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**David Goss\*** (goss@math.ohio-state.edu). *Symmetries of characteristic  $p$   $L$ -series.*

Let  $p$  be a prime number with  $\mathbf{Z}_p$  the ring of  $p$ -adic integers. As is universally known, every  $p$ -adic number  $s$  may be written as  $s = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} c_i p^i$  where  $0 \leq c_i < p$  for all  $i$ . By simply permuting these digits  $\{c_i\}$  in a consistent fashion for all  $s \in \mathbf{Z}_p$  we obtain a group of homeomorphisms of  $\mathbf{Z}_p$  which we call  $S_{\mathbf{Z}(p)}$ . This group is easily seen to have the cardinality of the continuum. In this talk we will explain the evidence that  $S_{(p)}$  acts as symmetries of characteristic  $p$  valued  $L$ -series arising in theory of Drinfeld modules,  $t$ -modules, and various generalizations. The evidence comes from special values at both the positive and negative integers of these functions. (Received September 15, 2009)