

How to get the Taylor series of $\ln(x)$ from the Taylor series of $\frac{1}{x}$

We know that the Taylor series for $\frac{1}{x}$ (centered at $c = 1$) is

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

Given that $\int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln(x) + C$, we integrate both sides of the equation above to obtain

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

Now we have to find the constant C . We substitute $x = 1$ in the equation that we have found

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

and use the fact that $\ln(1) = 0$ to deduce that $C = 1$.

Therefore Equation (1) can be written as

$$\ln(x) = (x-1) - \frac{(x-1)^2}{2} + \frac{(x-1)^3}{3} - \dots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (x-1)^n}{n}$$

and this gives the Taylor series for $\ln(x)$ centered at $c = 1$.

Caution! The way this problem is done in the Solutions Guide is not quite right, as they do not justify how they found the constant C . Please write to me if you have any questions on this.