In [computing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computing), a **code segment**, also known as a **text segment** or simply as **text**, is one of the [sections](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memory_segmentation) of a program in an [object file](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Object_file) or in [memory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_memory), which contains [executable](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executable) [instructions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instruction_(computer_science)).

It has a fixed size and is usually [read-only](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Read-only). If the text section is not read-only, then the particular [architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_architecture) allows [self-modifying code](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-modifying_code). Fixed-position or [position independent code](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Position_independent_code) may be shared in memory by several processes in segmented or paged memory systems.

As a memory region, a **code segment** may be placed below the heap or stack in order to prevent [heap](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heap_overflow) and [stack overflows](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stack_overflow) from overwriting it.