

101. Fill in the gaps in this proof that the power set of a set  $S$  always has a higher cardinality than  $S$  does.

Suppose for reductio that the power set of  $S$  is no larger than  $S$  is. By definition of what it is for one set to be no larger than another, there must then be an injection  $f$  from the power set of  $S$  to  $S$ . (Spell out what this consequence amounts to.) For each  $X$  in the power set of  $S$ ,  $f(X)$  is some member of  $S$ , and this will either be a member of  $X$  or it won't. If  $f(X) \in X$ , call  $X$  "happy"; else call  $X$  "unhappy". No member of the power set of  $S$  will be both happy and unhappy (why?). **Because every  $f(X)$  will either be  $\in$  or  $\notin X$ .**

Let  $U$  be the image under  $f$  of all the unhappy members of the power set of  $S$ ; that is, the set  $\{u \in S \mid \exists X \in 2^S. f(X) = u \wedge f(X) \notin X\}$ .  $U$  is a member of the power set of  $S$  (why?); so  $U$  must be happy or unhappy. **Answer here is that  $U$  is a set of some members of  $S$ .**

Suppose  $U$  is happy; then  $f(U) \in U$  (why?). **By definition of "happy".** But by definition of  $U$ , it includes only those  $f(X)$  where  $X$  is unhappy. **This is the step which glosses over the fact that we're relying on  $f$  being an injection.** Strictly, the definition of  $U$  says that it includes *all* those  $f(X)$  where  $X$  is unhappy. If  $f$  is not an injection, some of those might *also* be  $f(Y)$  for some distinct  $Y$  which is happy. If  $f$  is an injection, though, that possibility can be excluded, so we can infer that for every  $f(X)$  in  $U$  there's a *unique*  $X$  whose image it is under  $f$ , and by definition of  $U$  one such (that is, the unique such)  $X$  will be unhappy. So then  $U$  is unhappy.

Suppose  $U$  is unhappy; then  $f(U)$  must be in  $U$  (why?). **By definition of  $U$ , it includes  $f(X)$  for every unhappy  $X$ .** But if  $f(U) \in U$ , then by definition of "happy",  $U$  is happy.

So  $U$  is happy iff  $U$  is unhappy; but as we said, no member of the power set of  $S$  can be both happy and unhappy.

So our supposition that there is an injection  $f: 2^S \rightarrow S$  fails. So the power set of  $S$  must be larger than  $S$  after all.

What step(s) in this argument relied on  $f$ 's being an injection, and would fail if we weren't allowed to assume that? Spell that step in the proof out more explicitly.