• You no longer need a wave that you created for temporary use in an Igor procedure.

The Kill Waves dialog provides an interface to the **KillWaves** operation. To use it, choose Kill Waves from the Data menu.

Igor will not let you kill waves that are used in graphs, tables or user-defined functions so they do not appear in the list.

Note: Igor can not tell if a wave is referenced from a macro. Thus, Igor will let you kill a wave that is referenced from a macro but not used in any other way. The most common case of this is when you close a graph and save it as a recreation macro. Waves that were used in the graph are now used only in the macro and Igor will let you kill them. If you execute the graph recreation macro, it will be unable to recreate the graph.

KillWaves can delete the Igor binary wave file from which a wave was loaded, called the "source file". This is normally not necessary because the wave you are killing either has never been saved to disk or was saved as part of a packed experiment file and therefore was not loaded from a standalone file.

The "Kill all waves not in use" option is intended for those situations where you have created an Igor experiment that contains procedures which load, graph and process a batch of waves. After you have processed one batch of waves, you can kill all graphs and tables and then kill all waves in the experiment in preparation for loading the next batch. This affects only those waves in the current data folder; waves in any other data folders will not be killed.

KillWaves Operation Examples

Here are some simple examples using KillWaves.

```
// Kills all target windows and all waves.
// Does not kill nontarget windows (procedure and help windows).
Function KillEverything()
   String windowName

   do
      windowName = WinName(0, 1+2+4+16+64)// Get next target window
      if (CmpStr(windowName, "") == 0) // If name is ""
         break                         // we are done so break loop
      endif
      KillWindow $windowName           // Kill this target window
   while (1)

   KillWaves/A                         // Kill all waves
End

// This illustrates killing a wave used temporarily in a procedure
Function Median(w)                 // Returns median value of wave w
   Wave w

   Variable result

   Duplicate/O w, temp         // Make a clone of wave
   Sort temp, temp             // Sort clone
   result = temp[numpnts(temp)/2]

   KillWaves temp              // Kill clone

   return result
End
```

For more examples, see the "Kill Waves" procedure file in the "WaveMetrics Procedures" folder.