

# Differences Between a Cortex M3 Processor and the MCF51QE128

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## 1 Introduction

The MCF51QE128 provides balance between flexibility and high performance.

The MCF51QE128 is part of Freescale's Controller Continuum, providing a compatibility path from the ultra-low end RS08 to the high-end ColdFire V4. It also includes mid-end HCS08 ColdFire V2 and V3 families. It has a high performance core and high integration of peripherals with high levels of flexibility and simple programming.

This application note compares peripherals and performance between an ARM Cortex M3 microcontroller and the MCF51QE128. It uses software to compare simple implementations between both microcontrollers.

Because of similar functions and peripherals to the MCF51QE128, the LM3S811 from Luminary Micro is used for this comparison.

## Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Feature Comparison	2
2.1	I/O	3
2.2	Keyboard Interrupt (KBI)	5
2.3	Internal Clock Source (ICS)	6
2.4	Interrupt Controller (INTC)	9
2.5	Analog Comparators	10
2.6	12-bit Analog to Digital Converter (ADC)	12
2.7	Real Time Counter (RTC)	15
2.8	IIC	16
2.9	SCI	18
2.10	SPI	21
2.11	Timer (TPM)	22
2.12	Flash	25
2.13	Programmer/Debugger	25
2.14	Low Voltage Detect (LVD)	26
2.15	Watchdog (COP)	26
3	CPU Cores	27
3.1	CPU Modes	28
3.2	CPU Performance	30
3.3	Code Density	33
4	Power Consumption	35
4.1	Test 1: Run Modes	37
4.2	Test 2: Low Power Modes	38
4.3	Test 3: In Application	40
5	Software Considerations	42
6	Conclusions	46

**NOTE**

Details of the LM3S811 are based on publicly available data. This forms the basis of a comparative analysis on a number of features of the MCF51QE128. For detailed analysis of the LM3S811, Luminary Micro must be contacted directly.

## 2 Feature Comparison

The LM3S811 and the MCF51QE128 are not identical parts in terms of pin count or features. They are reasonably similar and are targeted at similar applications. [Table 1](#) gives a brief comparison of the devices.

**Table 1. Feature Comparison Table**

Feature	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
CPU	ARM Cortex M3	ColdFire V1
Supply voltage range	3.0 V to 3.6 V	1.8 V to 3.6 V
Flash size	64 KB	128 KB
Flash programming range	3.0 V to 3.6 V	1.8 V to 3.6 V
RAM size	8 KB	8 KB
Pin quantity	48	64 (up to 80)
Analog comparator (ACMP)	1	2
Maximum CPU speed	50 MHz	50.233 MHz
Maximum bus frequency	50 MHz	25.165 MHz
Analog to digital convertor (ADC) channels	4	22 (up to 24)
Clock generation module	PLL with option for internal or external source	FLL with option for internal or external source
Debugger	JTAG	BDC and DBG
Low voltage detect	Yes, non selectable	Yes, with 2 trigger levels
Keyboard interrupt (KBI)	32	16
Port I/O	32 (48 pin package)	70 (80 pins) <sup>1</sup> 54 (64 pins) <sup>1</sup>
RTC	Yes (with timer)	Yes
Serial communication interface (SCI)	2	2

**Table 1. Feature Comparison Table (continued)**

Feature	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Serial peripheral interface (SPI)	1 (SSI)	2
IIC	1	2
Timer	3	3
Timer channels	6 (2+2+2)	12 (3+3+6)
Dedicated PWM	3 (6 channels total)	No
Watchdog	Yes	Yes

<sup>1</sup> Port I/O count does not include the input-only PTA5/IRQ/TPM1CLK/RESET or the output-only PTA4/ACMP10/BKGD/MS.

The following section discusses detailed peripheral differences between the LM3S811 and the MCF51QE128.

All the software examples were developed as described in [Section 5, “Software Considerations.”](#)

## 2.1 Input/Output (I/O)

[Table 2](#) shows key parameters of the general-purpose I/O pin circuitry.

**Table 2. Key I/O Features**

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Registers in module	23	8 + 6 RapidGPIO
Slew rate control	Only at 8 mA	Yes
Drive strength control	Selectable at 2 mA, 4 mA, 8 mA	Low strength 2 mA, High strength max at 10 mA
Internal pullup/pulldown	Yes	Yes
High-speed option	No	RapidGPIO available in 2 ports
Port manipulation	Individual bit modification	Set, toggle and clear on 2 ports
Max GPIOs	32, 48 pins	70 + 1 Input only + 1 Output only (80 pins) 54 + 1 Input only + 1 Output only (64 pins)

The LM3S811 has five GPIO ports. It offers one alternative function for each one of the pins that are selectable by the GPIOAFSEL register. Each port has a data register that is mapped to 256 locations, allowing direct access to individual pins without affecting the state of other pins. The location is selected by using bits 9 through 2.

This functionality translates into two additional operations adding complexity. In some cases it is useful if the address is static. For example, an LED driver that always accesses the same pin.

## Feature Comparison

The LM3S811 has control of the pin drive strength, slew rate, pulldown/pullup resistor for each pin, and eight read only identification registers used to identify this module as a GPIO.

The MCF51QE128 has nine different ports offering more flexibility with simpler modules. The I/O arrangement allows the user to multiplex up to five different functions for a pin with a simple priority scheme. If a higher priority module is enabled (with a pin enabled), the pin overrides lower priority functions.

Increasing the flexibility of this part, some pins can be routed to other locations to allow more functions in smaller packages.

Ports C and E include the PTxCLR, PTxSET, and PTxTOG registers. This allows easier data manipulation. These registers allow clearing, setting, or toggling individual pins without affecting other pins and without having to perform a read/modify/write value of the port. This offers a similar function to the 256 memory mapped GPIODATA in the LM3S811 with an easier implementation.

The MCF51QE128 has a Rapid GPIO module that allows faster access to the GPIO pins. Port C and E have this alternative function improving performance by connecting the I/O directly to the processor high-speed bus. Rapid GPIO is especially useful when implementing GPIO-intensive functions, as in software based communication protocols.

The GPIO interrupt function is covered in [Section 2.2, “Keyboard Interrupt \(KBI\).”](#)

The code below compares the implementation of simple GPIO functions in both modules. Observe the use of specialized registers in both microcontrollers. They allow the modification of single pins without affecting the surrounding pins.

LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre>void GPIO_PortOutput_Init (void) Description: Initializes a port as Output and sets initial value</pre>	
<pre>// Enable clock for Port RCGC2  = 0x0002; GPIODIRB = 0x00FF; // Write value of 0x55 *(GPIO_PORTB_BASE_ + (0xFF &lt;&lt; 2)) = 0x55;</pre>	<pre>// Set port as Output PTCDD = 0xFF; // Write value of 0x55 PTCD = 0x55;</pre>
<pre>void GPIO_InitPin (void) Description: Initializes a GPIO pin as output with an initial value</pre>	
<pre>// Set pin High *(GPIO_PORTB_BASE_ + (0x01 &lt;&lt; 2)) = 0x01; // Set pin as output GPIODIRB  = 0x0001;</pre>	<pre>// Set pin High PTCD_PTCD0 = 1; // Set pin as output PTCDD_PTCD0 = 1;</pre>
<pre>void GPIO_PinToggle (void) Description: Toggles a pin</pre>	
<pre>// Toggle Pin *(GPIO_PORTB_BASE_ + (0x01 &lt;&lt; 2)) ^= 0x01;</pre>	<pre>// Toggle Pin PTCTOG = 1;</pre>

## 2.2 Keyboard Interrupt (KBI)

Table 3 shows the key parameters of the KBI circuitry.

**Table 3. Key KBI Features**

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Registers in module	7 x port	3 x KBI module
Number of interrupt I/Os	32	16
Granularity	Pin	Pin
Pin signal	High and low edges and level	High and low edges and level

The GPIO interrupt function is similar in both microcontrollers having the same flexibility to offer programmable edge and level detection at both high and low levels.

The LM3S811 can enable interrupts for each one of its GPIOs, offering a maximum of 32 pins.

The MCF51QE128 has two keyboard interrupt modules (KBI) with a total of 16 pins available in port A, B, and D.

The code below compares the implementation of a keyboard interrupt pin. By using the vector number CodeWarrior allows the declaration of the interrupt service routine in the same source file. This avoids the hassle and complexity caused by declarations in external vector files, for example the Startup.s file used commonly by the LM3S811 with Keil software.

## Feature Comparison

<pre>void KBI_Init(void) Description: Initializes the interrupt function of an I/O pin</pre>	
<b>LM3S811</b>	<b>MCF51QE128</b>
<pre>// Enable Interrupt in Interrupt *((unsigned long *)NVIC_EN0) = 1 &lt;&lt; (INT_GPIOB - INT_GPIOA); // Edge Sensitive *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTB_BASE + GPIO_O_IS)) &amp;= ~0x10; // Single Edge *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTB_BASE + GPIO_O_IBE)) &amp;= ~0x10; // Falling Edge *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTB_BASE + GPIO_O_IEV)) &amp;= ~0x10; // Enable Interrupt *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTB_BASE + GPIO_O_IM))  = 0x10;</pre>	<pre>// Enable Pull-Up in pin PTAPE_PTAPE2 = 1; // Enable Interrupt in pin KBI1PE_KBIPE2 = 1; // Low-Level KBI1ES_KBEDG2 = 0; // Enable interrupt from KBI on Edge KBI1SC = KBI1SC_KBIE   KBI1SC_KBACK;</pre>
<pre>void KBI_ISR(void) Description: Interrupt Service Routine for IO Interrupt</pre>	
<b>LM3S811</b>	<b>MCF51QE128</b>
<pre>void KBI_ISR(void) {     // Clear Flag     *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTB_BASE + GPIO_O_ICR)) = 0x10; }</pre>	<pre>interrupt VectorNumber_Vkeyboard void KBI_ISR(void){     KBI1SC_KBACK = 1; // Clear Flag }</pre>

## 2.3 Internal Clock Source (ICS)

Table 4 shows the key parameters of the INTC circuitry.

Table 4. Key INTC Features

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Registers in module (including clock gating)	7	6
Clock sources	Internal or external	Internal or external
Crystal/resonator frequencies	3.579545 MHz– 8.192 MHz	32-38.4 kHz 1–16 MHz
Total maximum deviation for internal reference	±50%	±2%
Clock gating	Yes	Yes
FLL/PLL can be disabled	Yes	Yes

The clock scheme for both parts is represented in the following figures:

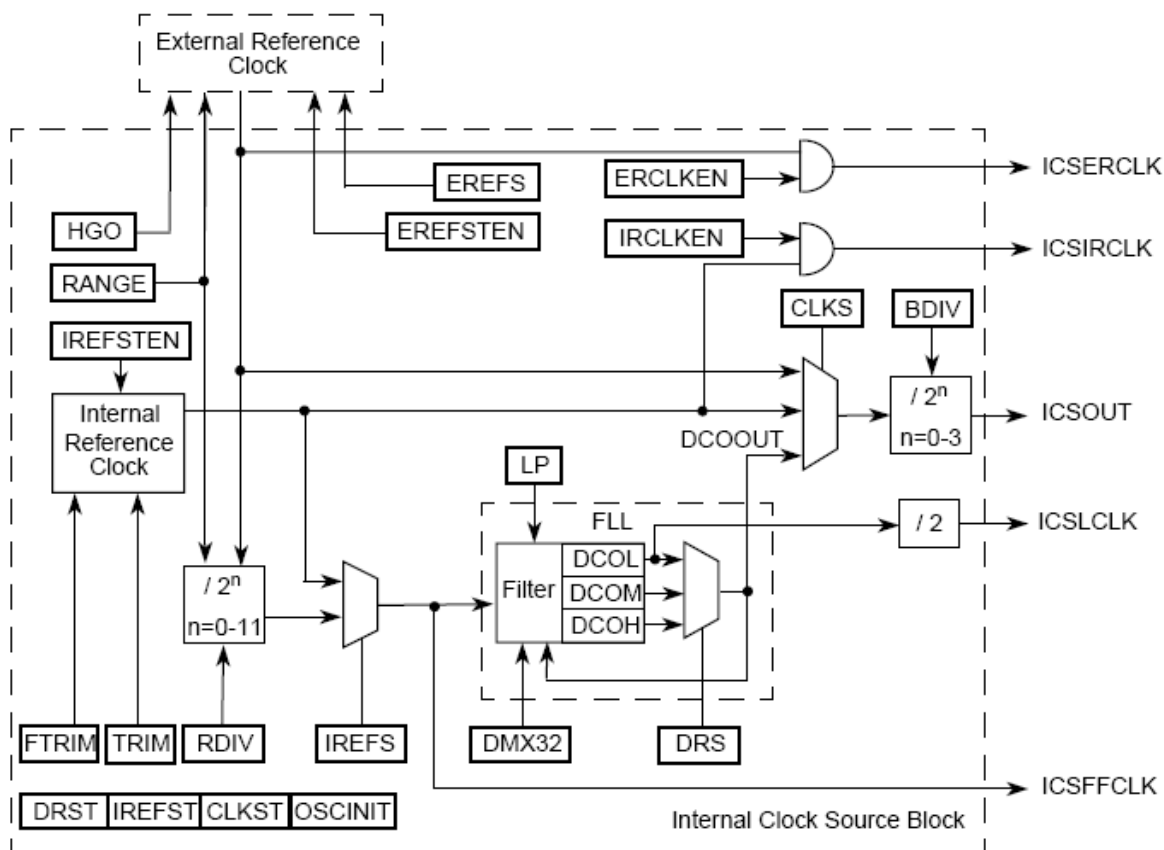


Figure 1. MCF51QE128 ICS Module Block Diagram

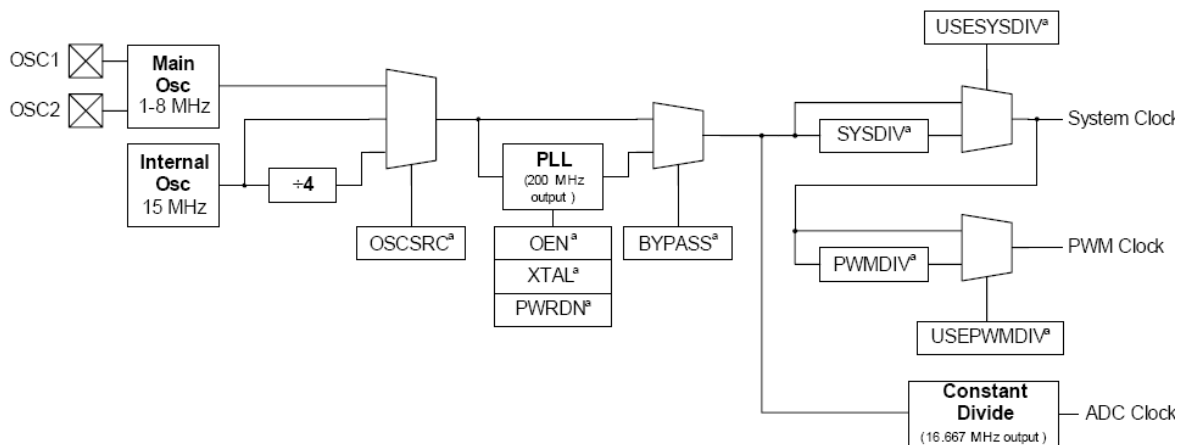


Figure 2. LM3S811 Clock Tree

## Feature Comparison

Both modules offer similar functions. They can select an internal or external clock source with the option to enable or disable an FLL, (or PLL for the LM3S811) or supply higher frequencies to the processor and bus.

Some differences include an inaccurate internal oscillator on the LM3S811, that is mostly intended to drive the part after reset and/or when accuracy is not required, by offering a  $\pm 50\%$  deviation. The MCF51QE128 includes an accurate internal oscillator. After trimmed it can stay within  $\pm 0.2\%$  at a fixed voltage and temperature range, or a  $\pm 2\%$  over voltage and temperature.

The MCF51QE128 also includes an option to use low range crystals from 32 kHz – 38.4 kHz. Translating directly into more flexibility with lower cost for the final application and lower-power consumption. This is not offered by the LM3S811.

Both parts offer the function of clock gating. This allows the user to select the parts to be actively driven by the clock. This reduces power consumption. The LM3S811 includes two more registers for clock gating in sleep and deep-sleep modes.

Although there are more registers and bits associated with clock configuration. [Table 5](#) shows the different clock modes and basic register settings for the MCF51QE128 and the LM3S811.

**Table 5. Supported Clock Modes and Basic Register Configuration**

Characteristic/Function	MCF51QE128	LM3S811
FEI: FLL on using internal oscillator to supply CPU and bus clocks	CLKS: 00 IREFS: 1 LP: 0	OSCSRC: 10 BYPASS: 0 OEN: 0 PWRDN: 0
FEE: FLL on using external oscillator supplying CPU and bus clocks	CLKS: 00 IREFS: 0 LP: 0	OSCSRC: 00 BYPASS: 0 OEN: 0 PWRDN: 0
FBI: FLL on but CPU and bus clocks supplied directly from internal oscillator	CLKS: 01 IREFS: 1 LP: 0	OSCSRC: 01 BYPASS: 1 OEN: 1 PWRDN: 0
FBILP: FLL off, BDC disabled, CPU, and bus clocks supplied directly from internal oscillator	CLKS: 01 IREFS: 1 LP: 1	OSCSRC: 01 BYPASS: 1 OEN: 1 PWRDN: 1
FBE: FLL on but CPU and bus clocks supplied directly from external oscillator	CLKS: 10 IREFS: 0 LP: 0	OSCSRC: 00 BYPASS: 1 OEN: 1 PWRDN: 0
FBELP: FLL off, BDC disabled, CPU, and bus clocks supplied directly from external oscillator	CLKS: 10 IREFS: 0 LP: 1	OSCSRC: 00 BYPASS: 1 OEN: 1 PWRDN: 1



## 2.4 Interrupt Controller (INTC)

Table 6 shows the key parameters of the INTC circuitry.

**Table 6. Key INTC Features**

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Registers in module	146	14
Interrupt levels		7 (or 1 for HCS08 compatibility)
Interrupt priorities	Max 256	8
Reposition vector table	Yes	Yes
Priority re-assignment	All interrupts	2 interrupts

The LM3S811 interrupt controller (NVIC) is a powerful module that allows prioritization of each interrupt and 256 different levels with the capability to group interrupts in pre-emption groups. This provides better software control allowing the user to mask groups of interrupts. It also has the capability to relocate the vector table in a non-volatile memory or RAM.

The MCF51QE128 has a simpler interrupt controller (INTC). It has seven interrupt levels with eight priority levels each, having a total of 56 level-priority combinations. Interrupts can be masked by using the interrupt level resulting in a similar function for preemption groups used by the ARM core. It can also be configured to have one level for compatibility with the HCS08.

The module allows users to relocate the vector table in flash or RAM. It also adds the capability to promote two interrupt vectors to a higher level-priority.

The NVIC has more flexibility and pays the price for having very high complexity. It includes 146 registers (without involving CPU registers) with information about interrupt handling. You can find it in three different reference manuals with more than 400 pages each; the LM3S811 data sheet, the Cortex-M3 TRM, and the ARMv7-M Architecture RM.

The INTC has a balance between flexibility and simplicity, ideal for a low-end to mid-end microcontroller. It provides a similar function with only fourteen registers. Information is available in one reference manual.

## 2.5 Analog Comparators (ACMP)

Table 7 gives a quick overview of the key ACMP parameters, showing the specifics of both parts' modules.

**Table 7. Key Analog Comparator Features**

Features	LMS3S811	MCF51QE128
Registers in module	6	1
Internal reference	16 steps from 0.825 V - 2.37 V or 0.0 V – 2.0625 V	1.2 V
Input options	Two pins or internal reference on non-inverting input	Two pins or internal reference on non-inverting input
Additional trigger options	Can trigger the ADC	Can trigger a timer input capture channel

The analog comparator is a module in both microcontrollers similar in functions. Both have the capability to interrupt the microcontroller, trigger another event, enable an internal reference to the non-inverting input, enable/disable a comparator output, and wake the microcontroller from a low-power mode.

One of the differences between the LM3S811 and the MCF51QE128 is the capability they have for configuring the internal reference. The LM3S811 configures the internal reference at two different ranges with steps defined by 4-bits of the ACREFTL register and 32 options from 0.0 to 2.37 V. The MCF51QE128 can enable an internal bandgap fixed at 1.2 V.

Another feature of both microcontrollers is the flexibility to route the interrupt to a second peripheral. In the LM3S811, the ACMP can signal an event to the ADC channel. This is useful to start a conversion when the comparison is met. The MCF51QE128 can be configured to send the output of the analog comparator to the timer input capture channel offering flexibility for motor control functions.

The code below compares the implementation of a simple ACMP configuration. The table uses interrupts to detect a rising or falling edge and using both the inverting and non-inverting inputs.

<pre>void ACMP_Init(void) Description: Initializes the Analog Comparator to interrupt when a rising or falling edge is detected for the Comparator output.</pre>	
LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre>// Enable Clock for ACMP0 *((unsigned long *) SYSCTL_RCGC1)  = 0x01000000; // Enable Interrupt in NVIC *((unsigned long *) NVIC_EN0) = 1 &lt;&lt; (INT_COMP0 - INT_GPIOA);  // Enable ACMP function in C+ and C- pins *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTB_BASE + GPIO_O_DEN)) &amp;= ~0x28; *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTB_BASE + GPIO_O_PUR)) &amp;= ~0x28; *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTB_BASE + GPIO_O_PDR)) &amp;= ~0x28;  // Enable ACMP interrupt *((unsigned long *) (COMP_BASE + COMP_O_INTEN)) = 0x01; // Disable Internal Reference *((unsigned long *) (COMP_BASE + COMP_O_REFCTL)) = 0x00; // Configure ACMP to detect any edge using C0+ and C0- *((unsigned long *) (COMP_BASE + COMP_O_ACCTL0)) = 0x20C; /* 0000001000001100        + X        +--- ACMPxO not inverted        +-\ Either Edge        +--/        +++++--- X        +-----\ VIN+ input = C0+        +-----/        +----- ADC event disabled +++++----- X */</pre>	<pre>ACMP1SC = 0xB3; /* 0b10110011;        _        _ &gt; Detect both edges        +---- ACMPxO disabled        +----- X        +----- ACMP Interrupt Enabled        +----- Clear ACMP Flag  +----- Use ACMP+ +----- ACMP Enabled */</pre>
<pre>void ACMP_ISR(void) Description: Interrupt Service Routine for IO Interrupt</pre>	
LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre>void ACMP_ISR(void) { // Clear flag *((unsigned long *) (COMP_BASE + COMP_O_MIS)) = 0x01; }</pre>	<pre>interrupt VectorNumber_Vacmpx void ACMP_ISR(void){ ACMP1SC_ACF = 1; // Clear flag }</pre>

Differences Between a Cortex M3 Processor and the MCF51QE128, Rev. 0

## 2.6 12-bit Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC)

Table 8 gives a quick overview of the key ADC parameters and shows the specification of both part modules.

**Table 8. Key ADC Features**

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Registers in module	26	10
Bit resolution	10	12
# channels	4	24
Internal temperature sensor	Yes	Yes
Min. conversion Time	2 $\mu$ s	2.5 $\mu$ s
Trigger	SW, Timer, GPIO, PWM, ACMP	SW or RTC
Internal reference	No	Yes
Interrupt on compare	No	Yes
Result registers	4 (with FIFO of 1 to 8)	1

The LM3S811 has a 10-bit ADC with four channels. It implements a queue-type mechanism with four sequencers that vary in depth from one to eight entries. Each entry in the FIFO can be configured to sample any of the four channels or take a sample from the internal temperature sensor. It also offers a good number of options to trigger the ADC, including software, timer, GPIO interrupt, PWM, and ACMP.

In comparison, the MCF51QE128 has a 12-bit ADC with twenty-four channels and the capability to sample  $V_{SS}$ ,  $V_{DD}$ , an internal temperature sensor, and an internal bandgap at 1.2 V. It offers a good flexibility of options for clock sources, including an external reference, an ADC-internally generated clock, and the bus clock. It has the option to select a short or a long sample time for improved performance and run in a low-power mode at the expense of a slower conversion rate.

The ADC has the option to be triggered from the RTC. This may be useful for low-power applications where the RTC keeps running in stop mode and wakes the microcontroller, starting an immediate ADC conversion without CPU intervention.

An important feature useful for applications requiring continuous ADC measurements is the inclusion of an interrupt-on-compare function. In this mode depending on the comparison, the ADC interrupts the processor with the compare value register (ADCCV). The user can select to compare, if the ADC value is either less than, greater than, or equal to the compare level.

The following shows three basic ADC functions implemented on both processors. The third function represents the implementation of an action-on-compare for both microcontrollers. The LM3S811 requires an interrupt on every sequence to get the value to compare it to the required value. The MCF51QE128 performs this function in the hardware, consuming less CPU time.

void ADC_Init(void) Description: Initializes the ADC to perform a single conversion when triggered by Software	
LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre>// Enable Clock for ADC and set to 500ksamples/sec *((unsigned long *) SYSCTL_RCGC0)  = 0x10200;  // Enable Software trigger *((unsigned long *) (ADC_BASE + ADC_O_EMUX)) = 0x00;  // Set priority for Sequence0 *((unsigned long *) (ADC_BASE + ADC_O_SSPRI)) = 0x00;  // Set AD0 as source for the sample *((unsigned long *) (ADC_BASE + ADC_O_SSMUX0)) = 0x00;  // Set sample0 as the end of the sequence and enable Int flag *((unsigned long *) (ADC_BASE + ADC_O_SSCTL0)) = 0x06;  // Enable Sequencer0 *((unsigned long *) (ADC_BASE + ADC_O_ACTSS)) = 0x01;</pre>	<pre>ADCCFG = 0x44; /* 0b01000100;           +- \ Using Bus Clock (25 MHz)           +-- /           +--- \ 12-bit conversion           +---- /       +----- Short Sample Time     +----- \ Input clock / 4 +----- / (24 MHz/4 = 6.25 MHz) +----- High Speed Config */  ADCSC2 = 0x00; /* 0b00000000;       +++++-- X     +----- Compare fx Disabled   +----- SW Trigger +----- X */  /* Disable I/O funct for AD0 */ APCTL1_ADPC0 = 1;</pre>
unsigned short ADC_Single_Conversion(void) Description: Performs a Single 10-bit(LM3S811) or 12-bit (MCF51QE128) conversion using polling to wait for completion	
LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre>// Trigger Sequencer0 (takes 1 sample of AD0) *((unsigned long *) (ADC_BASE + ADC_O_PSSI)) = 0x01;  // Wait for completion while (!( *((unsigned long *) (ADC_BASE + ADC_O_RIS)) &amp; 0x01) ;  // Return result value return *((unsigned long *) (ADC_BASE + ADC_O_SSFIFO0));</pre>	<pre>ADCSC1 = 0x00; /* 0b00000000;       +++++-- Conversion on AD0     +----- One Conversion   +----- Interrupt Disabled +----- X */  /* wait for conversion */ while (!ADCSC1_COCO) ;  /* Return result value */ return ADCR;</pre>

Differences Between a Cortex M3 Processor and the MCF51QE128, Rev. 0

## Feature Comparison

LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre> void ADC_Conversion_Compare_12(unsigned short Comp_Val) Description: This option exemplifies the implementation of an ADC reading a value continuously and executing an action if the value exceeds a threshold. // Global variable with Compare value unsigned short Threshold; {   // Exemplify configuration of ADC to execute   interrupt   ADC_Configure();   Threshold = Comp_Val; }  void ADC_ISR(void){   unsigned short value;   value = *((unsigned long *) (ADC_BASE +   ADC_O_SSFIFO0));    if (Threshold &gt;= value){     /* Perform Action */   } } </pre>	<pre> {   /* Configure ADC clock and mode */   ADCCFG = 0x44;   ADCSC2 = 0x30;   /*   0b00110000;      ++++-- X      +----- Compare on &gt;=     +----- Compare Enabled    +----- Software Trigger   +----- X   */    ADCCV = Comp_Val;    ADCSC1 = 0x30;   /*   0b01100000;      ++++-- Conversion on AD0     +----- Continuous Conversion    +----- Interrupt Enabled   +----- X   */ }  interrupt VectorNumber_Vadc void ADC_ISR() {   unsigned short value;   value = ADCR;   /* Perform Action */ } </pre>
<p>Software implementation = continuous interrupts consuming CPU time</p>	<p>Hardware implementation = one interrupt only when the ADC result is greater then the compare value</p>

## 2.7 Real Time Counter (RTC)

Table 9 shows the key parameters of the RTC modules and functions of each module.

**Table 9. Key RTC Features**

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Registers in module	18 (general purpose timer)	3
Counter bits	32	8
Interrupt intervals	Configurable	Configurable
Granularity	Seconds	Configurable
Clock sources	CCP0, CCP2, or CCP4 pins using a 32.768 kHz clock	Internal Osc, LPO, or crystal

The LM3S811 has three general purpose timers that can be configured as 32-bit real time clocks. It offers the option to interrupt the processor based on the 32-bit timer. It can be used for applications requiring long interrupt periods (minutes, hours, and so on).

The RTC implementation for the LM3S811 needs an external 32.768 kHz clock connected to one of the timer pins that does not allow periods smaller than 1 second.

The MCF51QE128 has a real timer counter module offering the option to use one of three clock sources, a 32 kHz internal oscillator, an external crystal/resonator, and a 1 kHz low power oscillator. It also includes a prescaler allowing more granularity in the RTC period with the option to select from a divider of 1 to  $10^5$ , and an 8-bit modulo providing the capability to multiply the interval up to 256 times.

This module offers the following features:

- Capability to enable the module to keep running in any operating mode from run mode to stop2
- Run from low-power-oscillator achieving power consumption numbers. For example ~670 nA in stop2 mode without losing RTC wakeup capability
- Run from an external crystal with increased accuracy that remains below 1  $\mu$ A (~980 nA in STOP3 mode with a 32 kHz crystal)
- Triggers the ADC automatically after a timeout reducing CPU intervention when waking from a low power mode

The following shows basic functions and configuring the RTC to interrupt the processor at a particular period.

<pre>void RTC_Init(void) Description: Initializes the RTC to interrupt the processor at the end of a period</pre>	
<b>LM3S811</b>	<b>MCF51QE128</b>
<pre>// Enable Clock for TIMER 2 and PortC *((unsigned long *) SYSCTL_RCGC1)  = 0x40000; *((unsigned long *) SYSCTL_RCGC2)  = 0x00004;  // Enable Interrupt in NVIC *((unsigned long *) NVIC_EN0) = 1 &lt;&lt; (INT_TIMER2A - INT_GPIOA);  // Enable PTC7/PP4 for Timer functionality *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTC_BASE + GPIO_O_AFSEL))  = 0x80;  // Configure the timer for RTC functionality *((unsigned long *) (TIMER2_BASE + TIMER_O_CFG)) = 0x01; // Configure timer to interrupt at 2 seconds *((unsigned long *) (TIMER2_BASE + TIMER_O_TAMATCHR)) = 0x02; // Enable Interrupt for RTC *((unsigned long *) (TIMER2_BASE + TIMER_O_IMR)) = 0x0008; // Enable RTC *((unsigned long *) (TIMER2_BASE + TIMER_O_CTL))  = 0x0010; // Start timer *((unsigned long *) (TIMER2_BASE + TIMER_O_CTL))  = 0x0001;</pre>	<pre>RTCSC = 0x1B; /* 0b00011011;               +- \               +--  prescaler = 10               +---  (1 kHz/10 = 100Hz)               +----/               +-----/ Interrupt Enable               +-----\ Using LPO (1 kHz)               +-----/ +----- X */ RTCMOD = 9; // Interrupt every 100ms (100hz/10)</pre>
<pre>void RTC_ISR(void) Description: Interrupt Service Routine for RTI</pre>	
<b>LM3S811</b>	<b>MCF51QE128</b>
<pre>void RTC_ISR(void) { *((unsigned long *) (TIMER2_BASE + TIMER_O_ICR)) = 0x0008; }</pre>	<pre>interrupt VectorNumber_Vrtc void RTC_ISR() { RTCSC_RTIF = 1; //Clear flag }</pre>

## 2.8 Inter-Integrated Circuit (IIC)

Table 11 shows the key parameters of the IIC module in both microcontrollers.

Table 10. IIC Key Features

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Registers in module	16	6
Speed	Standard: 100 kHz Fast: 400 kHz	Typical: 100 kHz Max: bus/20
Address scheme	7-bits	7-bits or 10-bits



In both parts, the IIC module is similar in functionality because they are based on the IIC bus standard. It supports master and slave modes with automatic address recognition, support for multiple masters on the bus, and broadcast mode.

The LM3S811 has a restrictive timing scheme that fixes the SCL low and high periods. It has an 8-bit register allowing 256 different frequency combinations and is specified to work at a standard frequency of 100 kHz or a fast frequency of 400 kHz. It also fixes the address to be 7-bit long, making it incompatible with recent revisions of the IIC standard.

The IIC modules in the MCF51QE128 offers sixty-four different combinations of the SCL divider / SDA-SCL hold values when added to three options for a multiplier. It gives a total of 192 options including a minimum divider giving a frequency of 1.25 MHz.

The module supports 7-bit and 10-bit addressing making it compatible with more products in the market.

The following compares the implementation of an IIC initialization function for both microcontrollers.

LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre>void IIC_Init(void) Description: Initializes the IIC at a frequency of 100kHz (or closest)</pre>	
<pre>// Enable Clock for IIC and PortB *((unsigned long *) SYSCCTL_RCGC1)  = 0x1000; *((unsigned long *) SYSCCTL_RCGC2)  = 0x00002;  // Enable PTB2 and PTB3 for IIC functionality *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTB_BASE + GPIO_O_AFSEL))  = 0x0C; *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTB_BASE + GPIO_O_ODR))  = 0x0C;  // Enable Master Mode *((unsigned long *) (I2C_MASTER_BASE + I2C_MASTER_O_CR))  = 0x10;  // Set frequency at 100 kHz ((6 MHz / (2 * (6 + 4) * 100 kHz) - 1) = 2 *((unsigned long *) (I2C_MASTER_BASE + I2C_MASTER_O_TPR)) = 2;</pre>	<pre>IIC2F = 0x57; /* 0b01010111;             +- \             +--  SCL Divider = 128             +---  - 2 MHz             +----  ----- = 97.6 kHz             +-----  (128*2)             +-----/             +-----\ +-----/ Multiplier = 2 */  IIC2C1 = 0xC0; /* 0b11000000;     ++++++-- XXXXXX   +----- IIC Interrupt Enabled +----- IIC Enabled */ }</pre>

## 2.9 Serial Communication Interface (SCI)

Table 11 shows the key parameters of the SCI modules and function of each module.

**Table 11. Key SCI Features**

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Registers in module	24	8
Baud rate	Programmable	Programmable
Max baud rate	460.8 kbps	~1.56 Mbps
Parity generation/checking	Even, odd, stick, or none	Even, odd, or note
Character length	5,6,7, or 8-bits	8 or 9-bit
Break detect	> 11	11 or 13-bit
Buffering/FIFO	2–16 byte FIFO	Double buffered Tx and Rx
Receiver wakeup	No	Idle line or address
Tx invert	No	Yes
Single-wire mode	No	Yes
Loop mode	Yes	Yes

The UART module in the LM3S811 and the SCI module in the MCF51QE128 support the equivalent function of asynchronous communication for the microcontroller.

The LM3S811 has a dual 16 byte FIFO, one for transmission and one for reception. It has the functionality to trigger an interrupt at 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, or 7/8 of the FIFO level. For example, a configuration of 1/4 generates an interrupt every 4 bytes. The FIFO can be disabled and the UART can work in a 1 byte deep double buffered mode. It includes an integral 16-bit baud rate divisor and a fractional 6-bit divisor that allow more granularity and closer baud rates. The registers allow a faster frequency but the data sheet specifies a maximum baud rate of 460.8 kbps.

The MCF51QE128's SCI has a double buffered implementation for reception and transmission. It also has a 13-bit baud rate divider that allows high and highly accurate baud rates, allowing a baud rate mismatch of 4.5% for 8-bits or 4% for 9-bits.

It includes a receiver wakeup mechanism that allows the SCI to ignore characters in a message that are intended for a different receiver. It also eliminates the CPU processing time for unwanted bytes. The receiver can be configured to wake address mark or idle line.

It also allows the implementation of a single wire mode that is useful for the implementation of a half duplex serial connection between devices, therefore releasing one pin to work as a GPIO.

The following shows the initialization and implementation of a UART polling-based transmission and interrupt-based reception.

LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre> void SCI_Init (void) Description: Initializes the SCI to perform polling-based transmissions and interrupt-based receptions  // Enable Clocks for UART and PTA *((unsigned long *) SYSCTL_RCGC1)  = 0x00001; *((unsigned long *) SYSCTL_RCGC2)  = 0x00001;  // Enable PTA[0:1] for UART functionality *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTA_BASE + GPIO_O_AFSEL))  = 0x03;  // Configure UART at 57600 *((unsigned long *) (UART0_BASE + UART_O_IBRD)) = 6; *((unsigned long *) (UART0_BASE + UART_O_FBRD)) = 0x21;  // Configure for 8-N-1 *((unsigned long *) (UART0_BASE + UART_O_LCR_H)) = 0x60;  // Clear Flags *((unsigned long *) (UART0_BASE + UART_O_FR)) = 0x00;  // Enable UART, TX and RX *((unsigned long *) (UART0_BASE + UART_O_CTL))  = 0x31;  // Enable the UART RX Interrupt *((unsigned long *) (UART0_BASE + UART_O_IM))  = 0x10;  // Enable Interrupt in NVIC *((unsigned long *) NVIC_EN0) = 1 &lt;&lt; (INT_UART0 - INT_GPIOA); </pre>	<pre> /* Initialize baud rate 25 MHz ----- ~ 57600bps (16 * 27) */ SCI1BD = 27;  SCI1C1 = 0x00; /* 0b00000000;      +-- X      +--- No Parity     +---- Idle after start bit    +----- Idle-Wakeup   +----- 8bits  +----- X  +----- SCI run in Wait +----- Normal Operation */ SCI1C2 = 0x2C; /* 0b00101100;      +-- Normal Tx operation      +--- Normal Rx Operation     +---- Rx On    +----- Tx On   +----- Idle Interrupt Disabled  +----- RDRF Interrupt Enabled  +----- TC Interrupt Disabled +----- TDRE Interrupt Disabled */ SCI1C3 = 0x00; /* 0b00000000;      +-- Parity Err Int Disabled      +--- Framing Err Int Disabled     +---- Noise Interrupt Disabled    +----- Overrun Int Disabled   +----- Tx not inverted +++----- X */ </pre>

Differences Between a Cortex M3 Processor and the MCF51QE128, Rev. 0

## Feature Comparison

void SCI_SendByte(unsigned char Data) Description: Sends a Byte through the UART	
LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre>// Wait for TX Empty while(*((unsigned long *) (UART0_BASE + UART_O_FR)) &amp; 0x20)     ;  // Send the Char *((unsigned long *) (UART0_BASE + UART_O_DR)) = Data;</pre>	<pre>/* Wait for transmission data register empty flag*/ while (!SCI1S1_TDRE)     ;  /* Send the data */ SCI1D = Data;</pre>
void SCI_RX_ISR() Description: Interrupt Service Routine used to read data from the SCI	
LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre>/* Variable with received data */ unsigned char RxData;  void UART_RX_ISR(void) { // Check for data and get it if (!(*((unsigned long *) (UART0_BASE + UART_O_FR)) &amp; 0x10))     RxData = *((unsigned long *) (UART0_BASE + UART_O_DR));  // Clear the flag *((unsigned long *) (UART0_BASE + UART_O_ICR)) = 0x10; }</pre>	<pre>/* Variable with received data */ unsigned char RxData;  interrupt VectorNumber_Vscilrx void SCI_RX_ISR() {  /* Check flag (needed to ack) */ if (SCI1S1_RDRF){ /* Read the data */ RxData = SCI1D; } }</pre>

## 2.10 Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI)

Table 12 highlights the main features and differences between both asynchronous communication implementations.

**Table 12. Key SPI Features**

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Registers in module	21	5
Modes	Master or slave	Master or slave
Baud rate	Programmable	Programmable
Buffering/FIFO	16-bit 8 location deep FIFO for Tx and Rx	Double buffered Tx and Rx
Format	MSB first	MSB or LSB first
Frame types	TI synchronous serial Freescale SPI MICROWIRE	Full-duplex Single-wire bidirectional
Loopback mode	Yes	No
Data frame size	4 to 16-bits	8-bits

The asynchronous communication in this microcontroller is performed by the synchronous serial interface (SSI) and SPI modules.

The SSI in the LM3S811 supports three communication formats:

- MICROWIRE is half-duplex
- Texas Instruments synchronous serial
- Freescale SPI formats that are full-duplex

The Freescale SPI mode is the most flexible. It allows the user to change the clock polarity and phase with the same implementation found in the MCF51QE128.

The SSI includes features with the capability to select a frame size from 4-bits to 16-bits and the inclusion of two 8-level FIFO; one for reception and the other for transmission. This helps reduce the CPU load but add complexity to the implementation.

The MCF51QE128's SPI module is equivalent to the Freescale SPI mode of the LM3S811. It includes the features single-wire bidirectional mode that releases one pin to be used as a GPIO. It also has the capability to select if the most significant bit (MSB) or least significant bit (LSB) is sent first.

The SPI implements a double buffered mechanism for transmission and reception. This allows a simple implementation with great performance.

The following code shows the implementation and initialization of the SPI for a byte transfer.

## Feature Comparison

void SPI_Init(void) Description: Initializes the SPI to perform polling-based transmissions and reception	
LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre> // Enable Clock for SSI and PortA *((unsigned long *) SYSCTL_RCGC1)  = 0x10; *((unsigned long *) SYSCTL_RCGC2)  = 0x01;  // Enable PTA[5:2] for SPI functionality *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTA_BASE + GPIO_O_AFSEL))  = 0x3C;  // Enable Normal Master Mode *((unsigned long *) (SSI_BASE + SSI_O_CR1)) = 0x00;  // Set Prescaler (6MHz/2 = 3MHz) *((unsigned long *) (SSI_BASE + SSI_O_CPSR)) = 0x02;  // Set frequency at 500kHz (3MHz/500kHz) -1 = 5 //                and Freescale SPI format with 8-bits *((unsigned long *) (SSI_BASE + SSI_O_CR0)) = 0x507;  // Enable SSI *((unsigned long *) (SSI_BASE + SSI_O_CR1))  = 0x02; </pre>	<pre> SPI1BR = 0x41 ; /* 0b01000001;               +- \               +--  Prescaler = 5               +---/ (25MHz / 5 = 5MHz)               +----- X       +----- \     +----- \     +-----  Baudrate Divisor = 4   +-----/ (5MHz /4 = 1.25MHz) +----- X */  SPI1C1 = 0x52 ; /* 0b01010010;               +-- MSb first               +--- Using *SS               +----- Mid-Phase               +----- Active-High Clock               +----- Master mode               +----- SPTEF Interrupt Disabled   +----- SPI Enabled +----- MODF/SPRF int disabled */  SPI1C2 = 0x10; /* 0b00010000;               +-- Normal Mode               +--- SPI runs in Wait               +----- X               +----- Using *SS   +----- X +----- X */ </pre>

unsigned char SPI_TranferByte(unsigned char Data) Description: Sends a Byte and reads a Byte back	
LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre>// Wait for TX empty while (!( *((unsigned long *) (SSI_BASE + SSI_0_SR)) &amp; SSI_SR_TNF))     ;  // Send the data *((unsigned long *) (SSI_BASE + SSI_0_DR)) = Data;  // Wait for Data RX while (!( *((unsigned long *) (SSI_BASE + SSI_0_SR)) &amp; SSI_SR_RNE));  // Read data from SSI. return ( * ((unsigned long *) (SSI_BASE+ SSI_0_DR)));</pre>	<pre>/* Wait for Tx empty flag */ while (!SPI1S_SPTEF)     ;  /* Send the Byte */ SPI1D = Data;  /* Wait for data to be received */ while (!SPI1S_SPRF)     ;  /* Read the data and return it */ return SPI1D;</pre>

## 2.11 Time Pulse Modulator (TPM)

Table 13 shows the timer module key features.

**Table 13. Key Timer Features**

Features	LM3S811*	MCF51QE128
Registers in module	18	5
Bits	16/32	16
Modes	One-shot timer (16/32-bits) Periodic timer (16/32-bits) RTC (32 bits) Input edge count (16-bits) Input edge time (16-bits) PWM (16-bits edge-aligned)	Input capture Output compare PWM (center / edge aligned) Free running / modulo counter
Clock sources	1	3
Prescalers	None	8
Integration	Can trigger ADC	Can be triggered by ACMP
Timers in MCU	3	3
Number of channels	2+2+2 = 6 total	3+3+6 = 12 total

\* This table shows the characteristics of the LM3S811's general purpose timers. It offers similar functions compared to the MCF51QE128 TPM modules. The LM3S811 has three additional PWM modules having six more channels with dedicated PWM functionality.

The timer modules in both microcontrollers are similar. They offer a good level of flexibility and basic functionalities:

- Event detection (input capture/ input edge time) on rising, falling, or both edges
- Pulse width modulation (PWM)
- Counter:
  - Output compare
  - Free running counter
  - Modulo counter
  - One-shot timer
  - Periodic timer

The timer in the LM3S811 includes two 16-bit counters that can be configured to work together as one 32-bit counter. In this mode the timer is capable of working only as a one-shot timer, periodic timer, and real-time clock. It also has features such as an 8-bit prescaler that extends the range of the counter to 24-bits in some modes, an input edge count mode that allows counting for external events, and the capability to trigger ADC conversions when used in a one-shot timer or periodic timer mode.

The module has some features missing. For example, clock sources that force the user to use the system clock, a 32.768 kHz crystal when in RTC mode, lack of support for center-aligned PWM, and lack of channels offering two per timer.



The LM3S811 also includes a 16-bit PWM module capable of performing edge or center-aligned PWMs with the flexibility to generate complimentary signals with dead-time insertion.

The MCF51QE128 has one main 16-bit counter for each of its three timers and the functionalities shared in common with the LM3S81. It has the capability to run center-aligned PWMs within the same module and flexibility for clock sources. It can also run from an external source driven by one of the pins that can be as high as  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the bus clock.

The MCF51QE128 implements two TPM modules with 3 channels each and an additional one with 6 channels with a total amount of 12 channels. These can be used for input capture, output compare, or PWM. This gives more flexibility for development.

As mentioned in [Section 2.5, “Analog Comparators \(ACMP\),”](#) the analog comparator output can be connected to the timer channel 0 that can be used to trigger an input capture conversion when a specific voltage level is met.

The following code shows the implementation and initialization of the TPM for an input capture function.

## Feature Comparison

void Timer_Init(void) Description: Initializes the Timer to detect a rising edge	
LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre> // Using PD4/CCP0 *((unsigned long *) SYSCTL_RCGC1)  = 0x00010000; *((unsigned long *) SYSCTL_RCGC2)  = 0x00000008;  // Enable PD4 for Timer functionality *((unsigned long *) (GPIO_PORTD_BASE + GPIO_O_AFSEL))  = 0x10;  // Timer in 16-bit Mode *((unsigned long *) (TIMER0_BASE + TIMER_O_CFG)) = 0x04; // Enable Capture Edge-time Mode *((unsigned long *) (TIMER0_BASE + TIMER_O_TAMR)) = 0x07; // Detect Rising Edges *((unsigned long *) (TIMER0_BASE + TIMER_O_CTL)) = 0x00;  // Enable Timer Channel Interrupt *((unsigned long *) (TIMER0_BASE + TIMER_O_IMR))  = 0x04;  // Enable the Timer *((unsigned long *) (TIMER0_BASE + TIMER_O_CTL))  = 0x01;  // Enable Interrupt in NVIC *((unsigned long *) NVIC_EN0) = 1 &lt;&lt; (INT_TIMER0A - INT_GPIOA); </pre>	<pre> // Using TPM3CH0/PTC0 TPM3C0SC = 0x24; /* 0b01000100;         ++- X        +---\ Rising Edge        +----/       +-----\ Input Capture      +-----/     +----- Enable Ch Interrupt    +----- X */ TPM3SC = 0x0B; /* 0b00001011;         +--\         +--  Prescaler = 128         +---/ (6 MHz/8=750 kHz)        +----\ Enable Bus Clock       +----- as Source      +----- No Center-Al PWM     +----- Overflow Int disabled    +----- X */ </pre>
void TMR_CH_ISR () Description: Interrupt Service Routine to get Input Capture value	
LM3S811	MCF51QE128
<pre> unsigned short cap_value; void TIMER_ISR(void){      // Clear Flag     *((unsigned long *) (TIMER0_BASE + TIMER_O_ICR)) = 0x04;      // Read the value     cap_value = *((unsigned long *) (TIMER0_BASE + TIMER_O_TAR)); } </pre>	<pre> /* Variable with captured value*/ unsigned short cap_value;  interrupt VectorNumber_Vtpm3ch0 void TMR_CH_ISR () {      // Clear Flag     if (TPM3C0SC_CH0F)         TPM3C0SC_CH0F = 0;      // Read Value     cap_value = TPM3C0V; } </pre>

## 2.12 Flash

Table 14 gives a quick overview of the key flash parameters and shows the specification of both parts.

**Table 14. Key Flash Parameters**

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Sector size	1 KB	1 KB
Small write size	32-bit word	32-bit word
Smallest erase size	1 KB	1 KB
Write/erase cycles	10,000 (minimum)	10,000 (minimum)
Data retention	10 years (minimum)	15 (minimum)
Programming voltage	3.0 V to 3.6 V	1.8 V to 3.6 V
Min. word program time	20 $\mu$ s	20 $\mu$ s
Page erase time	20 ms	20 ms
Mass erase time	200 ms	100 ms
Protection	Yes	Yes

Both microcontroller flash blocks have similar performance. Freescale flash technology offers better data retention, faster mass erase times, and the capability to program the flash at 1.8 V. The LM3S811 does not work below 3.0 V.

This translates in longer life cycles for battery operated devices and the possibility to keep running at smaller voltages with the same flash functionality.

## 2.13 Programmer/Debugger

Table 15 gives a quick overview of the key debugger parameters of both modules.

**Table 15. Key Debugger Features**

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Type	Serial wire JTAG debug	BDC and DBG (collectively referred to as BDM)
Required pins	5	1
HW breakpoints	6	6
Trace	Only ITM (ETM not implemented)	Yes

Both microcontrollers offer generic real time debugging options using industry accepted interfaces; BDM and JTAG.

Compared to the 5 pins used by the LM3S811 JTAG, the MCF51QE128 BDM has the advantage of being a single wire connection. The common connector for ColdFire uses a 2x3 connector. The ARM uses a 2x10, taking a considerable space in the board.

## Feature Comparison

ColdFire also includes a 64 entry trace buffer. The LM3S811 includes the ITM module for print debugging and a trace port interface unit (TPIU) that sends data from the ITM to an off-chip trace port analyzer. The embedded trace macrocell (ETM) found in some ARM processors is not implemented in the LM3S811.

Both evaluation boards implement the BDM/JTAG through a USB. Therefore, not requiring external tools and making the development easy. A disadvantage in the LM3S811 is, the JTAG pins cannot change their functions. The JTAG communication gets lost and it is impossible to program the part again through a USB. Luminary Micro recommends implementing a recovery mechanism in the application to re-enable JTAG functions on the pins.

This does not happen with the MCF51QE128. The BKGD pin can change functionality during the application and can be forced to use BDM mode after a reset.

## 2.14 Low Voltage Detect (LVD)

Table 16 shows key parameters in the LVD circuitry.

**Table 16. LVD Circuit Levels and Hysteresis**

Features	LM3S811	MCF51QE128
Warning levels	None	2.15 V and 2.48 V
Trip levels	2.9 V	1.86 V and 2.15 V

Both parts offer low voltage with similar functions but different flexibility.

The LM3S811 has a non-configurable trip level of 2.9 V. The MCF51QE128 can be configured at a high (2.15 V) or low level (1.86 V) and offers the option to enable a warning level detection that is configurable at two levels: 2.15 V and 2.48 V.

This warning level can issue an interrupt or raise a flag to be polled. It allows the user to store critical parameters and place the system in a safe state before the trip point occurs.

## 2.15 Watchdog (COP)

The LM3S811 and the MCF51QE128 have an easy to use internal watchdog.

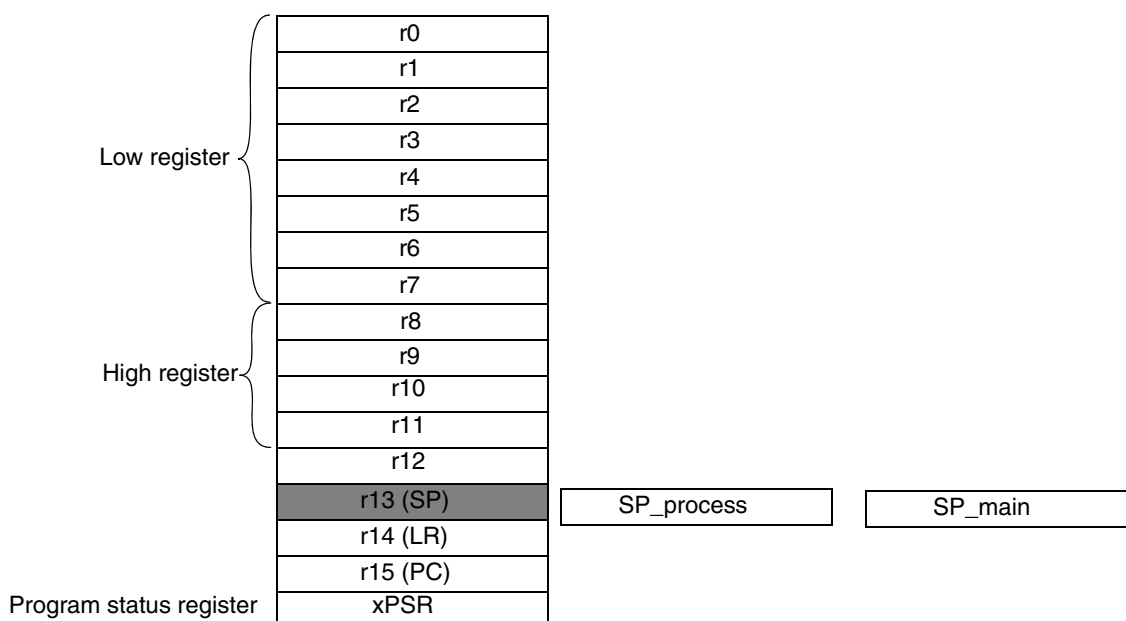
The computer operating properly watchdog (COP) for the MCF51QE128 has two clock source options, 1 kHz LPO or the bus frequency, plus two time-outs that have a total of four different periods. It can be enabled to generate a reset if the timer expires.

The LM3S811 has a watchdog timer with a 32-bit counter, load register, and control registers. This allows flexibility of configuration with  $2^{32}$  periods. It has the capability to generate an interrupt when the timer expires after and/or reset when it expires for a second time. It also includes the functionality to block and unblock the registers that prevent the timer configuration from being unexpectedly altered by the software.

### 3 CPU Cores

The LM3S811 uses the ARM Cortex-M3 RISC core that implements a Thumb compatible Thumb-2 only instruction set, providing 16-bit and 32-bit instructions. It includes user and privileged modes for protected operating system functionality. It also has a three stage pipeline offering a performance of approximately 1.25 DMIPs/MHz.

The following figure shows the programmer’s model for the ARM Cortex-M3.

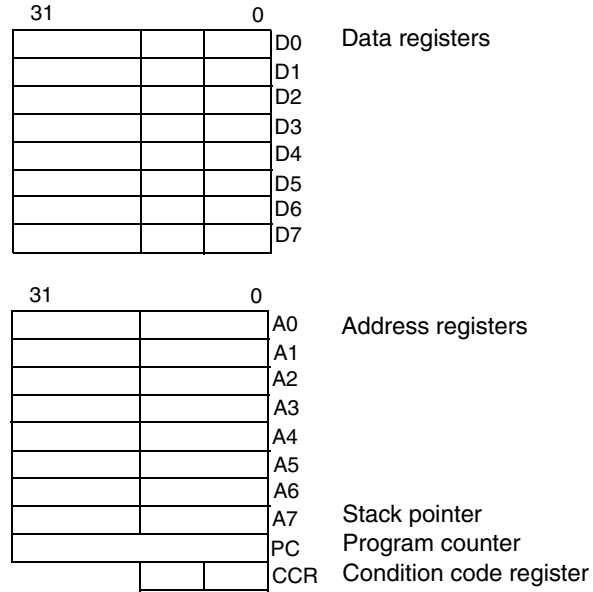


**Figure 3. Cortex-M3 Register Set**

The MCF51QE128 implements a ColdFireV1 core that is a 32-bit variable length (VL) RISC core supporting three instruction sizes: 16-bit, 32-bit, or 48-bits. It supports user and supervisor modes to support protected operating systems. It has a two stage instruction fetch pipeline (IFP) for pre-fetching instructions and an additional independent two-stage operand execution pipeline (OFP) for maximized performance, offering a 1.05 DMIPS/MHz.

The following figure shows the programming model for the ColdFire CPU:

- 16 general-purpose 32-bit registers (D0–D7, A0–A7)
- 32-bit program counter (PC)
- 8-bit condition code register (CCR)



**Figure 4. ColdFire V1 User Programming Model**

### 3.1 CPU Modes

The MCF51QE128 has six operating modes that can be compared to the three operating modes of the LM3S811.

**Table 17. Operating Modes Comparison**

MCF51QE128 Mode	Description	Equivalent in LM3S811
Run	CPU clocks can be run at full speed and the internal supply is fully regulated.	Run
Low power run (LPRun)	CPU and peripheral clocks are restricted to 250 kHz CPU clock and 125 kHz bus clock maximum and the internal supply is in soft regulation.	Not available
Wait	CPU shuts down to conserve power. Peripheral clocks are running and full regulation is maintained.	Sleep Or deep sleep (without PLL)
LPWait	CPU shuts down to conserve power. Peripheral clocks are running at a reduced speed (125 kHz maximum). The internal voltage regulator is running in loose regulation mode.	Not available
Stop3	All internal circuits are loosely regulated and clocks sources are at minimal values (125 kHz maximum), providing a good compromise between power usage and speed of recovery.	Not available
Stop2	Partial power-down of internal circuits. RAM content is retained. The lowest power mode for this device.	Not available

The MCF51QE128's LPRun and LPWait are special cases of run and wait modes that can be enabled or disabled with the LPR bit in the SPMSC2 register.

Both processors offer similar ways to stop processor execution for the low-power modes. The MCF51QE128 has a STOP instruction with the following syntax:

```
STOP #<data>
```

They require a value written to the status register allowing only the specified level to wake the processor.

The wait bit configuration in the SOPT1 register selects between stop or wait mode. The PPDC bit in the SPMSC2 register and the settings on the BDM and LVD modules select between stop2 or stop3.

The LM3S811 has the following instruction to stop the processor:

```
WFI
```

The deep-sleep bit in the NVIC system control register selects between sleep and deep-sleep modes.

Any enabled interrupt can bring the LM3S811 out of both low power modes and the MCF51QE128 out of wait and LPWait.

A reset or the RTC, LVD/LVW, ADC, ACMP, IRQ, SCI, and KBI modules can bring the MCF51QE128 out of stop3. The RTC, IRQ, or RESET are the only paths out of stop2.

[Section 4, “Power Consumption”](#) compares the low power performance between both parts.

## 3.2 CPU Performance

Benchmarking results depend on the type of application running and the C compiler efficiency. The following tests were performed as described in [Section 5, “Software Considerations.”](#)

### 3.2.1 Simple Functions

The following eleven basic functions were performed in both microcontrollers. These functions are encapsulated in the following form:

```
return_param Function_name (param1, param2, ...)
```

- They are completely C based and the same code runs in both parts
- TwoCaseIf: Simple if-else statement
- TenCaseIf: If-else if x10
- FifteenCaseIf: If-else if x15
- FifteenCaseSwitch: Switch statement with 15 cases
- NoParamMethod: Execute empty function
- Addition8: Add two 8-bit values (unsigned char) and return 8-bits
- Addition32: Add two 32-bit values (unsigned long) and return 32-bits
- Multiplication32: Multiply two 32-bit values (unsigned long) and return 32-bits
- Division32: Divide two 32-bit values (unsigned long) and return 16-bits (unsigned short)
- AdditionFloating: Add two floating point numbers (float) and return floating point
- Forc1: For loop until 255



Figure 5 shows the results of these tests running from the flash:

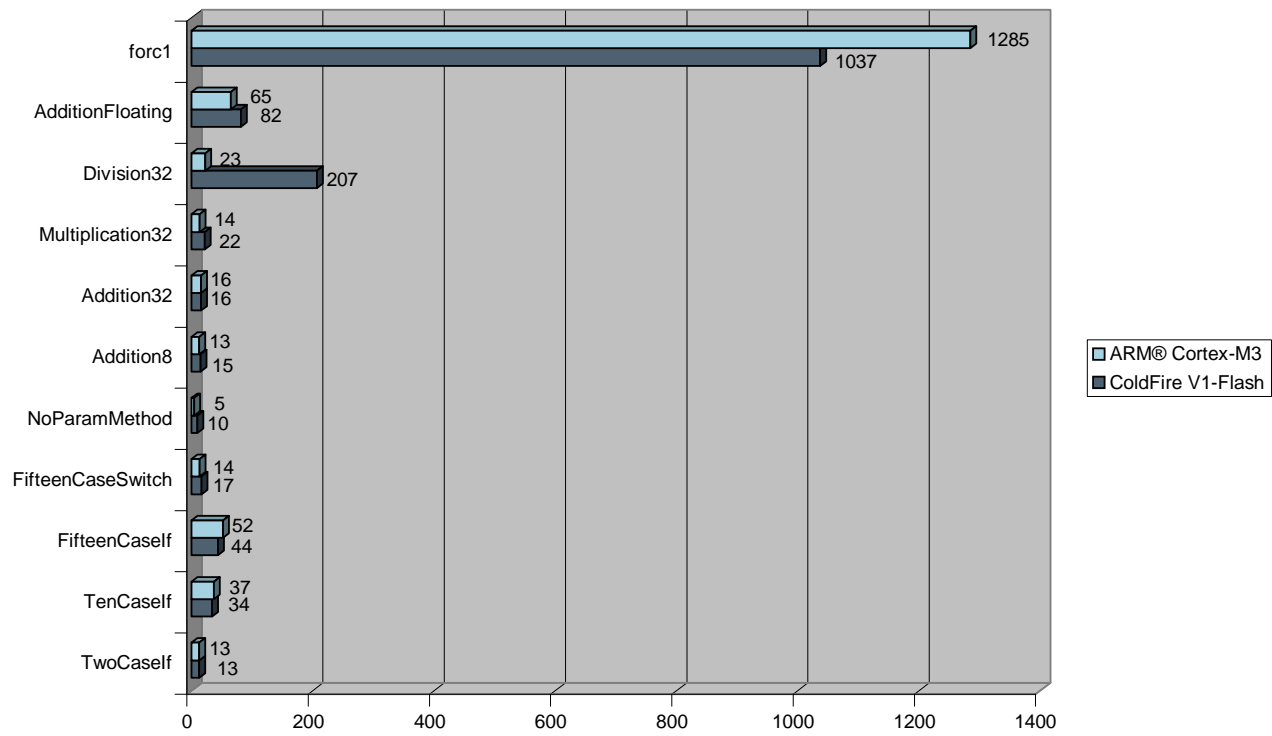


Figure 5. Performance Comparison — Basic Functions

Both parts have similar performance in most cases with the ColdFire having an advantage in control functions. Because of its hardware implementation, the LM3S811 has a small advantage in multiplication and an advantage in division.

### 3.2.2 Data Management and Math

The following ten functions were performed in both microcontrollers. These functions are encapsulated in the following form:

```
return_param Function_name (param1, param2, ...)
```

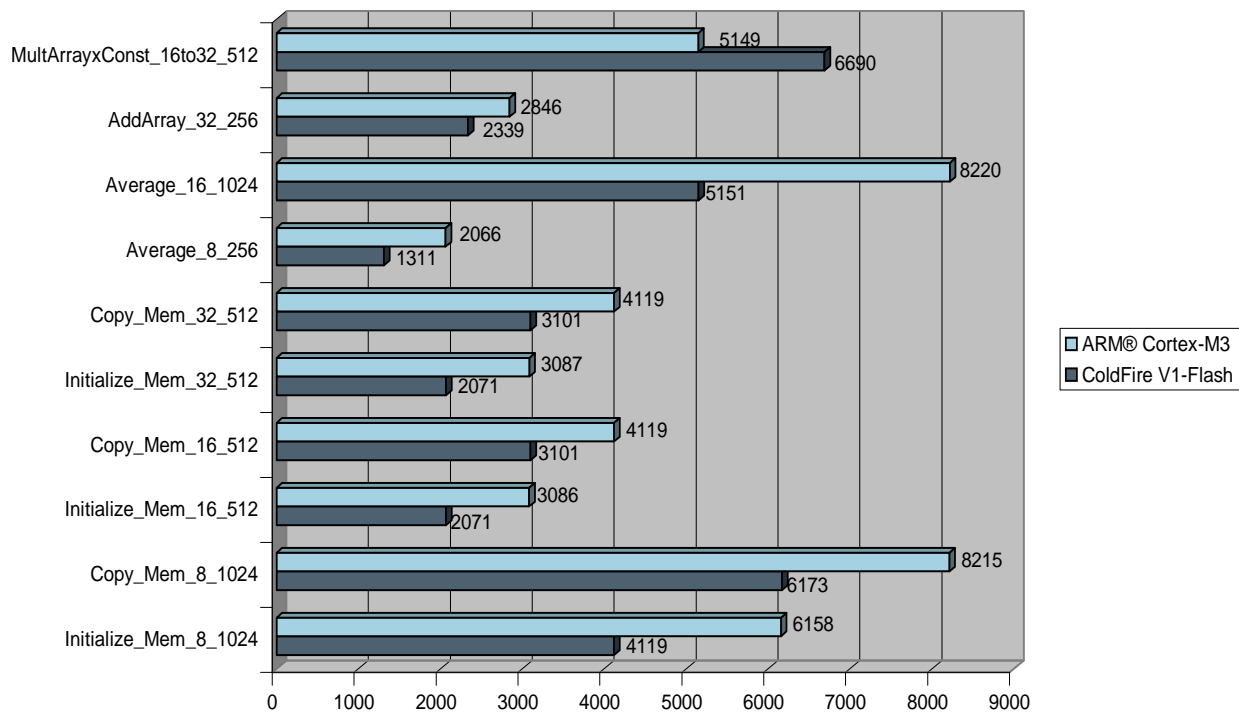
These ten functions are C based and have the same code in both parts.

- Initialize\_Mem\_8\_1024: Initialize 1024 8-bit consecutive locations
- Copy\_Mem\_8\_1024: Copy 1024 8-bit consecutive locations from the source to the destination address
- Initialize\_Mem\_16\_512: Initialize 512 16-bit consecutive locations
- Copy\_Mem\_16\_512: Copy 512 16-bits consecutive locations from the source to the destination address
- Initialize\_Mem\_32\_512: Initialize 512 32-bit consecutive locations

## CPU Cores

- Copy\_Mem\_32\_512: Copy 512 32-bits consecutive locations from the source to the destination address
- Average\_8\_256: Average 256 samples of 8-bit data
- Average\_16\_1024: Average 1024 samples of 16-bit data
- AddArray\_32\_256: Average 256 samples of 32-bit data
- MultArrayxConst\_16to32\_512: Multiply one array of 512 16-bit data by a 16-bit constant and return a 32-bit array.

Figure 6 shows the results from these tests running from the flash:



**Figure 6. Performance Tests — Data and Math**

The ColdFire V1 performs better in data management functions and some math functions with arrays. It has exception of the array multiplication where the ARM Cortex-M3 has the advantage, because of its faster hardware multiplication.

### 3.2.3 Performance in RAM

The previous functions were executed in the flash. An important improvement can be achieved by executing functions in RAM.

Figure 7 shows some examples of the improvements in performance when executing from the RAM:

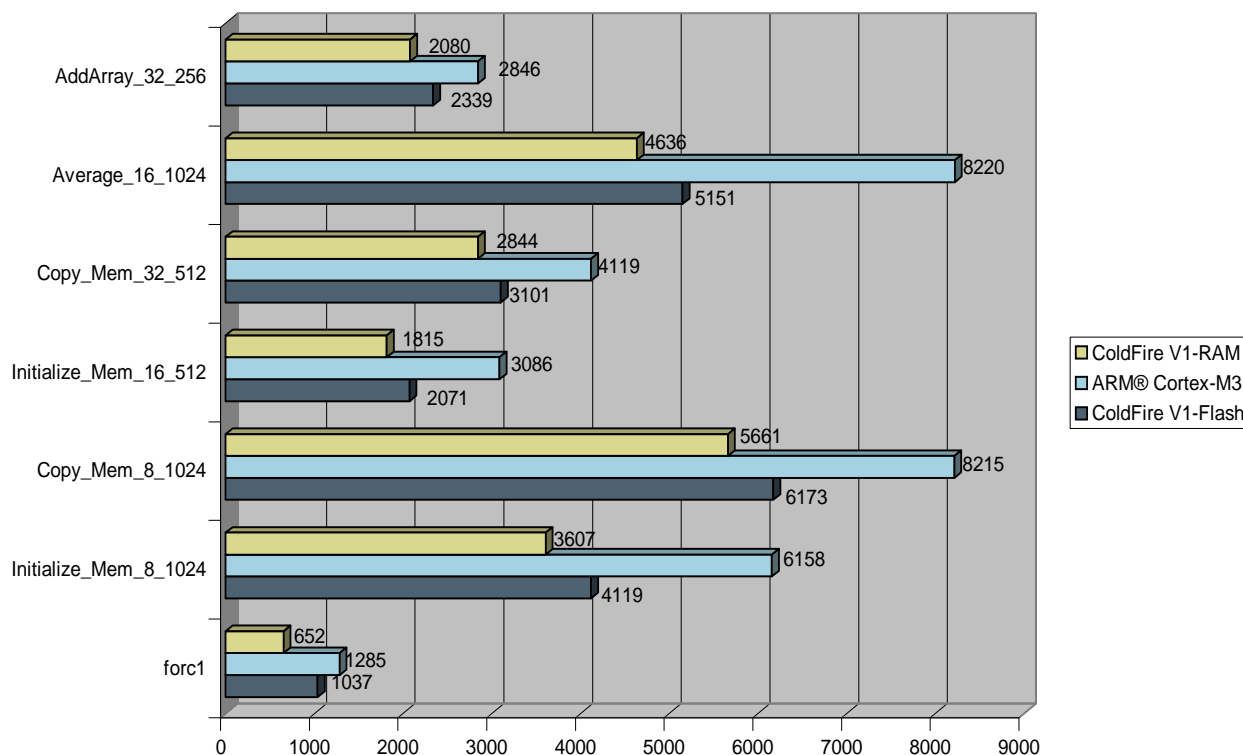


Figure 7. Performance in RAM

### 3.3 Code Density

Benchmarking results depend on the type of application running and the C compiler efficiency. The following tests were performed as described in Section 5, “Software Considerations.”

Both parts offer a level of code density with ColdFire V1. Implemented is an ISA-C instruction set with instructions in 16-bit, 32-bit, 48-bits, and the ARM Cortex-M3. It uses a Thumb compatible, Thumb 2 only instruction set with instructions in 16-bits and 32-bits.

Figure 8 shows results from the tests described in the previous section:

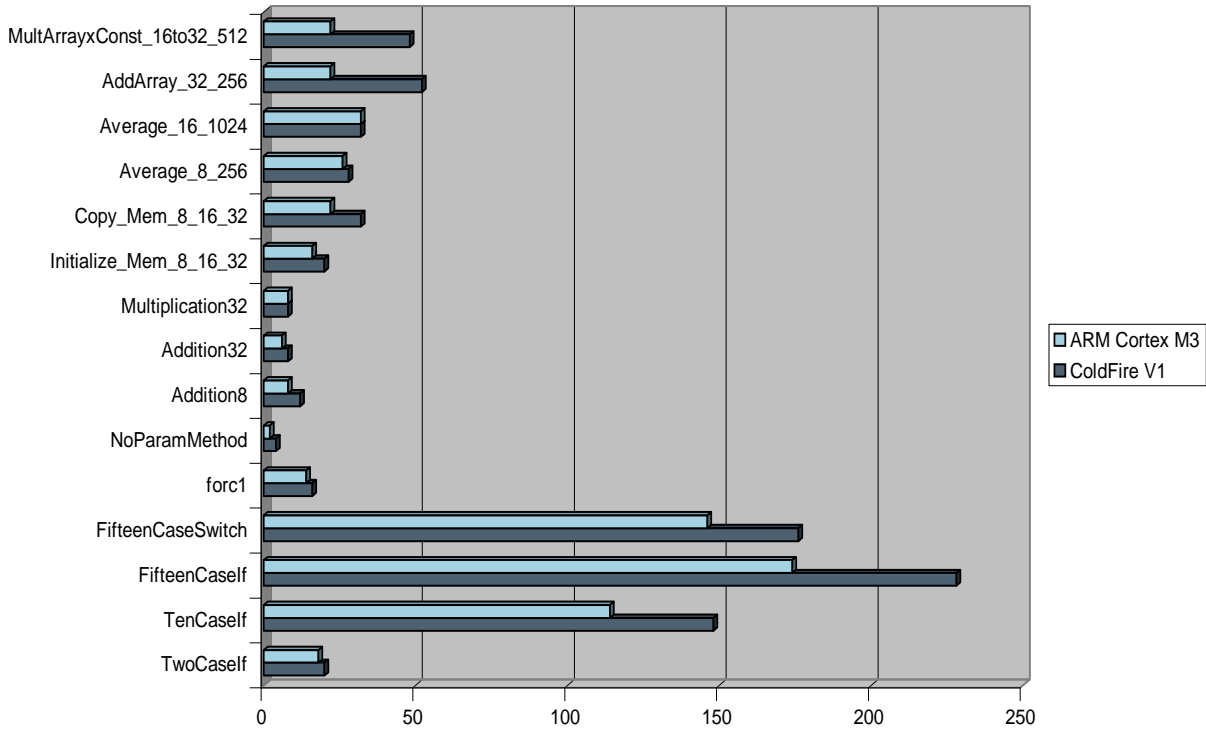


Figure 8. Code Density

The Cortex M3 has a small advantage, but both parts provide a good solution for size constrained applications.

The MCF51QE128’s peripherals are easier to configure and use, providing a smaller code footprint for the final application.

Figure 9 shows functions obtained from the examples described in Section 2, “Feature Comparison.”

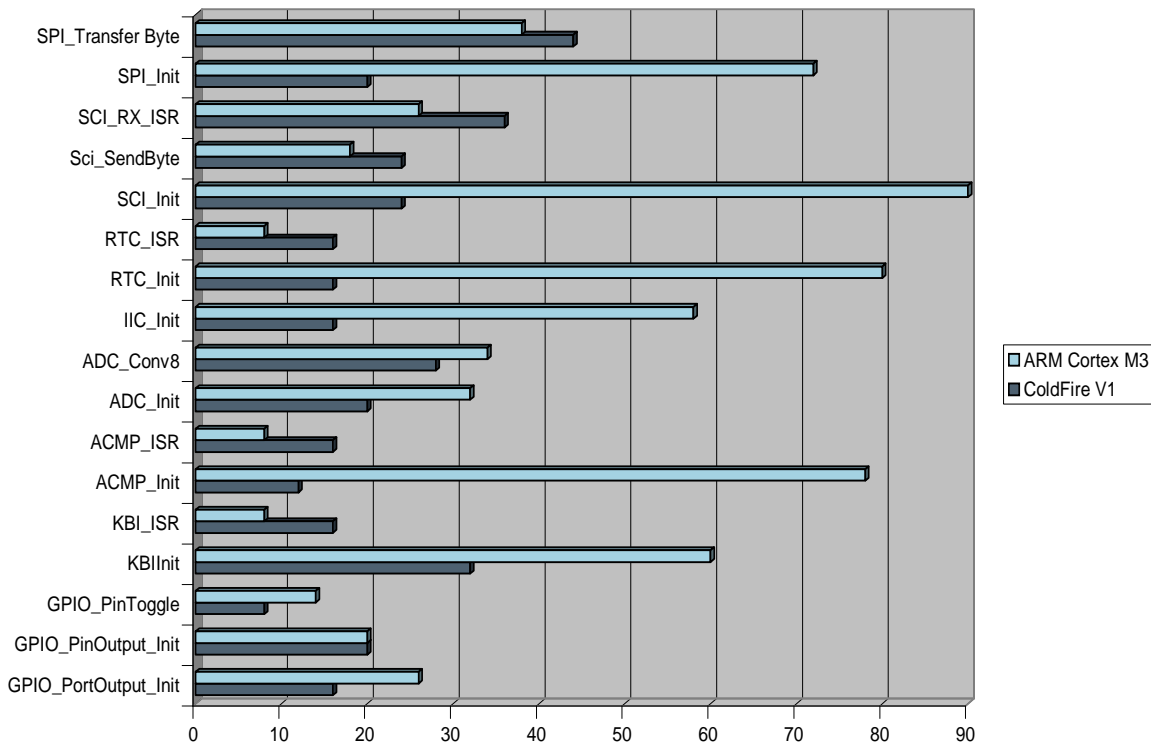


Figure 9. Code Size - Peripherals

These functions are different because the peripherals in both parts are also different. They show a good overview of the required code size needed to initialize and use the respective peripherals.

The difference in code size for the peripheral initialization is significant. This is due to the easier to configure modules in the MCF51QE128.

## 4 Power Consumption

Low power consumption is an essential requirement in all applications. The MCF51QE128 and the LM3S811 implement different low power approaches to reduce the power consumption in applications.

This section compares these approaches to provide a low power benchmark between both parts. The following figure is an extract from both data sheets. It shows the maximum power consumption, RUN mode at maximum frequency with all modules ON, and the minimum with least consuming operating mode with all modules OFF.

Parameter	Parameter Name	Condition	Nom	Max	Unit
$I_{DD\_RUN}$	Run mode (flash loop)	LDO = 2.50 V Code = while (1){} executed in Flash Peripherals = All clock-gated on System = 50 MHz (with PLL)	95	110	mA
$I_{DD\_DEEPSLEEP}$	Deep-Sleep mode	LDO = 2.25 V Peripherals = All off System clock= MOSC/16	950	1150	mA

Figure 10. LM3S811 Maximum and Minimum Power Consumption

Num	C	Parameter	Symbol	Bus Freq	$V_{DD}$ V	Typ <sup>1</sup>	Max	Unit	Temp (°C)
1	P	Run supply FEI mode, all modules on	$R_{I_{DD}}$	25.165MHz	3	33.4	TBD	mA	-40 to 85 °C
	T			20 MHz		28.0	TBD		
	T			8 MHz		13.2	TBD		
	T			1 MHz		2.4	TBD		
7	P	Stop3 mode supply current	$S_{31_{DD}}$	n/a	3	520	TBD	nA	0 to 70 °C
		No Clocks active				TBD	-40 to 85 °C		

Figure 11. MCF51QE128 Maximum and Minimum Power Consumption

The numbers for the LM3S811 are for Revision C2 devices. The tests were performed in Revision B devices. The data sheet for Revision B devices shows pending characterization completion for this section.

Revision B devices also include an erratum for power consumption (ID 8.1 in errata document Revision 1.2). Power consumption during low power modes is higher than expected due to a problem with the clock input pad. Revision C devices fix this problem.

As mentioned in [Section 3, “CPU Cores,”](#) the MCF51QE128 has five low power modes: LPRun, wait, LPWait, stop3, and stop2. The LM3S811 implements only two low power modes: sleep and deep-sleep. This is a key part of the equation because the LM3S811 can not implement any low power modes below 1  $\mu$ A.

## 4.1 Test 1: Run Modes

The first test measures current consumption in different RUN modes (CPU on and processing). The tests performed are:

**Table 18. RUN Mode Tests**

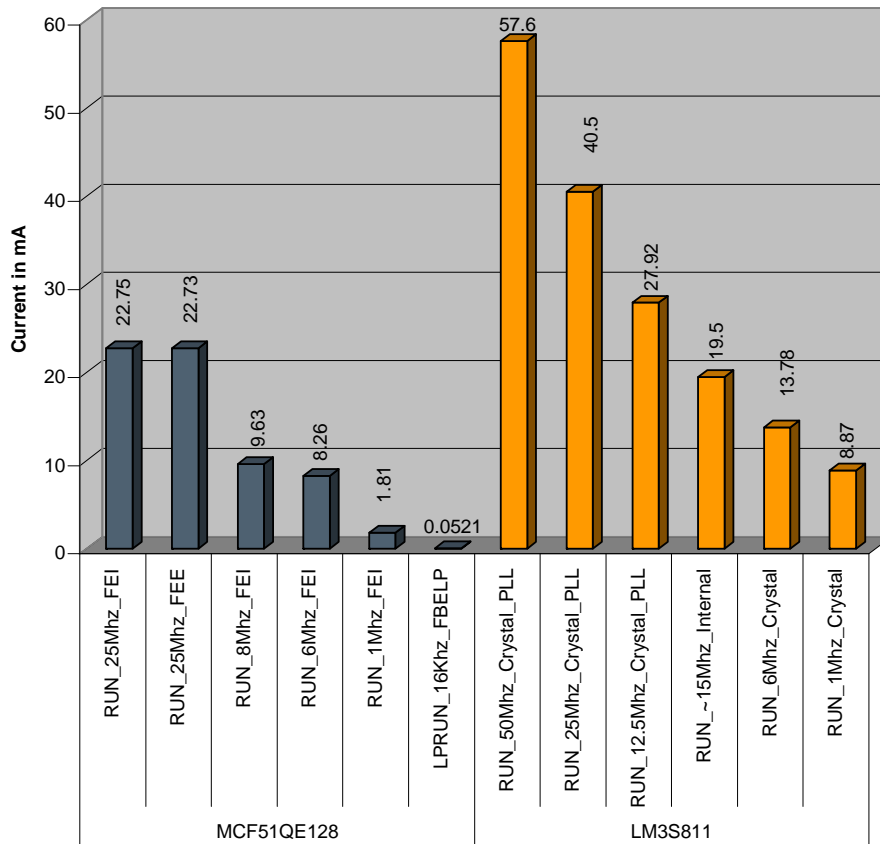
Freescale MCF51QE1 28	RUN_25MHz_FEI	Running CPU at 50 MHz, bus at 25 MHz, unisgn internal oscillator, and FLL engaged
	RUN_25MHz_FEE	Running CPU at 50 MHz, bus at 25 MHz, unisgn external oscillator, and FLL engaged
	RUN_8MHz_FEI	Running CPU at 16 MHz, bus at 8 MHz, unisgn internal oscillator, and FLL engaged
	RUN_6MHz_FEI	Running CPU at 12 MHz, bus at 6 MHz, unisgn internal oscillator, and FLL engaged
	RUN_1MHz_FEI	Running CPU at 2 MHz, Bus at 1 MHz, unisgn internal oscillator, and FLL engaged
	LPRUN_16kHz_FBELP	Running CPU in low power mode (LPRun) at 32 kHz, bus at 16 MHz, unisgn external oscillator, and FLL bypassed LP
Luminary Micro LM3S811	RUN_50MHz_Crystal_PLL	Running at 50 MHz using external oscillator, PLL engaged
	RUN_25MHz_Crystal_PLL	Running at 25 MHz using external oscillator, PLL engaged
	RUN_12.5MHz_Crystal_PLL	Running at 12.5 MHz using external oscillator, PLL engaged
	RUN_~15MHz_Internal	Running at ~15 MHz* using internal oscillator, PLL bypassed
	RUN_6MHz_Crystal	Running 6 50 MHz using external oscillator, PLL engaged
	RUN_1MHz_Crystal	Running at 1 MHz using external oscillator, PLL bypassed

\* Internal oscillator for the LM3S811 operates from 7 MHz to 22 MHz

All tests are executed under the following conditions:

- $V_{DD} = 3.3 \text{ V}$
- All peripheral clocks off, using clock gating
- Executing `while(1);`

Figure 12 shows the results from the test:



**Figure 12. Power Consumption — Run Modes**

In some of these tests when running at the same frequency, the MCF51QE128 consumes around 40%–80% less power. The low power run mode in the MCF51QE128 allows the processor to keep running at low frequencies consuming only 52.1  $\mu$ A at 32 kHz.



## 4.2 Test 2: Low Power Modes

The following tests were performed to test the low power modes in both devices:

**Table 19. Low-Power Tests**

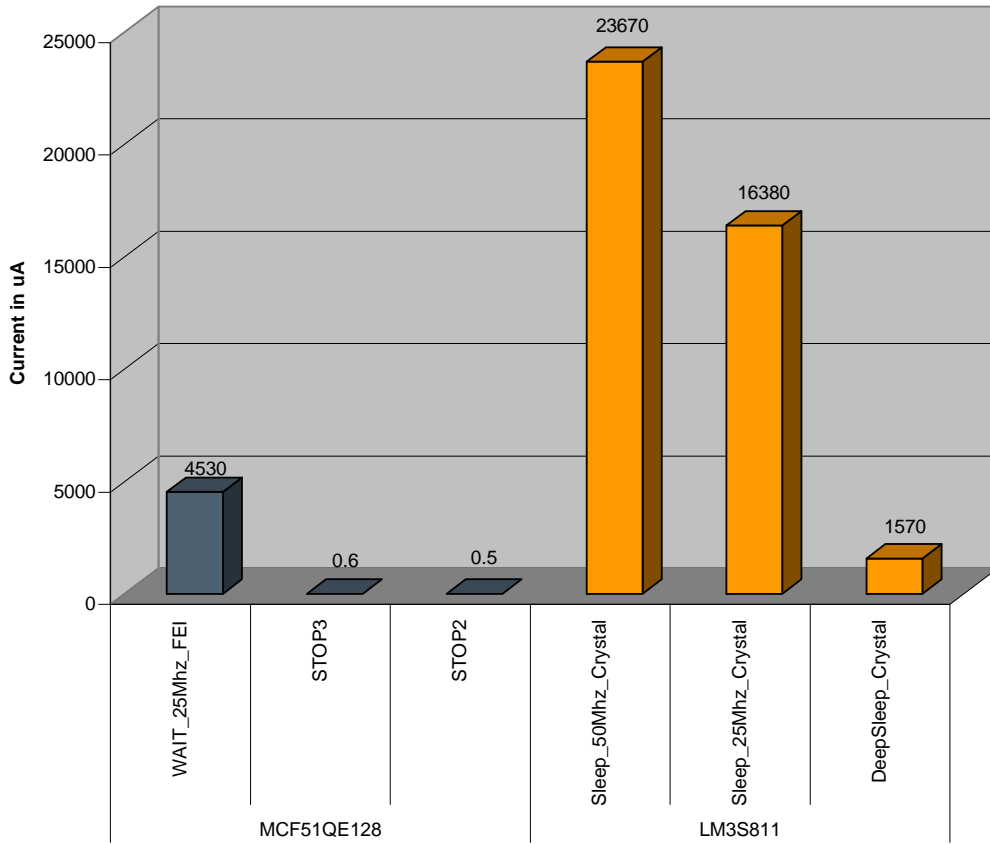
<b>Freescale MCF51QE1 28</b>	WAIT_25MHz_FEI	Wait mode. Bus at 25 MHz, using internal oscillator, FLL engaged and KBI enabled
	STOP3	stop3 mode KBI enabled
	STOP2	stop2 mode IRQ enabled
<b>Luminary Micro LM3S811</b>	Sleep_50MHz_Crystal	Sleep mode. Bus at 50 MHz, using external oscillator, PLL engaged and PTB enabled for external interrupt
	Sleep_25MHz_Crystal	Sleep mode. Bus at 25 MHz, PTB enabled for external interrupt
	DeepSleep_Crystal	Deep-sleep mode. Bus at 375 kHz, using external oscillator/16, PLL disabled and PTB enabled for external interrupt

All tests are executed under the following conditions:

- $V_{DD} = 3.3 \text{ V}$
- All peripheral clocks are off except the ones mentioned in the above table.
- CPU wakes on external event, falling edge.

## Power Consumption

Figure 13 shows the results from the test:



**Figure 13. Power Consumption — Low-Power Modes**

In wait mode vs. sleep mode the MCF51QE128 consumes  $\sim\frac{1}{4}$  of the LM3S811's power consumption. The MCF51QE128 includes three stop modes allowing power consumption below  $1 \mu\text{A}$ . The LM3S811 does not include a similar functionality and its lowest power mode consumes around 1.5 mA.

The LM3S811 Revision B was used for these tests. There is a published errata for that mask (ID 8.1 in errata document Revision 1.2). According to the data sheet, the lowest power consumption is similar to DeepSleep\_Crystal is around 1 mA.

### 4.3 Test 3: In Application

The following test uses a periodic timer interrupt to read the ADC continuously.

The microcontrollers used the following configurations:

**Table 20. ADC and Timer Test**

<b>Freescale MCF51QE128</b>	MCF51QE128 RUN-STOP	Run CPU at 50 MHz, bus at 25 MHz, and read ADC	23 mA
		Go to stop3 with RTC using LPO	700 nA
	MCF51QE128 LPRun	Run CPU at 32 kHz, bus at 16 kHz with ADC, and RTC using LPO	253 $\mu$ A
		Run CPU at 32 kHz, bus at 16 kHz with RTC using LPO	52.1 $\mu$ A
<b>Luminary Micro LM3S811</b>	LM3S811 RUN-SLEEP	Run CPU and bus at 25 MHz and read ADC	46.3 mA
		Go to sleep mode with timer0 enabled	17.18 mA
	LM3S811 RUN-DEEPSLEEP	Run CPU and bus at 25 MHz and read ADC	46.3 mA
		Go to deep-sleep mode with timer0 enabled	2.30 mA

Figure 14 represents the different approaches:

- Executing at the same frequency, the MCF51QE128 consumes ~50% less current than the LM3S811. Added to the  $<1 \mu$ A stop modes, it can help achieve average power consumptions of less than 1mA or even below  $1 \mu$ A, depending on the period.
- The low power run modes can achieve average current consumption below  $100 \mu$ A without stopping the processor.
- The LM3S811 average current consumption is in the mA units or tens.

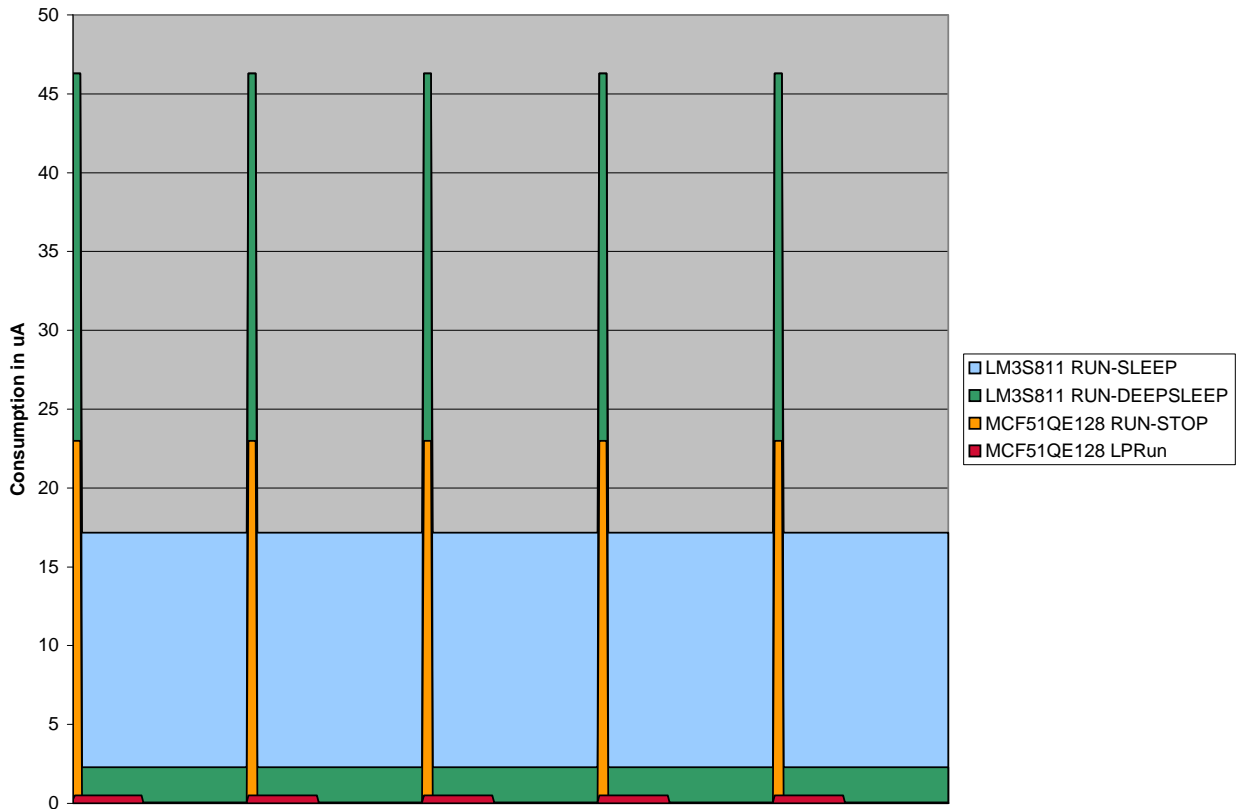


Figure 14. Power Consumption — Periodical ADC Demo

## 5 Software Considerations

All the code for the MCF51QE128 was developed and tested under the following considerations:

- Microcontroller: PCF51QE128CLH
- Mask: 0M12J
- Evaluation Board: DEMOQE128
- IDE: CodeWarrior for Microcontrollers 6.0
- Optimization Level: 1
- Programmer/Debugger: CodeWarrior (true time simulator and real-time debugger)

All the code developed and tested for the LM3S811 was under the following considerations:

- Microcontroller: LM3S811-CQN50
- Revision: B5
- Evaluation Board: DK-LM3S811 Development Kit with DB-LM3S811 daughter board.
- IDE: Keil uVision3 V3.53
- Optimization Level: 1
- Programmer/Debugger: Keil uVision3

All the software used for performance and code density benchmarks were implemented from scratch using low-level accesses to registers. It discards additional overhead added by higher-level layers.

CodeWarrior includes an MCF51QE128.h file with definitions for all the registers, bits, and masks needed for the MCF51QE128. The ADCCFG register is shown for demonstration purposes. Below is a registered declaration example for the MCF51QE128:

```

/** ADCCFG - Configuration Register; 0xFFFF8016 */
typedef union {
    byte Byte;
    struct {
        byte ADICLK0    :1;    /* Input Clock Select Bit 0 */
        byte ADICLK1    :1;    /* Input Clock Select Bit 1 */
        byte MODE0      :1;    /* Conversion Mode Selection Bit 0 */
        byte MODE1      :1;    /* Conversion Mode Selection Bit 1 */
        byte ADLSMP     :1;    /* Long Sample Time Configuration */
        byte ADIV0      :1;    /* Clock Divide Select Bit 0 */
        byte ADIV1      :1;    /* Clock Divide Select Bit 1 */
        byte ADLPC      :1;    /* Low Power Configuration */
    } Bits;
    struct {
        byte grpADICLK :2;
        byte grpMODE   :2;
        byte           :1;
        byte grpADIV   :2;
        byte           :1;
    } MergedBits;
} ADCCFGSTR;
extern volatile ADCCFGSTR _ADCCFG @0xFFFF8016;
#define ADCCFG                _ADCCFG.Byte
#define ADCCFG_ADICLK0        _ADCCFG.Bits.ADICLK0
#define ADCCFG_ADICLK1        _ADCCFG.Bits.ADICLK1
#define ADCCFG_MODE0          _ADCCFG.Bits.MODE0
#define ADCCFG_MODE1          _ADCCFG.Bits.MODE1
#define ADCCFG_ADLSMP         _ADCCFG.Bits.ADLSMP
#define ADCCFG_ADIV0          _ADCCFG.Bits.ADIV0
#define ADCCFG_ADIV1          _ADCCFG.Bits.ADIV1
#define ADCCFG_ADLPC          _ADCCFG.Bits.ADLPC
#define ADCCFG_ADICLK         _ADCCFG.MergedBits.grpADICLK
#define ADCCFG_MODE           _ADCCFG.MergedBits.grpMODE
#define ADCCFG_ADIV           _ADCCFG.MergedBits.grpADIV

#define ADCCFG_ADICLK0_MASK    1
#define ADCCFG_ADICLK1_MASK    2
#define ADCCFG_MODE0_MASK     4
#define ADCCFG_MODE1_MASK     8
#define ADCCFG_ADLSMP_MASK    16
#define ADCCFG_ADIV0_MASK     32
#define ADCCFG_ADIV1_MASK     64
#define ADCCFG_ADLPC_MASK     128
#define ADCCFG_ADICLK_MASK     3
#define ADCCFG_ADICLK_BITNUM   0
#define ADCCFG_MODE_MASK      12
#define ADCCFG_MODE_BITNUM     2
#define ADCCFG_ADIV_MASK      96
#define ADCCFG_ADIV_BITNUM     5
    
```

## Software Considerations

This register declaration makes the implementation easy by using these instructions:

```
ADCCFG = 0x05; // 8-bit Access to register
ADCCFG_ADLSMP = 1; // Bit access to register
ADCCFG_MODE = 2; // Group access to register (2-bit in example)
ADCCFG = ADCCFG_ADLSMP_MASK | ADCCFG_ADICLK0_MASK; // Use of masks for clearer code
```

The development environment for the LM3S811 uses an LM3Sxxx.h file with definition for the different modules of the microcontroller included in addition, the header files.

These files include the offsets for each one of the registers following the next format. The ADCSSCTL0 register is used for demonstration purposes. Below is a registered definition for LM3S811:

```

/*****
// The following define the offsets of the ADC registers.
/*****
...
#define ADC_O_SSCTL0          0x00000044 // Sample sequence control 0 reg.
...

/*****
//
// The following define the bit fields in the ADC_SSCTL0, ADC_SSCTL1,
// ADC_SSCTL2, and ADC_SSCTL3 registers. Not all fields are present in all
// registers.
/***** #define
ADC_SSCTL_TS7          0x80000000 // 8th temperature sensor select
#define ADC_SSCTL_IE7          0x40000000 // 8th interrupt enable
#define ADC_SSCTL_END7        0x20000000 // 8th sequence end select
#define ADC_SSCTL_D7          0x10000000 // 8th differential select
#define ADC_SSCTL_TS6          0x08000000 // 7th temperature sensor select
#define ADC_SSCTL_IE6          0x04000000 // 7th interrupt enable
#define ADC_SSCTL_END6        0x02000000 // 7th sequence end select
...
#define ADC_SSCTL_IE0          0x00000004 // 1st interrupt enable
#define ADC_SSCTL_END0        0x00000002 // 1st sequence end select
#define ADC_SSCTL_D0          0x00000001 // 1st differential select

```

This approach is useful for high level drivers. It handles the peripherals modularly, but it makes the low level implementation for register access more complex. It does not include bit or group definitions. Each location must be referenced with different offset levels, such as:

```
*((unsigned long *) (ADC_BASE + ADC_O_SSCTL0)) = 0x06; // 8-bit access
*((unsigned long *) (ADC_BASE + ADC_O_SSCTL0)) = ADC_SSCTL_IE0 | ADC_SSCTL_END0 ;
// Using masks for clearer code
```

Both Freescale and Luminary Micro offer high-level drivers for their microcontrollers.

Luminary Micro offers the Stellaris® Peripheral Driver Library that includes a set of drivers for the peripherals included in the LM3S811 and their other ARM Cortex-M3 microcontrollers. These drivers allow an easier use of the peripherals by using higher level common language functions. Below are examples of LM3S811 Driver functions:

```
void ComparatorConfigure (unsigned long ulBase, unsigned long ulComp, unsigned long ulConfig);
void ADCIntEnable (unsigned long ulBase, unsigned long ulSequenceNum)
```

The function implementation is good in most cases, but some drivers do not exploit all the capabilities of the peripheral. This forces the user to write/modify the low-level code with the confusing register

declaration described above. Some functions become too complex to use, especially the initialization functions with many parameters to use.

CodeWarrior for the MCF51QE128 offers two solutions to allow faster and easier developments:

- Device Initialization is fast, easy, and has a user-friendly way to configure and generate CPU peripheral initialization code. It uses a graphical environment to guide the user during the device initialization.
- Processor Expert is a tool designed for rapid application development of embedded applications.

The peripherals can be initialized using common-language terminology, which is translated by the tool into C or assembly code accessing the required registers. This allows having the processor running and configured properly in less time.

By using embedded beans that provide hardware encapsulation in the form of a platform independent standard allows a faster initialization and a much faster development. This includes a set of functions that can be drag and dropped in your application.

The peripherals can be configured in a common language environment which is independent from the user code. This allows changes such as different pins or frequencies to be invisible for the user application.

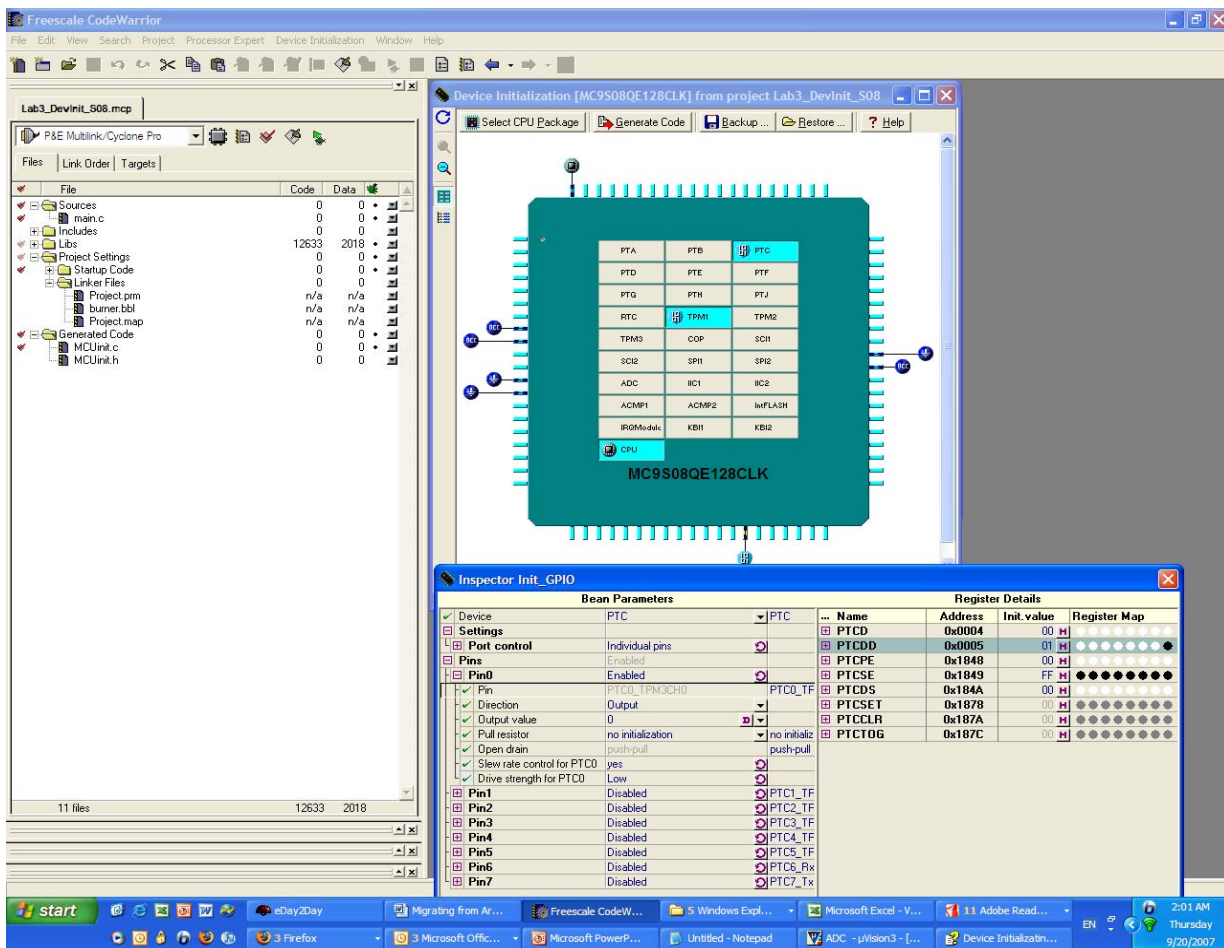


Figure 15. Device Initialization

Differences Between a Cortex M3 Processor and the MCF51QE128, Rev. 0

## Conclusions

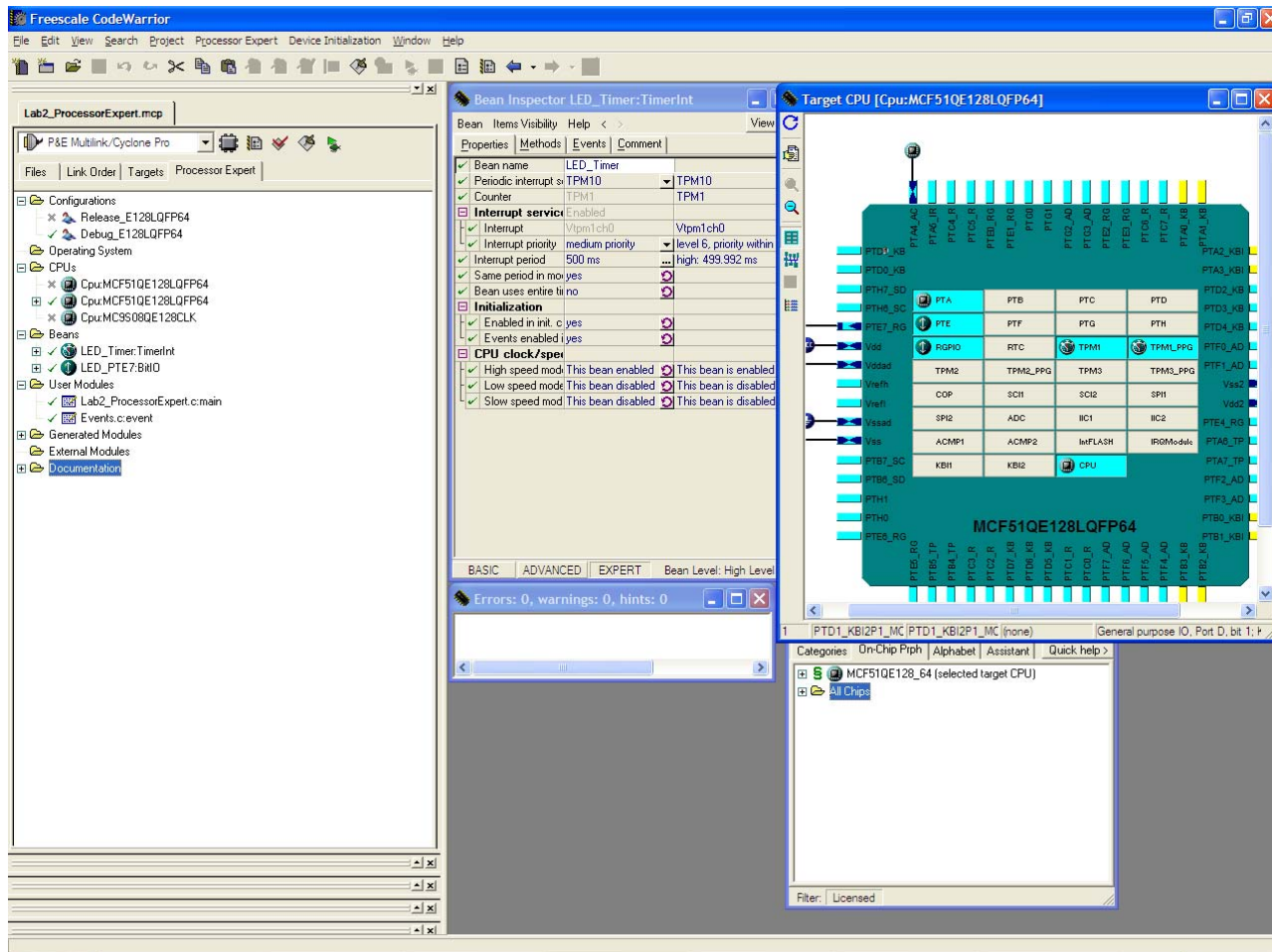


Figure 16. Processor Expert

Both Freescale solutions offer a great plus for the user. CodeWarrior's device initialization does not include drivers. It allows an easy and fast initialization of the microcontroller. The processor expert makes the development simple and faster, allowing smaller development cycles and faster times to market.

## 6 Conclusions

The MCF51QE128 and the LM3S811 are 32-bit microcontrollers with different CPUs and peripherals but oriented to similar applications with similar functionalities.

As with any migration, the difference in peripherals and CPU represent a challenge that can only be achieved by a good understanding of the application requirements and the capabilities of each processor.

The MCF51QE128's flexibility and simplicity, added to its excellent tools and third-party support make any development and migration easier.



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