1

`\baselineskip` [⟨*glue*⟩ parameter]
`\lineskiplimit` [⟨*dimen*⟩ parameter]
`\lineskip` [⟨*glue*⟩ parameter]

These three parameters jointly determine how much space TEX leaves between consecutive boxes of an ordinary vertical list, e.g., the lines of a paragraph. This space is called "interline glue". It is also inserted between the component boxes of a vbox constructed in internal vertical mode.

In the usual case, when the boxes aren't abnormally high or deep, TEX makes the distance from the baseline of one box to the baseline of the next one equal to `\baselineskip`. It does this by inserting interline glue equal to `\baselineskip` minus the depth of the upper box (as given by `\prevdepth`) and the height of the lower box. But if this interline glue would be less than `\lineskiplimit`, indicating that the two boxes are too close together, TEX inserts the `\lineskip` glue instead.[1] See pages 79–80 of *The TEXbook* for a precise description.

Note that `\baselineskip` and `\lineskip` measure *different things*: the distance between baselines on the one hand and the distance between the bottom of one box and the top of the next box on the other hand. See page 78 of *The TEXbook* for further details. The first example below shows the effects of `\lineskiplimit`.

You can obtain the effect of double spacing by doubling the value of `\baselineskip` as illustrated in the second example below. A change to `\baselineskip` at any point before the end of a paragraph affects the entire paragraph.

[1] TEX actually accounts for the beginning of a vertical list by setting `\prevdepth` to −1000 pt and testing `\prevdepth` before *every* box. If `\prevdepth` ≤ −1000 pt it does not insert any interline glue.

Example:

```
\baselineskip = 11pt \lineskiplimit = 1pt
\lineskip = 2pt plus .5pt
Sometimes you'll need to typeset a paragraph that has
tall material, such as a mathematical formula,  embedded
within it.  An example of such a formula is $n \choose k$.
Note the extra space above and below this line as
compared with the other lines.
(If the formula didn't project below the line,
we'd only get extra space above the line.)
```

produces:

Sometimes you'll need to typeset a paragraph that has tall material, such as a mathematical formula, embedded within it. An example of such a formula is $\binom{n}{k}$. Note the extra space above and below this line as compared with the other lines. (If the formula didn't project below the line, we'd only get extra space above the line.)

Example:

```
\baselineskip = 2\baselineskip % Start double spacing.
```