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A general upper bound on the light dark matter scattering rate in materials

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Within the framework of linear response theory combined with effective description of interactions of fermion dark matter (DM) with electrons, it is possible to derive a material-independent theoretical upper limit on the rate of DM-induced electronic excitations in direct-detection experiments. In my talk, I will describe how this limit can be obtained, and compare it to the interaction rate calculated for some actual materials, in a few popular effective models of ${\rm DM-}e^-$ interactions.

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