

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A decoupled Crank-Nicolson time-stepping scheme for thermally coupled magneto-hydrodynamic system

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ABSTRACT

Thermally coupled magneto-hydrodynamics (MHD) studies the dynamics of electro-magnetically and thermally driven flows, involving MHD equations coupled with heat equation. We introduce a partitioned method that allows one to decouple the MHD equations from the heat equation at each time step and solve them separately. The extrapolated Crank-Nicolson time-stepping scheme is used for time discretization while mixed finite element method is used for spatial discretization. We derive optimal order error estimates in suitable norms without assuming any stability condition or restrictions on the time step size. We prove the unconditional stability of the scheme. Numerical experiments are used to illustrate the theoretical results.



1. Introduction

Thermally coupled magneto-hydrodynamics has many applications including in electromagnetic pumping design [35], electromagnetic filtration [4], contact-less electromagnetic stirring [32] and damping convective flow in metal-like melt [34]. Magneto-hydrodynamics in general has broad applications including fusion [19], underwater propulsion [18], nuclear reactors [13], metallurgy [1, 2, 11, 31] and astrophysics [30]. In all of these applications, qualitative and quantitative understanding of the dynamics is important to achieve optimal operating conditions. This has led to considerable research efforts over the past three decades into the development of theoretical, see e.g. [16, 24, 26, 27, 29] and efficient and accurate computational techniques, see e.g. [8, 9, 20, 21] for MHD equations. Majority of the numerical analysis work done on the equations has been for steady state equations. In [17, 23, 25, 33], time stepping schemes for unsteady MHD equations

have been analyzed. However, these work consider MHD equations where thermal effects are negligible. Thermally coupled MHD equations model a complex flow phenomena which is in general three dimensional, highly nonlinear and represents multi-physics.

In this work, we propose and analyze a decoupled time stepping scheme for the thermally coupled MHD equations. It uses a semi-implicit Crank-Nicolson scheme, which combines an implicit treatment of the second derivative terms, a semi-implicit second order extrapolation of the nonlinear convective terms and an explicit treatment of the temperature coupling term in the Navier-Stokes equations. The proposed scheme solves the MHD equations and the heat equation separately in each time step (without iteration) allowing the possibility of optimizing the subproblem's respective physics. We show unconditional stability of the scheme and provide a complete error analysis for fully discrete scheme using finite element spatial discretization.

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The remaining of the paper is organized as follows: The continuum problem and some preliminaries are presented in Section 2. In Section 3, we present the decoupled time-stepping scheme and analyze its stability, accuracy and convergence. Finally, we present a numerical example that illustrates our theoretical results.

2. Continuum problem and preliminaries

To begin with, we present some notations and basic results that will be used throughout the article.

2.1. Continuum problem

The non-dimensional Boussinesq equations describing thermally coupled MHD equations are (see for e.g. [15])

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} - Pr_\theta \Delta \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + Pr_\theta \nabla p \\ - S(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{B} = Pr_\theta Ra \theta \mathbf{i}_3 + \mathbf{f}_1, \\ \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} + Pr_B \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \\ - \nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{0}, \\ \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} - \Delta \theta + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \theta = f_2, \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0, \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0, \end{array} \right. \quad (1)$$

in $(0, T]$, where T denotes time and $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d (d = 2, 3)$ a bounded region with Lipschitz-continuous boundary Γ . Moreover the different fields appearing in the equations are $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ the fluid velocity, $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ the magnetic field, θ the temperature, $p(\mathbf{x}, t)$ the pressure, \mathbf{f} the source and \mathbf{i}_3 the unit basis vector. The non-dimensional numbers that appear in the MHD equations are $S := Pr_B Pr_\theta H^2$, the Hartman number H , the Rayleigh number Ra , the thermal Prandtl number Pr_θ and the magnetic Prandtl number Pr_B . The MHD system we consider is supplemented with the initial conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, 0) &= \mathbf{u}_0(\mathbf{x}), \theta(\mathbf{x}, 0) = \theta_0(\mathbf{x}) \text{ and} \\ \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}, 0) &= \mathbf{B}_0(\mathbf{x}) \text{ in } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

along with the boundary conditions

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{u}|_\Gamma = \mathbf{g} \text{ with } \int_\Gamma \mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{n} ds = 0, \\ \theta|_\Gamma = \tilde{q}, \\ \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{n}|_\Gamma = q \text{ with } \int_\Gamma q ds = 0, \\ Pr_B (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{n}|_\Gamma \\ - (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{n}|_\Gamma = \mathbf{k} \\ \text{with } \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0, \int_\Gamma \mathbf{k} ds = 0. \end{array} \right. \quad (3)$$

2.2. Function spaces

For a Banach space X , we denote by $L^p(0, T; X)$ the time-space function space endowed with the norm $\|w\|_{L^p(0, T; X)} := \left(\int_0^T \|w\|_X^p dt \right)^{1/p}$ if $1 \leq p < \infty$ and $\text{ess sup}_{t \in [0, T]} \|w\|_X$ if $p = \infty$.

We will often use the abbreviated notation $L^p(X) := L^p(0, T; X)$ for convenience. The symbol $C([0, T]; X)$ denotes the set of continuous functions $u : [0, T] \rightarrow X$ endowed with the norm $\|u\|_{C(0, T; X)} := \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} \|u(t)\|_X$. For any integer $k \geq 1$, let $W^{k, p}(\Omega)$ be the Sobolev space of functions in $L^p(\Omega)$ with derivatives up-to the k^{th} order endowed with the

$$\begin{aligned} \text{norm } \|\phi\|_{m, p} &:= \left[\sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \int_\Omega |\partial_x^\alpha \phi(\mathbf{x})|^p dx \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \text{ where} \\ \partial_x^\alpha \phi(\mathbf{x}) &:= \frac{\partial^{|\alpha|}}{\partial x_1^{\alpha_1} \dots \partial x_d^{\alpha_d}} \phi(\mathbf{x}), \alpha := (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d), \alpha_i \geq 0, |\alpha| := \sum_{i=1}^d \alpha_i. \end{aligned}$$

We denote by $H^k(\Omega)$ the space $W^{k, 2}(\Omega)$, when $p = 2$, and drop the subscripts $p (= 2)$ in referring to the norm in $H^k(\Omega)$. Moreover, we will use the following simplified norm notations:

$$\|u\| := \|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \quad \text{and} \quad \|u\|_\infty := \|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}.$$

For $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbf{H}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma)$ satisfying $\int_\Gamma \mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{n} ds = 0$ and $q \in H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma)$ satisfying $\int_\Gamma q ds = 0$, define $\mathbf{H}_{n, q}^1(\Omega) := \{ \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega) : \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n}|_\Gamma = q \}$, $\mathbf{V}_g := \{ \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega) : \mathbf{v}|_\Gamma = \mathbf{g}, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \}$ and $H_q^1(\Omega) := \{ \theta \in H^1(\Omega) : \theta|_\Gamma = \tilde{q} \}$.

We write $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{V}_0$, $\mathbf{H}_n^1(\Omega) = \mathbf{H}_{n, 0}^1(\Omega)$ and $\mathbb{V} := \{ \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega) : \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega \}$. We introduce the time discrete space $l^p(Z)$ associated with $L^p(0, T; Z)$; $l^p(Z)$ is the space of Z -valued sequences $w := \{w_n; n = 1, \dots, N\}$ with norm $\|\cdot\|_{l^p(Z)}$ defined by

$$\|w\|_{l^p(Z)} := \begin{cases} (\Delta t \sum_{n=1}^N \|w_n\|_Z^p)^{1/p} & \text{if } 1 \leq p < \infty \\ \max_{1 \leq n \leq N} \|w_n\|_Z & \text{if } p = \infty. \end{cases}$$

For later purposes, we recall the inequality

$$\lambda_m \|\mathbf{B}\|_1^2 \leq \|\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}\|^2 + \|\nabla \times \mathbf{B}\|^2 \quad \forall \mathbf{B} \in \mathbf{H}_n^1(\Omega), \quad (4)$$

the Poincaré inequality

$$\|\mathbf{v}\|^2 \leq \lambda_p \|\nabla \mathbf{v}\|^2 \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}_0^1(\Omega),$$

the Gagliardo-Nirenberg interpolation inequality [3]

$$\|\mathbf{u}\|_q \leq C \|\nabla \mathbf{u}\|_p^\lambda \|\mathbf{u}\|_r^{1-\lambda} \quad \forall \mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{W}^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap \mathbf{L}^r(\Omega)$$

for $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ and $\frac{1}{q} = \lambda(\frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{d}) + (1-\lambda)\frac{1}{r}$ and the Agmon's inequality

$$\|\mathbf{u}\|_\infty \leq C \|\mathbf{u}\|_1^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\mathbf{u}\|_2^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \forall \mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{H}^2(\Omega) \cap \mathbf{H}_0^1(\Omega).$$

We define the explicitly skew-symmetrized trilinear forms

$$\begin{aligned} c_1(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) &:= \frac{1}{2} \int_\Omega [(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}] d\Omega, \\ &= \int_\Omega [(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}] d\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

for all $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega)$ with $(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0$ on Γ and

$$\begin{aligned} c_2(\mathbf{u}, \theta, \psi) &:= \frac{1}{2} \int_\Omega [(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \theta \psi - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \psi \theta] d\Omega, \\ &= \int_\Omega [(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \theta \psi + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) \psi \theta] d\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

for all $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega)$, $\theta, \psi \in H^1(\Omega)$ with $(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \theta \psi = 0$ on Γ .

Moreover, we define the bilinear forms

$$b(\mathbf{v}, r) := - \int_\Omega Pr_\theta r \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} d\Omega,$$

$$e(\theta, \mathbf{v}) := Pr_\theta Ra \int_\Omega \theta \mathbf{i}_3 \cdot \mathbf{v} d\Omega,$$

and the trilinear form

$$d(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{v}) := \int_\Omega \mathbf{B} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{C}) \cdot \mathbf{v} d\Omega.$$

Notice that the trilinear form $d(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$ is skew-symmetric with respect to the first and last arguments, i.e., $d(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{v}) = -d(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{B})$.

We end this section with a result regarding the existence and uniqueness of solutions to the initial-boundary value problem (1)-(3) whose proof can be furnished by using Galerkin approximations, a-priori estimates and compactness methods.

Proposition 1. *Assume that the given functions $\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{k}, q, \tilde{q}, \mathbf{u}_0$ and \mathbf{B}_0 satisfy $\mathbf{f}_1 \in L^2(0, T; \mathbf{H}^{-1}(\Omega))$, $f_2 \in L^2(0, T; H^{-1}(\Omega))$, $\mathbf{g} \in H^1(0, T; \mathbf{H}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma))$, $\mathbf{k} \in L^2(0, T; \mathbf{H}^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma))$, $q \in H^1(0, T; H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma))$, $\tilde{q} \in H^1(0, T; H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma))$, $\int_\Gamma \mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{n} ds = 0$, $\int_\Gamma q ds = 0$, $\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{n}|_\Gamma = 0$, $\mathbf{u}_0 \in \mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{g}(\cdot, 0)}$, $\mathbf{B}_0 \in \mathbf{H}_{n, q(\cdot, 0)}^1(\Omega)$ and $\theta_0 \in H^1 \hat{q}(\cdot, 0)(\Omega)$. Then, the problem (1)-(3) has at least one solution $(\mathbf{u}, p, \theta, \mathbf{B})$ such that $\mathbf{u} \in L^\infty(0, T; \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega)) \cap L^2(0, T; \mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{g}})$, $\theta \in L^2(0, T; H_{\tilde{q}}^1(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega))$, $\mathbf{B} \in L^\infty(0, T; \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega)) \cap L^2(0, T; \mathbf{H}_{n, q}^1(\Omega))$ and $p \in L^2(0, T; L_0^2(\Omega))$. In two-spatial dimension ($d = 2$), these solutions are unique.*

2.3. Properties of finite element spaces and projections

In order to keep the exposition simple, we restrict our attention to convex polyhedral domains. Let \mathcal{T}_h be a family of subdivisions (e.g. triangulation) of $\bar{\Omega} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ satisfying $\bar{\Omega} = \cup_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} K$ so that $\text{diameter}(K) \leq h$ and any two closed elements K_1 and $K_2 \in \mathcal{T}_h$ are either disjoint or share exactly one face, side or vertex. Suppose further that \mathcal{T}_h is a shape regular and quasi-uniform triangulation. That is, there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that the ratio between the diameter h_K of an element $K \in \mathcal{T}_h$ and the diameter of the largest ball contained in K is bounded uniformly by C , and h_K is comparable with the mesh size $h = \max_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} h_K$ for all $K \in \mathcal{T}_h$. For example, \mathcal{T}_h consists of triangles for $d = 2$ or tetrahedra for $d = 3$ that are non-degenerate as $h \rightarrow 0$. We choose families of finite dimensional spaces $\mathbb{X}_h \subset H^1(\Omega)$, $\mathbb{Y}_h \subset H_n^1(\Omega)$, $\mathbb{Z}_h \subset H^1(\Omega)$ and $\mathbb{Q}_h \subset L^2(\Omega)$, parameterized by a parameter h such that $0 < h < 1$. Let \mathbf{g}_h, q_h and \tilde{q}_h be approximations of \mathbf{g}, q and \tilde{q} , respectively, such that there exists $\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbb{X}_h$, $\mathbf{C}_h \in \mathbb{Y}_h$ and satisfying $\mathbf{v}_h|_\Gamma = \mathbf{g}_h$, $\mathbf{C}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}|_\Gamma = q_h$ and $\theta_h|_\Gamma = \tilde{q}_h$. We then define $\mathbf{X}_{h, g_h} := \mathbb{X}_h \cap \mathbf{H}^1_{g_h}$, $\mathbf{Y}_{h, q_h} := \{\mathbf{C}_h \in \mathbb{Y}_h(\Omega) : \mathbf{C}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}|_\Gamma = q_h\}$, $\mathbb{Z}_{h, \tilde{q}_h} := \mathbb{Z}_h \cap \mathbf{H}^1_{\tilde{q}_h}$ and $\mathbb{Q}_h := \mathbb{Q}_h \cap L_0^2(\Omega)$. We also define the discretely divergence free space is given by

$$\mathbf{V}_{h, g_h} := \{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{X}_{h, g_h} : (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h, r_h) = 0 \forall r_h \in \mathbb{Q}_h\}.$$

We set $\mathbf{V}_h := \mathbf{V}_{h,0}$, $\mathbf{Y}_h := \mathbf{Y}_{h,0}$, $Z_h := Z_{h,0}$ and $X_h = X_{h,0}$.

We make the following assumptions on the finite dimensional subspaces $\mathbb{X}_h, \mathbb{Y}_h, \mathbb{Z}_h$ and \mathbb{Q}_h :

Assumption A1.

We have the approximation properties: there exists an integer k and a constant C , independent of $h, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{B}, \theta$ and r , such that

$$\inf_{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbb{X}_h} [\|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_h\| + h\|\nabla(\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_h)\|] \leq Ch^{\ell+1}\|\mathbf{v}\|_{\ell+1}$$

$$\inf_{\mathbf{B}_h \in \mathbb{Y}_h} [\|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{B}_h\| + h\|\nabla(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{B}_h)\|] \leq Ch^{\ell+1}\|\mathbf{B}\|_{\ell+1}$$

$$\inf_{\theta_h \in \mathbb{Z}_h} [\|\theta - \theta_h\| + h\|\nabla(\theta - \theta_h)\|] \leq Ch^{\ell+1}\|\theta\|_{\ell+1}$$

and

$$\inf_{r_h \in \mathbb{Q}_h} \|r - r_h\| \leq Ch^\ell \|r\|_\ell$$

for all $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}^{\ell+1}(\Omega)$, $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbf{H}^{\ell+1}(\Omega)$, $\theta \in H^{\ell+1}(\Omega)$, and $r \in H^\ell(\Omega)$ $1 \leq \ell \leq k$.

Assumption A2. (Discrete inf-sup condition) For every $r_h \in \mathbb{Q}_h$, there exists a nonzero function $\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbb{X}_h$ and $\beta > 0$ such that

$$|(r_h, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_h)| \geq \beta \|\nabla \mathbf{v}_h\| \|r_h\|,$$

with an inf-sup constant $\beta > 0$ that is independent of the mesh size h .

Assumption A3. For any integers l and m ($0 \leq l \leq m \leq 1$) and any real numbers p and q ($1 \leq p \leq q \leq \infty$) it holds that

$$\|\psi_h\|_{m,q} \leq ch^{l-m+d(1/q-1/p)} \|\psi_h\|_{l,p} \quad \forall \psi_h \in \mathbb{X}_h.$$

There are many conforming finite element spaces satisfying the assumptions (A1)-(A3). One may choose, for example, the Taylor-Hood element pair for the velocity and pressure (i.e, piecewise quadratic polynomial for velocity and piecewise linear polynomial for pressure), and piecewise quadratic polynomials for the magnetic field and temperature. Then, hypothesis (A1)-(A3) hold with $k = 2$.

We define Stokes, Maxwell and Ritz projections as follows: Given $(\mathbf{u}, p) \in \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega) \times L_0^2(\Omega)$, $\theta \in H^1(\Omega)$ and $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega)$, we define the Stokes projection

$(P_h^s \mathbf{u}, P_h^s p) \in \mathbf{X}_{h,g_h} \times \mathbb{Q}_h$ as the solution of the problem

$$\begin{aligned} Pr_\theta(\nabla(\mathbf{u} - P_h^s \mathbf{u}), \nabla \mathbf{v}_h) + b(\mathbf{v}_h, (p - P_h^s p)) \\ = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{X}_h, \\ b(\mathbf{u} - P_h^s \mathbf{u}, r_h) = 0 \quad \forall r_h \in \mathbb{Q}_h, \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

the Maxwell projection $P_h^m \mathbf{B} \in \mathbf{Y}_{h,q_h}$ as the solution of the problem

$$\begin{aligned} (\nabla \times (\mathbf{B} - P_h^m \mathbf{B}), \nabla \times \phi_h) \\ + (\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{B} - P_h^m \mathbf{B}), \nabla \cdot \phi_h) \\ = 0 \quad \forall \phi_h \in \mathbf{Y}_h, \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

and the Ritz projection $P_h^r \theta \in \mathbf{Z}_{h,\tilde{q}_h}$ as the solution of the problem

$$(\nabla(\theta - P_h^r \theta), \nabla \psi_h) = 0 \quad \forall \psi_h \in \mathbf{Z}_h, \tag{7}$$

We have the following convergence and boundedness results for these projections.

Lemma 1. Suppose that assumptions (A1)-(A2) hold with a positive integer k , and that $(\mathbf{u}, p) \in \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times (L_0^2(\Omega) \cap H^k(\Omega))$, $\theta \in H^{k+1}(\Omega)$ and $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbf{H}^{k+1}(\Omega)$. Then, for any $h \in (0, h_0]$ the Stokes projection $(P_h^s \mathbf{u}, P_h^s p)$ of (\mathbf{u}, p) satisfies

$$\|\mathbf{u} - P_h^s \mathbf{u}\|_1 + \|p - P_h^s p\| \leq ch^k (\|\mathbf{u}\|_{k+1} + \|p\|_k), \tag{8}$$

the Maxwell projection $P_h^m \mathbf{B}$ of \mathbf{B} satisfies

$$\|\mathbf{B} - P_h^m \mathbf{B}\|_1 \leq ch^k \|\mathbf{B}\|_{k+1}, \tag{9}$$

and the Ritz projection $P_h^r \theta$ of θ satisfies

$$\|\theta - P_h^r \theta\|_1 \leq ch^k \|\theta\|_{k+1}. \tag{10}$$

Moreover, suppose that assumption (A3) holds. Then, $P_h^s \mathbf{u}$, $P_h^m \mathbf{B}$ and $P_h^r \theta$ satisfy

$$\|P_h^s \mathbf{u}\|_\infty + \|P_h^s \mathbf{u}\|_{1,3} \leq c(\|\mathbf{u}\|_2 + \|p\|_1), \tag{11}$$

$$\|P_h^m \mathbf{B}\|_\infty + \|P_h^m \mathbf{B}\|_{1,3} \leq c\|\mathbf{B}\|_2, \tag{12}$$

and

$$\|P_h^r \theta\|_\infty + \|P_h^r \theta\|_{1,3} \leq c\|\theta\|_2. \tag{13}$$

Proof. The proof of (8)-(10) follows by the regularity properties of the Stokes, Maxwell and Ritz projections and by duality argument. In order to prove (11)-(13), we first notice that Gagliardo-Nirenberg's inequality yields

$$\|\phi\|_{0,\infty} + \|\phi\|_{1,3} \leq C\|\phi\|_1^{1/2}\|\phi\|_2^{1/2}.$$

Therefore the approximation properties (8)-(1) together with Agmon's inequality yield the desired result. \square

Let Δt denote the step size for t so that $t_n = n\Delta t$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N$. For notational convenience, we denote $\phi^n := \phi(t_n)$, $\mathcal{D}(\phi^n) := \frac{\phi^{n+1} - \phi^n}{\Delta t}$, $\phi^{n+1/2} := \phi^{n+1} + \phi^n$ and $\mathcal{I}(\phi^{n+1/2}) := \phi^n + \frac{1}{2}\phi^{n-1} - \frac{1}{2}\phi^{n-2}$, [5, 14].

Lemma 2. *If $\phi(t)$ is smooth enough, then*

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \|\phi^{n+1/2} - \phi(t_{n+1/2})\|_k^2 &\leq \frac{(\Delta t)^3}{48} \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \|\partial_t^2 \phi\|_k^2 dt, \\ (ii) \|\partial_t \phi(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}(\phi(t_n))\|^2 &\leq \frac{(\Delta t)^3}{1280} \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \|\partial_t^3 \phi(t)\|^2 dt, \\ (iii) \|\mathcal{I}(\phi(t_{n+1/2})) - \phi(t_{n+1/2})\|_{H^k}^2 &\leq c(\Delta t)^{3/2} \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \|\partial_t^2 \phi(t)\|_k^2 dt. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, let $P_h^s \mathbf{u}$ be the Stokes projection of \mathbf{u} , $P_h^m \mathbf{B}$ the Maxwell projection of \mathbf{B} and $P_h^r \theta$ the Ritz projection of θ . If assumptions (A1)-(A2) hold with a positive integer k , then

$$\begin{aligned} (iv) \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1})) - P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1})\| &\leq \frac{ch^k}{\sqrt{\Delta t}} \|(\partial_t \mathbf{u}, \partial_t p)\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; H^{k+1} \times H^k)}, \\ (v) \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1})) - P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1})\| &\leq \frac{ch^k}{\sqrt{\Delta t}} \|\partial_t \mathbf{B}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; H^{k+1})}, \\ (vi) \|\mathcal{D}(\theta(t_{n+1})) - P_h^r \theta(t_{n+1})\| &\leq \frac{ch^k}{\sqrt{\Delta t}} \|\partial_t \theta\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; H^{k+1})}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. The proof of (i)-(iii) follows by Taylor expansion with integral remainder whereas the proof of (iv)-(vi) follows as a consequence of Lemma 1. \square

We will need the following well known discrete Grönwall lemma.

Lemma 3. (Discrete Grönwall lemma) *Let $d, \Delta t, \{a_n\}_{n \geq 0}, \{b_n\}_{n \geq 0}, \{c_n\}_{n \geq 0}$, and $\{d_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ be nonnegative numbers such that*

$$a_m + \Delta t \sum_{n=1}^m b_n \leq \Delta t \sum_{n=0}^{m-1} a_n d_n + \Delta t \sum_{n=0}^{m-1} c_n + d,$$

for $m \geq 1$. Then we have

$$a_m + \Delta t \sum_{n=1}^m b_n \leq \exp(\Delta t \sum_{n=0}^{m-1} d_n) (\Delta t \sum_{n=0}^{m-1} c_n + d)$$

for $m \geq 1$.

A proof of this result can be found, for e.g, in [12].

3. Decoupled Crank-Nicolson time-stepping scheme

We discretize the system (1) by Crank-Nicolson scheme in time and Galerkin finite element in space. The time discretization combines an implicit treatment of the second derivative terms, a semi-implicit second-order extrapolation for the nonlinear convective terms and explicit treatment of the temperature coupling term in the Navier-Stokes equations.

Algorithm 1. *Given $(\mathbf{u}_h^i, \mathbf{B}_h^i, p_h^i, \theta_h^i) \in \mathbf{X}_{h, \tilde{q}_h^i} \times \mathbf{Y}_{h, \tilde{q}_h^i} \times Q_h \times \mathbf{Z}_{h, \tilde{q}_h^i}$, $i = 0, 1$, find $\{(\mathbf{u}_h^n, \mathbf{B}_h^n, p_h^n, \theta_h^n) \in \mathbf{X}_{h, g_h^n} \times \mathbf{Y}_{h, q_h^n} \times Q_h \times \mathbf{Z}_{h, \tilde{q}_h^n}\}$ such that*

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} (\mathcal{D}\mathbf{u}_h^n, \mathbf{v}_h) &+ Pr_\theta(\nabla \mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}, \nabla \mathbf{v}_h) \\ &+ c_1(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}, \mathbf{v}_h) \\ &+ b(\mathbf{v}_h, p_h^{n+1/2}) \\ &+ Sd(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}, \mathbf{v}_h) \\ &= e(\mathcal{I}(\theta_h^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\ &+ (\mathbf{f}_1^{n+1/2}, \mathbf{v}_h) \quad \forall \mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{X}_h, \\ b(\mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}, r_h) &= 0 \quad \forall r_h \in Q_h, \\ (\mathcal{D}\mathbf{B}_h^n, \phi_h) &+ Pr_B[(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}, \nabla \times \phi_h) \\ &+ (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}, \nabla \cdot \phi_h)] \\ &+ d(\mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}, \phi_h, \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2})) \\ &= (\mathbf{k}^{n+1/2}, \phi_h)_\Gamma \quad \forall \phi_h \in \mathbf{Y}_h, \\ (\mathcal{D}\theta_h^n, \psi_h) &+ (\nabla \theta_h^{n+1/2}, \nabla \psi_h) \\ &+ c_2(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}), \theta_h^{n+1/2}, \psi_h) \\ &= (f_2^{n+1/2}, \psi_h) \quad \forall \psi_h \in Z_h, \end{aligned} \right. \quad (14)$$

for $n = 1, \dots, N$, where $\mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}, \mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}, \theta_h^{n+1/2}$ and $p_h^{n+1/2}$ are the intermediate variables defined by $\mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2} := \mathbf{u}_h^{n+1} + \mathbf{u}_h^n$, $\mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2} := \mathbf{B}_h^{n+1} + \mathbf{B}_h^n$, $\theta_h^{n+1/2} := \theta_h^{n+1} + \theta_h^n$ and $p_h^{n+1/2} := p_h^{n+1} + p_h^n$, respectively.

3.1. Stability analysis

In this section, we demonstrate the unconditional energy stability of the decoupled scheme proposed in Section 2. We first recall a few basic facts and some notation that are needed below. Let us define the discrete trace spaces of \mathbb{X}_h , \mathbb{Y}_h and \mathbb{Z}_h by

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_h(\Gamma) &:= \{ \mathbf{g}_h \in \mathbf{H}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma) : \text{there exists} \\ &\quad \mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbb{X}_h \text{ such that } \lambda_h|_{\partial K \cap \Gamma} \\ &= \mathbf{v}_h|_{\partial K \cap \Gamma} \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h \\ &\quad \text{and } \partial K \cap \Gamma \neq \emptyset \}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\Lambda}_h(\Gamma) &:= \{ q_h \in H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma) : \text{there exists} \\ &\quad \mathbf{C}_h \in \mathbb{Y}_h \text{ such that } q_h|_{\partial K \cap \Gamma} \\ &= \mathbf{C}_h \cdot \mathbf{n}|_{\partial K \cap \Gamma} \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h \\ &\quad \text{and } \partial K \cap \Gamma \neq \emptyset \} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{\Lambda}_h(\Gamma) &:= \{ \widetilde{q}_h \in H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma) : \text{there exists} \\ &\quad \phi_h \in \mathbb{Z}_h \text{ such that } \widetilde{q}_h|_{\partial K \cap \Gamma} \\ &= \phi_h|_{\partial K \cap \Gamma} \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h \\ &\quad \text{and } \partial K \cap \Gamma \neq \emptyset \}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, we define

$$\Lambda_{h,0}(\Gamma) := \{ \lambda_h \in \Lambda_h(\Gamma) : \int_{\Gamma} \lambda_h \cdot \mathbf{n} \, ds = 0 \}$$

and

$$\widehat{\Lambda}_{h,0}(\Gamma) := \{ \lambda_h \in \widehat{\Lambda}_h(\Gamma) : \int_{\Gamma} \lambda_h \, ds = 0 \}.$$

Then there exists a discrete extension operator $E_h : \Lambda_{h,0}(\Gamma) \rightarrow \mathbb{V}_h$ such that $E_h(\mathbf{g}_h)|_{\Gamma} = \mathbf{g}_h$ and $\|E_h(\mathbf{g}_h)\|_1 \leq C \|\mathbf{g}_h\|_{1/2,\Gamma}$, see [10, 28]. Similarly, we can define discrete extension operators \widehat{E}_h and \widetilde{E}_h such that $\widehat{E}_h(q_h) \cdot \mathbf{n}|_{\Gamma} = q_h$ and $\widetilde{E}_h(\widetilde{q}_h)|_{\Gamma} = \widetilde{q}_h$. In order to prove, we first define suitable boundary extensions. Let $(E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^n), \widehat{E}_h(q_h^n), \widetilde{E}_h(\widetilde{q}_h^n)) \in \mathbf{V}_{h,g_h} \times \mathbf{Y}_{h,q_h^n} \times Z_{h,\widetilde{q}_h^n}$ be the extension of $(\mathbf{g}_h^n, q_h^n, \widetilde{q}_h^n)$ for each $n \geq 0$. Set $\zeta_h^n = \mathbf{u}_h^n - E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^n)$, $\xi_h^n = \mathbf{B}_h^n - \widehat{E}_h(q_h^n)$ and $\chi_h^n = \theta_h^n - \widetilde{E}_h(\widetilde{q}_h^n)$ so that $(\zeta_h^n, \xi_h^n, \chi_h^n) \in \mathbf{V}_h \times \mathbf{Y}_h \times Z_h$.

We make the following assumptions about the extension operators $E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^n)$, $\widehat{E}_h(q_h^n)$, $\widetilde{E}_h(\widetilde{q}_h^n)$.

Assumption A4.

The extension operators satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \quad &|c_1(\mathcal{I}(\zeta_h^{n+1/2}), E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \zeta_h^{n+1/2})| \\ &\leq \delta (\|\nabla \zeta_h^{n-1/2}\| + \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n-3/2}\|) \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n+1/2}\| \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &|d(E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \mathcal{I}(\xi_h^{n+1/2}))| \\ &\leq \delta^* (\|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n-1/2}\| + \|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n-3/2}\|) \\ &\quad \|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n+1/2}\|, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (ii) \quad &|Sd(\mathcal{I}(\xi_h^{n+1/2}), \widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2}), \xi_h^{n+1/2})| \\ &\leq \delta^{**} (\|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n-1/2}\| + \|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n-3/2}\|) \\ &\quad \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n+1/2}\|, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (iii) \quad &|c_2(\mathcal{I}(\zeta_h^{n+1/2}), \widetilde{E}_h(\widetilde{q}_h^{n+1/2}), \chi_h^{n+1/2})| \\ &\leq \delta^{***} (\|\nabla \zeta_h^{n-1/2}\| + \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n-3/2}\|) \\ &\quad \|\nabla \chi_h^{n+1/2}\|. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1. Suppose assumption (A4) holds and let $\{(\mathbf{g}_h^n, q_h^n, \widetilde{q}_h^n)\}_{n=0}^N$ satisfies $(\mathbf{g}_h, q_h, \widetilde{q}_h) \in l^4(\Lambda_{h,0}(\Gamma)) \times l^4(\widehat{\Lambda}_{h,0}(\Gamma)) \times l^4(\widetilde{\Lambda}_{h,0}(\Gamma))$ and $(\mathcal{D}\mathbf{g}_h, \mathcal{D}q_h, \mathcal{D}\widetilde{q}_h) \in l^2(\Lambda_{h,0}(\Gamma)) \times l^2(\widehat{\Lambda}_{h,0}(\Gamma)) \times l^2(\widetilde{\Lambda}_{h,0}(\Gamma))$, and let $\mathbf{f}_1 \in l^2(\mathbf{H}^{-1}(\Omega))$, $f_2 \in l^2(H^{-1}(\Omega))$ and $\mathbf{k} \in l^2(H^{-1/2}(\Gamma))$. Suppose that $(\mathbf{u}_h^i, \mathbf{B}_h^i, \theta_h^i) \in \mathbf{V}_{h,g_h^i} \times Y_{h,q_h^i} \times Z_{h,\widetilde{q}_h^i}$ for $i = 0, 1$ are such that $\|\mathbf{u}_h^2\|^2 + \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^1 \|\mathbf{u}_h^{i+1/2}\|_1^2 < \infty$,

$$\|\mathbf{B}_h^2\|^2 + \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^1 \|\mathbf{B}_h^{i+1/2}\|_1^2 < \infty \text{ and}$$

$$\|\theta_h^2\|^2 + \Delta t \sum_{i=0}^1 \|\theta_h^{i+1/2}\|_1^2 < \infty \text{ as } h, \Delta t \rightarrow 0.$$

Then the solutions $(\mathbf{u}_h^n, \mathbf{B}_h^n, \theta_h^n)$ of (14) satisfies $\|\mathbf{u}_h\|_{l^\infty(L^2(\Omega))} + \|\nabla \mathbf{u}_h\|_{l^2(L^2(\Omega))} < M_1$, $\|\mathbf{B}_h\|_{l^\infty(L^2(\Omega))} + \|\nabla \mathbf{B}_h\|_{l^2(L^2(\Omega))} < M_2$ and $\|\theta_h\|_{l^\infty(L^2(\Omega))} + \|\nabla \theta_h\|_{l^2(L^2(\Omega))} < M_3$, for some constants $M_1, M_2, M_3 > 0$.

Proof. Substituting $\mathbf{u}_h^n = \zeta_h^n + E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^n)$, $\theta_h^n = \chi_h^n + \widetilde{E}_h(\widetilde{q}_h^n)$ and $\mathbf{B}_h^n = \xi_h^n + \widehat{E}_h(q_h^n)$ into (14), then setting $(\mathbf{v}_h, \phi_h, \psi_h) = (\zeta_h^{n+1/2}, \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \chi_h^{n+1/2})$ and using the skew-symmetry of $c_1(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$ and $c_2(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$, we obtain

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}
 & (\mathcal{D}\zeta_h^n, \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) + Pr_\theta \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
 & + Sd(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}), \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & \leq (\mathbf{f}_1^{n+1/2}, \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) - (\mathcal{D}E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^n), \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & + e(\mathcal{I}(\chi_h^{n+1/2}), \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - Pr_\theta (\nabla E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \nabla \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & + e(\mathcal{I}(\widehat{E}_h(\widehat{q}_h^{n+1/2})), \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - c_1(\mathcal{I}(E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2})), E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - Sd(\mathcal{I}(\widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2})), \widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2}), \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - c_1(\mathcal{I}(\zeta_h^{n+1/2}), E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - Sd(\mathcal{I}(\xi_h^{n+1/2}), \widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2}), \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & =: \sum_{i=1}^9 A_i^n \\
 & (\mathcal{D}\xi_h^n, \xi_h^{n+1/2}) + Pr_B [\|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
 & + \|\nabla \cdot \xi_h^{n+1/2}\|^2] \\
 & + d(\zeta_h^{n+1/2}, \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2})) \\
 & \leq (\mathbf{k}^{n+1/2}, \xi_h^{n+1/2})_\Gamma - (\mathcal{D}\widehat{E}_h(q_h^n), \xi_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - Pr_B (\nabla \times \widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2}), \nabla \times \xi_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - Pr_B (\nabla \cdot \widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2}), \nabla \cdot \xi_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - d(E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \mathcal{I}(\widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2}))) \\
 & - d(E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \mathcal{I}(\xi_h^{n+1/2})) \\
 & (\mathcal{D}\chi_h^n, \chi_h^{n+1/2}) + \|\nabla \chi_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \leq (f_2^{n+1/2}, \chi_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - (\mathcal{D}\widehat{E}_h(\widehat{q}_h^n), \chi_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - (\nabla \widehat{E}_h(\widehat{q}_h^{n+1/2}), \nabla \chi_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - c_2(\mathcal{I}(E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2})), \widehat{E}_h(\widehat{q}_h^{n+1/2}), \chi_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - c_2(\mathcal{I}(\zeta_h^{n+1/2}), \widehat{E}_h(\widehat{q}_h^{n+1/2}), \chi_h^{n+1/2}).
 \end{aligned} \right. \quad (15)$$

Let us next bound each term on the right-hand side of (15)₁ except the last two. The first five terms can be estimated using Cauchy/Duality and Young's inequalities to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left| \sum_{i=1}^5 A_i^n \right| & \leq C [\|\mathbf{f}_1^{n+1/2}\|_{-1}^2 + \|\nabla E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2})\|^2 \\
 & + \|\mathcal{I}(\widehat{E}_h(\widehat{q}_h^{n+1/2}))\|^2 + \|\mathcal{D}E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^n)\|_{-1}^2] \\
 & + \frac{Pr_\theta}{18} \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 + \frac{9}{2Pr_\theta} \|\mathcal{I}(\chi_h^{n+1/2})\|^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

We estimate A_6^n and A_7^n using Hölder's, Gagliardo-Nirenberg and Young's inequalities as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
 |A_6^n| & = |c_1(\mathcal{I}(E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2})), E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \zeta_h^{n+1/2})| \\
 & \leq C \|\mathcal{I}(E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}))\|_{L^4(\Omega)} \\
 & \quad \left[\|\nabla E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2})\| \|\zeta_h^{n+1/2}\|_{L^4(\Omega)} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n+1/2}\| \|E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2})\|_{L^4(\Omega)} \right] \\
 & \leq C \|\mathcal{I}(E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}))\|_1 \|E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2})\|_1 \\
 & \quad \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n+1/2}\| \\
 & \leq C \sum_{i=0}^2 \|E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n-i+1/2})\|_1^4 \\
 & \quad + \frac{Pr_\theta}{18} \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n+1/2}\|^2
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 |A_7^n| & = |Sd(\mathcal{I}(\widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2})), \widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2}), \xi_h^{n+1/2})| \\
 & \leq C \|\mathcal{I}(\widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2}))\|_{L^4(\Omega)} \\
 & \quad \|\nabla \times \widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2})\| \|\xi_h^{n+1/2}\|_{L^4(\Omega)} \\
 & \leq C \sum_{i=0}^2 \|\widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n-i+1/2})\|_1^4 \\
 & \quad + \frac{Pr_\theta}{18} \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n+1/2}\|^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

Collecting these estimates in (15)₁, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\mathcal{D}\zeta_h^n, \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) + \frac{11Pr_\theta}{18} \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
 & + Sd(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}), \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & \leq C [\|\mathbf{f}_1^{n+1/2}\|_{-1}^2 + \|\mathcal{D}E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^n)\|_{-1}^2 \\
 & + \|\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^2 + \sum_{i=1}^2 \|\widehat{q}_h^{n-i+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^2 \\
 & + \sum_{i=0}^2 (\|q_h^{n-i+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4 + \|\mathbf{g}_h^{n-i+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4)] \\
 & + \frac{9}{2Pr_\theta} \|\mathcal{I}(\chi_h^{n+1/2})\|^2 \\
 & - c_1(\mathcal{I}(\zeta_h^{n+1/2}), E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - Sd(\mathcal{I}(\xi_h^{n+1/2}), \widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2}), \zeta_h^{n+1/2}).
 \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

We employ similar arguments to bound the terms on the right-hand-side of (15)₂ and (15)₃ to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\mathcal{D}\xi_h^n, \xi_h^{n+1/2}) + \frac{Pr_B}{2} [\|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
& + \|\nabla \cdot \xi_h^{n+1/2}\|^2] \\
& + d(\zeta_h^{n+1/2}, \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2})) \\
& \leq C[\|\mathbf{k}^{n+1/2}\|_{-\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^2 \\
& + \|q_h^{n+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^2 + \|\mathcal{D}\widehat{E}_h(q_h^n)\|_{-1}^2 \\
& + \|\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4 + \sum_{i=1}^2 \|q_h^{n-i+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4] \\
& - d(E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \mathcal{I}(\xi_h^{n+1/2})) \quad (17)
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\mathcal{D}\chi_h^n, \chi_h^{n+1/2}) + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \chi_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \leq C[\|f_2^{n+1/2}\|_{-1}^2 \\
& + \|\mathcal{D}\widetilde{E}_h(\widetilde{q}_h^n)\|_{-1}^2 \\
& + \|\widetilde{q}_h^{n+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^2 + \|\widetilde{q}_h^{n+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4 \\
& + \sum_{i=1}^2 \|\mathbf{g}_h^{n-i+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4] \\
& - c_2(\mathcal{I}(\zeta_h^{n+1/2}), \widetilde{E}_h(\widetilde{q}_h^{n+1/2}), \chi_h^{n+1/2}). \quad (18)
\end{aligned}$$

Finally we estimate the last terms in (16)-(18) using assumption (A4) and Young's inequality to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& |c_1(\mathcal{I}(\zeta_h^{n+1/2}), E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \zeta_h^{n+1/2})| \\
& \leq \frac{Pr_\theta}{18} \|\nabla \zeta_h^n\|^2 \\
& + \frac{Pr_\theta}{9} (\|\nabla \zeta_h^{n-3/2}\|^2 + \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n-1/2}\|^2) \\
& |d(E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}), \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \mathcal{I}(\xi_h^{n+1/2}))| \\
& \leq \frac{Pr_B}{8} \|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
& + \frac{Pr_B}{16} (\|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n-3/2}\|^2 + \|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n-1/2}\|^2) \\
& |Sd(\mathcal{I}(\xi_h^n), \widehat{E}_h(q_h^{n+1/2}), \zeta_h^{n+1/2})| \\
& \leq \frac{Pr_\theta}{18} \|\nabla \times \zeta_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
& + \frac{Pr_B S}{9} (\|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n-3/2}\|^2 + \|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n-1/2}\|^2) \\
& |c_2(\mathcal{I}(\zeta_h^{n+1/2}), \widetilde{E}_h(\widetilde{q}_h^{n+1/2}), \chi_h^{n+1/2})| \\
& \leq \frac{1}{18} \|\nabla \chi_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
& + \frac{Pr_\theta^2}{9\epsilon} (\|\nabla \zeta_h^{n-3/2}\|^2 + \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n-1/2}\|^2), \quad (19)
\end{aligned}$$

where ϵ is a suitably chosen positive constant. Employing these estimates in (16)-(18), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\mathcal{D}\zeta_h^n, \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) + \frac{Pr_\theta}{2} \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
& + Sd(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}), \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \zeta_h^{n+1/2}) \\
& \leq C[\|\mathbf{f}_1^{n+1/2}\|_{-1}^2 \\
& + \|\mathcal{D}E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^n)\|_{-1}^2 + \|\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^2 \\
& + \sum_{i=0}^2 (\|\bar{q}_h^{n-i}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4 + \|\bar{\mathbf{g}}_h^{n-i}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4)] \\
& + \frac{9}{2Pr_\theta} \|\mathcal{I}(\chi_h^{n+1/2})\|^2 \\
& + \sum_{i=1}^2 \|\widetilde{q}_h^{n-i+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^2 \\
& + \frac{Pr_\theta}{9} (\|\zeta_h^{n-3/2}\|_1^2 + \|\zeta_h^{n-1/2}\|_1^2) \\
& + \frac{Pr_B S}{9} (\|\xi_h^{n-3/2}\|_1^2 + (\|\xi_h^{n-1/2}\|_1^2)),
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\mathcal{D}\xi_h^n, \xi_h^{n+1/2}) + \frac{5Pr_B}{8} [\|\nabla \times \xi_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
& + \|\nabla \cdot \xi_h^{n+1/2}\|^2] \\
& + d(\zeta_h^{n+1/2}, \xi_h^{n+1/2}, \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2})) \\
& \leq C[\|\mathbf{k}^{n+1/2}\|_{-\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^2 + \|q_h^{n+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^2 \\
& + \|\mathcal{D}\widehat{E}_h(q_h^n)\|_{-1}^2 + \|\mathbf{g}_h^{n+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4 \\
& + \sum_{i=1}^2 \|q_h^{n-i+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4] + \frac{Pr_B}{16} (\|\xi_h^{n-3/2}\|_1^2 \\
& + \|\xi_h^{n-1/2}\|_1^2) \\
& (\mathcal{D}\chi_h^n, \chi_h^{n+1/2}) + \frac{4}{9} \|\nabla \chi_h^{n+1/2}\|^2 \leq C[\|f_2^{n+1/2}\|_{-1}^2 \\
& + \|\mathcal{D}\widetilde{E}_h(\widetilde{q}_h^n)\|_{-1}^2 \\
& + \|\widetilde{q}_h^{n+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^2 + \|\widetilde{q}_h^{n+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4 \\
& + \sum_{i=1}^2 \|\mathbf{g}_h^{n-i+1/2}\|_{\frac{1}{2}, \Gamma}^4] \\
& + \frac{Pr_\theta^2}{9\epsilon} (\|\nabla \zeta_h^{n-3/2}\|^2 + \|\nabla \zeta_h^{n-1/2}\|^2). \quad (20)
\end{aligned}$$

Now summing each of the inequalities in (20) from $n = 2$ to m , using the skew symmetry of $d(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$ and the telescoping property, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \| \boldsymbol{\zeta}_h^m \|^2 + S \| \boldsymbol{\xi}_h^m \|^2 + \| \chi_h^m \|^2 \\
 & + \Delta t Pr_\theta \sum_{n=2}^m \| \nabla \boldsymbol{\zeta}_h^{n+1/2} \|^2 \\
 & + 7 \Delta t Pr_B S \lambda_m \sum_{n=2}^m \| \boldsymbol{\xi}_h^{n+1/2} \|_1^2 \\
 & + \Delta t \sum_{n=2}^m \| \nabla \chi_h^{n+1/2} \|^2 \leq M, \tag{21}
 \end{aligned}$$

for some constant $M > 0$ by the assumptions. The required stability bound follows by setting $(\boldsymbol{\zeta}_h^n, \boldsymbol{\xi}_h^n, \chi_h^n) = (\mathbf{u}_h^n, \mathbf{B}_h^n, \theta_h^n) - (E_h(\mathbf{g}_h^n), \widehat{E}_h(q_h^n), \widetilde{E}_h(\widetilde{q}_h^n))$ and applying triangle inequality. \square

3.2. Error analysis

In this section we discuss the accuracy and convergence of the decoupled Crank-Nicolson scheme. In the subsequent analysis, we will assume the boundary data is independent of time for simplicity.

Theorem 2. *Suppose that the assumption (A1)-(A3) hold with a positive number h_0 and a positive integer k , that the solution $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{B}, p, \theta)$ of (1)-(3) satisfy $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathbf{V}_g) \cap H^1(0, T; \mathbf{H}^{k+1}(\Omega)) \cap H^3(0, T; \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega))$, $\mathbf{B} \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathbf{H}_{n,q}^1) \cap H^1(0, T; \mathbf{H}^{k+1}(\Omega)) \cap H^3(0, T; \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega))$, $\theta \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; H_{n,\widehat{q}}^1) \cap H^1(0, T; H^{k+1}(\Omega)) \cap H^3(0, T; L^2(\Omega))$, $p \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L_0^2(\Omega) \cap H^k(\Omega))$ and that the initial conditions $(\mathbf{u}_h^i, \mathbf{B}_h^i, \theta_h^i)$, $i = 0, 1$ satisfy $\sum_{i=0}^1 \| \mathbf{u}_h^i - \mathbf{u}(t_i) \| + S \| \mathbf{B}_h^i - \mathbf{B}(t_i) \| + \| \theta_h^i - \theta(t_i) \| \leq ch^k$. Then, for any $h \in (0, h_0]$ the approximate solutions $(\mathbf{u}_h, \mathbf{B}_h, \theta_h)$ of (14) satisfy the following error estimates*

$$\| \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_h \|_{l^\infty(L^2(\Omega)) \cap l^2(\mathbf{H}^1(\Omega))} \leq C(\Delta t^2 + h^k),$$

$$\| \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{B}_h \|_{l^\infty(L^2(\Omega)) \cap l^2(\mathbf{H}^1(\Omega))} \leq C(\Delta t^2 + h^k)$$

and

$$\| \theta - \theta_h \|_{l^\infty(L^2(\Omega)) \cap l^2(H^1(\Omega))} \leq C(\Delta t^2 + h^k).$$

for some constant C independent of the mesh size h and time step Δt .

Proof. Let $(P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_n), P_h^s p(t_n))$ be the Stokes projection of $(\mathbf{u}(t_n), p(t_n))$, let $P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_n)$ be the Maxwell projection of $\mathbf{B}(t_n)$ and let $P_h^r \theta(t_n)$ be the Ritz projection of $\theta(t_n)$. Let $(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n, e_{2h}^n, \mathbf{e}_{3h}^n, e_{4h}^n)$

be the errors defined by $\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n := \mathbf{u}_h^n - P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_n)$, $e_{2h}^n := p_h^n - P_h^s p(t_n)$, $\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n := \mathbf{B}_h^n - P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_n)$ and $e_{4h}^n := \theta_h^n - P_h^r \theta(t_n)$. We first subtract (1) from (14) and obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\mathcal{D} \mathbf{u}_h^n - \partial_t \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) + Pr_\theta (\nabla \mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}, \nabla \mathbf{v}_h) \\
 & + b(\mathbf{v}_h, p_h^{n+1/2}) = \langle \mathfrak{N}_h^n, \mathbf{v}_h \rangle \\
 & + Pr_\theta (\nabla \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \nabla \mathbf{v}_h) \\
 & + b(\mathbf{v}_h, p(t_{n+1/2})), \\
 & 0 = b(\mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2} - \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), r_h), \\
 & (\mathcal{D} \mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2} - \partial_t \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}), \phi_h) \\
 & + Pr_B [(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}, \nabla \times \phi_h) \\
 & + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}, \nabla \cdot \phi_h)] \\
 & = Pr_B [(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}), \nabla \times \phi_h) \\
 & + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}), \nabla \cdot \phi_h)] \\
 & + \langle \widehat{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \phi_h \rangle, \\
 & (\mathcal{D} \theta_h^n - \partial_t \theta(t_{n+1/2}), \psi_h) + (\nabla \theta_h^{n+1/2}, \nabla \psi_h) \\
 & = \langle \widetilde{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \psi_h \rangle + (\nabla \theta(t_{n+1/2}), \nabla \psi_h)
 \end{aligned}$$

for all $\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{X}_h$, $r_h \in Q_h$, $\phi_h \in \mathbf{Y}_h$, $\psi_h \in Z_h$, at each time step n , where \mathfrak{N}_h^n , $\widehat{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n$ and $\widetilde{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n$ are defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \mathfrak{N}_h^n, \mathbf{v}_h \rangle & := c_1(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
 & - c_1(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}, \mathbf{v}_h) \\
 & + e(\mathcal{I}(\theta_h^{n+1/2}) - \theta(t_{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
 & + S d(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}), \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
 & - S d(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}, \mathbf{v}_h),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \widehat{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \phi_h \rangle & := d(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \phi_h, \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \\
 & - d(\mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}, \phi_h, \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}_h^{n+1/2}))
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \widetilde{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \psi_h \rangle & := c_2(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \theta(t_{n+1/2}), \psi_h) \\
 & - c_2(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}_h^{n+1/2}), \theta_h^{n+1/2}, \psi_h).
 \end{aligned}$$

Using the definition of Stokes, Maxwell and Ritz projections, we obtain the basic error equations of the method

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\mathcal{D}\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n, \mathbf{v}_h) + Pr_\theta(\nabla\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}, \nabla\mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad + b(\mathbf{v}_h, e_{2h}^{n+1/2}) = \langle \tilde{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \mathbf{v}_h \rangle \\
& \quad + (\partial_t\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_n), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad b(e_{1h}^{n+1/2}, r_h) = 0 \\
& (\mathcal{D}\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n, \phi_h) + Pr_B[(\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}, \nabla \times \phi_h) \\
& \quad + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}, \nabla \cdot \phi_h)] \\
& = (\partial_t\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}P_h^m\mathbf{B}(t_n), \phi_h) \\
& \quad + \langle \widehat{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \phi_h \rangle \\
& \quad \langle \tilde{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \psi_h \rangle \\
& = c_2(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \theta(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^r\theta(t_{n+1/2}), \psi_h) \\
& \quad + c_2(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))) \\
& \quad , P_h^r\theta(t_{n+1/2}), \psi_h) \\
& \quad + c_2(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})) - \mathcal{I}(P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))) \\
& \quad , P_h^r\theta(t_{n+1/2}), \psi_h) \\
& \quad - c_2(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}), P_h^r\theta(t_{n+1/2}), \psi_h) \\
& \quad - c_2(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}), e_{4h}^{n+1/2}, \psi_h) \\
& \quad - c_2(\mathcal{I}(P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})), e_{4h}^{n+1/2}, \psi_h) \\
& =: \sum_{i=1}^6 \langle \tilde{\mathfrak{N}}_i^n, \psi_h \rangle
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\mathcal{D}e_{4h}^n, \psi_h) + (\nabla e_{4h}^{n+1/2}, \nabla\psi_h) = \langle \tilde{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \psi_h \rangle \\
& \quad + (\partial_t\theta(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}P_h^r\theta(t_n), \psi_h),
\end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \langle \mathfrak{N}_h^n, \mathbf{v}_h \rangle \\
& = c_1(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad + c_1(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})), P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad + c_1(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})) - \mathcal{I}(P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})), P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad - c_1(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}), P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad - c_1(\mathcal{I}(P_h^s(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}, \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad - c_1(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}, \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad + S(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) \times (\nabla \times (\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) \\
& \quad - P_h^m\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad + S((\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))) \\
& \quad \times (\nabla \times P_h^m\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad + S(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^m\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \\
& \quad \times (\nabla \times P_h^m\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad - S(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \times (\nabla \times P_h^m\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad + e(\mathcal{I}(e_{4h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad + e(\mathcal{I}(P_h^r\theta(t_{n+1/2}) - \theta(t_{n+1/2})), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad - S(\mathcal{I}(P_h^m\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad - S(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& =: \sum_{i=1}^{12} \langle \mathfrak{N}_i^n, \mathbf{v}_h \rangle \\
& \quad - S(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
& \quad - S(\mathcal{I}(P_h^m\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h).
\end{aligned}$$

for all $\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{X}_h$, $r_h \in Q_h$, $\phi_h \in \mathbf{Y}_h$, $\psi_h \in Z_h$. We next split the nonlinear terms $\langle \mathfrak{N}_h^n, \mathbf{v}_h \rangle$, $\langle \widehat{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \phi_h \rangle$ and $\langle \tilde{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \psi_h \rangle$ on the right-hand side of (22) into several terms as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \langle \widehat{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \phi_h \rangle \\
& = d((\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})), \phi_h, \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \\
& \quad + d(P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \phi_h, \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))) \\
& \quad + d(P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \phi_h, \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) \\
& \quad - P_h^m\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))) \\
& \quad - d(P_h^s\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}), \phi_h, \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})) \\
& \quad - d(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}, \phi_h, \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})) \\
& \quad - d(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}, \phi_h, \mathcal{I}(P_h^m\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))) \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^4 \langle \widehat{\mathfrak{N}}_i^n, \nabla \times \phi_h \rangle \\
& \quad - d(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}, \phi_h, \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})) \\
& \quad - d(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}, \phi_h, \mathcal{I}(P_h^m\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))),
\end{aligned}$$

Notice $\langle \mathfrak{N}_5^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle = \langle \mathfrak{N}_6^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle = \langle \tilde{\mathfrak{N}}_5^n, \mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n+1/2} \rangle = \langle \tilde{\mathfrak{N}}_6^n, \mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n+1/2} \rangle = 0$ due to skew-symmetry of tri-linear forms $c_1(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$ and $c_2(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$, respectively. Therefore, setting $\mathbf{v}_h = \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}$, $\phi_h = \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}$, $\psi_h = e_{4h}^{n+1/2}$ into (22) we can write it as

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}
 & (\mathcal{D}e_{1h}^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}) + Pr_\theta \|\nabla \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
 & = (\partial_t \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_n), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^4 \langle \mathfrak{N}_i^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle \\
 & + \sum_{i=7}^{12} \langle \mathfrak{N}_i^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle \\
 & - S(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - S(\mathcal{I}(P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & , \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|, \\
 & (\mathcal{D}e_{3h}^n, \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) + Pr_B [\|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
 & + \|\nabla \cdot \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\|^2] \\
 & = (\partial_t \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}P_h^m \mathbf{B}^n, \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^4 \langle \widehat{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2} \rangle, \\
 & + (\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \times \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & + (\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \times \mathcal{I}(P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \\
 & , \nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \\
 & (\mathcal{D}e_{4h}^n, e_{4h}^{n+1/2}) + \|\nabla e_{4h}^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
 & = \sum_{i=1}^4 \langle \widetilde{\mathfrak{N}}_h^n, e_{4h}^{n+1/2} \rangle \\
 & + (\partial_t \theta(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}P_h^r \theta(t_n), e_{4h}^{n+1/2}).
 \end{aligned} \right. \quad (23)$$

By Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, triangle inequality and Lemma 2, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\partial_t \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_n), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & \leq C \left\{ (\Delta t)^{3/2} \|\partial_t^3 \mathbf{u}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega))} \right. \\
 & + \left. \frac{h^k}{\sqrt{\Delta t}} \|(\partial_t \mathbf{u}, \partial_t p)\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; (\mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times H^k)(\Omega))} \right\} \\
 & \cdot \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|, \quad (24)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\partial_t \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_n), \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & \leq C \left\{ (\Delta t)^{3/2} \|\partial_t^3 \mathbf{B}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega))} \right. \\
 & + \left. \frac{h^k}{\sqrt{\Delta t}} \|\partial_t \mathbf{B}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{H}^{k+1}(\Omega))} \right\} \|\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\| \quad (25)
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\partial_t \theta(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}P_h^r \theta(t_n), e_{4h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & \leq C \left\{ (\Delta t)^{3/2} \|\partial_t^3 \theta\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega))} \right. \\
 & + \left. \frac{h^k}{\sqrt{\Delta t}} \|\partial_t \theta\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; H^{k+1}(\Omega))} \right\} \|e_{4h}^{n+1/2}\|. \quad (26)
 \end{aligned}$$

Using Hölders inequality, Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality and Lemma 1, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \mathfrak{N}_1^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 & \leq c^* \|\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_1 \\
 & \cdot \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \\
 & \leq c^* h^k \|(\mathbf{u}, p)\|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times \mathbf{H}^k)} \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \mathfrak{N}_2^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 & \leq c^* \|\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\| \\
 & \cdot (\|\nabla P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3} \\
 & + \|P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty) \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \\
 & \leq c^* (\Delta t)^{3/2} \|\partial_t^2 \mathbf{u}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))} \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \mathfrak{N}_3^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 & \leq c^* \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})) - \mathcal{I}(P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_1 \\
 & \cdot (\|P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty \\
 & + \|\nabla P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3}) \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\| \\
 & \leq c^* h^k \|(\mathbf{u}, p)\|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times \mathbf{H}^k)} \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \mathfrak{N}_4^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 & \leq c^* \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})\| \\
 & \cdot (\|P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3}) \\
 & \cdot \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \\
 & \leq c^* (\|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n\| + \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-1}\|) \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1.
 \end{aligned}$$

We estimate $\mathfrak{N}_7^n - \mathfrak{N}_{12}^n$ using Hölders inequality, Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality and Lemma 1 as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \mathfrak{N}_7^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 & = |S(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) \\
 & \times (\nabla \times (\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})| \\
 & \leq C \|\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty \\
 & \cdot \|\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\| \\
 & \leq c h^k \|\mathbf{B}\|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1})} \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \aleph_8^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 &= |S((\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))) \\
 &\times (\nabla \times P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})| \\
 &\leq C \|\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))\| \\
 &\cdot \|\nabla \times P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3} \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \\
 &\leq c^* (\Delta t)^{3/2} \|\partial_t^2 \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))} \\
 &\cdot \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \aleph_9^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 &= |S(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \\
 &\times (\nabla \times P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})| \\
 &\leq C \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))\| \\
 &\cdot \|\nabla \times P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3} \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \\
 &\leq ch^k \|\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1})} \\
 &\cdot \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \aleph_{10}^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 &= |S(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 &\times (\nabla \times P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})| \\
 &\leq C \|\nabla P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3} \\
 &\cdot \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\| \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$| \langle \aleph_{11}^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \leq C \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n+1/2})\| \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 | \langle \aleph_{12}^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | &\leq C \|\mathcal{I}(P_h^r \theta(t_{n+1/2}) - \theta(t_{n+1/2}))\| \\
 &\cdot \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{i=1}^4 | \langle \aleph_i^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | + \sum_{i=7}^{12} | \langle \aleph_i^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 &\leq c \{ h^k \|(\mathbf{u}, p)\|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times \mathbf{H}^k)} \\
 &+ h^k \|\theta\|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; H^{k+1})} \\
 &+ (\Delta t)^{3/2} \|(\partial_t^2 \mathbf{u}, \partial_t^2 \mathbf{B})\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))} \\
 &+ \|h^k \mathbf{B}\|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times \mathbf{H}^k)} \\
 &+ \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n\| + \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-1}\| \\
 &+ \|\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n\| + \|\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n-1}\| + \|\mathbf{e}_{4h}^n\| + \|\mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n-1}\| \} \\
 &\cdot \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1.
 \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

We can estimate $\widehat{\aleph}_1^n - \widehat{\aleph}_4^n$ similarly using Hölders inequality, Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality and Lemma 1-2 as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widehat{\aleph}_1^n, \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 &\leq c \|\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\| \\
 &\cdot \|\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\| \\
 &\leq ch^k \|(\mathbf{u}, p)\|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times \mathbf{H}^k)} \\
 &\cdot \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widehat{\aleph}_2^n, \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 &\leq c \|P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty \\
 &\cdot \|\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I} \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\| \\
 &\cdot \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\| \\
 &\leq c \{ (\Delta t)^{3/2} \|\partial_t^2 \mathbf{B}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))} \\
 &\cdot \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\|
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widehat{\aleph}_3^n, \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 &\leq c \|P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty \\
 &\cdot \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))\| \\
 &\cdot \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\| \\
 &\leq ch^k \|\mathbf{B}\|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1})} \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\|
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widehat{\aleph}_4^n, \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2} \rangle | \\
 &\leq c \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\| \|P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\|.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{i=1}^4 | \widehat{\mathfrak{N}}_i^n, \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2} > | \\
 & \leq c \{ (\Delta t)^{3/2} \| \partial_t^2 \mathbf{B} \|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))} \\
 & + h^k \| (\mathbf{u}, p) \|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times H^k)} \\
 & + h^k \| \mathbf{B} \|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1})} \\
 & + \| \mathbf{e}_{3h}^n \| + \| \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n-1} \| \} \| \nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2} \|
 \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Estimating $\widetilde{\mathfrak{N}}_1^n - \widetilde{\mathfrak{N}}_4^n$ similarly, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{i=1}^4 | \widetilde{\mathfrak{N}}_i^n, \mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n+1/2} > | \\
 & \leq c \{ (\Delta t)^{3/2} \| \partial_t^2 \mathbf{u} \|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))} \\
 & + h^k \| (\mathbf{u}, p, \theta) \|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times H^k \times H^{k+1})} \\
 & + \| \mathbf{e}_{1h}^n \| + \| \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-1} \| \} \| \nabla \mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n+1/2} \|
 \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Employing (24)-(29) into (23) and using Young's inequality, we obtain

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}
 & (\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}) + \frac{Pr_\theta}{4} \| \nabla \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \|^2 \\
 & \leq \Upsilon_1^n + c \{ \| \mathbf{e}_{1h}^n \|^2 + \| \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-1} \|^2 \\
 & + \| \mathbf{e}_{3h}^n \|^2 + \| \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n-1} \|^2 + \| \mathbf{e}_{4h}^n \|^2 \\
 & + \| \mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n-1} \|^2 \} \\
 & - S(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & - S(\mathcal{I}(P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \\
 & \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & (\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n), \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) + \frac{Pr_B}{4} \| \nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2} \|^2 \\
 & + \| \nabla \cdot \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2} \|^2 \leq \Upsilon_2^n \\
 & + c \{ \| \mathbf{e}_{3h}^n \|^2 + \| \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n-1} \|^2 \} \\
 & + (\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \times \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})) \\
 & + (\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \times \mathcal{I}(P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})), \nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \\
 & (\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{4h}^n), \mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n+1/2}) + \| \nabla \mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n+1/2} \|^2 \leq \Upsilon_3^n \\
 & + c \{ \| \mathbf{e}_{1h}^n \|^2 + \| \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-1} \|^2 \},
 \end{aligned} \right. \quad (30)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Upsilon_1^n := & c \left\{ (\Delta t)^3 \| \partial_t^3 \mathbf{u} \|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))}^2 \right. \\
 & + \frac{h^{2k}}{\Delta t} \| (\partial_t \mathbf{u}, \partial_t p) \|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times \mathbf{H}^k)}^2 \\
 & + h^{2k} \| (\mathbf{u}, p) \|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times \mathbf{H}^k)}^2 \\
 & + (\Delta t)^3 \| (\partial_t^2 \mathbf{u}, \partial_t^2 \mathbf{B}) \|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))}^2 \\
 & \left. + h^{2k} \| \mathbf{B} \|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1})}^2 \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Upsilon_2^n := & c \left\{ (\Delta t)^3 \| \partial_t^3 \mathbf{B} \|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))}^2 \right. \\
 & + \frac{h^{2k}}{\Delta t} \| \partial_t \mathbf{B} \|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{H}^{k+1})}^2 \\
 & + h^{2k} \| (\mathbf{u}, p) \|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times \mathbf{H}^k)}^2 \\
 & + (\Delta t)^3 \| \partial_t^2 \mathbf{B} \|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))}^2 \\
 & \left. + h^{2k} \| \mathbf{B} \|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1})}^2 \right\},
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Upsilon_3^n := & c \left\{ (\Delta t)^3 \| \partial_t^3 \theta \|_{L^2(t_{n-1}, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))}^2 \right. \\
 & + \frac{h^{2k}}{\Delta t} \| \partial_t \theta \|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; H^{k+1})}^2 \\
 & + h^{2k} \| (\mathbf{u}, p, \theta) \|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times H^k \times H^{k+1})}^2 \\
 & \left. + (\Delta t)^3 \| \partial_t^2 \mathbf{u} \|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))}^2 \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We next add the three equations in (30) and use the identity $(\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}, \nabla \times \mathbf{C}) = (\mathbf{B} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{C}), \mathbf{A})$ to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}) + S(\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n), \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & + (\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{4h}^n), \mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n+1/2}) \\
 & + \frac{SPr_B}{4} \| \nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2} \|^2 \\
 & + \| \nabla \cdot \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2} \|^2 + \frac{Pr_\theta}{4} \| \nabla \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2} \|^2 \\
 & + \| \nabla \mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n+1/2} \|^2 \\
 & \leq c [\| \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n-1} \|^2 + \| \mathbf{e}_{3h}^n \|^2 + \| \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-1} \|^2 \\
 & + \| \mathbf{e}_{1h}^n \|^2 + \| \mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n-1} \|^2 + \| \mathbf{e}_{4h}^n \|^2] \\
 & + \Upsilon^n,
 \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
\Upsilon^n &:= \sum_{i=1}^3 \Upsilon_i^n \\
&= c \left[(\Delta t)^3 \|(\partial_t^3 \mathbf{u}, \partial_t^3 \mathbf{B}, \partial_t^3 \theta)\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega))}^2 \right. \\
&\quad + (\Delta t)^3 \|(\partial_t^2 \mathbf{u}, \partial_t^2 \mathbf{B})\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))}^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{h^{2k}}{\Delta t} \|(\partial_t \mathbf{u}, \partial_t \mathbf{B}, \partial_t \theta, \partial_t p)\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times H^k)}^2 \\
&\quad + h^{2k} \|(\mathbf{u}, p, \theta)\|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times \mathbf{H}^k)}^2 \\
&\quad \left. + h^{2k} \|\mathbf{B}\|_{C([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1})}^2 \right].
\end{aligned}$$

From the assumptions on the solution $(\mathbf{u}, p, \mathbf{B}, \theta)$ it holds that

$$\Delta t \sum_{n=1}^N \Upsilon^n \leq c((\Delta t)^4 + h^{2k}). \quad (32)$$

Therefore summing (31) from $n = 1$ to m and the discrete Grönwall inequality (Lemma 3), we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
&\|e_{1h}^m\|^2 + S \|e_{3h}^m\|^2 + \|e_{4h}^m\|^2 \\
&\quad + Pr_\theta \Delta t \sum_{n=1}^m \|\nabla e_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
&\quad + \Delta t \sum_{n=1}^m \|\nabla e_{4h}^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
&\quad + S Pr_B \Delta t \sum_{n=1}^m \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
&\quad + \|\nabla \cdot \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\|^2 \\
&\leq c((\Delta t)^4 + h^{2k}).
\end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

The required error estimate now follows from (33) and triangle inequality. \square

Theorem 3. Under the assumptions in Theorem 2, the approximate pressure p_h of (14) satisfies

$$\|p - p_h\|_{l^2(L^2(\Omega))} \leq \frac{c}{\sqrt{\Delta t}} (\Delta t^2 + h^k),$$

for some constant c independent of mesh size h and time step Δt .

Proof. From (22)₁ and the inf-sup condition it holds that

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\mathbf{e}_{2h}^{n+1/2}\| &\leq \frac{1}{\beta} \sup_{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{X}_h} \frac{b(\mathbf{v}_h, \mathbf{e}_{2h}^{n+1/2})}{\|\mathbf{v}_h\|_1} \\
&\leq \frac{1}{\beta} \sup_{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{X}_h} \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{v}_h\|_1} \{ -(\mathcal{D}e_{1h}^n, \mathbf{v}_h) \\
&\quad - Pr_\theta (\nabla e_{1h}^{n+1/2}, \nabla \mathbf{v}_h) \\
&\quad + (\partial_t \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_n), \mathbf{v}_h) \\
&\quad + \langle \aleph_h^n, \mathbf{v}_h \rangle \\
&\leq c \left\{ \|\mathcal{D}e_{1h}^n\| + \|\nabla e_{1h}^{n+1/2}\| \right. \\
&\quad + \|\partial_t \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_n)\|_{X_h^*} \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=1}^{12} \|\aleph_i^n\|_{X_h^*} \\
&\quad + \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_{X_h^*} \\
&\quad + \|\mathcal{I}(P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \\
&\quad \left. \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_{X_h^*} \right\}.
\end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

We start estimating $\|\aleph_5^n\|_{X_h^*}$, $\|\aleph_6^n\|_{X_h^*}$, $\|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_{X_h^*}$ and $\|\mathcal{I}(P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_{X_h^*}$ below. First, by Hölder's and Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequalities, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
|\langle \aleph_5^n, \mathbf{v}_h \rangle| &\leq c(\|\mathcal{I}(P_h^s(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_\infty \\
&\quad + \|\nabla(\mathcal{I}(P_h^s(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})))\|_{L^3}) \\
&\quad \cdot \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\| \|\mathbf{v}_h\|_1
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
|\langle \mathcal{I}(P_h^m(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h \rangle| \\
\leq C \|\mathcal{I}(P_h^m(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_\infty \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\| \|\mathbf{v}_h\|.
\end{aligned}$$

Before estimating the other two terms, notice that by the inverse estimate (Assumption (A3)) and (33), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 &\leq c^* \min\{h^{-1} \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|, \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1\} \\
&\leq c \min\{h^{-1} (\Delta t^2 + h^k) \\
&\quad , (\Delta t)^{-1} (\Delta t^2 + h^k)\} \\
&\leq c.
\end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

Similarly, we can show

$$\|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\| \leq c. \quad (36)$$

Therefore, by Hölder's, Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequalities and (35)-(36), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} | \langle \aleph_6^n, \mathbf{v}_h \rangle | &\leq c \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \\ &\quad \cdot \|\mathbf{v}_h\|_1 \\ &\leq c^* \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\mathbf{v}_h\|_1 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}) \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{v}_h \rangle \\ \leq c \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\| \\ \cdot \|\mathbf{v}_h\|_1 \\ \leq c \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\mathbf{v}_h\|_1. \end{aligned}$$

Estimating other terms in (34) as we did in the proof of Theorem 2, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{e}_{2h}^{n+1/2}\| &\leq c \left\{ \|\mathcal{D}\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n\| + \|\nabla \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\| \right. \\ &\quad + \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\| + \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})\| \\ &\quad + \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 + \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 \quad (37) \\ &\quad + \|\mathcal{I}(e_{4h}^{n+1/2})\| + \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\| \\ &\quad \left. + (\Delta t)^{3/2} + h^k + \frac{h^k}{\sqrt{\Delta t}} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

The required error estimate now follows from last inequality by using Theorem 2 and triangle inequality. \square

The error estimate for the pressure in the previous theorem can be improved under stronger regularity properties of the solution. To this end, we next derive optimal order error estimates for the time derivatives of velocity, magnetic field and temperature.

Corollary 1. *Suppose the assumptions of Theorem 2 hold. Moreover, assume $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{B} \in H^2(0, T; \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega))$ and $\theta \in H^2(0, T; H^1(\Omega))$. In addition, assume the initial conditions $(\mathbf{u}_h^i, \mathbf{B}_h^i, \theta_h^i)$, $i = 0, 1$ satisfy $\sum_{i=0}^1 \|\mathbf{u}(t_i) - \mathbf{u}_h^i\|_1$, $\sum_{i=0}^1 \|\mathbf{B}(t_i) - \mathbf{B}_h^i\|_1$, $\sum_{i=0}^1 \|\theta(t_i) - \theta_h^i\|_1 \leq ch^k$ and $b(\mathbf{u}_h^i, r_h) = 0$, $\forall r_h \in Q_h$. Then for any $h \in (0, h_0]$ the approximate velocity \mathbf{u}_h^n , magnetic field \mathbf{B}_h^n and temperature θ_h^n satisfy*

$$\|\partial_t \mathbf{u} - \mathcal{D}\mathbf{u}_h\|_{l^2(L^2(\Omega))} \leq c(\Delta t^2 + h^k),$$

$$\|\partial_t \mathbf{B} - \mathcal{D}\mathbf{B}_h\|_{l^2(L^2(\Omega))} \leq c(\Delta t^2 + h^k),$$

and

$$\|\partial_t \theta - \mathcal{D}\theta_h\|_{l^2(L^2(\Omega))} \leq c(\Delta t^2 + h^k),$$

for some constant c independent of the mesh size h and time step Δt . Moreover, we have

$$\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_h\|_{l^\infty(H^1(\Omega))} \leq c(\Delta t^2 + h^k),$$

$$\|\theta - \theta_h\|_{l^\infty(H^1(\Omega))} \leq c(\Delta t^2 + h^k),$$

and

$$\|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{B}_h\|_{l^\infty(H^1(\Omega))} \leq c(\Delta t^2 + h^k)$$

for some constant c independent of the mesh size h and time step Δt .

Proof. Putting $\mathbf{v}_h = \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)$, $\phi_h = \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)$, $\psi_h = \mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n)$ into (22) and splitting the nonlinear terms as in the proof of Theorem 2, we obtain

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} &\|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|^2 + Pr_\theta \mathcal{D}(\|\nabla \mathbf{e}_{1h}^n\|^2) \\ &= (\partial_t \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}(P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_n)), \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{14} \langle \aleph_i^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle, \\ &\|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)\|^2 + Pr_B [\mathcal{D}(\|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^n\|^2) \\ &\quad + \mathcal{D}(\|\nabla \cdot \mathbf{e}_{3h}^n\|^2)] \\ &= (\partial_t \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}(P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_n)), \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^6 \langle \widehat{\aleph}_i^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n) \rangle, \\ &\|\mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n)\|^2 + \mathcal{D}(\|\nabla e_{4h}^n\|^2) \\ &= (\partial_t \theta(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{D}(P_h^r \theta(t_n)), \mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n)) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^6 \langle \widetilde{\aleph}_i^n, \mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n) \rangle. \end{aligned} \right. \quad (38)$$

Let us start estimating $\langle \aleph_i^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle$ for $i = 1, \dots, 14$. First using Hölder's inequality and Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} | \langle \aleph_1^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ \leq c(\|\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3}) \\ \cdot \|\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} | \langle \aleph_2^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ \leq c \|\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_1 \\ \cdot (\|P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3}) \\ \cdot \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & | \langle \aleph_3^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ & \leq c(\|P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3}) \\ & \cdot \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & | \langle \aleph_4^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ & \leq c(\|P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3}) \\ & \cdot \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & | \langle \aleph_5^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ & \leq c(\|\mathcal{I}(P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_\infty + \|\nabla \mathcal{I}(P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_{L^3}) \\ & \cdot \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|. \end{aligned}$$

From the inverse inequality (Assumption (A3)) and Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality, it follows that

$$\|\phi_h\|_\infty + \|\nabla \phi_h\|_{L^3(\Omega)} \leq ch^{-\frac{d}{6}} \|\phi_h\|_1 \quad \forall \phi_h \in X^h. \tag{39}$$

Using (39), we estimate $\langle \aleph_6^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle$ as below

$$\begin{aligned} & | \langle \aleph_6^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ & \leq [\|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})\|_{L^3}] \\ & \cdot \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\| \tag{40} \\ & \leq c^* \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 h^{-\frac{d}{6}} \\ & \cdot \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|. \end{aligned}$$

Alternatively, we can estimate $\langle \aleph_6^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned} & | \langle \aleph_6^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ & = |\frac{1}{2\Delta t} c_1(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^n, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-1})| \\ & + |\frac{1}{2\Delta t} c_1(\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}), \mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-1}, \mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)| \tag{41} \\ & \leq \frac{c^*}{\Delta t} \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n\|_1 \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-1}\|_1. \end{aligned}$$

Combining (40) and (41), we have

$$\begin{aligned} | \langle \aleph_6^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | & \leq c\gamma_n \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 [\|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\| \\ & + \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-1}\|_1], \end{aligned} \tag{42}$$

where

$$\gamma_n := \min\{h^{-\frac{d}{6}}, (\Delta t)^{-\frac{1}{2}}\} \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1. \tag{43}$$

Estimating other terms as before, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & | \langle \aleph_7^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ & \leq c\|\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty \|\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_1 \\ & \cdot \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & | \langle \aleph_8^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ & \leq c\|\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B})(t_{n+1/2})\|_1 \\ & \cdot \|\nabla \times P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3(\Omega)} \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & | \langle \aleph_9^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ & \leq c\|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_1 \\ & \cdot \|\nabla \times P_h^m \mathbf{B}\|_{L^3(\Omega)} \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & | \langle \aleph_{10}^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ & \leq c\|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\nabla \times P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3(\Omega)} \\ & \cdot \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|, \end{aligned}$$

$$| \langle \aleph_{11}^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \leq c\|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|,$$

$$\begin{aligned} & | \langle \aleph_{12}^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | \\ & \leq C\|\mathcal{I}(P_h^r \theta(t_{n+1/2}) - \theta(t_{n+1/2}))\| \\ & \cdot \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} | \langle \aleph_{13}^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | & \leq c\|\mathcal{I}(P_h^m \mathbf{B})\|_\infty \\ & \cdot \|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|. \end{aligned}$$

Estimating as we did with $\langle \aleph_6^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} | \langle \aleph_{14}^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle | & \leq c\widehat{\gamma}_n \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 \\ & \cdot [\|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\| \\ & + \sum_{i=0}^1 \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-i}\|_1], \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\widehat{\gamma}_n := \min\{h^{-\frac{d}{6}}, (\Delta t)^{-\frac{1}{2}}\} \|\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\|_1.$$

Let us next start estimating $\widehat{\aleph}_1 - \widehat{\aleph}_6$. First, we rewrite them using integration by parts formula and then we estimate them using Hölder's inequality and Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widehat{\aleph}_1^n, \nabla \times \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c[\|\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla \times \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3}] \\
 & \cdot \|\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^s(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widehat{\aleph}_2^n, \nabla \times \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c[\|P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla P_h^s(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_{L^3(\Omega)}] \\
 & \cdot \|\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_1 \\
 & \cdot \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widehat{\aleph}_3^n, \nabla \times \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c[\|P_h^s \mathbf{u}\|_\infty + \|\nabla P_h^s(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_{L^3(\Omega)}] \\
 & \cdot \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widehat{\aleph}_4^n, \nabla \times \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c[\|P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3(\Omega)}] \\
 & \cdot \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widehat{\aleph}_6^n, \nabla \times \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c[\|\mathcal{I}(P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_\infty \\
 & + \|\nabla \mathcal{I}(P_h^m \mathbf{B}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_{L^3(\Omega)}] \\
 & \cdot \|e_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)\|.
 \end{aligned}$$

Estimating as we did with $\langle \aleph_{14}^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widehat{\aleph}_5^n, \nabla \times \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c\gamma_n \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 [\|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)\| \\
 & + \sum_{i=0}^1 \|e_{3h}^{n-i}\|_1],
 \end{aligned}$$

where γ_n is defined as in (43). Finally, we estimate $\widehat{\aleph}_1 - \widehat{\aleph}_6$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widetilde{\aleph}_1^n, \mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c(\|\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla \times \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3}) \\
 & \cdot \|\theta(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^r(\theta(t_{n+1/2}))\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n)\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widetilde{\aleph}_2^n, \mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c(\|P_h^r \theta(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla P_h^r(\theta(t_{n+1/2}))\|_{L^3(\Omega)}) \\
 & \cdot \|\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n)\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widetilde{\aleph}_3^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c\|\mathcal{I}((\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}) - P_h^s(\mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2})))\|_1 \\
 & \cdot (\|P_h^r \theta(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla P_h^r(\theta(t_{n+1/2}))\|_{L^3(\Omega)}) \\
 & \cdot \|\mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n)\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widetilde{\aleph}_4^n, \mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c(\|P_h^r \theta(t_{n+1/2})\|_\infty + \|\nabla P_h^r \theta(t_{n+1/2})\|_{L^3(\Omega)}) \\
 & \cdot \|\mathcal{I}e_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n)\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widetilde{\aleph}_6^n, \mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c[\|\mathcal{I}(P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_\infty \\
 & + \|\nabla \mathcal{I}(P_h^s \mathbf{u}(t_{n+1/2}))\|_{L^3(\Omega)}] \\
 & \cdot \|e_{4h}^{n+1/2}\|_1 \|\mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n)\|.
 \end{aligned}$$

Estimating as we did with $\langle \aleph_{14}^n, \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n) \rangle$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & | \langle \widetilde{\aleph}_5^n, \mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n) \rangle | \\
 & \leq c\widetilde{\gamma}_n \|\mathcal{I}(e_{1h}^{n+1/2})\|_1 [\|\mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n)\| \\
 & + \|e_{4h}^{n-1}\|_1],
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\widetilde{\gamma}_n := \min\{h^{-\frac{d}{6}}, (\Delta t)^{-\frac{1}{2}}\} \|e_{4h}^{n+1/2}\|_1$. Employing these estimates in (38), we can write it as

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{2} \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|^2 + \frac{Pr_\theta}{2} \mathcal{D}(\|\nabla e_{1h}^n\|^2) \\
 & \leq c(\gamma_n^2 \|\mathcal{I}(e_{1h}^{n+1/2})\|_1^2 \\
 & + \widehat{\gamma}_n^2 \|\mathcal{I}(e_{3h}^{n+1/2})\|_1^2 \\
 & + \alpha_n), \\
 & \frac{1}{2} \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)\|^2 + \frac{Pr_B}{2} [\mathcal{D}(\|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^n\|^2) \\
 & + \mathcal{D}(\|\nabla \cdot \mathbf{e}_{3h}^n\|^2)] \\
 & \leq c\{\widehat{\alpha}_n + \gamma_n^2 \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)\|_1^2\}, \\
 & \frac{1}{2} \|\mathcal{D}(e_{4h}^n)\|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{D}(\|\nabla e_{4h}^n\|^2) \\
 & \leq c\{\widetilde{\alpha}_n + \widetilde{\gamma}_n^2 \|\mathcal{I}(e_{1h}^n)\|_1^2\},
 \end{aligned} \right. \quad (44)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_n &:= (\Delta t)^3 \|\partial_t^3 \mathbf{u}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega))}^2 & \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i, \quad \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{\alpha}_i \quad \text{and} \\ &+ \frac{h^{2k}}{\Delta t} \|(\partial_t \mathbf{u}, \partial_t p)\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times H^k)}^2 & \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^N \tilde{\alpha}_i \leq c((\Delta t)^4 + h^{2k}). \end{aligned} \tag{47}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &+ h^{2k} \|(\mathbf{u}, p)\|_{\mathcal{C}([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times H^k)}^2 \\ &+ h^{2k} \|\mathbf{B}\|_{\mathcal{C}([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1})}^2 \\ &+ h^{2k} \|\theta\|_{\mathcal{C}([t_n, t_{n+1}]; H^{k+1})}^2 \\ &+ (\Delta t)^3 \|\partial_t^2 \mathbf{B}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega))}^2 \\ &+ (\Delta t)^3 \|\partial_t^2 \mathbf{u}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega))}^2 \\ &+ \sum_{i=0}^1 [\|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-i}\|_1^2 + \|\mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n-i}\|_1^2] + \|\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n+1/2}\|_1^2 \\ &+ \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n+1/2}\|_1^2, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\alpha}_n &:= (\Delta t)^3 \|\partial_t^3 \mathbf{B}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))}^2 \\ &+ \frac{h^{2k}}{\Delta t} \|\partial_t \mathbf{B}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{H}^{k+1})}^2 \\ &+ h^{2k} \|(\mathbf{u}, p)\|_{\mathcal{C}([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times H^k)}^2 \\ &+ h^{2k} \|\mathbf{B}\|_{\mathcal{C}([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1})}^2 \\ &+ (\Delta t)^3 \|\partial_t^2 \mathbf{B}\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; \mathbf{H}^1(\Omega))}^2 \\ &+ \sum_{i=0}^2 [\|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-i}\|_1^2 + \|\mathbf{e}_{3h}^{n-i}\|_1^2], \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\alpha}_n &:= h^{2k} \|\theta\|_{\mathcal{C}([t_n, t_{n+1}]; H^{k+1})}^2 \\ &+ (\Delta t)^3 \|\partial_t^2 \theta\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; H^1(\Omega))}^2 \\ &+ \frac{h^{2k}}{\Delta t} \|\partial_t \theta\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; H^{k+1})}^2 \\ &+ (\Delta t)^3 \|\partial_t^3 \theta\|_{L^2(t_n, t_{n+1}; L^2(\Omega))}^2 \\ &+ h^{2k} \|(\mathbf{u}, p)\|_{\mathcal{C}([t_n, t_{n+1}]; \mathbf{H}^{k+1} \times H^k)}^2 \\ &+ \sum_{i=0}^1 \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^{n-i}\|_1^2 + \|\mathbf{e}_{4h}^{n+1/2}\|_1^2. \end{aligned}$$

Notice that by (33) and (43), we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^N \gamma_i^2 &\leq \min\{h^{-\frac{d}{3}}, (\Delta t)^{-2}\} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{e}_{1h}^i\|_1^2 \\ &\leq c \min\{h^{-\frac{d}{3}}, (\Delta t)^{-2}\} (h^{2k} + (\Delta t)^4) \\ &\leq c \min\{h^{2k-\frac{d}{3}} + (\Delta t)^2\} \\ &\leq c. \end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

Similarly, we can show that

$$\Delta t \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{\gamma}_i^2 \leq c \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^N \tilde{\gamma}_i^2 \leq c. \tag{46}$$

Using the regularity properties of the solution (\mathbf{u}, p, θ) and (33), we obtain

Summing (44) from $n = 1$ to m and the assumptions about initial conditions $(\mathbf{u}_h^i, \mathbf{B}_h^i, \theta_h^i)$, $i = 0, 1$, we obtain

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} &\|\nabla \mathbf{e}_{1h}^m\|^2 + \frac{2}{Pr_\theta} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^m \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n)\|^2 \\ &\leq c \left\{ \frac{4}{Pr_\theta} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^m \gamma_i^2 \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^i)\|_1^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{4}{Pr_\theta} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^m \tilde{\gamma}_i^2 \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^i)\|_1^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (\Delta t)^4 + h^{2k} \right\}, \\ &\|\nabla \times \mathbf{e}_{3h}^m\|^2 + \|\nabla \cdot \mathbf{e}_{3h}^m\|^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{Pr_B} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^m \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^n)\|^2 \\ &\leq c \left\{ \frac{4}{Pr_\theta} \Delta t \sum_{i=1}^m \gamma_i^2 \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{3h}^i)\|_1^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (\Delta t)^4 + h^{2k} \right\}, \\ &\|\nabla \mathbf{e}_{4h}^m\|^2 + 2\Delta t \sum_{i=1}^m \|\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e}_{4h}^n)\|^2 \\ &\leq c \left\{ 4\Delta t \sum_{i=1}^m \tilde{\gamma}_i^2 \|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{e}_{1h}^i)\|_1^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (\Delta t)^4 + h^{2k} \right\}. \end{aligned} \right. \tag{48}$$

The required results now follows from (45), (46) and (48). \square

Corollary 2. *Suppose the assumptions of Corollary 3.3 hold. Then the approximate pressure $p_h^{n+1/2}$ in (14) satisfies*

$$\|p - p_h\|_{l^2(L^2(\Omega))} \leq c(\Delta t^2 + h^k).$$

Proof. We provide only a sketch of the proof of this Corollary as it is similar to the proof of Theorem 2. It follows from (3.35) that

$$\Delta t \|\mathcal{D}\mathbf{e}_{1h}^n\|^2 \leq c((\Delta t)^4 + h^{2k}). \tag{49}$$

Therefore using (49) in (37), we obtain the required estimate. \square

4. Numerical results

In this section, we present a numerical example to illustrate the theoretical results of the previous section. We set $\Omega := (0, 1) \times (0, 1)$ and choose the standard piecewise quadratic finite space for approximating the magnetic field and temperature. We also choose the Taylor-Hood element pair, i.e., continuous piecewise-quadratic and continuous piecewise linear finite element space for the fluid velocity and pressure approximations,

respectively. Uniform triangular meshes are created by first dividing the rectangular domain Ω into identical small squares and then dividing each square into two triangles. We set the exact solutions to

$$\mathbf{u} = ((y + y^2)e^{-t}, (x + x^2)e^{-t})$$

$$\mathbf{B} = ((\sin(y) + y)e^{-t}, (\sin(x) + x^2)e^{-t})$$

$$p = (x + y)e^{-t}$$

$$\theta = (1 + xy)e^{-t}.$$

The right-hand side data in the MHD system, initial conditions and boundary conditions are then chosen correspondingly. For simplicity, we set the parameters Pr_θ, S, Pr_B, Ra equal to 1.0. In order to determine the order of convergence α with respect to the time step Δt , we fix the spatial spacing h and use the following approximation

$$\alpha \approx \log_2 \frac{\|\mathbf{v}_{h, \Delta t}(x, t_N) - \mathbf{v}_{h, \frac{\Delta t}{2}}(x, t_N)\|}{\|\mathbf{v}_{h, \frac{\Delta t}{2}}(x, t_N) - \mathbf{v}_{h, \frac{\Delta t}{4}}(x, t_N)\|}. \quad (50)$$

A set of values of α are listed in Table 4.1 with a fixed spacing $h = 1/32$ and varying time step $\Delta t = 1/20, 1/40, 1/80, 1/160, 1/320$, which clearly suggest the concerned orders of convergence in time are all $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2)$ for the decoupled scheme. Thus, the numerical experiments clearly suggest that the orders of convergence in time in error estimates in Theorem 2 for the L^2 - norm of \mathbf{u} , \mathbf{B} and θ are optimal.

Table 1. Convergence order of $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^\alpha)$ of the partitioned scheme at time $t_N = 1.0$, with the fixed spacing $h = \frac{1}{32}$

Δt	$\ \mathbf{u}(t_n) - \mathbf{u}_h^n\ $	Order
1/20	4.13475×10^{-5}	-
1/40	1.0724423×10^{-5}	1.9469
/80	0.2699941×10^{-5}	1.9899
1/160	0.0675874×10^{-5}	1.9981
1/320	0.0169062×10^{-5}	1.9992

Δt	$\ \mathbf{B}(t_n) - \mathbf{B}_h^n\ $	Order
1/20	3.92644×10^{-5}	-
1/40	0.9977026×10^{-5}	1.97654
/80	0.2512598×10^{-5}	1.98943
1/160	0.0630024×10^{-5}	1.9957
1/320	0.0157597×10^{-5}	1.99916

Δt	$\ \theta(t_n) - \theta_h^n\ $	Order
1/20	3.659835×10^{-5}	-
1/40	0.9312186×10^{-5}	1.9745867
/80	0.2344775×10^{-5}	1.98967
1/160	0.0588082×10^{-5}	1.99536
1/320	0.0147111×10^{-5}	1.99911

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