CHEM 321: R<sub>f</sub> HELP

R<sub>f</sub> (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<sub>f</sub> values is:

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

In other words:

R<sub>f</sub> values for each compound:

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