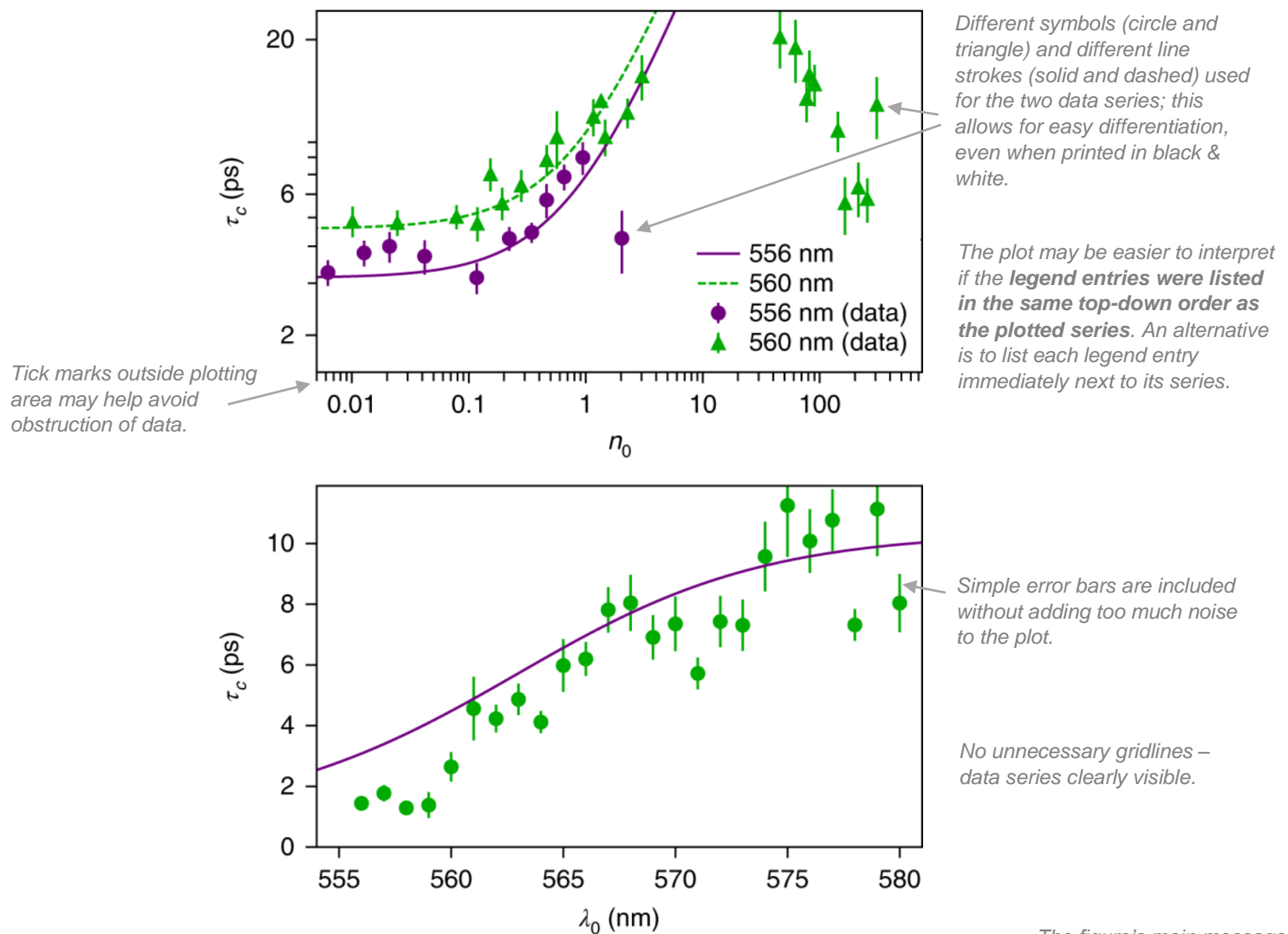


Annotated Example 2: Clear plots without extraneous noise.

From Walker et al., 2018. Driven-dissipative non-equilibrium Bose–Einstein condensation of less than ten photons. *Nature Physics*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41567-018-0270-1>

Fig. 4: Coherence time of the ground state.

From: Driven-dissipative non-equilibrium Bose–Einstein condensation of less than ten photons



Tick marks outside plotting area may help avoid obstruction of data.

Different symbols (circle and triangle) and different line strokes (solid and dashed) used for the two data series; this allows for easy differentiation, even when printed in black & white.

The plot may be easier to interpret if the **legend entries were listed in the same top-down order as the plotted series**. An alternative is to list each legend entry immediately next to its series.

Simple error bars are included without adding too much noise to the plot.

No unnecessary gridlines – data series clearly visible.

Top, τ_c as a function of the population of the mode. Bottom, τ_c as a function of λ_0 for small photon numbers $n_0 < 0.05$. Coherence time is independent of photon number for $n \ll 1$, but depends on the dissipation timescale, governed by both cavity loss κ and reabsorption, the latter of which varies with λ_0 . The only free parameter in the model is $1/\kappa = 5.2 \pm 0.8$ ps. For increasing n_0 , τ_c also increases, but for very large n_0 there is a dramatic and unexpected decrease in τ_c . Error bars represent the 1 s.d. uncertainty in the exponential fit of coherence decay time.

The figure's main message is stated explicitly. When possible, we recommend stating the message first, before mentioning other details.

Description of what the error bars represent should be included, as it is here.