

**1.33 Theorem.** Let  $a, b, n, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $a$  and  $b$  not both 0. If  $a = bn + r$ , then  $(a, b) = (b, r)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $a, b, n, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $a$  and  $b$  not both 0 be given such that  $a = bn + r$ . Since  $a$  and  $b$  are not both 0,  $b$  and  $r$  are also both not 0. We want to show  $(a, b) = (b, r)$ . Let  $d_1, d_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $d_1 = (a, b)$  and  $d_2 = (b, r)$ .

Since  $d_1 = (a, b)$ , we can say  $d_1 \mid a$  and  $d_1 \mid b$ , and similarly,  $d_2 \mid b$  and  $d_2 \mid r$ , provided  $d_2 = (b, r)$ . Observing  $a = bn + r$ , since  $d_2 \mid b$ ,  $d_2$  divides any multiple of  $b$ . Both terms are divisible by  $d_2$ , therefore, the sum is also divisible by  $d_2$ . Thus,  $d_2$  also divides  $a$ .

Since  $d_1 = (a, b)$ , we can say  $d_2$  is a common factor of  $a$  and  $b$ . This leads us to

$$d_2 \leq d_1.$$

Observing  $a - bn = r$ , since  $d_1 \mid b$ ,  $d_1$  divides any multiple of  $b$ . Both terms are divisible by  $d_1$ , therefore, the sum is also divisible by  $d_1$ . Thus,  $d_1$  also divides  $r$ .

Since  $d_2 = (b, r)$ , we can say  $d_1$  is a common factor. This leads us to

$$d_1 \leq d_2.$$

Since  $d_1$  cannot be less than and greater than  $d_2$  at the same time,  $(a, b) = (b, r)$ .  $\square$