

# A battle of bits: building confidence in cryptography

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Negation joint work with:

Peter Schwabe

Academia Sinica

ECC2K-130 joint work with:

many, many, many people

What's the best algorithm to  
attack your favorite cryptosystem?

Nobody can really be sure.

For any nontrivial problem  $P$ :

What's the best algorithm for  $P$ ?

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But can *estimate*  
the cost of this algorithm as the  
cost of the best algorithm known.

Does this estimate  
inspire confidence?  
Maybe, maybe not!

How precise is the estimate?

Compare “exponential in  $n$ ”

to “ $(1.1 + o(1))^n$ ” to “ $n^{O(1)} 1.1^n$ ”

to “ $37n^2 1.1^n$  bit operations.”

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Consider matrix-mult exponent:

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How extensive is the literature?

“Look at all these people who  
couldn’t find better algorithms.”

## The rho method

Group  $\langle P \rangle$  of prime order  $\ell$ .

Discrete-log problem for  $\langle P \rangle$ :  
given  $P, kP$ , find  $k \bmod \ell$ .

Standard attack: parallel rho.

Expect  $(1 + o(1))\sqrt{\pi\ell/2}$

group operations,  
matching lower bound  
from Nechaev/Shoup.

Easy to distribute across CPUs.

Very little memory consumption.

Very little communication.

Simplified, non-parallel rho:

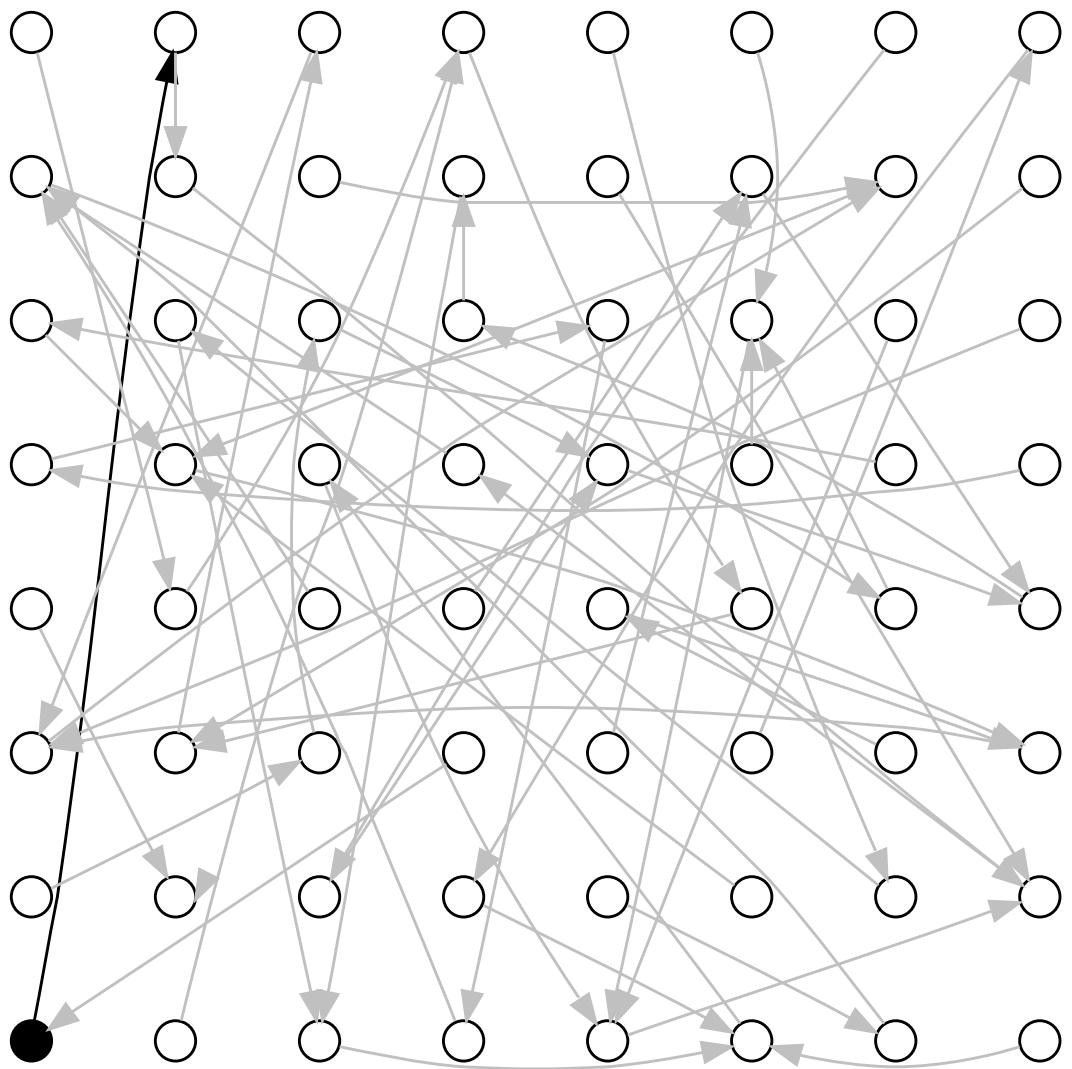
Make a pseudo-random walk  
in the group  $\langle P \rangle$ ,  
where the next step depends  
on current point:  $W_{i+1} = f(W_i)$ .

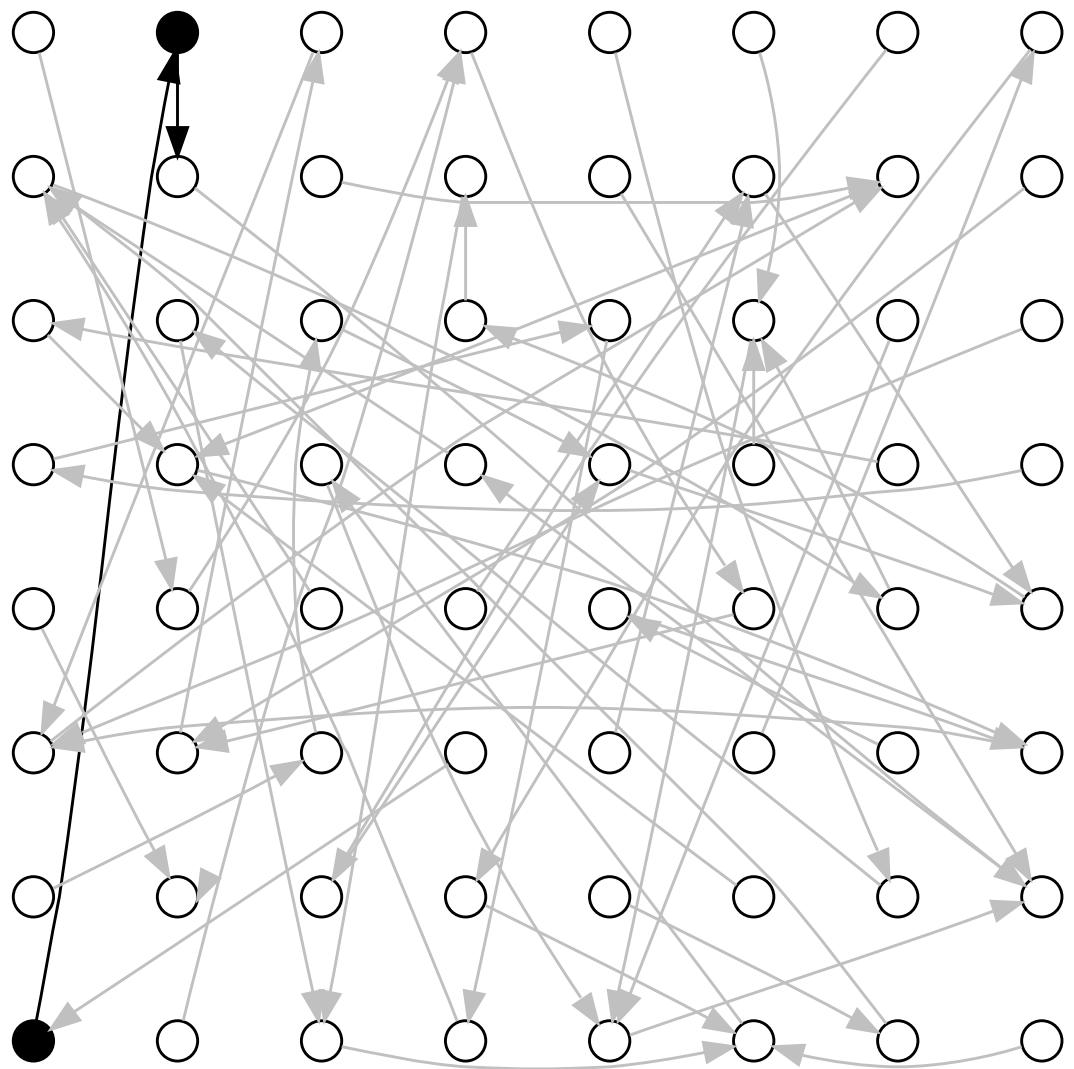
Birthday paradox:

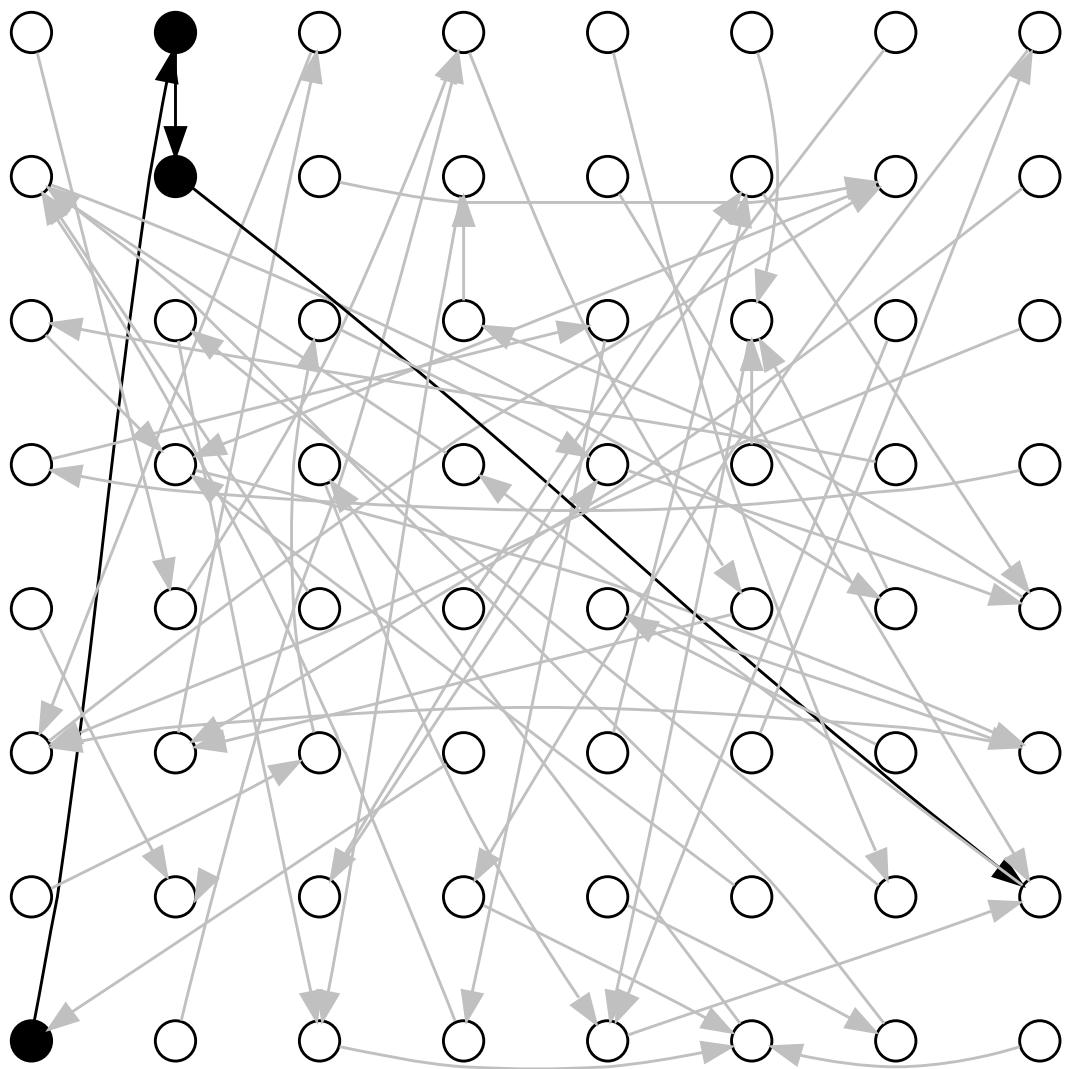
Randomly choosing from  $\ell$   
elements picks one element twice  
after about  $\sqrt{\pi\ell/2}$  draws.

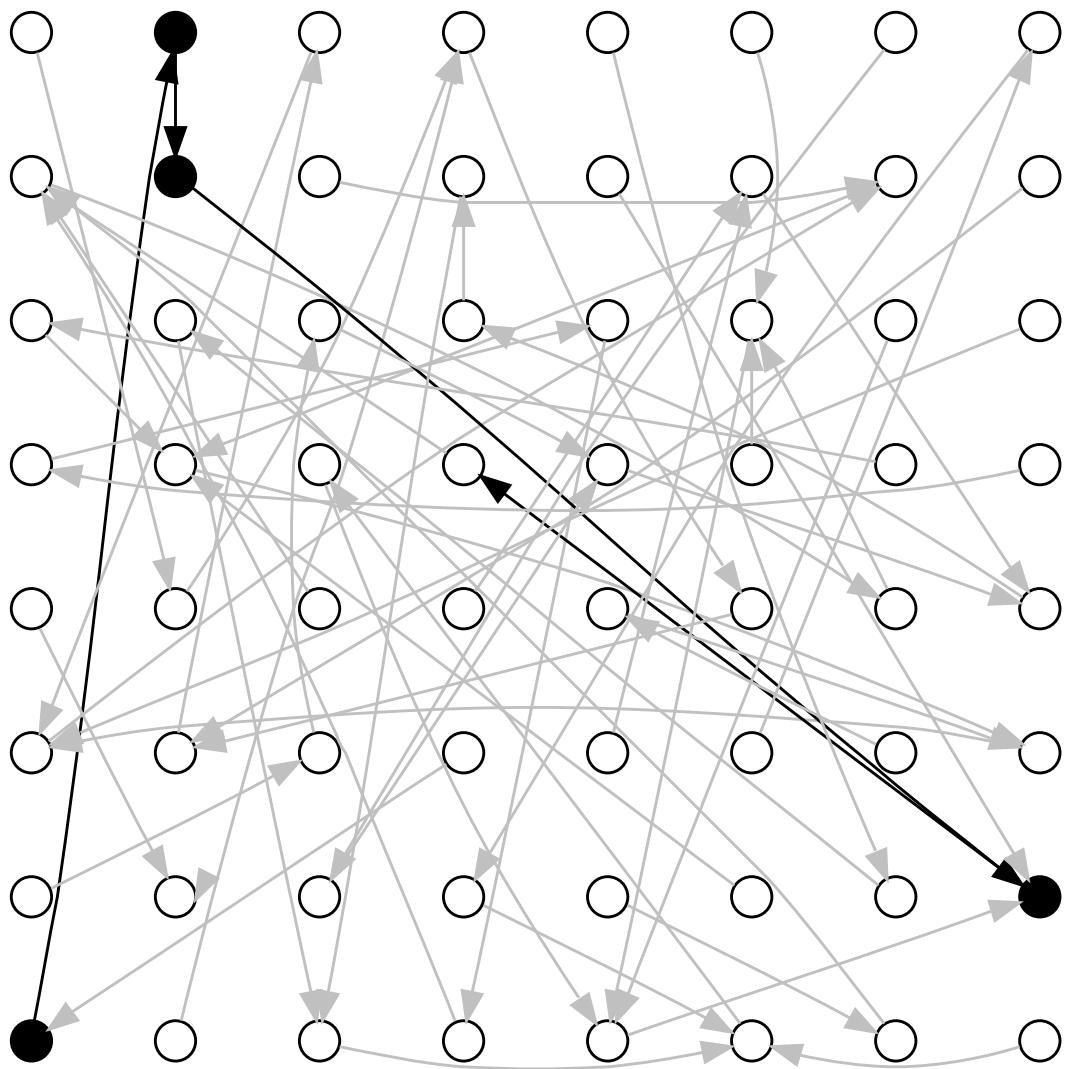
The walk now enters a cycle.

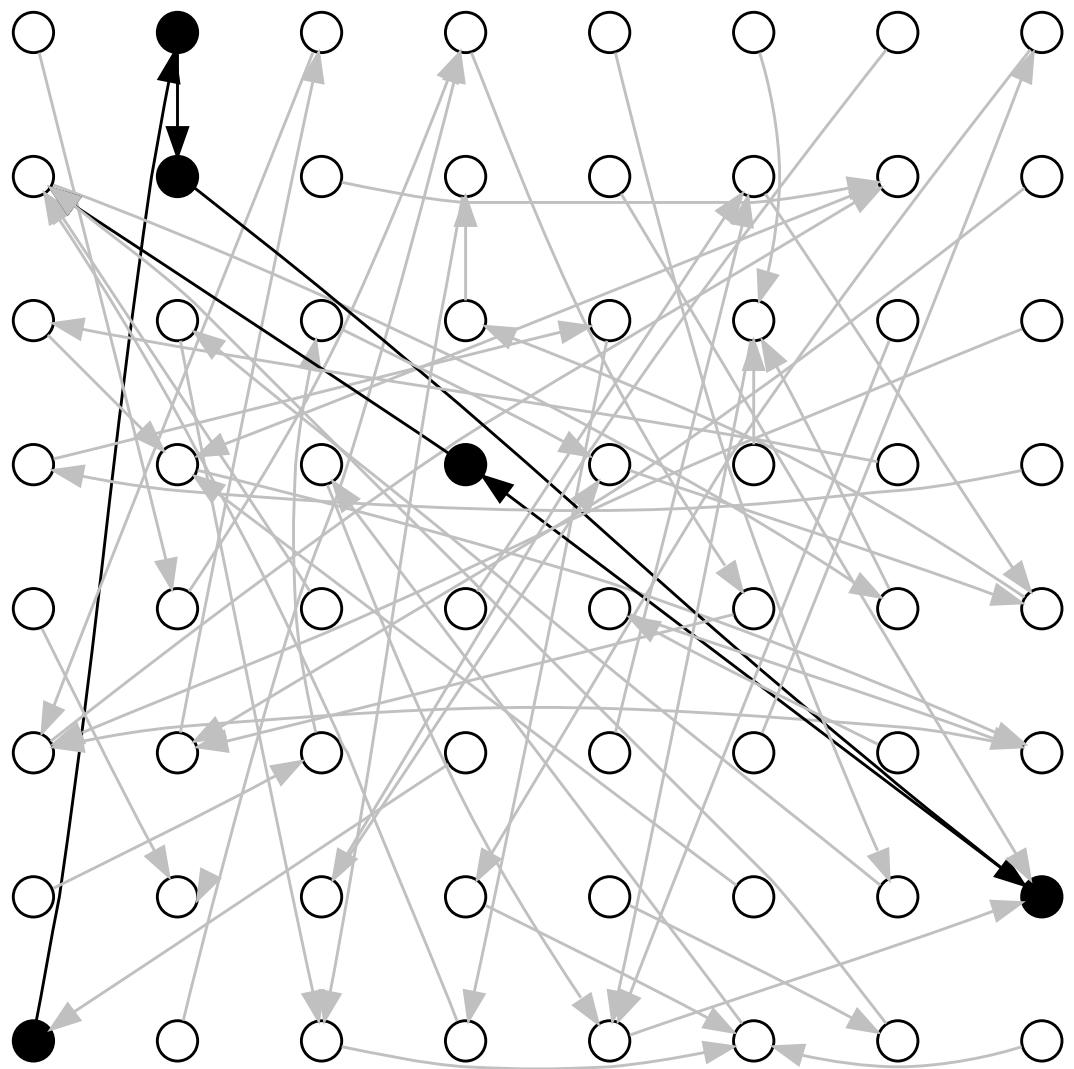
Cycle-finding algorithm  
(e.g., Floyd) quickly detects this.

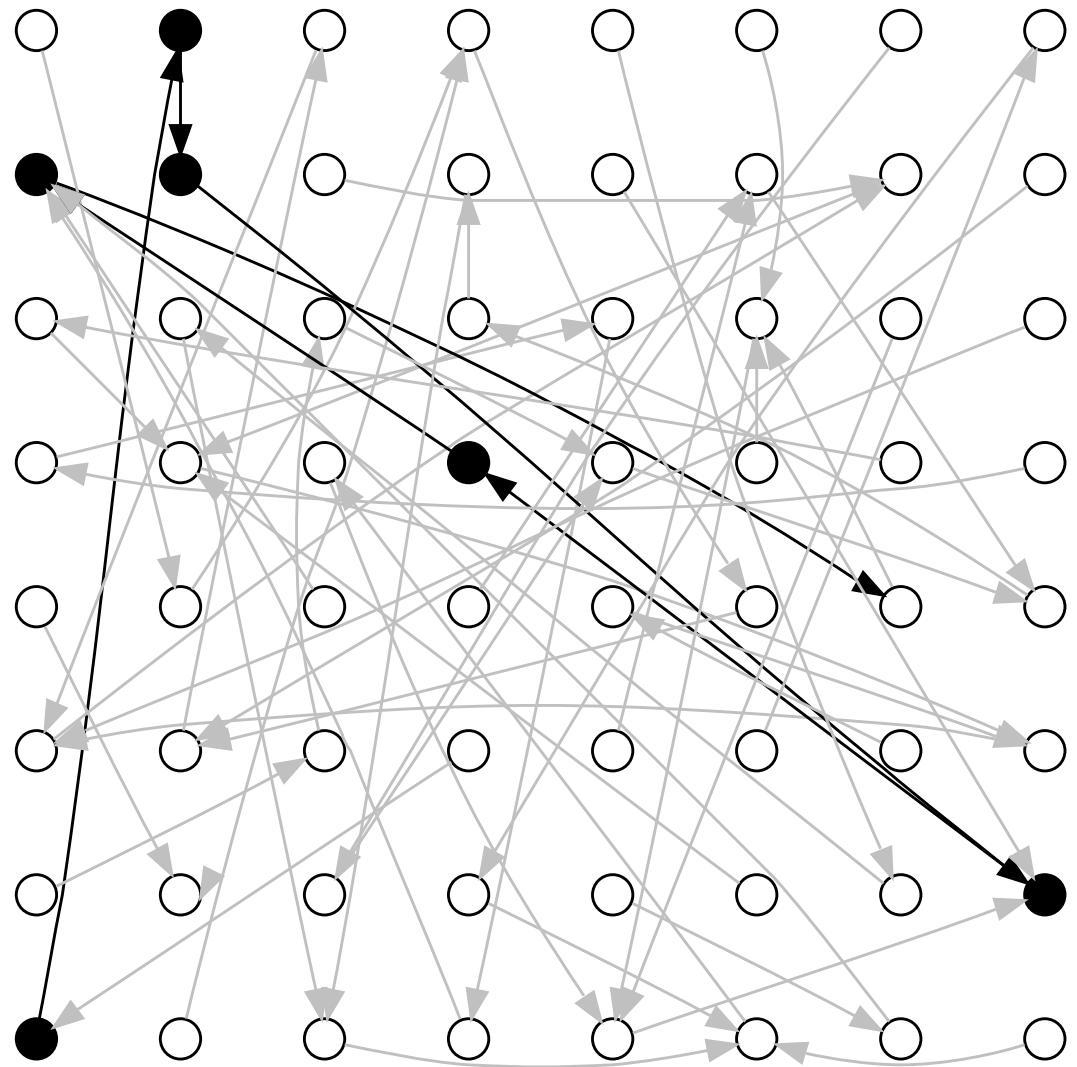


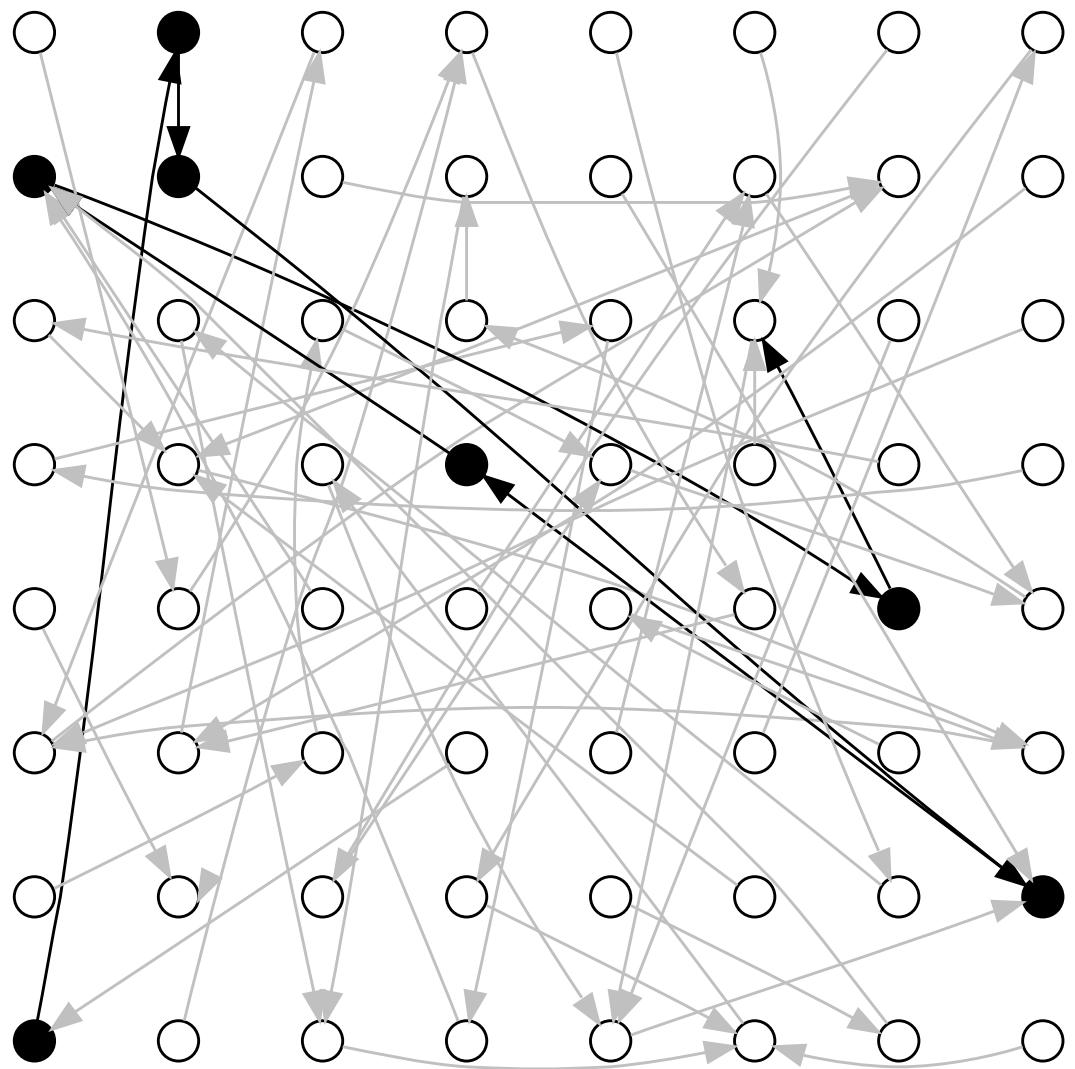


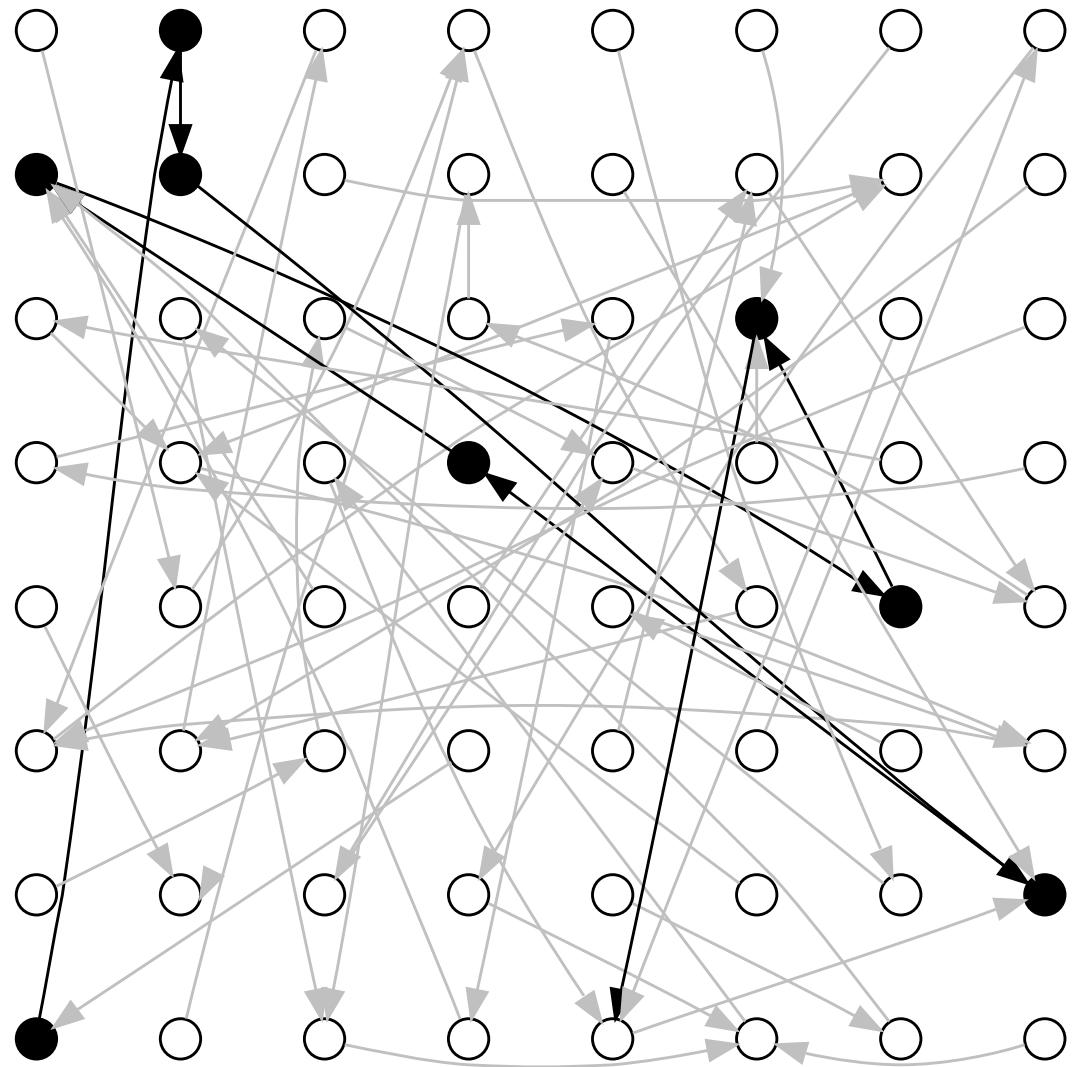


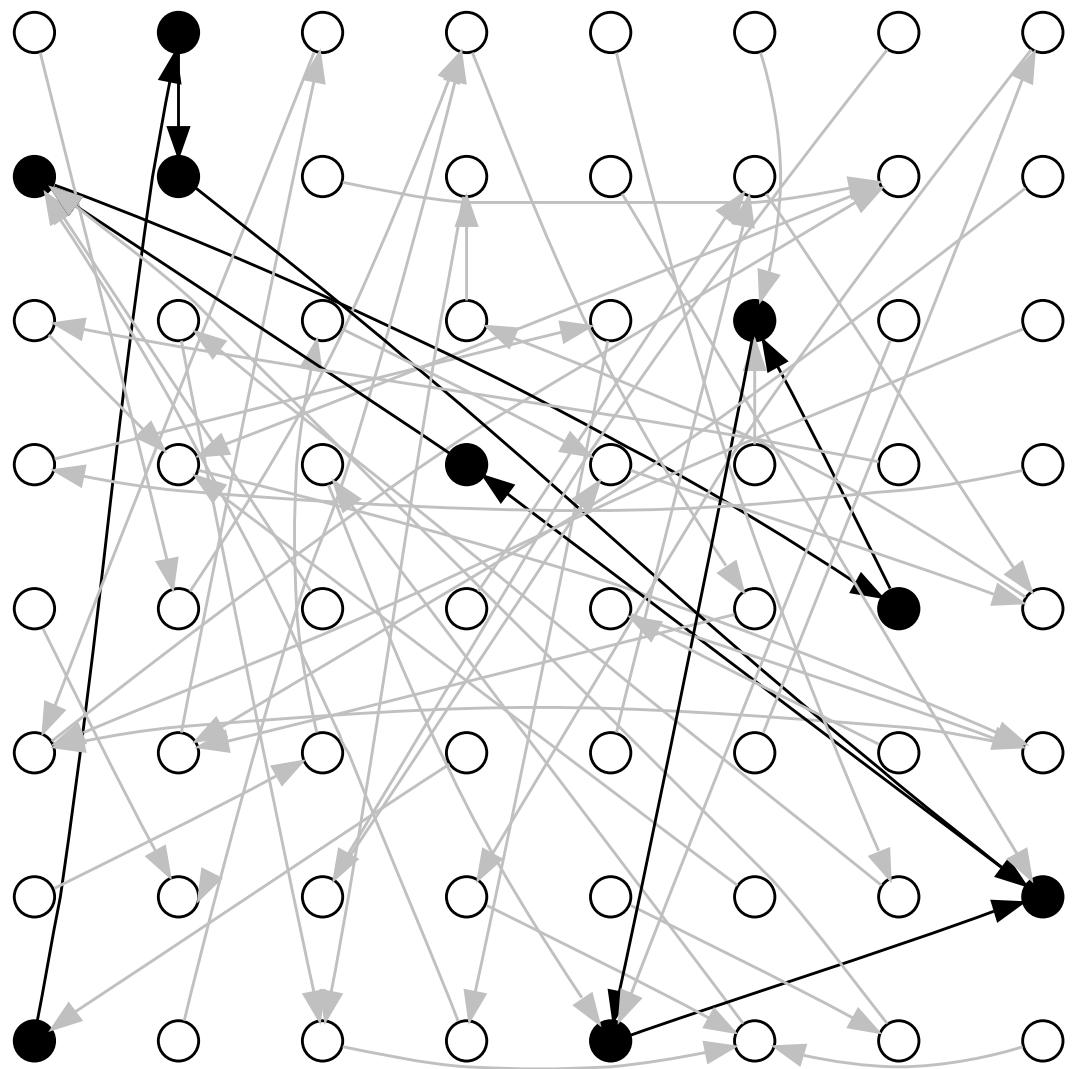


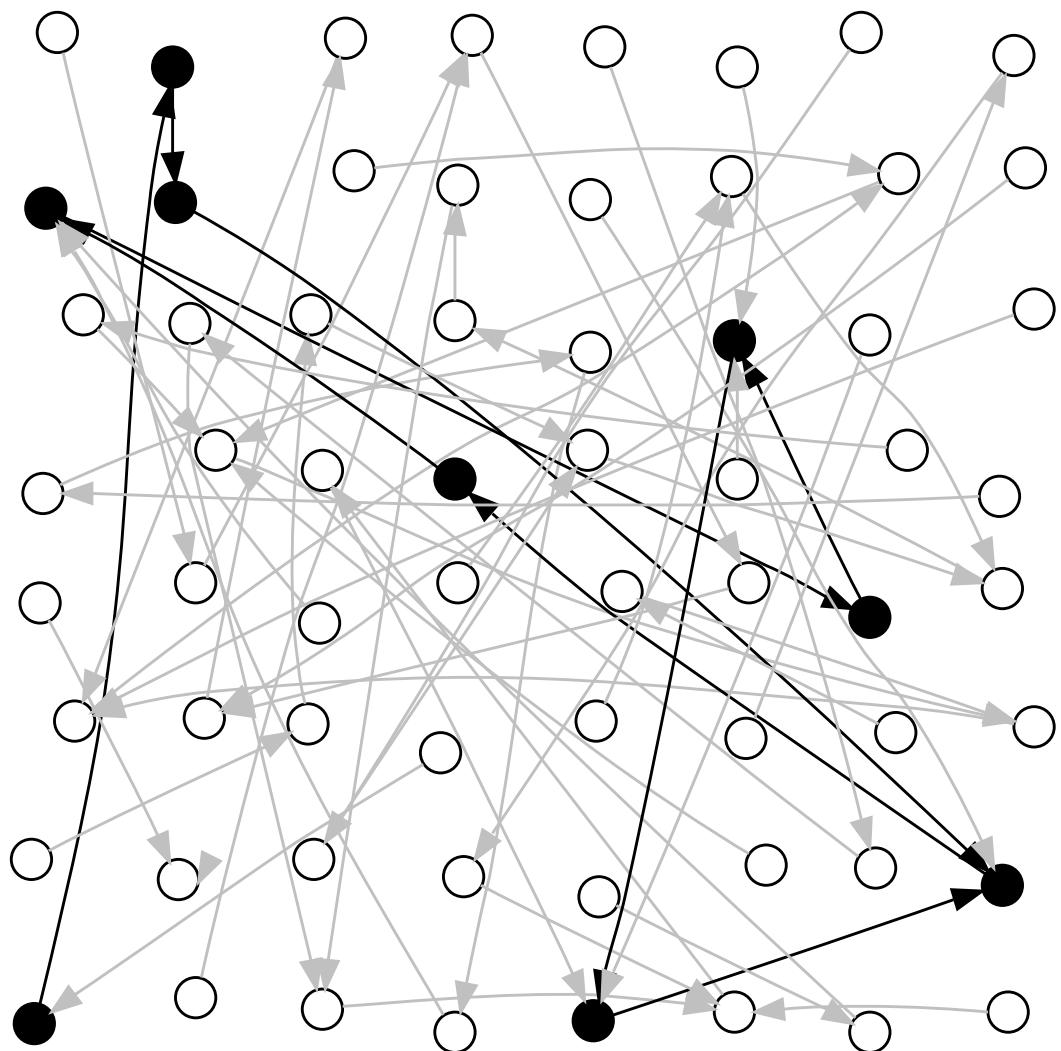


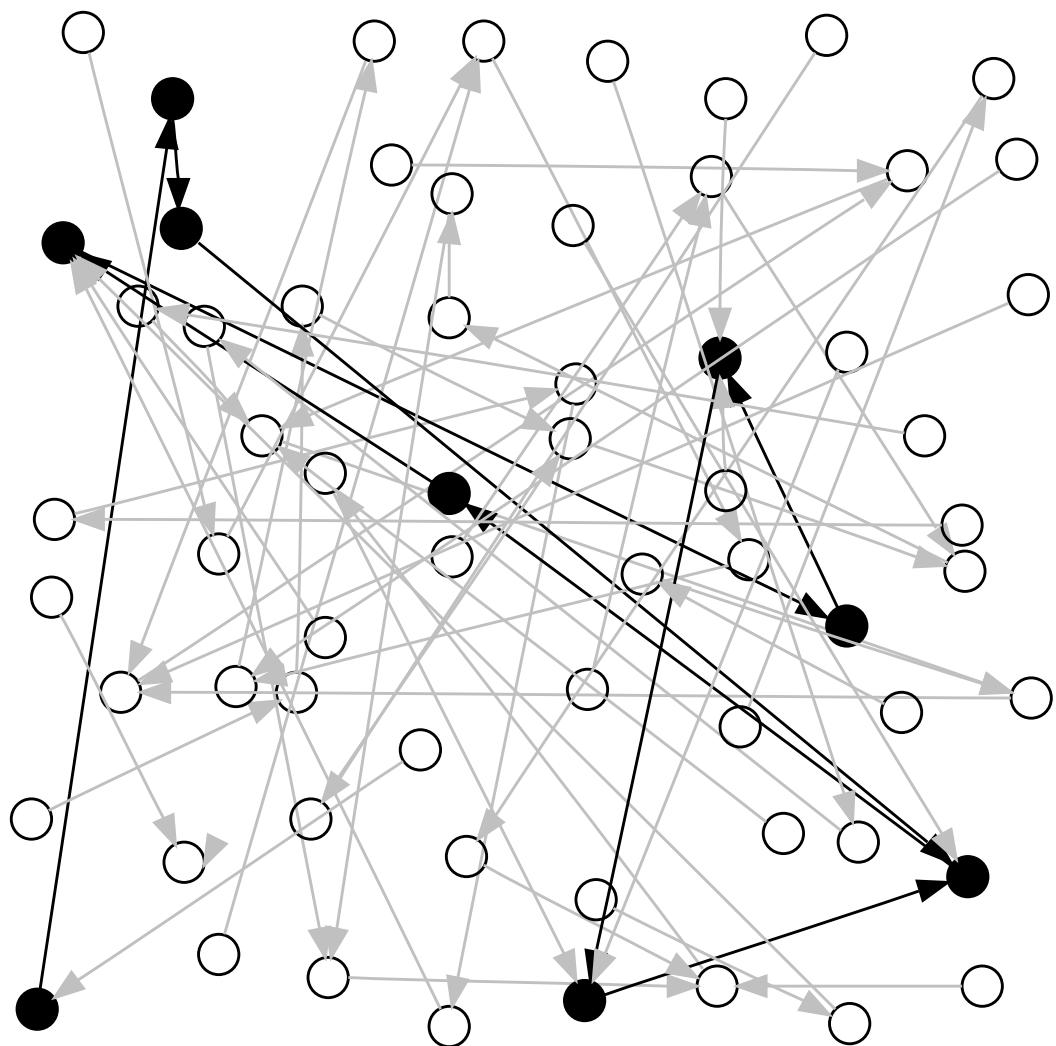


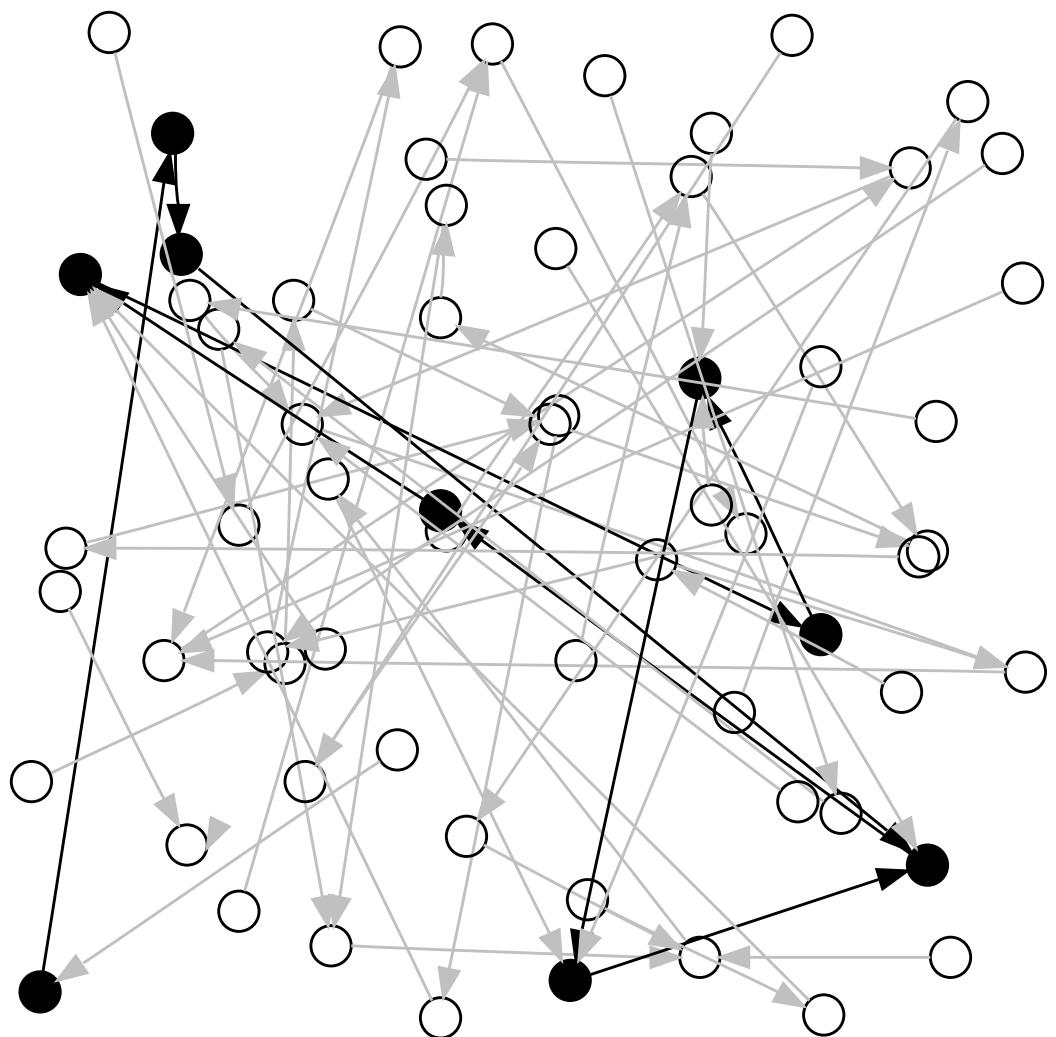


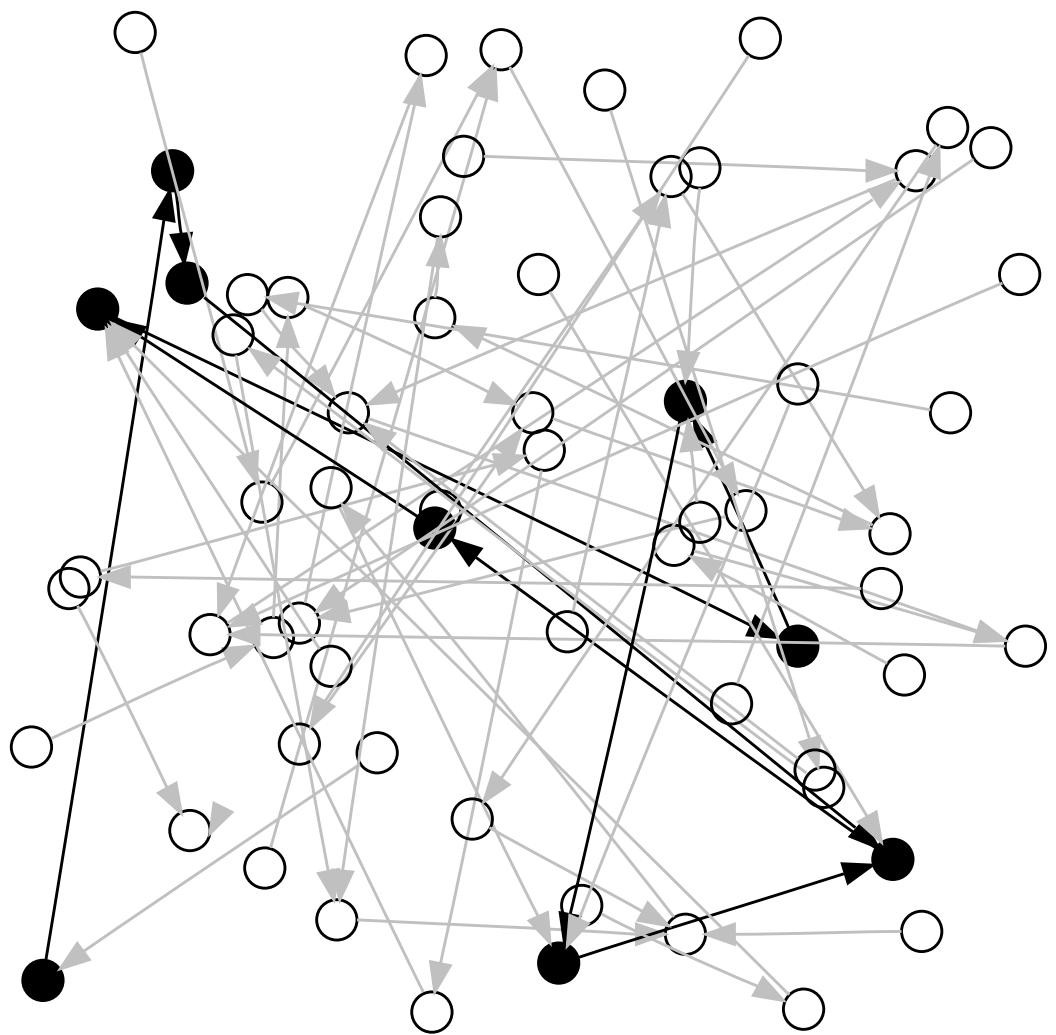


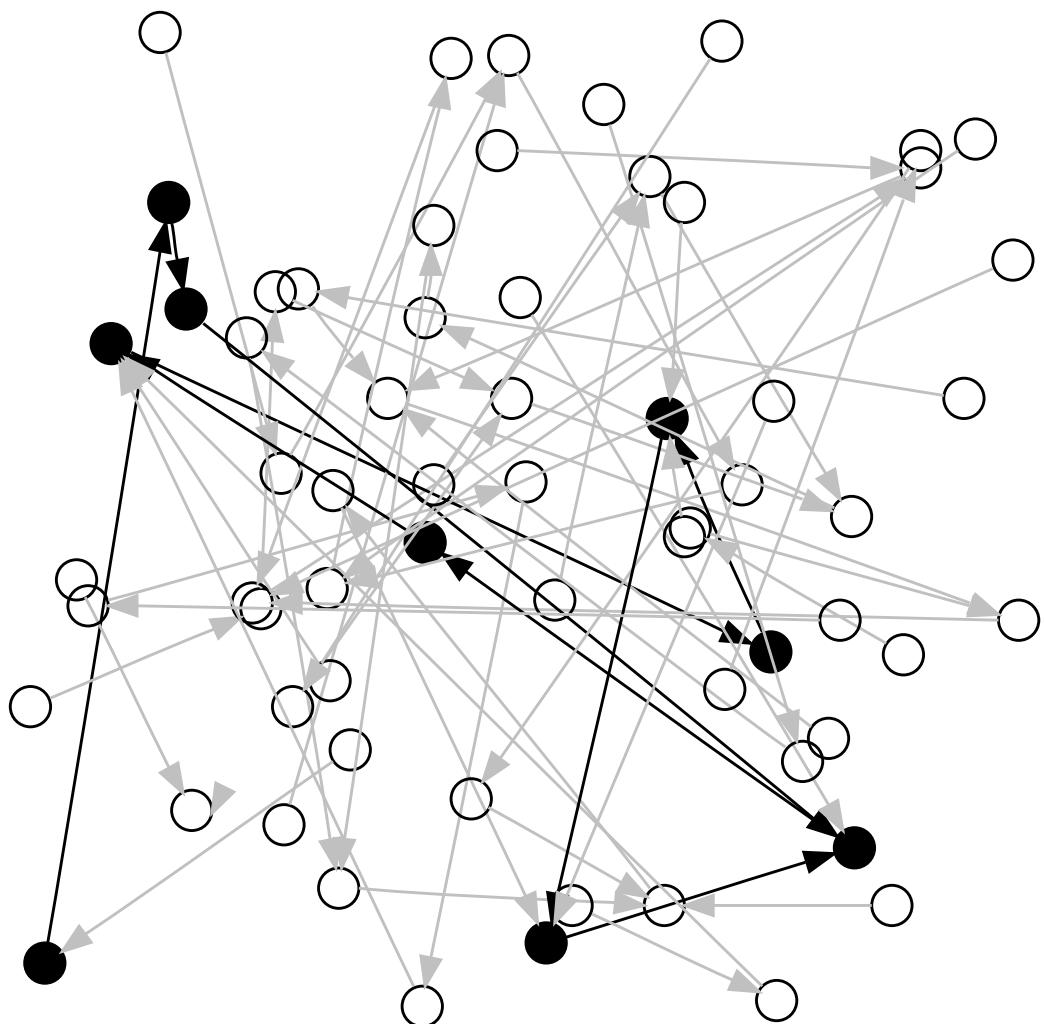


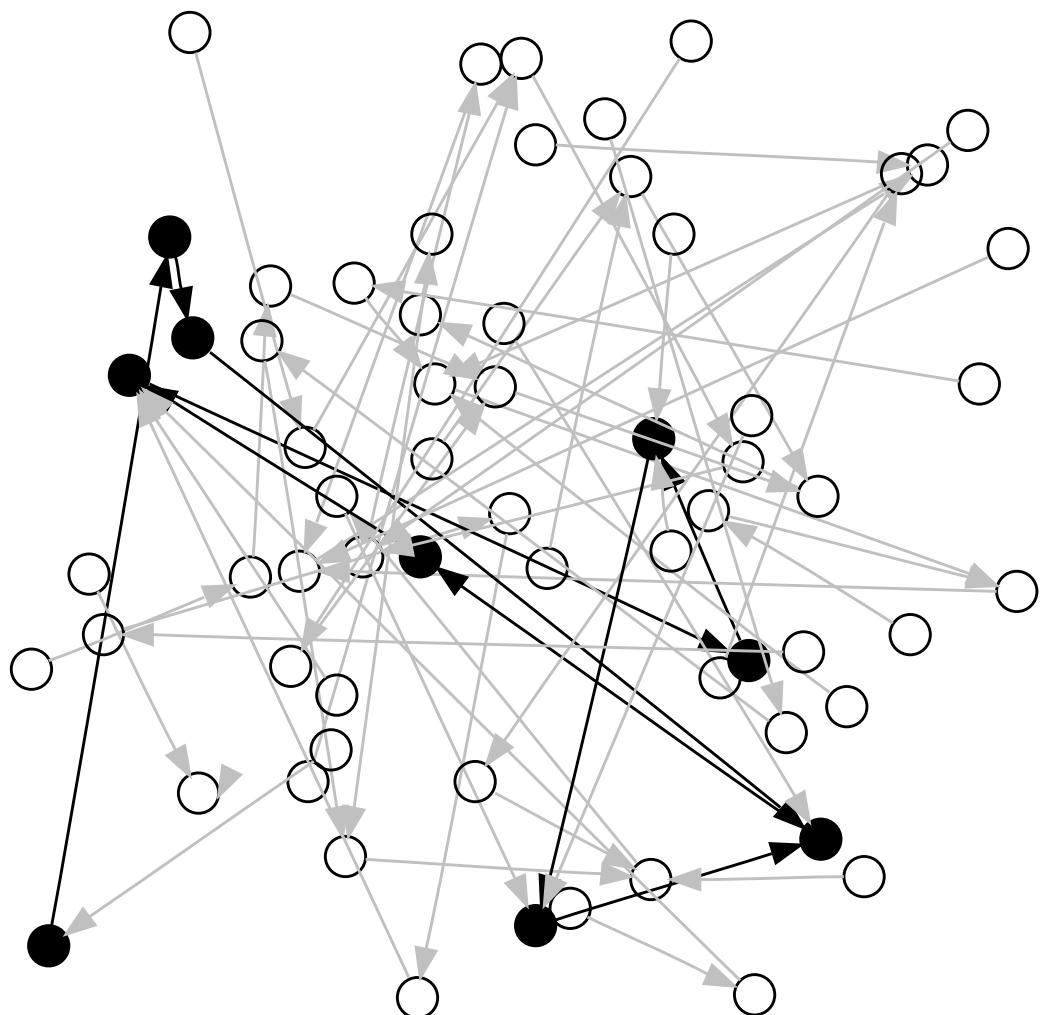


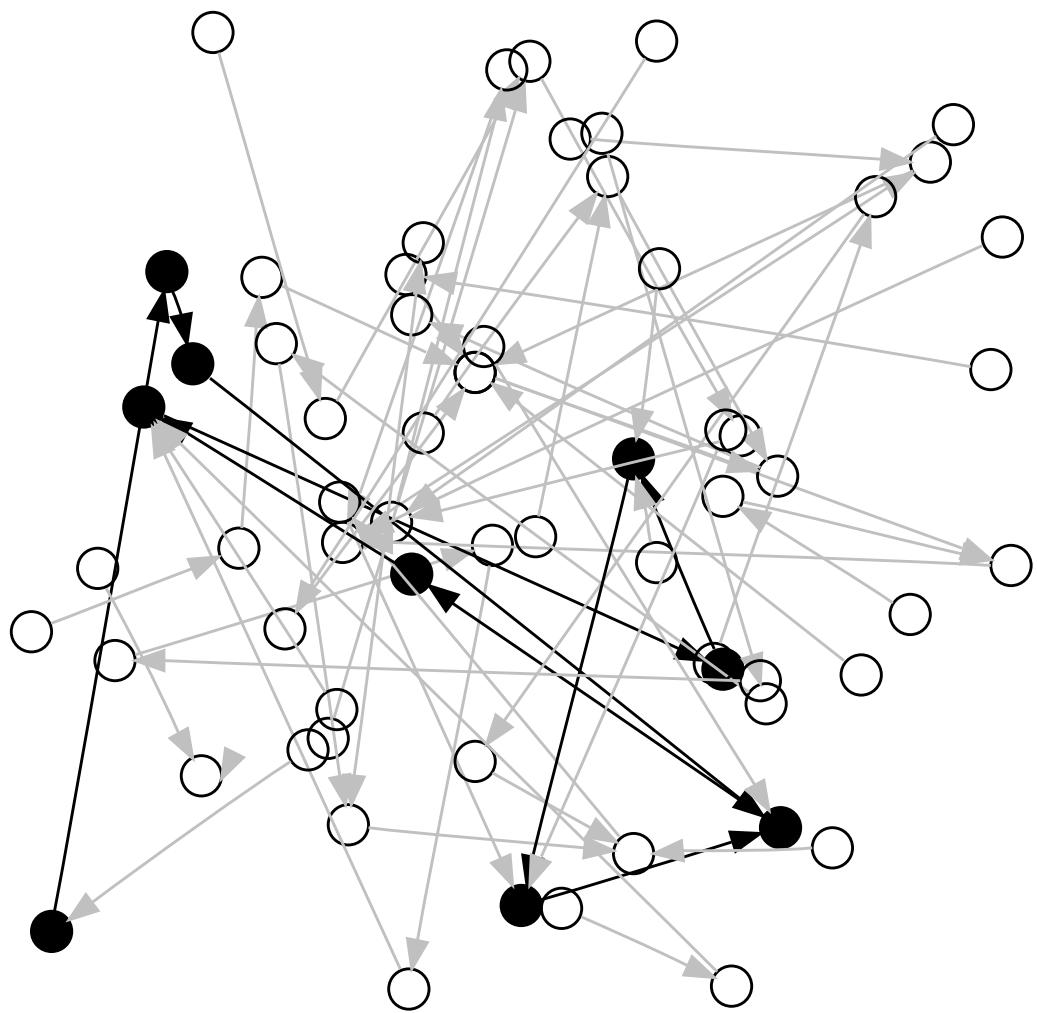


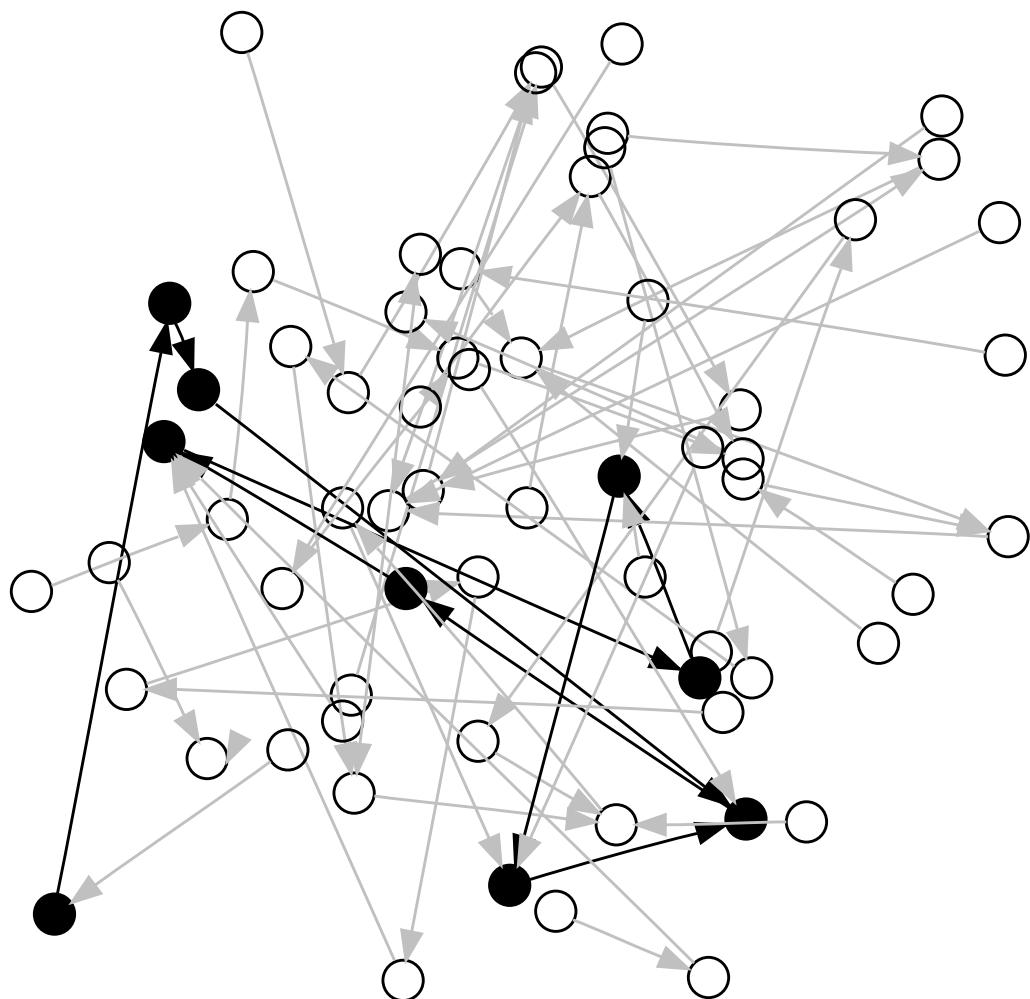


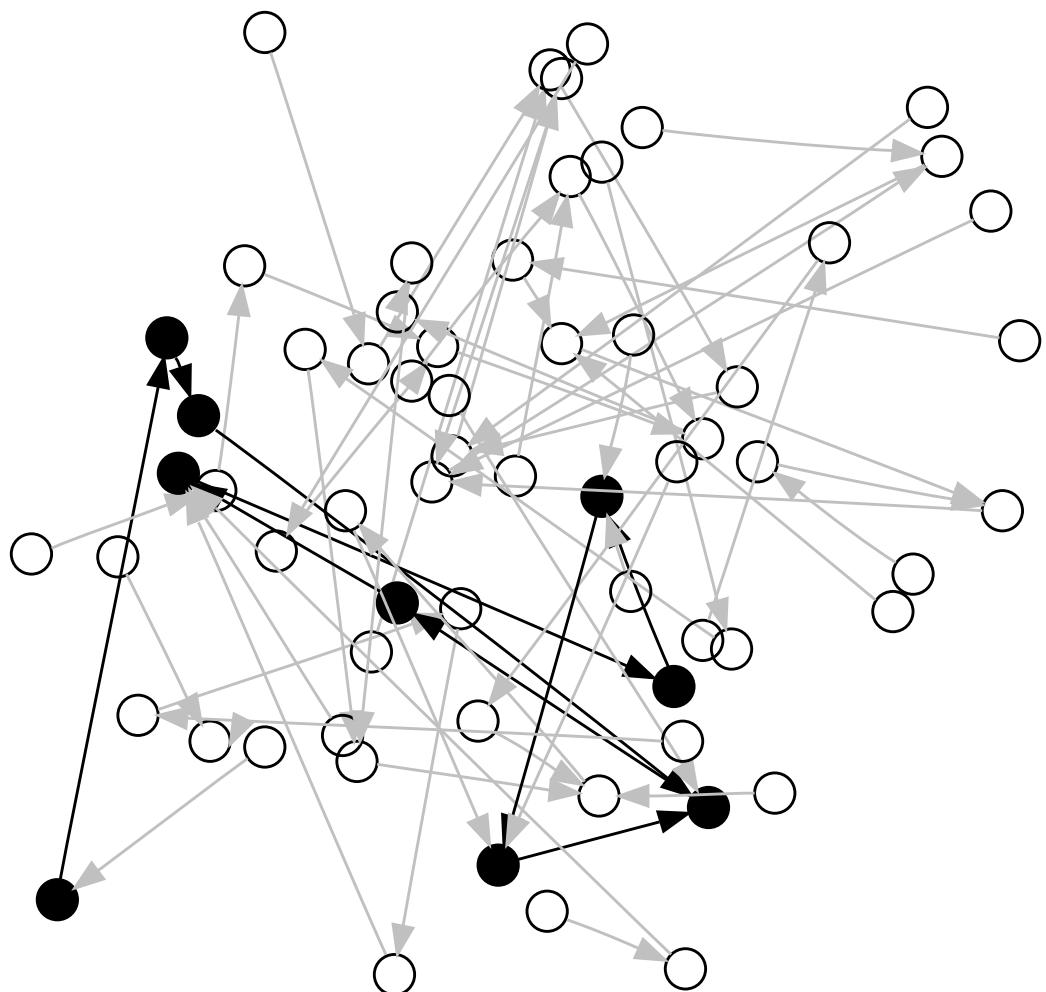


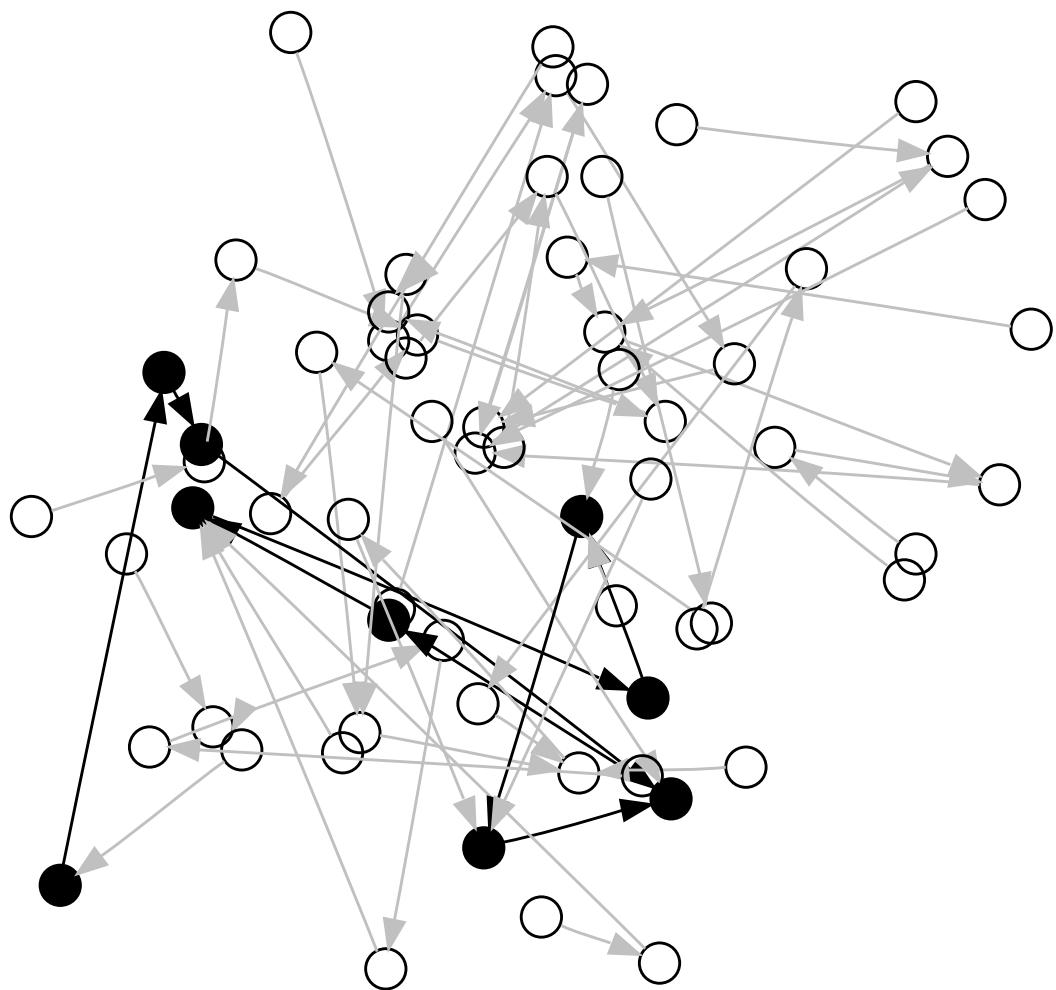


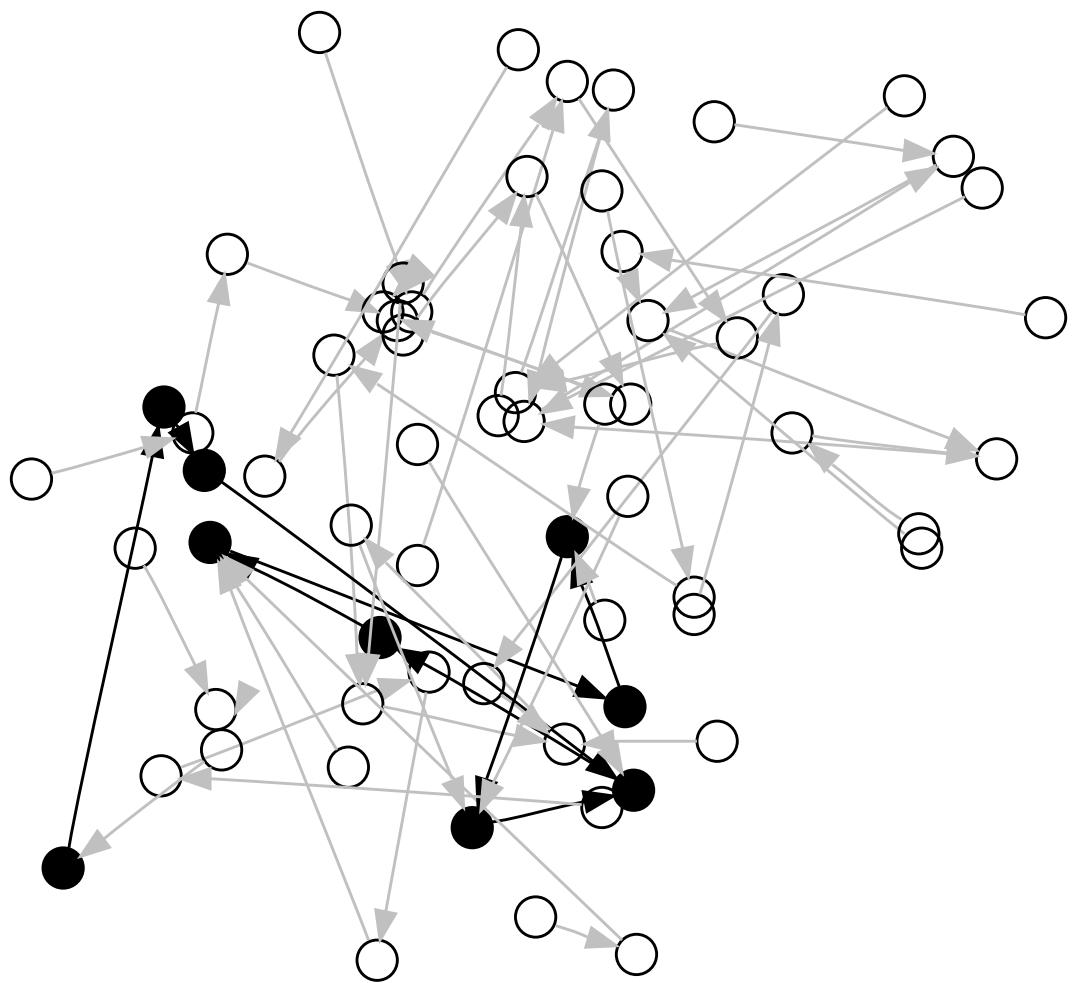


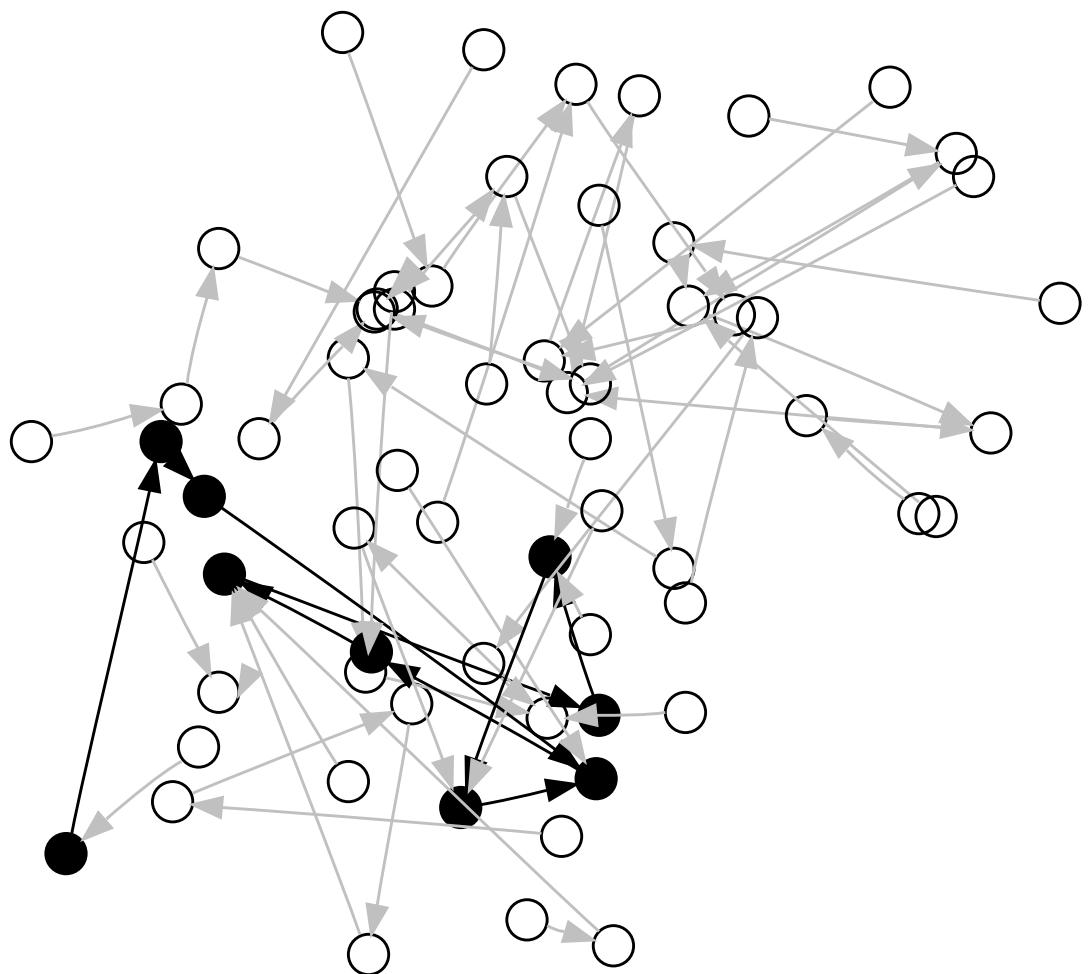


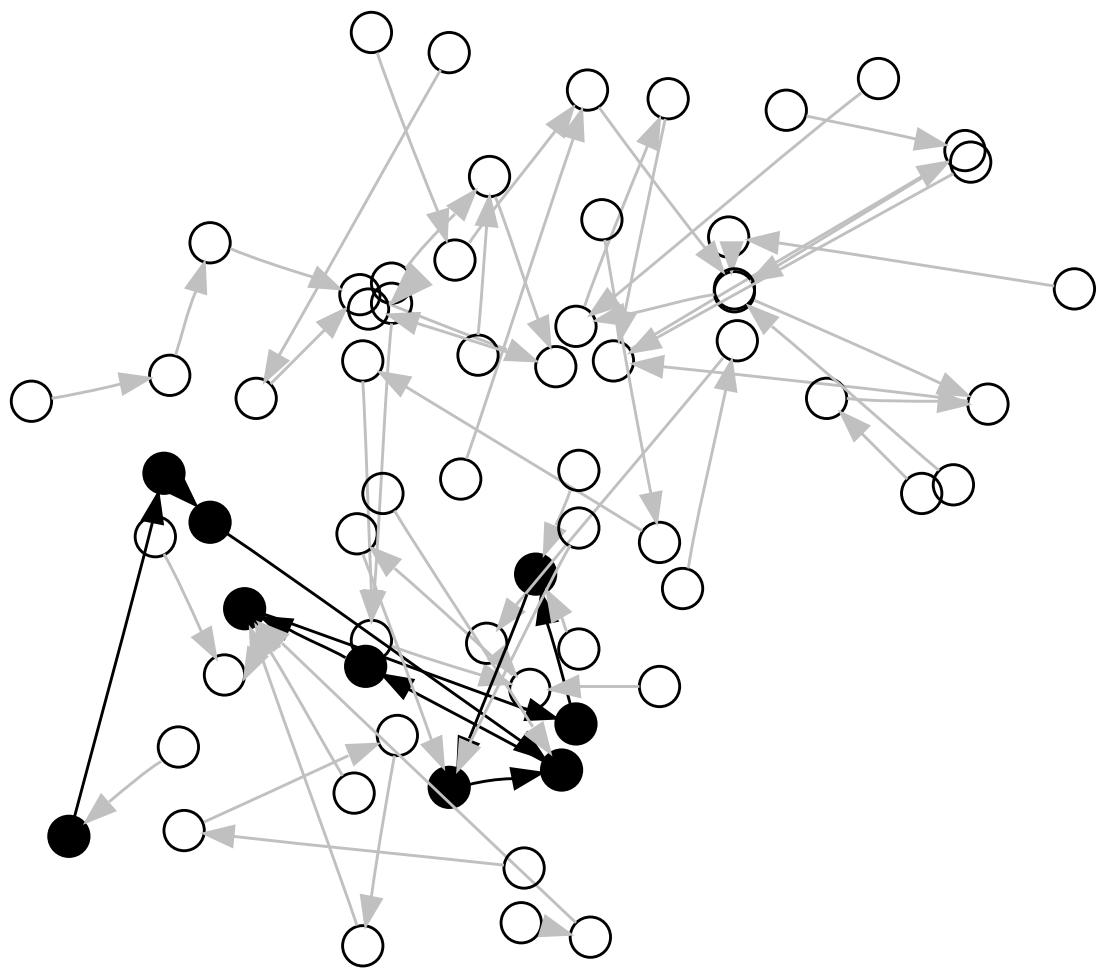


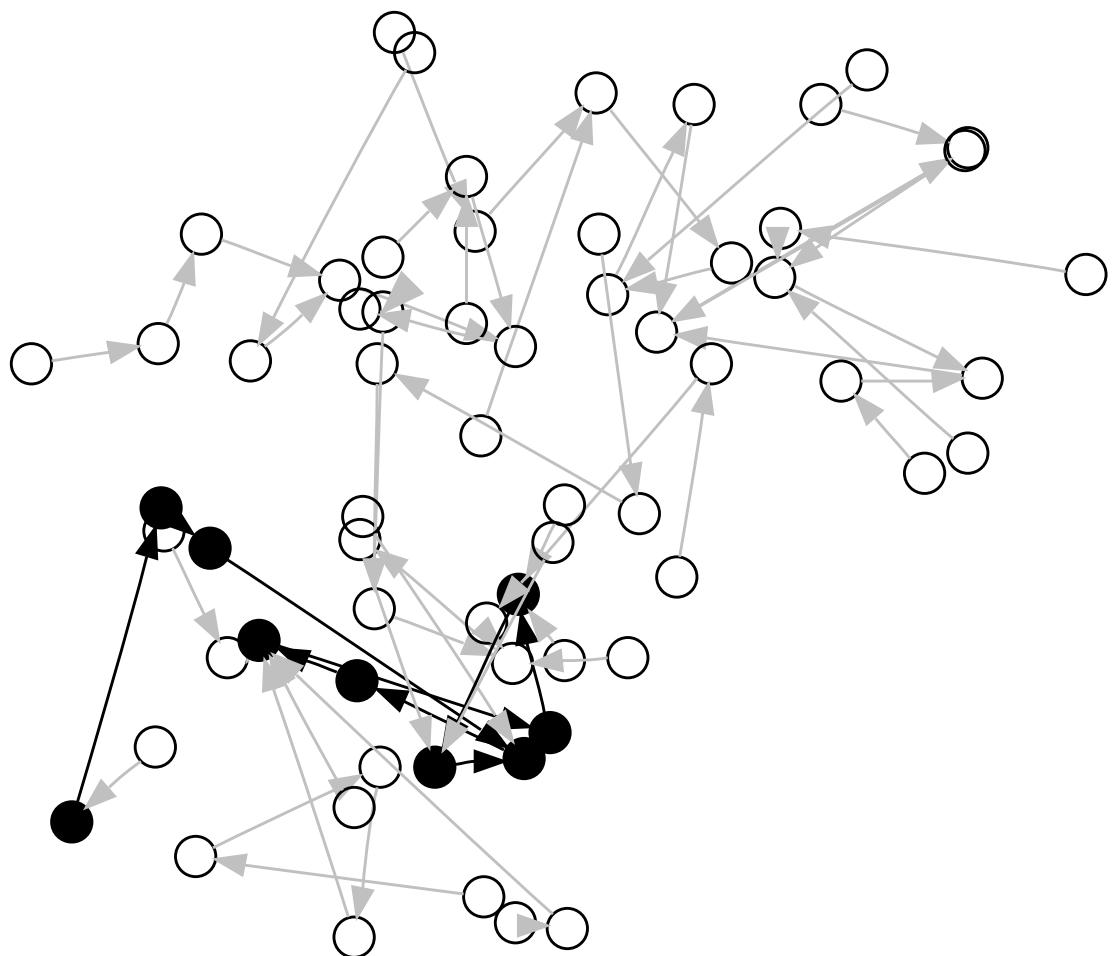


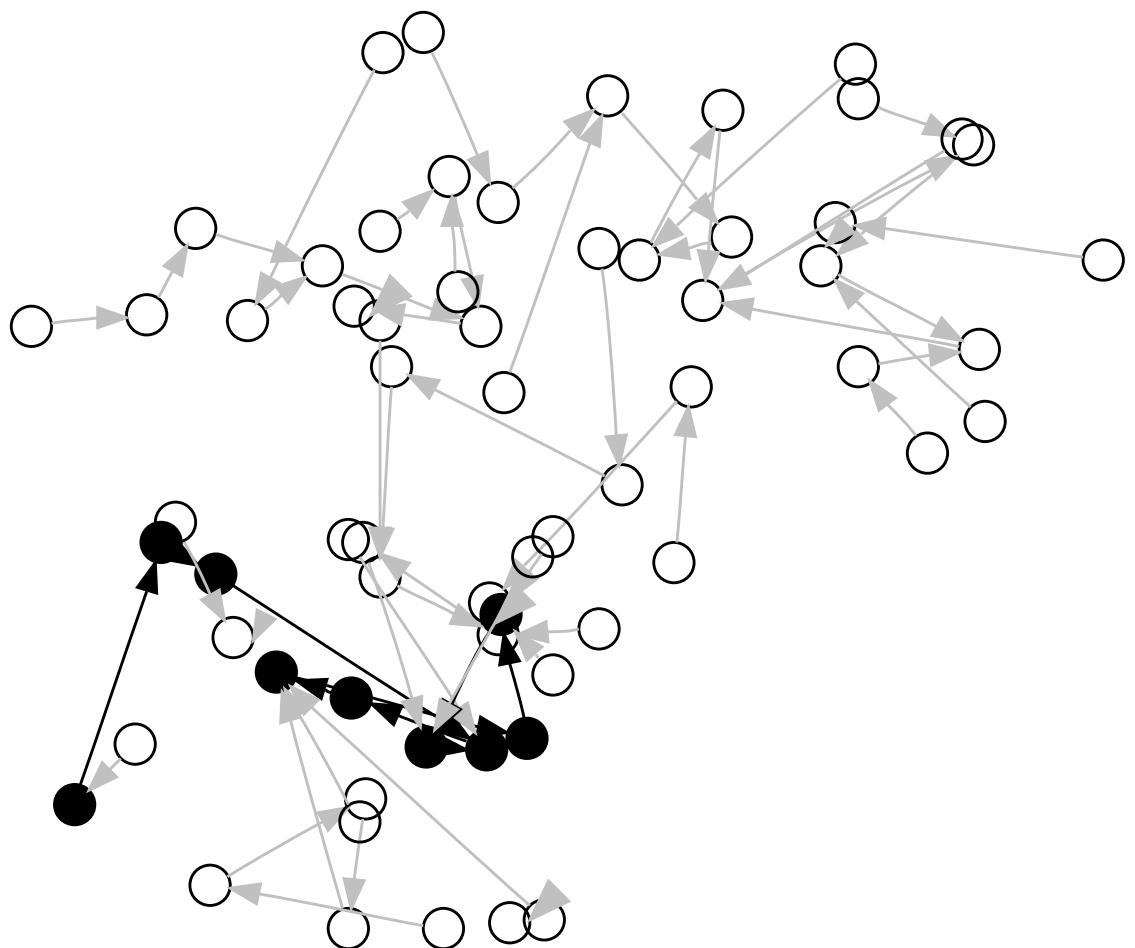


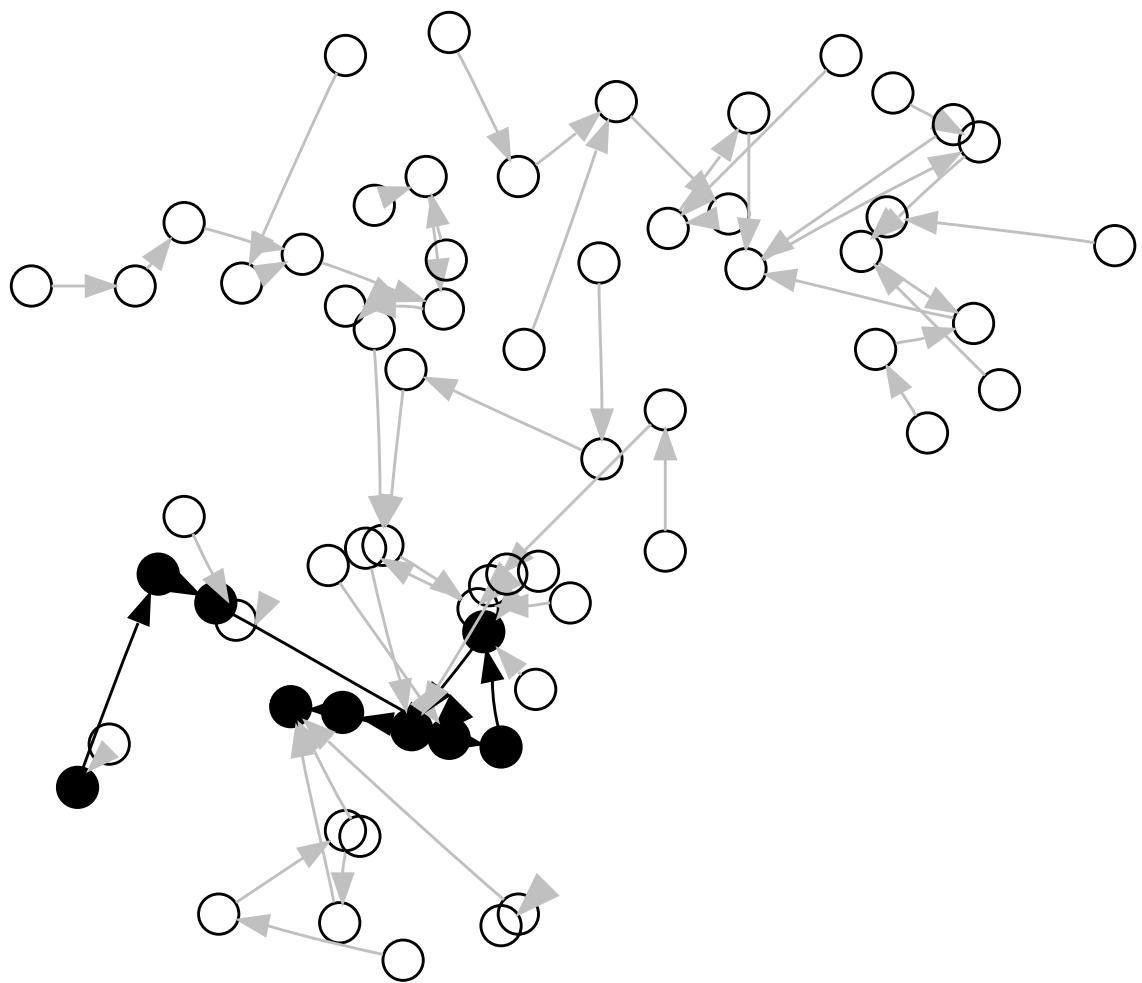


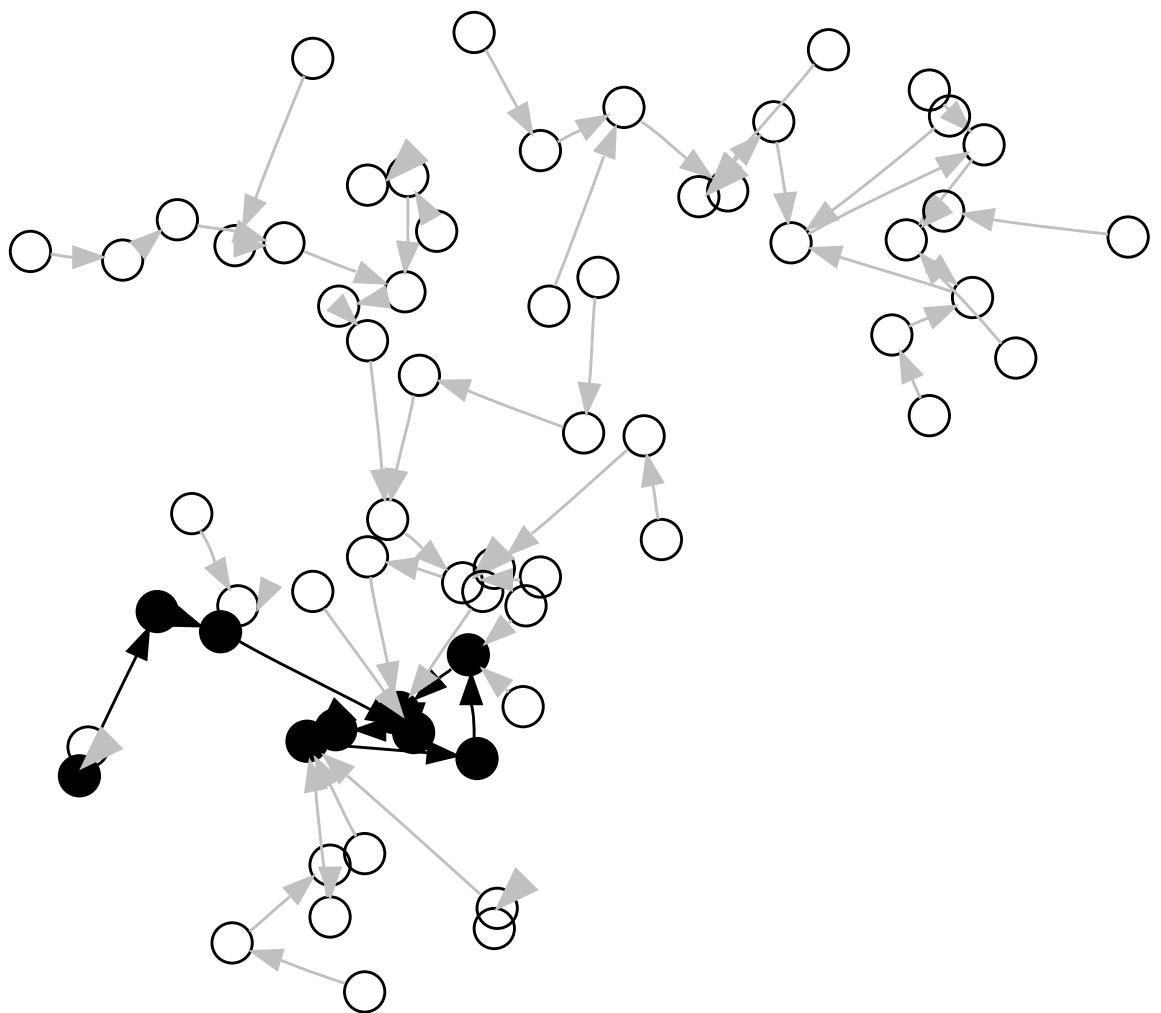


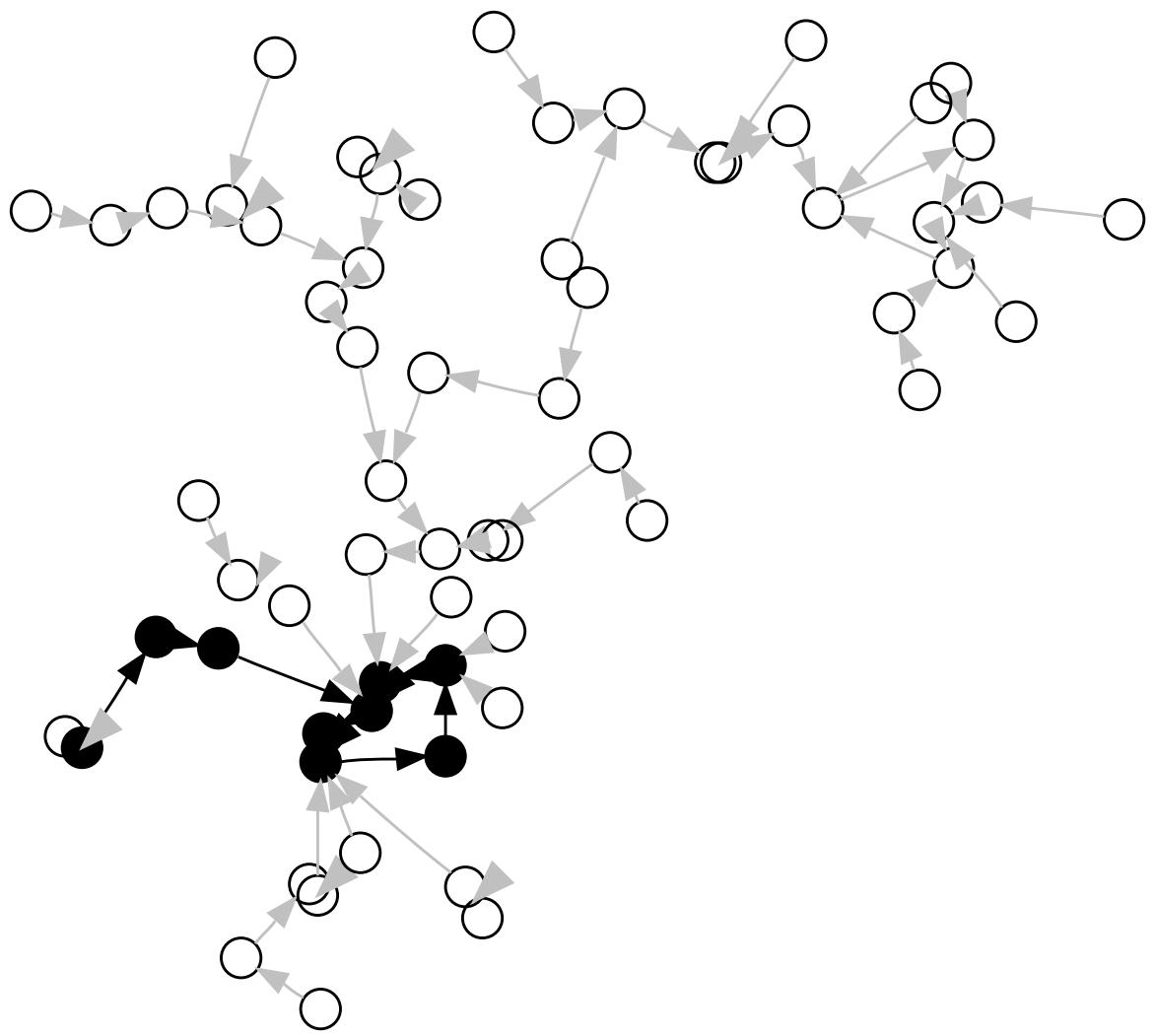


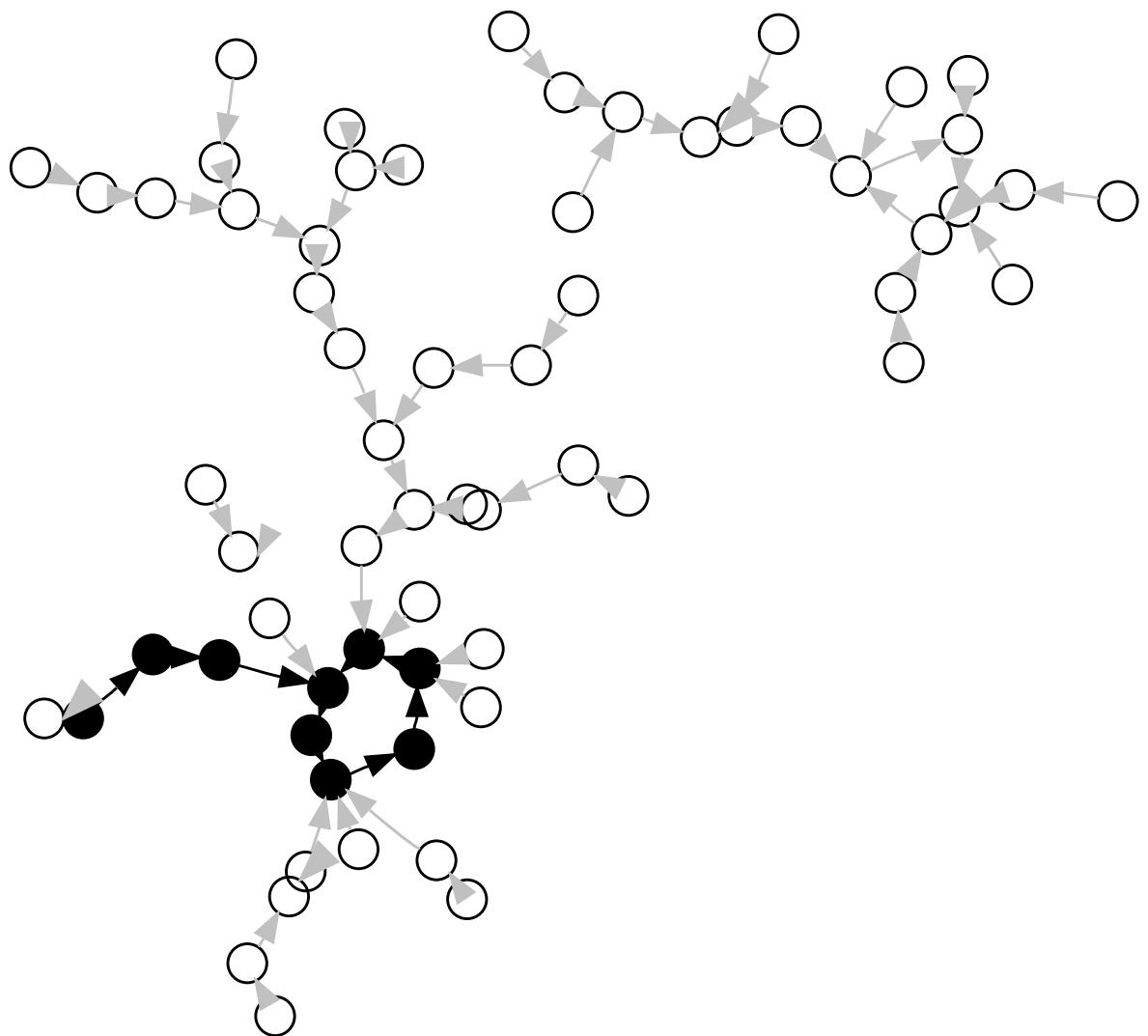


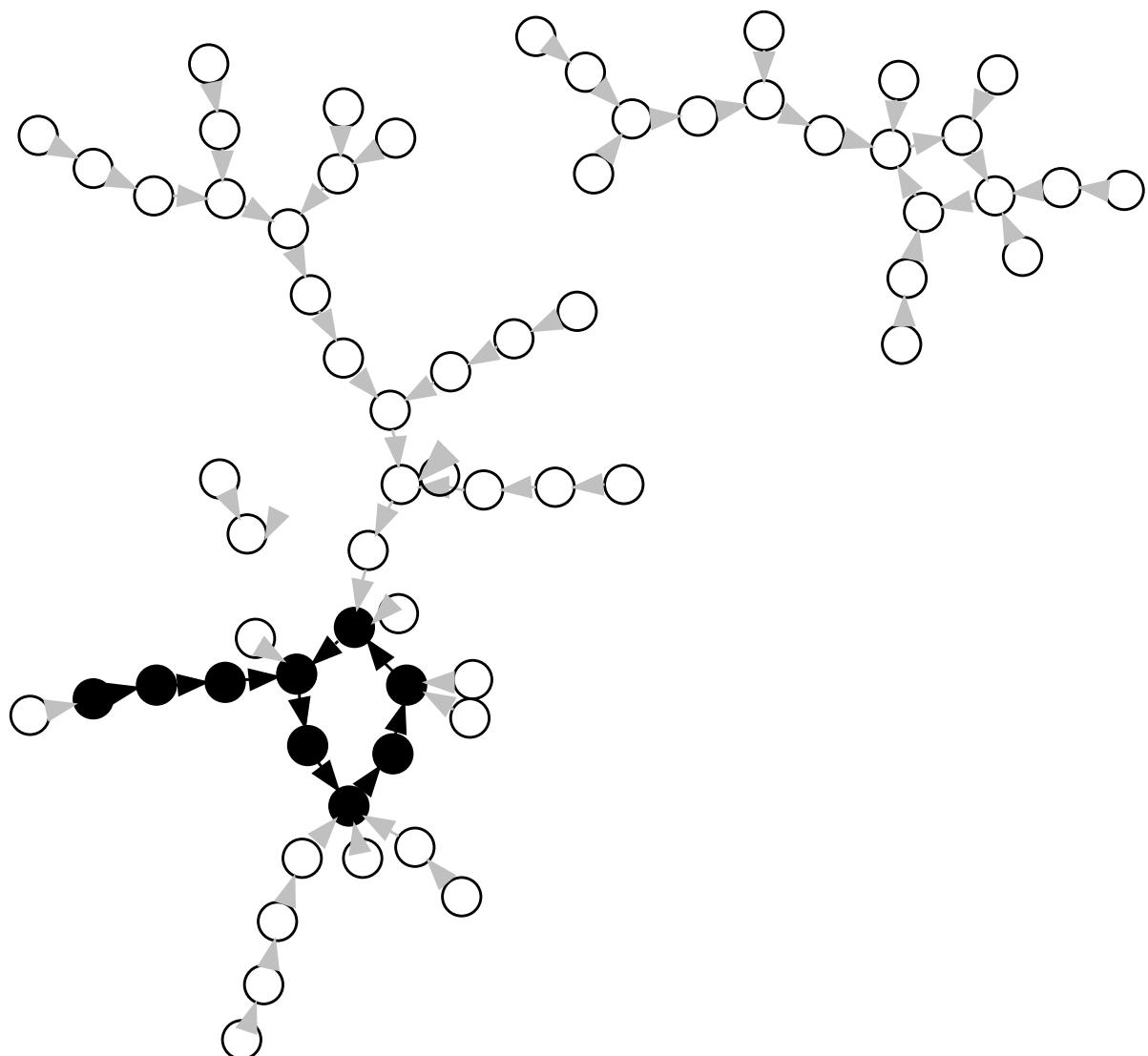












Assume that for each point

we know  $a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{Z}/\ell\mathbb{Z}$

so that  $W_i = [a_i]P + [b_i]Q$ .

Then  $W_i = W_j$  means that

$$[a_i]P + [b_i]Q = [a_j]P + [b_j]Q$$

$$\text{so } [b_i - b_j]Q = [a_j - a_i]P.$$

If  $b_i \neq b_j$  the DLP is solved:

$$k = (a_j - a_i)/(b_i - b_j).$$

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e.g. “Additive walk”:

Start with  $W_0 = P$  and put

$$f(W_i) = W_i + c_j P + d_j Q$$

where  $j = h(W_i)$ .

Parallel rho: Perform many walks  
with different starting points  
but same update function  $f$ .

If two different walks  
find the same point then  
their subsequent steps will match.

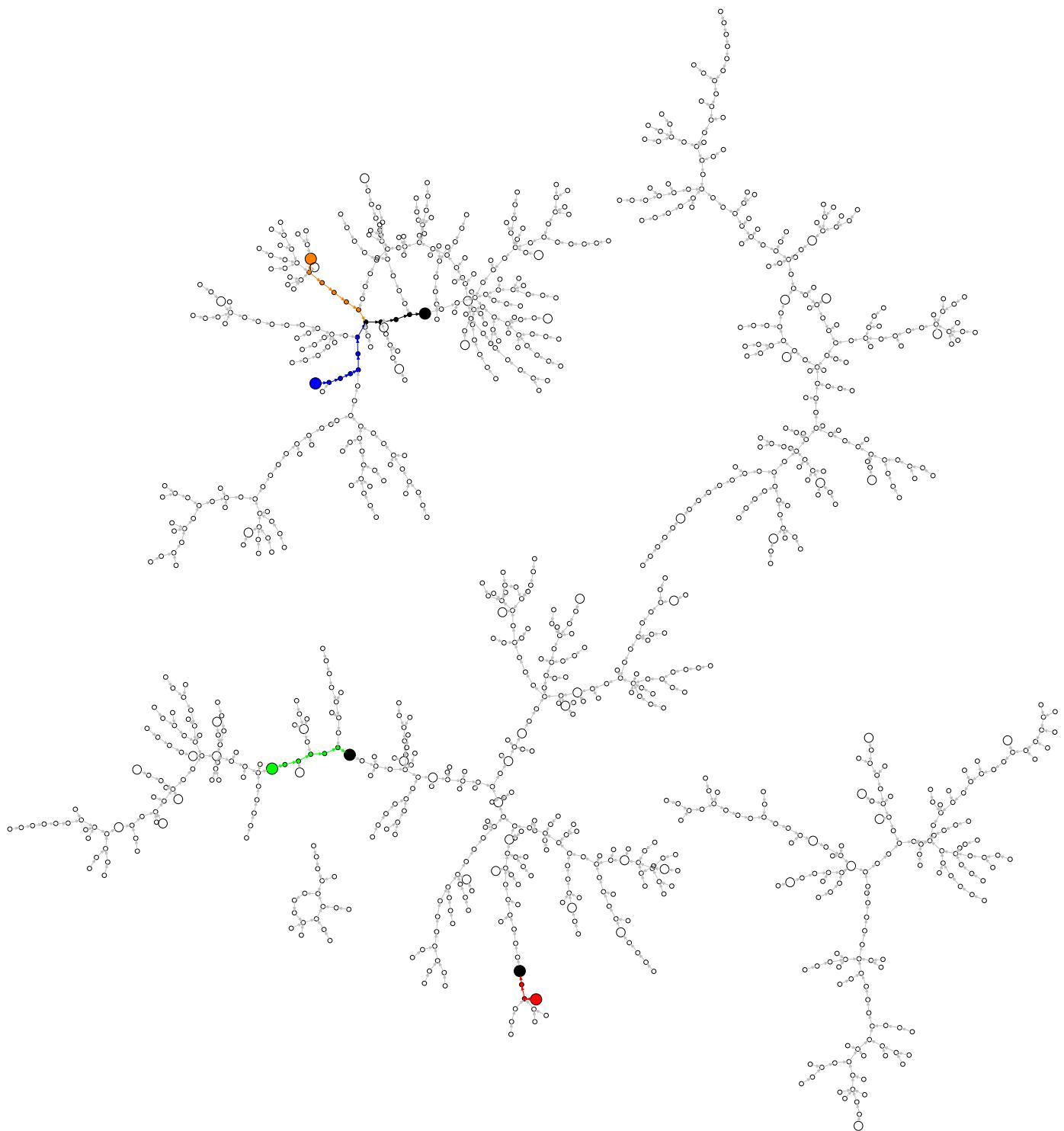
Terminate each walk once it hits  
a **distinguished point**.

Attacker chooses frequency and  
definition of distinguished points.

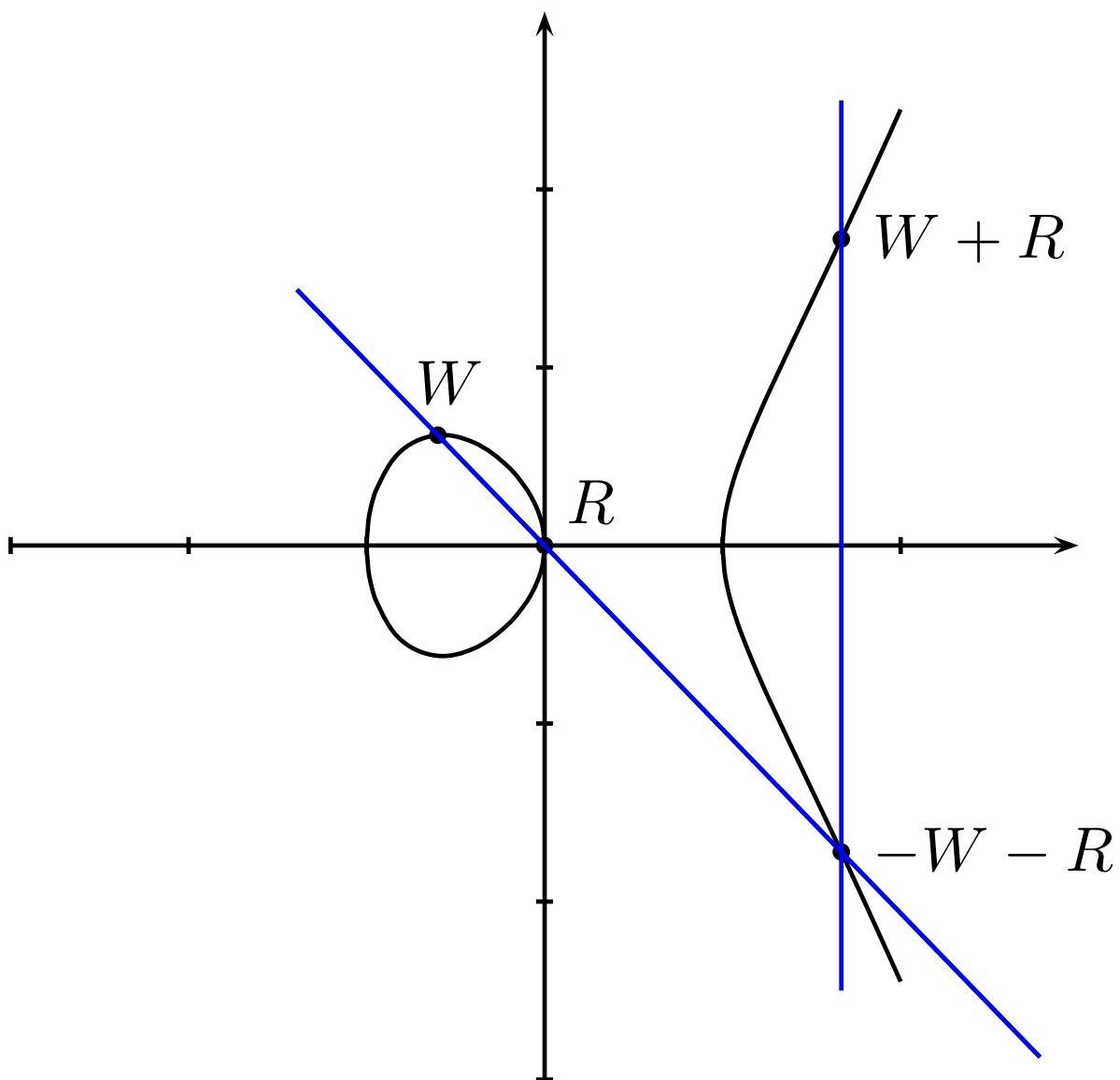
Do not wait for cycle.

Collect all distinguished points.

Two walks ending in same  
distinguished point solve DLP.

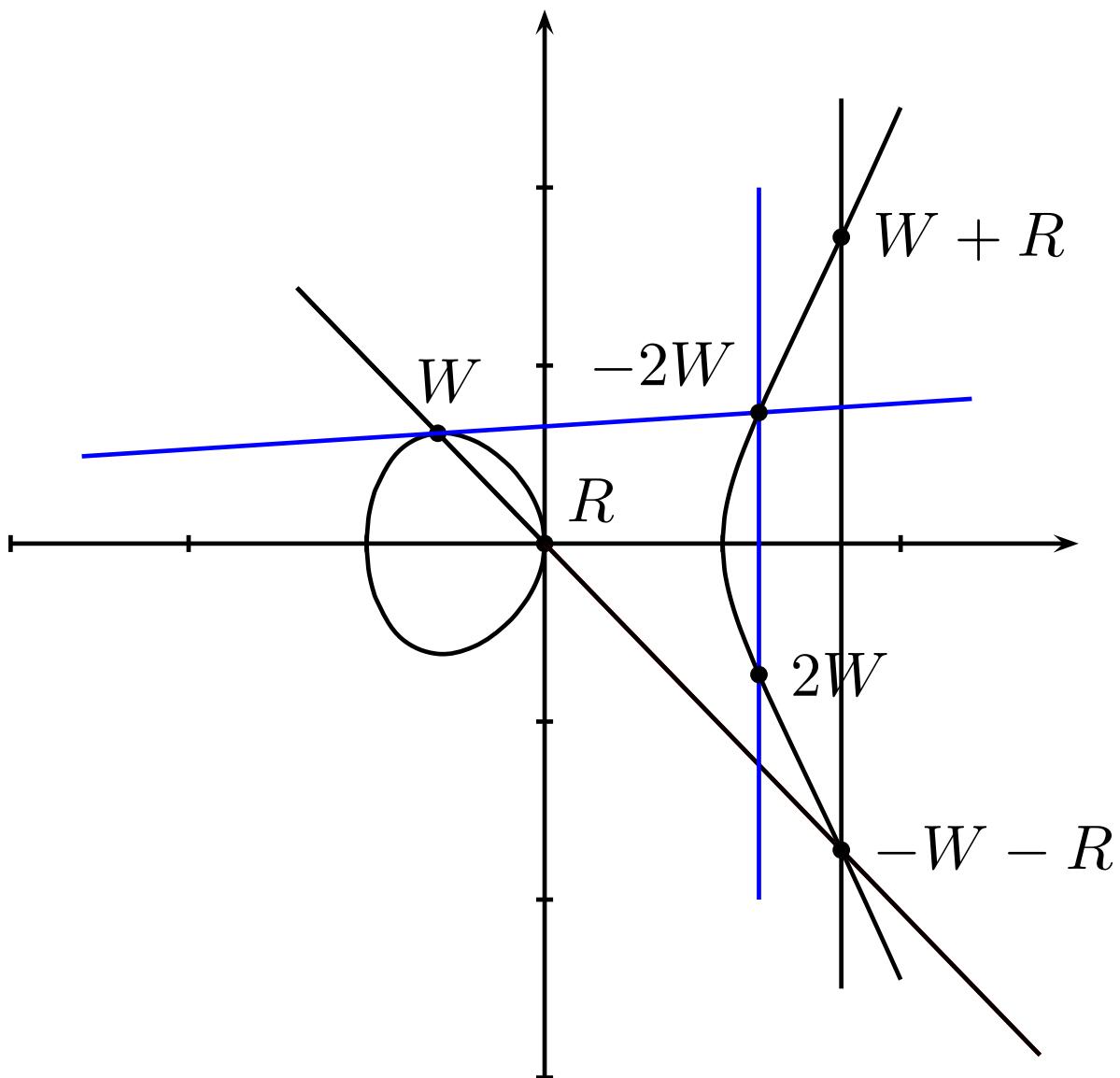


# Elliptic-curve groups



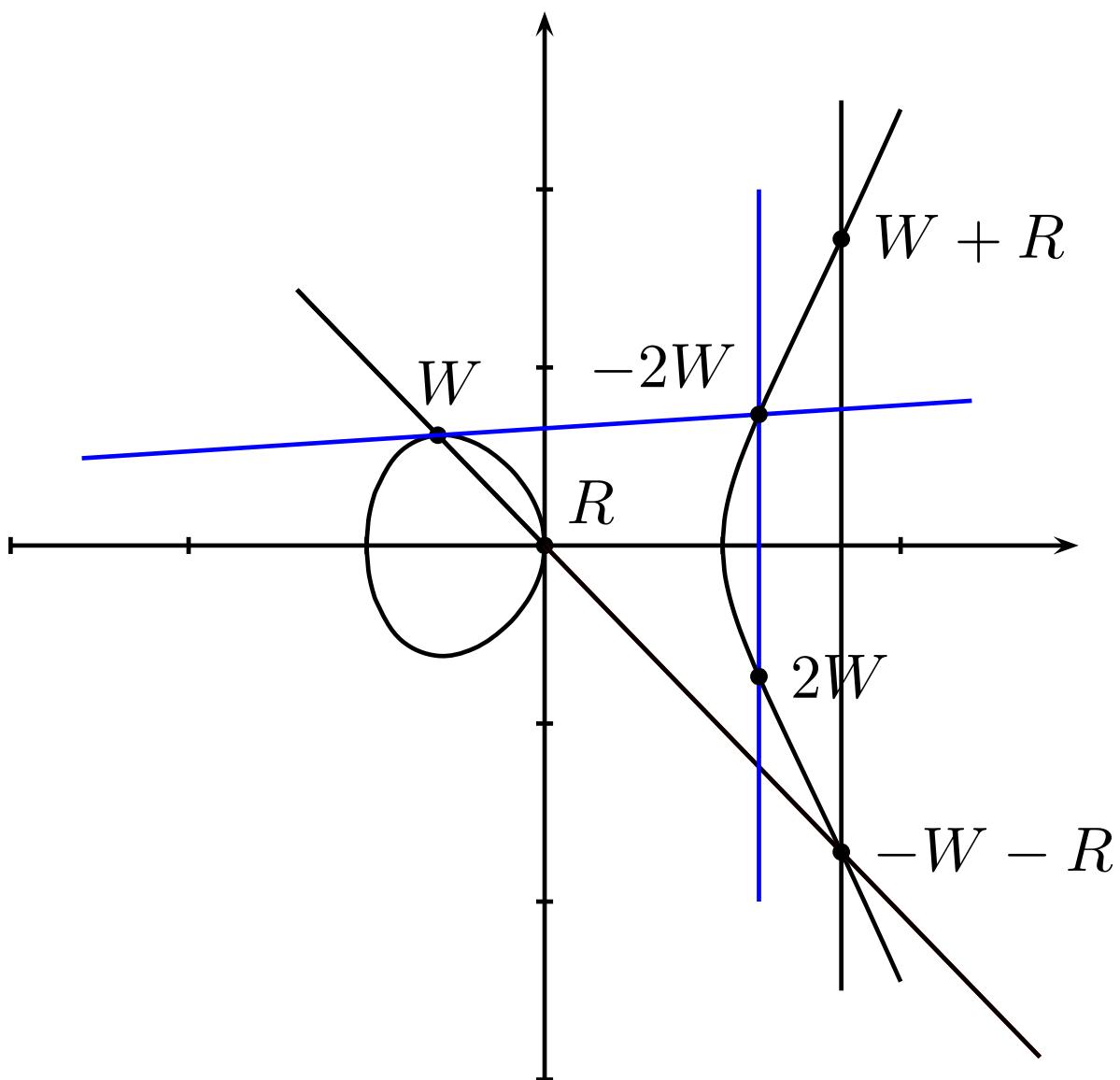
$$y^2 = x^3 + ax + b.$$

# Elliptic-curve groups



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$$y^2 = x^3 + ax + b.$$

Also neutral element at  $\infty$ .

$$-(x, y) = (x, -y).$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(x_W, y_W) + (x_R, y_R) &= \\
(x_{W+R}, y_{W+R}) &= \\
(\lambda^2 - x_W - x_R, \lambda(x_W - x_{W+R}) - y_W).
\end{aligned}$$

$x_W \neq x_R$ , “addition”:

$$\lambda = (y_R - y_W)/(x_R - x_W).$$

Total cost **1I + 2M + 1S**.

$W = R$  and  $y_W \neq 0$ , “doubling”:

$$\lambda = (3x_W^2 + a)/(2y_W).$$

Total cost **1I + 2M + 2S**.

Also handle some exceptions:

$$(x_W, y_W) = (x_R, -y_R);$$

inputs at  $\infty$ .

For each prime  $p \geq 3$   
not dividing  $4a^3 + 27b^2$ :

Same formulas for  $x, y \in \mathbb{F}_p$   
define a group  $E_{a,b}(\mathbb{F}_p)$ .

Size of this group is element of  
interval  $[p+1-2\sqrt{p}, p+1+2\sqrt{p}]$ .  
“Random” element of interval  
if  $a, b$  are random mod  $p$ .

Note 1: Some elliptic curves  
do not have this form.

Note 2: For typical cryptographic  
computations, much better  
to use Edwards form instead.

## Negation and rho

$W = (x, y)$  and  $-W = (x, -y)$

have same  $x$ -coordinate.

Search for  $x$ -coordinate collision.

Search space for collisions is only  $\lceil \ell/2 \rceil$ ; this gives factor  $\sqrt{2}$  speedup . . . if  $f(W_i) = f(-W_i)$ .

To ensure  $f(W_i) = f(-W_i)$ :

Define  $j = h(|W_i|)$  and

$$f(W_i) = |W_i| + c_j P + d_j Q.$$

Define  $|W_i|$  as, e.g., lexicographic minimum of  $W_i, -W_i$ .

Problem: this walk can run into fruitless cycles!

Example: If  $|W_{i+1}| = -W_{i+1}$  and  $h(|W_{i+1}|) = j = h(|W_i|)$  then  $W_{i+2} = f(W_{i+1}) = -W_{i+1} + c_j P + d_j Q = -(|W_i| + c_j P + d_j Q) + c_j P + d_j Q = -|W_i|$  so  $|W_{i+2}| = |W_i|$  so  $W_{i+3} = W_{i+1}$  so  $W_{i+4} = W_{i+2}$  etc.

If  $h$  maps to  $r$  different values then expect this example to occur with probability  $1/(2r)$  at each step.

Current ECDL record:

2009.07 Bos–Kaihara–  
Kleinjung–Lenstra–Montgomery  
“PlayStation 3 computing  
breaks  $2^{60}$  barrier:  
112-bit prime ECDLP solved”.

Standard curve over  $\mathbf{F}_p$   
where  $p = (2^{128} - 3)/(11 \cdot 6949)$ .

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“We did not use  
the common negation map  
since it requires branching  
and results in code that runs  
slower in a SIMD environment.”

All modern CPUs are SIMD.

2009.07 Bos–Kaihara–Kleinjung–Lenstra–Montgomery “On the security of 1024-bit RSA and 160-bit elliptic curve cryptography”:

Group order  $q \approx p$ ;  
“expected number of iterations”  
is “ $\sqrt{\frac{\pi \cdot q}{2}} \approx 8.4 \cdot 10^{16}$ ”; “we  
do not use the negation map”;  
“456 clock cycles per iteration  
per SPU”; “24-bit distinguishing  
property”  $\Rightarrow$  “260 gigabytes”.

“The overall calculation  
can be expected to take  
approximately **60 PS3 years**.”

2009.09 Bos–Kaihara–  
Montgomery “Pollard rho  
on the PlayStation 3”:

“Our software implementation is optimized for the SPE . . . the computational overhead for [the negation map], due to the conditional branches required to check for fruitless cycles [13], results (in our implementation on this architecture) in an overall performance degradation.”

“[13]” is 2000 Gallant–Lambert–Vanstone.

2010.07 Bos–Kleinjung–Lenstra  
“On the use of the negation map  
in the Pollard rho method”:

“If the Pollard rho method is parallelized in SIMD fashion, it is a challenge to achieve any speedup at all. . . . Dealing with cycles entails administrative overhead and branching, which cause a non-negligible slowdown when running multiple walks in SIMD-parallel fashion. . . . [This] is a major obstacle to the negation map in SIMD environments.”

Our software solves  
random ECDL on the same curve  
(with no precomputation)  
in 35.6 PS3 years on average.

For comparison:  
Bos–Kaihara–Kleinjung–Lenstra–  
Montgomery software  
uses 65 PS3 years on average.

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uses 65 PS3 years on average.

Computation used 158000 kWh  
(if PS3 ran at only 300W),  
wasting >70000 kWh,  
unnecessarily generating >10000  
kilograms of carbon dioxide.  
(0.143 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per Swiss kWh.)

Several levels of speedups,  
starting with fast arithmetic  
 $\text{mod } p = (2^{128} - 3)/(11 \cdot 6949)$   
and continuing up through rho.

Most important speedup:  
We use the negation map.

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Most important speedup:  
We use the negation map.

Extra cost in each iteration:  
extract bit of “ $s$ ”  
(normalized  $y$ , needed anyway);  
expand bit into mask;  
use mask to conditionally  
replace  $(s, y)$  by  $(-s, -y)$ .

5.5 SPU cycles ( $\approx 1.5\%$  of total).  
No conditional branches.

Bos–Kleinjung–Lenstra say that “on average more elliptic curve group operations are required per step of each walk. This is unavoidable” etc.

Specifically: If the precomputed additive-walk table has  $r$  points, need 1 extra doubling to escape a cycle after  $\approx 2r$  additions.  
And more: “cycle reduction” etc.

Bos–Kleinjung–Lenstra say that the benefit of large  $r$  is “wiped out by cache inefficiencies.”

There's really no problem here!

We use  $r = 2048$ .

$1/(2r) = 1/4096$ ; negligible.

Recall:  $p$  has 112 bits.

28 bytes for table entry  $(x, y)$ .

We expand to 36 bytes  
to accelerate arithmetic.

We compress to 32 bytes  
by insisting on small  $x, y$ ;  
very fast initial computation.

Only 64KB for table.

Our Cell table-load cost: 0,  
overlapping loads with arithmetic.

No “cache inefficiencies.”

# What about fruitless cycles?

We run 45 iterations.

We then save  $s$ ;

run 2 slightly slower iterations

tracking minimum  $(s, x, y)$ ;

then double tracked  $(x, y)$

if new  $s$  equals saved  $s$ .

(Occasionally replace 2 by 12  
to detect 4-cycles, 6-cycles.

Such cycles are almost

too rare to worry about,

but detecting them has a

completely negligible cost.)

Maybe fruitless cycles waste  
some of the 47 iterations.

. . . but this is infrequent.

Lose  $\approx 0.6\%$  of all iterations.

Tracking minimum isn't free,  
but most iterations skip it!

Same for final  $s$  comparison.

Still no conditional branches.

Overall cost  $\approx 1.3\%$ .

Doubling occurs for only  
 $\approx 1/4096$  of all iterations.

We use SIMD quite lazily here;  
overall cost  $\approx 0.6\%$ .

Can reduce this cost further.

Are we sure about all this?

Are there hidden bottlenecks?

Are we accidentally  
compromising walk randomness?

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Check by running experiments!

e.g. Try 1000 experiments;  
check that average time  
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We don't have many PS3s.

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Solution: Try same algorithm  
at some smaller scales.

Our software works for  
any curve  $y^2 = x^3 - 3x + b$   
over the same  $\mathbf{F}_p$ .

Same cost of field arithmetic,  
same cost of curve arithmetic.

$y^2 = x^3 - 3x + 238^2$   
has a point of order  $\approx 2^{50}$ .

$y^2 = x^3 - 3x + 372^2$   
has a point of order  $\approx 2^{55}$ .

$y^2 = x^3 - 3x + 240^2$   
has a point of order  $\approx 2^{60}$ .

We tried  $> 32000$  experiments  
on each of these curves.

Found distinguished points  
at the predicted rates.

Found discrete logarithms  
using the predicted number  
of distinguished points.

Negation conclusions:

Sensible use of negation,  
with or without SIMD,  
has negligible impact  
on cost of each iteration.

Impact on number of iterations  
is almost exactly  $\sqrt{2}$ .

Overall benefit is  
extremely close to  $\sqrt{2}$ .

# How to evaluate security

## for sparse families?

## Get people to solve big challenges!

1997: Certicom announces several elliptic-curve challenges.

“The Challenge is to compute the ECC private keys from the given list of ECC public keys and associated system parameters. This is the type of problem facing an adversary who wishes to completely defeat an elliptic curve cryptosystem.”

Goals: help users select key sizes; compare random and Koblitz; compare  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$  and  $\mathbb{F}_p$ ; etc.

## How to get them hooked?

- 1997: ECCp-79 broken by  
Baisley and Harley.
- 1997: ECC2-79 broken by  
Harley et al.
- 1998: ECCp-89, ECC2-89 broken  
by Harley et al.
- 1998: ECCp-97 broken by Harley  
et al. (1288 computers).
- 1998: ECC2K-95 broken by Harley  
et al. (200 computers).
- 1999: ECC2-97 broken by Harley  
et al. (740 computers).
- 2000: ECC2K-108 broken by Harley  
et al. (9500 computers).

## More challenging challenges

Certicom: “The 109-bit Level I challenges are feasible using a very large network of computers.

The 131-bit Level I challenges are expected to be **infeasible** against realistic software and hardware attacks, unless of course, a new algorithm for the ECDLP is discovered.”

2002: ECCp-109 broken by Monico et al. (10000 computers).

2004: ECC2-109 broken by Monico et al. (2600 computers).

**open:** ECC2K-130

With our latest implementations,  
ECC2K-130 is breakable  
in two years on average by

- 1595 Phenom II x4 955 CPUs,

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Certicom has now backpedaled,  
saying that ECC2K-130  
“may be within reach”.

## The target: ECC2K-130

The Koblitz curve

$$y^2 + xy = x^3 + 1$$

over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^{131}}$  has  $4\ell$  points,  
where  $\ell$  is prime.

Field representation uses  
irreducible polynomial

$$f = z^{131} + z^{13} + z^2 + z + 1.$$

Certicom generated their  
challenge points as two random  
points in order- $\ell$  subgroup by  
taking two random points on the  
curve and multiplying them by 4.

This produced the following points  $P, Q$ :

$x(P) = 05\ 1C99BFA6\ F18DE467\ C80C23B9\ 8C7994AA$   
 $y(P) = 04\ 2EA2D112\ ECEC71FC\ F7E000D7\ EFC978BD$   
 $x(Q) = 06\ C997F3E7\ F2C66A4A\ 5D2FDA13\ 756A37B1$   
 $y(Q) = 04\ A38D1182\ 9D32D347\ BD0C0F58\ 4D546E9A$

(unique encoding of  $\mathbf{F}_{2^{131}}$  in hex).

The challenge:

Find an integer

$$k \in \{0, 1, \dots, \ell - 1\}$$

such that  $[k]P = Q$ .

Bigger picture:

128-bit curves have been proposed for real (RFID, TinyTate).

## Equivalence classes for Koblitz curves

$P$  and  $-P$  have same  $x$ -coordinate.

Search for  $x$ -coordinate collision.

Search space is only  $\ell/2$ ; this gives factor  $\sqrt{2}$  speedup . . .

provided that  $f(P_i) = f(-P_i)$ .

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More savings:  $P$  and  $\sigma^i(P)$  have  $x(\sigma^j(P)) = x(P)^{2^j}$ .

Consider equivalence classes under Frobenius and  $\pm$ ;  
gain factor  $\sqrt{2n} = \sqrt{2 \cdot 131}$ .

Need to ensure that the iteration function satisfies

$f(P_i) = f(\pm\sigma^j(P_i))$  for any  $j$ .

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but the iteration function  
has become slower.  
How much slower?

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How much slower?

Could again define adding walk  
starting from  $|P_i|$ .

Redefine  $|P_i|$  as canonical  
representative of class containing  
 $P_i$ : e.g., lexicographic minimum  
of  $P_i$ ,  $-P_i$ ,  $\sigma(P_i)$ , etc.

Iterations now involve many  
squarings, but squarings are not  
so expensive in characteristic 2.

# Iteration function for Koblitz curves

*Normal basis* of finite field

$\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$  has elements

$$\{\zeta, \zeta^2, \zeta^{2^2}, \zeta^{2^3}, \dots, \zeta^{2^{n-1}}\}.$$

Representation for  $x$  and  $x^2$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x_i \zeta^{2^i} = (x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1})$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \zeta^{2^i} = (x_{n-1}, x_0, \dots, x_{n-2})$$

$$\text{using } (\zeta^{2^{n-1}})^2 = \zeta^{2^n} = \zeta.$$

Harley and Gallant-Lambert-Vanstone use that in normal basis,  $x(P)$  and  $x(P)^{2^j}$  have same Hamming weight

$$\text{HW}(x(P)) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x_i$$

(addition over  $\mathbb{Z}$ ).

Suggestion:

$$P_{i+1} = P_i + \sigma^j(P_i),$$

as iteration function.

Choice of  $j$  depends on  $\text{HW}(x(P))$ .

This ensures that the walk is well defined on classes since

$$f(\pm \sigma^m(P_i)) =$$

$$\pm \sigma^m(P_i) + \sigma^j(\pm \sigma^m(P_i)) =$$

$$\pm (\sigma^m(P_i) + \sigma^m(\sigma^j(P_i))) =$$

$$\pm \sigma^m(P_i + \sigma^j(P_i)) =$$

$$\pm \sigma^m(P_{i+1}).$$

GLV suggest using

$$j = \text{hash}(\text{HW}(x(P))),$$

where the hash function maps to  $[1, n]$ .

Harley uses a smaller set of exponents; for his attack on ECC2K-108 he takes

$$j \in \{1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\};$$

computed as

$$j = (\text{HW}(x(P)) \bmod 7) + 2$$

and replacing 3 by 1.

# Our choice of iteration function

Restricting size of  $j$  matters—  
squarings are cheap but:

- in bitslicing need to compute all powers (no branches allowed);
- code size matters (in particular for Cell CPU);
- logic costs area for FPGA;
- having a large set doesn't actually gain much randomness.

Optimization target:  
time per iteration  $\times$  # iterations.

## How to mention lattices?

Having few coefficients lets us exclude short fruitless cycles.

To do so, compute the shortest vector in the lattice  
 $\left\{ v : \prod_j (1 + \sigma^j)^{v_j} = 1 \right\}.$

Usually the shortest vector has negative coefficients (which cannot happen with the iteration); shortest vector with positive coefficients is somewhat longer.

For implementation it is better to have a continuous interval of exponents, so shift the interval if shortest vector is short.

Our iteration function:

$$P_{i+1} = P_i + \sigma^j(P_i) \text{ where}$$

$$j = (\text{HW}(x(P))/2 \bmod 8) + 3,$$

so  $j \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$ .

Shortest combination of these powers is long.

Note that  $\text{HW}(x(P))$  is even.

Iteration consists of

- computing the Hamming weight  $\text{HW}(x(P))$  of the normal-basis representation of  $x(P)$ ;
- checking for distinguished points (is  $\text{HW}(x(P)) \leq 34$ ?);
- computing  $j$  and  $P + \sigma^j(P)$ .

## Analysis of our iteration function

For a perfectly random walk

$\approx \sqrt{\pi\ell/2}$  iterations

are expected on average.

Have  $\ell \approx 2^{131}/4$  for ECC2K-130.

A perfectly random walk

on classes under  $\pm$  and Frobenius

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Loss of randomness  
from having only 8 choices of  $j$ .

Further loss from non-randomness  
of Hamming weights:

Hamming weights around 66  
are much more likely than at the  
edges; effect still noticeable  
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Average number of iterations for  
our attack against ECC2K-130:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sqrt{\pi\ell/(2 \cdot 2 \cdot 131)} \cdot 1.069993 \\ & \approx 2^{60.9}. \end{aligned}$$

## Endomorphisms

In general, an efficiently computable endomorphism  $\phi$  of order  $r$  speeds up Pollard rho method by factor  $\sqrt{r}$ .

This theoretical speedup can usually be realized in practice—it just requires some work.

Can define walk on classes by inspecting all  $2r$  points  $\pm P, \pm \phi(P), \dots, \pm \phi^{r-1}(P)$  to choose unique representative for class and then doing an adding walk; but this is slow.

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# bit operations gives good  
indication for complexity on  
FPGAs; is also meaningful for  
speed of bitsliced software.

# Graphics cards

GTX 295 without fans, case:



Overclocked Radeon 5970:



## Why GPUs are interesting

NVIDIA GTX 295 graphics card has two GPUs.

Each GPU has 30 cores running at 1.242GHz.

(NVIDIA: “30 multiprocessors.”)

Each core can perform 8 32-bit operations/cycle.

Total GTX 295 power:  
480 32-bit ops/cycle.

(NVIDIA: “480 cores.”)

>  $2^{39}$  32-bit ops/second.  
>  $2^{69}$  1-bit ops/year.

## Compare to Cell SPEs:

6 cores running at 3.2GHz.

Each core can perform

4 32-bit operations/cycle.

Total power:

24 32-bit ops/cycle.

Despite low clock speed,

GTX 295 can do  $> 7\times$  more operations/second than Cell.

Similar price to Cell.

Newer GPUs are even faster.

## Why GPUs are difficult

GPU core issues each instruction to many threads.

Using full GPU power is difficult with < 192 threads, impossible with < 128 threads.

All data used by these threads must fit into core's SRAM:  
65536 bytes of registers,  
16384 bytes of shared memory.

Copying data from DRAM has huge latency, low throughput.

## GPU results

Best speed with NVIDIA compiler:  
 $\approx 3000$  cycles/iteration.

Gave up on compiler, built  
new GPU assembly language,  
rewrote the software:  
1379 cycles/iteration.

Current software:  
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Lower bound for arithmetic:  
273 cycles/iteration.

Main slowdown: loads + stores.

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All we need is  
1 hour of World of Warcraft!

