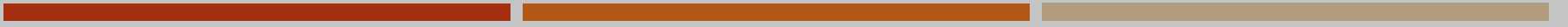


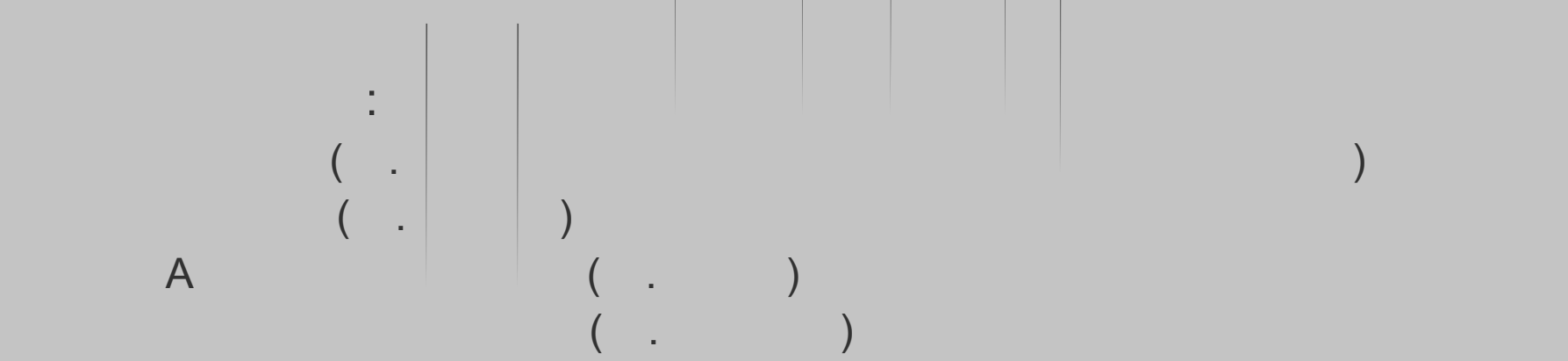
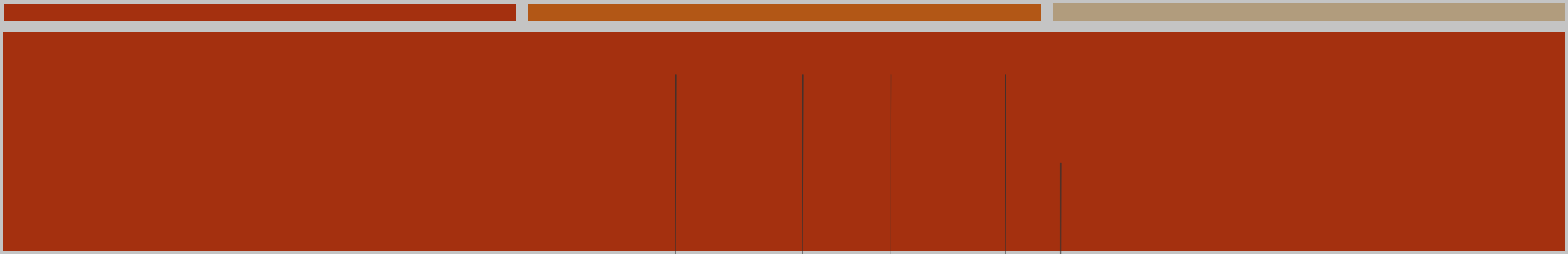
Introduction to Patents and Their Applications

Boston College Office of Technology Transfer and Licensing

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Why Patent an Invention?

Showcase your technology

Asset when looking for funding (startup)

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before

Prior Art (barrier to novelty)

Information or knowledge publicly available before the filing date of the application

Printed Publications

- U.S. patents and published applications

- Foreign published patent documents

- Poster presentations

- Handouts at meetings

- Abstracts

- Material posted on the internet

- Articles, books

- Thesis or dissertation



Inventorship

Inventorship is a legal determination, often made during the patent drafting process (considering contribution to claims)

The inventor must contribute to the conception of an invention

Not the same as co-authors of a paper

Incorrect inventorship can invalidate a patent

All collaborators – even those from other institutions – must be recognized

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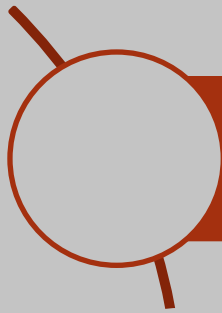
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Technology Assessment



Intellectual Property Strength

- Patentability search
- Likelihood of continued research and development

Market Potential

- Market size and growth potential
- Advantages over competition and new features



After the Provisional Filing

A provisional patent application is not examined by the USPTO, but allows inventors to preserve a priority date to know they filed their application first.

Once a provisional application is filed, OTTL will focus on marketing the technology and identifying potential licensees.

One year after the provisional application is filed, OTTL must make the decision whether to file a non-provisional application or a Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application, which preserves foreign rights.

Under most circumstances, OTTL will choose to file a follow-on patent application only if there is a licensee or if a company has expressed a commercial interest in an invention.

If the inventors disagree with the OTTL decision whether to file a patent application, arrangements can be made for the inventors or the inventors

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Overview of Pathway to Commercialization

