There are two different types of computers—analog and digital.

Analog computers work by translating data from constantly changing physical conditions into corresponding mechanical. For example, an automobile speedometer is a mechanical analog computer that measures the rotations per minute of the drive shaft and translates that measurement into a display of miles or kilometers per hour.

Digital computers are basically simple machines. Every operation they perform, from navigating a spacecraft to playing a game of chess, is based on one key operation. A computer can recognize only two states—on or off, or high voltage or low voltage. By assigning binary numbers to these states—1 for on and 0 for off.This process is called digitization.

Digital computers are generally more effective than analog computers for three principal reasons: they are not as susceptible to signal interference; they can convey data with more precision; and their coded binary data are easier to store and transfer than are analog signals.