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Your comments, along with those of one or more other referees, will form the basis for the decision whether to publish this manuscript in ISTL. We ask you to rate the manuscript on the criteria below, using the questions within each criterion as guides for assessing the quality of the manuscript. Provide specific and meaningful comments immediately below the questions wherever appropriate, especially if the answer is 'no.' (Of course, positive comments are always appreciated by the authors as well!) Your comments should communicate to the author what is unclear or unsupported; how passages might be improved; what modifications are necessary before the paper should be accepted; or what specific reasons resulted in a recommendation not to publish.

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Thank you for your time and effort carefully reading the attached manuscript. Peer review is a critical component of the scholarly publication process, and your reviews ensure the quality of manuscripts published in ISTL.

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Please rate the manuscript on each of the criteria listed below, as Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor, to provide an overall indication of the quality of that aspect. Don't forget to indicate your overall assessment of whether the paper should be accepted, reconsidered, or rejected.

Originality: (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)

Is this a new and original contribution?

Does the manuscript add meaningfully to our understanding of the topic addressed?

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Does the article provide appropriate context for the investigation? Is the literature review relevant, thorough, and current?

Does the author discuss the results in comparison with other published research?

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Is the interpretation of the data logical and consistent?
Has the author considered alternative explanations for the data?

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Structure and Organization: (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)

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Is the objective of the paper clearly stated in the introduction?

Are data (tables, charts, etc.) presented clearly?

Are illustrations and figures legible and do they complement/augment the text? Are captions succinct yet complete?

Is the paper written in clear, grammatical English, in a style that is easy to understand? Are the cited references <u>correctly formatted</u>?

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- () should be accepted with minor revisions as indicated.
- () should be reconsidered after major revisions as indicated.
- () should not be accepted for the reasons indicated.

Other Comments: