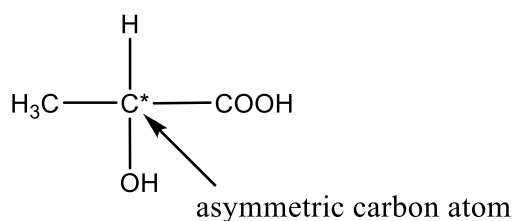


Answer on Question#57843 – Chemistry – Organic chemistry

Question: What are the necessary conditions for a molecule to exhibit optical isomerism?

Answer: Only chiral molecules have optical isomers. Chiral molecule is molecule which has no plane of symmetry. This molecule has the carbon atom with the four different groups attached which causes this lack of symmetry. This atom is chiral centre or an asymmetric carbon atom.

Example, lactic acid:



Two isomers:

