

retardation factor (in planar chromatography), R_F

Ratio of the distance travelled by the centre of the spot to the distance simultaneously travelled by the mobile phase:

$$R_F = b/a$$

By definition the R_F values are always less than unity. They are usually given to two decimal places. In order to simplify this presentation the hR_F values may be used: they correspond to the R_F values multiplied by 100. Ideally, R_F values are identical to the R values used in column chromatography.

1993, 65, 845