
Subject: Errors when compiling routines with main-level programs

Posted by [Matthew Argall](#) on Sat, 21 Feb 2015 15:53:08 GMT

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I have adopted the practice of putting main-level programs below utility functions to demonstrate their use. The problem is, only one such routine can be compiled manually at a time, and it must come at the end of the compile list. It can get pretty annoying. Here is a simple example:

```
IDL> .compile uniq, mruniq
% Compiled module: UNIQ.
% Compiled module: MRUNIQ.
% Compiled module: $MAIN$.
```

```
IDL> .compile mruniq, uniq
% Compiled module: MRUNIQ.
% Compiled module: $MAIN$.
% End of file encountered before end of program. File: mruniq.pro
```

```
function UNIQ, ARRAY, IDX
      ^
```

```
% Procedure header must appear first and only once: UNIQ
At: /Applications/exelis/idl82/lib/uniq.pro, Line 68
```

```
if (s[0] eq 0) then return, 0 ;A scalar
      ^
```

```
% Return statement in procedures can't have values.
At: /Applications/exelis/idl82/lib/uniq.pro, Line 73
```

```
else return, n_elements(q)-1
      ^
```

```
% Return statement in procedures can't have values.
At: /Applications/exelis/idl82/lib/uniq.pro, Line 78
```

```
else return, n_elements(q)-1
      ^
```

```
% Return statement in procedures can't have values.
At: /Applications/exelis/idl82/lib/uniq.pro, Line 78
```

```
else return, n_elements(ARRAY)-1
      ^
```

```
% Return statement in procedures can't have values.
At: /Applications/exelis/idl82/lib/uniq.pro, Line 82
```

```
else return, n_elements(ARRAY)-1
      ^
```

```
% Return statement in procedures can't have values.
At: /Applications/exelis/idl82/lib/uniq.pro, Line 82
```

% 6 Compilation error(s) in module \$MAIN\$.

Is there a fix for this? Or should I not be putting main-level programs at the end of functions and procedures?
