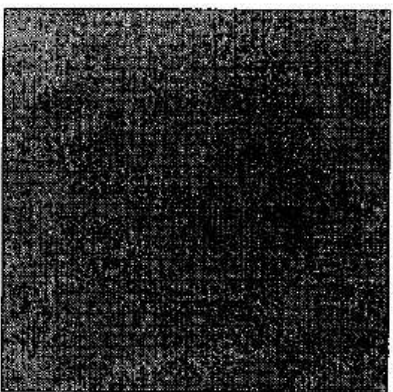


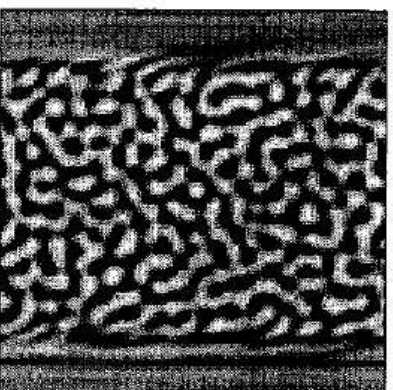
Long term behavior of binary fluid mixture flows in 2D

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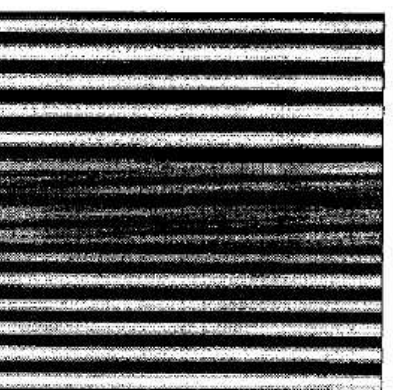
Cortona, Italy
September 22th, 2008



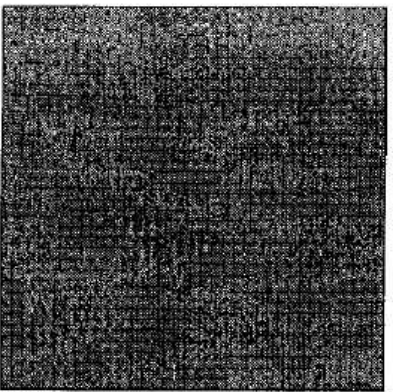
$t=0$



$t=5$



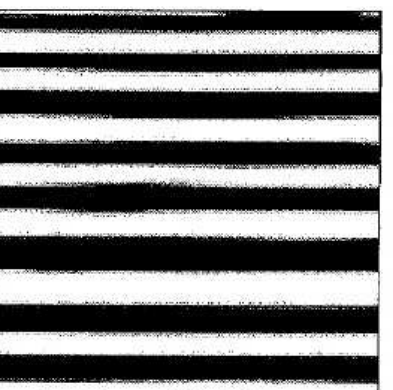
$t=30$



$t=0$



$t=10$



$t=100$

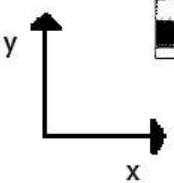


Figure: Spinodal Decomposition

- A model for the study of incompressible multi-phase flows: consider a mixture composed of two incompressible fluids (or phases) of mass densities $\rho_A(x)$ and $\rho_B(x)$.
- Define an order parameter function

$$\phi(x) = \frac{\rho_A(x) - \rho_B(x)}{\rho_A(x) + \rho_B(x)} \in [-1, +1],$$

such that

$$\phi(x) = -1 \text{ if and only if the fluid } A \text{ is present at point } x,$$

$$\phi(x) = +1 \text{ if and only if the fluid } B \text{ is present at point } x.$$

- Suppose that each fluid possesses its own velocity field \mathbf{v}_j ($j = A, B$). Define the mean velocity field by $\mathbf{u} = (\mathbf{u}_A + \mathbf{u}_B)/2$.

- The pair (\mathbf{u}, ϕ) satisfies the set of equations:

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} - \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \mathcal{K} \mu \nabla \phi + \mathbf{g}, \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, +\infty), \quad (1.1)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0, \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, +\infty), \quad (1.2)$$

and

$$\partial_t \phi + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \phi + A_K \mu = 0, \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, +\infty), \quad (1.3)$$

$$\mu = -\varepsilon \Delta \phi + \alpha f(\phi), \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, +\infty), \quad (1.4)$$

where Ω is a bounded domain in \mathbb{R}^N , $N = 2, 3$, with smooth boundary $\Gamma = \partial\Omega$ and \mathbf{g} is an external volumic force (gravity force, for example).

- **Two cases:**

If $K = AC$, then let $A_{AC} = I$

\Rightarrow (1.3) is a convective Allen-Cahn equation.

If $K = CH$, then let $A_{AC} = -\Delta$

\Rightarrow (1.3) is a convective Cahn-Hilliard equation.

- μ is the chemical potential of the theoretical uniform mixture of composition ϕ and is obtained as a variational derivative of the following free energy functional

$$\mathcal{F}(\phi) = \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2} |\nabla \phi|^2 + \alpha F(\phi) \right) dx, \quad (1.5)$$

where $F'(s) = f(s)$ and $\varepsilon, \alpha > 0$ are two physical parameters describing the interaction between the two phases.

- Two typical examples of a potential function F : either

$$F(s) = c_1 s^4 - c_2 s^2,$$

or

$$F(s) = c_1 ((1+s) \log(1+s) + (1-s) \log(1-s)) + c_2 (1-s^2), \quad c_1, c_2 > 0.$$

- **Focus** on the case $K = AC$. Take Dirichlet boundary conditions

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}, \quad \phi = 0, \quad \text{on } \Gamma \times (0, +\infty),$$

and initial conditions

$$\mathbf{u}|_{t=0} = \mathbf{u}_0, \quad \phi|_{t=0} = \phi_0 \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

- Set

$$\mathbb{H} = \{ \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{L}^2(\Omega, dx/\mathcal{K}) : \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \mathbf{u} = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma \},$$

$$\mathbb{V} = \{ \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{H}_0^1(\Omega) : \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega \}.$$

- We let

$$A_0 \mathbf{u} = -\Delta \mathbf{u}, \quad \forall \mathbf{u} \in D(A_0) = \mathbb{H}^2(\Omega) \cap \mathbb{V},$$

$$A_1 \phi = -\Delta \phi, \quad \forall \phi \in D(A_1) = H^2(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega).$$

- We formulate the class of problems we want to solve.

Problem P. Let $\dim \Omega = 2$. For $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{V}^*$ and any given pair of initial data

$$(\mathbf{u}_0, \phi_0) \in \mathbb{Y} := \mathbb{H} \times H_0^1(\Omega), \quad (1.7)$$

find $(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t)) \in C([0, +\infty); \mathbb{Y})$ with

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u}(t) \in L^{4/3}([0, +\infty); \mathbb{V}^*), \quad \partial_t \phi(t) \in L^2([0, +\infty); L^2(\Omega))$$

such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} + \nu A_0 \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} - \mathcal{K} \varepsilon A_1 \phi \nabla \phi = \mathbf{g} \text{ in } \mathbb{V}^*, \text{ a.e. in } (0, +\infty), \\ \mu = \varepsilon A_1 \phi + \alpha f(\phi), \text{ a.e. in } \Omega \times (0, +\infty) \\ \frac{d\phi}{dt} + \mu + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \phi = 0, \text{ a.e. in } \Omega \times (0, +\infty), \end{array} \right. \quad (1.8)$$

and fulfills the initial conditions. Here and below \mathbb{Y} is a Hilbert space endowed with the obvious norm given by

$$\|(\mathbf{u}, \phi)\|_{\mathbb{Y}} := \left(|\mathbf{u}|^2 + \varepsilon |\nabla \phi|_{L^2}^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

- Concerning the nonlinearity of our system, we suppose that $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$ satisfies

$$\begin{cases} \lim_{|s| \rightarrow \infty} \inf f'(s) > 0, \\ |f'(s)| \leq c_f (1 + |s|^m), \quad \forall s \in \mathbb{R}, m \geq 1. \end{cases} \quad (1.9)$$

Proposition 1. *Let $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$ satisfy (1.9). If $(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t))$ is a smooth solution of problem \mathbf{P} , then the following estimate holds:*

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t))\|_{\mathbb{Y}}^2 + \int_t^{t+1} \left(\nu \|\mathbf{u}(s)\|^2 + |\mu(s)|_{L^2}^2 + |F(\phi(s))|_{L^1} \right) ds \\ & + \int_t^{t+1} \left(\|\partial_t \mathbf{u}(s)\|_{\mathbb{V}^*}^{4/3} + |A_1 \phi(s)|_{L^2}^2 + |\partial_t \phi(s)|_{L^2}^2 \right) ds \\ & \leq Q \left(\|(\mathbf{u}(0), \phi(0))\|_{\mathbb{Y}}^2 \right) e^{-\rho t} + C(\nu, \varepsilon, \alpha, \mathcal{K}, \|\mathbf{g}\|_{\mathbb{V}^*}), \quad \forall t \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

where the monotone non-decreasing function Q and the positive constants ρ and C are independent of t and the initial conditions.

Uniqueness of weak solutions to \mathbf{P} follows from the following continuous dependence result.

Lemma 2. *Let $(\mathbf{u}_i(t), \phi_i(t))$ be the solution corresponding to the initial data $(\mathbf{u}_i(0), \phi_i(0)) \in \mathbb{Y}$, $i = 1, 2$. Then, for any $t \geq 0$, the following estimate holds*

$$\begin{aligned}
& |\mathbf{u}_1(t) - \mathbf{u}_2(t)|^2 + |\nabla(\phi_1(t) - \phi_2(t))|_{L^2}^2 \\
& + \int_0^t \left[\nu \|\mathbf{u}_1(s) - \mathbf{u}_2(s)\|^2 + \varepsilon |A_1(\phi_1(s) - \phi_2(s))|_{L^2}^2 \right] ds \\
& \leq C e^{Lt} \left(|\mathbf{u}_1(0) - \mathbf{u}_2(0)|^2 + |\nabla(\phi_1(0) - \phi_2(0))|_{L^2}^2 \right), \quad (1.10)
\end{aligned}$$

where C and L are positive constants depending only on the norms of the initial data in \mathbb{Y} , on Ω and on the parameters of the problem, but are both independent of time.

- the existence of a compact absorbing set.

Lemma 3. *Let the assumptions of Proposition 1 be satisfied. Then, there is a positive constant \mathcal{C} (independent of time and initial data, but which depends only on the physical parameters of the problem) such that, for any $R > 0$, there exists $t_1 = t_1(R) > 0$ such that*

$$\|(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t))\|_{\mathbb{V} \times D(A_1)} \leq \mathcal{C}, \quad \forall t \geq t_1, \quad (1.11)$$

for any $(\mathbf{u}_0, \phi_0) \in \mathcal{B} \subset \mathbb{Y}$.

- We can also prove the following.

Proposition 4. *If $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{H}$ and $f \in C^2(\mathbb{R})$ satisfies (1.9), then there exists a $D(A_0) \times D(A_1^{3/2})$ -bounded absorbing set, for the semigroup $\mathcal{S}(t)$. More precisely, there exist a time $t_2 \geq t_1$ and a positive constant \mathcal{C}' such that*

$$|A_0 \mathbf{u}(t)|^2 + \left| A_1^{3/2} \phi(t) \right|_{L^2}^2 \leq \mathcal{C}', \quad \forall t \geq t_2. \quad (1.12)$$

1 The attractors

- The global attractor.

Theorem 5. *Let the assumptions of Proposition 1 be satisfied. Then there exists a connected compact global attractor $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathbb{Y}$ for the semigroup $\mathcal{S}(t)$. Moreover, if $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{V}^*$ and $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$, the global attractor \mathcal{A} is bounded in $\mathbb{V} \times D(A_1)$, whereas \mathcal{A} is bounded in $D(A_0) \times D(A_1^{3/2})$ when $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{H}$ and $f \in C^2(\mathbb{R})$.*

Remark 1. *Suppose that $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{H}_d^{s-1}(\Omega)$, $\mathbb{H}_d^0(\Omega) := \mathbb{H}$ and $f \in C^{s+1}(\mathbb{R})$, $s \geq 0$, satisfies (1.9). Then, we can prove as in Proposition 4 that any functional invariant set for the semigroup $\mathcal{S}(t)$ is in fact bounded in $D(A_0^{(s+1)/2}) \times D(A_1^{(s+2)/2})$, provided that the boundary Γ of Ω is smooth enough.*

- The existence of finite dimensional exponential attractors.

Theorem 6. *Let $g \in \mathbb{H}$ and $f \in C^2(\mathbb{R})$ satisfy the assumptions of Theorem 5. Then, $\mathcal{S}(t)$ possesses an exponential attractor $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathbb{Y}$, namely,*

(i) \mathcal{M} is compact and semi-invariant with respect $\mathcal{S}(t)$, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{S}(t)(\mathcal{M}) \subset \mathcal{M}, \quad \forall t \geq 0. \quad (1.13)$$

(ii) The fractal dimension $\dim_F(\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{Y})$ of \mathcal{M} is finite.

(iii) \mathcal{M} attracts exponentially fast any bounded subset B of \mathbb{Y} , that is, there exist a positive nondecreasing function Q and a constant $\rho > 0$ such that

$$\text{dist}_{\mathbb{Y}}(\mathcal{S}(t)B, \mathcal{M}) \leq Q(\|B\|_{\mathbb{Y}})e^{-\rho t}, \quad \forall t \geq 0. \quad (1.14)$$

Here $\text{dist}_{\mathbb{Y}}$ denotes the non-symmetric Hausdorff distance between sets in \mathbb{Y} and $\|B\|_{\mathbb{Y}}$ stands for the size of B in \mathbb{Y} .

Remark 2. *Theorem 6 entails that \mathcal{A} has finite fractal dimension.*

- Physical bounds on the fractal dimension of the global attractor. We have the following.

Theorem 7. *We consider the dynamical system $(\mathcal{S}(t), \mathbb{Y})$ associated with problem (1.8), when $A_{AC} = I$. Let \bar{n} be the first integer such that*

$$\bar{n} - 1 < c \sqrt{\frac{a_1 + (a_2)^2 (1 + \log a_2)}{a_3}} \leq \bar{n},$$

where a_i , $i = 1, 2, 3$, are computed explicitly in terms of the physical parameters ε , ν , \mathcal{K} , $|\Omega|$ and c is a non-dimensional positive constant that depends only on Ω and m . Then, the corresponding global attractor \mathcal{A} defined by Theorem 5 has a Hausdorff dimension less than or equal to \bar{n} and a fractal dimension less than or equal to $2\bar{n}$.

2 Convergence to equilibria

Proposition 8. *Let the hypotheses of Theorem 5 hold. Assume that $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{0}$. The semigroup $\mathcal{S}(t)$ has a (strict) Lyapunov functional defined by the free energy, namely,*

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{u}_0, \phi_0) = \frac{1}{2} \left[\varepsilon |\nabla \phi_0|_{L^2}^2 + |\mathbf{u}_0|^2 \right] + \alpha \int_{\Omega} F(\phi_0) dx,$$

where F is the primitive of f . In particular, we have, for all $t > 0$,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t)) = -\nu \|\mathbf{u}(t)\|^2 - |\mu(t)|_{L^2}^2. \quad (1.15)$$

- The set of equilibria: the stationary problem corresponding to problem \mathbf{P} is

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{v} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \\ -\varepsilon \Delta \psi + \alpha f(\psi) = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \\ \psi = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma. \end{array} \right.$$

- The asymptotic behavior of single trajectories.

Theorem 9. *Let the assumptions of Proposition 1 hold. Suppose, in addition, that the nonlinearity F is real analytic. For any given initial datum $(\mathbf{u}_0, \phi_0) \in \mathbb{Y}$, the solution $(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t))$ to \mathbf{P} converges to a single equilibrium $(\mathbf{0}, \psi)$ in the topology of \mathbb{Y} , that is,*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} (|\mathbf{u}(t)| + |\phi(t) - \psi|_{H^1}) = 0. \quad (1.16)$$

Moreover, there exist $C \geq 0$ and $\xi \in (0, 1/2)$ depending on $(\mathbf{0}, \psi)$ such that

$$|\mathbf{u}(t)| + |\phi(t) - \psi|_{H^1} \leq C(1+t)^{-\xi/(1-2\xi)}, \quad (1.17)$$

for all $t \geq 0$.

3 Singular potentials

- Physicists have often proposed to consider functions like

$$f(s) = c_1 \log \frac{1+s}{1-s} - c_2 s, \quad c_1, c_2 > 0.$$

where we suppose that the order parameter ϕ is normalized in such a way that the two pure phases of the fluid are -1 and $+1$, respectively.

- General assumptions on the singular potential $f \in C^1(-1, 1)$:

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \pm 1} f(s) = \pm \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{s \rightarrow \pm 1} f'(s) = +\infty. \quad (1.18)$$

- Define the quantity

$$D[\phi] = \left[1 - |\phi|_{L^\infty(\bar{\Omega})} \right]^{-1}$$

and the following Banach space

$$\mathbb{X} := \left\{ (\mathbf{u}_0, \phi_0) \in \mathbb{H} \times (H_0^1(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)) : 0 < D[\phi_0] < +\infty \right\},$$

endowed with the metric topology of $\mathbb{Y} = \mathbb{H} \times H_0^1(\Omega)$.

We have

Theorem 10. *Suppose that f satisfies (1.18). Let $(\mathbf{u}_0, \phi_0) \in \mathbb{X}$ and $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{V}^*$. If $(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t))$ is a regular solution of problem \mathbf{P} , then the dissipative estimate holds. In addition, the order parameter $\phi(t)$ is strictly separated from the singular values ± 1 of the function f , that is, there exists a positive constant $\delta \in]0, 1[$ which depends only on $D[\phi_0]$ such that*

$$|\phi(t)|_{L^\infty(\bar{\Omega})} \leq \delta < 1, \text{ for all } t \geq 0. \quad (1.19)$$

Finally, associated with problem \mathbf{P} , we can define a semigroup $\bar{\mathcal{S}}(t)$, by the standard expression

$$\bar{\mathcal{S}}(t)(\mathbf{u}_0, \phi_0) = (\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t)), \bar{\mathcal{S}}(t) : \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{X},$$

where $(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t))$ is the unique solution to \mathbf{P} .

Theorem 11. *Let the assumptions of Theorem 10 be satisfied. Then there exists a connected compact global attractor $\bar{\mathcal{A}} \subset \mathbb{X}$ for the semigroup $\bar{\mathcal{S}}(t)$. Moreover, the global attractor $\bar{\mathcal{A}}$ is bounded in $\mathbb{V} \times D(A_1)$.*

- Convergence to single equilibria.

Theorem 12. *Let $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{0}$ and let f satisfy the assumptions of (1.18). Suppose, in addition, that the nonlinearity f is real analytic in $(-1, 1)$. For any given initial datum $(\mathbf{u}_0, \phi_0) \in \mathbb{X}$, the solution $(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t))$ to \mathbf{P} converges to a single equilibrium $(\mathbf{0}, \psi)$ in the topology of \mathbb{Y} , that is,*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} (|\mathbf{u}(t)| + |\phi(t) - \psi|_{H^1}) = 0. \quad (1.20)$$

4 Open questions

- The 3D treatment of our models.
- **Conjecture:** For every

$$(\mathbf{u}_0, \phi_0) \in \mathbb{Y} = \mathbb{H} \times H_0^1(\Omega), \quad \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{g}(x) \in \mathbb{V}^*,$$

the problem \mathbf{P} possesses at least one global weak energy solution

$$(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t)) \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}_+; \mathbb{Y}) \cap L_b^2(\mathbb{R}_+; \mathbb{V} \times (H^2(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega))) =: \mathcal{Z}_b,$$

which satisfies an energy inequality of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t E(t) + \kappa E(t) + c \left(\nu \|\mathbf{u}(t)\|_{\mathbb{V}}^2 + |\phi(t)|_{H^2}^2 + |\mu(t)|_{L^2}^2 \right) \\ + c (|f(\phi(t))|, 1 + |\phi(t)|)_{L^2} \leq c \left(1 + \|\mathbf{g}\|_{\mathbb{V}^*}^2 \right), \end{aligned}$$

for some positive constant c which depends only on the physical parameters of the problem, but is independent of initial data and time.

- Here, $0 < \kappa < \xi$ are two small constants and

$$E(t) := \|(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t))\|_{\mathbb{Y}}^2 + 2\alpha (F(\phi(t)), 1)_{L^2} + \xi |\phi(t)|_{L^2}^2 + c.$$

- This energy inequality implies that the following estimate holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \|(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t))\|_{\mathbb{Y}}^2 + \int_{\tau}^t e^{-\kappa(t-s)} \left(\nu \|\mathbf{u}(s)\|_{\mathbb{V}}^2 + |\phi(s)|_{H^2}^2 \right) ds & \quad (1.21) \\ & \leq \|(\mathbf{u}(\tau), \phi(\tau))\|_{\mathbb{Y}}^2 e^{-\kappa(t-\tau)} + c_* \left(1 + \|\mathbf{g}\|_{\mathbb{V}^*}^2 \right), \end{aligned}$$

for almost every $t \geq \tau \in \mathbb{R}_+$, where $c_* > 0$ depends only on Ω , ε , α , ν and \mathcal{K} .

- Define the trajectory phase-space, as

$$Tr(\mathcal{Z}_b) := \{(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t)) \in \mathcal{Z}_b : (\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t)) \text{ solves } \mathbf{P} \text{ and satisfies (1.21)}\}.$$

- Define a shift-semigroup $S_t : Tr(\mathcal{Z}_b) \rightarrow Tr(\mathcal{Z}_b)$, which acts continuously on $Tr(\mathcal{Z}_b)$, by

$$S_t(\mathbf{u}(s), \phi(s)) = (\mathbf{u}(t+s), \phi(t+s)), \quad t \geq 0, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

- The trajectory dynamical system $(S_t, Tr(\mathcal{Z}_b))$ is well-defined. The dissipative estimate (1.21) implies

$$\|S_t(\mathbf{u}, \phi)\|_{\mathcal{Z}_b}^2 \leq c \|(\mathbf{u}, \phi)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}_+; \mathbb{Y})}^2 e^{-kt} + c_* \left(1 + \|\mathbf{g}\|_{\mathbb{V}^*}^2\right), \quad (1.22)$$

for every $t \geq 0$ and $(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t)) \in \mathcal{Z}_b$.

- Defining the ball $B_R(\mathcal{Z}_b)$ as

$$B_R(\mathcal{Z}_b) := \{(\mathbf{u}(t), \phi(t)) \in \mathcal{Z}_b : \|(\mathbf{u}, \phi)\|_{\mathcal{Z}_b} \leq R\}. \quad (1.23)$$

- We have that $B_R(\mathcal{Z}_b)$ is a \mathcal{Z}_b -absorbing ball for the trajectory semigroup S_t on \mathcal{Z}_b .
- $B_R(\mathcal{Z}_b)$ is compact in

$$\mathcal{Z}_{loc} := L_{w^*,loc}^\infty(\mathbb{R}_+; \mathbb{Y}) \cap L_{w,loc}^2(\mathbb{R}_+; \mathbb{V} \cap (H^2(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega))),$$

where w and w^* denote the weak and weak* topologies, respectively.

- The trajectory dynamical system $(S_t, Tr(\mathcal{Z}_b))$ possesses a trajectory attractor \mathcal{A}_{tr} and

$$\mathcal{A}_{tr}|_{t=0} = \mathcal{A}^{m-v}.$$