
Subject: Re: scopes

Posted by [Matthew Argall](#) on Tue, 15 Oct 2013 15:23:38 GMT

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Variables are passed by reference in IDL. If two output positional parameters reference the same variable name, you are going to have a bad time.

Try this

```
-----  
pro test_input_params, a, b  
    a = 5  
    b = 4  
    help, a, b  
end
```

```
test_input_params, null, null  
-----
```

It shows that a = a = 4 and that b = a = 4 inside the test program. If I were to later do something with a and b independently, the results would not be independent. I assume that CalDat uses the "month" and "day" parameters when calculating "year", which is why your output is funky.
