Distribution of primes

Exercise Sheet 7

1. (see Koukoulopoulos, exercise 23.1) The purpose of this exercise is to prove the following: for $x \ge 2$ and for $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and a reduced fraction a/q such that $|\alpha - a/q| \le 1/q^2$,

$$\sum_{n \le x} d(n) e(\alpha n) \ll (\sqrt{x} + q + x/q) \log x,$$

where d(n) denotes the number of divisors of n.

a) Show that

$$\sum_{n \le x} d(n) e(\alpha n) = \sum_{k \le \sqrt{x}} \sum_{\ell \le x/k} e(\alpha k\ell) + \sum_{\ell \le \sqrt{x}} \sum_{k \le x/\ell} e(\alpha k\ell) - \sum_{\ell,k \le \sqrt{x}} e(\alpha k\ell).$$

b) Show (for example using Lemma 9.12 from the lecture notes) that

$$\sum_{\ell,k \le \sqrt{x}} \ll (\sqrt{x} + q + x/q) \log x.$$

c) Show that

$$\sum_{k \leq \sqrt{x}} \sum_{\ell \leq x/k} e(\alpha k \ell) \ll (\sqrt{x} + q + x/q) \log x.$$

(Hint: can this be done using our type I bound or our type II bound?)

- d) Deduce the desired bound on $\sum_{n < x} d(n) e(\alpha n)$.
- 2. (Heath-Brown's identity; see Koukoulopoulos, exercise 23.5). Let $k \in \mathbb{N}, x \ge 1$ and $V \ge x^{1/k}$. For $n \le x$, show that

$$\Lambda(n) = \sum_{j=1}^{k} (-1)^{j-1} \binom{k}{j} (\log * \underbrace{1 * \cdots * 1}_{j-1 \text{ times}} * \underbrace{\mu_{\leq V} * \cdots * \mu_{\leq V}}_{j \text{ times}})(n).$$

(Hint: Let $f = \mu_{\leq V} * 1$ and let $g = \mu_{>V} * 1$. On the one hand, we have $\Lambda * \underbrace{g * \cdots * g}_{k \text{ times}}(n) = 0$ if $n \leq x$. On the other hand, $g = 1_{n=1} - f$.)