

k-plurisubharmonic functions and low dimensional actions

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A group G has Serre's property FA if every action of G on a tree has a global fixed point. It is well known that groups with property (T) have property FA . There is a natural generalization of property FA to higher dimensional actions on simplicial complexes, called property FA_r where one requires that any action on an r -dimensional $CAT(0)$ simplicial complex has a global fixed point. Farb proved that $SL_n(\mathbb{Z})$ enjoys property FA_{n-1} , but it remains elusive for other higher rank lattices. In a joint work with Ben Lowe, we develop a new method for establishing property FA_r , using k -plurisubharmonic functions constructed using Patterson-Sullivan measures. As a consequence we show that any cocompact lattice in $SL_n(\mathbb{R})$ has property $FA_{\lfloor n/8 \rfloor}$ and lattices in the exceptional rank one group $F_4^{(-20)}$ have property FA_2 .