

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [x^n + y^n]^{\frac{m}{n}} = [\max\{x, y\}]^m \quad \forall x, y \geq 0$$

**Proof:**

Assume, without loss of generality, that  $x > y$ . Then,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [x^n + y^n]^{\frac{m}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [\sqrt[n]{x^n + y^n}]^m = \left[ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{x^n + y^n} \right]^m$$

Now, we only need to worry about the inner limit, then we'll come back and take the result to the  $m$ -th power. We can do this because the  $m$  is not affected by our limit, and so does not affect what the limit inside evaluates to.

We now have this

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{x^n + y^n}$$

If we factor out an  $x^n$  on the inside, we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{x^n \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^n \right]} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x \sqrt[n]{1 + \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^n} = x \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{1 + \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^n}$$

Let's remove the  $x$  for now, since it isn't affected by our limit, and analyze what's left.

Since  $x$  and  $y$  are non-negative, we know that  $\sqrt[n]{1} \leq \sqrt[n]{1 + \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^n}$ , because  $1 \leq 1 + \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^n$  and  $\sqrt[n]{1 + \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^n} \leq 1 + \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^n$  since  $a^n \geq a$  for  $a \geq 0$  and  $n > 1$ .

$$\sqrt[n]{1} \leq \sqrt[n]{1 + \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^n} \leq 1 + \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^n$$

Taking the limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we find that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{1} = 1 \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{1 + \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^n} \leq 1 + \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^n = 1$$

The last equality holds because, since  $x > y$ ,  $\frac{y}{x} < 1$ , and so  $\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Now let's multiply everything by  $x$ . We now have

$$x \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x \cdot \sqrt[n]{1 + \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{x^n \left[1 + \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^n\right]} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{x^n + y^n} \leq x$$

Since we have that our limit is less than or equal to and greater than or equal to  $x$ , it must be equal to  $x$ , by the Squeeze Theorem.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{x^n + y^n} = x$$

Because we chose to look at this where  $x > y$ , we can apply to the same logic, but instead with  $y$ , and find this limit equal to  $y$  when  $y > x$ , which means the limit depends on which term is greater. Therefore,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{x^n + y^n} = \max\{x, y\}$$

We have one more step to finally prove our proposition. We will take this limit to the  $m$ -th power.

$$\left[ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{x^n + y^n} \right]^m = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{x^n + y^n}^m = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (x^n + y^n)^{\frac{m}{n}} = (\max\{x, y\})^m$$

**QED**