STRX RFE coding standard Rev. 0.8 — 10 November 2021

User manual

Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	STRX, RFE, coding standard
Abstract	This document describes the STRX RFE coding standard.



1 Introduction

This document defines the coding standard for the STRX RFE software. It incorporates the guidelines from the MISRA C 2012 coding standard including amendment 1.

Language features and constructs that are not explicitly described in this coding standard are not allowed to be used in the STRX RFE software.

All examples in this document are normative and describe the precise placement of spaces and parenthesis.

A separate API documentation template exists to specify the required Doxygen tags and structure.

2 Naming convention

This section describes the naming convention.

Variables defined and used inside a single function are explicatly not covered by this naming convention and it is allowed to use shorter names (e.g., counter or c). The same exception applies to the names of function parameters.

2.1 General naming convention

The general naming convention is $rfe<layer><module>_<item-name>$ where <layer> specifies the layer of the this code, module is the module identifier, and <item-name> is the name of the item within the module (e.g., an enumerated type or a function). The <layer> part can be omitted in cases where the module applies to the user visible top level.

Camel case notation is used for the rfe<layer><module> and <item-name> sections. Multi-letter acronyms are written with a single upper case character followed by lower case characters (e.g., Can or Ahb).

In certain cases, an additional suffix is appended. Type aliases, defined by typedef, are appended with the $\,\pm$ suffix. Enumeration constants are appended with the $\,\pm$ suffix.

Variables that represent pointers shall start with the p prefix (e.g., pValue). The * character in pointers shall associate to the type and not to the identifier (e.g., uint32_t*pValue instead of uint32 t *pValue).

Examples:

2.2 Preprocessor macro naming convention

Preprocessor macros use the following naming convention

RFE_<layer>_<module>_<item-name> where <layer>, <module>, and <item-name> are similar to the general naming convention described in Section 2.1. All items use the ALL CAPS notation.

Examples:

2.3 Hardware register definitions

Dedicated naming conventions are described in this section for defining hardware registers. These naming conventions are compliant with the preprocessor naming convention described in <u>Section 2.2</u>.

Preprocessor macros used for peripheral base addresses use RFE HW <module> BASE where <module> is the module identifier.

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Preprocessor macros used for register offsets use

RFE_HW_<module>_<register>_REG where <module> is the module identifier and <register> is the register identifier.

Preprocessor macros used for register content definitions use

RFE_HW_<module>_<type>_<register>_<item-name> where <module> is the module identifier, <register> is the register identifier, <item-name> is the name of the item in the specified register, and <type> denotes the type. The following <type> literals are defined:

- BIT for individual bits
- MSK for masks
- SHF for shifts
- VAL for constant values

Examples:

3 Files and folders

This section describe the rules related to files and folders.

3.1 Header files

The general naming convention for header files is rfe<layer><module>.h where <layer> specifies the layer of the this code and module specifies the module identifier. The <layer> part can be omitted in cases where the module applies to the user visible top level.

The contents of a header file shall be completely encapsulate in an include guard. This include guard shall use an identifier that corresponds to the file name converted to the ALL_CAPS notation. The formatting shall comply to the following example for file "rfeHwReq.h":

```
#ifndef RFE_HW_REG_H
#define RFE_HW_REG_H
// header file contents
#endif // !RFE_HW_REG_H
```

The last line of the header file shall be an empty line.

An #include directive shall not contain absolute paths.

An #include directive referring to standard library header files shall use angle brackets (e.g., #include <stdint.h>).

An #include directive not referring to standard library header files shall use double quotes (e.g., #include "rfeHwReg.h").

The header file shall not contain executable code except for inline functions. Inline functions are preferred to function like macros due to the added type checking.

An example of an inline function is:

3.1.1 C++ compatibility

If a header file is going to be used in an C++ environment, it is required to wrap the declarations in a extern "C" block as shown in the followin code example:

```
#ifdef cplusplus
extern "C" {
#endif

// declarations
#ifdef __cplusplus
}
#endif
```

3.2 Source code files

The general naming convention for source code files is rfe<layer><module>.c where <layer> specifies the layer of the this code and module specifies the module identifier. The <layer> part can be omitted in cases where the module applies to the user visible top level.

Source code files shall be structured such that these contain #include directives, type definitions, variables, and functions in this order.

Internal function prototypes shall be placed in the optional internal header file when needed (see Section 3.4).

The last line of the source code file shall be an empty line.

3.3 Formatting

Tabs shall not be used. One or more sequences of four spaces shall be used for indentations.

Comments shall be added as either block (/ \star .. \star /) or line (// ..) comments. Block comments shall not be nested.

Code shall not be commented out. This include block comments (/* .. */), line (// ..) comments, and preprocessor constructs (e.g., #if 0 .. #endif).

Lines shall not exceed 120 columns.

Only the Unix style line ending (line feed, LF, \n , or 0x0A) shall be used.

The last line of each file shall be an empty line.

Digraphs (<:, :>, <%, %>, %:, and %:%:) shall not be used. Digraph literals can be used in string literals, but are discouraged.

Trigraphs (?? (, ??), ??<, ??>, ??=, ??/, ??!, ??', and ??-) shall not be used. Trigraph literals are not allowed in string literals.

Refer to the sections on types (<u>Section 4</u>), expressions (<u>Section 5</u>), and statements (<u>Section 6</u>) for formatting rules specific to these items. Spacing and alignment in the examples in these sections are normative.

The API shall be documented using Doxygen as defined by the header file templates available in the STRX RFE SW repository.

3.4 Folder structure

The source code files for a module will be stored in a folder that corresponds to the name of the module. The main public header file uses the name of the module, with ".h" extenstion, and is placed in the "inc" subfolder. The main public source code file uses the name of the module, with ".c" extension, and is placed in the "src" subfolder.

An optional internal header file uses the name of the module, with "_internal.h" suffix, and is placed in the "src" subfolder. This internal header file can declarations and definitions that are only visible to module itself (e.g., constant definitions, static inline functions, function prototypes, type definitions, et cetera).

The hardware driver for an SPI controller would therefore have the following folder structure (where "rfeHwSpi internal.h" is optional):

```
rfeHwSpi
inc
rfeHwSpi.h
src
rfeHwSpi_internal.h
rfeHwSpi.c
```

4 Types

This section describes the rules concerning types.

4.1 Boolean types

The bool type from <stdbool.h> shall be used for boolean types.

Only the literals true and false from <stdbool.h> shall be used.

4.2 Integer types

```
The following integer types from <stdint.h> are allowed: uint8_t, uint16_t, uint32 t, uint64 t, int8 t, int16 t, int32 t, and int64 t.
```

The unsigned versions should be used, unless negative numbers are explicitly required.

The standard integer types (char, short, int, and long) shall not be used as these are inherently ambigiuous (size and signedness) making interoperability more difficult.

4.3 Floating-point types

The float and double types can be used for floating-point types.

Using floating-point types is discouraged and therefore their usage should be minimized. Otherwise, the type that matches the hardware accelerator is preferred.

Take care when using floating-point types in operations. For instance, do not use floating-point types for looping variables, consider the possibility of NaN inputs and results, consider the epsilon when comparing two floating-point values, et cetera.

4.4 Constant values

Constant values shall be specified as preprocessor macro definitions. These macro definitions will use the ALL_CAPS notation for the name of the macro. The replacement text of the macro shall contain an explicit cast to the desired type.

```
#define RFE_HW_EXAMPLE_MAGIC_NUMBER ( (uint32_t) 42ul )
#define RFE_HW_EXAMPLE_MAGIC_BOOLEAN ( (bool) true )
```

This notation shall also be used for bit fields.

4.5 Enumerated types

The enumerated type shall only be used for enumerations — a complete, ordered listing of all the items in a collection. Other constant values (e.g., hardware base addresses and bit fields) shall be implemented using constant values (see <u>Section 4.4</u>).

Enumerated types shall be always be declared within a typedef declaration and the tag name shall be omitted.

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The identifier for each enumeration item shall have a prefix that matches the name of the enumerated type and shall use "_e" as suffix (e.g., "hwSpi_mode_test_e" for enumerated type "hwSpi_mode_t").

An enumerated type shall only list the functional items and shall not include items that are purely of interest to the implementation. This forbids the inclusion of "last" or "max" items that are used for range checking or looping and such implementation details shall be implemented using constant values (see Section 4.4).

Explicit constant values shall only be included when there is a need for these values (e.g., hardware register) and can be specified for either only the first enumeration item or for all enumeration items. All three possibilities are shown in the example below.

```
typedef enum
{
    rfeHwSpi_mode_idleLow_first_e,
        rfeHwSpi_mode_idleHigh_first_e,
        rfeHwSpi_mode_idleLow_second_e,
        rfeHwSpi_mode_idleHigh_second_e
} rfeHwSpi_mode_idleHigh_second_e

{
    rfeHwSpi_mode_idleLow_first_e = 0ul,
        rfeHwSpi_mode_idleHigh_first_e,
        rfeHwSpi_mode_idleHigh_second_e
    rfeHwSpi_mode_idleHigh_second_e
} rfeHwSpi_mode_idleHigh_second_e

{
    rfeHwSpi_mode_idleHigh_first_e = 0ul,
        rfeHwSpi_mode_idleHigh_first_e = 1ul,
        rfeHwSpi_mode_idleLow_second_e = 2ul,
        rfeHwSpi_mode_idleLow_second_e = 3ul
} rfeHwSpi_mode_idleHigh_second_e = 3ul
} rfeHwSpi_mode_idleHigh_second_e = 3ul
```

4.6 Structure types

Structure types shall be always be declared within a typedef declaration and the tag name shall be omitted.

The C programming language specification only specifies that the members of a structure are stored in memory in the order of their declaration and that the address of the first member is identical to the address of the structure object. Therefore, the placement of the other members in memory is compiler specific and care should be taken when a specific memory representation is required, especially when multiple compilers or processors are involved.

The representation of bit fields in memory is not specified by the C programming language specification and therefore bit fields shall not be used in situations where their memory representation matters (e.g., hardware registers).

Using flexible structure members — the final member is an array with flexible length — is discouraged and therefore their use should be minimized.

4.7 Pointer types

The C programming language defines the following four pointer qualifiers:

```
uint32_t* pA // pointer to an uint32_t
const uint32_t* pB // pointer to a constant uint32_t
uint32_t* pC const // constant pointer to an uint32_t
const uint32_t* pD const // constant pointer to a constant uint32_t
```

Pointer pA is the least restrictive pointer while pointer pD is the most restrictive pointer.

The most restrictive pointer qualifier — suitable for the situation — should be used.

Declarations should contain no more than two levels of pointer nesting.

5 Expressions

This section describes the rules concerning expressions.

5.1 Unused code

Unreachable code shall not be present. Unreachable code is code that cannot be executed as it cannot be called from a program. See MISRA C:2012 mandatory Rule 2.1.

Dead code shall not be present. Dead code is code that does not affect the behavior of a program when removed. See MISRA C:2012 advisory Rule 2.2.

Unused type declaration shall not be present. See MISRA C:2012 advisory Rule 2.3.

Unused preprocessor macro declaration shall not be present. See MISRA C:2012 advisory Rule 2.5.

Unused function parameters shall not be present. See MISRA C:2012 advisory Rule 2.7.

5.2 Variable declarations

Only a single variable shall be declared on a single line.

It is preferred to immediately define a (default) value for a variable when this is declared.

It is preferred to declare a variable at the moment it is used (e.g., a function returned).

Variables that represent pointers shall start with the p prefix (e.g., pValue). The * character in pointers shall associate to the type and not to the identifier (e.g., uint32_t* pValue instead of uint32_t *pValue).

Variables defined and used inside a single function are explicatly not covered by this naming convention and it is allowed to use shorter names (e.g., counter or c).

5.3 Operators

Operators shall be preceded and followed by spaces for readability.

The following code block depicts examples or expressions with operators:

```
uint32 t a = 1ul + 3ul;
42 <= 42 ? 1 : 0;
```

5.4 Casts

Only explicit casts shall be used. Implicit casts shall not be used.

Casts that narrow values shall have an explicit masking operation.

The use of casts shall be minimized as they are usually indications of problems with the type system. A comment must accompany each cast to explain its existence.

The entire cast expression must be enclosed in parenthesis in those cases where this expression is part of a larger expression and when used as the body of a #define preprocessor macro.

The following code block depicts the two templates for cast expressions:

```
( ( newType ) value ) // for use in complicated expressions ( newType ) value // for use in simple statements
```

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The following code block depicts an example where a cast is used to convert an uint8 t value to an uint32 t value:

```
uint8_t value = 0ul;
uint32_t newValue = ( uint32_t ) value ;  // reason ...
```

The following code block depicts an example where a narrowing cast is used to convert an uint32 t value to an uint8 t value:

```
uint32_t value = Oul;
uint8_t newValue = ( uint8_t ) ( value & 0x000000fful );  // reason ...
```

The following code block depicts an example where a narrowing cast is used to convert an uint32_t value to an uint8_t value as part of a larger expression and therefore is enclosed in parenthesis:

```
uint32_t value = Oul;
uint8_t newValue = ( ( uint8_t ) ( value & 0x000000fful ) ) + 0x00001234ul; //
reason ...
```

The following code block depicts an example where a cast is used in a #define preprocessor macro:

5.5 Conditional expressions

Conditional expressions shall be kept as simple as possible.

Parenthesis should be used to improve readability by grouping together parts of the expression while not relying too much on the operator precedence rules.

Assignments are not allowed in conditional expressions. When dealing with comparisons to constants, it is advisable to use the form (constant == variable) as (constant = variable) will result in an error emitted by the compiler.

Use of negative logic should be limited as it is hard to understand by human readers.

Examples of valid and invalid conditional expressions are:

6 Statements

This section describes the rules concerning statements.

6.1 Selection statements

Selection statements are used to run specific code blocks based on certain conditions.

An if statement should be used when a binary decision needs to be made. A switch statement should be used when the decision is not binary. The conditional operator (?:) can be used in situations where a specific value is required, based on a binary decision.

See <u>Section 5.5</u> for more information on the condition expression.

6.1.1 If statement

The if and else branches will both be present and consist of block statements. Each block statement should contain executable code or a comment that explains why there is no executable code in this block statement.

The following code block depicts the template for an if statement:

```
if ( condition )
{
    // code ...
}
else
{
    // code or comment ...
}
```

6.1.2 Switch statement

Each switch clause shall be terminated by an unconditional break statement. Fall throughs are only allowed when the clause is empty (see the case 2: label in the code block below). The default label is always required and must be the last label in the switch statement.

The following code block depicts the template for a switch statement:

It is not required to explicitly list all possible enumeration items when an enumerated type is used as the condition for a switch statement as the final default clause will apply to all remaining enumeration item

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6.1.3 Conditional operator

The two expressions of the conditional operator should have the same type and this should match with the type expected by the code calling the conditional operator.

The following code block depicts the template for a conditional operator statement.

```
condition ? trueExpression : falseExpression;
```

6.2 Loops

Loops can be used to run a code block zero, one, or multiple times.

The for loop should be used if the required number of iterations is known beforehand. The endless loop is special variant of the for loop. The while loop can be used if the number of iterations is not known beforehand. The do ... while loop is a special variant of the while loop that can be used if the loop has to loop at least once.

Unbounded loops should be avoided as it can lead to undesired application behavior (e.g., missed deadlines).

6.2.1 For statement

The expression1 shall only be concerned with declaring and initializing loop variable(s). The expression2 shall only be concerned with checking the loop variable(s). The expression3 shall only be concerned with updating the loop variable(s).

Preferably, looping variables should be declared in <code>expression1</code> such that these variables cannot be accessed outside of the <code>for loop</code>.

The following code block depicts the template for a for loop:

```
for ( expression1; expression2; expression3 )
{
    // code ...
}
```

Example:

```
for ( uint8_t c; c < 100ul; c++ )
{
    // code ...
}</pre>
```

6.2.2 Endless loop

The following code block depicts the template for an endless loop:

```
for (;;)
{
    // code ...
}
```

The for (;;) variant is preferred over while variants as this does not rely on a condition and implicit conversions to a boolean expression.

6.2.3 While statement

The loop variable(s) shall be declared and initialized before the while loop is called.

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The condition expression shall only be concerned with checking the loop variable(s).

Updating the loop variable(s) shall be the last statement(s) of the while block.

The following code block depicts the template for a while loop:

```
while ( condition )
{
    // code ...
    // update loop variable
}
```

Example:

```
uint32_t value = 0u1;
while ( value < 10u1 )
{
    value += 2u1;
}</pre>
```

6.2.4 Do ... while statement

The loop variable(s) shall be declared and initialized before the do ... while loop is called.

The condition expression shall only be concerned with checking the loop variable(s).

Updating the loop variable(s) shall be the last statement(s) of the do ... while block.

The following code block depicts the template for a do ... while loop:

```
do
{
    // code ...
    // update loop variable
} while ( condition )
```

Example:

```
uint32_t value = Oul;
do
{
   value += 2ul;
} while ( value < 10ul )</pre>
```

6.3 Functions

A function shall always have a proper function prototype defined in a header file.

Recursive functions shall not be used.

Variable arguments shall not be used.

A function that returns a value shall declare and intialize a variable of this type at the beginning of the function block and the last statement shall return this value. No other exit points are allowed. The caller of such a function must use this returned value or explicitly cast this to void.

A function that takes no parameters shall explicetly indicate this by using the <code>void</code> keyword in the parameter list. A function that takes multiple parameters shall list these on new lines and shall align the parameter names on a proper column.

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The following code block depicts the template for a function that takes no parameters:

```
void rfeHwExample_reset( void )
{
    // code ...
}
```

The following code block depicts the template for a function that takes one or more parameters:

The function shall not modify its parameters. The code in the body of function rfeHwExample_max could assign new values to parameters a and b that will be visible only to the remainder of this body. This style might give the false impression that these new values remain visible to the caller after this function exits. See rule MISRA C:2012 rule 17.8.

Functions that should return multiple values can return a structure type or use pointers. Returning a structure type is prefered due to the better readability of this solution.

6.4 Unions

Unions are discouraged and shall not be used.

It can never be assured which specific type the value has when an union is used for polymorphic types. Using an union to access a single value in several ways (e.g., $\mathtt{uint32_t}$ and $\mathtt{uint8_t[4]}$) is compiler dependent and therefore should also not be relied upon.

7 Error handling

This section describes the generalized error handling mechanism.

The main concept behind this error handling system is that functions will only perform their code parts if no prior error exists and will skip these code parts if a prior error exists.

A single enumerated type named rfeError_error_t is defined in file rfeError.h that lists all possible error conditions in the system. The first item in this list must be rfeError error none e.

This file also defines several preprocessor macros that implement the error handling mechanism. These preprocessor macros should be treated as opaque items.

RFE_ERROR_CREATE	Creates the error variable. Should always be the first error handling macro used in a error handling context.
RFE_ERROR_CLEAR	Clears the current error value by setting this to rfeError_error_none_e.
RFE_ERROR_SET(err)	Sets the current error varlue to the specified error value.
RFE_ERROR_GET	Returns the current error value.
RFE_ERROR_IS_NO_ERROR	Returns true if the current error value does not contain an error. Otherwise, it returns false.
RFE_ERROR_IS_ERROR	Returns true if the current error value contains an error. Otherwise, it returns false.
RFE_ERROR_GUARD(block)	The code in the block argument is only executed if the current error value does not contain an error.
RFE_ERROR_FUNCTION_PARAMETER	Use as the last parameter in function definitions to pass through the error information.
RFE_ERROR_FUNCTION_ARGUMENT	Use as the last argument when calling error handling aware functions.

7.1 Defining error handling aware functions

Each error handling aware function requires an additional parameter as defined by the RFE_ERROR_FUNCTION_PARAMETER preprocessor macro. This parameter should be the last parameter in order to ensure a common look and feel. Code parts inside an error handling aware function that should only be executed if the current error value does not contain an error should be encapsulated in the RFE_ERROR_GUARD(block) macro. The RFE_ERROR_SET(err) macro should be used when a new error condition has been detected.

The following code block shows an example of an error handling aware function that incorporates all these macros:

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```
}
else
{
    result = 0;
        RFE_ERROR_SET( rfeError_error_range_e );
}
);
return result;
}
```

Example function rfeHwExample_squareValue takes one uint32_t value and returns a uint32_t value. The preprocessor macro

RFE_ERROR_FUNCTION_PARAMETER is added to the end of the parameter list to make this function aware of the current error variable. The code within the
RFE_ERROR_GUARD(block) will only execute if the current error value does not contain an error when this function is called. The code inside this guarded block will check the input value and sets variable result to the squared value of the input if the input value is valid. Otherwise, it calls the RFE_ERROR_SET(err) function like preprocessor macro with rfeError_error_range_e as an argument (it is assumed that rfeError_error_range_e is part of the rfeError_error_tenumerated type).

The following code block shows the same example, but in this case it returns a structure type consisting of the input value and the squared value:

```
typedef struct
{
    uint32_t value;
    uint32_t squared;
} rfeHwExample_squaredValue_t;

rfeHwExample_squaredValue_t rfeHwExample_squareValue2(
    uint32_t value,
    RFE_ERROR_FUNCTION_PARAMETER
)
{
    // result value to return, initialized with default values.
    rfeHwExample_squaredValue_t result = { .value = 0, .squared = 0 };

    // only execute the code block if no prior error exists

RFE_ERROR_GUARD(
    if ( value <= 0x0000FFFFUL )
    {
        result.value = value;
        result.squared = value * value;
        result.squared = value * value;
    }
    else
    {
        result.value = 0;
        result.squared = 0;
        RFE_ERROR_SET( rfeError_error_1_e );
    }
    );
    return result;
}
</pre>
```

7.2 Using error handling aware functions

The following code block depicts an example main function that uses the example error handling aware functions defined in the previous section.

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The RFE_ERROR_CREATE preprocessor macro will create the error variable required before calling any other error handling macro or error handling aware function.

The three calls of the rfeHwExample_squareValue function will all succeed and therefore the values for valueA, valueB, and valueC will be 4, 1600, and 1764 respectively.

The first call to the RFE_ERROR_IS_NO_ERROR macro will return true and therefore valueD will be set to 3368.

Macro RFE_ERROR_CLEAR will clear the current error value to hwError error none e.

The first call of the rfeHwExample_squareValue2 function will succeed and .valueE.value will be set to 2 and valueE.squared to 4. The input value to the second call is out of range and this will cause the current error value to be set to hwError_error_range_e, valueF.value to 0, and valueE.squared to 0. The third call fails as a previous error condition has been encountered and this will set valueG.value to 0 and valueG.squared to 0.

The second call to the RFE_ERROR_IS_NO_ERROR macro will return false. Therefore, error will be set to rfeError error range e and valueH to 0.

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