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Journal of Differential Equations

www.elsevier.com/locate/jde



Existence of self-similar profile for a kinetic annihilation model

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 17 September 2012

Revised 8 January 2013

Available online 23 January 2013

Keywords:

Boltzmann equation

Ballistic annihilation

Self-similar solution

ABSTRACT

We show the existence of a self-similar solution for a modified Boltzmann equation describing probabilistic ballistic annihilation. Such a model describes a system of hard spheres such that, whenever two particles meet, they either annihilate with probability $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ or they undergo an elastic collision with probability $1 - \alpha$. For such a model, the number of particles, the linear momentum and the kinetic energy are not conserved. We show that, for α smaller than some explicit threshold value α_* , a self-similar solution exists.

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1. Introduction

In the physics literature, various kinetic models have been proposed in the recent years in order to test the relevance of non-equilibrium statistical mechanics for systems of *reacting particles*. Such models are very challenging in particular for the derivation of suitable hydrodynamic models because of the lack of collisional invariants. We investigate in the present paper a recent model, introduced in [7,9,10,16,24,28] to describe the so-called *probabilistic ballistic annihilation*. Such a model describes a system of (elastic) hard spheres that interact in the following way: particles moves freely (ballistically) between collisions while, whenever two particles meet, they either annihilate with probability $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ (and both the interacting particles disappear from the system), or they undergo an elastic collision with probability $1 - \alpha$. For such a model, not only the kinetic energy is not conserved during binary encounters, but also the number of particles and the linear momentum. Notice that, originally only pure annihilation has been considered [7,16] (corresponding to $\alpha = 1$). Later on, a more elaborate model has been built which allows to recover the classical Boltzmann equation for hard spheres in the limit $\alpha = 0$. Notice that such a Boltzmann equation for ballistic annihilation in the special (and unphysical) case of Maxwellian molecules has already been studied in the mid-80's [26,25] and was referred to as *Boltzmann equation with removal*.

The present paper is the first mathematical investigation of the physical model of probabilistic ballistic annihilation for the physical relevant hard-spheres interactions, with the noticeable exception of the results of [18] which prove the validity of the spatially homogeneous Boltzmann equation for pure annihilation (i.e. whenever $\alpha = 1$). We shall in particular prove the existence of special self-similar profile for the associated equation. Before entering into details of our results, let us introduce more precisely the model we aim to investigate.

1.1. The Boltzmann equation for ballistic annihilation

In a kinetic framework, the behavior of a system of hard spheres which annihilate with probability $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ or collide elastically with probability $1 - \alpha$ can be described (in a spatially homogeneous situation) by the so-called velocity distribution $f(t, v)$ which represents the probability density of particles with velocity $v \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ($d \geq 2$) at time $t \geq 0$. The time-evolution of the one-particle distribution function $f(t, v)$, $v \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $t > 0$ satisfies the following

$$\partial_t f(t, v) = (1 - \alpha)Q(f, f)(t, v) - \alpha Q_-(f, f)(t, v) = \mathbb{B}(f, f)(t, v) \tag{1.1}$$

where Q is the quadratic Boltzmann collision operator defined by the bilinear symmetrized form

$$Q(g, f)(v) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{S}^{d-1}} B(v - v_*, \sigma)(g'_* f' + g' f'_* - g_* f - g f'_*) dv_* d\sigma,$$

where we have used the shorthands $f = f(v)$, $f' = f(v')$, $g_* = g(v_*)$ and $g'_* = g(v'_*)$ with post-collisional velocities v' and v'_* parametrized by

$$v' = \frac{v + v_*}{2} + \frac{|v - v_*|}{2}\sigma, \quad v'_* = \frac{v + v_*}{2} - \frac{|v - v_*|}{2}\sigma, \quad \sigma \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$$

and the collision kernel is given by

$$\mathcal{B}(v - v_*, \sigma) = \Phi(|v - v_*|)b(\cos \theta)$$

where $\cos \theta = \langle \frac{v - v_*}{|v - v_*|}, \sigma \rangle$. Typically, for the model we have in mind, we shall deal with

$$\Phi(|v - v_*|) = |v - v_*|$$

and constant $b(\cdot)$ corresponding to hard-spheres interactions which is the model usually considered in the physics literature [15,19,28]. We shall also consider more general kernel, typically, we shall assume that

$$\Phi(|v - v_*|) = |v - v_*|^\gamma, \quad \gamma \in (0, 1] \tag{1.2}$$

and

$$\|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} := |\mathbb{S}^{d-2}| \int_{-1}^1 b(t)(1-t)^{(d-3)/2} dt < \infty$$

where $|\mathbb{S}^{d-2}|$ is the area of $(d-2)$ -dimensional unit sphere. Without loss of generality, we will assume in all the paper that

$$\|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} = 1.$$

Notice that, for constant angular cross-section, this amounts to choose $b(\cdot) = 1/|\mathbb{S}^{d-1}|$. A very special model is the one of so-called Maxwellian molecules which corresponds to $\gamma = 0$. The model of Maxwellian molecules has been studied mathematically in [25,26] and we will discuss this very special case in Appendix B.

The above collision operator $\mathcal{Q}(f, f)$ splits as $\mathcal{Q}(f, f) = \mathcal{Q}_+(f, f) - \mathcal{Q}_-(f, f)$ where the gain part \mathcal{Q}_+ is given by

$$\mathcal{Q}_+(f, f)(v) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \mathcal{B}(v - v_*, \sigma) f'_* f' dv_* d\sigma$$

while the loss part \mathcal{Q}_- is defined as

$$\mathcal{Q}_-(f, f)(v) = f(v)L(f)(v), \quad \text{with } L(f)(v) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \mathcal{B}(v - v_*, \sigma) f_* dv_* d\sigma.$$

One has

$$\mathbb{B}(f, f) := (1 - \alpha)\mathcal{Q}(f, f) - \alpha\mathcal{Q}_-(f, f) = (1 - \alpha)\mathcal{Q}_+(f, f) - \mathcal{Q}_-(f, f).$$

Formally, if $f(t, v)$ denotes a nonnegative solution to (1.1) then, no macroscopic quantities are conserved. For instance, the number density

$$n(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(t, v) \, dv$$

and the kinetic energy

$$E(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v|^2 f(t, v) \, dv$$

are continuously decreasing since, multiplying (1.1) by 1 or $|v|^2$ and integrating with respect to v , one formally obtains

$$\frac{d}{dt} n(t) = -\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-(f, f)(t, v) \, dv \leq 0$$

while

$$\frac{d}{dt} E(t) = -\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v|^2 \mathcal{Q}_-(f, f)(t, v) \, dv \leq 0.$$

It is clear therefore that (1.1) does not admit any nontrivial steady solution and, still formally, $f(t, v) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

1.2. Scaling solutions

Physicists expect that solutions to (1.1) should approach for large times a self-similar solution f_H to (1.1) of the form

$$f_H(t, v) = \lambda(t) \psi_H(\beta(t)v) \tag{1.3}$$

for some suitable scaled functions $\lambda(t), \beta(t) \geq 0$ with $\lambda(0) = \beta(0) = 1$ and some nonnegative function $\psi_H = \psi_H(\xi)$ such that

$$\psi_H \not\equiv 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_H(\xi) (1 + |\xi|^2) \, d\xi < \infty. \tag{1.4}$$

The first step in the proof of the above statement is actually the existence of the profile ψ_H and *this is the aim of the present paper*.

Using the scaling properties of the Boltzmann collision operators \mathcal{Q}_\pm , one checks easily that

$$\mathbb{B}(f_H, f_H)(t, v) = \lambda^2(t) \beta^{-(d+\gamma)}(t) \mathbb{B}(\psi_H, \psi_H)(\beta(t)v) \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Then, $f_H(t, v)$ is a solution to (1.1) if and only if $\psi_H(\xi)$ is a solution to the rescaled problem

$$\frac{\dot{\lambda}(t) \beta^{d+\gamma}(t)}{\lambda^2(t)} \psi_H(\xi) + \frac{\dot{\beta}(t) \beta^{d+\gamma-1}(t)}{\lambda(t)} \xi \cdot \nabla_\xi \psi_H(\xi) = \mathbb{B}(\psi_H, \psi_H)(\xi)$$

where the dot symbol stands for the time derivative. Since ψ_H does not depend on time t , there exist some constants \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} such that

$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{\dot{\lambda}(t)\beta^{d+\gamma}(t)}{\lambda^2(t)}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \frac{\dot{\beta}(t)\beta^{d+\gamma-1}(t)}{\lambda(t)}. \tag{1.5}$$

Thereby, ψ_H is a solution to

$$\mathbf{A}\psi_H(\xi) + \mathbf{B}\xi \cdot \nabla_{\xi} \psi_H(\xi) = \mathbb{B}(\psi_H, \psi_H)(\xi). \tag{1.6}$$

Actually, one sees easily that the coefficients \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} depend on the profile ψ_H . Indeed, integrating first (1.6) with respect to ξ and then multiplying (1.6) by $|\xi|^2$ and integrating again with respect to ξ one sees that (1.4) implies that

$$\mathbf{A} = -\frac{\alpha}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\frac{d+2}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_H(\xi_*) \, d\xi_*} - \frac{d|\xi|^2}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_H(\xi_*)|\xi_*|^2 \, d\xi_*} \right) \mathcal{Q}_-(\psi_H, \psi_H)(\xi) \, d\xi$$

and

$$\mathbf{B} = -\frac{\alpha}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_H(\xi_*) \, d\xi_*} - \frac{|\xi|^2}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_H(\xi_*)|\xi_*|^2 \, d\xi_*} \right) \mathcal{Q}_-(\psi_H, \psi_H)(\xi) \, d\xi.$$

Let us note that \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} have no sign. However,

$$0 < d\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} = \frac{\alpha}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_H(\xi_*) \, d\xi_*} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-(\psi_H, \psi_H)(\xi) \, d\xi,$$

and

$$0 < (d+2)\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} = \frac{\alpha}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_H(\xi_*)|\xi_*|^2 \, d\xi_*} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi|^2 \mathcal{Q}_-(\psi_H, \psi_H)(\xi) \, d\xi.$$

Solving (1.5), one obtains the expressions of β and λ . More precisely, since $\lambda(0) = \beta(0) = 1$,

$$\begin{cases} \beta(t) = \left(1 + ((d+\gamma)\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})t\right)^{\frac{\mathbf{B}}{(d+\gamma)\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}}}, \\ \lambda(t) = \left(1 + ((d+\gamma)\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})t\right)^{\frac{\mathbf{A}}{(d+\gamma)\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}}}, \quad t \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

where we notice that $(d+\gamma)\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} > 0$.

We now observe that, with no loss of generality, one may assume that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_H(\xi) \, d\xi = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_H(\xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi = \frac{d}{2}. \tag{1.7}$$

Indeed, if ψ_H denotes a solution to (1.6) satisfying (1.7) then, for any $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2) \in (0, \infty)^2$, the function $\psi_{H,\beta}$ defined by

$$\psi_{H,\beta}(\xi) = \beta_1 \left(\frac{d\beta_1}{2\beta_2} \right)^{\frac{d}{2}} \psi_H \left(\sqrt{\frac{d\beta_1}{2\beta_2}} \xi \right)$$

is a solution to (1.6) with mass β_1 and energy β_2 . Assuming (1.7) and introducing

$$n_H(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_H(t, v) \, dv, \quad E_H(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v|^2 f_H(t, v) \, dv,$$

one obtains

$$\begin{cases} n_H(t) = \left(1 + ((d + \gamma)\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})t \right)^{-\frac{d\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{A}}{(d+\gamma)\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{A}}}, \\ E_H(t) = \frac{d}{2} \left(1 + ((d + \gamma)\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})t \right)^{-\frac{(d+2)\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{A}}{(d+\gamma)\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{A}}}, \quad t \geq 0. \end{cases} \tag{1.8}$$

The main objective of the present work is to prove the existence of a self-similar profile ψ_H satisfying (1.6), (1.7). Notice that the existence of such a self-similar profile was taken for granted in several works in the physics community [15,19,28] but no rigorous justification was available up to now. Our work aims to fill this blank, giving in turn the first rigorous mathematical ground justifying the analysis performed in [15,19,28].

1.3. Notations

Let us introduce the notations we shall use in the sequel. Throughout the paper we shall use the notation $\langle \cdot \rangle = \sqrt{1 + |\cdot|^2}$. We denote, for any $\eta \in \mathbb{R}$, the Banach space

$$L^1_\eta(\mathbb{R}^d) = \left\{ f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ measurable; } \|f\|_{L^1_\eta} := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f(v)| \langle v \rangle^\eta \, dv < +\infty \right\}.$$

More generally we define the weighted Lebesgue space $L^p_\eta(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ($p \in [1, +\infty)$, $\eta \in \mathbb{R}$) by the norm

$$\|f\|_{L^p_\eta} = \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f(v)|^p \langle v \rangle^{p\eta} \, dv \right]^{1/p}, \quad 1 \leq p < \infty$$

while $\|f\|_{L^\infty_\eta} = \text{ess-sup}_{v \in \mathbb{R}^d} |f(v)| \langle v \rangle^\eta$ for $p = \infty$.

1.4. Strategy and main results

To prove the existence of a steady state ψ_H , solution to (1.6), we shall use a dynamical approach as in [4,5,12,13,20]. It then amounts to finding a steady state to the *annihilation equation*

$$\partial_t \psi(t, \xi) + \mathbf{A}_\psi(t) \psi(t, \xi) + \mathbf{B}_\psi(t) \xi \cdot \nabla_\xi \psi(t, \xi) = \mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) \tag{1.9}$$

supplemented with some nonnegative initial condition

$$\psi(0, \xi) = \psi_0(\xi), \tag{1.10}$$

where ψ_0 satisfies

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) \, d\xi = 1, \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi = \frac{d}{2}, \tag{1.11}$$

while

$$\mathbf{A}_\psi(t) = -\frac{\alpha}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (d + 2 - 2|\xi|^2) \mathcal{Q}_-(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) \, d\xi,$$

and

$$\mathbf{B}_\psi(t) = -\frac{\alpha}{2d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (d - 2|\xi|^2) \mathcal{Q}_-(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) \, d\xi.$$

Notice that (1.9) has to be seen only as a somewhat artificial generalization of (1.6): we do not claim that (1.9) can be derived from (1.1) nor that a solution ψ to (1.9) is associated to a self-similar solution to (1.1). Again, the introduction of the new equation (1.9) is motivated only by the fact that any steady state of (1.9) is a solution to (1.6).

We now describe the content of this paper. As explained above, the existence of the profile ψ_H is obtained by finding a steady state to the annihilation equation (1.9). As in previous works [4,5,12,13,20], the proof relies on the application of a suitable version of Tykhonov fixed point theorem (we refer to [4, Appendix A] for a complete proof of it):

Theorem 1.1 (Dynamic proof of stationary states). *Let \mathcal{Y} be a Banach space and $(S_t)_{t \geq 0}$ be a continuous semi-group on \mathcal{Y} such that*

- (i) *there exists \mathcal{Z} a nonempty convex and weakly (sequentially) compact subset of \mathcal{Y} which is invariant under the action of S_t (that is $S_t z \in \mathcal{Z}$ for any $z \in \mathcal{Z}$ and $t \geq 0$);*
- (ii) *S_t is weakly (sequentially) continuous on \mathcal{Z} for any $t > 0$.*

Then there exists $z_0 \in \mathcal{Z}$ which is stationary under the action of S_t (that is $S_t z_0 = z_0$ for any $t \geq 0$).

In a more explicit way, our strategy is therefore to identify a Banach space \mathcal{Y} and a convex subset $\mathcal{Z} \subset \mathcal{Y}$ such that

- (1) for any $\psi_0 \in \mathcal{Y}$ there is a global solution $\psi \in \mathcal{C}([0, \infty), \mathcal{Y})$ to (1.9) that satisfies (1.10);
- (2) the solution ψ is unique in \mathcal{Y} and if $\psi_0 \in \mathcal{Z}$ then $\psi(t) \in \mathcal{Z}$ for any $t > 0$;
- (3) the set \mathcal{Z} is (weakly sequentially) compactly embedded into \mathcal{Y} ;
- (4) solutions to (1.9) have to be (weakly sequentially) stable, i.e. for any sequence $(\psi_n)_n \in \mathcal{C}([0, \infty), \mathcal{Y})$ of solutions to (1.9) with $\psi_n(t) \in \mathcal{Z}$ for any $t > 0$, then, there is a subsequence $(\psi_{n_k})_k$ which converges weakly to some $\psi \in \mathcal{C}([0, \infty), \mathcal{Y})$ such that ψ is a solution to (1.9).

According to the above program, a crucial step in the above strategy is therefore to investigate the well-posedness of the Cauchy problem (1.9)–(1.10) and next section is devoted to this point. The notion of solutions we consider here is as follows.

Definition 1.2. Given a nonnegative initial datum ψ_0 satisfying (1.11) and given $T > 0$, a nonnegative function $\psi : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be a solution to the annihilation equation (1.9) if

$$\psi \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^1(0, T; L^{1+\gamma}_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d))$$

and satisfies (1.9) in the weak form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) \varrho(\xi) \, d\xi + \int_0^t ds [\mathbf{A}_\psi(s) - d\mathbf{B}_\psi(s)] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varrho(\xi) \psi(s, \xi) \, d\xi \\
 &= \int_0^t ds \mathbf{B}_\psi(s) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(s, \xi) \xi \cdot \nabla_\xi \varrho(\xi) \, d\xi + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varrho(\xi) \psi_0(\xi) \, d\xi \\
 & \quad + \int_0^t ds \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)(s, \xi) \varrho(\xi) \, d\xi \tag{1.12}
 \end{aligned}$$

for any $\varrho \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Notice that the assumption $\psi \in L^1(0, T; L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ is needed in order to both the quantities $\mathbf{A}_\psi(t)$ and $\mathbf{B}_\psi(t)$ to be well defined.

Let us point out the similarities and the differences between (1.9) and the well-known Boltzmann equation. First, it follows from the definition of the coefficients \mathbf{A}_ψ and \mathbf{B}_ψ that the mass and the energy of solutions to (1.9) are conserved. However, there is no reason for the momentum to be preserved. Even if we assume that the initial datum has vanishing momentum we are unable to prove that this propagates. It is also not clear whether there exists an entropy for (1.9). Let us note on the other hand that since the coefficients \mathbf{A}_ψ and \mathbf{B}_ψ involve moments of order $2 + \gamma$ of ψ , a crucial step will be to prove, via suitable a priori estimates, that high-order moments of solutions are uniformly bounded, ensuring a good control of both \mathbf{A}_ψ and \mathbf{B}_ψ . At different stages of this paper, this lack of a priori estimates and this necessary control of \mathbf{A}_ψ and \mathbf{B}_ψ complicate the analysis with respect to the Boltzmann equation. It also leads us to formulate some assumptions, some of which we hope to be able to get rid of in a future work. Let us now describe precisely what are the practical consequences of the aforementioned differences. Since we are interested in the physically relevant model of hard-spheres interactions, the cross section involved in the collision operator is unbounded. Consequently, the existence of a solution to (1.9) is obtained by applying a fixed point argument to a truncated equation and then passing to the limit. Such an approach is reminiscent from the well-posedness theory of the Boltzmann equation [22] and relies on suitable a priori estimates and stability result. In particular, such a stability result allows to prove in a unique step the above points (1) and (4) of the above program. We thereby prove the following theorem in Section 2.

Theorem 1.3. *Let $\delta > 0$ and $p > 1$. Let $\psi_0 \in L^1_{2+\delta}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be a nonnegative distribution function satisfying (1.11). Then, there exists a unique nonnegative solution $\psi \in C([0, \infty); L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^1_{loc}((0, \infty); L^1_{2+\gamma+\delta}(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^\infty_{loc}((0, \infty); L^1_{2+\delta}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ to (1.9) such that $\psi(0, \cdot) = \psi_0$ and*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) \, d\xi = 1, \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi = \frac{d}{2} \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

Notice that, with respect to classical existence results on Boltzmann equation (see e.g. [22]), we need here to impose an additional L^p -integrability condition on the initial datum ψ_0 . Such an assumption is needed in order to control the nonlinear drift term in (1.9) and especially to get bounds on the moments of order $2 + \gamma$ arising in the definition of $\mathbf{A}_\psi(t)$ and $\mathbf{B}_\psi(t)$, these bounds need to be uniform with respect to the truncation.

The previous result allows to identify the space $\mathcal{Y} = L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ in the above Theorem 1.1 and gives the existence of a semi-group for (1.9) and the next step is to finding a subset \mathcal{Z} which is left invariant under the action of this semi-group. Since \mathcal{Y} is an L^1 -space and \mathcal{Z} has to be a weakly compact

subset of \mathcal{Y} , it is natural in view of Dunford–Pettis criterion to look for a subspace involving *higher-order moments* of the solution $\psi(t)$ together with additional *integrability conditions*. We are therefore first lead to prove uniform in time moment estimates for the solution $\psi(t)$. More precisely, the main result of Section 3 is the following

Theorem 1.4. *Let $p > 1$. Let $\psi_0 \in L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be a nonnegative distribution function satisfying (1.11). Let then $\psi \in \mathcal{C}([0, \infty); L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^1_{loc}((0, \infty); L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ be the nonnegative solution to (1.9)–(1.10) constructed by Theorem 1.3. Then, there exists $\alpha_0 \in (0, 1]$ such that for $0 < \alpha < \alpha_0$, the solution ψ satisfies*

$$\sup_{t \geq 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2+\gamma} d\xi \leq \max \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^{2+\gamma} d\xi, \bar{M} \right\},$$

for some explicit constant \bar{M} depending only on $\alpha, \gamma, b(\cdot)$ and d .

Remark 1.5. The parameter α_0 appearing in the above theorem is fully explicit. In the particular case of true hard spheres in dimension $d = 3$, i.e. for constant collision kernel $b(\cdot) = 1/4\pi$ and $\gamma = 1$, one has $\alpha_0 = \frac{2}{7}$. We refer to Proposition 3.4 and Remark 3.5 for more details.

The proof of the above result relies on a careful study of the moment system associated to the solution $\psi(t)$ to (1.9)–(1.10). Since we are dealing with hard-spheres interactions, such a system is not closed but a sharp version of *Povzner-type inequalities* allows to control higher-order moments in terms of lower-order ones. Let us observe that the initial condition ψ_0 belongs here to $L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d)$, that is we take $\delta = \gamma$ in Theorem 1.3. Indeed, since coefficients \mathbf{A}_ψ and \mathbf{B}_ψ involve moments of order $2 + \gamma$, this is the minimal assumption to ensure a uniform in time propagation of moments. The restriction on the parameter $\alpha \in (0, \alpha_0)$ arises naturally in the proof of the uniform in time bound of the moment of order $2 + \gamma$ (see Proposition 3.4).

At the end of Section 3 we establish a lower bound for $L(\psi)$ where L denotes the operator in the definition of \mathcal{Q}_- , namely

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_*) |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_* \geq \mu_\alpha \langle \xi \rangle^\gamma \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d, t \geq 0, \tag{1.13}$$

for some positive constant $\mu_\alpha > 0$ depending on $\gamma, d, \alpha, b(\cdot)$ and on $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^\gamma d\xi$. Note that this bound will be essential in Section 4 and that we need here to assume that ψ_0 is an *isotropic* function. Isotropy is indeed propagated by (1.9). For the Boltzmann equation, this assumption is useless since such a bound may be obtained thanks to the entropy for elastic collisions (see [23, Proposition 2.3]) or thanks to the Jensen inequality and vanishing momentum for inelastic collisions and $\gamma = 1$ (see [21, Eq. (2.7)]). This naturally leads us to Section 4 where we deal with propagation of higher-order Lebesgue norms and where we obtain the following:

Theorem 1.6. *Let $\psi_0 \in L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be a nonnegative distribution function satisfying (1.11). We assume furthermore that ψ_0 is an isotropic function, that is*

$$\psi_0(\xi) = \bar{\psi}_0(|\xi|) \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{1.14}$$

Then, there is some explicit $\bar{\alpha} \in (0, 1]$ such that, for $0 < \alpha < \bar{\alpha}$ there exists some explicit $p_\alpha^* \in (1, \infty]$ such that, for any $p \in (1, p_\alpha^*)$,

$$\psi_0 \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^d) \implies \sup_{t \geq 0} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p} \leq \max\{\|\psi_0\|_{L^p}, C_p(\psi_0)\}$$

for some explicit constant $C_p(\psi_0) > 0$ depending only on $\alpha, \gamma, b(\cdot), p$, the dimension d and $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi)|\xi|^\gamma d\xi$. Here above, $\psi \in C([0, \infty); L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^1_{loc}((0, \infty); L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ is the nonnegative solution to (1.9)–(1.10) constructed by Theorem 1.3.

Remark 1.7. Just as in Theorem 1.4, the parameter $\bar{\alpha}$ is explicit: for true hard spheres in dimension $d = 3$ one has $\bar{\alpha} = \frac{1}{4}$. In this case, the parameter $p^*_\alpha = \frac{3\alpha}{5\alpha-1}$ if $1/5 < \alpha < \bar{\alpha}$ while $p^*_\alpha = \infty$ if $\alpha \leq 1/5$. See Remarks 3.11, 4.1 and 4.2 for details.

The proof of the above result comes from a careful study of the equation for higher-order Lebesgue norms of the solution $\psi(t)$ combined with the above bound (1.13) where we only consider isotropic initial datum. Here again, one notices a restriction on the parameter $\alpha \in (0, \bar{\alpha})$ for the conclusion to hold. The fact that the constant $C_p(\psi_0)$ depends on the initial datum ψ_0 through (the inverse of) its moment $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi)|\xi|^\gamma d\xi$ is no major restriction since we will be able to prove the propagation of lower bound for such a moment along the solution to (1.9) (see Sections 3 and 4 for details).

Combining the three above results with Theorem 1.1 we obtain our main result, proven in Section 5:

Theorem 1.8. Assume $\gamma \in (0, 1]$ and set $\underline{\alpha} = \min(\alpha_0, \bar{\alpha})$. For any $\alpha \in (0, \underline{\alpha})$ and any $p \in (1, p^*_\alpha)$ there exists a radially symmetric nonnegative $\psi_H \in L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ satisfying (1.6) and (1.7).

The proof of the above result is rather straightforward in view of the previously obtained results.

Open problems and perspectives are addressed in Section 6. As previously mentioned, one of them consists in showing that solutions to (1.1) approach for large times a self-similar solution f_H to (1.1) of the form (1.3). The first step was the existence of the profile ψ_H , which has been obtained in Section 5. Besides one is also interested in the well-posedness of (1.1) and, following the same arguments as in the proof of Theorem 1.3 the existence of a solution to (1.1) may be easily obtained. More precisely, we have

Theorem 1.9. Let $f_0 \in L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be a nonnegative distribution function. Then, there exists a unique nonnegative solution $f \in C([0, \infty); L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^1_{loc}((0, \infty); L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ to (1.1) such that $f(0, \cdot) = f_0$ and

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(t, v) dv \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0(v) dv, \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(t, v)|v|^2 dv \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0(v)|v|^2 dv \quad \forall t \geq 0. \tag{1.15}$$

We give the main lines for the proof of this theorem in Appendix A. Finally, the particular case of Maxwellian molecules is discussed in Appendix B.

2. On the Cauchy problem

This section is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.3. To this aim, we first consider a truncated equation.

2.1. Truncated equation

In this section, we only assume that $\psi_0 \in W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^1_{2+\delta}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is a fixed nonnegative distribution function that does not necessarily satisfy the above (1.11) and we truncate the collision kernel \mathcal{B} . Thereby, for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we consider here the well-posedness of the following equation

$$\partial_t \psi(t, \xi) + \mathbf{A}^n_{\psi}(t) \psi(t, \xi) + \mathbf{B}^n_{\psi}(t) \xi \cdot \nabla \psi(t, \xi) = \mathbb{B}^n(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi), \tag{2.1}$$

where the collision operator $\mathbb{B}^n(\psi, \psi)$ is given by

$$\mathbb{B}^n(\psi, \psi) = (1 - \alpha)\mathcal{Q}_+^n(\psi, \psi) - \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi, \psi), \tag{2.2}$$

where the collision operator \mathcal{Q}^n is defined as above with a collision kernel \mathcal{B}_n given by

$$\mathcal{B}_n(\xi - \xi_*, \sigma) = \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|)b_n(\cos\theta)$$

with

$$\Phi_n(r) = (\min\{r, n\})^\gamma, \quad \gamma \in (0, 1]$$

and $b_n(x) = \mathbf{1}_{\{|x| \leq 1-1/n\}}b(x)$. Finally,

$$\mathbf{A}_\psi^n(t) := -\frac{\alpha}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\frac{d+2}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(0, \xi_*) d\xi_*} - \frac{d|\xi|^2}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(0, \xi_*) |\xi_*|^2 d\xi_*} \right) \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) d\xi$$

and

$$\mathbf{B}_\psi^n(t) := -\frac{\alpha}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(0, \xi_*) d\xi_*} - \frac{|\xi|^2}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(0, \xi_*) |\xi_*|^2 d\xi_*} \right) \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) d\xi.$$

We notice here that the definitions of $\mathbf{A}_\psi^n(t)$ and $\mathbf{B}_\psi^n(t)$ match the definitions of $\mathbf{A}_\psi(t)$ and $\mathbf{B}_\psi(t)$ given in the introduction with \mathcal{Q}_-^n replacing \mathcal{Q}_- when ψ_0 is assumed to satisfy (1.11). The main result of this section is the following well-posedness theorem:

Theorem 2.1. *Let $\delta > 0$. Let $\psi_0 \in W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^1_{2+\delta}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be a nonnegative distribution function. Then, for any $n \geq 1$, there exists a nonnegative solution $\psi \in \mathcal{C}([0, \infty); L^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ to the truncated problem (2.1) such that $\psi(0, \cdot) = \psi_0$ and*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) d\xi, \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

The proof of this well-posedness result follows classical paths already employed for the classical space homogeneous Boltzmann equation but is made much more technical because of the contribution of some nonlinear drift-term. Let $T > 0$ and

$$h \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^\infty((0, T); L^1(\mathbb{R}^d, |\xi|^{2+\delta} d\xi))$$

be fixed. We consider the auxiliary equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \psi(t, \xi) + \mathbf{A}_h^n(t)\psi(t, \xi) + \mathbf{B}_h^n(t)\xi \cdot \nabla_\xi \psi(t, \xi) + L_n(h)(t, \xi)\psi(t, \xi) \\ = (1 - \alpha)\mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)(t, \xi), \\ \psi(0, \xi) = \psi_0(\xi). \end{cases} \tag{2.3}$$

Here, \mathbf{A}_h^n and \mathbf{B}_h^n are defined as \mathbf{A}_ψ^n and \mathbf{B}_ψ^n with $\mathcal{Q}_-^n(h, h)$ replacing $\mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi, \psi)$ and

$$L_n(h)(t, \xi) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \mathcal{B}_n(\xi - \xi_*, \sigma) h(t, \xi_*) d\xi_* d\sigma = \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) h(t, \xi_*) d\xi_*.$$

We solve this equation using the characteristic method: notice that, by assumption on h , the mapping $t \mapsto \mathbf{B}_h^n(t)$ is continuous on $[0, T]$ and, for any $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$, the characteristic equation

$$\frac{d}{dt}X(t; s, \xi) = \mathbf{B}_h^n(t)X(t; s, \xi), \quad X(s; s, \xi) = \xi, \tag{2.4}$$

gets a unique global solution given by

$$X_h(t; s, \xi) = \xi \exp\left(\int_s^t \mathbf{B}_h^n(\tau) d\tau\right).$$

Then, the Cauchy problem (2.3) admits a unique solution given by

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(t, \xi) &= \psi^1(t, \xi) + \psi^2(t, \xi) = \psi_0(X_h(0; t, \xi)) \exp\left(-\int_0^t [\mathbf{A}_h^n(\tau) + L_n(h)(\tau, X_h(\tau; t, \xi))] d\tau\right) \\ &+ (1 - \alpha) \int_0^t \exp\left(-\int_s^t [\mathbf{A}_h^n(\tau) + L_n(h)(\tau, X_h(\tau; t, \xi))] d\tau\right) \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)(s, X_h(s; t, \xi)) ds. \end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

For any $T > 0$ and any $M_1, M_2, \ell, C_\delta > 0$ (to be fixed later on), we define $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_{T, M_1, M_2, \ell, C_\delta}$ as the set of all nonnegative $h \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ such that

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(t, \xi) d\xi \leq M_1, \quad \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi \leq M_2,$$

and

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2+\delta} d\xi \leq C_\delta, \quad \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|h(t)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \leq \ell.$$

Define then the mapping

$$\mathcal{T} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$$

which, to any $h \in \mathcal{H}$, associates the solution $\psi = \mathcal{T}(h)$ to (2.3) given by (2.5). We look for parameters T, M_1, M_2, C_δ and ℓ that ensure \mathcal{T} to map \mathcal{H} into itself. To do so, we shall use the following lemma whose proof is omitted and relies only on the very simple estimate:

$$\mathcal{Q}_-^n(h, h)(t, \xi) = h(t, \xi)L_n(h)(t, \xi) \leq (n^\gamma M_1 \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})})h(t, \xi) \quad \forall t \in [0, T]$$

valid for any $h \in \mathcal{H}$.

Lemma 2.2. Define, for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and any $M_1 > 0$,

$$\mu_n = \mu_n(M_1) = \frac{\alpha}{\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}} n^\gamma M_1 \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \quad \text{and} \quad \nu_n = \nu_n(M_1) = \frac{\alpha n^\gamma M_1 \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})}}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi}.$$

For any fixed $h \in \mathcal{H}$ and any $(t, \xi) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d$ the following hold

- (i) $0 \leq d\mathbf{B}_h^n(t) - \mathbf{A}_h^n(t) = \frac{\alpha}{\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-^n(h, h)(t, \xi) d\xi \leq \mu_n M_1.$
- (ii) $-\frac{\mu_n}{2} M_1 \leq \mathbf{B}_h^n(t) \leq \frac{\nu_n}{2} M_2.$
- (iii) $-\frac{\mu_n(d+2)}{2} M_1 \leq \mathbf{A}_h^n(t).$
- (iv) $0 \leq (d+2)\mathbf{B}_h^n(t) - \mathbf{A}_h^n(t) = \frac{\alpha}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi|^2 \mathcal{Q}_-^n(h, h)(t, \xi) d\xi \leq \nu_n M_2.$

Control of the density. By a simple change of variables, one checks easily that the solution $\psi(t, \xi)$ given by (2.5) fulfills

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) d\xi &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) \exp\left(\int_0^t [d\mathbf{B}_h^n(\tau) - \mathbf{A}_h^n(\tau) - L_n(h)(\tau, X_h(\tau; 0, \xi))] d\tau\right) d\xi \\ &\quad + (1 - \alpha) \int_0^t ds \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \exp\left(\int_s^t [d\mathbf{B}_h^n(\tau) - \mathbf{A}_h^n(\tau) - L_n(h)(\tau, X_h(\tau, s, \xi))] d\tau\right) \\ &\quad \times \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)(s, \xi) d\xi. \end{aligned}$$

It comes then from the above Lemma 2.2 that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) d\xi &\leq \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} \exp(t\mu_n M_1) + (1 - \alpha) \int_0^t \exp((t-s)\mu_n M_1) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)(s, \xi) d\xi ds, \\ &\leq \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} \exp(t\mu_n M_1) + \frac{1 - \alpha}{\alpha} \mu_n M_1 \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} \int_0^t \exp((t-s)\mu_n M_1) ds, \end{aligned}$$

from which we deduce that

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) d\xi \leq \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} \left(\exp(T\mu_n M_1) + \frac{1 - \alpha}{\alpha} (\exp(T\mu_n M_1) - 1) \right) \quad \forall h \in \mathcal{H}. \quad (2.6)$$

Control of the moments. We now focus on the control of moments of order r with $r \geq 2$ to the solution ψ given by (2.5). Arguing as above,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^r d\xi &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^r \exp\left(\int_0^t [(r+d)\mathbf{B}_h^n(\tau) - \mathbf{A}_h^n(\tau) - L_n(h)(\tau, X_h(\tau, 0, \xi))] d\tau\right) d\xi \\ &\quad + (1 - \alpha) \int_0^t ds \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \exp\left(\int_s^t [(r+d)\mathbf{B}_h^n(\tau) - \mathbf{A}_h^n(\tau) - L_n(h)(\tau, X_h(\tau, s, \xi))] d\tau\right) \\ &\quad \times \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)(s, \xi) |\xi|^r d\xi. \end{aligned}$$

Using again Lemma 2.2, we get

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^r d\xi \leq \exp\left(t\left(\mu_n M_1 + \frac{\nu_n r}{2} M_2\right)\right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^r d\xi + (1 - \alpha) \int_0^t \exp\left((t-s)\left(\mu_n M_1 + \frac{\nu_n r}{2} M_2\right)\right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)(s, \xi) |\xi|^r d\xi ds.$$

Now, the change of variables $(\xi, \xi_*) \rightarrow (\xi', \xi'_*)$ together with the fact that $|\xi'| \leq |\xi| + |\xi_*|$, yields

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)(s, \xi) |\xi|^r d\xi &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} B_n(\xi - \xi_*, \sigma) h(s, \xi) h(s, \xi_*) |\xi'|^r d\sigma d\xi d\xi_* \\ &\leq 2^{r-1} n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} h(s, \xi) h(s, \xi_*) (|\xi|^r + |\xi_*|^r) d\xi d\xi_* \\ &\leq 2^r n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} M_1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(s, \xi) |\xi|^r d\xi. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^r d\xi \leq \exp\left(t\left(\mu_n M_1 + \frac{\nu_n r}{2} M_2\right)\right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^r d\xi + (1 - \alpha) 2^r \frac{\mu_n}{\alpha} \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} \int_0^t \exp\left((t-s)\left(\mu_n M_1 + \frac{\nu_n r}{2} M_2\right)\right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(s, \xi) |\xi|^r d\xi ds.$$

In particular, choosing successively $r = 2$ and $r = 2 + \delta$ one gets that

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi &\leq \exp(T(\mu_n M_1 + \nu_n M_2)) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi \\ &\quad + 4 \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} \frac{1 - \alpha}{\alpha} \frac{\mu_n M_2}{\mu_n M_1 + \nu_n M_2} (\exp(T(\mu_n M_1 + \nu_n M_2)) - 1) \end{aligned} \tag{2.7}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2+\delta} d\xi &\leq \exp\left(T\left(\mu_n M_1 + \frac{2 + \delta}{2} \nu_n M_2\right)\right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^{2+\delta} d\xi \\ &\quad + \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} \frac{1 - \alpha}{\alpha} \frac{C_\delta 2^{2+\delta} \mu_n}{\mu_n M_1 + \frac{2+\delta}{2} \nu_n M_2} \left(\exp\left(T\left(\mu_n M_1 + \frac{2 + \delta}{2} \nu_n M_2\right)\right) - 1\right) \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

for any $h \in \mathcal{H}$.

Control of the $W^{1,\infty}$ norm. Our assumption on the collision kernel of the operator \mathcal{Q}^n allows us to apply [23, Theorem 2.1] with $k = \eta = 0$ and $\sin^2(\theta_b/2) = 1/(2n)$ to get directly

$$\|\mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)\|_{L^\infty} \leq 2n^{1+\gamma} \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \|h\|_{L^1} \|h\|_{L^\infty}.$$

Then, the change of variable $\sigma \rightarrow -\sigma$ yields

$$\nabla \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h) = \mathcal{Q}_+^n(\nabla h, h) + \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, \nabla h) = 2\mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, \nabla h)$$

and, applying again [23, Theorem 2.1]:

$$\|\nabla \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)\|_{L^\infty} \leq 2\|\mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, \nabla h)\|_{L^\infty} \leq 4n^{1+\gamma} \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \|h\|_{L^1} \|\nabla h\|_{L^\infty}.$$

Consequently

$$\|\mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \leq 4n^{1+\gamma} \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \|h\|_{L^1} \|h\|_{W^{1,\infty}}.$$

In the same way, since $\frac{d}{dr} \Phi_n(r) \leq \gamma n^{\gamma-1} \leq 1$, one checks easily that

$$\|L_n(h)(t, \cdot)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \leq 2n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \|h(t)\|_{L^1} \leq 2\frac{\mu_n}{\alpha} \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} \quad \forall t \in [0, T], h \in \mathcal{H}.$$

Recall now the expression of the solution $\psi = \psi^1 + \psi^2$ given in (2.5). It is easy to see that, for any $t \in [0, T]$

$$\begin{aligned} \|\psi^1(t)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} &\leq \exp\left(-\int_0^t \mathbf{A}_h^n(\tau) \, d\tau\right) \|\psi_0\|_{L^\infty} + \exp\left(-\int_0^t (\mathbf{A}_h^n(\tau) + \mathbf{B}_h^n(\tau)) \, d\tau\right) \|\nabla_\xi \psi_0\|_{L^\infty} \\ &\quad + \|\psi_0\|_{L^\infty} \exp\left(-\int_0^t \mathbf{A}_h^n(\tau) \, d\tau\right) \int_0^t \exp\left(-\int_\tau^t \mathbf{B}_h^n(s) \, ds\right) \|\nabla_\xi L_n(h)(\tau, \cdot)\|_{L^\infty} \, d\tau \end{aligned}$$

so that, using again Lemma 2.2:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\psi^1(t)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} &\leq \exp\left(\frac{\mu_n(d+3)}{2} M_1 t\right) \|\psi_0\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{\alpha} \mu_n \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} \|\psi_0\|_{L^\infty} \exp\left(\frac{\mu_n(d+2)}{2} M_1 t\right) \int_0^t \exp\left(\frac{\mu_n}{2} M_1(t-\tau)\right) \, d\tau \end{aligned}$$

i.e.

$$\|\psi^1(t)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \leq \max\left(1, \frac{4\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}}{\alpha M_1}\right) \exp\left(\frac{\mu_n(d+3)}{2} M_1 t\right) \|\psi_0\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

In the same way,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\psi^2(t)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} &\leq (1 - \alpha) \max\left(1, \frac{4\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}}{\alpha M_1}\right) \int_0^t \exp\left(\frac{\mu_n(d+3)}{2} M_1(t-s)\right) \|\mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)(s)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \, ds \\ &\leq (1 - \alpha) \max\left(1, \frac{4\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}}{\alpha M_1}\right) \frac{8n^{1+\gamma} \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \ell}{\mu_n(d+3)} \left[\exp\left(\frac{\mu_n(d+3)}{2} M_1 t\right) - 1 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|\psi(t)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} &\leq \max\left(1, \frac{4\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}}{\alpha M_1}\right) \exp\left(\frac{\mu_n(d+3)}{2} M_1 T\right) \|\psi_0\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \\ &\quad + \max\left(1, \frac{4\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}}{\alpha M_1}\right) \frac{1 - \alpha}{\alpha} \frac{8n\ell \|\psi_0\|_{L^1}}{M_1(d+3)} \left[\exp\left(\frac{\mu_n(d+3)}{2} M_1 T\right) - 1 \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

Now, from (2.6), (2.7), (2.8) and (2.9), one sees that, choosing for instance $M_1 = 4\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}$,

$$M_2 = 4 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi, \quad C_\delta = 4 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^{2+\delta} \, d\xi, \quad \ell = \frac{4}{\alpha} \|\psi_0\|_{W^{1,\infty}}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} T = \frac{2}{\mu_n M_1} \min \left\{ \frac{\log 2}{(4 + \delta)}, \frac{1}{(4 + \delta)} \log \left(1 + \frac{\alpha(4 + \delta)}{(1 - \alpha)2^{2+\delta}} \right), \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + \frac{\alpha M_1}{2(1 - \alpha)} \right), \right. \\ \left. \frac{\log 2}{d + 3}, \frac{|\log(1 - \alpha)|}{4}, \frac{1}{d + 3} \log \left(1 + \frac{\alpha^2(d + 3)}{4n(1 - \alpha)} \right) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

we get that $\psi \in \mathcal{H}$, i.e. with the above choice of the parameters $M_1, M_2, C_\delta, \ell, T$, one has $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H}) \subset \mathcal{H}$ (notice that with this choice, $\mu_n M_1 = \nu_n M_2$). Moreover, one can prove the following:

Proposition 2.3. *The mapping $\mathcal{T} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L_2^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ is continuous for the topology induced by $\mathcal{C}([0, T]; L_2^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$. More precisely, there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that, for any $h_1, h_2 \in \mathcal{H}$,*

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|\mathcal{T}(h_1)(t) - \mathcal{T}(h_2)(t)\|_{L_2^1} \leq C \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|h_1(t) - h_2(t)\|_{L_2^1}. \tag{2.10}$$

Moreover, $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H})$ is a relatively compact subset of $\mathcal{C}([0, T]; L_2^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$.

In the proof of the above Proposition, we shall use the following result which is very classical:

Lemma 2.4. *Let $h_1, h_2 \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L_2^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$. Then,*

$$\|L_n(h_1)(t, \cdot) - L_n(h_2)(t, \cdot)\|_{L^\infty} \leq \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \|\Phi_n\|_{L^\infty} \|h_1(t) - h_2(t)\|_{L_2^1} \quad \forall t > 0.$$

Consequently, the following hold for any $t > 0$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\mathbf{B}_{h_1}^n(t) - \mathbf{B}_{h_2}^n(t)| &\leq \frac{\alpha \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \|\Phi_n\|_{L^\infty}}{2} (\|h_1(t)\|_{L^1_2} + \|h_2(t)\|_{L^1_2}) \\
 &\quad \times \|h_1(t) - h_2(t)\|_{L^1_2} \left(\frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi} + \frac{1}{\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}} \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\mathbf{A}_{h_1}^n(t) - \mathbf{A}_{h_2}^n(t)| &\leq \frac{\alpha \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \|\Phi_n\|_{L^\infty}}{2} (\|h_1(t)\|_{L^1_2} + \|h_2(t)\|_{L^1_2}) \\
 &\quad \times \|h_1(t) - h_2(t)\|_{L^1_2} \left(\frac{d}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi} + \frac{d+2}{\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Proposition 2.3. Given $h_1, h_2 \in \mathcal{H}$, we set $\psi_1 = \mathcal{T}(h_1)$ and $\psi_2 = \mathcal{T}(h_2)$. Define also

$$h = h_1 - h_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \psi = \psi_1 - \psi_2.$$

The difference function $\psi(t, \xi)$ is a solution to the following problem

$$\begin{aligned}
 \partial_t \psi(t, \xi) + \mathbf{A}_{h_2}^n(t) \psi(t, \xi) + \mathbf{B}_{h_2}^n(t) \xi \cdot \nabla_\xi \psi(t, \xi) + L_n(h_2)(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi) \\
 = [L_n(h_2)(t, \xi) - L_n(h_1)(t, \xi)] \psi_1(t, \xi) + [\mathbf{A}_{h_2}^n(t) - \mathbf{A}_{h_1}^n(t)] \psi_1(t, \xi) \\
 + [\mathbf{B}_{h_2}^n(t) - \mathbf{B}_{h_1}^n(t)] (\xi \cdot \nabla_\xi \psi_1(t, \xi)) \\
 + (1 - \alpha) (\mathcal{Q}_+^n(h_1, h_1) - \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h_2, h_2)).
 \end{aligned}$$

We multiply this equation by $\text{sign}(\psi(t, \xi)) \langle \xi \rangle^2$ and integrate over \mathbb{R}^d . It is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [\xi \cdot \nabla_\xi \psi(t, \xi)] \text{sign}(\psi(t, \xi)) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\psi(t, \xi)| \text{div}_\xi (\xi \langle \xi \rangle^2) d\xi \\
 &= -d \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\psi(t, \xi)| \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi - 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\psi(t, \xi)| |\xi|^2 d\xi \\
 &= -(d+2) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^1_2} + 2 \|\psi(t)\|_{L^1}
 \end{aligned}$$

from which we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d}{dt} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^1_2} + (\mathbf{A}_{h_2}^n(t) - (d+2)\mathbf{B}_{h_2}^n(t)) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^1_2} \\
 + 2\mathbf{B}_{h_2}^n(t) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^1} + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} L_n(h_2)(t, \xi) |\psi(t, \xi)| \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi \leq I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + I_4
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_1 &:= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |L_n(h_2)(t, \xi) - L_n(h_1)(t, \xi)| |\psi_1(t, \xi)| \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi, \\
 I_2 &:= \|\mathbf{A}_{h_2}^n(t) - \mathbf{A}_{h_1}^n(t)\| \|\psi_1(t)\|_{L^1_2}, \\
 I_3 &:= \|\mathbf{B}_{h_2}^n(t) - \mathbf{B}_{h_1}^n(t)\| \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi \cdot \nabla_\xi \psi_1(t, \xi)) \operatorname{sign}(\psi(t, \xi)) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi \right|
 \end{aligned}$$

while

$$I_4 := (1 - \alpha) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\mathcal{Q}_+^n(h_1, h_1)(t, \xi) - \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h_2, h_2)(t, \xi)| \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi.$$

According to Lemma 2.4, one has

$$I_1 \leq \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \|\Phi_n\|_{L^\infty} \|h_1(t) - h_2(t)\|_{L^1} \|\psi_1(t)\|_{L^1_2} \leq n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} (M_1 + M_2) \|h(t)\|_{L^1}.$$

In the same way

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_2 &\leq \frac{\alpha n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})}}{2} \left(\frac{d+2}{\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}} + \frac{d}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi} \right) (\|h_1(t)\|_{L^1_2} + \|h_2(t)\|_{L^1_2}) \|h(t)\|_{L^1_2} \|\psi_1(t)\|_{L^1_2} \\
 &\leq \left(\frac{(d+2)\mu_n}{M_1} + \frac{\nu_n}{M_2} \right) (M_1 + M_2)^2 \|h(t)\|_{L^1_2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Now, it is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi \cdot \nabla_\xi \psi_1(t, \xi)) \operatorname{sign}(\psi(t, \xi)) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi \right| &\leq \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_1(t, \xi) \operatorname{div}_\xi (\xi \langle \xi \rangle^2) d\xi \right| \\
 &\leq (d+2) \|\psi_1(t)\|_{L^1_2} + 2 \|\psi_1(t)\|_{L^1} \leq (d+4) \|\psi_1(t)\|_{L^1_2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, using again Lemma 2.4, one gets

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_3 &\leq \frac{\alpha n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} (d+4)}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}} + \frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi} \right) \\
 &\quad \times (\|h_1(t)\|_{L^1_2} + \|h_2(t)\|_{L^1_2}) \|h(t)\|_{L^1_2} \|\psi_1(t)\|_{L^1_2} \\
 &\leq (d+4) \left(\frac{\mu_n}{M_1} + \frac{\nu_n}{M_2} \right) (M_1 + M_2)^2 \|h(t)\|_{L^1_2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Now, it is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_4 &= (1 - \alpha) \|\mathcal{Q}_+^n(h_1, h_1) - \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h_2, h_2)\|_{L^1_2} \\
 &= (1 - \alpha) \|\mathcal{Q}_+^n(h_1 - h_2, h_1) + \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h_2, h_1 - h_2)\|_{L^1_2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} (\|h_1(t)\|_{L^1_2} + \|h_2(t)\|_{L^1_2}) \|h(t)\|_{L^1_2} \\ &\leq 2n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} (M_1 + M_2) \|h(t)\|_{L^1_2}. \end{aligned}$$

Summarizing the above estimates, there exists a positive constant $C_n > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{d}{dt} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^1_2} + (\mathbf{A}_{h_2}^n(t) - (d + 2)\mathbf{B}_{h_2}^n(t)) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^1_2} \\ &\quad + 2\mathbf{B}_{h_2}^n(t) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^1} + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} L_n(h_2)(t, \xi) |\psi(t, \xi)| \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi \leq C_n \|h(t)\|_{L^1_2} \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \end{aligned}$$

Now, using Lemma 2.2, we get that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^1_2} - (\mu_n M_1 + \nu_n M_2) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^1_2} \leq C_n \|h(t)\|_{L^1_2}.$$

This finally yields the estimate

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|\psi_1(t) - \psi_2(t)\|_{L^1_2} \leq C_n T \exp(T(\mu_n M_1 + \nu_n M_2)) \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|h_1(t) - h_2(t)\|_{L^1_2}$$

since $\psi_1(0) = \psi_2(0) = \psi_0$. Let us now prove the compactness of $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H})$. Recall that, according to Riesz–Fréchet–Kolmogorov Theorem, the embedding

$$L^1_{2+\delta}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d) \subset L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$$

is compact. Moreover, $L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is continuously embedded into $(H^m(\mathbb{R}^d))'$ for $m > d/2$. On the other hand,

$$\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H}) \text{ is a bounded subset of } L^\infty((0, T); L^1_{2+\delta}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d))$$

and, setting $\partial_t \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H}) = \{\partial_t \psi; \psi = \mathcal{T}(h), h \in \mathcal{H}\}$, one has

$$\partial_t \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H}) \text{ is a bounded subset of } L^r((0, T); (H^m(\mathbb{R}^d))'),$$

with $r > 1$. As a consequence, one can apply [27, Corollary 4] to conclude that $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H})$ is a relatively compact subset of $\mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$. \square

We are in position to conclude the proof of Theorem 2.1.

Proof of Theorem 2.1. The proof is split into two parts: the first one consists in proving the well-posedness of the Cauchy problem (2.1) on the time interval $[0, T]$ (where $T > 0$ has been defined hereabove) through *Schauder fixed point theorem*. The second part consists in extending this solution to a global solution.

Local existence: Since \mathcal{H} is a closed bounded (nonempty) subset of $\mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$ and since \mathcal{T} is a continuous and compact application from \mathcal{H} to \mathcal{H} , Schauder fixed point theorem ensures the existence of some fixed point ψ^1 of \mathcal{T} , i.e. there exists $\psi^1 \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^\infty((0, T); L^1_{2+\delta}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ solution to (2.1).

Global existence: Integrating the equation (2.1) over \mathbb{R}^d , we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi^1(t, \xi) d\xi = \frac{\alpha}{\|\psi_0\|_{L^1}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi^1, \psi^1)(t, \xi) d\xi \right) \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi^1(t, \xi) d\xi - \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} \right).$$

Since $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi^1(0, \xi) d\xi = \|\psi_0\|_{L^1}$, we see that the density of ψ^1 is conserved:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi^1(t, \xi) d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) d\xi \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

In the same way, multiplying (2.1) by $|\xi|^2$ and integrating over \mathbb{R}^d yields

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi^1(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi = \alpha \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi|^2 \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi^1, \psi^1)(t, \xi) d\xi \right) \left(\frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi^1(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi} - 1 \right).$$

Since $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi^1(0, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi$, the energy of $\psi^1(t, \xi)$ is conserved:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi^1(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

Thus, $\psi^1(T, \cdot)$ has the same mass and energy as ψ_0 . Since the time T only depends on these values, by a standard continuation argument, we construct a global solution ψ to (2.1). Uniqueness clearly follows from (2.10). \square

2.2. Uniform estimates

In order to prove Theorem 1.3, we now need to get rid of the bound in $W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ for the initial condition and to pass to the limit as $n \rightarrow +\infty$.

Let $\delta > 0$ and $p > 1$. Let $\psi_0 \in L^1_{2+\delta}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be a nonnegative distribution function satisfying (1.11). There exists a sequence of nonnegative functions $(\psi_0^n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in $W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^1_{2+\delta}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ that converges to ψ_0 in $L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and that satisfies, for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\|\psi_0^n\|_{L^1} \leq \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} \quad \text{and} \quad \|\psi_0^n\|_{L^p} \leq \|\psi_0\|_{L^p}.$$

Moreover, if $\psi_0 \in L^1_s(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with $s > 2$ then one may also assume that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi) |\xi|^s d\xi \leq 2^{s-1} \|\psi_0\|_{L^1} + 2^{s-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^s d\xi. \tag{2.11}$$

We infer from the above properties of $(\psi_0^n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and from (1.11) that there exists some $N_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for $n \geq N_0$,

$$\frac{1}{2} \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi) d\xi \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{4} \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi \leq d. \tag{2.12}$$

For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we denote by ψ_n the solution to (2.1) with initial condition ψ_0^n . Our purpose is to show that $(\psi_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $C([0, T]; L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$ for any $T > 0$. However, this requires uniform estimates on ψ_n . So, we now tackle this question and show uniform bounds for moments of ψ_n . The underlying difficulty comes from the two terms $\mathbf{A}^n_{\psi_n}$ and $\mathbf{B}^n_{\psi_n}$ which already involve moments of order $2 + \gamma$ and thereby prevent us from performing direct estimates. In all the sequel, we shall simply set

$$\mathbf{A}_n(t) = \mathbf{A}^n_{\psi_n}(t), \quad \mathbf{B}_n(t) = \mathbf{B}^n_{\psi_n}(t), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}, t \geq 0.$$

We begin with proving that both \mathbf{A}_n and \mathbf{B}_n are bounded in $L^1_{loc}(0, \infty)$. Here again we first need to show uniform L^p -estimates, which is the aim of the following lemma.

Lemma 2.5. *There exist some integer $N_1 \geq N_0$ and some constant $C > 0$ depending only on α, p, d and γ such that, for all $n \geq N_1$,*

$$\|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p} \leq e^{Ct} \|\psi_0\|_{L^p}, \quad t \geq 0. \tag{2.13}$$

Proof. For $n \in \mathbb{N}_*$, we multiply (2.1) by $p\psi_n(t, \xi)^{p-1}$ and integrate over \mathbb{R}^d . An integration by parts then leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p &= (d\mathbf{B}_n(t) - p\mathbf{A}_n(t)) \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p \\ &\quad + (1 - \alpha)p \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_+^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi)^{p-1} d\xi \\ &\quad - p \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi)^{p-1} d\xi. \end{aligned} \tag{2.14}$$

First, since $p > 1$, we have, for $n \geq N_0$,

$$\begin{aligned} d\mathbf{B}_n(t) - p\mathbf{A}_n(t) &= \frac{\alpha}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\frac{d(p-1) + 2p}{\|\psi_0^n\|_{L^1}} - \frac{d(p-1)|\xi|^2}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi_*) |\xi_*|^2 d\xi_*} \right) \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) d\xi \\ &\leq \alpha(d(p-1) + 2p) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) d\xi. \end{aligned} \tag{2.15}$$

But, since $\gamma \in (0, 1]$,

$$\Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) \leq |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \leq |\xi|^\gamma + |\xi_*|^\gamma. \tag{2.16}$$

Consequently,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) d\xi \leq 2\|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi|^\gamma \psi_n(t, \xi) d\xi \leq 2\|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} (1 + d). \tag{2.17}$$

Thereby, we obtain a bound for the first term in the right-hand side of (2.14). We now need to estimate the two remaining integrals. We first notice that, due to the symmetry, we can reduce the

domain of integration with respect to σ to those σ that satisfy $\langle \xi - \xi_*, \sigma \rangle \geq 0$, which corresponds to $\theta \in [0, \pi/2]$. This amounts to taking $b_n(x) = \mathbf{1}_{\{0 \leq x \leq 1-1/n\}} \bar{b}(x)$ in the collision operator \mathcal{Q} where

$$\bar{b}(x) = b(x) + b(-x).$$

Then, for some fixed $\theta_0 \in [\arccos(1 - 1/n), \pi/2]$, we split b_n as $b_n = b_{n,c} + b_{n,r}$ where

$$b_{n,c}(x) = \mathbf{1}_{\{0 \leq x \leq \cos \theta_0\}} \bar{b}(x) \quad \text{and} \quad b_{n,r}(x) = \mathbf{1}_{\{\cos \theta_0 \leq x \leq 1-1/n\}} \bar{b}(x).$$

It is important to point out that $b_{n,c}$ and consequently the norm $\|b_{n,c}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})}$ do not depend on n but only on θ_0 . This splitting leads to the corresponding decomposition of the collision operators:

$$\mathcal{Q}_+^n = \mathcal{Q}_+^{n,c} + \mathcal{Q}_+^{n,r} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{Q}_-^n = \mathcal{Q}_-^{n,c} + \mathcal{Q}_-^{n,r}. \tag{2.18}$$

We first consider $\mathcal{Q}_+^{n,r}$ and $\mathcal{Q}_-^{n,r}$. We have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-^{n,r}(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi)^{p-1} d\xi \geq 0. \tag{2.19}$$

Then, for the integral involving $\mathcal{Q}_+^{n,r}$, the change of variables $(\xi, \xi_*) \rightarrow (\xi', \xi'_*)$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_+^{n,r}(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi)^{p-1} d\xi \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \psi_n(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi_*) \psi_n(t, \xi')^{p-1} b_{n,r}(\cos \theta) \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) d\sigma d\xi d\xi_*. \end{aligned}$$

Now, we have

$$\psi_n(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi')^{p-1} \leq \frac{1}{p} \psi_n(t, \xi)^p + \frac{p-1}{p} \psi_n(t, \xi')^p,$$

and (see [1, Section 3, Proof of Lemma 1] or [11, Eq. (2.7)])

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \psi_n(t, \xi')^p \mathbf{1}_{\{\cos \theta_0 \leq \cos \theta \leq 1-1/n\}} \bar{b}(\cos \theta) \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) d\sigma d\xi \\ &= |\mathbb{S}^{d-2}| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\arccos(1-1/n)}^{\theta_0} \psi_n(t, \xi)^p \Phi_n\left(\frac{|\xi - \xi_*|}{\cos(\theta/2)}\right) \frac{\sin^{d-2}(\theta)}{\cos^d(\theta/2)} \bar{b}(\cos \theta) d\theta d\xi. \end{aligned}$$

Then, thanks to the inequalities

$$\Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) \leq \Phi_n(|\xi|) + |\xi_*|^\gamma \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi_n\left(\frac{|\xi - \xi_*|}{\lambda}\right) \leq \lambda^{-\gamma} \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) \quad \forall 0 < \lambda < 1, \tag{2.20}$$

we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_+^{n,r}(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi)^{p-1} d\xi \\
 & \leq |\mathbb{S}^{d-2}| \int_{\arccos(1-1/n)}^{\theta_0} \bar{b}(\cos \theta) (1 + (\cos(\theta/2))^{-d-\gamma}) \sin^{d-2}(\theta) d\theta \\
 & \quad \times \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi)^p \Phi_n(|\xi|) d\xi + (1+d) \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p \right). \tag{2.21}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let us now consider $\mathcal{Q}_+^{n,c}$ and $\mathcal{Q}_-^{n,c}$. We proceed as in the proof of [11, Proposition 2.4]. Since

$$\Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) \geq \Phi_n(|\xi|) - |\xi_*|^\gamma, \tag{2.22}$$

we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-^{n,c}(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi)^{p-1} d\xi \\
 & \geq \frac{1}{2} \|b_{n,c}\|_1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi)^p \Phi_n(|\xi|) d\xi - \|b_{n,c}\|_1 (1+d) \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p. \tag{2.23}
 \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_+^{n,c}(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi)^{p-1} d\xi = J_1 + J_2, \tag{2.24}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_1 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \psi_n(t, \xi') \psi_n(t, \xi'_*) \mathbf{1}_{\{|\xi'| \leq r\}} \psi_n(t, \xi)^{p-1} b_{n,c}(\cos \theta) \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) d\sigma d\xi d\xi_*, \\
 J_2 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \psi_n(t, \xi') \psi_n(t, \xi'_*) \mathbf{1}_{\{|\xi'| \geq r\}} \psi_n(t, \xi)^{p-1} b_{n,c}(\cos \theta) \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) d\sigma d\xi d\xi_*,
 \end{aligned}$$

with $r > 0$. Performing the same calculations as in the proof of [11, Proposition 2.4] and using the same notations, we prove easily (using again (2.20)) that the following hold for any $\mu_1 > 0$ and any $\mu_2 > 0$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_1 & \leq (\cos(\pi/4))^{-d-\gamma} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) \mu_1^{-1} \|b_{n,c}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi)^p \Phi_n(|\xi|) d\xi + (1+d) \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p \right) \\
 & \quad + \frac{1}{p} \mu_1^{p-1} \|b_{n,c}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} (1+r^\gamma+d) \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p \tag{2.25}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_2 \leq & (\sin(\theta_0/2))^{-d-\gamma} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) \mu_2^{-1} \|b_{n,c}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \left(\frac{d}{r^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi)^p \Phi_n(|\xi|) d\xi + \frac{d}{r^{2-\gamma}} \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p\right) \\
 & + \frac{\mu_2^{p-1}}{p} \|b_{n,c}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi)^p \Phi_n(|\xi|) d\xi + (1+d) \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p\right). \tag{2.26}
 \end{aligned}$$

It remains now to choose the parameters θ_0 , μ_1 , μ_2 and r so that all the terms involving $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi)^p \Phi_n(|\xi|) d\xi$ that appear in the gain term can be absorbed by the one appearing in the estimate of the loss term. Precisely, we first choose θ_0 small enough such that

$$|\mathbb{S}^{d-2}| \int_0^{\theta_0} \bar{b}(\cos \theta) (1 + (\cos(\theta/2))^{-d-\gamma}) \sin^{d-2}(\theta) d\theta \leq a \|b_{n,c}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})}$$

for some $a > 0$ to be determined later (recall that $\|b_{n,c}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})}$ only depends on θ_0). Then, we choose μ_1 big enough and μ_2 small enough such that

$$(p - 1)(\cos(\pi/4))^{-d-\gamma} \mu_1^{-1} \leq ap \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_2^{p-1} \leq ap.$$

Finally, we choose r big enough such that

$$(p - 1)(\sin(\theta_0/2))^{-d-\gamma} \mu_2^{-1} \frac{d}{r^2} \leq ap.$$

Let $N_1 \in \mathbb{N}_*$ be such that $N_1 \geq \max\{\frac{1}{1-\cos\theta_0}, N_0\}$. Gathering (2.15), (2.17), (2.18), (2.19), (2.21), (2.23), (2.24), (2.25) and (2.26) we conclude that, for $n \geq N_1$,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p \leq \frac{8(1-\alpha)ap - p}{2} \|b_{n,c}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi)^p \Phi_n(|\xi|) d\xi + C \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p$$

for some positive constant C that only depends on α , $b(\cdot)$, p , d , μ_1 , r and γ . Taking then $a = \frac{1}{16(1-\alpha)}$ we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p + \frac{p}{4} \|b_{n,c}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi)^p \Phi_n(|\xi|) d\xi \leq C \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^p}^p.$$

Recalling again that $\|b_{n,c}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})}$ does not depend on n , the Gronwall Lemma and the inequality $\|\psi_0^n\|_{L^p} \leq \|\psi_0\|_{L^p}$ then imply that (2.13) holds. \square

We now deduce from these L^p -estimates the following lemma, which implies that \mathbf{A}_n and \mathbf{B}_n are uniformly bounded in $L^1_{loc}(0, \infty)$.

Lemma 2.6. *Let $T > 0$. There exists some constant C depending only on α , d , γ , p , T and $\|\psi_0\|_{L^p}$ such that, for $n \geq N_1$,*

$$\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 \Phi_n(|\xi|) d\xi dt \leq C. \tag{2.27}$$

Proof. Let $n \geq N_1$. For $s \in (0, 2)$, we multiply (2.1) by $|\xi|^s$ and integrate over \mathbb{R}^d . Integrations by parts then lead to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dY_s^n}{dt}(t) &= \frac{\alpha}{2} Y_s^n(t) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\frac{2-s}{\|\psi_0^n\|_{L^1}} + \frac{s|\xi|^2}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi_*) |\xi_*|^2 d\xi_*} \right) \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) d\xi \\ &\quad + \frac{1-\alpha}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi_*) \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) K_s^n(\xi, \xi_*) d\xi d\xi_* \\ &\quad - \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi) |\xi|^s d\xi, \end{aligned} \tag{2.28}$$

where we set $Y_s^n(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi) |\xi|^s d\xi$ and

$$K_s^n(\xi, \xi_*) = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \mathbf{1}_{|\cos\theta| \leq 1-1/n} b(\cos\theta) (|\xi'|^s + |\xi_*'|^s - |\xi|^s - |\xi_*|^s) d\sigma.$$

By [22, Lemma 2.2 (ii)], one can write $K_s^n(\xi, \xi_*) = G_s^n(\xi, \xi_*) - H_s^n(\xi, \xi_*)$ with

$$H_s^n(\xi, \xi_*) \leq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad |G_s^n(\xi, \xi_*)| \leq c_1 |\xi|^{s/2} |\xi_*|^{s/2},$$

for some constant c_1 depending only on $b(\cdot)$, s and d . Integrating the previous inequality between 0 and T , we get

$$\begin{aligned} Y_s^n(0) &+ \frac{\alpha s}{2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi_*) |\xi_*|^2 d\xi_*} \int_0^T \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi|^2 \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(\tau, \xi) d\xi \right) Y_s^n(\tau) d\tau \\ &\leq Y_s^n(T) + \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) |\xi|^s \psi_n(\tau, \xi) \psi_n(\tau, \xi_*) d\xi d\xi_* d\tau \\ &\quad + \frac{c_1}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) |\xi|^{s/2} |\xi_*|^{s/2} \psi_n(\tau, \xi) \psi_n(\tau, \xi_*) d\xi d\xi_* d\tau, \end{aligned}$$

since $s < 2$ and $0 < \alpha < 1$. We then deduce from (2.12), (2.16) and (2.22) that

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{\alpha s}{2d} \int_0^T \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_n(|\xi|) |\xi|^2 \psi_n(\tau, \xi) d\xi \right) Y_s^n(\tau) d\tau \\ &\leq \frac{s}{2} \int_0^T Y_\gamma^n(\tau) Y_s^n(\tau) d\tau + Y_s^n(T) + \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_0^T (Y_{s+\gamma}^n(\tau) + Y_s^n(\tau) Y_\gamma^n(\tau)) d\tau \\ &\quad + c_1 \int_0^T Y_{s/2+\gamma}^n(\tau) Y_{s/2}^n(\tau) d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Taking $s = 2 - \gamma$ and using that for any $\nu \in (0, 2)$, $Y_\nu^n(\tau) \leq Y_0^n(\tau) + Y_2^n(\tau) \leq 1 + d$ we get

$$\int_0^T \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_n(|\xi|) |\xi|^2 \psi_n(\tau, \xi) \, d\xi \right) Y_{2-\gamma}^n(\tau) \, d\tau \leq C,$$

for some constant C depending only on $b(\cdot)$, α , d , γ and T . Now, for $R > 0$ and $p > 1$,

$$Y_{2-\gamma}^n(\tau) \geq R^{2-\gamma} \left(\frac{1}{2} - \int_{|\xi| \leq R} \psi_n(\tau, \xi) \, d\xi \right),$$

and, by the Hölder inequality,

$$\int_{|\xi| \leq R} \psi_n(\tau, \xi) \, d\xi \leq \left(\frac{|\mathbb{S}^{d-1}| R^d}{d} \right)^{p/(p-1)} \|\psi_n(\tau)\|_{L^p} \leq \left(\frac{|\mathbb{S}^{d-1}| R^d}{d} \right)^{p/(p-1)} e^{CT} \|\psi_0\|_{L^p}.$$

Thus, (2.27) follows for R small enough. \square

We are now in a position to prove that moments of ψ_n remain bounded uniformly in $n \geq N_1$.

Lemma 2.7. *Let $T > 0$ and $s > 2$. Assume that $\|\psi_0\|_{L^1_s} < \infty$. Then, there exists some constant C depending only on $b(\cdot)$, α , d , γ , p , s , T , $\|\psi_0\|_{L^p}$ and $\|\psi_0\|_{L^1_s}$ such that, for $n \geq N_1$,*

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi) |\xi|^s \, d\xi \leq C \quad \text{and} \quad \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi) \Phi_n(|\xi|) |\xi|^s \, d\xi \, dt \leq C. \tag{2.29}$$

Proof. Let $s > 2$ and $n \geq N_1$. Our proof follows the same lines as the proof of [22, Lemma 4.2]. We use here the same notations as in the proof of Lemma 2.6. As previously, (2.28) holds. Now, by [17, Lemma 11], we have

$$K_s^n(\xi, \xi_*) \leq c_1 (|\xi|^{s-\gamma} |\xi_*| + |\xi| |\xi_*|^{s-\gamma}) - c_2(n) |\xi|^s,$$

for some constant c_1 depending only on s and d and

$$c_2(n) = 2^{-s} \frac{s-2}{2} |\mathbb{S}^{d-2}| \int_0^\pi \mathbf{1}_{\{|\cos \theta| \leq 1-1/n\}} (\min\{\cos \theta, 1 - \cos \theta\})^s b(\cos \theta) \, d\theta.$$

Thus, by (2.12), (2.16), (2.20), (2.22) and the above estimate, (2.28) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} Y_s^n(t) &\leq \frac{2s}{d} \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} Y_s^n(t) \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi|^2 \Phi_n(|\xi|) \psi_n(t, \xi) \, d\xi \right) + \frac{s}{2} \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} Y_s^n(t) Y_\gamma^n(t) \\ &\quad + c_1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi_*) (|\xi|^\gamma + |\xi_*|^\gamma) |\xi|^{s-\gamma} |\xi_*| \, d\xi \, d\xi_* \end{aligned}$$

$$- \frac{(1 - \alpha)c_2(n)}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi) \psi_n(t, \xi_*) (\Phi_n(|\xi|) - |\xi_*|^\gamma) |\xi|^s \, d\xi \, d\xi_*.$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} Y_s^n(t) + \frac{(1 - \alpha)c_2(n)}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi) \Phi_n(|\xi|) |\xi|^s \, d\xi \\ & \leq \frac{2s}{d} \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} Y_s^n(t) \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi|^2 \Phi_n(|\xi|) \psi_n(t, \xi) \, d\xi \right) + \frac{s \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} + c_2(n)}{2} Y_s^n(t) Y_\gamma^n(t) \\ & \quad + c_1 (Y_s^n(t) Y_1^n(t) + Y_{s-\gamma}^n(t) Y_{1+\gamma}^n(t)), \end{aligned}$$

but, for each $n \geq 2$,

$$0 < c_2(2) \leq c_2(n) \leq c_2^\infty := 2^{-s} \frac{s-2}{2} |\mathbb{S}^{d-2}| \int_0^\pi (\min\{\cos \theta, 1 - \cos \theta\})^s b(\cos \theta) \, d\theta.$$

Hence, since $Y_{s-\gamma}^n(t) \leq Y_s^n(t) + 1$, setting

$$h_n(t) = \frac{2s}{d} \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi|^2 \Phi_n(|\xi|) \psi_n(t, \xi) \, d\xi + \frac{(s \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} + c_2^\infty + 4c_1)(1 + d)}{2}$$

we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} Y_s^n(t) + \frac{(1 - \alpha)c_2(2)}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi) \Phi_n(|\xi|) |\xi|^s \, d\xi \leq h_n(t) Y_s^n(t) + c_1(d + 1).$$

Then, (2.29) follows easily from the Gronwall Lemma, (2.11) and Lemma 2.6. \square

Let us now prove that the sequence of solutions $(\psi_n)_n$ is a Cauchy sequence in some suitable space. Precisely, we state the following:

Proposition 2.8. *For any $T > 0$, the sequence $(\psi_n)_n$ is a Cauchy sequence in $C([0, T]; L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$.*

Proof. Let $T > 0$ be fixed and $m \geq n \geq N_1$. For simplicity, we set

$$\varphi(t, \xi) = \psi_m(t, \xi) - \psi_n(t, \xi) \quad \text{and} \quad h(t, \xi) = \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) (\xi)^2,$$

for any $(t, \xi) \in (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d$. Then, it is easy to check that $\varphi(t, \xi)$ satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} & \partial_t \varphi(t, \xi) + \mathbf{A}_m(t) \varphi(t, \xi) + \mathbf{B}_m(t) \xi \cdot \nabla \varphi(t, \xi) \\ & = (1 - \alpha) [\mathcal{Q}_-^m(\psi_m, \psi_m)(t, \xi) - \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi)] - \alpha [\mathcal{Q}_-^m(\psi_m, \psi_m)(t, \xi) - \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi)] \\ & \quad + [\mathbf{A}_n(t) - \mathbf{A}_m(t)] \psi_n(t, \xi) + [\mathbf{B}_n(t) - \mathbf{B}_m(t)] \xi \cdot \nabla \psi_n(t, \xi). \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying this identity by $h(t, \xi)$ and integrating over \mathbb{R}^d , we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|\varphi(t)\|_{L^2} + \mathbf{A}_m(t) \|\varphi(t)\|_{L^2} + \mathbf{B}_m(t) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi \cdot \nabla \varphi(t, \xi)) h(t, \xi) \, d\xi = \mathcal{I}_{m,n}(t)$$

where $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}(t) = \mathcal{I}_{m,n}^1(t) + \mathcal{I}_{m,n}^2(t) + \mathcal{I}_{m,n}^3(t)$ with

$$\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^1(t) = [\mathbf{A}_n(t) - \mathbf{A}_m(t)] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_n(t, \xi) h(t, \xi) \, d\xi + [\mathbf{B}_n(t) - \mathbf{B}_m(t)] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi \cdot \nabla \psi_n(t, \xi)) h(t, \xi) \, d\xi,$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^2(t) = -\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [\mathcal{Q}_-^m(\psi_m, \psi_m)(t, \xi) - \mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi)] h(t, \xi) \, d\xi,$$

and

$$\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^3(t) = (1 - \alpha) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [\mathcal{Q}^m(\psi_m, \psi_m)(t, \xi) - \mathcal{Q}^n(\psi_n, \psi_n)(t, \xi)] h(t, \xi) \, d\xi.$$

Define

$$\mathbf{M}_k^1(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-^k(\psi_k, \psi_k)(t, \xi) \, d\xi, \quad \mathbf{M}_k^2(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi|^2 \mathcal{Q}_-^k(\psi_k, \psi_k)(t, \xi) \, d\xi, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Using the fact that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi \cdot \nabla \varphi(t, \xi)) h(t, \xi) \, d\xi = -d \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\varphi(t, \xi)| \, d\xi - (d + 2) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\varphi(t, \xi)| |\xi|^2 \, d\xi$$

and, since

$$\mathbf{A}_m(t) - d\mathbf{B}_m(t) = -\frac{\alpha}{\|\psi_0^m\|_{L^1}} \mathbf{M}_m^1(t),$$

$$\mathbf{A}_m(t) - (d + 2)\mathbf{B}_m(t) = -\frac{\alpha}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^m(\xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi} \mathbf{M}_m^2(t),$$

we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} \|\varphi(t)\|_{L^2} - \frac{\alpha}{\|\psi_0^m\|_{L^1}} \mathbf{M}_m^1(t) \|\varphi(t)\|_{L^1} \\ & - \frac{\alpha}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^m(\xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi} \mathbf{M}_m^2(t) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\varphi(t, \xi)| |\xi|^2 \, d\xi = \mathcal{I}_{m,n}(t). \end{aligned} \tag{2.30}$$

We estimate all the terms of $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}(t)$ separately. We follow the method of proof of [22, Theorem 4.1]. We begin with $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^2(t)$. Setting $\mathcal{Q}_-^n(g, g) = gL_n(g)$ with

$$L_n(g)(\xi) = \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) g(\xi_*) \, d\xi_*,$$

we get

$$\mathcal{Q}_-^n(\psi_n, \psi_n) - \mathcal{Q}_-^m(\psi_m, \psi_m) = -\varphi L_n(\psi_n) - \psi_m L_n(\varphi) + \psi_m(L_n(\psi_m) - L_m(\psi_m)).$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{m,n}^2(t) &\leq -\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\varphi(t, \xi)| L_n(\psi_n)(t, \xi) \langle \xi \rangle^2 \, d\xi + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \langle \xi \rangle^2 \psi_m(t, \xi) L_n(|\varphi|)(t, \xi) \, d\xi \\ &\quad + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \langle \xi \rangle^2 \psi_m(t, \xi) |L_m(\psi_m)(t, \xi) - L_n(\psi_m)(t, \xi)| \, d\xi. \end{aligned} \tag{2.31}$$

One keeps the first right-hand side term as it is and denotes respectively by $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,1}(t)$ and $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,2}(t)$ the second and the third ones. One has

$$\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,1}(t) = \alpha \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \langle \xi \rangle^2 \psi_m(t, \xi) |\varphi(t, \xi_*)| \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) \, d\xi_* \, d\xi.$$

Since $\|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \leq \|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})}$ and since

$$\Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|) \leq \Phi_n(|\xi|) + \langle \xi_* \rangle^\gamma,$$

one gets the estimate

$$\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,1}(t) \leq \alpha \|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \left(\|\varphi(t)\|_{L^1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_n(|\xi|) \psi_m(t, \xi) \langle \xi \rangle^2 \, d\xi + \|\psi_m(t)\|_{L^1_2} \|\varphi(t)\|_{L^1_\gamma} \right).$$

Therefore, there exists $C > 0$ (independent of n and m) such that

$$\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,1}(t) \leq C \left(1 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_m(|\xi|) \psi_m(t, \xi) \langle \xi \rangle^2 \, d\xi \right) \|\varphi(t)\|_{L^1_2} \quad \forall t \in [0, T], \forall m \geq n \geq 1. \tag{2.32}$$

We estimate now $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,2}(t)$. To do so, we follow exactly the proof of [22, Theorem 4.1]. Notice first that

$$\begin{aligned} |L_m(\psi_m)(t, \xi) - L_n(\psi_m)(t, \xi)| &\leq \|b_m - b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_m(|\xi - \xi_*|) \psi_m(t, \xi_*) \, d\xi_* \\ &\quad + \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\Phi_m(|\xi - \xi_*|) - \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|)) \psi_m(t, \xi_*) \, d\xi_*. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \leq \|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})}$, one argues as above and gets that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,2}(t) &\leq \|b_m - b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \left(\|\psi_m(t)\|_{L^1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_m(|\xi|) \psi_m(t, \xi) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi + \|\psi_m(t)\|_{L^1_2} \|\psi_m(t)\|_{L^1_\gamma} \right) \\ &\quad + \alpha \|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\Phi_m(|\xi - \xi_*|) - \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|)) \psi_m(t, \xi) \psi_m(t, \xi_*) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi d\xi_*. \end{aligned}$$

Now, since $\Phi_m(r) - \Phi_n(r) = 0$ if $r \leq n$, one gets that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,2}(t) &\leq \|b_m - b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_m(|\xi|) \psi_m(t, \xi) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi + \|\psi_m(t)\|_{L^1_2} \|\psi_m(t)\|_{L^1_\gamma} \right) \\ &\quad + \alpha \|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{|\xi - \xi_*| \geq n} (\Phi_m(|\xi - \xi_*|) - \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|)) \psi_m(t, \xi) \psi_m(t, \xi_*) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi d\xi_*, \end{aligned}$$

and one estimates this last term exactly as in [22, Proof of Theorem 4.1, p. 489]. Precisely, since $\{|\xi - \xi_*| \geq n\} \subset \{|\xi| \geq n/2\} \cup \{|\xi_*| \geq n/2\}$ and since

$$(\Phi_m(|\xi - \xi_*|) - \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|)) \leq \Phi_m(|\xi - \xi_*|) \leq \Phi_m(|\xi|) + |\xi_*|^\gamma,$$

we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{|\xi - \xi_*| \geq n} (\Phi_m(|\xi - \xi_*|) - \Phi_n(|\xi - \xi_*|)) \psi_m(t, \xi) \psi_m(t, \xi_*) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi d\xi_* \\ &\leq \int_{\{|\xi| \geq n/2\} \cup \{|\xi_*| \geq n/2\}} \Phi_m(|\xi|) \psi_m(t, \xi) \psi_m(t, \xi_*) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi d\xi_* \\ &\quad + \int_{\{|\xi| \geq n/2\} \cup \{|\xi_*| \geq n/2\}} \psi_m(t, \xi) \psi_m(t, \xi_*) \langle \xi \rangle^2 |\xi_*|^\gamma d\xi d\xi_* \\ &\leq \left(\frac{2}{n}\right)^\delta \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_m(|\xi|) \psi_m(t, \xi) \langle \xi \rangle^{2+\delta} d\xi + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_m(t, \xi_*) \langle \xi_* \rangle^\delta d\xi_* \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_m(|\xi|) \psi_m(t, \xi) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi \right) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{2}{n}\right)^\delta \|\psi_m(t)\|_{L^1_2} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_m(t, \xi) \langle \xi \rangle^{2+\delta} d\xi + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_m(t, \xi_*) \langle \xi_* \rangle^{\gamma+\delta} d\xi_* \right). \end{aligned}$$

We set

$$H_m(t) = 1 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_m(|\xi|) \psi_m(t, \xi) \langle \xi \rangle^{2+\delta} d\xi, \quad t \in [0, T].$$

Recall that, according to Lemma 2.7, H_m is uniformly bounded in $L^1(0, T)$. Now, one sees that there is a positive constant $C_T > 0$ such that

$$\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,2}(t) \leq C_T H_m(t) \left(\|b_m - b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} + \frac{1}{n^\delta} \right) \quad \forall t \in [0, T], \quad \forall m \geq n \geq N_1. \tag{2.33}$$

Gathering (2.31), (2.32) and (2.33), we finally get that

$$\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^2(t) \leq C_T H_m(t) \left(\|\varphi(t)\|_{L^2} + \|b_m - b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} + \frac{1}{n^\delta} \right) - \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\varphi(t, \xi)| L_n(\psi_n)(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi. \tag{2.34}$$

Let us consider now $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^1(t)$. As above, one uses the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi \cdot \nabla \psi_n(t, \xi)) h(t, \xi) d\xi &= -d \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) d\xi \\ &\quad - (d + 2) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{m,n}^1(t) &= -\frac{\alpha}{\|\psi_0^n\|_{L^1}} [\mathbf{M}_n^1(t) - \mathbf{M}_m^1(t)] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) d\xi \\ &\quad - \alpha \mathbf{M}_m^1(t) \left[\frac{1}{\|\psi_0^n\|_{L^1}} - \frac{1}{\|\psi_0^m\|_{L^1}} \right] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) d\xi \\ &\quad - \frac{\alpha}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi} [\mathbf{M}_n^2(t) - \mathbf{M}_m^2(t)] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi \\ &\quad - \alpha \mathbf{M}_m^2(t) \left[\frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi} - \frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^m(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi} \right] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi. \end{aligned}$$

First, we observe that, from the definitions of $\mathbf{M}_m^1(t)$ and $\mathbf{M}_m^2(t)$ together with (2.17) and (2.20), we have

$$\left| \mathbf{M}_m^1(t) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) d\xi \right| \leq 2 \|b_m\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^1} \|\psi_m(t)\|_{L^2}^2 \leq 2 \|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} (1 + d)^2,$$

and

$$\left| \mathbf{M}_m^2(t) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi \right| \leq \|b_m\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} (1 + d)^3 H_m(t).$$

On the one hand, we have

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) d\xi \right| \leq \|\psi_n(t)\|_{L^1} = \|\psi_0^n\|_{L^1},$$

and, on the other hand, with the above notations, one gets that

$$\begin{aligned}
 [\mathbf{M}_n^1(t) - \mathbf{M}_m^1(t)] &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(t, \xi) L_n(\psi_n)(t, \xi) \, d\xi - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_m(t, \xi) L_n(\varphi)(t, \xi) \, d\xi \\
 &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_m(t, \xi) (L_n(\psi_m)(t, \xi) - L_m(\psi_m)(t, \xi)) \, d\xi.
 \end{aligned}$$

We estimate the two latter terms as we did for $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,1}(t)$ and $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,2}(t)$ and we obtain the existence of a constant $C_T > 0$ (independent of m and n) for which the following upper bound holds:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \frac{\alpha}{\|\psi_0^n\|_{L^1}} [\mathbf{M}_n^1(t) - \mathbf{M}_m^1(t)] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) \, d\xi \\
 & \leq C_T \left(\|\varphi(t)\|_{L^2} + \|b_m - b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} + \frac{H_m(t)}{n^\delta} \right) + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\varphi(t, \xi)| L_n(\psi_n)(t, \xi) \, d\xi.
 \end{aligned}$$

In the same way,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \frac{\alpha}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi} [\mathbf{M}_n^2(t) - \mathbf{M}_m^2(t)] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi \\
 & \leq \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\varphi(t, \xi)| L_n(\psi_n)(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_m(t, \xi) L_n(|\varphi|)(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi \\
 & \quad + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_m(t, \xi) |L_n(\psi_m)(t, \xi) - L_m(\psi_m)(t, \xi)| |\xi|^2 \, d\xi.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we obtain, arguing again as in the estimates of $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,1}(t)$ and $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^{2,2}(t)$ that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \frac{\alpha}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi} [\mathbf{M}_n^2(t) - \mathbf{M}_m^2(t)] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{sign}(\varphi(t, \xi)) \psi_n(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi \\
 & \leq C_T H_m(t) \left(\|\varphi(t)\|_{L^2} + \|b_m - b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} + \frac{1}{n^\delta} \right) + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\varphi(t, \xi)| L_n(\psi_n)(t, \xi) \, d\xi
 \end{aligned}$$

for some positive constant C_T depending on T but not on n, m . Summing up all these terms, this yields the existence of a positive constant $C_T > 0$ (different from the previous ones but still independent of m, n) such that, $\forall m \geq n$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{I}_{m,n}^1(t) & \leq C_T H_m(t) \left(\|\varphi(t)\|_{L^2} + \|b_m - b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} + \frac{1}{n^\delta} + \left| \frac{1}{\|\psi_0^n\|_{L^1}} - \frac{1}{\|\psi_0^m\|_{L^1}} \right| \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \left| \frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi} - \frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^m(\xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi} \right| \right) \\
 & \quad + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\varphi(t, \xi)| L_n(\psi_n)(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.35}$$

Gathering (2.34) and (2.35), we finally obtain the existence of some positive constant C_T , independent of $m \geq n \geq 1$ such that $\forall m \geq n \geq N_1, \forall t \in [0, T]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{m,n}^1(t) + \mathcal{I}_{m,n}^2(t) \leq C_T H_m(t) & \left(\|\varphi(t)\|_{L^1_2} + \|b_m - b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} + \frac{1}{n^\delta} + \left| \frac{1}{\|\psi_0^n\|_{L^1}} - \frac{1}{\|\psi_0^m\|_{L^1}} \right| \right. \\ & \left. + \left| \frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi)|\xi|^2 d\xi} - \frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^m(\xi)|\xi|^2 d\xi} \right| \right). \end{aligned}$$

The term $\mathcal{I}_{m,n}^3(t)$ is estimated exactly in the same way (reproducing exactly the arguments of [22, Theorem 4.1] and the above ones). Therefore, turning back to (2.30), we finally obtain an estimate of the type

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \|\varphi(t)\|_{L^1_2} \leq C_T H_m(t) & \left(\|\varphi(t)\|_{L^1_2} + \|b_m - b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} + \frac{1}{n^\delta} + \left| \frac{1}{\|\psi_0^n\|_{L^1}} - \frac{1}{\|\psi_0^m\|_{L^1}} \right| \right. \\ & \left. + \left| \frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi)|\xi|^2 d\xi} - \frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^m(\xi)|\xi|^2 d\xi} \right| \right) \end{aligned}$$

for every $t \in [0, T]$ and $m \geq n \geq N_1$. Again, since $\sup_m \int_0^T H_m(t) dt < \infty$ according to Lemma 2.7, we deduce from Gronwall's Lemma that there is some positive constant $C_1(T)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{t \in (0, T)} \|\psi_m(t) - \psi_n(t)\|_{L^1_2} \leq C_1(T) & \left(\|b_m - b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} + \frac{1}{n^\delta} + \left| \frac{1}{\|\psi_0^n\|_{L^1}} - \frac{1}{\|\psi_0^m\|_{L^1}} \right| \right. \\ & \left. + \left| \frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^n(\xi)|\xi|^2 d\xi} - \frac{1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0^m(\xi)|\xi|^2 d\xi} \right| \right) \end{aligned}$$

for $m \geq n \geq N_1$, which yields the result. \square

2.3. Well-posedness for the rescaled equation

We are now in position to prove that the rescaled equation (1.9) is well-posed. Before this, we notice that the same arguments of those used in the previous Proposition apply to the rescaled (non-truncated) Boltzmann equation. Precisely, one has the following stability result:

Proposition 2.9. *Let $T > 0$ and let $\psi, \varphi \in C([0, T]; L^1_2) \cap L^\infty(0, T; L^1_{2+\delta}) \cap L^1(0, T; L^1_{2+\gamma+\delta})$ be two solutions to (1.9) with initial data ψ_0, φ_0 satisfying (1.11). Then, there exists $C_T > 0$ such that*

$$\|\psi(t) - \varphi(t)\|_{L^1_2} \leq \|\psi_0 - \varphi_0\|_{L^1_2} \exp(C_T) \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

Proof. The proof follows exactly from the same argument of the previous Proposition 2.8. Precisely, since $\varphi, \psi \in L^1(0, T; L^1_{2+\gamma+\delta})$, one has

$$\int_0^T \max(|\mathbf{A}_\psi(t)|, |\mathbf{A}_\varphi(t)|, |\mathbf{B}_\psi(t)|, |\mathbf{B}_\varphi(t)|) dt \leq C_T < \infty.$$

Then, setting $F(t, \xi) = \psi(t, \xi) - \varphi(t, \xi)$, multiplying by $H(t, \xi) = \text{sign}(F(t, \xi))|\xi|^2$ the equation satisfied by F and integrating over \mathbb{R}^d , we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|F(t)\|_{L^1_2} \leq \lambda(t) \|F(t)\|_{L^1_2} + \mathcal{I}^1_{\psi,\varphi}(t) + \mathcal{I}^2_{\psi,\varphi}(t) + \mathcal{I}^3_{\psi,\varphi}(t)$$

where $\lambda \in L^1(0, T)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}^1_{\psi,\varphi}(t) &= (\mathbf{A}_\varphi(t) - \mathbf{A}_\psi(t)) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(t, \xi) H(t, \xi) \, d\xi \\ &\quad + (\mathbf{B}_\varphi(t) - \mathbf{B}_\psi(t)) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi \cdot \nabla \varphi(t, \xi)) H(t, \xi) \, d\xi, \end{aligned}$$

while

$$\mathcal{I}^2_{\psi,\varphi}(t) = -\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{Q}_-(\psi, \psi) - \mathcal{Q}_-(\varphi, \varphi)) H(t, \xi) \, d\xi$$

and

$$\mathcal{I}^3_{\psi,\varphi}(t) = (1 - \alpha) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{Q}(\psi, \psi) - \mathcal{Q}(\varphi, \varphi)) H(t, \xi) \, d\xi.$$

One obtains, as in Proposition 2.8 that

$$\mathcal{I}^1_{\psi,\varphi}(t) = \alpha [\mathbf{M}^1_\psi(t) - \mathbf{M}^1_\varphi(t)] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi \operatorname{sign}(F) \, d\xi + \frac{2\alpha}{d} [\mathbf{M}^2_\psi(t) - \mathbf{M}^2_\varphi(t)] \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi \operatorname{sign}(F) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{M}^1_\psi(t) - \mathbf{M}^1_\varphi(t) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{Q}_-(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) - \mathcal{Q}_-(\varphi, \varphi)(t, \xi)) \, d\xi \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (F(t, \xi) L(\psi)(t, \xi) + \varphi(t, \xi) L(F)(t, \xi)) \, d\xi, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{M}^2_\psi(t) - \mathbf{M}^2_\varphi(t) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{Q}_-(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) - \mathcal{Q}_-(\varphi, \varphi)(t, \xi)) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (F(t, \xi) L(\psi)(t, \xi) + \varphi L(F)(t, \xi)) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi. \end{aligned}$$

Using the fact that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 \, d\xi = \frac{d}{2}$$

one deduces as in the proof of Proposition 2.8 that there exists some positive constant $c_\gamma > 0$ such that

$$\mathcal{I}_{\psi,\varphi}^1(t) \leq \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |F(t, \xi)| L(\psi)(t, \xi) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi + c_\gamma \max(\|\psi(t)\|_{L_{2+\gamma}^1}, \|\varphi(t)\|_{L_{2+\gamma}^1}) \|F(t)\|_{L_2^1}.$$

In the same way,

$$\mathcal{I}_{\psi,\varphi}^2(t) \leq -\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |F(t, \xi)| L(\psi)(t, \xi) \langle \xi \rangle^2 d\xi + c_\gamma \|\varphi(t)\|_{L_{2+\gamma}^1} \|F(t)\|_{L_2^1}.$$

Finally, using that

$$\mathcal{I}_{\psi,\varphi}^3(t) \leq c_\gamma \max(\|\psi(t)\|_{L_{2+\gamma}^1}, \|\varphi(t)\|_{L_{2+\gamma}^1}) \|F(t)\|_{L_2^1}$$

we get that there exists some function $\Lambda \in L^1(0, T)$ such that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|F(t)\|_{L_2^1} \leq \Lambda(t) \|F(t)\|_{L_2^1} \quad \forall t \in [0, T]$$

which gives the result. \square

The existence of a solution to (1.9) comes now from Proposition 2.8. Indeed, let us denote $\psi = \psi(t, \xi) \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L_2^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ the limit of the Cauchy sequence $(\psi_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$. First, one notices that, according to Lemma 2.7 and Fatou’s Lemma,

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2+\delta} d\xi \leq C \quad \text{and} \quad \int_0^T dt \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2+\gamma+\delta} d\xi \leq C,$$

which proves that

$$\psi \in L^\infty(0, T; L_{2+\delta}^1(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^1(0, T; L_{2+\gamma+\delta}^1(\mathbb{R}^d)).$$

The above estimates, together with Lemma 2.7, the convergences of $(\psi_0^n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $(\psi_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ enable us to pass to the limit in (2.1). We finally get that ψ is indeed a solution to the annihilation equation (1.9) in the sense of Definition 1.2 and, by Proposition 2.9, such a solution is unique.

3. Moment estimates

We now prove uniform in time estimates of higher-order moments of the solution to (1.9) yielding to a proof of Theorem 1.4. We fix a nonnegative initial distribution ψ_0 satisfying (1.11) and such that

$$\psi_0 \in L_{2+\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$$

for some $p > 1$. Let then $\psi \in \mathcal{C}([0, \infty); L_2^1(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L_{loc}^1((0, \infty); L_{2+\gamma}^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ be the nonnegative solution to (1.9)–(1.10) constructed by Theorem 1.3. We define, for any $k \geq 0$, the following moment of order $2k$:

$$M_k(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} d\xi, \quad k \geq 0.$$

Using (1.9), one easily gets that $M_k(t)$ satisfies the following identity

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_k(t) = -(\mathbf{A}_\psi(t) - (d + 2k)\mathbf{B}_\psi(t))M_k(t) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} d\xi, \quad t > 0.$$

Let us define

$$\mathbf{a}_\psi(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) d\xi \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{b}_\psi(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi$$

so that

$$\mathbf{A}_\psi(t) = -\frac{\alpha}{2}(d + 2)\mathbf{a}_\psi(t) + \alpha\mathbf{b}_\psi(t) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B}_\psi(t) = -\frac{\alpha}{2}\mathbf{a}_\psi(t) + \frac{\alpha}{d}\mathbf{b}_\psi(t).$$

Then, $M_k(t)$ satisfies

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_k(t) + \alpha(k - 1)\mathbf{a}_\psi(t)M_k(t) = \frac{2\alpha k}{d}\mathbf{b}_\psi(t)M_k(t) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} d\xi. \quad (3.1)$$

In order to estimate in a precise way the last integral involving $\mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)$, we shall resort to Povzner’s estimates as derived in [8].

3.1. Povzner-type inequalities

For any convex function $\Phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, one has

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) \Phi(|\xi|^2) d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} \psi(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi_*) |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \mathcal{W}_\Phi(\xi, \xi_*) d\xi d\xi_* \quad (3.2)$$

where

$$\mathcal{W}_\Phi(\xi, \xi_*) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} [(1 - \alpha)\Phi(|\xi'|^2) + (1 - \alpha)\Phi(|\xi_*'|^2) - \Phi(|\xi|^2) - \Phi(|\xi_*|^2)] b(\cos \theta) d\sigma. \quad (3.3)$$

Clearly

$$\mathcal{W}_\Phi(\xi, \xi_*) = (1 - \alpha)\mathcal{G}_\Phi(\xi, \xi_*) - \frac{1}{2}(\Phi(|\xi|^2) + \Phi(|\xi_*|^2))$$

with

$$\mathcal{G}_\Phi(\xi, \xi_*) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} [\Phi(|\xi'|^2) + \Phi(|\xi_*'|^2)] b(\cos \theta) d\sigma$$

where we recall that we assumed $\|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} = 1$. The following lemma allows to estimate $\mathcal{G}_\Phi(\xi, \xi_*)$ for any convex function Φ .

Lemma 3.1. *Let $\Phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be convex. Then,*

$$\mathcal{G}_\Phi(\xi, \xi_*) \leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \left[\Phi\left(E \frac{1 + \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2}\right) + \Phi\left(E \frac{1 - \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2}\right) \right] b(\hat{u} \cdot \sigma) \, d\sigma \tag{3.4}$$

where $E = |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2$.

Proof. We give a very short proof of the lemma, referring to [8] for the general strategy. For any fixed ξ, ξ_* , set

$$U = \frac{\xi + \xi_*}{2}, \quad u = \xi - \xi_*, \quad E = |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2, \quad \hat{U} = U/|U|, \quad \hat{u} = u/|u|.$$

Then, $\cos \theta = \hat{u} \cdot \sigma$ and

$$|\xi'|^2 = E \frac{1 + \lambda \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2} \quad \text{while} \quad |\xi_*'|^2 = E \frac{1 - \lambda \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2}$$

where $\lambda = 2 \frac{|u||U|}{E} \leq 1$. Since Φ is convex, one can prove as in [8] that, for any fixed $x, y > 0$, the mapping $t \mapsto \Phi(x + ty) + \Phi(x - ty)$ is nondecreasing and, because $\lambda \leq 1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(|\xi'|^2) + \Phi(|\xi_*'|^2) &= \Phi\left(E \frac{1 + \lambda \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2}\right) + \Phi\left(E \frac{1 - \lambda \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2}\right) \\ &\leq \Phi\left(E \frac{1 + \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2}\right) + \Phi\left(E \frac{1 - \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Since $b(\cdot)$ is nonnegative, this gives (3.4) after integration. \square

With the special choice $\Phi(x) = x^k, k \geq 1$, one has the following estimate

Lemma 3.2. *For any $k \geq 1$, one has*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} \, d\xi \leq -(1 - \beta_k(\alpha)) M_{k+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) + S_k(t)$$

with

$$S_k(t) = \beta_k(\alpha) \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \rfloor} \binom{k}{j} (M_{j+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) M_{k-j}(t) + M_j(t) M_{k-j+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)) + (1 - \beta_k(\alpha)) M_k(t) M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)$$

where $\lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \rfloor$ denote the integer part of $\frac{k+1}{2}$, $\beta_k(\alpha) = (1 - \alpha) \mathcal{Q}_k$ and

$$\mathcal{Q}_k = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \left[\left(\frac{1 + \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2} \right)^k + \left(\frac{1 - \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2} \right)^k \right] b(\cos \theta) \, d\sigma. \tag{3.5}$$

Proof. One applies the above estimate (3.4) with the convex function $\Phi(x) = x^k$ to get

$$\mathcal{G}_\Phi(\xi, \xi_*) \leq \frac{1}{2} \varrho_k E^k$$

where $E = |\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2$. One gets therefore

$$\mathcal{W}_\Phi(\xi, \xi_*) \leq -\frac{1}{2}(1 - \beta_k(\alpha))(|\xi|^{2k} + |\xi_*|^{2k}) + \frac{1}{2}\beta_k(\alpha)[(|\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^k - |\xi|^{2k} - |\xi_*|^{2k}]$$

where $(1 - \beta_k(\alpha)) > 0$. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} d\xi \\ & \leq -(1 - \beta_k(\alpha)) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} d\xi \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_*) |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_* \\ & \quad + \frac{\beta_k(\alpha)}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} \psi(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi_*) |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma [(|\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^k - |\xi|^{2k} - |\xi_*|^{2k}] d\xi d\xi_*. \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

One then applies [8, Lemma 2] with $x = |\xi|^2$ and $y = |\xi_*|^2$ and uses the estimate

$$|\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \leq |\xi|^\gamma + |\xi_*|^\gamma$$

to get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} d\xi & \leq -(1 - \beta_k(\alpha)) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} d\xi \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_*) |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_* \\ & \quad + \beta_k(\alpha) \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \rfloor} \binom{k}{j} (M_{j+\gamma/2}(t) M_{k-j}(t) + M_j(t) M_{k-j+\gamma/2}(t)). \end{aligned}$$

To estimate the nonpositive term, one notices that

$$|\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \geq |\xi|^\gamma - |\xi_*|^\gamma$$

and gets

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} d\xi \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_*) |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_* \geq M_{k+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) - M_k(t) M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t).$$

This clearly yields the conclusion. \square

Remark 3.3. It is easy to check that $\varrho_1 = \|b\|_{L^1(\mathcal{S}^{d-1})} = 1$ and that the mapping $k > 1 \mapsto \varrho_k \geq 0$ is strictly decreasing.

3.2. Uniform estimates

Thanks to the above lemma, we can derive uniform in time estimates of $M_k(t)$ for $k = 1 + \frac{\gamma}{2}$. Precisely, one has the following:

Proposition 3.4. *Let*

$$\alpha_0 = \frac{1 - \varrho_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}}{1 + \frac{\gamma}{2} - \varrho_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}} \in (0, 1]$$

where ϱ_k is defined by (3.5) for any $k \geq 1$. Then, if $0 < \alpha < \alpha_0$, there exists a constant \bar{M} depending only on $\alpha, \gamma, b(\cdot)$ and d such that the unique solution $\psi(t)$ to (1.9) satisfies

$$\sup_{t \geq 0} M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) \leq \max\{M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(0), \bar{M}\}.$$

Proof. Let us fix $k > 1$. Since $\mathbf{a}_\psi(t) \geq 0$, one gets from (3.1):

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_k(t) \leq \frac{2\alpha k}{d} \mathbf{b}_\psi(t) M_k(t) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} d\xi.$$

Now, we recall that

$$\mathbf{b}_\psi(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \psi(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi_*) |\xi|^2 d\xi d\xi_*$$

so that, since $|\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \leq |\xi|^\gamma + |\xi_*|^\gamma$, one has

$$\mathbf{b}_\psi(t) \leq M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) + M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) M_1(t) \leq M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) + \frac{d}{2} \left(1 + \frac{d}{2}\right)$$

where we recall that $M_1(t) = M_1(0) = \frac{d}{2}$ for any $t \geq 0$. We get therefore

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_k(t) \leq \frac{2\alpha k}{d} M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) M_k(t) + \alpha k \left(1 + \frac{d}{2}\right) M_k(t) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} d\xi.$$

Now, one estimates the last integral thanks to Lemma 3.2 and get

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_k(t) + (1 - \beta_k(\alpha)) M_{k+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) \leq S_k(t) + \frac{2\alpha k}{d} M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) M_k(t) + \alpha k \left(1 + \frac{d}{2}\right) M_k(t). \tag{3.7}$$

Using now Hölder’s inequality, one has, for $k \geq 1 + \frac{\gamma}{2}$,

$$M_{k+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) \geq \left(\frac{2}{d}\right)^{\frac{\gamma}{2k-2}} (M_k(t))^{\frac{2k+\gamma-2}{2k-2}} \quad \text{and} \quad M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) \leq \left(\frac{2}{d}\right)^{-1+\frac{\gamma}{2k-2}} (M_k(t))^{\frac{\gamma}{2k-2}}$$

where we used again that $M_1(t) = \frac{d}{2}$ for any $t \geq 0$. With these estimates, (3.7) becomes

$$\frac{d}{dt}M_k(t) + c_{\alpha,k,d} \left(\frac{2}{d}\right)^{\frac{\gamma}{2k-2}} (M_k(t))^{1+\frac{\gamma}{2k-2}} \leq S_k(t) + \alpha k \left(1 + \frac{d}{2}\right) M_k(t), \tag{3.8}$$

with

$$c_{\alpha,k,d} = 1 - \beta_k(\alpha) - \alpha k = 1 - \varrho_k + \alpha(\varrho_k - k).$$

Notice that

$$c_{\alpha,k,d} > 0 \iff 0 < \alpha < \frac{1 - \varrho_k}{k - \varrho_k}. \tag{3.9}$$

Taking now $k = 1 + \frac{\gamma}{2}$ in the above inequality (3.8) and using the explicit expression of $S_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)$ we find

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{d}{dt}M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) + c_{\alpha,1+\frac{\gamma}{2},d} \left(\frac{2}{d}\right) M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)^2 \\ &\leq \beta_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(\alpha) \left(\frac{1 + \frac{\gamma}{2}}{1}\right) (M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) + M_1(t)M_\gamma(t)) \\ &\quad + (1 - \beta_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(\alpha)) M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) + \alpha \left(1 + \frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \left(1 + \frac{d}{2}\right) M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t). \end{aligned}$$

Since $\gamma \leq 1$ and $M_1(t) = \frac{d}{2}$ for any $t \geq 0$, it is clear that $M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)$ and $M_\gamma(t)$ are uniformly bounded by $1 + \frac{d}{2}$ so that there are two positive constants $C_0, C_1 > 0$ depending only on $\alpha, \gamma, b(\cdot)$ and d such that

$$\frac{d}{dt}M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) + c_{\alpha,1+\frac{\gamma}{2},d} \left(\frac{2}{d}\right) M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)^2 \leq C_0 M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) + C_1 \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

Therefore, using (3.9) and some comparison principle, we get the conclusion. \square

Remark 3.5. The parameter α_0 depends only on γ, d and the collision kernel $b(\cdot)$. In particular, in dimension $d = 3$, for constant collision kernel $b(\cdot) = \frac{1}{4\pi}$ (recall that $\|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} = 1$) and with $\gamma = 1$, one has $\varrho_{\frac{3}{2}} = \frac{4}{5}$ and $\alpha_0 = \frac{2}{7}$.

Notice that the above result allows actually to deal with higher-order moments:

Corollary 3.6. *With the notations of the above theorem, if $0 < \alpha < \alpha_0$ then the unique solution $\psi(t)$ to (1.9) satisfies for any $k \geq 1 + \frac{\gamma}{2}$*

$$M_k(0) < \infty \implies \sup_{t \geq 0} M_k(t) < \infty. \tag{3.10}$$

Proof. The strategy follows classical arguments already used in [8], the crucial point being that, for $k \geq 1 + \frac{\gamma}{2}$, the first term in the expression of $S_k(t)$:

$$S_k(t) = \beta_k(\alpha) \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \rfloor} \binom{k}{j} (M_{j+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)M_{k-j}(t) + M_j(t)M_{k-j+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)) + (1 - \beta_k(\alpha))M_k(t)M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)$$

involves only moments of order less than $\max\{k - 1 + \frac{\gamma}{2}, \lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \rfloor + \frac{\gamma}{2}\} \leq \max\{k - \frac{1}{2}, \lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \rfloor + \frac{\gamma}{2}\}$ since $\gamma \leq 1$.

First observe that mass is conserved and thus, using classical interpolation, it suffices to prove the result for any $k \geq 1 + \frac{\gamma}{2}$ such that $2k \in \mathbb{N}$. We proceed by induction. Since $\gamma \in (0, 1]$, the first step consists in checking that the result holds for $k = 3/2$. We shall come back to this point later on. Let $k > 3/2$ such that $2k \in \mathbb{N}$. Let us assume that for any j satisfying $2j \in \mathbb{N}$ and $1 \leq j \leq k - 1/2$, there exists $K_j > 0$ such that $M_j(t) \leq K_j$ for any $t \geq 0$. Note that for such a k , then $\max\{k - \frac{1}{2}, \lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \rfloor + \frac{\gamma}{2}\} = k - \frac{1}{2}$. Consequently, the induction hypothesis together with the fact that $M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)$ is uniformly bounded imply that

$$S_k(t) \leq C_k + A_k M_k(t)$$

with $A_k = (1 - \beta_k(\alpha))(1 + \frac{d}{2})$ and

$$C_k = \beta_k(\alpha) \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \rfloor} \binom{k}{j} (K_{j+\frac{\gamma}{2}} K_{k-j} + K_j K_{k-j+\frac{\gamma}{2}}).$$

Then, from (3.7):

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_k(t) + (1 - \beta_k(\alpha))M_{k+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) \leq C_k + \left(A_k + \alpha k \left(1 + \frac{d}{2} \right) \right) M_k(t) + \frac{2\alpha k}{d} M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) M_k(t).$$

Now, from Theorem 3.4, as soon as $\alpha \in (0, \alpha_0)$, $\sup_{t \geq 0} M_{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) < \infty$ and the above identity becomes

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_k(t) + (1 - \beta_k(\alpha))M_{k+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) \leq C_k + B_k M_k(t)$$

for some explicit constant $B_k > 0$. From Jensen’s inequality, one has

$$M_{k+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) \geq (M_k(t))^{1+\frac{\gamma}{2k}}$$

from which the above differential inequality yields the conclusion.

It only remains to check that (3.10) holds for $k = 3/2$. If $\gamma = 1$, it directly follows from Theorem 3.4. Otherwise, we have $\max\{k - \frac{1}{2}, \lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \rfloor + \frac{\gamma}{2}\} = \max\{1, \lfloor \frac{5}{4} \rfloor + \frac{\gamma}{2}\} = 1 + \frac{\gamma}{2}$ and we deduce from Theorem 3.4 and usual interpolations that

$$S_{3/2}(t) \leq C_{3/2} + A_{3/2} M_{3/2}(t),$$

for some constants $C_{3/2} > 0$ and $A_{3/2} > 0$, which leads, following the same lines as above, to the desired result. \square

3.3. Lower bounds

We shall now use Lemma 3.1 to derive suitable lower bounds for the moments of $\psi(t, \xi)$:

Lemma 3.7. For any $\gamma \in (0, 1]$, there exists $\alpha_\star \in (0, 1)$ such that, for any $\alpha \in (0, \alpha_\star)$ the solution $\psi(t, \xi)$ to (1.9) satisfies

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_\star) |\xi_\star|^\gamma d\xi_\star \geq C_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi_\star) |\xi_\star|^\gamma d\xi_\star, \tag{3.11}$$

for some explicit constant $C_\alpha > 0$ depending only on α, γ, d and $b(\cdot)$. Moreover, one has the following propagation of lower bounds

- (i) Assume that $\gamma = 1$ and, given $0 < \alpha < \alpha_\star$, let $0 < \kappa(\alpha) \leq \sqrt{\frac{\beta_{\frac{1}{2}}(\alpha)-1}{\beta_{\frac{1}{2}}(\alpha)+1} \frac{d}{2}}$. If $M_{\frac{1}{2}}(0) \geq \kappa(\alpha)$ then $M_{\frac{1}{2}}(t) \geq \kappa(\alpha)$ for any $t \geq 0$.
- (ii) Assume that $\gamma \in (0, 1)$ and let $j_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ be such that $k_0 = \frac{j_0\gamma}{2} < 1$ and $k_0 + \frac{\gamma}{2} \geq 1$. Given $0 < \alpha < \alpha_\star$ let $(\kappa_j(\alpha))_{j=1, \dots, j_0}$ be some positive constants such that

$$\kappa_{j_0}(\alpha) \leq \left(\frac{\beta_{\frac{j_0\gamma}{2}}(\alpha) - 1}{\beta_{\frac{j_0\gamma}{2}}(\alpha) + 1} \right)^{\frac{j_0}{1+j_0}} \left(\frac{d}{2} \right)^{\frac{j_0\gamma}{2}} \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa_j(\alpha) \leq \left(\frac{\beta_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(\alpha) - 1}{\beta_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(\alpha) + 1} \kappa_{j+1}(\alpha) \right)^{\frac{j}{1+j}},$$

for $j = 1, \dots, j_0$. If the initial datum ψ_0 is such that $M_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(0) \geq \kappa_j(\alpha)$ for any $j = 1, \dots, j_0$ then $\inf_{t \geq 0} M_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(t) \geq \kappa_j(\alpha)$ for any $j = 1, \dots, j_0$.

Proof. We first prove (3.11). We estimate the moment $M_k(t)$ for $k < 1$ applying the above Lemma 3.1 to the convex function $\Phi(x) = -x^k$. We obtain easily that

$$\begin{aligned} - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{B}(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) |\xi|^{2k} d\xi &\leq - \frac{\beta_k(\alpha)}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} \psi(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi_\star) |\xi - \xi_\star|^\gamma (|\xi|^2 + |\xi_\star|^2)^k d\xi d\xi_\star \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} \psi(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi_\star) |\xi - \xi_\star|^\gamma (|\xi|^{2k} + |\xi_\star|^{2k}) d\xi d\xi_\star \end{aligned}$$

where, as in Lemma 3.2, $\beta_k(\alpha) = (1 - \alpha)Q_k$ with Q_k given by

$$Q_k = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \left[\left(\frac{1 + \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2} \right)^k + \left(\frac{1 - \hat{U} \cdot \sigma}{2} \right)^k \right] b(\cos \theta) d\sigma \quad \forall 0 < k < 1.$$

Using the fact that $k - 1 < 0$, $\mathbf{a}_\psi(t) \geq 0$ and $\mathbf{b}_\psi(t) \geq 0$, we deduce from (3.1) that

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_k(t) \geq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} \psi(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi_\star) \mathcal{J}_k(\xi, \xi_\star) d\xi d\xi_\star$$

where

$$\mathcal{J}_k(\xi, \xi_\star) = \beta_k(\alpha) |\xi - \xi_\star|^\gamma (|\xi|^2 + |\xi_\star|^2)^k - |\xi - \xi_\star|^\gamma (|\xi|^{2k} + |\xi_\star|^{2k}).$$

Since $\gamma \in (0, 1]$, one has $||\xi|^\gamma - |\xi_*|^\gamma| \leq |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \leq |\xi|^\gamma + |\xi_*|^\gamma$ while

$$(|\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^k \geq ||\xi|^{2k} - |\xi_*|^{2k}| \quad \forall k \in (0, 1).$$

As a consequence,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{J}_k(\xi, \xi_*) &\geq \beta_k(\alpha)(|\xi|^\gamma - |\xi_*|^\gamma)(|\xi|^{2k} - |\xi_*|^{2k}) - (|\xi|^\gamma + |\xi_*|^\gamma)(|\xi|^{2k} + |\xi_*|^{2k}) \\ &= (\beta_k(\alpha) - 1)(|\xi|^{\gamma+2k} + |\xi_*|^{\gamma+2k}) - (\beta_k(\alpha) + 1)(|\xi|^\gamma |\xi_*|^{2k} + |\xi_*|^\gamma |\xi|^{2k}), \end{aligned}$$

yielding the following inequality, for any $0 < k < 1$:

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_k(t) \geq (\beta_k(\alpha) - 1)M_{k+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) - (\beta_k(\alpha) + 1)M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)M_k(t). \tag{3.12}$$

We are now in position to resume the argument of [14, Lemma 2] to get (3.11). We recall here the main steps in order to explicit the parameter α_* (and, for $\gamma = 1$, the constant C_α). Assume first that $\gamma = 1$, using then (3.12) with $k = \frac{1}{2}$, we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_{\frac{1}{2}}(t) \geq (\beta_{\frac{1}{2}}(\alpha) - 1)M_1(t) - (\beta_{\frac{1}{2}}(\alpha) + 1)M_{\frac{1}{2}}(t)^2.$$

Since $M_1(t) = M_1(0) = d/2$ for any $t \geq 0$, we see that, if $\beta_{\frac{1}{2}}(\alpha) - 1 > 0$ then

$$M_{\frac{1}{2}}(t) \geq \min\left(M_{\frac{1}{2}}(0), \sqrt{\frac{\beta_{\frac{1}{2}}(\alpha) - 1}{\beta_{\frac{1}{2}}(\alpha) + 1} M_1(0)}\right) \quad \forall t \geq 0. \tag{3.13}$$

Since moreover $M_1(0) \geq M_{\frac{1}{2}}(0)^2$ we obtain

$$M_{\frac{1}{2}}(t) \geq C_\alpha M_{\frac{1}{2}}(0) \quad \forall 0 < \alpha < \alpha_* := \frac{Q_{\frac{1}{2}} - 1}{Q_{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

where $C_\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{\beta_{\frac{1}{2}}(\alpha) - 1}{\beta_{\frac{1}{2}}(\alpha) + 1}}$ (notice that $0 < \alpha < \alpha_* \iff \beta_{\frac{1}{2}}(\alpha) > 1$). In other words, for any $0 < \alpha < \alpha_*$,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi| |\psi(t, \xi)| d\xi \geq C_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi| |\psi_0(\xi)| d\xi \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

For $\gamma < 1$, one argues by induction as in [14, Lemma 2] iterating the above argument with $k = \frac{j\gamma}{2}$ for $j = 1, \dots, j_0$ where $j_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ is such that $k_0 = \frac{j_0\gamma}{2} < 1$ and $k_0 + \frac{\gamma}{2} \geq 1$. Then, from (3.12) with $k = k_0$, we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_{k_0}(t) \geq (\beta_{k_0}(\alpha) - 1)M_{k_0+\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t) - (\beta_{k_0}(\alpha) + 1)M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)M_{k_0}(t).$$

A simple use of Jensen’s inequality shows that

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_{k_0}(t) \geq (\beta_{k_0}(\alpha) - 1) \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^{k_0 + \frac{\gamma}{2}} - (\beta_{k_0}(\alpha) + 1) M_{k_0}(t)^{1 + \frac{\gamma}{2k_0}}$$

from which we deduce, as above, that

$$M_{k_0}(t) \geq \left(\frac{\beta_{k_0}(\alpha) - 1}{\beta_{k_0}(\alpha) + 1}\right)^{\frac{1}{1 + \frac{\gamma}{2k_0}}} M_{k_0}(0) \quad \forall t \geq 0$$

if $\beta_{k_0}(\alpha) > 1$. Now, one can repeat the argument exactly with $k_1 = k_0 - \frac{\gamma}{2}$, $k_2 = k_1 - \frac{\gamma}{2}$ and so on. Notice that, if $\beta_{k_0}(\alpha) > 1$, then $\beta_k(\alpha) > 1$ for any $k \leq k_0$. In particular, we get (3.11) for any $0 < \alpha < \frac{\varrho_{k_0} - 1}{\varrho_{k_0}} =: \alpha_*$.

Let us now prove the second part of the lemma, regarding the propagation of lower bounds. The proof in the case $\gamma = 1$ is a direct consequence of (3.13). For $0 < \gamma < 1$, the proof uses arguments similar to those used in the proof of (3.11). Precisely, since $M_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(t) \leq M_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(t)^{\frac{1+j}{j}}$ according to Jensen’s inequality, one deduces from Eq. (3.12) that

$$\frac{d}{dt} M_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(t) \geq (\beta_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(\alpha) - 1) M_{\frac{(j+1)\gamma}{2}}(t) - (\beta_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(\alpha) + 1) M_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(t)^{\frac{1+j}{j}}, \quad \text{for any } j = 1, \dots, j_0.$$

According to Jensen’s inequality one also has

$$M_{\frac{(j_0+1)\gamma}{2}}(t) \geq M_1(t)^{\frac{(j_0+1)\gamma}{2}} = \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^{\frac{(j_0+1)\gamma}{2}} \quad \forall t \geq 0$$

and, by a simple decreasing induction argument, one checks that if $M_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(0) \geq \kappa_j(\alpha)$ holds for any $j = 1, \dots, j_0$, then $\inf_{t \geq 0} M_{\frac{j\gamma}{2}}(t) \geq \kappa_j(\alpha)$ will hold for any $j = 1, \dots, j_0$. \square

Remark 3.8. With the notations of Lemma 3.7, we define the set $\mathcal{C}_\gamma(\alpha)$ ($0 < \alpha < \alpha_*$) as follows:

- (i) If $\gamma = 1$ then $\mathcal{C}_1(\alpha)$ is the set of nonnegative $\psi(\xi)$ such that $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(\xi) |\xi| \, d\xi \geq \kappa(\alpha)$.
- (ii) If $\gamma \in (0, 1)$ let $j_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ be such that $k_0 = \frac{j_0\gamma}{2} < 1$ and $k_0 + \frac{\gamma}{2} \geq 1$. Then, $\mathcal{C}_\gamma(\alpha)$ is defined as the set of nonnegative $\psi(\xi)$ such that $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(\xi) |\xi|^{j\gamma} \, d\xi \geq \kappa_j(\alpha)$ for any $j = 1, \dots, j_0$.

The second part of Lemma 3.7 can be reformulated as follows: given $\gamma \in (0, 1]$ and $0 < \alpha < \alpha_*$, if the initial datum $\psi_0 \in \mathcal{C}_\gamma(\alpha)$ then the associated solution $\psi(t)$ to (1.9) is such that $\psi(t) \in \mathcal{C}_\gamma(\alpha)$ for any $t \geq 0$.

The above lower bounds have several important consequences when dealing with isotropic functions. Precisely, one has the following result, already stated in [17, Lemma 10] in dimension $d = 3$:

Lemma 3.9. Assume that $f(\xi) = \bar{f}(|\xi|) \geq 0$ is an isotropic integrable function and let $k(r) \geq 0$ be a nondecreasing mapping on $[0, \infty)$. Then, for any $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(\xi_*) k(|\xi - \xi_*|) \, d\xi_* \geq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(\xi_*) k(\sqrt{|\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2}) \, d\xi_*$$

Proof. We give an elementary proof of this result. Using spherical coordinates, with $\xi_* = \varrho\omega$ and $\xi = r\sigma$, $r, \varrho > 0$, $\omega, \sigma \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(\xi_*)k(|\xi - \xi_*|) d\xi_* &= \int_0^\infty \bar{f}(\varrho)\varrho^{d-1} d\varrho \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} k(\sqrt{\varrho^2 + r^2 - 2r\varrho\sigma \cdot \omega}) d\omega \\ &\geq \int_0^\infty \bar{f}(\varrho)\varrho^{d-1} d\varrho \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}_-} k(\sqrt{\varrho^2 + r^2 - 2r\varrho\sigma \cdot \omega}) d\omega \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbb{S}^{d-1}_- = \{\omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}; \sigma \cdot \omega < 0\}$. Then, for any $\omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}_-$, since $k(\cdot)$ is nondecreasing,

$$k(\sqrt{\varrho^2 + r^2 - 2r\varrho\sigma \cdot \omega}) \geq k(\sqrt{\varrho^2 + r^2})$$

and

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(\xi_*)k(|\xi - \xi_*|) d\xi_* \geq \int_0^\infty \bar{f}(\varrho)\varrho^{d-1}k(\sqrt{\varrho^2 + r^2}) d\varrho \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}_-} d\omega$$

which, turning back to the original variables yields the conclusion, the factor $\frac{1}{2}$ coming from the integration over the half-sphere \mathbb{S}^{d-1}_- . \square

Thanks to the above lemma, one can complement Lemma 3.7 for isotropic solutions. We first recall that, if $\psi_0(\xi) = \bar{\psi}_0(|\xi|)$ is an isotropic function, then the solution ψ to (1.9) with initial condition ψ_0 is isotropic for any $t \geq 0$. Indeed, for any rotation matrix $R \in SO(d)$, defining $\tilde{\psi}$ by $\tilde{\psi}(t, \xi) = \psi(t, R \cdot \xi)$ for any $(t, \xi) \in (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d$, we have

$$\mathcal{Q}_-(\tilde{\psi}, \tilde{\psi})(t, \xi) = \mathcal{Q}_-(\psi, \psi)(t, R \cdot \xi), \quad \mathcal{Q}_+(\tilde{\psi}, \tilde{\psi})(t, \xi) = \mathcal{Q}_+(\psi, \psi)(t, R \cdot \xi),$$

for any $(t, \xi) \in (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d$. Consequently, one checks easily that $\tilde{\psi}$ is a solution to (1.9) with initial condition ψ_0 . By uniqueness, we deduce that $\tilde{\psi} = \psi$. Thus, ψ is an isotropic function. This leads to

Lemma 3.10. Assume that $\psi_0(\xi) = \bar{\psi}_0(|\xi|)$ is a nonnegative isotropic initial datum satisfying (1.11). For any $\gamma \in (0, 1]$, there exists $\alpha_* \in (0, 1)$ such that, for any $\alpha \in (0, \alpha_*)$ the solution $\psi(t, \xi)$ to (1.9) satisfies

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_*)|\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_* \geq \mu_\alpha(\xi)^\gamma \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d, t \geq 0$$

for some positive constant $\mu_\alpha > 0$ depending on $b(\cdot)$, γ , d , α and on the initial datum ψ_0 .

Proof. Applying Lemma 3.9 with the function $k(x) = x^\gamma$ we get that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_*)|\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_* \geq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_*)(|\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^{\frac{\gamma}{2}} d\xi_*$$

Moreover, for any $\gamma \in (0, 1]$, there exists $c_\gamma > 0$ such that $(|\xi|^2 + |\xi_*|^2)^{\frac{\gamma}{2}} \geq c_\gamma (|\xi|^\gamma + |\xi_*|^\gamma)$ for any $\xi, \xi_* \in \mathbb{R}^d$. Then,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_*) |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_* \geq \frac{c_\gamma}{2} \left(|\xi|^\gamma + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_*) |\xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_* \right).$$

Now, according to Lemma 3.7, whenever $\alpha \in (0, \alpha_*)$ there exists \mathbf{C}_α such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_*) |\xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_* \geq \mathbf{C}_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi_*) |\xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_*, \quad t \geq 0.$$

Consequently,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi_*) |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_* \geq \frac{c_\gamma}{2} \min \left\{ 1, \mathbf{C}_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi_*) |\xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_* \right\} (1 + |\xi|^\gamma) \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d, t \geq 0.$$

Now, since there exists $\kappa_\gamma > 0$ such that $(1 + |\xi|^\gamma) \geq \kappa_\gamma (1 + |\xi|^2)^{\frac{\gamma}{2}}$ for any $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we finally obtain the conclusion with $\mu_\alpha = \frac{c_\gamma \kappa_\gamma}{2} \min(1, \mathbf{C}_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi_*) |\xi_*|^\gamma d\xi_*)$. \square

Remark 3.11. The parameter α_* is exactly the one of Lemma 3.7. Precisely,

$$\alpha_* = \frac{Q_{k_0} - 1}{Q_{k_0}}$$

where $k_0 = \frac{j_0 \gamma}{2} < 1$ with $j_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $k_0 < 1$ and $k_0 + \frac{\gamma}{2} \geq 1$. In particular, for $\gamma = 1$, $k_0 = \frac{1}{2}$ and, in dimension $d = 3$ and hard-spheres interactions $b(\cdot) = \frac{1}{4\pi}$, one sees that $\alpha_* = \frac{1}{4}$.

4. L^p -estimates

We are now interested in uniform in time propagation of L^p -norms for the solution to (1.9) and we prove Theorem 1.6. As in the previous section, we fix a nonnegative initial distribution ψ_0 satisfying (1.11) and such that

$$\psi_0 \in L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$$

for some fixed $p > 1$ and we let then $\psi \in C([0, \infty); L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^1_{loc}((0, \infty); L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ be the nonnegative solution to (1.9) with $\psi(0, \cdot) = \psi_0$ constructed by Theorem 1.3. We assume in this section that ψ_0 is an isotropic function, that is (1.14) holds. For a given $p > 1$, multiplying (1.9) by $p\psi(t, \xi)^{p-1}$ and integrating over \mathbb{R}^d , we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^p + (p\mathbf{A}_\psi(t) - d\mathbf{B}_\psi(t)) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^p \\ &= p(1 - \alpha) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_+(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi)^{p-1} d\xi - p \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi)^{p-1} d\xi \\ &=: (1 - \alpha)p\mathbb{G}_p(\psi(t)) - p\mathbb{L}_p(\psi(t)) \end{aligned} \tag{4.1}$$

where we set

$$\mathbb{G}_p(\psi(t)) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_+(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi)^{p-1} d\xi,$$

and

$$\mathbb{L}_p(\psi(t)) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-(\psi, \psi)(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi)^{p-1} d\xi.$$

The estimates for $\mathbb{G}_p(\psi(t))$ are well-known [23,2] and, for $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists some (explicit) $\theta \in (0, 1)$ and $C_\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$\mathbb{G}_p(\psi(t)) \leq C_\varepsilon \|\psi(t)\|_{L^1}^{1+p\theta} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^{p-p\theta} + \varepsilon \|\psi(t)\|_{L^2} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^{\frac{p}{\gamma}}}^p,$$

i.e.

$$\mathbb{G}_p(\psi(t)) \leq C_\varepsilon \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^{p-p\theta} + \varepsilon \left(1 + \frac{d}{2}\right) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^{\frac{p}{\gamma}}}^p. \tag{4.2}$$

Now, all the strategy consists in finding conditions on α and $p > 1$ ensuring that

$$-(p\mathbf{A}_\psi(t) - d\mathbf{B}_\psi(t)) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^p - p\mathbb{L}_p(\psi(t))$$

can absorb the leading order term $\varepsilon(1 - \alpha)p(1 + \frac{d}{2})\|\psi(t)\|_{L^{\frac{p}{\gamma}}}^p$. One has

$$(p\mathbf{A}_\psi(t) - d\mathbf{B}_\psi(t)) = -\frac{\alpha}{2}(d(p - 1) + 2p)\mathbf{a}_\psi(t) + \alpha(p - 1)\mathbf{b}_\psi(t)$$

and, since $\mathbf{b}_\psi(t) \geq 0$, it is enough to estimate

$$\mathbb{K}_p := \frac{\alpha}{2}(d(p - 1) + 2p)\mathbf{a}_\psi(t) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^p - p\mathbb{L}_p(\psi(t)).$$

Compounding $\|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^p$ and $\mathbf{a}_\psi(t)$ into a unique integral, we get

$$\mathbf{a}_\psi(t) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^p = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3d}} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \psi(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi_*) \psi(t, z)^p dz d\xi d\xi_*.$$

One has $|\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \leq |z - \xi|^\gamma + |z - \xi_*|^\gamma$ so that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a}_\psi(t) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^p &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3d}} |z - \xi|^\gamma \psi(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi_*) \psi(t, z)^p dz d\xi d\xi_* \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3d}} |z - \xi_*|^\gamma \psi(t, \xi) \psi(t, \xi_*) \psi(t, z)^p dz d\xi d\xi_* \end{aligned}$$

i.e.

$$\mathbf{a}_\psi(t) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^p \leq 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} |z - \xi|^\gamma \psi(t, \xi) \psi(t, z)^p \, dz \, d\xi = 2\mathbb{L}_p(\psi(t)).$$

One sees then that $\mathbb{K}_p \leq -\eta_p \mathbb{L}_p(\psi(t))$ with $\eta_p = p - 2\alpha p - \alpha d(p - 1)$ and

$$\eta_p > 0 \iff p(\alpha d + 2\alpha - 1) < \alpha d.$$

One can distinguish between two cases:

- (i) if $\alpha \leq \frac{1}{d+2}$ then one has $\eta_p \geq \alpha d > 0$ for any $p > 1$;
- (ii) if $\alpha > \frac{1}{d+2}$ then $\eta_p > 0$ if and only if $p < p_\alpha^*$ where $p_\alpha^* = \frac{\alpha d}{\alpha d + 2\alpha - 1}$. Notice that $p_\alpha^* > 1$ if and only if $0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{2}$.

In other words, for any $\alpha < \frac{1}{2}$, there exists $p_\alpha^* > 1$ such that

$$\mathbb{K}_p \leq -\eta_p \mathbb{L}_p(\psi(t)) \quad \text{with} \quad \eta_p > 0 \quad \forall p \in (1, p_\alpha^*). \tag{4.3}$$

Putting together (4.1), (4.2) and (4.3) we get, for $\alpha < \frac{1}{2}$ and $p \in (1, p_\alpha^*)$:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^p \leq C_\varepsilon (1 - \alpha)p \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^{p-p\theta} + \varepsilon (1 - \alpha)p \left(1 + \frac{d}{2}\right) \|\psi(t)\|_{L^{\frac{p}{\gamma}}}^p - \eta_p \mathbb{L}_p(\psi(t)).$$

It remains now to compare $\mathbb{L}_p(\psi(t))$ to $\|\psi(t)\|_{L^{\frac{p}{\gamma}}}^p$. This is the only point where we shall invoke our assumption (1.14). Precisely, from (1.14) and Lemma 3.10, if $\alpha \in (0, \alpha_*)$ there exists $\mu_\alpha > 0$ depending on ψ_0 such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi - \xi_*|^\gamma \psi(t, \xi_*) \, d\xi_* \geq \mu_\alpha \langle \xi \rangle^\gamma \quad \forall t \geq 0, \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Therefore,

$$\mathbb{L}_p(\psi(t)) \geq \mu_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(t, \xi)^p \langle \xi \rangle^\gamma \, d\xi = \mu_\alpha \|\psi(t)\|_{L^{\frac{p}{\gamma}}}^p. \tag{4.4}$$

Then, for any fixed $0 < \alpha < \min(\frac{1}{2}, \alpha_*)$ and fixed $p \in (1, p_\alpha^*)$, one can choose $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $\varepsilon(1 - \alpha)p(1 + \frac{d}{2}) = \frac{\eta_p \mu_\alpha}{2}$ to get the following

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^p \leq K \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p}^{p-p\theta} - \frac{\eta_p \mu_\alpha}{2} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^{\frac{p}{\gamma}}}^p,$$

for some positive constant $K > 0$. This implies clearly that

$$\sup_{t \geq 0} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p} \leq \max \left\{ \|\psi_0\|_{L^p}, \left(\frac{2K}{\eta_p \mu_\alpha} \right)^{\frac{1}{p\theta}} \right\}.$$

This proves Theorem 1.6 with $C_p(\psi_0) = (\frac{2K}{\eta_p \mu_\alpha})^{\frac{1}{p\beta}}$. Notice that, as announced, $C_p(\psi_0)$ depends on the initial datum ψ_0 only through μ_α and so only through the moment $M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(0)$.

Remark 4.1. One sees from the above proof that $\bar{\alpha} = \min(\frac{1}{2}, \alpha_*)$ where α_* is the parameter of Lemma 3.10 (see also Remark 3.11).

Remark 4.2. The constant $C_p(\psi_0)$ depends on the initial datum ψ_0 only through the inverse of the moment $M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(0) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_0(\xi) |\xi|^\gamma d\xi$. In particular, with the notations of Lemma 3.7 and Remark 3.8, one sees that, given $\gamma \in (0, 1]$ and $0 < \alpha < \bar{\alpha}$ then for any $p \in (1, p_\alpha^*)$,

$$\sup_{t \geq 0} \|\psi(t)\|_{L^p} < \max\{\|\psi_0\|_{L^p}, C_p\}$$

for some constant $C_p > 0$ depending only on $\alpha, \gamma, b(\cdot)$ and the dimension d provided $\psi_0 \in C_\gamma(\alpha)$ satisfies the assumption of Theorem 1.6.

5. Existence of self-similar profile

We now proceed to the proof of the main result of this paper, that is the proof of Theorem 1.8. As already announced, the existence of a stationary solution to (1.9) relies on the application of Theorem 1.1 to the evolution semi-group $(S_t)_{t \geq 0}$ governing (1.9). We set $\underline{\alpha} = \min(\alpha_0, \bar{\alpha})$. Let us now fix $\alpha < \underline{\alpha}$ and let $p \in (1, p_\alpha^*)$ be fixed. For any nonnegative $\psi_0 \in L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ let $\psi(t) = S_t \psi_0$ denote the unique solution to (1.9) with initial state $\psi(0) = \psi_0$ constructed by Theorem 1.3. The continuity properties of the semi-group are proved by the study of the Cauchy problem in Section 2. On the Banach space $\mathcal{Y} = L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, thanks to the uniform bounds on the $L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ norms provided by Proposition 3.4 and Theorem 1.6 respectively combined with the propagation of lower bounds for $M_{\frac{\gamma}{2}}(t)$ (see Lemma 3.7, Remarks 3.8 and 4.2) the nonempty convex subset

$$\mathcal{Z} = \left\{ 0 \leq \psi \in \mathcal{Y}, \psi(\xi) = \bar{\psi}(|\xi|) \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d, \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(\xi) d\xi = 1, \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(\xi) |\xi|^2 d\xi = \frac{d}{2} \right. \\ \left. \|\psi\|_{L^1_{2+\gamma}} \leq M_\gamma, \|\psi\|_{L^p} \leq M_p \text{ and } \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(\xi) |\xi|^{j\gamma} d\xi \geq K_j, j = 1, \dots, j_0 \right\}$$

is stable by the semi-group provided M_γ, M_p are big enough and K_1, \dots, K_{j_0} are small enough where we recall that j_0 is the largest integer such that $\frac{j_0 \gamma}{2} < 1$ and $\frac{(j_0+1)\gamma}{2} \geq 1$ (in particular, for true hard spheres, $\gamma = j_0 = 1$). This set is weakly compact in \mathcal{Y} by Dunford–Pettis Theorem, and the continuity of S_t for all $t \geq 0$ on \mathcal{Z} follows from Proposition 2.9. Then, Theorem 1.1 shows that, for any $\alpha < \underline{\alpha}$, there exists a nonnegative stationary solution to (1.9) in $L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with unit mass and energy equal to $\frac{d}{2}$.

Remark 5.1. Notice that, unfortunately, we are able to construct only radially symmetric solutions to (1.6). Clearly, this relies on the restriction (1.14) for the control of L^p norms. At first sight, it may seem possible to construct solutions to (1.6) with zero bulk velocity but it is not known whether this property is preserved by the semi-group $(S_t)_{t \geq 0}$. Since the property of being radially symmetric is preserved by $(S_t)_{t \geq 0}$, we have to restrict our choice to that class of self-similar solutions.

Remark 5.2. In the special case of hard-spheres interactions in dimension $d = 3$, i.e. whenever $B(\xi - \xi_*, \sigma) = \frac{|\xi - \xi_*|}{4\pi}$, one has according to Remarks 3.5, 3.11 and 4.1 that $\alpha_0 = \frac{2}{7}, \bar{\alpha} = \frac{1}{4}$. Therefore, $\underline{\alpha} = \frac{1}{4}$ and $p_\alpha^* > 2$.

6. Conclusion and perspectives

We derived in the present paper the existence of a self-similar profile ψ_H associated to the probabilistic ballistic annihilation equation (1.1). Such a self-similar profile is actually the steady state of the rescaled equation (1.9) and the existence of such a steady state was taken for granted in various papers in the physics literature [15,19,28]. Our paper thus provides a rigorous justification of some of the starting point of the analysis of [15,19,28]. The self-similar profile ψ_H we constructed is isotropic, i.e.

$$\psi_H(\xi) = \overline{\psi_H}(|\xi|), \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

and the existence is proven only in a given (explicit) range of the probability parameter α . Namely, we proved the existence of ψ_H only whenever the probability parameter α lies in some interval $(0, \underline{\alpha})$ with some explicit $\underline{\alpha} > 0$. Even if the parameter $\underline{\alpha} > 0$ is certainly not optimal, this restriction arises naturally from our method of proof; in particular, it seems difficult to prove uniform in time estimates of the higher-order moments for all range of parameters $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. However, our restriction on the initial datum (isotropy, L^p -integrability) and on the probability parameter α leaves several questions open. Let us list a few of them that can be seen as possible perspectives for future works.

6.1. Uniqueness

A first natural question that should be addressed is of course the uniqueness of the self-similar profile ψ_H . Clearly, since our existence result is based upon a compactness argument (via Tykhonov fixed point Theorem 1.1) it does not provide any clue for uniqueness. We believe that, as it is the case for the Boltzmann equation with inelastic hard spheres [21,6], a perturbation argument is likely to be adapted here. Such an approach consists in taking profit of the knowledge of the stationary solution in the “pure collisional limit” $\alpha = 0$ (for which the steady state is clearly a uniquely determined Maxwellian distribution) and to prove quantitative estimates of the convergence of stationary solution as the parameter α goes to 0. It is likely that such a uniqueness result would require a good knowledge of some quantitative *a posteriori estimates* for the self-similar profile ψ_H .

6.2. A posteriori estimates for ψ_H

Typically, we may wonder what are the thickness of the tail of ψ_H ; more precisely, one should try to find explicit $r > 0, a > 0$ – possibly independent of the parameter α – such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_H(\xi) \exp(a|\xi|^r) d\xi < \infty.$$

Besides such integral upper bound, one also may wonder if good L^∞ -bounds can be derived for ψ_H (at least in the limit $\alpha \rightarrow 0$), i.e. is it possible to derive universal explicit functions $\underline{M}(\xi)$ and $\overline{M}(\xi)$ such that

$$\underline{M}(\xi) \leq \psi_H(\xi) \leq \overline{M}(\xi) \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d \text{ and any } \alpha \in (0, \bar{\alpha}).$$

6.3. Intermediate asymptotics

A fundamental problem, related to the original probability annihilation equation (1.1), is to understand the role of the self-similar profile ψ_H (if unique). Indeed, we know that solutions to (1.1) are vanishing as $t \rightarrow \infty$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(t, v) = 0$$

and physicists expect that the self-similar profile should play the role of an *intermediate asymptotic* in the following sense. One expects to find suitable explicit scaling functions $a(\cdot), b(\cdot)$ a rescaled density $\psi = \psi(\tau, \xi)$ and a rescaled time $\tau(t)$ which are such that, if f is a solution to (1.1) in the form

$$f(t, v) = a(t)\psi(\tau(t), b(t)v)$$

then the rescaled density ψ is such that

$$\psi(\tau, \xi) \rightarrow \psi_H(\xi) \quad \text{as } \tau \rightarrow \infty.$$

The convergence, in rescaled variables, to a unique self-similar profile is a well-known feature of kinetic equation exhibiting a lack of collisional invariants. In particular, for granular flows described by inelastic hard spheres, such a self-similar profile (known as the homogeneous cooling state) is known to attract all the solutions to the associated Boltzmann equation yielding a proof of the so-called Ernst–Brito conjecture (see [21] for a proof and a complete discussion on this topic).

A related question is also the exact decay of the macroscopic quantities associated to solutions $f(t, v)$ to (1.1): it has already been observed that the number density

$$n(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(t, v) \, dv$$

and the kinetic energy

$$E(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(t, v) |v|^2 \, dv$$

are continuously decreasing if $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ and converge to zero as $t \rightarrow \infty$. To determine the precise rate of convergence to zero for such quantities is a physically relevant problem. Notice that for the particular solution $f_H(t, v)$ (constructed in (1.3) through the self-similar profile) the density $n_H(t)$ and energy $E_H(t)$ satisfy

$$n_H(t)E_H(t) \simeq Ct^{-2} \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty$$

for some $C > 0$ in the case of true hard spheres (i.e. whenever $\gamma = 1$) as can easily be deduced from (1.8). One may wonder if such a decay is *universal*, i.e. does any solution $f(t, v)$ to (1.1) is such that $n(t)E(t)$ behaves as t^{-2} for large times? Partial answers, based upon heuristic and dimensional arguments, are provided by physicists [24] and it would be interesting to provide a rigorous justification of these results. Exploiting again the analogy with the Boltzmann description of granular flows, expliciting the decay rate of the number density and the kinetic energy would be the analogue of the so-called Haff’s law for inelastic hard spheres (see [20,3]).

6.4. Improvement of our result: the special role of entropy

Besides the above cited fundamental questions, we may also discuss some possible improvements of the results we obtained in the present paper. First, one may try to extend the range of parameters α for which our result holds. Notice that, since we strongly believe that the self-similar profile ψ_H is unique in some peculiar regime (at least whenever $\alpha \simeq 0$), getting rid of the isotropic assumption on ψ_H is not particularly relevant. However, in both Theorems 1.3 and 1.8, the hypothesis of L^p -integrability does not have a clear physical meaning. It would be interesting to investigate if such an assumption can be relaxed: for instance, it would be more satisfactory to prove the well-posedness result Theorem 1.3 under the sole assumption that the initial datum is of finite entropy. Unfortunately,

we did not succeed in proving that the flow solution associated to (1.9) propagates suitable bounds of the entropy functional.

Appendix A. Well-posedness for the Boltzmann equation with ballistic annihilation

In this appendix, we only give the main lines of the proof of Theorem 1.9. Indeed, the proof of Theorem 1.9 may be easily adapted from that of Theorem 1.3.

Let us denote by f_0 a nonnegative distribution function from $W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d)$. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. We consider first the well-posedness of the following truncated equation

$$\partial_t f(t, v) = \mathbb{B}^n(f, f)(t, v) \tag{A.1}$$

where the collision operator $\mathbb{B}^n(f, f)$ is given by (2.2). Let $T > 0$ and

$$h \in C([0, T]; L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^\infty((0, T); L^1(\mathbb{R}^d, |v|^{2+\gamma} dv))$$

be fixed. We introduce the auxiliary equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t f(t, v) + L_n(h)(t, v) f(t, v) = (1 - \alpha) \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)(t, v), \\ f(0, v) = f_0(v). \end{cases} \tag{A.2}$$

Here, as in Section 2,

$$L_n(h)(t, v) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \mathcal{B}_n(v - v_*, \sigma) h(t, v_*) dv_* d\sigma = \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_n(|v - v_*|) h(t, v_*) dv_*$$

The Cauchy problem (A.2) admits a unique solution given by

$$\begin{aligned} f(t, v) &= f_0(v) \exp\left(-\int_0^t L_n(h)(\tau, v) d\tau\right) \\ &+ (1 - \alpha) \int_0^t \exp\left(-\int_s^t L_n(h)(\tau, v) d\tau\right) \mathcal{Q}_+^n(h, h)(s, v) ds. \end{aligned} \tag{A.3}$$

For any $T > 0$ and any $M_1, M_2, \ell, C_\gamma > 0$ (to be fixed later on), we define $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_{T, M_1, M_2, \ell, C_\gamma}$ as the set of all nonnegative $h \in C([0, T]; L^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ such that

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(t, v) dv \leq M_1, \quad \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(t, v) |v|^2 dv \leq M_2,$$

and

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(t, v) |v|^{2+\gamma} dv \leq C_\gamma, \quad \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|h(t)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \leq \ell.$$

Define then the mapping

$$\mathcal{T} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$$

which, to any $h \in \mathcal{H}$, associates the solution $f = \mathcal{T}(h)$ to (A.2) given by (A.3). We look for parameters T, M_1, M_2, C_γ and ℓ that ensures \mathcal{T} to map \mathcal{H} into itself.

Control of the density. One checks easily that the solution $f(t, v)$ given by (A.3) fulfills

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(t, v) \, dv \leq \|f_0\|_{L^1} + (1 - \alpha)n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} M_1^2 T \quad \forall h \in \mathcal{H}. \tag{A.4}$$

Control of the moments. Arguing as above and as in Section 2, we get

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(t, v) |v|^2 \, dv \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0(v) |v|^2 \, dv + 4(1 - \alpha)n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} M_1 M_2 T, \tag{A.5}$$

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(t, v) |v|^{2+\gamma} \, dv \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0(v) |v|^{2+\gamma} \, dv + 2^{2+\gamma} (1 - \alpha)n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} M_1 C_\gamma T, \tag{A.6}$$

for any $h \in \mathcal{H}$.

Control of the $W^{1,\infty}$ norm. Here again as in Section 2, we obtain,

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|f(t)\|_{W^{1,\infty}} &\leq \|f_0\|_{W^{1,\infty}} (1 + 2n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} M_1 T) \\ &\quad + 2(1 - \alpha)n^{1+\gamma} \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} M_1 \ell T (2 + n^\gamma \|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} M_1 T). \end{aligned} \tag{A.7}$$

Now, from (A.4)–(A.7), one sees that, choosing for instance $M_1 = 2\|f_0\|_{L^1}$,

$$M_2 = 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0(v) |v|^2 \, d\xi, \quad C_\gamma = 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0(\xi) |\xi|^{2+\gamma} \, d\xi, \quad \ell = 4\|f_0\|_{W^{1,\infty}}$$

and

$$T = \frac{1}{16\|b_n\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} M_1 n^{1+\gamma}} \min\{1, 2^{1-\gamma} n\},$$

we get that $f \in \mathcal{H}$, i.e. with the above choice of the parameters $M_1, M_2, C_\gamma, \ell, T$, one has $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H}) \subset \mathcal{H}$. Moreover, one can perform the same calculations as in the proof of Proposition 2.3 and one obtains that (2.10) holds and that $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H})$ is a relatively compact subset of $\mathcal{C}([0, T], L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$. Thus, the Schauder fixed point theorem ensures the existence of some fixed point f^1 of \mathcal{T} , i.e. there exists $f^1 \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^\infty((0, T); L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ solution to (A.1). Integrating equation (A.1) against 1 and $|v|^2$ over \mathbb{R}^d , we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^1(t, v) \, dv \leq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^1(t, v) |v|^2 \, dv \leq 0.$$

Consequently, f^1 satisfies (1.15) and $\|f^1(T, \cdot)\|_{L^1} \leq \|f_0\|_{L^1}$. Since the time T only depends on the inverse of $\|f_0\|_{L^1}$, by a standard continuation argument, we construct a global solution f to (A.1). Uniqueness clearly follows from (2.10).

In order to prove Theorem 1.9, we now need to get rid of the bound in $W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ for the initial condition and to pass to the limit as $n \rightarrow +\infty$. Let $f_0 \in L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be a nonnegative distribution function. There exists a sequence of nonnegative functions $(f_0^n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in $W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ that converges to f_0 in $L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and that satisfies, for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\|f_0^n\|_{L^1} \leq \|f_0\|_{L^1} \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0^n(v)|v|^{2+\gamma} dv \leq 2^{1+\gamma} \|f_0\|_{L^1} + 2^{1+\gamma} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0(v)|v|^{2+\gamma} dv. \tag{A.8}$$

We infer from the above properties of $(f_0^n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ that there exists some $N_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for $n \geq N_0$,

$$\frac{1}{2} \|f_0\|_{L^1} \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0^n(v) dv \leq \|f_0\|_{L^1} \tag{A.9}$$

and

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0(v)|v|^2 dv \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0^n(v)|v|^2 dv \leq 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_0(v)|v|^2 dv. \tag{A.10}$$

For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we denote by f_n the solution to (A.1) with initial condition f_0^n . Our purpose is to show that $(f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $\mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$ for any $T > 0$. However, this requires uniform estimates on f_n . So, we now show uniform bounds for moments of f_n .

Lemma A.1. *Let $T > 0$ and $s > 2$. Assume that $\|f_0\|_{L^1_2} < \infty$. Then, there exists some constant C depending only on $\alpha, d, \gamma, s, T, b(\cdot)$ and $\|f_0\|_{L^1_2}$ such that, for $n \geq N_0$,*

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_n(t, v)|v|^s dv \leq C \quad \text{and} \quad \int_0^T \|f_n(t)\|_{L^1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_n(t, v)\Phi_n(|v|)|v|^s dv dt \leq C. \tag{A.11}$$

Proof. Let $s > 2$ and $n \geq N_0$. Our proof follows the same lines as the proof of Lemma 2.7. As previously, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dY_s^n}{dt}(t) &= \frac{1-\alpha}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_n(t, v)f_n(t, v_*)\Phi_n(|v-v_*|)K_s^n(v, v_*) dv dv_* \\ &\quad - \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{Q}_-(f_n, f_n)(t, v)|v|^s dv, \end{aligned}$$

where $Y_s^n(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_n(t, v)|v|^s dv$. Now, arguing as in the proof of Lemma 2.7, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} Y_s^n(t) + \frac{(1-\alpha)c_2(n)}{2} \|f_n(t)\|_{L^1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_n(t, v)\Phi_n(|v|)|v|^s dv \\ \leq \frac{c_2(n)}{2} Y_s^n(t)Y_\gamma^n(t) + c_1(Y_s^n(t)Y_1^n(t) + Y_{s-\gamma}^n(t)Y_{1+\gamma}^n(t)). \end{aligned}$$

Finally,

$$\frac{d}{dt} Y_s^n(t) + \frac{(1 - \alpha)c_2(2)}{2} \|f_n(t)\|_{L^1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_n(t, v) \Phi_n(|v|) |v|^s \, dv \leq C_3 Y_s^n(t) + 2c_1 \|f_0\|_{L^1_2},$$

where $C_3 = (c_2^\infty + 4c_1) \|f_0\|_{L^1_2}$. Then, (A.11) follows easily from the Gronwall Lemma and (A.8). \square

Observe that the second inequality of (2.29) has to be modified in that case. Since the mass of the solution is decreasing, we do not recover, as previously, that moments of order $2 + \gamma$ are integrable. This is the reason why we assume here that the initial condition lies in $L^1_{2+\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^d)$. Thanks to Lemma A.1, it then follows that moments of order $2 + \gamma$ are uniformly bounded. We are thus in a position to prove that $(f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $\mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$ for any $T > 0$. We omit the proof since it follows exactly the same lines as the proof of Proposition 2.8. Then denoting by $f \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$ the limit of the sequence $(f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, it is easy to check that f is a weak solution to (1.1). Performing the same calculations as in the proof of Proposition 2.9, we prove the uniqueness of such a solution.

Appendix B. The case of Maxwellian molecules kernel

We discuss in this appendix the particular case of Maxwellian molecules. Notice that the Boltzmann equation for ballistic annihilation associated to Maxwellian molecules has been already studied in the mid-80’s [26,25], and was referred to as *Boltzmann equation with removal*. Consider as above, the equation

$$\partial_t f(t, v) = (1 - \alpha) \mathcal{Q}(f, f)(t, v) - \alpha \mathcal{Q}_-(f, f)(t, v) = \mathbb{B}(f, f)(t, v), \quad f(0, v) = f_0(v) \quad (\text{B.1})$$

where \mathcal{Q} is the quadratic Boltzmann collision operator associated to the Maxwellian collision kernel

$$\mathcal{B}(v - v_*, \sigma) = b(\cos \theta).$$

For any solution $f(t, v)$ to (B.1), we denote

$$n(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(t, v) \, dv, \quad n(t)\mathbf{u}(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} v f(t, v) \, dv,$$

and

$$\Theta(t) = \frac{1}{dn(t)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v - \mathbf{u}(t)|^2 f(t, v) \, dv.$$

Since, for Maxwellian molecules

$$\mathcal{Q}_-(f, f)(t, v) = \|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} f(t, v) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(t, v_*) \, dv_* = \|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})} n(t) f(t, v)$$

one sees easily that the evolution of the density $n(t)$ is given by

$$\frac{d}{dt} n(t) = -\mu n^2(t) \quad \forall t \geq 0, \quad (\text{B.2})$$

with $\mu = \alpha \|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})}$. Thus

$$n(t) = \frac{n_0}{\mu n_0 t + 1} \quad \forall t \geq 0. \tag{B.3}$$

In the same way,

$$\frac{d}{dt}(n(t)\mathbf{u}(t)) = -\mu n^2(t)\mathbf{u}(t) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{dt}(n(t)\Theta(t)) = -\mu n^2(t)\Theta(t) \tag{B.4}$$

from which we deduce that

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = \mathbf{u}(0) \quad \text{and} \quad \Theta(t) = \Theta(0) \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

One sees therefore that, for the special case of Maxwellian molecules, the evolution of the moments of $f(t, v)$ are explicit. Another striking property, very peculiar to Maxwellian molecules, has been noticed in [25]: if one defines

$$s(t) = \frac{1 - \alpha}{n_0} \int_0^t n(\tau) d\tau = \frac{1 - \alpha}{\mu n_0} \log(1 + \mu n_0 t), \quad t \geq 0,$$

then, the change of unknown

$$f(t, v) = \frac{n(t)}{n_0} g(s(t), v), \quad t \geq 0 \tag{B.5}$$

shows that, $f(t, v)$ is a solution to (B.1) if and only if $g(s, v)$ is a solution to the classical Boltzmann equation

$$\partial_s g(s, v) = \mathcal{Q}(g, g)(s, v) \quad (s > 0) \quad \text{with} \quad g(0, v) = f_0(v). \tag{B.6}$$

Moreover, one has

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g(s, v) dv = n_0 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g(0, v) dv, \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} v g(s, v) dv = n_0 \mathbf{u}(0)$$

and

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v - \mathbf{u}(0)|^2 g(s, v) dv = d n_0 \Theta(0) \quad \forall s \geq 0.$$

In other words, the ballistic annihilation equation (B.1) is equivalent to the classical Boltzmann equation with Maxwellian molecules interactions. The mathematical theory of Eq. (B.6) is by now completely understood (see e.g. [29]) and it is well known that (under suitable conditions on the initial distribution f_0) the solution $g(s, v)$ to (B.6) converges (in suitable L^1 -norm) as $s \rightarrow \infty$ to the Maxwellian distribution

$$\mathcal{M}(v) = \frac{n_0}{(2\pi \Theta(0))^{d/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{|v - \mathbf{u}(0)|^2}{2\Theta(0)}\right), \quad v \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

with an explicit rate (we do not wish to explicit the minimal assumption on f_0 nor the precise convergence result and rather refer the reader to [29] for details). Turning back to the original variable, this proves that

$$f(t, v) - \frac{n(t)}{n_0} \mathcal{M}(v) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

The long-time behavior of the solution to (B.1) is therefore completely described by the evolution of the density $n(t)$ given by (B.3) and the moments of the initial datum f_0 (through the Maxwellian \mathcal{M}). This gives a complete picture of the asymptotic behavior of (B.1) and answers the problem stated in Section 6.3 for the special case of Maxwellian molecules.

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