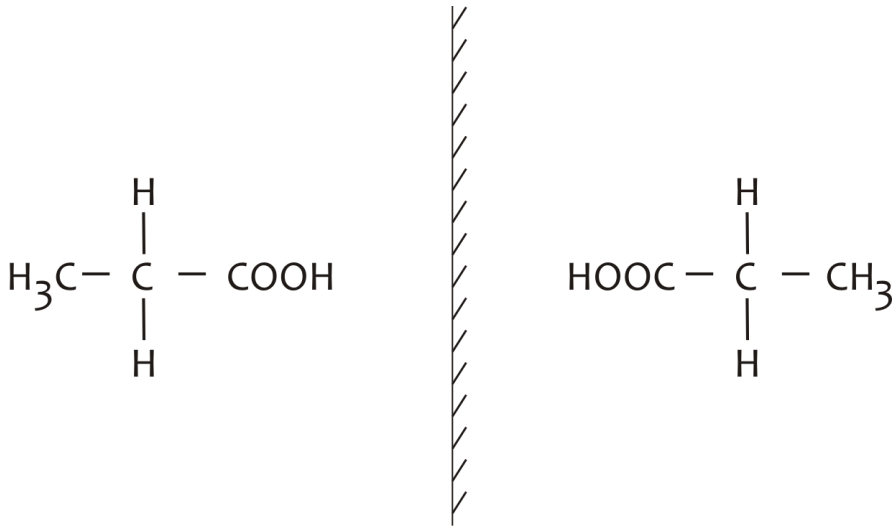
OPTICAL ISOMERISM

Optical isomerism is the existence of two or more compounds with same molecular formula but with different configurations, and because of molecular asymmetry they rotate plane polarized light. A compound that rotates plane polarized light is said to be optically active, it must have a carbon atom which is substituted by four different groups. For example, lactic acid, $CH_3CHOHCOOH$



The compound and its mirror image must not be superimposable on each other. When the compound rotates the plane polarised light to the right, it is said to dextrorotary and is represented by D– or (+). When the light is rotated to the left, the compound is said to be leavo-rotatory and is designated L– or (–).

For more info, tap the link

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