Python/Qt Graphics in Antelope

Danny Harvey Boulder Real Time Technologies, Inc. Antelope User Group Meeting, DPC, Rome 2016 May

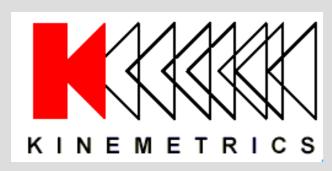
Outline

- Introduction
- Review of Qt Graphics Introduced in 5.5
- Rewrite of Qt Graphics for 5.6
- Python-Qt Bridge Development
- Coding Examples
- Plans for Further Development





INTRODUCTION – KMI TEAM



Designs and manufactures sensors and digitizers – Provides complete systems design, installation and operations





Designs High-End Digitizers

















Kinemetrics/BRTT – Comprehensive hardware, software and services

Kinemetrics Systems Solutions

• Turnkey complete systems including enterprise-class computing centers and full communications

Kinemetrics Hardware Manufacturer

- World class Kinemetrics and Quanterra dataloggers
- World class Kinemetrics, Metrozet and Streckeisen sensors

BRTT Software Developer

- World class acquisition software for all Kinemetrics hardware products
- Proven track record for large networks with difficult remote deployments (USArray)
- World class, comprehensive automated and interactive seismic processing software
- Data neutral architecture for support of non-seismic environmental monitoring networks
- Extraordinary Command & Control capabilities with SOH displaying

Kinemetrics Services

- Complete systems procurement, installation and training including all aspects of both hardware and software
- Network operations





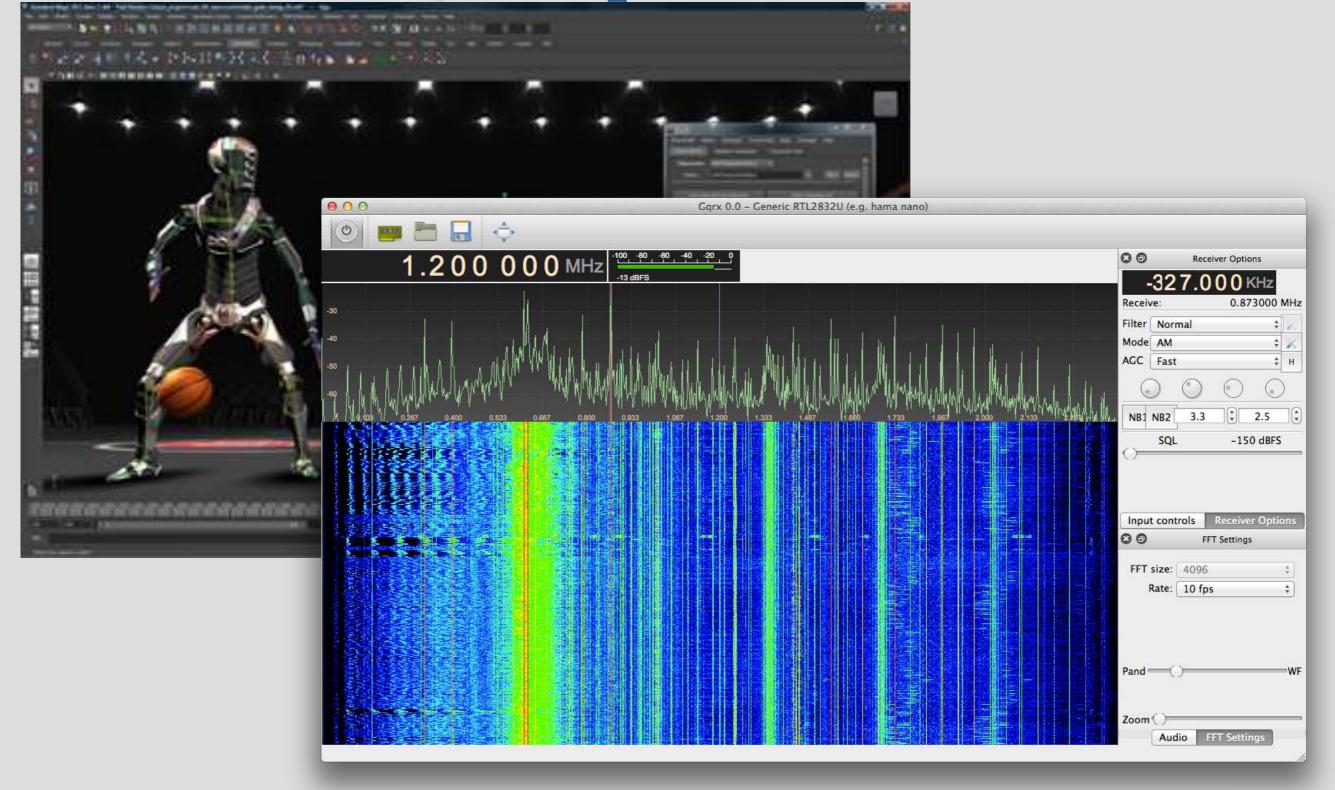
Qt Graphics in 5.5

- Cross platform API (MacOSX, LINUX, Windows, iOS, Android, Windows Mobile)
- Commercially supported and licensed (Qt Company)
- High level support for modern graphics hardware (fonts, spatial antialiasing, alpha blending, 3D rendering, etc.)
- Very large user base (Nokia, KDE, Android apps, embedded devices) plus sophisticated extensions such as Marble
- QTWebkit and QTWebsockets plus XML interpreter
- Up to OpenGL API levels





Qt Graphics in 5.5







What is Qt?

- Graphics/Interaction middleware
- C++ API with ~500 classes
- High performance at various levels
- High functionality at various levels
- Cross platform API with common application code base for MacOSX/Cocoa, MaxOSX/Xquartz/X11, Linux/X11, iOS, Android, Windows
- Both GPL and commercially licensed through Qt Company





5.5 Graphics Development

- BRTT stopped all graphics/GUI development that uses X11/Tk. This included the TCL, perl and python extensions we have used and developed in the past.
- Starting with 5.5, new graphics/GUI software will be developed only using Qt
- Although there is a dual GPU/commercial PyQt python extension library for Qt, BRTT will not use PyQt for the 5.5 release (we have experimented with making our own version of PyQt)
- New BRTT developed graphics/GUI software written in c++





Qt-related Developments Introduced in 5.5

- New Qt-based library that introduces BRTT plot extensions into Qt (not available for development by our users)
- New Qt-based dbe prototype
- Rewrite of BRTT map display software
- Support for continuously scalable display transformations of image data such as NASA's Bluemarble earth image data
- High performance map projection transformations through threading
- New BRTT Map Data (bmd) format that supports multiple resolution and tiled image and vector data in both native compressed and uncompressed formats
- qtmapevents





5.5 - qtmapevents







5.5 - qtmapevents

- 180 lines of c++ closed-source code
- Because of commercial Qt licensing restrictions, no user access to BRTT-developed Qt library
- The 5.5 prototype version of the Qt graphics library was developed through minimal changes to the existing Tk/X11 based graphics library





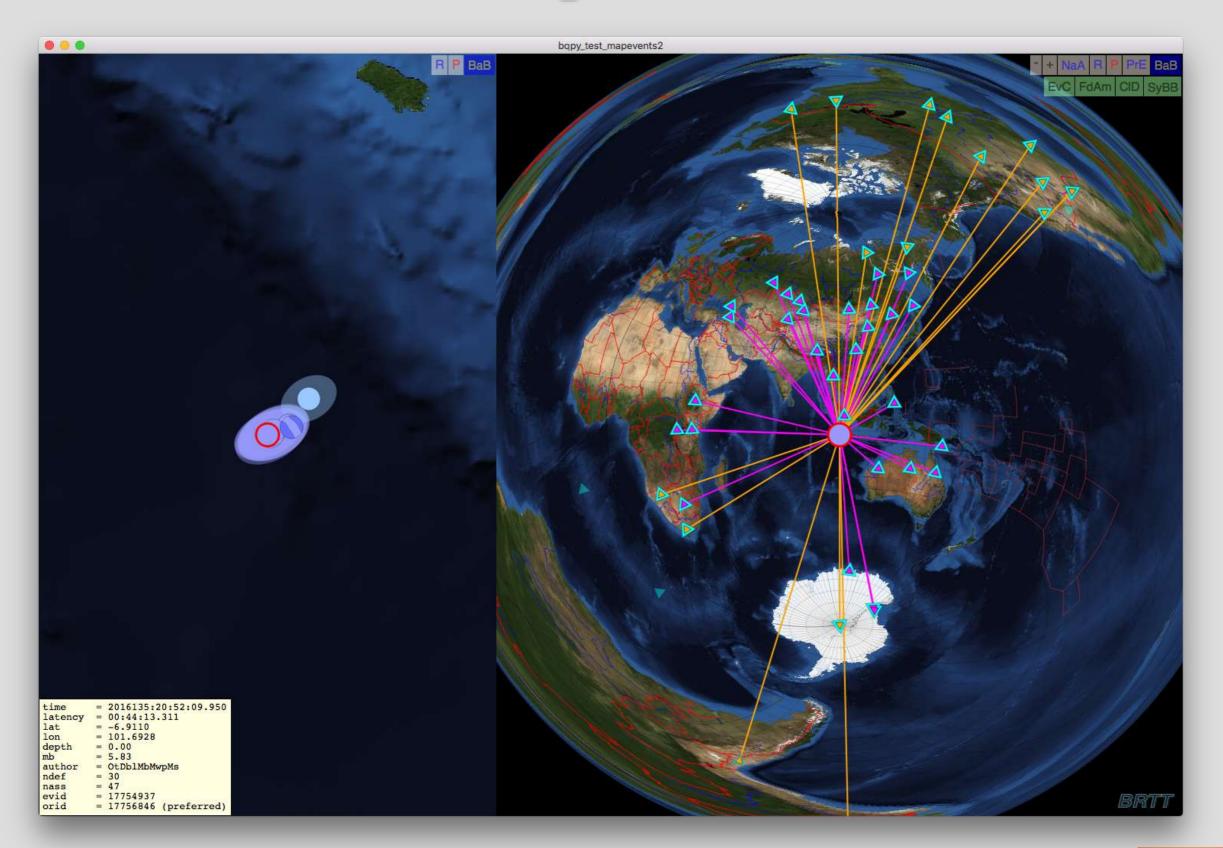
5.6 – first production version of Qt graphics library - bqplot

- Complete rewrite
- 5.5 prototype version did not take advantage of c++ coding capabilities – 5.6 production version takes full advantage of c++ coding capabilities resulting in code maintainability
- 5.6 bqplot library consists of 20 new classes that implement high level graphics function, 20,000 new lines of code and documentation
- Although derived from the old Tk/X11 buplot code, this version adds major new coding constructs that will ease development of further graphics capabilites.





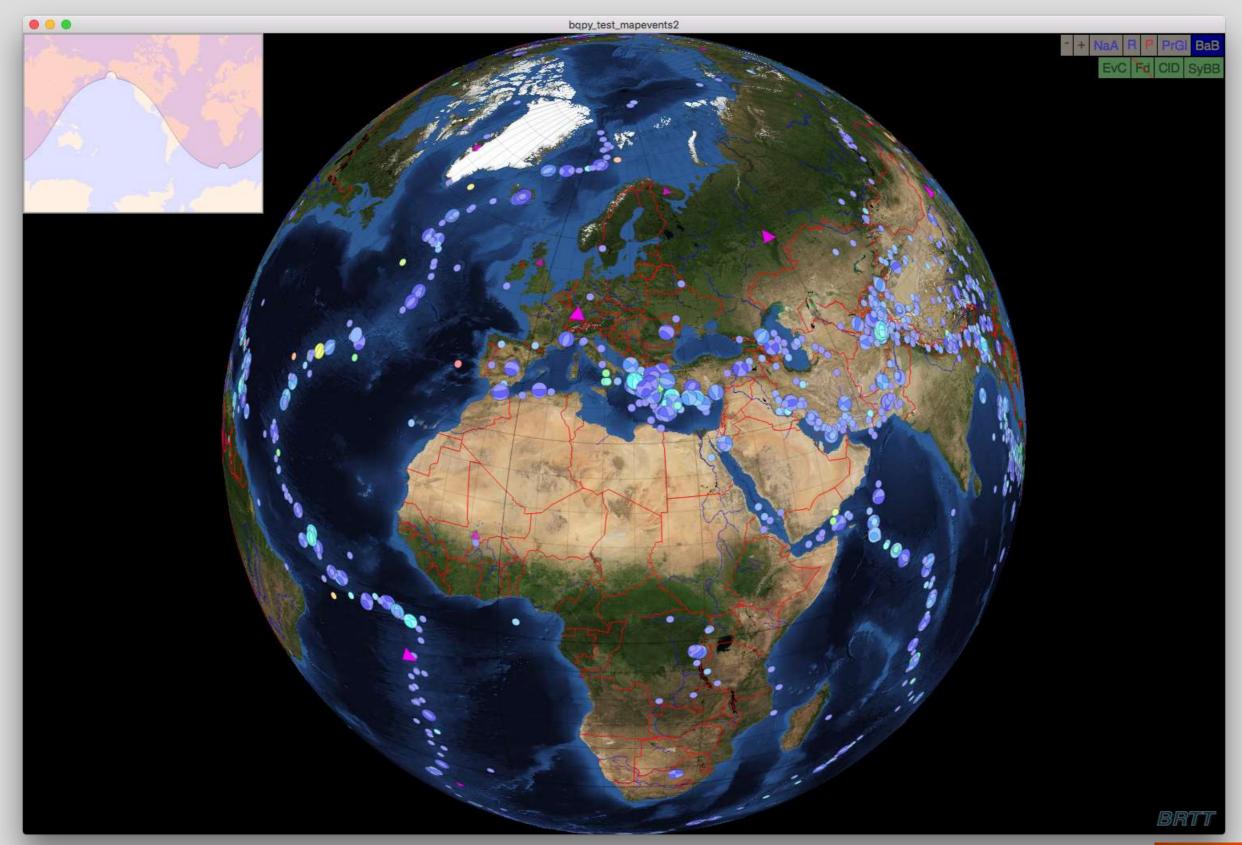
5.6 – BQMapevents class







5.6 – BQMapevents class







5.6 – first production version of Qt graphics library - bqplot

- All **bqplot** classes are documented
- However, because of licensing restrictions, BRTT cannot provide a c++ Qt development environment as part of its distributions
- We needed to extend the new Qt graphics to a scripted environment like Python – would both ease our development tasks and provide our users development access to bqplot





Development of Python interpreter for bqplot

- bqpy in the 5.6 release provides a Python interpreter that will act as a bridge to the bqplot graphics library
- bqpy runs an embedded Python interpreter in one thread and a special bqplot server in a separate thread
- The bqplot server accepts commands and data through a serialized pipeline that is fed by the Python interpreter in the other thread. Note that with this design the Python interpreter and the bqplot server could be in separate processes





Development of Python interpreter for bqplot

- qtmapevents in the 5.6 release is now a 70 line open source Python script that runs bqpy (as opposed to 180 lines of c++ code in the 5.5 version)
- displayttgrid in the 5.6 release is now a 141 line open source Python script that runs bqpy
- dbevents_pre in the 5.6 release is now an open source Python script that runs bqpy and provides event graphics using the new Qt library
- BRTT will continue to convert old Tk/X11 based displays to Qt using this approach
- We encourage our users to develop graphics apps using this approach





```
from antelope.bqplot import *
from antelope.bueventview import *
def usage():
         print "usage: qtmapevents [dbname]"
nargs = len(sys.argv)
if nargs != 1 and nargs != 2:
          usage ()
          sys.exit (1)
dbname = None
if nargs == 2:
          dbname = sys.argv[1]
if dbname == None:
          map = Map ("toplevel")
          map.setdefaults ()
          map.configure ( \
                    "latr",
                              0.0, \
                    "lonr",
                              0.0, \
                    "range", 380.0)
          tbmap = map.gettaskbar ()
          tbmap.configure ( \
                    "taskbar exec", "projection=merc
")
else:
          ev = bueventview create ()
          bueventview configure (ev, "dbname", dbnam
e)
          mapevents = Mapevents ("toplevel")
          mapevents.setdefaults ()
          map = mapevents.getmap ()
          map.configure ( \
                    "latr",
                             0.0, \
                    "lonr",
                             0.0, \
                    "range", 380.0)
```

```
mapevents.seteventview (ev)
          tbmap = map.gettaskbar ()
          tbmap.configure ( \
                      "taskbar exec", "projection=me
rc" )
          tb = mapevents.gettaskbar ()
          tb.configure ( \
                      "taskbar exec", "symbol=circle
")
          tb.configure ( \
                      "taskbar exec", "rt=rtp" )
mw = Root()
mw.setgeometry (2500, 1.5, 1)
mw.show ()
mw.qtmainloop ()
mw.pymainloop()
```



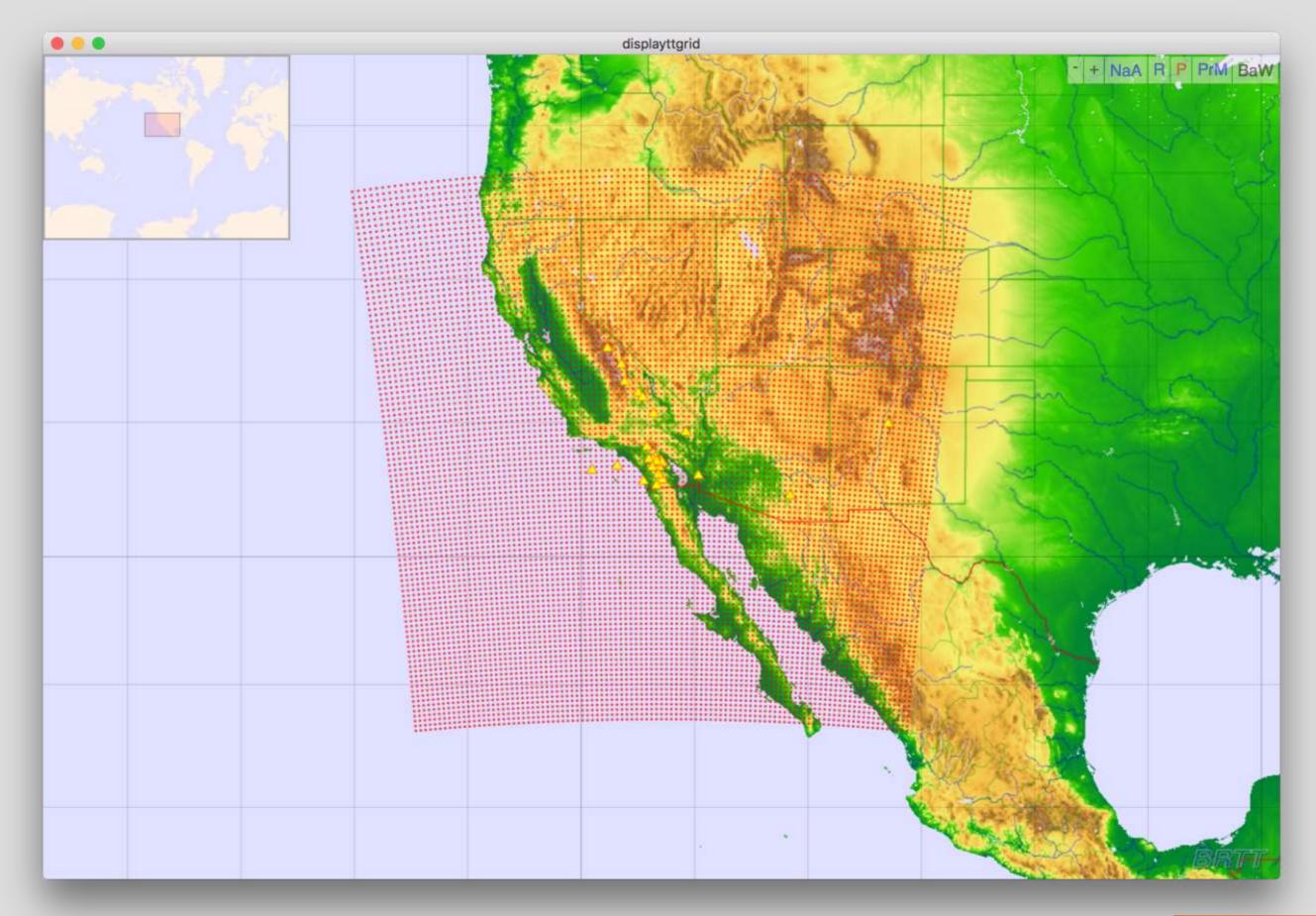


Development of Python interpreter for bqplot

- man bqplot
- man pythonbqplot











Further developments

- Continue bqplot Python extensions
- Add ability to ingest maps in other formats (gif, tiff, png, etc.)
- Add ability to ingest maps from Web Map Servers (WMS)
- Separate, standalone bqplot server
- Develop bqplot to add trace graphics and manipulation functions
- Develop bqplot to add simplified QUI widgets.















