

# THE THREE HUNDRED project: The GIZMO-SIMBA run

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Accepted 2022 May 16. Received 2022 May 16; in original form 2022 February 28

## ABSTRACT

We introduce GIZMO-SIMBA, a new suite of galaxy cluster simulations within THE THREE HUNDRED project. THE THREE HUNDRED consists of zoom re-simulations of 324 clusters with  $M_{200} \gtrsim 10^{14.8} M_{\odot}$  drawn from the MultiDark-Planck  $N$ -body simulation, run using several hydrodynamic and semi-analytical codes. The GIZMO-SIMBA suite adds a state-of-the-art galaxy formation model based on the highly successful SIMBA simulation, mildly re-calibrated to match  $z = 0$  cluster stellar properties. Comparing to THE THREE HUNDRED zooms run with GADGET-X, we find intrinsic differences in the evolution of the stellar and gas mass fractions, BCG ages, and galaxy colour–magnitude diagrams, with GIZMO-SIMBA generally providing a good match to available data at  $z \approx 0$ . GIZMO-SIMBA’s unique black hole growth and feedback model yields agreement with the observed BH scaling relations at the intermediate-mass range and predicts a slightly different slope at high masses where few observations currently lie. GIZMO-SIMBA provides a new and novel platform to elucidate the co-evolution of galaxies, gas, and black holes within the densest cosmic environments.

**Key words:** galaxies: clusters: general – galaxies: clusters: intracluster medium – galaxies: evolution – galaxies: formation.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Galaxy clusters are a key class of objects for many astrophysical areas. On large scales, they are useful for constraining cosmological

models via their abundance and evolution. On halo scales, they are interesting sites for environmental studies of galaxies along with the evolution of the hot intracluster medium (ICM). On galactic scales, they are important for studying the oldest galaxy stellar populations and most massive galaxies, along with the impact of supermassive black holes on galaxies and surrounding gas. For these reasons, clusters are much investigated both observationally and theoretically

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(see Allen, Evrard & Mantz 2011; Kravtsov & Borgani 2012; Walker et al. 2019, for reviews).

Interpreting observations of galaxy clusters from the radio to the X-rays within a structure formation context is challenging, because clusters contain numerous components interacting over a wide range of scales. Thus models must capture both the large-scale structure within which clusters grow, while including many small-scale physical processes. Cosmologically situated numerical simulations have played an increasingly important role in holistically understanding the physics driving clusters. Unfortunately, clusters are rare objects, so representative cosmological volumes that are able to model all the relevant small-scale physics are extremely challenging computationally. Many studies have therefore focused on using the zoom simulation technique, where individual clusters are re-simulated with full galaxy formation physics after being extracted from a large (typically dark matter-only) parent simulation. Zoom simulations must be done one object at a time, but with a sufficiently large sample they can cover the full parameter space of real clusters.

Previous cluster zoom simulations with only dark matter particles, such as Phoenix (Gao et al. 2012), Rhapsody (Wu et al. 2013), and ZOMG (Borzyszkowski et al. 2017) can elucidate the detailed internal structures of the clusters, but cannot directly model the galaxies and gas. Hydrodynamic cluster zoom simulation suites such as Dianoga (Planelles et al. 2013), MACSIS (Barnes et al. 2017a), C-EAGLE (Barnes et al. 2017b), Hydrangea (Bahé et al. 2017), MUSIC (Sembolini et al. 2013), and nIFTy (Sembolini et al. 2016a), are able to investigate detailed baryonic properties, and to compare with observations more directly. These are complemented by hydrodynamic simulations that have representative volumes, typically focusing more on the group to poor cluster regime, such as EAGLE (Schaye et al. 2015), Magnetium (Dolag, Komatsu & Sunyaev 2016), BAHAMAS (McCarthy et al. 2017), IllustrisTNG (Pillepich et al. 2018), FABLE (Henden et al. 2018, which also included zoom regions for galaxy clusters), and SIMBA (Davé et al. 2019; Robson & Davé 2020). Thus there is great interest in producing state-of-the-art simulations of clusters, particularly with clusters being a target for numerous forefront observational facilities such as *Euclid*, the Dark Energy Survey, eROSITA, Sunyaev–Zeldovich (SZ) telescopes, and the Square Kilometre Array and its precursors.

THE THREE HUNDRED project<sup>1</sup> occupies a unique niche among cluster simulation suites. Other suites of cluster simulations have typically focused on a handful of objects, with zoom regions covering only the cluster and immediate surroundings. In contrast, THE THREE HUNDRED re-simulates a mass-complete sample of 324 galaxy clusters extracted from the MultiDark cosmological simulation, using the zoom region that extends out to many virial radii. The penalty for having so many clusters with large zoom regions is that the numerical resolution is necessarily lower owing to computational limitations. However, the benefit is that it covers a relatively wide and complete halo mass range, enables larger scale cosmic web studies around clusters, and provides good statistics along with the ability to investigate rare systems. Furthermore, another interesting feature of THE THREE HUNDRED project is that all these clusters have been run with several different galaxy evolution codes. These include the cosmological hydrodynamic codes GADGET-MUSIC (Sembolini et al. 2013) and GADGET-X (Rasia et al. 2015), as well as three different semi-analytical models (SAMs): GALACTICUS (Benson 2012), SAGE (Croton et al. 2016), and SAG (Cora et al. 2018). This enables cross-comparisons between models employing different

input physics, to better understand the sensitivity to the various physical processes and the robustness of the resulting predictions.

In this paper, we introduce another set of hydrodynamic runs to THE THREE HUNDRED suite, namely the GIZMO-SIMBA runs.<sup>2</sup> This suite uses the GIZMO cosmological hydrodynamics code in its Meshless Finite Mass (MFM) solver mode, as opposed to the GADGET-based runs which use Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics (SPH). It further includes a suite of galaxy formation physics similar to that in the recent SIMBA simulation (Davé et al. 2019) that yields an excellent match to a wide range of galaxy, black hole, and intergalactic medium properties. Its novel input physics modules such as torque-limited black hole growth, stably bipolar jet feedback, and on-the-fly dust tracking, make it a valuable addition to the existing THE THREE HUNDRED suite.

This paper is organized in the following order: we first introduce THE THREE HUNDRED project in Section 2. Then, we present the details of the new GIZMO-SIMBA run in Section 3. The general comparisons to the other models and observation results are shown in Section 4. We also include the gas scaling relations in the appendixes which seem less affected. At last, we conclude and discuss our results in Section 5.

## 2 THE THREE HUNDRED PROJECT

THE THREE HUNDRED project (Cui et al. 2018b) is a set of cluster-scale zoom simulations based on a mass-complete sample of 324 most massive galaxy clusters ( $M_{\text{vir}} \gtrsim 8 \times 10^{14} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ )<sup>3</sup> drawn from the MultiDark simulation (MDPL2; Klypin et al. 2016). MDPL2 assumes cosmological parameters from *Planck* (Planck Collaboration XIII 2016), and has a periodic cube of comoving length  $1 h^{-1}$  Gpc containing  $3840^3$  DM particles having a mass of  $1.5 \times 10^9 h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  each. Each cluster region was selected to have a comoving radius of  $15 h^{-1}$  Mpc (over  $5 \times R_{200}$ ) for re-simulation with different baryonic models: GADGET-MUSIC (Sembolini et al. 2013), GADGET-X (Rasia et al. 2015; Beck et al. 2016), and now GIZMO-SIMBA (this work). Additionally, galaxy catalogues in the same cluster regions are extracted from three different SAMs that were run on MDPL2 (Knebe et al. 2018): SAG (Cora et al. 2018), SAGE (Croton et al. 2016), and GALACTICUS (Benson 2012).

The re-simulation regions are generated with the parallel GINNUNGAGAP code:<sup>4</sup> the highest resolution Lagrangian regions share the same mass resolution as the original MDPL2 simulation with gas particles ( $M_{\text{gas}} = 2.36 \times 10^8 h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ ) split from DM particles. The outside regions are degraded in multiple layers (with a shell thickness of  $\sim 4 h^{-1}$  Mpc) with lower mass resolution particles (mass increased by eight times for each layer) that eventually provide the same tidal fields at a much lower computational costs than in the original simulation.

The aforementioned unique features of THE THREE HUNDRED project has enabled many studies of various aspects of galaxy clusters to be carried out. To date, THE THREE HUNDRED has been used in over 30 papers investigating galaxy clusters and their environs.

<sup>2</sup>Note that to distinguish from the SIMBA simulation (Davé et al. 2019) which is a  $100 h^{-1}$  Mpc cosmological hydrodynamic simulation run with the same code, this run for THE THREE HUNDRED clusters is referred to as GIZMO-SIMBA run.

<sup>3</sup>The halo mass is defined as the mass enclosed inside an overdensity of  $\delta$  times the critical density of the universe:  $\delta = \sim 98$  for virial mass at  $z = 0$  (Bryan & Norman 1998) and  $M_{200,500}$  is with  $\delta = 200, 500$ , respectively. Similarly,  $R_{500}$  is the radius at which the overdensity  $\delta = 500$  is reached.

<sup>4</sup><https://github.com/ginnungagapgroup/ginnungagap>

<sup>1</sup><https://the300-project.org/>. *the300* is also used for short.

These include studying the detailed relationship between the central cluster and connecting filaments (Kuchner et al. 2020, 2021; Rost et al. 2021), the feeding of the galaxy clusters (Kotecha et al. 2022; Kuchner et al. 2022), cluster backplash galaxies (Haggar et al. 2020; Knebe et al. 2020), and the virial shock radius (Anbajagane et al. 2022a; Baxter et al. 2021). The advanced input physics in the hydrodynamic simulations further allow detailed investigations on cluster properties, such as cluster profiles (Mostoghiu et al. 2019; Li et al. 2020), substructure, and baryon content (Arthur et al. 2019; Haggar et al. 2021; Mostoghiu et al. 2021a, b), dynamical state and morphologies (Capalbo et al. 2021; De Luca et al. 2021; Zhang et al. 2021; Capalbo et al. 2022), ICM (non-)thermalization (Sayers et al. 2021; Sereno et al. 2021), the Fundamental Plane (Díaz-García et al. 2022), the effects of mergers on the BCG properties (Contreras-Santos et al. 2022), and various methods for estimating galaxy cluster masses, namely dynamics (Ansarifard et al. 2020; Li et al. 2021, 2022), hydrostatic equilibrium (Gianfagna et al. 2022), and machine learning (de Andres et al. 2022a, b). Lastly, comparing to the void/field region runs in this project allows us to study the effect of environment (Wang et al. 2018); a self-interacting dark matter run was done that allows constraints on the dark matter cross-section (Vega-Ferrero et al. 2021); and even chameleon gravity was examined (Tamosiunas et al. 2022). With many more projects in the works, it is valuable to continue to update THE THREE HUNDRED runs with state-of-the-art physical models in order to expand its range and robustness.

### 3 THE GIZMO-SIMBA RUN

#### 3.1 The SIMBA model

The GIZMO-SIMBA runs of THE THREE HUNDRED are performed with the GIZMO code (Hopkins 2015) with the state-of-the-art galaxy formation subgrid models following the SIMBA simulation (Davé et al. 2019). We refer the interested reader to Davé et al. (2019) for full details of all of SIMBA’s features, and here focus on its more unique aspects relevant for clusters. We also describe our modifications to the SIMBA model parameters utilized for the GIZMO-SIMBA runs of THE THREE HUNDRED clusters, which required re-tuning owing to the lower numerical resolution in GIZMO-SIMBA relative to the original SIMBA simulation.

Owing to the Meshless Finite Mass (MFM) solver implemented in GIZMO, gas particles are evolved following an accurate description of shocks and shear flows, without the need for any artificial viscosity. This feature improves the description of shocks and flows with high Mach number, which provides a realistic simulation of outflows and jets. It also provides improved handling of contact discontinuities relative to SPH. See Hopkins (2015) for a full discussion of the differences of MFM with respect to other hydrodynamics methods.

Radiative cooling and photon-heating/ionization processes of gas are implemented using the Grackle-3.1 library (Smith et al. 2017), which also accounts for metal cooling with non-equilibrium primordial chemistry treatment. SIMBA adopts a spatially uniform (Haardt & Madau 2012) ultraviolet background model, accounting for self-shielding on the fly based on the prescription in Rahmati et al. (2013). An  $H_2$ -based star formation model is taken from its predecessor simulation MUFASA (Davé, Thompson & Hopkins 2016), which is calibrated to match the Schmidt (1959) law. Here  $H_2$  is estimated from the local column density and metallicity following the Krumholz, McKee & Tumlinson (2009) and Krumholz & Gnedin (2011) prescription. Besides requiring that  $H_2$  be present, an additional minimum density cut of  $n_H > 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and a minimum

metallicity of 0.05 for the  $f_{H_2}$  in its formation (Krumholz et al. 2009), compared to the original SIMBA simulation of  $0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and 0.01, respectively, are required for active star formation.

Star formation-driven galactic winds also shares the same decoupled two-phase model in MUFASA, but the mass-loading factor scaling with stellar mass is based on the Feedback in Realistic Environments (FIRE) zoom simulations of Anglés-Alcázar et al. (2017b):

$$\eta(M_*) \approx \begin{cases} 9 \left( \frac{M_*}{M_0} \right)^{-0.317} & \text{if } M_* < M_0 \\ 9 \left( \frac{M_*}{M_0} \right)^{-0.761} & \text{if } M_* \geq M_0 \end{cases}. \quad (1)$$

Here,  $M_0 = 2 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ ; this is slightly different than the original SIMBA simulation, as we will motivate later. The ejection velocity is based on scalings from Muratov et al. (2015) as in MUFASA:

$$v_w = 0.854 \left( \frac{v_{\text{circ}}}{200 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{0.12} v_{\text{circ}} + \Delta v(0.25 R_{\text{vir}}), \quad (2)$$

where  $\Delta v(0.25 R_{\text{vir}})$  is the velocity corresponding to the potential difference between the launch point and one-quarter of the virial radius. Again, this has been changed relative to SIMBA, who used a normalization of 1.7; the normalization used here in GIZMO-SIMBA is the original one proposed by Muratov et al. (2015). Identically to SIMBA, galaxies are identified with the on-the-fly approximate friends-of-friends (FOF) finder for star, dense gas, and BH particles in Davé et al. (2016), allowing galaxy properties such as  $M_*$  to be computed on-the-fly, with  $v_{\text{circ}}$  obtained from a scaling based on the observed baryonic Tully–Fisher relation (McGaugh 2012).

The chemical enrichment model tracks 11 elements (H, He, C, N, O, Ne, Mg, Si, S, Ca, and Fe), with metals from supernovae type Ia (Iwamoto et al. 1999) and type II (Nomoto et al. 2006), and asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars (Oppenheimer & Davé 2006). Furthermore, SIMBA also includes metal-loaded winds, i.e. metals in the wind particle are enhanced, and correspondingly subtracted from nearby gas in a kernel-weighted manner. All this is identical to the original SIMBA model; see Davé et al. (2019) for details.

SIMBA seeds black hole (BH) particles based on the host galaxy stellar mass,  $M_* > \gamma_{\text{BH}} \times M_{\text{seed}}$ . If the galaxy meets the aforementioned condition and does not already contain a black hole particle, then the star particle closest to the centre of mass of the galaxy is converted into a black hole particle. For this GIZMO-SIMBA run, we employ  $M_{\text{seed}} = 10^5 h^{-1} M_\odot$  and  $\gamma_{\text{BH}} = 3 \times 10^5$ , which sets the galaxy stellar mass threshold for seeding BH is  $M_* \approx 10^{10.5} h^{-1} M_\odot$ . This is 10 times higher than original SIMBA model, owing to the lower resolution. By assuming the dynamical friction is efficient enough to maintain black holes near the host galaxy’s centre (within 4 times the size of the BH kernel,  $R_0$ , considered for the accretion model), black hole particles are re-positioned to the location of the potential minimum within the FOF host group at each time-step. Furthermore, any two black holes located within  $R_0$  are allowed to merge instantaneously if their relative velocity is lower than three times their mutual escape velocity.

The BH accretion follows a dual model: The cold accretion mode is described with a torque-limited accretion model for the cold gas ( $T \leq 10^5 \text{ K}$ ), driven by disc gravitational instabilities arising from galactic scales down to the accretion disc around the central BH (Hopkins & Quataert 2011; see also Anglés-Alcázar, Özel & Davé 2013; Anglés-Alcázar et al. 2015, 2017a). Hot gas ( $T > 10^5 \text{ K}$ ) is accreted based on the Bondi rate (Bondi 1952). We reduce the Bondi accretion rate to the rate for a  $M_{\text{BH}} = 10^9 h^{-1} M_\odot$  BH, no matter how big it gets; in SIMBA, this was set to  $10^{10} M_\odot$ . The black hole accretion kernel has a distance enclosing 256 baryonic particles or  $R_0 = 6 h^{-1} \text{ kpc}$  (comoving), whichever is smaller, within which the gas quantities are calculated; the latter was set to  $2 h^{-1} \text{ kpc}$  in SIMBA.



**Table 1.** Summary of parameter changes with respect to the original SIMBA simulation.

Parameter	Original SIMBA simulation	GIZMO-SIMBA run for the 300 clusters
$n_H$ threshold for SF	0.13	0.1
Metallicity floor for $f_{H2}$	0.001	0.05
$M_0$ in SN mass loading factor	$5.2 \times 10^9 M_\odot$	$2 \times 10^9 M_\odot$
Galaxy stellar mass limit for seeding BH	$10^{9.5} h^{-1} M_\odot$	$10^{10.5} h^{-1} M_\odot$
BH mass for Bondi accretion rate cap	$10^{10} h^{-1} M_\odot$	$10^9 h^{-1} M_\odot$
BH accretion kernel radius	$2 h^{-1} \text{ kpc}$	$6 h^{-1} \text{ kpc}$
Cap wind velocity limit in jet mode	$7000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$	$15000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$
Galaxy stellar mass limit for X-ray feedback	0	$10^9 M_\odot$
Gravitational softening length	$0.5 h^{-1} \text{ kpc}$ minimum	$5 h^{-1} \text{ kpc}$ fixed

The total accretion rate for a given black hole is then the sum of  $\dot{M}_{\text{Torque}}$  and  $\dot{M}_{\text{Bondi}}$ , times an additional constant  $1 - \eta$ , with the radiative efficiency assumed to be  $\eta = 0.1$  (Davé et al. 2019). This total accretion rate is used to determine the AGN feedback modes detailed in the following paragraph.

There are three different AGN feedback modes: A kinetic subgrid model for both the ‘radiative mode’ and ‘jet mode’, and a mostly kinetic X-ray feedback mode accounting for radiation pressure from X-rays off the accretion disc broadly following Choi et al. (2012). The ‘radiative mode’ feedback is turned on when the BH is accreting at a high Eddington ratio ( $f_{\text{Edd}} \equiv \dot{M}_{\text{BH}}/\dot{M}_{\text{Edd}} > 0.2$ ). The radiative velocity for wind particles, which is based on ionized gas linewidth observations of X-ray detected AGN from SDSS (see fig. 8 in Perna et al. 2017), scales as

$$v_{w,\text{Radiative}} = 500 + \frac{500}{3} \left( \log_{10} \frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{M_\odot} + 6 \right) \text{ km s}^{-1}. \quad (3)$$

When the BH’s in low Eddington accretion mode,  $f_{\text{Edd}} < 0.2$ , the wind begins to transition into a jet mode, with the velocity scaled with  $f_{\text{Edd}}$  as follows:

$$v_{w,\text{Jet}} = v_{w,\text{Radiative}} + 15000 \log_{10} \left( \frac{0.2}{f_{\text{Edd}}} \right) \text{ km s}^{-1}. \quad (4)$$

Note that the wind in both modes is ejected in the form of purely bipolar outflows, based on the angular momentum of gas and stars within  $R_0$ . The wind velocity in the jet mode is capped at  $15000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (as opposed to  $7000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  in original SIMBA) when the Eddington rate drops below  $f_{\text{Edd}} \leq 0.02$ . There is another condition to trigger jet mode – the minimum BH mass has to be greater than  $10^{7.5} M_\odot$ . X-ray feedback only operates when the ‘jet mode’ AGN feedback is in action, and it further has to meet another two conditions:  $M_* > 10^9 M_\odot$  and  $M_{\text{gas}}/M_{\text{baryon}} < 0.2$ . The  $M_*$  condition is raised with respect to the original SIMBA model, owing to the lower resolution.

Another novel feature of the SIMBA simulation, the on-the-fly dust production and destruction model, is also employed in GIZMO-SIMBA, unchanged. This model is quite successful in reproducing galaxy dust properties over cosmic time (Li, Narayanan & Davé 2019).

### 3.2 Re-calibration for THE THREE HUNDRED

We now summarize the modifications from the original SIMBA simulation, and describe the data sets used for the re-calibration. The set of parameter changes is tabulated in Table 1. To reiterate, this is required because THE THREE HUNDRED simulation has about 10 times worse mass resolution than the SIMBA simulation. It has been found that the SIMBA model is reasonably well converged towards higher resolutions than in the original SIMBA simulation, but it has so-called weak convergence (Schaye et al. 2015) towards poorer

resolution, and must be re-calibrated to achieve an equivalently good match to observations.

We use three observational relations focusing on the stellar component in galaxy clusters to calibrate the model parameters for our GIZMO-SIMBA runs, all at  $z \approx 0$ : (C1) total stellar mass fraction within  $R_{500}$ ; (C2) BCG stellar mass–halo mass relation; and (C3) the satellite galaxy stellar mass function (SSMF) in galaxy clusters. The denotations C1, C2, and C3 are further noted in the three subsection titles in Section 4 where we show comparisons to some calibration data sets. We note that the calibration was done mostly by trial-and-error using intuition to guide the variations, so should not be regarded as a unique parameter set that achieves agreement.

The calibration was not done over the entire sample, but rather only using a single cluster region at  $z = 0$  whose largest object has  $M_{500} \approx 5 \times 10^{14} M_\odot$ , chosen to be typical of THE THREE HUNDRED sample.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, all uncontaminated haloes (i.e. those that do not contain any low-resolution particles) within that region are considered (which includes about 10 more haloes down to  $\approx 10^{13} M_\odot$ ), although typically these do not add much information since the observational constraints tend to get weaker towards lower masses. Once sufficiently calibrated based on this single region, all the parameters in Table 1 were frozen and run for all the remaining galaxy clusters. As such, while the agreements to the data sets used for C1, C2, and C3 are to be considered as tuned and not an intrinsic success of the model, it is also the case that in principle other cluster regions could have shown large variations with respect to the one region used for tuning, particularly at different masses. Hence, the agreements with C1, C2, and C3 over the entire mass range (and to higher redshifts, where applicable) may still be regarded as a modest success.

We now describe the motivation for the individual changes, namely what went wrong with the cluster run when we adopted the original SIMBA parameters. At this low resolution, we found that the star formation is insufficient within satellite galaxies, resulting in a much lower satellite stellar mass function (SSMF) compared to observations (C3). The changes for  $n_H$ , Metallicity floor,  $M_0$  in SN mass loading factor and galaxy stellar mass limit for X-ray feedback serve to boost the SF in these satellite galaxies. However, as a consequence of these changes, the total stellar mass and BCG stellar mass ended up significantly higher compared to observations (C1 and C2). Thus we strengthened the AGN jet feedback, which

<sup>5</sup>Ideally, we could calibrate the parameters for each cluster region, then used the mean or median values to rerun the whole cluster data set. However, this requires an infeasible amount of computation time. Furthermore, the observation results have a large scatter, and the sub-grid models are not expected to perfectly match all calibration data. Thus, we only require the calibrated parameters yield results in rough agreement with observations.

**Table 2.** The detailed model differences between GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA.

Modules	GADGET-X	GIZMO-SIMBA
<b>Gravity and hydro solvers</b>		
Simulation code	GADGET-3P	GIZMO (GADGET-3 based)
Gravity solver	TreePM	TreePM
Hydro solver	SPH	MFM
Kernel for hydro solver	Wendland C4	Cubic spline
<b>Baryon models – gas</b>		
Gas cooling	Metal cooling table (Wiersma, Schaye & Smith 2009)	Grackle-3.1 library (Smith et al. 2017)
UV/X-ray background radiation	Haardt & Madau (2001)	Haardt & Madau (2012)
Self-shielding	No	Rahmati et al. (2013)
<b>Baryon models – star</b>		
Star formation model	Tornatore et al. (2007)	Davé et al. (2016)
Star formation rate	Gas density and temperature based	H <sub>2</sub> -based
Star generations <sup>a</sup>	Multiple	Single
IMF	Chabrier (2003)	Chabrier (2003)
Chemical enrichment model	11 elements from SN-II, SN-Ia, and AGB stars	The same <sup>b</sup>
Stellar feedback	Kinetic feedback (Springel & Hernquist 2003)	Two-phase winds with mass loading factor depending on $M_*$
<b>Baryon models – BH</b>		
BH seeding condition	$M_{FoF} > 8 \times 10^{11} h^{-1} M_\odot$ and $M_* > 1.6 \times 10^{10} h^{-1} M_\odot$	Galaxy stellar mass $> 3 \times 10^{10} h^{-1} M_\odot$ <sup>c</sup>
BH seed mass	$5 \times 10^6 h^{-1} M_\odot$	$10^5 h^{-1} M_\odot$
BH accretion	Bondi accretion	Torque-limited and Bondi accretion models
BH feedback	Thermal feedback <sup>d</sup>	Kinetic feedback <sup>e</sup> + X-ray feedback <sup>f</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Number of stars that per gas particle can spawn.<sup>b</sup>Note that the detailed implementations are different, see Tornatore et al. (2007) and Davé et al. (2016) for more information.<sup>c</sup>Note here  $M_*$  is the total stellar mass within the FoF halo. And another two conditions have to be met as well:  $M_* > 0.05 M_{DM}$  and  $M_{gas} > 0.10 M_*$ .<sup>d</sup>The feedback energy is coming from both mechanical and radiative modes.<sup>e</sup>Different outflow velocities are used to mimic the jet and radiative mode AGNs in observation.<sup>f</sup>Thermal or thermal + kinetic feedback is used for the X-ray heating depending on whether the surrounding gas is non-ISM or ISM, respectively.

has been shown as the key to quench massive galaxies (Cui et al. 2021), by increasing the maximum jet speed; this reduces the stellar mass of BCG (and hence total). Finally, we choose to use a fixed comoving softening length of  $5 h^{-1}$  kpc for consistency with the other THE THREE HUNDRED runs, as opposed to a variable softening length with a minimum of  $0.5 h^{-1}$  kpc as in original SIMBA. The BH accretion kernel maximum radius was commensurately increased in GIZMO-SIMBA owing to the coarser spatial resolution, and the BH seeding stellar mass was increased by an order of magnitude to reflect the order of magnitude poorer particle mass resolution.

### 3.3 Detailed differences between GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA

As noted in the Introduction, we will focus on the differences between the results from GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA runs, given that they are the two hydrodynamic models that match a reasonably wide suite of observations. Though both simulation codes are well presented in a series of literature papers, it is useful to relist their key features again in Table 2 for comparison. For more detailed models of GADGET-X, we refer to Cui et al. (2018b) and references therein. Although we give descriptions of the SIMBA model in this Section 3, interested readers are referred to Davé et al. (2019, 2016) for further information. Besides these model differences as shown in Table 2, we emphasize that GADGET-X is quite successful in reproducing the observed gas properties and relations, while the original SIMBA simulation was primarily tuned to reproduce galaxy stellar properties. Here, we follow SIMBA's process by calibrating GIZMO-SIMBA according to the observed stellar properties, with

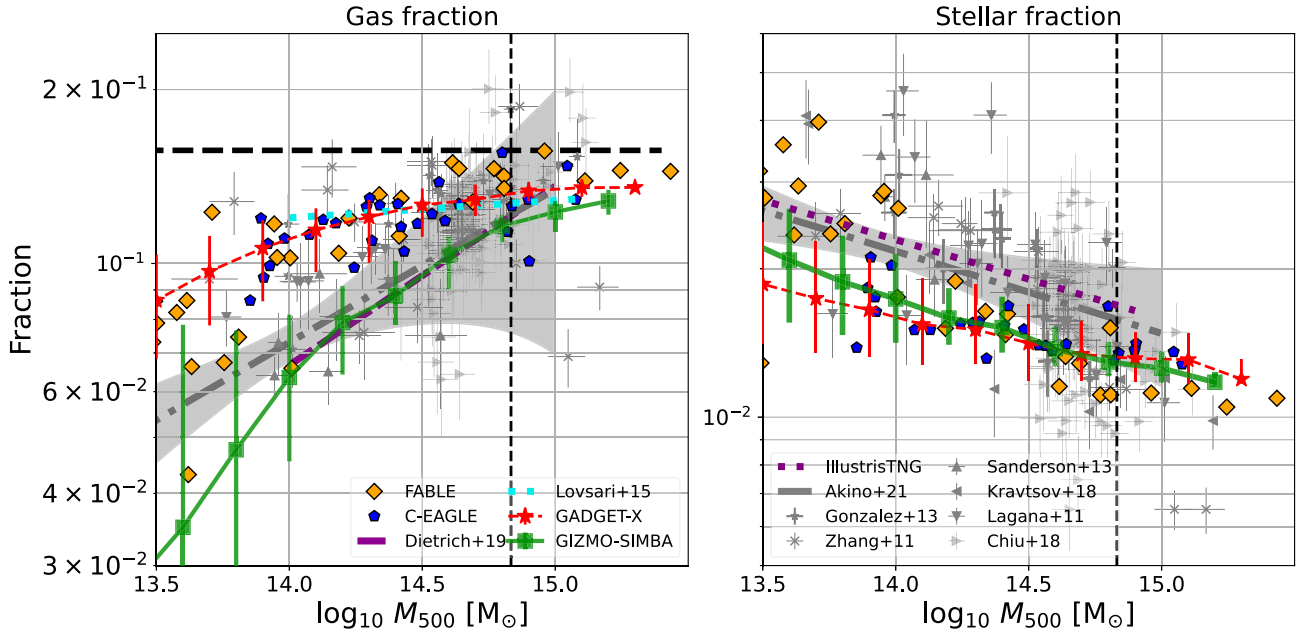
no regard to gas properties. Comparing the two runs in different properties will help us to better constrain galaxy formation models.

### 3.4 The AHF halo and CAESAR galaxy catalogues

Two object catalogues are generated from the suite of the 300 galaxy cluster runs: the AHF<sup>6</sup> (Knollmann & Knebe 2009) halo catalogues and the CAESAR<sup>7</sup> galaxy/FoF halo catalogues. AHF provides halo and subhalo (and thus galaxy) catalogue generated using a spherical overdensity (SO) algorithm, while CAESAR also provide halo catalogue generated using a 3D FoF algorithm along with a matched galaxy catalogue using a 6D FoF. CAESAR further provides a large range of pre-computed physical and photometric properties (with and without dust extinction) for each object.

In this paper, we use as many (uncontaminated) objects as possible (if not specified) to do the investigation because THE THREE HUNDRED runs have a much larger radius, thus many smaller mass haloes besides the central cluster in each region. If not specified, we always use the halo mass defined as  $M_{500}$  with the quantities are always calculated within  $R_{500}$ . Therefore, halo properties from the AHF catalogue are used to compare with the global clusters properties from observations, while galaxy properties from CAESAR which has a 6D (in both spatial and velocity field) galaxy finder, is used. We further match the galaxies from CAESAR to the haloes from AHF, by simply taking all the CAESAR galaxies within the

<sup>6</sup><http://popia.ft.uam.es/AHF><sup>7</sup><https://github.com/dnarayanan/caesar>



**Figure 1.** The baryon fractions within  $R_{500}$ : gas fractions on the left-hand side panel and stellar fractions on the right-hand side panel at  $z = 0$ . Observational and different simulation results can be crossly viewed from legends in both figures. The symbols and/or line styles for the same reference result are the same in both figures. Therefore, we only show them once in either legend. The statistical results from THE THREE HUNDRED project: GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA, are presented with both symbols and lines. Note that the error bars for the two runs are marking the 16th–84th percentiles. For the statistical/fitting results, we only include the errorbar (light shaded areas in both figures) for the most recent result – Akino et al. (2022). The vertical dashed lines indicate the mass completeness for the clusters from THE THREE HUNDRED project (see Cui 2022, for details) and the horizontal line in the left-hand-side figure is the cosmological baryon fraction from the Planck cosmology (Planck Collaboration XIII 2016). Note that all the fitting results only cover the region of the observed data points. These two plots show that GADGET-X is very similar to the FABLE and the C-EAGLE simulations in both fractions; there is little difference between GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA in the stellar fraction, but the gas fraction from GIZMO-SIMBA shows a much steeper slope. Both fractions from the observational data present a large scatter.

AHF halo radius ( $R_{500}$ ). The BCG is selected as the most massive CAESAR galaxy that lies close to the AHF distinct halo centre. As the 6D galaxy finder makes no distinction between central and satellite galaxies, it does not matter whether the galaxy is coming from an FoF halo or an SO halo.

To track cluster growth histories, we use the cluster main progenitors determined by the MERGERTREE package integrated into the AHF program. The main progenitors are selected based on the matched dark matter particle IDs.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Baryon fractions

We first focus on the total gas and stellar components within the clusters (mostly within  $R_{500}$ ) in this subsection. We will also detail their evolution and show the differences between GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA runs.

#### 4.1.1 C1: The gas and stellar fractions

The first quantity we examine in GIZMO-SIMBA clusters is the abundance of stars and gas. This global quantity provides the overall measure of the cluster’s baryonic content that can be directly compared to observational results (see Oppenheimer et al. 2021, for a recent review). As have been revealed by both observation and theoretical works (e.g. Behroozi, Wechsler & Conroy 2013; Yang et al. 2013), more gas is consumed and converted into stars (i.e. star

formation efficiency is higher) in less massive haloes through the group and cluster regime. Therefore, low-mass haloes also tend to have somewhat higher stellar mass fractions. To achieve this general trend, AGN feedback is invoked in all current models (Somerville & Davé 2015) in order to solve the cooling flow problem (e.g. Fabian 1994) in which too many stars are formed, especially in the BCG, due to gas cooling being very efficient in the centres of galaxy clusters (Kravtsov & Borgani 2012). In models, AGN feedback from the BH of the central galaxy is invoked to counteract cooling and/or expel gas, thereby quenching the galaxy. Using this, hydrodynamic simulations of galaxy clusters can roughly reproduce the correct stellar mass fraction as a function of halo mass.

In the case of GIZMO-SIMBA, we have used the stellar fraction to constrain our baryon parameters (C1). But since the calibration was only done for a single object, it is still interesting to examine this relation over all the GIZMO-SIMBA cluster regions. The gas fractions were not used for calibration, so they represent an independent prediction.

In Fig. 1, we present comparisons of both stellar and gas fractions within  $R_{500}$  between our simulated clusters at  $z = 0$ , versus recent simulations (FABLE, Henden et al. 2018 and C-EAGLE, Barnes et al. 2017b) and observational data at  $z \lesssim 0.1$  (Laganá et al. 2011; Zhang et al. 2011; Gonzalez et al. 2013; Sanderson et al. 2013; Chiu et al. 2018; Kravtsov, Vikhlinin & Meshcheryakov 2018). The gas fraction is calculated using all gas particles, but as indicated in Li et al. (2020), the cold gas only contributes a very small fraction to the total gas mass, hence it is reasonable to compare to the results from observations which mainly use hot gas. Statistical or best-fitting results are presented for Lovisari, Reiprich & Schellenberger (2015),

Eckert et al. (2016), and Dietrich et al. (2019) since these do not provide individual cluster data. Note that other works, such as Lin & Mohr (2004), Gonzalez, Zaritsky & Zabludoff (2007), Andersson et al. (2011), Budzynski et al. (2014) and also the recent works Lim et al. (2020), Chen, Zhang & Yang (2022) (estimating gas fractions with SZ signal instead of X-ray) that also examined clusters at  $z \sim 0.1$  to investigate similar fractions, are not included in this comparison due to various reasons, such as no  $M_{500}$  or  $M_*$  being available, or that the sample is dominated by  $z \gg 0$  clusters. However, it has been suggested that there is almost no redshift evolution in both gas and stellar fractions within  $z \sim 1$  (see more discussion below), so we include the best-fitting results from the recent work of Akino et al. (2022) out to modest redshifts using weak-lensing masses (Umetsu et al. 2020) for the 136 XXL clusters in the HSC-SSP survey, shown as the grey-shaded band.

As seen by comparing the gas fractions in the left-hand panel of Fig. 1, among the simulations GADGET-X, FABLE, and C-EAGLE are in very good agreement with each other for both the median and scatters. In contrast, GIZMO-SIMBA shows a steeper slope, steepening further for  $M_{500} \lesssim 10^{14} M_\odot$ . A similarly steep trend was found within the group regime in the original SIMBA simulation (Robson & Davé 2020). The difference could owe to the fact that the first three simulations employ a thermally based AGN feedback scheme, while GIZMO-SIMBA employs a kinetic scheme; we leave a detailed exploration into the origin of such differences for future work.

Turning to the gas fraction observations, both individual clusters and sample fits show a wide range of gas fractions particularly towards lower masses. All the simulation predictions are contained within the observational scatter, but the scatter in any given model is much smaller than in the data. The fitting function from Lovisari et al. (2015) is the flattest among observations, and agrees well with GADGET-X results. Meanwhile, Dietrich et al. (2019) and Akino et al. (2022) are in better agreement with GIZMO-SIMBA at  $M_{500} > 10^{14} M_\odot$ ; measurements to even lower masses are as yet highly uncertain. The downturn for  $M_{500} < 10^{14} M_\odot$  in GIZMO-SIMBA owes to the high jet velocity which blows gas particles well outside of these low-mass haloes' virial radius (Sorini et al. 2021). While these observations (and to a lesser extent the simulations) assume slightly different cosmological parameters, most are broadly consistent with a *Planck* cosmology (Planck Collaboration XIII 2016). Given the complexity in deriving these observed gas masses and  $M_{500}$ , it is not obvious how to make a correction for cosmology, so we take the data as-is and simply note that the predicted and observed ranges are likely to be much larger than differences due to cosmology.

The right-hand panel of Fig. 1 shows the stellar mass fractions versus  $M_{500}$ . Here, GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA show very similar results, and IllustrisTNG (Pillepich et al. 2018) shows a similar slope but a slightly higher amplitude that is in better agreement with the observations from Akino et al. (2022). In contrast, FABLE shows higher stellar fractions at group scales ( $M_{500} < 10^{14} M_\odot$ ), and thus a steeper slope that matches better with the individual observations shown (also the results in Andreon 2010). We note that the low resolution of THE THREE HUNDRED will tend to suppress stellar fractions since they do not resolve as far down the mass function as IllustrisTNG; if the shape of the galaxy stellar mass function is not a strong function of  $M_{500}$ , this can explain the constant  $\sim 20$  per cent offset between these models. Overall, we note that where the observations are most robust at  $M_{500} \gtrsim 10^{14.5} M_\odot$ , all models are within the range of the observations. The scatter in the simulations is lower than in observations, which may reflect observational uncertainties in addition to intrinsic scatter. Finally, we note that Anbajagane et al. (2020) compared several cosmological

simulations – BAHAMAS, Magneticum and TNG – and found that TNG has the lowest total stellar mass within  $R_{200}$ . Thus, we suspect that the stellar mass fractions from BAHAMAS and Magneticum would also lie above the TNG line in the right-hand panel of Fig. 1.

In conclusion, for massive ( $\sim 10^{15} M_\odot$ ) clusters all simulations are generally in agreement with each other for both gas fraction (differences within  $\sim 5$  percent) and stellar fractions (difference within  $\sim 1$  percent), and in reasonable agreement with observations. For GIZMO-SIMBA, the latter was mostly achieved via tuning parameters as described in Section 3. The models tend to differ more significantly towards lower mass haloes, with GIZMO-SIMBA producing particularly low gas fractions in groups, and lower stellar fractions compared to observations of individual  $10^{14} M_\odot$  systems. The origin of the differences between GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA are being investigated by studying their density profiles in Li et al. (in preparation). Observationally, deeper and more precise estimation of the gas fraction from next-generation surveys such as NIKA2 (Adam et al. 2018), CMB-S4 (Abazajian et al. 2016) using the SZ effect<sup>8</sup> and ATHENA (Nandra et al. 2013) and Lynx (The Lynx Team 2018) in the X-rays, will be required to test the input galaxy formation physics. In the meantime, we can look into other properties to distinguish between these simulations.

#### 4.1.2 The evolution of the baryon fractions at the same halo mass

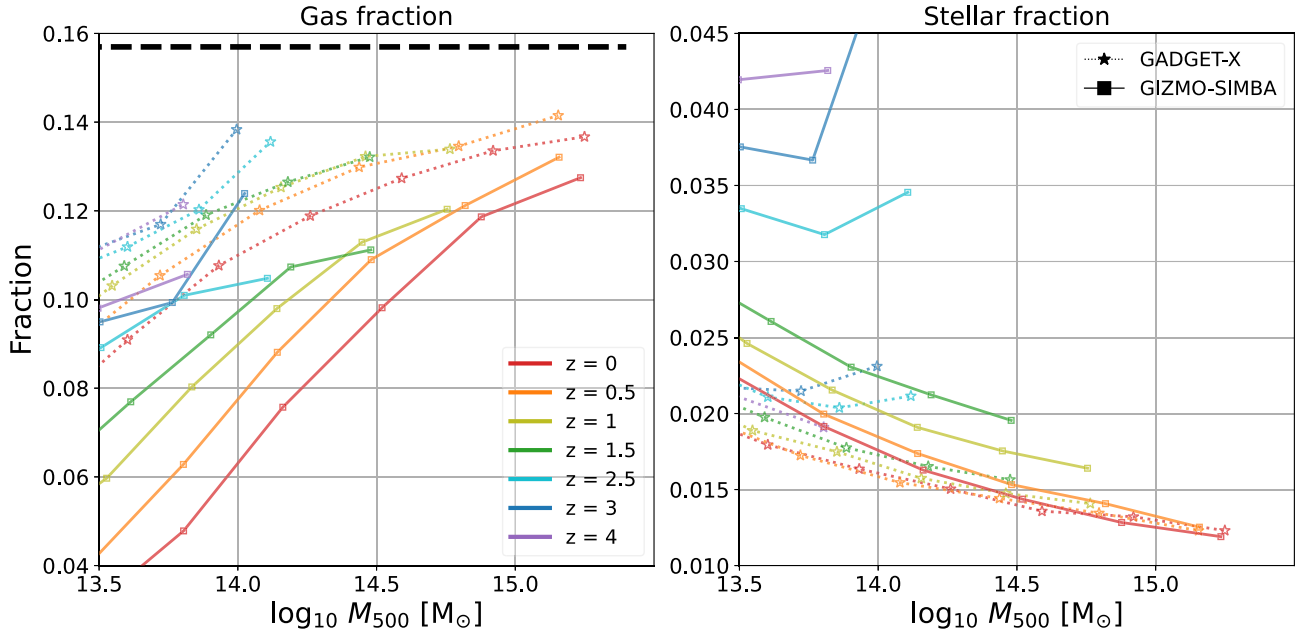
It has been suggested that cluster baryon fractions (both gas and stellar) depend weakly on redshift, but strongly on cluster mass (see Chiu et al. 2018 from observation side, or Planelles et al. 2013; Truong et al. 2018 from simulations). At first glance this seems paradoxical within hierarchical structure formation models: how can the baryonic scaling relations vary steeply with mass and still remain roughly constant in time as structures grow? In  $\Lambda$ CDM, big haloes are mostly formed later by merging with smaller haloes. If we ignore the baryon processes and halo accretion at low redshift, given that the smaller (group-sized) haloes have low gas fractions and high stellar fractions, the later-formed massive (cluster) haloes should have even lower gas fractions and higher stellar fractions, opposite to what is observed. In this and the following section, we will study the redshift evolution of the galaxy clusters in two ways, by binning at the same halo mass at all redshifts and by tracking individual haloes. The former, discussed in this section, highlights how baryon fractions change for a sample selected at a given mass, while the latter, discussed in the next section explicitly shows the true evolution of baryon fractions as haloes grow hierarchically.

For the gas fraction evolution shown in the left-hand panel of Fig. 2, at all redshifts the clusters show increasing gas fractions with mass, approaching but not reaching the full expected baryonic budget (horizontal dashed line). There is modest evolution, with the highest gas fractions at high redshifts. Higher gas fractions are expected at early epochs when cooling is rapid and feedback processes are dominated by star formation whose energetics are typically not sufficient to unbind gas from protoclusters.

Comparing between GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA, the latter has significantly more evolution at lower masses, and overall shows lower gas fractions. In Li et al. (2022) we identify that the gas fraction difference between GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA owes to GADGET-X tending to have a much higher gas density in the halo centre than

<sup>8</sup>Interested readers are referred to Yang et al. (2022) on how the next-generation SZ observations can be used to distinguish different baryon models.





**Figure 2.** The gas fraction (left-hand-side panel) and stellar fraction (right-hand-side panel) binned by  $M_{500}$  at different redshifts. To clearly view the fraction changes along redshift, we use linear scale for the y-axes. The star symbols with dotted lines are for GADGET-X and square with solid lines are for GIZMO-SIMBA. Different colourful lines are used to highlight the redshift evolution, see the legend on the left-hand-side panel for details. We do not include any observation data (especially at high redshift) in this busy plot because there lacks statistical results and weak or no redshift evolution is claimed. It seems that GIZMO-SIMBA shows much clear redshift evolution for both gas (much clearer at lower halo mass end) and stellar fractions compared to GADGET-X, of which shows a weak redshift evolution in their stellar mass fractions.

GIZMO-SIMBA. This points to galactic feedback processes being the primary driver of the model differences. This is corroborated by the most significant drop occurring between  $z = 2.5 \rightarrow 1.5$ , which is when *Simba*'s jet mode AGN feedback which becomes important prominent in this mass range (Robson & Davé 2021). The gas fraction continues to drop more rapidly in GIZMO-SIMBA than in GADGET-X down to  $z = 0$  in  $M_{500} \lesssim 10^{14.5} M_{\odot}$  haloes.

Although for clarity we do not show higher redshift observation data in Fig. 2, GIZMO-SIMBA has the closest gas fractions compared to Chiu et al. (2016a), around 10 per cent at  $z \approx 0.9$  and  $M_{500} \approx 6 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ , while the gas fraction from Chiu et al. (2018) (around 12 per cent at  $z \approx 0.6$  and  $M_{500} \approx 4.8 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ ) lies between GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA. However, Chiu et al. (2016a) suggest no statistically significant redshift trend at fixed mass (see also Chiu et al. 2018; Bulbul et al. 2019) when accounting for a 15 per cent systematic mass uncertainty. GIZMO-SIMBA predicts some evolution over this redshift range, but at a  $\lesssim 1$  per cent level which is much smaller than the uncertainties in Chiu et al. (2018). This is also suggested by Henden, Puchwein & Sijacki (2020) and the redshift evolution is even stronger at poor group masses of  $0.5\text{--}1 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ .

The stellar fraction–halo mass relation at various redshifts is shown in the right figure of Fig. 2. Both simulations predict a dropping stellar fraction with mass for  $M_{500} \lesssim 10^{14.5} M_{\odot}$ , and by  $z = 0$  they are fairly similar. However, the evolution is quite different, with again GIZMO-SIMBA showing much more evolution than GADGET-X. Neither simulation evolves much at the massive end; we reiterate that GIZMO-SIMBA was calibrated to match  $z = 0$  observations in this mass range.

The rapid drop in stellar fraction indicates that galaxies in these systems tend to form their stars very early on, so that over time the halo mass grows but the stellar content does not keep up. This can happen because star formation is quenched early on, and also if the

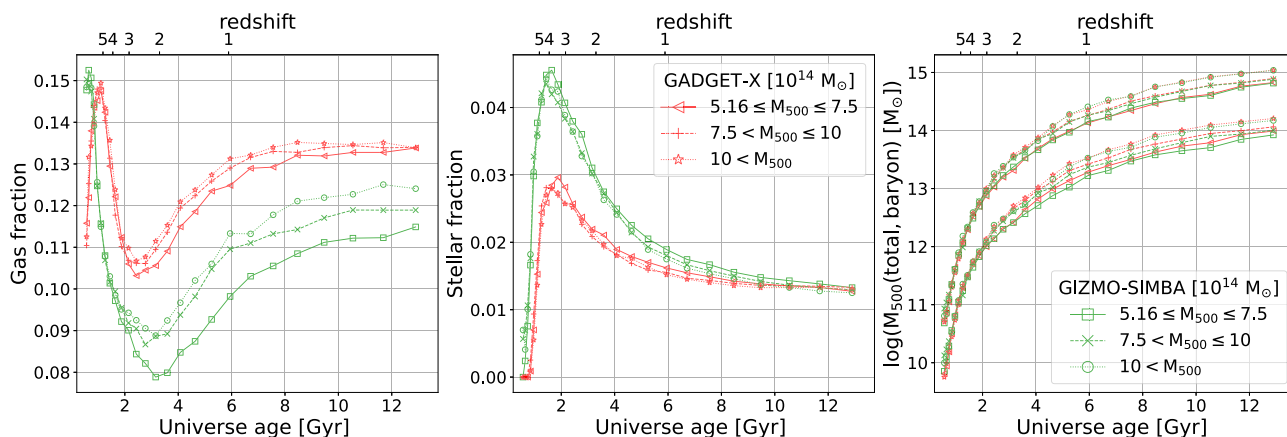
hierarchical growth is predominantly adding smaller systems that have lower stellar fractions (well below group scales).

For massive cluster haloes, the stellar mass should mainly come from the accreting small haloes, as the central galaxy is typically quenched by  $z \sim 3$  (see the following subsection and Section 4.2.4 for details). This results in mild but still visible redshift evolution – about 0.5 per cent from  $z = 1.5 \rightarrow 0$ .

In smaller clusters and groups, jet feedback in GIZMO-SIMBA is once again implicated by the fact that the most significant change in stellar fraction happens between  $z = 2.5$  and  $z = 1.5$ . We have argued that jet feedback is responsible for dropping the gas fraction, which then reduces the fuel for star formation and thus causes galaxy quenching that results a decrease in the stellar fraction. From  $z = 1 \rightarrow 0$  the evolution is relatively modest. However, it is still significantly more than in GADGET-X, which predicts essentially no evolution in stellar mass fractions since  $z \sim 1.5$ . This suggests that the stellar fractions within protocluster environments at high redshifts provides a significant discriminant between models.

Although we do not include observations of higher- $z$  stellar fraction determinations on this plot, we comment on some other results below in relation to our predictions. On the simulation side, the mild evolution is in agreement with Henden et al. (2020) who also report a marginally significant change for  $M_{500} \gtrsim 3 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$  up to  $z \sim 1.2$ . In contrast, at lower masses, they predict the opposite evolution with redshift versus GIZMO-SIMBA. Among observations, although the stellar fraction of 0.023 at  $8 \times 10^{13} M_{\odot}$  with the median redshift around 0.5 from Chiu et al. (2016b) is in good agreement (see also Chen et al. 2022 for a similar result at lower redshift and  $M_{200}$ ) with GIZMO-SIMBA the stellar fractions from Chiu et al. (2018) – 0.0083 at  $M_{500} \approx 4.8 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$  and  $z \approx 0.6$ , and from Chiu et al. (2016a) – 0.011 at  $M_{500} \approx 6 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$  and  $z \approx 0.9$ , are much lower than both GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA. Controversially,





**Figure 3.** The redshift evolution of gas fraction (left-hand-side panel), stellar fraction (middle panel) and total/baryon masses (upper and lower family of lines in the right-hand-side panel, respectively) within  $R_{500}$  for three halo mass bins at  $z = 0$ . The haloes at  $z = 0$  are separated into the same three halo mass bins as indicated in the legends. Only the median values of the haloes and their progenitors in the same mass bins are shown. Errorbars are not shown because of the very dense data points and the curves are very close to each other. Through this tracking which also goes the highest redshift in the simulation snapshots, we can view the detailed differences between GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA.

Decker et al. (2021) report higher  $f_* \approx 0.025$  for 12 clusters at  $z = 0.95$ – $1.43$ , which seems in good agreement with GIZMO-SIMBA. Besides these results, most observations claim there is no clear redshift evolution of the cluster stellar fraction (see Lin et al. 2012, 2017; Chiu et al. 2018, for example). This likely owes to small sample sizes, the difficulty in measuring stellar fractions in distant systems, and the larger uncertainty in mass estimation. Therefore, such a very small fraction change predicted in simulations can be difficult to detect. Note that using  $M_{500}$  means we do not account for halo pseudo-evolution, but this is the case for both observations and simulations so this should not have an effect on our comparisons. Another point to keep in mind is that the high-redshift haloes in zoom simulations are necessarily the progenitors of the  $z = 0$  haloes, unlike in observations. Therefore, the redshift evolution can appear more significant than comparing to random samples from a cosmological volume.

In conclusion, we find that there is a decrease in both gas and stellar fractions with time at lower halo mass ( $M_{500} \lesssim 10^{14.5} h^{-1} M_\odot$ ) in both GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA. However, the rate of decrease is much stronger in GIZMO-SIMBA, which shows much higher stellar fractions at high- $z$  and much lower gas fractions at low- $z$ . This difference can be expected from GIZMO-SIMBA’s kinetic AGN feedback which imparts much stronger feedback than GADGET-X’s thermal AGN feedback. For high mass haloes, the AGN feedback becomes relatively unimportant, and both models predict similar gas and stellar fractions at all redshifts (see Eckert et al. 2021, for a recent review on the AGN feedback on galaxy groups). Thus the greatest discrimination between models occurs at high redshifts for poor clusters and groups, which motivates future X-ray and SZ surveys that can probe this regime.

#### 4.1.3 The evolution of the cluster baryon fractions by tracking

Simulations provide a view that cannot be seen in observations, in that they can track the evolution of individual haloes over time. In comparing baryon fractions at a fixed halo mass over time, we saw a significant change at  $z \sim 1.5$ – $2.5$  in GIZMO-SIMBA. To see how this is reflected in individual haloes, we can place clusters into three mass bins at  $z = 0$ , and then track the individual systems back to the earliest epochs, showing how a specific set of clusters evolves. We track each

cluster’s main progenitor using the AHF MERGERTREE catalogue. We show their median baryon fraction values as a function of time (and redshift) in Fig. 3, for our three chosen mass bins as indicated in the legend, for GIZMO-SIMBA (green curves) and GADGET-X (blue).

The gas fraction evolution is shown in the left-hand panel of Fig. 3. GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA show qualitatively similar evolution, but quantitatively there are differences in the values as well as shifts in the maxima and minima of the evolution. At very high redshift ( $z \approx 5$ – $6$ ), GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA reach a gas fraction near the cosmic baryon fraction value, with GIZMO-SIMBA’s occurring slightly earlier. The lower values prior to this likely owe to the haloes not being properly resolved at these very early epochs. From then until  $z \sim 2$ , gas fractions start to decline very quickly (more strongly in GIZMO-SIMBA), until they reach a minimum at  $z \sim 2$ – $3$  (slightly later in GIZMO-SIMBA). At these redshifts, the feedback models are relatively simple, since there is little AGN feedback and wind recycling is not yet common. Hence differences between GIZMO-SIMBA and GADGET-X are caused by the different star formation and stellar feedback models. The net result is that the gas fraction in GIZMO-SIMBA is only slightly lower (a few per cent) than GADGET-X, persisting until today, indicating that the sensitivity to feedback for halo gas contents is established early on. After  $z \sim 2$ , gas fractions start to increase gradually, levelling off after  $z \sim 1$  at approximately their present-day value.

The middle panel shows the stellar fraction evolution. Here, there is sharp early rise as rapid cooling in the dense early universe is able to drive copious gas to the halo centres. After  $z \sim 4$ , the stellar fractions start to drop, and level off after  $z \sim 1$ . GIZMO-SIMBA has higher stellar fractions at early times versus GADGET-X; at  $z = 4$ , GIZMO-SIMBA has produced  $\sim 50$  per cent more stars than GADGET-X in these haloes, but by  $z = 0$  they are the same. This shows that GIZMO-SIMBA has earlier stellar formation times in groups and clusters compared to GADGET-X. GIZMO-SIMBA grows early galaxies faster than GADGET-X.

Comparing these first two panels, it is clear that the sharp early drop in gas content accompanies the sharp increase in stellar content. This implicates rapid gas consumption owing to star formation as the main driver of these early trends. At later epochs, the lower gas contents in GIZMO-SIMBA limit the available fuel for star formation, resulting in less rapid stellar growth, and the stellar fraction returns to meet GADGET-X by  $z = 0$ .

Comparing the three mass bins, until 2 Gyr there is little difference among the mass bins in either run, in either gas or stellar fractions. This shows that at early times, galaxies within these regions grow self-similarly along a linear  $\text{SFR}-M_*$  relation, so there is no significant trend with halo mass. But as time goes on, the galaxies in more massive haloes break away from this as they quench owing to AGN feedback. These differences are most apparent in GIZMO-SIMBA, where the low-mass haloes have lower gas fractions because AGN feedback can more easily remove baryons. Interestingly, the stellar fractions show much less trends with halo mass. This is because once these haloes quench at  $z \sim 2-3$ , the stellar content does not grow much, while the halo mass continues to grow.

The growth of the total and baryon halo mass is illustrated in the right-hand panel of Fig. 3. As expected, the total halo masses show no differences in evolution between the two runs, as this is driven by hierarchical structure formation. There is about 2 orders of magnitude growth of the total halo mass in the first 2 Gyr, while the rest of the growth in halo mass (also about 2 orders of magnitude) takes the rest 10 Gyr. The total baryon mass shows more differences, owing to GIZMO-SIMBA having lower gas fractions.

The differences in the gas fractions (and associated slight differences in the stellar fractions) emerging at  $z \sim 2-3$  can be understood from an interplay between halo growth and star formation quenching. As shown in Cui et al. (2021) and Robson & Davé (2021), it is at these redshifts when GIZMO-SIMBA's jet mode AGN feedback turns on in these massive haloes, which is what drives galaxy quenching (Davé et al. 2019). With star formation curtailed and the halo having a stable virial shock (Kereš et al. 2005; Dekel & Birnboim 2006), accreted gas can be held up and accumulated in the halo, causing the gas fractions to increase and the stellar fractions to drop. GIZMO-SIMBA and GADGET-X have their AGN feedback in operation at a similar time, which is what is required to produce today's quenched galaxy population. Therefore, both models present a qualitatively similar picture, although the quantitative details of their evolutions differ.

In summary, by tracking individual haloes within mass bins, we see that the differences in stellar and gas fractions between GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA are established at fairly early epochs. The gas fractions, remain are significantly different at all redshifts with GIZMO-SIMBA having low-gas fractions at about 98 per cent of the cosmic baryon fraction. GIZMO-SIMBA also shows a stronger dependence with halo mass owing to the ability of its AGN jet feedback model to evacuate gas particularly from smaller haloes. Meanwhile, GIZMO-SIMBA has an earlier stellar growth phase relative to GADGET-X, with  $\sim 50$  per cent more stars formed than in GADGET-X at  $z \sim 3-5$ . This is caused by GIZMO-SIMBA consuming more gas into stars. After this, the stellar fractions drop in both models, as AGN feedback quenches galaxy stellar growth while the halo mass continues to grow. The lower gas fractions in GIZMO-SIMBA curtail stellar growth more than in GADGET-X, so that by  $z \lesssim 1$  the stellar fractions in the two models are similar. The overall differences in the halo baryon masses are small but noticeable by  $z = 0$ .

While both models produce a similar global stellar fraction by  $z = 0$ , they arrive at this by different histories. Hence, next we examine BCG evolution in more detail to understand how such differences manifest in their stellar properties.

## 4.2 BCG properties

We now look into the key stellar component in the galaxy clusters: the brightest cluster galaxy. We will study several relations for BCGs,

from their black holes to their halo properties. We further look into the BCG colour–magnitude and age–halo formation time relations. Note that various definitions of BCGs are used in this section at times, to better compare with observational results.

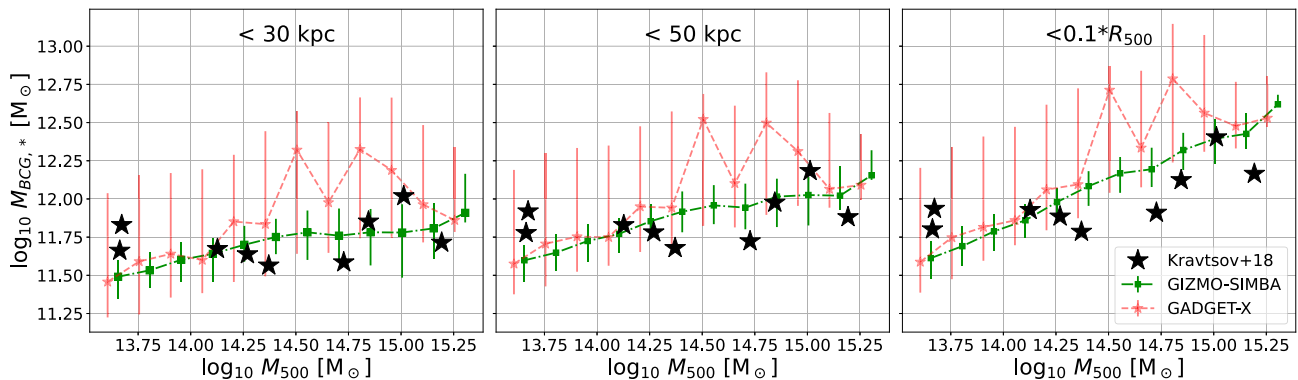
### 4.2.1 C2: The $M_{\text{BCG},*}-M_{\text{halo}}$ relation

As we have discussed in Section 3, the BCG–halo mass relation is one of the three constraints for the GIZMO-SIMBA parameter calibration. One well-known issue for the BCGs in galaxy clusters is that they intermingle with the intracluster light (ICL) in their outskirts. It is not trivial to separate a BCG's stars from its surrounding ICL in hydrodynamic simulations (see Murante et al. 2007; Dolag, Murante & Borgani 2010; Cañas et al. 2020, for examples). A new advanced method has been proposed in Cañas et al. (in preparation), which is robust and independent of simulation resolution. However, the BCG identified with these more physical motivated methods is not directly comparable with the BCG as identified in observations (see Cui et al. 2014; Rudick, Mihos & McBride 2011, for more discussions). Therefore, it is not easy to make apples-to-apples comparisons. Here, we adopt a simple definition of the enclosed mass within different 3D apertures, to be able to compare with the observation results from Kravtsov et al. (2018). Note here that the observed masses are within projected 2D apertures, so the simulations are expected to have a slightly lower BCG mass compared to the observed one.

In Fig. 4, we show the BCG stellar mass– $M_{500}$  relations from all the uncontaminated haloes in our 324 regions at  $z = 0$ . Here, the BCG stellar masses are estimated at three different 3D apertures: 30 (left), 50 (middle), and  $0.1 \times R_{500}$  (right). GIZMO-SIMBA results are in green, GADGET-X in blue, and observations from Kravtsov et al. (2018) are shown as black stars. Errorbars enclose 16–84 per cent of the simulated values.

Overall, there is broad agreement with the Kravtsov et al. (2018) data for both models, with a mild increase in BCG mass as a function of  $M_{500}$ . The general trends are very similar regardless of the chosen aperture. However, in detail there are some differences. Generally, GIZMO-SIMBA produces somewhat lower BCG masses, particularly at  $M_{500} \lesssim 10^{14} M_\odot$ . Also, GADGET-X's BCG masses show a clearly larger dispersion at a fixed halo mass bin. At all apertures, the BCG masses from GIZMO-SIMBA are in somewhat better agreement with the Kravtsov et al. (2018) data. To quantify aperture effects for 3D versus 2D, we have checked the projection effect on the BCG masses within different apertures and find that the BCG mass increases are mostly less than 20 per cent. This increase will not change the agreement with the BCG masses from Kravtsov et al. (2018). It seems that both models predict a slightly steeper slope for the  $M_{\text{BCG},0.1 \times R_{500}}-M_{500}$  relation than Kravtsov et al. (2018), which could be caused by different amount of ICL contribution which will be studied in detail in Cañas et al. (in preparation).

As shown in Henden et al. (2020), the clusters from FABLE simulation have a systematically higher BCG stellar mass compared to observations (by  $\sim 0.2-0.3$  dex, which is still a significant improvement from Puchwein et al. 2010). The IllustrisTNG and C-EAGLE clusters (orange dashed line and orange circles in fig. 5 of Henden et al. 2020, see also Pillepich et al. 2018) also possess significantly more massive BCGs than observed despite their more realistic galaxy sizes. Furthermore, Anbajagane et al. (2020) indicated that the BCG mass (within 100 kpc) from Magneticum is even higher than IllustrisTNG, while BAHAMAS seems to have a slightly lower stellar mass compared IllustrisTNG. Ragone-Figueroa et al. (2018)



**Figure 4.** The BCG mass– $M_{500}$  relation from the GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA runs of THE THREE HUNDRED. From left-hand to right-hand panels, we show the BCG mass estimated within different 3D apertures: 30 kpc, 50 kpc and  $0.1 \cdot R_{500}$ . The observation results from Kravtsov et al. (2018) are shown by black filled stars. The red, blue, and green lines with error bars are the median values with 16th–84th percentiles from GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA, respectively. Generally, GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA are inline with the Kravtsov et al. (2018).

show that their BCG masses are in very good agreement with observations, which could be the improvement on the BH’s cold and hot modes gas accretion compared to their previous result (Ragone-Figueroa et al. 2013). In comparison to these works, the BCG masses in GIZMO-SIMBA seem somewhat more realistic.

#### 4.2.2 BH–BCG–halo relations

All BCGs are believed to contain large supermassive black holes (BH). As shown by previous studies (e.g. Martizzi, Teyssier & Moore 2012; Martizzi et al. 2014; Frigo et al. 2019), AGN feedback is a key to have simulated galaxy clusters reproduce observed ones. Since AGN feedback is tied to the BH accretion rate which also sets the final BH mass, comparisons of the BH–galaxy–halo relations will help us to test and constrain the AGN feedback in models.

In Fig. 5, we compare GIZMO-SIMBA’s BH mass  $M_{\bullet}$  versus stellar mass  $M_{\star}$  (left), stellar velocity dispersion  $\sigma_{\star}$  (middle), and  $M_{500}$  (left) versus observations. Note here  $M_{\star}$  and  $\sigma_{\star}$  are obtained from the CAESAR catalogue instead of in a fixed aperture as in the previous section. In addition, only central galaxies are considered in Fig. 5; i.e. no satellite galaxies are included. GADGET-X is excluded from this comparison. For the observation results, we show data for early-type massive galaxies from Gaspari et al. (2019) (with BH properties from van den Bosch 2016), Sahu, Graham & Davis (2019a, b) and Bandara et al. (2009), which are similar to or supersede various other data (Kormendy & Ho 2013; McConnell & Ma 2013; Savorgnan et al. 2016; Savorgnan & Graham 2016; Bogdán et al. 2018). While we do not specifically select early-type galaxies, we confirmed that our BCGs all have high bulge-to-total ratios and very low rotational support, which is expected since they are massive, quenched, and appear bulge-dominated.

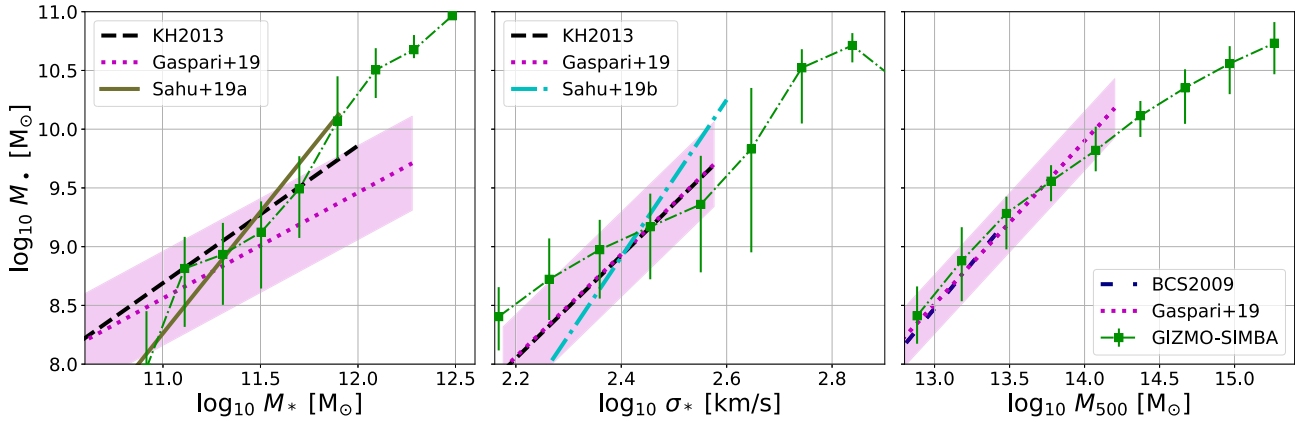
The  $M_{\bullet}$ – $M_{\star}$  relation is shown on the left-hand panel of Fig. 5. GIZMO-SIMBA shows good agreement with Gaspari et al. (2019) (and Kormendy & Ho 2013, not shown) at  $M_{\star} \approx 10^{11.2} - 10^{11.7} M_{\odot}$ . However, the BH masses for galaxies for  $M_{\star} \gtrsim 10^{11.7} M_{\odot}$  galaxies are above these observations. In contrast, Sahu et al. (2019a) found a steeper result that is in very good agreement with GIZMO-SIMBA. It is beyond the scope of this work to delve into the differences between these observations results, so we simply note that GIZMO-SIMBA predicts that more massive galaxies will follow

the same trend from Sahu et al. (2019a), all the way up to  $M_{\star} \approx 10^{12.5} M_{\odot}$ .

Looking at the middle panel of Fig. 5, there is more deviation between the GIZMO-SIMBA run and the observation results for the  $M_{\bullet}$ – $\sigma_{\star}$  relation. At  $\log_{10} \sigma_{\star} \lesssim 2.6$ , GIZMO-SIMBA has a flatter slope compared to the observed results. Although earlier observations indicate a shallower slope (e.g. Sabra et al. 2015), the most recent observations prefer a steeper relation; for example Dullo, Gil de Paz & Knapen (2021) predict a even higher slope than Sahu et al. (2019b) for early-type galaxies. Note that Thomas et al. (2019) showed that the  $M_{\bullet}$ – $\sigma$  relation from the original SIMBA simulation is in very good agreement with Kormendy & Ho (2013). This suggests that the re-tuned AGN feedback and lower resolution has more effects on internal dynamics than on the galaxy stellar mass – it seems to reduce the galaxy velocity dispersion at lower stellar or halo masses. Meanwhile at  $\log_{10} \sigma_{\star} \gtrsim 2.6$ , the  $M_{\bullet}$ – $\sigma_{\star}$  relation from GIZMO-SIMBA is basically following the extensions of Kormendy & Ho (2013) and Gaspari et al. (2019).

There has been some controversy regarding the connection between BH mass and host halo mass, with some claiming a tight relationship (Booth & Schaye 2010; Bogdán & Goulding 2015; Bogdán et al. 2018; Bassini et al. 2019; Marasco et al. 2021), but others claiming it is incidental (e.g. Kormendy & Bender 2011) and are only related to classical bulges. For instance, Zhang et al. (2021) suggest that the BH and AGN feedback is not relevant for the formation history of massive star-forming discs which show very high gas-to-star conversion rates, suggesting small BHs in their large haloes. Nevertheless, we argue here that the  $M_{\bullet}$ – $M_{\text{halo}}$  relation exists for these BCGs in galaxy clusters which are mostly ellipticals. Hence examining the BH mass–halo mass connection in GIZMO-SIMBA is interesting.

The result for  $M_{\bullet}$ – $M_{500}$  from GIZMO-SIMBA is shown in the right-hand panel of Fig. 5. We compare to Bandara et al. (2009) (BCS2009) and Gaspari et al. (2019). GIZMO-SIMBA is in very good agreement with the observed ones at group scales. However, there is a hint that at galaxy cluster scales, GIZMO-SIMBA predicts that the slope that becomes slightly shallower; observations do not extend into this regime. This is understandable as the BCGs in more massive clusters get quenched earlier (see more discussions in Section 4.2.4), so like with the stellar mass, the halo continues to grow without commensurate growth in the black hole. Interestingly, the relation is quite tight with  $M_{500}$ , even though neither BH accretion nor feedback in GIZMO-SIMBA is directly governed by any halo property.



**Figure 5.** The BH–BCG–halo relation comparisons between the GIZMO–SIMBA run and observations. From left-hand to right-hand panels, we show the BH mass as a function of BCG stellar mass  $M_*$ , BCG stellar velocity dispersion  $\sigma_*$ , and halo mass  $M_{500}$ , respectively. We refer to the legends in each panel for the detailed observation result with the GIZMO–SIMBA run is also shown in green dotted–dashed lines. Again, the errorbars show 16th–84th percentiles. Shaded regions are the errorbars coming from Gaspari et al. (2019). Note that Bandara, Crampton & Simard (2009) – BCS thereafter, used halo mass  $M_{200}$  in their fitting result, we simply convert the  $M_{200}$  to  $M_{500}$  by assuming a fixed concentration of 3. Also note that all the fitting results only roughly cover the region of the observed data points.

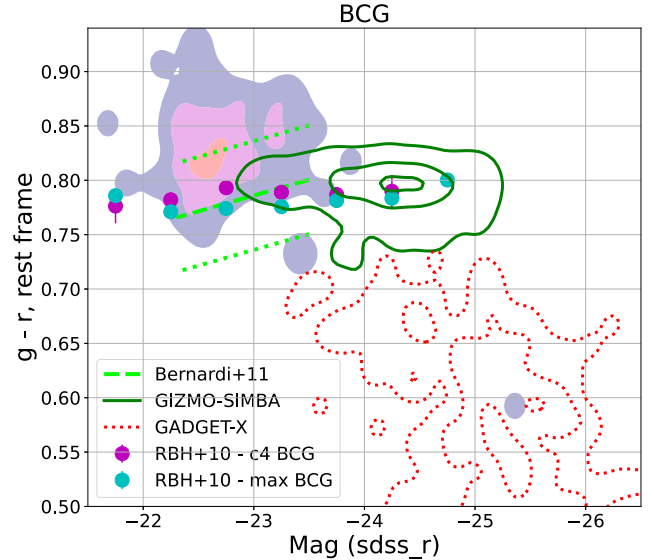
#### 4.2.3 BCG colours

BCG galaxies tend to be red in colour, indicating predominantly older stellar populations. The colour thus provides a constraint on the formation history of the BCG’s stars. We determine the photometry of the galaxies in GIZMO–SIMBA and GADGET–X using the PYLOSSER code implemented in CAESAR, which uses the age and metallicity of each star within a galaxy to generate a spectrum based on a simple stellar population model from FSPS<sup>9</sup> (Conroy, Gunn & White 2009; Conroy & Gunn 2010). We adopt a Chabrier (2003) initial mass function for the stars, matching the one used in the simulation. PYLOSSER also computes the dust extinction to each star based on the line-of-sight dust column, but for BCGs the dust model has a negligible effect since they have little cold ISM gas or dust.

In Fig. 6, we compare the distributions of the BCG’s  $g-r$  colour as a function of its magnitude in *SDSS*  $r$  band. The observational results are taken from Bernardi et al. (2011, best fit shown as lime dashed line with dotted lines for the rms scatter); from Roche, Bernardi & Hyde (2010) for the results of both the C4-BCG (magenta points from Bernardi et al. 2007) and the max-BCGs (cyan points from Koester et al. 2007) samples, and from (coloured contours from Yang et al. 2018) with BCGs from their group catalogue. Note that the  $g-r$  colour is corrected in rest frame for all the observation data based on Chilingarian & Zolotukhin (2012).

The  $g-r$  colour from the observed galaxies typically  $\approx 0.8$ , slightly higher for Yang et al. (2018). This is well in line with the BCG colours from GIZMO–SIMBA, particularly for the Roche et al. (2010) sample which extends to overlapping magnitudes. In contrast, GADGET–X BCGs have a much bluer BCG colour, typically  $g-r \approx 0.5$ – $0.7$ . This indicates that BCG colours, and hence their star formation histories, are more realistic in GIZMO–SIMBA than in GADGET–X.

That said, for both GIZMO–SIMBA and GADGET–X, the BCG brightnesses extend up farther than the data. The C4-BCG and max-BCG can reach the magnitude of  $r \approx -24.5$  comparable to the brightest galaxies in GIZMO–SIMBA, but GADGET–X shows BCGs extending to brighter than  $r \approx -26$ . For GIZMO–SIMBA, however, the mild



**Figure 6.** The  $g-r$  colour–magnitude diagram for the BCGs in the mass-complete cluster sample compared to the observation results in cluster mass range. The filled colourful contours are the results from *SDSS* (Yang et al. 2018). All the other simulation and observation data can be deciphered from the legend. The contours for the *SDSS*, simulation and SAM results are at the same percentiles: 16th, 50th, and 84th.

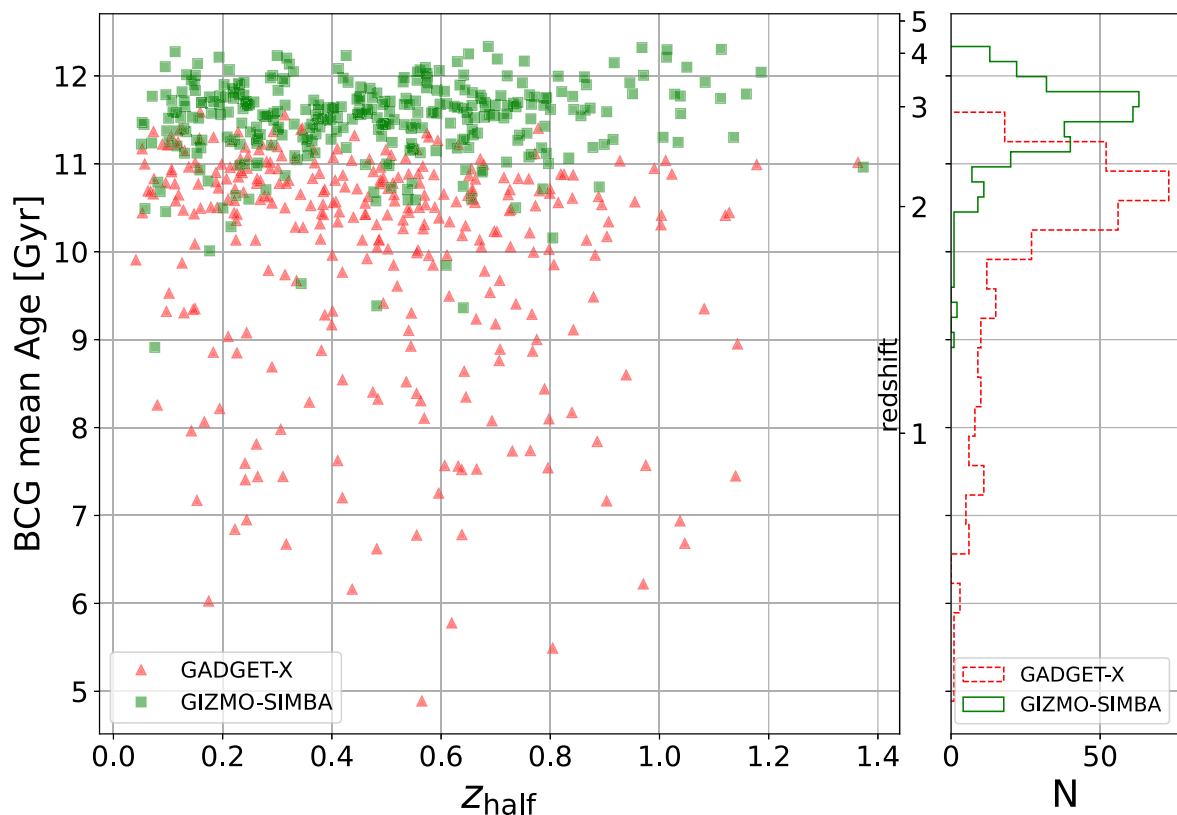
differences can probably be attributed to sample selection, in that THE THREE HUNDRED focuses on only the most massive clusters. Particularly for GADGET–X, the brighter BCGs go hand-in-hand with the bluer colour, since younger stellar populations are more luminous; this is unlikely to be reconciled by the aforementioned effect.

#### 4.2.4 Halo and BCG formation time

The different BCG colours in GIZMO–SIMBA and GADGET–X suggest that the BCG stellar formation times are different in these models. The  $z=0$  stellar populations arise from a combination of the star formation histories in the BCG’s progenitors, plus mergers bringing

<sup>9</sup><https://github.com/cconroy20/fps>





**Figure 7.** The correlation between the BCG age and halo formation redshift for the mass-complete cluster sample. As indicated in the legend, different symbols are for the BCGs from different versions of simulations and SAMs. We further detail their BCG age distributions by showing the histograms in redshift bins with the same colour to the right side panel.

in stellar mass. Hence in these simulations we can ask two distinct questions: (1) When were the stars in the BCG at  $z = 0$  formed? and (2) When were the progenitor galaxies of the BCG assembled? The first one tightly connects with the detailed star formation history of the BCG, which can be revealed from its mean stellar age; we refer to this as the star formation time. The second one is tightly connected to hierarchical structure formation, which is difficult to probe observationally; we refer to this as the assembly formation time. We expect this latter one may be more related to halo assembly, which will be quite similar within GIZMO-SIMBA and GADGET-X by construction.

For the first question, the BCG stellar age has been estimated to be generally very old in observations. For example, Edwards et al. (2020) found the luminosity-weighted BCG core age of  $\sim 13$  Gyr (see also Loubser et al. 2009), which is in agreement with the semi-analytical model prediction from e.g. De Lucia & Blaizot (2007). However, note that two BCGs (Abell 671 and Abell 602) in the sample of Edwards et al. (2020) have quite young ages of  $\sim 5$  Gyr, which can be caused by more recent *in situ* star formation ( $\sim 25$  per cent of the growth is *in situ*; Ragone-Figueroa et al. 2018). By studying early quenched galaxies in Magneticum and TNG simulations, Lustig et al. (2022) reported about a factor of 2 older for the average ages of simulated quiescent galaxies than observed ones.

For the second question, one can examine the most massive BCG at high redshift in observations to roughly constrain their assembly time. Collins et al. (2009) found several BCGs at  $z \sim 1\text{--}1.5$  that have stellar masses comparable to the most massive galaxies in the Universe, suggesting a very early assembly time of their BCGs.

Similar suggestion is also found in Andreon (2013) which proposed with a even higher redshift  $z \sim 2.5$  for the BCG mass build up time. More theoretical studies using hydro simulations find similar conclusions. For example, Ragone-Figueroa et al. (2018) found the assembly of the BCG occurs over an extended time span and half of the BCGs' stellar mass only falls into place typically by  $z \sim 1.5$ . Similarly, the BCGs in FABLE, which are in good agreement with several observational inferences at  $z \lesssim 1$  (Henden et al. 2020), have moderate stellar mass growth, about a factor of 1.5 from  $z = 1$  to 0.3, and effectively halts at  $z \lesssim 0.3$  as suggested by observation. Furthermore, Rennehan et al. (2020) found that the stellar assembly time of a subset of brightest cluster galaxies occurs at high redshifts ( $z > 3$ ) rather than at low redshifts ( $z < 1$ ). Thus, highly overdense protoclusters assemble their stellar mass into brightest cluster galaxies within  $\sim 1$  Gyr of evolution, producing massive blue elliptical galaxies at high redshifts ( $z > 1.5$ ). Here, we only focus on the first question to determine if there is any connection between the BCG star formation time and the halo formation time.

In Fig. 7, we show the halo formation time versus the BCG star formation time at  $z = 0$  in GIZMO-SIMBA (green points) and GADGET-X (blue). The star formation time is the mean mass-weighted age of the stellar population, while the halo formation time here is quantified by the commonly used  $z_{\text{half}}$ , i.e. the redshift by which the halo had accreted half of its final total mass.

Interestingly, there is no obvious correlation between the BCG star formation time and the halo formation redshift, in either model. The halo formation redshifts are fairly recent, generally after  $z \sim 1$ . In contrast, the BCG mean stellar age shows the stars are fairly old. This is a manifestation of stellar population downsizing,

where the stars forming in massive haloes are old even though the most massive haloes assemble late. This has sometimes been called ‘antihierarchical’ behaviour, but it is exactly as expected in hierarchical structure formation models where the largest density perturbations collapse first and hence can form the oldest stars, even though the haloes assemble late.

In contrast, the BCG age distribution is quite different between GIZMO-SIMBA and GADGET-X. Clearly, GIZMO-SIMBA has older BCGs, with the formation redshift peaking at  $z \sim 3$ , and little star formation after  $z \sim 2$ . The mean BCG ages from GADGET-X is younger, as young as  $\sim 5$ – $6$  Gyr ago, indicating late star formation which can be caused by either the *in situ* star formation shown in Ragone-Figueroa et al. (2018) or rejuvenation at low redshift. This also results in a much larger tail towards young mean stellar ages in GADGET-X.

These results are consistent with our earlier findings that the stellar assembly within haloes is shifted towards earlier epochs in GIZMO-SIMBA versus GADGET-X. This owes to both the jet feedback, as well as GIZMO-SIMBA’s X-ray feedback that is responsible for quenching star formation completely (Cui et al. 2021). In the original SIMBA, the SFR function at  $z \sim 2$ – $4$  extends to very high SFRs,  $> 10^3 M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1}$ , which turns out to be critical for reproducing the sub-millimetre galaxy (SMG) population at these epochs (Lovell et al. 2021), which are likely to be the progenitors of BCGs today; other simulations tend to have a more difficult time matching these constraints. It seems that GADGET-X may also underpredict the SFR in protoclusters at high redshift, especially the starburst population, compared to observations (see Bassini et al. 2020, for more details). It appears that such rapid early stellar growth within massive haloes is crucial both for matching BCG colours today, as well as SMGs at  $z \sim 2$ – $4$ .

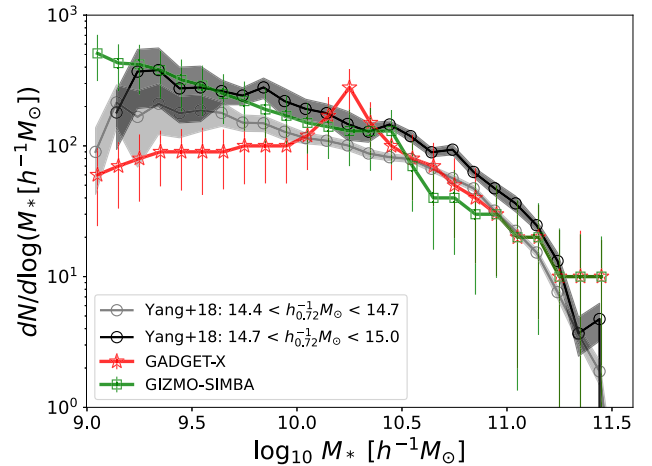
### 4.3 Satellite galaxies

Satellite galaxies provide another important constraint on the stellar properties of galaxy clusters. They can connect with the cluster total mass through cluster richness (e.g. Anbajagane et al. 2020) or velocity dispersion (e.g. Munari et al. 2013; Anbajagane et al. 2022; Ferragamo et al. 2022), with the cluster’s dynamical state through its distribution and mass fraction (e.g. Cui et al. 2017), and with cluster shapes and orientations. Successfully reproducing the satellite galaxy properties in galaxy cluster is very important for studying environment quenching processes such as ram pressure stripping and harassment (see e.g. Lotz et al. 2019, 2021). Therefore it is important to check how well our simulations reproduce observations of the satellite population in groups and clusters.

#### 4.3.1 C3: Satellite stellar mass function

We first investigate whether THE THREE HUNDRED simulations produce the correct amount of satellites at different stellar mass bins in Fig. 8. The satellite stellar mass functions (SSMFs) for GIZMO-SIMBA (green) and GADGET-X (blue) are shown, along with observations of the SSMF in clusters from Yang et al. (2018) within two mass bins spanning much of THE THREE HUNDRED sample. Recall that the satellite stellar mass function is used to constrain the feedback parameters in GIZMO-SIMBA (cf. constraint C3), so the agreement with GIZMO-SIMBA should not be considered a true success of the model, although the tuning was only done on a single cluster. Detailed comparisons and discussions among the other THE THREE HUNDRED models can be found in Cui et al. (2018b).

The median satellite stellar mass function (SSMF) from GIZMO-SIMBA show very good agreement with the observation results, which



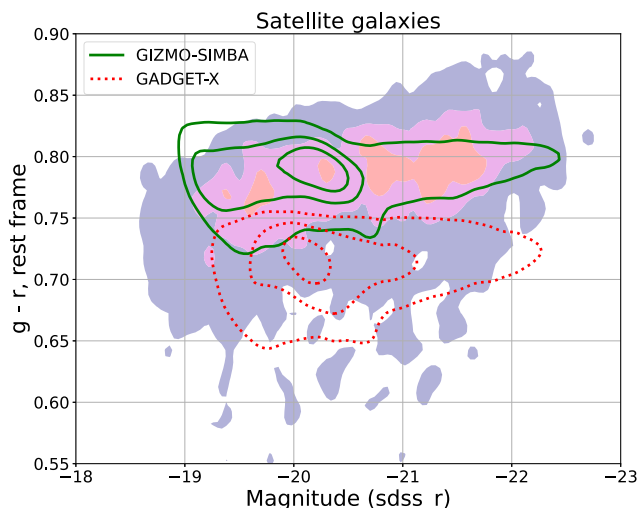
**Figure 8.** Satellite stellar mass functions. Only the satellite galaxies from the mass-complete clusters are used in this satellite galaxy stellar mass function. We only show the median values in each stellar mass bin of the selected clusters. While the observation results within two particular halo mass bins are shown in black and grey thick lines with errorbars. This plot is different to fig. 7 in Cui et al. (2018b) by removing the other models results except GADGET-X and adding the new GIZMO-SIMBA result with errorbars, which is in very good agreement with the observation results.

confirms that the tuning down for one region was successful even when considering all 324 regions. GIZMO-SIMBA and GADGET-X agree at  $M_* \gtrsim 10^{10} h^{-1} M_\odot$ , below which GADGET-X falls below the observations. There are some interesting features, such as GADGET-X showing a strong peak at  $M_* \gtrsim 10^{10.3} h^{-1} M_\odot$  and GIZMO-SIMBA showing a steep decline at slightly higher masses; we suspect that these arise due to the onset of strong AGN feedback at these masses (Davé et al. 2019). This is because the BH is seeded and AGN feedback is in action when the galaxy stellar mass reach  $M_* \sim 10^{10.5} h^{-1} M_\odot$ , which then halts galaxy growth and piles up galaxies just below this threshold. A more gradual onset of AGN feedback with halo mass may produce a smoother SSMF; we leave this for a future work.

Using the Hydrangea simulations, Bahé et al. (2017) reported very good agreement when compared with satellite stellar mass functions from various observations (Yang, Mo & van den Bosch 2009; Vulcani et al. 2011; Wang & White 2012), down to lower masses than we can probe in THE THREE HUNDRED. Although FABLE did not show its satellite stellar mass function, Henden et al. (2020) found that the fraction of the total stellar mass in satellite galaxies is significantly smaller in FABLE clusters ( $\sim 40$  per cent) than observed. This could be caused by the stars in their satellite galaxies being stripped at an accelerated rate which would also result in a larger ICL mass fraction. It is generally the case that it is easier to strip stars in lower resolution simulations, owing to less deep potential wells, hence this effect may also be relevant for THE THREE HUNDRED. Planned higher resolution runs will be able to quantify this in the future.

#### 4.3.2 Satellite galaxy colour distribution

Similar to the colour–magnitude diagram for the BCGs, the satellite colour–magnitude diagram gives insights into their stellar growth histories. With GIZMO-SIMBA in particular using the SSMF as a constrain, it is important to see whether it also produces a reasonable distribution of satellite colours as a complementary check on the model.



**Figure 9.** Satellite galaxy colour–magnitude diagram. This plot is similar to Fig. 6, but for all the satellite galaxies in the mass-complete cluster sample. Contour maps are the observation results from Yang et al. (2018) with clusters  $M_{200} \gtrsim 6 \times 10^{14} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ . Again the three contour lines/maps mark the 16th, 50th, and 84th percentiles. Note here that we apply the same stellar mass cut  $M_{*} \geq 10^{10} M_{\odot}$  to both simulation and observed data set for a consistent comparison.

As shown in Fig. 9, the  $g - r$  colours versus  $r$  magnitudes are shown from GIZMO-SIMBA (green contours) and GADGET-X (blue), with the observations from (coloured shading Yang et al. 2018). As with the BCGs, their galaxy colour has been corrected into the rest frame.<sup>10</sup>

Satellite galaxy colours from GIZMO-SIMBA show very good agreement with Yang et al. (2018), with again typically  $g - r \approx 0.8$  just as with the BCGs. Hence, the stellar populations in both the central and satellite galaxies in GIZMO-SIMBA tend to be quite old. In contrast, GADGET-X results, meanwhile, show a somewhat bluer  $g - r$  colour, mimicking the trend seen in the BCG colours. The satellites are somewhat redder than the BCGs in this model.

It is notable however, the GIZMO-SIMBA’s distribution of colours has a small scatter compared to Yang et al. (2018). In particular, GIZMO-SIMBA lacks any bluer satellites with  $g - r \lesssim 0.7$ . While these are rare in the observations, they do occur. This could be caused by two reasons: (1) the strong AGN feedback quenches all the satellite galaxies instead of only most of them; (2) the low resolution means that gas stripping is too efficient, which quenches satellite galaxies progenitors prior to entering into the cluster or too quickly within the cluster. In the future we plan to run higher resolution THE THREE HUNDRED runs to check whether such resolution effects can impact these comparisons.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this paper, we introduce a new suite of simulated galaxy clusters in THE THREE HUNDRED project called GIZMO-SIMBA, run using a feedback model based on the successful SIMBA simulation (Davé et al. 2019). We re-tune its feedback model parameters (mostly

due to the coarse resolution of THE THREE HUNDRED clusters) by calibrating them with the observed stellar properties using one random cluster, specifically the stellar fraction, the BCG mass–halo mass relation and the satellite stellar mass function. Using this calibration we run all 324 clusters, and make detailed comparisons to both observational results and the GADGET-X runs which is also successful in reproducing many galaxy cluster properties and relations. By comparing the two hydrodynamic in THE THREE HUNDRED we aim to understand the origin of observational properties of galaxy clusters under different galaxy formation models. We note that a comparison between GADGET-X and other galaxy formation models in THE THREE HUNDRED was done in Cui et al. (2018a). Our main results are as follows:

(i) Similar stellar mass fractions  $f_{*}(<R_{500})$  are found at  $z = 0$  between GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA, which are also in agreement with observational results. However, their gas fractions at  $z = 0$  are different ( $\sim 5$  per cent in absolute mass fraction) at  $M_{500} \sim 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ , with agreement for the most massive haloes and larger differences for low-mass haloes. This difference is seen at all redshifts, either at a fixed halo mass or by tracking progenitors. This could be rooted mainly in the feedback scheme, of which GIZMO-SIMBA’s kinetic feedback is very strong and efficiently blows gas out of haloes. More accurate gas fractions from observation are required to distinguish between models.

(ii) Though the stellar mass fraction is in agreement at  $z = 0$  in both models, GIZMO-SIMBA has a much stronger evolution of this fraction versus redshift than GADGET-X, especially at high redshift  $z \gtrsim 1.5$ . This could be caused by two reasons: (1) the star formation model is more efficient; (2) the quenching of galaxies is very quick (at mostly high redshift) and thorough. The high star formation rate in GIZMO-SIMBA produces a higher stellar mass fraction at high redshift, while at later epochs the complete shutdown of star formation makes its stellar mass fraction similar to GADGET-X by  $z = 0$ .

(iii) Using BCG stellar masses within fixed apertures, both GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA are in agreement with observations from Kravtsov et al. (2018). However, the BCGs (identified by the 6D CAESAR galaxy finder) from GADGET-X have much brighter and bluer colour compared to GIZMO-SIMBA; observations agree better with GIZMO-SIMBA. This is corroborated by the mean BCG ages in GADGET-X being systematically lower than in GIZMO-SIMBA, with a long tail of younger BCGs.

(iv) To test GIZMO-SIMBA’s black hole accretion and feedback models, we compare three BH scaling relations from GIZMO-SIMBA versus  $M_{*}$ ,  $\sigma_{*}$ , and  $M_{500}$ . GIZMO-SIMBA matches observations generally well, although it predicts higher black hole masses in the most massive galaxies, a shallower slope for the  $M_{*}-\sigma_{*}$  at the low- $\sigma_{*}$  end, and a shallower  $M_{*}-M_{500}$  relation at the more massive end. A more careful comparison versus these data mimicking aperture and selection effects is required to assess the significance of these discrepancies.

(v) For satellite galaxies, we focus on satellite stellar mass function and colour–magnitude diagram. Although both agree with data for more massive galaxies, GIZMO-SIMBA shows better agreement to observation than GADGET-X at the lower mass end, which is only partly a result of tuning. The satellite galaxies in GIZMO-SIMBA agree very well with the  $g - r$  versus  $r$  colour–magnitude diagram of the SDSS galaxies, while GADGET-X satellites are somewhat bluer. However, GIZMO-SIMBA shows less scatter than observations, with no satellites bluer than  $g - r \lesssim 0.7$  whereas observations indicate some.

<sup>10</sup>Note that this plot is slightly different to the middle panel of fig. 8 in Cui et al. (2018b) due to a different stellar mass cut ( $M_{*} \geq 10^9 h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ ) applied. By comparing to fig. 8 in Cui et al. (2018b), GADGET-X tends to have a bluer colour, which suggests that less massive satellite galaxies should be dominated by red colour.



The gas scaling relations are compared in the appendixes. As a result of GIZMO-SIMBA's strong feedback, its temperature–mass ( $T$ – $M$ ) relation tends to be a little bit higher than GADGET-X. However, in combination with its slightly lower gas fractions, the resulting integrated SZ decrement versus mass ( $Y$ – $M$ ) relation is quite similar to that in GADGET-X.

The GIZMO-SIMBA runs in THE THREE HUNDRED provide a state of the art galaxy formation model with which to examine the evolution of galaxies, gas, and black holes within the largest virialized structures in the universe. Many follow-up works using this suite are already underway. For instance, for the BCG and satellite galaxies, we do not provide details on their evolution in this paper because (1) to disentangle BCG with ICL needs a careful study, which we will present in a companion paper (Cañas et al. 2022); (2) we need to do a careful tracking to fully look into the evolution history of satellite galaxies in hydrosimulations because as discussed in Behroozi et al. (2015), halo and galaxy tracking is complicated within the cluster environment to properly account for mergers and tidal stripping (see Ogiya, van den Bosch & Burkert 2022, and references therein, for the formation of the ultradiffused galaxies without dark matter). These sorts of studies can shed further light on how galaxies evolve within dense environments.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the referee Prof Peter Thomas for his valuable comments and suggestions on this paper. We would like to thank THE THREE HUNDRED collaboration for all the help on this project and this paper.

As part of THE THREE HUNDRED project, this work has received financial support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement number 734374, the LACEGAL project

The simulations used in this paper have been performed in the MareNostrum Supercomputer at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center, thanks to CPU time granted by the Red Española de Supercomputación. The CosmoSim database used in this paper is a service by the Leibniz-Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam (AIP). The MultiDark database was developed in cooperation with the Spanish MultiDark Consolider Project CSD2009-00064. This work also made use of the Gravity Supercomputer at the Department of Astronomy, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

WC and RD are supported by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) AGP Grant ST/V000594/1. WC and YZ acknowledge the science research grants from the China Manned Space Project with NO. CMS-CSST-2021-A01 and CMS-CSST-2021-B01. This work is also supported by WC's Atracción de Talento Contract no. 2020-T1/TIC-19882 granted by the Comunidad de Madrid in Spain. further acknowledge the AK, GY, DC, RC, and AC are supported by the Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades (MICIU/FEDER) under research grant PGC2018-094975-C21. AK further thanks Lana Del Rey for video games. DA is supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship under Grant No. DGE 1746045. MDP acknowledges support from Sapienza Università di Roma thanks to Progetti di Ricerca Medi 2019, RM11916B7540DD8D. SE acknowledges financial contribution from the contracts ASI-INAF Athena 2019-27-HH.0, 'Attività di Studio per la comunità scientifica di Astrofisica delle Alte Energie e Fisica Astroparticellare' (Accordo Attuativo ASI-INAF n. 2017-14-H.0), INAF mainstream project 1.05.01.86.10, and from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme under the AHEAD2020 project (grant agreement n. 871158). YW is supported by National Science Foundation of China (NSFC) grant No.

11733010 and NSFC grant No. 11803095. XY is supported by the National Science Foundation of China (Nos. 11833005, 11890692) and by the China Manned Space Project with No. CMS-CSST-2021-A02. DC is a Ramon-Cajal researcher. KD acknowledges support by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) under Germany's Excellence Strategy - EXC-2094 - 390783311 and support through the COMPLEX project from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program grant agreement ERC-2019-AdG 882679. RH acknowledges support from the STFC through a studentship. UK acknowledges support from the STFC through grant number RA27PN. YZ acknowledges the support by the National Science Foundation of China (11873038, 12173024).

## DATA AVAILABILITY

The results shown in this work use data from THE THREE HUNDRED galaxy clusters sample. These data are available on request following the guidelines of THE THREE HUNDRED collaboration, at <https://www.the300-project.org>. The data specifically shown in this paper will be shared upon request to the corresponding author. The plots and analyses done in this paper have extensively used these PYTHON packages: Ipython with its Jupyter notebook (Pérez & Granger 2007), astropy (Astropy Collaboration 2013, 2018), NumPy (van der Walt, Colbert & Varoquaux 2011), and SciPy (Oliphant 2007; Millman & Aivazis 2011). All the figures in this paper are plotted using the PYTHON MATPLOTLIB package (Hunter 2007).

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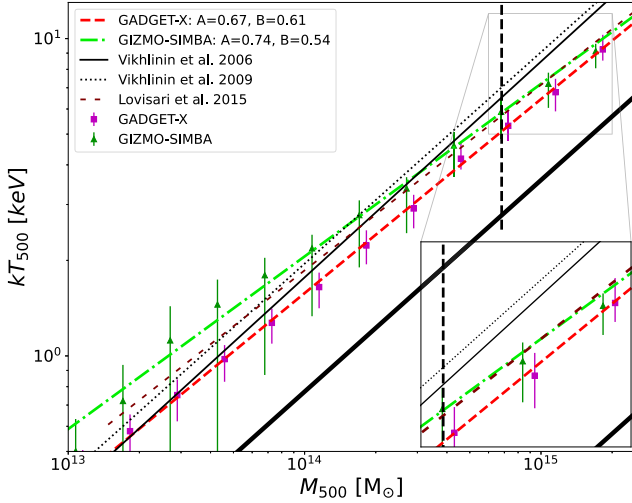
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## APPENDIX A: THE GAS $T$ – $M$ RELATION

In this and the following appendices, we briefly check the gas properties from GIZMO-SIMBA by comparing the gas temperature–mass relation ( $T - M$ ; Appendix A) and Sunyaev–Zeldovich (SZ) decrement–mass relation ( $Y - M$ ; Appendix B) (see Lovisari et al. 2021, for a recent review). The  $T$ – $M$  relation will test whether the gas temperature in GIZMO-SIMBA is affected by its strong feedback or not; while the  $Y$ – $M$  relation checks whether the differences in gas fraction and temperature can be directly viewed from SZ observations.

Following Cui et al. (2018b), we calculate the mass-weighted gas temperature within  $R_{500}$  and add the scaling relation from GIZMO-SIMBA in Fig. A1. In the cluster mass range, GIZMO-SIMBA is in line with GADGET-X and the observational results, albeit a slightly higher temperature (see the zoomed-in inset panel for details). This suggests that the gas heating inside these most massive clusters is reasonable. However, the median data points from GIZMO-SIMBA at the group halo mass range,  $M_{500} < 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ , seem to be slightly higher than the other results, albeit with a very large scatter. This is likely related to the strong AGN feedback which is also efficiently expelling the gas out of  $R_{500}$  as shown in Fig. 1.

By applying a weighted fitting to  $\log_{10} T_{500} = A + B * \log_{10} \frac{M_{500}}{6 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}}$ , in which the weight is given by the completeness of the halo counts, GIZMO-SIMBA ( $B = 0.54$ ) seems to be deviating from the self-similar slope much more than GADGET-X ( $B = 0.61$ ). This is mainly because of the high temperature in GIZMO-SIMBA at lower halo masses. Note that the median data points deviating from the fitting line at lower halo masses is mainly caused by the weighted fitting method. Furthermore, the slightly different fitting



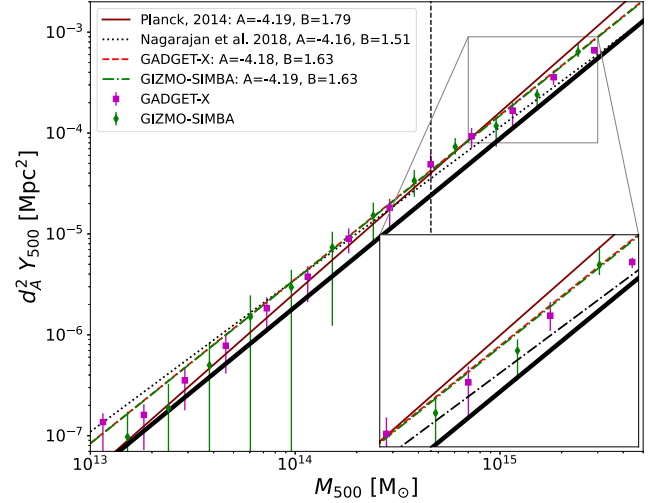
**Figure A1.** The gas mass-weighted temperature  $T_{500}$ –halo mass  $M_{500}$  relation. As indicated in the legend at top-left corner, data points from GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA are shown with blue and green symbols with error bars (16th–84th percentile), respectively. The solid and dotted black lines show the observational results from Vikhlinin et al. (2006) and Vikhlinin et al. (2009), respectively. The maroon dashed line shows the fitting result from Lovisari et al. (2015). Our weighted fitting results from GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA are presented by blue dotted and lime dashed lines, respectively. The thick solid black line shows the self-similar relation  $\log_{10} T_{500} \propto 2/3 \log_{10} M_{500}$  is derived from self-similarity cluster approximations (see Böhringer, Dolag & Chon 2012, for example).

results between this work and Cui et al. (2018b) is because the new mass completeness based on GIZMO-SIMBA is adopted [see Cui (2022) for the changes]. This indicates the fitting results are very sensitive to the weights. We note that observational results are quite uncertain within this mass regime, so it is too early to determine which model agrees better with data.

## APPENDIX B: THE GAS $Y$ – $M$ RELATION

It is also interesting to compare the overall simulated SZ signal, the integrated SZ  $Y_{500}$  value in this case, versus that directly obtained from observation. For this, we apply the PYMSZ package<sup>11</sup> to GIZMO-SIMBA simulated haloes to generate mock  $y$ -maps along  $z$ -direction. Then,  $Y_{500}$  is taken to be the sum of the  $y$  values within  $R_{500}$ . Note that the line-of-sight depth is set to  $2 \times R_{500}$  to be consistent with published results from GADGET-X; we refer to Yang et al. (2022) for more a detailed examination of projection effects.

As shown in Fig. B1, the median data points from GIZMO-SIMBA are comparable to the ones from GADGET-X. This is not surprising as the SZ– $y$  signal is proportional to gas density times temperature (Sunyaev & Zeldovich 1970, and references therein). The lower gas fraction in GIZMO-SIMBA seems to be compensated by its high temperature to give such an agreement. Note that the large scatters in gas mass fraction and temperature in GIZMO-SIMBA at the low halo mass range are also shown in this  $Y_{500}$ – $M_{500}$  relation. We also apply a weighted fitting of this  $Y_{500}$ – $M_{500}$  relation to  $\log_{10} d_A^2 Y_{500} = A + B * \log_{10} \frac{M_{500}}{6 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}}$  for the two hydro runs, where  $d_A$  is the angular diameter distance. Given the similarity of the



**Figure B1.** The updated  $Y$ – $M$  relation from GIZMO-SIMBA. As indicated in the legend, two fitting results (Planck Collaboration XX 2014; Nagarajan et al. 2019) from observations are shown by brown solid and black dotted lines, respectively. While the weighted fitting results with the parameters from the two hydro simulations are shown by blue dashed and green dotted–dashed lines as before.

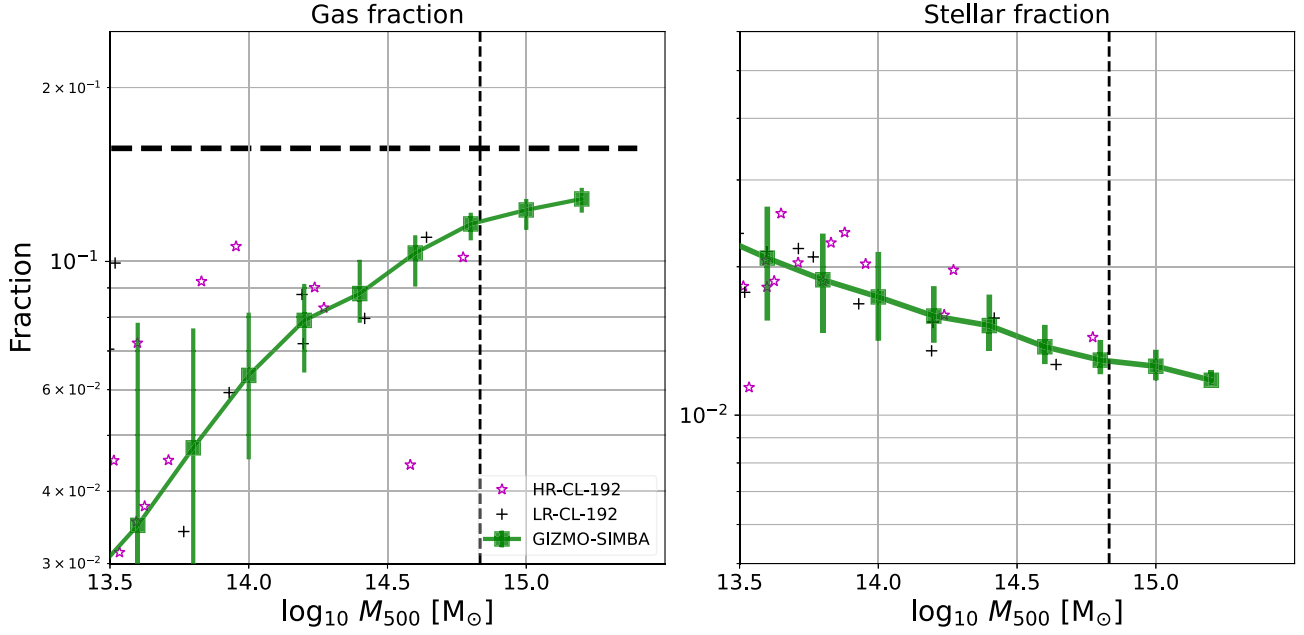
predictions, it is not surprising to see such a good agreement in the fitting parameters between GIZMO-SIMBA and GADGET-X. Regarding the slope difference to the Planck result (Planck Collaboration XX 2014), we note that the fitting line actually deviates from the median data points at both massive and low halo mass range: the slope from the median data points is more close to or even flatter than the self-similar slope of 5/3. Adopting the weighted fitting makes the slope dominated by these massive haloes, and results in a value close to self-similar. Meanwhile at the low-mass end, the slope from the data points is much steeper in both GADGET-X and GIZMO-SIMBA. If we do an unweighted fitting to these data points, we get a steeper slope which is comparable to the result from Planck. The different slopes for  $Y_{500}$ – $M_{500}$  relation across various mass ranges have been found in several works using different hydrodynamic simulations (e.g. Yang et al. 2022). Therefore, using a fitting function with a single slope is not a good choice for representing the full mass range.

## APPENDIX C: RESOLUTION EFFECTS

As described in the main text, we re-tuned the baryonic feedback parameters for THE THREE HUNDRED galaxy clusters relative to SIMBA due to their poor resolution. This was because we found that we cannot match key observations using the default SIMBA setup. It would be interesting to see whether the default SIMBA setup works for the clusters which have a similar resolution as its original run. This requires doing a higher resolution run of a THE THREE HUNDRED cluster, with a similar resolution to that in SIMBA. We show the results of such a run with  $8 \times$  higher mass resolution in this section using one of our cluster regions.

In Fig. C1, we show the comparisons for both gas and star fractions between the high-resolution run with our default run from the same region. It seems that these fractions are generally in agreement between the two runs; there are no obvious systematic differences, albeit with small numbers. There may be a hint that gas fractions are slightly higher at low masses when run at higher resolution. Furthermore, we would caution that there maybe more

<sup>11</sup> Publicly available at <https://github.com/weiguangcui/pymsz>, see Baldi et al. (2018) for the details of generating the kinetic SZ signal with this package.



**Figure C1.** Similar to Fig. 1, baryon fraction within  $R_{500}$ . This plot focuses on comparing these fractions in the same zoomed-in region but one run with the default SIMBA setup for a high-resolution IC, marked as ‘HR-CL-192’ in open magenta stars, and one run in this paper with about 8 time lower resolution, marked as ‘LR-CL-192’ with black cross. The overall statistical result from GIZMO-SIMBA, green solid line with error bars, in Fig. 1 is also shown here for reference. There is not a large systematic effect owing to resolution obvious for this single object, but a larger sample is needed to quantify the differences.

significant differences in the detailed galaxy cluster properties, such as profiles (as suggested in previous nIFTy comparison projects, Cui et al. 2016; Elahi et al. 2016; Sembolini et al. 2016b). To statistically investigate and present these differences, we need a

large sample of the high-resolution cluster runs, which is currently in progress.

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