N^{-\frac{2\lambda}{3}} |q|^{1-3\lambda} d^3 q + N^{-\frac{2\lambda}{3}}
$$

\n
$$
\leq C N^{-\frac{2\lambda}{3}}.
$$
\n(34)
\n
$$
||h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1)||_{\infty} \leq C N^{-\frac{2\lambda}{3}} \leq C N^{\frac{\lambda - 1}{3}}
$$

It follows that 

$$
\left\|h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1)\right\|_{\infty} \le CN^{-\frac{2\lambda}{3}} \le CN^{\frac{\lambda - 1}{3}}
$$
(35)

$$
\left|\widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1)\right| \le CN^{\frac{\lambda - 1}{3}} \text{ and}
$$

 $\leq CN^{-\frac{m}{3}}.$
It follows that
 $\left\| h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1) \right\|_{\infty} \leq CN$
and thus $|h(q_1 - q_j) - h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1)| \leq CN^{\frac{\lambda - 1}{3}}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$

$$
\|h * k_t^N(q_1)\|_{\infty} \le CN^{-\frac{m}{3}} \le CN^{\frac{m}{3}}
$$
(35)
and thus $|h(q_1 - q_j) - h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1)| \le CN^{\frac{\lambda - 1}{3}}$ and

$$
\left|h(|q_1 - q_j| - h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1)\right|^n = \left|h(|q_1 - q_j| - h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1)\right|^{n-2} \left|h(|q_1 - q_j| - h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1)\right|^2
$$

$$
\le CN^{\frac{(n-2)(\lambda - 1)}{3}} \left|h(|q_1 - q_j| - h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1)\right|^2.
$$

It follows with [\(35\)](#page-9-0) that

On Mean Field Limits for Dynamical Systems
\nIt follows with (35) that
\n
$$
\left| \int \tilde{k}_i^N(q_j) \left(h(|q_1 - q_j|) - h * \tilde{k}_i^N(q_1) \right)^n d^3 q_j \right|
$$
\n
$$
\leq C N^{\frac{(n-2)(\lambda-1)}{3}} \left| \int \tilde{k}_i^N(q_j) \left(h(|q_1 - q_j| - h * \tilde{k}_i^N(q_1) \right)^2 d^3 q_j \right|
$$
\n
$$
\leq C N^{\frac{(n-2)(\lambda-1)}{3}} \left(N^{-4\lambda/3} + N^{-2\lambda/3} \int \tilde{k}_i^N(q_j) |h(q_1 - q_j)| d^3 q_j \right)
$$
\n
$$
+ \int \tilde{k}_i^N(q_j) |h(q_1 - q_j)|^2 d^3 q_j \right).
$$
\n(36)
\nIntegrating the momentum variables and using (31) and then (34) it follows that the expectation value of $|h(q_1 - q_j)|$ can be estimated by

 \overline{a}

Integrating the momentum variables and using [\(31\)](#page-9-1) and then [\(34\)](#page-9-2) it follows that the expecvariables and
can be estin
 $\left| d^3 q_j \right| = \|\widetilde{k}_j\|$ *t h*(*d*₁ α *h*(*d*₁ − ·)||₁ ≤ || $\widetilde{k}_t^N h(q_1 - \cdot)$ ||₁ ≤ || \widetilde{k}_t^N $\left| \rho \right|$ can be est

station value of
$$
|h(q_1 - q_j)|
$$
 can be estimated by

\n
$$
\int \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_j) \left| h(q_1 - q_j) \right| d^3 q_j = \|\widetilde{k}_t^N h(q_1 - \cdot) \|_1 \leq \|\widetilde{k}_t^N \|_{1 \wedge \infty} \|h\|_{1 \vee \infty} \leq CN^{-\frac{2\lambda}{3}}.
$$
\nThe expectation value of $|h(q_1 - q_j)|^2$ can be estimated by

mated by

$$
\int \widetilde{k}_{t}^{N}(q_{j}) \left| h(q_{1} - q_{j}) \right|^{2} d^{3}q_{j} \leq \int_{|q_{1} - q_{j}| < N^{-1/3}} \widetilde{k}_{t}^{N}(q_{j}) \left| h(q_{1} - q_{j}) \right|^{2} d^{3}q_{j} \n+ \int_{|q_{1} - q_{j}| \geq N^{-1/3}} \widetilde{k}_{t}^{N}(q_{j}) \left| h(q_{1} - q_{j}) \right|^{2} d^{3}q_{j} \n\leq C \int_{|q| < N^{-1/3}} N^{\frac{2\lambda - 2}{3}} d^{3}q + C N^{-\frac{4\lambda}{3}} \int_{|q| \geq N^{-1/3}} |q|^{2 - 6\lambda} d^{3}q_{j} \n\leq C N^{\frac{2\lambda - 5}{3}} + C N^{-\frac{4\lambda}{3} - \frac{5 - 6\lambda}{3}} \leq C N^{\frac{2\lambda - 5}{3}}.
$$

Since $\lambda > 5/6$ [\(36\)](#page-10-0) gives

$$
\leq CN^{\frac{2\lambda - 5}{3}} + CN^{-\frac{4\lambda}{3} - \frac{5-6\lambda}{3}} \leq CN^{\frac{2\lambda - 5}{3}}.
$$

\ne $\lambda > 5/6$ (36) gives
\n
$$
\left| \int \tilde{k}_t^N(q_j) \left(h(|q_1 - q_j| - h * \tilde{k}_t^N(q_1) \right)^n d^3q_j \right| \leq CN^{\frac{(n-2)(\lambda - 1)}{3}} \left(N^{-\frac{4\lambda}{3}} + N^{\frac{2\lambda - 5}{3}} \right)
$$

\n $\leq CN^{\frac{n(\lambda - 1)}{3}} N^{-1}.$
\n(sing (28) we get that

Using (28) we get that

$$
\leq CN^{-\frac{1}{3}} N^{-1}.
$$

Using (28) we get that

$$
\mathbb{E}_{t}(G^{\alpha}) = \int \left(\prod_{j=2}^{N} \int \left(h(|q_{1} - q_{j}| - h * \tilde{k}_{t}^{N}(q_{1}) \right)^{\alpha_{j}} k_{t}^{N}(x_{j}) d^{6}x_{j} \right) k_{t}^{N}(x_{1}) d^{6}x_{1}
$$

$$
\leq \int \left(\prod_{\alpha_{j} \neq 0} CN^{\frac{\alpha_{j}(\lambda - 1)}{3}} N^{-1} \right) k(x_{1}) d^{6}x_{1}.
$$

Recall that the number of α_{j} which are not equal to zero is $|\alpha|$ and that $\sum_{j=1}^{N} \alpha_{j} = M$. It

follows that ch a

$$
\mathbb{E}_t(G^{\alpha}) \le \int \left(C^{|\alpha| N^{\frac{M(\lambda-1)}{3}} N^{-|\alpha|}} \right) k(x_1) d^6 x_1
$$

= $C^k N^{\frac{M(\lambda-1)}{3}} N^{-|\alpha|}.$

² Springer

The number of multi-indices α with $|\alpha| = k$ can be calculated by simple combinatorics. Any such α can be uniquely identified by giving first the set $\alpha({1, 2, ..., M})$ and then any surjective map into this set.

The number of surjective maps is of course smaller than the number of all maps into this set. Thus the number of indices α with $|\alpha| = k$ can be estimated by

$$
\sum_{|\alpha|=k} 1 \leq {N \choose k} M^k \leq N^k M^M.
$$

$$
1) h * \tilde{k}_t^N(q_1) {M \choose t} \leq \sum \Lambda
$$

It follows that

$$
\sum_{|\alpha|=k} 1 \le {N \choose k} M^k \le N^k M^M.
$$

lows that

$$
\mathbb{E}_t \left(\left(H_1(X) - (N-1)h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_1) \right)^M \right) \le \sum_{k \le M/2} N^k M^M C^k M N^{-k+M\frac{\lambda-1}{3}}
$$

$$
\le C^M \frac{M}{2} M^{M+1} N^{M\frac{\lambda-1}{3}}.
$$
 (37)

Since λ < 1 we can find for any $\gamma > 0$ a *M* and a constant C_{γ} such that the right hand side is smaller than $C_{\gamma} N^{-\gamma}$. It follows that $\mathbb{P}_t(\mathcal{D}_1) \leq \mathbb{E}_t(H_1^M) \leq C_{\gamma} N^{-\gamma}$ and we get [\(27\)](#page-8-0) which proves the Lemma.

Corollary 2.1 *For any* $\gamma > 0$ *there exists a* $C_{\gamma} < \infty$ *such that*

(a) $\mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{B}) \leq C_{\nu} N^{-\gamma}$ (b) $\mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{C}) \leq C_{\gamma} N^{-\gamma}$

Proof First note that $\mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{B}) = \mathbb{P}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(\mathcal{B}))$ and $\mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{C}) = \mathbb{P}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(\mathcal{C}))$. The functions (*N* − $(1)^{-1}N^{\frac{3-2\lambda}{3}}f^N$ and $(N-1)^{-1}g$ satisfy the bound assumed for *h* in Lemma [2.3.](#page-8-2) Note that $X \in \Phi_{t,0}^N(\mathcal{B})$ implies that

$$
|F(X) - \overline{F}_t(X)|_{\infty} > N^{\frac{-3+2\lambda}{3}}
$$

respectively
$$
N^{\frac{3-2\lambda}{3}} |F(X) - \overline{F}_t(X)|_{\infty} > 1.
$$

Correspondingly, $X \in \Phi_{t,0}^N(C)$ implies that lies

$$
|G(X) - \overline{G}_t(X)|_{\infty} > 1.
$$

This is satisfied only if there exists a *j* such that

$$
|G(X) - \overline{G}_t(X)|_{\infty} > 1.
$$

atisfied only if there exists a *j* such that

$$
\left| G_j(X) - g * \widetilde{k}_t^N(g_j) \right| = \left| \sum_{i \neq j} (N-1)^{-1} g(q_j - q_i) - g * \widetilde{k}_t^N(q_j) \right| > 1.
$$

Choosing $h = (N - 1)^{-1}g$ this reads

$$
\begin{vmatrix}\n-1_g & \text{this reads} \\
\hline\n\frac{1_g}{i+j} & & & \\
-\frac{1_g}{i+j} & & & \\
\hline\n\end{vmatrix} = (N-1)h * \widetilde{k}_t^N(x) > 1.
$$

It follows that the sets $\Phi_{t,0}^N(B)$ and $\Phi_{t,0}^N(C)$ are subsets of the set *D* defined in Lemma [2.3.](#page-8-2) It follows that one can find for any $\gamma > 0$ a $C_{\gamma} < \infty$ such that

$$
\mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{B}) = \mathbb{P}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(\mathcal{B})) \le C_\gamma N^{-\gamma},
$$

$$
\mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{C}) = \mathbb{P}_t(\Phi_{t,0}^N(\mathcal{C})) \le C_\gamma N^{-\gamma}.
$$

 \Box

On Mean Field Limits for Dynamical Systems
 Lemma 2.4 $\left| V(\Psi_t^N(X)) - \overline{V}_t(\Phi_t^N(X)) \right|$ **o** $[V(\Psi_t^N(X)) - \overline{V}_t(\Phi_t^N(X))]_{\infty} \leq C J_t(X) N^{-1/3} + N^{-3+2\lambda}$ for all $X \in (\mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{B})^c$.
 $\text{For all } X \in (\mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{B} \cup \mathcal{C})^c$, $Y := \Psi_{t,0}^N(X)$ and $Z := \Phi_{t,0}^N(X)$.

The difference $|V(Y) - \overline{V}_t(Z)|_{\infty}$ comes from a differ *B* ∪ C ^{$>c$}.

Proof Let $X \in (A \cup B \cup C)^c$, $Y := \Psi_{t,0}^N(X)$ and $Z := \Phi_{t,0}^N(X)$.

 $V(Y) - V_t(Z)|_{\infty}$ comes from a difference in the respective forces and a difference in the respective momenta. The latter is bounded by $|Y - Z|_{\infty}$ and we get $=\Psi_{t,0}^{N}$
 $\Big|_{\infty}$ cor

nta. Th
 $\Big|_{\infty} \leq \Big|$ tive momenta. T

$$
\left|V(Y) - \overline{V}_t(Z)\right|_{\infty} \le \left|F(Y) - \overline{F}_t(Z)\right|_{\infty} + |Y - Z|_{\infty}
$$

quality

$$
\left|F(Y) - \overline{F}_t(Z)\right|_{\infty} \le |F(Y) - F(Z)|_{\infty}
$$

$$
+ \left|F(Z) - \overline{F}_t(Z)\right|_{\infty}.
$$

By triangle inequality

$$
\left| F(Y) - \overline{F}_t(Z) \right|_{\infty} \leq \left| F(Y) - F(Z) \right|_{\infty} \tag{38}
$$

$$
+\left|F(Z) - \overline{F}_t(Z)\right|_{\infty}.
$$
\n(39)

By triangle inequality
 $|F(Y) - \overline{F}_t(Z)|_{\infty} \le$

Since $X \notin \mathcal{B}$ it follows that $|F(Z) - \overline{F}_t(Z)|$ $\left.\frac{\overline{N}_t(Z)}{\sum_{i=1}^N} \right| \propto N^{-\frac{3+2\lambda}{3}}$ which controls [\(39\)](#page-12-0). With triangle inequality we get that for any $1 \le j \le N$ $\ddot{}$

$$
|E \text{ inequality we get that for any } 1 \le j \le N
$$
\n
$$
|(F(Y) - F(Z))_j|_{\infty} = \left| \sum_{k \ne j} f^N(y_j - y_k) - f^N(z_j - z_k) \right|_{\infty}
$$
\n
$$
\le \sum |f^N(y_j - y_k) - f^N(z_j - z_k) \right|_{\infty}.
$$
\n(41)

$$
\leq \sum_{k \neq j} \left| f^N(y_j - y_k) - f^N(z_j - z_k) \right|_{\infty}.
$$
 (41)

Since $X \notin \mathcal{A}$ it follows that $|Y - Z|_{\infty} < N^{-\frac{1}{3}}$. In particular $|y_j - z_j|_{\infty} < N^{-\frac{1}{3}}$ and $|y_k - z_k|_{\infty} < N^{-\frac{1}{3}}$. ¢ $\overline{}$

Thus Lemma [2.2](#page-6-1) implies

$$
\left| f^N(y_j - y_k) - f^N(z_j - z_k) \right|_{\infty} \le g(z_j - z_k)|y_j - y_k - z_j + z_k|_{\infty},
$$

quently

$$
|(F(Y) - F(Z))_j|_{\infty} \le \sum g(z_j - z_k)|y_j - y_k - z_j + z_k|_{\infty}
$$

and consequently

$$
|(F(Y) - F(Z))_j|_{\infty} \le \sum_{k \ne j} g(z_j - z_k)|y_j - y_k - z_j + z_k|_{\infty}
$$
(42)

$$
\le (G(Z))_j 2|Y - Z|_{\infty}.
$$
(43)
Since $X \notin \mathcal{C}$ it follows that $|(G(Z))_j| \le ||g * k_t^N||_{\infty} + 1 \le C$ and thus

$$
\leq (G(Z))_j 2|Y - Z|_\infty. \tag{43}
$$

$$
|(F(Y) - F(Z))_j|_{\infty} \le C|Y - Z|_{\infty}.
$$
\n(44)

Since this holds true for any $1 \leq j \leq N$ and furthermore $X \notin A$, we obtain

$$
|F(Y) - F(Z)|_{\infty} + |Y - Z|_{\infty} \le C J_t(X) N^{-1/3}
$$
\n(45)

and the Lemma follows.

With Corollary [2.1](#page-11-0) and Lemma [2.4](#page-11-1) we can control [\(25\)](#page-7-0) and [\(26\)](#page-7-0). It follows that there exists a $C > 0$ such that

$$
\mathbb{E}_0(J_{t+dt} - J_t) \le 2CN^{-1}dt + \mathbb{E}_0(C(J_t(X)N^{-1/3} + N^{\frac{-3+2\lambda}{3}}))N^{1/3}dt + o_N(dt)
$$

\n
$$
\le 2CN^{-1}dt + C\mathbb{E}_0(J_t(X))dt + N^{\frac{-2+2\lambda}{3}}dt + o_N(dt). \tag{46}
$$

Using Gronwall's Lemma and that $\frac{-2+2\lambda}{3}$ is negative we get Lemma [2.1.](#page-4-0)

 $\hat{\mathfrak{D}}$ Springer

3 Proof of Theorem [1.2](#page-3-1)

Let for any $N \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$

$$
x_t^N(q_0, p_0) := (q_t^N(q_0, p_0), p_t^N(q_0, p_0)) := \varphi_{0,t}^N(q_0, p_0)
$$

$$
\beta_t^N := \sup_{q_0, p_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3} |x_t^N(q_0, p_0) - x_t^\infty(q_0, p_0)|
$$

Note that by [\(10\)](#page-3-3) the Vlasov-force is bounded for all times. It follows that there exists a $C < \infty$ uniform in p_0 and q_0 such that

$$
p_t^{\infty} - p_0 < C \tag{47}
$$

$$
q_t^{\infty} - p_0 t < C. \tag{48}
$$

We shall now estimate β_t^N via Gronwall's Lemma:

$$
q_t^{\gamma} \ p_0 < C.
$$
\nWe shall now estimate β_t^N via Gronwall's Lemma:

\n
$$
\partial_t \beta_t \leq \sup_{q_0, p_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3} \left| \left(p_t^N(q_0, p_0) - p_t^\infty(q_0, p_0), \tilde{k}_t^N * f^N(q_t^N(q_0, p_0)) - \tilde{k}_t^\infty * f^\infty(q_t^\infty(q_0, p_0)) \right) \right|
$$
\n
$$
\leq \beta_t + \sup_{q_0, p_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3} \left| \tilde{k}_t^N * f^N(q_t^N(q_0, p_0)) - \tilde{k}_t^N * f^N(q_t^\infty(q_0, p_0)) \right|
$$
\n
$$
+ \sup_{q_0, p_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3} \left| \tilde{k}_t^N * f^N(q_t^\infty(q_0, p_0)) - \tilde{k}_t^N * f^\infty(q_t^\infty(q_0, p_0)) \right|
$$
\n
$$
+ \sup_{q_0, p_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3} \left| \tilde{k}_t^N * f^\infty(q_t^\infty(q_0, p_0)) - \tilde{k}_t^\infty * f^\infty(q_t^\infty(q_0, p_0)) \right|.
$$
\n
$$
\leq \beta_t + \|\tilde{k}_t^N * f^N\|_{L} \|q_t^N - q_t^\infty\|_{\infty}
$$
\n
$$
+ \|\tilde{k}_t^N * f^N - \tilde{k}_t^N * f^\infty\|_{\infty} + \|\tilde{k}_t^N * f^\infty - \tilde{k}_t^\infty * f^\infty\|_{\infty}
$$
\n
$$
\leq \beta_t + \|\tilde{k}_t^N\|_{\infty} \|\nabla f^N\|_{1} \beta_t + \|\tilde{k}_t^N\|_{\infty} \|f^N - f^\infty\|_{1} + \|\tilde{k}_t^N - \tilde{k}_t^\infty\|_{\infty} \|f^\infty\|_{1}.
$$
\net us assume that t is such that $\beta_t \leq 1$. Then

\n
$$
\left| \tilde{k}_t^N(q) - \tilde{k}_t^\infty(q) \right
$$

Let us assume that *t* is such that $\beta_t \leq 1$. Then

Let us assume that
$$
t
$$
 is such that $\beta_t \le 1$. Then
\n
$$
\left| \widetilde{k}_t^N(q) - \widetilde{k}_t^\infty(q) \right| \le \int \left| k_0(q_t^N, p_t^N) - k_0(q_t^\infty, p_t^\infty) \right| d^3 p_0
$$
\n
$$
\le \int \left(\sup_{h \in \mathbb{R}^3; |h| = 1} \nabla k_0(q_t^\infty, p_t^\infty + h) \right) |x_t^N - x_t^\infty| d^3 p_0.
$$
\nBy (47), (48), and the assumptions of the Theorem (i.e. $k_0(x) \le C_0(1 + |x|)^{-1}$ that $\int (\sup_{h \in \mathbb{R}^3; |h| = 1} \nabla k_0(q_t^\infty, p_t^\infty + h)) |x_t^N - x_t^\infty| d^3 p_0$ is bounded, and hence

By [\(47\)](#page-13-0), [\(48\)](#page-13-1), and the assumptions of the Theorem (i.e. $k_0(x) \le C_0(1+|x|)^{-7}$) we get

$$
||k_t^N - k_t^\infty||_\infty \le C\beta_t.
$$

Thus for times *t* with $\beta_t \leq 1$

$$
\partial_t \beta_t \leq C \beta_t + C \| f^N - f^\infty \|_1.
$$

Since $|| f^N - f^{\infty} ||_1 \leq N^{-1/3}$ we get with Gronwall's Lemma that for any $t \geq 0$ there exists a *C* such that for any $0 \le s \le t$

$$
\sup_{q_0, p_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3} |x_s^N(q_0, p_0) - x_s^\infty(q_0, p_0)| \leq C N^{-1/3},
$$

 \bigcirc Springer

which implies

$$
\left\| \Phi_{s,0}^N - \Phi_{s,0}^\infty \right\|_{\infty} < CN^{-1/3}.
$$
 (49)

Together with Theorem [1.1,](#page-3-0) this completes the proof.

4 Proof of Corollary [1.1](#page-4-1)

Proof We present the proof of the Corollary only under the conditions of Theorem [1.1.](#page-3-0) The proof under the conditions of Theorem [1.2](#page-3-1) is equivalent.

Let $M \subset \mathbb{R}^{6N}$ be given by

$$
X \in \mathcal{M} \Leftrightarrow \left| \Psi_{s,0}^N(X) - \Phi_{s,0}^N(X) \right|_{\infty} > N^{-1/3}
$$

From Theorem [1.1](#page-3-0) we get that

$$
\lim_{N \to \infty} \mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{M}) = 0.
$$
\n(50)

Note that

n Theorem 1.1 we get that
\n
$$
\lim_{N \to \infty} \mathbb{P}_0(\mathcal{M}) = 0.
$$
\nthat
\n
$$
d_L(K_t^{(1)}, k_t^N) = \sup_{g \in \mathcal{L}} \left| \int \left(K_t(X) - \prod_{j=1}^N k_t^N(x_j) \right) g(x_1) d^{6N} X \right|
$$
\n
$$
= \sup_{g \in \mathcal{L}} \left| \int \left(K_0(\Psi_{0,t}^N(X)) - \prod_{j=1}^N k_0(\varphi_{0,t}^N(x_j)) \right) g(x_1) d^{6N} X \right|
$$
\n
$$
\leq \sup_{g \in \mathcal{L}} \left| \int \left(K_0(\Phi_{0,t}^N(X)) - \prod_{j=1}^N k_0(\varphi_{0,t}^N(x_j)) \right) g(x_1) d^{6N} X \right|
$$
\n
$$
+ \sup_{g \in \mathcal{L}} \left| \int \left(K_0(\Phi_{0,t}^N(X)) - K_0(\Psi_{0,t}^N(X)) \right) g(x_1) d^{6N} X \right|.
$$
\nIt term is zero. The second summand equals

The first term is zero. The second summand equals $\ddot{}$

$$
\sup_{g\in\mathcal{L}}\left|\int\left(K_0\left(\Phi_{0,t}^N(X)\right)-K_0\left(\Psi_{0,t}^N(X)\right)\right)g(x_1)d^{6N}X\right|\tag{51}
$$

$$
= \sup_{g \in \mathcal{L}} \left| \int K_0(X) \left(g \left(\left(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X) \right)_1 \right) - g \left(\left(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X) \right)_1 \right) \right) d^{6N} X \right| \tag{52}
$$

$$
= \sup_{g \in \mathcal{L}} \left| \int_{\mathcal{M}} K_0(X) \left(g \left(\left(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X) \right)_1 \right) - g \left(\left(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X) \right)_1 \right) \right) d^{6N} X \right| \tag{53}
$$

$$
+\sup_{g\in\mathcal{L}}\left|\int_{\mathcal{M}^c}K_0(X)\left(g\left(\left(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X)\right)_1\right)-g\left(\left(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X)\right)_1\right)\right)d^{6N}X\right|.\tag{54}
$$

From [\(50\)](#page-14-0) and since $\|g\|_{\infty} = 1$ it follows that [\(53\)](#page-14-1) tends to zero as $N \to \infty$.

Using that $||g||_L = 1$ we obtain

$$
\sup_{X \in \mathcal{M}^c} \left\{ g \left(\left(\Phi_{t,0}^N(X) \right)_1 \right) - g \left(\left(\Psi_{t,0}^N(X) \right)_1 \right) \right\} \leq N^{-1/3}.
$$

Hence [\(54\)](#page-14-1) $\leq N^{-1/3}$ and $d_L(K_t^{(1)}, k_t^N)$ converges to zero as $N \to \infty$.

 $\hat{2}$ Springer

Acknowledgments We originally intended to publish this paper in a special issue dedicated to the 60th anniversary of Herbert Spohn. Unfortunately, substantial corrections delayed the completion of the manuscript. We wish to thank Herbert for his friendship and his support. Furthermore, very helpful discussions with Detlef Dürr and Dustin Lazarovici are gratefully acknowledged. Finally, we would like to thank the referees for carefully proofreading our paper. Their detailed comments helped us to substantially improve our manuscript.

References

- 1. Braun, W., Hepp, K.: The vlasov dynamics and its fluctuations in the 1/n limit of interacting classical particles. Commun. Math. Phys. **56**(2), 101–113 (1977)
- 2. Dobrushin, R.L.: Vlasov equations. Funct. Anal. Appl. **13**(2), 115–123 (1979)
- 3. Elskens, Y., Kiessling, M.-H., Ricci, V.: The vlasov limit for a system of particles which interact with a wave field. Commun. Math. Phys. **285**(2), 673–712 (2009)
- 4. Golse, F.: The mean-field limit for a regularized Vlasov-Maxwell dynamics. Commun.Math. Phys. **310**(3), 789–816 (2012)
- 5. Hauray, M., Jabin, P.-E.: N-particles approximation of the Vlasov equations with singular potential. Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal. **183**(3), 489–524 (2007)
- 6. Hauray, M., Jabin, P.-E. (2014). Particles approximations of Vlasov equations with singular forces: propagation of chaos. arXiv preprint [arXiv:1107.3821](http://arxiv.org/abs/1107.3821)
- 7. Kiessling, M.: The microscopic foundations of Vlasov theory for jellium-like Newtonian n-body systems. J. Stat. Phys. **155**(6), 1299–1328 (2014)
- 8. Lions, P.L., Perthame, B.: Propagation of moments and regularity for the 3-dimensional Vlasov-Poisson system. Invent **105**, 415–430 (1991)
- 9. Pfaffelmoser, K.: Global classical solutions of the Vlasov-Poisson system in three dimensions for general initial data. J. Differ. Equ. **95**(2), 281–303 (1992)
- 10. Schaeffer, J.: Global existence of smooth solutions to the Vlasov-Poisson system in three dimensions. Commun. Partial Differ. Equ. **16**, 1313–1335 (1991)
- 11. Spohn, H.: Large Scale Dynamics of Interacting Particles, vol. 174. Springer, New York (1991)