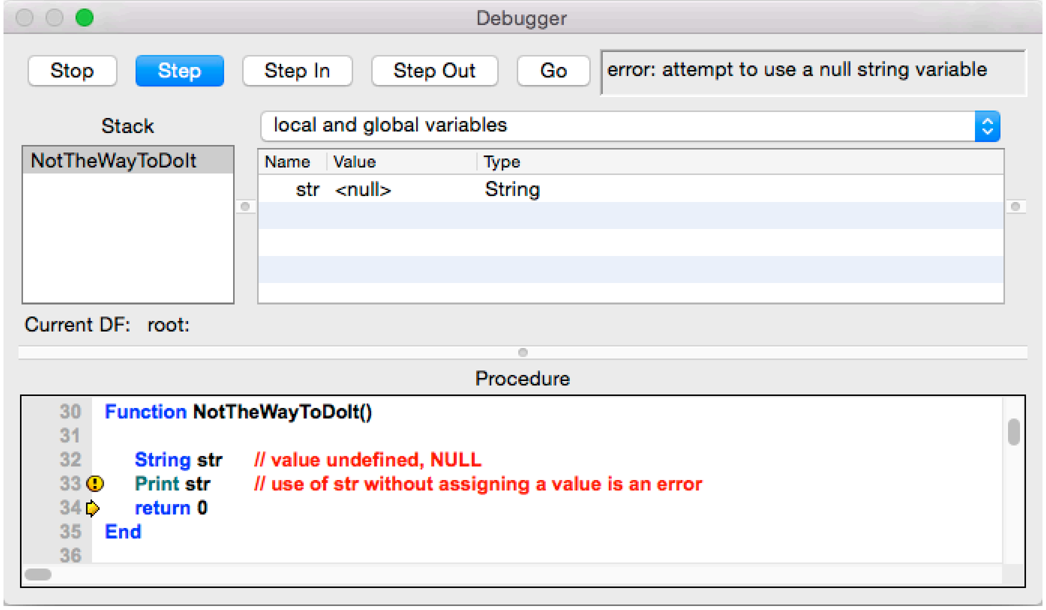

error: attempt to use a null string variable

local and global variables

NotTheWayToDoIt

Name	Value	Type
str	<null>	String

Current DF: root:

```
Function NotTheWayToDoIt()

   String str      // value undefined, NULL
   Print str       // use of str without assigning a value is an error
   return 0
End
```

Sometimes you do something that you know may cause an error and you want to handle the error yourself, without breaking into the debugger. One such case is attempting to access a wave or variable that may or may not exist. You want to test its existence without breaking into the debugger.

You can use the /Z flag to prevent the Debug on Error feature from kicking in when an NVAR, SVAR, or WAVE reference fails. For example:

```
WAVE/Z w = <path to possibly missing wave>
if (WaveExists(w))
   <do something with w>
endif
```

In other cases where an error may occur and you want to handle it yourself, you need to temporarily disable the debugger and use **GetRTError** to get and clear the error. For example:

```
Function DemoDisablingDebugger()
   DebuggerOptions                 // Sets V_enable to 1 if debugger is enabled
   Variable debuggerEnabled=V_enable
   DebuggerOptions enable=0        // Disable debugger

   String name = ";"               // This is an illegal wave name
   Make/O $name                    // So this will generate and error

   DebuggerOptions enable=debuggerEnabled    // Restore

   Variable err = GetRTError(1)              // Clear error
   if (err != 0)
      Printf "Error %d\r", err
   else
      Print "No error"
   endif
End
```

Debugging on Abort

You can tell Igor to automatically open the debugger window if you interrupt command execution by enabling Debug On Abort. This is useful for stopping code that is taking much longer than expected. It pauses execution and opens the debugger so you can see what is going on.

To enable or disable this feature, choose Procedure→Debug On Abort or right-click in a procedure window and choose Debug On Abort from the pop-up menu.