# STM8 + STVD + ASSEMBLER: Quick Start

(/2018/stm8\_stvd\_asm/)

#### sections: STM8 (/tags/stm8) , ASSEMBLYER (/tags/assembler) , date: August 22, 2018

I am returning to the proprietary development environment - ST Visual Develop, for two reasons. Firstly, it turned out that it is impossible to write any complex firmware in assembler without a debugger, at least I couldn't, because the program is debugged anyway using an LED or via UART, it is simply done faster through the debug interface. Secondly, it seemed to me that studying the architecture only using the datasheet is not quite right. Something may be misunderstood, something may be missed. With such things as DMA, built-in RTC or code execution from RAM, it will be easier to figure it out using a debugger, not forgetting to look at the datasheet.

STVD is a fairly simple development environment, I mastered it in an evening. In this article I want to tell you how to start writing and debugging firmware in STM8 assembler from scratch using ST Visual Develop.

STVD - works in Windows family OS, starting from XP and higher. At the same time, it works perfectly under a virtual machine in Linux. In this article, I use STVD 4.3.12, the latest available version at the moment, and Windows XP SP3 as a guest OS. As a microcontroller, I will use a 20-pin STM8S103F3P6 (http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-JB5qpbYEHIg/Vm2acOTEC4I/AAAAAAAABWQ/eNTM--XclnY/s1600/stm8s103f3p6.jpg) .

Below is the documentation I relied on when writing this article:

- STM8 Programming Guide PM0044; (http://www.st.com/content/ccc/resource/technical/document/programming manual/43/24/13/9a/89/df/45/ed/CD00161709.pdf/files/CD0016170
- STM8 Assembler and Linker User's Guide: ST Assembler-Linker UM0144
   (https://www.st.com/content/ccc/resource/technical/document/user\_manual/b8/61/d0/68/83/82/4f/2b/CD00056470.pdf/files/CD00056470.pdf/jc
- ST Visual Develop User Guide UM0036
   (https://www.st.com/content/ccc/resource/technical/document/user manual/e9/d3/c3/4b/2c/0b/46/f2/CD00004556.pdf/files/CD00004556.pdf/jc

As a disassembler I will use the stm8-binutils (https://stm8-binutils-gdb.sourceforge.io) utility suite. The binaries of this suite for Windows are compiled to work in CYGWIN, i.e. they understand the Unix file path format with a forward slash as a separator. CYGWIN for Windows 7 and higher is installed without problems following the instructions on the site https://cygwin.com/install.html (https://cygwin.com/install.html), for Windows XP you need to follow the instructions in this HowTo: windows xp - cygwin 2.5.2 mirror -- getting the latest XP release - Stack Overflow (https://stackoverflow.com/questions/39479826/cygwin-2-5-2-mirror-getting-the-last-xp-release).

As an alternative to the binutils+cygwin bundle, you can use naken\_util from the naken\_asm (https://www.mikekohn.net/micro/naken\_asm.php) package .

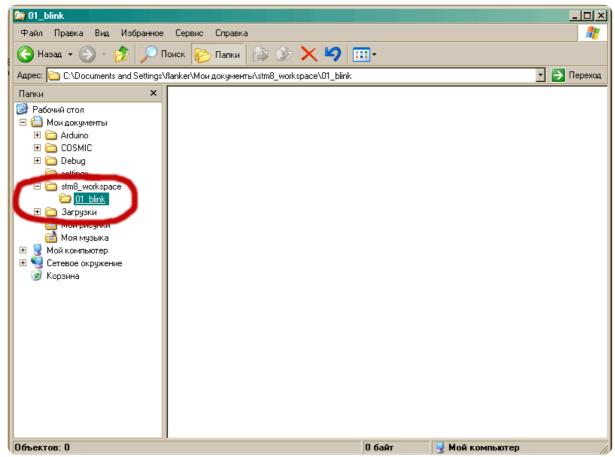
#### The content of the article:

- I. Creating a minimal Blink project
  - 1. Открытие шаблонного проекта на ассемблере (/2018/stm8\_stvd\_asm/#1)
- 2. Adding a file with a vector table and interrupt handlers to the project (/2018/stm8\_stvd\_asm/#2)
- 3. Adding constants with peripheral addresses to the project (/2018/stm8\_stvd\_asm/#3)
- 4. Adding a file with a subroutine to the project (/2018/stm8\_stvd\_asm/#4)
- II. Язык ассемблера STVD
- 5. Basic information about STVD assembler (/2018/stm8\_stvd\_asm/#5)
- 6. Format of numeric constants (/2018/stm8 stvd asm/#6)
- 7. Label format (/2018/stm8\_stvd\_asm/#7)
- 8. Segmentation (/2018/stm8 stvd asm/#8)
- 9. Basic assembler directives (/2018/stm8 stvd asm/#9)
- III. Debugging process
- 10. Copying code into RAM and executing it from there (/2018/stm8 stvd asm/#10)
- 11. STVD Debug Interface (/2018/stm8 stvd asm/#11)
- 12. Debugging process in STVD (/2018/stm8 stvd asm/#12)
- IV. Macro assembler
- 13. Introduction to STVD Macro Assembler (/2018/stm8\_stvd\_asm/#13)
- 14. Delay macro delay\_ms (/2018/stm8\_stvd\_asm/#14)
- 15. Macro of conditional operator of comparison of case with number (/2018/stm8\_stvd\_asm/#15)
- 16. 1 µs delay on conditional branch instruction (/2018/stm8\_stvd\_asm/#16)

## 1. Открытие шаблонного проекта на ассемблере

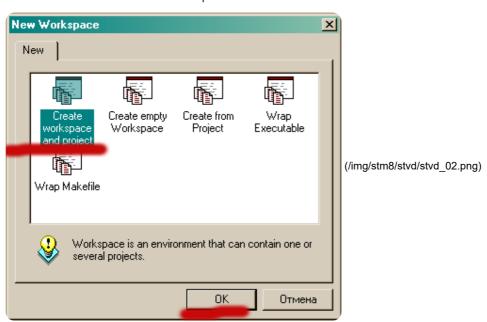
If the STVD assembler itself deserves all praise, then the project management system is made rather stupidly. In STVD there is a concept of Workspace - storing the settings of the environment itself. Workspace can contain several projects.

First of all, you will need to create an empty folder for the workspace and a nested folder for the future project. It will be difficult to do this using standard STVD tools, since there are no dialog forms for selecting a directory:

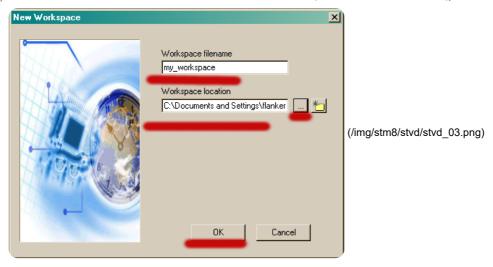


(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_01.png)

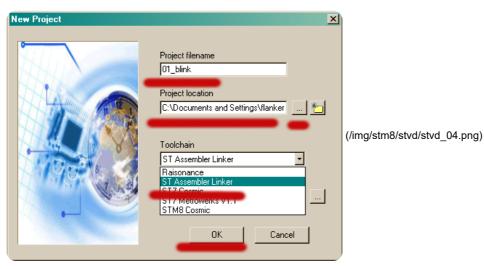
Now launch STVD and select New Workspace from the menu:



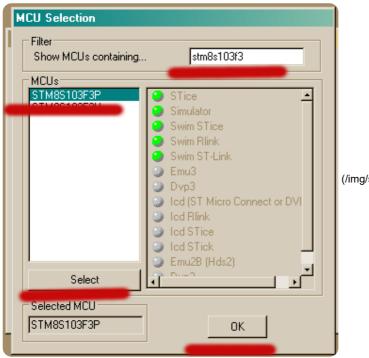
In the dialog box, we specify the name of the workspace and indicate the previously created folder for saving:



Similarly, for the project, select a name, specify the previously created project folder, and in the drop-down list, specify ST Assembler Linker as the Toolchain:

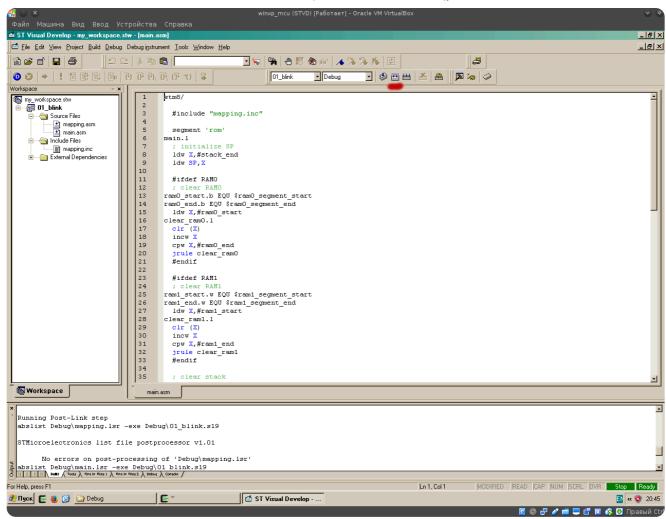


It remains to specify the target microcontroller:



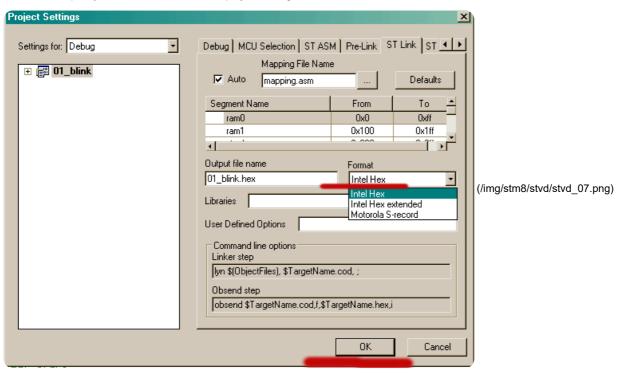
(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_05.png)

A project template opens in front of us, we can compile it right away:

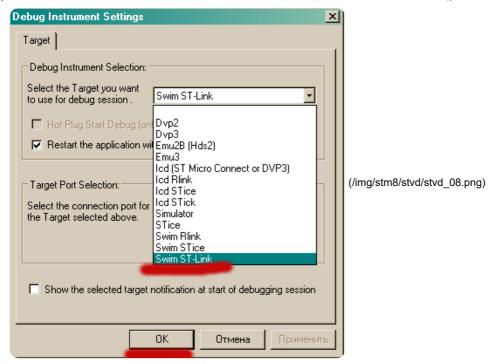


(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_06.png)

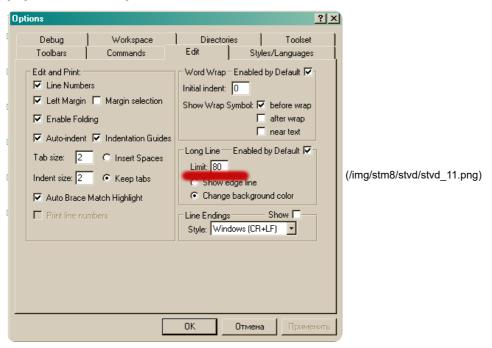
It remains to specify the firmware format in the project settings:



As a debugger, you can choose Simulator or a hardware debugger on the SWIM interface. Algorithms can be debugged on the simulator, but when working with external interfaces, you will no longer be able to do without hardware:



In the STVD options you can configure the environment for yourself, for example you can set the line length after which the line will be highlighted with a red background:



I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that you can set the indent width there - Tab size. By default, two spaces are used, but I am more accustomed to using four spaces.

After recompiling and saving the workspace, the project file structure will look like this:

Файл прошивки можно дизассемблировать из CYGWIN:

```
$ stm8-objdump.exe -m stm8 -D ~/docs/stm8_workspace/01_blink/Debug/01_blink.hex
/home/flanker/docs/stm8_workspace/01_blink/Debug/01_blink.hex: ihex file format
Disassembling section .sec1:
00008080 <.sec1>:
                                                        ldw X,#0x03ff ;0x3ff
ldw SP,X
                            ae 03 ff
      8083:
       8084:
8087:
                 ae 00 00 ldw X,#0x0000
7f
                                                         clr (X)
                                                        incw X
cpw X,#0x00ff ;0xff
jrule 0x8087 ;0x8087
ldw X,#0x0100 ;0x100
clr (X)
incw X
                            5c
a3 00 ff
23 f9
      8088
       8089
      808c:
                            ae 01 00
7f
      808e
      8092:
                            5c
      8093: a3 01 ff cpw X,#0x01ff;0x1ff
8096: 23 f9 jrule 0x8091;0x8091
8098: ae 02 00 ldw X,#0x0200;0x200
809b: 7f clr (X)
809c: 5c incw X
                            a3 03 ff
23 f9
20 fe
                                                        cpw X,#0x03ff ;0x3ff
jrule 0x809b ;0x809b
jra 0x80a2 ;0x80a2
      8094
       80a0:
      80a2:
      80a4: 80 would go
Disassembling section .sec2:
00008000 <.sec2>:
                           82 00 80 80
82 00 80 a4
82 00 80 a4
       8000:
                                                         int 0x008080
                                                                                :0x8080
       8004:
                                                         int
                                                               0x0080a4
                                                               0x0080a4
      8008:
                                                        int
                                                                                 :0x80a4
                            82
82
                                 00 80 a4
00 80 a4
                                                        int
int
                                                               0x0080a4
0x0080a4
                                                                                ;0x80a4
;0x80a4
       800c
       8010:
                           82 00 80 a4
      8014
                                                        int
int
                                                               0x0080a4
                                                                                 .
0x80a4
       8018
                                                               0x0080a4
                                                                                 0x80a4
                                                         int 0x0080a4 int 0x0080a4
      801c:
8020:
                                                                                 ;0x80a4
                                                                                 0x80a4
      8024:
8028:
                                                               0x0080a4
0x0080a4
                                                         int
                                                                                 ;0x80a4
                                                         int
                                                                                :0x80a4
       802c:
                                                        int
                                                               0x0080a4
                                                                                 :0x80a4
                                                        int 0x0080a4
int 0x0080a4
       8030:
                                                                                 ;0x80a4
       8034:
                                                                                 :0x80a4
                                                        int 0x0080a4
int 0x0080a4
       8038:
                                                                                 0x80a4
      803c:
                                                                                ;0x80a4
       8040
                                                        int
int
                                                               0x0080a4
0x0080a4
                                                                                ;0x80a4
;0x80a4
       8044
                                                        int 0x0080a4
int 0x0080a4
int 0x0080a4
      8048:
                                                                                 :0x80a4
       804c
                                                                                 0x80a4
       8050:
                                                                                 ;0x80a4
      8054
                                                        int 0x0080a4
int 0x0080a4
                                                                                ;0x80a4
;0x80a4
                                                               0x0080a4
0x0080a4
       8058
       805c:
                                                         int
                                                                                ;0x80a4
                                                        int
       8060
                                                               0x0080a4
                                                                                 .
0x80a4
                                                               0x0080a4
0x0080a4
      8064:
8068:
                                                         int
                                                                                :0x80a4
                            82 00 80
82 00 80
82 00 80
                                           a4
a4
a4
       806c:
8070:
                                                        int
                                                               0x0080a4
0x0080a4
                                                                                 0x80a4
      8074:
                                                               0x0080a4
                                                         int
                                                                                :0x80a4
      8078:
807c:
                            82 00 80 a4
82 00 80 a4
                                                        int 0x0080a4
int 0x0080a4
                                                                                ;0x80a4
;0x80a4
```

Or the firmware can be disassembled from the Windows command line using the naken\_utils disassembler:

```
ex C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
                                                                            C:\Documents and Settings\flanker}c:\cygwin\opt\naken_asm-2018-07-08\naken_util.
exe -disasm -stm8 "c:\Documents and Settings\flanker\Moи документы\stm8_workspac
e\O1_blink\Debug\01_blink.hex"
 naken_util - by Michael Kohn
Joe Davisson
Web: http://www.mikekohn.net/
Email: mike@mikekohn.net
Version: July 08, 2018
 Loaded hexfile c:\Documents and Settings\flanker\|how фюъсьхэбJ\stm8_workspace\01
_blink\Debug\01_blink.hex from 0x8000 to 0x80a4
Type help for a list of commands.
                         Opcode Instruction
Addr
                                                                                                                                                                                          Cycles
0×8000:

0×8004:

0×8008:

0×8010:

0×8014:

0×8016:

0×8020:

0×8024:

0×8024:

0×8024:

0×8030:

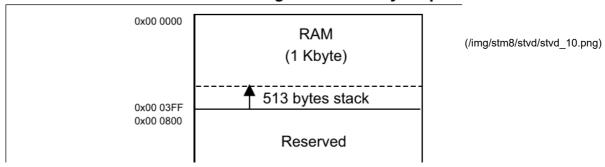
0×8030:
                                               int
int
                                                                               int
int
int
int
int
int
                                                                               int
int
int
int
int
int
int
int
int
int
 0×8 034
0×8 034
0×8 038
0×8 040
0×8 044
0×8 044
0×8 046
0×8 054
0×8 058
0×8 058
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  (/img/stm8/stvd/stvd_09.png)
                                                                              int $80a4
int $80a5
ind X, #$3ff
ldw X, #$0
clr (X)
incw X
cpw X, #$ff
jrule $8087
ldw X, #$100
clr (X)
                                      00 00
                            ae
7f 5c 33
23 ae
7f 5c a3
23
20
80
                                      00 ff
f9
01 00
                                                                                                                           (offset=-7)
                                      01 ff
f9
02 00
                                                                                                  , #$1ff
$8091
, #$200
                                                                                                                          (offset=-7)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      -2
                                                                                           03 ff
f9
fe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        cycles=1-
cycles=2
cycles=11
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     -2
  ::\Documents and Settings\flanker>
```

The project template consists of the following files: main.asm, mapping.inc and mapping.asm. The mapping.inc file contains constants for dividing RAM into segments:

Here the first two pages of RAM are allocated to the RAM0 and RAM1 segments, the remaining 513 bytes are given to the stack segment. That is, everything is according to the datasheet:

# **Memory map**

## Figure 7. Memory map



The mapping.asm file defines the segments:

```
stm8/
 2
         SEGMENT MAPPING FILE AUTOMATICALLY GENERATED BY STVD
 3
       : SHOULD NOT BE MANUALLY MODIFIED.
 4
       ; CHANGES WILL BE LOST WHEN FILE IS REGENERATED.
 5
 6
       #include "mapping.inc"
 8
                 ; The following addresses are 8 bits long
 9
10
       segment byte at ram0_segment_start-ram0_segment_end 'ram0'
11
12
                 ; The following addresses are 16 bits long
13
       segment byte at ram1_segment_start-ram1_segment_end 'ram1'
14
                                                                             (/img/stm8/stvd/stvd_12.png)
15
                 ; The following addresses are 16 bits long
16
17
       segment byte at stack_segment_start-stack_segment_end 'stack'
       WORDS ; The following addresses are 16 bits long segment byte at 4000-427F 'eeprom'
18
19
20
21
                ; The following addresses are 16 bits long
       segment byte at 8080-9FFF 'rom'
23
                 ; The following addresses are 16 bits long
25
       segment byte at 8000-807F 'vectit'
26
27
         END
```

I would like to draw attention to the fact that the assembler file in STVD begins with the line 'stm8/' and ends with the line 'end'. Instead of 'stm8' you can specify 'st7', but this is for those who write for the stm7 architecture.

Now let's look at the main.asm file

```
stm8 /
         #include "mapping.inc"
segment 'rom'
             initialize SP
         ldw X,#stack_end
ldw SP,X
#ifdef RAM0
; clear RAM0
ram0_start.b EQU $ram0_segment_start
ram0_end.b EQU $ram0_segment_end
Idw X,#ram0_start
clear_ram0.l
clr (X)
         incw X
cpw_X,#ram0_end
         jrule clear_ram0
#endif
         #ifdef RAM1
clr (X)
incw X
         cpw X,#ram1_end
jrule clear_ram1
#endif
; clear stack
stack_start.w EQU $stack_segment_start
stack_end.w EQU $stack_segment_end
    ldw X,#stack_start
clear_stack.1
         clr (X)
         cpw X,#stack_end
jrule clear_stack
infinite_loop.l
    jra infinite loop
interrupt NonHandledInterrupt
NonHandledInterrupt.1
         iret
         segment 'vectit
         dc.1 {$8200000+main}
dc.1 {$8200000+NonHandledInterrupt}
dc.1 {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt}
                                                                                                                                      ; reset
                                                                                                  ; trap
; irq0
                   {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                                                                                                      irq1
                    {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                                                                                                      irq3
irq4
                   {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                                                                                                      irq5
irq6
irq7
         dc.l
                    $82000000+NonHandledInterrupt

$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt

$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                                                                                                      irq8
irq9
                    {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                                                                                                      irq10
irq11
irq12
                    {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$820000000+NonHandledInterrupt
         dc.l
                                                                                                       irq13
                    $$20000000+NonHandledInterrupt)

{$$2000000+NonHandledInterrupt}

{$$2000000+NonHandledInterrupt}

{$$2000000+NonHandledInterrupt}

{$$2000000+NonHandledInterrupt}

{$$2000000+NonHandledInterrupt}
                                                                                                       irq14
irq15
                                                                                                       irq16
irq17
                                                                                                      irq18
irq19
irq20
irq21
irq22
                     {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                    {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                                                                                                       irq23
                                                                                                      irq24
irq25
irq26
                    \$$2,0000004+NonHandledInterrupt
\$$2,0000000+NonHandledInterrupt
\$$2,0000000+NonHandledInterrupt
\$$2,0000000+NonHandledInterrupt
\$$2,0000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                                                                                                       irq27
irq28
         dc.1 {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt}
                                                                                                   ; irq29
```

There is an interrupt table and a Reset interrupt handler that ends the main loop. In the Reset handler, the stack pointer is set and the RAM is cleared.

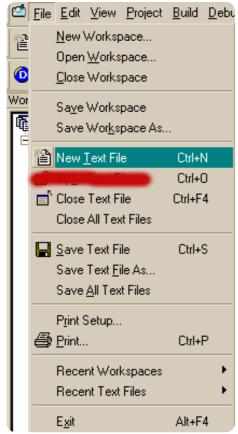
The first thing that catches your eye in the above listing is the original assignment of the vector table in the form of the INT instruction opcode and the label address. If you try to replace this construction with, for example, the following line: "INT main", you will get an error: "Unknown opcode". It is difficult to say why this is done, but the fact is a fact. There is no INT instruction in the STVD assembler.

#### 2. Adding a file with a vector table and interrupt handlers to the project

Now let's try to transfer the vector table with interrupt handlers to a separate file irq.asm, leaving only the main loop in main.asm.

1) To do this, you first need to create a new file:

2) After creation, the file will need to be saved to the current project directory:



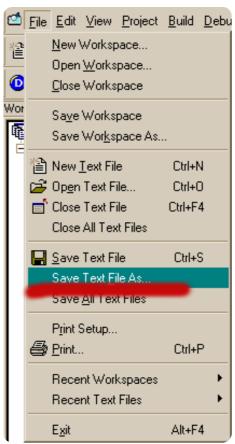
(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_13.png)

3) In the dialog box, select the directory, file name, and save it:



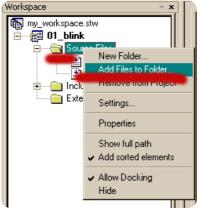
(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_15.png)

We'll drop the interrupt table and all their handlers into the irg.asm file:



(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_14.png)

4) After that, you will need to add the file to the project. To do this, right-click on Source Files and select adding a file, after which the new file will appear in the project file structure:



(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_16.png)

```
stm8/
           extern main
#include "mapping.inc"
            segment 'rom'
 reset.
          et.1
; initialize SP
ldw X,#$03ff
ldw SP,X
jp main
jra reset
interrupt NonHandledInterrupt
NonHandledInterrupt.1
           iret
            segment 'vectit'
           Segment Vector
dc.1 {$82000000+reset}
dc.1 {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt}
dc.1 {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt}
dc.1 {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt}
dc.1 {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt}
dc.1 {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt}
                                                                                                                                 reset
trap
                                                                                                                                 irq0
irq1
irq2
                                                                                                                                 irq3
irq4
irq5
                         {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$820000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                         $82000000+NonHandledInterrupt

$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt

$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                                                                                                                                 irq6
irq7
irq8
                         $820000000+NonHandledInterrupt

$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt

$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                                                                                                                                  irq9
irq10
                                                                                                                                 irq11
irq12
irq13
irq14
irq15
irq16
irq17
irq18
irq19
irq20
irq21
irq22
irq23
            dc.1
                          {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
            dc.1
                         {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
{$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
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$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt
                                                                                                                                 irq24
irq25
irq26
           dc.1 {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt}
dc.1 {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt}
dc.1 {$82000000+NonHandledInterrupt}
                                                                                                                                 irq27
irq28
irq29
```

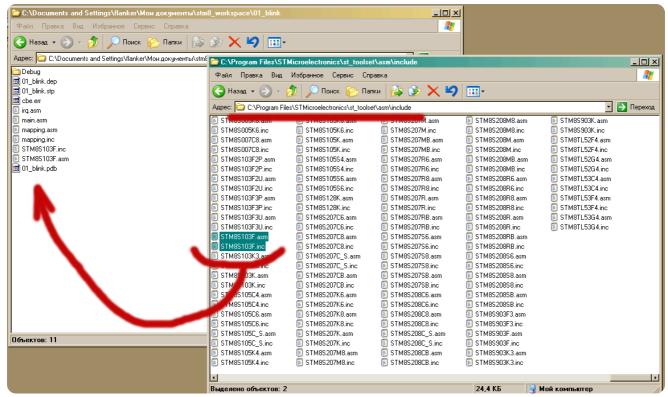
As a result, only the main loop will remain in main.asm:

```
stm8 /
segment 'rom'
.main
jp main
end
```

When compiling, an error may be generated about an incorrect EOF, but this can be corrected in the editor itself, for this you need to press enter after end.

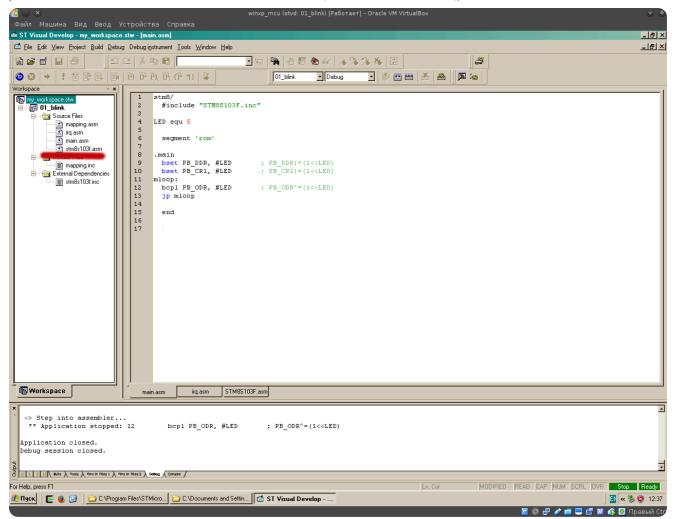
## 3. Adding constants with peripheral addresses to the project

Now we need to add the addresses of the peripheral I/O registers. To do this, find the STM8S103F.asm and STM8S103F.inc files in the STVD installation directory and copy them to the project folder:



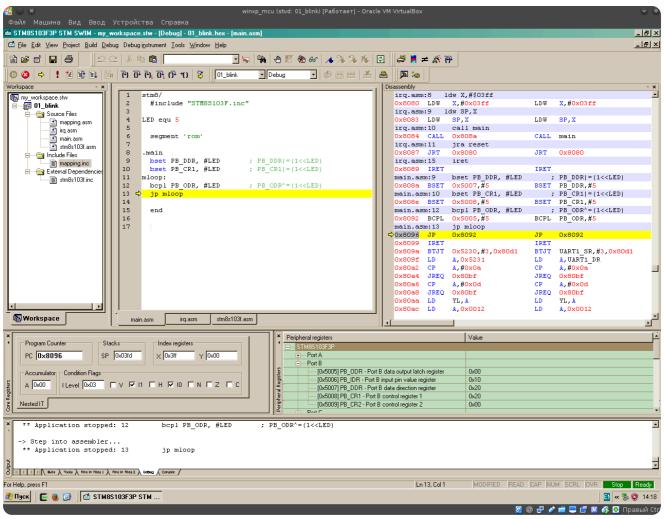
(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_19.png)

After that, you need to add the STM8S103F.asm file to the project, and change the contents of main.asm to look like this:



(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_20.png)

After compilation, such a program can be loaded into the microcontroller and run in the debugger:

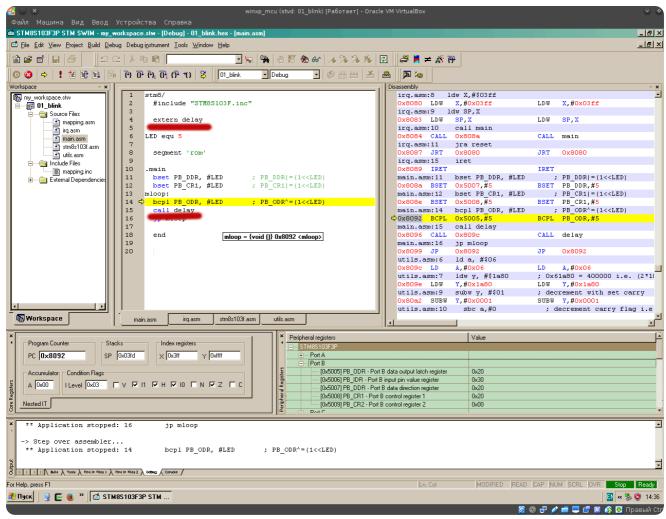


(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_21.png)

# 4. Adding a file with a subroutine to the project

It remains to add a delay for the main loop so that the program works correctly. To do this, similar to how we added the irq.asm file to the project, we will add another utils.asm file with the following content:

Now in the main.asm file after #include "STM8S103F.inc" you need to add: "extern delay", and in the main loop you can insert a call to the subroutine: "call delay":



(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_22.png)

The minimal program in STVD assembler is ready. Now we will deal with what we have programmed.

## 5. Basic information about STVD assembler

The assembler language consists of assembler instructions, assembler directives, preprocessor directives and macro definition language. Previously, all this together was called a macro assembler, and technically, a macro assembler is very close to a HLL in terms of capabilities. At least, this was considered earlier, when these HLLs were much simpler, like BASIC.

The STVD assembler line has the following format:

The rest of the source code lines have the following general format:

[label[:]]<space>[opcode]<space>[operand]<space>[;comment]

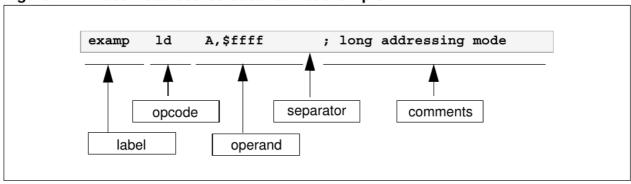
where <space> refers to either a SPACE (\$20) or a TAB (\$09) character.

All four fields may be left blank, but the <space> fields are mandatory unless:

- the whole line is blank, or
- the line begins as a comment, or
- the line ends before the remaining fields.

#### For example:

Figure 2. Assembler source code format example



The next sections describe the main components of a source code file.

(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_23.png)

First comes an optional label, then comes an optional opcode, then comes the operands (if any), and ends the line with an optional comment.

Note that even if the label is omitted, an assembler instruction or directive MUST be preceded by a SPACE or TAB. ONLY THE LABEL COMES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LINE! The exception to this rule is the "stm8/" directive at the beginning of the source code.

Accordingly, if you write "segment 'rom'" or "#include "STM8S103F.inc"" at the beginning of the line, then during compilation it will give an error. Apparently, the STVD developers were not indifferent to Python;)

#### Format of numeric constants

By default, STVD uses the Motorola format for numeric constants, where decimal numbers are written as is, hexadecimal numbers are preceded by a dollar sign, binary numbers by a percent sign, and octal numbers by a tilde.

Using the directives: MOTOROLA, INTEL, TEXAS, ZILOG you can change the format of a numeric constant:

Table 5. Numeric constants and radix formats

Format	Hex	Binary	Octal	Current PC
Motorola	\$ABCD or &ABCD	%100	~665	*(use MULT for MULTIPLY)
Intel	0ABCDh	100b	6650 or 665q	\$
Texas	>ABCD	?100	~665	\$
Zilog	%ABCD	%(2)100	%(8)665	\$

(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd 24.png)

The new format will be applied to the program text after the directive.

#### 7. Label format

The label must start from the beginning of the line and may contain: uppercase and lowercase letters of the English alphabet, numbers and the underscore symbol. The label must start with a letter or an underscore symbol, i.e. not with a number. The label can contain up to 30 characters.

The label may end with a colon or not at all. The colon is ignored.

The label may contain a suffix of the form: label[.b|.w|.l], which consists of a dot and additional letters: b, w, I.

Using the suffixes: b, w, I, the label can be one-, two-, or four-byte. Thus, the label can be used for one-, two-, or three-byte addressing.

As an example, we can use the following source code:

```
Which will be compiled into the following mashcode:
```

```
stm8/
    segment byte at 10 'ram0'
var1.b ds.b
    segment byte at 100 'ram1'
var2.w ds.b

    segment 'rom'
.main
    ld a,var1
    ld a,var2
    ld a, const
mloop.1
    jpf mloop

const:
    dc.b $aa
    end
```

```
808a: b6 10 ld A,0x10;0x10
808c: c6 01 00 ld A,0x0100;0x100
808f: c6 80 96 ld A,0x8096;0x8096
8092: ac 00 80 92 jpf 0x008092;0x8092
8096: aa 00 or
```

Here two variables are specified: var1 in the zero page of RAM, var2 in the first page of RAM, and the constant const in the flash memory area. When accessing the first variable, short addressing (shortmem) is used, when accessing the second variable and the constant, long addressing (longmem) is used, and the jpf instruction jumps to the label with extended addressing (extmem).

By default, the label size is two bytes (one word), but it can be changed using the directives: BYTES, WORDS, LONGS.

The label can be absolute or relative. The relative label is calculated by the linker at the firmware compilation stage.

By default, all labels are local. Using the PUBLIC and EXTERN directives, you can exchange labels between individual program modules. The PUBLIC directive makes the label visible to the linker. The EXTERN directive makes an external label visible to this module. As an alternative to the PUBLIC directive, a dot at the beginning of the label can be used.

### 8. Segmentation

Segmentation allows you to control from the project what the linker script does in GCC, i.e. using the segmentation directive, you can tell the linker where a particular code or data should be located. One program module (file) can contain up to 128 segments.

The segment is set using the segmentation directive. Its format is shown below:

```
[<name>] SEGMENT [<align>] [<combine>] '<class>' [cod]
```

First comes the optional parameter - name. It can be up to 12 characters long. Segments of the same class, but with different names, are grouped by the linker one after another in the order of definition.

The alignment parameter is "align", it can take the following values:

Table 10. Alignment types

Туре	Description	Examples
byte	Any address	
word	Next address on boundary	1001->1002
para	Next address on 16-byte boundary	1001->1010
64	Next address on 64-byte boundary	1001->1040
128	Next address on 128-byte boundary	1001->1080
page	Next address on 256-byte boundary	1001->1100
long	Next address on 4-byte boundary	1001->1004
1k	Next address on 1k-byte boundary	1001->1400
4k	Next address on 4K-byte boundary	1001->2000

(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd 26.png)

Above I gave an example of how to use segments to set variables in the RAM area. Below are more examples from the company manual:

#### FILE1:

```
st7/
           BYTES
           segment byte at: 80-FF 'RAM0'
counter.b ds.b ; loop counter
address.b ds.w
                      ; address storage
           ds.b 15 ; stack allocation
                      ; stack grows downward
stack
           ds.b
           segment byte at: E000-FFFF 'eprom'
           ld A,#stack
           ld S,A
                     ; init stack pointer
                                               (/img/stm8/stvd/stvd_25.png)
           end
FILE2:
st7/
           segment 'RAMO'
serialtemp ds.b
           ds.b
serialcou
           WORDS
           segment 'eprom'
           ld A,#0
serial_in
           end
```

Here the counter label corresponds to address 0x80, the address label to 0x81, stack to 0x92. In the second file, the serialtemp label has address 0x93, and serialcou to 0x94. Since both files write to the "eprom" segment, the second file writes after the first.

The next parameter of the segment directive is <combine> , which tells the linker where to place the segment. There are three options for this parameter:

Table 11. Combine types

	Туре	Description	(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd_27.png)
Ī	at:X[-Y]	Starts a new class from address X [to address Y]	
	common	All common segments that have the same class name will start at the same address. This address is determined by the linker.	
	<none></none>	Follows on from end of last segment of this class.	

#### The at- option MUST be used when declaring a class, and must be used ONLY ONCE .

Also in case of at the starting segment address must be specified, and optionally the last segment address or its size. All addresses are written in HEXADECIMAL form AS IS without prefixes.

The common option allows you to define common data areas. Areas of this type with the same class name will have the same starting address. This allows you to use such segments for data exchange.

Let's consider this example:

```
st7/
dat1
       segment byte at: 10 'DATA'
com1
       segment common 'DATA'
.lab1
       ds.w 4
com1
       segment common 'DATA'
.lab2
       ds.w 2
                                       (/img/stm8/stvd/stvd_28.png)
com2
       segment common 'DATA'
.lab3
       ds.w
com2
       segment common 'DATA'
.lab4
       ds.w 2
dat2
       segment 'DATA'
.lab5
       ds.w 2
        end
```

Here, labels lab1 and lab2 will have address 0x12, lab3 and lab4 will have address 0x1a, and lab5 will have address 0x1e.

You cannot combine common and at- segments with the same name. The following example demonstrates the error:

The last parameter of the segment directive is cod, which allows you to control the output file obtained during linking, in which the segment data will be placed. If the cod parameter is omitted, then everything will be compiled into a single default.cod. If you specify a number from zero to nine as the cod parameter, then the linker will place all segments of this class in the prog\_x.cod file, where x is the code number. This can be useful, for example, when forming different eeproms for different devices. For example:

For example:

```
segment byte at:8000-BFFF 'eprom1' 1 (/img/stm8/stvd/stvd_30.png)
segment byte at:8000-BFFF 'eprom2' 2
```

#### 9. Basic assembler directives

A complete list of directives with detailed descriptions is given in the STM8 Assembler and Linker User's Guide: ST Assembler-Linker UM0144

(https://www.st.com/content/ccc/resource/technical/document/user\_manual/b8/61/d0/68/83/82/4f/2b/CD00056470.pdf/files/CD00056470.pdf/jcr:cont , Appendix A. I would like to mention the most requested directives.

EQU - substitution or conformity directive. Probably exists in all assembly languages. Format:

```
label EQU expression
```

When compiling a program, the label is replaced by its expression. Example:

```
var1 equ 5
```

**#define** is a directive similar to EQU, but has a significant difference. In EQU, a number is assigned to the label, its dimension: byte, word, double word - is determined at the time of assignment. In the case of using #define, a string is assigned to the label, which is converted to a number during compilation, and its dimension is determined in the program itself. Format:

```
#define <alias> <string>
```

Example of use:

```
#define value 5 ld a,#value ; ld a,#5
```

CEQU - a directive similar to EQU but allows you to change its contents:

```
lab1 CEQU {lab1+1} ; inc lab1
```

Used in combination with the REPEAT and UNTIL directives.

Directives: DC.B, DC.W, DS.L - allow you to write a constant or an array. It is also possible to write an ASCII string.

Directives: DS.B, DS.W, DS.L - allow you to reserve space. The number of reserved cells is indicated after a comma.

The STRING directive allows you to reserve an ASCII string. It is a synonym for the DC.B directive. Examples of use:

```
STRING 1,2,3; generates 01,02,03
STRING "HELLO"; generates 48,45,4C,4C,4F
STRING "HELLO",0; generates 48,45,4C,4C,4F,00
```

I would like to consider the directives intended for writing macros in the corresponding chapter.

## Copying code into RAM and executing it from there

Executing code from RAM makes sense in the STM8L series, there is a power saving mode WFE that allows working with the periphery without interruptions, which eliminates the use of flash memory during the main cycle. Refusal to use flash memory allows reducing energy consumption, but it should not be forgotten that a program from RAM takes longer to execute than from flash. Now we will see for ourselves, but before running a program from RAM, it must be copied there. In this case, all absolute addresses must be indexed somehow.

The STM8 Assembler and Linker User's Guide: ST Assembler-Linker UM0144

(https://www.st.com/content/ccc/resource/technical/document/user\_manual/b8/61/d0/68/83/82/4f/2b/CD00056470.pdf/files/CD00056470.pdf/jcr:cont describes a mechanism for writing code specifically designed for copying to RAM. To do this, two segments are declared, where one will be used for execution and the other for storing code. For example:

```
segment byte at: 0 'code'
segment byte at: 8000 'ram'
segment 'ram>code'
label1:nop
```

here the code starting with label1 will be stored in 'code' segment, but all labels will be recalculated relative to 'ram' segment. In addition, the address space of 'ram' segment will be reserved for this code.

All this is good, but I couldn't compile this example. However, it is not so difficult to create relocatable code manually. For the experiment, let's take the example of the basic project from the first part. From it, you will need to delete the utils.asm file, and then main.asm will look like this:

```
stm8/
     #include "STM8S103F.inc"
LED equ 5
offset equ $4000
     segment 'rom'
.main :
clrw x
     ld a , xl ; 11/18/2022 fixed a bug, missing hash sign below
     cp a , # $20
jreq jump
ld a , (code, x )
ld ( $100 , x ), a
                                                   ; 32 bytes length of ram_loader
     incw_x
     jp lp
jump
       .
jp $100
     segment 'eeprom'
code
     bset PB_DDR, #LED
bset PB_CR1, #LED
                                          ; PB_DDR = (1<<LED)
; PB_CR1 = (1<<LED)
mloop:
bcpl PB_ODR, #LED
                                           ; PB_ODR^=(1<<LED)
     ; --- delay 1 sec ----
ld a, #$06
ldw y, #$1a80
                                           ; 0x61a80 = 400000 i.e. (2*10^6 MHz)/5cycles
loop:
subw y, #$01
sbc a,#0
                                           ; decrement with set carry
; decrement carry flag i.e. a = a - carry_flag
     jrne ĺoop
     ;jra mloop
jp {mloop-offset+$100}
                                            ; relative label
                                            ; absolute label
     end
```

Here the 'eeprom' segment contains the program placed in the RAM, and the 'rom' segment contains the bootloader. The program is placed in the first page, i.e. from address 0x100, while the zero page is allocated for variables. In the program, all relative labels are left as is, while absolute ones are written with an offset: address-(starting address of eeprom)+(address of the beginning of the first page of RAM).

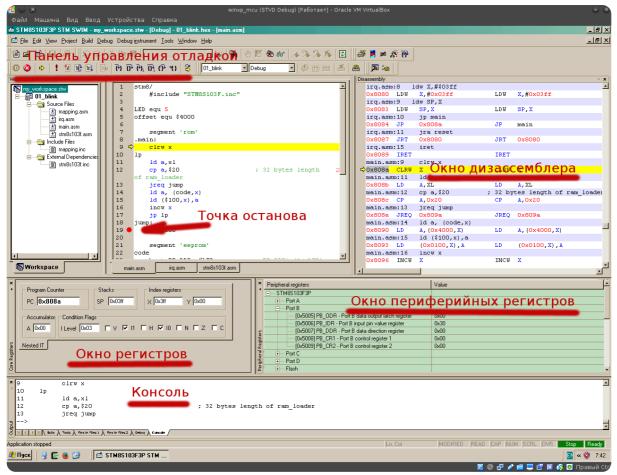
After flashing the microcontroller, it will be seen that the LED has a blinking half-period much longer than one second. Determining "by eye", I got about a threefold decrease in performance, which is actually what was said in the documentation: 3-level STM8 pipeline: translation of chapters 3, 4, 5 of the STM8 microcontroller programming manual (PM0044) (/2018/stm8\_manual/#10)

```
Reading an instruction from RAM is similar to reading from ROM. However, since the RAM bus is only 8-bit wide, it takes 4 consecutive reads to fill one Fx word. As a result, code from RAM executes slower than from flash memory.
```

In the future, I will use this program to demonstrate the debugging process in STVD.

#### 11. STVD debug interface

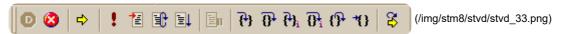
STVD uses the powerful GDB as a debugger, its full capabilities are available through the "Console" tab in the "Output Window". STVD acts as a frontend to GDB:



(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd 32.png)

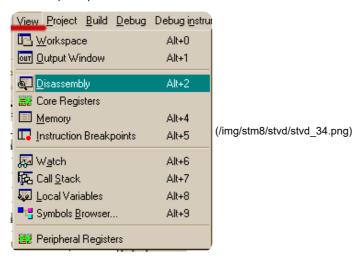
I don't have much experience with STVD yet, but from all the GDB features, I only printed memory dumps via console. Everything else I did via GUI, Working with it saves a lot of time.

So, after debugging is started, the debugging control panel becomes available:



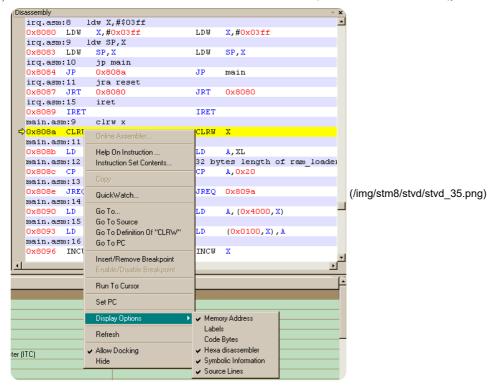
It implements the tracing mode and contains the following operations: start debugging, stop debugging, GDB command - Run, GDB command - Continue, GDB command - next, GDB command - next, GDB command - step, GDB command - step, etc. All icons have tooltips that explain their functions.

You can open a particular window via menu->View:

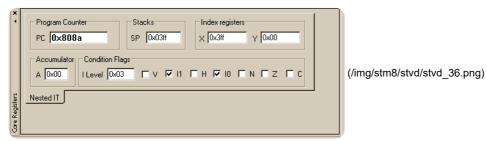


All windows are stackable and can be closed with a cross. Window settings are saved in the workspace. The most useful windows in my opinion are the following:

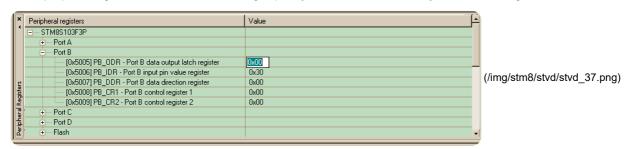
1. Disassembler window. It is probably most useful when debugging a C program, it allows you to see what code a particular program construct has been converted into. For an assembler, this window is useful because it allows you to see the addresses and dimensions of labels, as well as the numeric address of the input-output port. You can configure the displayed columns via "Display Options". The Refresh option is needed when you enter debugging commands via the gdb console. Then you have to refresh to see the changes.



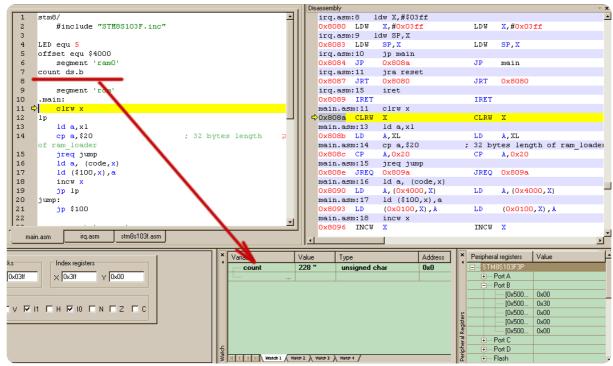
2. The next window "Core Registers" shows the contents of the microcontroller registers and status flags. You can change the value of the registers, remove and set the necessary flags directly in the window.



3. The peripheral registers window is a tree-like list grouped by hardware modules. Here you can also change the contents of the RVV:

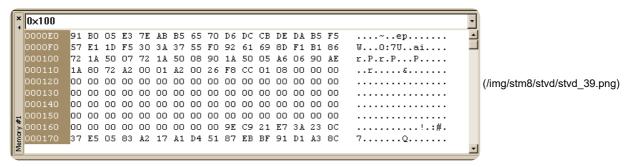


4. The next useful window is the variables window. A variable can be entered by name or by address. You can change the value of a variable.



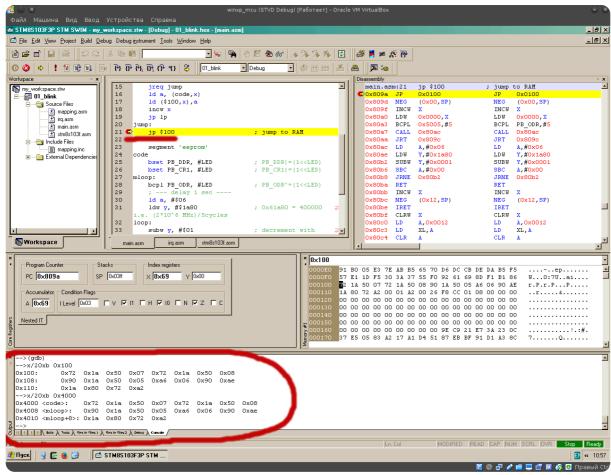
(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd 38.png)

5. And the last window is the memory dump window. Personally, I find it easier to enter the command "x/10xb" in the gdb console, but this window can also be useful. At least because you can change the contents of memory cells in interactive mode.



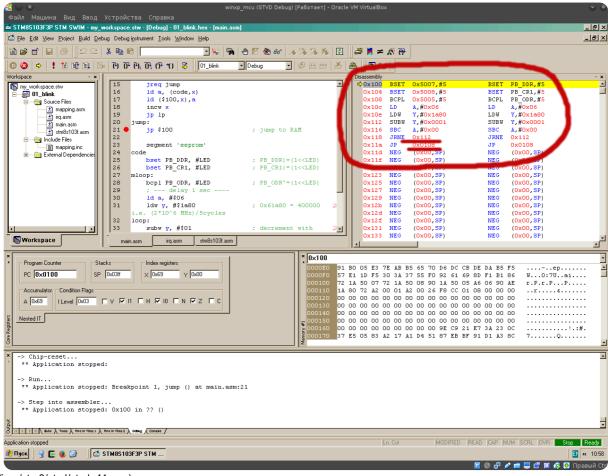
## 12. Debugging process in STVD

To debug the algorithm, we set a breakpoint at the jp \$100 instruction, i.e. after the copy operation from eeprom to ram is completed, and before transferring control to the copied code. Click the Run icon (looks like an exclamation mark) and after stopping, compare both segments: ram1 and eeprom:



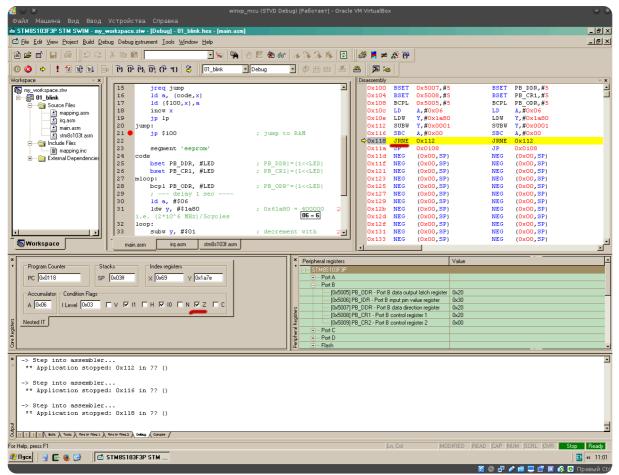
(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd 40.png)

If the code has been copied successfully, we jump to address 0x100, after which we check the copied code in the disassembler window. Particular attention should be paid to the jump addresses.



(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_41.png)

If the algorithm is copied successfully, you can proceed to the usual debugging of the algorithm. It is convenient to set the necessary flags on the conditional jump instructions in order to pass through certain branches of the algorithm without delay.



(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_42.png)

In my opinion, it's not complicated at all.

#### 13. Introduction to STVD Macro Assembler

I am not an expert on macro assembler, frankly speaking, I have never used it and therefore have only a general idea about it. I thought that this was a good opportunity to fill an unfortunate gap in my education, however, the following text should not be treated as some kind of manual.

Macro assembler allows you to reduce the routine when writing assembler programs, as well as reduce your time debugging them. The principle is to combine a group of assembler instructions into a single macro, which, like a function or subroutine, can be set parameters and controlled using a preprocessor. Once you write and debug such a macro, you will not have to do it again. Using macros can bring the readability of a program closer to high-level languages like BASIC. At the same time, you will still have all the power of assembler, and you will not be limited by the framework of any programming language.

The main problem with macros is the complexity of debugging them at the preprocessor stage. When you get an error on a macro, you get an error on the line where it is called, and not on the problematic construction in the macro body. To be fair, I should say that STVD has a %OUT directive that outputs a line to the compilation log, but you can't output a number through it.

The macro assembler directives and the macro definition format are described in the manual: STM8 Assembler and Linker User's Guide: ST Assembler-Linker UM0144

(https://www.st.com/content/ccc/resource/technical/document/user\_manual/b8/61/d0/68/83/82/4f/2b/CD00056470.pdf/files/CD00056470.pdf/jcr:cont . I will not repeat what is written there, instead I will give several examples of using macros.

To begin with, a very simple case, let's try to replace the line of transition to an absolute address with a macro:

```
jp {mloop-offset+$100}
```

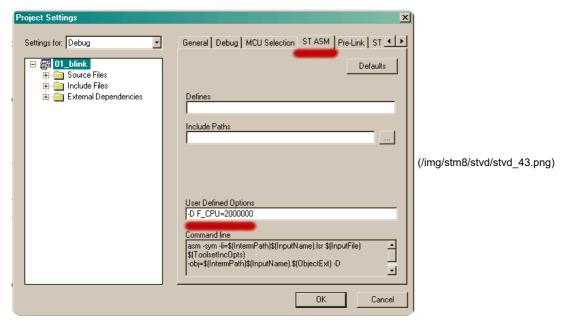
Here it is necessary to put the address calculation into a macro, so as not to write it every time. The macro will be like this:

Then the use of the macro will be reduced to the line:

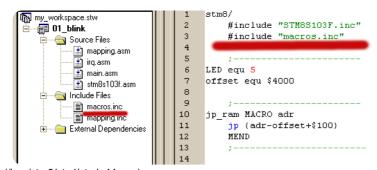
jp\_ram mloop

## 14. Delay macro delay ms

Now a more complicated example, we will try to repeat the well-known macro \_delay\_ms which is available in gcc-avr and is used quite often. To do this, first in the project settings you will need to specify the F\_CPU frequency using a named constant:



In addition, we will need a separate file macros.inc, into which we will dump the macros. This file will then need to be included via the #include directive:



(/img/stm8/stvd/stvd\_44.png)

My macro turned out like this:

Then the code in the main.asm module will look like this:

# 15. Macro of conditional operator of comparison of a register with a number

As I have already said, macros can be used to create something similar to operators in JVU. For example, in the code copyer from eeprom to ram there is a comparison of a number with a register. You can write a macro that compares a register with a number and performs a transition by a label in case of a match.

I got two macros. One for 16-bit registers, the other for 8-bit ones:

```
if_reg_eq8 MACRO reg value label

#IFIDN reg yh
Id a, y
#ENDIF
#IFIDN reg yl
Id a,yl
#ENDIF
#IFIDN reg xh
Id a, xh
#ENDIF
#IFIDN reg xl
Id a,xl
#ENDIF
cp a,value
jreq label
MEND

if_reg_eq16 MACRO reg value label

#IFIDN reg x
Idw x,#(value)
cpw x,($01,sp)
popw x
jreq label
#ELSE
#ELSE
#ELSE
#ELSE
pushw x
pushw y
pushw x
pushw y
pushw y
popw x,($01,sp)
popw x
jreq label
#ENDIF
#ENDIF
```

main.c in this case takes the form:

```
stm8/
      #include "STM8S103F.inc"
#include "macros.inc"
LED equ 5
offset equ $4000
jp_ram MACRO adr
     jp {adr-offset+$100}
MEND
      segment 'rom'
        GPIO SETUP
     to set of beet PB_DDR, #LED beet PB_CR1, #LED; Copy EEPROM to RAM1 clrw x
                                                 ; PB_DDR = (1<<LED)
; PB_CR1 = (1<<LED)
      if_reg_eq8 xl $20 jump
      ld a, (code,x)
ld ($100,x),a
     incw x
jra lp
iump
     jp $100
                                                 ; go to RAM
      segment 'eeprom'
code:
mloop:
     bcpl PB_ODR, #LED
delay_ms 1000
jp_ram mloop
                                                 ; PB_ODR^=(1<<LED)
```

Similarly, you can write macros to compare a number with a memory cell, or compare based on whether it is greater than, less than or equal to, etc.

# 16. 1 µs delay on conditional branch instructions

If it is not a problem to organize a timer delay of 1 ms or more, then with a delay of 1 µs, not everything is so simple. Timer interrupt handlers will not have time to process incoming interrupts. The only way out is to make a delay on instructions. But counting cycles with the pipeline running is a thankless task. The number of cycles will depend on the previous instructions and the addressing method. In addition, I came across information that at different clock frequencies the same instructions will be executed in a different number of cycles. And it seems that I have encountered this in practice. As a way to solve this problem, it is recommended to block the pipeline. This is done using instructions that reset the pipeline queue - FLUSH. Such instructions are conditional jump instructions. Thus, the delay can be organized by sequentially executing conditional jump operations with a zero offset. One such instruction should ALWAYS be executed in 2 cycles.

The REPEAT and UNTIL directives will help you record a sequence of instructions. Unfortunately, they cannot be used in macros, so their use looks like this:

Here it is assumed that fCPU = 2MHz and since the conditional jump instruction in case of a jump is executed in two clock cycles, then each JRC instruction takes 1 µs to execute. The REPEAT/UNTIL directives insert five such instructions into the program text, therefore a delay of 5 µs is formed.

For delays of 10 µs and more, you can use TIM4/TIM6 timers, and for smaller delays, I think this method will do.



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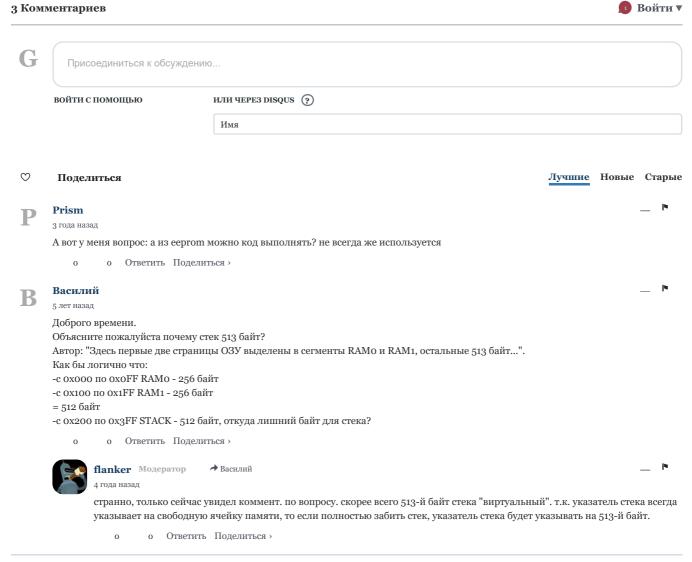
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