Pad++: A Zooming Graphical Interface for Exploring Alternate Interface Physics

**Motivation**

- Metaphor is the old-school way of conceptualizing interfaces
- *Informational Physics* defines an interface based on the appearance and behaviour of on-screen objects
- Goal: tap into our innate spatial thinking abilities without restrictions of older media
Pad++

- Zooming interface widget for exploring visualizations of graphical data
- 3-button mouse:
  - “Left” button is mode-dependent (pick, pan, etc.)
  - Middle button zooms in
  - Right button zooms out

Semantic Zooming

- See details when zoomed in & up close
- Different representation when zoomed out
- Either:
  - Different objects shown based on scale
  - Procedural objects that render based on viewing size etc.

Figure 1: Sequence of snapshots (from left to right and top to bottom) as the view is zoomed in to a hand-drawn picture.
References


References