

We derive the value of the following series:

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{n+1}$$

First, we compute the Taylor expansion for $\log(1+x)$ near $x=0$:

$$\log(1+x) \approx \log 1 + \left. \frac{1}{(1+x)} \right|_{x=0} \frac{x^1}{1!} - \left. \frac{1}{(1+x)^2} \right|_{x=0} \frac{x^2}{2!} +$$

$$\left. \frac{2}{(1+x)^3} \right|_{x=0} \frac{x^3}{3!} - \left. \frac{6}{(1+x)^4} \right|_{x=0} \frac{x^4}{4!} + \left. \frac{24}{(1+x)^5} \right|_{x=0} \frac{x^5}{5!} - \dots$$

$$= x - \frac{1!}{2!} x^2 + \frac{2!}{3!} x^3 - \frac{3!}{4!} x^4 + \frac{4!}{5!} x^5 - \dots =$$

$$x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1}.$$

We can now clearly see that our initial series, $1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \dots$, can be computed by simply plugging in $x=1$ above. Thus, we conclude

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} + \dots = \log(1+1) = \boxed{\log 2}$$