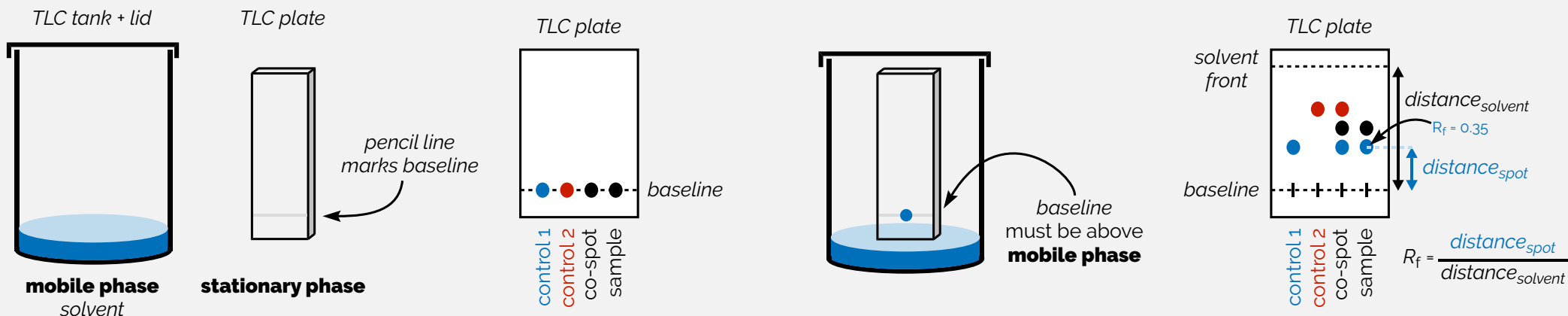
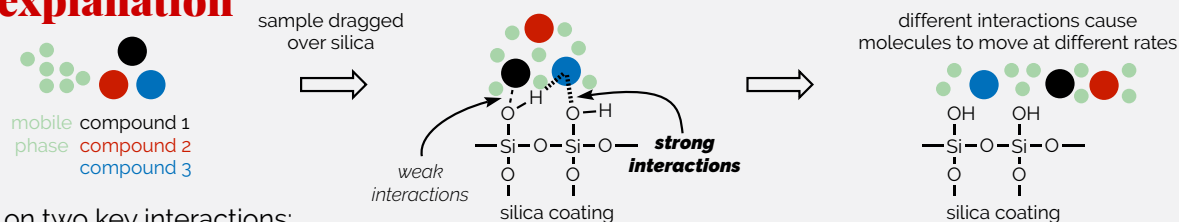


Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC)

Running a TLC experiment



Simplified explanation



- sample • stationary phase** - the stationary phase is normally silica. Its surface is covered in OH groups. The better the hydrogen bond donor or acceptor the sample is the slower it moves. The more polar the sample, the slower it moves (dipole-dipole interactions). The larger it is the slower it moves.
- sample • mobile phase** - The more soluble the sample is in the mobile phase the faster it moves. The stronger the interactions between sample and mobile phase, the faster it moves.

TLC - the blurb

Thin layer chromatography or TLC is a common technique used to assess purity or follow a reaction.

Like other forms of chromatography it involves a mobile phase moving a sample across a stationary phase. Different compounds have different interactions with the two phases leading to them moving at different rates and thus separating.

Chromatography is vital in many scientific jobs - not just chemistry.