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*Existence of Totally Reflexive Modules.*

We prove that for a standard graded Cohen-Macaulay ring  $R$ , if the quotient  $R/(\underline{x})$  admits non-free totally reflexive modules, where  $\underline{x}$  is a system of parameters consisting of elements of degree one, then so does the ring  $R$ . As an application, we consider the question of which Stanley-Reisner rings of graphs admit non-free totally reflexive modules. (Received January 19, 2016)