

## ON DECOMPOSITION OF OPERATORS HAVING $\Gamma_3$ AS A SPECTRAL SET

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*Abstract.* The symmetrized polydisc of dimension three is the set

$$\Gamma_3 = \{(z_1 + z_2 + z_3, z_1 z_2 + z_2 z_3 + z_3 z_1, z_1 z_2 z_3) : |z_i| \leq 1, i = 1, 2, 3\} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^3.$$

A triple of commuting operators for which  $\Gamma_3$  is a spectral set is called a  $\Gamma_3$ -contraction. We show that every  $\Gamma_3$ -contraction admits a decomposition into a  $\Gamma_3$ -unitary and a completely non-unitary  $\Gamma_3$ -contraction. This decomposition parallels the canonical decomposition of a contraction into a unitary and a completely non-unitary contraction. We also find new characterizations for the set  $\Gamma_3$  and  $\Gamma_3$ -contractions.

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