

Guidelines for Graphing (particularly, log c – pH diagrams):

1. Always use graph paper (unless your graphs are computer-drawn).
2. Devote enough space to the graph so that values can be relatively easily read to within ± 0.1 pH unit. Typically, this means devoting about one-third to one-half page to each graph.
3. Include both a label and clearly marked values on the axes
4. Use a straight-edge to draw the axes and portions of the plot itself that are linear (or almost linear).
5. For log c – pH diagrams, make sure the linear portions of the log c curves “aim” for the correct point at log $TOTA$, and that they curve (i.e., deviate from linearity) so that they intersect at the correct location.
6. Draw the graph to include all regions that are relevant to the solution of the problem, but don’t extend the range so much that the region of interest is compressed to a small fraction of the overall graph. To choose appropriate ranges, it is often useful to sketch the graph very roughly first. You need not include these sketches in the material you hand in, but they will be helpful in preparing the graphs that you do hand in.