# Supplementary information for

# Preparation and single enantiomers of chiral at metal biscyclometallated iridium complexes

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Synthetic procedures and characterisation for <b>1a,b, 2a,b</b> and <b>3a</b> including crystal data for $\Lambda$ -	2-7
<b>1b</b> and $\Delta$ - <b>2a</b>	
Fig. S1:Wireframe crystal structures showing key NOEs of $\Lambda$ S-1a (left) and $\Delta$ S-1a (right).	8
Fig.S2: X-ray crystal structure of AS-1b. Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°)	8
Fig.S3: X-ray crystal structure of $\Delta S$ -2a. Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°)	9
Fig S4 CD spectra of $\Delta$ S-2a(D) and $\Lambda$ S-2a (L)	9
Fig S5 $^1$ H NMR spectra of racemic, $\Delta$ -4a and $\Lambda$ -4a	10
Fig S6 CD spectra of $\Delta$ -4a and $\Lambda$ -4a	11
Fig S7a and S7b HPLC of racemic 4a and $\Lambda$ -4a	11-12
Fig S8 NMR spectra of product from reaction of $\Delta\Delta$ -3a with (S)-Na(L1) showing $\Delta$ S- <b>1a</b>	13
formed in very high diasteroselectivity	
Fig S9 NMR spectra of product from reaction of $\Delta\Delta$ -3a with (S)-Na(L2) showing only $\Delta$ S- <b>2a</b>	13

Page

#### General information and materials

All reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere of nitrogen and under microwave irradiation unless stated otherwise. After work up all the complexes were air stable. Microwave reactions were carried out in a *CEM-Discover* commercial microwave reactor. <sup>1</sup>H, and <sup>13</sup>C–{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were obtained using a DRX 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts were recorded in ppm (on  $\delta$  scale with tetramethylsilane as internal reference), and coupling constants are reported in Hz. FAB mass spectra were obtained on a Kratos concept mass spectrometer using NOBA as matrix. The electrospray (ES) mass spectra were recorded using a micromass Quattra LC mass spectrometer in HPLC grade acetonitrile except methanol for 2.6d. UV – Vis absorption measurements were carried out on a Shimadzu UV – 1600 series spectrometer in dry DCM. Cyclic voltammetry measurements were performed with an Eco Chemie Autolab using a one-compartment cell under N<sub>2</sub> gas, equipped with a Pt disc working electrode, a Pt gauze counter electrode and a silver wire reference electrode. The supporting electrolyte was  $Et_4NClO_4$  (0.1 mol L<sup>-1</sup>) in acetonitrile. Elemental analyses were performed at London Metropolitan University. All starting materials were obtained from Aldrich or Alfa Aesar.

#### General preparative procedure

The general procedure was as follows a mixture of the chiral ligand (X^Y = (S)-HL1, (S)-HL2), (2.2-2.4 equiv) and an equimolar amount of NaOMe in methanol (3 ml) was warmed gently at 40 °C for 15 mins. A solution of the appropriate dimer  $[Ir(C^N)_2Cl]_2$  **1a,b** (1 equiv) in DCM (6 ml) was added and the mixture was stirred for 2-4 hrs at room temperature. After this time the solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in DCM (15 ml) and passed through celite. The filtrate was reduced in volume and hexane was added slowly to induce precipitation. The precipitate was isolated, washed with hexane and dried in vacuo.

# Synthesis of $\Delta S/\Lambda S$ -1a

This was prepared from  $[Ir(ppz)_2Cl]_2a$  (140 mg, 0.136 mmol), (S)-HL<sub>1</sub> (61.3 mg, 0.299 mmol), and NaOMe (16.2 mg, 0.299 mmol) and after work up gave  $\Delta S/\Lambda S$ -1a as a grey solid (combined yield 157 mg, 85%). Slow diffusion of hexane into a DCM solution of 1a afforded selectively crystals of the  $\Lambda$ S isomer (63 mg, 34%), the  $\Delta$ S isomer (40 mg, 21%) was obtained from the mother liquor, by recrystallisation from Me methanol/diethylether .Anal.Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>28</sub>IrN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 52.77, H, 4.13, N, 10.26. Found (AS): C, 52.68, H, 4.12, N, 10.17%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\Delta$ S:  $\delta$  8.05, 8.03 (2H, 2 X d, J = 2.7, H<sub>e</sub>, e'), 7.63 (1H, d, J = 2.3, H<sub>g'</sub>), 7.60 – 7.57 (2H, m, H<sub>4</sub>, g), 7.17 – 7.09 (3H, m, H<sub>2</sub>, d'), 6.84 (1H, td, J = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>c</sub>), 6.80 (1H, td, J = 7.8, 1.2, H<sub>c</sub>'), 6.67 (1H, d, J = 7.8, H<sub>1</sub>), 6.64 – 6.58 (3H, m, H<sub>b</sub>, b', f'), 6.52 (1H, t, J = 2.7, H<sub>f</sub>), 6.37 (1H, dd, J = 7.8, 1.6, H<sub>a</sub>'), 6.33 (1H, ddd, J = 7.8, 6.7, 1.2, H<sub>3</sub>), 6.21 (1H, dd, J = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>a</sub>), 4.18 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 3.9, H<sub>6</sub>), 3.76 (1H, t, J = 8.9, H<sub>5</sub>), 3.04 (1H, ddd, J = 9.4, 3.5, 1.9, H<sub>7</sub>), 2.01 (1H, septd, J = 7.0, 1.9, H<sub>8</sub>), 0.89 (3H, d, J = 7.0, Me<sub>A</sub>), 0.33 (3H, d, J = 7.0, Me<sub>B</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 169.82 (C<sub>9</sub>), 161.58 (C<sub>11</sub>), 144.06 (C<sub>h</sub>), 143.87 (C<sub>h'</sub>), 139.13 (C<sub>g</sub>), 138.26 (C<sub>g'</sub>), 135.89 (C<sub>a'</sub>), 134.84 (C<sub>i</sub>), 134.28 (C<sub>a</sub>), 132.96 (C<sub>2</sub>), 130.23 (C<sub>i</sub>), 129.39 (C<sub>4</sub>), 125.77, (C<sub>b</sub>), 125.62 (C<sub>b'</sub>), 125.23 (C<sub>e</sub>, e'), 124.76 (C<sub>1</sub>), 121.52 (C<sub>c</sub>), 120.78 (C<sub>c'</sub>), 112.33 (C<sub>3</sub>), 110.59, 110.43 (C<sub>d</sub>, d'), 110.25 (C<sub>10</sub>), 107.07 (C<sub>f'</sub>), 106.84 (C<sub>f</sub>), 70.74 (C<sub>7</sub>), 66.41 (C<sub>5, 6</sub>), 28.89 (C<sub>8</sub>), 19.21 (Me<sub>B</sub>), 14.37 (Me<sub>A</sub>). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> -593° in CHCl<sub>3</sub>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) AS:  $\delta$  8.07 (1H, d, J = 2.9, H<sub>e</sub>'), 7.99 (1H, d, J = 2.9, H<sub>e</sub>), 7.80 (1H, d, J = 2.1, H<sub>g</sub>'), 7.62 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.8, H<sub>4</sub>), 7.43 (1H, d, J = 2.3, H<sub>g</sub>), 7.15 – 7.09 (3H, m, H<sub>2, d, d</sub>'), 6.84 (1H, td, J = 7.6, 1.5, H<sub>c</sub>), 6.80 (1H, td, J = 7.6, 1.5, H<sub>c</sub>'), 6.73 – 6.67 (2H, m, H<sub>1, b</sub>), 6.63 (1H, t, J = 2.3, H<sub>f</sub>'), 6.61 (1H, td, J = 7.3, 1.2, H<sub>b</sub>'), 6.52 (1H, t, J = 2.3, H<sub>f</sub>), 6.34 (1H, ddd, J = 7.8, 6.7, 0.8, H<sub>3</sub>), 6.29 (1H, dd, J = 7.6, 1.5, H<sub>a</sub>'), 6.18 (1H, dd, J



= 7.6, 1.5, H<sub>a</sub>), 4.29 – 4.18 (2H, m, H<sub>5, 6</sub>), 3.93 (1H, ddd, J = 8.8, 4.4, 3.2, H<sub>7</sub>), 0.53 (1H, septd, J = 7.0, 3.1, H<sub>8</sub>), 0.28 (3H, d, J = 7.0, Me<sub>B</sub>), 0.20 (3H, d, J = 6.7, Me<sub>A</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 170.08 (C<sub>9</sub>), 161.66 (C<sub>11</sub>), 144.60 (C<sub>h'</sub>), 143.89 (C<sub>h</sub>), 138.19 (C<sub>g'</sub>), 137.01 (C<sub>g</sub>), 135.14 (C<sub>i</sub>), 134.25 (C<sub>a'</sub>), 133.83 (C<sub>a</sub>), 133.16 (C<sub>2</sub>), 129.95 (C<sub>i'</sub>), 129.61 (C<sub>4</sub>), 125.78, 125.75 (C<sub>1, b'</sub>), 125.49 (C<sub>b</sub>), 125.27 (C<sub>e</sub>), 124.55 (C<sub>e'</sub>), 121.55 (C<sub>c</sub>), 120.91 (C<sub>c'</sub>), 112.42 (C<sub>3</sub>), 110.54 (C<sub>d</sub>), 110.36 (C<sub>10</sub>), 110.21 (C<sub>d'</sub>), 107.04 (C<sub>f'</sub>), 106.73 (C<sub>f</sub>), 71.75 (C<sub>7</sub>), 66.51 (C<sub>5, 6</sub>), 28.42 (C<sub>8</sub>), 18.58 (Me<sub>B</sub>), 12.87 (Me<sub>A</sub>). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> +582° in CHCl<sub>3</sub>. MS (FAB): *m/z* 683 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

# Synthesis of $\Delta S/\Lambda S$ -1b

This was prepared from  $[Ir(ppy)_2CI]_2 \mathbf{b}$  (70 mg, 0.065 mmol), (S)-HL<sub>1</sub> (29.3 mg, 0.143 mmol), and NaOMe (7.7 mg, 0.143 mmol) and after work up gave  $\Delta S/\Lambda S$ -**1b** as a yellow solid (combined

yield 68 mg, 75%). Both isomers crystallised out together in DCM/hexane or DCM/diethylether solvent mixtures but they could be separated by hand picking due to significant variation in colour and shape of the crystals. Anal.Calcd for  $C_{34}H_{30}IrN_3O_2.NaCl$ : C, 53.50, H, 3.96, N, 5.51. Found ( $\Lambda$ S): C, 54.69, H, 3.35, N, 5.40%.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ΔS: δ 8.87 (1H, ddd, J = 5.4, 1.6, 0.8, H<sub>h</sub>'), 8.59 (1H, ddd, J = 5.8, 1.6, 0.8, H<sub>h</sub>), 7.85 – 7. 82 (2H, m, H<sub>e, e'</sub>), 7.72 (1H, td, J =

7.4, 1.6,  $H_{f'}$ ), 7.65 (1H, td, J = 7.4, 1.6,  $H_{f}$ ), 7.58 – 7.53 (3H, m,  $H_{4, d, d'}$ ), 7.13 – 7.07 (2H, m,  $H_{2, g'}$ ), 6.92

(1H, ddd, J = 7.4, 5.8, 1.6, H<sub>g</sub>), 6.82 (1H, td, J = 7.8, 1.2, H<sub>c</sub>), 6.79 (1H, td, J = 7.8, 1.2, H<sub>c</sub>'), 6.70 (1H, td, J = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>b</sub>), 6.66 – 6.62 (2H, m, H<sub>1,b'</sub>), 6.40 (1H, dd, J = 7.8, 1.2, H<sub>a'</sub>), 6.34 (1H, ddd, J = 7.8, 6.7, 1.2, H<sub>3</sub>), 6.19 (1H, dd, J = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>a</sub>), 4.18 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 3.5, H<sub>6</sub>), 3.65 (1H, t, J = 8.9, H<sub>5</sub>), 3.08 (1H, ddd, J = 9.7, 3.9, 1.9, H<sub>7</sub>), 1.79 (1H, septd, J = 7.0, 1.9, H<sub>8</sub>), 0.84 (3H, d, J = 6.6, Me<sub>A</sub>), 0.20 (3H, d, J = 7.0, Me<sub>B</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 169.30 (C<sub>k</sub>), 169.06 (C<sub>9</sub>), 168.23 (C<sub>k'</sub>), 161.55 (C<sub>11</sub>), 152.54 (C<sub>i</sub>), 155.33 (C<sub>i'</sub>), 150.12 (C<sub>h</sub>), 149.17 (C<sub>h'</sub>), 144.64 (C<sub>j</sub>), 144.05 (C<sub>j'</sub>), 136.63 (C<sub>f</sub>), 136.36 (C<sub>f</sub>), 134.20 (C<sub>a'</sub>), 132.89 (C<sub>2</sub>), 132.21 (C<sub>a</sub>), 129.48 (C<sub>b</sub>), 129.07 (C<sub>4</sub>), 128.99 (C<sub>b'</sub>), 125.18 (C<sub>1</sub>), 123.91, 123.80 (C<sub>d, d'</sub>), 121.83 (C<sub>g'</sub>), 121.04 (C<sub>g</sub>), 120.91 (C<sub>c</sub>), 120.14 (C<sub>c'</sub>), 118.54, 117.88 (C<sub>e, e'</sub>), 112.30 (C<sub>3</sub>), 110.51 (C<sub>10</sub>), 69.82 (C<sub>7</sub>), 66.86 (C<sub>5, 6</sub>), 28.85 (C<sub>8</sub>), 19.65 (Me<sub>A</sub>), 14.50 (Me<sub>B</sub>). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> -532° (for  $\Delta$ S: $\Lambda$ S 15:1) in DCM.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) AS:  $\delta$  9.02 (1H, ddd, *J* = 5.8, 1.6, 0.8, H<sub>h</sub>'), 8.41 (1H, d, *J* = 5.8, H<sub>h</sub>), 7.87 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2, H<sub>e</sub>'), 7.80 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2, H<sub>e</sub>), 7.72 (1H, td, *J* = 8.2, 1.6, H<sub>f</sub>'), 7.65 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.9, H<sub>4</sub>), 7.63 (1H, td, *J* = 8.2, 1.6, H<sub>f</sub>), 7.54 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.2, H<sub>d</sub>), 7.51 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.6, H<sub>d</sub>'), 7.14 - 7.09 (2H, m, H<sub>2</sub>, g'), 7.03 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.4, 5.9, 1.6, H<sub>g</sub>), 6.83 (1H, td, *J* = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>c</sub>), 6.79 (1H, td, *J* = 7.8, 0.8, H<sub>c</sub>'), 6.75 (1H, td, *J* = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>b</sub>), 6.69 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.2, H<sub>1</sub>), 6.66 (1H, td, *J* = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>b</sub>'), 6.37 (1H, dd, *J* =



7.4, 1.2,  $H_{a'}$ ), 6.34 (1H, ddd, J = 7.8, 6.7, 1.2,  $H_3$ ), 6.08 (1H, dd, J = 7.4, 1.2,  $H_a$ ), 4.27 – 4.19 (2H, m,  $H_{5, 6}$ ), 3.95 (1H, ddd, J = 8.2, 4.7, 3.1,  $H_7$ ), 0.73 (1H, septd, J = 7.0, 3.1,  $H_8$ ), 0.24 (3H, d, J = 7.0, Me<sub>B</sub>), 0.06 (3H, d, J = 7.0, Me<sub>A</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 169.28 (C<sub>k</sub>), 169.19 (C<sub>9</sub>), 168.62 (C<sub>k'</sub>), 161.67 (C<sub>11</sub>), 153.39 (C<sub>i</sub>), 148.86 (C<sub>h'</sub>), 148.72 (C<sub>i'</sub>), 147.73 (C<sub>h</sub>), 145.11 (C<sub>j'</sub>), 144.48 (C<sub>j</sub>), 136.63 (C<sub>f'</sub>), 136.56 (C<sub>f</sub>), 133.31 (C<sub>2</sub>), 132.45 (C<sub>a'</sub>), 131.35 (C<sub>a</sub>), 129.78 (C<sub>4</sub>), 129.37 (C<sub>b, b'</sub>), 124.79 (C<sub>1</sub>), 123.84, 123.77 (C<sub>d, d'</sub>), 121.68 (C<sub>g</sub>), 121.63 (C<sub>g'</sub>), 121.19 (C<sub>c</sub>), 120.28 (C<sub>c'</sub>), 119.03 (C<sub>e</sub>), 118.18 (C<sub>e'</sub>), 112.68 (C<sub>3</sub>), 109.98 (C<sub>10</sub>), 72.04 (C<sub>7</sub>), 66.77 (C<sub>5, 6</sub>), 28.82 (C<sub>8</sub>), 18.58 (Me<sub>B</sub>), 12.75 (Me<sub>A</sub>). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub>+570° in DCM. MS (FAB): m/z 706 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

Crystal data for  $\Lambda$ -**1b**: C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>30</sub>IrN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>•CHCl<sub>3</sub>, M = 824.18, orthorhombic, a = 9.355(5) Å, b = 14.083(8) Å, c = 24.255(13) Å,  $\alpha$  = 90.00°,  $\beta$  = 90.00°,  $\gamma$  = 90.00°, V = 3196(3) Å<sup>3</sup>, T = 150(2) K, space group P2(1)2(1)2(1), Z = 4, 26714 reflections measured, 6950 independent reflections ( $R_{int}$  = 0.0665). The final  $R_1$  values were 0.0348 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ). The final  $wR(F^2)$  values were 0.0676 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ). The final  $R_1$  values were 0.0390 (all data). The final  $wR(F^2)$  values were 0.0688 (all data). Flack parameter = -0.003(7).

#### Synthesis of $\Delta S/\Lambda S$ -2a

This was prepared from  $[Ir(ppz)_2Cl]_2 a$  (70 mg, 0.068 mmol), (S)-HL<sub>2</sub> (36.8 mg, 0.164 mmol), and NaOMe (8.8 mg, 0.164 mmol) and after work up gave  $\Delta S/\Lambda S$ -**2a** as a yellow solid (combined yield 71 mg, 75%).  $\Delta S$ isomer was selectively crystallised from methanol, hence, the two isomers were separated *via* fractional crystallisation from methanol until a ratio of 1:10 was attained for  $\Delta S$ : $\Lambda S$ . Anal. Calcd for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>28</sub>IrN<sub>5</sub>O: C, 56.39, H, 4.02, N, 9.96. Found ( $\Delta S$ ): C, 56.28, H, 3.98, N, 9.87%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) $\Delta$ S:  $\delta$  8.06 (1H, s, H<sub>5</sub>), 8.02 (1H, d, *J* = 3.1, H<sub>e</sub>), 7.66 (1H, d, *J* = 3.5, H<sub>e'</sub>), 7.65 (1H, d, *J* = 2.3, H<sub>g'</sub>), 7.52 (1H, d, *J* = 2.3, H<sub>g</sub>), 7.19 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.6, 6.7, 1.6, H<sub>2</sub>), 7.12 (1H, d, *J* = 7.4, H<sub>d</sub>), 7.05 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.6, H<sub>4</sub>), 7.01 – 6.92 (3H, m, H<sub>9, 9', 10</sub>), 6.82 (1H, td, *J* = 7.4, 0.8, H<sub>c</sub>), 6.77 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2, H<sub>d'</sub>), 6.73 – 6.66 (3H, m, H<sub>1, b, c'</sub>), 6.61 (1H, td, *J* = 7.8, 1.6, H<sub>b'</sub>), 6.53 (1H, t, *J* = 2.7, H<sub>f</sub>), 6.49 (1H, t, *J* = 2.7, H<sub>f'</sub>), 6.39 – 6.34 (3H, m, H<sub>3, 8, 8'</sub>), 6.27 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>a'</sub>), 6.13 (1H, dd, *J* =



7.4, 1.2,  $H_a$ ), 4.94 (1H, q, J = 7.0,  $H_6$ ), 1.51 (3H, d, J = 7.0, Me). <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 166.41 (C<sub>11</sub>), 161.08 (C<sub>5</sub>), 144.24 (C<sub>h'</sub>), 143.88 (C<sub>h</sub>), 141.99 (C<sub>7</sub>), 137.87 (C<sub>g'</sub>), 137.81 (C<sub>g</sub>), 135.21 (C<sub>4</sub>), 134.63 (C<sub>i</sub>), 134.39 (C<sub>a'</sub>), 134.17 (C<sub>a</sub>), 133.70 (C<sub>2</sub>), 131.10 (C<sub>i'</sub>), 127.92 (C<sub>9,9'</sub>), 126.19 (C<sub>10</sub>), 125.96 (C<sub>8,8'</sub>), 125.85 (C<sub>e</sub>), 125.63 (C<sub>b</sub>), 125.43 (C<sub>b'</sub>), 125.23 (C<sub>e'</sub>), 123.71 (C<sub>1</sub>), 121.68 (C<sub>c</sub>), 121.42 (C<sub>12</sub>), 120.75 (C<sub>c'</sub>), 112.89 (C<sub>3</sub>), 110.54 (C<sub>d</sub>), 110.47 (C<sub>d'</sub>), 106.87 (C<sub>f</sub>), 106.71 (C<sub>f'</sub>), 66.97 (C<sub>6</sub>), 22.81 (Me). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub>-631° in CHCl<sub>3</sub>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) AS:  $\delta$  8.11 (1H, d, J = 2.7, H<sub>e</sub>'), 7.97 (1H, d, J = 2.7, H<sub>e</sub>), 7.96 (1H, s, H<sub>5</sub>), 7.83 (1H, d, J = 2.3, H<sub>g</sub>'), 7.36 – 7.22 (5H, m, H<sub>8, 8', 9, 9', 10), 7.20 (1H, dd, J = 7.8, 0.8, H<sub>d</sub>'), 7.18 (1H, d, J = 2.3, H<sub>g</sub>), 7.14 – 7.10 (2H, m, H<sub>2, d</sub>), 6.89 (1H, dd, J = 7.8, 1.9, H<sub>4</sub>), 6.87 – 6.81 (2H, m, H<sub>c, c</sub>'), 6.72 – 6.68 (2H, m, H<sub>b, b</sub>'), 6.67 (1H, t, J = 2.3, H<sub>f</sub>'), 6.61 (1H, d, J = 8.2, H<sub>1</sub>), 6.42 (1H, dd, J = 7.4, 1.6, H<sub>a</sub>'), 6.38 (1H, t, J = 2.3, H<sub>f</sub>), 6.30 (1H, ddd, J = 7.8, 6.7, 1.2, H<sub>3</sub>), 6.22 (1H, dd, J = 7.4, 1.6, H<sub>a</sub>), 4.80 (1H, q, J =</sub>



7.0, H<sub>6</sub>), 0.82 (3H, d, J = 7.0, Me). <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 166.69 (C<sub>11</sub>), 162.25 (C<sub>5</sub>), 144.31 (C<sub>h'</sub>), 143.93 (C<sub>h</sub>), 142.04 (C<sub>7</sub>), 138.78 (C<sub>g</sub>), 138.27 (C<sub>g'</sub>), 135.21 (C<sub>a'</sub>), 134.88 (C<sub>4</sub>), 134.27 (C<sub>i</sub>), 134.17 (C<sub>a</sub>), 133.58 (C<sub>2</sub>), 132.03 (C<sub>i'</sub>), 128.60 (C<sub>9,9'</sub>), 127.97 (C<sub>8,8'</sub>), 127.56 (C<sub>10</sub>), 125.93 (C<sub>e</sub>), 125.61 (C<sub>b,b'</sub>), 125.45 (C<sub>e'</sub>), 123.66 (C<sub>1</sub>), 121.97 (C<sub>12</sub>), 121.72 (C<sub>c</sub>), 121.06 (C<sub>c'</sub>), 112.76 (C<sub>3</sub>), 110.66 (C<sub>d'</sub>), 110.47 (C<sub>d</sub>), 107.16 (C<sub>f'</sub>), 106.61 (C<sub>f</sub>), 64.93 (C<sub>6</sub>), 20.33 (Me). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>p</sub>+480° (for  $\Delta$ S:AS 1:10) in CHCl<sub>3</sub>. MS (FAB): m/z 703 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

Crystal data for  $\Delta$ -**2a**: C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>28</sub>IrN<sub>5</sub>O•CH<sub>3</sub>OH, *M* = 734.85, orthorhombic, *a* = 8.794(4) Å, *b* = 11.361(5) Å, *c* = 29.429(12) Å, *α* = 90.00°, *β* = 90.00°, *γ* = 90.00°, *V* = 2940(2) Å<sup>3</sup>, *T* = 150(2) K, space group *P*2(1)2(1)2(1), *Z* = 4, 23226 reflections measured, 5780 independent reflections (*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.1160). The final  $R_1$  values were 0.0457 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ). The final  $wR(F^2)$  values were 0.0660 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ). The final  $R_1$  values were 0.0602 (all data). The final  $wR(F^2)$  values were 0.0696 (all data). Flack parameter = 0.005(10).

# Synthesis of $\Delta S/\Lambda S$ -2b

This was prepared from  $[Ir(ppy)_2Cl]_2$  **b** (70 mg, 0.065 mmol), (S)-HL<sub>2</sub> (35.1 mg, 0.156 mmol), and NaOMe (8.4 mg, 0.156 mmol) and after work up gave  $\Delta$ S/ $\Lambda$ S-**2b**as a yellow solid (combined yield 74 mg, 79%). Both isomers crystallised out together in methanol but they could be separated by hand picking due to significant variation in colour and shape of the crystals. Anal.Calcd for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>30</sub>IrN<sub>3</sub>O: C, 61.27, H, 4.17, N, 5.80. Found ( $\Lambda$ S): C, 61.37, H, 4.23, N, 5.83%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\Delta$ S:  $\delta$  8.90 (1H, dt, J = 5.5, 1.2, H<sub>h</sub>'), 8.53 (1H, d, J = 5.5, H<sub>h</sub>), 8.03 (1H, s, H<sub>5</sub>), 7.83 (1H, d, J = 8.2, H<sub>e</sub>), 7.65 (1H, td, J = 7.4, 1.6, H<sub>f</sub>), 7.62 – 7.59 (2H, m, H<sub>e',f'</sub>), 7.53 (1H, dd, J = 7.8, 1.2, H<sub>d</sub>), 7.39 (1H, dd, J = 7.8, 1.2, H<sub>d'</sub>), 7.12 (1H, ddd, J = 8.2, 7.1, 1.2, H<sub>2</sub>), 7.10 (1H, ddd, J = 8.6, 5.8, 2.7, H<sub>g'</sub>), 7.02 – 6.91 (5H, m, H<sub>4, 9, 9', 10, g), 6.81 (1H, td, J = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>c</sub>), 6.78 (1H, td, J = 7.8, 1.2, H<sub>c'</sub>), 6.72 – 6.66 (2H, m, H<sub>b, b'</sub>), 6.60 (1H, d, J = 7.8, H<sub>1</sub>), 6.42 (1H, dd, J = 7.4, 0.8,</sub>



H<sub>a</sub>·), 6.35 - 6.31 (3H, m, H<sub>3, 8, 8</sub>'), 6.13 (1H, dd, J = 7.4, 0.8, H<sub>a</sub>), 4.70 (1H, q, J = 7.0, H<sub>6</sub>), 1.45 (3H, d, J = 7.0, Me). <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 169.08 (C<sub>k</sub>), 168.34 (C<sub>k</sub>'), 166.17 (C<sub>11</sub>), 161.13 (C<sub>5</sub>), 153.09 (C<sub>i</sub>), 150.93 (C<sub>i</sub>'), 148.95 (C<sub>h</sub>), 148.58 (C<sub>h</sub>'), 144.73 (C<sub>j</sub>'), 144.46 (C<sub>j</sub>), 142.12 (C<sub>7</sub>), 136.50 (C<sub>f</sub>), 136.46 (C<sub>f</sub>'), 134.96 (C<sub>4</sub>), 133.56 (C<sub>2</sub>), 133.13 (C<sub>a</sub>'), 131.91 (C<sub>a</sub>), 129.27 (C<sub>b</sub>, b'), 127.90 (C<sub>9, 9</sub>'), 126.79 (C<sub>8, 8</sub>'), 126.63 (C<sub>10</sub>), 124.40 (C<sub>1</sub>), 124.16 (C<sub>d</sub>'), 123.63 (C<sub>d</sub>), 121.50 (C<sub>12</sub>), 121.45 (C<sub>g</sub>'), 121.33 (C<sub>g</sub>), 121.14 (C<sub>c</sub>), 120.12 (C<sub>c</sub>'), 118.87 (C<sub>e</sub>), 118.25 (C<sub>e</sub>'), 112.83 (C<sub>3</sub>), 65.84 (C<sub>6</sub>), 22.15 (Me). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub>-535° in DCM.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) AS:  $\delta$  9.02 (1H, ddd, J = 5.8, 1.4, 0.8, H<sub>h</sub>'), 8.19 (1H, ddd, J = 5.8, 1.4, 0.8, H<sub>h</sub>), 8.11 (1H, s, H<sub>5</sub>), 7.93 (1H, d, J = 8.2, H<sub>e</sub>'), 7.80 – 7.75 (2H, m, H<sub>e</sub>, f'), 7.63 (1H, dd, J = 7.6, 1.2, H<sub>d</sub>'), 7.60 – 7.52 (2H, m, H<sub>d</sub>, f), 7.35 – 7.27 (3H, m, H<sub>9</sub>, 9', 10), 7.22 – 7.11 (3H, m, H<sub>2</sub>, 8, 8', g'), 6.92 (1H, dd, J = 7.8, 1.8, H<sub>4</sub>), 6.86 – 6.81 (2H, m, H<sub>c</sub>, c'), 6.78 – 6.69 (3H, m, H<sub>b</sub>, b', g), 6.58 (1H, d, J = 8.5, H<sub>1</sub>), 6.47 (1H, dd, J = 7.6, 1.2, H<sub>a</sub>'), 6.30 (1H, ddd, J = 8.2, 6.7, 0.8, H<sub>3</sub>), 6.22 (1H, dd, J = 7.6, 1.2, H<sub>a</sub>), 4.73 (1H, q, J = 7.0, H<sub>6</sub>), 0.73 (3H, d, J = 7.0, Me). <sup>13</sup>C



NMR: 169.79 ( $C_{k, k'}$ ), 167.13 ( $C_{11}$ ), 163.03 ( $C_5$ ), 154.10 ( $C_i$ ), 152.97 ( $C_{i'}$ ), 151.35 ( $C_h$ ), 150.09 ( $C_{h'}$ ), 146.45, 146.35 ( $C_{j, j'}$ ), 143.22 ( $C_7$ ), 138.58 ( $C_{f'}$ ), 138.11 ( $C_f$ ), 136.56 ( $C_4$ ), 135.02 ( $C_2$ ), 134.77 ( $C_{a'}$ ), 133.29 ( $C_a$ ), 131.01 ( $C_{b'}$ ), 130.18 ( $C_b$ ), 129.91 ( $C_{9, 9'}$ ), 129.43 ( $C_{8, 8'}$ ), 129.08 ( $C_{10}$ ), 125.90 ( $C_{d'}$ ), 125.14

(C<sub>d</sub>), 124.69 (C<sub>1</sub>), 123.40 (C<sub>g'</sub>), 123.18 (C<sub>12</sub>), 122.77 (C<sub>g</sub>), 122.56, 121.90 (C<sub>c, c'</sub>), 120.27 (C<sub>e</sub>), 119.82 (C<sub>e'</sub>), 114.18 (C<sub>3</sub>), 65.71 (C<sub>6</sub>), 22.49 (Me).  $[\alpha]_D$ +654° in DCM. MS (FAB): m/z 725 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

# Synthesis of $\Delta\Delta$ -3a

TFA (162 mg, 109.7  $\mu$ L, 1.423 mmol) was added to a solution of  $\Delta$ S-**2a** (50 mg, 0.071 mmol) in DCM (2 ml). H<sub>2</sub>O (2 ml) was added to this reaction mixture after stirring it for an hour. The deep yellow colour changed successively to pale yellow and colourless after stirring for 48 hrs at room temperature. After this time, the aqueous



layer was separated and the organic layer was passed through celite. The filtrate was reduced in volume and hexane was added slowly to induce precipitation. The precipitate was isolated, washed with hexane and dried *in vacuo* to give  $\Delta\Delta$ -**3a** as a grey solid (34 mg, 81%).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.10 (4H, d, J = 2.3, H<sub>e</sub>), 7.88 (4H, d, J = 2.0, H<sub>g</sub>), 7.13 (4H, dd, J = 7.8, 1.2, H<sub>d</sub>), 6.85 (4H, td, J = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>c</sub>), 6.75 (4H, t, J = 2.7, H<sub>f</sub>), 6.63 (4H, td, J = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>b</sub>), 6.10 (4H, dd, J = 7.8, 1.2, H<sub>a</sub>). MS (FAB): *m/z* 1071 [M-CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. MS (ES): *m/z* 561 [Ir(ppz)<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>.

# Synthesis of ∆-4a

TFA (40.5 mg, 27.4  $\mu$ L, 0.356 mmol) was added to a solution of  $\Delta$ S-**2a** (50 mg, 0.071 mmol) and bipy (12.2 mg, 0.078 mmol) in DCM (2 ml). The reaction mixture was stirred for an hour and after that the reaction mixture was washed with water (3 × 5 ml). The organic layer was separated and washed and dried with anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The volume of



filtrate was reduced and hexane was added slowly to induce precipitation. The precipitate was isolated, washed with hexane and dried *in vacuo* to give Δ-**4a** as a yellow solid (38 mg, 72%). Using a similar procedure Λ-**4a** was synthesised from ΛS-**1a** via ΛΛ-**3a**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  9.23 (2H, d, *J* = 8.2, H<sub>4</sub>), 8.23 (2H, td, *J* = 8.2, 0.8, H<sub>3</sub>), 8.11 (2H, d, *J* = 2.7, H<sub>e</sub>), 8.07 (2H, dd, *J* = 5.4, 1.2, H<sub>1</sub>), 7.40 (2H, dd, *J* = 7.0, 5.8, H<sub>2</sub>), 7.29 (2H, dd, *J* = 7.8, 0.8, H<sub>d</sub>), 7.05 (2H, td, *J* = 7.8, 1.2, H<sub>c</sub>), 6.87 (2H, td, *J* = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>b</sub>), 6.84 (2H, d, *J* = 2.0, H<sub>g</sub>), 6.54 (2H, t, *J* = 2.7, H<sub>f</sub>), 6.31 (2H, dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.2, H<sub>a</sub>). [α]<sub>D</sub>-471° for Δ-**4a** and +473° for Λ-**4a** in DCM. MS (FAB): *m/z* 635 [M]<sup>+</sup>. rotation,-471° in DCM.

# Measurement of enantiopurity by <sup>1</sup>H NMR

A sample of **4a** (3.74 mg,  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol) was dissolved in 0.5 mL of CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. 1 equiv. of  $\Delta$ -[Bu<sub>4</sub>N][trisphat] (5.06 mg,  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol) was then added [in small portions].



**Fig. S1:** Wireframe crystal structures showing key NOEs of  $\Lambda$ S-1a (left) and  $\Delta$ S-1a (right). Phenyl ring with primes is *trans* to O while with non-primes is *trans* to imine N for both the isomers.



 Fig.S2: X-ray crystal structure of  $\Lambda$ S-1b. Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°): Ir(1)—N(1),

 2.033(4); Ir(1)—N(2), 2.042(5); Ir(1)—N(3), 2.142(5); Ir(1)—O(1), 2.123(4); Ir(1)—C(11), 1.994(5);

 Ir(1)—C(22), 2.002(5); N(1)—Ir(1)—N(2), 172.84(18); N(1)—Ir(1)—C(11), 80.4(2);

 N(2)—Ir(1)—C(22), 80.5(2); N(3)—Ir(1)—O(1), 85.98(17).



**Fig.S3:** X-ray crystal structure of  $\Delta$ S-**2a**. Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°): Ir(1)—N(1), 1.997(6); Ir(1)—N(3),2.012(6); Ir(1)—N(5), 2.139(7); Ir(1)—O(1), 2.120(5); Ir(1)—C(9), 2.000(8); Ir(1)—C(18), 2.001(8); N(1)—Ir(1)—N(3), 173.5(3); N(1)—Ir(1)—C(9), 80.4(3); N(3)—Ir(1)—C(18), 79.8(3); N(5)—Ir(1)—O(1), 88.6(3).



Fig S4 CD spectra of  $\Delta$ S-**2b** and  $\Lambda$ S-**2b** 

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Fig S6 CD spectra of  $\Delta$ S and  $\Lambda$ S-4a

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CHIRALPAK® AD-H (250mmL x 4.6 ID) / 5µm Eluent: n-Heptane / EtOH / TEA / TFA 90:10:0.3:0.1 Flow Rate: 1.0mL/min Temperature: 25°C Detection: UV 250 nm



1: 250 nm, 4

nm Results				
Pk	# RT	(min)	Area	Area %
	1 3	35,867	22344511	49,68
2	2 4	14,493	22633888	50,32
Totals	5		44978399	100,00

Fig S7a



1 2	36,313	769357	0,80
	43,373	95051098	99,20
Totals		95820455	100,00

Fig S7b

As mentioned in the paper to check the enantiopurity of  $\Delta\Delta$ -3a it was reacted separately with L1 and L2. In each case this gave only 1 diastereomer. Relevant parts of the NMR spectra are shown below.



Figure S8: (a) Selected part of the crude <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the reaction of  $\Delta\Delta$ -**3a** with (S)-Na(L1).  $\Delta$ S-**1a**: $\Lambda$ S-**1a** ratio is 53:1; (b) Selected part of the crude NMR spectrum of the 50:50 mixture of  $\Delta$ S-**1a**: $\Lambda$ S-**1a** formed from the reaction of racemic [Ir(ppz)<sub>2</sub>Cl]<sub>2</sub> with (S)-Na(L1).



Figure S9: (a) Selected part of the crude <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the reaction of  $\Delta\Delta$ -**3a** with (S)-Na(L2). Only  $\Delta$ S-**2a** is observed ; (b) Selected part of the crude NMR spectrum of the 50:50 mixture of  $\Delta$ S-**1a**: $\Lambda$ S-**1a** formed from the reaction of racemic [Ir(ppz)<sub>2</sub>Cl]<sub>2</sub> with (S)-Na(L2).