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 TeX'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 i_1 l_1 i_2 l_2 ... i_n l_n' specifies a paragraph whose first n lines will have lengths $l_1, l_2, ..., l_n$, respectively, and they will be indented from the left margin by the respective amounts

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]

$i_1, i_2, ..., i_n$. 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.