

# Math, Productivity, Happiness & Decision-making

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Wednesdays, 5:00–6:00pm, 740 Evans
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Mar 14     **Kaushik Krishnan**, Berkeley (econ)

*Spaced repetition learning and software*

Today we'll talk about using spaced repetition to learn everything from language to math to new social behaviors, and try to figure out when it's most and least useful. Spaced repetition learning (SRL) is a technique for committing a lot of things to active memory with minimal total time expenditure. If you need to learn  $n$  items, for each item  $x_i$ , SRL software tries to determine the minimum frequency at which you need to review or think about  $x_i$  to successfully remember it. Based on these estimates, it schedules increasingly rare review sessions to keep you fresh with the material, reviewing only the items it thinks you're about to forget. As  $n$  grows, this significantly reduces the total time and number of review sessions you need.