

## A Posteriori Error Estimates for Obstacle Problems

Dietrich Braess

We show that a posteriori error estimators for variational inequalities are easily obtained from the theory for linear elliptic equations. In particular, the results for residual estimators and estimators based on local problems or averaging techniques can be applied without a repetition of the known analysis. This fact is concealed since the Lagrange multipliers have a nonconforming contribution when the popular finite element computations are performed. The estimators are both reliable and efficient.