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 $\label{eq:argument} $$ \displaystyle \operatorname{argument} $$ \operatorname{argument} $$ \$

These commands produce phantom boxes that don't print anything:

- \hphantom produces a box with the same width as $\langle argument \rangle$ but zero height and depth.
- \vphantom produces a box with the same height and depth as \(\argument \) but zero width.

Their main purpose is to force a subformula to have a certain minimum horizontal or vertical dimension.

Example:

\$\$\left[\vphantom{u\over v}t\right] \star
\left[{u\over v}\right]\quad
\{\hphantom{xx}\}\$\$

produces:

$$\left[t\right]\star\left[\frac{u}{v}\right]\quad \left\{ \quad \right\}$$