



TECHNOLOGY

Excentric Labeling: Dynamic Neighborhood Labeling

OVERVIEW

The widespread use of information visualization is hampered by nonoptimal labeling techniques. Labels are often used to show additional information when a cursor is placed on an on-screen object, but this has drawbacks when there are many objects that overlap each other or when objects are closely grouped, as the label may not display for overlapping objects, or may block the viewing of other objects.

Researchers at the University of Maryland have developed software that uses a technique called Excentric Labeling, which dynamically displays all labels in a group near where a cursor is placed on screen. The labels are displayed in such a way as to not overlap with each other and to not block the display of on screen objects. This software is written in Java.

For further information, please contact the Office of Technology Commercialization, (301) 405-3947, E-mail: otc@umd.edu.

CONTACT INFO

UM Ventures
0134 Lee Building
7809 Regents Drive
College Park, MD 20742
Email: umdtechtransfer@umd.edu
Phone: (301) 405-3947 | Fax: (301) 314-9502

Additional Information

INSTITUTION

University of Maryland, College Park

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