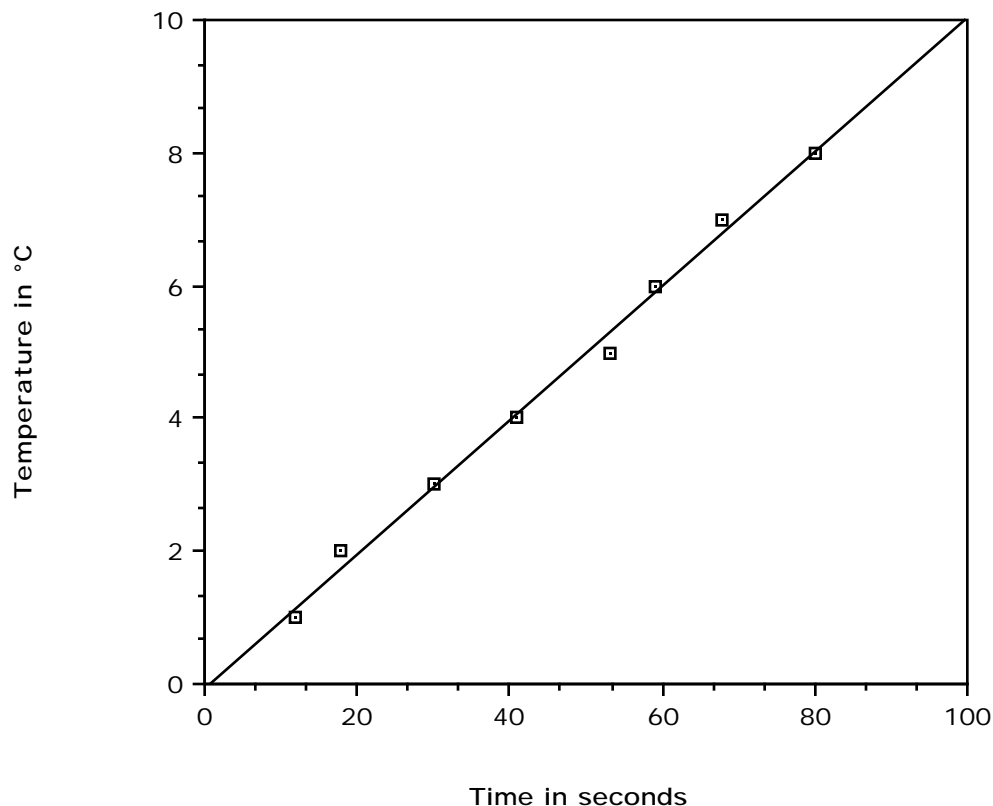


Good Graphs

Temperature of Water Being Heated by a Bunsen Burner



Characteristics of a Good Graph

1. It is done on graph paper or on a computer.
2. The scale you select should be easy to work with. Such as a 1 square represents 1,2,5, or 10. Or perhaps 5 squares represents a unit of 1, 10, or a multiple of ten, such as 20,100, or 0.1. **Never change the scale along an axis.** However, you may use a different scale for each axis.
3. Select a scale that uses the greatest portion of the paper. Don't go overboard here. Leave some room for your axis titles and to write numbers for the axis.
4. Using a ruler draw the coordinate axes on the graph paper.
5. Put "tick" marks on the axes to show the measurements.
6. Label what the axes represent by including the measurement and its units. Example: Time in seconds.
7. Plot your points and then draw a best fit curve or line. **Do not connect the dots.**
8. Title your graph. Make sure you describe what is represented on the horizontal and vertical axes.
9. If you are plotting more than one curve on the same graph, include a legend that identifies the curves. Use different colors or different types of lines such as solid or dashed to distinguish between them.
10. If you must determine the slope of a line, circle the two points **ON THE LINE** you are using in your calculation. Next to these points list the coordinates of these points.