



To solve the problem, 1) multiple runs of the algorithm might be considered, but it is not efficient and does not guarantee the best solution with a very small probability as well. 2) Hierarchical clustering to find initial centroids and 3) selecting more than K initial centroids and then selecting the most widely separated among these initial centroids are another solutions. 4) Postprocessing such as reassigning outliers or splitting and merging clusters, and 5) bisecting K-means are also the solutions.

Handling empty clusters is another issue in the basic K-means algorithm. This could be solved by 1) choosing the point that has the maximum distance from the centroid of the cluster with the maximum SSE and reassigning the point to the empty cluster. 2) Repeating the algorithm is also the solution for this issue too. 3) When it comes to running the K-means algorithm, rather than calculating the distance between all data points and all centroids after they all belong to clusters, updating the centroids after each data point is assigned to a cluster converges faster and never gets an empty cluster, but it is more expensive and introduces an order dependency. The order dependency means that the result could be different depending on which point is calculated first.

K-means algorithm itself also has limitations when the clusters of the data have different sizes, densities, or shapes. Firstly, the algorithm assumes that all clusters have the same size. However, the radius of the original clusters might be different, causing the non-optimal clusters. Secondly, the algorithm presumes that all clusters have the same density. The problem is derived from the same radius among all clusters likewise the first limitation. This leads clusters to have two dense clusters or splitted one cluster comparing from the original clusters. Lastly, the algorithm is not able to find non-globular shapes such as star-shaped clusters.