Journal of Inequalities and Special Functions
ISSN: 2217-4303, URL: www.ilirias.com/jiasf
Volume 10 Issue 2(2019), Pages 35-48.

# HARDY-TYPE INEQUALITIES OVER BALLS IN $\mathbb{R}^N$ FOR SOME BILINEAR AND ITERATED OPERATORS

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Abstract. Some new multidimensional Hardy-type inequalites are proved and discussed. The cases with bilinear and iterated operators are considered and some equivalence theorems are proved.

## 1. Introduction

The one-dimensional weighted Hardy inequality

$$\left(\int_0^\infty \Big(HF(x)\Big)^q W(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \le C\left(\int_0^\infty F^p(x)\,V(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, \quad F \ge 0 \tag{1.1}$$

where $HF(x) := \displaystyle\int_0^x F(t)\,dt$ is the Hardy operator, is characterized for various choices of indices $p$ and $q$. A fairly complete description both of the prehistory (until Hardy [4] proved the first result in 1925), the fascinating continued development and current status can be found in the books [9], [11], [12], [14] and the references therein.

In this paper, we shall continue to study a variant of Hardy-type inequalities, which was not discussed in the books above and we do so even in a multidimensioanl setting. First we mention that Cañestro *et al.* [1] considered the weighted bilinear Hardy operator

$$H_2(F,G)(x) := HF(x)\cdot HG(x) \tag{1.2}$$

and characterized the corresponding inequality

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 26D10, 46E35.

*Key words and phrases.* Inequalities; Hardy inequalities; bilinear Hardy inequalities; iterated Hardy operator; Hardy-Steklov operator; higher dimensional Hardy type inequalities; weights; characterizations.

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Submitted March 25, 2019. Published May 13, 2019.

The first two authors acknowledge the support of Department of Science Technology of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India (project DST/INT/RUS/RSF/P-01).

Communicated by M. Mursaleen.

$$\left(\int_0^\infty \Big(H_2(F,G)(x)\Big)^q W(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \le C\left(\int_0^\infty F^{p_1}(x)\,V_1(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}} \times \left(\int_0^\infty G^{p_2}(x)\,V_2(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}}, \quad F,\,G \ge 0 \tag{1.3}$$

for various combinations of the indices $p_1, p_2, q$. Recently, a simpler proof was given by Krepela [10] who made use of the information about one-dimensional inequality (1.1) iteratively.

The $N$-dimensional analogue over balls of the operator (1.2) is given by

$$H_2^N(f,g)(x) := H^N f(x)\cdot H^N g(x) = \int_{B(0,|x|)} f(t)\,dt \int_{B(0,|x|)} g(t)\,dt.$$

Very recently in [2], the authors studied the N-dimensional version of the inequality (1.3), i.e.,

$$\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \Big[H_2^N(f,g)(x)\Big]^q w(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \le C\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f^{p_1}(x)v_1(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}} \times \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} g^{p_2}(x)v_2(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}} \tag{1.4}$$

and obtained its weight characterization for several choices of indices $p_1, p_2$ and $q$. The authors followed the strategy of Krepela [10] by using iteratively the information about the inequality

$$\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \Big[H^N f(x)\Big]^q w(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \le C\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f^{p}(x)v(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, \tag{1.5}$$

which is already well known in the literature, see, e.g., [3] and [16]. In this strategy, depending upon the relationship among the indices $p_1, p_2$ and $q$, different proofs are required.

One of the main aims of the present paper is to reinvestigate (1.4) in a more direct way. For a complete description of standard Hardy-type inequalities in this case, see Chapter 3 of the recent book [12] and the references therein. In particular, in Section 2, we show that the $N$-dimensional inequality (1.4) is equivalent to the one-dimensional inequality (1.3) regardless of the relationship among the indices $p_1, p_2, q$ (see Theorem 2.1). Moreover, in Section 3, we then use the weight characterization of (1.3) and obtain the corresponding characterization of (1.4). We also remark that a similar equivalence between (1.1) and (1.5) was proved in [16].

We will point out that the equivalence of (1.3) and (1.4) also holds if the Hardy operators $H_2$ and $H_2^n$ are replaced by the corresponding Hardy-Steklov operators. We recall that the standard one-dimensional Hardy-Steklov operator is given by

$$SF(x) := \int_{a(x)}^{b(x)} F(t)\,dt,$$

where $a$ and $b$ are strictly increasing differentiable functions on $[0,\infty]$ satisfying $a(0) = b(0) = 0$; $a(x) < b(x)$ for $0 < x < \infty$ and $a(\infty) = b(\infty)$. The $L^p - L^q$ boundedness of $S$ has been proved in [5] while the corresponding compactness was proved in [6]. Our corresponding main results are presented as Theorem 2.2 and Theorem 3.2.

Moreover, in this paper, certain $N$-dimensional iterated Hardy type operators are studied and one of them $T^N$ is defined as follows:

$$T^N f(x) := \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus B(0,|x|)} \left( \int_{B(0,|y|)} f(z)\, dz \right)^q w(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}. \tag{1.6}$$

We show that the inequality

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left( T^N f(x) \right)^r u(x)\, dx \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \leq C \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f^p(x)\, v(x)\, dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \tag{1.7}$$

can be proved for any $N \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ by just proving the corresponding one-dimensional result for $T \equiv T^1$. More exactly, we prove that the inequalities (1.7) and

$$\left( \int_0^\infty \left( TF(x) \right)^r U(x)\, dx \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \leq C \left( \int_0^\infty F^p(x)\, V(x)\, dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, \tag{1.8}$$

where

$$TF(x) := \left( \int_x^\infty \left( \int_0^y F(z)\, dz \right)^q W(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}.$$

are equivalent. We remark that the inequality (1.8) has been investigated in [15]. Moreover, in Section 4, we state this equivalence result not only for the operator $T^N$ but also for three other iterated operators (see Theorem 4.1).

In order to avoid confusion and ambiguity, let us agree on some notations. All the functions in this paper are measurable and non-negative. The symbols $F$ and $G$ are used for one-dimensional functions while $f$ and $g$ are used for functions defined on $\mathbb{R}^N$. One-dimensional weights are denoted by the symbols $W$, $U$, $V$, $V_1$ and $V_2$ and the corresponding weights in $\mathbb{R}^N$ are denoted by $w$, $u$, $v$, $v_1$ and $v_2$, respectively. We do not use separate symbols for arguments of one-dimensional functions and higher dimensional functions since it will be clear from the context, e.g., in $F(x)$, $x \in (0, \infty)$ and in $f(x)$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$.

## 2. Equivalence theorems concerning Hardy-type inequalities for bilinear operators

A crucial point in the proofs in this paper is to use polar coordinates, i.e., for $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$, we write $x = t\tau$, where $t \in (0, \infty)$ and $\tau \in \Sigma_N$, the surface of the unit ball in $\mathbb{R}^N$.

The first main result of this section is the following:

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let $0 < q < \infty$, $1 < p_1, p_2 < \infty$ and $w, v_1, v_2$ are weight functions defined on $\mathbb{R}^N$. The inequality (1.4) holds for all $f, g \geq 0$ if and only if the inequality (1.3) holds for all $F, G \geq 0$ with*

$$W(t) := \int_{\Sigma_N} w(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau, \tag{2.1}$$

$$V_i(t) := \left( \int_{\Sigma_N} v_i^{1-p_i'}(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau \right)^{1-p_i}, \ i = 1, 2, \quad t > 0, \ \tau \in \Sigma_N. \tag{2.2}$$

*Moreover, the constant $C$ in (1.3) and (1.4) is the same.*

*Proof.* Let us first assume that the inequality (1.3) holds. For fixed $f$ and $g$, we define

$$F(t) := \int_{\Sigma_N} f(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau,$$
$$G(t) := \int_{\Sigma_N} g(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau.$$

By using Hölder's inequality, we get that

$$\begin{aligned} F(t) &= \left(\int_{\Sigma_N} f(t\tau)\, v_1^{\frac{1}{p_1}+\frac{1-p_1'}{p_1'}}(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau\right) \\ &\le \left(\int_{\Sigma_N} f^{p_1}(t\tau)\, v_1(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}} \left(\int_{\Sigma_N} v_1^{1-p_1'}(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}} \\ &= \left(\int_{\Sigma_N} f^{p_1}(t\tau)\, v_1(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}} \Big(V_1(t)\Big)^{\frac{1}{p_1'(1-p_1)}} \\ &= \left(\int_{\Sigma_N} f^{p_1}(t\tau)\, v_1(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}} \Big(V_1(t)\Big)^{-\frac{1}{p_1}}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

Similarly,

$$G(t) \le \left(\int_{\Sigma_N} g^{p_2}(t\tau)\, v_2(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}} \Big(V_2(t)\Big)^{-\frac{1}{p_2}}. \tag{2.4}$$

By changing to polar coordinates $x = s\tau$, $y = s_1\sigma$, $z = s_2\gamma$, $s, s_1, s_2 > 0$, $\tau, \sigma, \gamma \in \Sigma_N$ and using the inequalities (1.3), (2.3) and (2.4), we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \Big[H_2^N(f,g)(x)\Big]^q w(x)\, dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left(\int_{B(0,|x|)} f(y)\, dy\right)^q \left(\int_{B(0,|x|)} g(z)\, dz\right)^q w(x)\, dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= \left\{\int_0^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} \left(\int_0^s \int_{\Sigma_N} f(s_1\sigma)\, s_1^{N-1}\, d\sigma\, ds_1\right)^q \right. \\ &\qquad \left. \times \left(\int_0^s \int_{\Sigma_N} g(s_2\gamma)\, s_2^{N-1}\, d\gamma\, ds_2\right)^q w(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\, ds\right\}^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= \left(\int_0^\infty \left(\int_0^s F(s_1)\, ds_1\right)^q \left(\int_0^s G(s_2)\, ds_2\right)^q W(s)\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= \left(\int_0^\infty \Big[H_2(F,G)(s)\Big]^q W(s)\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\le C \left(\int_0^\infty F^{p_1}(s) V_1(s)\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}} \left(\int_0^\infty G^{p_2}(s) V_2(s)\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}} \\ &\le C \left(\int_0^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} f^{p_1}(s\tau)\, v_1(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}} \left(\int_0^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} g^{p_2}(s\tau)\, v_2(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$= C\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f^{p_1}(x)v_1(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}}\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} g^{p_2}(x)v_2(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}},$$

which means that (1.4) holds.

Conversely, assume that the inequality (1.4) holds. For fixed $F$ and $G$, we set

$$f(t\sigma) := F(t)v_1^{1-p_1'}(t\sigma)\Big(V_1(t)\Big)^{\frac{1}{p_1-1}},$$

$$g(t\gamma) := G(t)v_2^{1-p_2'}(t\gamma)\Big(V_2(t)\Big)^{\frac{1}{p_2-1}},$$

where $t > 0$, $\sigma, \gamma \in \Sigma_N$. This gives that

$$F(t) = \int_{\Sigma_N} f(t\sigma)\, t^{N-1}\, d\sigma,$$

$$G(t) = \int_{\Sigma_N} g(t\gamma)\, t^{N-1}\, d\gamma.$$

Therefore, by using the inequality (1.4), we get

$$\left(\int_0^\infty \Big[H_2(F,G)(s)\Big]^q W(s)\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{q}}$$

$$= \left(\int_0^\infty \left(\int_0^s F(s_1)\,ds_1\right)^q \left(\int_0^s G(s_2)\,ds_2\right)^q W(s)\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{q}}$$

$$= \Bigg\{\int_0^\infty \left(\int_0^s \int_{\Sigma_N} f(s_1\sigma)\, s_1^{N-1}\, d\sigma\, ds_1\right)^q$$

$$\times \left(\int_0^s \int_{\Sigma_N} g(s_2\gamma)\, s_2^{N-1}\, d\gamma\, ds_2\right)^q W(s)\,ds\Bigg\}^{\frac{1}{q}}$$

$$= \Bigg\{\int_0^\infty \left(\int_0^s \int_{\Sigma_N} f(s_1\sigma)\, s_1^{N-1}\, d\sigma\, ds_1\right)^q$$

$$\times \left(\int_0^s \int_{\Sigma_N} g(s_2\gamma)\, s_2^{N-1}\, d\gamma\, ds_2\right)^q \int_{\Sigma_N} w(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\, ds\Bigg\}^{\frac{1}{q}}$$

$$= \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left(\int_{B(0,|x|)} f(y)\,dy\right)^q \left(\int_{B(0,|x|)} g(z)\,dz\right)^q w(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}}$$

$$= \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \Big(H_2^N(f,g)(x)\Big)^q w(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}}$$

$$\le C\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f^{p_1}(x)\, v_1(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}}\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} g^{p_2}(x)\, v_2(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}}$$

$$= C\left(\int_0^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} f^{p_1}(s\tau)\, v_1(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}}$$

$$\times \left(\int_0^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} g^{p_2}(s\tau)\, v_2(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}}$$

$$= C\left(\int_0^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} v_1(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\left[F^{p_1}(s)v_1^{p_1(1-p_1')}(s\tau)\Big(V_1(s)\Big)^{\frac{p_1}{p_1-1}}\right]d\tau\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}}$$

$$\times \left( \int_0^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} v_2(s\tau)\, s^{N-1} \left[ G^{p_2}(s) v_2^{p_2(1-p_2')}(s\tau) \Big( V_2(s) \Big)^{\frac{p_2}{p_2-1}} \right] d\tau\, ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}}$$

$$= C \left( \int_0^\infty F^{p_1}(s) \left( \int_{\Sigma_N} v_1^{1-p_1'}(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau \right) \Big( V_1(s) \Big)^{\frac{p_1}{p_1-1}} ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}}$$

$$\times \left( \int_0^\infty G^{p_2}(s) \left( \int_{\Sigma_N} v_2^{1-p_2'}(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau \right) \Big( V_2(s) \Big)^{\frac{p_2}{p_2-1}} ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}}$$

$$= C \left( \int_0^\infty F^{p_1}(s) \Big( V_1(s) \Big)^{\frac{1}{1-p_1}} \Big( V_1(s) \Big)^{\frac{p_1}{p_1-1}} ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}}$$

$$\times \left( \int_0^\infty G^{p_2}(s) \Big( V_2(s) \Big)^{\frac{1}{1-p_2}} \Big( V_2(s) \Big)^{\frac{p_2}{p_2-1}} ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}}$$

$$= C \left( \int_0^\infty F^{p_1}(s)\, V_1(s)\, ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}} \left( \int_0^\infty G^{p_2}(s)\, V_2(s)\, ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}},$$

which means that (1.3) holds and so the proof is complete. □

Next, we consider the bilinear Hardy-Steklov operator

$$S_2(F,G)(x) := \int_{a_1(x)}^{b_1(x)} F(t)\, dt \int_{a_2(x)}^{b_2(x)} G(t)\, dt, \tag{2.5}$$

where $a_i$ and $b_i$ are the functions as the functions $a$ and $b$ for the operator $S$ defined in Section 1. For the operator $S_2$, the inequality

$$\|S_2(F,G)\|_{L^q_W} \le C\, \|F\|_{L^{p_1}_{V_1}}\, \|G\|_{L^{p_2}_{V_2}} \tag{2.6}$$

has been characterized for various choices of the indices $p_1, p_2, q$ in [7], [8]. Here, we consider the N-dimensional analogue over the balls of the operator (2.5) given by

$$S_2^N(f,g)(x) := \int_{a_1(|x|)<|y|<b_1(|x|)} f(y)\, dy \int_{a_2(|x|)<|z|<b_2(|x|)} g(z)\, dz, \quad x,y,z \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

and thereby consider the inequality

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \Big( S_2^N(f,g)(x) \Big)^q w(x)\, dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \le C \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f^{p_1}(x) v_1(x)\, dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p_1}} \times \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} g^{p_2}(x) v_2(x)\, dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p_2}}. \tag{2.7}$$

Our equivalence result for this case reads:

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let $0 < q < \infty$, $1 < p_1, p_2 < \infty$ and $w, v_1, v_2$ are weight functions defined on $\mathbb{R}^N$. The inequality (2.7) holds for all $f, g \ge 0$ if and only if the inequality (2.6) holds for all $F, G \ge 0$ with $W$, $V_1$, $V_2$ as given by (2.1) and (2.2), respectively. Also the constant $C$ in (2.6) and (2.7) is the same.*

*Proof.* The proof is completely similar to that of Theorem 2.1. Hence, we leave out the details. □

## 3. Weight characterizations of some multidimensional Hardy-type inequalities

In this section, we give the precise weight characterizations of the inequalities (1.4) and (2.7) for a great variety of parameters $q$, $p_1$ and $p_2$. Let us recall the following result proved in [1], [10]:

**Theorem A.** *Let $0 < q < \infty$, $1 < p_1, p_2 < \infty$. The inequality (1.3) holds for all $F, G \geq 0$ if and only if*

*(i) for $1 < \max(p_1, p_2) \leq q < \infty$,*

$$B_1 := \sup_{0<x<\infty} \left( \int_x^\infty W(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \int_0^x V_1^{1-p_1'}(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}} \left( \int_0^x V_2^{1-p_2'}(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}} < \infty,$$

*(ii) for $1 < p_1 \leq q < p_2 < \infty$, $\frac{1}{r_2} = \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p_2}$,*

$$B_2 := \sup_{0<x<\infty} \left( \int_0^x V_1^{1-p_1'}(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}} \left( \int_x^\infty \left( \int_y^\infty W(z)\, dz \right)^{\frac{r_2}{p_2}} \right.$$
$$\left. \times \left( \int_0^y V_2^{1-p_2'}(z)\, dz \right)^{\frac{r_2}{p_2'}} W(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{r_2}} < \infty,$$

*(iii) for $1 < p_2 \leq q < p_1 < \infty$, $\frac{1}{r_1} = \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p_1}$,*

$$B_3 := \sup_{0<x<\infty} \left( \int_0^x V_2^{1-p_2'}(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}} \left( \int_x^\infty \left( \int_y^\infty W(z)\, dz \right)^{\frac{r_1}{p_1}} \right.$$
$$\left. \times \left( \int_0^y V_1^{1-p_1'}(z)\, dz \right)^{\frac{r_1}{p_1'}} W(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{r_1}} < \infty,$$

*(iv) for $0 < q < \min(p_1, p_2) < \infty$, $\min(p_1, p_2) > 1$, $\frac{1}{q} \leq \frac{1}{p_1} + \frac{1}{p_2}$ and $\frac{1}{r_i} = \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p_i}$, $i = 1, 2$,*

$$B_4 := \sup_{0<x<\infty} \left( \int_0^x V_1^{1-p_1'}(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}} \left( \int_x^\infty \left( \int_y^\infty W(z)\, dz \right)^{\frac{r_2}{q}} \right.$$
$$\left. \times \left( \int_0^y V_2^{1-p_2'}(z)\, dz \right)^{\frac{r_2}{q'}} V_2^{1-p_2'}(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{r_2}} < \infty,$$

*and*

$$B_5 := \sup_{0<x<\infty} \left( \int_0^x V_2^{1-p_2'}(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}} \left( \int_x^\infty \left( \int_y^\infty W(z)\, dz \right)^{\frac{r_1}{q}} \right.$$
$$\left. \times \left( \int_0^y V_1^{1-p_1'}(z)\, dz \right)^{\frac{r_1}{q'}} V_1^{1-p_1'}(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{r_1}} < \infty,$$

*(v) for* $0<q<\min(p_1,p_2)<\infty$, $\min(p_1,p_2)>1$, $\frac{1}{q}>\frac{1}{p_1}+\frac{1}{p_2}$, $\frac{1}{k}=\frac{1}{q}-\frac{1}{p_1}-\frac{1}{p_2}$ *and* $\frac{1}{r_i}=\frac{1}{q}-\frac{1}{p_i}$, $i=1,2$,

$$B_6:=\left\{\int_0^\infty\left(\int_x^\infty\left(\int_y^\infty W(z)\,dz\right)^{\frac{r_2}{q}}\left(\int_0^y V_2^{1-p_2'}(z)\,dz\right)^{\frac{r_2}{q'}}V_2^{1-p_2'}(y)\,dy\right)^{\frac{k}{r_2}}\right.$$
$$\left.\times\left(\int_0^x V_1^{1-p_1'}(y)\,dy\right)^{\frac{k}{r_2'}}V_1^{1-p_1'}(x)\,dx\right\}^{\frac{1}{k}}<\infty,$$

*and*

$$B_7:=\left\{\int_0^\infty\left(\int_x^\infty\left(\int_y^\infty W(z)\,dz\right)^{\frac{r_1}{q}}\left(\int_0^y V_1^{1-p_1'}(z)\,dz\right)^{\frac{r_1}{q'}}V_1^{1-p_1'}(y)\,dy\right)^{\frac{k}{r_1}}\right.$$
$$\left.\times\left(\int_0^x V_2^{1-p_2'}(z)\,dz\right)^{\frac{k}{r_1'}}V_2^{1-p_2'}(x)\,dx\right\}^{\frac{1}{k}}<\infty.$$

Concerning the inequality (1.4), our main result reads:

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let* $0<q<\infty$, $1<p_1,p_2<\infty$ *and* $w,v_1,v_2$ *are weight functions defined on* $\mathbb{R}^N$, $N\in\mathbb{Z}_+$. *The inequality* (1.4) *holds for all* $f,g\geq 0$ *if and only if*

*(i) for* $1<\max(p_1,p_2)\leq q<\infty$,

$$B_1^N:=\sup_{0<\alpha<\infty}\left(\int_{|x|\geq\alpha}w(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}}\left(\int_{|x|\leq\alpha}v_1^{1-p_1'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}}\left(\int_{|x|\leq\alpha}v_2^{1-p_2'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}}<\infty,$$

*(ii) for* $1<p_1\leq q<p_2<\infty$, $\frac{1}{r_2}=\frac{1}{q}-\frac{1}{p_2}$,

$$B_2^N:=\sup_{0<\alpha<\infty}\left(\int_{|x|\leq\alpha}v_1^{1-p_1'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}}\left(\int_{|y|\geq\alpha}\left(\int_{|x|\geq|y|}w(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{r_2}{p_2}}\right.$$
$$\left.\times\left(\int_{|x|\leq|y|}v_2^{1-p_2'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{r_2}{p_2'}}w(y)\,dy\right)^{\frac{1}{r_2}}<\infty,$$

*(iii) for* $1<p_2\leq q<p_1<\infty$, $\frac{1}{r_1}=\frac{1}{q}-\frac{1}{p_1}$,

$$B_3^N:=\sup_{0<\alpha<\infty}\left(\int_{|x|\leq\alpha}v_2^{1-p_2'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}}\left(\int_{|y|\geq\alpha}\left(\int_{|x|\geq|y|}w(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{r_1}{p_1}}\right.$$
$$\left.\times\left(\int_{|x|\leq|y|}v_1^{1-p_1'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{r_1}{p_1'}}w(y)\,dy\right)^{\frac{1}{r_1}}<\infty,$$

*(iv) for* $0<q<\min(p_1,p_2)<\infty$, $\min(p_1,p_2)>1$, $\frac{1}{q}\leq\frac{1}{p_1}+\frac{1}{p_2}$ *and* $\frac{1}{r_i}=\frac{1}{q}-\frac{1}{p_i}$, $i=1,2$,

$$B_4^N:=\sup_{0<\alpha<\infty}\left(\int_{|x|\leq\alpha}v_1^{1-p_1'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}}\left(\int_{|y|\geq\alpha}\left(\int_{|x|\geq|y|}w(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{r_2}{q}}\right.$$

$$\times\left(\int_{|x|\le|y|} v_2^{1-p_2'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{r_2}{q'}} v_2^{1-p_2'}(y)\,dy\Bigg)^{\frac{1}{r_2}}<\infty,$$

*and*

$$B_5^N:=\sup_{0<\alpha<\infty}\left(\int_{|x|\le\alpha} v_2^{1-p_2'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}}\left(\int_{|y|\ge\alpha}\left(\int_{|x|\ge|y|} w(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{r_1}{q}}\right.$$
$$\left.\times\left(\int_{|x|\le|y|} v_1^{1-p_1'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{r_1}{q'}} v_1^{1-p_1'}(y)\,dy\right)^{\frac{1}{r_1}}<\infty.$$

*(v) for* $0<q<\min(p_1,p_2)<\infty$, $\min(p_1,p_2)>1$, $\frac{1}{q}>\frac{1}{p_1}+\frac{1}{p_2}$, $\frac{1}{k}=\frac{1}{q}-\frac{1}{p_1}-\frac{1}{p_2}$ *and* $\frac{1}{r_i}=\frac{1}{q}-\frac{1}{p_i}$, $i=1,2$,

$$B_6^N:=\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N}\left(\int_{|y|\ge|x|}\left(\int_{|z|\ge|y|} w(z)\,dz\right)^{\frac{r_2}{q}}\left(\int_{|z|\le|y|} v_2^{1-p_2'}(z)\,dz\right)^{\frac{r_2}{q'}} v_2^{1-p_2'}(y)\,dy\right)^{\frac{k}{r_2}}\right.$$
$$\left.\times\left(\int_{|z|\le|x|} v_1^{1-p_1'}(z)\,dz\right)^{\frac{k}{r_2'}} v_1^{1-p_1'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{k}}<\infty,$$

*and*

$$B_7^N:=\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N}\left(\int_{|y|\ge|x|}\left(\int_{|z|\ge|y|} w(z)\,dz\right)^{\frac{r_1}{q}}\left(\int_{|z|\le|y|} v_1^{1-p_1'}(z)\,dz\right)^{\frac{r_1}{q'}} v_1^{1-p_1'}(y)\,dy\right)^{\frac{k}{r_1}}\right.$$
$$\left.\times\left(\int_{|z|\le|x|} v_2^{1-p_2'}(z)\,dz\right)^{\frac{k}{r_1'}} v_2^{1-p_2'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{k}}<\infty.$$

*Proof.* In view of our equivalence Theorem 2.1, it is sufficient to show that the conditions $B_i^N$ are equivalent to the conditions $B_i$ of Theorem A, $i=1,2,\cdots,7$. We prove only the equivalence of $B_1^N$ and $B_1$ since the proofs of all other cases are completely similar. By using polar coordinates $x=s\tau$, $s>0,\tau\in\Sigma_N$ and using (2.1) and (2.2), we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
B_1^N &= \sup_{0<\alpha<\infty}\left(\int_{|x|\ge\alpha} w(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}}\left(\int_{|x|\le\alpha} v_1^{1-p_1'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}}\left(\int_{|x|\le\alpha} v_2^{1-p_2'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}}\\
&= \sup_{0<\alpha<\infty}\left(\int_\alpha^\infty\int_{\Sigma_N} w(s\tau)\,s^{N-1}\,d\tau\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{q}}\left(\int_0^\alpha\int_{\Sigma_N} v_1^{1-p_1'}(s\tau)\,s^{N-1}d\tau\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}}\\
&\qquad\times\left(\int_0^\alpha\int_{\Sigma_N} v_2^{1-p_2'}(s\tau)\,s^{N-1}d\tau\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}}\\
&= \sup_{0<\alpha<\infty}\left(\int_\alpha^\infty W(s)\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{q}}\left(\int_0^\alpha V_1^{\frac{1}{1-p_1}}(s)\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}}\left(\int_0^\alpha V_2^{\frac{1}{1-p_2}}(s)\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}}
\end{aligned}$$

$$= \sup_{0<\alpha<\infty} \left(\int_\alpha^\infty W(s)\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_0^\alpha V_1^{1-p_1'}(s)\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}} \left(\int_0^\alpha V_2^{1-p_2'}(s)\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}}$$
$$= B_1$$

and the assertion follows. □

Let us choose a function $\sigma_i$ such that $a_i(x) < \sigma_i(x) < b_i(x)$ and

$$\int_{a_i(x)}^{\sigma_i(x)} v_i^{p_i'} = \int_{\sigma_i(x)}^{b_i(x)} v_i^{p_i'}, \quad x > 0.$$

Moreover, let $a_i^{-1}$, $b_i^{-1}$, $\sigma_i^{-1}$ be the inverse functions of $a_i$, $b_i$, $\sigma_i$, respectively. Denote

$$\begin{aligned}
&\Delta_i(t) := (a_i(t), b_i(t)),\\
&\Delta_i^{-1}(t) := (a_i^{-1}(t), b_i^{-1}(t)),\\
&\delta_i(t) := (b_i^{-1}(\sigma_i(t)), a_i^{-1}(\sigma_i(t))),\\
&\delta_i^{-1}(t) := (a_i^{(}\sigma_i^{-1}(t)), b_i(\sigma_i^{-1}(t))), \quad i = 1, 2.
\end{aligned}$$

On the similar lines as in the proof of Theorem 3.1, using the information for the bilinear Hardy-Steklov inequality in [7], [8] and applying Theorem 2.2, the following equivalence theorem can be proved:

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let $0 < q < \infty$, $1 < p_1, p_2 < \infty$ and $w, v_1, v_2$ are weight functions defined on $\mathbb{R}^N$, $N \in \mathbb{Z}_+$. The inequality (2.7) holds for all $f, g \geq 0$ if and only if*

*(i) for $1 < \max(p_1, p_2) \leq q < \infty$,*

$$BS_1^N := \sup_{t,s>0} \left(\int_{\delta_1(|t|)\cap\delta_2(|s|)} w^q\right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_{\Delta_1(|t|)} v_1^{1-p_1'}\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}} \left(\int_{\Delta_2(|s|)} v_2^{1-p_2'}\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}} < \infty,$$

*(ii) for $1 < p_1 \leq q < p_2 < \infty$, $\frac{1}{r_2} = \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p_2}$,*

$$BS_2^N := \sup_{t>0} \left(\int_{\Delta_1(|t|)} v_1^{1-p_1'}\right)^{\frac{1}{p_1'}} \left(\int_{\delta_1(|t|)} \left(\int_{\delta_1(|t|)\cap\delta_2(|s|)} w^q\right)^{\frac{r_2}{p_2}} \times \left(\int_{\Delta_2(|s|)} v_2^{1-p_2'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{r_2}{p_2'}} w^q(s)\,ds\right)^{\frac{1}{r_2}} < \infty,$$

*(iii) for $1 < p_2 \leq q < p_1 < \infty$, $\frac{1}{r_1} = \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p_1}$,*

$$BS_3^N := \sup_{s>0} \left(\int_{\Delta_1(|s|)} v_2^{1-p_2'}\right)^{\frac{1}{p_2'}} \left(\int_{\delta_2(|s|)} \left(\int_{\delta_1(|t|)\cap\delta_2(|s|)} w^q\right)^{\frac{r_1}{p_1}} \times \left(\int_{\Delta_1(|t|)} v_1^{1-p_1'}(x)\,dx\right)^{\frac{r_1}{p_1'}} w^q(t)\,dt\right)^{\frac{1}{r_1}} < \infty.$$

**Remark.** *In Theorem 3.2, the remaining cases, namely* $0 < q < \min(p_1, p_2) < \infty$, $\min(p_1, p_2) > 1$, $\frac{1}{q} \le \frac{1}{p_1} + \frac{1}{p_2}$ *and* $0 < q < \min(p_1, p_2) < \infty$, $\min(p_1, p_2) > 1$, $\frac{1}{q} > \frac{1}{p_1} + \frac{1}{p_2}$ *can also be handled as the other cases but since it requires introducing additional and cumbersome notations, we therefore leave out the formulation of these cases.*

## 4. An equivalence theorem for iterated Hardy-type operators

Here we consider the $N$-dimensional iterated Hardy type operators $T_1^N$, $T_2^N$, $T_3^N$ and $T_4^N$ defined by

$$T_1^N f(x) := \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus B(0,|x|)} \left( \int_{B(0,|y|)} f(z)\, dz \right)^q w(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q}},$$

$$T_2^N f(x) := \left( \int_{B(0,|x|)} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus B(0,|y|)} f(z)\, dz \right)^q w(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q}},$$

$$T_3^N f(x) := \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus B(0,|x|)} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus B(0,|y|)} f(z)\, dz \right)^q w(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q}},$$

$$T_4^N f(x) := \left( \int_{B(0,|x|)} \left( \int_{B(0,|y|)} f(z)\, dz \right)^q w(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}$$

which are the $N$-dimensional analogues of the corresponding one-dimensional operators $T_1$, $T_2$, $T_3$ and $T_4$ defined, respectively, by

$$T_1 F(x) := \left( \int_x^\infty \left( \int_0^y F(z)\, dz \right)^q W(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q}},$$

$$T_2 F(x) := \left( \int_0^x \left( \int_y^\infty F(z)\, dz \right)^q W(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q}},$$

$$T_3 F(x) := \left( \int_x^\infty \left( \int_y^\infty F(z)\, dz \right)^q W(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q}},$$

$$T_4 F(x) := \left( \int_0^x \left( \int_0^y F(z)\, dz \right)^q W(y)\, dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}.$$

Our main result in this section reads:

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let* $0 < r < \infty$, $1 < p < \infty$ *and* $u, v$ *be weight functions defined on* $\mathbb{R}^N$. *The Hardy-type inequality*

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left( (T_1^N f)(x) \right)^r u(x)\, dx \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \le C \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f^p(x)\, v(x)\, dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \tag{4.1}$$

*holds for all* $f \ge 0$ *if and only if the inequality*

$$\left( \int_0^\infty \left( (T_1 F)(s) \right)^r U(s)\, ds \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \le C \left( \int_0^\infty F^p(s)\, V(s)\, ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \tag{4.2}$$

*holds for* $F \geq 0$ *with* $W$ *given by* (2.1) *and* $U$, $V$ *given by*

$$U(t) := \int_{\Sigma_N} u(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau, \tag{4.3}$$

$$V(t) := \left(\int_{\Sigma_N} v^{1-p'}(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau\right)^{1-p}, \quad t > 0,\ \tau \in \Sigma_N. \tag{4.4}$$

*Proof.* Let us first assume that the inequality (4.2) holds. Let us fix $f$ and choose

$$F(t) := \int_{\Sigma_N} f(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau.$$

By using Hölder's inequality, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} F(t) &\leq \left(\int_{\Sigma_N} f^p(t\tau)\, v(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_{\Sigma_N} v^{1-p'}(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau\right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \\ &= \left(\int_{\Sigma_N} f^p(t\tau)\, v(t\tau)\, t^{N-1}\, d\tau\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \Big(V(t)\Big)^{-\frac{1}{p}} \end{aligned} \tag{4.5}$$

Changing to polar coordinates $x = s\tau$, $y = s_1\sigma$, $z = s_2\gamma$ , $s, s_1, s_2 > 0$, $\tau, \sigma, \gamma \in \Sigma_N$ and using the inequalities (4.2) and (4.5), we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \Big((T_1^N f)(x)\Big)^r u(x)\, dx\right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \\ &= \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus B(0,|x|)} \left(\int_{B(0,|y|)} f(z)\, dz\right)^q w(y)\, dy\right)^{\frac{r}{q}} u(x)\, dx\right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \\ &= \Bigg\{\int_0^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} \left(\int_s^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} \left(\int_0^{s_1} \int_{\Sigma_N} f(s_2\gamma)\, s_2^{N-1}\, d\gamma\, ds_2\right)^q w(s_1\sigma)\, s_1^{N-1}\, d\sigma\, ds_1\right)^{\frac{r}{q}} \\ &\qquad\qquad \times u(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\, ds\Bigg\}^{\frac{1}{r}} \\ &= \left(\int_0^\infty \left(\int_s^\infty \left(\int_0^{s_1} F(s_2)\, ds_2\right)^q W(s_1)\, ds_1\right)^{\frac{r}{q}} U(s)\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \\ &= \left(\int_0^\infty \Big((T_1 F)(s)\Big)^r U(s)\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \\ &\leq C \left(\int_0^\infty F^p(s)\, V(s)\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \\ &\leq C \left(\int_0^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} f^p(s\tau)\, v(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \\ &= C \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f^p(x)\, v(x)\, dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \end{aligned}$$

which means that (4.1) holds.

Conversely, assume that the inequality (4.1) holds. Let us fix $F$ and choose

$$f(t\gamma) := F(t) v^{1-p'}(t\gamma) \Big(V(t)\Big)^{\frac{1}{p-1}},$$

where $t > 0$, $\gamma \in \Sigma_N$. That gives that

$$F(t) = \int_{\Sigma_N} f(t\gamma)\, t^{N-1}\, d\gamma. \tag{4.6}$$

Now, by using (4.6) and the inequality (4.1), we obtain that

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\left(\int_0^\infty \Big((T_1F)(s)\Big)^r U(s)\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{r}}\\
&= \left(\int_0^\infty \left(\int_s^\infty \left(\int_0^{s_1} F(s_2)\, ds_2\right)^q W(s_1)\, ds_1\right)^{\frac{r}{q}} U(s)\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{r}}\\
&= \left\{\int_0^\infty \left(\int_s^\infty \left(\int_0^{s_1} \int_{\Sigma_N} f(s_2\gamma)\, s_2^{N-1}\, d\gamma\, ds_2\right)^q \int_{\Sigma_N} w(s_1\sigma)\, s_1^{N-1}\, d\sigma\, ds_1\right)^{\frac{r}{q}}\right.\\
&\qquad\qquad \left. \times \int_{\Sigma_N} u(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\, ds\right\}^{\frac{1}{r}}\\
&= \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N\setminus B(0,|x|)} \left(\int_{B(0,|y|)} f(z)\, dz\right)^q w(y)\, dy\right)^{\frac{r}{q}} u(x)\, dx\right)^{\frac{1}{r}}\\
&= \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \Big((T_1^N f)(x)\Big)^r u(x)\, dx\right)^{\frac{1}{r}}\\
&\le C\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f^p(x)\, v(x)\, dx\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}\\
&= C\left(\int_0^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} f^p(s\tau)\, v(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}\\
&= C\left(\int_0^\infty \int_{\Sigma_N} \left[F(s) v^{1-p'}(s\tau)\Big(V(s)\Big)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}\right]^p v(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}\\
&= C\left(\int_0^\infty F^p(s)\left(\int_{\Sigma_N} v^{1-p'}(s\tau)\, s^{N-1}\, d\tau\right)\Big(V(s)\Big)^{\frac{p}{p-1}}\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}\\
&= C\left(\int_0^\infty F^p(s)\Big(V(s)\Big)^{\frac{1}{1-p}}\Big(V(s)\Big)^{\frac{p}{p-1}}\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}\\
&= C\left(\int_0^\infty F^p(s) V(s)\, ds\right)^{\frac{1}{p}},
\end{aligned}
$$

so (4.2) holds. The proof is complete. □

**Remark.** *Theorem 4.1 can also be proved if $T_1^N$ in* (4.1) *is replaced by any of the remaining operators $T_2^N$, $T_3^N$, $T_4^N$ and correspondingly in* (4.2)*, $T_1$ is replaced by any of the operators $T_2$, $T_3$ and $T_4$, respectively.*

**Remark.** *Weight characterization for the inequality* (4.2) *can be obtained on the similar lines as in Theorems 3.1 and 3.2, as soon as the corresponding weight characterization of the one-dimensional case has been derived (c.f.* (4.2)*).*

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