
How to use the VL53L1 with STMicroelectronics' X-CUBE-TOF1 Time-of-Flight sensor software packages for STM32CubeMX

Introduction

The X-CUBE-TOF1 expansion software package for [STM32Cube](#) runs on the STM32 and includes drivers that recognize the sensors and perform simple ranging on single or multiple devices.

The expansion is built on STM32Cube software technology to ease portability across different STM32 microcontrollers.

The software comes with a sample implementation of the drivers running on different Time-of-Flight sensor evaluation boards connected to a featured STM32 Nucleo development board.

In this user manual, we focus on the VL53L1 Time-of-Flight ranging sensor with advanced multi-zone and multi-object detection. For further information on the Time-of-Flight sensors supported by X-CUBE-TOF1, please refer to the software page of www.st.com.

The VL53L1 evaluation boards supported by the The X-CUBE-TOF1 expansion software package include:

- X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 expansion board
- VL53L1-SATEL breakout boards

The X-CUBE-TOF1 software provides the following sample applications for the VL53L1:

- 53L1A2_SimpleRanging for X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 and optional cover glass for a calibration application
- 53L1A2_MultiSensorRanging for X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 and VL53L1-SATEL
- VL53L1CB_SimpleRanging for VL53L1-SATEL

Visit the [STM32Cube ecosystem](#) web page on www.st.com for further information.

1 Acronyms and abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
API	application programming interface
BSP	board support package
HAL	hardware abstraction layer
I2C	inter-integrated circuit
IDE	integrated development environment
MCU	microcontroller unit
NVIC	nested vector interrupt control
PCB	printed circuit board
SDK	software development kit
ToF	Time-of-Flight sensor
USB	universal serial BUS

2 X-CUBE-TOF1 software expansion for STM32Cube

2.1 Overview

The X-CUBE-TOF1 software package expands the STM32Cube functionality. The key features are:

- Complete software to build applications using the VL53L1 evaluation boards listed in [Section Introduction](#).
- Several application examples to show the innovative technology for the accurate distance ranging capability.
- Sample application to transmit real-time sensor data to a PC.
- Pre-compiled binaries available on all evaluation boards listed in [Section Introduction](#) connected to a NUCLEO-F401RE or NUCLEO-L476RG development board.
- Package compatible with STM32CubeMX, can be downloaded from, and installed directly into, STM32CubeMX.
- Easy portability across different MCU families, thanks to STM32Cube.
- Free, user-friendly license terms.

2.2 Architecture

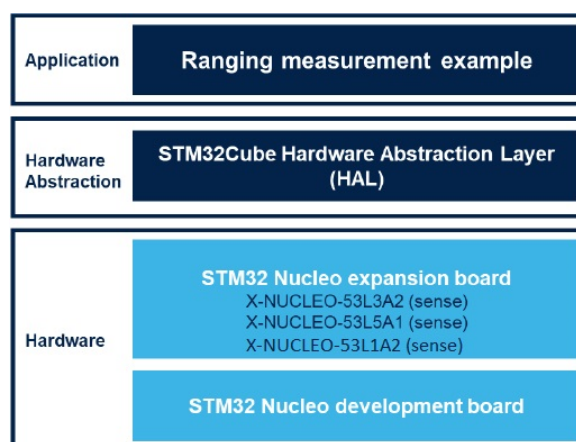
This software is a fully compliant expansion of STM32Cube enabling development of applications using Time-of-Flight sensors.

The software is based on the hardware abstraction layer for the STM32 microcontroller, STM32CubeHAL. The package extends STM32Cube by providing a board support package (BSP) for the sensor expansion board and a sample application for serial communication with a PC.

The software layers used by the application software to access the sensor expansion board are:

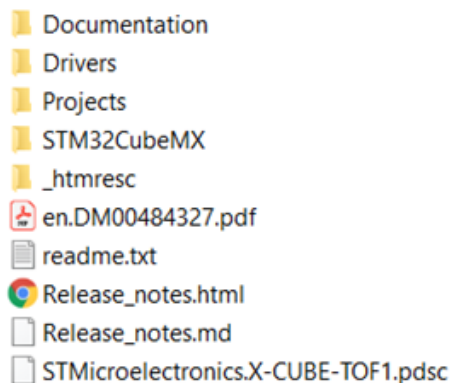
- The STM32Cube HAL driver layer. It provides a simple, generic and multi-instance set of APIs (application programming interfaces) to interact with the upper layers (application, libraries and stacks). It includes generic and extension APIs and is based on a generic architecture which allows the layers built on it (such as the middleware layer) to implement their functionalities without dependence on the specific hardware configuration of a given microcontroller unit (MCU). This structure improves library code reusability and guarantees high portability across other devices.
- The BSP layer. It provides supporting software for the peripherals on the STM32 Nucleo board, except for the MCU. It has a set of APIs to provide a programming interface for certain board-specific peripherals (e.g. the LED, the user button etc.), and allows identification of the specific board version. For the sensor expansion board, it provides the programming interface for various Time-of-Flight sensors and provides support for initializing and reading sensor data.

Figure 1. X-CUBE-TOF1 software architecture



2.3 Folder structure

Figure 2. X-CUBE-TOF1 package folder structure



The following folders are included in the software package:

- The Documentation folder contains a compiled HTML file generated from the source code and detailed documentation regarding the software components and APIs.
- The Drivers folder contains the HAL drivers, the board-specific drivers for each supported board or hardware platform, including those for the on-board components and the CMSIS layer, which is a vendor-independent hardware abstraction layer for the Cortex®-M processor series.
- The Projects folder contains several examples and applications for [NUCLEO-L476RG](#) and [NUCLEO-F401RE](#) platforms to show the use of sensor APIs provided with three development environments (IAR Embedded Workbench for ARM®, MDK-ARM® Microcontroller Development Kit, STM32CubeIDE).
- The STM32CubeMX folder contains all the templates used by the CubeMX ToF pack.

2.4 APIs

Detailed technical information about the APIs available to the user can be found in the compiled HTML file X-CUBE-TOF1.chm in the Documentation folder of the software package, where all the functions and parameters are fully described.

3 VL53L1 sample application descriptions

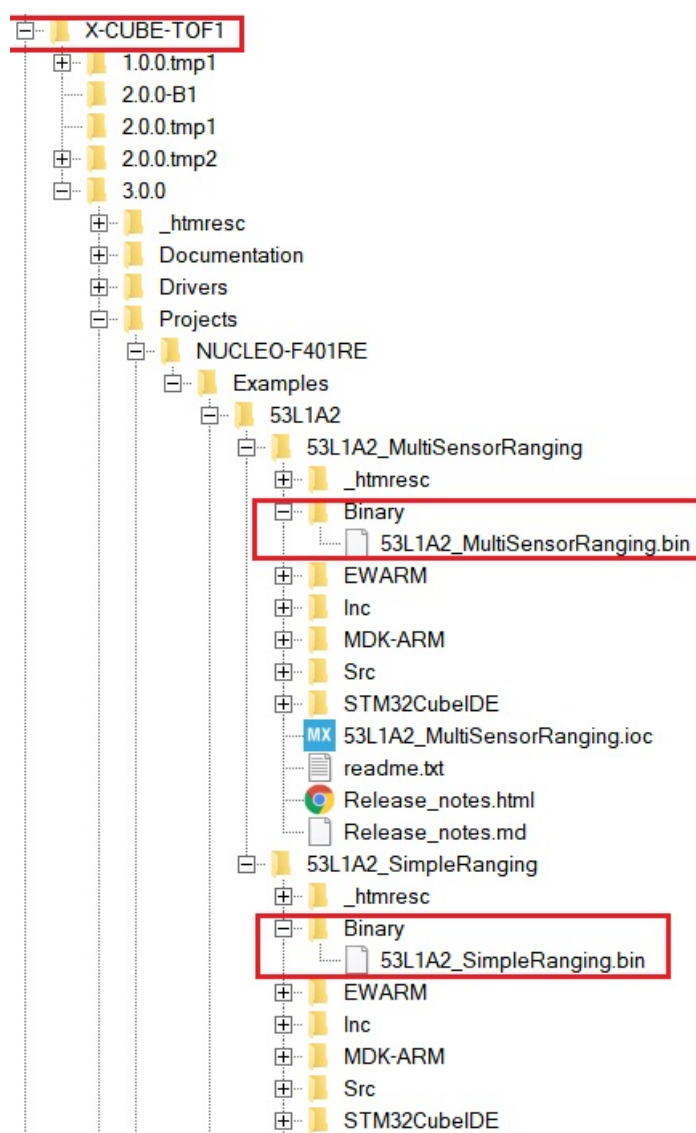
In this section, a short overview of the sample applications included in the X-CUBE-TOF1 pack is provided.

The sample applications:

- are ready-to-use projects that can be generated through the STM32CubeMX for any Nucleo board and using the X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 expansion board
- are ready-to-use projects that can be generated through the STM32CubeMX for any board equipped with an STM32 MCU and using the several supported ToF components.
- show the users how to use the APIs of the several ToF components to correctly initialize and use the ST ToF devices.

The pre-compiled binaries of the sample applications can be found under C:\Users\username\STM32Cube\Repository\Packs\STMicroelectronics\X-CUBE-TOF1\3.0.0\Projects\NUCLEO-F401RE\Examples\53L1A2\53L1A2_MultiSensorRanging\Binary as shown in the figure below. The user may directly use these binaries which are built for the Nucleo F401RE and L476RG, or generate a new application for other STM32 Nucleo or STM32 MCU using the STM32CubeMX.

Figure 3. Precompiled projects location



3.1 53L1A2_SimpleRanging

This sample application shows how to use the X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 expansion board and a Nucleo F401RE or Nucleo L476RG to send the ranging data to a serial terminal such as the Tera Term. In this example the ranging data are displayed on the serial terminal.

The ranging data can be read by polling a register or triggering an interrupt. To select the data reading mode, refer to [Section 4.2.1 How to generate the 53L1A2_SimpleRanging example with CubeMX](#).

This application can be run by loading the prebuilt binary 53L1A2_SimpleRanging.bin located as shown in [Figure 3. Precompiled projects location](#) or from a new project created with the STM32CubeMX.

1. After flashing the STM32 Nucleo board either with the prebuilt binary file or from an IDE, open Tera Term and configure it with the settings below:

Figure 4. Tera Term, Serial port setup

Tera Term: Serial port setup

Port: COM19

Baud rate: 460800

Data: 8 bit

Parity: none

Stop: 1 bit

Flow control: none

Transmit delay: 0 msec/char 0 msec/line

Buttons: OK, Cancel, Help

Figure 5. Tera Term, Terminal setup

Tera Term: Terminal setup

Terminal size: 157 x 60

☒ Term size = win size

☐ Auto window resize

New-line: Receive: AUTO, Transmit: CR

Terminal ID: VT100

☐ Local echo

Answerback:

☐ Auto switch (VT<->TEK)

Coding (receive): UTF-8

Coding (transmit): UTF-8

locale: american

CodePage: 65001

Buttons: OK, Cancel, Help

- Place your hand in front of the sensor, the ranging data should be displayed on the serial terminal as shown below.

Figure 6. Ranging data

```

Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 1632 mm , Ambient = 3.47 kcps/spad, Signal = 30.28 kcps/spad
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 1633 mm , Ambient = 3.40 kcps/spad, Signal = 31.14 kcps/spad

```

Note: Remove the protective film from the top of the ToF before first use.

3.2 Offset and xtalk applications

These sample applications show how to perform the calibrations (offset and xtalk).

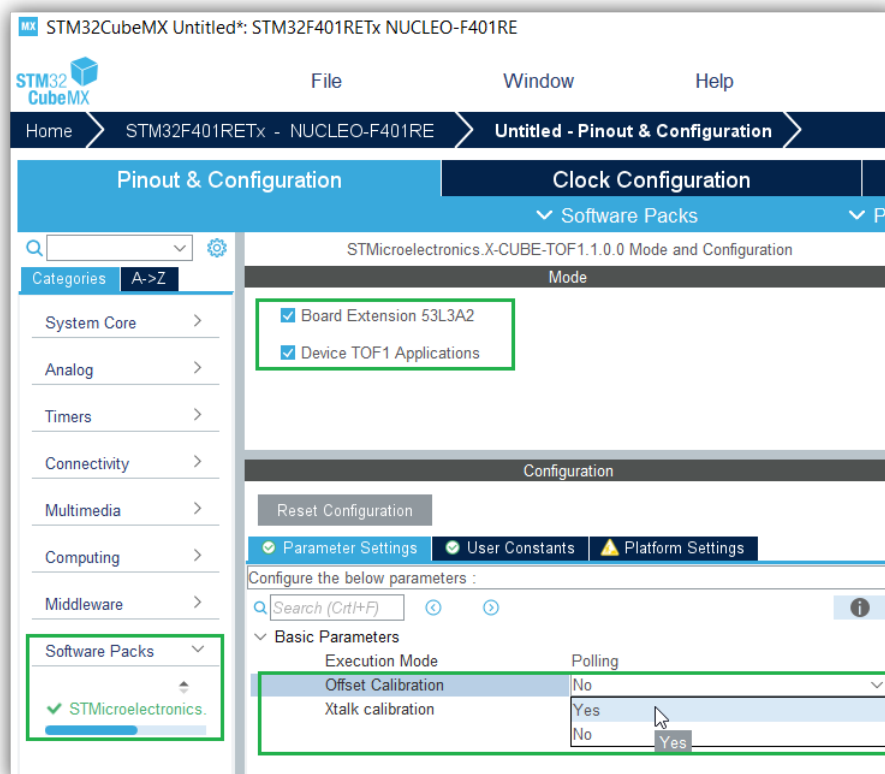
The sample applications are included in the 53L1A2_SimpleRanging application but they cannot be run directly from the prebuilt binary file. They can only be included only when generating a project with STM32CubeMX.

- Open C:\Users\user_name\STM32Cube\Repository\Packs\STMicroelectronics\X-CUBE-TOF1\3.0.0\Projects\NUCLEO-F401RE\Examples\53L1A2\53L1A2_SimpleRanging\53L1A2_SimpleRanging.ioc.

Note: Make sure that CUBE-MX has been installed.

- Complete the application configuration by selecting the calibration options as shown below.

Figure 7. STM32CubeMX, offset and xtalk calibration



3. To test these applications, the cover glass kit (rectangle cover glass and spacers) and a fix target at 100 mm for the offset calibration are required. The calibration distance can be changed in the source code.
4. Run the application from the project generated through the STM32CubeMX and follow the instructions displayed on the serial terminal as shown below to perform the calibrations.

Figure 8. Calibration

```

--- BEGIN XTALK CALIBRATION ---
Please remove all objects in front of the sensor
Press the user button to continue...
--- END OF XTALK CALIBRATION ---
--- BEGIN OFFSET CALIBRATION ---
Please put a target at 100 mm
Press the user button to continue...

Targets = 0          Ranging distance before calibration
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 6, Distance = 79 mm
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 78 mm
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 79 mm
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 79 mm
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 80 mm
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 79 mm
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 81 mm
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 80 mm
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 81 mm
--- END OF OFFSET CALIBRATION ---

Targets = 0          Ranging distance after calibration
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 6, Distance = 97 mm
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 98 mm
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 98 mm
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 98 mm

```


3.3 53L1A2_MultiSensorRanging

This sample application shows how to make three ToFs run simultaneously.

To test this application, two breakout boards VL53L1-SATEL, a X-NUCLEO-53L1A2, and a Nucleo F401RE or Nucleo L476RG are required. In this example the ranging data will be displayed on the serial terminal as shown below. This application can be run by loading the prebuilt binary C:\Users\user_name\STM32Cube\Repository\Packs\STMicroelectronics\X-CUBE-TOF1\3.0.0\Projects\NUCLEO-F401RE\Examples\53L1A2\53L1A2_MultiSensorRanging\Binary\53L1A2_MultiSensorRanging.bin. Alternatively, the application can be run from a new project created with the STM32CubeMX.

Note: *In this application the ranging data is read by polling a register. No interrupt option is implemented.*

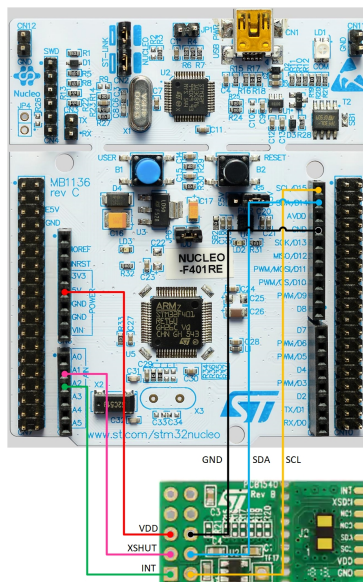
Figure 9. Multiple sensors ranging

LEFT	- Status = 0,	Distance = 1652 mm
CENTER	- Status = 0,	Distance = 1634 mm
RIGHT	- Status = 0,	Distance = 1623 mm
LEFT	- Status = 0,	Distance = 1670 mm
CENTER	- Status = 0,	Distance = 1636 mm
RIGHT	- Status = 0,	Distance = 1624 mm
LEFT	- Status = 0,	Distance = 1651 mm
CENTER	- Status = 0,	Distance = 1633 mm
RIGHT	- Status = 0,	Distance = 1623 mm

3.4 VL53L1CB_SimpleRanging

This sample application shows how to range with the VL53L1_SATEL connected directly to the Nucleo F401RE or Nucleo L476RG without the expansion board.

Figure 10. VL53L1_SATEL connection



To test this application, one VL53L1-SATEL breakout board and one F401RE Nucleo are required. In this example, the ranging data is displayed on the serial terminal as shown in the figure below. This application can be run by flashing the Nucleo with the prebuilt binary: C:\Users\user_name\STM32Cube\Repository\Packs\STMicroelectronics\X-CUBE-TOF\3.0.0\Projects\NUCLEO-F401RE\Examples\CUSTOM\VL53L1CB_SimpleRanging\Binary\VL53L1CB_SimpleRanging.bin.

To begin testing, open the Tera Term and set the baud rate to 460800 as shown below.

Figure 11. Tera Term: serial port setup

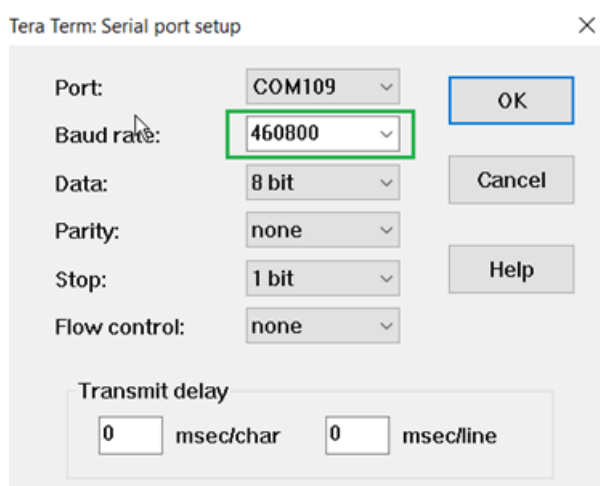


Figure 12. Ranging result displayed on a terminal

```
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 28 mm , Ambient = 0.00 kcps/spad, Signal = 13882.81 kcps/spad
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 27 mm , Ambient = 3.90 kcps/spad, Signal = 14015.62 kcps/spad
```

4 VL53L1 configuration steps

The X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 interfaces with the STM32 microcontroller via the I2C pin. If a user wants to interface the X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 expansion board with a STM32 Nucleo 64 pins board (e.g. a Nucleo-F401RE), no particular hardware modification must be done. The X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 pin out is shown in

Figure 13. STM32 Nucleo 64 pins and X-NUCLEO-53L1A2

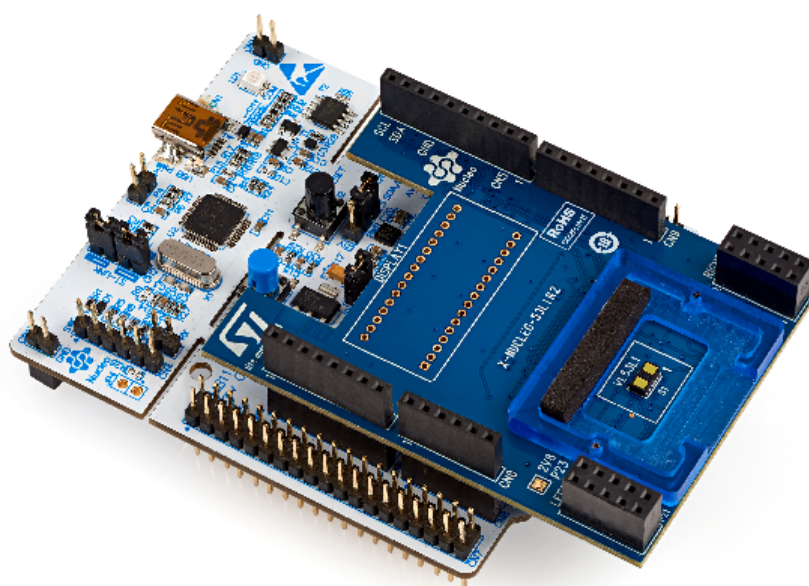
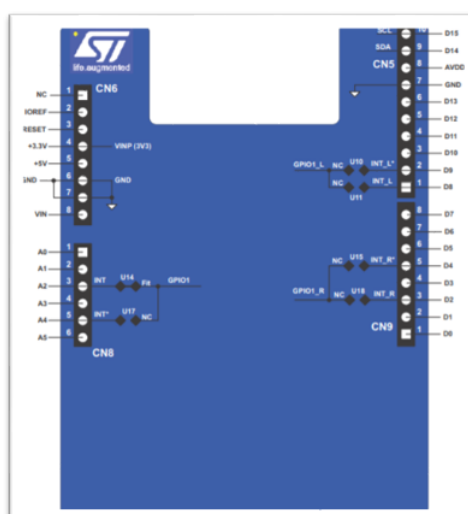


Figure 14. X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 pinout

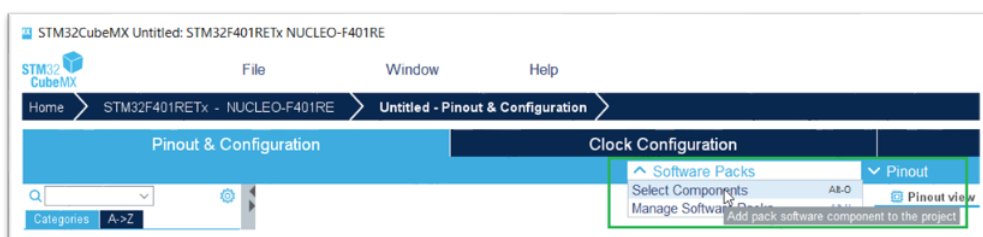


4.1 Use of expansion software without sample applications

This section describes how to configure STM32CubeMX with the X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 when the use of the sample applications is not required. With such a setup, only the driver layers are configured.

1. To add the X-CUBE-TOF1 SW pack to the project, click on the “Software Packs” button then “Select Components”.

Figure 15. Select components



2. From the “Software Packs Component Selector” window, select only the “Board Extension” class.

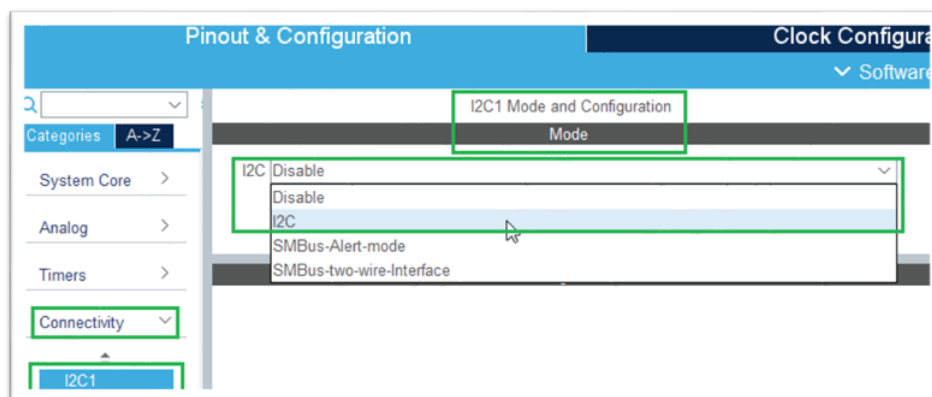
Figure 16. Select board extension only

MX Software Packs Component Selector

Pack / Bundle / Component	Status	Version	Selection
> RoweBots.I-CUBE-UNISONRTOS		5.5.0-4	Install
> SEGGER.I-CUBE-embOS		1.2.0	Install
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-AI		7.0.0	Install
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-ALGOBUILD		1.2.1	Install
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-ALS		1.0.1	
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-AZRTOS-H7		1.1.0	Install
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-BLE1		6.2.1	Install
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-BLE2		3.2.1	
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-DISPLAY		1.0.0	Install
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-EEPRMA1		3.1.0	Install
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-GNSS1		5.2.0	Install
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-MEMS1		9.0.0	Install
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-NFC4		2.0.3	Install
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-SFXS2LP1		3.1.0	Install
> STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-SUBG2		4.2.0	Install
✓ STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-TOF1	✓	3.0.0	
Board Extension 53L1A2	✓	1.0.0	✓

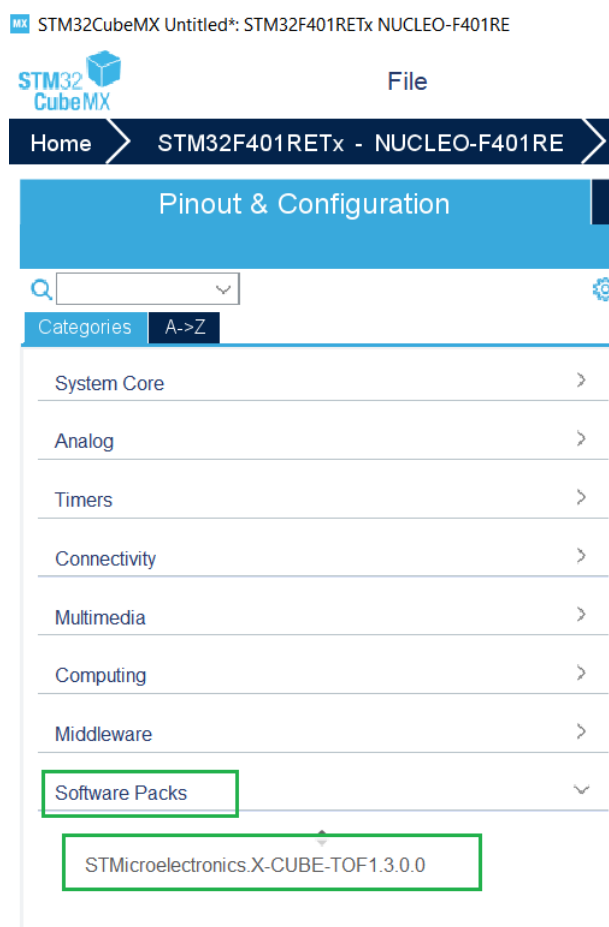
3. Enable I2C1 as shown below.

Figure 17. I2C configuration



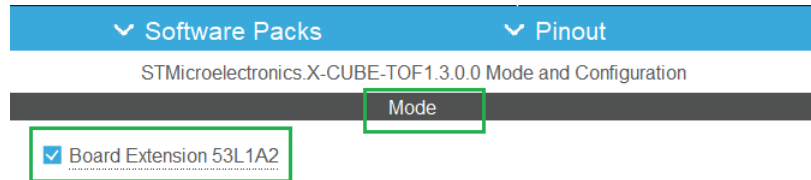
4. From the Software Packs drop-down menu, select STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-TOF1.

Figure 18. Software packs



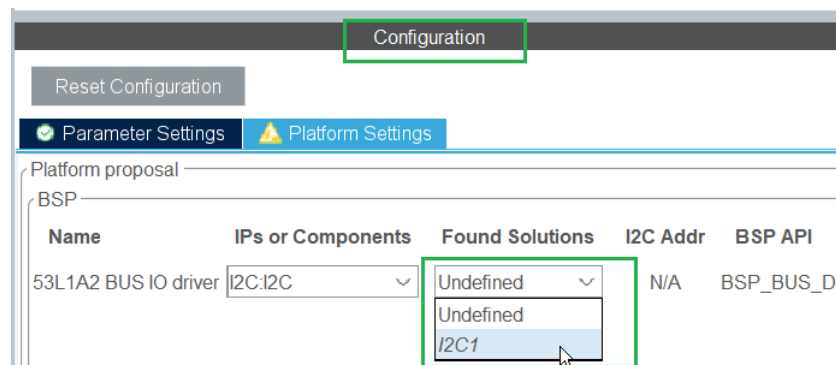
5. From the “Mode” view, select the “Board Extension 53L1A2”.

Figure 19. Mode view



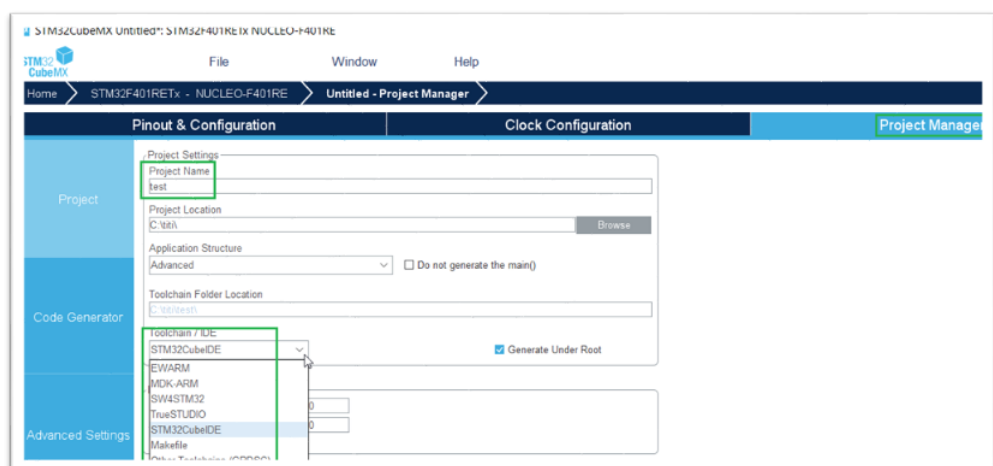
6. From the “Configuration” window, enable the I2C1.

Figure 20. Configuration window



7. Once all the steps above have been performed, click on “Project Manager” to name the project and select the Toolchain/IDE for which one the codes will be generated.

Figure 21. Project manager



8. Generate the source code of the project using the X-CUBE-TOF1 software by clicking on the “GENERATE CODE” button.

Figure 22. Generate code



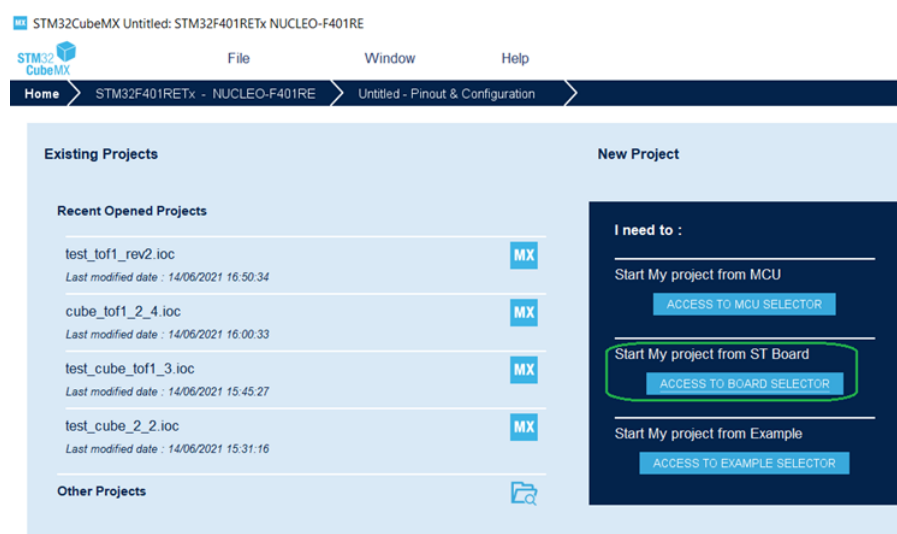
4.2 Use of expansion software with sample applications

This section describes how to configure STM32CubeMX with X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 when the use of the sample applications is desired. With such a setup, all the components of the expansion software package, including applications, are properly configured.

4.2.1 How to generate the 53L1A2_SimpleRanging example with CubeMX

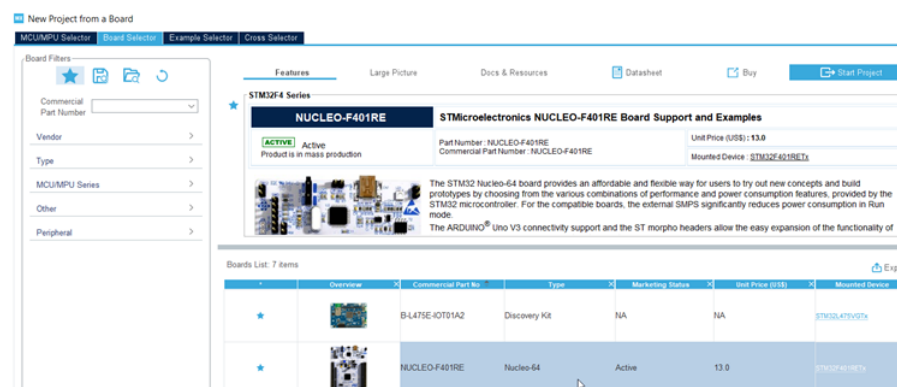
1. Open STM32-CubeMX and click on "ACCESS TO BOARD SELECTOR".

Figure 23. Access to board selector



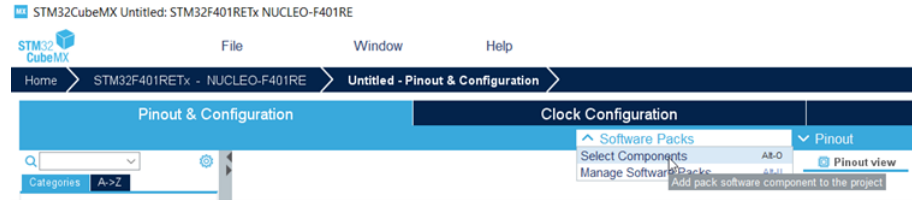
2. Search and select the F401RE board.

Figure 24. F401RE board



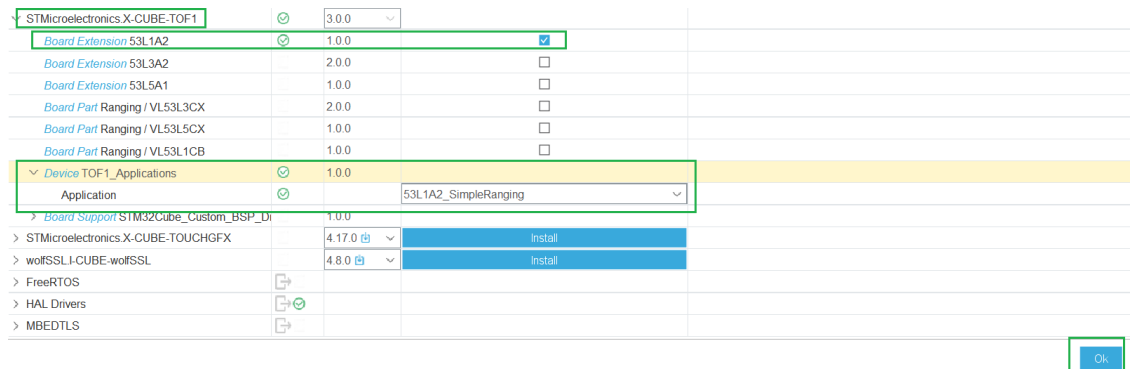
3. Click on "Select Components".

Figure 25. Select components



4. Click on "X-CUBE-TOF1" > select "53L1A2 Board Extension" > select "53L1A2_SimpleRanging" > click "OK".

Figure 26. 53L1A2_SimpleRanging



5. Click on "Software Packs" > select "STMicroelectronics X-CUBE-TOF1" > select the "Board Extension 53L1A2" box > select the "Device TOF1 Applications" box.

Figure 27. Device TOF1 applications

Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions
TOF_INT_PIN	GPIO:EXTI	Undefined

6. Configure the GPIOs for the application.

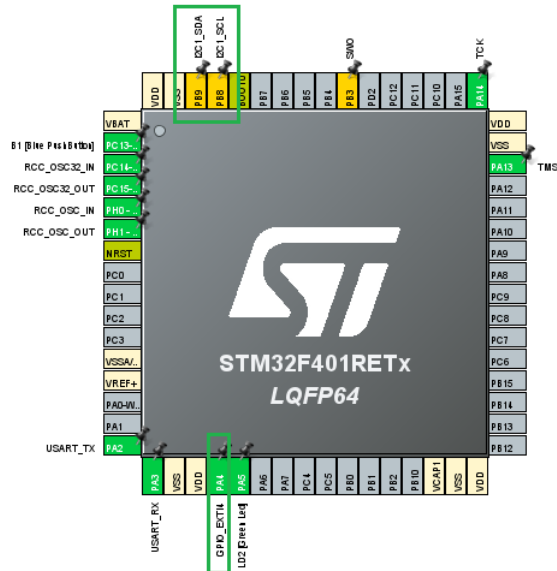
Figure 28. GPIO configuration

Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions	I2C Addr	BSP API
TOF_INT_PIN	GPIO:EXTI	Undefined	PA4	Unknown

Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions	I2C Addr	BSP API
53L1A2 BUS IO driver	I2C:I2C	Undefined	PB8 and PB9	N/A
BSP BUTTON	GPIO:EXTI	Undefined		BSP_COMMON_DRIVER
BSP USART	USART:Asynchronous	Undefined		BSP_COMMON_DRIVER

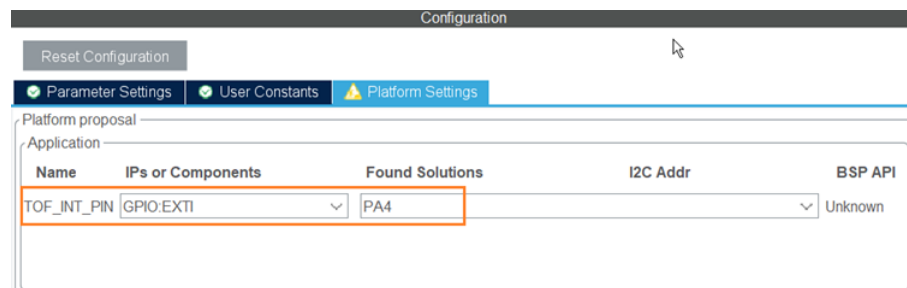
7. Select the GPIO pins.

Figure 29. GPIO pin selection



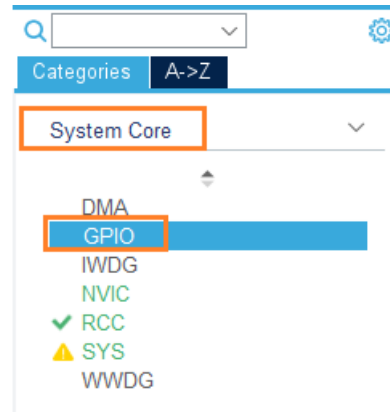
8. Link the GPIOs to the corresponding pin names.

Figure 30. GPIO and pin name correspondence



9. Click on GPIO to open the GPIO configuration window.

Figure 31. GPIO configuration window



10. Name and configure the pins as shown below.

Figure 32. Pin names and configuration

Group By Peripherals

GPIO Single Mapped Signals RCC SYS USART NVIC

Search Signals

Search (Ctrl+F)

☐ Show only Modified Pins

Pin Name	Signal on Pin	GPIO output level	GPIO mode	GPIO Pull-up/P...	Maximum output	User Label	Modified
PA4	n/a	n/a	External Interru...	No pull-up and n...	n/a	TOF_INT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PA5	n/a	Low	Output Push Pull	No pull-up and n...	Low	LD2 [Green Led]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PC13-ANTI_T...	n/a	n/a	External Interru...	No pull-up and n...	n/a	B1 [Blue PushB...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PA4 Configuration :

GPIO mode: External Interrupt Mode with Falling edge trigger detection

GPIO Pull-up/Pull-down: No pull-up and no pull-down

User Label: TOF_INT

11. Activate the NVIC interrupt vector as shown below.

Figure 33. Activation of NVIC interrupt vector

Configuration

Group By Peripherals

GPIO RCC SYS USART NVIC

NVIC Interrupt Table	Enabled	Preemption Priority	Sub Priority
EXTI line4 interrupt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	0
EXTI line[15:10] interrupts	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	0

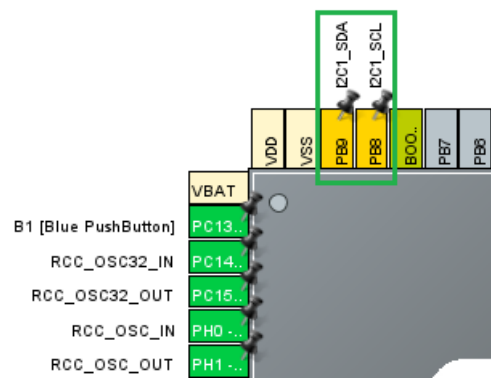
12. Configure the I2C and BSP

Figure 34. Configuration of I2C and BSP

BSP				
Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions	I2C Addr	BSP API
53L5A1 BUS IO driver	I2C:I2C	No solution	N/A	BSP_BUS_DRIVER
BSP BUTTON	GPIO:EXTI	Undefined		BSP_COMMON_DRIVER
BSP USART	USART:Asynchronous	Undefined		BSP_COMMON_DRIVER

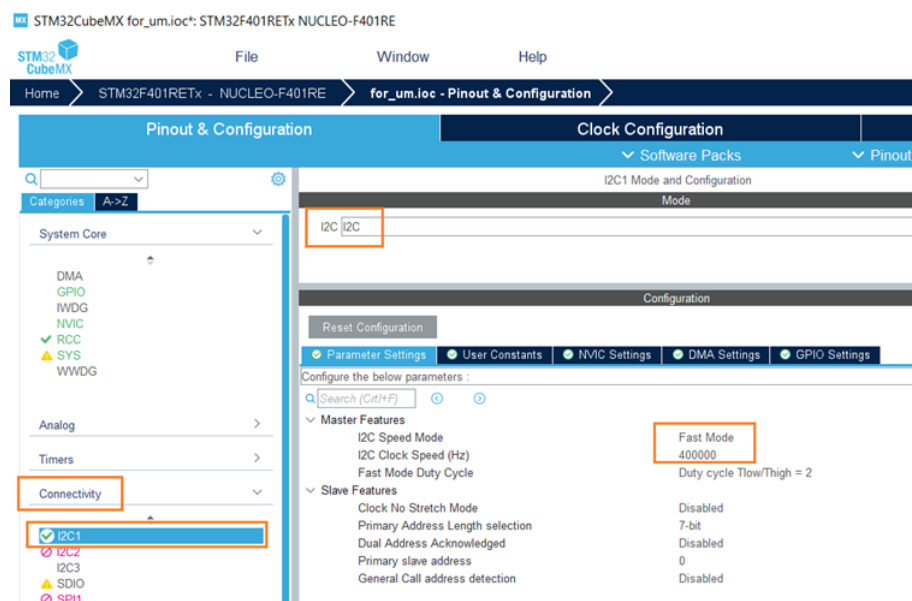
13. Select PB9 and PB8 for SDA and SCL.

Figure 35. PB9 and PB8 selection (for SDA and SCL)



14. Click on Connectivity > select I2C1 > enable the I2C > select Fast mode.

Figure 36. Fast mode selection



15. Return to the Software Pack view and configure the I2C and BSP as shown below.

Figure 37. Configuration of I2C and BSP

Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions	I2C Addr	BSP API
TOF_INT_PIN	GPIO:EXTI	PA4 [TOF_INT]		Unknown

Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions	I2C Addr	BSP API
BSP BUTTON	GPIO:EXTI	PC13-ANTI_TAMP [B1 [Blue PushButton]]		BSP_COMMON_DRIVER
53L3A2 BUS IO driver	I2C:I2C	I2C1	0	BSP_BUS_DRIVER
BSP USART	USART:Asynchronous	USART2		BSP_COMMON_DRIVER

Note: The ranging distance data can be read by polling a register or triggering an interrupt on pin PA4.

16. Select either polling or interrupt. By default, polling is selected.

Figure 38. Selection of polling or interrupt

Configure the below parameters :

Search (Ctrl+F)

Basic Parameters

Ranging Mode	Polling
Offset Calibration	Interrupt
Xtalk Calibration	Polling

17. Click on Project Manager

Figure 39. Project Manager

STM32CubeMX Untitled*: STM32F401RETx NUCLEO-F401RE

File Window Help

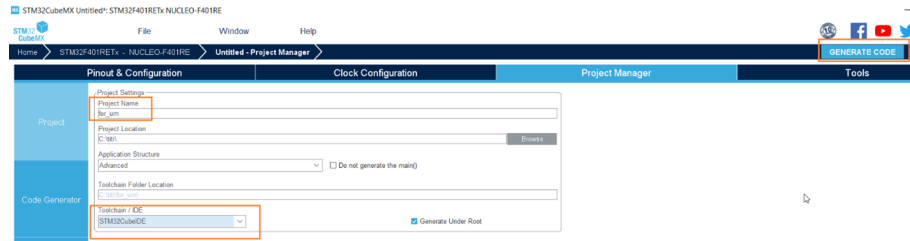
Home STM32F401RETx - NUCLEO-F401RE Untitled - Pinout & Configuration

Pinout & Configuration Clock Configuration Project Manager

Software Packs Pinout

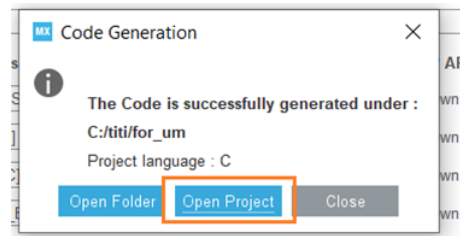
18. Name the project by selecting "Toolchain" and then selecting "Generate Code".

Figure 40. Project name



19. Click "Open Project" on the pop-up window when code generation is complete.

Figure 41. Open the project



20. Build and run the project, the results should look as shown below.

Figure 42. Build and run the project

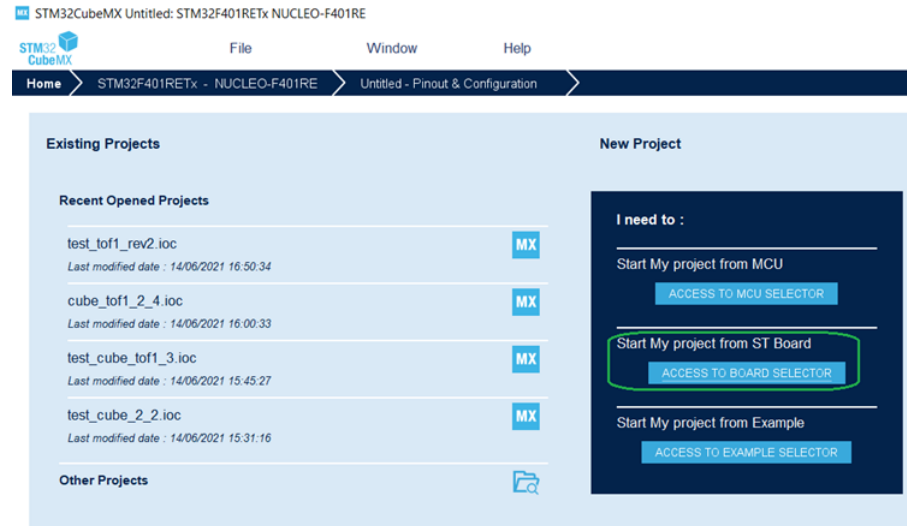
```
53L1A2 Simple Ranging demo application
Targets = 0
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 6, Distance = 1638 mm , Ambient = 1.00 kcps/spad, Signal = 29.49 kcps/spad
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 1630 mm , Ambient = 0.96 kcps/spad, Signal = 30.81 kcps/spad
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 1637 mm , Ambient = 1.11 kcps/spad, Signal = 29.60 kcps/spad
```


4.2.2

How to generate the 53L1A2_MultipleSensorRanging example with CubeMX

1. Open STM32-CubeMX and click on "ACCESS TO BOARD SELECTOR".

Figure 43. Access to board selector



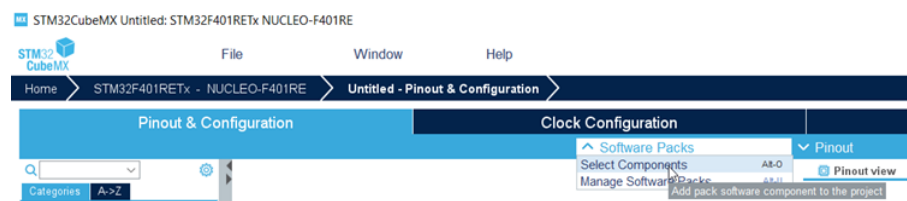
2. Search and select the F401RE board.

Figure 44. F401RE board



3. Click on "Select Components".

Figure 45. Select components



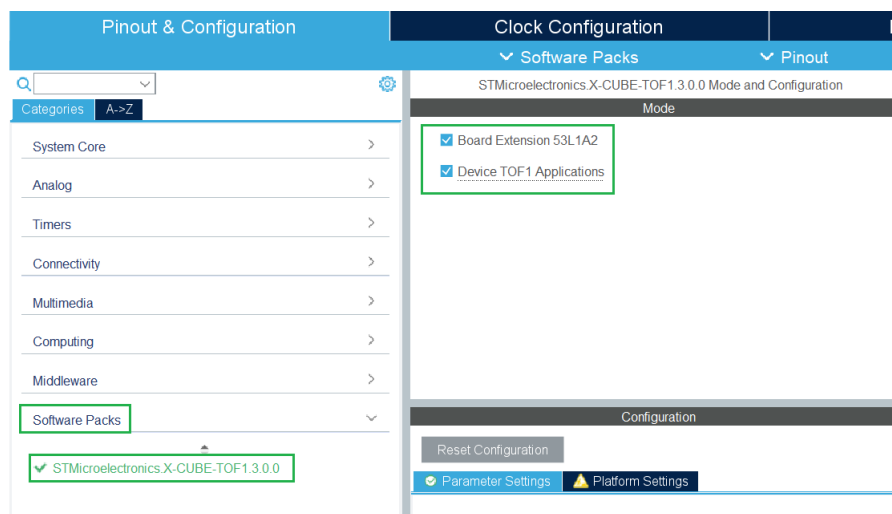
4. Click on "X-CUBE-TOF1" > select "53L1A2 Board Extension" > select "53L1A2_MultiSensorRanging" > click "OK" (in the bottom right-hand corner).

Figure 46. 53L1A2_MultiSensorRanging

STMicorelectronics.X-CUBE-TOF1	✓	3.0.0	
Board Extension 53L1A2	✓	1.0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Board Extension 53L3A2		2.0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Extension 53L5A1		1.0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Part Ranging / VL53L3CX		2.0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Part Ranging / VL53L5CX		1.0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Part Ranging / VL53L1CB		1.0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Device TOF1_Applications	✓	1.0.0	
Application	✓		53L1A2_MultiSensorRanging

5. Click on "Software Packs" > select "STMicorelectronics X-CUBE-TOF1" > select the "Board Extension 53L1A2" box > select the "Device TOF1 Applications" box.

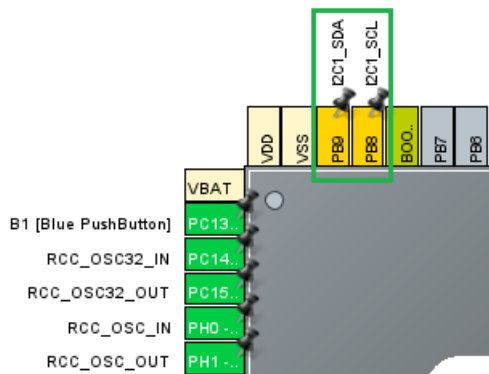
Figure 47. Device TOF1 applications



Note: Only the I2C is needed to setup.

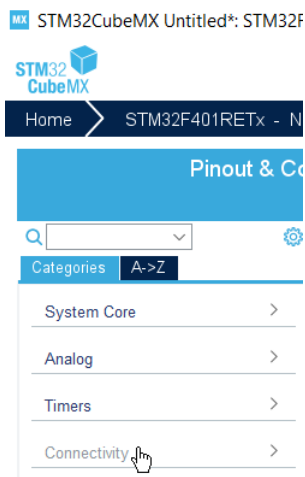
6. Select PB9 and PB8 for SDA and SCL.

Figure 48. PB9 and PB8 selection (for SDA and SCL)



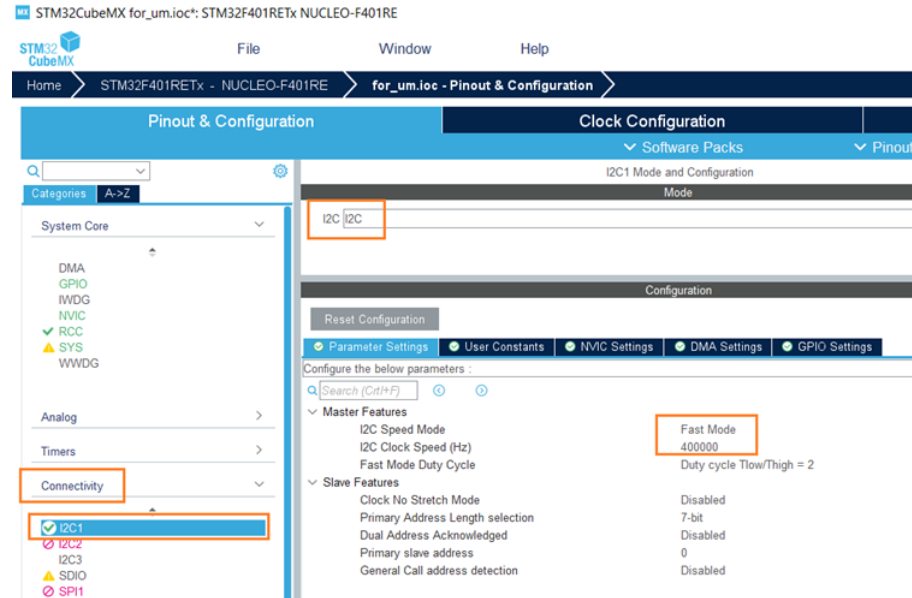
7. Click on Connectivity.

Figure 49. Connectivity



8. Select I2C1 > enable the I2C > select Fast mode

Figure 50. Fast mode selection



9. Return to the Software Pack view and configure the I2C and BSP as shown below.

Figure 51. Configuration of I2C and BSP

BSP				
Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions	I2C Addr	BSP API
53L5A1 BUS IO driver	I2C:I2C	I2C1	0	BSP_BUS_DRIVER
BSP USART	USART:Asynchronous	USART2		BSP_COMMON_DRIVER

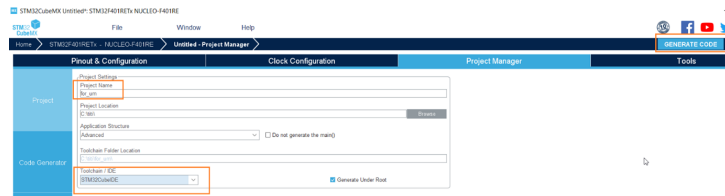
10. Click on Project Manager

Figure 52. Project Manager



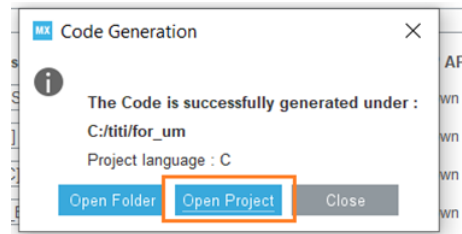
11. Name the project by selecting "Toolchain" and then selecting "Generate Code".

Figure 53. Project name



12. Click "Open Project" on the pop-up window when code generation is complete.

Figure 54. Open the project



13. Build and run the project, the results should look as shown below.

Figure 55. Build and run the project

LEFT	- Status = 6, Distance = 1643 mm
CENTER	- Status = 0, Distance = 1687 mm
RIGHT	- Status = 0, Distance = 1687 mm
LEFT	- Status = 0, Distance = 1687 mm
CENTER	- Status = 0, Distance = 1627 mm
RIGHT	- Status = 12, Distance = 1645 mm
LEFT	- Status = 12, Distance = 1645 mm
CENTER	- Status = 0, Distance = 1660 mm
RIGHT	- Status = 0, Distance = 1648 mm

4.2.3 How to generate the VL53L1CB_SimpleRanging example with CubeMX

In this example, the following material is required :

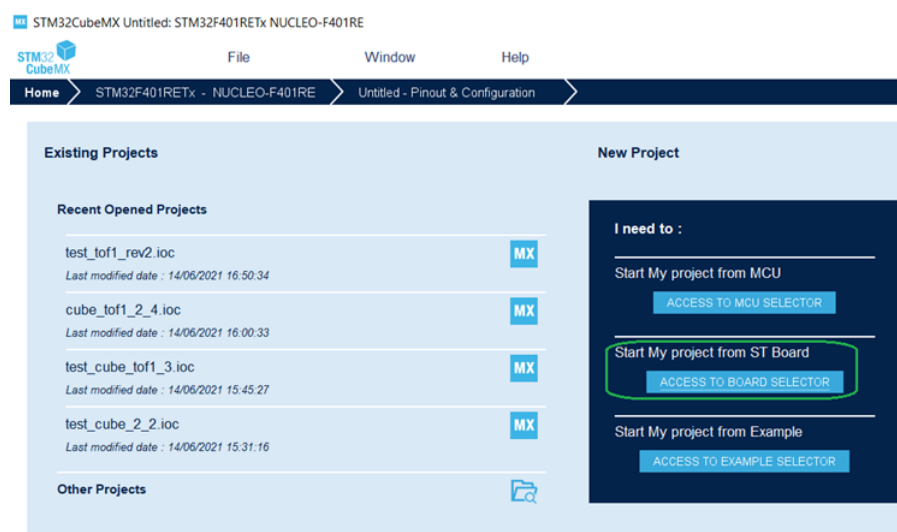
- A Nucleo F401RE
- VL53L1-SATEL
- Dupont wires

Note: Only the green VL53L1-SATEL PCB version works. The blue PCB can not be used in this example.

To operate this example, the breakout board is connected directly to the Nucleo F401RE board without the X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 expansion board.

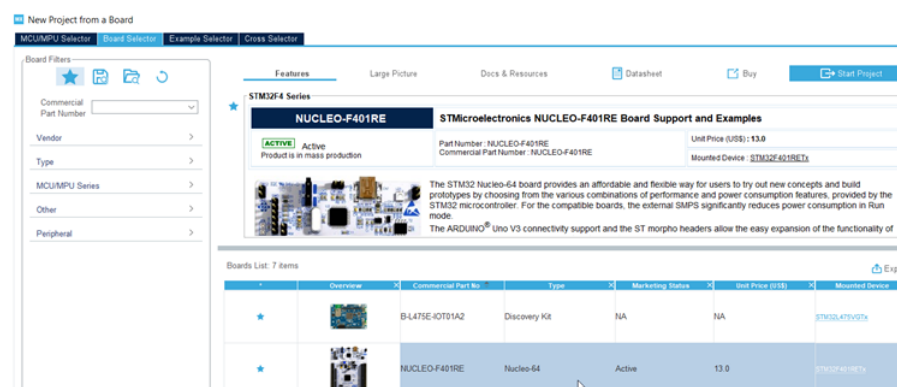
1. Open STM32-CubeMX and click on "ACCESS TO BOARD SELECTOR".

Figure 56. Access to board selector



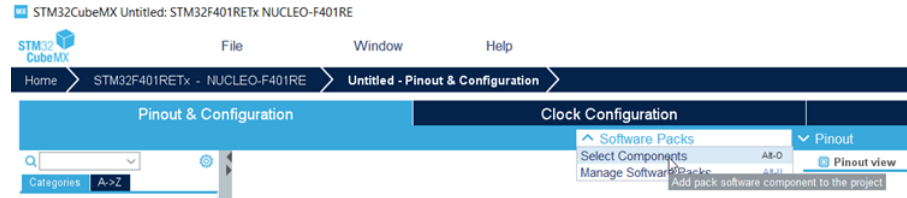
2. Search and select the F401RE board.

Figure 57. F401RE board



- Click on "Select Components".

Figure 58. Select components



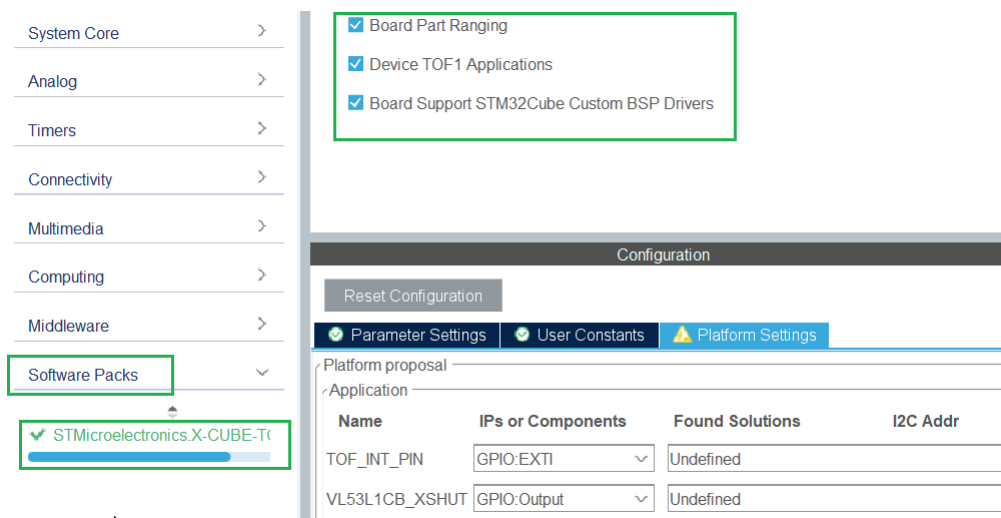
- Click on "X-CUBE-TOF1" > select "53L1A2 Board Extension" > select "VL53L1CB_SimpleRanging" > click "OK".

Figure 59. VL53L1CB_SimpleRanging

✓ STMicroelectronics.X-CUBE-TOF1	✓	3.0.0	
Board Extension 53L1A2		1.0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Extension 53L3A2		2.0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Extension 53L5A1		1.0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Part Ranging / VL53L3CX		2.0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Part Ranging / VL53L5CX		1.0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Part Ranging / VL53L1CB	✓	1.0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
✓ Device TOF1_Applications	✓	1.0.0	
Application	✓		VL53L1CB_SimpleRanging
✓ Board Support STM32Cube_Custom_BSP_Drivers	✓	1.0.0	
Custom / RANGING_SENSOR	✓		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- Click on "Software Packs" > select "STMicroelectronics X-CUBE-TOF1" > select the "Board Part Ranging" box > select "Device TOF1 Applications" > select "Board Support STM32Cube Custom BSP Drivers".

Figure 60. Board support STM32Cube custom BSP drivers



6. Implement the connections shown below.

Figure 61. Connections 1

Configuration

Reset Configuration

Parameter Settings

User Constants

Platform Settings

Platform proposal

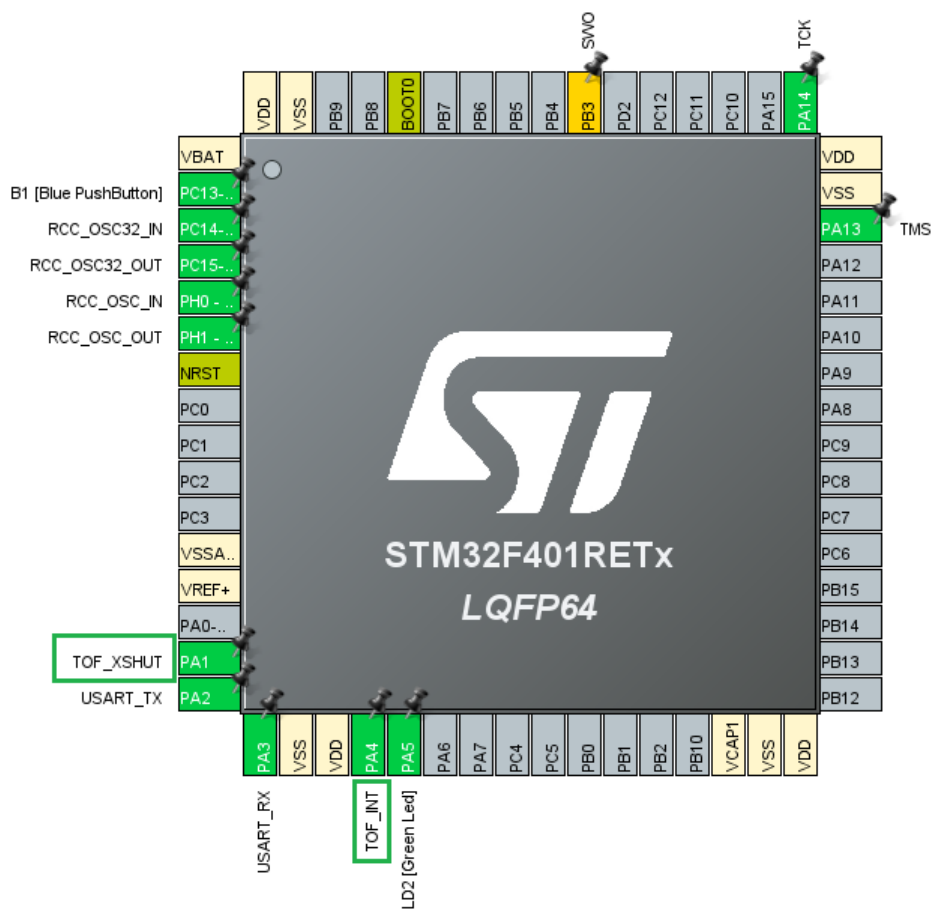
Application

Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions	I2C Addr	BSP API
TOF_INT_PIN	GPIO:EXTI	Undefined	PA4/A2	Unknown
VL53L1CB_XSHUT	GPIO:Output	Undefined	PA1/A1	Unknown

BSP

Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions	I2C Addr	BSP API
VL53L1CB BUS IO driver	I2C:I2C	No solution	PB8, PB9	BSP_BUS_DRIVER
BSP USART	USART:Asynchronous	Undefined		BSP_COMMON_DRIVER

Figure 62. Connections 2



7. Link the GPIOs to the corresponding pin names.

Figure 63. GPIO and pin name correspondence

The screenshot shows the 'Configuration' window with the 'Platform Settings' tab selected. Under 'Platform proposal', the 'Application' section contains a table with the following data:

Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions	I2C Addr	BSP API
TOF_INT_PIN	GPIO:EXTI	PA4 [TOF_INT]		Unknown
VL53L1CB_XSHUT	GPIO:Output	PA1 [TOF_XSHUT]		Unknown

8. Click on "System Core", then on "GPIO" to open the GPIO configuration window.

Figure 64. GPIO configuration window

The screenshot shows the STM32CubeMX interface. The 'System Core' dropdown menu is open, and the 'GPIO' option is selected. The breadcrumb navigation shows 'Home > STM32F401RETx - NL'. The 'Pinout & Configuration' window is visible in the background.

9. Name and configure the GPIO pins as shown below.

Figure 65. GPIO pin name and configuration

GPIO

Single Mapped Signals

RCC

SYS

USART

NVIC

Search Signals

Search (Ctrl+F)

Show only Modified Pins

Pin Name	Signal on Pin	GPIO output level	GPIO mode	GPIO Pull-up/P...	Maximum output...	User Label	Modified
PA1	n/a	High	Output Push Pull	No pull-up and n...	Low	TOF_XSHUT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PA4	n/a	n/a	External Interru...	No pull-up and n...	n/a	TOF_INT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PA5	n/a	Low	Output Push Pull	No pull-up and n...	Low	LD2 [Green Led]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PC13-ANTI_T...	n/a	n/a	External Interru...	No pull-up and n...	n/a	B1 [Blue PushB...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PA1 Configuration :

GPIO output level

High

GPIO mode

Output Push Pull

GPIO Pull-up/Pull-down

No pull-up and no pull-down

Maximum output speed

Low

User Label

TOF_XSHUT

10. Activate the NVIC interrupt vector as shown below.

Figure 66. Activation of NVIC interrupt vector

GPIO Mode and Configuration

Configuration

Group By Peripherals

GPIO

Single Mapped Signals

RCC

SYS

USART

NVIC

NVIC Interrupt Table	Enabled	Preemption Priority	Sub Priority
EXTI line4 interrupt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	0
EXTI line[15:10] interrupts	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	0

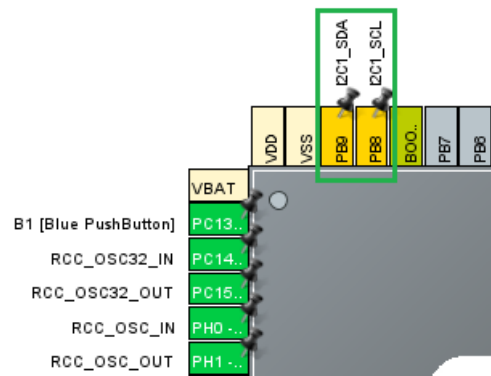
11. Configure the I2C and BSP

Figure 67. Configuration of I2C and BSP

Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions	I2C Addr	BSP API
BSP USART	USART:Asynchronous	Undefined		BSP_COMMON_DRIVER
VL53L3CX BUS IO driver	I2C:I2C	No solution	N/A	BSP_BUS_DRIVER

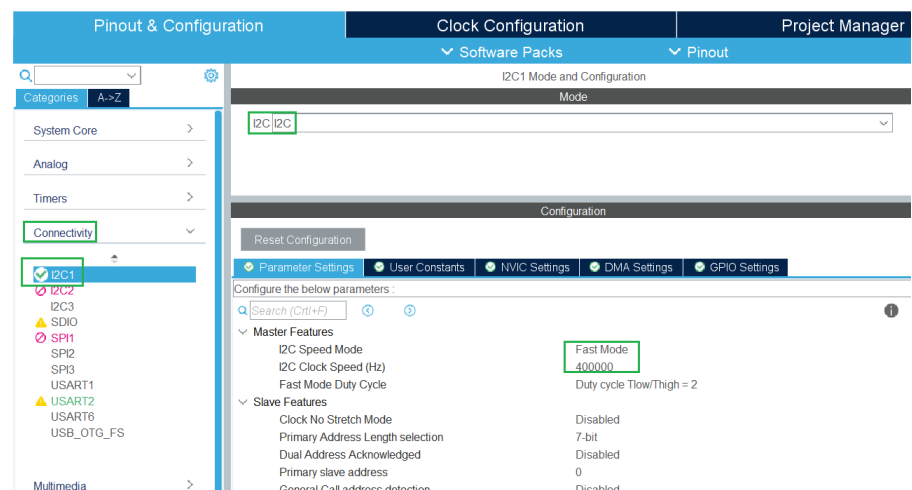
12. Select PB9 and PB8 for SDA and SCL.

Figure 68. PB9 and PB8 selection (for SDA and SCL)



13. Click on Connectivity > select I2C1 > enable the I2C > select Fast mode.

Figure 69. Fast mode selection



14. Return to the Software Pack view and configure the I2C and BSP as shown below.

Figure 70. Configuration of I2C and BSP

BSP				
Name	IPs or Components	Found Solutions	I2C Addr	BSP API
BSP USART	USART:Asynchronous	USART2		BSP_COMMON_DRIVER
VL53L3CX BUS IO driver	I2C:I2C	I2C1	0	BSP_BUS_DRIVER

15. Select either polling or interrupt. By default, polling is selected.

Figure 71. Selection of polling or interrupt

The screenshot shows the 'Parameter Settings' window with the 'Basic Parameters' section expanded. The 'Ranging Mode' dropdown menu is open, showing three options: 'Polling', 'Interrupt', and 'Polling'. The first 'Polling' option is selected.

16. Click on Project Manager

Figure 72. Project Manager



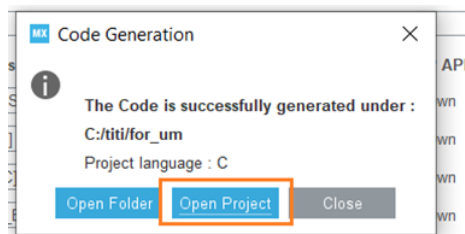
17. Name the project by selecting "Toolchain" and then selecting "Generate Code".

Figure 73. Project name

The screenshot shows the 'Project Manager' window with the 'Project Name' field highlighted. The 'Generate Code' button is also highlighted in the top right corner.

18. Click “Open Project” on the pop-up window when code generation is complete.

Figure 74. Open the project



19. Build and run the project, the results should look as shown below.

Figure 75. Build and run the project

```
COM124 - Tera Term VT
File Edit Setup Control Window Help
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 1632 mm , Ambient = 6.35 kcps/spad, Signal = 2.54 kcps/spad
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 1641 mm , Ambient = 6.35 kcps/spad, Signal = 2.47 kcps/spad
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 1634 mm , Ambient = 6.39 kcps/spad, Signal = 2.57 kcps/spad
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 1640 mm , Ambient = 6.39 kcps/spad, Signal = 2.47 kcps/spad
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 1641 mm , Ambient = 6.35 kcps/spad, Signal = 2.57 kcps/spad
Targets = 1
|---> Status = 0, Distance = 1644 mm , Ambient = 6.35 kcps/spad, Signal = 2.43 kcps/spad
```

5 System setup guide

5.1 Hardware description

5.1.1 STM32 Nucleo

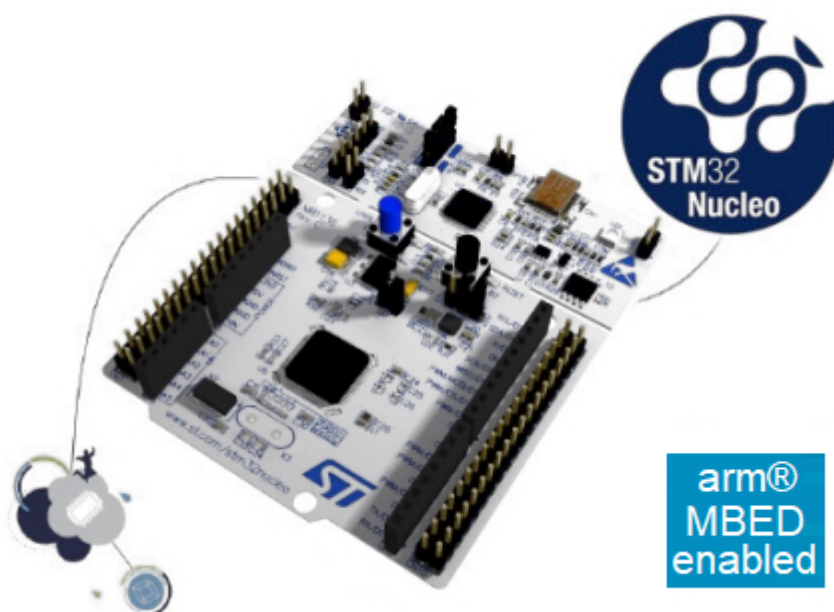
STM32 Nucleo development boards provide an affordable and flexible way for users to test solutions and build prototypes with any STM32 microcontroller line.

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 ARM®).

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 76. STM Nucleo board



Information regarding the STM32 Nucleo board is available at www.st.com/stm32nucleo.

5.1.2 VL53L1 boards

5.1.2.1 X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 expansion board

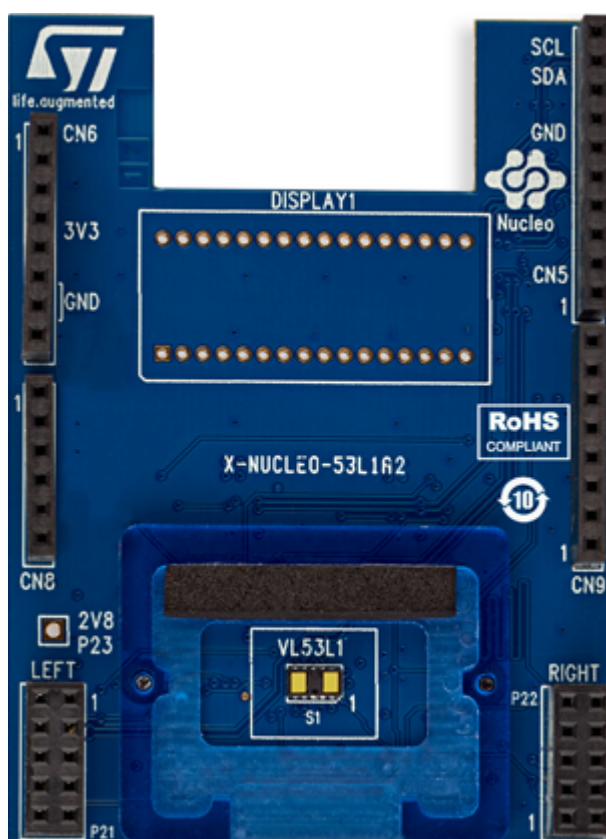
The X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 is an expansion board for any NUCLEO 64 development board. It provides a complete evaluation kit allowing anyone to learn, evaluate, and develop their applications using the VL53L1, Time-of-Flight ranging sensor with advanced multi-zone and multi-object detection.

The X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 expansion board is delivered with a cover glass holder in which three different spacers of 0.25, 0.5, and 1 mm height can be fitted below the cover glass to simulate various air gaps.

Two VL53L1 breakout boards can be connected using two 10-pin connectors.

The X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 expansion board is compatible with the STM32 nucleo board family, and with the Arduino UNO R3 connector layout.

Figure 77. X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 expansion board



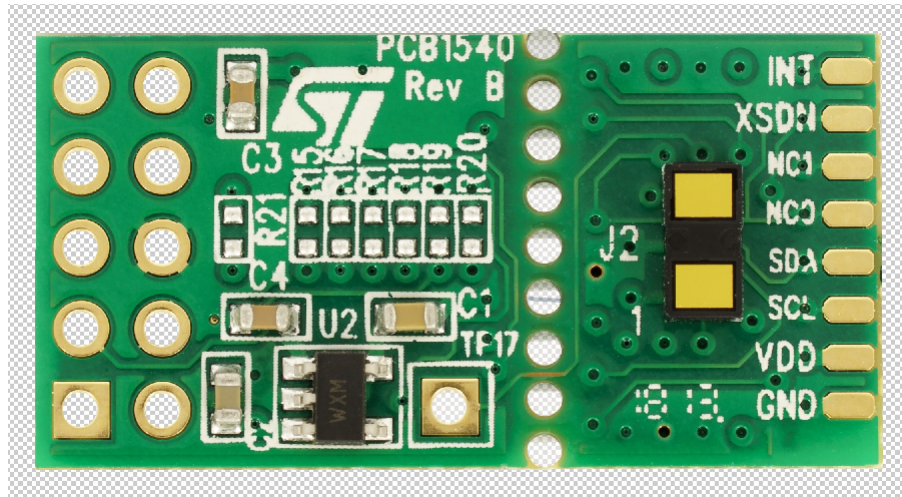
5.1.2.2 VL53L1-SATEL breakout boards

The VL53L1-SATEL breakout boards can be used for easy integration into customer devices.

Thanks to the voltage regulator and level shifters, the VL53L1 breakout boards can be used in any application with a 2.8 V to 5 V supply.

The PCB section supporting the VL53L1 module is perforated so that developers can break off the mini PCB for use in a 2.8 V supply application using flying leads. This makes it easier to integrate the VL53L1-SATEL breakout boards into development and evaluation devices due to their small form factor.

Figure 78. VL53L1-SATEL breakout board



5.2 Software description

The following software components are required in order to establish a suitable development environment for creating applications for the STM32 Nucleo equipped with the sensor expansion board:

- **X-CUBE-TOF1**: an STM32Cube expansion for sensor application development. The X-CUBE-TOF1 firmware and associated documentation is available on www.st.com.
- Development tool-chain and compiler: The **STM32Cube** expansion software supports the three following environments:
 - IAR Embedded Workbench for ARM®(EWARM) toolchain + ST-LINK
 - RealView Microcontroller Development Kit (MDK-ARM®-STR) toolchain + ST-LINK
 - STM32CubeIDE for STM32 + ST-LINK

5.3 Hardware setup

The following hardware components are required:

1. One STM32 Nucleo development platform (suggested order code: [NUCLEO-F401RE](#) or [NUCLEO-L476RG](#))
2. An X-NUCLEO-53L1A2 expansion board or a VL53L1-SATEL breakout board
3. One USB type A to mini-B USB cable to connect the STM32 Nucleo to a PC

5.4 Software setup

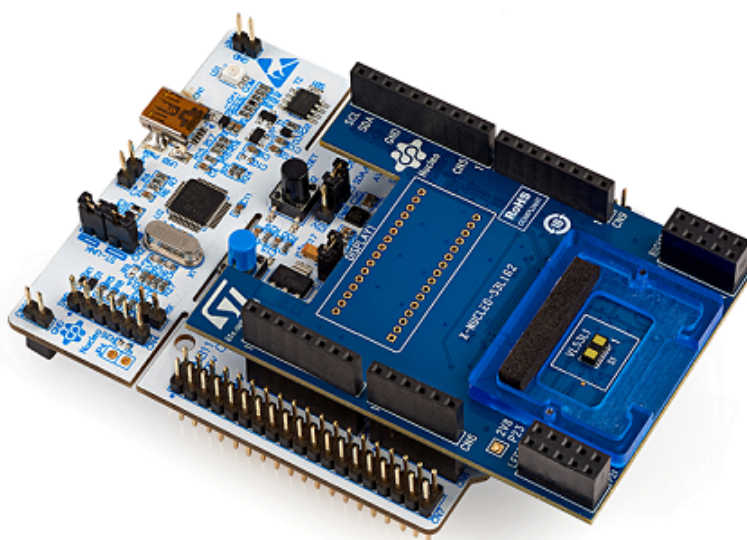
To set up the SDK, run the sample testing scenario based on the GUI utility and customize applications, select one of the integrated development environments supported by the STM32Cube expansion software and follow the system requirements and setup information provided by the IDE provider.

5.5 STM32 Nucleo and sensor expansion board setup

The STM32 Nucleo board integrates the ST-LINK/V2-1 debugger/programmer. Developers can download the relevant version of the ST-LINK/V2-1 USB driver by searching STSW-LINK008 or STSW-LINK009 (depending on your version of Windows) on www.st.com.

The X-NUCLEO expansion boards can be easily connected to the STM32 Nucleo board through the Arduino UNO R3 extension connector and can interface with the external STM32 microcontroller on STM32 Nucleo via the Inter-Integrated Circuit (I²C) transport layer.

Figure 79. Sensor expansion board plugged to STM32 Nucleo board



Revision history

Table 1. Document revision history

Date	Version	Changes
17-Jan-2022	1	Initial release

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