

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper proposes a new method for cell clustering, based on the metaheuristics called Variable Neighborhood Search (VNS). The authors compared their results against other methods found in the literature. Authors envision the application of their new approach in several fields.

Authors could include a text before the Implementation Section discussing why they chose the abovementioned methods in their study.

Algorithm 1 could be included in an algorithm-like environment instead of as an image.

How did the authors choose the sets of input parameters? Is there a reference for the sets?

In lines 362-365, the equations could be inserted in an equation-like environment instead of through the text.

Results are clear and robust.

I consider this paper accepted after the authors provide these abovementioned minor changes.

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