



# General Virology 304

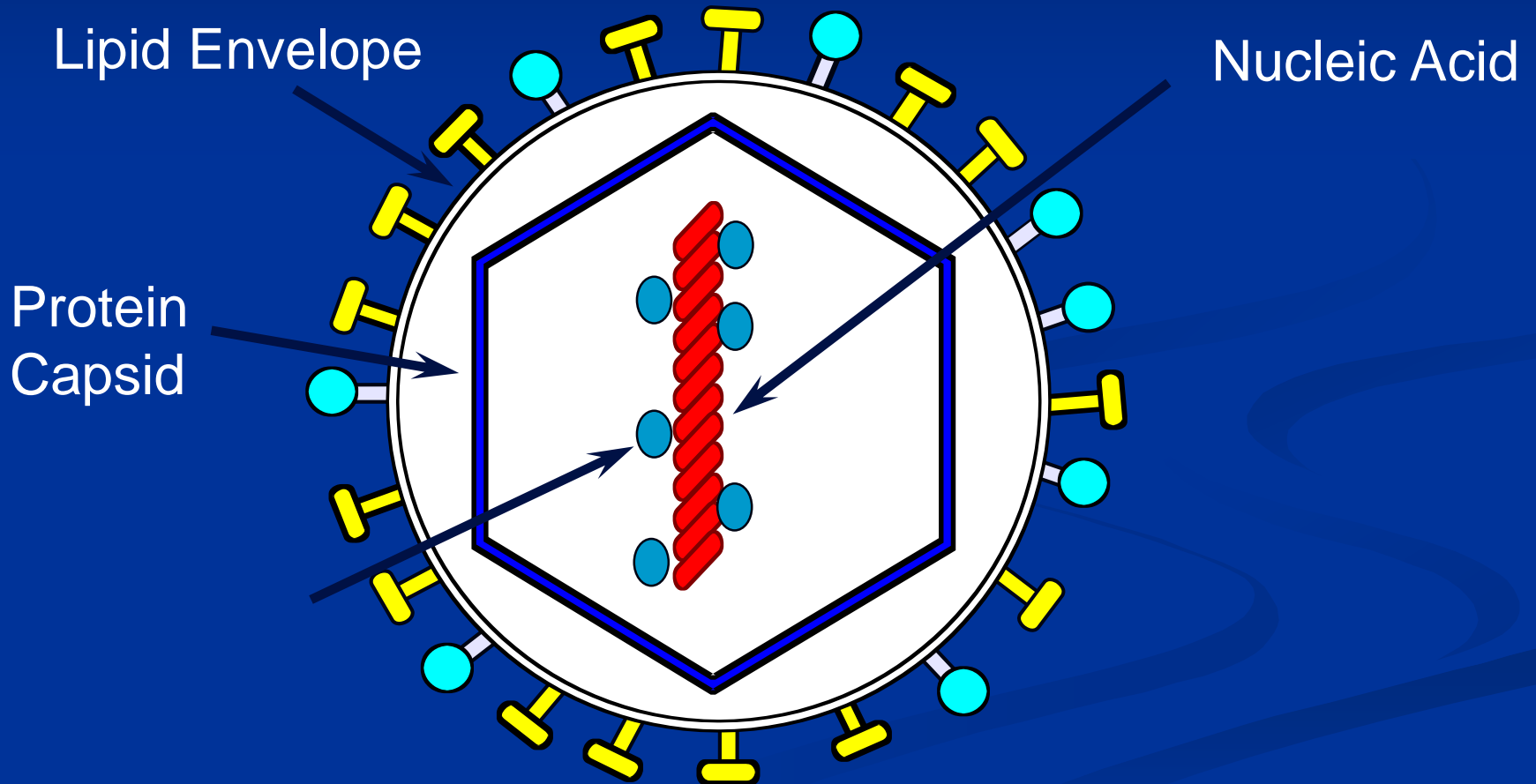
## Lecture Series XII

# Virus Classification

**Dr. Haitham M. Amer, DVM, Ph.D.**

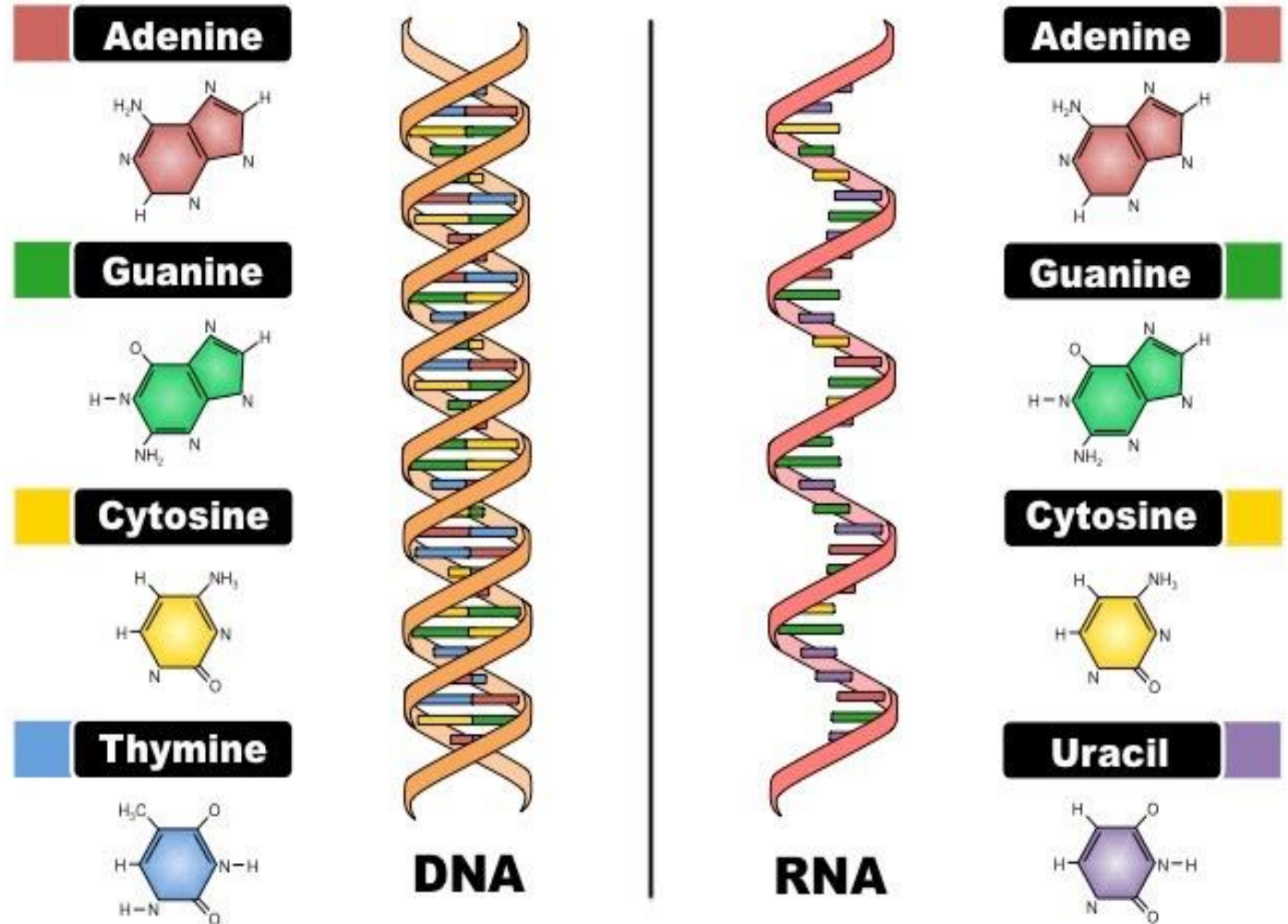
**Virology Department, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo  
University, Giza, 12211, Egypt**

# Virus



# Virus Nucleic Acid (Genome)

## 1- Type:



# Virus Nucleic Acid (Genome)

## 2- Strandness:



dsDNA

Most DNA  
Viruses

Pox - Herpes



ssDNA

Rare  
Parvo - Circo



dsRNA

Rare  
Reo - Birna



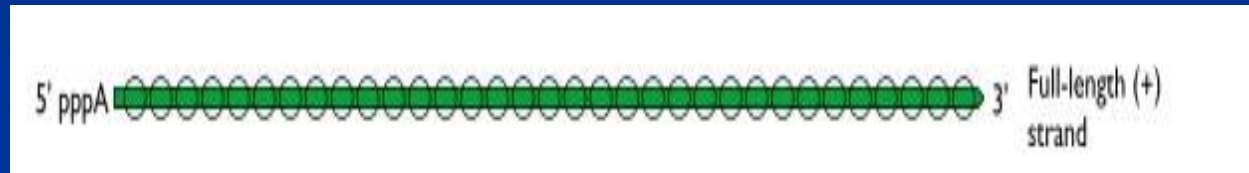
ssRNA

Most RNA  
Viruses  
Influenza

# Virus Nucleic Acid (Genome)

## 3- Sense (polarity):

Positive  
Sense



Negative  
Sense



AmbiSense



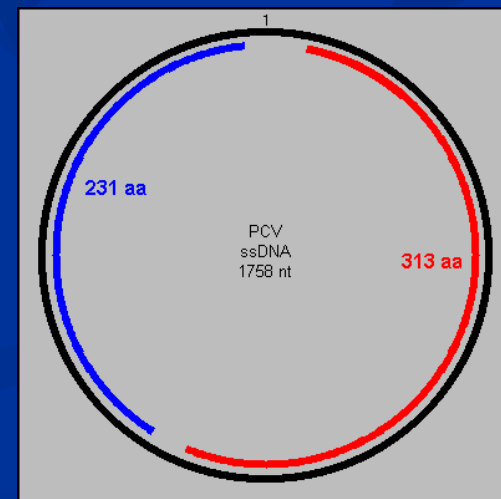
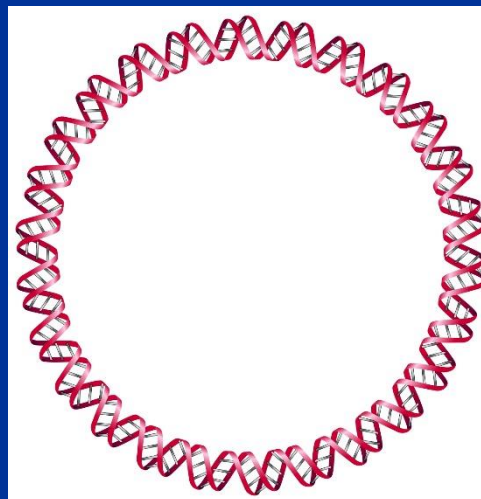
# Virus Nucleic Acid (Genome)

## 4- Linearity:

Linear:  
HIV - HCV



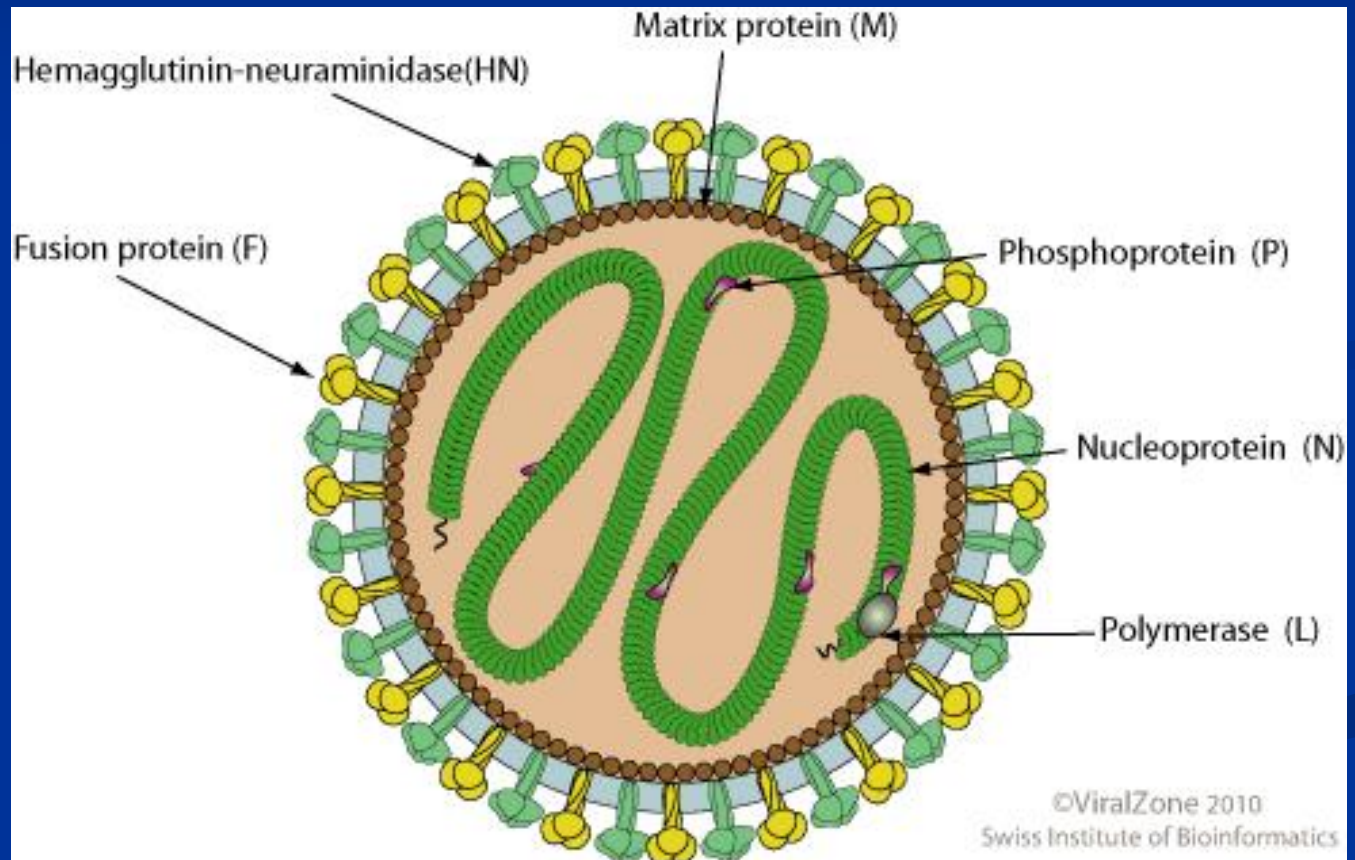
Circular:  
Circo - HBV



# Virus Nucleic Acid (Genome)

## 5- Segmentation:

Single  
molecule:



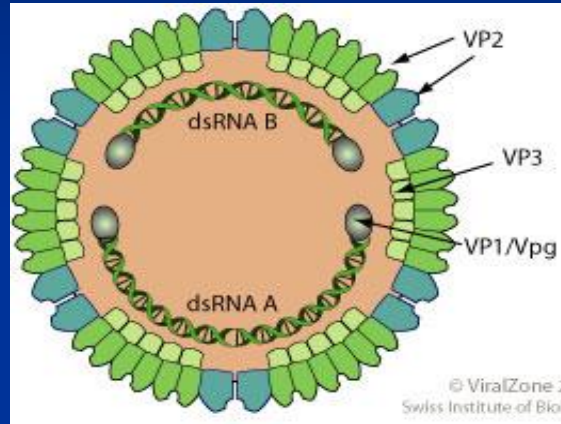
Newcastle Disease Virus



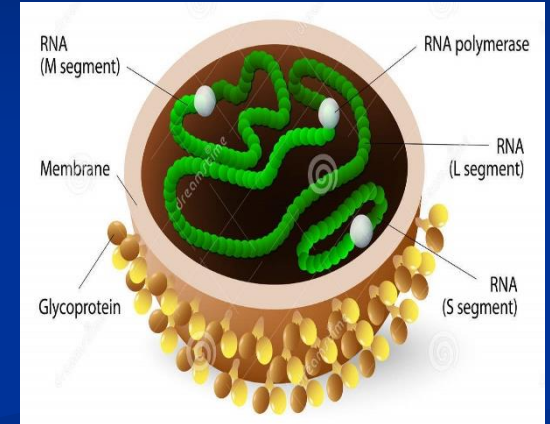
# Virus Nucleic Acid (Genome)

## 5- Segmentation:

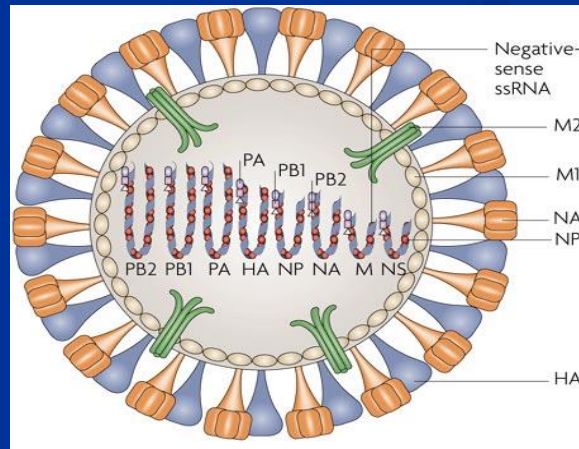
Segmented  
Genome:



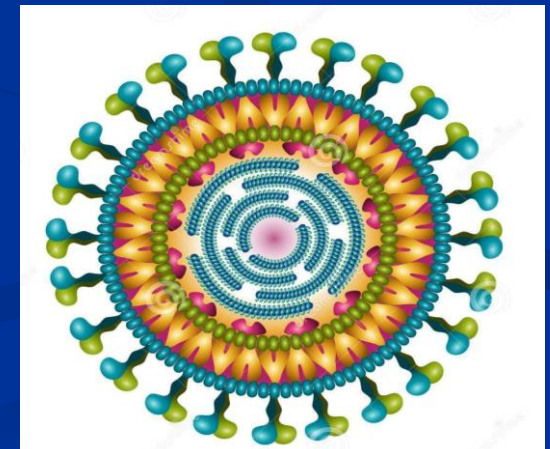
2 segments (IBDV)



3 segments (RVF)



8 segments (Influenza)



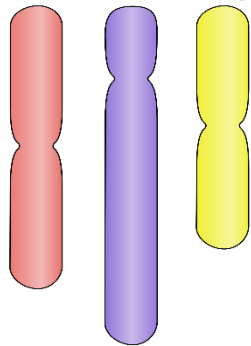
11 segments (Rota)



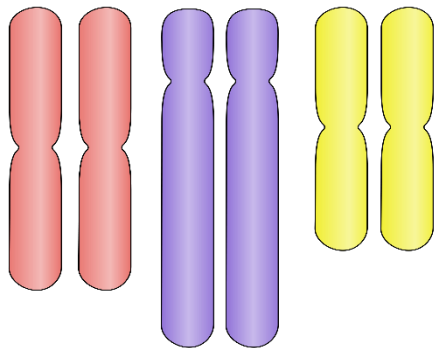
# Virus Nucleic Acid (Genome)

## 6- Ploidy:

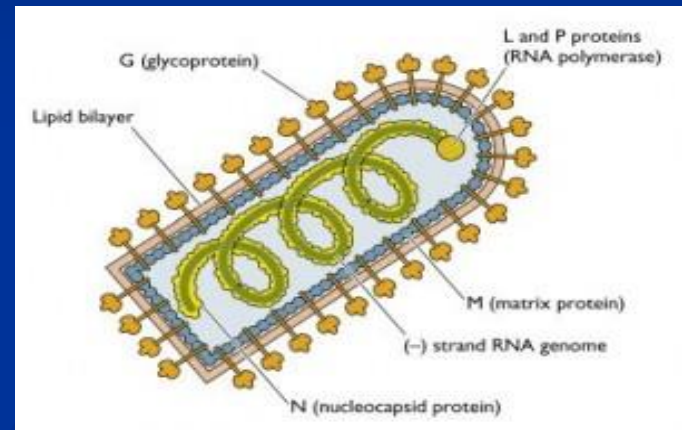
Haploid (N)



Diploid (2N)

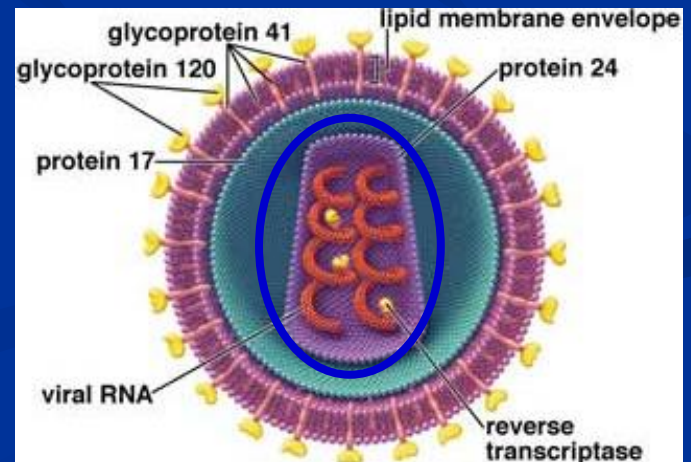


Haploid:



Diploid:

HIV



# Example: Influenza Virus

RNA

Single stranded

Negative sense

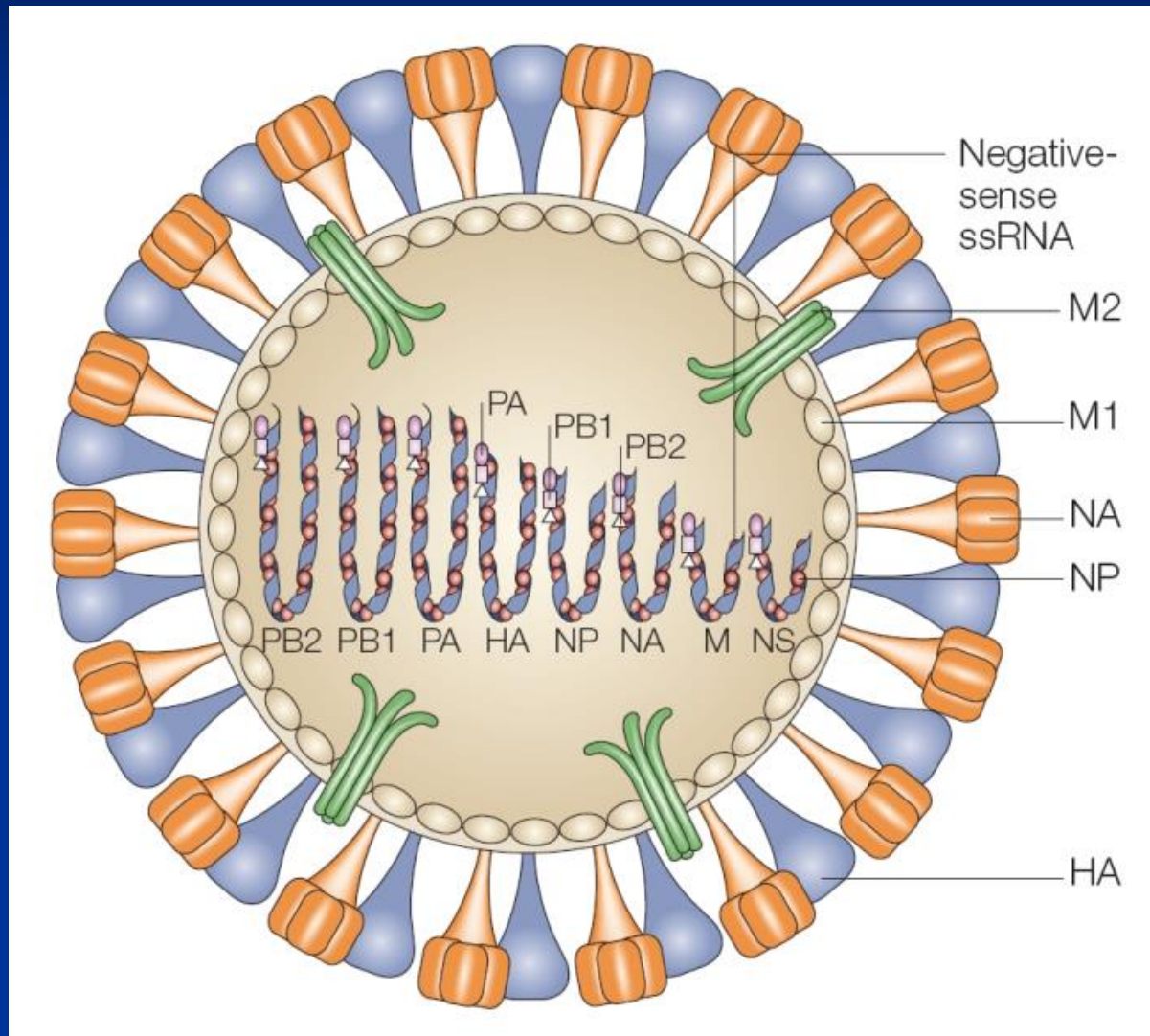
Linear

Segmented (6-8 segments)

Haploid



# Example: Influenza Virus



# Capsid

Two kinds of symmetry:

Correspond to two primary shapes



**Rod:**

**Helical**  
symmetry

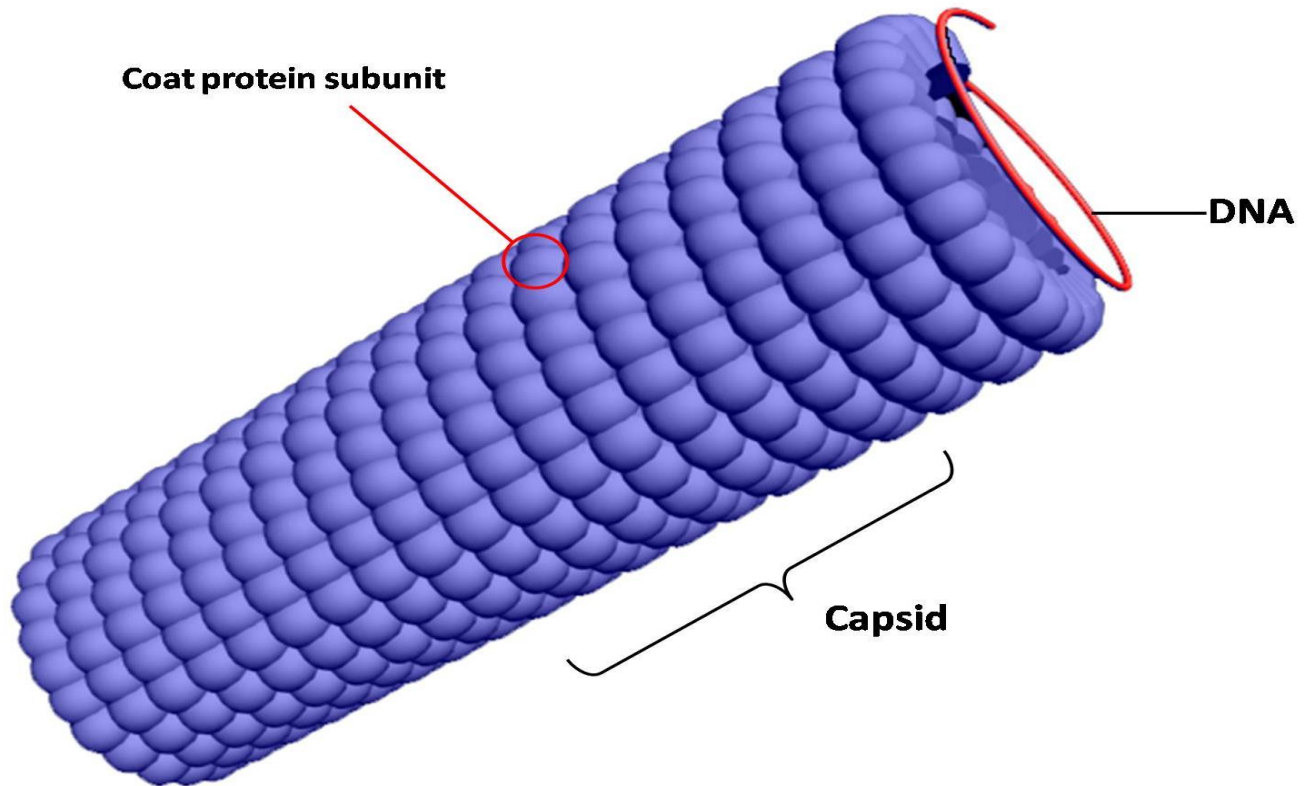


**Spherical:**

**Icosahedral**  
symmetry

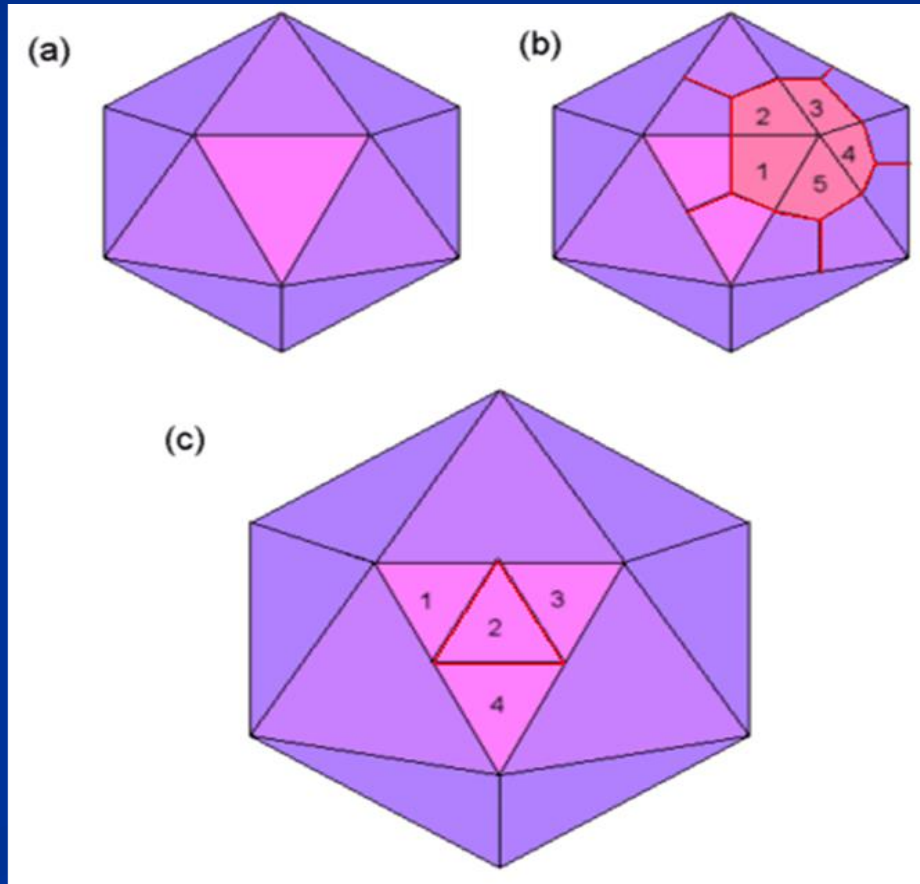
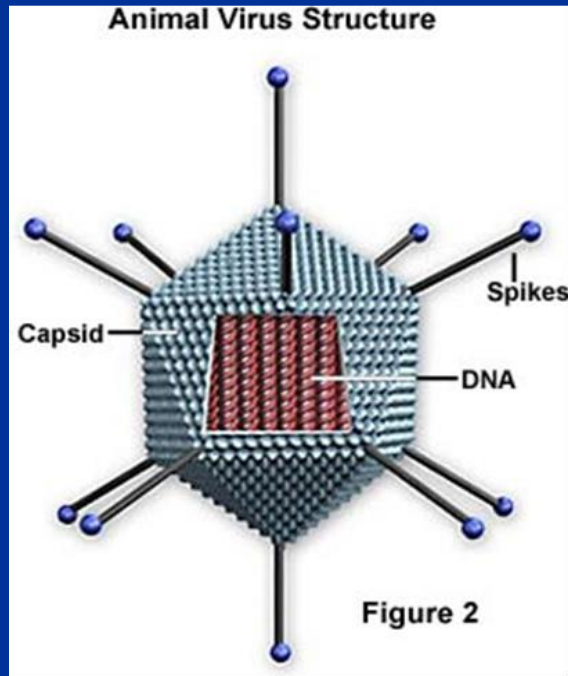
# Capsid

## Helical Capsid:



# 2- Capsid

## Icosahedral Capsid:



20 faces (equilateral triangle)  
30 borders - 12 angles

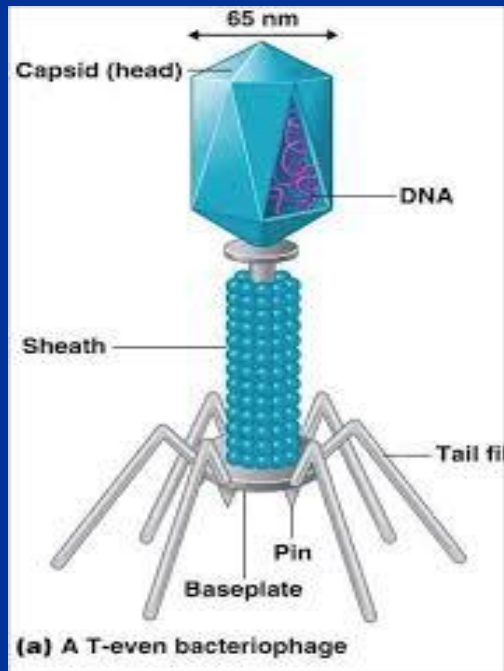
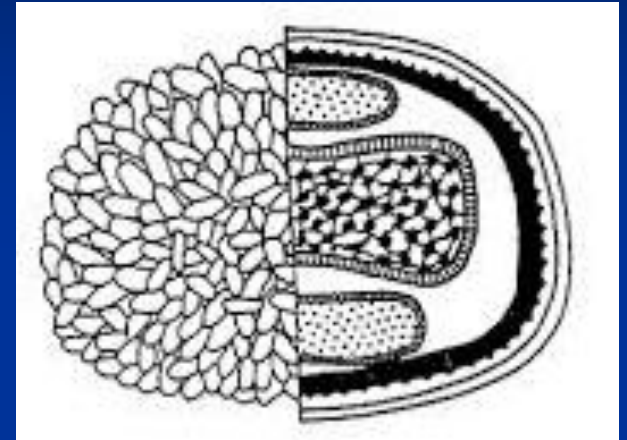


# Capsid

## Complex Capsid:

- Neither icosahedral nor helical

e.g. small pox virus

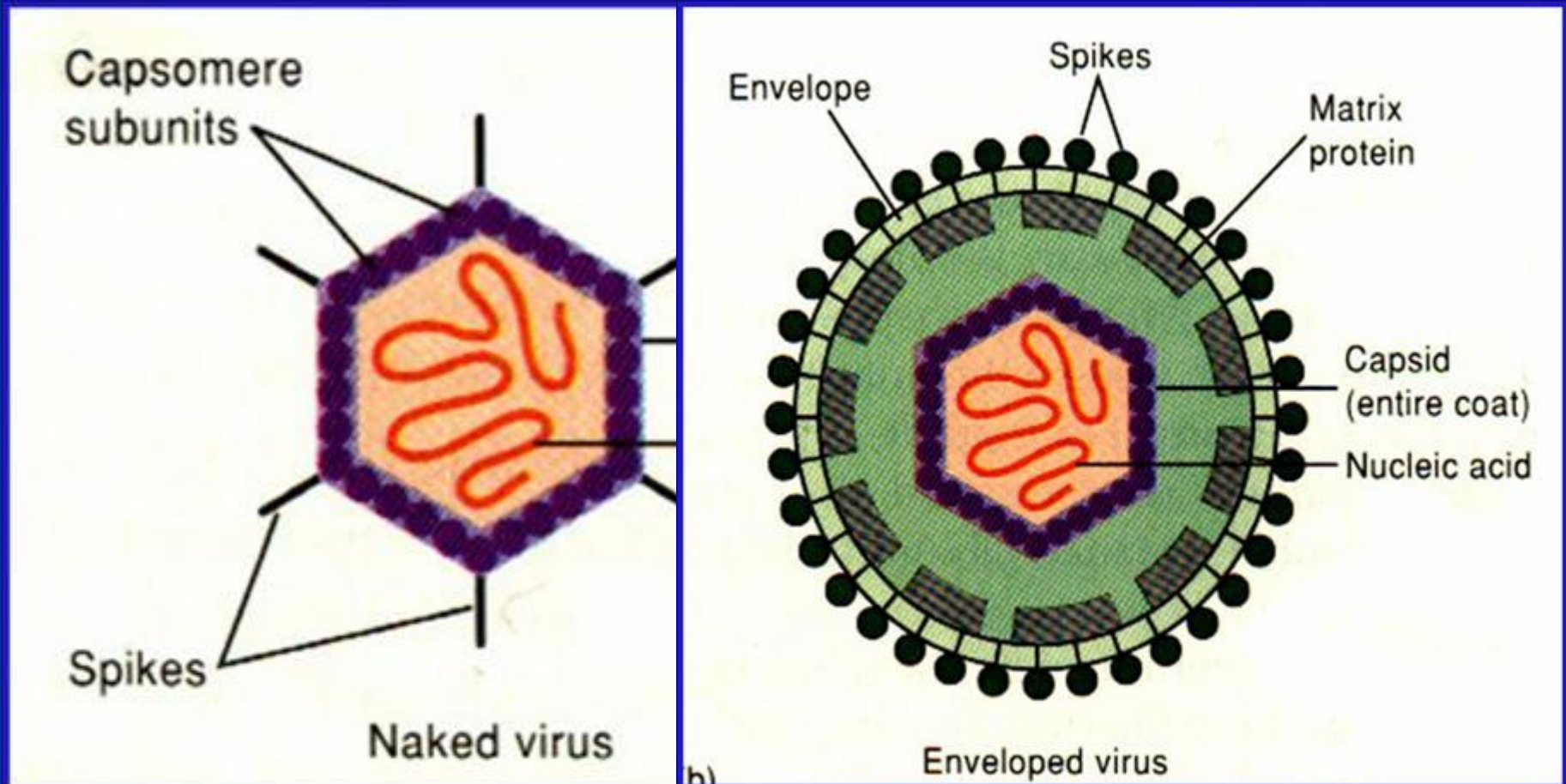


- Both icosahedral nor helical (Binal)

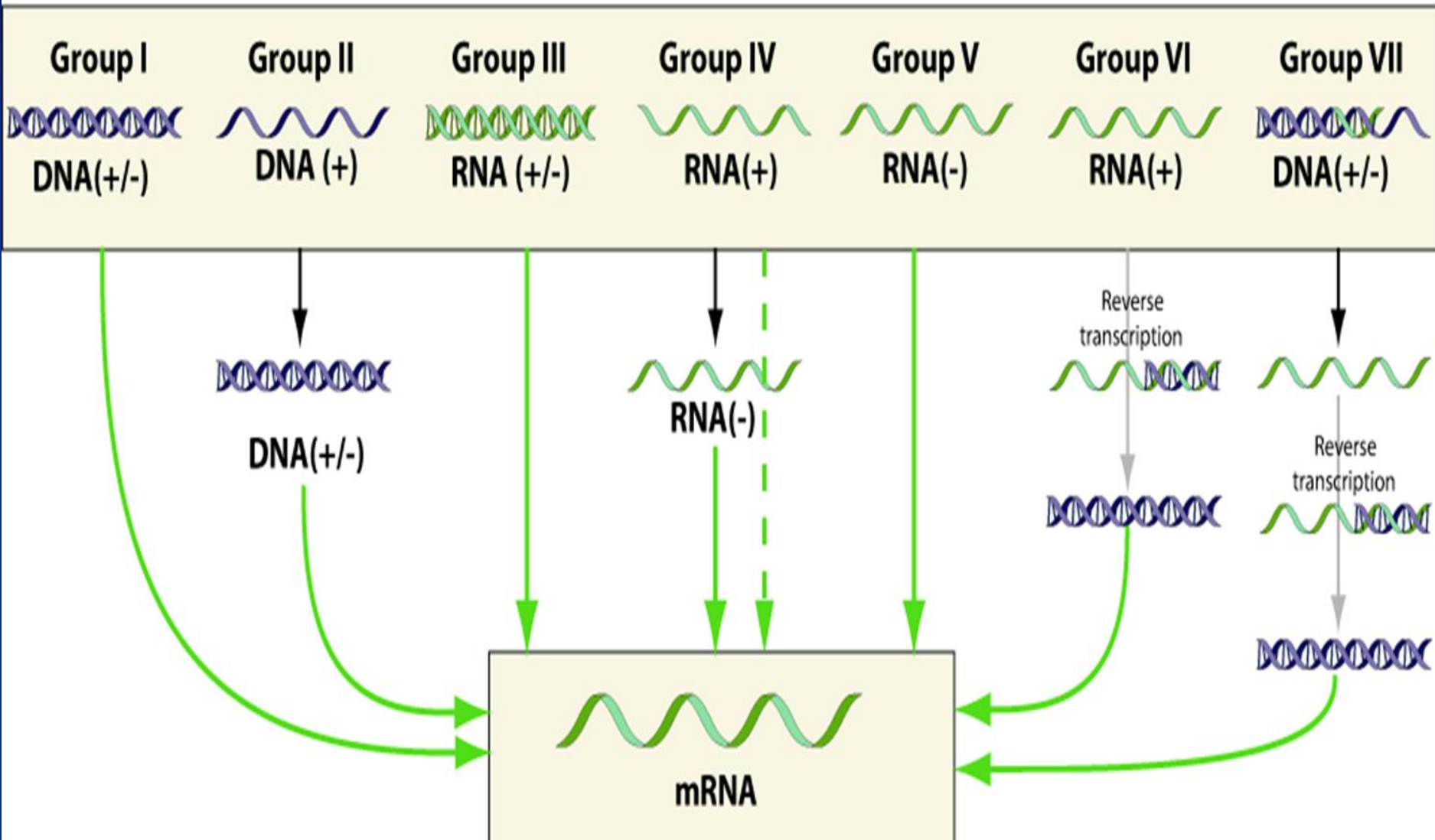
e.g. Bacteriophage



# Envelope



## Genetic material present in the virion



# ICTV

- ❖ International committee on the nomenclature of viruses (ICNV) ..... 1966
- ❖ International committee on the taxonomy of viruses (ICTV) ..... 1973
- ❖ Nine meetings were held to upgrade virus classification till now:  
Helsinki (Finland) 1968 ..... Leuven (Belgium) 2009

At 2016:  
122 families  
4404 virus

Year	Release Info	Order	Family	Subfamily	Genus	Species
2016	EC 48, Budapest, Hungary, August 2016; Email ratification 2017 (MSL #31)	8	122	35	735	4404
2015	EC 47, London, UK, July 2015; Email ratification 2016 (MSL #30)	7	111	27	609	3704
2014	EC 46, Kingston and Montreal, Canada, July 2014, Email ratification 2015 (MSL #29)	7	104	23	505	3185
2013	EC 45, Edinburgh, July 2013; Email ratification 2014 (MSL #28)	7	103	22	455	2827
2012	EC 44, Leuven, July 2012; Email ratification 2013 (MSL #27)	7	96	22	420	2617
2011	EC 42: Paris, June, 2010; EC43: Sapporo, September 2011; Email ratification 2012 (MSL #26)	6	94	22	395	2480
2009	ICTV 9th Report; EC41: Leiden, June 2009; Email ratification 2009 (MSL #25)	6	87	19	349	2285
2008	EC 39: Kingston, June, 2007; EC 40: Istanbul, August 2008; Email ratification 2008 (MSL #24)	5	82	11	307	2079
2005	ICTV 8th Report (MSL #23)	3	73	11	289	1899
2004	Postal vote 2004 (MSL #22)	3	73	11	290	1832
2002	Plenary session vote 30 July 2002 in Paris (MSL #21)	3	70	11	251	1619
2002	Postal vote spring 2002 (MSL #20)	3	70	9	247	1602
1999	Plenary session vote August 1999 in Sydney (MSL #19)	3	64	9	239	1550
1999	ICTV 7th Report (MSL #18)	3	64	9	234	1551
1998	Postal vote autumn 1998 (MSL #17)	3	63	9	233	2370
1997	Postal vote autumn 1997 (MSL #16)	2	56	9	197	2267
1996	Plenary session vote August 1996 in Jerusalem (MSL #15)	2	53	9	182	2253
1995	ICTV 6th Report (MSL #14)	1	50	9	166	2220
1993	Plenary session vote 10 August 1993 in Glasgow (MSL #13)	1	49	9	160	1700
1991	ICTV 5th Report (MSL #12)	1	40	9	142	1674
1990	Plenary session vote 29 August 1990 in Berlin (MSL #11)	1	40	9	137	1290
1987	Plenary session vote 12 August 1987 in Edmonton (MSL #10)	0	37	8	116	1275
1984	Plenary session vote 5 September 1984 in Sendai (MSL #09)	0	35	8	103	1222
1982	ICTV 4th Report (MSL #08)	0	29	8	97	1209
1981	Plenary session vote 4 August 1981 in Strasbourg (MSL #07)	0	29	8	93	1091
1979	ICTV 3rd Report (MSL #06)	0	24	8	84	1008
1978	Plenary session vote 30 August 1978 in The Hague (MSL #05)	0	24	7	76	760
1976	ICTV 2nd Report (MSL #04)	0	17	3	67	754
1975	Plenary session vote 12/16 September 1975 in Madrid (MSL #03)	0	17	1	63	309
1974	Postal vote April-May 1974 (MSL #02)	0	5	0	49	298
1971	ICTV 1st Report (MSL #01)	0	2	0	43	290

At 1971:  
2 families  
290 virus

# Classification Methods

## First classification trial:

*“Based on clinical and ecological properties”*

1. Common clinical and pathogenic properties  
(e.g. respiratory, nervous, digestive viruses)
2. Common organ tropism  
(e.g. liver, lung, brain, intestine)
3. Common transmission patterns  
(e.g. Arthropod-born, Air-born, vertical, venereal)

Ex. Viruses causing hepatitis (A, B, C, D,E; now belong to different families: Picorna, Hepadna, Flavi, Delta and Calici).

# Classification Methods

## Second classification trial:

*“Based on physicochemical and antigenic properties of viruses”*

### 1. Virion size

(ultrafiltration - ultracentrifugation - electron microscopy)

### 2. Virion morphology

(Electron microscopy)

### 3. Virion stability

(pH – temperature – lipid solvents – detergents – radiation)

### 4- Virus antigenicity (Serological tests)

# Classification Methods

## Current classification trials:

*“Based on virus structure and replication”*

1. Hierarchical Classification System  
(Structure of virion and characteristics of virus genome)
2. Baltimore Classification System  
(Strategy of viral replication and mRNA synthesis)
3. Phylogenetic analysis/Genotyping  
(Complete or partial sequencing of viral genome)



# (A) Hierarchical classification system

*“Based on structure of virion and characteristics of virus genome”*

## 1. Virus genome:

DNA or RNA, ds or ss, + or - sense, single molecule or segmented, linear or circular, haploid or diploid.

## 2. Capsid:

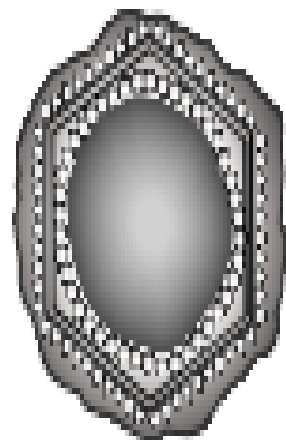
Size and symmetry (helical, icosahedral or complex).

## 3. Envelope:

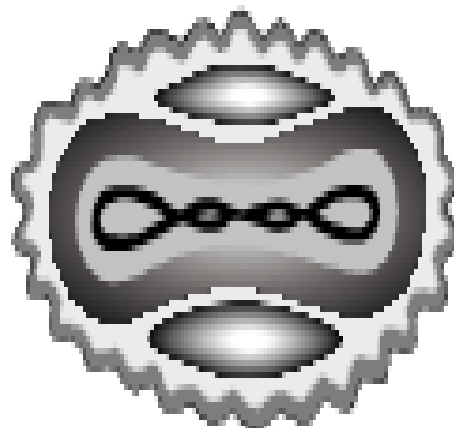
Enveloped or naked.

# DNA

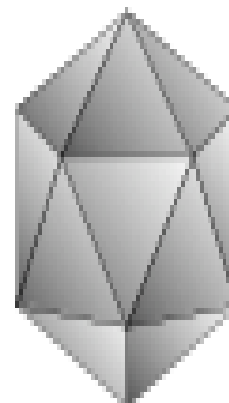
dsDNA



*Asfarviridae*



*Poxviridae*  
*Chordopoxvirinae*



*Iridoviridae*  
*Ranavirus*  
*Lymphocystivirus*

dsDNA (RT)



*Hepadnaviridae*



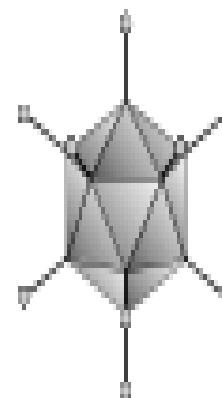
*Herpesviridae*



*Polyomaviridae*



*Papillomaviridae*



*Adenoviridae*

ssDNA



*Circoviridae*



*Parvoviridae*  
*Parvovirinae*

## dsRNA



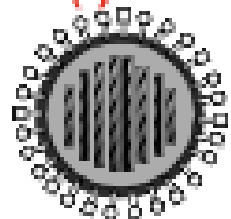
**Reoviridae**  
*Orthoreovirus*  
*Orbivirus*  
*Coltivirus*  
*Rotavirus*  
*Aquareovirus*



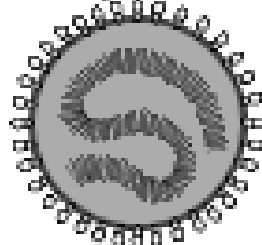
**Birnaviridae**  
*Aquabirnavirus*  
*Avibirnavirus*

  
 100 nm

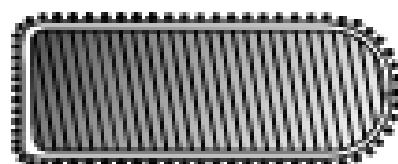
## ssRNA (-)



**Orthomyxoviridae**

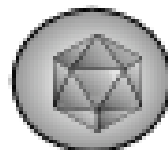


**Paramyxoviridae**



**Rhabdoviridae**

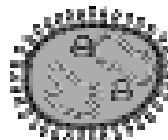
*Lyssavirus*  
*Vesiculovirus*  
*Ephemerovirus*  
*Novirhabdovirus*



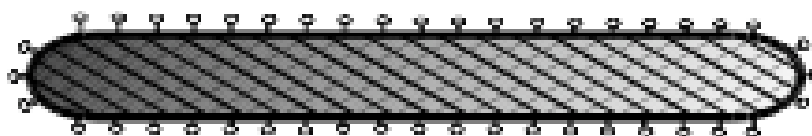
**Bornaviridae**



**Deltavirus**



**Arenaviridae**

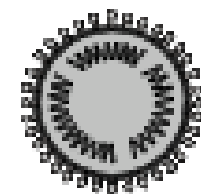


**Filoviridae**

## ssRNA (RT)



**Retroviridae**



**Bunyaviridae**  
*Orthobunyavirus*  
*Hantavirus*  
*Nairovirus*  
*Phlebovirus*

## ssRNA (+)



**Caliciviridae**



**Picornaviridae**



**Astroviridae**



HEV-like



**Flaviviridae**



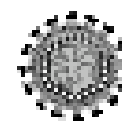
**Nodaviridae**  
*Betanodavirus*



**Coronaviridae**



**Togaviridae**



**Arteriviridae**

# (B) Baltimore classification system

Genetic material present in the virion

Group I

Group II

Group III

Group IV

Group V

Group VI

Group VII

DNA(+/-)

DNA (+)

RNA (+/-)

RNA(+)

RNA(-)

RNA(+)

DNA(+/-)

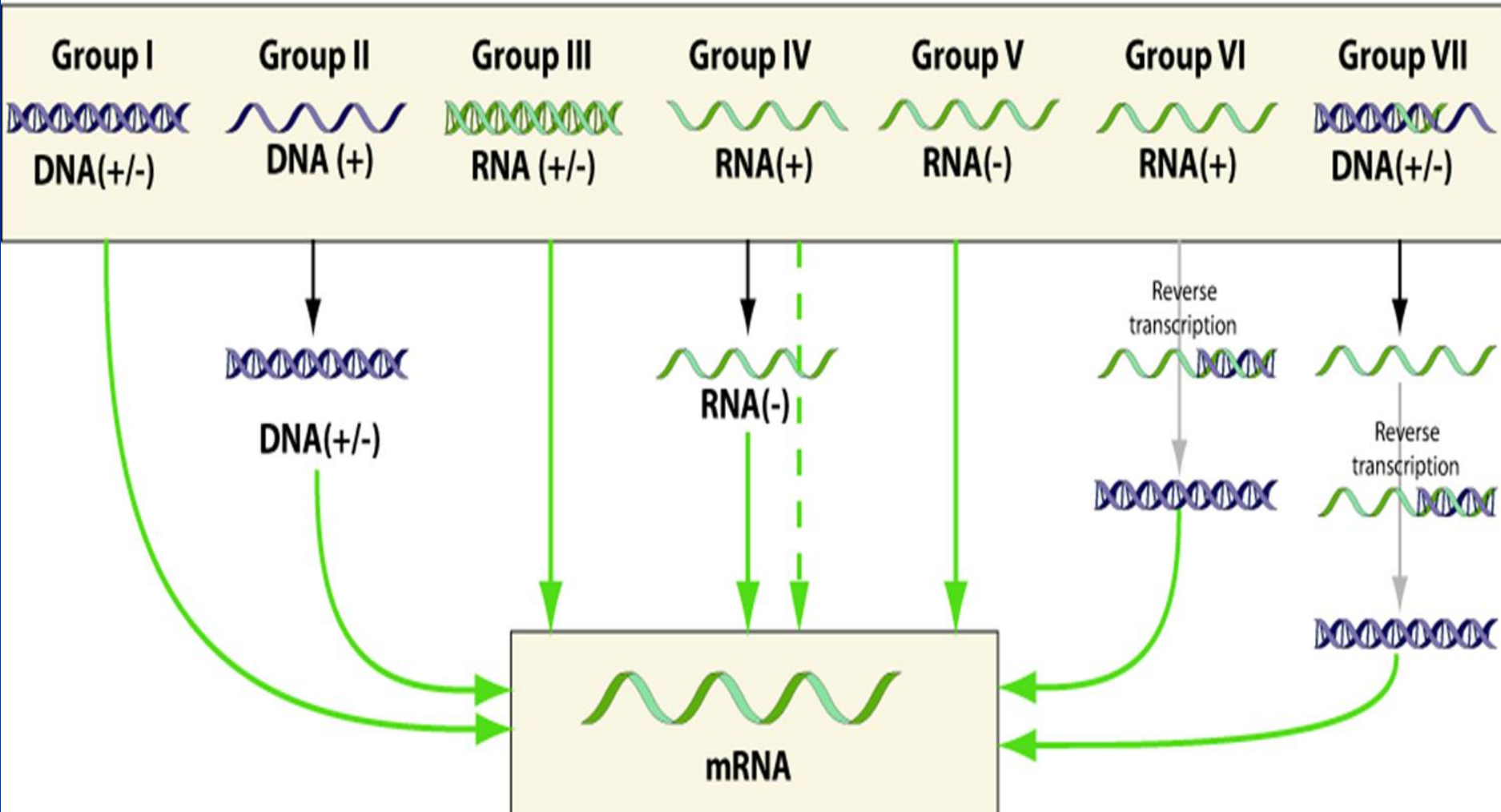
DNA(+/-)

RNA(-)

Reverse  
transcription

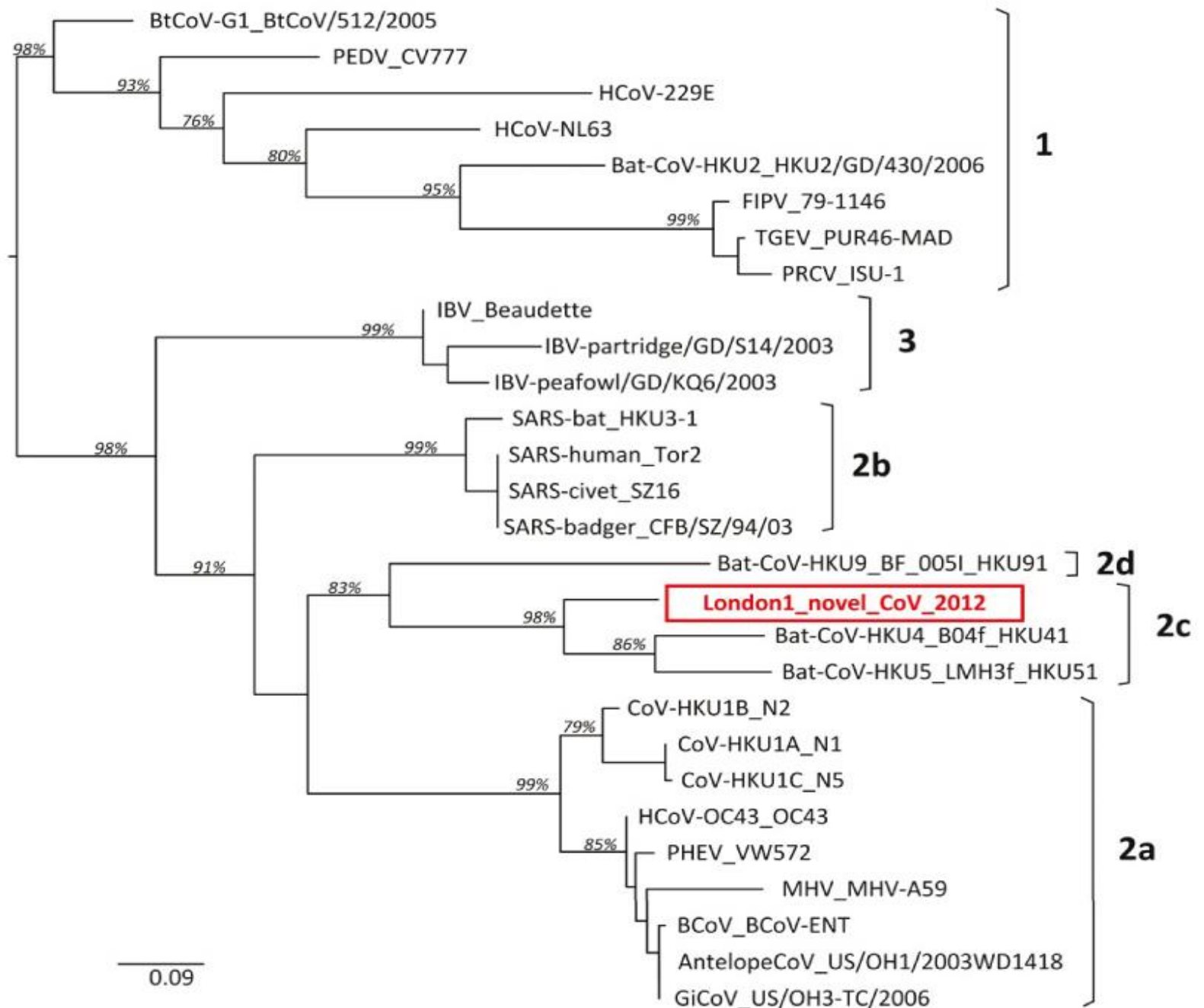
Reverse  
transcription

mRNA



## (C) Phylogenetic analysis (genotyping)

- Based on complete or partial sequencing of the viral genome.
- Comparison of the nucleotide sequence using computer softwares.
- Classify the viral strains into different lineages.
- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>



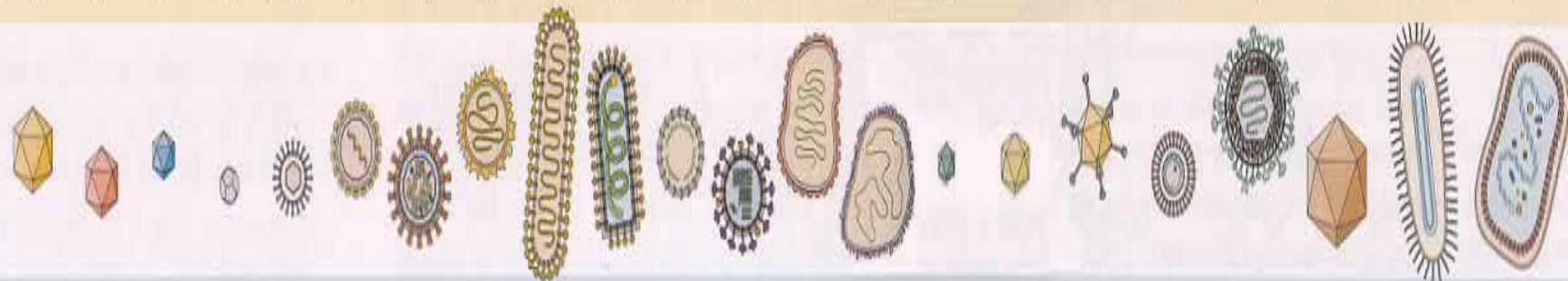
# Universal system for virus taxonomy (USVT)

*Established by ICTV - Based on:*

1. Virion size, morphology and stability.
2. Type and characteristics of the viral genome.
3. Capsid size and symmetry.
4. Presence or absence of virus envelope.
5. Strategy of virus replication.
6. Phylogenetic analysis



Classification criteria	RNA														DNA									
	Icosahedral							Helical							Icosahedral			Helical		Complex				
	Naked				Enveloped			Enveloped							Naked			Enveloped		Naked/Env. (cytoplasmic)		Enveloped (cytoplasmic)		
	Genome architecture																							
Baltimore class	III	III	IV	IV	IV	IV	VI	IV	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I



Properties	Family name																					
	Reo	Birna	Calici	Picorna	Flavi	Toga	Retro	Corona	Filo	Rhabdo	Bunya	Ortho-myxo	Para-myxo	Arena	Parvo	Papova	Adeno	Hepadna	Herpes	Irido	Baculo	Pox
	(+)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(+)
	60-80	60	35-40	28-30	40-50	60-70	80-130	80-160	80 X 790-14,000	70-85 X 130-380	90-120	90-120	150-300	50-300	18-26	45-55	70-90	42	150-200	125-300	60 X 300	170-200 X 300-450
Genome size (total in kb)	22-27	7	8	7.2-8.4	10	12	3.5-9	16-21	12.7	13-16	13.5-21	13.6	16-20	10-14	5	5-8	36-38	3.2	120-200	150-350	100	130-280

# USVT

- Order: ends with suffix (Virales)  
Order: Mononegavirales
- Family: ends with suffix (Viridae)  
Family Poxviridae - Picornaviridae
- Subfamily: ends with suffix (Virinae)  
Subfamily: Chordopoxvirinae
- Genus: ends with suffix (Virus)  
Genus: Capripoxvirus

# Other terms related to virus classification

## ■ Pathotypes:

Variation in the virulence of virus strains.

NDV (Lentogenic, Mesogenic and Velogenic).

## ■ Biotypes:

Variation in the cytopathogenicity of virus strains.

BVD (Cytopathogenic and non-cytopathogenic).

## ■ Serotypes:

Variation in the antigenicity of virus strains according to serological tests.

## ■ Genotypes:

Variation in the genetic properties of virus strains according to molecular based techniques.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله الذي جعل  
العلماء من عباده

bro2Alain