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A very simple and elementary proof of a theorem of Ingelstam.

Am. Math. Mon. 111, No. 1, 54-58 (2004).

The theorem in question states that a unital Banach algebra over the field $\mathbb{R}$ whose underlying Banach space is a (real) Hilbert space is isomorphic to one of the algebras $\mathbb{R}$, $\mathbb{C}$ or $\mathbb{H}$ (= quaternions), cf. [*I. Ingelstam*, Math. Scand. 11, 22–32 (1962; Zbl 0122.35003)]. The paper under review certainly lives up to its title since no Banach algebra theory and barely any Hilbert space theory is used; incidentally, completeness turns out to be inessential for the theorem. The only criticism I have is that the author's reasoning for Fact 1 only works if the set S is assumed orthonormal and that the name Schwarz in Cauchy-Schwarz inequality is misspelt two thirds of the time. *Dirk Werner (Berlin)*

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