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**Lara Pudwell** and **Eric Rowland\*** (rowland@lacim.ca). *Avoiding fractional powers over the natural numbers.*

Beginning with work of Thue, researchers have been interested in the avoidability of repetitions in long words over a finite alphabet. A recent variant has been to consider an infinite alphabet instead, for example the alphabet  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Since most patterns are avoidable over  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , one question of interest is characterizing the lexicographically least infinite word avoiding a given pattern. For natural numbers  $a \geq 2$ , Guay-Paquet and Shallit established the structure of the lexicographically least words avoiding  $a$ -powers and avoiding overlaps. Here we systematically study the lexicographically least word avoiding  $\frac{a}{b}$ -powers for rational numbers  $\frac{a}{b} > 1$ . In many cases these words are fixed points of uniform morphisms on  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^*$ . (Received August 12, 2014)