

Object Name Conflicts

In general, Igor does not allow two objects in the same namespace to have the same name. (To see a list of Igor namespaces, see [Namespaces](#) on page III-502.) The rest of this section discusses some exceptions to this rule and related issues. Most users will not need to know this material.

Object Name Conflicts That Igor Allows

Igor allows you to create name conflicts between waves, variables, and data folders with certain exceptions listed below. For example:

```
Function DemoAllowedNameConflicts()
    Make/O root:test           // Execute this in a new experiment
    Variable/G root:test       // to demonstrate that Igor allows
    NewDataFolder/O root:test  // name conflicts in some cases
End
```

This shows that Igor allows you to create a wave and a global variable with the same name and to create a data folder with the same name as a wave or a global variable.

Allowing a wave and a global variable to have the same name is a historical accident that should not have been allowed because waves and variables are in the same namespace, called the "main namespace". This may be disallowed in a future version of Igor.

Allowing a data folder to have the same name as a wave or variable is intended because data folders are in their own namespace.

The following exceptions specify the name conflicts in the main namespace that are not allowed:

1. It is an error to create a variable with the same name as an existing wave from a macro, proc, or from the command line (but it is not an error from a user-defined function as shown above).
2. It is an error to create a wave with the same name as an existing variable from any context (function, macro, proc, or from the command line).

The table below expresses those rules. The left column shows the type of object created first and the top row shows the type of object created second.

F means that Igor returns an error if you attempt to create the objects in a function.

M means that Igor returns an error if you attempt to create the objects in a macro, proc, or from the command line.

--- means Igor returns no error from a function, macro, proc, or from the command line.

	Wave	Variable	Data Folder
Wave	N/A	M	---
Variable	F, M	N/A	---
Data Folder	---	---	N/A

Object Name Conflicts and HDF5 Files

When saving an experiment in packed or unpacked format, these name conflicts do not cause a problem. If you save and reload the experiment, you get back to where you started.

However, name conflicts do cause problems with HDF5 files, saved via Save Experiment or via the HDF5SaveGroup operation, because HDF5 does not allow a group and a dataset to have the same name.

- If there is a conflict between a wave or variable and a data folder, you get an error when you at-