

## Chapter II-3 — Experiments, Files and Folders

You have three options at this point, as explained in the following table.

Option	Effect
Quit Macro	Stops executing the current macro but continues experiment load. In this example, Graph0 would not be recreated. After the experiment load Igor displays diagnostic information.
Abort Experiment Load	Aborts the experiment load immediately and displays diagnostic information.
Retry	In this example, you could fix the macro by deleting “wave0,”. You would then click the Retry button. Igor would create Graph0 without wave0 and would continue the experiment load.

With the first two options, Igor leaves the experiment untitled so that you don’t inadvertently wipe out the original experiment file by doing a save.

### How Igor Handles Missing Folders

When Igor saves an experiment, it stores commands in the experiment file that will recreate the experiment’s symbolic paths when you reopen the experiment. The commands look something like this:

```
NewPath home ":Test Exp Folder:"
NewPath/Z Data1 "::Data Folder #1:"
NewPath Data2 "::Data Folder #2:"
NewPath/Z Data3 "hd:Test Runs:Data Folder #3:" // Macintosh
NewPath/Z Data3 "C:Test Runs:Data Folder #3:" // Windows
```

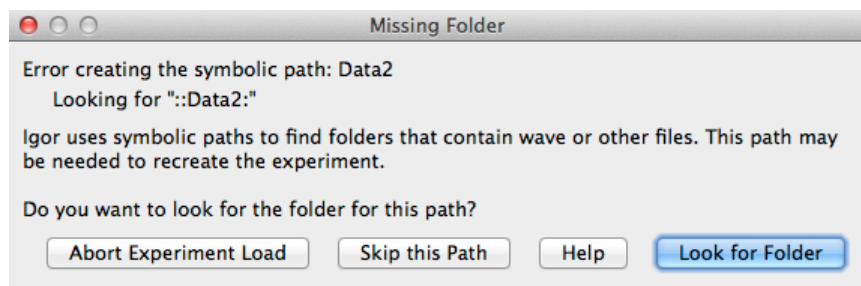
The location of the home folder is specified relative to the folder containing the experiment file. The locations of all other folders are specified relative to the experiment folder or, if they are on a different volume, using absolute paths. Using relative paths, where possible, ensures that no problems will arise if you move the experiment file and experiment folder *together* to another disk drive or another location on the same disk drive.

The /Z flags indicate that the experiment does not need to load any files from the Data1 and Data3 folders. In other words, the experiment has symbolic paths for these folders but no files need to be loaded from them to recreate the experiment.

When you reopen the experiment, Igor executes these NewPath commands. If you have moved or renamed folders, or if you have moved the experiment file, the NewPath operation will be unable to find the folder.

If the folder associated with the symbolic path is not needed to recreate the experiment, the NewPath command includes the /Z flag. In this case, Igor skips the creation of the symbolic path, generates no error, and just continues the load. The experiment will wind up without the missing symbolic path.

If the missing folder is needed to load waves, notebooks or procedure files then Igor asks if you want to look for the folder by displaying the Missing Folder dialog.



If you click Look for Folder, Igor presents a Choose Folder dialog in which you can locate the missing folder.