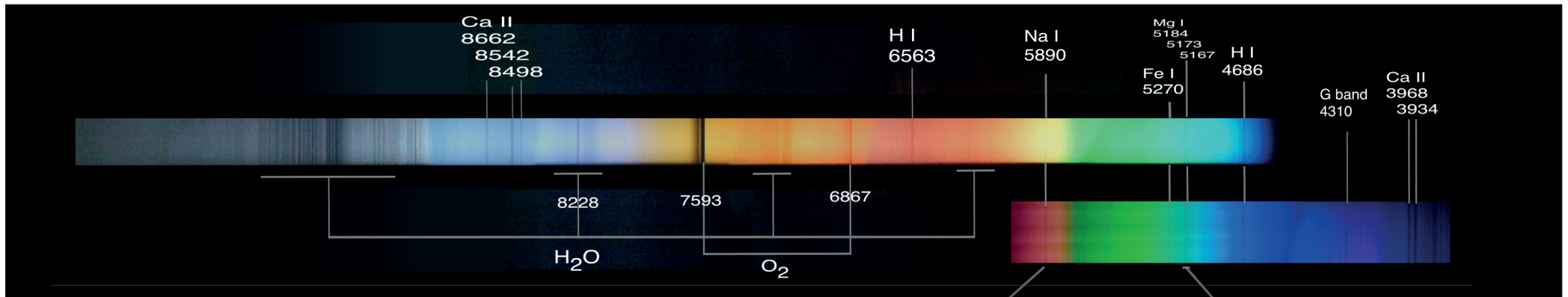


Spectroscopy



Splitting light into its constituent wavelengths, this is called a spectrum. The spectra of astronomical bodies are not smooth continuous rainbows; atoms and molecules absorb/emit light at specific wavelengths, and therefore the spectra contain unique fingerprints which reveals the chemical make-up of these bodies.



The Spectrum of the Sun

From the ultraviolet to the infrared.
Showing water and oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere
as well as elements in the Sun.

Spectrum graphic courtesy of Robin Catchpole

