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**Pavlos Motakis\***, Department of Mathematics, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-3368, and **Daniele Puglisi** and **Andreas Tolias**. *Spaces of compact diagonal operators as Calkin algebras of Banach spaces.*

The Calkin algebra of a Banach space  $Z$  is the unital Banach algebra  $\mathcal{C}al(Z)$  defined as the quotient  $\mathcal{L}(Z)/\mathcal{K}(Z)$  of the algebra of all bounded linear operators on  $Z$  over the ideal of all compact ones. We investigate the question of what types of unital algebras can occur as Calkin algebras. Given a Banach space  $X$  with a Schauder basis we denote by  $\mathcal{K}_{\text{diag}}(X)$  the space of all compact and diagonal operators on  $X$ . We prove that there exists a Banach space  $\mathfrak{X}_X$  so that the Calkin algebra of  $\mathfrak{X}_X$  is isomorphic, as a Banach algebra, to  $\mathcal{K}_{\text{diag}}(X) \oplus \mathbb{R}I$ . This yields Banach spaces with interesting Calkin algebras, e.g., James' quasi reflexive Banach space and even a hereditarily indecomposable Banach algebra constructed by S. A. Argyros, I. Deliyanni, and A. Tolias. The space  $\mathfrak{X}_X$  is of the form  $(\sum \oplus X_k)$  where each  $X_k$  is a version of the Argyros-Haydon space and the outside norm is a modified Argyros-Haydon sum incorporating the norm of the space  $X$ . (Received July 18, 2017)