



It's possible to control the length of lines in a much more general way, if simple changes to `\leftskip` and `\rightskip` aren't flexible enough for your purposes. For example, a semicircular hole has been cut out of the present paragraph, in order to make room for a circular illustration that contains some of Galileo's immortal words about circles; all of the line breaks in this paragraph and in the circular quotation were found by T_EX's line-breaking algorithm. You can specify an essentially arbitrary paragraph shape by saying `\parshape=<number>`, where the `<number>` is a positive integer n , followed by $2n$ `<dimen>` specifications. In general, `\parshape=n i1 l1 i2 l2 ... in ln` specifies a paragraph whose first n lines will have lengths l_1, l_2, \dots, l_n , respectively, and they will be indented from the left margin by the respective amounts i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n . If the paragraph has fewer than n lines, the additional specifications will be ignored; if it has more than n lines, the specifications for line n will be repeated ad infinitum. You can cancel the effect of a previously specified `\parshape` by saying `\parshape=0`.

The area of
a circle is a mean
proportional between any
two regular and similar poly-
gons of which one circumscribes
it and the other is isoperimetric
with it. In addition, the area of the
circle is less than that of any circum-
scribed polygon and greater than that
of any isoperimetric polygon. And fur-
ther, of these circumscribed polygons,
the one that has the greater num-
ber of sides has a smaller area than
the one that has a lesser number;
but, on the other hand, the iso-
perimetric polygon that has
the greater number of
sides is the larger.
[Galileo, 1638]



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The area of a circle is a mean proportional between any two regular and similar polygons of which one circumscribes it and the other is isoperimetric with it. In addition, the area of the circle is less than that of any circumscribed polygon and greater than that of any isoperimetric polygon. And further, of these circumscribed polygons, the one that has the greater number of sides has a smaller area than the one that has a lesser number; but, on the other hand, the isoperimetric polygon that has the greater number of sides is the larger.(Galileo, 1638)