Getting started with the X-CUBE-SPN13 low voltage brush DC motor driver software expansion for STM32Cube

Introduction

The X-CUBE-SPN13 software expansion for STM32Cube allows complete management of the STSPIN250 for control of brush DC motors. It is built on STM32Cube software technology for easy portability across different STM32 microcontrollers.

The software comes with a sample implementation to drive a bidirectional brush DC motor with a NUCLEO-F401RE, NUCLEO-F334R8, NUCLEO-F030R8 or NUCLEO-L053R8 development board connected to an X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 expansion board.

RELATED LINKS

Visit the STM32Cube ecosystem web page on www.st.com for further information

1 Acronyms and abbreviations

Table 1. List of acronyms

Acronym	Description
API	Application programming interface
BSP	Board support package
CMSIS	Cortex® microcontroller software interface standard
HAL	Hardware abstraction layer
SPI	Serial port interface
IDE	Integrated development environment
LED	Light emitting diode

2 X-CUBE-SPN13 software expansion for STM32Cube

2.1 Overview

The X-CUBE-SPN13 software package expands STM32Cube functionality, and features:

- STSPIN250 configuration (bridge input and enabling signals)
- flag interrupt handling (overcurrent and thermal alarm reporting)
- handling of one bidirectional brush DC motor
- STM32 Nucleo and expansion board configuration (GPIOs, PWMs, IRQs, etc.)

To use the STSPIN250 driver library, first call its initialization function to:

- set up the required GPIOs to handle the bridge enabling pins and the FLAG interrupt which reports overcurrent detection or thermal protection
- set up the drivers
- load the driver parameters with the values in "stspin240_250_target_config.h", in order to program the PWM frequency of the bridge inputs.

Once the initialization is done, you can modify the driver parameters by calling specific functions to change the PWMs frequency bridge configuration.

You can also use callback functions with:

- the flag interrupt handler, when a failure is reported by the STSPIN250;
- the error handler, called by the library when it reports an error.

Then, you can drive the brush DC motors by setting a specified running direction and by changing the maximum speed. When a motor is requested to run, the related bridge is automatically enabled.

A motion command can be stopped at any moment:

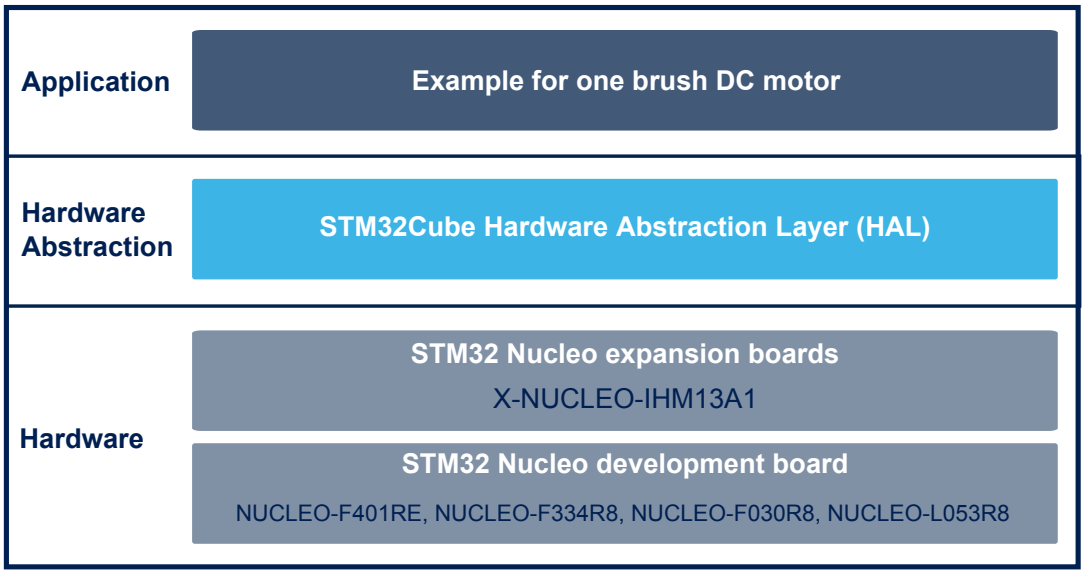
- by a hard stop which immediately stops the motor
- or by a hardHiz command which immediately stops the motor and disables the bridge it uses.

The library also provides functions to disable or enable the bridges independently of the run or stop commands.

2.2 Architecture

This STM32Cube software expansion enables development of applications using brush DC motor drivers based on STSPIN250.

Figure 1. X-CUBE-SPN13 software architecture



The software is based on the STM32CubeHAL hardware abstraction layer for the STM32 microcontroller and extends STM32Cube with a board support package (BSP) for the low voltage brush DC motor driver expansion board (X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1) and a BSP component driver for STSPIN250 motor driver.

The software layers used by the application software to access and use the brush DC motor driver expansion board are:

- STM32CubeHAL layer: provides a generic, multi-instance set of simple APIs (application programming interfaces) to interact with the upper layers (application, libraries and stacks). These generic and extension APIs are based on a common architecture and the layers above them like the middleware layer can function without requiring specific hardware configuration data for a given microcontroller unit (MCU). This structure improves the library code reusability and guarantees easy portability across other devices.
- Board support package (BSP) layer: supports the peripherals on the STM32 Nucleo development board, except for the MCU. This limited set of APIs provides a programming interface for certain board specific peripherals like the user button, the LED, etc, and helps in identifying the specific board version. In case of motor control expansion boards, the motor control BSP provides a programming interface for various motor driver components. The BSP in the X-CUBE-SPN13 software provides the drivers to manage the STSPIN250 motor driver.

2.3 Folder structure

The software is packaged in the following main folders:

- **Drivers**:
  - STM32Cube HAL driver files which directly derive from the STM32Cube framework.
  - CMSIS (Cortex® microcontroller software interface standard) files from ARM. These files form a vendor-independent hardware abstraction layer for the Cortex-M processor series. This folder is also unchanged from the STM32Cube framework.
  - BSP folder with code files required for X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 configuration, the STSPIN250 driver and the motor control API.
- **Projects**: contains a sample STSPIN250 application using a bidirectional brush DC motor.

2.3.1 BSP folder

2.3.1.1 STM32F4XX-Nucleo/STM32F3XX-Nucleo/STM32F0XX-Nucleo/STM32L0XX-Nucleo BSPs

Depending on the STM32 Nucleo development board, these BSPs provide an interface to configure and use the development board peripherals with the X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 expansion board.

Each subfolder (STM32F4XX-Nucleo/STM32F3XX-Nucleo/STM32F0XX-Nucleo/STM32L0XX-Nucleo) contains two couples of .c/.h files:

- **stm32XXxx_nucleo.c/h**: these files derive from the STM32Cube framework (with no modification) and provide the functions to handle the related STM32 Nucleo user button and LEDs.
- **stm32XXxx_nucleo_IHM13a1.c/h**: these files are dedicated to the configuration of the PWMs, the GPIOs and the interrupt enabling/disabling.

2.3.1.2 Motor control BSP

This BSP provides a common interface to access the driver functions of various motor drivers, such as L6206, L6474, powerSTEP01, STSPIN250, etc. This is done via a couple of c/h files: MotorControl/motorcontrol.c/h, which defines all the functions to configure and control the motor driver. These functions are then mapped to the functions of the motor driver component used on the given expansion board via the structure file: motorDrv_t (defined in Components\Common\motor.h).

This structure defines a list of function pointers filled during its instantiation in the corresponding motor driver component.

For X-CUBE-SPN13, the structure instance is called stspin240_250Drv (see file BSP\Components\stspin240_250\stspin240_250.c).

As the motor control BSP is common for all motor driver expansion boards, some functions are not available for all expansion boards. In this case, during the instantiation of the motorDrv_t structure in the driver component, the unavailable functions are replaced by a null pointer.

2.3.1.3 *Stspin240_250 BSP component*

The stspin240_250 BSP component provides the driver functions of the STSPIN250 low voltage brush DC motor driver in the folder stm32_cube\Drivers\BSP\Components\stspin240_250, which contains:

- **stspin240_250.c:** Stspin240_250 driver core functions
- **stspin240_250.h:** declaration of the Stspin240_250 driver functions and their associated definitions
- **stspin240_250_target_config.h:** parameter value setup for the STSPIN240 or the STSPIN250 (bridge configuration, bridge input PWMs frequency)

When used with an STSPIN250 driver as in the case of the X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 expansion board, this component requires the compilation flag declaration: STSPIN_250.

2.3.2 Project folder

For each STM32 Nucleo development board, the example projects are in the folder stm32_cube\Projects\Multi\Examples\MotionControl\:

IHM13A1_ExampleFor1BiDirMotors (examples of control functions for one bidirectional brush DC motor driving).

There is a dedicated folder for the target IDE:

- **EWARM** containing the project files for IAR
- **MDK-ARM** containing the project files for Keil
- **STM32CubedIDE** containing the project files for STM32CubeIDE

Each example also has the following code files:

- **inc\main.h**: main header file
- **inc\ stm32xxxx_hal_conf.h**: HAL configuration file
- **inc\stm32xxxx_it.h** : header for the interrupt handler
- **src\main.c:** main program (code of the example which is based on the motor control library for STSPIN250)
- **src\stm32xxxx_hal_msp.c**: HAL initialization routines
- **src\stm32xxxx_it.c**: interrupt handler
- **src\system_stm32xxxx.c**: system initialization
- **src\clock_xx.c**: clock initialization

2.4 Software required resources

STSPIN250 and the MCU communicate through GPIOs, using:

- 1 common GPIO for the flag interrupt (overcurrent detection or overtemperature protection) and the enable pin
- 1 GPIO to generate a PWM for the bridge input (PWM)
- 1 GPIO for the bridge input phase and to set the motor direction (PHA/DIR_A)
- 1 GPIO to generate a PWM for REF level setup
- 1 GPIO to set/reset the reset pin

Table 2. Required resources for the X-CUBE-SPN13 software

Resources for F4xx/F3xx	Resources for L0xx	Resources for F0xx	Pin	Features
ext. line 10 GPIO PA10			D2	flag interrupt and enable pin
GPIO PB4 TIM3 CH1		GPIO PB4 TIM22 CH1	D5	PWM for bridge
GPIO PB10			D6	direction for PHA/DIR_A bridge
GPIO PA0 TIM2 CH1	GPIO PA9 TIM1 CH2	GPIO PA0 TIM2 CH1	A0 (or D8 for F0)	REF
GPIO PC7			D9	reset

2.5 APIs

Detailed function and parameter descriptions for the user APIs are compiled in an HTML file in the software package Documentation folder.

X-CUBE-SPN13 software API is defined in the BSP motor control (functions predefined through BSP_MotorControl_).

Note: Not all the functions of this module are available for the STSPIN250 and, consequently, for the X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 expansion board.

3 System setup guide

3.1 Hardware description

This section describes the hardware components which are required to execute the X-CUBE-SPN13 software and successfully drive one brush DC motor.

3.1.1 STM32 Nucleo

STM32 Nucleo development boards provide an affordable and flexible way for users to test solutions and build prototypes with any STM32 microcontroller line.

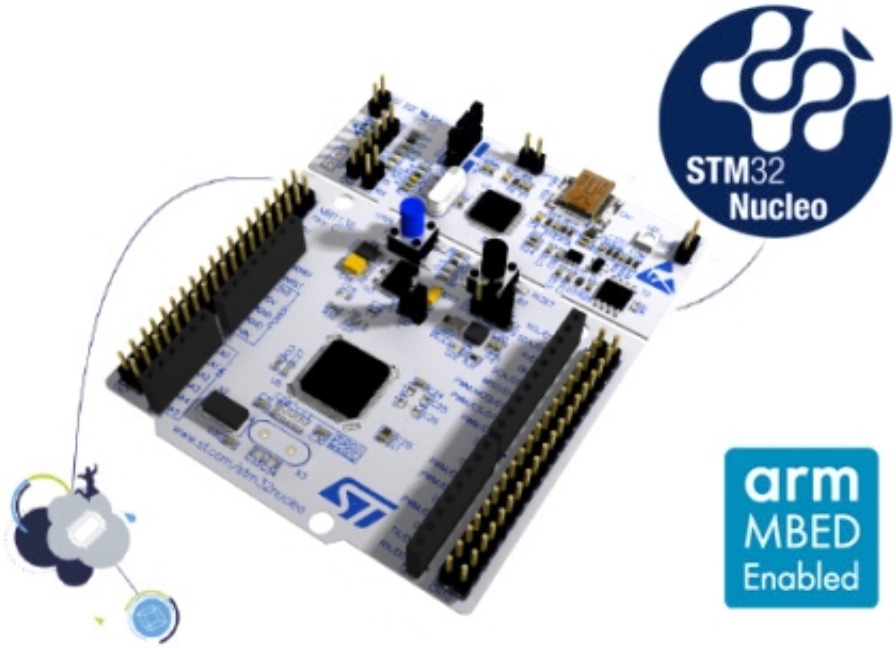
The Arduino connectivity support and ST morpho connectors make it easy to expand the functionality of the STM32 Nucleo open development platform with a wide range of specialized expansion boards to choose from.

The STM32 Nucleo board does not require separate probes as it integrates the ST-LINK/V2-1 debugger/ programmer.

The STM32 Nucleo board comes with the comprehensive STM32 software HAL library together with various packaged software examples for different IDEs (IAR EWARM, Keil MDK-ARM, STM32CubeIDE, mbed and GCC/ LLVM).

All STM32 Nucleo users have free access to the mbed online resources (compiler, C/C++ SDK and developer community) at www.mbed.org to easily build complete applications.

Figure 2. STM32 Nucleo board



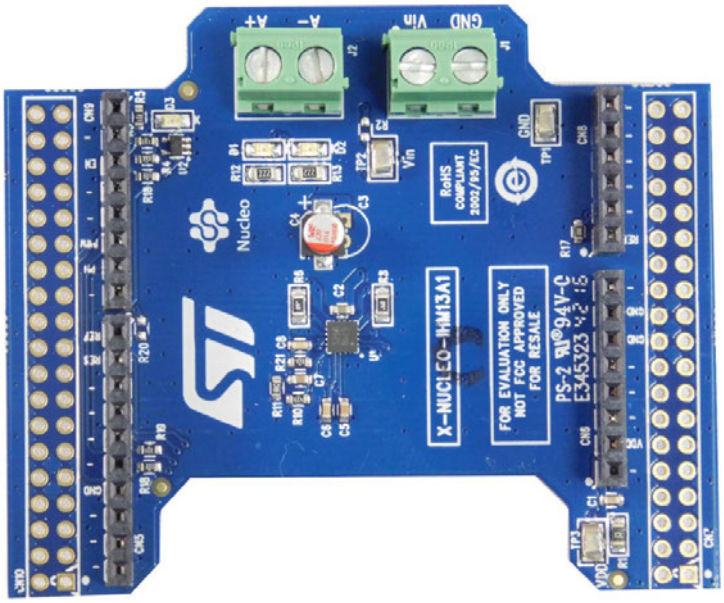
3.1.2 X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 low voltage brush DC motor driver expansion board

The X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 expansion board for STM32 Nucleo is based on the STSPIN250 low voltage brush DC motor driver.

It provides an affordable and easy-to-use solution for the implementation of portable motor driving applications such as thermal printers, robotics and toys.

The X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 is compatible with the Arduino UNO R3 connector and most STM32 Nucleo boards.

Figure 3. X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 expansion board for STM32 Nucleo



3.2 Hardware requirements

To complete the hardware setup, you need:

- one low voltage brush DC motor
- an external DC power supply with two electric cables
- a USB type A to mini-B USB cable to connect the STM32 Nucleo to a PC/laptop

3.3 Software requirements

The following software components are required for a suitable development environment for applications based on the motor driver expansion board:

- X-CUBE-SPN13 expansion for STM32Cube dedicated to STSPIN250 low voltage brush motor driver application development. The X-CUBE-SPN13 firmware and related documentation are available on www.st.com.
- One of the following development tool-chain and compilers:
  - Keil RealView Microcontroller Development Kit (MDK-ARM) toolchain V5.12
  - IAR Embedded Workbench for ARM (EWARM) toolchain V7.20
  - Integrated Development Environment for STM32 (STM32CubeIDE)

3.4 Hardware and software setup

This section describes the hardware and software setup procedure for executing the provided examples and to develop new applications based on the motor driver expansion board.

3.4.1 Common setup for all configurations

The STM32 Nucleo development board has to be configured with the following jumper position:

- JP1 off
- JP5 (PWR) on UV5 side
- JP6 (IDD) on

3.4.2 REF pin setup on X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 expansion board

Depending on the nucleo board, the REF pin setup has to be adapted to the X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 expansion board.

With NUCLEO-F401RE, NUCLEO-F334R8 or NUCLEO-L053R8, the default configuration of the board is: R22 (200 kΩ) mounted and R23 not mounted.

With NUCLEO-F030R8, R23 (200 kΩ) has to be mounted and R22 not mounted. If you want to keep the default board configuration, you can simply put a wire between the Arduino UNO R3 CN5-1 and CN8-1 connector pins.

3.4.3 Setup to drive one bidirectional brush DC motor

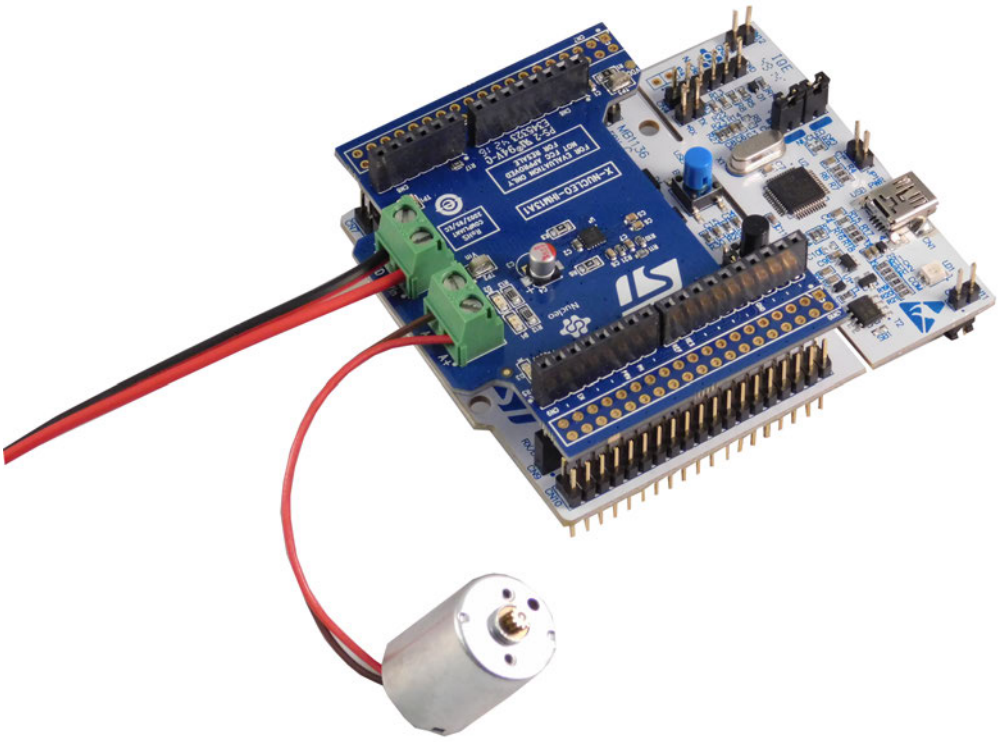
Step 1. Plug the X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 expansion board on top of the STM32 Nucleo development board via the Arduino UNO connectors.

Step 2. Connect the STM32 Nucleo to a PC/laptop via USB cable through USB connector CN1 to power the board.

Step 3. Connect the leads of the brush DC motor to the X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 bridge output connector A+/A-.

Step 4. Power on the X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 expansion board by connecting its connectors Vin and Gnd to the DC power supply. The DC supply must be set to deliver the required voltage to the brush DC motor.

Figure 4. STM32 Nucleo and X-NUCLEO-IHM13A1 connection to drive a bidirectional brush DC motor



Step 5. Open your preferred toolchain.

Step 6. Depending on the used STM32 Nucleo board, open the software project from:

- \stm32_cube\Projects\Multi\Examples\MotionControl\IHM13A1_ExampleFor1BiDirMotor*YourToolChainName*\STM32F401RE-Nucleo for NUCLEO-F401RE
- \stm32_cube\Projects\Multi\Examples\MotionControl\IHM13A1_ExampleForBiDirMotor*YourToolChainName*\STM32F334R8-Nucleo for NUCLEO-F334R8
- \stm32_cube\Projects\Multi\Examples\MotionControl\IHM13A1_ExampleFor1BiDirMotor*YourToolChainName*\STM32F030R8-Nucleo for NUCLEO-F030R8
- \stm32_cube\Projects\Multi\Examples\MotionControl\IHM13A1_ExampleFor1BiDirMotor*YourToolChainName*\STM32L053R8-Nucleo for NUCLEO-L053R8

Step 7. Adapt the default parameters used by the STSPIN250 to your motor characteristics by modifying the parameters in stm32_cube\Drivers\BSP\Components\stspin240_250\stspin240_250_target_config. h.

Step 8. Rebuild all files and load your image into target memory.

Step 9. Run the sample application.

Step 10. Push the user button to start the motor.

Step 11. Open main.c to watch the detailed demo sequence.
Each time you press the user button, a different demo sequence step appears.

Revision history

Table 3. **Document revision history**

Date	Version	Changes
09-Jan-2017	1	Initial release
24-May-2021	2	Updated Introduction, Section 2.1 Overview, Section 2.2 Architecture, Section 2.3 Folder structure, Section 2.3.2 Project folder, Section 3.2 Hardware requirements, Section 3.3 Software requirements and Section 3.4.3 Setup to drive one bidirectional brush DC motor. Removed Section 2 What is STM32Cube? and related subsection, and replaced them by a link in the Introduction.

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