Introduction to CATIA V5
Release 17
(A Hands-On Tutorial Approach)

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Chapter 2: SKETCHER

Introduction

Chapter 2 focuses on CATIA’s Sketcher workbench. The reader will learn how to sketch and constrain very simple to very complex 2D profiles.

Tutorials Contained in Chapter 2

- Tutorial 2.1: Sketch Work Modes
- Tutorial 2.2: Simple Profiles & Constraints
- Tutorial 2.3: Advanced Profiles & Sketch Analysis
- Tutorial 2.4: Modifying Geometries & Relimitations
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## Chapter 2: SKETCHER

### Tutorial 2.1: Sketch Work Modes

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#### Prerequisite Knowledge & Commands

- Entering workbenches
- Entering and exiting the Sketcher workbench
- Drawing simple profiles
- Simple Pads and Pockets
The Sketcher Workbench

The Sketcher workbench contains a set of tools that help you create and constrain 2D geometries. Solid features such as pads, pockets and shafts are created or modified using these 2D profiles. You can access the Sketcher workbench in various ways. Two simple ways are by using the top pull down menu (Start – Mechanical Design – Sketcher), or by selecting the Sketcher icon. When you enter the Sketcher, CATIA requires that you choose a plane to sketch on. You can choose this plane either before or after you select the Sketcher icon. To exit the sketcher, select the Exit Workbench icon.

The Sketcher workbench contains the following standard workbench specific toolbars.

- **Profile toolbar:** The commands located in this toolbar allow you to create simple geometries (rectangle, circle, line, etc...) and more complex geometries (profile, spline, etc...).

- **Operation toolbar:** Once a profile has been created, it can be modified using commands such as trim, mirror, chamfer, and other commands located in the Operation toolbar.

- **Constraint toolbar:** Profiles may be constrained with dimensional (distances, angles, etc...) or geometrical (tangent, parallel, etc...) constraints using the commands located in the Constraint toolbar.

- **Sketch tools toolbar:** The commands in this toolbar allow you to work in different modes which make sketching easier.

- **User Selection Filter toolbar:** Allows you to activate different selection filters.
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- **Visualization toolbar:** Allows you to, among other things to cut the part by the sketch plane and choose lighting effects and other factors that influence how the part is visualized.

- **Tools toolbar:** Allows you to, among other things, to analyze a sketch for problems, and create a datum.

### The Sketch tools Toolbar

The *Sketch tools* toolbar contains icons that activate and deactivate different work modes. These work modes assist you in drawing 2D profiles. Reading from left to right, the toolbar contains the following work modes; (Each work mode is active if the icon is orange and inactive if it is blue.)

- **Grid:** This command turns the sketcher grid on and off.
- **Snap to Point:** If active, your cursor will snap to the intersections of the grid lines.
- **Construction / Standard Elements:** You can draw two different types of elements in CATIA a *standard* element and a *construction* element. A standard element (solid line type) will be created when the icon is inactive (blue). Standard elements are used to create a feature in the *Part Design* workbench. A construction element (dashed line type) will be created when the icon is active (orange). Construction elements are used to help construct your sketch, but will not be used to create features.
- **Geometric Constraints:** When active, geometric constraints will automatically be applied such as tangencies, coincidences, parallelisms, etc...
- **Dimensional Constraints:** When active, dimensional constraints will automatically be applied when corners (fillets) or chamfers are created, or when quantities are entered in the value field. The value field is a place where dimensions such as line length and angle are manually entered.
Tutorial 2.1 Start: Part Modeled

The part modeled in this tutorial is shown below. The part is constructed with the assistance of different work modes.

Section 1: Using Snap to Point

1) Open a New Part drawing and name the part Spline Shape.

2) Save your drawing as T2-1.CATPart.

3) Enter the Sketcher on the yz plane.

4) Restore the default positions of the toolbars (Tools – Customize... – Toolbars tab – Restore all contents... & Restore position.) Move the Sketch Tools toolbar and the User Selection Filter toolbar to the top toolbar area.
5) Set your grid spacing to 100 mm. At the top pull down menu, select **Tools – Options**... In the **Options** window, expand the **Mechanical Design** portions of the left side navigation tree and select **Sketcher**. In the Grid section, activate the following checkboxes and fill in the following fields:

- Activate **Display**, **Snap to point**, and **Allow Distortions**.
- Set your **Primary spacing** and **Graduations** to H: 100 mm and 20, and V: 100 mm and 10.

![Options window with Sketcher settings](image)

6) Select the **Spline** icon located in the **Profile** toolbar in the right side toolbar area. This is **not** the **Curve Filter** icon located in the **User Selection Filter** toolbar.

7) In your **Sketch Tools** toolbar, activate your **Grid** icon and your **Snap to Point** icon. It should be orange (active). Move your cursor around the screen. Note that it snaps to the intersections of the grid. Deactivate the **Snap to Point** icon by clicking on it and turning it back to blue. Move your cursor around the screen and notice the difference.
8) Reactivate the **Snap to Point** icon and draw the spline shown. Select each point (indicated by a number in a square) in order from 1 to 7, double clicking at the last point to end the spline command.

9) Edit the spline by double clicking on any portion of it.

10) In the **Spline Definition** window, select **CtrlPoint.7**, then activate the **Tangency** option, and select **OK**. Notice that the last point is now tangent to the first point. (Problem? If the tangency is not working, go back and make sure that your points are located in the correct locations.)

11) Draw a **Circle** inside the spline as shown.
12) Exit the Sketcher and Pad the sketch to a length of 50 mm.

13) Save your drawing.

**Section 2: Using construction elements.**

1) Deselect all.

2) Enter the Sketcher on the front face of the part.

3) Activate the Construction / Standard Elements icon. It should be orange.

4) Deselect all. Hit the Esc key twice.

5) Project an outline of the part onto the sketch plane. Select the Project 3D Elements icon then select the face of the part. This icon is located in the Operations toolbar near the bottom of the right side toolbar area. It may be hidden in the bottom right corner.

6) Deselect all. The projection should now be yellow (this means it is associated with the part and will change with the part) and dashed (this means it is a construction element).
7) Deactivate your Grid, Snap to Point, and Construction / Standard Elements icons.

8) Activate your Geometrical constraints and Dimensional constraints icons. They should be orange.

9) Using the Profile command to draw a triangle that looks like the one shown. The points of the triangle should lie on the projected construction element. You will know when you are on the projection when a symbol of two concentric circles appears, and you will know when you are snapped to the endpoint of the start point when a symbol of two concentric circles appears and the inner one is filled.

10) Exit the Sketcher and Pad the sketch to a length of 10 mm.
Section 3: Geometrical and Dimensional Constraints

1) Deselect all.

2) Enter the Sketcher on the front large face of the part.

3) Your Geometrical Constraints icon should be active. It should be orange.

4) At the top pull down window, select Tools – Options – Sketcher. Under the Constraint portions of the window, select SmartPick... The SmartPick window shows all the geometrical constraints that will be created automatically. These constraints may be turn on and off depending on your design/sketch needs. Close both the Smart Pick and Options windows.

5) Draw a Rectangle to the right of the hole as shown. Notice that geometric constraints (H = horizontal, V = Vertical) are automatically applied.

6) Deactivate the Geometrical Constraints icon and draw a Rectangle to the left of the hole as shown. Notice that no geometric constraints are made.

Click and drag the corner point.
7) For each rectangle, click on one of the points defining a corner and move it using the mouse (see figure on the previous page). Notice the difference between the two. This is due to the horizontal and vertical constraints that were applied to the one rectangle.

8) Undo (CTRL + Z) the moves until the original rectangles are back.

9) Exit the Sketcher and Pocket the sketch using the Up to last option.

10) Expand the specification tree to the sketch level.

11) Save your drawing.

12) Edit Sketch.3 (the sketch associated with the pocket). In the specification tree, double click on Sketch.3, or right click on it and select Sketch.3 object - Edit. You will automatically enter the sketcher on the sketch plane used to create this sketch.

13) Your Dimensional Constraint icon should be active. It should be orange.
14) Select the **Corner** icon, select the bottom left corner point of the left rectangle, move your mouse up and to the right, and click. A corner or fillet will be created. The corner icon is located in the *Operations* toolbar near the bottom of the right side toolbar area. The corner/fillet may also be created by selecting the two lines that create the corner. Notice that a dimension is automatically created.

15) Deactivate the **Dimensional Constraint** icon. It should be blue. Create a **Corner** in the upper right corner of the same rectangle. Notice that this time no dimensional constraint was created.

16) **Exit** the Sketcher. We have changed the sketch used to create the pocket. Notice that the pocket is automatically updated to reflect these changes.

17) **Save** your drawing.
Section 4: Cutting the part by the sketch plane.

Sometimes it is necessary to sketch inside the part. The Cut Part by Sketch Plane command allows you to see inside the part and makes it easier to draw and constrain your sketch.

1) Deselect all.

2) Enter the Sketcher on the xy plane.

3) Select the Isometric View icon. This icon is located in the bottom toolbar area.

4) Select the Cut Part by Sketch Plane icon located in the bottom toolbar area. The part in now cut by the xy plane (the sketch plane).

5) Select the Top view icon and draw a Circle in the middle of the hole as shown in the figure.

6) Exit the Sketcher.
7) Select the Pad icon and then select the More>> button. Fill in the following fields for both the First and Second Limits;
   - Type: **Up to surface**
   - Limit: Select the inner circumference of the hole
   - Selection: Sketch.4 (the circle).
   Select **Preview** to see if the Pad will be applied correctly, and then **OK**.

8) **Save** your drawing.
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Tutorial 2.2: Simple Profiles & Constraints

Featured Topics & Commands

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Prerequisite Knowledge & Commands

- Entering workbenches
- Entering and exiting the Sketcher workbench
- Simple Pads
- Work modes (Sketch tools toolbar)
Profile toolbar

The Profile toolbar contains 2D geometry commands. These geometries range from the very simple (point, rectangle, etc...) to the very complex (splines, conics, etc...). The Profile toolbar contains many sub-toolbars. Most of these sub-toolbars contain different options for creating the same geometry. For example, you can create a simple line, a line defined by two tangent points, or a line that is perpendicular to a surface.

Profile toolbar

Reading from left to right, the Profile toolbar contain the following commands.

- **Profile**: This command allows you to create a continuous set of lines and arcs connected together.
- **Rectangle / Predefined Profile toolbar**: The default top command is rectangle. Stacked underneath are several different commands used to create predefined geometries.
- **Circle / Circle toolbar**: The default top command is circle. Stacked underneath are several different options for creating circles and arcs.
- **Spline / Spline toolbar**: The default top command is spline which is a curved line created by connecting a series of points.
- **Ellipse / Conic toolbar**: The default top command is ellipse. Stacked underneath are commands to create different conic shapes such as a hyperbola.
- **Line / Line toolbar**: The default top command is line. Stacked underneath are several different options for creating lines.
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- **Axis**: An axis is used in conjunction with commands like mirror and shaft (revolve). It defines symmetry. It is a construction element so it does not become a physical part of your feature.

- **Point / Point toolbar**: The default top command is *point*. Stacked underneath are several different options for creating points.

**Predefined Profile toolbar**

Predefined profiles are frequently used geometries. CATIA makes these profiles available for easy creation which speeds up drawing time. Reading from left to right, the *Predefined Profile* toolbar contains the following commands.

- **Rectangle**: The *rectangle* is defined by two corner points. The sides of the rectangle are always horizontal and vertical.

- **Oriented Rectangle**: The *oriented rectangle* is defined by three corner points. This allows you to create a rectangle whose sides are at an angle to the horizontal.

- **Parallelogram**: The *parallelogram* is defined by three corner points.

- **Elongated Hole**: The elongated hole or slot is defined by two points and a radius.

- **Cylindrical Elongated Hole**: The *cylindrical elongated hole* is defined by a cylindrical radius, two points and a radius.

- **Keyhole Profile**: The *keyhole profile* is defined by two center points and two radii.

- **Hexagon**: The *hexagon* is defined by a center point and the radius of an inscribed circle.

- **Centered Rectangle**: The *centered rectangle* is defined by a center point and a corner point.

- **Centered Parallelogram**: The *centered parallelogram* is defined by a center point (defined by two intersecting lines) and a corner point.

**Circle toolbar**

The *Circle* toolbar contains several different ways of creating circles and arcs. Reading from left to right, the *Circle* toolbar contains the following commands.

- **Circle**: A *circle* is defined by a center point and a radius.

- **Three Point Circle**: The *three point circle* command allows you to create a circle using three circumferential points.

- **Circle Using Coordinates**: The *circle using coordinates* command allows you to create a circle by entering the coordinates for the center point and radius in a *Circle Definition* window.
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• **Tri-Tangent Circle:** The *tri-tangent circle* command allows you to create a circle whose circumference is tangent to three chosen lines.

• **Three Point Arc:** The *three point arc* command allows you to create an arc defined by three circumferential points.

• **Three Point Arc Starting With Limits:** The *three point arc starting with limits* allows you to create an arc using a start, end, and midpoint.

• **Arc:** The *arc* command allows you to create an arc defined by a center point, and a circumferential start and end point.

**Spline toolbar**

Reading from left to right, the *Spline* toolbar contains the following commands.

• **Spline:** A spline is a curved profile defined by three or more points. The tangency and curvature radius at each point may be specified.

• **Connect:** The connect command connects two points or profiles with a spline.

**Conic toolbar**

Reading from left to right, the *Conic* toolbar contains the following commands.

• **Ellipse:** The ellipse is defined by a center point and major and minor axis points.

• **Parabola by Focus:** The parabola is defined by a focus, apex and start and end points.

• **Hyperbola by Focus:** The hyperbola is defined by a focus, center point, apex and start and end points.

• **Conic:** There are several different methods that can be used to create conic curves. These methods give you a lot of flexibility when creating the above three types of curves.

**Line toolbar**

The *Line* toolbar contains several different ways of creating lines. Reading from left to right, the *Line* toolbar contains the following commands.

• **Line:** A line is defined by two points.

• **Infinite Line:** Creates infinite lines that are horizontal, vertical or defined by two points.

• **Bi-Tangent Line:** Creates a line whose endpoints are tangent to two other elements.

• **Bisecting Line:** Creates an infinite line that bisects the angle created by two other lines.
• **Line Normal to Curve**: This command allows you to create a line that starts anywhere and ends normal or perpendicular to another element.

**Point toolbar**

The *Point* toolbar contains several different ways of creating points. Reading from left to right, the *Point* toolbar contains the following commands.

- **Point by Clicking**: Creates a point by clicking the left mouse button.
- **Point by using Coordinates**: Creates a point at a specified coordinate point.
- **Equidistant Points**: Creates equidistant points along a predefined path curve.
- **Intersection Point**: Creates a point at the intersection of two different elements.
- **Projection Point**: Projects a point of one element onto another.

**Constraint toolbar**

Constraints can either be dimensional or geometrical. Dimensional constraints are used to constrain the length of an element, the radius or diameter of an arc or circle, and the distance or angle between elements. Geometrical constraints are used to constrain the orientation of one element relative to another. For example, two elements may be constrained to be perpendicular to each other. Other common geometrical constraints include parallel, tangent, coincident, concentric, etc... Reading from left to right:

- **Constraints Defined in Dialoged Box**: Creates geometrical and dimensional constraints between two elements.
- **Constraint**: Creates dimensional constraints.
  - **Contact Constraint**: Creates a contact constraint between two elements.
- **Fix Together**: The fix together command groups individual entities together.
  - **Auto Constraint**: Automatically creates dimensional constraints.
- **Animate Constraint**: Animates a dimensional constraint between to limits.
- **Edit Multi-Constraint**: This command allows you to edit all your sketch constraints in a single window.
**Selecting icons**

When an icon is selected, it turns orange indicating that it is active. If the icon is activated with a single mouse click, the icon will turn back to blue (deactivated) when the operation is complete. If the icon is activated with a double mouse click, it will remain active until another command is chosen or if the Esc key is hit twice.

**Tutorial 2.2 Start: Part Modeled**

The part modeled in this tutorial is shown on the right. This part will be created using simple profiles, circles, arcs, lines, and hexagons. The geometries are constrained to conform to certain dimensional (lengths) and geometrical constraints (tangent, perpendicular, etc...).

**Section 1: Creating circles.**

(Hint: If you get confused about how to apply the different commands that are used in this tutorial, read the prompt line for additional help.)

1) Open a **New...** part and name your part **Post**.

2) **Save** your drawing as **T2-2.CATPart**.

3) Enter the **Sketcher** on the **zx** plane.
4) Set your grid spacing to be **100 mm** with **10** graduations, activate the *Snap to point*, and activate the *geometrical* and *dimensional* constraints. *(Tools – Options...)*

5) Pull out the **Circle** subtoolbar.
6) Double click on the **Circle** icon and draw the circles shown.

7) **Exit** the Sketcher and **Pad** the sketch to **12 mm** on each side (**Mirrored extent**). Notice that the inner circle at the bottom becomes a hole.

**Section 2: Creating dimensional constraints.**

1) Expand your specification tree to the sketch level.

2) **Edit Sketch.1.** To edit a sketch you can double click on the sketch name in the specification tree, or you can **right click** on the name select **Sketch.1 - Edit.** CATIA automatically takes you into the sketcher on the plane used to create Sketch.1.

3) Double click on the **Constraints** icon.

4) Select the border of the upper circle, pull the dimension out and click your left mouse button to place the dimension. Repeat for the two bottom circles.

5) Select the center point of the upper circle, then the center point of the lower circles, pull the dimension out and click.
6) Double click on the D20 dimension. In the Constraint Definition window, change the diameter from 20 to 16 mm.

7) In a similar fashion, change the other dimensions to the values shown in the figure.

8) Exit the Sketcher and deselect all. Notice that the part automatically updates to the new sketch dimensions.

Section 3: Creating lines.

1) Deselect all.

2) Enter the Sketcher on the zx plane.

3) Deactivate the Snap to Point icon.

4) Project the two outer circles of the part onto the sketch plane as Standard elements. Double click on the Project 3D Elements icon. This icon is located in the lower half of the right side toolbar area. Select the outer edges of the two cylinders.

5) Pull out the line toolbar.

6) Pull out the Relimitations toolbar located in the Operation toolbar.
7) Double click on the **Bi-Tangent Line** icon. Draw two tangent lines by selecting the points, in order, as indicated on the figure.

8) Double click on the **Quick trim** icon. Select the outer portion of the projected circles. Notice that the trimmed projection turns into a construction element (dashed).

9) **Exit** the Sketcher and **Pad** the sketch to **6 mm** on each side (**Mirrored extent**).
10) **Save** your drawing.

11) Enter the Sketcher icon on the zx plane.

12) Activate the Construction/Standard Element icon (it should be orange).

13) Select the Project 3D Elements icon and then project the left line of the part as shown in the figure. The projected line should be dashed.

14) Activate your Snap to Point icon.

15) Draw a line that starts at point 1 (see fig.) and ends normal/perpendicular to projected line using the Line Normal to Curve icon.

16) Deactivate your Snap to Point icon.

17) Draw a Line from point 1 to point 2.

18) Draw a line that bisects the previous 2 lines using the Bisecting Line icon. Read the prompt line for directions.

19) Deselect all.

20) Deactivate the Construction/Standard Element icon (it should be blue now).
21) Draw a circle that is tangent to the projected line, normal line and bisecting line using the **Tri-Tangent Circle** icon. Read the prompt line for directions.

22) Zoom in on the circle.

23) Using **Profile**, draw the three additional lines shown in the figure. When creating the line that touches the circle, both the construction line and the circle should turn orange before the point is selected.

24) Use the **Quick Trim** command to trim off the inside portion of the circle as shown. You will have to apply the quick trim operation twice.

25) Draw a **Hexagon** that has the same center as the circle/arc and is the approximate size shown in the figure. The **Hexagon** icon is usually stacked under the **Rectangle** icon. (Your hexagon will contain many constraints that are not shown in the figure.)

26) Deselect all.
27) Apply a dimensional **Constraint** to the distance between the flats of the hexagon as shown. To create this constraint, select the top line and then the bottom line. Double click on the dimension and change its value to 7 mm.

28) **Exit** the **Sketcher** and **Pad** the sketch to a length of 2 mm on each side (Mirrored extent).

**Section 4:** Creating geometrical constraints.

1) Enter the **Sketcher** on the flat face of the large cylinder.
2) Deactivate the Geometrical Constraint icon (it should be blue). This will allow you to create profiles with no automatically applied constraints.

3) On the face of the large cylinder, draw the Profile shown. No geometrical constraints should be indicated.

4) Deselect all.

5) Reactivate the Geometrical Constraints icon (it should be orange).

6) Apply a vertical constraint to the right line of the profile by right clicking on it and selecting Line.? object – Vertical.

7) Apply a horizontal constraint to the top line using a similar procedure.

8) Deselect all.

9) Apply a perpendicular constraint between the right and bottom line of the profile. Hold the CTRL key down and select the left and bottom lines. Select the Constraints Defined in Dialog Box icon. In the Constraint Definition window, check the box next to Perpendicular and then select OK.

10) Apply a parallel constraint between the left and right lines of the profile in a similar way.
11) Apply **Constraints** to the rectangle and change their values to the values shown in the figure.

12) Apply the additional dimensional constraints shown in order to position the rectangle. Select the Constraints icon, then the circumference of the circle and then the appropriate side of the rectangle. Notice that once all the constraints are applied, the rectangle turns green indicating that it is fully constrained. If it did not turn green make sure the Visualization of diagnosis is activated in the Options window. (Tools – Options…)

13) Draw the triangle shown using the **Profile** command. When drawing the triangle make sure that the top point is aligned with the origin (-origin-) and the bottom line is horizontal (H).
14) Constrain the vertical height of the triangle to be \(6\text{ mm}\). Select the Constraints icon, select one of the angled lines of the triangle, right click and select **Vertical Measure Direction** and place the dimension.

15) Constrain the rest of the triangle as shown.

16) Exit the Sketcher and Pad the sketch to a length of \(5\text{ mm}\).

(Problem? If your sketch disappeared, Copy and Paste the sketch as described in the preface.)

17) Save your drawing.

**Section 5: Creating arcs.**

1) Enter the Sketcher on the front face of the middle section.
2) Activate the **Construction/Standard Element** icon.

3) Select the **Project 3D Elements** icon and then project the front face of the middle section.

4) Deselect all.

5) Deactivate the **Construction/Standard Element** icon.

6) Activate your **Snap to Point** icon.

7) Draw the profile shown. Use the **Three Point Arc** command to create the bottom arc, the **Arc** command to create the top arc. The Arc icons are stacked under the **Circle** icon. For assistance in creating the arcs, read the prompt line at the bottom of the graphics screen.

Use the **Profile** command to create the connecting lines.
8) **Exit the Sketcher** and **Pad** the sketch to a length of **30 mm**.

9) Deselect all.

10) Mirror the entire solid. Select the **Mirror** icon in the **Transformation Features** toolbar. Select the mirror element/face. In the **Mirror Definition** window select **OK**.