Review of: "When a Cluster Is a Cluster"

Paolo Bartesaghi[1]

1 University of Milan - Bicocca

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The manuscript addresses the critical issue of locating spatial clusters in epidemiologic studies. By doing so, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of disease transmission patterns and formulate more effective strategies for disease control and management, with a particular emphasis on addressing the complex and widespread nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I think this brief survey is of some use. I am not sure that the title is entirely adequate to convey the purpose of the article. However, I think the purpose is to introduce the Topological Weighted Centroid methodology proposed by the author in the last section "Managing the Uncertainty of the Early Stages of an Epidemic".

To make the description of this technique more appealing, I would suggest providing some additional technical details about this methodology, especially its mathematical formulation. In addition, it would be interesting to compare it with other community detection methods on networks that are useful for identifying and predicting possible future clusters of epidemic nature based on current data.

Therefore, I think that, interpreted as a cross-reference to published and more in-depth texts, this short manuscript has some value and, minimally integrated, may be useful to many researchers in the field of mathematical and statistical epidemiology.