

# Standard Model of FUNDAMENTAL PARTICLES AND INTERACTIONS

The Standard Model summarizes the current knowledge in Particle Physics. It is the quantum theory that includes the theory of strong interactions (quantum chromodynamics or QCD) and the unified theory of weak and electromagnetic interactions (electroweak). Gravity is included on this chart because it is one of the fundamental interactions even though not part of the "Standard Model."

## FERMIONS

**matter constituents**  
spin = 1/2, 3/2, 5/2, ...

Leptons spin = 1/2		
Flavor	Mass GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	Electric charge
$\nu_e$ electron neutrino	$<1 \times 10^{-8}$	0
e electron	0.000511	-1
$\nu_\mu$ muon neutrino	$<0.0002$	0
$\mu$ muon	0.106	-1
$\nu_\tau$ tau neutrino	$<0.02$	0
$\tau$ tau	1.7771	-1

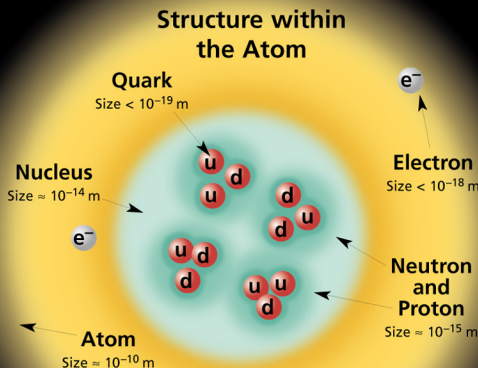
Quarks spin = 1/2		
Flavor	Approx. Mass GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	Electric charge
u up	0.003	2/3
d down	0.006	-1/3
c charm	1.3	2/3
s strange	0.1	-1/3
t top	175	2/3
b bottom	4.3	-1/3

## BOSONS

**force carriers**  
spin = 0, 1, 2, ...

Unified Electroweak spin = 1		
Name	Mass GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	Electric charge
$\gamma$ photon	0	0
$W^-$	80.4	-1
$W^+$	80.4	+1
$Z^0$	91.187	0

Strong (color) spin = 1		
Name	Mass GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	Electric charge
g gluon	0	0



If the protons and neutrons in this picture were 10 cm across, then the quarks and electrons would be less than 0.1 mm in size and the entire atom would be about 10 km across.

**Color Charge**  
Each quark carries one of three types of "strong charge," also called "color charge." These charges have nothing to do with the colors of visible light. There are eight possible types of color charge for gluons. Just as electrically-charged particles interact by exchanging photons, in strong interactions color-charged particles interact by exchanging gluons. Leptons, photons, and  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons have no strong interactions and hence no color charge.

### Quarks Confined in Mesons and Baryons

One cannot isolate quarks and gluons; they are confined in color-neutral particles called hadrons. This confinement (binding) results from multiple exchanges of gluons among the color-charged constituents. As color-charged particles (quarks and gluons) move apart, the energy in the color-force field between them increases. This energy eventually is converted into additional quark-antiquark pairs (see figure below). The quarks and antiquarks then combine into hadrons; these are the particles seen to emerge. Two types of hadrons have been observed in nature: **mesons**  $q\bar{q}$  and **baryons**  $qqq$ .

### Residual Strong Interaction

The strong binding of color-neutral protons and neutrons to form nuclei is due to residual strong interactions between their color-charged constituents. It is similar to the residual electrical interaction that binds electrically neutral atoms to form molecules. It can also be viewed as the exchange of mesons between the hadrons.

**Spin** is the intrinsic angular momentum of particles. Spin is given in units of  $\hbar$ , which is the quantum unit of angular momentum, where  $\hbar = h/2\pi = 6.58 \times 10^{-25}$  GeV s =  $1.05 \times 10^{-34}$  J s.

**Electric charges** are given in units of the proton's charge. In SI units the electric charge of the proton is  $1.60 \times 10^{-19}$  coulombs.

The **energy** unit of particle physics is the electronvolt (eV), the energy gained by one electron in crossing a potential difference of one volt. **Masses** are given in GeV/c<sup>2</sup> (remember  $E = mc^2$ ), where  $1 \text{ GeV} = 10^9 \text{ eV} = 1.60 \times 10^{-10}$  joule. The mass of the proton is  $0.938 \text{ GeV}/c^2 = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$  kg.

## PROPERTIES OF THE INTERACTIONS

Baryons $qqq$ and Antibaryons $\bar{q}\bar{q}\bar{q}$					
Baryons are fermionic hadrons. There are about 120 types of baryons.					
Symbol	Name	Quark content	Electric charge	Mass GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	Spin
p	proton	uud	1	0.938	1/2
$\bar{p}$	anti-proton	$\bar{u}\bar{u}\bar{d}$	-1	0.938	1/2
n	neutron	udd	0	0.940	1/2
$\Lambda$	lambda	uds	0	1.116	1/2
$\Omega^-$	omega	sss	-1	1.672	3/2

Property \ Interaction	Gravitational	Weak	Electromagnetic	Strong	
	Mass - Energy	(Electroweak)		Fundamental	Residual
Acts on:	All	Flavor	Electric Charge	Color Charge	See Residual Strong Interaction Note
Particles experiencing:	All	Quarks, Leptons	Electrically charged	Quarks, Gluons	Hadrons
Particles mediating:	Graviton (not yet observed)	$W^+$ $W^-$ $Z^0$	$\gamma$	Gluons	Mesons
Strength relative to electromag for two u quarks at:	$10^{-41}$	0.8	1	25	Not applicable to quarks
	$10^{-41}$	$10^{-4}$	1	60	
for two protons in nucleus	$10^{-36}$	$10^{-7}$	1	Not applicable to hadrons	20

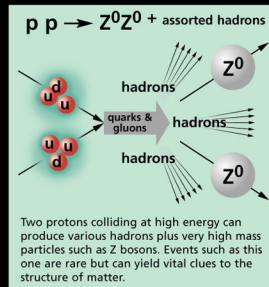
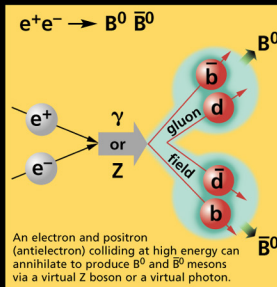
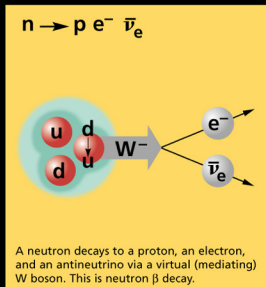
Mesons $q\bar{q}$					
Mesons are bosonic hadrons. There are about 140 types of mesons.					
Symbol	Name	Quark content	Electric charge	Mass GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	Spin
$\pi^+$	pion	$u\bar{d}$	+1	0.140	0
$K^-$	kaon	$s\bar{u}$	-1	0.494	0
$\rho^+$	rho	$u\bar{d}$	+1	0.770	1
$B^0$	B-zero	$d\bar{b}$	0	5.279	0
$\eta_c$	eta-c	$c\bar{c}$	0	2.980	0

### Matter and Antimatter

For every particle type there is a corresponding antiparticle type, denoted by a bar over the particle symbol (unless + or - charge is shown). Particle and antiparticle have identical mass and spin but opposite charges. Some electrically neutral bosons (e.g.,  $Z^0$ ,  $\gamma$ , and  $\eta_c = c\bar{c}$ , but not  $K^0 = d\bar{s}$ ) are their own antiparticles.

### Figures

These diagrams are an artist's conception of physical processes. They are not exact and have no meaningful scale. Green shaded areas represent the cloud of gluons or the gluon field, and red lines the quark paths.



### The Particle Adventure

Visit the award-winning web feature *The Particle Adventure* at <http://ParticleAdventure.org>

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