

TeX looks at the parameters that affect line breaking only when it is breaking lines. For example, you shouldn't try to change the in the middle of a paragraph, if you want TeX to penalize the hyphens in one word more than it does in another word. The relevant values of and so on, are the ones that are current at the end of the paragraph. On the other hand, the width of indentation that you get implicitly at the beginning of a paragraph or when you say is determined by the value of at the time the indentation is contributed to the current horizontal list, not by its value at the end of the paragraph. Similarly, penalties that are inserted into math formulas within a paragraph are based on the values of that are current at the end of each particular formula. Appendix D contains an example that shows how to have both ragged-right and ragged-left margins within a single paragraph, without using

It's possible to control the length of lines in a much more general way, if simple changes to aren't flexible enough for your purposes. For example, a semicircular has been cut out of the present paragraph, in

order to make room for a circular illustration that contains some of immortal words about 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 a positive integer n , followed by $2n$ `dimen` specifications. In general, n i_1 l_1 i_2 l_2 \dots i_n l_n 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

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]