

Solution (#466) The equation $6xy + 1 = x^2 + y^2$ can be rewritten as

$$(x + y)^2 - 2(x - y)^2 = -1.$$

So if (a, b) is a solution of $a^2 - 2b^2 = -1$ we see that

$$x = \frac{a + b}{2}, \quad y = \frac{a - b}{2},$$

solves $6xy + 1 = x^2 + y^2$.

In #464 we found all integer solutions (a, b) of $a^2 - 2b^2 = -1$. Further we related them to the solutions (c, d) of $c^2 - 2d^2 = 1$ by

$$a = c + 2d, \quad b = c + d.$$

And in #454 we showed that such c must be odd and such d must be even. Hence a and b are both odd and therefore x and y above are both integers.

Hence with the results of #464 we have integer solutions

$$x = \pm \left\{ \frac{(1 + \sqrt{2})^{2n+4} - (1 - \sqrt{2})^{2n+4}}{4\sqrt{2}} \right\}, \quad y = \pm \left\{ \frac{(1 + \sqrt{2})^{2n+2} - (1 - \sqrt{2})^{2n+2}}{4\sqrt{2}} \right\},$$

of $6xy + 1 = x^2 + y^2$.

On the other hand the equation $6xy = x^2 + y^2 + 1$ rearranges to

$$(x + y)^2 - 2(x - y)^2 = 1.$$

If x and y are integers then so are $x \pm y$. But by #454 we then have $x + y$ is odd and $x - y$ is even. This is not possible and so the equation has no integer solutions.