Concentrations are expressed as molalities when studying properties of solutions related to vapor pressure and temperature changes. Molality is used because it does not change with changes in temperature. Below is a comparison of the equations for molarity and molality.

$$\text{molarity, M} = \frac{\text{amount of A (mol)}}{\text{volume of solution (L)}}$$

$$\text{molality, } m = \frac{\text{amount of A (mol)}}{\text{mass of solvent (kg)}}$$

SAMPLE PROBLEM D

A solution was prepared by dissolving 17.1 g of sucrose (table sugar, $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$) in 125 g of water. Find the molal concentration of this solution.

SOLUTION

1 ANALYZE

Given: solute mass = 17.1 g $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$
solvent mass = 125 g H_2O
Unknown: molal concentration

2 PLAN

To find molality, you need moles of solute and kilograms of solvent. The given grams of sucrose must be converted to moles. The mass in grams of solvent must be converted to kilograms.

$$\text{mol } C_{12}H_{22}O_{11} = \frac{\text{g } C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}}{\text{molar mass } C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}}$$

$$\text{kg } H_2O = \text{g } H_2O \times \frac{1 \text{ kg}}{1000 \text{ g}}$$

$$\text{molality } C_{12}H_{22}O_{11} = \frac{\text{mol } C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}}{\text{kg } H_2O}$$

3 COMPUTE

Use the periodic table to compute the molar mass of $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$.
$C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$ = 342.34 g/mol

$$17.1 \text{ g } C_{12}H_{22}O_{11} \times \frac{1 \text{ mol } C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}}{342.34 \text{ g } C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}} = 0.0500 \text{ mol } C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$$

$$\frac{125 \text{ g } H_2O}{1000 \text{ g/kg}} = 0.125 \text{ kg } H_2O$$

$$\frac{0.0500 \text{ mol } C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}}{0.125 \text{ kg } H_2O} = 0.400 \ m \ C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$$

4 EVALUATE

The answer is correctly given to three significant digits. The unit mol solute/kg solvent is correct for molality.