

Types of Particle

Broadly we can consider two types of particle; **fundamental particles** and **hadrons** (non-fundamental particles, i.e. particles made up of other particles). Each of these types can be split into two further categories each.

Fundamental Particles

There are two types of fundamental particle; **quarks** and **leptons**, there are 6 of each.

Quarks

<u>Flavour</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Strangeness</u>
Up (u)	$+\frac{2}{3}e$	0 ①
Down (d)	$-\frac{1}{3}e$	0 ①
Charm (c)	$+\frac{2}{3}e$	0 ②
Strange (s)	$-\frac{1}{3}e$	-1 ②
Top (t)	$+\frac{2}{3}e$	0 ③
Bottom (b)	$-\frac{1}{3}e$	0 ③

Leptons

<u>Particle</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Electron (e)	$-1e$ ①
Muon (μ)	$-1e$ ②
Tau (τ)	$-1e$ ③
Electron Neutrino (ν_e)	0 ①
Muon Neutrino (ν_μ)	0 ②
Tau Neutrino (ν_τ)	0 ③

These particles are part of 3 **generations**. Each successive generation represents, in its simplest form, a more massive version of the former generation. i.e. a muon is effectively just a heavy electron.

Hadrons

A hadron is a particle composed of other particles, namely quarks (or antiquarks). They also have the distinction of feeling the strong force (which leptons do not). These hadrons can be split into two types; **baryons** and **mesons**.

Baryons

<u>Particle</u>	<u>Quark Composition</u>
Proton	uud
Neutron	udd
Σ^+	uus
Σ^0	uds
Σ^-	dds

A baryon is made of 3 quarks.

Protons and neutrons are the common baryons but baryons containing a strange quark are the Σ -baryons.

Baryons evidently have a baryon number of 1.

Mesons

<u>Particle</u>	<u>Quark Composition</u>
π^+	$u\bar{d}$
π^-	$\bar{d}u$
π^0	$u\bar{u}$ or $d\bar{d}$
K^+	$u\bar{s}$
K^-	$s\bar{u}$
K^0	$d\bar{s}$ or $s\bar{d}$

A meson is made of a quark and an anti-quark.

Pions are mesons without a strange quark and Kaons are mesons with a strange quark.

They have a baryon number of 0. There is no such thing as a meson number.

Gauge Bosons

A final "particle" type is the gauge boson which is a force carrier of each of the four fundamental interaction.

Electromagnetic $\rightarrow$ photons

Weak $\rightarrow W^+, W^-$ or Z^0

Strong $\rightarrow$ gluon

Gravity $\rightarrow$ graviton

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There is also the Higgs Boson which gives particles mass. It doesn't fit well into the 'Standard Model' particle physics.