Isometric embeddings between Banach spaces can be modeled by first order model theory, by expressing the fact that the distance is preserved through the requirement that the difference between the distances between the images and that between the originals is smaller than every rational number. When we consider isomorphic embeddings, this first-order tool is no longer at our disposal and we have to deal with the question differently. We shall discuss a model theoretic structure which we have used for this purpose and show how it was applied to calculate the universality number in some classes of Banach spaces. (Received September 13, 2014)