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Xuefeng Gao, Mert Gurbuzbalaban and Lingjiong Zhu* (zhu@math.fsu.edu), 1017 Academic Way, Room 208, Tallahassee, FL 32306. Stochastic Gradient Hamiltonian Monte Carlo for Non-Convex Stochastic Optimization.

Stochastic gradient Hamiltonian Monte Carlo (SGHMC) is a variant of stochastic gradient with momentum where a controlled and properly scaled Gaussian noise is added to the stochastic gradients to steer the iterates towards a global minimum. Many works reported its empirical success in practice for solving stochastic non-convex optimization problems, in particular it has been observed to outperform overdamped Langevin Monte Carlo-based methods such as stochastic gradient Langevin dynamics (SGLD) in many applications. We provide finite-time performance bounds for the global convergence of both SGHMC variants for solving stochastic non-convex optimization problems with explicit constants. Our results lead to non-asymptotic guarantees for both population and empirical risk minimization problems. For a fixed target accuracy level, on a class of non-convex problems, we obtain complexity bounds for SGHMC that can be tighter than those for SGLD. These results show that acceleration with momentum is possible in the context of global non-convex optimization. (Received September 14, 2021)