Katherine Walton April 30, 2002 Abstract Algebra Problem 2.3

- 1. Find the position of the (1), fix that position as the beginning of the solution.
- 2. Find the (2), using rotations (**R**) and spins (**S**) where **R** is a clockwise rotation of the tiles along the track, **R**⁻¹ is an anticlockwise rotation and **S** is a spin of the purple disk.
 - a. The (2) will be either three disks away, or less than three disks away.
 - i. If the (2) disk is three disks away from the (1) disk, with the (2) disk in the right side of the purple disk and do one more **S**.
 - ii. If the (2) disk is two disks away from the (1) disk;
 - Do a S with the (2) in the left side of the purple disk. The (2) will now be four disks away.
 - 2. Rotate the disks so that the (2) disk is second to the right on the purple disk, then do and **S** so that the (2) disk is now is three disks away from the (1) disk.
 - 3. Rotate the disks so that the (2) disk is on the right side of the purple disk. Now do an **S** so that the (2) disk is next to the (1).
 - iii. If the (2) disk is a disk away from the (1) disk;
 - 1. Move the (2) disk to the left side of the purple disk and do an **S**, then the (2) will be seven disks away.
 - 2. Put the (2) disk in the second to the right spot on the purple disk and do a spin, this will put the (2) three away from the (1) disk.
 - 3. Another **S** with the (2) in the far right position will move this next to the (1).
 - iv. If the (2) disk is next to the (1) disk than you are done.
 - b. Do this for the other disks up to (16); these can be easily arranged using these steps.
- 3. Arrange the last four disks.
 - a. There are 24 different possibilities for the ways in which the last four can be arranged. Twelve of these can be reached from an **S** from the other 12.
 - b. To arrange the last four, move one disk at a time around the track until it is in the correct position. This can be done using the following process
 - i. Put the tile you wish to move in the left side of the purple spin box.
 - ii. Do **SR⁻¹SRSR⁻¹SR**, this will move the tile onto the other side of the next three tiles.
 - iii. Do $(\mathbf{R}^{-1})^3$ to put the tile back in the left side of the purple spin box.
 - iv. Repeat this process until the tile reaches its correct spot
 - 1. Eventually the tile you are moving will reach every place in the track because three and 19 are co-prime.
 - v. Do this for all the out of order disks.

4. Each different permutation of the tiles is a different permutation in S_{20} . Since each tile can be put in each position of the track, all possible permutations can be reached, so there are 20! possible positions.