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A Class of Permutation Binomials over Finite Fields

Let q a prime power and  $f=ax+x^{2q-1}$ , where  $a\in\mathbb{F}_q^*$ . It was recently conjectured that f is a permutation polynomial of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^2}$  if and only if one of the following holds: (i) a=1,  $q\equiv 1\pmod 4$ ; (ii) a=-3,  $q\equiv \pm 1\pmod 12$ ; (iii) a=3,  $q\equiv -1\pmod 6$ . We will confirm this conjecture. We will also describe the context from which this conjecture arose.