

Solution Concentrations

The concentration of a solution is a ratio that compares the quantity of solute to the quantity of the solution. Solutions with a small quantity of solute per unit of solution are dilute and solutions with a large quantity of solute per unit of solution are concentrated.

Molarity

Molarity (M) is a measurement of concentration reported in mol/L. It is the moles of solute per liter of solution.

$$M = \frac{n}{v}$$

n is the number of moles

v is the volume in liters. (mL ÷ 1000 = L)

Example

1. Calculate the molarity, M, of a sodium chloride solution that has a volume of 300.0 mL and contains 25.0 g of NaCl.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{NaCl} \\ 1 \times \text{Na} = 1 \times 22.99 \text{ g/mol} = 22.99 \\ 1 \times \text{Cl} = 1 \times 35.45 \text{ g/mol} = 35.45 \\ \hline 58.44 \text{ g/mol} \\ 25.0 \text{ g NaCl} \times \frac{1 \text{ mol}}{58.44 \text{ g}} = 0.43 \text{ mol NaCl} \\ 300.0 \text{ mL} \times \frac{1 \text{ L}}{1000 \text{ mL}} = 0.300 \text{ L} \\ M = \frac{n}{v} = \frac{0.43 \text{ mol}}{0.300 \text{ L}} = 1.43 \text{ mol/L NaCl} \end{array}$$

2. What mass of NaNO₃ is needed to make 2.0 liters of a 1.5 M solution?

$$\begin{array}{l} M = \frac{n}{v} \xrightarrow{\text{rearrange}} n = M \cdot v \\ n = M \cdot v \\ n = (1.5 \text{ M})(2.0 \text{ L}) \\ n = 3.0 \text{ mol} \\ 3.0 \text{ mol} \times \frac{85.00 \text{ g}}{1 \text{ mol}} = 255 \text{ g NaNO}_3 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 1 \times \text{Na} = 1 \times 22.99 \text{ g/mol} = 22.99 \\ 1 \times \text{N} = 1 \times 14.01 \text{ g/mol} = 14.01 \\ 3 \times \text{O} = 3 \times 16.00 \text{ g/mol} = 48.00 \\ \hline 85.00 \text{ g/mol} \end{array}$$

% weight/volume

Concentrations measured in % w/v reports the number of grams of solute per 100 mL of solution.

$$\% \text{ w/v} = \frac{\text{mass of solute (in g)}}{\text{volume of solution (in mL)}} \times 100$$

Example

1. What mass of salt is present in 750 mL of a 10% W/V solution?

$$\% \frac{w}{v} = \frac{\text{mass solute}}{\text{volume solution}} \times 100\%$$

$$10\% \frac{w}{v} = \frac{\text{mass salt}}{750 \text{ mL}} \times 100\%$$
$$\div 100\% \qquad \qquad \qquad \div 100\%$$

$$0.10 = \frac{\text{mass salt}}{750 \text{ mL}} \times 750$$

$$75\text{g} = \text{mass salt}$$

2. What is the % w/v of a solution that has 7.5 g of sodium chloride diluted to 100 mL with deionized water?

$$\% \text{ w/v} = \frac{\text{mass solute}}{\text{volume solution}} \times 100\%$$

$$\% \frac{w}{v} = \frac{7.5\text{g}}{100\text{mL}} \times 100\%$$

$$\% \frac{w}{v} = 7.5\% \text{ w/v}$$

ppm

Parts per million is used to report very small concentrations. It is the number of milligrams (10^{-3}g) of solute per liter of solution.

$$\text{ppm} = \frac{\text{mass of solute (in mg)}}{\text{volume of solution (in L)}}$$

$$\text{g} \div 1000 = \text{mg}$$

Example

1. A solution has a concentration of 4.5ppm of dissolved oxygen. What volume of water would contain 100 mg of oxygen?

$$\text{ppm} = \frac{\text{mass solute}}{\text{volume solution}} \xrightarrow{\text{rearrange}} \text{volume} = \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{ppm}}$$

$$\text{volume} = \frac{100 \text{ mg}}{4.5 \text{ ppm}}$$

$$\text{volume} = 22.2 \text{ L}$$

2. Hard water contains 120 ppm of dissolved minerals. If 2.0 L of hard water in a kettle is boiled dry, what mass of minerals is left?

$$\text{ppm} = \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}} \xrightarrow{\text{rearrange}} \text{mass} = \text{ppm} \cdot \text{volume}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mass} &= \text{ppm} \cdot \text{volume} \\ &= (120 \text{ ppm})(2.0 \text{ L}) \\ &= 240 \text{ mg} \end{aligned}$$

Practice problems

1. Find the molarity when 734 grams of Li_2SO_4 are dissolved to make 2500 mL of solution.
2. What mass of $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ is needed to make 5.0 liters of a 0.1 M solution?
3. Calculate the molarity of 198 g of BaBr_2 in 2.0 L of solution.
4. 25.0 grams of sodium chloride (NaCl) is dissolved in 100 mL of solution. What is the concentration of the solution in parts per million (ppm)?
5. The concentration of a solution is 284,000 ppm. How many grams of solute is contained in 100 mL of solution?
6. 2.0 L of an aqueous solution of potassium chloride contains 45.0 g of KCl . What is the weight/volume percentage concentration of this solution?
7. 15 mL of an aqueous solution of sucrose contains 750 mg sucrose. What is the weight/volume percentage concentration of this solution?