

Among philosophers, three kinds of being have been fairly commonly distinguished:

Idealism: being is mind, spirit, person, idea
 Materialism: being is matter, energy, law
 Neutralism: being is neutral stuff, something which is neither mind nor matter

Ontological views in philosophy combine the quantitative and qualitative components. The resulting world-views may be seen by means of a chart:

QUALITATIVE & QUANTITATIVE COMPONENTS OF ONTOLOGY

QUANTITATIVE ONTOLOGY	QUALITATIVE ONTOLOGY				
	IDEALISTIC	MONISM	MATERIALISTIC	DUALISM	PLURALISM
		NEUTRAL			
MONISTIC	(1) Abs. Idealism	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
DUALISTIC	(6) Persian Dualism	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
PLURALISTIC	(11) Personalism	(12) Neutral Realism	(13) Materialism	(14) Dualism	(15) Pluralism

Explanation of numbered views on chart:

(1) Using the abstract terminology, this view may be called monistic idealistic monism, or monistic idealism. It holds that the whole universe is only one being; that this being is one kind of being, namely idea, or mind, or spirit, or person. Historically, this view is known as Absolute Idealism, or Absolutism, or sometimes simply **Idealism**.

(2) Monistic neutral monism, or monistic neutralism. The universe is one being, comprised of neutral "stuff," which is neither mind nor matter. The view has **no historical name**.

(3) Monistic materialistic monism, or monistic materialism. It holds that the universe is one being, and that being is matter or the matter-energy complex. The view has **no historical name**.

(4) Monistic dualism. It holds that the universe is one being, comprised of two basic kinds of being, which could be mind and matter, or spirit and flesh, or some other combination. The view has **no historical name**.

(5) Monistic pluralism. It holds that the universe is one being,