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Charles Poynton – Biography

Charles Poynton is an independent contractor specializing in the physics, mathematics, and engineering of digital colour imaging systems, including digital video, HDTV, and digital cinema (D-cinema). He does technology assessment and forecasting, systems modelling, algorithm development, video signal processing architecture, colour characterization and calibration, and image quality assessment.

Mr. Poynton graduated from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, with a B.A. in Mathematics and Computer Science. Later, he studied at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto. He was invited to become a faculty member at OCA (now OCAD); for 2 years, he taught electronics to art students. From 1981 to 1985, Mr. Poynton designed and built the digital video equipment used at NASA's Johnson Space Center to convert video from the Space Shuttle into NTSC for recording and distribution. While at Sun Microsystems in Mountain View, California, from 1988 to 1995, he initiated Sun's HDTV research project, and introduced colour management technology to Sun.

Mr. Poynton is a Fellow of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE), and an Honourary Member of the BKSTS. In 1994, he was awarded SMPTE's prestigious David Sarnoff Gold Medal for his work to integrate video technology with computing and communications. Mr. Poynton has published many magazine articles, and published and presented many technical papers. He has organized and presented many popular courses and seminars, including courses on colour technology, HDTV, and digital cinema at SIGGRAPHs from 1994 through 2004. He has presented seminars and workshops at many other conferences, including conferences held by organizations such as BKSTS, GSTA, IS&T, SID, HPA, and SMPTE.

His first book, *A Technical Introduction to Digital Video*, was published in 1996 by John Wiley & Sons, and reached fifth printing. His book *Digital Video and HDTV Algorithms and Interfaces* was published in 2003 by Morgan-Kaufmann, and is now in its third printing. Upon its publication it was the 3,339th most popular item at Amazon.com.

Charles is enrolled part-time in the Ph.D. program at Simon Fraser University; he is exploring advanced topics in colour reproduction.

Charles lives in Toronto with his wife Barbara – a massage therapist and psychotherapist-in-training – and their two teenage girls. ■