Dear Reviewer

Thank you for your thorough refereeing of our manuscript Application of the multi-objective cross-entropy method to the vehicle routing problem with soft time windows. We appreciate your constructive criticism, and we want to respond to your comments as follows:

Explicit remarks

Your comments: p.6: The cross-entropy method could be better described. For example, the word "data" in the first point in the numbered list could refer to anything. The paragraph following the list does not help but rather introduces a few more concepts with vague definitions.
Response: We have improved this section and provide basic mathematical background.

p.7: The notation required for Equation (4) should be carefully explained before the equation is discussed. As it is now, one reads the equation before knowing what its contents mean. I think the notation could also be more clearly described.
Response: We have improved this section. (Our improvement adds to the length of the manuscript.)

Four lines above Equation (4), $P$ is called a matrix. Eight lines below the equation, $P$ is called a vector.
Response: We changed the word "vector" to "matrices".

General comments

Your comments: I think that the statements in Section 7 lines 2-5 and lines 8-9 should be supported by a comparison with previously obtained solution times and objective function values for (at least some of) the benchmark problems. If there is another explanation, I welcome it.

At the time of writing, there were no other studies found using this problem set. This problem set is new and was published in 2011 (Castro-Gutierrez et al., 2011), and we are trying to be the first team to provide benchmark results for other researchers to use. We stated this in the article on page 2, line 4. On p. 6, six lines above Section 4, we again mention that we provide reference solution sets for other researchers, and also in the Conclusions (the latter was added during this revision). There are many single-objective reference sets for the VRPSTW in literature, but not for the multi-objective case with true conflicting objectives.
References