Focus+context, overview+detail, and ZUIs are all examples of systems that offer the ability to explore large information spaces. There are many examples, including the simple textual example of Windows Explorer, to Hyperbolic Trees (from Xerox PARC) or Pad++ (see below). There are many application areas such as image browsing, presentations, and electronic control rooms.

This course offers the opportunity to explore in detail ZUIs and related systems. We will read the literature, build applications (in Java), and evaluate them. The course will center on student-designed projects that build an application and/or evaluate one. All projects will culminate in an in-class presentation, and a paper suitable for submitting to a conference.

All graduate students with some HCI experience and either Java programming skills or evaluation skills are welcome. Permission of instructor required.

Pad++ is a Zoomable User Interface (ZUI). ZUIs are applications where zooming is a fundamental part of the user’s interaction with the computer. Hyperlinks between pages are replaced with animated navigation through space.

“All the information is there, just look closer to see more detail.”

http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/pad++