

-continued

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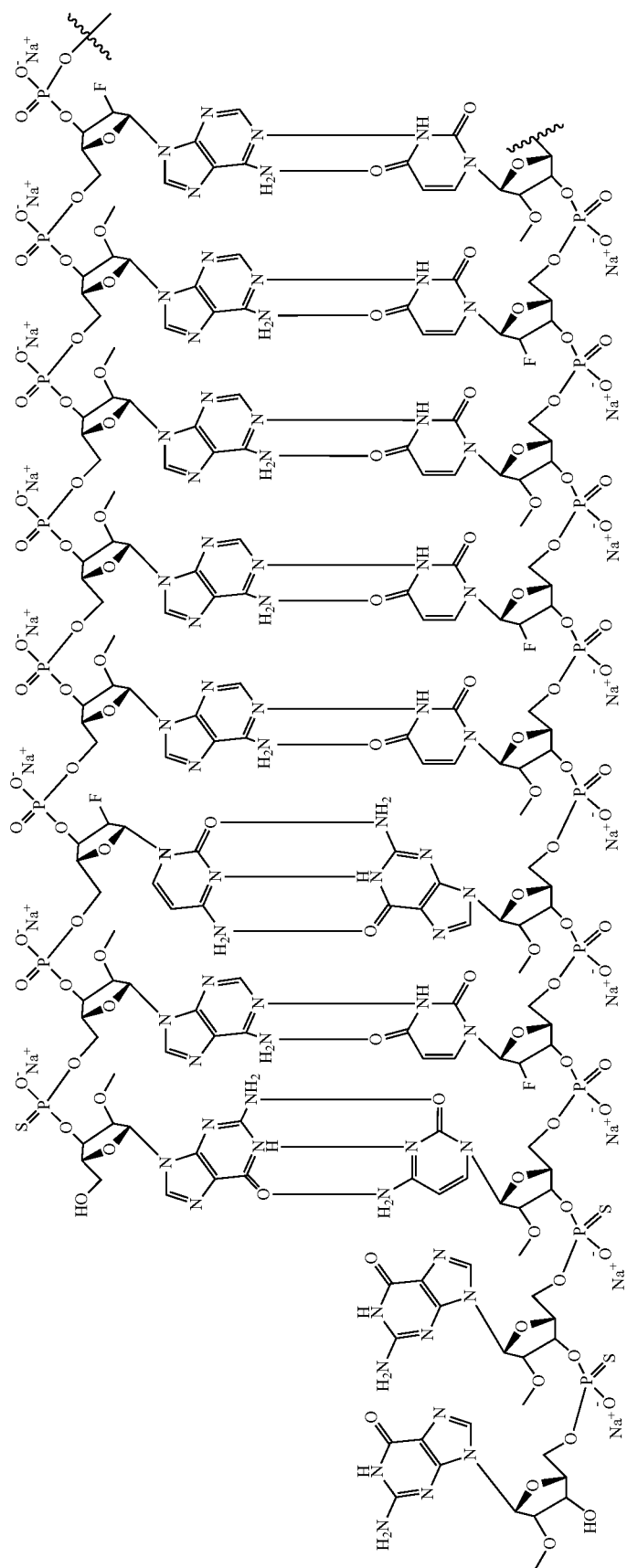
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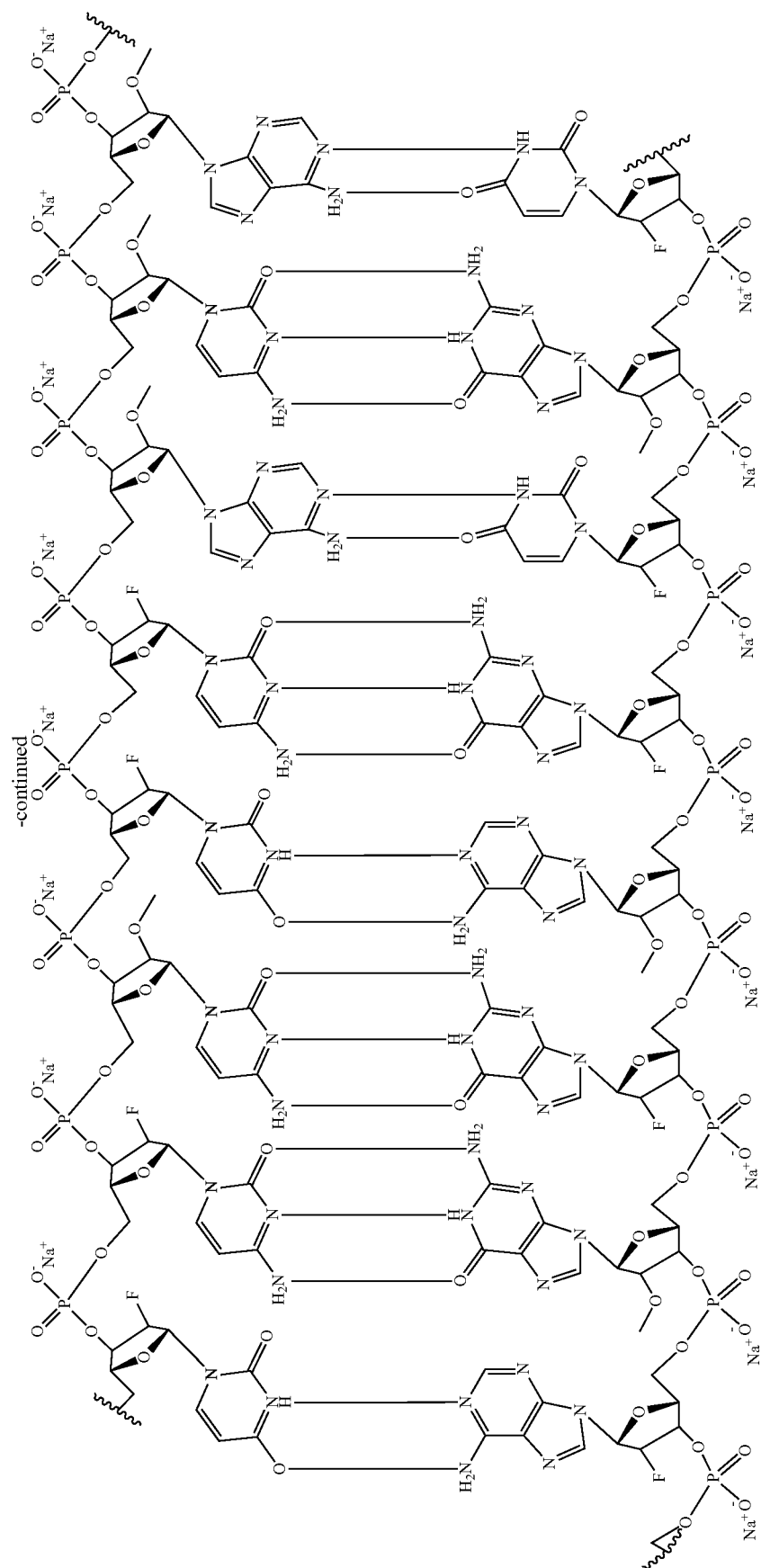
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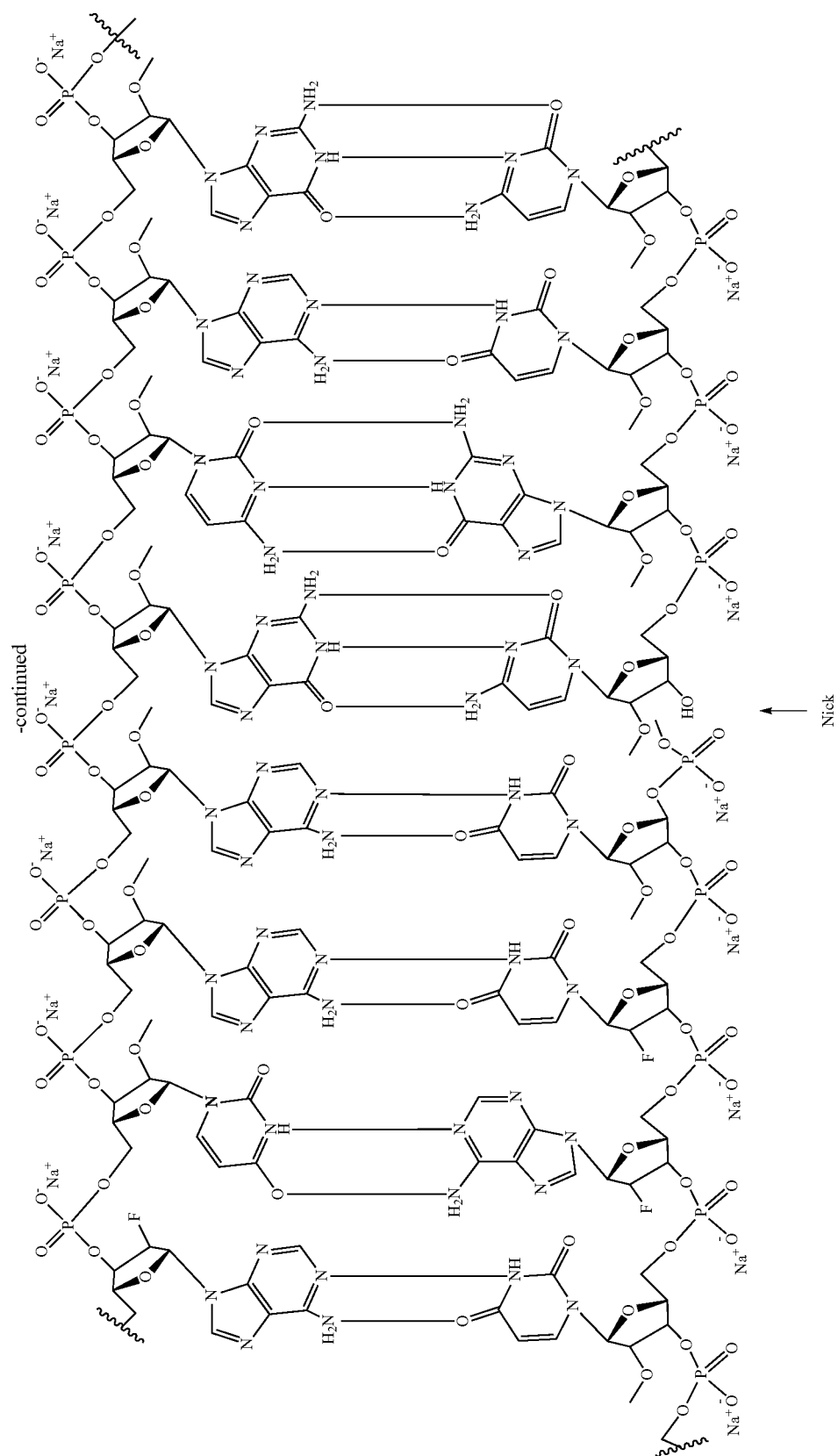
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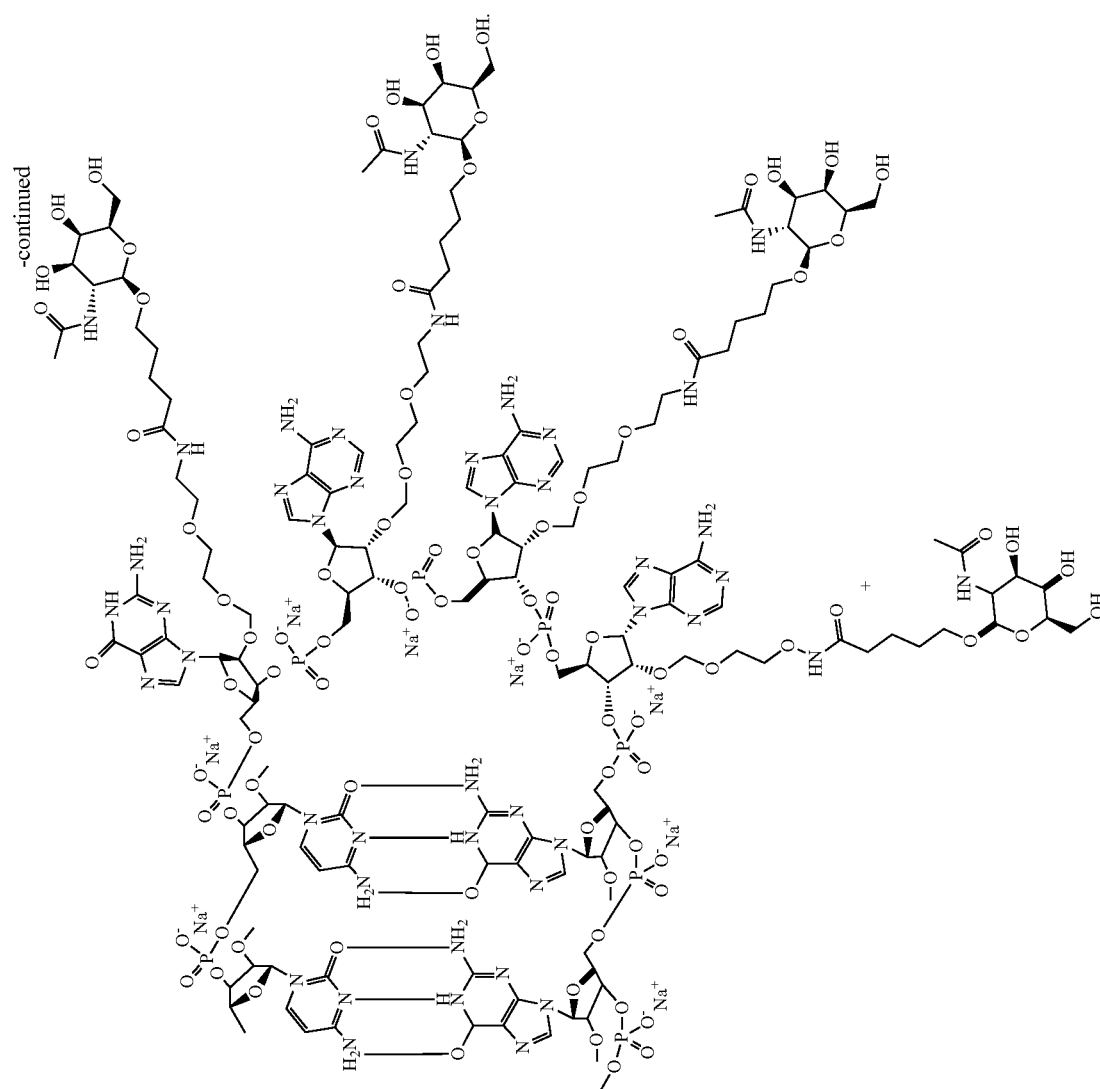
What is claimed is:

1. A double stranded oligonucleotide of the following formula:





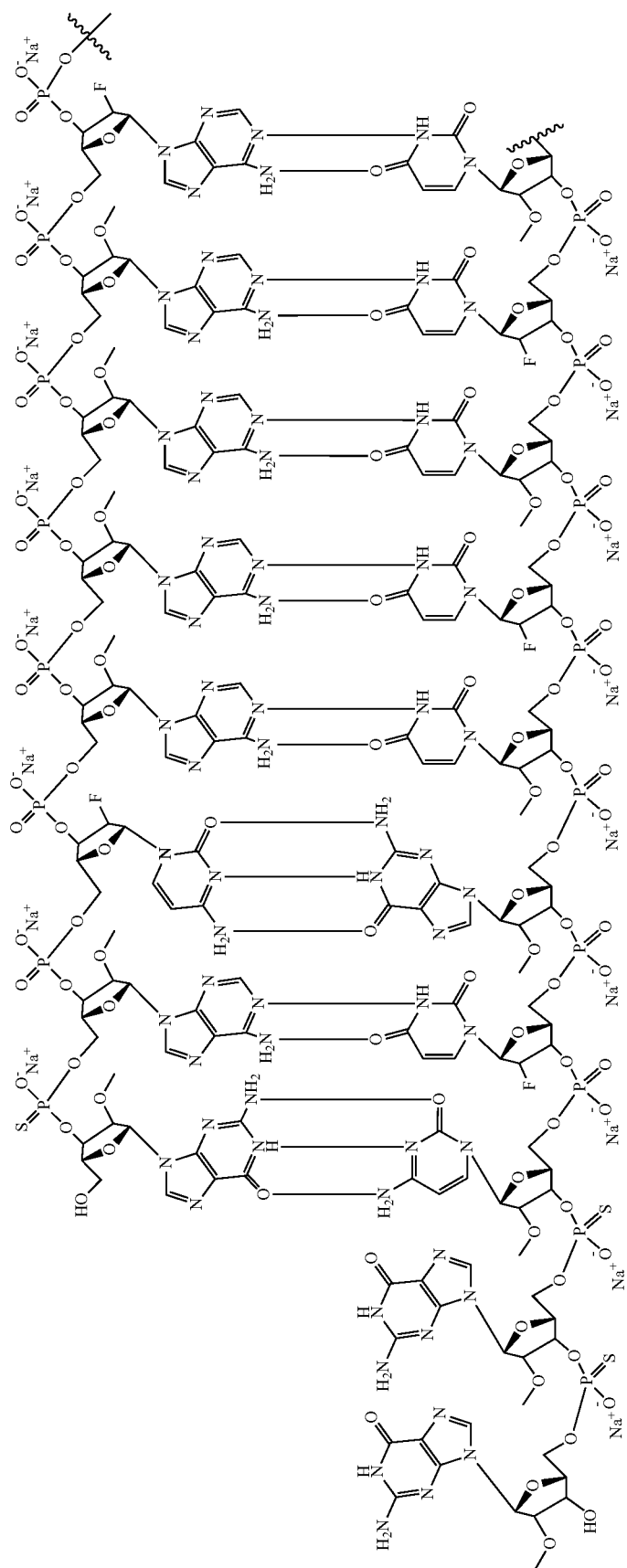


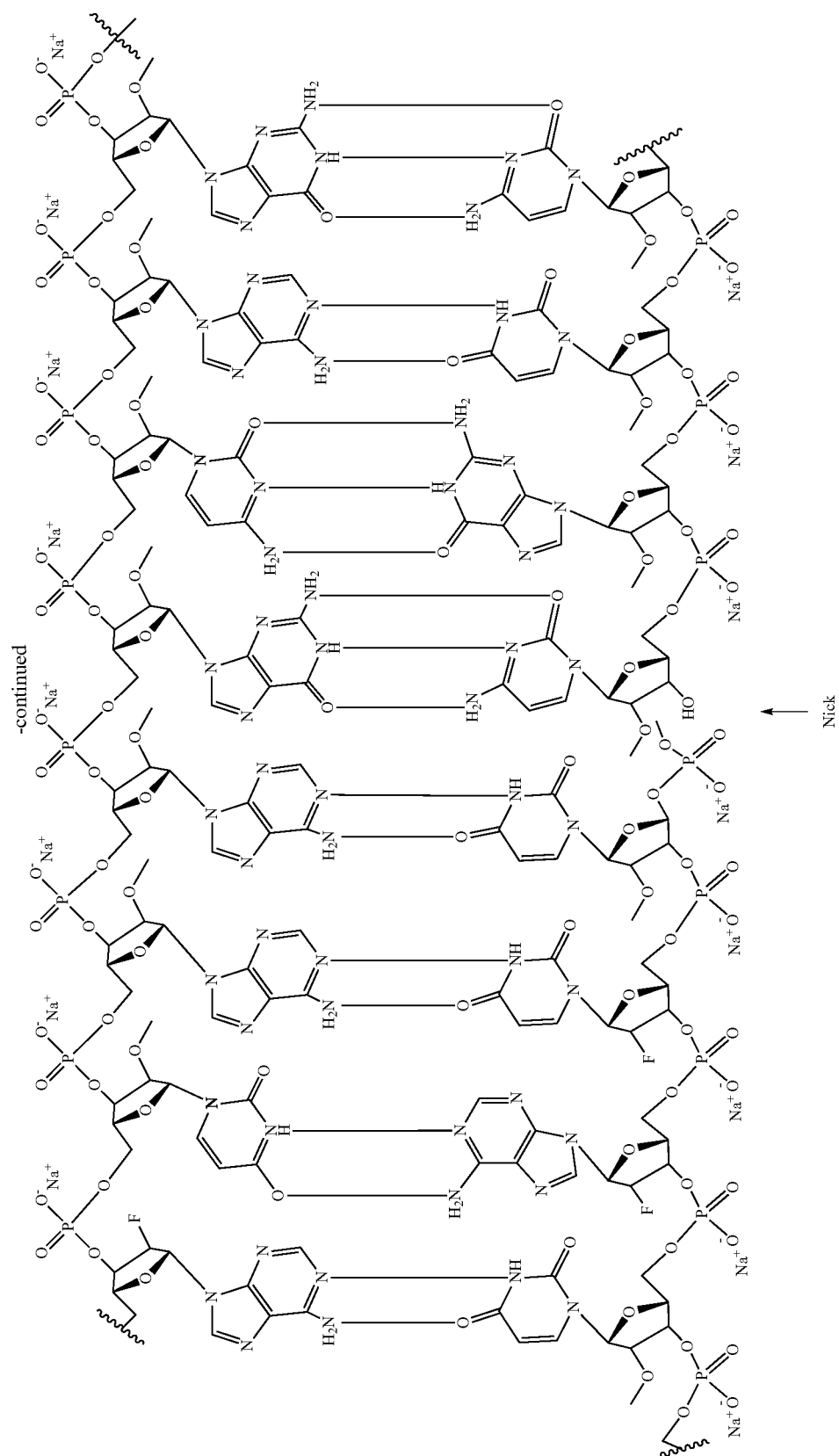


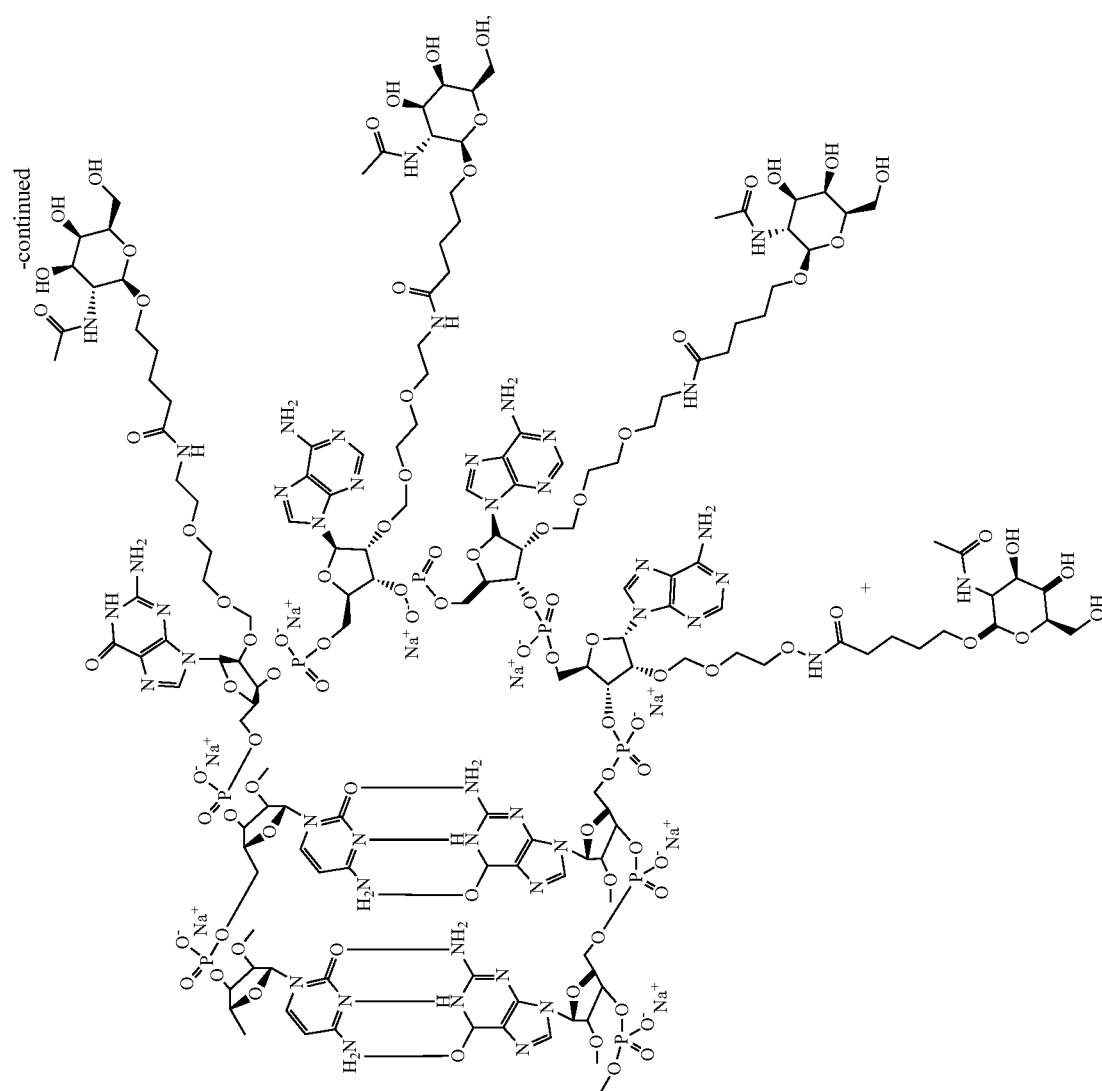
87

2. A composition comprising a double stranded oligonucleotide as of the following formula:

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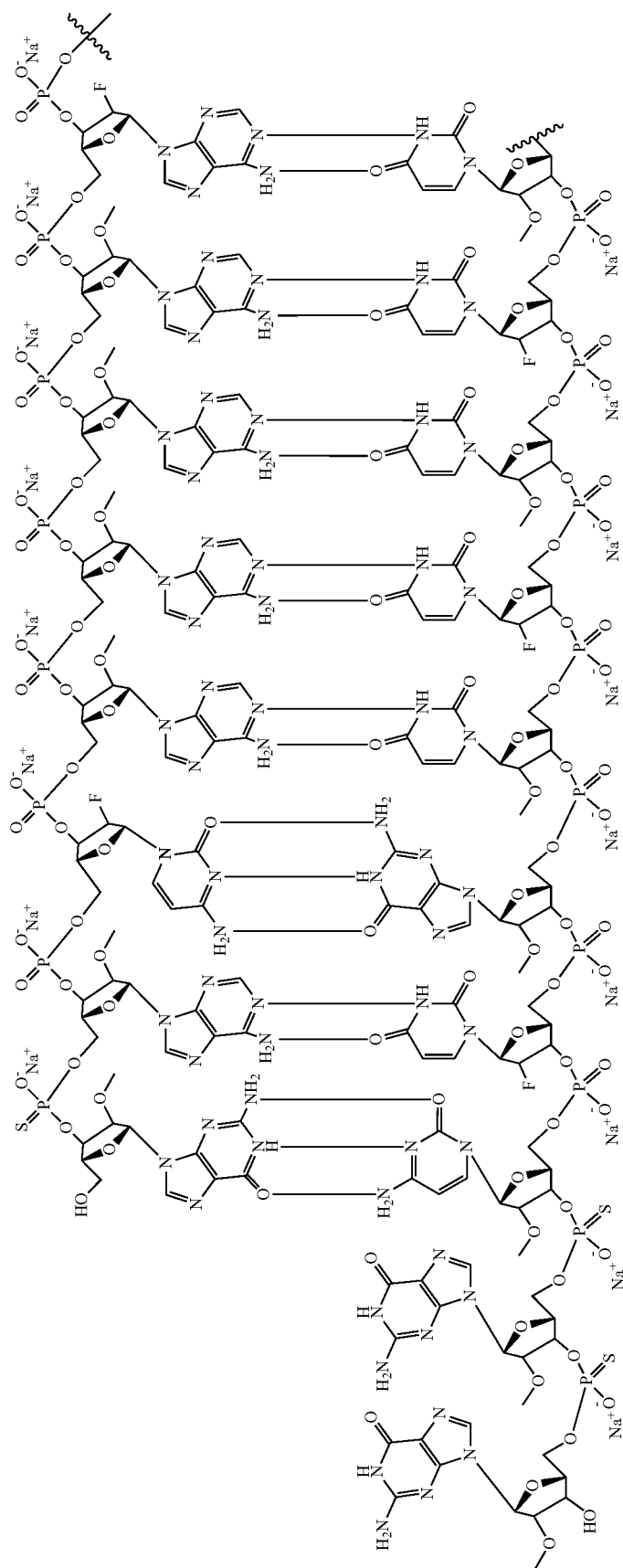


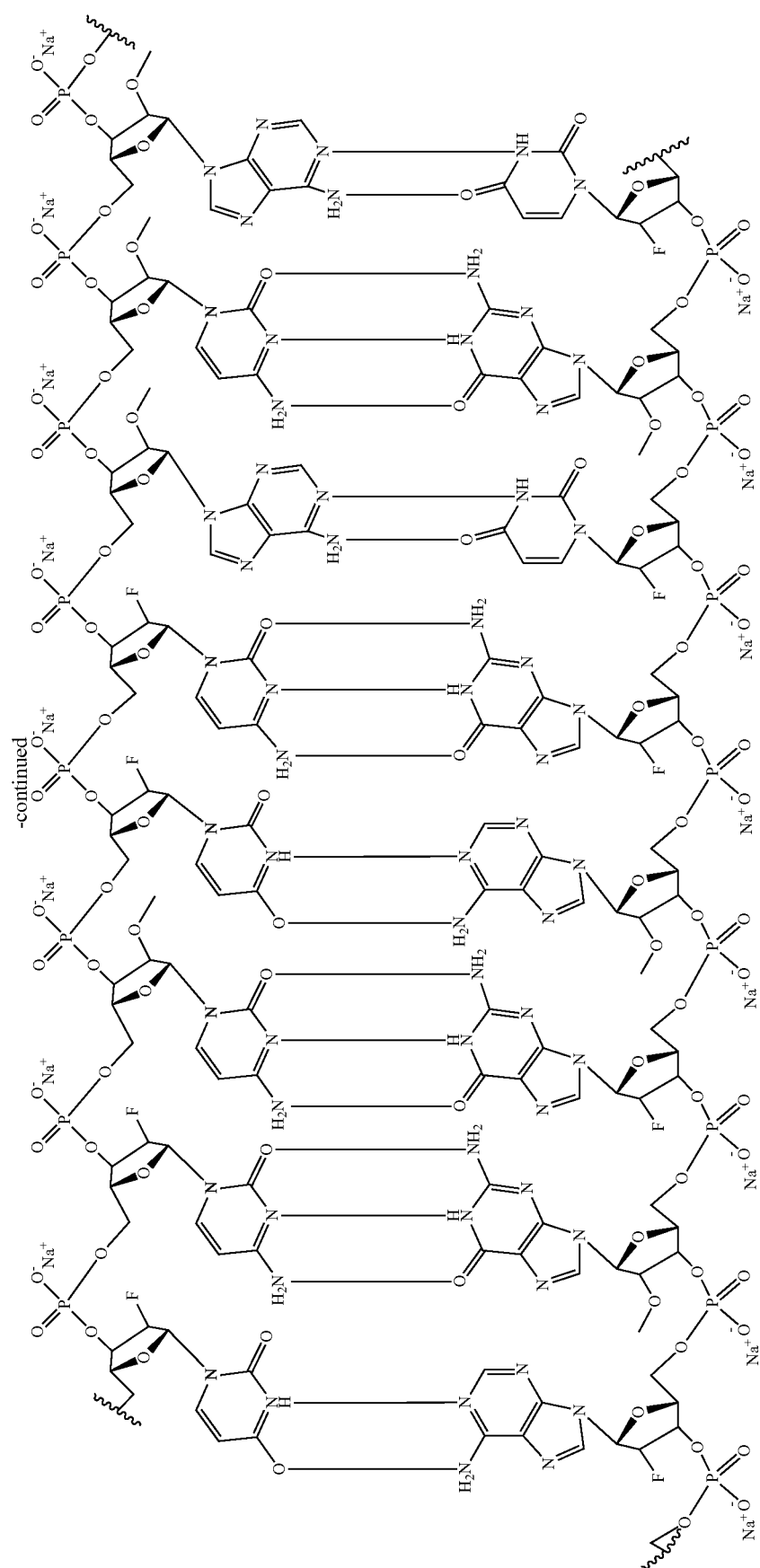


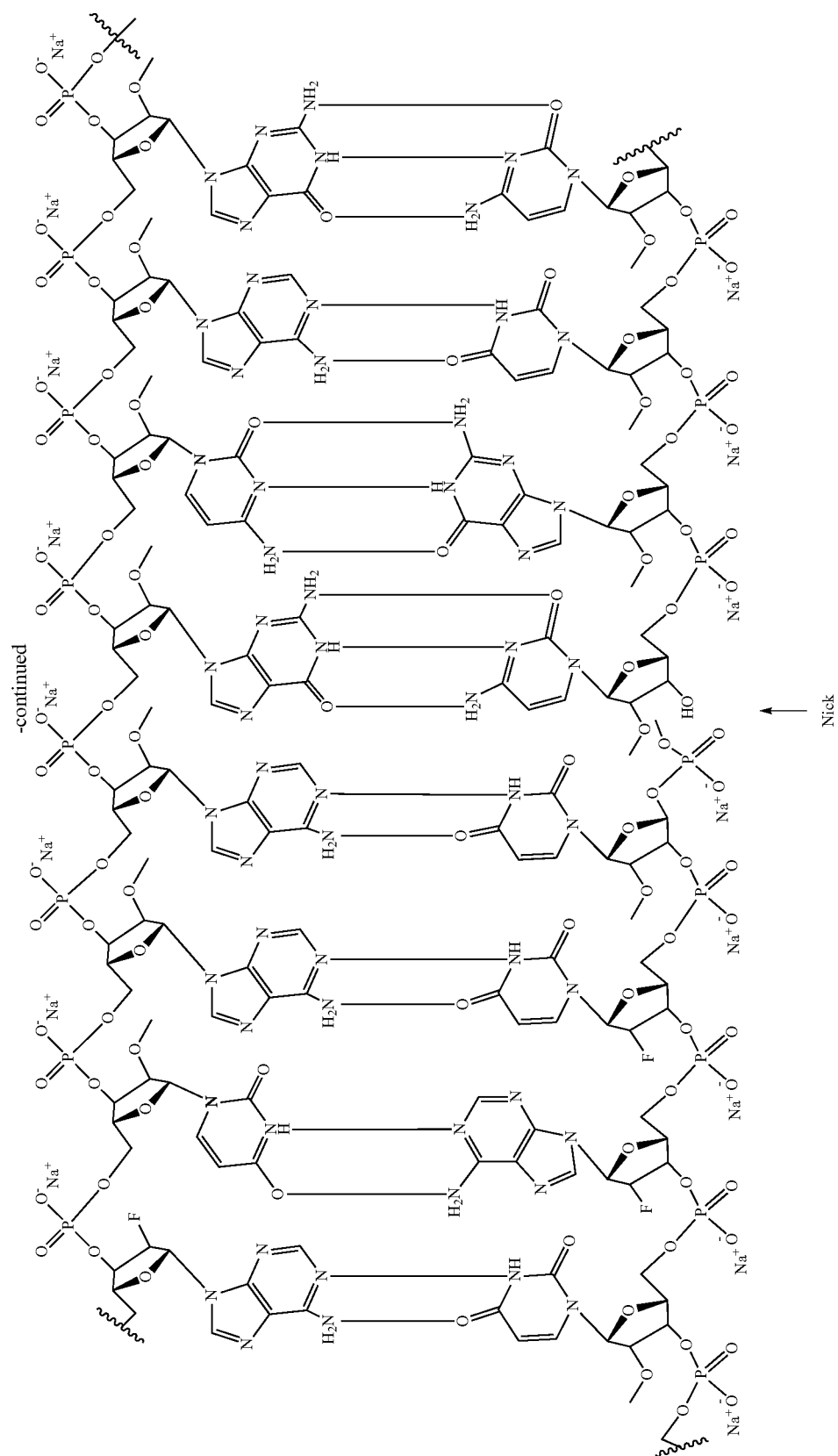
and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

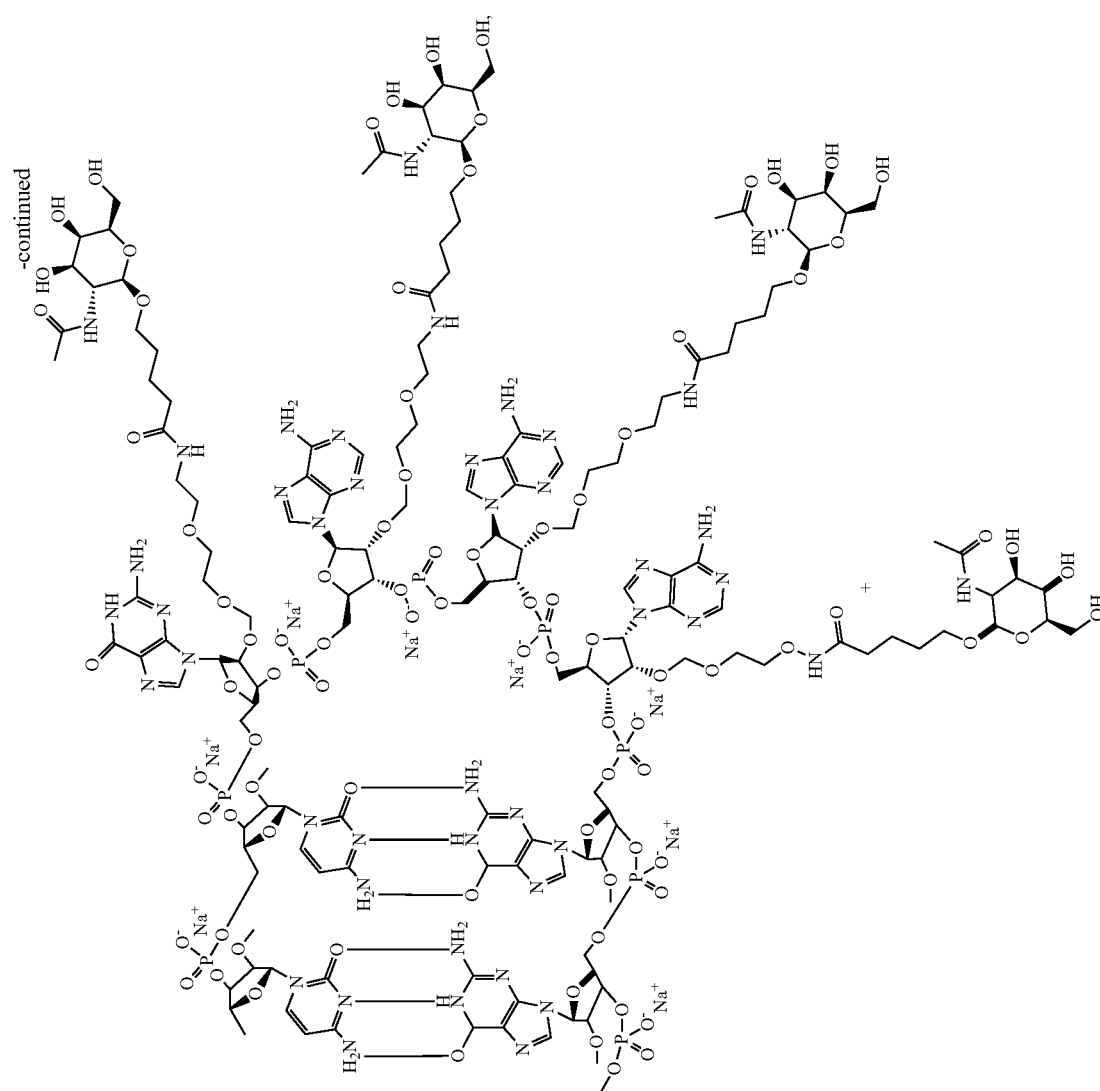
3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises phosphate buffered saline.

4. A method for treating chronic hepatitis B infection in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a composition comprising a double stranded oligonucleotide of the following formula:









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and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the composition is administered subcutaneously to the patient.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the composition is administered intravenously to the patient.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises phosphate buffered saline.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein the patient is an HBV e-antigen (HbeAg) positive patient.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the HbeAg positive patient has serum HBV surface antigen (HbsAg) >1000 IU/mL.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein the patient is a HbeAg negative patient.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the HbeAg negative patient has serum HBsAg >500 IU/mL.

12. The method of claim 4, wherein the patient has serum HBV DNA>20,000 IU/mL.

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13. An in vitro method of reducing expression of hepatitis B virus (HBV) surface antigen (HBsAg) in a cell, the method comprising delivering to the cell the oligonucleotide of claim 1.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the cell is a hepatocyte.

15. A method for treating chronic hepatitis B infection in a patient, comprising administering to the patient the double stranded oligonucleotide of claim 1.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the patient is an HBV e-antigen (HbeAg) positive patient.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the HbeAg positive patient has serum HBV surface antigen (HbsAg) >1000 IU/mL.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the patient is a HbeAg negative patient.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the HbeAg negative patient has serum HBsAg >500 IU/mL.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the patient has serum HBV DNA>20,000 IU/mL.

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