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Alexandra Pettet* (apettet@math.stanford.edu), Department of Mathematics, Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Bldg 380, Stanford, CA 94305, and **Juan Souto**. *The minimality of the well-rounded retract.*

The well-rounded retract of $SL_n(\mathbb{Z})$, first described by Ash, is an equivariant deformation retract of the associated symmetric space, having minimal dimension, the virtual cohomological dimension of $SL_n(\mathbb{Z})$. We prove that the well-rounded retract is minimal in the sense that it contains no proper, closed, contractible, invariant subsets. (Received February 03, 2008)