Timeline for Mao's PhD

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1 Big tasks for PhD

1.1 Research proposal

– Approved by Jan, 2025

– Send final draft by end of Nov, 2024

1.2 Comprehensive exam

– Complete by Feb, 2025

– Scheduled by end of Dec, 2024

1.3 Mast-trait manuscript

– Submit by June, 2026

– Start manuscript writing from Nov, 2025

– Start data analysis from Mar, 2025

– Finish data scraping by Feb, 2025

1.4 Trade-off manuscript

– Submit by July, 2027

– Start manuscript writing from Jan, 2027

– Finish data analysis by Dec, 2025

– Finish tree core processing by Apr, 2025

1.5 Defense

– Complete defense by May, 2028

– Schedule defense by Mar, 2028

1.6 Dissertation

– Submit final dissertation by Jun, 2028

– Send final draft out by Mar, 2028

– Finish first draft by Dec, 2027

– Start writing from Jun, 2026

2 Tasks need to be done from Nov, 2024 to Feb, 2024

– Finish data scraping for mast-trait

– Finish mounting all the tree cores

– Have first committee meeting

– Schedule comprehensive exam and get it completed

3 Detailed timeline

3.1 2024

Jan-Feb

1. Discuss with Lizzie about potential research topics

2. Do some basic literature reviews related to masting

March-June

1. Work on permit to work at Mt. Rainier with Lizzie and Janneke

2. Do more literature review

3. Plan for the fieldwork

4. Contact potential committee members

July-Aug

1. Fieldwork at Mt. Rainier: collect tree cores and install dendrometers

2. Data scraping for mast-trait project

3. Start conceptualizing research proposal

Sep

1. Start working on a draft of research proposal

2. Organize data collected from field

3. Literature review

4. Coursework

Oct

1. Schedule first committee meeting

2. Data scraping for mast-trait project

3. Work on the draft of research proposal

4. Continue literature review

5. Start processing tree cores

6. Finish the data scraping from Silvics and try to start some preliminary data analysis

Nov

1. Schedule first committee meeting

2. Finish mounting all tree cores, start using camera to take images of cores

3. Continue data scraping for mast-trait

4. Literature review

Dec

1. First committee meeting, get feedbacks from committee members, plan for the comprehensive exam

2. Start analyzing tree cores

3. Continue data scraping for mast-trait

4. Literature review

3.2 2025

Jan

1. Prepare for the comprehensive exam

2. Finish analyzing all tree cores, start building model

3. Finish research proposal draft and send out for feedbacks

4. Continue data scraping for mast-trait

5. Coursework

Feb

1. Continue data scraping for mast-trait

2. Start data analyzing for tree ring project

3. Take comprehensive exam

Mar-June

1. Finish data scraping for mast-trait and start data analysis

2. Plan for more fieldwork if necessary

3. Start writing methodologies for dissertation

July-August

1. Analyze data

2. Fieldwork if necessary

Sep-Dec

1. Analyze data

2. Prepare for the manuscript of first paper

3. Schedule and have second comittee meeting to report results and get feedbacks

3.3 2026

Jan-May

1. Write the manuscript of first paper

2. Analyze data and write dissertation

June

1. Submit manuscript of the first paper

2. Analyze data and write dissertation

July-Aug

1. Attend conferences

2. Write dissertation

Sep-Dec

1. Revise manuscript

2. Write dissertation

3. Schedule and have third committee meeting

4. Prepare for the second paper

3.4 2027

Jan-Apr

1. Write dissertation

2. Get one paper published

3. Write manuscript for the second paper

May-Aug

1. Write dissertation

2. Attend conferences

3. Submit the second paper

4. Prepare for the third paper

Sep-Dec

1. Write dissertation

2. Schedule and have forth committee meeting

3. Revise the second paper

4. Write manuscript for the third paper

3.5 2028

Jan

1. Complete dissertation writing, submit drafts to advisor and committee members for feedbacks

Feb-Apr

1. Revise dissertation

2. Prepare for the defense

May-June

1. Submit dissertation

2. Defence

3. Graduation

4. Submit the third paper