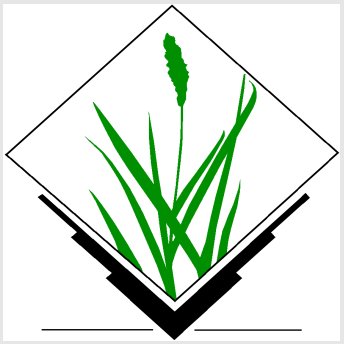
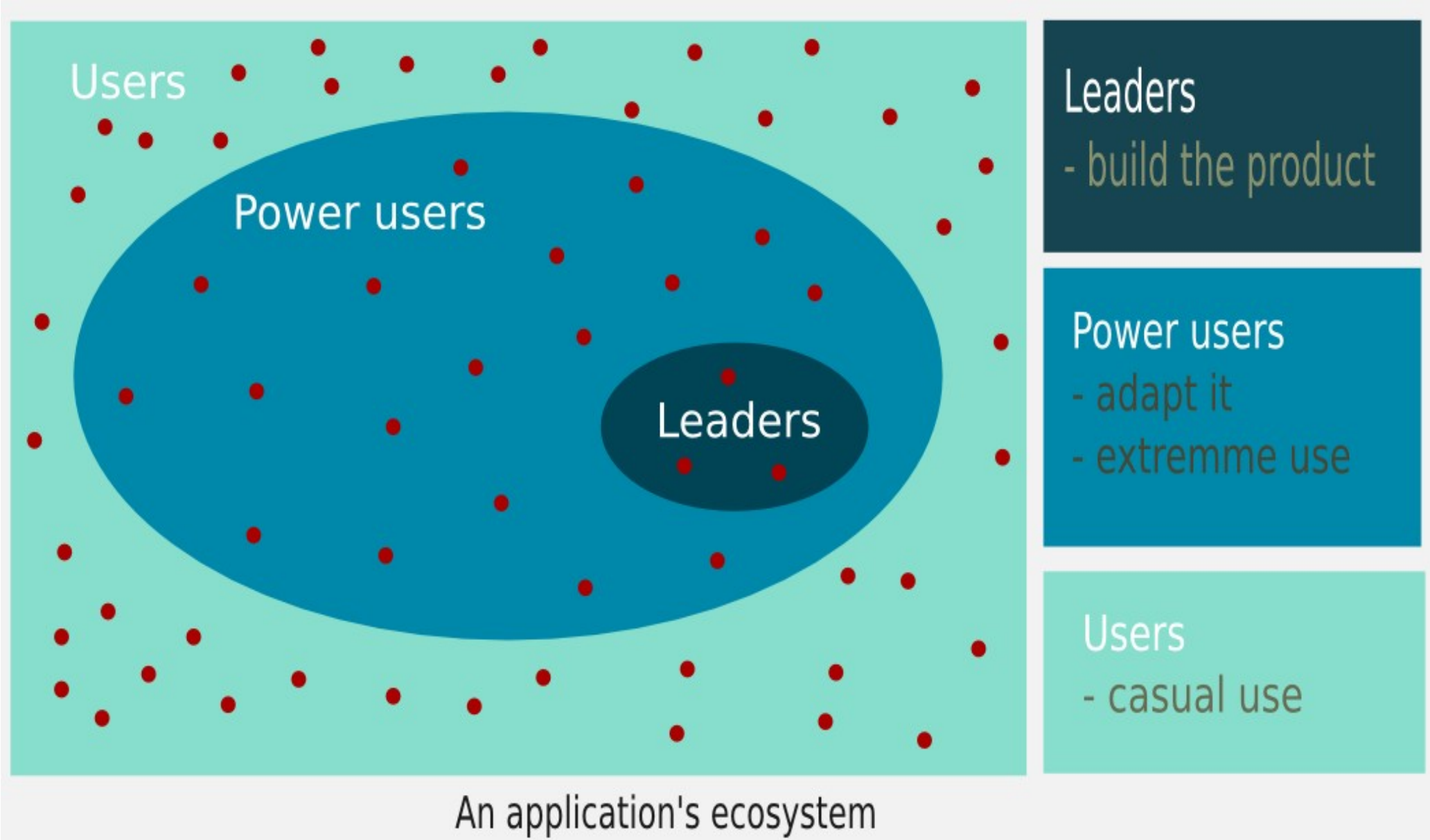
A quantitative study on GRASS, gvSIG and QGIS Communities



V jornadas SIG Libre. 23-25 March, Girona
Authors: Andrés Maneiro, Francisco Puga, Adrián Eirís, Alberto Varela

The ecosystem of a software product

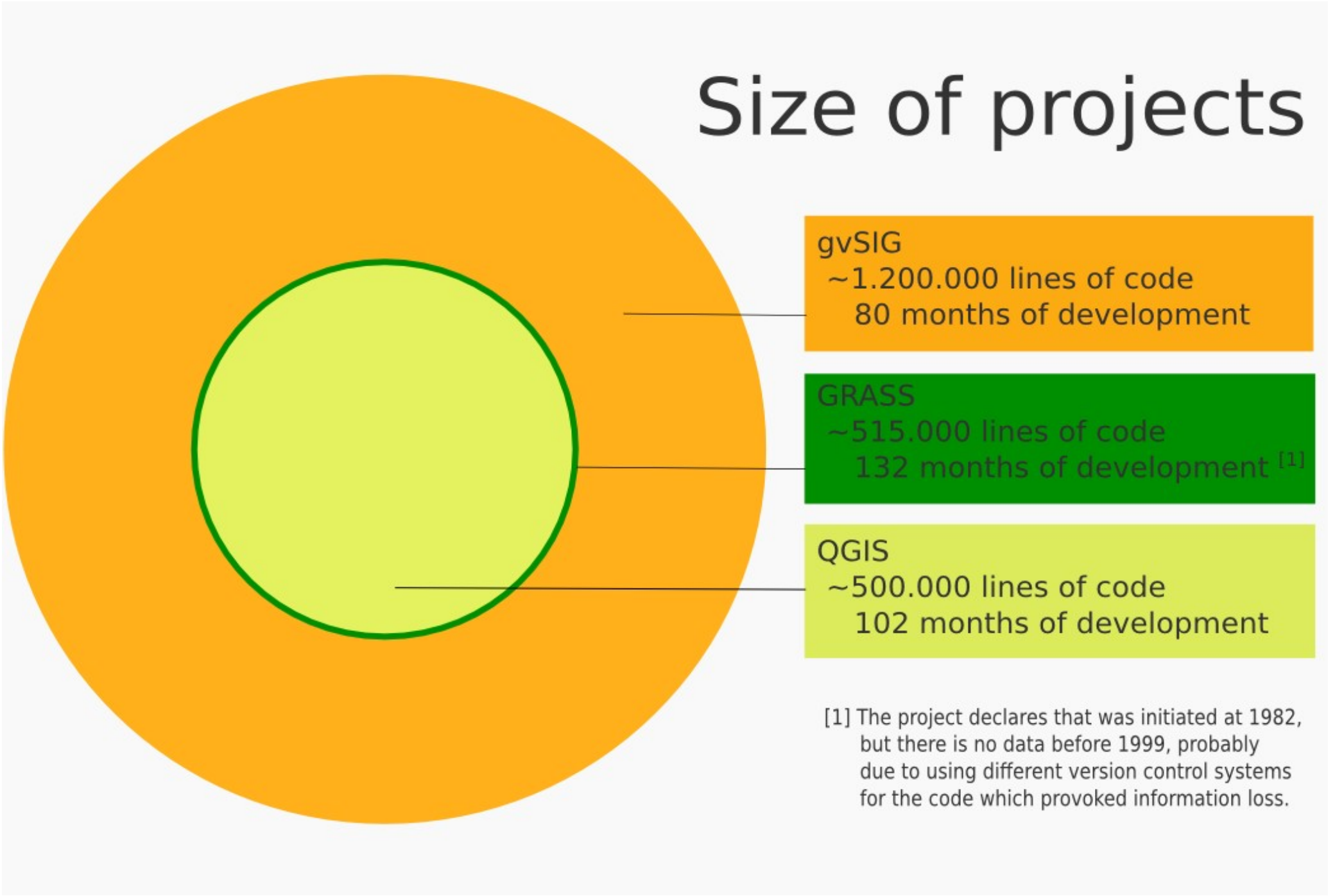


A quantitative study on GRASS, gvSIG and QGIS Communities

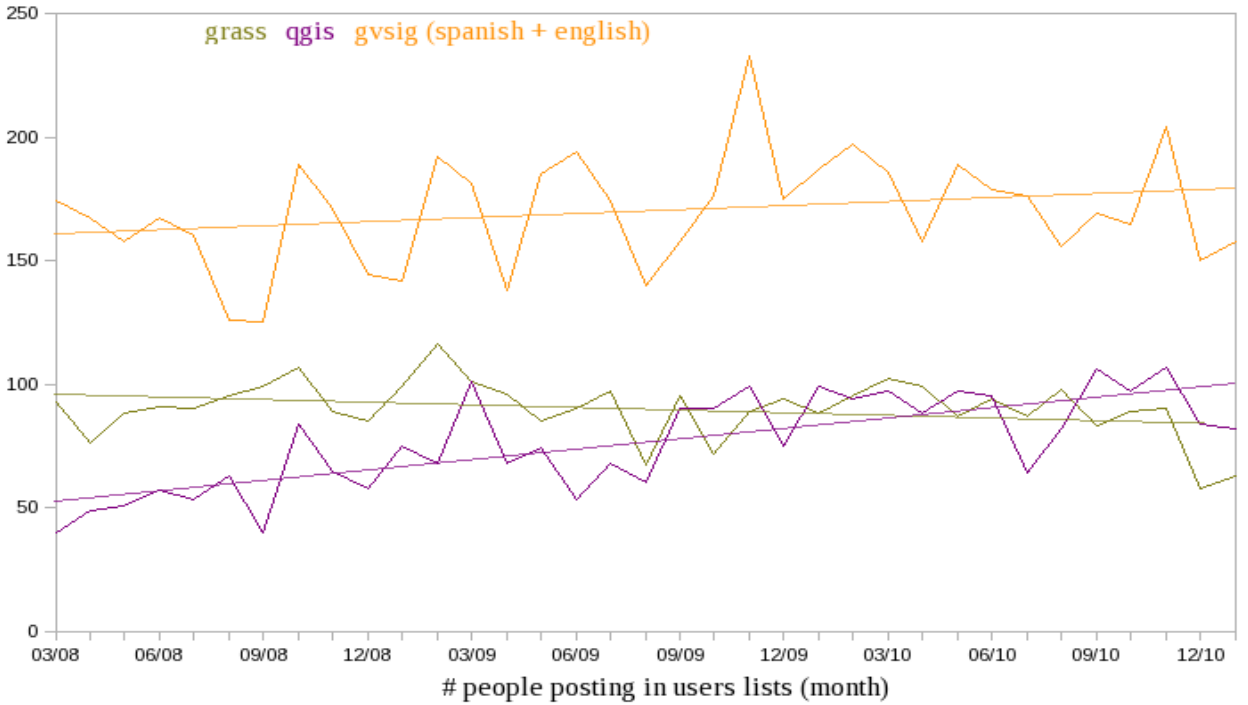
5 indicators for communities and *core* product (default installation)

- **User trends**: based on mailinglists
- **Developers trends**: based on mailinglists
- **Activity and manpower**: based on code contributions
- **Community workhours**: based on code contributions
- **Generational analysis**: based on code contributions

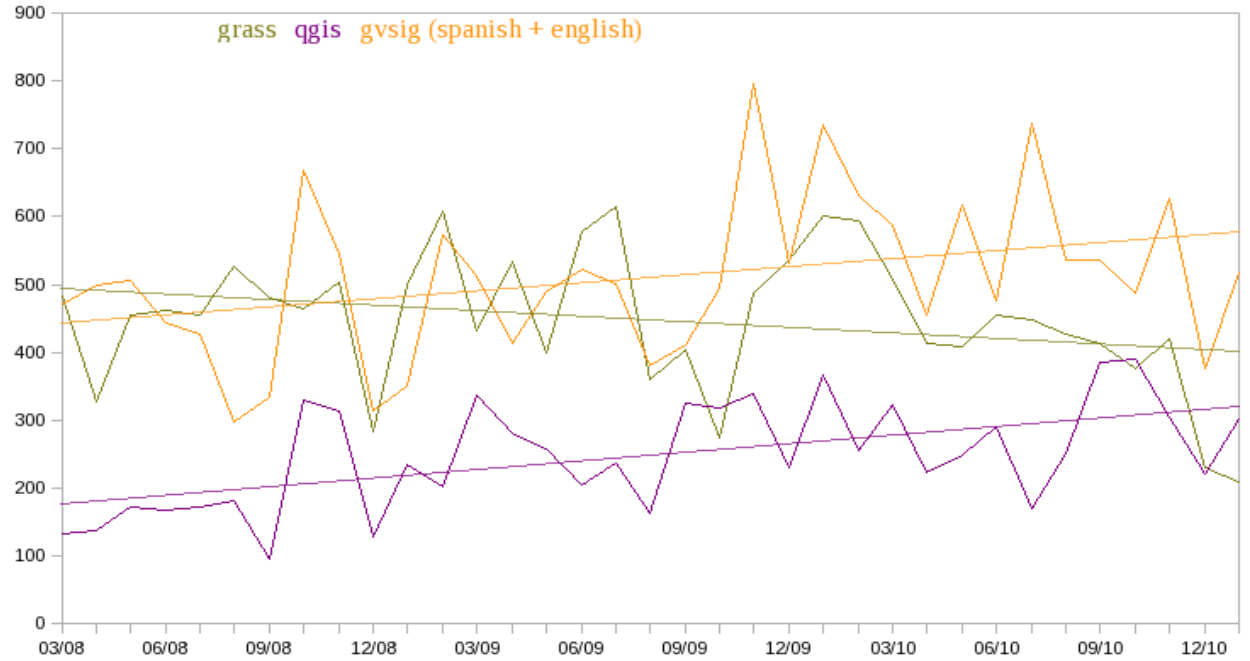
A quick overview: size and history of projects



Users trends (based on mailinglists activity 2008-2010)

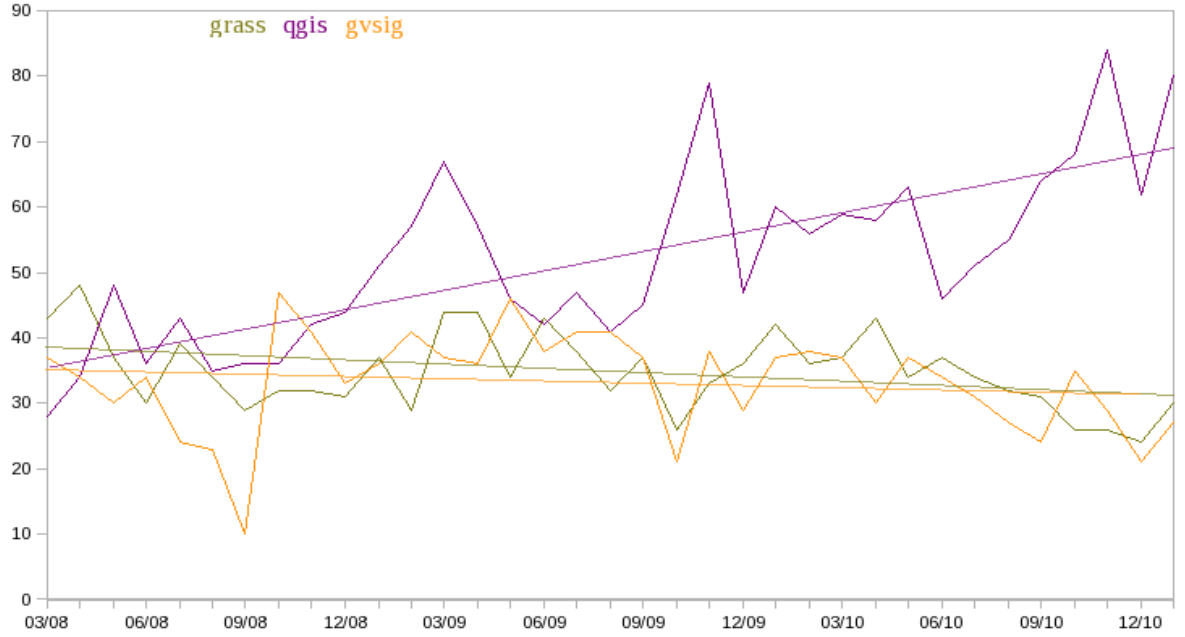


people posting in users lists (month)

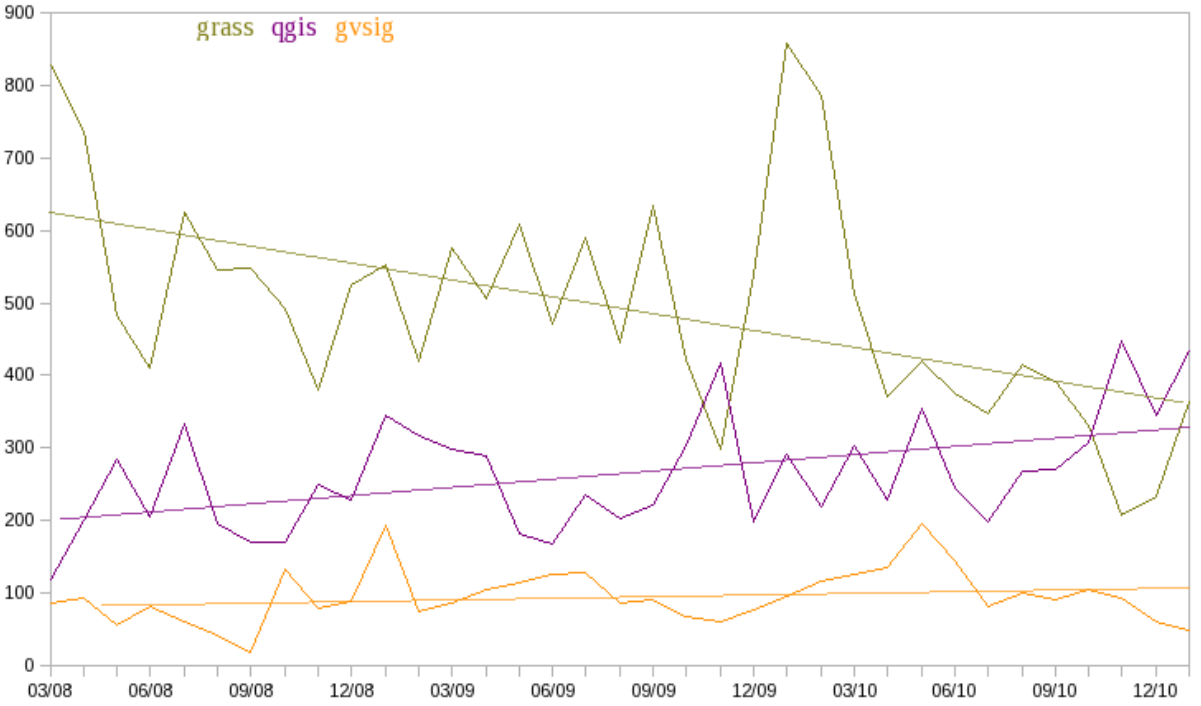


messages to users lists (month)

Developer trends (based on mailinglists activity 2008-2010)

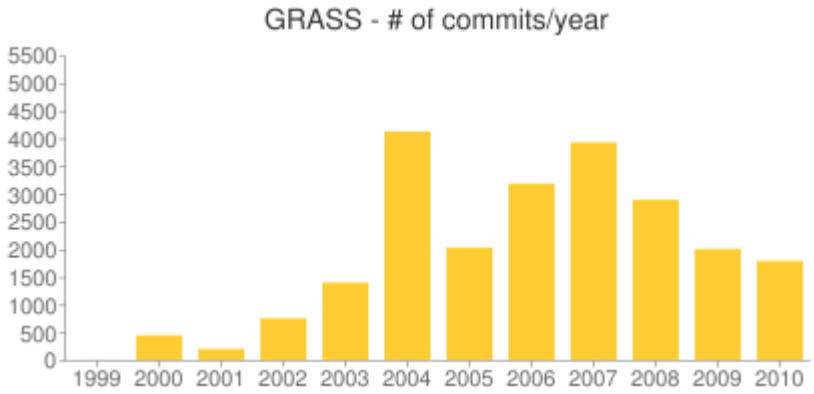


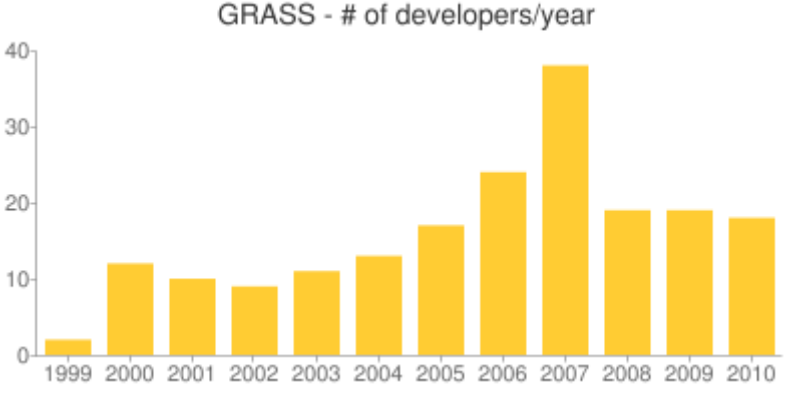
people posting in developers lists (month)

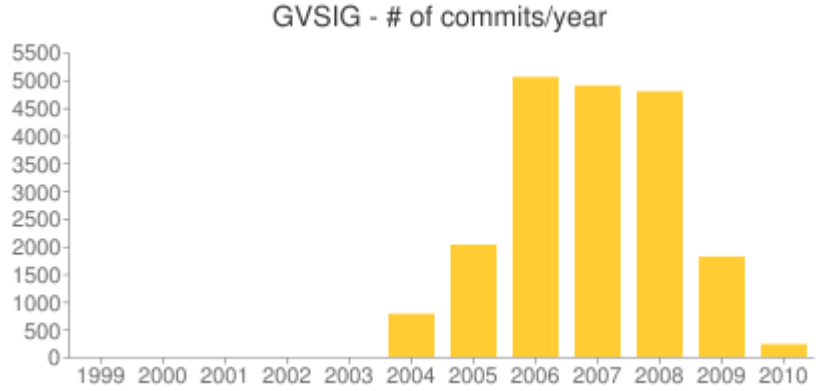


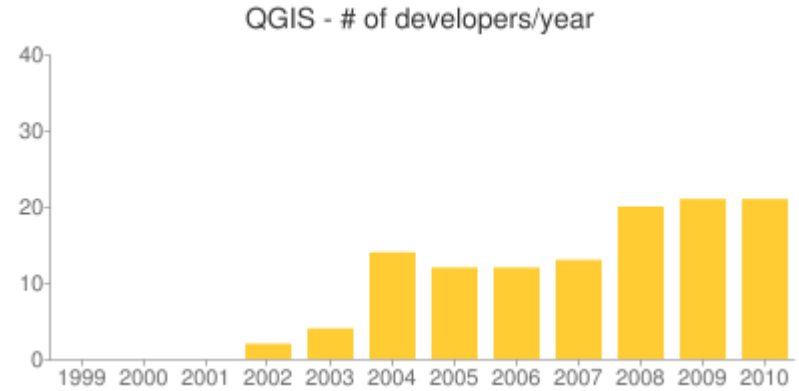
messages to developers lists (month)

Activity and manpower (based on code contributions 1999-2010)

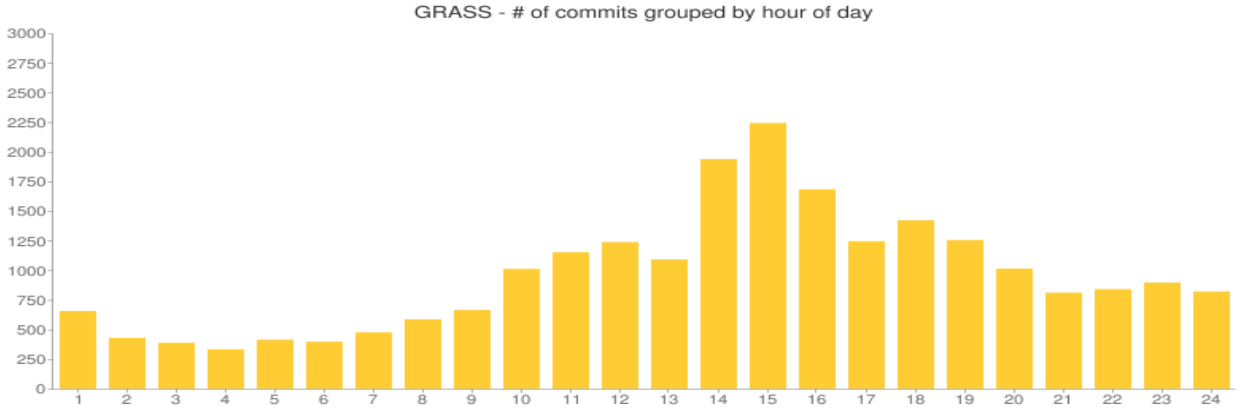


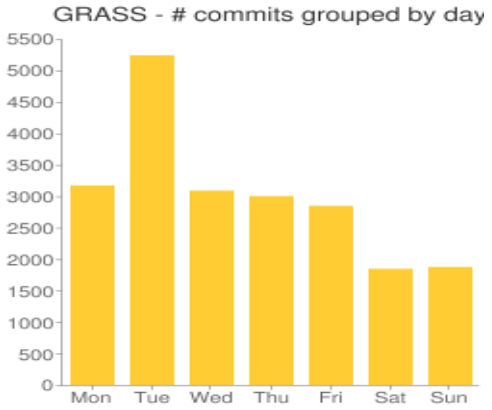


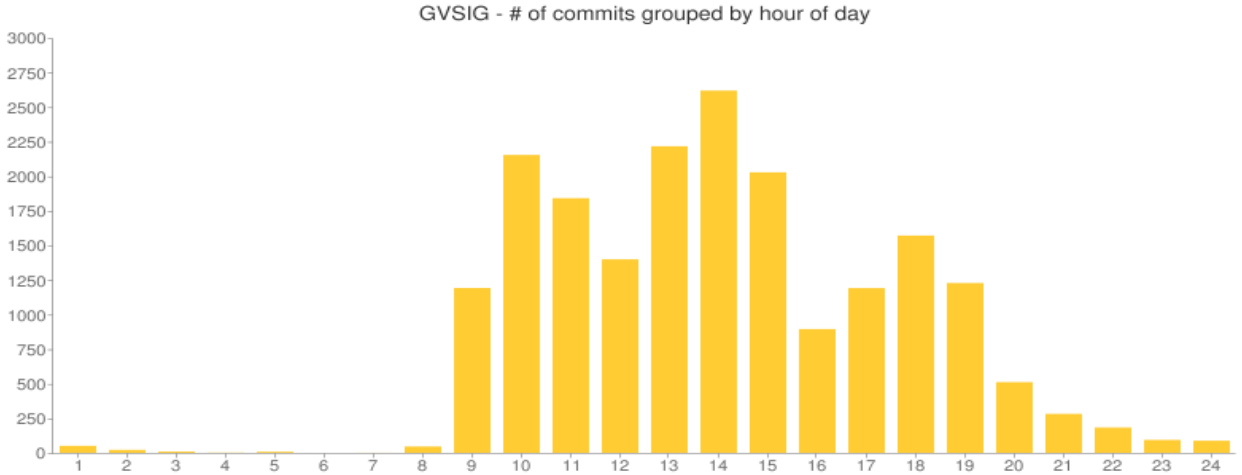


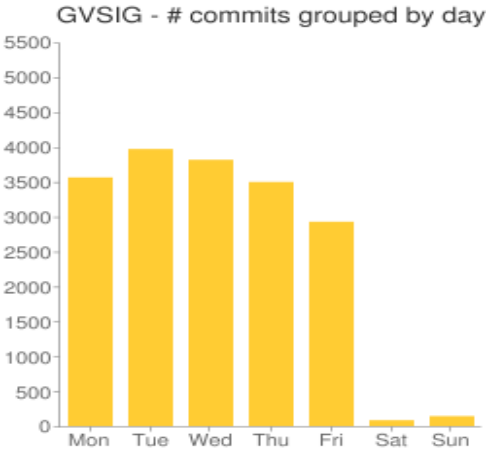


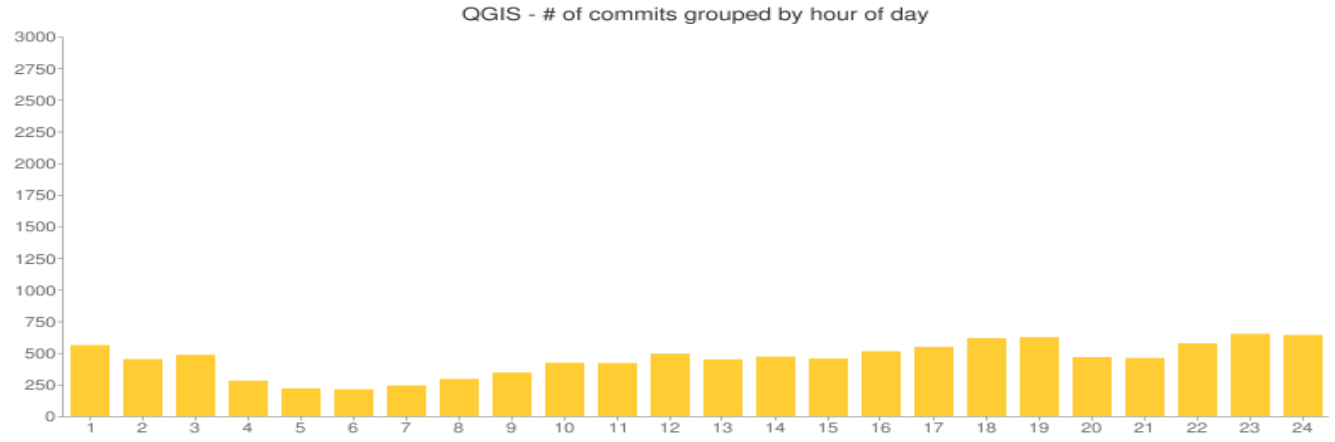
Community workhours (based on code contributions 1999-2010)

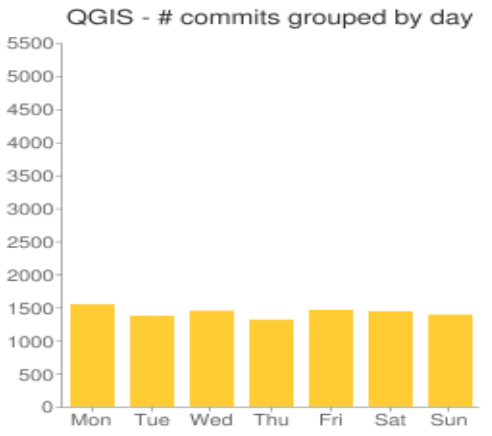




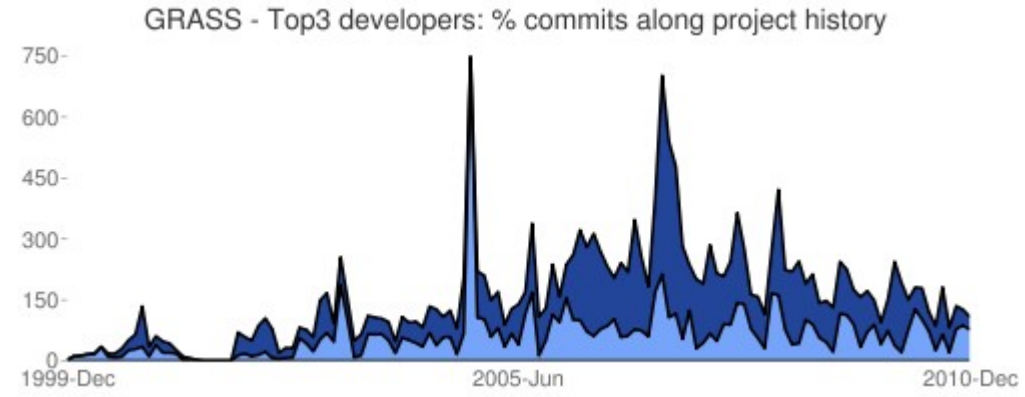


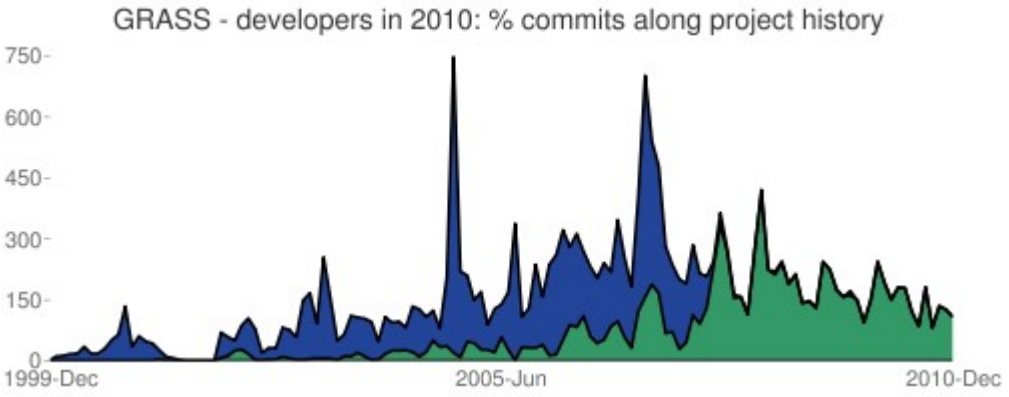


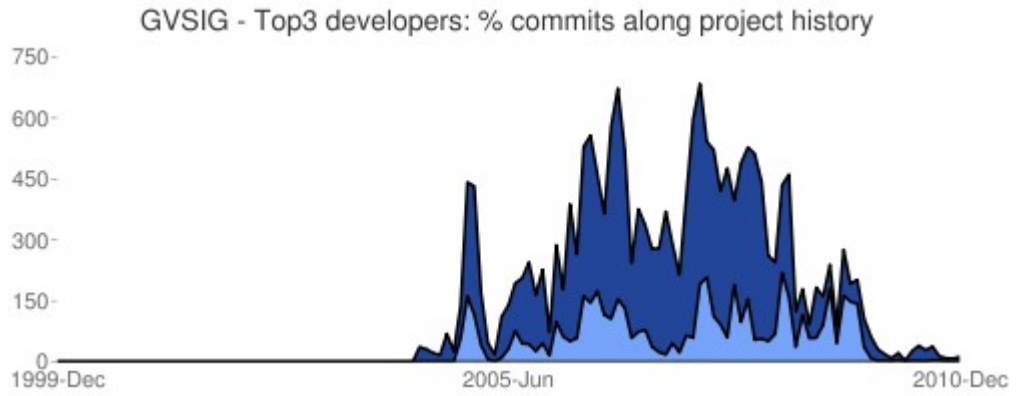


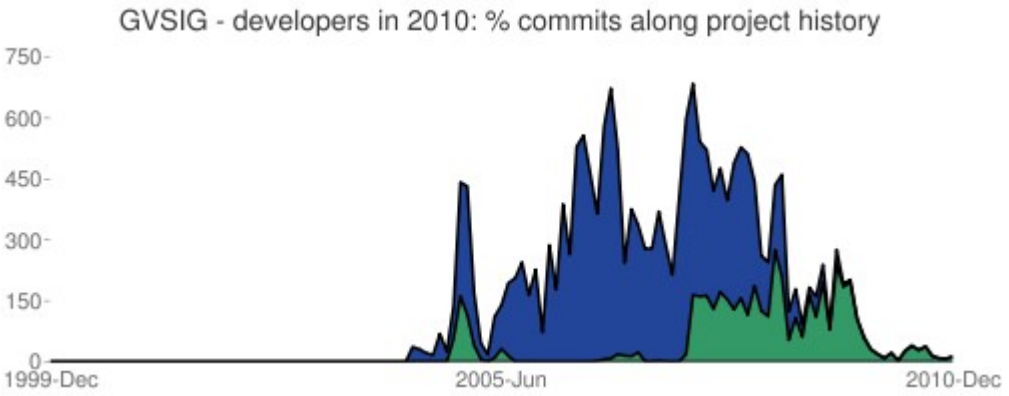


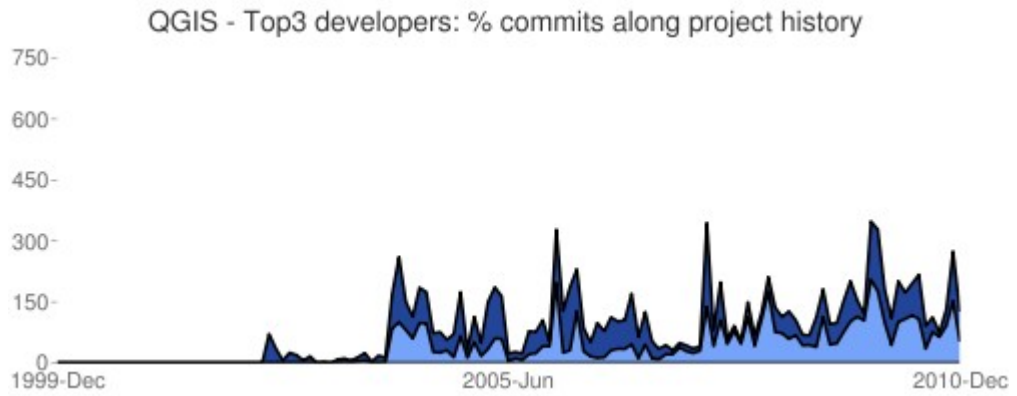
Generational analysis (based on code contributions 1999-2010)

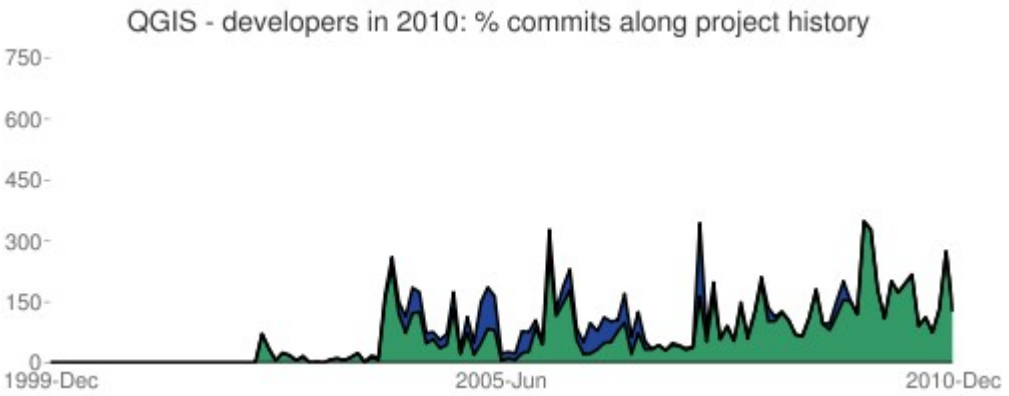












Could we guess *some* patterns?

Lead users

- GRASS current leaders have grown internally in the project and have broad expertise in it.
- gvSIG development seems to be led *by contract*. No signs of external contributions and volunteer development are shown in the *core*.
- QGIS development seems to be led by a large volunteer and highly distributed base. It has agregated around it 3 different generations of people. Signs of a *hacker-friendly* culture.

Power users

- GRASS contributors seems to be slowly decreasing.
- gvSIG seems to have a stabilized contributors base.
- QGIS is getting *momentum* as more and more people is joining the community.

Casual users

- GRASS is decreasing in adoption to general public.
- gvSIG seems to have some advantage and leads the way.
- QGIS has a slow and steady growing.

Further research

This study was a first step. For 1st time we can learn how our communities work based on facts. But, needless to say, it needs further work. Some ideas we have:

- Same analysis for other branches of the product (future versions, …).
- Include more sources of information: issue tracking analysis.
- How active and big is the “power users” community? # of plugins, …
- Which and how many companies support the product?
- Trends for users and developers disagregated by regions. ...

Let us know more analysis you see interesting and help us to build them!

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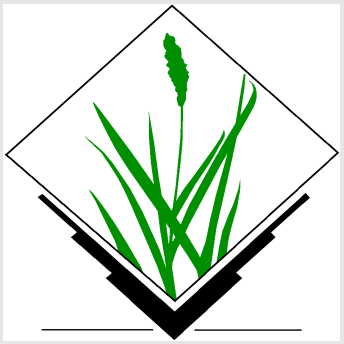

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