

As the primary/corresponding author, I regret that could not indicate the additional changes promptly prior to galley-proof preparation due to the inevitable contingency as above.

As such I request the changes made in the galley-proof be honored and the article be published with the changes made.

In this regard, please note the following:

1. **No major changes are made in the galley-proof on the original results (in tables and/or in graphs); and. If any minor alterations indicated in the data,**

they should be treated as typographical errors being corrected

2. **The changes otherwise made, are largely pertinent to the pseudocode and in the related textual descriptions. Subsequent to our final revised submission,**

we noticed that certain semantic aspects were not clear in the revised text. Particularly, the process of data augmentation or scarcity removal has to be specified in TWO distinct efforts namely, cardinality improvement via WKS step and generating number of pseudoreplicates using bootstrapping procedure. As such, the pseudocode is rewritten to accommodate the above.

3. **Correspondingly, minor revisions across the text are made to a minimal extent to imply and emphasize relevant semantic aspect of the above changes as necessary**
4. **Notwithstanding the changes made as above in the galley-proof, however, the data and/or results are kept in tact. In other words, but for the clarity introduced to emphasize the semantic considerations on scarcity removal procedure, the MS as presented in the galley-proof has not been changed to any extent of plausible concerns; and, its content as reflected in the revised MS prepared according to the suggestions by the reviewers is not, *per se* altered.**

We duly understand the difficulty in making changes at galley-proof stage and regret for the inconvenience.

Please forward this communication to the Editor with our revised galley-proof for necessary approval. We are confident that the Editorial Board will accept the changes and condone the last-minute alterations.

We would like to hear from you ASAP and hope to receive a favorable reply. Thank you.