

- The freezing point of a sample of seawater is measured as  $-2.15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  at 1 atm pressure. Assuming that the concentrations of other solutes are negligible, determine the molality (in  $\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ ) of NaCl in this sample. The molal freezing point depression constant for  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is  $1.86\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C kg mol}^{-1}$ .

**Marks**  
**3**

The freezing point depression,  $\Delta T_f$ , is given by,

$$\Delta T_f = K_f m$$

where  $K_f$  is the molal freezing point depression and  $m$  is the molality. The molality is the number of moles of ions dissolved in a kilogram of solvent.

If  $\Delta T_f = 2.15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $K_f = 1.86\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C m}^{-1}$ :

$$m_{\text{ions}} = \Delta T_f / K_f = (2.15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}) / (1.86\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C m}^{-1}) = 1.156\text{ m}^{-1} = 1.156\text{ mol kg}^{-1}$$

A mole of NaCl dissolves to give two particles ( $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$ ) so  $(1.156 / 2)\text{ mol} = 0.578\text{ mol}$  of NaCl per kilogram of water is needed:

$$m_{\text{NaCl}} = 0.578\text{ mol kg}^{-1}$$

Answer: **0.578 mol kg<sup>-1</sup>**

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