Observed rotation (symbol: $\alpha$) of a sample of a compound is the angle by which it rotates the plane of polarized light, measured using the polarimeter. Observed rotation of a sample of a compound depends on the

1. concentration, if a solution is used for the experiment, or density if the sample is neat
2. solvent, if a solution is used for the experiment
3. length of the sample tube
4. temperature
5. wavelength of the light.

see also specific rotation

Contributors

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