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TERENCE TAO

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SOLUTIONS OF THE FOCUSING MASS-CRITICAL NONLINEAR
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GLOBAL EXISTENCE AND UNIQUENESS RESULTS FOR WEAK SOLUTIONS OF THE FOCUSING MASS-CRITICAL NONLINEAR SCHRÖDINGER EQUATION

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We consider the focusing mass-critical NLS $iu_t + \Delta u = -|u|^{4/d}u$ in high dimensions $d \geq 4$, with initial data $u(0) = u_0$ having finite mass $M(u_0) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |u_0(x)|^2 dx < \infty$. It is well known that this problem admits unique (but not global) strong solutions in the Strichartz class $C_{t,\text{loc}}^0 L_x^2 \cap L_{t,\text{loc}}^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}$, and also admits global (but not unique) weak solutions in $L_t^\infty L_x^2$. In this paper we introduce an intermediate class of solution, which we call a *semi-Strichartz class solution*, for which one does have global existence and uniqueness in dimensions $d \geq 4$. In dimensions $d \geq 5$ and assuming spherical symmetry, we also show the equivalence of the Strichartz class and the strong solution class (and also of the semi-Strichartz class and the semi-strong solution class), thus establishing *unconditional* uniqueness results in the strong and semi-strong classes. With these assumptions we also characterise these solutions in terms of the continuity properties of the mass function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$.

1. Introduction

1.1. The focusing mass-critical NLS. This paper deals with low regularity solutions $u : I \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ to the initial value problem to the focusing mass-critical nonlinear Schrödinger equation (NLS)

$$\begin{aligned} iu_t + \Delta u &= F(u), \\ u(t_0) &= u_0, \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

in high dimensions $d \geq 4$, where $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ is a time interval containing a time $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, $F : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is the nonlinearity $F(z) := -|z|^{4/d}z$, and we assume u_0 to merely lie in the class $L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ of functions of finite mass $M(u_0) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |u_0(x)|^2 dx$. The exponent $1 + 4/d$ in the nonlinearity makes the equation *mass-critical*, so that the mass $M(u)$ is invariant under the scaling $u(t, x) \mapsto (1/\lambda^{d/2})u(t/\lambda^2, x/\lambda)$ of the equation. The mass is also *formally* conserved by the flow, thus we formally have $M(u(t)) = M(u_0)$ for all t , though it will be important in this paper to bear in mind that this formal mass conservation can break down if the solution is too weak in nature.

Remark 1.2. The condition $d \geq 4$ is assumed in order to ensure that the nonlinearity $F(u)$ is locally integrable in space for $u \in L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, so that (1) makes sense distributionally¹ for $u \in L_{t,\text{loc}}^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$. It

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¹Here and in the sequel, we use the subscript *loc* to denote boundedness of norms on compact sets, thus for instance $u \in L_{t,\text{loc}}^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ if and only if $u \in L_t^\infty L_x^2(J \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ for all compact $J \subset I$, with the function space $L_{t,\text{loc}}^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ then being given the induced Frechet space topology.

will be clear from our arguments that our results would also apply if F were replaced by any other nonlinearity of growth $1 + 4/d$, whose derivative grew like $|z|^{4/d}$ and which enjoyed the Galilean invariance $F(e^{i\theta} z) = e^{i\theta} F(z)$ (in order to formally conserve mass), though in this more general setting, the mass $M(Q)$ of the ground state would need to be replaced by some unspecified constant $\varepsilon_{F,d} > 0$ depending on the nonlinearity F and the dimension d .

The notion of a distributional solution, by itself, is too weak for applications; for instance, one has difficulty interpreting what the initial data condition $u(0) = u_0$ means for a distributional solution in $L_{t,\text{loc}}^\infty L_x^2$. In practice, one strengthens the notion of solution at this regularity by working with the integral formulation²

$$u(t) = e^{i(t-t_0)\Delta} u_0 + i \int_{t_0}^t e^{i(t-t')\Delta} F(u(t')) dt' \quad (2)$$

of the equation, where $e^{it\Delta}$ is defined via the Fourier transform $\hat{u}(\xi) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} e^{-ix \cdot \xi} u(x) dx$ as

$$\widehat{e^{it\Delta} u}(\xi) := e^{-it|\xi|^2} \hat{u}(\xi),$$

which is well-defined in the class of tempered distributions.

Remark 1.3. If $u_0 \in L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $u \in L_{t,\text{loc}}^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$, then $F(u) \in L_{t,\text{loc}}^\infty L_{x,\text{loc}}^1(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$, and the right side of Equation (2) makes sense as a tempered distribution in x for each time t . Furthermore, it is easy to verify (by the standard duality argument) that the right side of (2) is continuous in t in the topology $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^d)^*$ of tempered distributions.

1.4. Weak, strong, and Strichartz class solutions. With these preparations, we can now introduce the three standard solution classes for this problem in $L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Definition 1.5 (Weak, strong, Strichartz solutions). Fix a dimension $d \geq 4$, an initial data $u_0 \in L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and a time interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ containing a time $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$.

- A *weak solution* (or *mild solution*) to Equation (1) is a function $u \in L_{t,\text{loc}}^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ which obeys (2) in the sense of tempered distributions for almost every³ time t .
- A *strong solution* to (1) is a weak solution u such that $t \mapsto u(t)$ is continuous in the L_x^2 topology, thus u lies in $C_{t,\text{loc}}^0 L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$.
- A *Strichartz-class solution* to (1) is a strong solution which also lies in $L_{t,\text{loc}}^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$; thus u lies in $C_{t,\text{loc}}^0 L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L_{t,\text{loc}}^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$.

Remark 1.6 (Shifting initial data). Because the right side of Equation (2) is continuous in the distributional topology for any of the above three notions of solutions, we observe that if u is a solution to (1) in any of the above classes on an interval I , and $t_1 \in I$, then u is also a solution to (1) in the same class with initial time t_1 and initial data $u(t_1)$ (as defined using the right side of (2)). Thus one may legitimately discuss solutions to NLS in one of the above three classes without reference to an initial time or initial data.

²We adopt the usual convention $\int_b^a = -\int_a^b$ when $a < b$.

³By definition of $L_{t,\text{loc}}^\infty$, weak solutions are only defined for almost every time t , though from Remark 1.3, one can canonically define $u(t)$ for all $t \in I$.

Remark 1.7. For future reference, we make the trivial remark that if one restricts a solution in any of the above classes to a subinterval $J \subset I$, then one still obtains a solution in the same class. Conversely, if one has a family of solutions in the same class on different time intervals I_n , such that $\bigcap_n I_n \neq \emptyset$ and any two solutions agree on their common domain of definition, then one can glue them together to form a solution in the same class on the union $\bigcup_n I_n$.

Remark 1.8. From Remark 1.3 we make the important observation that if $u \in L_t^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ is a weak solution to Equation (1), then the map $t \mapsto u(t)$ is continuous in the weak topology of $L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$. In particular we have the convergence property

$$\lim_{t' \rightarrow t} \langle u(t'), u(t) \rangle_{L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} = M(u(t)), \quad (3)$$

for all $t \in I$, which by the cosine rule implies the asymptotic mass decoupling identity

$$\lim_{t' \rightarrow t} M(u(t')) - M(u(t') - u(t)) - M(u(t)) = 0. \quad (4)$$

Thus any L^2 discontinuity of u at t can be detected and quantified by the mass function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$; in particular, the solution $t \mapsto u(t)$ is continuous in L^2 at precisely those points for which the mass function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$ is continuous.

In the Strichartz class, one has a satisfactory local existence and uniqueness theory:

Proposition 1.9 (Local existence and uniqueness in the Strichartz class). *Let $d \geq 4$, $u_0 \in L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$.*

- (i) *(Local existence) There exists an open interval I containing t_0 and a Strichartz class solution $u \in C_{t,\text{loc}}^0 L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^2) \cap L_{t,\text{loc}}^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$.*
- (ii) *(Uniqueness) If I is an interval containing 0, and $u, u' \in C_{t,\text{loc}}^0 L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^2) \cap L_{t,\text{loc}}^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ are Strichartz class solutions to (1) on I , then $u = u'$.*
- (iii) *(Mass conservation) If $u \in C_{t,\text{loc}}^0 L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^2) \cap L_{t,\text{loc}}^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ is a Strichartz solution, then the function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$ is constant.*

Proof. This is a standard consequence of the endpoint Strichartz estimate⁴

$$\|u\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} + \|u\|_{C_t^0 L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim_d \|u(t_0)\|_{L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} + \|iu_t + \Delta u\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)}, \quad (5)$$

from [Keel and Tao 1998]; see [Cazenave and Weissler 1989; Cazenave 2003]. Mass conservation is obtained in these references by first regularising the data and nonlinearity so that the solution is smooth (and the formal conservation of mass can be rigorously justified), and then taking limits using (5). \square

Because of this proposition (and Remark 1.7), every initial data $u_0 \in L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and initial time $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ admits a unique *maximal Strichartz-class Cauchy development*

$$u \in C_{t,\text{loc}}^0 L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^2) \cap L_{t,\text{loc}}^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d),$$

⁴Here and in the sequel we use the usual notation $X \lesssim Y$ or $X = O(Y)$ to denote the estimate $|X| \leq CY$ for some absolute constant $C > 0$; if the implied constant C depends on a parameter (such as d), we will indicate this by subscripts, for example, $X \lesssim_d Y$ or $X = O_d(Y)$.

where I is an open interval containing t_0 , and u is a Strichartz-class solution to (1) which cannot be extended to any larger time interval.

Unfortunately, the lifespan I of this maximal Strichartz-class Cauchy development need not be global if the mass $M(u_0)$ is large. For instance, if Q is a nontrivial Schwartz-class solution to the ground state equation

$$\Delta Q + |Q|^{4/d} Q = Q, \quad (6)$$

then as is well known, the function

$$u(t, x) := \frac{1}{|t|^{d/2}} e^{-i/t} e^{i|x|^2/4t} Q(x/t) \quad (7)$$

is a Strichartz-class solution on $(0, +\infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ or $(-\infty, 0) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ but cannot be extended in this class across the time $t = 0$. One can also use Glassey's virial identity [Glassey 1977] to infer indirectly the nonglobal nature of maximal Strichartz-class Cauchy developments for suitably smooth and decaying data with negative energy.

Remark 1.10. In the defocusing case $F(z) = +|z|^{4/d}z$, it is conjectured that all maximal Strichartz-class Cauchy developments are global. This has recently been established in the spherically symmetric case [Tao et al. 2006], and is also known for data with additional regularity (for example, energy class) or decay (for example, $xu_0 \in L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$), or with small mass; see [Tao et al. 2006] and the references therein for further discussion. In the focusing case, the results of [Killip et al. 2007] give global existence for spherically symmetric data when the mass $M(u_0)$ is strictly less than the mass $M(Q)$ of the ground state; see [Killip et al. 2008a] for a treatment of the endpoint case $M(u_0) = M(Q)$. Again, it is conjectured that the same results hold without the spherical symmetry assumption, but this remains open.

On the other hand, it is possible to continue solutions in a weak sense beyond the time for which Strichartz-class solutions blow up. In particular, we have the following standard result:

Proposition 1.11 (Global existence in the weak class). *Let $d \geq 4$, $u_0 \in L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Then there exists a global weak solution $u \in L_t^\infty L_x^2(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ to (1). Furthermore we have $M(u(t)) \leq M(u_0)$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$.*

Proof. We will prove a stronger result than this shortly, so we only give a sketch of proof here. By Remark 1.7 and time reversal symmetry, it suffices to build a solution on $[t_0, +\infty)$. For each $\varepsilon > 0$, one can easily use parabolic theory to construct a global (strong) solution to the damped NLS $iu_t^{(\varepsilon)} + \Delta u^{(\varepsilon)} = i\varepsilon \Delta u^{(\varepsilon)} + F_\varepsilon(u^{(\varepsilon)})$ on $[t_0, +\infty)$, whose mass is bounded above by $M(u_0)$, where F_ε is a suitably damped version of F (for example, $F_\varepsilon(z) := -\max(|z|, 1/\varepsilon)^{4/d}z$); extracting a weakly convergent subsequence and taking weak limits we obtain the claim. \square

Unfortunately, while these weak solutions are global, they are nonunique, as the following standard example shows.

Example 1.12. Consider the function given by Equation (7) for $t \in (0, +\infty)$ and by zero for $t \in (-\infty, 0]$. This is a global weak solution in the sense of the above proposition (taking t_0 to be any positive time, and setting $u_0 = u(t_0)$), but is not unique; if, for instance, one takes u to equal (7) for $t \in (-\infty, 0)$ rather than equal to zero, then the new solution is still a global weak solution with the same initial data. Note that a modification of this example shows that uniqueness of weak solutions can break down even if the

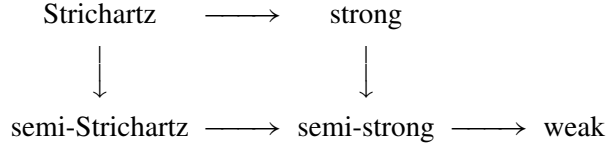


Figure 1. Inclusions between solution classes. In dimensions $d \geq 5$ and assuming spherical symmetry, we will show that two horizontal inclusions on the left are in fact equivalences.

initial data is zero, and so one cannot hope to recover uniqueness purely by strengthening the hypotheses on the initial data.

Remark 1.13. Example 1.12 also shows that mass is not necessarily conserved for weak solutions. On the other hand, from Equation (4) we see that the function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$ is lower semi-continuous, at least.

1.14. Semi-Strichartz solutions. To summarise the discussion so far, the Strichartz class of solutions has uniqueness but no global existence, while the class of weak solutions has global existence but no uniqueness. It is thus natural to ask whether there is an intermediate class of solutions for which one has both global existence and uniqueness. To answer this we define some further solution classes.

Definition 1.15 (Semi-strong and semi-Strichartz solutions). Fix a dimension $d \geq 4$, an initial data $u_0 \in L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and a time interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ containing a time $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. A *semi-strong solution* (resp. *semi-Strichartz class solution*) to Equation (1) is a weak solution u such that for every $t \in I \cap [t_0, +\infty)$ there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that u is a strong solution (resp. Strichartz class solution) when restricted to $I \cap [t, t + \varepsilon)$, and for every $t \in I \cap (-\infty, t_0]$ there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that u is a strong solution (resp. Strichartz class solution) when restricted to $I \cap (t - \varepsilon, t]$.

We summarise the obvious inclusions between the five classes of solution in Figure 1. Note that unlike the weak, strong, and Strichartz classes, the semi-strong and semi-Strichartz classes of solution depend on the choice of initial time t_0 .

Example 1.16. Consider the weak solution $u \in L_t^\infty L_x^2(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ which is given by Equation (7) for $t > 0$ and is zero for $t \leq 0$, let $t_0 > 0$, and set $u_0 := u(t_0)$. Then u is a semi-Strichartz class solution (and thus semi-strong solution) to (1), but is not strong or Strichartz-class. If one redefines u for $t < 0$ by (7), then u remains a weak solution, but is no longer semi-strong or semi-Strichartz.

Remark 1.17. The constructions in [Bourgain and Wang 1997], in our notation, yield semi-Strichartz class solutions which blow up in the Strichartz class at a specified finite set of points in time, and are equal to a prescribed state in $L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ at the final blowup time, in dimensions $d = 1, 2$.

Our first main result is that the semi-Strichartz solution class enjoys global existence and uniqueness:

Theorem 1.18 (Global existence and uniqueness in the semi-Strichartz solution class). *Suppose $d \geq 4$, $u_0 \in L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Then there exists a global semi-Strichartz class solution $u \in L_t^\infty L_x^2(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ to (1). Furthermore, this solution is unique in the sense that any other semi-Strichartz solution to (1) on a time interval I containing t_0 is the restriction of u to I . Finally, $M(u(t))$ is monotone nonincreasing*

for $t \geq t_0$ and monotone nondecreasing for $t \leq t_0$ (in particular, the only possible discontinuities are jump discontinuities), and has a jump discontinuity exactly at those times t for which u is not locally a Strichartz class solution.

Remark 1.19. Informally, the unique semi-Strichartz class solution is formed by solving the equation in the Strichartz class whenever possible, and deleting any mass that escapes to spatial or frequency infinity when the solution leaves the Strichartz class. The relationship between this class of solution and Strichartz class solutions is analogous to the relationship between Ricci flow with surgery and Ricci flow in the work of Perelman [2007; 2003], though of course the situation here is massively simpler than with Ricci flow on account of the semilinear and flat nature of our equation. On the other hand, the *entropy*-type solutions constructed in Proposition 1.11 do not necessarily converge to the solution in Theorem 1.18. For instance, the arguments in [Merle 1992] can be adapted to show that if one starts with the initial data of Equation (7) at time $t = -1$, say, and evolves a parabolically regularised version of Equation (1) using some viscosity parameter ε , then the solution at $t = +1$ can converge to an arbitrary phase rotation of the solution (7) along a subsequence of ε , and in particular these solutions do not converge to the semi-Strichartz solution (which vanishes after the singularity time). However, it is conceivable that the entropy solutions do converge to the semi-Strichartz solutions for *generic* data, although the author does not know how one would prove this.

Remark 1.20. One can push the global existence result further, to obtain scattering at $t = \pm\infty$, and can in fact even push the solution “beyond” $t = +\infty$ and $t = -\infty$ by using the pseudoconformal transform or lens transform, in the spirit of [Tao 2006]. We omit the details.

Remark 1.21. While the semi-Strichartz class enjoys global existence and uniqueness, it does not enjoy continuous dependence on the data and is thus not a well-posed class of solutions. Indeed, if one considers the solution in Example 1.16 for the spherically symmetric ground state Q , and then perturbs the initial data $u_0 = u(t_0)$ to have slightly smaller mass (while staying spherically symmetric), then from the results in [Killip et al. 2007] we know that the perturbed solution exists globally in the Strichartz class, and in particular has mass close to $M(Q)$ for all negative times, in contrast to the original solution in Example 1.16 which has zero mass for all negative times, thus contradicting continuous dependence on the data in any reasonable topology. Indeed this argument strongly suggests that there is no solution class for this equation which is globally well-posed in the sense that one simultaneously has global existence, uniqueness, and continuous dependence of the data, and which is compatible with the Strichartz class of solutions.

Remark 1.22. In [Merle and Raphaël 2005; Fibich et al. 2006], solutions to Equation (1) are constructed which are initially in $H_x^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, but at the first blowup time develop a single point of concentration, plus a residual component u^* which is not in $L_x^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ for any $p > 2$, and in particular has left $H_x^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$. The semi-Strichartz solution would continue the evolution from u^* at this time. Thus, we do not have persistence of regularity for the semi-Strichartz class: a semi-Strichartz solution can exit the space in finite time. (A similar phenomenon for the supercritical focusing NLS was also obtained in [Merle and Raphaël 2008]. In contrast, the solution in Example 1.16 has H^1 norm going to infinity as $t \rightarrow 0^+$, but never actually leaves $H_x^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$; similarly for the solutions in [Bourgain and Wang 1997]).

Theorem 1.18 is in fact an easy consequence of Proposition 1.9 and is proven in Section 2. One can be somewhat more precise about the jump discontinuities:

Theorem 1.23 (Quantisation of mass loss). *Let $d \geq 4$, $u_0 \in L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $u \in L_t^\infty L_x^2(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ be the unique global semi-Strichartz class solution to Equation (1) given by Theorem 1.18. Then there exists an absolute constant $\varepsilon_d > 0$ (depending only on d) such that every jump discontinuity of the function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$ has jump at least ε_d . If u_0 is spherically symmetric, one can take ε_d to be the mass $M(Q)$ of the ground state.*

Remark 1.24. A closely related result in the spherically symmetric case was established in [Killip et al. 2008b, Corollary 1.12], in which it was shown that any blowup of a spherically symmetric Strichartz class solution in two dimensions must concentrate an amount of mass at least equal to the ground state $M(Q)$; the same result in higher dimensions follows by the same argument together with the results in [Killip et al. 2007]. Indeed, we will use the results in [Killip et al. 2007] to establish the spherically symmetric case of this theorem. From Example 1.12 we see that $M(Q)$ cannot be replaced by any larger quantity in the above theorem.

Theorem 1.23 is of course consistent with the existence of a lower bound ε_d for mass concentration at a point [Bourgain 1999; Merle and Vega 1998; Keraani 2006], although neither result seems to directly imply the other. (The proof of Theorem 1.23 uses global-in-space Strichartz estimates, whereas the mass concentration result requires more localised tools.)

Theorem 1.23, combined with Theorem 1.18 and Proposition 1.9(iii), has an immediate corollary:

Corollary 1.25. *If u is a global semi-Strichartz class solution to Equation (1), the function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$ is piecewise constant with at most finitely many jump discontinuities, with u being a Strichartz class solution on each of the piecewise constant intervals.*

We prove Theorem 1.23 in Section 3.

1.26. The spherically symmetric case. Now we turn to the question of whether strong (resp. semi-strong) solutions are necessarily in the Strichartz class (resp. semi-Strichartz class), which would imply (by Proposition 1.9 and Theorem 1.18) that they are unique. These type of results are known as *unconditional uniqueness* (or *unconditional well-posedness*) results in the literature. For solutions in higher regularities, such as the energy class, one can obtain unconditional uniqueness by exploiting Sobolev embedding to obtain additional integrability of the strong solution u [Kato 1995; 1996; Furioli and Terraneo 2003a; 2003b; Cazenave 2003; Tsutsumi 2007]. Unfortunately at the $L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ level of regularity, for which Sobolev embedding is not available⁵, it appears to be rather difficult to establish such an unconditional uniqueness result, although the author tentatively conjectures it to be true. On the other hand, we were able to establish this uniqueness under the additional simplifying assumption of spherical symmetry (and assuming very high dimension $d \geq 5$), thus replacing the data space $L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ by the subspace $L_{\text{rad}}^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ of spherically symmetric functions:

Theorem 1.27 (Unconditional uniqueness for spherically symmetric solutions). *Let $d \geq 5$, $u_0 \in L_{\text{rad}}^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, I be an interval, and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $u \in L_t^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ be a spherically symmetric weak solution to Equation (1). Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i) u is a Strichartz class solution.

⁵Related to this difficulty is the Galilean invariance of the NLS equation at $L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, which strongly suggests that direct application of Sobolev or Littlewood–Paley theory is unlikely to be helpful.

- (ii) u is a strong solution.
- (iii) The function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$ is constant.
- (iv) The function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$ is continuous.
- (v) One has $M(u(t)) \geq \limsup_{t' \rightarrow t} M(u(t')) - \varepsilon_d$ for all $t \in I$, where $\varepsilon_d > 0$ is a suitably small absolute constant depending only on d . (Note from lower semi-continuity that we automatically have $M(u(t)) \leq \limsup_{t' \rightarrow t} M(u(t'))$.)

Example 1.28. If u is given by Equation (7) for $t \neq 0$ and a spherically symmetric Q and vanishes for $t = 0$, then u is a spherically symmetric weak solution but fails to conserve mass at $t = 0$, and is thus not in the Strichartz class in a neighbourhood of $t = 0$.

Remark 1.29. From Theorem 1.27 and Proposition 1.9(ii), we see that spherically symmetric strong solutions to (1) are unique. Another quick corollary of Theorem 1.27 is that any spherically symmetric weak solution whose mass is always strictly smaller than ε_d is necessarily a Strichartz class solution (and hence strong solution also), and thus also unique. In view of Theorem 1.23, it is natural to conjecture that one can take ε_d to be the mass $M(Q)$ of the ground state, which is the limit of weak uniqueness thanks to Example 1.12, but our methods do not give this.

Remark 1.30. The above theorem shows that if a weak solution fails to be in the Strichartz class, then at some time t it must lose at least a fixed amount ε_d of mass, though it is possible that this mass is then instantly recovered (consider for instance the solution given by (7) for $t \neq 0$ and zero for $t = 0$). On the other hand, it is conceivable that there exist weak solutions in which the mass function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$ exhibits oscillating singularities rather than jump discontinuities, in which the mass oscillates infinitely often as one approaches a given time; the above theorem implies that the net oscillation is at least ε_d but does not otherwise control the behaviour of this function. If for instance there existed a nontrivial weak solution on a compact interval I which vanished at both endpoints of the interval [Scheffer 1993], then one could achieve such an oscillating behaviour by gluing together rescaled, time-translated versions of this solution. However, we do not know if such weak solutions exist; solutions such as (7) constructed using the pseudo-conformal transformation only exhibit vanishing at a single time t .

Remark 1.31. Note that we need to assume the solution is spherically symmetric, and not just the initial data. In the category of weak solutions, at least, it is not necessarily the case that spherically symmetric data leads to spherically symmetric solutions: consider for instance the weak solution which is equal to a time-translated version of (7) for $t \neq 0$ and vanishes for $t = 0$; this solution is spherically symmetric at time zero but not at other times.

We prove Theorem 1.27 in Section 6.1, after establishing an important preliminary smoothing estimate for weak solutions in Section 4. Our main tool here is the in/out decomposition of waves used in [Tao 2004; Killip et al. 2008b], which is particularly powerful for understanding the dispersion of spherically symmetric waves, and upon which we will rely heavily in order to establish a substantial gain of regularity for weak solutions. Our arguments only barely fail at $d = 4$ and it is quite likely that a refinement of the methods here can be extended to that case, but we do not pursue this matter here.

There is an analogue of Theorem 1.27 for semi-strong and semi-Strichartz class solutions:

Theorem 1.32 (Characterisation of spherically symmetric semi-Strichartz solution). *Suppose $d \geq 5$, $u_0 \in L_{\text{rad}}^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, I be an interval, i and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $u \in L_t^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ be a spherically symmetric weak solution to Equation (1). Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i) u is the unique semi-Strichartz solution given by Theorem 1.18 (restricted to I , of course).
- (ii) u is a semi-strong solution.
- (iii) The function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$ is right-continuous for $t \geq t_0$ and left-continuous for $t \leq t_0$, and is piecewise constant with only finitely many jump discontinuities, with each jump being at least $M(Q)$ in size.
- (iv) The function $t \mapsto M(u(t))$ is right-continuous for $t \geq t_0$ and left-continuous for $t \leq t_0$.
- (v) $M(u(t)) \geq \limsup_{t' \rightarrow t^+} M(u(t')) - \varepsilon_d$ for all $t \geq t_0$ and $M(u(t)) \leq \limsup_{t' \rightarrow t^-} M(u(t')) + \varepsilon_d$ for all $t \leq t_0$, where $\varepsilon_d > 0$ is a suitably small absolute constant depending only on d .

We prove Theorem 1.32 in Section 6.2, using a minor modification of the argument used to prove Theorem 1.27.

2. Proof of Theorem 1.18

We first establish uniqueness. Suppose we have two semi-Strichartz class solutions $u, u' \in L_t^\infty L^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^2)$ to (1). Let J be the connected component of $\{t \in I : u(t) = u'(t)\}$ that contains t_0 . Since u, u' are weak solutions, we see from Remark 1.8 that J is closed. From the uniqueness component of Proposition 1.9, and Definition 1.15, we also see that J is right-open in $I \cap [t_0, +\infty)$ (that is, for each $t \in J \cap [t_0, +\infty)$ there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $I \cap [t, t + \varepsilon) \subset J$) and left-open in $I \cap (-\infty, t_0]$; by connectedness we conclude that $J = I$, establishing uniqueness.

Now we establish global existence. It suffices to establish a semi-Strichartz class solution on $[t_0, +\infty)$, as by time reversal symmetry we may then obtain a semi-Strichartz class solution and $(-\infty, t_0]$, and glue them together to obtain the desired global solution on \mathbb{R} .

Let J denote the set of all times $T \in [t_0, +\infty)$ for which there exists a semi-Strichartz class solution u on $[t_0, T]$ with $M(u(t))$ monotone nonincreasing on $[t_0, T]$; thus J is a connected subset of $[t_0, +\infty)$ containing t_0 . By the existence and mass conservation component of Proposition 1.9, we see that J is right-open. Now we establish that J is closed. If t_n is a sequence of times in J increasing to a limit t_* , then by gluing together all the associated semi-Strichartz class solutions (using uniqueness) we obtain a semi-Strichartz solution u on $[t_0, t_*)$ with $M(u(t))$ monotone nonincreasing on $[t_0, t_*)$; in particular u lies in $L_t^\infty L_x^2([t_0, t_*) \times \mathbb{R}^d)$, and $F(u)$ lies in $L_t^\infty L_x^{2d/(d+4)}([t_0, t_*) \times \mathbb{R}^d)$. From this we see that the right side of Equation (2) is continuous all the way up to t_* in the space of tempered distributions, and so we can extend u as a weak solution to $[t_0, t_*]$. This is still a semi-Strichartz solution, and by Fatou's lemma we see that $M(u(t))$ is still nondecreasing on $[t_0, t_*]$, and so $t_* \in J$, thus establishing that J is closed. By connectedness we conclude that $J = [t_0, +\infty)$, and so we can obtain semi-Strichartz class solutions on $[t_0, T]$ for any $t_0 \leq T < \infty$. Gluing these solutions together we obtain the desired solution on $[t_0, +\infty)$, establishing global existence.

The above argument has also established monotonicity of mass. Whenever u is a Strichartz class solution in a neighbourhood of a time t_1 , it follows from Proposition 1.9 that mass is constant near t_1 , so

the only remaining task is to show that whenever mass is continuous at a time t_1 , then u is a Strichartz class solution in a neighbourhood of t .

The claim is obvious for $t_1 = t_0$, so without loss of generality we may take $t_1 > t_0$. By hypothesis, $M(u(t))$ converges to $M(u(t_1))$ as $t \rightarrow t_1$. By Equation (4), we conclude that $u(t)$ converges strongly to $u(t_1)$ in $L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be a small number. By the endpoint Strichartz estimate (5), we have

$$\|e^{i(t-t_1)\Delta}u(t_1)\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d)} < \infty,$$

so by the monotone convergence theorem we have

$$\|e^{i(t-t_1)\Delta}u(t_1)\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} < \varepsilon,$$

when I is a sufficiently small neighbourhood of t_1 .

Fix I . Let t_2 converge to t_1 , then by the previous discussion $u(t_2)$ converges strongly to $u(t_1)$ in $L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$. By the continuity (and unitarity) of the Schrödinger propagator, this implies that $e^{i(t_2-t_1)\Delta}u(t_2)$ converges to $u(t_1)$. Applying the endpoint Strichartz estimate (5), we conclude that $e^{i(\cdot-t_2)\Delta}u(t_2)$ converges in $L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ to $e^{i(\cdot-t_1)\Delta}u(t_1)$. In particular, we have

$$\|e^{i(t-t_2)\Delta}u(t_2)\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} < \varepsilon,$$

for all t_2 sufficiently close to t_1 . On the other hand, we have $M(u(t_2)) \leq M(u_0)$. Thus if ε is chosen to be sufficiently small depending on $M(u_0)$, we may apply the standard Picard iteration argument based on the endpoint Strichartz estimate (5) and construct a Strichartz-class solution to NLS on I which equals $u(t_2)$ at t_2 . Applying this with t_2 slightly smaller than t_1 and using the uniqueness of semi-Strichartz class solutions, we see that u is equal to this Strichartz-class solution on I , and the claim follows.

3. Proof of Theorem 1.23

It is convenient here to use the original nonendpoint Strichartz estimate [Strichartz 1977]:

$$\|u\|_{L_{t,x}^{2(d+2)/d}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} + \|u\|_{C_t^0 L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim_d \|u(t_0)\|_{L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} + \|iu_t + \Delta u\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2(d+2)/(d+4)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)}. \quad (8)$$

Let $\varepsilon_d > 0$ be chosen later, and let u be a semi-Strichartz class solution. Suppose for contradiction that we had a jump discontinuity at some time t_1 of jump less than ε_d . As before we may assume without loss of generality that $t_1 > t_0$.

Let t approach t_1 from below, then $M(u(t)) - M(u(t_1))$ converges to a limit less than ε_d . By Equation (4), we conclude that $\|u(t) - u(t_1)\|_{L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}$ converges to a limit less than ε_d .

By (8) and monotone convergence as before, we can find a small neighbourhood I of t_1 such that

$$\|e^{i(t-t_1)\Delta}u(t_1)\|_{L_{t,x}^{2(d+2)/d}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} < \varepsilon_d^{1/2}.$$

If we let t_2 approach t_1 from below, then for t_2 sufficiently close to t_1 we thus have

$$\|e^{i(t-t_2)\Delta}u(t_1)\|_{L_{t,x}^{2(d+2)/d}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} < \varepsilon_d^{1/2}.$$

On the other hand, from Equation (8) we have (for t_2 sufficiently close to t_1) that

$$\|e^{i(t-t_2)\Delta}(u(t_1) - u(t_2))\|_{L_{t,x}^{2(d+2)/d}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim_d \|u(t_2) - u(t_1)\|_{L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim \varepsilon_d^{1/2},$$

and thus by the triangle inequality

$$\|e^{i(t-t_2)\Delta}u(t_2)\|_{L_{t,x}^{2(d+2)/d}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim_d \varepsilon_d^{1/2}.$$

If ε_d is sufficiently small depending on d , we can then perform a Picard iteration, using (8) to control the nonlinear portion $u(t) - e^{i(t-t_2)\Delta}u(t_2)$ of the solution, to construct a solution in the class

$$C_t^0 L_x^2 \cap L_{t,x}^{2(d+2)/d}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$$

that equals $u(t_2)$ on t_2 . Applying Strichartz estimates once more, we see that this solution is a Strichartz solution on I . By uniqueness of semi-Strichartz solutions, we conclude that u is a Strichartz solution on I and thus has no jump discontinuity at t_1 , a contradiction.

Now we handle the spherically symmetric case. We will need the following result from [Killip et al. 2007]:

Theorem 3.1 (Scattering below the ground state). *Let $d \geq 3$. Then for every $0 < m < M(Q)$ there exists a quantity $A(m) < \infty$ such that whenever $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $u_0 \in L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with $M(u_0) \leq m$, then there exists a global Strichartz-class solution u to (1) with $\|u\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \leq A(m)$.*

Proof. See [Killip et al. 2007, Theorem 1.5]. □

Now suppose for contradiction that we have a global semi-Strichartz class solution from spherically symmetric initial data u_0 which has a mass jump discontinuity of less than $M(Q)$ at some time t_1 ; we can assume $t_1 > t_0$ as before.

Since u_0 is spherically symmetric, we see from rotation invariance and uniqueness that u is spherically symmetric. By arguing as before, we see that as t_2 approaches t_1 from below, $M(u(t_2) - u(t_1))$ converges to a limit less than $M(Q)$. In particular this limit is less than m for some $0 < m < M(Q)$.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be a small number depending on m and $M(u_0)$ to be chosen later. By endpoint Strichartz (5) and monotone convergence as before, we can find a small neighbourhood I of t_1 such that

$$\|e^{i(t-t_1)\Delta}u(t_1)\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} < \varepsilon,$$

and thus for t_2 sufficiently close to t_1

$$\|e^{i(t-t_2)\Delta}u(t_1)\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} < \varepsilon. \tag{9}$$

On the other hand, we also have

$$M(u(t_2) - u(t_1)) < m,$$

for t_2 sufficiently close to (and below) t_1 . By Theorem 3.1, we may thus find a Strichartz-class solution v on I of mass at most m with $v(t_2) = u(t_2) - u(t_1)$ and

$$\|v\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \leq A(m).$$

From this and Equation (9) and standard perturbation theory [Tao et al. 2008, Lemma 3.1], we may thus find a Strichartz-class solution on I which equals $u(t_2)$ at t_2 . Arguing as before we conclude that u has no jump discontinuity at t_1 , a contradiction.

Remark 3.2. It is conjectured that the spherical symmetry assumption can be removed from Theorem 3.1. If this conjecture is true, then it is clear that one can take $\varepsilon_d = M(Q)$ in the nonspherically-symmetric case of Theorem 1.23 as well.

4. A smoothing effect for spherically symmetric weak solutions

In this section, we establish a preliminary smoothing effect for spherically symmetric weak solutions that will be needed to prove Theorems 1.27 and 1.32. More precisely, we show

Theorem 4.1 (Smoothing effect). *Let $d \geq 4$, let I be a compact interval, and let $u \in L_t^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ be a spherically symmetric weak solution to NLS with $M(u(t)) \leq m$ for all $t \in I$. Then for every $R > 0$ one has the bound*

$$\|u\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, R)))} \lesssim_{I, m, d} R^{-1} + 1, \quad (10)$$

where $B(0, R)$ is the ball of radius R centred at the origin.

Remark 4.2. Theorem 4.1 asserts that a spherically symmetric weak solution behaves like a Strichartz-class solution away from the spatial origin. The R^{-1} term on the right side is sharp, as can be seen by considering a rescaled stationary solution $u(t, x) = R^{-d/2} e^{it/R^2} Q(x/R)$, where Q is a nontrivial spherically symmetric solution to Equation (6).

We shall prove this theorem using the method of in/out projections, as used in [Tao 2004; Killip et al. 2008b; 2007]. We first recall some Littlewood–Paley notation.

Let $\varphi(\xi)$ be a radial bump function supported in the ball $\{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d : |\xi| \leq 11/10\}$ and equal to 1 on the ball $\{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d : |\xi| \leq 1\}$. For each number $N > 0$, we define the Fourier multipliers

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{P_{\leq N} f}(\xi) &:= \varphi(\xi/N) \hat{f}(\xi), \\ \widehat{P_{> N} f}(\xi) &:= (1 - \varphi(\xi/N)) \hat{f}(\xi), \\ \widehat{P_N f}(\xi) &:= \psi(\xi/N) \hat{f}(\xi) := (\varphi(\xi/N) - \varphi(2\xi/N)) \hat{f}(\xi). \end{aligned}$$

We similarly define $P_{< N}$ and $P_{\geq N}$. All sums over N will be over integer powers of two unless otherwise stated.

We now subdivide the Littlewood–Paley projections P_N on the spherically symmetric space $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)_{\text{rad}}$ into two components, an *outgoing projection* $P_+ P_N$ and *incoming projection* $P_- P_N$, as described in the following lemma:

Proposition 4.3 (In/out decomposition). *Let $d \geq 1$. Then there exist bounded linear operators $P_+, P_- : L^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with the following properties:*

- (i) P_+, P_- extend to bounded linear operators on $L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to $L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ for every $1 < p < \infty$.
- (ii) $P_+ + P_-$ is the orthogonal linear projection from $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)_{\text{rad}}$.

(iii) For any $N > 0$, $|x| \gtrsim N^{-1}$, $t \gtrsim N^{-2}$, and choice of sign \pm , the integral kernel⁶ $[P_{\pm}P_N e^{\mp it\Delta}](x, y)$ obeys the estimate

$$|[P_{\pm}P_N e^{\mp it\Delta}](x, y)| \lesssim_d (|x||y|)^{-(d-1)/2} |t|^{-1/2},$$

when $|y| - |x| \sim N|t|$, and

$$|[P_{\pm}P_N e^{\mp it\Delta}](x, y)| \lesssim_{d,m} \frac{N^d}{(N|x|)^{(d-1)/2} (N|y|)^{(d-1)/2}} \langle N^2 t + N|x| - N|y| \rangle^{-m},$$

for any $m \geq 0$ otherwise.

(iii) For any $N > 0$, $|x| \gtrsim N^{-1}$, $|t| \lesssim N^{-2}$, and choice of sign \pm , we have

$$|[P_{\pm}P_N e^{\mp it\Delta}](x, y)| \lesssim_{d,m} \frac{N^d}{(N|x|)^{(d-1)/2} \langle N|y| \rangle^{(d-1)/2}} \langle N|x| - N|y| \rangle^{-m},$$

for any $m \geq 0$.

Proof. See [Killip et al. 2008b, Proposition 6.2] (for the $d = 2$ case) or [Killip et al. 2007, Lemma 4.1, Lemma 4.2] (for the higher d case). \square

Remark 4.4. Heuristically, $P_- P_N e^{it\Delta}$ and $P_+ P_N e^{-it\Delta}$ for $t > 0$ both propagate away from the origin at speeds $\sim N$. The decay $(|x||y|)^{-(d-1)/2} |t|^{-1/2}$ is superior to the standard decay $|t|^{-d/2}$, which reflects the additional averaging away from the origin caused by the spherical symmetry. (In the proof of [Killip et al. 2008b, Proposition 6.2], this additional averaging is captured using the standard asymptotics of Bessel and Hankel functions.)

Now we prove Theorem 4.1. Fix d, I, u, m, R ; we allow implied constants to depend on d, I, m . We may take R to be a power of 2. By the triangle inequality, we have

$$\|u\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, R)))} \lesssim \|P_{\leq 1/R} u\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} + \sum_{N > 1/R} \sum_{\pm} \|P_{\pm} P_N u\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, R)))}.$$

For the first term, we use Bernstein's inequality to estimate

$$\|P_{\leq 1/R} u(t)\|_{L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim R^{-1} \|u(t)\|_{L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim R^{-1},$$

which is acceptable, so we turn to the latter terms. For ease of notation we shall just deal with the incoming terms $\pm = -$, as the outgoing terms $\pm = +$ terms are handled similarly (but using Duhamel backwards in time instead of forwards).

Write $I = [t_0, t_1]$, then by Duhamel's formula we have

$$P_- P_N u(t) = P_- P_N e^{i(t-t_0)\Delta} u(t_0) - i \int_{t_0}^t P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta} F(u(t')) dt'.$$

⁶The integral kernel $T(x, y)$ of a linear operator T is the function for which $Tf(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K(x, y)f(y) dy$ for all test functions f .

The contribution of the linear term $P_- P_N e^{i(t-t_0)\Delta} u(t_0)$ is bounded by

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sum_{N>1/R} P_- P_N e^{i(t-t_0)\Delta} u(t_0) \right\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} &\lesssim \left\| \sum_{N>1/R} P_N e^{i(t-t_0)\Delta} u(t_0) \right\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \\ &\lesssim \|e^{i(t-t_0)\Delta} u(t_0)\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \\ &\lesssim \|u(t_0)\|_{L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} \\ &\lesssim 1, \end{aligned}$$

thanks to Proposition 4.3(i), the boundedness of the Littlewood–Paley projection $P_{>1/R}$, and the endpoint Strichartz estimate (5). Thus this contribution is acceptable, and it remains to show that

$$\sum_{N>1/R} \left\| \int_{t_0}^t P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta} F(u(t')) dt' \right\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, R)))} \lesssim R^{-1}. \quad (11)$$

As we are allowed to let implied constants depend on I , it suffices to show that

$$\int_{t_0}^t \|P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta} F(u(t'))\|_{L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, R))} dt' \lesssim (NR)^{-c} R^{-1},$$

for some absolute constant $c > 0$ and all $t \in I$ and $N > 1/R$. By dyadic decomposition it suffices to show that

$$\int_{t_0}^t \|P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta} F(u(t')) dt'\|_{L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(B(0, 2^{m+1}R) \setminus B(0, 2^m R))} dt' \lesssim (2^m NR)^{-c} R^{-1},$$

for all $m \geq 0$. Replacing R by $2^m R$, we thus see that it suffices to show that

$$\int_{t_0}^t \|P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta} F(u(t')) dt'\|_{L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(B(0, 2R) \setminus B(0, R))} dt' \lesssim (NR)^{-c} R^{-1},$$

whenever $R > 0$, $N > 1/R$, and $t \in I$.

From Proposition 4.3 we see that

$$\|P_- P_N e^{it\Delta} f\|_{L_x^\infty(B(0, 2R) \setminus B(0, R))} \lesssim (R(R + N|t|))^{-(d-1)/2} |t|^{-1/2} \|f\|_{L_x^1(\mathbb{R}^d)},$$

for $t \gtrsim N^{-2}$, and

$$\|P_- P_N e^{it\Delta} f\|_{L_x^\infty(B(0, 2R) \setminus B(0, R))} \lesssim R^{-(d-1)/2} N \|f\|_{L_x^1(\mathbb{R}^d)},$$

for $0 < t \lesssim N^{-2}$; we unify these two estimates as

$$\|P_- P_N e^{it\Delta} f\|_{L_x^\infty(B(0, 2R) \setminus B(0, R))} \lesssim (R(R + N|t|))^{-(d-1)/2} N \langle N^2 t \rangle^{-1/2} \|f\|_{L_x^1(\mathbb{R}^d)},$$

for $t > 0$. On the other hand, as P_- , P_N , $e^{it\Delta}$ are bounded on L^2 we have

$$\|P_- P_N e^{it\Delta} f\|_{L_x^2(B(0, 2R) \setminus B(0, R))} \lesssim \|f\|_{L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)},$$

and hence by interpolation

$$\|P_- P_N e^{it\Delta} f\|_{L_x^{2d/(d-4)}(B(0, 2R) \setminus B(0, R))} \lesssim [(R(R + N|t|))^{-(d-1)/2} N \langle N^2 t \rangle^{-1/2}]^{4/d} \|f\|_{L_x^{2d/(d+4)}(\mathbb{R}^d)}.$$

Since

$$\|F(u(t'))\|_{L_x^{2d/(d+4)}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim \|u(t')\|_{L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}^{1+4/d} \lesssim 1$$

for all $t' \in I$, we thus have

$$\|P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta} F(u(t'))\|_{L_x^{2d/(d-4)}(B(0,2R) \setminus B(0,R))} \lesssim [(R(R+N|t-t'|))^{-(d-1)/2} N \langle N^2(t-t') \rangle^{-1/2}]^{4/d},$$

and hence by Hölder's inequality

$$\|P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta} F(u(t'))\|_{L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(B(0,2R) \setminus B(0,R))} \lesssim R[(R(R+N|t-t'|))^{-(d-1)/2} N \langle N^2(t-t') \rangle^{-1/2}]^{4/d}.$$

We can thus bound the left side of Equation (11) by

$$\int_{-\infty}^t R[(R(R+N|t-t'|))^{-(d-1)/2} N \langle N^2(t-t') \rangle^{-1/2}]^{4/d} dt'.$$

The dominant contribution of this integral occurs in the region when $|t-t'| \sim R/N$, and so we obtain a total contribution of

$$\lesssim R(R/N)(R^{-(d-1)}(R/N)^{-1/2})^{4/d} = R^{-1}(RN)^{-(d-2)/d},$$

which is acceptable. This proves Theorem 4.1. \square

Remark 4.5. One can improve the 1 term on the right side of (10) to R^{-c} for some $c > 0$, by using the improved Strichartz estimates in [Shao \geq 2009] that are available in the spherically symmetric case. However, we will not need this improvement here.

5. Nearly continuous solutions are Strichartz class

Theorem 4.1 gives Strichartz norm control of a solution away from the spatial origin. When the solution is sufficiently close in $L_t^\infty L_x^2$ to a Strichartz class solution, we can bootstrap Theorem 4.1 to in fact obtain Strichartz control all the way up to the origin. More precisely, we now show:

Theorem 5.1 (Strichartz class criterion). *Let $d \geq 5$, let I be a compact interval, and let $u \in L_t^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ be a spherically symmetric weak solution to NLS. Suppose also that there exists a Strichartz-class solution $v \in C_t^0 L_x^2 \cap L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^2)$ such that $\|u - v\|_{L_t^\infty L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq \varepsilon$. If ε is sufficiently small depending on d , then $u \in L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)$.*

Remark 5.2. The theorem fails if ε is large, as one can see from the weak solution defined by Equation (7) for $t \neq 0$ and vanishing for $t = 0$. The arguments in fact give an effective upper bound for the $L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}$ norm of u in terms of the corresponding norm of v . Heuristically, the point is that when u (or $u - v$) has small mass, then there are not enough nonlinear effects in play to support persistent mass concentration (as in the example in Remark 4.2) that would cause the $L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}$ norm to become large.

We now prove Theorem 5.1. We fix d, I, u, v, ε and allow all implied constants to depend on d . By shrinking the interval I and using compactness we may assume that

$$\|v\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^2)} \leq \varepsilon. \quad (12)$$

We write $w := u - v$, thus

$$\|w\|_{L_t^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim \varepsilon \quad (13)$$

and w solves the difference equation

$$i w_t + \Delta w = F(v + w) - F(v) \quad (14)$$

in the integral sense. From the fundamental theorem of calculus (or mean-value theorem) we have the elementary inequality

$$F(v + w) - F(v) = O(|w|(|v| + |w|)^{4/d}). \quad (15)$$

For each integer k , let c_k denote the quantity

$$c_k := \|w\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, 2^k)))}. \quad (16)$$

From Theorem 4.1 and the triangle inequality we have

$$c_k \lesssim_I 2^{-k} + 1, \quad (17)$$

for all k . To prove the theorem, it suffices by the monotone convergence theorem to show that $\sup_k c_k$ is finite. For this we use the following inequality:

Proposition 5.3 (Key inequality). *Let $d \geq 4$. For every k we have*

$$c_k \lesssim \varepsilon + \varepsilon^{4/d} \sum_{j \leq k} 2^{-\frac{d-2}{2}(k-j)} (c_j + c_j^{1-4/d}).$$

Proof. Fix k . By the triangle inequality, we have

$$c_k \lesssim \|P_{\leq 2^{-k}} w(t)\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} + \sum_{\pm} \|P_{\pm} P_{> 2^{-k}} w(t)\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, 2^k)))}. \quad (18)$$

Consider the first term on the right side. By (13)–(15) and (5) we have

$$\|P_{\leq 2^{-k}} w(t)\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim \varepsilon + \|P_{\leq 2^{-k}} O(|w|(|v| + |w|)^{4/d})\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)},$$

so to show that the contribution of this case is acceptable, it suffices to show that

$$\|P_{\leq 2^{-k}} O(|w|(|v| + |w|)^{4/d})\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim \varepsilon^{4/d} \sum_{j \leq k} 2^{-\frac{d-2}{2}(k-j)} (c_j + c_j^{4/d}).$$

By the triangle inequality, we can bound the left side by

$$\begin{aligned} & \|P_{\leq 2^{-k}} O(|w|1_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, 2^{-k})}(|v| + |w|)^{4/d})\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \\ & \quad + \sum_{j < k} \left\| P_{\leq 2^{-k}} O(|w|1_{B(0, 2^{-j+1}) \setminus B(0, 2^{-j})}(|v| + |w|)^{4/d}) \right\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)}. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

For the first term of (19), we discard the $P_{\leq 2^{-k}}$ projection and use Hölder's inequality to bound this by

$$\begin{aligned} & \lesssim \|w\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, 2^{-k})))}^{1-4/d} \|v\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)}^{4/d} \|w\|_{L_t^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)}^{4/d} \\ & \quad + \|w\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, 2^{-k})))} \|w\|_{L_t^\infty L_x^2(I \times \mathbb{R}^d)}^{4/d}, \end{aligned}$$

which by (13), (12), and (16) is bounded by

$$\lesssim \varepsilon^{4/d} c_k^{1-4/d} + \varepsilon^{4/d} c_k,$$

which is acceptable.

For the second term of (19), we observe from the Hölder and Bernstein inequalities that

$$\begin{aligned} \|P_{\leq 2^{-k}}(f 1_{B(0,2^{-j+1}) \setminus B(0,2^{-j})})\|_{L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(\mathbb{R}^d)} &\lesssim 2^{-\frac{d-2}{2}k} \|f 1_{B(0,2^{-j+1}) \setminus B(0,2^{-j})}\|_{L_x^1(\mathbb{R}^d)} \\ &\lesssim 2^{-\frac{d-2}{2}(k-j)} \|f\|_{L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(B(0,2^{-j+1}) \setminus B(0,2^{-j}))}, \end{aligned}$$

for any f . Using this inequality and arguing as before, we see that the second term of (19) is bounded by

$$\lesssim \sum_{j < k} 2^{-\frac{d-2}{2}(k-j)} (\varepsilon^{4/d} c_j^{1-4/d} + \varepsilon^{4/d} c_j),$$

which is acceptable.

Since we have dealt with the first term of (18), it now suffices by the triangle inequality to show that

$$\|P_{\pm} P_{> 2^{-k}} w(t)\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0,2^m)))} \lesssim \varepsilon + \varepsilon^{4/d} \sum_{j \leq k} 2^{-\frac{d-2}{2}(k-j)} (c_j + c_j^{1-4/d}),$$

for either choice of sign \pm . We shall just do this for the incoming case $\pm = -$: the outgoing case $\pm = +$ is similar but requires one to apply Duhamel's formula backwards in time.

Write $I = [t_0, t_1]$. By Duhamel's formula and (14), we have

$$P_- P_{> 2^{-k}} w(t) = P_- P_{> 2^{-k}} e^{i(t-t_0)\Delta} w(t_0) - i \int_{t_0}^t P_- P_{> 2^{-k}} e^{i(t-t')\Delta} (F(v+w) - F(v))(t') dt'.$$

The contribution of the first term is $O(\varepsilon)$ by Proposition 4.3(i), Equations (5) and (13), so it suffices to show that

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \int_{t_0}^t P_- P_{> 2^{-k}} e^{i(t-t')\Delta} (F(v+w) - F(v))(t') dt' \right\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0,2^k)))} \\ \lesssim \varepsilon^{4/d} \sum_{j \leq k} 2^{-\frac{d-2}{2}(k-j)} (c_j + c_j^{1-4/d}). \end{aligned}$$

We split

$$F(v+w) - F(v) = (F(v+w) - F(v)) 1_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0,2^{k-1})} + \sum_{j < k-1} (F(v+w) - F(v)) 1_{B(0,2^{j+1}) \setminus B(0,2^j)}.$$

The contribution of the first term can be estimated using Proposition 4.3(i), Equations (5) and (15) to be

$$\lesssim \| |w| (|v|^{4/d} + |w|^{4/d}) \|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0,2^{k-1})))}.$$

By a slight modification of the calculation used to bound the first term of (19), we can control this expression by

$$\lesssim \varepsilon^{4/d} c_{k-1}^{1-4/d} + \varepsilon^{4/d} c_{k-1},$$

and so by the triangle inequality it suffices to show that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{N > 2^{-k}} \left\| \int_{t_0}^t P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta} [(F(v+w) - F(v))(t') 1_{B(0,2^{j+1}) \setminus B(0,2^j)}] dt' \right\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(I \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0,2^k)))} \\ \lesssim \varepsilon^{4/d} 2^{-\frac{d-2}{2}(k-j)} (c_j + c_j^{1-4/d}), \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

for each $j < k - 1$.

Fix j . By Proposition 4.3(ii), (iii), the integral kernel $(P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta})(x, y)$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, 2^k)$, $t' < t$, $N > 2^{-k}$, and $y \in B(0, 2^{j+1}) \setminus B(0, 2^j)$ obeys the bounds

$$\begin{aligned} |[P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta}](x, y)| &\lesssim \frac{N^d}{(N|x|)^{(d-1)/2} (2^j N)^{(d-1)/2}} \langle N^2(t-t') + N|x| \rangle^{-100d} \\ &\lesssim N^d (N|x|)^{-50d} \langle N^2(t-t') \rangle^{-50d}, \end{aligned}$$

say. From this we obtain the pointwise bound

$$|P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta} (f 1_{B(0,2^{j+1}) \setminus B(0,2^j)})(x)| \lesssim N^d (N|x|)^{-50d} \langle N^2(t-t') \rangle^{-50d} \|f\|_{L_x^1(B(0,2^{j+1}) \setminus B(0,2^j))},$$

for $x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0, 2^k)$ and any f , which by Hölder's inequality implies the bounds

$$\begin{aligned} \|P_- P_N e^{i(t-t')\Delta} (f 1_{B(0,2^{j+1}) \setminus B(0,2^j)})\|_{L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0,2^k))} \\ \lesssim 2^{\frac{d-2}{2}k} 2^{\frac{d-2}{2}j} N^d (2^k N)^{-50d} \langle N^2(t-t') \rangle^{-50d} \|f\|_{L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(B(0,2^{j+1}) \setminus B(0,2^j))}. \end{aligned}$$

By Young's inequality we conclude that the left side of (20) is bounded by

$$\lesssim \sum_{N > 2^{-k}} 2^{\frac{d-2}{2}k} 2^{\frac{d-2}{2}j} N^{d-2} (2^k N)^{-50d} \|F(v+w) - F(v)\|_{L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d+2)}(I \times B(0,2^{j+1}) \setminus B(0,2^j))}.$$

Modifying the computation used to bound the first term of (19), this expression can be controlled by

$$\lesssim \sum_{N > 2^{-k}} 2^{\frac{d-2}{2}k} 2^{\frac{d-2}{2}j} N^{d-2} (2^k N)^{-50d} (\varepsilon^{4/d} c_j^{1-4/d} + \varepsilon^{4/d} c_j),$$

and on performing the summation in N one obtains the claim (20), and Proposition 5.3 follows. \square

From Proposition 5.3 (and using the hypothesis $d \geq 5$ to make the decay $2^{-\frac{d-2}{2}(k-j)}$ faster than the blowup of 2^{-j}), we see that if we have any bound of the form

$$c_k \leq A + B2^{-k},$$

for all k and some $A, B > 0$, then (if ε is sufficiently small, and A is sufficiently large depending on ε), one can conclude a bound of the form

$$c_k \leq A + \frac{1}{2} B2^{-k},$$

for all k . Iterating this and taking limits, we conclude that

$$c_k \leq A,$$

for all k . Applying this argument starting from Equation (17) we conclude that $c_k \lesssim 1$ for all k , as desired, and Theorem 5.1 follows.

6. Proofs of theorems

With Theorem 5.1 in hand, it is now an easy matter to establish Theorems 1.27 and 1.32.

6.1. Proof of Theorem 1.27. It is clear that (i) implies (ii), and that (iii) implies (iv) implies (v). From Proposition 1.9 we also see that (ii) implies (iii). So the only remaining task is to show that (v) implies (i). It suffices to do this locally, that is, to show that for any time t for which (v) holds, that u is a Strichartz class solution in some neighbourhood of t in I .

By the hypothesis (v), one can find a connected neighbourhood J of t in I such that

$$M(u(t')) \leq M(u(t)) + \varepsilon_d,$$

for all $t' \in J$. By Equation (4) (and shrinking J if necessary) we conclude that

$$\|u(t') - u(t)\|_{L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \leq 2\varepsilon_d,$$

say, for all $t' \in J$.

By shrinking J some more, we may apply Proposition 1.9 to find a Strichartz class solution

$$v \in C_t^0 L_x^2 \cap L_t^2 L_x^{2d/(d-2)}(J \times \mathbb{R}^d)$$

on J with $v(t) = u(t)$. Since v is a strong solution, by shrinking J some more we may assume that $\|v(t') - v(t)\|_{L_x^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq \varepsilon_d^{1/2}$ for all $t' \in J$. By the triangle inequality we thus see that

$$\|u - v\|_{L_t^\infty L_x^2(J \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim \varepsilon_d^{1/2}.$$

Applying Theorem 5.1 and taking ε_d sufficiently small, we conclude that u is a Strichartz class solution on J as required, and Theorem 1.27 follows.

6.2. Proof of Theorem 1.32. It is clear that (i) implies (ii) and that (iii) implies (iv) implies (v). From Corollary 1.25 we know that (i) implies (iii), while from Proposition 1.9(iii) and Definition 1.15 we see that (ii) implies (iv). Thus, as before, the only remaining task is to show that (v) implies (i). Again, it suffices to establish the local claim that if $t \geq t_0$ is such that (v) holds, then u is in the Strichartz class for some $[t, t + \varepsilon) \cap I$, and similarly for $t \leq t_0$ and $(t - \varepsilon, t] \cap I$. But this follows by a routine modification of the arguments in Section 6.1. \square

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TERENCE TAO: tao@math.ucla.edu

University of California, Los Angeles, Mathematics Department, Los Angeles CA 90095-1555, United States

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
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