

## Checklist for Figures

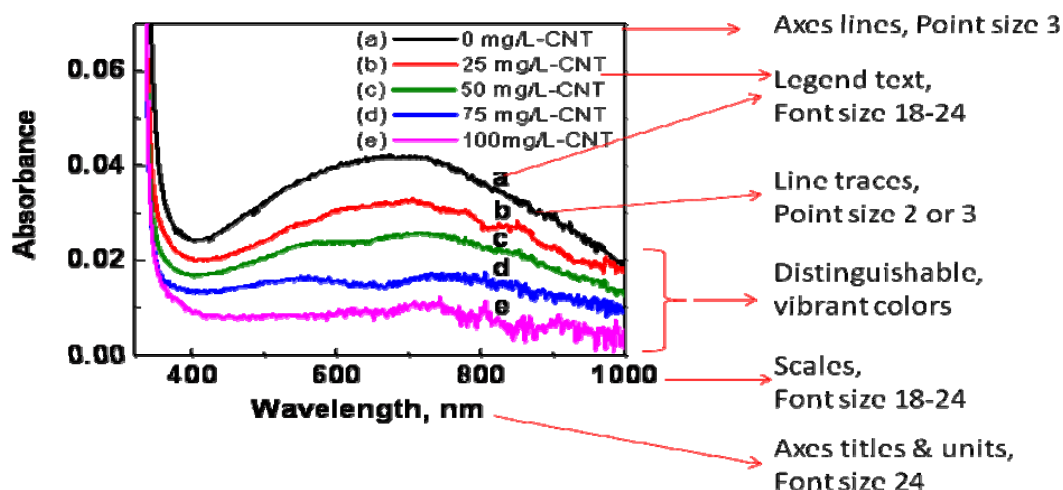
- Individual panels** should be identified with capital letters (**A, B, C**) while individual traces should be labeled with lower case letters (**a, b, c**, etc). Make sure to include either a legend in the figure or a description in the caption.
- Micrographs** should have a legible/readable scale bar. All AFM images should have a color coded Z-axis and/or cross-section analysis.
- Lines and data symbols.** The thickness of axes lines should be **3 point**, line traces should be at least **2 points**, and symbols should be **size 8** or greater. Fitted data or guiding lines (B-Spline Origin when appropriate) should be **2-3 point**. Avoid the use of differing series of dots and dashes to distinguish the different traces or lines. Instead, use color to enhance differentiation.
- Axes titles.** The axes titles should be in **bold** with **font size at least 24**. Include proper units with SI prefix.

Exercise caution in using prefixes such as “Normalized” or “Relative.” (If you use these terms you need to define against what value the traces are normalized.) Also exercise caution in using units such as “a.u.” (The Intensity axes in Fluorescence and XRD spectra carry the unit “a.u.”. Absorbance should not be represented with ‘a.u.’ since absorbance has no unit and can be measured quantitatively.)

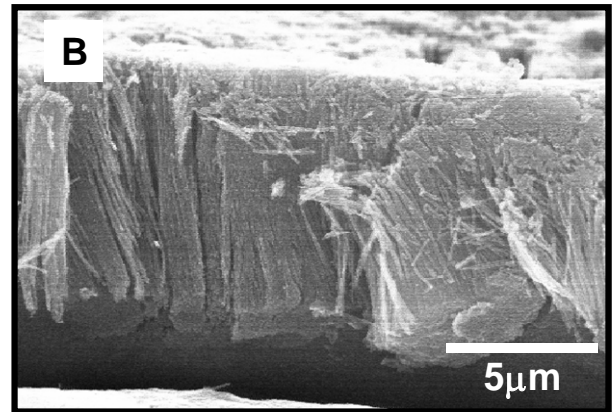
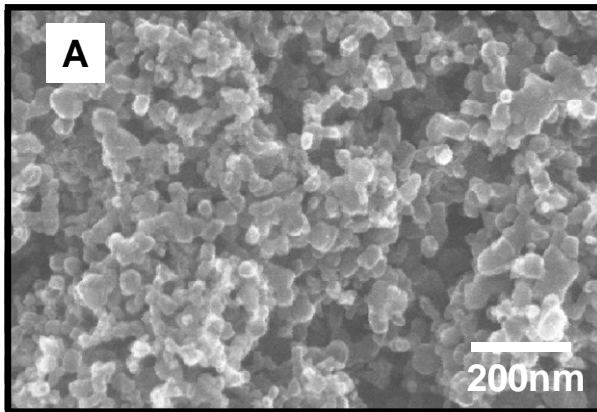
- Axes scales.** Use **font size 18-24** for the axes scales. Watch out for significant digits. Use multiplication prefixes/suffixes to avoid writing large numbers. (Ex, 1.0  $\mu\text{M}$  instead of 0.000001 M or  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  M.)

Do not crowd the axes with numbers. Typically **3-6 major ticks** with numbers and **2-4 minor ticks** with no numbers make the graph visually appealing.

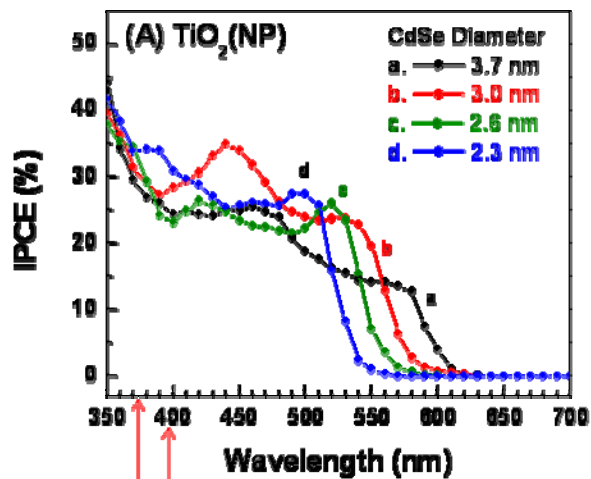
- Color.** Use **bold colors** (black, blue, red, olive green, violet) for representing individual traces. Avoid light colors such as yellow or light blue, which do not reproduce well. Maintain the same color code to represent a given sample throughout the manuscript.
- Insets.** All fonts in the inset should be readable. If the figure is a graph, make sure the font size of the original figure is at least 48. Make sure to include a description of the inset in the caption.
- Compare the **caption** with the figure and make sure the description is complete and accurate.



Other examples:

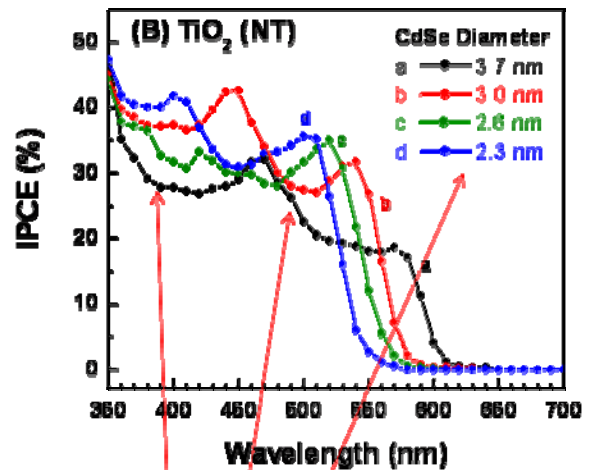


Note the panel identification with capital letters (A & B) and readable scale bars.



Arrows pointing to the x and y axes.

Axes, scales, major and minor ticks (Point size 3)



Arrows pointing to the symbols and lines in the legend.

Symbols (Point size 8-12)

Smooth, solid lines (Point size 2-3)

(Use B-Spline in Origin software)

Legend text (Font size 18-24)

Note the use of same set of colors in two legends