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Alice Medvedev* (medvedev.math.ccnyc@gmail.com). *Sparse difference equations with high transcendence degree but difference Krull dimension 1.*

For fixed integers r and m_0, \dots, m_r , the difference equation

$$\prod_{i=0}^r (\sigma^{m_i}(x))^{m_i} = 1$$

defines a subgroup G_n of the multiplicative group of transcendence degree nr .

We show that whenever no zero of the polynomial $\chi(z) := \sum_{i=0}^r m_i z^i$ is a root of unity, the difference Krull dimension of G_n is bounded, independently of n . Indeed, the difference Krull dimension of G_n is 1 whenever $\chi(z)$ is *hereditarily irreducible*, and it usually is. (Received March 21, 2017)