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AMENABLE LOCALLY COMPACT SEMIGROUPS AND A FIXED POINT PROPERTY

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Abstract. For a locally compact semigroup S, we study a general fixed point property in terms of Banach left S-modules. We then use this property to give our main result which is a new characterization for left amenability of a large class of locally compact semigroups; finally, we investigate several examples which lead us to the conjecture that the main result remains true for all locally compact semigroups.

Key Words and Phrases: Banach left S-module, foundation semigroup, left amenability, left fixed point, left invariant mean, locally compact semigroup, weak*-operator topology.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

The notion of left amenability of semigroups was initiated by Day [4] and pursed by Lau and Takahashi [11, 12, 13], Namioka [14] and Saeidi [19] for discrete semigroups, and by Dzinotyweyi [7], Holmes and Lau [8], Paterson [15], Riazi and Wong [18] and Wong [22, 23, 24] for topological semigroups; see Berglund, Junghenn and Milnes [2], Dales, Lau, and Strauss [3] and Pier [16] for more details; see also Desaulniers, Nemati and the author [5] for a more general setting.

Let us recall that a locally compact semigroup S, is a semigroup with a locally compact Hausdorff topology whose binary operation is jointly continuous. As usual, let M(S) denote the Banach algebra of all complex Radon measures on S with the convolution product * and the total variation norm. The space of all measures μ in M(S) for which the maps $s \mapsto \delta_s * |\mu|$ and $s \mapsto |\mu| * \delta_s$ from S into M(S) are weakly continuous is denoted by $M_a(S)$, where δ_s denotes the Dirac measure at $s \in S$. It is known that $M_a(S)$ is a closed two-sided L-ideal of M(S); see Baker and Baker

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[1], Dzinotyweyi [7] and Pourabbas and Riazi [17]. Denote by $M_p(S)$ the set of all probability measures in M(S) and set

$$P_1(S) := M_a(S) \cap M_p(S).$$

The locally compact semigroup S is called foundation if the set F(S) is dense in S, where

$$F(S) := \bigcup \{ \operatorname{supp}(v) : v \in P_1(S) \}.$$

In this section, we give a result on left invariant nets which is need in the sequel. In the next section, we study a fixed point property in terms of Banach left S-modules to characterize left amenability of foundation semigroups; we finally give several examples which lead us to the conjecture that this result is valid for arbitrary locally compact semigroups.

Definition 1.1. Let S be a locally compact semigroup. For $\mathfrak{M} \subseteq M_p(S)$, we say that a net $(v_{\lambda})_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ in $M_a(S)$ is \mathfrak{M} -left invariant if

$$\mu * v_{\lambda} - v_{\lambda} \to 0$$

for all $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}$ in the norm topology of $M_a(S)$.

Similarly, we define a *weakly* \mathfrak{M} -*left invariant net*; i.e., the convergence of the limit in the definition of \mathfrak{M} -left invariance is only assumed to hold in the weak topology instead of in the norm topology.

Proposition 1.2. Let S be a locally compact semigroup and let $\mathfrak{M} \subseteq M_p(S)$. Then the convex hull of any weakly \mathfrak{M} -left invariant net in $P_1(S)$ contains an \mathfrak{M} -left invariant net.

Proof. Let $(v_{\gamma})_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ be a weakly \mathfrak{M} -left invariant net of measures in $P_1(S)$, and for each finite subset $\mathfrak{F} = \{v_1, ..., v_m\}$ of $M_a(S)$, set

$$\mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{F}} := \{ (v_1 * v - v, ..., v_m * v - v) : v \in co(\{v_\gamma : \gamma \in \Gamma\}) \},\$$

where $\operatorname{co}(\{v_{\gamma}: \gamma \in \Gamma\})$ denotes the convex hull of the set $\{v_{\gamma}: \gamma \in \Gamma\}$. Now, consider the *m*-times ℓ^1 -direct sum $\ell^1 \oplus_{n=1}^m M_a(S)$ of the Banach space $M_a(S)$, and note that 0 is in the weak closure of $\mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{F}}$ in $\ell^1 \oplus_{n=1}^m M_a(S)$; in fact, the net $(v * v_{\gamma} - v_{\gamma})_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ in $M_a(S)$ converges to zero weakly for all $v \in P_1(S)$, and hence the net

$$((v_1 * v_\gamma - v_\gamma, ..., v_m * v_\gamma - v_\gamma))_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \subseteq \mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{F}}$$

in $\ell^1 \oplus_{n=1}^m M_a(S)$ converges to zero weakly. Since $\mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{F}}$ is convex, it follows that the norm closure of $\mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{F}}$ in $\ell^1 \oplus_{n=1}^m M_a(S)$ contains zero. Thus, for each $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a measure $v_{(\varepsilon,\mathfrak{F})} \in P_1(S)$ such that for each $v \in \mathfrak{F}$,

$$\|\upsilon * \upsilon_{(\varepsilon,\mathfrak{F})} - \upsilon_{(\varepsilon,\mathfrak{F})}\| < \varepsilon.$$

Now, let Λ be the set of all $\lambda := (\varepsilon, \mathfrak{F})$ for which $\varepsilon > 0$ and $\mathfrak{F} \subseteq M_a(S)$ is a finite set. Then Λ is a directed set by setting $(\varepsilon', \mathfrak{F}') \succcurlyeq (\varepsilon, \mathfrak{F})$ if and only if $\varepsilon' \leq \varepsilon$ and $\mathfrak{F}' \supseteq \mathfrak{F}$. So, the net $(v_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ is an \mathfrak{M} -left invariant net. \Box

2. Left fixed points for S-modules

Let E be a Banach space, and let $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$ denote the Banach space of bounded linear operators on E^{**} . By the weak^{*} operator topology on $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$, we shall mean the locally convex topology of $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$ determined by the family

$$T \mapsto |\langle T(\Psi), \phi \rangle|$$

of seminorms on $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$, where $\Psi \in E^{**}$, $\phi \in E^*$; this means that a net $(T_{\gamma}) \subseteq \mathcal{B}(E^{**})$ converges to zero in the weak^{*} operator topology if and only if for each $\Psi \in E^{**}$ and $\phi \in E^*$,

$$\langle T_{\gamma}(\Psi), \phi \rangle \longrightarrow 0.$$

Now, let E be a Banach left S-module; that is, a Banach space E equipped with a map from $S \times E$ into E, denoted by $(s, \xi) \mapsto s \cdot \xi$ $(s \in S, \xi \in E)$ such that

$$s \cdot (t \cdot \xi) = (st) \cdot \xi$$

for all $s, t \in S$ and $\xi \in E$, the map $s \mapsto s \cdot \xi$ is continuous of S into E for all $\xi \in E$, and the map $\xi \mapsto s \cdot \xi$ is a bounded linear operator on E for all $s \in S$; i.e., there is a constant C > 0 with

$$\|s \cdot \xi\| \le C \|\xi\|$$

for all $s \in S$ and $\xi \in E$. In this case, we define

$$\langle \phi \cdot \mu, \xi \rangle = \int_S \langle \phi, s \cdot \xi \rangle \ d\mu(s)$$

and

$$\langle \mu \cdot \Psi, \phi \rangle = \langle \Psi, \phi \cdot \mu \rangle$$

for all $\xi \in E$, $\phi \in E^*$, $\Psi \in E^{**}$ and $\mu \in M(S)$. Any Banach left S-module E equipped with the map

$$(\mu,\xi)\mapsto \mu\cdot\xi$$

for all $\mu \in M(S)$ and $\xi \in E$ can be considered as a Banach left M(S)-module.

We denote by $\mathcal{P}(S, E^{**})$ the closure of the set

$$\{T_v: v \in P_1(S)\}$$

in the weak^{*} operator topology of $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$, where the operator $T_{\upsilon} \in \mathcal{B}(E^{**})$ for each $\Psi \in E^{**}$ is defined by

$$T_{\upsilon}(\Psi) = \upsilon \cdot \Psi.$$

Let us remark that $P_1(S)$ with the convolution multiplication is a semigroup. In particular, the set

$$\{T_v: v \in P_1(S)\}$$

is a subsemigroup of the semigroup $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$ with the ordinary multiplication of linear operators, and as easily verified, so is its closure $\mathcal{P}(S, E^{**})$ in the weak* operator topology of $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$.

Definition 2.1. Let S be a locally compact semigroup, let E be a Banach left Smodule, and let $\mathfrak{M} \subseteq M_p(S)$. We say that E has an \mathfrak{M} -left fixed point if there exists $T \in \mathcal{P}(S, E^{**})$ such that

$$T_{\mu}T = T \qquad (\mu \in \mathfrak{M});$$

we call such an operator T an \mathfrak{M} -left fixed point for E.

It should be noted that the notion of left fixed point is already in Holmes and Lau [8] which establishes a fixed point theorem for semigroups of certain mappings on a compact convex subset of a locally convex space.

Lemma 2.2. Let S be a locally compact semigroup and let $\mathfrak{M} \subseteq M_p(S)$. If there exists an \mathfrak{M} -left invariant net in $P_1(S)$, then every left Banach S-module E has an \mathfrak{M} -left fixed point.

Proof. Choose a constant C > 0 satisfying

$$\parallel s \cdot \xi \parallel \leq C \parallel \xi \parallel$$

for all $s \in S$ and $\xi \in E$, and note that for each $v \in P_1(S)$ and $\Psi \in E^{**}$,

$$||T_{\upsilon}(\Psi)|| = ||\upsilon \cdot \Psi|| \le C ||\Psi||.$$

Hence, the set

$$\{T_{\upsilon}: \upsilon \in P_1(S)\} \subseteq \mathcal{B}(E^{**})$$

is bounded by C, and therefore its closure $\mathcal{P}(S, E^{**})$ is also bounded by C.

Now, let $(v_{\lambda})_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ be an \mathfrak{M} -left invariant net in $P_1(S)$. Then, without loss of generality, we may assume that there exists an operator $T \in \mathcal{P}(S, E^{**})$ such that

$$T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}} - T \rightarrow 0$$

in the weak^{*} operator topology of $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$. Indeed, considering the projective tensor product $E^{**}\widehat{\otimes}E^*$, we make the canonical identification of the dual space $(E^{**}\widehat{\otimes}E^*)^*$ of $E^{**}\widehat{\otimes}E^*$ with the Banach space $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$; moreover, the weak^{*} operator topology of $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$ coincides with the weak^{*} topology of $(E^{**}\widehat{\otimes}E^*)^*$ on bounded subsets of $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$; since $\mathcal{P}(S, E^{**})$ is a bounded subset of $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$, it is compact in the weak^{*} operator topology of $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$ by the Banach-Alaoglu theorem; see for example [6], Corollary VIII.2.2; in particular, the net

$$(T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}}) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(S, E^{**})$$

has a cluster point $T \in \mathcal{P}(S, E^{**})$ in the weak^{*} operator topology of $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$.

Next, let $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}$ and let $T_{\mu}^* : E^{***} \longrightarrow E^{***}$ denote the adjoint operator of $T_{\mu} \in \mathcal{B}(E^{**})$. Then for each $\phi \in E^*$ and $\Psi \in E^{**}$,

$$\begin{array}{lll} \langle T^*_{\mu}(\phi),\Psi\rangle & = & \langle\phi,T_{\mu}(\Psi)\rangle\\ & = & \langle\phi,\mu\cdot\Psi\rangle\\ & = & \langle\phi\cdot\mu,\Psi\rangle, \end{array}$$

whence

 $T^*_{\mu}(\phi) = \phi \cdot \mu.$

In particular, $T^*_{\mu}(\phi) \in E^*$. This shows that

$$\langle (T_{\mu}T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}} - T_{\mu}T)(\Psi), \phi \rangle = \langle (T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}} - T)(\Psi), T^{*}_{\mu}(\phi) \rangle \longrightarrow 0$$

It follows that

$$T_{\mu}T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}} - T_{\mu}T \to 0$$

in the weak^{*} operator topology of $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$. Moreover, for each $\lambda \in \Lambda$,

$$||T_{\mu}T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}} - T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}}|| \le C ||\mu * \upsilon_{\lambda} - \upsilon_{\lambda}||$$

which shows that

$$T_{\mu}T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}}-T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}}\to 0$$

in the norm topology and of course in the weak^{*} operator topology of $\mathcal{B}(E^{**})$. But, for each $\lambda \in \Lambda$,

$$T_{\mu}T - T = (T_{\mu}T - T_{\mu}T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}}) + (T_{\mu}T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}} - T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}}) + (T_{\upsilon_{\lambda}} - T)$$

whence $T_{\mu}T = T$ as required.

Let us recall that $M_a(S)^{**}$ with the first Arens product \diamond defined by

$$\langle \mathsf{F} \diamond \mathsf{G}, f \rangle = \langle \mathsf{F}, \mathsf{G} f \rangle$$

for $f \in M_a(S)^*$ and $\mathsf{F}, \mathsf{G} \in M_a(S)^{**}$ is a Banach algebra, where $\mathsf{G}f \in M_a(S)^*$ is defined by

$$\langle \mathsf{G}f, v \rangle = \langle \mathsf{G}, f v \rangle$$

for all $v \in M_a(S)$; here, $f\mu \in M_a(S)^*$ is defined by

$$\langle f\mu, \upsilon \rangle = \langle f, \mu * \upsilon \rangle$$

for all $\mu \in M(S)$ and $v \in M_a(S)$. For each $v \in M_a(S)$, let v also denote the functional in $M_a(S)^{**}$ defined by the formula

$$f \mapsto \langle f, v \rangle$$
 $(f \in M_a(S)^*);$

this induces a linear isometric embedding of $M_a(S)$ into $M_a(S)^{**}$. In particular, $\mathsf{F} \diamond v, \sigma \diamond \mathsf{F}$ and $\sigma \diamond v$ are make sense as elements of $M_a(S)^{**}$ for all $\sigma, v \in M_a(S)$ and $\mathsf{F} \in M_a(S)^{**}$; moreover, $\sigma \diamond v = \sigma * v$.

An element M in the second dual $M_a(S)^{**}$ of $M_a(S)$ is said to be a mean on $M_a(S)^*$ if

$$\|\mathsf{M}\| = \langle \mathsf{M}, \varphi_1 \rangle = 1,$$

where $\varphi_1 \in M_a(S)^*$ is defined for each $v \in M_a(S)$ by

$$\langle \varphi_1, v \rangle = v(S).$$

Definition 2.3. Let S be a locally compact semigroup. For $\mathfrak{M} \subseteq M_p(S)$, we say that a mean M on $M_a(S)^*$ is \mathfrak{M} -left invariant if

$$\langle \mathsf{M}, f\mu \rangle = \langle \mathsf{M}, f \rangle$$

for all $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}$ and $f \in M_a(S)^*$; we also say that S is \mathfrak{M} -left amenable if there exists an \mathfrak{M} -left invariant mean on $M_a(S)^*$.

Before we give the main result of this paper, let us remark that $M_a(S)$ equipped with the map

$$(s,v)\mapsto s\cdot v$$

defined by

$$s \cdot v = \delta_s * v \qquad (v \in M_a(S), s \in S),$$

is a Banach left S-module; note that in this case we have

$$f \cdot \mu = f\mu$$
 and $v \cdot \mathsf{F} = v \diamond \mathsf{F}$

for all $\mu \in M(S), v \in M_a(S), f \in M_a(S)^*$ and $\mathsf{F} \in M_a(S)^{**}$.

Theorem 2.4. Let S be a foundation semigroup with identity and let $\mathfrak{M} \subseteq M_p(S)$. Then the following assertions are equivalent.

- (a) S is \mathfrak{M} -left amenable.
- (b) Every Banach left S-module E has an \mathfrak{M} -left fixed point.
- (c) The Banach left S-module $M_a(S)$ has an \mathfrak{M} -left fixed point.

Proof. Suppose that (a) holds, and let M be an \mathfrak{M} -left invariant mean on $M_a(S)^*$. Since S is a foundation semigroup with identity, it follows from [20] that $M_a(S)$ is the predual of a von Neumann algebra; see also [21]. Thus $P_1(S)$ is weak^{*} dense in the set of all means on $M_a(S)^*$; see [9], Lemma 2.1. So, there is a net $(v_{\gamma})_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ in $P_1(S)$ such that $v_{\gamma} \to \mathsf{M}$ in the weak^{*} topology of $M_a(S)^{**}$. For each $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}$ and $f \in M_a(S)^*$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mu * v_{\gamma} - v_{\gamma}, f \rangle &= \langle v_{\gamma}, f \mu - f \rangle \\ &\to \langle \mathsf{M}, f \mu - f \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for each $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}$,

$$\mu * v_{\gamma} - v_{\gamma} \to 0$$

in the weak topology of $M_a(S)$. That is, $(v_{\gamma})_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ is a weakly \mathfrak{M} -left invariant net in $P_1(S)$, and hence there is an \mathfrak{M} -left invariant net in the set

$$\operatorname{co}(\{v_{\gamma}: \gamma \in \Gamma\}) \subseteq P_1(S)$$

by Proposition 1.2. Now, appeal to Lemma 2.2 to conclude that (b) holds.

That (b) implies (c) is trivial.

Now, suppose that (c) holds. To prove (a) choose an element T of $\mathcal{P}(S, M_a(S)^{**})$ with

 $T_{\mu}T = T$

for all $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}$, and find a net $(\sigma_{\beta})_{\beta \in \square}$ in $P_1(S)$ such that

$$\langle T_{\sigma_{\beta}}(\mathsf{F}), f \rangle \to \langle T(\mathsf{F}), f \rangle$$

for all $\mathsf{F} \in M_a(S)^{**}$ and $f \in M_a(S)^*$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that $(\sigma_\beta)_{\beta \in \square}$ converges to a mean M in $M_a(S)^{**}$.

We show that M is an \mathfrak{M} -left invariant mean on $M_a(S)^*$. For this end, recall from the assumption that S is a foundation semigroup with identity, and hence $M_a(S)$ has a bounded approximate identity $(u_{\iota})_{\iota \in I}$ of measures in $P_1(S)$; see [20], Theorem 5.16. Let U be a weak^{*} cluster point of $(u_{\iota})_{\iota \in I}$ in $M_a(S)^{**}$. Then

$$\sigma \diamond \mathsf{U} = \sigma$$

for all $\sigma \in M_a(S)$ by the weak^{*} continuity properties of the first Arens product \diamond , and hence for each $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}$ and $f \in M_a(S)^*$ we have

$$\begin{split} \langle \mathsf{M}, f \mu \rangle &= \lim_{\beta} \langle \mu * \sigma_{\beta} \diamond \mathsf{U}, f \rangle \\ &= \lim_{\beta} \langle (T_{\mu} T_{\sigma_{\beta}})(\mathsf{U}), f \rangle \\ &= \langle (T_{\mu} T)(\mathsf{U}), f \rangle \\ &= \langle T(\mathsf{U}), f \rangle \\ &= \lim_{\beta} \langle T_{\sigma_{\beta}}(\mathsf{U}), f \rangle \\ &= \lim_{\beta} \langle \sigma_{\beta} \diamond \mathsf{U}, f \rangle \\ &= \lim_{\beta} \langle \sigma_{\beta}, f \rangle \\ &= \langle \mathsf{M}, f \rangle. \end{split}$$

That is, M is an \mathfrak{M} -left invariant mean on $M_a(S)^*$ as required.

We say that a Banach left S-module E has a left fixed point if it has a δ_S -left fixed point, where

$$\delta_S := \{\delta_s : s \in S\};$$

recall that S is called *left amenable* if there exists a left invariant mean on $M_a(S)^*$; that is, a δ_S -left invariant mean on $M_a(S)^*$.

Our last result is the following consequence of Theorem 2.4.

Corollary 2.5. Let S be a foundation semigroup with identity. Then the following assertions are equivalent.

- (a) S is left amenable.
- (b) Every Banach left S-module E has a left fixed point.
- (c) The Banach left S-module $M_a(S)$ has a left fixed point.

This result should be compared with Theorem 5.1 of Lau and Paterson [10] in the case where S is a locally compact group.

We now give some motivating examples of foundation or non-foundation semigroups with or without identity for which our main result is valid.

Example 2.6. Let S be the set [0,1] with the locally compact Hausdorff topology induced from the real line and let $\mathfrak{M} \subseteq M_p(S)$.

(a) A foundation semigroup with identity. Endow S with the operation $xy = \min\{x + y, 1\}$ for all $x, y \in S$ and note that S is a locally compact semigroup with identity. Since

$$M_a(S) = L^1([0,1]) \oplus \mathbb{C}\,\delta_1,$$

it follows that S is foundation. Moreover,

$$P_1(S) = \{ f \in L^1([0,1]) : f \ge 0, \|f\|_1 = 1 \} \cup \{\delta_1\}$$

and

$$T_{\delta_1} \in \mathcal{P}(S, E^{**}),$$

for all Banach left S-modules E. Therefore, E has an \mathfrak{M} -left fixed point and S is \mathfrak{M} -left amenable. In fact, T_{δ_1} is an \mathfrak{M} -left fixed point for E and δ_1 is an \mathfrak{M} -left invariant mean on $M_a(S)^*$.

(b) A foundation semigroup without identity. Endow S with the operation xy = 0 for all $x, y \in S$ and note that S is a locally compact semigroup without identity. Since

$$M_a(S) = M(S),$$

it follows that S is foundation. Moreover,

$$P_1(S) = M_p(S)$$
 and $\mathcal{P}(S, E^{**}) = \{0\}$

for all Banach left S-modules E. Therefore, E has no $\mathfrak{M}\text{-left}$ fixed point and S is not $\mathfrak{M}\text{-left}$ amenable.

(c) A non-foundation semigroup with identity. Endow S with the usual multiplication and note that S is a locally compact semigroup with identity. Since

$$M_a(S) = \mathbb{C}\,\delta_0,$$

it follows that S is non-foundation. Moreover,

$$P_1(S) = \{\delta_0\} \text{ and } \mathcal{P}(S, E^{**}) = \{T_{\delta_0}\}$$

for all Banach left S-modules E. Therefore, E has an \mathfrak{M} -left fixed point and S is \mathfrak{M} -left amenable. In fact, T_{δ_0} is an \mathfrak{M} -left fixed point for E and δ_0 is an \mathfrak{M} -left invariant mean on $M_a(S)^*$.

(d) A non-foundation semigroup without identity. Endow S with the operation xy = y for all $x, y \in S$ and note that S is a locally compact semigroup without identity. Since

$$M_a(S) = \{0\},\$$

it follows that S is non-foundation. Moreover,

$$P_1(S) = \emptyset$$
 and $\mathcal{P}(S, E^{**}) = \emptyset$

for all Banach left S-modules E. That is, E has no \mathfrak{M} -left fixed point and S is not \mathfrak{M} -left amenable.

Motivated by these examples, we give the following conjecture.

Conjecture 2.7. Let S be an arbitrary locally compact semigroup and $\mathfrak{M} \subseteq M_p(S)$. Does \mathfrak{M} -left amenability of S is equivalent to that every Banach left S-module E has an \mathfrak{M} -left fixed point?

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