

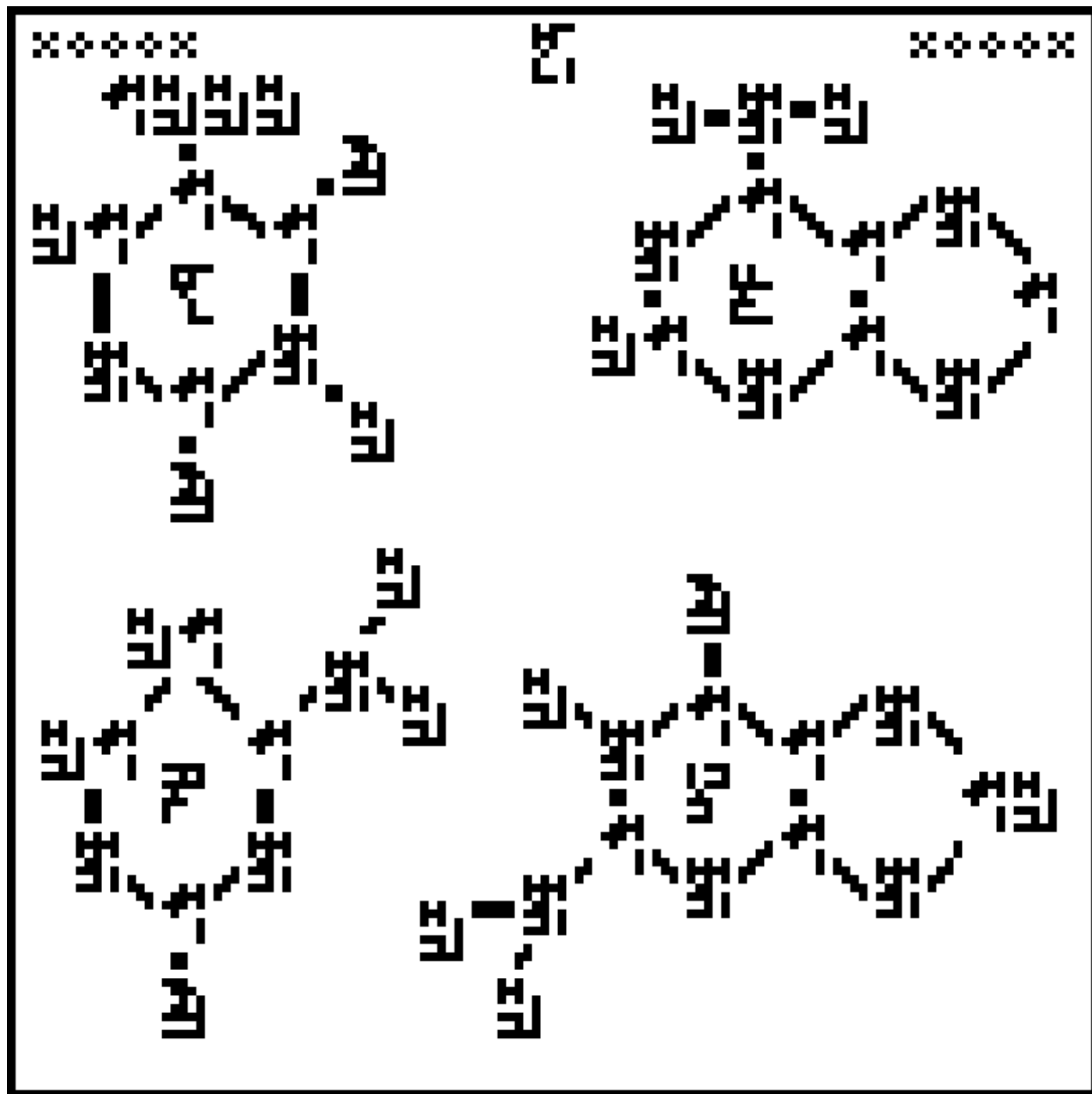
The Universe of Discourse

Fri, 02 Oct 2015

A message to the aliens, part 17/23 (DNA chemistry)

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This is page 17 of the [Cosmic Call](#) message. An explanation follows.



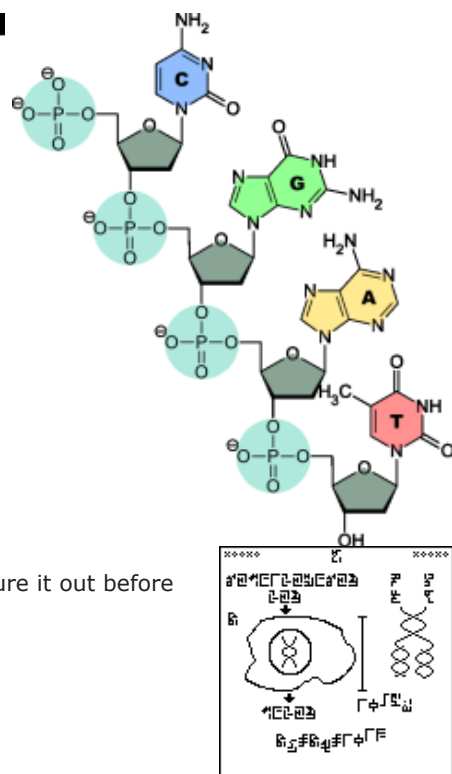
The 10 digits are:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

This page depicts the chemical structures of the four [nucleobases](#) that make up the information-carrying part of the DNA

molecule. Clockwise from top left, they are thymine , adenine , guanine ,
 , and cytosine  .

The deoxyribose and phosphate components of the nucleotides, shown at right, are not depicted. These form the spiral backbone of the DNA and are crucial to its structure. Will the recipients understand why the nucleobases are important enough for us to have mentioned them?



The [next article](#) will discuss page 18, shown at right. (Click to enlarge.) Try to figure it out before then.

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