A compound incapable of optical rotation is said to be optically inactive. All pure achiral compounds are optically inactive.

eg: Chloroethane (1) is achiral and does not rotate the plane of plane-polarized light. Thus, 1 is optically inactive.

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}
\]

1

see also optically active

Contributors

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