

# IoT and Blockchain

## PoW Background

---

**Phillip G. Bradford**

**University of Connecticut, Stamford CT. USA**

[phillip.bradford@uconn.edu](mailto:phillip.bradford@uconn.edu)



# Outline

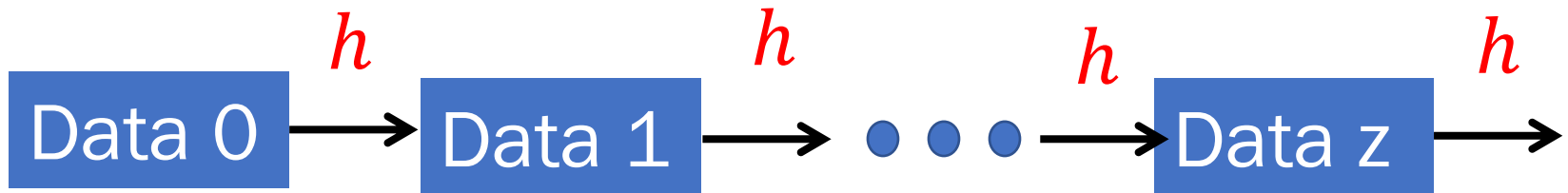
Hash chains

Blocks

Mining

Consensus

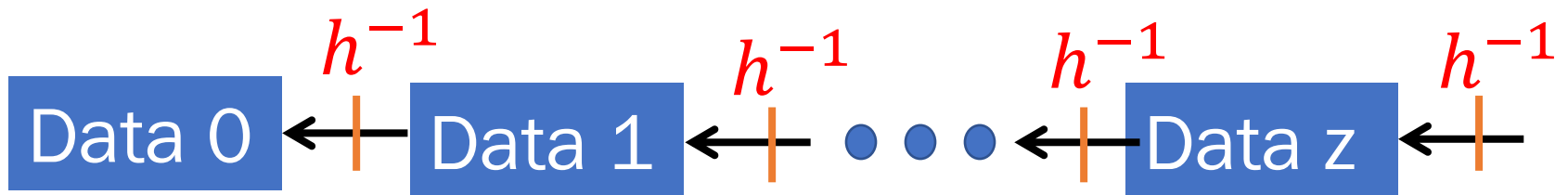
# Hash chain



Easy to validate going forward computing  $h$   
pseudo unique – collision intractability

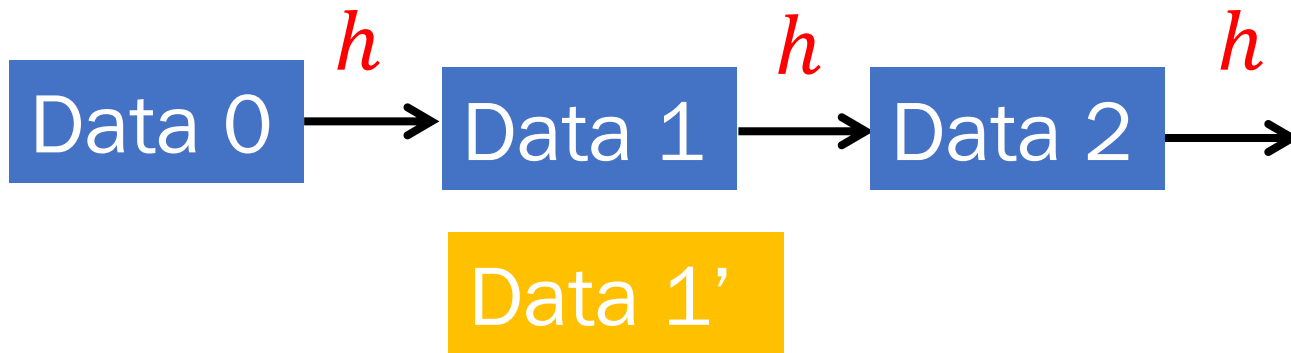
Intractable to go-backwards  $h^{-1}$

# Hash chain: intractable backwards



Intractable to any step go-backwards  $h^{-1}$

# Hash chain - security



Challenge! Collision intractability

Common assumption **Data 0** is valid

# Ingredient of blocks: consensus

Valid Chain

Previous hash

Data

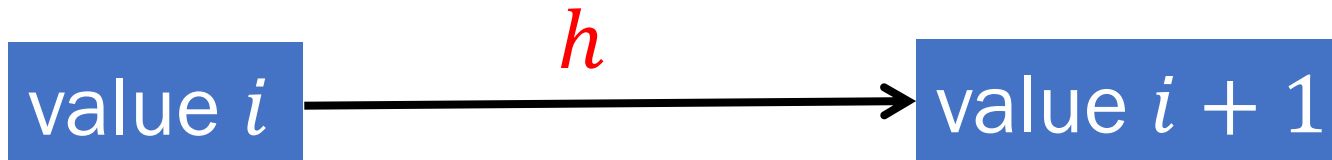
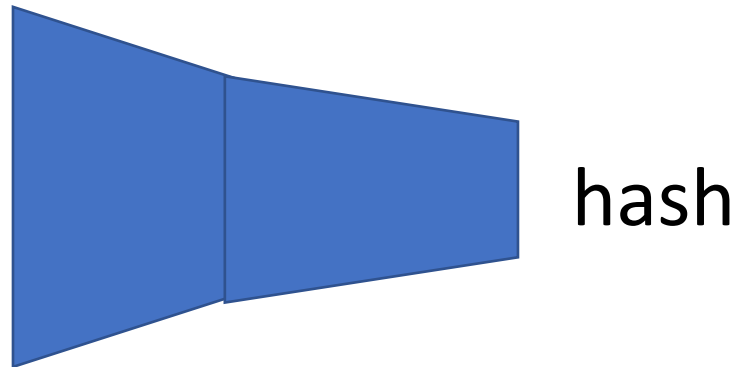
Building a winner by consensus

How?

# Our simple Blocks

class Block:

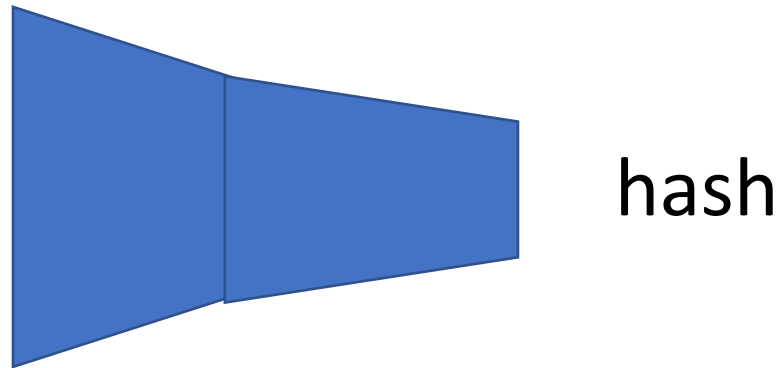
previous hash  
data  
nonce



# Our simple Blocks

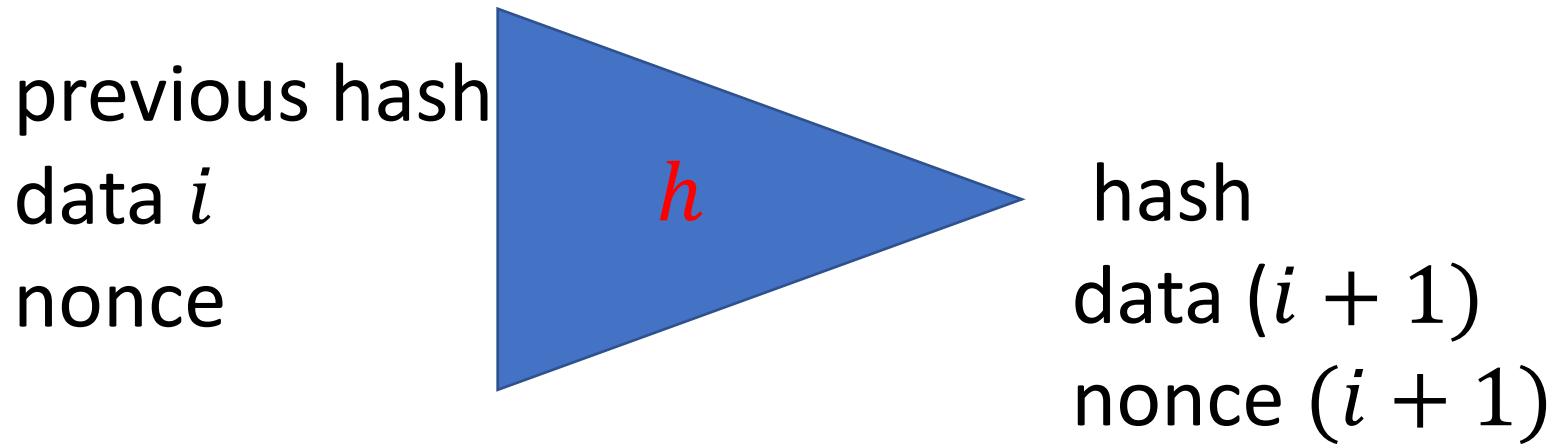
class Block:

previous hash  
data  $i$   
nonce  $i$





# Our simple Blocks



# Basic blocks

```
RPI_1> git clone \  
https://github.com/wonder-phil/2022Blocks
```

```
Host> git clone \  
https://github.com/wonder-phil/2022Blocks
```

# Python compHash

```
def compHash(self):  
    hashFunction = hashlib.new('sha256')  
    myStr = str(self.prevHash)+str(self.data)+str(self.time)  
           +str(self.nonce)  
    myBytes = myStr.encode()  
    hashFunction.update(myBytes)  
    self.bHash = hashFunction.hexdigest()  
    return self.bHash
```

# Simple block hashes: base 16

Hash for block 1 :

e28731c23c541c3b682e80a332ee30bda1d5ac8b8acb5f5f206cef25db3529fb

Hash for block 2 :

75154608b0943abefc3494bd9f84a39e9a5df362175a9cbb9903d2e443593b25

Hash for block 3 :

b0a0643f8c7d867e9eae994b72d9acd13f172591ab07fd87b93cd23a33d10191

## What is the likelihood of a leading 0 ?

# Our simple Blocks

class Block:

**difficulty**

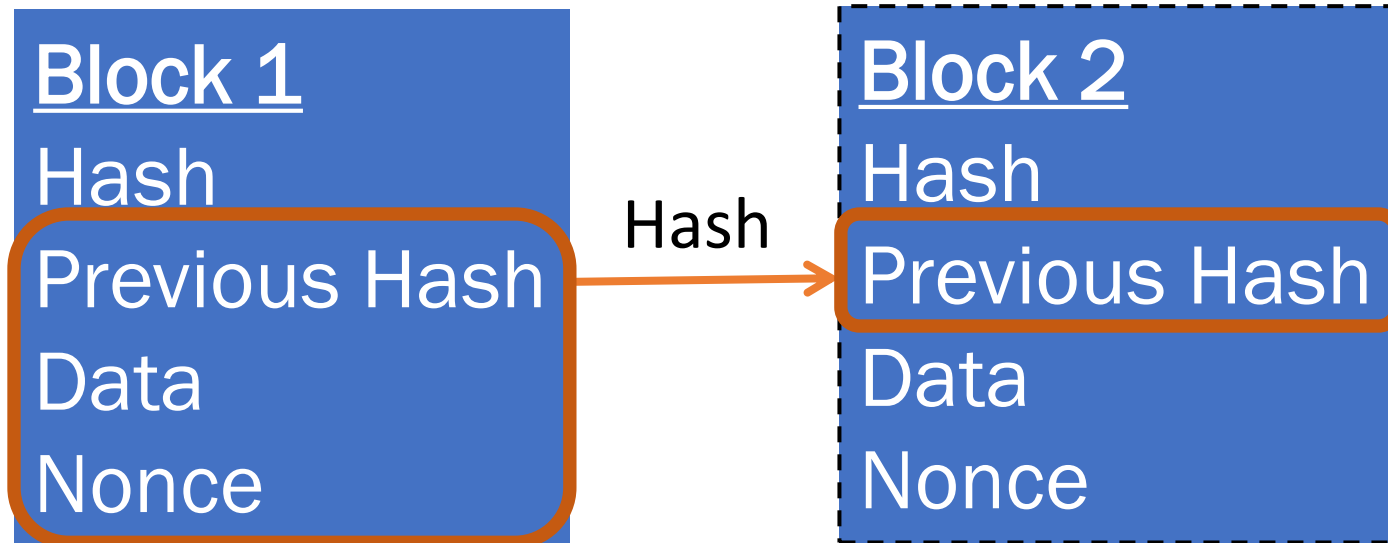
previous hash  
data

**nonce**

hash



# Generating Blocks



# Simple block hashes: base 16

Hash for block 1 :

028731c23c541c3b682e80a332ee30bda1d5ac8b8acb5f5f206cef25db3529fb

What input can we change to get a leading 0 ?

**Nonce**

First to get **difficulty** leading zeros

Who finds the next block?

**Key idea:** leading zeros

$$P[x \text{ leading zeros}] = \frac{1}{16^x}$$

First generating a block with the given inputs

While varying the **nonce**

Enough leading zeros



# Example

```
b=Block("empty","Genesis block")
```

```
b.nonce
```

```
b.bHash
```

```
b.nonce = 436
```

```
b.compHash()
```

```
for i in range(16):
```

```
    b.nonce = b.nonce + 1
```

```
    b.compHash()
```

# Block mining

Given a fixed difficulty

Picking up data from a common data block

All miners grab this data

Change nonce & re-hashing to get difficulty  
leading zeros

# Python Miner

```
def mineBlock(self,diff):  
    self.target = "0"*diff  
    while self.bHash[0:diff] != self.target:  
        self.nonce = self.nonce + 1  
        self.compHash()  
    print("Block mined: ", self.bHash)  
    return self
```

# Consensus

Who is the first to get **difficulty** leading 0s?



51% validation of new block

Acceptance of new block