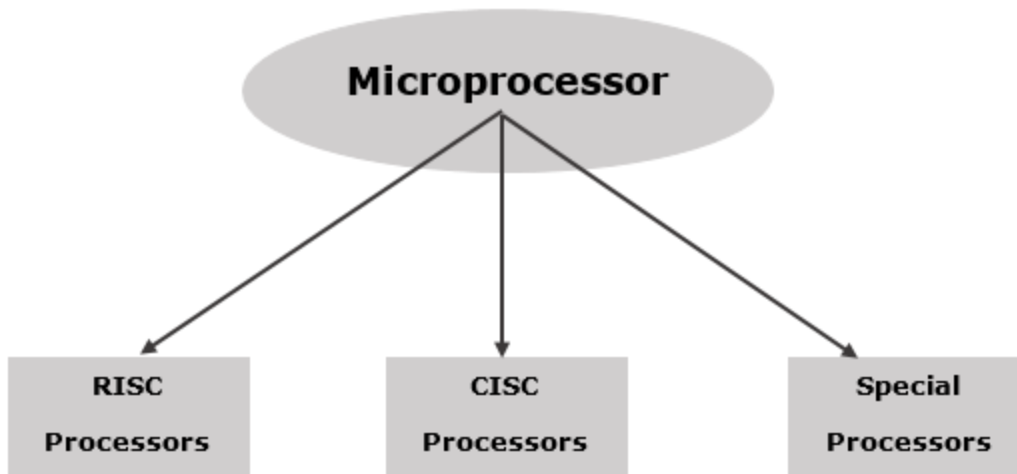


## MICROPROCESSOR - CLASSIFICATION

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A microprocessor can be classified into three categories –



### RISC Processor

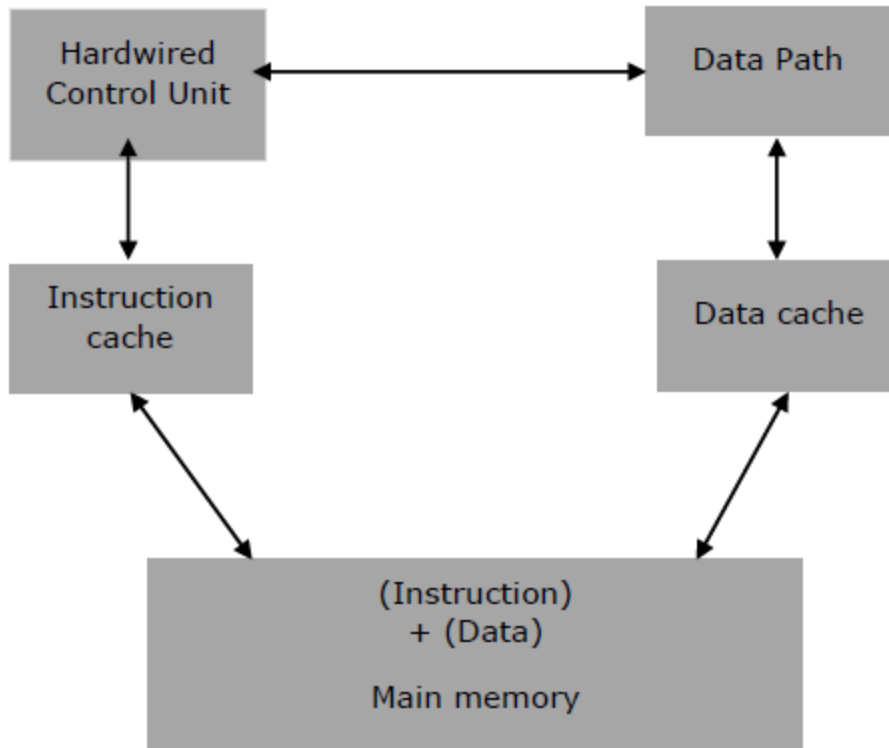
RISC stands for **Reduced Instruction Set Computer**. It is designed to reduce the execution time by simplifying the instruction set of the computer. Using RISC processors, each instruction requires only one clock cycle to execute results in uniform execution time. This reduces the efficiency as there are more lines of code, hence more RAM is needed to store the instructions. The compiler also has to work more to convert high-level language instructions into machine code.

Some of the RISC processors are –

- Power PC: 601, 604, 615, 620
- DEC Alpha: 210642, 211066, 21068, 21164
- MIPS: TS R10000 RISC Processor
- PA-RISC: HP 7100LC

### Architecture of RISC

RISC microprocessor architecture uses highly-optimized set of instructions. It is used in portable devices like Apple iPod due to its power efficiency.



## Characteristics of RISC

The major characteristics of a RISC processor are as follows –

- It consists of simple instructions.
- It supports various data-type formats.
- It utilizes simple addressing modes and fixed length instructions for pipelining.
- It supports register to use in any context.
- One cycle execution time.
- “LOAD” and “STORE” instructions are used to access the memory location.
- It consists of larger number of registers.
- It consists of less number of transistors.

## CISC Processor

CISC stands for **Complex Instruction Set Computer**. It is designed to minimize the number of instructions per program, ignoring the number of cycles per instruction. The emphasis is on building complex instructions directly into the hardware.

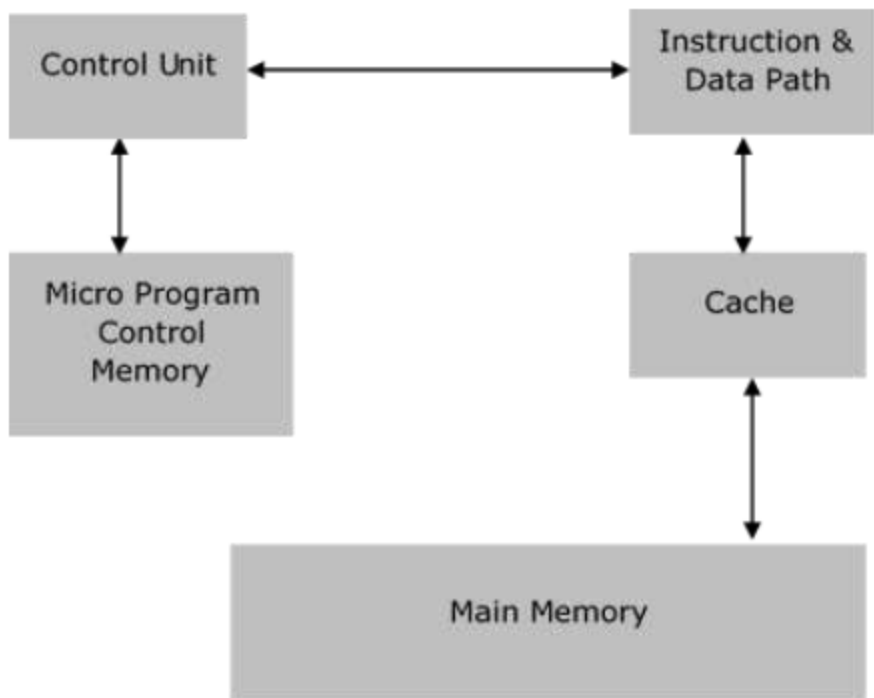
The compiler has to do very little work to translate a high-level language into assembly level language/machine code because the length of the code is relatively short, so very little RAM is required to store the instructions.

Some of the CISC Processors are –

- IBM 370/168
- VAX 11/780
- Intel 80486

## Architecture of CISC

Its architecture is designed to decrease the memory cost because more storage is needed in larger programs resulting in higher memory cost. To resolve this, the number of instructions per program can be reduced by embedding the number of operations in a single instruction.



## Characteristics of CISC

- Variety of addressing modes.
- Larger number of instructions.
- Variable length of instruction formats.
- Several cycles may be required to execute one instruction.
- Instruction-decoding logic is complex.
- One instruction is required to support multiple addressing modes.

## Special Processors

These are the processors which are designed for some special purposes. Few of the special processors are briefly discussed –

### Coprocessor

A coprocessor is a specially designed microprocessor, which can handle its particular function many times faster than the ordinary microprocessor.

**For example** – Math Coprocessor.

Some Intel math-coprocessors are –

- 8087-used with 8086
- 80287-used with 80286
- 80387-used with 80386

## **Input/Output Processor**

It is a specially designed microprocessor having a local memory of its own, which is used to control I/O devices with minimum CPU involvement.

**For example** –

- DMA *directMemoryAccess* controller
- Keyboard/mouse controller
- Graphic display controller
- SCSI port controller

## **Transputer** *TransistorComputer*

A transputer is a specially designed microprocessor with its own local memory and having links to connect one transputer to another transputer for inter-processor communications. It was first designed in 1980 by Inmos and is targeted to the utilization of VLSI technology.

A transputer can be used as a single processor system or can be connected to external links, which reduces the construction cost and increases the performance.

**For example** – 16-bit T212, 32-bit T425, the floating point T800, T805 & T9000 processors.

## **DSP** *DigitalSignalProcessor*

This processor is specially designed to process the analog signals into a digital form. This is done by sampling the voltage level at regular time intervals and converting the voltage at that instant into a digital form. This process is performed by a circuit called an analogue to digital converter, A to D converter or ADC.

A DSP contains the following components –

- **Program Memory** – It stores the programs that DSP will use to process data.
- **Data Memory** – It stores the information to be processed.
- **Compute Engine** – It performs the mathematical processing, accessing the program from the program memory and the data from the data memory.
- **Input/Output** – It connects to the outside world.

Its applications are –

- Sound and music synthesis
- Audio and video compression
- Video signal processing
- 2D and 3d graphics acceleration.

**For example** – Texas Instrument's TMS 320 series, e.g., TMS 320C40, TMS320C50.