



A proper subset of an infinite set can be the same size as the set itself; but it can never be bigger!

(1)  $P(S)$  is at least as big as  $S$ .

$$\forall x \in S \quad \{x\} \in P(S)$$

So  $P(S)$  can "swarm"  $S$ , with  $\{x\} \rightarrow x$   
 (+ there are lots of other elements of

$\mathcal{P}(S)$  to map onto elements of  $S$  - e.g.  
 $\varnothing$ .

② Assume  $S$  has the same cardinality as  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  (they're the same size): so  $\exists$  a one-to-one correspondence of  $S$  into  $\mathcal{P}(S)$ :

$$f: S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \underline{S} & & \underline{\mathcal{P}(S)} \\ x & \rightarrow & f(x) \text{ (a subset of } S \text{)} \end{array}$$

$$x \in S \quad f(x) \subseteq S, \text{ or } f(x) \in \mathcal{P}(S).$$

③ We're going to prove that there's no such  $f$ , by contradiction,

$$\text{Consider } A = \{x \in S \mid x \notin f(x)\}$$

( $f(x)$  is called the image of  $x$  under  $f$ .)

④ Claim:  $A$  is not the image of any  $x \in S$  under  $f$ . [That would be a

contradiction, because we claimed that  $f$  was 1-1 onto  $\mathcal{P}(S)$ .]

Proof (by contradiction):

Suppose that  $A$  is the image of  $x \in S$ :

$$f(x) = A.$$

Is  $x \in A$ ?

a. Suppose it is:  $x \in A = f(x)$ .

Since  $x$  is an element of  $A$ ,

$x \neq f(x)$ . But that's a contradiction!

b. Suppose it isn't:

$$x \notin A = f(x).$$

But therefore, since  $x \notin f(x)$ ,

by definition it's an element of

$A$ ! But that's a contradiction!

Since  $x$  must either be an element of  $A$  or not, & since it can't be either,

x does not exist!

- (5) There is no  $x$  that maps to  $A$ .  
 $\therefore$ ,  $A$  is not covered by  $f$ .  
 $\therefore$   $f$  was not 1-1.

So there is no 1-1 mapping from  $S$  to  $\mathcal{P}(S)$ .  $S$  is smaller than  $\mathcal{P}(S)$ !

- (6) The Power Set has cardinality greater than the set itself:  $\text{Card}(\mathcal{P}(S)) > \text{Card}(S)$ .

- (7)  $\text{Card}(S) < \text{Card}(\mathcal{P}(S)) < \text{Card}(\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(S))) < \dots$   
To  $\infty$  + beyond!

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Maybe  $A$  doesn't exist! But no....  
 $A$  exists. Some element  $x \in S$  must map to  $\emptyset$  under  $f$ .  $x \rightarrow \emptyset$ .  
And  $x \notin \emptyset$ .  $\therefore x \in A$ .