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**Scott Ahlgren\*** ([ahlgren@math.uiuc.edu](mailto: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)