

Loading Text Waves from Igor Text Files

Loading text waves from Igor Text files is similar to loading them from delimited text files except that in an Igor Text file you declare a wave's name and type. Also, text strings are quoted in Igor Text files as they are in Igor's command line. Here is an example of Igor Text that defines a text wave:

```
IGOR
WAVES/T textWave0, textWave1
BEGIN
    "This"      "Hello"
    "is"        "out"
    "a test"    "there"
END
```

All of the waves in a block of an Igor Text file must have the same number of points and data type. Thus, you can not mix numeric and text waves in the same block. You can have any number of blocks in one Igor Text file.

As this example illustrates, you must use double quotes around each string in a block of text data. If you want to embed a quote, tab, carriage return or linefeed within a single text value, use the escape sequences \\", \\t, \\r or \\n. Use \\\\" to embed a backslash. For less common escape sequences, see [Escape Sequences in Strings](#) on page IV-14.

Loading Igor Binary Data

This section discusses loading Igor Binary data into memory.

Igor stores Igor Binary data in two ways: one wave per Igor binary wave file in unpacked experiments and multiple waves within a packed experiment file.

When you open an experiment, Igor *automatically* loads the Igor Binary data to recreate the experiment's waves. The main reason to *explicitly* load an Igor binary wave file is if you want to access the same data from multiple experiments. The easiest way to load data from another experiment is to use the Data Browser (see [The Data Browser](#) on page II-114).

Warning: You can get into trouble if two Igor experiments load data from the same Igor binary wave file. See [Sharing Versus Copying Igor Binary Wave Files](#) on page II-156 for details.

There are a number of ways to load Igor Binary data into the current experiment in memory. Here is a summary. For most users, the first and second methods — which are simple and easy to use — are sufficient.

Method	Loads	Action	Purpose
Open Experiment	Packed and unpacked files	Restores the experiment to the state in which it was last saved.	To restore experiment.
Data Browser	Packed and unpacked files	Copies data from one experiment to another. See The Browse Expt Button on page II-117 for details.	To collect data from different sources for comparison.
Desktop Drag and Drop	Unpacked files only	Copies data from one experiment to another or shares between experiments.	To collect data from different sources for comparison.
Load Waves Dialog	Unpacked files only	Copies data from one experiment to another or shares between experiments.	To create a LoadWave command that can be used in an Igor procedure.
LoadWave Operation	Unpacked files only	Copies data from one experiment to another or shares between experiments. See LoadWave on page V-508 for details.	To automatically load data using an Igor Procedure.