## Selective, Remote Functional Group Directed C-H activation by an Ir(III) Phenanthroline Complex

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#### **Supporting information**

#### **Experimental methods**

All chemicals and solvents were used as purchased. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data was collected on a Bruker Ascend<sup>TM</sup> 400MHz spectrometer with TMS as an internal standard. The MS for identification was performed on a Thermo Electron Orbitrap Velos.

#### Synthesis

All deuterated butanols were purchased from CDN isotopes. Triglyme and dimethylsulfate were purchased from Alfa Aeser and Sigma Aldrich respectively. The procedure used to synthesize the ether was adapted from the procedure used by Achet et.al.<sup>1</sup>

1. Achet, D., Rocrelle, D., Murengezi, I., Delmas, M., Gaset, A.; *Synthesis-Stuttgart*, 1986, 642-643.

#### 1,1,2,2-d<sub>4</sub> methoxybutane

A mixture of n-butyl-1,1,2,2-d<sub>4</sub> alcohol (960µl, 9.95mmol), triglyme (10.5mL, 0.058mol) and DI water (1670µl, 0.092mol) were heated while stirring for 10 minutes in an oil bath with a temperature of 65<sup>0</sup>C. Crushed KOH (2.1g, 0.037mol) was added to the stirred solution. Dimethyl sulfate (996µl, 0.01mol) was introduced to this mixture at a rate of 1.8mL/hr. Once all the dimethyl sulfate was added the reaction mixture was refluxed for 1.5 hours. The solution was left to cool to room temperature and the unreacted KOH was filtered out. The filtrate was distilled to obtain the

ether. The ether was collected at 71°C.  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.34 (s, 3H), 1.39- 1.33 (q, 2H), 0.95- 0.91(t, 3H). [M + Na] +seen at 115.0802

#### 4,4,4-d<sub>3</sub> methoxybutane

A mixture of n-butyl-4,4,4-d<sub>3</sub> alcohol (960µl , 0.01mol), triglyme (10.5mL, 0.058mol) and DI water (1670µl, 0.092mol) were heated while stirring for 10 minutes in an oil bath with a temperature of 65<sup>o</sup>C. Crushed KOH (2.1g, 0.037mol) was added to the stirred solution. Dimethyl sulfate (996µl, 0.01mol) was introduced to this mixture at a rate of 1.8mL/hr. Once all the dimethyl sulfate was added the reaction mixture was refluxed for 1.5 hours. The solution was left to cool to room temperature and the unreacted KOH was filtered out. The filtrate was distilled to obtain the ether. The ether was collected at 70<sup>o</sup>C.  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.41- 3.37 (t, 2H), 3.34(s, 3H), 1.55-1.40(m, 2H), 1.38- 1.34(t, 2H).

#### 3,3,4,4,4-d<sub>5</sub> methoxybutane

A mixture of n-butyl-4,4,4-d<sub>3</sub> alcohol (960µl , 9.81mmol), triglyme (10.5mL, 0.058mol) and DI water (1670µl, 0.092mol) were heated while stirring for 10 minutes in an oil bath with a temperature of 65<sup>o</sup>C. Crushed KOH (2.1g, 0.037mol) was added to the stirred solution. Dimethyl sulfate (996µl, 0.01mol) was introduced to this mixture at a rate of 1.8mL/hr. Once all the dimethyl sulfate was added the reaction mixture was refluxed for 1.5 hours. The solution was left to cool to room temperature and the unreacted KOH was filtered out. The filtrate was distilled to obtain the ether. The ether was collected at 70<sup>o</sup>C.  $\delta$  H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.41 (s,3H), 3.32- 3.29 (t, 2H), 1.48-1.45 (t, 2H).

#### 1,1,2,2,3,3-d<sub>6</sub> methoxybutane

A mixture of n-butyl-1,1,2,2,3,3-d<sub>6</sub> alcohol (960µl, 9.81mmol), triglyme (10.5mL, 0.058mol) and DI water (1670µl, 0.092mol) were heated while stirring for 10 minutes in an oil bath with a temperature of 65°C. Crushed KOH (2.1g, 0.037mol) was added to the stirred solution. Dimethyl sulfate (996µl, 0.01mol) was introduced to this mixture at a rate of 1.8mL/hr. Once all the dimethyl sulfate was added the reaction mixture was refluxed for 1.5 hours. The solution was left to cool to room temperature and the unreacted KOH was filtered out. The filtrate was distilled to obtain the ether. The ether was collected at 71°C.  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.34 (s,3H), 0.91 (s, 3H).





**Figure S1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 3.34 (s, 3H), 1.42 – 1.32 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).



#### NMR of 4,4,4-d<sub>3</sub> methoxybutane

**Figure S2** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 3.39 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 1.61 – 1.52 (m, 2H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H).





**Figure S3** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 3.38 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.34 (s, 2H), 1.58 – 1.49 (m, 3H).



NMR of 1,1,2,2,3,3-d<sub>6</sub> methoxybutane

**Figure S4** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 3.34 (s, 1H), 0.91 (s, 1H).



Iridium(III) dichloride phenanthroline reaction with 1,1,2,2-d4 methoxybutane

**Figure S5** Peak at 441.17 is the iridium(III) phenanthroline complex, 472.67 is a methanol adduct, 490.67 is an adduct of one water and methanol molecules, 497.08 is the peak for C-H activation, 504.67 is an adduct of two methanol molecules, 510.08 and 530.92 are adducts of one and two methoxybutane molecules respectively





**Figure S6** 441.17 is the iridium(III) phenanthroline complex, 473.00 is a methanol adduct, 498.08 is the peak for C-D activation, 520.92 is adduct of two methanol molecules and a water molecule, peaks 534.67 and 566.75 are two and four methanol adducts respectively



Iridium(III)phenanthroline dichloride with 3,3,4,4,4-d5 methoxybutane

**Figure S7** Peak at 440.93 is the iridium(III) phenanthroline complex, 496.67 is the peak for C-D activation and 532.93 is a methoxybutane adduct



#### Iridium(III) dichloride phenanthroline reaction with 4,4,4-d<sub>3</sub> methoxybutane

**Figure S8** Peak at 440.60 is the iridium(III) phenanthroline complex, 476.33 and 489.73 are adducts of two water molecules and one methanol molecule respectively, 495.27 is the peak for C-H activation, 504.40 and 517.33 are adducts of two methanol molecules and one unreacted butanol molecule respectively, 531.17 is a methoxybutane adduct and 549.07 is an adduct of one methoxybutane molecule and one methanol molecule.

Iridium(III) dichloride phenanthroline reaction with a mixture of 1,1,2,2,3,3-d<sub>6</sub> and 4,4,4-d<sub>3</sub> methoxybutane



**Figure S9** 441.08 is the iridium(III) phenanthroline complex, 472.67 is a methanol adduct, 496.00 is the C-H activation of 4,4,4-d<sub>3</sub> methoxybutane, 498.08 is the C-D activation of 1,1,2,2,3,3-d<sub>6</sub> methoxybutane, 504.92 is an adduct of two methanol adducts and peaks 531.00 and 534.83 are adducts of 4,4,4-d<sub>3</sub> methoxybutane and 1,1,2,2,3,3-d<sub>6</sub> methoxybutane molecules respectively. Mixture was determined independently on a JEOL AccuTOF DART (28%/72% 1,1,2,2,3,3-d<sub>6</sub>/4,4,4-d<sub>3</sub> methoxybutane). Product yields were corrected for <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>17</sup>O present in the methoxybutane based on natural abundances. Yields were also corrected for overlap from forward-edge peak broadening by using the ratio of the M-1 vs. M intensity for the reactant ion as a measure of the peak broadening effect. Although typically not necessary, the C-D activation for the delta-labeled ether is impacted by the much large peak for C-H activation.





**Figure S10** Peak at 440.73 is the iridium(III) phenanthroline complex ,480.47 is the peak for C-H activation , 516.20 and 591.67 are adducts of one and two butanol molecules respectively





**Figure S11** Peak at 441.20 is the iridium(III) phenanthroline complex, 482.80 is the peak for C-H activation, peaks 518.67 and 595.93 are adducts of one and two butanol molecules



Iridium(III) dichloride phenanthroline reaction with 1,1,2,2,3,3-d<sub>6</sub> butanol

**Figure S12** Peak 484.33 is C-H activation, peaks 520.13 and 476.93 are butanol and two water molecule adducts respectively



Iridium(III) dichloride phenanthroline reaction with 4,4,4-d<sub>3</sub> butanol

**Figure S33** Peak at 441.00 is the iridium(III) phenanthroline complex , 481.73 is the peak for C-H activation, 476.00 is an adduct of two water molecules, peaks 517.47 and 594.13 are one and two butanol molecule adducts.



Iridium(III) dichloride phenanthroline reaction with a 50:50 mixture of 1,1,2,2,3,3-d<sub>6</sub> and 4,4,4-d<sub>3</sub> butanol

**Figure S14** Iridium(III) phenanthroline with a 50:50 mixture of  $1,1,2,2,3,3-d_6$  butanol and  $4,4,4-d_3$  butanol. Peak at 441.17 is the iridium(III) phenanthroline complex, peaks 481, 518 and 597 are C-H activation, and adducts of one and two butanol molecules with  $1,1,2,2,3,3-d_6$  butanol. Peaks 484, 521 and 601 are C-H activation and adducts of one and two butanol molecules respectively with  $4,4,4-d_3$  butanol. Product yields were corrected for <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>17</sup>O present in the butanol based on natural abundances. Yields were also corrected for overlap from forward-edge peak broadening by using the ratio of the M-1 vs. M intensity for the reactant ion as a measure of the peak broadening effect. Although typically not necessary, the C-D activation for the delta-labeled ether is impacted by the much large peak for C-H activation. This is not an issue with the butanol, but was applied for consistency. **Relative rates of butanol vs methoxybutane** 



**Figure S15** Peak 440.87 is the iridium(III) phenanthroline complex, 478.72 is the peak for C-H activation of butanol, 492.47 is the C-H activation of methoxybutane and 514.47 is an adduct of a butanol molecule.

#### **DFT** calculations

All calculations were performed using the LANL2DZ ECP basis set for Ir and M06/6-311+G\*\* basis set for the other atoms in the complex. Electronic energy corrections were carried out at the QZVP level while Intrisic Reaction Coordinate (IRC) calculations were carried out to verify the transition state. Enthalpies given in hartree. The energy values given below are the from the enthalpy calculations carried out at the 6-311+G\*\* level for all other atoms other than Ir as mentioned above.

# Summary of computational data

Complex	Correction for	Correction for	Enthalpy	Imaginary
	Gibbs free energy	thermal enthalpy		frequency
1,10-phenanthroline dichloride	0.132083	0.188621	-1596.061021	N/A
butanol	0.105766	0.143811	-233.6146441	N/A
Delta transition state structure for butanol	0.261996	0.331699	-1829.722645	365.53cm <sup>-1</sup>
Gamma transition state structure for butanol	0.260473	0.331492	-1829.718079	246.10cm <sup>-1</sup>
Delta activation butanol structure	0.262727	0.334416	-1829.732609	N/A
Gamma activated butanol structure	0.261239	0.333824	-1829.72976	N/A
methoxybutane	0.131004	0.172681	-272.9021051	N/A
Delta transition state structure for methoxybutane	0.285671	0.35888	-1869.001652	675.28cm <sup>-1</sup>
Gamma transition state structure for methoxybutane	0.286767	0.35902	-1869.003443	389.58cm <sup>-1</sup>
Delta activation methoxybutane structure	0.288122	0.363582	-1869.011614	N/A
Gamma activated methoxybutane structure	0.287676	0.362969	-1869.017302	N/A

 Table S1 Summary of computational data (Hartree)

## Table S2 APFD Double Hybrid Data

	Enthalpy	(hartree)		Gamma vs. I	Delta (kcal/mol)
	APFD	M06		APFD	M06
Delta transition state structure for butanol	-1829.350308	-1829.474211			
Gamma transition state structure for butanol	-1829.34656	-1829.46967		2.4	2.8
Delta transition state structure for methoxybutane	-1868.593344	-1868.717535			
Gamma transition state structure for methoxybutane	-1868.594646	-1868.718247		-0.8	-0.4
Note: Values will not match narrative because smaller l	basis set was used i	n these test calculati	ons		
Basis set: 6-311+G** on all atoms excpet Ir using LANL	2DZ				
APFD: A. Austin, G. Petersson, M. J. Frisch, F. J. Dobek,					
G. Scalmani, and K. Throssell, "A density functional					
with spherical atom dispersion terms," J. Chem.					
Theory and Comput. 8 (2012) 4989					

### XYZ coordinates of iridium(III)-1,10-phenanthroline dichloride

Correction for thermal enthalpies at 6-311+G\*\* level: 0.188621

Energy at QZVP level: -1596.061021

Η	1.09761	-4.48699	0.00040
С	1.21328	-3.40987	0.00011
Н	3.35651	-3.44037	-0.00007
С	2.46075	-2.82684	-0.00014
N	0.15636	-1.29590	-0.00020
С	2.57223	-1.42525	-0.00037
С	0.06046	-2.61927	0.00003
С	1.37824	-0.70248	-0.00032
С	3.79422	-0.67951	-0.00051
Н	-0.93768	-3.04589	0.00024
С	3.79422	0.67952	-0.00036
Н	4.73116	-1.22754	-0.00069
Н	4.73115	1.22755	-0.00042
С	2.57222	1.42525	-0.00004
С	2.46074	2.82685	0.00048

С	1.37824	0.70249	-0.00015
С	1.21328	3.40987	0.00086
Η	3.35650	3.44038	0.00066
Η	1.09760	4.48699	0.00136
С	0.06045	2.61927	0.00064
Η	-0.93769	3.04589	0.00092
Ν	0.15636	1.29590	0.00014
Ir	-1.32841	-0.00000	-0.00006
Cl	-1.59234	-0.00066	2.31322
Cl	-1.59274	0.00066	-2.31314

### XYZ coordinates of butanol

Correction for thermal enthalpies at 6-311+G\*\* level: 0.143811

Energy at QZVP level: -233.6146441

С	2.49089	-0.29317	-0.00020
С	1.21551	0.52871	0.00041
С	-0.03087	-0.33918	-0.00014
С	-1.30218	0.47095	-0.00027
0	-2.39684	-0.42184	0.00058
Η	-3.21475	0.07810	-0.00235
Η	2.53937	-0.94195	0.88169
Η	3.38499	0.33692	0.00082
Η	2.53991	-0.93988	-0.88357
Η	1.19985	1.19073	0.87813
Η	1.19983	1.19198	-0.87637
Η	-0.03319	-0.99817	0.87910
Η	-0.03269	-0.99790	-0.87959
Η	-1.32458	1.12503	-0.88833
Н	-1.32407	1.12604	0.88708

	Correction	for thermal e	enthalpies at 6-311+G** level: 0.331699
	Energy at (	QZVP level: ·	-1829.722645
	Imaginary	frequency: 36	65.53cm <sup>-1</sup>
Ν	0.81118	1.31020	0.02398
С	2.02691	0.69034	-0.01249
С	2.05283	-0.73373	-0.03826
С	0.76872	2.63388	0.10562
Н	-0.21372	3.08728	0.16752
С	3.23132	1.40976	-0.00725
С	1.92417	3.41657	0.11882
С	3.15370	2.81097	0.05356
Н	4.06663	3.39914	0.05867
С	0.84144	-2.69664	-0.02982
Н	-0.13907	-3.16479	-0.01144
С	2.01473	-3.45880	-0.07003
Н	1.94708	-4.54008	-0.08064
С	3.27845	-1.41488	-0.07529
С	3.22994	-2.82018	-0.09216
Н	4.15639	-3.38657	-0.12057
С	4.49159	-0.66104	-0.08729
Н	5.43514	-1.19734	-0.11956
С	4.46765	0.69319	-0.05262
Н	5.39112	1.26407	-0.05510
Н	1.82642	4.49355	0.18228
N	0.86321	-1.37690	-0.01537
Ir	-0.78177	0.03578	0.03443
Cl	-0.90464	0.15426	-2.48999
0	-2.23668	-1.51921	0.23942

### XYZ coordinates of delta transition state structure of butanol

Η	-2.27373	-1.63066	1.20644
Cl	-0.73961	-0.06437	2.36733
С	-3.59104	-1.39033	-0.26703
С	-4.27920	-0.15564	0.25595
С	-3.72109	1.14100	-0.31118
С	-2.33619	1.52345	0.19141
Η	-4.11619	-2.30813	0.01405
Η	-3.48704	-1.37468	-1.35606
Η	-4.22957	-0.14697	1.35543
Η	-5.34184	-0.24324	0.00042
Η	-4.40906	1.95725	-0.05475
Η	-3.74026	1.08007	-1.41003
Η	-2.36571	1.72074	1.26969
Η	-2.05078	2.47157	-0.28910
Н	-1.45856	0.92861	-1.39049

### XYZ coordinates of gamma transition state structure of butanol

Correction for thermal enthalpies at 6-311+G\*\* level: 0.331492

Energy at QZVP level: -1829.718079

Imaginary frequency: 246.10cm<sup>-1</sup>

Ν	0.65016	1.28579	0.06809
С	1.92242	0.79797	0.01857
С	2.09146	-0.61354	-0.04494
С	0.47498	2.59207	0.21511
Η	-0.54814	2.93472	0.29812
С	3.04749	1.63489	0.05077
С	1.54340	3.48854	0.26568
С	2.82824	3.01714	0.16896
Η	3.67633	3.69483	0.19630
С	1.07609	-2.67935	-0.10268

Η	0.15094	-3.24941	-0.11102
С	2.31533	-3.32311	-0.18321
Н	2.35055	-4.40442	-0.24065
С	3.37773	-1.16915	-0.11671
С	3.46439	-2.57070	-0.18528
Н	4.44012	-3.04466	-0.24191
С	4.50866	-0.29606	-0.11042
Н	5.50101	-0.73290	-0.16829
С	4.34881	1.04665	-0.02441
Н	5.21106	1.70616	-0.00904
Н	1.33510	4.54561	0.37889
Ν	0.96889	-1.36538	-0.02643
Ir	-0.82168	-0.12922	0.03118
Cl	-0.91308	-0.06329	-2.46090
С	-2.70242	0.98760	0.15126
С	-2.95179	2.28883	-0.59830
Н	-2.88724	2.17827	-1.68889
Н	-3.96793	2.64157	-0.38157
Н	-2.28345	3.10264	-0.30719
С	-3.77477	-0.02665	-0.24100
Н	-4.76952	0.36865	0.00636
Н	-3.77085	-0.19436	-1.32761
С	-3.58078	-1.32623	0.47164
Н	-3.67181	-1.20371	1.55677
Н	-4.24945	-2.11852	0.12784
0	-2.21032	-1.75538	0.17742
Н	-1.90966	-2.28452	0.93025
Cl	-0.77299	-0.19497	2.37360
Н	-2.74798	1.17806	1.23028
Н	-1.51322	0.72916	-1.28644

# XYZ coordinates of the activated delta position of butanol

Correction for thermal enthalpies at 6-311+G\*\* level: 0.334416

Energy at QZVP level: -1829.732609

Ν	0.81118	1.31020	0.02398
С	2.02691	0.69034	-0.01249
С	2.05283	-0.73373	-0.03826
С	0.76872	2.63388	0.10562
Н	-0.21372	3.08728	0.16752
С	3.23132	1.40976	-0.00725
С	1.92417	3.41657	0.11882
С	3.15370	2.81097	0.05356
Н	4.06663	3.39914	0.05867
С	0.84144	-2.69664	-0.02982
Н	-0.13907	-3.16479	-0.01144
С	2.01473	-3.45880	-0.07003
Н	1.94708	-4.54008	-0.08064
С	3.27845	-1.41488	-0.07529
С	3.22994	-2.82018	-0.09216
Н	4.15639	-3.38657	-0.12057
С	4.49159	-0.66104	-0.08729
Н	5.43514	-1.19734	-0.11956
С	4.46765	0.69319	-0.05262
Н	5.39112	1.26407	-0.05510
Н	1.82642	4.49355	0.18228
Ν	0.86321	-1.37690	-0.01537
Ir	-0.78177	0.03578	0.03443
Cl	-0.90464	0.15426	-2.48999
0	-2.23668	-1.51921	0.23942
Н	-2.27373	-1.63066	1.20644

Cl	-0.73961	-0.06437	2.36733
С	-3.59104	-1.39033	-0.26703
С	-4.27920	-0.15564	0.25595
С	-3.72109	1.14100	-0.31118
С	-2.33619	1.52345	0.19141
Η	-4.11619	-2.30813	0.01405
Η	-3.48704	-1.37468	-1.35606
Η	-4.22957	-0.14697	1.35543
Η	-5.34184	-0.24324	0.00042
Η	-4.40906	1.95725	-0.05475
Η	-3.74026	1.08007	-1.41003
Η	-2.36571	1.72074	1.26969
Η	-2.05078	2.47157	-0.28910
Н	-1.45856	0.92861	-1.39049

### XYZ coordinates of the activated gamma position of butanol

Correction for thermal enthalpies at 6-311+G\*\* level: 0.333824

Energy at QZVP level: -1829.72976

Ν	0.65016	1.28579	0.06809
С	1.92242	0.79797	0.01857
С	2.09146	-0.61354	-0.04494
С	0.47498	2.59207	0.21511
Н	-0.54814	2.93472	0.29812
С	3.04749	1.63489	0.05077
С	1.54340	3.48854	0.26568
С	2.82824	3.01714	0.16896
Н	3.67633	3.69483	0.19630
С	1.07609	-2.67935	-0.10268
Н	0.15094	-3.24941	-0.11102

С	2.31533	-3.32311	-0.18321
Н	2.35055	-4.40442	-0.24065
С	3.37773	-1.16915	-0.11671
С	3.46439	-2.57070	-0.18528
Н	4.44012	-3.04466	-0.24191
С	4.50866	-0.29606	-0.11042
Н	5.50101	-0.73290	-0.16829
С	4.34881	1.04665	-0.02441
Н	5.21106	1.70616	-0.00904
Н	1.33510	4.54561	0.37889
Ν	0.96889	-1.36538	-0.02643
Ir	-0.82168	-0.12922	0.03118
Cl	-0.91308	-0.06329	-2.46090
С	-2.70242	0.98760	0.15126
С	-2.95179	2.28883	-0.59830
Н	-2.88724	2.17827	-1.68889
Н	-3.96793	2.64157	-0.38157
Н	-2.28345	3.10264	-0.30719
С	-3.77477	-0.02665	-0.24100
Н	-4.76952	0.36865	0.00636
Н	-3.77085	-0.19436	-1.32761
С	-3.58078	-1.32623	0.47164
Н	-3.67181	-1.20371	1.55677
Н	-4.24945	-2.11852	0.12784
0	-2.21032	-1.75538	0.17742
Н	-1.90966	-2.28452	0.93025
Cl	-0.77299	-0.19497	2.37360
Н	-2.74798	1.17806	1.23028
Н	-1.51322	0.72916	-1.28644

### XYZ coordinates of methoxybutane

Correction for thermal enthalpies at 6-311+G\*\* level: 0.172681

Energy at QZVP level: -272.9021051

С	3.04319	0.12713	0.00001
0	1.79287	-0.55302	-0.00000
С	0.70361	0.36748	-0.00000
С	-0.60845	-0.41017	0.00000
С	-1.80665	0.53965	-0.00000
С	-3.12787	-0.20855	0.00000
Н	3.14223	0.74767	0.89656
Н	3.84381	-0.61642	0.00001
Н	3.14223	0.74767	-0.89656
Н	0.76250	1.00062	-0.89279
Н	0.76250	1.00062	0.89280
Н	-0.64392	-1.06925	0.87688
Н	-0.64392	-1.06925	-0.87687
Н	-1.76202	1.18736	0.88355
Н	-1.76202	1.18737	-0.88355
Н	-3.96405	0.49771	-0.00000
Н	-3.22167	-0.84158	0.88803
Н	-3.22167	-0.84158	-0.88803

### XYZ coordinates of delta transition state structure of methoxybutane

Correction for thermal enthalpies at 6-311+G\*\* level: 0.35888

Energy at QZVP level: -1869.001652

Imaginary frequency: 675.28cm<sup>-1</sup>

- N 0.95449 -1.30364 -0.02574
- C 2.13376 -0.61914 -0.00158
- C 2.07782 0.80420 0.01232

С	0.98231	-2.62897	-0.10008
Н	0.02565	-3.13642	-0.14336
С	3.37550	-1.27183	-0.02864
С	2.17829	-3.34728	-0.12533
С	3.37404	-2.67515	-0.08367
Н	4.31798	-3.21164	-0.10439
С	0.76486	2.69204	-0.08818
Н	-0.23553	3.11115	-0.14544
С	1.89322	3.51756	-0.13711
Н	1.76476	4.59065	-0.21430
С	3.26513	1.55123	-0.02647
С	3.14230	2.94984	-0.08997
Н	4.03704	3.56483	-0.12063
С	4.51840	0.86616	-0.02546
Н	5.43014	1.45553	-0.03910
С	4.57039	-0.48755	-0.02341
Н	5.52420	-1.00595	-0.03340
Н	2.13848	-4.42834	-0.18229
Ν	0.85186	1.37792	0.01426
Ir	-0.70673	-0.14611	0.03652
Cl	-0.85892	-0.52895	2.56593
0	-2.36614	1.23291	0.14149
Cl	-0.63748	0.02724	-2.29016
С	-3.62116	1.13499	-0.58223
С	-3.86426	-0.24383	-1.13538
С	-3.56884	-1.34114	-0.12014
С	-2.11069	-1.76474	-0.12831
Н	-3.61104	1.90434	-1.36283
Н	-4.40674	1.38175	0.14453
Н	-3.27950	-0.40595	-2.04602

Η	-4.91876	-0.26686	-1.43315
Η	-4.18708	-2.21902	-0.34585
Η	-3.87543	-1.01336	0.88637
Η	-1.42918	-1.20684	1.45957
С	-2.43915	2.17018	1.21325
Η	-1.44646	2.27211	1.65155
Η	-3.13572	1.81308	1.98088
Η	-2.77913	3.13854	0.82961
Η	-1.97534	-2.59185	0.59444
Н	-1.84839	-2.18878	-1.10594

### XYZ coordinates of gamma transition state structure of methoxybutane

Correction for thermal enthalpies at 6-311+G\*\* level: 0.35902

Energy at QZVP level: -1869.003443

Imaginary frequency: 389.58cm<sup>-1</sup>

Ν	-0.79822	1.28851	0.05500
С	-2.03712	0.73203	-0.02397
С	-2.12508	-0.68665	0.01063
С	-0.69190	2.61293	0.08331
Η	0.30712	3.02392	0.16378
С	-3.20212	1.51017	-0.11066
С	-1.80308	3.45196	0.00995
С	-3.05772	2.90605	-0.09789
Н	-3.93889	3.53711	-0.16470
С	-1.03320	-2.69851	0.17971
Н	-0.09703	-3.23451	0.27118
С	-2.23980	-3.40265	0.11733
Н	-2.22409	-4.48495	0.16465
С	-3.38334	-1.30554	-0.05833
С	-3.41632	-2.70857	-0.00471

Η	-4.36996	-3.22552	-0.05860
С	-4.55511	-0.49676	-0.17126
Η	-5.51957	-0.99172	-0.23110
С	-4.46836	0.85440	-0.19472
Η	-5.36075	1.46765	-0.27222
Н	-1.65189	4.52430	0.03535
Ν	-0.96671	-1.38000	0.12846
Ir	0.76072	-0.01321	0.10905
Cl	0.92233	0.30608	2.57811
С	3.68513	0.69456	0.26931
Н	4.55113	1.25654	-0.10334
Н	3.82802	0.56021	1.34861
С	3.65672	-0.65658	-0.37800
Н	3.57008	-0.61090	-1.47167
Н	4.52531	-1.26631	-0.10831
Cl	0.65014	-0.30741	-2.22202
Н	2.32706	2.26337	0.74164
Н	2.70539	1.48077	-2.17575
С	2.43606	2.16326	-1.36760
Н	1.48354	2.61733	-1.65347
Н	3.18950	2.96035	-1.33100
0	2.48173	-1.32648	0.14646
С	2.38379	-2.68224	-0.28719
Н	3.38713	-3.11382	-0.32857
Н	1.91120	-2.73857	-1.27400
Н	1.81191	-3.22576	0.46544
С	2.39609	1.46049	-0.01973
Н	1.48978	1.00230	1.33902

# XYZ coordinates of the activated delta position of methoxybutane

# Correction for thermal enthalpies at 6-311+G\*\* level: 0.363582

# Energy at QZVP level: -1869.011614

Ν	0.91502	-1.30300	0.00200
С	2.12200	-0.66718	-0.01108
С	2.13487	0.76030	0.00998
С	0.89343	-2.63030	-0.07713
Η	-0.08098	-3.10185	-0.09645
С	3.33417	-1.37620	-0.07717
С	2.05478	-3.39883	-0.14018
С	3.27700	-2.77714	-0.13440
Н	4.19871	-3.34893	-0.18654
С	0.94177	2.71933	-0.01237
Н	-0.02544	3.20920	-0.01207
С	2.11042	3.48354	-0.09630
Н	2.03826	4.56327	-0.15239
С	3.36293	1.44214	-0.06148
С	3.32379	2.84558	-0.10572
Н	4.25293	3.40525	-0.16220
С	4.58064	0.69859	-0.10550
Н	5.51820	1.24466	-0.14681
С	4.56624	-0.65447	-0.10903
Н	5.49136	-1.22101	-0.15159
Η	1.96654	-4.47694	-0.19993
Ν	0.94228	1.40036	0.06358
Ir	-0.73957	-0.12520	0.06832
Cl	-0.83249	-0.27908	2.58447
0	-2.50603	1.12631	0.19156
Cl	-0.68275	0.05480	-2.25311
С	-3.61998	1.02147	-0.73281
С	-3.90572	-0.41362	-1.10626

С	-3.55009	-1.38815	0.00785
С	-2.07045	-1.72737	-0.00515
Η	-3.39577	1.64441	-1.60805
Н	-4.47287	1.45867	-0.19690
Н	-3.35597	-0.68697	-2.01271
Н	-4.97126	-0.47275	-1.35198
Η	-4.12477	-2.31351	-0.12776
Η	-3.86445	-0.98024	0.98052
Н	-1.73954	-1.20251	2.71282
С	-2.37846	2.45423	0.67540
Н	-1.59165	2.46914	1.43056
Н	-3.32215	2.76525	1.13555
Н	-2.13938	3.14042	-0.14789
Η	-1.84169	-2.41251	0.83087
Н	-1.85128	-2.27325	-0.93390

### XYZ coordinates of the activated gamma position of methoxybutane

Correction for thermal enthalpies at 6-311+G\*\* level: 0.362969

Energy at QZVP	level: -1869.017302
Energy at QZ VP	level: -1809.01/302

Ν	0.77745	-1.28508	0.09942
С	2.02572	-0.74493	0.00340
С	2.14579	0.67621	0.02641
С	0.65860	-2.60989	0.12697
Η	-0.34577	-3.00701	0.20676
С	3.17773	-1.54340	-0.09734
С	1.75620	-3.46519	0.04570
С	3.01643	-2.93703	-0.07791
Η	3.88881	-3.57878	-0.15719
С	1.11013	2.71440	0.20614

Η	0.18761	3.27275	0.32278
С	2.32943	3.39290	0.10802
Н	2.34148	4.47575	0.14571
С	3.41768	1.26620	-0.07415
С	3.48512	2.66848	-0.03527
Н	4.45000	3.16061	-0.11624
С	4.57085	0.43417	-0.20350
Н	5.54364	0.90878	-0.28932
С	4.45534	-0.91429	-0.21079
Н	5.33254	-1.54755	-0.30087
Н	1.58953	-4.53539	0.07021
Ν	1.00926	1.39820	0.16620
Ir	-0.78651	0.01525	0.09220
Cl	-0.91685	-0.06253	2.60237
С	-3.63758	-0.68892	0.34076
Н	-4.50497	-1.29189	0.04009
Н	-3.74358	-0.49785	1.41649
С	-3.67888	0.62691	-0.37543
Н	-3.63954	0.51607	-1.46755
Н	-4.54641	1.23839	-0.10418
Cl	-0.61574	0.21072	-2.22813
Н	-2.12572	-2.12555	0.84022
Н	-2.81643	-1.58932	-2.09656
С	-2.46332	-2.21043	-1.26873
Н	-1.52178	-2.65309	-1.60746
Н	-3.18789	-3.02445	-1.13178
0	-2.49248	1.34543	0.04948
С	-2.39549	2.63167	-0.56302
Н	-3.38272	3.10201	-0.55106
Н	-2.02679	2.54222	-1.59004

Η	-1.71915	3.23493	0.04153
С	-2.32721	-1.41367	0.01721
Н	-1.60359	-1.14844	2.80119

## **Optimized structures**



Iridium(III)-1,10-phenanthroline



Delta transition state for butanol



Gamma transition state for butanol



Delta transition state for methoxybutane



Gamma transition state for methoxybutane

Figure S16 Optimized structures of iridium(III), 1-10-phenanthroline dichloride and transition state structures of butanol and methoxybutane



# IRC of gamma transition state for 1-methoxybutane

Figure S17 IRC of gamma transition state of methoxybutane



# IRC of delta transition state for 1-methoxybutane

Figure S18 IRC of delta transition state of methoxybutane