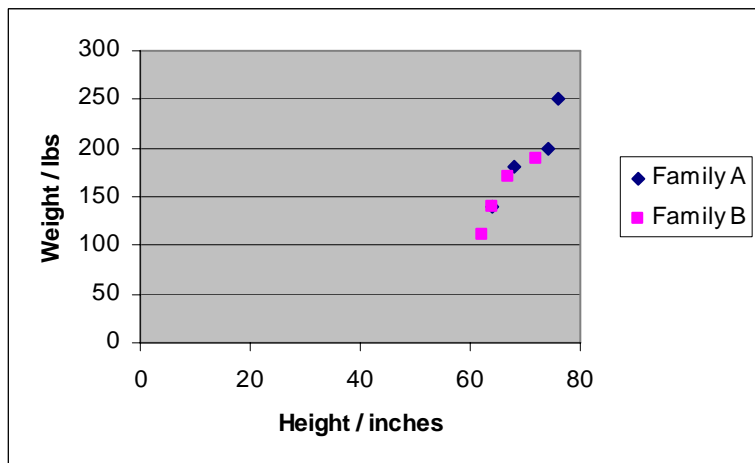


CHE 371: Graph preferences for lab reports

These guidelines will make your graphs look more like those used in publications (at least in the physical chemistry field) and should be followed for your lab reports.



An unacceptable graph:

This is the graph as prepared in Excel. Some changes need to be made to make it acceptable (don't ask why Excel has such bizarre defaults – I have yet to meet anyone who like them!). I don't generally use SigmaPlot, but there seem to be fewer issues with those plots. See my comments below to determine if they apply to SigmaPlot graphs.

Acceptable Graphs

1. Remove title if given (click on and delete). They are not needed because of the figure caption.
2. Delete gridlines (click on and delete).
3. Right click in plot and choose "Format Plot Area". Make the background white and the lines black.
4. Right click outside of plot and choose "Format chart area" and remove border.
5. Change axes so data is centered in graph and so you have room for the legend.
6. Move legend into plot and make graph "square".
7. Add trendlines. If you don't have room to clearly add them to graph, simply discuss in figure caption.

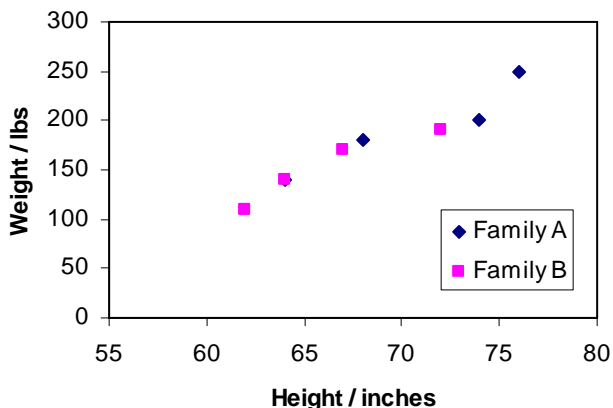


Figure 1: Height versus weight for two MN families. Both families follow similar regression lines although Family B tends to be smaller, in general, than Family A. (Linear fit for Family A: $\text{Weight} = 7.8571 \cdot \text{Height} - 361.43$; $R^2 = 0.895$; Family B: $\text{Weight} = 7.7093 \cdot \text{Height} - 358.24$; $R^2 = 0.918$.)