exit() — Terminate execution

Syntax

```
exit(real scalar rc)
```

```
exit()
```

Description

`exit(rc)` terminates execution and sets the overall return code to `rc`.

`exit()` with no argument specified is equivalent to `exit(0)`.

Remarks and examples

Do not confuse `exit()` and `return`. `return` stops execution of the current function and returns to the caller, whereupon execution continues. `exit()` terminates execution. For instance, consider

```
function first()
{
    "begin execution"
    second()
    "this message will never be seen"
}

function second()
{
    "hello from second()"
    exit(0)
}
```

The result of running this would be

```
: first()
begin execution
hello from second()
```

If we changed the `exit(0)` to be `exit(198)` in `second()`, the result would be

```
: first()
begin execution
hello from second()
r(198);
```
No error message is presented. If you want to present an error message and exit, you should code `exit(error(198))`; see \[M-5] error().

**Conformability**

\[ \text{exit}(rc) : \]

\[ rc: \quad 1 \times 1 \quad \text{(optional)} \]

**Diagnostics**

\[ \text{exit}(rc) \text{ and } \text{exit()} \text{ do not return.} \]

**Also see**

[M-5] error() — Issue error message

[M-4] programming — Programming functions