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Christopher Cornwell* (cornwell@cirget.ca). *Character varieties of branched double covers via knot contact homology.*

I will discuss recent results on obtaining information about the $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ character variety of the double branched cover over a knot from augmentations of its knot contact homology. Some applications include determining when a knot complement has a simple $SU(2)$ character variety and if the fundamental group of the double branched cover has a left-invariant ordering. (Received January 19, 2016)