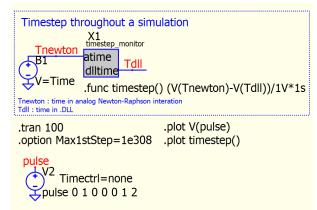
**Qspice - How Time Step Works** 

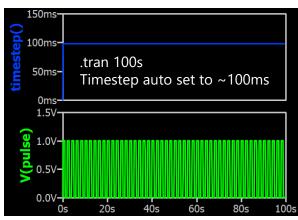
KSKelvin Kelvin Leung Last Update: 5-23-2024

## How Time Step Works in Qspice – TimeStep Monitor

Qspice: timestep\_monitor.qsch | timestep\_monitor.cpp

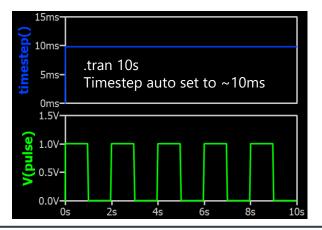
- Timestep Monitor
  - Simulation Time of Qspice can be found as
    - Time in analog Newton-Raphson interation: Time
    - DLL Time : t in DLL block
  - DLL Time always one step behind Analog Time
    - Therefore, different of analog time and DLL time is simulation timestep
  - Method to read timestep
    - Cpp block with dlltime=atime, where atime is analog time and dlltime is dll time delayed by one timestep
    - Calculate different between analog and DLL time for timestep





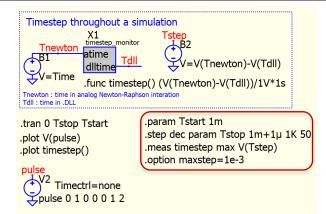
#### Code

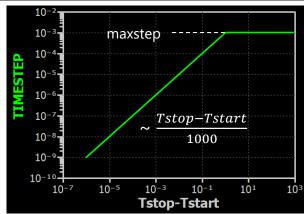
- // Implement module evaluation code here:
   dlltime = atime;
  - only 1 line of code to pass time from input to output
    as dll time (output) is
  - as dll time (output) is always one step delay of input, different between dlltime and atime is timestep

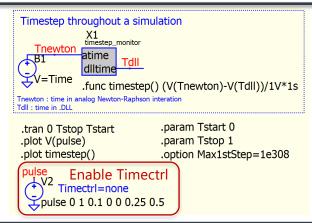


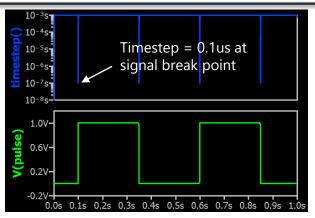
#### Qspice: timestep\_monitor - MaxStep.qsch | timestep\_monitor - Pulse Timectrl.qsch

- #1a .option maxstep
  - Maximum timestep
- #1b .tran Tstart to Tstop
  - Without timestep modification devices, Qspice set a constant timestep
  - Timestep=  $\min \left( \sim \frac{\text{Tstop-Tstart}}{1000}, \text{maxstep} \right)$
- #2a Timectrl Devices
  - Device (Voltage Source, Switch, ¥-Device etc...) can affect timestep
  - A voltage source with instance parameter Timectrl can reduce the timestep at signal break point



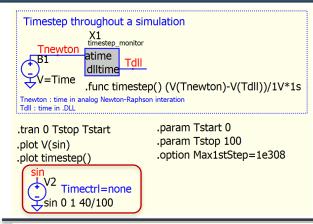


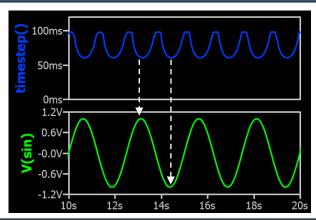


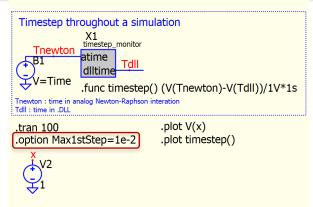


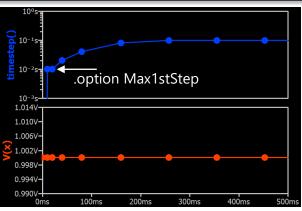
Qspice: timestep\_monitor - Sin Timectrl.qsch | timestep\_monitor - Max1stStep.qsch

- #2b Timectrl Devices
  - V/I sources have different Timectrl strategies
    - For example, sine source reduce timestep when  $\frac{dv}{dt}$  change direction
  - Setting the Instance parameter Timectrl=none for source will disable the timestep control strategy
- #3 .option Max1stStep
  - .option Max1stStep controls the maximum timestep size for the first timestep in a .tran
    - Default Max1stStep=100ns
  - To disable Max1stStep, set .option Max1stStep=1e308



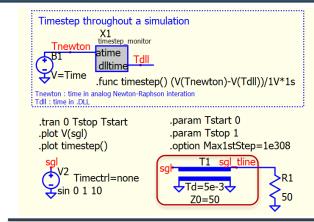


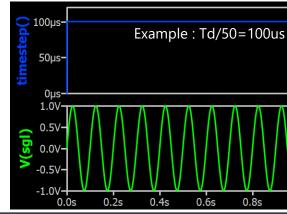


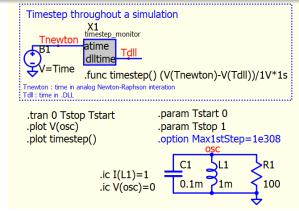


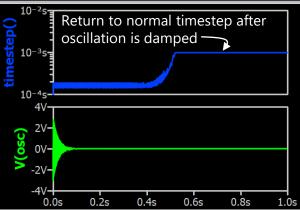
Qspice: timestep\_monitor - Tline.qsch | timestep\_monitor - LC.qsch

- #4 Transmission Line
  - Td of an ideal transmission line will force the target timestep to Timestep =  $\frac{\text{Td}}{50}$
- #5 LC oscillation
  - Qspice can changes its timestep if circuit consist of resonant elements and before oscillation is damped



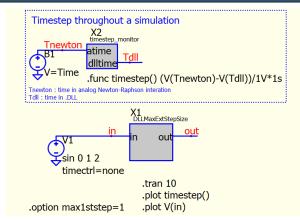


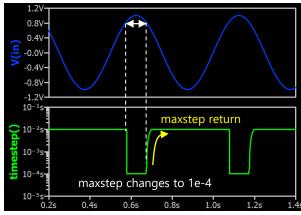




#### **Qspice**: timestep\_monitor - MaxExtStepSize.qsch

- #6 MaxExtStepSize (DLL)
  - MaxExtStepSize() is a function in DLL device
  - It allows a structure variable to be passed in order to control the maximum timestep
  - The return value of MaxExtStepSize() will override the maxstep value
  - In this example
    - Target maximum step is determined by condition explained in #1b, which is 10s/1000=1e-2=10<sup>-2</sup>s
    - In the DLL, MaxExtStepSize() reduces maxstep to 1e-4=10<sup>-4</sup>s when V(in) > 0.8





```
struct sDLIMAXEXTSTEPSIZE
{
    // declare the structure here
    float x;
};

extern "C" __declspec(dllexport) void dllmaxextstepsize(struct sDLIMAXEXTST
{
    double in = data[0].d; // input
    double sout = data[1].d; // output

    if(!*opaque)
    {
        *opaque = (struct sDLIMAXEXTSTEPSIZE *) malloc(sizeof(struct sDLIMAXE
        bzero(*opaque, sizeof(struct sDLIMAXEXTSTEPSIZE));
    }
    struct sDLIMAXEXTSTEPSIZE *inst = *opaque;

// Implement module evaluation code here:
    out = in;
    inst->x = in;
}

extern "C" __declspec(dllexport) double MaxExtStepSize(struct sDLIMAXEXTSTEPSIZE);
    if (inst->x >= 0.8)
        return 1e-4;
    return 1e-308; // implement a good choice of max timestep size that dependent in the structure of the struct specific content of the structure o
```

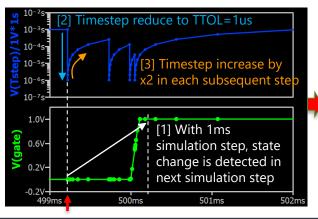
## How timestep works? (TTOL Devices) – Switch as example

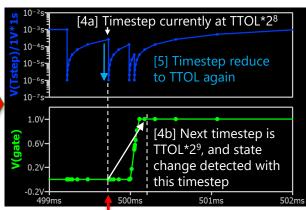
**Qspice: timestep\_monitor - SW TTOL.qsch** 

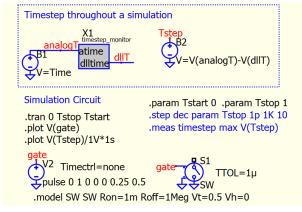
- TTOL Temporal Tolerance
  - TTOL is used in Switch, ¥-Device, Ø-Device etc...

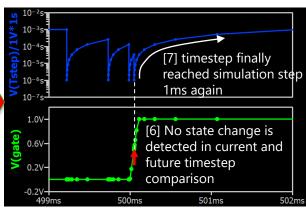
  - In Ø-Device, user can control when to trigger \*timestep=ttol in the Trunc() function The Trunc() function in the TTOL device is implemented in a meaningful way to detect if the state has changed at the future simulation step (current simulation time + next timestep)
  - If the future state, when compared to the current state, is found to have changed in the TTOL device, the \*timestep=TTOL is assigned, forcing the next step to only increase by the value of TTOL
  - Following simulation will increase each step by the active timestep multiplied by 2

    - If a state change is detected again, the timestep will be reset to TTOL once more
      If no state change is detected, the timestep will continue to increase by the active timestep multiplied by 2 until it reaches the simulation step determined by Ospice based on the simulation setup







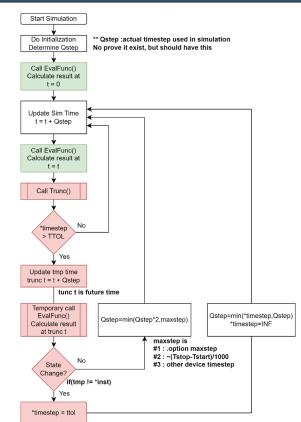


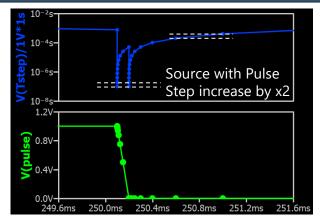
## How timestep works? (TTOL Devices) – Switch as example

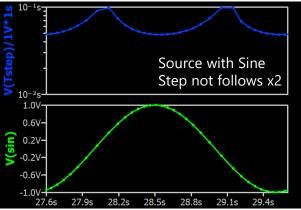
Qspice: timestep\_monitor - Pulse Timectrl.qsch | timestep\_monitor - Sin Timectrl.qsch

#### TTOL Temporal Tolerance

- Qspice employs different timestep control scheme. For example, source with sine doesn't follow x2 timestep relationship as TTOL does (shown in plot)
- Qspice does not go back in time during simulation but instead looks at the future step to determine whether it needs to reduce the next simulation timestep
- If the future step causes a state change, Qspice recognizes that the current timestep is not suitable and reduces its timestep to TTOI
- Once TTOL is triggered, every subsequent timestep is multiplied by 2 until it reaches the maximum step condition







### How timestep works? (DLL Ø-Device)

#### Qspice : DLLworkflow.qsch | dllworkflow.cpp

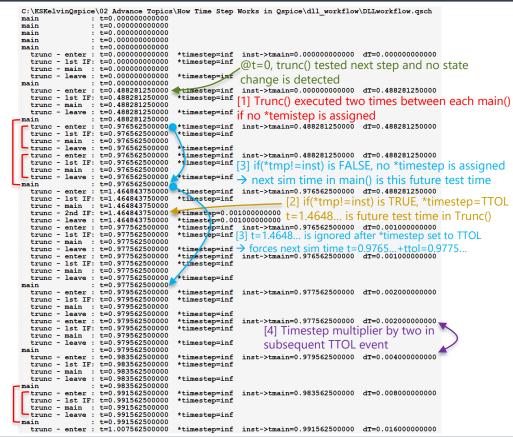
- DLL workflow (analysis code)
  - C++ code with multiple display to return t, \*timestep at moment includes
    - main: standard main call
    - trunc-main: main called from Trunc()
    - **trunc-enter**: just enter Trunc()
    - trunc-1st if: just after if(\*timestep>ttol) is TRUE
    - trunc-2nd if: just after if(tmp!=\*inst) is TRUE
    - trunc-leave : before leaving Trunc()
  - Major variable
    - inst->tmain : dll time (t)
  - Special setup in schematic
    - Setup .tran to 500s but abortsim at 3s, to force Qspice to default maxstep ~ 500ms
    - Timestep is calculated with analog time – DLL time with .func timestep()

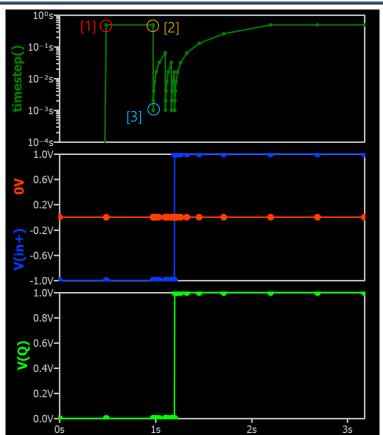
```
.tran 500 ;uic
  .plot V(Q)
  .plot V(in+) 0V
                       .func timestep() time-V(dlltime)
  .plot timestep()
                       .option Max1stStep=1e308
            X1
                                Max1stStep is used
            DLLworkflow
                                to disable 1st stepsize
                        dlltime
    V=if(time>1.2,1,-1)
         Set long simulation time (500s) to force
   B1 Ospice to run with relatively loose timestep
Use Abortsim to stop simulation at 3s
       =Abortsim(if(time>3,1,0))
// Implement module evaluation code here:
   Q = pos > neq;
   temp = t;
   inst->last0 = 0;
   inst->tmain = t:
   if (inst->inTrunc == 0)
                                     : t=%.12f\r\n",t);
       display ("main
      display(" trunc - main : t=%.12f\r\n",t);
```

```
declspec(dllexport) void Trunc(struc
{ // limit the timestep to a tolerance if the circ
  const double ttol = 1e-3;
  //const double ttol = 1:
  display(" trunc - enter : t=%.12f
                                       *timestep=
  if(*timestep > ttol)
                trunc - 1st IF: t=%.12f *timest
     display("
          &Q = data[2].b; // output
     double &temp = data[3].d; // output
                                Inst->inTrunc = 1
     // Save output vector
     const bool
                               if main is called
     const double _temp = temp; from Trunc()
     inst->inTrunc=1;
     struct sDLLWORKFLOW tmp = *inst;
     dllworkflow(&(&tmp), t, data);
     inst->inTrunc=0;
     if(tmp != *inst) // implement a meaningful
        *timestep = ttol;
     if(tmp.lastQ != inst->lastQ) {
        *timestep = ttol;
                   trunc - 2nd IF: t=%.12f
         display("
      // Restore output vector
     temp = -temp;
             trunc - leave : t=%.12f
```

## How timestep works? (DLL Ø-Device): TTOL=1e-3 in Trunc()

Qspice: DLLworkflow.qsch | dllworkflow.cpp

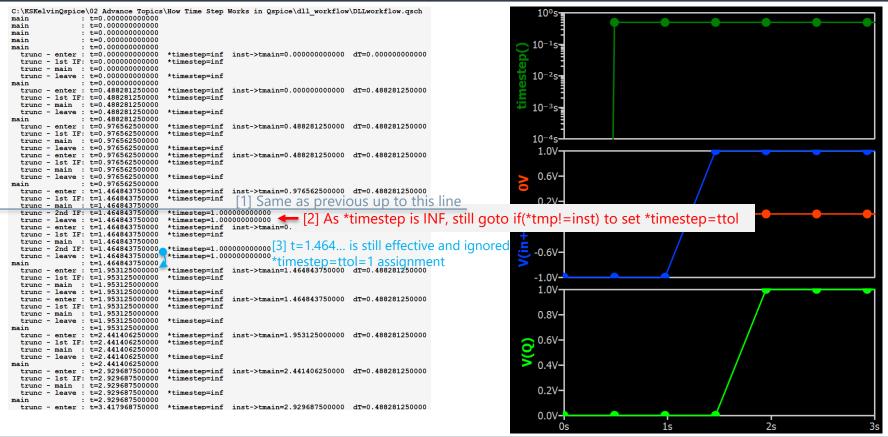




## How timestep works? (DLL Ø-Device): TTOL=1 in Trunc()

Qspice: DLLworkflow.qsch | dllworkflow.cpp

\*\* TTOL is larger than timestep using in this simulation



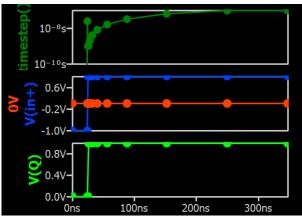
### Conclusion

- Conclusion from this Study
  - Timestep in Qspice is adaptive, which determine by
    - .option maxstep
    - .option max1ststep: the first timestep in .tran
    - Tstart and Tstop in .tran
    - Devices with timestep control ability (e.g. Voltage source, Switch, ¥-Device)
    - Return of MaxExtStepSize() or \*timestep in Trunc() in DLL block (Ø-Device)
  - Qspice never goes back in time during simulation, but it examines the future steps to determine if the timestep is too aggressive based on user-defined criteria in DLL block
  - Qspice devices can utilize output state changes with if(\*tmp!=inst) OR whatever you do to force \*timestep to change within Trunc().
  - \*timestep in Trunc() is always equal +INF when just enter Trunc(). It seems if condition (\*timestep>TTOL) is always TRUE in Trunc()
    - \*timestep in Trunc() not actual timestep itself but a determination factor for actual timestep
  - If trunc() exit with \*timestep change, next simulation time will force to increase by this amount of change (but with exception that \*timestep > ~(Tstop-Tstart)/1000)
  - The actual timestep will be increased by a factor of 2 in each subsequent step, until
    - Re-trigger of if(\*tmp!=inst) OR
    - Reach ~(Tstop-Tstart)/1000 OR
    - Timestep limit from other devices

# Appendix: How timestep works? (DLL Ø-Device) – First Step in DLL

**Qspice**: DLLworkflow - 1st Trunc.qsch

```
C:\KSKelvinQspice\02 Advance Topics\How Time Step Works in Qspice\trunc 1st\DLLworkflow - 1st Trun
main
                : t=0.000000000000
                : t=0.000000000000
main
                                      These only exist if uic is in .tran
main
                : t=0.000000000000
                : t=0.000000000000
main
                : t=0.000000000000
                                    *timestep=inf inst->tmain=0.00000000000 dT=0.00000000000
       - enter : t=0.000000000000
         1st IF: t=0.000000000000
                                    *timestep=inf
                                                  @t=0 in main, trunc() test future step at t=9.7656e-8
                  t=0.000000000000
  trunc - leave : t=0.000000000000
                : t=0.000000000000
main
        - enter: t=0.000000097656
                                   *timestep=inf inst->tmain=0.000000000000
                                    *timestep=inf
        - 1st IF: t=0.000000097656
          main : t=0.000000097656
         2nd IF: t=0.000000097656
                                    *timestep=0.00000001000
                                    *timestep=0.00000001000
          leave : t=0.000000097656
                                   **timestep=inf inst->tmain=0.00000000000 dT=0.000000048828
         enter: t=0.000000048828
         1st IF: t=0.000000048828
                                    *timestep=inf
                                     Use binary search for the first timestep size if *timestep is assigned
         main : t=0.000000048828
          2nd IF: t=0.000000048828
                                    *timestep=0.000000001000
          leave : t=0.000000048828
                                    *timestep=0.000000001000
                                    *timestep=inf inst->tmain=0.00000000000 dT=0.000000024414
         enter: t=0.000000024414
        - 1st IF: t=0.000000024414
                                    *timestep=inf
               : t=0.000000024414
  trunc - leave : t=0.000000024414
                                    *timestep=inf
                : t=0.000000024414
                                                   inst->tmain=0.000000024414 dT=0.000000024414
  trunc - enter : t=0.000000048828
                                    *timestep=inf
  trunc - 1st IF: t=0.000000048828
                                    *timestep=inf
          main : t=0.000000048828
         2nd IF: t=0.000000048828
                                    *timestep=0.00000001000
         leave : t=0.000000048828
                                    *timestep=0.00000001000
         enter: t=0.000000025414
                                    *timestep=inf inst->tmain=0.000000024414 dT=0.00000001000
         1st IF: t=0.000000025414
                                    *timestep=inf
          main : t=0.000000025414
          2nd IF: t=0.000000025414
                                    *timestep=0.00000001000
          leave: t=0.000000025414
                                    *timestep=0.00000001000
                                    *timestep=inf inst->tmain=0.000000024414 dT=0.00000001000
          enter: t=0.000000025414
       - 1st IF: t=0.000000025414
                                    *timestep=inf
         main : t=0.000000025414
                                    *timestep=0.00000001000
       - 2nd IF: t=0.000000025414
  trunc - leave : t=0.000000025414
                                    *timestep=0.00000001000
                : t=0.000000025414
                                    *timestep=inf inst->tmain=0.000000025414 dT=0.00000001000
  trunc - enter : t=0.000000026414
```



Appendix A

\*timestep in TRUNC

### \*timestep=TTOL in Trunc()

#### Qspice: TruncOP.qsch | truncop.dll

```
.tran 500 ;uic
.func timestep() time-V(dlltime)
.plot timestep()
X1 ; disable first-step limit
.option MAX1STSTEP=1e308

Set long simulation time (500s) to force
Qspice to run with relatively loose timestep
Use Abortsim to stop simulation at 3s

V=Abortsim(if(time>14,1,0))
```

```
// Implement module evaluation code here:
   temp = t:
   inst->tmain = t:
   inst->counter++:
   if (inst->inTrunc == 0)
      display("main
                              : t=%.12f\r\n",t);
   else
      display(" trunc - main : t=%.12f\r\n",t);
extern "C" declspec(dllexport) double MaxExtStepSize
   if(inst->counter > 50)
                                 Change maxstep at
      return 5e-2;
  else if (inst->counter > 25)
      return 3e-1:
                                 different count
      return 1e308; // implement a good choice of max to
```

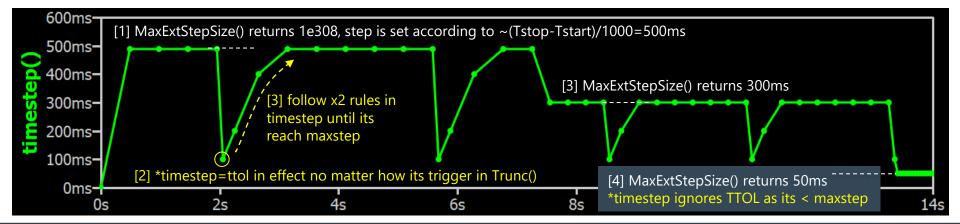
#### **Test concept**

- A counter in module evaluation code
- Whatever counter%10==0, trigger \*timestep=ttol in Trunc()

```
extern "C" __declspec(dllexport) void Trunc(
{    // limit the timestep to a tolerance if th
    const double ttol = 1e-1;

// if(tmp != *inst) // implement
// *timestep = ttol;
if(inst->counter%10==0)

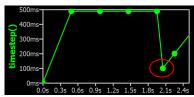
    *timestep = ttol;
    display(" trunc - 2nd IF:
    inst->counter++;
```



## Special Obervation (With and Without counter++ in Trunc())

## [No Explanation yet]

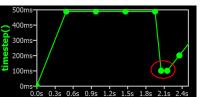
### With inst->counter++



```
trunc - leave : t=1.953125000000
                                         *timestep=inf
     main
                     : t=1.953125000000
36
      trunc - enter : t=2.441406250000
                                         *timestep=inf
                                                       inst->tmain=1.953125000000 dT=0.488281250000
             - 1st IF: t=2.441406250000
                                         *timestep=inf
                                                                     Identical before this line
       trunc = main : t=2.441406250000
       trunc - 2nd IF: t=2.441406250000
                                         *timestep=0.100000000000
      trunc - leave : t=2.441406250000
                                         *timestep=0.100000000000
41
     trunc - enter : t=2.053125000000
                                         *timestep=inf
                                                       inst->tmain=1.953125000000 dT=0.100000000000
42
       trunc - 1st IF: t=2.053125000000
                                         *timestep=inf
43
                                                                                                           43
       trunc - main : t=2.053125000000
45
     trunc - leave : t=2.053125000000
                                         *timestep=inf
                                                                1st step is same by t+ttol
46
     main
                     : t=2.053125000000
47
       trunc - enter : t=2.253125000000
                                         *timestep=inf
                                                        inst->tmain=2.053125000000 dT=0.200000000000
       trunc - 1st IF: t=2.253125000000
                                         *timestep=inf
       trunc - main : t=2.253125000000
       trunc - leave : t=2.253125000000
                                         *timestep=inf
                     : t=2.253125000000
       trunc - enter : t=2.653125000000
                                                       inst->tmain=2.253125000000 dT=0.400000000000
                                         *timestep=inf
       trunc - 1st IF: t=2.653125000000
                                         *timestep=inf
54
       trunc - main : t=2.653125000000
                                                                                                           54
       trunc - leave : t=2.653125000000
                                         *timestep=inf
56
     main
                     : t=2.653125000000
       trunc - enter : t=3.141406250000
                                         *timestep=inf
                                                        inst->tmain=2.653125000000 dT=0.488281250000
       trunc - 1st IF: t=3.141406250000
                                         *timestep=inf
       trunc - main : t=3.141406250000
       trunc - leave : t=3.141406250000
                                         *timestep=inf
```

#### Without inst->counter++

```
if(inst->counter%10==0)
{
    *timestep = ttol;
    display(" trunc - 2)
    //inst->counter++;
}
```



```
*timestep=inf
 trunc - leave : t=1.953125000000
               : t=1.953125000000
trunc - enter : t=2.441406250000
                                   *timestep=inf inst->tmain=1.953125000000
 trunc - 1st IF: t=2.441406250000
                                   *timestep=inf
 trunc - main : t=2.441406250000
 trunc - 2nd IF: t=2.441406250000
                                   *timestep=0.100000000000
 trunc - leave : t=2.441406250000
                                   *timestep=0.100000000000
rtrunc - enter : t=2.053125000000
                                   *timestep=inf inst->tmain=1.953125000000
 trunc - 1st IF: t=2.053125000000
                                   *timestep=inf
 trunc - main : t=2.053125000000
 trunc - 2nd IF: t=2.053125000000
                                   *timestep=0.100000000000
 trunc - leave : t=2.053125000000
                                   *timestep=0.100000000000
               : t=2.053125000000
 trunc - enter : t=2.153125000000
                                   *timestep=inf inst->tmain=2.058125000000
                                                                              dT=0.1000000000000
 trunc - 1st IF: t=2.153125000000
                                   *timestep=inf
 trunc - main : t=2.153125000000
 trunc - leave : t=2.153125000000
                                   *timestep=inf
               : t=2.153125000000
 trunc - enter : t=2.353125000000
                                   *timestep=inf
                                                  inst->tmain=2.158125000000 dT=0.200000000000
 trunc - 1st IF: t=2.353125000000
                                   *timestep=inf
 trunc - main : t=2.353125000000
 trunc - leave : t=2.353125000000
                                   *timestep=inf
               : t=2.353125000000
 trunc - enter : t=2.753125000000
                                   *timestep=inf inst->tmain=2.35B125000000
 trunc - 1st IF: t=2.753125000000
                                   *timestep=inf
 trunc - main : t=2.753125000000
 trunc - leave : t=2.753125000000
                                   *timestep=inf
```

If(inst->counter%10==0) is still true in 2<sup>nd</sup> trunc() test \*timestep=ttol is re-assign again