ELECTRONIC SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Access towards enantiopure α, α -difluoromethyl alcohols

by means of sulfoxides as traceless chiral auxiliaries

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1. General experimental methods and equipment

Starting materials, if commercially available, were purchased from standard suppliers (Sigma-Aldrich, Fluorochem, ABCR, Acros, Alfa Aesar or Apollo scientific) and used as such, provided that adequate checks by NMR analysis had confirmed the claimed purity. When needed, solvents were purified and dried following standard procedures. THF was dried by distillation over sodium/benzophenone prior to use. Toluene, when used anhydrous, was either dried over 4 Å molecular sieves previously activated overnight at 300 °C under vacuum or dried by distillation over sodium. Anhydrous DMF purchased from Sigma Aldrich was used as received. Air- and moisture- sensitive materials were stored and handled under an atmosphere of argon. Reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of argon when needed. Reactions were monitored by using thin-layer chromatography with precoated silica on aluminum foils (0.25 mm, Merck silica-gel (60-F₂₅₄)). Flash column chromatography was performed on VWR silica gel (40–63 μ m) using the indicated solvents, the solvent systems being indicated in v/v. Butyllithium (1.6 M in hexanes, Aldrich) was used as a solution in hexanes and its concentration was determined following the Wittig-Harborth double titration method ((total base) - (residual base after reaction with 1,2-dibromoethane)).^[1] Spectroscopic NMR and MS data were obtained using chromatographically homogeneous samples. ¹H NMR (400 or 500 MHz), ¹⁹F NMR (376 or 472 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (101 or 126 MHz) spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ on Bruker Avance III HD 400 and 500 MHz instruments respectively. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) and are referred to partially deuterated chloroform (δ [¹H] = 7.26 ppm and δ [¹³C] = 77.16 ppm). Multiplicities were abbreviated as br s (broad singlet), s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), td (triplet of doublets), dd (doublet of doublets). Coupling constants J were given in Hz. Spectra were processed with the program NMR notebook (Version 2.80, NMRtec). IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer's Spectrum one[™], the frequencies being reported in cm⁻¹. Chiral HPLC analyses were performed on a Shimadzu Prominence chromatograph. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded with a TOF mass analyser under ESI in positive ionization mode detection by the analytical facility at the Université de Strasbourg. The X-ray crystallographic structure analysis was performed by the radiocrystallographic facility at the Université de Strasbourg. The analysis was carried out on a Nonius Kappa-CCD diffractometer equipped with an Oxford Cryosystem liquid N₂ device, using Mo-K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å).

2. Synthesis of racemic aryl α , α -difluoromethyl sulfoxides 3a and 3b

a. Ethyl 2,2-difluoro-2-(p-tolylthio)acetate 1a



A solution of *p*-toluenethiol (1 equiv., 5 g, 39.5 mmol) dissolved in anhydrous DMF (15 mL) was cannulated dropwise onto a suspension of sodium hydride (60% dispersion in mineral oil; 1.1 equiv., 1.74 g, 43.4 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (15 mL) at 0 °C under an atmosphere of argon. Ethyl bromodifluoroacetate (1 equiv., 5.22 mL, 39.5 mmol) was then syringed dropwise into the previous solution. The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 20 hours, then cooled to 0 °C and quenched with water. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with CH_2CI_2 . The combined organic layers were washed with large amounts of water and with a saturated solution of NaCl. The resulting organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 95/5). Ethyl 2,2-difluoro-2-(*p*-tolylthio)acetate **1a** (7.55 g, 78%) was obtained as a light yellow oil.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3 H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –82.6 (s, 2F). These data are consistent with those already reported in the literature.^[2]

- b. Ethyl 2,2-difluoro-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)acetate 2a
 - α. Periodic acid and iron (III) chloride



Ethyl 2,2-difluoro-2-(*p*-tolylthio)acetate **1a** (1 equiv., 12 g, 48.7 mmol) and FeCl₃ (3 mol%, 244 mg, 1.46 mmol) were dissolved in 75 mL of acetonitrile. After 10 minutes of stirring, periodic acid (1.1 equiv., 12.3 g, 53.6 mmol) was added to the mixture which was mechanically stirred at 25 °C. After 3 days (*ca.* 80% conversion, determined by ¹H and ¹⁹F NMR analysis) were added more periodic acid (0.3 equiv.) and FeCl₃ (1 mol%). After 4 days of stirring, the reaction was slowly quenched with a saturated solution of Na₂S₂O₃ and extracted three times with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layers were washed with water and with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on

demetalated silica gel with cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 80/20). Ethyl 2,2-difluoro-2-(*p*-tolylsulfinyl)acetate **2a** (12.1 g, 95%) was obtained as a yellow oil.

β. Hydrogen peroxide and trifluoroacetic acid



To a solution of trifluoroperoxyacetic acid (TFPAA) at 0 °C (1 equiv., prepared by mixing 415 μ L of H₂O₂, 30% w/w in water, with 1.36 mL of trifluoroacetic acid, TFA, at 0 °C) was added dropwise ethyl 2,2-difluoro-2-(*p*-tolylthio)acetate **1a** (1 equiv., 1 g, 4.06 mmol) dissolved in 6.5 mL of TFA. The solution was warmed to 25 °C and stirred at this temperature for 23 hours. The reaction mixture was carefully poured onto a saturated solution of NaHCO₃. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with AcOEt. The combined organic phases were washed with water and with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on demetalated silica gel with cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 80/20). Ethyl 2,2-difluoro-2-(*p*-tolylsulfinyl)acetate **2a** (800 mg, 75%) was obtained as a yellow oil.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (qd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –110.6 (AB system, *J*_{AB} = 228.0 Hz, Δv_{AB} = 722.5 Hz, 2F). These data are consistent with those already reported in the literature.^[2]

c. α, α -Difluoromethyl *p*-tolyl sulfoxide 3a

Thermal conditions



Ethyl 2,2-difluoro-2-(*p*-tolylsulfinyl)acetate **2a** (1 equiv., 3 g, 10.9 mmol) was dissolved in 85 mL of DMSO. LiCl (2 equiv., 931 mg, 21.8 mmol) and H₂O (2 equiv., 391 μ L, 21.8 mmol) were then introduced. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 24 hours. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and then poured onto cold water. The aqueous layer was saturated with NaCl and then extracted three times with AcOEt. The combined organic layers were washed with water and with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 80/20). α , α -Difluoromethyl *p*-tolyl sulfoxide **3a** (1.83 g, 89%) was obtained as a white solid.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.61 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.01 (t, J = 55.5 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –119.5 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 261.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 55.2$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 72.3$ Hz, 2F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 143.9, 133.6 (t, J = 2.9 Hz), 130.5, 125.6, 121.1 (t, J = 289.4 Hz), 21.7. IR ν (cm⁻¹) 3039, 1598, 1495, 1293, 1105, 1080, 1068, 1034, 1019, 969, 952, 808, 709, 694.

d. Ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenylthio)-2,2-difluoroacetate 1b



A solution of 4-chlorothiophenol (1 equiv., 12 g, 81.3 mmol) dissolved in anhydrous DMF (35 mL) was cannulated dropwise onto a suspension of sodium hydride (60% dispersion in mineral oil; 1.1 equiv., 3.58 g, 89.5 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (30 mL) at 0 °C under argon. Ethyl bromodifluoroacetate (1 equiv., 10.8 mL, 81.32 mmol) was then syringed dropwise into the previous solution. The reaction mixture was heated at 40 °C for 21 hours, then cooled to 0 °C, quenched with water and extracted three times with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic layers were washed with large amounts of water and a saturated solution of NaCl. The resulting organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 90/10). Ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenylthio)-2,2-difluoroacetate (20.4 g, 94%) **1b** was obtained as a light-yellow oil.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –82.1 (s, 2F). These data are consistent with those already reported in the literature.^[2]

- e. Ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenylsulfinyl)-2,2-difluoroacetate 2b
 - $\boldsymbol{\alpha}.$ Periodic acid and iron (III) chloride



Ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenylthio)-2,2-difluoroacetate **1b** (1 equiv., 5 g, 18.7 mmol) and FeCl₃ (3 mol%, 94.1 mg, 562 μ mol) were dissolved in 50 mL of acetonitrile. After 10 minutes of stirring, periodic acid (1 equiv., 4.32 g, 18.7 mmol) was added to the mixture which was mechanically stirred at 25 °C. After 24 h (*ca.* 80% conversion), 39 h (*ca.* 87% conversion) and 48 h (*ca.* 92% conversion), were added each time 0.1 equiv. of oxidizing agent (total = 0.3 equiv. of H₅IO₆). After 50 hours of stirring, the reaction

was slowly quenched with a saturated solution of Na₂S₂O₃. The aqueous phase was extracted several times with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layers were washed with water and with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on demetalated silica gel with cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 90/10). Ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenylsulfinyl)-2,2-difluoroacetate **2b** (4.97 g, 94%) was obtained as a yellow oil.

β . Hydrogen peroxide and trifluoroacetic acid



To a solution of trifluoroperoxyacetic acid (TFPAA) at 0 °C (1 equiv., prepared by mixing 383 μ L of H₂O₂, 30% w/w in water, with 1.25 mL of trifluoroacetic acid, TFA, at 0 °C) was added dropwise ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenylthio)-2,2-difluoroacetate **1b** (1 equiv., 1 g, 3.75 mmol) dissolved in 6 mL of TFA. The solution was warmed to 25 °C and stirred at this temperature for 23 hours. The reaction mixture was carefully poured onto a saturated solution of NaHCO₃. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with AcOEt. The combined organic phases were washed with water and with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on demetalated silica gel with cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 80/20). Ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenylsulfinyl)-2,2-difluoroacetate **2b** (800 mg, 75%) was obtained as a yellow oil.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.67 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –110.0 (AB system, J_{AB} = 228.0 Hz, Δv_{AB} = 994.3 Hz, 2F). These data are consistent with those already reported in the literature.^[2]

f. 1-Chloro-4-((difluoromethyl)sulfinyl)benzene 3b

$\boldsymbol{\alpha}$. Thermal conditions



Ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenylsulfinyl)-2,2-difluoroacetate **2b** (1 equiv., 100 mg, 354 μ mol) was dissolved in 3 mL of DMSO. LiCl (2 equiv., 30.3 mg, 707 μ mol) and H₂O (2 equiv., 12.7 μ L, 707 μ mol) were then introduced. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 21 hours, cooled to room temperature and then poured onto ice-cold water. The aqueous layer was saturated with NaCl and then extracted three times with AcOEt. The combined organic layers were washed with water, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with cyclohexane/AcOEt (90/10 to 70/30). 1-Chloro-4-((difluoromethyl)sulfinyl)benzene **3b** (75 mg, quantitative yield) was obtained as a white solid.

β. Microwave conditions



To a suspension of LiCl (2 equiv., 15.1 mg, 354 µmol) and ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenylsulfinyl)-2,2difluoroacetate **2b** (1 equiv., 50 mg, 177 µmol) in 3 mL of *N*-methylpyrrolidine (NMP) was added H₂O (2 equiv., 6.37 mL, 354 µmol). The reaction mixture was heated to 100 °C under microwave irradiation for 15 minutes. The dark brown reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. An aqueous solution of 1M HCl was added to the mixture. The aqueous layer was extracted three times with AcOEt. The combined organic layers were washed three times with ice-cold water and with a cold saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 70/30). 1-Chloro-4-((difluoromethyl)sulfinyl)benzene **3b** (38 mg, quantitative yield) was obtained as a white solid.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.67 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.19 (t, J = 55.2 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –119.3 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 262.3$ Hz, $J_{AX} = J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 55.2$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 256.7$ Hz, 2F). These data are consistent with those already reported in the literature.^[4]

3. Synthesis of enantiopure α, α -difluoromethyl *p*-tolyl sulfoxide (S)-3a

a. (+)-Phenylalaninol 4



Following a reported procedure,^[5] to a slurry of LiAlH₄ (2.1 equiv., 1.7 g, 44.7 mmol) in 60 mL of freshly distilled THF at 0 °C was added D-phenylalanine (1 equiv., 3.55 g, 21.3 mmol) under an atmosphere of argon. The slurry was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C and then heated under reflux for 21 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C. 25 mL of an aqueous solution of NaOH 1M were added dropwise over 2 h. The slurry was filtered. The cake was washed several times with AcOEt. The organic layer was washed with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced

pressure. The D(+)-phenylalaninol **4** (3.13 g, 97%) was obtained after crystallisation in Et_2O as a white solid.



¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ (ppm) 7.33-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.18 (m, 3H), 3.64 (dd, J = 3.8 Hz, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (dd, J = 7.2 Hz, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 3.16-3.09 (m, 1H), 2.80 (dd, J = 5.1 Hz, 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (dd, J = 8.7 Hz, 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.30-1.70 (br s, 3H). These data are consistent with those already reported in the literature.^[5]

b. (R)-4-Benzyl-2-oxazolidinone 5



Following a reported procedure,^[6] D(+)-phenylalaninol **4** (1 equiv., 1 g, 6.61 mmol) and dried K₂CO₃ (0.9 equiv., 823 mg, 5.95 mmol) were put in presence of freshly distilled diethyl carbonate (2 equiv., 1.62 mL, 13.2 mmol). The slurry was heated to 145 °C and EtOH was removed by distillation until elution ceased. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the remaining volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. CH_2Cl_2 was added to the resulting oil. The organic phase was washed with water, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 50/50). (*R*)-4-Benzyl-2-oxazolidinone **5** (986 mg, 84%) was obtained as an orange solid.



¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ (ppm) 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.58 (br s, 1H), 4.44 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.16-4.04 (m, 2H), 2.87 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H). These data are consistent with those already reported in the literature.^[6]

c. (*R*)-4-benzyl-3-((*R*)-*p*-tolylsulfinyl) oxazolidin-2-one, (*R*,*R*)-6, and (*R*)-4-benzyl-3-((*S*)-*p*-tolylsulfinyl) oxazolidin-2-one, (*R*,*S*)-6



Preliminary synthesis of p-tolylsulfinyl chloride

SOCl₂ (5 equiv., 1.57 mL, 21.4 mmol) was diluted in 9 mL of freshly distilled toluene under argon. The solution was cooled to 0 °C. Sodium *p*-tolylsulfinate (1 equiv., 762 mg, 4.28 mmol) was slowly added to the previous solution. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature (25 °C) and it was stirred for 2 h. The remaining SOCl₂ was distilled (azeotrope with toluene) followed by removal of the residual solvent under reduced pressure, to afford *p*-tolylsulfinyl chloride.

Procedure

To a solution of (R)-4-benzyl-2-oxazolidinone 5 (1 equiv., 500 mg, 2.85 mmol) in 6 mL of freshly distilled THF under an atmosphere of argon at 0 °C was added dropwise *n*-BuLi (1.1 equiv., 1.58 M in hexanes, 1.99 mL, 3.14 mmol) over a 5 to 10 minute-period. The resultant suspension was stirred at this temperature for 10 minutes and then cooled to -78 °C. It was stirred 10 minutes at this temperature. The freshly prepared p-tolylsulfinyl chloride (1.5 equiv., 747 mg, 4.28 mmol) dissolved in 4 mL of freshly distilled THF was then added as a slurry to the previous mixture. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 25 minutes. It was guenched with a saturated solution of NH₄Cl and diluted with AcOEt. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with AcOEt. The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ and with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. An NMR analysis of the crude mixture revealed total conversion with a ratio (R,R):(R,S) of 61:39. The crude product was purified by chromatography on demetalated silica gel with cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 80/20). The (R)-4-benzyl-3-((R)-p-tolylsulfinyl)oxazolidin-2-one (**R**, **R**)-6 (426 mg, 48%) was obtained as a white solid and (R)-4benzyl-3-((S)-p-tolylsulfinyl)oxazolidin-2-one (R,S)-6 (209 mg, 23%) was obtained as an orange oil. It is also possible to crystallise (R)-4-benzyl-3-((R)-p-tolylsulfinyl)oxazolidin-2-one (R,R)-6 from Et₂O from the crude mixture.

(R)-4-Benzyl-3-((R)-p-tolylsulfinyl)oxazolidin-2-one (R,R)-6



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.18 (m, 3H), 6.98-6.91 (m, 2H), 4.07 (dd, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.76-3.68 (m, 1H), 3.37 (dd, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H). These data are consistent with those already reported in the literature.^[7]

(R)-4-Benzyl-3-((S)-p-tolylsulfinyl)oxazolidin-2-one (R,S)-6



¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ (ppm) 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.17 (m, 3H), 6.98-6.92 (m, 2H), 4.59-4.48 (m, 1H), 4.16 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.20-2.14 (m, 2H). These data are consistent with those already reported in the literature.^[7]

d. Ethyl (S)-2,2-difluoro-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)acetate (S)-2a

α. Reformatsky-type reaction



To a suspension of freshly activated Zn (Zn was activated with an aqueous solution of 4M HCl then washed several times with water and acetone and finally put under vacuum at 120 °C overnight; 2.4 equiv., 34.8 mg, 533 µmol) in 3 mL of freshly distilled THF was added one drop of ethyl bromodifluoroacetate. The mixture was stirred at 66 °C. A solution of (R)-4-benzyl-3-((R)-ptolylsulfinyl)oxazolidin-2-one (R,R)-6 (1 equiv., 70 mg, 222 µmol) and ethyl bromodifluoroacetate (2.4 equiv., 70.4 mL, 533 µmol) in 3 mL of freshly distilled THF was then added dropwise to the previous mixture. The reaction mixture was stirred at 66 °C for 41 hours, then cooled to room temperature and quenched with an aqueous solution of KHSO4. The mixture was stirred for 30 minutes at 25 °C. It was then filtered through Celite[®] and washed carefully with diethyl ether. To the filtrate was added a saturated solution of NaCl. The filtrate was extracted three times with Et₂O. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on demetalated silica gel in cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 90/10). Ethyl (S)-2,2-difluoro-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)acetate (S)-2a (42 mg, 0.16 mmol, 72%, 97% e.e.) was obtained as a light yellow oil. The enantiomeric excess of the product was determined by chiral HPLC using a Chiracel IC column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate: 0.5 mL/min, λ = 206 nm, τ = 23.9 min and 31.3 min).

β. Honda-Reformatsky-type reaction



(*R*)-4-Benzyl-3-((*R*)-*p*-tolylsulfinyl)oxazolidin-2-one (*R*,*R*)-6 (1 equiv., 70 mg, 222 μ mol) and RhCl(PPh₃)₃ (3 mol%, 6.16 mg, 6.7 μ mol) were dissolved in 6 mL of freshly distilled THF. The mixture was cooled to -20 °C. Ethyl bromodifluoroacetate (3 equiv., 88 μ L, 670 μ mol) was added to the mixture followed by dropwise addition of diethylzinc (2 equiv., 1 M in hexanes, 444 μ L, 444 μ mol). The mixture was stirred at -20 °C for 1 h. Stirring was continued at 20 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with a saturated solution of NH₄Cl. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with AcOEt and the combined organic layers were washed with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography

on demetalated silica gel using cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 90/10). Ethyl (*S*)-2,2-difluoro-2-(*p*-tolylsulfinyl)acetate (*S*)-2a (38 mg, 145 μ mol, 65%, 86% e.e.) was obtained as a transparent oil. The enantiomeric excess of the product was determined by chiral HPLC using a Chiracel IC column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate: 0.5 mL/min, λ = 206 nm, τ = 24.0 min and 31.6 min).



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (qd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –110.6 (AB system, *J*_{AB} = 227.0 Hz, Δv_{AB} = 727.0 Hz, 2F). These data are consistent with those already reported in the literature.^[2]

e. (S)- α , α -Difluoromethyl p-tolyl sulfoxide (S)-3a

The enantioenriched ethyl (*S*)-2,2-difluoro-2-(*p*-tolylsulfinyl)acetate (*S*)-2a (92% e.e.) was decarboxylated under Krapcho's conditions previously optimized for the synthesis of the corresponding racemic compound 2a (see § 1.f.).

α . Thermal conditions



Under thermal conditions, after 19 h of stirring at 110 °C, (*S*)- α , α -difluoromethyl *p*-tolyl sulfoxide (*S*)-3a (107 mg, 98%, 84% e.e.) was obtained as a white solid. The enantiomeric excess of the product was determined by chiral HPLC using a Chiracel IC column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80:20, flow rate: 0.5 mL/min, λ = 205 nm, τ = 17.2 min and 23.2 min).

β. Microwave conditions



Under microwave conditions, after 15 minutes of stirring at 100 °C, (*S*)- α , α -difluoromethyl *p*-tolyl sulfoxide (*S*)-3a (69 mg, 83%, 92% e.e.) was obtained as a white solid. The enantiomeric excess of the product was determined by chiral HPLC using a Chiracel IC column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate: 0.5 mL/min, λ = 205 nm, τ = 17.1 min and 23.0 min).



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.00 (t, *J* = 55.5 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –119.4 (d, 2F, *J* = 55.9 Hz). These data are consistent with those already reported in the literature.^[3]

γ. Crystallographic structure of (S)- α , α -difluoromethyl p-tolyl sulfoxide (S)-3a

It should be noted that (*S*)-enantioenriched α, α -difluoromethyl *p*-tolyl sulfoxide **3a** can be further enantioenriched by crystallisation from Et₂O to obtain (*S*)-**3a** with > 97% e.e.. It was possible to get suitable crystals for a crystallographic analysis that confirmed the (*S*) configuration of the sulfur atom. The crystals were placed in oil, and a single crystal was selected, mounted on a glass fibre and placed in a low-temperature N₂ stream. X-ray diffraction data collection was carried out on a Nonius Kappa-CCD diffractometer equipped with an Oxford Cryosystem liquid N₂ device, using Mo-K α radiation (λ = 0.71073 Å). The crystal-detector distance was 36 mm. The cell parameters were determined (Denzo software)^[8] from reflections taken from one set of 10 frames (1.0° steps in phi angle), each at 20 s exposure. The structure was solved by Direct methods using the program SHELXS-2014. The refinement and all further calculations were carried out using SHELXL-2014.^[9] The H-atoms were included in calculated positions and treated as riding atoms using SHELXL default parameters. The non-H atoms were refined anisotropically, using weighted full-matrix least-squares on F².



X-Ray analysis of (S)- α , α -difluoromethyl p-tolyl sulfoxide (S)-3a

Formule	C ₈ H ₈ F ₂ OS	Cell volume	834.253 ų
Μ	190.20	Z, Calculated density	4, 1.514 Mg/m ³
Temperature	173 (2)	F(000)	392
Wavelength	0.71073	Crystal size	0.340 x 0.180 x 0.120 mm
Crystalline structure	Orthorhombic	Theta range for data collection	2.511 to 27.475
Space group	P 2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁		

а	4.91110 (10) Å	Z	0				
b	8.9793 (2) Å	Z'	0				
C	18.9180 (4) Å	Configuration	S				
α	90 °	Flack parameter	- 0.01 (3)				
β	90 °	R1	0.0308				
γ	90 °	wR2	0.0769				

Crystallographic data

4. Details concerning the synthesis of α, α -difluoro- β -hydroxy sulfoxides 7a-n

a. Determination of the best reaction conditions - Detailed general procedures

	O S S C	HF ₂ +	- 3	Base ► Divent 0 °C, <i>t</i>	P F F	
	Entry	Base	Solvent	Time	d.r ^a	
-	1		THF	40 min	40:60	
	2	I-BUOK	DMF	2 h	53:47	
	3	D.+_Ru ^c	THF	2 h	84:16	
	4	г 4 ι- DU	DMF	2 h	55:45 to 99:1	
	5	P ₄ t-Bu ^d	THF	2 h	99:1	

^a Diastereomeric ratios were determined by ¹⁹F NMR and confirmed by reversed-phase HPLC – ^b Procedure A: potassium *tert*-butoxide was solubilized in the solvent of the reaction – ^c Procedure B: P₄t-Bu was used as a commercially available solution in hexane – ^d Procedure C: P₄t-Bu was added

as a solution in freshly distilled THF.

$\pmb{\alpha}.~\textbf{Procedure}~\textbf{A}$

In a vial under argon were dissolved α, α -difluoromethyl *p*-tolyl sulfoxide **3a** (1 equiv., 15 mg, 78.9 µmol) and benzaldehyde (1 equiv., 8.13 µL, 78.9 µmol) in 1 mL of the appropriate anhydrous solvent. The mixture was stirred at -30 °C for 10 minutes. Potassium *tert*-butoxide (2 equiv., 17.7 mg, 158 µmol) previously put in suspension or solubilised in 1.5 mL of the same anhydrous solvent was added dropwise to the previous solution. The reaction mixture was stirred at -30 °C for 40 minutes up to

2 hours, then quenched with water at this temperature. The aqueous layer was extracted three times with Et₂O. The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The diastereomeric ratio was determined by ¹⁹F NMR and confirmed by reverse-phase HPLC. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel using cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 80/20) to obtain 2,2-difluoro-1-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol **7a** as an oil.

β. Procedure B

In a vial under argon were dissolved α, α -difluoromethyl *p*-tolyl sulfoxide **3a** (1 equiv., 15 mg, 78.9 µmol) and benzaldehyde (1 equiv., 8.13 µL, 78.9 µmol) in 1 mL of the appropriate anhydrous solvent. P₄*t*-Bu (0.8 M solution in hexane, 2 equiv., 0.197 mL, 0.158 mmol) was added dropwise to this solution cooled to -30 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at -30 °C for 2 hours, then quenched with water at this temperature. The aqueous layer was extracted three times with Et₂O. The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The diastereomeric ratio was determined by ¹⁹F NMR and confirmed by reverse-phase HPLC. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel using cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 80/20) to obtain 2,2-difluoro-1-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol **7a** as an oil.

γ. Procedure C

Hexane was removed under vacuum from 197 μ L of the commercially available solution of P₄t-Bu (0.8 M in hexane, 2 equiv., 197 μ L, 158 μ mol). The solid obtained was dissolved in 0.7 mL of freshly distilled THF previously cooled to -30 °C. To a solution of α , α -difluoromethyl *p*-tolyl sulfoxide **3a** (1 equiv., 15 mg, 78.9 μ mol) and benzaldehyde (1 equiv., 8.13 μ L, 78.9 μ mol) dissolved in 1.8 mL of freshly distilled THF at -30 °C was added dropwise the previous solution of P₄t-Bu in THF. The reaction mixture was stirred at -30 °C for 2 hours, then quenched with water at this temperature. The aqueous layer was extracted three times with Et₂O. The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The diastereomeric ratio was determined by ¹⁹F NMR and confirmed by reverse-phase HPLC. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel using cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 80/20) to obtain 2,2-difluoro-1-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol **7a** as an oil.

b. Determination of the diastereomeric ratios by ¹⁹F NMR and reverse-phase HPLC

To confirm the accuracy of the diastereomeric ratio measured by ¹⁹F NMR, the ratio was compared with a determination by reverse-phase HPLC. See below one example (**Table 1**, Entry 2 of the corpus).



¹⁹F NMR analysis – d.r. = 52.4 (diastereomer 1) : 47.6 (diastereomer 2)



Using ¹⁹F NMR, we could measure a d.r. of **52.4:47.6** while using reverse-phase HPLC we measured a d.r. of **52.35:47.65**. Both results being identical within experimental error, it was decided to use ¹⁹F NMR to determine the diastereomeric ratios on each crude mixture.

c. Mechanistic hypothesis

$\boldsymbol{\alpha}.$ Evolution of the diastereomeric ratio over time

The diastereomeric excess of the reaction mixture (comprising 1 equiv. of benzaldehyde, 1 equiv. of sulfoxide and 2 equiv. of P_4t -Bu at -30 °C) increases over time. Hereafter are presented the procedure that has been employed, the ¹⁹F NMR analysis performed and the graphics showing this evolution over time for the conditions cited above.



Procedure E

Hexane was removed under vacuum from 197 μ L of the commercially available solution of P₄t-Bu (0.8 M in hexane, 2 equiv., 197 μ L, 158 μ mol). The solid obtained was dissolved in 0.7 mL of freshly distilled THF previously cooled to -30 °C. To a solution of α , α -difluoromethyl *p*-tolyl sulfoxide **3a** (1 equiv., 15 mg, 78.9 μ mol) and benzaldehyde (1 equiv., 8.13 μ L, 78.9 μ mol) dissolved in 1.8 mL of freshly distilled THF at -30 °C was added dropwise the previously prepared solution of P₄t-Bu in THF. 0.4 mL of the reaction mixture were collected after 5 min, 15 min, 45 min and 2 h. These samples were each time immediately quenched by syringing them into 2 mL of water. The aqueous phases were extracted with Et₂O three times. The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The diastereomeric ratio was determined by ¹⁹F NMR.

¹⁹F NMR of the reaction mixture sampled after 5, 15, 45 and 120 minutes



Evolution of the diastereomeric excess over time for two equivalents of P₄t-Bu – Data

Time (min)	Diastereomer 1 ^a	Diastereomer 2 ^a	Diastereomeric excess (%)
5	62	38	24
15	73	27	46
45	93	7	86
120	99,5	0,5	99

^a The percentage of each diastereomer was determined via quantitative ¹⁹F NMR integration

Evolution of the diastereomeric excess over time for two equivalents of P₄t-Bu – Graphic



β. Presence of α-fluoro-θ-ketosulfoxide in the crude mixtures



Here is one example of the ¹⁹F NMR of a crude mixture showing the presence of the corresponding α -fluoro- θ -ketosulfoxide as side product of the reaction. The presence of this side product correlates the assumed mechanism (cf. **Scheme 3** of the manuscript).



¹⁹F NMR spectra of the crude mixture

Two diastereomers



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.22 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 0.9H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1.8H), 7.44 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 0.9H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1.8H), 6.81 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 0.9H), 5.87 (d, J = 50.5 Hz, 0.9H), 5.63 (d, J = 48.5 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 2.7H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –189.6 (dd, J = 3.4 Hz, 50.4 Hz, 1F) and –190.7 (dd, J = 2.7 Hz, 48.4 Hz, 1F). IR ν (cm⁻¹) 2926, 2874, 1725, 1669, 1596, 1558, 1514, 1493, 1456, 1382, 1288, 1161, 1143, 1119, 1080, 1057, 1016, 943, 873, 811, 745, 703. HRMS (ESI positive) calcd for C₁₃H₁₁FNaO₃S: 289.0305, found: 289.0294.

- 5. Synthesis of α, α -difluoro- β -hydroxy sulfoxides 7a-n
- a. 2,2-Difluoro-1-phenyl-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol 7a

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 99:1 (¹⁹F NMR)

One diastereomer (major one with procedure C)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.34 (m, 5H), 5.37 (dd, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 16.4 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (s, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –114.5 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 219.3$ Hz, $J_{AX} = J_{H-F} = 8.2$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 16.3$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 4311$ Hz, 2F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 143.8, 134.2, 132.8, 130.1, 129.6, 128.7, 128.2, 126.5, 123.4 (dd, *J* = 292.9 Hz, 311.5 Hz), 73.7 (t, *J* = 21.8 Hz), 21.8. IR v (cm⁻¹) 3265, 1595, 1493, 1456, 1205, 1106, 1085, 1067, 1033, 1013, 975, 812, 726, 697. HRMS (ESI positive) calcd for C₁₅H₁₄F₂NaO₂S: 319.0575, found: 319.0588.

b. 2,2-Difluoro-1-phenyl-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol 7b

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 56:44 (¹⁹F NMR)

Two diastereomers – Diastereomeric ratio = 55:45 (¹⁹F NMR)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.6H), 7.58 (m 3.6H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2.0H), 7.51-7.39 (m, 2.8H), 7.38-7.31 (m, 6.2H), 4.77 (br s, 0.7H), 4.35 (br s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 2.5H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.74 (s, 2.5H). ¹⁹F NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) diastereomer 1, δ (ppm) –110.5 (AB system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 221.1$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 5729$ Hz, 1F); diastereomer 2, δ (ppm) –112.5 (AB system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 219.3$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 6289$ Hz, 0.7F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 143.9, 143.8, 140.4, 139.0, 132.4, 132.3, 130.0, 130.0, 128.7, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7, 126.4, 78.9 (t, *J* = 21.3 Hz), 77.9 (dd, *J* = 40.9 Hz, 20.4 Hz), 25.3, 24.3, 21.8, 21.7. IR v (cm⁻¹) 3350, 2922, 2852, 1597, 1494, 1449, 1379, 1123, 1082, 1066, 1042, 1016, 969, 810, 761, 699. HRMS (ESI positive) calcd for C₁₆H₁₇F₂O₂S: 311.0912, found: 311.0895.

c. 2,2-Difluoro-1-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol 7c

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 56:44 (¹⁹F NMR)

Two diastereomers – Diastereomeric ratio = 34:66 (¹⁹F NMR)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 0.5H), 7.93-7.83 (m, 4.5H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.57-5.41 (m, 4.5H), 7.40-7.34 (m, 3H), 6.34 (dd, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 22.6 Hz, 1H) 6.26 (dd, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 17.9 Hz,

0.5H), 4.47-4.39 (br s, 1H), 3.89-3.82 (br s, 0.5H), 2.44 (s, 4.5H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) diastereomer 1, δ (ppm) –112.4 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 221.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = J_{H-F} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 17.7$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 5292$ Hz, 0.34F).; diastereomer 2, δ (ppm) –112.9 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 226.2$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 21.8$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 2931$ Hz, 0.66F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 143.9, 143.7, 133.8, 133.6, 132.9, 132.9, 132.7, 131.5, 131.1, 130.6, 130.3, 130.2, 130.1, 129.9, 129.0, 129.0, 128.9, 127.1, 126.8, 126.8, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 125.9, 125.8, 125.4, 123.3, 123.1, 69.7 (dd, J = 20.4 Hz, 23.6 Hz), 66.9 (dd, J = 19.5 Hz, 28.6 Hz), 21.8, 21.7.

One diastereomer (major one with procedure C)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.82 (m, 3H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.28 (ddd, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 5.0 Hz, 18.5 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –112.3 (ABX system, *J*_{AB} = *J*_{F-F} = 221.2 Hz, *J*_{AX} = *J*_{H-F} = 4.8 Hz, *J*_{BX} = *J*_{H-F} = 18.4 Hz, $\Delta \nu_{AB}$ = 5566 Hz, 2F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 143.9, 133.8, 133.0, 132.6, 131.5, 130.3, 130.2, 129.0, 127.1, 126.8, 126.4, 125.9, 125.4, 123.3 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 69.7 (dd, *J* = 21.3 Hz, 23.8 Hz), 21.8.

IR v (cm⁻¹) 3307, 2925, 1597, 1514, 1493, 1398, 1192, 1087, 1041, 1015, 967, 789, 772, 739. HRMS (ESI positive) calcd for C₁₉H₁₇F₂O₂S: 347.0912, found: 347.0889.

d. 2,2-Difluoro-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol 7d

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 73:27 (¹⁹F NMR)

Two diastereomers – Diastereomeric ratio = 70:30 (¹⁹F NMR)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.00 (s, 0.7H), 7.94 (s, 0.3H), 7.90-7.81 (m, 3H), 7.67-7.59 (m, 2.7H), 7.57-7.47 (m, 2.3H), 7.4-7.34 (m, 2H), 5.63-5.50 (m, 1H), 4.33-4.15 (br s, 0.4H), 3.79-3.58 (br s, 0.8H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) diastereomer 1, δ (ppm) -114.5 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 218.5 \text{ Hz}, J_{AX} = J_{H-F} = 8.7 \text{ Hz}, J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 14.7 \text{ Hz}, \Delta v_{AB} = 4735 \text{ Hz}, 0.7F$). diastereomer 2, δ (ppm) -113.5 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 225.4 \text{ Hz},$ $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 21.7 \text{ Hz}, \Delta v_{AB} = 2483 \text{ Hz}, 0.3F$). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 143.9, 143.8, 133.9, 133.8, 133.1, 133.1, 132.7, 132.7, 132.0, 131.6, 131.1, 130.2, 130.1, 128.5, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.8, 126.9, 126.8, 126.6, 126.5, 126.5, 125.1, 125.0, 73.9 (t, J = 21.8 Hz), 71.7 (dd, J = 20.4 Hz, 28.6 Hz), 21.8, 21.8. **IR** v (cm⁻¹) 3320, 2958, 2924, 2869, 1724, 1597, 1380, 1272,1193, 1107, 1085, 1041, 1015, 976, 951, 900, 863, 795, 749. **IR** v (cm⁻¹) 2957, 2925, 2856, 2872, 1726, 1596, 1491, 1463, 1380, 1274, 1142, 1122, 1075, 1040, 967, 810, 743, 703. **HRMS (ESI positive)** calcd for C₁₉H₁₆F₂NaO₂S: 369.0731, found: 369.0 718.

e. 2,2-Difluoro-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol 7e

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 88:12 (¹⁹F NMR)

Two diastereomers – Diastereomeric ratio = 90:10 (¹⁹F NMR)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.60 (br s, 1H), 7.81-7.72 (m, 2.7H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 0.3H), 7.44-7.34 (m, 4H), 5.48 (d, J = 24.0 Hz, 0.1H), 4.92 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 0.9H), 2.45 (s, 2.7H), 2.43 (s, 0.3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) diastereomer 1, δ (ppm) -114.8 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 220.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 15.7$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 2776$ Hz, 0.9F); diastereomer 2, δ (ppm) -117.4 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 220.7$ Hz, $J_{AX} = J_{H-F} = 2.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 23.8$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 1145$ Hz, 0.1F).

One diastereomer (major one with procedure C)

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 151.5, 148.2, 143.5, 137.7, 134.0, 130.1, 127.7 (dd, J = 299.7 Hz, 309.3 Hz), 126.7, 124.5, 123.0, 70.9 (t, J = 25.0 Hz), 21.8.

HRMS (ESI positive) calcd for C₁₄H₁₄F₂NO₂S: 298.0708, found: 298.0699.

f. 2,2-Difluoro-1-(pyridin-3-yl)-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol 7f

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 69:31 (¹⁹F NMR)

Two diastereomers – Diastereomeric ratio = 70:30 (¹⁹F NMR)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.67-8.47 (m, 2H), 7.94-7.84 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.28 (m, 3H), 5.45 (d, *J* = 22.6 Hz, 0.3H), 5.34 (dd, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 16.8 Hz, 0.7H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) diastereomer 1, δ (ppm) -113.9 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 221.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = J_{H-F} = 7.5$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 16.3$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 4311$ Hz, 0.7F); diastereomer 2, δ (ppm) -114.3 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 226.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 22.5$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 2403$ Hz, 0.3F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 150.1, 149.9, 149.0, 148.8, 144.1, 143.9, 136.5, 136.3, 132.5 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 132.1 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 131.1, 131.0, 130.2, 129.0, 126.5, 126.4, 123.8, 123.7, 122.9 (dd, *J* = 292.0 Hz, 311.5 Hz), 71.9 (t, *J* = 22.7 Hz), 69.0 (dd, *J* = 19.5 Hz, 29.5 Hz), 21.8, 21.8.

One diastereomer (minor one with procedure C)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.57 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (dd, J = 7.9 Hz, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (dd, J = 1.1 Hz, 22.7 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) -113.8 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 227.1$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 23.4$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 3303$ Hz, 2F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 150.2, 149.1, 143.9, 136.0, 132.0 (d, J = 2.3 Hz), 131.1, 130.2, 126.5, 124.2 (dd, J = 297.5 Hz, 305.2 Hz), 123.6, 69.0 (dd, J = 20.0 Hz, 29.1 Hz), 21.8.

IR *v* (cm⁻¹) 3059, 1597, 1493, 1429, 1186, 1110, 1086, 1057, 1043, 1033, 1016, 983, 810, 764, 710. **HRMS (ESI positive)** calcd for C₁₄H₁₄F₂NO₂S: 298.0708, found: 298.0720.

g. 2,2-Difluoro-1-(thiophen-2-yl)-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol 7g

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 70:30 (¹⁹F NMR)

Two diastereomers – Diastereomeric ratio = 60:40 (¹⁹F NMR)



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 0.6H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 0.4H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 4.9 Hz, 0.6H), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 3.5 Hz, 0.4H), 5.73-5.59 (m, 1H), 4.86-4.62 (br s, 0.4H), 3.98-3.70 (br s, 0.6H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹⁹**F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃)** *diastereomer 1*, δ (ppm) –114.8 (ABX system, *J*_{AB} = *J*_{F-F} = 218.0 Hz, *J*_{AX} = *J*_{H-F} = 8.9 Hz, *J*_{BX} = *J*_{H-F} = 14.3 Hz, $\Delta \nu_{AB}$ = 3787 Hz, 0.6F); *diastereomer 2*, δ (ppm) –114.0 (ABX system, *J*_{AB} = *J*_{F-F} = 222.1 Hz, *J*_{BX} = *J*_{H-F} = 15.7 Hz, $\Delta \nu_{AB}$ = 2026 Hz, 0.4F). ¹³**C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ (ppm) 143.9, 143.8, 137.2, 136.4 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 132.6 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 132.2 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 130.2, 130.2, 128.3, 127.6, 127.4, 127.2, 127.0, 127.0, 126.5, 126.5, 123.4 (dd, *J* = 297.0 Hz, 305.2 Hz), 122.9 (dd, *J* = 293.8 Hz, 311.5 Hz), 70.2 (t, *J* = 22.7 Hz), 68.4 (dd, *J* = 20.4 Hz, 29.5 Hz), 21.8, 21.7. **IR v (cm⁻¹)** 3295, 2923, 1596, 1493,1435, 1198, 1179, 1113, 1085, 1041, 1015, 965, 856, 810, 785, 705. **HRMS (ESI positive)** calcd for C₁₃H₁₂F₂O₂S₂: 325.0139, found: 325.0148.

h. 2,2-Difluoro-1-(thiophen-3-yl)-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol 7h

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 55:45 (¹⁹F NMR)

Two diastereomers – Diastereomeric ratio = 54:46 (¹⁹F NMR)



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.66-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 0.56H), 7.44 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 0.44H), 7.40-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.22 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 0.56H), 7.15 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 0.44H), 5.56-5.42 (m, 1H), 4.34 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 0.44H), 3.58 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 0.56H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹⁹**F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃)** *diastereomer 1*, δ (ppm) -114.6 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 218.7$ Hz, $J_{AX} = J_{H-F} = 9.5$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 15.0$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 3640$ Hz, 0.54F); *diastereomer 2*, δ (ppm) -113.7 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 224.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 21.1$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 1925$ Hz, 0.46F); ¹³**C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ (ppm) 143.8, 143.7, 135.7, 135.1 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 132.8 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 132.4 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 131.1, 130.1, 129.0, 126.7, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 126.4, 125.6, 125.0, 123.3 (dd, J = 292.9 Hz, 310.6 Hz), 70.2 (t, J = 22.7 Hz), 68.5 (dd, J = 20.9 Hz, 29.1 Hz), 21.8, 21.8. **IR v** (**cm**⁻¹) 3325, 2958, 2924, 2872, 1722, 1596, 1493, 1414, 1401, 1279, 1195, 1111, 1085, 1043, 1015, 986, 930, 836, 810, 766, 703. **HRMS (ESI positive)** calcd for C₁₃H₁₂F₂Na0₂S₂: 325.0139, found: 325.0126.

i. 2,2-Difluoro-1-(furan-2-yl)-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol 7i

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 57:43 (¹⁹F NMR)

Two diastereomers – Diastereomeric ratio = 56:44 (¹⁹F NMR)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.68-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 0.56H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 0.44H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 0.56H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 0.44H), 6.42 (dd, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 3.2 Hz, 0.56H), 6.40 (dd, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 3.3 Hz, 0.44H), 5.43 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz, 0.44H), 5.30 (dd, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 14.2 Hz, 0.56H), 4.32 (s, 0.44H), 3.56 (s, 0.56H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) diastereomer 1, δ (ppm) –114.5 (ABX system, *J*_{AB} = *J*_{F-F} = 219.3 Hz, *J*_{AX} = *J*_{H-F} = 10.2 Hz, *J*_{BX} = *J*_{H-F} = 14.3 Hz, Δv_{AB} = 3009 Hz, 0.56F); diastereomer 2, δ (ppm) –113.9 (ABX system, *J*_{AB} = *J*_{F-F} = 224.1 Hz, *J*_{BX} = *J*_{H-F} = 21.1 Hz, Δv_{AB} = 1381 Hz, 0.44F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 148.0, 147.5, 147.5, 143.9, 143.8, 143.7, 132.8 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 132.1 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 130.1, 126.6, 126.5, 123.6 (dd, *J* = 297.0 Hz, 307.5 Hz), 123.5 (dd, *J* = 294.7 Hz, 308.4 Hz), 111.2, 110.9, 110.9, 110.7, 67.6 (t, *J* = 23.2 Hz), 66.2 (dd, *J* = 20.9 Hz, 30.0 Hz), 21.8, 21.8. **One diastereomer** (minor one with procedure C)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.62 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (m, 1H), 5.51 (d, J = 19.5 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (m, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) -114.0 (AB system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 221.1$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 1461$ Hz, 2F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 148.3, 143.7, 143.6, 132.3, 130.0, 126.7, 110.7, 110.5, 65.4 (dd, J = 20.4 Hz, 29.1 Hz), 21.7.

IR *v* (cm⁻¹) 3296, 2925, 1597, 1495, 1196, 1147, 1115, 1085, 1047, 1014, 987, 936, 926, 795, 809, 745. **HRMS (ESI positive)** calcd for C₁₃H₁₃F₂O₃S: 287.0548, found: 287.0560.

j. 2,2-Difluoro-1-(furan-3-yl)-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol 7j

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 98:2 (¹⁹F NMR)

One diastereomer (major one with procedure C)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.66-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.45 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 5.35 (dd, J = 9.5 Hz, 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.30-3.10 (br s, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –114.9 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 219.3$ Hz, $J_{AX} = J_{H-F} = 9.5$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 15.0$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 3627$ Hz, 0.98F); [diastereomer 2 (minor one with procedure C) δ (ppm) –114.0 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 224.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 20.4$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 1921$ Hz, 0.02F)]. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 143.8, 142.1, 132.6, 132.6, 130.0, 126.4, 123.4 (dd, J = 293.4 Hz, 310.2 Hz), 119.4 (d, J = 2.7 Hz), 109.3, 67.1 (t, J = 23.2 Hz), 21.7. IR v (cm⁻¹) 3324, 2926, 1761, 1730, 1596, 1494, 1454, 1286, 1196, 1161, 1112, 1085, 1042, 1016, 980, 953, 875, 811, 790. HRMS (ESI positive) calcd for C₁₃H₁₃F₂0₃S: 287.0548, found: 287.0558.

k. 1,1-Difluoro-2-methyl-4-phenyl-1-(p-tolylsulfinyl)butan-2-ol 7

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 60:40 (19F NMR)

First diastereomer (major one with procedure C)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 3H), 2.87-2.73 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.18 (td, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 14 Hz, 1H), 1.98 (td, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 13.4 Hz, 1H), 1.71 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –113.3 (AB system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 220.0$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 6205$ Hz, 2F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 143.8, 141.8, 132.5 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 130.1, 128.6, 128.6, 126.8, 126.1, 123.8 (dd, *J* = 295.6 Hz, 318.8 Hz), 76.7 (unknown), 37.8, 29.1, 22.4, 21.8.

Second diastereomer (minor one with procedure C)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 3H), 2.93 (td, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 13.0 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (td, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 12.2 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.31 (td, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (tdd, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 5.4 Hz, 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –112.9 (AB system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 222.8$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 5686$ Hz, 2F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 143.9, 141.5, 132.4 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 130.0, 128.7, 128.6, 126.8, 126.3, 39.4, 29.2, 22.9, 21.8.

IR *v* (cm⁻¹) 3369, 2924, 1724, 1598, 1495, 1455, 1379, 1288, 1211, 1180, 1110, 1083, 1065, 1045, 1016, 985, 944, 809, 749, 701. **HRMS (ESI positive)** calcd for C₁₈H₂₀F₂NaO₂S: 361.1044, found: 361.1047.

I. 2,2-Difluoro-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol 7m

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 79:21 (¹⁹F NMR)

Two diastereomers – Diastereomeric ratio = 79:21 (¹⁹F NMR)

7m C OH F F OMe

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.66-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.34 (m, 4H), 6.96-6.86 (m, 2H), 5.38-5.25 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 2.3H), 3.80 (s, 0.7H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) diastereomer 1, δ (ppm) –114.9 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 218.0 \text{ Hz}$, $J_{AX} = J_{H-F} = 8.9 \text{ Hz}$, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 15.7 \text{ Hz}$, $\Delta v_{AB} = 3905 \text{ Hz}$, 0.79F); diastereomer 2, δ (ppm) –113.8 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 226.2 \text{ Hz}$, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 21.8 \text{ Hz}$, $\Delta v_{AB} = 2625 \text{ Hz}$, 0.21F).¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 160.6, 160.4, 143.7, 143.6, 132.9 (dd, J = 2.3 Hz), 130.1, 129.6, 129.3, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 123.6 (dd, J = 292.0 Hz, 309.7 Hz), 114.1, 114.0, 73.3 (t, J = 21.8 Hz), 71.0 (dd, J = 20.0 Hz, 29.1 Hz), 55.4, 55.4, 21.8, 21.7. IR ν (cm⁻¹) 3325, 2925, 1611, 1498, 1589, 1513, 1463, 1443, 1305, 1249, 1175, 1105, 1085, 1032, 1016, 974, 841, 810, 789, 750, 703. HRMS (ESI positive) calcd for C₁₆H₁₆F₂NaO₃S: 349.0680, found: 349.0676. Access to highly enantioenriched 2,2-difluoro-1-phenyl-2-(p-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol (S_s)-7a



Hexane was removed under vacuum from 197 µL of the commercially available solution of P₄t-Bu (0.8 M in hexane, 2 equiv., 197 µL, 158 µmol). The solid obtained was dissolved in 0.7 mL of freshly distilled THF previously cooled to -30 °C. To a solution of sulfoxide **(S)-3a** (1 equiv., 15 mg, 78.9 µmol) and benzaldehyde (1 equiv., 8.13 µL, 78.9 µmol) dissolved in 1.8 mL of freshly distilled THF at -30 °C was added dropwise the previous solution of P₄t-Bu in THF. The reaction mixture was stirred at -30 °C for 2 hours, then quenched with water at this temperature. The aqueous layer was extracted three times with Et₂O. The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The diastereomeric ratio was determined by ¹⁹F NMR. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel using cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 80/20) to obtain 2,2-difluoro-1-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol **(S_s)-7a** (10 mg, 33.7 µmol, 43%, 97% e.e., 97:3 d.r.) as an oil. The enantiomeric excess of the product was determined by chiral HPLC using a Chiracel IC column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate: 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 210$ nm, $\tau = 10.1$ min, 11.1 min, 21.2 min and 25.1 min).

Crude mixture – Diastereomeric ratio = 97:3 (¹⁹F NMR)

One diastereomer (major one with procedure C)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.35 (m, 5H), 5.39 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 16.6 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (s, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –114.4 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 219.3$ Hz, $J_{AX} = J_{H-F} = 7.5$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 17.0$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 4447$ Hz, 0.97F); [diastereomer 2 (minor one with procedure C) δ (ppm) –113.4 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 227.5$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 23.2$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 2664$ Hz, 0.03F)].

7. Access to highly enantioenriched 2,2-difluoro-1-phenyl-2-tosylethan-1-ol 9a



To a solution of 2,2-difluoro-1-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolylsulfinyl)ethan-1-ol (S_s)-7a (1 equiv., 3.3 mg, 11.1 µmol) in 0.2 mL of anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ was added *m*-CPBA (78% of active oxygen, 1.5 equiv., 3.74 mg, 16.7 µmol) at 25 °C. The solution was stirred at this temperature for 24 hours. The reaction was quenched with a saturated solution of Na₂S₂O₃. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phases were washed with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ and with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel using cyclohexane/AcOEt (100/0 to 80/20) to obtain 2,2-difluoro-1-phenyl-2-tosylethan-1-ol **9a** (3.5 mg, 11.1 µmol, quantitative yield) as a white solid.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 3H), 5.56 (dd, *J* = 21.3 Hz, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.44-3.17 (br s, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –111.9 (ABX system, $J_{AB} = J_{F-F} = 237.1$ Hz, $J_{BX} = J_{H-F} = 21.1$ Hz, $\Delta v_{AB} = 5850$ Hz, 2F). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 147.4, 133.8, 130.9, 130.3, 129.7, 129.7, 128.7, 128.3, 120.2 (dd, *J* = 288.8 Hz, 298.4 Hz), 71.5 (dd, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 26.3 Hz), 22.1. IR ν (cm⁻¹) 3501, 3067, 2925, 1595, 1494, 1456, 1336, 1307, 1196, 1152, 1111, 1090, 1065, 996, 814, 736, 699. HRMS (ESI positive) calcd for C₁₅H₁₄F₂K0₃S: 351.0263, found: 351.0271.

8. Bibliographic references

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^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified 1a



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **1a**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified $\mathbf{1b}$



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **1b**





¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **2a**





¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified (S)-2a



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified (S)-2a

Chiral HPLC – Reference racemic 2a

<PDA Chromatogram>



<PDA Chromatogram>

DDA Chi	222000				Peak Table		
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Capacity Factor(k')	Resolution(USP)	Lambda max
1	23,508	483860	18423	50,255	-	-	204/223/261/484/655
2	30,882	478954	14059	49,745	0,314	9,235	204/223/260/488
Total		962813	32481	100,000			

Chiral HPLC – Reformatsky-type reaction

<Sample Information>

Sample Name	: CB120B-en01
Data Filename	: CB120B-en01_01.lcd
Method Filename	: Hex_IPA_8020_0-5ml.lcm
Batch Filename	: 2016-05-09.lcb
Vial #	: 1-2
Injection Volume	: 1 uL
Date Acquired	: 09/05/2016 13:03:43
IC hex/iproh 80/20	0.5ml

<PDA Chromatogram>



Acquired by

: User-Adv

<PDA Chromatogram>

Peak Table

PDA Chl	206nm						
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Capacity Factor(k')	Resolution(USP)	Lambda max
1	23,848	129888	4488	1,496		-	204/223/262/485/584
2	31,343	8549634	250054	98,504	0,314	9,161	204/224/261/485/584
Total		8679522	254542	100,000			
Chiral HPLC – Honda-Reformatsky-type reaction

 Sample Name
 : CB119B-en01

 Data Filename
 : CB119B-en01_01.lcd

 Method Filename
 : Hex_IPA_8020_0-5ml.lcm

 Batch Filename
 : 2016-05-09.lcb

 Vial #
 : 1-1

 Injection Volume
 : 1 uL

 Date Acquired
 : 09/05/2016 12:04:23

 IC hex/iproh 80/20 0.5ml

Acquired by

: User-Adv

<PDA Chromatogram>



<PDA Chromatogram>

Peak Table

					Peak Table					
PDA Chl	PDA Ch1 206nm									
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Capacity Factor(k')	Resolution(USP)	Lambda max			
1	24,004	934156	35713	7,210		-	204/224/261/655/525			
2	31,649	12022572	344511	92,790	0,318	9,453	204/224/261/525/569			
Total		12956728	380224	100,000						

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **2b**



 $^{19}\mathsf{F}$ NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified 2b



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **3a**



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **3a**



¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **3a**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified (S)-**3a**



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified (S)-**3a**



Chiral HPLC – Reference racemic 3a

Sample Name : CB129-rac06 Data Filename : CB129-rac06_06.lcd Method Filename : Hex_IPA_8020_0-5ml.lcm Batch Filename : 2016-06-08.lcb Vial # : 1-2 Injection Volume : 1 uL Date Acquired : 09/06/2016 01:29:29 IC hex/iproh 80/20 0.5ml	Acquired by	: User-Adv
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<PDA Chromatogram>



<PDA Chromatogram>

PDA Chl	PDA Ch1 205nm Peak Table								
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Capacity Factor(k')	Resolution(USP)	Lambda max		
1	17,153	6086440	315063	49,930			204/220/247/658/476		
2	23,049	6103421	241640	50,070	0,344	10,061	204/220/247/325/486		
Total		12189861	556703	100,000					

Chiral HPLC – Krapcho decarboxylation under thermal conditions – (S)-3a

 Sample Name
 : CB138CR-en01

 Data Filename
 : CB138CR-en01_01.lcd

 Method Filename
 : Hex_IPA_8020_0-5ml.lcm

 Batch Filename
 : 2016-06-09.lcb

 Vial #
 : 1-3

 Injection Volume
 : 1 uL

 Date Acquired
 : 09/06/2016 09:38:37

 IC hex/iproh 80/20 0.5ml

Acquired by

: User-Adv

<PDA Chromatogram>



<PDA Chromatogram>

Peak Table

					Peak Table					
PDA Ch1 205nm										
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Capacity Factor(k')	Resolution(USP)	Lambda max			
1	17,239	531921	27600	7,999	-		204/220/247/485/426			
2	23,220	6117985	239627	92,001	0,347	10,170	204/220/247/655/485			
Total		6649906	267227	100,000						

Chiral HPLC – Krapcho decarboxylation under microwave conditions – (S)-3a

Sample Name	: CB139A-en01	
Data Filename	: CB139A-en01_01.lcd	
Method Filename	: Hex_IPA_8020_0-5ml.lcm	
Batch Filename	: 2016-06-09.lcb	
Vial #	: 1-4	
Injection Volume	:1uL	
Date Acquired	: 09/06/2016 11:44:30	1
IC hex/iproh 80/20	0.5ml	

Acquired by : User-Adv

<PDA Chromatogram>



<PDA Chromatogram>

Peak Table

	Peak lable									
PDA Chl	PDA Ch1 205nm									
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Capacity Factor(k')	Resolution(USP)	Lambda max			
1	17,128	282820	14890	4,049	-	-	204/220/247/656/488			
2	22,972	6701865	266397	95,951	0,341	10,052	204/220/247/485/566			
Total		6984684	281287	100,000						

Chiral HPLC – (S)-3a crystallised in Et₂O

Sample Name Data Filename Method Filename Batch Filename	: CB227-cryst-blanc-en01 : CB227-cryst-blanc-en01_01.lcd : Hex_IPA_8020_0-5ml.lcm : 2017-11-16.lcb	
Vial #	: 1-2	
Injection Volume	:1uL	
Date Acquired IC Hex/IPA 80/20 0	: 16/11/2017 15:48:49).5 ml/mi	Acquired by

<PDA Chromatogram>



: User-Adv

PDA Ch1	205nm						
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Capacity Factor(k')	Resolution(USP)	Lambda max
1	18,152	88753	4679	1,442			222/254/655/485/377
2	25,050	6065132	225213	98,558	0,380	11,250	204/220/247/658/394
Total		6153885	229892	100,000			

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) – Purified 3b



 $^{19}\mathsf{F}$ NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified 3b



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **4**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **5**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified (*R*,*R*)-**6**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified (*S*,*R*)-6



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Crude mixture of **7a**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – One diastereomer – Purified **7a**







 ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) – One diastereomer – Purified 7a





 ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Crude mixture of 7b

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7b**



 ^{19}F NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7b**



¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7b**



 ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Crude mixture of **7c**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCI_3$) – Purified **7**c



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – One diastereomer – Purified 7c



 $^{19}\mathsf{F}$ NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified 7c





 19 F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – One diastereomer – Purified **7c**

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7c**



¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – One diastereomer – Purified 7c



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Crude mixture of **7d**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCI_3$) – Purified **7d**



¹⁹F NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7d**



¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified 7d



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Crude mixture of **7e**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified 7e



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7e**



¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified 7e





¹H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCI_3$) – Purified **7f**





¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCI_3$) – Purified **7f**



 $^{19}\mathsf{F}$ NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) – One diastereomer – Purified $\mathbf{7f}$



¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7f**



¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – One diastereomer – Purified **7f**





 19 F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Crude mixture of **7g**

¹H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) – Purified **7g**



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) – Purified **7g**



 ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified 7g





 ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Crude mixture of **7h**

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7h**







¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7h**





¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Crude mixture of **7i**

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7i**





 ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) – One diastereomer – Purified 7i

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7i**





¹⁹F NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) – One diastereomer – Purified 7i

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7i**





¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – One diastereomer – Purified **7i**

 ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Crude mixture of 7j



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7j**



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7j**


¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7j**



 $^{19}\mathsf{F}$ NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Crude mixture of **7I**







 $^{19}\mathsf{F}$ NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) – First diastereomer – Purified **7I**





¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – First diastereomer – Purified **7I**

 ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) – Second diastereomer – Purified **7I**





 $^{19}\mathsf{F}$ NMR (472 MHz, CDCl₃) – Second diastereomer – Purified **7I**

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Second diastereomer – Purified **7I**







¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7m**



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **7m**



 ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) – Purified 7m





 $^{19}\mathsf{F}$ NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Crude mixture of (S_S)-7a

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified (S₅)-**7a**







Chiral HPLC – Racemic 7a – Two diastereomers

Sample Name	: CB255A-drrac01
Data Filename	: CB255A-drrac01_02.lcd
Method Filename	: Hex_IPA_8020_0-5ml.lcm
Batch Filename	: 2017-07-11.lcb
Vial #	: 1-1
Injection Volume	:1 uL
Date Acquired	: 11/07/2017 17:01:49
IC Hex/IPA 80/20	0.5ml/min

Acquired by

: User-Adv

<PDA Chromatogram>



PDA Ch1	210nm						
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Capacity Factor(k')	Resolution(USP)	Lambda max
1	21,287	2857542	113392	49,898			205/251/485/441/602
2	25,260	2869276	95014	50,102	0,187	5,409	205/251/655/485/569
Tota	1	5726818	208406	100,000			

Chiral HPLC – Diastereopure racemic 7a – One diastereomer

Sample Name	: CB382A_en01		
Data Filename	: CB382A en01 01.lcd		
Method Filename	: Hex IPA 8020 0-5ml.lcm		
Batch Filename	: 2018-07-03.lcb		
Vial #	: 1-1		
Injection Volume	:1uL		
Date Acquired	: 03/07/2018 16:29:42	Acquired by	: User-Adv
IC Hex/IPA 80/20 (0.5 mL/min		

<PDA Chromatogram>



PDA Ch1	210nm						
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Capacity Factor(k')	Resolution(USP)	Lambda max
1	21,287	2857542	113392	49,898			205/251/485/441/602
2	25,260	2869276	95014	50,102	0,187	5,409	205/251/655/485/569
Total		5726818	208406	100,000			

Chiral HPLC – Enantio- and diastereoenriched (S_s)-7a

<PDA Chromatogram>



<PDA Chromatogram>

Peak Table

PDA Ch1 210nm Peak lable							
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Capacity Factor(k')	Resolution(USP)	Lambda max
1	11,113	652167	49079	4,406			205/250/485/655/627
2	21,213	384533	15196	2,598	0,909	19,740	205/251/485
3	25,140	13765680	457437	92,996	1,262	5,361	205/251/630
Total		14802380	521712	100,000			

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **8j**



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **8j**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **9a**



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **9a**



¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) – Purified **9a**

