

Dear Francis Bach, David M. Blei and Schölkopf:

Me (Masum Billal) and my co-authors (Walid Khan, Farhad Alam) would like to submit our manuscript **Seeding in k-means Clustering** for publication in the Journal of Machine Learning Research. This paper talks about seeding techniques of **k-means** center initialization, shows comparison of performances and expresses some concerns about the results shown in **k-means++** paper.

Each co-author is aware of this submission and consent to its review. There are no conflicts of interest, since no co-author has recently collaborated with any action editor.

Our suggestions for editors are those who have published papers related to **k-means** clustering method, specially in seeding initial centers. However, we would like to request excluding the authors of **k-means++** (in case they are part of the reviewing team). Because it would probably be a conflict of interest since the results shown in our paper (clear details are written in the paper) are in conflict with theirs (we mailed them but did not receive any response). We realize this may be a bit controversial but we strongly feel these findings should be reported for further analysis by other experts in the area.

We have tried to follow the instructions presented in submission and author guidelines, common formatting errors and recommended practices by JMLR. We wrote the paper on top of the template provided in a JMLR page. Also, we have put in some extra effort so that we make less than a dozen mistakes (it was pointed out that most authors break at least a dozen formatting rules so we wanted to do better). We hope that our effort was not in vain and the number of mistakes is minimal in our paper preparation. Moreover, we have specified the code repository for cross checking our results and coding in case such an issue arises. If there is anything we have neglected to do in the submission process, please let us know and we will rectify the issue immediately.

Thank you for your consideration,

Masum Billal