A compound capable of optical rotation is said to be optically active. All pure chiral compounds are optically active.

eg: \((R)\)-Lactic acid (1) is chiral and rotates the plane of plane-polarized light. Thus, 1 is optically active.

\[ \text{CO}_2\text{H} \]
\[ \text{H} \]
\[ \text{CH}_3 \]
\[ \text{OH} \]
\[ 1 \]

see also optically inactive

Contributors

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