

***Euclid* Quick Data Release (Q1)**

XXXIX. The evolution of the passive-density and morphology-density relations between $z = 0.25$ and $z = 1$

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ABSTRACT

The extent to which the environment affects galaxy evolution has been under scrutiny by researchers for decades. With the first data from *Euclid*, we can begin to systematically study a wide range of environments and their effects as a function of redshift, using 63 deg^2 of space-based data. In this paper, we present results from the *Euclid* Quick Data Release, where we measured the passive-density and morphology-density relations in the redshift range $z = 0.25$ – 1 . We determined if a galaxy is passive using the specific star formation rate, and we classified the morphologies of galaxies using the Sérsic index n and the $u - r$ colours. We measured the local environmental density of each galaxy using the N th-nearest neighbour method. We find that at a fixed stellar mass, the quenched fraction (the fraction of galaxies that have ceased star formation) increases with increasing local environmental density up to $z = 1$. This result is indicative of the separability of the effects from the stellar mass and the environment. Similarly, at all redshifts in this work, the early-type galaxy fraction increases with increasing density at fixed stellar mass, meaning the environment also transforms the morphology of the galaxy independently of stellar mass, up to $M_* \lesssim 10^{10.8} M_\odot$. For $M_* \gtrsim 10^{10.8} M_\odot$, almost all galaxies are early-types, with minimal impact from the environment. At $z > 0.75$, the morphology depends mostly on stellar mass, with only low-mass galaxies being affected by the environment. Given that the morphology classifications use $u - r$ colours, these are correlated to the star formation rate, and as such our morphology results should be taken with caution, yet future morphology classifications should help verify these results. To summarise, we successfully identify the passive-density and morphology-density relations at $0.25 < z < 1$. Future *Euclid* data releases are key to confirm these trends at higher redshifts.

Key words. galaxies: clusters: general – galaxies: evolution – galaxies: star formation

1. Introduction

It is clear that the environment plays a significant role in the evolution of galaxies at low redshift. The passive-density relation shows that galaxies in higher-density environments such as groups or clusters are more likely to be quenched than galaxies in the field of the same stellar mass (Peng et al. 2010; Vulcani et al. 2010; Wetzel et al. 2012; Paccagnella et al. 2016; Darvish et al. 2017; Cleland & McGee 2021; Corcho-Caballero et al. 2023). Moreover, this effect is more prominent in low-stellar-mass satellite galaxies ($M_* \lesssim 10^{10} M_\odot$), while at higher mass, the quenched fractions of satellite galaxies and central galaxies evolve similarly (Cleland & McGee 2021; Corcho-Caballero et al. 2023), meaning the environment is not preferentially affecting one class of galaxy over another. This phenomenon of quenching at high masses has been described as ‘mass-quenching’ (Peng et al. 2010), and loosely encompasses the quenching mechanisms that occur irrespective of the environment. These quenching mechanisms are also referred to as ‘internal quenching mechanisms’, to distinguish them from ‘external quenching mechanisms’ by the environment. Furthermore, the morphology-density relation is well studied at low z : galaxies in high-density environments tend to have more spheroidal morphologies, whereas galaxies in the field are more discy (Dressler 1980; Kauffmann et al. 2003; Postman et al. 2005). It should be noted that, while the star formation rate (SFR) and morphology of a galaxy are related,

they are not the same thing, and the processes that affect them operate in different ways. In other words, many galaxies are passive and early-type, or blue and late-type, but there exist populations of red spirals and blue ellipticals at low redshift (Masters et al. 2010; Rowlands et al. 2012; Tojeiro et al. 2013; McIntosh et al. 2014; George & Zingade 2015; George 2017), as well as at high redshift (Mei et al. 2006, 2015; Fudamoto et al. 2022; Mei et al. 2023). The observed differences between these populations are indicative of distinct formation pathways, at low and high redshift. Thus, it is important to disentangle how the star formation and the morphology of galaxies are evolving separately.

These results in the local Universe paint a picture in which high-density environments have a transformative effect on a galaxy’s star formation processes and its morphology. These environmental effects include ‘starvation’, a process that prevents the accretion of cool fresh gas onto the galaxy (Larson et al. 1980; Balogh et al. 2000), and ‘ram-pressure stripping’, whereby the gas reservoir of the galaxy is rapidly removed after infall to the cluster (Gunn & Gott 1972). Moreover, the structure of the galaxy may be affected by ‘harassment’, whereby increased tidal forces between the galaxy and the cluster, and high-speed encounters with other galaxies, can disrupt the stellar disc (Moore et al. 1996), and by increased rates of mergers in certain environments, which transform the morphology of the galaxy while also accelerating star formation, leading to eventual quenching (Toomre & Toomre 1972).

This picture is less clear at $z > 1$. Much work is ongoing in the search for massive passive galaxies at high redshifts (particularly at $z > 2$; [Straatman et al. 2016](#); [Merlin et al. 2018, 2019](#); [Carnall et al. 2023, 2024](#)); however, observing these objects is still a challenge. Quantifying the environments in which they reside is even more difficult. The extent to which the environment affects galaxy properties, and the epoch at which this begins, is under much scrutiny. Notably, the high-density environment looks very different at $z = 1$ – 2 compared to that at low z . There have been many studies on various observed ‘proto-clusters’ ([Chiang et al. 2013](#); [Overzier 2016](#); [Chiang et al. 2017](#); [Lovell et al. 2018](#)), which form the candidate progenitors of galaxy clusters at $z = 0$. In the Spiderweb protocluster at $z = 2.2$, there is no strong evidence of an environmental effect on the star formation or morphology of the galaxies ([Pérez-Martínez et al. 2023](#)). However, in a different Spiderweb study, it was found that four out of five massive star-forming galaxies may host an active galactic nucleus (AGN), which may eventually suppress star formation and quench the galaxy ([Shimakawa et al. 2018](#)). In a study of clusters and proto-clusters at $1.3 < z < 2.8$, there is already evidence of the passive-density relation at $z \sim 2$ ([Mei et al. 2023](#)). By $z \approx 1.6$, cluster galaxies show strong radial colour gradients compared to field galaxies ([Cramer et al. 2024](#)), implying the onset of environmental quenching between $z \sim 2$ and $z \sim 1$ ([Edward et al. 2024](#)). Equally, the redshift at which the morphology-density relation first appears is uncertain. In $z \approx 1$ clusters, there is a clear increase in the fraction of early-type galaxies (ETGs) at higher local densities ($>1000 \text{ gal Mpc}^{-2}$, [Postman et al. 2005](#)). Further, as has been demonstrated by [Mei et al. \(2023\)](#), the morphology-density relation is found to exist at $z \approx 2$; however, more statistics are needed to confirm if the relation is present at $z > 2$.

These results suggest the importance of the cluster and proto-cluster environment in building up the star formation of galaxies and then rapidly quenching them ([Elbaz et al. 2007](#); [Wang et al. 2016](#)). However, identifying large samples of high-density environments over a large redshift range is a challenge. The *Euclid* mission ([Euclid Collaboration: Mellier et al. 2025](#)) is well suited to overcome these challenges. The Euclid Wide Survey ([Euclid Collaboration: Scaramella et al. 2022](#)) aims to observe up to $14\,000 \text{ deg}^2$, providing high-resolution data on billions of galaxies. The size of the *Euclid* footprint, and the addition of external ground-based data ([Euclid Collaboration: Romelli et al. 2026](#); [Rhodes et al. 2017](#)) will allow for local galaxy density measurements in a wide range of environments, at this key epoch of galaxy evolution, at $z \sim 1$. Despite the fact that this paper focuses on galaxy evolution up to $z = 1$, the references above highlight the fact that this epoch serves as a transition between the low-redshift regime and the proto-cluster regime. Future *Euclid* releases will help us push even further into cosmic noon.

In this paper, we use data from the [Euclid Quick Release Q1 \(2025\)](#) to investigate the significance of the environment in quenching galaxies and transforming their morphology, as a function of redshift. We calculate the local environmental density for each galaxy, and use that to measure the passive-density and morphology-density relations as functions of redshift. This paper is organised as follows: Sect. 2 describes the data used, and how we derive the measurements of local environmental density; Sect. 3 explains our results for the passive-density relation and the morphology-density relation; finally, Sect. 4 discusses these results in the context of other studies and summarises our results. For cosmological calculations, we use the *Planck* cosmological parameters, [Planck Collaboration XIII \(2016\)](#): $\Omega_m = 0.313$,

Table 1. Median uncertainty, σ , on the redshift for each redshift bin.

Redshift bin, z	Median uncertainty, dz
0.25–0.50	0.007
0.50–0.75	0.018
0.75–1.00	0.025

$$\Omega_\Lambda = 0.687, \Omega_b = 0.048, H_0 = 67.31 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}, \text{ and } n_s = 0.966.$$

2. Data

2.1. Euclid data

The [Euclid Quick Release Q1 \(2025\)](#) consists of observations of three fields, Euclid Deep Field North (EDF-N), Euclid Deep Field South (EDF-S), and Euclid Deep Field Fornax (EDF-F), consisting of 22.9 deg^2 , 28.1 deg^2 , and 12.1 deg^2 , respectively ([Euclid Collaboration: Aussel et al. 2026](#)). This release consists of data products from the OUMER pipeline ([Euclid Collaboration: Romelli et al. 2026](#)), which includes galaxy co-ordinates, photometric data from the VIS ([Euclid Collaboration: McCracken et al. 2026](#)) and NISP ([Euclid Collaboration: Polenta et al. 2026](#)) instruments, external data, and also morphology information, such as the Sérsic index from SourceXtractor++ ([Bertin et al. 2020](#); [Kümmel et al. 2022](#)), and other morphological parameters acquired by machine learning ([Euclid Collaboration: Romelli et al. 2026](#)). The visible filter, I_E , reaches a 5σ point-source sensitivity of 24.5 mag ([Euclid Collaboration: Cropper et al. 2025](#)), and the NIR filters, Y_E , J_E , and H_E , each reach 24 mag ([Euclid Collaboration: Jahnke et al. 2025](#)). For a detailed overview of the *Euclid* mission, we refer the reader to [Euclid Collaboration: Mellier et al. \(2025\)](#).

Photometric redshifts and galaxy physical properties were produced by OU-PHZ ([Euclid Collaboration: Tucci et al. 2026](#)). The model Nearest-Neighbour Photometric Redshifts (NNPZ) returns redshifts, stellar masses, SFRs based on a Kroupa initial mass function (IMF; [Kroupa 2001](#)), and galaxy ages, using the nearest neighbours from a calibration sample in the multi-dimensional phase-space ([Euclid Collaboration: Tucci et al. 2026](#)). In this work, we utilised the re-run of NNPZ by [Euclid Collaboration: Enia et al. \(2026, hereafter E25\)](#), which supplements Q1 data with the $3.6 \mu\text{m}$ and $4.5 \mu\text{m}$ channels from *Spitzer*/IRAC. The addition of these bands significantly improves the accuracy of the estimates of redshifts and galaxy physical properties derived from photometric observations. The re-run also makes slight modifications to some priors, which ultimately prevents the need to remove unphysical data¹. We refer the reader to E25 for a thorough explanation on this NNPZ re-run.

A delayed exponential star formation history model was used to generate the model spectral energy distributions, and two dust extinction laws were used, [Calzetti et al. \(2000\)](#) and [Prevot et al. \(1984\)](#); full details can be found in [Euclid Collaboration: Tucci et al. \(2026\)](#). For the redshifts, stellar masses, SFRs, and galaxy ages, we used the medians of the posterior distributions provided by NNPZ. We then measured the

¹ The original Q1 data exhibited, for example, an unrealistic population of galaxies with unphysically young ages near the prior boundary, which previously had to be removed using a cut.

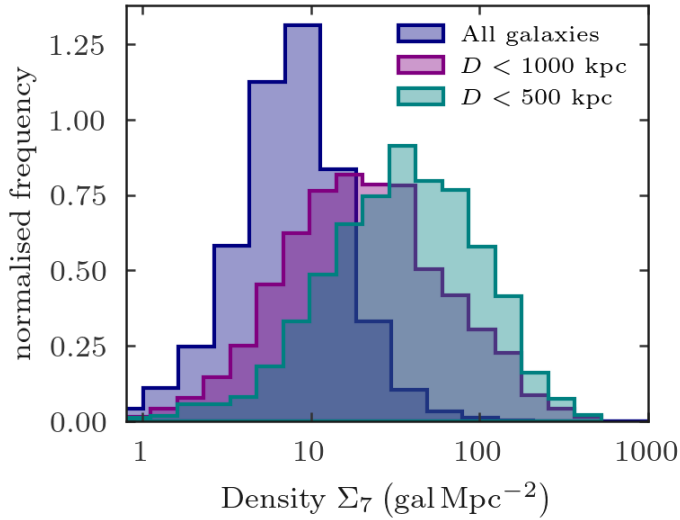


Fig. 1. Distribution of local density for all Q1 galaxies, and for galaxies where the projected distance, D , to a known cluster is <1000 kpc and <500 kpc. We see that the Q1 galaxies at closer distances to known clusters have larger values of local density.

specific star formation rate (sSFR) by dividing the SFR by the stellar mass, i.e. $\text{sSFR} = (\text{SFR}/M_*)$.

The catalogue provided by E25 already has some quality cuts made. These cuts remove spurious, saturated, or masked data, as well as stars. We describe the cuts below:

- SPURIOUS_FLAG = 0;
- DET_QUALITY_FLAG < 4;
- MUMAX_MINUS_MAG > -2.6.

Furthermore, we imposed a magnitude limit of $H_E < 24$, and only included galaxies above the 85% stellar mass completeness limit for passive galaxies at $z = 1$, which we calculated to be $M_* > 10^{9.5} M_\odot$, following Pozzetti et al. (2010). We verified that this limit in stellar mass corresponds well to the magnitude cut, such that when we cut in magnitude we are not further biasing our results against faint, passive galaxies that would otherwise meet the threshold in stellar mass. Additionally, we checked how this magnitude cut affects our quenched fractions. We found there is a negligible difference, of about 2 percentage points, in the quenched fractions in all redshift bins, at $M_* < 10^{11.5} M_\odot$. Finally, for the purposes of this paper we restricted our analysis to $0.25 < z < 1$, due to the fact that at $z > 1$ the median uncertainty on the redshift increases. This results in a final sample of 1 155 139 galaxies.

2.2. Density measurements

The local environmental density was calculated for each galaxy using the N th-nearest neighbour method (Postman et al. 2005; Mei et al. 2023). The density was calculated as $\Sigma_N = N / (\pi D_N^2)$, where N is the number of galaxy neighbours and D_N is defined as the on-sky distance to the N th-nearest neighbour. Results are stable in the range $N = 5$ –10, and we used $N = 7$ to be consistent with previous galaxy projected surface density estimates (Postman et al. 2005; Mei et al. 2023).

For every galaxy in the final sample, we calculated the proper distance to the seventh-nearest neighbour, within a redshift slice, Δz , centred on the galaxy. This redshift slice corresponds to three times the median uncertainty (the difference between the redshift and the average of the 68% upper and lower limits) on the red-

shift in each photometric redshift bin, i.e. 3σ (listed in Table 1). Note that in the highest redshift bin, $z = 0.75$ –1, the density calculation includes galaxies at higher redshifts within the redshift slice. This ensures that we do not miss any nearby galaxies that are outside the redshift bin. We note that the large uncertainties on the photometric redshifts result in a large redshift range in which to search for overdensities, which may ultimately smooth out any environmental effects at high z . We divided the number of galaxies (in this case, this is seven) by the on-sky distance to the seventh-nearest neighbour in the redshift slice to obtain the surface density of galaxies, Σ_7 . This corresponds to the number of galaxies within an on-sky area with radius 1 Mpc. We calculated uncertainties on Σ_7 by propagating the uncertainties on the photo- z s in the cosmological distance measurement, and the Poissonian uncertainties in counting the number of nearby galaxy neighbours, i.e. $\sqrt{7}$. Hereafter, we refer to Σ_7 as density.

2.3. Comparison of density method with known clusters in Q1

In order to check the performance of our density calculation method, we used the list of known clusters in Q1, compiled and presented in Euclid Collaboration: Bhargava et al. (2026). Taking each cluster in turn, we selected Q1 galaxies that have redshift $0.9 z_{\text{cl}} < z < 1.1 z_{\text{cl}}$, where z_{cl} is the redshift of the known cluster. There are 337 clusters that have Q1 galaxies within this redshift range. In fact, these 337 clusters all have at least 12 464 galaxies within this redshift range, with the distribution peaking at $\geq 28\,000$ galaxies. We then computed the on-sky projected proper distance to the Q1 galaxies within this range. We found that, of the 337 known clusters that have Q1 galaxies within redshift range, 11 of them have no galaxy within 1000 kpc and 25 of them have no galaxy within 500 kpc. From visual inspection, it appears that many of those clusters have clear regions of high-density nearby, and so this may simply be due to an offset in the cluster detection location and the location of the Q1 galaxies. We plot a histogram of the values of Σ_7 for the entire Q1 sample, and for galaxies within 500 kpc and 1000 kpc of a known cluster in Fig. 1. We can see that, overall, the distribution in local density skews towards larger values for galaxies closer to known clusters. This shows that our method of estimating local densities is reliable for identifying high-density environments.

3. Results

3.1. Quenched fraction

First, we considered quenched galaxies, which are galaxies in which star formation was suppressed. We determined if a galaxy is quenched following the criterion in Franx et al. (2008); that is, if $\text{sSFR} < 0.3 t_{\text{H},z}^{-1}$, where $t_{\text{H},z}$ is the Hubble time at a given redshift, which gives a timescale for the expansion of the Universe at that redshift. This means that the threshold in sSFR for a galaxy to be considered quenched changes with redshift: at $z = 0$ this threshold is -10.68 yr^{-1} and at $z = 1$ it is -10.43 yr^{-1} . This is due to the fact that the average galaxy sSFR on the main sequence also increases with redshift at a given mass (Speagle et al. 2014).

We find that the number of passive galaxies in the data drops significantly at $z > 1$, likely due to the depth of the optical surveys in the Q1 area that causes a lack of high-quality photometric redshifts at high z . Thus, for the current work, we limit our analysis to $z \leq 1$. In Fig. 2, we plot the quenched fraction as a function of stellar mass, binned by redshift. We see

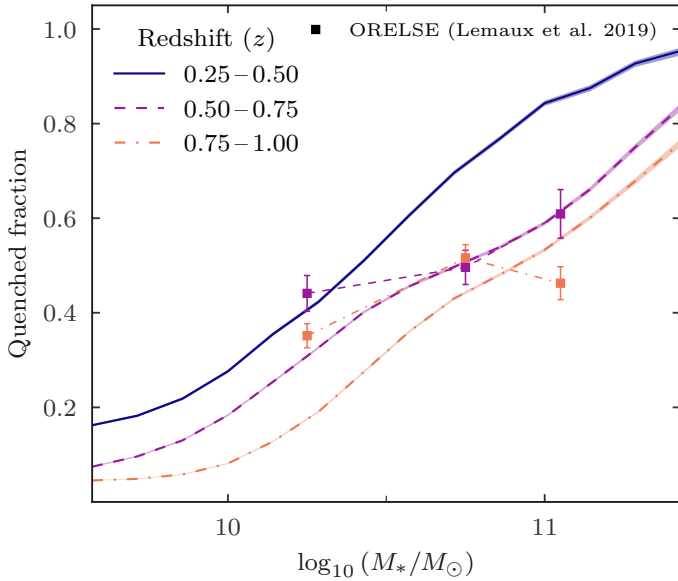


Fig. 2. Fraction of galaxy classes as quenched as a function of stellar mass, binned by redshift. Shaded regions show 68% confidence intervals. Only bins where the total number of galaxies is greater than ten are plotted. ORELSE quenched fractions (Lemaux et al. 2019) are plotted in coloured squares. Their fractions are higher on average, likely because they purposely probe areas with higher galaxy densities than the Q1 fields.

that the quenched fraction increases with increasing stellar mass, and decreasing redshift. Qualitatively, the behaviour in Fig. 2 compares well with results described in two other Q1 papers. Euclid Collaboration: Corcho-Caballero et al. (2026) models the values of sSFR_τ (the average sSFR over a given time period, τ) in order to characterise the star formation history of each galaxy. They find the fraction of slowly-quenched galaxies² is approximately 60% at $0.6 < z < 0.8$ at $M_* > 10^{11} M_\odot$. On the other hand, Euclid Collaboration: Enia et al. (2026) use $\text{NUV} - r^+$ and $r^+ - J$ colours derived from NNPZ to determine passive status of Q1 galaxies. They report a decrease in the fraction of passive galaxies with increasing redshift. They find, for all galaxies above their 95% completeness limit ($\approx 10^9 M_\odot$ at $z \sim 1$), a quenched fraction of 23% at $0.2 < z < 0.5$, 15% at $0.5 < z < 0.8$, and 8% at $0.8 < z < 1.5$. When computing the quenched fraction for all galaxies in our sample with $10^{9.5} < M_*/M_\odot < 10^{12}$, we find fractions of 39% at $0.25 < z < 0.5$, 28% at $0.5 < z < 0.8$, and 19% at $0.8 < z < 1$. Note that we do not have exactly the same redshift bins. The relative increase in the quenched fraction in our sample compared to theirs in the last redshift bin can be explained by the fact that their bin will have even more star-forming galaxies at $z > 1$, diluting their quenched fraction at that redshift.

It should be noted that due to differences in quality cuts chosen, and in passive galaxy selection, it is difficult to make a direct quantitative comparison between our results and these two Q1 papers, and slight variance in the fractions of quenched galaxies is expected. That said, we find our results qualitatively match these two papers well despite using different methods to classify quenched galaxies. However, we cannot exclude biases in

the galaxy photometry and from the large uncertainties in photometric redshift that could potentially impact these analyses. The effect of uncertainties on our results is explored in Sect. 4.1.

We also compared our results to the quenched fractions from the Observations of Redshift Evolution in Large-Scale Environments (ORELSE, Lemaux et al. 2019) survey. This survey studied quenched fractions in a large range of environments, in the redshift range $0.55 < z < 1.4$. Quenched galaxies were selected using NUV , r , and J colours. Their passive selection corresponds to galaxies with $\text{sSFR} < 10^{-11} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, which is a slightly more conservative cut than ours. In Fig. 2, we plot the ORELSE quenched fractions in the mass and redshift bins provided in their Table 3. Since this survey targeted overdense environments, the underlying distribution of galaxy densities is different to ours, which did not target any environment in particular. Quenched galaxies are more prolific in high-density environments, so this difference in distribution will result in a higher number of quenched galaxies across the whole sample. Therefore, we weighted the ORELSE quenched fractions according to the ratio between the relative abundances of galaxies in their sample and in ours, for each density bin. The corrected fractions, shown in Fig. 2, are approximately 0.1 less than the original quenched fractions in the two lowest-mass bins; in the highest-mass bin the corrected fractions are approximately 0.03 higher. We see a steady increase in the quenched fraction from $10^{10} M_\odot$ to $>10^{11.5} M_\odot$, reaching 60–80% at the high-mass end.

Despite our method of applying weights to the quenched fractions, there is still a discrepancy between our quenched fractions and the ORELSE quenched fractions, of at most about 10–20%, although we note that the sample size for ORELSE, 5000 spectroscopically confirmed galaxies, is much smaller than ours. However, even taking error bars into account, our quenched fractions are lower than the ORELSE fractions at the low-mass end. However, we also note that our fractions have not been corrected for the quenched and star-forming galaxies selection functions, since they are not yet available for Q1. Furthermore, it is found in Sect. 4.1 that the uncertainties in the Q1 dataset may result in the underestimation of the quenched fractions. Therefore, these results should be confirmed with further Euclid photometry characterisation.

We plot the quenched fraction as a function of environmental density in Fig. 3. Galaxies are binned by stellar mass and by redshift. Again, we plot the ORELSE quenched fractions. They calculated their density $\log_{10}(1+\delta)$ using a Voronoi Monte-Carlo method (see Lubin et al. 2009; Tomczak et al. 2017). They presented their results in three environmental density bins: low density $\log_{10}(1+\delta) < 0.3$, intermediate density $0.3 < \log_{10}(1+\delta) < 0.7$, and high density $\log_{10}(1+\delta) > 0.7$. These density bins may be converted to bins in Σ_7 , and the result is $\Sigma_7 < 140 \text{ gal Mpc}^{-2}$, $140 < \Sigma_7 / \text{gal Mpc}^{-2} < 350$, and $\Sigma_7 > 350 \text{ gal Mpc}^{-2}$ for low-, intermediate-, and high-density bins, respectively (Mei et al. 2023). It has been shown by Darvish et al. (2015) that the conversion between the nearest-neighbour method and the Voronoi Monte-Carlo method works well, and at the same depth as this work. The ORELSE density bins are indicated on Fig. 3 by the shaded grey regions. It is clear that the quenched fraction increases with local environmental density at all stellar masses. This effect from the environment is present even at $z = 1$, although it is not as strong as at lower redshifts. We plot the quenched fractions from the ORELSE survey (Lemaux et al. 2019), in the same stellar mass and redshift bins.

Quantitatively, we find that the differential change in the fraction as a function of density, which corresponds to the

² This paper uses ‘Ageing’, ‘Quenching’, and ‘Retired’ categorisations of galaxies, referring to the star formation history to get a sense of how quickly the galaxy quenched or is quenching. Our classification of passive galaxies corresponds roughly to their Quenching and Retired galaxies.

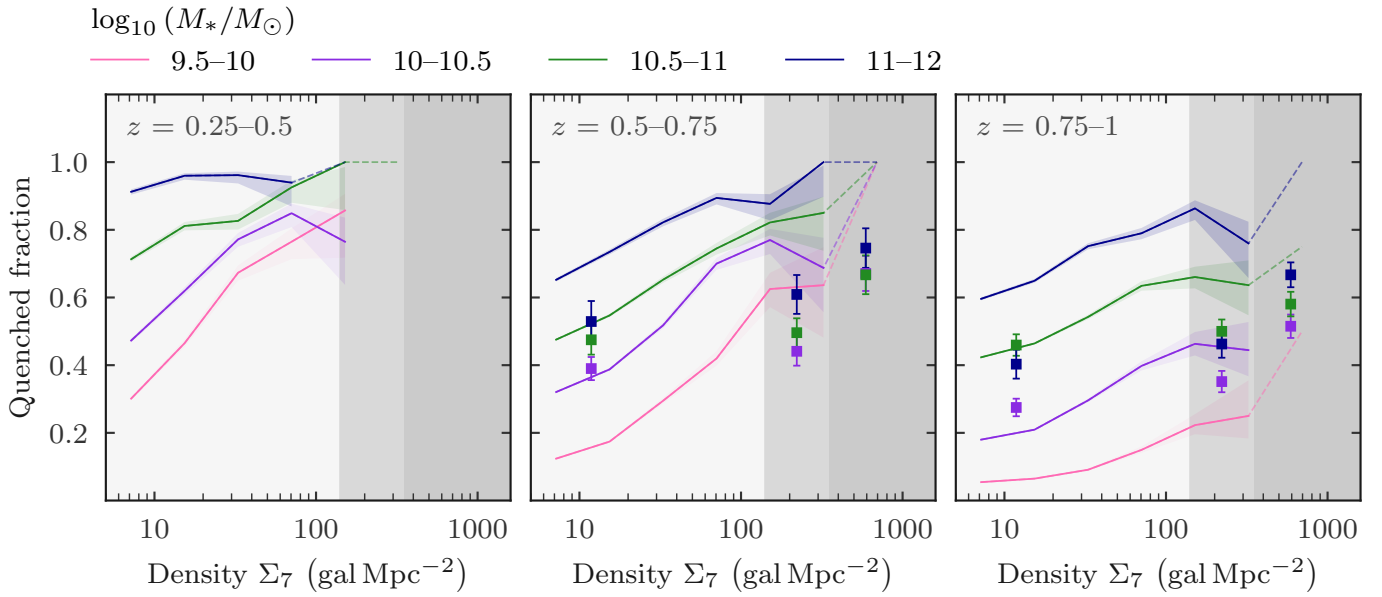


Fig. 3. Fraction of galaxies classed as quenched as a function of galaxy density, binned by stellar mass and redshift. The stellar mass bins listed in the legend are in units of $\log_{10}(M_*/M_\odot)$. The shaded grey regions in the background are indicative of the three density bins used in [Lemaux et al. \(2019\)](#); see text for details. The shaded coloured regions show 68% confidence intervals. Dashed lines indicate density bins where the total number of galaxies is <5 .

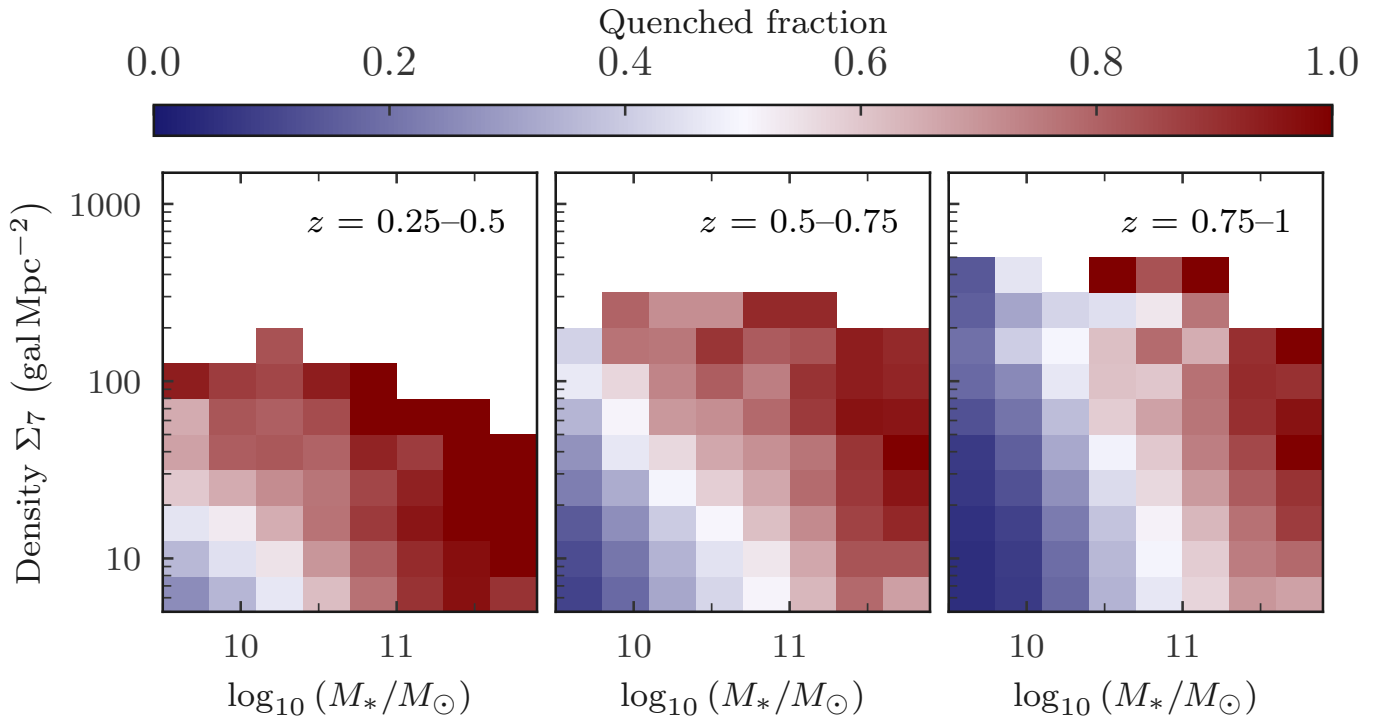


Fig. 4. Distribution of the quenched fraction as a function of both stellar mass and galaxy density, in bins of increasing redshift from left to right. Only bins where the total number of galaxies is >5 are shown. The colour bar indicates the quenched fraction in each bin. The separability of the impact of stellar mass and the environment on the quenched fractions is clearly visible up to $z = 1$.

overall slope of each coloured line in Fig. 3, indeed decreases with increasing redshift. Here, the slope is an indicator of how strongly the environment affects the quenched fraction, such that a higher slope means a stronger impact. Notably, the slope decreases over the range $z = 0.25$ to $z = 0.8$, and by $z = 1$, the slope is $\lesssim 0.2$ at all stellar masses. We also find that the overall decrease in the slope (i.e. the change in the impact of the environment with increasing redshift) is larger for low-mass galaxies

with $M_* < 10^{10.5} M_\odot$, whereas the decrease in the slope for high-mass galaxies is shallower.

In order to further verify that the quenching effect does not simply trace the stellar mass, we plot the two-dimensional distribution of the quenched fraction with respect to the stellar mass and density in Fig. 4. Here, galaxies are binned by stellar mass and local density, and panels from left to right show increasing redshift bins. Only bins where the total number of galaxies is >5

are shown. The colour bar shows the quenched fraction in each bin, such that redder bins contain a higher number of quenched galaxies compared to bluer bins, which are mostly star forming. The size of the bins on the x -axis and y -axis were determined by the typical uncertainties in the stellar mass and local density, respectively. In the figure, we see that at fixed stellar mass, the quenched fraction increases with increasing local environmental density. This effect is visible even at $z = 1$. At $z < 0.75$, the effect from the environment is strongest for low-mass galaxies, and gets weaker with increasing stellar mass. This behaviour illustrates how the environment of a galaxy can quench its star formation, at a fixed stellar mass, reflective of the result in Peng et al. (2010), which is for the red fraction of SDSS galaxies at $z < 0.2$. However, there are differences between these results. Following the line in Fig. 4 where the quenched fraction is equal to 0.5, the line shows little to no curve. The line where the red fraction is equal to 0.5 in Fig. 6 of Peng et al. (2010) is more curved, implying that there is a density threshold (mass threshold) after which quenching can happen at a fixed stellar mass (density). On the other hand, our results imply a more continuous change with increasing stellar mass or density, at least at $z \lesssim 0.75$. At $z > 0.75$, we observe a weaker effect from the environment; only at $M_* \gtrsim 10^{10.5} M_\odot$ do galaxies begin to quench.

In Figs. 3 and 4, we note that in Q1 there is a lack of massive galaxies in high-density environments at $0.25 < z < 0.5$. We investigate here if this deficit is due to a limitation of the telescope, or if it is expected. By calculating the volume of Q1 in this redshift bin, we can estimate the number of expected galaxies of a certain stellar mass. We find the volume of Q1 in this redshift bin to be approximately $3.8 \times 10^7 \text{ Mpc}^3$. By following Conroy & Wechsler (2009), we estimate the number of massive ($> 10^{11} M_\odot$) galaxies in this volume to be approximately 14 500. In our sample, we find around 9800, which is within $1\text{--}1.5\sigma$ of cosmic variance at this redshift (Moster et al. 2011). Thus, we are sure that Q1 is capable of detecting massive galaxies at this redshift. Therefore, the deficit of galaxies must be due to the lack of high-density environments. We remind the reader that Q1 consists of non-contiguous regions that sum to 60 deg^2 , and that these regions were deliberately chosen to be in low-density regions away from known clusters. Thus, high-density regions will be rare in these small volumes. In fact, in this redshift bin, we find only 49 galaxies with $\Sigma_7 > 100 \text{ gal Mpc}^{-2}$. The lack of massive galaxies in high-density environments is therefore not necessarily a limitation of the instrument, but rather a consequence of probing a small volume in a low-density region.

3.2. Morphology

Usually, galaxy morphological classification is based on galaxy specific visual features, such as the presence of a bulge or a disc and their respective predominance in the rest-frame B band (for an example at $z \sim 1$, see Postman et al. 2005, hereafter P05). However, for our sample the rest-frame B band corresponds to i and z apparent magnitudes, which are not observed by *Euclid*. Therefore, we used the morphological classification from Euclid Collaboration: Quilley et al. (2026, hereafter Q25) to identify early-type galaxies (ETGs) and late-type ones (LTGs). This classification is based on the separation of these two galaxy morphological types in the Sérsic index, n , versus the $u - r$ colour plane. We note that, since this classification uses colour, this is not a classification exclusively based on visual features. Our ETG sample will be biased towards red galaxies. This means that while the ETG sample contains a mix of passive and star-forming galaxies, almost every passive galaxy is an ETG

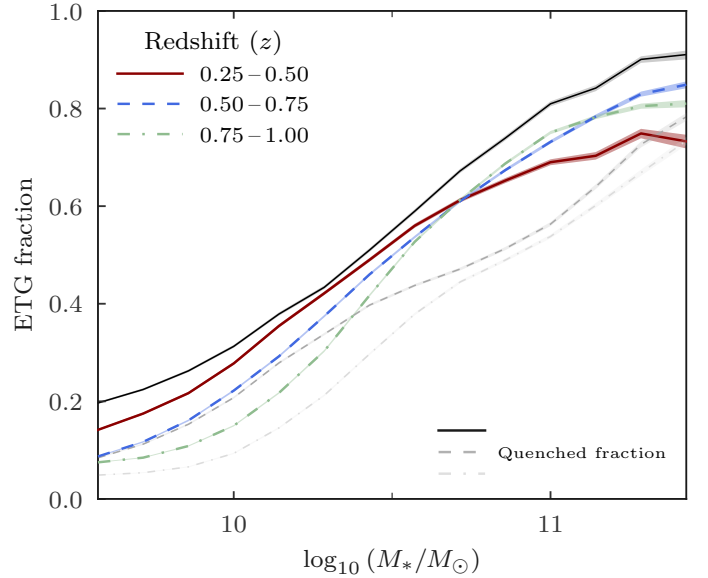


Fig. 5. Fractions of galaxies classed as ETGs as a function of stellar mass, binned by redshift. Shaded regions show 68% confidence intervals. Only bins where the total number of galaxies is greater than 5 are plotted. The quenched fractions from Fig. 2 are plotted for comparison in the same redshift bins, in grey. The ETG fraction increases with stellar mass at all redshifts.

(90%). This is an unavoidable degeneracy at this stage, and as such results should be interpreted cautiously. However machine-learning based classifications should be available for *Euclid* data in the future (Domínguez Sánchez et al. 2022).

To distinguish between ETGs and LTGs, we use a demarcation line (Eq. (4) in Q25), such that ETGs are located above this line and LTGs are below it. The equation for this line is

$$(u - r)_{\text{lim},n} = 2.32 - 1.32 \log_{10}(n). \quad (1)$$

We plot the ETG fraction as a function of stellar mass, in bins of redshift, in Fig. 5. We also plot the quenched fraction from Fig. 2 for comparison. Here, we see a rise in the ETG fraction up to 90% in the most massive galaxies. The ETG fraction also increases with decreasing redshift. We do not plot ETG fractions at $z > 1$ because, as with the passive galaxies, the Q25 morphological classification is less reliable at these high redshifts.

Similar to Fig. 3, we plot the ETG fraction as a function of local density in Fig. 6. At $0.25 < z < 0.75$, we see a significant increase in the ETG fraction of galaxies with $M_* < 10^{10.5} M_\odot$ from low-density environments to high-density ones. More massive galaxies are already mostly ETGs, as is seen in Fig. 5. At $z > 0.75$ the effect of the environment is still present, but weaker. The effect is most prominent for low-mass galaxies, which show an increase in the ETG fraction from low density to high density of $\gtrsim 20\%$.

In the last redshift bin, we can compare our results with the ETG fractions from seven clusters observed with the *Hubble* Space Telescope at $0.8 < z < 1.3$ from P05 in Fig. 7. We note that these fractions are not separated by stellar mass, and so we plot our ETG fraction for all stellar masses. The galaxies in P05 were selected at roughly the same depth as ours. Here, we see that the P05 ETG fractions are generally in good agreement with ours, within error bars. Given that galaxy densities were calculated at the same depth and with the same method, any discrepancies might be due to the different morphological classification, which was performed based on visual morphology in P05,

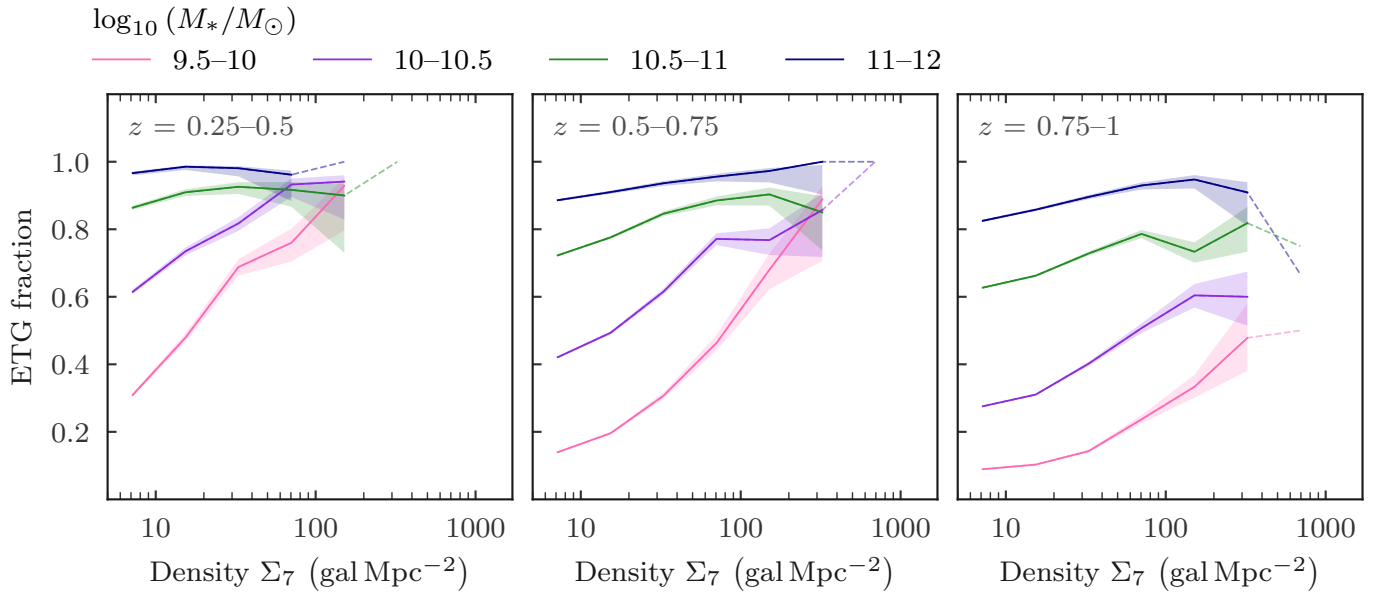


Fig. 6. Fraction of galaxies classed as ETGs as a function of galaxy density, binned by stellar mass and redshift. Shaded regions show 68% confidence intervals. Dashed lines indicate density bins where the total number of galaxies is <5 . At all redshifts, there is a significant increase in the ETG fraction of galaxies from low-density environments to high-density environments, for low-mass galaxies. However, more massive galaxies are already mostly ETGs. At $z > 0.75$, the environmental effect on the ETG fraction is slightly weaker.

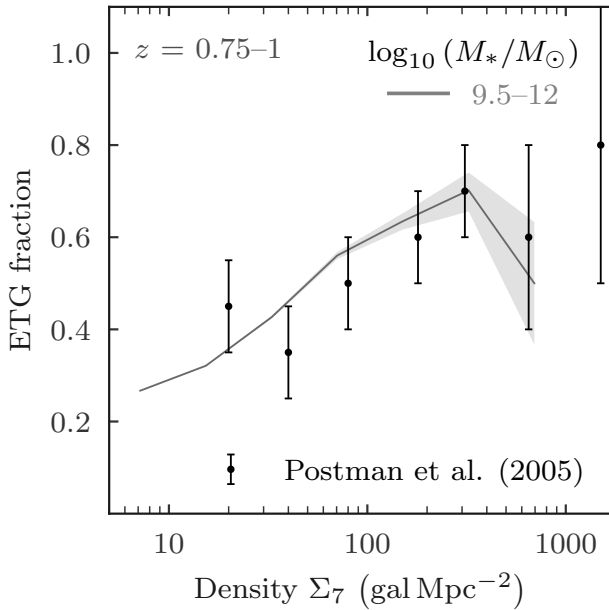


Fig. 7. Fraction of ETGs as a function of galaxy density, in the highest-redshift bin, $0.75 < z < 1$. The stellar mass range is shown in the top right corner. The ETG fractions from the entire cluster sample of P05 are plotted as black dots. The two samples are comparable, as they are selected at roughly the same depth; however, the morphological classifications were not done in the same way, which may possibly lead to differences in the ETG fractions. Despite these slight differences, the fractions are in good agreement except for the fact that we do not reach $\Sigma_7 \gtrsim 1000 \text{ gal Mpc}^{-2}$.

compared to the Sérsic index-colour plane in Q25. Another aspect to consider is that we do not identify as many high-density regions ($\gtrsim 1000 \text{ gal Mpc}^{-2}$), such as those probed in P05, due to the small volume probed in Q1. In fact, we only have <100 galaxies with $\Sigma_7 > 500 \text{ gal Mpc}^{-2}$ in our entire sample.

We further illustrate the interplay between the stellar mass and the local density in Fig. 8, where most of the high-mass galaxies are already ETGs even at high redshift. The transformative effect of the environment can be seen, and it is much stronger at lower redshifts compared to higher redshifts, and in lower stellar-mass galaxies.

We quantify these trends described in Sects. 3.1 and 3.2 in Appendix A, by plotting the differential change in the quenched fraction and the ETG fraction due to the environment, in fixed stellar mass and redshift bins. We confirm that the differential change in the quenched fraction or ETG fraction decreases at all stellar masses at $z > 0.7$, and that the environmental effect is strongest for the lowest mass galaxies at low redshifts.

Additionally, we ran a Monte Carlo test 1000 times, using the uncertainties in the local density to verify if these results persist. These figures for the quenched fraction and the ETG fraction are shown in Appendix B. The trends with stellar mass and density do not change; however, we observe that the fraction of quenched galaxies drops at higher stellar masses and higher densities.

4. Discussion

4.1. The impact of uncertainties on our results as estimated from simulations

Despite the improvements in redshift and physical property estimation brought by utilising the E25 catalogue, the *Euclid* data products still present uncertainties. Specifically, there are significant uncertainties in the redshift, stellar mass, and SFR estimates from NNZ. Here, we examine the impact of those uncertainties on our results by using simulations.

For this, we used a lightcone from the Galaxy Evolution and Assembly semi-analytic model (GAEA, De Lucia & Blaizot 2007; Hirschmann et al. 2016; Xie et al. 2017; De Lucia et al. 2024). This model originally aimed to study the evolution of the brightest cluster galaxies (BCGs), uncovering the hierarchical

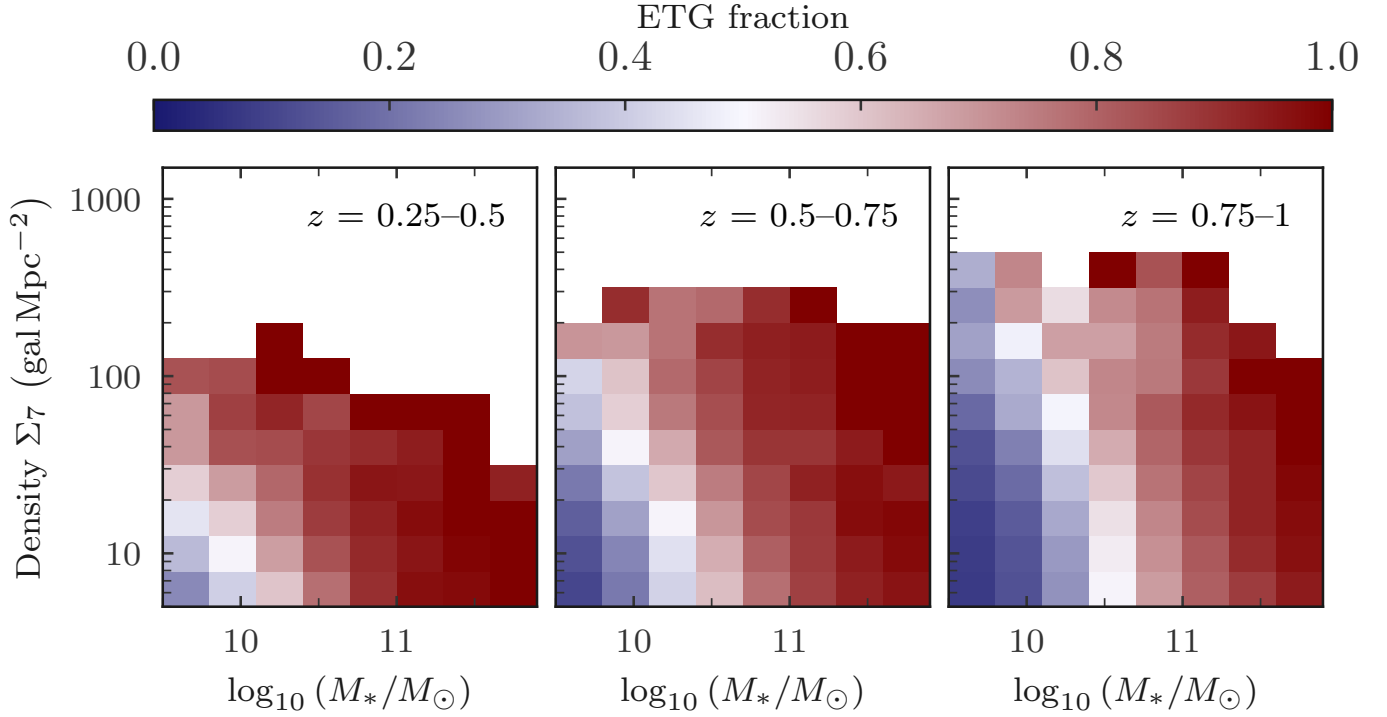


Fig. 8. Distribution of the ETG fraction as a function of both stellar mass and galaxy density, in increasing redshift bins from left to right. Only bins where the total number of galaxies is >5 are shown. The colour bar indicates the mean ETG fraction in each bin. Similar to in Fig. 4, the separability of the stellar mass and environment in producing the ETG fraction is clear up to $z = 0.75$. However, it is most evident only up to $M_* \approx 10^{10.8} M_\odot$, after which almost all galaxies are ETGs, regardless of the environment.

nature of these objects. Since the original formulation of De Lucia & Blaizot (2007), there have been several additions, including improved treatment of stellar feedback, an updated AGN feedback model, and treatment of satellite galaxies (Hirschmann et al. 2016; Fontanot et al. 2020; Xie et al. 2020; De Lucia et al. 2024). In this model, galaxies are assigned an instantaneous sSFR, and are then quenched according to a threshold in sSFR, such that $\text{sSFR} < 0.3 t_{\text{H},z}^{-1}$. Note that this is the same way that we selected passive galaxies in this work. We selected the same sample of galaxies, using the same redshift, stellar mass, and magnitude constraints.

There are no uncertainties reported in the GAEA dataset. In order to understand the impact of the uncertainties in *Euclid* data on our results, we must assign uncertainties to the GAEA data. Ideally we would run GAEA (or some other simulated dataset) through NNPZ so as to recover ‘observed’ values for simulated data in the same way as in Q1. This is not available at the time of doing this work, but will be available in the future. In the meantime, we achieved this in an approximate way. We began with the distribution of uncertainties in photometric redshift, stellar mass, and SFR from *Euclid*, in narrow bins. It should be pointed out that, rather than drawing from a multi-variate distribution for all quantities at once (as is the case for NNPZ), we pulled from each distribution separately. Thus, this method is an approximation. For the stellar mass and the SFR, these uncertainties are on the logarithmic quantities. We then binned the GAEA values according to the same bins as the *Euclid* data. The median uncertainty and standard deviation of the *Euclid* uncertainties in each bin were used to construct a Gaussian distribution, from which a value was randomly chosen as the uncertainty. This value was either added or subtracted to the GAEA quantity, resulting in a new value that was representative of a real value with observational uncertainty. From this we selected passive galaxies in the

same way as before, except now the new value for sSFR contained observational-like uncertainties in the stellar mass and the SFR. We also obtained measurements for the local density using these observation-like quantities.

In Fig. 9, we plot these results. The upper panels show the observed Q1 quenched fraction in colour lines, the same as in Fig. 3, and the quenched fraction as a function of local density in GAEA in grey lines. The bottom panels show the same Q1 quenched fraction, but now with the quenched fraction from GAEA with *Euclid* uncertainties added. We can see that the inclusion of uncertainties brings about a reduction in the quenched fraction of about 0.1, particularly in the low-density regions. In fact, we see that the quenched fractions converge at higher values of Σ_7 , including at $z \sim 1$. From this, we can be confident that uncertainties in *Euclid*’s Q1 are not overly biasing our results, although we may be slightly underestimating quenched fractions in low-density regions by about 0.1.

4.2. Comparing to other results

In this paper, we have showcased the early capabilities of the *Euclid* project, in terms of galaxy evolution and identifying a wide range of environments. Here, we identify and analyse the passive-density and morphology-density relations from $z = 0.25$ to $z = 1$. Many previous studies have examined quenched fractions and ETG fractions as functions of stellar mass and environment; however, not all of them probe the effect of the environment at fixed stellar mass, and as a function of redshift. Our approach allows us to quantify the effect of the environment for each stellar mass and redshift bin. This approach is similar to that in Peng et al. (2010), which demonstrated the separability of the effects of stellar mass and environment at $z < 0.2$. This paper also found that these effects are separable

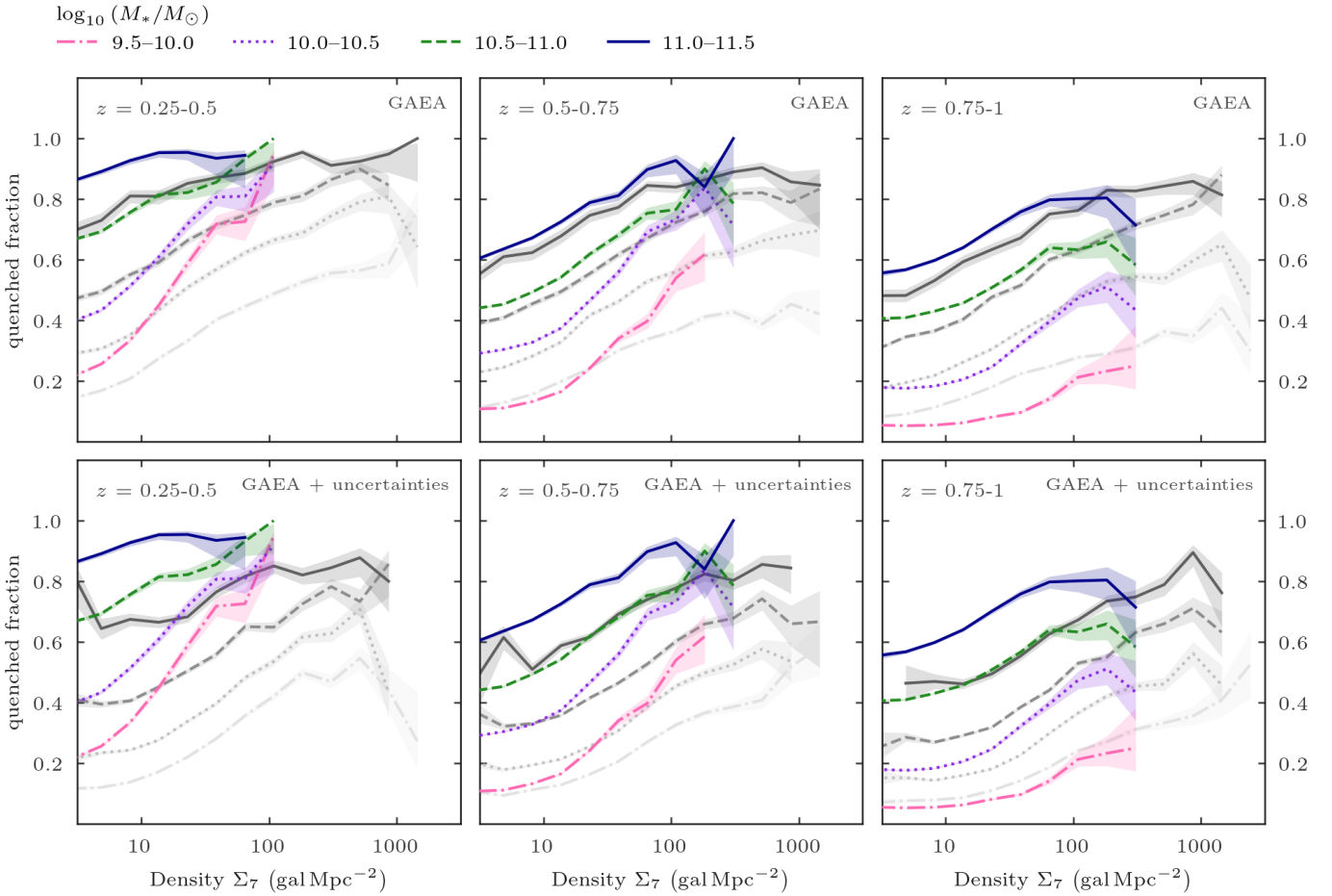


Fig. 9. *Top:* Quenched fractions as in Fig. 3 in coloured lines, compared to quenched fractions from the GAEA semi-analytic model (De Lucia et al. 2024) in grey lines. *Bottom:* As above, but with *Euclid*-like uncertainties applied to the GAEA data. We see good agreement between the Q1 data and the GAEA data, particularly at $z > 0.5$, even with observational uncertainties applied.

to $z \sim 1$; however, only in density quartiles. We have now shown on a continuous scale of density and stellar mass how the differential effects change with redshift. Similarly, while previous studies such as Postman et al. (2005), Lemaux et al. (2019), and Mei et al. (2023) showed these relations at $z \sim 1$, we have expanded on these results by including a wider range of environments, as opposed to targeting overdense regions.

In Fig. 3, we find the quenched fraction of galaxies increases with increasing local density at all stellar masses up to $z = 1$, although the effect is slightly weaker at this redshift. This is consistent with the results of many studies (Cucciati et al. 2017; Kawinwanichakij et al. 2017; Strazzullo et al. 2019; Chartab et al. 2020; van der Burg et al. 2020; Baxter et al. 2023; Shi et al. 2024; Taamoli et al. 2024; Trudeau et al. 2024); however, quantitatively, the values of the quenched fractions differ slightly. As has already been shown in Fig. 2, the ORELSE survey (Lemaux et al. 2019) is in decent agreement with Q1 in terms of quenched fractions. Yet, in Fig. 3, when we plot these fractions as a function of density, the ORELSE quenched fractions evolve very little across the density bins and the redshift bins. In these redshift bins the ORELSE quenched fractions show little difference between the stellar mass bins, whereas ours depend on the stellar mass as well as the local density. Furthermore, other papers with results from this redshift range show how the quenched fraction of galaxies depends strongly on the stellar mass and the environment (e.g., Davidzon et al. 2016; Weaver et al. 2023).

On the other hand, quenched fractions presented in the CARLA study (Mei et al. 2023) reach $>60\%$ in the highest-density environments, which is also in good agreement with our results. However, it must be noted that these results are for $1.3 < z < 1.9$, and so caution must be taken when directly comparing these results. Nonetheless, our quenched fractions at $z \sim 1$ are slightly underestimated than those in Mei et al. (2023) in the same mass bins used; only galaxies at $M_* > 10^{10.5} M_\odot$ reach quenched fractions of 60%. It should also be noted that the CARLA results show little dependence on stellar mass, possibly because of the high uncertainty on their mass measurements, where our results and other studies show significant mass dependence at fixed local density. For instance, it has been shown that the environmental quenching efficiency increases with decreasing redshift, and this effect is strongest at low stellar masses (Cucciati et al. 2010, 2017; Lemaux et al. 2019), which is consistent with our results in Fig. 3.

For ETGs, we find that massive galaxies ($M_* > 10^{11} M_\odot$) are $>80\%$ ETGs at $z < 1$. For low-mass galaxies, there is a considerable effect from the environment on their morphology at up to $z = 1$. There are many studies that show that the morphology-density relation is already in place by $z \sim 1$ (Postman et al. 2005; Shi et al. 2024), or even at $z \sim 2$ (Sazonova et al. 2020; Mei et al. 2023). In Sazonova et al. (2020) the effect is stronger at low M_* , which is also seen in this work. Additionally, our ETG fractions plotted in Fig. 7 are in good agreement with P05

at $z \sim 1$, within the error bars. It is difficult to say anything conclusively about the densest environments due to the very small number of galaxies with $\Sigma_7 \gtrsim 500 \text{ gal Mpc}^{-2}$. Qualitatively speaking, there is clear evidence of a morphology-density relation at $0.75 < z < 1$ across all stellar masses, and more prominently at $M_* < 10^{10.5} M_\odot$.

5. Summary

In this paper we showcase the early capabilities of the *Euclid* survey, with analysis from the first Q1 results. We computed the quenched fractions and ETG fractions of a mass complete sample, from $0.25 < z < 1$, and found a significant stellar mass and redshift evolution of these quantities. Additionally, we calculated the local environmental density on each galaxy in our sample using the N th-nearest neighbour method. We then plotted the quenched fractions and ETG fractions as functions of local density. We find that the strength of the environmental effect depends strongly on stellar mass and redshift, with low-mass galaxies at low z being the most susceptible to the transformative environmental effects. We find broad qualitative agreement with previous observational results (e.g., Postman et al. 2005; Lemaux et al. 2019), and other Q1 results (Euclid Collaboration: Enia et al. 2026; Euclid Collaboration: Corcho-Caballero et al. 2026); however, we caution that these results are preliminary and subject to uncertainties. That said, by performing Monte Carlo tests taking these uncertainties into account, we find that the overall trends remain, although the environmental effect is weaker at $z \sim 1$.

Our main results can be summarised as follows:

- At $M_* > 10^{11} M_\odot$, we find that the quenched fraction of galaxies is at least 80% at $0.25 < z < 0.5$, and $\gtrsim 50\%$ at $0.75 < z < 1$.
- There is a clear environmental effect, causing galaxies at the same stellar mass to quench in higher-density environments. In particular, low-mass galaxies are strongly affected, with the quenched fraction increasing from 30% to 80% at low z .
- At $z \sim 1$, the environmental effect is weaker but still present, with $M_* > 10^{11} M_\odot$ galaxies reaching 80% quenched in high-density regions.
- We find that the fraction of ETGs increases monotonically with stellar mass, with $\gtrsim 80\%$ of high-mass galaxies having early-type morphology at all redshifts.
- Similarly, we find a positive correlation between the ETG fraction and the local density, with low-mass galaxies being the most affected by the environment. Here, the ETG fraction of galaxies with $10^{9.5} < M_*/M_\odot < 10^{10}$ increases from 20% to $\gtrsim 80\%$ at $z < 0.5$.
- Using the GAFA semi-analytic model, we applied *Euclid*-like uncertainties to simulated data to test the effect of these uncertainties on our results. We find our density measurements to be reliable, and that the uncertainties may lead to an underestimation of the quenched fractions of about 0.1, particularly in low-density regions. This result highlights the importance of future data releases for making our results more robust.

In a future paper, we plan to extend this work to $z > 1$, and include results from other high-redshift studies to compare.

The first *Euclid* results provide observations, redshifts, and physical properties of at least one million galaxies in a wide variety of environments. With the upcoming public release of DR1, the number of observed sources and the number of high-density environments in *Euclid* data will increase by orders of magnitude.

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Appendix A: Quantifying the effect of the environment

Here we quantify the differential effect of the environment in fixed stellar mass or redshift bins. The differential effect here is defined as the slope of the fitted line of the quenched fraction as a function of increasing density in stellar mass or redshift bins. This allows us to quantify the effect of the environment, and identify overall trends between low and high mass, and between low and high redshift. The results of this analysis are plotted in Fig. A.1.

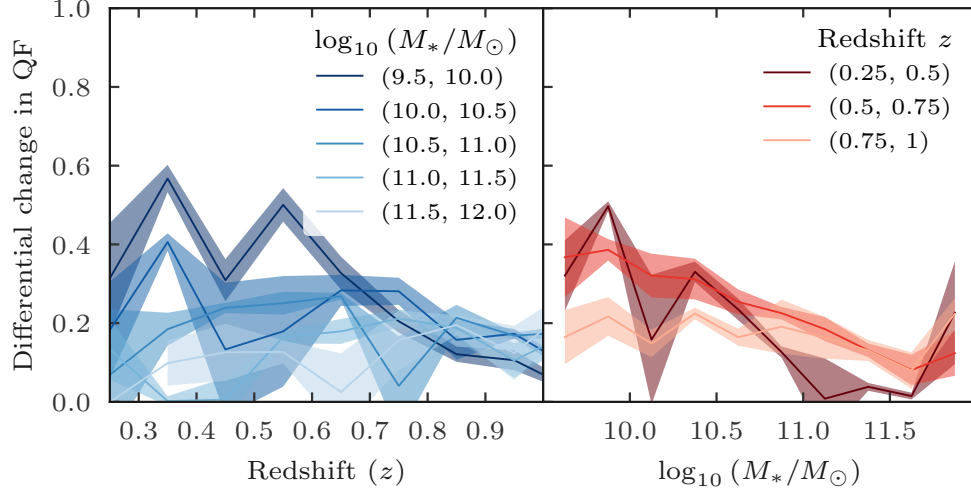


Fig. A.1. *Left:* Differential change in the quenched fraction because of the environment, as a function of redshift in fixed mass bins. The environment has the strongest effect at low-mass, and this effect is lessened with increasing redshift. *Right:* Same as the left panel, but as a function of stellar mass in fixed redshift bins. At low redshift, low-mass galaxies are most affected, and this effect weakens at high mass, while at high redshift, the effect increases slightly with increasing stellar mass. Shaded regions show the 1σ uncertainty on the slope

In the left panel Fig. A.1, we see the differential change in the quenched fraction as a function of redshift, in fixed stellar mass bins. We see that at low redshift, the effect of the environment becomes stronger with decreasing stellar mass. This effect drops off at $z \sim 0.7$. In the right panel of Fig. A.1, we plot the same thing but as a function of stellar mass, in fixed redshift bins. These are the same redshift bins used in the main text, however when increasing the number of bins, the main results remain the same. Again we see that at $z < 0.75$, the environmental effect is strongest at low mass, and decreases with increasing mass. At $0.75 < z < 1$, the differential environmental effect is on average lower than in the other two redshift bins, however there is evidence that the environmental effect actually increases at high mass here. That said, the uncertainty on the slope is large.

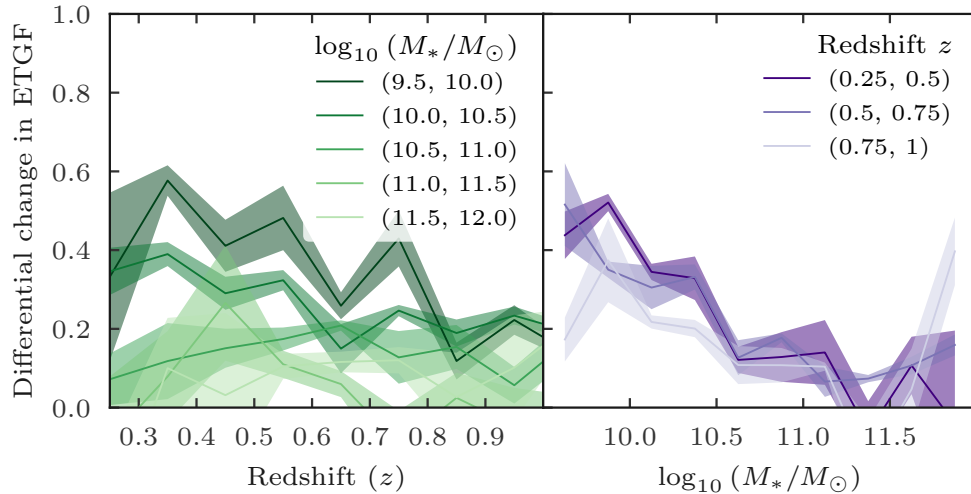


Fig. A.2. Same as Fig. A.1 but for the ETG fraction.

We plot the same thing but for the ETG fraction in Fig. A.2. The main difference here is that the differential change on the ETG fraction due to the environment is very low at $M_* > 10^{10.5} M_\odot$. Again, we see that, at low redshift, the environmental effect is strongest for low-mass galaxies.

Appendix B: Monte Carlo tests

We present the results of our Monte Carlo experiments, after 1000 runs. For each realisation, we draw a value from a Gaussian distribution, centered on Σ_7 and with the uncertainty on Σ_7 , as described in Sect. 2.2, as the standard deviation of the distribution.

This results in a perturbed value for the local density. We use this perturbed value to create the same binned plots in Figs. 4 and 8. After 1000 realisations, we take the mean value in each bin to obtain a ‘smoothed’ version of the results in the main text. This procedure allows us to identify if the trends persist after taking into account the uncertainties on the density measurements.

In Fig. B.1, we see that for the quenched fraction, the dependence on both stellar mass and environment at $z < 0.75$ remains, although the quenched fraction is reduced in regions of the plot where there were very few galaxies (high stellar mass and high local density). At $z > 0.75$, the stellar mass is the dominant factor in determining the mean quenched fraction, with only a very slight dependence on environment.

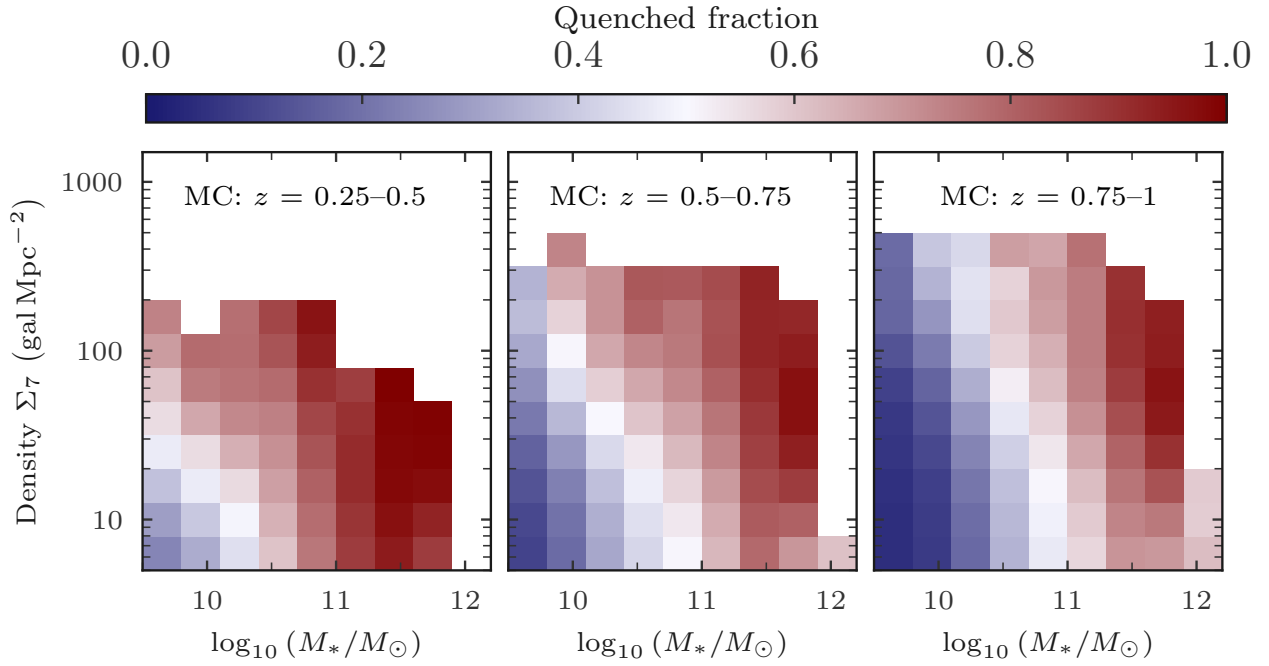


Fig. B.1. Same as Fig. 4, but after 1000 Monte Carlo tests run to show the dependence of the quenched fraction on environment and stellar mass.

For the ETG fraction, in Fig. B.2, the result that the environment has the biggest effect on low-mass galaxies at $z < 0.5$ is still visible. The ETG fraction depends strongly on the stellar mass in all redshift bins. At $0.5 < z < 0.75$, the ETG fraction depends less on the environment, but the effect is still there at $M_* < 10^{10.5} M_\odot$. At $z > 0.75$, there is very little evidence that the ETG fraction depends on environment.

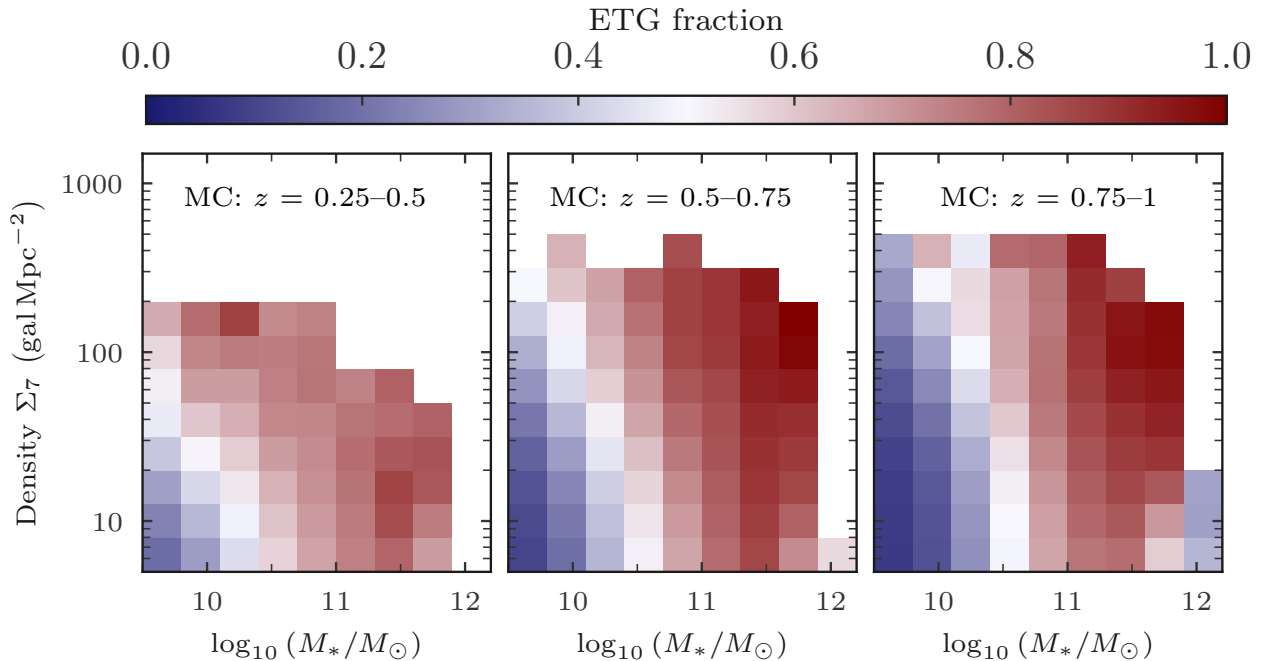


Fig. B.2. Same as Fig. 8, but after 1000 Monte Carlo tests run to show the dependence of the ETG fraction on environment and stellar mass.