

MOMENTUM REGULARITY AND STABILITY OF THE RELATIVISTIC VLASOV-MAXWELL-BOLTZMANN SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT. In the study of solutions to the relativistic Boltzmann equation, their regularity with respect to the momentum variables has been an outstanding question, even local in time, due to the initially unexpected growth in the post-collisional momentum variables which was discovered in 1991 by Glassey & Strauss [13]. We establish momentum regularity within energy spaces via a new splitting technique and interplay between the Glassey-Strauss frame and the center of mass frame of the relativistic collision operator. In a periodic box, these new momentum regularity estimates lead to a proof of global existence of classical solutions to the two-species relativistic Vlasov-Boltzmann-Maxwell system for charged particles near Maxwellian with hard ball interaction.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND FORMULATION

In 2003 it was shown for the first time that the full (Newtonian) Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system [17] has global in time unique classical solutions on the torus for initial conditions which are sufficiently close to the steady state. Then in 2006 the rapid convergence [20] on the torus for these solutions, as predicted by the H-theorem, was established. However it should be pointed out that this model is physically limited because it is not fully Lorentz invariant in the sense that the symmetries of the Maxwell system are inconsistent with those of the Newtonian Boltzmann equation and serious difficulties are encountered in extending the method from [17] to the relativistic fully Lorentz invariant regime. In this work, as explained in the following developments, we overcome these difficulties and establish the momentum regularity as well as the existence of global in time classical solutions for the fully Lorentz invariant relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system with hard-ball interaction.

Y.G. was partially supported by the NSF grant DMS-0905255, a NSF FRG grant, and a Chinese NSF grant.

R.M.S. was partially supported by the NSF grant DMS-0901463.

We study the following two-species relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system which describes the time evolution of charged particles:

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \partial_t F_+ + c \frac{p}{p_+^0} \cdot \nabla_x F_+ + e_+ \left(E + \frac{p}{p_+^0} \times B \right) \cdot \nabla_p F_+ &= \mathcal{Q}^+(F) + \mathcal{Q}^\pm(F), \\ \partial_t F_- + c \frac{p}{p_-^0} \cdot \nabla_x F_- - e_- \left(E + \frac{p}{p_-^0} \times B \right) \cdot \nabla_p F_- &= \mathcal{Q}^-(F) + \mathcal{Q}^\mp(F). \end{aligned}$$

The collision operators, defined in (1.4) below, are given by $\mathcal{Q}^+(F) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{Q}(F_+, F_+)$, $\mathcal{Q}^-(F) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{Q}(F_-, F_-)$, $\mathcal{Q}^\pm(F) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{Q}(F_+, F_-)$, and $\mathcal{Q}^\mp(F) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{Q}(F_-, F_+)$.

These equations are coupled with the Maxwell system:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t E - c \nabla_x \times B &= -4\pi \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left\{ e_+ \frac{p}{p_+^0} F_+ - e_- \frac{p}{p_-^0} F_- \right\} dp, \\ \partial_t B + c \nabla_x \times E &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

with constraints

$$\nabla_x \cdot E = 4\pi \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \{e_+ F_+ - e_- F_-\} dp, \quad \nabla_x \cdot B = 0.$$

The initial conditions are $F_\pm(0, x, p) = F_{0,\pm}(x, p)$, $E(0, x) = E_0(x)$, and $B(0, x) = B_0(x)$. Here $F_\pm(t, x, p) \geq 0$ are the spatially periodic number density functions for ions (+) and electrons (-), at time $t \geq 0$, position $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbb{T}^3 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [-\pi, \pi]^3$ and momentum $p = (p_1, p_2, p_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3$. The constants $\pm e_\pm$ and m_\pm are the magnitude of the particles charges and rest masses respectively. The energy of a particle is given by $p_\pm^0 = \sqrt{(m_\pm c)^2 + |p|^2}$ and c is the speed of light. Note that here and below \pm indicates two possible sign configurations.

For number density functions $F_+(p)$ and $F_-(p)$ a collision operator should satisfy

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ p \\ p_+^0 \end{pmatrix} \mathcal{Q}(F_+, F_-)(p) + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ p \\ p_-^0 \end{pmatrix} \mathcal{Q}(F_-, F_+)(p) \right\} dp = 0.$$

The same property holds for the other sign configurations. By integrating the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system and plugging in this identity, we obtain the conservation of mass, total momentum and total energy for solutions as

$$(1.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{T}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} m_+ F_+(t) &= \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{T}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} m_- F_-(t) = 0, \\ \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{T}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} p(m_+ F_+(t) + m_- F_-(t)) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\mathbb{T}^3} E(t) \times B(t) \right\} &= 0, \\ \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{T}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} (m_+ p_+^0 F_+(t) + m_- p_-^0 F_-(t)) + \frac{1}{8\pi} \int_{\mathbb{T}^3} |E(t)|^2 + |B(t)|^2 \right\} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The entropy of the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system is defined as

$$\mathcal{H}(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} - \int_{\mathbb{T}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} dx dp \{ F_+(t, x, p) \log F_+(t, x, p) + F_-(t, x, p) \log F_-(t, x, p) \}.$$

Then the celebrated Boltzmann H-theorem for the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system corresponds to the following formal statement

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{H}(t) \geq 0,$$

which says that the entropy of solutions is non-increasing as time passes.

The global relativistic Maxwellian (a.k.a. the Jüttner solution) is given by

$$J_{\pm}(p) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{\exp(-cp_{\pm}^0/(k_B T_{\pm}))}{4\pi e_{\pm} m_{\pm}^2 c k_B T_{\pm} K_2(m_{\pm} c^2/(k_B T_{\pm}))},$$

where $k_B > 0$ denotes *Boltzmann's constant*, $K_2(\cdot)$ is the Bessel function $K_2(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{z^2}{2} \int_1^{\infty} e^{-zt} (t^2 - 1)^{3/2} dt$, and T_{\pm} is the temperature. From the Maxwell system and the periodic boundary condition of $E(t, x)$, we see that $\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{T}^3} B(t, x) dx \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0$. We thus have a constant \bar{B} such that

$$(1.3) \quad \frac{1}{|\mathbb{T}^3|} \int_{\mathbb{T}^3} B(t, x) dx = \bar{B}.$$

Let $[\cdot, \cdot]$ denote a column vector. We then have the following steady state solution to the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system

$$[F_{\pm}(t, x, p), E(t, x), B(t, x)] = [J_{\pm}, 0, \bar{B}],$$

which maximizes the entropy.

We furthermore define the relativistic Boltzmann collision operator [5] as

$$(1.4) \quad Q(F_{\pm}, G_{\mp}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{dq}{q^0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{dq'}{q'^0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{dp'}{p'^0} W_{\pm|\mp} [F_{\pm}(p')G_{\mp}(q') - F_{\pm}(p)G_{\mp}(q)].$$

It is written similarly for other sign configurations. Here the ‘‘transition rate’’ $W_{\pm|\mp} = W_{\pm|\mp}(p, q|p', q')$ is defined as

$$(1.5) \quad W_{\pm|\mp} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} s \sigma_{\pm|\mp}(g, \theta) \delta(p_{\pm}^0 + q_{\mp}^0 - p'_{\pm}{}^0 - q'_{\mp}{}^0) \delta^{(3)}(p + q - p' - q').$$

The quantities here are $s = s(p_{\pm}, q_{\mp})$, $g = g(p_{\pm}, q_{\mp})$, $\theta = \theta(p_{\pm}, q_{\mp})$ and $\sigma_{\pm|\mp}(g, \theta)$ are defined exactly as in the following sub-section.

The physical intuition provided by the Boltzmann H-theorem is to say that solutions should converge to their steady state, which is chosen by the initial conditions and the conservation laws (1.2), as time goes to infinity. Our goal in this work is to prove this global existence and rapid convergence in the context of perturbations.

We define the standard perturbation $f_{\pm}(t, x, p)$ to J_{\pm} as

$$F_{\pm} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} J_{\pm} + \sqrt{J_{\pm}} f_{\pm}.$$

We will plug this ansatz into (1.1) to derive a perturbed system for $f_{\pm}(t, x, p)$, $E(t, x)$ and $B(t, x)$. The two relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann equations for the perturbation $f = [f_+, f_-]$ take the form

$$(1.6) \quad \begin{aligned} & \left\{ \partial_t + c \frac{p}{p_{\pm}^0} \cdot \nabla_x \pm e_{\pm} \left(E + \frac{p}{p_{\pm}^0} \times B \right) \cdot \nabla_p \right\} f_{\pm} \mp \frac{e_{\pm} c}{k_B T} \left\{ E \cdot \frac{p}{p_{\pm}^0} \right\} \sqrt{J_{\pm}} + L_{\pm} f \\ & = \pm \frac{e_{\pm} c}{2k_B T} \left\{ E \cdot \frac{p}{p_{\pm}^0} \right\} f_{\pm} + \Gamma_{\pm}(f, f), \end{aligned}$$

with $f(0, x, p) = f_0(x, p) = [f_{0,+}(x, p), f_{0,-}(x, p)]$. The linear operator $L_{\pm} f$, defined in (1.8), and the nonlinear operator $\Gamma_{\pm}(f, f)$, defined in (1.7), are derived from an expansion of the Boltzmann collision operator (1.4).

In particular, using (1.5), we observe that the collision operator (1.4) satisfies

$$\mathcal{Q}(J_+, J_+) = \mathcal{Q}(J_+, J_-) = \mathcal{Q}(J_-, J_+) = \mathcal{Q}(J_-, J_-) = 0.$$

Then we can write the nonlinear operators as

$$(1.7) \quad \Gamma_{\pm}(f, h) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} J_{\pm}^{-1/2} \mathcal{Q}(\sqrt{J_{\pm}} f_{\pm}, \sqrt{J_{\pm}} h_{\pm}) + J_{\pm}^{-1/2} \mathcal{Q}(\sqrt{J_{\pm}} f_{\pm}, \sqrt{J_{\mp}} h_{\mp}).$$

Furthermore the linearized collision operators take the form

$$(1.8) \quad L_{\pm}(h) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -\Gamma_{\pm}(h, \sqrt{J}) - \Gamma_{\pm}(\sqrt{J}, h).$$

We estimate these operators in Sections 3 and 4.

In this linearized system, the coupled Maxwell system is given by

$$(1.9) \quad \begin{aligned} \partial_t E - c \nabla_x \times B &= -4\pi \mathcal{J} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -4\pi \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left\{ e_+ \frac{p}{p_+} \sqrt{J_+} f_+ - e_- \frac{p}{p_-} \sqrt{J_-} f_- \right\} dp, \\ \partial_t B + c \nabla_x \times E &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

with constraints

$$(1.10) \quad \nabla_x \cdot E = 4\pi \rho \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 4\pi \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left\{ e_+ \sqrt{J_+} f_+ - e_- \sqrt{J_-} f_- \right\} dp, \quad \nabla_x \cdot B = 0.$$

The charge density and current density due to particles are denoted ρ and \mathcal{J} respectively. In computing ρ , we have used the normalization $\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} J_{\pm}(p) dp = \frac{1}{e_{\pm}}$.

In all of the following developments, none of the physical constants will affect the results of our analysis. Then without loss of generality but for the sake of simplicity, we normalize all constants to one. We set

$$J_{\pm}(p) = J(p) = \frac{e^{-p^0}}{4\pi}.$$

We drop the inessential \pm notation all over, in particular we use the kernel notation $\sigma(g, \theta) = \sigma_{\pm|\mp}(g, \theta)$ and we set $p_{\pm}^0 = p^0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{1 + |p|^2}$, etc.

Furthermore we assume that initially $[F_0, E_0, B_0]$ has the same mass, total momentum and total energy (1.2) as the steady state $[J, 0, \bar{B}]$, then we can rewrite the conservation laws in terms of the perturbation $[f, E, B]$ as follows:

$$(1.11) \quad \int_{\mathbb{T}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} dx dp f_+(t) \sqrt{J} = \int_{\mathbb{T}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} dx dp f_-(t) \sqrt{J} = 0,$$

$$(1.12) \quad \int_{\mathbb{T}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} dx dp p \{f_+(t) + f_-(t)\} \sqrt{J(p)} = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\mathbb{T}^3} dx E(t) \times B(t),$$

$$(1.13) \quad \int_{\mathbb{T}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} dx dp p^0 \{f_+(t) + f_-(t)\} \sqrt{J} = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \int_{\mathbb{T}^3} dx |E(t)|^2 + |B(t) - \bar{B}|^2.$$

We have used (1.3) for the normalized energy conservation (1.13).

In the next sub-section we will discuss reductions of the collision operator (1.4).

1.1. Collision operator in the Glassey-Strauss frame. In a pioneering work of Glassey and Strauss [14], the collision operator \mathcal{Q} was represented as follows:

$$(1.14) \quad \mathcal{Q}(f, h) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} \frac{s\sigma(g, \theta)}{p^0 q^0} B(p, q, \omega) [f(p')h(q') - f(p)h(q)] d\omega dq,$$

where the kernel is

$$(1.15) \quad B(p, q, \omega) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{(p^0 + q^0)^2 p^0 q^0 \left| \omega \cdot \left(\frac{p}{p^0} - \frac{q}{q^0} \right) \right|}{[(p^0 + q^0)^2 - (\omega \cdot [p + q])^2]^2}.$$

Above the quantity $s = s(p, q)$, which is the square of the energy in the “center of momentum” system, $p + q = 0$, is defined as

$$s \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 2(p^0 q^0 - p \cdot q + 1).$$

The relative momentum, $g = g(p, q)$, is denoted

$$(1.16) \quad g \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{2(p^0 q^0 - p \cdot q - 1)}.$$

Notice that $s = g^2 + 4$. We point out that this notation, which is used in [5], may differ from other authors notation by a constant factor.

The condition for elastic collisions is then given by

$$(1.17) \quad \begin{aligned} p^0 + q^0 &= p'^0 + q'^0, \\ p + q &= p' + q'. \end{aligned}$$

In this expression, the post collisional momentum are given as follows

$$(1.18) \quad \begin{aligned} p' &= p + a(p, q, \omega)\omega, \\ q' &= q - a(p, q, \omega)\omega, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$a(p, q, \omega) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{2(p^0 + q^0)p^0 q^0 \left\{ \omega \cdot \left(\frac{q}{q^0} - \frac{p}{p^0} \right) \right\}}{(p^0 + q^0)^2 - \{\omega \cdot (p + q)\}^2}.$$

The Jacobian for the transformation $(p, q) \rightarrow (p', q')$ in these variables [13] is

$$(1.19) \quad \frac{\partial(p', q')}{\partial(p, q)} = -\frac{p'^0 q'^0}{p^0 q^0}.$$

Now we turn to a discussion of the collision kernel $\sigma(g, \theta)$ in (1.14). The kernel $\sigma(g, \theta)$ measure's the interactions between particles. See [8, 9] for a physical discussion of general assumptions. We use the following hypothesis.

Hypothesis on the collision kernel: We consider the “hard ball” condition

$$\sigma(g, \theta) = \text{constant}.$$

This condition is implicitly used throughout the rest of the article. In fact to simplify the notation, without loss of generality, in the following we use the normalized condition $\sigma(g, \theta) = 1$. The Newtonian limit, as $c \rightarrow \infty$, in this situation is the Newtonian hard-sphere Boltzmann collision operator [24].

In the next section we will discuss our main results.

2. STATEMENT OF THE MAIN RESULTS

Let the multi-indices γ and β be $\gamma = [\gamma^0, \gamma^1, \gamma^2, \gamma^3]$, $\beta = [\beta^1, \beta^2, \beta^3]$. We will use the following notation for a high order derivative

$$\partial_\beta^\gamma \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \partial_t^{\gamma^0} \partial_{x_1}^{\gamma^1} \partial_{x_2}^{\gamma^2} \partial_{x_3}^{\gamma^3} \partial_{p_1}^{\beta^1} \partial_{p_2}^{\beta^2} \partial_{p_3}^{\beta^3}.$$

We also denote a collection of weight functions by

$$w_\ell \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \langle p \rangle^\ell, \quad \langle p \rangle \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{1 + |p|^2}, \quad \ell \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Given a solution $[f_{\pm}(t, x, p), E(t, x), B(t, x)]$ to the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system (1.6), (1.9), and (1.10), we define the instant energy functional

$$(2.1) \quad \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell}(t) \approx \sum_{|\gamma|+|\beta|\leq N} \|w_{\ell}\partial_{\beta}^{\gamma}f(t)\|^2 + \sum_{|\gamma|\leq N} \|\partial^{\gamma}[E(t), B(t)]\|^2.$$

At time $t = 0$ the time derivatives in $\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell}(0)$ are defined customarily through equations (1.6) and (1.9). In (2.1) and the rest of this paper, the norm $\|\cdot\|$ denotes either the $L^2(\mathbb{T}_x^3 \times \mathbb{R}_p^3)$ norm or just the $L^2(\mathbb{T}_x^3)$ without ambiguity depending upon the variables in the functions being measured. Throughout the rest of this paper we furthermore assume $N \geq 4$ and $\ell \geq 0$.

We are now ready to state our main results:

Theorem 1. *Suppose that $[f_{0,\pm}, E_0, B_0]$ satisfies the constraint (1.10) and the the conservation laws (1.11), (1.12), (1.13) initially. Fix $\ell \geq 0$ and $N \geq 4$. Consider*

$$F_{0,\pm}(x, p) = J_{\pm} + \sqrt{J_{\pm}}f_{0,\pm}(x, p) \geq 0.$$

There is a constant $M > 0$ such that if

$$\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell}(0) \leq M,$$

then there exists a unique global solution $[f_{\pm}(t, x, p), E(t, x), B(t, x)]$ to the perturbed relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system (1.6), (1.9) with (1.10) satisfying

$$\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell}(t) \lesssim \mathcal{E}_{N,\ell}(0).$$

Moreover $F_{\pm}(t, x, p) = J_{\pm} + \sqrt{J_{\pm}}f_{\pm}(t, x, p) \geq 0$ solves the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system (1.1).

If $\mathcal{E}_{N+k,\ell}(0)$ is sufficiently small for some $k > 0$, then we have rapid decay as

$$\sum_{|\gamma|+|\beta|\leq N} \|w_{\ell}\partial_{\beta}^{\gamma}f(t)\|^2 + \sum_{|\gamma|\leq N} \|\partial^{\gamma}[E(t), B(t) - \bar{B}]\|^2 \lesssim \mathcal{E}_{N+k,\ell}(0) (1+t)^{-k},$$

where the constant \bar{B} is defined in (1.3).

There have been many investigations about various kinetic models for describing charged particles. Standard references include [3, 5, 11]. We refer to several results such as [1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 18, 21]. In [16], global classical solutions were constructed for the Vlasov-Poisson-Boltzmann system (no magnetic fields) via introduction of a nonlinear energy method for which the linear collision operator L is positive for solutions near Maxwellians. In [17], an improvement of such a method led to construction of global solutions to the Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system in the presence of magnetic field. In [23], such a construction was carried out in the whole space case using some new dissipation estimates. Even though the Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system can be viewed as a ‘master system’ for kinetic models, from general physical principle, the classical (non-relativistic) Boltzmann is not compatible with the (Lorentz invariant) Maxwell system, which obeys special relativity. It is therefore important to study the relativistic effects for the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system (1.1) and to generalize the result in [17] to a relativistic setting. However, such a project was easily stopped due to a severe difficulty of lack of regularity in the momentum p variables for the relativistic Boltzmann equation.

In the Glassey-Strauss frame (1.14) and (1.18), the following pointwise estimates were discovered by Glassey & Strauss [13] in 1991:

$$(2.2) \quad |\nabla_p q'_i| + |\nabla_p p'_i| \leq C \langle q \rangle^5 \left(1 + |p \cdot \omega|^{1/2} \mathbf{1}_{\{|p \cdot \omega| > |p \times \omega|^{3/2}\}} \right).$$

This is a sharp estimate at least in regards to the p growth. Furthermore

$$|\nabla_q p'_i| + |\nabla_q q'_i| \leq C \langle q \rangle^5 p^0.$$

Although in this second estimate, no attempt was made to further refine it. Notice that higher derivatives do not exhibit momentum growth in p :

$$|\nabla_p^k p'_i| + |\nabla_p^k q'_i| + |\nabla_q^k p'_i| + |\nabla_q^k q'_i| \leq C \langle q \rangle^5, \quad \forall k > 1.$$

The q growth above does not cause any difficulty because we have strong exponential decay in that variable in Γ . But the p momentum growth in (2.2), introduces high order growth of p in $\{|\nabla_p q'_i| + |\nabla_p p'_i|\}^N$, within the highest order derivatives of $\partial_\beta f(p')$ with $|\beta| = N$.

Such a growth phenomenon is purely a relativistic effect, which is absent in the classical setting. Consequently, no regularity for the momentum variables, even local in time, for the solutions of the Boltzmann equation has been obtained. This is because of the presence of highest polynomial growth rate in p in the highest order derivatives of the solutions, which makes it impossible to close the estimates in any reasonable energy norm. Up to now, all existing work for the relativistic Boltzmann equation only involves spatial and temporal regularity. Unfortunately, it is necessary to obtain momentum regularity to study the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system due to the Lorentz force term: $[E + \hat{p} \times B] \cdot \nabla_p f$.

2.1. Collision operator in the center of mass frame. Our key idea to overcome such a severe difficulty in the Glassey-Strauss frame is to resort to the following center of mass representation of the Boltzmann collision operator. We remark that the study of such a center of mass frame was initiated recently in the absence of momentum derivatives [22, 26]. For a function $G : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$:

$$\int_{\mathbb{S}^2} d\omega \frac{sB(p, q, \omega)}{p^0 q^0} G(p, q, p', q') = \int_{\mathbb{S}^2} d\omega v_\phi G(p, q, p'', q''),$$

where $B(p, q, \omega)$ is given by (1.15) and (p', q') on the l.h.s. are given by (1.18). On the r.h.s. we use that $v_\phi = v_\phi(p, q)$ is the Møller velocity given by

$$(2.3) \quad v_\phi \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{2} \frac{g\sqrt{s}}{p^0 q^0}.$$

The post-collisional momentum, (p'', q'') , on the r.h.s. can be written:

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} p'' &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{p+q}{2} + \frac{g}{2} \left(\omega + (\rho-1)(p+q) \frac{(p+q) \cdot \omega}{|p+q|^2} \right), \\ q'' &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{p+q}{2} - \frac{g}{2} \left(\omega + (\rho-1)(p+q) \frac{(p+q) \cdot \omega}{|p+q|^2} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $\rho = (p^0 + q^0)/\sqrt{s}$. See [26, Corollary 5] for basic properties of such a center of mass frame. In particular the Jacobian (1.19) effectively also works here as

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} dp \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} dq \int_{\mathbb{S}^2} d\omega v_\phi \sigma(g, \theta) G(p, q, p'', q'') \\ = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} dp \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} dq \int_{\mathbb{S}^2} d\omega v_\phi \sigma(g, \theta) G(p'', q'', p, q). \end{aligned}$$

A more detailed explanation is given in [26, Corollary 5 and (23)].

Clearly, there is also a problem in the center of mass variables from (2.4). In these variables it is straightforward to compute that high momentum derivatives

of p'' and q'' create high singularities when $p = q$ and $p = -q$. These two distinct problems in each separate representation formula for the relativistic Boltzmann collision operator illustrate the main reason why it has remained an open problem to prove energy estimates with momentum regularity.

To resolve these difficulties, and to prove the main nonlinear estimate in Theorem 2 below, we will split the desired estimate into two different cases. These cases correspond to the following two different integration regions:

$$(2.6) \quad A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{|p| \leq 1\} \cup \{|p| \geq 1, |p|^{\frac{1}{m}} \leq 2q^0\}, \quad A_c \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{|p| \geq 1, |p|^{1/m} \geq 2q^0\}.$$

Here $m \gg 1$ is taken to be a given large positive integer. On the set A , we can use the Glassey-Strauss frame (1.18). Large growing polynomial momentum weights in p , as described above and in (2.2) can be controlled by the factor $J^{1/4}(q)$ since $|p| \leq (q^0)^m$ on A . On the other hand, on the region A_c , we will use the center-of-momentum variables (2.4). Note $|p| \geq 2|q|$ so that $|p \pm q| \geq \frac{|p|}{2} \geq \frac{1}{2}$. Then the deficiency in these variables, namely that derivatives of (2.4) create singularities (even though there is no momentum growth at infinity), is fortunately avoided on the region A_c ; meaning that our estimates in this region are safe as well. Without such a magical use of the center of mass frame, it is still an outstanding open question if one can control the growth in p solely within the Glassey-Strauss frame.

We would like to say that we think it would be interesting to study this analogous problem in the whole space \mathbb{R}_x^3 including the convergence rates, as in [6, 7, 23].

2.2. Notation. In addition to the notation from (2.1), we will use the L^2 spaces

$$\|h\|_2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{\int_{\mathbb{T}^3} dx \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} dp |h(x, p)|^2}, \quad |h|_2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} dp |h(p)|^2}.$$

Similarly any norm represented by one set of lines instead of two only takes into account the momentum variables. We also define $\|h\|_\nu = \|h\|_2$, which is justified by (4.1) later on. The $L^2(\mathbb{R}_p^3)$ inner product is denoted $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. We use (\cdot, \cdot) to denote the $L^2(\mathbb{T}_x^3 \times \mathbb{R}_p^3)$ inner product. Now, for $\ell \in \mathbb{R}$, we consider the weighted spaces

$$\|h\|_{2,\ell} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \|w_\ell h\|_2, \quad \|h\|_{\nu,\ell} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \|w_\ell h\|_\nu, \quad |h|_{2,\ell} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |w_\ell h|_2, \quad |h|_{\nu,\ell} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |w_\ell h|_\nu.$$

We will furthermore use $A \lesssim B$ to mean that $\exists C > 0$ such that $A \leq CB$ holds uniformly over the range of parameters which are present in the inequality (and that the precise magnitude of the constant is unimportant). The notation $B \gtrsim A$ is equivalent to $A \lesssim B$, and $A \approx B$ means that both $A \lesssim B$ and $B \lesssim A$.

2.3. Organization of the paper. In Section 3 we will prove the estimates for the momentum derivatives of the non-linear collision operator (1.7) using the splitting into the Glassey-Strauss frame and the center of momentum frame. Then in Section 4 we will use these nonlinear estimates to deduce quickly several linear estimates, using also [25]. Lastly in Section 5, we show how to use our estimates to prove the global existence and rapid decay, following the arguments from [19, 20].

3. MOMENTUM DERIVATIVES OF THE NONLINEAR COLLISION OPERATOR

Recalling the decomposition of A and A_c in (2.6), consider the smooth test function $\chi \in C_0^\infty([0, \infty))$ such that $0 \leq \chi \leq 1$, and $\chi(\rho) = 1$ for $\rho \in [0, 1]$ with $\chi(\rho) = 0$

for $\rho > 2$. We use the splitting $1 = \chi_A(p, q) + \chi_{A_c}(p, q)$ with

$$\begin{aligned}\chi_A(p, q) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \chi(p^0) + (1 - \chi(p^0)) \chi\left(\frac{|p|^{\frac{1}{m}}}{q^0}\right), \\ \chi_{A_c}(p, q) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (1 - \chi(p^0)) \left(1 - \chi\left(\frac{|p|^{\frac{1}{m}}}{q^0}\right)\right).\end{aligned}$$

We split $\Gamma(f_1, f_2) = \Gamma_A + \Gamma_{A_c}$ as

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{aligned}\Gamma_A &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} d\omega dq \frac{sB(p, q, \omega)}{p^0 q^0} [f_1(p') f_2(q') - f_1(p) f_2(q)] \chi_A(p, q), \\ \Gamma_{A_c} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} d\omega dq v_\circ [f_1(p'') f_2(q'') - f_1(p) f_2(q)] \chi_{A_c}(p, q).\end{aligned}$$

Here without loss of generality, we have taken f_1 and f_2 to be scalar functions. Using these important decompositions, we will prove the main estimate:

Theorem 2. *We have the following nonlinear estimate for any $|\beta| \geq 0$:*

$$|\langle w_\ell^2 \partial_\beta \Gamma(f_1, f_2), \partial_\beta f_3 \rangle| \lesssim |\partial_\beta f_3|_{2, \ell} \sum_{\beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq \beta} |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1|_{2, \ell} |\partial_{\beta_2} f_2|_{2, \ell}.$$

Here we can include any $\ell \geq 0$. Then for $|\gamma| + |\beta| \leq N$ with $N \geq 4$ we have

$$\left| \langle w_\ell^2 \partial_\beta^\gamma \Gamma(f_1, f_2), \partial_\beta^\gamma f_3 \rangle \right| \lesssim \|\partial_\beta^\gamma f_3\|_{2, \ell} \prod_{j=1, 2} \sum_{|\gamma_j| + |\beta_j| \leq N} \|\partial_{\beta_j}^{\gamma_j} f_j\|_{2, \ell}.$$

The second estimate follows easily from the first and Sobolev embeddings.

Now this theorem will follow directly from our Lemmas 2 and 4 below. It will be our focus in the rest of this section to prove these estimates.

3.1. Estimates in the Glassey-Strauss Frame Γ_A . To avoid taking derivatives for the singular factor of $|\omega \cdot (\frac{p}{p^0} - \frac{q}{q^0})|$ inside $B(p, q, \omega)$ for $\partial_\beta \Gamma_A$ in (3.1), we introduce the following change of variables $q \rightarrow u$ (for fixed p) as:

$$(3.2) \quad u = p^0 q - q^0 p.$$

By (3.2), we have that $q = \frac{q^0}{p^0} p + \frac{u}{p^0}$ and taking norms on both sides yields

$$q^0 = (u \cdot p) + \sqrt{(u \cdot p)^2 + |u|^2 + (p^0)^2}.$$

Such a transformation (3.2) therefore defines an invertible mapping with

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial q_j} &= p^0 \delta_{ij} - \frac{q_j p_i}{q^0}, \quad (i, j = 1, 2, 3), \\ \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial q} \right| &= \det \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial q_j} \right) = \frac{(p^0)^2}{q^0} (p^0 q^0 - p \cdot q) \geq \frac{(p^0)^2}{q^0}.\end{aligned}$$

Since $|\omega \cdot (\frac{p}{p^0} - \frac{q}{q^0})| = \frac{|\omega \cdot u|}{p^0 q^0}$, we can express Γ_A from (3.1) as

$$(3.3) \quad \Gamma_A = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} d\omega du \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial u} \right| \frac{s\tilde{B}[\omega \cdot u]}{p^0 q^0} \sqrt{J(q)} \{f_1(p') f_2(q') - f_1(p) f_2(q)\} \chi_A(p, q),$$

where now

$$\tilde{B} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{(p^0 + q^0)^2}{[(p^0 + q^0)^2 - (\omega \cdot [p + q])^2]}.$$

We take a high order derivative ∂_β of (3.3) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\partial_\beta \Gamma_A| &\lesssim \sum \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} \mathbf{1}_{|p| \frac{1}{m} \lesssim q^0} d\omega du K_{\beta_0}^A \sqrt{J(q)} |(\partial_{\beta_1} f_1)(p')(\partial_{\beta_2} f_2)(q') \mu_{\beta_2}^{\beta_1}| \\ &\quad + \sum \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} \mathbf{1}_{|p| \frac{1}{m} \lesssim q^0} d\omega du K_{\beta_0}^A \sqrt{J(q)} |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1(p) \partial_{\beta_2} f_2(q)|, \end{aligned}$$

where the sum is over $\beta_0 + \beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq \beta$. Furthermore

$$(3.4) \quad K_{\beta_0}^A = K_{\beta_0}^A(u, p, \omega) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |\omega \cdot u| \left| \partial_{\beta_0} \left(\left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial u} \right| \frac{s\tilde{B}}{p^0 q^0} J^{1/2}(q) \chi_A(p, q) \right) \right| J^{-1/2}(q).$$

Also $\mu_{\beta_2}^{\beta_1} = \mu_{\beta_2}^{\beta_1}(u, p, \omega)$ is the term which results from applying the chain rule to the post-collisional velocities p' and q' . Here $\mu_{\beta_2}^{\beta_1}$ contains the sum of products of high order momentum derivatives of the smooth functions p' and q' . The next step is to reverse this change of variables (3.2) to go from u back to an integration over q . After that change of variables:

Lemma 1. *On the set A , we have the following estimates*

$$w^{2\ell}(p) |K_{\beta_0}^A(p^0 q - q^0 p, p, \omega)| \lesssim \frac{\langle q \rangle^n}{p^0 q^0}.$$

Similarly, we also have the upper bound of

$$\left| \mu_{\beta_2}^{\beta_1}(p^0 q - q^0 p, p, \omega) \right| \lesssim \langle q \rangle^n.$$

Above $n \geq 1$ are a fixed large integers which depend upon $\ell \geq 0$, β , β_0 , β_1 , and β_2 .

Proof of Lemma 1. We start with the estimate for $\mu_{\beta_2}^{\beta_1}$. Clearly, up to constants, $\mu_{\beta_2}^{\beta_1}$ is a sum of products of terms of the form

$$(\partial_{\beta_1} p')^{\gamma_1} (\partial_{\beta_2} q')^{\gamma_2},$$

where β_1 , β_2 , γ_1 and γ_2 are suitable multi-indices. It is therefore sufficient to estimate the size of these derivatives from above. This follows from the multi-dimensional generalization [4], from 1996, of the **Faà di Bruno formula** (1855). After the change of variables (3.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} p' &= p + \tilde{a}(p, u, \omega)\omega, \\ q' &= \frac{u}{p^0} + \frac{q^0}{p^0} p - \tilde{a}(p, u, \omega)\omega, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\tilde{a}(p, u, \omega) = \frac{2(p^0 + q^0) \omega \cdot u}{(p^0 + q^0)^2 - \{\omega \cdot (p + q)\}^2} = \frac{N}{D}.$$

Our goal will be to estimate derivatives of these functions. We thus compute

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial p'_k}{\partial p_j} &= \delta_{kj} + \omega_k \frac{\partial \tilde{a}(p, u, \omega)}{\partial p_j}, \\ \frac{\partial q'_k}{\partial p_j} &= \frac{u_k p_j}{(p^0)^3} + \frac{q^0}{p^0} \delta_{kj} + \frac{q^0}{(p^0)^3} p_k p_j + \frac{\partial q^0}{\partial p_j} \frac{p_k}{p^0} + \omega_k \frac{\partial \tilde{a}(p, u, \omega)}{\partial p_j}. \end{aligned}$$

We compute the final derivative as

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \tilde{a}}{\partial p_j} &= \frac{1}{D} \frac{\partial N}{\partial p_j} - \frac{N}{D^2} \frac{\partial D}{\partial p_j}, \\ \frac{\partial N}{\partial p_j} &= 2\omega \cdot u \left(\frac{p_j}{p^0} + \frac{\partial q^0}{\partial p_j} \right), \\ \frac{\partial q^0}{\partial p_j} &= u_j + \frac{2(u \cdot p)u_j + 2p_j}{\sqrt{(u \cdot p)^2 + |u|^2 + (p^0)^2}}.\end{aligned}$$

The derivative of the denominator is further given by

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial D}{\partial p_j} &= 2(p^0 + q^0) \left(\frac{p_j}{p^0} + \frac{\partial q^0}{\partial p_j} \right) \\ &\quad - 2\omega \cdot (p + q) \sum_k \omega_k \left(\delta_{kj} + \frac{q^0}{p^0} \delta_{kj} + p_k \frac{\partial}{\partial p_j} \left(\frac{q^0}{p^0} \right) + \frac{u_k p_j}{(p^0)^3} \right).\end{aligned}$$

Now the key observation in all of these calculations is that the denominators, e.g. p^0 , D , and $\sqrt{(u \cdot p)^2 + |u|^2 + (p^0)^2}$ are in all cases uniformly bounded from below, so that no singularities are present. Therefore, after applying the reverse change of variables $u \rightarrow p^0 q - q^0 p$ to (3.2) we can see that we always have the crude upper bound (for some $n > 0$) of

$$\left| \frac{\partial p'_k}{\partial p_j} \right| + \left| \frac{\partial q'_k}{\partial p_j} \right| \lesssim (\langle p \rangle \langle q \rangle)^n.$$

This estimate will conclude the second estimate in Lemma 1 if all of the derivatives are first order derivatives. Note that the exact value of n is in fact unimportant to our argument. The crucial observation now is that this pattern repeats for the higher derivatives. We mean that in the sense that higher derivatives of p' and q' after applying (3.2) and then reversing this change of variable are all (complicated) polynomial type expressions but the denominators of all of these functions are always of the form $(p^0)^j$, D^j , or $(\sqrt{(u \cdot p)^2 + |u|^2 + (p^0)^2})^j$ for some $j > 0$, so that they are always uniformly bounded from below by a positive constant. This implies that the higher order derivatives are all bounded above by $(\langle p \rangle \langle q \rangle)^n$ for some $n > 0$. After that, the second estimate for $\mu_{\beta_2}^{\beta_1}$ in Lemma 1 is a consequence of the region A from (2.6). We conclude the estimate for $\mu_{\beta_2}^{\beta_1}$.

The estimate for (3.4) is similar. The point is again that momentum derivatives of (3.4) are all ratios of quantities in the variables u , p , p^0 , and q^0 . It is readily apparent that the denominators of these ratios are all uniformly bounded from below. Thus after reversing the change of variables in (3.2) the term (3.4) must be bounded from above by a constant multiple of $(\langle p \rangle \langle q \rangle)^n$ for some $n > 0$. \square

Lemma 2. *We have the following estimate for Γ_A with any $\ell \geq 0$:*

$$\begin{aligned}(3.5) \quad |w_\ell^2(p) \partial_\beta \Gamma_A| &\lesssim e^{-\frac{1}{8}|p|^{1/m}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} dq d\omega \mathbf{1}_{|p|^{1/m} \lesssim q^0} J^{\frac{1}{4}}(q) \\ &\quad \times \sum_{\beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq \beta} \{ |(\partial_{\beta_1} f_1)(p')(\partial_{\beta_2} f_2)(q')| + |(\partial_{\beta_1} f_1)(p)(\partial_{\beta_2} f_2)(q)| \}.\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, from there one can deduce the uniform estimate

$$(3.6) \quad |\langle w_\ell^2 \partial_\beta \Gamma_A(f_1, f_2), \partial_\beta f_3 \rangle| \lesssim |\partial_\beta f_3|_2 \sum_{\beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq \beta} |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1|_2 |\partial_{\beta_2} f_2|_2.$$

Proof. The proof of (3.5) follows directly from the previous Lemma 1 by noting that $J^{-\frac{1}{8}}(q) \gtrsim e^{\frac{1}{8}|p|^{1/m}} \gtrsim (1 + |p| + |q|)^n$ for any large $n > 0$ since $|p| \lesssim (q^0)^m$.

To establish (3.6), we apply the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & |\langle w_\ell^2 \partial_\beta \Gamma_A, \partial_\beta f_3 \rangle| \\ & \lesssim \sum_{\beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq \beta} \int \frac{J^{1/4}(q)}{p^0 q^0} \{ |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1(p') \partial_{\beta_2} f_2(q')| + |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1(p) \partial_{\beta_2} f_2(q)| \} |\partial_\beta f_3(p)| \\ & \lesssim |\partial_\beta f_3|_2 \sum_{\beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq \beta} \int d\omega dq dp \frac{J^{1/4}(q)}{p^0 q^0} |(\partial_{\beta_1} f_1)(p') (\partial_{\beta_2} f_2)(q')|^2 \\ & \quad + |\partial_\beta f_3|_2 \sum_{\beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq \beta} |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1|_2 |\partial_{\beta_2} f_2|_2. \end{aligned}$$

We finally complete the proof by making pre-post collisional change of variables $(p, q) \rightarrow (p', q')$ from (1.19). \square

3.2. Center of Momentum Frame. In this section we prove estimates for the term Γ_{A_c} from (3.1). We take β momentum derivatives of Γ_{A_c} to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\partial_\beta \Gamma_{A_c}| & \lesssim \sum \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} dq d\omega \mathbf{1}_{|p|^{1/m} \gtrsim q^0} |\partial_{\beta_0} v_\phi| \sqrt{J(q)} |(\partial_{\beta_1} f_1)(p'') (\partial_{\beta_2} f_2)(q'') \kappa_{\beta_2}^{\beta_1}| \\ & \quad + \sum |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1(p)| \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} dq d\omega \mathbf{1}_{|p|^{1/m} \gtrsim q^0} |\partial_{\beta_0} v_\phi| \sqrt{J(q)} |\partial_{\beta_2} f_2(q)|. \end{aligned}$$

Here $\kappa_{\beta_2}^{\beta_1}$ is a collection of sums of products of momentum derivatives of p'' and q'' from (2.4). Again the sum is over $\beta_0 + \beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq \beta$. We then have

Lemma 3. *Let $|p|^{1/m} \gtrsim q^0$ with m large, (2.6). For some $n \geq 1$ we have for $\beta \neq 0$,*

$$\frac{\langle p \rangle |\partial_\beta v_\phi|}{|v_\phi|} + |\partial_\beta p''| + |\partial_\beta q''| \lesssim \langle q \rangle^n.$$

Proof of Lemma 3. We first show the decay of $\partial_\beta v_\phi$. Recall $v_\phi = \frac{1}{2} \frac{g\sqrt{s}}{p^0 q^0}$ from (2.3). For g as in (1.16) we consider the first derivative

$$\partial_{p_i} g = \frac{1}{g} \left(\frac{p_i}{p^0} q^0 - q_i \right), \quad (i = 1, 2, 3).$$

From [14, Lemma 3.1] we have $\frac{|p-q|}{\sqrt{p^0 q^0}} \lesssim g \lesssim |p-q|$. Then for $|p|^{1/m} \gtrsim q^0$ from (2.6):

$$\sqrt{\frac{\langle p \rangle}{\langle q \rangle}} \lesssim g \lesssim \langle p \rangle.$$

We conclude that $|\partial_{p_i} g| \lesssim \langle q \rangle^{3/2} \langle p \rangle^{-1/2}$. Iterating this procedure yields

$$(3.7) \quad |\partial_\beta g| \lesssim \frac{\langle q \rangle^{2|\beta|}}{g}, \quad |\partial_\beta g| \lesssim \langle q \rangle^{2|\beta|} \langle p \rangle^{-1/2}.$$

Since $s = g^2 + 4$, it then follows that for $|p|^{\frac{1}{m}} \gtrsim q^0$,

$$(3.8) \quad |\partial_\beta \sqrt{s}| \lesssim \frac{\langle q \rangle^{2|\beta|}}{g}, \quad |\partial_\beta \sqrt{s}| \lesssim \langle q \rangle^{2|\beta|} \langle p \rangle^{-1/2}.$$

We therefore conclude $\langle p \rangle |\partial_\beta v_\phi| \lesssim \langle q \rangle^n |v_\phi|$ by applying the product rule to

$$\begin{aligned} |\partial_\beta v_\phi| &= |\partial_\beta \left\{ \frac{g\sqrt{s}}{p^0 q^0} \right\}| \lesssim \sum |\partial_{\beta_1} g \partial_{\beta_2} \sqrt{s} \partial_{\beta_3} \left\{ \frac{1}{p^0 q^0} \right\}| \\ &\lesssim \frac{\langle q \rangle^N}{g} \frac{1}{p^0 q^0} \lesssim \frac{\langle q \rangle^N}{g^2} \frac{g\sqrt{s}}{p^0 q^0} \lesssim \frac{\langle q \rangle^n}{\langle p \rangle} v_\phi. \end{aligned}$$

To show $|\partial_\beta p''| + |\partial_\beta q''| \lesssim \langle q \rangle^n$, we note from (2.4) for $|\beta| > 0$ that

$$|\partial_\beta p''_i| \lesssim \left| \frac{\delta_{ij}}{2} \mathbf{1}_{\beta=e_j} + \frac{\partial_\beta g}{2} \omega_i \right| + \sum_{\alpha \leq \beta} \left| \partial_{\beta-\alpha} \left(\frac{g}{2} (\rho-1) \right) \partial_\alpha \left((p_i + q_i) \frac{(p+q) \cdot \omega}{|p+q|^2} \right) \right|.$$

We estimate each of these terms individually. The first term is trivially bounded. By (3.7), the second term on the right side of $\partial_\beta p''_i$ is bounded as in the previous estimate. For the third and last term on the right side of $\partial_\beta p''_i$ we notice that

$$\left| \partial_\alpha \left((p_i + q_i) \frac{(p+q) \cdot \omega}{|p+q|^2} \right) \right| \lesssim |p+q|^{-|\alpha|} \lesssim \langle p \rangle^{-|\alpha|}.$$

The first inequality holds generally; the second inequality holds on $|p|^{\frac{1}{m}} \gtrsim q^0$ from (2.6). Now for the term $\frac{g}{2}(\rho-1)$ we notice that $|\frac{g}{2}(\rho-1)| \lesssim p^0 + q^0 \lesssim \langle p \rangle$ on $|p|^{\frac{1}{m}} \gtrsim q^0$. The first inequality in the previous chain holds because of $\frac{g}{\sqrt{s}} \lesssim 1$ and the definition of ρ from (2.4). We conclude that if $\beta - \alpha = 0$ then the third term on the right side of $\partial_\beta p''_i$ is bounded as in Lemma 3 since in this case $|\alpha| = |\beta| > 0$.

It remains to estimate the last term on the right side of $\partial_\beta p''_i$ when $|\beta - \alpha| > 0$. To this end, notice that $\frac{g}{2}(\rho-1) = \frac{g}{2} \left(\frac{p^0 + q^0}{\sqrt{s}} - 1 \right)$. Therefore

$$\partial_{p_i} \left(\frac{g}{2} (\rho-1) \right) = \frac{1}{2g} \left(\frac{p_i}{p^0} q^0 - q_i \right) (\rho-1) + \frac{g}{2\sqrt{s}} \frac{p_i}{p^0} - \frac{g}{4s^{3/2}} (p^0 + q^0) \left(\frac{p_i}{p^0} q^0 - q_i \right).$$

Above we have used $s = g^2 + 4$. From the previous estimates we have (on A_c)

$$\left| \partial_{p_i} \left(\frac{g}{2} (\rho-1) \right) \right| \lesssim \langle q \rangle^2.$$

Following the same procedure we have generally that $|\partial_{\beta-\alpha} \left(\frac{g}{2} (\rho-1) \right)| \lesssim \langle q \rangle^n$ for some $n > 1$ and any $|\beta - \alpha| > 0$. Collecting all of these completes the estimate for $\partial_\beta p''$ in Lemma 3. Notice that the estimate for $\partial_\beta q''$ is exactly the same. \square

Lemma 4. Fix $|\beta| \geq 0$. Then we have the uniform estimate

$$(3.9) \quad |\partial_\beta \Gamma_{A_c}| \lesssim \sum_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} dq d\omega \mathbf{1}_{|p|^{1/m} \gtrsim q^0} \frac{v_\phi J^{1/4}(q)}{|p|^{\min\{1, |\beta_0|\}}} |(\partial_{\beta_1} f_1)(p'')(\partial_{\beta_2} f_2)(q'')| \\ + \sum |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1(p)| \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} dq d\omega \mathbf{1}_{|p|^{1/m} \gtrsim q^0} \frac{v_\phi J^{1/4}(q)}{|p|^{\min\{1, |\beta_0|\}}} |\partial_{\beta_2} f_2(q)|.$$

Above the sum is over $\beta_0 + \beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq \beta$. Moreover, for $\ell \geq 0$, we obtain

$$(3.10) \quad \left| \langle w_\ell^2 \partial_\beta \Gamma_{A_c}(f_1, f_2), \partial_\beta f_3 \rangle \right| \lesssim |\partial_\beta f_3|_{2,\ell} \sum_{\beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq \beta} |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1|_{2,\ell} |\partial_{\beta_2} f_2|_{2,\ell}.$$

Proof. First (3.9) follows directly from the previous Lemma 3 and the fact that $J^{-1/4}(q) \gtrsim \langle q \rangle^n$ for any $n > 0$. We then have the upper bound of

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \left\langle w_\ell^2 \partial_\beta \Gamma_{A_c}, \partial_\beta f_3 \right\rangle \right| &\lesssim \sum \int w_\ell^2(p) v_\phi J^{1/4}(q) |(\partial_{\beta_1} f_1)(p'') (\partial_{\beta_2} f_2)(q'') \partial_\beta f_3(p)| \\ &+ \sum \int dq dp d\omega w_\ell^2(p) v_\phi J^{1/4}(q) |\partial_{\beta_2} f_2(q)| |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1(p) \partial_\beta f_3(p)|. \end{aligned}$$

Above the sum is over $\beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq \beta$. The second term above clearly has the desired upper bound in (3.10). For the first ‘‘gain term’’, notice from [14, Lemma 2.2] that we have the estimate $w_\ell(p) \leq w_\ell(p'') w_\ell(q'')$. We remark that the estimate [14, Lemma 2.2] is true for any variables satisfying the conservation laws (1.17). Now using Cauchy-Schwartz we obtain the upper bound ($v_\phi \leq 4$)

$$\begin{aligned} &|\partial_\beta f_3|_{2,\ell} \left\{ \sum \int v_\phi w_\ell^2(p'') w_\ell^2(q'') |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1(p'') \partial_{\beta_2} f_2(q'')|^2 dp dq d\omega \right\}^{1/2} \\ &\lesssim |\partial_\beta f_3|_{2,\ell} \left\{ \sum \int v_\phi w_\ell^2(p'') w_\ell^2(q'') |\partial_{\beta_1} f_1(p'') \partial_{\beta_2} f_2(q'')|^2 dp'' dq'' d\omega \right\}^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Once again the pre-post change of variables from (2.5) establishes Lemma 4. \square

4. THE LINEAR ESTIMATES

We will use the estimates proven in the previous section for Γ from (1.7) to prove the linear estimates in this section. Recalling (1.8) and (1.7) we write

$$L(h) = [L_+ h, L_- h], \quad L(h) = \nu(p)h - K(h).$$

Here we recall that $h = [h_+, h_-]$. From (1.4), (1.7) and (1.14) we can define

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma^{gain}(f_1, f_2) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} d\omega dq \frac{sB(p, q, \omega)}{p^0 q^0} \sqrt{J(q)} f_1(p') f_2(q'), \\ \Gamma^{loss}(f_1, f_2) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} d\omega dq \frac{sB(p, q, \omega)}{p^0 q^0} \sqrt{J(q)} f_1(p) f_2(q). \end{aligned}$$

Above f_1 and f_2 are scalar functions. Then following (1.7) we can write

$$(4.1) \quad \nu(p) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 2\Gamma^{loss}(1, \sqrt{J}) = 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} d\omega dq \frac{sB(p, q, \omega)}{p^0 q^0} J(q).$$

With these developments the operator $K(h) = [K_+ h, K_- h]$ can be expressed as

$$(4.2) \quad K_\pm(h) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Gamma^{gain}(h_\pm, \sqrt{J}) + \Gamma^{gain}(h_\pm, \sqrt{J}) + \Gamma_\pm(\sqrt{J}, h).$$

We abuse notation by considering \sqrt{J} as $[\sqrt{J}, \sqrt{J}]$ in the definition of K . Then from [25, Lemma 3.1] we clearly have that $\nu(p) \approx C_\sigma$ for $C_\sigma > 0$. Furthermore

Lemma 5. *Let $|\beta| > 0$, then $|\partial_\beta \nu(p)| \leq C \langle p \rangle^{-1}$.*

Proof. As in (4.1), we apply (3.5) and (3.9) with $f_1 \equiv 1$ in the loss terms. \square

Proposition 6. *Let $|\beta| > 0$ and fix $\ell \geq 0$. For any small $\eta > 0$, there exists a large $R = R(\eta) > 0$ and $C = C(\eta) > 0$ such that*

$$\langle w_\ell^2 \partial_\beta \{\nu(p)h\}, \partial_\beta h \rangle \geq |\partial_\beta h|_{\nu, \ell}^2 - \eta \sum_{|\alpha| \leq |\beta|} |\partial_\alpha h|_{\nu, \ell}^2 - C_\eta |\mathbf{1}_{\leq R} h|_2^2.$$

Proof. We will prove the desired coercivity estimate for a real valued function h to simplify notation; the result follows trivially for a vector valued function $h = [h_+, h_-]$. We expand out the inner product as

$$\begin{aligned} \langle w_\ell^2 \partial_\beta \{ \nu(p) h \}, \partial_\beta h \rangle &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} w_\ell^2 \nu |\partial_\beta h|^2 + \sum_{0 < \beta_1 \leq \beta} C_{\beta_1}^\beta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} w_\ell^2 \partial_{\beta_1} \nu \partial_{\beta - \beta_1} h \partial_\beta h \\ &= |\partial_\beta h|_{\nu, \ell}^2 + \sum_{0 < \beta_1 \leq \beta} C_{\beta_1}^\beta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} dp w_\ell^2(p) \partial_{\beta_1} \nu(p) \partial_{\beta - \beta_1} h(p) \partial_\beta h(p). \end{aligned}$$

Here $C_{\beta_1}^\beta$ is the constant which results from the high order differentiation. Since $|\beta_1| > 0$ we have from Lemma 5 that $|\partial_{\beta_1} \nu(p)| \leq C \langle p \rangle^{-1}$.

Then, for fixed $R > 0$, we split the second term above as

$$\sum_{0 < \beta_1 \leq \beta} C_{\beta_1}^\beta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} dp w_\ell^2 \partial_{\beta_1} \nu(p) \partial_{\beta - \beta_1} h \partial_\beta h = \int_{|p| \leq R} + \int_{|p| > R}.$$

On the unbounded part we use Cauchy-Schwartz as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{0 < \beta_1 \leq \beta} \int_{|p| \geq R} dp w_\ell^2 |\partial_{\beta_1} \nu(p) \partial_{\beta - \beta_1} h \partial_\beta h| &\leq \frac{C}{R} |\partial_\beta h|_{\nu, \ell} \sum_{0 < \beta_1 \leq \beta} |\partial_{\beta - \beta_1} h|_{\nu, \ell} \\ &\leq \frac{C}{R} \sum_{\beta_1 \leq \beta} |\partial_{\beta_1} h|_{\nu, \ell}^2. \end{aligned}$$

On the bounded region we use the compact interpolation of Sobolev-spaces

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{|p| \leq R} dp \sum_{0 < \beta_1 \leq \beta} |\partial_{\beta - \beta_1} h \partial_\beta h| &\leq \int_{|p| \leq R} \left\{ \sum_{0 < \beta_1 \leq \beta} dp |\partial_{\beta - \beta_1} h|^2 + \tilde{\eta} |\partial_\beta h|^2 \right\} \\ &\leq \eta' \sum_{|\alpha| = |\beta|} \int_{|p| \leq R} dp |\partial_\alpha h|^2 + C_{\eta'} \int_{|p| \leq R} dp |h|^2 \\ &\leq \eta \sum_{|\alpha| \leq |\beta|} |\partial_\alpha h|_{\nu, \ell}^2 + C_\eta |\mathbf{1}_{\leq R} h|_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

Above the η 's are allowed to be small. This completes the desired estimate. \square

Proposition 7. *Let $|\beta| \geq 0$ and $\ell \geq 0$. For any small $\eta > 0$, $\exists C_\eta > 0$ such that*

$$|\langle w_\ell^2 \partial_\beta K(h_1), \partial_\beta h_2 \rangle| \lesssim \left\{ \eta \sum_{|\alpha| \leq |\beta|} |\partial_\alpha h_1|_{\nu, \ell} + C_\eta |\mathbf{1}_{\leq R} h_1|_2 \right\} |\partial_\beta h_2|_{\nu, \ell}.$$

Proof. For $|\beta| = 0$, this follows from [25, Lemma 3.3]. We then explain how to prove the case with $|\beta| > 0$. To do this we split K into two parts. We apply (3.5) and (3.9) with $f_2 = \sqrt{J}$ and $f_1 = h_1$ as in the definition of K from (4.2), etc.

For the term as in (3.9), we deduce that it is bounded by a different linear kernel with $v_\phi J^{\frac{1}{4}}(q'')$ and $v_\phi J^{\frac{1}{4}}(q)$. Such a new linear operator has the same property as the original K in the center of mass frame with $v_\phi J^{\frac{1}{2}}(q'')$ and $v_\phi J^{\frac{1}{4}}(q)$. So the Lemma follows from the result for K without derivatives in [25, Lemma 3.3].

For (3.5), the term with $\beta_1 = \beta$ is bounded by

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} \frac{sB(p, q, \omega)}{p^0 q^0} dq d\omega J^{\frac{1}{4}}(q) \left\{ |(\partial_\beta h_1)(p') J^{\frac{1}{4}}(q')| + |J^{\frac{1}{4}}(p') (\partial_\beta h_1)(q')| \right\} \\ + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^2} \frac{sB(p, q, \omega)}{p^0 q^0} dq d\omega J^{\frac{1}{4}}(q) |(\partial_\beta h_1)(p) J^{\frac{1}{4}}(q)|. \end{aligned}$$

This new linear operator has the same property as the original K . So the lemma follows in this case from the result for K in [25, Lemma 3.3]. On the other hand, for terms with $\beta_1 < \beta$, by compact Sobolev imbedding, it suffices to consider the case where $|p|$ is large, for which the fast decay factor $e^{-\frac{1}{8}|p|^{1/m}}$ in (3.5) provides the small constant η and we complete the proof. \square

5. GLOBAL SOLUTION AND RAPID DECAY

In this final section, we explain how to use the new estimates from the previous sections to prove the global existence and rapid decay of nearby Maxwellian classical solutions to the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system (1.6) and (1.9) with (1.10). We prove global existence following the approach from [17, 19]. The decay follows as in the method described in [20]. Since several of these previously elucidated details [17, 19, 20] are similar, we will simply write down the main steps and refer to the prior results for an elaboration of the full argument.

First in Section 5.1 we explain the local existence argument. Then in Section 5.2 we exposit the argument for proving the crucial positivity of the linearized collision operator for solutions to the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system (1.6), (1.9), with (1.10). Finally in Section 5.3 we explain how these estimates can be used to prove the global in time existence and rapid decay.

5.1. Local solutions. We now sketch the procedure for obtaining a unique local-in-time solution to the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system (1.6), (1.9), (1.10). These arguments are rather standard [17, 19].

Given a solution $[f(t, x, p), E(t, x), B(t, x)]$ to the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system we recall the definition of the instant energy functional $\mathcal{E}_{N, \ell}(t)$ as (2.1). We furthermore define the dissipation rate $\mathcal{D}_{N, \ell}(t)$ as ($\ell \geq 0$)

$$\mathcal{D}_{N, \ell}(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{|\gamma| + |\beta| \leq N} \|w^\ell \partial_\beta^\gamma f(t)\|^2.$$

We state the following local existence theorem.

Theorem 3. *Fix $\ell \geq 0$. $\exists M_0 > 0$, $T^* > 0$ such that if $T^* \leq M_0/2$ and*

$$\mathcal{E}_{N, \ell}(0) \leq M_0/2,$$

then there is a unique solution $[f(t, x, p), E(t, x), B(t, x)]$ to the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system (1.6), (1.9), and (1.10) on $[0, T^) \times \mathbb{T}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$ such that*

$$\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T^*} \left\{ \mathcal{E}_{N, \ell}(t) + \int_0^t ds \mathcal{D}_{N, \ell}(t) \right\} \leq M_0.$$

The high order energy norm $\mathcal{E}_{N, \ell}(t)$ is continuous over $[0, T^)$. If $F_0(x, p) = J + J^{1/2} f_0 \geq 0$, then $F(t, x, p) = J + J^{1/2} f(t, x, p) \geq 0$. Furthermore, the conservation laws (1.11), (1.12), (1.13) hold for all $0 < t < T^*$ if they are valid initially at $t = 0$.*

This local existence theorem can be proven in the standard way using the estimates in this paper combined with the local existence proof in [19] for the relativistic Landau-Maxwell system. The positivity of solutions follows from the proof in [17].

5.2. Positivity of L . In this subsection we illucidate the positivity of the linearized operator (1.8), L , for any small amplitude solution $[f(t, x, p), E(t, x), B(t, x)]$ to the full relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system (1.6), (1.9), and (1.10).

Our main result in this section is as follows.

Theorem 4. *Let $[f(t, x, p), E(t, x), B(t, x)]$ be a classical solution to (1.6) and (1.9) satisfying (1.10), (1.11), (1.12) and (1.13). Then there exists an $M_0 > 0$ and a $\delta_0 = \delta_0(M_0) > 0$ such that if $N \geq 4$ and*

$$(5.1) \quad \sum_{|\gamma| \leq N} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \|\partial^\gamma f(t)\|^2 + \|\partial^\gamma E(t)\|^2 + \|\partial^\gamma B(t)\|^2 \right\} \leq M_0,$$

then

$$\sum_{|\gamma| \leq N} (L\partial^\gamma f(t), \partial^\gamma f(t)) \geq \delta_0 \sum_{|\gamma| \leq N} \|\partial^\gamma f(t)\|^2.$$

In the rest of this section, we always work exclusively with a classical solution $[f(t, x, p), E(t, x), B(t, x)]$ to (1.6) and (1.9). This argument proceeds, as is customary, via a careful study of the the six dimensional null space of L , for any fixed (t, x) ; this null space is given by $(1 \leq i \leq 3)$

$$(5.2) \quad N(L) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{span} \left\{ [\sqrt{J}, 0], [0, \sqrt{J}], [p_i \sqrt{J}, p_i \sqrt{J}], [p^0 \sqrt{J}, p^0 \sqrt{J}] \right\}.$$

Define the orthogonal projection from $L^2(\mathbb{R}_p^3)$ into $N(L)$ by \mathbf{P} . Then decompose

$$f = \mathbf{P}f + \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}f.$$

It is now standard to call $\mathbf{P}f = [\mathbf{P}_+ f, \mathbf{P}_- f] \in \mathbb{R}^2$ the ‘‘hydrodynamic part’’ of f and $\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}f = [\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}_+ f, \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}_- f]$ the ‘‘microscopic part.’’ By separating its linear and nonlinear part, and using $L_\pm(\mathbf{P}f) = 0$, we can express the hydrodynamic part of f through the microscopic part up to a higher order term $h(f)$:

$$(5.3) \quad \left\{ \partial_t + \frac{p}{p^0} \cdot \nabla_x \right\} \mathbf{P}_\pm f \mp \left\{ E \cdot \frac{p}{p^0} \right\} \sqrt{J} = l_\pm(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}f) + h_\pm(f).$$

This is a decomposition of (1.6) (with normalized constants), where

$$(5.4) \quad l_\pm(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} - \left\{ \partial_t + \frac{p}{p^0} \cdot \nabla_x \right\} \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}_\pm f + L_\pm(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}f),$$

$$(5.5) \quad h_\pm(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mp \left(E + \frac{p}{p^0} \times B \right) \cdot \nabla_p f_\pm \pm \left\{ E \cdot \frac{p}{p^0} \right\} f_\pm + \Gamma_\pm(f, f).$$

We further expand $\mathbf{P}_\pm f$ as a linear combination of the basis in (5.2) as

$$(5.6) \quad \mathbf{P}_\pm f = \left\{ a_\pm(t, x) + \sum_{j=1}^3 b_j(t, x) p_j + c(t, x) p^0 \right\} \sqrt{J(p)}.$$

The positivity of L is obtained via a careful study of the relativistic system of macroscopic equations (5.7) - (5.11); this system was derived in [19].

We will sketch the derivation of (5.7) - (5.11) for the convenience of the reader. Expand the left side of (5.3) with respect to the terms in (5.6) as

$$\left\{ \partial^0 a_{\pm} + \frac{p_j}{p^0} \{ \partial^j a_{\pm} \mp E_j \} + \frac{p_j p_i}{p^0} \partial^i b_j + p_j \{ \partial^0 b_j + \partial^j c \} + p^0 \partial^0 c \right\} \sqrt{J(p)}.$$

Here $\partial^0 = \partial_t$ and $\partial^j = \partial_{x_j}$. For fixed (t, x) , this is an expansion of left side of (5.3) with respect to the basis of $\{e_k\}$, whose components are given by $(1 \leq i, j \leq 3)$

$$[\sqrt{J}, 0], [0, \sqrt{J}], [p_j \sqrt{J}/p^0, 0], [0, p_j \sqrt{J}/p^0], p_j \sqrt{J}[1, 1], p_j p_i \sqrt{J}/p^0[1, 1], p^0 \sqrt{J}[1, 1].$$

We expand the right side of (5.3) with respect to the same basis and compare the coefficients on both sides to obtain the macroscopic equations:

$$(5.7) \quad \partial^0 c = l_c + h_c,$$

$$(5.8) \quad \partial^i c + \partial^0 b_i = l_i + h_i,$$

$$(5.9) \quad (1 - \delta_{ij}) \partial^i b_j + \partial^j b_i = l_{ij} + h_{ij},$$

$$(5.10) \quad \partial^i a_{\pm} \mp E_i = l_{ai\pm} + h_{ai\pm},$$

$$(5.11) \quad \partial^0 a_{\pm} = l_{a\pm} + h_{a\pm}.$$

To ease the notation we define the following index set

$$\mathcal{M} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{c, i, ij, ai\pm, a\pm \mid i, j = 1, 2, 3\}.$$

Thus \mathcal{M} is the collection of all indices in the macroscopic equations. For $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}$ each $l_{\lambda}(t, x)$ are the coefficients of $l(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}f)$ with respect to the basis elements $\{e_k\}$; similarly for each $h_{\lambda}(t, x)$. Precisely, a given l_{λ} can be expressed as

$$l_{\lambda} = \sum_k C_k^{\lambda} \langle [l_+(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}f), l_-(\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\}f)], e_k \rangle, \quad C_k^{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Also the $h_{\lambda}(t, x)$ can be computed similarly.

From (5.6) and (1.9) (with normalized constants) we see that

$$(5.12) \quad \mathcal{J} = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} [p\sqrt{J}/p^0, -p\sqrt{J}/p^0] \cdot \{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} f dp.$$

Next, we explain how to estimate each of these terms.

Proposition 8. *Suppose that $N \geq 4$, then we have*

$$\sum_{|\gamma| \leq N-1} \left(\sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{M}} \|\partial^{\gamma} l_{\lambda}\| + \|\partial^{\gamma} \mathcal{J}\| \right) \lesssim \sum_{|\gamma| \leq N} \|\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \partial^{\gamma} f\|.$$

This Proposition 8 is proven for the relativistic Landau-Maxwell system in [19, Lemma 11]. Because the structure of the operator l_{λ} is similar, the proof of Proposition 8 is exactly the same as [19, Lemma 11]. The only difference between these cases is for the term L_{\pm} in l_{λ} , since the operator L_{\pm} is in fact very different. However because of (1.8) the required estimate for $\langle L\{\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}\} \partial^{\gamma} f, e_k \rangle$ used in [19, Lemma 11] is supplied by our Theorem 2. We then refer to [19, Lemma 11] for the rest.

We now estimate coefficients of the higher order term $h(f)$ from (5.5).

Proposition 9. *Let (5.1) be valid for some $M_0 > 0$. Then*

$$\sum_{|\gamma| \leq N} \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{M}} \|\partial^{\gamma} h_{\lambda}\| \leq C \sqrt{M_0} \sum_{|\gamma| \leq N} \|\partial^{\gamma} f\|.$$

As in the previous proposition, Proposition 9 is proven for the relativistic Landau-Maxwell system in [19, Lemma 12]. Again the structure of h_λ is similar in both cases, meaning that the proof of Proposition 9 the same as [19, Lemma 12]. The only difference between these cases is for the term Γ_\pm in h_λ ; the operator Γ_\pm is in again quite different. However the needed estimate for $\langle \partial^\gamma \Gamma(f, f), e_k \rangle$ used in [19, Lemma 12] is supplied by our Theorem 2. Otherwise the proof is exactly the same, and for the full details we refer to the proof in [19, Lemma 12].

Next we estimate the electromagnetic field $[E(t, x), B(t, x)]$ in terms of $f(t, x, p)$ through the macroscopic equation (5.10) and the Maxwell system (5.12).

Proposition 10. *Let $[f(t, x, p), E(t, x), B(t, x)]$ be the solution to (1.6), (1.9) and (1.10) constructed in Theorem 3. Let the small amplitude assumption (5.1) be valid for some $0 < M_0 \leq 1$. Then there is a constant $C > 0$ such that*

$$\sum_{|\gamma| \leq N-1} \{ \|\partial^\gamma E(t)\| + \|\partial^\gamma \{B(t) - \bar{B}\}\| \} \lesssim \sum_{|\gamma| \leq N} \|\partial^\gamma f(t)\|.$$

Similar to the previous propositions, this Proposition 10 is proven in exactly the same way as [19, Lemma 13] except that we replace the estimates in the proof of [19, Lemma 13] with their corresponding analogues herein. Specifically, we follow directly the proof of [19, Lemma 13] however we replace the use of [19, Lemma 11 and Lemma 12] with Propositions 8 and 9 respectively.

Collecting the previous estimates in this section, we can now prove the crucial positivity of L from (1.8), as stated in Theorem 4, for a small amplitude solution $[f(t, x, p), E(t, x), B(t, x)]$. Once again the proof is the same as the analogous proof for the relativistic Landau-Maxwell system from [19, Theorem 2]. We need only replace the estimates used in [19, Theorem 2] with their analogues in this section; in particular we replace [19, Lemma 13] with our Proposition 10, [19, Lemma 12] with Proposition 9, and [19, Lemma 11] with Proposition 8. We then refer to [19] since otherwise the details are exactly the same. This completes Theorem 4.

5.3. Global Solutions. In this section we establish Theorem 1. We first explain how to derive a refined energy estimate. We use the instant energy functional

$$\mathcal{E}_{m,\ell}(t) \approx \sum_{|\beta| \leq m} \sum_{|\gamma| \leq N-|\beta|} \|w^\ell \partial_\beta^\gamma f(t)\|^2 + \sum_{|\gamma| \leq N} \|\partial^\gamma [E(t), B(t)]\|^2.$$

We also define the refined dissipation rate as

$$\mathcal{D}_{m,\ell}(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{|\beta| \leq m} \sum_{|\gamma| \leq N-|\beta|} \|w^\ell \partial_\beta^\gamma f(t)\|^2.$$

Here $0 \leq m \leq N$. In these spaces we have the estimate:

Proposition 11. *Fix $\ell \geq 0$. Let $[f(t, x, p), E(t, x), B(t, x)]$ be the unique solution constructed in Theorem 3 which also satisfies the conservation laws (1.11), (1.12) and (1.13). Let the small amplitude assumption (5.1) be valid. For any given $0 \leq m \leq N$ and $|\beta| \leq m$, there are constants $C_{m,\ell}^* > 0$ and $\delta_{m,\ell} > 0$ such that*

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}_{m,\ell}(t) + \delta_{m,\ell} \mathcal{D}_{m,\ell}(t) \leq C_{m,\ell}^* \sqrt{\mathcal{E}_{N,\ell}(t)} \mathcal{D}_{N,\ell}(t).$$

We point out that the proof of Proposition 11 is exactly the same as the corresponding proof in [19, Lemma 14] for the relativistic Landau-Maxwell system. The differences are that we use the relativistic Boltzmann estimates from this paper, instead of the corresponding estimates from [19], and secondly that we include the weight $\ell \geq 0$. For the estimates, we specifically replace [19, Theorem 4] with our Theorem 2, [19, Lemma 13] with Proposition 10, [19, Lemma 7] with Propositions 6 and 7 and otherwise the argument follows exactly the proof of [19, Lemma 14]. To include the weights $\ell \geq 0$, we refer to the argument used to prove [7, Eq (4.6)].

Finally we prove the global existence of solutions to the relativistic Vlasov-Maxwell Boltzmann system (1.6) and (1.9). Notice that using the estimates above, in particular Proposition 11, this follows from the standard continuity argument as in for example [17, 19]. Thus we have proven all of Theorem 1, except for the decay rates. But the decay rates in this case follow directly using the interpolation procedure from [20] (which was applied to the Newtonian Vlasov-Maxwell-Boltzmann system and the relativistic Landau-Maxwell system in [20]). **Q.E.D.**

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