



# Climbing Powers

We can define  $\sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}^{\dots}}}$  as either  $(\sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}})^{\sqrt{2}}$  or  $\sqrt{2}^{(\sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}^{\dots}})}$ . Does it make any difference?

Which is bigger:

$$\sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}^{\dots}}}$$

where the powers of  $\sqrt{2}$  go on forever,

or  $(\sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}})^{\sqrt{2}}$

? Thousands more problems can be found on the NRICH maths website:

<http://nrich.maths.org>