Making figures in Igor

The instructions below will help improve figures made in Igor by increasing font sizes, line thicknesses, etc.

Changing Axis Properties
1. Right click on graph, Select “Axis Properties”
2. The drop menu in the top left corner allows you to toggle between left and bottom axis
3. Axis Label Tab
   a. Here you can type in your axis label
   b. Select label size, font style, and format
   c. Size 16 or 18 are decent choices for axis labels
4. Axis Tab
   a. Mode section allows you to choose linear or log based axis
   b. Axis section allows you to choose
      i. mirror axis (i.e. top and bottom lines, or just top lines)
      ii. axis line thickness (I like 1.4)
   c. Font allows you to change axis font style and size (make font 14 or 16)
5. Auto/Man Ticks Tab
6. Ticks and Grids Tab
   a. ‘Exponential labels’ allows you to properly label your axis if you wish to use, for example, nanoseconds instead of seconds, or milli\(\Delta\)OD instead of \(\Delta\)OD, by multiplying your axis by \(10^9\) or \(10^3\), respectively. Basically, set the exponent prescale in engineering to 3, 6 or 9 for milli, micro, and nano, respectively, and your axis will be scaled by that exponent.
   b. You can also play with your tick sizes and locations, add a zero line, or a grid to your graph
7. Axis Range Tab
   a. Here you can manually select an axis range if you want

Modifying Trace Appearances
1. Right click on graph, Select “Modify Trace Appearance”
2. Here you can choose line thickness (size—I like 2 or 3), or style, and color
3. You can also select a mode, and choose markers (i.e. dots, triangles, boxes) instead of solid lines, etc.

Adding a Legend
1. If you are not using the “Color Waves” macro, which automatically gives you a legend, you can add a legend manually
2. Right click on graph, select “Add Annotation”
3. In the top left hand corner, choose “Annotation: Legend”
4. In the text box, you can change the name of the traces and change the font size and style of the legend (again, size 16 is good)
5. In the frame tab, you can choose whether or not to have a border/frame for the legend