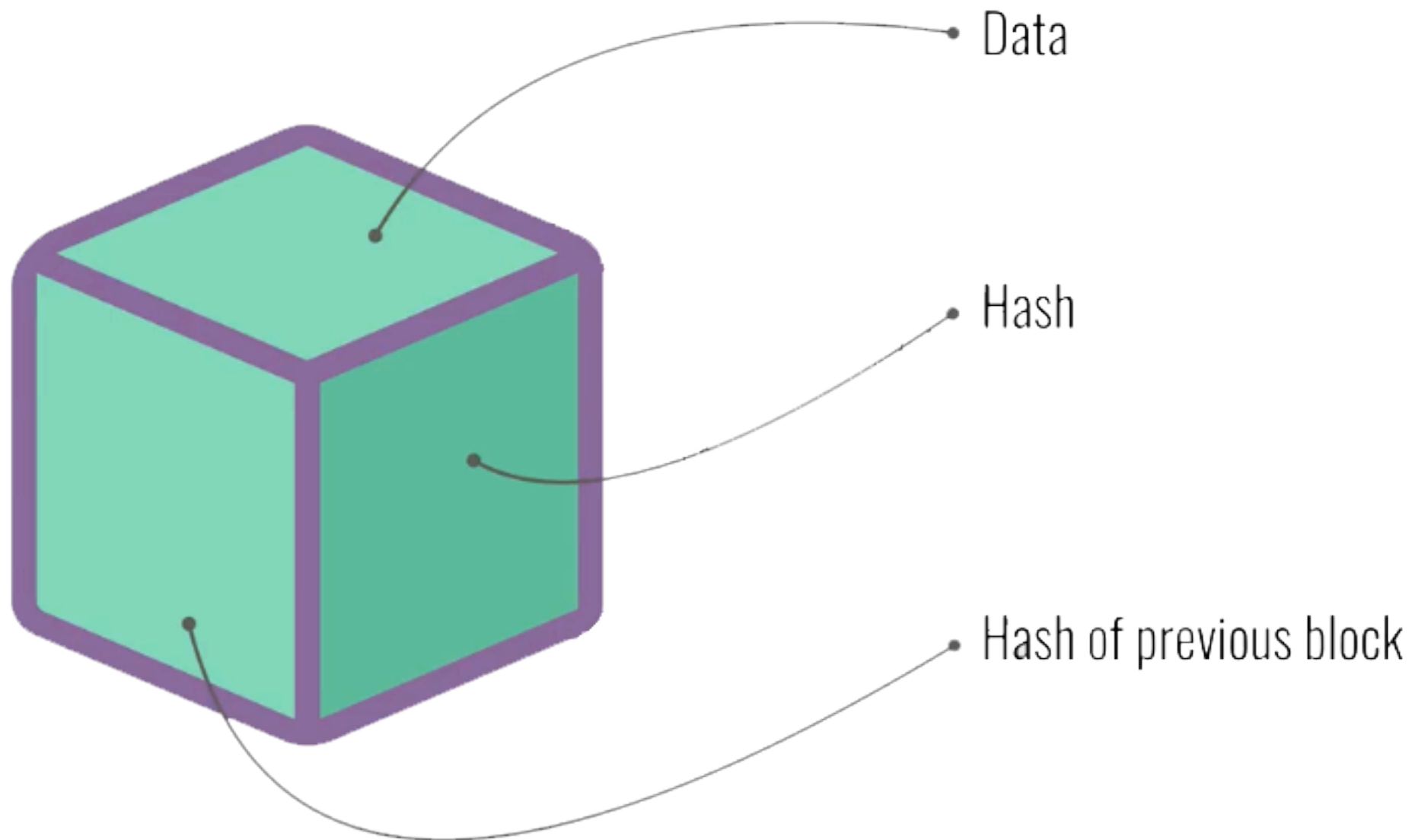


WHAT IS A BLOCK MADE OF ???



BLOCK HEADER:

The header contains metadata about a block. There are three different sets of metadata:

- The previous block hash. Remember that in a blockchain, every block inherits from the previous block because we use the previous block's hash to create the new block's hash. For every block N , we feed it the hash of the block $N-1$.
- Mining competition. For a block to be part of the blockchain, it needs to be given a valid hash. This contains the timestamp, the nonce and the difficulty. Mining is another crucial part of the blockchain technology, but it is outside the scope of this article.
- The third part is a merkle tree root. This is a data structure to summarise the transactions in the block. And we will leave it at that for now. More on this later.

