

April 13, 2007

Question: I am submitting a paper to a journal that requires that my paper be in 10pt Roman with the title being in 14pt Roman and the tables being in at least 8pt Roman. Can I do this with \LaTeX and/or what point size does LaTeX use?

Sincerely yours,
Pointed and Perplexed

Dear Pointed and Perplexed,

\LaTeX normally gives you access to a whole family of fonts when you start it up. By default, \LaTeX uses 10pt Computer Modern Roman as its base font. You can change the size of this base font by using the 11pt or 12pt style option on the documentclass line like this:

```
\documentclass[11pt]{article}
```

\LaTeX has a variety of commands to alter the point size within a font family. The table below is taken from “LaTeX for Engineers & Scientists” by David J. Berger and lists the various point sizes for the standard \LaTeX type size commands:

	10pt Default	11pt Option	12pt Option
<code>\tiny</code>	5pt	6pt	6pt
<code>\scriptsize</code>	7pt	8pt	8pt
<code>\footnotesize</code>	8pt	9pt	10pt
<code>\small</code>	9pt	10pt	11pt
<code>\normalsize</code>	10pt	11pt	12pt
<code>\large</code>	12pt	12pt	14pt
<code>\Large</code>	14pt	14pt	17pt
<code>\LARGE</code>	17pt	17pt	20pt
<code>\huge</code>	20pt	20pt	25pt
<code>\Huge</code>	25pt	25pt	25pt

To use a different base font, simply load a different font family package like: **times, newcent, palatino, bookman or helvet**. You can do this by just putting the `\usepackage{font-family}` command (for instance if you would rather use a times base font, `\usepackage{times}`¹) into the preamble of your document. This would mean putting the `\usepackage` command before the `\begin{document}` command but after the `\documentclass` command line in your document:

```
\documentclassbook
\usepackage{times}
\begin{document}
```

Sincerely yours,

Joe Struss
Creative Services, ITS, Iowa State

¹This letter was done using the times package.