File naming conventions

This page defines the filename and directory naming conventions used in lab repositories.

General principles

- Use descriptive names.
- Avoid spaces in filenames and directory names.
- Use lowercase letters.
- Use **hyphens (-)** by default.
- Use **underscores (_)** only for software source code files.

Documentation and manuscripts

Documentation files, manuscripts, figures, tables, LaTeX macros, and other document-related files use **hyphens** to separate words.

Examples:

```
main.tex
cover-letter.tex
cover-letter.pdf
review-response.tex
response-macros.tex
fig-study-basin.tex
tab-algorithms.tex
software-availability.tex
```

Hyphens improve readability and match conventions commonly used in documentation, URLs, and open-source repositories.

Command-line tools

Command-line interface (CLI) programs use **hyphens** in executable names because they are user-facing commands.

Examples:

```
flow-direction
longest-flow-path
mesh-builder
```

Software source code

Software source code files use **underscores** to separate words. This ensures compatibility with programming identifiers and module imports.

Examples:

```
flow_direction.py
longest_flow_path.py
mesh_builder.cpp
grid_utils.h
```

Directory names

Directory names use **hyphens**, unless the directory represents a software package that must follow programming naming rules.

Examples:

```
submission-docs/
review-response/
fig-study-area/
build-scripts/
```

Generated files

Generated files should normally keep the same base name as their source files.

Example:

```
cover-letter.tex → cover-letter.pdf
```

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