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**On a problem of Matsumoto and Tamagawa
concerning monodromic fullness of hyperbolic
curves: Genus zero case**

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**ON A PROBLEM OF MATSUMOTO AND TAMAGAWA
CONCERNING MONODROMIC FULLNESS OF HYPERBOLIC
CURVES: GENUS ZERO CASE**

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ABSTRACT. In the present paper, we discuss a problem concerning monodromic fullness of hyperbolic curves over number fields posed by M. Matsumoto and A. Tamagawa in the case where a given hyperbolic curve is of *genus 0*.

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Notations and Conventions	3
Proofs of main results	4
References	9

INTRODUCTION

Write $\mathfrak{P}\text{rimes}$ for the set of all prime numbers. In [4], M. Matsumoto and A. Tamagawa posed the following problem concerning monodromic fullness of hyperbolic curves over number fields (cf. [4], Problem 4.1):

Let X be a hyperbolic curve over a number field [where we refer to the discussion entitled “Curves” (respectively, “Numbers”) in “Notations and Conventions” concerning the term “hyperbolic curve” (respectively, “number field”)]. Then are the following three conditions equivalent?

- (MT₁) X is *quasi- $\mathfrak{P}\text{rimes}$ -monodromically full* (cf. [2], Definition 2.2, (iii)).
- (MT₂) There exists a prime number l such that X is *l -monodromically full* (cf. [2], Definition 2.2, (i)).
- (MT₃) There exists a *finite* subset $\Sigma \subseteq \mathfrak{P}\text{rimes}$ of $\mathfrak{P}\text{rimes}$ such that X is *$(\mathfrak{P}\text{rimes} \setminus \Sigma)$ -monodromically full*.

Note that this is an *analogue for hyperbolic curves* of the equivalences “(1) \Leftrightarrow (2) \Leftrightarrow (3)” in the following result due to J. P. Serre (cf. [5]):

Let E be an elliptic curve over a number field k , \bar{k} an algebraic closure of k , and $G_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k)$. Moreover, for each prime number l , write $T_l(E)$ for the l -adic Tate module of E . Then the following four conditions are equivalent:

- (0) E does not admit complex multiplication over \bar{k} .
- (1) For any prime number l , the image of the pro- l Galois representation $G_k \rightarrow \text{Aut}(T_l(E))$ is an open subgroup of $\text{Aut}(T_l(E))$.
- (2) There exists a prime number l such that the pro- l Galois representation $G_k \rightarrow \text{Aut}(T_l(E))$ is surjective.
- (3) There exists a finite subset $\Sigma \subseteq \mathfrak{P}\text{rimes}$ of $\mathfrak{P}\text{rimes}$ such that if $l \notin \Sigma$, then the pro- l Galois representation $G_k \rightarrow \text{Aut}(T_l(E))$ is surjective.

In the present paper, we discuss the above problem due to M. Matsumoto and A. Tamagawa in the case where the given hyperbolic curve X is of genus 0. More concretely, we prove the following two results.

Theorem A. *Let k be a number field. Then there exists a split (where we refer to the discussion entitled “Curves” in “Notations and Conventions” concerning the term “split”) hyperbolic curve of type $(0, 4)$ over k which satisfies (MT_3) , hence also (MT_2) , but does not satisfy (MT_1) . Moreover, for any positive integer $r > 4$, there exists a split hyperbolic curve of type $(0, r)$ over k which satisfies (MT_2) but does not satisfy (MT_1) .*

Theorem B. *Let k be an imaginary quadratic field and X a hyperbolic curve of type $(0, 4)$ over a subfield k_0 of k such that $X \otimes_{k_0} k$ is split. Then the following four conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) *There exists a prime number l such that X is **quasi- l -monodromically full** (cf. [2], Definition 2.2, (iii)).*
- (2) *There exists a prime number l such that X is **l -monodromically full** (cf. [2], Definition 2.2, (i)).*
- (3) *There exists a **finite** subset $\Sigma \subseteq \mathfrak{P}\text{rimes}$ of $\mathfrak{P}\text{rimes}$ such that X is **$(\mathfrak{P}\text{rimes} \setminus \Sigma)$ -monodromically full**.*
- (4) *\mathfrak{m}_X (cf. [2], Definition 7.10) does **not contain any unit** of the ring of integers of k , i.e., if $X \otimes_{k_0} k$ is isomorphic to*

$$\mathbb{P}_k^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \lambda, \infty\}$$

— where $\lambda \in k \setminus \{0, 1\}$ — over k , then

$$\left\{ \lambda, 1 - \lambda, \frac{\lambda}{\lambda - 1} \right\} \cap \mathfrak{o}_k^\times = \emptyset$$

— where \mathfrak{o}_k is the ring of integers of k .

In particular, the equivalence “ $(\text{MT}_2) \Leftrightarrow (\text{MT}_3)$ ” for such an X holds.

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NOTATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

Numbers: The notation \mathfrak{Primes} will be used to denote the set of all prime numbers. The notation \mathbb{Z} will be used to denote the ring of rational integers. If p is a prime number, then the notation \mathbb{F}_p will be used to denote the finite field with p elements and the notation \mathbb{Z}_p will be used to denote the p -adic completion of \mathbb{Z} . We shall refer to a finite extension of the field of rational numbers as a *number field*.

Profinite Groups: If G is a profinite group, then we shall write $\text{Aut}(G)$ for the group of (continuous) automorphisms of G , $\text{Inn}(G) \subseteq \text{Aut}(G)$ for the group of inner automorphisms of G , and

$$\text{Out}(G) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Aut}(G)/\text{Inn}(G).$$

If, moreover, G is *topologically finitely generated*, then one verifies easily that the topology of G admits a basis of *characteristic open subgroups*, which thus induces a *profinite topology* on the group $\text{Aut}(G)$, hence also a *profinite topology* on the group $\text{Out}(G)$.

Curves: Let k be a field and X a scheme over k . For a pair (g, r) of nonnegative integers, we shall say that X is a *smooth curve of type (g, r)* over k if there exist a scheme X^{cpt} of dimension 1 which is smooth, proper, and geometrically connected over k and a closed subscheme $D \subseteq X^{\text{cpt}}$ of X^{cpt} which is étale and of degree r over k such that the complement of D in X^{cpt} is isomorphic to X over k , and, moreover, a geometric fiber of $X^{\text{cpt}} \rightarrow \text{Spec } k$ is (a necessarily smooth, proper, and connected curve) of genus g . Note that it follows immediately that if X is a smooth curve of type (g, r) over k , then the pair “ (X^{cpt}, D) ” is *uniquely determined up to isomorphism*. We shall say that X is a *hyperbolic curve* over k if there exists a pair (g, r) of nonnegative integers such that $2g - 2 + r > 0$, and, moreover, X is a smooth curve of type (g, r) over k . We shall say that X is a *tripod* over k if X is a smooth curve of type $(0, 3)$ over k . (Thus, any tripod over k is a *hyperbolic curve* over k .) Suppose that there exists a pair (g, r) of nonnegative integers such that X is a smooth curve of type (g, r) over k . Then we shall say that X is *split* if “ D ” appearing in the

definition of the term “smooth curve of type (g, r) ” is isomorphic to the disjoint union of r copies of $\text{Spec } k$ over k .

PROOFS OF MAIN RESULTS

Let k be a field of characteristic 0 and \bar{k} an algebraic closure of k . Write $G_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k)$ for the absolute Galois group of k determined by the algebraic closure \bar{k} and

$$\mathcal{M} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{P}_k^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \infty\} = \text{Spec } k[t^{\pm 1}, 1/(1-t)]$$

— where t is an indeterminate — for the *split tripod* over k (where we refer to the discussion entitled “Curves” in “Notations and Conventions” concerning the terms “split” and “tripod”). Now we have a natural identification

$$\mathcal{M}(k) \simeq k \setminus \{0, 1\}$$

and an exact sequence of profinite groups

$$1 \longrightarrow \pi_1(\mathcal{M} \otimes_k \bar{k}) \longrightarrow \pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \longrightarrow G_k \longrightarrow 1.$$

Moreover, for each prime number l , write

$$\mu_{l^\infty} \subseteq \bar{k}^\times$$

for the subgroup of \bar{k}^\times of all l -powers roots of unity.

Definition 1. Let l be a prime number.

(i) We shall write

$$\Delta^{\{l\}}$$

for the maximal pro- l quotient of $\pi_1(\mathcal{M} \otimes_k \bar{k})$.

(ii) Since the closed subgroup $\pi_1(\mathcal{M} \otimes_k \bar{k}) \subseteq \pi_1(\mathcal{M})$ of $\pi_1(\mathcal{M})$ is *normal*, conjugation by elements of $\pi_1(\mathcal{M})$ naturally determines continuous homomorphisms

$$\pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \longrightarrow \text{Aut}(\Delta^{\{l\}}) ; \quad G_k \longrightarrow \text{Out}(\Delta^{\{l\}})$$

— where we refer to the discussion entitled “Profinite Groups” in “Notations and Conventions” concerning the profinite topologies of $\text{Aut}(\Delta^{\{l\}})$ and $\text{Out}(\Delta^{\{l\}})$. We shall write

$$\tilde{\rho}^{\{l\}} ; \quad \rho^{\{l\}}$$

for the above continuous homomorphisms, respectively. It follows immediately from the various definitions involved that these homomorphisms fit into the following commutative diagram of profinite groups

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & \pi_1(\mathcal{M} \otimes_k \bar{k}) & \longrightarrow & \pi_1(\mathcal{M}) & \longrightarrow & G_k & \longrightarrow & 1 \\ & & \downarrow & & \tilde{\rho}^{\{l\}} \downarrow & & \downarrow \rho^{\{l\}} & & \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & \text{Inn}(\Delta^{\{l\}}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Aut}(\Delta^{\{l\}}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Out}(\Delta^{\{l\}}) & \longrightarrow & 1 \end{array}$$

— where the horizontal sequences are *exact*; moreover, since $\Delta^{\{l\}}$ is *center-free*, the left-hand vertical arrow factors as the composite of the natural *surjection* $\pi_1(\mathcal{M} \otimes_k \bar{k}) \twoheadrightarrow \Delta^{\{l\}}$ and the natural *isomorphism* $\Delta^{\{l\}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Inn}(\Delta^{\{l\}})$.

(iii) We shall write

$$\pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \twoheadrightarrow \Phi^{\{l\}} \quad (\text{respectively, } G_k \twoheadrightarrow G_k^{\text{tpd-}l})$$

for the quotient of $\pi_1(\mathcal{M})$ (respectively, G_k) by the kernel of the homomorphism $\tilde{\rho}^{\{l\}}$ (respectively, $\rho^{\{l\}}$). Thus, the commutative diagram in (ii) determines an exact sequence of profinite groups

$$1 \longrightarrow \Delta^{\{l\}} \longrightarrow \Phi^{\{l\}} \longrightarrow G_k^{\text{tpd-}l} \longrightarrow 1.$$

(iv) We shall write

$$k^{\text{tpd-}l} (\subseteq \bar{k})$$

for the algebraic extension of k corresponding to the quotient $G_k \twoheadrightarrow G_k^{\text{tpd-}l}$, i.e., $G_k^{\text{tpd-}l} = \text{Gal}(k^{\text{tpd-}l}/k)$.

Remark 2. In [3], the notation $\Delta_{\mathcal{M}/k}^{\{l\}}$ (respectively, $\tilde{\rho}_{\mathcal{M}/k}^{\{l\}}$; $\rho_{\mathcal{M}/k}^{\{l\}}$; $\Phi_{\mathcal{M}/k}^{\{l\}}$; $\Gamma_{\mathcal{M}/k}^{\{l\}}$) was used to denote the object $\Delta^{\{l\}}$ (respectively, $\tilde{\rho}^{\{l\}}$; $\rho^{\{l\}}$; $\Phi^{\{l\}}$; $G_k^{\text{tpd-}l}$) defined in Definition 1 of the present paper (cf. [3], Definition 1).

Lemma 3. *Let l be a prime number and $\lambda \in k \setminus \{0, 1\}$. Then the following three conditions are equivalent:*

(1) *The split hyperbolic curve of type $(0, 4)$ over k*

$$\mathbb{P}_k^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \lambda, \infty\}$$

*is **l -monodromically full** (respectively, **quasi- l -monodromically full**) [cf. [2], Definition 2.2].*

(2) *The k -rational point of \mathcal{M} naturally corresponding to $\lambda \in k \setminus \{0, 1\}$ is **l -monodromically full** (respectively, **quasi- l -monodromically full**) [cf. [3], Definition 3].*

(3) *The image of the composite*

$$G_k \longrightarrow \pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \longrightarrow \Phi^{\{l\}}$$

*— where the first arrow is the outer homomorphism induced by $\lambda \in k \setminus \{0, 1\} \simeq \mathcal{M}(k)$ — is $\Phi^{\{l\}}$ (respectively, is an **open subgroup** of $\Phi^{\{l\}}$).*

Proof. The equivalence “(1) \Leftrightarrow (2)” follows from the second equivalence in [3], Remark 4. The equivalence “(2) \Leftrightarrow (3)” follows from [3], Proposition 4, (iv). \square

Definition 4 (cf. [1], §2.3; 2.5). Let l be an odd prime number.

(i) We shall write

$$\mathbb{S}_l$$

for the minimal set of finite subsets of $\mathbb{P}_k^1(\bar{k}) \simeq \bar{k} \cup \{\infty\}$ which satisfies the following three conditions:

- (1) $\{0, 1, \infty\} \in \mathbb{S}_l$.
- (2) If $S \in \mathbb{S}_l$, then $\{a \in \bar{k} \mid a^l \in S\} \cup \{\infty\} \in \mathbb{S}_l$.
- (3) If $S \in \mathbb{S}_l$, and ϕ is an automorphism of \mathbb{P}_k^1 over \bar{k} such that $\{0, 1, \infty\} \subseteq \phi(S)$, then $\phi(S) \in \mathbb{S}_l$.

(ii) We shall write

$$\mathbb{E}_l \subseteq \bar{k}^\times$$

for the subgroup of \bar{k}^\times generated by the elements of $S \setminus \{0, \infty\}$ for all $S \in \mathbb{S}_l$.

Some of main results of [1] are as follows.

Proposition 5. *Let l be an odd prime number. Then the following hold:*

- (i) $k^{\text{tpd-}l} = k(\mathbb{E}_l)$.
- (ii) $(\mathbb{E}_l)^l = \mathbb{E}_l$.
- (iii) $\mu_{l^\infty} \subseteq \mathbb{E}_l$.

Proof. This follows from [1], Theorems A and B. □

Lemma 6. *Let l be an odd prime number. Then $l \in \mathbb{E}_l$.*

Proof. It follows from condition (1) of Definition 4, (i), that $\{0, 1, \infty\} \in \mathbb{S}_l$. Thus, it follows from condition (2) of Definition 4, (i), that

$$S \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{0, 1, \zeta_l, \zeta_l^2, \dots, \zeta_l^{l-1}, \infty\} \in \mathbb{S}_l$$

— where $\zeta_l \in \bar{k}$ is an l -th root of unity. Now since the automorphism ϕ of \mathbb{P}_k^1 over \bar{k} given by “ $t \mapsto 1 - t$ ” satisfies that $\{0, 1, \infty\} \subseteq \phi(S)$, it follows from condition (3) of Definition 4, (i), that

$$\phi(S) = \{1, 0, 1 - \zeta_l, 1 - \zeta_l^2, \dots, 1 - \zeta_l^{l-1}, \infty\} \in \mathbb{S}_l.$$

Therefore,

$$l = \prod_{i=1}^{l-1} (1 - \zeta_l^i) \in \mathbb{E}_l.$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 6. □

Lemma 7. *Let l be a prime number. Suppose that $\mu_{l^\infty} \subseteq k$. For each positive integer n , write*

$$C_{l^n} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Spec } k[x^{\pm 1}, y^{\pm 1}] / (x^{l^n} + y^{l^n} + 1) \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}$$

— where x and y are indeterminates — for the finite étale Galois $(\mathbb{Z}/l^n\mathbb{Z})^{\oplus 2}$ -covering of \mathcal{M} given by “ $t \mapsto x^{l^n}$ ” and

$$\pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \twoheadrightarrow Q_l \simeq \mathbb{Z}_l^{\oplus 2}$$

for the quotient of $\pi_1(\mathcal{M})$ determined by the C_{l^n} 's. Then the quotient $\pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \twoheadrightarrow Q_l$ **factors through** the quotient $\pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \twoheadrightarrow \Phi^{\{l\}}$.

Proof. To verify Lemma 7, it is immediate that it suffices to verify the *fact* that for any positive integer n , the quotient $\pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \twoheadrightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/l^n\mathbb{Z})^{\oplus 2}$ determined by the finite étale covering $C_{l^n} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ factors through the quotient $\pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \twoheadrightarrow \Phi^{\{l\}}$. Moreover, to verify this *fact*, it follows immediately from [3], Proposition 7, (i), that it suffices to verify that the kernel of the pro- l outer Galois representation associated to \mathcal{M}/k (i.e., $\text{Ker}(\rho^{\{l\}})$) coincides with the kernel of the pro- l outer Galois representation associated to C_{l^n}/k . On the other hand, this follows immediately from [3], Proposition 9. This completes the proof of Lemma 7. \square

Proposition 8. *Let l be an odd prime number and $\lambda \in k \setminus \{0, 1\}$. If either $\lambda \in \mathbb{E}_l \cap k$ (cf. Definition 4, (ii)) or λ is a **root of unity**, then the split hyperbolic curve of type $(0, 4)$ over k*

$$\mathbb{P}_k^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \lambda, \infty\}$$

is not quasi- l -monodromically full.

Proof. To verify Proposition 8, it follows immediately from Lemma 3, together with the exactness of the sequence appearing in Definition 1, (iii), that, by replacing k by $k^{\text{tpd-}l} \subseteq \bar{k}$, we may assume without loss of generality that $k = k^{\text{tpd-}l}$. Write ϕ for the composite

$$G_k \longrightarrow \pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \longrightarrow Q_l$$

— where the first arrow is the outer homomorphism induced by $\lambda \in k \setminus \{0, 1\} \simeq \mathcal{M}(k)$, and the second arrow is the natural surjection from $\pi_1(\mathcal{M})$ to the quotient Q_l defined in the statement of Lemma 7 (cf. Proposition 5, (i), (iii)). Moreover, for each positive integer n , write ϕ_n for the composite of ϕ and the natural surjection $Q_l \twoheadrightarrow Q_l/l^n Q_l (\simeq (\mathbb{Z}/l^n\mathbb{Z})^{\oplus 2})$ and $k_n \subseteq \bar{k}$ for the finite Galois extension of k corresponding to the quotient of G_k determined by the homomorphism ϕ_n . Then it follows immediately from the definition of the finite étale covering $C_{l^n} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ (where we refer to the statement of Lemma 7 concerning “ $C_{l^n} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ ”) that

$$k_n = k(\lambda^{1/l^n}, (1 - \lambda)^{1/l^n}).$$

Now I *claim* that for any positive integer n , it holds that $k_n = k((1 - \lambda)^{1/l^n})$. Indeed, if $\lambda \in \mathbb{E}_l$, then it follows immediately from Proposition 5, (i), (ii), that $\lambda^{1/l^n} \in \mathbb{E}_l \subseteq k^{\text{tpd-}l} = k$; in particular, $k_n = k(\lambda^{1/l^n}, (1 - \lambda)^{1/l^n}) = k((1 - \lambda)^{1/l^n})$. On the other hand, if λ is a *root of unity*, then it follows immediately from Proposition 5, (i), (iii), that $\lambda^{1/l^n} \in k(\mu_{l^\infty}, \lambda) \subseteq k^{\text{tpd-}l}(\lambda) = k(\lambda)$; in particular, $k_n = k(\lambda^{1/l^n}, (1 - \lambda)^{1/l^n}) = k((1 - \lambda)^{1/l^n})$. This completes the proof of the above *claim*.

Now it follows immediately from Lemma 3 that the hyperbolic curve of type $(0, 4)$ over k

$$\mathbb{P}_k^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \lambda, \infty\}$$

is *quasi- l -monodromically full* if and only if the image of the composite

$$G_k \longrightarrow \pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \longrightarrow \Phi^{\{l\}}$$

— where the first arrow is the outer homomorphism induced by $\lambda \in k \setminus \{0, 1\} \simeq \mathcal{M}(k)$ — is an *open* subgroup of $\Phi^{\{l\}}$. In particular, it follows from Lemma 7 that if $\mathbb{P}_k^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \lambda, \infty\}$ is *quasi- l -monodromically full*, then the image of ϕ is an *open* subgroup of Q_l . On the other hand, it follows immediately from the above *claim* that for any positive integer n , the image of ϕ_n is a *cyclic group*. In particular, the image of ϕ is *not open* in Q_l . Therefore, $\mathbb{P}_k^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \lambda, \infty\}$ is *not quasi- l -monodromically full*. This completes the proof of Proposition 8. \square

Proof of Theorem A. Let l be an odd prime number. Then since $l \in \mathbb{E}_l$ (cf. Lemma 6), it follows immediately from Proposition 8 that the hyperbolic curve of type $(0, 4)$ over k

$$X \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{P}_k^1 \setminus \{0, 1, l, \infty\}$$

is *not quasi- l -monodromically full*. On the other hand, since neither $l, 1 - l$, nor $l/(l - 1)$ is a *unit* of the ring of integers of k , it follows from [2], Corollary 7.11, that there exists a *finite* subset $\Sigma \subseteq \mathfrak{Primes}$ of \mathfrak{Primes} such that X is $(\mathfrak{Primes} \setminus \Sigma)$ -*monodromically full*. In particular, X satisfies the condition (MT_3) but does not satisfy the condition (MT_1) . This completes the proof of the fact that there exists a split hyperbolic curve of type $(0, 4)$ over k which *satisfies* (MT_3) , hence also (MT_2) , but does *not satisfy* (MT_1) .

Moreover, let $r > 4$ be a positive integer and $l' \notin \Sigma$ a prime number. Then it follows from [3], Proposition 2, that there exists an *l' -monodromically full* k -rational point x (cf. [3], Definition 3) of the $(r - 4)$ -th configuration space of the hyperbolic curve X/k . Since X is *l' -monodromically full* and x is *l' -monodromically full*, it follows from [3], Proposition 5, that the split hyperbolic curve Y of type $(0, r)$ determined by x — i.e., the hyperbolic curve obtained by taking the complement in X of the images of $r - 4$ distinct k -rational points of X determined by x — is *l' -monodromically full*. In particular, Y satisfies the condition (MT_2) . On the other hand, since $Y \subseteq X$, and X is *not quasi- l -monodromically full*, it follows from [2], Remark 2.2.5, that Y is *not quasi- l -monodromically full*. In particular, Y does not satisfy the condition (MT_1) . This completes the proof of the fact that for any positive integer $r > 4$, there exists a split hyperbolic curve of type $(0, r)$ over k which *satisfies* (MT_2) but does *not satisfy* (MT_1) . \square

Proof of Theorem B. The implication “(4) \Rightarrow (3)” follows from [2], Corollary 7.11. The implications “(3) \Rightarrow (2) \Rightarrow (1)” are immediate.

The implication “(1) \Rightarrow (4)” follows from Proposition 8, together with the fact that every unit of the ring of integers of an imaginary quadratic field is a root of unity. \square

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