# **Understanding the Role of Early Stars in the Formation and Evolution of Galaxies**

*A step towards understanding cosmic reionization*

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## **Agenda**

- 1. Research Background and Motivation
- 2. Problem under study
- 3. Methodology
- 4. Results
- 5. How is it relevant in the bigger picture?

# **Research background & motivation**

**[JWST](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.3847/1538-4357/acc588)** is opening up new frontiers of cosmology by looking further than **HST**!

### **JWST Sees More Galaxies than Expected**

February 9, 2024 . Physics 17, 23

The new JWST observatory is revealing far more bright galaxies in the early Universe than anyone predicted, and astrophysicists have more than one explanation for the puzzle.

#### James Webb Space Telescope sees early galaxies defying 'cosmic rulebook' of star formation

By Robert Lea published September 25, 2023 **News** 

"It was like the galaxies had a rulebook that they followed - but astonishingly, this cosmic rulebook appears to have undergone a dramatic rewrite during the universe's infancy."

- ⤷ C. T. Donnan *et al.*, "The evolution of the galaxy UV luminosity function at redshifts *z* ∼ 8–15 from deep JWST and ground-based near-infrared imaging," [arXiv:2207.12356](http://arxiv.org/abs/2207.12356).
- ⤷ I. Labbé *et al.*, "A population of red candidate massive galaxies ∼600 Myr after the Big Bang," [Nature 616 \(2023\)](http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-05786-2).
- ⤷ P. Arrabal Haro *et al.*, "Confirmation and refutation of very luminous galaxies in the early Universe," [Nature 622 \(2023\)](http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06521-7).
- ⤷ S. L. Finkelstein *et al.*, "The complete CEERS early Universe galaxy sample: A surprisingly slow evolution of the space density of bright galaxies at *z* ∼ 8.5–14.5," [arXiv:2311.04279](http://arxiv.org/abs/2311.04279).
- ⤷ G. Sun *et al.*, "Bursty star formation naturally explains the abundance of bright galaxies at cosmic dawn," [Astrophys.](http://dx.doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/acf85a) J., [Lett. 955 \(2023\)](http://dx.doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/acf85a).
- ⤷ A. Ferrara, "Super-early JWST galaxies, outflows and Lyman alpha visibility in the EoR," [arXiv:2310.12197](http://arxiv.org/abs/2310.12197).
- ⤷ A. Ferrara *et al.*, "On the stunning abundance of super-early, luminous galaxies revealed by *JWST*," [Mon.](http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stad1095) [Not. R. Astron. Soc. 522 \(2023\)](http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stad1095).

## **Research background & motivation**

**[JWST](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.3847/1538-4357/acc588)** is opening up new frontiers of cosmology by looking further than **[HST](https://arxiv.org/abs/1603.03798)!** 

One of the key problem on which JWST would be very useful is the problem of *reionization*.









Galaxies begin to change the gas around them

**Areas of** transformed gas expand



**Clear universe,** end of reionization



# **Problem Under Study**

#### *Problem:*

- We don't know what happens during reionization !
- We don't have predictions for JWST !!

### *Currently Accepted Hypothesis:*

Early Galaxies and accretion of matter into the black holes released enough energy to re-ionize the universe.

### *Problem to Investigate:*

- How the early stars shaped the evolution of early galaxies?
- How much do PopIII stars contribute to reionization?





No observations available for the primordial universe.

Use High Resolution N-Body simulations in Cosmological settings to understand the role of the early stars in galaxy formation and evolution!

$$
\text{Cosmology}: \qquad H = H_0 \left[ \Omega_0 a^{-3} + (1 - \Omega_0 - \Omega_\Lambda) a^{-2} + \Omega_\Lambda \right]^{1/2}
$$

$$
Gosmology: \qquad H = H_0 \left[ \Omega_0 a^{-3} + (1 - \Omega_0 - \Omega_\Lambda) a^{-2} + \Omega_\Lambda \right]^{1/2}
$$

$$
\hat{\mathbf{v}} = \mathbf{v}/a,
$$
  
\nHydrodynamics  
\n
$$
\hat{\mathbf{v}} = 4\pi G (\rho_{\text{total}} - \rho_{\text{mean}}), \quad \hat{\mathbf{v}} = -\frac{\nabla \Phi}{a^2} - \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \mathbf{v},
$$
  
\n
$$
\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = -\rho \nabla \cdot \vec{v} \; ; \; \frac{D\vec{v}}{Dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla P \; ; \; \frac{De}{Dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \cdot P \vec{v}
$$





### **Methods:** *What is needed for simulating a realistic galaxy?*



#### **Thermochemistry: AREPO - RT (**[Kannan et.al 2019](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1804.01987.pdf)**)**

We are interested in single scattering regime: a particular photon interacts with the surrounding medium only once. We discretize the frequency into different bins *i*

$$
\frac{\partial N_{\gamma}^{i}}{\partial t} = -\tilde{c} N_{\gamma}^{i} \left( \sum_{j} n_{j} \bar{\sigma}_{ij} + \kappa_{i} \rho \right) + \sum_{j} s_{ij} \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial N_{\gamma}^{i}}{\partial t} + \sum_{j} \frac{1}{\partial t} d \nu \int_{\mu_{i}} \{1, n, n \otimes n\} I_{\nu} d\Omega \\ \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}_{\gamma}^{i}}{\partial t} = -\tilde{c} \mathbf{F}_{\gamma}^{i} \left( \sum_{j} n_{j} \bar{\sigma}_{ij} + \kappa_{i} \rho \right) \end{vmatrix}
$$
  $\bar{\sigma}_{ij} = \text{Mean Ionization Cross Section}$   
\n $s_{ij} = \text{Recombination Radiation}$ 

The species are coupled with this recombination radiation term!

**Thermochemistry** ( [Kannan et.al 2019](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1804.01987.pdf), [Kannan et. al 2020,](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article/499/4/5732/5932323) [Gnedin et. al 2011](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/0004-637X/728/2/88) )

For early stars, the species that we are interested in tracking are



 $\triangleright$  Current cosmological simulations don't consider primordial universe H2 thermochemistry which becomes extremely relevant for PopIII stars.

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For early stars, the species that we are interested in tracking are [HI, HII,  $H_2, H_2^+, H^-, HeI, HeII, HeIII$ ]

- $\triangleright$  Current cosmological simulations don't consider primordial universe H2 thermochemistry which becomes extremely relevant for PopIII stars.
- We are develop a more accurate thermochemistry module by adding additional gas phase reaction to the existing Thermochemistry module.
	- The evolution of ionic species can be written as:

$$
\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = C - Dx
$$

#### **Thermochemistry** ( [Kannan et.al 2019](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1804.01987.pdf), [Kannan et. al 2020,](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article/499/4/5732/5932323) [Gnedin et. al 2011](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/0004-637X/728/2/88) )

The evolution of ionic species can be written as:

$$
\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = C - Dx
$$

$$
\begin{split}\n\dot{\mathcal{M}}_{\mathrm{H}_{2}^{+}} &= -\Gamma_{\mathrm{B}} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}^{+}} - \Gamma_{\mathrm{C}} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}^{+}} + \Gamma_{\mathrm{D}} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}} - k_{4} n_{\mathrm{H}_{1}} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}^{+}} - k_{6} n_{e} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}^{+}} - k_{21} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}^{+}} - k_{22} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}^{+}} \\
&\quad + k_{3} n_{\mathrm{H}\mathrm{I}} n_{\mathrm{H}\mathrm{II}} + k_{7} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}} n_{\mathrm{H}\mathrm{II}} + k_{16} n_{\mathrm{H}\mathrm{II}} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} + k_{25} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}} n_{\mathrm{He}\mathrm{II}} \,, \\
\dot{\mathcal{M}}_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} &= -\Gamma_{\mathrm{A}} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} - k_{2} n_{\mathrm{H}\mathrm{I}} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} - k_{5} n_{\mathrm{H}} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} - k_{14} n_{e} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} - k_{15} n_{\mathrm{H}_{1}} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} - k_{16} n_{\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{II}}} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} \\
&\quad - k_{21} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}^{+}} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} - k_{22} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}^{+}} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} - k_{28} n_{\mathrm{He}} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} - k_{29} n_{\mathrm{He}} n_{\mathrm{H}^{-}} + k_{1} n_{e} n_{\mathrm{H}_{1}} + k_{23} n_{e} n_{\mathrm{H}_{2}} \,,\n\end{split}
$$

### **Thermochemistry** ( [Kannan et.al 2019](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1804.01987.pdf), [Kannan et. al 2020,](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article/499/4/5732/5932323) [Gnedin et. al 2011](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/0004-637X/728/2/88) )

The evolution of ionic species can be written as:

$$
\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = C - Dx
$$

$$
\begin{split}\n\mathcal{M}_{\text{HI}} &= \Gamma_{\text{A}} n_{\text{H}^{-}} + \Gamma_{\text{B}} n_{\text{H}^{+}_{2}} + 2 \Gamma_{\text{EM}} n_{\text{H}_{2}} - k_{1} n_{e} n_{\text{H}_{1}} - k_{2} n_{\text{H}^{-}} n_{\text{HI}} - k_{3} n_{\text{HII}} n_{\text{HI}} \\
&\quad - k_{4} n_{\text{H}^{+}_{2}} n_{\text{H}_{1}} - k_{26} n_{\text{He}} n_{\text{HI}} - 2 k_{30} n_{\text{HI}}^{3} - 2 k_{31} n_{\text{HI}}^{2} n_{\text{H}_{2}} - 2 k_{32} n_{\text{HI}}^{2} n_{\text{HeI}} + 2 k_{5} n_{\text{HII}} n_{\text{H}^{-}} \\
&\quad + 2 k_{6} n_{e} n_{\text{H}^{+}_{2}} + k_{7} n_{\text{H}_{2}} n_{\text{HII}} + 2 k_{8} n_{e} n_{\text{H}_{2}} + 2 k_{9} n_{\text{HII}} n_{\text{H}_{2}} + 2 k_{10} n_{\text{H}_{2}} n_{\text{H}_{2}} + 2 k_{11} n_{\text{HeI}} n_{\text{H}_{2}} \\
&\quad + k_{14} n_{e} n_{\text{H}^{-}} + k_{15} n_{\text{HII}} n_{\text{H}^{-}} + k_{21} n_{\text{H}^{+}_{2}} n_{\text{H}^{-}} + 3 k_{22} n_{\text{H}^{-}} n_{\text{H}^{+}_{2}} + k_{23} n_{e} n_{\text{H}_{2}} + k_{24} n_{\text{HeII}} n_{\text{H}_{2}} \\
&\quad + k_{27} n_{\text{He}} n_{\text{HII}} + k_{28} n_{\text{HeII}} n_{\text{H}^{-}} + k_{29} n_{\text{HeI}} n_{\text{H}^{-}} + \alpha_{\text{HII}} n_{\text{HII}} n_{e} - \sigma_{\text{eHI}} n_{\text{HII}} n_{e} - \Gamma_{\text{HII}} n_{\text{HII}} \,, \\
&\quad \mathcal{M}_{\text{HII}} &= \Gamma_{\text{B}} n_{\text{H}^{+}_{2}} + 2 \Gamma_{\text{C}} n_{\
$$

#### **Simplification**:

- > Abundances of H<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>and H<sup>-</sup> are always extremely small in cosmological settings, so that they can always be assumed to be in the kinetic equilibrium
- ➢ Neglecting terms involving *k21*, *k22* as it is ∝ *nH− nH2+*
- $\triangleright$  Ignore inter-species terms i.e reactions between H and He
- $\triangleright$  Use closure relations

$$
x_{\rm HI} = 1 - x_{\rm HII} - 2x_{\rm H_2} \,,
$$
  

$$
x_{\rm HeI} = 1 - x_{\rm HeII} - x_{\rm HeIII} \,,
$$

Methods: Thermochemistry ( [Kannan et.al 2019,](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1804.01987.pdf) [Kannan et. al 2020,](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article/499/4/5732/5932323) [Gnedin et. al 2011](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/0004-637X/728/2/88)) **Internal Energy:**

$$
\Lambda_{\text{tot}} = \Lambda_p \left( n_j, N_{\gamma}^i, T \right) + \frac{Z}{Z_{\odot}} \Lambda_M(T, \rho, z) + \Lambda_{\text{PE}} \left( D, T, N_{\gamma}^{\text{FUV}} \right) + \Lambda_p \left( \rho, T, D, N_{\gamma}^{\text{IR}} \right)
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}\n\dot{\mathcal{M}}_{\text{Internal energy}} &= \mathfrak{h}_{\text{HI}} n_{\text{HI}} + \mathfrak{h}_{\text{HeII}} n_{\text{HeII}} + \mathfrak{h}_{\text{HeII}} n_{\text{HeII}} + \mathfrak{h}_{\text{H}_2} n_{\text{H}_2} - \mathcal{C}_M + \mathcal{C}_{\text{PE}} \\
&\quad - \mathcal{C}_D - \Lambda (n \to 0)_{\text{H}_2 \text{HI}} n_{\text{H}_2} n_{\text{HI}} - \Lambda (n \to 0)_{\text{H}_2 \text{H}_2} n_{\text{H}_2}^2 \\
&\quad - \Lambda_{\text{H}_2^+ e} n_{\text{H}_2^+} n_e - \Lambda_{\text{H}_2^+ \text{HI}} n_{\text{H}_2^+} n_{\text{HI}} - \Lambda_{\text{Inverse Compton Cooling}} n_e\n\end{aligned}
$$

Methods: Thermochemistry ( [Kannan et.al 2019,](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1804.01987.pdf) [Kannan et. al 2020,](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article/499/4/5732/5932323) [Gnedin et. al 2011](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/0004-637X/728/2/88)) **Internal Energy:**

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$$

 $M_{\text{Internal energy}} = \mathfrak{h}_{\text{HI}} n_{\text{HI}} + \mathfrak{h}_{\text{HeI}} n_{\text{HeI}} + \mathfrak{h}_{\text{HeII}} n_{\text{HeII}} + \mathfrak{h}_{\text{H}_2} n_{\text{H}_2} - \mathcal{C}_M + \mathcal{C}_{\text{PE}}$  $-\mathcal{C}_{D} - \Lambda(n \to 0)_{H_2H_1} n_{H_2} n_{H_1} - \Lambda(n \to 0)_{H_2H_2} n_{H_2}^2$  $-\fbox{$\Lambda_{\rm H_2^+e}n_{\rm H_2^+}n_e-\Lambda_{\rm H_2^+HI}n_{\rm H_2^+}n_{\rm HI}$}-\Lambda_{\rm Inverse\ Compton\ Cooling}n_e$ 

Additional cooling at low temperatures that becomes very important for the primordial metal free gas See: [Glover & Abel \(2008\)](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article/388/4/1627/981339)

## Methods: Thermochemistry ( [Kannan et.al 2019,](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1804.01987.pdf) [Kannan et. al 2020,](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article/499/4/5732/5932323) [Gnedin et. al 2011](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/0004-637X/728/2/88)) **Internal Energy:**



#### **Overview of Thermochemistry network:**

Solve the thermochemistry network using closure relations and update the species fractions, internal energy and photon density and flux: we use a *semi - implicit* scheme when change in Temperature or ionic species density is less than 10% otherwise we numerically solve the differential equation using **SUNDIALS CVODE** solver.

In addition to changing ionization state of different species, photons can also heat the surrounding through photo-heating - we account for photo-heating.

Additionally there will be momentum injection due to photon absorption and here also we see coupling of the radiation and matter fields through source terms in hydrodynamic equations.

#### **Testing the thermochemistry network:**

O star ( $T = 4.3 \times 10^3$  K) at the centre of a box in a pure molecular medium.



#### **Testing the thermochemistry network:**



#### **Testing the thermochemistry network:**



#### **Radiation field of PopIII stars :** [\(Mirouh et. al 2023,](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2307.02678.pdf) [Jones et. al 2022\)](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stac2049)

PopIII stars are purely made up of Hydrogen and Helium, and have short lifetimes compared to metal rich counterparts.

The radiation field of a star depends on two important factors:  $T_{\text{eff}}$  and *log(g)*.

Traditionally there are two approaches to get the radiation field

- Model the spectrum as black body
- Explicitly solve the radiative transfer of the stellar atmosphere

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We use the **Tlusty** [\(Hubney and Lanz\)](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1706.01859.pdf) and **MESA** ([Paxton et. al 2011](https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2011ApJS..192....3P/abstract))

**Overview**



#### **Model 100 Metal Free stars in MESA**

Stars are irrotational and non-convective stars & initialized with BBN proportions of H, He



**Compute stellar spectrum on a grid for the metal free stars**



**Combine evolutionary history to obtain IMF averaged spectra**



Standard spectra: Bruzual G., Charlot S., 2003.

**Combine evolutionary history to obtain IMF averaged spectra**



#### **Feedback from PopIII stars :** ([Heger & Woosley 2002](http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/338487), [Heger & Woosley 2010](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/0004-637X/724/1/341))

PopIII stars can die as supernova or black holes, and they inject large amount of energy into the interstellar medium

### Methods: Feedback from PopIII stars: [\(Heger & Woosley 2002,](http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/338487) [Heger & Woosley 2010\)](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/0004-637X/724/1/341)

PopIII stars can die as supernova, and they inject large amount of energy into the ISM

$$
M_{\star} \in [10 - 100] \ M_{\odot} \rightarrow 1.2 \times 10^{51} \ \text{ergs}
$$

 $M_{\star} \in [140 - 260]$   $M_{\odot}$ 

$$
E_{\rm PISN} = 10^{51} \times \left[5.0 + 1.304 \left(\frac{M_{\rm He}}{M_{\odot}} - 64\right)\right] \text{ ergs}
$$

$$
\boxed{E_{\rm SNII}=10^{51}\;{\rm ergs}}
$$



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$$

$$
\boxed{E_{\rm SNII} = 10^{51} \text{ ergs}}
$$

$$
\Delta M_i(t, \Delta t) = \int_{\mathcal{M}(t+\Delta t)}^{\mathcal{M}(t)} \chi_{i,\text{enrich}}(M)\Phi(M) dM
$$



Now, we run cosmological zoom-in simulations of galaxies with(out) the PopIII physics

- AREPO-RT [Kannan et. al, 2019](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article/485/1/117/5303742?login=true), [Springel et. al, 2010](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article/401/2/791/1147356?login=true) for Gravity and RHD.
- IC from Thesan box (Kannan et. al, in Prep)
- Cosmology from Planck 2018
- Galaxy formation [Marinacci et. al, 2019](http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stz2391), [Kannan et. al, 2020](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article/499/4/5732/5932323)



### **Properties of the central halo:**



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### **Properties of the central halo:**

Energetic PopIII SNe results in stronger feedback that delays star formation and slower enrichment of gas







### **Ionization properties:**



### **Ionization properties:**



# **Conclusion**

- Developed an accurate Molecular Hydrogen Thermochemistry network very relevant for the early universe
- Created IMF averaged stellar spectra for PopIII stars with high fidelity
- Developed metal enrichment and feedback prescription for PopIII stars.
- Found that PopIII stars can form at  $z \sim 15.45$
- PopIII stars decreases SFR in Halos, Reduces Gas Metallicity in CGM
- Found strong evidence that PopIII stars **can** affect the onset of reionization !



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- This research was enabled in part by support provided by ACENET, Calcul Québec, Compute Ontario, and the Digital Research Alliance of Canada (alliance can.ca)
- My parents and friends, for always supporting me!

#### **Photo heating:**

Photons in addition to changing the ionization state, they also heat the gas. The excess energy is taken away by the photoelectrons.

$$
\mathcal{H}=\sum_j n_j \Gamma_j.
$$

(Total photo-heating rate)

$$
\Gamma_j = \sum_i \int_{\nu_{i1}}^{\nu_{i2}} \frac{4\pi J_\nu}{h\nu} \sigma_{j_\nu} \left(h\nu - h\nu_{tj}\right) d\nu
$$

#### **Change of momentum:**

The radiation pressure term due to photon absorption is added as a source term in the momentum conservation equation of hydrodynamics and is given by

$$
\frac{\partial \rho v}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{c} \sum_{i} F_{\gamma}^{i} \left( \sum_{j} n_{j} \bar{\sigma}_{ij} p_{ij} + \kappa_{i} \rho e_{i} \right)
$$

$$
p_{ij} = \frac{\int_{\nu_{i1}}^{\nu_{i2}} 4\pi J_{\nu} \sigma_{j_{\nu}} d\nu}{\int_{\nu_{i1}}^{\nu_{i2}} \frac{4\pi J_{\nu}}{h\nu} \sigma_{j_{\nu}} d\nu}.
$$

#### **Combine evolutionary history to obtain IMF averaged spectra**



(a) Lifetime emission of 10  $M_{\odot}$  star.

(b) Lifetime emission of 100  $M_{\odot}$  star.