Chapter 1

Community

The defintion of a cuber?
The Rubik's cube community consist of both a real life community handling
competitions and events and a online community where cubers can find the real
life competitions, improve their skills and talk together. The majority of the
community is focussed on the speed cubing aspect. In the following chapter
both the online and offline community will be discussed. Note that the two
sides of the community often interfere with each other.

1.1   The online community

In the world of the Rubik's cube there is a large online community. The commu-
nity consist of everything from forums and guides to competitions and bragging.
Cubers, as they often refer to them selves as, have a place that is the online
community to express and compare their abilities, experiences and skills with
each other.

1.1.1   Forums

Forums give the cubers a place for sharing their knowledge and experience[**?**][**?**][**?**].
Forums or specific Rubik's cube sites allow visitors to find information concern-
ing the cube. The main focus of forums is on how to solve the Rubik's cube or
similar puzzles in the least amount of time. Forums are often split into several
divisions. Some concerning the hardware used and maintenance techniques for
making the Rubik's cube spin greater ease giving the cuber a slightly better
solve time. A major part is reserved for the theory and the algorithms used to
solve the cube – most of which strive for an efficient solve both in respect to time
and number of twists. Another part of the community is focused on competi-
tions of various kinds. The "offline" competitions are held in cooperations with
the World Cube Association(WCA) [**?**], which are further discussed in section
1.2. Beside the WCA-competitions some forums hold weekly online competi-

tions where the forum members can upload their solve times for a Rubik's cube or similar puzzles.

Beside the forums the online community offers a wide variety of sites containing guides, solutions and algorithms for solving the cube. The majority of the Rubik's sites contain the beginner's guide[**?**] whose target group is the beginner who may recently have got their first cube and wants to learn how to solve it.

1.2   Competitions

Speed cubing competitions are held on a regular basis[**?**]. These competitions have different disciplines for various puzzles related to the original 3x3x3 Rubik's cube. All the official competitions are held in cooperation the World Cube Association (WCA). The WCA governs the official regulations for speed cubing and holds annual world and regional championships. The first World championship in speed cubing was held in 1982 in Budapest, Hungary. WCA governs the official rankings and records for solving the Rubik's cube. In total WCA keeps regulation, ranking and records for 19 different types of competitions. All 19 related to puzzles and games are related to or based on the original Rubik's cube.

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