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*UNIFORM DECAY RATE ESTIMATES FOR THE SEMILINEAR WAVE EQUATION IN INHOMOGENEOUS MEDIA WITH  
LOCALLY DISTRIBUTED NONLINEAR DAMPING*

We consider the semilinear wave equation posed in an inhomogeneous medium  $\Omega$  with smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$  subject to a non linear damping distributed around a neighborhood  $\omega$  of the boundary according to the Geometric Control Condition. We show that the energy of the wave equation goes uniformly to zero for all initial data of finite energy phase-space.