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Galaxy Zoo: the interplay of quenching mechanisms in the group environment[★]

R. J. Smethurst,^{1,2,†} C. J. Lintott,¹ S. P. Bamford,² R. E. Hart,² S. J. Kruk,¹
K. L. Masters,³ R. C. Nichol³ and B. D. Simmons⁴

¹*Oxford Astrophysics, Department of Physics, University of Oxford, Denys Wilkinson Building, Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3RH, UK*

²*School of Physics and Astronomy, The University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK*

³*Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation, University of Portsmouth, Dennis Sciama Building, Barnaby Road, Portsmouth PO1 3FX, UK*

⁴*Center for Astrophysics and Space Sciences (CASS), Department of Physics, University of California, San Diego, CA 92093, USA*

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ABSTRACT

Does the environment of a galaxy directly influence the quenching history of a galaxy? Here, we investigate the detailed morphological structures and star formation histories of a sample of SDSS group galaxies with both classifications from Galaxy Zoo 2 and near ultra-violet (NUV) detections in *GALEX*. We use the optical and NUV colours to infer the quenching time and rate describing a simple exponentially declining star formation history for each galaxy, along with a control sample of field galaxies. We find that the time since quenching and the rate of quenching do not correlate with the relative velocity of a satellite but are correlated with the group potential. This quenching occurs within an average quenching time-scale of ~ 2.5 Gyr from star forming to complete quiescence, during an average infall time (from $\sim 10R_{200}$ to $0.01R_{200}$) of ~ 2.6 Gyr. Our results suggest that the environment does play a direct role in galaxy quenching through quenching mechanisms that are correlated with the group potential, such as harassment, interactions or starvation. Environmental quenching mechanisms that are correlated with satellite velocity, such as ram-pressure stripping, are not the main cause of quenching in the group environment. We find that no single mechanism dominates over another, except in the most extreme environments or masses. Instead, an interplay of mergers, mass and morphological quenching and environment-driven quenching mechanisms dependent on the group potential drive galaxy evolution in groups.

Key words: galaxies: evolution – galaxies: groups: general – galaxies: photometry – galaxies: statistics.

1 INTRODUCTION

Over half of all galaxies are found clustered together in groups (Zwicky 1938; Abell 1958; Huchra & Geller 1982; Eke et al. 2004), sharing one large dark matter halo (groups with ~ 100 or more galaxies are referred to as clusters; Bower & Balogh 2004). Conversely, some galaxies are found isolated from others in less dense environments (often referred to as the field), either because they are fossil groups (where all members have eventually merged; Ponman et al. 1994; Jones, Ponman & Forbes 2000; Jones et al. 2003) or because they have been isolated for their entire lifetimes. This environmental density is found to be correlated with morphology (Dressler 1980; Smail et al. 1997; Poggianti et al. 1999; Postman et al. 2005;

Bamford et al. 2009), colour (Butcher & Oemler 1978; Pimblet et al. 2002), quenched galaxy fraction (Kauffmann et al. 2003; Baldry et al. 2006; Peng et al. 2012; Darvish et al. 2016) and star formation rate (SFR; Gómez et al. 2003). Star-forming disc galaxies tend to be located in low-density environments with quiescent early-type galaxies in more dense environments. This suggests that the environment may drive a galaxy’s transition from star forming in the blue cloud to the quiescent red sequence through quenching of star formation.

Although these correlations were originally interpreted as indicating causation, recent evidence from simulations suggests that quenching mechanisms driven by the environment may not be dominant in the galaxy life cycle (Kimm et al. 2009; Kimm, Yi & Khochfar 2011; Hirschmann et al. 2014; Wang et al. 2014; Phillips et al. 2015; Emerick et al. 2016; Fillingham et al. 2016). Perhaps, instead, the correlation of increased quenched galaxy fractions with environment density is due to a superposition of other possible quenching mechanisms each of which depends on more local factors (Kauffmann et al. 2004; Blanton et al. 2006; Cucciati et al.

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[†]E-mail: rebecca.smethurst@nottingham.ac.uk

2010) than the broader environment properties (Balogh et al. 2004; Fadda et al. 2008; Porter et al. 2008; Darvish et al. 2014, 2017; Alpaslan et al. 2016; Laigle et al. 2017).

In order to isolate the cause of the density–morphology and density–SFR correlations, we need to observe how morphology and galaxy quenching time-scales change in dense environments with different properties in comparison to the field. Here, we consider the group environment, as this is a more typical environment for a galaxy than the relatively rare rich cluster environment (Carlberg 2004). We construct a sample of both group and field galaxies and use a Bayesian inference method to determine the quenching time and rate describing a simple exponentially declining star formation history (SFH) for a galaxy given its optical and near ultra-violet (NUV) colours. From these inferred SFHs, we aim to constrain the possible mechanisms at work in the group environment. We aim to determine the following: (i) how does the environment influence the detailed morphological structures of a galaxy? (ii) is quenching that is directly caused by the environment occurring in galaxy groups? However, dense environments are messy with many possible mechanisms at work, whose effects are difficult to disentangle.

There are many mechanisms that have been suggested to cause quenching. They are often referred to as either internal mechanisms (caused by the galaxy’s ‘nature’) or external mechanisms (caused by the way the galaxy is ‘nurtured’). The properties of a galaxy and its environment are often thought to control which mechanisms will affect a galaxy throughout its lifetime and subsequently affect the morphology. In Sections 1.1 and 1.2, we introduce the basic principles of possible quenching mechanisms. We note that although these mechanisms have been theorized and studied individually, they have many interdependencies which are difficult to disentangle in a population. We state how we will attempt to isolate each of the possible quenching mechanisms introduced here to study their effects on the group population at the end of each section before we describe our data sources and samples in Section 2. We provide a more thorough discussion of quenching mechanisms in Section 5.

1.1 Internal quenching mechanisms

1.1.1 Mass quenching

Mass quenching is defined by Peng et al. (2010, 2012) as any quenching mechanism acting independently of a galaxy’s environment, but not of its mass. However, there is still much debate over the exact mechanism which is the cause of such a quench. Darvish et al. (2016) suggest that non-AGN-driven feedback mechanisms (e.g. supernova feedback) are responsible for the correlation observed between the mass quenching efficiency and SFR in Peng et al. (2010). However, Gabor & Davé (2015) suggest that this is driven by ‘halo quenching processes’ (which they also suggest is a driver of environmental quenching; see Section 1.2.2), whereby the inflow of cool gas from the galaxy halo is either cut off or the gas is hindered from cooling at $M_{\text{halo}} > 10^{12} M_{\odot}$ (Birnboim & Dekel 2003; Dekel & Birnboim 2006). If this happens, a galaxy uses up the rest of its available gas for star formation as described by the Kennicutt–Schmidt law (Schmidt 1959; Kennicutt 1998) and consequently grows in mass.

Mass quenching is thought to be a dominant mechanism for isolated galaxies in the field (Kormendy & Kennicutt 2004). However, it is also thought that as a galaxy infalls into a group or cluster over long time-scales, gas reservoirs can also be depleted via a mass quenching process (Peng et al. 2012). It is therefore difficult to separate mass quenching and environmental quenching as individual

mechanisms due to their interdependence. In this work, we will refer to mass quenching as encompassing any process that reduces the supply and consumption of gas in galaxies as they grow in mass, irrespective of their environment.

We investigate this possible quenching mechanism in this study by studying the dependency of the inferred quenching parameters with stellar mass for satellite, central and field galaxies with increasing environmental density.

1.1.2 Morphological quenching

Morphological quenching is the theorized process by which the internal structure of a galaxy can have a negative impact on its own SFR. This can happen in one of two ways, either by preventing star formation from occurring or by increasing the rate of consumption of gas for star formation. The former is thought to be caused by bulges (Bluck et al. 2014), whereby the large gravitational potential of the bulge prevents the disc from collapsing and forming stars (Fang et al. 2013).

The latter mechanism is theorized to occur in galaxies hosting bars; the bar funnels gas to the centre of the galaxy (Athanasoula 1992a), where gas is exhausted by star formation effectively quenching the galaxy (Zurita et al. 2004; Sheth et al. 2005). Alternatively, the bar could be the consequence of another quenching mechanism entirely.

We investigate this possible quenching mechanism in this study by studying the dependency of the bar and bulge fractions of satellite galaxies with increasing environmental density in comparison to the field.

1.1.3 AGN feedback as a quenching mechanism

There are tight correlations between properties of galaxies, such as the bulge mass, total stellar mass and stellar velocity dispersion, and the black hole mass (Magorrian et al. 1998; Marconi & Hunt 2003; Häring & Rix 2004). This implies a co-evolution between the black hole and its host galaxy, therefore suggesting that changes in the SFR and structure of a galaxy could also be tied to black hole activity. This is thought to occur via AGN feedback, where the output of energetic material and radiation from the black hole is thought to either heat or expel the gas needed for SF in a galaxy, causing a quench. Alternatively, the black hole activity could be a consequence (rather than the cause) of another quenching mechanism that also gives rise to morphological changes in a galaxy (such as mass and morphological quenching mechanisms).

AGN feedback was first suggested as a mechanism for regulating star formation due to the results of simulations wherein galaxies could grow to unrealistic stellar masses (Silk & Rees 1998; Bower et al. 2006; Croton et al. 2006; Somerville et al. 2008). Without a prescription for the effects of AGN feedback, the shape of the galaxy luminosity function could therefore not be matched at the high luminosity end (Baugh et al. 1998, 2005; Kauffmann et al. 1999a,b; Somerville, Primack & Faber 2001; Kitzbichler & White 2006).

Indirect observational evidence has been found for both positive and negative feedback in various systems (see the comprehensive review from Fabian 2012). The strongest being the indirect evidence that the largest AGN fraction is found in the green valley (Martin et al. 2007; Cowie & Barger 2008; Hickox et al. 2009; Schawinski et al. 2010), suggesting a link between AGN activity and the process that moves a galaxy from the blue cloud to the red sequence. Recent statistical evidence from Smethurst et al. (2016) has shown the dominance of rapid, recent quenching within a population of

Type 2 AGN host galaxies, suggesting that AGN feedback is indeed an important evolutionary mechanism.

We do not directly investigate the presence of AGN in the group environment due to constraints from low number statistics; however, we discuss the possible role of AGN feedback in the context of the results presented in this study in Section 5.5.

1.2 External quenching mechanisms

1.2.1 Mergers as a quenching mechanism

Major mergers have been intrinsically linked to the formation of early-type galaxies since Toomre & Toomre (1972) showed this was possible with a simulation of the merger of two equal-mass disc galaxies. The hypothesis is as follows: when two galaxies merge, the influx of cold gas funnelled by the forces in the interaction often results in energetic starbursts (Mihos & Hernquist 1994, 1996; Hopkins et al. 2006a, 2008a,b; Snyder et al. 2011; Hayward et al. 2014; Sparre & Springel 2016), which can exhaust the gas required for star formation, effectively quenching the post-merger remnant. This remnant galaxy will also have formed a dynamically hot bulge through the dissipation of angular momentum in the merger (Toomre 1977; Walker, Mihos & Hernquist 1996; Kormendy & Kennicutt 2004; Hopkins et al. 2012; Martig et al. 2012). The mass ratio of the two galaxies merging is thought to affect the size of the bulge that is formed in the remnant (Cox et al. 2008; Hopkins et al. 2009; Tonini et al. 2016), with the most massive major mergers with a 1:1 mass ratio producing fully elliptical galaxies (Toomre & Toomre 1972; Barnes & Hernquist 1996; Kauffmann 1996; Mihos & Hernquist 1996; Pontzen et al. 2016). However, recent simulations of the merger of two disc galaxies with a 1:1 mass ratio have shown that a disc remnant galaxy can be produced (Hopkins et al. 2009; Pontzen et al. 2016; Sparre & Springel 2016).

Such a scenario is also intrinsically linked to the triggering of an AGN due to the influx of gas in the merger that can fuel the black hole accretion (Sanders et al. 1988; Di Matteo, Springel & Hernquist 2005; Hopkins & Hernquist 2009; Treister et al. 2012). Simulations of mergers with AGN have led many to believe that a merger that triggers both a starburst and an AGN can quench a galaxy in extremely rapid time-scales (Springel, Di Matteo & Hernquist 2005; Bell et al. 2006). Recent simulations have also suggested that feedback from the triggered AGN (see Section 1.1.3) is necessary to fully remove (or heat) all the available gas; otherwise, the SFR will recover back to the star formation sequence (SFS) post-merger (Athanasoula et al. 2016; Pontzen et al. 2016; Sparre & Springel 2016).

Mergers also have a clear environmental dependence, as they are more likely to occur in denser environments (at least until the velocity dispersion of a cluster becomes so large as to suppress mergers due to increased interaction velocities between galaxies). Here, we attempt to separate their effects from those quenching mechanisms driven solely by the properties of the galaxy environment through controlling for the environment density by comparing galaxies at the same Local Group density. We investigate mergers as a possible quenching mechanism by studying the dependency of the inferred quenching parameters with the number of galaxies in a group with increasing environmental density.

1.2.2 Environment-driven quenching

The proposed quenching mechanisms under the umbrella of environmental quenching are numerous and varied (see comprehensive

review by Boselli & Gavazzi 2006). Together with the typical gravitational galaxy–galaxy interactions (Moore et al. 1996) that are expected to be more frequent in a dense environment, environmental quenching also includes hydrodynamic interactions occurring between the cold interstellar medium (ISM) of the in-falling galaxy and the hot intergalactic medium (IGM) of the group or cluster. Such hydrodynamic interactions include ram-pressure stripping (RPS; Gunn & Gott 1972), viscous stripping (Nulsen 1982) and thermal evaporation (a rapid rise in temperature of the ISM due to contact with the IGM; Cowie & Songaila 1977). Another such process is starvation (also called strangulation; Larson, Tinsley & Caldwell 1980) that can remove the outer galaxy halo, thus cutting off the star formation gas supply to a galaxy. Preprocessing occurs when all of the above mechanisms take place in a group of galaxies that then merges with a larger group or cluster (Dressler 2004).

The most likely (and therefore the most studied) candidate mechanism for the cause of the environmental density–morphology and SFR relations is RPS (Abadi, Moore & Bower 1999; Poggianti et al. 1999). However, there has been mounting evidence that RPS can only strip a galaxy of 40–60 per cent of its gas supply (Fillingham et al. 2016) and so may not be as effective a quenching mechanism as first thought (Emerick et al. 2016). Therefore, investigations of other environmentally driven quenching mechanisms, such as strangulation (Peng, Maiolino & Cochrane 2015; Hahn, Tinker & Wetzel 2016; Maier et al. 2016; Paccagnella et al. 2016; Roberts, Parker & Karunakaran 2016; van de Voort et al. 2016) and harassment (high-speed galaxy ‘fly-by’ gravitational interactions; Bialas et al. 2015; Smith et al. 2015), are having a recent resurgence.

We investigate the environment as a possible driver of quenching in this study by studying the dependency of the inferred quenching parameters with halo mass, the ratio of masses between satellites and their central galaxies, the relative velocity of satellites and the stellar velocity dispersions of group galaxies in comparison to the field.

This paper proceeds as follows. In Section 2, we describe our data sources and group galaxy sample. We show the results of an investigation into the environmental dependence of the detailed morphological structure of group galaxies in Section 3. We describe our Bayesian inference method for determining the quenching histories of group galaxies and present the results of this method in Section 4. We then discuss the possible quenching mechanisms that could be responsible for our results and how they fit into the bigger picture of quenching in Section 5. We summarize our findings in Section 6. The zero-points of all magnitudes are in the AB system. Where necessary, we adopt the *Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe* Seven-Year Cosmology (Jarosik et al. 2011) with $(\Omega_m, \Omega_\Lambda, h) = (0.26, 0.73, 0.71)$.

2 DATA AND METHODS

2.1 Data sources

In this investigation, we use visual classifications of galaxy morphologies from the Galaxy Zoo 2¹ (GZ2) citizen science project (Lintott et al. 2009; Willett et al. 2013), which obtains multiple independent classifications for each optical image. The full question tree for an image is shown in fig. 1 of Willett et al. The GZ2 project used 304 022 images from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey Data Release 7 (SDSS; York et al. 2000; Abazajian et al. 2009) all

¹ <http://zoo2.galaxyzoo.org/>

classified by at least 17 independent volunteers, with a mean number of classifications of ~ 42 . We also utilize the Petrosian magnitude, petroMag , values for the u (3543 Å) and r (6231 Å) wavebands provided by the SDSS DR7 pipeline (Stoughton et al. 2002) for the GZ2 galaxies.

We also required NUV (2267 Å) photometry from the *GALEX* survey (Martin et al. 2005), within which ~ 42 per cent of the GZ2 sample was observed, giving a total of 126 316 galaxies with $0.01 \lesssim z \lesssim 0.25$ and $-22 < M_u < -15$. This will be referred to as the GZ2-*GALEX* sample. The completeness of this sample is shown in fig. 2 of Smethurst et al. (2015), wherein typical Milky Way L_* galaxies ($M_u \sim 20.5$) are still detected out to the highest redshift ($z \sim 0.25$); however, dwarf and lower mass galaxies are only detected at the lowest redshifts ($z \lesssim 0.05$).

Magnitudes are corrected for galactic extinction (Oh et al. 2011) by applying the Cardelli, Clayton & Mathis (1989) law, giving a typical correction of $u - r \sim 0.05$. K -corrections are also adopted to $z = 0.0$ and absolute magnitudes obtained from the NYU-VAGC (Blanton et al. 2005; Blanton & Roweis 2007; Padmanabhan et al. 2008), giving a typical $u - r$ correction of ~ 0.15 mag.

2.2 Group identification

The construction of a robust cluster or group catalogue is a challenge, with many studies attempting this across the SDSS (e.g. Merchán & Zandivarez 2005; Miller et al. 2005; Berlind et al. 2006; Yang et al. 2007; Tago et al. 2008, 2010; Tinker, Wetzel & Conroy 2011; Muñoz-Cuarteras & Müller 2012; Tempel et al. 2014) and other large surveys (Tucker et al. 2000; Merchán & Zandivarez 2002; Eke et al. 2004; Cucciati et al. 2010; Robotham et al. 2011; Knobel et al. 2012). The difficulties arise in removing projection effects, understanding the selection function used, covering large ranges in mass and redshift, and dealing with spectral fibre collisions (see the comprehensive review by Postman 2002 for an in-depth discussion).

In this work, we use the Berlind et al. (2006) catalogue, which employs a friends-of-friends algorithm to identify group galaxies in the SDSS DR4. This group catalogue was then cross-matched with the GZ2-*GALEX* sample. We limit our sample to $z < 0.1$ to ensure *GALEX* completeness to the red sequence, as in Wyder et al. (2007) and Yesuf et al. (2014), so that we do not introduce any bias in our sample due to the necessity for NUV colours, which could otherwise be attributed to environmental effects. This results in 10 423 galaxies in groups with the number of group members, $N_{\text{group}} \geq 3$. We chose to retain those galaxies residing in smaller groups with $N_{\text{group}} \leq 5$ (5201 galaxies) in order to maximize the sample size and ensure a sample representative of the entire group population. Centrals are identified as the brightest group galaxy in the r band (as opposed to the most massive group galaxy which necessitates an assumption of the mass-to-light ratio of a galaxy), with all other galaxies in a group designated as satellites.

The projected group-centric radius, R , of all satellite galaxies from their central galaxies was calculated to quantify environmental density. In order to compare groups of different sizes, the virial radius is used as a normalization factor to this projected group-centric radius. Here, we use a proxy to the virial radius, R_{200} (see Navarro, Frenk & White 1995), the radius within which the group mass overdensity is 200 times the critical density, $\rho_{\text{crit}}(z)$, as defined by Finn et al. 2005:

$$200\rho_{\text{crit}}(z) = \frac{M_{\text{cl}}}{\frac{4}{3}\pi R_{200}^3}, \quad (1)$$

where M_{cl} is the total mass of the group. Finn et al. then use the redshift dependence of the critical density and the virial mass to relate the line-of-sight velocity dispersion of the group, σ_x , to the group mass so that R_{200} becomes

$$R_{200} = 1.73 \left(\frac{\sigma_x}{1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Omega_{\Lambda} + \Omega_{\text{o}}(1+z)^3}} h_{100}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}. \quad (2)$$

σ_x is provided in the Berlind et al. (2006) catalogue and is calculated as

$$\sigma_x = \frac{1}{1+\bar{z}} \sqrt{\frac{1}{N_{\text{group}} - 1} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{group}}} (cz_i - c\bar{z})^2}, \quad (3)$$

where \bar{z} is the mean redshift of the group and N_{group} is the number of galaxies in a group. Since most groups in the sample have low N_{group} , using the mean redshift for z_{group} , rather than the central galaxy redshift, is most appropriate in this case. These calculations resulted in a sample of 2209 centrals and 8214 satellites within a projected group-centric radius range of $0.01 < R/R_{200} < 10.0$ and $z < 0.084$ that shall be referred to as the GZ2-GROUP sample. Note that for a galaxy (central or satellite) to be included in the GZ2-GROUP sample, the rest of its group does not need to be included. However, the properties of that group are still inherited by the included galaxy.

We obtain SFRs, stellar masses and stellar velocity dispersions of galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP sample from the MPA-JHU catalogue (Kauffmann et al. 2003; Brinchmann et al. 2004). The measurements of stellar velocity dispersion, σ_* , from the MPA-JHU catalogue are limited by the SDSS instrument dispersion of $\sim 69 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Stoughton et al. 2002). Therefore, any σ_* values derived below the instrument dispersion are assumed to be upper limits at 70 km s^{-1} .

In this study, we specifically focus on galaxies that are below the star-forming sequence (SFS). We select a subsample of the GZ2-GROUP galaxies that are 1σ below the SFS (as defined by Peng et al. 2010 for a given galaxy mass and redshift), giving 3867 satellite and 1564 central galaxies that will collectively be referred to as the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample (with a median $N_{\text{group}} = 8$, mean $N_{\text{group}} \sim 26$ and maximum $N_{\text{group}} = 311$). Note that centrals consist of a larger proportion, ~ 40 per cent, of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample, compared to ~ 27 per cent of the GZ2-GROUP sample, as expected when applying a SFR threshold. These galaxies are shown in Fig. 1 and can be seen to lie below the SFS.

We also show the GZ2-GROUP-Q satellite galaxies on a phase space diagram, shown in Fig. 2, with the normalized projected group-centric radius and normalized relative velocity of the satellites to their central galaxy. We also overplot caustics at constant $(\Delta v/\sigma) \times (R/R_{200}) = \{0.2, 0.64, 1.35, 3\}$ as in Noble et al. (2016). They define those galaxies with $1.35 < (\Delta v/\sigma) \times (R/R_{200}) < 3$ as infalling satellites, $0.64 < (\Delta v/\sigma) \times (R/R_{200}) < 1.35$ as recently accreted satellites, $0.2 < (\Delta v/\sigma) \times (R/R_{200}) < 0.64$ as intermediate/backsplashing satellites and $0 < (\Delta v/\sigma) \times (R/R_{200}) < 0.2$ as inner satellites.

We find that 23 per cent of the GZ2-GROUP-Q satellites lie outside of the outer caustic² with $(\Delta v/\sigma) \times (R/R_{200}) > 3$. Either the true velocity has been overestimated due to projection effects or the satellite has been misidentified as a member of a group. We chose to retain these galaxies within our sample since we cannot distinguish

² A total of 11 per cent of galaxies in groups with $N_{\text{group}} \leq 5$ lie outside the outer caustic with $(\Delta v/\sigma) \times (R/R_{200}) > 3$. Similarly, 12 per cent of galaxies with $N_{\text{group}} > 5$ lie outside the same outer caustic. Therefore, this percentage is not dependent on the size of the group.

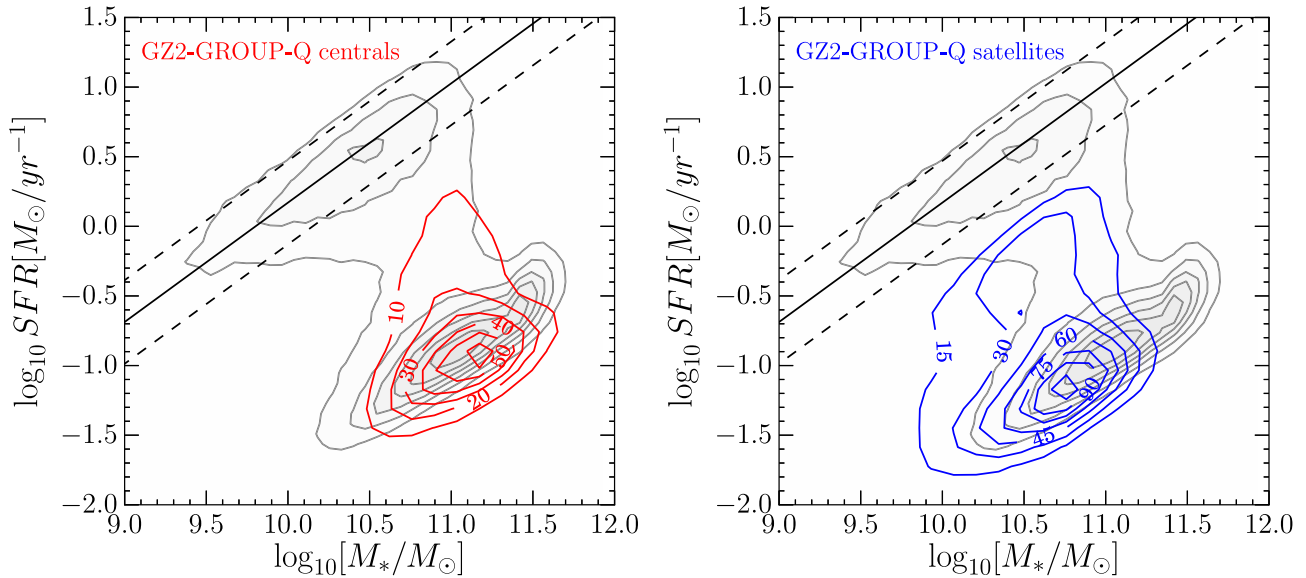


Figure 1. The stellar mass–SFR plane showing central (left; red contours) and satellite (right; blue contours) galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample, selected to be 1σ below the SFS. In both panels, the entire SDSS sample from the MPA-JHU catalogue is shown by the grey contours. The definition of the SFS from Peng et al. (2010) at $\bar{z} = 0.053$ (solid line, the mean redshift of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample) with $\pm 1\sigma$ (dashed lines) is shown. [A colour version of this figure is available in the online version.]

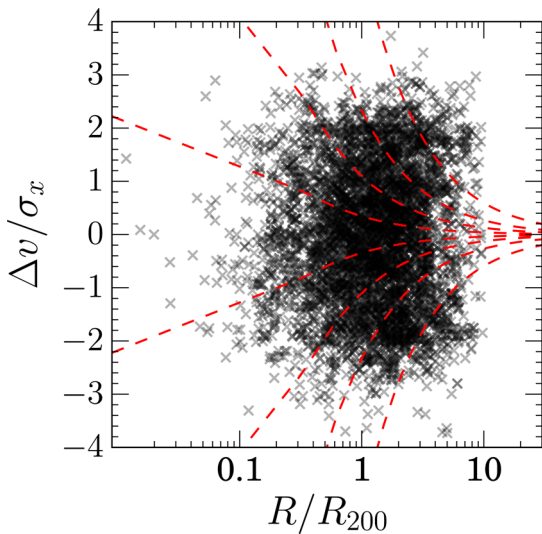


Figure 2. Phase space distribution of satellite galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample showing caustics at constant $(\Delta v/\sigma) \times (R/R_{200}) = \{0.2, 0.64, 1.35, 3\}$ as in Noble et al. (2016). [A colour version of this figure is available in the online version.]

between these two effects (however, we note that removing them does not change our conclusions). This is only an issue for satellites with $R/R_{200} > 1$.

We also consider the projected neighbour density, as defined by Baldry et al. (2006) as $\Sigma_N = N/4\pi d_N^2$, where d_N is the distance to the N th nearest neighbour, for the GZ2-GROUP and GZ2-GROUP-Q samples. Σ is a more direct probe of the local density of a galaxy’s environment, and although it does not allow for the identification of groups and their properties, it is still a useful probe of the local density inside a group (see Muldrew et al. 2012, for a comparison of various environment parametrizations).

Here, we use the estimates of Bamford et al. (2009) who averaged $\log \Sigma_N$ for $N = 4$ and $N = 5$ by the method outlined in Baldry et al.

(2006), for the entirety of the GZ2 sample. We find that 90 per cent of the GZ2-GROUP sample has $\log \Sigma > -0.8$ (the threshold quoted by Baldry et al. 2006 to define non-field galaxies), suggesting a purity of ~ 90 per cent for the GZ2-GROUP sample.

2.3 Field sample

We constructed a sample of field galaxies for use as a control sample to the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample. For all galaxies in the GZ2-GALEX sample, we calculated the smallest projected group-centric radii, R/R_{200} , from each of the central galaxies in the Berlind et al. (2006) catalogue (regardless of whether the central was included in the GZ2-GROUP sample). We also use the measurement of the projected neighbour density, Σ , from Baldry et al. (2006). We select candidate field galaxies as those with (i) $R/R_{200} > 25$ and (ii) $\log \Sigma < -0.8$ (the threshold on the local environment density which selects field galaxies as defined by Baldry et al. 2006). We chose to use both of these environmental density measures to ensure a pure sample of candidate field galaxies.

First, each of the central galaxies of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample was matched to at least one candidate field galaxy in both redshift (± 10 per cent) and stellar mass (± 10 per cent), to give 2309 field galaxies with $z < 0.084$. As with the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample in Section 2.2 we focus on galaxies which are either quenching or quenched and are more than 1σ below the SFS and so the same constraints must be placed on this field control sample. This encompasses 1596 field galaxies with $z < 0.084$ which will be referred to as the GZ2-CENT-FIELD-Q sample. It will be used as a control sample when investigating the inferred quenching parameters of both the central and satellite galaxies of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample. This ensures that the underlying halo mass (which is proportional to the stellar mass of the central galaxy of the group) distribution is the same across central, satellite and field samples. The redshift distribution of the GZ2-CENT-FIELD-Q sample is shown in comparison to the distribution of central galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample in the top panel of Fig. 3.

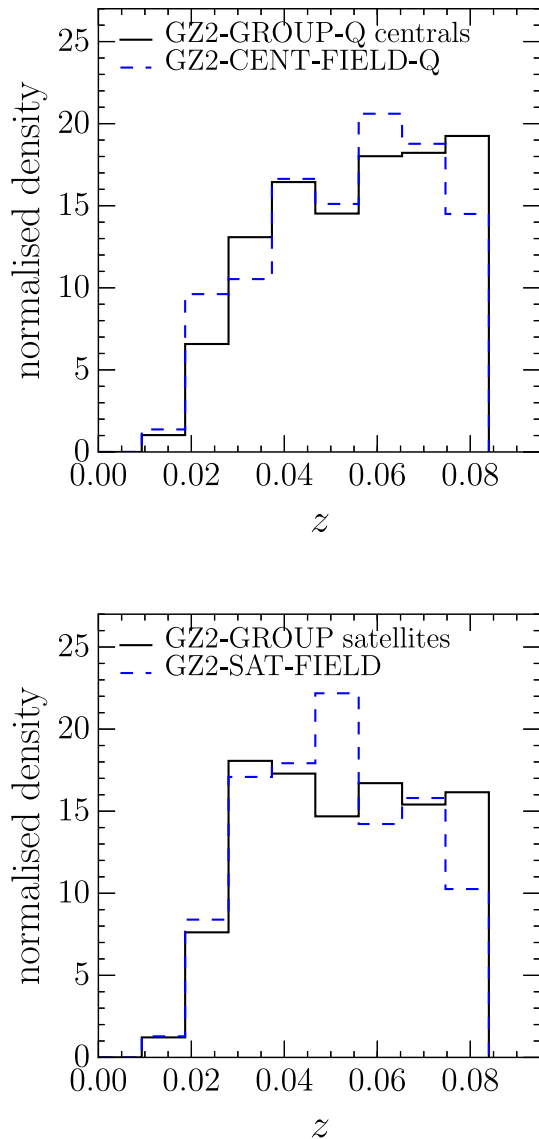


Figure 3. Redshift distributions of central galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample (left; black solid line) and satellite galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP sample (right; black solid line) in comparison to the redshift matched GZ2-CENT-FIELD-Q (left; blue dashed line) and GZ2-SAT-FIELD samples (right; blue dashed line). [A colour version of this figure is available in the online version.]

Secondly, each of the satellite galaxies of the GZ2-GROUP sample was matched to at least one candidate field galaxy in both redshift (± 10 per cent) and stellar mass (± 10 per cent), to give 8444 field galaxies with $z < 0.084$ which will be referred to as the GZ2-SAT-FIELD sample. Note that this sample is not restricted to being 1σ below the SFS as it will be used as a control when investigating the morphological trends of satellite galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP sample (i.e. those not restricted to being below the SFS) with environment.

A total of 237 galaxies are present in both the GZ2-CENT-FIELD-Q and GZ2-SAT-FIELD samples. The redshift distribution of the GZ2-SAT-FIELD sample is shown in comparison to the distribution of satellite galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP sample in the bottom panel of Fig. 3.

We once again obtain SFRs and stellar velocity dispersions of galaxies for all of the field samples described above from the MPA-JHU catalogue (Kauffmann et al. 2003; Brinchmann et al. 2004).

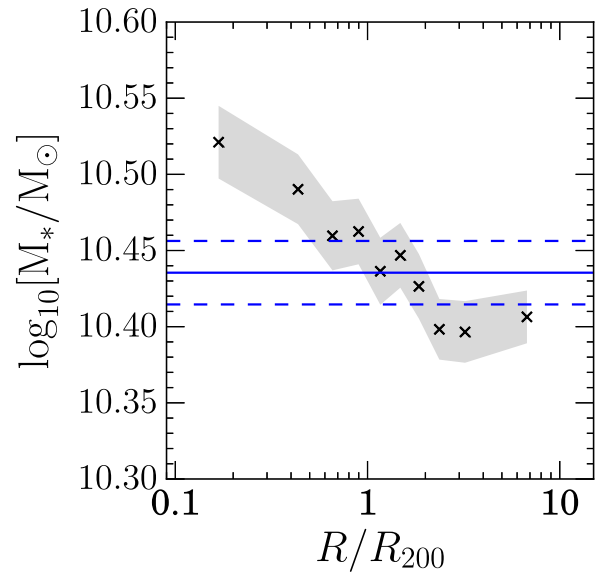


Figure 4. The median stellar mass as a function of radius from the group centre for the GZ2-GROUP satellite galaxies. The shaded regions show the $\pm 1\sigma$ uncertainties on the median values in each bin of R/R_{200} . Note the small y-axis range in comparison to the median error on the stellar mass measurements, $\sigma_{\log_{10} [M_*/M_\odot]} \sim 0.09$. The average stellar mass of the GZ2-SAT-FIELD sample is also shown (blue solid line) with the blue dashed lines showing $\pm 1\sigma$ uncertainty on the median value. The points are plotted at the linear centre of each bin at $R/R_{200} = [0.17, 0.43, 0.66, 0.9, 1.17, 1.48, 1.85, 2.36, 3.22, 6.75]$. [A colour version of this figure is available in the online version.]

3 EFFECT OF THE GROUP ENVIRONMENT ON DETAILED MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

We utilize the GZ2 vote fractions to quantify the morphology of galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP sample in order to investigate the morphological trends with group radius. We utilize p_{disc} and p_{smooth} to characterize the likelihood of galaxies being either discs or early types. We also use vote fractions from further down the GZ2 decision tree including p_{bar} , p_{bulge} and p_{merger} to calculate the bar, bulge and merger fractions in the GZ2-GROUP sample, respectively.

Fractions are calculated considering the number of barred (with $p_{\text{bar}} > 0.5$; see Masters et al. 2011; Cheung et al. 2013) and bulged (with $p_{\text{obvious or dominant}} > 0.5$ and $p_{\text{none or noticeable}} > 0.5$) galaxies over the number of disc galaxies ($p_{\text{disc}} > 0.43$, $p_{\text{edge_on_no}} > 0.715$, $N_{\text{edge_on_no}} > 20$; see table 3 of Willett et al. 2013 for appropriate thresholds on the GZ2 vote fractions to select a sample of galaxies with a particular morphology) in the GZ2-GROUP satellite sample. The merger fraction considers the number of merging galaxies (with $p_{\text{merger}} > 0.223$ and $N_{\text{odd, yes}} \geq 10$; see table 3 of Willett et al. 2013) over the number of galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP satellite sample.

Since morphological features have been shown to be dependent on the stellar mass of a galaxy (e.g. the increase in the bar fraction with stellar mass; see Nair & Abraham 2010; Skibba et al. 2012), before investigating trends in the morphology with group radius in the GZ2-GROUP sample, the mass dependence on the group radius must be considered. This is shown in Fig. 4. The median stellar mass is consistent with the median field value, within the uncertainties, until the two inner bins at $R/R_{200} = [0.17, 0.43]$. The median stellar mass increases with decreasing group-centric radius,

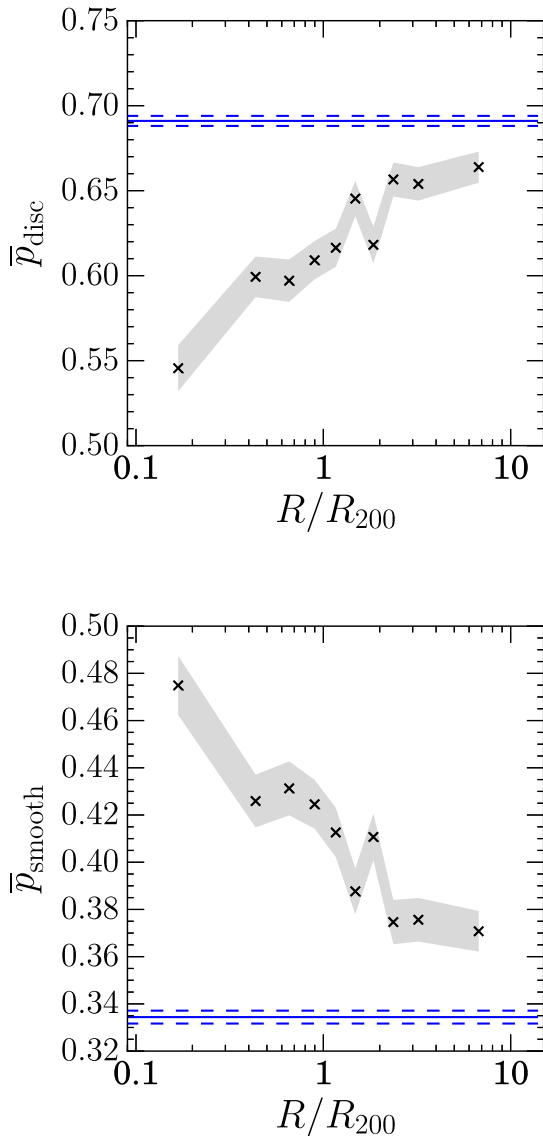


Figure 5. Mean GZ2 vote fraction for disc (top) and smooth (bottom) galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP sample binned by projected group-centric radius, normalized by R_{200} , a proxy for the virial radius of a group. The shaded region shows $\pm 1\sigma$, the standard error on the mean vote fraction. The mean vote fraction of the GZ2-SAT-FIELD sample is also shown (blue solid lines) with $\pm 1\sigma$ (blue dashed lines). The points are plotted at the linear centre of each bin at $R/R_{200} = [0.17, 0.43, 0.66, 0.9, 1.17, 1.48, 1.85, 2.36, 3.22, 6.75]$. [A colour version of this figure is available in the online version.]

with a difference of ~ 0.1 dex between the inner and outer radius bins. However, given that this change in the median stellar mass is within the average error on the measured stellar mass values in the GZ2-GROUP sample, $\sigma_{\log_{10}[M_*/M_\odot]} \sim 0.09$, we can assume the stellar masses of the GZ2-GROUP satellites are independent of projected group radius. Therefore, any morphological trends we observe with projected group radius are mass independent.

3.1 Results

We perform an initial sanity check on the GZ2-GROUP sample by recreating the morphology–density relation of Dressler (1980) in Fig. 5, which shows the mean disc and smooth vote fractions as a function of group radius. The mean disc vote fraction decreases

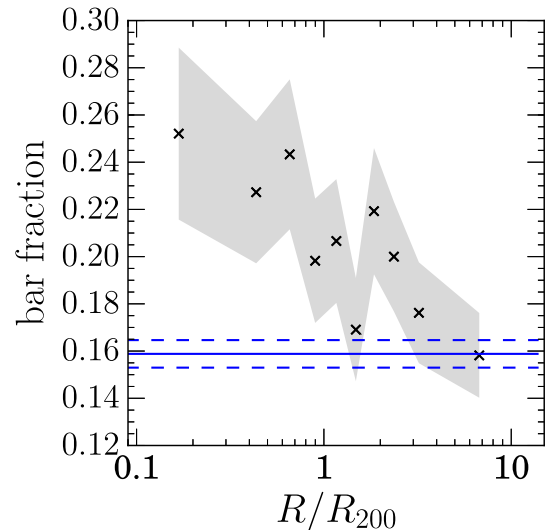


Figure 6. Bar fraction (number of barred disc galaxies over number of disc galaxies) in the GZ2-GROUP sample binned in projected group-centric radius, normalized by R_{200} , a proxy for the virial radius of a group. The shaded region shows $\pm 1\sigma$, the propagated counting error, on the bar fraction. The bar fraction of the GZ2-SAT-FIELD sample is also shown (blue solid line) with $\pm 1\sigma$ (blue dashed line). The points are plotted at the linear centre of each bin at $R/R_{200} = [0.17, 0.43, 0.66, 0.9, 1.17, 1.48, 1.85, 2.36, 3.22, 6.75]$. [A colour version of this figure is available in the online version.]

from the mean field value (blue line) with decreasing group-centric radius. Simultaneously, the mean smooth vote fraction increases, which is in agreement with previous studies on the morphology–density relation (Dressler 1980; Smail et al. 1997; Poggianti et al. 1999; Postman et al. 2005; Bamford et al. 2009). The extensive morphological classifications provided by GZ2 also allow for the investigation of how more detailed morphological structure is affected by the group environment.

Fig. 6 shows how the bar fraction (number of barred disc galaxies; see Section 3) increases significantly over the field fraction (blue solid line) with decreasing group-centric radius, in agreement with the findings of Barazza et al. (2009), despite their alternate method for identifying bars using surface brightness profile fits.

In Fig. 7, we show how the merger fraction does not significantly deviate from the field fraction (blue solid line) except for galaxies found at $< 0.5 R_{200}$. As discussed in Section 1.2.1, mergers are thought to drive bulge growth and so, similarly, Fig. 8 shows how the fraction of galaxies with obvious/dominant bulges increases over the field value at $< 1 R_{200}$, in the inner regions of the group (in agreement with Diaferio et al. 2001) and the fraction of those with none/just noticeable bulges decreases below the field value at $< 1 R_{200}$.

4 QUENCHING HISTORIES IN THE GROUP ENVIRONMENT

STARPY³ is a PYTHON code that allows the user to derive the quenching SFH of a single galaxy through a Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo method (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013)⁴ with the input of the

³ Publicly available: <http://github.com/zoomiverse/starpy/>

⁴ <http://dan.iel.fm/emcee/>

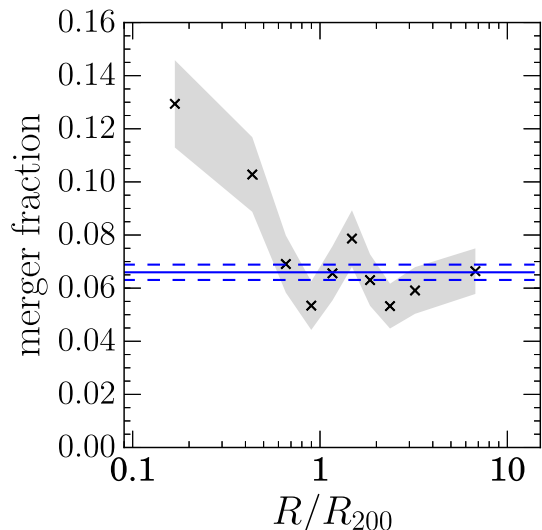


Figure 7. Merger fraction in the GZ2-GROUP sample binned in projected group-centric radius, normalized by R_{200} , a proxy for the virial radius of a group. The shaded region shows $\pm 1\sigma$, the propagated counting error, on the merger fraction. The merger fraction of the GZ2-SAT-FIELD sample is also shown (blue solid line) with $\pm 1\sigma$ (blue dashed line). The points are plotted at the linear centre of each bin at $R/R_{200} = [0.17, 0.43, 0.66, 0.9, 1.17, 1.48, 1.85, 2.36, 3.22, 6.75]$. [A colour version of this figure is available in the online version.]

observed $u - r$ and NUV $- u$ colours,⁵ a redshift, and the use of the stellar population models of Bruzual & Charlot (2003). These models are implemented using solar metallicity (varying this does not substantially affect these results; Smethurst et al. 2015) and a Chabrier IMF (Chabrier 2003) but do not model for intrinsic dust. The SFH is modelled as an exponentially declining SFR described by two parameters $[t_q, \tau]$, where t_q is the time at the onset of quenching (Gyr) and τ is the exponential rate at which quenching occurs (Gyr). Under the simplifying assumption that all galaxies formed at $t = 0$ Gyr with an initial burst of star formation, the SFH can be described as

$$\text{SFR} = \begin{cases} i_{\text{sfr}}(t_q) & \text{if } t < t_q \\ i_{\text{sfr}}(t_q) \times \exp\left(\frac{-(t-t_q)}{\tau}\right) & \text{if } t > t_q, \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where i_{sfr} is the constant SFR defined so that at the time of quenching, t_q , the modelled galaxy resides on the SFS. We use the definition of the SFS from Peng et al. (2010) for a galaxy with stellar mass, $m = 10^{10.27} M_{\odot}$ (the mean mass of the GZ2-GALEX sample), at the redshift of the observed galaxy. A smaller τ value corresponds to a rapid quench, whereas a larger τ value corresponds to a slower quench.

We note that a galaxy undergoing a slow quench is not necessarily quiescent by the time of observation. Similarly, despite a rapid quenching rate, star formation in a galaxy may still be ongoing at very low rates, rather than being fully quenched. This SFH model has previously been shown to appropriately characterize populations of quenching or quiescent galaxies (Weiner et al. 2006; Martin et al. 2007; Noeske et al. 2007; Schawinski et al. 2014) that make up

the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample selected to lie 1σ below the SFS. We note also that star-forming galaxies in this regime are fit by a constant SFR with a $t_q \simeq \text{Age}(z)$, (i.e. the age of the Universe at the galaxy’s observed redshift) with a very low probability.

The probabilistic fitting method used to determine the SFH for an observed galaxy is described in full detail in section 3.2 of Smethurst et al. (2015), wherein the STARPY code was used to characterize the SFHs of each galaxy in the GZ2-GALEX sample. We assume a flat prior on all the model parameters and the difference between the observed and predicted $u - r$ and NUV $- u$ colours is modelled as independent realizations of a double Gaussian likelihood function (equation 2 in Smethurst et al. 2015). We also make the simplifying assumption that the age of each galaxy, t_{age} , corresponds to the age of the Universe at its observed redshift, t_{obs} . Smethurst et al. (2015) tested the robustness of STARPY with 25 synthesized galaxies and found that the median differences in the inferred and known values of $[t_q, \tau]$ for these synthetic galaxies were $\sim [1.3, 0.5]$ Gyr.

An example posterior probability distribution output by STARPY is shown for a single galaxy in fig. 5 of Smethurst et al. (2015), wherein the degeneracies of the SFH model between recent, rapid quenching and earlier, slower quenching can clearly be seen. These degeneracies are present for all galaxies run through STARPY therefore if differences in the distributions arise when comparing two galaxies (or two populations), this is due to intrinsic differences in their SFHs and not due to the degeneracies of the model.

We note that galaxy colours were not corrected for intrinsic dust attenuation. However, Smethurst et al. (2016, see section 2.2) showed that internal galactic extinction does not systematically bias the results from STARPY; their population studies of both AGN host and inactive galaxies were consistent when comparing their sub-samples of edge-on and face-on galaxies.

The SFHs of all galaxies in both the GZ2-GROUP-Q and GZ2-CENT-FIELD-Q samples were analysed using STARPY, providing the posterior probability distribution across the two-parameter space for each individual galaxy. In Smethurst et al. (2015, 2016), the individual SFHs of the entire GZ2-GALEX sample and those hosting Type 2 AGN, respectively, were combined and weighted to give an overall distribution of the quenching parameters within a population of galaxies.

However, in this study, we adopt a more statistically rigorous method by taking the median value of an individual posterior probability distribution (i.e. the 50th percentile position of the MCMC chain, with the $\pm 1\sigma$ derived from the 16th and 84th percentile positions, see section 3.2 of Smethurst et al. 2015) to give the most likely quenching time, t_q , and quenching rate, τ , for each galaxy. This allows us to investigate the trends in the quenching parameters with projected group-centric radius.

This simplifies the output from STARPY for each galaxy from a probability distribution to just two values, with $\pm 1\sigma$ uncertainties, which encompass the spread of the individual galaxy’s SFH posterior probability distribution. We then calculate the time since quenching onset, Δt , for a given galaxy by calculating $\Delta t = t^{\text{obs}} - t_q$ (where t^{obs} is the age of the Universe at a galaxy’s observed redshift).

4.1 Results

With the output from STARPY we can now observe the trends in the time since quenching onset, Δt , and quenching rate, τ , with group radius, R/R_{200} , for satellite galaxies and central galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample, compared with galaxies in the GZ2-CENT-FIELD-Q sample. This is shown in Figs 9–11 wherein the GZ2-GROUP-Q galaxies are binned by stellar mass (Figs 9a and b), a proxy for

⁵ Spectral indicators of star formation are not used in this study, since the SDSS fibre is a set size and will suffer from aperture bias. Spectral SFR indicators will therefore over- or under-estimate the global average SFR of a galaxy.

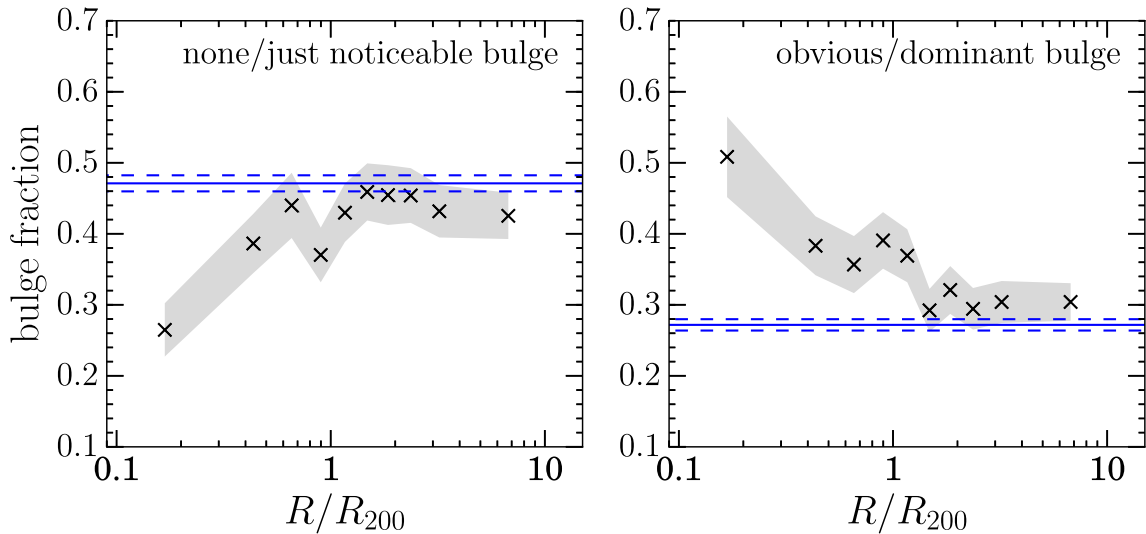


Figure 8. Fraction of galaxies with none/just noticeable bulge classifications (left) and with obvious/dominant bulge classifications (right) in the GZ2-GROUP sample binned in projected group-centric radius, normalized by R_{200} , a proxy for the virial radius of a group. The shaded regions show $\pm 1\sigma$, the propagated counting error, on the bulge fractions. The bulge fractions of the GZ2-SAT-FIELD sample are also shown (blue solid lines) with $\pm 1\sigma$ (blue dashed lines). The points are plotted at the linear centre of each bin at $R/R_{200} = [0.17, 0.43, 0.66, 0.9, 1.17, 1.48, 1.85, 2.36, 3.22, 6.75]$. Note that in this study we use the GZ2 debiased vote fractions (adjusted for classification bias; see Willett et al. 2013); therefore, $p_{\text{obvious}} + p_{\text{dominant}} + p_{\text{just noticeable}} + p_{\text{none}} \neq 1$. [A colour version of this figure is available in the online version.]

halo mass (Figs 9c and d), mass ratio (Figs 10a and b), number of group galaxies (Figs 10c and d), relative velocity (Figs 11a and b) and stellar velocity dispersion (Figs 11c and d). The bins for each of the group or galaxy parameters studied were chosen to give approximately the same number of satellite galaxies in the three bins in each case. For example, 34.7 per cent of the satellite galaxies have $3 \leq N_{\text{group}} \leq 5$, 31.7 per cent have $5 < N_{\text{group}} < 15$ and 33.6 per cent have $15 \leq N_{\text{group}} \leq 311$.

We quantify the trends observed with R/R_{200} seen across Figs 9–11 by performing a linear regression fit to the middle bin in each figure panel (shown by the black lines), with the uncertainty on the median value in each R/R_{200} bin represented by the error on the median. The fit was performed using the LINIMX module,⁶ the method for which is outlined in Kelly (2007). The derived slopes in R/R_{200} for both the Δt and τ variables, when the GZ2-GROUP-Q satellite galaxies are split by each investigated galaxy or group property, are stated in Table 1. In order to quantify how likely it is that a trend is present when the sample is split by each property, we also calculate the ratio of Gaussian likelihoods, \mathcal{L} , for the linear regression model, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{slope}}$, and for a flat line model with no slope, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{flat}}$. Table 1 therefore also states $\mathcal{L}_{\text{slope}}/\mathcal{L}_{\text{flat}}$, which provides an estimate for how likely it is that a trend is present.

A general trend for increasing time since quenching onset, Δt , with decreasing projected group-centric radius, R/R_{200} , can be seen in the left panels of Figs 9–11, supported by the fitted slopes stated in Table 1 that range from $-1.46 < m < -0.61$. Differences from the mean field Δt values arise at $< 1 R_{200}$, similar to the results found for the environmental dependence of the morphological structure (Figs 5–8). However, little or no trend with group radius is seen for the rate at which quenching occurs for satellites in the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample (right panels Figs 9–11), supported by the fitted slopes stated in Table 1 that range from $-0.10 < m < -0.01$. This suggests that whatever mechanisms cause quenching in a group will do so at the same rate in both the dense inner and sparse outer regions. This

result contradicts the results of Rettura et al. (2010, 2011), Fang et al. (2014) and Darvish et al. (2016) who find that galaxies in denser environments quench more rapidly than those in less dense environments.

We first split the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample by stellar mass, M_* , and a clear trend for increasing Δt with increasing stellar mass for satellite, central and field galaxies can be seen (Fig. 9a). However, this trend is less apparent for the rate at which quenching occurs (Fig. 9b). The central galaxies (shown by the square points) with $M_* > 10.25$ have quenched more recently than the inner satellites (plotted at $\sim 0.17 R/R_{200}$) of the same mass but have done so at a similar quenching rate. The low stellar mass satellite galaxies have also quenched more recently and rapidly ($\tau \sim 0.4$ Gyr) than low stellar mass field galaxies ($\tau \sim 1.1$ Gyr), suggesting that an environmentally driven quenching mechanism could be responsible for such a rapid quench in these low stellar mass systems.

We then split the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample by halo mass by using the stellar mass of the corresponding central galaxy of a group, $M_{\text{cent},*}$, as a proxy. Note that this results in a large proportion of low stellar mass satellites in the low $M_{\text{cent},*}$ bin and a large range of satellite stellar masses in the high $M_{\text{cent},*}$ bin, due to the definition of a central galaxy. We find a clear trend for increasing time since quenching onset with increasing halo mass for central galaxies (Fig. 9c), but this trend is less apparent within the uncertainties for satellite and field galaxies. There is also no trend for the rate of quenching with increasing halo mass for satellites (Fig. 9d) suggesting that the halo mass does not affect which quenching mechanism acts upon either central or satellite galaxies.

To account for the effects of conformity, whereby satellites of higher mass tend to be found in higher mass haloes (Weinmann et al. 2006; Kauffmann et al. 2013; Hearin, Watson & van den Bosch 2015; Hatfield & Jarvis 2016), we also split the satellites of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample by the stellar mass ratio of the satellite to its central galaxy, $\mu_* = M_*/M_{\text{cent},*}$, again using the mass of the central as a proxy for halo mass. The time since quenching onset, Δt , increases steeply with group radius (particularly within \sim one

⁶ <http://linmix.readthedocs.io/>

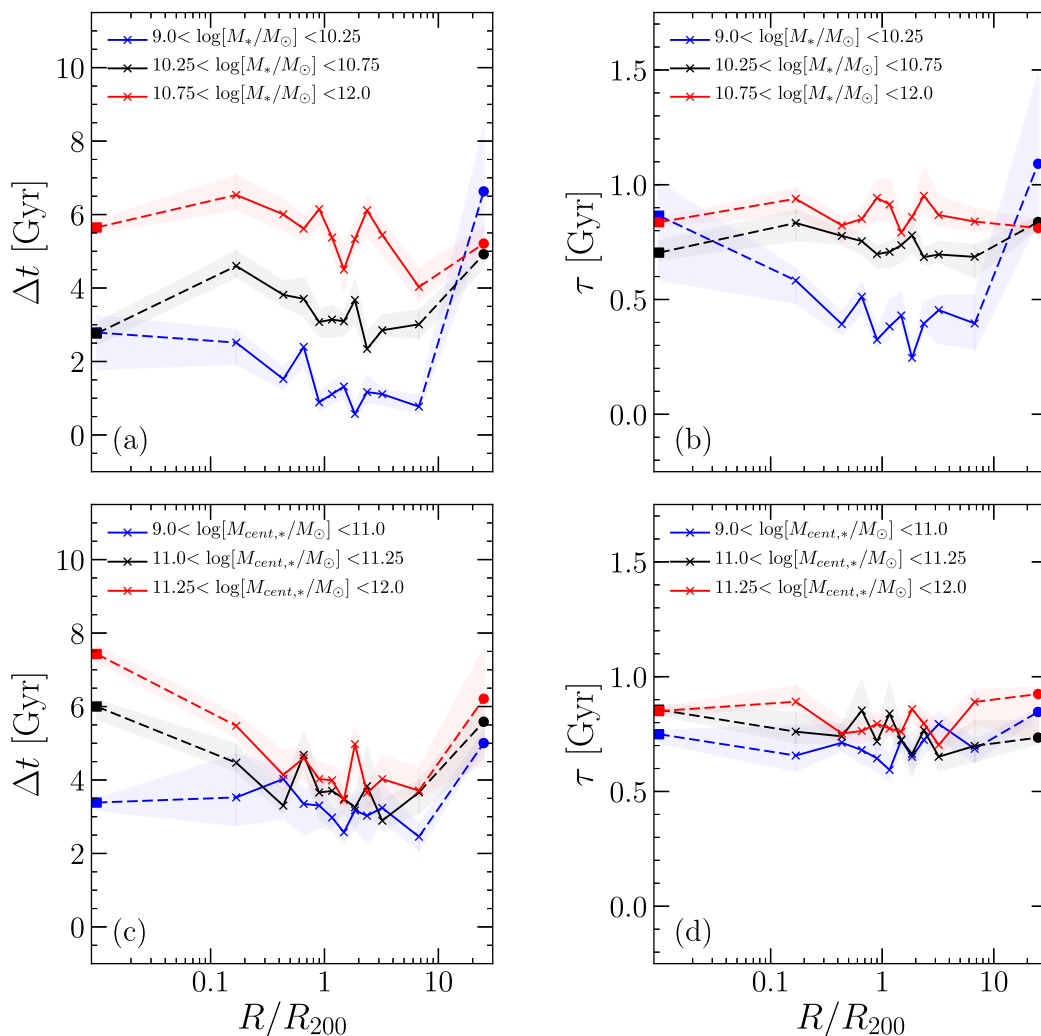


Figure 9. The bootstrapped median time since quenching onset ($\Delta t = t_{\text{obs}} - t_q$; left) and rate of quenching (τ ; right) binned in group radius, R/R_{200} , for GZ2-GROUP-Q satellite galaxies (crosses) split into bins of stellar mass (top) and stellar mass of the corresponding central galaxy (bottom; a proxy for halo mass of a group). The corresponding values for central galaxies (squares, plotted at $\sim 0.01R/R_{200}$) and galaxies in the GZ2-CENT-FIELD-Q sample (circles, plotted at $25R/R_{200}$) are shown and connected by the dashed lines to help guide the eye. The shaded regions show the $\pm 1\sigma$ confidence region of 1000 bootstrapped median Δt and τ values in each bin of R/R_{200} . Note that the median uncertainties for an individual galaxy are $\Delta t \pm_{2.6}^{2.0}$ and $\tau \pm_{0.6}^{0.5}$. The points are plotted at the linear centre of each bin at $R/R_{200} = [0.17, 0.43, 0.66, 0.9, 1.17, 1.48, 1.85, 2.36, 3.22, 6.75]$, which were chosen to give a flat distribution for the entire GZ2-GROUP-Q sample. [A colour version of this figure is available in the online version.]

virial radius; Fig. 10a), particularly for satellite galaxies with much smaller masses than their group central ($-2.0 < \log_{10}\mu_* < -0.25$, shown by the blue curve). This is confirmed by the slope derived in the linear regression fit stated in Table 1, $m = -1.46 \pm_{0.42}^{0.44}$. Once again there is no trend for the rate at which quenching occurs (Fig. 10b, $m = -0.10 \pm_{0.04}^{0.04}$).

Another property of the group which is expected to affect the satellite quenching histories is the number of group members, N_{group} , which should be roughly correlated with a satellite’s local density in a group.⁷ We find that there is no trend with time since quenching onset (Fig. 10c) or rate of quenching (Fig. 10d) with increasing N_{group} for satellite galaxies (however the general trend for increasing

Δt with R/R_{200} is still apparent with a slope, $m = -0.86 \pm_{0.44}^{0.44}$). The central galaxies (shown by the square points), however, do show a trend for increasing time since quenching as the number of group galaxies increases (Fig. 10c), but the rate at which they quench is the same (Fig. 10d) suggesting the mechanism by which this occurs is the same for all centrals regardless of halo mass.

The GZ2-GROUP-Q satellite galaxies are also split into bins of their relative velocity, $|\Delta v|$ to their central galaxies, i.e. the velocity at which they move through the dense group environment. There is no trend with either time since onset of quenching (Fig. 11a) or rate of quenching (Fig. 11b) with increasing relative velocity for galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample. In the highest relative velocity bin ($250 < |\Delta v|(\text{km s}^{-1}) < 1000$), there is an increase in the rate of quenching at larger projected group-centric radii (plotted at $R/R_{200} = 6.75$). Although this is suggestive of the environment affecting such galaxies to a lesser extent, we note that this feature disappears if only those galaxies inside the $(\Delta v/\sigma) \times (R/R_{200}) > 3$ caustic are used in the analysis (see Section 2.2). This therefore

⁷ We cannot use the measure of local density from Bamford et al. (2009), who averaged $\log \Sigma_N$ for $N = 4$ and $N = 5$ (see Section 2.2), as ~ 35 per cent of the satellites have $N_{\text{group}} < 5$. This measure of the local environment density is therefore not appropriate for the smaller groups in the GZ2-GROUP sample.

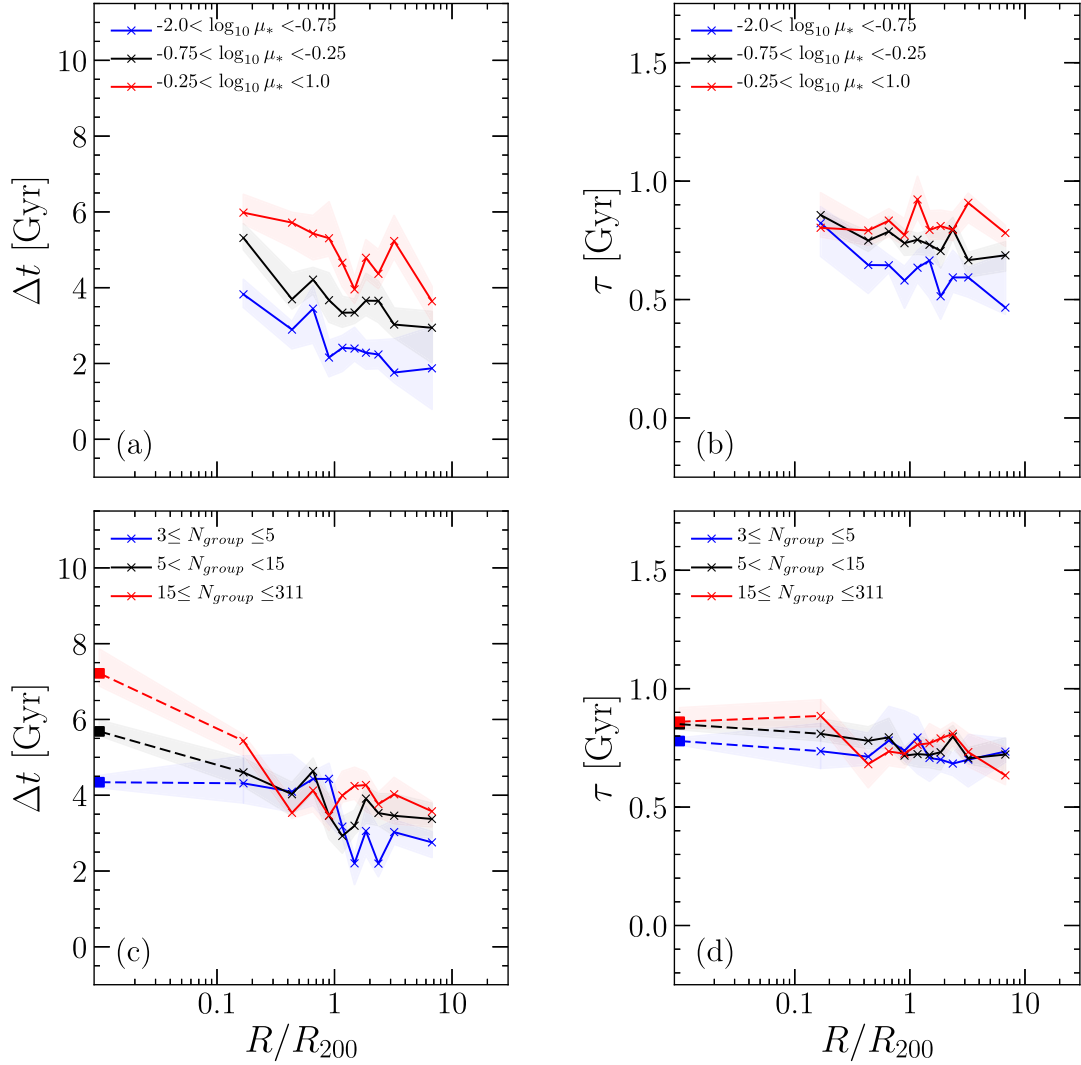


Figure 10. The bootstrapped median time since quenching onset ($\Delta t = t_{\text{obs}} - t_q$) and rate of quenching (τ ; right) binned in group radius, R/R_{200} , for GZ2-GROUP-Q satellite galaxies (crosses) split into bins of stellar mass ratio ($\mu_* = M_*/M_{\text{cent},*}$, top) and number of group members (N_{group} , bottom). The corresponding values for central galaxies (squares, plotted at $\sim 0.01R/R_{200}$) are shown, where possible, and connected by the dashed lines to help guide the eye. The shaded regions show the $\pm 1\sigma$ confidence region on the distribution of 1000 bootstrapped median Δt and τ values in each bin of R/R_{200} . Note that the median uncertainties for an individual galaxy are $\Delta t \pm_{2.6}^{2.0}$ and $\tau \pm_{0.6}^{0.5}$. The points are plotted at the linear centre of each bin at $R/R_{200} = [0.17, 0.43, 0.66, 0.9, 1.17, 1.48, 1.85, 2.36, 3.22, 6.75]$, which were chosen to give a flat distribution for the entire GZ2-GROUP-Q sample. [A colour version of this figure is available in the online version.]

suggests that whatever quenching mechanism is occurring in groups, it is not correlated with the velocity at which satellites move through the dense environment.

We also investigate the trend with projected group-centric radius for the GZ2-GROUP-Q satellites when split into bins of galaxy stellar velocity dispersion, σ_* (note that this is not the velocity dispersion of the group), which is often used as a proxy for the galaxy potential. The stellar velocity dispersion shows the largest trend in Δt (Fig. 11c) for satellite galaxies in comparison to the other properties investigated (shown in Figs 9–11). Galaxies with low stellar velocity dispersions having quenched ~ 6 Gyr more recently than those with high stellar velocity dispersion. This trend is less apparent for the rate at which quenching occurs when the satellite galaxies are split by σ_* (Fig. 11d); however, it is one of the largest trends seen in the rate of quenching for any of the properties investigated (shown in the right panels of Figs 9–11), along with the stellar mass. This is not unexpected since both the stellar mass and stellar velocity dis-

person will trace the galaxy potential. Also, field galaxies (shown by the circles at $\sim 25R/R_{200}$ in Fig. 11d) with low velocity dispersions are seen to quench at much slower rates than their satellite counterparts ($\tau \sim 0.9$ Gyr versus $\tau \sim 0.4$ Gyr). This suggests that the rapid quenching observed for the low stellar velocity dispersion satellites is directly caused by the environment.

We summarize the results shown in Figs 9–11 in Table 2, stating whether a trend with Δt or τ is seen for the satellites of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample when split by each of the group or galaxy properties investigated.

5 DISCUSSION

We shall now consider the results presented in Sections 3 and 4 in the context of the possible quenching mechanisms which could be responsible. We focus on those mechanisms first introduced in Sections 1.1 and 1.2.

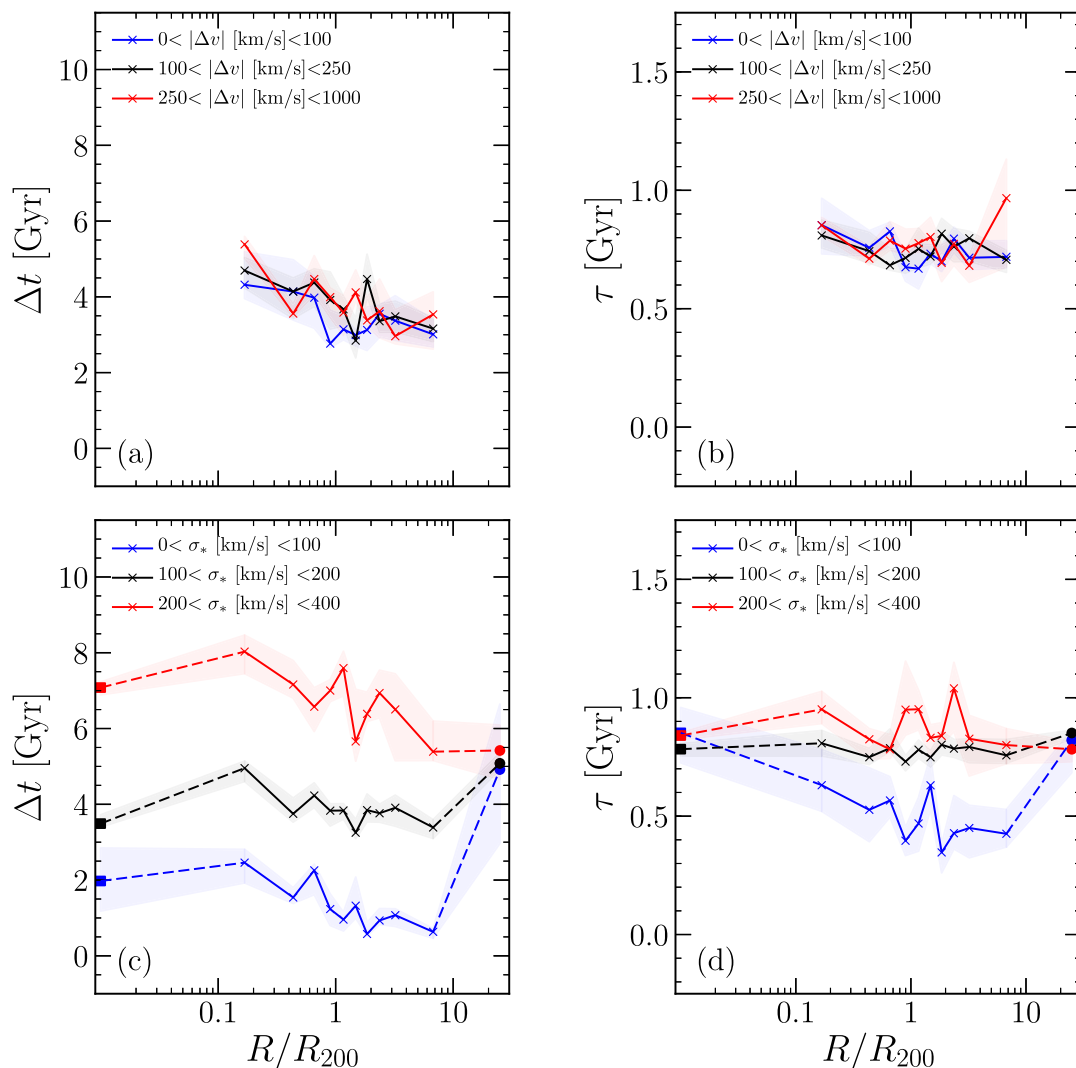


Figure 11. The bootstrapped median time since quenching onset ($\Delta t = t_{\text{obs}} - t_q$; left) and rate of quenching (τ ; right) binned in group radius, R/R_{200} , for GZ2-GROUP-Q satellite galaxies (crosses) split by the absolute relative velocity of the satellite to its central galaxy ($|\Delta v|$, top) and stellar velocity dispersion (σ_* , bottom). The corresponding values for central galaxies (squares, plotted at $\sim 0.01R/R_{200}$) and galaxies in the GZ2-CENT-FIELD-Q sample (circles, plotted at $25R/R_{200}$) are shown, where possible, and connected to the satellite values by the dashed lines to help guide the eye. The shaded regions show the $\pm 1\sigma$ confidence region on the distribution of 1000 bootstrapped median Δt and τ values in each bin of R/R_{200} . Note that the median uncertainties for an individual galaxy are $\Delta t \pm_{-2.0}^{+2.0}$ and $\tau \pm_{-0.5}^{+0.5}$. The points are plotted at the linear centre of each bin at $R/R_{200} = [0.17, 0.43, 0.66, 0.9, 1.17, 1.48, 1.85, 2.36, 3.22, 6.75]$, which were chosen to give a flat distribution for the entire GZ2-GROUP-Q sample. Note that σ_* values derived below the SDSS instrument dispersion of 70 km s^{-1} are assumed to be upper limits (see Section 2.2). [A colour version of this figure is available in the online version.]

5.1 The role of mergers as quenching mechanisms in the group environment

The merger classification in GZ has been shown to preferentially identify major mergers (Darg et al. 2010; Casteels et al. 2013), while bulge formation in disc galaxies is often associated with evolutionary histories driven by minor mergers (Croton et al. 2006; Tonini et al. 2016). Although we see evidence for an enhanced merger fraction in the inner regions of the group environment (Fig. 7), the bulge fractions vary much more significantly from the field value than the merger fraction at $\sim 1R/R_{200}$ (Fig. 8). This suggests that minor mergers may be more dominant than major mergers for satellites in the group environment, particularly at $R/R_{200} > 0.5$.

If mergers are a dominant evolutionary mechanism for satellite galaxies (as the morphological evidence in Figs 7 and 8 suggests) we would expect to see a difference in the quenching histories of

satellites residing in groups with a larger number of members. However, there is no trend with time since quenching onset (Fig. 10c) or rate of quenching (Fig. 10d) with increasing N_{group} for the satellite galaxies. This suggests that mergers are not the dominant quenching mechanism for satellite galaxies, but whatever mechanism causes the quenching does so at the same rate irrespective of group size.

Central galaxies, however, do show a trend for increasing time since quenching with increasing N_{group} (square points in Fig. 10c) occurring at a rate of $\tau \sim 0.8 \text{ Gyr}$. Smethurst et al. (2015) attributed these quenching rates to mergers and galaxy interactions that can transform a galaxy’s morphology. Therefore, the larger the number of group members, the more likely a central galaxy has a history dominated by mergers. This is in agreement with the findings of Lin et al. (2010), Ellison et al. (2010), Lidman et al. (2013) and McIntosh et al. (2008). The latter found, by studying a sample of local groups and clusters, that half of the mergers they identified

Table 1. Linear regression fits are performed on the black curves (middle bin) shown in Figs 9–11 to quantify the trends in Δt and τ with R/R_{200} . The table states the median value of the posterior distribution of the inferred slope (along with $\pm 1\sigma$) when fitted to both the Δt and τ variables when the GZ2-GROUP-Q satellite galaxies are split by the stated property (leftmost column). For clarity we state only the slopes fitted to the middle bin (shown by the black curves in Figs 9–11); however for a given group or galaxy property the derived slopes are consistent, within the uncertainties, between the lower, middle and upper bin curves (blue, black and red curves in Figs 9–11). We also calculate the ratio between the Gaussian likelihood, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{flat}}$, for a flat line model and that of the linear regression model, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{slope}}$, to quantify how likely it is that a trend is present (see Section 4.1). As $\mathcal{L}_{\text{slope}}/\mathcal{L}_{\text{flat}}$ tends to unity, the two models become equally likely. All slope values are quoted to two decimal places and all likelihood ratios to two significant figures.

Curve fitted	Figures	Slope in Δt with R/R_{200}	$\mathcal{L}_{\text{slope}}/\mathcal{L}_{\text{flat}}$ in Δt with R/R_{200}	Slope in τ with R/R_{200}	$\mathcal{L}_{\text{slope}}/\mathcal{L}_{\text{flat}}$ in τ with R/R_{200}
$10.25 < \log_{10}[M_*/M_{\odot}] < 10.75$	9a and b	$-1.18 \pm_{0.38}^{0.41}$	49 000	$-0.09 \pm_{0.05}^{0.05}$	35
$11.0 < \log_{10}[M_{\text{cent},*}/M_{\odot}] < 11.25$	9c and d	$-0.61 \pm_{0.48}^{0.48}$	6.2	$-0.05 \pm_{0.07}^{0.06}$	1.7
$-0.75 < \log_{10}\mu_* < -0.25$	10a and b	$-1.46 \pm_{0.42}^{0.44}$	390 000	$-0.10 \pm_{0.04}^{0.04}$	73
$5 < N_{\text{group}} < 15$	10c and d	$-0.86 \pm_{0.44}^{0.44}$	87	$-0.06 \pm_{0.05}^{0.05}$	4.2
$100 < \Delta v \text{ (km s}^{-1}\text{)} < 250$	11a and b	$-0.91 \pm_{0.43}^{0.41}$	240	$-0.01 \pm_{0.06}^{0.06}$	1.1
$100 < \sigma_* \text{ (km s}^{-1}\text{)} < 200$	11c and d	$-0.76 \pm_{0.32}^{0.32}$	3300	$-0.01 \pm_{0.04}^{0.04}$	0.99

Table 2. The results shown in Figs 9–11 are summarized by stating whether a trend with Δt or τ is found (\checkmark), or not found (\times), for satellite galaxies for each of the galaxy or group properties investigated.

Property	Shown in figure	Trend with Δt	Trend with τ
M_*	9a,b	\checkmark	\checkmark
$M_{\text{cent},*}$	9c,d	\times	\times
μ_*	10a,b	\checkmark	\times
N_{group}	10c,d	\times	\times
$ \Delta v $	11a,b	\times	\times
σ_*	11c,d	\checkmark	\checkmark

involved the central galaxy. Liu et al. (2009) also found that the fraction of merging centrals increases with the richness of a cluster (a measure of the number of galaxies within $1 h^{-1}$ Mpc of the central galaxy).

This idea is supported by the result that centrals of a given mass have quenched more recently than the inner satellites (at $\sim 0.1R/R_{200}$ in Fig. 9a) of a given mass. This suggests that an episode of more recent star formation, such as a starburst, may have occurred in the central galaxies but not in the inner satellites. Mergers are thought to cause an energetic burst of star formation which can in turn quench the remnant galaxy (Hopkins et al. 2005; Treister et al. 2012; Pontzen et al. 2016). This result is supportive of a merger-dominated history for central galaxies but not for satellite galaxies.

5.2 The role of mass quenching in the group environment

A trend is seen for increasing time since quenching with increasing stellar mass and velocity dispersion (a proxy for galaxy potential) for centrals, satellites and field galaxies in Fig. 9(a) and Fig. 11(c), respectively. These are the strongest trends observed across all panels of Figs 9–11, suggesting that mass quenching is more dominant than environmentally driven quenching mechanisms in the group population. This is suggestive of mass quenching occurring across the entire galaxy population irrespective of environmental density, supporting the work of Peng et al. (2010, 2012), Gabor et al. (2010) and Darvish et al. (2016).

5.3 The role of morphological quenching in the group environment

We find an increasing bar fraction towards the central group regions in agreement with Skibba et al. (2012) (Fig. 6). This increase coincides with an increase in time since quenching onset with projected group radius across the satellite galaxies of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample (Figs 9–11 and quantified in Table 1). This suggests that bars may be partly responsible for the relation between quenched fraction and environmental density. This is consistent with findings that show that bars themselves may be the cause of morphological quenching through the funnelling of gas towards the central regions of galaxies (Athanasoula 1992b; Sheth et al. 2005) which is then used in star formation, exhausting the available gas (Masters et al. 2012, and see Section 1.1.2).

We must therefore consider whether the environment itself may play a role in triggering the disc instabilities that can produce a bar. Indeed harassment and tidal interactions, believed to be common in the group environment, have been shown to both promote and inhibit bar formation dependent on the stellar mass (Noguchi 1988; Moore et al. 1996; Skibba et al. 2012). Although a bar may cause an eventual quench of a group galaxy, the bar may only be present because it was triggered by the dense group environment. It is therefore difficult to disentangle whether such a quench would be considered morphological or environmentally driven quenching. This suggests that the polarity between internal secular processes (‘nature’) and external environmental processes (‘nurture’) may not be as extreme as first thought, in agreement with Skibba et al. (2012). Similarly, some studies have suggested that internal and external processes may not be independent of each other, particularly for extreme environments and masses (Darvish et al. 2015; Knobel et al. 2015; Carollo et al. 2016).

5.4 The role of the environment in quenching

A trend for increasing time since quenching onset, Δt , with decreasing projected group-centric radius is present across the satellite population of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample (Figs 9–11 and quantified in Table 1). We interpret this as environmentally driven mechanisms causing quenching at the same rate throughout the infall time of a galaxy in a group. Galaxies which are now closer in fell into the group earlier, and as they did so they started to quench, giving rise to a larger inferred Δt .

We explain this in the context of works which consider the effects of halo mass on group galaxies. More massive haloes are seen to have a greater impact on the SFHs of their satellites than less massive haloes in Fig. 9(c). The halo mass is correlated with both (i) the gravitational potential of the group and (ii) the temperature of the IGM, suggesting that an environmental quenching mechanism which is correlated with one or both of these properties is responsible for this result.

Higher mass haloes have hotter intra group medium (IGM) temperatures (Shimizu et al. 2003; Del Popolo, Hiottelis & Peñarrubia 2005) that can have a greater impact on a galaxy through RPS of cold gas. Gunn & Gott (1972) define the ram pressure as

$$\rho_{\text{IGM}} \times v^2 = 2\pi G \times \sigma_*(R) \times \sigma_g(R), \quad (5)$$

where ρ_{IGM} is the density of the IGM, $\sigma_*(R)$ is the star surface density, $\sigma_g(R)$ is the gas surface density of the galaxy disc and v is the velocity of the galaxy through the IGM. Therefore, if RPS is indeed a dominant environmental quenching mechanism we should see a decrease in τ (i.e. a more rapid quench) with increasing velocity of a satellite relative to its central, $|\Delta v|$. However, we find that this is not the case (see Fig. 11b). This therefore rules out RPS as the dominant environmental quenching mechanism in support of the simulations of Emerick et al. (2016) and Fillingham et al. (2016), which showed that RPS could only remove 40–60 per cent of a satellite’s gas. However, this conclusion may be due to the stellar mass range spanned by the GZ2-GROUP-Q satellite galaxies which all have $M_* \geq 10^9 M_\odot$, as simulations by Fillingham et al. (2016) suggest that RPS only becomes effective in lower mass satellites with $M_* \leq 10^{8-9} M_\odot$, in agreement with Hester (2006).

Above this mass threshold in the simulations of Fillingham et al. (2016), a ‘starvation’ (or strangulation) mode (Larson, Tinsley & Caldwell 1980; Balogh, Navarro & Morris 2000) dominates, where a galaxy’s extended gaseous halo is removed causing a quench, as cold gas for use in star formation can no longer be fed from the extended halo. This idea is supported by observations by Peng et al. (2015) that show that strangulation is a dominant mechanism for galaxies with $M_* < 10^{11} M_\odot$ with a quenching time-scale of 4 Gyr. Such a mechanism will be correlated with the galaxy potential, as galaxies with a lower potential will be most easily stripped of their haloes. We find that satellites with lower velocity dispersion (a proxy for the galaxy potential) are more rapidly quenched than their higher velocity dispersion counterparts and those in the field (see Fig. 11d). Such a starvation mechanism is also correlated with halo mass, for which similar trends in Δt are seen (Fig. 9c). The dominant environmental quenching mechanism occurring in the group environment must therefore be correlated with the group potential. This suggests that satellite galaxies may be most affected by gravitationally driven environmental effects, such as starvation, thermal evaporation of the galaxy halo and galaxy harassment.

We can calculate an infall time-scale for the satellite galaxies in the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample if we assume that galaxies begin their infall into a group at a radius of $\sim 10R_{200}$ and stop infalling at $\sim 0.01R_{200}$.⁸ The difference in the time since quenching onset, Δt , between these two locations in a group will provide an estimate for how long it takes a satellite to infall. This assumes (i) that the galaxy starts to quench immediately when it enters the group and (ii) that the same environmentally driven quenching process is the

only quenching mechanism affecting the satellites throughout their infall. We estimate this infall time by calculating the difference in Δt at $0.01R_{200}$ and at $\sim 10R_{200}$ found in a given bin for each curve shown across Figs 9–11. We define this property as $\delta\Delta t = \Delta t_{0.01R_{200}} - \Delta t_{10R_{200}}$.

We therefore estimate a median infall time of $\delta\Delta t \sim 2.6$ Gyr for the GZ2-GROUP-Q satellites. Similarly, the median rate of quenching of the GZ2-GROUP-Q satellites is $\tau \sim 0.8$ Gyr (which is within the range of quenching rates hypothesized to result in a morphological change by Smethurst et al. 2015) and so we can also estimate the median quenching time-scale (i.e. the time taken to fully quench from the SFS to 5σ below the SFS) to be ~ 2.5 Gyr for the GZ2-GROUP-Q satellites (increasing to ~ 3.7 Gyr for those galaxies with $\tau \sim 1.1$ Gyr).

This infall time and quenching time-scale are in agreement with the estimates of Wetzel et al. (2013) who used a high-resolution cosmological N -body simulation to track satellite galaxy orbits in SDSS groups and clusters and found quenching time-scales of 2–6 Gyr. Using a similar method, Oman & Hudson (2016) derive an infall time of ~ 4 Gyr and quenching time-scales between 4 and 6 Gyr for galaxies in the mass range of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample. However, studies such as Peng et al. (2010), Wetzel et al. (2013), Hahn et al. (2016), Crossett et al. (2017) and Grootes et al. (2017) have found much shorter quenching time-scales of $\lesssim 1$ Gyr for satellite galaxies.

The simulations by Fillingham et al. (2016) and Emerick et al. (2016) have shown that RPS cannot remove enough gas mass to completely quench a galaxy within ~ 2 Gyr but can assist in reducing the starvation time-scale so that galaxies can be quenched within ~ 4 Gyr. This suggests that although the effects of mechanisms correlating with the group potential are detectable in the quenching parameters of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample, this is only made possible by the constantly present, but less dominant effects of RPS.

In Section 5.3, we also noted that morphological quenching may only be present in the group environment due to the influence of the environment itself. Considering both this pairing of the environment and morphological quenching, and the pairing of RPS and strangulation discussed above, suggests that all the mechanisms discussed here will affect a galaxy which is infalling through the group environment at some point in its lifetime. A single mechanism may be more dominant in the evolution of an individual galaxy but to achieve the correlations between morphology, colour and quenched galaxy fraction with density observed across the entire galaxy population, all mechanisms need to act in concert.

5.5 The bigger picture of quenching in galaxies

Having discussed the results presented here, we now consider the results in this paper in a broader context in conjunction with previous results found using the STARPY method. Smethurst et al. (2015) infer the SFHs of the entire GZ2-GALEX sample using STARPY and investigate the morphological dependence of the derived quenching parameters for galaxy populations across the colour–magnitude diagram. They find a clear difference between the quenching rates preferred by smooth and disc populations with smooth galaxies transitioning the green valley at faster rates than disc galaxies. However, intermediate quenching rates with $1 < \tau$ (Gyr) < 2 , similar to the rates inferred in this study in Section 4, are dominant for all morphologies across the colour–magnitude diagram. Similarly, Smethurst et al. (2016) infer the SFHs of GZ2-GALEX galaxies hosting optically selected Type 2 AGN and compare them to a control sample of currently inactive galaxies. They find evidence for

⁸ This assumes that galaxies will then merge with their central galaxy; however, it is more likely that the satellite has a close pass with the central before it ‘backslashes’ into the group (see e.g. Pimblett 2011).

rapid, recent quenching across the population of AGN host galaxies, particularly for galaxies with $M_* < 10.75 M_\odot$. This suggests that AGN feedback is important in the AGN host galaxy population. However, slow quenching rates are dominant for higher mass AGN host galaxies, suggesting secular evolution is also key in the evolution of galaxies currently hosting an AGN.

A parameter that is often investigated in quenching studies is the stellar mass surface density of a galaxy, which is found to correlate with SFR (Barro et al. 2013; Whitaker et al. 2017). As a galaxy’s bulge grows it is thought to be able to stabilize a disc against collapse and effectively stop it from forming stars. This is classed as a type of morphological quenching and is effective over time periods of a few Gyr (Fang et al. 2013) even if external gas is still fed to a galaxy. This slower quenching track of bulge-dominated galaxies may help to explain the slow quenching rates observed by Smethurst et al. (2015) across the red and green smooth populations. They find that slow quenching with $\tau > 2$ Gyr occurs for up to 40 per cent of the smooth green population and 24 per cent of the smooth red population. Using STARPY, Smethurst et al. (2015) separated galaxies characterized by this slower quenching history, caused by processes that grow the bulge then consequently trigger morphological quenching, from those characterized by more rapid quenching histories, which are caused by processes that simultaneously quench the galaxy and grow the bulge. However, even in the latter case, morphological quenching may help in either speeding up the quenching process or in ensuring the galaxy stays quenched. This is supported by the finding of Abramson et al. (2016) who found that there is no threshold at which density triggered quenching occurs, but that denser systems redden faster than their less dense counterparts. This suggests that minor mergers and morphological quenching work together to fully achieve quiescence, similar to the collaboration between starvation and stripping to achieve quiescence of satellite galaxies discussed in Section 5.4.

This sort of partnership between two quenching mechanisms is also apparent in simulations which have shown that without AGN feedback a major merger cannot fully quench a galaxy (Springel et al. 2005). In combination with a major merger, however, a massive galaxy can be completely quenched by the heating or removal of gas and quiescence maintained (Conselice 2003; Springel et al. 2005; Hopkins et al. 2008b; Pontzen et al. 2016). These effects are therefore easily detectable, leading to the initial theories for the links between AGN and mergers (Merritt & Ferrarese 2001; Hopkins et al. 2006b, 2008a,b; Peng 2007; Jahnke & Macciò 2011). However, Smethurst et al. (2016) showed using STARPY that galaxies hosting an AGN do not always quench at the rapid rates caused by major mergers, suggesting that a slow co-evolution of black hole and host galaxy can occur. They also showed that rapid quenching is only inferred for low-mass AGN host galaxies where the AGN can have a greater impact on the galaxy SFR.

Across the entire galaxy population, we therefore have lots of examples of two quenching mechanisms working together to either quench a galaxy or ensure a galaxy stays quenched, including starvation and stripping (Section 5.4), disc instabilities and environment (Section 5.3), minor mergers and morphological quenching (see above) and mergers and AGN (Smethurst et al. 2015, 2016). All of these mechanisms result in the same end state of galaxy quiescence (with the occasional influx of gas thwarting their progress) but no single mechanism dominates over another, except in the most extreme environments or masses.

For example, mass and morphological quenching are dominant for galaxies in less dense environments (Figs 9–11), but still affect galaxies in the densest environments (e.g. Darvish et al. 2016).

Similarly, mergers will dominate the evolution of galaxies in dense environments (e.g. centrals; see Section 5.1) but will drown out the more subtle effects of slower quenching mechanisms that occurred before the merger.

Just as the morphology of galaxies is continuous in nature from disc to bulge dominated, so too are the effects of the quenching mechanisms which can cause this change. The impact of mergers on the morphology and SFR of a galaxy depends on the mass ratio, a continuous variable from ‘micro mergers’ (Beaton et al. 2014; Carlin et al. 2016) through to major mergers. The strength of morphological quenching mechanisms can be measured on a continuum of stellar mass and stellar mass surface density of a galaxy; similarly, the impact of environmentally driven quenching mechanisms increases with increasing halo mass. All of these processes, depending on a galaxy’s environment, are likely to affect a galaxy at some point in its lifetime, acting in concert to reduce the SFR, which in turn produces the wide distribution of quenching time-scales seen across the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample. In previous works, efforts have been made to identify the dominant quenching mechanism in a galaxy sample (e.g. Muzzin et al. 2012; Schawinski et al. 2014; Foltz et al. 2015; Woo et al. 2015; Balogh et al. 2016; Darvish et al. 2016; Huertas-Company et al. 2016), yet it is clear from this study that multiple quenching mechanisms will affect galaxies across their lifetime, working in collaboration to ensure galaxies stay quenched.

Future studies should therefore focus on disentangling the effects of these various different quenching mechanisms, rather than focusing on a single process.

6 CONCLUSIONS

We have investigated the detailed morphological structures and SFHs of a sample of SDSS group galaxies (Berlind et al. 2006), with both classifications from Galaxy Zoo 2 and NUV detections in GALEX. SFHs were inferred using a Bayesian MCMC code, STARPY. We have shown that although mass quenching, morphological quenching and mergers are all important mechanisms at work in quenching the galaxies in the group environment, environmentally driven quenching mechanisms do play a role in quenching galaxies, as they infall into the group.

We have discussed the possibility that no single mechanism will dominate across the group population (except in the most extreme environments or masses) with all mechanisms acting collaboratively. Our findings are summarized as follows:

(i) The bar, obvious bulge and merger fractions are all seen to increase above the field value in the inner regions of the groups of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample in Figs 6, 8 and 7, respectively.

(ii) Mergers are the dominant quenching mechanisms for central galaxies but not for satellite galaxies. Satellites may undergo a minor merger in the group environment but their effects are only discernible by their indirect effect on the bulge fraction (see Fig. 8).

(iii) Mass-dependent quenching is occurring across the entire GZ2-GROUP-Q sample for both centrals and satellites irrespective of environmental density (see Fig. 9a), the effects of which are more apparent than environmentally driven mechanisms.

(iv) Morphological quenching is occurring for GZ2-GROUP-Q satellite galaxies as evidenced by the heightened bar fraction in the inner group regions (see Fig. 6). However, this may be indirectly due to environmental quenching since galaxy interactions and harassment are believed to be able to trigger bars. This suggests the polarity

between ‘nature’ versus ‘nurture’ may not be as extreme as previously thought, in agreement with Skibba et al. (2012).

(v) The environment does cause quenching across the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample, as evidenced by the increase in the time since quenching with decreasing group radius (Figs 9–11 and Table 1). Our results suggest that this is caused by a quenching mechanism correlated with the group potential, such as harassment, interactions and starvation, rather than the velocity of a satellite through the group, such as RPS (Figs 9a and 11c). This quenching occurs within a median quenching time-scale of ~ 2.5 Gyr from star forming to complete quiescence, after an average infall time of ~ 2.6 Gyr.

It is apparent from the results presented here that many quenching mechanisms are all occurring simultaneously in the group environment; therefore, a superposition of all of the effects of these mechanisms is seen in the quenching histories of the GZ2-GROUP-Q sample, which in turn gives rise to the observed morphology–density relation.

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⁹ <http://www.astropy.org/>

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