
“See also” indexing with makeindex

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Makeindex (a program by Pehong Chen[1]) allows an author to construct an index by writing `\index{}` entries in his L^AT_EX document. Thus, writing `\index{LISP}` in the source file gets (by juggling through makeindex) an index entry of the form, “LISP, 23” — that is, if the index entry for LISP happens to land on page 23 when the document is typeset.

In many indices, it is useful to have index entries that redirect the reader to an alternative or more appropriate heading. Makeindex provides a simple facility for this. For example, by writing, `\index{artificial intelligence|see{AI}}`, makeindex inserts `\see{AI}` just in front of the page number.

If `\see` is defined to gobble up its second argument, then the index ends up with just the “see”: for example,

```
\index{artificial intelligence|see{AI}}
```

results in an index entry:

“artificial intelligence, *see* AI”.

Now if an index entry has both page numbers and a “see” entry, two things go wrong. First, it is more appropriate to say “*see also*”, and secondly makeindex puts the “see” entry in the wrong place — that is, so far as it is concerned, in the ‘right’ place corresponding to the gobbled-up page number, which we’re not interested in.

The following macros provide the appropriate facility, and also indent the “*see also*” neatly as if was a subitem. (By using `!zzzzz`, the subitem is guaranteed to come at the end of the index entry — unless you have some obscure entries that come alphabetically after `zzzzz`!)

```
\def\subsee#1#2{ {\em see also\} #1}
% the #2 consumes a comma
\def\nosee#1{}
% consume the page number
\def\seealso#1#2{%
  \index{#1!zzzzz@\subsee{#2}|nosee}}
```

Given these definitions, and supposing index entries for “Scheme” occur on pages 147 and 401, this is how `\seealso{Scheme}{LISP}` would end up in the index:

```
Scheme, 147, 401
  see also LISP
```

As with the normal makeindex `see{}` construction, it does not matter where in your document `\seealso` is used: it will get placed at the end of

the index entry. So you can place it anywhere convenient.

Reference

[1] Pehong Chen and Michael Harrison, “Automating Index Preparation”, Tech. Report No. 87/347, Computer Science Division, University of California, Berkeley, March 1987.

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