

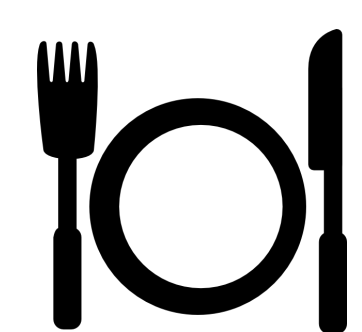
# Sustainable hydrogenation using a palladium membrane reactor

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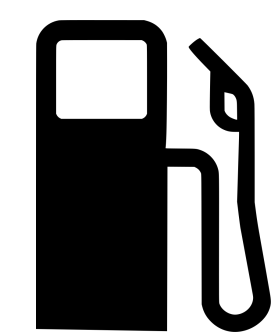
Departments of Chemistry and Chemical & Biological Engineering, and The Quantum Matter Institute, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

## Hydrogenation is a process used in the manufacture of useful chemicals

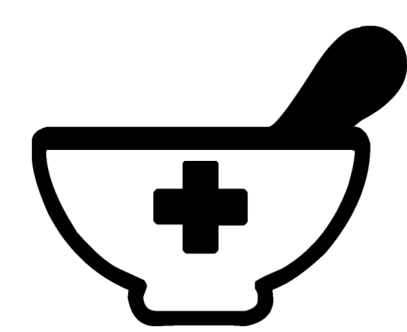
Hydrogenation reactions are used at large scale in the petrochemical, fine chemical and food industries. Together these reactions consume 113 million metric tons of hydrogen gas annually.<sup>1</sup>



Food  
(e.g., shortening and other solid plant-based fats)



Biofuels  
(e.g., renewable diesel from biogenic feedstocks)

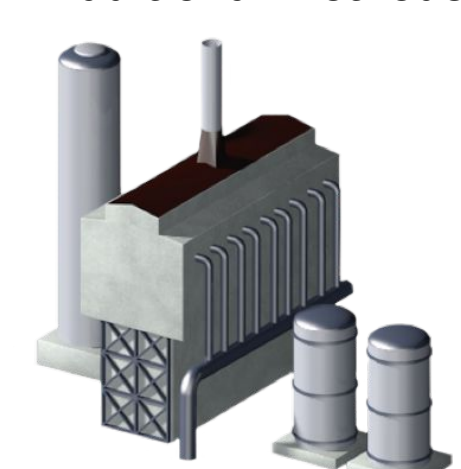


Pharmaceuticals  
(e.g., Resveratrol, Tetrabenazine, Vitamin A)

## Hydrogenation reactions traditionally require harsh reaction conditions

Industrial hydrogenation is unilaterally carried out at high temperature and pressure and uses H<sub>2</sub> gas as the hydrogen source.<sup>2</sup> These processes have inherent safety risks and environmental costs owing to the flammability of H<sub>2</sub> gas derived from fossil fuels.<sup>1</sup> We are developing a hydrogenation reactor to address these concerns.

### Traditional methods



### Our method



up to 100 atm of pressure required to drive hydrogenation

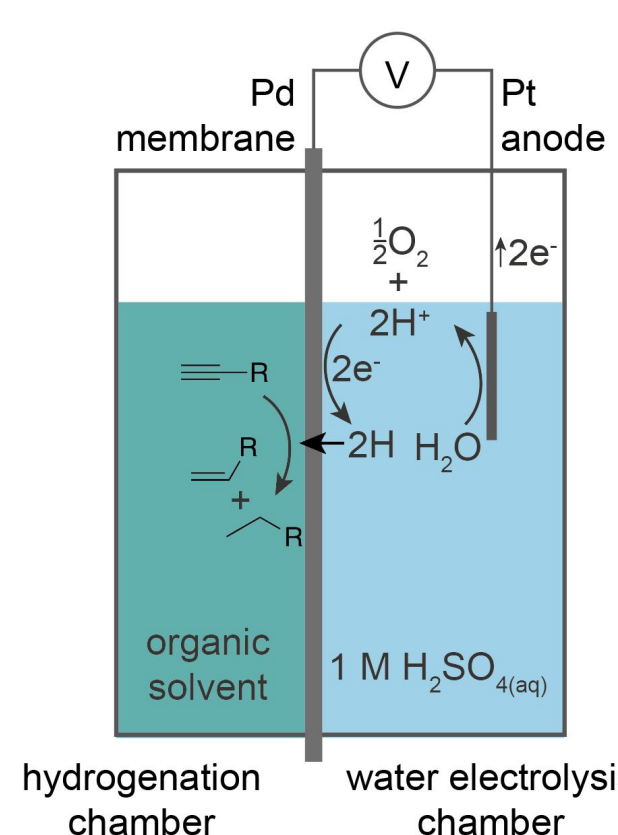
H<sub>2</sub> gas used at temperatures up to 500 °C

hydrogenation reactions carried out at 1 atm

ambient temperature hydrogen is produced directly from water

## Our reactor can use electricity and water to hydrogenate chemical feedstocks

Our hydrogenation reactor, called Thor, can enable safer, more sustainable hydrogenation by using only electricity and water to hydrogenate organic molecules.<sup>3,4</sup> The hydrogenation process happens in the following steps:



- an electrical voltage is applied between the platinum anode and palladium cathode
- water is oxidized at the anode to produce O<sub>2</sub> and protons
- protons are reduced at the palladium membrane surface to produce hydrogen
- hydrogen diffuses through the palladium membrane
- hydrogen atoms hydrogenate an unsaturated organic molecule



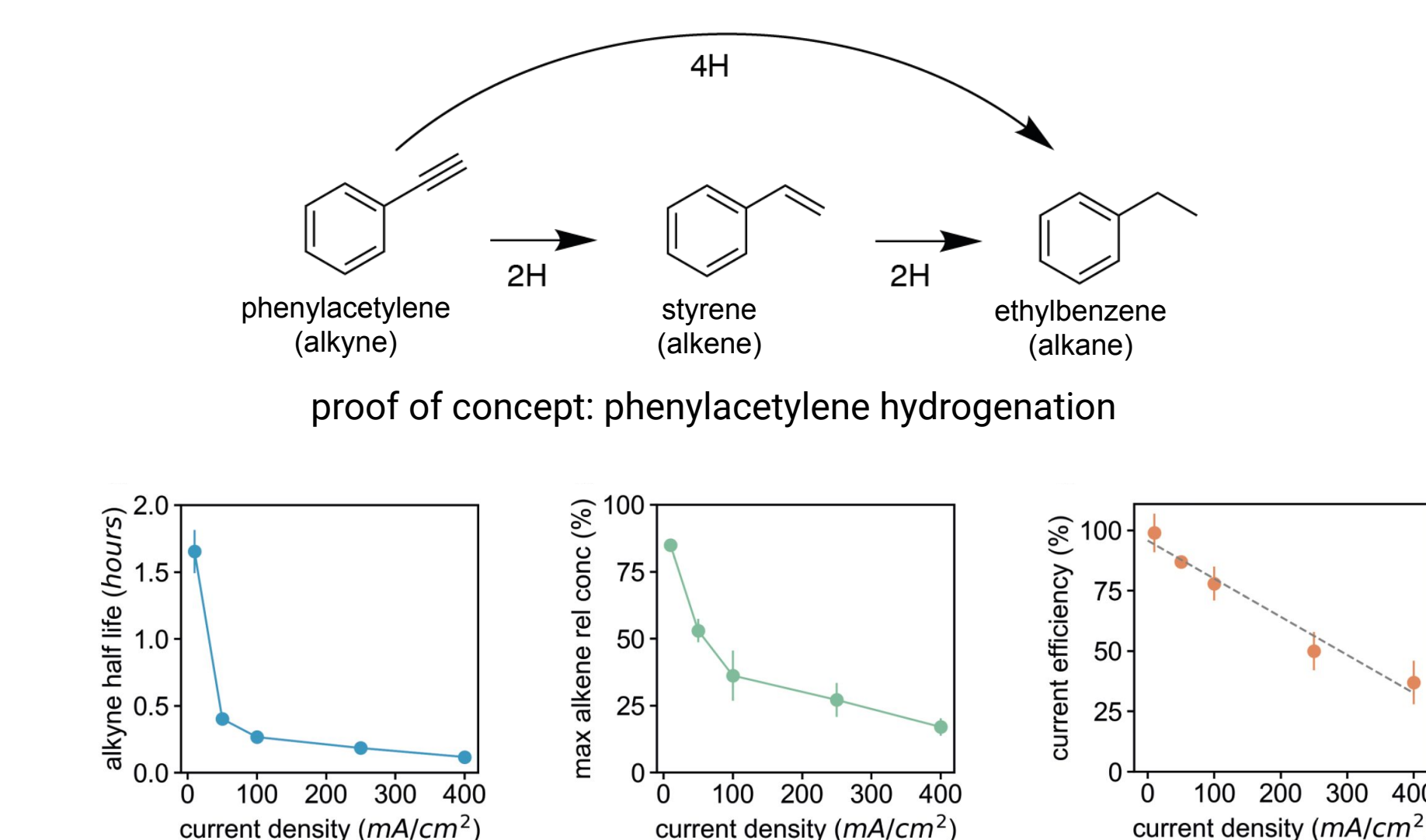
BERLINGUETTE  
RESEARCH



# Renewable electricity can be used to drive useful chemical transformations

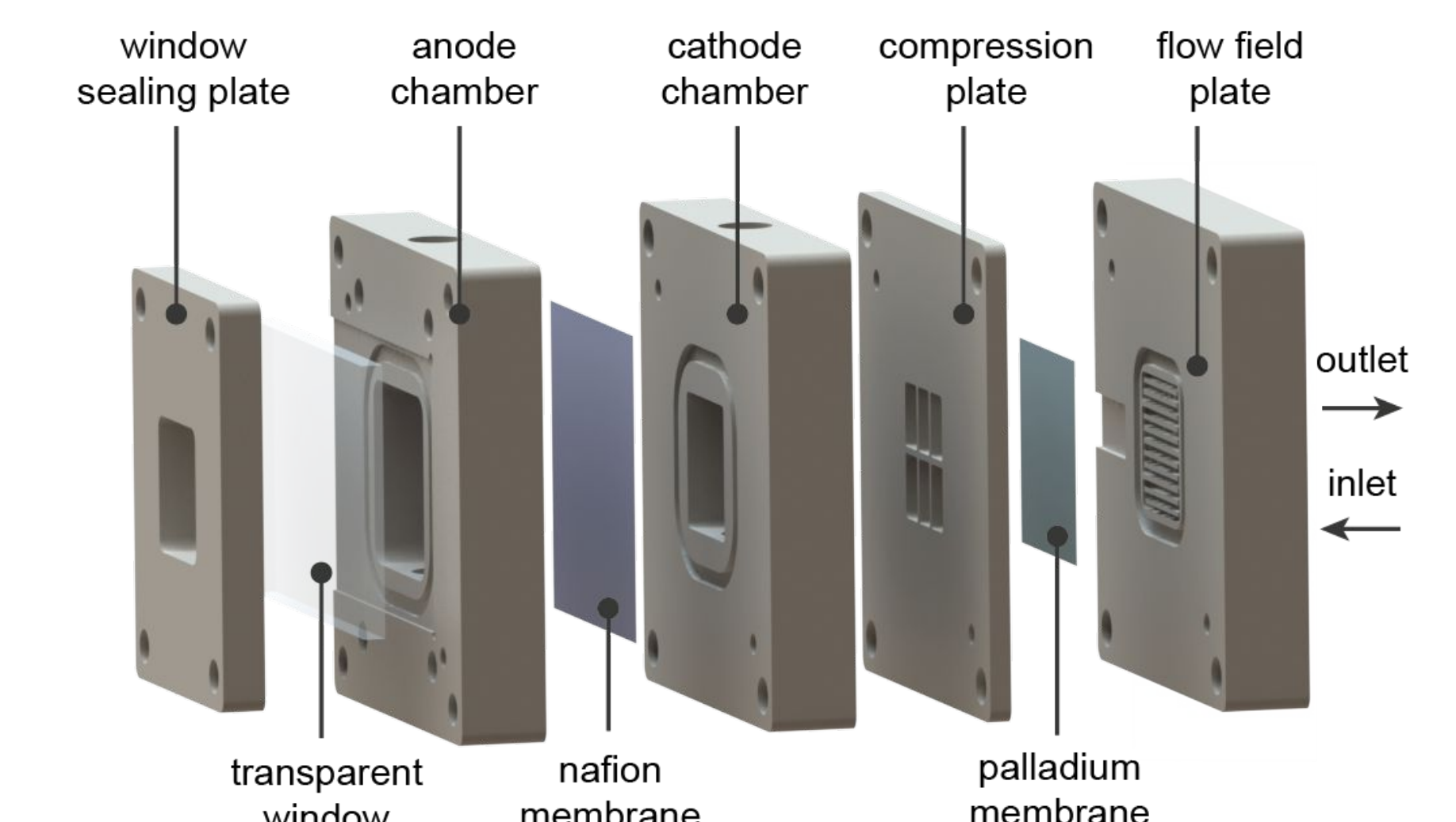
## Proof of concept: We can control the reaction performance by changing the electrical current

The reaction performance (i.e., rate, selectivity, and efficiency) of the reaction can be controlled by adjusting the electrical current used to drive the water electrolysis reaction.<sup>4</sup>



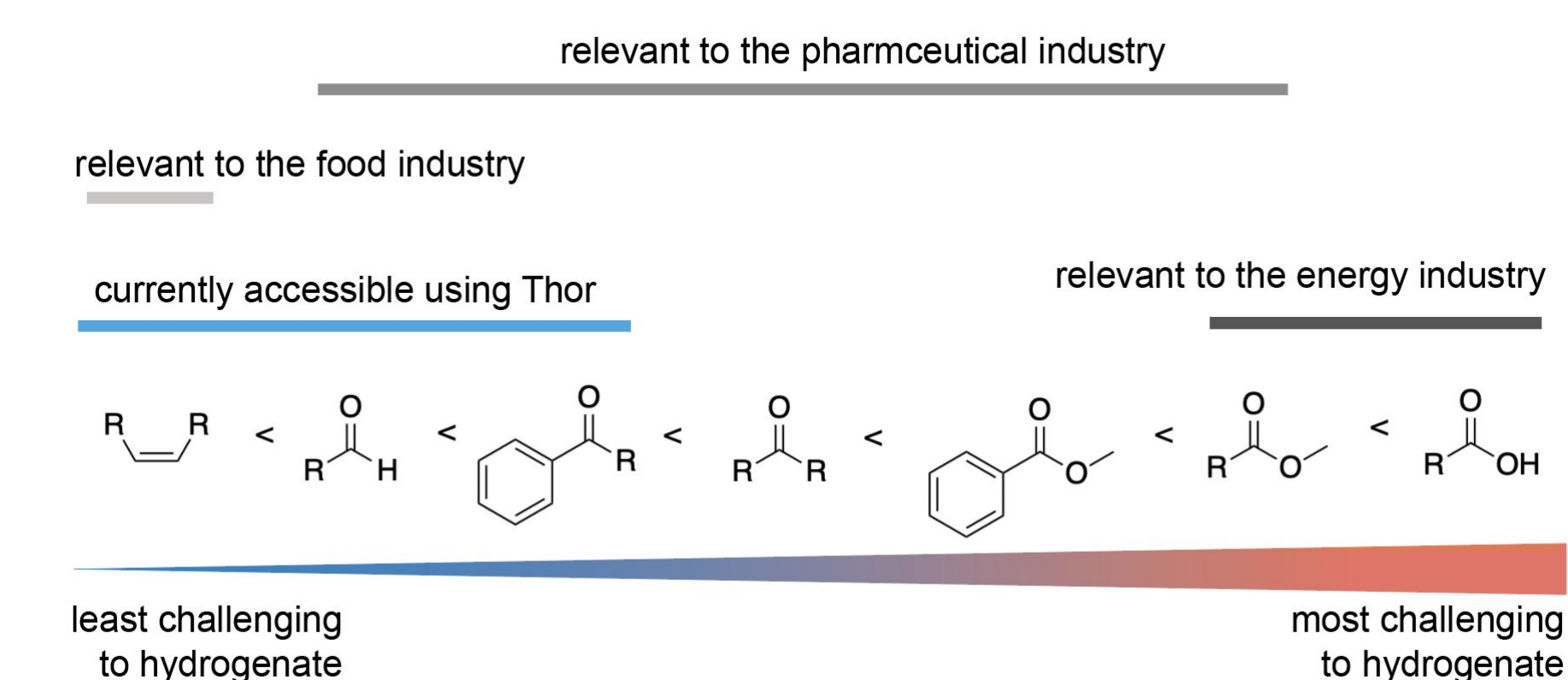
## A palladium membrane flow cell for faster hydrogenation

Making an impact in commodity chemical synthesis requires high reaction rates, and a scalable reactor platform. Toward this goal, we constructed a flow cell that enables ~20x faster reaction rates than previous batch-reactor designs. This approach was informed by the technical development of electrocatalytic flow-cell systems such as hydrogen fuel cells<sup>5</sup> or CO<sub>2</sub> electrolyzers.<sup>6</sup>



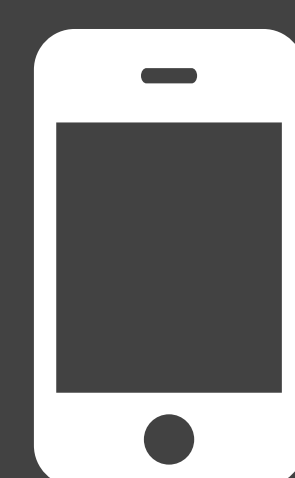
## We are working toward applying this technology to large-scale commodity chemical synthesis

We are currently limited to hydrogenation of carbon-carbon, and some carbon-oxygen double bonds. We are developing catalysts to expand the diversity of bonds we can hydrogenate. We are looking for industrial partners to help us develop this technology for impactful applications!



## References

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exists to  
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message.

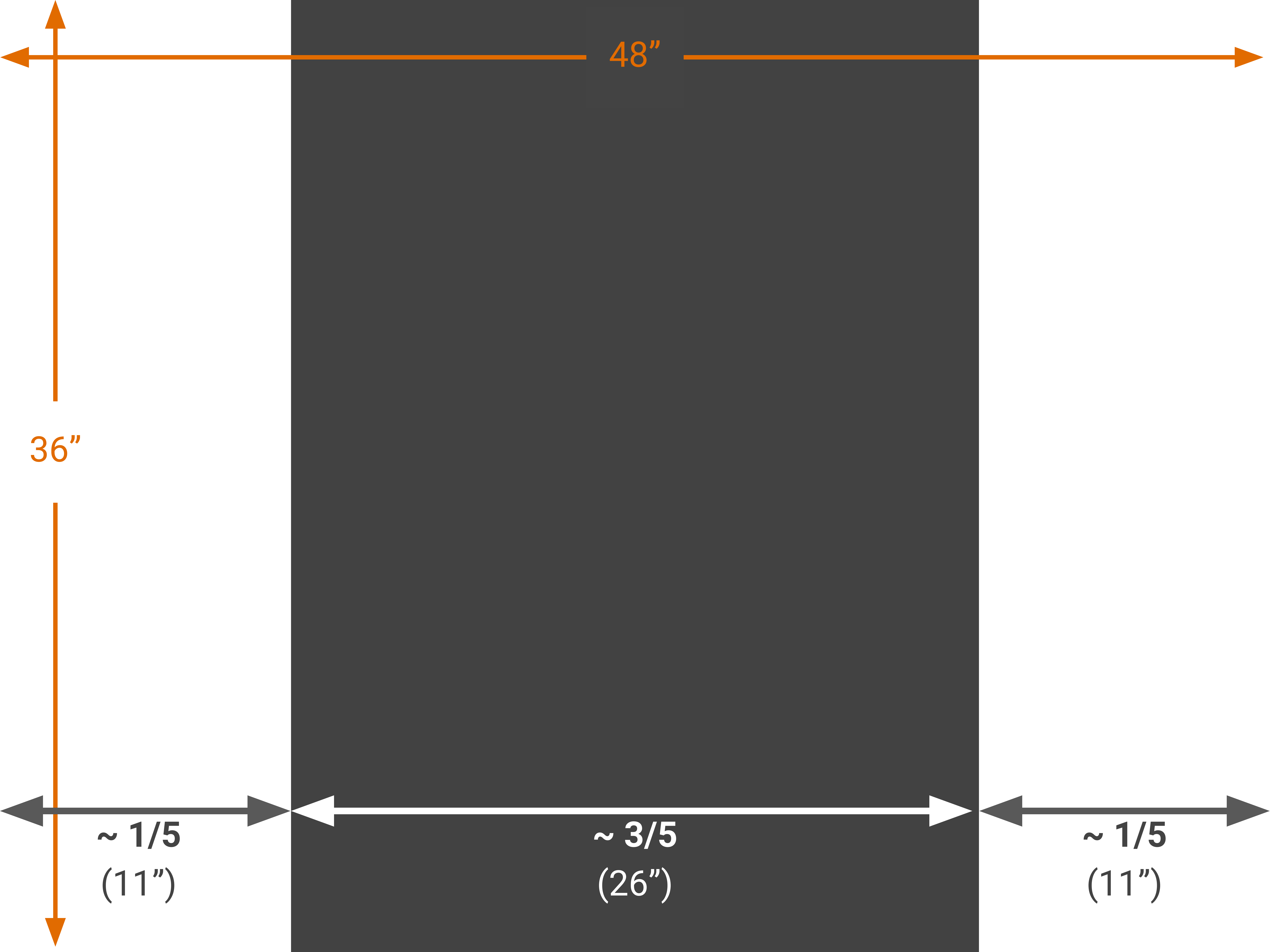
**Paper  
outline  
and key  
figures**

**Main finding of  
the study.**



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the full paper

**“Ammo  
bar”  
For extra  
data**









# CPB's notes on making a good poster

- **Make your poster educational and easy to understand:**

- PROVIDE EXPLANATORY CAPTIONS THAT INFORM THE READER WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT YOUR IMAGES
- Label everything in your diagrams
- Consider having a box which answers the question of what problem does the device/technique/material solve
- Keep in mind that many people will read your poster without you being there to explain it to them
- “Are you relaying your story effectively?”

- **Make your poster look professional:**

- Respect symmetry, have even whitespace sizes
- Consistent sentence alignment & heading capitalization
- Keep in mind how big things will be when you print the poster
- White space is good - avoid unnecessarily large text
- Consider left justifying rather than justified paragraphs -- stretched out short lines of text look weird & are hard to read/confusing

- **Use the template to help you save time!**

- Colors, font sizes, etc have already been chosen for you to make your life easier!
- Don't waste time moving away from the template unless you have a strong creative reason to do so

“Traditional” poster templates below











# Template colours

Tungsten  
#424242FF  
RGB(66,66,66)

CPB Orange  
#E06C26FF  
RGB(224,108,38)

CPB Blue  
#4574A2FF  
RGB(69,116,162)

**Separator Box**  
"Pale Grey"  
#EBEBEBFF  
RGB(235,235,235)

Clover  
#008E00FF  
RGB(0,142,0)

Steel  
#797979FF  
RGB(121,121,121)

Cayenne  
#941100FF  
RGB(148,17,0)

Tungsten  
#424242  
RGB(66,66,66)

CPB Orange  
#E06C26FF  
RGB(224,108,38)

CPB Blue  
#4574A2FF  
RGB(69,116,162)

Clover  
#008E00FF  
RGB(0,142,0)

Steel  
#797979FF  
RGB(121,121,121)

Cayenne,  
#941100FF  
RGB(148,17,0)