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ON ESTIMATES FOR NORMS OF SOME INTEGRAL OPERATORS
WITH OINAROV'S KERNEL

K. Kuliev

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Key words: integral operator, norm, weight function, Lebesgue space, integral inequality, kernel.

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Abstract. In this work, we give estimates for the norm of the integral operator

$$H : L_{p,v} \rightarrow L_{q,u}, (Hf)(x) := \int_a^x k(x,t)f(t)dt \tag{0.1}$$

with the so-called *Oinarov's kernel* $k(x,t)$ in the weighted Lebesgue spaces

$$L_{p,v} = \{f : \|f\|_{p,v}^p := \int_a^b |f(t)|^p v(t)dt < \infty\}$$

and

$$L_{q,u} = \{f : \|f\|_{q,u}^q := \int_a^b |f(t)|^q u(t)dt < \infty\},$$

in the case $1 < q < p < \infty$.

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1 Introduction

Let $(a,b) \subset R$ and u,v be weight functions in (a,b) , i.e., positive measurable functions defined a.e. in (a,b) . If $k(x,t) \equiv 1$ then V.G. Mazya and A.L. Rozin [7, Theorem 5, p. 47] proved that the condition

$$B = \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_a^t v^{1-p'}(\tau)d\tau \right)^{\frac{r}{q'}} \left(\int_t^b u(\tau)d\tau \right)^{\frac{r}{q}} v^{1-p'}(t)dt \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} < \infty$$

is necessary and sufficient for the boundedness of operator (0.1) and that the following estimates hold

$$\left(\frac{p-q}{p} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} B \leq \|H\| \leq (p')^{\frac{1}{pq'}} q^{\frac{1}{q}} B,$$

where $1 < q < p < \infty$, $p' = p/(p-1)$ and $1/r = 1/q - 1/p$. This case is well studied and other conditions and estimates have also been found by various scholars, e.g., by Persson-Stepanov in [13] and by Kufner-Kuliev in [5].

The problem of boundedness of operator (0.1) with different type of kernels in the weighted Lebesgue spaces began to be studied in the last decades of the last century. Let us now give some

results concerning operators of this type. For example, F.J. Martin-Reyes and E. Sawyer [10] considered the operator with the kernel $k(x, t) = \varphi\left(\frac{t}{x}\right)$, where $\varphi : (0, 1) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ is non-increasing and satisfies the following inequality: for some $C_0 > 0$

$$\varphi(ab) \leq C_0(\varphi(a) + \varphi(b)) \quad \text{for } 0 < a, b < 1,$$

and V.D. Stepanov [15] considered Volterra convolution operators, i.e., operator (0.1) with the kernel $k(x, t) = \varphi(x - t)$, where φ satisfies the following conditions:

- (a) $\varphi(x) \geq 0$ is non-decreasing on $(0, \infty)$,
- (b) for some $C > 0$, $\varphi(x + y) \leq C(\varphi(x) + \varphi(y))$ for all $x, y \in (0, \infty)$.

S. Bloom and R. Kerman [2] and R. Oinarov [11, 12] gave equivalent conditions for the boundedness of operator (0.1) for kernels $k(x, t)$ which are continuous nonnegative functions increasing in the first argument, decreasing in the second argument and satisfying the condition: there exists a number $h \geq 1$ such that

$$k(x, s) \leq h(k(x, t) + k(t, s))$$

for all $a < s \leq t \leq x < b$. Functions $k(x, t)$ satisfying the above conditions are called *Oinarov's kernels*, which includes also the above kernels. In works [1] and [4] the boundedness of a certain class of integral operators (Riemann-Liouville operators) in various spaces are considered, as well as in the multidimensional case [14]. In [16] was studied properties of discrete operators with a kernel that satisfy the discrete analogue of the Oinarov-type condition.

In works on this topic, the main focus was on finding equivalent conditions for the boundedness of operator (0.1), while exact estimates for the operator norms are very rare. However, in the theory of differential equations and in other fields of mathematics it is very important to obtain exact estimates. In [6] the main purpose was to study another object, but the authors also gave estimates for the norm of the operator with a kernel of a polynomial function.

It should also be noted that recently, in 2021 A. Kalybay and A. Baiarystanov [3] gave estimates for the norm of operator (0.1) with Oinarov's kernel in the case $1 < p \leq q < \infty$. In this work we consider the remaining case $1 < q < p < \infty$.

The paper is organized as follows. The first section is introduction. In the second section we give the main results. The proofs of the results are given in the third section.

2 Main results

In this section, we give our main results about the lower and upper estimates for the norm of operator (0.1). Therefore, we first pay attention to the boundedness of the operator. In [11] R. Oinarov proved that the finiteness of

$$B_0 := \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_x^b k^q(t, x) u(t) dt \right)^{\frac{r}{q}} \left(\int_a^x v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{\frac{r}{q'}} v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{r}}$$

and

$$B_1 := \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_x^b u(t) dt \right)^{\frac{r}{p}} \left(\int_a^x k^{p'}(x, t) v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{\frac{r}{p'}} v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{r}},$$

where $p' = \frac{p}{p-1}$, $q' = \frac{q}{q-1}$ and $\frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}$, is equivalent to the boundedness of operator (0.1). So, we further suppose that

$$B_0 < \infty, \quad B_1 < \infty. \tag{2.1}$$

Then our first result reads:

Theorem 2.1. *Let $1 < q < p < \infty$ and (2.1) hold. Then the norm of operator H satisfies the inequality*

$$\max \left\{ q \left(\frac{p'}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} B_0, p' \left(\frac{q}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_1 \right\} \leq \|H\| \leq X, \quad (2.2)$$

where X is the unique positive solution of the equation

$$X^{q'} - hq^{\frac{1}{q-1}} (p')^{\frac{1}{p'(q-1)}} (q')^{\frac{1}{p'(q-1)}} B^{\frac{1}{q-1}} X = hq^{\frac{1}{q-1}} p' (p-1)^{\frac{2}{p}} B^{q'} \quad (2.3)$$

and $B = \max\{B_0, B_1\}$.

Remark 1. *Equation (2.3) has a unique positive solution, since*

$$h(x) = \frac{x^{q'}}{q^{\frac{1}{q-1}} p' (p-1)^{\frac{2}{p}} B^{q'} + q^{\frac{1}{q-1}} (p')^{\frac{1}{p'(q-1)}} (q')^{\frac{1}{p'(q-1)}} B^{\frac{1}{q-1}} x}$$

is a continuous and monotonically increasing function of x in $(0, \infty)$, $h(0) = 0$ and $h(\infty) = \infty$.

Example. Let $q = 2$ and $h \geq 1$. Then equation (2.3) and its positive solution take the forms

$$X^2 - 2^{\frac{p+1}{p}} h (p')^{\frac{1}{p'}} B X = 2h p' (p-1)^{\frac{2}{p}} B^2$$

and

$$X = \left(2^{\frac{1}{p}} (p')^{\frac{1}{p'}} h + \sqrt{2^{\frac{2}{p}} (p')^{\frac{2}{p'}} h^2 + 2h p' (p-1)^{\frac{2}{p}} B} \right) B,$$

respectively.

Remark 2. *Similarly, the above results can be given for the following integral operator*

$$H^* : L_{p,v} \rightarrow L_{q,u}, \quad (H^* f)(x) := \int_x^b k(t, x) g(t) dt. \quad (2.4)$$

For H^*

$$\max \left\{ q \left(\frac{p'}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} B_0^*, p' \left(\frac{q}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_1^* \right\} \leq \|H^*\| \leq X,$$

where X is the unique positive solution of (2.3) with $B = \max\{B_0^*, B_1^*\}$,

$$B_0^* = \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_a^x k^q(x, t) u(t) dt \right)^{\frac{r}{q}} \left(\int_x^b v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{\frac{r}{q'}} v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{r}},$$

$$B_1^* = \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_a^x u(t) dt \right)^{\frac{r}{p}} \left(\int_x^b k^{p'}(t, x) v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{\frac{r}{p'}} u(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{r}}.$$

Theorem 2.2. *Let $1 < q < p < \infty$ and (2.1) hold. Then the norm of operator H satisfies the inequality*

$$\min \left\{ q \left(\frac{p'}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} , p' \left(\frac{q}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \right\} B \leq \|H\| \leq q \left(h p' + h^q (p')^{\frac{q'}{p'}} (q')^{\frac{q'}{p}} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} B.$$

3 Proofs

In this section we give proofs of the main results. The assumptions in (2.1) imply the boundedness of operator (0.1), i.e., the following Hardy type inequality: for some $C > 0$

$$\left(\int_a^b \left(\int_a^x k(x,t) f(t) dt \right)^q u(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \leq C \left(\int_a^b f^p(t) v(t) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \quad (3.1)$$

for all $f \in L_p(v)$.

Proof of Theorem 2.1. (The lower estimate.) If we choose

$$\bar{f}(t) = \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t) u(x) dx \right)^{\frac{r}{pq}} \left(\int_a^t v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{r}{pq'}} v^{1-p'}(t),$$

then $B_0^{\frac{r}{p}} = \|\bar{f}\|_{p,v}$ and substituting \bar{f} into (3.1) we have

$$\begin{aligned} CB_0^{\frac{r}{p}} &= C \|\bar{f}\|_{p,v} \geq \|H\bar{f}\|_{q,v} = \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_a^x k(x,t) \bar{f}(t) dt \right)^q u(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= \left(q \int_a^b \left(\int_a^x k(x,t) \bar{f}(t) \left(\int_a^t k(x,s) \bar{f}(s) ds \right)^{q-1} dt \right) u(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= q^{\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_a^b \bar{f}(t) \left(\int_t^b k(x,t) u(x) \left(\int_a^t k(x,s) \bar{f}(s) ds \right)^{q-1} dx \right) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used Fubini's theorem. Since $k(x,t)$ is monotonically decreasing with respect to the second argument we get

$$\begin{aligned} CB_0^{\frac{r}{p}} &\geq q^{\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_a^b \bar{f}(t) \left(\int_t^b k(x,t) u(x) \left(\int_a^t k(x,t) \bar{f}(s) ds \right)^{q-1} dx \right) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= q^{\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_a^b \bar{f}(t) \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t) u(x) dx \right) \left(\int_a^t \bar{f}(s) ds \right)^{q-1} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= q^{\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_a^b \bar{f}(t) \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t) u(x) dx \right) \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left(\int_a^t \left(\int_s^b k^q(x,s) u(x) \right)^{\frac{r}{pq}} \left(\int_a^s v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{r}{pq'}} v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{q-1} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\geq q^{\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_a^b \bar{f}(t) \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t) u(x) dx \right)^{1+\frac{r(q-1)}{pq}} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left(\int_a^t \left(\int_a^s v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{r}{pq'}} v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{q-1} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= q^{\frac{1}{q}} \left(\frac{1}{\frac{r}{pq'} + 1} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} \left(\int_a^b \bar{f}(t) \left(\int_t^b k^q(x, t) u(x) dx \right)^{1 + \frac{r(q-1)}{pq'}} \right. \\
&\quad \left. \times \left(\int_a^t v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_a^t v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
&= q \left(\frac{p'}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_t^b k^q(x, t) u(x) dx \right)^{\frac{r}{q}} \left(\int_a^t v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{r}{q'}} v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
&= q \left(\frac{p'}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} B_0^{\frac{r}{q}}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$C \geq q \left(\frac{p'}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} B_0.$$

To prove an analogous assertion for B_1 , we use the equivalent inequality (the so-called conjugate inequality, see [8, pp. 78-79]) to (3.1) with the same constant C :

$$\left(\int_a^b \left(\int_x^b k(t, x) g(t) dt \right)^{p'} v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \leq C \left(\int_a^b g^{q'}(x) u^{1-q'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}}, \quad (3.2)$$

for all $g \in L_{q'}(u^{1-q'})$. Let

$$\bar{g}(t) = \left(\int_t^b u(x) dx \right)^{\frac{r}{pq'}} \left(\int_a^t k^{p'}(t, x) v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{r}{p'q'}} u(t)$$

then $B_1^{\frac{r}{q'}} = \|\bar{g}\|_{q', u^{1-q'}}$ and substituting \bar{g} into (3.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
CB_1^{\frac{r}{q'}} &= C \|\bar{g}\|_{q', u^{1-q'}} \geq \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_x^b k(t, x) \bar{g}(t) dt \right)^{p'} v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \\
&= \left(p' \int_a^b \left(\int_x^b k(t, x) \bar{g}(t) \left(\int_t^b k(\tau, x) \bar{g}(\tau) d\tau \right)^{p'-1} dt \right) v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}},
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used Fubini's theorem. Since the function $k(x, t)$ is monotonically increasing with the first argument we get

$$\begin{aligned}
CB_1^{\frac{r}{q'}} &\geq (p')^{\frac{1}{p'}} \left(\int_a^b \bar{g}(t) \left(\int_a^t k(t, x) v^{1-p'}(x) \left(\int_t^b k(t, x) \bar{g}(\tau) d\tau \right)^{p'-1} dx \right) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \\
&= (p')^{\frac{1}{p'}} \left(\int_a^b \bar{g}(t) \left(\int_a^t k^{p'}(t, x) v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right) \left(\int_t^b \bar{g}(\tau) d\tau \right)^{p'-1} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \\
&= (p')^{\frac{1}{p'}} \left(\int_a^b \bar{g}(t) \left(\int_a^t k^{p'}(t, x) v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \times \left(\int_t^a \left(\int_\tau^b u(x) dx \right)^{\frac{r}{pq'}} \left(\int_a^\tau k^{p'}(\tau, x) v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{r}{p'q'}} u(\tau) d\tau \right)^{p'-1} dt \Big)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \\
& \geq (p')^{\frac{1}{p'}} \left(\int_a^b \bar{g}(t) \left(\int_a^t k^{p'}(t, x) v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{1+\frac{r(p'-1)}{p'q'}} \right. \\
& \quad \left. \times \left(\int_t^b \left(\int_\tau^b u(x) dx \right)^{\frac{r}{pq'}} u(\tau) d\tau \right)^{p'-1} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \\
& = (p')^{\frac{1}{p'}} \left(\frac{1}{\frac{r}{pq'} + 1} \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \left(\int_a^b \bar{g}(t) \left(\int_a^t k^{p'}(t, x) v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{1+\frac{r(p'-1)}{p'q'}} \right. \\
& \quad \left. \times \left(\int_t^b u(\tau) d\tau \right)^{(1+\frac{r}{pq'})(p'-1)} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \\
& = p' \left(\frac{q}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_t^b u(\tau) d\tau \right)^{\frac{r}{p}} \left(\int_a^t k^{1-p'}(t, x) v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{r}{p'}} u(t) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \\
& = p' \left(\frac{q}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_1^{\frac{r}{p'}}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$C \geq p' \left(\frac{q}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_1.$$

So, we finally obtain that

$$C \geq \max \left\{ q \left(\frac{p'}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} B_0, p' \left(\frac{q}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_1 \right\},$$

which implies the lower estimate for the norm, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \max \left\{ q \left(\frac{p'}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}}, p' \left(\frac{q}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \right\} B \leq \max \left\{ q \left(\frac{p'}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} B_0, p' \left(\frac{q}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_1 \right\} \\
& \leq \|H\| = \inf \{ C \geq 0 : \|Hf\|_{q,u} \leq C \|f\|_{p,v} \text{ for all } f \in L_{p,v} \}.
\end{aligned}$$

(The upper estimate.) Let us denote

$$I = \int_a^b \left(\int_a^x k(x, t) f(t) dt \right)^q u(x) dx,$$

then we get

$$\begin{aligned}
I &= \int_a^b \left(\int_a^x \frac{d}{dt} \left(\int_a^t k(x, s) f(s) ds \right)^q dt \right) u(x) dx \\
&= q \int_a^b \left(\int_a^x k(x, t) f(t) \left(\int_a^t k(x, s) f(s) ds \right)^{q-1} dt \right) u(x) dx
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= q \int_a^b f(t) \left(\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x) \left(\int_a^t k(x,s)f(s)ds \right)^{q-1} dx \right) dt \\
 &\leq q \|f\|_{p,v} \left(\int_a^b v^{1-p'}(t) \left(\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x) \left(\int_a^t k(x,s)f(s)ds \right)^{q-1} dx \right)^{p'} dt \right)^{1/p'} \\
 &= q \|f\|_{p,v} J^{1/p'}. \tag{3.3}
 \end{aligned}$$

We now proceed by estimating J . To do this, we estimate its inner integral separately. Using Hölder's inequality with the exponents $\frac{[q]}{q-1}$ and $\frac{[q]}{1-\{q\}}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x) \left(\int_a^t k(x,s)f(s)ds \right)^{q-1} dx \\
 &= \int_t^b \left[k^{\{q\}}(x,t)u(x) \left(\int_a^t k(x,s)f(s)ds \right)^{[q]} \right]^{\frac{q-1}{[q]}} \times [k^q(x,t)u(x)]^{\frac{1-\{q\}}{[q]}} dx \\
 &\leq \left(\int_t^b k^{\{q\}}(x,t)u(x) \left(\int_a^t k(x,s)f(s)ds \right)^{[q]} dx \right)^{\frac{q-1}{[q]}} \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{1-\{q\}}{[q]}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We derive the following estimate by using the properties of Oinarov's kernel and then Newton's binomial formula

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\leq h^{q-1} \left(\int_t^b k^{\{q\}}(x,t)u(x) \left(k(x,t) \int_a^t f(s)ds + \int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right)^{[q]} dx \right)^{\frac{q-1}{[q]}} \\
 &\quad \times \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{1-\{q\}}{[q]}} \\
 &= h^{q-1} \left(\int_t^b k^{\{q\}}(x,t)u(x) \left(\sum_{n=0}^{[q]} C_{[q]}^n k^n(x,t) \left(\int_a^t f(s)ds \right)^n \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. \times \left(\int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right)^{[q]-n} \right) dx \right)^{\frac{q-1}{[q]}} \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{1-\{q\}}{[q]}} \\
 &= h^{q-1} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{[q]} C_{[q]}^n \left(\int_t^b k^{\{q\}+n}(x,t)u(x)dx \right) \left(\int_a^t f(s)ds \right)^n \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \times \left(\int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right)^{[q]-n} dx \right)^{\frac{q-1}{[q]}} \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{1-\{q\}}{[q]}}. \tag{3.4}
 \end{aligned}$$

Using the Hölder inequality to the first integral of the sum for $0 < n < [q]$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_t^b k^{\{q\}+n}(x,t)u(x)dx &= \int_t^b (k^q(x,t)u(x))^{\frac{n-1+\{q\}}{q-1}} (k(x,t)u(x))^{\frac{[q]-n}{q-1}} dx \\
 &\leq \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{n-1+\{q\}}{q-1}} \left(\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{[q]-n}{q-1}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then (3.4) is estimated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq h^{q-1} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{[q]} C_{[q]}^n \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{n-1+\{q\}}{q-1}} \left(\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{[q]-n}{q-1}} \left(\int_a^t f(s)ds \right)^n \right. \\
&\quad \times \left. \left(\int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right)^{[q]-n} dx \right)^{\frac{q-1}{[q]}} \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{1-\{q\}}{[q]}} \\
&= h^{q-1} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{[q]} C_{[q]}^n \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{n}{q-1}} \left(\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{[q]-n}{q-1}} \right. \\
&\quad \times \left. \left(\int_a^t f(s)ds \right)^n \left(\int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right)^{[q]-n} dx \right)^{\frac{q-1}{[q]}} \\
&= h^{q-1} \left(\left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \left(\int_a^t f(s)ds \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \left(\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \left(\int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right) \right)^{q-1}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x) \left(\int_a^t k(x,s)f(s)ds \right)^{q-1} dx \\
&\leq h^{q-1} \left[\left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \left(\int_a^t f(s)ds \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \left(\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \left(\int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right) \right]^{q-1}.
\end{aligned}$$

From this we get

$$\begin{aligned}
J &= \int_a^b v^{1-p'}(t) \left(\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x) \left(\int_a^t k(x,s)f(s)ds \right)^{q-1} dx \right)^{p'} dt \\
&\leq h^{(q-1)p'} \int_a^b v^{1-p'}(t) \left[\left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \left(\int_a^t f(s)ds \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \left(\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \left(\int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right) \right]^{(q-1)p'} dt.
\end{aligned}$$

Using the Minkowski inequality, we obtain

$$\leq h^{(q-1)p'} \left(\left[\int_a^b v^{1-p'}(t) \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{p'} \left(\int_a^t f(s)ds \right)^{(q-1)p'} dt \right]^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \left[\int_a^b v^{1-p'}(t) \left(\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{p'} \left(\int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right)^{(q-1)p'} dt \right]^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}}^{(q-1)p'} \\
& = h^{(q-1)p'} \left(I_1^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} + I_2^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} \right)^{(q-1)p'},
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
I_1 &= \int_a^b v^{1-p'}(t) \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{p'} \left(\int_a^t f(s)ds \right)^{(q-1)p'} dt, \\
I_2 &= \int_a^b v^{1-p'}(t) \left(\int_t^b k(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{p'} \left(\int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right)^{(q-1)p'} dt.
\end{aligned}$$

From this we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
I &\leq q \|f\|_{p,v} J^{1/p'} \leq q \|f\|_{p,v} h^{q-1} \left(I_1^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} + I_2^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} \right)^{q-1}, \\
I^{\frac{1}{q-1}} &\leq q^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \|f\|_{p,v}^{\frac{1}{q-1}} h \left(I_1^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} + I_2^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} \right). \tag{3.5}
\end{aligned}$$

Next we estimate I_1 and I_2 , separately. Let us begin with I_1 , for which we use the following Hardy inequality

$$\begin{aligned}
I_1^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} &= \left(\int_a^b v^{1-p'}(t) \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{p'} \left(\int_a^t f(s)ds \right)^{(q-1)p'} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} \\
&\leq C_{p,(q-1)p'} \left(\int_a^b f^p(t)v(t)dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, \tag{3.6}
\end{aligned}$$

since $(q-1)p' < p$ if the corresponding equivalent condition is satisfied:

$$\begin{aligned}
A_1 &= \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_t^b v^{1-p'}(s) \left(\int_s^b k^q(x,s)u(x)dx \right)^{p'} ds \right)^{\frac{\tilde{r}}{(q-1)p'}} \right. \\
&\quad \left. \times \left(\int_a^t v^{1-p'}(s)ds \right)^{\frac{\tilde{r}}{(q-1)p'}} v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{\tilde{r}}} < \infty,
\end{aligned}$$

where $\frac{1}{\tilde{r}} = \frac{1}{(q-1)p'} - \frac{1}{p}$. Now we show that $A_1 < \infty$. Let denote $\bar{p} = \frac{\tilde{r}}{(q-1)p'}$,

$$\bar{u}(t) = \left(\int_a^t v^{1-p'}(s)ds \right)^{\frac{\tilde{r}}{(q-1)p'}} v^{1-p'}(t)$$

and

$$\bar{v}(t) = v^{\frac{rp'}{p^2q'}}(t) \left(\int_a^t v^{1-p'}(t)dt \right)^{\frac{r}{q'}}.$$

Then using the Hardy inequality for the function $\bar{f}(t) = v^{1-p'}(t) \left(\int_t^b k^q(x,t)u(x)dx \right)^{p'}$ we obtain

$$A_1^{(q-1)p'} = \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_t^b \bar{f}(s)ds \right)^{\bar{p}} \bar{u}(t)dt \right)^{\frac{1}{\bar{p}}} \leq \bar{C} \left(\int_a^b \bar{f}^{\bar{p}}(t)\bar{v}(t)dt \right)^{\frac{1}{\bar{p}}} \tag{3.7}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \bar{C} \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_x^b k^q(t, x) u(t) dt \right)^{\frac{r}{q}} \left(\int_a^x v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{\frac{r}{q'}} v^{1-p'}(x) dx \right)^{\frac{qp'}{r}} \\
&= \bar{C} B_0^{qp'} < \infty.
\end{aligned}$$

An estimate for the constant \bar{C} follows from the following calculations:

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{A} &= \sup_{a < s < b} \left(\int_a^s \bar{u}(t) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_s^b \bar{v}^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \\
&= \sup_{a < s < b} \left(\int_a^s \left(\int_a^t v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{\tilde{r}}{(q-1)p'}} v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{\frac{qp'}{r}} \\
&\times \left(\int_s^b \left(v^{\frac{rp'}{p^2q'}}(t) \left(\int_a^t v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{\frac{r}{q'}} \right)^{1 - (\frac{r}{qp'})'} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{(\frac{r}{qp'})'}} \\
&= \sup_{a < s < b} \left(\frac{p-q}{(p-1)(q-1)} \right)^{\frac{qp'}{r}} \left(\int_a^s v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{q-1} \\
&\times \left(\int_s^b v^{1-p'}(t) \left(\int_a^t v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{-p} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{(\frac{r}{qp'})'}} \\
&= \sup_{a < s < b} \left(\frac{p-q}{(p-1)(q-1)} \right)^{\frac{qp'}{r}} (p-1)^{\frac{q-1}{p-1}} \left(\int_a^s v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{q-1} \left(\int_a^s v^{1-p'}(t) dt \right)^{1-q} \\
&= \left(\frac{p-q}{(p-1)(q-1)} \right)^{\frac{p-q}{p-1}} (p-1)^{\frac{1-q}{p-1}} = \left(\frac{p-q}{q-1} \right)^{\frac{p-q}{p-1}} (p-1)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} < \infty.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence for the constant \bar{C} in (3.7) the following estimate holds

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{C} &\leq \bar{p}^{\frac{1}{p}} (\bar{p})'^{\frac{1}{(p')'}} \bar{A} \\
&= \left(\frac{p-1}{p-q} \right)^{\frac{p-q}{p-1}} \left(\frac{p-1}{q-1} \right)^{\frac{q-1}{p-1}} \left(\frac{p-q}{q-1} \right)^{\frac{p-q}{p-1}} (p-1)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} = (q-1)^{\frac{q-p}{p-1}}.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$A_1 \leq (\bar{C})^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} B_0^{\frac{q}{q-1}} \leq (q-1)^{\frac{q-p}{(q-1)p}} B_0^{q'}$$

and the best constant $C_{p,(q-1)p'}$ in (3.6) satisfies the inequality

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{p,(q-1)p'} &\leq ((q-1)p')^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} (p')^{\frac{1}{((q-1)p')'}} A_1 \\
&\leq ((q-1)p')^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} (p')^{\frac{1}{((q-1)p')'}} (q-1)^{\frac{q-p}{(q-1)p}} B_0^{q'} \\
&= p'(q-1)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_0^{q'}.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have that

$$I_1^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} \leq p'(q-1)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_0^{q'} \|f\|_{p,v}. \quad (3.8)$$

Let us estimate the second integral I_2 . Using integrating by parts we have

$$\begin{aligned} I_2 &= \int_a^b v^{1-p'}(t) \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{(q-1)p'} \left(\int_t^b k(x,t) u(x) dx \right)^{p'} dt \\ &= \int_a^b \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{(q-1)p'} d \left(- \int_t^b \left(\int_s^b k(x,s) u(x) dx \right)^{p'} v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right) \\ &= \int_a^b \left(\int_t^b \left(\int_s^b k(x,s) u(x) dx \right)^{p'} v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right) d \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{(q-1)p'}. \end{aligned}$$

For the inner integral applying the Minkowski inequality we obtain

$$\leq \int_a^b \left(\int_t^b u(x) \left(\int_a^x k^{p'}(x,s) v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} dx \right)^{p'} d \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{(q-1)p'}.$$

We write the inner integral of the last inequality in the form:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_a^b \left(\int_t^b \left[\left(\int_x^b u(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_a^x k^{p'}(x,s) v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} u^{1-\frac{q}{p}}(x) \right] \right. \\ & \quad \left. \times \left[\left(\int_x^b u(s) ds \right)^{-\frac{1}{p}} u^{\frac{q}{p}}(x) \right] dx \right)^{p'} d \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{(q-1)p'} \end{aligned}$$

and then using the Hölder inequality with the exponents $\frac{p}{p-q}$ and $\frac{p}{q}$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \leq \int_a^b \left[\int_t^b \left(\int_x^b u(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p-q}} \left(\int_a^x k^{p'}(x,s) v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{p}{p'(p-q)}} u(x) dx \right]^{\frac{p'(p-q)}{p}} \\ & \quad \times \left[\int_t^b \left(\int_x^b u(s) ds \right)^{-\frac{1}{q}} u(x) dx \right]^{\frac{q}{p-1}} d \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{(q-1)p'} \\ & \quad = (q')^{\frac{q}{p-1}} (q-1)p' \\ & \quad \times \int_a^b \left(\int_t^b \left(\int_x^b u(s) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p-q}} \left(\int_a^x k^{p'}(x,s) v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{p}{p'(p-q)}} u(x) dx \right)^{\frac{p'(p-q)}{p}} \\ & \quad \times \left(\int_t^b u(s) ds \right)^{\frac{q-1}{p-1}} \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{(q-1)p'-1} d \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right) \\ & \quad = p'(q-1) (q')^{\frac{q}{p-1}} \times \\ & \quad \int_a^b \left[\left(\int_t^b \left(\int_x^b u(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p-q}} \left(\int_a^x k^{p'}(x,s) v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p-q}} u(x) dx \right)^{\frac{p-q}{p-1}} \right. \\ & \quad \left. \times \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{\frac{(p-q)(q-2)}{p-1}} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\times \left[\left(\int_t^b u(s) ds \right)^{\frac{q-1}{p-1}} \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{\frac{(q-1)^2}{p-1}} \right] d \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right).$$

Applying the Hölder inequality with the exponents $\frac{p-1}{p-q}$ and $\frac{p-1}{q-1}$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq p'(q-1)(q')^{\frac{q}{p-1}} \\ &\times \left[\int_a^b \left(\int_t^b \left(\int_x^b u(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p-q}} \left(\int_a^x k^{p'}(x,s) v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p-q}} u(x) dx \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{q-2} d \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right) \right]^{\frac{p-q}{p-1}} \\ &\times \left[\int_a^b \left(\int_t^b u(s) ds \right) \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{q-1} d \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right) \right]^{\frac{q-1}{p-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Using Fubini's theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &= q^{\frac{1-q}{p-1}} p'(q-1)(q')^{\frac{q}{p-1}} \\ &\times \left[\int_a^b \left(\int_t^b \left(\int_x^b u(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p-q}} \left(\int_a^x k^{p'}(x,s) v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p-q}} u(x) dx \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{q-2} d \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right) \right]^{\frac{p-q}{p-1}} \\ &\quad \times \left(\int_a^b u(t) \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^q dt \right)^{\frac{q-1}{p-1}} \\ &= q^{\frac{1-q}{p-q}} (q-1) p'(q')^{\frac{q}{p-1}} (q-1)^{\frac{q-p}{p-1}} I_{\frac{q-1}{p-1}}^{\frac{q-1}{p-1}} \\ &\times \left(\int_a^b \left(\int_t^b \left(\int_x^b u(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p-q}} \left(\int_a^x k^{p'}(x,s) v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p-q}} u(x) dx \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times d \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{q-1} \right)^{\frac{p-q}{p-1}} \\ &= (q')^{p'-1} p' I_{\frac{q-1}{p-1}}^{\frac{q-1}{p-1}} \left[\int_a^b \left(\int_a^t k(t,s) f(s) ds \right)^{q-1} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \left(\int_t^b u(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p-q}} \left(\int_a^t k^{p'}(t,s) v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p-q}} u(t) dt \right]^{\frac{p-q}{p-1}} \\ &= p'(q')^{p'-1} I_{\frac{q-1}{p-1}}^{\frac{q-1}{p-1}} \times \\ &\times \left(\int_a^b \left[\left(\int_t^b u(s) ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p-q}} \left(\int_a^t k^{p'}(t,s) v^{1-p'}(s) ds \right)^{\frac{p}{p'(p-q)}} u^{\frac{1}{q}}(t) \right] \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\times \left[\left(\int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right)^{q-1} u^{\frac{1}{q'}}(t) \right] dt \Big)^{\frac{p-q}{p-1}}.$$

Here we apply the Hölder inequality with the exponents q and q'

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq p'(q')^{p'-1} I^{\frac{q-1}{p-1}} \left(\left[\int_a^b \left(\int_t^b u(s)ds \right)^{\frac{r}{p}} \left(\int_a^t k^{p'}(t,s)v^{1-p'}(s)ds \right)^{\frac{r}{p'}} u(t)dt \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left[\int_a^b \left(\int_a^t k(t,s)f(s)ds \right)^q u(t)dt \right]^{\frac{1}{q'}} \right)^{\frac{p-q}{p-1}} = p'(q')^{p'-1} I^{\frac{q-1}{p-1}} I^{\frac{p-q}{q'(p-1)}} B_1^{p'} \\ &\leq p'(q')^{p'-1} B_1^{p'} I^{\frac{p'}{q'}}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$I_2 \leq p'(q')^{p'-1} B_1^{p'} I^{\frac{p'}{q'}}.$$

According to the estimate in (3.5) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} I^{\frac{1}{q-1}} &\leq hq^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \|f\|_{p,v}^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \left(I_1^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} + I_2^{\frac{1}{(q-1)p'}} \right) \\ &\leq hq^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \|f\|_{p,v}^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \left(p'(q-1)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_0^{q'} \|f\|_{p,v} + (p')^{\frac{1}{p'(q-1)}} (q')^{\frac{1}{p(q-1)}} B_1^{\frac{1}{q-1}} I^{\frac{1}{q}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Taking into account that $I^{\frac{1}{q}} \leq \|H\| \|f\|_{p,v}$ we get

$$I^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \leq hq^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \|f\|_{p,v}^{\frac{q}{q-1}} \left(p'(q-1)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_0^{q'} + (p')^{\frac{1}{p'(q-1)}} (q')^{\frac{1}{p(q-1)}} B_1^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \|H\| \right).$$

So, we have the following upper estimate for the operator norm

$$\left(\sup_{f \neq 0} \frac{I^{\frac{1}{q}}}{\|f\|_{p,v}} \right)^{q'} = \|H\|^{q'} \leq hq^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \left(p'(q-1)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_0^{q'} + (p')^{\frac{1}{p'(q-1)}} (q')^{\frac{1}{p(q-1)}} B_1^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \|H\| \right),$$

i.e.

$$\|H\|^{q'} - hq^{\frac{1}{q-1}} (p')^{\frac{1}{p'(q-1)}} (q')^{\frac{1}{p(q-1)}} B_1^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \|H\| \leq hq^{\frac{1}{q-1}} p'(p-1)^{\frac{2}{p}} B_0^{q'}. \quad (3.9)$$

Consequently, we obtain

$$\frac{\|H\|^{q'}}{q^{\frac{1}{q-1}} p'(q-1)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_0^{q'} + q^{\frac{1}{q-1}} (p')^{\frac{1}{p'(q-1)}} (q')^{\frac{1}{p(q-1)}} B_1^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \|H\|} \leq h.$$

By Remark 1 we have that the corresponding equation $h(x) = h$ has exactly one positive solution. If X is the solution of the equation, i.e.,

$$\frac{X^{q'}}{q^{\frac{1}{q-1}} p'(q-1)^{\frac{1}{p}} B_0^{q'} + q^{\frac{1}{q-1}} (p')^{\frac{1}{p'(q-1)}} (q')^{\frac{1}{p(q-1)}} B_1^{\frac{1}{q-1}} X} = h,$$

then

$$\|H\| \leq X.$$

Proof of Theorem 2.2. Using the Young inequality to the second term in the left hand side of (3.9) we have:

$$\|H\|^{q'} - \frac{h^q q^{\frac{q}{q-1}} (p')^{\frac{q}{p'(q-1)}} (q')^{\frac{q}{p(q-1)}} B^{\frac{q}{q-1}}}{q} - \frac{\|H\|^{q'}}{q'} \leq h q^{\frac{1}{q-1}} p' B^{q'}.$$

This implies that

$$\frac{\|H\|^{q'}}{q} \leq h q^{\frac{1}{q-1}} p' B^{q'} + h^q q^{q'-1} (p')^{\frac{q'}{p'}} (q')^{\frac{q'}{p}} B^{q'},$$

i.e.,

$$\|H\|^{q'} \leq h q^{q'} p' B^{q'} + h^q q^{q'} (p')^{\frac{q'}{p'}} (q')^{\frac{q'}{p}} B^{q'}.$$

Therefore, we get the following estimate for the norm:

$$\|H\| \leq q \left(h p' + h^q (p')^{\frac{q'}{p'}} (q')^{\frac{q'}{p}} \right)^{\frac{1}{q'}} B.$$

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