#### Star Formation & Stellar Evolution

The formation of Pop III stars The basic concepts of stellar evolution Stellar evolutionary tracks

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Image: A matched and A matc

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# Pop III star formation

Pop III stars would have collapsed in the first dark matter halos to have successfully accumulated baryonic gas and cooled to a low enough temperature to permit  $H_2$  formation.

The virial temperature of a CDM halo is

$$T_{\rm vir} \approx 442 \Omega_{M,0}^{1/3} \left(\frac{M}{10^4 M_{\odot}/h}\right)^{2/3} \left(\frac{1+z_{\rm vir}}{100}\right)$$



Minimum halo mass within which  $H_2$  cooling can lead to gas collapse as a function of the redshift at which the halo assembled.

#### Stellar evolution

Stellar evolution is driven by the change in chemical evolution due to stellar nucleosynthesis.

Assuming no bulk motion in the inner material of the star, then any changes in the chemical composition of the star due to nuclear fusion is only local, so

$$\frac{\partial X_i}{\partial t} = f_i(\rho, T, \{X_i\})$$

so that

$$X_{i}(t) = X_{i}(t_{0}) + f_{i}(\rho(t), T(t), \{X_{i}\}(t_{0})) \,\delta t$$

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A star's luminosity is produced by the nuclear fusion reactions occurring in its core. For the most common fusion process,  $4H \rightarrow He$ . The energy that this reaction releases is

 $4m_p - 3.97m_p = 0.03m_p$ 

The Sun's structure and luminosity will drastically change when it uses up about 13% of its hydrogen. This results in a hydrogen-fusion lifetime of about  $9 \times 10^9$  yr.

## Nucleon binding energy

The binding energy per nucleon in a nucleus is

$$\Delta E(Q,N) = \frac{[Qm_p + Nm_n - m(Q,N)]c^2}{Q+N}$$

For He,  $\Delta E \approx 0.007 m_p c^2$ .



## Overcoming the Coulomb barrier



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## Proton-proton (pp) chain



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# CNO cycle



Triple- $\alpha$  process



# Comparison of these synthesis processes



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#### Primary and secondary elements

Elements which can be synthesized in stars with zero initial metallicity (pure hydrogen and helium) are considered primary elements. These include the  $\alpha$  elements, which form via fusion of He to O<sup>16</sup>:

$$\begin{split} \mathrm{C}^{12} + \mathrm{He}^4 &\rightarrow \mathrm{O}^{16} + \gamma & 2\mathrm{C}^{12} \rightarrow \mathrm{Ne}^{20} + \mathrm{He}^4 \\ \mathrm{Ne}^{20} + \mathrm{He}^4 \rightarrow \mathrm{Mg}^{24} + \gamma & 2\mathrm{O}^{16} \rightarrow \mathrm{Si}^{28} + \mathrm{He}^4 \end{split}$$

Secondary elements are those which can only form in the presence of primary elements. Nitrogen is an important secondary element; it is primarily produced in the CNO cycle, which cannot occur unless a star has some initial C.

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Since the luminosity of a star is proportional to its mass,

 $L_* \propto M_*^4$ 

the length of time a star lasts on the main sequence also scales with mass:

$$t_{\rm MS} \propto \frac{M_*}{L_*} \propto M_*^{-3}$$

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#### **Pre-MS** evolution



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## Post-MS evolution

