

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

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 $(\frac{y}{x})^n \rightarrow 0$ 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