How can I use the IF function in Excel to assign colors to data?

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The IF function in Excel is a powerful tool that allows users to assign colors to their data based on specific conditions. By using the IF function, users can set up logical statements that determine which color will be applied to their data. This function is particularly useful when dealing with large data sets, as it allows for quick and easy identification of important information. To use the IF function, users must first define the conditions that will trigger a specific color and then specify which color to apply. This function can save time and improve the visual appeal of data, making it a valuable tool for data analysis and presentation.

Excel: Use IF Function with Colors

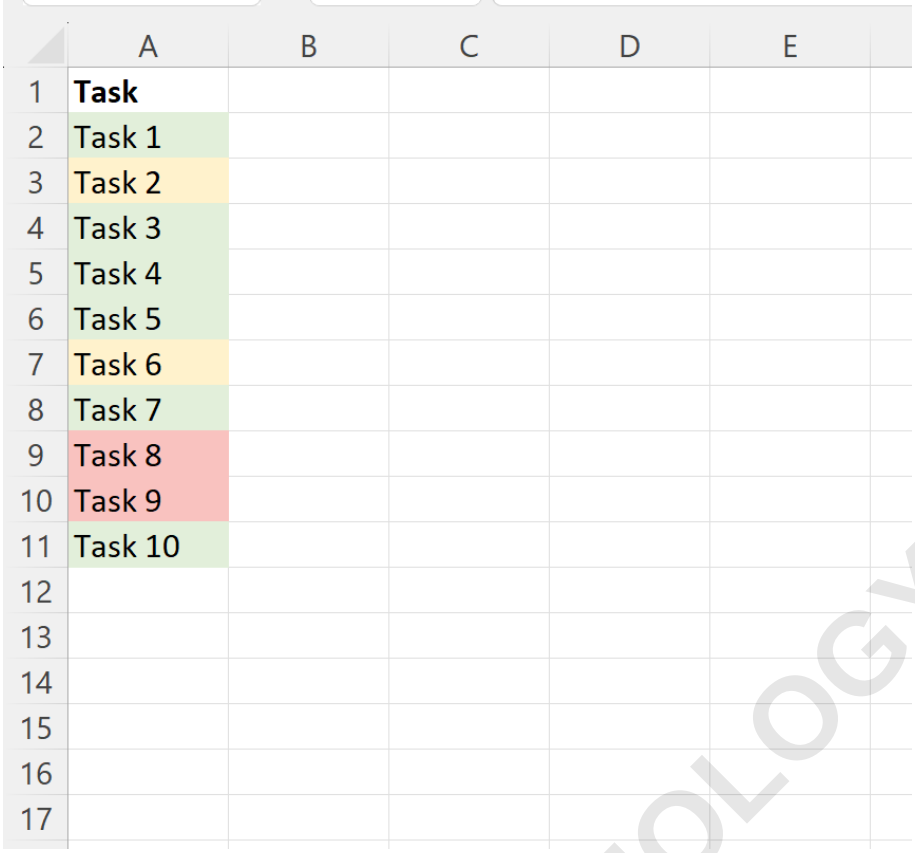
Often you may want to use an IF function in Excel with cell colors.

For example, you may want to create a function that returns a certain value *if* a cell has a green background color.

Fortunately this is easy to do with some VBA code in Excel and the following step-by-step example shows how.

Step 1: Enter the Data

First, let's enter the following list of tasks in Excel that are color-coded based on whether they have been completed or not:



	A	B	C	D	E
1	**Task**				
2	Task 1				
3	Task 2				
4	Task 3				
5	Task 4				
6	Task 5				
7	Task 6				
8	Task 7				
9	Task 8				
10	Task 9				
11	Task 10				
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

Step 2: Use VBA to Extract Color Code

Next, we will write a simple function in VBA to extract the color from each cell as an integer value.

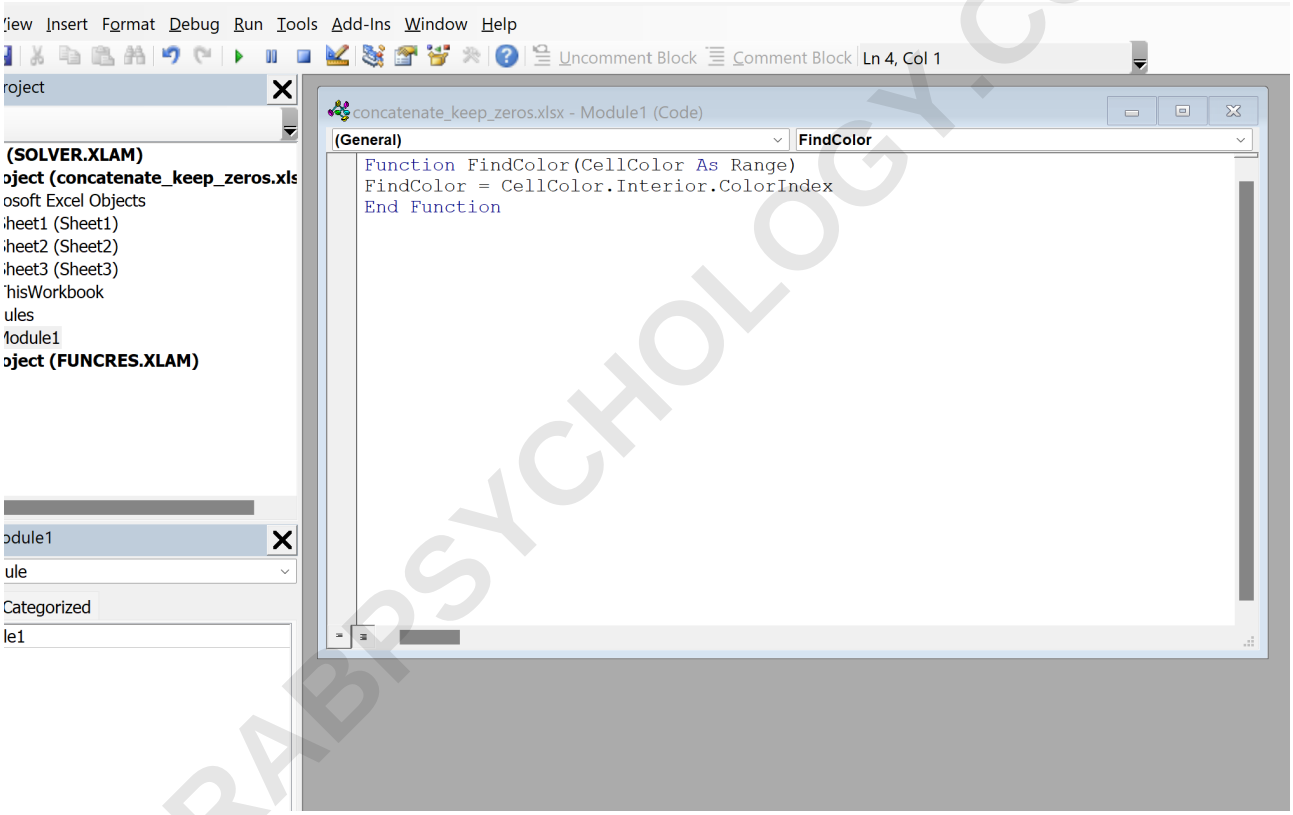
To do so, click Alt + F11 to open the VB Editor. Then click the Insert tab and then click Module.

In the module window that appear, type the following code:

Function FindColor(CellColor As Range)FindColor = CellColor.Interior.ColorIndexEnd Function

This will create a custom function that we can use in Excel to extract the background color of any cell as an integer value.

The following screenshot shows how to do so in practice:



Once you've entered the code, feel free to close out of the VB Editor. The code will automatically be saved.

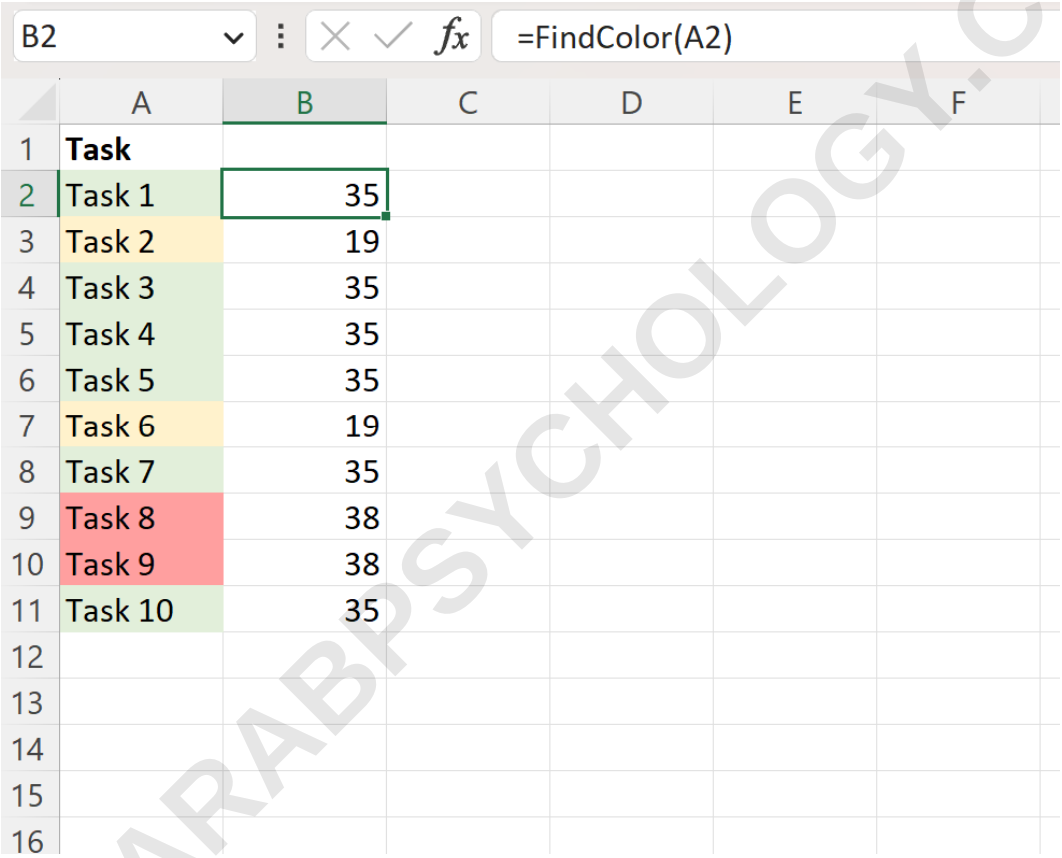
Step 3: Extract Colors from Cells

Next, let's type the following formula into cell B2 to

extract the background color from cell A2:

=FindColor(A2)

Then click and drag this formula down to each remaining cell in column B:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Task**					
2	Task 1	35				
3	Task 2	19				
4	Task 3	35				
5	Task 4	35				
6	Task 5	35				
7	Task 6	19				
8	Task 7	35				
9	Task 8	38				
10	Task 9	38				
11	Task 10	35				
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						

Column B now shows the background color (as an integer value) of each corresponding cell in column A.

Step 4: Use IF Function with Colors

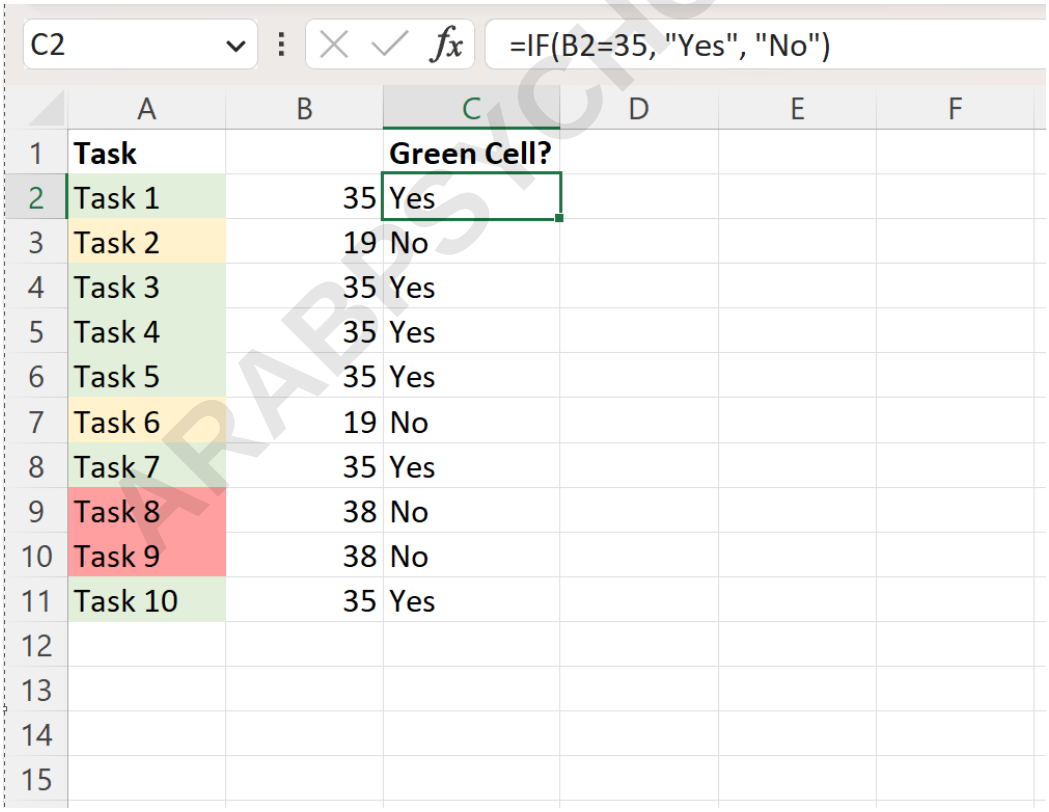
Now that we have the background color of each cell as

an integer value, we can simply use these integer values in an IF function.

For example, we can type the following IF function into cell C2 to return a value of "Yes" if the background color of cell A2 is green or "No" otherwise:

=IF(B2=35, "Yes", "No")

We can then click and drag this formula down to each remaining cell in column C:



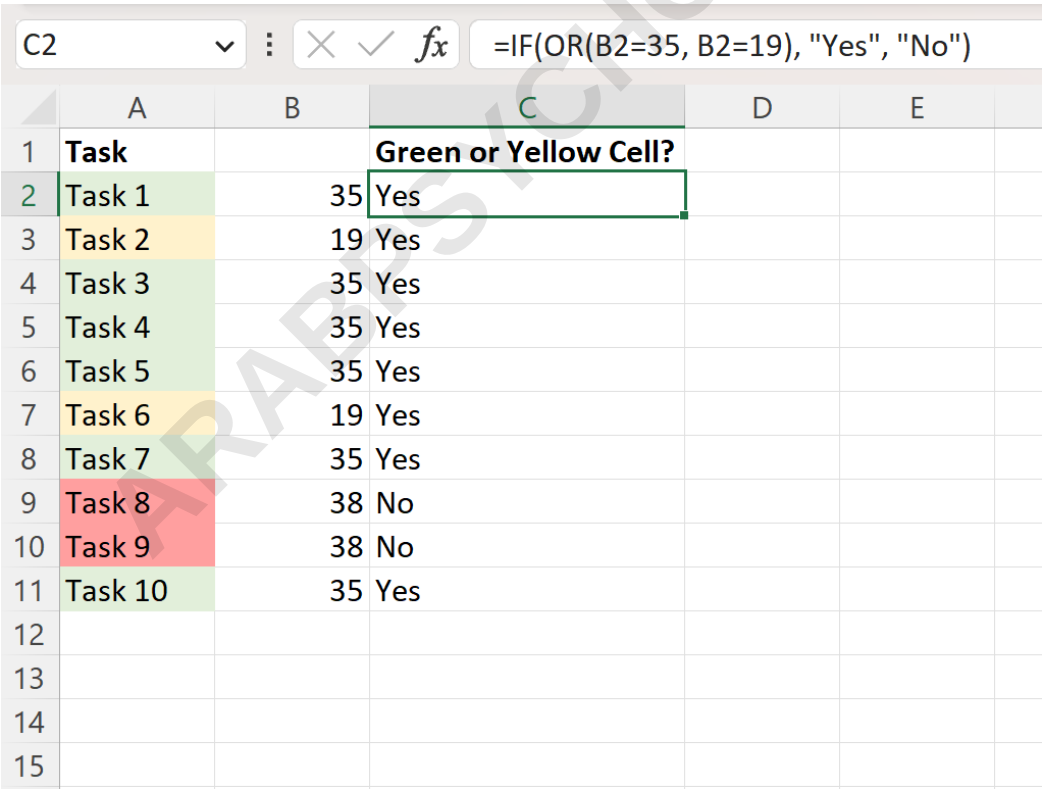
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Task**		**Green Cell?**			
2	Task 1	35	Yes			
3	Task 2	19	No			
4	Task 3	35	Yes			
5	Task 4	35	Yes			
6	Task 5	35	Yes			
7	Task 6	19	No			
8	Task 7	35	Yes			
9	Task 8	38	No			
10	Task 9	38	No			
11	Task 10	35	Yes			
12						
13						
14						
15						

We could also use the OR operator within the IF function to check for multiple conditions.

For example, we can type the following formula into cell C2 to return "Yes" if the color of cell A2 is green *or* yellow:

=IF(OR(B2=35, B2=19), "Yes", "No")

We can then click and drag this formula down to each remaining cell in column C:



	A	B	C	D	E
1	**Task**		**Green or Yellow Cell?**		
2	Task 1	35	Yes		
3	Task 2	19	Yes		
4	Task 3	35	Yes		
5	Task 4	35	Yes		
6	Task 5	35	Yes		
7	Task 6	19	Yes		
8	Task 7	35	Yes		
9	Task 8	38	No		
10	Task 9	38	No		
11	Task 10	35	Yes		
12					
13					
14					
15					

The formula now returns "Yes" if the background color

of the cell in column A is green or yellow, or a value of "No" otherwise.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common operations in Excel: