SasView tutorial

Current (outdated) version of SasView tutorial can be found at: https://github.com/SasView/sasview/blob/master/sasview/media/Tutorial.pdf

Possible formats of tutorial

Several formats for tutorials are currently being considered by SasView management/community. They include:

- Hands-on tutorial with exercises (static text: HTML, PDF). Something like: https://www.mantidproject.org/Mantid_Basic_Course
- Video presentations. Screencasting with audio guidelines. Potentially something like:

- Command Line Interface (CLI) based tutorials: Interactive tutorials with programming environment. Examples can be found at: http://nbviewer.jupyter.org/

A few tips for creating good tutorials (General)

1. Clearly state the objective of your tutorial. This should be done in the title and then once again in more detail at the very beginning of the tutorial. This gives readers an idea of what to expect and helps them determine if they want to continue reading.

2. Be clear and concise. This tip simply cannot be understated. You want to write the tutorial in such a manner that a 3rd grader can understand and follow. Tutorials require a different style of writing than you are probably used to because your main objective is to **teach** somethi ng to the user. It is imperative that your tutorial is clear and concise so that the reader does not get confused or frustrated. Remember, a tutorial is supposed to help a person learn. So you want to make it as easy as possible for them.

3. Use images to supplement the text. A picture can be worth a thousand words. Most of the time, you will need pictures to explain how to do things. Using screen shots and modifying images to describe what you are saying can greatly aid in getting your point across to the reader. Well placed pictures can make or break a good tutorial.

4. Use examples. Find simple examples that will best illustrate your point. Examples are critical to a tutorial because applying information can really help the reader understand and grasp the material better. Talking about doing something, and actually doing it are two completely different things. If possible, multiple examples should be used as it can be quite useful to the reader. If relevant, include source files of examples that you conduct.

5. Use an organized structure. Writing tutorials in list format make them more visually appealing and increase their readability. Some tutorials can get quite large, so developing an organized structure can help your user navigate around the different sections. One can use multiple pages to break up the tutorial into more manageable pieces. Some users prefer that all the content is on one page, so it might be a good idea to offer both formats.

6. Break down the tutorial into simple steps. It's better to have two simple steps, than one step that is longer and more complicated. Remember, we're trying to make it easier for the reader, not harder.

7. Leave nothing to ambiguity. This point reinforces #2, but deserves its own mention. Explaining more is better than explaining too little. More information is better than less information. Once again, it all comes down to making it easy for the reader. Try not to make any assumptions about what the reader does or does not know.

8. Proofread and run through your tutorial. It is also a good idea to have some other people do the same. Odds are good that they will find stuff you forgot to mention. In addition, they can provide feedback on parts where you failed to explain certain things clearly or parts where more information could have been offered.

9. Include a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) section. This is a good way to answer questions before they are even asked and acts as a good supplement to the tutorial. As you get more feedback from readers, you can continually update the FAQ section so that new readers do not ask the same questions.

10. Update and provide support. No matter how comprehensive your tutorial is, it is practically guaranteed that you will forget to address a particular issue or that people will have further questions. You should treat your tutorial as a living document and edit it when new information comes into play. You should also be ready to answer any questions in a timely manner. By showing that you are active and willing to help, you will build credibility by the sheer number of comments and responses. If the comment section gets too crowded, you may even have to consider using a forum. There should be a clear policy about how to reply (update backlog, expert in charge or dedicated tutorial person). Consider how should it be built - jenkins job, sphinx, etc.

11. Clearly state software version(s). The version of the software described in the tutorial should be clearly stated

Video tutorials:

Tips: http://davidturnbull.com/create-video-tutorials/

Tools for screencasting:

Name	Link	Platform	Comments
ActivePresenter	https://atomisystems.com/activepresenter/	OSX, WIn	Create high quality training videos, interactive HTML5 eLearning contents.
MOVAVI	https://www.movavi.com/support/how-to/how-to-create-videoguide.html	OSX, Win	Screen Capture Studio combines an all-purpose screen video capture program with a powerful yet easy-to-use video editor – plus a huge number of quick export settings to optimize your recordings for specific mobile devices or for sharing online.
CamStudio	http://camstudio.org/	Win	An open source program for capturing your on-screen video and audio as AVI files. Windows only, and absolutely free.
ScreenFlow	https://www.telestream.net/screenflow/	OSX	Commercial (USD 99). Not clear from webpage but looks like single user and version.
Camtasia	https://www.techsmith.com/camtasia.html	OSX, Win	Commercial (USD 199). SIngle User. The latest major version of Camtasia and any updates to your purchased version.

Online tools for editing rst files:

- Online Restructured Editor: http://rst.ninjs.org/
- Online Spinx Editor: https://livesphinx.herokuapp.com/
- Notex.ch: https://www.notex.ch/editor
- Summary of editors: https://wiki.typo3.org/Editors_%28reST%29

Interactive python editors:

- Jupyter/Ipython: http://jupyter.org/ https://ipython.org/
- +add on: Bokeh: http://bokeh.pydata.org/en/latest/