

# Quantum algorithms for the subset-sum problem

D. J. Bernstein

University of Illinois at Chicago &  
Technische Universiteit Eindhoven

Joint work with:

Stacey Jeffery

University of Waterloo

Tanja Lange

Technische Universiteit Eindhoven

Alexander Meurer

Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Subset-sum example:

Is there a subsequence of  
(499, 852, 1927, 2535, 3596, 3608,  
4688, 5989, 6385, 7353, 7650, 9413)  
having sum 36634?

Many variations: e.g.,  
find such a subsequence  
*if* one exists;  
find such a subsequence  
*knowing that* one exists;  
allow range of sums;  
coefficients outside  $\{0, 1\}$ ; etc.

“Subset-sum problem”;

“knapsack problem”; etc.

## The lattice connection

Define  $x_1 = 499, \dots, x_{12} = 9413$ .

Define  $L \subseteq \mathbf{Z}^{12}$  as

$$\{v : v_1 x_1 + \dots + v_{12} x_{12} = 0\}.$$

Define  $u \in \mathbf{Z}^{12}$  as

$$(70, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0).$$

If  $J \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, 12\}$

and  $\sum_{i \in J} x_i = 36634$  then

$v \in L$  where  $v_i = u_i - [i \in J]$ .

$v$  is very close to  $u$ .

Reasonable to hope that

$v$  is the closest vector in  $L$  to  $u$ .

Subset-sum algorithms  $\approx$

codimension-1 CVP algorithms.

## The coding connection

A weight- $w$  subset-sum problem:

Is there a subsequence of

(499, 852, 1927, 2535, 3596, 3608,  
4688, 5989, 6385, 7353, 7650, 9413)

having length  $w$  and sum 36634?

## The coding connection

A weight- $w$  subset-sum problem:

Is there a subsequence of

(499, 852, 1927, 2535, 3596, 3608,  
4688, 5989, 6385, 7353, 7650, 9413)

having length  $w$  and sum 36634?

Replace  $\mathbf{Z}$  with  $(\mathbf{Z}/2)^m$ :

Is there a subsequence of

(499, 852, 1927, 2535, 3596, 3608,  
4688, 5989, 6385, 7353, 7650, 9413)

having length  $w$  and xor 1060?

This is the central algorithmic  
problem in coding theory.

## Recent asymptotic news

Eurocrypt 2010

Howgrave-Graham–Joux:

subset-sum exponent  $\approx 0.337$ .

(Incorrect claim:  $\approx 0.311$ .)

Eurocrypt 2011

Becker–Coron–Joux:

subset-sum exponent  $\approx 0.291$ .

Adaptations to decoding:

Asiacrypt 2011 May–Meurer–

Thomae, Eurocrypt 2012

Becker–Joux–May–Meurer.

## Post-quantum subset sum

Claimed in TCC 2010

Lyubashevsky–Palacio–Segev

“Public-key cryptographic  
primitives provably

as secure as subset sum” :

There are “currently no known  
quantum algorithms that perform  
better than classical ones  
on the subset sum problem” .

Hmmm. What’s the best  
*quantum* subset-sum exponent?

## Quantum search (0.5)

Assume that function  $f$  has  $n$ -bit input, unique root.

Generic brute-force search finds this root using  $\approx 2^n$  evaluations of  $f$ .

1996 Grover method finds this root using  $\approx 2^{0.5n}$  quantum evaluations of  $f$  on superpositions of inputs.

Cost of quantum evaluation of  $f$   $\approx$  cost of evaluation of  $f$  if cost counts qubit “operations” .



Easily adapt to handle  
different  $\#$  of roots,  
and  $\#$  not known in advance.  
Faster if  $\#$  is large,  
but typically  $\#$  is not very large.  
Most interesting:  $\# \in \{0, 1\}$ .

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but typically  $\#$  is not very large.  
Most interesting:  $\# \in \{0, 1\}$ .

Apply to the function

$J \mapsto \Sigma(J) - t$  where

$$\Sigma(J) = \sum_{i \in J} x_i.$$

Cost  $2^{0.5n}$  to find root (i.e.,  
to find indices of subsequence  
of  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  with sum  $t$ )  
or to decide that no root exists.  
We suppress poly factors in cost.

Algorithm details for unique root:

Represent  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$  as an integer between 0 and  $2^n - 1$ .

$n$  bits are enough space to store one such integer.

$n$  qubits store much more, a superposition over sets  $J$ :

$2^n$  complex amplitudes

$a_0, \dots, a_{2^n-1}$  with

$$|a_0|^2 + \dots + |a_{2^n-1}|^2 = 1.$$

Measuring these  $n$  qubits

has chance  $|a_J|^2$  to produce  $J$ .

Start from uniform superposition,

i.e.,  $a_J = 1/2^{n/2}$  for all  $J$ .

Step 1: Set  $a \leftarrow b$  where  
 $b_J = -a_J$  if  $\Sigma(J) = t$ ,  
 $b_J = a_J$  otherwise.

This is about as easy  
as computing  $\Sigma$ .

Step 2: “Grover diffusion”.

Set  $a \leftarrow b$  where

$$b_J = -a_J + (2/2^n) \sum_I a_I.$$

This is also easy.

Repeat steps 1 and 2  
about  $0.58 \cdot 2^{0.5n}$  times.

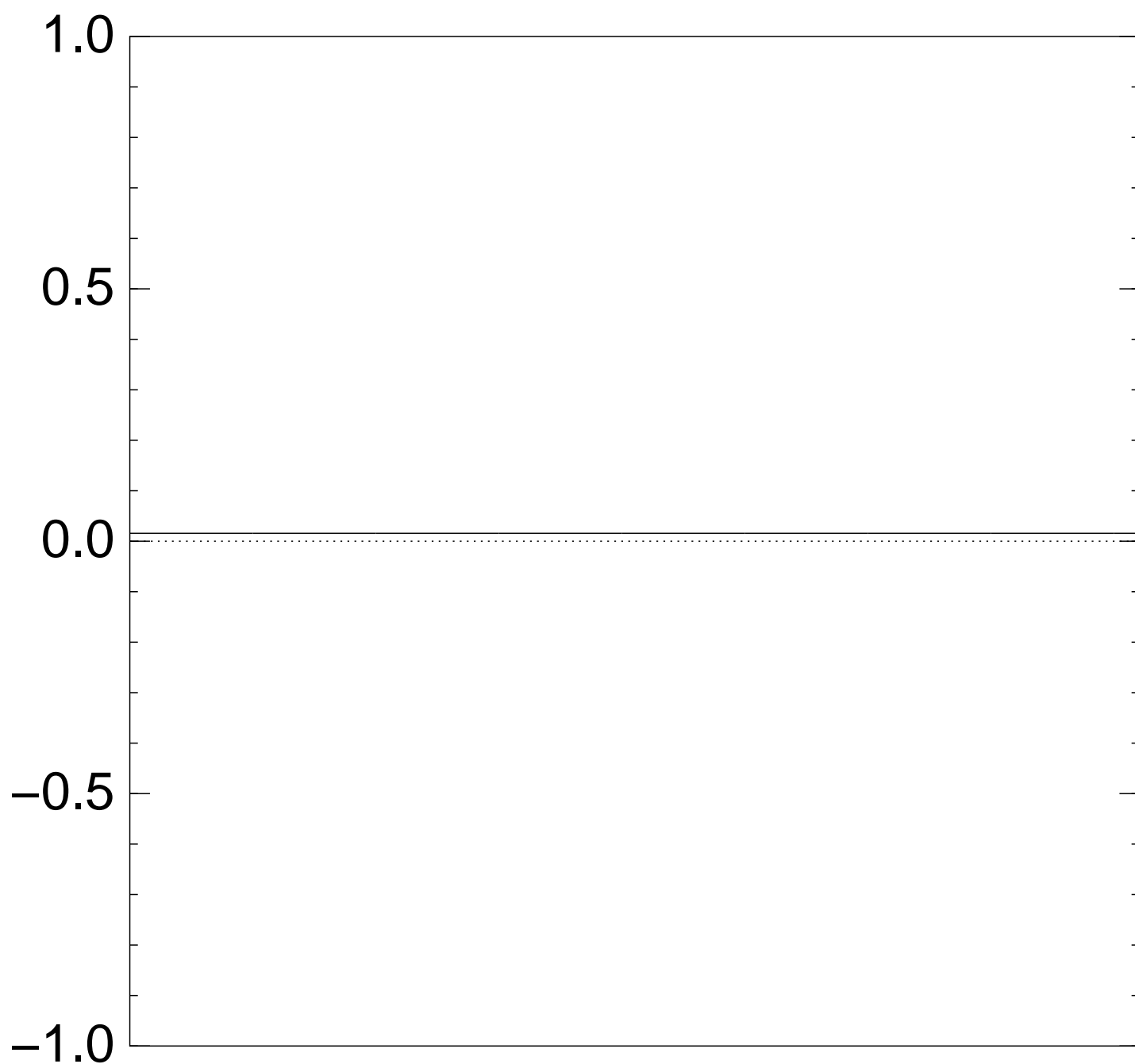
Measure the  $n$  qubits.

With high probability this finds  
the unique  $J$  such that  $\Sigma(J) = t$ .

Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

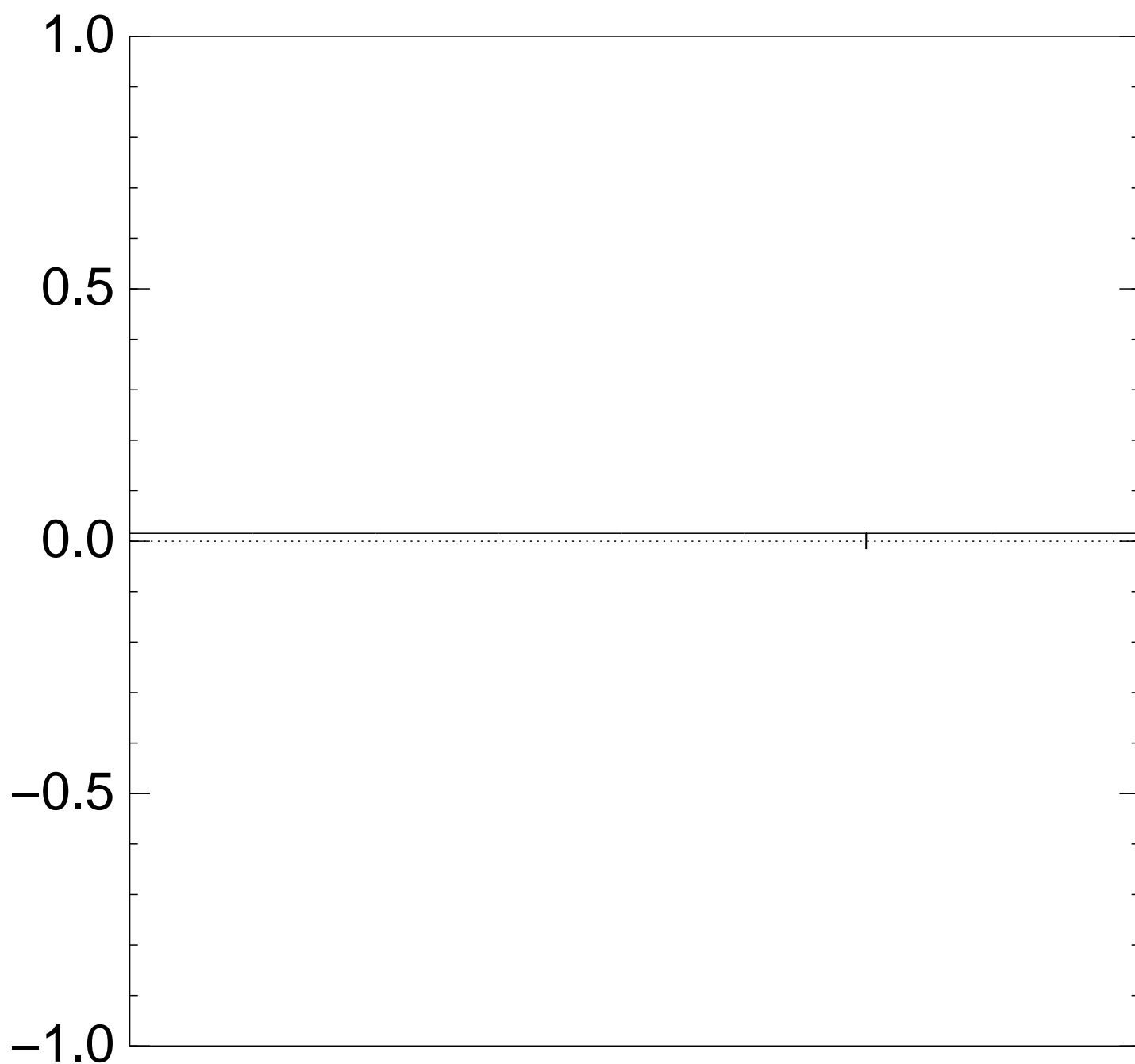
after 0 steps:



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

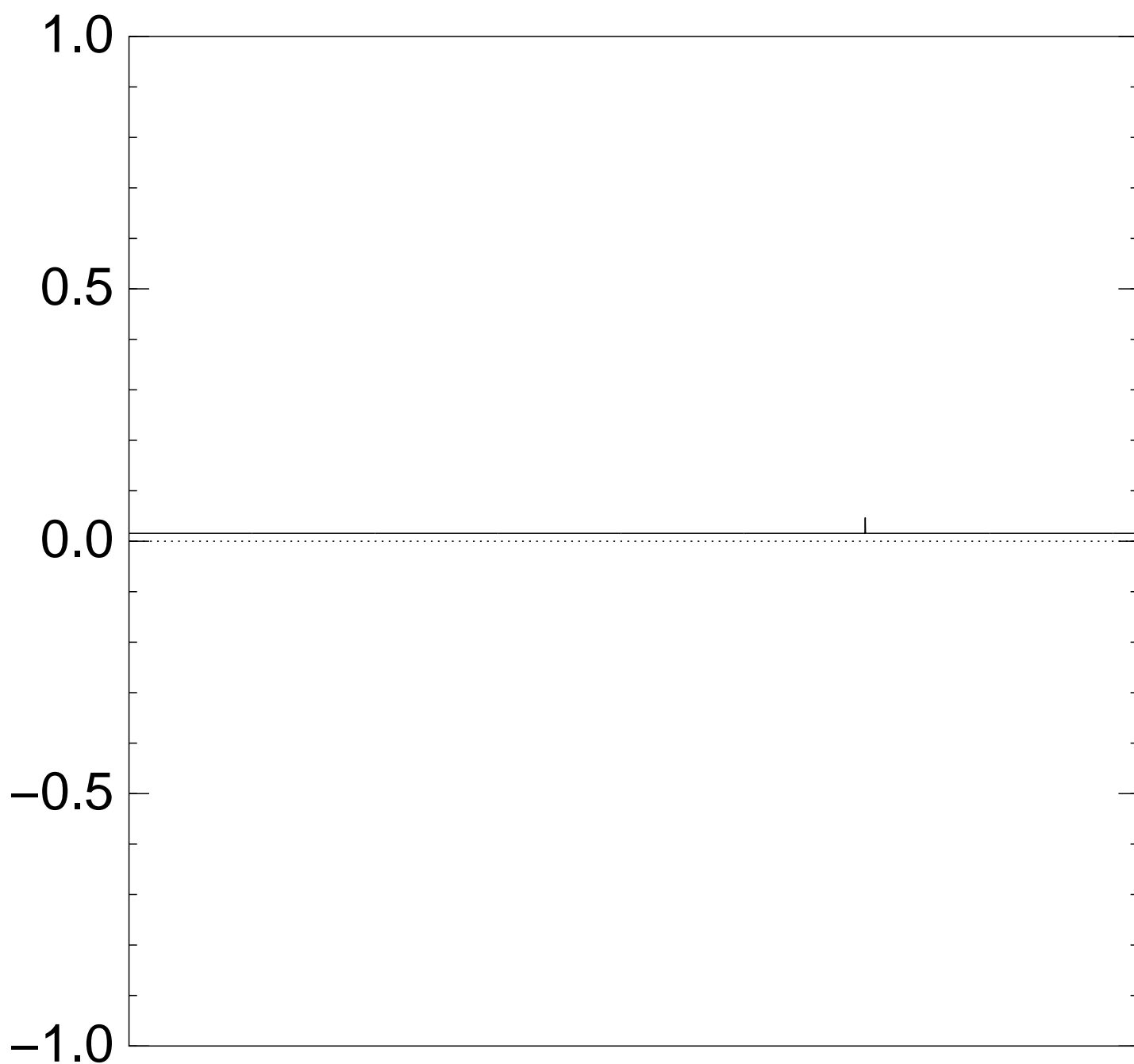
after Step 1:



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

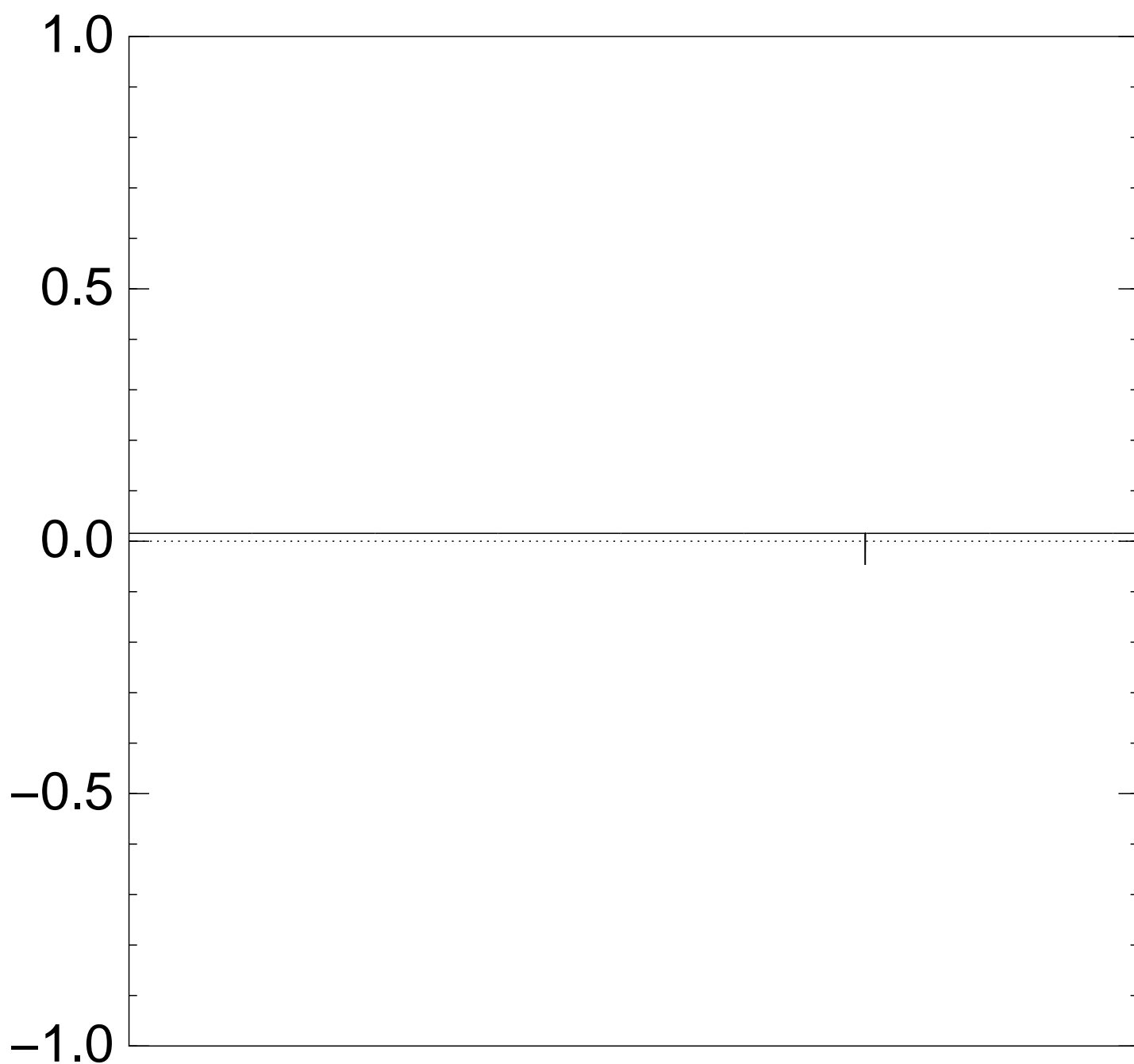
after Step 1 + Step 2:



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

after Step 1 + Step 2 + Step 1:

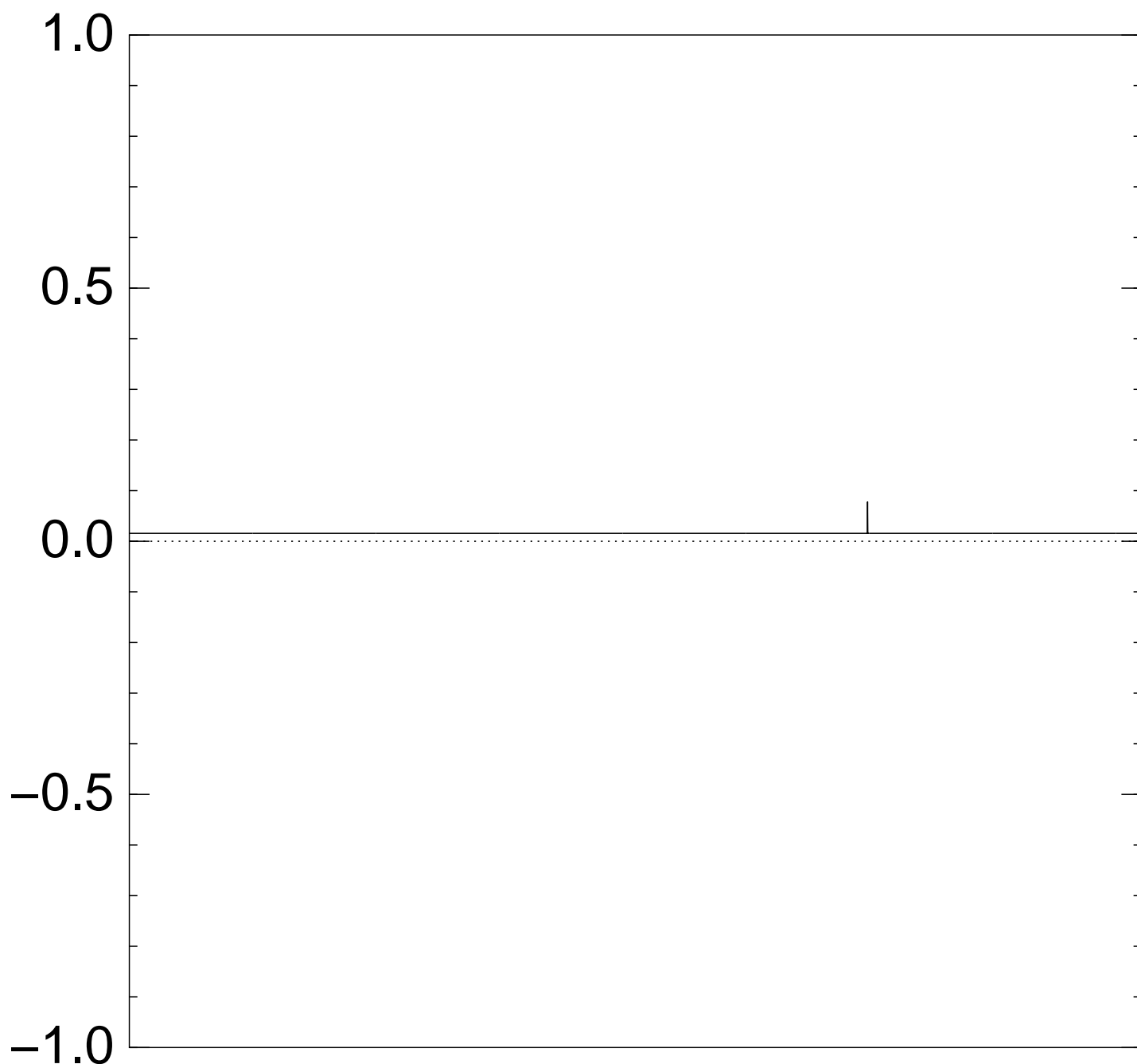




Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

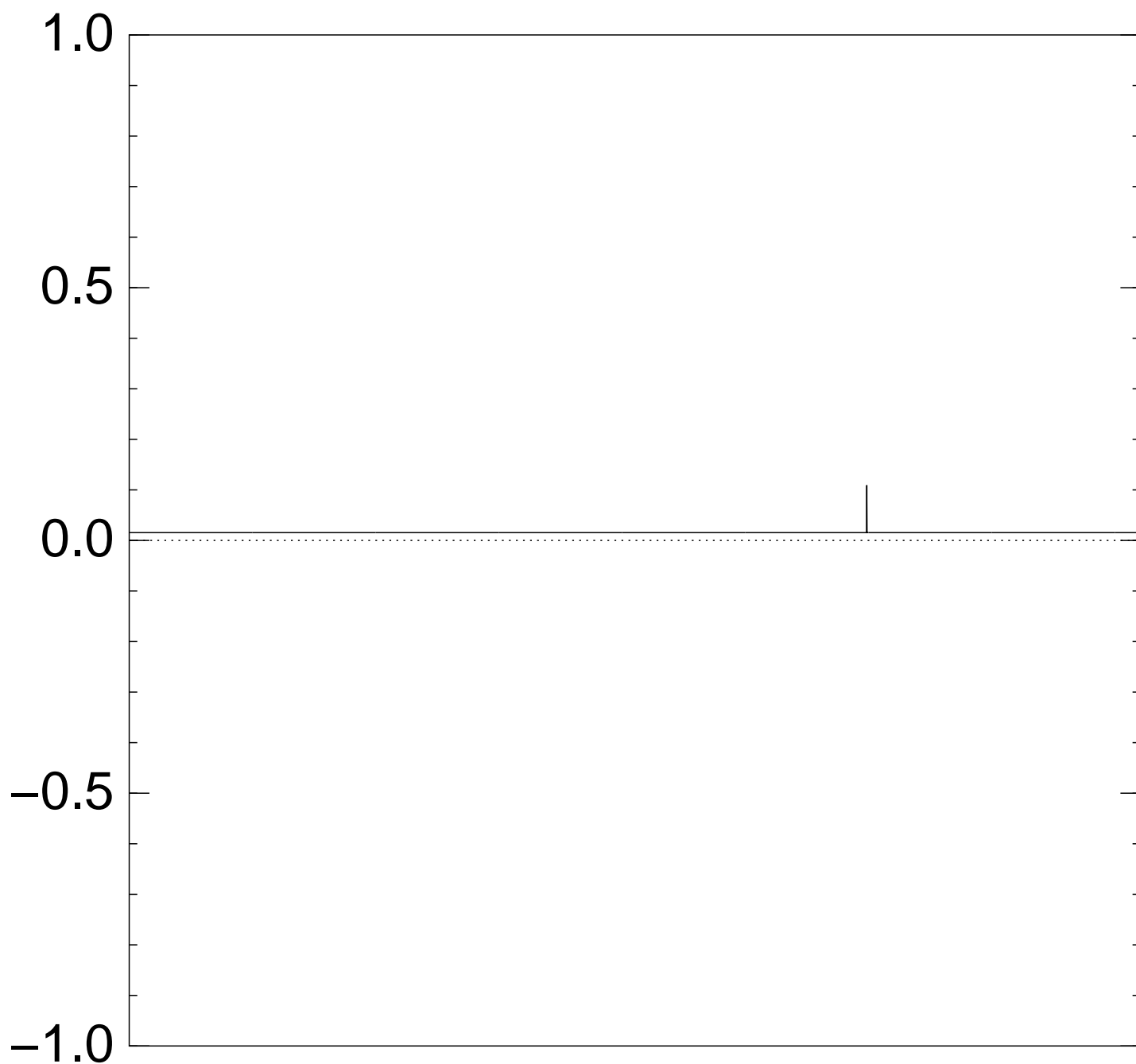
after  $2 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

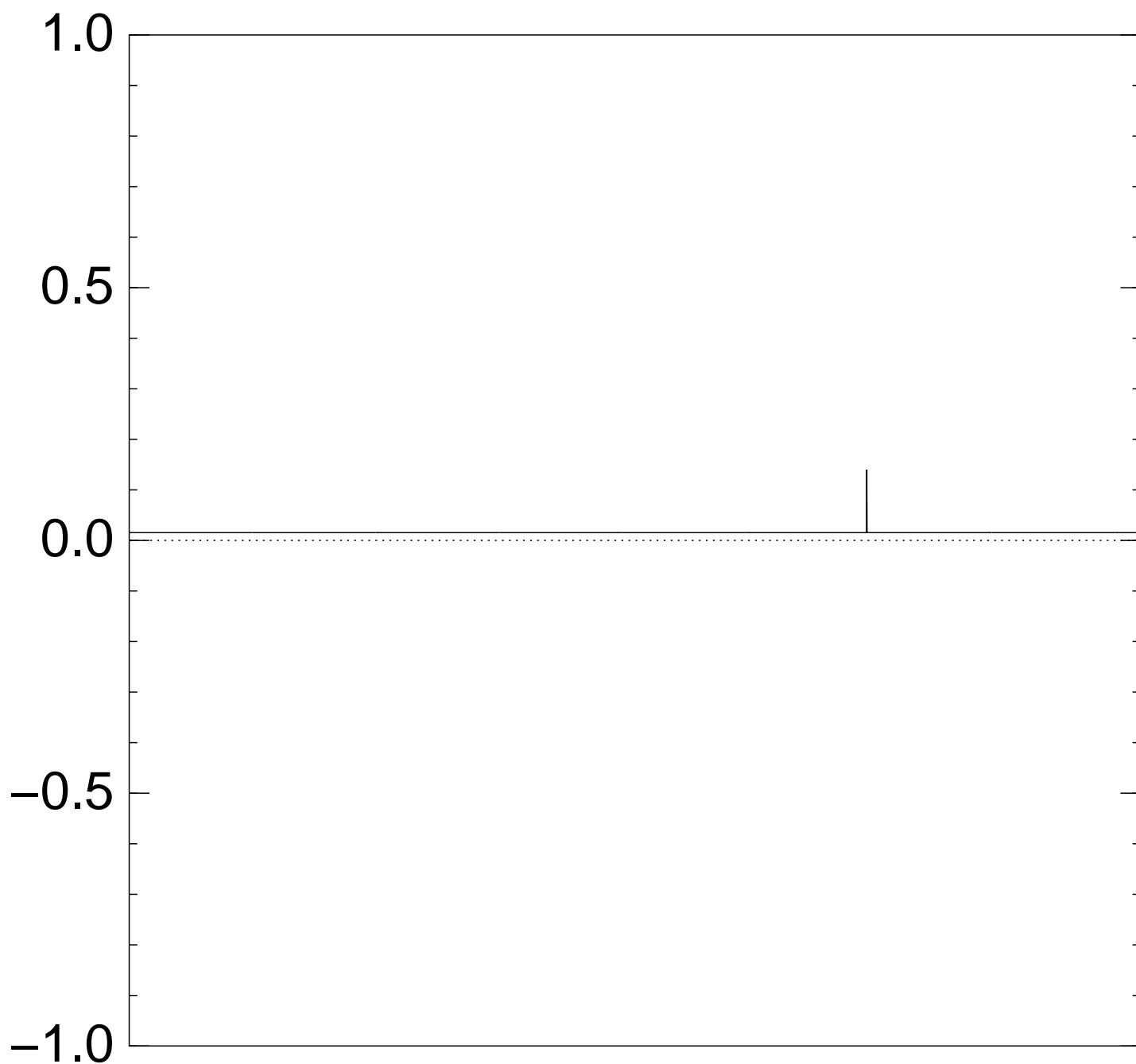
after  $3 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

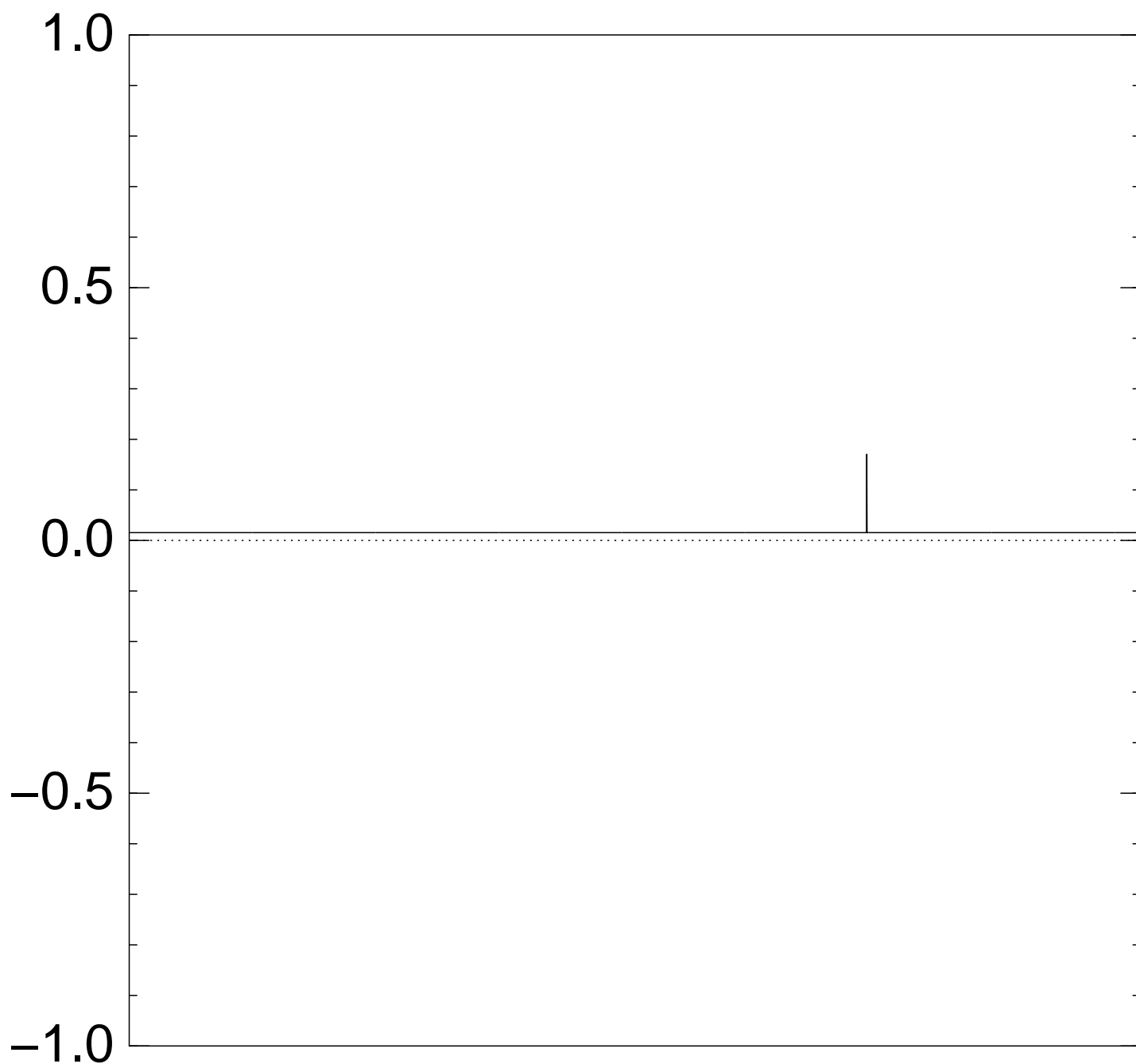
after  $4 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

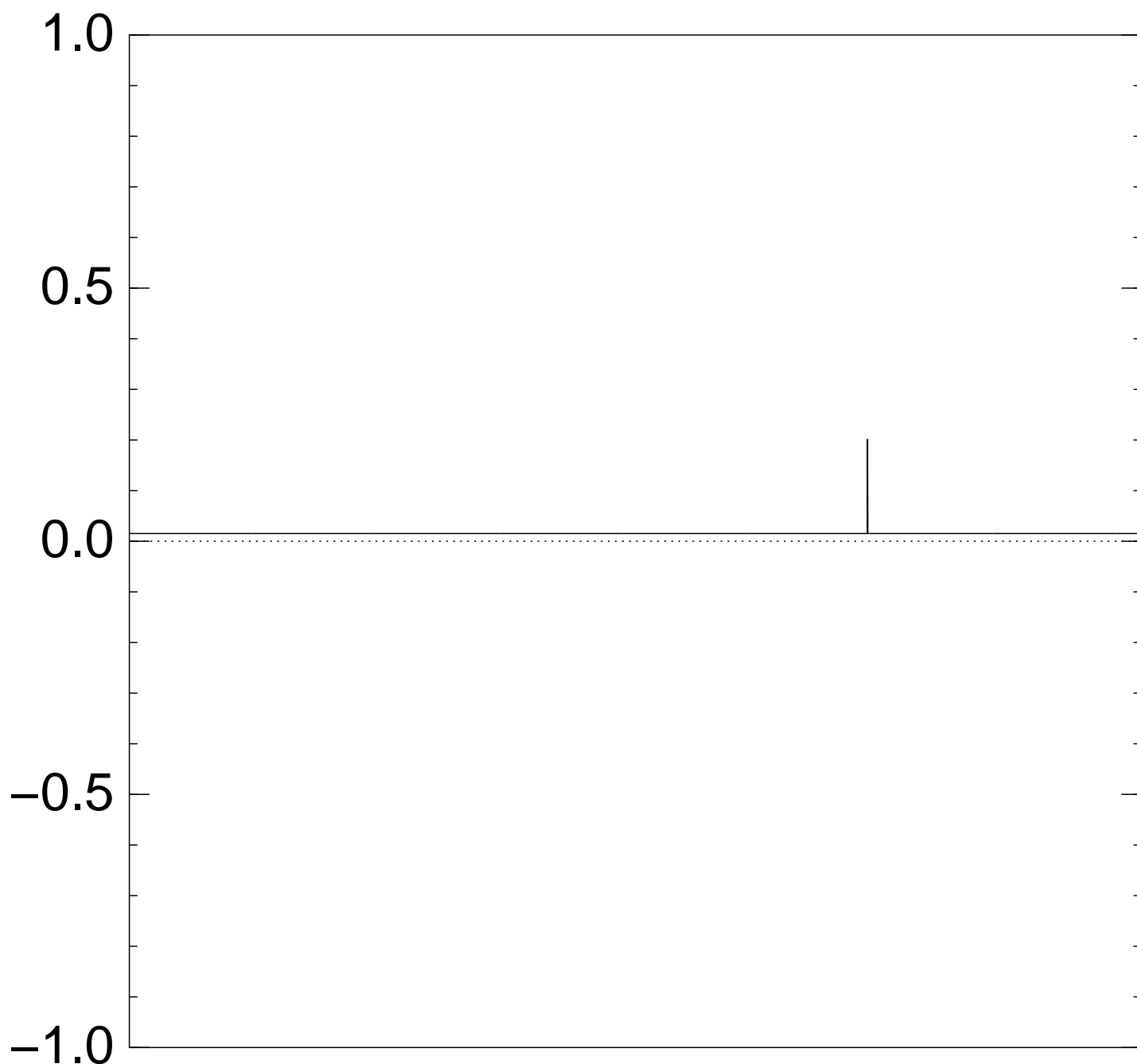
after  $5 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

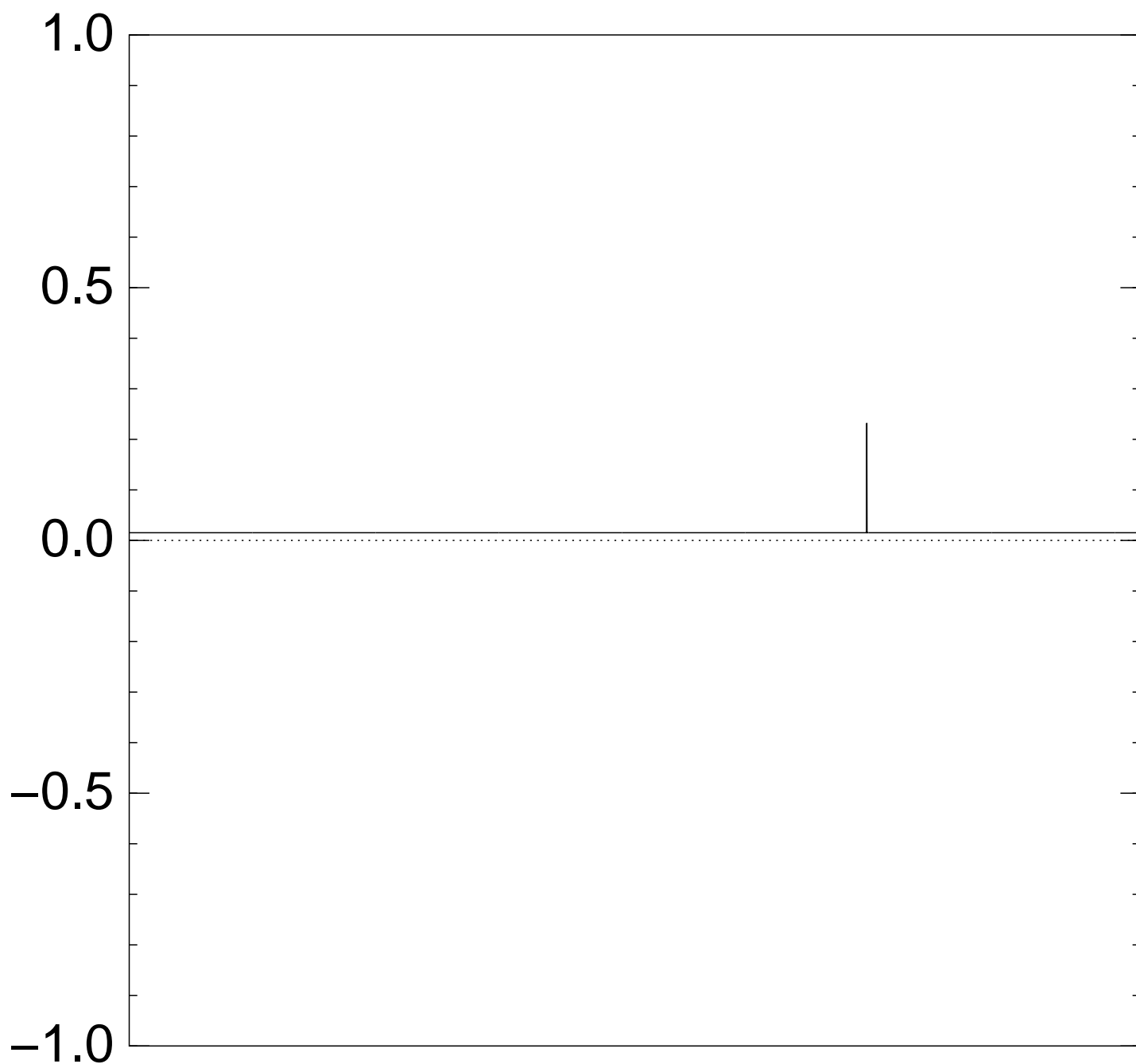
after  $6 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

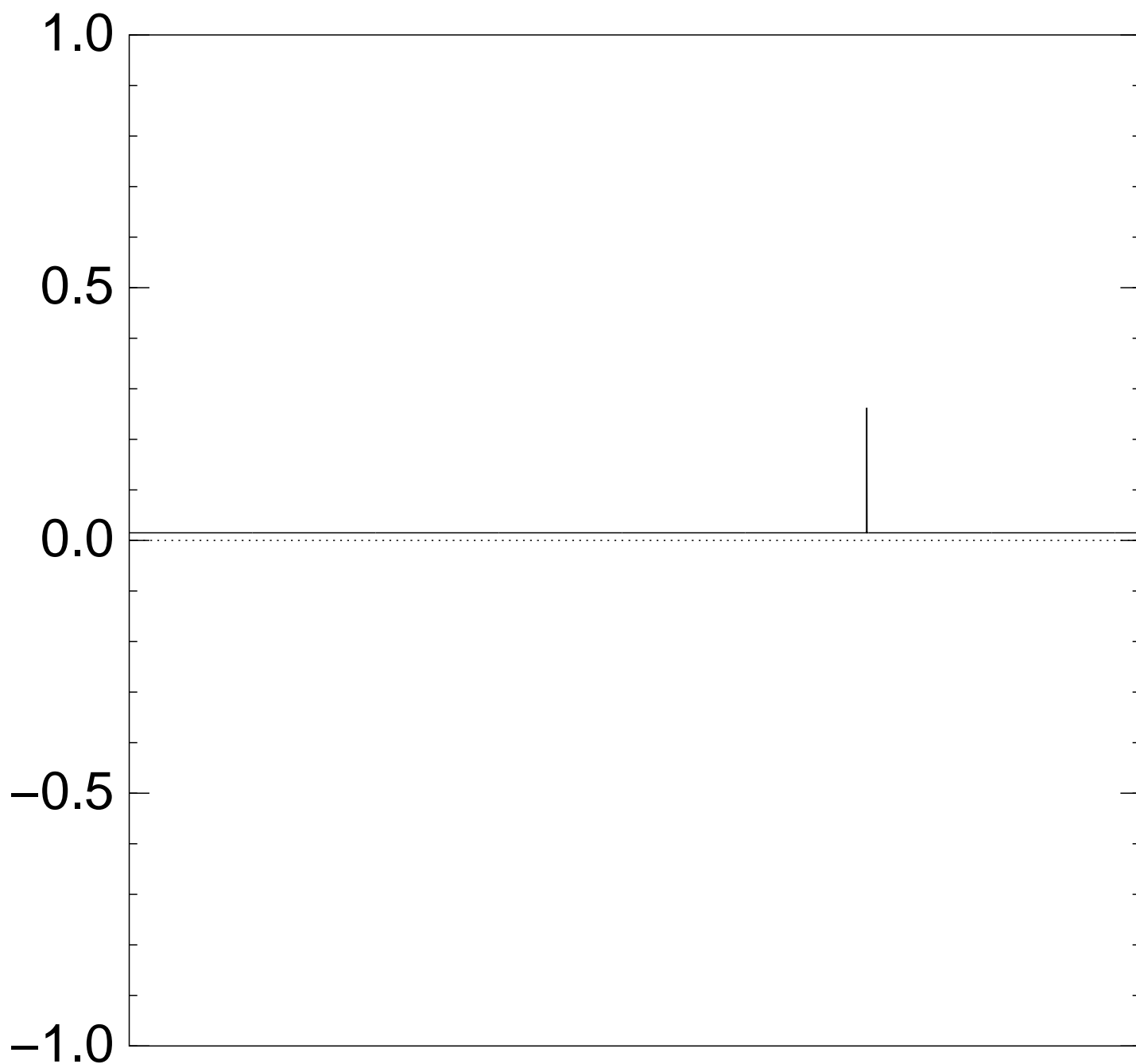
after  $7 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

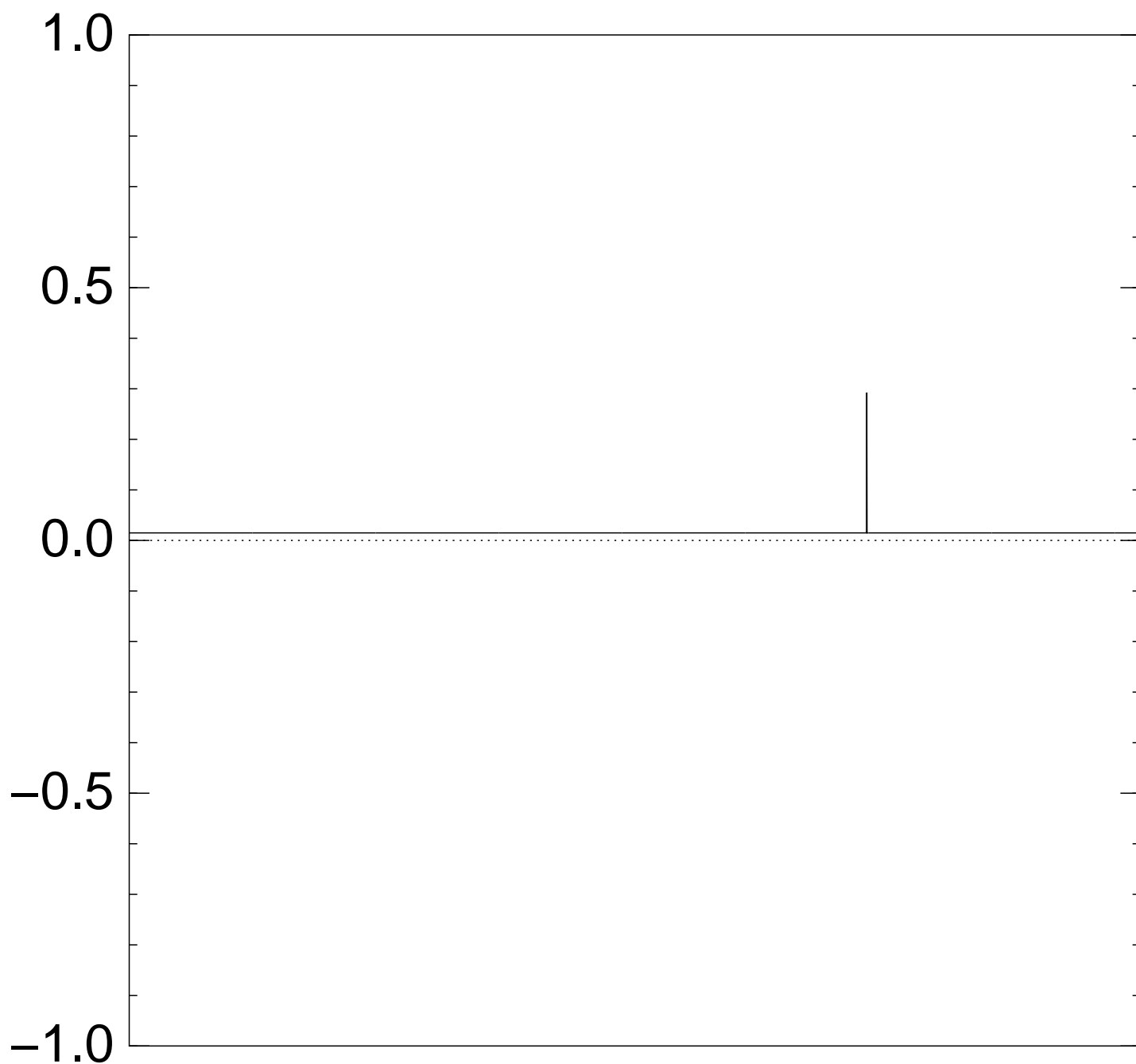
after  $8 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

after  $9 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):

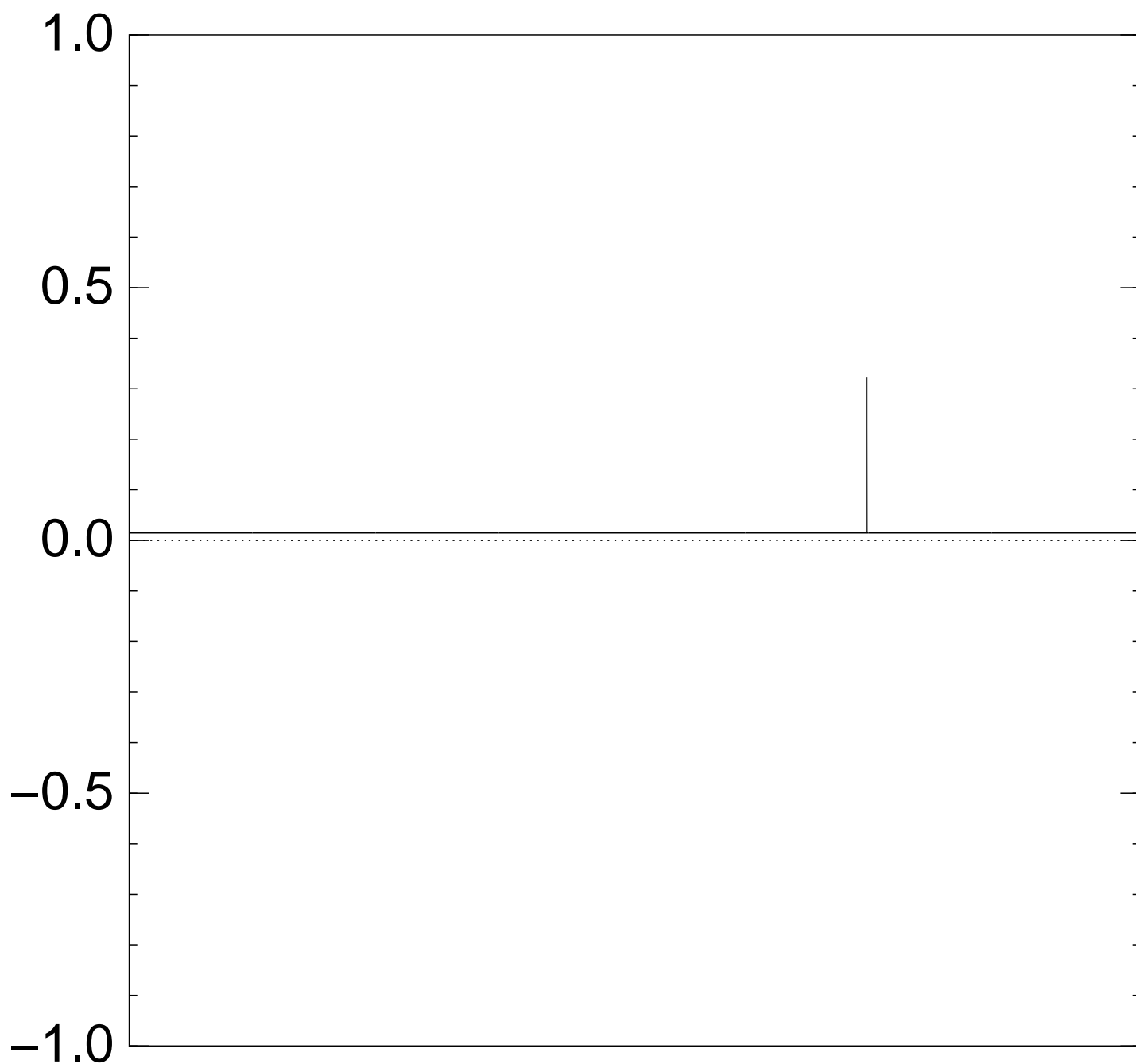




Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

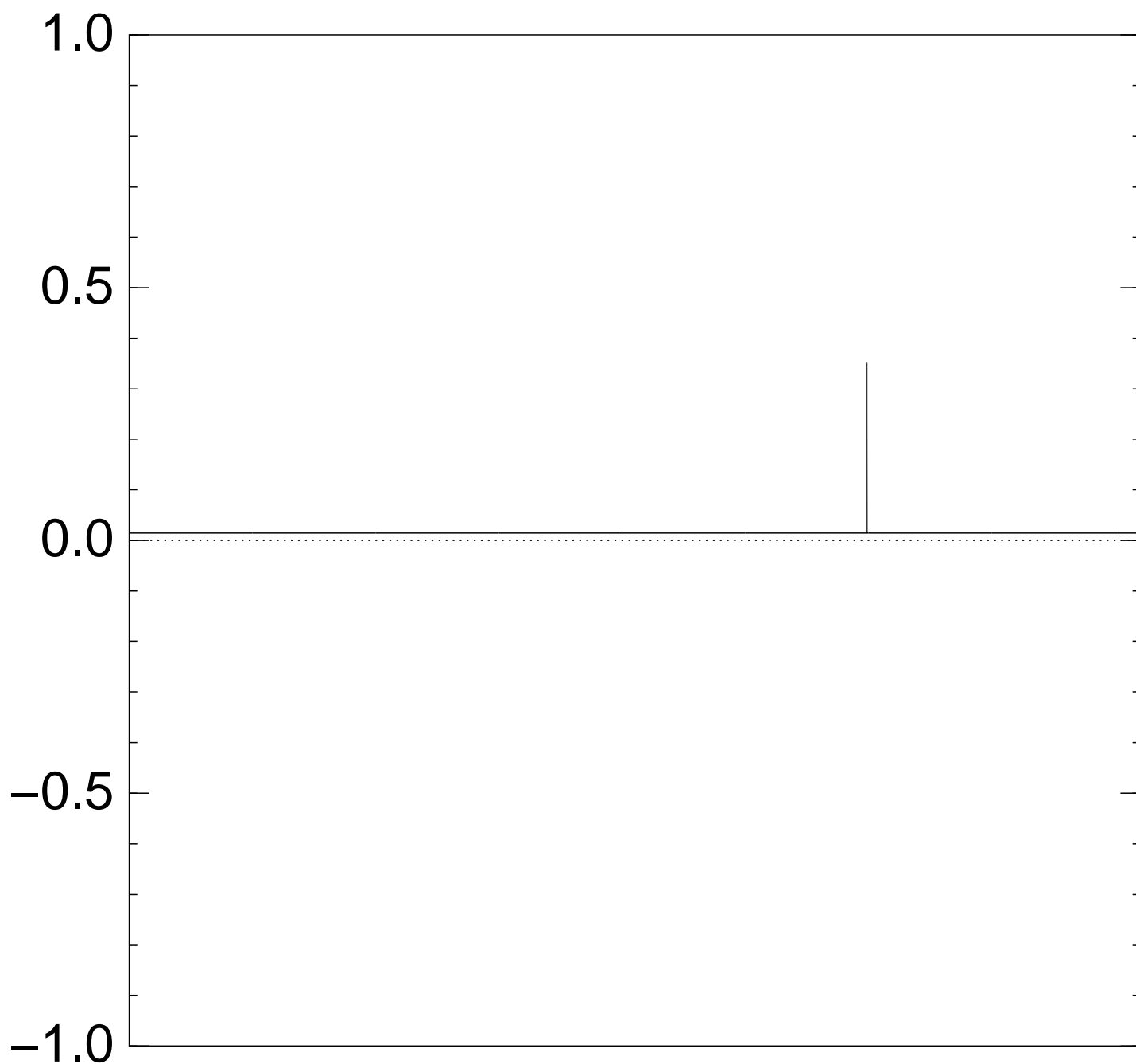
after  $10 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

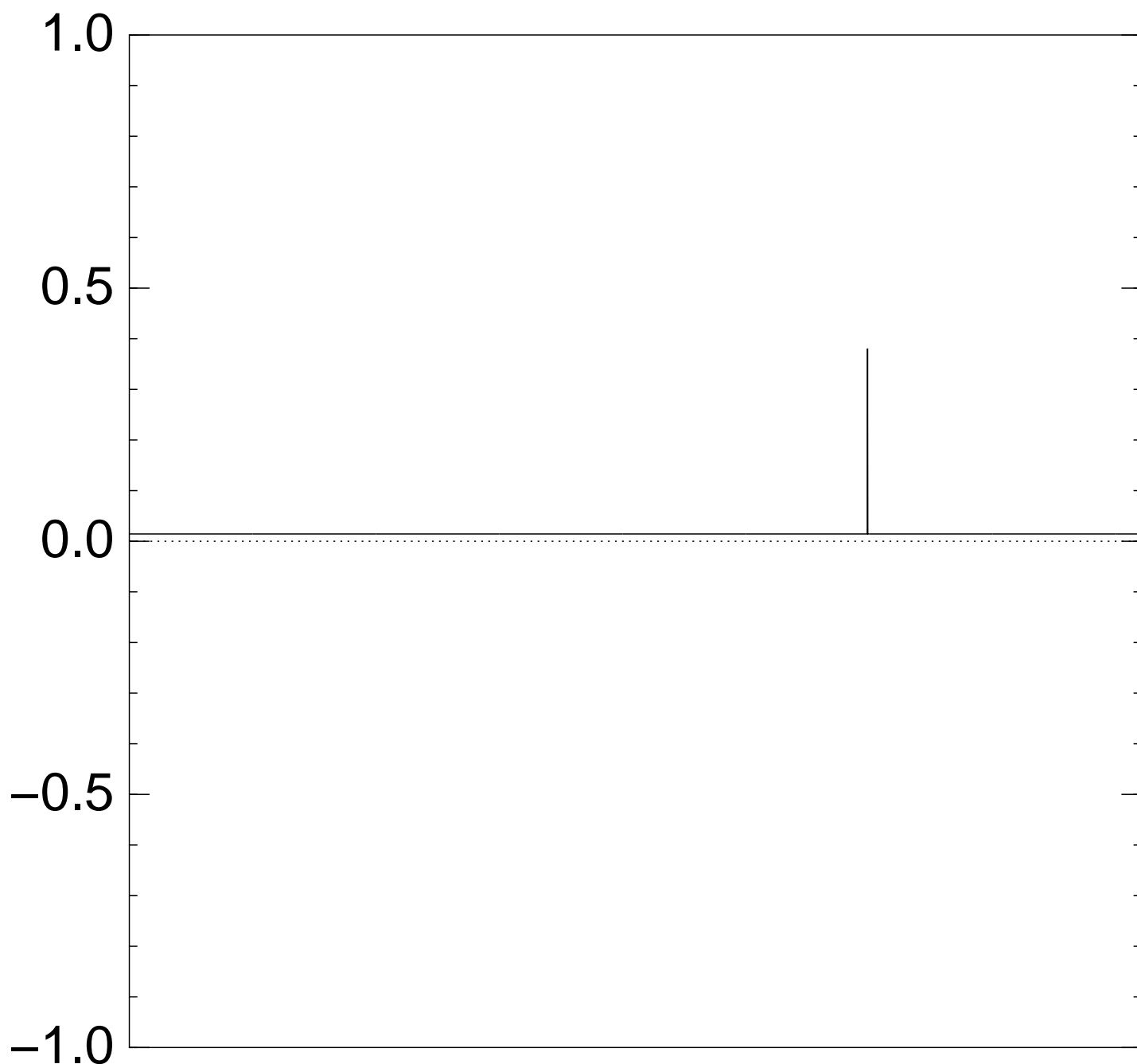
after  $11 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

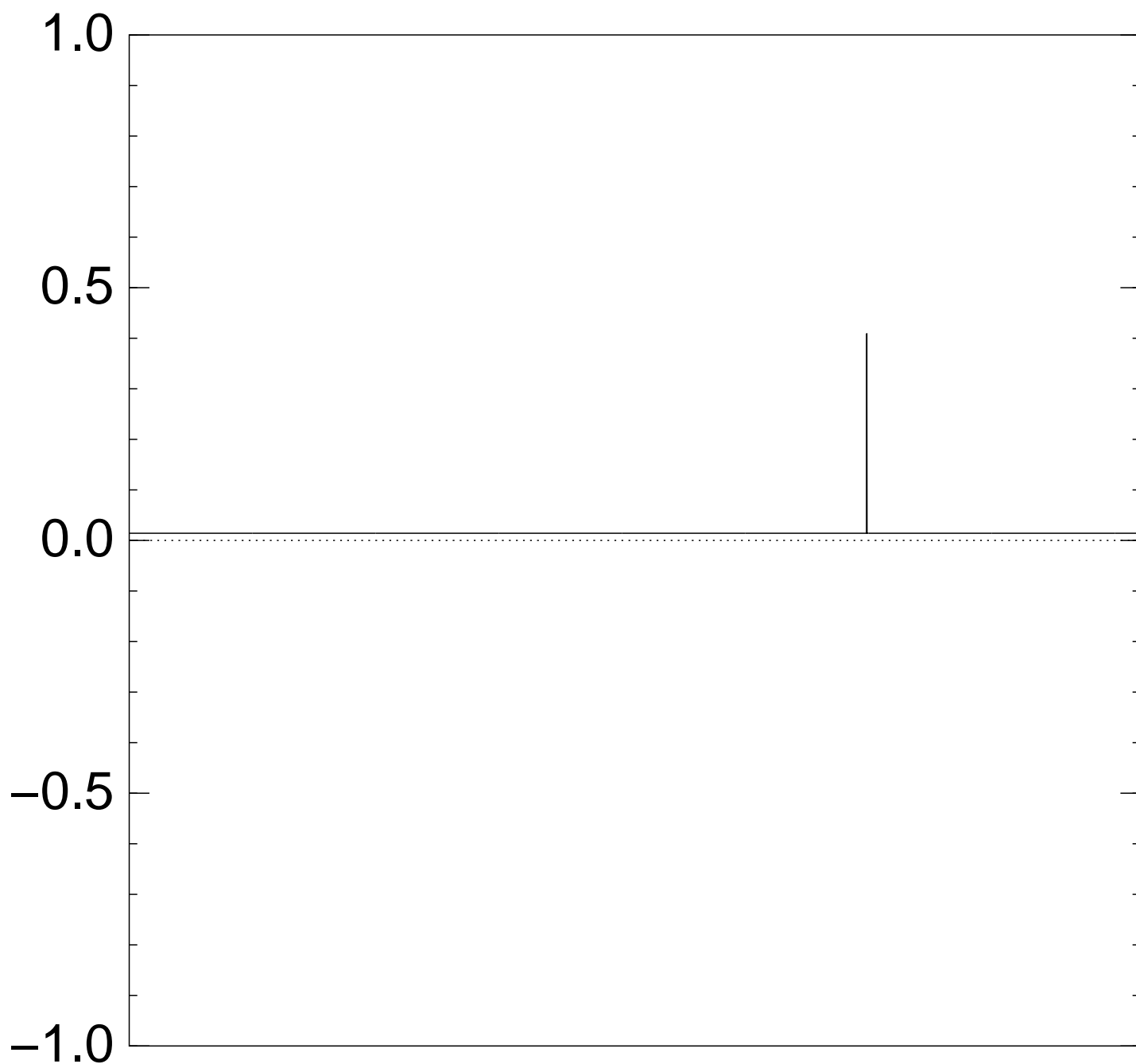
after  $12 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

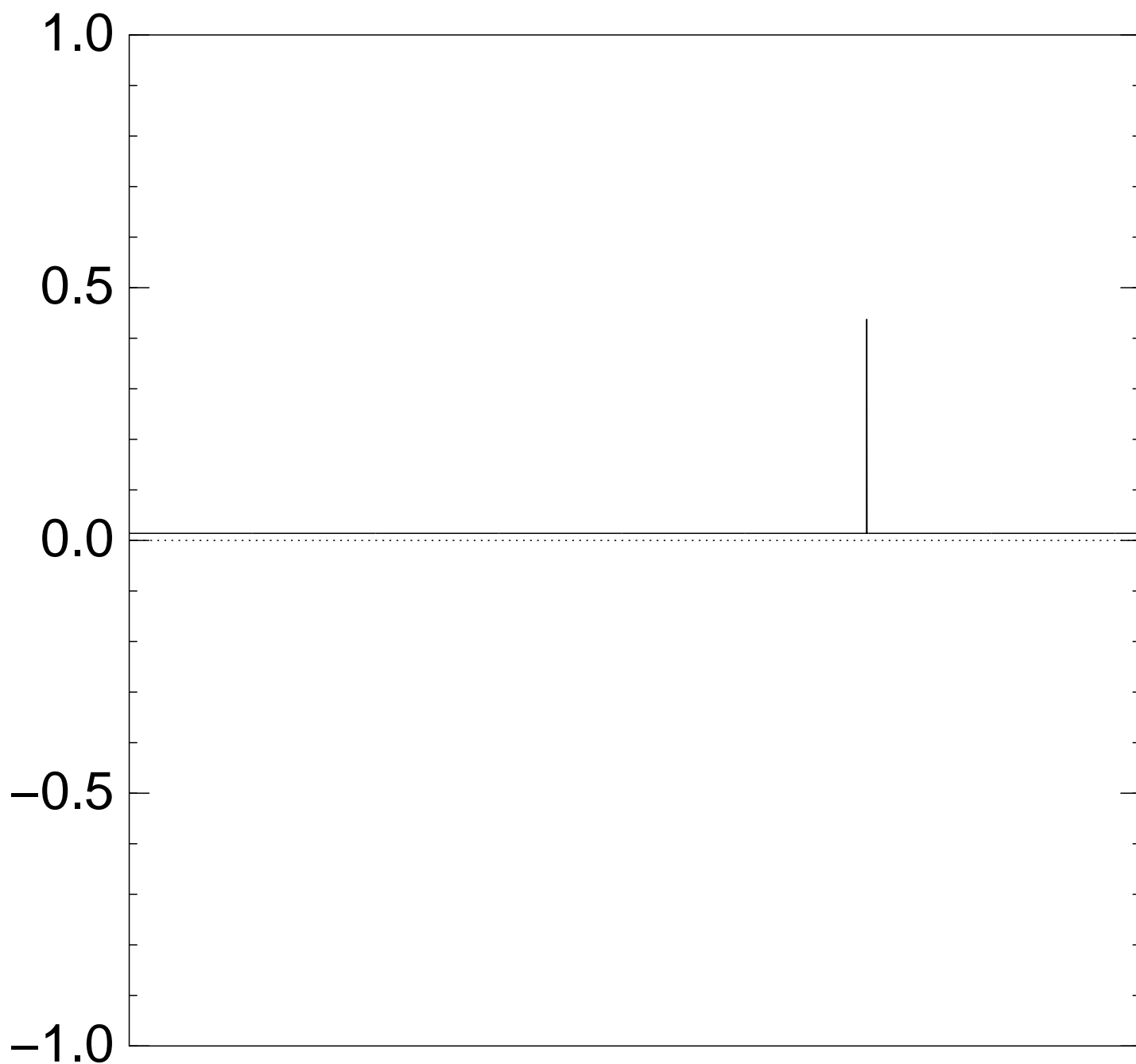
after  $13 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

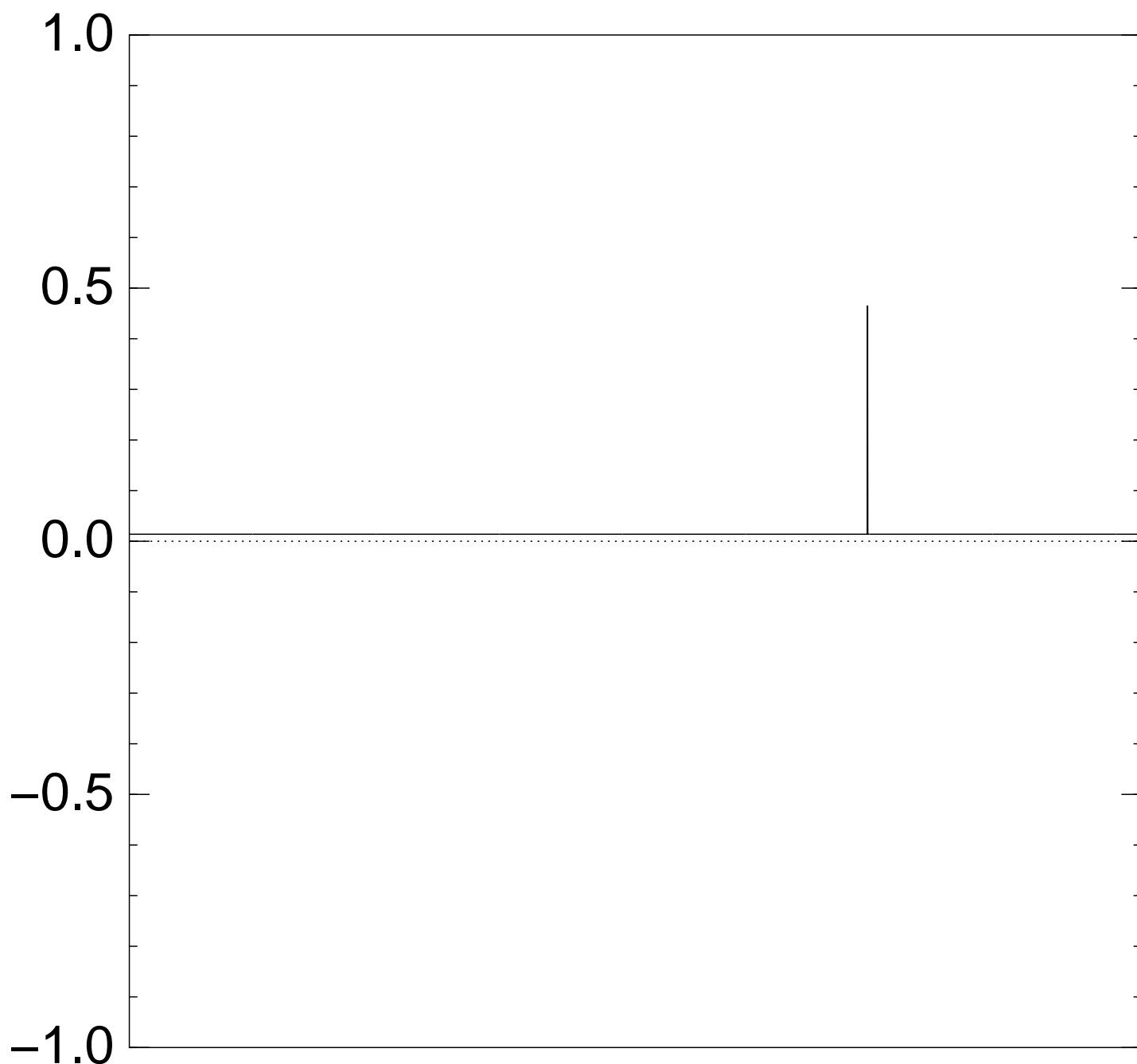
after  $14 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

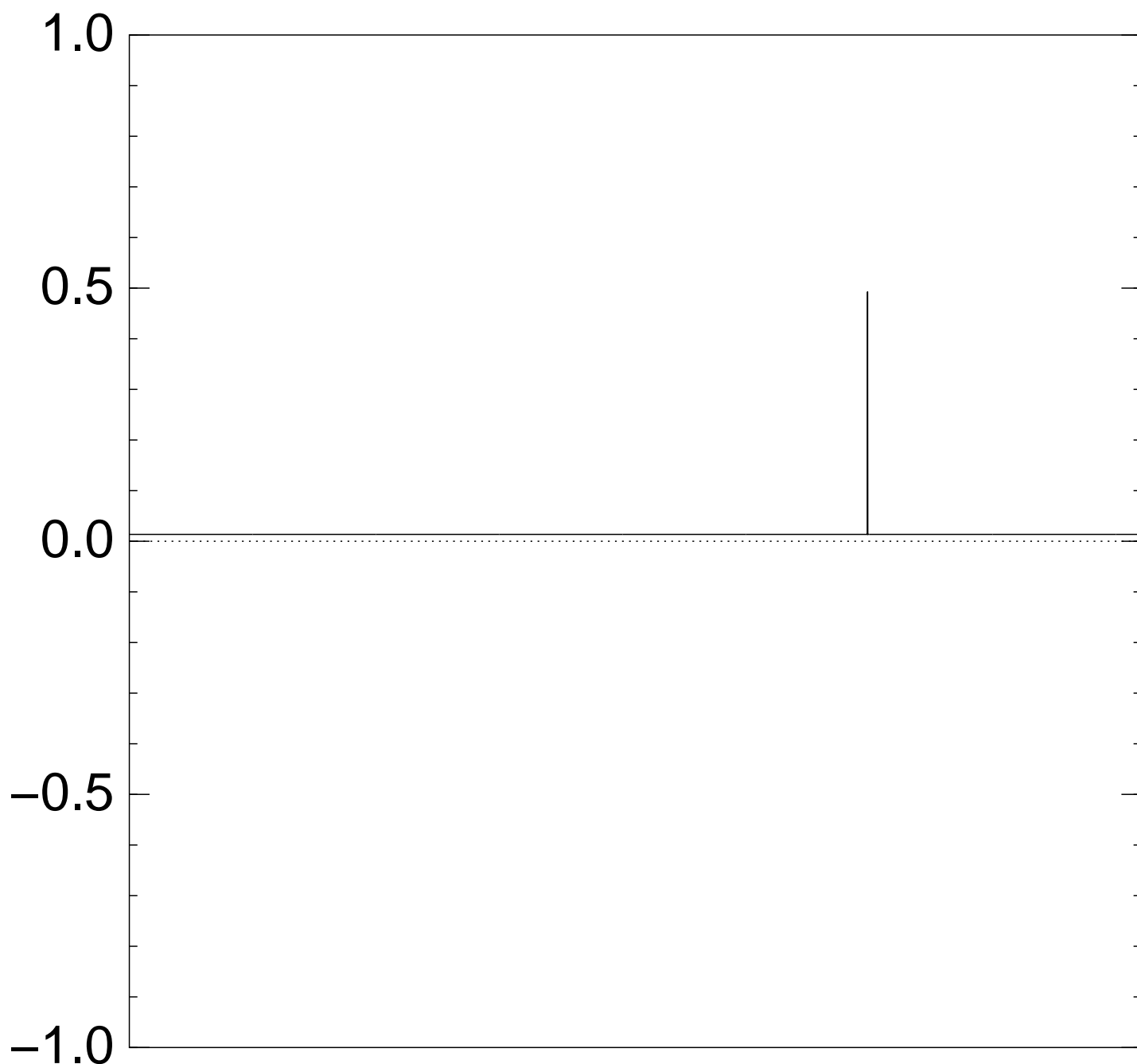
after  $15 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

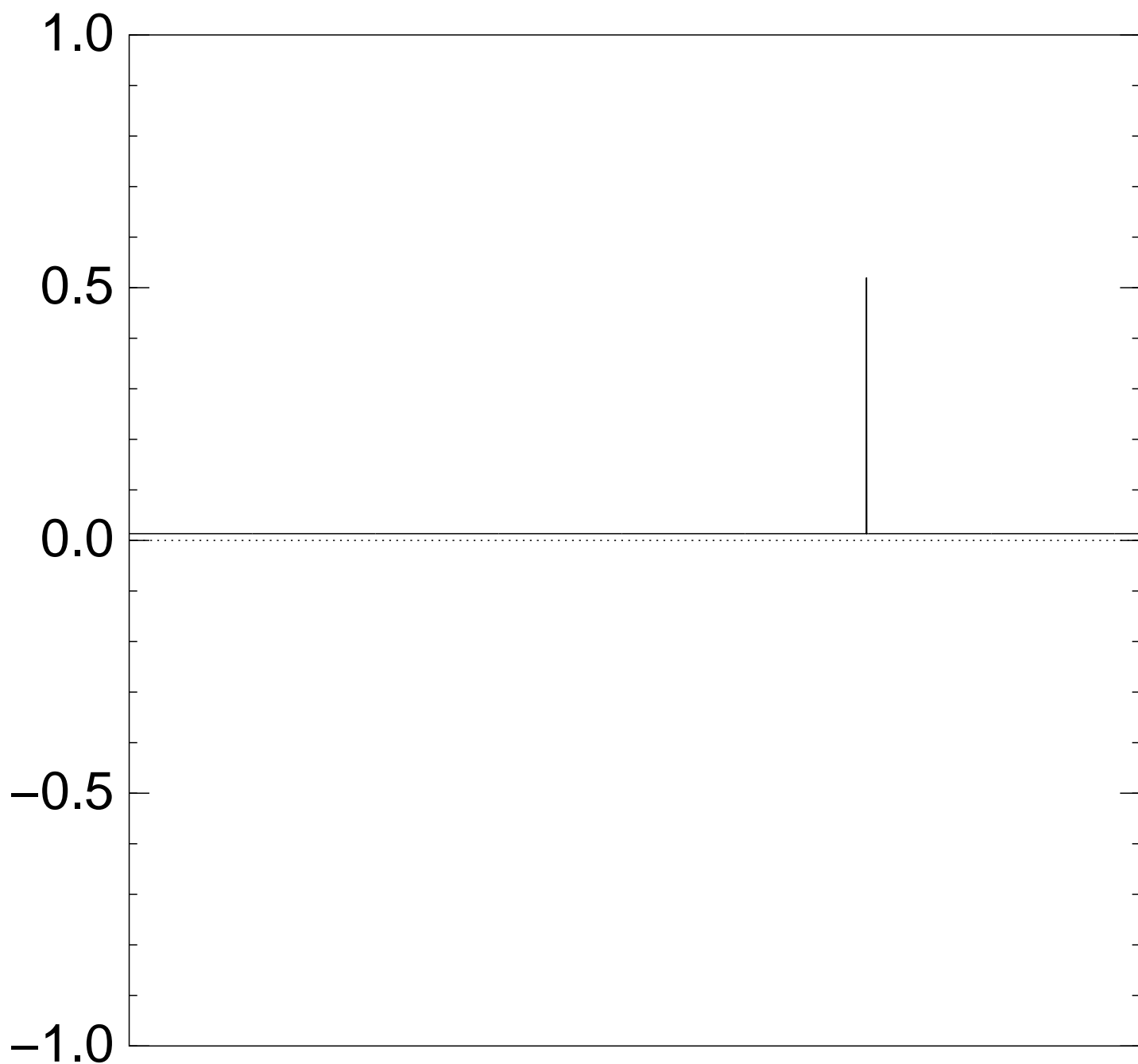
after  $16 \times (\text{Step 1} + \text{Step 2})$ :



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

after  $17 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):

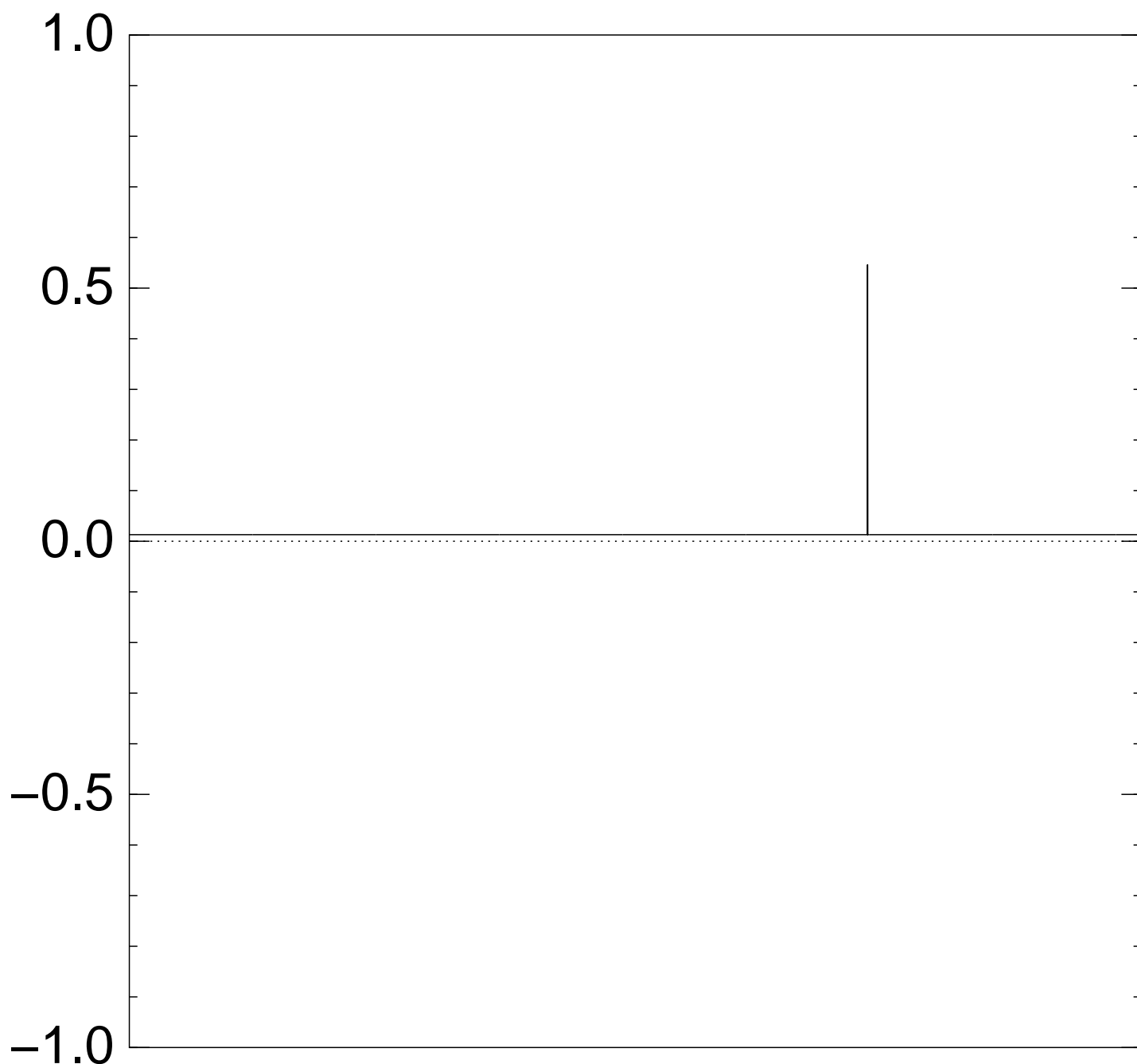




Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

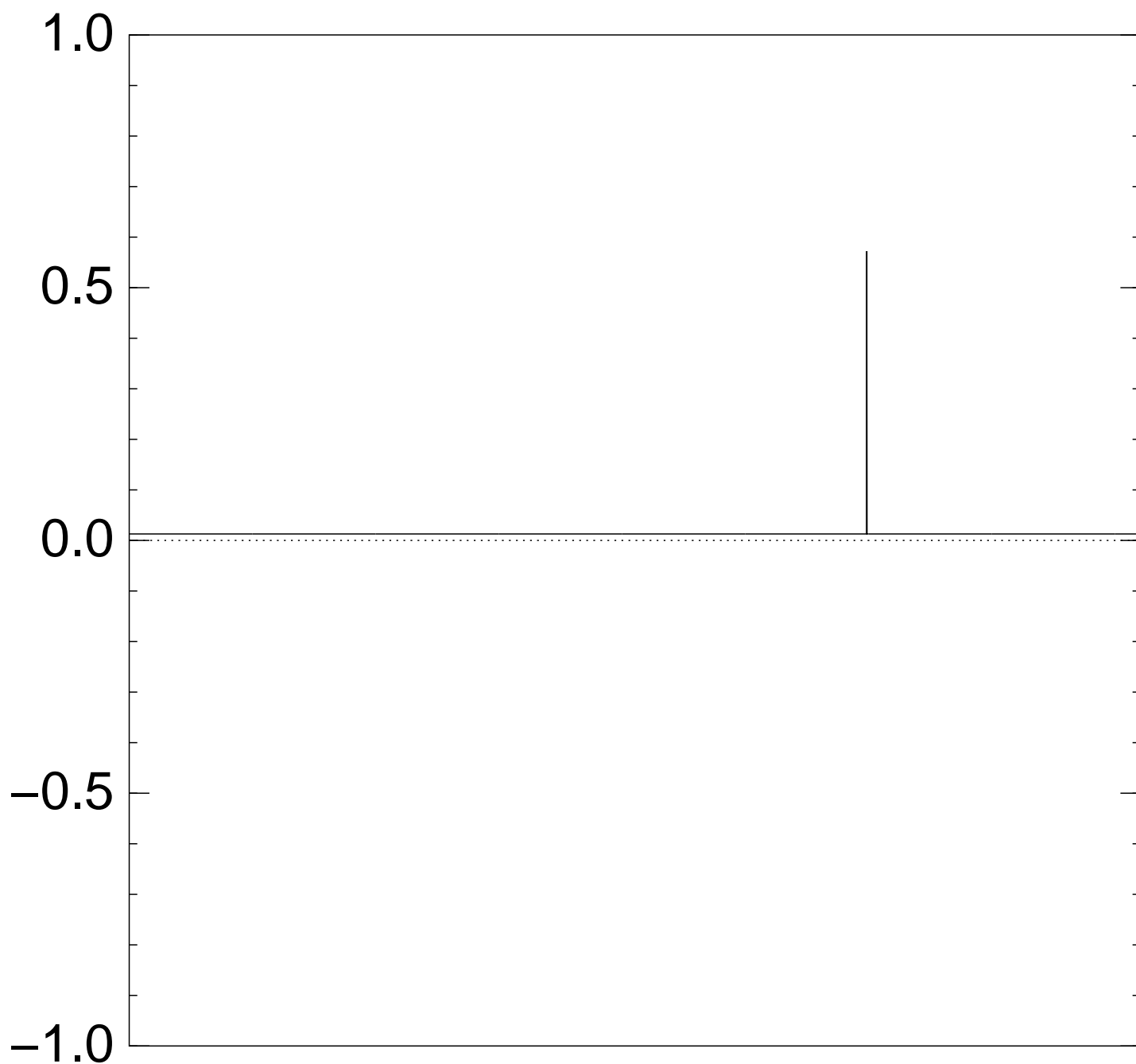
after  $18 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

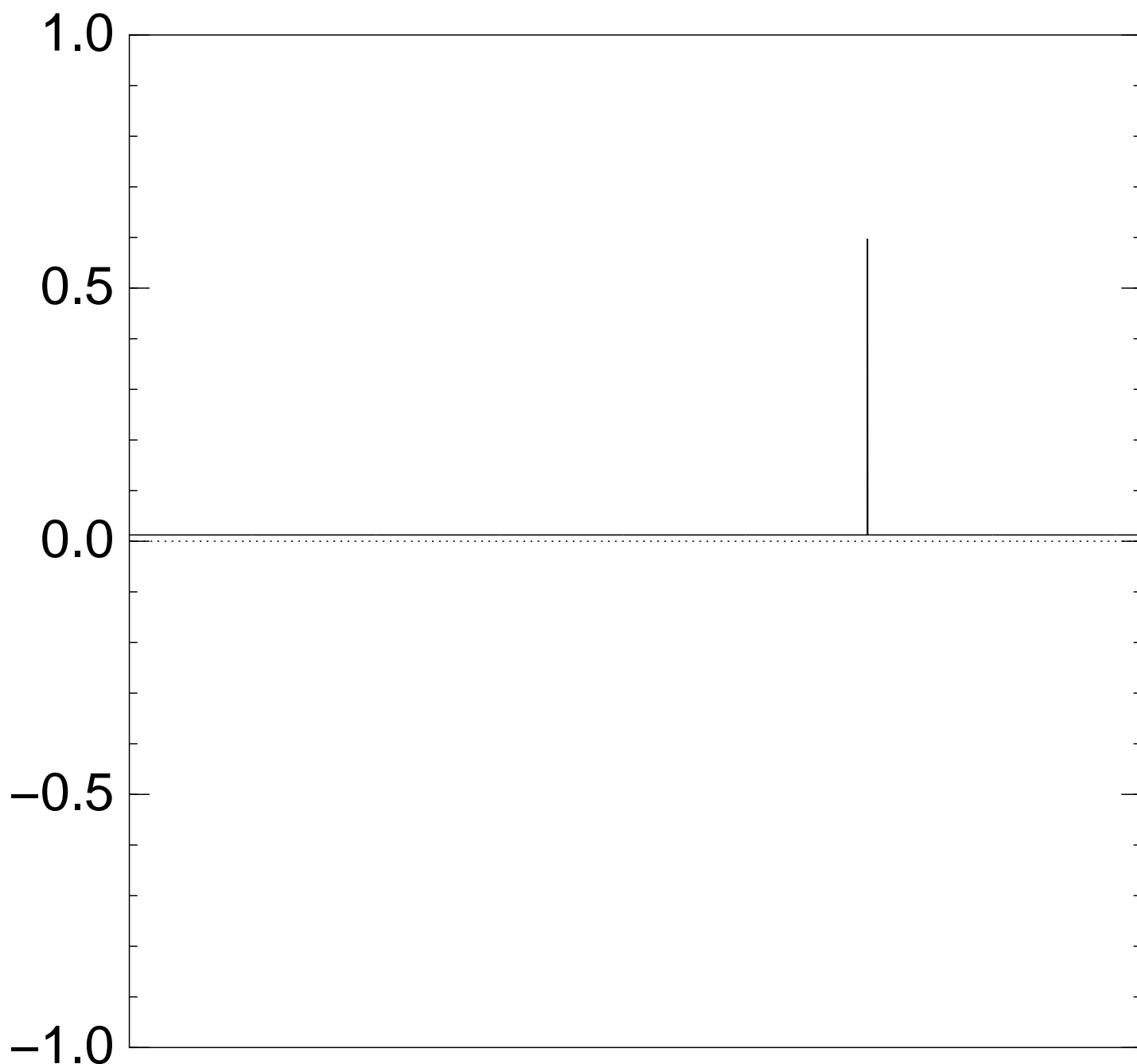
after  $19 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

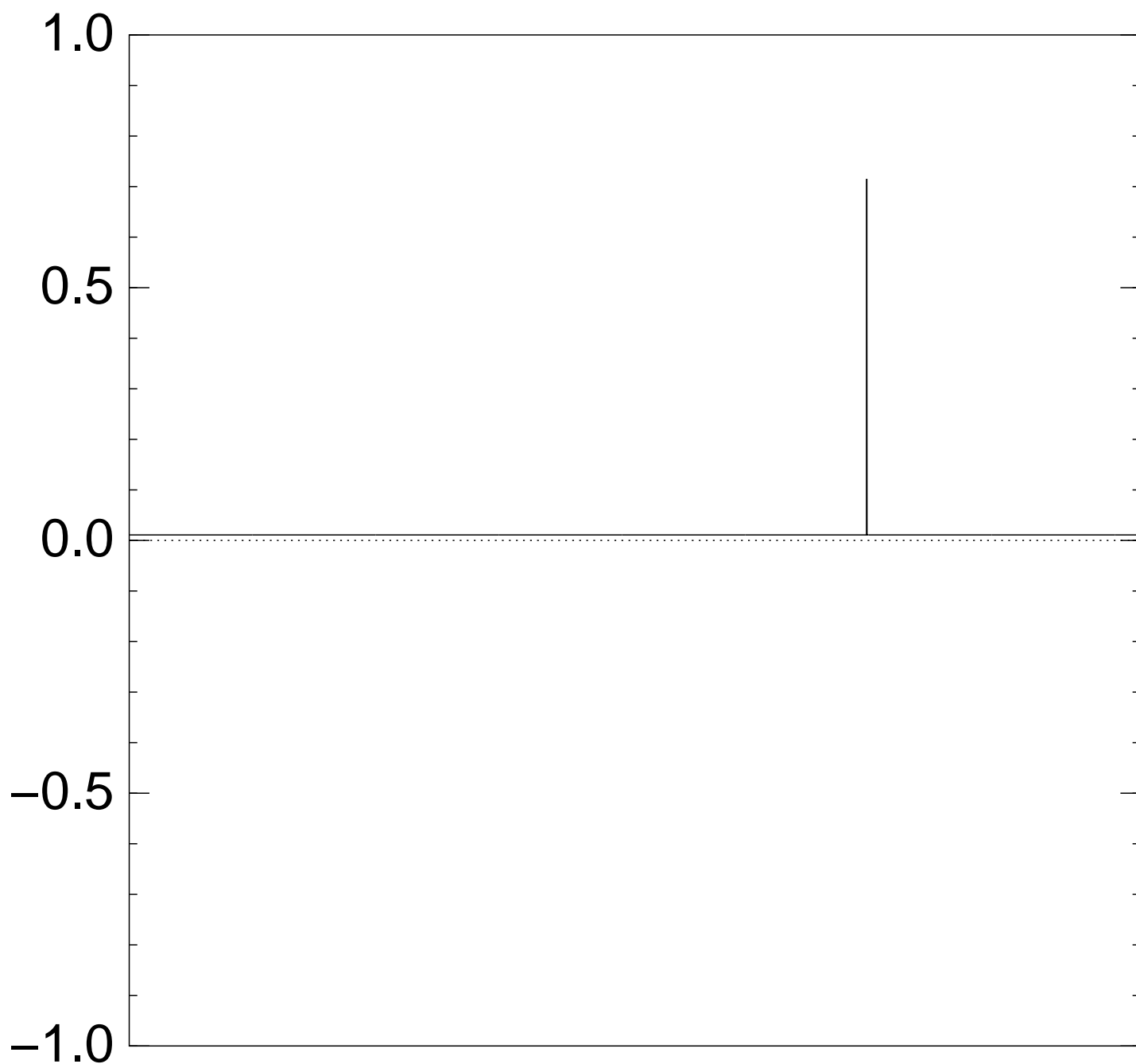
after  $20 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

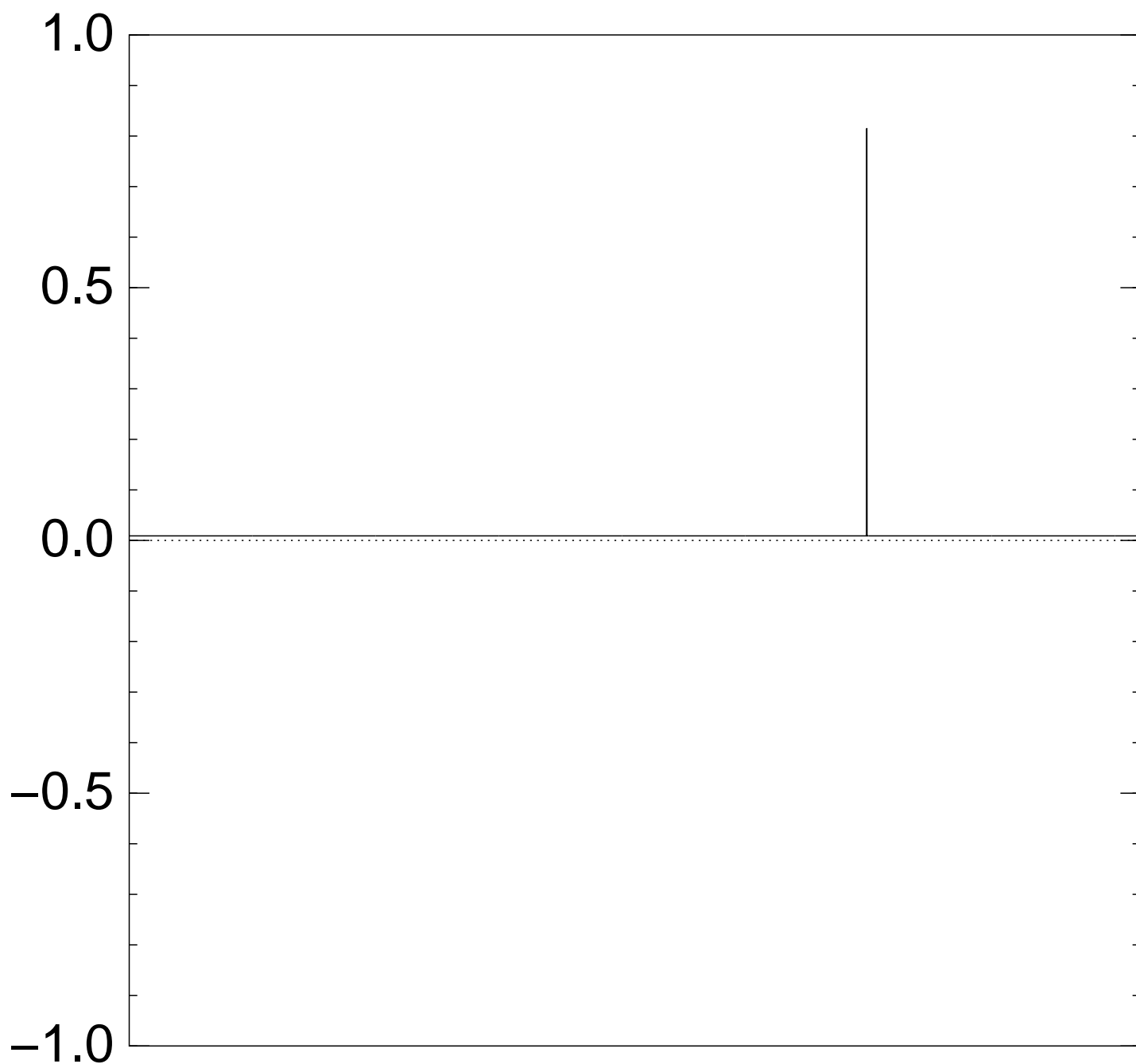
after  $25 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

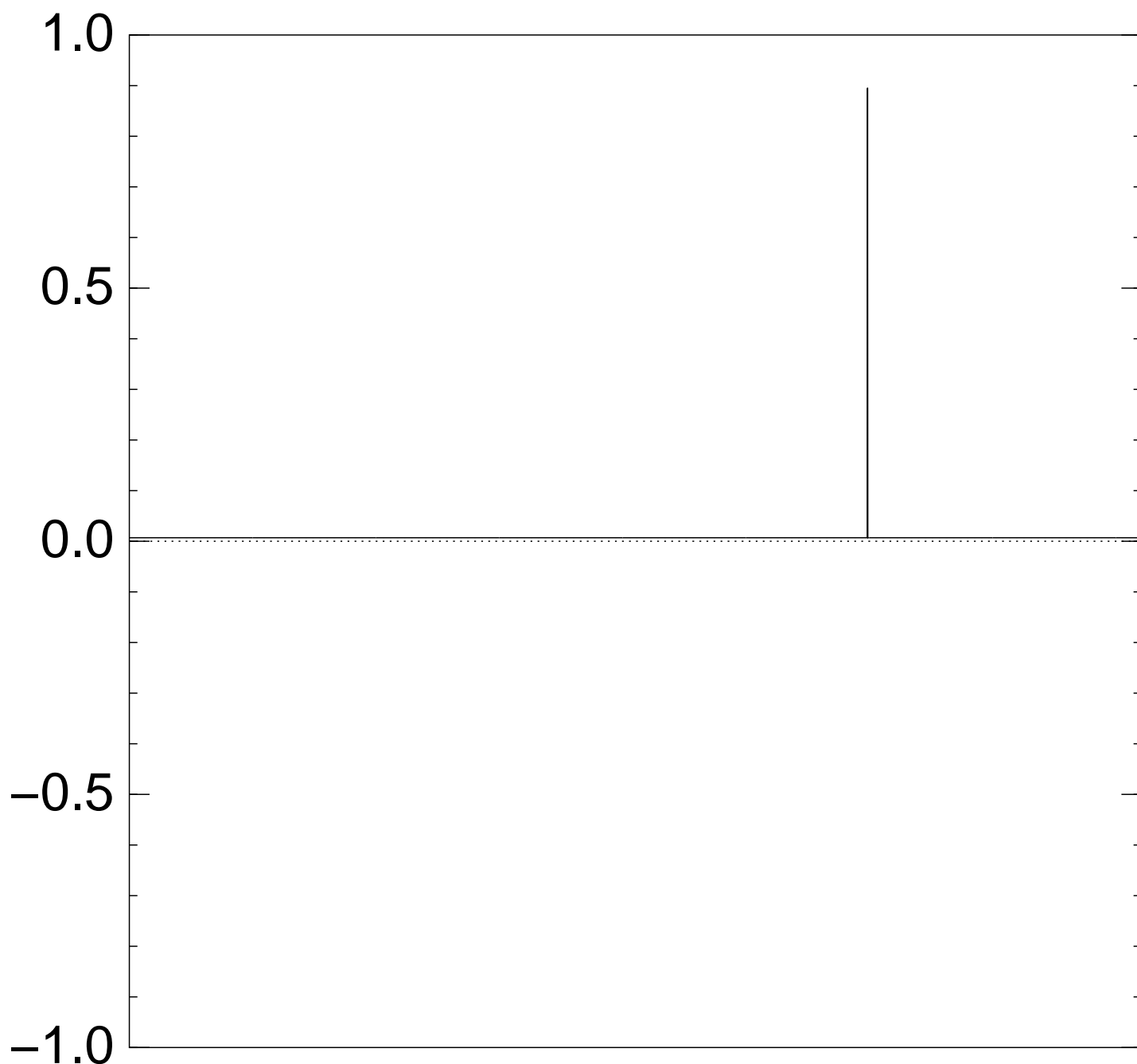
after  $30 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

after  $35 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):

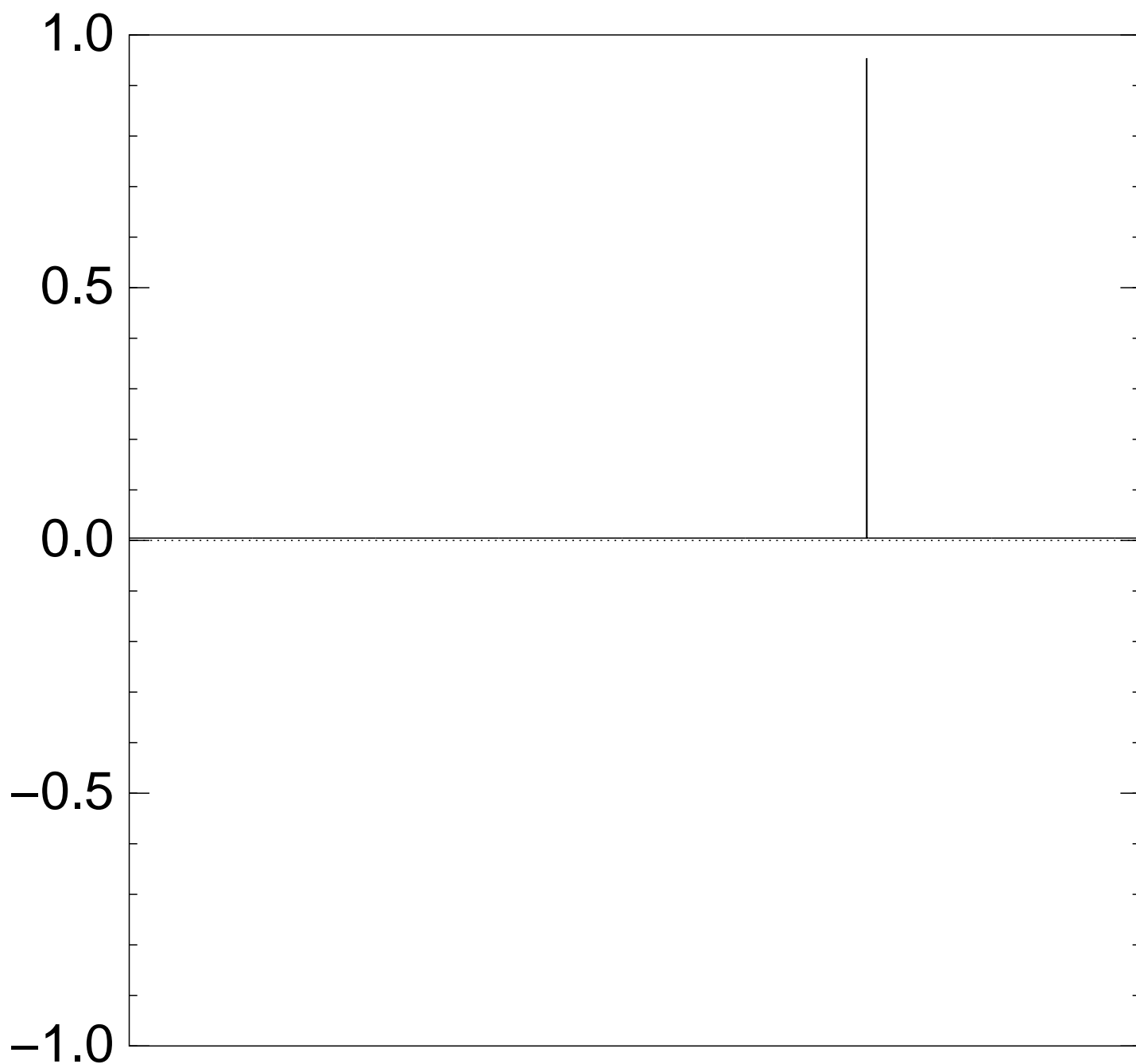


Good moment to stop, measure.

Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

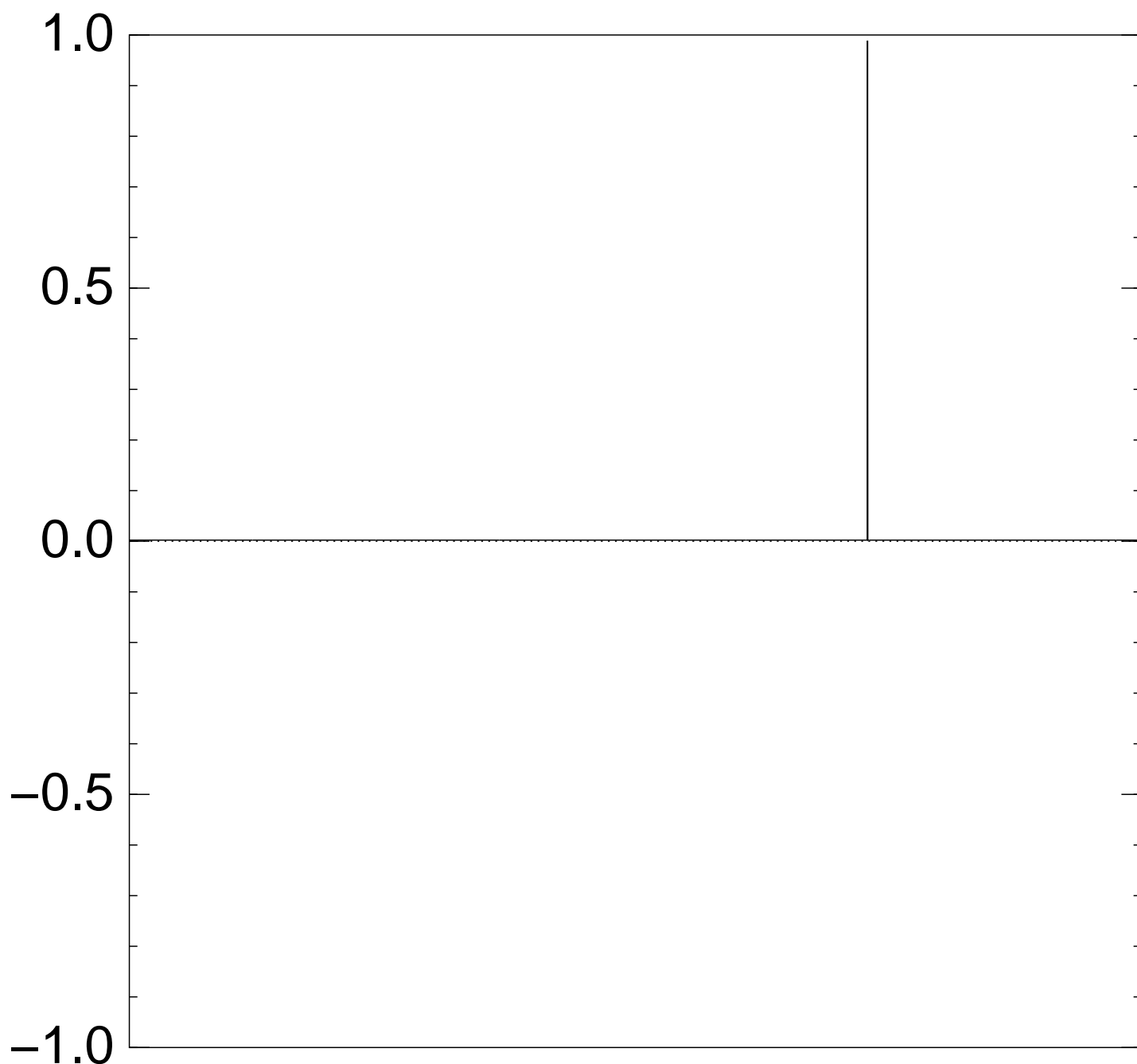
after  $40 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

after  $45 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):

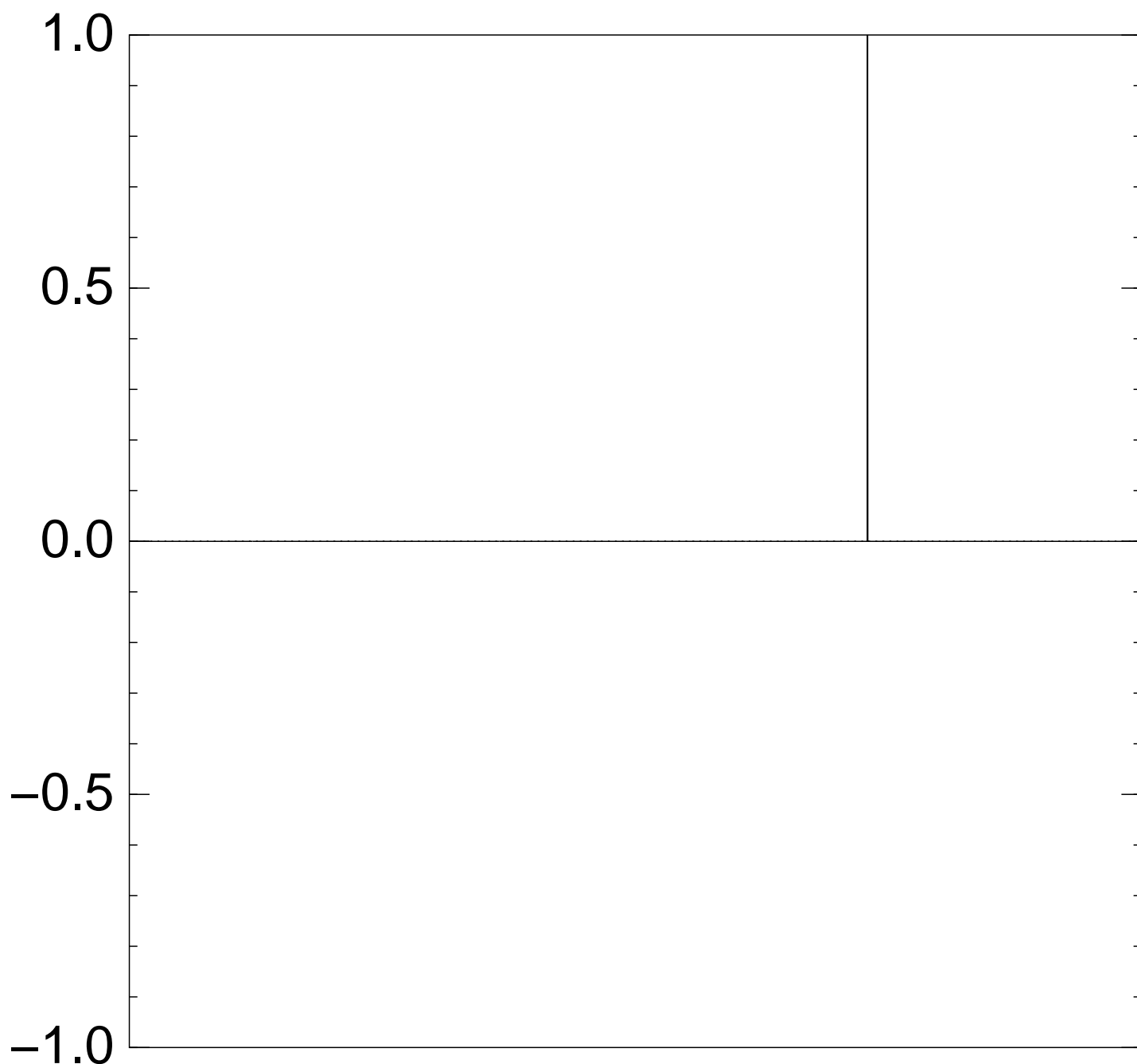




Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

after  $50 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):

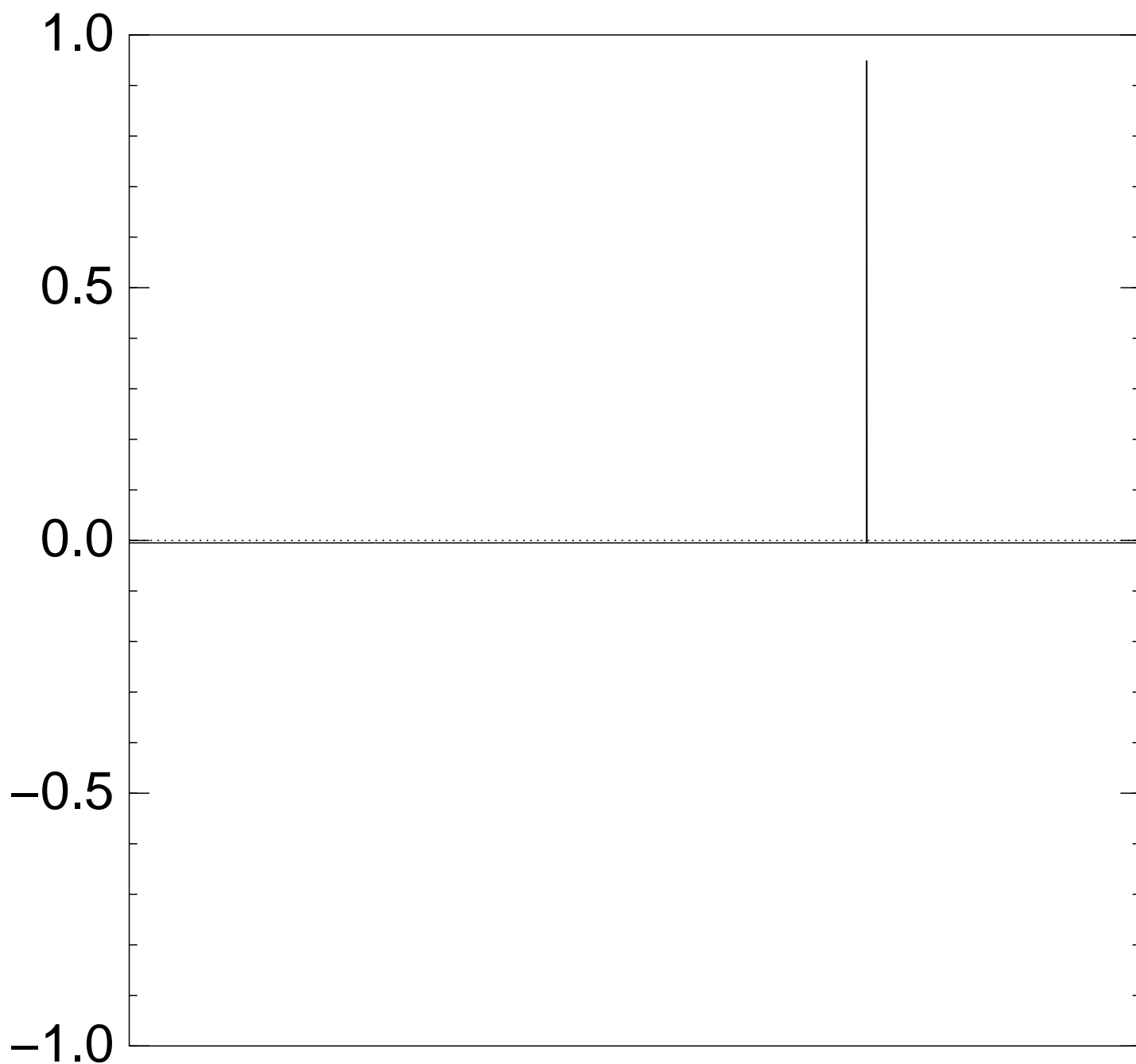


Traditional stopping point.

Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

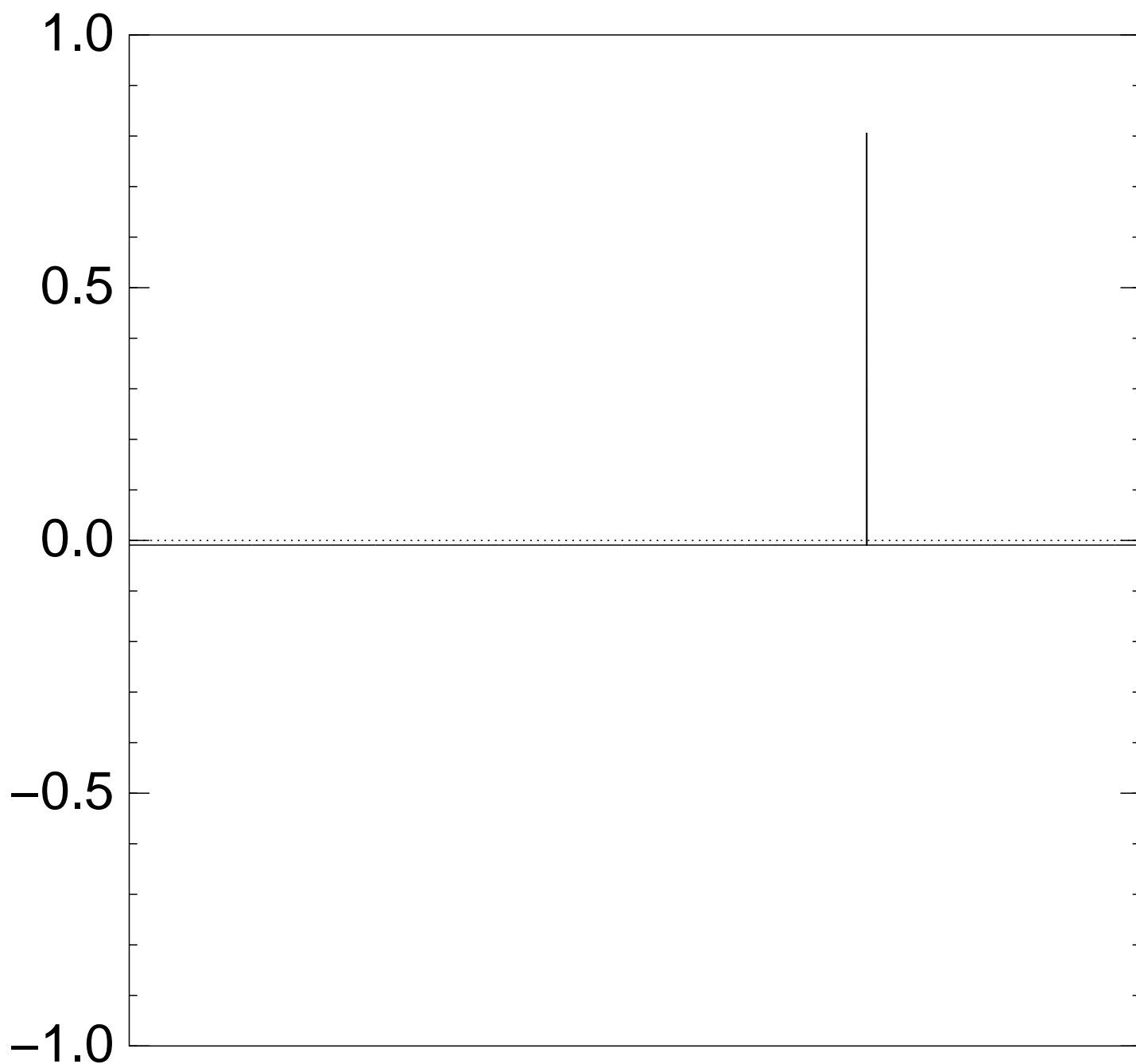
after  $60 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

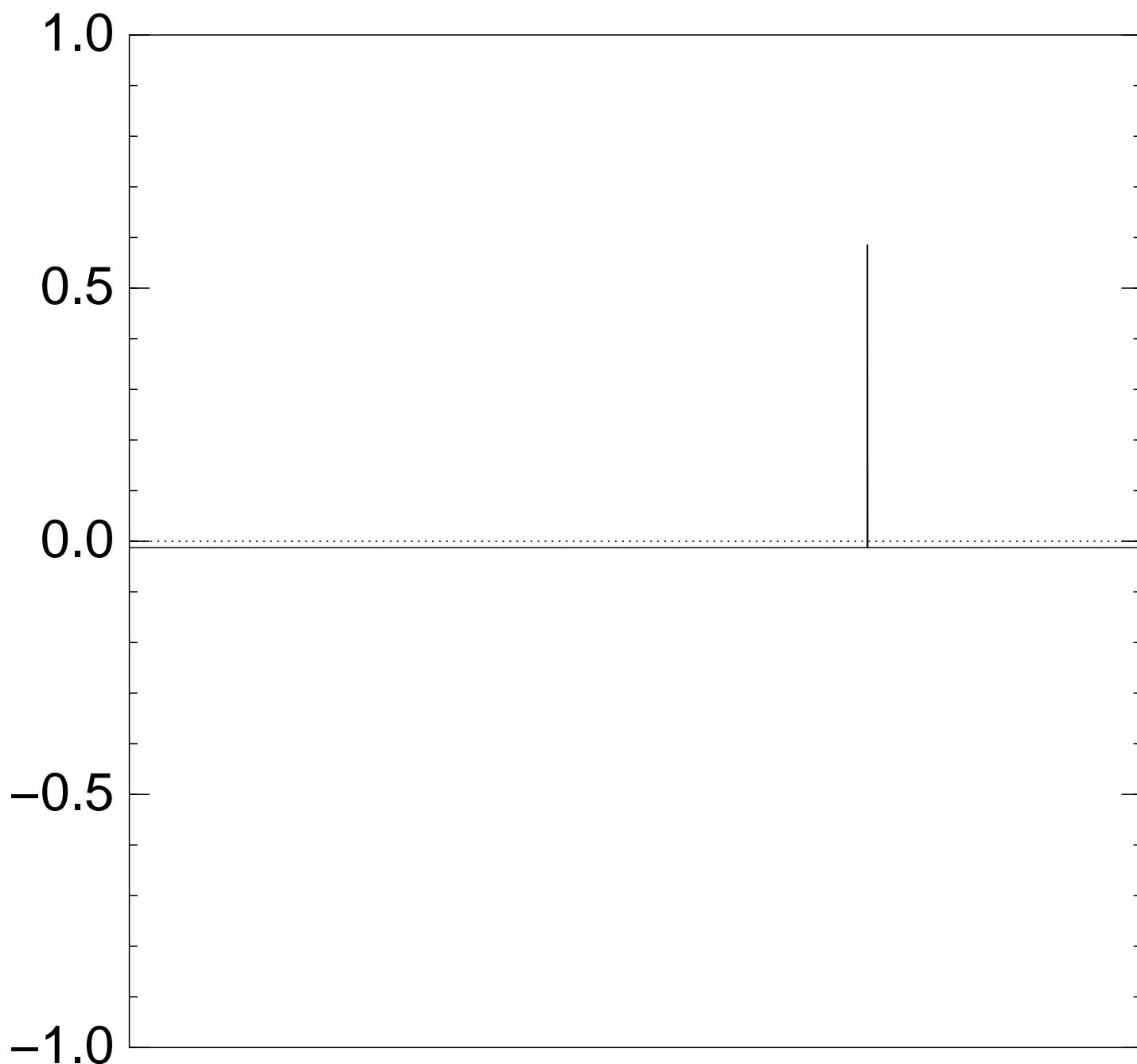
after  $70 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

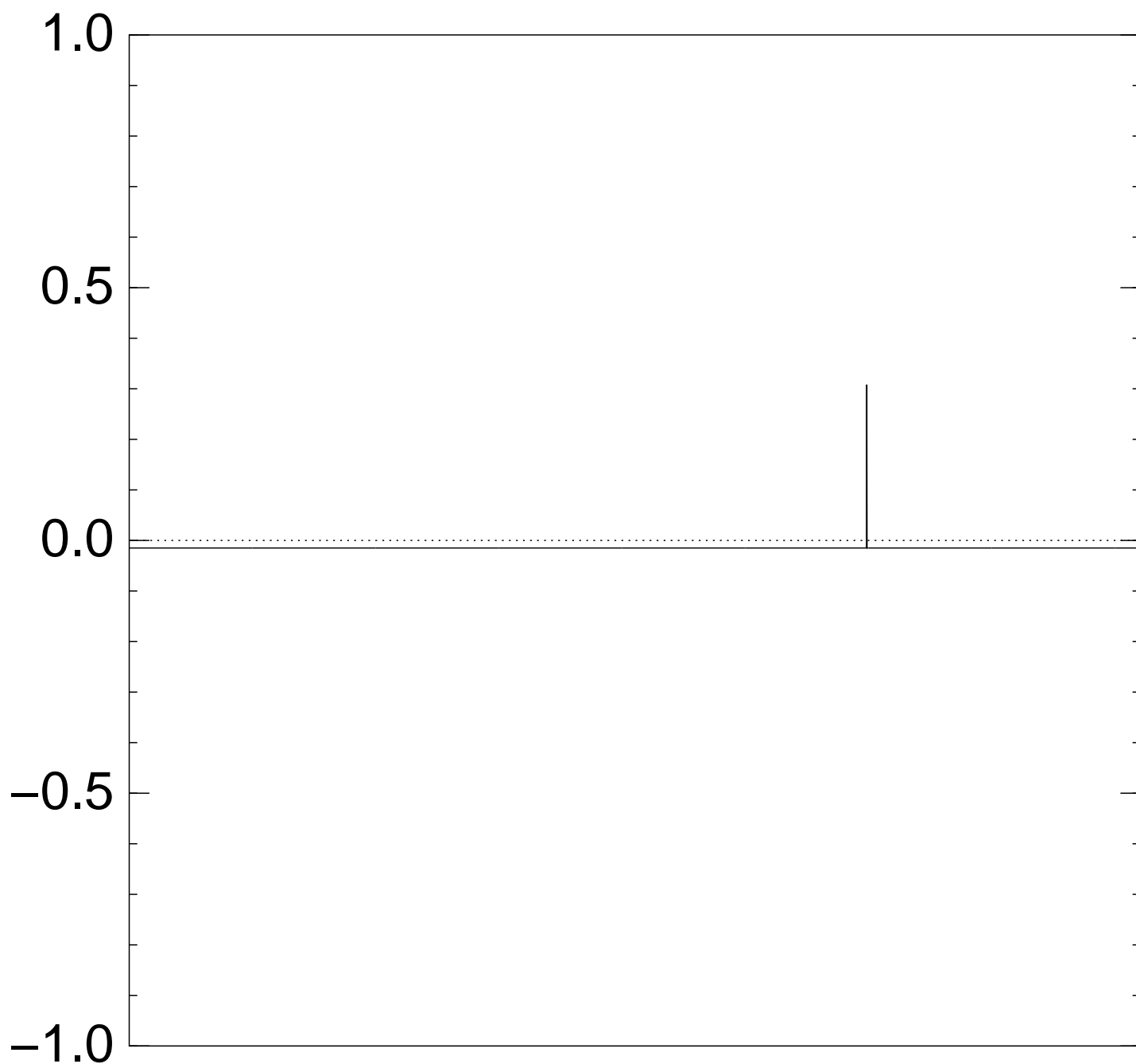
after  $80 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

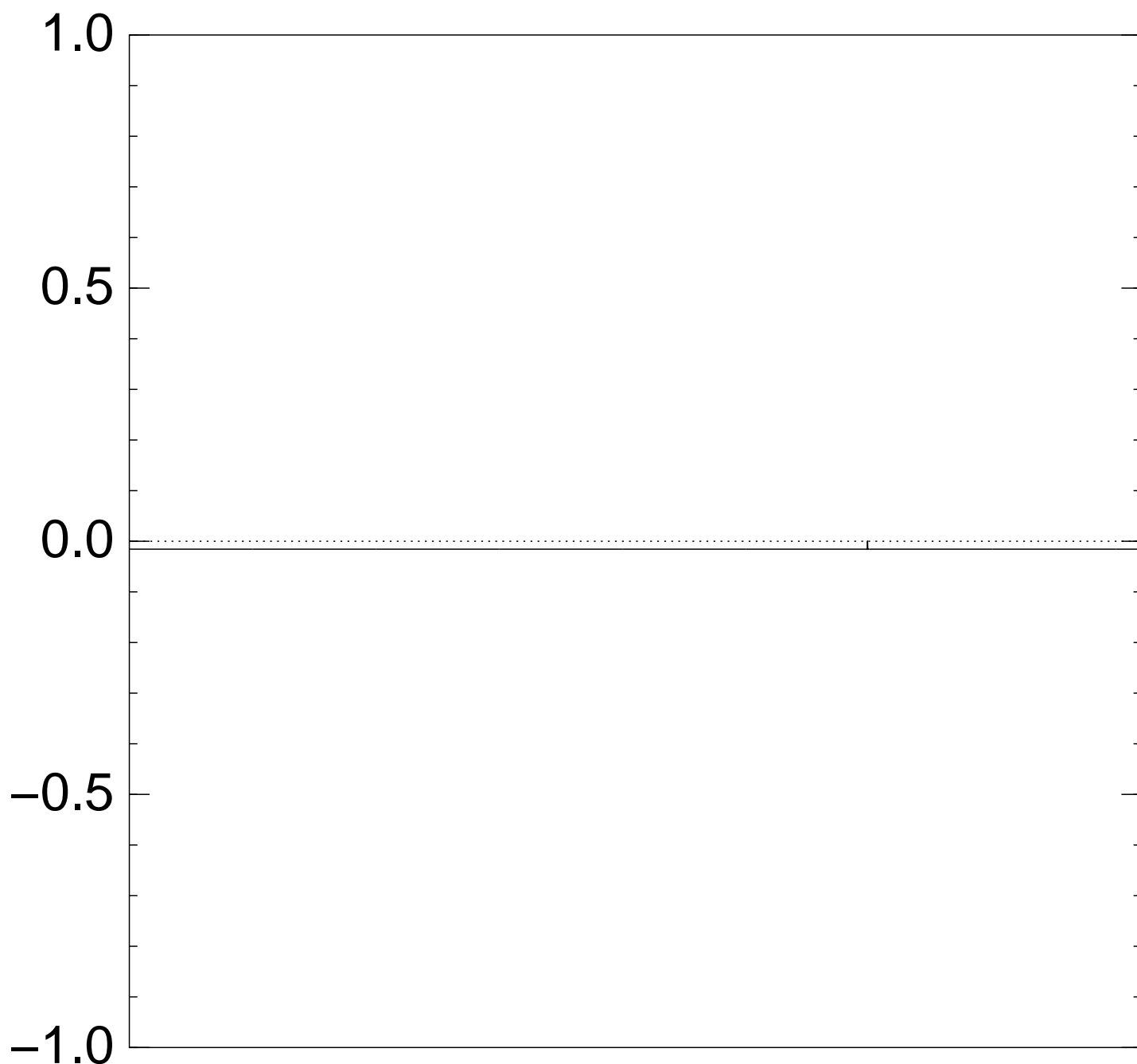
after  $90 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Graph of  $J \mapsto a_J$

for 36634 example with  $n = 12$

after  $100 \times$  (Step 1 + Step 2):



Very bad stopping point.

$J \mapsto a_J$  is completely described by a vector of two numbers (with fixed multiplicities):

(1)  $a_J$  for roots  $J$ ;

(2)  $a_J$  for non-roots  $J$ .

Step 1 + Step 2

act linearly on this vector.

Easily compute eigenvalues and powers of this linear map to understand evolution of state of Grover's algorithm.

$\Rightarrow$  Probability is  $\approx 1$

after  $\approx (\pi/4)2^{0.5n}$  iterations.

## Left-right split (0.5)

Don't need quantum computers to achieve exponent 0.5.

For simplicity assume  $n \in 2\mathbf{Z}$ .

1974 Horowitz–Sahni:

Sort list of  $\Sigma(J_1)$

for all  $J_1 \subseteq \{1, \dots, n/2\}$

and list of  $t - \Sigma(J_2)$

for all  $J_2 \subseteq \{n/2 + 1, \dots, n\}$ .

Merge to find collisions

$\Sigma(J_1) = t - \Sigma(J_2)$ ,

i.e.,  $\Sigma(J_1 \cup J_2) = t$ .



Cost  $2^{0.5n}$  for sorting, merging.

We assign cost 1 to RAM.

e.g. 36634 as sum of

(499, 852, 1927, 2535, 3596, 3608,  
4688, 5989, 6385, 7353, 7650, 9413):

Sort the 64 sums

0, 499, 852, 499 + 852, ...,

499 + 852 + 1927 + ... + 3608

and the 64 differences

36634 - 0, 36634 - 4688, ...,

36634 - 4688 - ... - 9413

to see that

499 + 852 + 2535 + 3608 =

36634 - 5989 - 6385 - 7353 - 9413.

## Moduli (0.5)

For simplicity assume  $n \in 4\mathbf{Z}$ .

Choose  $M \approx 2^{0.25n}$ .

Choose  $t_1 \in \{0, 1, \dots, M - 1\}$ .

Define  $t_2 = t - t_1$ .

Find all  $J_1 \subseteq \{1, \dots, n/2\}$

such that  $\Sigma(J_1) \equiv t_1 \pmod{M}$ .

How? Split  $J_1$  as  $J_{11} \cup J_{12}$ .

Find all  $J_2 \subseteq \{n/2 + 1, \dots, n\}$

such that  $\Sigma(J_2) \equiv t_2 \pmod{M}$ .

Sort and merge to find all

collisions  $\Sigma(J_1) = t - \Sigma(J_2)$ ,

i.e.,  $\Sigma(J_1 \cup J_2) = t$ .

Finds  $J$  iff  $\Sigma(J_1) \equiv t_1$ .

There are  $\approx 2^{0.25n}$  choices of  $t_1$ .

Each choice costs  $2^{0.25n}$ .

Total cost  $2^{0.5n}$ .

Not visible in cost metric:

this uses space only  $2^{0.25n}$ ,

assuming typical distribution.

Algorithm has been

introduced at least twice:

2006 Elsenhans–Jahnel;

2010 Howgrave-Graham–Joux.

Different technique

for similar space reduction:

1981 Schroepel–Shamir.

e.g.  $M = 8$ ,  $t = 36634$ ,  $x =$   
(499, 852, 1927, 2535, 3596, 3608,  
4688, 5989, 6385, 7353, 7650, 9413):

Try each  $t_1 \in \{0, 1, \dots, 7\}$ .

In particular try  $t_1 = 6$ .

There are 12 subsequences of  
(499, 852, 1927, 2535, 3596, 3608)  
with sum 6 modulo 8.

There are 6 subsequences of  
(4688, 5989, 6385, 7353, 7650, 9413)  
with sum  $36634 - 6$  modulo 8.

Sort and merge to find

$$499 + 852 + 2535 + 3608 =$$

$$36634 - 5989 - 6385 - 7353 - 9413.$$

## Quantum left-right split (0.333...)

Cost  $2^{n/3}$ , imitating

1998 Brassard–Høyer–Tapp:

For simplicity assume  $n \in 3\mathbf{Z}$ .

Compute  $\Sigma(J_1)$  for all

$J_1 \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n/3\}$ .

Sort  $L = \{\Sigma(J_1)\}$ .

Can now efficiently compute

$J_2 \mapsto [t - \Sigma(J_2) \notin L]$

for  $J_2 \subseteq \{n/3 + 1, \dots, n\}$ .

Recall: we assign cost 1 to RAM.

Use Grover's method to see

whether this function has a root.

## Quantum walk

Unique-collision-finding problem:

Say  $f$  has  $n$ -bit inputs,

exactly one collision  $\{p, q\}$ :

i.e.,  $p \neq q$ ,  $f(p) = f(q)$ .

Problem: find this collision.

Cost  $2^n$ : Define  $S$  as  
the set of  $n$ -bit strings.

Compute  $f(S)$ , sort.

Generalize to cost  $r$ ,  
success probability  $\approx (r/2^n)^2$ :

Choose a set  $S$  of size  $r$ .

Compute  $f(S)$ , sort.

Data structure  $D(S)$  capturing  
the generalized computation:  
the set  $S$ ; the multiset  $f(S)$ ;  
the number of collisions in  $S$ .

Very efficient to move from  $D(S)$   
to  $D(T)$  if  $T$  is an **adjacent** set:  
 $\#S = \#T = r$ ,  $\#(S \cap T) = r - 1$ .

2003 Ambainis, simplified 2007

Magniez–Nayak–Roland–Santha:

Create superposition of states

$(D(S), D(T))$  with adjacent  $S, T$ .

By a quantum walk

find  $S$  containing a collision.

How the quantum walk works:

Start from uniform superposition.

Repeat  $\approx 0.6 \cdot 2^n / r$  times:

Negate  $a_{S,T}$

if  $S$  contains collision.

Repeat  $\approx 0.7 \cdot \sqrt{r}$  times:

For each  $T$ :

Diffuse  $a_{S,T}$  across all  $S$ .

For each  $S$ :

Diffuse  $a_{S,T}$  across all  $T$ .

Now high probability

that  $T$  contains collision.

Cost  $r + 2^n / \sqrt{r}$ . Optimize:  $2^{2n/3}$ .



Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
0 negations and 0 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.938; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.060; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.001; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
1 negation and 46 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.935; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.000; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.057; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.008; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
2 negations and 92 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.918; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.000; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.059; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.022; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

3 negations and 138 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.897; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.000; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.058; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.002; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.042; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

4 negations and 184 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.873; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.000; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.054; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.002; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.070; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

5 negations and 230 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.838; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.001; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.054; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.003; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.104; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

6 negations and 276 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.800; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.001; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.051; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.006; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.141; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

7 negations and 322 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.758; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.002; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.001; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.047; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.007; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.184; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .



Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
8 negations and 368 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.708; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.003; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.001; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.046; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.007; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.234; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

9 negations and 414 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.658; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.003; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.001; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.042; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.009; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.287; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
10 negations and 460 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.606; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.003; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.002; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.037; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.013; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.338; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
11 negations and 506 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.547; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.004; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.003; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.036; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.015; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.394; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
12 negations and 552 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.491; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.004; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.003; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.032; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.014; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.455; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
13 negations and 598 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.436; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.005; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.003; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.026; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.017; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.513; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
14 negations and 644 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.377; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.006; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.004; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.025; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.022; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.566; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
15 negations and 690 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.322; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.005; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.004; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.021; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.023; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.623; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .



Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
16 negations and 736 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.270; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.006; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.005; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.017; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.022; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.680; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
17 negations and 782 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.218; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.007; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.005; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.015; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.024; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.730; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
18 negations and 828 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.172; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.006; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.005; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.011; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.029; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.775; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
19 negations and 874 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.131; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.007; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.006; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.008; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.030; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.002; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.816; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after  
20 negations and 920 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.093; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.007; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.007; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.007; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.027; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.002; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.857; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

21 negations and 966 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.062; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.007; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.006; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.004; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.030; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.890; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

22 negations and 1012 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.037; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.008; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.007; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.002; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.034; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.910; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

23 negations and 1058 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.017; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.008; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.007; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.002; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.034; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.002; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.930; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .



Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

24 negations and 1104 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.005; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.007; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.007; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.030; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.002; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.948; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

25 negations and 1150 diffusions:

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.008; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.008; -$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.000; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.031; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.001; +$$

$$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.952; +$$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

26 negations and 1196 diffusions:

$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.002; -$

$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.008; +$

$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.008; -$

$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.000; -$

$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.035; +$

$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.002; +$

$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.945; +$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

Classify  $(S, T)$  according to  
 $(\#(S \cap \{p, q\}), \#(T \cap \{p, q\}))$ ;  
reduce  $a$  to low-dim vector.

Analyze evolution of this vector.

e.g.  $n = 15$ ,  $r = 1024$ , after

27 negations and 1242 diffusions:

$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 0)] \approx 0.011; -$

$\Pr[\text{class } (0, 1)] \approx 0.007; +$

$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 0)] \approx 0.007; -$

$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 1)] \approx 0.001; -$

$\Pr[\text{class } (1, 2)] \approx 0.034; +$

$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 1)] \approx 0.003; +$

$\Pr[\text{class } (2, 2)] \approx 0.938; +$

Right column is sign of  $a_{S,T}$ .

## Subset-sum walk (0.333...)

Consider  $f$  defined by

$$f(1, J_1) = \Sigma(J_1)$$

for  $J_1 \subseteq \{1, \dots, n/2\}$ ;

$$f(2, J_2) = t - \Sigma(J_2)$$

for  $J_2 \subseteq \{n/2 + 1, \dots, n\}$ .

Good chance of unique

collision  $\Sigma(J_1) = t - \Sigma(J_2)$ .

$n/2 + 1$  bits of input,

so quantum walk costs  $2^{n/3}$ .

Easily tweak quantum walk

to handle more collisions,

ignore  $\Sigma(J_1) = \Sigma(J'_1)$ , etc.

## Generalized moduli

Choose  $M, t_1, r$  with  $M \approx r$ .

(Original moduli algorithm  
is the special case  $r = 2^{n/4}$ .)

Take set  $S_{11}$ ,  $\#S_{11} = r$ , where

$J_{11} \in S_{11} \Rightarrow J_{11} \subseteq \{1, \dots, n/4\}$ .

(Original algorithm:  $S_{11}$  is the set  
of all  $J_{11} \subseteq \{1, \dots, n/4\}$ .)

Compute  $\Sigma(J_{11}) \bmod M$

for each  $J_{11} \in S_{11}$ .

Similarly take a set  $S_{12}$  of  $r$

subsets of  $\{n/4 + 1, \dots, n/2\}$ .

Compute  $t_1 - \Sigma(J_{12}) \bmod M$

for each  $J_{12} \in S_{12}$ .

Find all collisions

$$\Sigma(J_{11}) \equiv t_1 - \Sigma(J_{12}),$$

$$\text{i.e., } \Sigma(J_1) \equiv t_1 \pmod{M}$$

where  $J_1 = J_{11} \cup J_{12}$ .

Compute each  $\Sigma(J_1)$ .

Similarly  $S_{21}, S_{22} \Rightarrow$

list of  $J_2$  with  $\Sigma(J_2) \equiv t - t_1$

$\Rightarrow$  each  $t - \Sigma(J_2)$ .

Find collisions  $\Sigma(J_1) = t - \Sigma(J_2)$ .

Success probability  $r^4 / 2^n$

at finding any particular  $J$  with

$$\Sigma(J) = t, \Sigma(J_1) \equiv t_1 \pmod{M}.$$

Assuming typical distribution:

cost  $r$ , since  $M \approx r$ .

## Quantum moduli (0.3)

Capture execution of  
generalized moduli algorithm  
as data structure

$$D(S_{11}, S_{12}, S_{21}, S_{22}).$$

Easy to move

from  $S_{ij}$  to adjacent  $T_{ij}$ .

Convert into quantum walk:

$$\text{cost } r + \sqrt{r} 2^{n/2} / r^2.$$

$$2^{0.2n} \text{ for } r \approx 2^{0.2n}.$$

Use “amplitude amplification”  
to search for correct  $t_1$ .

$$\text{Total cost } 2^{0.3n}.$$



## Quantum reps (0.241 . . .)

Central result of the paper:

Combine quantum walk

with “representations” idea of  
2010 Howgrave-Graham–Joux.

Subset-sum exponent 0.241 . . . ;  
new record.

Lower-level improvement:

Ambainis uses ad-hoc

“combination of a hash table  
and a skip list” to ensure  
history-independence.

We use radix trees.

Much easier, presumably faster.