Electron formerly called

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However, the terminology comes from a simplistic calculation that ignores the effects of quantum mechanics; in reality, the so-called classical electron radius has little to do with the true fundamental structure of the electron.

Electron, lightest stable subatomic particle known. It carries a negative charge of 1.6 x 10^-19 coulomb, which is considered the basic unit of electric charge. The electron was discovered in 1897 by the English physicist J.J. Thomson during investigations of cathode rays.

When J.J. Thomson discovered the light particle which carried that charge, the name "electron" was applied to it. The many applications of electrons moving in a near-vacuum or inside semiconductors were later dubbed "electronics."

A subatomic particle which has a negative electric charge equal in magnitude to the positive charge of the proton, is a constituent of all atoms, and is the principal carrier of electric current in solids. Also (occasionally): the positive analogue or antiparticle of this (now called positron).

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