#### The dataset contains:

Analytical characterisation of the complexes (CHN microanalysis)

X-ray Crystallographic data:

- Structure of [Fe((S)-L<sup>1</sup>Ph)((R)-L<sup>2</sup>Ph)][ClO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>·MeNO<sub>2</sub> (1·MeNO<sub>2</sub>; CCDC 2132824)
- Structure of  $[Fe((R)-L^1iPr)((S)-L^2iPr)][CIO_4]$ -MeCN (2-MeCN; CCDC 2132825)
- Structure of [Fe((R)-L<sup>1</sup>Ph)(bimpy)][CIO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>-MeCN (**3**-MeCN; CCDC 2132826)
- Structure of [Fe((*R*)-*L*<sup>2</sup>Ph)(bimpy)][ClO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (**4**; CCDC 2132827)
- Structure of  $[Fe((S)-L^1iPr)(bimpy)][CIO_4]_2$  (5; CCDC 2132828)
- Structure of [Fe((S)-L²/Pr)(bimpy)][ClO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>·MeCN·Et<sub>2</sub>O (6·MeCN·Et<sub>2</sub>O;

CCDC 2132829)

- Structure of [Fe((R)-L<sup>2</sup>Ph)(bpp)][ClO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>·2MeCN (**8**·2MeCN; CCDC 2132830)
- Structure of [Fe(terpy)<sub>2</sub>][ClO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>-2MeCN (CCDC 2134550).

X-ray powder diffraction data (measured and simulated).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (raw data and plotted spectra).

Solid state magnetic susceptibility measurements (raw and processed data).

Solution magnetic susceptibility measurements (raw spectra and calculated  $\chi_MT$  values). DFT calculations (*SPARTAN* files).

## Ligands referred to in this study

2,6-Bis(4-(R)-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)pyridine  $C_{23}H_{19}N_3O_2$  (R)- $L^1$ Ph

2,6-Bis(4-(R)-phenyl-4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)pyridine  $C_{23}H_{19}N_3S_2$  (R)- $L^2$ Ph

2,6-Bis(4-(R)-isopropyl-4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)pyridine  $C_{17}H_{23}N_3S_2$  (R)- $L^2i$ Pr

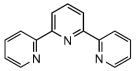
2,6-Bis(benzimidazol-2-yl)pyridine  $C_{19}H_{13}N_5$  bimpy

2,6-Bis(4-(S)-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)pyridine  $C_{23}H_{19}N_3O_2$  (S)- $L^1$ Ph

2,6-Bis(4-(S)-isopropyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)pyridine  $C_{17}H_{23}N_3O_2$   $(S)-L^1i$ Pr

2,6-Bis(4-(S)-isopropyl-4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)pyridine  $C_{17}H_{23}N_3S_2$  (S)- $L^2i$ Pr

2,6-Bis(pyrazol-1-yl)pyridine  $C_{11}H_9N_5$  bpp



2,2':6',2"-Terpyridine C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub> terpy

### Complexes referred to in this study

$$\label{eq:continuous} \begin{split} [2,6-Bis((S)\text{-}4\text{-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl}) & \text{pyridine]-}\\ [2,6-bis((R)\text{-}4\text{-phenyl-4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl}) & \text{pyridine]-}\\ & \text{iron(II) diperchlorate}\\ & \text{$C_{46}$H}_{38}\text{$Cl}_2\text{FeN}_6\text{$O_{10}$S}_2\\ & \text{$[\text{Fe}((S)\text{-}L^1\text{Ph})((R)\text{-}L^2\text{Ph})][\text{ClO}_4]_2$ (1)} \end{split}$$

$$\label{eq:continuous} \begin{split} [2,6-Bis((R)-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)pyridine]-\\ [2,6-bis(benzimidazol-2-yl)pyridine]iron(II) diperchlorate \\ & C_{42}H_{32}Cl_2FeN_8O_{10} \\ & [Fe((R)-L^1Ph)(bimpy)][ClO_4]_2~\textbf{(3)} \end{split}$$

$$\label{eq:continuous} \begin{split} [2,6-Bis((R)-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)pyridine] \\ [2,6-bis(pyrazol-1-yl)pyridine]iron(II) diperchlorate \\ & C_{34}H_{28}Cl_2FeN_8O_{10} \\ & [Fe((R)-L^1Ph)(bpp)][ClO_4]_2 \endaligned \cite{Theorem (Theorem (Theorem$$

[2,6-Bis((R)-4-isopropyl4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)pyridine]-[2,6-bis((S)-4-isopropyl-4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)pyridine]-iron(II) diperchlorate  $C_{34}H_{46}Cl_{2}FeN_{6}O_{10}S_{2}$  [Fe((R)- $L^{1}i$ Pr)((S)- $L^{2}i$ Pr)][ClO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (**2**)

[2,6-Bis((R)-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)pyridine]-[2,6-bis(benzimidazol-2-yl)pyridine]iron(II) diperchlorate  $C_{42}H_{32}Cl_2FeN_8O_8S_2$  [Fe((<math>R)- $L^2$ Ph)(bimpy)][ClO\_4]\_2 (4)

[2,6-Bis((S)-4-isopropyl-4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)pyridine]-[2,6-bis(benzimidazol-2-yl)pyridine]iron(II) diperchlorate  $C_{36}H_{36}Cl_{2}FeN_{8}O_{8}S_{2}$  [Fe((S)- $L^{2}i$ Pr)(bimpy)][ClO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (**6**)

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & & & \\ & & &$$

## Complexes referred to in this study (continued)

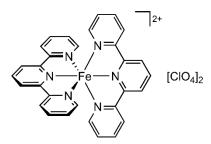
[2,6-Bis((S)-4-isopropyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)pyridine][2,6-bis(pyrazol-1-yl)pyridine]iron(II) diperchlorate  $C_{28}H_{32}Cl_2FeN_8O_{10}$ [Fe((S)- $L^1i$ Pr)(bpp)][ClO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (9)

 $\label{eq:continuous} \begin{tabular}{l} [2,6-Bis((R)-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)pyridine] \\ [2,2':6',2"-terpyridine]iron(II) diperchlorate \\ $C_{38}H_{30}FeCl_2N_6O_{10}$ \\ $[Fe((R)-L^1Ph)(terpy)][ClO_4]_2$ (11) \\ \end{tabular}$ 

$$N-N$$
 $N-N$ 
 $N-N$ 

$$\label{eq:continuous} \begin{split} &[2,6\text{-}Bis((S)\text{-}4\text{-}isopropyl\text{-}4,5\text{-}dihydrothiazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}]\\ &[2,6\text{-}bis(pyrazol\text{-}1\text{-}yl)pyridine}]iron(II) \ diperchlorate\\ &C_{28}H_{32}Cl_{2}FeN_{8}O_{8}S_{2}\\ &[Fe((S)\text{-}L^{2}iPr)(bpp)][ClO_{4}]_{2}\ (\textbf{10}) \end{split}$$

$$\label{eq:continuity} \begin{split} [2,&6\text{-}Bis((S)\text{-}4\text{-}isopropyl\text{-}4,5\text{-}dihydrooxazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}] \\ &[2,2'\text{:}6',2''\text{-}terpyridine}]iron(II) \ diperchlorate \\ &C_{32}H_{34}\text{FeCl}_2N_6O_{10} \\ &[\text{Fe}((S)\text{-}L^1i\text{Pr})(\text{terpy})][\text{ClO}_4]_2 \ (\textbf{12}) \end{split}$$



 $\begin{array}{c} \textit{Bis}[2,2\text{'}:6\text{'},2\text{''-terpyridine}] iron(II) \ diperchlorate \\ C_{30}H_{22}FeCl_2N_6O_8 \\ [Fe(terpy)_2][CIO_4]_2 \end{array}$ 

### Complex cations studied by DFT calculations

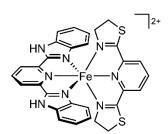
$$\begin{split} &[2,6-\textit{Bis}((S)\text{-}4\text{-}phenyl\text{-}4,5\text{-}dihydrooxazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}] \\ &[2,6-\textit{bis}((R)\text{-}4\text{-}phenyl\text{-}4,5\text{-}dihydrothiazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}]iron(II) \\ &\qquad \qquad C_{46}H_{38}\text{FeN}_6O_2S_2 \\ &\qquad \qquad [\text{Fe}((S)\text{-}L^1\text{Ph})((R)\text{-}L^2\text{Ph})]^{2^+}\,(\textbf{1}^{2^+}) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} &[2,6\text{-}Bis((R)\text{-}4\text{-}phenyl\text{-}4,5\text{-}dihydrooxazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}] \\ &[2,6\text{-}bis(benzimidazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}]iron(II) \\ &C_{42}H_{32}\text{FeN}_8O_2 \\ &[\text{Fe}((R)\text{-}L^1\text{Ph})(bimpy)]^{2^+} \ (\textbf{3}^{\textbf{2}^+}) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} [2,&6\text{-}Bis((R)\text{-}4\text{-}isopropyl\text{-}4,5\text{-}dihydrooxazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}] \\ & [2,&6\text{-}bis(benzimidazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}]iron(II) \\ & C_{36}H_{36}\text{FeN}_8O_2 \\ & [\text{Fe}((R)\text{-}L^1i\!Pr)(bimpy)]^{2^+}~(\mathbf{5^{2^+}}) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} &[2,6\text{-}Bis((S)\text{-}4\text{-}iso \text{propyl4},5\text{-}dihydrooxazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl) \text{pyridine}]\text{-}\\ &[2,6\text{-}bis((R)\text{-}4\text{-}iso \text{propyl\text{-}4},5\text{-}dihydrothiazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl) \text{pyridine}]\text{iron(II)}\\ &\qquad\qquad\qquad \text{$C_{34}$H$_{46}$FeN$_{6}$O$_{2}$S$_{2}$}\\ &\qquad\qquad \text{$[\text{Fe}((S)\text{-}L^{1}i\text{Pr})((R)\text{-}L^{2}i\text{Pr})]^{2^{+}}$}\ (\textbf{2}^{2^{+}}) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} &[2,6\text{-}Bis((R)\text{-}4\text{-}phenyl\text{-}4,5\text{-}dihydrothiazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}] \\ &[2,6\text{-}bis(benzimidazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}]iron(II) \\ &C_{42}H_{32}\text{FeN}_8S_2 \\ &[\text{Fe}((R)\text{-}L^2\text{Ph})(bimpy)]^{2^+}\,(\textbf{4}^{2^+}) \end{split}$$



### Complex cations studied by DFT calculations (continued)

[2,6-Bis((R)-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)pyridine]-[2,6-bis(pyrazol-1-yl)pyridine]iron(II)  $C_{34}H_{28}FeN_8O_2$ [Fe((R)- $L^1$ Ph)(bpp)]<sup>2+</sup> ( $7^{2+}$ )

$$\begin{split} [2,&6\text{-}Bis((R)\text{-}4\text{-}isopropyl\text{-}4,5\text{-}dihydrooxazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}] \\ & [2,&6\text{-}bis(pyrazol\text{-}1\text{-}yl)pyridine}]iron(II) \\ & C_{28}H_{32}\text{FeN}_8O_2 \\ & [\text{Fe}((R)\text{-}L^1i\text{Pr})(\text{bpp})]^{2^+} \ (\mathbf{9^{2^+}}) \end{split}$$

[2,6-Bis(4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)pyridine]-[2,6-bis(pyrazol-1-yl)pyridine]iron(II)  $C_{22}H_{20}FeN_8O_2$  $[Fe(L^1H)(bpp)]^{2+}$ 

[2,6-Bis((R)-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)pyridine]-[2,2':6',2"-terpyridine]iron(II)  $C_{38}H_{30}FeN_6O_2$  [Fe((R)- $L^1$ Ph)(terpy)]<sup>2+</sup> (11<sup>2+</sup>)

[2,6-Bis((R)-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)pyridine][2,6-bis(pyrazol-1-yl)pyridine]iron(II)  $C_{34}H_{28}FeN_8S_2$   $[Fe((R)-L^2Ph)(bpp)]^{2+}(8^{2+})$ 

$$\begin{split} &[2,6\text{-}Bis((R)\text{-}4\text{-}isopropyl\text{-}4,5\text{-}dihydrothiazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}] \\ &[2,6\text{-}bis(pyrazol\text{-}1\text{-}yl)pyridine}]iron(II) \\ &C_{28}H_{32}\text{FeN}_8S_2 \\ &[\text{Fe}((R)\text{-}L^2i\text{Pr})(bpp)]^{2+} \ (\textbf{10}^{2+}) \end{split}$$

[2,6-Bis(4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)pyridine]-[2,6-Bis(pyrazol-1-yl)pyridine]iron(II)  $C_{22}H_{20}FeN_8S_2$  $[Fe(L^2H)(bpp)]^{2+}$ 

# Complex cations studied by DFT calculations (continued)

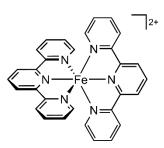
$$\label{eq:continuity} \begin{split} &[2,6\text{-}Bis((R)\text{-}4\text{-}isopropyl\text{-}4,5\text{-}dihydrooxazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}] \\ &= &[2,2\text{':}6\text{',}2\text{''-terpyridine}]iron(II) \\ &= &C_{32}\text{H}_{34}\text{FeN}_6\text{O}_2 \\ &= &[\text{Fe}((R)\text{-}L^1i\text{Pr})(\text{terpy})]^{2^+} \, (\textbf{12}^{2^+}) \end{split}$$

$$\label{eq:continuity} \begin{split} &[2,6\text{-}Bis(4,5\text{-}dihydrooxazol\text{-}2\text{-}yl)pyridine}] \\ &[2,2\text{':}6\text{'},2\text{''-terpyridine}]iron(II) \\ &C_{32}H_{34}\text{FeN}_6\text{O}_2 \\ &[\text{Fe}(L^1\text{H})(\text{terpy})]^{2+} \end{split}$$

 $\begin{aligned} \textit{Bis}[\text{2,6-bis}(\text{benzimidazol-2-yl})\text{pyridine}]\text{iron(II)} \\ & \text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{26}\text{FeN}_{10} \\ & \text{[Fe(bimpy)}_2]^{2^+} \end{aligned}$ 

$$\begin{split} &[2,6\text{-}Bis(4,5\text{-}dihydrothiazol-2-yl)pyridine}] \\ &[2,2':6',2"\text{-}terpyridine}]iron(II) \\ &C_{32}H_{34}\text{FeN}_6S_2 \\ &[\text{Fe}(L^2\text{H})(\text{terpy})]^{2+} \end{split}$$

Bis[2,6-bis(pyrazol-1-yl)pyridine]iron(II)  $C_{22}H_{18}FeN_{10}$   $[Fe(bpp)_2]^{2+}$ 



Bis[2,2':6',2''-terpyridine]iron(II)  $C_{30}H_{22}FeN_6$   $[Fe(terpy)_2]^{2+}$