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

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Authors have proposed the cell clustering method for neighbourhood cells using a metaheuristics approach. Authors have done an extensive literature review on the available clustering methodologies such as k-means, Louvain, Leiden, and Mclust, as well as dimensionality reduction using five different embedding methods: STAGATE , Principal Component Analysis (PCA) , GraphST , Cell Clustering for Spatial Transcriptomics (CCST) data , and STAligner.

The proposed VNS method for clustering outperformed well over the existing methods, and the same has been articulated in the results and discussion section of the paper.

Hence, the paper is accepted with an A grade.