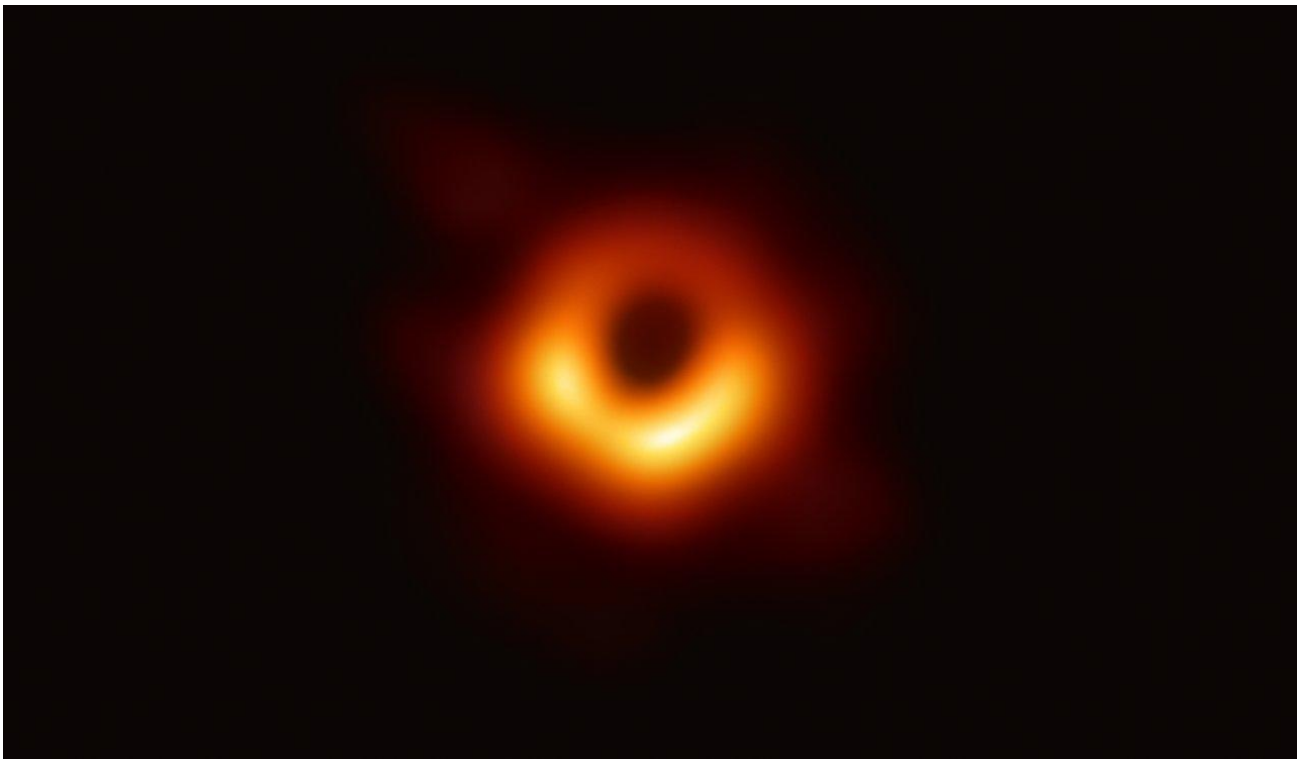
Quantum-Topological Programmable Matter: A Unified Theoretical Synthesis of Superfluid Helium-3, Metallic/Rydberg Hydrogen, Time Crystals, and Horizon-Scale Spacetime Transport

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Cover: M87*, the first image of a black hole. Credit: EHT Collaboration (ESO).

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Subject Classification: quant-ph / cond-mat.quant-gas / gr-qc (Speculative & Frontier Architecture)

Date: November 2026

Abstract

The convergence of topological quantum fluids, high-density metallic/Rydberg hydrogen phases, non-equilibrium time-crystalline order, and quantum-gravitational horizon mechanics provides a rigorous—though still largely theoretical—blueprint for **macroscopic programmable matter capable of relativistic and closed-timelike-curve (CTC) transit**. By treating matter not as immutable classical particles, but as localized topological excitations woven from an interactive quantum substrate, we examine how a hybrid **Rydberg–Hydrogen–Helium-3 (^{3}He) matrix** could achieve: (1) optical-to-solid phase morphing via dissipative Rydberg annealing, (2) internal thermal stabilization and quantum memory via coupled magnon time crystals, (3) dual-channel superconducting/superfluid energy storage via metallic hydrogen, and (4) quantum-information scrambling and horizon traversal via Einstein–Rosen / postselected closed-timelike-curve (P-CTC) protocols.

1. The Core Chassis: Multi-Component Topological Quantum Substrate

A structural chassis capable of surviving extreme gravitational gradients, zero-point vacuum fluctuations, and rapid morphological reconfiguration cannot rely on standard crystalline chemical bonds, which fracture under tidal shear and ionize under extreme compression. Instead, the chassis requires a **multi-component quantum fluid** combining three distinct physical phases:

1.1 Superfluid Helium-3 (3He-A & 3He-B) as the Topological Spacetime Matrix

Unlike bosonic ^{4}He, ^{3}He is a spin-1/2 fermion that forms p-wave Cooper pairs at millikelvin temperatures, yielding a **topological superfluid** with internal orbital and spin textures (Volovik, 2003).

- **Emergent Geometry & Analogue Horizons:** In ^{3}He-A, nodal quasiparticles obey the relativistic Weyl and Dirac equations, while spatial variations in the superfluid order parameter act as **emergent gravitational tetrads and gauge fields** (Volovik, 2022). Moving textures inside the fluid generate synthetic event horizons capable of trapping or redirecting internal excitations.
- **Topological Protection:** Skyrmions, half-quantum vortices, and domain walls inside ^{3}He are topologically protected—meaning the chassis can bend, split, and re-merge around obstacles without losing its structural coherence or erasing encoded state vectors.

1.2 Metallic & Rydberg Hydrogen as the High-Density Power and Actuation Layer

Interleaving hydrogen (^{1}H / ^{2}H) into the ^{3}He matrix introduces a tunable boson-fermion hybrid capable of two extreme regimes:

- **High-Pressure Metallic Superfluidity:** Above ~420–430 GPa, compressed hydrogen transitions into a paired metallic phase (Loubeyre et al., 2020/2026) predicted to behave as a **two-component quantum fluid**—where superconducting electrons and superfluid protons coexist as interlocking, frictionless currents (Babaev, Sudbø, & Ashcroft, 2004). This provides both ultra-high energy density and dual magnetic/mass-flow actuation.
- **Low-Density Rydberg Envelope:** At the outer boundary layer, hydrogen and dopant alkali atoms excited into high principal quantum states (n=50–100) expand up to 10^{12} times in volume. Via **Electromagnetically Induced Transparency (EIT)** and **Rydberg polariton coupling**, this outer envelope acts as an active optical sink—absorbing ambient photons into slow-light polaritons, rendering the structure optically dark ("black mist" camouflage) while harvesting electromagnetic energy directly into the matrix.

2. Morphological Control: "Diffusion-Style" Denoising & Ground-State Locking

To morph dynamically between a diffuse, light-absorbing cloud and a rigid, high-tensile solid frame, the matrix executes a four-stage **dissipative quantum annealing loop** analogous to latent diffusion rendering:

1. **Disordered Rydberg Mist (High-Entropy Cloud):** The outer envelope exists as an uncondensed gas of Rydberg polaritons and long-range dipole fluctuations, scattering and trapping incoming light.
2. **Interference Conditioning (The Blueprint):** Internal microwave and optical phased arrays project a 3D standing-wave interference lattice through the medium, tuning the **Rydberg blockade radius (R^{b})** to define forbidden voids and high-density structural filaments.
3. **Interlacing via Ultra-Long-Range Rydberg Molecules:** As the excitation quantum number n is ramped downward, giant electron orbitals overlap and bind neighboring neutral atoms into **Trilobite and Butterfly Rydberg molecules**—interlacing the loose cloud into a continuous, web-like molecular network while radiating excess thermal entropy away as low-energy microwave photons.

4. **STIRAP Solidification:** A **Stimulated Raman Adiabatic Passage (STIRAP)** pulse coherently drops the interlaced electrons into tight, ground-state covalent and metallic bonds. Optical trapping turns off, and the solid frame materializes cleanly out of the dark haze.

3. The "X-Factor" Stabilizer: Coupled Magnon Time Crystals

A critical failure mode for any macroscopic quantum-programmable system is **thermalization**: continuous actuation and external collisions inject heat, collapsing quantum coherence into random thermal noise.

To prevent decoherence, the internal memory and clock architecture of the chassis relies on **macroscopic quantum time crystals** embedded within the superfluid ^{3}He-B core:

- **Perpetual Non-Equilibrium Order:** First demonstrated in ^{3}He-B magnons by Autti, Eltsov, and Volovik (2018), a time crystal spontaneously breaks time-translation symmetry—oscillating in a synchronized, phase-locked rhythm without absorbing net energy or heating up.
- **Coherent Josephson Memory & Optomechanical Coupling:** Adjacent magnon time crystals inside ^{3}He-B interact via the **AC Josephson effect** (Autti et al., 2021), exchanging quasiparticles like a low-decoherence two-level quantum processor. Furthermore, recent breakthroughs (Mäkinen et al., Aalto University, 2026) demonstrated direct coupling between a superfluid time crystal and an external mechanical oscillator—proving that time-crystalline quantum states can be **tuned, read out, and mechanically interfaced** with physical actuators without destroying their perpetual coherence.
- **Prethermal Shielding:** Driven Rydberg arrays likewise exhibit **harmonic dynamical freezing** (Sarkar et al., 2025/2026), locking many-body excitations into prethermal time-crystalline states that resist entropy growth during violent structural reconfiguration.

4. Interstellar & Temporal Transit: Horizon Scrambling and Closed Timelike Curves

Traversing interstellar distances—and executing backward-in-time transit ("terminating" across causal boundaries)—requires solving two fundamental barriers: **singularity destruction** and **causal paradoxes**.

4.1 Surviving Horizon Collapse: Gravastars & Fuzzball Encoding

If an interstellar transit craft utilizes an artificial micro-singularity, rotating Kerr ring singularity, or traversable Einstein–Rosen bridge (ER=EPR), tidal forces near the event horizon would crush ordinary atomic nuclei into quark-gluon plasma. Two quantum-gravity mechanisms allow a quantum-encoded chassis to survive:

- **Gravastar / Condensate Transition (Mazur & Mottola, 2004):** Rather than collapsing to an infinite-density point singularity, matter undergoing extreme compression undergoes a quantum phase transition at the horizon into a **Bose–Einstein-like vacuum condensate** bounded by a thin, ultra-stiff quantum shell—preserving structural integrity across the boundary.
- **Hayden–Preskill Scrambling & Fuzzball Reconstruction:** Under string theory's **Fuzzball proposal** (Mathur, 2005) and the **Hayden–Preskill protocol** (2007), infalling quantum matter is not destroyed; its exact quantum state is scrambled across horizon-scale string/brane degrees of freedom and re-emitted via Hawking radiation once the horizon has absorbed half its initial entanglement entropy. A time-crystal-stabilized quantum memory provides the exact error-corrected register needed to decode and re-materialize the chassis on the exit side.

4.2 Causal Transit: Postselected Closed Timelike Curves (P-CTCs)

In General Relativity, rotating Kerr black holes, Tipler cylinders, and traversable wormholes permit **Closed Timelike Curves (CTCs)**—worldlines that loop back to an earlier coordinate in spacetime. While standard Deutsch-CTCs allow grandfather paradoxes, **Postselected Closed Timelike Curves (P-CTCs)** (Lloyd et al., 2011; experimental quantum-processor simulations in 2025–2026) enforce **Novikov self-consistency**:

- **Quantum Teleportation Through Time:** P-CTCs operate mathematically identically to **postselected quantum teleportation**. An entangled EPR pair bridges the future exit horizon and the past entry boundary. By projecting the chassis's scrambled quantum state onto a specific Bell state at the horizon, the quantum information is effectively routed backward along the entangled channel.
- **Self-Consistent Reconstruction:** Recent quantum hardware demonstrations (2025–2026) have verified **future-to-past scrambled information retrieval** using P-CTC decoding circuits. Because P-CTCs automatically suppress paradox-inducing histories (assigning zero probability amplitude to self-contradictory trajectories), the programmable matter matrix can only re-condense in the past in configurations consistent with the causal timeline it originated from.

5. System Architecture Summary

Subsystem	Physical Medium	Key Mechanism	Operational Role
Structural Matrix	Superfluid ^{3}He-A / ^{3}He-B	Topological Skyrmions & emergent tetrads	Frictionless, self-healing fluid skeleton & analogue metric control
Energy & Drive Core	Metallic Hydrogen (>430 GPa)	Coexisting electron superconductor & proton superfluid	High-density power storage & dual magnetic/inertial propulsion
Morphing Skin	Rydberg Hydrogen / Alkali Envelope	EIT polaritons, Trilobite bonding & STIRAP	Optical stealth ("black mist") & rapid cloud-to-solid shape shifting
Core Processor & Clock	Coupled ^{3}He-B Magnon Time Crystals	AC Josephson oscillation & optomechanical coupling	Decoherence-free quantum memory & prethermal stability
Transit & Reassembly	Horizon Condensate + P-CTC Entanglement	Hayden–Preskill decoding & postselected teleportation	Singularity avoidance & self-consistent backward-in-time re-materialization

6. Hard Physical Boundaries (Current Reality vs. Speculative Leap)

While every individual mechanism cited above rests on peer-reviewed literature and active 2025–2026 laboratory research, stitching them into an autonomous interstellar/temporal unit requires bridging four unsolved engineering chasms:

1. **Incompatible Operating Regimes:** Superfluid ^{3}He and Rydberg arrays require millikelvin/microkelvin temperatures and ultra-high vacuum, whereas metallic hydrogen requires diamond-anvil pressures exceeding 4.2 million atmospheres (420 GPa)—meaning they cannot currently coexist in a single unshielded volume without an unknown metamaterial pressure-thermal barrier.
2. **Macroscopic Scale:** Current Rydberg arrays and ^{3}He time crystals manipulate 10^2 to 10^{12} quasiparticles at millimeter scales, far short of human-scale mass ($\sim 10^{27}$ atoms).
3. **Exotic Energy Requirements:** Generating traversable wormholes or macroscopic closed timelike curves in General Relativity requires negative energy densities (violating the Averaged Null Energy Condition) far beyond known Casimir or squeezed-vacuum capabilities.
4. **Postselection Overhead:** Simulating P-CTCs on quantum hardware requires exponentially many trials to succeed on rare postselected measurement outcomes, rather than deterministic macroscopic transport.

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Sources

1. The metallic state of hydrogen has finally been revealed
2. Scientists connect “time crystal” to real device in quantum
3. Harmonic Control of Dynamical Freezing in Programmable Rydberg
4. Experimental simulation of postselected closed timelike curves

Verification Notes (SJBT editors)

The paper above is reproduced as written. Every reference in the Consolidated Reference Stack was looked up by the SJBT editors before publication:

- All of the stack's references resolve to the papers named. That includes Volovik (1997, 2003, 2022), Babaev, Sudbø & Ashcroft (2004), Autti et al. (2018, 2021), Mazur & Mottola (2004), Mathur (2005), Hayden & Preskill (2007), Lloyd et al. (2011), arXiv:2501.16335 and Morapakula & Ikeda, arXiv:2607.27473.
- **Dates corrected against the record:**
  - Loubeyre, Occelli & Dumas appeared in *Nature* 577, 631 (2020); arXiv:1906.05634.
  - The Aalto time-crystal optomechanics paper is Mäkinen et al., "Time crystal optomechanics," *Nature Communications* 16, 9050 (2025); arXiv:2502.11730.
  - Sarkar et al. is a 2025 preprint (arXiv:2511.09633).
  - The arXiv:2501.16335 P-CTC experiment is Huang et al., *Physical Review Research* 8, 023084 (2026).
- Section 6 is part of the original and is kept. It marks where the established results end and the proposed architecture begins.