



Section: Introduction

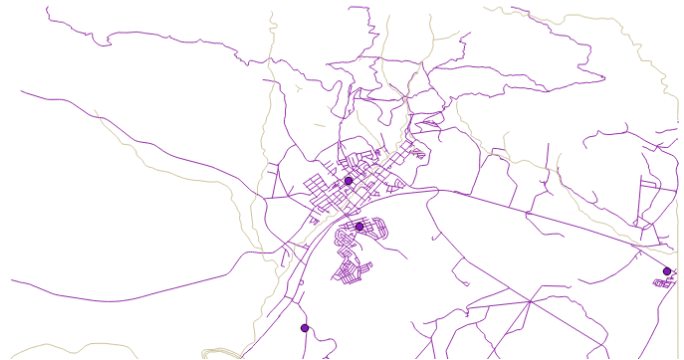
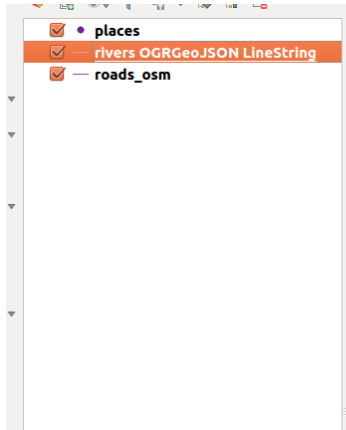
Module : Vector data formats:Basics



Vector data formats in Context

“Vector data is a representation of the world using points lines and polygons. A GIS file is a standard way for encoding geographical data into a computer file.”

In this module we will explore the various vector formats that can be utilized in a GIS.



You try:

Goal: To learn how to load various vector data formats in QGIS

- * Open a new project and load the specified layers from appendix3-local-data
- * Click on add vector panel.
- * Browse to path containing data and filter based on the type of data you want to load.
- * Choose shapefile when loading roads_osm.
- * Choose geojson when adding rivers_osm.
- * Choose add delimited text layer and select places_osm.
- * Select the appropriate column to use as x and y field.

Name	Value
Layer	places_osm.csv,rivers_osm.geojson,roads_osm.shp
Panel	Add vector,QGIS browser,Delimited text Layer



Check your results:

Once you have finished you should have all the layers added in QGIS all coming from various data formats

More about

QGIS uses gdal(<http://www.gdal.org/>) to read and write vector data. There are various data formats that gdal supports. For a full list of data formats that QGIS supports read http://www.gdal.org/ogr/ogr_formats.html . Vector data can also be loaded in read mode from zip and gzip archives into QGIS.



Check your knowledge:

- 1. When loading a shapefile into QGIS what is the extension of the file that is generally loaded into QGIS:**
 - a) .shx
 - b) .prj
 - c) .shp
- 2. What happens when a user loads a file with a .dbf extension during loading a shapefile:**
 - a) QGIS will show an error message as the data type is not supported.
 - b) QGIS will render the layer as a non spatial layer.
 - c) QGIS will crash.
- 3. Can you load a spreadsheet with latitude and longitude as a spatial layer in QGIS:**
 - True
 - False

Answers: 1c, 2b, 3t



Further reading:

https://docs.qgis.org/2.14/en/docs/user_manual/working_with_vector/supported_data.html