

Calculus II, Section 11.10, #78  
Taylor and Maclaurin Series

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Find the sum of the series.<sup>1</sup>

$$1 - \ln(2) + \frac{(\ln(2))^2}{2!} - \frac{(\ln(2))^3}{3!} + \dots$$

If we rewrite the series as

$$\frac{(\ln(2))^0}{0!} - \frac{(\ln(2))^1}{1!} + \frac{(\ln(2))^2}{2!} - \frac{(\ln(2))^3}{3!} + \dots$$

we can recognize this as the power series

$$\frac{x^0}{0!} + \frac{x^1}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots$$

evaluated for  $x = -\ln(2)$ . Since

$$e^x = \frac{x^0}{0!} + \frac{x^1}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots$$

we get

$$1 - \ln(2) + \frac{(\ln(2))^2}{2!} - \frac{(\ln(2))^3}{3!} + \dots = e^{-\ln(2)} = \left(e^{\ln(2)}\right)^{-1} = 2^{-1}$$

Thus,

$$1 - \ln(2) + \frac{(\ln(2))^2}{2!} - \frac{(\ln(2))^3}{3!} + \dots = \frac{1}{2}$$

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<sup>1</sup>Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 772, #78.