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The following is a theorem by Sylvester and Schur.

Theorem ([1]) If n, k are positive integers satisfying $n > k$, then, in the set of integers $n, n + 1, n + 2, \dots, n + k - 1$, there is a number containing a prime divisor greater than k .

Back to the main problem,

Solution Let $x\%y$ denote the remainder after division of x by y . First, if $a < b$, we can take a prime p greater than b , so that $a\%p = a < b = b\%p$.

Secondly, if $a \geq 2b$, according to the theorem of Sylvester and Schur, among $a - b + 1, a - b + 2, \dots, a$, there is a number $a - t$ containing a prime divisor p such that $0 \leq t < b < p$. But then, $a\%p = t < b = b\%p$.

Lastly, if $2b > a > b$, according to the theorem of Sylvester and Schur, among $b + 1, b + 2, \dots, a$ there is a number $b + t$ containing a prime divisor p such that $1 \leq t \leq a - b < p$. Again, since $a \equiv a - b + b \equiv a - b - t \pmod{p}$, we have $a\%p = a - b - t < p - t = b\%p$.

Reference

- [1] P. Erdős, "A Theorem of Sylvester and Schur". *Journal of the London Mathematical Society*, **9** (1934), pp. 282-288.