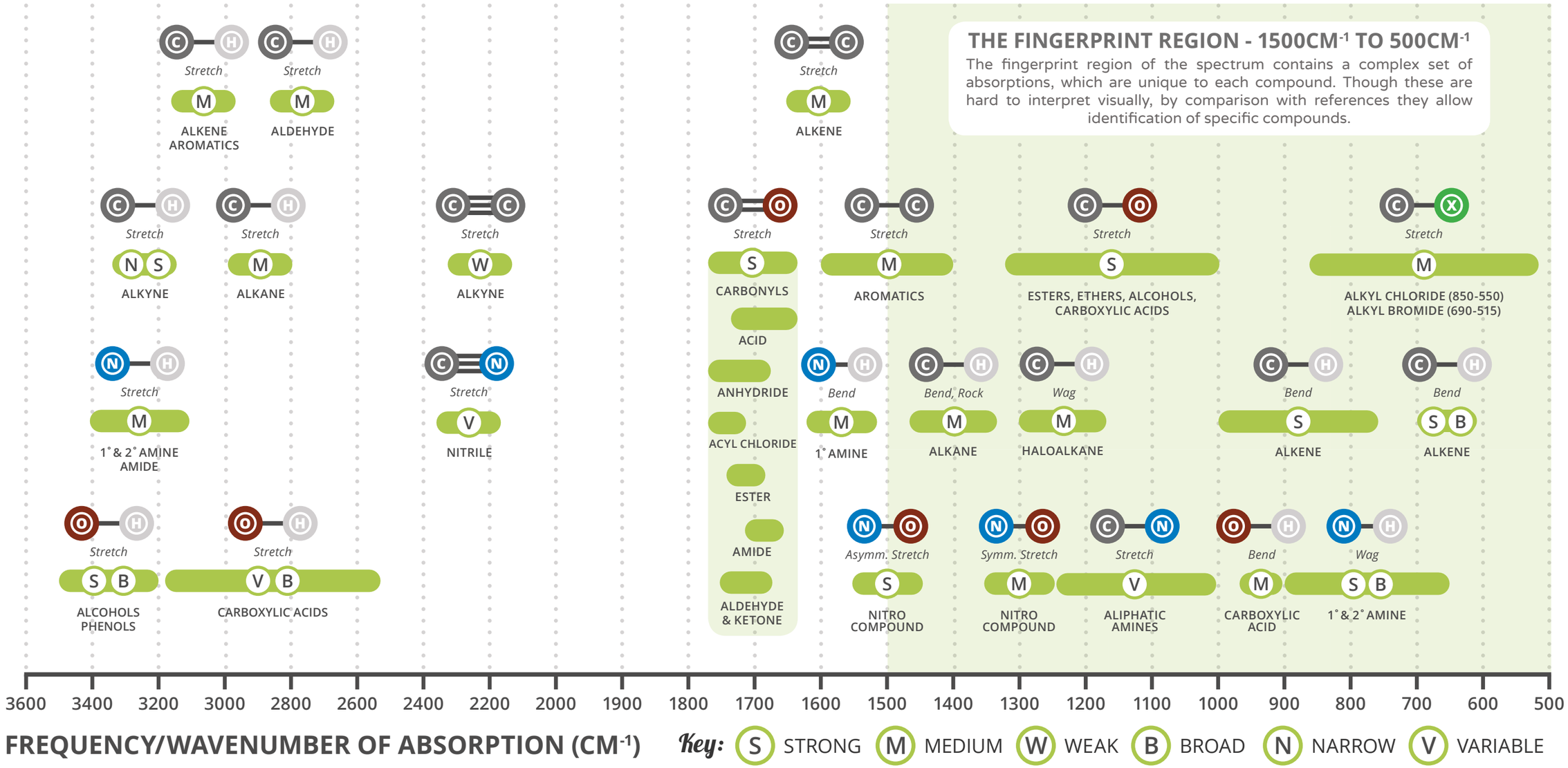
ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY - INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY

Commonly referred to as IR spectroscopy, this technique allows chemists to identify characteristic groups of atoms (functional groups) present in molecules.



Infrared frequencies make up a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. If a range of infrared frequencies are shone through an organic compound, some of the frequencies are absorbed by the chemical bonds within the compound. Different chemical bonds absorb different frequencies of infrared radiation. There are a number of characteristic absorptions which allow functional groups (the parts of a compound which give it its particular reactivity) to be identified. This graphic shows a number of these absorptions.

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