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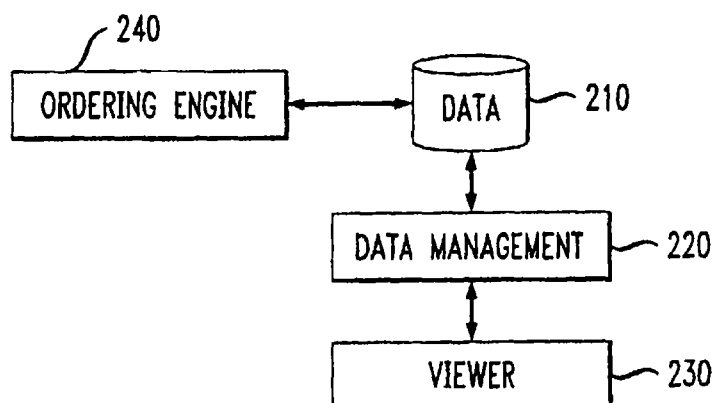
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(54) Title: USING CONTINUOUS OPTIMIZATION FOR ORDERING CATEGORICAL DATA SETS IN A DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Techniques for ordering categorical attributes so as to better visualize data are provided. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, an ordering algorithm comprises the steps of: (a) translating the discrete ordering problem to a continuous optimization problem; (b) solving the continuous optimization problem; and (c) mapping an optimal continuous solution to the closest discrete solution.

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