

Chapter II-9 — Importing and Exporting Data

looks for the first non-blank value in each column and makes a determination based on the column's content. In most cases, the auto-identify method works and there is no need for the other methods.

In the "treat all columns as numeric" method, Igor loads all columns into numeric waves. If some of the data is not numeric, you get NaNs in the output wave. For backward compatibility, this is the default method when you use the LoadWave/J operation from the command line or from an Igor procedure. To use the "auto-identify column type" method, you need to use LoadWave/J/K=0.

In the "treat all columns as text" method, Igor loads all columns into text waves. This method may have use in rare cases in which you want to do text-processing on a file by loading it into a text wave and then using Igor's string manipulation capabilities to massage it.

For details on the /B method, see the section **Specifying Characteristics of Individual Columns** on page II-145.

Date/Time Formats

The Load Delimited Text routine can handle dates in many formats. A few "standard" formats are supported and in addition, you can specify a "custom" format (see **Custom Date Formats** on page II-130).

The standard date formats are:

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| mm/dd/yy | (month/day/year) |
| mm/yy | (month/year) |
| dd/mm/yy | (day/month/year) |

To use the dd/mm/yy format instead of mm/dd/yy, you must set a tweak. See **Delimited Text Tweaks** on page II-136.

You can also use a dash or a dot as a separator instead of a slash.

Igor can also handle times in the following forms:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| [+][-]hh:mm:ss [AM PM] | (hours, minutes, seconds) |
| [+][-]hh:mm:ss.ff [AM PM] | (hours, minutes, seconds, fractions of seconds) |
| [+][-]hh:mm [AM PM] | (hours, minutes) |
| [+][-]hhhh:mm:ss.ff | (hours, minutes, seconds, fractions of seconds) |

As of Igor Pro 6.23, Igor also accepts a colon instead of a dot before the fractional seconds.

The first three forms are time-of-day forms. The last one is the elapsed time. In an elapsed time, the hour is in the range 0 to 9999.

The year can be specified using two digits (99) or four digits (1999). If a two digit year is in the range 00 ... 39, Igor treats this as 2000 ... 2039. If a two digit year is in the range 40 ... 99, Igor treats this as 1940 ... 1999.

The Load Delimited Text routine can also handle date/times which consist of one of these date formats, a single space or the letter T, and then one of the time formats. To load <date><space><time> as a date/time value, space must not be specified as a delimiter character.

Custom Date Formats

If your data file contains dates in a format other than the "standard" format, you can use Load Delimited Text to specify exactly what date format to use. You do this using the Delimited Text Tweaks dialog which you access through the Tweaks button in the Load Waves dialog. Choose Other from the Date Format pop-up menu. This leads to the Date Format dialog.