Reviewer Report

Title: Transcriptome annotation in the cloud: complexity, best practices and cost.

Version: Revision 1 **Date:** 12/4/2020

Reviewer name: Tazro Ohta

Reviewer Comments to Author:

I appreciate the authors' responses to the reviewer comments and their improvements in the manuscript. Overall, I do not find any further critical issues to be solved in the content. Below are a few minor suggestions:
1. Pricing of cloud usage:
Both AWS and GCP officially announces that they continue their efforts to reduce the computing cost regularly. It would be better to mention that the pricing of cloud instances may change in the future as well as the instance selections, and that may lead to the change of the study's conclusion. Table 1 also should have information about the date and the region.
2. The container image registry
In the experiments with both vendors, the authors used the same docker image hosted in the Google Container Registry. It means that the GCP has an advantage in the transfer of the container image, which may take some time during the instance setup. It would be fair to mention it or mention that the pulling time too short to be worth consideration.
I am looking forward to the publication of this manuscript, which may give many insights into practical cloud usage to the readers.
Tazro Ohta

Level of Interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript: Choose an item.

Quality of Written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript: Choose an item.

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