

The ifmtarg package*

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Provides an if-then-else command for an empty macro argument (empty = zero or more spaces only) Use as `\@ifmtarg{<arg1>}{<Code for arg1 empty>}{<Code for arg1 not empty>}`

The `\@ifmtarg` command takes 3 arguments and `\@ifnotmtarg` takes 2 arguments. `\@ifnotmtarg` is slightly more efficient when code is only required for a non-empty argument.

Example usages:

```
\newcommand{\isempty}[1]{%
  \@ifmtarg{#1}{\typeout{YES}}{\typeout{NO}}}
```

```
\isempty{}      → YES
\isempty{  }    → YES
\isempty{E}     → NO
\isempty{ E }   → NO
```

```
\newcommand{\isnotempty}[1]{%
  \@ifnotmtarg{#1}{\typeout{YES}}}
```

```
\isnotempty{}   →
\isnotempty{  } →
\isnotempty{E}  → YES
\isnotempty{ E } → YES
```

*This manual corresponds to ifmtarg v1.2a, dated 2009/09/02.

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In an Email to me on 13 March 2000, Donald Arseneau pointed out some failings with my original definition of the `\@ifmtarg` command:

```
\newcommand{\@ifmtarg}[3]{%
  \edef\@mtarg{\zap@space#1 \@empty}%
  \ifx\@empty\@mtarg\relax #2\else #3\fi}
```

It works most of the time correctly but Donald showed that it can give unexpected results under conditions that I had not thought of. He suggested the coding that now appears in the package above for the `\@ifmtarg` and `\@ifnotmtarg` commands. For a discussion on detecting empty arguments see [CTAN/info/aro-bend/answer.002](http://CTAN.info/aro-bend/answer.002)

Change History

v1.2a – New maintainer (Will Robertson)

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This work has the LPPL maintenance status “maintained”. The Current Maintainer of this work is Will Robertson.