

**ISOTROPIC AND ANISOTROPIC A POSTERIORI ERROR ESTIMATION OF  
THE MIXED FINITE ELEMENT METHOD FOR SECOND ORDER OPERATORS  
IN DIVERGENCE FORM\***

SERGE NICAISE<sup>†</sup> AND EMMANUEL CREUSÉ<sup>‡</sup>

**Abstract.** This paper presents an a posteriori residual error estimator for the mixed FEM of second order operators using isotropic or anisotropic meshes in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d = 2$  or  $3$ . The reliability and efficiency of our estimator is established without any regularity assumptions on the solution of our problem.

**Key words.** error estimator, stretched elements, mixed FEM, anisotropic solution.

**AMS subject classifications.** 65N15, 65N30.

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<sup>†</sup>MACS, Université de Valenciennes et du Hainaut Cambrésis, F-59313 - Valenciennes Cedex 09, France.  
(serge.nicaise@univ-valenciennes.fr).

<sup>‡</sup>MACS, Université de Valenciennes et du Hainaut Cambrésis, F-59313 - Valenciennes Cedex 09, France.  
(emmanuel.creuse@univ-valenciennes.fr).