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**proof of Tukey’s lemma**

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Let  $S$  be a set and  $F$  a set of subsets of  $S$  such that  $F$  is of finite character. By Zorn's lemma, it is enough to show that  $F$  is inductive. For that, it will be enough to show that if  $(F_i)_{i \in I}$  is a family of elements of  $F$  which is totally ordered by inclusion, then the union  $U$  of the  $F_i$  is an element of  $F$  as well (since  $U$  is an upper bound on the family  $(F_i)$ ). So, let  $K$  be a finite subset of  $U$ . Each element of  $U$  is in  $F_i$  for some  $i \in I$ . Since  $K$  is finite and the  $F_i$  are totally ordered by inclusion, there is some  $j \in I$  such that all elements of  $K$  are in  $F_j$ . That is,  $K \subset F_j$ . Since  $F$  is of finite character, we get  $K \in F$ , QED.