The World Wide Web is abundant of video tutorials covering many different topics. For example, a search for “tutorial” yields 178 million results on the video sharing website Youtube. The success of the tutorials is without doubt aided by easy-to-use software for creating the videos and the broad coverage of high-speed internet connections enabling convenient upload and access. This also reflects the desire of the audience to have an audio-visual support for procedures, which could be given in written format instead.

In 2017, the Phenix Tutorials Youtube channel [1] was launched. Phenix [2] is a program for the automated determination of molecular structures using X-ray crystallography and other methods. The extensive online manual [3] covers about 180 separate html pages (more than 600 letter size printed pages), including tutorials, FAQs and descriptions of many Phenix tools.

To expand the documentation resources, video tutorials for commonly used tools were created and made accessible on YouTube. The videos give a short introduction about a Phenix tool, summarize the required input files and parameters, explain how to run the program and – when appropriate – discuss the results. It is planned to keep adding tutorials addressing new tools or commonly asked questions from users.

Here, we present our experience with the Phenix video tutorials, such as feedback from the community, viewing statistics and how to create them.

[1] www.youtube.com/channel/UCcdI0hfHngWAZLJWynxPQWg (or search for “Phenix Tutorials” on the Youtube)
[3] www.phenix-online.org

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