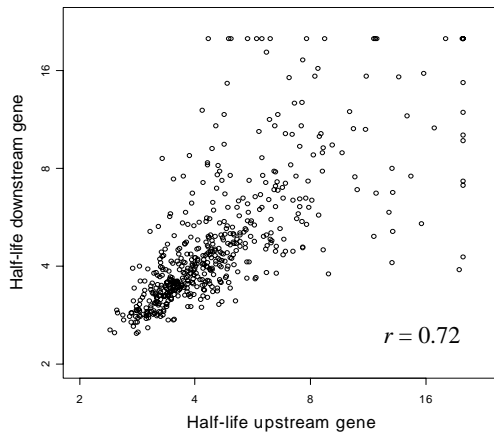
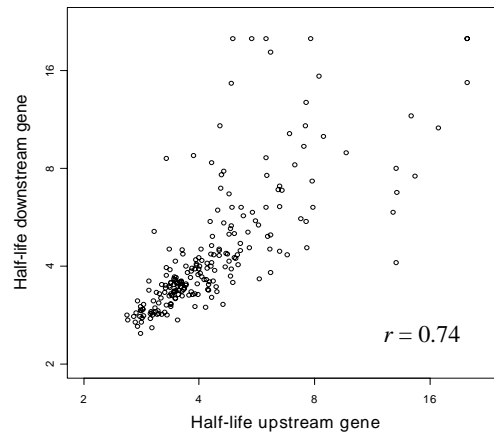


**A.****B.**

(A) Scatterplot of mRNA half-life for upstream (x-axis) vs. downstream (y-axis) gene in gene pairs encoded on the same strand and separated by <10 nt in *S. solfataricus*. (B) The subset of points in A where both genes of a pair belong to the same COG functional category, which increases the likelihood of that the genes belong to the same operon.