

VENUS SOMU's

There have been various styles of venusian correlation charts submitted, and the GEMS panel feels that the community as a whole would benefit from written guidelines re standardization of these correlation charts. However, we don't wish to stifle the science that a researcher or group of researchers may want to present. With those thoughts in mind, GEMS offers the following standards for venusian correlation charts.

1. Rather than vertical contacts being marked by a question mark ("?") where the precise stratigraphic boundaries are uncertain, a jagged line should be used.

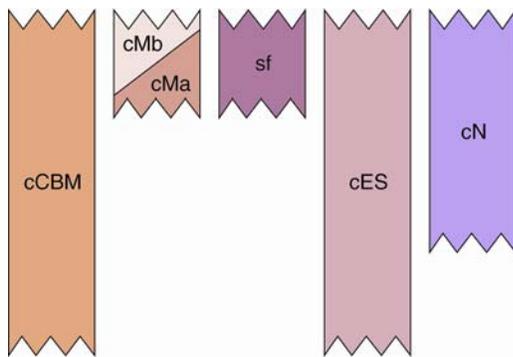


Figure 1a. Jagged vertical contacts are **preferred** when boundaries are uncertain. The depth (or length) of the teeth is considered to be meaningless.

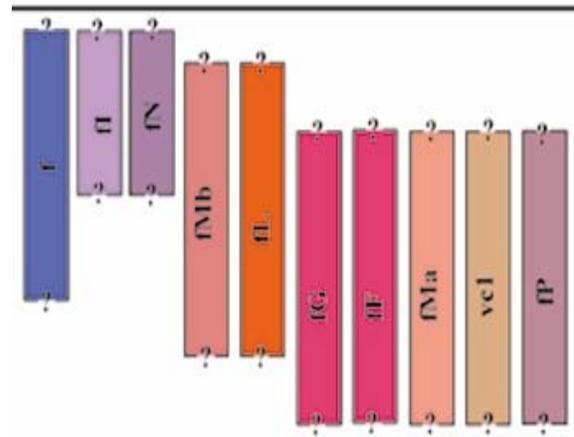


Figure 1b. Queried vertical boundaries **not preferred**.

2. A diagonal line separating units (Fig. 1a) indicates that locally, the lower unit may actually be younger than the upper unit, and vice-versa. However, the great majority of the lower unit is older than the great majority of the upper unit.
3. The formation of structures, and other processes, does have a place on a correlation chart, and that place is off to one side, in a separate (but adjacent) column or box—not interspersed throughout the chart.
4. Explanations for a non-traditional chart (a graphical legend appearing adjacent to the chart; see Figure 2) are encouraged.

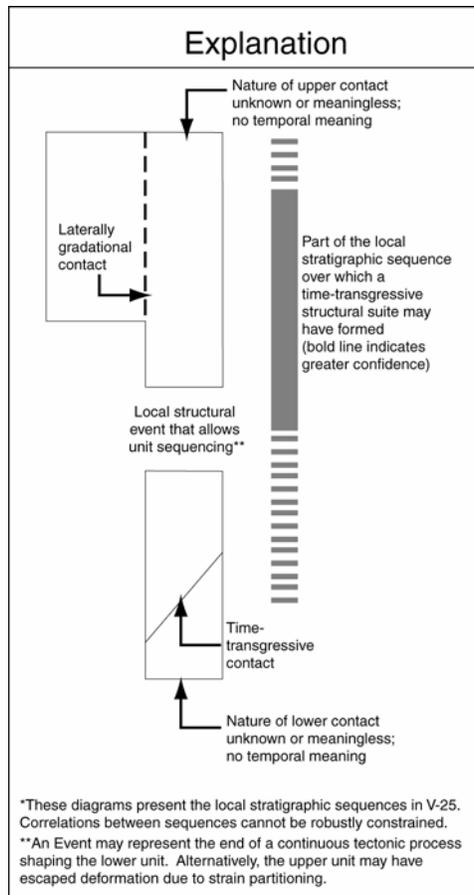


Figure 2. Example of an explanation for correlation chart.

5. Dashed vertical contacts are discouraged in the correlation chart. If the contact is gradational or uncertain on the map, this should be reflected in a dashed contact on the map, and/or explained in the map text. Although there may be a precedent for these on terrestrial geologic maps, there is no precedent on published extraterrestrial maps.
6. Having adjacent units touching in the correlation chart should be reserved for units sharing a geologic intimacy. Touching indicates that the units are always found together or are always in the same context. Groups of intimately associated units should be spatially separated on the correlation chart from units that are not closely associated.

Some folks have obviously put a lot of effort into creating a correlation chart to convey as much information as possible. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a confusing array of graphics—not all of which can be accurately described as correlation charts. We invite all mappers to create FIGURES to display information graphically, and on the published map sheet. These figures can be shown immediately above, below or beside the actual correlation chart.