

# The Calculus of Remainders

**Notation:** 1) If  $a, m \in \mathbb{Z}$  are integers and  $m > 0$ , then  $\text{rem}(a, m)$  denotes the **remainder** obtained when  $a$  is divided by  $m$ ; i.e.  $r = \text{rem}(a, m)$  satisfies

$$0 \leq r < m \quad \text{and} \quad r = a - qm,$$

for some integer  $q$ .

2) For integers  $a, b, m \in \mathbb{Z}$  write

$$a \equiv b \pmod{m} \quad \text{or} \quad a \equiv b (m)$$

if  $a$  and  $b$  have the **same remainders** when **divided by**  $m$ :

$$\text{rem}(a, m) = \text{rem}(b, m).$$

**Theorem 1:**  $a \equiv b \pmod{m} \Leftrightarrow m \mid (a - b)$ .

**Theorem 2: (Computational Rules)**

Let  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ ,  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then:

a)  $a \pm c \equiv b \pm d \pmod{m}$ ;

b)  $ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$ ;

c)  $a^n \equiv b^n \pmod{m}$ .