- If it detects a change in the number of columns, it starts loading a new block into a new set of waves.

If merely inspecting the file does not identify the problem then you should try the technique of loading a subset of your data. This is described under **Troubleshooting Delimited Text Files** on page II-137 and often sheds light on the problem. In the same section, you will find instructions for sending the problem file to WaveMetrics for analysis, if necessary.

LoadWave Generation of Wave Names

When loading an Igor binary file or an Igor Text file, LoadWave uses the wave name or names stored in the file being loaded.

When loading files as delimited text (/J), as fixed field text (/F), and as general text (/G), wave names are determined by the /A, /N, /W, /B, and /NAME flag. This section provides describes how these naming flags work.

If you omit all of the naming flags, LoadWave generates wave names like wave0, wave1, and wave2 but if such wave already exist, it generates unique names like wave3, wave4, and wave5. LoadWave then displays a dialog in which you can edit the names.

The /A flag behaves the same except that it turns on "auto name and go" which skips the dialog in which you can edit the names. /A=baseName is the same as /A except that allows you to specify a base name other than 'wave'.

The /N flag is the same as /A except that it always uses suffix numbers starting from zero and increments by one for each wave loaded from the file. If the resulting name conflicts with an existing wave, the existing wave is overwritten. For example, /N=wave gives wave names like wave0, wave1, and wave2.

The /W flag loads wave names from the file itself. By default, LoadWave expects the wave names to be in the first line of the file but the /L flag allows you to specify another line. If the names in the file conflict with existing waves and you specify overwrite (/O), the existing waves are overwritten; if you do not specify overwrite, LoadWave displays a dialog in which you can enter unique names.

The /B flag, used when calling LoadWave from a user-defined function, allows you to specify explicit names for each column. See **Specifying Characteristics of Individual Columns** on page II-145 for details.

The /NAME flag provides an easy way to incorporate the file name in the wave names. See the next section for details.

/NAME overrides /B which overrides /W which overrides /N which overrides /A.

Using the File Name in Wave Names

The LoadWave /NAME flag was added in Igor Pro 9.00 primarily to provide an easy way to incorporate the file name in the wave names.

The Load Waves dialog (Data→Load Waves→Load Waves) supports the /NAME flag through the Use File Name in Wave Names and Include Normal Name checkboxes. The dialog does not provide access to all features of /NAME but is sufficient for most common uses.

This section provides a general description of the /NAME flag. Subsequent sections with examples which should clarify how to use it.

The format of the flag is:

```
/NAME={namePrefix, nameSuffix, nameOptions}
```

The generated wave names consist of the following components:

```
<namePrefix><normal name><nameSuffix><suffix number>
```