

NINE TYPES OF GALAXIES

Arranged according to general shape, astronomers catalogue nine types of galaxies, or island universes. Most of the galaxies in the sky are the typical closely-packed spiral type, as is shown in the fifth and sixth type, below. The nine types tend to fall into three broad categories: [1] ellipticals, which are shaped something like a watermelon; [2] spirals, with their arms (such as we find in our own galaxy and in Andromeda); and [3] barred, which have a central bar and outer arms.

(1) Type E0: This is a photograph of M87 in Virgo, which is a symmetrical system, as well as a radio source.

(2) Type E4: An example of this is the dwarf galaxy NGC 147 in Cassiopeia. This is an elliptical.

(3) Type E6: Shown here is NGC 205, a small galaxy located not far from the Andromeda galaxy.

(4) Type Sa: NGC 7217, a spiral in Pegasus, has arms that are symmetrical and tightly wound.

(5) Type Sb: This galaxy has looser arms. Shown here is M81 (NGC 3031) in Ursa Major, at a narrower angle than NGC 7217.

(6) Type Sc: M33 (NGC 598) in Triangulum, has a smaller center and less defined arms.

(7) Type SBa: NGC 3504 in Leo Minor has spiral arms extending from the ends of a bar.

(8) Type SBb: NGC 7479 in Pegasus has a more pronounced bar, with arms extending from its ends.

(9) Type SBc: This galaxy in the Hercules cluster has a dominant bar, and still less defined arms.

