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**David Thomson\*** ([dthomson@math.carleton.ca](mailto:dthomson@math.carleton.ca)), School of Mathematics and Statistics, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa, Ontario K1V6W6, Canada. *Extending the Hansen-Mullen Conjectures*. Preliminary report.

The Hansen-Mullen (H/M) conjectures state that, with a small number of genuine exceptions, there is an irreducible (resp. primitive) polynomial of degree  $n \geq 2$  where any one coefficient is prescribed to a field value. These conjectures were proven in their entirety in 1998 (resp. 2008) and spawned a large body of work on distributions of specific types of polynomials over finite fields. In this work, we consider quantitative refinements of the original H/M conjectures dealing with the number of irreducibles (resp. primitives) with a prescribed coefficient.

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