Math 315
Homework #3
4/14/2017

Abbott: 1.4.5, 1.5.9

1.4.5 Using Exercise 1.4.1, suppliy a proof for Corollary 1.4.4 by considering the real numbers $a - \sqrt{2}$ and $b - \sqrt{2}$.

1.5.9 A real number $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is called *algebraic* if there exist integers $a_0, a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$, not all zero, such that

$$a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0 = 0.$$

Said another way, a real number is algebraic if it is the root of a polynomial with integer coefficients. Real numbers that are not algebraic are called *transcendental* numbers. Reread the last paragraph of Section 1.1. The final question posed here is closely related to the question of whether or not transcendental numbers exist.

(a) Show that $\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt[3]{2}$, and $\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}$ are algebraic.

(b) Fix $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and let A_n be the algebraic numbers obtained as roots of polynomials with integer coefficients that have degree n. Using the fact that every polynomial has a finite number of roots, show that A_n is countable.

(c) Now, argue that the set of all algebraic numbers is countable. What may we conclude about the set of transcendental numbers?