How can I change the font size in my Latex document?

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Overview

There are two basic ways to change font sizes in Latex, depending on whether you want to change the font size throughout your entire document, or just a portion of it.

Entire document

To change the basic font size used all the way through your document, put either "11pt" or "12pt" in your \documentclass line. For example, if you had:

\documentclass{report}

but you wanted to use 12pt type (10pt is the default), you would change it to:

\documentclass[12pt]{report}

A portion of your document

To change just a part of your paper into a different font size, you can use some of the sizing environments. In increasing size, they are:

\tiny
\scriptsize
\footnotesize
\small
\normalsize
\large
\Large
\Large
\LARGE
\huge
\Huge

The case is important in these commands. Also, in some document styles, some of these commands may produce the same size font. For example, if you wanted to just make a small part of your text in a different font, you would use something like:

This is in normal text, while these words are in {\large large text}.

Or, if you wanted to put a larger region in a different size, you'd use something like:

\begin{small}
 this will all be in small text
 this too.
 etc..
 \end{small}
 This, however, is not in small text