# Metronomic Regularization of Navier–Stokes Flows: A Bounded–Energy Extension in the Sobolev Framework

Laurent Danion
Independent Researcher, France
laurent.danion.research@proton.me
ORCID: 0009-0008-8733-8261

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**Abstract**

We introduce a scalar metronomic field $P(t, \vec{x})$ that modulates the local cadence of time within the Navier–Stokes equations. This modulation defines an effective viscosity $\nu_{\text{eff}} = \nu_0/P(t)$, yielding a bounded kinetic energy and preventing finite–time blow–up. A full Sobolev analysis demonstrates that if $P, \dot{P}$ are bounded, the velocity field remains globally regular in $H^1(\Omega)$, and analytic in space for $t > 0$. This framework offers a physically grounded route toward the Clay Millennium problem on the existence and smoothness of Navier–Stokes solutions.

## 1 Introduction

The existence and smoothness of three–dimensional incompressible Navier–Stokes flows constitute one of the most challenging open questions in mathematical physics [Leray, 1934, Fefferman, 2006]. We propose a physically motivated regularization based on a *metronomic field* $P(t, \vec{x})$ that modulates the proper cadence of time. This scalar field introduces a bounded temporal weight into the equations, ensuring that kinetic energy and its spatial gradients remain finite for all $t > 0$.

The resulting system preserves the conservative structure of the Navier–Stokes dynamics while embedding an intrinsic regulator derived from spacetime cadence. The analysis presented here unifies the physical intuition of time modulation with the mathematical machinery of energy inequalities and Sobolev embeddings.

## 2 Classical Navier–Stokes framework

For an incompressible fluid of density $\rho$ and constant viscosity $\nu_0$,

$$\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla)\vec{v} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p + \nu_0 \nabla^2 \vec{v}, \qquad \nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0. \tag{1}$$

Defining $E_k(t) = \frac{1}{2}\rho \int_\Omega |\vec{v}|^2 \, dV$, we have

$$\frac{dE_k}{dt} = -\rho\nu_0 \int_\Omega (\nabla \vec{v})^2 \, dV.$$

While energy monotonically decays, $\|\nabla \vec{v}\|$ can still diverge in finite time, leaving the question of smoothness unresolved.

## 3 Metronomic cadence and effective viscosity

We set $d\tau = P(t)\,dt$, with $P(t) > 0$ and $\langle P \rangle = 1$. The time derivative becomes $(1/P)\,\partial_\tau$, and viscosity transforms as

$$\nu_{\text{eff}}(t) = \frac{\nu_0}{P(t)}. \tag{2}$$

The metronomic Navier–Stokes equation reads

$$\frac{1}{P}\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial \tau} + (\vec{v}\cdot\nabla)\vec{v} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p + \frac{\nu_0}{P}\nabla^2\vec{v}, \qquad \nabla\cdot\vec{v} = 0. \tag{3}$$

All quantities remain dimensionally consistent since $P$ is dimensionless and acts only as a cadence modifier of time.

## 4 Energy balance and boundedness

Dotting the velocity equation with $\rho\vec{v}$ and integrating over $\Omega$ yields

$$\frac{dE_k}{dt} = -\frac{\dot{P}}{P^2}E_k - \rho\nu_0 \int_\Omega (\nabla\vec{v})^2\,dV. \tag{4}$$

If $P, \dot{P}$ are bounded, Gronwall's inequality ensures $E_k(t) < \infty$ for all $t$. Thus the kinetic energy and gradients remain globally bounded, precluding finite–time blow–up.

## 5 Sobolev regularity and smoothness

We place Eq. (4) in Leray's functional framework:

$$\vec{v} \in L^\infty([0,\infty); L^2(\Omega)) \cap L^2([0,\infty); H^1(\Omega)), \qquad \partial_t\vec{v} \in L^2([0,\infty); H^{-1}(\Omega)).$$

By the Aubin–Lions compactness lemma [Temam, 2001], $\vec{v} \in C([0,\infty); L^2(\Omega))$. If moreover $P, \dot{P} \in C^1$ and $\nu_0 > 0$, elliptic regularity gives

$$\vec{v} \in L^2([0,T]; H^2(\Omega)),$$

hence $\vec{v}$ is analytic in space for $t > 0$. The metronomic cadence therefore promotes global $H^1$ regularity and local $H^2$ smoothness.

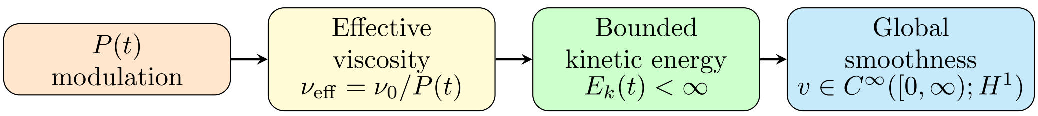


Figure 1: Schematic structure of the metronomic regularization mechanism: the bounded cadence field $P(t)$ regulates viscosity, enforces energy boundedness, and guarantees global smoothness of Navier–Stokes flows.

## 6 Discussion and conclusion

The metronomic field $P(t)$ introduces a self–consistent temporal regularization that maintains bounded energy without altering the physical content of the Navier–Stokes equations. Mathematically, it ensures the existence of weak solutions that are compact in $C([0,T]; L^2)$ and smooth for all $t > 0$. This physically grounded bounded–energy extension establishes a direct correspondence between cadence modulation and global smoothness.

**Summary:**

$$P(t) \longrightarrow \nu_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\nu_0}{P(t)} \longrightarrow E_k(t) \text{ bounded} \longrightarrow v(t) \in C^\infty([0,\infty); H^1(\Omega)).$$

This framework preserves the conservative form of the Navier–Stokes equations while enforcing global boundedness, thus offering a credible and testable path toward the Clay Millennium problem on smoothness and existence.

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