

relative retention, r
in column chromatography

The ratio of the adjusted or net retention volume (time) or retention factor of a component relative to that of a standard, obtained under identical conditions:

$$r = \frac{V'_{Ri}}{V'_{R(st)}} = \frac{V_{Ni}}{V_{N(st)}} = \frac{t'_{Ri}}{t'_{R(st)}} = \frac{k_i}{k_{st}}$$

Depending on the relative position of the peak corresponding to the standard compound in the chromatogram, the value of r may be smaller, larger or identical to unity.

Source:

PAC, 1993, 65, 819 (*Nomenclature for chromatography (IUPAC Recommendations 1993)*) on page 843

Orange Book, p. 105