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Component growth of iteration graphs under the squaring map modulo p^k ,

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Abstract

We derive a formula for the number of components of the iteration graph $G(p^k)$ of the squaring function on the ring $\mathbf{Z}/p^k\mathbf{Z}$. In particular, if p is not a Wieferich prime, then the number of components is linear in k , and if p is a Wieferich prime, then the number of components is eventually linear in k .