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Cooper Boniece* (bboniece@skidmore.edu), Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, and Gove Effinger@skidmore.edu), Department of Math & CS, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Twin Irreducible Polynomials over \mathbf{F}_2 - Background. Preliminary report.

Two monic irreducible polynomials over \mathbf{F}_q with q > 2 are called *twins* provided they differ only in their constant coefficient. It has been proven that for all q > 2 there exist infinitely many twin irreducible pairs over \mathbf{F}_q . Over \mathbf{F}_2 , however, twins must defined as differing only in their linear and quadratic coefficients (since their constant coefficients must be 1), and so the techniques used to establish the above results for q > 2 do not work. We discuss the background of this distinct and seemingly difficult case. (Received September 20, 2010)