

Cradles of the first stars: self-shielding, halo masses, and multiplicity

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ABSTRACT

The formation of Population III (Pop III) stars is a critical step in the evolution of the early universe. To understand how these stars affected their metal-enriched descendants, the details of how, why and where Pop III formation takes place needs to be determined. One of the processes that is assumed to greatly affect the formation of Pop III stars is the presence of a Lyman-Werner (LW) radiation background, that destroys H₂, a necessary coolant in the creation of Pop III stars. Self-shielding can alleviate the effect the LW background has on the H₂ within halos. In this work, we perform a cosmological simulation to study the birthplaces of Pop III stars, using the adaptive mesh refinement code ENZO. We investigate the distribution of host halo masses and its relationship to the LW background intensity. Compared to previous work, halos form Pop III stars at much lower masses, up to a factor of a few, due to the inclusion of H₂ self-shielding. We see no relationship between the LW intensity and host halo mass. Most halos form multiple Pop III stars, with a median number of four, up to a maximum of 16, at the instance of Pop III formation. Our results suggest that Pop III star formation may be less affected by LW radiation feedback than previously thought and that Pop III multiple systems are common.

Key words: star formation – cosmology: first stars – stars: Population III – methods: numerical

1 INTRODUCTION

The first generation of stars transformed a cold and dark universe by illuminating and enriching up their neighborhoods with radiation and heavy elements. The formation of these first stars is a crucial step in the cosmological evolution of the universe because the metals and feedback they deliver to their local environments are necessary for further star production and chemical enrichment. Without these initial stars, heavier metals would not have been produced, and a different universe would be observed than what is observed today. These stars are, by definition, metal-free (Population III; Pop III) and are **traditionally** thought to be generally massive (Abel et al. 2002; Bromm et al. 2002; Turk et al. 2009; Hosokawa et al. 2011, 2016; Hirano et al. 2015), **although more recent work has shown that lower mass ($M < 1M_{\odot}$) Pop III stars can be formed (Greif et al. 2011b; Clark et al. 2011; Stacy et al. 2016)**. A substantial fraction of these stars will generate prodigious amounts of ionizing photons and will end their lives in some form of a supernova (e.g. Schaerer 2002; Heger & Woosley 2002a).

The supernova will spread the enriched guts of the Pop III star out across its local environment, providing the area with elements the universe has not yet seen.

Once a halo becomes chemically enriched by the death of Pop III stars, then by definition, it can no longer form more Pop III stars. This marks the end of metal-free star formation in that pregalactic object. Understanding the mixing of metals into the environment of these halos is necessary to constrain the reach of these metals and the effects they have for future star formation. Numerical studies have shown that turbulence within halos can mix metals well down to their resolution limit (Wise & Abel 2008; Greif et al. 2010; Smith et al. 2015). Stars will continue to form in halos, but with an increased metal abundance. These stars still are metal-poor, having metallicities of 10^{-6} to 10^{-2} of the solar abundance (Chiaki et al. 2016, 2018; Ritter et al. 2016), have a direct chemical connection to Pop III stars, and can survive until the present day (Gnedin & Kravtsov 2006; Tumlinson 2010; Griffen et al. 2018; Magg et al. 2018; Ezzeddine et al. 2019). Understanding the formation and chemical abundance of second generation stars can provide more evidence and insight for the earlier generation of Pop III stars.

Without metals and dust to facilitate efficient radia-

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tive cooling, Pop III stars rely on H_2 formation in the gas-phase for cooling. These molecules are however fragile to dissociation from Lyman-Werner (LW) radiation in the energy range 11.2–13.6 eV, through the Solomon process (Field et al. 1966; Stecher & Williams 1967). This is a two-step process through which H_2 is excited to a higher state, H_2^* , via absorption of a LW photon:



This excited state then has a probability of dissociating into two hydrogen atoms:



Diffuse gas is optically thin to LW radiation, thus a background builds over time and can suppress H_2 formation, delaying Pop III star formation. Furthermore, nearby sources of LW radiation can boost the intensity above the background value which facilitates further H_2 dissociation in minihalos. This process can be counteracted with a sufficient amount of H_2 already present within a halo, via H_2 self-shielding. Halos with an H_2 column density of $N_{\text{H}_2} \geq 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ can suppress the photodissociation of H_2 by LW photons (Draine & Bertoldi 1996), giving the halo a chance to form Pop III stars. Other sources of the suppression of Pop III star formation are streaming baryonic velocities (Tsaliakhovich et al. 2011; Greif et al. 2011a; Naoz et al. 2012; O’Leary & McQuinn 2012), arising from recombination, and dynamical heating, occurring during the virialization of halos (Yoshida et al. 2003; Fernandez et al. 2014). **X-ray heating from high-mass X-ray binaries also has the potential to suppress Pop III star formation (Jeon et al. 2014a).**

Given the paradigm of hierarchical structure formation, halos grow through smooth accretion and successive mergers of smaller halos. But in which halos do these first generations of stars form? Their formation rates and locations are important to constrain because they influence the very beginnings of galaxy formation and cosmic reionization. Various semi-analytic investigations have been conducted to learn more about the halo collapse criterion, and thus, which halos can host Pop III stars. Tegmark et al. (1997) discovered that halos can have a strongly redshift dependent, minimum baryonic mass of $10^6 M_\odot$ at $z \approx 15$. In particular, they derive an analytic expression for the fraction of H_2 needed in a halo for efficient cooling, and determine which halos can cool in a Hubble time. Visbal et al. (2018) devised a semi-analytic model for the formation of Pop III stars and the transition to metal-enriched stars. They find that varying the Pop III star formation efficiency, the time from a Pop III supernova to metal-enriched star formation, the external enrichment of the halo, and the ionizing escape fraction, leads to large differences in the star formation history of Pop III and metal-enriched stars. This method is useful for exploring the wide parameter space of star formation in the early universe, and could lead to further constraints in the future.

Previous work have mainly investigated and established the lower limit for a halo to host Pop III stars, or for a halo to collapse. However, subsequent simulations have shown that they do not necessarily form at this minimum due to the aforementioned physical processes playing a role. Mebane et al. (2018) used a semi-analytic model of early star forma-

tion and found that the LW background coming from the rapidly increasing supply of Pop III stars becomes responsible for suppressing Pop III star formation. Griffen et al. (2018) also found that the LW background can significantly suppress the amount of potential sites for Pop III star formation.

Numerical simulations have also been employed to investigate collapse thresholds and Pop III star formation. Machacek et al. (2001, hereafter M01) found similar results to those mentioned previously, in that the LW feedback can suppress the collapse of small mass halos. They fit a simple analytic expression for the mass threshold of halos given a particular LW intensity J_{LW} :

$$M_{\text{TH}}(M_\odot) = 1.25 \times 10^5 + 8.7 \times 10^5 \left(\frac{4\pi J_{\text{LW}}}{10^{-21}} \right)^{0.47}. \quad (3)$$

We will compare our results with this relation in future sections. Yoshida et al. (2003) also found that cooling is inefficient in halos with a LW background $> 0.01 J_{21}$, where J_{21} is a specific intensity of $10^{-21} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$, although with sufficient H_2 shielding, halos are able to cool in the given LW background radiation. In fact, Wise & Abel (2007) found that central shocks drive H_2 formation, allowing the halo to cool in a LW background intensity of $1 J_{21}$. They find that H_2 cooling is always a dominant process, even in large LW background fluxes. O’Shea & Norman (2008) also found that Pop III star formation can occur in relatively high LW backgrounds, implying that the LW background may not be a complete indicator of whether or not Pop III stars will form in a given halo.

In this paper, we focus on the distribution of host halo masses, not just the minimum, and its dependence on redshift and the LW background, augmenting results from prior work. We aim to provide further insight into the host halos of Pop III stars. In §2 the methods of the simulation, implementation of star formation, feedback, and H_2 self-shielding are described. In §3 we present the results of our analysis. In §4 we discuss the results in more detail and compare with previous work. In §5 we conclude our discussion with a summary of our results and the implications therein.

2 METHODS

2.1 Simulation setup

We run and analyze a cosmological simulation with the adaptive mesh refinement (AMR) code ENZO (Bryan et al. 2014) and the toolkit YT (Turk et al. 2011). ENZO uses an N-body adaptive particle-mesh solver (Efstathiou et al. 1985; Couchman 1991) to follow the dark matter (DM) dynamics. We use the nine-species (H I , H II , He I , He II , He III , e^- , H_2 , H_2^+ , H^-) non-equilibrium chemistry model (Abel et al. 1997; Anninos et al. 1997). This simulation is similar to the RP simulation in Wise et al. (2012, hereafter W12), but with updated cosmological and Pop III parameters, and the inclusion of H_2 shielding.

We simulate a 1 Mpc^3 comoving box with a 256^3 base grid resolution and a dark matter particle mass of $2001 M_\odot$. It has a maximum refinement level of 12 which provides a maximal comoving resolution of $\sim 1 \text{ pc}$. **We refine the cells when one of the following criteria are met: (1) the baryon or dark matter overdensity exceeds**

$3\bar{\rho}_{b,DM} \times 2^{\ell(3+\epsilon)}$, or (2) the local Jeans length is less than eight cell widths. Here $\rho_{b,DM}$ is the baryon or dark matter cosmic mean density, ℓ is the AMR level, and $\epsilon = -0.2$ invokes super-Lagrangian refinement behavior. The simulation is initialized with MUSIC (Hahn & Abel 2011) at $z = 130$ and uses the cosmological parameters from the Planck collaboration best fit Planck Collaboration et al. (2014): $\Omega_M = 0.3175$, $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.6825$, $\Omega_{DM} = 0.2685$, and $h = 0.6711$, with the variables having their usual definitions. The simulation is run until $z = 9.32$, when it becomes too computationally expensive to continue. At this point, about 20% of the volume is over 10% ionized. We output 918 datasets, roughly 0.5 Myr apart. In this paper, we focus only on outputs where Pop III stars have just formed, from $z = 27.23$ to 9.39. **Throughout the rest of the paper, all numbers are in physical units.**

A time-dependent LW optically thin radiation background is applied in the simulation. This was fit in W12 (see their Eq. 16) and is consistent with the values in Trenti & Stiavelli (2009). The background evolution of the specific intensity takes the following form:

$$\log_{10}(J_{LW}/J_{21}) = A + Bz - Cz^2 + Dz^3 - Ez^4 \quad (4)$$

where $(A, B, C, D, E) = (-2.567, 0.4562, -0.02680, 5.882 \times 10^{-4}, -5.056 \times 10^{-6})$. This form only varies by a factor of five in $z = 9 - 25$ and has a maximum of $J_{LW}/J_{21} = 0.97$ at a redshift of 13.5 and slowly declines to 0.60 J_{21} at $z = 9.3$ when we halt the simulation. We use adaptive ray tracing (Abel & Wandelt 2002; Wise & Abel 2011) to evolve the ionizing radiation field. Centered on each metal-enriched and Pop III star particle, we model the H_2 dissociating radiation field with an optically thin, inverse square profile. These LW sources are added on top of the background intensity described above.

2.2 Star formation

In this section, we briefly discuss our implementation of Pop III and metal-enriched star formation. We do not consider the formation and feedback from stellar remnants or asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars. For further details, we refer the reader to W12.

2.2.1 Pop III Star Formation and Feedback

The utilized Pop III star formation model is the same as in Wise & Abel (2008) but with updated parameters. Each star particle represents a single massive star, and is formed in a cell when the following criteria are met:

- (i) a metallicity $Z \leq 5 \times 10^{-6} Z_\odot$
- (ii) a gas number density $n > 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- (iii) converging gas flow, $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_{\text{gas}} < 0$
- (iv) molecular hydrogen number fraction, $f_{H_2} > 10^{-3}$

The critical metallicity marks where dust cooling becomes efficient enough to cause fragmentation at high densities (e.g. Schneider et al. 2006). In practice, we find about 10 per cent of Pop III star particles having a non-zero metallicity below this value. This scenario occurs when a halo is externally enriched by a nearby supernova. Because of uncertainties with turbulent mixing and collapse timescales,

we choose not to predict the final metallicity at zero-age main sequence and assign the star particle the metallicity of the densest cell. The chosen threshold density are consistent with values found in previous simulations of Pop III star formation (e.g. Hirano et al. 2015) at our resolution limit. Additionally, it is similar to a density that would trigger another mesh refinement past level 12. At these scales, Jeans length refinement is the most common because of the cold temperatures in the cloud core. The molecular hydrogen criterion is also consistent with previous work in the “loitering” phase of molecule formation between 10^2 and 10^8 cm^{-3} before three-body reactions become important (e.g. Omukai et al. 2010).

If within 10 pc, multiple cells meet this criteria, then a single Pop III star forms at the center of mass of these cells. **In a parameter study, we have found that the number of Pop III star particles is insensitive to this algorithmic merging distance.** The mass of the Pop III star is randomly sampled from an initial mass function (IMF) of the form:

$$f(\log M)dM = M^{-1.3} \exp \left[- \left(\frac{M_{\text{char}}}{M} \right)^{1.6} \right] dM \quad (5)$$

where $M_{\text{char}} = 20 M_\odot$ (Hirano & Bromm 2017). This characteristic mass is different from the W12 choice of $100 M_\odot$. This results in an exponential cutoff below M_{char} and a power-law IMF above. **The Pop III IMF mass ranges from $1 \leq M/M_\odot \leq 300$.** Once the cell meets the above criteria and the stellar mass is chosen, an equal amount of gas is removed from the grid in a sphere which contains twice the stellar mass that is centered on the new star particle. The new Pop III star then gains the mass-weighted velocity of the gas contained within that sphere. In this simulation, we do not track any small scale fragmentation which may form low mass stars (Greif et al. 2011b). We are only tracking massive Pop III star formation.

We use the mass-dependent hydrogen ionizing and LW luminosities and lifetimes from Schaerer (2002) and a mass-independent photon energy of $E_{\text{ph}} = 29.6 \text{ eV}$, which is appropriate for the nearly mass-independent surface temperature of Pop III stars, at 10^5 K . A Type II supernova results if the Pop III star dies with a mass between $11 \leq M_*/M_\odot \leq 40$. A pair instability supernova (PISNe) results if the star dies with a mass between $140 \leq M_*/M_\odot \leq 260$. Outside of these mass ranges, the Pop III star dies as a black hole. In this simulation, no black hole physics are implemented, so the Pop III star simply turns into an inert collisionless particle. When $11 \leq M_*/M_\odot < 20$, the star dies as a normal Type II supernova with an energy of 10^{51} erg . From $20 \leq M_*/M_\odot \leq 40$, the star dies as a hypernova with energies taken from Nomoto et al. (2006). The PISNe have explosion energies from Heger & Woosley (2002b), of which the analytic function fit to their models can be seen in Eq. 12 of W12. **With our chosen IMF (Eq. 5), 59, 36, and 5 per cent of Pop III stars produce Type II SN, black holes with no SN, and PISNe, respectively.**

2.2.2 Pop II Star Formation and Feedback

The Pop II star formation model is the same as Wise & Cen (2009), which is equivalent to the above criteria for

Pop III star formation but without the molecular hydrogen fraction requirement, and with a metallicity greater than the above value. Star formation is only allowed for gas with temperatures $T < 1000$ K, to ensure that the volume is cold and collapsing. Contrary to Pop III stars representing single star particles, metal-enriched star particles are modelled as clusters of stars. We enforce a minimum mass of $M_{\min} = 1000 M_{\odot}$ for these star particles.

The lifetime of these particles is 20 Myr, during which they radiate 6000 hydrogen ionising photons per stellar baryon, or 1.13×10^{46} photons $\text{s}^{-1} M_{\odot}^{-1}$, which is appropriate for a Salpeter IMF (Schaerer 2003). Their spectra are approximated with a monochromatic spectrum with an energy of 21.6 eV at a constant luminosity. After living for 4 Myr, the stars begin to return supernova energies of 6.8×10^{48} erg $\text{s}^{-1} M_{\odot}^{-1}$ back to their surroundings.

2.3 H₂ Self-Shielding

We use the Sobolev-like approximation from Wolcott-Green et al. (2011) to model H₂ self-shielding. To determine the H₂ shielding factor, the column density of H₂ needs to be calculated:

$$N_{\text{H}_2} = n_{\text{H}_2} L_{\text{char}}, \quad (6)$$

where n_{H_2} is the number density of H₂ and L_{char} is a characteristic length over which n_{H_2} is assumed to be constant. The method employed in this simulation is to define the characteristic length as:

$$L_{\text{char}} = \frac{\rho}{|\nabla \rho|}. \quad (7)$$

This Sobolev-like method determines the length over which gas with density ρ is diminished. They found that the most accurate, non-ray tracing, method is to use a single Sobolev-like length determined from the mean Sobolev-like length over all Cartesian directions.

Upon numerically calculating the shielding factor of H₂ for simulated protogalaxies, Wolcott-Green et al. determined that a slight adjustment to the shielding factor from Draine & Bertoldi (1996) is sufficient to account for inaccuracies at higher temperatures. The implemented shielding factor is then (see Eq. 10 in Wolcott-Green et al. (2011)):

$$f_{\text{sh}}(N_{\text{H}_2}, T) = \frac{0.965}{(1 + x/b_5)^{1.1}} + \frac{0.035}{(1 + x)^{0.5}} \times \exp[-8.5 \times 10^{-4}(1 + x)^{0.5}] \quad (8)$$

Here, $x \equiv N_{\text{H}_2}/5 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, $b_5 \equiv b/10^5 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$, and b is the Doppler broadening parameter. This shielding factor acts as a multiplier to the H₂ dissociation rate, where if the shielding factor equals one, there is no shielding, and zero if there is maximum shielding. **Hartwig et al. (2015) use the same shielding factor equation from Wolcott-Green et al. (2011) but implement an improved calculation of the column density to incorporate the relative gas velocities and geometries of the halo. This method takes into account the Doppler-shifting of spectral lines, which can affect H₂ shielding. With the improved calculation of the column density, they find that the shielding factor is larger for gas at higher temperatures near 10^4 K than when**

the shielding factor is calculated for an average column density for the halo, meaning that self-shielding is generally less efficient for higher temperatures. In this work, we do not take into account the Doppler-shifting of spectral lines, but as will be seen below, our halos are less massive and contain gas at lower temperatures. Our calculation of the shielding factor is still valid for the temperature range of our halos, and therefore, the Doppler-shifting of spectral lines is not expected to affect our results.

2.4 Analytic Calculation of the Shielding Factor for a Static Halo

To demonstrate how the shielding factor changes as a function of halo mass and redshift, we can examine N_{H_2} between the core and halo virial radius as a function of halo mass for an isothermal halo, with a constant H₂ fraction, and use Equation 8 to calculate the shielding factor. The H₂ molecule number density within the halo is given by

$$n_{\text{H}_2}(r) = f_{\text{H}_2} \frac{\rho_0 R_{\text{vir}}^2}{\mu m_{\text{H}} r^2} \quad (9)$$

where $\mu = 1.22$ is the mean molecular weight, $\rho_0 = 200\rho_c/3$ is the density at the virial radius, and $\rho_c = 3H_0^2/8\pi G(1+z)^3$ is the critical density. Here, H_0 is the Hubble constant, G is the gravitational constant, and z is the redshift. The column density is then equation 9 integrated from the radius of the core to the virial radius, where the core has a radius of $f_c R_{\text{vir}}$:

$$N_{\text{H}_2} = f_{\text{H}_2} R_{\text{vir}} \frac{200\rho_c}{3\mu m_{\text{H}}} \left(\frac{1}{f_c} - 1 \right) \quad (10)$$

For $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, and assuming the Doppler broadening parameter, b , is equal to the circular velocity of the halo, Equation 10 and Equation 8 will give the shielding factor for a given core radius, f_c , redshift, **and for a given H₂ fraction halo profile**. Figure 1 shows the shielding factor as a function of halo mass, for redshifts $z = 9, 15$, and 25 in red, blue and black, respectively. The solid lines indicate a core radius of $f_c = 10^{-2}$ and the dashed lines a core radius of $f_c = 10^{-4}$. **To have an accurate depiction of the shielding factor for a given halo radius, the H₂ fraction is given by the H₂ fraction halo profiles at $z = 24.1$ from O'Shea & Norman (2007) (their Figure 13d) with $J_{21} = 0$. These profiles were approximated with a piecewise power-law for simplicity. As the halo masses increase, the shielding factor increases, meaning there is less shielding occurring within that halo. This behavior occurs because at larger radii, there is less H₂ available, and therefore, the effects of shielding are decreased.** Across the top axis and plotted as a green line, the shielding factor as a function of H₂ column density is shown for a circular velocity of 10 km/s. At each redshift, all halo masses, and for each core radius, we see the shielding factor is significantly smaller than one, implying that H₂ shielding for these halos is almost at a maximum. The shielding factor will then significantly decrease the dissociation rate of H₂, allowing for the presence of H₂ within a LW background. Smaller mass halos can then form Pop III stars since H₂ will survive in the halo for a longer amount of time. We also see that

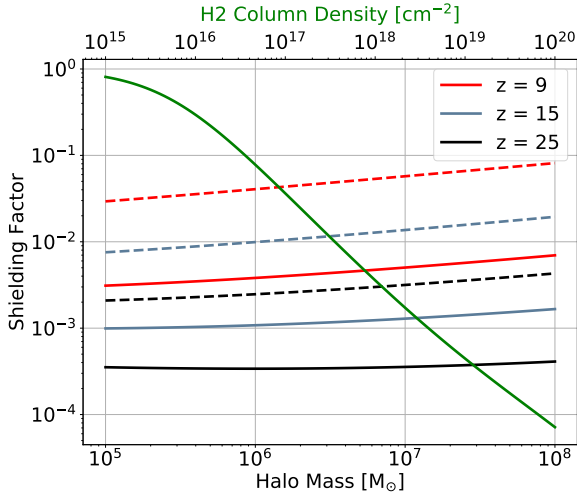


Figure 1. Shielding factor as a function of halo mass. Solid lines indicate a core radius of $f_c = 10^{-2}$ and the dashed lines indicate a core radius of $f_c = 10^{-4}$. For these parameters, assuming the Doppler broadening parameter equals the circular velocity, and assuming H_2 fraction halo profiles from O’Shea & Norman (2007), the shielding factor is below 1 percent. The green line shows the shielding factor as a function of H_2 column density for a circular velocity of 10 km/s. Note that a shielding factor of 1 (0) corresponds to no (complete) shielding.

for column densities at just under 10^{17} cm^{-2} , the shielding factor quickly drops to 0.1 for a halo with this particular circular velocity, showing that H_2 shielding can affect the dissociation rate of H_2 in relatively low halo masses.

3 RESULTS

In this section, we will present the distribution of host halo masses of Pop III stars, the relation between the mass distribution and the LW background radiation, and the distribution of various Pop III properties.

To ensure that our box is representative of a typical piece of the universe, Figure 2 shows the simulated halo mass function along with the analytic Sheth-Tormen mass function at $z = 9.3$. The analytic function closely matches our simulation until the mass resolution of our simulation is unable to resolve below $10^5 M_\odot$ halos that contain ≈ 50 particles. After a sufficient amount of time after the beginning of the simulation, enough matter has collapsed to begin forming Pop III stars throughout the box. **When the first Pop III star forms in our simulation at $z = 27$, there are only 6 halos that are above $10^5 M_\odot$, which are resolved by 50 DM particles, consistent with analytical expectations from an ellipsoidal variant of Press-Schechter formalism (Press & Schechter 1974; Sheth et al. 2001).** These Pop III stars either become black holes or supernovae at the end of their lives, with the latter resulting in an expulsion of metals into the star’s surroundings. Metal-enriched star formation begins to take place as soon as enough metals are present within a halo. In the meantime, halos form and merge with one another, resulting in a wide variety of galaxies, and reionization starts to take

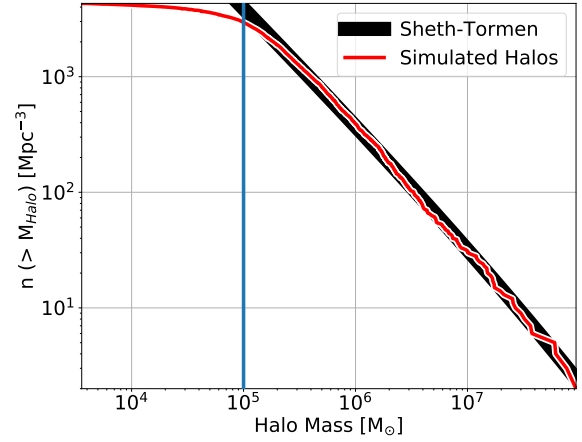


Figure 2. Halo mass function of the last output of the simulation at $z = 9.3$. The thick, black line is the analytic Sheth-Tormen mass function. The distribution of halo masses matches well with analytical expectations above $10^5 M_\odot$, where halos are captured by 50 particles. The vertical blue line indicates our halo mass resolution limit of $10^5 M_\odot$.

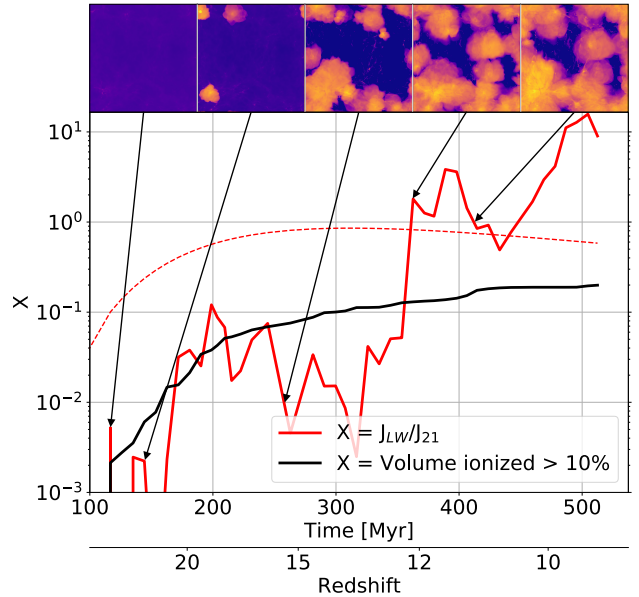


Figure 3. For the entire box, the average mass weighted LW background from sources shown in solid red and the fraction of the volume ionized above 10% versus time shown in solid black. The red dashed line represents the LW background implemented in the simulation (see Equation 4). Temperature projections are shown at the points indicated by the arrows.

place. By the end of the simulation, 20% of the box has an ionized fraction greater than 10%, as can be seen in Figure 3, which also shows the mass weighted LW intensity as a function of time, and temperature projections of the box at certain points in time.

In our simulation, 688 Pop III stars form between 27.23

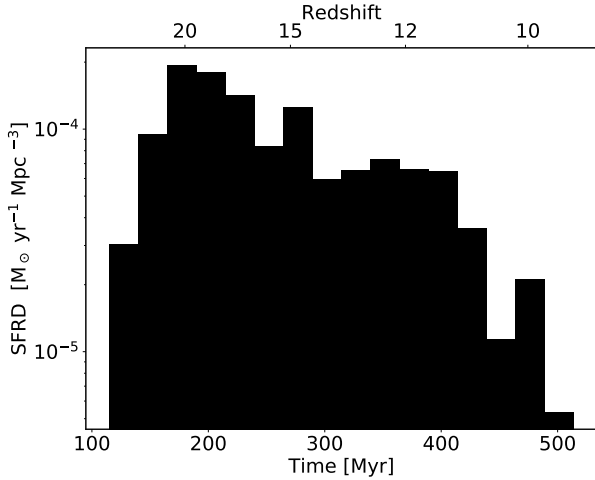


Figure 4. The star formation rate density of Pop III stars. The SFRD peaks at a redshift of 20, and slowly falls off. Note that metal-enriched star formation continually increases throughout time, although that is not plotted here. Due to the small box size of our simulation, this SFRD is particular for our box.

$\geq z \geq 9.39$. The corresponding star formation rate density (SFRD) can be seen in Figure 4, peaking at $1.9 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-3}$ at $z = 21.3$ and slowly decreases. The SFRD sharply declines near the end of the simulation but does not drop to zero. Small volumes are subject to cosmic variance, in particular the formation time of the first galaxies, which generates the bulk of the LW radiation background. This SFRD is therefore not representative of a cosmological average. In particular, it decreases at $z \leq 11$ when the most massive galaxy undergoes an extended period of star formation, boosting the local LW radiation field as shown in Figure 3. The rates are consistent with other studies (e.g. Xu et al. 2013; Magg et al. 2016), but it is likely to change depending on the particular modes captured by the initial conditions.

3.1 Population III host halo masses

To determine the host halos of new Pop III stars, we use the halo finding code, ROCKSTAR (Behroozi et al. 2013), **an algorithm that adaptively refines halos found with a friends-of-friends method in position and velocity phase-space and also temporally.** The mass determined by ROCKSTAR is the dark matter mass, so to determine the total mass of the halos, we multiply the masses by $\Omega_{\text{M}}/\Omega_{\text{DM}}$. The total mass is subsequently used in our analysis. **For stars that form in subhalos identified by ROCKSTAR, we assign the parent halo mass as the host halo mass.** There is one interesting case that we exclude from our analysis, where the parent halo is above the atomic cooling limit, because the radiative cooling physics are different in this regime and is not sensitive to a LW background. Here seven Pop III stars form in a pristine 10^6 M_{\odot} subhalo inside of a $3 \times 10^8 \text{ M}_{\odot}$ atomic cooling parent halo. Because this object only contains 1 per cent of the number of Pop

III stars, it only affects our average halo masses by a similar amount. We also take the center and virial radius from the ROCKSTAR halo catalog. **About 1% of Pop III stars do not form in a halo identified by ROCKSTAR.** Assuming that Pop III stars must form in collapsed halos, we calculate the virial mass and radius of a halo centered on the Pop III star directly from the simulation data by determining the sphere that contains an average overdensity of $200 \rho_{\text{c}}$. We calculate the LW intensity impinging on each halo by summing up the contribution coming from each radiating star particle outside the virial radius of the host halo. This is then added to the constant LW background implemented in the simulation (Eq. 4). In this work, we only analyze halos below the atomic cooling limit.

In redshift bins of $\Delta z = 1$, the mean halo mass hosting Pop III stars is determined, and plotted as black dots against the redshift bins in Figure 5. The median for each bin is represented by a cross, and the 15.9 and 84.1 percentiles are plotted below and above the mean, respectively. The M01 relation (Equation 3) for our LW background intensity in Eq. 4 is shown as the black solid line. Notably, the mean halo mass falls well below the relation, at $< 10^6 \text{ M}_{\odot}$ until $z = 15$ (270 Myr), at which point, the mean halo mass steadily rises above $3 \times 10^6 \text{ M}_{\odot}$. The large discrepancy between our data and the mass threshold from M01 is indicative of the H_2 shielding which is included in our simulation. H_2 shielding allows for halos to cool at much lower masses, and therefore, Pop III stars are forming in these halos at earlier times. In the M01 analysis, H_2 shielding is neglected in their calculations for a variety of reasons, including the Doppler broadening of LW bands and large column densities of H_2 only beginning to form at late times. Interestingly, a full radiation hydrodynamics simulation, such as ours, does not produce identical results as M01 predicts. Throughout the literature, there appears to be a consensus that H_2 self-shielding will help smaller mass halos collapse in the presence of a LW background radiation (e.g. Yoshida et al. 2003; Ricotti et al. 2001; Glover & Brand 2001; Hartwig et al. 2015). As can be seen by the red solid line in Figure 5, nearly 100% of the halos hosting Pop III stars fall below the M01 relation, until around a redshift of 15, at which point, the mean halo mass begins to rise above the relation. The increase in the mean halo mass above the M01 relation is indicative of the increased LW intensity permeating the box due to a galaxy that becomes very active in star formation at late times. This galaxy has a halo mass of $3.6 \times 10^8 \text{ M}_{\odot}$, a total stellar mass of $3.1 \times 10^6 \text{ M}_{\odot}$, and has a peak Pop III SFR of $2.7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ at $z = 15$ (270 Myr) and a peak metal enriched SFR of $5.4 \times 10^{-2} \text{ M}_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ at $z = 9.5$ (500 Myr). This galaxy produces a large amount of LW radiation which dominates the box, and drives up the minimum halo mass required for the formation of Pop III stars. This increase in the LW background can also be seen in Figure 3, where by the end of the simulation, the LW background rises to greater than $1 J_{21}$.

3.2 Lyman-Werner intensities in Pop III host haloes

The LW background intensity versus the host halo mass for each Pop III halo in our dataset is shown in Figure 6. Because the LW background only varies by a factor of five as

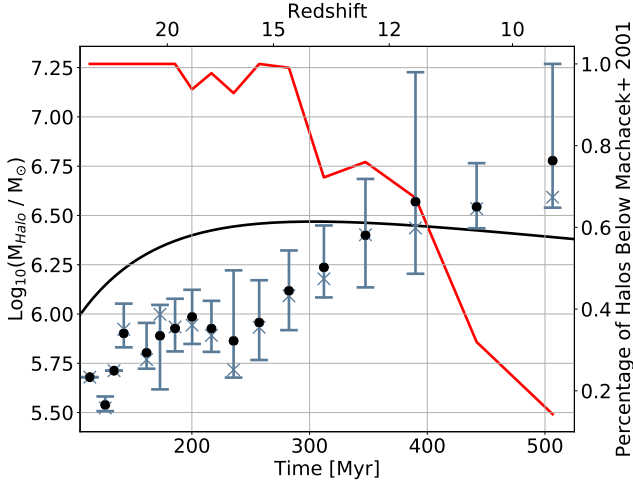


Figure 5. For halos hosting new Pop III stars, the mean halo mass for redshift bins of $\Delta z = 1$ is plotted along the left hand side versus time. The black scatter points indicate the mean halo mass for that redshift bin and the x indicate the median halo mass. The error bars indicate the 15.9 and 84.1 percentiles. The right hand side shows the percentage of halos that fall below the M01 mass threshold as a function of redshift. The M01 mass threshold (Eq. 3), is plotted for the constant LW background in Eq. 4. Almost all halos fall below the M01 relation, until ≈ 380 Myr, when the mean halo mass rises above the relation.

Pop III stars form, most points lie within a small intensity range, just below $1 J_{21}$. Each point is colored by the redshift where the Pop III star forms and the mass threshold from M01 (Eq. 3) for the given LW background (Eq. 4) is the solid black line. We see again that almost all halos form Pop III stars below the M01 threshold. There are also a few halos that form Pop III stars in very high J_{LW} , below the relation. This situation arises when there are multiple Pop III stars forming at about the same time, within ≈ 100 pc of each other. Star formation can occur in a neighboring halo of a Pop III star whose LW radiation does not have ample time to photodissociate enough H_2 to completely suppress star formation. The high J_{LW} is generally an indicator that the halos will likely have their star formation suppressed, but in cases where Pop III star formation occurs at about the same time, star formation will not be suppressed, so long as they are a suitable distance away from each other. As there are only a few data points in this region, this situation is rare. It should be noted that there are duplicate halos within this plot, since halos are allowed to form multiple Pop III stars if the conditions are sufficient and each point represents an instance of Pop III formation. The grouped points in the higher end of J_{LW} are representative of such halos.

We find that a total of 84% of the halos forming Pop III stars lie below the M01 mass threshold over the entire simulation redshift range. Given that the background intensity only varies by a factor of five, previous work suggested that most halos should have formed stars around or above the M01 relationship. However, we see a large spread in host halo masses, over an order of magnitude, and no clear relationship between the LW intensity and the host halo mass. This behavior suggests that the LW intensity is not the primary

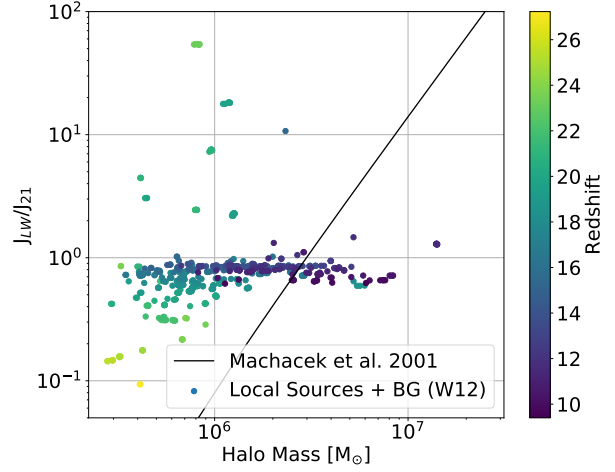


Figure 6. The average LW background for host halos of new Pop III stars is plotted versus the host halo mass, colored by redshift. The Machacek et al. relation is plotted given the background LW in Eq. 4. Almost all halos fall below the relation, across a range of redshifts. There are extreme cases where Pop III stars form in small halos located in a very intense LW radiation field or large halos in relatively weak radiation fields.

indicator of the mass at which a metal-free halo collapses. H_2 self-shielding is the main cause behind this conclusion because the internal dynamics and chemo-thermal evolution are now isolated from its large-scale environment and mostly depends on the local conditions within the halo.

3.3 Multiple stellar systems

We now inspect the number of Pop III stars and the total mass of Pop III stars per halo. Again, we are only tracking massive stars, not any stars that may form out of fragmented gas with masses $< 1 M_\odot$. The left panel of Figure 7 shows the number of Pop III stars per halo for a given halo mass, just after star formation. The histogram of the number of Pop III stars for all masses is projected on the right hand side. We find that a median number of four Pop III stars form per halo, with a maximum of 16 Pop III stars forming per halo. Since we did not restrict the number of Pop III stars that can form in a halo, we find that the conditions are often sufficient for multiple Pop III stars to form in a single halo. Out of the halos forming Pop III stars, only 16% of them form single Pop III stars, whereas 54% form between two and five Pop III stars, similar to the radiation hydrodynamic simulations of Susa (2013); Susa et al. (2014). It should be noted that these halos are not necessarily forming all of the Pop III stars at once. For example, a halo can form stars again if it did not host a supernova. The number of Pop III stars that form within a halo is indicative of the star formation history of that halo. Figure 8 shows the total mass of Pop III stars per halo for a given halo mass, where the histogram of the total Pop III mass for all halos is projected on the right hand side. Lines of constant star formation efficiency are overplotted. We find that most of our Pop III stars are forming between $10^{-4} < f_\star < 10^{-3}$. The mean total mass of

Pop III stars for all halos is $195 M_{\odot}$. Note that the mass of the Pop III stars depends on the chosen IMF.

At the end of the simulation, the right panel of Figure 7 shows the distribution of the number of Pop III stars per halo for a given halo mass, for all halos in the simulation that host either a living or a remnant Pop III star. The red line shows the median number of Pop III stars for each halo mass bin. At low masses, the number of Pop III stars per halo sits around 2 Pop III stars, and quickly rises once the halo mass reaches $10^7 M_{\odot}$. Xu et al. (2013) found that at $z = 15$, halos with masses at about $10^7 M_{\odot}$ will contain between 10 and 100 Pop III stellar remnants, similar to our results. We can also look at the spread in creation times of these Pop III stars per halo, shown in Figure 9. The halos that have a zero spread in their Pop III creation time, meaning the Pop III stars formed at the same time, lie at 10^{-2} Myr. The red line indicates the median spread in creation times for each halo mass bin. There are two groups within this plot. The first group contains halos that form their Pop III stars in a spread of < 10 Myr, with a median spread of about 0.1 Myr. The second group contains halos that form their Pop III stars in a spread of > 10 Myr, with a median spread of about 100 Myr. The second group represents typically larger mass halos that have acquired older Pop III stars by the end of the simulation through their long merger history. These halos have acquired these Pop III stars from outside halos, accounting for the large spread in Pop III creation time as well as the increased number of Pop III stars, as seen in the right panel of Figure 7.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Variations in the halo masses at collapse

Previous studies have focused on the minimum halo mass of Pop III hosts as a function of LW intensity. However, they have also found that Pop III stars often form in halos up to an order of magnitude greater than the minimum. We also have found that Pop III star formation occurs in a similar range of host halo masses throughout our simulation. There are three main causes of this significant variation in mass. First **given our assumed IMF (Equation 5), 36 per cent** of metal-free stars directly form a black hole without metal ejecta (Heger et al. 2003), leaving the halo chemically pristine. Second-generation stars forming later in that halo could still be metal-free if no external enrichment occurs. Thus they would form in halos substantially larger than the minimum, as it takes tens of millions of years for the halo to recover its gas after radiative feedback (Muratov et al. 2013; Jeon et al. 2014b). Second, dynamical heating from mergers and accretion provide a heating source inside the growing halo, preventing the gas from efficiently cooling via H_2 . This turbulent stirring can delay star formation that could cool through H_2 in an ideal situation but otherwise forms in halos more massive than the minimum (Yoshida et al. 2003; Wise et al. 2019). Finally, temporal fluctuations in the local LW radiation field can greatly affect the amount of H_2 within a halo and thus, how efficiently the halo can cool. While this may only be a small effect in some halos where the local LW radiation fluctuations are relatively small and star formation is distant, Pop III star formation may be significantly

delayed or completely prevented in halos that are close to active star formation sites. In summary, the timing of Pop III star formation depends on both local – halo histories of star formation and growth – and environmental properties. The combination of these three processes determines which halos will be able to form Pop III stars, and thus results in a wide range of host halo masses.

4.2 Comparison to previous work

There has been a large amount of work done throughout the literature investigating the relationship between the LW background intensity and halo masses. Tegmark et al. (1997) numerically integrated a chemical network to calculate the minimum mass a halo must have in order to cool, by considering H_2 formation and cooling rates. They conclude that cooling by H_2 is efficient and leads to the first formation of structures. They found a minimum halo mass needed to collapse which depends on the virial temperature of the halo and the virial redshift. At $z = 15$, this minimum halo mass is $10^6 M_{\odot}$. Trenti et al. (2009) uses a similar argument as Tegmark et al. (1997), and found that metal-free halos can exist until $z \approx 6$ using cosmological simulations and an analytical model for metal enrichment. They also provide some insight into whether or not Pop III supernova rates are high enough within these metal-free halos to allow for the LSST to see these regions of the universe. They used the minimum halo mass capable of cooling via H_2 from Trenti & Stiavelli (2009) as one part of their halo mass model (see the blue solid line in Figure 10, given our LW background). Neither Trenti et al. (2009) nor Tegmark et al. (1997) included the effects of H_2 self-shielding, which can explain the discrepancy between our data and their mass threshold relationship (Figure 10). For a LW background of $J_{LW}/J_{21} = 0.2$, we see halos hosting Pop III stars down to $4 \times 10^5 M_{\odot}$, while the relation from Trenti & Stiavelli (2009) would expect to see minimum halo masses capable of cooling, and thus capable of hosting Pop III stars, at $10^7 M_{\odot}$, almost two orders of magnitude larger. Since we include H_2 self-shielding, Pop III stars are allowed to form in smaller mass halos for a given LW background. **Visbal et al. (2014) used one-zone models to study the gaseous centers of dark matter halos and how they react to a LW background. They use a particular parametrization of the central gas density, which then follows their analytic equation for critical mass (see their Equation 4) to within a factor of two. This critical mass is plotted in our Figure 10 at redshift 20. Here almost all of our halos fall below their critical mass relationship, with only the highest mass halos rising above. Visbal et al. also compare their results to three-dimensional hydrodynamical simulations, where they find similar threshold halo masses as Machacek et al. (2001).** Mebane et al. (2018) used a semi-analytic model of star formation, including feedback properties such as a LW background, photoionization due to Pop III stars, supernovae of Pop III stars and metal-enriched stars, and chemical enrichment, to determine for how long Pop III stars will survive for and found that Pop III stars can continue to form until $z \approx 6$. They found a minimum halo mass for hosting Pop III star formation, but with the caveat that they did not include H_2 self-shielding. They found that when Pop III stars contribute to the LW back-

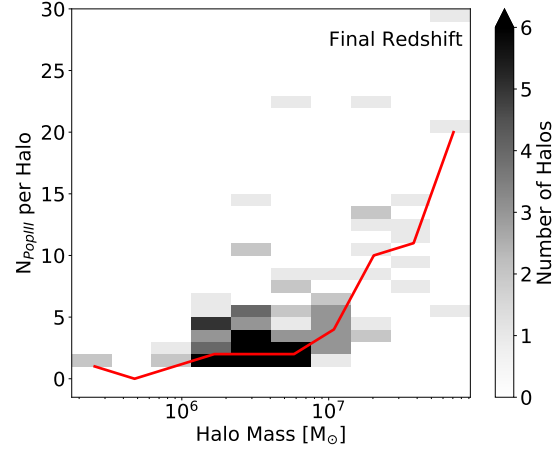
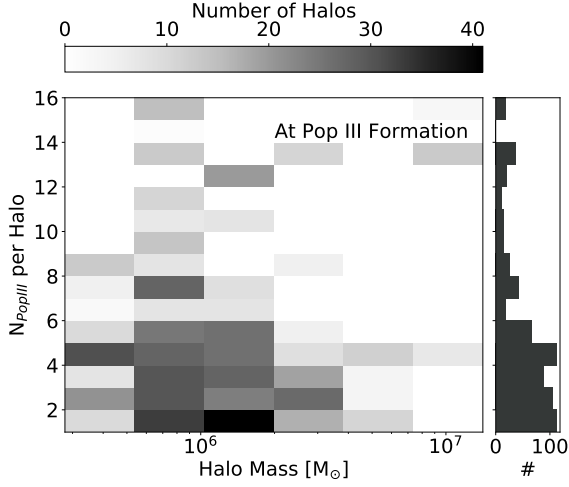


Figure 7. The number of Pop III stars per halo versus halo mass at the instance of Pop III star formation (left) and the final redshift (right). At the instance of formation, Pop III stars will form in a halo which contains a median number of four Pop III stars, with some containing as many as 16 Pop III stars. On the right, the red line indicates the median number of Pop III stars in each halo mass bin. By the end of the simulation, high mass halos contain a large number of Pop III stars due to their long merger history with smaller halos hosting Pop III stars.

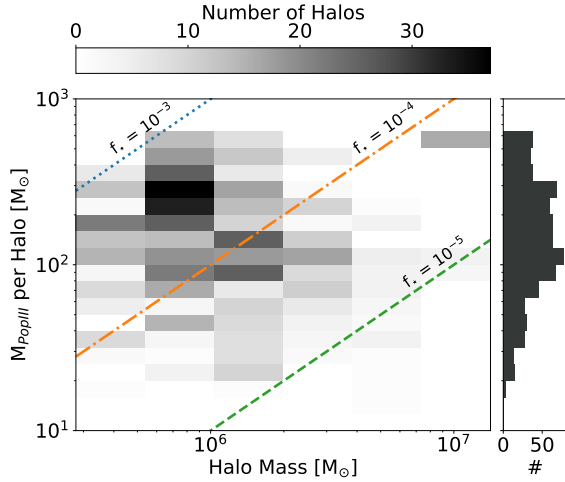


Figure 8. Total mass of Pop III stars in halos hosting new Pop III stars versus halo mass. Lines of constant star formation efficiencies are overplotted. Most halos form Pop III stars at efficiencies between 10^{-3} and 10^{-4} .

ground, the minimum halo mass for Pop III star formation is $4 \times 10^6 M_\odot$ at $z = 20$, similar to results from Tegmark et al. (1997). The results from Trenti et al. (2009) and Mebane et al. (2018) have higher halo masses in comparison with M01, although this more closely matches results from simulations (see Wise & Abel 2007; O’Shea & Norman 2008). It should be noted that because our box is fairly small, we cannot capture the cosmic variance of rare halos and galaxies. For example, at late times, a single galaxy dominates the LW radiation field, and drives up the host halo masses. However, we would expect this to happen at different times in other cosmological volumes. Therefore, we cannot directly

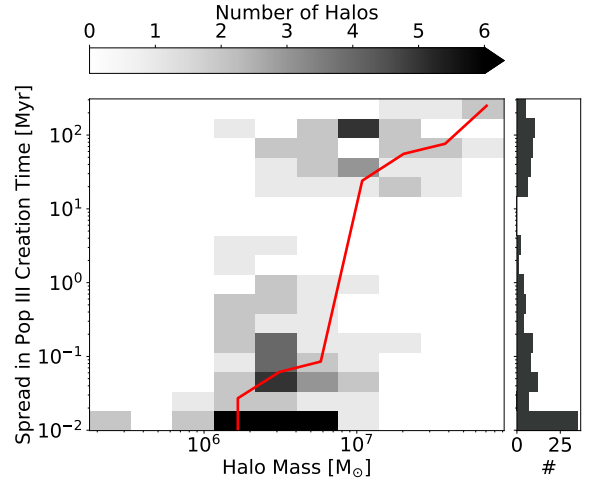


Figure 9. The spread in Pop III creation times per halo versus halo mass at the end of the simulation. The red line indicates the median spread in creation times for each halo mass bin. There are two groups that appear in this plot, halos that have a spread of less than 10 Myr, representing halos that form Pop III stars quickly, and halos that have a spread of greater than 10 Myr, representing larger mass halos that acquire old Pop III stars through mergers.

compare the time dependence, however, a comparison as a function of LW intensity is still valid.

Yoshida et al. (2003) used cosmological simulations to study the formation of primordial star-forming clouds. They followed the growth of structure to find where gas cools and condenses which would form the first stars, and how the effects of LW radiation may affect these gas clouds. Importantly, they included H_2 self-shielding within halos. In a series of simulations, they found a minimum halo mass for

those halos hosting gas clouds which may result in active star formation (see their Figure 12). They found that in the presence of a LW background of $0.01 J_{21}$, the minimum halo mass is $7 \times 10^5 M_\odot$. When H_2 self-shielding is taken into account along with a LW background, their minimum halo mass decreases to $4.5 \times 10^5 M_\odot$. This value lies close to the case where there is no LW background applied, where the minimum halo mass is $3.5 \times 10^5 M_\odot$. They found that H_2 self-shielding does appear to be an efficient mechanism enabling primordial gas cooling. In comparison with our work, we find similar minimum halo masses for each redshift, although we do see a wider range of halo masses, ranging from $2.8 \times 10^5 M_\odot$ to $1.4 \times 10^7 M_\odot$. While our halos never experience a LW intensity as low as $0.01 J_{21}$, we find that their minimum mass for this LW intensity lies in the same mass range as our halos (see blue open circle in Figure 10). Wise & Abel (2007) used cosmological simulations to investigate H_2 cooling in a LW background. They found that H_2 cooling is dominant even when there is a large LW background present. They did not include self-shielding and subsequently found halo masses at their collapse that lie well above the M01 relation (see red open triangles in Figure 10). Their $J_{LW} = 0$ control is plotted in Figure 10 at $J_{LW}/J_{21} = 10^{-4}$. O’Shea & Norman (2008) used cosmological simulations to investigate Pop III star formation in various LW backgrounds. They found that due to an increased LW background, there is a delay in star formation, and thus there is an increase in the halo masses at collapse. They also ignored H_2 self-shielding in their calculations which can again account for the increased halo masses they found compared to this work, as can be seen in Figure 10 (open green squares). Their halo masses are similar to the results of Wise & Abel (2007). Their control of $J_{21} = 0$ control is plotted at $J_{LW}/J_{21} = 10^{-4}$. Hirano et al. (2015) used cosmological simulations to study 1540 collapsing metal-free gas clouds in the early universe to derive the corresponding primordial stellar mass distribution. They find that stars form in halos above virial masses $M_{\text{vir}} = 2.1 \times 10^5 M_\odot$ at $z = 30$ and $M_{\text{vir}} = 9.9 \times 10^5 M_\odot$ at $z = 10$. These masses are consistent with our results with our mean halo mass lying between these values.

4.3 Caveats

There are a few minor shortcomings to this work that should be noted. Schauer et al. (2017) investigated the escape fraction of LW photons in the near and far-field and found that the LW escape fraction of atomic cooling halos can vary significantly depending on the ionisation front within the halo. In the near-field with an ionisation front breaking out of a halo, they find that the LW escape fraction is greater than 95%. But when the ionisation front is contained within the halo, they found that the LW escape fraction can range from 3% to 88%. In general, they find that the LW escape fractions in the far-field are higher than 75%. Their work was based on previous work, done by Schauer et al. (2015), where they study LW radiation coming from single Pop III stars, rather than stellar populations. They find similar results as Schauer et al. (2017), with the exception that H_2 shielding by neutral hydrogen decreases LW escape fractions as compared to when only H_2 shielding is considered. In

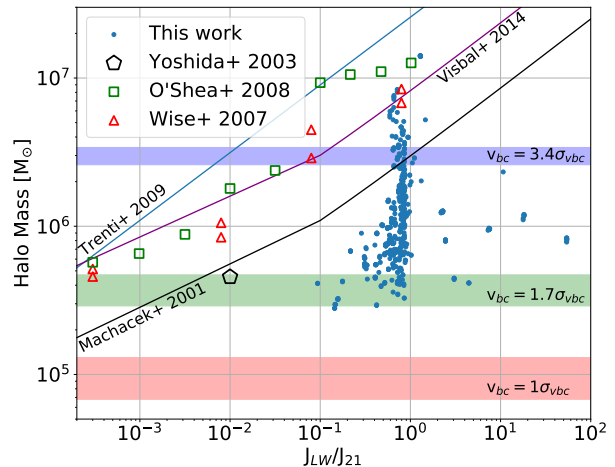


Figure 10. The halo mass versus the average LW intensity normalized by J_{21} versus for this work and a variety of other works. The black solid line is from M01 **given our LW background**, blue solid line from Trenti & Stiavelli (2009) at $z = 20$, the purple solid line from Visbal et al. (2014) at $z = 20$, blue open circle from Yoshida et al. (2003), green open squares from O’Shea & Norman (2008), and red open triangles from Wise & Abel (2007). $J_{LW} = 0$ for the various sources is plotted here at $J_{LW}/J_{21} = 10^{-4}$. The solid bands of halo masses correspond to the characteristic masses of halos to contain a baryon fraction that is half of the cosmic mean for various redshifts and for the shown streaming velocities from Naoz et al. (2013). For each band, the maximum halo mass occurs at $z = 15$. For streaming velocities of $3.4\sigma_{vbc}$, $1.7\sigma_{vbc}$, and $1\sigma_{vbc}$, the minimum halo mass occurs at $z = 17, 22$, and 27 , respectively.

their more recent work, they find that this difference in LW escape fractions between when H_2 shielding by neutral hydrogen is included or not is negligible. Kitayama et al. (2004) investigated the transition between D-type and R-type ionization fronts within halos to determine the escape fractions of ionizing and photodissociating photons using a one-dimensional Lagrangian hydrodynamics code. They found that in halos with masses $< 10^6 M_\odot$, escape fractions are greater than 80 %, and in larger mass halos, with masses $> 10^7 M_\odot$, the escape fractions are essentially zero. Since we are not accounting for the reduced escape fraction within our halos, we are overestimating the LW radiation coming from point sources in our simulation. We could account for this by decreasing the intensity of the stars, since the overall LW radiation would be reduced, although this should not significantly affect our results as we find little dependence on LW intensity.

We also do not include streaming velocities between baryons and dark matter within our simulation (Tselikhovich et al. 2011; Greif et al. 2011a; Naoz et al. 2012; O’Leary & McQuinn 2012). Streaming velocities can suppress star formation at very high ($z \gtrsim 20$) redshifts only, because the streaming velocities decrease with time. Pop III star formation is delayed by an average of $\delta z = 4$ by increasing the halo mass needed to overcome the bulk velocity by about a factor of three (Greif et al. 2011a). The streaming

velocities will generally result in lower gas densities within halos as well as an offset of the peak density from the center of the halo (O’Leary & McQuinn 2012). Often in the literature, streaming velocities are only studied for a few halos. But Naoz et al. (2013) estimated the minimum mass needed to retain the bulk of the baryons within the dark matter halo using a series of cosmological simulations, the results of which can be seen in Figure 10 (see shaded bands). These halos only reach up to about $2-3 \times 10^5 M_\odot$ when the streaming velocity is about $1\sigma_{\text{vbc}}$, which is smaller than the star forming halos in our simulation. Naoz et al. (2013) mention that at the largest streaming velocity, their simulations do not match expected values due to a small sample size of high mass halos. Our results indicate that halos collapse at larger masses that are not as affected by typical streaming velocities ($< 1\sigma_{\text{vbc}}$). In the evolution of such a halo, it would have started to accumulate gas above these critical masses while also being irradiated by a LW background. Afterwards, the collapse will be controlled by the processes discussed in Section 4.1, and thus streaming velocities would likely not affect our results. **Schauer et al. (2019) give minimum and average halo masses necessary for enough cold dense gas to form in halo centers to support star formation for various streaming velocities in their study of star formation in minihalos and its relation to the EDGES 21-cm absorption feature (Bowman et al. 2018). Ranging from $0 \text{ } v_{\text{bc}}$ to $3.0 \text{ } v_{\text{bc}}$ in units of σ_{rms} , they found that the minimum halo mass ranges from $5 \times 10^5 M_\odot$ to $10^7 M_\odot$, and the average halo mass ranges from about $2 \times 10^6 M_\odot$ to $4 \times 10^7 M_\odot$. Our halo masses generally fall within these ranges, confirming again that only the rarest and strongest of the streaming velocities would affect our results.**

Finally with most studies of metal-free stars, there is the caveat of its uncertain IMF that affects the individual stellar luminosities and surface temperatures of the Pop III stars. Changes in the IMF could alter the multiplicity and total stellar mass of the system because the radiative feedback from the earlier stars can affect the thermodynamics of other molecular clouds within the same halo. Ultimately the IMF determines the fraction of stars going supernova and the metal production in pre-galactic objects that is the root cause of suppressing and ending Pop III star formation in the early universe.

5 CONCLUSIONS

In this work, we presented the analysis of the host halo mass distribution of Pop III stars and how it relates to the LW background radiation. From our results, we conclude the following:

- We find that Pop III stars are forming in halos with a mean mass below $10^6 M_\odot$, which falls well below the M01 relation, until $z = 15$, at which point the mean halo mass rises above the M01 relation to a mean value of $3 \times 10^6 M_\odot$ due to the domination of LW radiation produced by metal-enriched stars in the most massive galaxy in the simulation box.
- H_2 self-shielding allows halos below the M01 mass relation, as small as half as previously thought, to cool and form Pop III stars. Self-shielding creates a disconnect between the

LW background and the collapse, resulting in a broad mass distribution of metal-free star forming halos and no strict correlation between the two quantities.

- Halos are likely to form multiple Pop III stars. At the instance of Pop III star formation, a halo will have formed a median number of four Pop III stars, up to a maximum of 16.
- By the end of the simulation, halos with masses $> 10^7 M_\odot$ acquire multiple Pop III stars due to mergers with smaller mass halos, resulting in galaxies with young and old metal-free stars.

Our results provide another piece of the Pop III puzzle. With the inclusion of H_2 self-shielding, we find Pop III stars forming in smaller mass halos than previously predicted. These smaller mass halos provide earlier and additional sites for Pop III star formation, and therefore, more metal-enrichment within halos. We also find that Pop III stars do not necessarily have to form in isolation, in fact, they are more likely to form in a halo that has already formed multiple other Pop III stars. Since these stars are generally massive and are likely to produce stellar mass black holes, their remnants may be gravitational wave candidates detected through LIGO (Hartwig et al. 2016). The exact detection signature of these gravitational waves is a topic which needs to be studied further. While we do not see any relationship between the LW intensity and Pop III host halo mass, in order to determine exactly how the LW intensity influences the host halo mass, a more systematic approach needs to be taken.

The assumptions often made about the formation of Pop III stars, like how they will only form in isolation and how the LW background mainly determines the collapse mass, appear to break down when self-shielding is taken into account and restrictions about their formation are lifted. Further work needs to be done to determine why some halos form Pop III stars and others do not, to provide insight about the formation process of these stars and thus how they will affect their surrounding pre-galactic environment. The effect of the LW intensity on host halo mass should be systematically investigated with H_2 self-shielding to determine whether or not this background radiation really has a profound effect on Pop III formation or not. Further constraints on these primordial objects will assist multi-messenger astronomers in identifying these ancient systems.

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2007) was used to construct numerous plots within this paper. Computations and analysis described in this work were performed using the publicly-available ENZO and YT codes, which is the product of a collaborative effort of many independent scientists from numerous institutions around the world.

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