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Subject: Re: Yet again, The Sky is Falling!  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 13 Mar 2007 00:25:53 GMT  
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On Fri, 09 Mar 2007 10:25:41 +0100, Paolo Grigis wrote:

```
> Here's a simple example of a routine that returns different values if it
> is called by value or by reference.
>
> pro pg,a,b
>
> b=arg_present(a)
>
> end
>
>
> IDL> x=1
> IDL> pg,x,b
> IDL> print,b
>      1
>
> IDL> pg,x+0,b
> IDL> print,b
>      0
>
> IDL> pg,x[0],b
> IDL> print,b
>      0
```

That's a bit of a contrived example, given that the whole reason I originally lobbied for ARG\_PRESENT was so you could differentiate between by-value and by-reference arguments (which I observed IDL's own internal routines could do, so clearly it was functionality waiting to be exposed).

JD

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