When *localName* is the same as the global wave name and you want to reference a wave in the current data folder, you can omit the *pathToWave*.

*pathToWave* can be a full literal path (e.g., root:FolderA:wave0), a partial literal path (e.g., :FolderA:wave0) or $ followed by string variable containing a computed path (see **Converting a String into a Reference Using $** on page IV-62).

You can also use a data folder reference or the /SDFR flag to specify the location of the wave if it is not in the current data folder. See **Data Folder References** on page IV-78 and **The /SDFR Flag** on page IV-80 for details.

If the wave may not exist at runtime, use the /Z flag and call **WaveExists** before accessing the wave. The /Z flag prevents Igor from flagging a missing wave as an error and dropping into the debugger. For example:

```
WAVE/Z wv=<pathToPossiblyMissingWave>
if( WaveExists(wv) )
    <do something with wv>
endif
```

In Igor Pro 9.00 and later, you can avoid the runtime lookup of localName in the current data folder by including the /ZZ flag. For example:

```
Function CallingRoutine()
    WAVE/ZZ w
    PassByRefRoutine(w)
    Print w
End

Function PassByRefRoutine(WAVE& wr)
    WAVE wr = NewFreeWave(2,2)
End
```

Without the /ZZ flag, at runtime Igor would attempt to find a wave named w in the current data folder. This is unnecessary in this case since PassByRefRoutine sets the w variable.

**Flags**

| | |
|---|---|
| /C | Complex wave |
| /T | Text wave |
| /WAVE | Wave reference wave |
| /DF | Data folder reference wave |
| /SDFR=*dfr* | Specifies the source data folder. See **The /SDFR Flag** on page IV-80 for details. |
| /Z | Ignores wave reference checking failures |
| /ZZ | Ignores wave reference checking failures and prevents wave lookup |

**See Also**

**WaveExists** function.

**WAVE Reference Type Flags** on page IV-74 for additional wave type flags and information.

**Accessing Global Variables and Waves** on page IV-65.

**Accessing Waves in Functions** on page IV-82.

**Converting a String into a Reference Using $** on page IV-62.

# WAVEClear

**WAVEClear** ***localName*** [, ***localName1*** …]

The WAVEClear operation clears out a wave reference variable. WAVEClear is equivalent to `WAVE/Z localName= $""`.

**Details**

Use WAVEClear to avoid unexpected results from certain operations such as **Duplicate** or **Concatenate**, which will reuse the contents of a WAVE reference variable and may not generate the wave in the desired data folder or with the desired name.