Giving leading a number

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2007/05/06 v0.2

LaTeX defines two methods of specifying *leading*[1], or the distance between successive lines of text:

> `\linespread{`⟨*ratio to font size*⟩`}` , and

> `\renewcommand\baselinestretch{`⟨*ratio to original value*⟩`}` .

(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}`, as $12 \times 1.069 \approx 15.5$.

But this is not how most people define the typesetting of their paragraphs. Instructions don't come from the designer: "make the leading 1.069 times the font size". That's just silly. Instead, it's common to see "give me a leading of 15.5 pt". And indeed, that's how LaTeX's `\fontsize` command works.

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!"*

Because `\leading` uses `\linespread` internally, the results of `\leading{15.5pt}` in a 12 pt document and `\linespread{1.069}` are identical. But because `\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.

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

File I

The leading package

This is the package.

```
1 \ProvidesPackage{leading}
2   [2007/05/06 v0.2 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      \normalfont
7      \@tempdima=\f@size pt\relax
8      \@tempdimb=#1\relax
9      \setlength\@tempdimc{1pt*\ratio{\@tempdimb}{\@tempdima}}%
10     \global\@tempdimc\@tempdimc
11   \endgroup
12   \linespread{\strip@pt\@tempdimc}\normalfont}
```

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