



**Figure S14** Hypothetical prokaryotic overlap lengths of unidirectional adjacent genes, calculated from simulated dataset (scenario 3). Third set of simulations where gene size and intergenic distances were retrieved from an empirical distribution of prokaryotic genomes (see Figures S1-S4). Parameters: GC content = 50%; and all possible combinations between *criterion* (“Elongation First”, “Both”, “Contraction First”) and *Proportions of start codons* (TRUE or FALSE). No weighting scheme was applied to the representativeness of phase 1 or phase 2. Selection against overlap length > 60 bp was included.