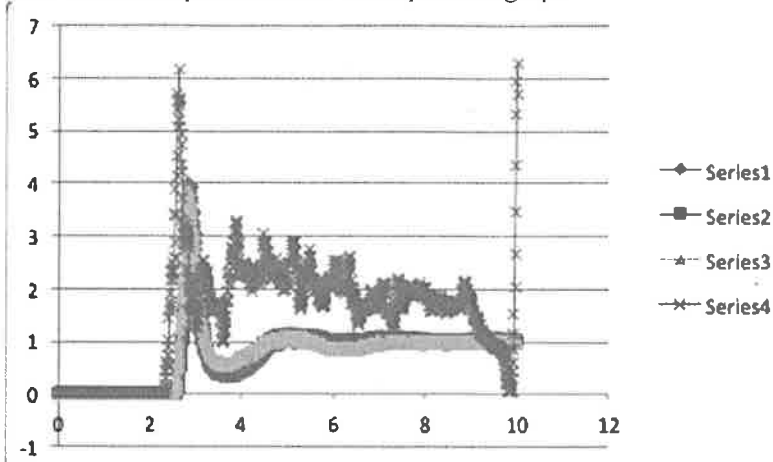


PROPER GRAPH PRESENTATION

When presenting graphs in a power point presentation, in a report, or in a journal article, the graph should look professional. Here is a little explanation of do's and don't's when it comes to graphs.

This first example is a BAD example of a graph



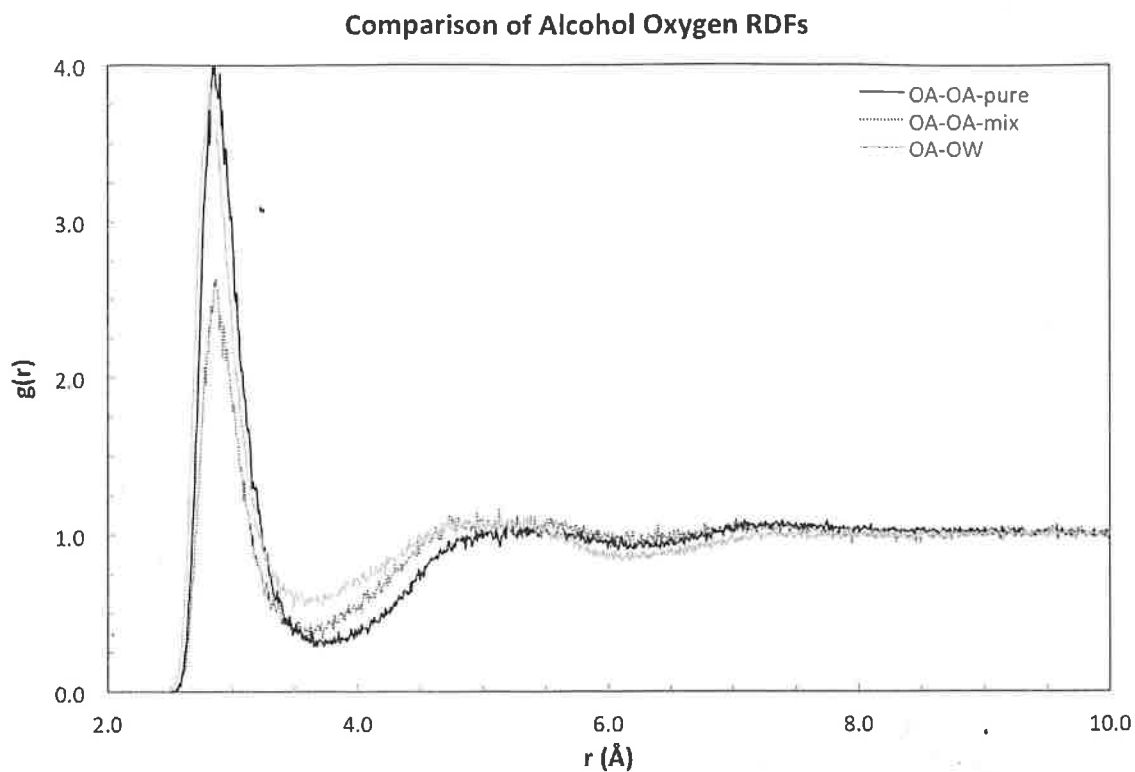
Why is it bad:

- It is small
- It has grid lines
- It has no minor tick marks
- The tick marks are on the outside
- There is no border
- The ticks are too frequent
- There is a lot of dead space above and to the sides of the curves
- No labels
- The curve with bad information (the purple spiky curve) is the dominant curve
 - Hard to decipher info from OTHER curves
- Lines WITH points
- Crowded

GOOD graph practice

- Big enough to see
- No grid lines
- Minor tick marks (both tick marks inside)
- Tick marks frequent enough to decipher value, but doesn't look like a comb
- Change the scale of the axis to fit the graphs best
- Label all axis and make sure font size is big enough to read things well
- Theory/simulation/equations have lines, experiments have data points, neither have both
- If crowded, break up into different graphs to see better

Here is what it SHOULD look like:



In addition, for reports, there should be no title. Rather, you put the title under the figure with descriptive text like below. In addition, you typically don't have a legend either.

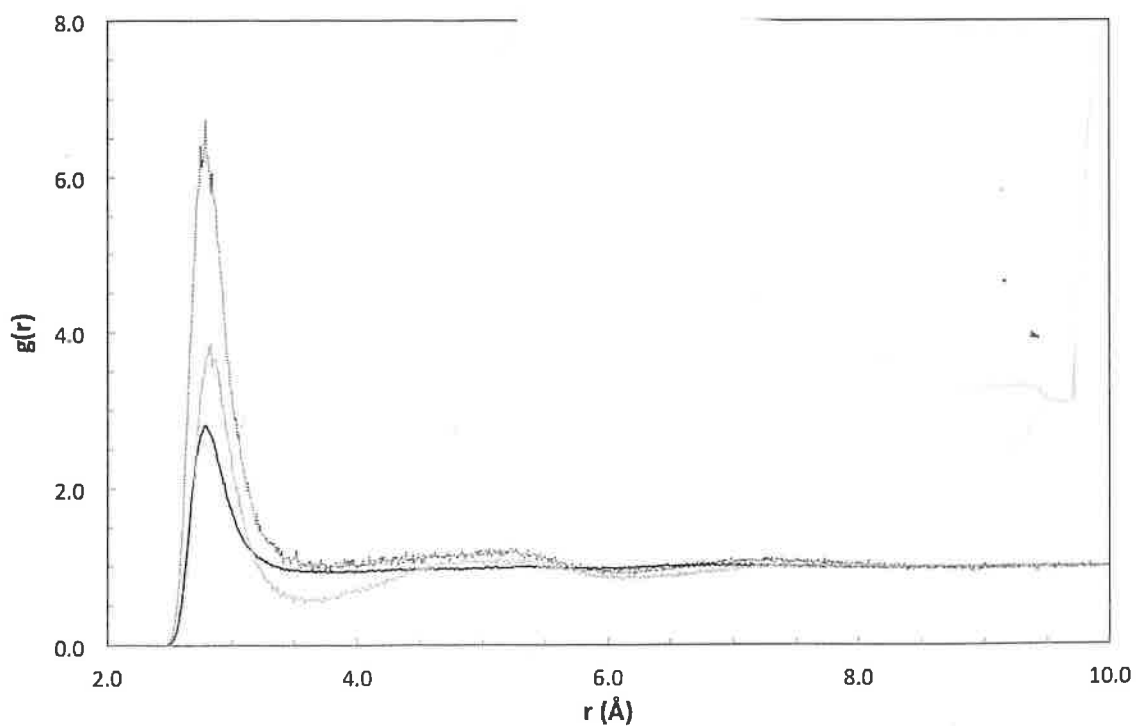


Figure 1: Radial distribution functions (RDF) between water oxygens (OW) in a pure system (solid black line) and in a mixture (dotted line) contrasted against the oxygen-oxygen RDF (solid grey line) between water and alcohol (OA).