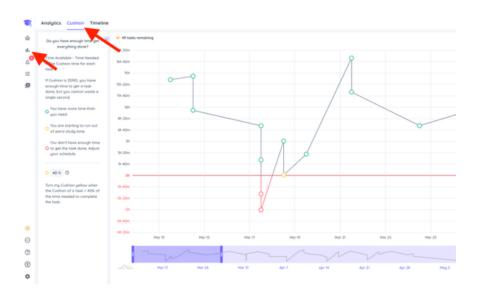# SHOVEL

THE CUSHION

What is the Cushion?

The Cushion is the difference between your available study time (between the task's start date and the deadline) and the time you need to finish each task (task estimate). The algorithm takes all tasks into consideration

Using the Cushion

1. Go to Charts (chart icon in the left sidebar) and click on **Cushion**.
2. Your tasks will be laid out on a graph.
3. Each dot on the graph is a task and it will be either above or below the zero line.
   a. If it is above the zero line, the Cushion graph is showing you how much study time you can waste between the tasks's start date and the deadline and still get the task done.
   b. If the task is below the zero line, the Cushion graph is showing you how much study you are missing between the tasks's start date and the deadline.

Turning my Cushion Positive

- **Set an earlier start date**
  - By setting an earlier start date on a task, Shovel will scan the additional days to see if you picked up some additional study time you can dedicate to the task. Now just check the graph if it was enough.
- **Delete something from your schedule**
  - If you delete something from your calendar, like "Me Time" on Thursday night, you create extra study time you can dedicate to getting your task done.