Remodeling nuclear architecture allows efficient transport of herpesvirus capsids by diffusion

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The nuclear chromatin structure confines the movement of large macromolecular complexes to interchromatin corrals. Herpesvirus capsids of approximately 125 nm assemble in the nucleoplasm and must reach the nuclear membranes for egress. Previous studies concluded that nuclear herpesvirus capsid motility is active, directed, and based on nuclear filamentous actin, suggesting that large nuclear complexes need metabolic energy to escape nuclear entrapment. However, this hypothesis has recently been challenged. Commonly used microscopy techniques do not allow the imaging of rapid nuclear particle motility with sufficient spatiotemporal resolution. Here, we use a rotating, oblique light sheet, which we dubbed a ring-sheet, to image and track viral capsids with high temporal and spatial resolution. We do not find any evidence for directed transport. Instead, infection with different herpesviruses induced an enlargement of interchromatin domains and allowed particles to diffuse unrestricted over longer distances, thereby facilitating nuclear egress for a larger fraction of capsids.

**herpes | capsid | nucleus | ring sheet | light sheet**

The nucleus is structured into chromatin and interchromatin compartments, giving it a “sponge-like” appearance, with the chromatin representing the actual sponge material and the interchromatin regions representing the enclosed pores, tubes, tunnels, and cisterns. This conceptual model has important implications for how differently sized molecules could move inside the nucleus. Although small molecules like GFP, streptavidin, fluorescent dextrans, or mRNA can mostly freely diffuse throughout the nucleus (1–3), large macromolecular assemblies, such as 100-nm fluorescent beads and promyelocytic leukemia (PML) or Cajal bodies, are trapped in interchromatin spaces called corrals. These corrals slowly move as a result of chromatin dynamics, and particles can also escape over long time scales (4, 5). Herpesvirus capsids of 125-nm diameter are assembled in the nucleus and must move to the nuclear periphery for exit. It was hypothesized that nuclear herpesvirus capsids use directed motility. Instead, virus infection changes nuclear architecture, which allows capsids to reach the nuclear envelope by diffusion.

**Results**

**Ring-Sheet Microscopy Allows Recording of Rapid Nuclear Dynamics.** We found that conventional imaging modalities did not provide both the speed and sensitivity required to generate image data suitable for a high-fidelity recording of capsid motility. Recently, light-sheet microscopy has come into focus (17). Its basic principle, the separation of illumination and detection, enables selective imaging of parts of tissues or small organisms, but is also advantageous for smaller objects like single cells. Commonly used confocal microscopy illuminates the entire sample above and below the focal plane, and then filters out-of-focus emission. Instead, light-sheet microscopy illuminates only the focal plane, increasing contrast and reducing phototoxicity.

We developed a custom microscope that generates a rapidly rotating oblique light sheet by introducing a two-axis galvo system (Fig. L4) into an otherwise standard objective-based total internal reflection fluorescence (TIRF) microscopy system (18). This allowed us to project a circle of light with variable diameter onto the back focal plane of the objective, resulting in a virtual ring-shaped sheet emanating from the objective (Fig. L4). We particle tracking and analysis of capsid motility that capsids diffuse in enlarged nuclear spaces. We conclude that the previously described size increase of the interchromatin domain increases the likelihood of capsids to reach the nuclear envelope by diffusion.

**Significance**

The nucleus is structured into chromatin and interchromatin compartments. Its sieve-like architecture permits individual proteins to rapidly diffuse while large macromolecular assemblies are corralled in the interchromatin. Herpesvirus capsids assemble in the nucleus and have to access the nuclear periphery for exit. It was hypothesized that nuclear herpesvirus capsids recruit filamentous actin and molecular motor protein to overcome nuclear entrapment. Here we use “ring-sheet” microscopy to track nuclear capsids with high spatiotemporal resolution. We report that nuclear herpesvirus capsids do not use directed motility. Instead, virus infection changes nuclear architecture, which allows capsids to reach the nuclear membranes by diffusion. Our findings illustrate a pathway for very large macromolecular assemblies to cross the nucleoplasm without directed motility.


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Therefore dubbed this modality a ring-sheet. Although conventional light-sheet techniques typically rely on two low-N.A. objectives, this modality uses only one high-N.A. objective to generate the illuminating light sheet and to detect the emission light. This has several advantages. First, the $xy$ and especially the $z$ axis resolutions are enhanced, as $z$-axis resolution increases quadratically with increasing N.A. (Abbe resolution $n_0 = 2\lambda/N.A^2$). Second, in contrast to similar oblique techniques (19), ring-sheet microscopy does not suffer from fringing and shading artifacts because the illumination direction is rotated rapidly and averaged over the acquisition time. An example of how image quality is enhanced by averaging the illumination direction is shown in Fig. 1B and C. In static oblique mode, the light sheet illuminated the sample from one direction (Fig. 1B, arrow). This induces shading artifacts as dense sample regions cast a shadow.

This can be seen in Fig. 1B as decreasing intensity from the left to the right of the nucleus. In addition, interaction of imperfect optical surfaces with coherent laser light induces interference that overlays the sample with a pattern of dark and bright fringes. In contrast, the rapidly rotating ring-sheet illumination produces even excitation (Fig. 1C). In addition, ring-sheet microscopy increases the image contrast and reduces phototoxicity, which enabled us to image herpesvirus nuclear capsid motility with high spatial and temporal resolution for longer times.

**Nuclear Herpesvirus Capsids Do Not Use Directed Transport.** To quantify herpesvirus nuclear capsid dynamics, we infected Ptk2 cells with pseudorabies virus (PRV; i.e., suid herpesvirus 1) or HSV-1 that expresses a fluorescent capsid protein (20–22). We recorded motility with ring-sheet microscopy as soon as the first capsids appeared in the nucleus [4 hours postinfection (hpi) or 5 hpi, respectively]. Imaging was done at a minimum of 36 frames per second by using a cylindrical lens to determine particle positions in 3D over time. Fig. 2A shows still images and average intensity projections over time of representative cells. The degree of smearing in the average intensity projection indicates particle motility (Movies S1 and S2). We were able to record 5,469 PRV tracks and 876 HSV-1 tracks (Table S1 shows a summary of the datasets used throughout this work). All tracks were gapless and 40 frames or longer, and localization accuracy was better than ±40 nm on all three axes (±5SD of immobile particles).

To determine whether nuclear herpesvirus capsids exhibited diffusion or directed transport, we first calculated the mean squared displacement (MSD) for all tracks. Plotting MSD curves in log-log space can be used as a diagnostic tool to distinguish diffusion from directed transport, because the MSD grows quadratically with time in the case of directed transport, but only linearly in the case of diffusion. Accordingly, the slope of a particle MSD undergoing pure directed transport is equal to 2, whereas a diffusing particle produces a slope equal to 1. Divergences from diffusion or a slope of 1 are denoted by an anomalous diffusion exponent, $\alpha$ (23).

To measure $\alpha$, we averaged all 5,469 PRV and 876 HSV-1 MSD curves and fitted the short-time scale regime to determine the slope (up to a delay of ~0.27 s; Fig. 2B). Alternatively, we also fitted the first 20% of individual curves (individual fits were excluded if $R^2 < 0.8$, delay of ~0.36 s; Fig. 2C). Both methods yielded very similar results, with mean values for $\alpha$ near 0.9 (α values between 0.9 and 1.1 are consistent with free diffusion). Thus, capsids appeared to move by nearly free diffusion over short time scales.

Fitting thousands of individual curves also gave us the opportunity to analyze the distribution of $\alpha$ values. A previous report (8) defined all fits with an $\alpha$ greater than 1.1 as directed. If a significant population of particles had moved by directed motility, we should observe a bimodal distribution. Instead, the $\alpha$ values of PRV and HSV-1 have a normal distribution (Fig. 2C, dotted line), with a mean $\alpha$ value <1 (one-sample $t$ test, $P < 10^{-14}$), indicating that there was not a significant population of tracks that exhibited directed transport.

**Herpesvirus Infection Enlarges Interchromatin Corrals.** Whereas the MSD curves for capsids were roughly linear at short time scales (delay < 1 s), they saturated over longer timescales, suggesting that particles had diffused within corrals. Previously, such confined diffusion of particles was observed in interchromatin spaces (1).

To test this hypothesis, we microinjected beads as inert nanoscale probes of the local nuclear architecture into infected or noninfected cells. After microinjection with PEG-passivated 100-nm beads, cells were allowed to recover overnight. The next day, cells were infected with PRV or imaged directly. We were able to record 289 bead tracks in noninfected cells and 226 bead tracks in infected cells. By plotting the average MSD curves for noninfected cells, the mean corral size can be calculated as depicted in Fig. 3A. Beads

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**Fig. 1.** Ring-sheet microscopy. (A) Schematic diagram of the optical path in a ring-sheet setup. A 2D galvo system steers a collimated laser beam of ~1.25 cm diameter. A 2x beam expander expands the beam such that it fills a 2.5-cm-diameter, 200-mm focusing lens. The focusing lens focuses the beam at the back focal plane of the microscope objective (objective). As the galvo steers the beam in a ring, the objective generates a rotating sheet of light (Inset). (B and C) Comparison of static oblique and ring-sheet microscopy. (Scale bar: 5 μm.) A Ptk2 cell was stained with 0.5 μg/mL Hoechst 33342 and imaged with (B) oblique microscopy, which uses a highly inclined directional beam (direction indicated by white arrow) or (C) ring-sheet microscopy. Compared with C, it can be clearly seen how the directional illumination induces shading artifacts and also suffers from interference fringes, which overlay a pattern of bright and dark regions onto the sample structure.
The major mode of nuclear herpesvirus capsid motility is diffusion. Ptk2 cells were infected with mEgFP-VP26-tagged PRV or EGFP-VP26-tagged HSV-1 at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 100. At 4 h or 5 h after infection, respectively, cells were stained with 0.5 μg/mL Hoechst 33342 and imaged with high-sensitivity microscopy at a frame rate of 36 frames per second for 24 s (PRV and HSV). (A) Outlines indicate nuclear boundaries as visualized by Hoechst staining. The first column (particles) depicts a single representative frame showing capsid or bead positions. The second column (avg. signal) depicts the average projection over the whole imaging time, indicating particle motility. The third column (tracks) depicts all recorded tracks over 40 frames total length. Tick marks along the axis correspond to 2-μm increments. (B) The average MSD was calculated from 5,469 PRV (green) and 876 HSV-1 (black) tracks and plotted on a log-log scale. Its linear portion was fitted with an MSD of 6Dtα. Only fits with an R2 > 0.8 were kept (4,162 of 5,469 tracks for PRV, 646 of 876 tracks for HSV-1), and the distributions of α values were plotted. The dotted line indicates a normal distribution with a mean of 0.85 and a SD of 0.24.


dotted line indicates a slope of 1. The first 20% of each individual MSD curve was fitted with an MSD of 6Dtα to determine α. Only fits with an R2 > 0.8 were kept (4,162 of 5,469 tracks for PRV, 646 of 876 tracks for HSV-1), and the distributions of α values were plotted. The dotted line indicates a normal distribution with a mean of 0.85 and a SD of 0.24.

Uniform Distribution of Capsid Assembly and Flattened Nuclear Geometry Enables Efficient Capsid Flux to the Nuclear Membrane.

Intracellular capsids have to reach the inner nuclear membrane for egress. Our data indicate that nuclear capsid dynamics are purely stochastic processes that do not involve directed transport. This conclusion is surprising because directed motility is necessary for long-distance viral movement through the cytoplasm (25). After nuclear egress, capsids must travel long distances through the viscous cytoplasm to reach the plasma membrane, necessitating active transport processes by motor proteins along filament tracks. In contrast, capsids assembling in the nucleus do not have a single point of origin. Rather, capsid subunits should not need to traverse the entire nuclear volume and could do so without the need for active transport mechanisms.

To investigate this concept, we evaluated temporal SD intensity projections of PRV capsid signals and found that capsid motility was distributed over most of the nucleus at 4 hpi (Fig. 6A and Movie S8). Of course, only particles in corrals near the nuclear membrane would be able to access the nuclear membrane directly for nuclear egress. We therefore determined what size (Fig. 4). Infected nuclei exhibited large areas depleted of DNA and chromatin that often harbored capsids. However, the capsids were not exclusively located in these large spaces but also in much smaller chromatin-depleted regions throughout the nucleoplasm (e.g., Fig. 4, white triangle). These observations of enlarged interchromatin regions and a more porous chromatin structure are consistent with a previous report describing a marginalization of host chromatin and an expansion of interchromatin compartments during HSV-1 infection (11).
volume fraction of the nucleus was within 0.9 μm (i.e., the previously determined mean corral diameter) from the nuclear membrane. We measured the dimensions of 39 infected PtK2 nuclei at 4 hpi and found that they can be approximated as an ellipsoid of 16.5 ± 2.3 μm length by 10.5 ± 1.9 μm width by 3.3 ± 0.5 μm height (mean ± SD). Because the nuclei are relatively flat, a 0.9-μm region around the nuclear membranes accounts for approximately 66% (range, 59–76%) of the nuclear volume. (Similarly, the region within 0.9 μm of the nuclear membranes accounts for 50% of the nuclear volume, for a spherical nucleus of the same volume given earlier.) Accordingly, the majority of the capsids might have instant access to the nuclear membrane through diffusion within 0.9-μm corrals. In comparison, if virus infection would not change nuclear architecture, capsids could access a volume fraction of only 31% (range, 27–37%) based on the dimensions of noninfected cells [16.1 ± 2.1 μm length by 10.3 ± 2.1 μm width by 2.5 ± 0.4 μm height (mean ± SD from 69 cells)] and a corral size of approximately 0.3 μm. The infection-induced large-scale changes in nuclear architecture therefore result in a more than twofold gain in membrane accessible volume fraction.

Corrals Can Be Rapidly Replenished with Capsids. Capsids are able to cross from corral to corral by hopping (Fig. 5). However, the impact of this phenomenon on the ability of capsids to replenish the membrane-proximal region from the interior nuclear volume is hard to estimate because it depends on the local concentration of capsids. To measure this flux, we performed fluorescence recovery after photobleaching (FRAP) experiments, in which we bleached nuclear regions ∼2 μm in diameter (corresponding to a maximum of four tightly packed corrals) and then determined the rate of recovery of fluorescent capsid protein. We measured a half time of 16 s for the mobile fraction (36% of fluorescence) to recover (Fig. 6 C). However, FRAP analysis might be less reliable in this case because the recovery of soluble capsid protein and assembled capsids are measured. We therefore also manually determined the time for a capsid to arrive in the middle of the bleached region. Among 27 cells, capsids moved through the center of the bleached area in 21 cells after 12 ± 2 s (mean ± SD; Movie S9). This indicates that it takes only approximately 10 s to replenish membrane-associated corrals from the nuclear interior.

Motile PRV Capsids Concentrate Near the Nuclear Envelope at Later Times During Infection. As herpesvirus infection progresses, nuclear chromatin is dynamically marginalized and modified with progressing infection (11, 26, 27). We therefore investigated whether PRV capsid motility changed between 4 hpi and 6 hpi. However, the capsid density increased so strongly during this period that tracking of individual capsids became impossible. We chose to depict capsid motility by the temporal SD of signal fluctuations. Here, only large fluctuations of intensity caused by rapidly moving capsids will produce a signal, whereas the background of soluble VP26 evenly distributed in the nuclear volume

Fig. 3. Herpesvirus infection leads to increased nuclear corral size. PtK2 cells were infected with mEFGP-VP26–tagged PRV or EGFP-VP26–tagged HSV-1 at an MOI of 100 or microinjected with passivated, 100-nm latex beads and infected the next day. At 4 h or 5 h after infection, respectively, cells were stained with 0.5 μg/mL Hoechst 33342 and imaged with ring-sheet microscopy at a frame rate of 36 frames per second for 28 s (PRV and HSV) or imaged with static oblique microscopy at 42 frames per second for 24 s (noninfected beads) or at 28 frames per second for 36 s. (A) Estimation of corral sizes. A particle (green) is trapped in an idealized spherical corral. Its maximum mean displacement is the radius of the sphere minus the radius of the particle (red arrow). Its MSD curve will therefore saturate. The mean corral diameter can be estimated by doubling the square root of MSD$_p$ and adding the particle diameter. (B) Average MSD curves as well as their SE (gray) of bead tracks from noninfected cells (black line) and from PRV-infected cells (red line) were plotted in linear space. Their saturation points were determined (dotted lines), and approximate corral sizes are indicated. (C) The same MSD dataset as used in Fig. 1 (green, PRV; black, HSV-1) was plotted in linear space, and their saturation point estimated. The dashed line indicates the detection limit of 40 nm$^2$.  

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is deemphasized. This revealed that capsid motility was often restricted to a “shell” surrounding a capsid-depleted nuclear interior (Fig. 6B and Movie S10). We measured the motility in such capsid-filled shells by FRAP and found almost no difference at 6 hpi (36% mobile fraction, 16 s \( t_{1/2} \)) compared with 4 hpi (Fig. 6C). Also, manual counting of the time until the first particle had moved through the center of the bleached area gave similar results (15 of 25 cells showed particles moving through the middle after 14 ± 3 s, mean ± SD; Movie S11). The enrichment of motile capsids in the margins might bring an even greater fraction of virus capsids into close proximity of nuclear membranes.

**PRV Viral Replication Compartment Maturation Correlates with Capsid Marginalization.** The viral DNA replication compartment might displace host chromatin and virus capsids at 6 hpi (28). To visualize the viral replication compartment, we generated a PRV mutant that expresses a fluorescently tagged ICP8, the viral single-stranded viral DNA-binding protein. Viral replication compartments expand and coalesce with progressing infection, whereas the host chromatin is marginalized (11, 15, 16). Indeed, ICP8, which indicates the replication compartments, was localized in the center of the nuclei, and the PRV capsids were reduced in these regions (Fig. 7A). Live-cell microscopy revealed that capsids moved mostly within the 1–2-μm-thick marginalized chromatin that surrounded the replication compartments (Fig. 7B and Movie S12).

In summary, our data suggest a model in which herpesvirus capsids first can assemble throughout the entire nuclear volume, while concomitantly the host chromatin becomes more porous and thus facilitates diffusion of capsids (Fig. 8, mock to 4 hpi). At this stage, as much as two thirds of the capsid volume can access the nuclear membranes directly by diffusion in 0.9-μm corrals (Fig. 8, accessible volume). The remaining third can access the nuclear envelope by hopping. Later, an expansion of the viral replication compartments marginalizes and concentrates motile capsids into a shell-like structure adjacent to the nuclear envelope, strongly minimizing the space that has to be bridged by diffusion (Fig. 8, 4 hpi to 6 hpi).

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Fig. 4. Nuclear capsids localize to enlarged nuclear corrals. PtK2 cells were left noninfected (noninf) or infected with mEFGP-VP26 tagged PRV at an MOI of 100 (inf). At 4 h postinfection, cells were fixed and stained with 0.5 μg/mL Hoechst 33342 Abs imaged with spinning-disk microscopy. After infection, chromatin structure becomes more porous and capsids can be found in large and small (white arrow) corrals. (Scale bars: 2 μm.)

Fig. 5. Displacement probabilities for capsids and beads are similar over longer time scales. PtK2 cells were infected with mEFGP-VP26–tagged PRV at an MOI of 100, microinjected with passivated 100-nm latex beads, or microinjected and infected. At 4 h after infection, cells were stained with 0.5 μg/mL Hoechst 33342 and imaged with ring-sheet microscopy at a frame rate of 36 frames per second for 28 s (PRV) or imaged with static oblique microscopy at 42 frames per second for 24 s (noninfected beads) or at 28 frames per second for 36 s (infected beads). (A) Tracks showing events of seemingly directed motility through chromatin-enriched regions for both capsids (first row) and microinjected beads in infected cells (second row). In contrast, microinjected beads in noninfected cells (third row) move much less. Tick marks along the axis correspond to 1-μm increments. (B) The displacements of capsids and beads in infected and noninfected cells over a delay of 1.5 s was calculated and plotted in semilog space depicting the probability for a particle to move a certain distance over 1.5 s (5,469 tracks for PRV, 289 tracks for noninfected beads, 226 tracks for infected beads).
Virus-induced reorganization of the nuclear structure leads to and "tagged PRV at an MOI of 100, stained with www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1513876112 μV dimension and allows better particle identification at high (35); active diffusion could allow the use of high-N.A. objectives. Therefore, we have modified the classical objective-based TIRF architecture (18) such that a rotating oblique light sheet is generated. This setup has several advantages. First, it requires only one objective, which makes it compatible with many existing microscope architectures. Second, an objective with a high N.A. increases resolution especially in the z dimension and allows better particle identification at high particle concentrations. Third, the rotating illumination eliminates shading and laser interference artifacts that cannot be avoided in oblique microscopy. Most importantly, sample contrast is enhanced while phototoxicity is reduced. Together, these features enabled the presented study. There are, however, caveats: light-sheet thickness correlates with illumination area (19) in oblique geometries, and more work is needed to characterize the generated oblique light sheet and its effects.

The nucleus relies on the inward and outward flux of molecules to fulfill its various biological duties. Its sponge-like interior, however, constrains the movement of larger complexes (1). Intermediate-sized complexes, like RNA molecules (31, 32) and ribosome subunits (33), are able to diffuse within and frequently hop between subnuclear corrals. However, diffusion of very large particles like PML bodies, Cajal bodies (4), or microinjected 100-nm latex beads (5) is strongly confined to corrals with a diameter of approximately 300 nm (5). Larger translocations are only possible if the corral itself moves as a result of large-scale rearrangements of the nucleus. Some of these nuclear bodies might be able to dynamically assemble and disperse (34), such that long-range motility of the whole complex is not needed. In contrast, herpesvirus capsids and possibly cellular RNP particles (7) assemble in the nucleoplasm and need to reach the nuclear envelope for nuclear egress.

Strikingly, fluorescently labeled herpesvirus capsids are surprisingly motile in the nuclei compared with microinjected beads of similar size in uninfected nuclei. Previous reports have suggested that herpesvirus capsids use an F-actin-dependent, directed, and active transport mechanism to propel through the nuclear interior (8, 9). However, further study of this hypothesis has been missing for more than a decade. We recently reinvestigated this idea, and did not find any evidence that herpesviruses induce nuclear F-actin (10).

First, we find that capsids diffuse over short time scales (<1 s), but are corralled over longer time scales. A previous report (8) was not able to analyze very short time scales because of technical limitations of their microscopy approach, but found α values indicating directed motility by fitting time scales ranging from 0.5 to 2.5 s. Our data do not support this, as the MSD curves we measured plateau at such longer time scales (Fig. 1B). Our data show clear evidence for corralling at longer time scales, consistent with previous reports on other large nuclear complexes (4) with the marked difference that herpesvirus infection increases corral size threefold.

These results suggest a model in which herpesvirus infection increases the porosity of the nucleus. Diffusion in these enlarged corrals allows the majority of capsids to have direct access to the nuclear envelope. Although the motility of capsids was indistinguishable from that of the inert tracer particles, it is possible that the motion of these and other nuclear components could reflect nonthermal kicks as a result of active cellular or viral processes known as "active diffusion" (35); active diffusion could allow capsids to hop between corrals, resulting in the observed replenishment of capsids from the interior nuclear volume over tens of seconds.

In addition, the expansion of the viral DNA replication compartments over time excludes herpesvirus capsids from the interior nucleoplasm, enriching them in corrals in close proximity to the nuclear envelopes. Such a marginalization of host chromatin during infection is a very compelling phenotype that might not be unique to the herpesviruses. Other DNA viruses replicating in the nucleus, like paroviruses and baculoviruses, show similar effects (36, 37). It has been proposed (36) that depletion attraction plays a role, as virus infection might introduce molecules that act as crowders (38). Phase separation between viral structures and host chromatin could also play a role, as a number

**Fig. 6.** Virus-induced reorganization of the nuclear structure leads to a concentration of capsids near nuclear membranes. (A and B) PtK2 cells were infected with mEGFP-VP26-tagged PRV at an MOI of 100, stained with 0.5 μg/mL Hoechst 33342, and imaged with ring-sheet microscopy at a frame rate of 36 frames per second for 28 s at 4 hpi (B) or 6 hpi (C). Regions of capsid motility are represented as the SD of signals at each pixel over the entire acquisition time (Std. capsids). Outlines depict nuclear dimensions as determined by Hoechst staining. (Scale bar: 5 μm.) (C) An ∼2-μm region was bleached into cells at 4 hpi (black) or 6 hpi (red), and FRAP was measured.

**Discussion**

The past decade has brought huge advances in live cell microscopy to enable dynamic multichannel imaging of several nuclear structures (29). Still, imaging the nuclear egress of virus particles remains a challenge because of large amounts of soluble capsid proteins that reduce the contrast to high particle densities, which demands fast acquisition, and to phototoxicity and bleaching, which must be counterbalanced by very sensitive cameras. Recently, light-sheet microscopy has provided major improvements with regard to contrast and reduced phototoxicity (30). Nevertheless, there are downsides to the classical two-objective light-sheet architecture, as geometrical constraints typically do not permit the use of high-N.A. objectives. Therefore, we have modified the classical objective-based TIRF architecture (18) such that a rotating oblique light sheet is generated. This setup has several advantages. First, it requires only one objective, which makes it compatible with many existing microscope architectures. Second,
PtK2 cells were acquired from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC CCL-56), cultured in ATCC EMEM (ATCC 30-2003) supplemented with 10% FBS, and kept at standard cell culture conditions (5% CO₂, 37 °C). Cells were split twice per week at a 1:4 ratio and not cultured for more than 20 passages.

**Materials and Methods**

**Cells and Viruses.** PtK2 cells were acquired from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC CCL-56), cultured in ATCC EMEM (ATCC 30–2003) supplemented with 10% FBS, and kept at standard cell culture conditions (5% CO₂, 37 °C). Cells were split twice per week at a 1:4 ratio and not cultured for more than 20 passages.

PRV943c is a PRV443 derivative (22) constructed by first replacing the GFP gene with an mRFP gene by homologous recombination. Afterward, UL31 acts an adapter that mediates binding to UL34, the membrane-bound partner of the nuclear egress complex (PRV, Uniprot Q7TBN7), binds capsids in the nucleoplasm. PRV943 is a PRV443 derivative (22) constructed by first replacing the GFP gene with an mRFP gene by homologous recombination that resulted in PRV180 (48). The mRFP gene was then replaced with monomeric EGFP (mEGFP, A206K) gene by homologous recombination as indicated by ICP8 is shown as an average projection over time (avg. ICP8). Nuclear chromatin is also shown as an average projection over time (avg. Hoechst). The merge image shows capsid signals in green, ICP8 in red, and chromatin in gray. (Scale bars: 5 μm.)

**Avg. ICP8**

**Avg. Hoechst**

**Merge**

**Fig. 7.** Replication compartment expansion marginalizes capsids to the nuclear periphery. PtK2 cells were infected with a PRV mutant expressing fluorescent capsids (mRFP-VP26) and ICP8-mEGFP. (A) Cells at 4 and 6 hpi were fixed and stained with 0.5 μg/mL Hoechst 33342 and imaged with spinning-disk microscopy. Nucleus and replication compartment outlines are depicted as dotted lines. (B) Cells at 6 hpi were stained with Hoechst and imaged live with ring-sheet microscopy at a frame rate of 12 frames per second (28 ms per channel) for 67 s. Capsid motility is depicted as the SD of capsid signals over time (std. capsids), and the viral replication compartment as indicated by ICP8 is shown as an average projection over time (avg. ICP8). Nuclear chromatin is also shown as an average projection over time (avg. Hoechst). The merge image shows capsid signals in green, ICP8 in red, and chromatin in gray. (Scale bars: 5 μm.)

of physiological nuclear bodies appear to represent condensed liquid phases of nucleoplasm (39). However, the compartmentalization of capsids, viral DNA, and cellular chromatin might be more complex: We find that motile PRV capsids are deenriched from replication compartments, which has also been reported for murine cytomegalovirus capsids (40) and parvovirus capsids (36). However, HSV-1 capsids seem to be instead enriched in late replication compartments (41–43). It is possible that the balance between host chromatin and replication compartment density plays a role. PRV seems to induce chromatin marginalization, but at the same time does not reduce capsid motility significantly, as our FRAP data show. This is only possible if corral size does not decrease, meaning that the marginalized chromatin maintains its porosity. Increasing the replication compartment size and density might then lead to an exclusion of capsids from the replication compartments and their enrichment near the nuclear envelope. HSV-1, on the contrary, might compact the marginalized chromatin, while having a less dense replication compartment, displacing HSV-1 capsids from the chromatin into the replication compartment. In future studies, it will be important to investigate by what molecular mechanism the nuclear architecture is modulated, and what affect this has on the nuclear egress of HSV-1 capsids.

Future technological developments might enable an even more detailed analysis. Particle detection algorithms that can deal with very high signal densities are an active field of research to allow better and faster superresolution localization microscopy (44). These approaches might also allow the tracking of single capsids at very high concentrations later in infection. Moreover, we do not know if our model applies to other herpesvirus subfamilies, like the β-herpesviruses (e.g., human cytomegalovirus), which have much longer life cycles and therefore might be able to reorganize the host environment even more profoundly. It is possible that cytomegaloviruses use extensive nuclear membrane infoldings (45) to increase the surface-accessible volume fraction and compensate for increased nuclear height. Capsid-tagged cytomegaloviruses are available now (46), and future studies are needed to understand the differences between these subfamilies.

Our model has one more important implication: If motility is stochastic and no mechanism actively delivers capsids to the nuclear membrane, there might be molecular mechanisms to retain capsids that have arrived at the nuclear membranes. Recent reports (40, 47) have suggested that nuclear egress is a two-part process: First, UL31, the soluble partner of the nuclear egress complex (PRV, Uniprot Q7TBN7), binds capsids in the nucleoplasm. Afterward, UL31 acts an adapter that mediates binding to UL34, the membrane-bound partner of the nuclear egress complex (PRV, Uniprot G3G8X8). This UL31/UL34 interaction may provides the high affinity/avidity interactions needed to retain diffusing capsids upon stochastic collision with the nuclear membrane.

In conclusion, our findings suggest that remodeling of the nuclear structure is needed to allow very large nuclear particles to cross the nuclear space in the absence of directed transport. It is worth investigating if a similar physiological mechanism exists for movement of large nuclear complexes, such as large RNP particles (7).
Cells were microinjected with a custom-built system consisting of 80 per second. Oblique illumination with a ×36 dichroic mirror and a FF01-446/510/581/703 z emission filter was used. The nuclei were targeted by manually driving the tip into the nuclei. Particle tracking was performed first by determining the z (N.A. 1.49) objective, and an iXon Ultra EM-CCD camera (Andor), run through Nikon NIS AR software in triggered acquisition mode. At 6 hpi, the interchromatin compartment, which leads to an increase in corral size (light gray regions). Capsids form and populate the enlarged corral (green dots; 4 hpi).

Passivation of Beads. One-hundred-nanometer yellow-green (F8803) and red fluorescent (F8801) carboxylated latex beads (Life Technologies) were passivated with PEG according to Feric et al. (24).

Microinjection. Cells were microinjected with a custom-built system consisting of a 5242 Microinjection (Eppendorf) connected to pressurized nitrogen tank, an MP225 motorized stage (Sutter), and an Eppendorf needle holder. Eppendorf Femtotips were loaded from the back with 5 μL bead suspension using Eppendorf loading tips. Femtotips were checked for clean loading and air bubbles with a stereomicroscope. Before microinjection, the medium was changed to prewarmed cell culture medium plus 20 mM Heps pH buffer.

Virus Infection. Cells were infected with 100 plaque-forming units per cell for 1 h in serum-free medium without fetal bovine serum. PRV-infected cells were incubated for a total of 4 or 6 h as it enhance before imaging. HSV-infected cells were incubated for 5 h before imaging.

Image Manipulation. All data presented in this work was Kalman-filtered (settings: acquisition noise, 0.05; bias, 0.80) in Fiji (S1) to suppress spurious noise.

Particle Tracking. Particle tracking was performed first by determining the positions of fluorescent particles through QuickPALM (52) in Fiji (S1) with the following settings: minimum SNR, 5; maximum FWHM, 5 pixels for capsids and 3 pixels for beads; image plane pixel size, 178 nm; minimum symmetry, 0%; local threshold, 20% maximum intensity; maximum iterations per frame, 100,000; and threads, 50. Particle positions and astigmatism information were then fed into a custom-written Matlab script which calls Simpletracker (Jean-Yves Tinevez, www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/34040-simpletracker) and MSD Analyzer (S3) to first generate tracks from particle positions and then calculate the MSD, as well as the diffusion coefficient D and the anomalous diffusion coefficient. The maximum allowed linking distance between two points was 0.5 μm, and particles had to be present in each consecutive frame (i.e., no gap closing). The minimum allowed track length was 40 frames (scripts can be found as Datasets S1 and S2).

- Calibration. The z position of virus particles was determined by introducing a 500-μm cylindrical lens (L1144RM-A; Thorlabs) approximately 3.5 cm in front of the camera entrance port. To translate the resulting astigmatism into z information, a z-calibration curve was generated. To reduce the localization error typically introduced by refractive index mismatch between glass and cells, we used fixed and infected cells instead of beads on glass and

Fig. 8. Viral remodeling of the nuclear architecture allows efficient flux of nuclear capsids in the absence of a directed transport system. Schematic depiction of the spatial changes during PRV infection that allow capsids to diffuse efficiently to site of nuclear egress. First (1), the interchromatin compartments enlarge, which leads to an increase in corral size (light gray regions). Capsids form and populate the enlarged corral (green dots; 4 hpi). Over time (2), replication compartments form (red dots) enlarge and coalesce. At 6 hpi, chromatin is marginalized and most of the chromatin-depleted region in the center of the nucleus is occupied by the replication compartment. Capsids now mainly move in the peripheral corral near the nuclear membranes, bringing them nearer to sites of egress. The accessible volume fraction is depicted as light green area, showing that a large fraction of the nuclear volume has access to nuclear membranes in 3D.
analyzed by using EasyFRAP (55). Data were full-scale normalized and single-term fitted.

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FRAP. FRAP experiments were performed on the ring-sheet microscope by illuminating a ~2-μm-diameter region with 405 nm laser light for 5 s. Cells were imaged afterward in ring-sheet mode. A Matlab script was used to control laser illumination and ring illumination through a 12-bitDAQ board (NI-PCl-6713) coupled to a breakout board (NI BNC2110). Particle positions and their astigmatism were then determined through Quickpalm, and particle identities were determined through a modified tracking script. A calibration curve ranging over approximately 1 μm was then created from averaged astigmatism vs. z-position curves (scripts can be found as Datasets S3-S5).

Determination of Displacement Probabilities. Displacement probabilities were calculated according to a previous study (54).