

## Applications of congruences and the Division Algorithm

Give Proofs of the 4 propositions below. Use the notation and properties of congruences to write short proofs. Explicitly refer to the Division Algorithm to generate cases in each proof.

**Prop. 1.** If  $n$  is an integer, then  $3 \mid (n^3 - n)$ .

**Prop. 2.** If  $n$  is an integer, then  $5 \mid (n^5 - n)$ .

**Prop. 3.** If  $n$  is an integer, then  $7 \mid (n^7 - n)$ .

**Prop. 4.** If  $n$  is an integer, then  $11 \mid (n^{11} - n)$ .

Answer the following 5 questions. If you find counterexamples, please describe **all possible** counterexamples in each case.

**Q1.** Does 4 divide  $n^4 - n$  for every integer  $n$ ?

**Q2.** Does 6 divide  $n^6 - n$  for every integer  $n$ ?

**Q3.** Does 8 divide  $n^8 - n$  for every integer  $n$ ?

**Q4.** Does 9 divide  $n^9 - n$  for every integer  $n$ ?

**Q5.** Does 10 divide  $n^{10} - n$  for every integer  $n$ ?

Finally, make a conjecture about which integers  $a$  have the property that  $a \mid (n^a - n)$  for all integers  $n$ .