

1 Submitted to *Trees*

2 ***A machine learning approach to fill gaps in dendrometer data***

3 Eileen Kuhl (0000-0002-1246-6030)¹, Emanuele Ziaco (0000-0002-0459-6927)¹, Jan Esper
4 (0000-0003-3919-014X)^{1,2}, Oliver Konter¹, Edurne Martinez del Castillo (0000-0003-1542-
5 2698)¹

6 ¹ Department of Geography, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany

7 ²Global Change Research Centre (CzechGlobe, Brno, Czech Republic

8
9
10
11
12
13
14 Corresponding author: Eileen Kuhl (eikuhl@uni-mainz.de, Johann-Joachim-Becher Weg 32,
15 55128 Mainz, Germany, Orcid: 0000-0002-1246-6030

22 **Table S1** Regression algorithms tested in this approach

#	Regression Algorithm	Type
1	Linear	Linear
2	Ridge	Linear
3	Lasso	Linear
4	Random Forest (RF)	Nonlinear
5	k-Nearest-Neighbor (kNN)	Nonlinear
6	Support Vector Machine (SVM)	Linear
7	Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGB)	Nonlinear
8	Partial Least Square (PLS)	Linear

23

24 **Table S2** Performance results (RMSE and adjusted R²) of eight algorithms trained on datasets #3-6 (Tabl. 1) to predicting growth.
 25 Performance measures were estimated using repeated k-fold cross validation (k = 10, repeats = 10). Performance values shown here
 26 equal the mean of the 100 runs

Urban Maple			Urban Plane			Non-urban Maple			Non-urban Plane		
Model	RMSE	adjR ²	Model	RMSE	adjR ²	Model	RMSE	adjR ²	Model	RMSE	adjR ²
RF	0.00	1.00	RF	0.00	1.00	RF	0.00	1.00	RF	0.00	1.00
XGB	0.01	1.00	XGB	0.02	1.00	XGB	0.01	1.00	XGB	0.01	1.00
kNN	0.10	0.99	kNN	0.13	0.99	kNN	0.04	1.00	kNN	0.06	1.00
SVM	0.49	0.8	SVM	0.92	0.71	SVM	0.33	0.82	SVM	0.51	0.82
Ridge	0.74	0.54	Ridge	0.96	0.69	Ridge	0.47	0.63	Ridge	0.64	0.73
Linear	0.74	0.54	Linear	0.96	0.69	Linear	0.47	0.63	Linear	0.64	0.73
Lasso	0.74	0.54	Lasso	0.96	0.69	Lasso	0.47	0.63	Lasso	0.64	0.73
PLS	0.74	0.54	PLS	0.96	0.69	PLS	0.52	0.56	PLS	0.64	0.72

27

28

29

30

31 **Table S3** Ranked performance results from hyperparameter tuning to fit different algorithms to the datasets #3-6 (Tabl. 1). Best RMSE
 32 scores for all four datasets are shown in reference to growth in millimetres. Param. denotes to the best hyperparameters found via Bayesian
 33 Optimization Search and 10-fold cross validation

Position	Urbane Maple			Urban Plane			Non-urban Maple			Non-urban Plane		
	Model	RMSE	Param.	Model	RMSE	Param.	Model	RMS E	Param.	Model	RMSE	Param.
1	XGB	0.01	colsample_bytree= 1, eta= 0.16, gamma= 10, max_depth= 15, min_child_weight= 7, subsample= 0.9, early_stopping_rounds=10	XGB	0.01	colsample_bytree= 1, eta= 0.1, gamma= 30, max_depth= 13, min_child_weight= 8, subsample= 0.9, early_stopping_rounds=10	XGB	0.00	colsample_bytree= 1, eta= 0.16, gamma= 50, max_depth= 13, min_child_weight= 6, subsample= 0.9, early_stopping_rounds=10	XGB	0.01	colsample_bytree= 1, eta= 0.1, gamma= 30, max_depth= 15, min_child_weight= 3, subsample= 0.6, early_stopping_rounds=10
2	RF	0.02	bootstrap= True, max_depth= 86, max_features= 1.0, max_leaf_nodes= 95, n_estimators= 116, random_state= 42	RF	0.07	bootstrap= True, max_depth= 66, max_features= 1.0, max_leaf_nodes= 95, n_estimators= 186, random_state= 42	RF	0.02	bootstrap= True, max_depth= 75, max_features= 1.0, max_leaf_nodes= 95, n_estimators= 170, random_state= 42	RF	0.05	bootstrap= True, max_depth= 46, max_features= 1.0, max_leaf_nodes= 98, n_estimators= 196, random_state= 42
3	kNN	0.08	algorithm= 'ball_tree', leaf_size= 31, metric= 'manhattan', n_neighbors= 5, p= 2, weights= 'distance'	kNN	0.11	algorithm= 'brute', leaf_size= 11, metric= 'manhattan', n_neighbors= 5, p= 1, weights= 'distance'	kNN	0.04	algorithm= 'kd_tree', leaf_size= 66, metric= 'euclidean', n_neighbors= 5, p= 2, weights= 'distance'	kNN	0.06	algorithm= 'brute', leaf_size= 11, metric= 'euclidean', n_neighbors= 7, p= 2, weights= 'distance'
4	Ridge	0.74	alpha= 1.0	Ridge	0.96	alpha= 1.0	Ridge	0.47	alpha= 0.4	Ridge	0.64	alpha= 1.0

34

35 **Table S4** Test set RMSE values of the models based on the datasets #1-6 and the four algorithms extreme
 36 gradient boosting (XGB), k-nearest neighbor (kNN), random forest (RF) and ridge regression after
 37 hyperparameter tuning.

#	X	XGB	RF	kNN	Ridge
1	Maple	0.01	0.05	0.07	0.78
2	Plane	0.01	0.10	0.10	0.94
3	Urban Maple	0.01	0.02	0.09	0.74
4	Urban Plane	0.01	0.07	0.12	0.95
5	Non-Urban Maple	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.47
6	Non-Urban Plane	0.01	0.05	0.06	0.64

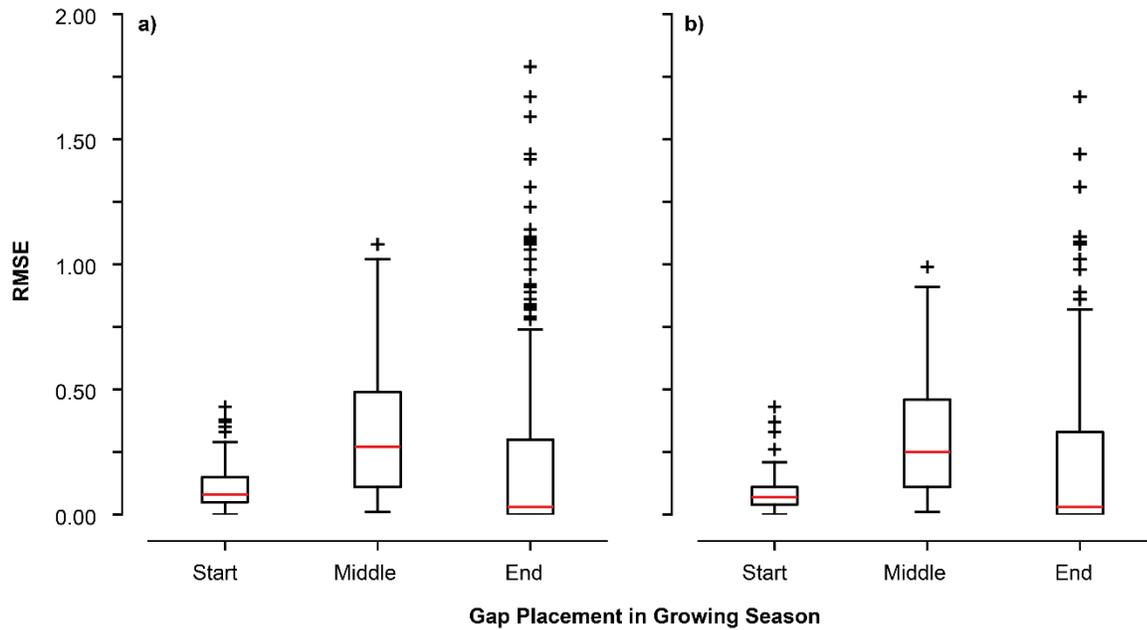
38

39 **Table S5** Test set RMSE mean values and standard deviation (in brackets) of the models based
 40 on the datasets #3-8 and the four algorithms extreme gradient boosting (XGB), k-nearest neighbor
 41 (kNN), random forest (RF) and ridge regression without hyperparameter tuning and VPD

#	X	XGB	RF	kNN	Ridge
3	Urban Maple	1.03 (0.01)	1.36 (0.01)	1.15 (0.01)	1.14 (0.01)
4	Urban Plane	0.69 (0.01)	0.92 (0.01)	0.78 (0.01)	1.55 (0.01)
5	Non-Urban Maple	0.77 (0.01)	1.00 (0.01)	0.88 (0.01)	1.02 (0.01)
6	Non-Urban Plane	0.61 (0.01)	0.80 (0.01)	0.70 (0.01)	1.05 (0.00)
7	Urban 1 Maple	0.02 (0.01)	0.00 (0.00)	0.03 (0.00)	0.27 (0.00)
8	Urban 1 Plane	0.07 (0.08)	0.00 (0.00)	0.18 (0.01)	1.20 (0.01)
9	Urban 2 Maple	0.13 (0.10)	0.00 (0.00)	0.19 (0.01)	1.29 (0.01)
10	Urban 2 Plane	0.01 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.25 (0.01)	2.00 (0.01)
11	Urban 3 Maple	0.01 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.06 (0.01)	0.40 (0.00)
12	Urban 3 Plane	0.04 (0.07)	0.00 (0.00)	0.16 (0.01)	1.25 (0.02)
13	Non-urban 1 Maple	0.05 (0.09)	0.00 (0.00)	0.10 (0.00)	0.87 (0.01)
14	Non-urban 1 Plane	0.11 (0.09)	0.00 (0.00)	0.17 (0.00)	1.16 (0.01)
15	Non-urban 2 Maple	0.03 (0.03)	0.00 (0.00)	0.05 (0.00)	0.36 (0.00)
16	Non-urban 2 Plane	0.06 (0.05)	0.00 (0.00)	0.10 (0.00)	0.66 (0.01)
17	Non-urban 3 Maple	0.01 (0.01)	0.00 (0.00)	0.03 (0.00)	0.25 (0.00)
18	Non-urban 3 Plane	0.01 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.14 (0.01)	1.16 (0.02)

42

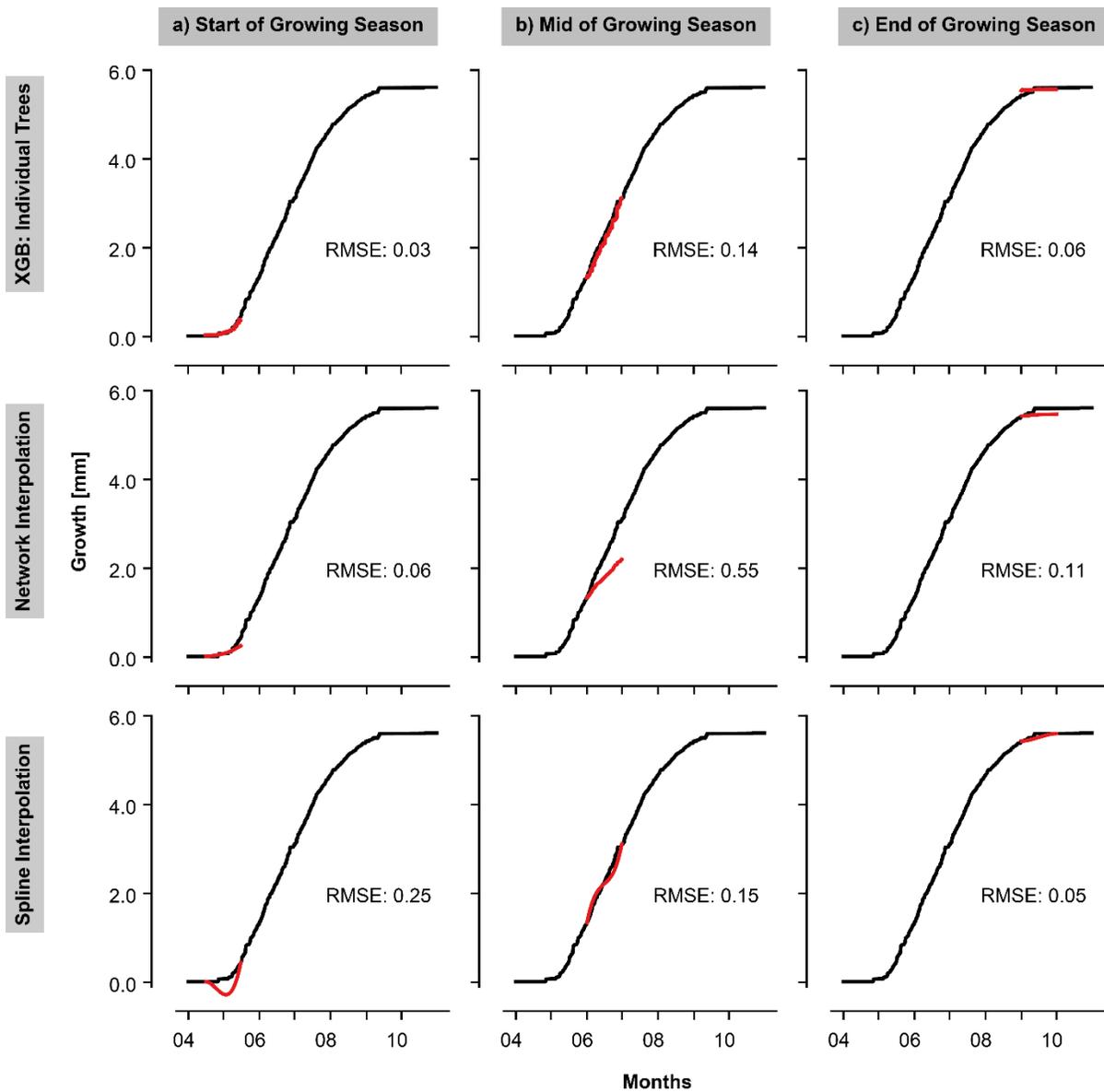
43



44

45 **Figure S1** Comparison of RMSE values of the artificial gaps, when the models are based on a)
 46 random forest and b) extreme gradient boosting. On each boxplot, the red bar indicates the
 47 median, bottom and top edges indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles; the whiskers extend to all
 48 data points except outliers (drawn as "+"). No significant differences could be found for the middle
 49 and end of the growing seasons ($p > 0.01$, Mann-Whitney-U test)

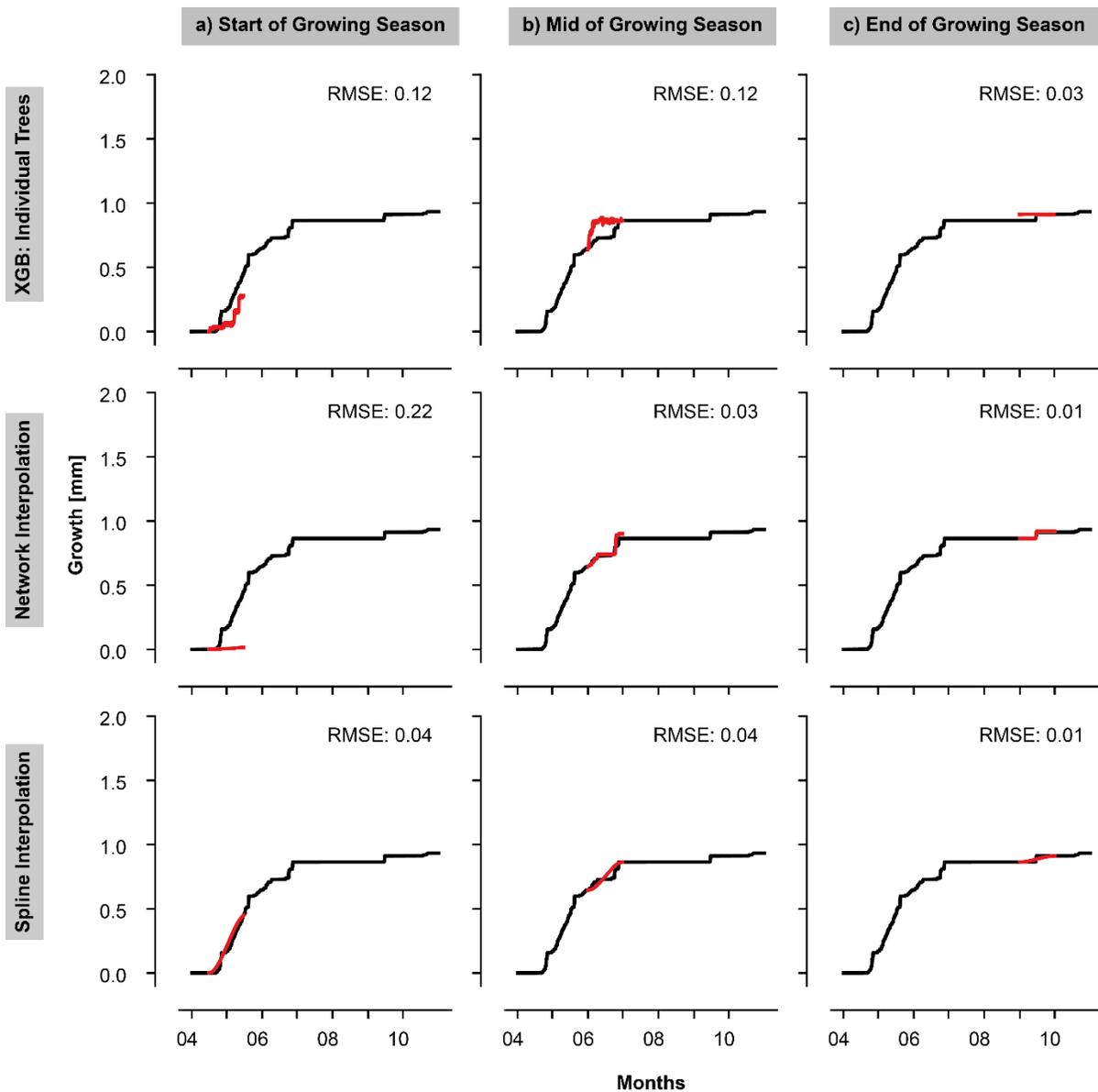
50



51

52 **Figure S2** Results of different approaches for predicting growth of the maple tree at an urban
 53 location of 2022 CE fitted to the algorithm Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGB) for different seasons
 54 (a-c). Top row shows the results of the individual Urban Maple models. Middle and bottom row
 55 present the comparison to the network interpolation by Aryal et al. (2020) and the classic spline
 56 interpolation

57

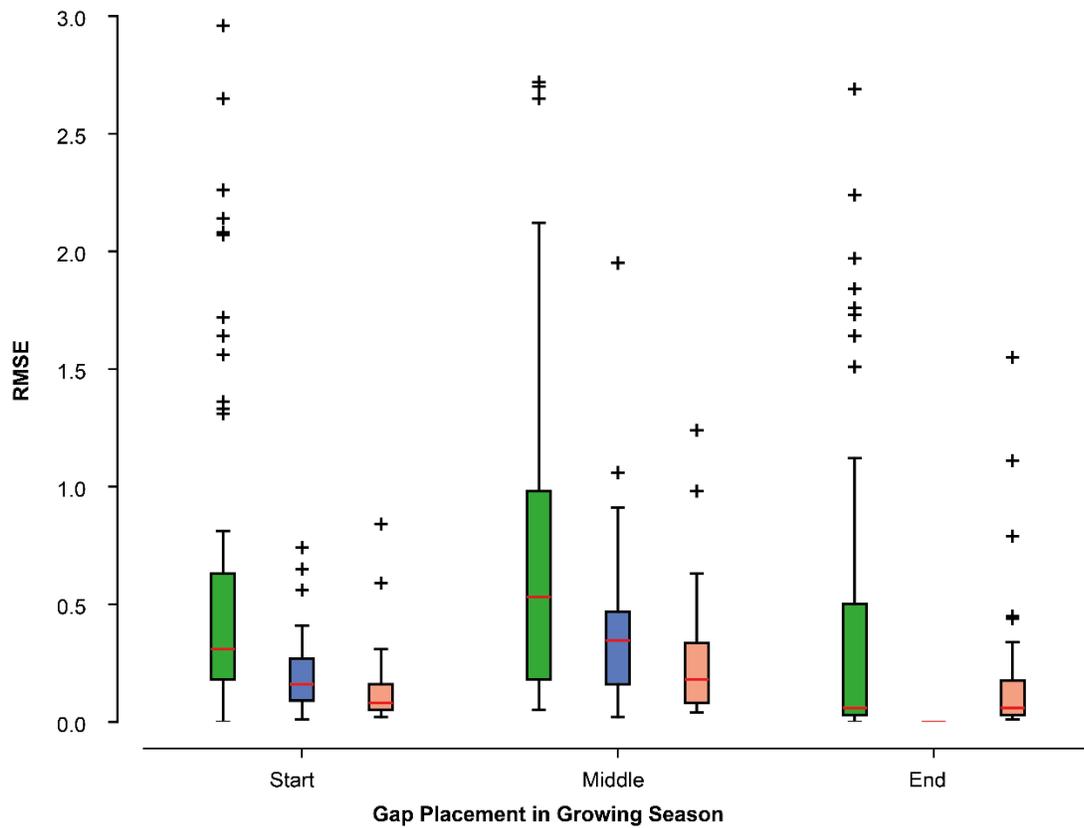


58

59 **Figure S3** Results of different approaches for predicting growth of the maple tree at an urban
 60 location in 2022 CE fitted to the algorithm Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGB) for different seasons
 61 (a-c). Top row shows the results of the individual Urban Maple models. Middle and bottom row
 62 present the comparison to the network interpolation by Aryal et al. (2020) and the classic spline
 63 interpolation

64

65



66

67 **Figure S4** Comparison of RMSE values of the artificial gaps from raw dendrometer data, when
 68 the gaps are filled with the individual tree models (green), spline interpolation (blue) or network
 69 interpolation (orange). On each boxplot, the red bar indicates the median, bottom and top edges
 70 indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles; the whiskers extend to all data points except outliers
 71 (drawn as "+").