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#### **Mathematical Physics**

# Lagrangian-Hamiltonian unified formalism for autonomous higherorder dynamical systems

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The Lagrangian-Hamiltonian unified formalism of R. Skinner and R. Rusk was originally stated for autonomous dynamical systems in classical mechanics. It has been generalized for non-autonomous first-order mechanical systems, as well as for first-order and higher-order field theories. However, a complete generalization to higher-order mechanical systems has yet to be described. In this work, after reviewing the natural geometrical setting and the Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formalisms for higher-order autonomous mechanical systems, we develop a complete generalization of the Lagrangian-Hamiltonian unified formalism for these kinds of systems, and we use it to analyze some physical models from this new point of view.

Comments: 36 pp. We have corrected and clarified the statement of

Proposition 3. A remark is added after Proposition 3

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