



U of I MAC Handouts: Sketching Trigonometric Functions

The goal of this handout is to help you understand the transformations of the trigonometric functions using the general forms:

$$y = A \sin(Bx \pm C) + D$$

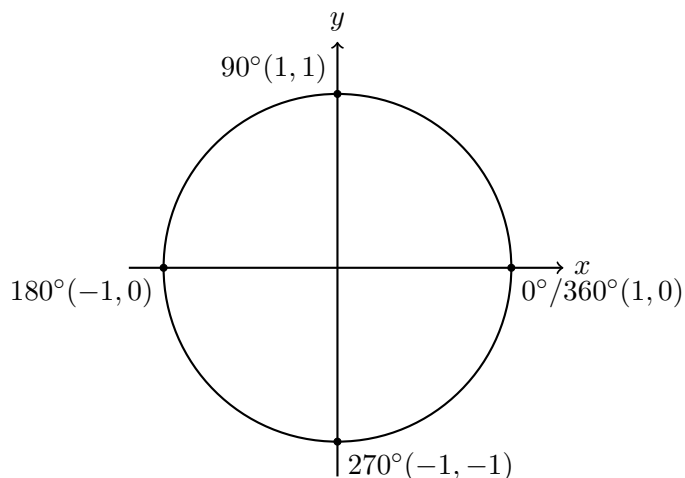
$$y = A \cos(Bx \pm C) + D$$

where each parameter represents the following transformations:

- **A:** Amplitude — Maximum height the graph reaches from the x-axis.
- **B:** Period — $T = \frac{2\pi}{B}$, Is the distance along the x-axis that is required for the function to make one full oscillation.
- **C:** Phase shift — Measures how far the graph has shifted horizontally by $\frac{C}{B}$.
- **D:** Vertical shift — Measures how far the graph has shifted vertically either up/down from its initial position.

Unit Circle and Ferris Wheel Analogy

Sine and Cosine can be visualized using the unit circle, like a Ferris wheel. Our input value, x , in the trig functions represents the distance traveled around the circle in radians. $\sin x$ gives you the vertical position in radians, while $\cos x$ tells you the horizontal position in radians.



Interactive Tool

To explore these transformations interactively, scan the QR code below, or visit the link directly:



Graphs

