The rotavirus VP5*/VP8* conformational transition permeabilizes membranes to Ca^{2+}

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ABSTRACT

Rotaviruses infect cells by delivering into the cytosol a transcriptionally active inner capsid particle (a "double-layer particle": DLP). Delivery is the function of a third, outer layer, which drives uptake from the cell surface into small vesicles from which the DLPs escape. In published work, we followed stages of rhesus rotavirus (RRV) entry by live-cell imaging and correlated them with structures from cryogenic electron microscopy and tomography (cryo-EM and cryo-ET). The virus appears to wrap itself in membrane, leading to complete engulfment and loss of Ca^{2+} from the vesicle produced by the wrapping. One of the outer-layer proteins, VP7, is a Ca^{2+}-stabilized trimer; loss of Ca^{2+} releases both outer-layer proteins from the particle. The other outer-layer protein, VP4, activated by cleavage into VP8* and VP5*, is a trimer that undergoes a large-scale conformational rearrangement, reminiscent of the transition that viral fusion proteins undergo to penetrate a membrane. The rearrangement of VP5* thrusts a 250-residue, C-terminal segment of each of the three subunits outward, while allowing the protein to remain attached to the virus particle and to the cell being infected. We proposed that this segment inserts into the membrane of the target cell, enabling Ca^{2+} to cross. In the work reported here, we show the validity of key aspects of this proposed sequence. By cryo-EM studies of liposome-attached virions ("triple-layer particles": TLPs) and single-particle fluorescence imaging of liposome-attached TLPs, we confirm insertion of the VP4 C-terminal segment into the membrane and ensuing generation of a Ca^{2+} "leak". The results allow us to formulate a molecular description of early events in entry. We also discuss our observations in the context of other work on double-strand RNA virus entry.

INTRODUCTION

Rotaviruses, like most other double-strand RNA (dsRNA) viruses, initiate infection of a cell by delivering an intact, inner capsid particle into the cytosol (Crawford et al., 2023). The two protein shells of this "double-layer particle" (DLP) enclose the 11 distinct segments of the dsRNA genome (Trask et al., 2012), each associated with an RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) (Ding et al., 2019; Jenni et al., 2019) and an RNA cap-generating activity (Kumar et al., 2020; Ogden et al., 2014). On an infectious virion, a "triple-layer particle" (TLP), an outer protein shell surrounds the DLP (Figure 1A). Its role is to effect delivery of the DLP, which once liberated into the cytosol begins promptly to transcribe the dsRNA genome segments and to extrude them as capped mRNAs (Figure 1B).

Current evidence suggests that the two protein components of the outer layer, VP4 and VP7, have distinct functions in DLP delivery (Aoki et al., 2009; Herrmann et al., 2021; Kim et al., 2010; Settembre et al., 2011; Tihova et al., 2001). VP4, activated by proteolytic cleavage into VP8* and VP5*, is the principal membrane-interacting partner; VP7, held together by Ca^{2+} ions at its trimer interfaces, is a Ca^{2+}-sensitive “clamp” that anchors VP4 onto the underlying DLP. For mammalian rotaviruses, cell attachment generally requires interaction of the VP8* moiety of VP4 with a glycolipid headgroup (Delorme et al., 2001; Dormitzer et al., 2002; Hu et al., 2012; Martinez et al., 2013; Ramani et al., 2013). For rhesus rotavirus (RRV) entering BSC-1 or SVG-A cells, uptake of the virus particle into a small vesicle does not require clathrin, dynamin, or related activities; the virus particle appears to wrap the plasma membrane around itself (Abdelhakim et al., 2014). Accompanying this step is a large-scale conformational rearrangement of the projecting VP4 trimer (cleaved to VP8* and VP5*) from an asymmetric, “upright” conformation (Figure 1C) to a threefold symmetric, “reversed” conformation (Figure 1D) (Herrmann et al., 2021). The transition takes place while the protein remains anchored on the virion surface by VP7. A major consequence of the reversal is projection outward of the ~250 amino-acid residue “foot” segment of the VP5* polypeptide chain (Figure 1D). From our published structures and low-resolution cryogenic electron tomography (cryo-ET) (Herrmann et al., 2021), we concluded that the three copies of this foot segment probably insert into the plasma membrane of the target cell, permeabilizing the membrane to Ca^{2+} ions. Subsequent steps are loss of the Ca^{2+} ions that stabilize VP7 trimers and hence hold together the outer layer of the particle, dissociation of the outer layer, and escape of the DLP into the cytosol (Salgado et al., 2018) (Figure 1B).

We report here that we can recapitulate with liposomes early steps in the entry process – attachment to glycolipid headgroups and insertion of the projected foot domain into the lipid bilayer, as visualized by cryogenic electron microscopy (cryo-EM). We show by single-particle fluorescence imaging that this same interaction leads to passage of Ca^{2+} across the liposome membrane, but not to further disruption of the liposome. We relate these observations to the entry steps observed by live-cell imaging.

RESULTS

TLP permeabilization of liposomes to Ca^{2+} ions

Loss of Ca^{2+} from TLPs is an early step following engulfment at the cell surface (Salgado et al., 2018). We tested whether an interaction of virions with a membrane could lead to Ca^{2+} permeability, without contribution of potential cellular factors, using liposomes containing, in their lumen, a soluble, Ca^{2+}-sensitive fluorophore (Fluo-4) and, in their bilayer, a fluorescently labelled lipid (Cy5-DOPE) for visualization, as well as biotinylated lipids for attachment to an avidin-coated coverslip. We prepared the liposomes in the absence of Ca^{2+} and used a lipid composition similar to that of mammalian-cell plasma membranes supplemented with 2.5% GD1a, a validated rotavirus attachment factor (Delorme et al., 2001; Dormitzer et al., 2002; Hu et al., 2012; Martinez et al., 2013; Ramani et al., 2013). In the absence of Ca^{2+}, we established the background fluorescence of the incorporated Fluo-4 dye. We incubated the liposomes with fluorescently labeled TLPs (Atto 565) in Ca^{2+}-containing buffer, then deposited the sample onto a coated coverslip and recorded signal at appropriate wavelengths by total internal reflection fluorescence (TIRF) microscopy (Figure 2A and B, Figures S1 and S2). Thus, the intensities of the diffraction-limited spots in each of the three recorded channels reported, respectively, the presence of liposomes, the presence of Ca^{2+}-liganded Fluo-4 (and hence permeabilization of the liposome to Ca^{2+}), and the attachment of TLPs. In a parallel control experiment, we used ionomycin, a Ca^{2+} ionophore, to permeabilize similarly prepared liposomes.

The distribution of intensities for the lipid marker (Cy5-DOPE) showed that the liposomes varied in size over an extended range but that this range was very similar for all samples and experiments (Figure S1B). The larger liposomes were more likely to have a colocalized TLP, suggesting that the particles had associated preferentially with the larger liposomes, as might be expected from their greater cross section (Figure 2C). Some control liposomes, incubated with

102 neither ionomycin nor TLP, showed Ca^{2+} positive signal, corresponding to random lesions, which
103 varied somewhat from sample to sample (Figure 2B and 2D and Figure S2). Addition of TLPs
104 yielded a markedly enhanced frequency of Ca^{2+} penetration (Figure 2D), at levels comparable to
105 the enhancement by ionomycin (compare Figures 2D and 2E; Figure S2). For the overall effect
106 shown in Figure 2E, we calculated the mean number of Ca^{2+}-positive liposomes from three
107 independent experiments (Figure S1 and S2) by counting the number of particles that showed a
108 Ca^{2+} signal with an intensity above 1.5 standard deviations from the mean. Despite
109 permeabilization to Ca^{2+}, the liposomes remained impermeable to Fluo-4. That is, the interaction
110 with TLPs did not, under these conditions, disrupt the integrity of the liposome. We conclude that
111 binding of an RRV TLP to a membrane containing an appropriate sialic-acid receptor
112 permeabilizes of the liposome membrane to Ca^{2+} ions, without otherwise rupturing the lipid bilayer.
113
114 **Cryo-EM analysis of TLPs with liposomes**
115 Is the Ca^{2+} permeabilization detected by our fluorescence measurements a result of the
116 VP5*/VP8* upright-to-reversed transition characterized previously? We visualized by cryo-EM the
117 interaction of TLPs with lipid-bilayer membranes (Figure 3A), using liposomes prepared as in the
118 experiments above, but without Fluo-4 and without the membrane label. We used recoated
119 particles (rcTLPs), because of previous observations that our recoated TLPs were more infectious
120 than virions isolated from infected cells, which can lose VP4 during purification, and also because
121 we had found that VP4 on rcTLPs appeared to undergo the transition from upright to reversed
122 more readily (Herrmann et al., 2021). We recorded four cryo-EM data sets on a Thermo Fisher
123 Titan Krios operated at 300 kV and equipped with a Gatan Bioquantum energy filter and K3
124 detector (Table S1).
125
126 We found the position of viral particles on our micrographs by template matching from cisTEM
127 (Grant et al., 2018; Lucas et al., 2021). By refining the local defocus for each particle, we obtained
128 its relative *z* position within the vitreous ice (Figure 3B). Figure 3C shows a histogram of the
129 largest *z* difference plus 100 nm (approximately two times the radius of a virion), for micrographs
130 from which we picked at least two virus particles. From this distribution, we estimated that the ice
131 thickness of our samples varied between 100 and 250 nm.
132
133 Images in Figure 3D show that many particles appeared to have extended contacts with
134 liposomes, but many of these were with liposomes of radius ≥300 nm and hence substantially
135 flattened in the ice. As a consequence of flattening, the bilayer would have been forced to curve

136 away from the particle, not just in the plane of the ice but in the directions normal to it, probably
137 peeling the membrane away from the particle during blotting (Figure S3). Moreover, as the
138 suspension thinned, attached particles would have migrated to the periphery of the flattening
139 liposome in order to remain in solution, distorting the liposome in the process. Thus, the
140 invaginations seen at the more extended contacts appear to be largely within the plane of the
141 image and of limited extent above and below it, and our images probably do not represent the full
142 extent of contact achieved in the preparation. We can detect no evidence of liposome disruption
143 when TLPs bind or when the interacting VP5* has transitioned from upright to reversed
144 conformation.
145
146 An icosahedral reconstruction carried out after merging virus images from all four datasets
147 resulted in a density map with an overall resolution of the viral shell of 2.43 Å (Figure S4 and
148 Table S1). As described in Methods and in Figures S5 and S6, we then used subparticle
149 classification (Figures 3D and E), starting with a total of 4,550,760 masked VP4 subparticles, to
150 separate upright, intermediate, reversed, and empty VP5*/VP8* spikes positions (classifications
151 #1 and #2, Figure S7 and Table S2) and to distinguish membrane-engaged from non-engaged
152 spikes (classifications #3 and #4, Figure S8 and Table S3). Two relatively heterogenous classes
153 showed membrane-engaged reversed spikes, with apparently variable angles of spike contact
154 (Figure S8A, classification #3). A further classification step then yielded two maps from 56,593
155 and 70,018 subparticles (classes 5 and 6), respectively, with relatively well-defined lipid-bilayer
156 density (Figure S8B, classification #4). Even within these classes, variability of curvature at
157 positions at which the bilayer bent away from the particle blurred the membrane profile around
158 the circumference of the contact. Local resolution estimates for classes 5 and 6 showed a well-
159 resolved, virion-bound VP5* β-barrel trimer with its central coiled-coil domain and a poorly
160 resolved lipid bilayer (Figure S9).
161
162 The class 6 reconstruction has pronounced lipid bilayer density on one side of the reversed VP5*
163 and somewhat fuzzier density on the side opposite (Figure 4). The angle between the curving
164 bilayer and the VP5* axis shows that this class represents a reversed spike near the edge of the
165 contact. The side with a well-defined profile faces the nearest fivefold axis (Figure 4A and B). A
166 fivefold axis may be close to the center of many of these membrane contacts, because the five
167 surrounding spikes can offer a compromise between a minimally distorted membrane region and
168 a set of membrane contacts stable enough to resist the forces during thinning of the aqueous film,
169 as described above (see diagram in Figure S3). We verified that many of the subparticles

170 contributing to this class indeed came from reversed VP5* spikes related by a five-fold axes, by
171 mapping the class assignment onto the original micrographs (Figure 3D and E). The coiled-coil
172 at the C-terminal end of the VP5* β-barrel domains extends just to the inner lipid headgroup layer,
173 and diffuse density extends beyond it into the bilayer profile, but peeling away of the bilayer leaves
174 nearly all the engaged spikes at the periphery of the contact, and the resolution leaves uncertain
175 the molecular features of the likely membrane-penetrating elements (Figure 4C and D).
176
177 The reversed-spike structure (PDB-ID 6WXG) (Herrmann et al., 2021) can be docked with
178 confidence into the observed subparticle density (Figure 5). The tips of the VP5* β barrel are
179 hydrophobic loops (Kim et al., 2010). Two of the three tips contact the liposome bilayer, while its
180 curvature from flattening has probably eliminated a contact from the third. Mutations that reduce
181 the hydrophobicity of these loops inhibit viral entry (Kim et al., 2010), and interpretation of
182 tomographic reconstructions of TLPs entering at the thin edges of BSC-1 cells has suggested that
183 these loops interact with membrane directly (Herrmann et al., 2021). Our current reconstruction
184 is consistent with this interpretation and suggests that the interaction might already be present in
185 a proposed intermediate state in which the β-barrel domains have shifted into the threefold
186 arrangement found in the reversed structure, but the foot domains have not yet begun to project
187 outward from their positions in the pre-attachment TLP (Herrmann et al., 2021).
188
189 **DISCUSSION**
190
191 We have shown in published work (Herrmann et al., 2021), which combined cryo-EM single-
192 particle analysis with cryo-ET of engulfed virions entering cells, that VP5* on the surface of an
193 attached TLP can undergo a transition from an upright to a reversed conformation without
194 dissociating from the particle, causing its C-terminal foot domain to project into the apposed
195 membrane (Figure 1B and C). DLPs recoated with VP7 and a foot-locked VP4 mutant that cannot
196 undergo the full reversal have substantially lower infectivity than do those recoated with VP7 and
197 wild-type VP4 (Herrmann et al., 2021). Projection of the foot into the surrounding vesicle is
198 therefore essential for infection.
199
200 We have now shown, by analysis of individual spike positions on cryo-EM images of virions
201 attached to liposomes, that VP5* trimers, in reversed conformation, interact with the lipid bilayer,
202 recapitulating the interaction inferred from icosahedral averaging of much lower resolution cryo-
203 ET images (Figures 4 and 5). The reconstruction shows that the central coiled-coil domain

204 protrudes into the lipid bilayer, although flattening and distortion of the liposomes have prevented
205 us from resolving protein structure within the bilayer. Under essentially identical conditions, TLPs
206 that attach to similar liposomes allow Ca^{2+} ions to pass into the liposomes without destroying their
207 integrity -- that is, the permeabilization step detected by live-cell imaging (Abdelhakim et al., 2014).
208 In the experiments here, Ca^{2+} enters a liposome; during viral entry, it leaves the vesicle
209 surrounding the TLP, driven by the concentration gradient from vesicle to cytosol.
210
211 Combining these results with those from earlier work, we can summarize as follows our current
212 understanding of the molecular events accompanying RRV entry.
213 (1) Initial attachment to sialoglycolipids on the surface of a cell is through VP8* at the apex of
214 the VP8*/VP5* spike in its upright conformation (Abdelhakim et al., 2014).
215 (2) Engulfment (disappearance from the cell surface into the cytoplasm) is complete within a
216 few minutes for most of the attached particles. DLPs recoated with VP4 mutated in the
217 hydrophobic loops of VP5* move from the cell surface into the cell interior, but fail to release into
218 the cytosol (Abdelhakim et al., 2014) and fail to infect (Kim et al., 2010). That is, engagement of
219 the hydrophobic loops with the membrane bilayer appears not to be necessary for particle uptake
220 but essential for later steps. Complete enclosure from an essentially flat lipid bilayer would require
221 that interaction of the virion with the membrane liberate a total free energy of about 200 kcal/mol
222 of vesicle (but substantially more for 30-40 nm liposomes) (Helfrich, 1973). The K_d of RRV VP8*
223 for sialic acid is 1.2 mM; a rough calculation of the free energy derived from binding, taking as a
224 local concentration of sialic acid headgroups as the number of gangliosides within 50 Å of a VP8*
225 site and the ganglioside concentration in the membrane as 1% of the phospholipids, suggests
226 that the free energy of binding could indeed generate enough work (≥200 kcal/mol of particle) to
227 drive complete wrapping of the membrane, assuming high VP4 occupancy. In practice,
228 gangliosides and other sphingolipids tend to cluster transiently into so-called "lipid rafts", so that
229 the local concentration might be considerably higher than the cell-surface average.
230 (3) VP4 on the surface of a virus particle can transition spontaneously into its reversed
231 conformation. Why do the engulfed hydrophobic-loop mutants fail to release and infect? A
232 possible explanation is that when the hydrophobic loops cannot engage the membrane, the
233 projected foot fails to insert, and the reversal is futile. Formation of the central coiled-coil
234 presumably drives foot extrusion, but loop engagement (or some attachment stronger than VP8*
235 binding to ganglioside headgroups) may be necessary to resist the kinetic barrier to membrane
236 insertion. The explanation is consistent with the published *in vitro* observation that release of

237 cleaved VP4 (i.e., VP8*/VP5*) from TLPs (by chelating Ca^{2+}) in the presence of liposomes leads
238 to liposome association of VP5* trimers, but not if liposomes are added later (Trask et al., 2010).
239 (4) What initiates the reversal? The interface between the VP8* lectin domain and VP5* is
240 modest, and that domain alone would probably dissociate readily from its VP5* partner. The VP8*
241 N-terminal, coiled-coil anchor in the foot will prevent full dissociation from the virion. However,
242 even if the lectin domain fluctuates on and off that fluctuation will expose the VP5* hydrophobic
243 loops, which can engage a membrane when VP8* has attached to the lipid headgroups. This
244 picture is consistent with our suggestion, above, that hydrophobic loop engagement is essential
245 for foot insertion. It is also consistent with our finding for a human rotavirus vaccine-strain
246 candidate, that mutations during passage, including one at the VP8*/VP5* interface, apparently
247 stabilize the upright conformer (Jenni et al., 2022).
248 (5) Foot insertion allows Ca^{2+} to cross the vesicle membrane. If reversal and membrane
249 insertion occur before complete engulfment, Ca^{2+} will pass into the cytosol from the extracellular
250 medium. It is indeed possible that Ca^{2+} signaling by this mechanism ordinarily accompanies
251 rotavirus entry. Foot insertion within a closed vesicle will quickly deplete the contents of Ca^{2+},
252 entraining outer-layer dissociation and subsequent events, which must include further disruption
253 or perforation of the vesicle membrane.
254
255 Orbiviruses, as represented by bluetongue virus, appear to have a similar mechanism for
256 membrane insertion and endosome penetration (Xia et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2016). Bluetongue
257 virus enters through low-pH compartments, and the signal for conformational change is proton
258 binding, probably by a cluster of histidines, rather than Ca^{2+} loss. The bluetongue virus subunit
259 VP5 (the functional analog of rotavirus VP5*, but with a quite different, trimeric structure)
260 undergoes, when the pH drops to 6 or below, a stepwise "unfurling" of an antiparallel coiled-coil,
261 thereby forming a ~190 Å long stalk, at least part of which is a six-helix bundle (Xia et al., 2021).
262 Residues in the three loops at the distal tip of this bundle appear to insert into liposomes when
263 the latter are mixed with virus particles *in vitro*. The mechanism for release of the core particle
264 (the DLP equivalent) from an endosome may involve a wrapping of endosomal membrane around
265 the low-pH altered virion.
266
267 Orthoreoviruses initiate penetration by releasing a pore-forming, myristoylated peptide (μ1N),
268 generated by autolytic cleavage of the outer-shell protein, μ1 (Agosto et al., 2006; Zhang et al.,
269 2009). The pores formed *in vitro* in red blood cells or liposomes are about 50 Å in diameter, but

270 they could in principle be larger when μ1N release occurs within an endocytic vesicle. A molecular
271 mechanism for the ultimate release of a core particle into the cytosol is still uncertain.
272
273 The rotavirus infectious cycle includes another membrane-crossing step, when a newly
274 assembled DLP, together with VP4, acquires its VP7 complement in the endoplasmic reticulum
275 (ER). VP7, a glycoprotein, folds in the ER; inhibition of its synthesis or of its proper folding leads
276 to accumulation in the ER of enveloped DLPs (Altenburg et al., 1980; Poruchynsky and Atkinson,
277 1991; Soler et al., 1982). Recent cryo-ET studies under conditions of VP7 inhibition have captured
278 VP4-decorated DLPs budding into the ER (Shah et al., 2023), presumably mediated by the virally
279 encoded ER receptor, NSP4 (formerly NS28) (Bergmann et al., 1989). Whether the resulting
280 enveloped particles are an on-pathway intermediate or a dead-end consequence of VP7 inhibition
281 remains to be established. It is possible that VP7 trimers participate in productive budding, rather
282 than displacing an already complete bilayer from around a budded particle. It likewise remains
283 possible that VP7 participates directly in the membrane disruption required for complete release
284 of the DLP during viral entry -- the step for which we now seek a molecular picture.
285
286 **METHODS**
287
288 **Cells, plasmids and constructs**
289 MA104 cells (ATCC, type: MA104 clone 1, ATCC CRL2378.1, cat. # ATCC CRL2378.1) were
290 grown in M199 medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 25 mM 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-
291 1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) and 10% Hi-FBS (Thermo Fisher Scientific). BSC-1
292 cells (ATTC) were grown in DMEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 10% Hi-FBS
293 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). For VP4 expression, we cloned its full-length genomic sequence from
294 serotype P5B[3], NCBI:txid444185) into a pFastbac expression vector. For VP7 expression, we
295 cloned its full-length genomic sequence (G3 serotype, NCBI:txid444185) into a pFastbac
296 expression vector and transformed *E. coli* DH10α cells. For bacmid generation, VP4 and VP7
297 vectors were transformed into DH10-Bac cells (ThremoFisher Scientific) and plated onto LB-agar
298 plates supplemented with 50 μg/ml kanamycin, 7 μg/ml gentamycin, 10 μg/ml tetracycline, 100
299 μg/ml blue-gal and 40 μg/ml β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG).
300
301 **Reagent preparation**
302 *Purification of rotavirus DLPs and TLPs* – We grew MA104 cells to confluency in 850 cm^2 roller
303 bottles in M199 medium supplemented with 10% FBS and 25 mM HEPES. Cells were infected

304 with rhesus rotavirus (RRV, strain G3P5B[3]) at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 0.1. After
305 incubation at 37 °C for 24 h, the medium containing cells and debris was collected and frozen at
306 -80 °C for storage. To purify DLPs, we uncoated TLPs by adding EDTA pH 8.0 to a final
307 concentration of 5 mM. After thawing, we pelleted cells and debris by centrifugation in a Beckman
308 Coulter rotor JS 4.2 at 3,200 rpm for 30 min at 4 °C. Supernatant was then removed and the pellet
309 resuspended in 1 ml ice cold TNE buffer (20 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0) for
310 DLP purification. We concentrated viral particles from the supernatant by ultracentrifugation in a
311 Beckman Coulter rotor Ti-45 rotor at 44,000 rpm. The supernatant was then discarded and the
312 pellet resuspended in 1–3 ml ice cold TNE and combined with the cell-debris fraction from the
313 first centrifugation. We transferred the resulting suspension to a 15 ml conical tube and added
314 TNE to a final volume of 4 ml. We added 4 ml of 1,1,2-trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane (Freon 113)
315 and inverted the tube 5–10 times. The suspension was centrifuged for 2 min in a Beckman Coulter
316 rotor SX4750 at 1,000 rpm at 4 °C. We removed the upper aqueous phase, transferred it to a new
317 clean 15 ml conical tube and repeated the freon extraction two more times. The resulting virus
318 solution was layered on top of a 34.7–60.0% (w/v) CsCl gradient (1.26–1.45 g/ml). CsCl solutions
319 were prepared in either TNE (DLP purification) or TNC (TLP purification). Gradients were spun at
320 4 °C in a Beckman Coulter rotor SW 60 at 55,000 rpm for 2.5 h. Bands for TLPs and DLPs were
321 harvested by side puncture. TLPs and DLPs were dialyzed against 2 L of TNC or TNE overnight.
322 Viral particles were concentrated by pelleting at 4 °C in a Beckman Coulter rotor SW 60 at 55,000
323 rpm for 1 h. Supernatants were removed with a 1 ml pipette and pellets resuspended in 100–200
324 µl of remaining buffer. Concentrations of DLPs were determined with a nanodrop measuring the
325 absorption at 260 nm (extinction coefficient = 4.7028 $g^{-1}cm^{-1}$). TLP concentrations were measured
326 by densitometry of VP6 bands on Coomassie stained SDS-PAGE gels against DLP standards
327 ranging from 0.1 to 1.0 mg/ml.
328
329 *Purification of recombinant VP7* – We initially obtained baculovirus carrying the genetic
330 information of full-length rhesus rotavirus VP7 (G3 serotype) from bacmid transfected Sf9 cells
331 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Sf9 cells were then inoculated with baculovirus and passaged in the
332 same cells three times, with an incubation time of 72 h for each passage. Eight flasks of 500 ml
333 Sf9 cells with approximately 2 million cells per ml were then infected with 13 ml of passaged virus
334 stock solution and incubated for 72 h. Cells were harvested at 4 °C by centrifugation in Beckman
335 Coulter rotor J 4.2 at 3500 rpm for 30 min. Supernatant was transferred to a clean 4 L beaker and
336 benzamidine and sodium azide were added to final concentrations of 1 mM and 0.01% (w/v),
337 respectively. 50 ml of a concanavalin A Sepharose (ConA) resin was added to the supernatant

338 and stirred at 200 rpm overnight. Using gravity flow, the resin was packed into a column and
339 washed with five column volumes (CV) of TNC buffer. Protein was eluted with five column
340 volumes of TNC buffer containing 0.6 M α-methyl mannose. Using a peristaltic pump, we loaded
341 the eluate onto 11 ml protein A resin with immobilized antibody m159 (Greenberg et al., 1983)
342 (10 mg per ml of protein A resin), specific for trimeric VP7, and equilibrated in buffer A (20 mM
343 Tris, 50 mM NaCl, 0.1 mM $CaCl_2$, pH 8.0). We washed bound VP7 protein with five CV of buffer,
344 and eluted with five CV of buffer B (20 mM Tris, 50 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0). Buffer was
345 exchanged using a G25 PD10 column equilibrated in 0.1HNC (2 mM HEPES, 10 mM NaCl, 0.1
346 mM $CaCl_2$) spiked with 0.1 mM PMSF. Protein was divided into aliquots, which were frozen in
347 liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C.
348
349 *Purification of recombinant VP4* – We harvested baculovirus carrying the genetic information of
350 full-length VP4 (P5B[3] serotype) from bacmid transfected Sf9 cells. Sf9 cells were then
351 inoculated with baculovirus and passaged in the same cells three times, with an incubation time
352 of 72 h for each passage. Four flasks of 500 ml Sf9 cells grown in suspension to a density of
353 approximately 2 million cells per ml were then infected with 13 ml of passaged virus stock
354 solutions and incubated for 72 h. Cells were harvested at 4 °C by centrifugation in Beckman
355 Coulter rotor J 4.2 at 3,500 rpm for 30 min. We discarded the supernatant, resuspended the cell
356 pellet in 100 ml lysis buffer (75 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 7.5% (v/v) glycerol, 1 mM
357 PMSF, 1 mg/ml aprotinin, 1 mg/ml pepstatin, 1 mg/ml leupeptin), and froze the sample in liquid
358 nitrogen for storage at -80 °C. After thawing of the cell suspension, cells were lysed on ice with a
359 Branson 450 Digital Sonifier (Branson Ultrasonics, Brookfield, CT) with 40% amplitude, for 5 min
360 with 50% duty cycles. After 5 min incubation on ice, the sonification procedure was repeated. We
361 the centrifuged the suspension 4 °C in a Beckman Coulter rotor Ti 45 at 30,000 rpm for 1 h,
362 collected the supernatant and precipitated VP4 by adding 0.244 g ammonium sulfate per ml of
363 protein solution. The resulting suspension was stirred in a glass flask overnight at 4 °C and 200
364 rpm and then spun at 4 °C in Beckman Coulter rotor Ti45 for 30 min at 30,000 rpm. We discarded
365 the supernatant, resuspended the pellet in 60 ml of TE buffer (20 mM Tris, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0)
366 with 1 mM PMSF, and transferred the solution to a Dounce homogenizer for homogenization with
367 15 strokes. The suspension was then spun at 4 °C for 30 min in a Beckman Coulter rotor Ti 45 at
368 30,000 rpm. Supernatant was collected and diluted with TE buffer with 1 mM PMSF to a final
369 volume of 900 ml and loaded onto a 5 ml Q Sepharose column (Cytiva) using a peristaltic pump
370 at a flow rate of 5 ml/min. Using an HPLC purification system, the column was washed with two
371 CV of T10NE buffer (20 mM Tris, 10 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0), and bound protein was

372 eluted with 20 CV using a linear gradient from T10NE to T150NE (20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 1
373 mM EDTA, pH 8.0) at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. We pooled VP4-containing protein fractions,
374 concentrated them to 500 µl using a 10 kDa MWCO centricon (Millipore Sigma), and exchanged
375 the buffer to HNE with 0.1 mM PMSF using a G25 PD10 column. Protein was distributed to 420
376 µg aliquots and frozen in liquid nitrogen for storage at -80 °C.
377
378 *Liposome preparation* – 2 mg in total lipids of a mixture containing cholesterol, phosphocholine
379 egg extract (egg PC), sphingomyelin (SM), 1,2-dioleyl-sn-glycero-3-phopshoethenolamine
380 (DOPE), 1-palmitoyl-2-oleyo-sn-glycerol-3-phosphoetanolamine (POPE), 1,2-dioleyl-sn-glycero-
381 3-phospho-L-serine (DOPS) and ganglioside GD1a (GD1a) in molar ratio of
382 50:12.5:10:8.5:8.5:8:2.5, dissolved in approximately 9:1 chloroform:methanol, were dried in a
383 round bottom glass tube under argon flow. Remaining solvent was completely removed by
384 incubating the lipids under high vacuum overnight. The lipids were resuspended in 200 µl of TNC
385 buffer by vortexing for two minutes, in a volume corresponding to 10 mg/ml. We then freeze-
386 thawed the lipid suspension twice using liquid nitrogen and formed liposomes by extrusion though
387 a 0.2 µm filter using 41 passages. We evaluated the size of liposomes by dynamic light scattering
388 using a 1:100 dilution of the liposome stock.
389
390 *Recoating of DLPs with recombinant VP7 and VP4* – We distributed 45 µg of DLPs in HNE equally
391 among five 1.5 ml conical tubes (2.25 µl per tube). We first added 1 M sodium acetate, pH 5.2 to
392 a final concentration of 100 mM and then added 65 µl VP4 (stored at 1.3 mg/ml) to a final
393 concentration of 0.9 mg/ml in the final reaction volume, resulting in a 33-fold excess of VP4
394 monomer over a total of 180 sites on DLPs. A 0.1 mg/ml aprotinin solution was added to the
395 samples to a final concentration of 0.2 µg/ml followed by incubation at 37 °C for 1 h. Required
396 amounts of VP7 (9 µl stored at 1.0 mg/ml in HNE) to achieve a 2.3-fold excess of VP7 monomer
397 over a total of 780 sites on DLPs were premixed with 0.1 volumes of TC buffer (20 mM Tris, 10
398 mM $CaCl_2$, pH 8.0) and 0.1 volumes of 1 M sodium acetate pH 5.2 for 15 min before adding them
399 to the DLP-VP4 mixture. Samples were incubated for 1 h at room temperature and then quenched
400 by the addition of 0.1 volumes of 1 M Tris pH 8.0. Recoated particles from the five tubes were
401 combined, and TNC was added to a final volume of 2.5 ml. rcTLPs were separated from excess
402 VP4 and VP7 by ultracentrifugation at 4 °C in a Beckman Coulter rotor TLS 55 at 50,000 rpm for
403 1 h. We removed 2.0 ml of the supernatant, returned the volume to 2.5 ml with TNC, and pelleted
404 again. Supernatant was carefully removed so that 100 to 200 µl remained. The rcTLP pellets were

405 resuspended in the remaining buffer, sodium azide added to a final concentration of 0.01%, and
406 the rcTLPs stored at 4 °C.
407
408 **Ca^{2+} permeabilization experiment and TIRF microscopy**
409 *Labelling of TLPs* – TLPs were diluted to 1.0 mg/ml in a total volume of 30 µl using HNC (20 mM
410 HEPES pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM $CaCl_2$) and 3.33 µl of 1 M $NaHCO_3$ pH 8.3 added. This
411 solution was mixed with 0.5 µl of 0.0076 mg/ml Atto 565 NHS ester. The reaction proceeded at
412 room temperature for 1 h before quenching with 3 µl of 1 M Tris pH 8.0. The labeled TLPs were
413 then buffer exchanged into a solution containing 20 mM Tris pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, and 1 mM
414 $CaCl_2$ using a Zeba Spin Desalting Column (Thermo Scientific).
415
416 *Liposome preparation* – A chloroform solution containing 2 mg total lipid mixture of cholesterol,
417 phosphocholine egg extract (egg PC), sphingomyelin (SM), 1,2-dioleyl-sn-glycero-3-
418 phopshoethenolamine (DOPE), biotinylated-DOPE, Cy5-DOPE, 1-palmitoyl-2-oleyo-sn-glycerol-
419 3-phosphoetanolamine (POPE), 1,2-dioleyl-sn-glycero-3-phospho-L-serine (DOPS) and
420 ganglioside GD1a (GD1a) in molar ratio of (40:22.5:10:7.25:0.5:0.25:8.5:8:2.5) was dried in a
421 round bottom glass tube under argon flow. Remaining solvent was removed by incubating the
422 lipids under high vacuum overnight. We then resuspended the lipids in 200 µl of TNE (20 mM Tris
423 pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 0.07 mM EGTA) containing 400 µM Fluo-4 dye by vortexing for two minutes,
424 forming a 10 mg/ml lipid suspension, which we subjected to two freeze-thaw cycles with liquid
425 nitrogen. By including 0.07 mM EGTA and then exchanging the liposomes into a buffer containing
426 1 mM $CaCl_2$ before incubating them with TLPs (see below), we ensured that there was no free
427 Ca^{2+} inside the liposomes. Liposomes were formed by extrusion with 41 passages through a 200
428 nm pore filter. The size of the liposomes was evaluated with dynamic light scattering using a 1:100
429 dilution of the liposome stock. The liposome suspension was loaded onto a G25 PD10 column
430 equilibrated with TNC to separate liposomes from non-incorporated fluorophore and to exchange
431 the buffer by eluting with 2 ml of TNC. We collected 500 µl fractions and used peak fractions
432 containing liposomes for further experiments.
433
434 *Liposome Ca^{2+} permeabilization assay* – 4 µl of liposomes were added to 12 µg virus particles in
435 a final volume of 18 µl and incubated for 30 min at 37 °C in the presence of 3.5 µg/ml trypsin.
436 Trypsin was inactivated by adding aprotinin to a final concentration of 1 mg/ml. All samples were
437 incubated for an additional 1.5 h at 37 °C. For controls, same amount of liposomes was incubated

438 for the same time and temperature in the absence of virus (negative control) or in the presence
439 of 20 μM ionomycin (positive control).
440
441 *TIRF measurements* – 25 mm circular glass coverslips were cleaned and coated with a 10% (w/v)
442 solution of biotinylated-polyethylene glycol (PEG):PEG in a ratio 1:99 (Laysan Bio, cat. no. mPEG-
443 SCM-5000) (Kyoung et al., 2013) and pre-incubated with 0.5 mg/ml neutrAvidin (Thermo Scientific,
444 cat. no. LF144746) for 15 min at room temperature (RT) before use. Liposome solutions were
445 diluted 500 times in TNC in order to avoid stochastic co-localizations of virus and liposomes,
446 incubated over the coverslip for 10 min at RT, and unbound liposomes were removed before
447 imaging by a single wash with 100 μl TNC. Images of different fields of view were acquired under
448 TIRF illumination using an Olympus IX70 microscope equipped with a Hamamatsu ImageEM
449 camera and excitation from 488, 561 and 640 nm lasers (Coherent, Inc., Salem, NH) operated at
450 100, 150 and 70 mW, respectively. For each field of view, we recorded three images with 50%
451 power from each laser and 30 ms exposure at 488 nm (Fluo-4 dye, Ca^{2+} sensor signal), 50 ms
452 exposure at 561 nm (Atto 565 NHS ester dye, virus signal), 20 ms exposure at 640 nm (Cy5-
453 DOPE dye, liposome signal). The microscope was controlled by the SlideBook acquisition
454 program (Intelligent Imaging Innovations, Denver, CO), and image processing was carried out
455 using Fiji software (Schindelin et al., 2012).
456
457 *Image analysis* – We used custom-made MATLAB (MathWorks) scripts for automatic detection
458 of fluorescent liposomes in the 640 nm channel (Cy5-DOPE dye, liposome signal) images by
459 fitting a 2D Gaussian function to diffraction limited spots for which the intensity was 1.5 above
460 background. We extracted the XY position of each liposome in all images and calculated the
461 integrated fluorescence intensity on a 4x4 pixel area around the XY position for the 3 channels.
462 We calculated the background by measuring the integrated fluorescence intensity on a 6x6 pixel
463 region around the XY position, which was then was subtracted from the integrated intensity on
464 the 4x4 area after area correction for the 3 different channels. For the samples that were incubated
465 with TLPs, the liposomes that colocalized with virus were selected by applying a threshold on the
466 integrated fluorescence intensity in the 561 channel (Atto 565 NHS ester dye, virus signal) at the
467 same XY position; the threshold was calculated with images, taken at the same time, that
468 contained only virus. We measured the integrated intensity of diffraction limited spots by fitting 2D
469 Gaussian functions. We used a t-test to identify valid spots for which the signal was statistically
470 higher than the local background.
471

472 **Cryo-EM specimen preparation and data collection**

473 *Incubation of rcTLPs with liposomes* – To rcTLP stock solutions (0.7–1.5 mg/ml), we added
474 liposome stock solutions (10 mg/ml, average diameter 200 nm) to a final concentration of 1.5
475 mg/ml, followed by the addition of trypsin to a final concentration of 5 µg/ml and incubation for 30
476 min at 37 °C. Trypsin was then inactivated with aprotinin at a final concentration of 1 mg/ml.
477 Samples were incubated at 37 °C for an additional 30 min.

478 *Cryo-EM sample preparation* – C-flat holey copper carbon grids (CF-2/1-2C, Electron Microscopy
479 Sciences) were glow discharged for 30 s at 10 mA. Using a CP3 cryo-plunger, 4 µl of virus-
480 liposome samples were applied to the grids, blotted for 4 s with at a humidity ranging from 88%
481 to 92% and plunged into liquid ethane having a temperature of -273 °C. Grids were stored in liquid
482 nitrogen.

483

484 *Cryo-EM data collection* – We recorded movies with a Titan Krios G3i microscope (Thermo Fisher
485 Scientific, Waltham, MA), operated at 300 kV and equipped with a BioQuantum energy filter and
486 a K3 direct electron detector camera (Gatan, Inc.). Dose-fractionated movies with 50 frames were
487 recorded in counting mode with 0.05 s per frame for a total of 2.5 s with SerialEM v3.7
488 (Mastronarde, 2005). The magnification was 60,606, resulting in a pixel size of 0.825 Å per pixel.
489 For some grids, we recorded a total of 27 movies for each stage position (nanoprobe mode with
490 an illuminated area of ~1 µm, 3 exposures per hole from a total of 9 holes).

491

492 **Cryo-EM data processing**

493 *Preprocessing and initial particle stack preparation* – We used MotionCor2 (Zheng et al., 2017)
494 with 5×5 patch alignment to obtain summed micrographs from the frames of 33,563 movies that
495 we had recorded from four sample preparations. With CTFFIND4 (Rohou and Grigorieff, 2015),
496 we estimated contrast transfer function (CTF) parameters from the summed micrographs. We
497 then picked 77,139 rotavirus particles from the micrographs template matching in cisTEM (Grant
498 et al., 2018; Lucas et al., 2021), with the routines match_template (version 1.00), refine_template
499 (version 1.00), and make_template_result (version 1.00). We carried out template matching at 5
500 Å resolution with angular search steps of 1.7° and a previously determined reconstruction as
501 reference structure (Herrmann et al., 2021), resampled to the correct pixel size. The symmetry
502 for the search was I_2 and the radius of the mask 403 Å. We determined CTF parameter values at
503 particle positions with Gctf (Zhang, 2016) and used relion_preprocess (Scheres, 2012) for particle
504 extraction and normalization. The box size was 1536×1536 pixels and the radius for background

area designation 666 pixels. After 2D classification with relion_refine (Scheres, 2012), we kept 75,846 particle images for analysis.

Icosahedral reconstruction – An initial reconstruction calculated with the alignment parameters obtained from template matching had a nominal resolution of 3.89 Å as determined by Fourier shell correlation (FSC) with a cutoff value of 0.143 and after masking the half maps with a spherical shell mask that had inner and outer radii of 222 and 403 Å, respectively (Figure S4). We then improved particle alignment, particle images, and reconstruction parameters by iterating routines in cisTEM (refine3d version 1.01, reconstruct3d version 1.02) (Grant et al., 2018) with routines in RELION (relion_motion_refine, and relion_ctf_refine) (Scheres, 2014). The resolution for alignment in the last iteration was 3.4 Å. In relion_ctf_refine, we used per-particle defocus fitting, beam-tilt refinement, symmetric aberration estimation, and fitting of anisotropic magnification distortion for each of the particle stack's 63 optics groups (--fit_defocus –kmin_defocus 30 –fit_mode fpmfp –fit_beamtilt –kmin_tilt 30 –fit_aniso –odd_aberr_max_n 3 –fit_aberr). Reconstuctions were calculated with relion_reconstruct with the option –fom_weighting, where we assigned a per particle figure of merit, *FOM*, based on the cisTEM alignment scores, where S_i is the score of particle *I*, and S_{max} and S_{min} are the highest and lowest scores, respectively:

$$FOM = \frac{S_i - S_{min}}{S_{max} - S_{min}}$$

After two iterations, the nominal resolution of the final icosahedral reconstruction of full viral particles converged to 2.43 Å as estimated with relion_postprocess (Table S1 and Figure S4).

Local analysis of spike positions – For local analysis of individual spike positions, we used protocols similar to those previously described (Herrmann et al., 2021; Jenni et al., 2022; Jenni et al., 2019), with some modifications (Figure S5). Generally the workflow for preparing subparticle stacks for local analysis involved symmetry expansion of the RELION particle star file, followed by signal subtraction with relion_project using a suitable mask to retain density, and sub-particle extraction from the signal-subtracted images with custom Python scripts and IMOD routines (Mastronarde and Held, 2017). Depending on the analysis, different subparticle stacks were prepared.

538 For initial classification of spike positions -- that is, determining for each of the 60 positions on the
539 virion whether the VP5*/VP8* penetration protein was in an upright, intermediate or reversed
540 conformation, or whether it was entirely absent -- we made a 384×384 pixel subparticle stack 1
541 in which we had signal-subtracted all density except within the volume of a single VP7 trimer plus
542 the volume potentially occupied by VP5*/VP8* in upright and reversed conformations (Figure
543 S5A–D). We carried out classifications with refine3d and reconstruct3d from cisTEM (Grant et al.,
544 2018), keeping the subparticle alignment angles and shifts constant during all iterations. We also
545 turned off per-particle weighting in the reconstruction step by setting the particle weighting factor
546 input parameter of reconstruct3d to 0.0 and by resetting the LogP, SIGMA, and SCORE values
547 in par files to constant values of -2000, 4.1, and 20.1, respectively, and running the reconstruction
548 step again before proceeding to the next iteration. Initial classes were seeded randomly. In a first
549 classification (classification #1), we asked for 16 classes (Table S2). The resolution limit for
550 classification was 5 Å and the radius of the spherical mask applied to the 2D images was 140 Å.
551 3D references were masked around the single VP7 trimer and VP5*/VP8* volume. Inspection of
552 the resulting classes from the first classification showed that particles partitioned not only based
553 on spike occupancy and conformation, but also based on radial shifts (up to approximately 5 Å)
554 with respect to the virion center (Movie S1). As evident from Figure S6, the main cause for the
555 observed radial shifts appeared to be anisotropic magnification distortion, because the class
556 assignment of subparticles from the two classes with the largest relative shift observed (classes
557 4 and 13) showed a systematic bias depending on the extraction angle with respect to the virion
558 center. We corrected for anisotropic magnification when we calculated icosahedral
559 reconstructions of full viral particles, but no correction was implemented during subparticle
560 extraction. Other imperfections probably also contributed to the observed shifts; for instance, if
561 data had been collected slightly away from the eucentric height of the microscope. We therefore
562 further classified each of the 16 classes in a second classification (classification #2), aligned all
563 32 classes by rigid-body fitting a model of the VP7 trimer and updating the alignment parameters
564 in the RELION star file based on the superpositions of the fitted models, and made a final
565 assignment of each subparticle as upright, intermediate, reversed, or unoccupied (Figure S5E–
566 F, Figure S7, and Table S2).
567
568 *Local analysis of reversed VP5*/VP8* spikes bound to liposomes* – Because we observed minor
569 density artifacts in reconstructions calculated from subparticle stack 1 (see above) when
570 contoured at very low level (presumably caused by a bug or array overflow in relion_project when
571 the volume for signal subtraction had a large size of 1536×1536×1536 pixels), we prepared

572 subparticle stack 2 with slightly down sampled data of 1024×1024×1024 pixels for the full virus
573 particle box, corresponding to a pixel size of 1.2375 Å. For this stack, we signal-subtracted all
574 density within a tight-fitting spherical mask except within the volume occupied by VP5*/VP8* at
575 the reference icosahedral position (Figure S5C–D). Classifications #3 and #4 were carried out
576 starting with 1,510,279 particles in reversed conformation selected from the signal-subtracted
577 subparticle stack 2 based on the results from classification #1 and #2 (Figure S5G). 2D and 3D
578 masking was with a radius of 124 Å, and the resolution for classification was 5 and 8 Å,
579 respectively. Subparticles from classes 1 and 3 of classification #3 that showed liposome density
580 were merged and subjected to classification #4 (Figure S8 and Table S3). Final reconstructions
581 of liposome-bound classes were computed from the original (no signal subtraction) subparticle
582 stack 2 (Figure S5H).
583
584 *Mapping of subparticles in the original micrographs* – When we extracted subparticles, we
585 assigned unique viral particle and subparticle identifiers together with the *x* and y coordinates of
586 the extraction position of each subparticle with respect to the original extraction position of the
587 corresponding virus in the micrograph. We could thus map subparticles from liposome-bound
588 classes onto the original micrographs (Figure 3D).
589
590 **Figure preparation**
591 We prepared the figures using PyMOL (The PyMOL Molecular Graphics System, Version 2.3
592 Schrödinger, LLC), ChimeraX (Pettersen et al., 2021), BioRender , matplotlib (Hunter, 2007) and
593 ImageMagick (ImageMagick Studio LLC, 2023, available at: https://imagemagick.org).
594
595 **Data availability**
596 The cryo-EM maps are deposited in the Electron Microscopy Data Bank with accession identifiers
597 EMD-42343 (class 5) and EMD-42344 (class 6). Atomic coordinates are deposited in the Protein
598 Data Bank with accession identifiers PDB-ID 8UK2 (class 5) and PDB-ID 8UK3 (class 6).
599
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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

MDS and TH prepared reagents, recorded and curated data, analyzed data, prepared figures, and participated in drafting and editing the manuscript; SJ curated and analyzed data, prepared figures, supervised research, and participated in drafting and editing the MS; SCH supervised research and participated in drafting and editing the manuscript.

FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. Rotavirus structure, entry, and conformational changes of its membrane-penetration protein VP4 (VP5*/VP8*).

(A) Schematic illustration of an infectious rotavirus particle. Subunits are shown in surface representation and the particle is partially cut to allow inside view. The “double-layer” particle (DLP) is composed of VP2 (VP2A and VP2B, colored in blue and cyan, respectively) and VP6 (green). The outer layer of the “triple-layer” particle (TLP) also contains VP7 (yellow) and VP4 (VP5*/VP8* after proteolytic cleavage). VP5* is in red, orange and salmon; VP8*, in magenta; VP1, the capsid-bound RNA-dependent RNA polymerases (RdRp), in gray. The RNA cap-generating VP3, which has not been localized at a defined position in the virion, is not shown. (B) Schematic drawing of steps in rotavirus entry, summarizing observations from live-cell imaging (Abdelhakim et al., 2014; Salgado et al., 2018; Salgado et al., 2017) and biochemical and structural studies (Herrmann et al., 2021; Settembre et al., 2011). Entry requires trypsin-catalyzed cleavage of the VP4 spike protein into VP5* and VP8*. VP8* binding to glycolipid headgroups allows the TLP to attach to the surface of a host cell. This interaction, potentially in concert with membrane engagement of hydrophobic loops on VP5* (see panels C and D), allows the particle to enclose itself in an inward-budding vesicle. Subsequent steps include loss of Ca^{2+} from the vesicle interior, dissociation of VP7 and VP8*/VP5* from the DLP, free diffusion of the DLP in the cytosol, and initiation of RNA transcription. (C) Structure of the VP5*/VP8* spike in upright conformation (Herrmann et al., 2021), colored as in (A). The linear domain organization of the upright conformation is shown at the bottom. (D) Structure of the VP5* spike in reversed conformation (Herrmann et al., 2021), colored as in (A). The linear domain organization of the reversed conformation is shown at the bottom. Residues of the foot VP5* domains that were extruded from the VP7 layer cavity upon structural transition are shown schematically in gray.

640

641 **Figure 2. Interaction of rotaviruses with liposomes makes membranes Ca^{2+} permeable.**
642 (A) Schematic overview of the TIRF experimental setup. (B) Representative fluorescence images,
643 showing a field of view for the control (left, liposomes only), ionophore (center, liposomes
644 incubated with ionomycin) and TLP (right, liposomes incubated with TLPs) samples. The 640 nm
645 channel (Cy5-DOPE, liposome signal) is in cyan and shifted 7 pixels to the right in all images to
646 visualize colocalization; the 488 channel (Fluo-4, Ca^{2+} sensor signal) is in green; the 561 channel
647 (Atto 565 NHS ester dye, virus signal) is in magenta and shifted 14 pixels to the right in the TLP
648 sample. The scale bar corresponds to 5 µm. Representative examples of liposomes are boxed
649 (1–6) and displayed beneath the images at higher magnification (scale bar = 0.5 µm) with the
650 three channels shown next to each other. (C) Normalized frequency of the liposome signal from
651 the TLP sample (experiment 1). The dark grey line shows the distribution for TLP control
652 liposomes (liposomes that did not colocalize with a virus particle in the TLP sample) (n = 28,985).
653 The dark gray bars show the distribution for the liposomes that colocalized with a virus (n = 415).
654 (D) Ca^{2+}-positive liposomes (%) for the control sample (white bars), the ionophore sample (light
655 grey bars), the TLP control (striped white), and TLP virus (dark grey) samples from experiments
656 1, 2 and 3, respectively. "Ca^{2+}-positive liposomes" means percent of the liposomes that had a
657 Ca^{2+} signal with an intensity greater than 1.5 standard deviations from the mean (see red dashed
658 lines in Figure S2A and S2C for the cutoffs). N = total number of liposomes in each condition. (E)
659 Ca^{2+}-positive liposomes (%) for the control sample (white bars), the ionophore sample (light grey
660 bars), the TLP control (striped white), and TLP virus (dark grey) samples from the three
661 independent experiments (Figures S1 and S2). Error bars are the standard error calculated from
662 the mean of the independent experiments. Statistical analysis used a t-test between samples. * =
663 $p<0.05$; ** = $p<0.01$.

664

665 **Figure 3. Cryo-EM analysis of rotavirus in the presence of liposomes.**
666 (A) Sample preparation scheme and representative micrograph showing rcTLP particles bound
667 to liposomes. The scale bar corresponds 50 nm. (B) Illustration of how template matching was
668 used to locate virions in the micrographs and estimate their *z* position based on per-particle
669 defocus fitting. (C) Histogram of estimated ice thickness of the cryo-EM samples. For each
670 micrograph that contained at least two particles, we calculated the largest *z* difference and added
671 100 nm (approximately two times the particle radius). (D) Mapping of spike positions and their
672 class assignment onto the micrographs of liposome-bound viruses, color-coded as ©(E). The
673 asterisks indicate a cluster of VP5* trimers around the five-fold axis of the virus. The scale bar

674 corresponds 5©m. (E) Representative reconstructions of the different spike conformations after
675 subparticle classification.
676
677 **Figure 4. Cryo-EM reconstruction of membrane-bound VP5* in the reversed conformation.**
678 (A) Reconstruction of class 6 (Figure S8B) in context of the full virus. The map was low-pass
679 filtered at 8.0 Å resolution. The outer-shell VP7 is colored yellow; VP5* is colored red, orange,
680 and salmon; membrane density is gray. The asterisk denotes the VP5* trimer on which the
681 subparticle classification was focused. The direction of one of the icosahedral five-fold axis is
682 indicated. (B) View around the five-fold axis showing multiple VP5* trimers interacting with
683 liposome. The asterisk denotes the VP5* trimer on which the subparticle classification was
684 focused. (C) Close-up view of the membrane-bound VP5* trimer. The map is partially cut. (D)
685 Slab views of the reconstruction showing diffuse lipid bilayer and membrane-embedded VP5* foot
686 domain density.
687
688 **Figure 5. Interactions between the reversed VP5* trimer and the membrane.**
689 (A) Placement of the rotavirus-bound VP5* trimer structure in reversed conformation (PDB-ID
690 6WXG) (Herrmann et al., 2021) into the density map of the class 6 reconstruction (Figure 4).
691 Density is shown as gray mesh, docked viral protein subunits are shown in ribbon representation
692 and colored yellow (VP7); red, orange and salmon (VP5*). (B) Close-up view of the hydrophobic
693 loops at the tip of one VP5* β-barrel that interact with the proximal membrane leaflet. (C) Close-
694 up view of the hydrophobic loops at the tip of a second VP5* β-barrel that interact with the proximal
695 membrane leaflet. (D) Close-up view of trimeric VP5* coiled-coil extending into the membrane.
696
697 **Figure S1. Single-particle fluorescence imaging.**
698 (A) Fluorescence intensity for each liposome in three independent experiments (Experiment 1, 2
699 and 3). Fluorescence intensity corresponding to the control sample (left), the ionophore sample
700 (center) or TLP sample (right) are shown for each experiment, respectively. Top graph (cyan)
701 shows the signal in the 640nm channel (Cy5-DOPE dye, liposome signal); center graph (green)
702 shows the signal in the 488 nm channel (Fluo-4 dye, Ca^{2+} sensor signal); and bottom graph
703 (magenta) shows the signal in 561 nm channel (Atto 565 dye, TLP signal). (B) Normalized
704 frequency of the liposome signal for the control sample (white bars), ionophore sample (light grey
705 bars) and TLP sample (all liposomes, dark grey bars) in each experiment.
706
707 **Figure S2. Ca^{2+}-signal analysis from the single-particle fluorescence imaging.**

708 (A) Ca^{2+} signal as a function of liposome signal for the control sample (white dots) and for
709 ionophore sample (light grey dots) in the experiment 1 (left), experiment 2 (center) and experiment
710 3 (right), respectively. (B) Ca^{2+} signal as a function of the binned liposome signal for the control
711 sample (white bars) and the ionophore sample (light grey bars) in experiment 1, 2 and 3,
712 respectively. Error bars represent the standard deviation calculated from individual
713 measurements within each bin as shown in the scatter plot in panel A. (C) Ca^{2+} signal as a function
714 of liposome signal for TLP control (small random selection of liposomes that did not colocalize
715 with virus in the TLP sample, white dots) and for TLP virus (liposomes colocalizing with virus only,
716 dark grey dots) samples in the experiment 1 (left), experiment 2 (center) and experiment 3 (right),
717 respectively. (D) Ca^{2+} signal as a function of the binned liposome signal for the TLP control sample
718 (liposomes that do not colocalize with virus in the TLP sample, white bars) and the TLP virus
719 sample (liposomes colocalizing with virus only, dark grey bars) in experiments 1, 2 and 3,
720 respectively. Error bars represent the standard deviation calculated from individual
721 measurements within each bin as shown in the scatter plot in panel C. Statistical analysis in B
722 and D used a t-test between samples. n.s = $p>0.05$; * = $p<0.05$; ** = $p<0.01$; *** = $p<0.001$.
723
724
725 **Figure S3. Cryo-EM sample preparation of liposome-bound rotaviruses.**
726 Schematic illustration of the interaction between rotavirus and a liposome during specimen
727 preparation for cryo-EM analysis.
728
729 **Figure S4. Icosahedral reconstruction of RRV particles.**
730 (A) Fourier shell correlations (FSCs) between half maps calculated from icosahedral
731 reconstructions after applying a spherical shell mask encompassing the three protein layers of
732 the TLP (VP2, VP6, and VP7). Curves are shown for the data processing steps as described in
733 Methods. The final nominal resolution was 2.43 Å. (B) Local resolution analysis of the icosahedral
734 reconstruction. A segment of the “triple-layer” particle is shown. (C) Density maps of VP2, VP6
735 and VP7 regions.
736
737 **Figure S5. Cryo-EM analysis processing scheme of TLPs with liposomes.**
738 (A) Alignment of full viral particles with icosahedral symmetry imposed. A map of the final
739 icosahedral reconstruction is shown where the particle is partially cut. VP1 (RNA-dependent RNA
740 polymerase) and RNAs are colored gray; VP2, cyan and blue; VP6, green; VP7, yellow. See also
741 Figure S4. (B) Icosahedral symmetry expansion (60-fold) based on the full particle alignment. (C)

742 Signal subtraction. The masks used to the define the subtraction volume, excluding the region of
743 interest at a single protomer position, are shown. Signal-subtracted stack 1 was used to prepare
744 subparticles for classifications #1 and #2 (spike conformation and occupancy). Signal-subtracted
745 stack 2 was used to prepare subparticles for classifications #3 and #4 (liposome interaction of
746 reversed spikes). (D) Subparticle extraction from the signal-subtracted and original particles
747 stacks. (E) Classifications #1 and #2, see Figure S7. (F) Alignment of classes to correct for
748 observed shifts in reconstructions of subparticle classes caused primarily by anisotropic
749 magnification distortion, see Figure S6. Subparticle reconstructions are shown for the three
750 observed spike conformations (upright, intermediate, and reversed) and empty positions. Density
751 maps were low pass filtered at 5 Å resolution and partially cut. VP2, cyan and blue; VP6, green;
752 VP7, yellow; VP5*, red, orange, and salmon. (G) Classifications #3 and #4, see Figure S8. (H)
753 Final reconstructions of liposome-bound classes calculated from subparticle stack 2, which was
754 obtained from the original (non-signal-subtracted) images.
755
756 **Figure S6. Observed subparticle shifts caused by anisotropic magnification distortion.**
757 (A) Subparticles were classified without alignment. Relative shifts between classes were
758 determined by rigid-body fitting a V7 trimer model and then aligning the classes by updating the
759 subparticle alignment parameters based on the fitted models. (B) Ribbon representation of the
760 VP7 trimer models after fitting it into the densities of the 32 classes. The largest shift we observed
761 was 5.7 Å between classes 4 and 13. (C) Each subparticle is associated with an extraction radius
762 and angle with respect to the center of the full virus particle projection in the original micrograph.
763 (D) Histograms of metadata values (extraction radius, extraction angle, defocus, optics group
764 number, micrograph number) for all subparticles from the two classes 4 and 13, which showed
765 the largest relative shift in their reconstructions. A strong bias in the extraction angle suggests
766 that the observed shifts are predominately caused by anisotropic magnification distortion, which
767 was not accounted for during subparticle extraction. (D) Histograms of metadata values
768 (extraction radius, extraction angle, defocus, optics group number, micrograph number) for
769 dataset 2 subparticles from the two classes 4 and 13.
770
771 **Figure S7. Classification #1 and #2.**
772 For display, density maps were calculated from subparticle stack 1, which was obtained from the
773 original (non-signal-subtracted) images, low pass filtered at 5 Å resolution and partially cut. VP2,
774 cyan and blue; VP6, green; VP7, yellow; VP5*, red, orange, and salmon. (A) Classification #1
775 partitioned the particles into 16 classes, each of which was further subclassified into two classes

776 in classification #2 (indicated by dashed lines). (B) Reconstructions of three observed spike
777 conformations (upright, intermediate, and reversed) and empty positions after merging
778 corresponding classes (Table S2) and correcting of observed subparticle shifts (Figure S6).
779
780 **Figure S8. Classification #3 and #4.**
781 Classification of liposome-bound spike positions from subparticles with reversed spike
782 conformations. (A) In classification #3, we initially requested four classes. Density maps were
783 calculated from signal-subtracted subparticle stack 2, low pass filtered at 8 Å resolution and
784 displayed in gray and at very low contour level to visualize membrane density. (B) In classification
785 #4, we further subclassified classes 1 and 3 from classification #3. Density maps of the six classes
786 were calculated from subparticle stack 2, which was obtained from the original (non-signal-
787 subtracted) images, and low pass filtered at 8 Å. VP6, green; VP7, yellow; VP5*, red, orange, and
788 salmon; membrane, gray.
789
790 **Figure S9. Local resolution analysis of liposome-bound VP5*.**
791 (A) Full view of the class 5 and class 6 reconstructions colored according to local resolution. (B)
792 Corresponding slab views.
793
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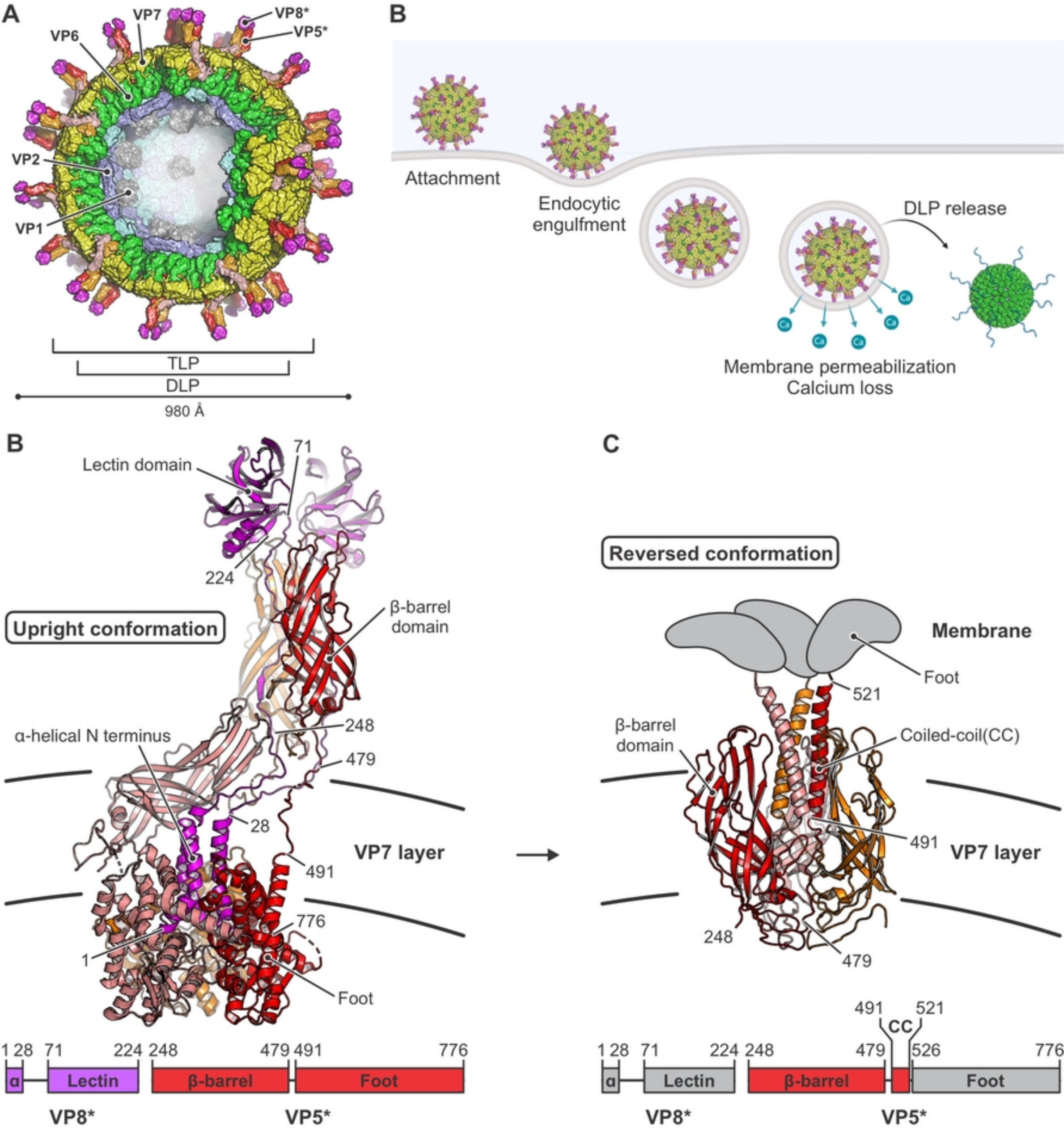
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VP7
VP8*
VP6
VP5*
VP2
VP1
TLP
DLP
980 Å
B
Attachment
Endocytic engulfment
DLP release
Membrane permeabilization
Calcium loss
B
Lectin domain
71
224
β-barrel domain
Upright conformation
α-helical N terminus
248
479
28
VP7 layer
491
776
1
Foot
1 28 71 224 248 479 491 776
α
Lectin
β-barrel
Foot
VP8*
VP5*
C
Reversed conformation
Membrane
Foot
521
β-barrel domain
Coiled-coil(CC)
491
VP7 layer
248
479
491 521
CC
1 28 71 224 248 479 526 776
α
Lectin
β-barrel
Foot
VP8*
VP5*

Figure 1

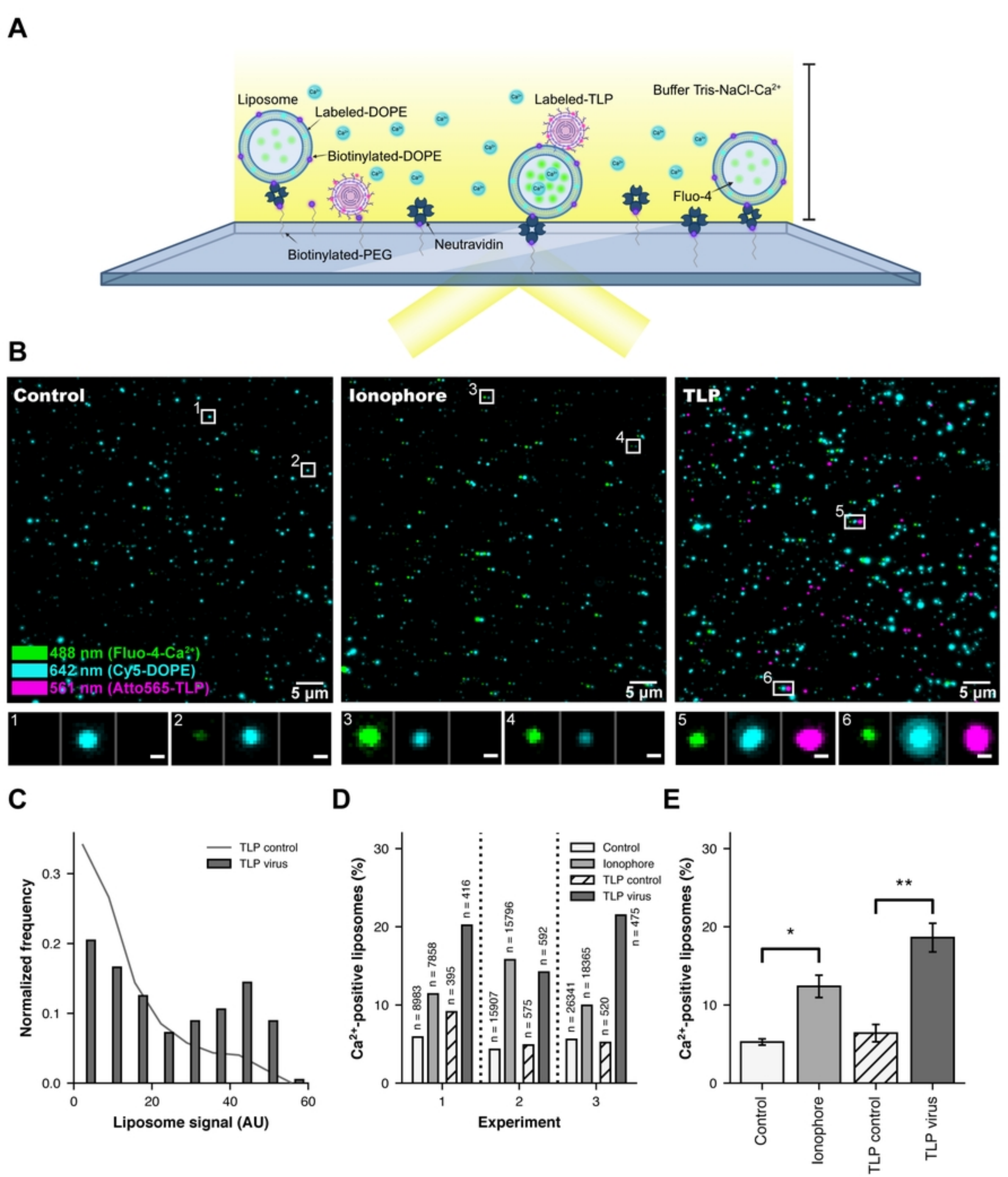
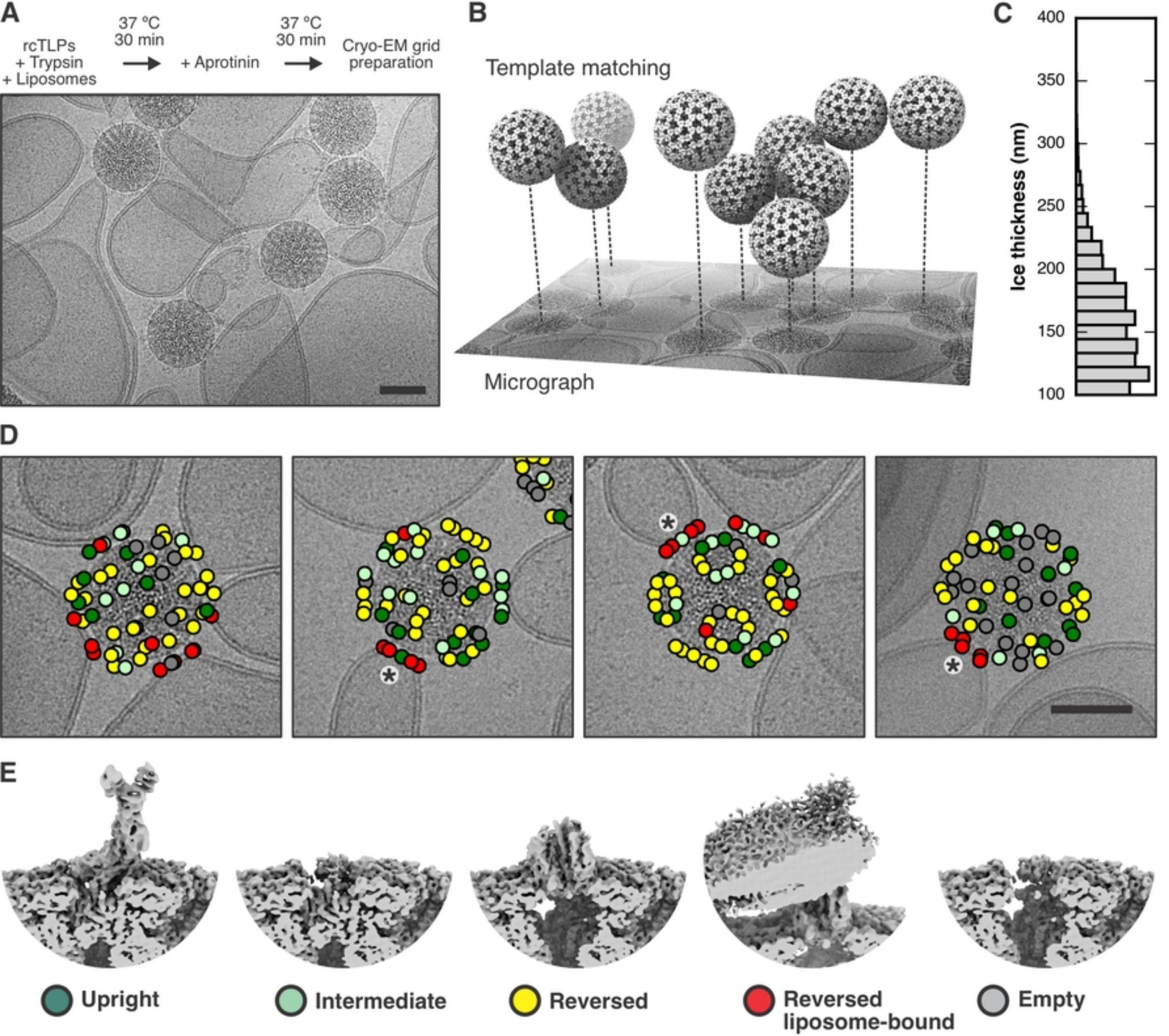

A
Liposome
Labeled-DOPE
Biotinylated-DOPE
Labeled-TLP
Buffer Tris-NaCl-Ca2+
Fluo-4
Neutravidin
Biotinylated-PEG
B
Control
Ionophore
TLP
488 nm (Fluo-4-Ca2+)
642 nm (Cy5-DOPE)
561 nm (Atto565-TLP)
5 µm
C
TLP control
TLP virus
Normalized frequency
Liposome signal (AU)
D
Control
Ionophore
TLP control
TLP virus
Ca2+-positive liposomes (%)
Experiment
n = 8983
n = 7858
n = 395
n = 416
n = 15907
n = 15796
n = 575
n = 592
n = 26341
n = 18365
n = 520
n = 475
E
Ca2+-positive liposomes (%)
Control
Ionophore
TLP control
TLP virus

Figure 2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rcTLPs
+ Trypsin
+ Liposomes
37 °C
30 min
+ Aprotinin
37 °C
30 min
Cryo-EM grid
preparation
B
Template matching
Micrograph
C
Ice thickness (nm)
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
D
E
Upright
Intermediate
Reversed
Reversed
liposome-bound
Empty

Figure 3

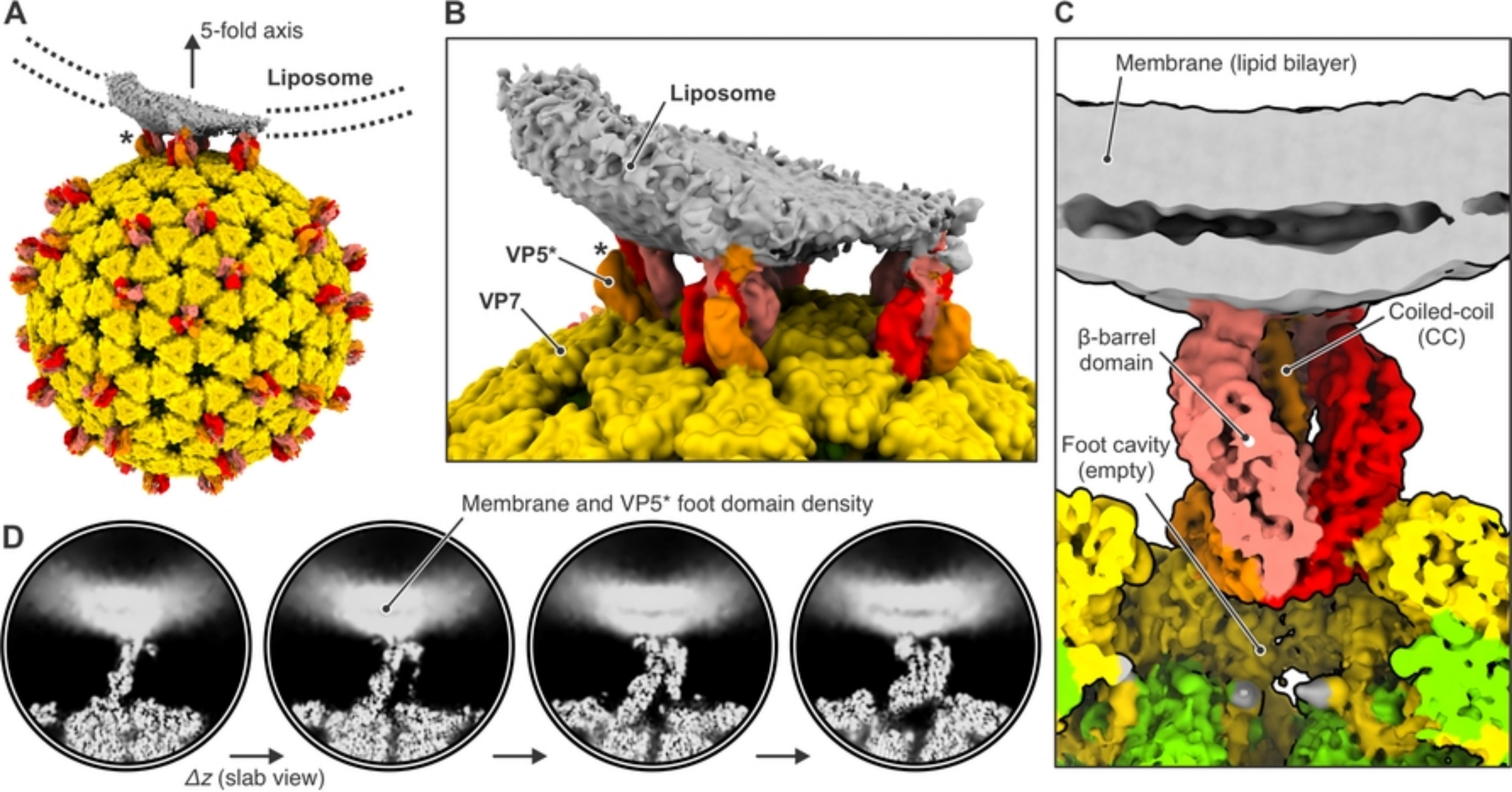
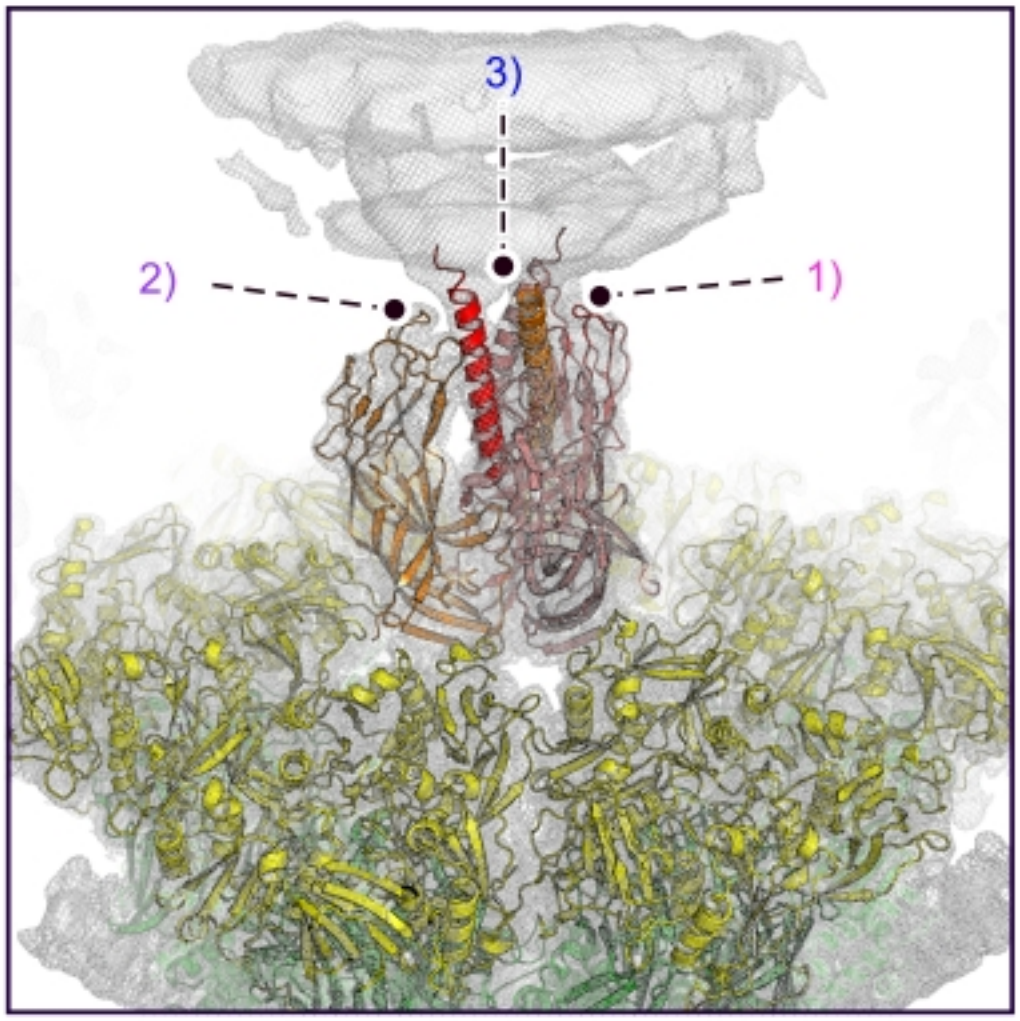

A
5-fold axis
Liposome
*
B
Liposome
VP5*
*
VP7
C
Membrane (lipid bilayer)
Coiled-coil
(CC)
β-barrel
domain
Foot cavity
(empty)
D
Membrane and VP5* foot domain density
Δz (slab view)

Figure 4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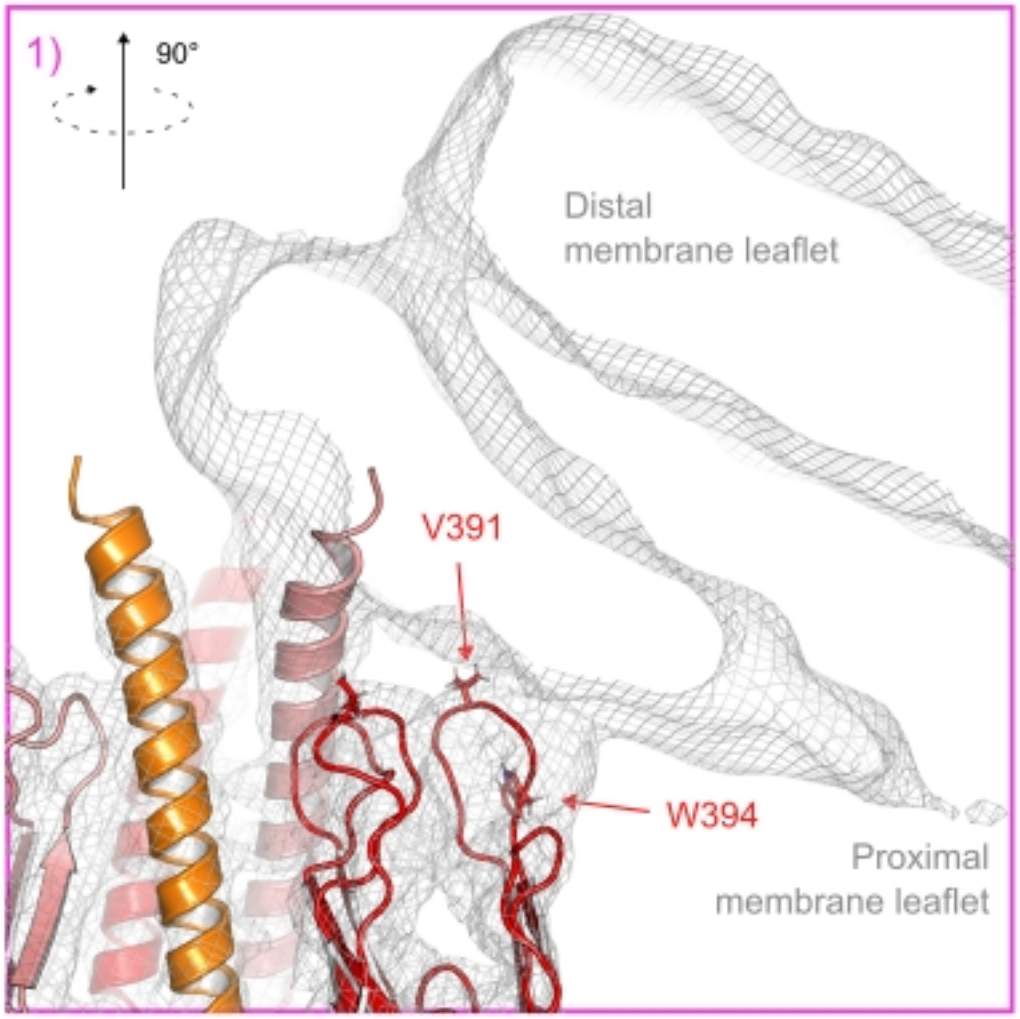
2)
1)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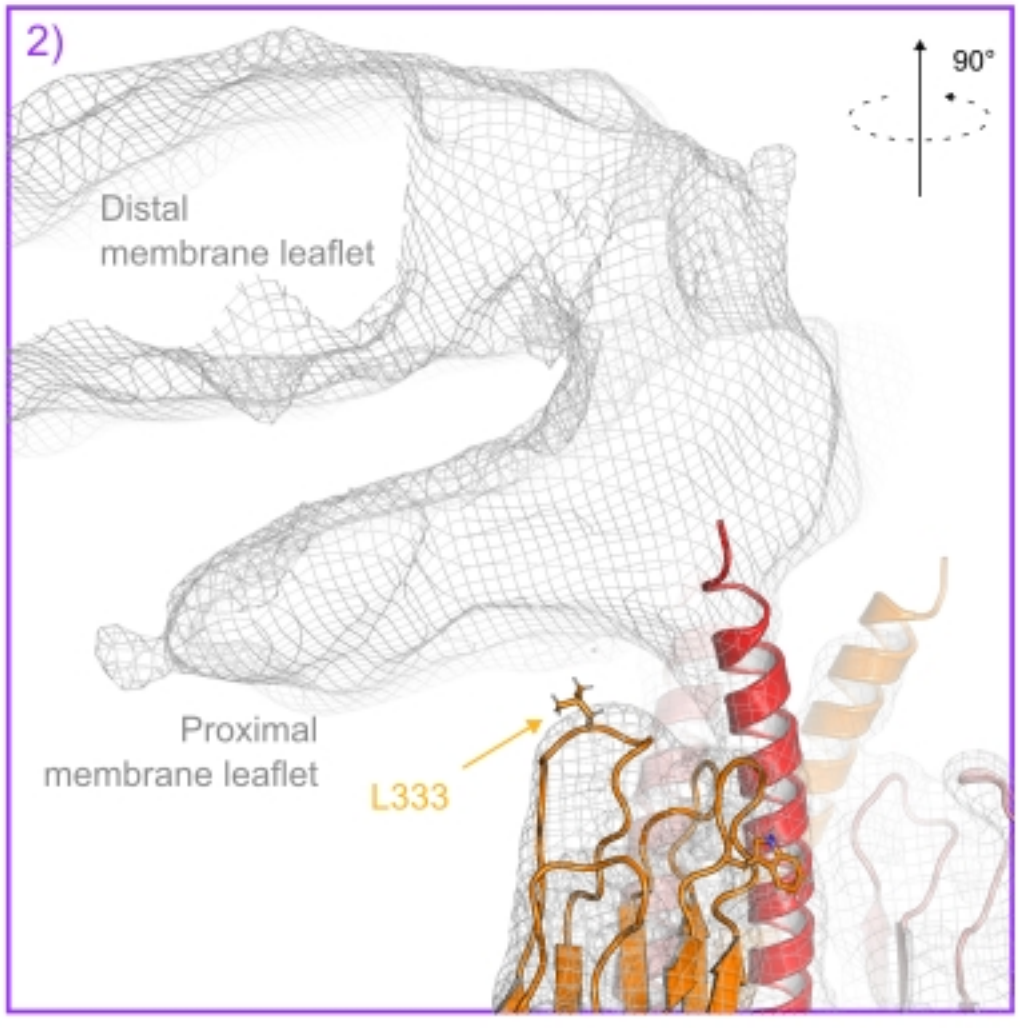
Distal
membrane leaflet
V391
W394
Proximal
membrane leaflet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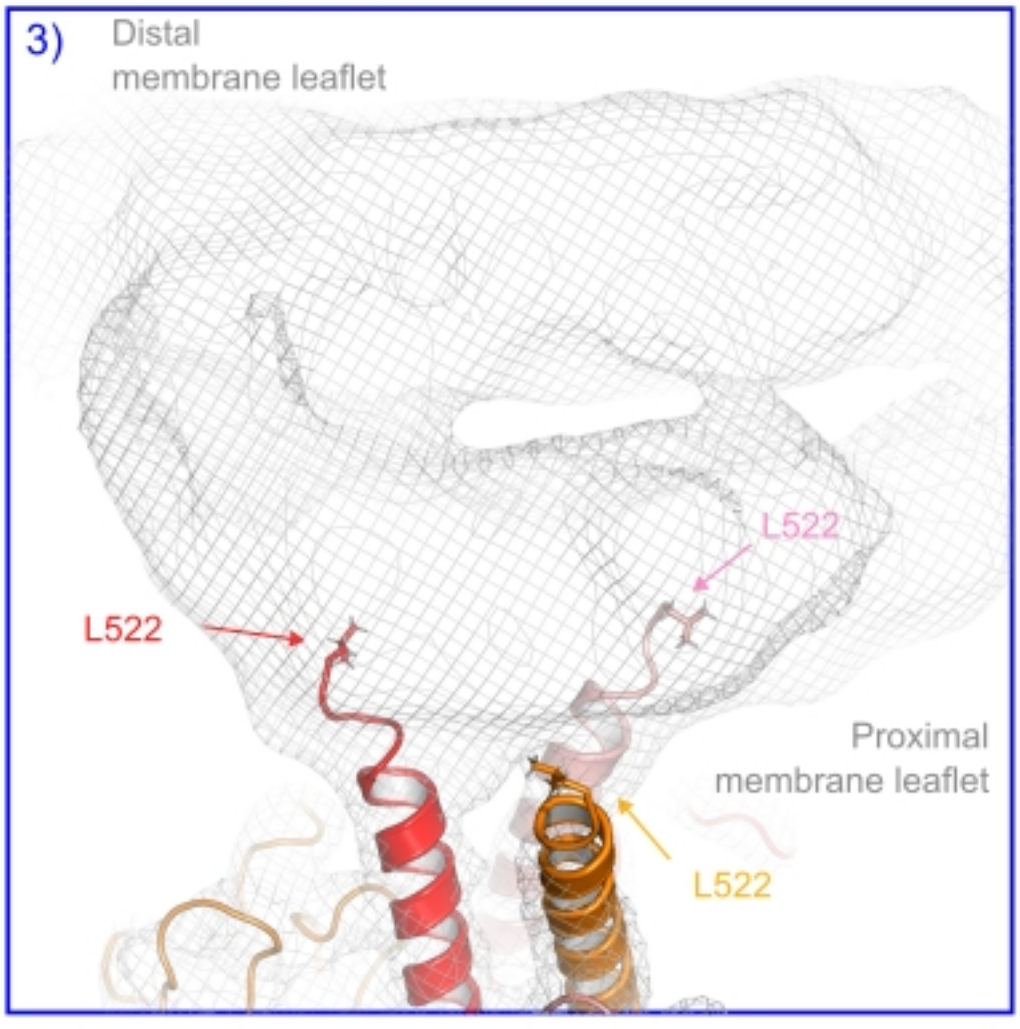
3)
Distal
membrane leaflet
L522
L522
Proximal
membrane leaflet
L522

Figure 5