

QGIS Application - Bug report #14504

The QGIS intersection tool yields incomplete results

2016-03-16 02:38 AM - Mattias Lindman

Status:	Closed	
Priority:	Normal	
Assignee:		
Category:	Processing/QGIS	
Affected QGIS version:	2.12.3	Regression?: No
Operating System:		Easy fix?: No
Pull Request or Patch supplied:		Resolution: fixed/implemented
Crashes QGIS or corrupts data:		Copied to github as #: 22477
Description		
<p>In a land cover study I want to derive country-wise land cover units in order to determine the area of each land cover type in each country. The source data is a land cover raster that I have vectorized and then clipped by a layer containing the national boundaries of the three countries in the study.</p> <p>I then use Vector/Geoprocessing Tools/Intersect with the vectorized and clipped land cover layer and the national boundary layer as inputs. As I have made sure that both layers cover exactly the same area the result of the intersection should be land cover units divided by country whose total area should be the same as the total area of all land cover units prior to the intersection.</p> <p>It turns out that this is only the case for a few land cover types. For most of them the total area after the intersection is significantly lower than the original area, indicating that the intersection operation does not yield complete results. As an example the total shrubland area is reduced with about 35 % in the intersection operation.</p> <p>In order to provide a possibility to reproduce the problem I attach an archive containing the national boundary layer and an extract from the land cover layer containing shrublands only.</p> <p>I have tested the analysis using both QGIS 2.8.7 and 2.12.3 and the problem is the same in both versions. I am running QGIS using Windows 8.</p> <p>When checking already submitted bug reports it appears that #13246 may be related.</p>		
Related issues:		
Related to QGIS Application - Bug report # 13246: Intersection doesn't give a...	Closed	2015-08-20
Related to QGIS Application - Bug report # 14606: Overlay tools and join Attr...	Rejected	2016-04-02
Related to QGIS Application - Bug report # 11986: Intersection returns the wr...	Closed	2015-01-13

History

#1 - 2016-03-17 05:50 AM - Maximilian Krumbach

Related to #14494.

The processing tool calls "geom.intersection(tmpGeom)", which only works as expected if the intersecting lines share a vertex on intersection.

The problems trace back to geos::intersection, which only "Returns a Geometry representing the points shared by this Geometry and other." [1] If the intersection is not at a vertex, nothing is returned.

I think there needs to be a API function "compare two line segments and if these intersect, return both as lines with a vertex on the intersection"

[1][http:// geos.refractory.net/ro/doxygen_docs/html/classgeos_1_1_geom_1_1_Geometry.html#a44](http://geos.refractory.net/ro/doxygen_docs/html/classgeos_1_1_geom_1_1_Geometry.html#a44)

#2 - 2016-03-17 06:39 AM - Maximilian Krumbach

Geos has such a function, `geos::algorithm::LineIntersection::computeIntersection`.

<https://github.com/qgis/QGIS/blob/fab8dc21762b8ca0a9a48fffe343788fddabc24/src/core/geometry/qgsgeometry.cpp#L1381>

should check if there is a `geos::geometry::intersection`, and if not, try `geos::algorithm::LineIntersection::computeIntersection`. Other functions, like `makeDifference` (in the same file) may profit from this check, too.

This is a bit of a design issue: Do two overlapping lines intersect? I can think of situations without intersection (bridges etc.), but for every day usage, most lines DO intersect. Maybe some switch ("only intersect if there is a vertex on intersection") could be added?

#3 - 2016-03-18 02:55 AM - Jürgen Fischer

Maximilian Krumbach wrote:

Geos has such a function, `geos::algorithm::LineIntersection::computeIntersection`.

is it exposed in the C-API?

#4 - 2016-03-18 03:52 AM - Maximilian Krumbach

Sorry, I was wrong. Upon further investigation, Intersection seems not to be the culprit.

However, only polygons1 that touch the outer line of the intersection polygon2 are affected, (but not all of them). I zoomed all the way in, and they still touch.

#5 - 2016-03-18 06:38 AM - Maximilian Krumbach

I looked further on a failing geometry1 (FID 2883 in shrublands). This geometry1 has no vertices in common with the geometry2 it intersects, and returns NoGeometry on intersection, even if it is the only feature in a shapefile.

If I snap two vertices1 to their respective nearest vertex2, the intersection returns a multipolygon.

#6 - 2016-03-22 01:53 AM - Mattias Lindman

Hello Maximilian and Jürgen

Thank's for your input into this matter.

I think the problem originates from the fact that I first made a clip of the land cover layer with the same layer I later used for the intersection (NationalBoundaries). If I skip the clipping and just do the intersection of the original land cover layer the result is as it should - all land cover units that intersect the layer NationalBoundaries are obtained.

Back to the results of using the clipped land cover layer in the intersection. I find it strange that some but not all of the land cover polygons where a part of their boundary is identical with polygon boundaries in the intersection layer are lost in the intersection. It seems that this identity is the problem, but it does not appear to be general.

I looked into Maximilians comment that the polygon with FID 2883 does not have any vertices in common with the polygon it intersects in the intersection layer. I do not understand what you mean here - since the land cover layer (prior to intersection) is clipped with the NationalBoundaries layer it results in

identical outer boundaries (i.e. identical vertices) in the two layers used in the intersection.

I do not know how the intersection algorithm works but I wonder if partly identical boundaries is a special case that the algorithm does not manage to handle, and if so, whether it is important to fix it. It is probably rare to first clip and then intersect with the same layer as you can do the intersection directly. But as I have done it this way it must mean that other users may do it too...

/Mattias

#7 - 2016-03-26 05:17 AM - Claas Leiner

- *File beispiel_intersect.7z added*

The problem is in QGIS 2.14.1 still exists. In QGIS 2.8.7 it works.

Intersect from ftools (Vector > Geoprocessing > intersect) works in QGIS 2.14 fine. Intersect from the Toolbox lost Objekts.

The same is, when I use Clip.

Intersect and clip in the toolbox provides the sample data incomplete Ergebnisse.

Best wishes

Claas

#8 - 2016-03-26 05:32 AM - Claas Leiner

When I use the files clip.py and intersection.py from the processing 2.12

(<https://plugins.qgis.org/plugins/processing/version/2.12.2/>)

in the processing 2.14 everything works well. (copy in the folder */python/plugins/processing/algs/qgis).

Claas

#9 - 2016-04-09 10:14 AM - Giovanni Manghi

- *Category changed from Geometry to Processing/QGIS*

see also #11986 for more intersection problems.

#10 - 2016-10-12 09:02 AM - Sandro Santilli

About "Returns a Geometry representing the points shared by this Geometry and other." -- the GEOS statement has nothing to do with vertexes. Rather "points" is meant in the point-set theory.

Example:

```
strk=# select ST_AsText(ST_Intersection('POLYGON((0 5, 10 0, 10 10, 0 5))'::geometry, 'POLYGON((10 5, 20 10, 20 5, 10 5))'::geometry));
  st_astext
-----
POINT(10 5)
(1 row)
```

Are you sure your expectancies are correct ?

#11 - 2017-05-01 01:05 AM - Giovanni Manghi

- *Regression? set to No*
- *Easy fix? set to No*

#12 - 2018-05-16 12:53 PM - Alexander Bruy

- *Operating System deleted (Windows 8)*
- *Description updated*
- *Status changed from Open to Feedback*

Should be fixed in master/3.2. Please check if it works now.

#13 - 2018-06-05 04:07 AM - Nyall Dawson

- *Status changed from Feedback to Closed*
- *Resolution set to fixed/implemented*

Issue is fixed in master, please open a new ticket if new issues are encountered

Files

BugReportData_Intersection.zip	843 KB	2016-03-16	Mattias Lindman
beispiel_intersect.7z	3.05 MB	2016-03-26	Claas Leiner