

Giving leading a number

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1 Introduction

L^AT_EX defines two methods of specifying *leading*¹, or the distance between successive lines of text:

`\linespread` `\linespread{⟨ratio to original⟩}` , and
`\baselinestretch` `\renewcommand\baselinestretch{⟨ratio to original⟩}` .

(I've got no idea what the difference between the two methods actually is.)

For example, in the `pracjourn` class, a font size and leading of 12 pt/15.5 pt was chosen, which required the preamble declaration `\linespread{1.069}`, because the default leading for a 12 pt document is 14.5 pt and $14.5 \times 1.069 \approx 15.5$.

But this is not how most people define the typesetting of their paragraphs. Instructions don't come from the designer: "increase the leading 1.069 times the standard size in a 12 pt document". Instead, it's common to see "give me a leading of 15.5 pt". And indeed, that's how L^AT_EX's `\fontsize` command works.

`\leading` This package defines the `\leading{⟨length⟩}` command, which sets the leading immediately to the `⟨length⟩` specified. Here's an example:

`\leading{11pt}`

Upon observing him more closely, I perceived that he wore a black silk apron over his small-clothes; and this was a thing which I thought very odd. Before I had time to make any remark, however, upon so singular a circumstance, he interrupted me with a second "*ahem!*"

`\leading{5mm}`

Upon observing him more closely, I perceived that he wore a black silk apron over his small-clothes; and this was a thing which I thought very odd. Before I had time to make any remark, however, upon so singular a circumstance, he interrupted me with a second "*ahem!*"

¹Pronounced to rhyme with 'sledding'; the word arises from the spacers of lead used to separate lines of text in traditional metal press typesetting

2 Notes

The `\leading` command will ignore spaces after it.

As `\leading` uses `\linespread` internally, the results of `\leading{15.5pt}` in a 12 pt document and `\linespread{1.069}` are identical. This means that the leading at other font sizes (*e.g.*, `\small`, `\large`) will also be adjusted by the same ratio.

Since `\leading` uses a fixed length, if the font size of the document changes then its value will need to be adjusted. This isn't a problem in general, however, because it is common for different ratios of linespread to be used for different absolute font sizes anyway.

File I

The leading package

```
1 \ProvidesPackage{leading}
2 [2008/12/11 v0.3 Define leading length]
3 \RequirePackage{calc}
```

`\leading {#1}`: Leading (or 'baselineskip') length
This is the whole package. Not much to it, really.

```
4 \newcommand\leading[1]{%
5   \begingroup
6     \@tempdima=\f@baselineskip\relax
7     \@tempdimb=#1\relax
8     \setlength\@tempdimc{1pt*\ratio{\@tempdimb}{\@tempdima}}%
9     \global\@tempdimc=\@tempdimc
10  \endgroup
11  \linespread{\strip@pt\@tempdimc}\selectfont\ignorespaces}
```

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Numbers written in *italic* refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; numbers in *roman* refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

Symbols		B	
<code>\@tempdima</code>	6, 8	<code>\baselinestretch</code>	<i>1</i>
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<code>\@tempdimc</code>	8, 9, 11	<code>\f@baselineskip</code>	6

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