

# Cardinality of $\text{pow}(S)$

**Base case:**  $P(0)$ :

$$\text{pow}(S) = \{\emptyset\}. |\text{pow}(S)| = 1 = 2^0 = 2^{|S|}.$$

**Inductive case:**  $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}. P(m) \Rightarrow P(m + 1)$ .

1. For all sets  $T$  where  $|T| = m + 1$ ,  
 $\exists S$  where  $|S| = m, x \notin S$  such that

$$T = S \cup \{x\}$$

2.  $P(m) \Rightarrow |\text{pow}(S)| = 2^{|S|}$ .

3. Since  $\text{pow}(T)$  includes all elements of  $\text{pow}(S)$  as well as those elements with  $\{x\}$  inserted, this means

$$\begin{aligned} |\text{pow}(T)| &= 2 \cdot |\text{pow}(S)| \\ &= 2 \cdot 2^{|S|} = 2^{|S|+1} = 2^{|T|}. \end{aligned}$$

**QED:** For all finite sets  $S$ ,  $\text{pow}(S) = 2^{|S|}$ .