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*Applications of sutured instanton Floer homology to low-dimensional topology.*

I'll discuss several applications of Kronheimer and Mrowka's sutured instanton Floer homology to problems in low-dimensional topology coming out of my joint work with Steven Sivek. These include a new link between Stein fillings of a 3-manifold and  $SU(2)$  representations of the 3-manifold group, and a proof that Khovanov homology detects the trefoil. I'll also discuss other problems that these techniques may solve. (Received August 31, 2018)