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Using a new method prompted by B. Cole's study of conjugate function problems, we prove inequalities like

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{2\pi} |\tilde{f}| \log^{\alpha-1}(e + |\tilde{f}|) d\theta &\leq \frac{2}{\pi\alpha} \int_0^{2\pi} |f| \log^\alpha(e + |f|) d\theta \\ &+ \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |f| \log(e + |f|) \log \log(e + |f|) d\theta \\ &+ A \int_0^{2\pi} |f| \log(e + |f|) d\theta \quad (1 < \alpha < \infty) \end{aligned}$$

for $f \in L \log^\alpha L$ and $\tilde{f} =$ conjugate function; here the constants $\frac{2}{\pi\alpha}$ and $\frac{2}{\pi}$ cannot be reduced. There are corresponding results for $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$. (Received September 28, 2000)