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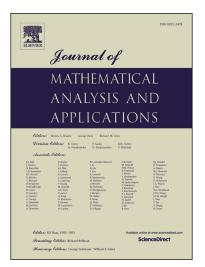
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Noncoercive Hyperbolic Variational Inequalities with Applications to Contact Mechanics *

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Abstract. In this paper we study a class of hyperbolic variational inequalities without a term depending on the first order derivative. Results on existence, uniqueness and regularity of a solution to the variational inequality are provided through the Rothe method. A frictional dynamic contact problem for viscoelastic material with noncoercive viscosity and subdifferential boundary conditions is studied as an illustrative application.

Key words. Variational inequality, operator inclusion, hyperbolic, Rothe method, frictional contact problem.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification. 35L15, 35L86, 35L87, 74Hxx, 74M10.

1 Introduction

Variational inequalities arise in a natural way in many problems in partial differential equations, mechanics, control and optimization, and mathematical physics. In mechanics, variational inequalities express the principle of virtual work or power in their inequality form. The history of variational inequalities started with a static contact problem posed in 1959 by A. Signorini. It was G. Fichera who formulated this problem as a variational inequality and used this term for the first time. Over the years, variational inequalities have attracted increasing attention mainly due to its many applications in Mechanics and Engineering. In particular, the mathematical analysis of various contact models leads to the variational inequalities related with the convex potentials and convex unilateral constraints. References in the field include the monographs [1, 2, 8, 11].

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