Review of: "A Novel Variable Neighborhood Search Approach for Cell Clustering for Spatial Transcriptomics"

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This paper has potential but requires revisions to meet the standards of the journal. The research is promising; however, addressing the identified concerns is crucial for acceptance. With the necessary revisions, the paper could make a valuable contribution to the journal.

1. Please rewrite your abstract, using a very narrative style to describe the procedures of doing your research instead of providing a whole picture of your work.

2. Statement of need: It should provide an overview of a) the importance of your study and b) recent advances in technologies to remove the haze in images.

3. Including a wider critical overview of the most recent literature would significantly contribute to the quality of the manuscript and would strengthen its academic perspective and scientific foundation. Much more critical analysis needs to be undertaken of the relevant literature, and key points/issues identified which will underpin the rest of the manuscript. Try to include some latest journal article references published from 2019-2024 in the specific areas to improve the relevance and currency of the research. An extended literature review would help you also with addressing the issue of contribution of the manuscript.

4. In the implementation section, avoid writing conceptually; write down why the method was chosen. You must write down the reasons, who the participants are, their characteristics, the data to be collected, and the instruments used.

5. Ensure that results are presented clearly and concisely, with appropriate figures and tables. Discuss the significance of your findings and relate them back to the research question.

6. The discussion section must discuss the findings or novelty of research findings in articles and compare the findings with the results of previous research in relevant journal articles.

7. The conclusions drawn in the paper need to be more nuanced, highlighting both the strengths and limitations of the study. A discussion on future work and potential areas for improvement would also be beneficial.