



**Figure S1: Variation in biomass properties between *Populus* lines and apparent underlying trends**

(a) Principal component analysis (PCA) scatter plot showing the position of each *Populus* line (dots) relative to the first (horizontal) and second (vertical) principal components (PC), explaining 15.9% and 14.3% of the variation in the dataset, respectively. The *Populus* lines were colored based on their total-wood glucose yield (TWG).

(b) Loadings from the PCA model used to analyze the variation between *Populus* lines (a). Each box represents one trait and is colored by category (Datasets S2,3).

(c) Graphic representation of the trends in biomass properties (important traits or combination of traits) apparently underlying the variation between *Populus* lines. Although other traits can explain variation between the lines, three trends visually appear which can be interpreted as biologically meaningful or relevant for applications based on the current knowledge, and along which most of the lines separate. Each Roman numeral indicates such a major trend while the corresponding arrow indicates the direction of the trend: (I) Putative amount of reaction (tension) wood, revealed by the negative correlation between two groups of cell wall monosaccharides known to display such relation in the tension wood of hybrid aspen (ref25) and of other hard woods (ref26). (II) Glucose (and certain other monosaccharides) released after pretreatment. (III) Ratio between relative carbohydrate content (cellulose and hemicelluloses) and relative lignin content in the cell walls. Each dark grey dot represents a poplar line while each light-red box represents a loading (trait) in the PCA model. Numbers next to highlighted light-red boxes indicate which traits they correspond to in the right panel.