

## Section 5.3b - Graphs of Tangent and Cotangent Functions

**Tangent function:**  $f(x) = \tan(x) = \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)}$ ;

**Vertical asymptotes:** when  $\cos(x) = 0$ , that is  $x = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{3\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{5\pi}{2}, \dots$

Domain:  $x \neq \pm \frac{\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{3\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{5\pi}{2}, \dots$     Range:  $(-\infty, \infty)$

**x-intercepts:** when  $\sin(x) = 0$ , that is  $x = 0, \pm \pi, \pm 2\pi, \dots$

**Period:  $\pi$**  - Do not forget

$$f(x) = \tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$$

V.A.  $\cos x = 0$

$$x = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{3\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{5\pi}{2}, \dots$$

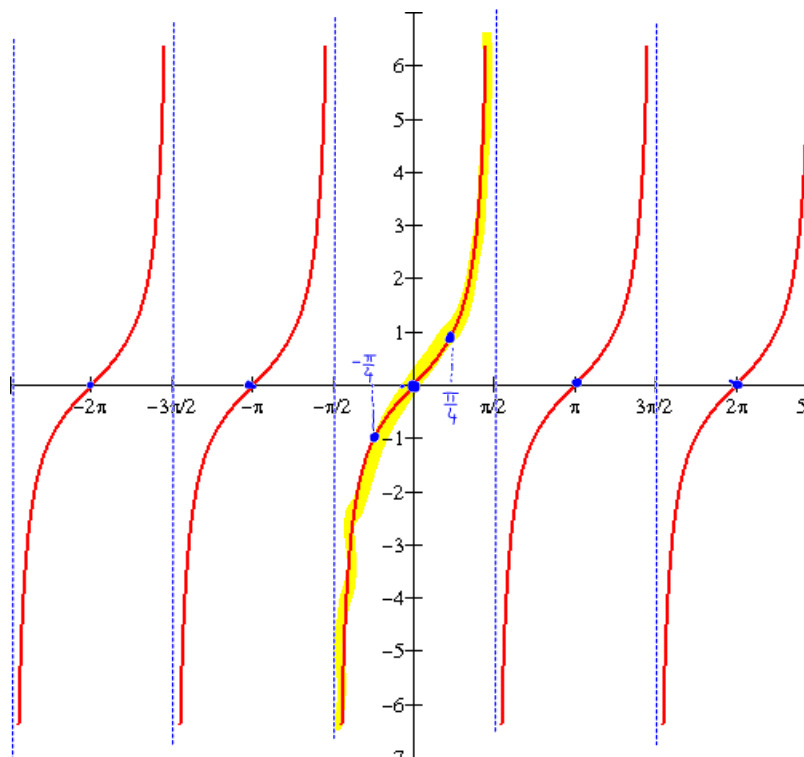
V.A.  $x = \frac{k\pi}{2}, k \text{ odd}$

x-intercepts:

$$\tan x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin x = 0$$

$$x = 0, \pm \pi, \pm 2\pi, \dots$$



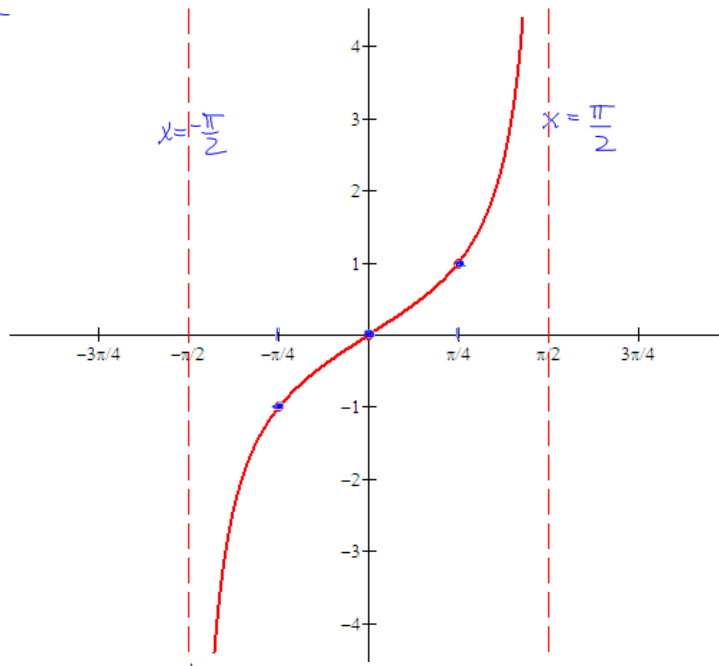
Need to plot  
these three points.

Often you will need to graph the function over just one period. In this case, you'll use the interval

$$\left(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

one-period interval

. Here's the graph of  $f(x) = \tan(x)$  over this interval, with pertinent points marked.



Graph is always between two vertical asymptotes!  
Initial and final values of period interval  
 $x = -\frac{\pi}{2}$   $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$

period interval = divide into four intervals.

To graph  $f(x) = A \tan(Bx - C) + D$ ;

- The period is:  $\frac{\pi}{B}$
- Find two consecutive asymptotes by solving:  $Bx - C = \frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $Bx - C = -\frac{\pi}{2}$ .  
*initial and final points of period*
- Find an x-intercept by taking the average of the consecutive asymptotes.  
*midpoint of period interval*
- Find the x coordinates of the points halfway between the asymptotes and the x-intercept. Evaluate the function at these values to find two more points on the graph of the function.  
*Divide period interval in four equal pieces.*

Vertical Asymptotes for one period.

Note: If  $B > 1$ , it's a horizontal shrink. If  $0 < B < 1$ , it's a horizontal stretch.

**Example 1:** Sketch  $f(x) = 2 \tan\left(\frac{x}{4}\right)$

(No Shifting)

•  $B = \frac{1}{4} \Rightarrow \text{period} = \frac{\pi}{\frac{1}{4}} = 4\pi$

• Vertical Asymptotes:

$$\cos\left(\frac{x}{4}\right) = 0$$

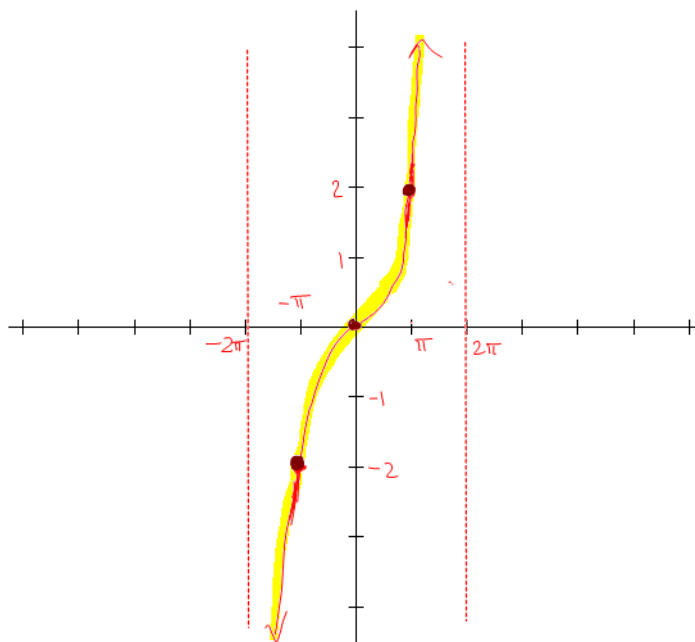
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{x}{4} = -\frac{\pi}{2} \text{ or } \frac{x}{4} = \frac{\pi}{2} \\ x = -\frac{4\pi}{2} \text{ or } x = \frac{4\pi}{2} \end{array} \right.$$

$$x = -2\pi \text{ or } x = 2\pi$$

$$\boxed{x = -2\pi \text{ or } x = 2\pi}$$

graph in between

•  $A = 2 \rightarrow$  Vertical Stretch



Check  $x = \pi$ ,  $f(\pi) = 2 \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = 2 \cdot 1 = 2$

$x = -\pi$ ,  $f(-\pi) = 2 \tan\left(\frac{-\pi}{4}\right) = 2(-1) = -2$

**Example 2:** Sketch  $f(x) = 2 \tan\left(\pi x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$

$A=2$   $B=\pi$   $C=\frac{\pi}{4}$

(Horizontal shift  $\frac{\pi/4}{\pi} = \frac{1}{4}$  to right)

$B=\pi \Rightarrow \text{period} = \frac{\pi}{\pi} = 1$

Vertical Asymptotes:

$$\cos\left(\pi x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) = 0$$

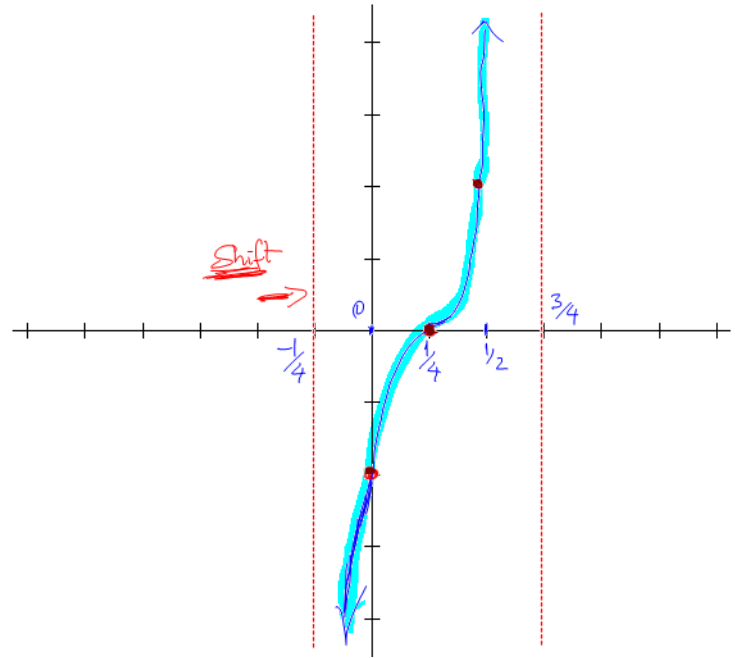
graph in between

$$\pi x - \frac{\pi}{4} = -\frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow \pi x = -\frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\text{or } \pi x - \frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow \pi x = \frac{3\pi}{4}$$

$x = -\frac{1}{4}$

$x = \frac{3}{4}$



divide into four intervals

$A=2 \rightarrow$  Vertical Stretch

**Cotangent Function:**  $f(x) = \cot(x) = \frac{\cos(x)}{\sin(x)}$ ;

**Vertical asymptotes:** when  $\sin(x) = 0$ , that is  $x = 0, \pm\pi, \pm 2\pi, \dots$

Domain:  $x \neq 0, \pm\pi, \pm 2\pi, \dots$  Range:  $(-\infty, \infty)$

**x-intercepts:** when  $\cos(x) = 0$ , that is  $x = \pm\frac{\pi}{2}, \pm\frac{3\pi}{2}, \pm\frac{5\pi}{2}, \dots$

Period:  $\pi$

$$f(x) = \cot(x) = \frac{\cos(x)}{\sin(x)}$$

V. A.  $\Rightarrow \sin x = 0$

$$x = 0, \pm\pi, \pm 2\pi \dots$$

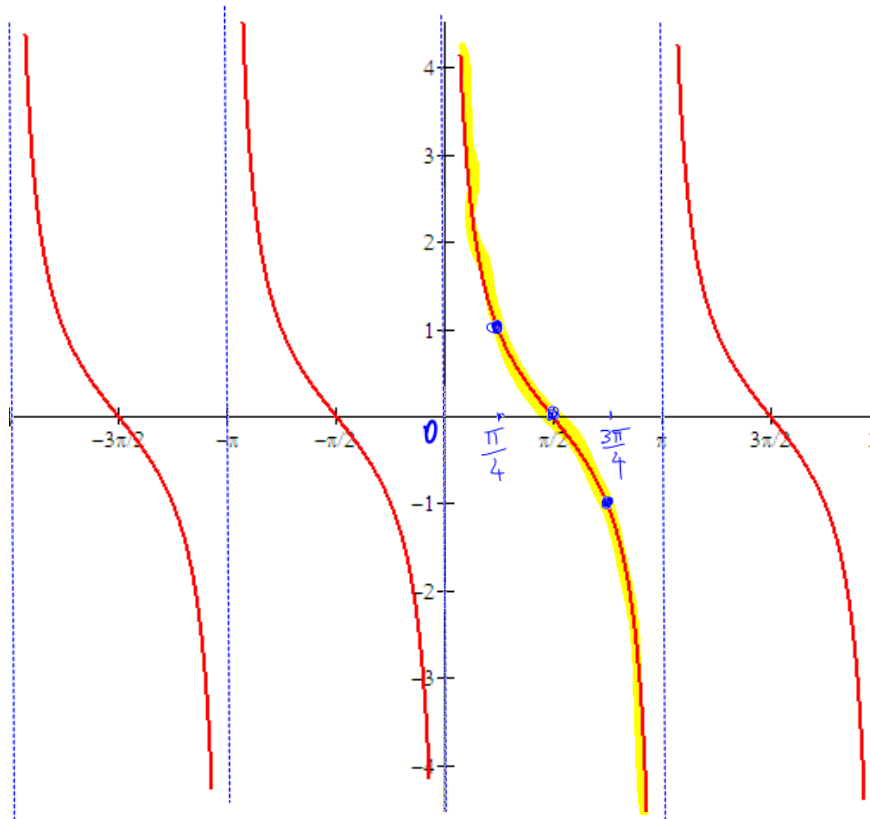
$$x = k\pi, k \text{ integer}$$

x-intercepts:

$$\cot x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos x = 0$$

$$x = \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2} \dots$$

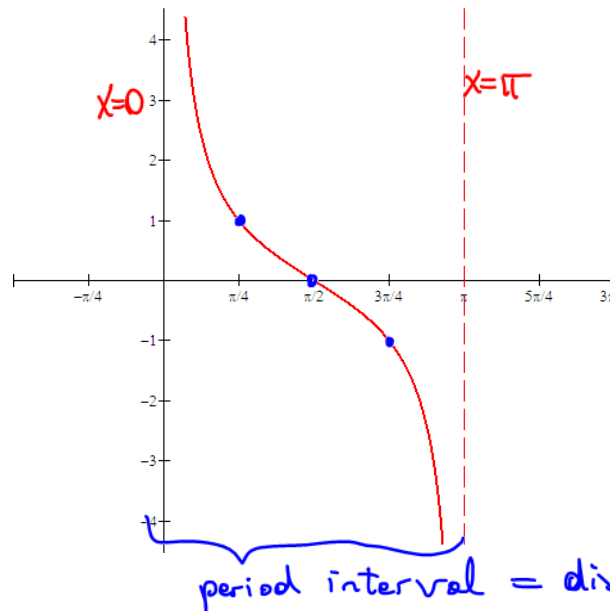


$\pi = \text{period}$

Plot three points.

Often you will need to graph the function over just one period. In this case, you'll use the interval  $(0, \pi)$ . Here's the graph of  $f(x) = \cot(x)$  over this interval.

one-period interval



Graph is always between vertical asymptotes, which are  $x=0$  and  $x=\pi$ . Initial and final values of period interval.

You can take the graph of either of these basic functions and draw the graph of a more complicated function by making adjustments to the key elements of the basic function.

The key elements will be the location(s) of the asymptote(s), x intercepts, and the translations of the points at  $(\frac{\pi}{4}, 1)$  and either  $(-\frac{\pi}{4}, -1)$  or  $(\frac{3\pi}{4}, -1)$ .

**To graph**  $g(x) = A \cot(Bx - C) + D$ ;

- The period is:  $\frac{\pi}{B}$
- Find two consecutive asymptotes by solving:  $Bx - C = 0$  and  $Bx - C = \pi$ .  
*initial and final endpoints of period*
- Find an x-intercept by taking the average of the consecutive asymptotes.  
*midpoint of period interval*
- Find the x coordinates of the points halfway between the asymptotes and the x-intercept. Evaluate the function at these values to find two more points on the graph of the function.  
*Divide period into four equal pieces.*

Note: If  $B > 1$ , it's a horizontal shrink. If  $0 < B < 1$ , it's a horizontal stretch

**Example 3:**  $f(x) = -4 \cot\left(\pi x - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) + 6$  → Never Forget: Graph is between two vertical asymptotes.

Period:  $\frac{\pi}{B} = \frac{\pi}{\pi} = 1$

Describe the transformations needed:

- $A = -4 \Rightarrow$  Vertical stretch and reflection wrt. x-axis
- $B = \pi \Rightarrow$  period = 1  $\Rightarrow$  Horizontal shrinking
- $C = \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow$  shift =  $\frac{C}{B} = \frac{\pi/2}{\pi} = \frac{1}{2}$  to the right
- $D = 6 \Rightarrow$  shift 6 units up.

Asymptotes:

$\pi x - \frac{\pi}{2} = 0$  ← first

$\Rightarrow \pi x = \frac{\pi}{2}$

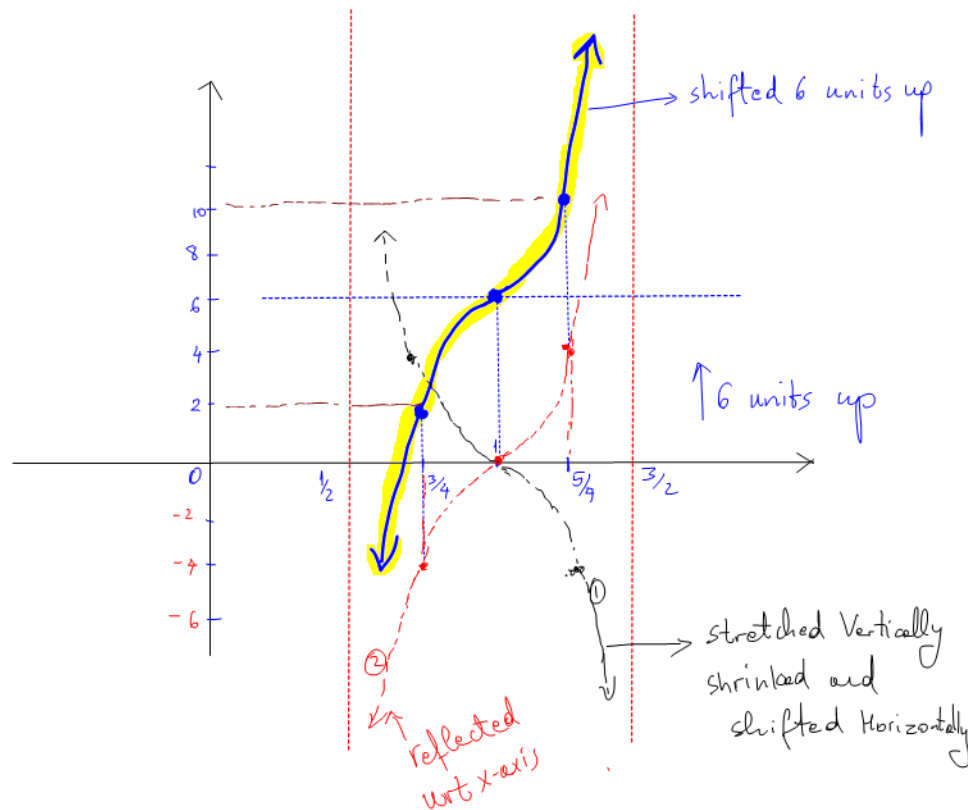
$\Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{2}$

or

$\pi x - \frac{\pi}{2} = \pi$  ← second

$\Rightarrow \pi x = \frac{3\pi}{2}$

$\Rightarrow x = \frac{3}{2}$



$$A=5 \quad B$$

Example 4: Sketch  $f(x) = 5 \cot(2x)$  → No shiftment

- $A=5 \Rightarrow$  Vertical Stretching
- $B=2 \Rightarrow$  period =  $\frac{\pi}{B} = \frac{\pi}{2}$

Horizontal shrinking

- Vertical Asymptotes

$$y = \cot x \Rightarrow x = 0, \pi$$

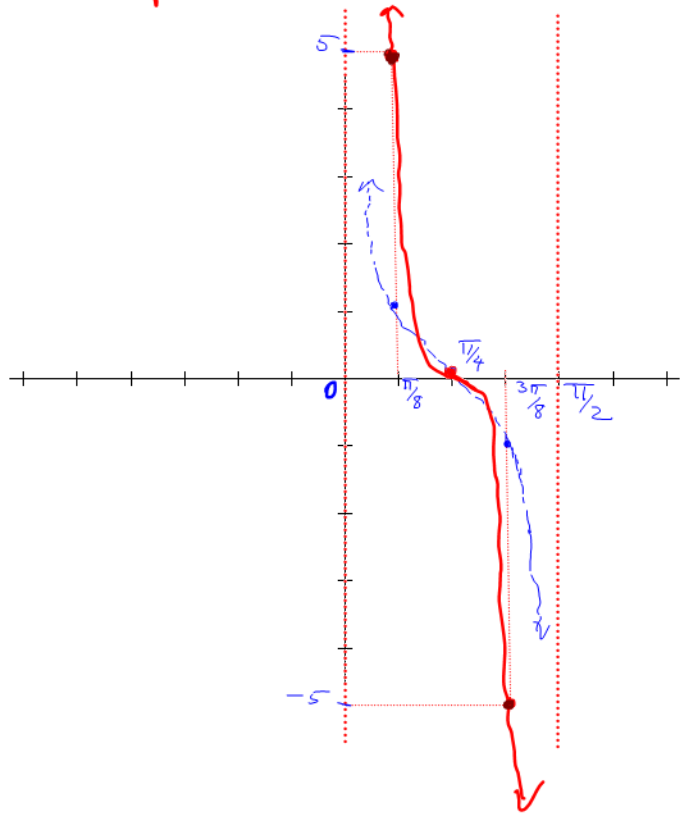
$$\Rightarrow 2x = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad 2x = \pi$$

$$\boxed{x=0}$$

or

$$\boxed{x = \frac{\pi}{2}}$$

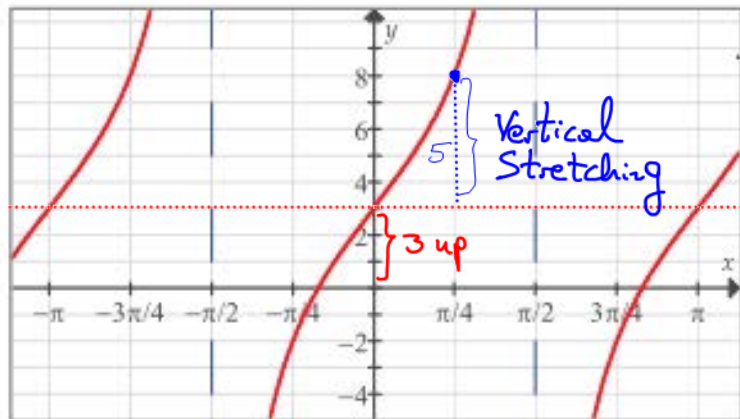
graph is between V.A.





To be continued on Monday, 3/28.

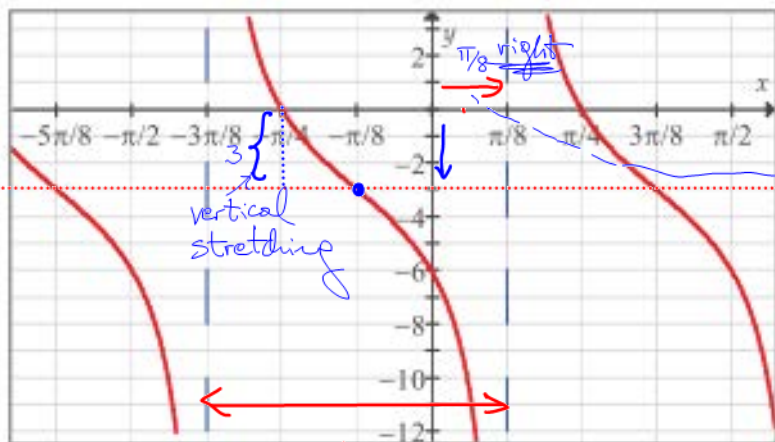
**Example 5:** Give an equation of the form  $f(x) = A \tan(Bx - C) + D$  and  $f(x) = A \cot(Bx - C) + D$  that could represent the following graph.



$\Rightarrow$   $y = 5 \tan(x) + 3$

- It is a tangent function.
- Period =  $\pi \Rightarrow B = 1$
- From graph, it is shifted 3 units up  $\Rightarrow D = 3$
- No horizontal shifts  $C = 0$
- From graph, there is a vertical stretching  $A = 5$

**Exercise:** Give an equation of the form  $f(x) = A \tan(Bx - C) + D$  and  $f(x) = A \cot(Bx - C) + D$  that could represent the following graph.



period =  $\frac{\pi}{8} - (-\frac{5\pi}{8}) = \frac{4\pi}{8} = \frac{\pi}{2}$

$\Rightarrow$   $y = 3 \cot(2x - \frac{\pi}{4}) - 3$

- It is a cotangent fn.
- The period =  $\frac{\pi}{2} = \frac{\pi}{B} \Rightarrow B = 2$
- Horizontal shift =  $\frac{\pi}{8} = \frac{C}{B}$   
 $\frac{\pi}{8} = \frac{C}{2} \Rightarrow C = \frac{2\pi}{8} = \frac{\pi}{4}$
- There is a vertical shift of 3 units down  $\Rightarrow D = -3$
- There is a vertical stretching  $\Rightarrow A = 3$