

Let  $A$  be our  $\mathbb{R}$ -algebra and  $\sigma: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  complex conjugation. Then we have the pushout diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & & A_{\mathbb{C}} \\
 & \nearrow j & \uparrow \tilde{\sigma} \\
 A & \xrightarrow{j} & A_{\mathbb{C}} \\
 \uparrow s & & \uparrow t \\
 \mathbb{R} & \xrightarrow{i} & \mathbb{C}
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{curved arrow } j \text{ from } A \text{ to } A_{\mathbb{C}} \\
 \text{curved arrow } t \circ \sigma \text{ from } \mathbb{C} \text{ to } A_{\mathbb{C}}
 \end{array}$$

We know  $A_{\mathbb{C}}^{\times} = t(\mathbb{C}^{\times})$ ,  $s(\mathbb{R}^{\times}) \subseteq A^{\times}$  and  $j(A^{\times}) \subseteq t(\mathbb{C}^{\times})$ . We need  $A^{\times} \subseteq s(\mathbb{R}^{\times})$  as well.

If  $u \in A^{\times}$ , then  $j(u) = t(\lambda)$  for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^{\times}$ . Then

$$t(\lambda) = j(u) = \tilde{\sigma}(j(u)) = \tilde{\sigma}(t(\lambda)) = t(\sigma(\lambda)),$$

so  $\lambda = \sigma(\lambda)$  because  $t$  is injective. Hence  $\lambda = i(\mu)$  for some  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^{\times}$  and  $j(u) = j(s(\mu))$ . And by injectivity again this implies  $u = s(\mu)$ .