

QGIS Application - Bug report #22105

\$length return bad value

2019-05-20 12:17 PM - Ludovic JACQUET

Status:	Closed	
Priority:	Normal	
Assignee:	Alessandro Pasotti	
Category:	Geometry	
Affected QGIS version:	3.6.1	Regression?: Yes
Operating System:	Windows 10 home 64	Easy fix?: No
Pull Request or Patch supplied:	No	Resolution: worksforme
Crashes QGIS or corrupts data:	No	Copied to github as #: 29918
Description		
<p>On QGIS 3.6.1 when I use \$length for obtain the length value, QGIS return a bad value.</p> <p>After a return of a customer who is surprise by the length I test my SHP with QGIS 2.8 and FME workbench 2016. I have the same length whith FME, QGIS 2.8 and customer software.</p>		

History

#1 - 2019-05-20 12:32 PM - Ludovic JACQUET

On .dbf file LONG_GEO is the value obtain with FME.

#2 - 2019-05-20 01:28 PM - Alessandro Pasotti

- Assignee set to Alessandro Pasotti

#3 - 2019-05-20 01:42 PM - Alessandro Pasotti

- Resolution set to worksforme

- Status changed from Open to Closed

You don't say what "bad value" means to you so I'm just guessing here.

Btw, I tested this on master and I think that the small difference between the FME length and QGIS length is that by default the QGIS algorithm makes a calculation on WGS84 ellipsoidal disatance instead of a simple cartesian distance.

The cartesian distance, rounded to 2 decimal places is exactly the same that you have in LONG_GEO and it is always smaller than the WGS84 ellipsoidal distance, as expected.

Click on identify and then on "Derived" to see what I mean (the results of both algorithms).

#4 - 2019-05-20 02:03 PM - Ludovic JACQUET

- File RESEAU.dbf added

- File RESEAU.shx added

- File RESEAU.shp added

- File RESEAU.prj added

OK I discover parameter for change the ellipsoidal WGS84 to none on project option.

#5 - 2019-05-20 02:20 PM - Alessandro Pasotti

IIRC, 2.18 did not make ellipsoid length calculations by default but it used planimetric distance, that's why you see the difference now (btw, that's not an error, it's a different algorithm to calculate distances).

From the documentation of \$length:

Returns the length of a linestring. If you need the length of a border of a polygon, use \$perimeter instead. The length calculated by this function respects both the current project's ellipsoid setting and distance unit settings. For example, if an ellipsoid has been set for the project then the calculated length will be ellipsoidal, and if no ellipsoid is set then the calculated length will be planimetric.

#6 - 2019-05-20 02:29 PM - Alessandro Pasotti

For your information, you can get the planimetric length with this expression (you can add a virtual field to verify):

```
length( $geometry )
```

Files			
RESEAU.dbf	21.6 KB	2019-05-20	Ludovic JACQUET
RESEAU.prj	449 Bytes	2019-05-20	Ludovic JACQUET
RESEAU.shp	11.9 KB	2019-05-20	Ludovic JACQUET
RESEAU.shx	636 Bytes	2019-05-20	Ludovic JACQUET
RESEAU.dbf	23.8 KB	2019-05-20	Ludovic JACQUET
RESEAU.prj	449 Bytes	2019-05-20	Ludovic JACQUET
RESEAU.shx	636 Bytes	2019-05-20	Ludovic JACQUET
RESEAU.shp	11.9 KB	2019-05-20	Ludovic JACQUET