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$\begin{array}{c} \text{continuity of convex functions, alternate} \\ \text{proof} \end{array}$

 ${\bf Canonical\ name} \quad {\bf Continuity Of Convex Functions Alternate Proof}$

Date of creation 2013-03-22 18:25:28 Last modified on 2013-03-22 18:25:28

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Numerical id 4

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Entry type Proof

Classification msc 26B25 Classification msc 26A51 Let f be convex and $y \in (a, b)$ be arbitrary but fixed. Then

$$f(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \le \lambda f(x) + (1 - \lambda)f(y) \tag{1}$$

$$f(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) - f(y) \le \lambda (f(x) - f(y)) \le \lambda |f(x) - f(y)|.$$
 (2)

Fix a number $c > \sup\{|f(u) - f(v)| : u, v \in (a, b)\}$. Then

$$|f(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) - f(y)| \le \lambda |f(x) - f(y)| < \lambda c. \tag{3}$$

Given $\epsilon > 0$, let λ range over $(0, \epsilon/c)$ if $\epsilon/c < 1$, or $\lambda = 1$ otherwise. Then it is easy to see that $f(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y)$ and f(y) lie within ϵ distance of each other when λ varies as specified.

Continuity of f now follows—for x < y, the left-hand limit equals f(y) and for y < x, the right-hand limit also equals f(y), hence the limit is f(y).