1067-46-2196   **S. Argyros**, **D. Freeman*** (`freeman@math.utexas.edu`), **R. Haydon**, **E. Odell**, **Th. Raikoftsalis**, **Th. Schlumprecht** and **D. Zisimopoulou**. *Embedding Banach spaces into spaces with very few operators.* Preliminary report.

The "scalar plus compact problem" asks if there exists a Banach space with the property that every bounded operator on the space is equal to a scalar times the identity plus a compact operator. This long outstanding problem was recently solved by S. Argyros and R. Haydon who constructed such a space Z with the additional property that Z^* is isomorphic to ℓ_1. It was then shown by D. Freeman, E. Odell, and Th. Schlumprecht that every Banach space, X, such that X^* is separable embeds into a Banach space Y such that Y^* is isomorphic to ℓ_1. We combine both of these constructions to prove that if X is a Banach space such that X^* is separable and ℓ_1 does not embed into X^*, then X embeds into a Banach space Z such that every bounded operator on Z is equal to a scalar times the identity plus a compact operator. (Received September 22, 2010)