1093-57-259   **Keiko Kawamuro***, 14 MacLean Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242, and **Tetsuya Ito**. *The self-linking number of transverse links and sharpness of Bennequin-Eliashberg inequality.* Preliminary report.

I present a braid-theoretic formula of the self-linking number of transverse links in general contact manifolds. The formula generalizes the Bennequin's formula for the standard contact 3-sphere. Then I discuss sharpness of the celebrated Bennequin-Eliashberg inequality that is used to detect tightness of a given contact structure. (Received August 17, 2013)