# Graphs of Secant, Cosecant, Tangent, and Cotangent

## Graphs of Secant and Cosecant

#### Cosecant:

Cosecant is the reciprocal of sine  $\rightarrow$  if sine has a max value of 1, cosecant will have a min value at 1; if sine has a min value of -1, cosecant will have a max value at -1, etc



#### Secant:

Secant is the reciprocal of cosine  $\rightarrow$  if cosine has a max value of 1, secant will have a min value at 1; if cosine has a min value of -1, secant will have a max value at -1, etc



← vertical asymptotes (dashed lines) where the sine function touches the x axis

### Tangent:

Characteristics of the graph of y=tan(x):

- There are *vertical asymptotes* wherever tangent is undefined [wherever cos(x) = 0 since tan(x) = sin(x)/cos(x) ] ← graph will never touch/cross these asymptotes
- The *period* is  $\pi$  (this is because if you look at the unit circle, the values of tangent repeat themselves every half revolution, or  $\pi$  revolutions)
- *Domain:* all real numbers except where the asymptotes occur
- *Range*: all real numbers
- No amplitude



- Between 0 and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  sine and cosine are both positive  $\rightarrow$  tangent is positive
- Between  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $\pi$  sine is positive but cosine is negative  $\rightarrow$  tangent is negative
- Between  $\pi$  and  $\frac{3\pi}{2}$  sine is negative and cosine is negative  $\rightarrow$  tangent is positive
- Between  $\frac{3\pi}{2}$  and  $2\pi$  sine is negative and cosine is positive  $\rightarrow$  tangent is negative

### Cotangent:

Cotangent is the reciprocal of tangent  $\rightarrow$  While the graph of y=tan(x) has vertical asymptotes where  $\cos(x)=0$ , y=cot(x) has vertical asymptotes where  $\sin(x)=0$  [since  $\cot(x) = \cos(x)/\sin(x)$ ]

Same rules apply to construct the graph as we did  $y=tan(x) \rightarrow check$  to see what the sigh of cot is based upon the sign of sin and cos on that interval (quadrant)



- Between 0 and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  sine and cosine are both positive  $\rightarrow$  cotangent is positive
- Between  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $\pi$  sine is positive but cosine is negative  $\rightarrow$  cotangent is negative
- Between  $\pi$  and  $\frac{3\pi}{2}$  sine is negative and cosine is negative  $\rightarrow$  cotangent is positive
- Between  $\frac{3\pi}{2}$  and  $2\pi$  sine is negative and cosine is positive  $\rightarrow$  cotangent is negative