Hi, All -

A clarification question came up in one of my SystemVerilog classes regarding the $past number_of_ticks argument. A student questioned whether the argument could be an expression and I believe the answer is no, but LRM does not definitively make a precise definition. There is no BNF to describe the $past arguments.

I did a SVDB search on number_of_ticks and only found Mantis item 1591, which did not cover the topic.

Proposal (if my assumption is correct):

17.7.3 Sampled value functions
Bottom of page 247

WAS:
`number_of_ticks` must be **`1`** or greater. If **`number_of_ticks`** is not specified, then it defaults to **`1`**. **`$past`** returns the sampled value of the expression that was present **`number_of_ticks`** prior to the time of evaluation of **`$past`**. A clock tick is based on **`clocking_event`**. If the specified clock tick in the past is before the start of simulation, the returned value from the **`$past`** function is a value of X.

PROPOSED:
`number_of_ticks` must be **an integer constant** of **`1`** or greater. If **`number_of_ticks`** is not specified, then it defaults to **`1`**. **`$past`** returns the sampled value of the expression that was present **`number_of_ticks`** prior to the time of evaluation of **`$past`**. A clock tick is based on **`clocking_event`**. If the specified clock tick in the past is before the start of simulation, the returned value from the **`$past`** function is a value of X.

Regards - Cliff