Classification of Carbon Types

related to number of bonds to other carbons

1° primary carbon  
2° secondary carbon  
3° tertiary carbon  
4° quaternary carbon

Hydrogens classified based on type of carbon to which they are attached

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\begin{align*}
\text{H}_3\text{C} & \quad \text{methyl carbon (hydrogen)} \\
\text{CH}_2 & \quad \text{methylene carbon (hydrogen)} \\
\text{CH} & \quad \text{methine carbon (hydrogen)} \\
\text{C} & \quad \text{quaternary carbon}
\end{align*}
\]