

- ▶ PATRICK LUTZ AND JAMES WALSH, *Descending sequences of hyperdegrees and the second incompleteness theorem.*

Department of Mathematics, University of California, Berkeley, 1095 Evans Hall #3840, Berkeley, CA 94720-3840, USA.

E-mail: pglutz@berkeley.edu.

Group in Logic and the Methodology of Science, University of California, Berkeley, 1043 Evans Hall #3840, Berkeley, CA 94720-3840, USA.

E-mail: walsh@math.berkeley.edu.

It follows from classical results due to Spector that there is no sequence of reals A_0, A_1, A_2, \dots such that for each n , $A_n \geq_H \mathcal{O}^{A_{n+1}}$. We will give a new proof of this result using the second incompleteness theorem. We will then mention how this fact can be used to give an alternative proof of a result of Simpson and Mummert on a semantic version of the second incompleteness theorem for β_n models. Both of these results seem to suggest a more general connection between well-foundedness of certain partial orders and the second incompleteness theorem. We will mention several other examples of this connection.