Fernando Albiac (albiac@math.missouri.edu), Mathematics Department, University of Missouri Columbia, MO 65211-4100 USA, ***A characterization of real $C(K)$-spaces.***

ABSTRACT. One needs to know that certain Banach spaces such as ℓ_∞ and L_∞ are $C(K)$-spaces in disguise. The standard derivation of such facts requires using the Gelfand-Naimark theorem for commutative C^*-algebras over the complex scalar field. In this pedagogical note we give a simple characterization of real Banach algebras which are isometrically isomorphic to (real) $C(K)$-spaces on a compact Hausdorff space K.