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and **A Volberg**. *Buffon's needle landing near Besicovitch irregular self-similar sets.*

Consider  $L$  closed disjoint discs of radius  $1/L$  inside the unit disc. By using linear maps of smaller disc onto the unit disc we can generate a self-similar Cantor set  $G$ . Then  $\mathcal{G} = \bigcap_n \mathcal{G}_n$ . One may then ask the rate at which the Favard length – the average over all directions of the length of the orthogonal projection onto a line in that direction – of these sets  $\mathcal{G}_n$  decays to zero as a function of  $n$ . In the paper of Nazarov–Peres–Volberg, it was shown that for 1/4 corner Cantor set one has  $p < 1/6$ , such that  $Fav(\mathcal{K}_n) \leq \frac{c_p}{n^p}$ , and in Laba–Zhai and Bond–Volberg the same type power estimate was proved for the product Cantor sets (with an extra tiling property) and for the Sierpinski gasket  $S_n$  for some other  $p > 0$ . In the present work we give an estimate that works for *any* Besicovitch set which is self-similar. However the estimate is worse than the power one. The power estimate appears to be related to a certain regularity property of zeros of a corresponding self-similar sum of exponential functions. (Received September 22, 2010)