

Use of osmotic pressure to determine molar mass

A sample of 1.5 mg. of a protein of unknown molar mass is added to an osmometer. The solution volume is 1 mL. The solution height increases by 1 cm. The measurement temperature is 298 K. What is the molar mass of the protein?

- A. 37,900
- B. 39,700
- C. 79,300
- D. 97,300

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A. 37,900

$$M = \frac{wRT}{\Pi} = \frac{wRT}{\rho gh} = \frac{(1.5 \text{ kg/m}^3)(8.31 \text{ J/mol-K})(298 \text{ K})}{(1000 \text{ kg/m}^3)(9.8 \text{ m/s}^2)(0.01 \text{ m})}$$

B. 39,700

$$= 37.9 \text{ kg/mol}$$

$$= 37,900 \text{ g/mol}$$

C. 79,300

D. 97,300