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](#)

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**Contributors**

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