"

PyQGIS developer cookbook

Release 2.8

QGIS Project

30 July 2016

CHAPTER 1

Introduzione

This document is intended to work both as a tutorial and a reference guide. While it does not list all possible use cases, it should give a good overview of the principal functionality.

Starting from 0.9 release, QGIS has optional scripting support using Python language. We've decided for Python as it's one of the most favourite languages for scripting. PyQGIS bindings depend on SIP and PyQt4. The reason for using SIP instead of more widely used SWIG is that the whole QGIS code depends on Qt libraries. Python bindings for Qt (PyQt) are done also using SIP and this allows seamless integration of PyQGIS with PyQt.

TODO: Getting PyQGIS to work (Manual compilation, Troubleshooting)

There are several ways how to use QGIS python bindings, they are covered in detail in the following sections:

- avviare automaticamente codice Python all'avvio di QGIS
- issue commands in Python console within QGIS
- creare ed usare plugin in Python
- Creare un'applicazione personalizzata basata sulle API di QGIS

There is a complete QGIS API reference that documents the classes from the QGIS libraries. Pythonic QGIS API is nearly identical to the API in C++.

There are some resources about programming with PyQGIS on QGIS blog. See QGIS tutorial ported to Python for some examples of simple 3rd party apps. A good resource when dealing with plugins is to download some plugins from plugin repository and examine their code. Also, the `python/plugins/` folder in your QGIS installation contains some plugin that you can use to learn how to develop such plugin and how to perform some of the most common tasks

1.1 avviare automaticamente codice Python all'avvio di QGIS

Esistono du metodi distinti per avviare codice Python all'avvio di QGIS.

1.1.1 Variabile di ambiente PYQGIS_STARTUP

Si può avviare codice Python subito prima dell'inizializzazione impostando la variabile d'ambiente `PYQGIS_STARTUP` al percorso di un file Python esistente.

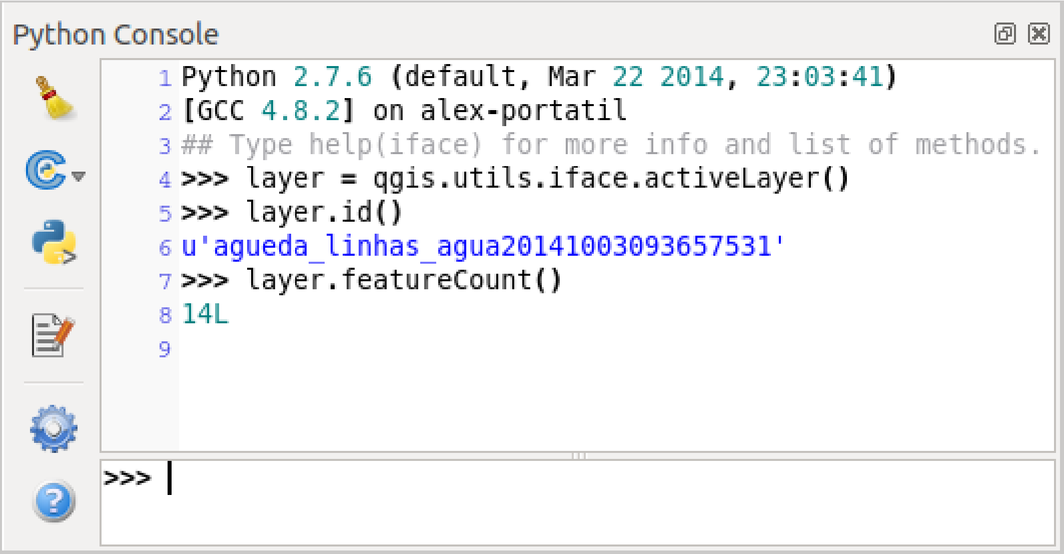
This method is something you will probably rarely need, but worth mentioning here because it is one of the several ways to run Python code within QGIS and because this code will run before QGIS initialization is complete. This method is very useful for cleaning sys.path, which may have undesireable paths, or for isolating/loading the initial environ without requiring a virt env, e.g. homebrew or MacPorts installs on Mac.

1.1.2 The `startup.py` file

Every time QGIS starts, the user's Python home directory (usually: `.qgis2/python`) is searched for a file named `startup.py`, if that file exists, it is executed by the embedded Python interpreter.

1.2 Console Python

Per chi utilizza gli script, è possibile sfruttare la console Python integrata, accessibile dal menu *Plugins* → *Python Console*. La console si apre come una finestra di dialogo non modale.



```
Python 2.7.6 (default, Mar 22 2014, 23:03:41)
[GCC 4.8.2] on alex-portatil
## Type help(iface) for more info and list of methods.
>>> layer = qgis.utils.iface.activeLayer()
>>> layer.id()
u'agueda_linhas_agua20141003093657531'
>>> layer.featureCount()
14L

>>> 
```

Figure 1.1: Console python di GIS

The screenshot above illustrates how to get the layer currently selected in the layer list, show its ID and optionally, if it is a vector layer, show the feature count. For interaction with QGIS environment, there is a `iface` variable, which is an instance of `QgsInterface`. This interface allows access to the map canvas, menus, toolbars and other parts of the QGIS application.

For convenience of the user, the following statements are executed when the console is started (in future it will be possible to set further initial commands)

```
from qgis.core import *
import qgis.utils
```

For those which use the console often, it may be useful to set a shortcut for triggering the console (within menu *Settings* → *Configure shortcuts...*)

1.3 Plugin Python

QGIS allows enhancement of its functionality using plugins. This was originally possible only with C++ language. With the addition of Python support to QGIS, it is also possible to use plugins written in Python. The main advantage over C++ plugins is its simplicity of distribution (no compiling for each platform needed) and easier development.

Many plugins covering various functionality have been written since the introduction of Python support. The plugin installer allows users to easily fetch, upgrade and remove Python plugins. See the Python Plugin Repositories page for various sources of plugins.

Creare un plugin in python è semplice, vedi *Sviluppare Plugin Python* per avere istruzioni dettagliate.

1.4 Applicazioni Python

Often when processing some GIS data, it is handy to create some scripts for automating the process instead of doing the same task again and again. With PyQGIS, this is perfectly possible — import the `qgis.core` module, initialize it and you are ready for the processing.

Or you may want to create an interactive application that uses some GIS functionality — measure some data, export a map in PDF or any other functionality. The `qgis.gui` module additionally brings various GUI components, most notably the map canvas widget that can be very easily incorporated into the application with support for zooming, panning and/or any further custom map tools.

1.4.1 Using PyQGIS in custom application

Note: do *not* use `qgis.py` as a name for your test script — Python will not be able to import the bindings as the script's name will shadow them.

First of all you have to import qgis module, set QGIS path where to search for resources — database of projections, providers etc. When you set prefix path with second argument set as `True`, QGIS will initialize all paths with standard dir under the prefix directory. Calling `initQgis()` function is important to let QGIS search for the available providers.

```
from qgis.core import *

# supply path to where is your qgis installed
QgsApplication.setPrefixPath("/path/to/qgis/installation", True)

# load providers
QgsApplication.initQgis()
```

Now you can work with QGIS API — load layers and do some processing or fire up a GUI with a map canvas. The possibilities are endless :-)

When you are done with using QGIS library, call `exitQgis()` to make sure that everything is cleaned up (e.g. clear map layer registry and delete layers):

```
QgsApplication.exitQgis()
```

1.4.2 Avviare applicazioni personalizzate

You will need to tell your system where to search for QGIS libraries and appropriate Python modules if they are not in a well-known location — otherwise Python will complain:

```
>>> import qgis.core
ImportError: No module named qgis.core
```

This can be fixed by setting the `PYTHONPATH` environment variable. In the following commands, `qgispath` should be replaced with your actual QGIS installation path:

- su Linux: **export PYTHONPATH=/qgispath/share/qgis/python**
- su Windows: **set PYTHONPATH=c:\qgispath\python**

The path to the PyQGIS modules is now known, however they depend on `qgis_core` and `qgis_gui` libraries (the Python modules serve only as wrappers). Path to these libraries is typically unknown for the operating system, so you get an import error again (the message might vary depending on the system):

```
>>> import qgis.core
ImportError: libqgis_core.so.1.5.0: cannot open shared object file: No such file or directory
```

Fix this by adding the directories where the QGIS libraries reside to search path of the dynamic linker:

- on Linux: **export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/qgispath/lib**

- on Windows: **set PATH=C:\qgispath;%PATH%**

These commands can be put into a bootstrap script that will take care of the startup. When deploying custom applications using PyQGIS, there are usually two possibilities:

- require user to install QGIS on his platform prior to installing your application. The application installer should look for default locations of QGIS libraries and allow user to set the path if not found. This approach has the advantage of being simpler, however it requires user to do more steps.
- package QGIS together with your application. Releasing the application may be more challenging and the package will be larger, but the user will be saved from the burden of downloading and installing additional pieces of software.

The two deployment models can be mixed - deploy standalone application on Windows and Mac OS X, for Linux leave the installation of QGIS up to user and his package manager.

CHAPTER 2

Caricamento di progetti

A volte potreste avere bisogno di caricare un progetto esistente da un plugin opuure (piú frequentemente) quando si sviluppa un'applicazione QGIS Python stand-alone (riferimento: *Applicazioni Python*).

To load a project into the current QGIS aplication you need a `QgsProject instance()` object and call its `read()` method passing to it a `QFileInfo` object that contains the path from where the project will be loaded:

```
# If you are not inside a QGIS console you first need to import
# qgis and PyQt4 classes you will use in this script as shown below:
from qgis.core import QgsProject
from PyQt4.QtCore import QFileInfo
# Get the project instance
project = QgsProject.instance()
# Print the current project file name (might be empty in case no projects have been loaded)
print project.fileName
u'/home/user/projects/my_qgis_project.qgs'
# Load another project
project.read(QFileInfo('/home/user/projects/my_other_qgis_project.qgs'))
print project.fileName
u'/home/user/projects/my_other_qgis_project.qgs'
```

Nel caso in cui si abbia bisogno di fare delle modifiche al progetto(ad esempio aggiungere o rimuovere alcuni layer) e salvare le modifiche, sará possibile chiamare il metodo `write()` dell'istanza del vostro progetto. Il metodo `write()` inoltre accetta opzionalmente `QFileInfo` che consente di specificare il percorso dove il progetto verrá salvato:

```
# Save the project to the same
project.write()
# ... or to a new file
project.write(QFileInfo('/home/user/projects/my_new_qgis_project.qgs'))
```

Sia `read()` che `write()` restituiscono un valore booleano che puó essere utilizzato per controllare che l'operazione si sia conclusa con successo.

CHAPTER 3

Caricamento del vettore

Let's open some layers with data. QGIS recognizes vector and raster layers. Additionally, custom layer types are available, but we are not going to discuss them here.

3.1 Vector Layers

To load a vector layer, specify layer's data source identifier, name for the layer and provider's name:

```
layer = QgsVectorLayer(data_source, layer_name, provider_name)
if not layer.isValid():
  print "Layer failed to load!"
```

The data source identifier is a string and it is specific to each vector data provider. Layer's name is used in the layer list widget. It is important to check whether the layer has been loaded successfully. If it was not, an invalid layer instance is returned.

The quickest way to open and display a vector layer in QGIS is the addVectorLayer function of the `QgisInterface`:

```
layer = iface.addVectorLayer("/path/to/shapefile/file.shp", "layer_name_you_like", "ogr")
if not layer:
  print "Layer failed to load!"
```

This creates a new layer and adds it to the map layer registry (making it appear in the layer list) in one step. The function returns the layer instance or *None* if the layer couldn't be loaded.

The following list shows how to access various data sources using vector data providers:

- OGR library (shapefiles and many other file formats) — data source is the path to the file

  ```
  vlayer = QgsVectorLayer("/path/to/shapefile/file.shp", "layer_name_you_like", "cgr")
  ```

- PostGIS database — data source is a string with all information needed to create a connection to PostgreSQL database. `QgsDataSourceURI` class can generate this string for you. Note that QGIS has to be compiled with Postgres support, otherwise this provider isn't available.

  ```
  uri = QgsDataSourceURI()
  # set host name, port, database name, username and password
  uri.setConnection("localhost", "5432", "dbname", "johny", "xxx")
  # set database schema, table name, geometry column and optionally
  # subset (WHERE clause)
  uri.setDataSource("public", "roads", "the_geom", "cityid = 2643")

  vlayer = QgsVectorLayer(uri.uri(), "layer_name_you_like", "postgres")
  ```

- CSV or other delimited text files — to open a file with a semicolon as a delimiter, with field "x" for x-coordinate and field "y" with y-coordinate you would use something like this

```
uri = "/some/path/file.csv?delimiter=%s&xField=%s&yField=%s" % (";", "x", "y")
vlayer = QgsVectorLayer(uri, "layer_name_you_like", "delimitedtext")
```

Note: from QGIS version 1.7 the provider string is structured as a URL, so the path must be prefixed with *file://*. Also it allows WKT (well known text) formatted geometries as an alternative to "x" and "y" fields, and allows the coordinate reference system to be specified. For example

```
uri = "file:///some/path/file.csv?delimiter=%s&crs=epsg:4723&wktField=%s" % (";", "shape")
```

- GPX files — the "gpx" data provider reads tracks, routes and waypoints from gpx files. To open a file, the type (track/route/waypoint) needs to be specified as part of the url

  ```
  uri = "path/to/gpx/file.gpx?type=track"
  vlayer = QgsVectorLayer(uri, "layer_name_you_like", "gpx")
  ```

- SpatiaLite database — supported from QGIS v1.1. Similarly to PostGIS databases, `QgsDataSourceURI` can be used for generation of data source identifier

  ```
  uri = QgsDataSourceURI()
  uri.setDatabase(’/home/martin/test-2.3.sqlite’)
  schema = ’’
  table = ’Towns’
  geom_column = ’Geometry’
  uri.setDataSource(schema, table, geom_column)

  display_name = ’Towns’
  vlayer = QgsVectorLayer(uri.uri(), display_name, ’spatialite’)
  ```

- MySQL WKB-based geometries, through OGR — data source is the connection string to the table

  ```
  uri = "MySQL:dbname,host=localhost,port=3306,user=root,password=xxx|layername=my_table"
  vlayer = QgsVectorLayer( uri, "my_table", "ogr" )
  ```

- WFS connection:. the connection is defined with a URI and using the `WFS` provider

  ```
  uri = "http://localhost:8080/geoserver/wfs?srsname=EPSG:23030&typename=union&version=1.0.0&re
  vlayer = QgsVectorLayer("my_wfs_layer", "WFS")
  ```

  The uri can be created using the standard `urllib` library.

  ```
  params = {
      ’service’: ’WFS’,
      ’version’: ’1.0.0’,
      ’request’: ’GetFeature’,
      ’typename’: ’union’,
      ’srsname’: "EPSG:23030"
  }
  uri = ’http://localhost:8080/geoserver/wfs?’ + urllib.unquote(urllib.urlencode(params))
  ```

3.2 Raster Layers

For accessing raster files, GDAL library is used. It supports a wide range of file formats. In case you have troubles with opening some files, check whether your GDAL has support for the particular format (not all formats are available by default). To load a raster from a file, specify its file name and base name

```
fileName = "/path/to/raster/file.tif"
fileInfo = QFileInfo(fileName)
baseName = fileInfo.baseName()
rlayer = QgsRasterLayer(fileName, baseName)
if not rlayer.isValid():
  print "Layer failed to load!"
```

Similarly to vector layers, raster layers can be loaded using the addRasterLayer function of the `QgisInterface`:

```
iface.addRasterLayer("/path/to/raster/file.tif", "layer_name_you_like")
```

This creates a new layer and adds it to the map layer registry (making it appear in the layer list) in one step.

Raster layers can also be created from a WCS service.

```
layer_name = 'modis'
uri = QgsDataSourceURI()
uri.setParam('url', 'http://demo.mapserver.org/cgi-bin/wcs')
uri.setParam("identifier", layer_name)
rlayer = QgsRasterLayer(str(uri.encodedUri()), 'my_wcs_layer', 'wcs')
```

detailed URI settings can be found in provider documentation

Alternatively you can load a raster layer from WMS server. However currently it's not possible to access GetCapabilities response from API — you have to know what layers you want

```
urlWithParams = 'url=http://wms.jpl.nasa.gov/wms.cgi&layers=global_mosaic&styles=pseudo&format=ima
rlayer = QgsRasterLayer(urlWithParams, 'some layer name', 'wms')
if not rlayer.isValid():
  print "Layer failed to load!"
```

3.3 Map Layer Registry

If you would like to use the opened layers for rendering, do not forget to add them to map layer registry. The map layer registry takes ownership of layers and they can be later accessed from any part of the application by their unique ID. When the layer is removed from map layer registry, it gets deleted, too.

Adding a layer to the registry

```
QgsMapLayerRegistry.instance().addMapLayer(layer)
```

Layers are destroyed automatically on exit, however if you want to delete the layer explicitly, use

```
QgsMapLayerRegistry.instance().removeMapLayer(layer_id)
```

For a list of loaded layers and layer ids, use

```
QgsMapLayerRegistry.instance().mapLayers()
```

TODO: More about map layer registry?

CHAPTER 4

Usare i raster

Questa sezione elenca le varie operazioni che si possono eseguire sui raster.

4.1 Dettagli del raster

Un raster consiste di una o piú bande — puó essere sia a banda singola che multi banda. Ogni banda rappresenta una matrice di valori. Una normale immagine a colori (e.g. una foto aerea) é un raster composto dalle bande ross, blu e verde. I raster a singola banda solitamente rappresentano o variabili continue (e.g. altitudine) oppure variabili discrete (e.g. uso della terra). In alcuni casi, un raster é associato ad una tavolozza ed i valori del raster si riferiscono ai colori memorizzati nella tavolozza:

```
rlayer.width(), rlayer.height()
(812, 301)
rlayer.extent()
<qgis._core.QgsRectangle object at 0x000000000F8A2048>
rlayer.extent().toString()
u'12.095833,48.552777 : 18.863888,51.056944'
rlayer.rasterType()
2  # 0 = GrayOrUndefined (single band), 1 = Palette (single band), 2 = Multiband
rlayer.bandCount()
3
rlayer.metadata()
u'<p class="glossy">Driver:</p>...'
rlayer.hasPyramids()
False
```

4.2 Drawing Style

When a raster layer is loaded, it gets a default drawing style based on its type. It can be altered either in raster layer properties or programmatically. The following drawing styles exist:

Index	Constant: QgsRasterLater.X	Comment
1	SingleBandGray	Single band image drawn as a range of gray colors
2	SingleBandPseudoColor	Single band image drawn using a pseudocolor algorithm
3	PalettedColor	"Palette" image drawn using color table
4	PalettedSingleBandGray	"Palette" layer drawn in gray scale
5	PalettedSingleBandPseudoColor	"Palette" layer drawn using a pseudocolor algorithm
7	MultiBandSingleBandGray	Layer containing 2 or more bands, but a single band drawn as a range of gray colors
8	MultiBandSingleBandPseudoColor	Layer containing 2 or more bands, but a single band drawn using a pseudocolor algorithm
9	MultiBandColor	Layer containing 2 or more bands, mapped to RGB color space.

To query the current drawing style:

```
rlayer.renderer().type()
u'singlebandpseudocolor'
```

I raster a banda singola possono essere mostrati sia tramite scala di grigi (valori bassi = nero, valori alti = bianco) o con un algoritmo per pseudocolori che assegna i colori per i valori della singola banda. I raster a banda singola con una tavolozza possono inoltre essere mostrati usando la loro tavolozza. I raster multibanda sono solitamente mostrati mappando le bande con i colori RGB. Un'altra possibilitá é quella di utilizzare una singola banda in scala di grigio o con pseudocolori.

Le prossime sezioni spiegano come interrogare e modificare lo stile del raster. Dopo aver effettuato i cambiamenti, potrebbe essere necessario forzare l'aggiornamento della mappa, vedi *Aggiornare i Raster*.

TODO: miglioramenti sul contrasto, trasparenza (no data), min/max definiti dall'utente, statistiche sulla banda

4.2.1 Raster a Banda Singola

They are rendered in gray colors by default. To change the drawing style to pseudocolor:

```
# Check the renderer
rlayer.renderer().type()
u'singlebandgray'
rlayer.setDrawingStyle("SingleBandPseudoColor")
# The renderer is now changed
rlayer.renderer().type()
u'singlebandpseudocolor'
# Set a color ramp hader function
shader_func = QgsColorRampShader()
rlayer.renderer().shader().setRasterShaderFunction(shader_func)
```

The `PseudoColorShader` is a basic shader that highlights low values in blue and high values in red. There is also `ColorRampShader` which maps the colors as specified by its color map. It has three modes of interpolation of values:

- linear (`INTERPOLATED`): il colore risultante é linearmente interpolato a partire dai valori dei colori della mappa al di sopra ed al di sotto del valore corrente
- discrete (`DISCRETE`): il colore é preso dai colori della mappa aventi valore maggiore od uguale
- exact (`EXACT`): il colore non é interpolato, vengono mostrati solo i pixel aventi valore uguale alla mappa dei colori

To set an interpolated color ramp shader ranging from green to yellow color (for pixel values from 0 to 255):

```
rlayer.renderer().shader().setRasterShaderFunction(QgsColorRampShader())
lst = [QgsColorRampShader.ColorRampItem(0, QColor(0, 255, 0)), \
    QgsColorRampShader.ColorRampItem(255, QColor(255, 255 ,0))]
fcn = rlayer.renderer().shader().rasterShaderFunction()
```

```
fcn.setColorRampType(QgsColorRampShader.INTERPOLATED)
fcn.setColorRampItemList(lst)
```

To return back to default gray levels, use:

```
rlayer.setDrawingStyle('SingleBandGray')
```

4.2.2 Raster Multi Banda

Come impostazione predefinita, QGIS mappa le prime tre bande con i valori rosso, verde e blu per creare un'immagine a colori (questo é lo stile `MultiBandColor`. In alcuni casi potrebbe essere utile modificare queste impostazioni. Il seguente codice scambia la banda rossa (1) con quella verde (2):

```
rlayer.setDrawingStyle('MultiBandColor')
rlayer.renderer().setGreenBand(1)
rlayer.setRedBand(2)
```

4.3 Aggiornare i Raster

Quando si cambia la simbologia di un raster ed essere sicuri che i cambiamenti siano immediatamente visibili agli utenti, si possono invocare i seguenti metodi

```
if hasattr(layer, "setCacheImage"):
  layer.setCacheImage(None)
layer.triggerRepaint()
```

La prima chiamata garantisce che l'immagine in cache del layer mostrato sia cancellata nel caso in cui la cache della visualizzazione sia attivata. Questa funzionalitá é disponibile a partire da QGIS 1.4, tale funzione non esiste nelle versioni precedenti — per essere sicuri che il codice funzioni con tutte le versioni di QGIS, controlleremo prima che il metodo esista.

La seconda chiamata emette un segnale che forza la mappa contenente il layer ad aggiornarsi.

Questi comandi non funzionano con raster WMS. In questo caso va fatto in maniera esplicita

```
layer.dataProvider().reloadData()
layer.triggerRepaint()
```

Nel caso sia stata cambiata la simbologia del raster (far riferimento alle sezioni riguardanti raster e vettori a tal proposito), si potrebbe voler forzare QGIS ad aggiornare la simbologia raster nella widget della lista dei raster (legend). Ció puó essere fatto come segue (`iface` é un'istanza di `QgisInterface`)

```
iface.legendInterface().refreshLayerSymbology(layer)
```

4.4 Valori dell'interrogazione

Per eseguire un'interrogazione sui valori delle bande di un raster in un punto specifico

```
ident = rlayer.dataProvider().identify(QgsPoint(15.30, 40.98), \
  QgsRaster.IdentifyFormatValue)
if ident.isValid():
  print ident.results()
```

Il metodo ‘‘results‘‘in questo caso restituisce un dizionario, usando gli indici delle bande come chiavi, ed i valori delle bande come valori.

```
{1: 17, 2: 220}
```

CHAPTER 5

Usare i Vettori

Questa sezione riassume le varie azioni che si possono eseguire con i vettori.

5.1 Retrieving informations about attributes

You can retrieve informations about the fields associated with a vector layer by calling `pendingFields()` on a `QgsVectorLayer` instance:

```
# "layer" is a QgsVectorLayer instance
for field in layer.pendingFields():
    print field.name(), field.typeName()
```

5.2 Selecting features

In QGIS desktop, features can be selected in different ways, the user can click on a feature, draw a rectangle on the map canvas or use an expression filter. Selected fatures are normally higlighted in a different color (default is yellow) to draw user's attention on the selection. Sometimes can be useful to programmatically select features or to change the default color.

To change the selection color you can use `setSelectionColor()` method of `QgsMapCanvas` as shown in the following example:

```
iface.mapCanvas().setSelectionColor( QColor("red") )
```

To add add features to the selected features list for a given layer, you can call `setSelectedFeatures()` passing to it the list of features IDs:

```
# Get the active layer (must be a vector layer)
layer = iface.activeLayer()
# Get the first feature from the layer
feature = layer.getFeatures().next()
# Add this features to the selected list
layer.setSelectedFeatures([feature.id()])
```

To clear the selection, just pass an empty list:

```
layer.setSelectedFeatures([])
```

5.3 Iterare un Vettore.

Iterating over the features in a vector layer is one of the most common tasks. Below is an example of the simple basic code to perform this task and showing some information about each feature. the `layer` variable is assumed to have a `QgsVectorLayer` object

```
iter = layer.getFeatures()
for feature in iter:
    # retrieve every feature with its geometry and attributes
    # fetch geometry
    geom = feature.geometry()
    print "Feature ID %d: " % feature.id()

    # show some information about the feature
    if geom.type() == QGis.Point:
        x = geom.asPoint()
        print "Point: " + str(x)
    elif geom.type() == QGis.Line:
        x = geom.asPolyline()
        print "Line: %d points" % len(x)
    elif geom.type() == QGis.Polygon:
        x = geom.asPolygon()
        numPts = 0
        for ring in x:
        numPts += len(ring)
        print "Polygon: %d rings with %d points" % (len(x), numPts)
    else:
        print "Unknown"

    # fetch attributes
    attrs = feature.attributes()

    # attrs is a list. It contains all the attribute values of this feature
    print attrs
```

5.3.1 Accessing attributes

Attributes can be referred to by their name.

```
print feature['name']
```

Alternatively, attributes can be referred to by index. This is will be a bit faster than using the name. For example, to get the first attribute:

```
print feature[0]
```

5.3.2 Iterare le caratteristiche selezionate

if you only need selected features, you can use the `selectedFeatures()` method from vector layer:

```
selection = layer.selectedFeatures()
print len(selection)
for feature in selection:
    # do whatever you need with the feature
```

Another option is the Processing `features()` method:

```
import processing
features = processing.features(layer)
for feature in features:
    # do whatever you need with the feature
```

By default, this will iterate over all the features in the layer, in case there is no selection, or over the selected features otherwise. Note that this behavior can be changed in the Processing options to ignore selections.

5.3.3 Iterare un sottoinsieme di caratteristiche

Nel caso si voglia iterare su un sottoinsieme di geometrie in un vettore, ad esempio quelle di un'area specifica, si deve aggiungere l'oggetto `QgsFeatureRequest` alla chiamata `getFeatures()`. Di seguito un esempio

```
request = QgsFeatureRequest()
request.setFilterRect(areaOfInterest)
for feature in layer.getFeatures(request):
    # do whatever you need with the feature
```

If you need an attribute-based filter instead (or in addition) of a spatial one like shown in the example above, you can build an `QgsExpression` object and pass it to the `QgsFeatureRequest` constructor. Here's an example

```
# The expression will filter the features where the field "location_name" contains
# the word "Lake" (case insensitive)
exp = QgsExpression('location_name ILIKE \'%Lake%\'')
request = QgsFeatureRequest(exp)
```

The request can be used to define the data retrieved for each feature, so the iterator returns all features, but returns partial data for each of them.

```
# Only return selected fields
request.setSubsetOfAttributes([0,2])
# More user friendly version
request.setSubsetOfAttributes(['name','id'],layer.pendingFields())
# Don't return geometry objects
request.setFlags(QgsFeatureRequest.NoGeometry)
```

Suggerimento: If you only need a subset of the attributes or you don't need the geometry informations, you can significantly increase the **speed** of the features request by using `QgsFeatureRequest.NoGeometry` flag or specifying a subset of attributes (possibly empty) like shown in the example above.

5.4 Modificare i Vettori

Most vector data providers support editing of layer data. Sometimes they support just a subset of possible editing actions. Use the `capabilities()` function to find out what set of functionality is supported

```
caps = layer.dataProvider().capabilities()
```

By using any of the following methods for vector layer editing, the changes are directly committed to the underlying data store (a file, database etc). In case you would like to do only temporary changes, skip to the next section that explains how to do *modifications with editing buffer*.

Nota: If you are working inside QGIS (either from the console or from a plugin), it might be necessary to force a redraw of the map canvas in order to see the changes you've done to the geometry, to the style or to the attributes:

```
# If caching is enabled, a simple canvas refresh might not be sufficient
# to trigger a redraw and you must clear the cached image for the layer
if iface.mapCanvas().isCachingEnabled():
    layer.setCacheImage(None)
else:
    iface.mapCanvas().refresh()
```

5.4.1 Add Features

Create some `QgsFeature` instances and pass a list of them to provider's `addFeatures()` method. It will return two values: result (true/false) and list of added features (their ID is set by the data store)

```
if caps & QgsVectorDataProvider.AddFeatures:
    feat = QgsFeature()
    feat.addAttribute(0, 'hello')
    feat.setGeometry(QgsGeometry.fromPoint(QgsPoint(123, 456)))
    (res, outFeats) = layer.dataProvider().addFeatures([feat])
```

5.4.2 Delete Features

To delete some features, just provide a list of their feature IDs

```
if caps & QgsVectorDataProvider.DeleteFeatures:
    res = layer.dataProvider().deleteFeatures([5, 10])
```

5.4.3 Modify Features

It is possible to either change feature's geometry or to change some attributes. The following example first changes values of attributes with index 0 and 1, then it changes the feature's geometry

```
fid = 100   # ID of the feature we will modify

if caps & QgsVectorDataProvider.ChangeAttributeValues:
    attrs = { 0 : "hello", 1 : 123 }
    layer.dataProvider().changeAttributeValues({ fid : attrs })

if caps & QgsVectorDataProvider.ChangeGeometries:
    geom = QgsGeometry.fromPoint(QgsPoint(111,222))
    layer.dataProvider().changeGeometryValues({ fid : geom })
```

Suggerimento: If you only need to change geometries, you might consider using the `QgsVectorLayerEditUtils` which provides some of useful methods to edit geometries (translate, insert or move vertex etc.)

5.4.4 Adding and Removing Fields

To add fields (attributes), you need to specify a list of field definitions. For deletion of fields just provide a list of field indexes.

```
if caps & QgsVectorDataProvider.AddAttributes:
    res = layer.dataProvider().addAttributes([QgsField("mytext", QVariant.String), QgsField("myin

if caps & QgsVectorDataProvider.DeleteAttributes:
    res = layer.dataProvider().deleteAttributes([0])
```

After adding or removing fields in the data provider the layer's fields need to be updated because the changes are not automatically propagated.

```
layer.updateFields()
```

5.5 Modifying Vector Layers with an Editing Buffer

When editing vectors within QGIS application, you have to first start editing mode for a particular layer, then do some modifications and finally commit (or rollback) the changes. All the changes you do are not written until you commit them — they stay in layer's in-memory editing buffer. It is possible to use this functionality also programmatically — it is just another method for vector layer editing that complements the direct usage of data providers. Use this option when providing some GUI tools for vector layer editing, since this will allow user to decide whether to commit/rollback and allows the usage of undo/redo. When committing changes, all changes from the editing buffer are saved to data provider.

To find out whether a layer is in editing mode, use `isEditing()` — the editing functions work only when the editing mode is turned on. Usage of editing functions

```
# add two features (QgsFeature instances)
layer.addFeatures([feat1,feat2])
# delete a feature with specified ID
layer.deleteFeature(fid)

# set new geometry (QgsGeometry instance) for a feature
layer.changeGeometry(fid, geometry)
# update an attribute with given field index (int) to given value (QVariant)
layer.changeAttributeValue(fid, fieldIndex, value)

# add new field
layer.addAttribute(QgsField("mytext", QVariant.String))
# remove a field
layer.deleteAttribute(fieldIndex)
```

In order to make undo/redo work properly, the above mentioned calls have to be wrapped into undo commands. (If you do not care about undo/redo and want to have the changes stored immediately, then you will have easier work by *editing with data provider*.) How to use the undo functionality

```
layer.beginEditCommand("Feature triangulation")

# ... call layer's editing methods ...

if problem_occurred:
    layer.destroyEditCommand()
   return

# ... more editing ...

layer.endEditCommand()
```

The `beginEditCommand()` will create an internal "active" command and will record subsequent changes in vector layer. With the call to `endEditCommand()` the command is pushed onto the undo stack and the user will be able to undo/redo it from GUI. In case something went wrong while doing the changes, the `destroyEditCommand()` method will remove the command and rollback all changes done while this command was active.

To start editing mode, there is `startEditing()` method, to stop editing there are `commitChanges()` and `rollback()` — however normally you should not need these methods and leave this functionality to be triggered by the user.

5.6 Using Spatial Index

Spatial indexes can dramatically improve the performance of your code if you need to do frequent queries to a vector layer. Imagine, for instance, that you are writing an interpolation algorithm, and that for a given location you need to know the 10 closest points from a points layer, in order to use those point for calculating the interpolated value. Without a spatial index, the only way for QGIS to find those 10 points is to compute the distance from each and every point to the specified location and then compare those distances. This can be a very time consuming task, especially if it needs to be repeated for several locations. If a spatial index exists for the layer, the operation is much more effective.

Think of a layer without a spatial index as a telephone book in which telephone numbers are not ordered or indexed. The only way to find the telephone number of a given person is to read from the beginning until you find it.

Spatial indexes are not created by default for a QGIS vector layer, but you can create them easily. This is what you have to do.

1. create spatial index — the following code creates an empty index

   ```
   index = QgsSpatialIndex()
   ```

2. add features to index — index takes `QgsFeature` object and adds it to the internal data structure. You can create the object manually or use one from previous call to provider's `nextFeature()`

   ```
   index.insertFeature(feat)
   ```

3. once spatial index is filled with some values, you can do some queries

   ```
   # returns array of feature IDs of five nearest features
   nearest = index.nearestNeighbor(QgsPoint(25.4, 12.7), 5)

   # returns array of IDs of features which intersect the rectangle
   intersect = index.intersects(QgsRectangle(22.5, 15.3, 23.1, 17.2))
   ```

5.7 Writing Vector Layers

You can write vector layer files using `QgsVectorFileWriter` class. It supports any other kind of vector file that OGR supports (shapefiles, GeoJSON, KML and others).

There are two possibilities how to export a vector layer:

- from an instance of `QgsVectorLayer`

  ```
  error = QgsVectorFileWriter.writeAsVectorFormat(layer, "my_shapes.shp", "CP1250", None, "ESRI

  if error == QgsVectorFileWriter.NoError:
      print "success!"

  error = QgsVectorFileWriter.writeAsVectorFormat(layer, "my_json.json", "utf-8", None, "GeoJSO
  if error == QgsVectorFileWriter.NoError:
      print "success again!"
  ```

  The third parameter specifies output text encoding. Only some drivers need this for correct operation - shapefiles are one of those — however in case you are not using international characters you do not have to care much about the encoding. The fourth parameter that we left as `None` may specify destination CRS — if a valid instance of `QgsCoordinateReferenceSystem` is passed, the layer is transformed to that CRS.

  For valid driver names please consult the supported formats by OGR — you should pass the value in the "Code" column as the driver name. Optionally you can set whether to export only selected features, pass further driver-specific options for creation or tell the writer not to create attributes — look into the documentation for full syntax.

- directly from features

  ```
  # define fields for feature attributes. A list of QgsField objects is needed
  fields = [QgsField("first", QVariant.Int),
            QgsField("second", QVariant.String)]

  # create an instance of vector file writer, which will create the vector file.
  # Arguments:
  # 1. path to new file (will fail if exists already)
  # 2. encoding of the attributes
  # 3. field map
  # 4. geometry type - from WKBTYPE enum
  # 5. layer's spatial reference (instance of
  #    QgsCoordinateReferenceSystem) - optional
  ```

```
    # 6. driver name for the output file
    writer = QgsVectorFileWriter("my_shapes.shp", "CP1250", fields, QGis.WKBPoint, None, "ESRI Sh

    if writer.hasError() != QgsVectorFileWriter.NoError:
        print "Error when creating shapefile: ", writer.hasError()

    # add a feature
    fet = QgsFeature()
    fet.setGeometry(QgsGeometry.fromPoint(QgsPoint(10,10)))
    fet.setAttributes([1, "text"])
    writer.addFeature(fet)

    # delete the writer to flush features to disk (optional)
    del writer
```

5.8 Memory Provider

Memory provider is intended to be used mainly by plugin or 3rd party app developers. It does not store data on disk, allowing developers to use it as a fast backend for some temporary layers.

The provider supports string, int and double fields.

The memory provider also supports spatial indexing, which is enabled by calling the provider's `createSpatialIndex()` function. Once the spatial index is created you will be able to iterate over features within smaller regions faster (since it's not necessary to traverse all the features, only those in specified rectangle).

A memory provider is created by passing `"memory"` as the provider string to the `QgsVectorLayer` constructor.

The constructor also takes a URI defining the geometry type of the layer, one of: `"Point"`, `"LineString"`, `"Polygon"`, `"MultiPoint"`, `"MultiLineString"`, or `"MultiPolygon"`.

The URI can also specify the coordinate reference system, fields, and indexing of the memory provider in the URI. The syntax is:

crs=definition Specifies the coordinate reference system, where definition may be any of the forms accepted by `QgsCoordinateReferenceSystem.createFromString()`

index=yes Specifies that the provider will use a spatial index

field=name:type(length,precision) Specifies an attribute of the layer. The attribute has a name, and optionally a type (integer, double, or string), length, and precision. There may be multiple field definitions.

The following example of a URI incorporates all these options

```
"Point?crs=epsg:4326&field=id:integer&field=name:string(20)&index=yes"
```

The following example code illustrates creating and populating a memory provider

```
# create layer
vl = QgsVectorLayer("Point", "temporary_points", "memory")
pr = vl.dataProvider()

# add fields
pr.addAttributes([QgsField("name", QVariant.String),
                    QgsField("age",  QVariant.Int),
                    QgsField("size", QVariant.Double)])
vl.updateFields() # tell the vector layer to fetch changes from the provider

# add a feature
fet = QgsFeature()
fet.setGeometry(QgsGeometry.fromPoint(QgsPoint(10,10)))
fet.setAttributes(["Johny", 2, 0.3])
pr.addFeatures([fet])

# update layer's extent when new features have been added
# because change of extent in provider is not propagated to the layer
vl.updateExtents()
```

Finally, let's check whether everything went well

```
# show some stats
print "fields:", len(pr.fields())
print "features:", pr.featureCount()
e = layer.extent()
print "extent:", e.xMiniminum(), e.yMinimum(), e.xMaximum(), e.yMaximum()

# iterate over features
f = QgsFeature()
features = vl.getFeatures()
for f in features:
    print "F:", f.id(), f.attributes(), f.geometry().asPoint()
```

5.9 Appearance (Symbology) of Vector Layers

When a vector layer is being rendered, the appearance of the data is given by **renderer** and **symbols** associated with the layer. Symbols are classes which take care of drawing of visual representation of features, while renderers determine what symbol will be used for a particular feature.

The renderer for a given layer can obtained as shown below:

```
renderer = layer.rendererV2()
```

And with that reference, let us explore it a bit

```
print "Type:", rendererV2.type()
```

There are several known renderer types available in QGIS core library:

Type	Class	Descrizione
singleSymbol	QgsSingleSymbolRendererV2	Renders all features with the same symbol
categorizedSymbol	QgsCategorizedSymbolRendererV2	Renders features using a different symbol for each category
graduatedSymbol	QgsGraduatedSymbolRendererV2	Renders features using a different symbol for each range of values

There might be also some custom renderer types, so never make an assumption there are just these types. You can query `QgsRendererV2Registry` singleton to find out currently available renderers:

```
QgsRendererV2Registry.instance().renderersList()
# Prints:
[u'singleSymbol',
u'categorizedSymbol',
u'graduatedSymbol',
u'RuleRenderer',
u'pointDisplacement',
u'invertedPolygonRenderer',
u'heatmapRenderer']
```

It is possible to obtain a dump of a renderer contents in text form — can be useful for debugging

```
print rendererV2.dump()
```

5.9.1 Single Symbol Renderer

You can get the symbol used for rendering by calling `symbol()` method and change it with `setSymbol()` method (note for C++ devs: the renderer takes ownership of the symbol.)

You can change the symbol used by a particular vector layer by calling `setSymbol()` passing an instance of the appropriate symbol instance. Symbols for *point*, *line* and *polygon* layers can be created by calling the `createSimple()` function of the corresponding classes `QgsMarkerSymbolV2`, `QgsLineSymbolV2` and `QgsFillSymbolV2`.

The dictionary passed to `createSimple()` sets the style properties of the symbol.

For example you can change the symbol used by a particular **point** layer by calling `setSymbol()` passing an instance of a `QgsMarkerSymbolV2` as in the following code example:

```
symbol = QgsMarkerSymbolV2.createSimple({'name': 'square', 'color': 'red'})
layer.rendererV2().setSymbol(symbol)
```

`name` indicates the shape of the marker, and can be any of the following:

- `circle`
- `square`
- `rectangle`
- `diamond`
- `pentagon`
- `triangle`
- `equilateral_triangle`
- `star`
- `regular_star`
- `arrow`
- `filled_arrowhead`

5.9.2 Categorized Symbol Renderer

You can query and set attribute name which is used for classification: use `classAttribute()` and `setClassAttribute()` methods.

To get a list of categories

```
for cat in rendererV2.categories():
    print "%s: %s :: %s" % (cat.value().toString(), cat.label(), str(cat.symbol()))
```

Where `value()` is the value used for discrimination between categories, `label()` is a text used for category description and `symbol()` method returns assigned symbol.

The renderer usually stores also original symbol and color ramp which were used for the classification: `sourceColorRamp()` and `sourceSymbol()` methods.

5.9.3 Graduated Symbol Renderer

This renderer is very similar to the categorized symbol renderer described above, but instead of one attribute value per class it works with ranges of values and thus can be used only with numerical attributes.

To find out more about ranges used in the renderer

```
for ran in rendererV2.ranges():
    print "%f - %f: %s %s" % (
        ran.lowerValue(),
        ran.upperValue(),
        ran.label(),
        str(ran.symbol())
      )
```

you can again use `classAttribute()` to find out classification attribute name, `sourceSymbol()` and `sourceColorRamp()` methods. Additionally there is `mode()` method which determines how the ranges were created: using equal intervals, quantiles or some other method.

If you wish to create your own graduated symbol renderer you can do so as illustrated in the example snippet below (which creates a simple two class arrangement)

```
from qgis.core import *

myVectorLayer = QgsVectorLayer(myVectorPath, myName, 'ogr')
myTargetField = 'target_field'
myRangeList = []
myOpacity = 1
# Make our first symbol and range...
myMin = 0.0
myMax = 50.0
myLabel = 'Group 1'
myColour = QtGui.QColor('#ffee00')
mySymbol1 = QgsSymbolV2.defaultSymbol(myVectorLayer.geometryType())
mySymbol1.setColor(myColour)
mySymbol1.setAlpha(myOpacity)
myRange1 = QgsRendererRangeV2(myMin, myMax, mySymbol1, myLabel)
myRangeList.append(myRange1)
#now make another symbol and range...
myMin = 50.1
myMax = 100
myLabel = 'Group 2'
myColour = QtGui.QColor('#00eeff')
mySymbol2 = QgsSymbolV2.defaultSymbol(
     myVectorLayer.geometryType())
mySymbol2.setColor(myColour)
mySymbol2.setAlpha(myOpacity)
myRange2 = QgsRendererRangeV2(myMin, myMax, mySymbol2 myLabel)
myRangeList.append(myRange2)
myRenderer = QgsGraduatedSymbolRendererV2('', myRangeList)
myRenderer.setMode(QgsGraduatedSymbolRendererV2.EqualInterval)
myRenderer.setClassAttribute(myTargetField)

myVectorLayer.setRendererV2(myRenderer)
QgsMapLayerRegistry.instance().addMapLayer(myVectorLayer)
```

5.9.4 Working with Symbols

For representation of symbols, there is `QgsSymbolV2` base class with three derived classes:

- `QgsMarkerSymbolV2` — for point features
- `QgsLineSymbolV2` — for line features
- `QgsFillSymbolV2` — for polygon features

Every symbol consists of one or more symbol layers (classes derived from `QgsSymbolLayerV2`). The symbol layers do the actual rendering, the symbol class itself serves only as a container for the symbol layers.

Having an instance of a symbol (e.g. from a renderer), it is possible to explore it: `type()` method says whether it is a marker, line or fill symbol. There is a `dump()` method which returns a brief description of the symbol. To get a list of symbol layers

```
for i in xrange(symbol.symbolLayerCount()):
    lyr = symbol.symbolLayer(i)
    print "%d: %s" % (i, lyr.layerType())
```

To find out symbol's color use `color()` method and `setColor()` to change its color. With marker symbols additionally you can query for the symbol size and rotation with `size()` and `angle()` methods, for line symbols there is `width()` method returning line width.

Size and width are in millimeters by default, angles are in degrees.

Working with Symbol Layers

As said before, symbol layers (subclasses of `QgsSymbolLayerV2`) determine the appearance of the features. There are several basic symbol layer classes for general use. It is possible to implement new symbol layer types and thus arbitrarily customize how features will be rendered. The `layerType()` method uniquely identifies the symbol layer class — the basic and default ones are SimpleMarker, SimpleLine and SimpleFill symbol layers types.

You can get a complete list of the types of symbol layers you can create for a given symbol layer class like this

```
from qgis.core import QgsSymbolLayerV2Registry
myRegistry = QgsSymbolLayerV2Registry.instance()
myMetadata = myRegistry.symbolLayerMetadata("SimpleFill")
for item in myRegistry.symbolLayersForType(QgsSymbolV2.Marker):
    print item
```

Output

```
EllipseMarker
FontMarker
SimpleMarker
SvgMarker
VectorField
```

`QgsSymbolLayerV2Registry` class manages a database of all available symbol layer types.

To access symbol layer data, use its `properties()` method that returns a key-value dictionary of properties which determine the appearance. Each symbol layer type has a specific set of properties that it uses. Additionally, there are generic methods `color()`, `size()`, `angle()`, `width()` with their setter counterparts. Of course size and angle is available only for marker symbol layers and width for line symbol layers.

Creating Custom Symbol Layer Types

Imagine you would like to customize the way how the data gets rendered. You can create your own symbol layer class that will draw the features exactly as you wish. Here is an example of a marker that draws red circles with specified radius

```
class FooSymbolLayer(QgsMarkerSymbolLayerV2):

  def __init__(self, radius=4.0):
      QgsMarkerSymbolLayerV2.__init__(self)
      self.radius = radius
      self.color = QColor(255,0,0)

  def layerType(self):
     return "FooMarker"

  def properties(self):
      return { "radius" : str(self.radius) }

  def startRender(self, context):
    pass

  def stopRender(self, context):
      pass

  def renderPoint(self, point, context):
      # Rendering depends on whether the symbol is selected (QGIS >= 1.5)
      color = context.selectionColor() if context.selected() else self.color
      p = context.renderContext().painter()
      p.setPen(color)
      p.drawEllipse(point, self.radius, self.radius)

  def clone(self):
      return FooSymbolLayer(self.radius)
```

The `layerType()` method determines the name of the symbol layer, it has to be unique among all symbol layers. Properties are used for persistence of attributes. `clone()` method must return a copy of the symbol layer with all attributes being exactly the same. Finally there are rendering methods: `startRender()` is called before rendering first feature, `stopRender()` when rendering is done. And `renderPoint()` method which does the rendering. The coordinates of the point(s) are already transformed to the output coordinates.

For polylines and polygons the only difference would be in the rendering method: you would use `renderPolyline()` which receives a list of lines, resp. `renderPolygon()` which receives list of points on outer ring as a first parameter and a list of inner rings (or None) as a second parameter.

Usually it is convenient to add a GUI for setting attributes of the symbol layer type to allow users to customize the appearance: in case of our example above we can let user set circle radius. The following code implements such widget

```
class FooSymbolLayerWidget(QgsSymbolLayerV2Widget):
    def __init__(self, parent=None):
        QgsSymbolLayerV2Widget.__init__(self, parent)

        self.layer = None

        # setup a simple UI
        self.label = QLabel("Radius:")
        self.spinRadius = QDoubleSpinBox()
        self.hbox = QHBoxLayout()
        self.hbox.addWidget(self.label)
        self.hbox.addWidget(self.spinRadius)
        self.setLayout(self.hbox)
        self.connect(self.spinRadius, SIGNAL("valueChanged(double)"), \
            self.radiusChanged)

    def setSymbolLayer(self, layer):
        if layer.layerType() != "FooMarker":
            return
        self.layer = layer
        self.spinRadius.setValue(layer.radius)

    def symbolLayer(self):
        return self.layer

    def radiusChanged(self, value):
        self.layer.radius = value
        self.emit(SIGNAL("changed()"))
```

This widget can be embedded into the symbol properties dialog. When the symbol layer type is selected in symbol properties dialog, it creates an instance of the symbol layer and an instance of the symbol layer widget. Then it calls `setSymbolLayer()` method to assign the symbol layer to the widget. In that method the widget should update the UI to reflect the attributes of the symbol layer. `symbolLayer()` function is used to retrieve the symbol layer again by the properties dialog to use it for the symbol.

On every change of attributes, the widget should emit `changed()` signal to let the properties dialog update the symbol preview.

Now we are missing only the final glue: to make QGIS aware of these new classes. This is done by adding the symbol layer to registry. It is possible to use the symbol layer also without adding it to the registry, but some functionality will not work: e.g. loading of project files with the custom symbol layers or inability to edit the layer's attributes in GUI.

We will have to create metadata for the symbol layer

```
class FooSymbolLayerMetadata(QgsSymbolLayerV2AbstractMetadata):

  def __init__(self):
    QgsSymbolLayerV2AbstractMetadata.__init__(self, "FooMarker", QgsSymbolV2.Marker)

  def createSymbolLayer(self, props):
    radius = float(props[QString("radius")]) if QString("radius") in props else 4.0
    return FooSymbolLayer(radius)

  def createSymbolLayerWidget(self):
    return FooSymbolLayerWidget()

QgsSymbolLayerV2Registry.instance().addSymbolLayerType(FooSymbolLayerMetadata())
```

You should pass layer type (the same as returned by the layer) and symbol type (marker/line/fill) to the constructor of parent class. `createSymbolLayer()` takes care of creating an instance of symbol layer with attributes specified in the *props* dictionary. (Beware, the keys are QString instances, not "str" objects). And there is `createSymbolLayerWidget()` method which returns settings widget for this symbol layer type.

The last step is to add this symbol layer to the registry — and we are done.

5.9.5 Creating Custom Renderers

It might be useful to create a new renderer implementation if you would like to customize the rules how to select symbols for rendering of features. Some use cases where you would want to do it: symbol is determined from a combination of fields, size of symbols changes depending on current scale etc.

The following code shows a simple custom renderer that creates two marker symbols and chooses randomly one of them for every feature

```
import random

class RandomRenderer(QgsFeatureRendererV2):
  def __init__(self, syms=None):
    QgsFeatureRendererV2.__init__(self, "RandomRenderer")
    self.syms = syms if syms else [QgsSymbolV2.defaultSymbol(QGis.Point), QgsSymbolV2.defaultSymb

  def symbolForFeature(self, feature):
    return random.choice(self.syms)

  def startRender(self, context, vlayer):
    for s in self.syms:
      s.startRender(context)

  def stopRender(self, context):
    for s in self.syms:
      s.stopRender(context)

  def usedAttributes(self):
    return []

  def clone(self):
    return RandomRenderer(self.syms)
```

The constructor of parent `QgsFeatureRendererV2` class needs renderer name (has to be unique among renderers). `symbolForFeature()` method is the one that decides what symbol will be used for a particular feature. `startRender()` and `stopRender()` take care of initialization/finalization of symbol rendering. `usedAttributes()` method can return a list of field names that renderer expects to be present. Finally `clone()` function should return a copy of the renderer.

Like with symbol layers, it is possible to attach a GUI for configuration of the renderer. It has to be derived from `QgsRendererV2Widget`. The following sample code creates a button that allows user to set symbol of the first symbol

```
class RandomRendererWidget(QgsRendererV2Widget):
  def __init__(self, layer, style, renderer):
    QgsRendererV2Widget.__init__(self, layer, style)
    if renderer is None or renderer.type() != "RandomRenderer":
      self.r = RandomRenderer()
    else:
      self.r = renderer
    # setup UI
    self.btn1 = QgsColorButtonV2("Color 1")
    self.btn1.setColor(self.r.syms[0].color())
    self.vbox = QVBoxLayout()
    self.vbox.addWidget(self.btn1)
    self.setLayout(self.vbox)
    self.connect(self.btn1, SIGNAL("clicked()"), self.setColor1)

  def setColor1(self):
    color = QColorDialog.getColor(self.r.syms[0].color(), self)
    if not color.isValid(): return
    self.r.syms[0].setColor(color);
    self.btn1.setColor(self.r.syms[0].color())

  def renderer(self):
    return self.r
```

The constructor receives instances of the active layer (`QgsVectorLayer`), the global style (`QgsStyleV2`) and current renderer. If there is no renderer or the renderer has different type, it will be replaced with our new renderer, otherwise we will use the current renderer (which has already the type we need). The widget contents should be updated to show current state of the renderer. When the renderer dialog is accepted, widget's `renderer()` method is called to get the current renderer — it will be assigned to the layer.

The last missing bit is the renderer metadata and registration in registry, otherwise loading of layers with the renderer will not work and user will not be able to select it from the list of renderers. Let us finish our RandomRenderer example

```
class RandomRendererMetadata(QgsRendererV2AbstractMetadata):
  def __init__(self):
    QgsRendererV2AbstractMetadata.__init__(self, "RandomRenderer", "Random renderer")

  def createRenderer(self, element):
    return RandomRenderer()
  def createRendererWidget(self, layer, style, renderer):
    return RandomRendererWidget(layer, style, renderer)

QgsRendererV2Registry.instance().addRenderer(RandomRendererMetadata())
```

Similarly as with symbol layers, abstract metadata constructor awaits renderer name, name visible for users and optionally name of renderer's icon. `createRenderer()` method passes `QDomElement` instance that can be used to restore renderer's state from DOM tree. `createRendererWidget()` method creates the configuration widget. It does not have to be present or can return *None* if the renderer does not come with GUI.

To associate an icon with the renderer you can assign it in `QgsRendererV2AbstractMetadata` constructor as a third (optional) argument — the base class constructor in the RandomRendererMetadata `__init__()` function becomes

```
QgsRendererV2AbstractMetadata.__init__(self,
       "RandomRenderer",
       "Random renderer",
       QIcon(QPixmap("RandomRendererIcon.png", "png")))
```

The icon can be associated also at any later time using `setIcon()` method of the metadata class. The icon can be loaded from a file (as shown above) or can be loaded from a Qt resource (PyQt4 includes .qrc compiler for Python).

5.10 Further Topics

TODO: creating/modifying symbols working with style (`QgsStyleV2`) working with color ramps (`QgsVectorColorRampV2`) rule-based renderer (see this blogpost) exploring symbol layer and renderer registries

Gestione della Geometria

Ci si riferisce comunemente a punti, linee e poligoni che rappresentano una caratteristica spaziale come geometrie. In QGIS sono rappresentate tramite la classe `QgsGeometry`. Tutti i possibili tipi di geometria sono mostrati nella pagina di discussione JST.

Alcune volte una geometria é effettivamente una collezione di geometrie (parti singole) piú semplici. Se contiene un tipo di geometria semplice, la chiameremo punti multipli, string multi linea o poligoni multipli. Ad esempio, un Paese formato da piú isole puó essere rappresentato come un poligono multiplo.

Le coordinate delle geometrie possono essere in qualsiasi sistema di riferimento delle coordinate (CRS). Quando si estraggono delle caratteristiche da un vettore, le geometrie associate avranno le coordinate nel CRS del vettore.

6.1 Costruzione della Geometria

Esistono diverse opzioni per creare una geometria:

- dalle coordinate

  ```
  gPnt = QgsGeometry.fromPoint(QgsPoint(1,1))
  gLine = QgsGeometry.fromPolyline([QgsPoint(1, 1), QgsPoint(2, 2)])
  gPolygon = QgsGeometry.fromPolygon([[QgsPoint(1, 1), QgsPoint(2, 2), QgsPoint(2, 1)]])
  ```

  Le coordinate vengono fornite utilizzando la classe `QgsPoint`.

  Una polilinea (linestring) é rappresentata da una lista di punti. Un poligono é rappresentato da una lista di anelli lineari (i.e. linee chiuse). Il primo anello é l'anello esterno (confine), gli altri anelli opzionali sono buchi nel poligono.

  Le geometrie a parti multiple vanno ad un livello successivo: punti multipli é una lista di punti, una stringa multi linea é una linea di linee ed un poligono multiplo é una lista di poligoni.

- da well-known text (WKT)

  ```
  gem = QgsGeometry.fromWkt("POINT(3 4)")
  ```

- da well-known binary (WKB)

  ```
  g = QgsGeometry()
  g.setWkbAndOwnership(wkb, len(wkb))
  ```

6.2 Accedere alla Geometria

Come prima cosa si deve individuare il tipo di geometria, utilizzando il metodo `wkbType()` — che restituisce un valore dell'enumerazione `QGis.WkbType`

```
>>> gPnt.wkbType() == QGis.WKBPoint
True
>>> gLine.wkbType() == QGis.WKBLineString
True
>>> gPolygon.wkbType() == QGis.WKBPolygon
True
>>> gPolygon.wkbType() == QGis.WKBMultiPolygon
False
```

Come alternativa, é possibile utilizzare il metodo `type()` che restituisce uno dei valori dell'enumerazione `QGis.GeometryType`. Esiste inoltre la funzione di aiuto `isMultipart()` per capire se la geometria é multiparte o meno.

Per estrarre informazioni dalla geometria esistono delle funzioni di accesso per ogni tipo di vettore. Come usare le funzioni di accesso

```
>>> gPnt.asPoint()
(1, 1)
>>> gLine.asPolyline()
[(1, 1), (2, 2)]
>>> gPolygon.asPolygon()
[[(1, 1), (2, 2), (2, 1), (1, 1)]]
```

Nota: le tuple (x, y) non sono vere tuple, ma sono oggetti `QgsPoint`, i valori sono accessibili tramite i metodi `x()` e `y()`.

Per le geometrie multiparte esistono funzioni di accesso simili: `asMultiPoint()`, `asMultiPolyline()`, `asMultiPolygon()`.

6.3 Predicati ed Operazioni delle Geometrie

QGIS usa la libreria GEOS per operazioni avanzate sulle geometrie come i predicati (`contains()`, `intersects()`, ...) e operazioni di set (`union()`, `difference()`, ...). Inoltre la libreria calcola le proprietá geometriche della geometria come l'area (nel caso di poligoni) o le lunghezze (per linee e poligoni)

Di seguito un piccolo esempio che combina l'iterazione sulle caratteristiche di un vettore e l'esecuzione di alcuni calcoli geometrici basati sulle loro geometrie.

```
# we assume that 'layer' is a polygon layer
features = layer.getFeatures()
for f in features:
  geom = f.geometry()
  print "Area:", geom.area()
  print "Perimeter:", geom.length()
```

Aree e perimetri non considerano il CRS quando vengono calcolate utilizzando questi metodi della classe `QgsGeometry`. Per un calcolo piú potente di area e distanza si puó utilizzare la classe `QgsDistanceArea`. Se le proiezioni vengono spente, i calcoli saranno planari, altrimenti verranno eseguiti sull'ellissoide. Quando un ellissoide non viene specificato si utilizzano i parametri del WGS84 per i calcoli.

```
d = QgsDistanceArea()
d.setProjectionsEnabled(True)

print "distance in meters: ", d.measureLine(QgsPoint(10,10),QgsPoint(11,11))
```

É possibile trovare molti esempi di algoritmi che sono inclusi in QGIS ed utilizzare questi metodi per analizzare e trasformare i dati vettoriali. Di seguito i link al codice di alcuni di questi.

É possibile trovare ulteriori informazioni alle seguenti fonti:

- Trasformazione di geometria: Algoritmo di riproiezione
- Distanza ed area utilizzando la classe `QgsDistanceArea`: Algoritmo matrice distanza

- Algoritmo da parti multiple a parte singola

CHAPTER 7

Supporto alle proiezioni

7.1 Coordinate reference systems

Coordinate reference systems (CRS) are encapsulated by `QgsCoordinateReferenceSystem` class. Instances of this class can be created by several different ways:

- specify CRS by its ID

  ```
  # PostGIS SRID 4326 is allocated for WGS84
  crs = QgsCoordinateReferenceSystem(4326, QgsCoordinateReferenceSystem.PostgisCrsId)
  ```

  QGIS uses three different IDs for every reference system:

  – `PostgisCrsId` — IDs used within PostGIS databases.

  – `InternalCrsId` — IDs internally used in QGIS database.

  – `EpsgCrsId` — IDs assigned by the EPSG organization

  If not specified otherwise in second parameter, PostGIS SRID is used by default.

- specify CRS by its well-known text (WKT)

  ```
  wkt = 'GEOGCS["WGS84", DATUM["WGS84", SPHEROID["WGS84", 6378137.0, 298.257223563]],'
         PRIMEM["Greenwich", 0.0], UNIT["degree",0.017453292519943295],'
         AXIS["Longitude",EAST], AXIS["Latitude",NORTH]]'
  crs = QgsCoordinateReferenceSystem(wkt)
  ```

- create invalid CRS and then use one of the `create*()` functions to initialize it. In following example we use Proj4 string to initialize the projection

  ```
  crs = QgsCoordinateReferenceSystem()
  crs.createFromProj4("+proj=longlat +ellps=WGS84 +datum=WGS84 +no_defs")
  ```

It's wise to check whether creation (i.e. lookup in the database) of the CRS has been successful: `isValid()` must return `True`.

Note that for initialization of spatial reference systems QGIS needs to look up appropriate values in its internal database `srs.db`. Thus in case you create an independent application you need to set paths correctly with `QgsApplication.setPrefixPath()` otherwise it will fail to find the database. If you are running the commands from QGIS python console or developing a plugin you do not care: everything is already set up for you.

Accessing spatial reference system information

```
print "QGIS CRS ID:", crs.srsid()
print "PostGIS SRID:", crs.srid()
print "EPSG ID:", crs.epsg()
print "Description:", crs.description()
print "Projection Acronym:", crs.projectionAcronym()
```

```
print "Ellipsoid Acronym:", crs.ellipsoidAcronym()
print "Proj4 String:", crs.proj4String()
# check whether it’s geographic or projected coordinate system
print "Is geographic:", crs.geographicFlag()
# check type of map units in this CRS (values defined in QGis::units enum)
print "Map units:", crs.mapUnits()
```

7.2 Projections

You can do transformation between different spatial reference systems by using `QgsCoordinateTransform` class. The easiest way to use it is to create source and destination CRS and construct `QgsCoordinateTransform` instance with them. Then just repeatedly call `transform()` function to do the transformation. By default it does forward transformation, but it is capable to do also inverse transformation

```
crsSrc = QgsCoordinateReferenceSystem(4326)    # WGS 84
crsDest = QgsCoordinateReferenceSystem(32633)  # WGS 84 / UTM zone 33N
xform = QgsCoordinateTransform(crsSrc, crsDest)

# forward transformation: src -> dest
pt1 = xform.transform(QgsPoint(18,5))
print "Transformed point:", pt1

# inverse transformation: dest -> src
pt2 = xform.transform(pt1, QgsCoordinateTransform.ReverseTransform)
print "Transformed back:", pt2
```

CHAPTER 8

Area di mappa

The Map canvas widget is probably the most important widget within QGIS because it shows the map composed from overlaid map layers and allows interaction with the map and layers. The canvas shows always a part of the map defined by the current canvas extent. The interaction is done through the use of **map tools**: there are tools for panning, zooming, identifying layers, measuring, vector editing and others. Similar to other graphics programs, there is always one tool active and the user can switch between the available tools.

Map canvas is implemented as `QgsMapCanvas` class in `qgis.gui` module. The implementation is based on the Qt Graphics View framework. This framework generally provides a surface and a view where custom graphics items are placed and user can interact with them. We will assume that you are familiar enough with Qt to understand the concepts of the graphics scene, view and items. If not, please make sure to read the overview of the framework.

Whenever the map has been panned, zoomed in/out (or some other action triggers a refresh), the map is rendered again within the current extent. The layers are rendered to an image (using `QgsMapRenderer` class) and that image is then displayed in the canvas. The graphics item (in terms of the Qt graphics view framework) responsible for showing the map is `QgsMapCanvasMap` class. This class also controls refreshing of the rendered map. Besides this item which acts as a background, there may be more **map canvas items**. Typical map canvas items are rubber bands (used for measuring, vector editing etc.) or vertex markers. The canvas items are usually used to give some visual feedback for map tools, for example, when creating a new polygon, the map tool creates a rubber band canvas item that shows the current shape of the polygon. All map canvas items are subclasses of `QgsMapCanvasItem` which adds some more functionality to the basic `QGraphicsItem` objects.

To summarize, the map canvas architecture consists of three concepts:

- map canvas — for viewing of the map
- map canvas items — additional items that can be displayed in map canvas
- map tools — for interaction with map canvas

8.1 Embedding Map Canvas

Map canvas is a widget like any other Qt widget, so using it is as simple as creating and showing it

```
canvas = QgsMapCanvas()
canvas.show()
```

This produces a standalone window with map canvas. It can be also embedded into an existing widget or window. When using .ui files and Qt Designer, place a `QWidget` on the form and promote it to a new class: set `QgsMapCanvas` as class name and set `qgis.gui` as header file. The `pyuic4` utility will take care of it. This is a very convenient way of embedding the canvas. The other possibility is to manually write the code to construct map canvas and other widgets (as children of a main window or dialog) and create a layout.

By default, map canvas has black background and does not use anti-aliasing. To set white background and enable anti-aliasing for smooth rendering

```
canvas.setCanvasColor(Qt.white)
canvas.enableAntiAliasing(True)
```

(In case you are wondering, `Qt` comes from `PyQt4.QtCore` module and `Qt.white` is one of the predefined `QColor` instances.)

Now it is time to add some map layers. We will first open a layer and add it to the map layer registry. Then we will set the canvas extent and set the list of layers for canvas

```
layer = QgsVectorLayer(path, name, provider)
if not layer.isValid():
  raise IOError, "Failed to open the layer"

# add layer to the registry
QgsMapLayerRegistry.instance().addMapLayer(layer)

# set extent to the extent of our layer
canvas.setExtent(layer.extent())

# set the map canvas layer set
canvas.setLayerSet([QgsMapCanvasLayer(layer)])
```

After executing these commands, the canvas should show the layer you have loaded.

8.2 Using Map Tools with Canvas

The following example constructs a window that contains a map canvas and basic map tools for map panning and zooming. Actions are created for activation of each tool: panning is done with `QgsMapToolPan`, zooming in/out with a pair of `QgsMapToolZoom` instances. The actions are set as checkable and later assigned to the tools to allow automatic handling of checked/unchecked state of the actions – when a map tool gets activated, its action is marked as selected and the action of the previous map tool is deselected. The map tools are activated using `setMapTool()` method.

```
from qgis.gui import *
from PyQt4.QtGui import QAction, QMainWindow
from PyQt4.QtCore import SIGNAL, Qt, QString

class MyWnd(QMainWindow):
  def __init__(self, layer):
    QMainWindow.__init__(self)

    self.canvas = QgsMapCanvas()
    self.canvas.setCanvasColor(Qt.white)

    self.canvas.setExtent(layer.extent())
    self.canvas.setLayerSet([QgsMapCanvasLayer(layer)])

    self.setCentralWidget(self.canvas)

    actionZoomIn = QAction(QString("Zoom in"), self)
    actionZoomOut = QAction(QString("Zoom out"), self)
    actionPan = QAction(QString("Pan"), self)

    actionZoomIn.setCheckable(True)
    actionZoomOut.setCheckable(True)
    actionPan.setCheckable(True)

    self.connect(actionZoomIn, SIGNAL("triggered()"), self.zoomIn)
    self.connect(actionZoomOut, SIGNAL("triggered()"), self.zoomOut)
    self.connect(actionPan, SIGNAL("triggered()"), self.pan)
    self.toolbar = self.addToolBar("Canvas actions")
    self.toolbar.addAction(actionZoomIn)
    self.toolbar.addAction(actionZoomOut)
    self.toolbar.addAction(actionPan)

    # create the map tools
    self.toolPan = QgsMapToolPan(self.canvas)
    self.toolPan.setAction(actionPan)
    self.toolZoomIn = QgsMapToolZoom(self.canvas, False) # false = in
    self.toolZoomIn.setAction(actionZoomIn)
    self.toolZoomOut = QgsMapToolZoom(self.canvas, True) # true = out
    self.toolZoomOut.setAction(actionZoomOut)

    self.pan()

  def zoomIn(self):
    self.canvas.setMapTool(self.toolZoomIn)

  def zoomOut(self):
    self.canvas.setMapTool(self.toolZoomOut)

  def pan(self):
    self.canvas.setMapTool(self.toolPan)
```

You can put the above code to a file, e.g. `mywnd.py` and try it out in Python console within QGIS. This code will put the currently selected layer into newly created canvas

```
import mywnd
w = mywnd.MyWnd(qgis.utils.iface.activeLayer())
w.show()
```

Just make sure that the `mywnd.py` file is located within Python search path (`sys.path`). If it isn't, you can simply add it: `sys.path.insert(0, '/my/path')` — otherwise the import statement will fail, not finding the module.

8.3 Rubber Bands and Vertex Markers

To show some additional data on top of the map in canvas, use map canvas items. It is possible to create custom canvas item classes (covered below), however there are two useful canvas item classes for convenience: `QgsRubberBand` for drawing polylines or polygons, and `QgsVertexMarker` for drawing points. They both work with map coordinates, so the shape is moved/scaled automatically when the canvas is being panned or zoomed.

To show a polyline

```
r = QgsRubberBand(canvas, False)  # False = not a polygon
points = [QgsPoint(-1, -1), QgsPoint(0, 1), QgsPoint(1, -1)]
r.setToGeometry(QgsGeometry.fromPolyline(points), None)
```

To show a polygon

```
r = QgsRubberBand(canvas, True)  # True = a polygon
points = [[QgsPoint(-1, -1), QgsPoint(0, 1), QgsPoint(1, -1)]]
r.setToGeometry(QgsGeometry.fromPolygon(points), None)
```

Note that points for polygon is not a plain list: in fact, it is a list of rings containing linear rings of the polygon: first ring is the outer border, further (optional) rings correspond to holes in the polygon.

Rubber bands allow some customization, namely to change their color and line width

```
r.setColor(QColor(0, 0, 255))
r.setWidth(3)
```

The canvas items are bound to the canvas scene. To temporarily hide them (and show again, use the `hide()` and `show()` combo. To completely remove the item, you have to remove it from the scene of the canvas

```
canvas.scene().removeItem(r)
```

(in C++ it's possible to just delete the item, however in Python `del r` would just delete the reference and the object will still exist as it is owned by the canvas)

Rubber band can be also used for drawing points, however `QgsVertexMarker` class is better suited for this (`QgsRubberBand` would only draw a rectangle around the desired point). How to use the vertex marker

```
m = QgsVertexMarker(canvas)
m.setCenter(QgsPoint(0, 0))
```

This will draw a red cross on position [0,0]. It is possible to customize the icon type, size, color and pen width

```
m.setColor(QColor(0, 255, 0))
m.setIconSize(5)
m.setIconType(QgsVertexMarker.ICON_BOX) # or ICON_CROSS, ICON_X
m.setPenWidth(3)
```

For temporary hiding of vertex markers and removing them from canvas, the same applies as for the rubber bands.

8.4 Writing Custom Map Tools

You can write your custom tools, to implement a custom behaviour to actions performed by users on the canvas.

Map tools should inherit from the `QgsMapTool` class or any derived class, and selected as active tools in the canvas using the `setMapTool()` method as we have already seen.

Here is an example of a map tool that allows to define a rectangular extent by clicking and dragging on the canvas. When the rectangle is defined, it prints its boundary coordinates in the console. It uses the rubber band elements described before to show the selected rectangle as it is being defined.

```
class RectangleMapTool(QgsMapToolEmitPoint):
  def __init__(self, canvas):
      self.canvas = canvas
      QgsMapToolEmitPoint.__init__(self, self.canvas)
      self.rubberBand = QgsRubberBand(self.canvas, QGis.Polygon)
      self.rubberBand.setColor(Qt.red)
      self.rubberBand.setWidth(1)
      self.reset()

  def reset(self):
      self.startPoint = self.endPoint = None
      self.isEmittingPoint = False
      self.rubberBand.reset(QGis.Polygon)

  def canvasPressEvent(self, e):
      self.startPoint = self.toMapCoordinates(e.pos())
      self.endPoint = self.startPoint
      self.isEmittingPoint = True
      self.showRect(self.startPoint, self.endPoint)

  def canvasReleaseEvent(self, e):
      self.isEmittingPoint = False
      r = self.rectangle()
      if r is not None:
        print "Rectangle:", r.xMinimum(), r.yMinimum(), r.xMaximum(), r.yMaximum()

  def canvasMoveEvent(self, e):
      if not self.isEmittingPoint:
        return
      self.endPoint = self.toMapCoordinates(e.pos())
      self.showRect(self.startPoint, self.endPoint)

  def showRect(self, startPoint, endPoint):
      self.rubberBand.reset(QGis.Polygon)
      if startPoint.x() == endPoint.x() or startPoint.y() == endPoint.y():
        return

      point1 = QgsPoint(startPoint.x(), startPoint.y())
      point2 = QgsPoint(startPoint.x(), endPoint.y())
      point3 = QgsPoint(endPoint.x(), endPoint.y())
      point4 = QgsPoint(endPoint.x(), startPoint.y())

      self.rubberBand.addPoint(point1, False)
      self.rubberBand.addPoint(point2, False)
      self.rubberBand.addPoint(point3, False)
      self.rubberBand.addPoint(point4, True)    # true to update canvas
      self.rubberBand.show()

  def rectangle(self):
      if self.startPoint is None or self.endPoint is None:
        return None
      elif self.startPoint.x() == self.endPoint.x() or self.startPoint.y() == self.endPoint.y():
        return None

      return QgsRectangle(self.startPoint, self.endPoint)

  def deactivate(self):
      QgsMapTool.deactivate(self)
      self.emit(SIGNAL("deactivated()"))
```

8.5 Writing Custom Map Canvas Items

TODO: how to create a map canvas item

```
import sys
from qgis.core import QgsApplication
from qgis.gui import QgsMapCanvas

def init():
  a = QgsApplication(sys.argv, True)
  QgsApplication.setPrefixPath(’/home/martin/qgis/inst’, True)
  QgsApplication.initQgis()
  return a

def show_canvas(app):
  canvas = QgsMapCanvas()
  canvas.show()
  app.exec_()
app = init()
show_canvas(app)
```

CHAPTER 9

Visualizzazione e Stampa di una Mappa

Esistono generalmente due approcci per visualizzare i dati come mappa: o in modo veloce utilizzando `QgsMapRenderer` oppure producendo un risultato piú raffinato componendo la mappa con la classe `QgsComposition`.

9.1 Visualizzazione Semplice

Visualizzare alcuni layer utilizzando `QgsMapRenderer` — create il dispositivo di destinazione (`QImage`, `QPainter` etc.), configurare l'insieme di layer, dimensione del risultato ed eseguire la visualizzazione

```
# create image
img = QImage(QSize(800, 600), QImage.Format_ARGB32_Premultiplied)

# set image's background color
color = QColor(255, 255, 255)
img.fill(color.rgb())

# create painter
p = QPainter()
p.begin(img)
p.setRenderHint(QPainter.Antialiasing)

render = QgsMapRenderer()

# set layer set
lst = [layer.getLayerID()]  # add ID of every layer
render.setLayerSet(lst)

# set extent
rect = QgsRect(render.fullExtent())
rect.scale(1.1)
render.setExtent(rect)

# set output size
render.setOutputSize(img.size(), img.logicalDpiX())

# do the rendering
render.render(p)

p.end()

# save image
img.save("render.png","png")
```

9.2 Visualizzare layer con diversi SR

Nel caso in cui si abbia piú di un layer con un diverso SR, il semplice esempio precedente probabilmente non funzionerá: per ottenere i valori corretti dai calcoli dell'estensione si dovrá impostare esplicitamente l'SR di destinazione ed abilitare la riproiezione OTF come nel prossimo esempio (dove viene riportata unicamente la parte di visualizzazione)

```
...
# set layer set
layers = QgsMapLayerRegistry.instance().mapLayers()
lst = layers.keys()
render.setLayerSet(lst)

# Set destination CRS to match the CRS of the first layer
render.setDestinationCrs(layers.values()[0].crs())
# Enable OTF reprojection
render.setProjectionsEnabled(True)
...
```

9.3 Risultato utilizzando il Compositore di Stampe

Il compositore di mappe é uno strumento molto utile nel caso in cui si voglia produrre un risultato piú sofisticato rispetto alla semplice visualizzazione mostrata sopra. Utilizzando il compositore é possibile creare composizioni di mappe complesse composte da viste, etichette, legenda, tabelle ed altri elementi che sono solitamente presenti sulle mappe cartacee. La composizione puó essere esportata in PDF, immagini raster o stampata direttamente tramite una stampante.

The composer consists of a bunch of classes. They all belong to the core library. QGIS application has a convenient GUI for placement of the elements, though it is not available in the GUI library. If you are not familiar with Qt Graphics View framework, then you are encouraged to check the documentation now, because the composer is based on it.

La classe principale del composer é `QgsComposition` che deriva da `QGraphicsScene`. Creiamone una

```
mapRenderer = iface.mapCanvas().mapRenderer()
c = QgsComposition(mapRenderer)
c.setPlotStyle(QgsComposition.Print)
```

Si noti che la composizione prende un'istanza di `QgsMapRenderer`. Il codice viene eseguito all'interno dell'applicazione QGIS e quindi utilizza la visualizzazione della mappa. La composizione utilizza diversi parametri della visualizzazione della mappa, soprattutto l'insieme predefinito di mappe e l'estensione corrente. Quando si utilizza il compositore in un'applicazione standalone, é possibile creare la propria istanza di mappa nello stesso modo mostrato nella sezione di cui sopra e passarla alla composizione.

É possibile aggiungere vari elementi (mappa. etichetta, ...) alla composizione — questi elementi devono essere discendenti della classe `QgsComposerItem`. Gli elementi attualmente supportati sono:

- mappa — questo elemento dice alle librerie dove posizionare la mappa stessa. Qui creiamo una mappa e la stiriamo sull'intera pagina

  ```
  x, y = 0, 0
  w, h = c.paperWidth(), c.paperHeight()
  composerMap = QgsComposerMap(c, x ,y, w, h)
  c.addItem(composerMap)
  ```

- etichetta — permetta la visualizzazione di etichette. É possibile modificarne il carattere, colore, allineamento e margine

  ```
  composerLabel = QgsComposerLabel(c)
  composerLabel.setText("Hello world")
  ```

```
composerLabel.adjustSizeToText()
c.addItem(composerLabel)
```

- legenda

```
legend = QgsComposerLegend(c)
legend.model().setLayerSet(mapRenderer.layerSet())
c.addItem(legend)
```

- barra di scala

```
item = QgsComposerScaleBar(c)
item.setStyle('Numeric') # optionally modify the style
item.setComposerMap(composerMap)
item.applyDefaultSize()
c.addItem(item)
```

- freccia
- immagine
- forma
- tabella

Come parametro predefinito il compositore appena creato ha posizione zero (angolo in alto a sinistra della pagina) e dimensione zero. La posizione e la dimensione sono sempre misurate in millimetri

```
# set label 1cm from the top and 2cm from the left of the page
composerLabel.setItemPosition(20, 10)
# set both label's position and size (width 10cm, height 3cm)
composerLabel.setItemPosition(20, 10, 100, 30)
```

Una cornice viene disegnata attorno ad ogni elemento da impostazione predefinita. Come rimuovere la cornice

```
composerLabel.setFrame(False)
```

Oltre a creare gli elementi del compositore manualmente, QGIS fornisce il supporto per i modelli del compositore, che sono essenzialmente delle composizioni aventi tutti gli elementi salvati in un file .qpt (con sintassi XML). Purtroppo questa funzionalitá non é ancora disponibile nelle API.

Una volta che la composizione é pronta (gli elementi del compositore sono stati creati ed aggiunti alla composizione), possiamo procedere alla creazione di un risultato raster e/o vettoriale.

Le impostazioni predefinite del risultato per la composizione sono il formato di pagina A4 e risoluzione 300 DPI. É possibile cambiarle se necessario. La dimensione della pagina é specificata in millimetri

```
c.setPaperSize(width, height)
c.setPrintResolution(dpi)
```

9.3.1 Esportare come immagine raster

Il seguente frammento di codice mostra come visualizzare una composizione come immagine raster

```
dpi = c.printResolution()
dpmm = dpi / 25.4
width = int(dpmm * c.paperWidth())
height = int(dpmm * c.paperHeight())

# create output image and initialize it
image = QImage(QSize(width, height), QImage.Format_ARGB32)
image.setDotsPerMeterX(dpmm * 1000)
image.setDotsPerMeterY(dpmm * 1000)
image.fill(0)
```

```
# render the composition
imagePainter = QPainter(image)
sourceArea = QRectF(0, 0, c.paperWidth(), c.paperHeight())
targetArea = QRectF(0, 0, width, height)
c.render(imagePainter, targetArea, sourceArea)
imagePainter.end()

image.save("out.png", "png")
```

9.3.2 Esportare come PDF

Il seguente frammento di codice visualizza la composizione come file PDF

```
printer = QPrinter()
printer.setOutputFormat(QPrinter.PdfFormat)
printer.setOutputFileName("out.pdf")
printer.setPaperSize(QSizeF(c.paperWidth(), c.paperHeight()), QPrinter.Millimeter)
printer.setFullPage(True)
printer.setColorMode(QPrinter.Color)
printer.setResolution(c.printResolution())

pdfPainter = QPainter(printer)
paperRectMM = printer.pageRect(QPrinter.Millimeter)
paperRectPixel = printer.pageRect(QPrinter.DevicePixel)
c.render(pdfPainter, paperRectPixel, paperRectMM)
pdfPainter.end()
```

CHAPTER 10

Espressioni, Filtraggio e Calcolo di Valori

QGIS has some support for parsing of SQL-like expressions. Only a small subset of SQL syntax is supported. The expressions can be evaluated either as boolean predicates (returning True or False) or as functions (returning a scalar value).

Sono supportati tre tipi base:

- numero – sia numeri interi che decimali, e.g. `123`, `3.14`
- stringa – devono essere racchiuse tra apici singoli: `'hello world'`
- riferimento a colonna – durante la valutazione, il riferimento é sostituito con il valore del campo. I nomi non sono racchiusi tra apici.

Sono disponibili le seguenti operazioni:

- operatori aritmetici: `+`, `-`, `*`, `/`, `^`
- parentesi: per forzare la precedenza tra operatori: `(1 + 1) * 3`
- somma e sottrazione unari: `-12`, `+5`
- funzioni matematiche: `sqrt`, `sin`, `cos`, `tan`, `asin`, `acos`, `atan`
- funzioni sulla geometria: `$area`, `$length`
- conversion functions: `to int`,`to real`,`to string`

Sono supportati i seguenti predicati:

- comparazione: =, !=, >, >=, <, <=
- pattern matching: `LIKE` (usando % e _), ~ (espressioni regolari)
- predicati logici: `AND`, `OR`, `NOT`
- controllo di valori NULL: `IS NULL`, `IS NOT NULL`

Esempi di predicati:

- `1 + 2 = 3`
- `sin(angolo) > 0`
- `'Hello' LIKE 'He%'`
- `(x > 10 AND y > 10) OR z = 0`

Esempi di espressioni scalari:

- `2 ^ 10`
- `sqrt(val)`
- `$length + 1`

10.1 Analisi di Espressioni

```
>>> exp = QgsExpression('1 + 1 = 2')
>>> exp.hasParserError()
False
>>> exp = QgsExpression('1 + 1 = ')
>>> exp.hasParserError()
True
>>> exp.parserErrorString()
PyQt4.QtCore.QString(u'syntax error, unexpected $end')
```

10.2 Valutazione di Espressioni

10.2.1 Espressioni Base

```
>>> exp = QgsExpression('1 + 1 = 2')
>>> value = exp.evaluate()
>>> value
1
```

10.2.2 Espressioni con geometrie

L'esempio seguente valuterá l'espressione data su una geometria. "Column" é il nome del campo del layer.

```
>>> exp = QgsExpression('Column = 99')
>>> value = exp.evaluate(feature, layer.pendingFields())
>>> bool(value)
True
```

Si puó anche utilizzare `QgsExpression.prepare()` per controllare piú di una geometria. L'utilizzo di `QgsExpression.prepare()` aumenterá la velocitá della valutazione.

```
>>> exp = QgsExpression('Column = 99')
>>> exp.prepare(layer.pendingFields())
>>> value = exp.evaluate(feature)
>>> bool(value)
True
```

10.2.3 Gestione degli errori

```
exp = QgsExpression("1 + 1 = 2 ")
if exp.hasParserError():
  raise Exception(exp.parserErrorString())

value = exp.evaluate()
if exp.hasEvalError():
  raise ValueError(exp.evalErrorString())

print value
```

10.3 Esempi

L'esempio seguente puó essere usato per filtrare un layer e restituire qualsiasi geometria che soddisfi il predicato.

```
def where(layer, exp):
  print "Where"
  exp = QgsExpression(exp)
  if exp.hasParserError():
    raise Exception(exp.parserErrorString())
  exp.prepare(layer.pendingFields())
  for feature in layer.getFeatures():
    value = exp.evaluate(feature)
    if exp.hasEvalError():
      raise ValueError(exp.evalErrorString())
    if bool(value):
      yield feature

layer = qgis.utils.iface.activeLayer()
for f in where(layer, 'Test > 1.0'):
  print f + " Matches expression"
```

Reading And Storing Settings

Many times it is useful for a plugin to save some variables so that the user does not have to enter or select them again next time the plugin is run.

These variables can be saved and retrieved with help of Qt and QGIS API. For each variable, you should pick a key that will be used to access the variable — for user's favourite color you could use key "favourite_color" or any other meaningful string. It is recommended to give some structure to naming of keys.

We can make difference between several types of settings:

- **global settings** — they are bound to the user at particular machine. QGIS itself stores a lot of global settings, for example, main window size or default snapping tolerance. This functionality is provided directly by Qt framework by the means of `QSettings` class. By default, this class stores settings in system's "native" way of storing settings, that is — registry (on Windows), .plist file (on Mac OS X) or .ini file (on Unix). The QSettings documentation is comprehensive, so we will provide just a simple example

  ```
  def store():
    s = QSettings()
    s.setValue("myplugin/mytext", "hello world")
    s.setValue("myplugin/myint",  10)
    s.setValue("myplugin/myreal", 3.14)

  def read():
    s = QSettings()
    mytext = s.value("myplugin/mytext", "default text")
    myint  = s.value("myplugin/myint", 123)
    myreal = s.value("myplugin/myreal", 2.71)
  ```

  The second parameter of the `value()` method is optional and specifies the default value if there is no previous value set for the passed setting name.

- **project settings** — vary between different projects and therefore they are connected with a project file. Map canvas background color or destination coordinate reference system (CRS) are examples — white background and WGS84 might be suitable for one project, while yellow background and UTM projection are better for another one. An example of usage follows

  ```
  proj = QgsProject.instance()

  # store values
  proj.writeEntry("myplugin", "mytext", "hello world")
  proj.writeEntry("myplugin", "myint", 10)
  proj.writeEntry("myplugin", "mydouble", 0.01)
  proj.writeEntry("myplugin", "mybool", True)

  # read values
  mytext = proj.readEntry("myplugin", "mytext", "default text")[0]
  myint = proj.readNumEntry("myplugin", "myint", 123)[0]
  ```

As you can see, the `writeEntry()` method is used for all data types, but several methods exist for reading the setting value back, and the corresponding one has to be selected for each data type.

- **map layer settings** — these settings are related to a particular instance of a map layer with a project. They are *not* connected with underlying data source of a layer, so if you create two map layer instances of one shapefile, they will not share the settings. The settings are stored in project file, so if the user opens the project again, the layer-related settings will be there again. This functionality has been added in QGIS v1.4. The API is similar to QSettings — it takes and returns QVariant instances

```
# save a value
layer.setCustomProperty("mytext", "hello world")

# read the value again
mytext = layer.customProperty("mytext", "default text")
```

CHAPTER 12

Comunicare con l’utente

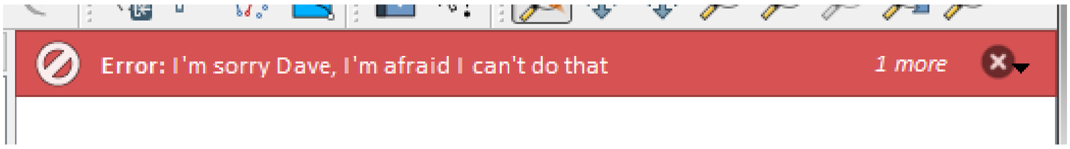
Questa sezione mostra alcuni metodi ed elementi che dovrebbero essere usati per comunicare con l’utente, in modo da mantenere la consistenza nell’interfaccia utente.

12.1 Mostrare i messaggi. La classe class:*QgsMessageBar*.

Utilizzare il box dei messaggi potrebbe essere una cattiva idea dal punto di vista dell’esperienza utente. Solitamente, per mostrare un messaggio di informazione o di errore/avvertimento, la barra dei messaggi di QGIS é l’opzione migliore.

Utilizzando il riferimento all’oggetto interfaccia di QGIS, é possibile mostrare un messaggio nell barra dei messaggi utilizzando il seguente codice

```
iface.messageBar().pushMessage("Error", "I’m sorry Dave, I’m afraid I can’t do that", level=QgsMe
```

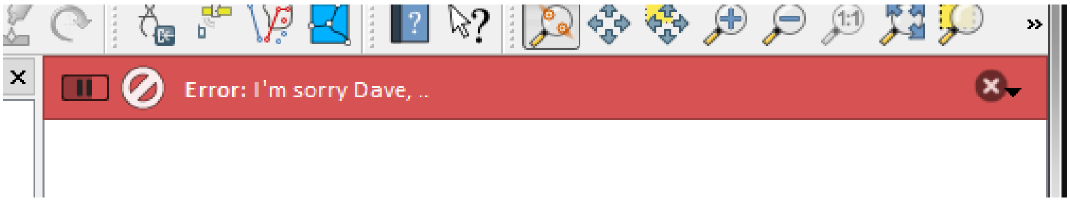


Error: I'm sorry Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that

Figure 12.1: Barra dei messaggi di QGIS

É possibile impostare una durata per mostrarlo per un tempo limitato

```
iface.messageBar().pushMessage("Error", ""Ooops, the plugin is not working as it should", level=Q
```



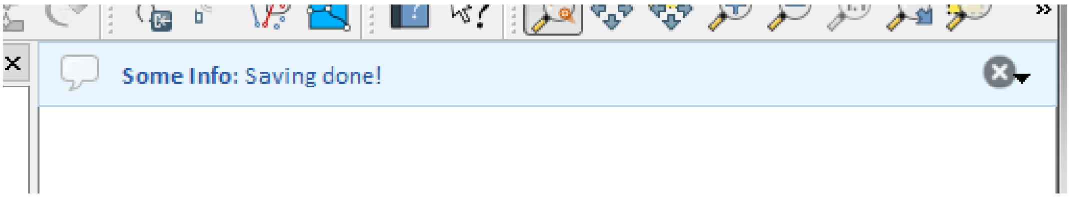
Error: I'm sorry Dave, ..

Figure 12.2: Barra dei messaggi di QGIS con timer

L’esempio precedente mostra una barra d’errore, ma il parametro `livello` puó essere usato per creare messaggi di avvertimento o di informazione, utilizzando rispettivamente le costanti `QgsMessageBar.WARNING` e *QgsMessageBar.INFO‘*.

I widget possono essere aggiunti alla barra dei messaggi, ad esempio il pulsante per mostrare piú informazioni

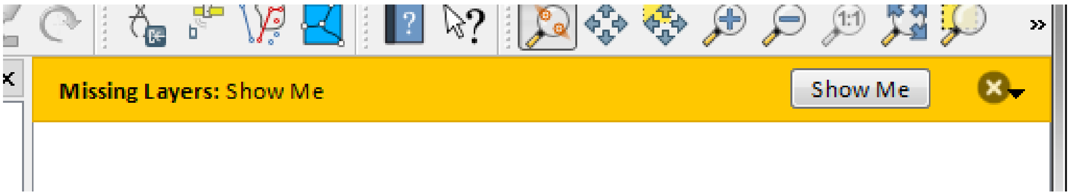
```
def showError():
    pass
```



Some Info: Saving done!

Figure 12.3: Barra dei messaggi di QGIS (informazioni)

```
widget = iface.messageBar().createMessage("Missing Layers", "Show Me")
button = QPushButton(widget)
button.setText("Show Me")
button.pressed.connect(showError)
widget.layout().addWidget(button)
iface.messageBar().pushWidget(widget, QgsMessageBar.WARNING)
```



Missing Layers: Show Me

Figure 12.4: Barra dei messaggi di QGIS con un pulsante

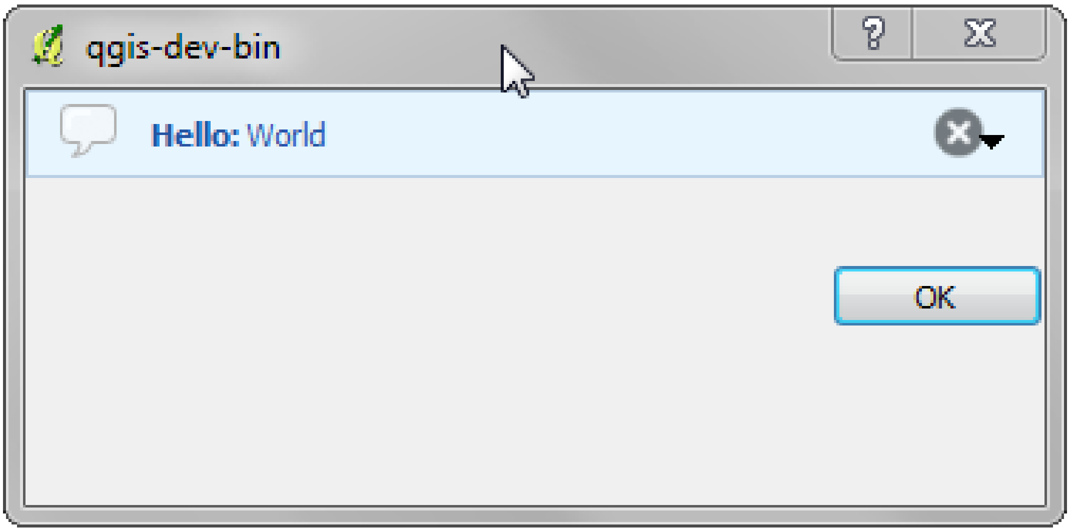
É possibile usare una barra dei messaggi nella propria finestra di dialogo senza dover mostrare una finestra di messaggi, o nel caso in cui non abbia senso mostrarla nella finestra principale di QGIS.

```
class MyDialog(QDialog):
    def __init__(self):
        QDialog.__init__(self)
        self.bar = QgsMessageBar()
        self.bar.setSizePolicy( QSizePolicy.Minimum, QSizePolicy.Fixed )
        self.setLayout(QGridLayout())
        self.layout().setContentsMargins(0, 0, 0, 0)
        self.buttonbox = QDialogButtonBox(QDialogButtonBox.Ok)
        self.buttonbox.accepted.connect(self.run)
        self.layout().addWidget(self.buttonbox, 0, 0, 2, 1)
        self.layout().addWidget(self.bar, 0, 0, 1, 1)

    def run(self):
        self.bar.pushMessage("Hello", "World", level=QgsMessageBar.INFO)
```

12.2 Mostrare l'avanzamento

Le barre di avanzamento si possono mettere anche nella barra dei messaggi di QGIS, dato che, come abbiamo visto, accetta i widget. Di seguito un esempio che potrete provare nella console.

```
import time
from PyQt4.QtGui import QProgressBar
from PyQt4.QtCore import *
progressMessageBar = iface.messageBar().createMessage("Doing something boring...")
progress = QProgressBar()
progress.setMaximum(10)
progress.setAlignment(Qt.AlignLeft|Qt.AlignVCenter)
progressMessageBar.layout().addWidget(progress)
iface.messageBar().pushWidget(progressMessageBar, iface.messageBar().INFO)
for i in range(10):
```



Hello: World

Figure 12.5: Barra dei messaggi di QGIS in una finestra di dialogo personalizzata

```
    time.sleep(1)
    progress.setValue(i + 1)
iface.messageBar().clearWidgets()
```

Inoltre é possibile utilizzare la barra di stato integrata per mostrare un progresso, come nel prossimo esempio

```
count = layers.featureCount()
for i, feature in enumerate(features):
    #do something time-consuming here
    ...
    percent = i / float(count) * 100
    iface.mainWindow().statusBar().showMessage("Processed {} %".format(int(percent)))
iface.mainWindow().statusBar().clearMessage()
```

12.3 Logging

É possibile utilizzare il sistema di logging di QGIS per annotare tutte le informazioni che riguardano l'esecuzione del codice che si vogliono salvare.

```
# You can optionally pass a 'tag' and a 'level' parameters
QgsMessageLog.logMessage("Your plugin code has been executed correctly", 'MyPlugin', QgsMessageLo
QgsMessageLog.logMessage("Your plugin code might have some problems", level=QgsMessageLog.WARNING
QgsMessageLog.logMessage("Your plugin code has crashed!", level=QgsMessageLog.CRITICAL)
```

CHAPTER 13

Sviluppare Plugin Python

É possibile creare plugin nel linguaggio di programmazione Python. A differenza dei classici plugin scritti in C++ questi dovrebbero essere piú facili da scrivere, capire, mantenere e distribuire grazie alla natura dinamica del linguaggio Python.

Python plugins are listed together with C++ plugins in QGIS plugin manager. They are searched for in these paths:

- UNIX/Mac: `~/.qgis/python/plugins` and `(qgis_prefix)/share/qgis/python/plugins`
- Windows: `~/.qgis/python/plugins` and `(qgis_prefix)/python/plugins`

Home directory (denoted by above `~`) on Windows is usually something like `C:\Documents and Settings\(user)` (on Windows XP or earlier) or `C:\Users\(user)`. Since QGIS is using Python 2.7, subdirectories of these paths have to contain an __init__.py file to be considered Python packages that can be imported as plugins.

Nota: By setting *QGIS_PLUGINPATH* to an existing directory path, you can add this path to the list of paths that are searched for plugins.

Passi:

1. *Idea*: Avere un'idea su cosa si vuole fare con il nuovo plugin QGIS. Perché lo fai? Esiste giá un altro plugin per questo problema?
2. *Create files*: Create the files described next. A starting point (`__init__.py`). Fill in the *Metadati del plugin* (`metadata.txt`) A main python plugin body (`mainplugin.py`). A form in QT-Designer (`form.ui`), with its `resources.qrc`.
3. *Write code*: Write the code inside the `mainplugin.py`
4. *Test*: Chiudi e ri-apri QGIS e importa nuovamente il tuo plugin. Controlla se tutto va bene.
5. *Publish*: Publish your plugin in QGIS repository or make your own repository as an "arsenal" of personal "GIS weapons".

13.1 Scrivere un plugin

Since the introduction of Python plugins in QGIS, a number of plugins have appeared - on Plugin Repositories wiki page you can find some of them, you can use their source to learn more about programming with PyQGIS or find out whether you are not duplicating development effort. The QGIS team also maintains an *Official python plugin repository*. Ready to create a plugin but no idea what to do? Python Plugin Ideas wiki page lists wishes from the community!

13.1.1 File del plugin

Here's the directory structure of our example plugin

```
PYTHON_PLUGINS_PATH/
  MyPlugin/
    __init__.py    --> *required*
    mainPlugin.py  --> *required*
    metadata.txt   --> *required*
    resources.qrc  --> *likely useful*
    resources.py   --> *compiled version, likely useful*
    form.ui        --> *likely useful*
    form.py        --> *compiled version, likely useful*
```

Qual é il significato dei files:

- `__init__.py` = The starting point of the plugin. It has to have the `classFactory()` method and may have any other initialisation code.
- `mainPlugin.py` = The main working code of the plugin. Contains all the information about the actions of the plugin and the main code.
- `resources.qrc` = The .xml document created by Qt Designer. Contains relative paths to resources of the forms.
- `resources.py` = La traduzione in Python del file .qrc descritto sopra.
- `form.ui` = The GUI created by Qt Designer.
- `form.py` = La traduzione in Python del file form.ui descritto sopra.
- `metadata.txt` = Required for QGIS >= 1.8.0. Containts general info, version, name and some other metadata used by plugins website and plugin infrastructure. Since QGIS 2.0 the metadata from `__init__.py` are not accepted anymore and the `metadata.txt` is required.

Here is an online automated way of creating the basic files (skeleton) of a typical QGIS Python plugin.

Also there is a QGIS plugin called Plugin Builder that creates plugin template from QGIS and doesn't require internet connection. This is the recommended option, as it produces 2.0 compatible sources.

Avvertimento: If you plan to upload the plugin to the *Official python plugin repository* you must check that your plugin follows some additional rules, required for plugin *Validation*

13.2 Contenuto del plugin

Qui puoi trovare informazioni ed esempi su cosa aggiungere in ognuno dei file nella struttura descritta sopra.

13.2.1 Metadati del plugin

First, plugin manager needs to retrieve some basic information about the plugin such as its name, description etc. File `metadata.txt` is the right place to put this information.

Importante: Tutti i metadati devono codificati in UTF-8.

Nome del metadato	Obbligatorio	Note
nome	Vero	una string contenente il nome del plugin
qgisMinimumVersion	Vero	notazione puntata della versione minima di QGIS
qgisMaximumVersion	Falso	notazione puntata della massima versione di QGIS
descrizione	Vero	short text which describes the plugin, no HTML allowed
about	Falso	longer text which describes the plugin in details, no HTML allowed
versione	Vero	stringa con la notazione puntata della versione
autore	Vero	nome dell'autore
email	Vero	email of the author, will *not* be shown on the web site
elenco cambiamenti	Falso	stringa, puó essere su piú righe, HTML non consentito
sperimentale	Falso	flag booleano, 'True ' o 'False '
dismesso	Falso	il flag booleano, *True* or *False*, si applica all'intero plugin e non solo alla versione caricata
etichette	Falso	comma separated list, spaces are allowed inside individual tags
homepage	Falso	una URL valida che punta alla homepage del plugin
repository	Falso	una URL valida per il repository del codice sorgente
tracker	Falso	una URL valida per i tickets ed i bug report
icona	Falso	a file name or a relative path (relative to the base folder of the plugin's compressed package)
categoria	Falso	uno tra *Raster*, *Vector*, *Database* e *Web*

By default, plugins are placed in the *Plugins* menu (we will see in the next section how to add a menu entry for your plugin) but they can also be placed the into *Raster*, *Vector*, *Database* and *Web* menus.

A corresponding "category" metadata entry exists to specify that, so the plugin can be classified accordingly. This metadata entry is used as tip for users and tells them where (in which menu) the plugin can be found. Allowed values for "category" are: Vector, Raster, Database or Web. For example, if your plugin will be available from *Raster* menu, add this to `metadata.txt`

```
category=Raster
```

Nota: Se *qgisMaximumVersion* é vuoto, viene automaticamente impostato alla versione maggiore piú *.99* quando viene caricato in *Official python plugin repository*.

An example for this metadata.txt

```
; the next section is mandatory

[general]
name=HelloWorld
email=me@example.com
author=Just Me
qgisMinimumVersion=2.0
description=This is an example plugin for greeting the world.
    Multiline is allowed:
    lines starting with spaces belong to the same
    field, in this case to the "description" field.
    HTML formatting is not allowed.
about=This paragraph can contain a detailed description
    of the plugin. Multiline is allowed, HTML is not.
version=version 1.2
; end of mandatory metadata

; start of optional metadata
category=Raster
changelog=The changelog lists the plugin versions
    and their changes as in the example below:
```

```
    1.0 - First stable release
    0.9 - All features implemented
    0.8 - First testing release

; Tags are in comma separated value format, spaces are allowed within the
; tag name.
; Tags should be in English language. Please also check for existing tags and
; synonyms before creating a new one.
tags=wkt,raster,hello world

; these metadata can be empty, they will eventually become mandatory.
homepage=http://www.itopen.it
tracker=http://bugs.itopen.it
repository=http://www.itopen.it/repo
icon=icon.png

; experimental flag (applies to the single version)
experimental=True

; deprecated flag (applies to the whole plugin and not only to the uploaded version)
deprecated=False

; if empty, it will be automatically set to major version + .99
qgisMaximumVersion=2.0
```

13.2.2 __init__.py

This file is required by Python's import system. Also, QGIS requires that this file contains a `classFactory()` function, which is called when the plugin gets loaded to QGIS. It receives reference to instance of `QgisInterface` and must return instance of your plugin's class from the `mainplugin.py` — in our case it's called `TestPlugin` (see below). This is how `__init__.py` should look like

```
def classFactory(iface):
  from mainPlugin import TestPlugin
  return TestPlugin(iface)

## any other initialisation needed
```

13.2.3 mainPlugin.py

This is where the magic happens and this is how magic looks like: (e.g. `mainPlugin.py`)

```
from PyQt4.QtCore import *
from PyQt4.QtGui import *
from qgis.core import *

# initialize Qt resources from file resources.py
import resources

class TestPlugin:

  def __init__(self, iface):
    # save reference to the QGIS interface
    self.iface = iface

  def initGui(self):
    # create action that will start plugin configuration
    self.action = QAction(QIcon(":/plugins/testplug/icon.png"), "Test plugin", self.iface.mainWind
    self.action.setObjectName("testAction")
    self.action.setWhatsThis("Configuration for test plugin")
    self.action.setStatusTip("This is status tip")
    QObject.connect(self.action, SIGNAL("triggered()"), self.run)

    # add toolbar button and menu item
    self.iface.addToolBarIcon(self.action)
    self.iface.addPluginToMenu("&Test plugins", self.action)

    # connect to signal renderComplete which is emitted when canvas
    # rendering is done
    QObject.connect(self.iface.mapCanvas(), SIGNAL("renderComplete(QPainter *)"), self.renderTest

  def unload(self):
    # remove the plugin menu item and icon
    self.iface.removePluginMenu("&Test plugins", self.action)
    self.iface.removeToolBarIcon(self.action)

    # disconnect form signal of the canvas
    QObject.disconnect(self.iface.mapCanvas(), SIGNAL("renderComplete(QPainter *)"), self.renderT

  def run(self):
    # create and show a configuration dialog or something similar
    print "TestPlugin: run called!"

  def renderTest(self, painter):
    # use painter for drawing to map canvas
    print "TestPlugin: renderTest called!"
```

The only plugin functions that must exist in the main plugin source file (e.g. `mainPlugin.py`) are:

- `__init__` –> which gives access to QGIS interface
- `initGui()` –> called when the plugin is loaded
- `unload()` –> called when the plugin is unloaded

You can see that in the above example, the `addPluginToMenu()` is used. This will add the corresponding menu action to the *Plugins* menu. Alternative methods exist to add the action to a different menu. Here is a list of those methods:

- `addPluginToRasterMenu()`
- `addPluginToVectorMenu()`
- `addPluginToDatabaseMenu()`
- `addPluginToWebMenu()`

Hanno tutti la stessa sintassi del metodo `addPluginToMenu()`.

Aggiungere il menu del tuo plugin ad uno di questi metodi predefiniti é raccomandato per mantenere la consistenza riguardo all'organizzazione dei plugin. É comunque possibile aggiungere un gruppo personalizzato alla barra dei menu, come dimostrato nel prossimo esempio:

```
def initGui(self):
    self.menu = QMenu(self.iface.mainWindow())
    self.menu.setObjectName("testMenu")
    self.menu.setTitle("MyMenu")

    self.action = QAction(QIcon(":/plugins/testplug/icon.png"), "Test plugin", self.iface.mainWin
    self.action.setObjectName("testAction")
    self.action.setWhatsThis("Configuration for test plugin")
    self.action.setStatusTip("This is status tip")
    QObject.connect(self.action, SIGNAL("triggered()"), self.run)
    self.menu.addAction(self.action)

    menuBar = self.iface.mainWindow().menuBar()
    menuBar.insertMenu(self.iface.firstRightStandardMenu().menuAction(), self.menu)

def unload(self):
    self.menu.deleteLater()
```

Don't forget to set `QAction` and `QMenu` `objectName` to a name specific to your plugin so that it can be customized.

13.2.4 Resource File

You can see that in `initGui()` we've used an icon from the resource file (called `resources.qrc` in our case)

```
<RCC>
  <qresource prefix="/plugins/testplug" >
     <file>icon.png</file>
  </qresource>
</RCC>
```

It is good to use a prefix that will not collide with other plugins or any parts of QGIS, otherwise you might get resources you did not want. Now you just need to generate a Python file that will contain the resources. It's done with **pyrcc4** command

```
pyrcc4 -o resources.py resources.qrc
```

And that's all... nothing complicated :)

If you've done everything correctly you should be able to find and load your plugin in the plugin manager and see a message in console when toolbar icon or appropriate menu item is selected.

When working on a real plugin it's wise to write the plugin in another (working) directory and create a makefile which will generate UI + resource files and install the plugin to your QGIS installation.

13.3 Documentazione

The documentation for the plugin can be written as HTML help files. The `qgis.utils` module provides a function, `showPluginHelp()` which will open the help file browser, in the same way as other QGIS help.

The `showPluginHelp`()` function looks for help files in the same directory as the calling module. It will look for, in turn, `index-ll_cc.html`, `index-ll.html`, `index-en.html`, `index-en_us.html` and `index.html`, displaying whichever it finds first. Here `ll_cc` is the QGIS locale. This allows multiple translations of the documentation to be included with the plugin.

The `showPluginHelp()` function can also take parameters packageName, which identifies a specific plugin for which the help will be displayed, filename, which can replace "index" in the names of files being searched, and section, which is the name of an html anchor tag in the document on which the browser will be positioned.

CHAPTER 14

IDE settings for writing and debugging plugins

Although each programmer has his preferred IDE/Text editor, here are some recommendations for setting up popular IDE's for writing and debugging QGIS Python plugins.

14.1 A note on configuring your IDE on Windows

On Linux there is no additional configuration needed to develop plug-ins. But on Windows you need to make sure you that you have the same environment settings and use the same libraries and interpreter as QGIS. The fastest way to do this, is to modify the startup batch file of QGIS.

If you used the OSGeo4W Installer, you can find this under the bin folder of your OSGoeW install. Look for something like `C:\OSGeo4W\bin\qgis-unstable.bat`.

For using Pyscripter IDE, here's what you have to do:

- Make a copy of qgis-unstable.bat and rename it pyscripter.bat.
- Open it in an editor. And remove the last line, the one that starts QGIS.
- Add a line that points to the your Pyscripter executable and add the commandline argument that sets the version of Python to be used (2.7 in the case of QGIS 2.0)
- Also add the argument that points to the folder where Pyscripter can find the Python dll used by QGIS, you can find this under the bin folder of your OSGeoW install

  ```
  @echo off
  SET OSGEO4W_ROOT=C:\OSGeo4W
  call "%OSGEO4W_ROOT%"\bin\o4w_env.bat
  call "%OSGEO4W_ROOT%"\bin\gdal16.bat
  @echo off
  path %PATH%;%GISBASE%\bin
  Start C:\pyscripter\pyscripter.exe --python25 --pythondllpath=C:\OSGeo4W\bin
  ```

Now when you double click this batch file it will start Pyscripter, with the correct path.

More popular that Pyscripter, Eclipse is a common choice among developers. In the following sections, we will be explaining how to configure it for developing and testing plugins. To prepare your environment for using Eclipse in Windows, you should also create a batch file and use it to start Eclipse.

To create that batch file, follow these steps.

- Locate the folder where file:*qgis_core.dll* resides in. Normally this is `C:OSGeo4Wappsqgisbin`, but if you compiled your own QGIS application this is in your build folder in `output/bin/RelWithDebInfo`
- Locate your `eclipse.exe` executable.
- Create the following script and use this to start eclipse when developing QGIS plugins.

```
call "C:\OSGeo4W\bin\o4w_env.bat"
set PATH=%PATH%;C:\path\to\your\qgis_core.dll\parent\folder
C:\path\to\your\eclipse.exe
```

14.2 Debugging using Eclipse and PyDev

14.2.1 Installation

To use Eclipse, make sure you have installed the following

- Eclipse
- Aptana Eclipse Plugin or PyDev
- QGIS 2.0

14.2.2 Preparing QGIS

There is some preparation to be done on QGIS itself. Two plugins are of interest: *Remote Debug* and *Plugin reloader*.

- Go to *Plugins → Fetch python plugins*
- Search for *Remote Debug* (at the moment it's still experimental, so enable experimental plugins under the Options tab in case it does not show up). Install it.
- Search for *Plugin reloader* and install it as well. This will let you reload a plugin instead of having to close and restart QGIS to have the plugin reloaded.

14.2.3 Setting up Eclipse

In Eclipse, create a new project. You can select *General Project* and link your real sources later on, so it does not really matter where you place this project.

Now right click your new project and choose *New → Folder*.

Click **[Advanced]** and choose *Link to alternate location (Linked Folder)*. In case you already have sources you want to debug, choose these, in case you don't, create a folder as it was already explained

Now in the view *Project Explorer*, your source tree pops up and you can start working with the code. You already have syntax highlighting and all the other powerful IDE tools available.

14.2.4 Configuring the debugger

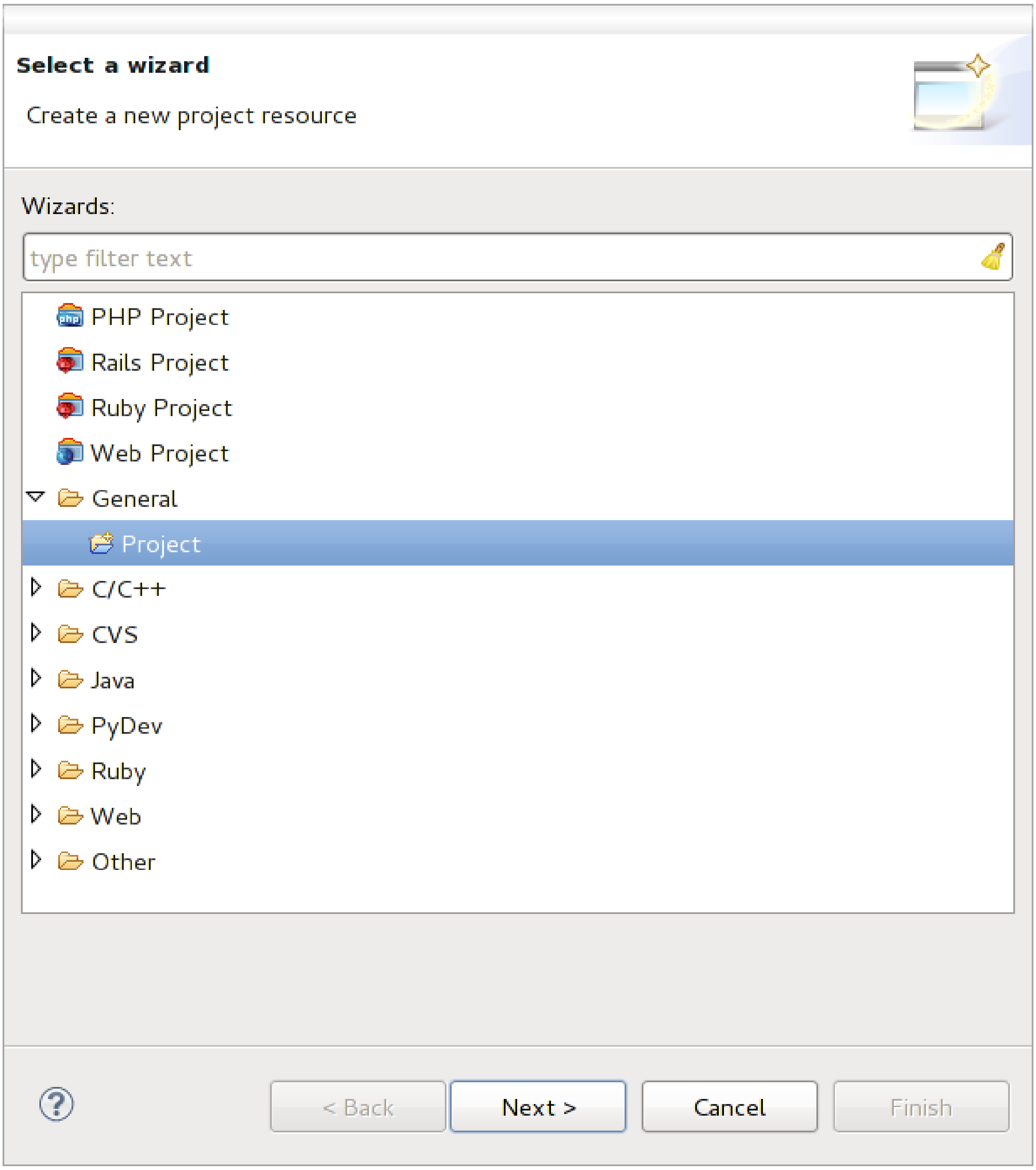
To get the debugger working, switch to the Debug perspective in Eclipse (*Window → Open Perspective → Other → Debug*).

Now start the PyDev debug server by choosing *PyDev → Start Debug Server*.

Eclipse is now waiting for a connection from QGIS to its debug server and when QGIS connects to the debug server it will allow it to control the python scripts. That's exactly what we installed the *Remote Debug* plugin for. So start QGIS in case you did not already and click the bug symbol .

Now you can set a breakpoint and as soon as the code hits it, execution will stop and you can inspect the current state of your plugin. (The breakpoint is the green dot in the image below, set one by double clicking in the white space left to the line you want the breakpoint to be set)

A very interesting thing you can make use of now is the debug console. Make sure that the execution is currently stopped at a break point, before you proceed.



Select a wizard

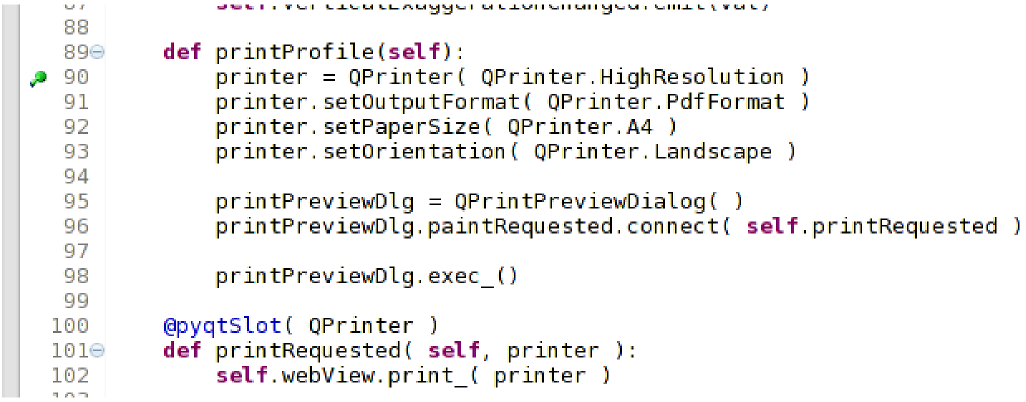
Create a new project resource

Wizards:

type filter text

- PHP Project
- Rails Project
- Ruby Project
- Web Project
- General
  - Project
- C/C++
- CVS
- Java
- PyDev
- Ruby
- Web
- Other

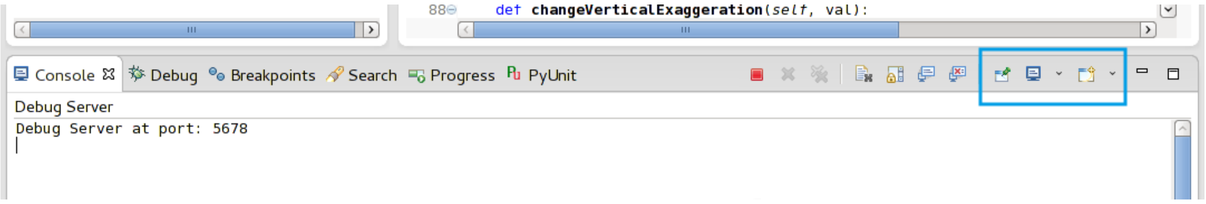
Figure 14.1: Eclipse project



```
    def printProfile(self):
        printer = QPrinter( QPrinter.HighResolution )
        printer.setOutputFormat( QPrinter.PdfFormat )
        printer.setPaperSize( QPrinter.A4 )
        printer.setOrientation( QPrinter.Landscape )

        printPreviewDlg = QPrintPreviewDialog( )
        printPreviewDlg.paintRequested.connect( self.printRequested )

        printPreviewDlg.exec_()

    @pyqtSlot( QPrinter )
    def printRequested( self, printer ):
        self.webView.print_( printer )
```

Figure 14.2: Breakpoint

Open the Console view (*Window* → *Show view*). It will show the *Debug Server* console which is not very interesting. But there is a button **[Open Console]** which lets you change to a more interesting PyDev Debug Console. Click the arrow next to the **[Open Console]** button and choose *PyDev Console*. A window opens up to ask you which console you want to start. Choose *PyDev Debug Console*. In case its greyed out and tells you to Start the debugger and select the valid frame, make sure that you've got the remote debugger attached and are currently on a breakpoint.



```
def changeVerticalExaggeration(self, val):
```

```
Debug Server
Debug Server at port: 5678
```

Figure 14.3: PyDev Debug Console

You have now an interactive console which let's you test any commands from within the current context. You can manipulate variables or make API calls or whatever you like.

A little bit annoying is, that every time you enter a command, the console switches back to the Debug Server. To stop this behavior, you can click the *Pin Console* button when on the Debug Server page and it should remember this decision at least for the current debug session.

14.2.5 Making eclipse understand the API

A very handy feature is to have Eclipse actually know about the QGIS API. This enables it to check your code for typos. But not only this, it also enables Eclipse to help you with autocompletion from the imports to API calls.

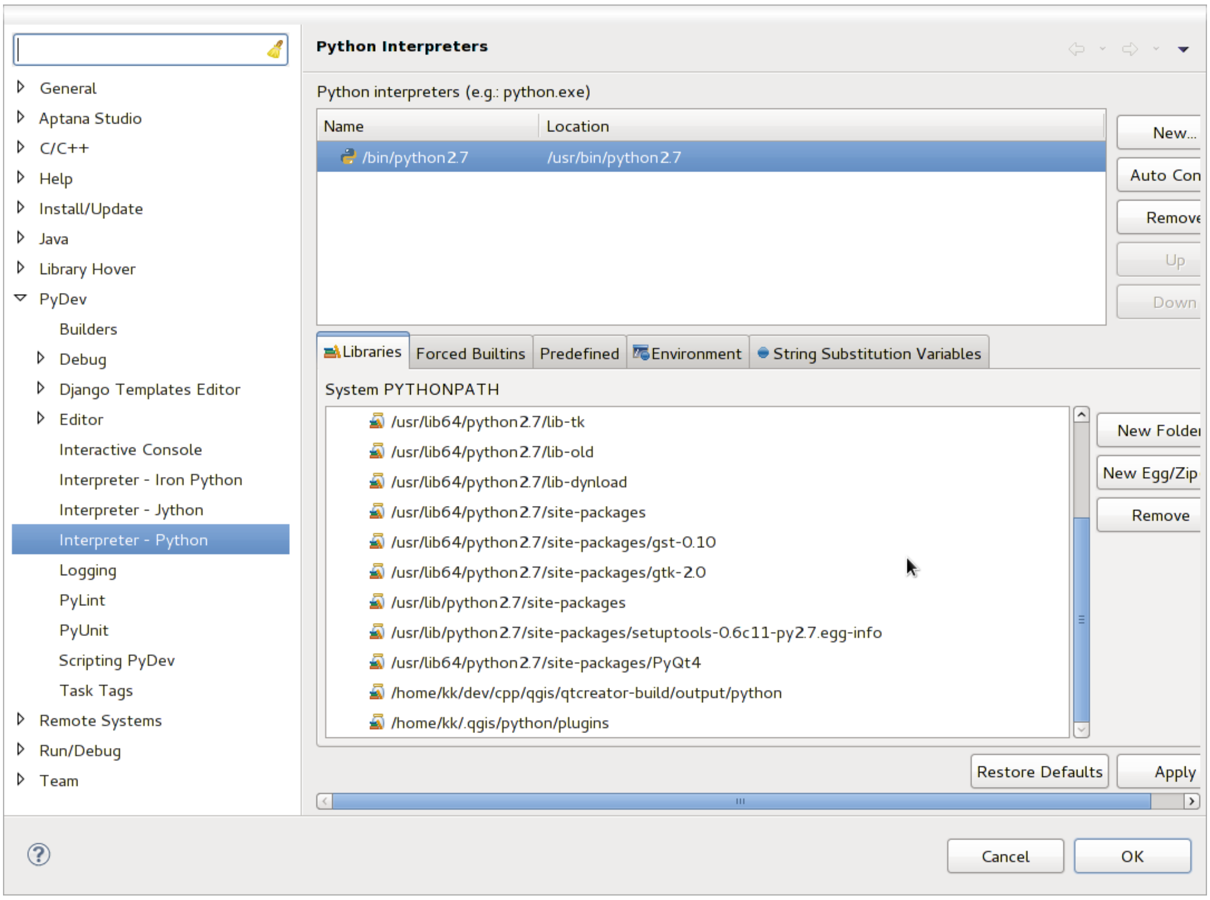
To do this, Eclipse parses the QGIS library files and gets all the information out there. The only thing you have to do is to tell Eclipse where to find the libraries.

Click *Window* → *Preferences* → *PyDev* → *Interpreter* → *Python*.

You will see your configured python interpreter in the upper part of the window (at the moment python2.7 for QGIS) and some tabs in the lower part. The interesting tabs for us are *Libraries* and *Forced Builtins*.

First open the Libraries tab. Add a New Folder and choose the python folder of your QGIS installation. If you do not know where this folder is (it's not the plugins folder) open QGIS, start a python console and simply enter `qgis` and press Enter. It will show you which QGIS module it uses and its path. Strip the trailing `/qgis/__init__.pyc` from this path and you've got the path you are looking for.

You should also add your plugins folder here (on Linux it is `~/.qgis/python/plugins`).



Python interpreters (e.g.: python.exe)

Name	Location
/bin/python2.7	/usr/bin/python2.7

System PYTHONPATH

```
/usr/lib64/python2.7/lib-tk
/usr/lib64/python2.7/lib-old
/usr/lib64/python2.7/lib-dynload
/usr/lib64/python2.7/site-packages
/usr/lib64/python2.7/site-packages/gst-0.10
/usr/lib64/python2.7/site-packages/gtk-2.0
/usr/lib/python2.7/site-packages
/usr/lib/python2.7/site-packages/setuptools-0.6c11-py2.7.egg-info
/usr/lib64/python2.7/site-packages/PyQt4
/home/kk/dev/cpp/qgis/qtcreator-build/output/python
/home/kk/.qgis/python/plugins
```

Figure 14.4: PyDev Debug Console

Next jump to the *Forced Builtins* tab, click on *New...* and enter `qgis`. This will make Eclipse parse the QGIS API. You probably also want eclipse to know about the PyQt4 API. Therefore also add PyQt4 as forced builtin. That should probably already be present in your libraries tab.

Click *OK* and you're done.

Note: every time the QGIS API changes (e.g. if you're compiling QGIS master and the SIP file changed), you should go back to this page and simply click *Apply*. This will let Eclipse parse all the libraries again.

For another possible setting of Eclipse to work with QGIS Python plugins, check this link

14.3 Debugging using PDB

If you do not use an IDE such as Eclipse, you can debug using PDB, following these steps.

First add this code in the spot where you would like to debug

```
# Use pdb for debugging
import pdb
# These lines allow you to set a breakpoint in the app
pyqtRemoveInputHook()
pdb.set_trace()
```

Then run QGIS from the command line.

On Linux do:

$ ./Qgis

On Mac OS X do:

$ /Applications/Qgis.app/Contents/MacOS/Qgis

And when the application hits your breakpoint you can type in the console!

TODO: Add testing information

Using Plugin Layers

If your plugin uses its own methods to render a map layer, writing your own layer type based on QgsPluginLayer might be the best way to implement that.

TODO: Check correctness and elaborate on good use cases for QgsPluginLayer, ...

15.1 Subclassing QgsPluginLayer

Below is an example of a minimal QgsPluginLayer implementation. It is an excerpt of the Watermark example plugin

```
class WatermarkPluginLayer(QgsPluginLayer):

  LAYER_TYPE="watermark"

  def __init__(self):
    QgsPluginLayer.__init__(self, WatermarkPluginLayer.LAYER_TYPE, "Watermark plugin layer")
    self.setValid(True)

  def draw(self, rendererContext):
    image = QImage("myimage.png")
    painter = rendererContext.painter()
    painter.save()
    painter.drawImage(10, 10, image)
    painter.restore()
    return True
```

Methods for reading and writing specific information to the project file can also be added

```
def readXml(self, node):
  pass

def writeXml(self, node, doc):
  pass
```

When loading a project containing such a layer, a factory class is needed

```
class WatermarkPluginLayerType(QgsPluginLayerType):

  def __init__(self):
    QgsPluginLayerType.__init__(self, WatermarkPluginLayer.LAYER_TYPE)

  def createLayer(self):
    return WatermarkPluginLayer()
```

You can also add code for displaying custom information in the layer properties

```
def showLayerProperties(self, layer):
  pass
```

CHAPTER 16

Compatibilitá con versioni precedenti di QGIS

16.1 Menu dei plugin

Se posizionate le voci di menú del vostro plugin in uno dei nuovi menu (*Raster*, *Vector*, *Database* o *Web*), dovreste modificare il codice delle funzioni `initGui()` e `unload()`. Dato che questi menu sono disponibili solo in QGIS 2.0 o superiori, il primo passo é quello di controllare che la versione di QGIS in esecuzione abbia tutte le funzioni necessarie. Se i nuovi menu sono disponibili, inseriremo il nostro plugin in questo menu, altrimenti utilizzeremo il vecchio menu *Plugins*. Di seguito un esempio per il menu *Raster*

```
def initGui(self):
  # create action that will start plugin configuration
  self.action = QAction(QIcon(":/plugins/testplug/icon.png"), "Test plugin", self.iface.mainWindo
  self.action.setWhatsThis("Configuration for test plugin")
  self.action.setStatusTip("This is status tip")
  QObject.connect(self.action, SIGNAL("triggered()"), self.run)

  # check if Raster menu available
  if hasattr(self.iface, "addPluginToRasterMenu"):
    # Raster menu and toolbar available
    self.iface.addRasterToolBarIcon(self.action)
    self.iface.addPluginToRasterMenu("&Test plugins", self.action)
  else:
    # there is no Raster menu, place plugin under Plugins menu as usual
    self.iface.addToolBarIcon(self.action)
    self.iface.addPluginToMenu("&Test plugins", self.action)

  # connect to signal renderComplete which is emitted when canvas rendering is done
  QObject.connect(self.iface.mapCanvas(), SIGNAL("renderComplete(QPainter *)"), self.renderTest)

def unload(self):
  # check if Raster menu available and remove our buttons from appropriate
  # menu and toolbar
  if hasattr(self.iface, "addPluginToRasterMenu"):
    self.iface.removePluginRasterMenu("&Test plugins", self.action)
    self.iface.removeRasterToolBarIcon(self.action)
  else:
    self.iface.removePluginMenu("&Test plugins", self.action)
    self.iface.removeToolBarIcon(self.action)

  # disconnect from signal of the canvas
  QObject.disconnect(self.iface.mapCanvas(), SIGNAL("renderComplete(QPainter *)"), self.renderTes
```

CHAPTER 17

Releasing your plugin

Once your plugin is ready and you think the plugin could be helpful for some people, do not hesitate to upload it to *Official python plugin repository*. On that page you can find also packaging guidelines about how to prepare the plugin to work well with the plugin installer. Or in case you would like to set up your own plugin repository, create a simple XML file that will list the plugins and their metadata, for examples see other plugin repositories.

Please take special care to the following suggestions:

17.1 Metadata and names

- avoid using a name too similar to existing plugins
- if your plugin has a similar functionality to an existing plugin, please explain the differences in the About field, so the user will know which one to use without the need to install and test it
- avoid repeating "plugin" in the name of the plugin itself
- use the description field in metadata for a 1 line description, the About field for more detailed instructions
- include a code repository, a bug tracker, and a home page; this will greatly enhance the possibility of collaboration, and can be done very easily with one of the available web infrastructures (GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket, etc.)
- choose tags with care: avoid the uninformative ones (e.g. vector) and prefer the ones already used by others (see the plugin website)
- add a proper icon, do not leave the default one; see QGIS interface for a suggestion of the style to be used

17.2 Code and help

- do not include generated file (ui_*.py, resources_rc.py, generated help files…) and useless stuff (e.g. .gitignore) in repository
- add the plugin to the appropriate menu (Vector, Raster, Web, Database)
- when appropriate (plugins performing analyses), consider adding the plugin as a subplugin of Processing framework: this will allow users to run it in batch, to integrate it in more complex workflows, and will free you from the burden of designing an interface
- include at least minimal documentation and, if useful for testing and understanding, sample data.

17.3 Official python plugin repository

You can find the *official* python plugin repository at http://plugins.qgis.org/.

In order to use the official repository you must obtain an OSGEO ID from the OSGEO web portal.

Once you have uploaded your plugin it will be approved by a staff member and you will be notified.

TODO: Insert a link to the governance document

17.3.1 Permissions

These rules have been implemented in the official plugin repository:

- every registered user can add a new plugin
- *staff* users can approve or disapprove all plugin versions
- users which have the special permission *plugins.can_approve* get the versions they upload automatically approved
- users which have the special permission *plugins.can_approve* can approve versions uploaded by others as long as they are in the list of the plugin *owners*
- a particular plugin can be deleted and edited only by *staff* users and plugin *owners*
- if a user without *plugins.can_approve* permission uploads a new version, the plugin version is automatically unapproved.

17.3.2 Trust management

Staff members can grant *trust* to selected plugin creators setting *plugins.can_approve* permission through the front-end application.

The plugin details view offers direct links to grant trust to the plugin creator or the plugin *owners*.

17.3.3 Validation

Plugin's metadata are automatically imported and validated from the compressed package when the plugin is uploaded.

Here are some validation rules that you should aware of when you want to upload a plugin on the official repository:

1. the name of the main folder containing your plugin must contain only ASCII characters (A-Z and a-z), digits and the characters underscore (_) and minus (-), also it cannot start with a digit
2. `metadata.txt` is required
3. all required metadata listed in *metadata table* must be present
4. the *version* metadata field must be unique

17.3.4 Plugin structure

Following the validation rules the compressed (.zip) package of your plugin must have a specific structure to validate as a functional plugin. As the plugin will be unzipped inside the users plugins folder it must have it's own directory inside the .zip file to not interfere with other plugins. Mandatory files are: `metadata.txt` and `__init__.py`. But it would be nice to have a `README` and of course an icon to represent the plugin (`resources.qrc`). Following is an example of how a plugin.zip should look like.

```
plugin.zip
  pluginfolder/
  |-- i18n
  |   |-- translation_file_de.ts
  |-- img
```

```
|   |-- icon.png
|   `-- iconsource.svg
|-- __init__.py
|-- Makefile
|-- metadata.txt
|-- more_code.py
|-- main_code.py
|-- README
|-- resources.qrc
|-- resources_rc.py
`-- ui_Qt_user_interface_file.ui
```

Frammenti di codice

Questa sezione contiene frammenti di codice per facilitare lo sviluppo dei plugin.

18.1 Come invocare un metodo tramite scorciatoia da tastiera

Nel plug-in aggiungere a `initGui()`

```
self.keyAction = QAction("Test Plugin", self.iface.mainWindow())
self.iface.registerMainWindowAction(self.keyAction, "F7") # action1 triggered by F7 key
self.iface.addPluginToMenu("&Test plugins", self.keyAction)
QObject.connect(self.keyAction, SIGNAL("triggered()"),self.keyActionF7)
```

Aggiungere a `unload()`

```
self.iface.unregisterMainWindowAction(self.keyAction)
```

Il metodo che viene invocato quando si preme F7

```
def keyActionF7(self):
  QMessageBox.information(self.iface.mainWindow(),"Ok", "You pressed F7")
```

18.2 Come impostare/rimuovere i layers

A partire da QGIS 2.4 é disponibile una nuova API dell'albero dei layer che consente un accesso diretto all'albero dei layer direttamente dalla legenda. Questo é un esempio di come attivare/rimuovere la visibilitá del layer attivo.

```
root = QgsProject.instance().layerTreeRoot()
node = root.findLayer(iface.activeLayer().id())
new_state = Qt.Checked if node.isVisible() == Qt.Unchecked else Qt.Unchecked
node.setVisible(new_state)
```

18.3 Come accedere alla tabella degli attributi di una caratteristica selezionata

```
def changeValue(self, value):
  layer = self.iface.activeLayer()
  if(layer):
    nF = layer.selectedFeatureCount()
    if (nF > 0):
      layer.startEditing()
    ob = layer.selectedFeaturesIds()
    b = QVariant(value)
    if (nF > 1):
      for i in ob:
      layer.changeAttributeValue(int(i), 1, b) # 1 being the second column
    else:
      layer.changeAttributeValue(int(ob[0]), 1, b) # 1 being the second column
    layer.commitChanges()
    else:
      QMessageBox.critical(self.iface.mainWindow(), "Error", "Please select at least one feature i
  else:
    QMessageBox.critical(self.iface.mainWindow(), "Error", "Please select a layer")
```

Il metodo richiede un parametro (il nuovo valore per il campo attributo delle caratteristiche selezionate()) e puó essere invocato da

```
self.changeValue(50)
```

CHAPTER 19

Libreria per l’analisi di reti

Starting from revision ee19294562 (QGIS >= 1.8) the new network analysis library was added to the QGIS core analysis library. The library:

- creates mathematical graph from geographical data (polyline vector layers)
- implements basic methods from graph theory (currently only Dijkstra’s algorithm)

The network analysis library was created by exporting basic functions from the RoadGraph core plugin and now you can use it’s methods in plugins or directly from the Python console.

19.1 General information

Briefly, a typical use case can be described as:

1. create graph from geodata (usually polyline vector layer)
2. run graph analysis
3. use analysis results (for example, visualize them)

19.2 Building a graph

The first thing you need to do — is to prepare input data, that is to convert a vector layer into a graph. All further actions will use this graph, not the layer.

As a source we can use any polyline vector layer. Nodes of the polylines become graph vertexes, and segments of the polylines are graph edges. If several nodes have the same coordinates then they are the same graph vertex. So two lines that have a common node become connected to each other.

Additionally, during graph creation it is possible to “fix” (“tie”) to the input vector layer any number of additional points. For each additional point a match will be found — the closest graph vertex or closest graph edge. In the latter case the edge will be split and a new vertex added.

Vector layer attributes and length of an edge can be used as the properties of an edge.

Converting from a vector layer to the graph is done using the Builder programming pattern. A graph is constructed using a so-called Director. There is only one Director for now: QgsLineVectorLayerDirector. The director sets the basic settings that will be used to construct a graph from a line vector layer, used by the builder to create the graph. Currently, as in the case with the director, only one builder exists: QgsGraphBuilder, that creates QgsGraph objects. You may want to implement your own builders that will build a graphs compatible with such libraries as BGL or NetworkX.

To calculate edge properties the programming pattern strategy is used. For now only QgsDistanceArcProperter strategy is available, that takes into account the length of the route. You can implement your own strategy that will use all necessary parameters. For example, RoadGraph plugin uses a strategy that computes travel time using edge length and speed value from attributes.

It’s time to dive into the process.

First of all, to use this library we should import the networkanalysis module

```
from qgis.networkanalysis import *
```

Then some examples for creating a director

```
# don’t use information about road direction from layer attributes,
# all roads are treated as two-way
director = QgsLineVectorLayerDirector(vLayer, -1, '', '', '', 3)

# use field with index 5 as source of information about road direction.
# one-way roads with direct direction have attribute value "yes",
# one-way roads with reverse direction have the value "1", and accordingly
# bidirectional roads have "no". By default roads are treated as two-way.
# This scheme can be used with OpenStreetMap data
director = QgsLineVectorLayerDirector(vLayer, 5, 'yes', '1', 'no', 3)
```

To construct a director we should pass a vector layer, that will be used as the source for the graph structure and information about allowed movement on each road segment (one-way or bidirectional movement, direct or reverse direction). The call looks like this

```
director = QgsLineVectorLayerDirector(vl, directionFieldId,
                                      directDirectionValue,
                                      reverseDirectionValue,
                                      bothDirectionValue,
                                      defaultDirection)
```

And here is full list of what these parameters mean:

- `vl` — vector layer used to build the graph
- `directionFieldId` — index of the attribute table field, where information about roads direction is stored. If `-1`, then don’t use this info at all. An integer.
- `directDirectionValue` — field value for roads with direct direction (moving from first line point to last one). A string.
- `reverseDirectionValue` — field value for roads with reverse direction (moving from last line point to first one). A string.
- `bothDirectionValue` — field value for bidirectional roads (for such roads we can move from first point to last and from last to first). A string.
- `defaultDirection` — default road direction. This value will be used for those roads where field `directionFieldId` is not set or has some value different from any of the three values specified above. An integer. `1` indicates direct direction, `2` indicates reverse direction, and `3` indicates both directions.

It is necessary then to create a strategy for calculating edge properties

```
properter = QgsDistanceArcProperter()
```

And tell the director about this strategy

```
director.addProperter(properter)
```

Now we can use the builder, which will create the graph. The QgsGraphBuilder class constructor takes several arguments:

- crs — coordinate reference system to use. Mandatory argument.
- otfEnabled — use “on the fly” reprojection or no. By default const:*True* (use OTF).
- topologyTolerance — topological tolerance. Default value is 0.
- ellipsoidID — ellipsoid to use. By default “WGS84”.

```
# only CRS is set, all other values are defaults
builder = QgsGraphBuilder(myCRS)
```

Also we can define several points, which will be used in the analysis. For example

```
startPoint = QgsPoint(82.7112, 55.1672)
endPoint = QgsPoint(83.1879, 54.7079)
```

Now all is in place so we can build the graph and "tie" these points to it

```
tiedPoints = director.makeGraph(builder, [startPoint, endPoint])
```

Building the graph can take some time (which depends on the number of features in a layer and layer size). `tiedPoints` is a list with coordinates of "tied" points. When the build operation is finished we can get the graph and use it for the analysis

```
graph = builder.graph()
```

With the next code we can get the vertex indexes of our points

```
startId = graph.findVertex(tiedPoints[0])
endId = graph.findVertex(tiedPoints[1])
```

19.3 Graph analysis

Networks analysis is used to find answers to two questions: which vertexes are connected and how to find a shortest path. To solve these problems the network analysis library provides Dijkstra's algorithm.

Dijkstra's algorithm finds the shortest route from one of the vertexes of the graph to all the others and the values of the optimization parameters. The results can be represented as a shortest path tree.

The shortest path tree is a directed weighted graph (or more precisely — tree) with the following properties:

- only one vertex has no incoming edges — the root of the tree
- all other vertexes have only one incoming edge
- if vertex B is reachable from vertex A, then the path from A to B is the single available path and it is optimal (shortest) on this graph

To get the shortest path tree use the methods `shortestTree()` and `dijkstra()` of QgsGraphAnalyzer class. It is recommended to use method `dijkstra()` because it works faster and uses memory more efficiently.

The `shortestTree()` method is useful when you want to walk around the shortest path tree. It always creates a new graph object (QgsGraph) and accepts three variables:

- source — input graph
- startVertexIdx — index of the point on the tree (the root of the tree)
- criterionNum — number of edge property to use (started from 0).

```
tree = QgsGraphAnalyzer.shortestTree(graph, startId, 0)
```

The `dijkstra()` method has the same arguments, but returns two arrays. In the first array element i contains index of the incoming edge or -1 if there are no incoming edges. In the second array element i contains distance from the root of the tree to vertex i or DOUBLE_MAX if vertex i is unreachable from the root.

```
(tree, cost) = QgsGraphAnalyzer.dijkstra(graph, startId, 0)
```

Here is some very simple code to display the shortest path tree using the graph created with the `shortestTree()` method (select linestring layer in TOC and replace coordinates with your own). **Warning**: use this code only as an example, it creates a lots of QgsRubberBand objects and may be slow on large data-sets.

```
from PyQt4.QtCore import *
from PyQt4.QtGui import *

from qgis.core import *
from qgis.gui import *
from qgis.networkanalysis import *

vl = qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas().currentLayer()
director = QgsLineVectorLayerDirector(vl, -1, '', '', '', 3)
properter = QgsDistanceArcProperter()
director.addProperter(properter)
crs = qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas().mapRenderer().destinationCrs()
builder = QgsGraphBuilder(crs)

pStart = QgsPoint(-0.743804, 0.22954)
tiedPoint = director.makeGraph(builder, [pStart])
pStart = tiedPoint[0]

graph = builder.graph()

idStart = graph.findVertex(pStart)

tree = QgsGraphAnalyzer.shortestTree(graph, idStart, 0)

i = 0;
while (i < tree.arcCount()):
  rb = QgsRubberBand(qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas())
  rb.setColor (Qt.red)
  rb.addPoint (tree.vertex(tree.arc(i).inVertex()).point())
  rb.addPoint (tree.vertex(tree.arc(i).outVertex()).point())
  i = i + 1
```

Same thing but using `dijkstra()` method

```
from PyQt4.QtCore import *
from PyQt4.QtGui import *

from qgis.core import *
from qgis.gui import *
from qgis.networkanalysis import *

vl = qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas().currentLayer()
director = QgsLineVectorLayerDirector(vl, -1, '', '', '', 3)
properter = QgsDistanceArcProperter()
director.addProperter(properter)
crs = qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas().mapRenderer().destinationCrs()
builder = QgsGraphBuilder(crs)

pStart = QgsPoint(-1.37144, 0.543836)
tiedPoint = director.makeGraph(builder, [pStart])
pStart = tiedPoint[0]

graph = builder.graph()

idStart = graph.findVertex(pStart)

(tree, costs) = QgsGraphAnalyzer.dijkstra(graph, idStart, 0)

for edgeId in tree:
  if edgeId == -1:
    continue
  rb = QgsRubberBand(qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas())
  rb.setColor (Qt.red)
  rb.addPoint (graph.vertex(graph.arc(edgeId).inVertex()).point())
  rb.addPoint (graph.vertex(graph.arc(edgeId).outVertex()).point())
```

19.3.1 Finding shortest paths

To find the optimal path between two points the following approach is used. Both points (start A and end B) are “tied” to the graph when it is built. Then using the methods `shortestTree()` or `dijkstra()` we build the shortest path tree with root in the start point A. In the same tree we also find the end point B and start to walk through the tree from point B to point A. The whole algorithm can be written as

```
assign  = B
while  != A
    add point  to path
    get incoming edge for point
    look for point , that is start point of this edge
    assign  =
add point  to path
```

At this point we have the path, in the form of the inverted list of vertexes (vertexes are listed in reversed order from end point to start point) that will be visited during traveling by this path.

Here is the sample code for QGIS Python Console (you will need to select linestring layer in TOC and replace coordinates in the code with yours) that uses method `shortestTree()`

```
from PyQt4.QtCore import *
from PyQt4.QtGui import *

from qgis.core import *
from qgis.gui import *
from qgis.networkanalysis import *

vl = qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas().currentLayer()
director = QgsLineVectorLayerDirector(vl, -1, '', '', '', 3)
properter = QgsDistanceArcProperter()
director.addProperter(properter)
crs = qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas().mapRenderer().destinationCrs()
builder = QgsGraphBuilder(crs)

pStart = QgsPoint(-0.835953, 0.15679)
pStop = QgsPoint(-1.1027, 0.699986)

tiedPoints = director.makeGraph(builder, [pStart, pStop])
graph = builder.graph()

tStart = tiedPoints[0]
tStop = tiedPoints[1]

idStart = graph.findVertex(tStart)
tree = QgsGraphAnalyzer.shortestTree(graph, idStart, 0)

idStart = tree.findVertex(tStart)
idStop = tree.findVertex(tStop)

if idStop == -1:
  print "Path not found"
else:
  p = []
  while (idStart != idStop):
    l = tree.vertex(idStop).inArc()
    if len(l) == 0:
      break
    e = tree.arc(l[0])
    p.insert(0, tree.vertex(e.inVertex()).point())
    idStop = e.outVertex()

  p.insert(0, tStart)
  rb = QgsRubberBand(qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas())
  rb.setColor(Qt.red)

  for pnt in p:
    rb.addPoint(pnt)
```

And here is the same sample but using `dijkstra()` method

```
from PyQt4.QtCore import *
from PyQt4.QtGui import *

from qgis.core import *
from qgis.gui import *
from qgis.networkanalysis import *

vl = qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas().currentLayer()
director = QgsLineVectorLayerDirector(vl, -1, '', '', '', 3)
properter = QgsDistanceArcProperter()
director.addProperter(properter)
crs = qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas().mapRenderer().destinationCrs()
builder = QgsGraphBuilder(crs)

pStart = QgsPoint(-0.835953, 0.15679)
pStop = QgsPoint(-1.1027, 0.699986)

tiedPoints = director.makeGraph(builder, [pStart, pStop])
graph = builder.graph()

tStart = tiedPoints[0]
tStop = tiedPoints[1]

idStart = graph.findVertex(tStart)
idStop = graph.findVertex(tStop)

(tree, cost) = QgsGraphAnalyzer.dijkstra(graph, idStart, 0)

if tree[idStop] == -1:
  print "Path not found"
else:
  p = []
  curPos = idStop
  while curPos != idStart:
    p.append(graph.vertex(graph.arc(tree[curPos]).inVertex()).point())
    curPos = graph.arc(tree[curPos]).outVertex();

  p.append(tStart)

  rb = QgsRubberBand(qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas())
  rb.setColor(Qt.red)

  for pnt in p:
    rb.addPoint(pnt)
```

19.3.2 Areas of availability

The area of availability for vertex A is the subset of graph vertexes that are accessible from vertex A and the cost of the paths from A to these vertexes are not greater that some value.

More clearly this can be shown with the following example: “There is a fire station. Which parts of city can a fire truck reach in 5 minutes? 10 minutes? 15 minutes?”. Answers to these questions are fire station’s areas of availability.

To find the areas of availability we can use method `dijkstra()` of the `QgsGraphAnalyzer` class. It is enough to compare the elements of the cost array with a predefined value. If cost[i] is less than or equal to a predefined value, then vertex i is inside the area of availability, otherwise it is outside.

A more difficult problem is to get the borders of the area of availability. The bottom border is the set of vertexes that are still accessible, and the top border is the set of vertexes that are not accessible. In fact this is simple: it is the availability border based on the edges of the shortest path tree for which the source vertex of the edge is accessible and the target vertex of the edge is not.

Here is an example

```
from PyQt4.QtCore import *
from PyQt4.QtGui import *

from qgis.core import *
from qgis.gui import *
from qgis.networkanalysis import *

vl = qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas().currentLayer()
director = QgsLineVectorLayerDirector(vl, -1, '', '', '', 3)
properter = QgsDistanceArcProperter()
director.addProperter(properter)
crs = qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas().mapRenderer().destinationCrs()
builder = QgsGraphBuilder(crs)

pStart = QgsPoint(65.5462, 57.1509)
delta = qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas().getCoordinateTransform().mapUnitsPerPixel() * 1

rb = QgsRubberBand(qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas(), True)
rb.setColor(Qt.green)
rb.addPoint(QgsPoint(pStart.x() - delta, pStart.y() - delta))
rb.addPoint(QgsPoint(pStart.x() + delta, pStart.y() - delta))
rb.addPoint(QgsPoint(pStart.x() + delta, pStart.y() + delta))
rb.addPoint(QgsPoint(pStart.x() - delta, pStart.y() + delta))

tiedPoints = director.makeGraph(builder, [pStart])
graph = builder.graph()
tStart = tiedPoints[0]

idStart = graph.findVertex(tStart)

(tree, cost) = QgsGraphAnalyzer.dijkstra(graph, idStart, 0)

upperBound = []
r = 2000.0
i = 0
while i < len(cost):
  if cost[i] > r and tree[i] != -1:
    outVertexId = graph.arc(tree [i]).outVertex()
    if cost[outVertexId] < r:
      upperBound.append(i)
  i = i + 1

for i in upperBound:
  centerPoint = graph.vertex(i).point()
  rb = QgsRubberBand(qgis.utils.iface.mapCanvas(), True)
  rb.setColor(Qt.red)
  rb.addPoint(QgsPoint(centerPoint.x() - delta, centerPoint.y() - delta))
  rb.addPoint(QgsPoint(centerPoint.x() + delta, centerPoint.y() - delta))
  rb.addPoint(QgsPoint(centerPoint.x() + delta, centerPoint.y() + delta))
rb.addPoint(QgsPoint(centerPoint.x() - delta, centerPoint.y() + delta))
```

Indice