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Hung Ngoc Nguyen* (hungnguyen@uakron.edu), The University of Akron, Department of Mathematics, Akron, OH 44325, and **Hung P. Tong-Viet** and **Thomas P. Wakefield**.

Characterizing quasi-simple groups by the degrees of their irreducible representations.

Let $\text{cd}(G)$ and $\text{cd}^*(G)$ denote the set and multiset, respectively, of the degrees of irreducible representations of a finite group G . We present some recent progress on a conjecture of Huppert that if H is a quasi-simple group and $\text{cd}(G) = \text{cd}(H)$, then G and H are isomorphic up to an abelian direct factor. We also discuss some results on a weaker conjecture that if H is a quasi-simple group and $\text{cd}^*(G) = \text{cd}^*(H)$, then G and H are isomorphic. (Received December 04, 2011)