STM32 DMAMUX: the DMA request router

Introduction

In order to offload certain data transfer duties from the CPU, STM32 microcontrollers embed direct memory access (DMA) controllers. The DMA can perform block-oriented data transfer upon a peripheral request or a software trigger.

Each DMA channel has a software-configurable selection of the peripheral requesting its services. On legacy STM32 products, the channel request selection is implemented within the DMA controller with a restricted list of peripheral requests for a given channel. The software application cannot freely map any peripheral request to any channel.

STM32 DMA request routing capabilities are enhanced by a DMA request multiplexer (DMAMUX peripheral). The DMAMUX adds more flexibility to give full dynamic DMA peripheral request mapping instead of pseudo-dynamic mapping. It offers fully configurable routing of any DMA request from a given peripheral to any DMA controller and/or controller DMA channel.

This application note explains the various DMAMUX features of the products listed in the table below: how to configure the DMAMUX as well as giving guidance on the use of the new synchronization and request generation capabilities.

For further information on DMAMUX in STM32 devices, refer to the product reference manuals available on *www.st.com*.

Table 1. **Applicable products**

Type	Product series
STM32 microcontrollers	STM32H7 Series
	STM32G0 Series
	STM32L4+ Series
	STM32WB Series

1 DMAMUX description

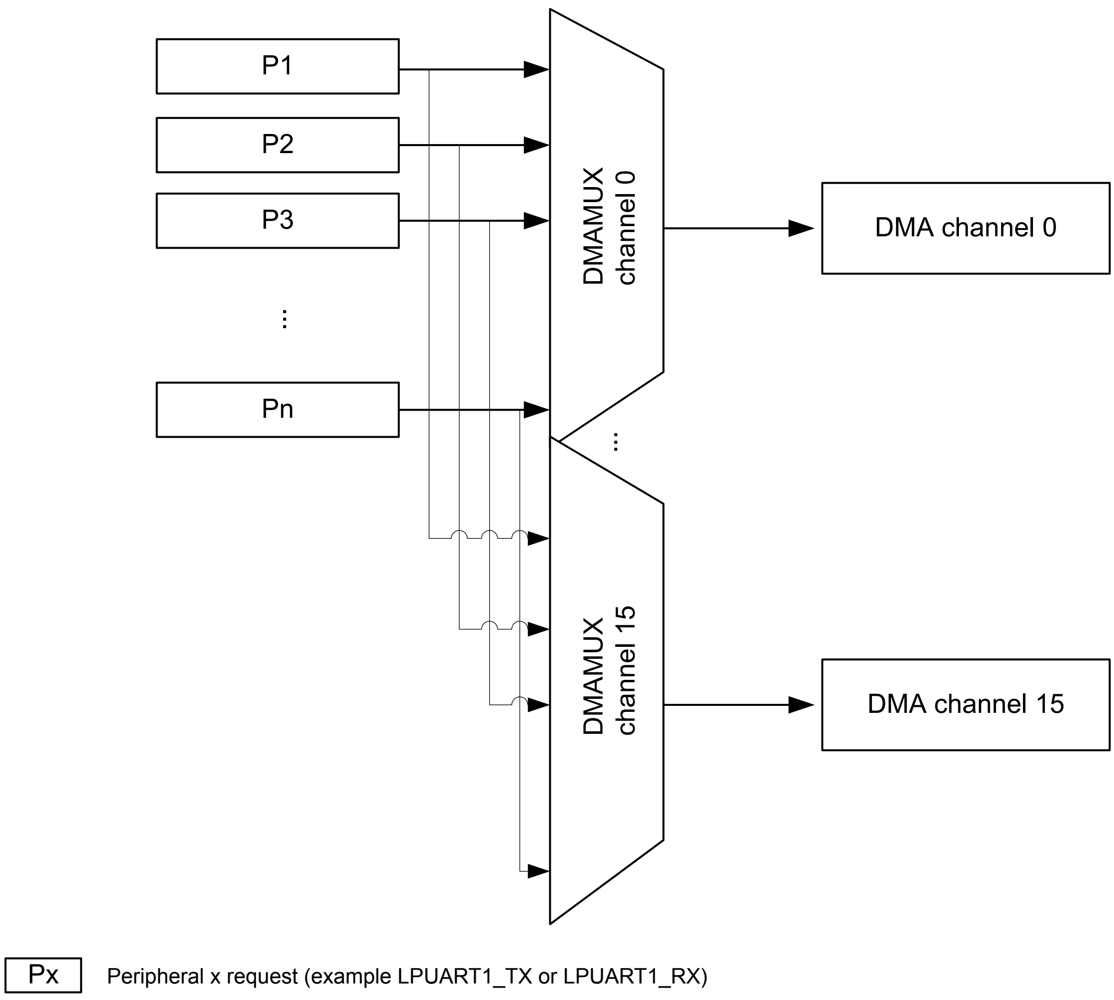
A peripheral indicates a request for DMA transfer by setting its DMA request signal. The DMA request is pending until it is served by the DMA controller that generates a DMA acknowledge signal, and the corresponding DMA request signal is de-asserted.

In this document, the set of control signals required for the DMA request/acknowledge protocol is not explicitly described and it is referred to as peripheral DMA request line.

The DMA request router can be considered as an extension of the DMA controller. It routes the DMA peripheral requests to the DMA controller itself.

The DMAMUX request multiplexer enables routing a DMA request line from the peripherals to the DMA controllers of the product. The routing function is ensured by a programmable multi-channel DMA request line multiplexer. Each channel (DMAMUX channel 0 in the example of the figure below) selects a unique DMA request line to forward (unconditionally or synchronously) to the associated DMA controller channel (DMA channel 0 in the example of the figure below). This allows DMA requests to be managed with a high flexibility, maximizing the number of DMA requests that run concurrently.

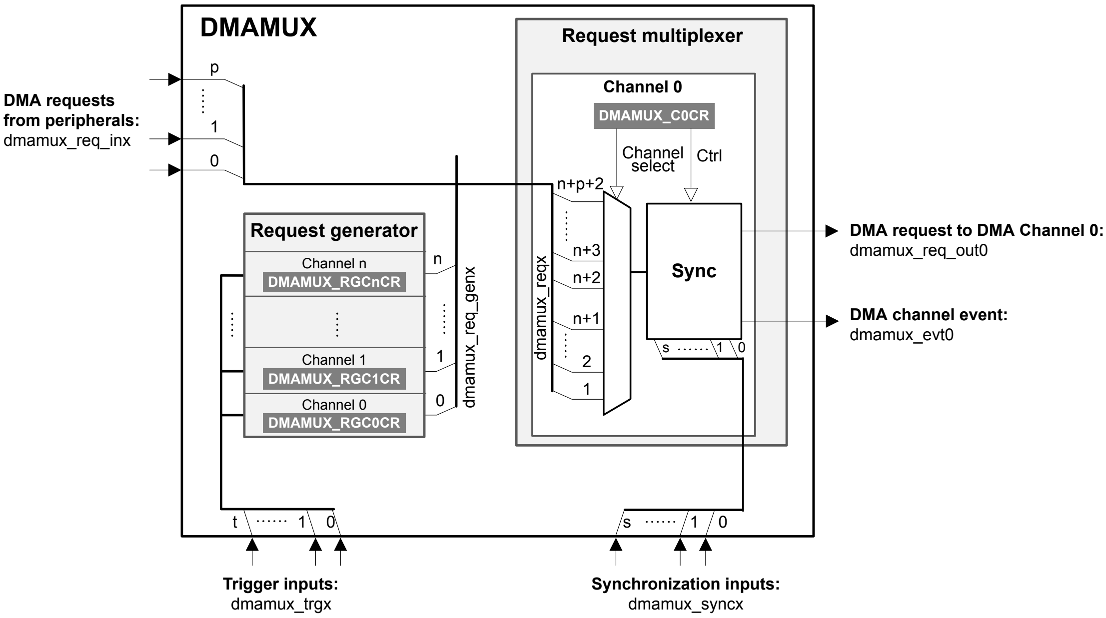
Figure 1. DMAMUX request multiplexer



2 DMAMUX features

The figure below represents a simplified DMAMUX block diagram. The “Request multiplexer” structure is duplicated N times depending on the number of DMA channels managed by the DMAMUX.

Figure 2. **DMAMUX simplified block diagram**



Note: Simplified block diagram with only one request multiplexer.

The DMAMUX is mainly composed of two components, the **request multiplexer** (or router block) and the **request generator**.

The request multiplexer includes a synchronization unit per channel, with inputs/outputs as follows:

- Inputs:
  - dmamux_reqx: DMA request from a peripheral (dmamux_req_inx) or from the request generator (dmamux_req_genx)

    dmamux_req_gen[0..n] are affected respectively to dmamux_req[1..n+1] and dmamux_req_inx are affected starting from dmamux_req[n+2].
  - dmamux_syncx: optional synchronization event
- Outputs:
  - dmamux_req_outx: DMA request dmamux_reqx forwarded from the input to the output
  - dmamux_evtx: optional generated event that may be used to trigger/synchronize other DMAMUX channels

The request generator allows DMA request generation on interrupt signals or events, with input/output as follows:

- Input: dmamux_trgx, trigger event inputs to the request generator sub-block
- Output: dmamux_req_genx, DMA request from the request generator sub-block to the DMAMUX request multiplexer channels

The number of request multiplexer blocks depends on the number of DMA channels managed by the DMAMUX.

For examples:

- For a 8 channels DMA, 8 request multiplexer channels must be available.
- For a product with two DMA controllers with 8 channels each, 16 request multiplexer channels must be available.

The request generator is instantiated once by DMAMUX. It contains N channels (depending on the product) capable of generating DMA requests. Refer to the 'DMAMUX implementation' section in the product reference manual for more details.

Thanks to the request generator block, user software can trigger DMA transfers based on signals from peripherals that do not implement the DMA requests.

2.1 Request routing and synchronization

2.1.1 Unconditional request forwarding

In order to perform peripheral-to-memory or memory-to-peripheral transfers, the DMA controller channel requires each time a peripheral DMA request line. Each time a request occurs, the DMA channel transfers data from/to peripheral. The DMAMUX request multiplexer channel x allows the selection/routing of the peripheral DMA request line to the DMA channel x.

When the multiplex is set (DMAREQ_ID not equal to zero), it ensures the actual routing of DMA request line. The connection of peripheral DMA request to the multiplexer channel output is selected through the programmed ID in DMAREQ_ID bits of the channel control register (DMAMUX_CxCR).

For each peripheral DMA request line in the product, a unique ID is affected. The value zero (DMAREQ_ID = 0x00) corresponds to no DMA request line selected.

After the configuration of a DMAMUX channel, the corresponding DMA controller channel can be configured on its turn. Two different DMAMUX channels can not be configured to select the same peripheral DMA request line as source.

2.1.2 Conditional request forwarding

In addition to unconditional request forwarding, the synchronization unit allows the software to implement conditional request forwarding. The routing is effectively done only when a defined condition is detected. The DMA transfers can be synchronized with internal or external signals.

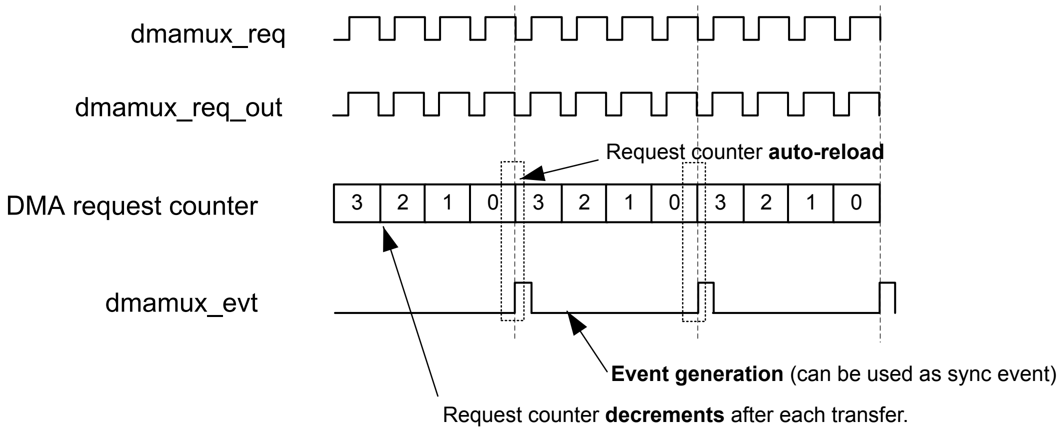
For example, the user software can use the synchronization unit to initiate or adjust data transmission throughput.

DMA request can be forwarded in one of the following way:

- each time an edge is detected on a GPIO pin (EXTI)
- in response to a periodic event from a timer
- in response to an asynchronous event from a peripheral
- in response to an event from another request router (request chaining)

On top of DMA request conditioning, the synchronization unit allows the generation of events that may be used by other DMAMUX sub-blocks (such as the request generator or another DMAMUX request multiplexer channel).

Figure 3. DMA request line multiplexer channel - Event generation



When DMAMUX channel is configured in synchronous mode its behavior is as follows:

1. The request multiplexer input (DMA request from the peripheral) can become active but it is not forwarded on the DMAMUX request multiplexer output until the synchronization signal is received.
2. When the sync event is received the request multiplexer connects its input and output and the pending peripheral request, if any, is forwarded.
3. Each forwarded DMA request decrements the request multiplexer counter (user programmed value). When the counter reaches zero and the last forwarded request is acknowledged by the DMA controller, the connection between the DMA controller and the peripheral is disabled (not forwarded) waiting for a new synchronization event.

For each underrun of the counter, request multiplexer line can generate an optional event to synchronize with a second DMAMUX line. The same event can be used in some low-power scenarios to switch the system back to stop mode without any CPU intervention.

Synchronization mode can be used to automatically synchronize data transfers with a timer for example, or to trigger the transfers on a peripheral event.

The synchronization signal (SYNC_ID), the synchronization signal polarity (SPOL) and the number of requests to forward (NBREQ+1) are configured in the request line multiplexer channel configuration register (DMAMUX_CxCR).

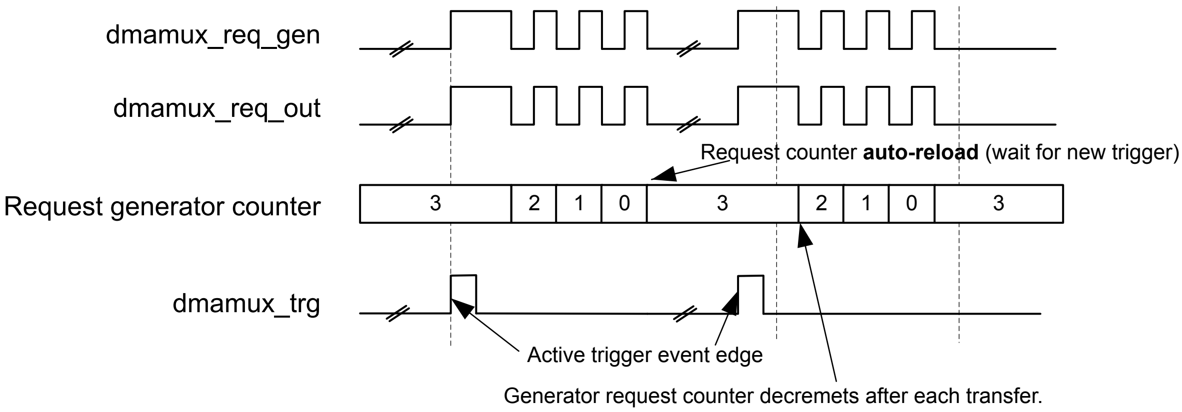
2.2 Request generation

The request generator can be considered as an intermediary between a peripheral and the DMA controllers. It allows peripherals without DMA capability (such as RTC alarm or comparators) to generate a programmable number of DMA requests on an event. The trigger signal (SIG_ID), the trigger polarity (GPOL) and the number of requests minus 1 to generate (GNBREQ) are configured in the request generator configuration register (DMAMUX_RGxCR).

Upon the trigger event reception, the corresponding generator channel starts generating DMA requests on its output. Each time the DMAMUX generated request is served by the connected DMA controller, a built-in DMA request counter (one counter per request generator channel) is decremented.

At its underrun, the request generator channel stops generating DMA requests and the DMA request counter is automatically reloaded to its programmed value upon the next trigger event.

Figure 4. **DMA request generation**



If a new trigger event is received while the generator is managing the previous triggered DMA request sequence, then the request trigger event overrun flag bit OFx is asserted by the hardware in the status DMAMUX_RGSR register.

2.3 Request generation and synchronization

In order to implement autonomous transfer and control scenarios, the DMAMUX offers the possibility to combine request generation and request synchronization feature within the same configuration.

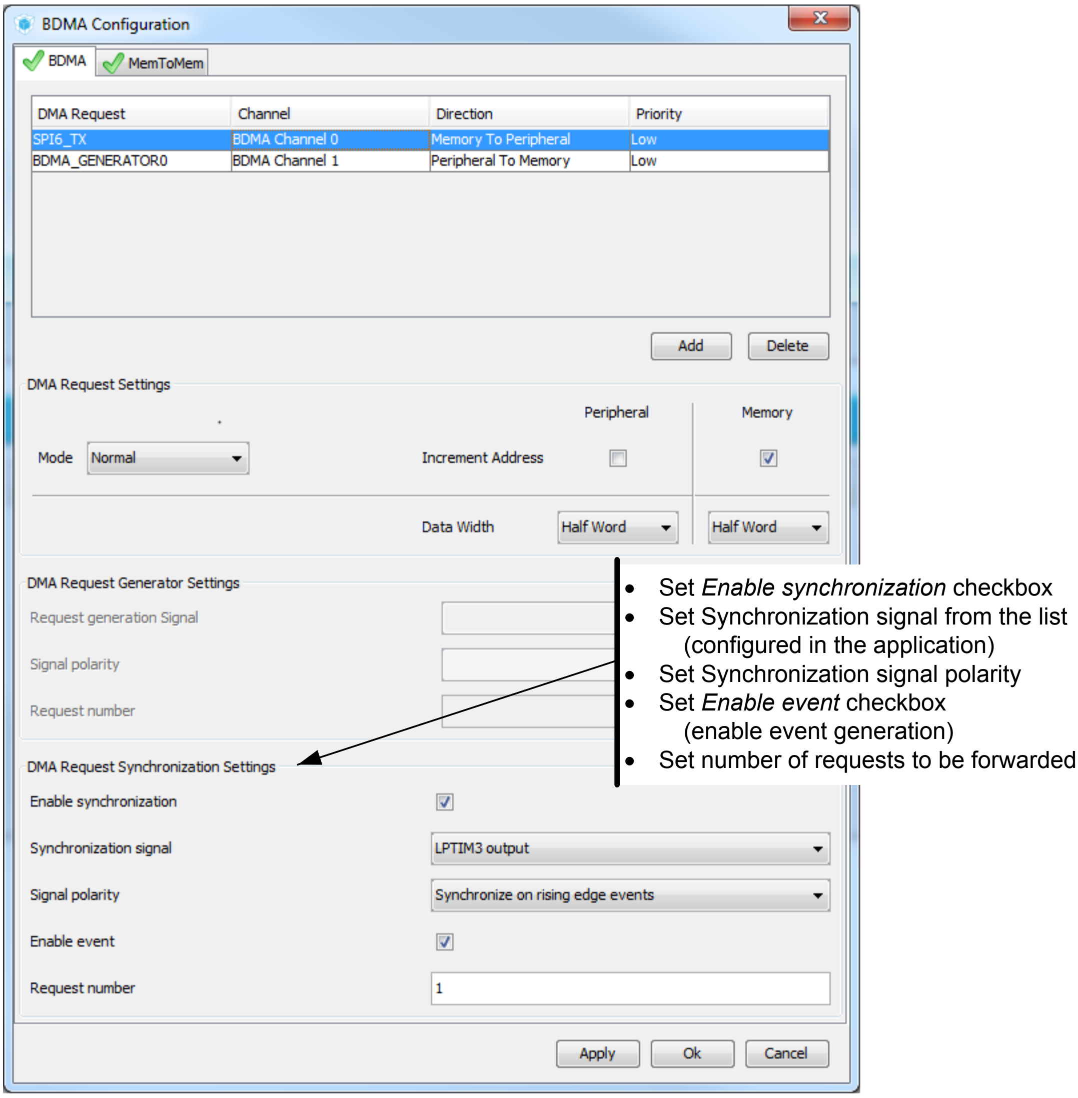
3 DMAMUX examples

These examples are based on STM32CubeMX tool version 4.26.1.

3.1 Example using the synchronization

After the configuration of the DMA channel to serve the peripheral DMA request line (example SPI6_TX), synchronization block can be enabled as shown in the figure below. In this case, the LPTIM3_out signal rising edge is used to control the transfer periods.

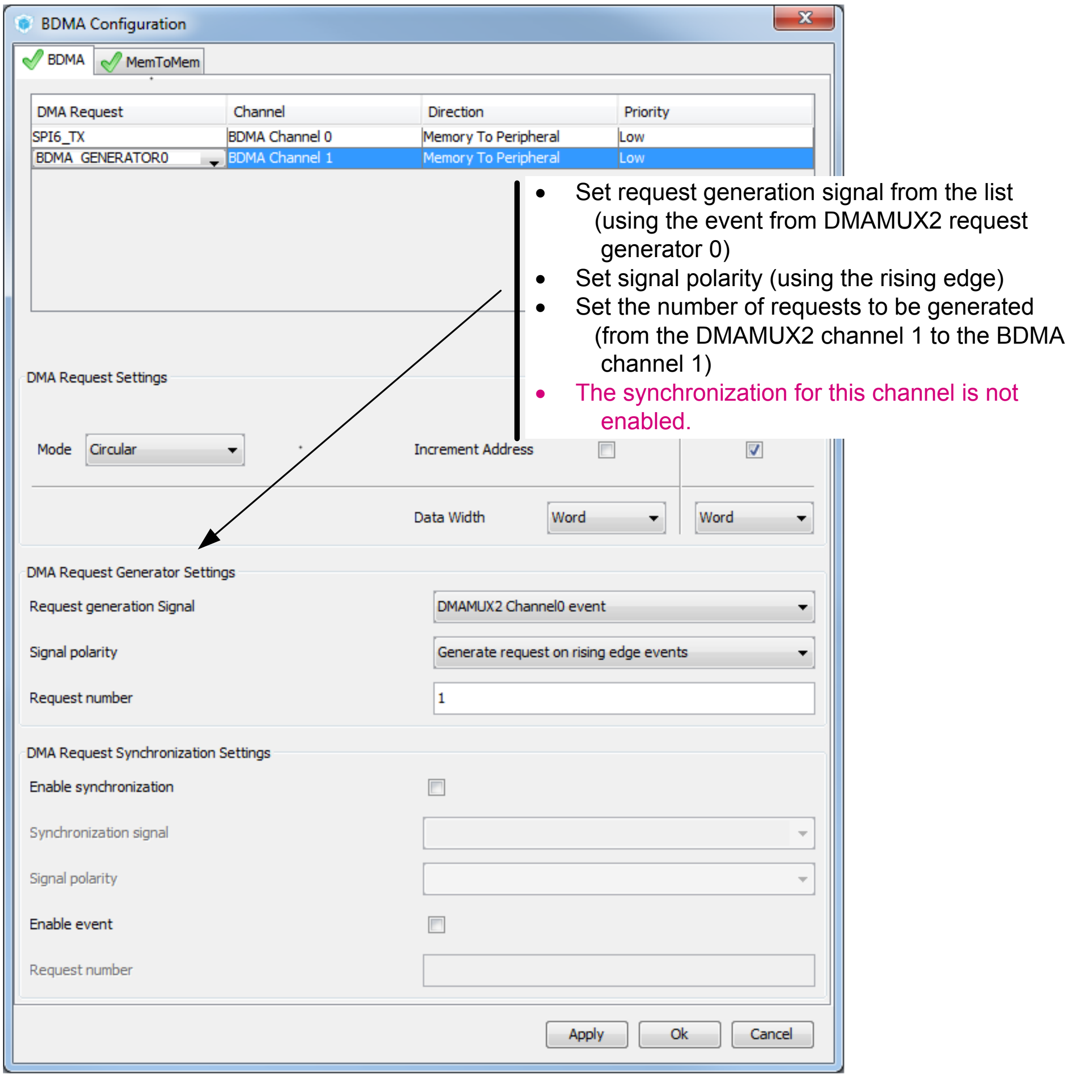
Figure 5. Example using the synchronization (based on STM32CubeH7)



3.2 Example using the DMAMUX request generator sub-block

In order to have some automation, new DMA transfers can be generated following the DMA transfer to SPI6. Thanks to the DMAMUX Channel 0 event generation, the request generator can be triggered. The scenario can be configured as shown in the figure below.

Figure 6. Example using the request generator (based on STM32CubeH7)

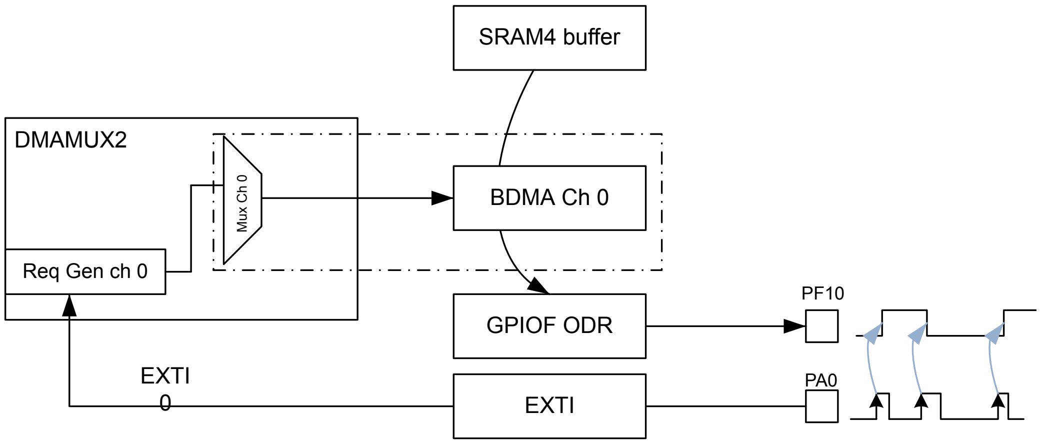


3.3 STM32CubeH7 examples

The following examples are extracted from the STM32CubeH7 ones:

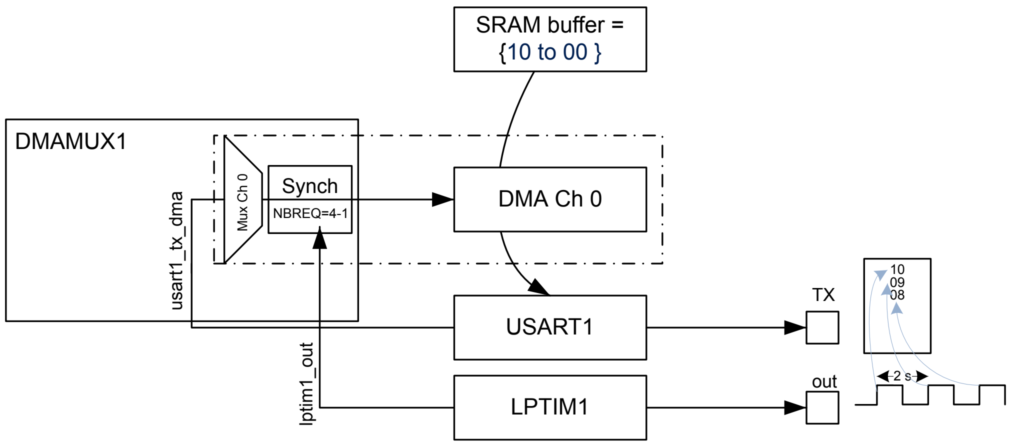
- **DMAMUX_RequestGen**
  This example uses the EXTI0 line to trigger the DMAMUX request generator and to perform DMA data transfers from the SRAM buffer to the GPIO output data register, changing output pin state on every EXTI0 rising edge occurrence.

Figure 7. **DMAMUX_RequestGen**



- **DMAMUX_SYNC**
  This example uses the USART1 in DMA synchronized mode to send a countdown from 10 to 00 with 2 seconds period. The DMAMUX synchronization block is configured to synchronize the DMA transfer with the LPTIM1 output signal. Each rising edge of the synchronization signal (LPTIM1 output signal) authorizes four USART1 requests to be transmitted to the USART1 peripheral using the DMA. These four requests represent the two characters '\n\r' plus the two characters count down itself from '10' to '00'. LPTIM1 is configured to generate a PWM with 2 seconds period.

Figure 8. **DMAMUX_SYNC**



4 Conclusion

The DMAMUX controller is designed to simplify embedded application resources allocation as it offers the flexibility to dynamically allocate a peripheral to a DMA channel. Additionally it increases the DMA capabilities by offering synchronization mechanism which allows an increased CPU offload from transfer control and synchronization. Also the combination of synchronization and request generation can be used to implement power optimized data transfer (in autonomous mode without CPU involvement).

Revision history

Table 2. **Document revision history**

Date	Version	Changes
16-Oct-2018	1	Initial release.
20-Nov-2018	2	Updated Table 1. Applicable products.

Contents

List of figures