

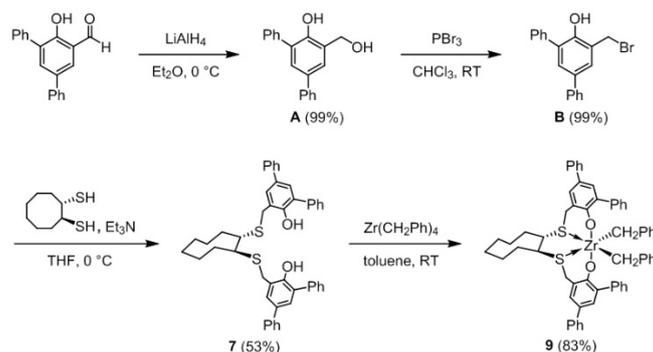
# Supplementary Materials: Highly Active and Isospecific Styrene Polymerization Catalyzed by Zirconium Complexes Bearing Aryl-substituted [OSSO]-Type Bis(phenolate) Ligands

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## Experimental Section



Scheme S1. Preparation of dibenzyl zirconium(IV) complex **9**.

### Preparation of (2-hydroxy-3,5-diphenyl)benzyl alcohol (A)

To a solution of 3,5-diphenylsalicylaldehyde [**1**] (830 mg, 3.03 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) was added LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (115 mg, 3.03 mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h and then quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O and HCl aq. and diluted with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After the removal of the solvent in vacuo, almost pure (2-hydroxy-3,5-diphenyl)benzyl alcohol **A** (834 mg,) was obtained in 99% yield as a colorless oil.

**A**: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.52 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.23–7.47 (m, 12H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 64.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 126.4 (C), 126.5 (CH), 126.9 (2CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 129.0 (2CH), 129.0 (2CH), 129.1 (CH), 129.5 (2CH), 129.6 (C), 133.7 (C), 137.5 (C), 140.7 (C), 151.9 (C). HR-MS (ESI, *m/z*) calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 299.10425; found 299.10342 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

### Preparation of (2-hydroxy-3,5-diphenyl)benzyl bromide (B)

To a solution of benzyl alcohol **A** (834 mg, 3.02 mmol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) was gradually added PBr<sub>3</sub> (276 mg, 1.02 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and then quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After the removal of the solvent in vacuo, almost pure (2-hydroxy-3,5-diphenyl)benzyl bromide **B** (1.02 g) was obtained in 99% yield as a colorless oil.

**B:**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.68 (s, 2H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.31–7.49 (m, 12H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  29.4 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 125.0 (C), 126.9 (2CH), 127.2 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.9 (C), 128.9 (2CH), 129.2 (CH), 129.3 (2CH), 129.6 (CH), 129.7 (2CH), 134.2 (C), 136.5 (C), 140.2 (C), 150.4 (C).

### Preparation of *trans*-1,2-bis[(2-hydroxy-3,5-diphenylbenzyl)sulfanyl]cyclooctane (7)

To a mixture of *trans*-cyclooctane-1,2-dithiol [2] (268 mg, 1.52 mmol) and benzyl bromide B (1.030 g, 3.04 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (310 mg, 3.04 mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 2 days, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The reaction mixture was extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , and the organic layer was washed with  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  aq. and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . After the removal of the solvent in vacuo, the residue was subjected to column chromatography ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{hexane} = 1/1$ ) to give bis(phenol) 7 (533 mg) in 53% yield as a colorless oil.

**7:**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz)  $\delta$  1.32–1.43 (m, 4H), 1.51–1.53 (m, 2H), 1.72–1.74 (m, 2H), 1.84–1.88 (m, 2H), 2.10–2.15 (m, 2H), 2.98–2.99 (m, 2H), 3.93 (d,  $J = 13$  Hz, 2H), 3.98 (d,  $J = 13$  Hz, 2H), 6.48 (s, 2H), 7.25–7.44 (m, 24H).

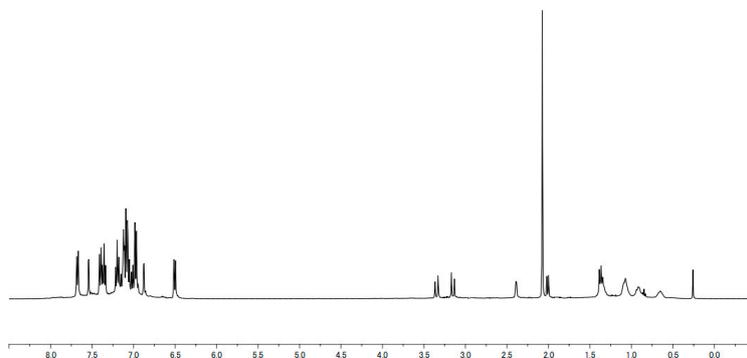
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR (101 MHz)  $\delta$  26.1 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.1 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 31.0 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 33.4 (CH), 50.8 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 124.2 (C), 126.9 (2CH), 127.0 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.8 (2CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.9 (2CH), 129.5 (2CH), 130.2 (C), 133.7 (C), 137.8 (C), 140.6 (C), 151.5 (C). HR-MS (ESI,  $m/z$ ) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_2\text{S}_2\text{Na}^+$  647.29880; found 647.30035 [ $\text{M}$ ] $^+$ .

### Preparation of Dibenzyl Zirconium(IV) Complex 9

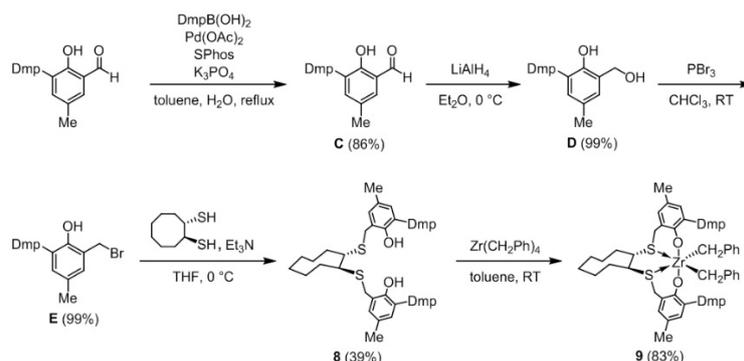
A solution of 7 (298 mg, 0.430 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was added to a solution of  $\text{Zr}(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})_4$  [3] (196 mg, 0.430 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was washed with hexane and dried under vacuo to give dibenzyl zirconium(IV) complex 9 (346 mg) in 83% yield as yellow crystals. **9:** Mp 274–275 °C (dec.).

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz)  $\delta$  0.65 (br s, 2H), 0.91 (br s, 2H), 1.07 (br s, 6H), 1.29–1.41 (m, 6H), 1.38 (d,  $J = 9$  Hz, 2H), 2.01 (d,  $J = 9$  Hz, 2H), 2.39 (br s, 2H), 3.15 (d,  $J = 14$  Hz, 2H), 3.35 (d,  $J = 14$  Hz, 2H), 6.50 (d,  $J = 7$  Hz, 4H), 6.88 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz, 2H), 6.96–7.21 (m, 14 H), 7.34–7.40 (m, 8H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d,  $J = 7$  Hz, 4H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR (101 MHz)  $\delta$  25.4 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.1 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.7 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 34.5 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 48.5 (CH), 59.3 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 123.1 (C), 123.3 (CH), 127.0 (2CH), 127.6 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 129.1 (2CH), 129.2 (2CH), 129.3 (2CH), 129.9 (2CH), 130.5 (CH), 130.8 (2CH), 132.5 (C), 133.3 (C), 140.1 (C), 141.1 (C), 144.4 (C), 158.2 (C).



**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of dibenzyl zirconium(IV) complex 9.



**Scheme S2.** Preparation of dibenzyl zirconium(IV) complex **10**.

### Preparation of 3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-5-methylsalicylaldehyde (C)

To a mixture of 3-bromo-5-methylsalicylaldehyde [**4**] (442 mg, 1.87 mmol), 2,6-dimethylphenylboronic acid (368 mg, 2.45 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (14 mg, 0.062 mmol), SPhos (2-dicyclohexylphosphino-2',6'-dimethoxybiphenyl) (50 mg, 0.122 mmol), and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (1.30 g, 6.1 mmol) in toluene (15 mL) and water (3 mL) was refluxed for 1 d. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was diluted with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After the removal of the solvent in vacuo, the residue was subjected to column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, Et<sub>2</sub>O) to give 3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-5-methylsalicylaldehyde **C** (385 mg) in 86% yield as a colorless oil.

**C**: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.10 (s, 6H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 7.16–7.20 (m, 5H), 7.36–7.37 (m, 1H), 9.94 (s, 1H), 11.01 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 20.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.3 (2CH<sub>3</sub>), 120.5 (C), 127.2 (2CH), 127.6 (CH), 129.0 (C), 129.5 (C), 132.7 (CH), 135.8 (C), 136.5 (2C), 139.1 (CH), 156.5 (C), 196.6 (CH). HR-MS (ESI, *m/z*) calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 263.10425; found 263.10440 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

### Preparation of [2-hydroxy-3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-5-methyl]benzyl alcohol (D)

To a solution of 3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-5-methylsalicylaldehyde **C** (385 mg, 1.60 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL) was added LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (121 mg, 3.20 mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 10 min, and then quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O and HCl aq. and diluted with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After the removal of the solvent in vacuo, almost pure [2-hydroxy-3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-5-methyl]benzyl alcohol **D** (387 mg) was obtained in 99% yield as a colorless oil.

**D**: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.05 (s, 6H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 4.78 (s, 2H), 5.44 (br s, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.14–7.23 (m, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 20.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.6 (2CH<sub>3</sub>), 63.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 126.1 (C), 127.3 (C), 127.7 (2CH), 128.0 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 129.4 (C), 130.0 (CH), 135.9 (C), 137.6 (2C), 149.1 (C). HR-MS (ESI, *m/z*) calcd. for 265.11990; found 265.11980 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

### Preparation of [2-hydroxy-3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-5-methyl]benzyl bromide (E)

To a solution of benzyl alcohol **D** (387 mg, 1.60 mmol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) was added PBr<sub>3</sub> (0.1 mL, 1.05 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and then quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After the removal of the solvent in vacuo, almost pure (2-hydroxy-3,5-diphenyl)benzyl bromide **E** (511 mg) was obtained in 99% yield as a colorless oil.

**E**: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.04 (s, 6H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 6.01 (br, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13–7.24 (m, 4H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 20.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.6 (2CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 124.0 (C), 126.9 (C), 128.0 (2CH), 128.6 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 130.7 (C), 130.1 (CH), 134.4 (C), 138.0 (2C), 148.5 (C).

### Preparation of *trans*-1,2-bis[[2-hydroxy-3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-5-methylbenzyl]-sulfanyl]cyclooctane (8).

To a mixture of *trans*-cyclooctane-1,2-dithiol (140 mg, 0.798 mmol) and benzyl bromide E (511 mg, 1.68 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added Et<sub>3</sub>N (365 mg, 3.60 mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 h and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The reaction mixture was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O, and the organic layer was washed with NH<sub>4</sub>Cl aq. and H<sub>2</sub>O, and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After the removal of the solvent in vacuo, the residue was subjected to column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane = 1/1) to give bis(phenol) **8** (196 mg) in 39% yield as a colorless oil.

**8**: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.26 (br s, 2H), 1.32–1.43 (m, 2H), 1.32–1.43 (m, 2H), 1.50–1.53 (m, 4H), 1.69–1.81 (m, 4H), 2.02 (s, 6H), 2.03 (s, 6H), 2.25 (s, 6H), 2.95–2.97 (m, 2H), 3.83 (d, *J* = 13 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (d, *J* = 13 Hz, 2H), 5.48 (s, 2H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 2H), 7.08–7.16 (m, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR (101 MHz) δ 20.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.6 (CH), 50.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 123.7 (C), 127.7 (C), 127.9 (2CH), 129.7 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 130.6 (C), 136.3(CH), 137.5 (C), 137.6 (2C), 149.1 (CH). HR-MS (ESI, *m/z*): calcd. for C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>44</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 715.26750; Found 715.26701 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

### Preparation of dibenzyl zirconium(IV) Complex 10

A solution of **8** (380 mg, 0.608 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was added to a solution of Zr(CH<sub>2</sub>Ph)<sub>4</sub> (277 mg, 0.608 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was washed with hexane (2 mL) and dried to give dibenzyl zirconium(IV) complex **10** (499 mg, 92%) as yellow crystals. **10**: Mp 240–241 °C (dec.).

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) δ 0.76 (m, 2H), 0.82 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 1.00 (m, 2H), 1.17–1.30 (m, 6H), 1.45–1.55 (m, 4H), 1.65 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 2.05 (s, 6H), 2.10 (s, 1H), 2.26 (s, 6H), 2.38 (s, 6H), 2.41 (br s, 1H), 3.04 (d, *J* = 15 Hz, 2H), 3.11 (d, *J* = 15 Hz, 2H), 6.33 (br s, 2H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 4H), 6.71 (br s, 2H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 4H), 7.11–7.15 (m, 4H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR (101 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) δ 20.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 48.1 (CH), 58.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 122.0 (C), 122.8 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 127.8 (CH), , 127.9 (CH), 129.2 (2CH), 129.3 (C), 129.6 (2CH), 130.2 (CH), 130.8 (C), 131.4 (CH), 136.2 (C), 137.4 (C), 139.9 (C), 144.6 (C), 156.1 (C).

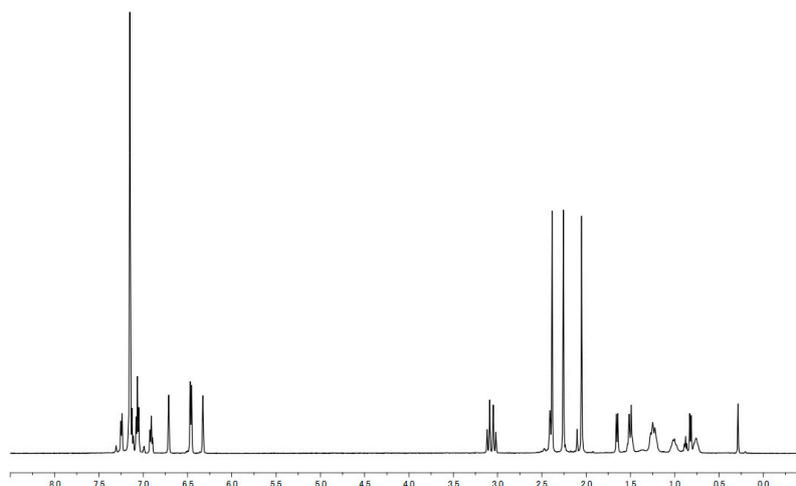
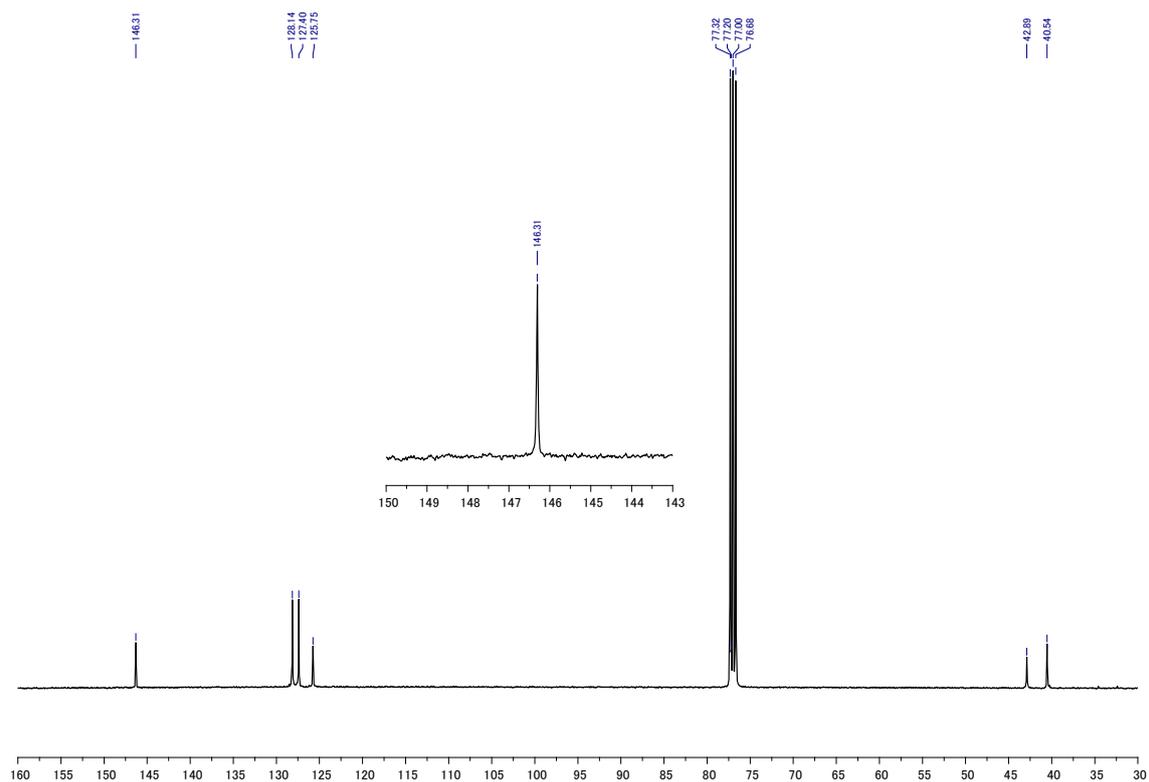
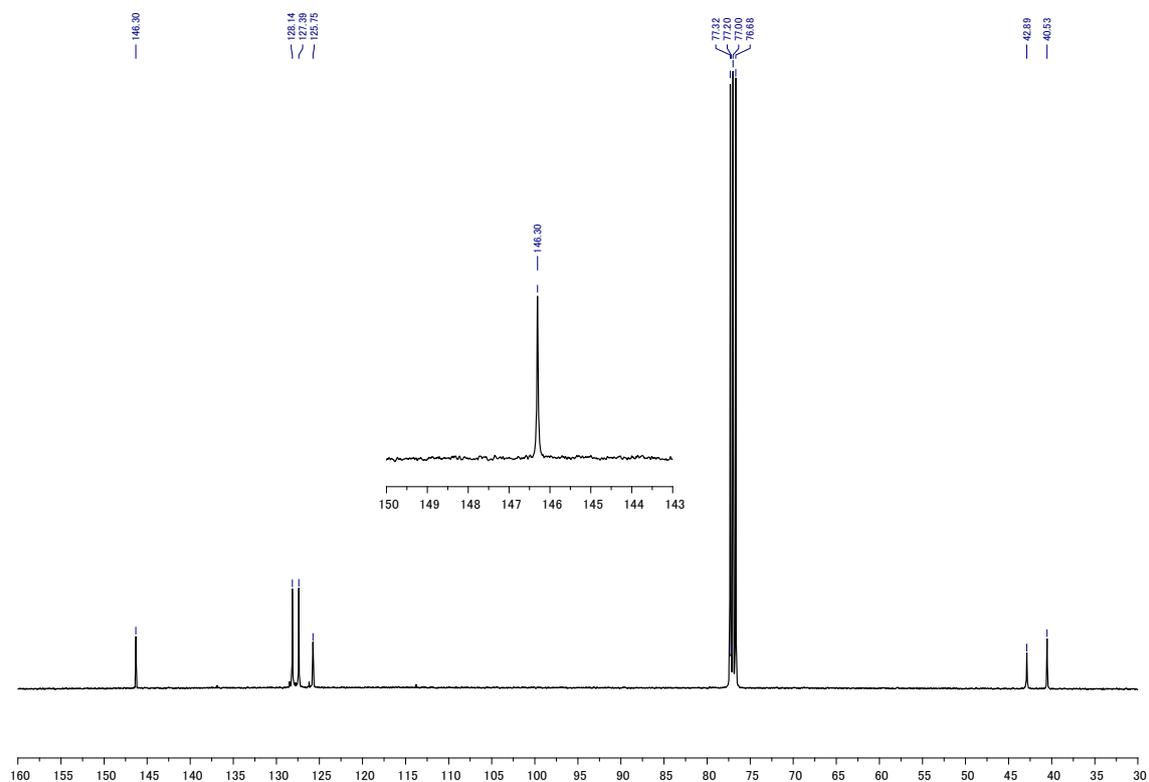


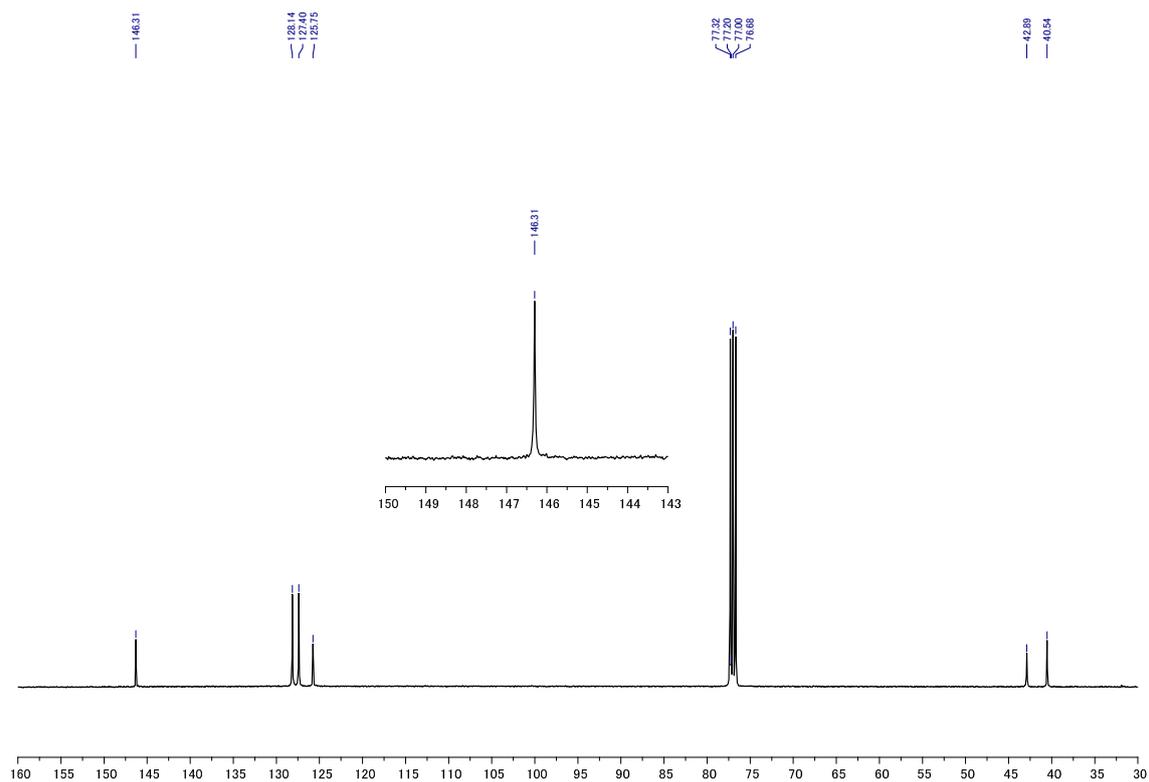
Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of dibenzyl zirconium(IV) complex **10**.



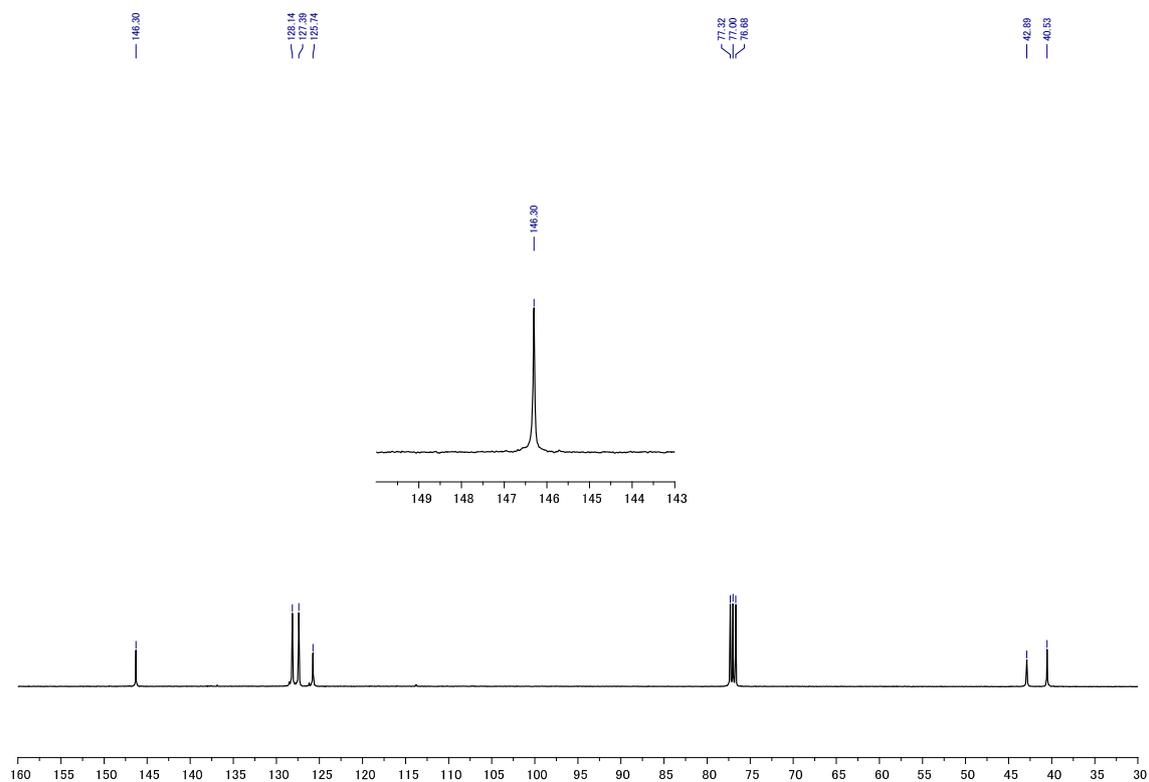
**Figure S3.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectrum of iPS obtained by the 10/dMAO system at 0 °C (Table 1, Run 5).



**Figure S4.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectrum of iPS obtained by the 10/dMAO system at 25 °C (Table 1, Run 6).



**Figure S5.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectrum of iPS obtained by the 10/dMAO system at 40 °C (Table 1, Run 7).



**Figure S6.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectrum of iPS obtained by the 10/dMAO system at 70 °C (Table 1, Run 8).

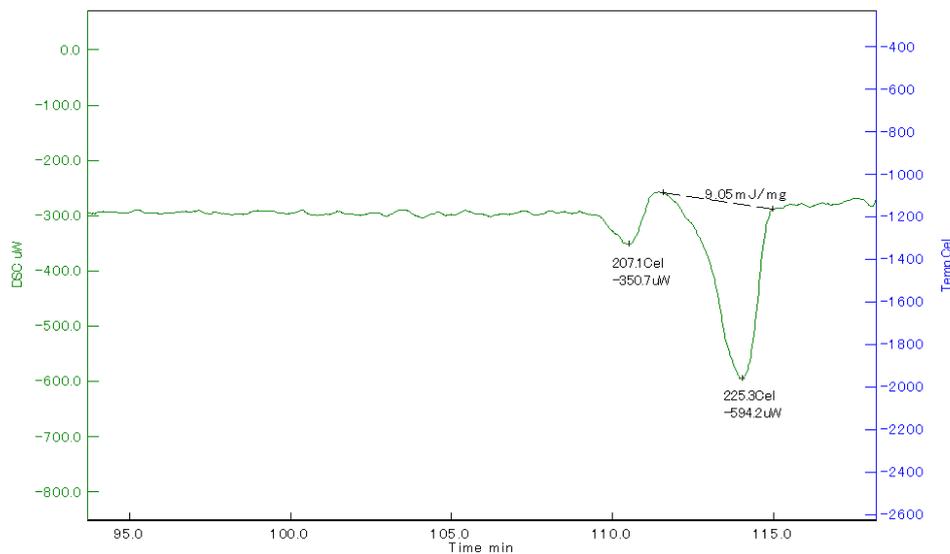


Figure S7. DSC thermogram of iPS obtained by the 10/dMAO system at 0 °C (Table 1, Run 5).

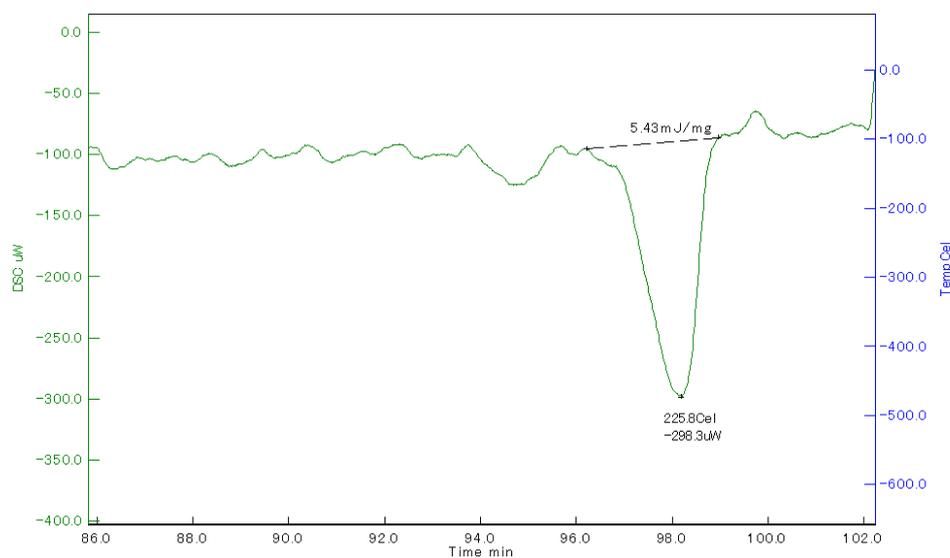


Figure S8. DSC thermogram of iPS obtained by the 10/dMAO system at 25 °C (Table 1, Run 6).

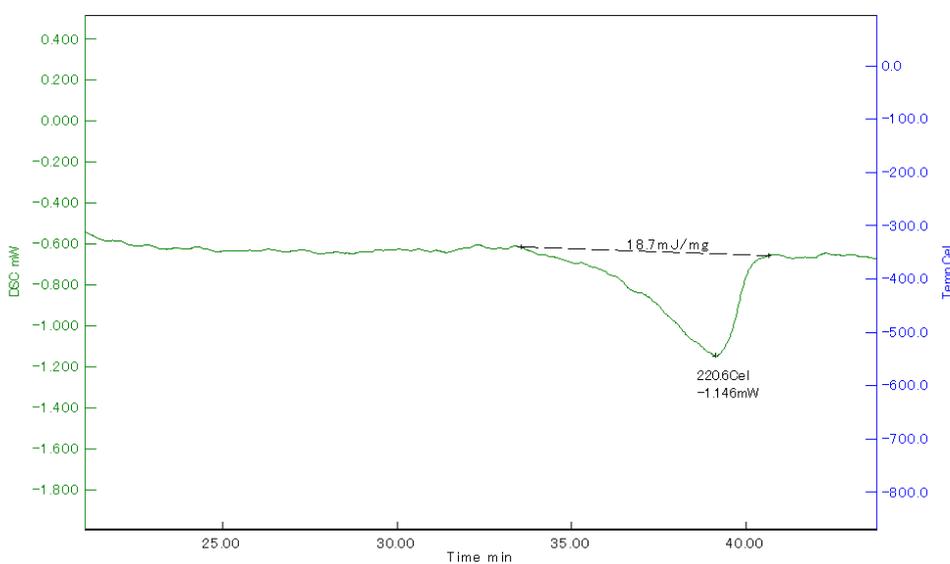


Figure S9. DSC thermogram of iPS obtained by the 10/dMAO system at 40 °C (Table 1, Run 7).

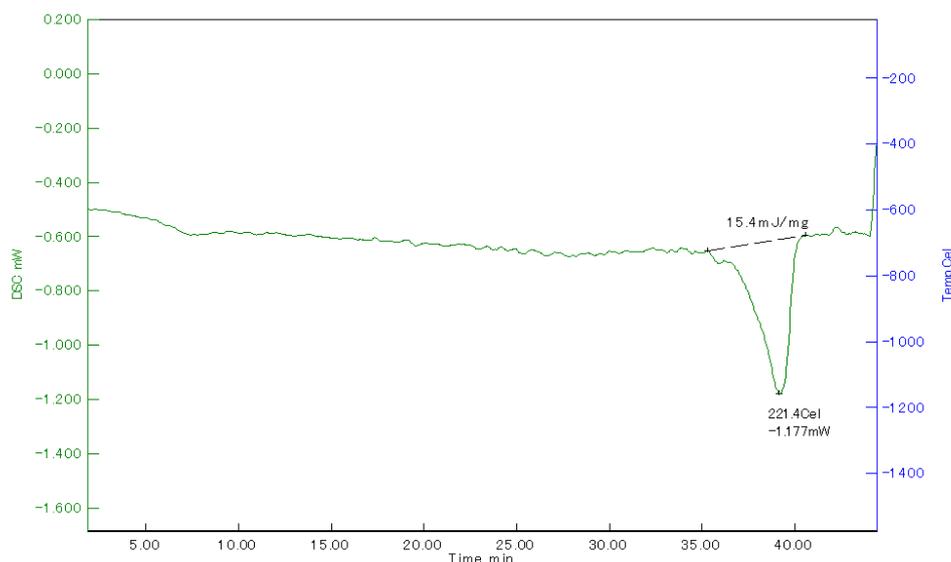


Figure S10. DSC thermogram of iPS obtained by the 10/dMAO system at 70 °C (Table 1, Run 8).

### General Procedure for Styrene Polymerization

A 50 mL Schlenk-flask was charged sequentially with catalytic precursor 9 or 10 (2.0 mol), dMAO as an activator (0.50 mmol), and toluene (5 mL) at a desired temperature. After stirring for 1 min at the temperature, styrene (3.0 g, 28.8 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture. The mixture was stirred for 60, 10, or 5 min at the temperature. The reaction was quenched by addition of methanol and HCl aq. The mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and the organic layer was washed with water and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed in vacuo at 70 °C during overnight to leave poly(styrene).

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