

Spatial Alarms In The Obstructed Space*

Dr. Tanzima Hashem
Department of Computer
Science
Bangladesh University of
Engineering and Technology
Dhaka, Bangladesh
tanzimahashem@gmail.com

Md. Touhiduzzaman
Department of Computer
Science
Bangladesh University of
Engineering and Technology
Dhaka, Bangladesh
tz08128@gmail.com

Sezana Fahmida
Department of Computer
Science
Bangladesh University of
Engineering and Technology
Dhaka, Bangladesh
sezanafahmida@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Spatial Alarms are personalized LBS, that are triggered by a specific location of a moving user, irrespective of time. In this paper, we introduce spatial alarm queries in obstructed space. Existing work in this area has focused mainly on Euclidean distance and road network models. The key idea of our approach is to calculate dynamically changing *safe region*, *reliable region* and *known regions* depending on the user's current position. We opt to provide both high accuracy and high efficiency by providing a spatial alarm processing system that can work in two modes. Our approach aims to reduce redundant computations in client side, while using low communication bandwidth between user and client.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.4 [Information Systems Applications]: Miscellaneous;
D.2.8 [Software Engineering]: Metrics—*complexity measures, performance measures*

General Terms

Theory

Keywords

Spatial Alarm, Obstructed Space

1. INTRODUCTION

The widespread use of smart phones has led to the proliferation of location based services. Starting from static LBS (Location Based Service) such as finding the nearest pharmacy for a user's location, now-a-days LBSs are tailored for moving users. Spatial Alarms are an important class of LBS, that are triggered by a specific location of a moving user, irrespective of time. For example, "Remind me if I'm

*(Produces the permission block, and copyright information). For use with SIG-ALTERNATE.CLS. Supported by ACM.

Permission to make digital or hard copies of all or part of this work for personal or classroom use is granted without fee provided that copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage and that copies bear this notice and the full citation on the first page. To copy otherwise, to republish, to post on servers or to redistribute to lists, requires prior specific permission and/or a fee.

WOODSTOCK '97 El Paso, Texas USA

Copyright 20XX ACM X-XXXXX-XX-X/XX/XX ...\$15.00.

within 100 meters of a pharmacy" is a possible example of a spatial alarm.

Existing work in this area has focused mainly on Euclidean distance and Road Network models [1],[4],[2]. However, Spatial alarm evaluation in the obstructed space is different than road network or Euclidean space as it considers the obstacles in the path to the location of alarm. It is better approximated by a pedestrian scenario while road networks are approximated by vehicle scenarios. A pedestrian's path is not limited by roads. However, a pedestrian is obstructed by various obstacles such as buildings or trees. Thus while calculating the distance from alarms, we have to consider the obstructed distance. [6] In this paper we propose a unique approach to evaluate spatial alarms in obstructed space. To the best of our knowledge this query has not been addressed in any existing research work.

Spatial alarms are based on a fixed location thus applying the techniques that are used in answering spatial range queries is both inefficient and wasteful as, in spatial range query continuous re-evaluation of user's location is needed in case of a mobile user. However, in spatial alarm, the main point of interest is a static location. Thus the user's location is not relevant at all times. Another challenge in spatial alarm processing is the communication cost between the server and the client. The key idea of our approach is to calculate a dynamic *safe region*, within which no computation has to be done to provide an accurate alarm trigger. We will use an R-tree structure to index both obstacles and POI's in our approach. Our spatial alarm processing system has two different modes for efficient and effective processing of spatial alarms, namely, Bandwidth saving mode and Computational Cost Saving mode. Our approach accounts for both accuracy and efficiency by focusing on (1) No alarms being missed in user's proximity (2) Avoiding wasteful computation in client side (3) minimizing data transfer between server and client. In summary the our main contributions are:

- We introduce spatial alarm queries in obstructed space
- We provide a spatial alarm evaluation system for mobile user.
- Our approach deals with varying types of POIs such as private, public and shared.
- We provide dynamically changing regions to accurately evaluate spatial alarm queries.
- We provide an extensive experimental analysis to compare the accuracy of our approach with other naive approaches based on different parameters.

2. PRELIMINARIES

Spatial alarms are location-based, user-defined triggers which will possibly shape the future mobile application computations. They are distinct from spatial range query and do not need immediate evaluation after the user has activated them. The spatial alarm evaluation strategies are judged based on two features, correctness and scalability. Correctness refers to the quality that guarantees no alarms are missed. And scalability is the feature that measures the number of POI's the system can adapt to. In this paper, We propose a novel approach to evaluate spatial alarms in obstructed space which ensures both high accuracy and high scalability.

We define three different type of regions: *Known Region*, *Reliable Region* and *Safe Region*

DEFINITION 2.1. *Known Region:* We define two different known regions for the POIs and the obstacles. The region containing at least 1 POI is the known region for POI. The region circulating the POIs known region containing none or single colliding obstacles is the known region for the obstacles. The set of obstacles and POIs within this region is known to the client. We will denote the radius of the known region of the POIs as r_{kp} and that of the obstacles as r_{ko} .

DEFINITION 2.2. *Reliable Region:* Within which region, no further query to the server has to be done to compute a consistent set of answers, that is termed as a reliable region. Given the radius of the reliable region as r_{rel} , the user's previous location as P_1 and the current location as P_2 , if $(P_1 - P_2) < r_{rel}$, then by this definition no further queries to the server has to be done to compute a consistent set of answers.

DEFINITION 2.3. *Safe Region:* A safe region is the region located inside reliable region within which the answer set of POIs remains unchanged for a moving client. We will denote the radius of the safe region as r_{safe} . Given the user's previous location P_1 and the current location P_2 , if $(P_1 - P_2) < r_{safe}$, then no recalculation is needed to compute the answer.

3. PROBLEM SETUP

Existing research has categorized spatial alarms into three types: public, shared and private. Public alarms are alarms which are active for every user within the system, such as an alarm must be sent to everyone within 100 meters of a building on fire. Private alarms are user defined alarms which can be viewed by the user, such as a user might set an alarm to alert her if she is within 100 meters of her favorite coffee shop. Shared alarms are shared between specific groups of people. In the previous example if a user chooses to share the alarm for the coffee shop with some of her friends it becomes a shared spatial alarm. *Obstructed Space Route Problem* denotes the problem of finding the shortest route between two query-points in Obstructed Space where non-intersecting 2D polygons represent *obstacles* and where the route does not traverse through any obstacles. The length of the Obstructed route between points a and b is called the *Obstructed Distance* between a and b, denoted by $D_{obs,a,b}$. A **Spatial Alarm Query in Obstructed Space** is formally defined as follows: Given the user's current location p, and an alarming distance U_d for an alarm, spatial alarm

query returns the set of alarms A, where for each $a \in A, D_{obs,p,a} < U_d$.

Table 1: Symbol Table

| Symbols | Meaning |
|---------------|---|
| P | Set of POIs |
| O | Set of Obstacles |
| $dist_e(p,q)$ | Euclidean distance between point p and q |
| $dist_o(p,q)$ | Obstructed Distance between point p and q |
| r_{safe} | radius of safe region |
| r_{rel} | radius of reliable region |
| r_{kp} | radius of known region for POIs |
| r_{ko} | radius of known region for obstacles |

4. RELATED WORK

4.1 Spatial Alarms

Extensive research has been performed and various effective algorithms have been proposed [4],[5],[1] to process spatial alarms in Euclidean space and road network in recent years. Euclidean space considers the straight line distance between two points irrespective of obstacles on the other hand in road networks navigation is limited along predefined roads. [4] proposes a solution to the spatial alarm problem for moving users on road network. They introduce road network-based spatial alarms using segment length-based and travel time-based road network distances. Our approach aims to provide a solution to the same problem, depicted in an obstructed space [?] scenario. Again, Their solution incorporates the concept of hibernation time, a time during which no processing takes place in the mobile client or the processing engine comprehensive research, where in our approach we propose the novel concept of safe region. Comprehensive research has been conducted in [2] to make spatial alarm evaluation energy-efficient and effective in road networks. Though to the best of our knowledge, no efficient algorithm has yet been devised to process spatial alarms in obstructed space. [?] provides an efficient indexing structure for the processing of spatial alarms called the Mondrian tree. However, in our approach we have used the conventional R-tree structure.

4.2 Obstructed Space

Obstructed space considers the shortest distance between two points in the presence of obstacles. Various spatial range query algorithms have been presented in recent times [7],[3],[6] such as nearest neighbor and group nearest neighbor in obstructed space. [6] provides an efficient approach to find the aggregate obstructed distance along with processing the group nearest neighbor query in obstructed space. [7] provides efficient algorithms for range search, nearest neighbors, e-distance joins and closest pairs, in obstructed space, considering that both data objects and obstacles are indexed by R-trees. Again, in [3] efficient algorithms have been computed for the reverse nearest neighbor query. However, to the best of our knowledge no research work has yet been published on the topic of spatial alarms in obstructed space.

5. NAIVE APPROACHES

To compare the efficiency of our approach, we are about to represent two straightforward solutions for processing spatial alarms in an obstructed space - sequential alarm (POI) processing in regular basis and region-divided alarm (POI) processing. Both of these algorithms are stated and explained in the following subsections.

5.1 Sequential Processing on Regular Basis

The POIs are saved in an R-tree indexed by own distance from the query point. In this naive approach, a maximum number of nearest POIs are retrieved from the server and on a minimum change of the user's location, a system event will fire an update procedure checking whether to give any alarm to the client or not along with the check of necessity to fetch more POI and obstacle when the client goes outside of the farthest POI's alarming zone.

Algorithm 1: INITNAIVE1(q, r_{max}, p_{max})

Input : Query point q , Max search radius r_{max} , max no. of POIs p_{max}
Output: Answer set A

```

1  $P \leftarrow \text{GETALLPOI}(q, r_{max}, p_{max})$ 
2  $O \leftarrow \text{GETOBSTACLESET}(q, r_{max}, \emptyset)$ 
3  $V_G \leftarrow \text{MAKEVISGRAPH}(P, O)$ 
4  $u_{min} \leftarrow \infty$ 
5 for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $|P|$  do
6    $u_{min} \leftarrow \min(u_{min}, u_i)$ 
7  $k_{min} \leftarrow (r_{max} - u_{min})$ 
8 return  $A \leftarrow \text{MAKEANSWERSET}(q, k_{min}, P, O, V_G)$ 

```

Algorithm 2: UPDATENAIVE1(q', A)

Input : q', A

```

1  $q_d \leftarrow \text{EUCLIDEANDIST}(q, q')$ 
2 for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $|P|$  do
3   if  $\text{EUCLIDEANDIST}(q', p_i) > u_i$  then
4      $\text{ALARMUSER}(p_i)$ 
5 if  $q_d > k_{min}$  then
6    $\text{call INITNAIVE1}(q', 100, 100)$ 

```

In this approach, the visibility-graph construction requires $O(n^2)$ [5], where n = the number of edges of the obstacles and this algorithm is run more often from the update algorithm. A huge overhead is also sufficed to make P and O sets using such procedure. Again, The algorithm 5 can also be run much less time than in this approach, which is improvised in the later approaches. Moreover, the accuracy of this naive approach is vulnerable to many cases which are explained and handled in the following approaches one by one.

5.2 Region-based Alarm Processing

This naive approach is a region-based modified straightforward approach which searches for a new alarm inside the known region as soon as the client changes its position. This naive algorithm works in three parts - the first one retrieves all POI and obstacles and then computes the known and reliable regions, the second one calculates the visibility graph and periodically checks the client status to give alarms for

any POI after every hibernation-period expiration and the third procedure checks the region crossings to recompute the answer set on any minimal location-change of the client. The algorithms 3,4,5 show the respective parts.

The input to the algorithm 3 is the current location of the user q and the increment delta, the amount by which the regions will be expanded, r_d . The output of the algorithm is an answer set A which consists of the set of all obstacles O and POIs P along with the respective visibility graph V_G within the known-region radius r_k centring q .

Algorithm 3: INITREGIONBASE(q, r_d)

Input : Query point q , increment delta r_d
Output: The answer set, $A = \{r_k, P, O\}$

```

1 while  $|P| < 1$  do
2    $r_k \leftarrow (r_k + r_d)$ 
3    $P \leftarrow \text{CHECKNEWPOI}(q, r_k, P)$ 
4  $O \leftarrow \text{GETOBSTACLESET}(q, r_k, \emptyset)$ 
5  $V_G \leftarrow \text{MAKEVISGRAPH}(P, O)$ 
6 return  $A = \text{MAKEANSWERSET}(r_k, P, O, V_G)$ 

```

The input to the algorithm 4 is the current location of the client q and the answer set from the algorithm 3. This algorithm is also responsible for triggering an alarm to the client, if s/he is within the alarming distance of any POI.

Algorithm 4: SAFEREGIONCALC(q, A)

Input : Query point q , answer set A
Output: r_{safe}

```

1 if  $\text{ISANYPOIUNREACHABLE}(V_G)$  then
2    $A \leftarrow \text{INITREGIONBASE}(q, 10)$ 
3    $\text{call SAFEREGIONCALC}(q, A)$ 
4  $u_{min} \leftarrow \infty, u_{max} \leftarrow 0$ 
5 for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $|P|$  do
6    $D_i \leftarrow \text{OBSDIST}(q, p_i, V_G)$ 
7    $D_{min} \leftarrow \min(D_{min}, D_i)$ 
8    $D_{max} \leftarrow \max(D_{max}, D_i)$ 
9  $r_{rel} \leftarrow (r_k - D_{min})$ 
10 foreach  $p_i \in P$  do
11   if  $\text{OBSDIST}(q, p_i, V_G) < u_i$  then
12      $\text{ALARMUSER}(p_i)$ 
13 return  $r_{safe} \leftarrow (D_{min} - u_{max})$ 

```

The input to the algorithm 5 is the current and the previous location of the client (q' and q), the radius of the safe region(r_{safe}), the reliable region(r_{rel}) and the known region(r_k) and finally the already computed answer set A . The output of the algorithm is the minimum distance d_u to trigger this algorithm the next time.

In this approach, more than one query for the known region computation has to be done frequently to the server after computing the visibility graph and if any unreachable POI is found out - which seems very much inefficient. Moreover, the safe region is in its minimum size in this approach, which requires more computation in the client side and so gets the approach less efficient.

These problems are solved in the following final approach.

6. SPATIAL ALARM IN OBSTRUCTED SPACE

Algorithm 5: OnLocationChange($q, q', r_{safe}, r_{rel}, r_k$)

Input : $q, q', r_{safe}, r_{rel}, r_k, A$
Output: d_u

```
1  $q_d \leftarrow \text{EUCLIDEANDIST}(q, q')$ 
2 if  $q_d > r_{rel}$  then
3    $A \leftarrow \text{INITREGIONBASE}(q, q_d)$ 
4    $\text{call SAFEREGIONCALC}(q, A)$ 
5 else if  $q_d > r_{safe}$  then
6    $\text{call SAFEREGIONCALC}(q, A)$ 
7 return  $d_u = r_{safe}$ 
```

Our spatial alarm evaluation system is divided into client-server architecture. The server has access to the locations of mobile users, location of alarms and location of obstacles. In this paper we assume that all users have access to some sort of localization service such as GPS or Wi-Fi that allow the server to pinpoint their current location. The client application is a thin-weight application that communicates with the server at regular intervals to retrieve necessary information about alarms and the obstacles. We assume that the user can use any device such as smart-phones or PDA. Spatial alarm evaluation can be optimized using two key features: firstly, reducing the number of device wake-ups and secondly reducing the re-computation of same obstructed distance and reducing the number of duplicate data retrieval from the server. For the first strategy to be successful we propose an algorithm in the section which will compute an optimal safe-region for our spatial alarm evaluation system. The second optimization technique is related to the safe-region computation technique. To compute the safe region the client application must communicate with the server as it needs the location of obstacles and alarms. In this paper we aim to optimize this communication by ensuring that no redundant data is retrieved from the server. We propose two different type of strategies which highlight exactly one of the aforementioned key features. Our application has two different modes, namely, *Bandwidth Saving Mode* and *Computational Cost Saving Mode*.

6.1 Bandwidth Saving Mode

In this mode the main focus is to reduce the bandwidth of communication between the server and the client. This mode is designed to operate in three parts - *client-initialization*, *alarm-configuration* and *update on any location change*. Algorithm 6, 7, 8 show the algorithmic-steps for these three parts respectively.

The input to the client-initialization algorithm (algorithm 6) is the current location of the client q and the incremental radius r_d by which the radius of the searchable region will expand. This algorithm improvises the single known region concept of the second naive approach described above into two different known regions for POIs and obstacles, which makes the frequent queries more efficient and accurate and needs much less server communication. The output of the algorithm is an answer set A which consists of the radius of the known regions of POI and obstacles (r_{kp} and r_{ko} respectively), the set O of all obstacles within radius r_{ko} and the set of all POIs within radius r_{kp} centring q . Since, it is a bandwidth saving mode, the visibility graph is not sent to

the client as long as it can be computed using the existing data in the client side.

Algorithm 6: ClientInit(q, r_d)

Input : Query point q , increment delta r_d
Output: The answer set, $A = \{r_{kp}, r_{ko}, P, O\}$

```
1 while  $|P| < 1$  do
2    $r_{kp} \leftarrow (r_{kp} + r_d)$ 
3    $P \leftarrow \text{CHECKNEWPOI}(q, r_{kp}, P)$ 
4  $r_{ko} \leftarrow r_{kp}$ 
5  $O \leftarrow \text{GETOBSTACLESET}(q, r_{ko}, \emptyset)$ 
6  $V_G \leftarrow \text{MAKEVISGRAPH}(P, O)$ 
7 while  $\text{ISANYPOIUNREACHABLE}(V_G)$  do
8    $r_{ko} \leftarrow (r_{ko} + r_d)$ 
9    $O \leftarrow \text{GETOBSTACLESET}(q, r_{kp}, O)$ 
10   $P' \leftarrow \text{CHECKNEWPOI}(q, r_{ko}, P)$ 
11  if  $|P'| > |P|$  then
12     $P \leftarrow P'$ 
13     $r_{kp} \leftarrow r_{ko}$ 
14    goto step-4
15 return  $A = \text{MAKEANSWERSET}(r_{kp}, r_{ko}, P, O)$ 
```

The input to the algorithm 7 is the current location of the client q and the answer set got from the algorithm 6. This algorithm is also responsible for triggering an alarm to the client if s/he is within the alarming distance of any POI. Recall that, here u_i is the alarming radius, d_i is the Euclidean distance from the center of the regions and D_i is the obstructed distance in the visibility graph V_G all for the i^{th} POI.

Algorithm 7: ConfigAlarm(q, A)

Input : Query point q , answer set A

```
1  $V_G \leftarrow \text{MAKEVISGRAPH}(P, O)$ 
2  $r_{rel} \leftarrow (r_{ko} - u_{max})$ 
3  $r_{safe} \leftarrow \infty$ 
4 for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $|P|$  do
5    $r_{safe} \leftarrow \min(r_{safe}, D_i - u_i)$ 
6 foreach  $p_i \in P$  do
7   if  $D_i \leq u_i$  then
8      $\text{ALARMUSER}(p_i)$ 
9   else if  $d_i < r_{safe}$  and  $\text{ISPATHINSIDE}(q, p_i, r_{safe}, V_G)$  then
10     $r_{safe} \leftarrow \min(r_{safe}, d_i)$ 
```

In this algorithm, the visibility graph is computed using the answer sets P and O got as return of the 6 from the server side. The most critical part of this algorithm is to calculate the safe region. This can be explained with a suitable example depicted in the figure 3 and described in the subsection 6.3.

The input to the algorithm 8 is the current and the previous location of the client (q' and q), the radius of the safe region (r_{safe}), the reliable region (r_{rel}) and the known region (r_k) and finally the already computed answer set A . The output of the algorithm is the minimum distance d_u to trigger this algorithm the next time.

6.2 Computational Cost Saving Mode

path to the obstructed POI b. The safe region does not contain the full path to the obstructed POI. In case a, the algorithm 7 computes the minimum among the Euclidean distances of the POIs. As we know from the Euclidean lower bound property that the obstructed distance \geq Euclidean distance. The proof follows from case 1. The safe region's radius will never over-assume the distance to the POI as it is considering the Euclidean distance. In case b, the algorithm 7 chooses the safe-region radius with the assumption that as the POI's full path is not the safe region, even if the user gets close to the POI in Euclidean Distance, Obstructed distance will always be higher. (Euclidean Lower Bound) \square

No query to the server has to be done to correctly give any alarm while the user is inside the reliable region

Recall from algorithms 6 and 7 that the minimum alarming distance among all the available POIs for the user is returned as U_{min} , which is used to reduce the POIs' known region's radius to the reliable region's radius as $r_{rel} = r_{ko} U_{max}$.

PROOF. If the safe region is well inside the safe region, then this proof follows the 1st fact. The 3 procedures run simultaneously to give accurate alarm for the POIs inside the known region and so inside the reliable as well as the safe region. The proof is needed for any POI outside both the known regions.

Let there be a POI outside both the known regions for which no alarm is triggered when the user gets inside its alarming distance U_i . But meanwhile, the user must cross the reliable region because $r_{ko} - r_{rel} = U_{max} > U_i$. So according to algorithm 8, algorithm 6 and 7 are re-run and the assumed POI must come inside the newly computed known regions and its alarm will be given accurately. Hence, there is a contradiction. Therefore, there is no POI outside the reliable region which may miss its alarm. So, the statement is proved. \square

The update procedure is run timely to re-calculate the answer set.

PROOF. This claim follows trivially from the proof of the fact that - no computation is needed to accurately give alarm while the user is inside the safe region. \square

7. EXPERIMENTS

8. CONCLUSIONS

This paragraph will end the body of this sample document. Remember that you might still have Acknowledgments or Appendices; brief samples of these follow. There is still the Bibliography to deal with; and we will make a disclaimer about that here: with the exception of the reference to the L^AT_EX book, the citations in this paper are to articles which have nothing to do with the present subject and are used as examples only.

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This section is optional; it is a location for you to acknowledge grants, funding, editing assistance and what have you. In the present case, for example, the authors would like to thank Gerald Murray of ACM for his help in codifying this *Author's Guide* and the .cls and .tex files that it describes.

10. REFERENCES

- [1] Bhuvan Bamba, Ling Liu, Arun Iyengar, and Philip S. Yu. Distributed processing of spatial alarms: A safe region-based approach. In *29th IEEE International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS 2009)*, 22-26 June 2009, Montreal, Québec, Canada, pages 207–214. IEEE Computer Society, 2009.
- [2] Myungcheol Doo, Ling Liu, Nitya Narasimhan, and Venu Vasudevan. Efficient indexing structure for scalable processing of spatial alarms. In Divyakant Agrawal, Pusheng Zhang, Amr El Abbadi, and Mohamed F. Mokbel, editors, *18th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Symposium on Advances in Geographic Information Systems, ACM-GIS 2010, November 3-5, 2010, San Jose, CA, USA, Proceedings*, pages 426–429. ACM, 2010.
- [3] Yunjun Gao, Jiacheng Yang, Gang Chen, Baihua Zheng, and Chun Chen. On efficient obstructed reverse nearest neighbor query processing. In Isabel F. Cruz, Divyakant Agrawal, Christian S. Jensen, Eyal Ofek, and Egemen Tanin, editors, *19th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Symposium on Advances in Geographic Information Systems, ACM-GIS 2011, November 1-4, 2011, Chicago, IL, USA, Proceedings*, pages 191–200. ACM, 2011.
- [4] Kisung Lee, Emre Yigitoglu, Ling Liu, Binh Han, Balaji Palanisamy, and Calton Pu. Roadalarm: A spatial alarm system on road networks. In Christian S. Jensen, Christopher M. Jermaine, and Xiaofang Zhou, editors, *29th IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering, ICDE 2013, Brisbane, Australia, April 8-12, 2013*, pages 1372–1375. IEEE Computer Society, 2013.
- [5] Anand Murugappan and Ling Liu. An energy efficient middleware architecture for processing spatial alarms on mobile clients. *MONET*, 15(4):543–561, 2010.
- [6] Nusrat Sultana, Tanzima Hashem, and Lars Kulik. Group nearest neighbor queries in the presence of obstacles. In Yan Huang, Markus Schneider, Michael Gertz, John Krumm, and Jagan Sankaranarayanan, editors, *Proceedings of the 22nd ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems, Dallas/Fort Worth, TX, USA, November 4-7, 2014*, pages 481–484. ACM, 2014.
- [7] Jun Zhang, Dimitris Papadias, Kyriakos Mouratidis, and Manli Zhu. Spatial queries in the presence of obstacles. In Elisa Bertino, Stavros Christodoulakis, Dimitris Plexousakis, Vassilis Christophides, Manolis Koubarakis, Klemens Böhm, and Elena Ferrari, editors, *Advances in Database Technology - EDBT 2004, 9th International Conference on Extending Database Technology, Heraklion, Crete, Greece, March 14-18, 2004, Proceedings*, volume 2992 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 366–384. Springer, 2004.

APPENDIX

A. HEADINGS IN APPENDICES

The rules about hierarchical headings discussed above for the body of the article are different in the appendices. In the **appendix** environment, the command **section** is used to indicate the start of each Appendix, with alphabetic order

designation (i.e. the first is A, the second B, etc.) and a title (if you include one). So, if you need hierarchical structure *within* an Appendix, start with **subsection** as the highest level. Here is an outline of the body of this document in Appendix-appropriate form:

A.1 Introduction

A.2 The Body of the Paper

A.2.1 Type Changes and Special Characters

A.2.2 Math Equations

Inline (In-text) Equations.

Display Equations.

A.2.3 Citations

A.2.4 Tables

A.2.5 Figures

A.2.6 Theorem-like Constructs

A Caveat for the TeX Expert

A.3 Conclusions

A.4 Acknowledgments

A.5 Additional Authors

This section is inserted by L^AT_EX; you do not insert it. You just add the names and information in the `\addition-alauthors` command at the start of the document.

A.6 References

Generated by bibtex from your .bib file. Run latex, then bibtex, then latex twice (to resolve references) to create the [5] .bbl file. [4] Insert that .bbl file into the .tex source file and comment out the command `\thebibliography`.

B. MORE HELP FOR THE HARDY

The sig-alternate.cls file itself is chock-full of succinct and helpful comments. If you consider yourself a moderately experienced to expert user of L^AT_EX, you may find reading it useful but please remember not to change it.