



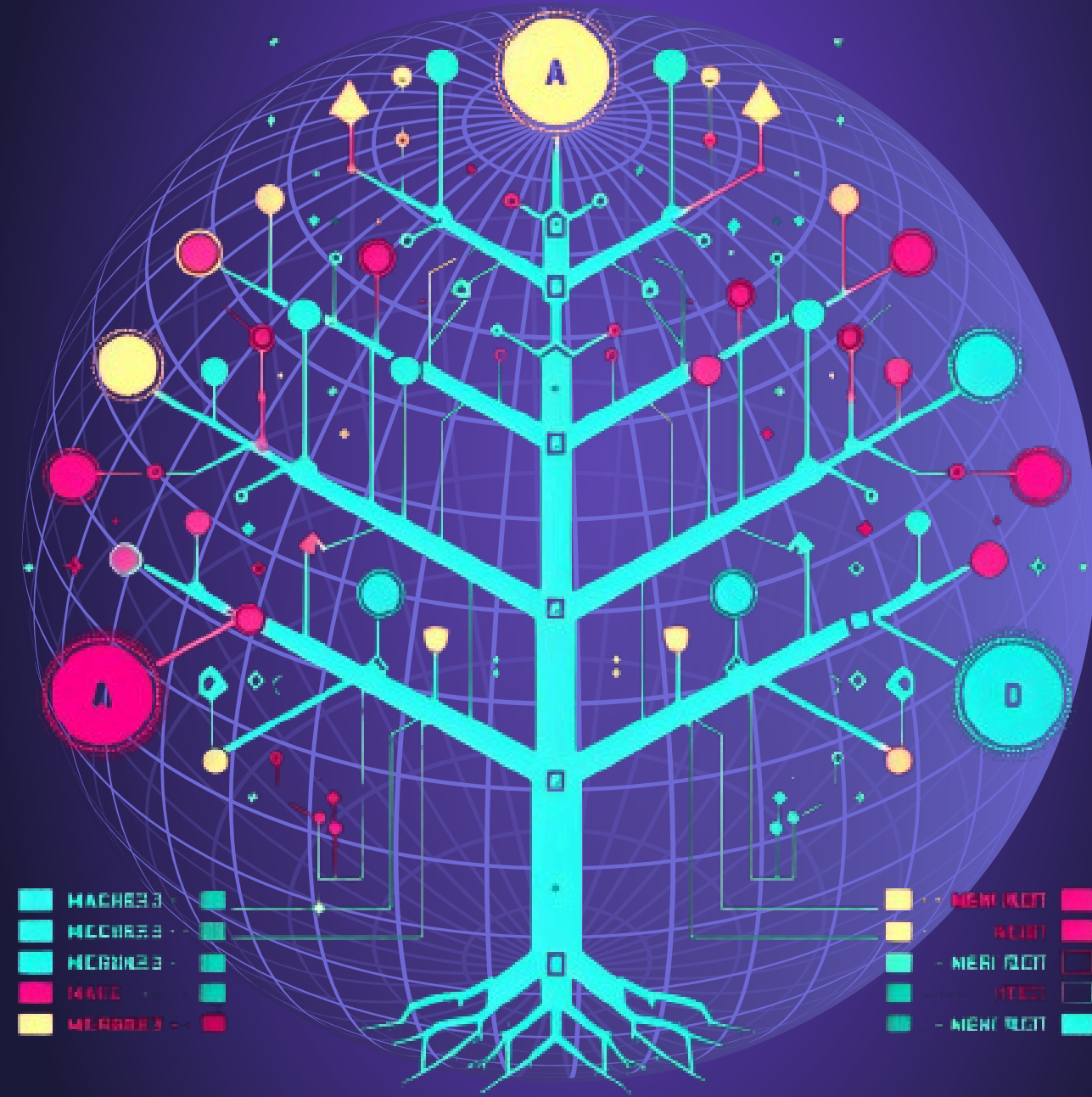
MERKLE TREE

DATA STRUCTURE



001

MERKLE TREE | DATA STRUCTURE





WELCOME TO CLASS!

Today's Agenda

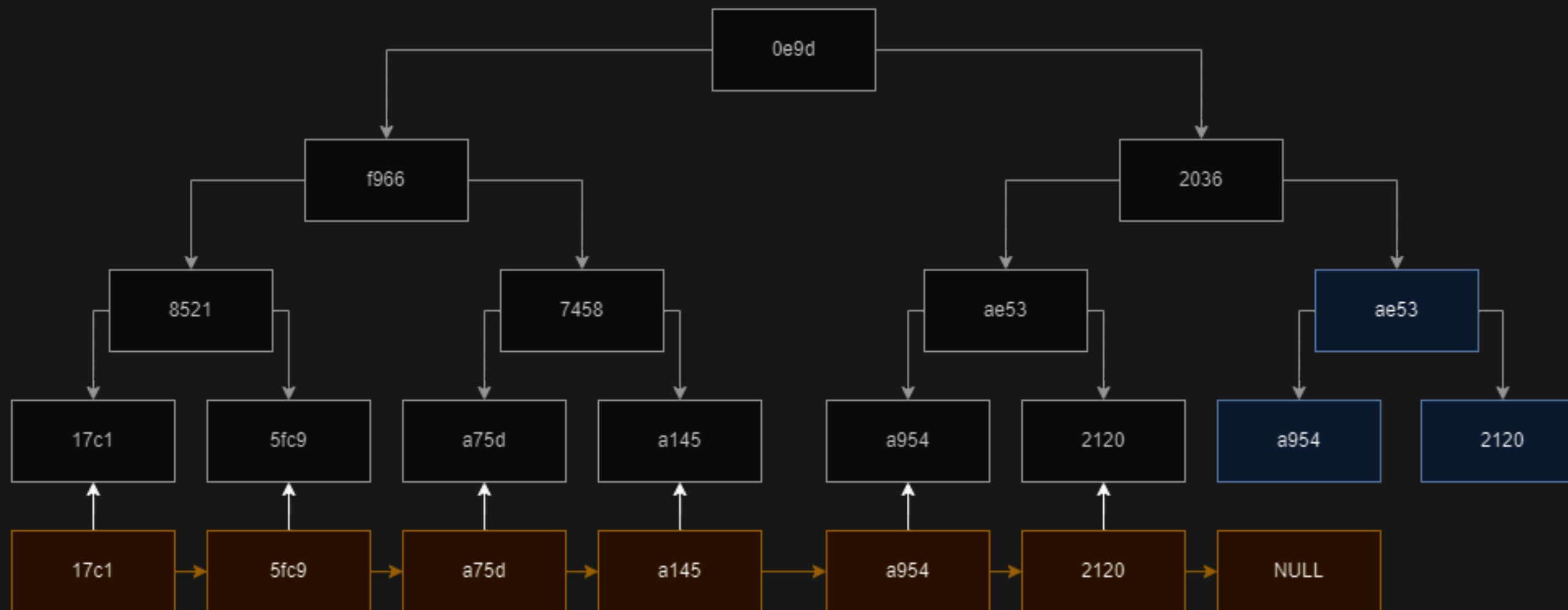
- Introduction
- Merkle Proof
- Use cases
- Second Preimage Attack
- Complexity
- Implementation
- Conclusion



≡ INTRODUCTION

003

Merkle Tree or Hash Tree



MERKLE TREE | DATA STRUCTURE

≡ MERKLE PROOF

004

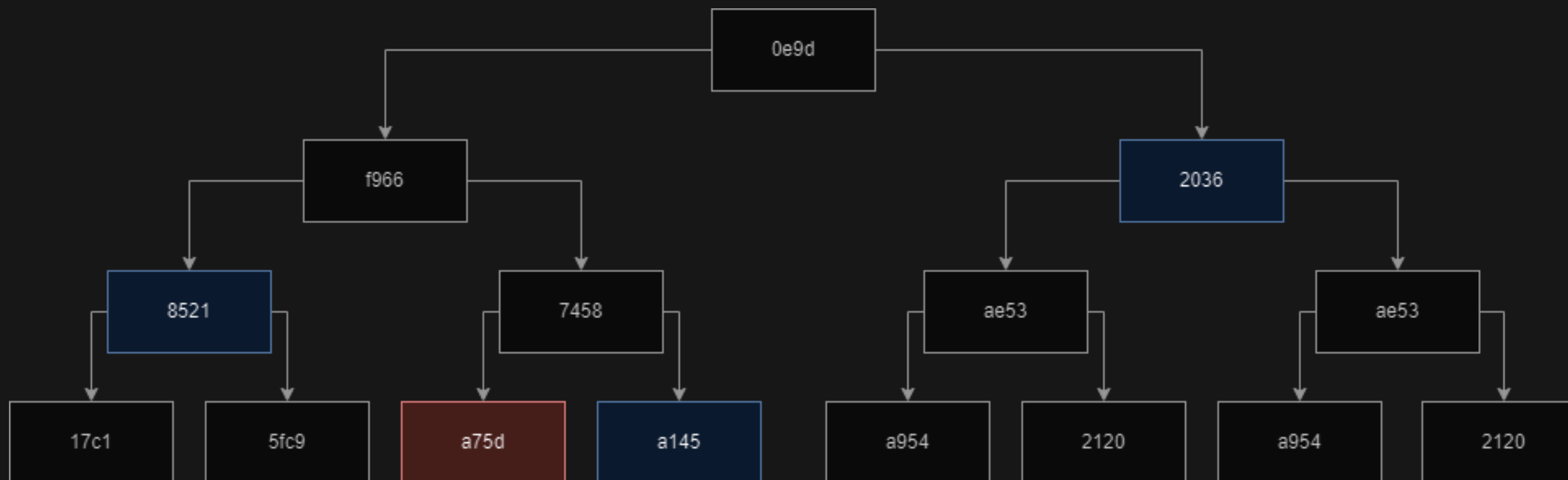
Merkle Path and minimum proofs

For merkle root [0e9d] and leaf [a75d]

Merkle Path: [a75d, a145, 8521, 2036]

Pattern on validation

We only need $\log(n)$ elements of the tree to check a hash.



≡ USE CASES

How does this work?

HASH-BASED CRYPTOGRAPHY

Digital signatures schemes based on Merkle signature

GIT AND MERCURIAL

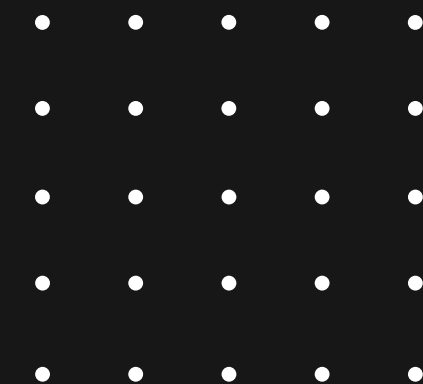
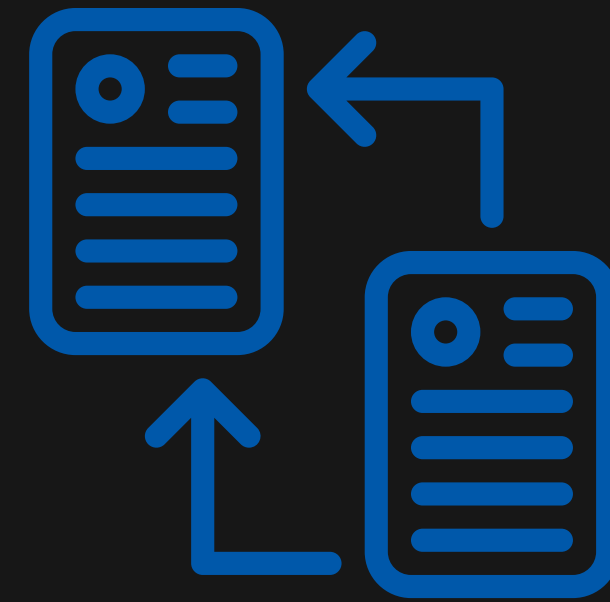
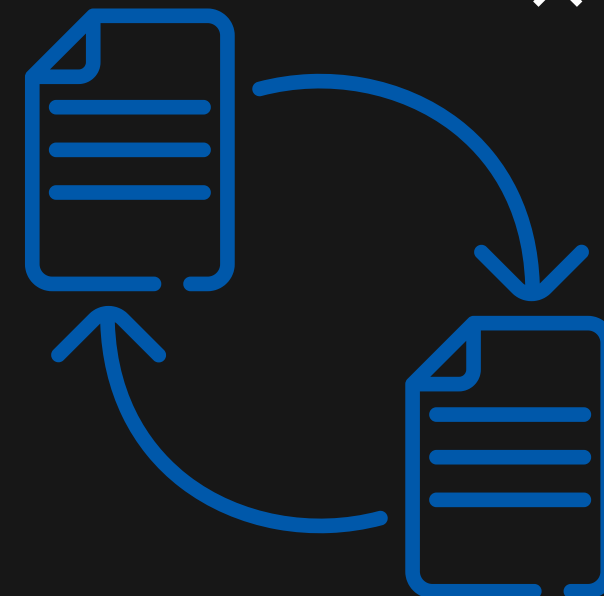
Distributed revision control systems

BITCOIN AND ETHEREUM

Peer-to-peer network

NOSQL SYSTEMS

Find inconsistencies in replicas



005

≡ SECOND PREIMAGE ATTACK

006

Based on hash collisions

File M



hash



0e9d

File M'

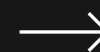


hash



0e9d

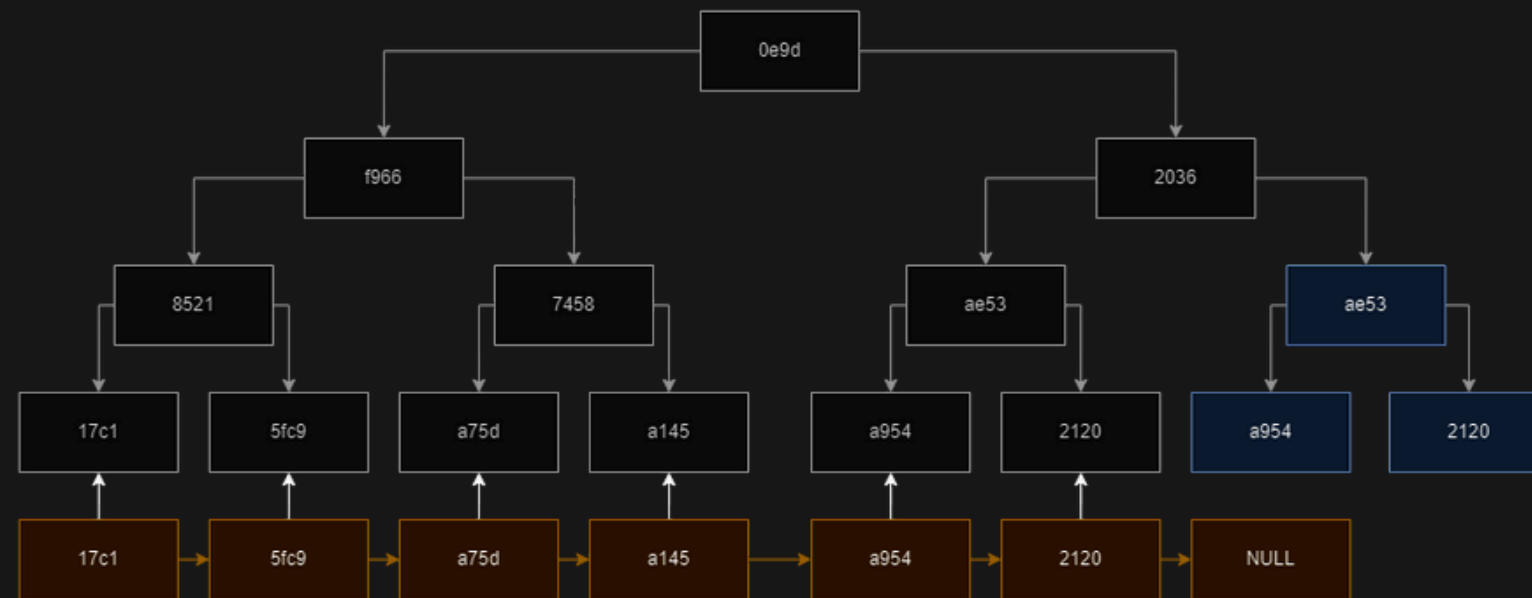
$$h(M) = h(M')$$



≡ SECOND PREIMAGE ATTACK

007

How can we ensure that?



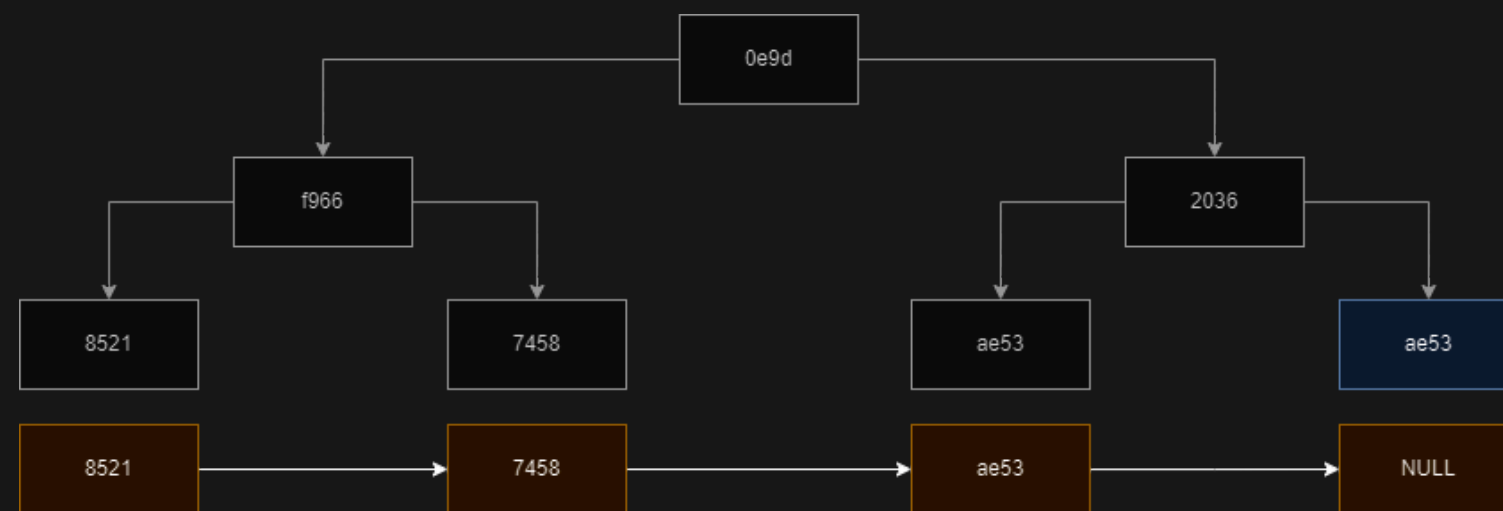
$h(M):$

0e9d

$size(M):$

15

$size(M) \neq size(M')$



$h(M'):$

0e9d

$size(M'):$

7



COMPLEXITY

008

Branching factor 2 and k

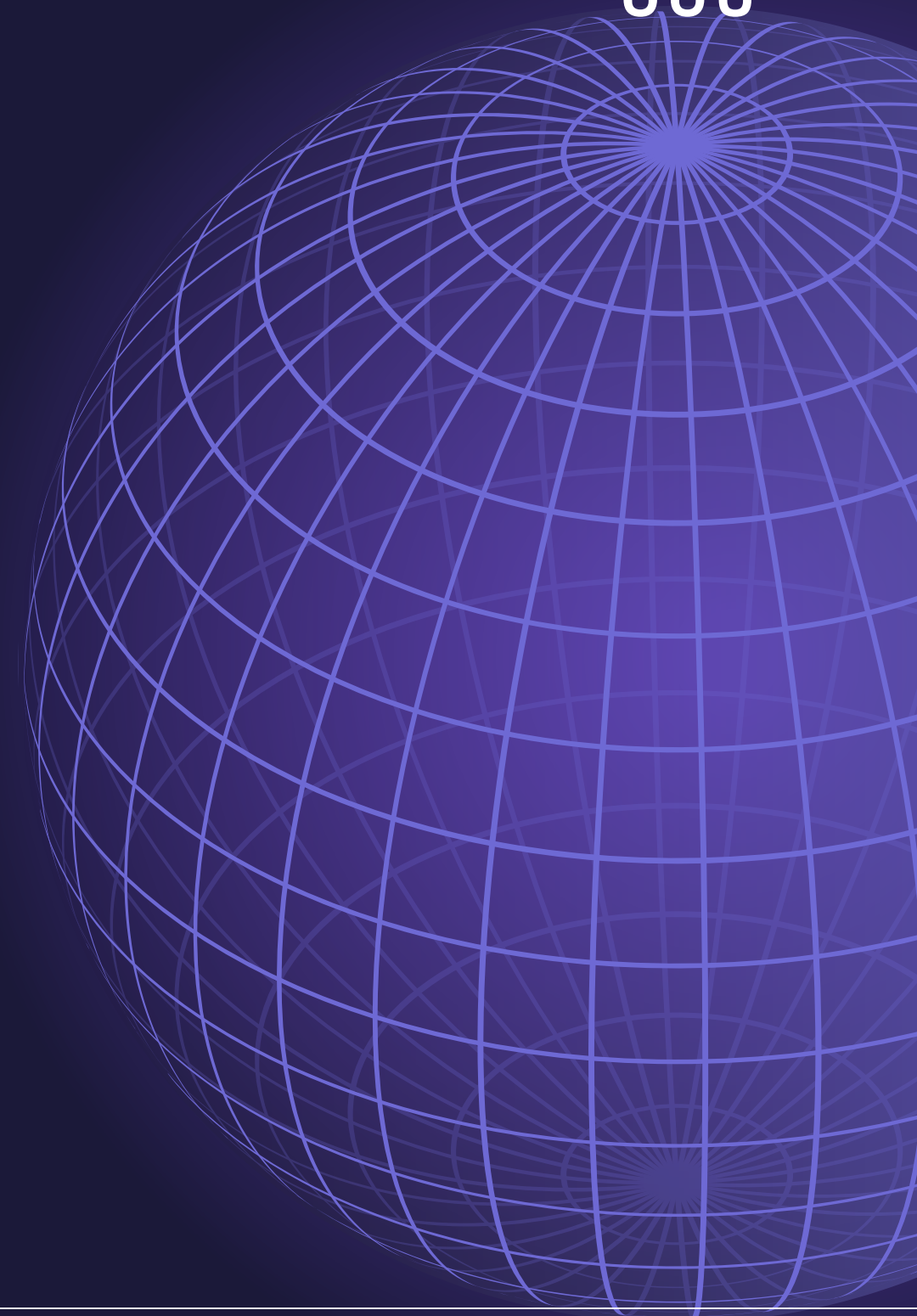
	Average	Worst
Space	$O(n)$	$O(n)$
Search	$O(\log_2(n))$	$O(\log_k(n))$
Traversal	$*O(n)$	$*O(n)$
Insert	$O(\log_2(n))$	$O(\log_k(n))$
Delete	$O(\log_2(n))$	$O(\log_k(n))$
Synchronization	$O(\log_2(n))$	$O(n)$





IMPLEMENTATION

Hands On!





merkle_node.h

010

```
#pragma once

#include <string>
#include <cassert>

#include "sha256.h"

class MerkleNode {
public:

    MerkleNode();
    MerkleNode(const std::string hash);

    void SetChildren(MerkleNode *left, MerkleNode *right);
    MerkleNode *Left();
    MerkleNode *Right();

    void ComputeNodeHash();
    std::string NodeHash();

private:
    MerkleNode *left_, *right_;
    std::string hash_;
};
```





merkle_node.cc

011

```
MerkleNode::MerkleNode() {
    left_ = right_ = nullptr;
}

MerkleNode::MerkleNode(const std::string reference) {
    left_ = right_ = nullptr;
    hash_ = reference;
}

void MerkleNode::SetChildren(MerkleNode* l, MerkleNode* r){
    left_ = l;
    right_ = r;
}
```





merkle_node.cc

012

```
MerkleNode *MerkleNode::Left() {  
    return left_;  
}  
  
MerkleNode *MerkleNode::Right() {  
    return right_;  
}  
  
void MerkleNode::ComputeNodeHash() {  
    std::string aux = left_->NodeHash() + right_->NodeHash();  
    hash_ = sha256(aux);  
}  
  
std::string MerkleNode::NodeHash() {  
    assert(hash_ != "");  
    return hash_;  
}
```





sha256.h

013

```
#pragma once

#include <iomanip>
#include <iostream>
#include <sstream>
#include <string>

#include <openssl/evp.h>

#define OPENSSL_ENGINE NULL

std::string sha256(const std::string reference);
```





sha256.cc

014

```
std::string sha256(const std::string reference) {
    EVP_MD_CTX *mdCtx = EVP_MD_CTX_new();
    unsigned char mdVal[EVP_MAX_MD_SIZE], *md;
    unsigned int mdLen, i;

    if (!EVP_DigestInit_ex(mdCtx, EVP_sha256(), OPENSSL_ENGINE)) {
        printf("Message digest initialization failed.\n");
        EVP_MD_CTX_free(mdCtx);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    if (!EVP_DigestUpdate(mdCtx, reference.c_str(), reference.length())) {
        printf("Message digest update failed.\n");
        EVP_MD_CTX_free(mdCtx);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    if (!EVP_DigestFinal_ex(mdCtx, mdVal, &mdLen)) {
        printf("Message digest finalization failed.\n");
        EVP_MD_CTX_free(mdCtx);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    EVP_MD_CTX_free(mdCtx);

    std::stringstream ss;
    for(int i = 0; i < mdLen; ++i) {
        ss << std::hex << std::setw(2) << std::setfill('0') << (int)mdVal[i];
    }

    return ss.str();
}
```





merkle_tree.h

015

```
#pragma once

#include <algorithm>
#include <cassert>
#include <string>
#include <vector>

#include "merkle_node.h"

/**
 * Represents all nodes at a level of Merkle Tree
 */
typedef std::vector<MerkleNode*> TreeLevel;

class MerkleTree {
public:
    void FromHashList(std::vector<std::string> leaves);

    std::vector<std::string> GenerateMerkleProof(std::string hash);

    void PrintTree();
    void PrintSubTree(MerkleNode *node, uint level);
    void PrintByLevels();

private:
    std::vector<MerkleNode*> leaves_;

    MerkleNode *merkle_root_;
    std::vector<TreeLevel> tree_levels_;

    void GenerateTreeLevels(TreeLevel level);
    int HashIndexInLevel(std::string hash, TreeLevel level);

};
```





```
#include "merkle_tree.h"

void MerkleTree::FromHashList(std::vector<std::string> leaves) {
    for(std::string leaf : leaves) {
        MerkleNode *node = new MerkleNode(leaf);
        leaves_.push_back(node);
    }

    GenerateTreeLevels(leaves_);
}
```




```
void MerkleTree::GenerateTreeLevels(TreeLevel level){
    tree_levels_.push_back(level);
    if(level.size() == 1) {
        merkle_root_ = level.front();
        std::reverse(tree_levels_.begin(), tree_levels_.end());
        return;
    }

    while(level.size() % 2 != 0) level.push_back(level.back());

    TreeLevel generated_level = std::vector<MerkleNode*>();
    for(int i = 0; i < level.size(); i += 2) {
        MerkleNode *node = new MerkleNode();
        node->SetChildren(level[i], level[i+1]);
        node->ComputeNodeHash();
        generated_level.push_back(node);
    }

    GenerateTreeLevels(generated_level);
}
```



merkle_tree.cc

018

```
std::vector<std::string> MerkleTree::GenerateMerkleProof(std::string hash) {
    assert(hash != "");
    assert(hash.length() != 0);

    int depth = tree_levels_.size() - 1;
    std::vector<std::string> proof({hash});

    for(int level = depth; level > 0; level--) {
        int index = HashIndexInLevel(hash, tree_levels_[level]);

        bool left_node = (index % 2 == 0);
        int pair_index = left_node ? index + 1 : index - 1;

        MerkleNode *base, *pair;
        base = tree_levels_[level][index];
        pair = tree_levels_[level][pair_index];
        proof.push_back(pair->NodeHash());

        if(!left_node) std::swap(base, pair);

        MerkleNode *node = new MerkleNode();
        node->SetChildren(base, pair);
        node->ComputeNodeHash();
        hash = node->NodeHash();
        delete node;
    }
    return proof;
}
```





```
int MerkleTree::HashIndexInLevel(std::string hash, TreeLevel level) {
    MerkleNode* target = nullptr;
    for(MerkleNode* node : level) {
        if(node->NodeHash() == hash) {
            target = node;
            break;
        }
    }
    assert(target != nullptr);

    auto it = std::find(level.begin(), level.end(), target);
    assert(it != level.end());

    return std::distance(level.begin(), it);
}
```





```
void MerkleTree::PrintTree() {
    PrintSubTree(merkle_root_, 0);
}

void MerkleTree::PrintSubTree(MerkleNode *node, uint level) {
    if(node == nullptr) return;

    std::string buff;
    buff = std::string(level*2, ' ');
    buff += std::to_string(level);
    buff += " - ";

    std::cout << buff << node->NodeHash() << std::endl;
    PrintSubTree(node->Left(), level + 1);
    PrintSubTree(node->Right(), level + 1);
}
```



```
void MerkleTree::PrintByLevels() {  
    for(int i = 0 ; i < tree_levels_.size(); i++) {  
        std::string buff;  
        buff = "level: ";  
        buff += std::to_string(i) + "\n";  
        for(MerkleNode* node: tree_levels_[i]) {  
            buff += node->NodeHash() + "\n";  
        }  
        std::cout << buff << std::endl;  
    }  
}
```



```
#include <string>
#include <vector>

#include "merkle_tree/merkle_tree.h"

using namespace std;

int main() {
    vector<string> hash_list{
        "17c1532ca6cff8f6a3a8200028af6c2580bf37f39e10cb0966e8a573e3b24a1f", //professor
        "5fc90ab335783816990ffd960cbad0afd64510a53f895b4d02b9f8b279c0ed08", //usa
        "a75d067fa44bca815126dbf606a73907c9e68f1cd892d413424edfa84a0d4058", //IA
        "a1453f380fa9f1a08e84d4703e9c168fda1fb9a36976c41a03c8af842aa04ce5", //para
        "a9548df8134a9ffbd22aea3ec97488969f455113be568351ea6a8db8bfe6b663", //jogar
        "21209597f685c8bef83dfa0b7cb389453074695a4f0ed6d6b6bca574a2d5d77f" //dados
    };

    MerkleTree tree = MerkleTree();
    tree.FromHashList(hash_list);
    tree.PrintTree();
    cout << endl;
    tree.PrintByLevels();

    vector<string> merkle_proof =
tree.GenerateMerkleProof("a75d067fa44bca815126dbf606a73907c9e68f1cd892d413424edfa84a0d4058");
    cout << merkle_proof << endl;

    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```



≡ CONCLUSION

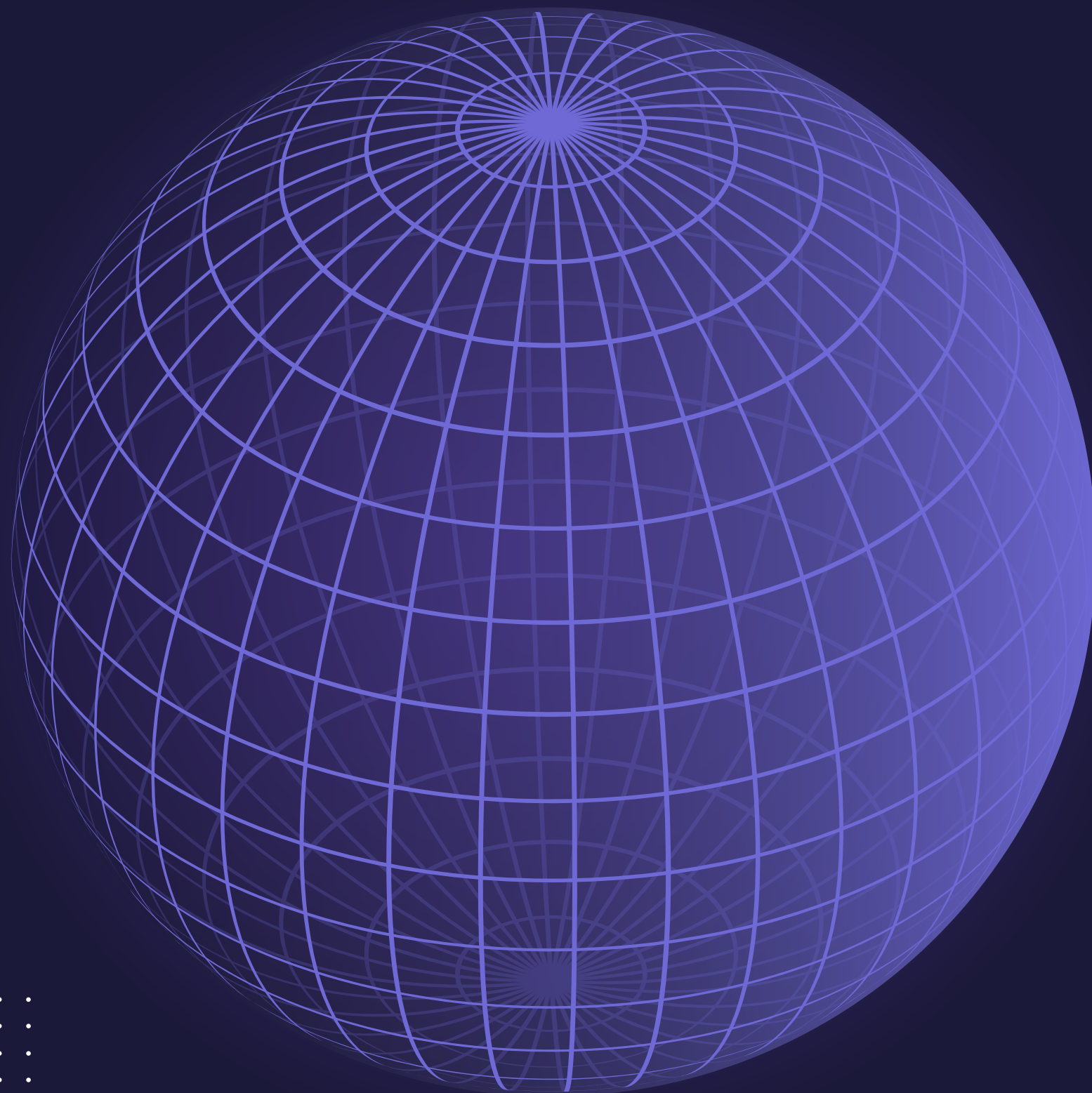
023

BASE OF MODERN CRYPTOGRAPHY

As we can see, Merkle trees are an essential data structure in the context of contemporary peer-to-peer technologies and cryptography systems (like blockchain). They make it possible to verify huge data structures quickly and securely while maintaining data consistency and integrity and preventing recomputation.



MERKLE TREE | DATA STRUCTURE



THANK YOU!

Email: mauricioleite.fe@gmail.com

github: [MauricioLeite](#)

LinkedIn: [mauricio-lefe](#)

