

Structural Virology

Lecture 8

Pavel Plevka



Retroviridae

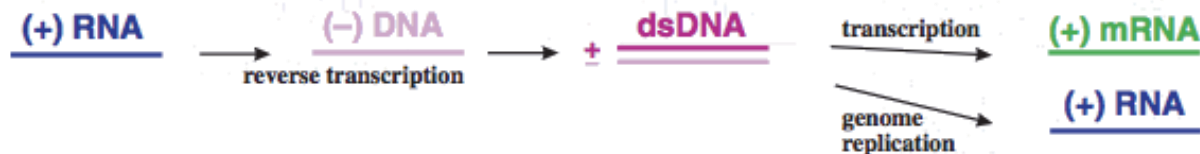
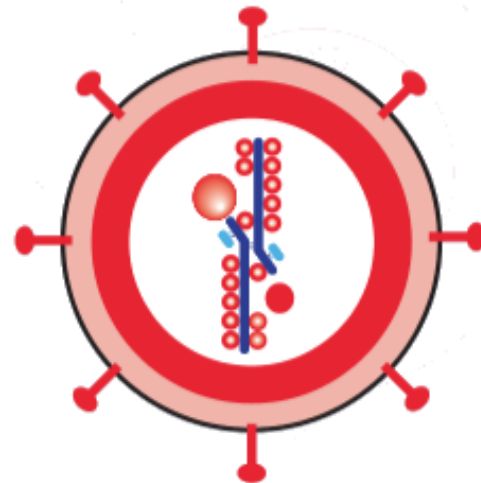
retro (Latin) = backwards

Hosts: mammals
birds
other vertebrate animals

Diseases: immunodeficiency diseases
leukaemias
solid tumours

Virion

- Enveloped
- 80–110 nm diameter
- Genome: single-stranded RNA
plus polarity
9–10 kb
- Contains reverse transcriptase



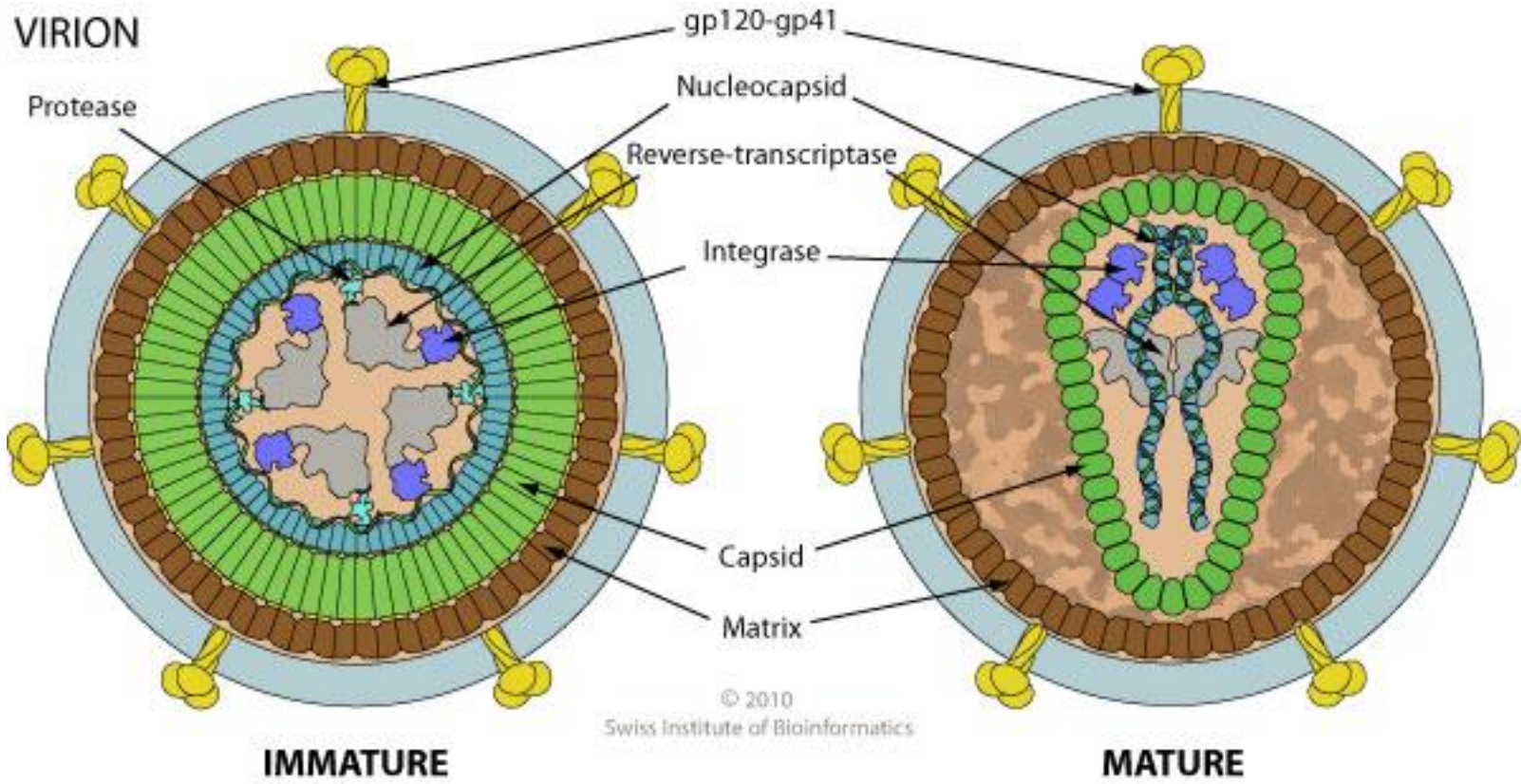
Reverse transcriptases



Murine leukemia virus (MLV)

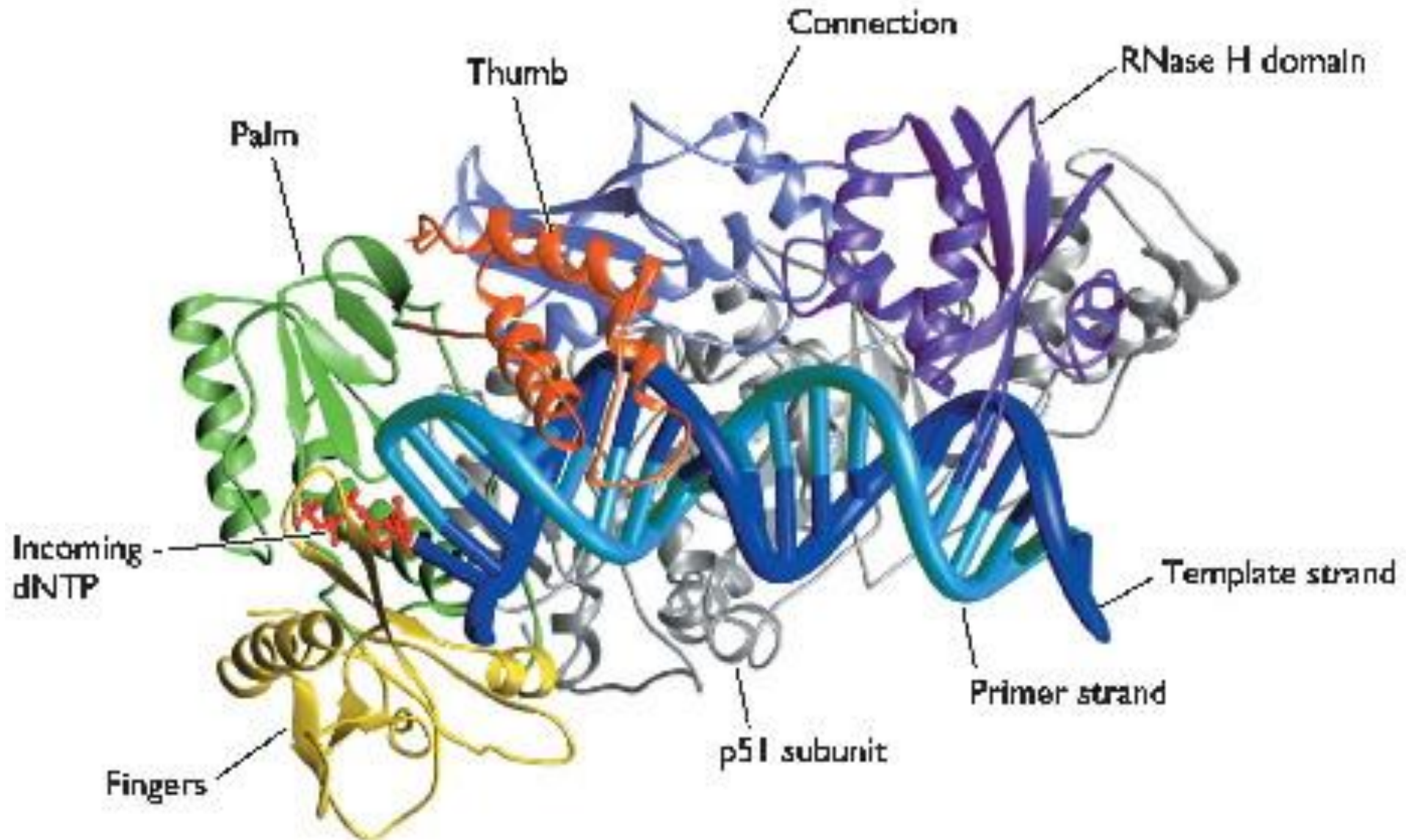


VIRION



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Reverse transcriptase



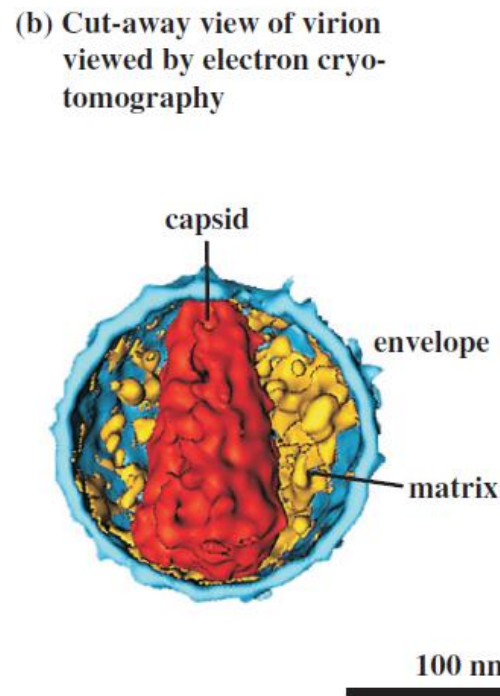
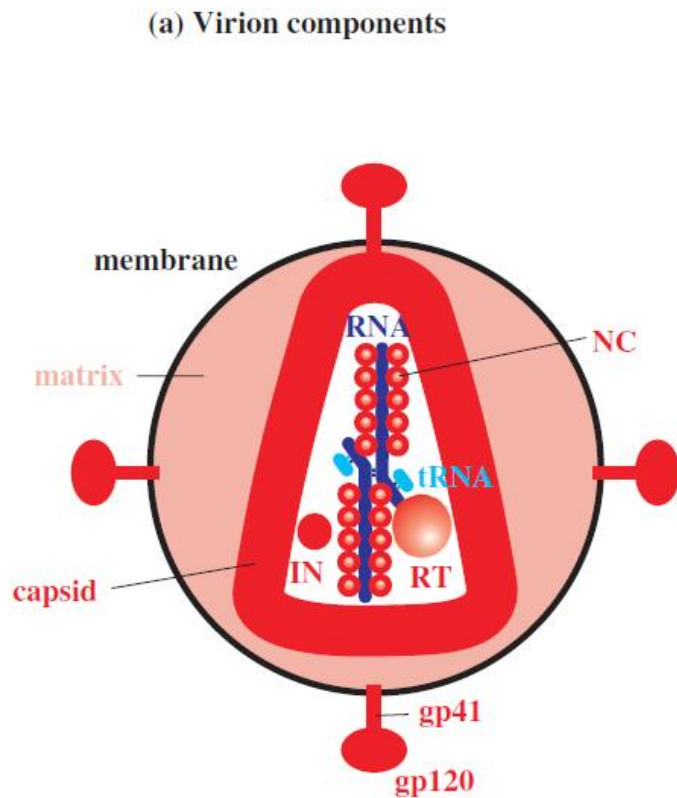
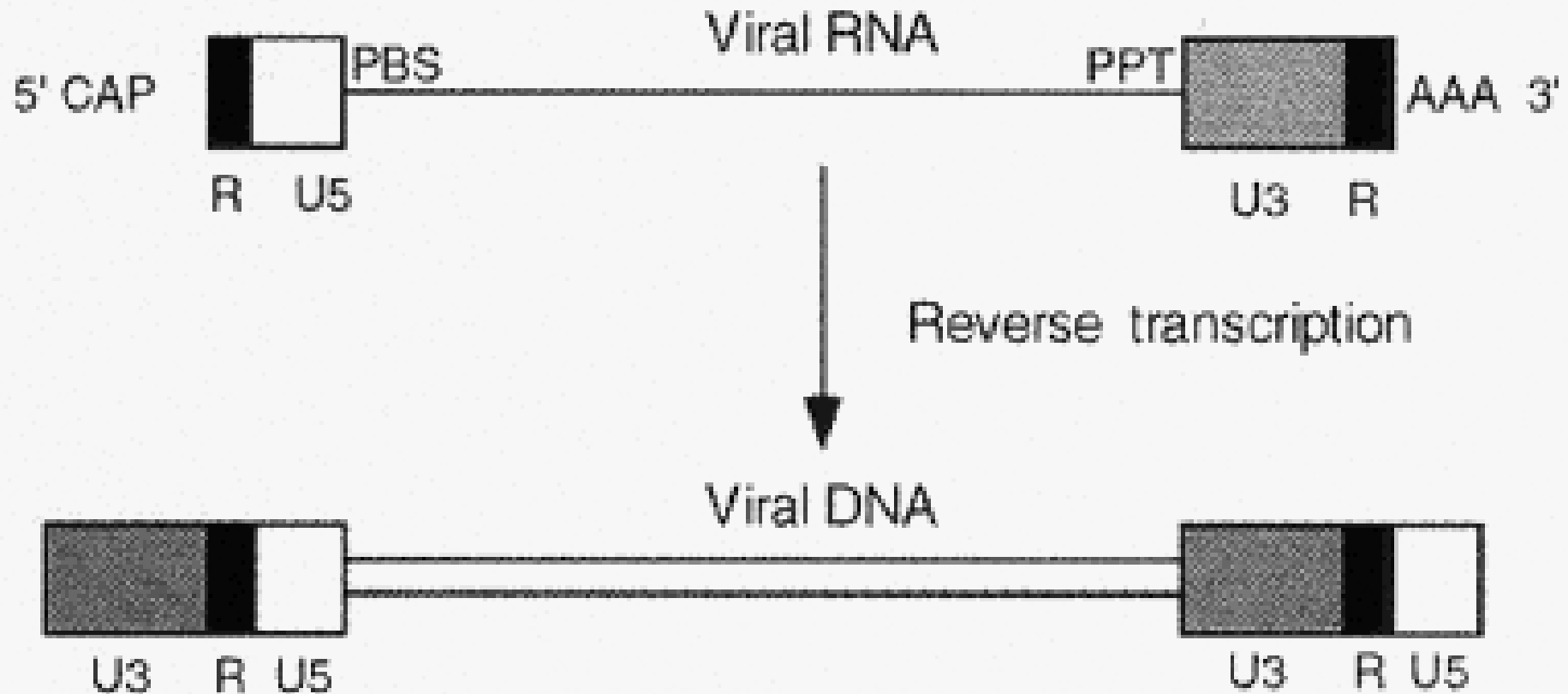
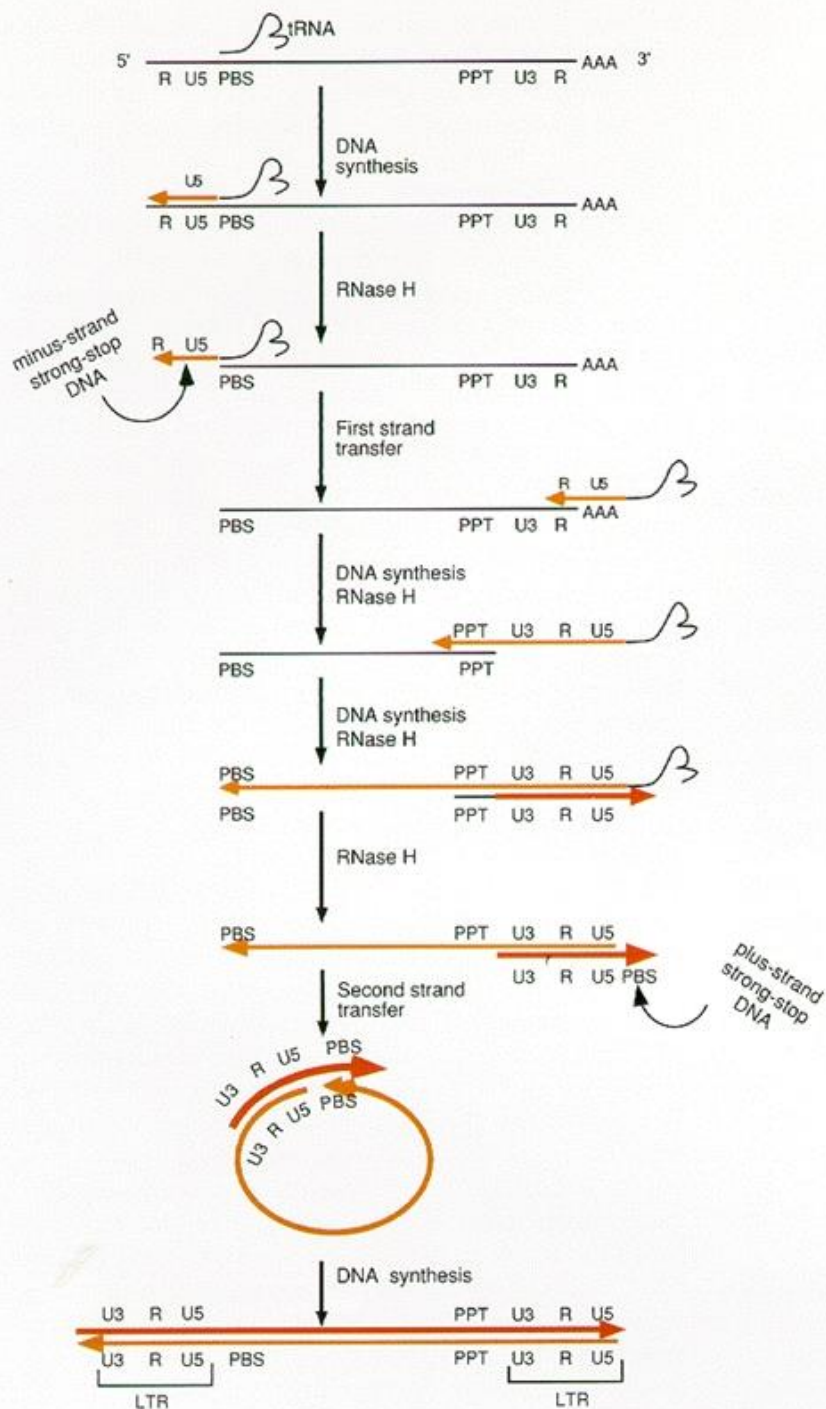


Figure 18.1 HIV virion. (a) Virion components. IN: integrase. NC: nucleocapsid protein. RT: reverse transcriptase. The TM and SU glycoproteins indicated are those of HIV-1 (gp41 and gp120). (c) Capsid model, showing protein hexamers in green and pentamers in red.

Sources: (b) Grünewald and Cyrklaff (2006) *Current Opinion in Microbiology*, 9, 437. (c) Ganser-Pornillos, Yeager, and Sundquist (2008) *Current Opinion in Structural Biology*, 18, 203. (b) and (c) reproduced by permission of Elsevier Limited and the authors

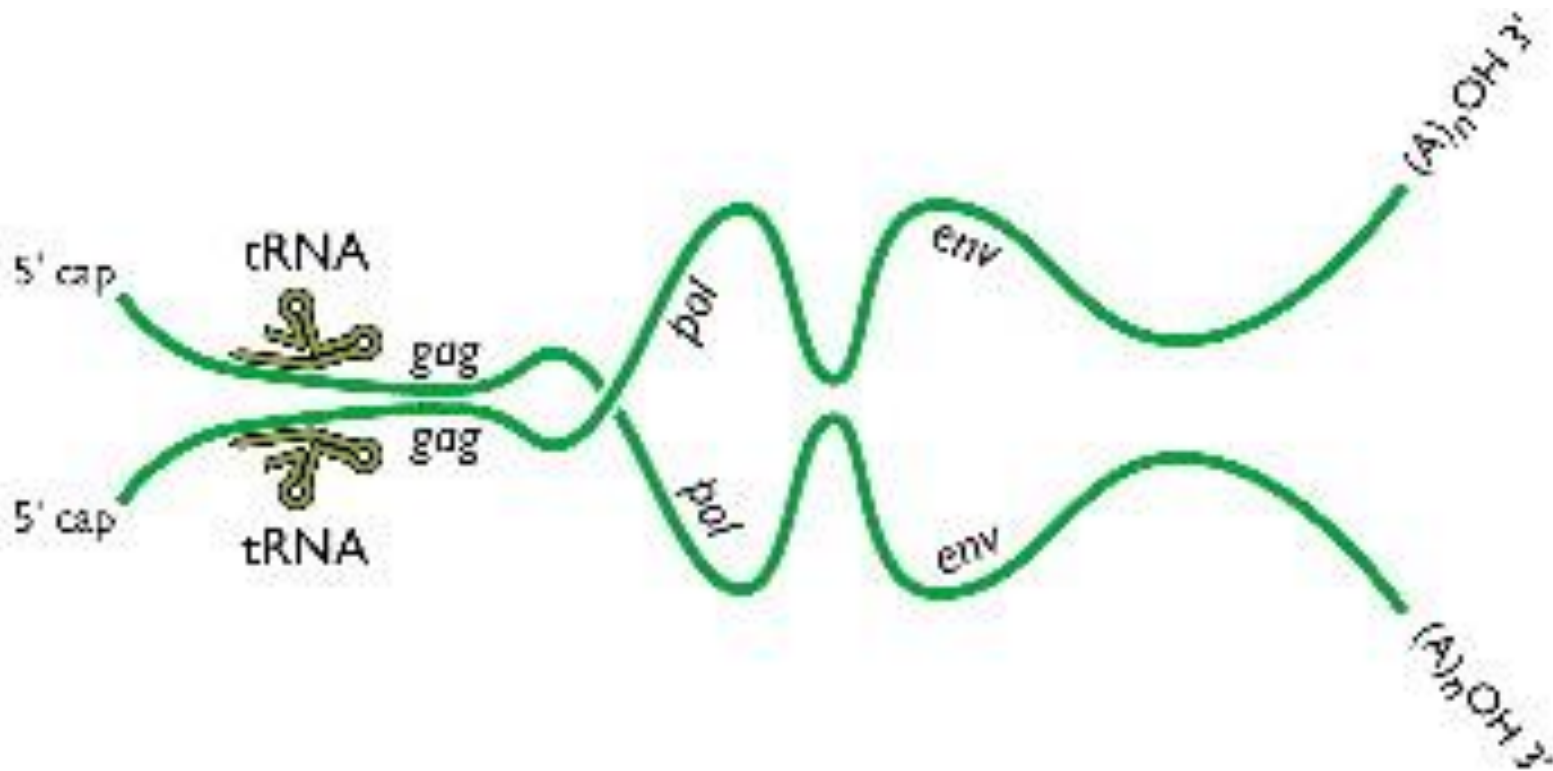
Retrovirus RNA and DNA forms of genome





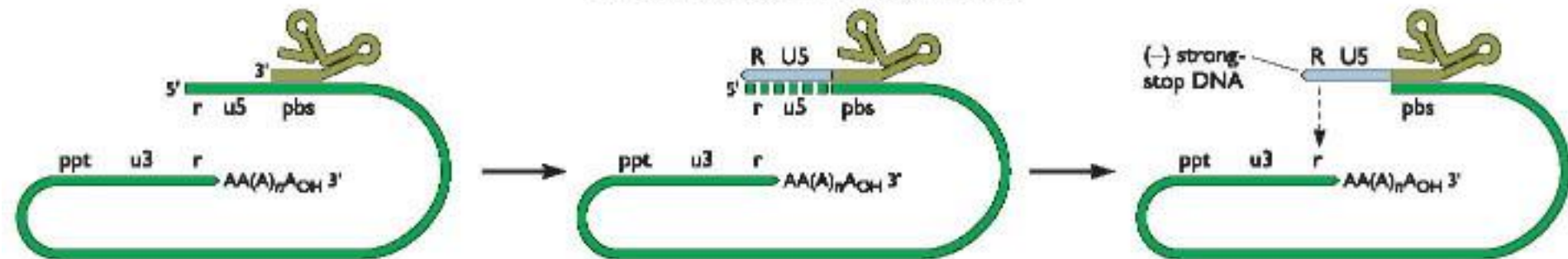
Reverse transcription of retrovirus genome

Genomes inside virion

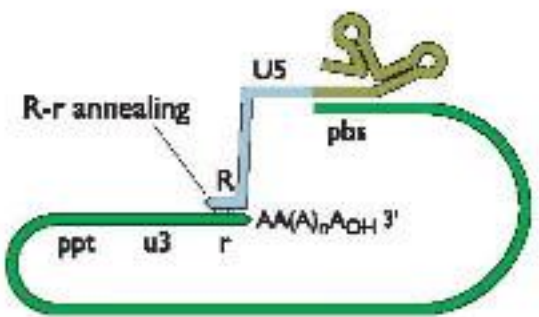


Initiation of (-) strand DNA synthesis

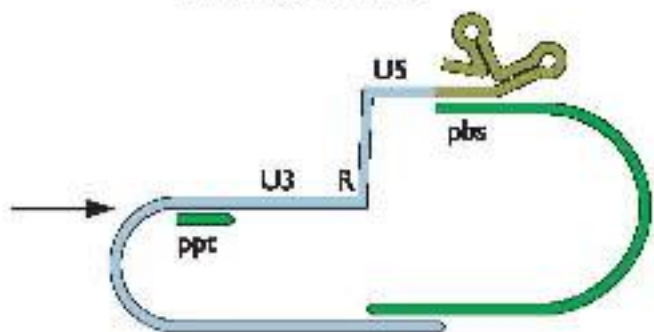
The 5' end of the viral RNA genome is degraded by the RNase H activity of RT as the (-) strand DNA is synthesized.



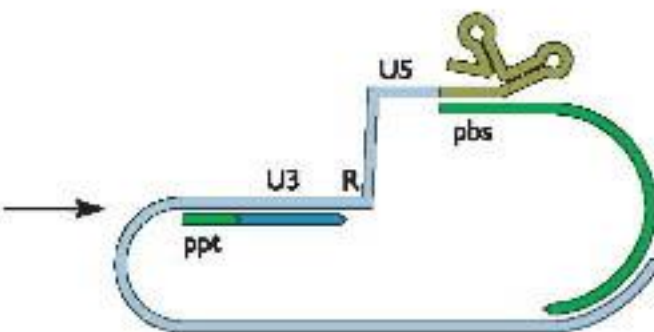
First template exchange



The RNA genome continues to be degraded as (-) strand DNA is synthesized



(+) strand DNA synthesis begins, primed by the ppt RNA

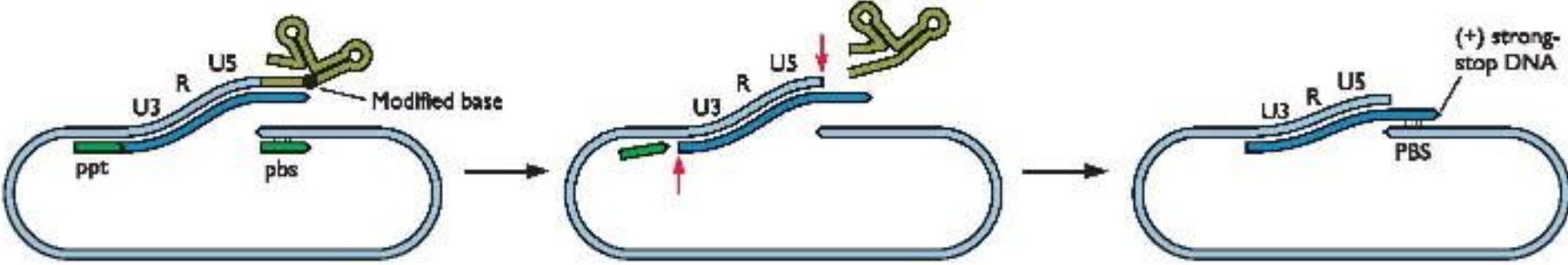


(+) strand DNA synthesis

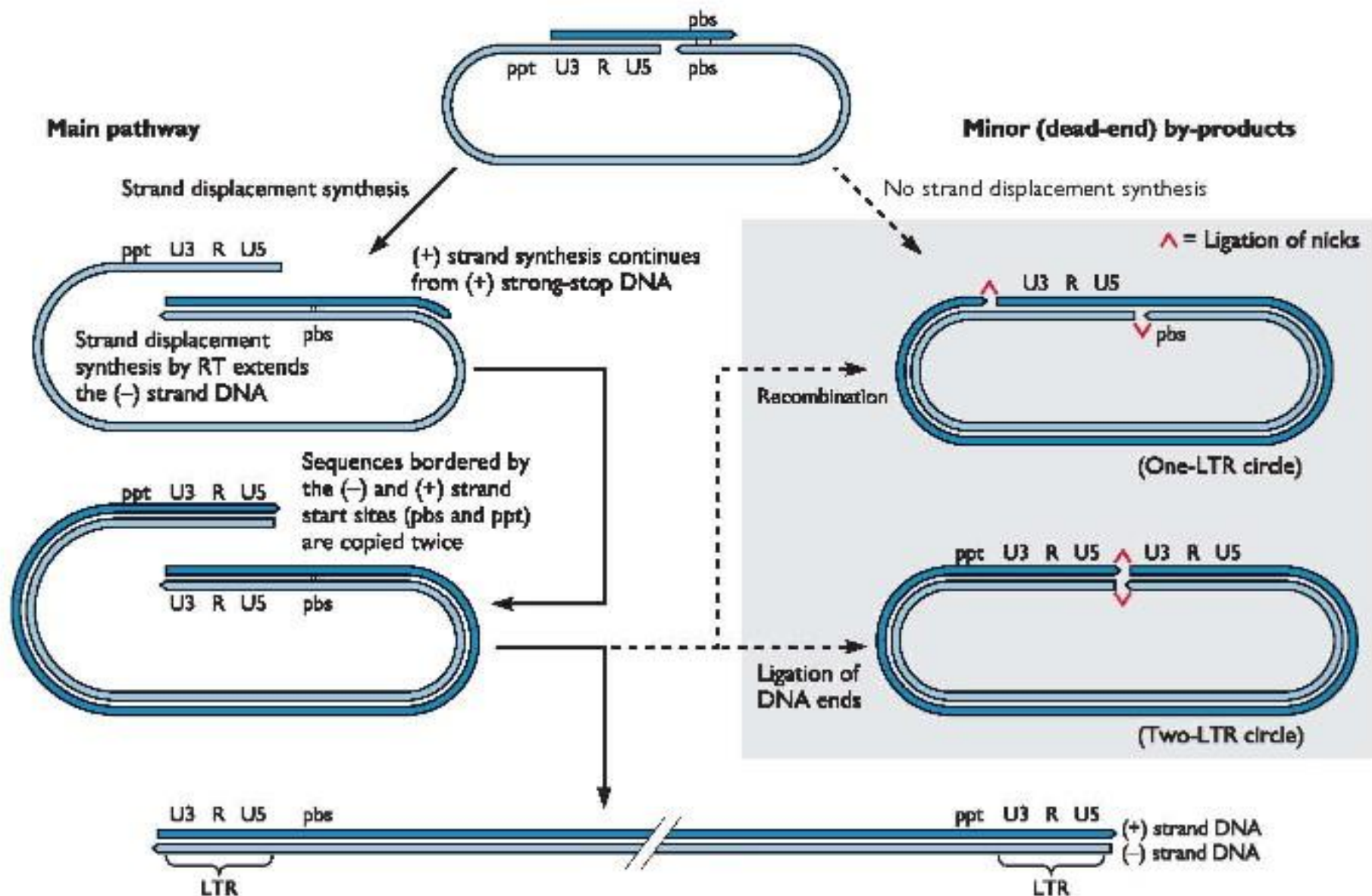
The pbs sequence is copied twice:
• once from the RNA genome
• once from the tRNA primer

RNase H endonuclease activity
of RT removes both primer RNAs

DNA ends are juxtaposed by annealing
at complementary PBS sequences

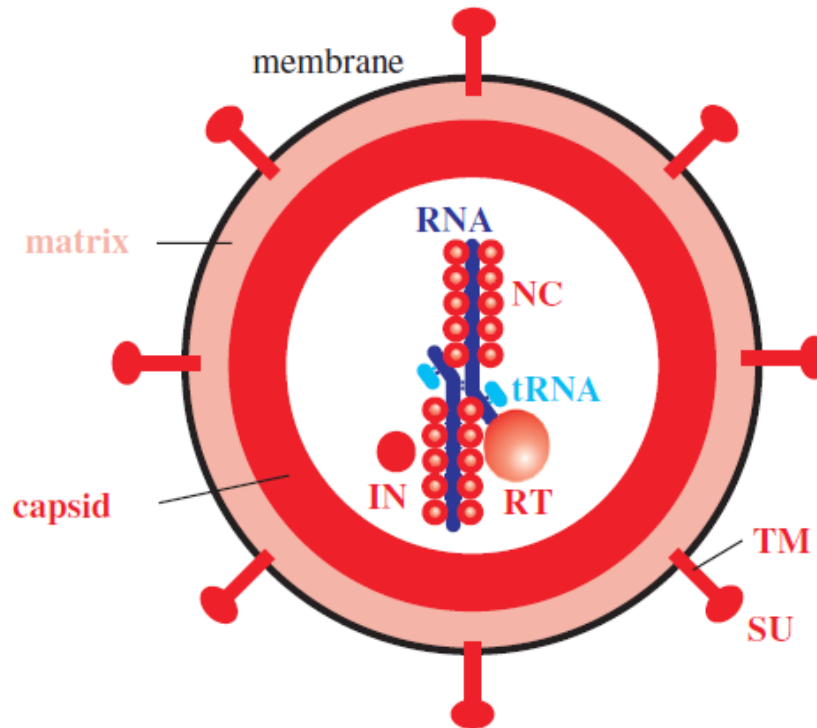


Second template exchange is facilitated by annealing of PBS sequences

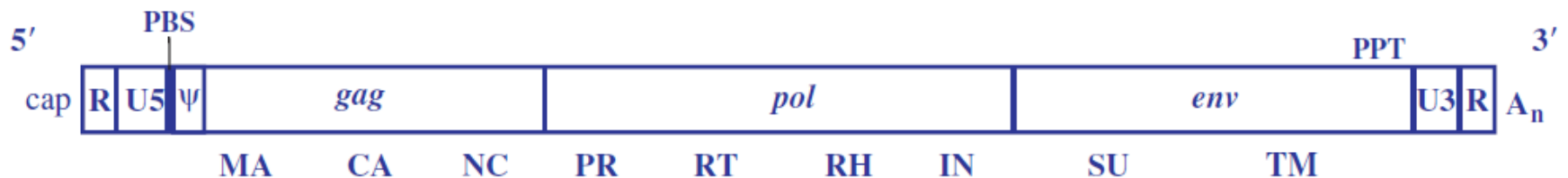


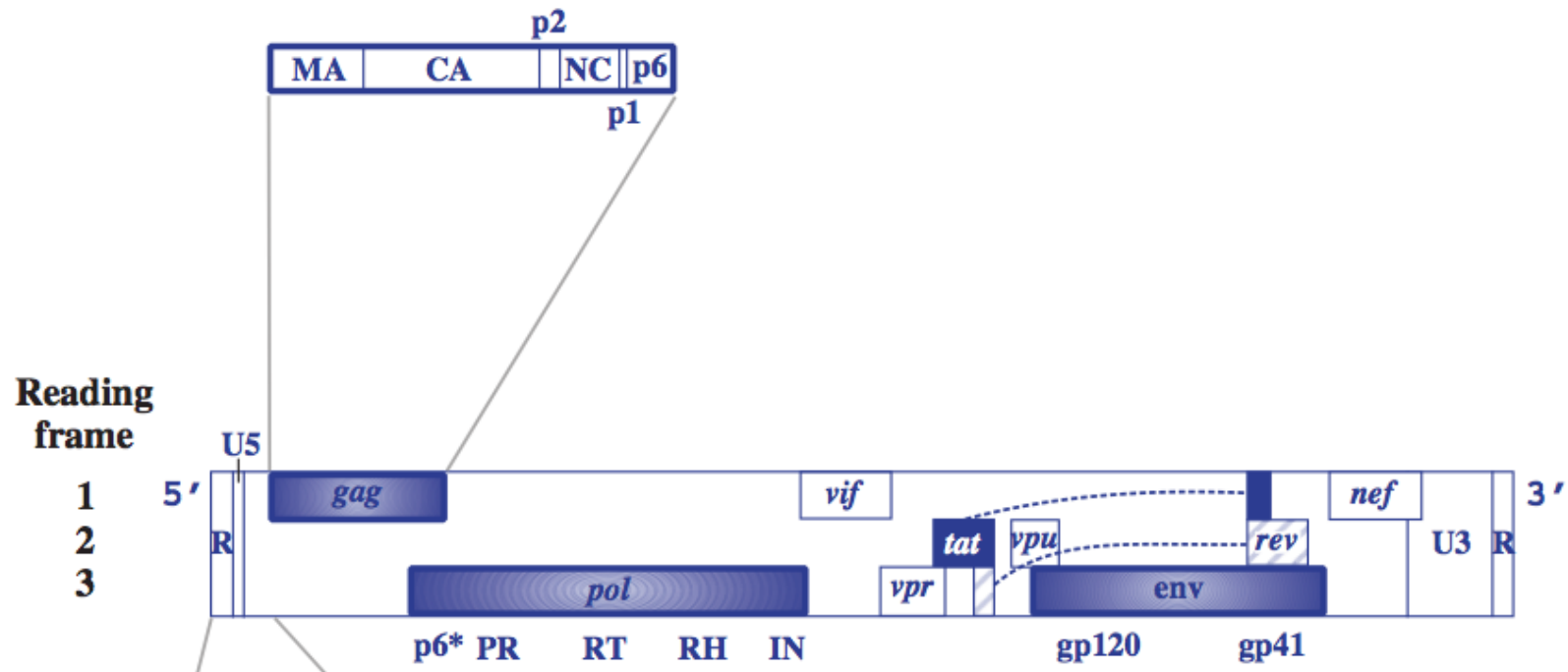
Virion and genome organization

Virion components

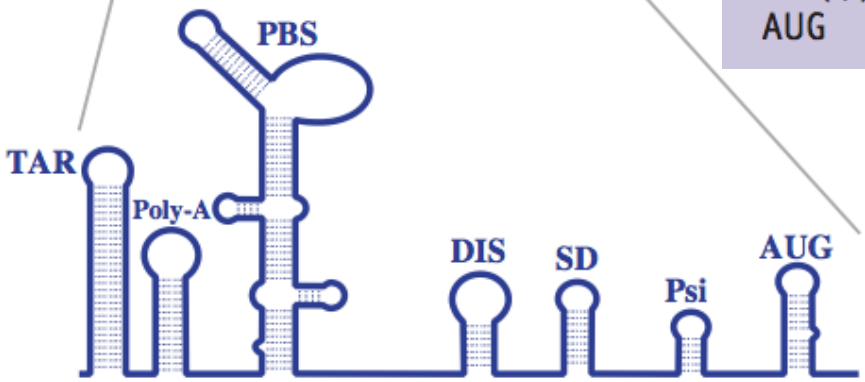


Genome organization and gene products

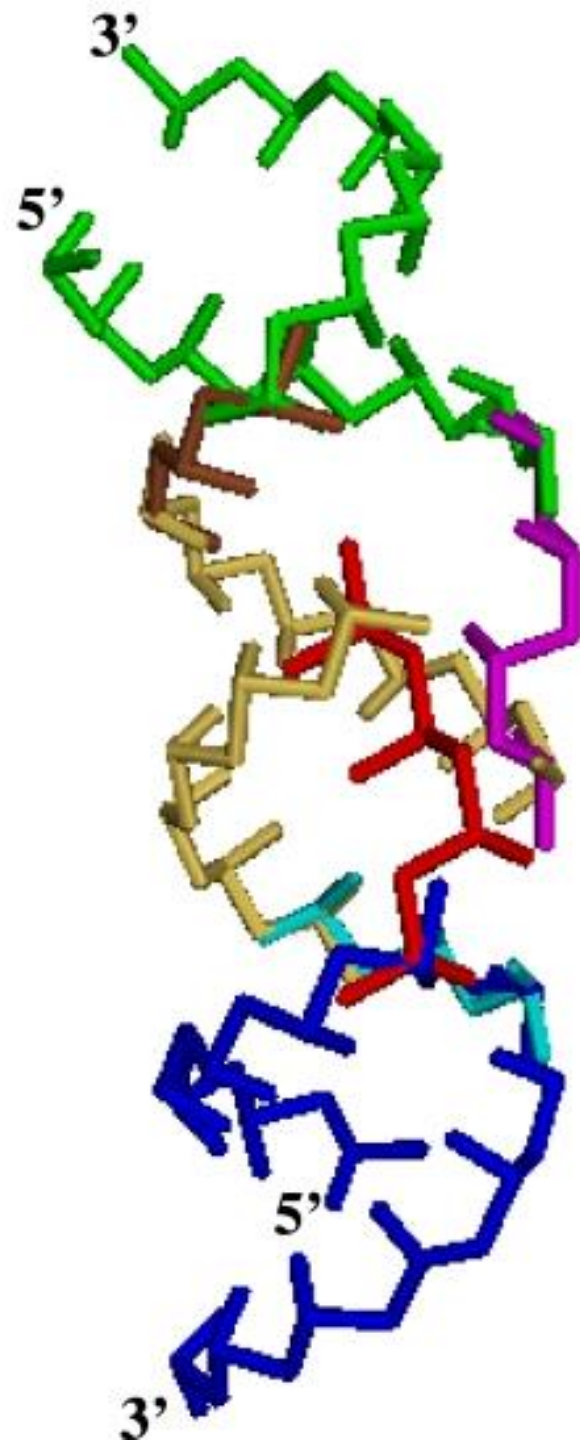
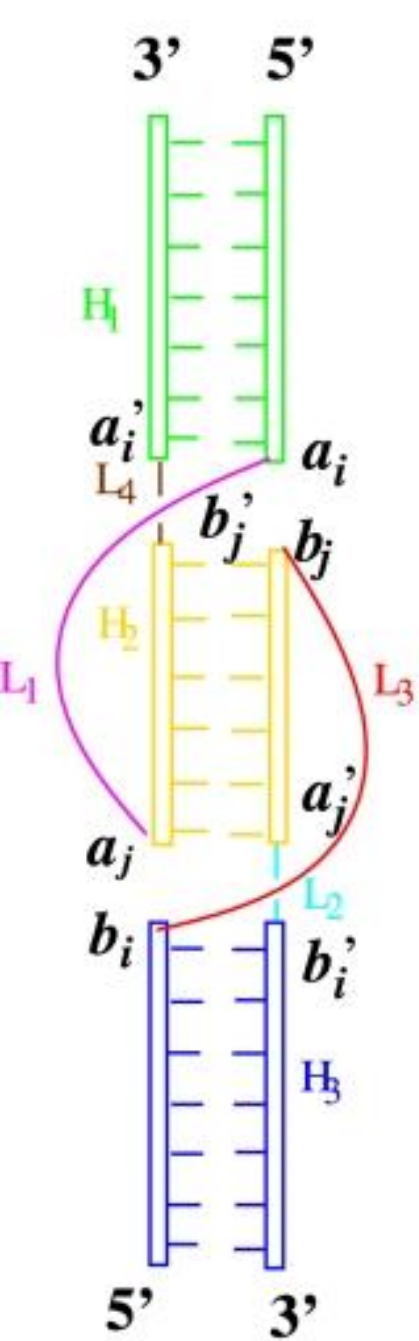




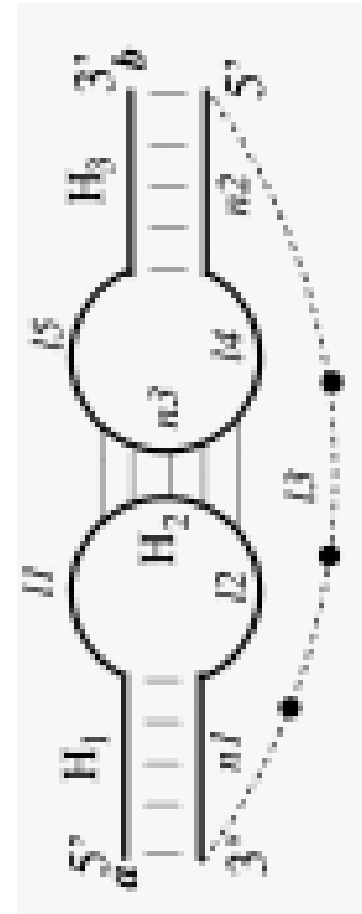
TAR	trans-acting response element
Poly-A	polyadenylation signal
PBS	primer-binding site
DIS	dimerization initiation site (involved in formation of kissing loop complex)
SD	splice donor site
Psi (ψ)	main part of the packaging signal
AUG	start codon of the <i>gag</i> gene



Main genes	<i>gag</i>	<i>group-specific antigen</i> (encodes matrix, capsid, p2, nucleocapsid, p1 and p6)
	<i>pol</i>	<i>polymerase</i> (encodes p6*, protease, reverse transcriptase, RNase H, integrase)
	<i>env</i>	<i>envelope</i>
Auxiliary genes	<i>nef</i>	<i>negative regulatory factor</i>
	<i>rev</i>	<i>regulator of expression of virion proteins</i>
	<i>tat</i>	<i>transactivator of transcription</i>
	<i>vif</i>	<i>virion infectivity factor</i>
	<i>vpr</i>	<i>viral protein R</i>
	<i>vpu</i>	<i>viral protein U</i>
Non-coding sequences	R	repeat sequence
	U3	unique sequence at 3' end of genome
	U5	unique sequence at 5' end of genome
Domains at the 5' end of the genome	TAR	trans-acting response element
	Poly-A	polyadenylation signal
	PBS	primer-binding site
	DIS	dimerization initiation site (involved in formation of kissing loop complex)
	SD	splice donor site
	Psi (ψ)	main part of the packaging signal
	AUG	start codon of the <i>gag</i> gene



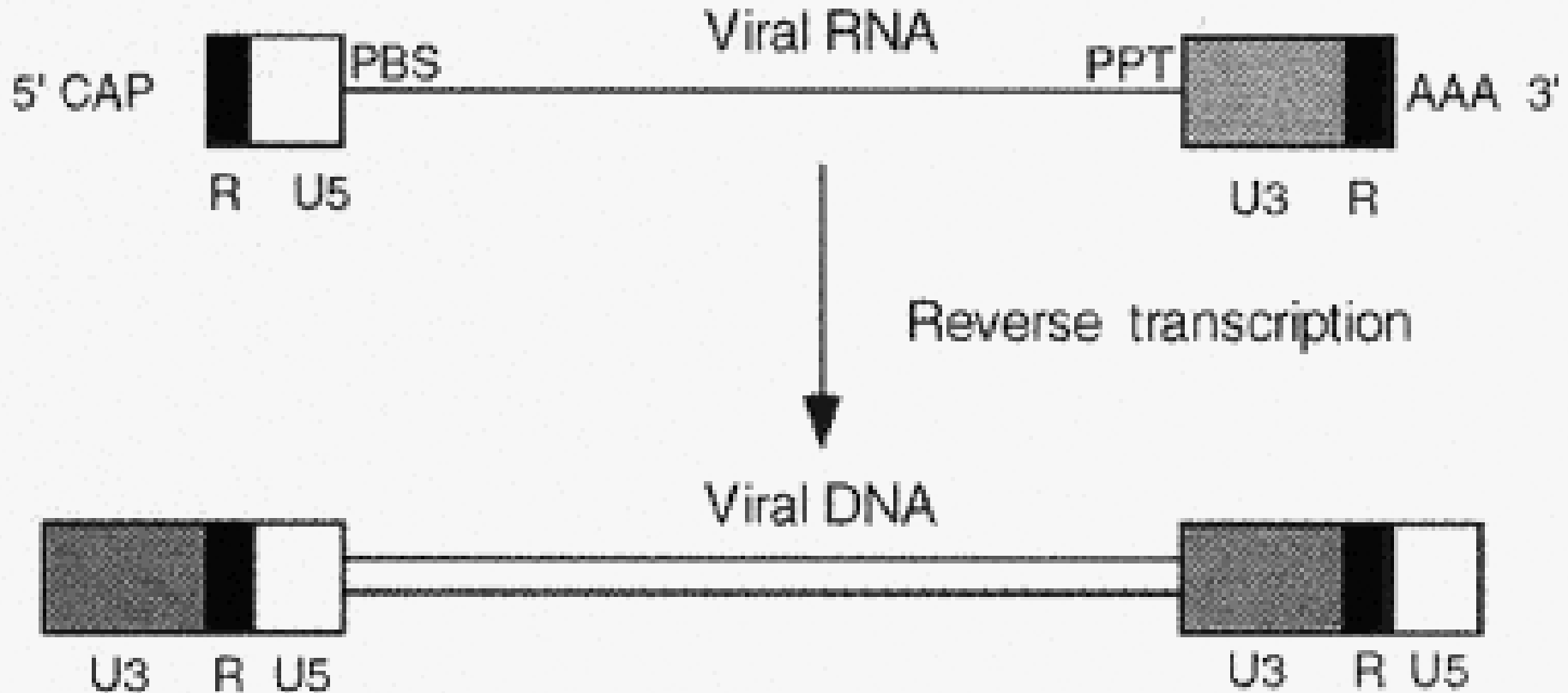
Kissing RNA loops



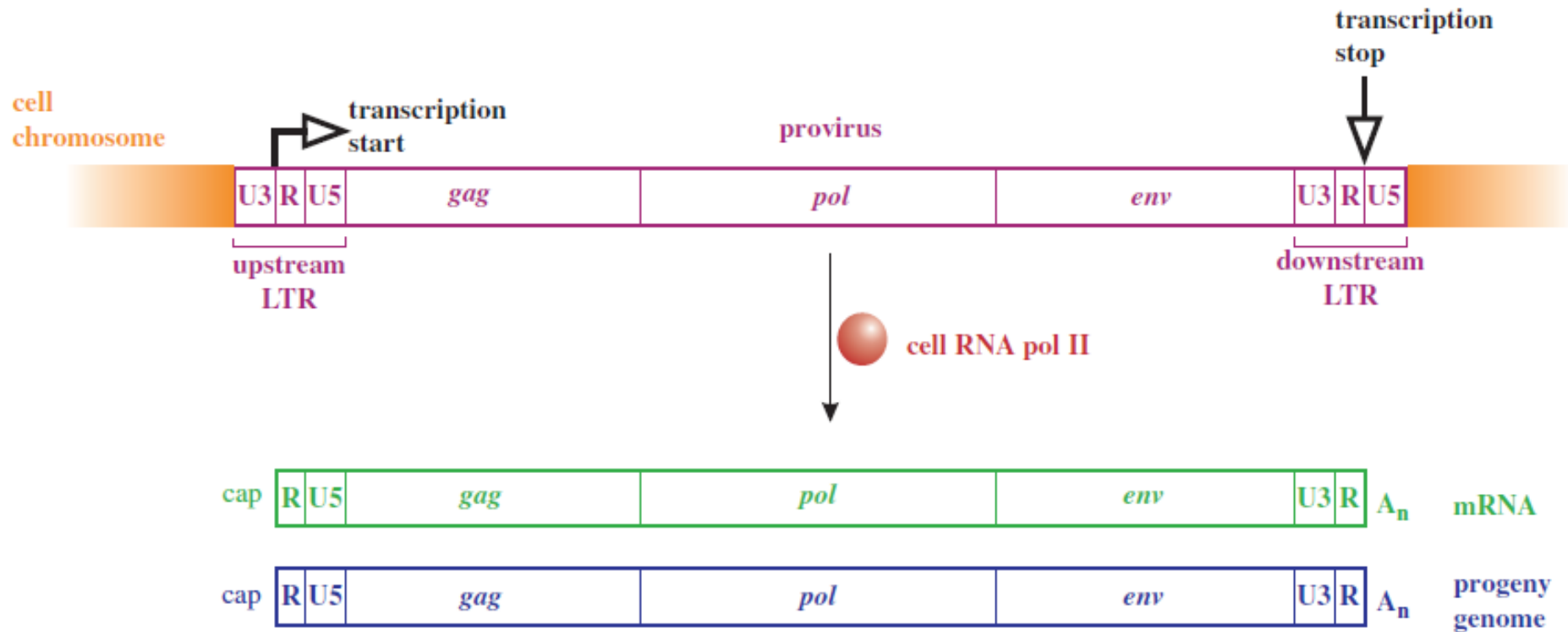
The HIV trans-activation response (TAR) element is an RNA element which is known to be required for the trans-activation of the viral promoter and for virus replication. The TAR hairpin is a dynamic structure[1] that acts as a binding site for the Tat protein, and this interaction stimulates the activity of the long terminal repeat promoter.[2]

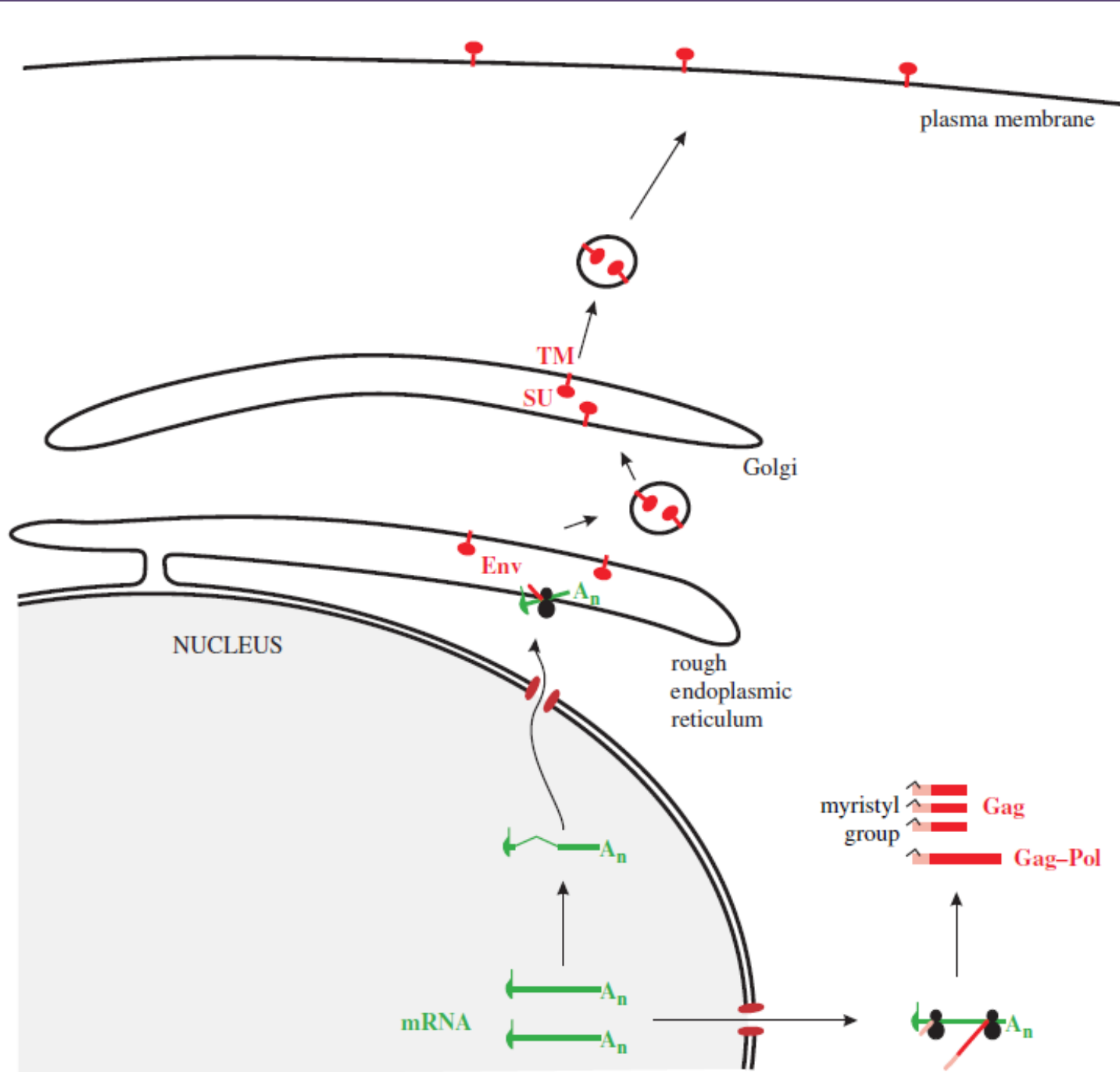
Further analysis has shown that TAR is a pre-microRNA that produces mature microRNAs from both strands of the TAR stem-loop.[3] These miRNAs are thought to prevent infected cells from undergoing apoptosis by downregulating the genes ERCC1 and IER3.[4]

Retrovirus transcription start and terminator?



Retrovirus transcription





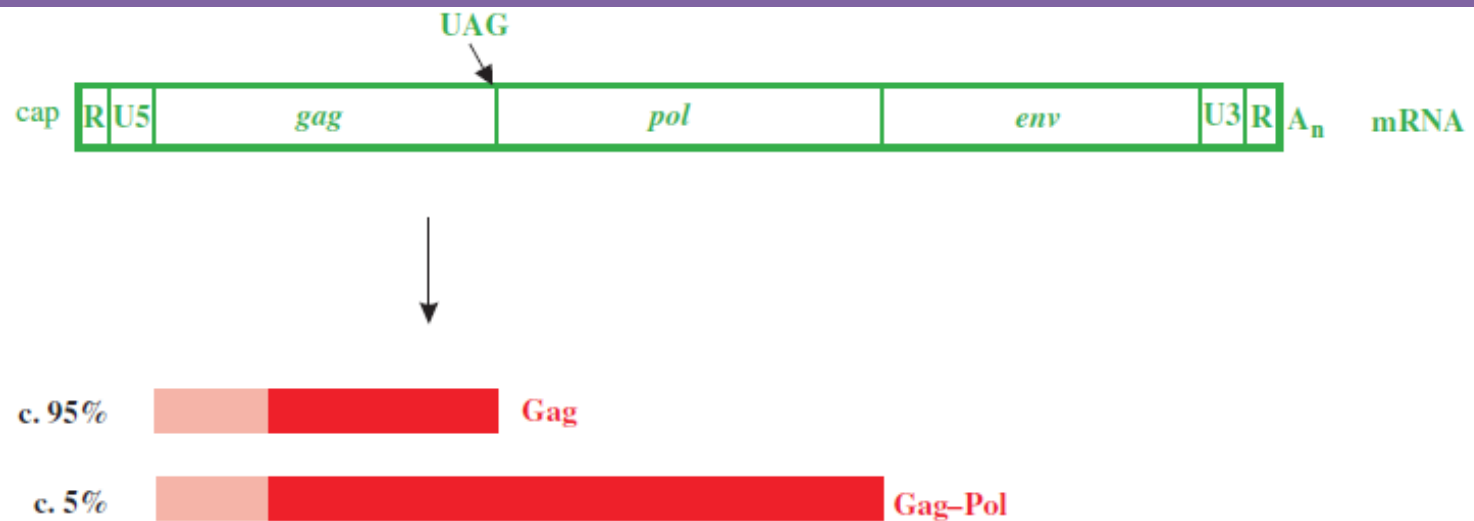


Figure 17.7 Translation of Gag–Pol by reading through a stop codon (UAG). Approximately 5% of ribosomes incorporate an amino acid at the *gag* stop codon and translate *pol* too.

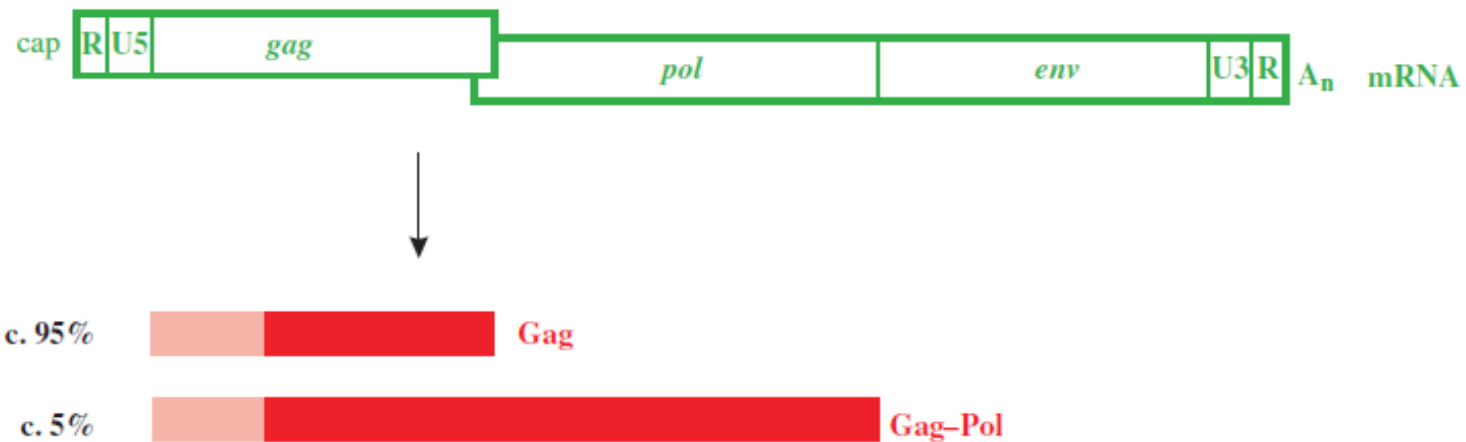


Figure 17.8 Translation of Gag–Pol by ribosomal frameshifting. Approximately 5% of ribosomes shift into a different reading frame before the *gag* stop codon and translate *pol* too.

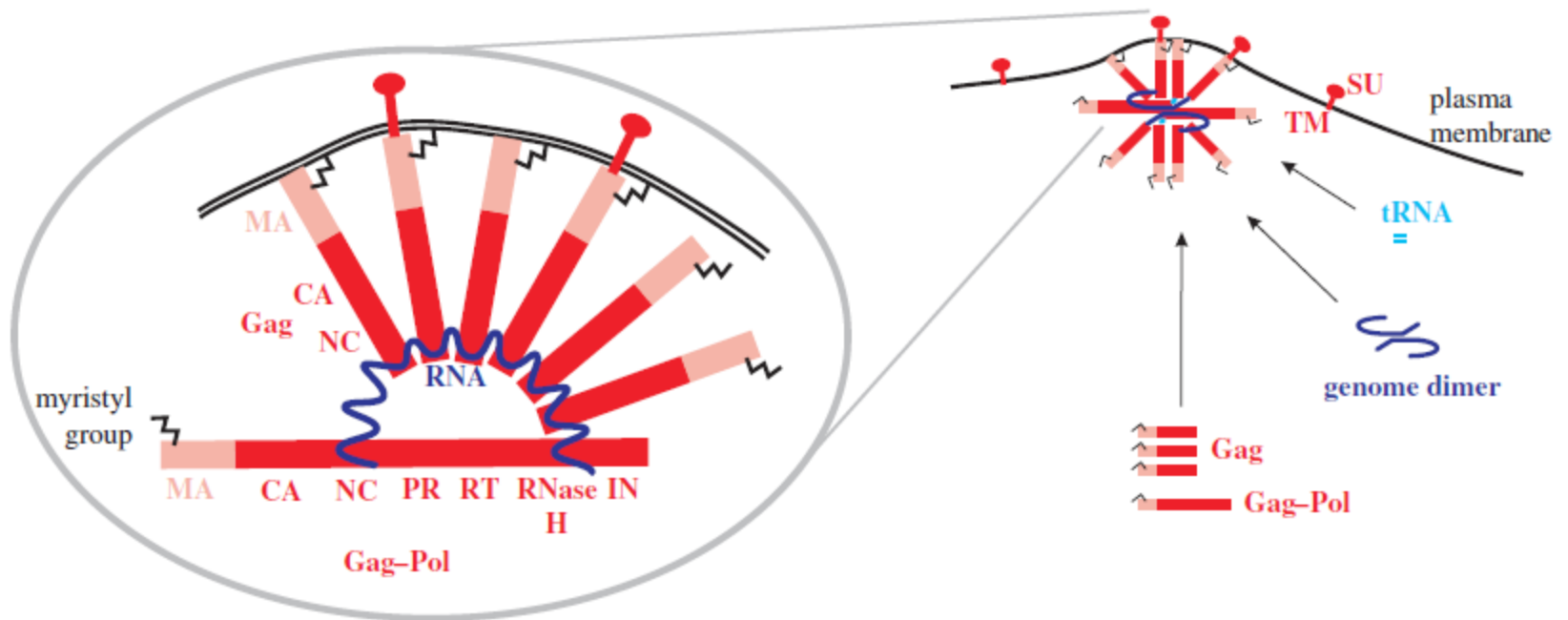


Figure 17.9 Retrovirus assembly – early stages. A genome dimer associates with cell tRNAs and with Gag and Gag-Pol proteins. The domains of Gag and Gag-Pol are indicated in the inset. The order of the Gag domains MA-CA-NC is the same as the exterior-to-interior order of the proteins in the virion (Figure 17.1).

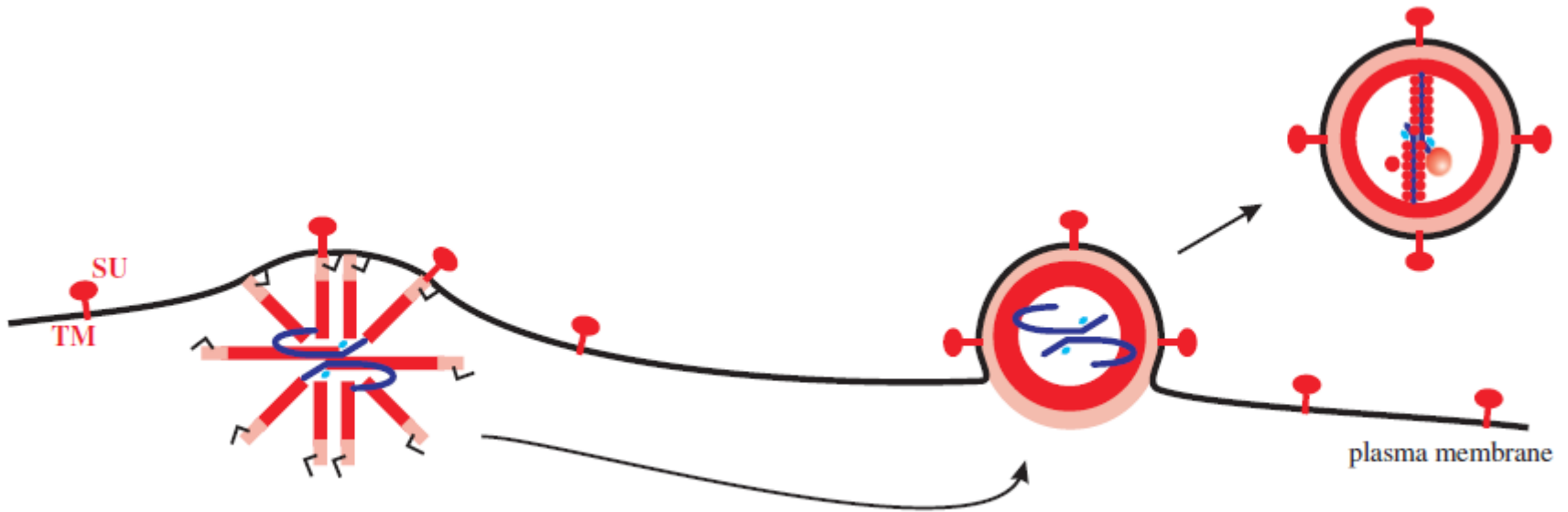
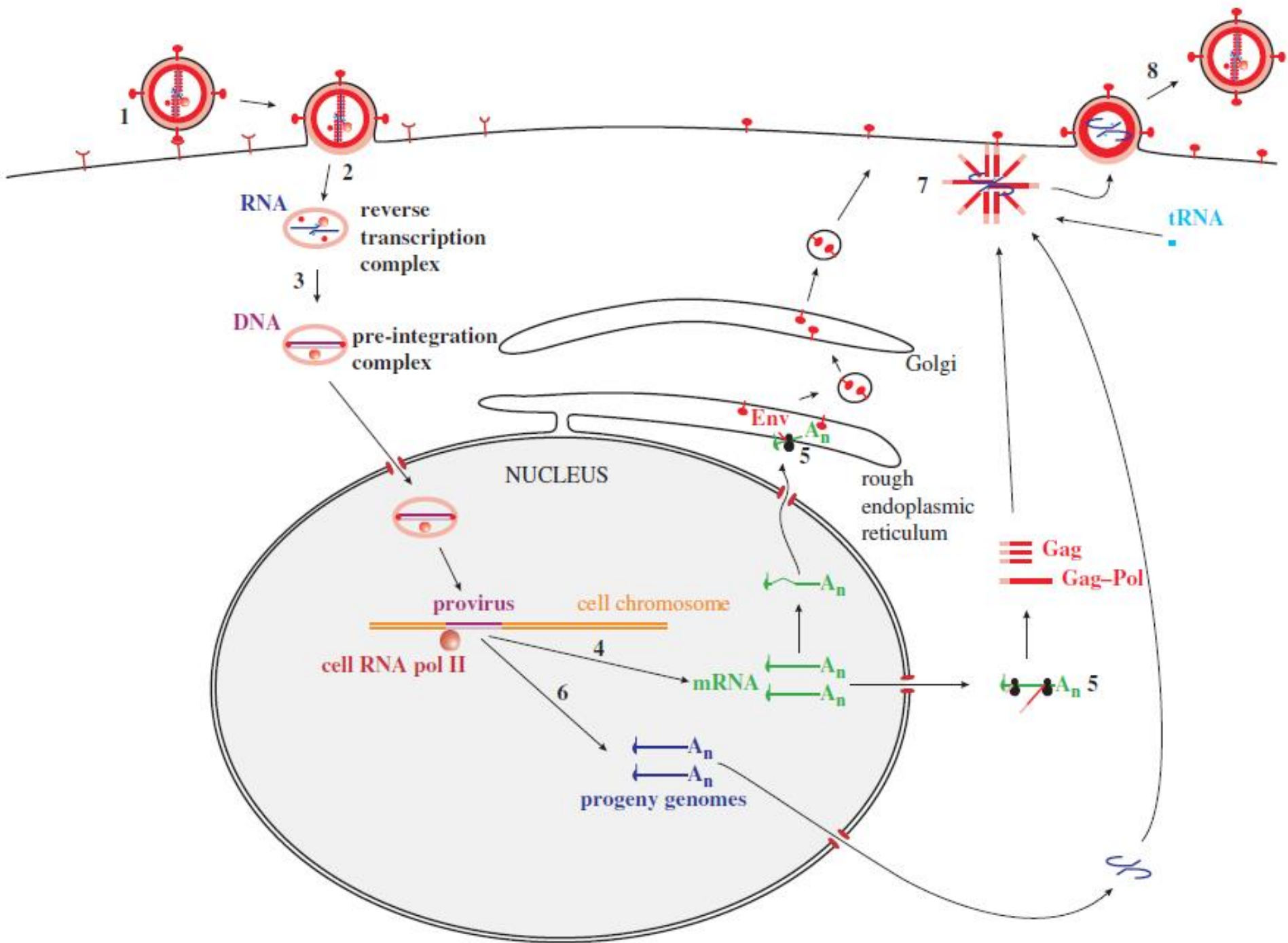


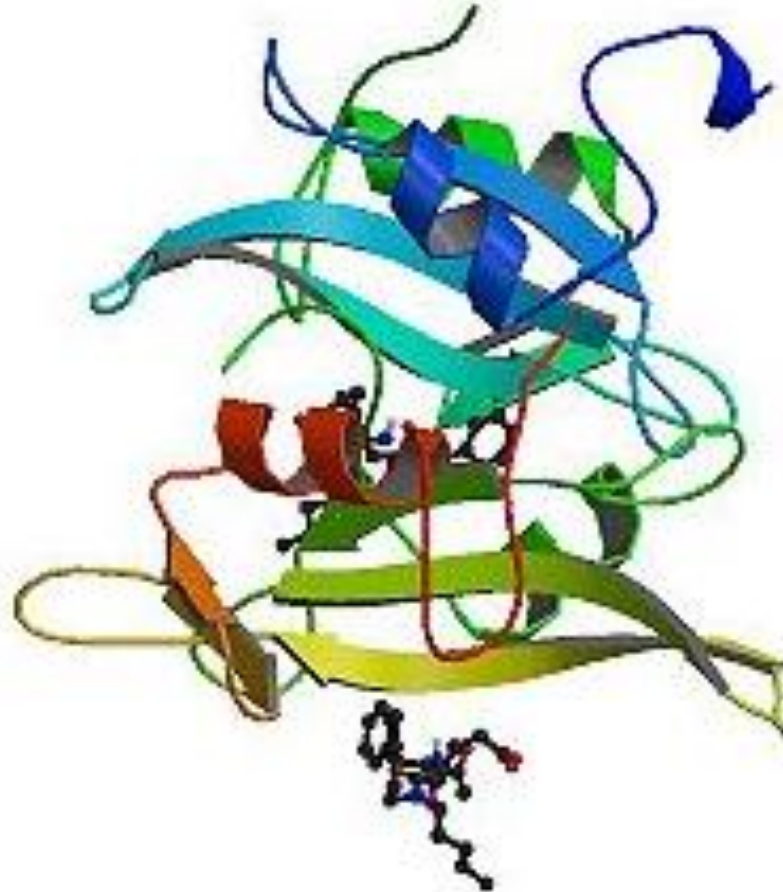
Figure 17.10 Retrovirus assembly – late stages. The envelope is acquired by budding from the plasma membrane. During and after budding Gag and Gag–Pol are cleaved to form the virion proteins.

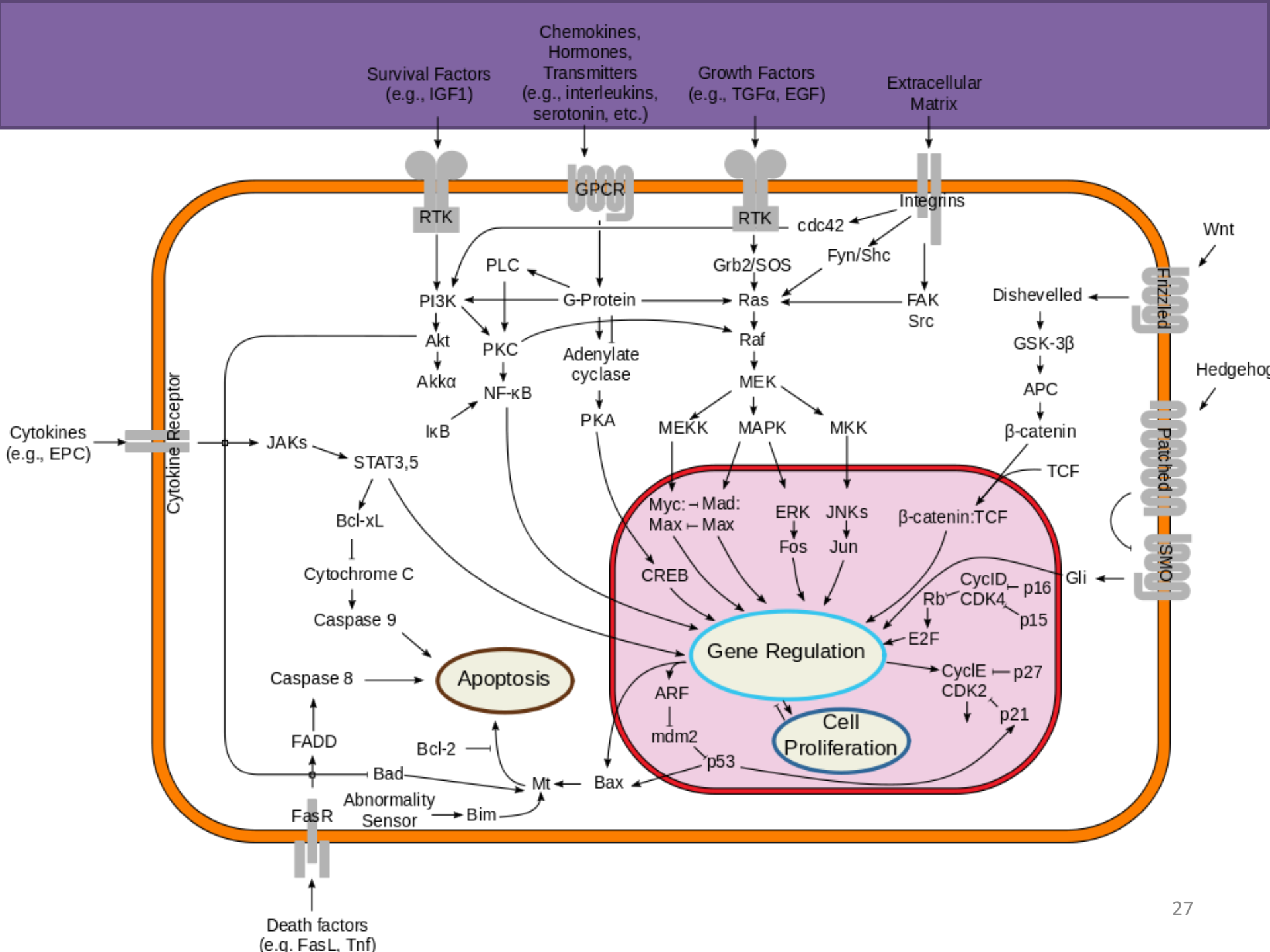


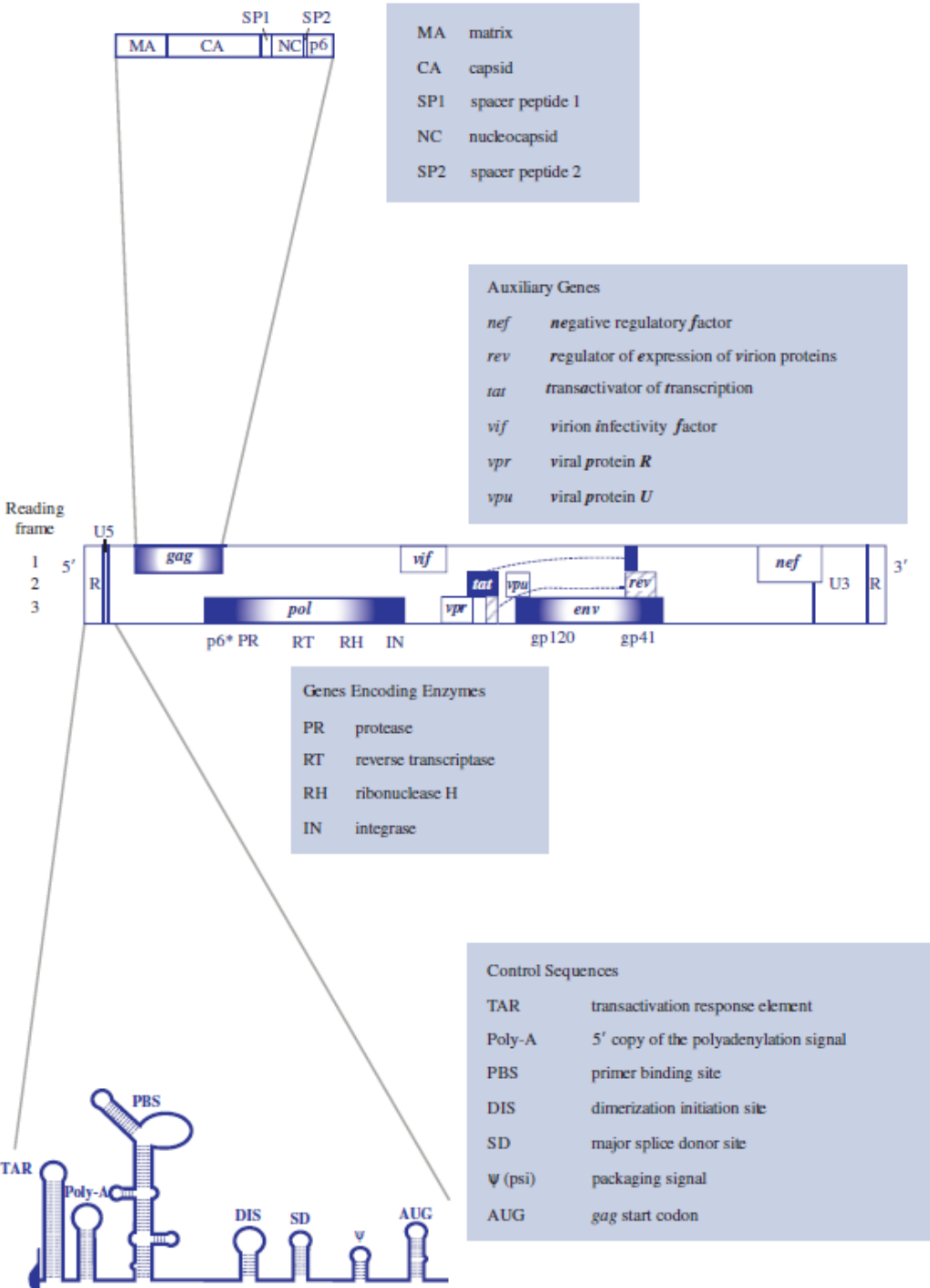
SRC

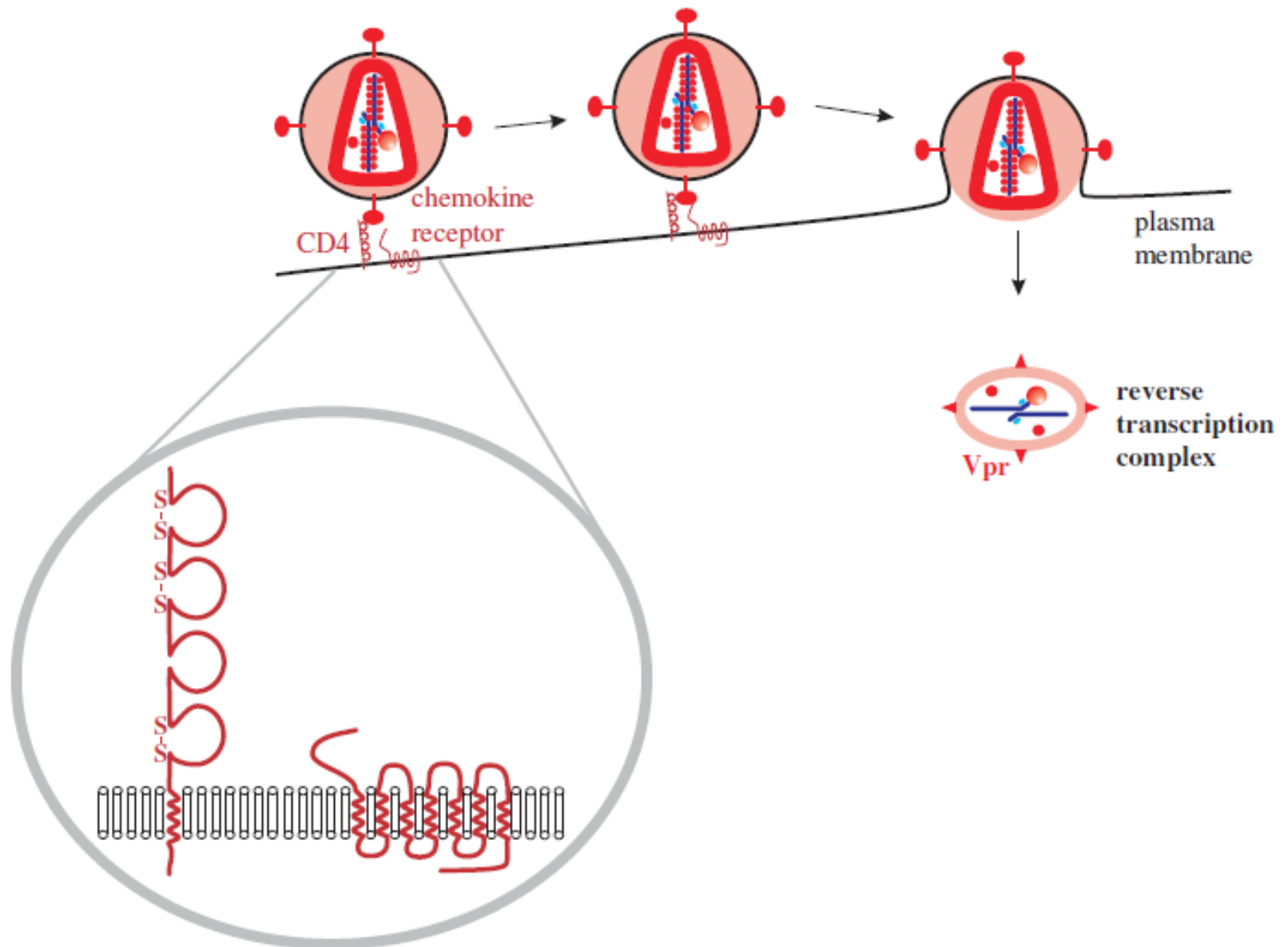


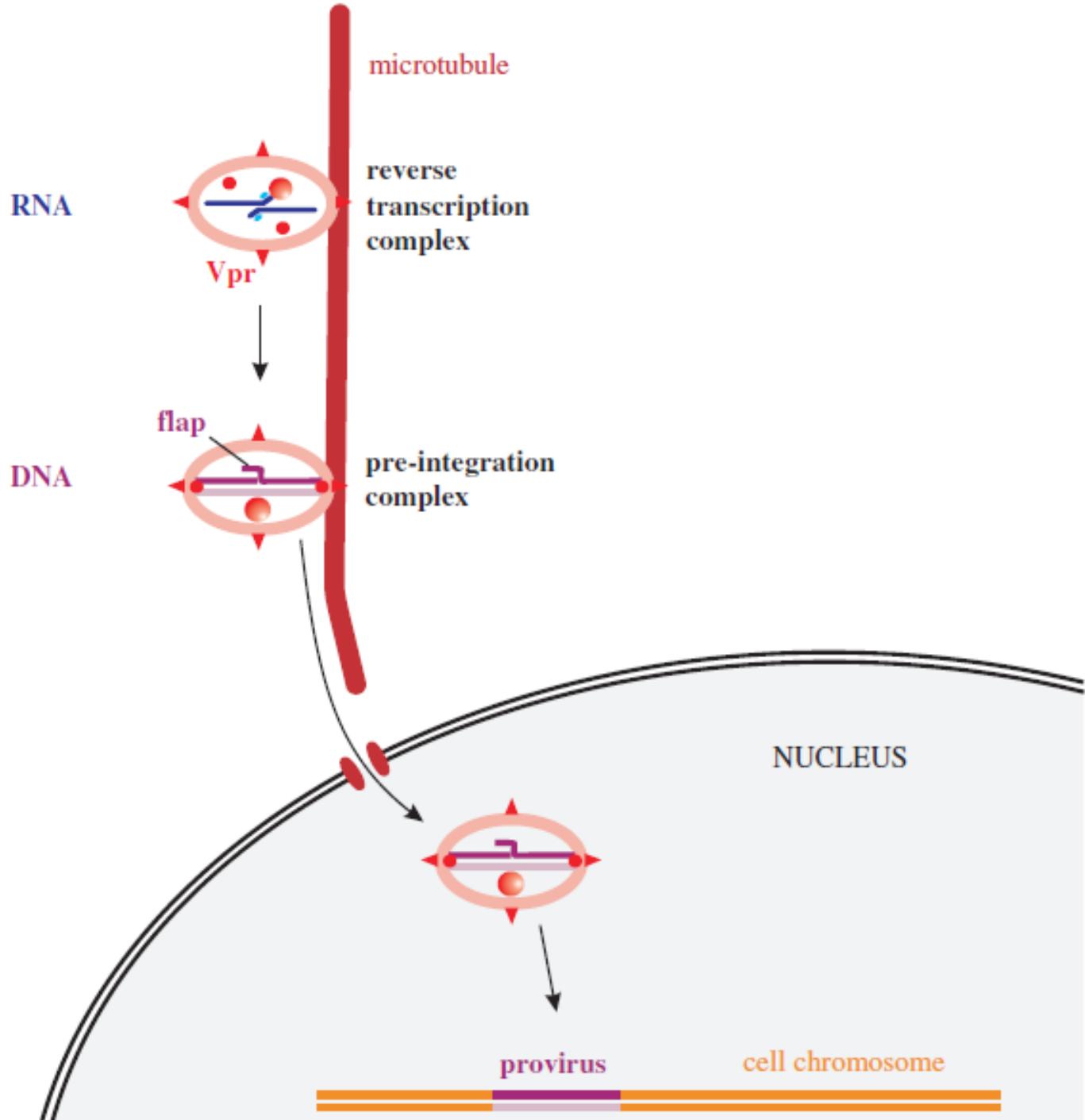
Figure 17.12 Rous sarcoma virus genome. There is an oncogene (*src*) in addition to the three standard retrovirus genes.



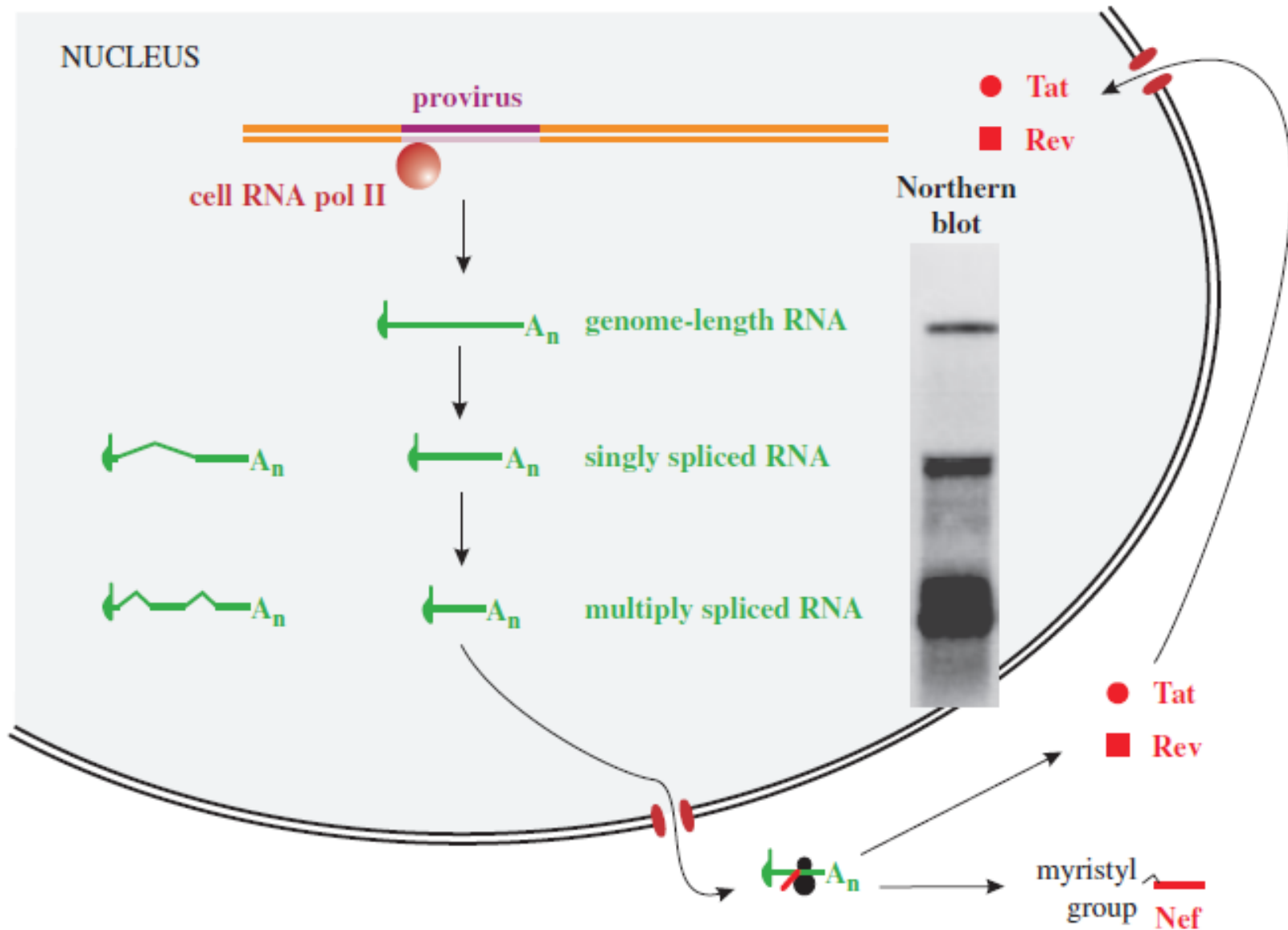




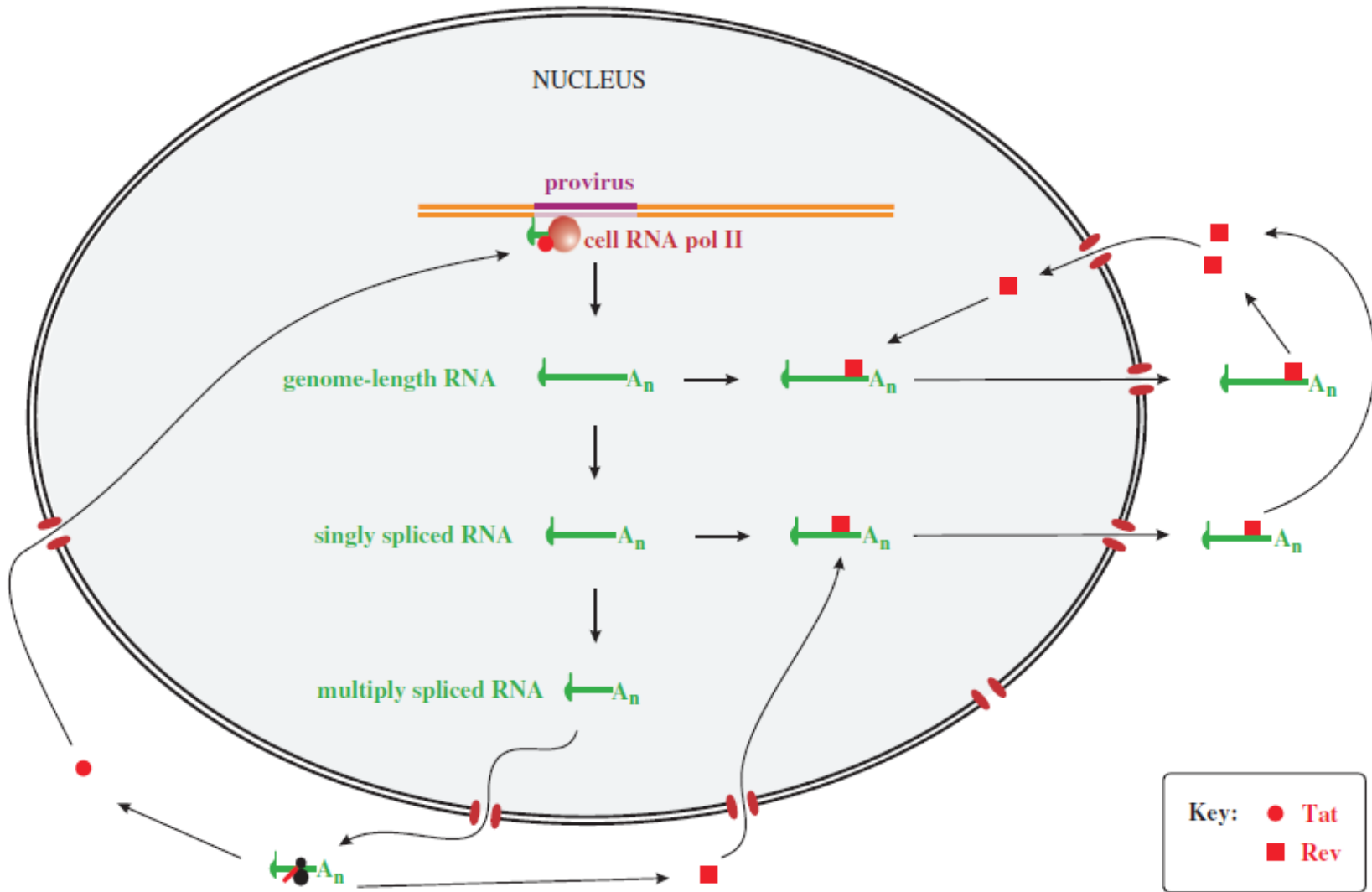




Early transcription



Functions of Tat and Rev



Tat – translation of whole genome

Rev – transport of mRNAs to cytoplasm

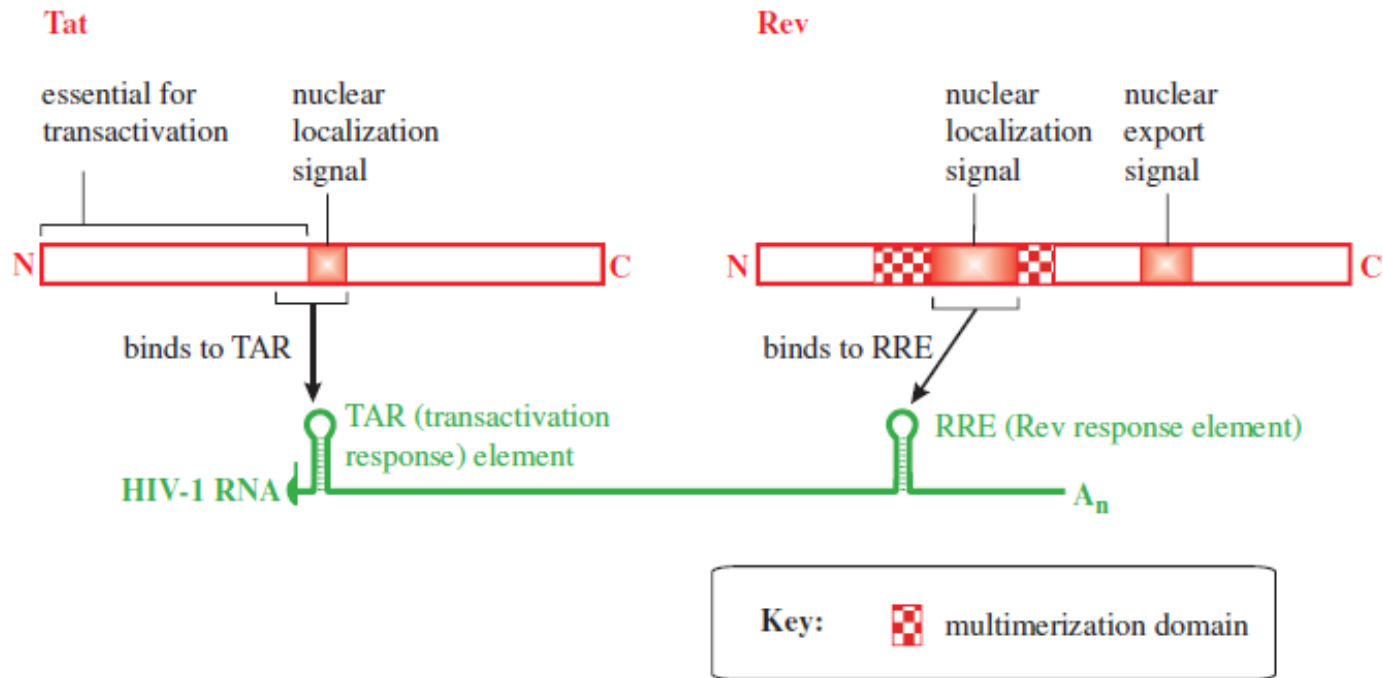


Figure 18.8 HIV-1 Tat and Rev proteins and their binding sites in the virus RNA. The TAR and RRE regions of the RNA have complex secondary structures. The RRE is present in genome-length RNA and the singly spliced RNAs, but it is absent from the multiply spliced RNAs.

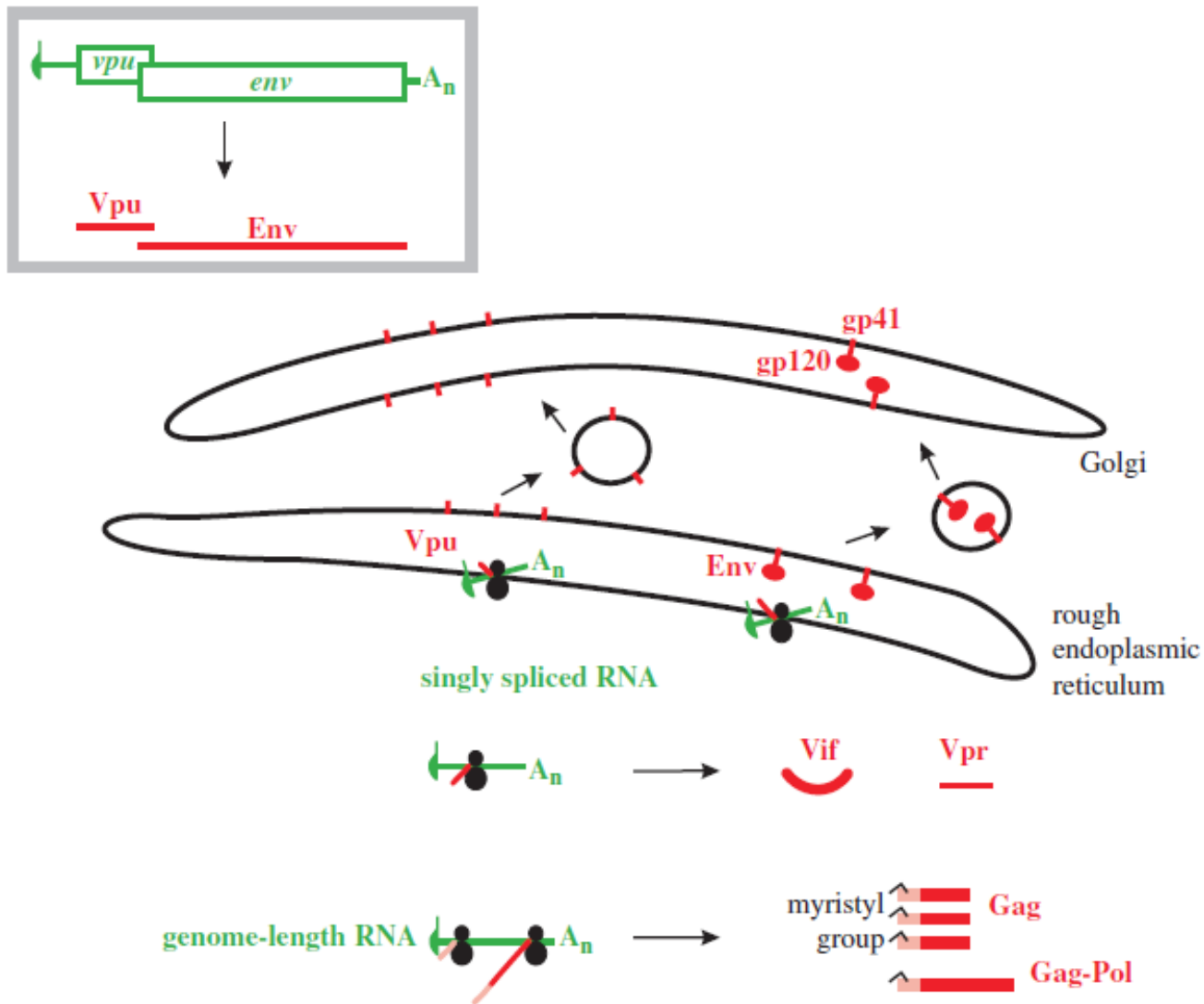


Figure 18.9 HIV-1 late gene expression. Vpu and Env are translated from singly spliced RNAs in the rough endoplasmic reticulum. The inset shows translation of Vpu and Env from a bicistronic mRNA. Env is synthesized when the *vpu* start codon is bypassed during leaky scanning. The remaining proteins are translated on free ribosomes: Vif and Vpr from singly spliced RNAs, and Gag and Gag-Pol from genome-length RNAs.

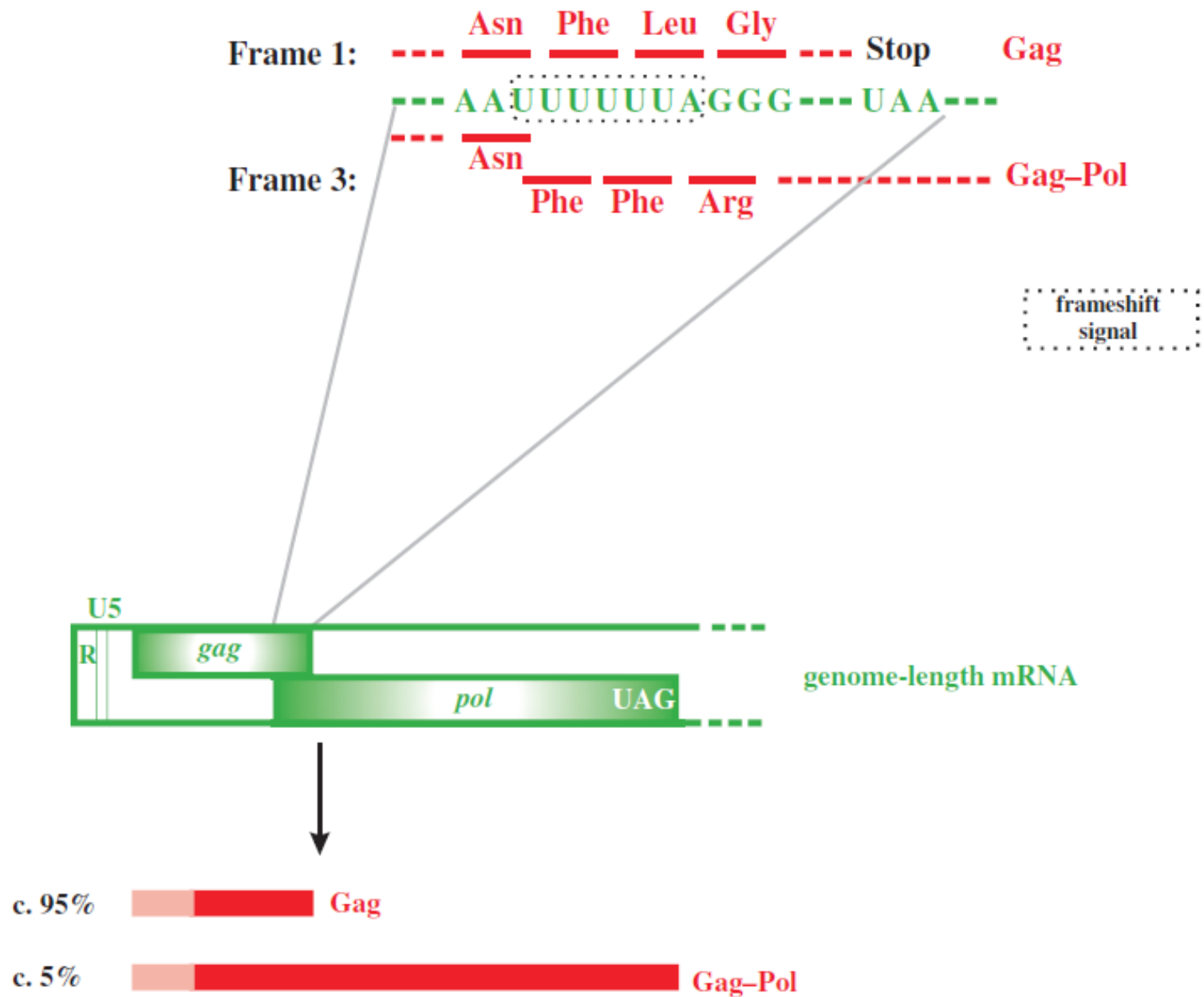
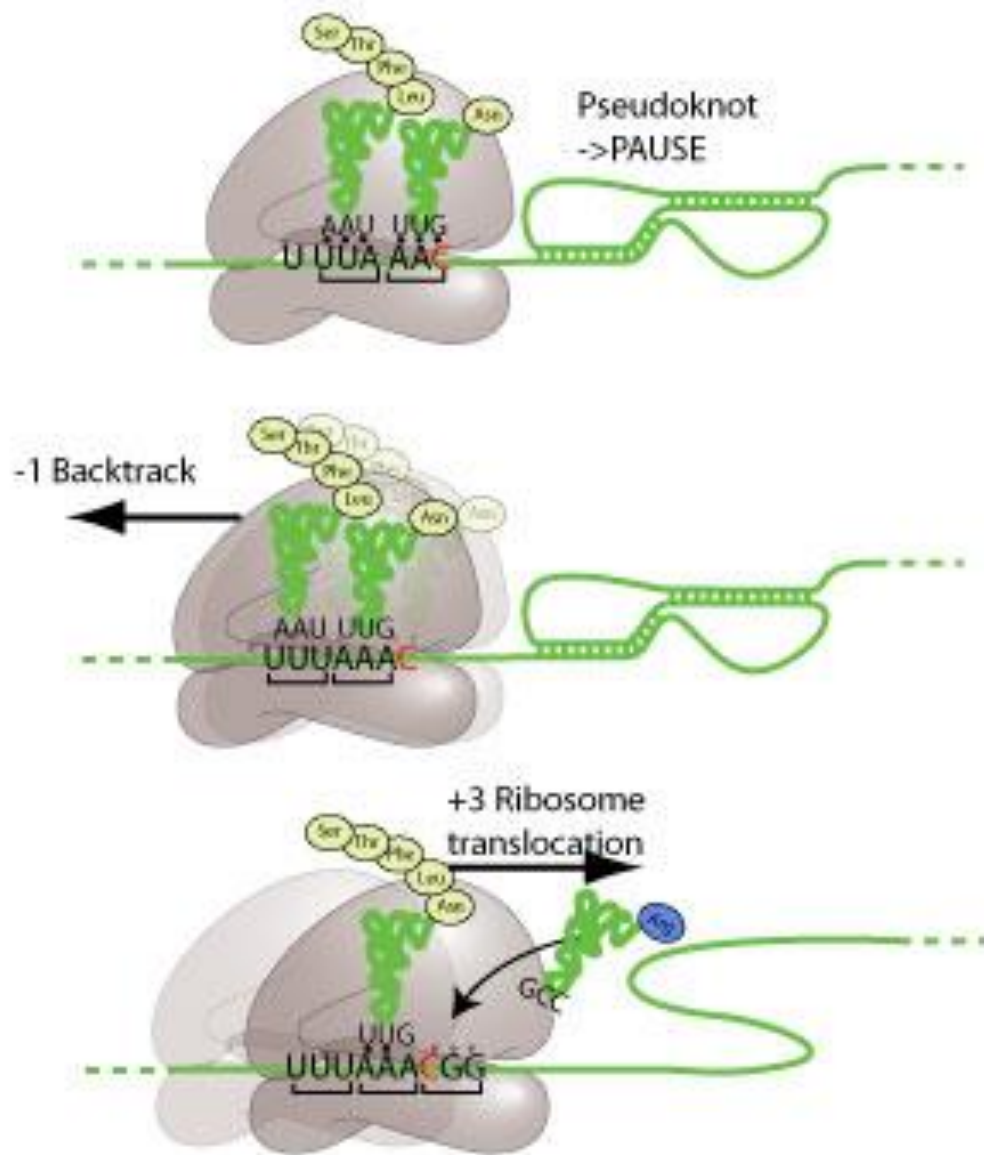
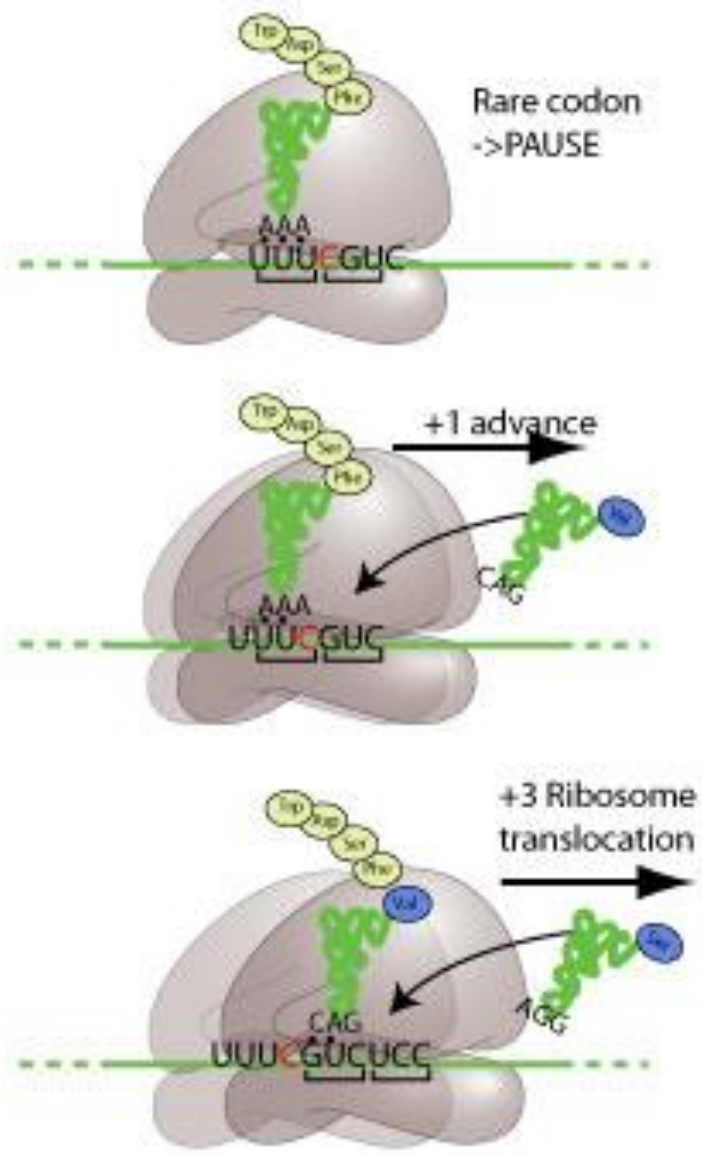


Figure 18.10 Expression of HIV-1 Gag-Pol by ribosomal frameshifting. A ribosome reading in frame 1 shifts at the slippery sequence UUUUUUA to reading in frame 3.

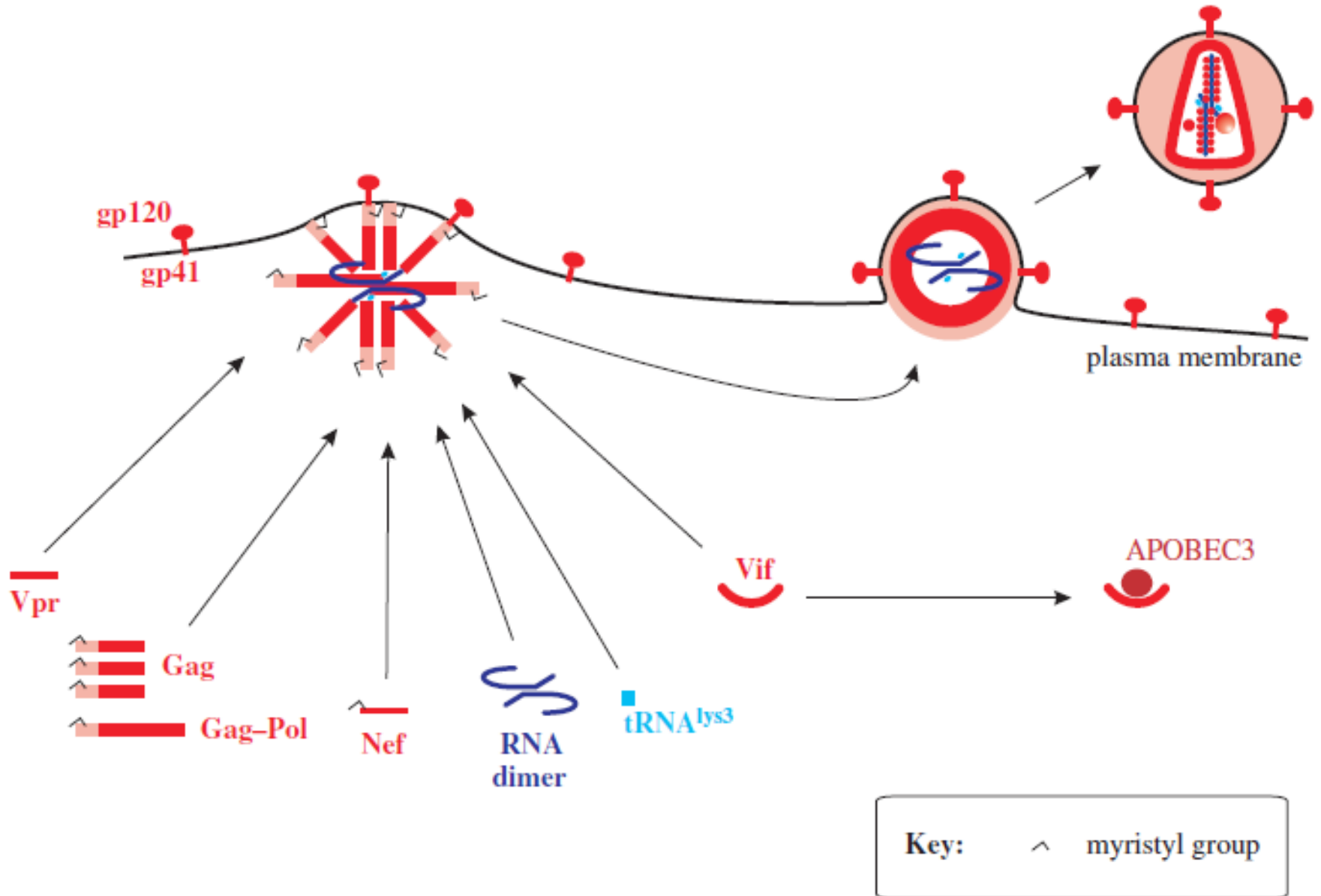
-1 Ribosomal frameshift

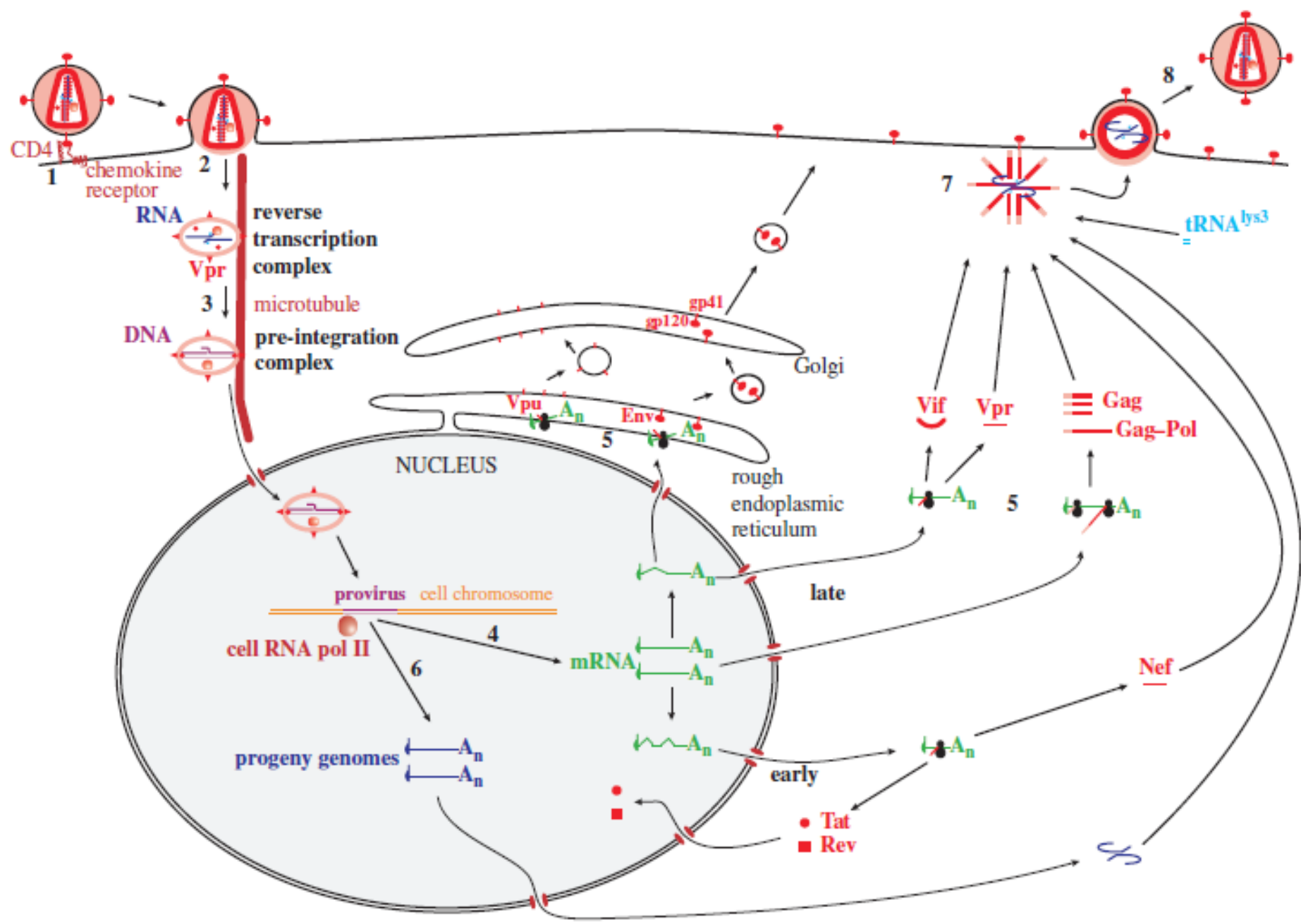


+1 Ribosomal frameshift



Virion assembly





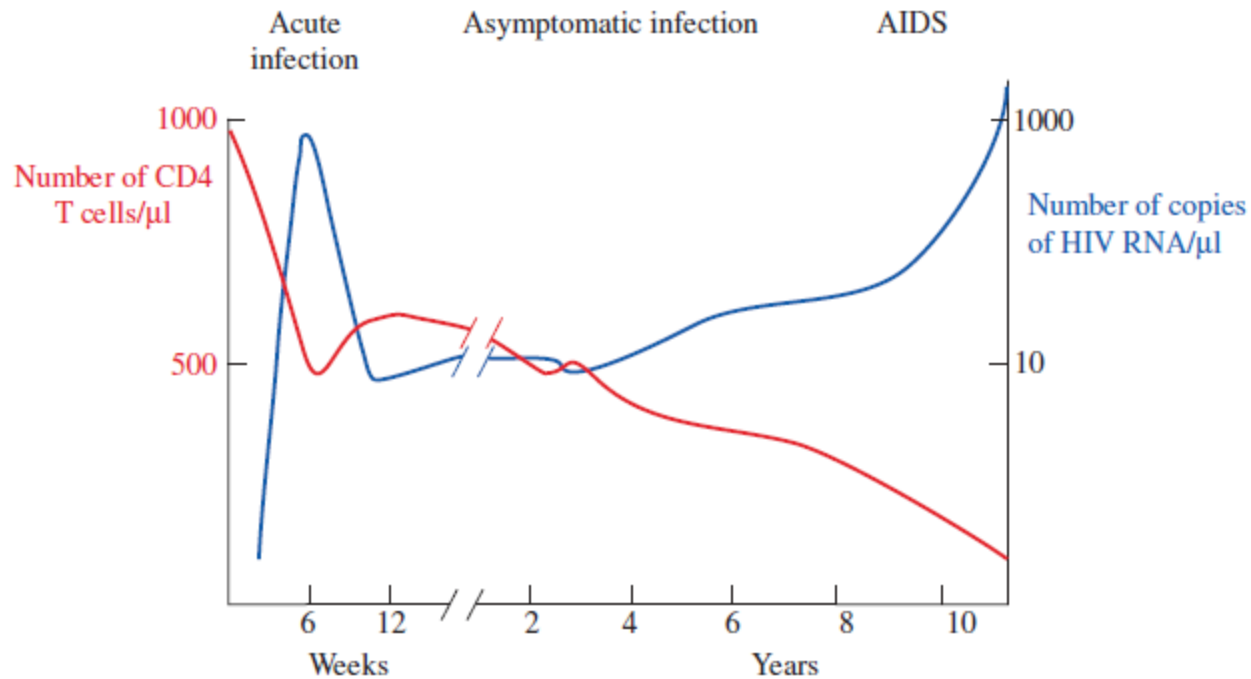


Figure 18.13 Levels of CD4 T cells and HIV RNA in blood during HIV infection. The concentration of HIV RNA is a measure of viremia. Shortly after infection viremia rises, then it falls off and relatively low levels are detectable throughout the asymptomatic period. A rise in viremia heralds the onset of AIDS.

HIV infection - AIDS

1 ACUTE INFECTION:

During this time, large amounts of the virus are being produced in your body.

Many, but not all, people develop flu-like symptoms often described as the "worst flu ever."

2 CLINICAL LATENCY:

During this stage of the disease, HIV reproduces at very low levels, although it is still active.

During this period, you may not have symptoms. With proper HIV treatment, people may live with clinical latency for several decades. Without treatment, this period lasts an average of 10 years, but some people may progress through this stage faster.

3 AIDS:

As your CD4 cells fall below 200 cells/mm³, you are considered to have progressed to AIDS.

Without treatment, people typically survive 3 years.

Simple retroviruses		Complex retroviruses	
Genus	Virus examples	Genus	Virus examples
<i>Alpharetrovirus</i>	Rous sarcoma virus	<i>Deltaretrovirus</i>	Human T-lymphotropic viruses 1 & 2
<i>Betaretrovirus</i>	Mouse mammary tumour virus	<i>Epsilonretrovirus</i>	Walleye dermal sarcoma virus
<i>Gammaretrovirus</i>	Murine leukaemia virus Feline leukaemia virus	<i>Lentivirus</i>	Human immunodeficiency virus 1
		<i>Spumavirus</i>	Chimpanzee foamy virus

Characteristics of retroelements resident in eukaryotic genomes

	Designation	Characteristic	Example	Copy no.
<p>Endogenous retrovirus</p>	Endogenous retroviruses	RT, LTR (internal Pol II promoter), and <i>env</i>	HERVs (human)	$1-10^2$
<p>Retrotransposons</p>	Retrotransposons	RT, LTR (internal Pol II promoter)	Ty3 (yeast)	10^2-10^4
<p>LINEs</p>	Retroposons (LINEs)	RT, internal Pol III promoter, A-rich sequence at end	LINE 1 (human)	10^4-10^5
<p>SINEs</p>	Retrosequences (SINEs)	A-rich sequence at end, internal Pol III promoter, but no RT	<i>Alu</i> (human)	10^5-10^6
<p>Processed pseudogenes</p>	Processed pseudogenes	A-rich sequence at end, no internal promoter, no RT	β -Tubulin (human)	$1-10^2$

Learning outcomes

- describe the retrovirus virion
- describe the main features of the retrovirus genome
- explain the main features of the retrovirus replication cycle
- give examples of retroviruses and explain their importance
- discuss endogenous retroviruses

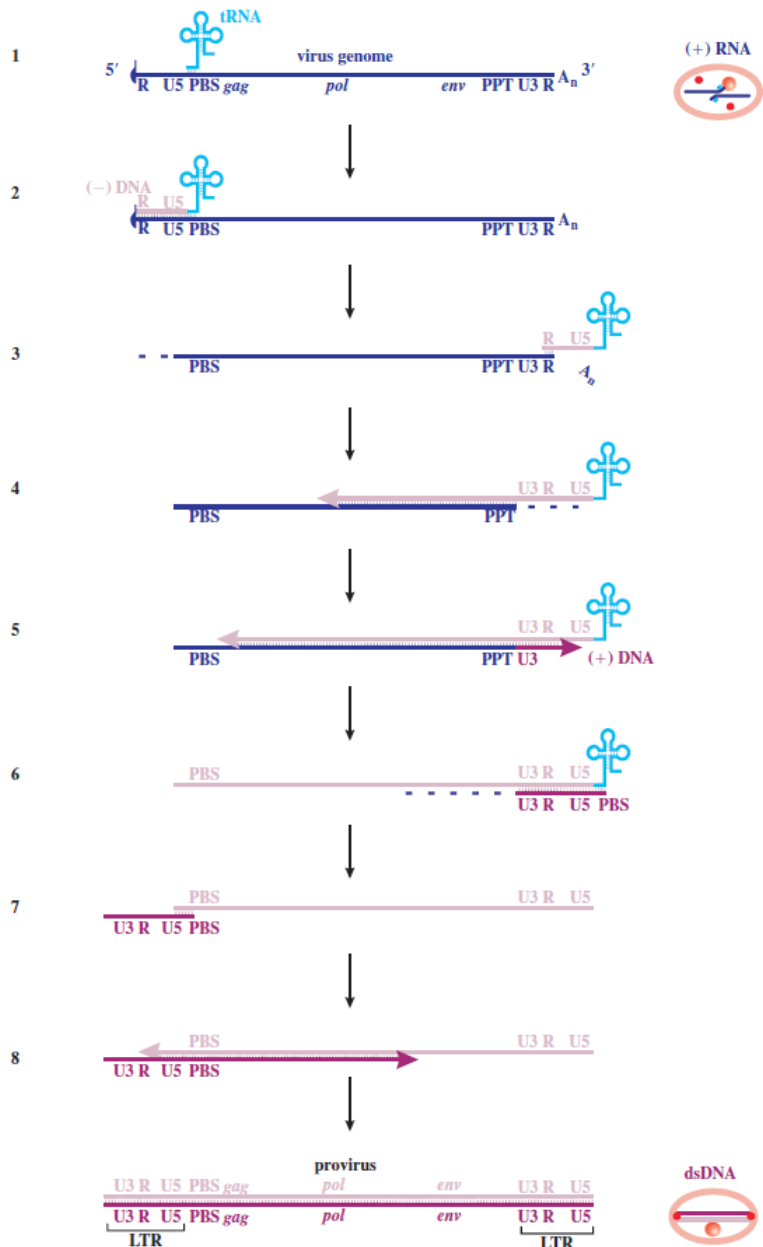


Figure 17.3

Figure 17.3 Retroviral reverse transcription. LTR: long terminal repeat. PBS: primer binding site. PPT: polypurine tract (a sequence made up entirely, or almost entirely, of purine residues). R: repeat sequence. U3: unique sequence at 3' end of genome. U5: unique sequence at 5' end of genome.

1. A copy of the virus genome with a tRNA bound at the PBS.
2. The reverse transcriptase begins (-) DNA synthesis at the 3' end of the tRNA.
3. The RNase H digests the RNA from the RNA-DNA duplex. The (-) DNA attaches at the 3' end of either the same RNA strand or the second copy of the genome.
4. Elongation of the (-) DNA continues, while the RNase H degrades the template RNA from the 3' end as far as the PPT.
5. Synthesis of (+) DNA begins.
6. The remaining RNA is degraded.
7. The (+) DNA detaches from the 5' end of the (-) DNA template and attaches at the 3' end.
8. Synthesis of both DNA strands is completed.

Learning outcomes

- explain the importance of HIV
- describe, with the aid of a labelled diagram, the HIV-1 virion
- describe the HIV-1 genome
- write an illustrated account of the replication cycle of HIV-1
- discuss the variability of HIV-1
- discuss the effects of HIV infection on the host
- evaluate approaches to the prevention of HIV transmission

Hepadnaviruses and other reverse transcribing DNA viruses

Hepatitis-causing DNA viruses

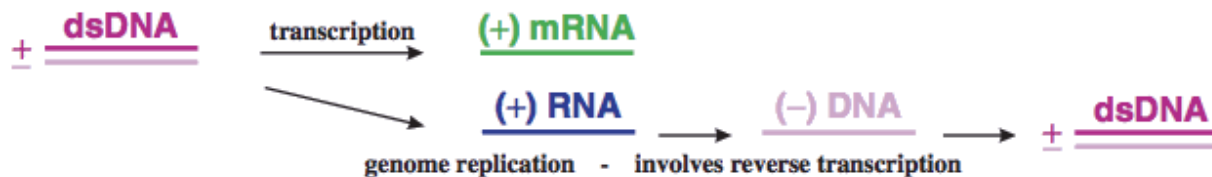
Hosts: humans and other primates
birds

Cause diseases of the liver.

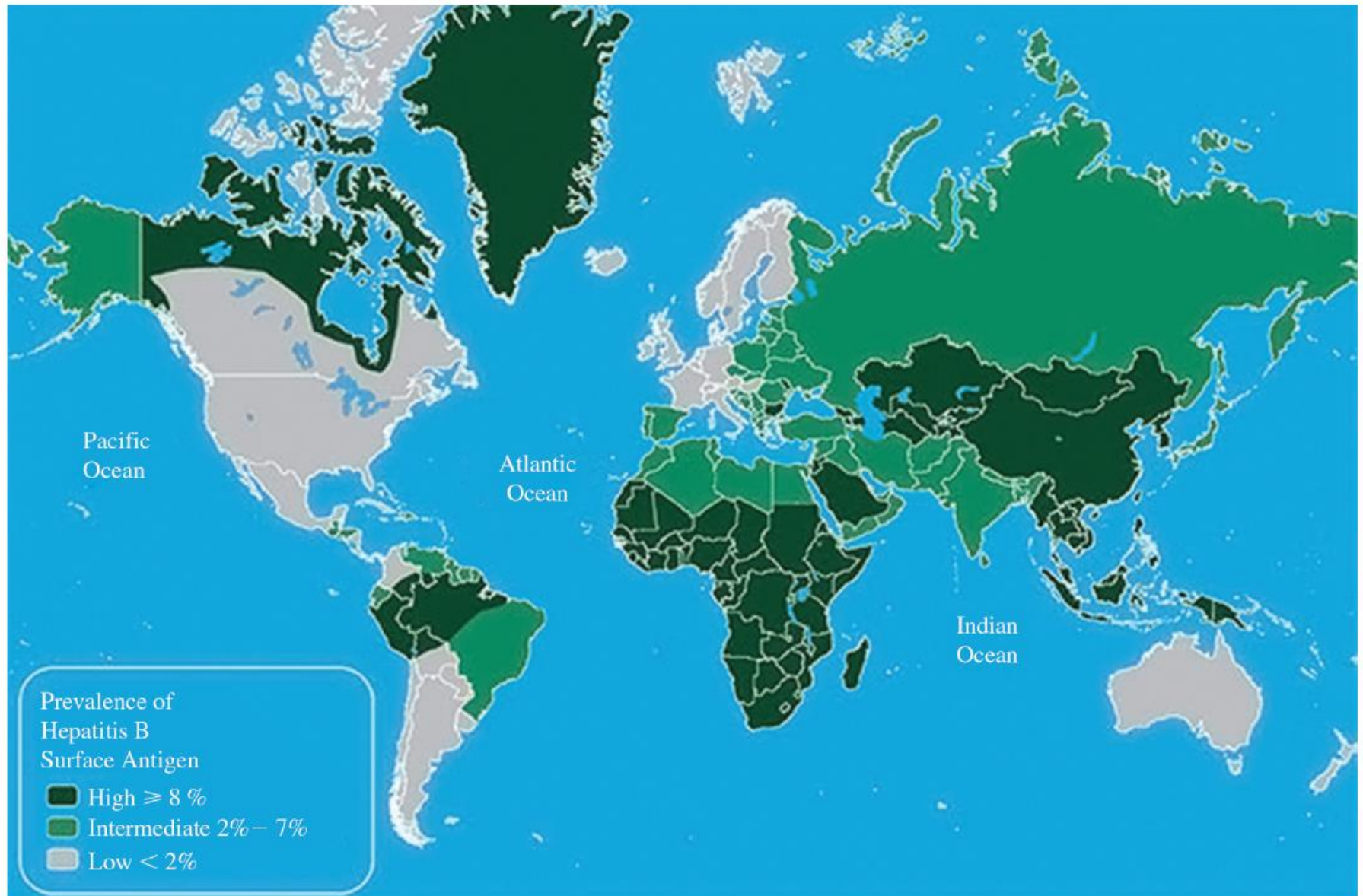


Virion

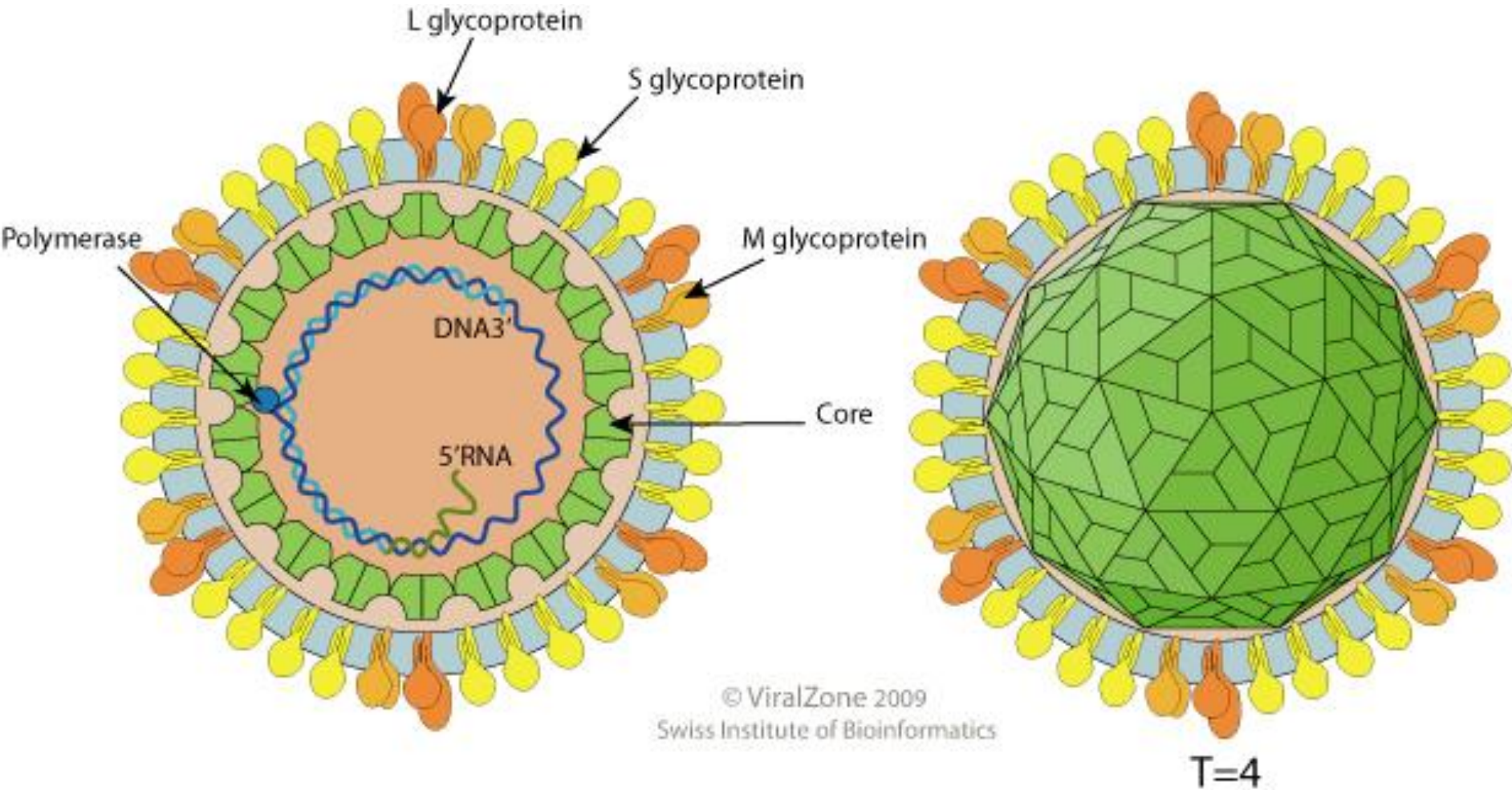
- Enveloped
- 40–48 nm diameter
- Icosahedral capsid
- Genome: DNA (partly single-stranded)
3 kb(p)

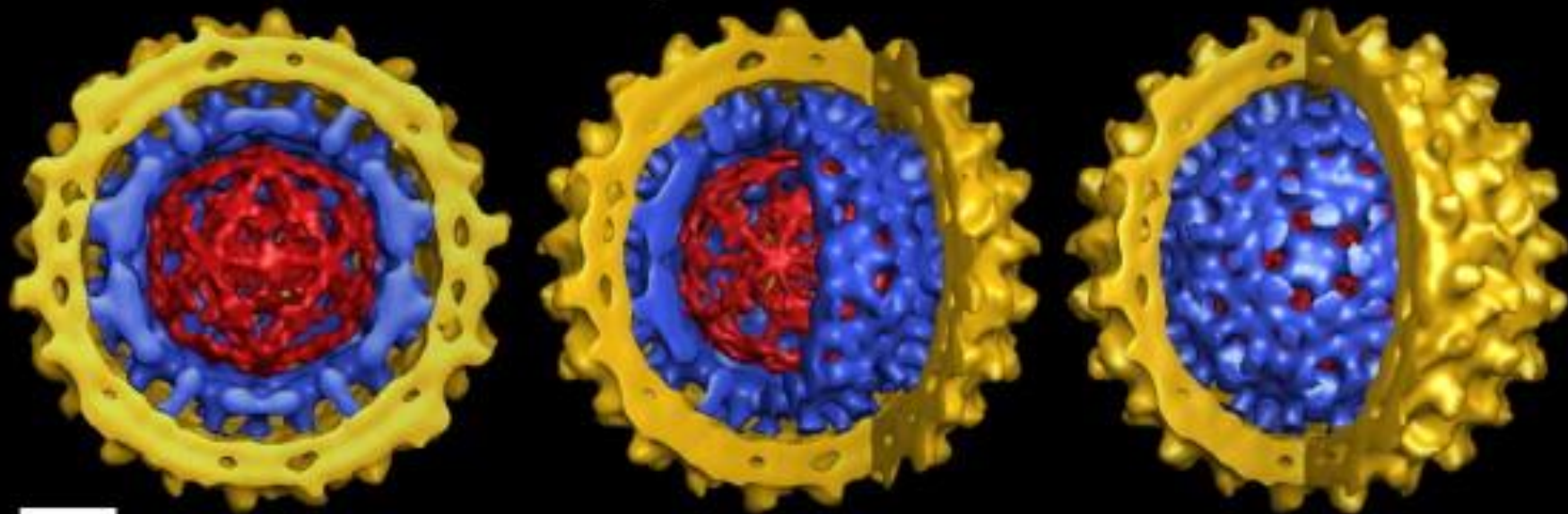


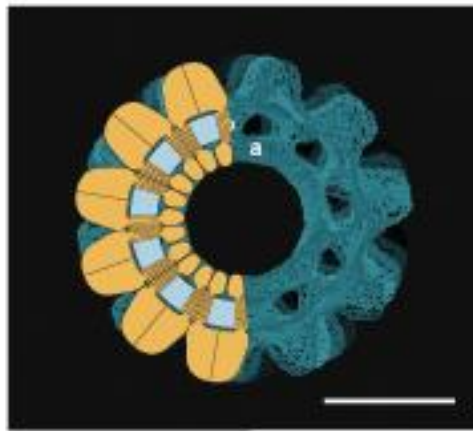
World distribution of Hepatitis B



Hepatitis B virion structure

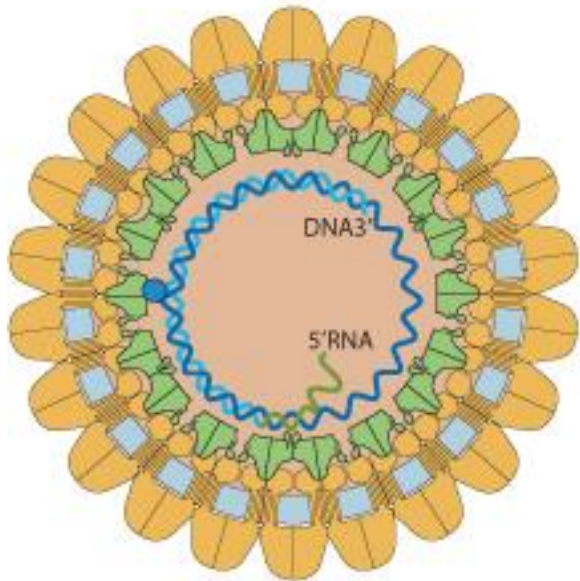


A**composite model****B**



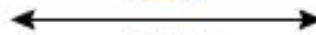
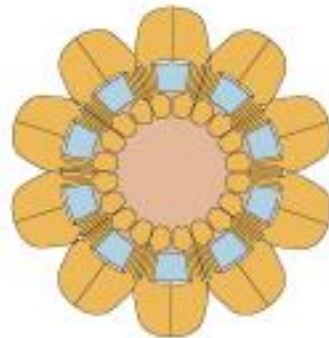
picture from Short et al. 2009

Virion



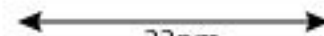
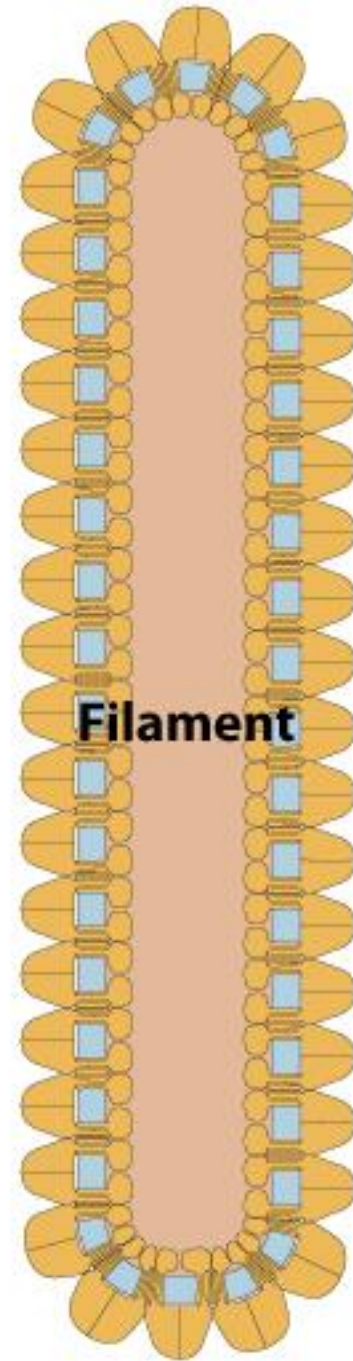
42nm

Sphere



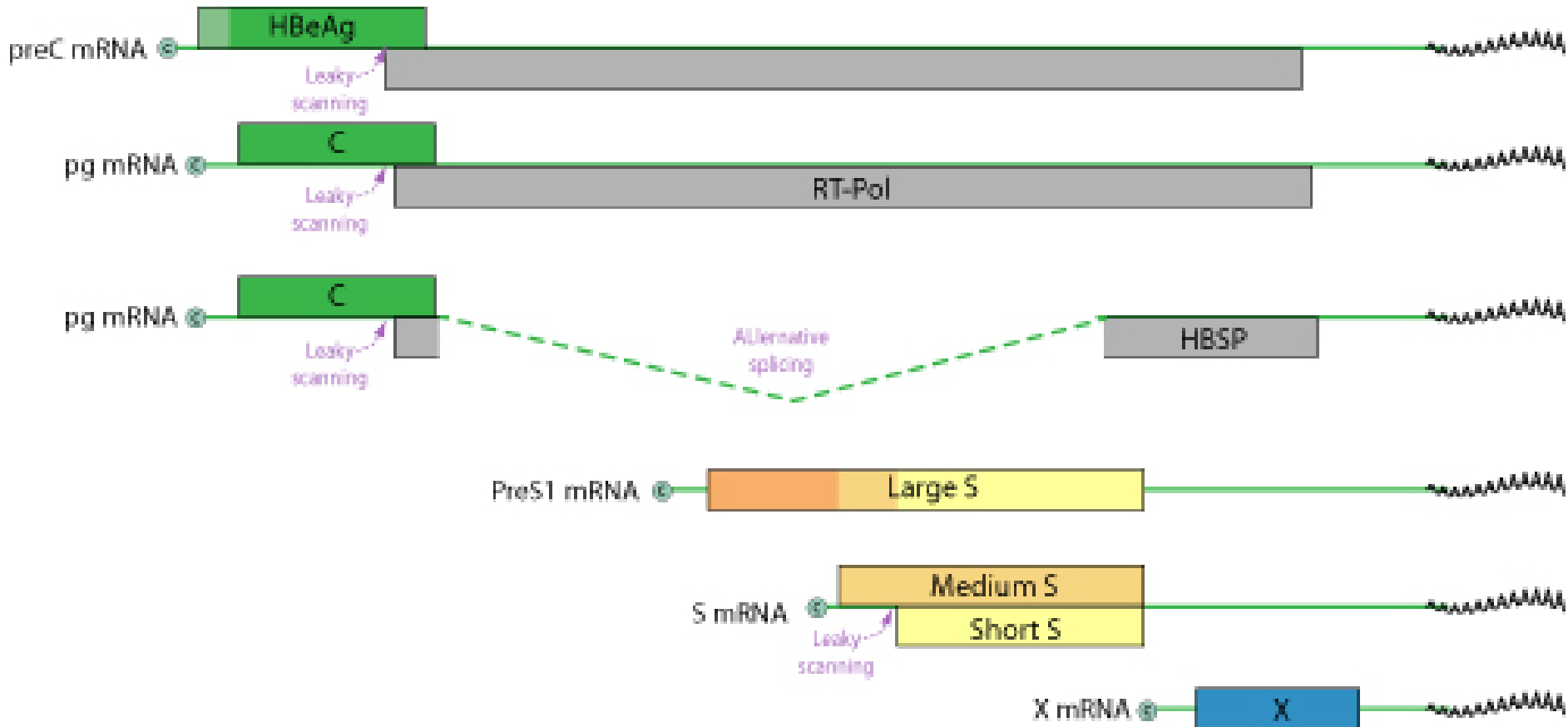
22nm

Filament

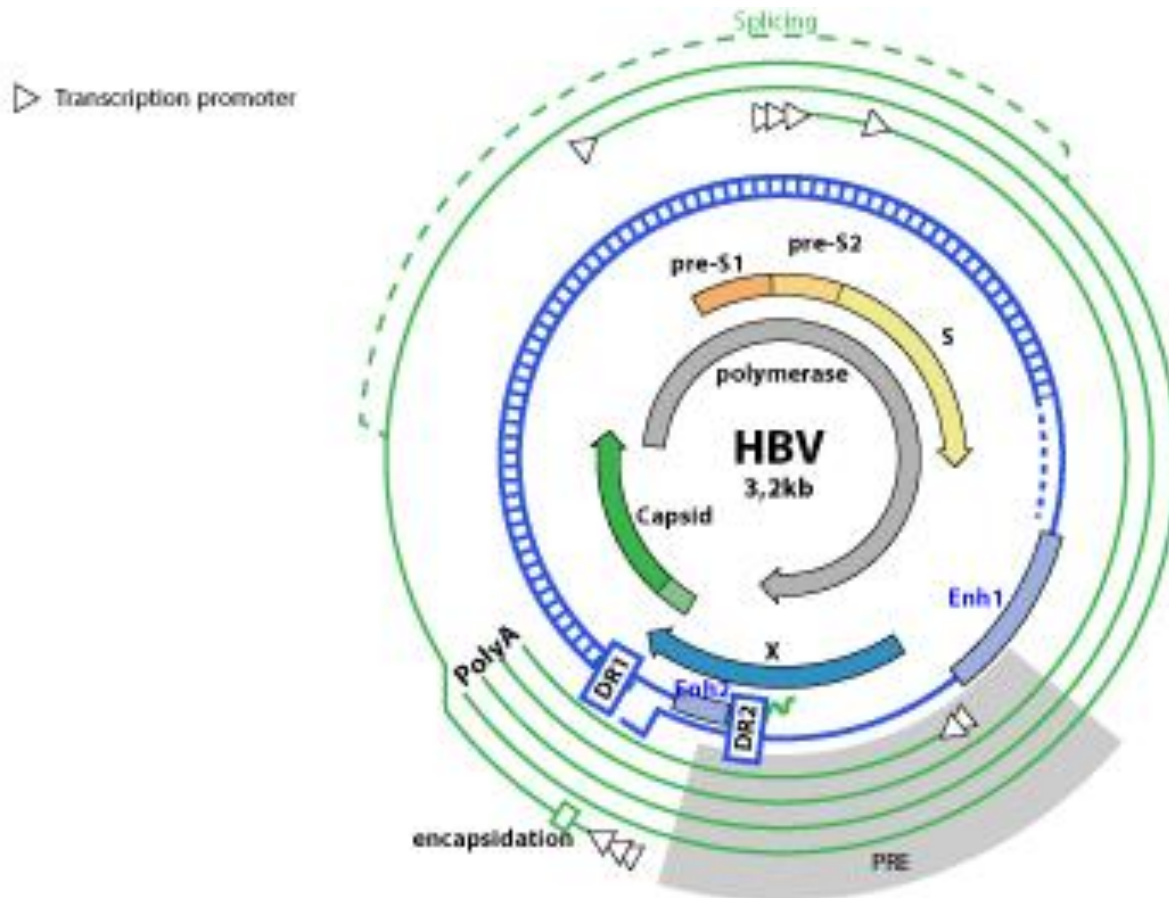


22nm

HBV transcripts

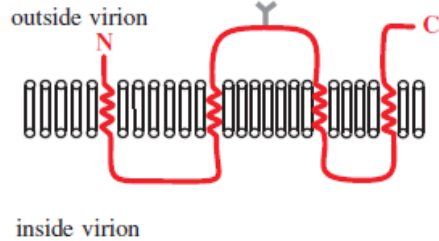


Hepatitis B genome organization

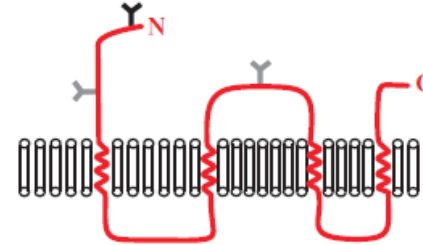


HBV S, M, L proteins

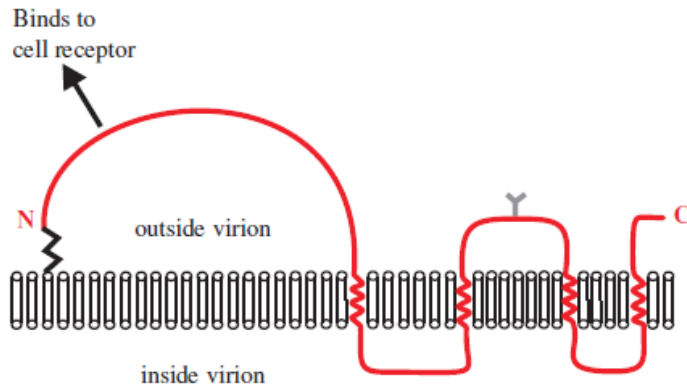
S protein



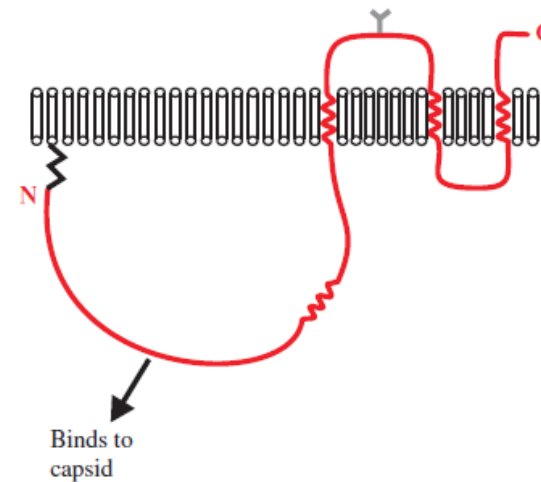
M protein



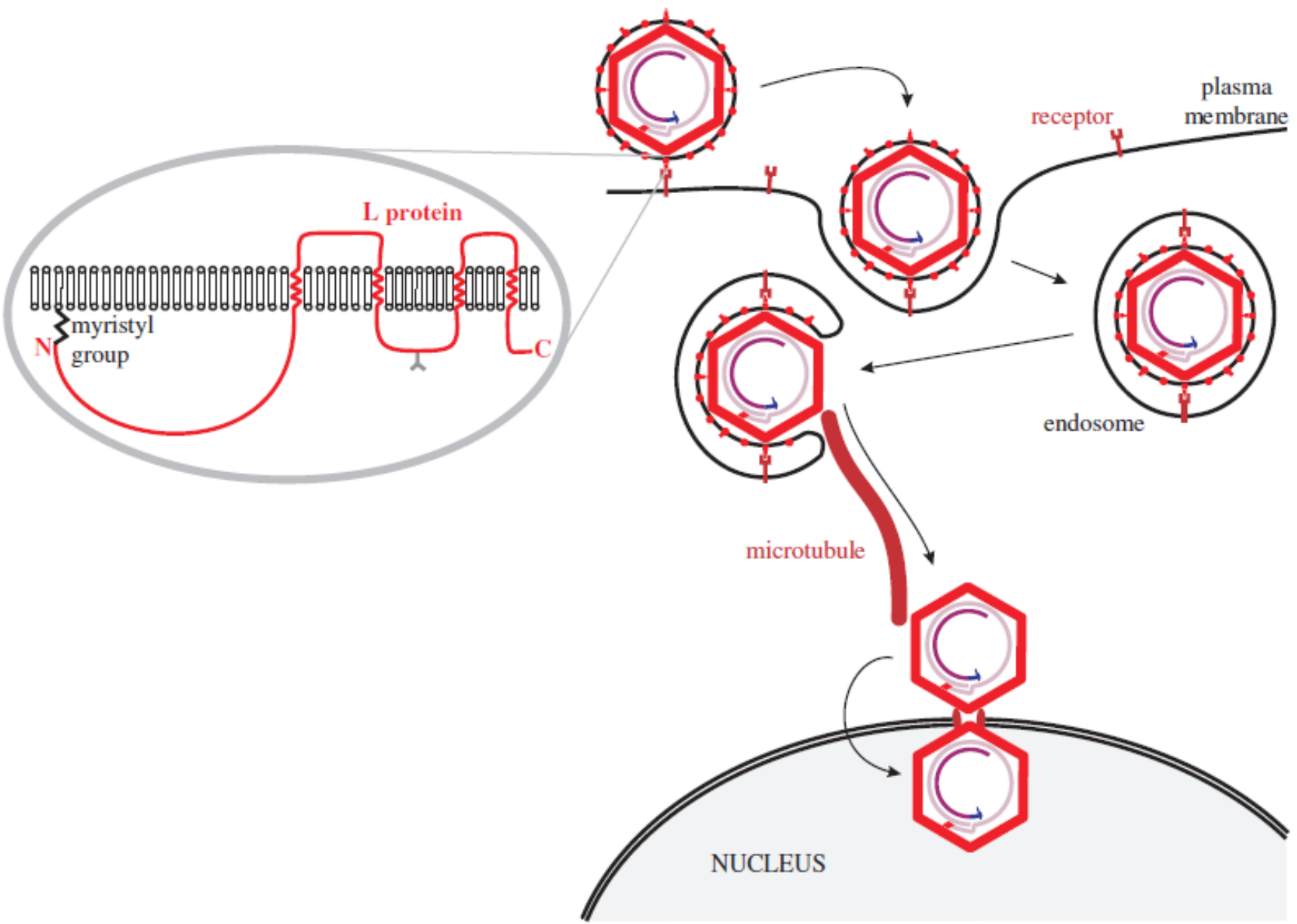
L protein - N terminus outside virion

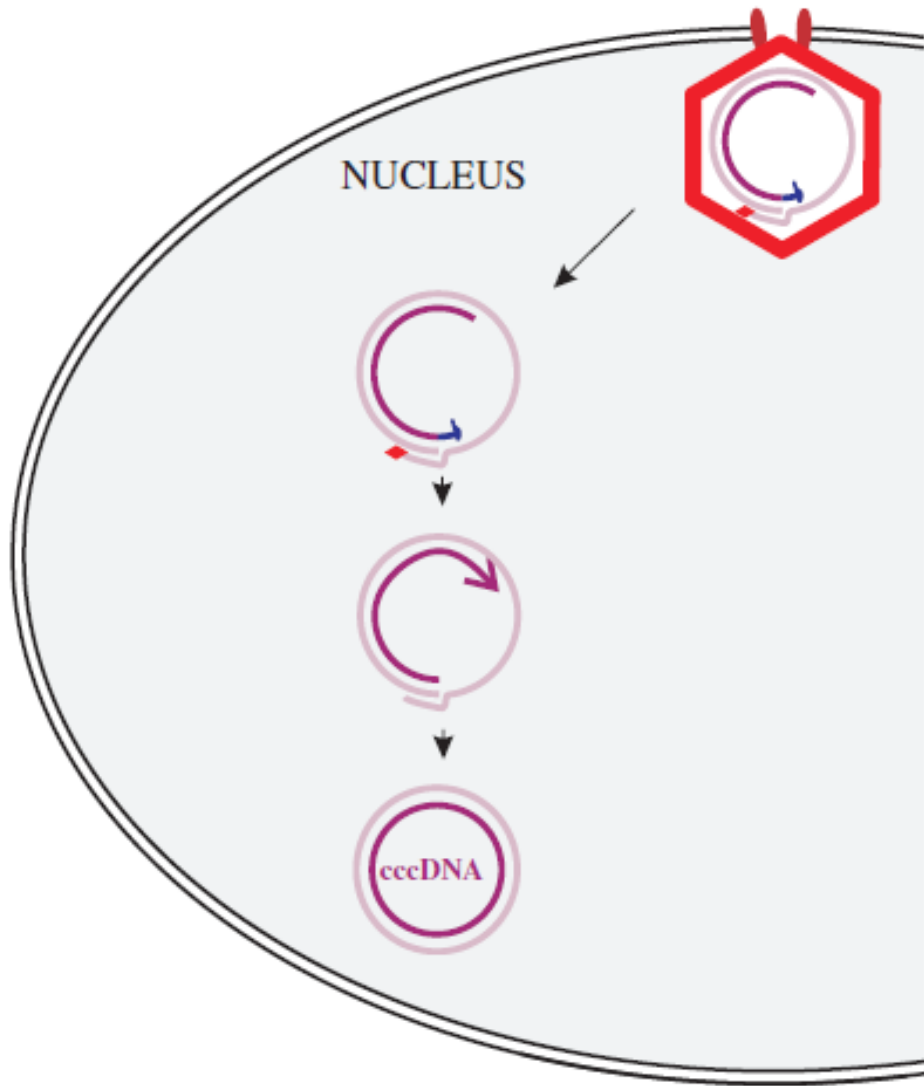


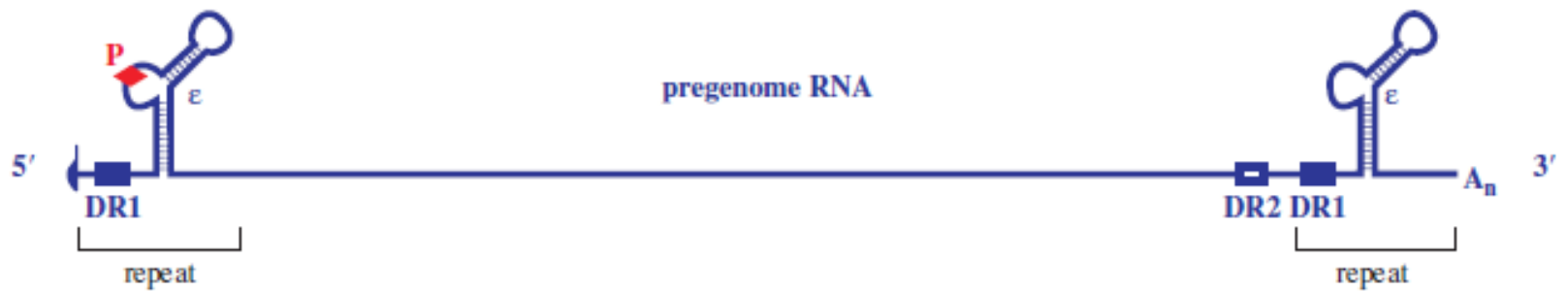
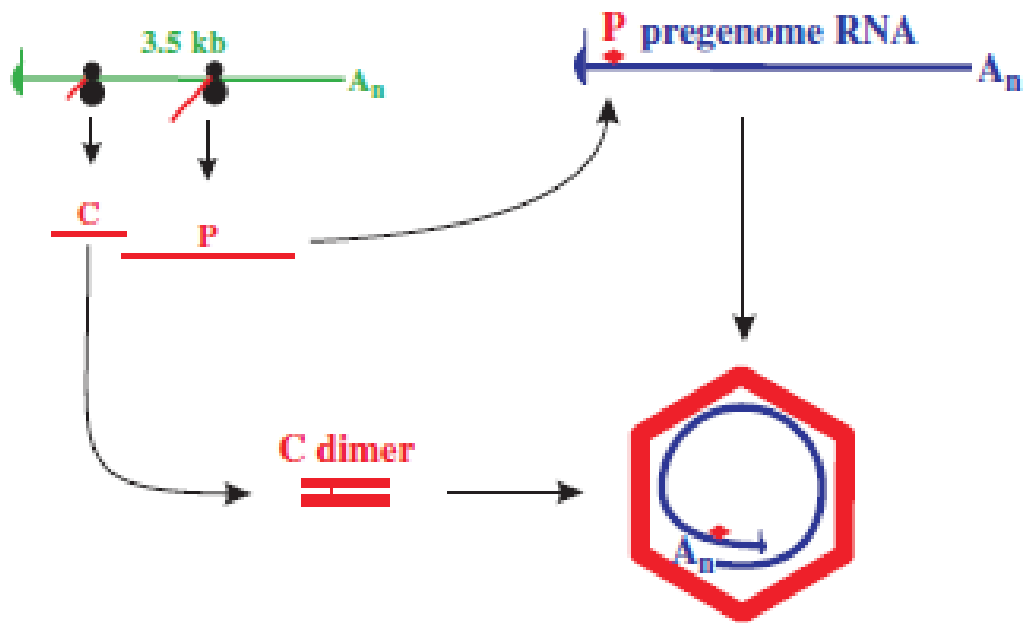
L protein - N terminus inside virion

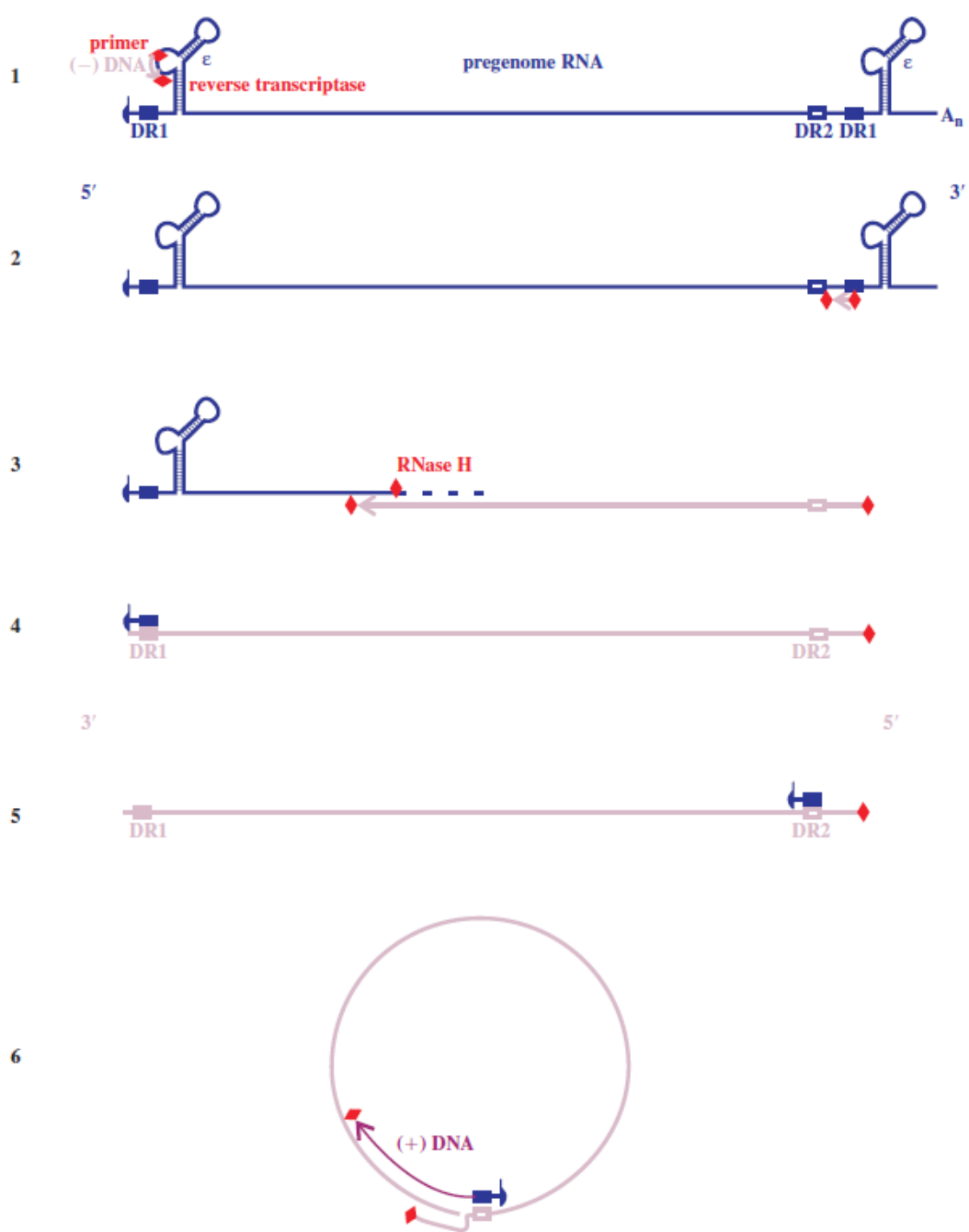


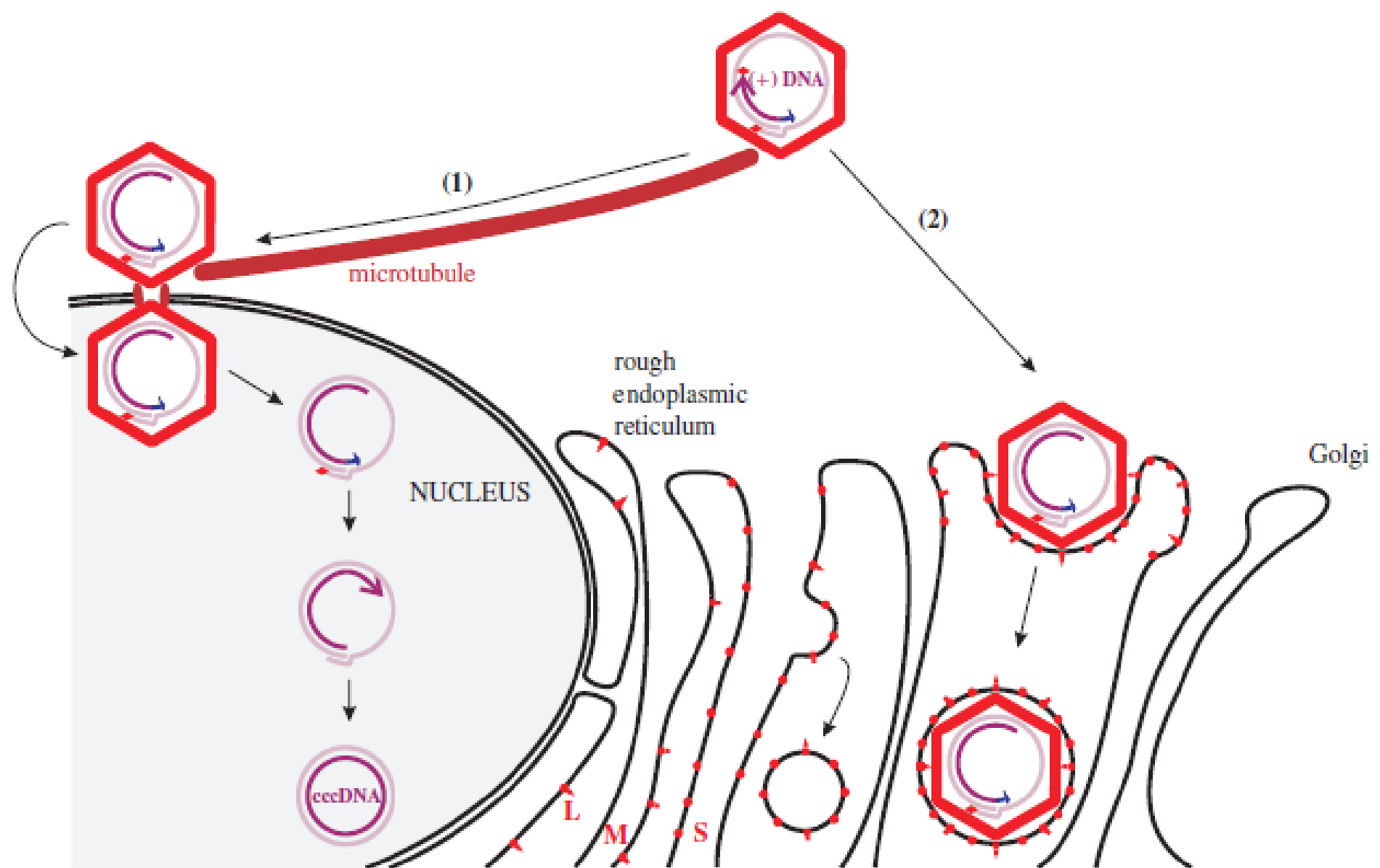
- Key:
- Y carbohydrate
 - Y carbohydrate on about 50% of molecules
 - ⋈ myristyl group

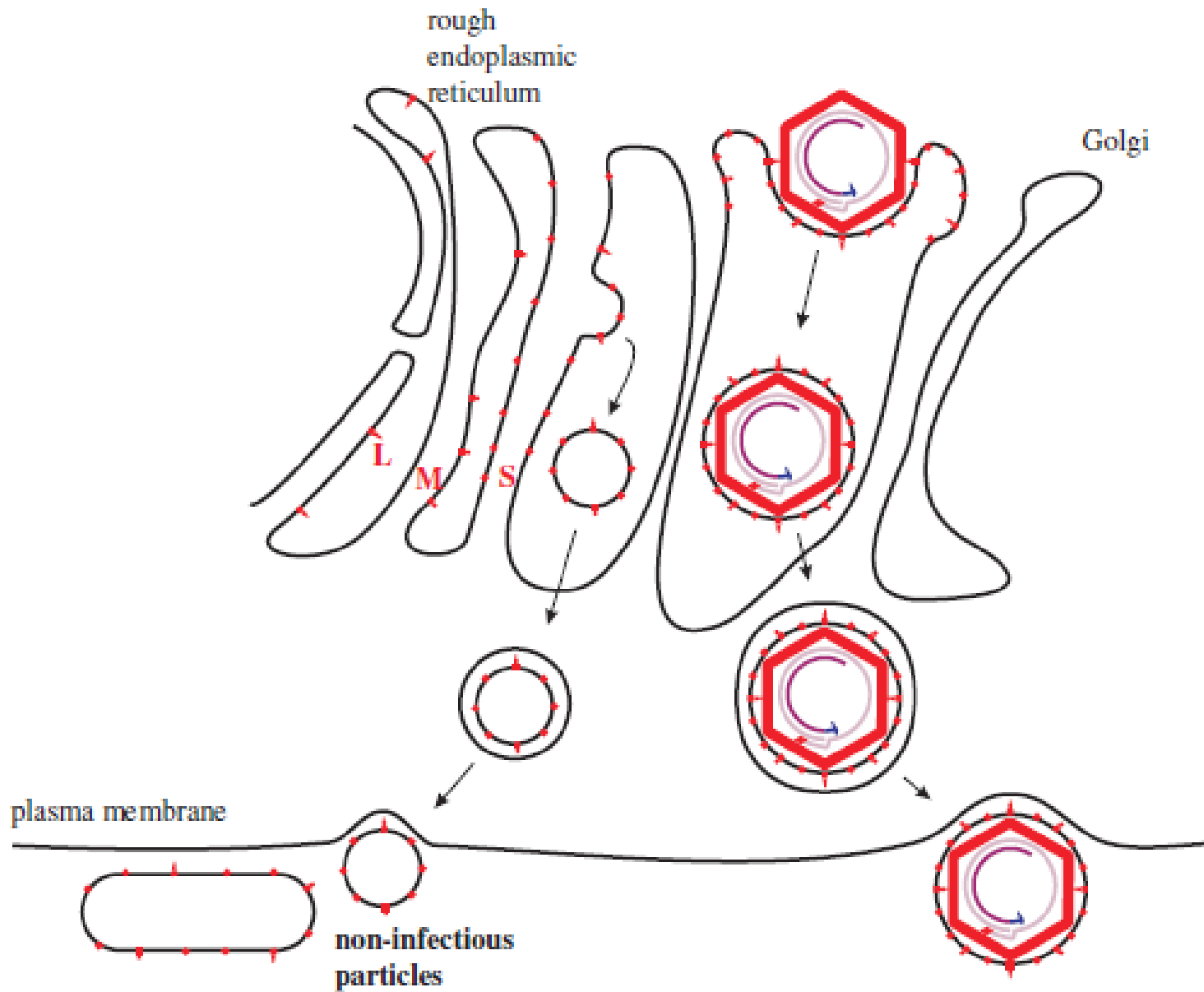


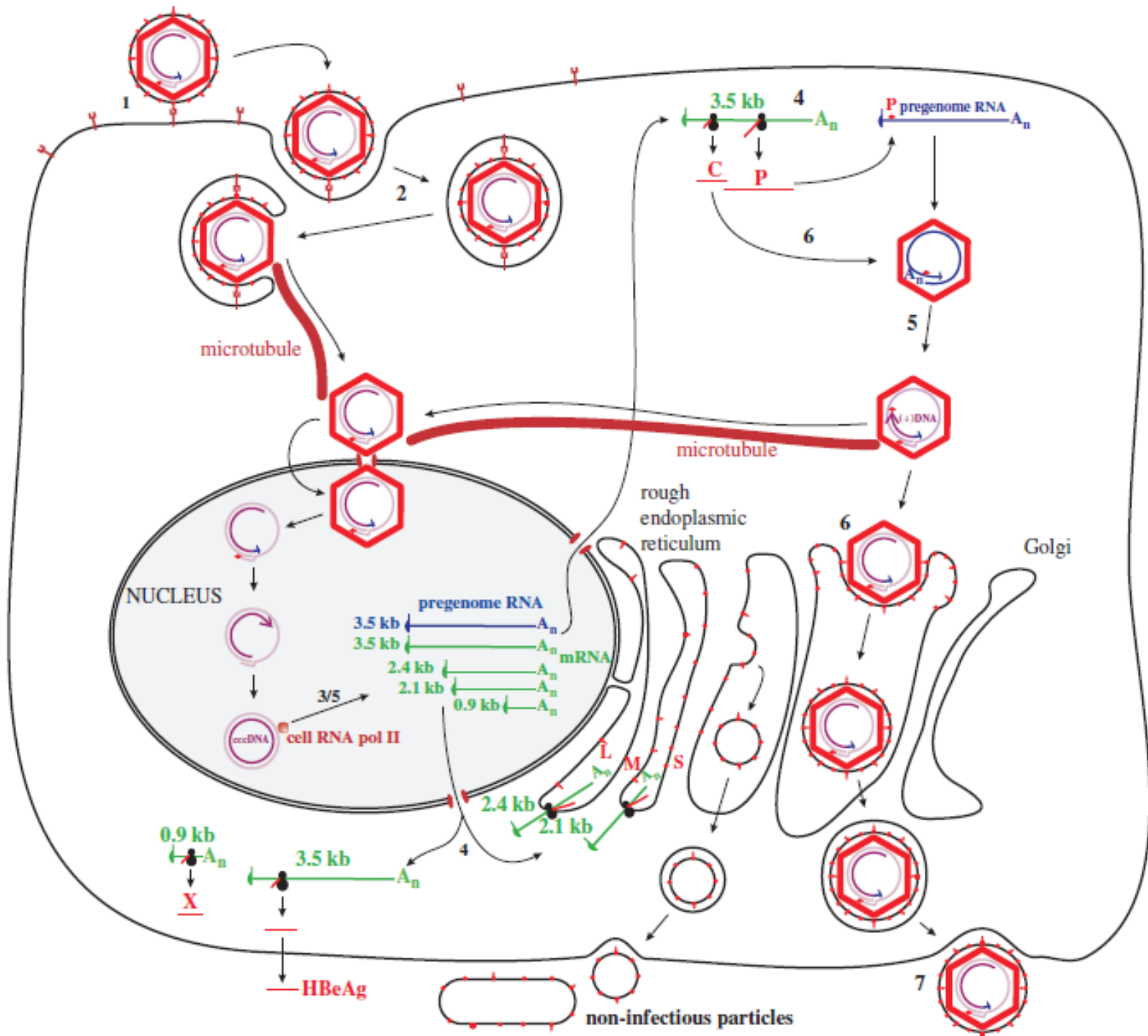












Learning outcomes

- explain the importance of HBV
- describe the HBV virion and non-infectious particles
- outline the main features of the HBV genome
- describe the HBV replication cycle
- evaluate means of preventing and treating HBV infection

HBV cell replication cycle

