Application Note

ARM GCC Development Environment Based on Windows Application Note

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1. Overview

Using N32G430 series MCU as an example, this paper introduces the methods of setting up development environment, code compiling, firmware downloading and code debugging based on VSCode editor, GCC compilation tool chain and GDB debugging tool under Windows environment.

2. Development Tool

2.1 Software

- Editor Visual Studio Code 1.5x.x or above
- Compile tool chain arm-none-eabi-gcc 6.3.1 or above
- Make for Windows
- Download and debugging tool JLink_v6.40 or above (not exceeding hardware supported version)

2.2 Hardware

- Development board N32G430C8L7-STB V1.0
- JLink downloader V9.2 or above (not below the software supported version)

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3. Development Environment Setup

3.1 Installing VSCode

- **Download the software:** https://code.visualstudio.com/

VSCode is used for code viewing and editing. It also provides powershell and bash terminals for command-line operations, which will be used throughout our development process.

3.2 Installing the GCC Compilation Tool Chain

- **Download address:**
  https://launchpad.net/gcc-arm-embedded/+announcement/28093
  Example version: 10-2020-q4-major

Check whether the installation is successful: Open a DOS command line window, type "arm-none-eabi-gcc –v"
The installation is successful if the content shown in the following figure appears:

Figure 3-1 Information About the Successful Installation of GCC

If the installation is not successful, please do the following two checks.

1. Check whether environment variables are properly added
2. Go to "C:\Program Files (x86)\GNU Arm Embedded Toolchain\10-2020-q4-major\bin" and check whether the "arm-none-eabi-gcc.exe" file name is correct

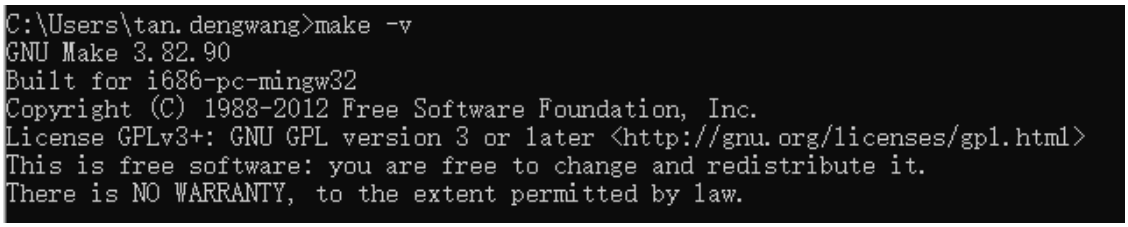
3.3 Installing Make for Windows

This tool is used to parse Makefile scripts. You can choose to install one of the following two software.

- **Install the cmake.exe tool**
  Download address: http://www.equation.com/servlet/equation.cmd?fa=make
- **Install MinGW and use its own make tool.**

Check whether the installation is successful: Open a DOS command line window and type "make –v".
The installation is successful if the content shown in the following figure appears:

Figure 3-2 Information About the Successful Installation of Make for Windows



If the installation is not successful, please do the following two checks

1. Check that the environment variables are properly added

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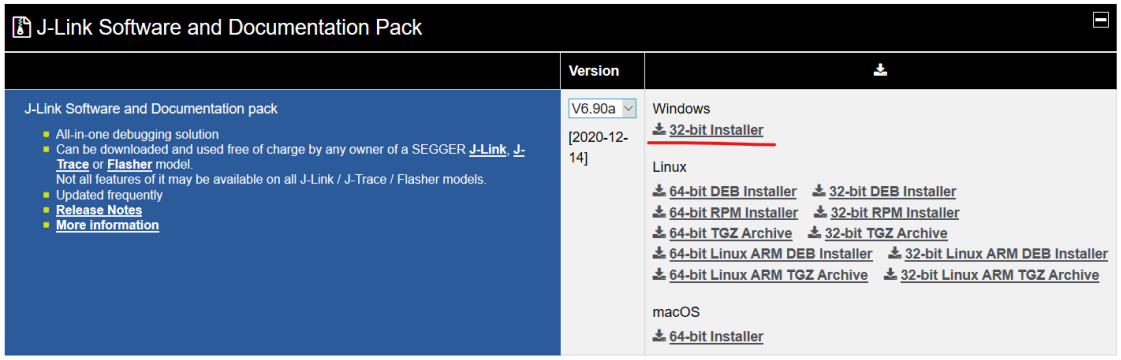
2. Go to the bin folder of the corresponding “make” installation directory to check whether the “make.exe” file name is correct

3.4 Installing the JLink Tool

- **Download the JLINK installation package, V6.90a or others version**

https://www.segger.com/downloads/jlink/#-LinkSoftwareAndDocumentationPack

Figure 3-3 Installation Interface



3.5 Adding Chip Support

After installing JLink, you need to add our company's chip patch package to JLink, so that the download algorithm can be correctly obtained during downloading and debugging.
For details, refer to <JLink Tool Adding Nsing Chip.7z>.

3.6 JLink Download Test

- **Test the JLink environment installation**
  1. Connect the PC and JLink debugger, connect the development board, and power on;
  2. Open cmd.exe command line tool, go to JLink installation directory “C:\Program Files (x86)\SEGGER\JLink_V640”, type “jlink.exe”.
     The below figure shows that the PC successfully connected to the JLink debugger.

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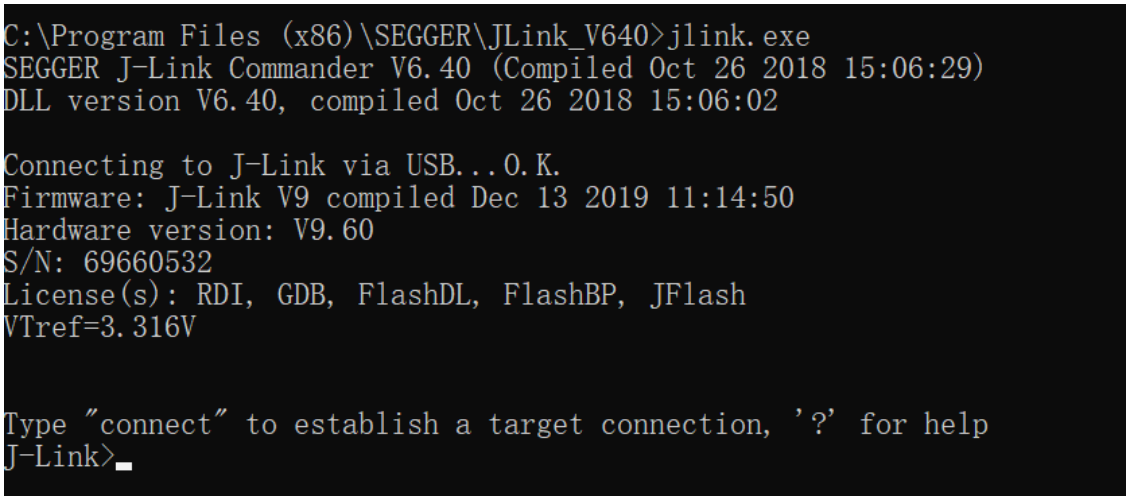
Figure 3-4 Information About PC Successfully Connected To The JLink Debugger.



3. Then type the information sequentially as prompted: “connect”, “N32G430C8”, “SWD”, “4000”. If the previous operation is successful, you will see the following output information, JLink download debugging environment can be used normally.

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Figure 3-5 Information About JLink Download Debugging Environment Can Be Used Normally

```
Type "connect" to establish a target connection, '?' for help
J-Link>connect
Please specify device / core. <Default>: N32G030C8
Type '?' for selection dialog
Device>N32G430C8
Please specify target interface:
  J) JTAG (Default)
  S) SWD
  T) cJTAG
TIF>S
Specify target interface speed [kHz]. <Default>: 4000 kHz
Speed>
Device "N32G430C8" selected.


Connecting to target via SWD
Found SW-DP with ID 0x2BA01477
Scanning AP map to find all available APs
AP[1]: Stopped AP scan as end of AP map has been reached
AP[0]: AHB-AP (IDR: 0x24770011)
Iterating through AP map to find AHB-AP to use
AP[0]: Core found
AP[0]: AHB-AP ROM base: 0xE00FF000
CPUID register: 0x410FC241. Implementer code: 0x41 (ARM)
Found Cortex-M4 r0p1, Little endian.
FPUnit: 6 code (BP) slots and 2 literal slots
CoreSight components:
ROMTbl[0] @ E00FF000
ROMTbl[0][0]: E000E000, CID: B105E00D, PID: 000BB00C SCS-M7
ROMTbl[0][1]: E0001000, CID: B105E00D, PID: 003BB002 DWT
ROMTbl[0][2]: E0002000, CID: B105E00D, PID: 002BB003 FPB
ROMTbl[0][3]: E0000000, CID: B105E00D, PID: 003BB001 ITM
ROMTbl[0][4]: E0040000, CID: B105900D, PID: 000BB9A1 TPIU
Cortex-M4 identified.
J-Link>
```


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4. SDK Contens

SDK follows the issued SDK version, currently using V1.0.0. On this basis, the following modifications are made to adapt to GCC development environment.

4.1 Makefile

Add “GCC” folder under module routines directory in SDK package: (please copy "GCC" folder to each routine)

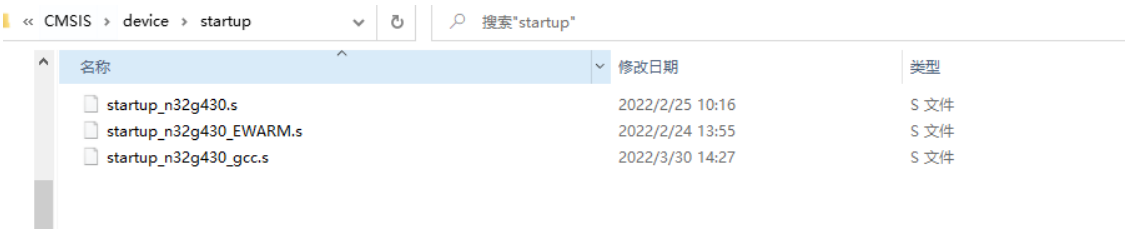
Figure 4-1 Add “GCC” Folder

The “Makefile” file is the GCC compilation script file.

4.2 .s File

In “Nations.n32g430_Library.1.0.0\firmware\CMSIS\device\startup” path of the SDK package, there is a “startup_n32g430_gcc.s” file corresponding to the .s file.

Figure 4-2 The “startup_n32g430_gcc.s” File



4.3 .ld File

In “Nations.N32G430_Library.1.0.0\firmware\CMSIS\device” path of the SDK package, there is a corresponding .s file for the GCC compiler named “n32g430_flash.ld”.

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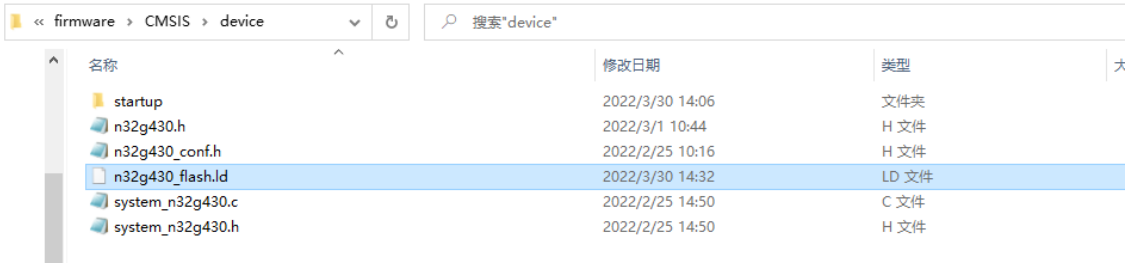
Figure 4-3 The "n32g430_flash.ld" File



4.4 Printing Remapping

The "print_remap.c" file is added in the "bsp/src" directory of the SDK package for serial port printing remapping.

Figure 4-4 The "print_remap.c" File

4.5 JLink Script

Added the "jlink" folder in home directory of the SDK package, which contains a JLink download script for downloading firmware using the JLink tool.

Figure 4-5 Add The "jlink" Folder

4.6 Clearing Scripts

The "script" folder is added in home directory of the SDK package, and there is a ".bat" script in this folder, which is used to clear intermediate files generated during compilation.

Figure 4-6 A ".bat" Script in "script" Folder

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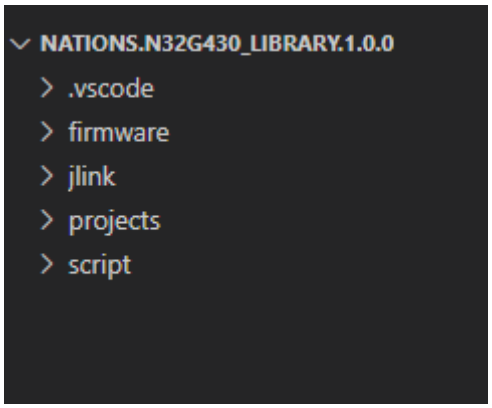
5. Compile and Download

5.1 Workspace

Open the SDK folder in VSCode and save it as a workspace. The ".vscode" folder will be generated under the SDK folder to place the workspace configuration file.

Figure 5-1 The ".vscode" Folder



5.2 Working Directory

Using the GPIO routine LedBlink as an example to enter the project directory:
"Nations.N32G430_Library.1.0.0\projects\n32g430_EVAL\examples\GPIO\LedBlink"
KEIL project "MDK-ARM"
GCC project "GCC"
Project source file "src /xxx.c"
Project header file "inc/XXX.h"
Makefile file "GCC/Makefile"

5.3 Code Compilation

In the terminal of the VSCode editor, switch to the "GCC" folder directory, then type "make" to start compiling

Figure 5-2 Type "make" in the "GCC" Folder Directory

```
PS E:\workspace_linqi\3605\GCC\Nations.N32G430_Library.1.0.0\projects\n32g430_EVAL\examples\GPIO\LedBlink\GCC> make
```

The .elf, .bin and .hex files will be generated after successful compilation without errors.

Figure 5-3 The .elf, .bin and .hex Files

```
/output.map -T../../../../../../firmware/CMSIS/device/n32g430_flash.ld -o build/output.elf
arm-none-eabi-size build/output.elf
   text    data     bss     dec     hex filename
   2264    1088    1572    4924    133c build/output.elf
arm-none-eabi-objcopy -O ihex -S build/output.elf build/output.hex
arm-none-eabi-objcopy -O binary -S build/output.elf build/output.bin
```

The "build" folder is created under the "GCC" folder. The compiled firmware and intermediate files

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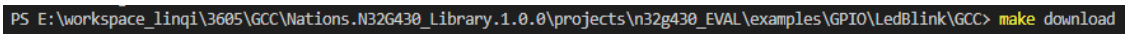
are stored in this folder.

5.4 Downloading Firmware

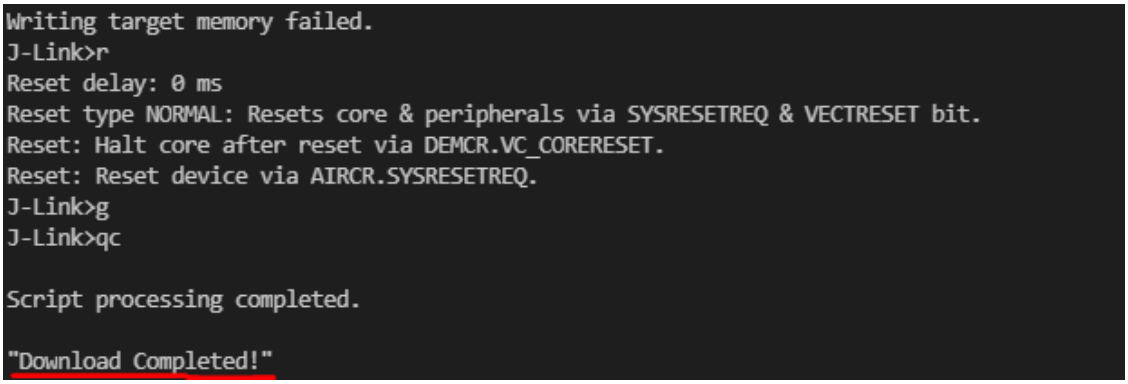
1. Connect PC -> JLink -> development board
2. In the terminal, type “make download”

Figure 5-4 Type “make download” in The “GCC” Folder Directory



Some information will be printed in the process. Finally, the download is complete

Figure 5-5 Information About Download Completed



3. After download is complete, the system will automatically reset and start running
4. If the download fails, please check the JLink configuration

5.5 Clearing Intermediate Files

Type “make clean” on the terminal to clear the intermediate files generated by the compilation.

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6. Code Debugging

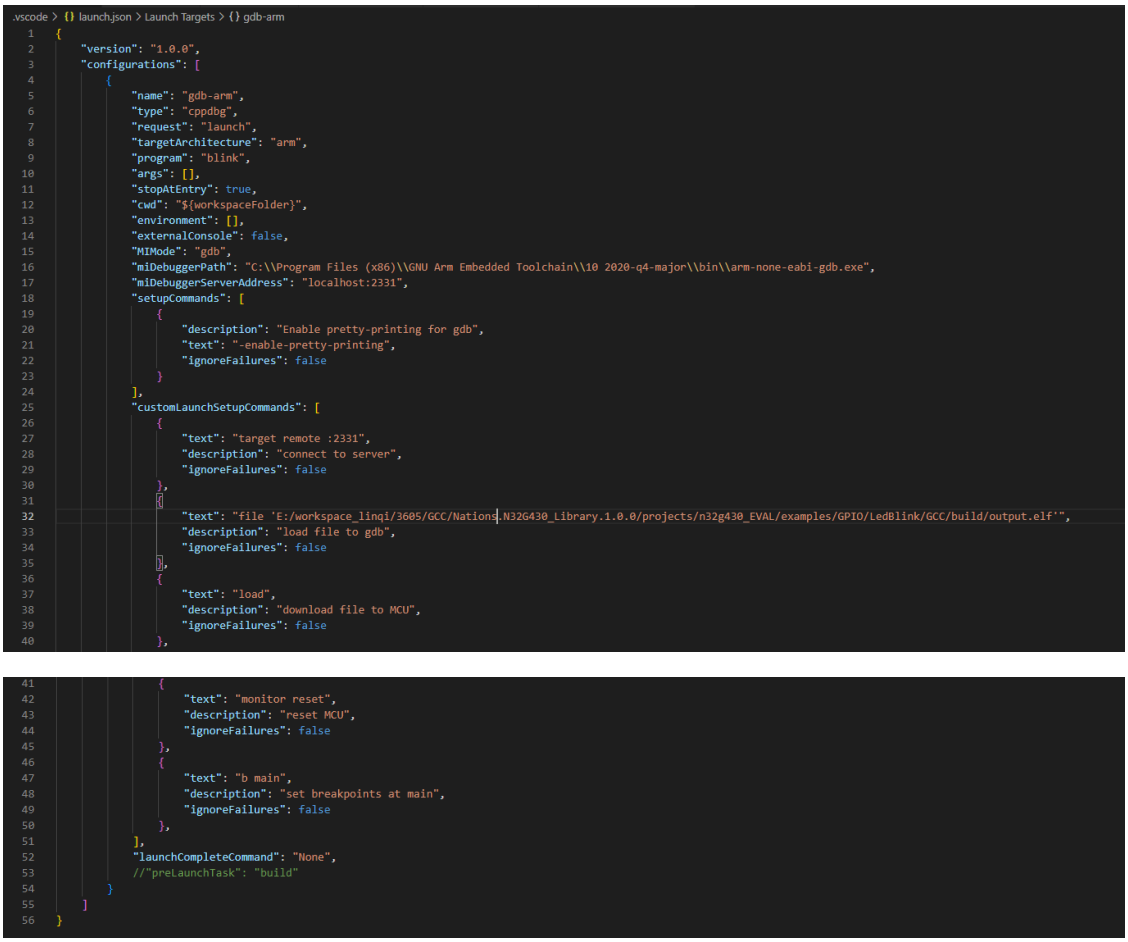
6.1 VScode Settings

There is a ".vscode" folder in the SDK working path, which contains "launch.json" workspace configuration file that needs to be configured for code debugging:

Figure 6-1 The "launch.json" Workspace Configuration File in The SDK Working Path

launch.json:

Figure 6-2 The Code of the VScode Debugger Configuration File



```
.vscode > {} launch.json > Launch Targets > {} gdb-arm
{
    "version": "1.0.0",
    "configurations": [
        {
            "name": "gdb-arm",
            "type": "cppdbg",
            "request": "launch",
            "targetArchitecture": "arm",
            "program": "blink",
            "args": [],
            "stopAtEntry": true,
            "cwd": "${workspaceFolder}",
            "environment": [],
            "externalConsole": false,
            "MIMode": "gdb",
            "miDebuggerPath": "C:\\Program Files (x86)\\GNU Arm Embedded Toolchain\\10 2020-q4-major\\bin\\arm-none-eabi-gdb.exe",
            "miDebuggerServerAddress": "localhost:2331",
            "setupCommands": [
                {
                    "description": "Enable pretty-printing for gdb",
                    "text": "-enable-pretty-printing",
                    "ignoreFailures": false
                }
            ],
            "customLaunchSetupCommands": [
                {
                    "text": "target remote :2331",
                    "description": "connect to server",
                    "ignoreFailures": false
                },
                {
                    "text": "file 'E:/workspace_linqi/3605/GCC/Nations.N32G430_Library.1.0.0/projects/n32g430_EVAL/examples/GPIO/LedBlink/GCC/build/output.elf'",
                    "description": "load file to gdb",
                    "ignoreFailures": false
                },
                {
                    "text": "load",
                    "description": "download file to MCU",
                    "ignoreFailures": false
                },
                {
                    "text": "monitor reset",
                    "description": "reset MCU",
                    "ignoreFailures": false
                },
                {
                    "text": "b main",
                    "description": "set breakpoints at main",
                    "ignoreFailures": false
                },
            ],
            "launchCompleteCommand": "None",
            //"preLaunchTask": "build"
        }
    ]
}
```

This is the VScode debugger configuration file, and the following changes should be made according to your project path:

1. Specify the path to the GDB debugger: (absolute path)

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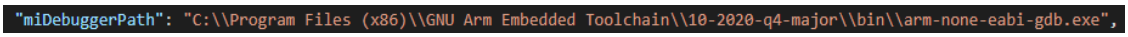
Figure 6-3 The Path To The GDB Debugger



The version of the GDB tool must match the version of the compiler tool. Otherwise, errors will be reported or some functions will be unavailable. The arm-none-eabi-gdb.exe tool is usually in the same directory as the arm-none-eabi-gcc.exe tool.

2. Specify the debug code "xxx.elf" file path: (Note: path cannot be too long)

Figure 6-4 The Path of Debug Code "xxx.elf" File

6.2 Makefile Settings

Open the routine "GCC/Makefile" file:

Figure 6-5 The Code from The Routine "GCC/Makefile" File

```
download:
    @$(JK_DPATH)JLink.exe -device $(CHIP_TYPE) -if SWD -speed 4000 -autoconnect 1 -CommanderScript $(JKS_DIR)/flash.jlink
    @echo "Download Completed!"

debug:
    @$(JK_DPATH)JLinkGDBServer.exe -select USB -device $(CHIP_TYPE) -if SWD -speed auto -noir -LocalhostOnly

# *** EOF ***
```

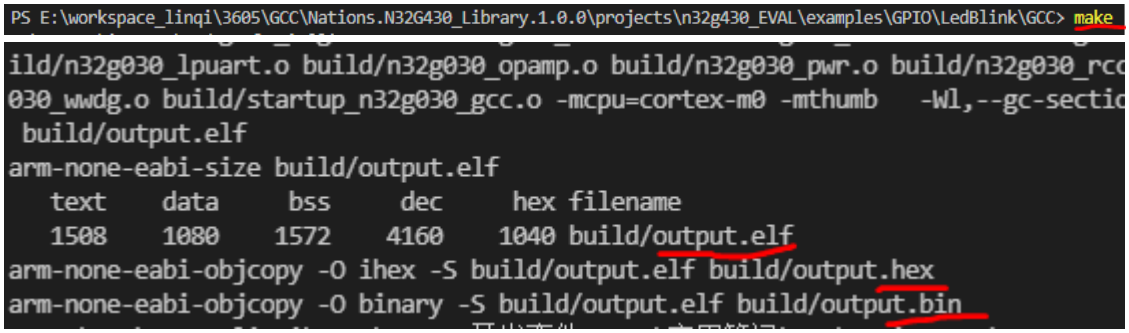
1. There is a debug startup configuration pointing to the JLinkGDBserver in the JLink installation directory.
2. The "make" command is in debug mode by default, with some debugging information. If you want to switch to the release version, you need to use the following command when compiling the code: "make release =y"

6.3 Debugging Examples

Using the GPIO LedBlink project as an example to show how to start code debugging:

1. Open SDK project in VScode, switch to "LedLink/GCC" directory in terminal, and type "make" to compile code

Figure 6-6 Information about Typing "make" To Compile Code



The output.elf, output.bin, output.hex files are generated in "GCC/build" folder.

2. Refer to Section 6.1 and 6.2 to configure the path in the launch.json file.
3. Connect the JLink debugger to the development board and power on.
4. Go to JLink installation directory and double-click JlinkGDBServer.exe

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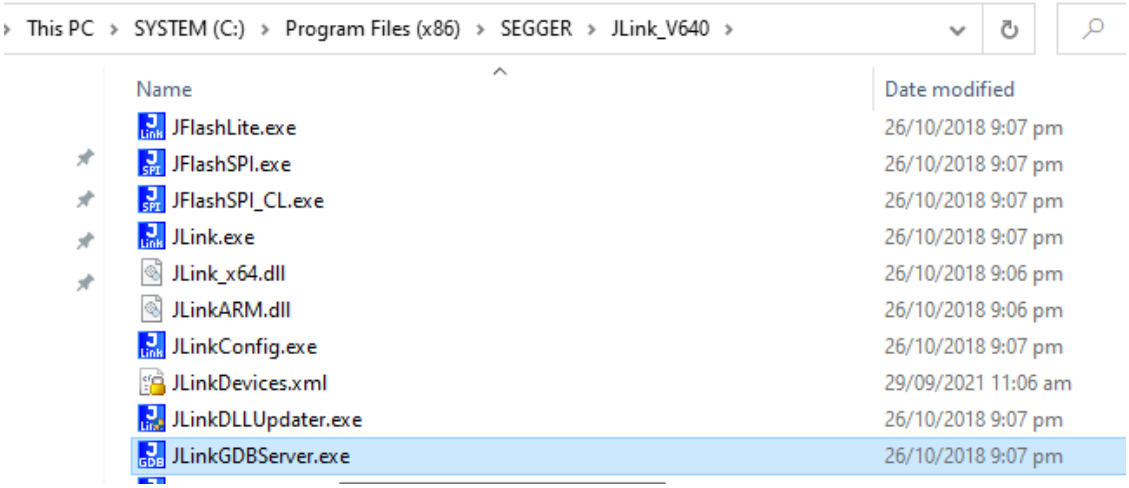
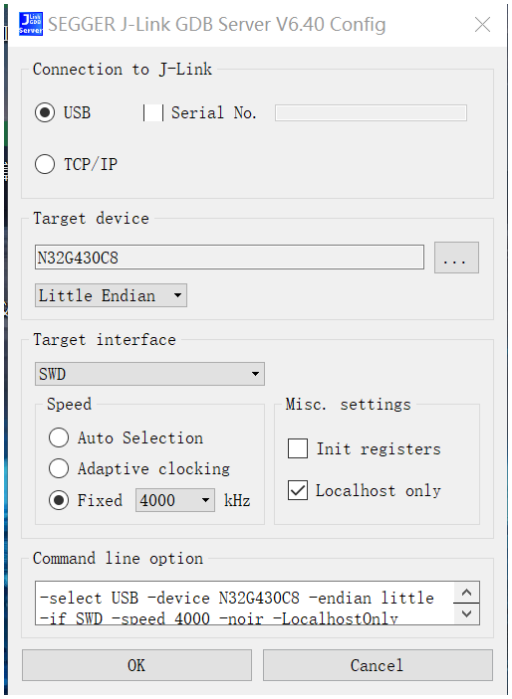
Figure 6-7 The JlinkGDBServer.exe in JLink Installation Directory



Configure port, protocol, and chip model, click “OK”

Figure 6-8 Configure Information



If the JLink debugger is successfully connected to the chip:

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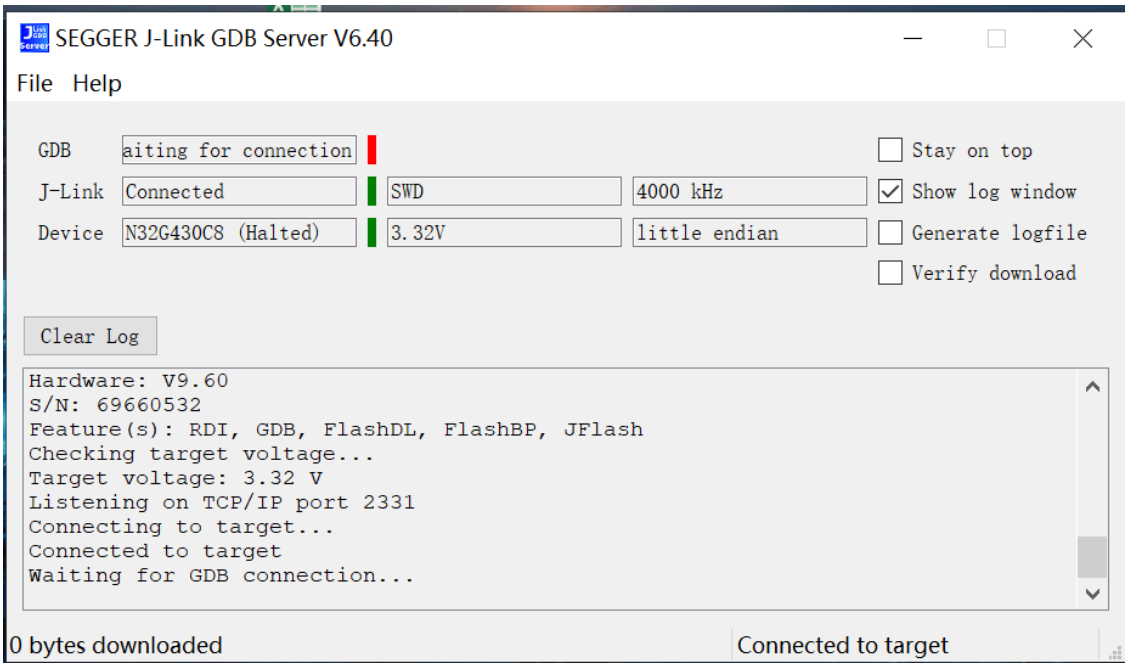
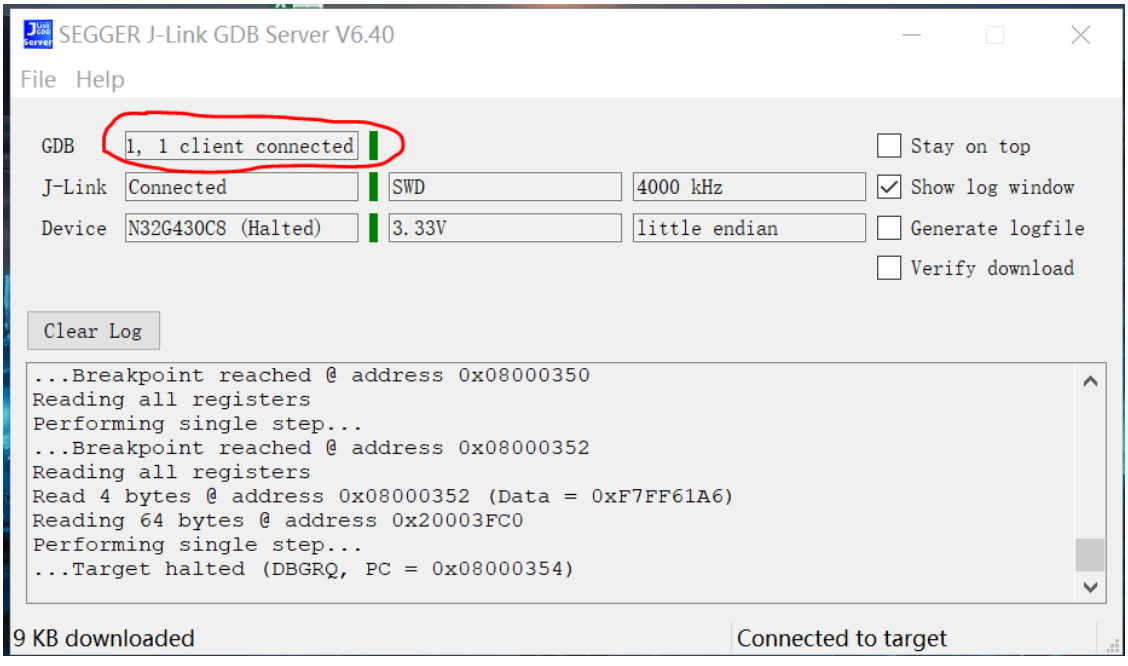
Figure 6-9 The Interface That JLink Debugger Successfully Connected To The Chip



5. Under VSCode working environment, press "F5" or click "Run" -> "Start debugging". At this time, it can be seen that the label below turns green, indicating that GDB tool successfully connects to JLinkGDBserver.

Figure 6-10 The Interface That GDB Tool Successfully Connect to JLinkGDBserver



6. VSCode automatically switches to the debug window.

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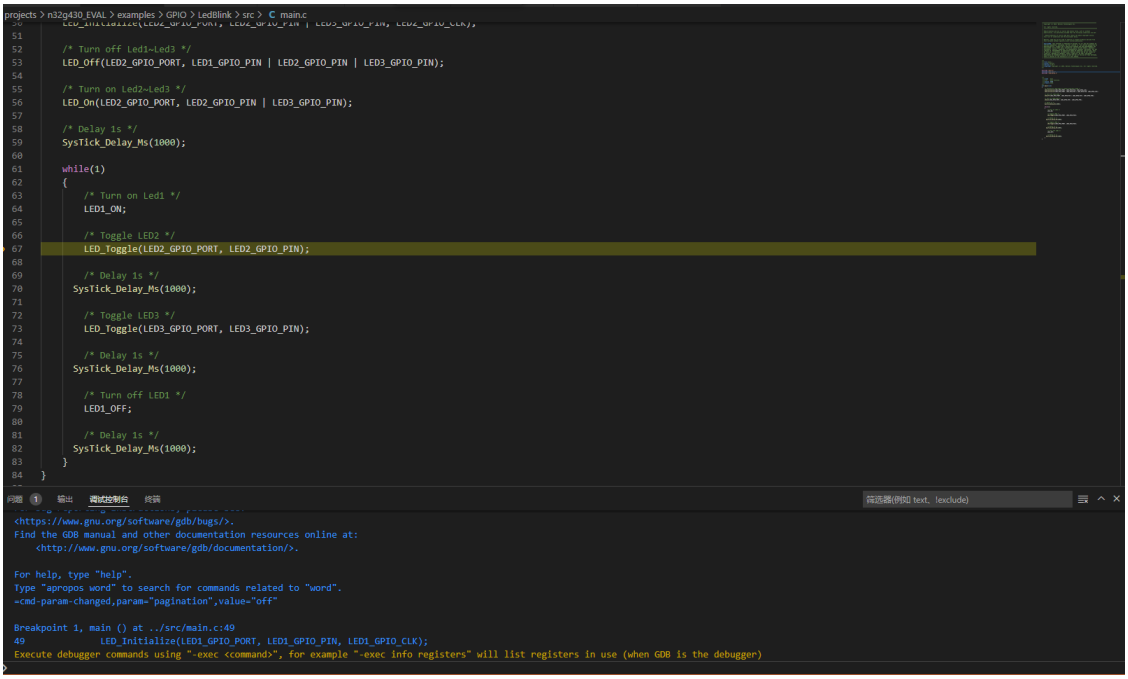
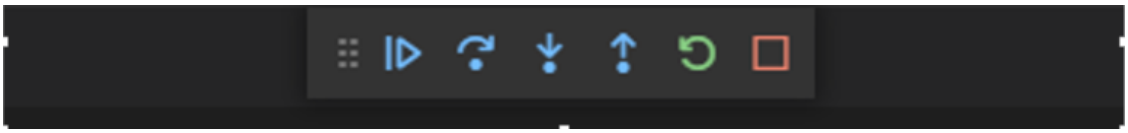
Figure 6-11 The Debug Interface



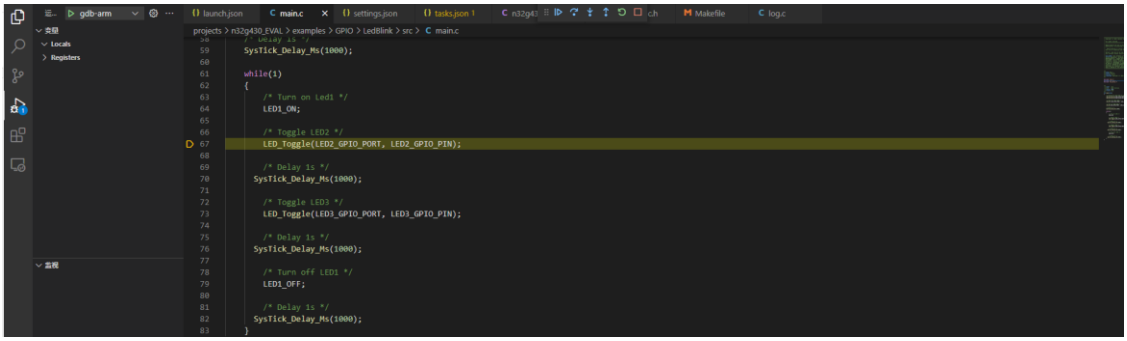
7. Debug buttons in the debug window: single step, continuous execution, restart, stop, etc.

Figure 6-12 The Debug Button



8. Now the program can run in single step or continuous execution mode

Figure 6-13 The Program Running in Single Step or Continuous Execution Mode



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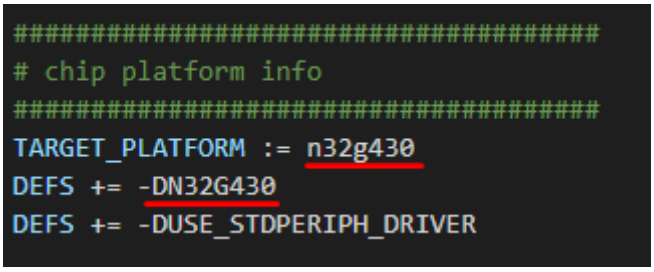
7. Configuration Changes

7.1 Chip Model

If the chip used is not the N32G430 series, you need to modify the variables “TARGET_PLATFORM” and “DEFS” in the “Makefile” file.

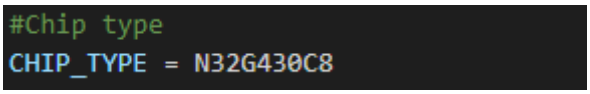
Figure 7-1 The Variables “TARGET_PLATFORM” And “DEFS” in the “Makefile” File



7.2 Firmware Download Algorithm

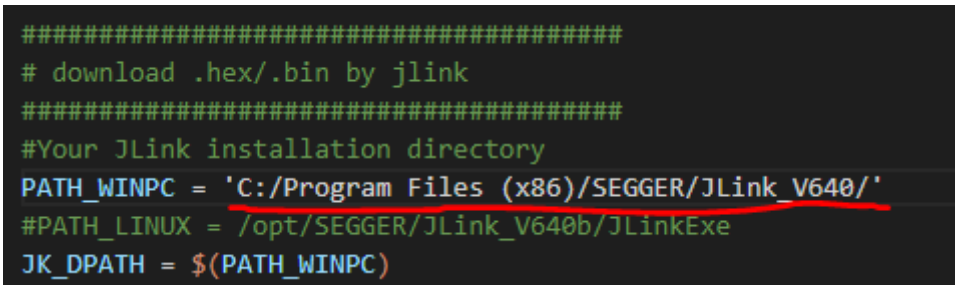
You need to type the chip type so that JLink can properly match the download algorithm.

Figure 7-2 ChipType in the “Makefile” File



Configure the download tool path according to the installation directory

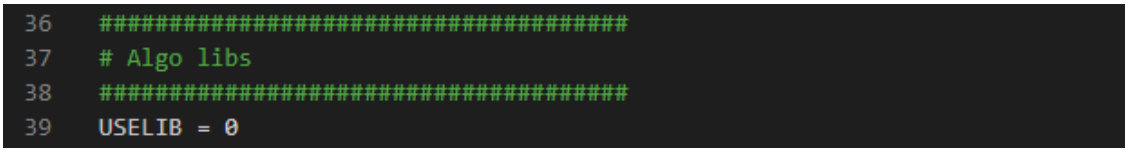
Figure 7-3 The Download Tool Path in the “Makefile” File



7.3 Using the SDK Algorithm Library

By default, the algorithm library is not used. Please modify the variable “USELIB = 1” to use the algorithm library.

Figure 7-4 The Variables “USELIB” in the “Makefile” File



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7.4 Debug Configuration

The default “make” compilation is with “-g” debugging information. To compile a release version, use “make release =y”.

7.5 Optimization Level

The default optimization level is set to “-Os”, which takes into account both code size and execution speed.

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8. Version History

Version	Date	Changes
V1.0	2022.05.16	Initial release

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