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**On complexity of Squaring Using Polynomial Basis in  
 $GF(2^m)$**

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**Abstract** In this paper, the complexity of a squaring operation using polynomial basis (PB) in a class of finite fields  $GF(2^m)$  is evaluated. The main results are as follows:

1. When the field is generated with an irreducible trinomial  $f(x) = x^m + x^k + 1$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq \frac{m}{2}$ , where both  $m$  and  $k$  are odd, a PB squaring operation requires  $\frac{m-1}{2}$  bit operations.
2. When the field is generated with an irreducible trinomial  $f(x) = x^m + x^k + 1$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq \frac{m}{2}$ , where  $m + k$  is odd and  $k \neq \frac{m}{2}$ , a PB squaring operation requires  $\frac{m+k-1}{2}$  bit operations.
3. When the field is generated with an irreducible trinomial  $f(x) = x^m + x^{\frac{m}{2}} + 1$ , a PB squaring operation requires  $\frac{m+2}{4}$  bit operations.