
Getting started with the X-CUBE-SPN15 dual brush DC motor driver software expansion for STM32Cube

Introduction

The X-CUBE-SPN15 is an expansion software package for STM32Cube. The software runs on the STM32 Nucleo providing management of STSPIN840 to control dual brush DC motors. The expansion is built on STM32Cube software technology to ease portability across different STM32 microcontrollers.

It is compatible with the NUCLEO-F401RE, NUCLEO-F334R8 or NUCLEO-F030R8 development boards connected to an X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1 expansion board.

The software comes with a sample implementation driving two bidirectional dual brush DC motors.

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-SPN15 software expansion for STM32Cube

2.1 Overview

The X-CUBE-SPN15 software package extends STM32Cube functionality and features:

- Driver layer for the full management of the STSPIN840 dual brush DC motor driver
- Sample implementation to control up to two bidirectional brush DC motors, available on NUCLEO-F401RE, NUCLEO-F334R8 or NUCLEO-F030R8 when connected to an X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1 expansion board
- Easy portability across different MCU families, thanks to STM32Cube
- Free, user-friendly license terms

To use the STSPIN840 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 "stspin840_target_config.h", in order to program the PWM frequency of the bridge inputs and the number of brush DC motors .

You can easily modify the driver parameters through specific functions able to change the bridge configuration, the number of motors or the PWM frequency.

You can also use callback functions with:

- the flag interrupt handler, when an overcurrent or a thermal alarm occur;
- the error handler, called by the library when it reports an error.

Then, you can drive different 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:

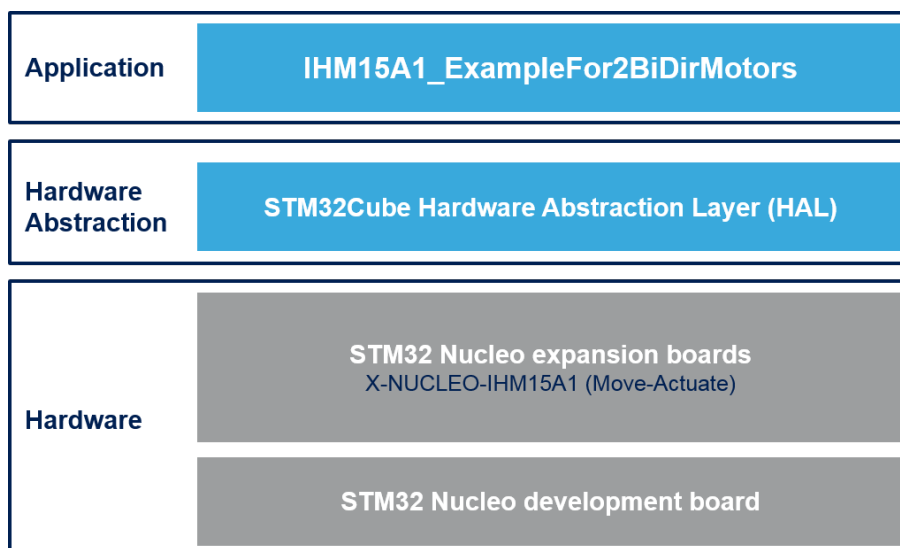
- by a hard stop which immediately stops the motor
- or by a hardHiz command which immediately stops the motor and disables the bridge it uses.

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

2.2 Architecture

This fully compliant STM32Cube software expansion enables development of applications using dual brush DC motor drivers.

Figure 1. X-CUBE-SPN15 architecture



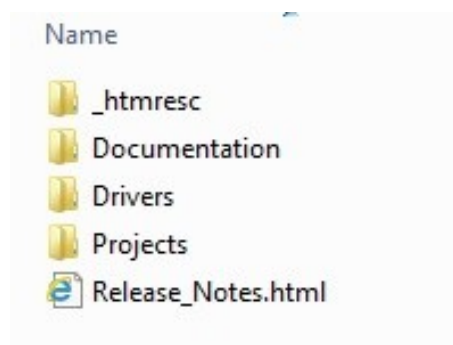
The software is based on the STM32CubeHAL hardware abstraction layer for the STM32 microcontroller and extends [STSPIN840](#) STM32Cube with a board support package (BSP) for the low voltage dual brush DC motor driver expansion board ([X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1](#)) and a BSP component driver for the STSPIN840 motor driver.

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

- STM32Cube HAL 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 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 expansion board BSP provides a programming interface for various motor driver components. The BSP in the [X-CUBE-SPN15](#) software provides the drivers to manage the STSPIN840 motor driver.

2.3 Folder structure

Figure 2. X-CUBE-SPN15 package folder structure



The software is packaged in the following main folders:

- **Drivers:**
 - STM32Cube HAL driver files located in the STM32F4xx_HAL_Driver, STM32F3xx_HAL_Driver, STM32F0xx_HAL_Driver or STM32L0xx_HAL_Driver subdirectories. These files are not described here as they are not specific for the [X-CUBE-SPN15](#) software but derive directly from the [STM32Cube](#) framework.
 - CMSIS folder with the 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-IHM15A1](#) configuration, the [STSPIN840](#) driver and the motor control API (see [Section 2.3.1 BSP folder](#)).
- **Projects:** contains a sample STSPIN840 application using two bidirectional brush DC motors.

2.3.1 BSP folder

2.3.1.1 STM32F4XX-Nucleo/STM32F3XX-Nucleo/STM32F0XX-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-IHM15A1](#) expansion board.

Each subfolder (STM32F4XX-Nucleo/STM32F3XX-Nucleo/STM32F0XX-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 board user button and LEDs.

- **stm32XXxx_nucleo_IHM15a1.c/h**: these files are dedicated to the configuration of the PWMs, the GPIOs and the interrupt enabling/disabling.

2.3.1.2 X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1 BSP

This BSP provides a common interface to access the driver functions of various motor drivers. This is done via a couple of c/h files: X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1/X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1.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-SPN15, the structure instance is called stspin840_Drv (see file BSP/Components/stspin840/stspin840.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 Stspin840 BSP component

The stspin840 component provides the driver functions of the **STSPIN840** low voltage dual brush DC motor driver in the folder stm32_cube\Drivers\BSP\Components\stspin840, which contains:

- **stspin840.c**: driver core functions
- **stspin840.h**: declaration of the driver functions and their associated definitions
- **stspin840_target_config.h**: parameter value setup for the STSPIN840 (bridge configuration, number of brush DC motors, bridge input PWMs frequency)

2.3.2 Project folder

For each STM32 Nucleo board, the example projects are in the folder stm32_cube\Projects\Multi\Examples\MotionControl\IHM15A1_ExampleFor2BiDirMotors (examples of control functions for two bidirectional brush DC motor driving).

There is a dedicated folder for the target IDE:

- **EWARM** containing the project files for IAR Embedded Workbench
- **MDK-ARM** containing the project files for ARM/Keil µVision
- **STM32CubeIDE** containing the project files for the integrated development environment for STM32

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 Stspin840)
- **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

STSPIN840 and the MCU communicate through GPIOs:

- 2 GPIOs for the flag interrupt (overcurrent detection or overtemperature protection) and the enable pin
- 2 GPIOs to generate a PWM for each bridge input (PWMA and PWMB)
- 2 GPIOs for the bridge input phase and to set the motor direction (PHA/DIR_A and PHB/DIR_B)
- 2 GPIOs to generate a PWM for REFA and REB adjustment
- 1 GPIO to set/reset the STBY pin

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-SPN15](#) 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 [STSPIN840](#) and, consequently, for the [X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1](#) expansion board.

3 System setup guide

3.1 Hardware description

This section describes the hardware components required to execute the X-CUBE-SPN15 software and successfully drive one or two dual brush DC motors.

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 3. STM32 Nucleo board



3.1.2 X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1 dual brush DC motor driver

The X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1 dual brush DC motor driver expansion board is based on the STSPIN840 for STM32 Nucleo.

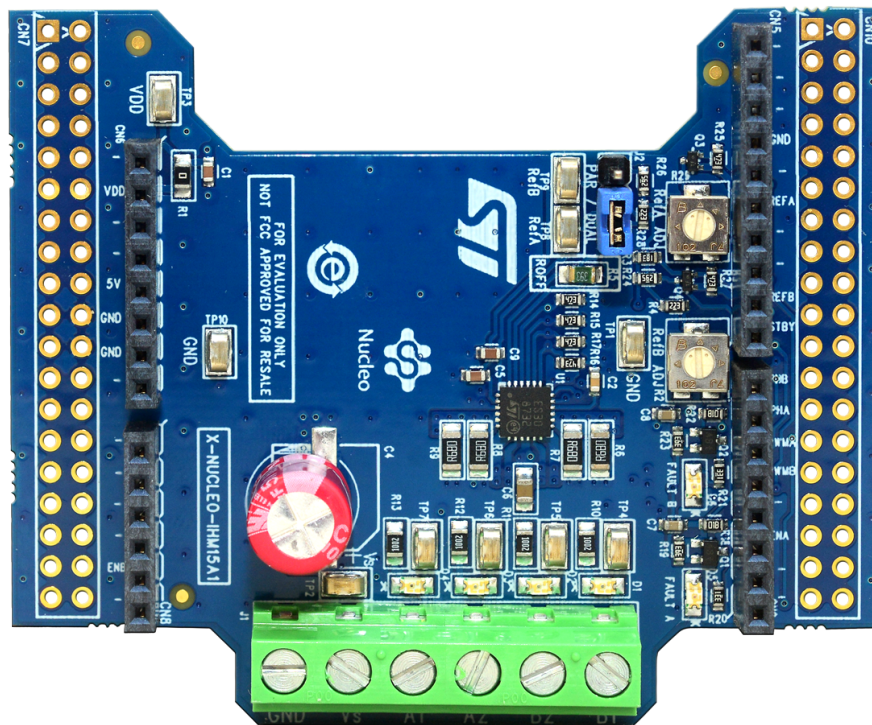
It provides an affordable and easy-to-use solution for the implementation of compact motor driving applications such as thermal printers, robotics and toys.

Thanks to the parallel operation, it can be easily converted to a single brush DC driver with double current capability.

The current limiters and complete set of protection features make it suitable for rugged applications.

The X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1 is compatible with the Arduino UNO R3 connector and most STM32 Nucleo boards.

Figure 4. X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1 expansion board



Information about the X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1 expansion board is available on [www.st.com](http://www.st.com/x-nucleo) at <http://www.st.com/x-nucleo>.

3.1.3 Miscellaneous hardware components

To complete the hardware setup, you need:

- one or two dual brush DC motors
- an external DC power supply with two electric cables (up to 45 V)
- a USB type A to mini-B USB cable to connect the [STM32 Nucleo](#) to a PC
- a Windows™ (v. 7 and above) – laptop or PC

3.2 Software requirements

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

- ST-LINK/V2-1 USB driver
- ST-LINK/V2-1 firmware upgrade
- [X-CUBE-SPN15](#) expansion for [STM32Cube](#) dedicated to [STSPIN840](#) low voltage dual brush motor driver application development. The X-CUBE-SPN15 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 V5.27
 - IAR Embedded Workbench for ARM (EWARM) toolchain V8.50
 - Integrated Development Environment for STM32 ([STM32CubeIDE](#))

3.3 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.

3.3.1 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

3.3.2 Setup to drive two bidirectional brush DC motors

- Step 1.** Plug the X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1 expansion board on top of the STM32 Nucleo board via the Arduino UNO R3 connectors.
- Step 2.** Connect the STM32 Nucleo board to a PC with the USB cable through USB connector CN1 to power the board
- Step 3.** Connect the leads of the first dual brush DC motor to the X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1 bridge output connector A+/A- and the second to connectors B+/B-.
- Step 4.** Power the X-NUCLEO-IHM15A1 expansion board on 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 dual brush 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\IHM15A1_ExampleFor2BiDirMotors\YourTo o\ChainName\STM32F401RE-Nucleo for [NUCLEO-F401RE](#)
 - \stm32_cube\Projects\Multi\Examples\MotionControl\IHM15A1_ExampleFor2BiDirMotors\YourTo o\ChainName\STM32F334R8-Nucleo for [NUCLEO-F334R8](#)
 - \stm32_cube\Projects\Multi\Examples\MotionControl\IHM15A1_ExampleFor2BiDirMotors\YourTo o\ChainName\STM32F030R8-Nucleo for [NUCLEO-F030R8](#)
- Step 7.** Adapt the default parameters used by the [STSPIN840](#) to your motor characteristics by modifying the parameters in stm32_cube\Drivers\BSP\Components\stspin840\stspin840_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 2. Document revision history

Date	Version	Changes
16-May-2018	1	Initial release.
20-Jul-2021	2	Removed Section 2 What is STM32Cube? and replaced it by a link in the Introduction. Updated Section 2.3.2 Project folder.

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