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School of Math, Georgia Institute of Technology, 686 Cherry Street, Atlanta, GA 30308. *Galois  
action on Fermat curves.*

Consider the Fermat curve  $x^p + y^p = 1$  where  $p$  is an odd prime. Let  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_p)$  be the cyclotomic field. We extend work of Anderson about the action of the absolute Galois group  $G_K$  on a relative homology group of the Fermat curve. Anderson proved that the action factors through  $Q = \text{Gal}(L/K)$  where  $L$  is the splitting field of  $1 - (1 - x^p)^p$ . For  $p$  satisfying Vandiver's conjecture, we find an explicit formula for the action of  $q \in Q$  on the relative homology. This is joint work by R. Davis, R. Pries, V. Stojanoska, and K. Wickelgren. (Received September 15, 2016)