Spiral Galaxy
- Flat, large disk
- Interstellar matter and young (open) star clusters.
- **Halo** has thinly scattered stars, star clusters, and gas.
- **Nuclear bulge** has a cloud of stars at the center
- **Ellipsoidally formed bulge** component, consisting of an old stellar population without interstellar matter, and often associated with globular clusters.
- **Spiral arms** = bright stars arranged in spiral patterns and/or bar structures.
- Young **population I stars** and old **population II stars**.
- The Sun is one of over 100 billion stars in the spiral galaxy, the Milky Way.

Elliptical Galaxy
- Look luminous spirals, **without a disk component** and **in an ellipsoidal shape**.
- Don’t rotate as a whole galaxy.
- Contain little or **no interstellar matter**.
- Old **population II stars** only.

Irregular Galaxy
- Distorted by the gravitation of their intergalactic neighbors.
- Do not fit well into the scheme of disks and ellipsoids.
- Irregular shapes.

Sources: Backman/Seeds’ **Astro**; http://seds.org/messier/galaxy.html; http://www.danielsevo.com/astronomy/astro_galaxy.htm