Graphing Secant, Cosecant, Tangent, and Cotangent Functions

Remember, $\sec x = \dfrac{1}{\cos x}$ and $\csc x = \dfrac{1}{\sin x}$.

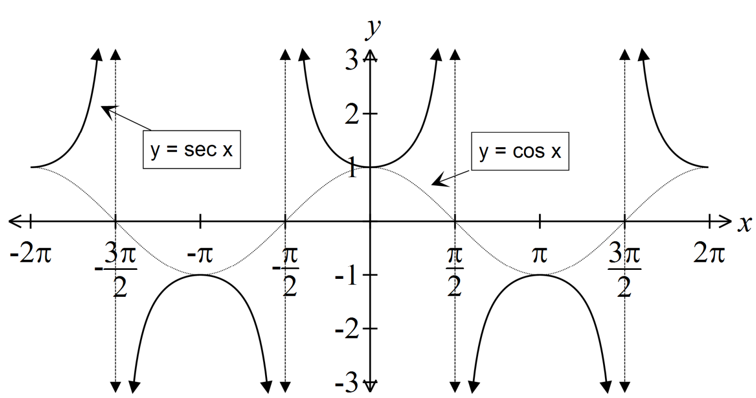
- We aren't allowed to divide by 0. This means:
  - Whenever $\cos x = 0$, $\sec x$ is undefined, and whenever $\sin x = 0$, $\csc x$ is undefined.
    - Places where $\cos x = 0$ and $\sec x$ is undefined:______________________________
    - Places where $\sin x = 0$ and $\csc x$ is undefined:______________________________
  - The graphs of $y = \sec x$ and $y = \csc x$ have vertical asymptotes at these locations.
  - **To Find the Equations of the Asymptotes:**
    - Start with any x-value where the function is undefined.
      Add this value to k times the distance between the asymptotes.
      $x = \text{asymptote} + (\text{distance between asymptotes}) \cdot k$

Graphing Secant Functions

- To graph $y = a\sec\left[b\left(x-c\right)\right]+d$:
  - Sketch the graph of $y = a\cos\left[b\left(x-c\right)\right]+d$.
  - Wherever the graph of the cosine function crosses its center point, draw a vertical asymptote.
  - The local maxima of the graph of the cosine function become local minima on the graph of the secant function with $y \to \infty$ as x approaches the asymptotes on either side. The local minima of the graph of the cosine function become local maxima on the graph of the secant function with $y \to -\infty$ as x approaches the asymptotes on either side.

Key points on the graph of $y = \sec x$:

x	0	$\pi/2$	π	$3\pi/2$	2π
$y = \sec x$	1	undef.	-1	undef.	1

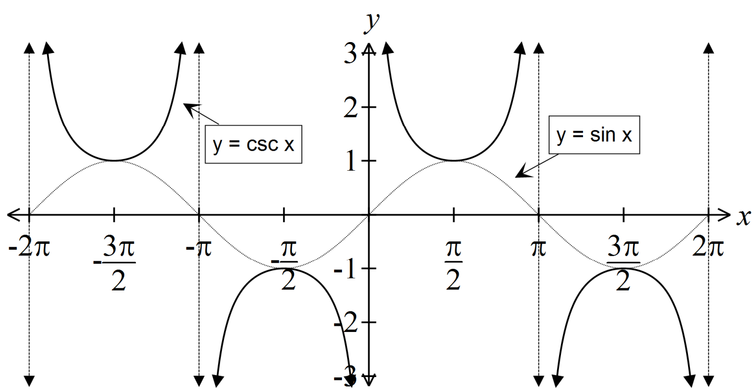


Graphing Cosecant Functions

- To graph $y = a\csc\left[b(x-c)\right]+d$:
  - Sketch the graph of $y = a\sin\left[b(x-c)\right]+d$.
  - Wherever the graph of the sine function crosses its center point, draw a vertical asymptote.
  - The local maxima of the graph of the sine function become local minima on the graph of the cosecant function with $y \to \infty$ as x approaches the asymptotes on either side. The local minima of the graph of the sine function become local maxima on the graph of the cosecant function with $y \to -\infty$ as x approaches the asymptotes on either side.

Key points on the graph of $y = \csc x$:

x	0	$\pi/2$	π	$3\pi/2$	2π
$y = \csc x$	undef.	1	undef.	-1	undef.



Examples: Graph the following functions. Find the period, asymptotes, and range of each.

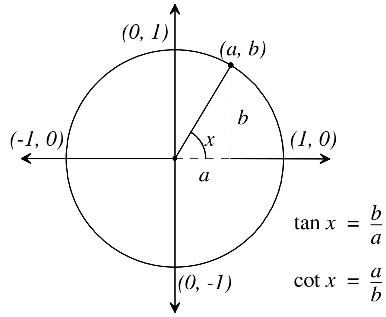
a) $y = 3\sec(2x)$

b) $y = \csc\left(x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) + 2$

c) $y = \sec\left(\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{\pi}{6}\right)$

d) $y = 2\csc\left(\frac{\pi}{4}x + \frac{3\pi}{4}\right)$

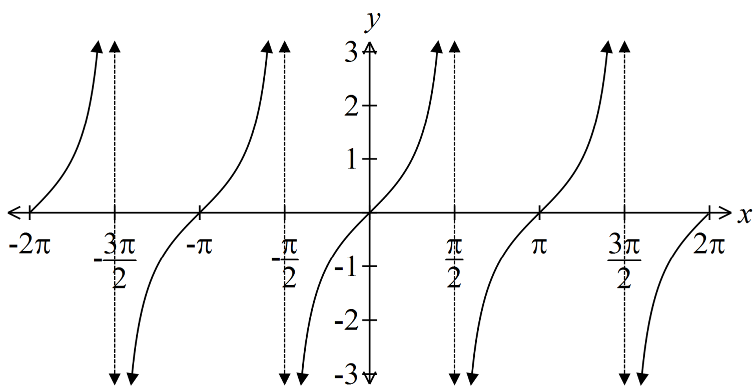
Let (a,b) be coordinates of points on the unit circle. For any given angle x, $\tan x = b/a$. This means that $y = \tan x$ is undefined whenever $a = 0$. For any given angle x, $\cot x = a/b$. This means that $y = \cot x$ is undefined whenever $b = 0$. Notice that it takes π radians for the values of the tangent and cotangent to make one complete cycle.



Graphing Tangent Functions:
The domain of $y = \tan x$ is the set of all real numbers except numbers of the form $\pi/2 + k\pi$, where k is an integer. The equations of the vertical asymptotes are $x = \pi/2 + k\pi$, where k is an integer.

Key points on the graph of $y = \tan x$:

x	$-\pi/2$	$-\pi/4$	0	$\pi/4$	$\pi/2$
$y = \tan x$	undef.	-1	0	1	undef.



To graph $y = a\tan\left[b(x-c)\right]+d$:

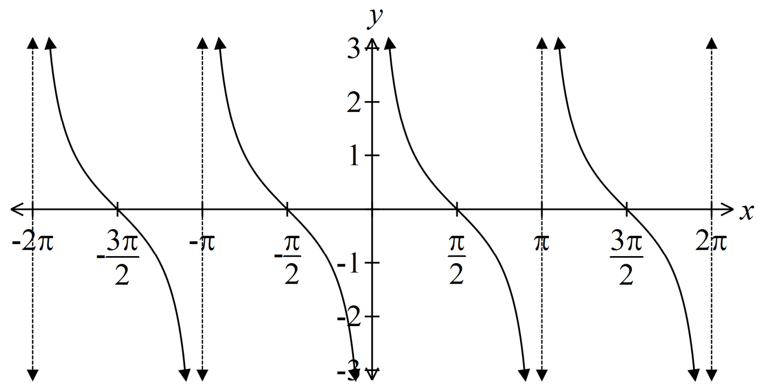
1. Start with the three key points on the graph of $y = \tan x$ and the equations of the asymptotes.
2. Find three key points and the asymptotes for $y = a\tan\left[b(x-c)\right]+d$ by:
   a. dividing each x-coordinate by b and adding c. (Treat the equations of the asymptotes like x-coordinates.)
   b. multiplying each y-coordinate by a and adding d.
3. Sketch one cycle of $y = a\tan\left[b(x-c)\right]+d$ through the three new points and approaching the new asymptotes.

★ **The period of $y = a\tan\left[b(x-c)\right]+d$ and $y = a\cot\left[b(x-c)\right]+d$ is π/b rather than $2\pi/b$.**

Graphing Cotangent Functions:
The domain of $y = \cot x$ is the set of all real numbers except numbers of the form $k\pi$, where k is an integer. The equations of the vertical asymptotes are $x = k\pi$, where k is an integer.

Key points on the graph of $y = \cot x$:

x	0	$\pi/4$	$\pi/2$	$3\pi/4$	π
$y = \cot x$	undef.	1	0	-1	undef.



To graph $y = a\cot\left[b\left(x-c\right)\right]+d$:

1. Start with the three key points on the graph of $y = \cot x$ and the equations of the asymptotes.
2. Find three key points and the asymptotes for $y = a\cot\left[b\left(x-c\right)\right]+d$ by:
   a. dividing each x-coordinate by b and adding c. (Treat the equations of the asymptotes like x-coordinates.)
   b. multiplying each y-coordinate by a and adding d.
3. Sketch one cycle of $y = a\cot\left[b\left(x-c\right)\right]+d$ through the three new points and approaching the new asymptotes.

Examples: Graph the following functions. Find the period and the equations of the asymptotes of each.

$y = \tan\left(\frac{1}{2}x\right)$

$y = \frac{1}{2}\cot\left(x+\frac{\pi}{3}\right)$

$y = 3\tan\left(2x+\frac{\pi}{2}\right)+1$

$y = 2\cot\left[3\left(x-\frac{\pi}{6}\right)\right]-1$