An optically active compound that rotates the plane of plane-polarized light counterclockwise, observed toward the light leaving the compound, is said to be levorotatory (symbol: \( l \) or \(-\))

eg:

\[(R)-\text{Lactic acid: (1)} \text{ is levorotatory}\]

\[\text{\begin{tikzpicture}
  \draw (0,0) -- (1,0) node[midway,above] {CO}_2\text{H};
  \draw (0,0) -- (0,1) node[midway,right] {\text{CH}_3};
  \draw (0,0) -- (0,-1) node[midway,right] {\text{OH}};
  \draw (0,0) -- (0.5,0) node[midway,right] {\text{H}};
\end{tikzpicture}}\]

see also dextrorotatory

---

**Contributors**

- Gamini Gunawardena from the OChemPal site (Utah Valley University)