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**$L^2$  stability for weak solutions of the Navier-Stokes equations in  $\mathbf{R}^3$ .**

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The following theorem is proved. Let  $L^2(\mathbf{R}^3)$  be the space of the square integrable functions  $\mathbf{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^3$  and  $\|\cdot\|$  be its norm. Let  $H = \{\varphi \in L^2(\mathbf{R}^3): \operatorname{div} \varphi = 0\}$ . Let  $H^p = H^p(\mathbf{R}^3)$  be the Sobolev space of order  $p$ . Consider the initial value problem for the nonstationary Navier-Stokes equations in the whole space  $\mathbf{R}^3$  with a given external force  $\in L^1(0, \infty; L^2) \cap L^2(0, \infty; L^2)$ . Assume that for some initial velocity  $v_0 \in H$  there exists a strong solution  $v \in H^1(0, \infty; L^2) \cap L^2(0, \infty; H^2)$ . Then for any initial velocity  $u_0 \in H$  there exists a suitable weak solution  $u \in L^\infty(0, \infty; H) \cap L^2(0, \infty; H^1)$  such that  $\|u(t) - v(t)\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . For the construction of suitable weak solutions see a paper by H. Beirão da Veiga [*J. Math. Pures Appl.* (9) **64** (1985), no. 3, 321–334; [MR0823407 \(87h:35268\)](#)].

Reviewed by *Jean Leray*

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