

CHEM 321: R_f HELP

R_f (Retention factor or Ratio of fronts) values:

- Characterize the position of a compound in TLC.
- Depend on chromatographic conditions (particularly solvent choice).
- Always lie between 0 and 1.

The formula generally used for R_f values is:

$$R_f = \frac{\text{Distance the front of compound travels}}{\text{Distance the front of the solvent travels}}$$

In other words:

R_f values for each compound:

$$R_f = \frac{\text{a (for that compound) (mm)}}{\text{b (mm)}}$$

