
Subject: Re: class definition problem

Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 05 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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[Note: This follow-up was e-mailed to the cited author.]

Jesus Fernandez (fernande@bisanca) writes:

```
> for two days, i am trying to make my class work, but
> i don't succeed. I don't really understand why happens, and
> i hope that you can help me.
> Well,
>
> i have a file called single__define.pro in which i have
>
> pro single_define
> tmp = {single,$
> fit:ptr_new(/allocate_heap),$
> dh:{header,0,0,0,0},$
> window:obj_new()}
> end
>
> ps: header is a structure yet defined, with 4 integers
>
> The problem occurs in the init procedure. The arguments passed
> to the INIT function are good (tested with print, and help)
> but indeed if i test fit,dh and window, they are undefined.
```

I see several things wrong. First, this module should have **two** underscore characters in the name, not one. The name should be:

```
PRO Single__Define
```

and, of course, the name of the file should be "single__define.pro".

In it's present form it will never get called when the object is created.

And second, even if the program got called, the dh field definition will fail, because this is not the proper syntax for defining a structure field. Nor do you want to use the /Allocate_Heap keyword for the pointer. You are making the common mistake here of using the class definition module to try to populate the object structure with specific values. That won't work because it is not the specific instance of the structure that IDL cares about in this program. It cares **only** with the structure definition. The proper place to populate this

particular instance of the object class structure is in the INIT method.

Your class definition program should be written like this:

```
pro single__define
tmp = {single,$
  fit:ptr_new(),$
  dh:{header},$
  window:obj_new()}
end
```

Cheers,

David

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