1047-13-123   **Bart Snapp*** (`snapp@coastal.edu`), Department of Mathematics, Coastal Carolina University, P.O. Box 261954, Conway, SC 29528. *Free summands of syzygies and Cohen-Macaulay rings.*

We will discuss a criterion for rings to be Cohen-Macaulay. While this criterion follows from the Improved New Intersection Conjecture (INIC), we prove a special case of our criterion whose validity is independent of the INIC. (Received January 23, 2009)