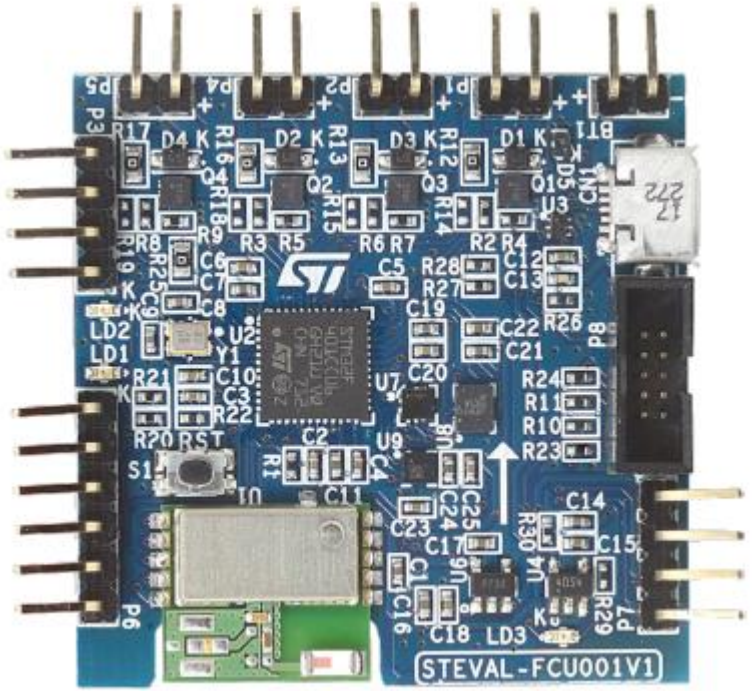
Embedded systems with drones – Hands-on lecture

Project-based Learning Center | ETH Zurich
Tommaso Polonelli tommaso.polonelli@pbl.ee.ethz.ch
Michele Magno michele.magno@pbl.ee.ethz.ch
Vlad Niculescu vladn@iis.ee.ethz.ch

Evaluation board – STEVAL-FCU001V1

Key Features

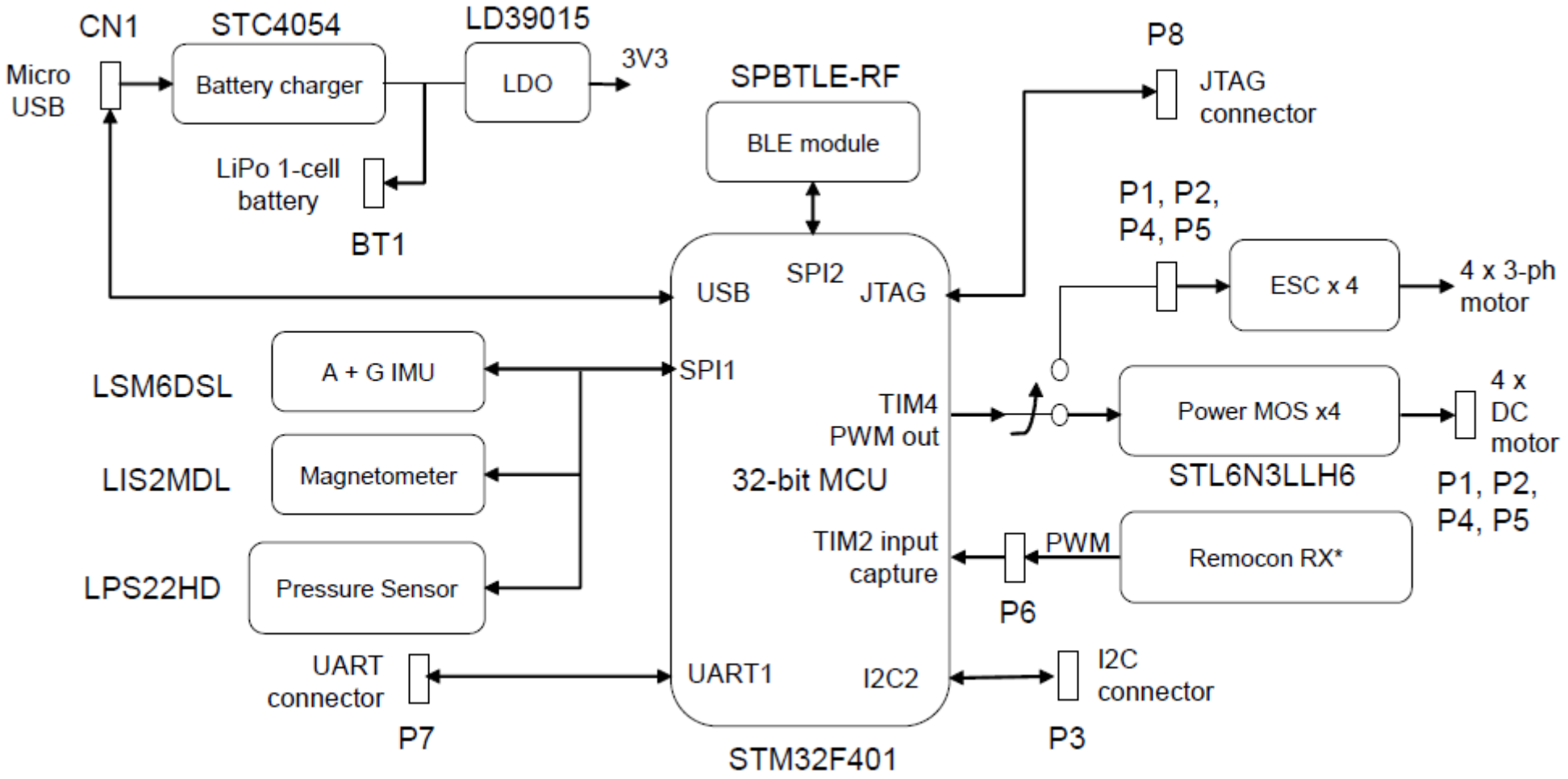
- Compact flight controller unit (FCU) evaluation board complete with sample firmware for a small or medium sized quadcopter
- On-board LiPo 1-cell battery charger
- Possibility to directly drive 4 DC brushed motors through the low voltage onboard MOSFET or alternatively use external ESC for DC brushless motor configuration



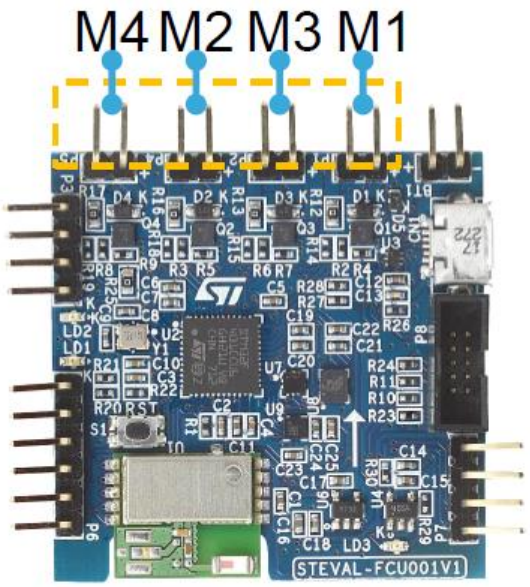
Main Components

- STM32F401 – 32-bit MCU with ARM® Cortex®
- LSM6DSL – iNEMO intertial module: 3D accelerometer and 3D gyroscope
- LIS2MDL – High performance 3D magnetometer
- LPS22HD – MEMS pressure sensor: 260-1260 hPa absolute digital output barometer
- SPBTLE-RF – Very low power module for Bluetooth Smart v4.1
- STL6N3LLH6 - N-channel 30 V, 6 A STripFET H6 Power MOSFET
- STC4054 - 800 mA standalone linear Li-Ion battery charger

Evaluation board – STEVAL-FCU001V1



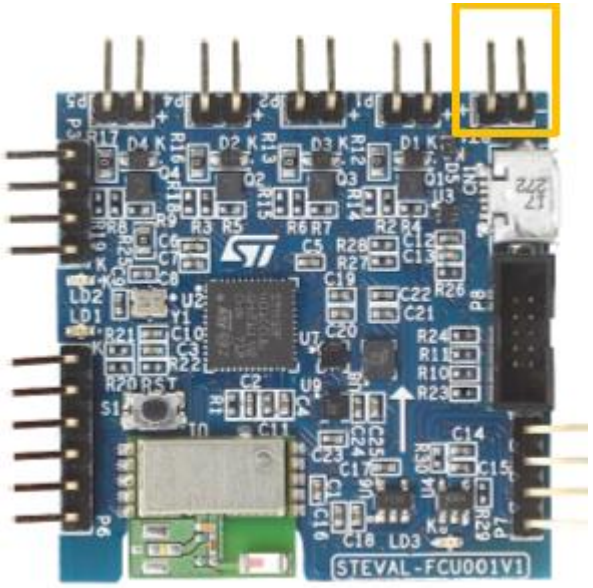
DC motors connected to P5, P4, P2 and P1 connectors.



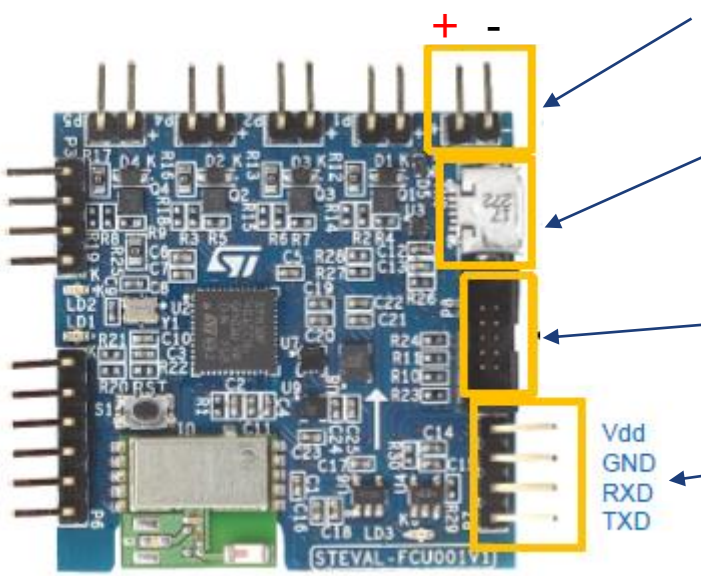
Battery connector

Warning

a reverse battery protection diode is not mounted, check carefully before connecting the battery!



JTAG connection and SW download



battery must be connected

Connect microUSB cable to avoid to discharge the battery.

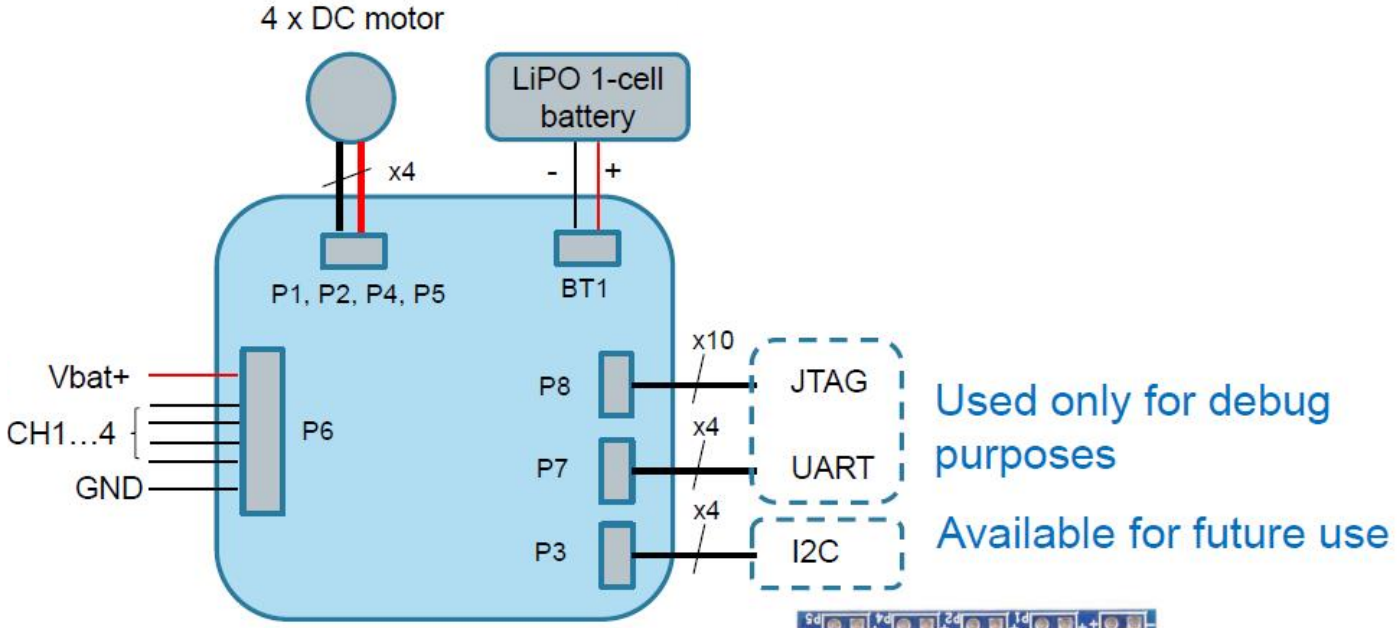
Connector for STLink/V2 → Program and Debug

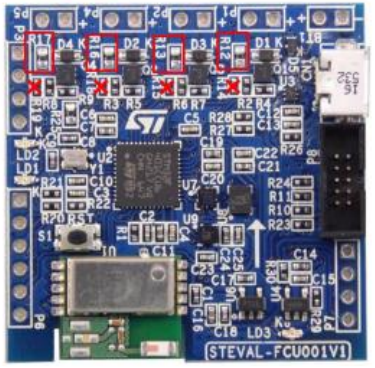
(optionally) UART can be used for debug and datalog

Note: if only the microUSB cable is connected, the STM32 supply voltage may be unstable and not work properly in debugging.

Note: in order to avoid complete LiPo battery discharge during a debugging session, always connect the microUSB cable (connected to PC or charger) to keep charging the battery

STEVAL-FCU001V1 application connection





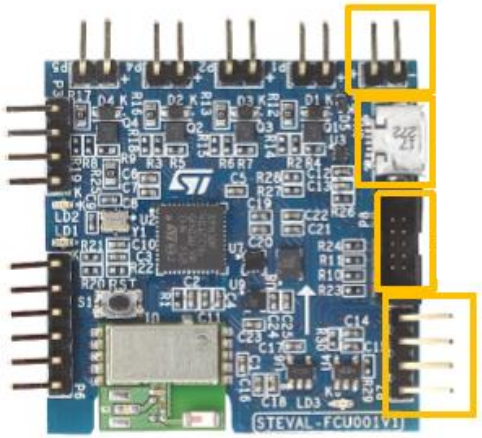
Note: this is the Out of the Box configuration

Resistor Configuration	R12, R13, R16, R17 mounted R14, R15, R18, R19 NOT mounted

Tools for the course

Hardware

Board: STEVAL-FCU001V1



ST-LINK/V2

The JTAG/SWD interfaces are used to communicate with any STM32 microcontroller located on an application board.

TTL-232R-3V3

Important document:

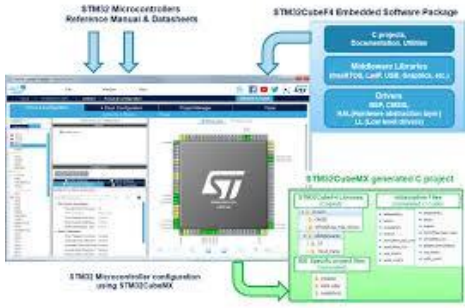
Datasheet STM32F401

Reference Manual RM0368

Software

IDE: STM32CubeIDE

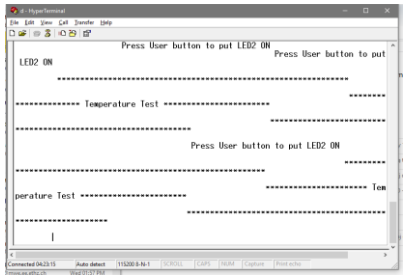
STM32CubeMX



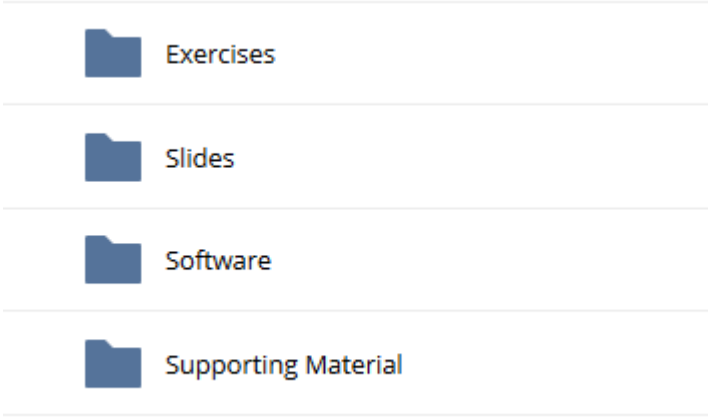
ST BLE Drone

Hyperterminal

Display data flow from serial on your PC

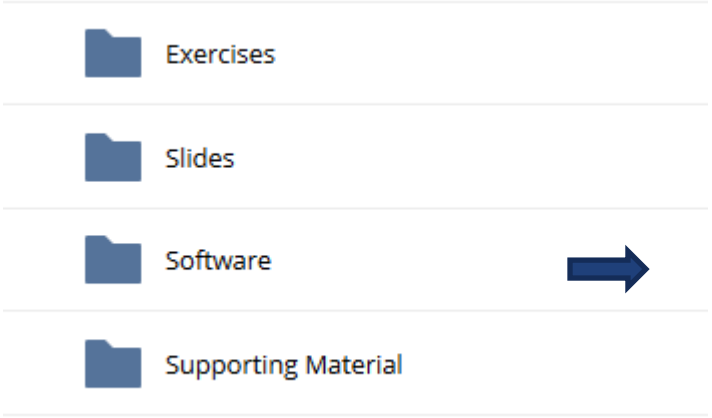


Where to find what? - POLYBOX



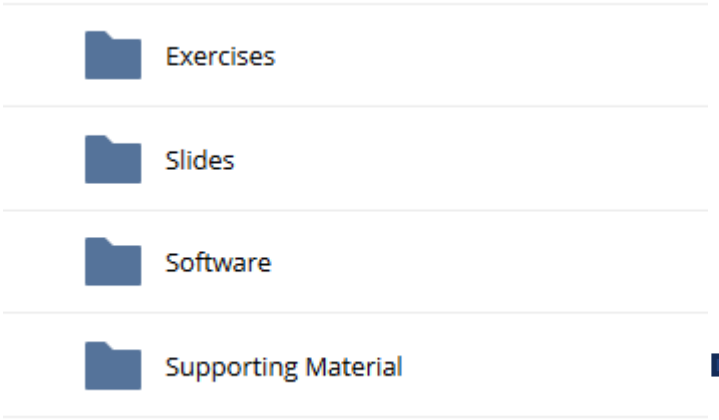
- Every week new exercises
- Typically before the next session a solution

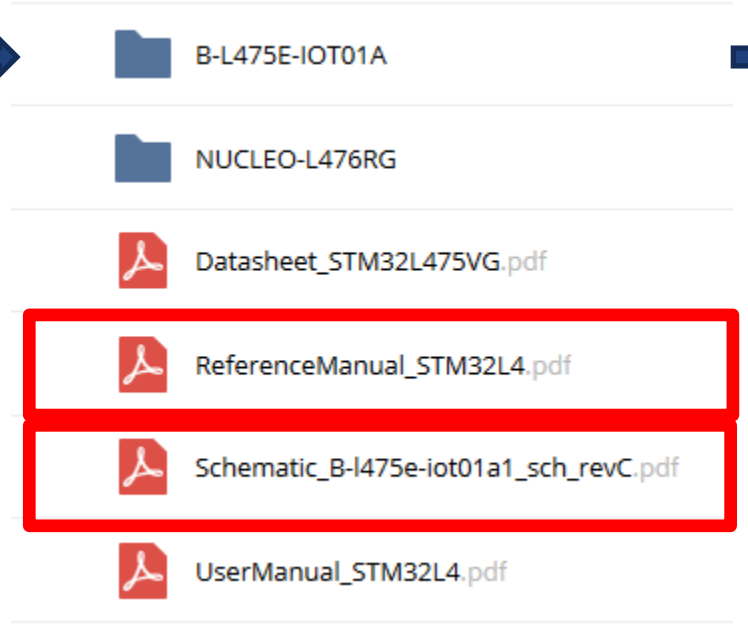
Where to find what? - Software



- IDE:
  - WINDOWS, LINUX, MAC: STM32CubeIDE - https://www.st.com/content/st_com/en/products/development-tools/software-development-tools/stm32-software-development-tools/stm32-ides/stm32cubeide.html
- Fast HW configuration:
  - STM32CubeMX – https://www.st.com/en/development-tools/stm32cubemx.html
- Drivers and Examples:
  - STM32CubeL4 – (will be automatically downloaded by CubeMX)
- Visualization and HW debugging:
  - Teraterm: https://osdn.net/projects/ttssh2/releases/
  - STM-STUDIO-STM32
    – https://www.st.com/en/development-tools/stm-studio-stm32.html

Where to find what? – Important documents





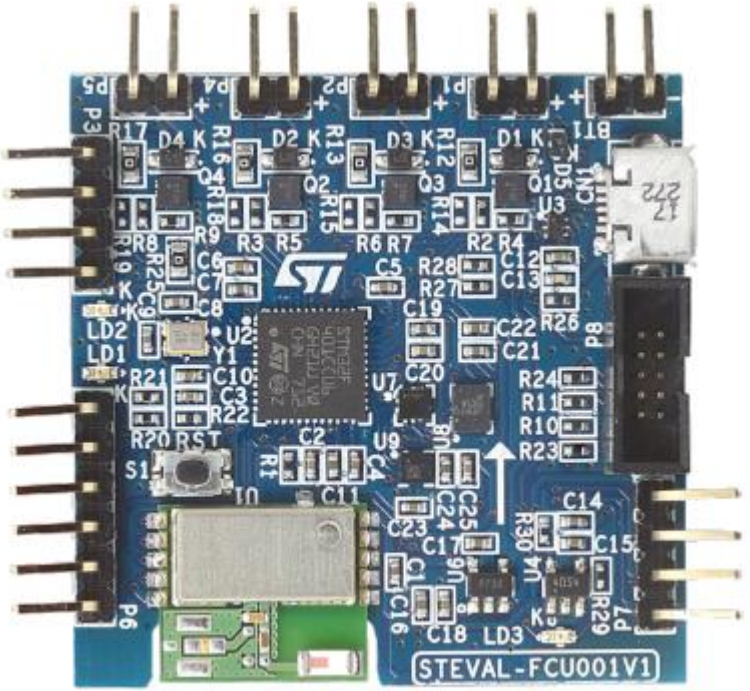
Which peripheral?

Which GPIO?

- Where is the LED?
- Where is the button?
- Where is the programmer connector?

Important documents

- RM0368 (Reference manual for STM32F4 series)
  - It provides complete information on how to use the STM32F4x microcontroller memory and peripherals.
- UM1884 (Description of HAL and LL for STM32F4 series)
  - It provides complete information on the HAL and LL libraries
- Board schematics for **STEVAL-FCU001V1**
  - schematic diagram shows the components and interconnections of the circuit. Useful to find the pin connection and sensor diagram
  - Useful links:
    - https://www.st.com/en/microcontrollers-microprocessors/stm32f401vc.html
    - https://www.st.com/content/st_com/en/products/evaluation-tools/solution-evaluation-tools/sensor-solution-eval-boards/steval-fcu001v1.html#overview



Programming Tips

The C programming language is the **most popular** programming language for **programming embedded systems**

- C is very popular among microcontroller developers due to the **code efficiency** and **reduced development time**.
- C offers **low-level control** and is more readable than assembly.
- Additionally, using C increases **portability**, since C code can be compiled for different types of processors.
- Wide availability of existing **libraries** and **examples** ready to use.

Cross Compiler

Cross compiler → Compiler capable to create executable code for **a platform other than one in which the compiler is running**. Cross compiler tools are used to generate executable code for embedded system or multiple platforms:

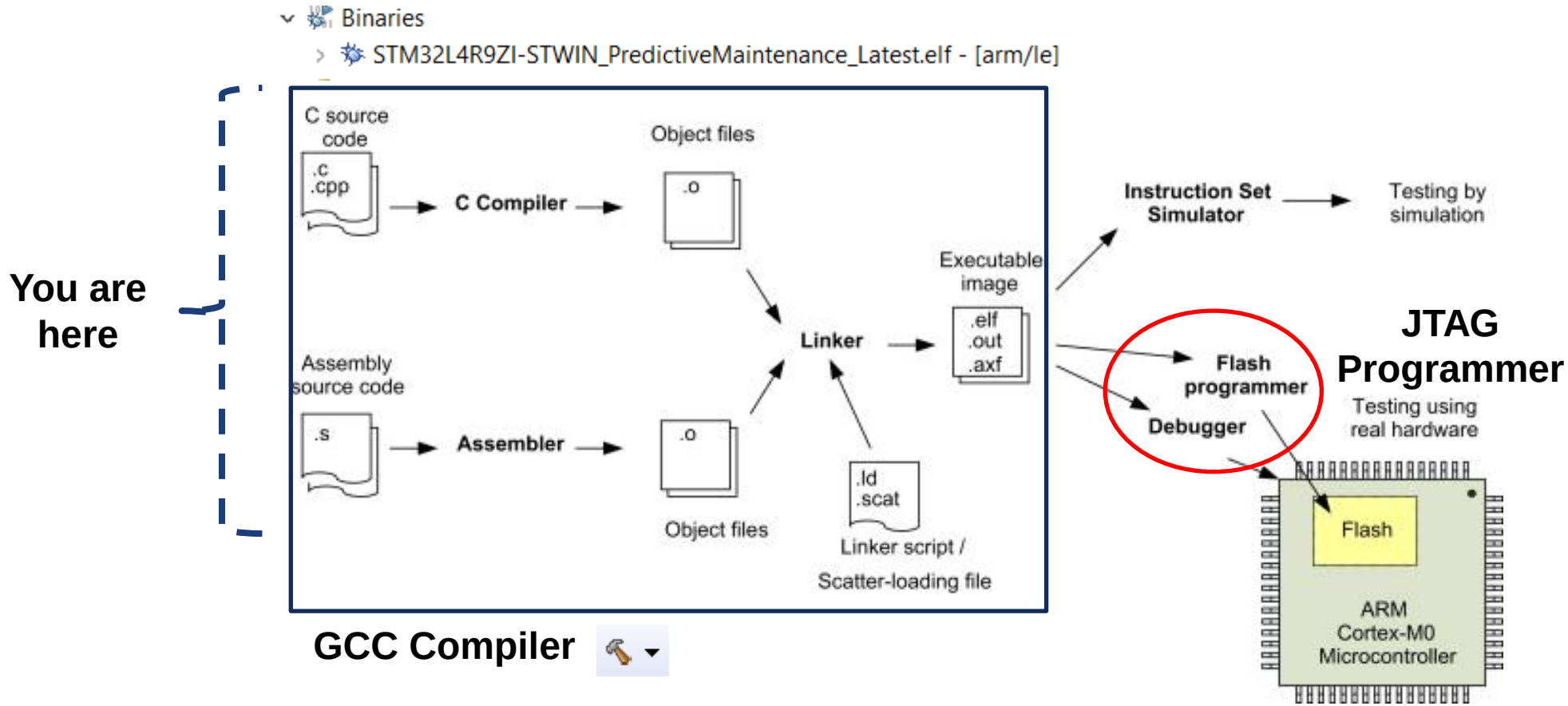
- The **GNU Compiler Collection** (**GCC**) is an open source compiler system produced by the **GNU Project** supporting various programming languages.

Integrated Design Evironment (**IDE**) is a software application that **provides comprehensive facilities to computer programmers for software development**

An IDE normally consists of:

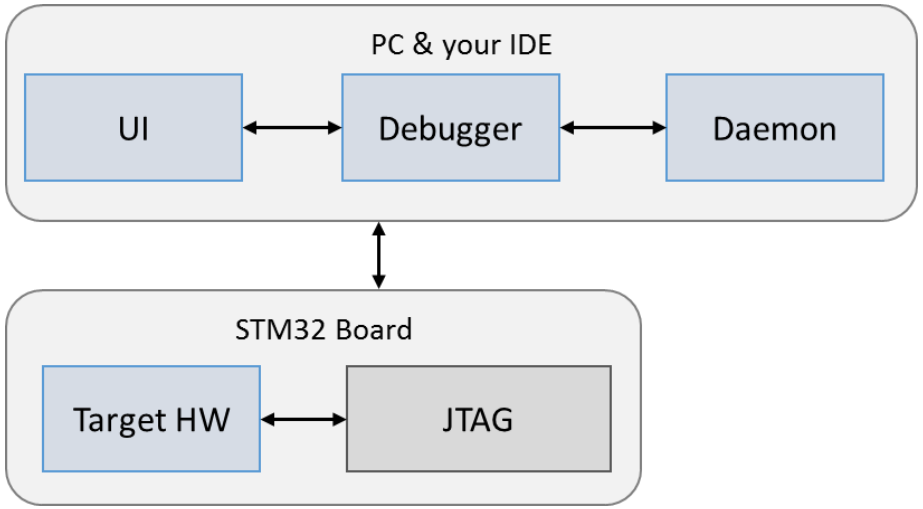
- source code **editor**
- **compiler** (or **cross-compiler**)
- **Assembler**
- **Linker**
- **Debugger**

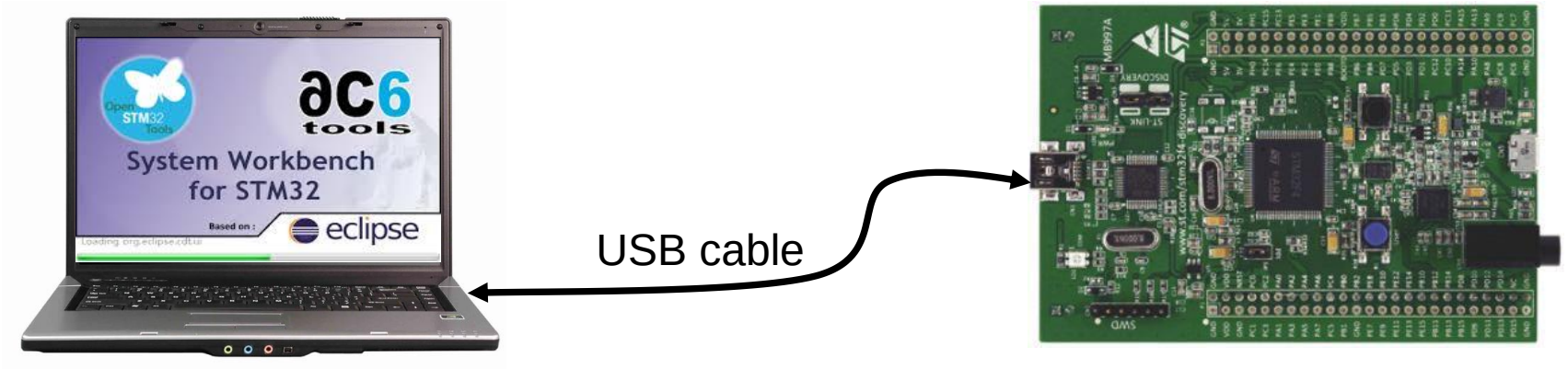
Cross Compiler



JTAG and SWD

- JTAG (Joint Test Action Group) implements standards for **on-chip instrumentation for device testing**.
- It specifies the use of a **dedicated debug port** implementing a **serial communications interface for low-overhead access** to the system components (registers and memory).
- It allows the device programmer to **transfer data** into the **internal memory**.
- It is used for device programming and for active debugging (testing) of the executed program.





Writing the code

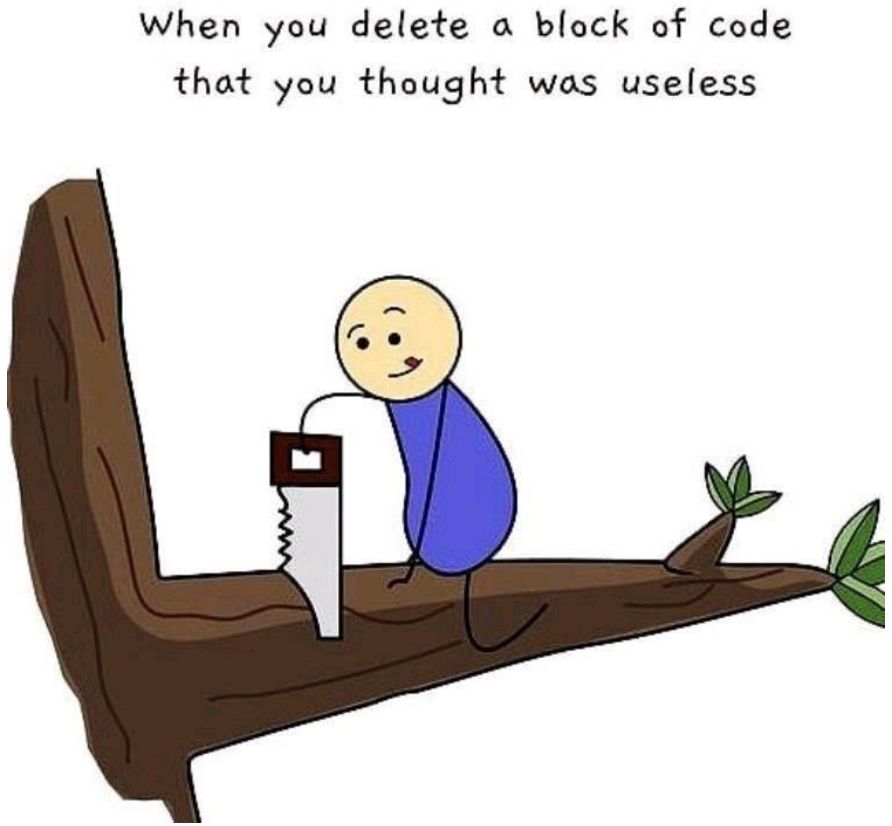
- Use **lots of comments** to provide enough information to fully understand the code

```
/* This is a comment */
```

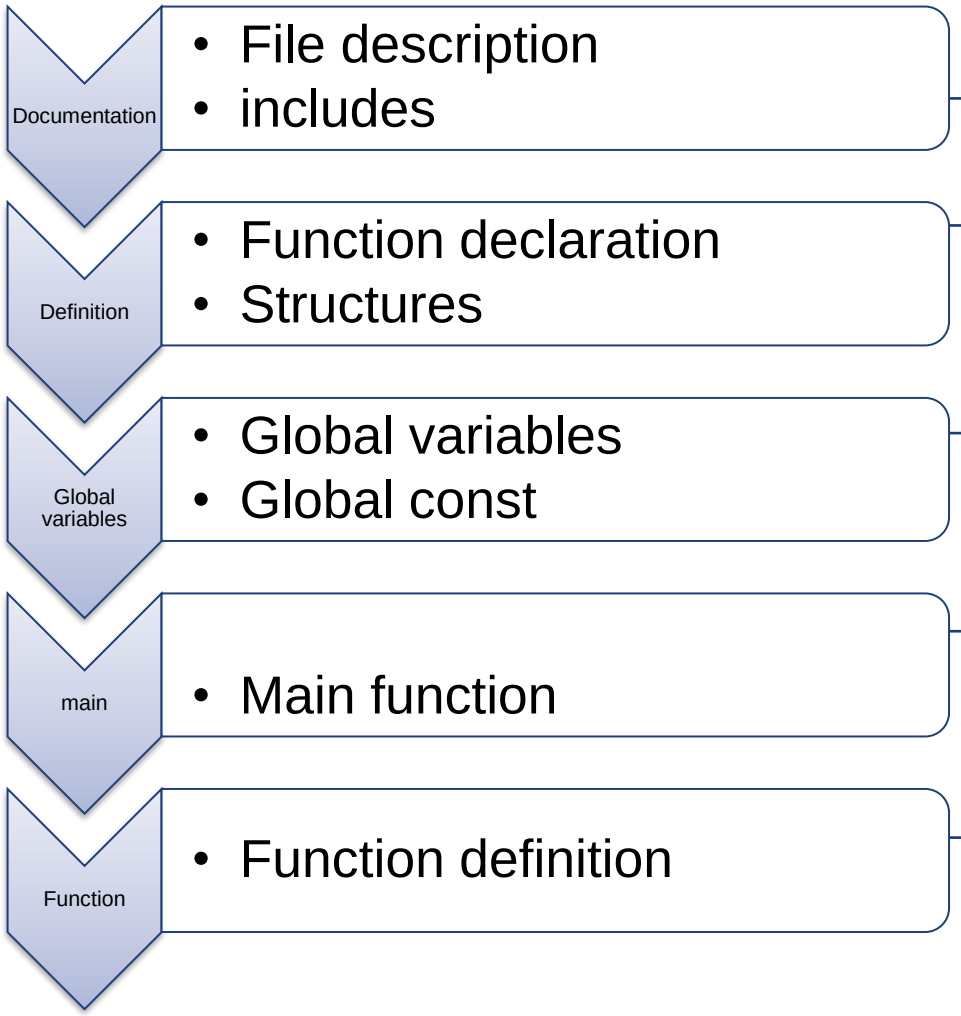
- Comment each procedure telling:

```
/*-----------------------------------*/
/* ProcedureName - what it does      */
/* Parameters:                       */
/*   Param1 - what param1 is         */
/*   Param2 - what param2 is         */
/* Returns:                          */
/*   What is returned, if anything   */
/*-----------------------------------*/
```

- Use lots of **white space** or blank lines
- Always use **indentation**:
  - **Align** code blocks to **highlight** the functionality
  - Each new scope is indented 2 spaces from previous
  - Put { on end of previous line or start of next line
  - Line matching } up below



Basic C structure




```
*******************************************************************************
 * @file    iis2mdc.c
 * @author  MEMS Software Solutions Team
 * @brief   IIS2MDC driver file
 *******************************************************************************

/* Includes ------------------------------------------------------------------*/
#include "iis2mdc.h"


/* Private function prototypes -----------------------------------------------*/
static void SystemClock_Config(void);


/* Exported Variables ------------------------------------------------------------
*/
volatile uint8_t AccIntReceived= 0;
volatile uint8_t FifoEnabled = 0;
volatile uint32_t PredictiveMaintenance = 0;


int main(void)
{
 SystemClock_Config();
 FifoEnabled = 1;
}


void SystemClock_Config(void)
{
…
…
}
```

Calling a function

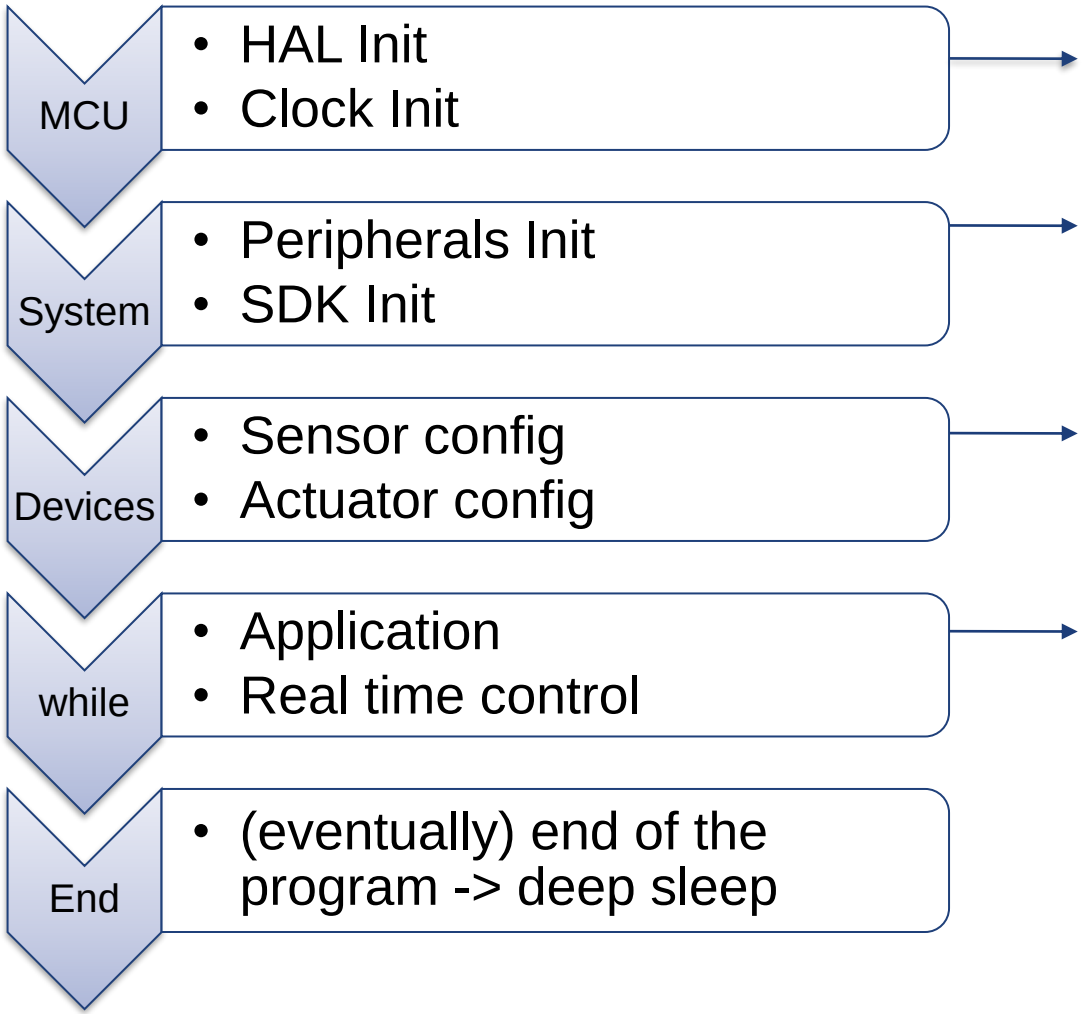
```c
#include <stdio.h>

/* function declaration */
int max(int num1, int num2);

int main () {
  /* local variable definition */
  int a = 100;
  int b = 200;
  int ret;

  /* calling a function to get max value */
  ret = max(a, b);
  printf( "Max value is : %d\n", ret );
  return 0;
}

/* function returning the max between two numbers */
int max(int num1, int num2) {
  /* local variable declaration */
  int result;

  if (num1 > num2)
    result = num1;
  else
    result = num2;

  return result;
}
```

While creating a C function, you give a definition of what the function has to do. To use a function, you will have to call that function to perform the defined task.

When a program calls a function, the program control is transferred to the called function. A called function performs a defined task and when its return statement is executed or when its function-ending closing brace is reached, it returns the program control back to the main program.

To call a function, you simply need to pass the required parameters along with the function name, and if the function returns a value, then you can store the returned value.

Basic application structure - main.c




```c
int main(void)
{
  HAL_Init();

  /* Configure the System clock */
  SystemClock_Config();

 /* Initialize all configured peripherals */
  MX_GPIO_Init();
  MX_DMA_Init();
  MX_ADC1_Init();
  MX_DAC1_Init();

 /* Set Accelerometer Full Scale to 2G */
  Set2GAccelerometerFullScale();
  /* initialize timers */
  InitTimers();
  /* set unconnectable */
  set_connectable = FALSE;

 /* Infinite loop */
  while (1){
    /* Led Blinking when there is not a client connected */

    … your application code here …

  }
```

Declaration: Local versus Global

- **Global variables:**
  - Declared outside of a function
  - Accessible throughout the code
  - Stored in Global Data Section of memory
  - Scope is entire program
  - Initialized to zero
- **Local variables:**
  - Declared within one function and are only accessible during its execution
  - Declared at the beginning of a block
  - Stored on the stack
  - Scope is from point of declaration to the end of the block
  - Un-initialized
- **Some tips:**
  - Keep declarations as close as you can to where you use the variables– keep the scope as small as you can.
  - It's better to explicitly pass parameters to functions, rather than use global variables.

`const`:

- Used to declare a constant (content is not changed in the course of code implementation);
- Stored in program section memory.

`extern`:

- Used to make reference to variables declared elsewhere, for example in another module.

`register`:

- Used to store a variable in a processor's register;
- Promotes faster access to the contents of the variable;
- Only used locally and depends on the register's availability.

`static`:

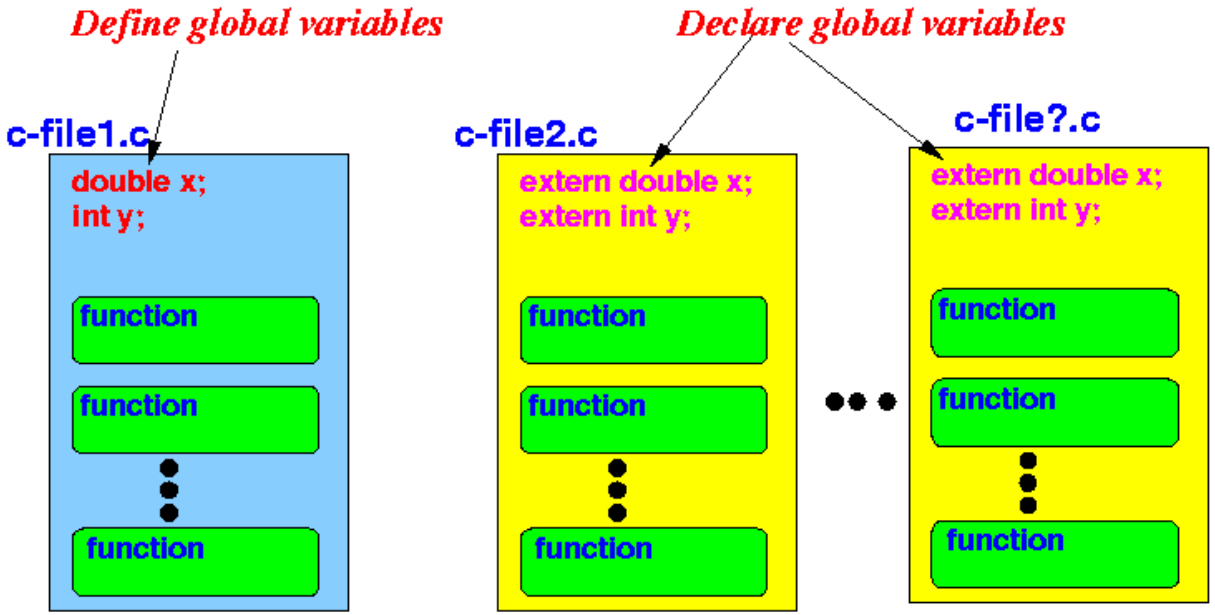
- Declared within a function or a program block;
- Preserves the variable even after a function or block has been executed.

`volatile`:

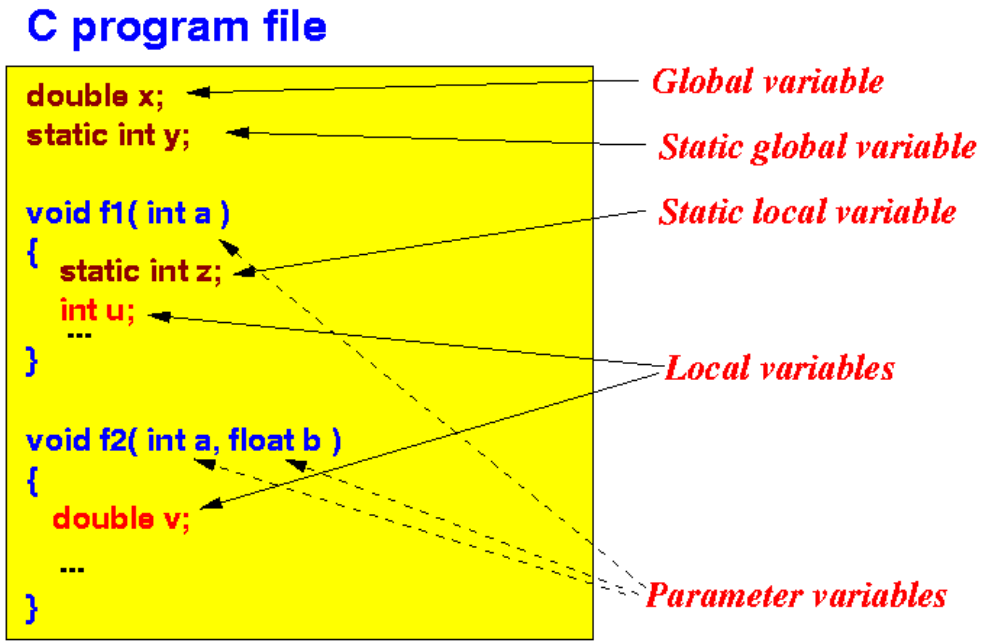
- A statement using this descriptor informs the compiler that this variable should not be optimized.

Declaration: Local versus Global

extern:



static:



https://www.mathcs.emory.edu/

Primitive Numeric Data Types

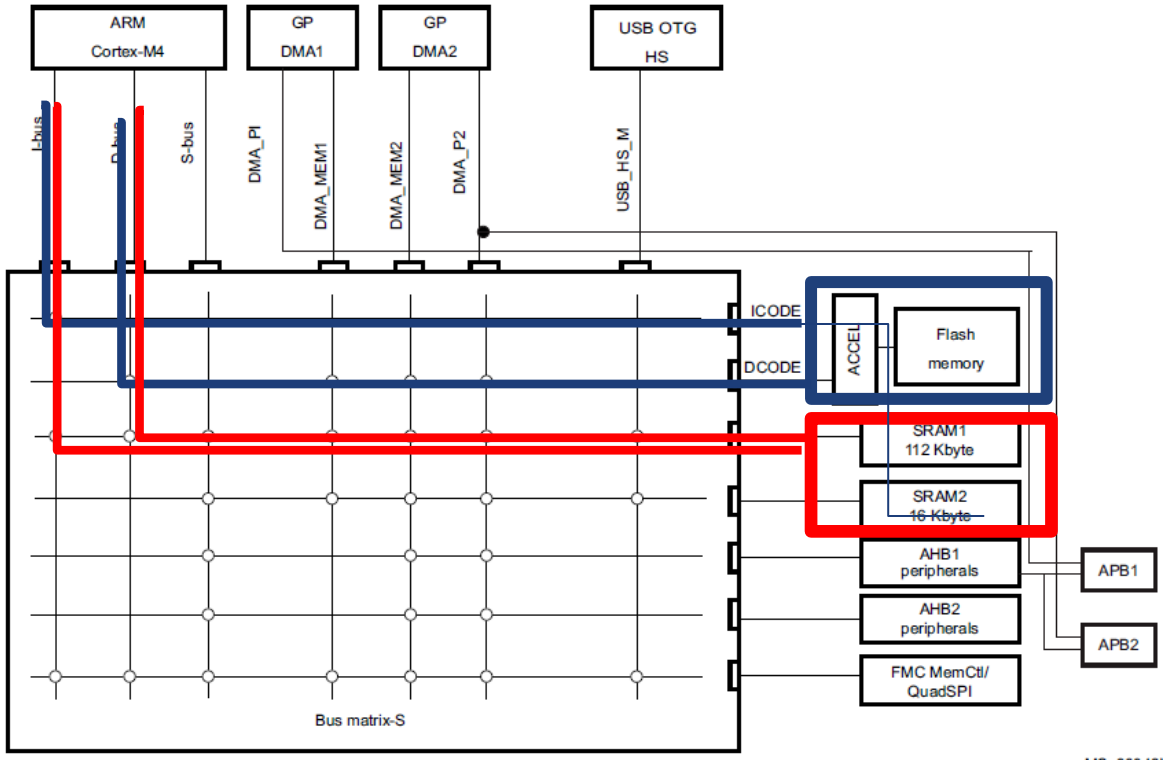
Data Type		Size	Range
byte	u8/s8	1 byte	Integers in the range of -128 to +128
short	u16/s16	2 bytes	Integers in the range of -32,768 to +32,767
int	u32/s32	4 bytes	Integers in the range of -2,147,483,648 to +2,147,483,647
long	u64/s64	8 bytes	Integers in the range of -9,223,372,036,854,775,808 to +9,223,372,036,854,775,807
float	float	4 bytes	Floating-point numbers between $\pm 3.4 \times 10^{-38}$ to $\pm 3.4 \times 10^{38}$ with 7 digits of accuracy
double	double	8 bytes	Floating-point numbers between $\pm 1.7 \times 10^{-308}$ and $\pm 1.7 \times 10^{308}$ with 15 digits of accuracy

Memory Organization (Physical)

Embedded systems have memory constraints

↓

Memory allocation is very important



Physical allocation:

- RAM (**Data**)
- Flash (**Code**)

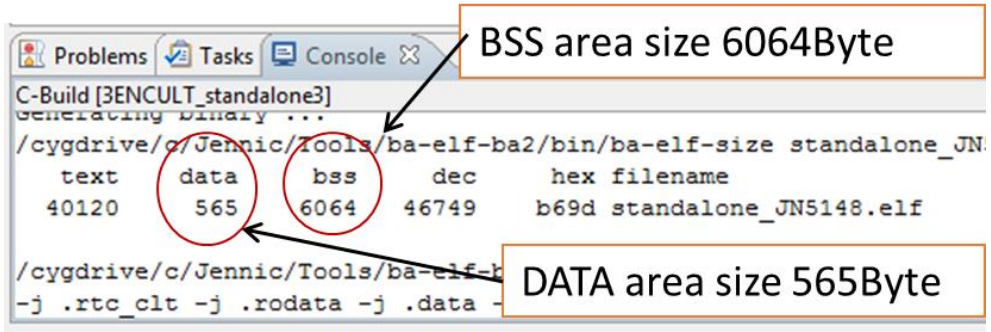
With exceptions!

(some code can be stored in RAM and some Data can be stored in Flash)

Memory Segments

In classical architectures there are 4 basic memory areas:

- **DATA → initialized global and static variables.**
- **BSS** (*Block Started by Symbol*) → **uninitialized global and static variables**.
- **HEAP → Dynamically allocated memory**.
  (Malloc operations are **not recommended** in embedded software)
- **TEXT →**Code segment that contains **executable instructions**.



Memory allocations

```
int data_bss;
int iSize;

int data_data=32;


void main(void)
{
   int a =2;
   char *p;

   static int b;
   static int c=11;

   iSize = 8;
   p = malloc(iSize);

   a=example();

}
```

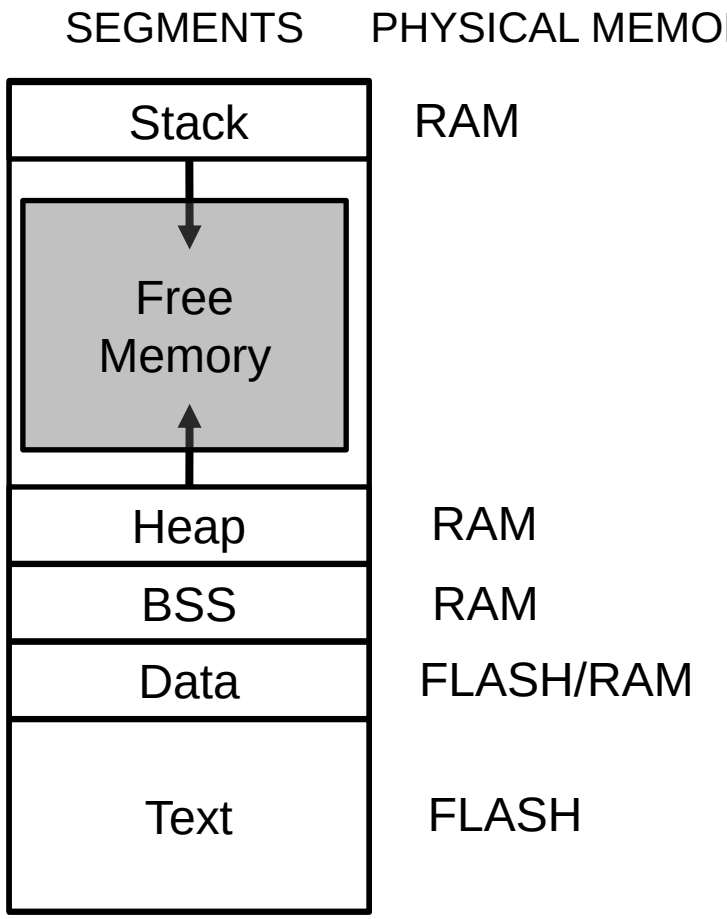
BSS

DATA

STACK

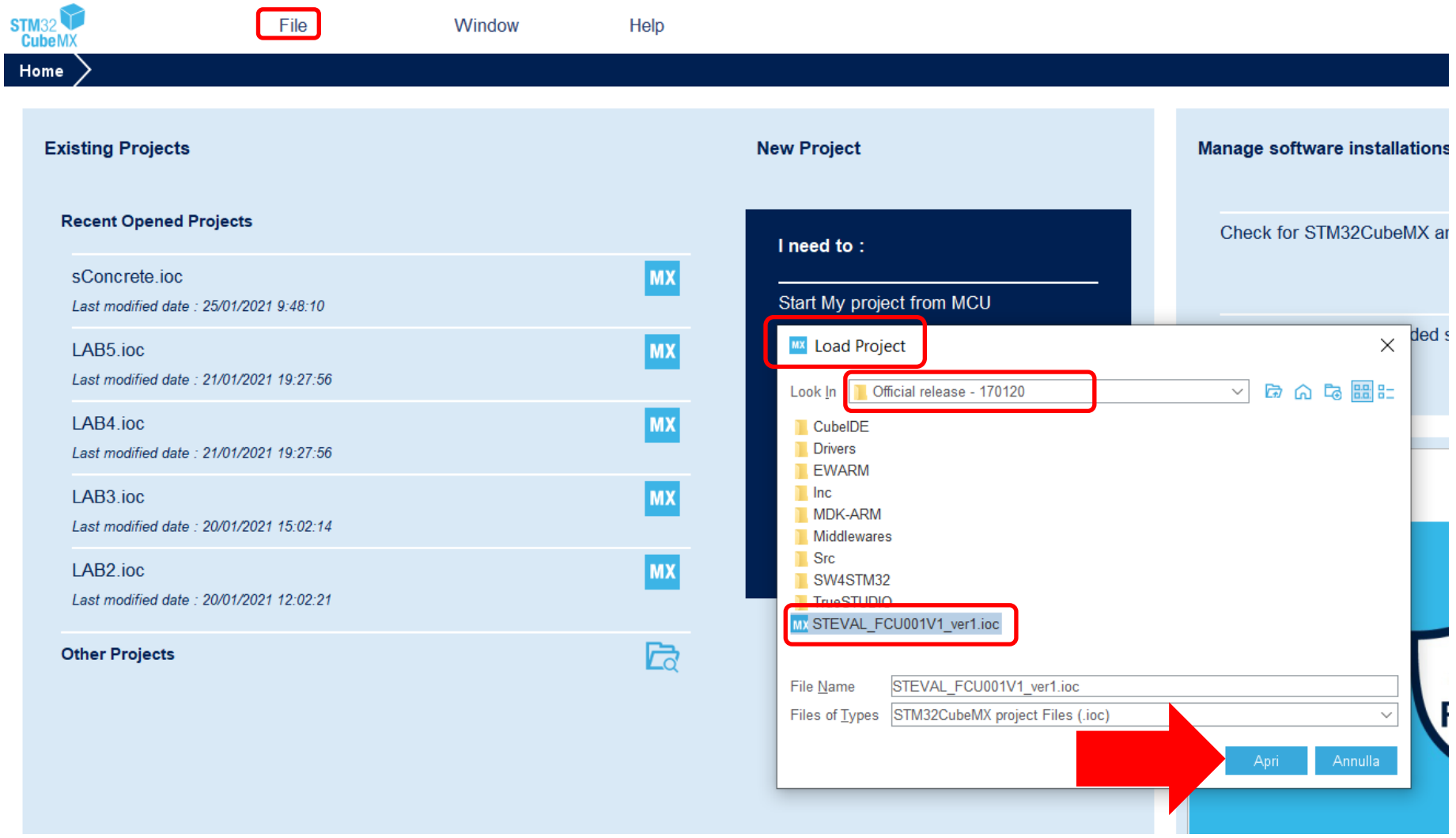
DATA

HEAP (8 Bytes)



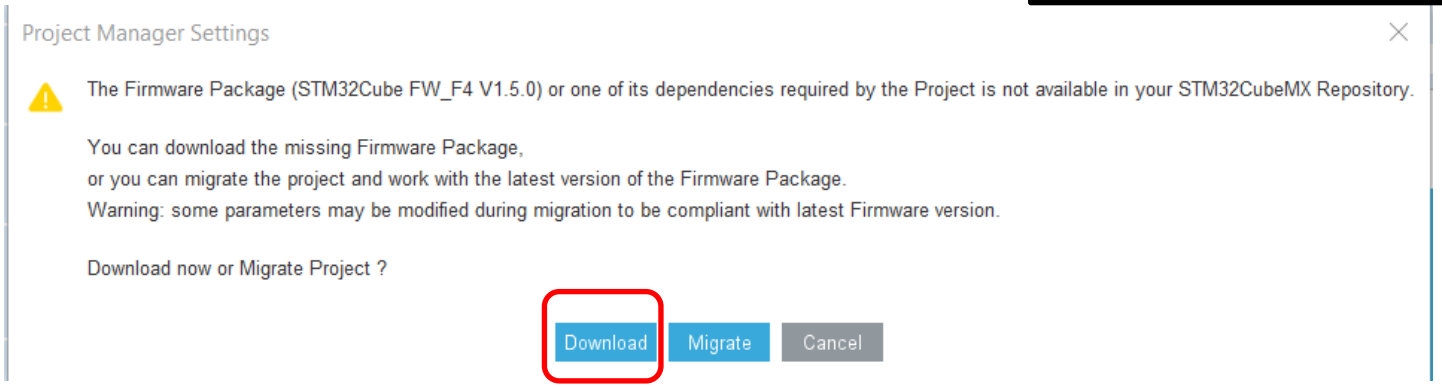
Let‘s go!

STM32CubeMx



STM32CubeMx

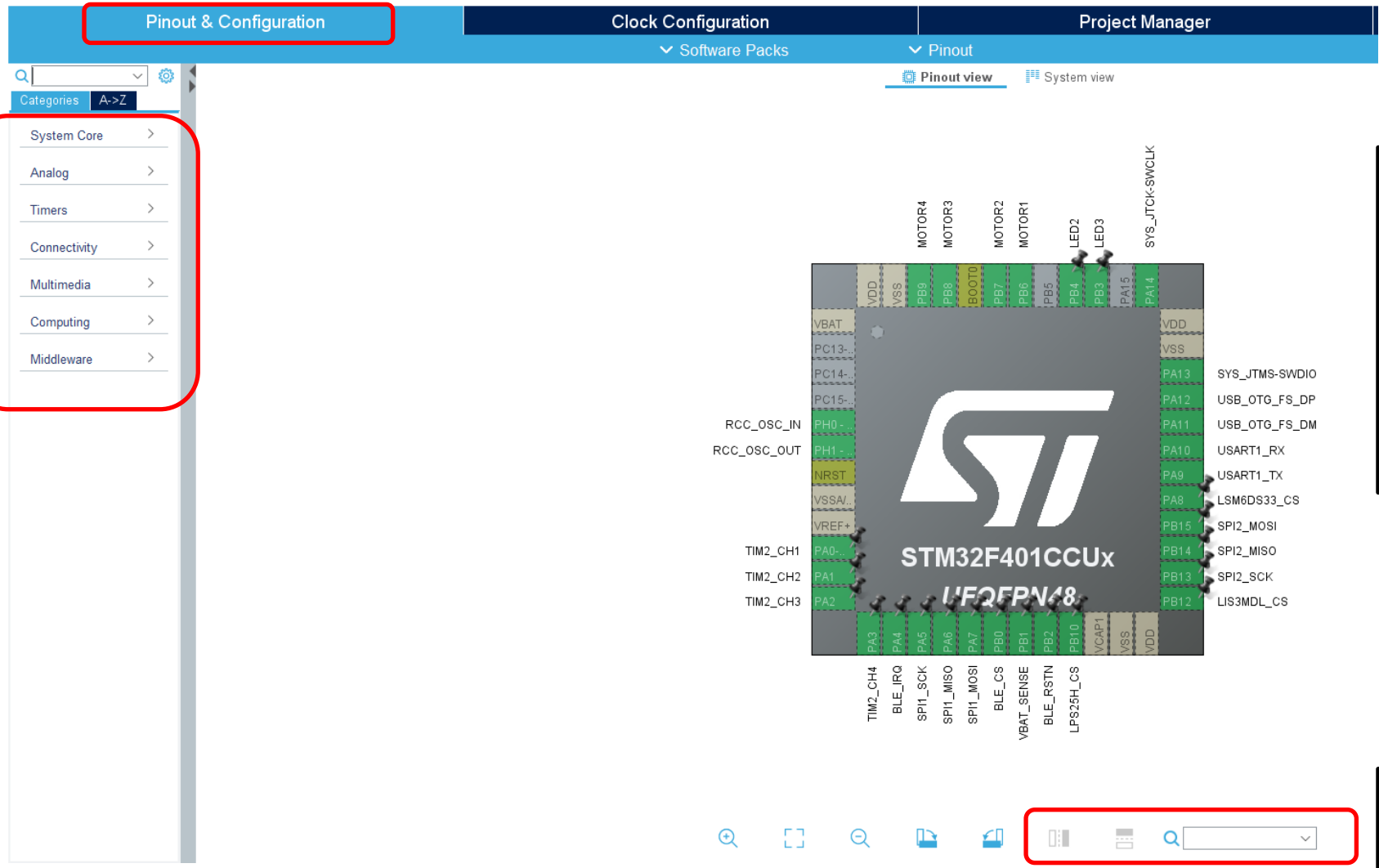
Supported versions:
- STM32CubeMx v6.0.1
- STM32Cube MCU Package for STM32F4 Series 1.5.0
- STM32IDE v1.01



Default settings of:
- GPIOs
- Clock
- Peripherals

Default settings following the **STEVAL-DRONE01** schematic.
Cube MX knows which GPIO is connected to a specific interface, sensor, serial BUS, etc.

STM32CubeMx



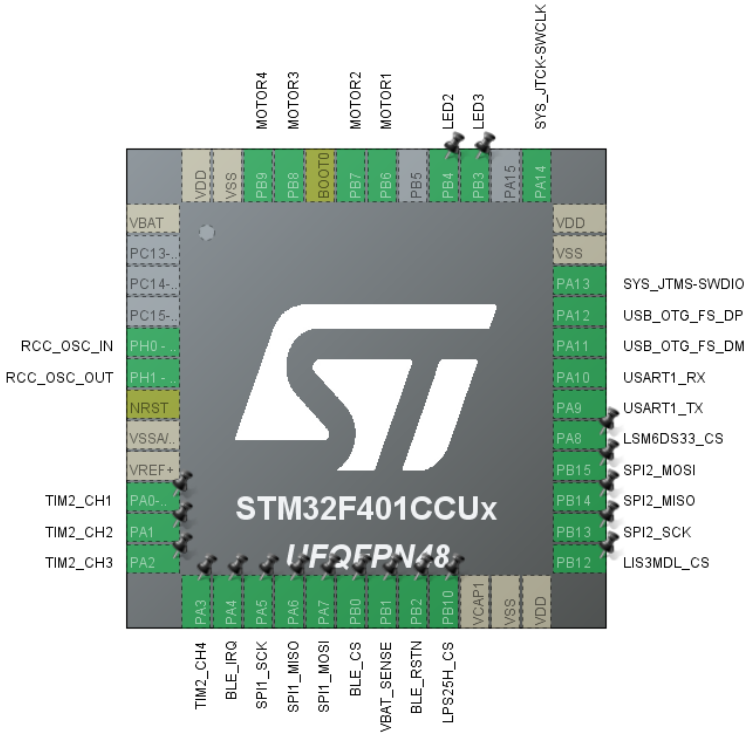
Default settings of:

- GPIOs
- Clock
- Peripherals

Linked with STEVAL-FCU001V1 block diagram

Search for a specific GPIO name

STM32CubeMx



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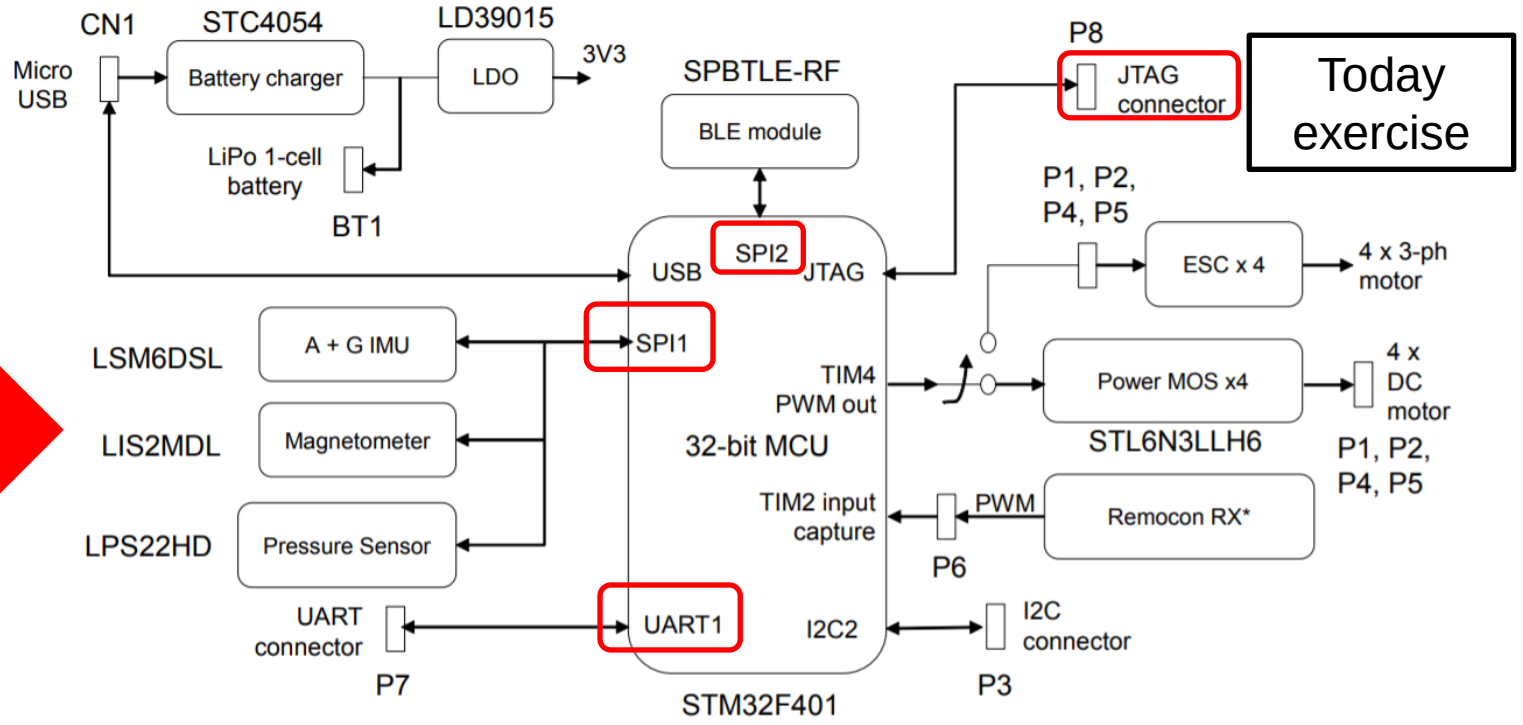
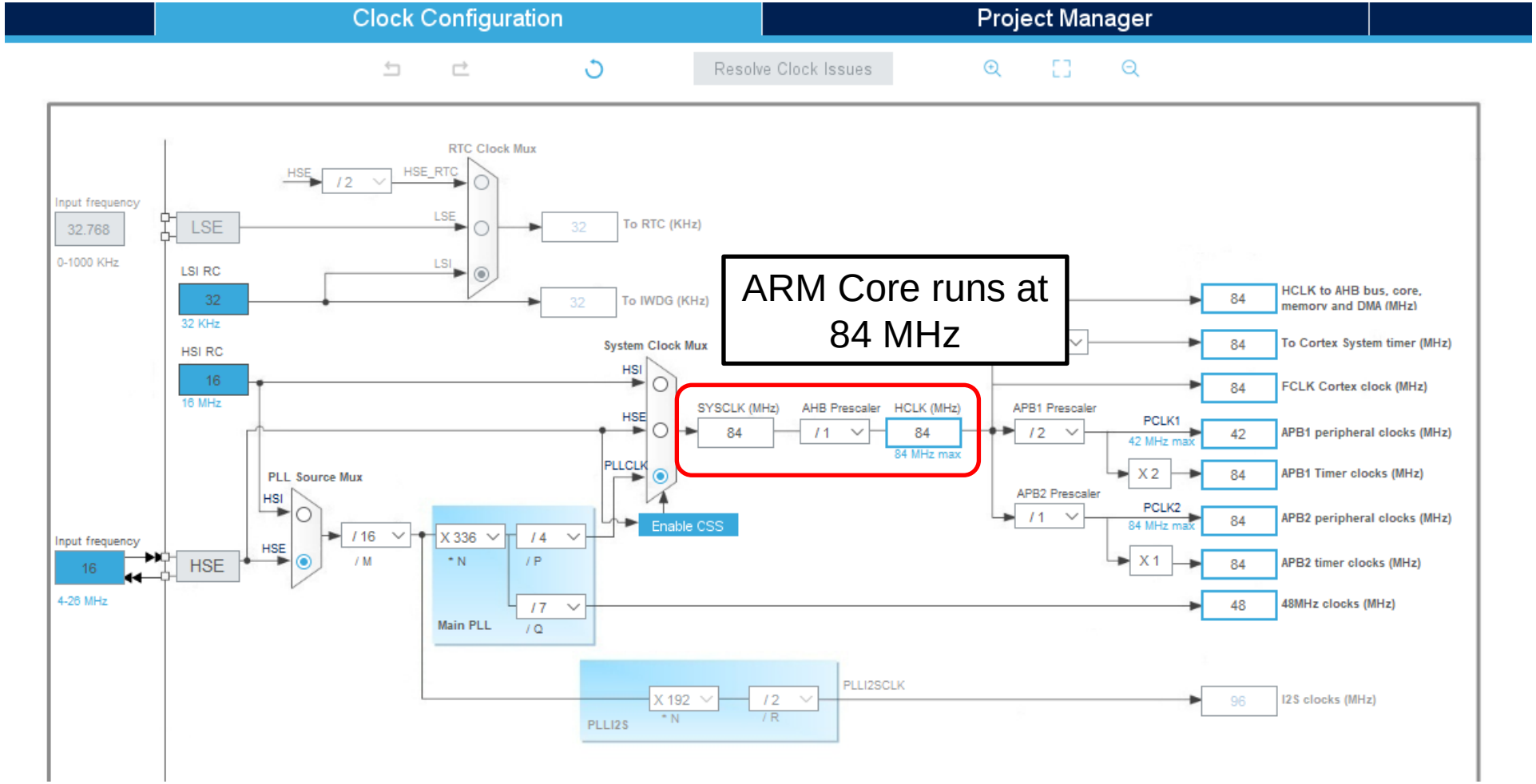
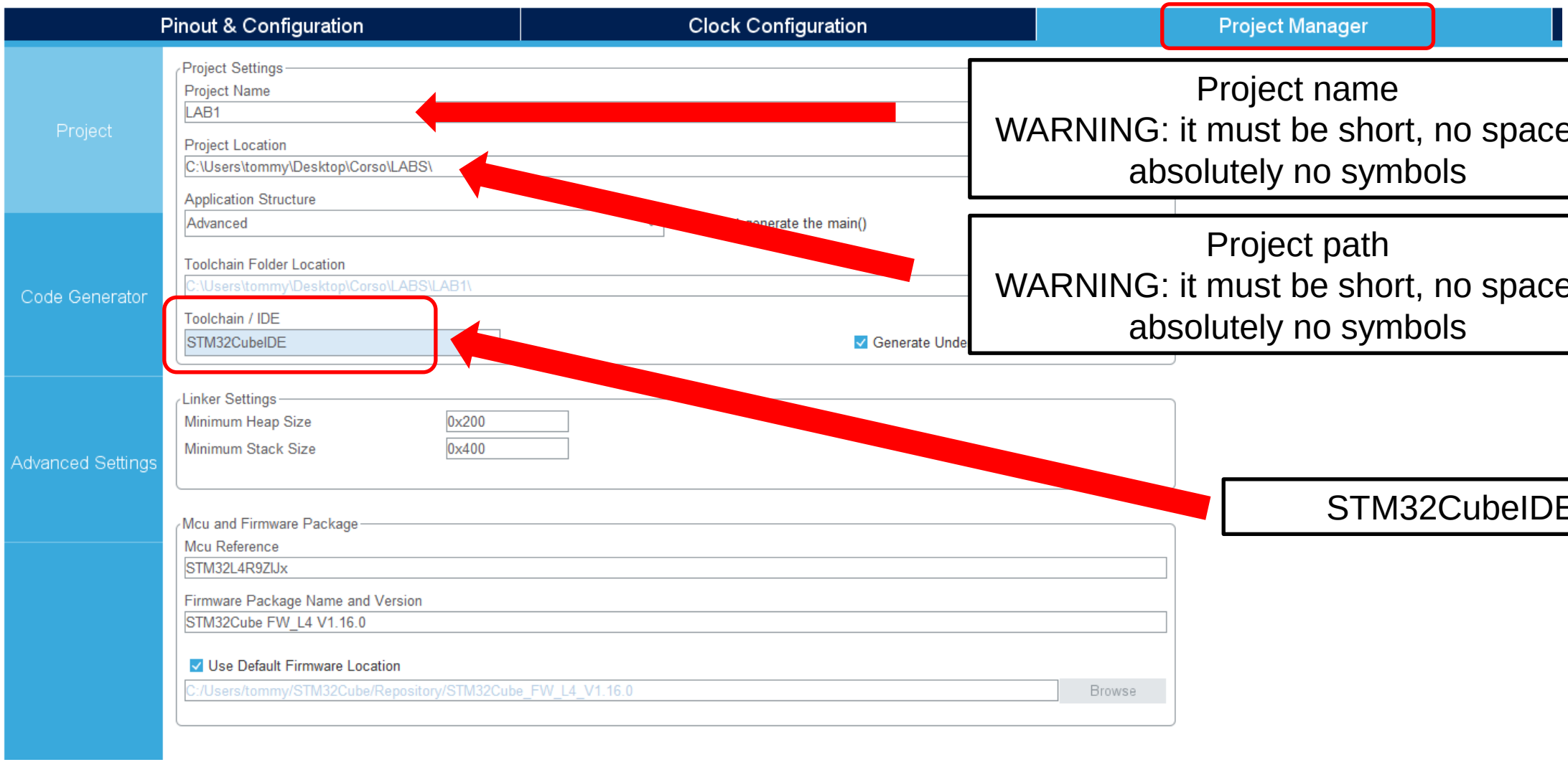


STM32CubeMx



STM32CubeMx

Manages the project folder and IDE

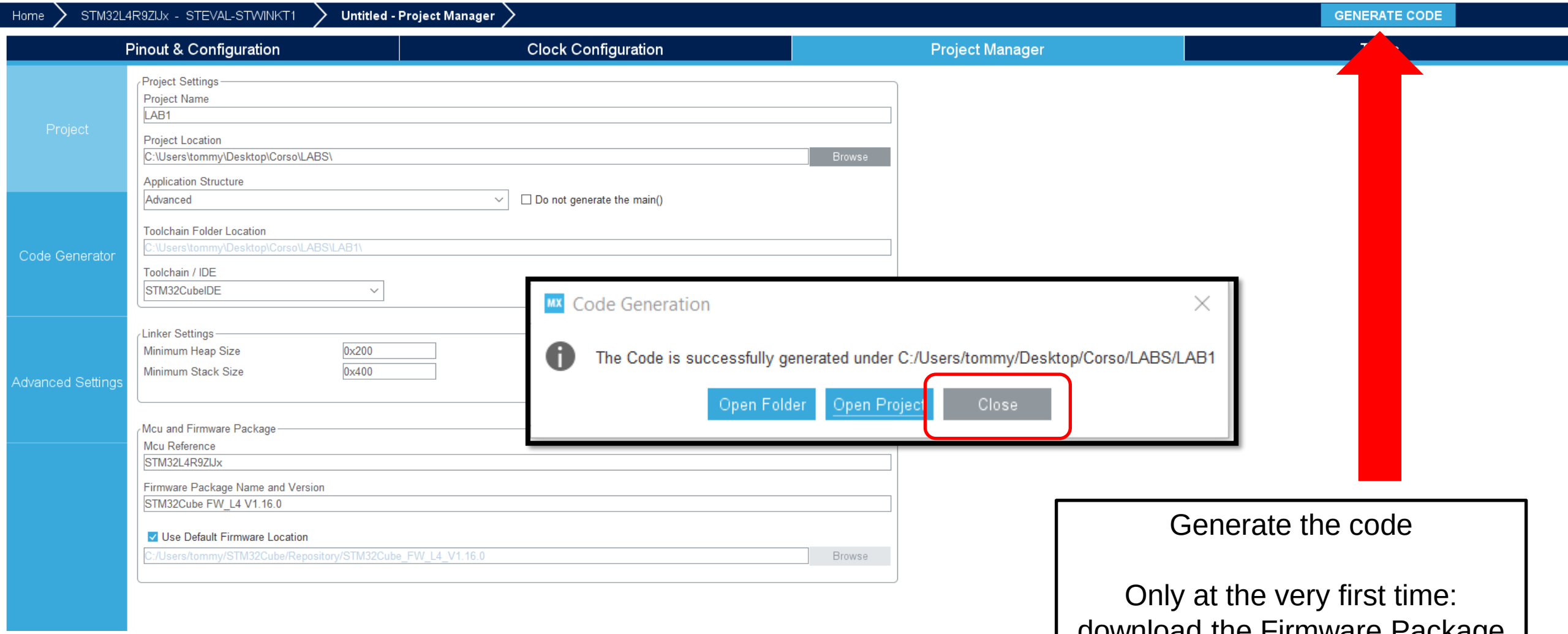


Project name
WARNING: it must be short, no spaces, absolutely no symbols

Project path
WARNING: it must be short, no spaces, absolutely no symbols

STM32CubeIDE

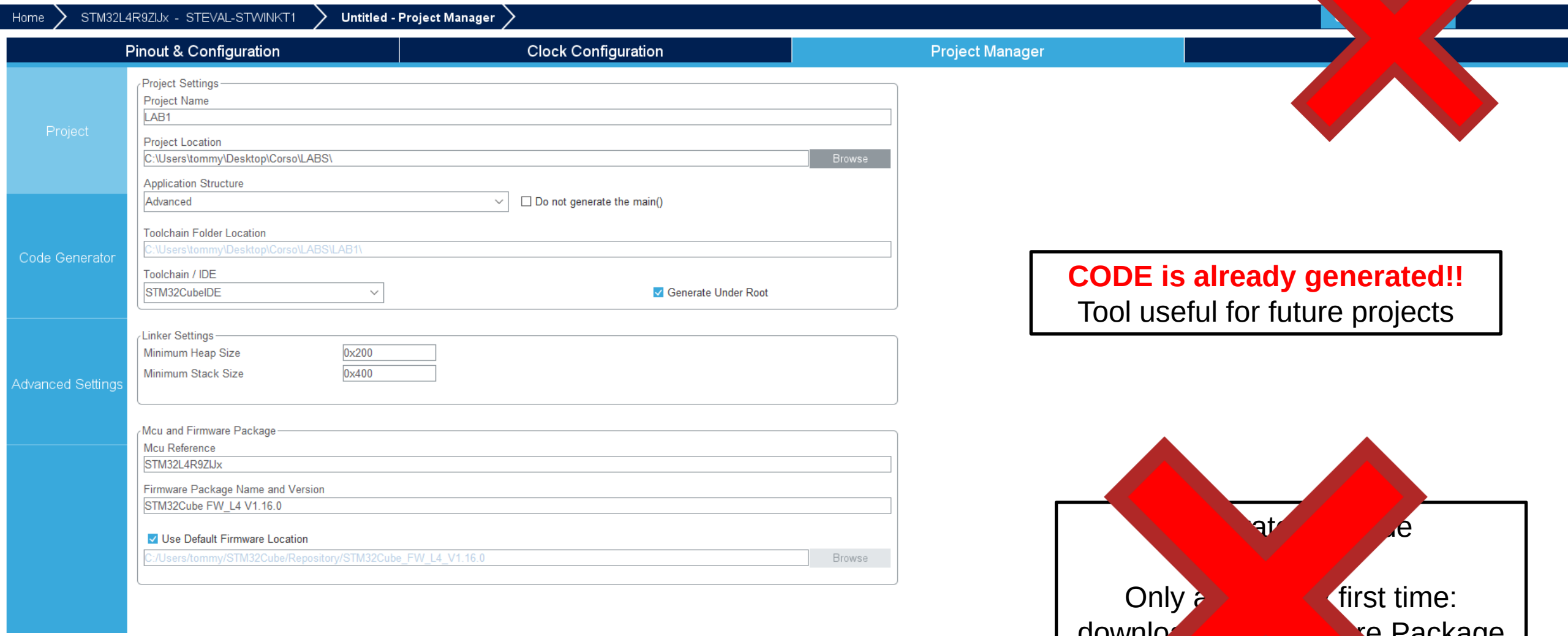
STM32CubeMx



Generate the code

Only at the very first time: download the Firmware Package

STM32CubeMx

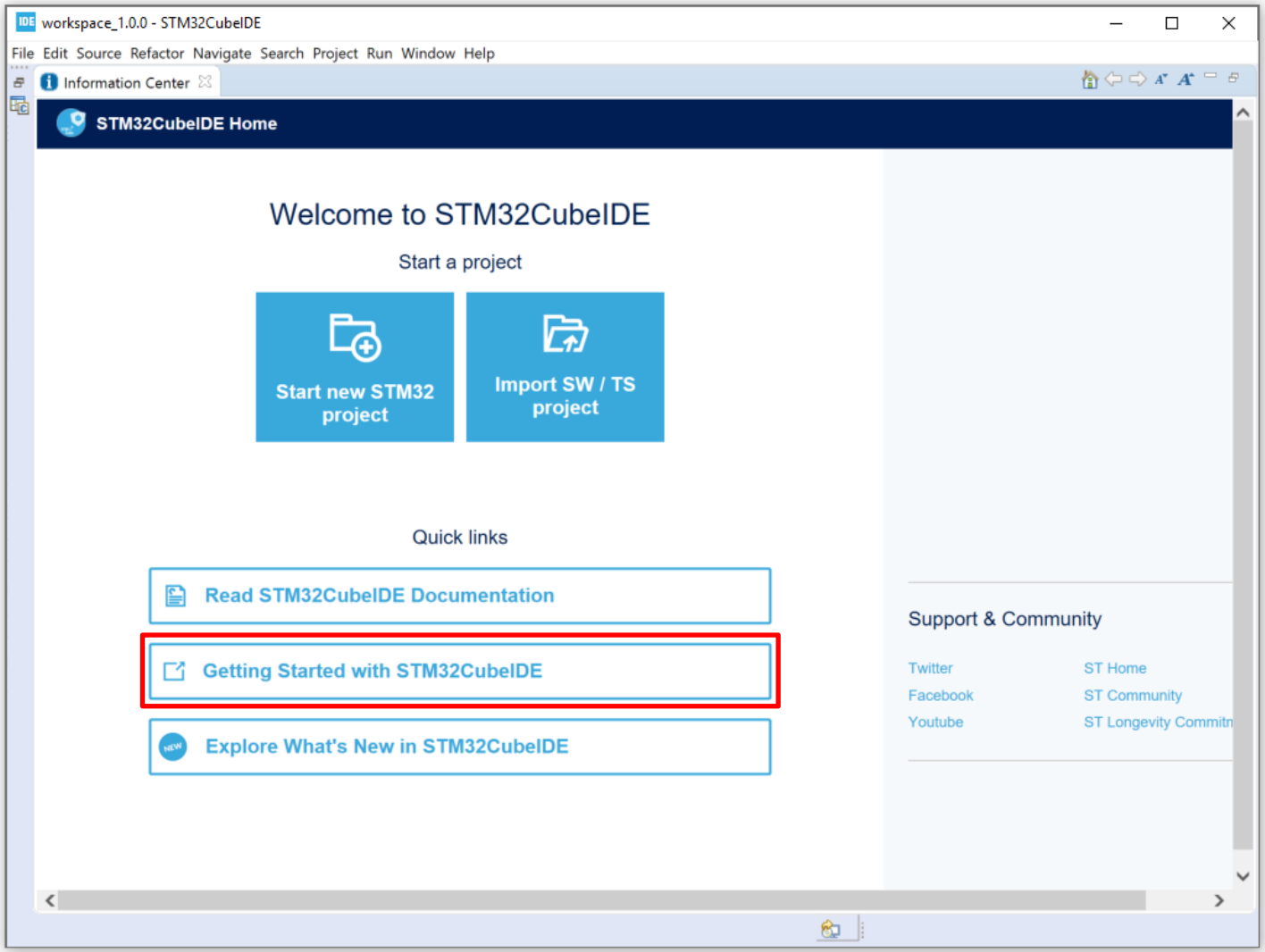


CODE is already generated!!
Tool useful for future projects

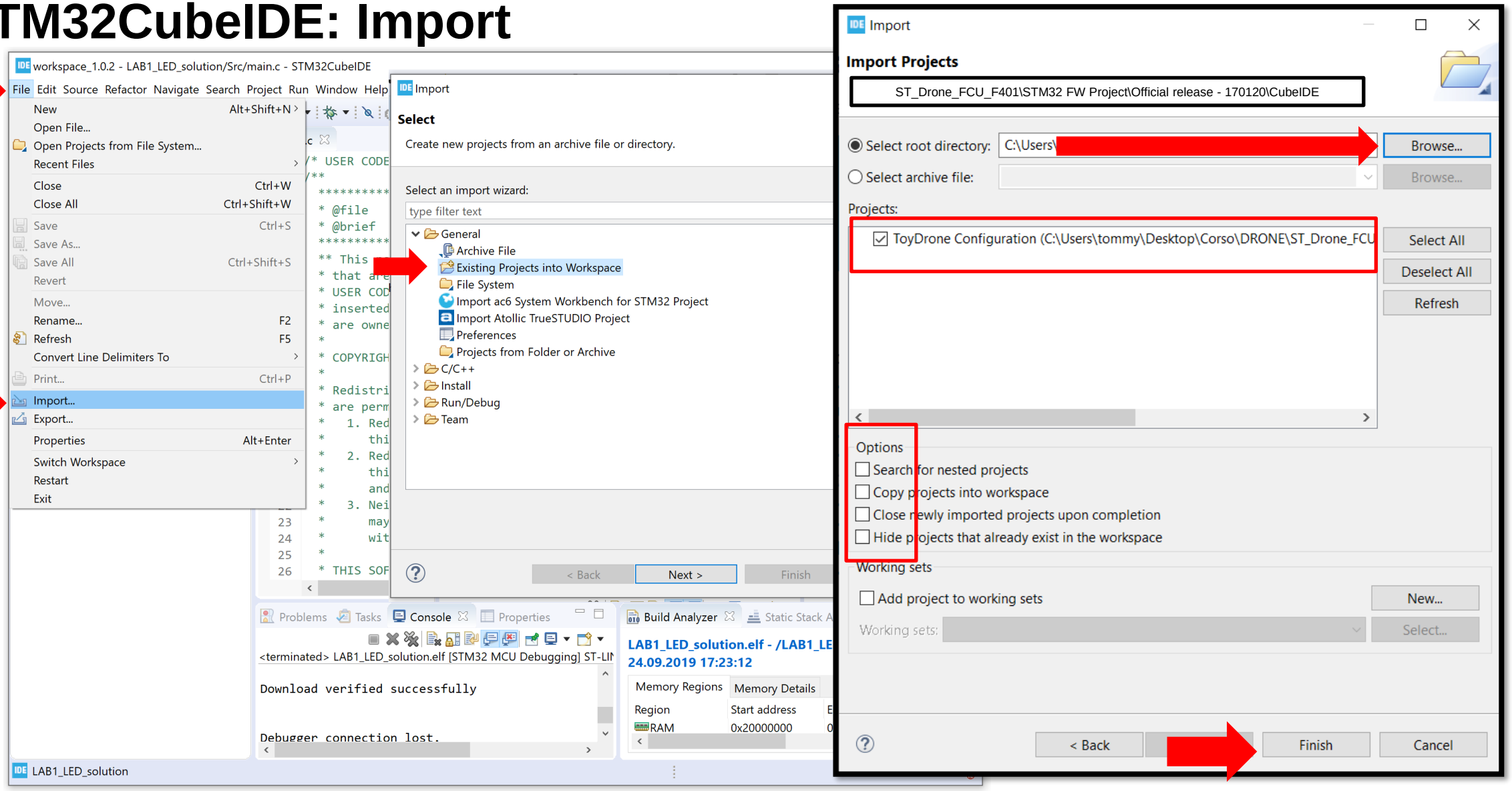
Only a … first time:
downlo… …re Package

STM32CubeIDE: Quickstart Guide

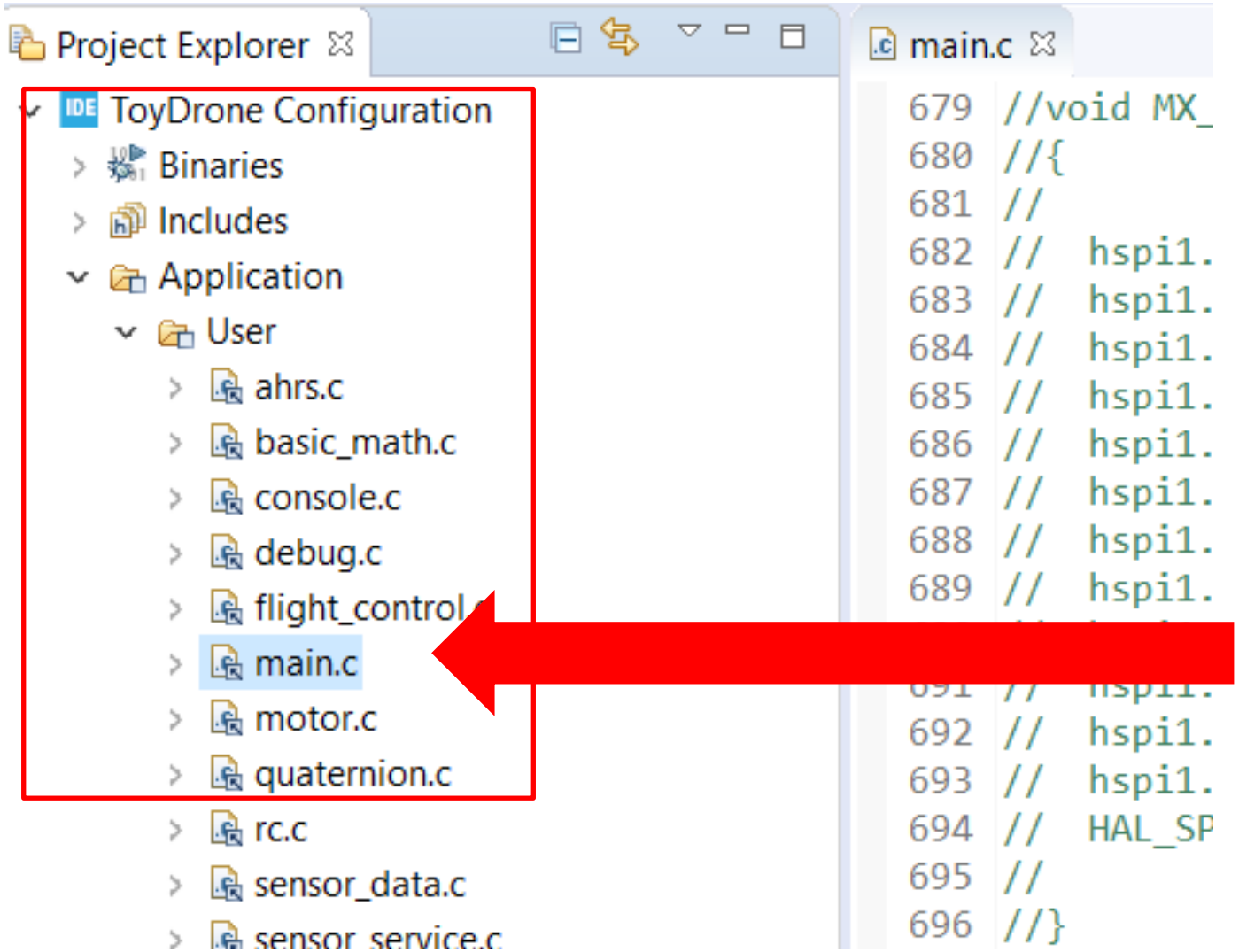
If you use eclipse the first time have a look



STM32CubeIDE: Import



STM32CubeIDE: Project Files



main.c is the application file of your project. You will work here

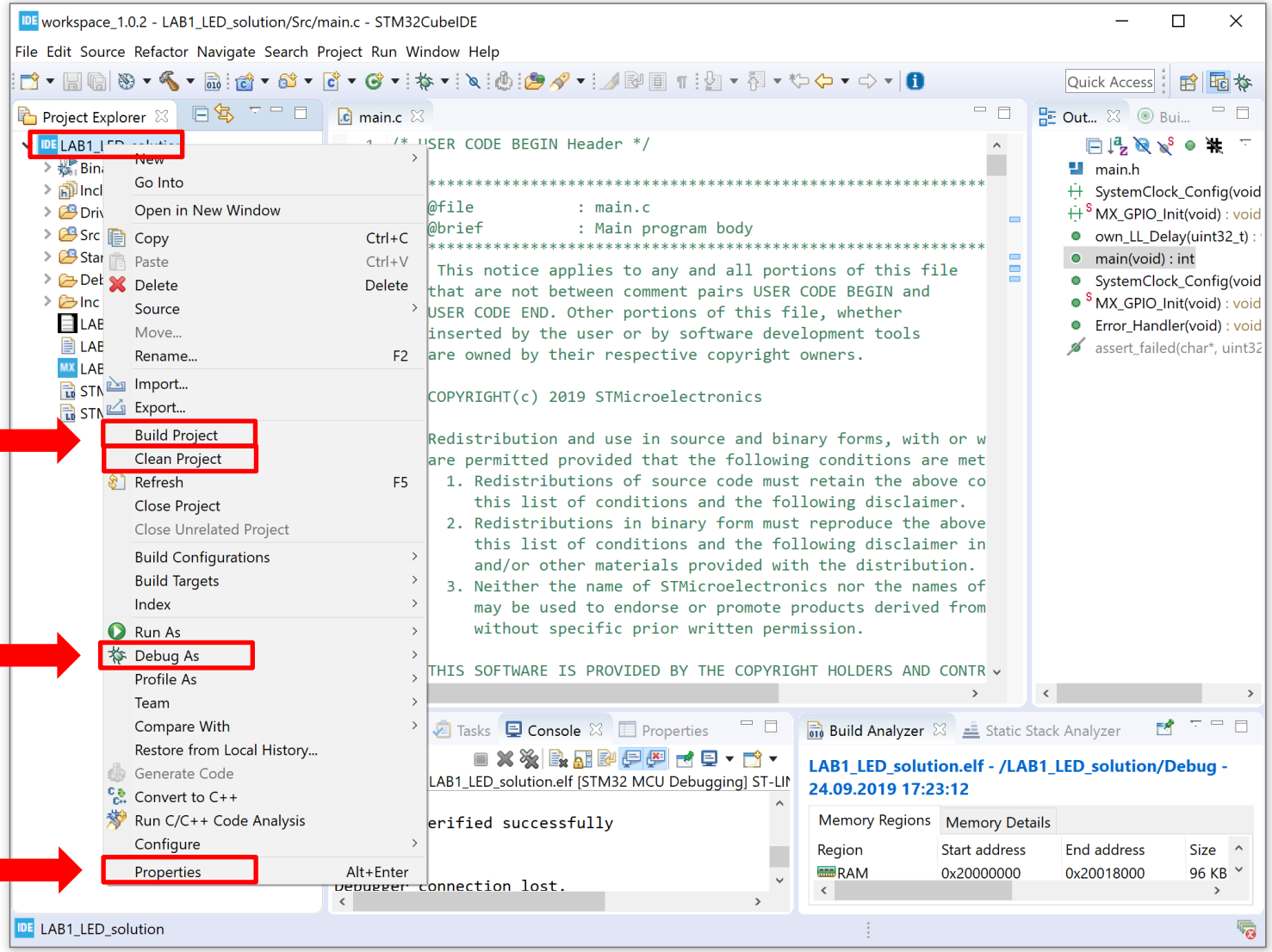
STM32CubeIDE: Key Functions

1

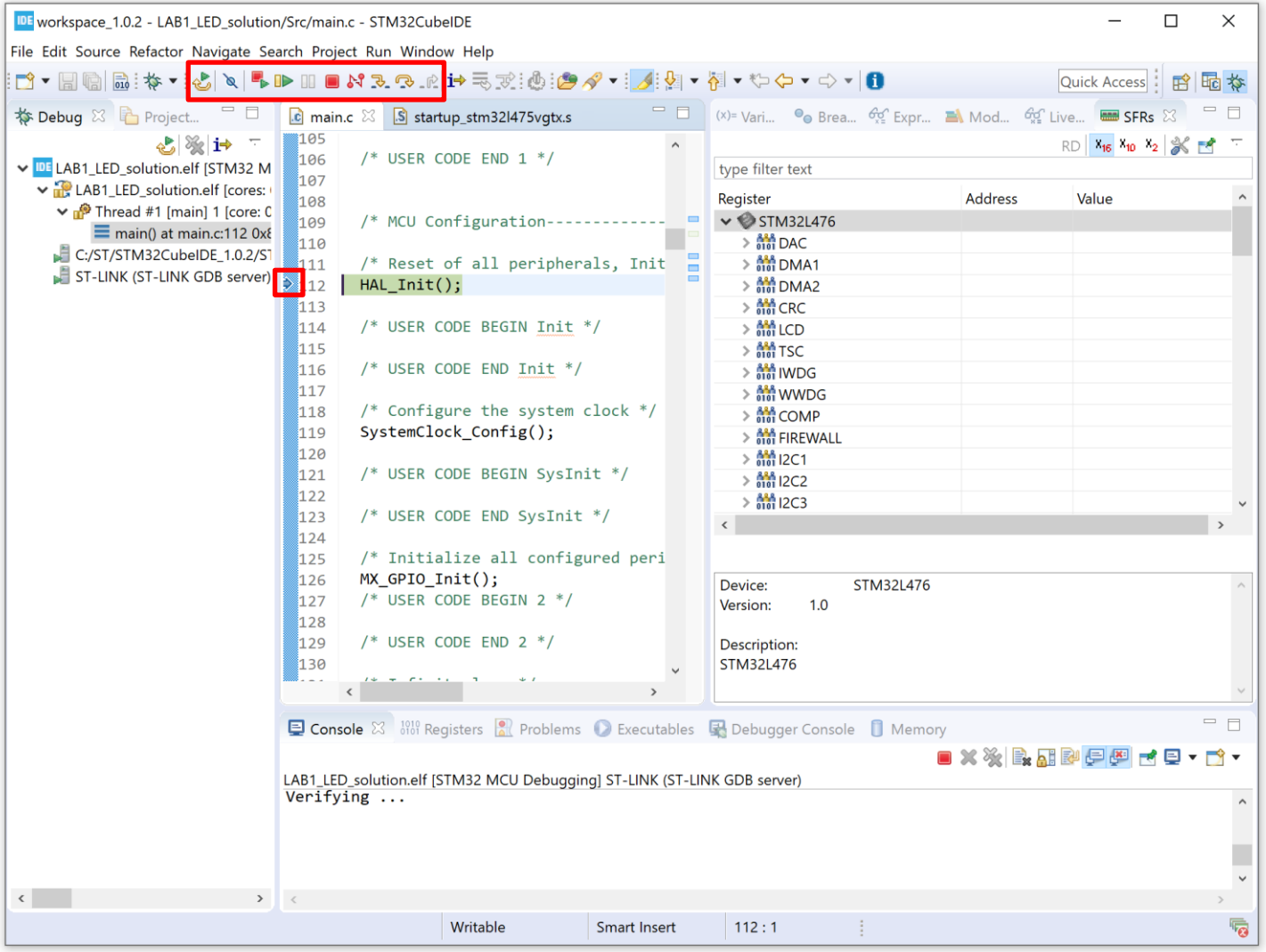
BUILD PROJECT

DEBUG

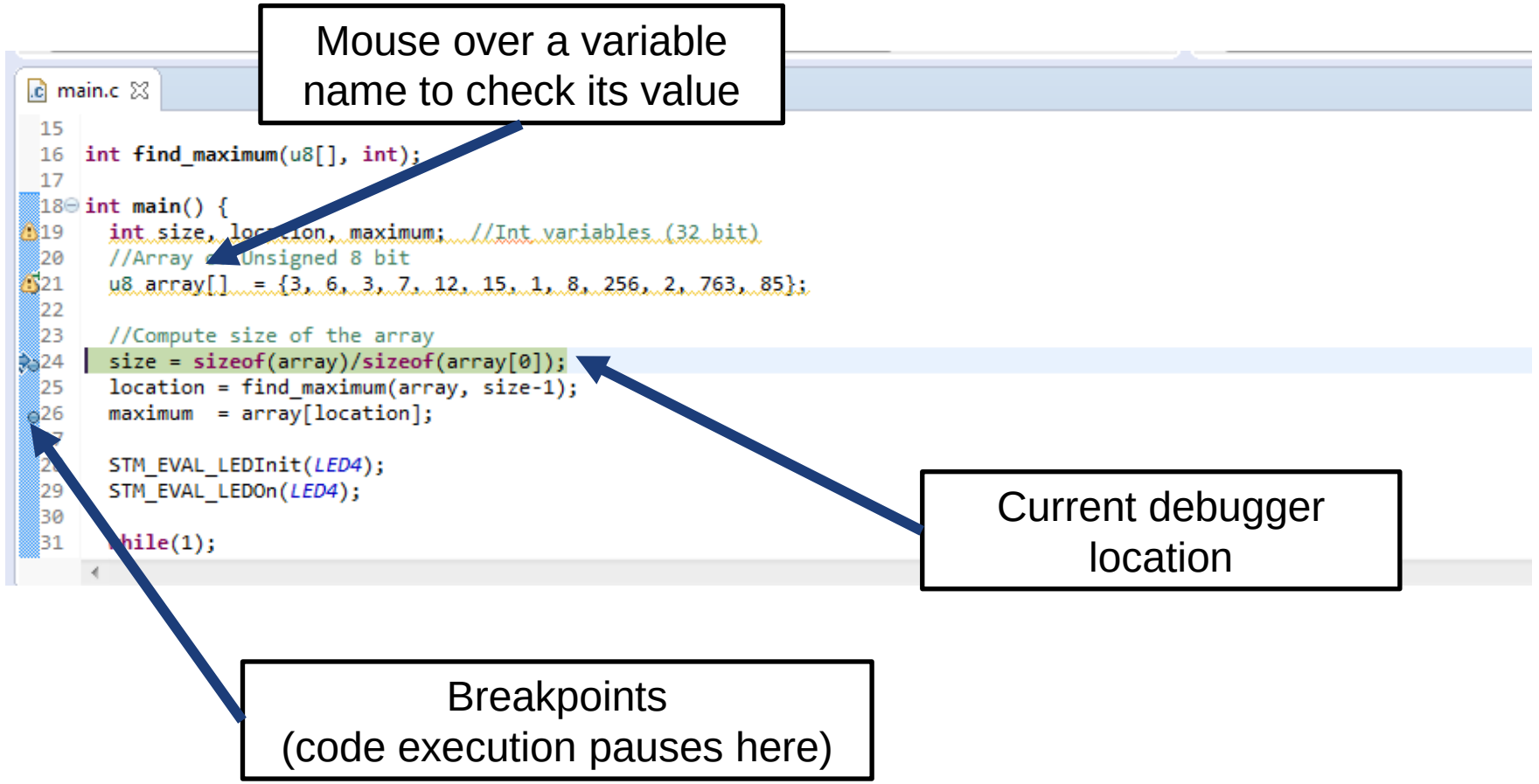
PROJECT PROPERTIES (ADVANCED)



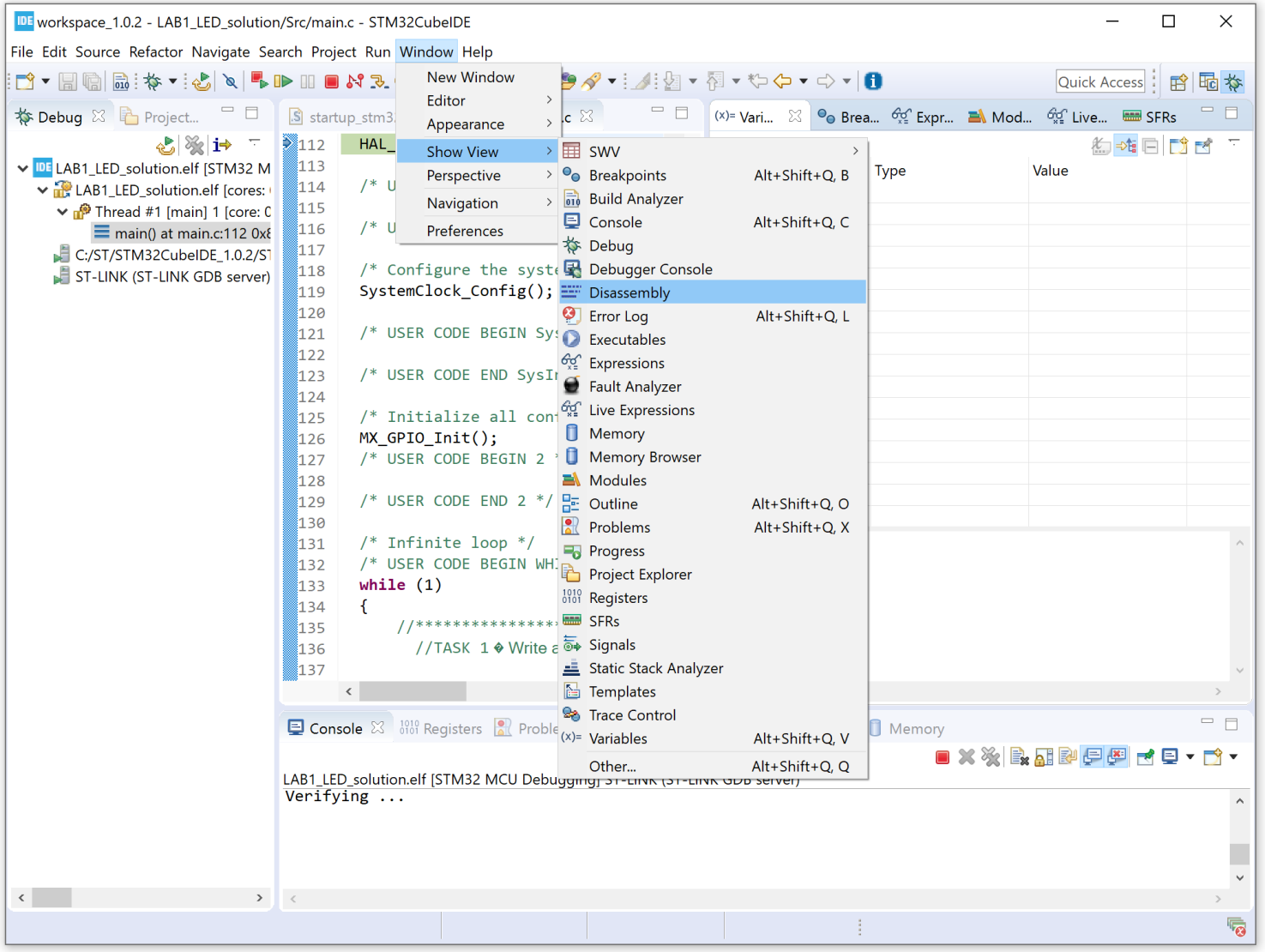
STM32CubeIDE: Debug



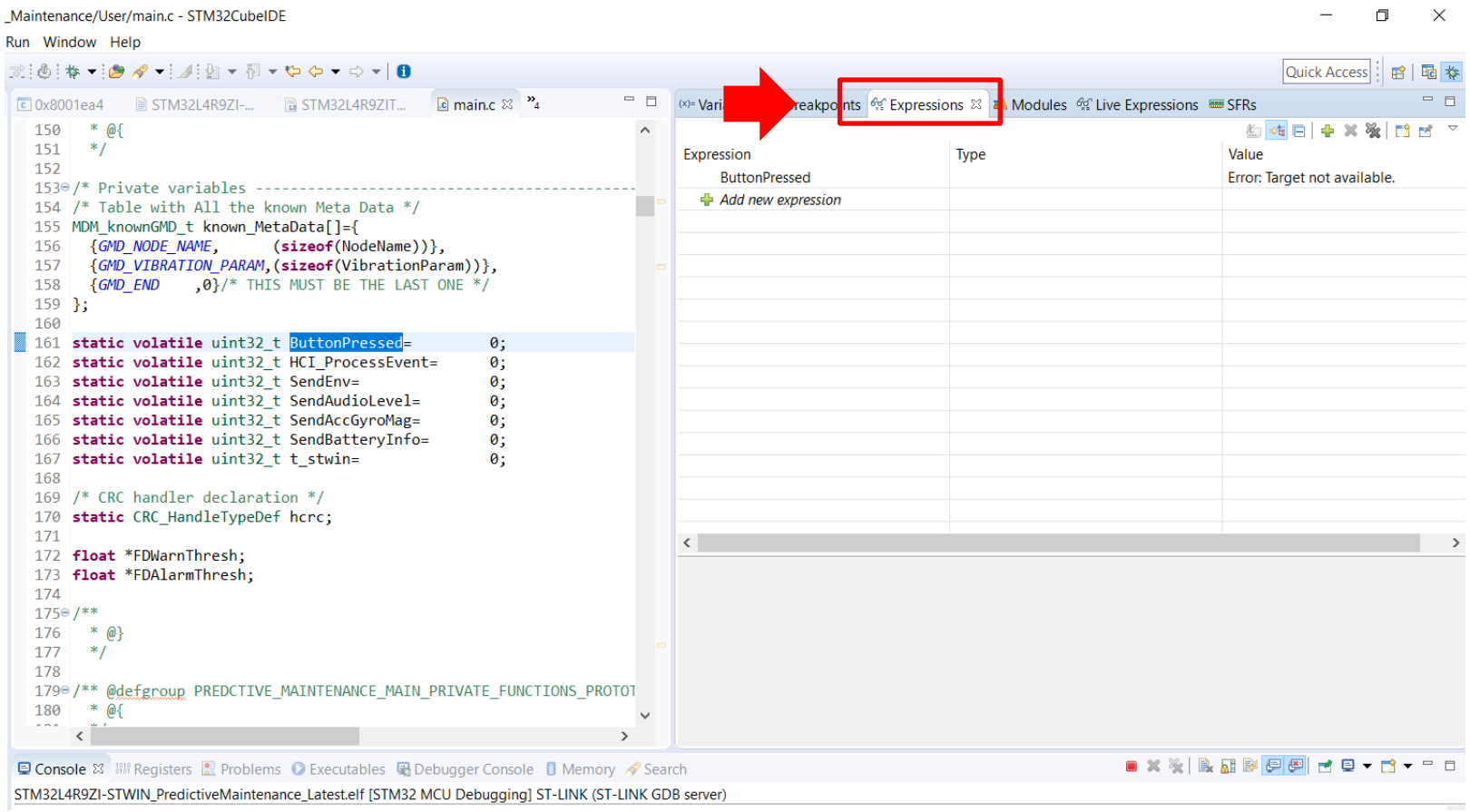
STM32CubeIDE: Debug



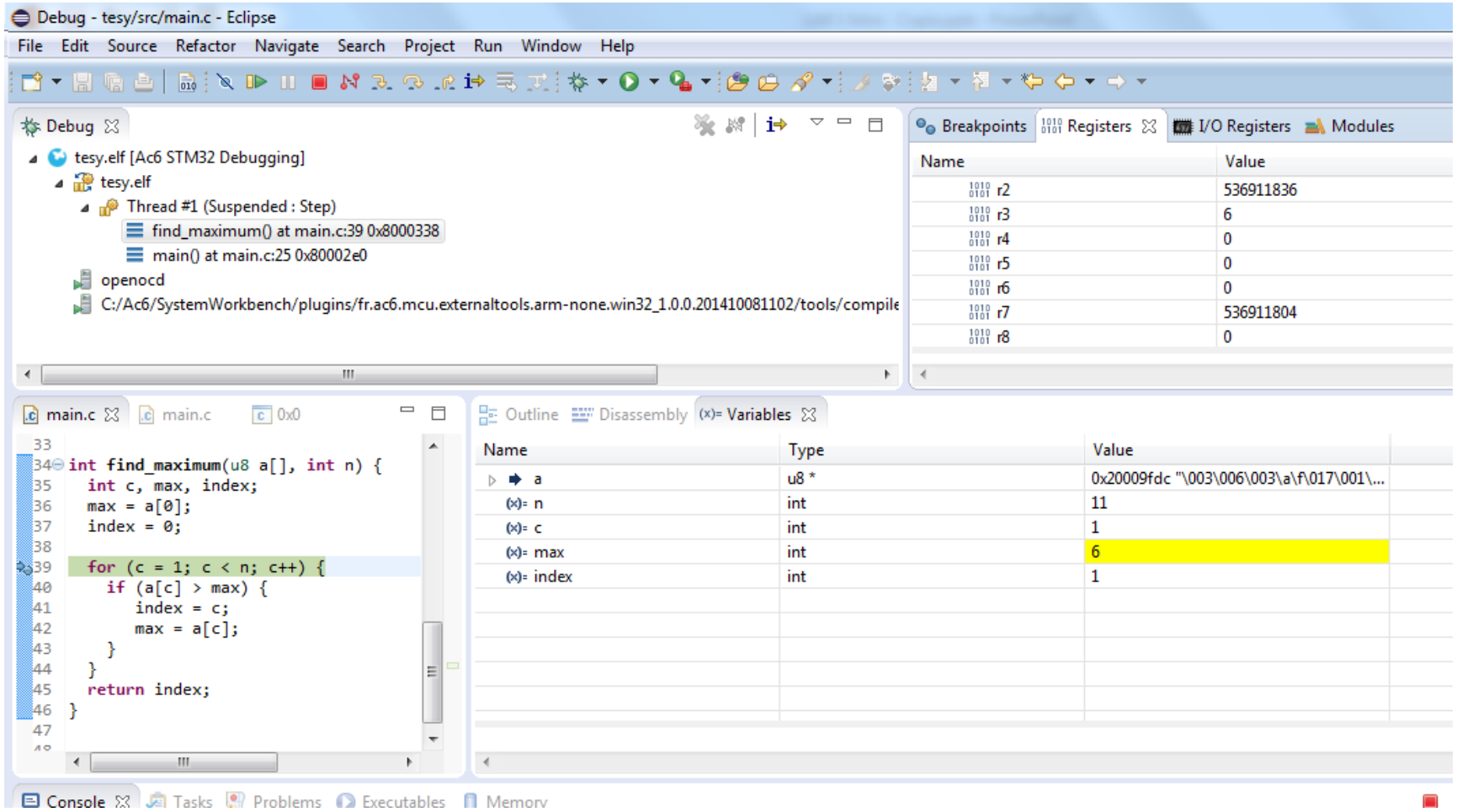
STM32CubeIDE



STM32CubeIDE – Variables Monitoring



STM32CubeIDE – Variables Monitoring



LAB1: Exercise overview

Exercise	Assignment	Concept
Exercise 1	- Hands-on **STEVAL-FCU001V1** evaluation board - Open the project with CubeMX - Understanding software architecture by STM - Control LEDs with GPIO	Start program, Debug, GPIO
Questions:	- What is a debugger? - In which page of the STWIN schematic is the MCU? - Explain the programming pipeline of the STM32 MCU - If a variable is defined as static int, what does it mean?	Programming and debugging

STM32CubeIDE – User Code

```
10   * All rights reserved.</center></h2>
11   *
12   * This software component is licensed by ST under BSD 3-Clause license,
13   * the "License"; You may not use this file except in compliance with the
14   * License. You may obtain a copy of the License at:
15   *                        opensource.org/licenses/BSD-3-Clause
16   *
17   ******************************************************************************
18   */
19 /* USER CODE END Header */
20 /* Includes ------------------------------------------------------------------*/
21 #include "main.h"
22
23 /* Private includes ----------------------------------------------------------*/
24 /* USER CODE BEGIN Includes */
25
26 /* USER CODE END Includes */
27
28 /* Private typedef -----------------------------------------------------------*/
29 /* USER CODE BEGIN PTD */
30
31 /* USER CODE END PTD */
32
33 /* Private define ------------------------------------------------------------*/
34 /* USER CODE BEGIN PD */
35 /* USER CODE END PD */
36
37 /* Private macro -------------------------------------------------------------*/
38 /* USER CODE BEGIN PM */
39
40 /* USER CODE END PM */
41
42 /* Private variables ---------------------------------------------------------*/
43 ADC_HandleTypeDef hadc1;
```

STMCubeMX automatically generates source files but,
it deletes all your code placed outside the USER CODE space

Write the code within USER CODE BEGIN and USER CODE END

STM32CubeIDE – LEDs GO!

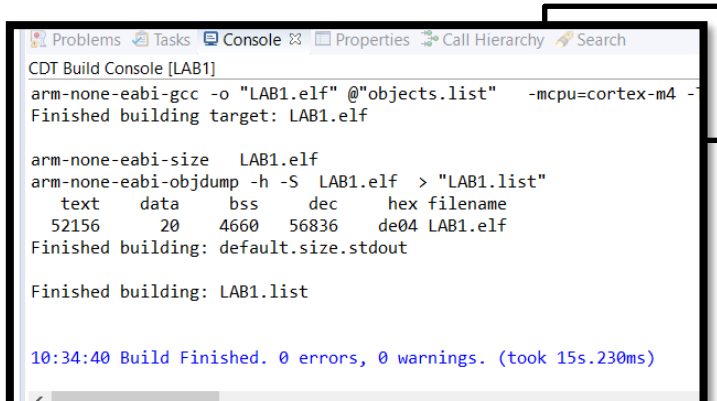
```
154     MX_TIM2_Init();
155     MX_TIM5_Init();
156     MX_USART2_UART_Init();
157     MX_USART3_UART_Init();
158     MX_USB_OTG_FS_PCD_Init();
159     /* USER CODE BEGIN 2 */
160
161     /*Configure LED1 ON */
162     HAL_GPIO_WritePin(GPIOE, LED1_Pin, GPIO_PIN_SET);
163     /*Configure LED2 ON */
164     HAL_GPIO_WritePin(GPIOD, LED2_Pin, GPIO_PIN_SET);
165
166     /* USER CODE END 2 */
167
168     /* Infinite loop */
169     /* USER CODE BEGIN WHILE */
170     while (1)
171     {
172         /* USER CODE END WHILE */
173
174         /* USER CODE BEGIN 3 */
175     }
176     /* USER CODE END 3 */
177 }
```

Enable
STWIN Green (LED1) and Orange (LED2) LEDs

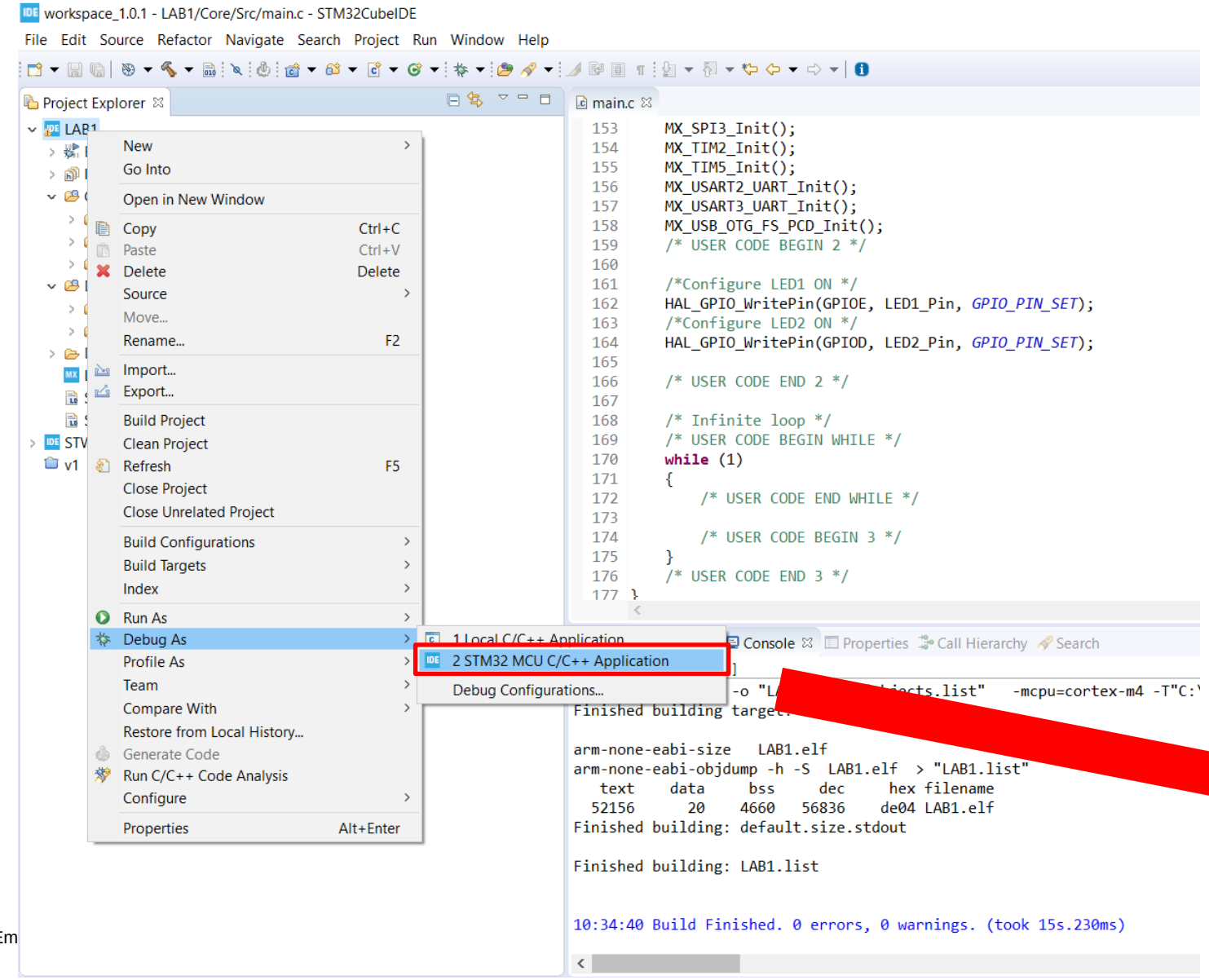
Write the code within USER CODE BEGIN and USER CODE END

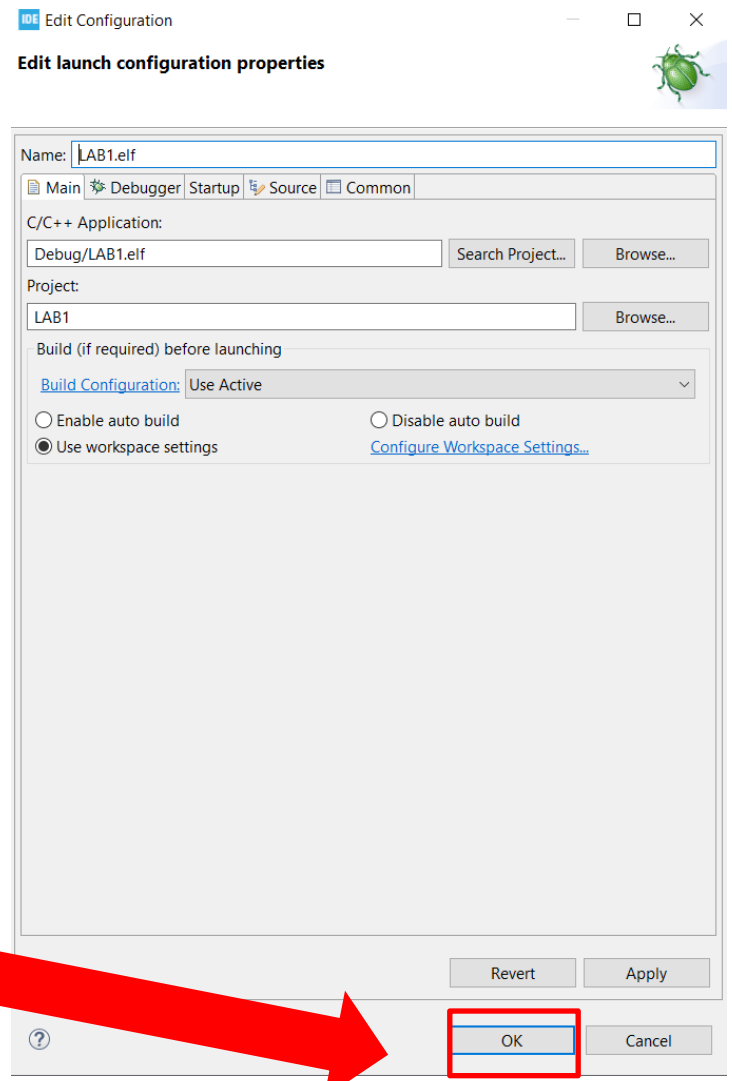
Add the GPIO_WritePin functions, they configure the GPIO pin connected to the corresponding LED to 1, a logical value of 3.3V

BUILD-> DEBUG -> TEST!

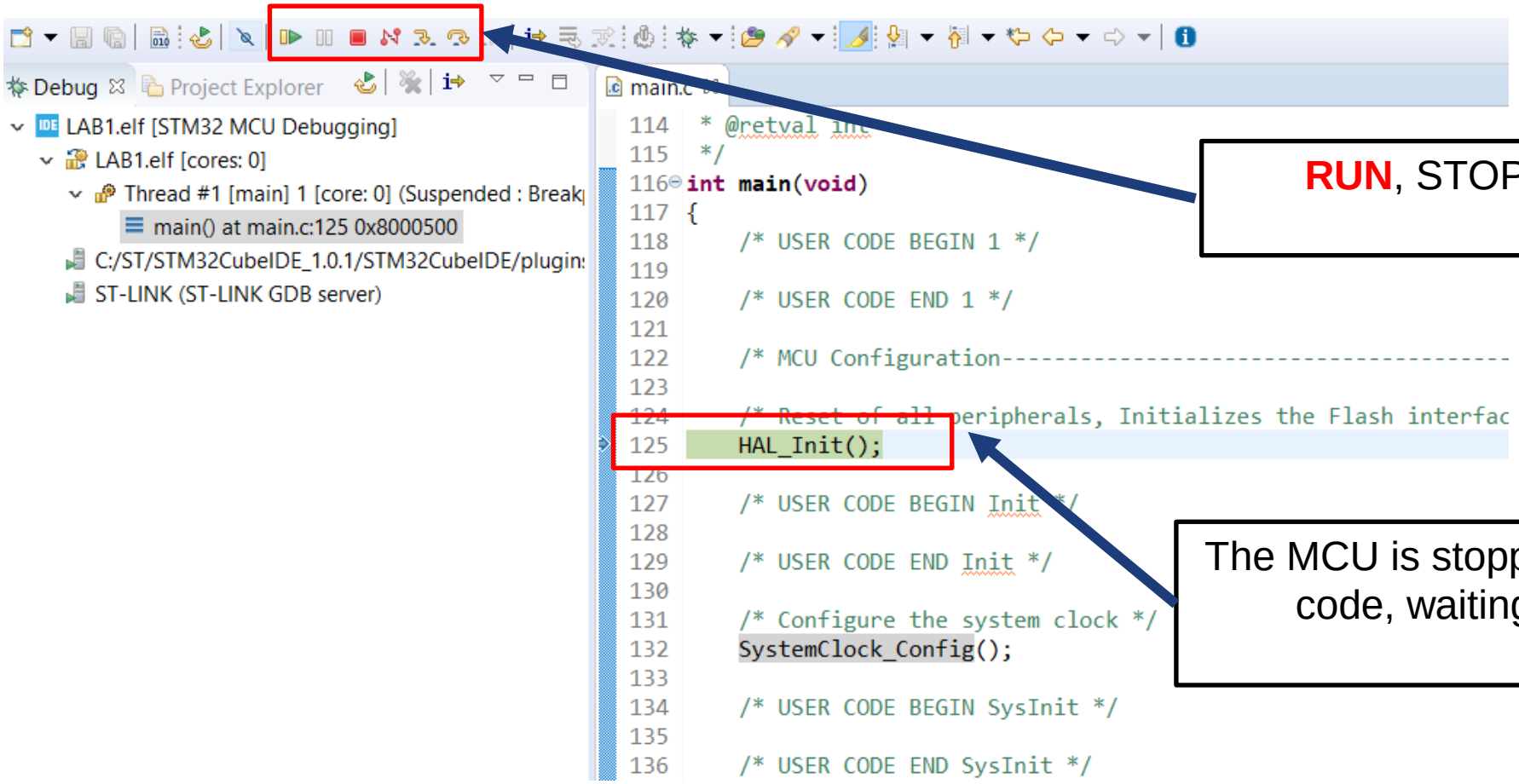


STM32CubeIDE – LEDs GO!





STM32CubeIDE – LEDs GO! DEBUGGING



RUN, STOP, OR STEP BY STEP

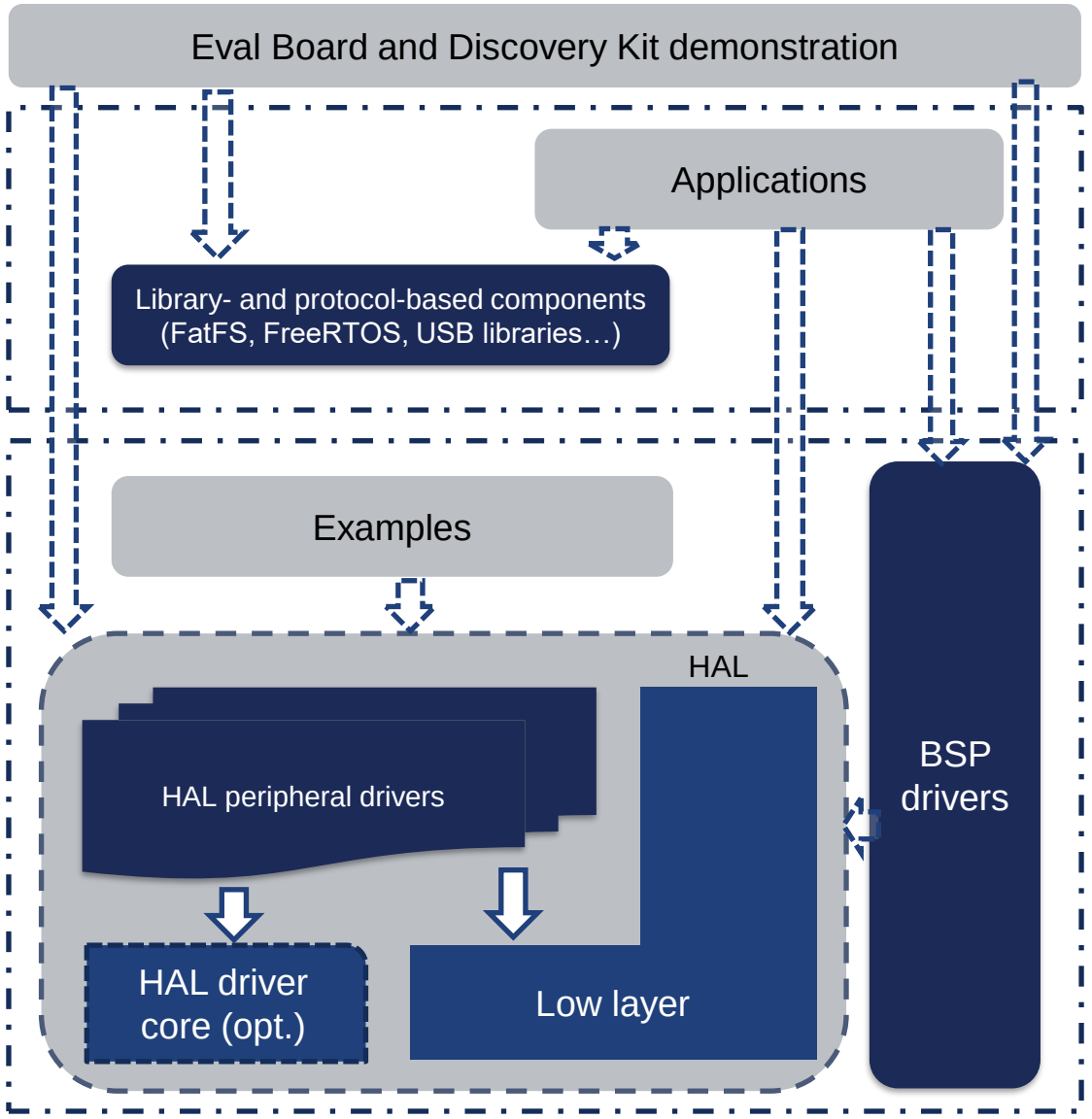
The MCU is stopped at the first line of the code, waiting for a user request

STM32 software architecture

Application Level 2

Middleware Level 1

Drivers HAL or LL Level 0



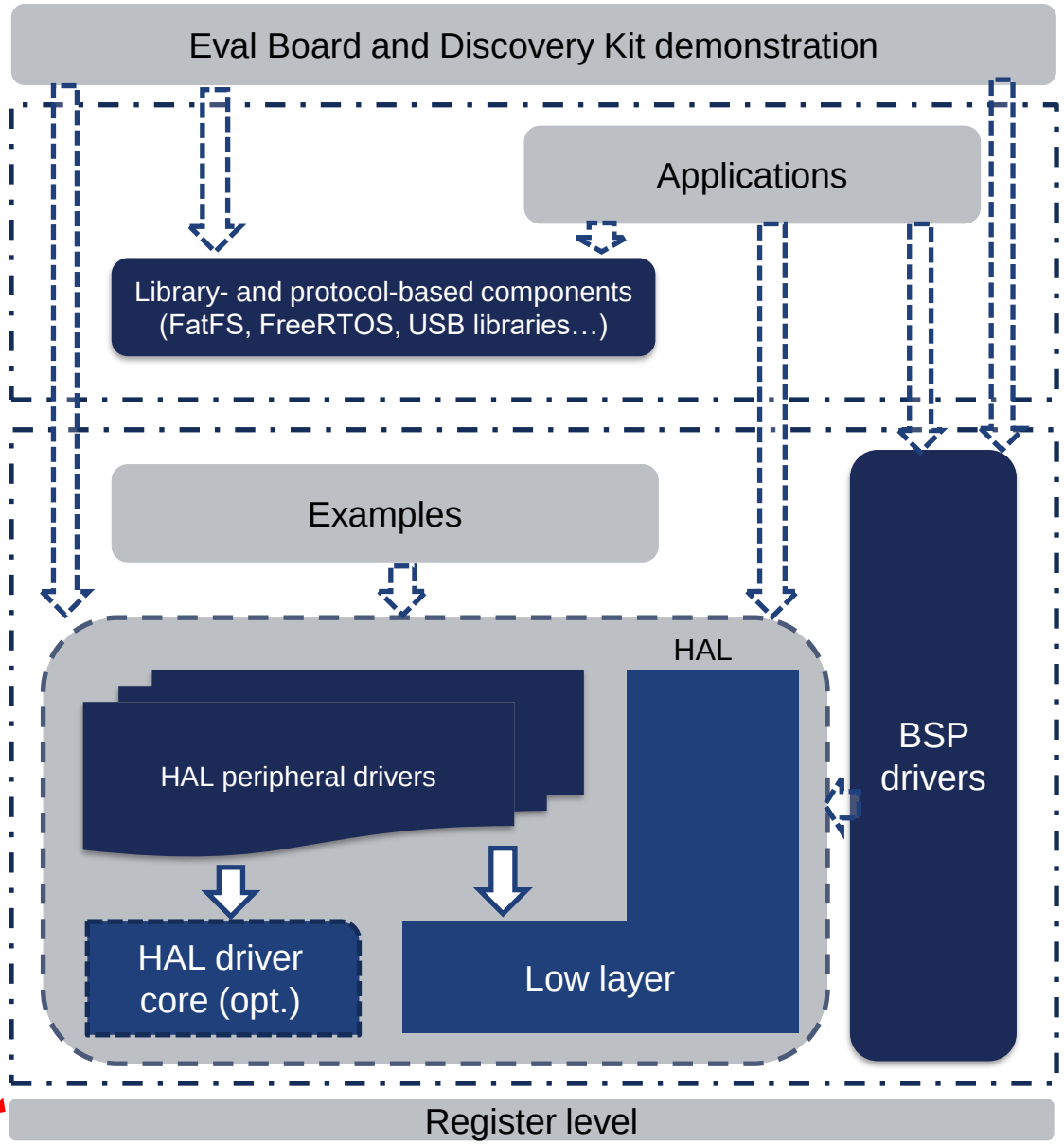
STM32 software architecture

Application Level 2

Middleware Level 1

Drivers HAL or LL Level 0

Advanced



STM32CubeIDE – LEDs GO!

```
/* Initialize and Enable the available sensors on SPI*/
initializeAllSensors();
enableAllSensors();

/* BLE communication */
PRINTF("BLE communication initialization...\n\n");

/* USER CODE END 2 */

/* Infinite loop */
/* USER CODE BEGIN WHILE */
while (1)
{
    /* USER CODE END WHILE */

    /* USER CODE BEGIN 3 */

    //This function provides accurate delay (in milliseconds)
    HAL_Delay(1000);
    BSP_LED_Toggle(LED2);

}
```

Write the code within USER CODE BEGIN and USER CODE END

Add the GPIO_Toggle functions for LED1, change the BLINK frequency using HAL_Delay

BUILD-> DEBUG -> TEST!