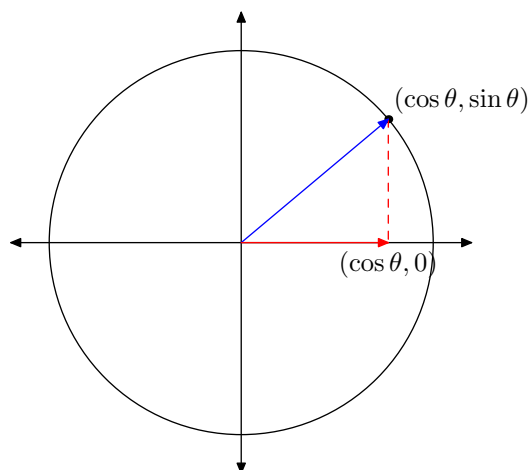


Here is a picture of the projection of $\mathbf{b} = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$ onto $\mathbf{a} = (1, 0)$.



It is pretty clear that the projection of \mathbf{b} onto \mathbf{a} is $\mathbf{p} = (\cos \theta, 0)$. Now, let's get the same result analytically.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{p} &= \frac{\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{b}}{\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a} \\ &= \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^T \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \end{pmatrix}}{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{\cos \theta}{1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$