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:

\((R)\)-Lactic acid: \((1)\) is levorotatory

![Chemical structure of lactic acid](image)

see also dextrorotatory

**Contributors**

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