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Scott Ahlgren* (ahlgren@math.uiuc.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Illinois,
1409 W. Green St, Urbana, IL 61801. *Irreducibility of Hecke Polynomials.*

Let $T_{n,k}(x)$ be the characteristic polynomial of the n th Hecke operator acting on the space of cusp forms of level one and weight k . If k is fixed, then a conjecture of Maeda states that for some n , $T_{n,k}(x)$ is irreducible and has full Galois group. The irreducibility of these polynomials has been studied recently by a number of authors. Here we discuss some new results on this subject. (Received September 12, 2006)