

NOTES ON MELVYN KNIGHT'S PROBLEM

Nguyen Duy TAN¹, Nguyen Xuan THO

Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam

Corresponding author: Nguyen Xuan THO, E-mail: tho.nguyenxuantho1@hust.edu.vn

Abstract. Melvyn Knight's problem asks for positive integers n that can be represented as $n = (x + y + z)\left(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{z}\right)$ with integers x, y, z . In this paper, we investigate integers n that can be represented as

$$n = \frac{x + y + z}{a^2 b^2 c^2} \left(\frac{a^2}{x} + \frac{b^2}{y} + \frac{c^2}{z} \right) \quad (1)$$

with integers x, y, z, a, b, c . For integers n, a, b, c satisfying $4|n$ or $8|n - 5$, $a + b + c = -1$, and abc is a square number, we show that the representation (1) is essentially unique if $na^2 b^2 c^2 = (|a| + |b| + |c|)^2$ and is impossible if $na^2 b^2 c^2 \neq (|a| + |b| + |c|)^2$.

Key words: elliptic curves, Melvyn Knight's problem, p -adic numbers.

Mathematics Subject Classification (MSC2020): 14G05, 11D25.

1. INTRODUCTION

In [2], Bremner, Guy and Nowakowski investigated Melvyn Knight's problem which asks for integers n representable as

$$n = (x + y + z) \left(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{z} \right) \quad (2)$$

with integers x, y, z . They also briefly discussed the representation (2) in the set of positive integers. Integer solutions to equation (2) depend on the rank of the elliptic curve defined by (2). When asking for positive integer solutions to (2), the situation becomes more subtle. It can happen that equation (2) has integer solutions without having positive integer solutions. The following example is taken from Bremner, Guy and Nowakowski [2].

Let $n = 564$. Then equation (2) has an integer solution (x, y, z) , where

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 122442005010002877811635117117995213613513491867, \\ y &= -3460695868425504865645892262188752089713065424460, \\ z &= 74807191015302527837945836017146464948205905528060, \end{aligned}$$

but does not have positive integer solutions. The later follows from Tho [5, Theorem 1.1] which says that the representation (2) is impossible in positive integers if $4|n$. In this paper, we will investigate a more general form of (2). We will prove the following theorem.

¹E-mail: tan.nguyenduy@hust.edu.vn

THEOREM 1. *Let n, a, b, c be nonzero integers such that $4|n$ or $8|n-5$, $a+b+c = -1$, and abc is a square. Consider the representation*

$$n = \frac{x+y+z}{a^2b^2c^2} \left(\frac{a^2}{x} + \frac{b^2}{y} + \frac{c^2}{z} \right) \tag{3}$$

with positive integers x, y, z .

(i) *If $na^2b^2c^2 = (|a| + |b| + |c|)^2$, then the representation (3) is essentially unique with*

$$x : y : z = |a| : |b| : |c|.$$

(ii) *If $na^2b^2c^2 \neq (|a| + |b| + |c|)^2$, then the representation (3) is impossible.*

When $4|n$ and $|a| = |b| = |c| = 1$, we recover Theorem 1.1 in Tho [5]. Note that there are infinitely many integers a, b, c satisfying the condition in Theorem 1. For example, $(a, b, c) = (m, -m, -1)$ with $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

2. SOME PRELIMINARIES

Let p be a prime number. Let \mathbb{Q}_p be the p -adic completion of \mathbb{Q} with respect to p -adic topology. Let \mathbb{Z}_p be the ring of p -adic integers in \mathbb{Q}_p . Let $\mathbb{Q}_p^3 = \{(x, y, z) : x, y, z \in \mathbb{Q}_p\}$, $\mathbb{Q}_p^2 = \{x^2 : x \in \mathbb{Q}_p\}$, and $\mathbb{Z}_p^2 = \{x^2 : x \in \mathbb{Z}_p\}$. For $a \in \mathbb{Q}_p^*$, denote $v_p(a)$ the highest power of p dividing a . For a and b in \mathbb{Q}_p , the Hilbert symbol $(a, b)_p$ is defined by

$$(a, b)_p = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } ax^2 + by^2 = z^2 \text{ has a solution } (x, y, z) \neq (0, 0, 0) \text{ in } \mathbb{Q}_p^3, \\ -1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

For $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, the symbol $(a, b)_\infty$ is $+1$ if $a > 0$ or $b > 0$, and -1 otherwise. The following properties of the Hilbert symbol are true, see Serre [9, pp. 19-26]:

(i) For all $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Q}_p$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (a, b^2)_p &= 1, \\ (a, bc)_p &= (a, b)_p (a, c)_p. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) For all $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$, then

$$(a, b)_\infty \prod_{p \text{ prime}} (a, b)_p = 1.$$

(iii) Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$. Write $a = p^\alpha u$, $b = p^\beta v$, where $\alpha = v_p(a)$ and $\beta = v_p(b)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (a, b)_p &= (-1)^{\alpha\beta(p-1)/2} \left(\frac{u}{p}\right)^\beta \left(\frac{v}{p}\right)^\alpha \text{ if } p \neq 2, \\ (a, b)_p &= (-1)^{(u-1)(v-1)/4 + \alpha(v^2-1)/8 + \beta(u^2-1)/8} \text{ if } p = 2, \end{aligned}$$

where $\left(\frac{u}{p}\right)$ denotes the Legendre symbol.

3. THE PROVING IDEA

The following is the main idea of our method which has been applied to many different problems, see [3–8].

Assume we want to show that a rational number u is positive. The trick is to find a rational number $D < 0$ such that $(D, u)_p = 1$ for all prime numbers p , where $(D, u)_p$ denotes the Hilbert symbol. Then the product

formula for the Hilbert symbol (Serre [9, Theorem 3, p. 23]) forces $(D, u)_\infty = 1$. Since $D < 0$, we must have $u > 0$. Our experience shows that when u is the x -coordinate of a rational point on an elliptic curve

$$y^2 = f(x),$$

where f is a cubic polynomial with rational coefficients, quantity D is usually a factor of the discriminant of $f(x)$.

4. THE PROOF OF THEOREM 1

Assume that there exist positive integers x, y, z satisfying (3). Using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, we have

$$n = \frac{(x+y+z)}{a^2b^2c^2} \left(\frac{a^2}{x} + \frac{b^2}{y} + \frac{c^2}{z} \right) \geq \frac{(|a|+|b|+|c|)^2}{a^2b^2c^2}. \quad (4)$$

The equality holds if and only if $\frac{x}{|a|} = \frac{y}{|b|} = \frac{z}{|c|}$.

(i) When $na^2b^2c^2 = (|a|+|b|+|c|)^2$, the equality in (4) holds. Therefore, $x : y : z = |a| : |b| : |c|$.

(ii) From (4) we have

$$na^2b^2c^2 \geq (|a|+|b|+|c|)^2 > a^2 + b^2 + c^2.$$

Therefore,

$$na^2b^2c^2(x+y+z) > (a^2 + b^2 + c^2)(x+y+z).$$

Hence at least one of the following inequalities must hold:

$$na^2b^2c^2x > a^2(x+y+z),$$

$$na^2b^2c^2y > b^2(x+y+z),$$

$$na^2b^2c^2z > c^2(x+y+z).$$

Without loss of generality, we assume $na^2b^2c^2z > c^2(x+y+z)$. Therefore,

$$(na^2b^2 - 1)z > x + y. \quad (5)$$

Since x, y, z satisfy (3), $(x : y : z)$ is a point on the projective curve

$$\mathcal{C} : (X+Y+Z)(a^2YZ + b^2ZX + c^2XY) - na^2b^2c^2XYZ = 0.$$

Since \mathcal{C} has a rational point $(1 : -1 : 0)$, it is bi-rationally equivalent to the curve

$$\mathcal{E} : V^2 = U(U^2 + AU + B),$$

where

$$A = n^2a^4b^4c^4 - 2na^2b^2c^2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) + a^4 + b^4 + c^4 - 2a^2b^2 - 2a^2c^2 - 2b^2c^2,$$

$$B = 16na^4b^4c^4,$$

via the map $\phi : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ defined by

$$\phi(X, Y, Z) = \left(\frac{-4na^2b^2c^2(b^2X + a^2Y)}{(na^2b^2 - 1)Z - X - Y}, \frac{4na^2b^2c^2(b^2X + a^2Y)(c^2(na^2b^2 - 1)(X - Y) - (a^2 - b^2)(X + Y + 2Z))}{(X + Y)((na^2b^2 - 1)Z - X - Y)} \right). \quad (6)$$

We also have

$$A^2 - 4B = DEFG,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} D &= (a+b+c)^2 - na^2b^2c^2, & E &= (a+b-c)^2 - na^2b^2c^2, \\ F &= (a-b+c)^2 - na^2b^2c^2, & G &= (-a+b+c)^2 - na^2b^2c^2. \end{aligned}$$

All of the above computations could be checked by MAGMA [1].

LEMMA 1. $D, E, F, G < 0$.

Proof. Since $na^2b^2c^2 \neq (|a| + |b| + |c|)^2$, (4) is a strict inequality. Thus $na^2b^2c^2 > (|a| + |b| + |c|)^2$. Then it easily follows that $D, E, F, G < 0$. \square

The above lemma shows that curve \mathcal{E} is non-singular, hence is an elliptic curve.

LEMMA 2. Let $(u, v) = \phi(x, y, z)$. Then $u < 0$.

Proof. From (6), we have

$$u = \frac{-4na^2b^2c^2(b^2x + a^2y)}{(na^2b^2 - 1)z - x - y}.$$

Since $x, y, z, a^2, b^2, c^2 > 0$ and $(na^2b^2 - 1)z - x - y > 0$ (see (5)), we have $u < 0$. \square

Note that u and v satisfy

$$v^2 = u(u^2 + Au + B). \quad (7)$$

LEMMA 3. Let p be an odd prime. Then $(D, u)_p = 1$.

Proof. Let $u = p^r s$, where $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $p \nmid s$.

Case 1: $r < 0$. From (7) we have

$$v^2 = p^{3r} s(s^2 + p^{-r}As + p^{-2r}B). \quad (8)$$

Since $-r > 0$ and $p \nmid s$, from (8) we have $3r = v_p(v^2)$. Hence, $2|r$. Let $v = p^{3r/2}t$, where $p \nmid t$. From (8) we have

$$t^2 = s(s^2 + p^{-r}As + p^{-2r}B).$$

Thus $s^3 \equiv t^2 \pmod{p}$, so s is a square mod p . Therefore, $s \in \mathbb{Z}_p^2$. Thus $u = p^r s \in \mathbb{Q}_p^2$. Hence, $(D, u)_p = 1$.

Case 2: $r = 0$.

Case 2.1: $p \nmid D$. Then u and D are units in \mathbb{Z}_p . Hence, $(D, u)_p = 1$.

Case 2.2: $p|D$. Since $D|A^2 - 4B$, we have $p|A^2 - 4B$. Therefore,

$$u^2 + Au + B = \left(u + \frac{A}{2}\right)^2 + \frac{4B - A^2}{4} \equiv \left(u + \frac{A}{2}\right)^2 \pmod{p}. \quad (9)$$

• $p \nmid u + \frac{1}{2}A$. From (9) we have $u^2 + Au + B \in \mathbb{Z}_p^2 - \{0\}$. Thus,

$$u = \frac{v^2}{u^2 + Au + B} \in \mathbb{Q}_p^2.$$

Therefore, $(D, u)_p = 1$.

• $p|u + \frac{1}{2}A$. Then

$$u \equiv -\frac{A}{2} \pmod{p}. \quad (10)$$

Since $p|D = 1 - na^2b^2c^2$, we have $na^2b^2c^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
A &= n^2a^4b^4c^4 - 2na^2b^2c^2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) + a^4 + b^4 + c^4 - 2a^2b^2 - 2a^2c^2 - 2b^2c^2 \\
&= (na^2b^2c^2 - a^2 - b^2 - c^2)^2 - 4(a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2) \\
&\equiv (1 - a^2 - b^2 - c^2)^2 - 4(a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2) \pmod{p} \\
&\equiv ((a+b+c)^2 - a^2 - b^2 - c^2)^2 - 4(a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2) \pmod{p} \quad (\text{since } a+b+c = -1) \\
&\equiv (2(ab+bc+ca))^2 - 4(a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2) \pmod{p} \\
&\equiv 8abc(a+b+c) \pmod{p} \\
&\equiv -8abc \pmod{p}.
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

From (10) and (11) we have $u \equiv 4abc \pmod{p}$. Since abc is a square and $p \nmid u$, we have $u \in \mathbb{Z}_p^2$. Therefore, $(D, u)_p = 1$.

Case 3: $r > 0$. From (7) we have

$$v^2 = p^r s(p^{2r} s^2 + p^r A s + B). \tag{12}$$

Case 3.1: $p|B$. Then $p|nabc$. Therefore,

$$D = 1 - na^2b^2c^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}.$$

Hence, $D \in \mathbb{Z}_p^2$. Thus $(D, u)_p = 1$.

Case 3.2: $p \nmid B$. From (12) we have $r = v_2(v^2)$. Thus $2|r$.

• $p \nmid D$. Since s and D are units in \mathbb{Z}_p , we have $(D, s)_p = 1$. Therefore,

$$(D, u)_p = (D, p^r s)_p = (D, s)_p = 1.$$

• $p|D$. Then $na^2b^2c^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. Therefore,

$$B = 16na^4b^4c^4 \equiv 16a^2b^2c^2 \pmod{p}.$$

Similar to (11) we have $A \equiv -8abc \pmod{p}$. Therefore,

$$u^2 + Au + B \equiv u^2 - 8abcu + 16a^2b^2c^2 \equiv (u - 4abc)^2 \pmod{p}. \tag{13}$$

Since $p|u$ and $p \nmid B$, we have $p \nmid u^2 + Au + B$. Therefore, from (13) we have $u^2 + Au + B \in \mathbb{Z}_p^2 - \{0\}$. Thus

$$u = \frac{v^2}{u^2 + Au + B} \in \mathbb{Q}_p^2.$$

Therefore, $(D, u)_p = 1$. □

LEMMA 4. *If $4|n$ then $(D, u)_2 = 1$.*

Proof. If $8|nabc$, then $D \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$. Hence, $D \in \mathbb{Z}_2^2$, so $(D, u)_2 = 1$. We consider the case $8 \nmid nabc$. Then $8 \nmid n$ and $2 \nmid abc$. Let $n = 4k$, where $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $2 \nmid k$. Let $u = 2^r s$, where $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$, $2 \nmid s$. From (7) we have

$$v^2 = 2^r s(2^{2r} s^2 + 2^r A s + B). \tag{14}$$

Case 1: $2|r$. Since $4|D - 1$, we have

$$(D, u)_2 = (D, 2^r s)_2 = (D, s)_2 = (-1)^{(D-1)(s-1)/4} = 1.$$

Case 2: $2 \nmid r$.

Case 2.1: $r < 0$. From (14) we have

$$v^2 = 2^{3r}s(s^2 + 2^{-r}As + 2^{2-r}B).$$

Therefore, $3r = v_2(v^2)$, impossible since $2 \nmid r$.

Case 2.2: $r > 0$. Since $4 \mid n$ and $2 \nmid abc$, we have

$$A = n^2a^4b^4c^4 - 2na^2b^2c^2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) + a^4 + b^4 + c^4 - 2a^2b^2 - 2a^2c^2 - 2b^2c^2 \equiv 5 \pmod{8}.$$

Thus $v_2(A) = 0$. Let $B_1 = ka^4b^4c^4$. Then $2 \nmid B_1$ and $B = 2^6B_1$.

• $r > 6$. From (14) we have

$$v^2 = 2^{r+6}s(2^{2r-6}s^2 + 2^{r-6}As + B_1).$$

Therefore, $r + 6 = v_2(v^2)$, impossible since $2 \nmid r$.

• $r < 6$. From (14) we have

$$v^2 = 2^{2r}s(2^r s^2 + As + 2^{6-r}B_1). \quad (15)$$

Thus $v_2(v) = r$. Let $v = 2^r t$, where $2 \nmid t$. From (15) we have

$$t^2 = s(2^r s^2 + As + 2^{6-r}B_1). \quad (16)$$

Note that in (16) we have $A \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, $2 \nmid r$, $0 < r < 6$, $2 \nmid B_1$, $2 \nmid s$.

(i) $r = 1$. Reducing (16) mod 4 gives

$$1 \equiv s(2 + s) \equiv 2s + 1 \pmod{4}.$$

impossible since $2 \nmid s$.

(ii) $r = 3$. Reducing (16) mod 8 gives

$$1 \equiv 5s^2 \pmod{8},$$

impossible.

(iii) $r = 5$. Reducing (16) mod 4 gives

$$1 \equiv s(s + 2) \equiv 1 + 2s \pmod{4},$$

impossible since $2 \nmid s$.

□

LEMMA 5. If $8 \mid n - 5$ then $(D, u)_2 = 1$.

Proof. If $2 \mid abc$, since $a + b + c = -1$, two of a, b, c are even and the remaining number is odd. Hence, $8 \mid a^2b^2c^2$. Thus

$$D = 1 - na^2b^2c^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}.$$

Therefore, $D \in \mathbb{Z}_2^*$. So $(D, u)_2 = 1$. We consider the case $2 \nmid abc$. Since, $n \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, we have

$$D = 1 - na^2b^2c^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{8}.$$

Let $D = 4D_1$, where $D_1 \in \mathbb{Z}$, $2 \nmid D_1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
A &= n^2 a^4 b^4 c^4 - 2na^2 b^2 c^2 (a^2 + b^2 + c^2) + a^4 + b^4 + c^4 - 2a^2 b^2 - 2a^2 c^2 - 2b^2 c^2 \\
&= (na^2 b^2 c^2 - a^2 - b^2 - c^2)^2 - 4(a^2 b^2 + b^2 c^2 + c^2 a^2) \\
&= ((a + b + c)^2 - D - a^2 - b^2 - c^2)^2 - 4(a^2 b^2 + b^2 c^2 + c^2 a^2) \\
&= (2(ab + bc + ca) - D)^2 - 4(a^2 b^2 + b^2 c^2 + c^2 a^2) \\
&= D^2 - 4D(ab + bc + ca) + 8abc(a + b + c) \\
&= 16D_1^2 - 16D_1(ab + bc + ca) - 8abc \\
&= 8A_1.
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$A_1 = 2D_1^2 - 2D_1(ab + bc + ca) - abc. \quad (17)$$

Since abc is an odd square, we have $abc \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$. Therefore,

$$2(ab + bc + ca) = 1 - a^2 - b^2 - c^2 \equiv -2 \pmod{8}.$$

Thus in (17) we have

$$A_1 \equiv 1 + 2D_1 \pmod{8}. \quad (18)$$

In particular,

$$A_1 \equiv -1 \pmod{4}. \quad (19)$$

Let $u = 2^r s$, where $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $2 \nmid s$. Let $B_1 = na^4 b^4 c^4$. From (7) we have

$$v^2 = 2^r s(2^{2r} s^2 + 2^{r+3} A_1 s + 2^4 B_1). \quad (20)$$

Case 1: $r < 0$. From (20) we have

$$v^2 = 2^{3r} s(s^2 + 2^{3-r} A_1 s + 2^{4-2r} B_1). \quad (21)$$

Therefore, $v_2(v^2) = 3r$. Thus $2 \mid r$, so $r \leq -2$. Let $v = 2^{3r/2} t$, where $2 \nmid t$. From (21) we have

$$t^2 = s(s^2 + 2^{3-r} A_1 s + 2^{4-2r} B_1). \quad (22)$$

Reducing (22) mod 8 gives $s \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$. Therefore, $s \in \mathbb{Z}_2^2$. Thus $u = 2^r s \in \mathbb{Q}_2^2$. Therefore, $(D, u)_2 = 1$.

Case 2: $r = 0$. Reducing (20) mod 8 gives $s \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$. Thus $u = s \in \mathbb{Z}_2^2$. Therefore, $(D, u)_2 = 1$.

Case 3: $r = 1$. From (20) we have

$$v^2 = 2^3 s(s^2 + 4A_1 s + 4B_1).$$

Hence, $v_2(v^2) = 3$, impossible.

Case 4: $r = 2$. From (20) we have

$$v^2 = 2^6 s(s^2 + 2A_1 s + B_1) \quad (23)$$

Case 4.1: $A_1 s \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Combining with (19) gives $s \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$. Let $A_1 + s = 4e + 2$, where $e \in \mathbb{Z}$. Since abc is an odd square, $a^2 b^2 c^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{16}$, there are two cases to consider:

• $n \equiv 5 \pmod{16}$. Then $na^4 b^4 c^4 \equiv 5 \pmod{16}$. Let $na^4 b^4 c^4 = 16f + 5$, where $f \in \mathbb{Z}$. We have

$$D = 1 - na^2 b^2 c^2 \equiv -4 \pmod{16}.$$

Therefore, $D = 4D_1$ with $D_1 \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$. From (18) we have

$$A_1 \equiv -1 \pmod{8}.$$

Let $A_1 = 8d - 1$, where $d \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} s^2 + 2A_1s + B_1 &= (s + A_1)^2 + na^4b^4c^4 - A_1^2 \\ &= (4e + 2)^2 + 16f + 5 - (8d - 1)^2 \\ &= 8(2e^2 + 2e + 2f - 8d^2 + 2d + 1). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $v_2(s^2 + 2A_1s + B_1) = 3$. From (23) we have $v_2(v^2) = 9$, impossible.

• $n \equiv 13 \pmod{16}$. Then

$$D = 1 - na^2b^2c^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{16}.$$

Therefore, $D = 4D_1$ with $D_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Thus,

$$(D, u)_2 = (4D_1, 4s)_2 = (D_1, s)_2 = (-1)^{(D_1-1)(s-1)/4} = 1.$$

Case 4.2: $A_1s \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$. Combining with (19) gives $s \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Therefore,

$$(D, u)_2 = (D, 4s)_2 = (D, s)_2 = (-1)^{(s-1)(D-1)/4} = 1.$$

Case 5: $r > 2$. From (20) we have

$$v^2 = 2^{r+4}s(2^{2r-4}s^2 + 2^{r-1}A_1s + B_1). \quad (24)$$

Hence, $v_2(v^2) = r + 4$, so $2|r$. Since $r > 2$, we have $r \geq 4$. Let $v = 2^{2+r/2}t$, where $2 \nmid t$. From (24) we have

$$t^2 = s(2^{2r-4}s^2 + 2^{r-1}A_1s + B_1). \quad (25)$$

Since $B_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $r \geq 4$, reducing (25) mod 4 gives $s \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Therefore,

$$(D, u)_2 = (4D_1, 2^r s)_2 = (D_1, s)_2 = (-1)^{(D_1-1)(s-1)/4} = 1.$$

□

LEMMA 6. We have $(D, u)_\infty = 1$.

Proof. Since $(D, u)_p = 1$ for all prime numbers p and

$$(D, u)_\infty \prod_{p \text{ prime}} (D, u)_p = 1,$$

we have $(D, u)_\infty = 1$. □

From Lemmas 1 and 6 we have $u > 0$, contradicting Lemma 2.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the referee for many valuable comments and suggestions, improving the presentation of this paper. The idea of this paper emerged during the authors' stay at Vietnam Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics (VIASM) between April 2021 to June 2021. We would like to thank the VIASM for their support and funding.

This paper is funded by the Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training under the project number B2022-CTT-03.

REFERENCES

1. W. BOSMA, J. CANNON, C. PLAYOUST, *The MAGMA algebra system. I. The user language*, J. Symbolic Comput., **24**, 3-4, pp. 235–265, 1997, <https://doi.org/10.1006/jsco.1996.0125>.
2. A. BREMNER, R.K. GUY, R. J. NOWAKOWSKI, *Which integers are representable as the product of the sum of three integers with the sum of their reciprocals?*, Math. Compt., **61**, pp. 117–130, 1993, <https://doi.org/10.1090/S0025-5718-1993-1189516-5>.
3. A. BREMNER, N.X. THO, *The equation $(w+x+y+z)(1/w+1/x+1/y+1/z) = n$* , Int. J. Number Theory, **14**, 05, pp. 1229–1246, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1142/S1793042118500768>.
4. E. DOFS, N.X. THO, *The Diophantine equation $x_1/x_2 + x_2/x_3 + x_3/x_4 + x_4/x_1 = n$* , Int. J. Number Theory, **18**, 1, pp. 75–87, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1142/S1793042122500075>.
5. N.X. THO, *What positive integers n can be presented in the form $n = (x+y+z)(1/x+1/y+1/z)$?*, Ann. Math. Inform., **54**, pp. 141–146, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.33039/ami.2021.04.005>.
6. N.X. THO, *On a Diophantine equation*, Vietnam J. Math., **50**, 1, pp. 183–194, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10013-021-00503-w>.
7. N.X. THO, *On a remark of Sierpiński*, Rocky Mountain J. Math., **52**, 2, pp. 717–726, 2022, <https://projecteuclid.org/journals/rocky-mountain-journal-of-mathematics/volume-52/issue-2/On-a-remark-of-Sierp%C3%ADnski/10.1216/rmj.2022.52.717.short>.
8. N.X. THO, *On a problem of Richard Guy*, Bull. Aust. Math. Soc., **105**, 1, pp. 12–18, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S000497272100068X>.
9. J.-P. SERRE, *A course in arithmetic*, Graduate Texts in Mathematics, 7, Springer, New York, 1973.

Received January 8, 2022