TLC Simulator Worksheet

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Follow instructions to explore the TLC simulator and answer the questions below.

1) Click "Start Experiment" to run the simulator with a **50:50 mixture** of Hexane and Ethyl Acetate. Sketch the plate below (label the spots red and blue) http://goo.gl/PZSCpb Is silica gel polar? Which compound is more polar, red or blue? Explain briefly. Draw the structures for ethyl acetate (EtOAc): and hexane: 2) Click on "reset experiment" and change the solvent system on one of the plates to be **75% Ethyl Acetate**. Sketch the plate below (label spots) and answer the given questions. Is the new solvent (compared to 50:50) more or less polar? Explain briefly. What happened to the R_f of the spots in the new solvent? Explain briefly. 3) Click on "reset experiment" and change the solvent system on one of the plates to be **25% Ethyl Acetate**. Sketch the plate below (label spots) and answer the given questions. Is the new solvent (compared to 50:50) more or less polar? Explain briefly. What happened to the R_f of the spots in the new solvent? Explain briefly. 4) Click on "reset experiment" and change the solvent systems to be **100% Ethyl Acetate** on one plate and **100% Hexane** on the other. Sketch the plates below and describe the R_f of the spots. **Conclusions about silica gel TLC** (circle the correct answers)

100% EtOAc

 $R_f =$

100% hexane

 $R_f =$

A more polar compound has a higher/lower R_f.

A less polar compound has a higher/lower R_f.

A more polar solvent causes a higher/lower R_f.

A **less polar solvent** causes a higher/lower R_f.

To increase the Rf of a spot, you should add more hexane/EtOAc.