


Review Article

Three-dimensional insights into human enveloped viruses *in vitro* and *in situ*

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Viruses can be enveloped or non-enveloped, and require a host cell to replicate and package their genomes into new virions to infect new cells. To accomplish this task, viruses hijack the host-cell machinery to facilitate their replication by subverting and manipulating normal host cell function. Enveloped viruses can have severe consequences for human health, causing various diseases such as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), seasonal influenza, COVID-19, and Ebola virus disease. The complex arrangement and pleomorphic architecture of many enveloped viruses pose a challenge for the more widely used structural biology techniques, such as X-ray crystallography. Cryo-electron tomography (cryo-ET), however, is a particularly well-suited tool for overcoming the limitations associated with visualizing the irregular shapes and morphology enveloped viruses possess at macromolecular resolution. The purpose of this review is to explore the latest structural insights that cryo-ET has revealed about enveloped viruses, with particular attention given to their architectures, mechanisms of entry, replication, assembly, maturation and egress during infection. Cryo-ET is unique in its ability to visualize cellular landscapes at 3–5 nanometer resolution. Therefore, it is the most suited technique to study asymmetric elements and structural rearrangements of enveloped viruses during infection in their native cellular context.

Introduction

Enveloped viruses constitute a large structurally heterogeneous group of viruses and many have irregular and asymmetric elements associated with their virions. For example, the absence of helical symmetry in matrix protein layers (influenza A virus (IAV), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and Ebola virus), lack of global symmetry in capsid cores (HIV-1), and flexibility of glycoproteins (SARS-CoV-2) pose a challenge to structural biology. For example, isolated HIV-1 capsid cores are heterogeneous and recalcitrant to crystallization. Likewise, looking at these structures by cryo-EM single particle analysis (SPA) would involve breaking up their individual components into homogeneous particles. Cryo-electron tomography (cryo-ET) is uniquely suited for this as it allows investigation of the pleomorphic structural details of enveloped viral particles *in vitro* and within their native environment, 'the cell'. There are hundreds of pleomorphic enveloped viruses responsible for a wide range of human diseases. Until recently, structural details of their entry, replication, assembly, maturation and egress remained poorly understood. Cryo-ET's ability to unravel high-resolution structures of these viruses in an 'artifact-free' frozen-hydrated state is not only revolutionizing our understanding of enveloped virus structure but now has the potential to help in the development of novel therapeutics and vaccines against these clinically important viruses.

Envelope viruses are genetically diverse, exhibit a wide range of morphologies, and employ diverse entry steps, genome replication strategies and assembly mechanisms. Many enveloped viruses acquire their lipid envelopes from the host plasma membrane through a process known as budding. Other

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enveloped viruses exist that acquire their membranes via the secretory pathway (poxviruses and flaviviruses), and sometimes this occurs before additional budding and fusion transformations with other membranous organelles, such as the nuclear envelope (herpes simplex viruses) [1,2]. During budding, the virally encoded envelope proteins are captured along with host-derived membrane proteins. The viral envelope proteins can either function in attachment or fusion with the host membrane and are usually glycosylated to assist with crucial roles in infectivity, protein folding, tropism, proteolytic processing and escape immune-surveillance [3,4]. Before entering the host, the viral envelope serves to compartmentalize the viral genetic material (DNA or RNA) with structural and accessory proteins. Fusion between the virus envelope and host membrane allows release of the viral DNA or RNA into the host cell to sites of replication via endocytic or non-endocytic pathways [5]. Following fusion, some enveloped viruses use specialized packaging systems to deliver their viral genomes into the nucleus where genome replication and transcription occur (HIV-1 and IAV). Others, use similar strategies to release their genomes into the cytoplasm where viral replication factories are formed via the alteration of host cell pathways such as the secretory or autophagy pathways [6]. With the advent of cryo-ET, we are beginning to understand the structural details of many of these processes at unprecedented resolution.

In cryo-ET, plunge-frozen samples are imaged using a transmission electron microscope. A series of two-dimensional (2D) projection images are recorded as the frozen sample is rotated around an axis to first generate a ‘tilt-series’. A three-dimensional (3D) volume of the object known as the ‘tomogram’ is calculated from these series of images, with resolution (3–5 nm) sufficient to make out the shapes and arrangements of large macromolecules [7]. To obtain higher-resolution structural information, repeating features within the tomogram can be computationally extracted (sub-tomograms), aligned, and averaged, a process known as ‘subtomogram averaging’ (STA), typically improving the resolution to ~2–3 nm. For exceptionally favourable samples, however, STA is now capable of reaching ~4 Å resolution, sufficient to build atomic models *de novo* [8].

Developments in microscope hardware (e.g. high-speed direct electron detection cameras, phase plates and high-precision stages) and data processing strategies are revolutionizing our ability to study macromolecular structures *in situ* using cryo-ET [8–15]. Moreover, interior parts of thick eukaryotic cells are now accessible by cryogenic Focused Ion Beam (cryo-FIB) milling. The most modern instruments are equipped with correlative light and electron microscopy (CLEM) workflows, greatly easing these processes [16,17]. Cryogenic correlated light and electron microscopy (cryo-CLEM) is an extension of the cryo-ET toolbox. In cryo-CLEM, proteins of interest are tagged with fluorescent labels and imaged by cryo-fluorescence to target specific and rare events using cryo-ET. As a result, we are now poised to ‘see’ how the machinery of enveloped viruses assembles and functions during various stages of the replication cycle and how the cell changes in response to infection.

The purpose of this review is to highlight important and exciting contributions of cryo-ET to structural virology, in particular for enveloped viruses. The first section will concentrate on recent cryo-ET imaging of human envelope virions from purified samples, whereas the second section will discuss how cryo-ET is revealing the molecular details of the viral life-cycle inside the host. There are tons of examples of cryo-ET studies of clinically relevant human enveloped viruses. However, owing to space constraints, we will discuss only six examples (HIV-1, SARS-CoV-2, HSV-1, Ebola virus, RSV and IAV) with a special emphasis on HIV-1, SARS-CoV-2, two of the most threatening viruses of present times.

Cryo-ET of reconstituted or purified enveloped viruses

HIV-1

HIV-1 belongs to the lentivirus genus of retroviruses and causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). AIDS is caused by the gradual decline of infected immune cells, such as CD4⁺ T cells, macrophages and dendritic cells [18,19]. In recent years, AIDS-related mortality has declined through antiretroviral therapy (ART); however, at present, more than 9.5 million people of the 38 million people infected are without access to this treatment, especially in developing countries [20].

The mature infectious HIV-1 virion contains two copies of the viral RNA genome enclosed in the mature capsid core made of capsid protein (CA). Shortly after membrane fusion, entry of the capsid core is followed by reverse transcription of the viral RNA to double-stranded DNA (dsDNA) [21–23]. The dsDNA is associated with viral proteins, such as CA in a preintegration complex (PIC) [24–29], and enters the nucleus where the dsDNA ultimately integrates into the host cell chromosome [30]. The 55 kDa Gag polyprotein precursor is essential for virion assembly by the generation of membrane curvature through Gag oligomerization with

assistance from the cellular I-BAR protein IRSp53 at the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane [31,32]. Once budding is complete, the envelope containing the immature Gag shell undergoes scission from the cell via the ESCRT-III machinery [33]. The immature Gag shell is then cleaved by the virally encoded protease to produce several polypeptides — MA (matrix), NC (nucleocapsid), and CA (capsid). Cryo-ET imaging of purified HIV-1 virions has radically enhanced our understanding of the architecture of the capsid core, and its maturation process. As shown in Figure 1A, the first molecular model of an entire HIV-1 capsid core was derived using integrative approaches including cryo-ET of isolated cores at ~3 nm resolution, all-atom molecular dynamics (MD) simulations and cryo-EM SPA of tubular CA assembly [34]. The model shows a perfect fullerene cone made up of a lattice of CA protein (186 hexamers coloured in grey). Curvature leading to the assembly of a closed structure is accomplished by insertion of 12 pentamers (coloured in blue); seven pentamers towards the broad end and five pentamers toward the narrow end.

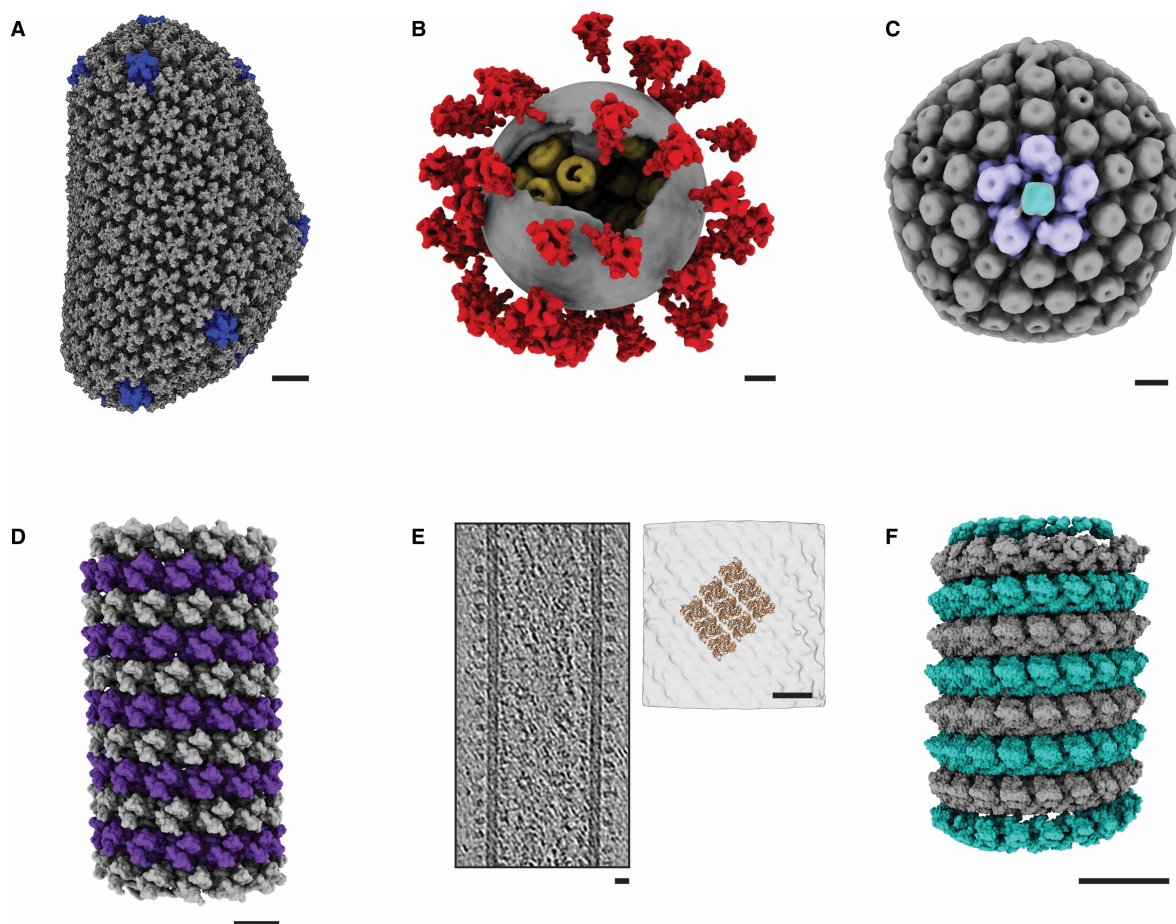


Figure 1. Structures of purified/reconstituted viruses determined by cryo-ET, STA and integrative methods.

(A) Structure of a mature HIV-1 capsid (PDB: 3J3Y); CA hexamers (grey), and pentamers (blue). (B) Ultrastructure of the SARS-CoV-2 (EMD-30430); lipid envelope (grey), S protein (red) and RNPs (gold). (C) Structure of a mature HSV-1 (EMD-5452). The portal structure is shown in cyan and the surrounding hexagons are coloured in purple. (D) Model of the Ebola virus nucleocapsid obtained by applying helical symmetry to NP subunits (grey and purple) from recombinant virus-like particles (PDB: 6EHM and EMD-3871). (E) Central slice through a tomogram of a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) filament (left). Crystal structure of the RSV matrix protein (PDB: 4V23) docked into a subtomogram average of the RSV matrix protein [71]; matrix protein (gold), subtomogram average (translucent grey) (right). (F) Composite structure showing the IAV M1 matrix protein (translucent grey and turquoise) (EMD-22384) forms the matrix layer over the RNP (not visible). Scale bar 10 nm. Figures were made using publicly available atomic coordinates and maps from the protein data bank (PDB) and Electron Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB) using UCSF ChimeraX (Pettersen et al. 2021).

In a more recent landmark study, Mattei et al. [35] showed the full structural power of cryo-ET and STA by revealing the precise molecular architecture of the natively assembled mature HIV-1 capsid core at 7 Å resolution. Some of the technicalities necessary for achieving the reported resolution included a dose-symmetric tilt acquisition scheme that optimally preserves high-resolution information, 3D CTF (contrast transfer function) correction and dose-filtering [36,37]. The precise positioning of each N-terminal domain (NTD) and C-terminal domain (CTD) within all CA hexamers showed that minor variations of tilt and twist observed between NTD and CTD are distributed over multiple CA–CA interfaces, likely allowing for variable curvature throughout the entire CA core. In addition, structures of the immature HIV-1 capsid using very similar STA approaches have provided fascinating insights into how the arrangement of the capsid proteins in the immature Gag lattice is vital for the regulation of cleavage into the mature infectious capsid by the viral protease [31,38–42].

SARS-CoV-2

SARS-CoV-2 is positive-sense single-stranded RNA (ssRNA) virus and belongs to the *Coronavirus* family. SARS-CoV-2 primarily infects the respiratory tract causing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) associated with severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) [43]. To enter the cell, SARS-CoV-2 uses the virally encoded structural trimeric spike (S) protein to engage with human ACE2 [44–46]. Extensive structural analysis of the S protein has occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic [47–49]. Coronavirus genome replication takes place inside ER-derived double-membrane compartments [6,50]. The rapid application of cryo-ET during this time has resolved not only important architectural details about purified SARS-CoV-2 virions but also the ultrastructure of replication and assembly complexes in a frozen-hydrated state inside the host cell (see *in situ* section below).

At least four cryo-ET studies have demonstrated that purified inactivated clinical strains of SARS-CoV-2 are pleomorphic and contain ~20–40 randomly distributed S trimeric proteins [51–54]. Many envelope viruses have genomes that are encapsulated with viral NC protein via extensive protein–protein interactions forming ribonucleoprotein (RNP) complexes. Using STA, Yao et al. revealed a reverse G-shaped model for the SARS-CoV-2 RNP complex from 2D class averages inside isolated virions (Figure 1B), which was comparable to a SARS-CoV-2 cryo-ET/STA RNP structures derived *in situ* [54,55]. Further 3D refinement provided insights into the 3D ultrastructure of the RNPs within the virions, including “eggs-in-a-nest” and ‘pyramid’-shaped RNP architecture.

Ke et al. [44] used STA workflows to classify open and closed conformations of the S protein to reveal three states of the receptor-binding domain. Yao et al. [54] and Turoňová et al. [53] also observed similar receptor binding domain (RBD) conformational switching between prefusion S spikes. These works elegantly demonstrated how open and closed RBDs states observed in SPA cryo-EM studies of recombinant S trimers also take place on the virus surface, and most likely prime the receptor-binding sites for association with ACE2, as well as modulating antibody binding. Ke et al. Turoňová et al. and Yao et al. also used STA to resolve the positions of glycans on the surface of S and the presence of three hinges that allow it to flex up to 90° relative to the viral membrane. These findings are important because they show the various conformations these proteins adopt during purification could potentially alter their sensitivity to immune responses and how effective they are as vaccine immunogens [56]. In short, these studies provide evidence for how cryo-ET can efficiently examine the structure of new emerging viruses and provide robust tools to assess vaccine candidates during their development.

Cryo-ET of other enveloped viruses (HSV-1, Ebola virus, RSV, and IAV)

Here we highlight how cryo-ET has advanced our understanding of a few other pleomorphic and clinically important enveloped viruses.

Herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1) is a dsDNA virus in the alphaherpesvirus subfamily. HSV-1 exhibits both structured and pleomorphic elements. The dsDNA genome exhibits liquid-crystalline order when packaged into the icosahedral (T = 16) capsid shell [57]. A specialized structure, known as the portal, promotes the entry and packaging of the dsDNA viral genome during assembly [58–61] (Figure 1C). Cryo-ET has revealed the pleomorphic elements of HSV-1 virions, including polarization of the NC within virions, and a tegument (a specialized structure that occupies the space between the NC and the envelope) cap-like structure that contains 40 nm long-filaments (~7 nm wide) close to the membrane [62]. Cryo-ET applied to primary enveloped

HSV-1 virions has also shown unique differences in virion size and shape compared with mature viruses [63]. Recently, cryo-ET/STA was used to classify the HSV-1 glycoprotein B natively arranged on virions in both pre-fusion and post-fusion conformations. However, resolution was limited to discern finer structural details [64]. In a recent study, Vollmer et al. reported the first cryo-ET/STA high-resolution (9 Å) structure of the glycoprotein B pre-fusion complex illustrating the power of cryo-ET to reveal previously uncharacterized structures that also have importance for immunogen and vaccine design and development [65].

Members of the *Filoviridae* family, such as Ebola, Marburg, and Sudan viruses contain a non-segmented, single-stranded negative-sense RNA genome and can cause hemorrhagic fever and severe disease. The RNPs of Ebola virus are helical scaffolds made up of the viral genome wrapped up in viral nucleoprotein (NP), VP24 and VP35 virus proteins. Ebola virion budding is driven by the matrix protein (VP40) self-assembly and recruitment of RNPs at the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane, resulting in long filamentous virions with branching topology and irregularly shapes [66]. As shown in Figure 1D, STA with helical reconstruction revealed at ~7 Å resolution that *in vitro* reconstituted Ebola native RNPs are left-handed, most likely contain NP, VP24, VP35, and VP40 and have indistinguishable characteristics from virus particles released from infected cells [67,68]. In this study, STA also revealed high-resolution molecular details about the NP carboxy-terminal extended α -helix important for RNP assembly and recruitment of accessory proteins [67].

Recently there have been several high-resolution cryo-ET/STA studies reporting previously uncharacterized structures of matrix protein layers within purified virions, including HIV-1 [69], IAV [70], RSV [71,72], and Ebola virus [73]. Conley et al. [71] and Sibert et al. [72] used cryo-ET and STA to image RSV released from infected cells that were grown on EM grids. Their results elegantly showed that the helical lattice-like sheet of M protein tightly associated to the inner leaflet of the membrane is reminiscent of the unit cell of the RSV matrix crystal structure and that M likely coordinates the helical ordering of pairs of viral glycoproteins [71,72] (Figure 1E). Similar studies using cryo-ET and STA (~8 Å) on IAV showed the matrix protein (M1) forms polymers in helical assemblies and provided insights into virus assembly and disassembly (Figure 1F) [70]. To sum up, these studies demonstrate the huge capacity of cryo-ET to improve our understanding of the molecular architecture, mechanism of entry, assembly and dissemination of different viruses at high-resolution and highlights its ability to reveal novel drug targets and for the development of potential therapeutics and vaccines.

Cryo-ET investigation of *in situ* infection processes

Recent advancements in cryo-ET allow us to observe the authentic organization of complexes involved in the battle of infection between the virus and the host cell [74]. In this section, we describe how cryo-ET is aiding studies of enveloped virus behaviour within infected cells and advancing our knowledge towards the ultimate goal of capturing the entire virus life cycle by simply imaging an infected mammalian cell in 3D and at unprecedented resolution. In this approach, mammalian cells are usually seeded on EM grids, and optimal conditions are found under which the cells are able to attach and spread on the grid's support film. This facilitates electron imaging of the peripheral cytoplasmic regions at the thinner, electron-transparent cell edges [75]. However, due to the inelastic mean free path in biological samples, electrons cannot penetrate through cellular regions thicker than 500 nm without multiple scattering and therefore, imaging using this approach is technically challenging. Despite this, extensive areas of peripheral thin-edges can be sufficiently thin for imaging and are perfect for looking at entry and exit mechanisms of envelope viruses at the plasma membrane.

This workflow has been used in human cells to visualize IAVs attached or proximal to the plasma membrane [76], previously unrecognized virus-virus interactions at play during measles virus assembly [77], disassembly of vaccinia virus [78], HIV-1 tethering in restriction, and HIV-1 capsid maturation from viruses released from cells during a typical infection [79,80] and a number of other events during viral infection processes [81].

To successfully assemble and mature, the components of many enveloped virus must traverse through the elaborate network of endomembrane systems of the host cell and access intracellular organelles such as the nucleus. The majority of the host cell endomembrane system such as Golgi apparatus and endoplasmic reticulum has nuclear envelope and ER-Golgi intermediate (ERGIC) compartments. These perinuclear regions are usually too thick for direct cryo-ET imaging and often require auxiliary techniques to thin the sample for subsequent cryo-ET. How these techniques have enabled ground-breaking discoveries in enveloped virus biology are discussed below.

Assembly of HSV-1 at the nuclear envelope

Cryo-electron microscopy of vitreous sections (CEMOVIS) provides one solution to accessing these important and otherwise inaccessible perinuclear regions. In CEMOVIS, samples are high-pressure frozen and ultrathin cryo-sections of cells and tissues are produced for cryo-ET. This technique has revealed important aspects of HSV-1 virus maturation and assembly at the nuclear envelope. In a landmark study, Hagen et al. [82] used this approach to

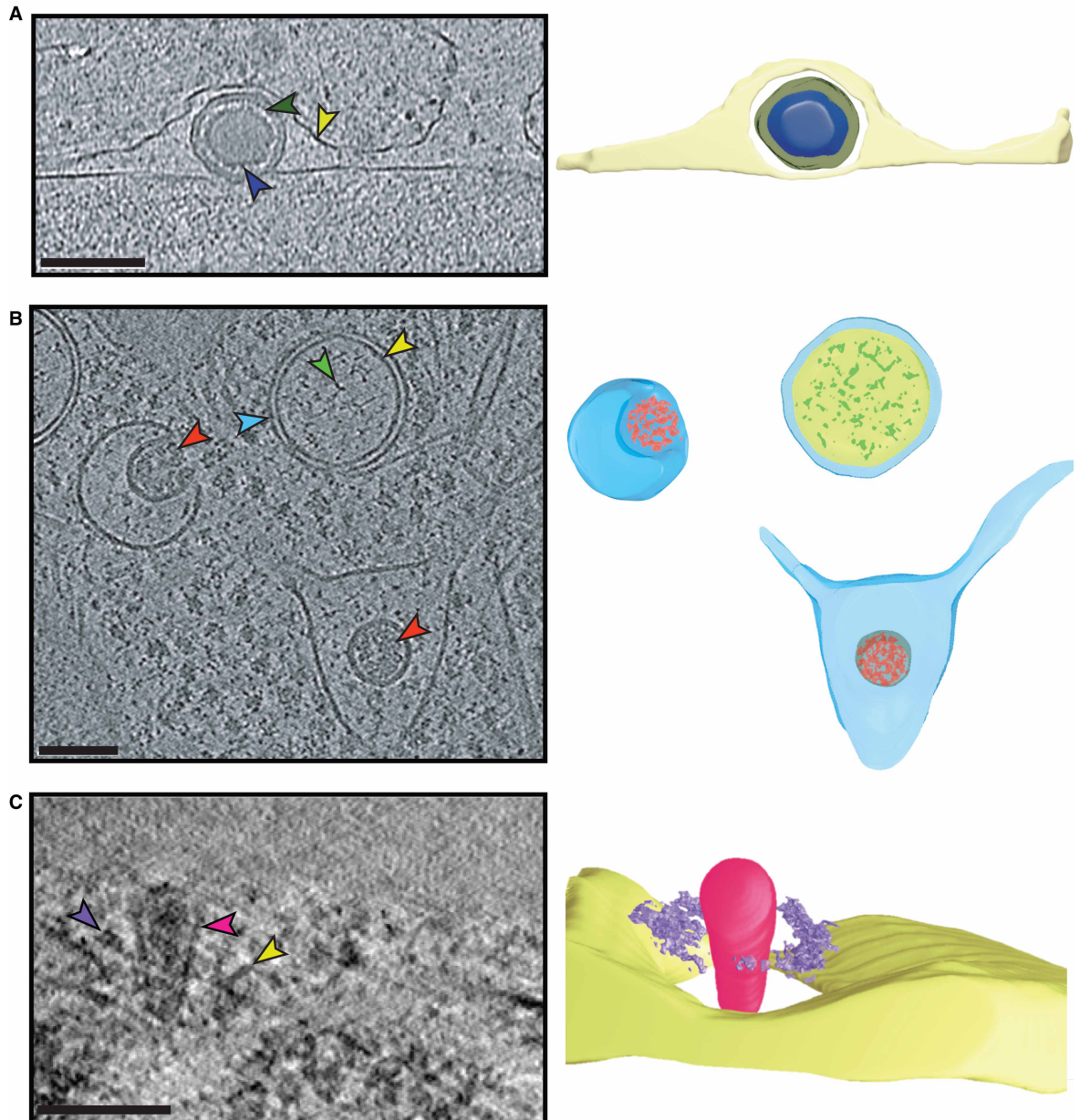


Figure 2. *In situ* cryo-ET of envelope viruses showing aspects of replication.

(A) HSV-1 maturation through the nuclear envelope. Blue arrow highlights HSV-1 capsid, dark green arrow highlights the nuclear egress complex, yellow arrow highlights the nuclear envelope membrane. (B) SARS-CoV-2 replication. Green arrow highlights viral RNA inside double-membraned viral replication vesicles (cross-section), yellow arrow highlights inner membrane, blue arrow highlights outer membrane of vesicle, red arrows highlight viral RNPs budding into ERGIC. (C) Intact HIV-1 capsid cores at the nuclear envelope. Pink arrow indicates an HIV-1 capsid core docked inside a nuclear pore complex (NPC), yellow arrow highlights membrane, and purple arrow highlights cytoplasmic ring of NPC (A–C) Left panel showing representative tomographic slices and right panel showing corresponding segmented volumes generated using Amira and rendered in Cinema4D. Scale bar 100 nm.

capture the molecular architecture of the HSV-1 virus nuclear egress complex (NEC) (Figure 2A) and gained insights into the mechanism for budding and scission of vesicles at the inner nuclear membrane. In pseudorabies virus (alphaherpesvirus) infected cells, the authors used complementary approaches to reveal these vesicles contained a curved hexagonal lattice composed of two closely opposing layers and proposed the membrane anchored viral pUL34 protein layer was responsible for producing the required curvature needed for their size to closely match herpes virus capsids [82]

Moreover, cryo-sectioning of samples prepared using the Tokuyasu method, a complementary technique to CEMOVIS, has revealed insights concerning HSV-1 maturation by addition of inner tegument protein pUL36 in the nucleus [83]. The CEMOVIS method suffers from sample preparation artefacts (compression, knife-marks and crevasses) and samples are chemically fixed in the Tokuyasu method. Therefore, both methods are not ideal for studying structural details at high-resolution.

Replication of SARS-CoV in ER-derived vesicles

To avoid potential artefacts introduced by CEMOVIS or the Tokuyasu method, cryo-FIB milling can be used to prepare thin lamella of frozen-hydrated cells [84]. Here, plunge frozen mammalian cells grown on EM grids and are placed in a scanning electron microscope (SEM) that is equipped with an ion beam source in addition to the more usual electron gun. Typically, a stream of gallium ions is targeted to the frozen cell, etching regions of the cell to leave a thin electron-transparent lamella. Cryo-FIB milling together with cryo-ET was recently used to access the interior of murine hepatitis coronavirus (MHV) and severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) infected cells, and image double-membrane viral replication vesicles in the cytoplasm in 3D [55,85] (Figure 2B). This revealed a long-standing question in the field of how the viral RNA inside double-membrane vesicles can gain access to the cytosol for RNP entrapment, RNP budding and egress into the ERGIC (Figure 2B). Wolf et al. used cryo-FIB milling in combination with cryo-ET to determine the precise structural details of these vesicles. Importantly, they discovered a large pore embedded in the double-membrane of MHV infected cells. STA showed that this pore exhibited hexameric architecture, likely containing the large viral transmembrane protein nsp3 (nonstructural protein 3). To illustrate this, the authors, performed an elegant infection experiment whereby they tagged nsp3 with eGFP, and subsequent STA revealed the presence of six additional densities on top of the cytosolic crown-like hexameric structure [85].

Intact HIV-1 capsids at the nuclear envelope

In a recent ground-breaking study, Zila et al. infected clinically relevant human CD4+ T cells with HIV-1 virus displaying native HIV-1 spike protein. Imaging of these infected cells with cryo-FIB milling and cryo-ET captured intact HIV-1 capsid cores at the nuclear envelope [12] (Figure 2C). STA confirmed the presence of individual hexameric capsid proteins within these HIV-1 cores and also revealed they fracture once they enter the nucleus. This observation strengthened the model which proposed uncoating occurs at nuclear pores, as opposed to uncoating upon entry or cytoplasmic uncoating.

Conclusion

Understanding architectures of different viruses and the structural basis of their infection, replication and dissemination are key to understanding the fundamental biological properties of viruses. Recent advances in microscopes, detectors and data processing software have enabled cryo-ET to deliver structures of macromolecular complexes at near-atomic resolution. In this review, we have highlighted a few examples where cryo-ET, together with cryo-FIB milling, have provided key insights into the structure and infection processes of several enveloped viruses. It is imperative that in the coming years, cryo-ET will become an indispensable tool to study structural details of viruses and reveal the complex molecular interplay between viruses and their hosts at unprecedented resolution.

Perspectives

- Cryo-ET is unique in its ability to reveal structures of pleomorphic enveloped viruses in their native cellular environment and shed light on their mechanisms of entry, replication, assembly, maturation and egress during infection at unprecedented resolution.

- While X-ray crystallography, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy and cryo-EM SPA are now routinely used to yield atomic structures of protein complexes, these methods are limited to specimens that can be purified and remain stable in solution. Super-resolution microscopy can be used to study large protein complexes *in situ* but only at ~50 nm resolution. Cryo-ET together with STA uniquely bridges this resolution gap and enables the study of protein complexes *in situ* at 2–4 nm (or in favourable cases, at sub-nanometer) resolution.
- Although advances in cryo-ET and associated techniques have enabled visualization of architectures and life cycles of many critical viruses, steps involving data collection and processing are still challenging and have low throughput. Technical developments in these fronts will make cryo-ET an even more attractive tool to structural virologists and augment its contribution to drug/vaccine development.

Competing Interests

The authors declare that there are no competing interests associated with the manuscript.

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Author Contributions

D.G., S.D.C., and N.V. conceived the manuscript; N.V., S.D.C., D.G. wrote the manuscript; S.D.C., D.C.S., D.G. designed figures. All authors edited the manuscript.

Abbreviations

AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; CA, capsid protein; CEMOVIS, Cryo-electron microscopy of vitreous sections; CLEM, correlative light and electron microscopy; COVID-19, coronavirus disease; CTD, C-terminal domain; ERGIC, ER-Golgi intermediate; HSV-1, Herpes simplex virus 1; IAV, influenza A virus; MHV, murine hepatitis coronavirus; NC, nucleocapsid; NP, nucleoprotein; NTD, N-terminal domain; RNP, ribonucleoprotein; RSV, respiratory syncytial virus; SPA, single particle analysis; STA, subtomogram averaging.

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